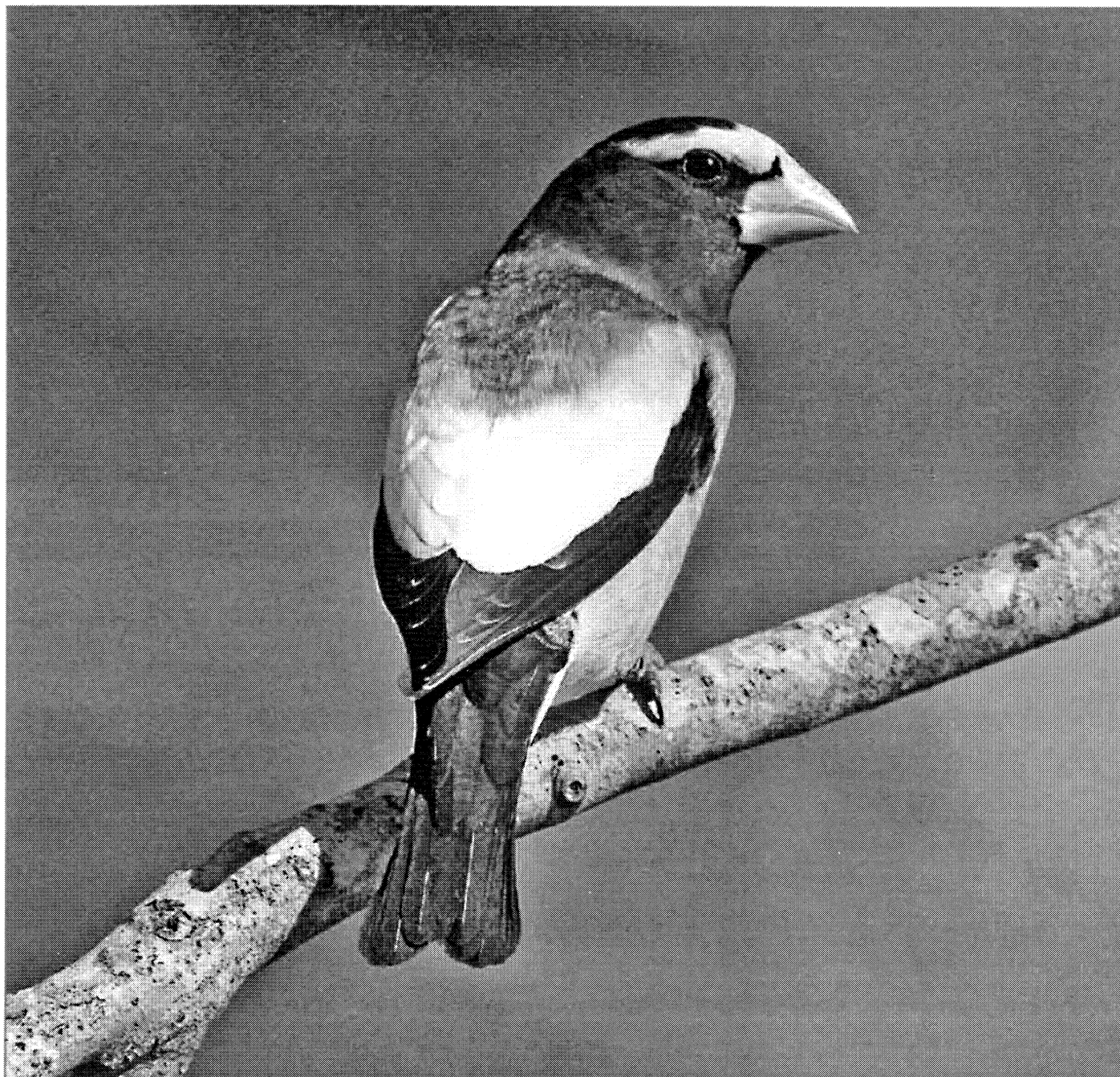


Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Summer 2008

(The Birds of Spring)



NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Executive 2007-2008

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| President | Suzanne Borkowski |
| Vice President | David Hughes |
| Past President | Andy Horn |
| Treasurer | Janey Hughes |
| Secretary | Pat McKay |
| Membership Secretary | Uli Höger |
| Director | Barbara Hinds |
| Director | Patrick Kelly |
| Director | Mary Alward |
| Director | Susann Myers |
| Chair Sanctuary Trust | Bob McDonald |
| Editor | Blake Maybank |
| Solicitor | Tony Robinson |
| Auditor | Harold Forsyth |

Formed in 1955, the Nova Scotia Bird Society is a member of Nature Nova Scotia and Nature Canada. The activities of the Society are centered on the observation and study of the bird life of this province and the preservation of habitat.

Nova Scotia Bird Society
c/o Nova Scotia Museum,
1747 Summer Street,
Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6

Rare Bird Alert: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NS-RBA/>
Email: nsbs@chebucto.ns.ca
Web: <http://nsbs.chebucto.org>

Reporting Deadlines

Winter 2009 issue: Dec. 7, 2008
Spring 2009 issue: Mar. 7, 2009

Summer 2009 issue: June 7, 2009
Fall 2008 issue: Aug. 7, 2008

Inside This Issue

Special points of interest:

- President's Corner
- Spring Bird Reports
- American Goldfinch Study
- NAMC Results
- Trip Reports

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| President's Corner | 4 |
| Spring Bird Reports | 6 |
| American Goldfinch Study | 29 |
| Spring Weather Report | 30 |
| North American Migration Counts | 33 |
| Field Trip Reports | 36 |
| Coming Events | 39 |

Cover Photo: After some years of scarceness, the EVENING GROSBEAK appears to be making a comeback. This male was photographed 16 Apr. near Portuguese Cove, HRM. [Photo Hans Toom]

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS
SUMMER 2008

Editor

Blake Maybank

Production Assistant

Sterling Levy

Records Editor

Lance Laviolette

Photo Editor

Ian McLaren

Events Editor

Suzanne Borkowski

Seasonal Bird Reports

John Belbin

Ulli Höger

Eric Mills

Ken McKenna

Ian McLaren

Susann Myers

Dorothy Poole

Hans Toom

Banner Artist

Trevor Herriot

Other Help

Ulli Höger

Peter LeBlanc

Bird Reports to

Lance Laviolette

RR #1, Glen Robertson, ON
K0B1H0

lance.laviolette@lmco.com

Photo Submissions to

Ian A. McLaren

Photo Editor, NS Birds

Biology Department

Dalhousie University

Halifax, NS, B3H4J1

iamclar@dal.ca

All Other Items to

Blake Maybank

Editor, NS Birds

144 Bayview Drive

White's Lake, NS. B3T 1Z1

maybank@ns.sympatico.ca

Use of any material from NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS requires written permission from the Editor.

Cost of the publication of this periodical is partially borne by the Nova Scotia Museum.

ISSN 0383-9537. Publications Mail Reg. No. 09838.

Published four times a year.

FOR OUR BIRDS



Photo from: www.ecologyaction.ca

Ipswich Sparrow: breeds only on Sable Island.

For registration and more information contact...

Mark Butler
Ecology Action Centre
2705 Fern Lane, Halifax
Tel. 902-429-5287
Birds@ecologyaction.ca
www.ecologyaction.ca/
coastal/birds

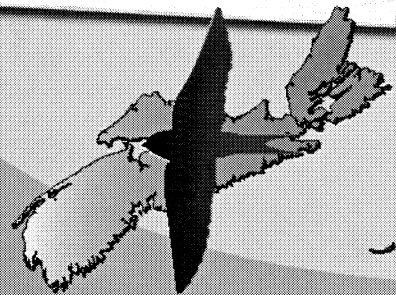
Conference Objectives:

- ✓ Increase communication about the science and conservation of birds
- ✓ Engage new people in bird conservation
- ✓ Increase public awareness and action for birds

Keynote address: Dr. Janis Dickinson, Director of Citizen Science at Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University.

If you would like to present a poster see http://www.ecologyaction.ca/coastal_issues/coastal_issues.shtml for details.

FOR OUR BIRDS 2008:
SHARING SCIENCE, CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION ABOUT BIRDS IN NOVA SCOTIA
ROWE MANAGEMENT BUILDING
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
9:00 A.M. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 TO
1:00 P.M. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2008
SAVE THIS WEEKEND



Ecology Action Centre



We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program, toward our mailing costs.



President's Corner

Deadline for claiming atlassing expenses is November 1st, 2008!

If you missed filing your claim with us last year, you can include it with this year's claim. Just download our forms from the Cork Board of our website: <http://nsbs.chebucto.org> and fill them in completely, and mail them to us along with your cheque and any receipts you have, to the address inside the front cover of this magazine. We'll check them for accuracy and completeness and mail you a cheque in the same amount along with a charitable tax receipt for that amount. Please allow 4 -6 weeks turnaround time.

Due to the increased cost of publishing and mailing our magazine we are going to have to raise our Membership Fees for 2009. The following table shows the changes:

| | | |
|---------------|--------|----------|
| Student | 15.00 | (same) |
| Individual | 20.00 | (+ 2.00) |
| Family | 25.00 | (+4.00) |
| Institutional | 30.00 | (same) |
| Life | 375.00 | (same) |

These new fees will take effect when you renew (or join) for 2009. If you renewed for more than one year last time, then the new prices won't effect you till it's time for you to renew again. Your expiry date is on your address label.

There's going to be a conference at Dalhousie University on the weekend of November 15-16, 2008. See ad elsewhere in this issue. If you live in the Halifax-Dartmouth area, and you happen to have a guest room or extra bedroom, would you be willing to offer one night's accommodation to a member and save them that expense? With the increased cost of gas, members who live in other parts of the province may decide to skip this conference as it would be fairly expensive. That would be a shame! If you're interested in my suggestion, please send me your name and address, and whether you can accommodate one or two people. Likewise, if you're thinking of coming to Halifax for this conference, and are interested in a free night's lodging at the home of a fellow NSBS member, let me know. I'll put interested parties in touch with each other.

As I'm sure you all know by now, Sterling Levy, our magazine's Production Assistant, will be stepping down after many long years of stellar copy and layout work. As yet we don't have a replacement for Sterling. Not surprisingly, we're finding it rather difficult to fill his shoes! If you're interested in this position, which involves layout of all material, photo resizing, etc., and if you have any experience with desktop publishing and image manipulation, please contact Blake Maybank at maybank@ns.sympatico.ca

On a sadder note, the Bird Society has lost another of its members. Robert (Bobby) Chivers passed away on July 18th, 2008 in Queens General Hospital, Liverpool. He was 93. Many of you will remember Bobby who belonged to the Bird Society for a number of years. He was also a member of the South Shore Naturalists Club. Our condolences go out to his family and friends. He will certainly be missed!

Suzanne Borkowski
President – Nova Scotia Bird Society

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Mary Alward

Mary has been on the Executive for the past three years. She served as Treasurer for the first two, then volunteered to serve as Treasurer for our new NSBS Sanctuary Trust, stepping down from her position on the Executive in order to do so, since the two funds are managed separately. Mary chose to remain on the Executive Board as a Director, however, and we're very glad she did!

How did she end up as a busy volunteer on two Boards of the Society? Well, you'd have to know Mary. Being a busy volunteer is a part of her nature. She volunteers with her Church as an assistant catechist; and she's the Bird Society's Representative on the Board of the Young Naturalists' Club, a position that requires her to continually search for Speakers and Field Trip Leaders. Incidentally, if you're interested in helping young people from ages 8 to 12 learn more about birds and how they form an integral part of Nature, be sure to let Mary know! mary.alward@ns.sympatico.ca

She's always been interested in Nature herself, and in particular, birds. A few winters ago she witnessed a flock of 60 – 80 birds land in the trees in her backyard. She called her husband to the window and asked him if he knew what they were. He didn't, but he was as impressed as she was with their black masks, upright crests, smooth brown colouring, and a gorgeous rosy blush on their breasts. She went on the internet and found them – Bohemian Waxwings - and also found out there was a birding group in Halifax. She joined the Nova Scotia Bird Society and attended her first meeting shortly afterwards, where she signed up for a Beginning Birders' Field Trip at Sullivan's Pond led by yours truly.

Mary was a natural. She picked up slight differences in species very quickly; and having caught "the birding bug" she attended several more field trips, participated in Christmas Bird Counts and Spring Migration Counts. She also went out birding every chance she got. Her best experience was sighting a Scarlet Tanager at the Frog Pond on May 9th, 2004. Many birders spend years in the field before seeing their first Scarlet Tanager, so this was quite a coup!

Besides birding, Mary works full time at the NSLC. She met her husband, Gavin, who also works for the NSLC, at a Company Golfing Tournament. They married in 1996, live in a charming house in Armdale, and are raising two daughters; Olivia and Emily, and two grey cats. Mary and her husband want to travel. They spent their honeymoon in Scotland, and would love to return there. She'd also like to see Wales, Costa Rica, and more of Canada. She plans to take some Business courses this fall, and she's already signed up for another year on all three Boards: the Executive, the Sanctuary Trust, and the Young Naturalists' Club – so she's not about to slow down anytime soon!

Suzanne Borkowski - President, Nova Scotia Bird Society

Nominating Committee Report - 2008


The following have agreed to serve on the Executive for 2008-2009, if elected at the upcoming NSBS Annual General Meeting:

President - Patrick Kelly
 Vice-President - David Hughes
 Past President - Suzanne Borkowski
 Treasurer - Janey Hughes
 Secretary - Pat McKay
 Chair, NSBS Sanctuary Trust – Bob McDonald
 Membership Secretary - Ulli Hoeger
 Director - Mary Alward
 Director - Gail Bruhm
 Director - Gary Murray
 Director - Susann Myers

The following have agreed to serve for 2008-2009, and have been duly appointed by the Executive:

Editor – Blake Maybank
 Honorary Solicitor - Tony Robinson
 Honorary Auditor - Harold Forsyth





SPRING BIRD REPORTS

Loons Through Grebes

By John Belbin

Considerable numbers of loons were heard over-flying Brier I. during their migration, and all the RED-THROATED LOON reports were from there, save for the NSMC totals.

Aside from the NSMC PIED BILLED GREBES were only noted singly, and there was but one HORNED GREBE report. The scarcity of the reports regarding loons and grebes outside the NSMC leads me to conclude that they are under-reported rather than absent. □

Red-throated Loon

| | | | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|------------|------|-----|
| May 3 | Culloden, <i>Digby</i> | 1 | WAN | |
| May 9 | North Point, Brier I. | 15, flying | W | ELM |
| May 10 | 2 counties, mostly <i>CBRM</i> (9) | 16 | NSMC | |
| May 1-15 | Brier I. migration over-flight | CAH | | |

Common Loon

| | | | | |
|----------|--|-------|----------------|--|
| Mar 21 | Sambro Hbr., <i>HRM</i> | 9 | DOU | |
| Mar 22 | Morden, Kings - Port George, <i>Anna</i> . | a few | NSBS/BNS/AFNC | |
| Apr 6 | Prospect High Hd., <i>HRM</i> | 1 | PLC | |
| Apr 10 | Little Dyke L., <i>Col.</i> | 1 | VME | |
| Apr 22 | Port George, <i>Anna</i> . | 5 | PBG | |
| Apr 27 | Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 2 | RIV | |
| May 3 | Culloden, <i>Digby</i> | 1 | WAN | |
| May 4 | Cloud L., <i>Kings-Anna</i> . | 2 | Andrew Steeves | |
| May 4 | Eden L., <i>Ant.</i> | 4 | KJM | |
| May 10 | 16 counties | 206 | NSMC | |
| May 1-15 | Brier I. migration over-flight | CAH | | |
| May 15 | Conrad Beh., <i>HRM</i> | 1 | DMW | |
| May 28 | Albert Bridge, <i>CB</i> | 2 | LEL | |

May 30 Mathals L., *Kings* ad., nest with egg BLF

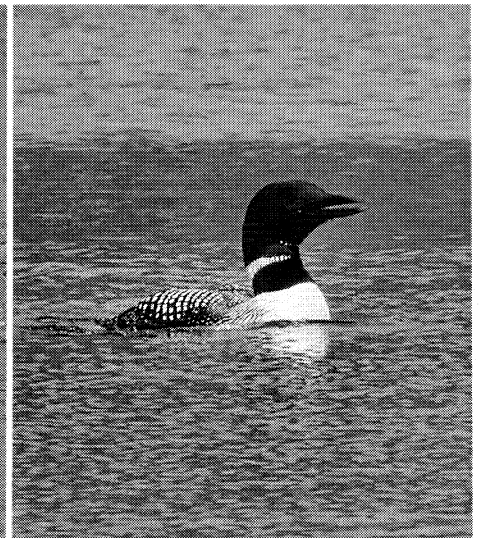
Pied-billed Grebe

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------------|----|--------------|
| Apr 6 | Blanche, <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | NSBS, JAH |
| Apr 14 | Apple R. <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KJS |
| Apr 16 | Annapolis Royal | 1 | RBS |
| Apr 17 | Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna</i> | 1 | IRO |
| Apr 27 | Saxon St Pond, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | Murray Colbo |
| May 3 | Pinkneys Pt., <i>Yar.</i> | 1 | Rachel Smith |
| May 10 | Merland Pond, <i>Ant.</i> | 1 | RFL |
| May 10 | 4 counties | 13 | NSMC |
| May 24 | Port l'Hebert | 1 | DPO |

Horned Grebe

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----|---------------|
| Apr 6 | East Chester | 12 | CJF |
| Red-necked Grebe | | | |
| Mar 22 | Annapolis Royal | 1 | NSBS/BNS/AFNC |
| Mar 22 | River Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i> | 1 | RIV |
| Apr 5 | Clark's Hbr., <i>CSI</i> | 1 | MUN |
| May 10 | <i>HRM</i> | 4 | NSMC |

□□□



A sanguinary encounter, between a pair of COMMON LOONS and an interloper was documented May 9 at Second L. PP, *HRM*, with mixed feelings. The sequence shows initial posturing, vigorous fighting, and finally the triumphant calls of the victor, presumably one of two males involved. After frequent stabbing and grasping with bills, and underwater pursuits, one finally failed to resurface. The literature confirms that loons can indeed hold a wounded (sometimes lung-punctured) rival under water until it drowns. [Photos Rita Viau]

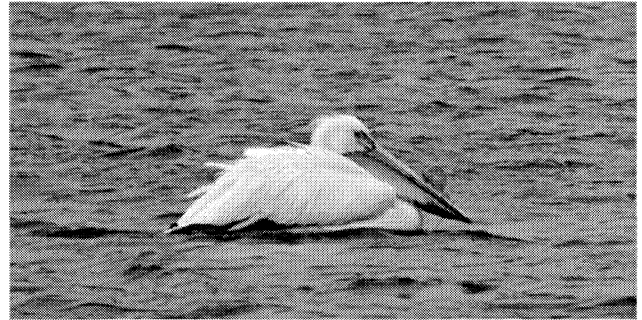
Tubenoses through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

Coinciding with the last day of the lobster season, May 31, CAH's observations indicate that some NORTHERN FULMARS were still present offshore of Brier I. while he and others also noted the vanguard around the same time of the summer pelagic stock, including GREATER, SOOTY and MANX SHEARWATERS, and WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS.

The spring movement of NORTHERN GANNETS into the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Newfoundland waters between mid-April and the first few days of May was nicely captured this year.

Certainly the most exotic, and tantalizing, of this spring's "seabirds" was an adult AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN. It was initially reported by Henry van Bommel, and subsequently photographed near Antigonish May 11-12, only to be unfindable thereafter. As the summer seasonal report will document, the same bird (presumably) appeared, fleetingly, nearby in mid-June. ☐



An AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN in full breeding condition was a rare treat in early May (here 11 May at Bayfield) for a number of lucky observers as it roamed among the bays of Antigonish [Photo Bruce Stevens]

| | | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Northern Fulmar | | | |
| ca. May 19 Off Brier I. | A few | <i>fide</i> SBA | |
| May 31 Off Brier I. | 15 | CAH | |
| Greater Shearwater | | | |
| May 15 Off CSI | 1 | Douglas Swim, <i>fide</i> MUN | |
| May 31 Off Brier I. | 2 | CAH | |
| Sooty Shearwater | | | |
| ca. May 19 Off Brier I. | A few | <i>fide</i> SBA | |
| May 31 Off Brier I. | "10's" | CAH | |
| Manx Shearwater | | | |
| ca. May 19 Off Brier I. | 1 | <i>fide</i> JUS | |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel | | | |
| ca. May 19 Off Brier I. | A few | <i>fide</i> SBA, JUS | |
| May 31 Off Brier I. | "Hundreds" | CAH | |
| Leach's Storm-Petrel | | | |
| May 16-19 BPI | 1+ | CLD <i>et al.</i> | |
| ca. May 19 Off Brier I. | 1 | <i>fide</i> JUS | |
| May 31 Off Brier I. | "Hundreds" | CAH | |
| Northern Gannet | | | |
| Apr. 2 Baxters Hbr., <i>Kings</i> | Small flocks going W. | RBS | |
| Apr. 19 Caribou I., <i>Pict.</i> | 12 ads. | KJM | |
| Apr. 19 Crystal Crescent Bch. PP | Streaming by | HAT | |
| Apr. 26 Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i> | 1500/hr | MIK, FLL | |
| May 5 Culloden, <i>Digby</i> | 2 | WAN | |
| May 9 Brier I. | Steady passage all day | ELM | |
| May 10 9 counties, mostly <i>CBRM</i> (240) | 407 | NSMC | |
| May 16-19 BPI | 75 | CLD <i>et al.</i> | |
| May 15 Off CSI | "Lots" | MUN | |

| | | |
|--|--|--------------------|
| May 17 Belle Cote, <i>Inv.</i> | Groups of 5-30 | BSK |
| AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN | | |
| May 11-12 Bayfield, <i>Ant.</i> | ad. (photo) Henry van Bommel, RFL et al. | |
| Double-crested Cormorant | | |
| Apr. 4 Canning, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | JCT |
| Apr. 8-May 24 Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i> | 1-20 | DMW |
| Apr. 13 Annapolis Royal | 3 | DLO |
| Apr. 15 Avonport, <i>Kings</i> | 28 | JOB |
| Apr. 26 E. LaHave, <i>Lun.</i> | 80 migrants | ELM |
| Apr. 26 Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 45 | KFS |
| Apr. 27 First L., Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | RIV |
| Apr. 30 Brier I. | 3 | ELM |
| May 9 Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 35 | KFS |
| May 9 Brier I. | 10+ | ELM |
| May 10 Peaks in <i>Pict., HRM, CBRM, Rich.</i> | 2836 | NSMC |
| May 11 Laytons Pd., Bayfield, <i>Ant.</i> | ca. 20 | RFL, BRS, FRR |
| May 16-19 BPI | 23 | CLD <i>et al.</i> |
| May 24-25 Brier I. | 10+ | ELM, IAM |
| Great Cormorant | | |
| Mar 8 Trenton, <i>Pict.</i> | imm. | KJM, Rick Ferguson |
| Mar 16 Seaforth, <i>HRM</i> | 6 | SEM |
| Apr. 6 Baccarro, <i>Shel.</i> | 30 | NSBS |
| May 9 Brier I. | 2 imms. | ELM |
| May 10 Antigonish | 1 | NSMC |
| May 10 7 counties, mostly <i>CBRM</i> (260) | 294 | NSMC |
| May 25 Brier I. | imm. | ELM, IAM |

☐☐☐

Hérons

By Ulli Höger

Most remarkable are the sightings of two TRICOLORED HERONS this spring. The time windows of the sightings, one in Cape Breton and one on the Eastern Shore, would make it possible that birders were looking at the same individual. GREAT EGRETS appear to become a more regular appearance in Nova Scotia. Several birds were reported from a number of locations during the spring season. ☐

American Bittern

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|----|----------------|
| May | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| May 6 | Tom Tigney R., <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | SAH |
| May 7 | Albany New, <i>Anna.</i> | 2 | Lesley Butters |
| May 7 | Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i> | 2 | Paul Murray |
| May 10 | 5 counties | 15 | NSMC |
| May 12 | Amherst Pt., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | JBO |
| May 25 | Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | PLC, JEH |
| May 29 | Country Hbr., <i>Guys.</i> | 1 | DOU |

Great Blue Heron

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Mar 23 | CSI | 1 | ELM <i>et al.</i> |
| Mar 24 | Advocate Hbr., <i>Cumb.</i> | 2 | <i>fide</i> JAN |
| Mar 30 | Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | Sheila Burke |
| Mar 30 | CSI | several | MUN |
| Mar 31 | Spencer I., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | Maureen Mills |
| Early Apr | Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i> | common | JAH |
| Apr 1 | Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | DJC |
| Apr 6 | Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i> | 6 | Beverly Crowell |
| Apr 7 | St Peter's, <i>Rich.</i> | 1 | BID |
| Apr 9 | Dominion, <i>CBRM</i> | several | Jen Cooper |
| Apr 14 | Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | ANM |
| May 10 | 14 counties | 255 | NSMC |

Great Egret

| | | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Apr 9 | Avonport, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | R. Haliburton |
| Apr 21 | CSI | 1 | JON, SAN |
| May 4 | CSI | 1 | SJF, JQA |
| May 7-17 | L'Ardoise, <i>Rich.</i> | 1 | GED, SDI |
| May 25 | N. Aspy R., <i>Vic.</i> | 1 | <i>fide</i> FMC |
| Late May | Phillips Hbr., <i>Guys.</i> | 1 | STB |

Snowy Egret

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|---|----------|
| Apr 11-15 | Lr. LeHave, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | DAW, JAH |
| Apr 17-28 | Brier I., <i>Digby</i> | 1 | CAH |
| Apr 18 | Irishtown, <i>Digby</i> | 1 | JUS |
| Apr 19 | Riverport, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | ELM |
| May 20 | Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | DOC |

Tricoloured Heron

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|---|----------------|
| May 10-13 | Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i> | 1 | JUM |
| May 24-27 | Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | DOU, var. obs. |

Black-crowned Night-Heron

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------|---|------------------|
| Apr 5 | CSI | 1 | MUN |
| May 19 | Woodlawn, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | Brian Stonchouse |
| May 30 | CSI | 2 | MUN |

□□□



TRICOLORED HERON is the least common of the "regular" southern herons here. This rather wary individual stayed around Lawrencetown L., *HRM*, in late May (here May 26). [Photo Bernard Burke]



An AMERICAN BITTERN, 16 May at Apple R., *Cum.*, was trying, but not succeeding, to avoid the camera's gaze. [Photo Kathleen Spicer]

Geese, Swans, and Ducks: Spring 2007 Addendum

By Ian McLaren

Regrettably, I overlooked a swath of records submitted for the summer 2007 issue. Here is an account of submissions that modify or add to the information given in that issue.

The BRANT situation looks less gloomy than stated in that issue, with a healthy number staging on and near Brier I. Note that the large flocks of CANADA GEESE (mostly insular Newfoundland *B. c. canadensis*?) left the E. Shore in early April, yet lingered (mostly NS, Labrador and Ungava birds?) in *Kings*.

A sign of possible breeding worth noting is the LESSER SCAUP sighting from Three-fathom Hbr., *HRM*. Might they be tempted to breed here? Large rafts of COMMON EIDERS and WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS, Apr 28 in St. Anns Bay, *Vic.* (BSK) fit well with the many reports listed in the Spring 2007 issue. □

Brant

Apr 19, 20 Freeport, Digby and Brier I. 225, 450 ELM

Canada Goose

Mar 24, Apr 8 Three-fathom Hbr., *HRM* 700, 0 SEM

Mar 24, Apr 22 W. Chezzetcook, *HRM* 200, 0 SEM

Apr 17, 25 Canning Aboiteau, *Kings* 200+, 150-200 JCT

May 15 Hennigars Marsh, *Kings* 1 pair, 6 goslings JCT

Wood Duck

Apr 15 Nyanza, *Vic.* early for here BSK

Gadwall

Late Apr-end May Brier I., *Kings*, *HRM* pairs, probably breeding var. obs.

American Wigeon

Apr 13, 08 Nyanza, *Vic.* early for here BSK

Blue-winged Teal

May 7, 12 SW Margaree, *Inv.* 4, uncommon here KAC

N. Pintail

Apr 1 Nyanza, *Vic.* early for here BSK

Lesser Scaup

to May 12+? Three-fathom Hbr., *HRM* pair, in a pond SEM

Common Goldeneye

May St. Anns, S. Haven, *Vic.* nesting locally BSK

□□□

Waterfowl

By John Belbin

There was huge excitement at the end of May when a flock **BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCKS** was located in a small pond in *Guysborough*. Nine arrived in Country Hbr. May 24 and were reported by James Rhynold and Carol McIntosh. By June 1 they had been photographed well enough to establish that they were probably of wild stock – an obvious target for anyone’s life list. They remained until June 4 and then were seen again in Ipswich, Massachusettes, June 6. The photos taken there were compared to those of ELM in Nova Scotia and one bird with a large, knobbed bill appeared to confirm that it was the same flock.

{Ed. Note: Re-examination of photos of Nova Scotia’s first Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (an individual that spent more than two months near Pointe d’Église, Digby, in the summer of 1998), revealed clipped “toenails”, indicative of a captive origin. With the 1998 sighting relegated to the “escape” category the 2008 flock becomes the first legitimate record for Nova Scotia.}

For the second year in a row a pair of **LESSER SCAUP** was seen in a pond at Three-fathom Hbr. leading to speculation that they are breeding there.

JEH reported a pair of **HARLEQUIN DUCKS** at Herring Cove, well outside their normal haunts. They were paddling towards Halifax Hbr. Harlequins elsewhere also seemed reluctant to begin their northern migration to the breeding grounds. The entire Prospect flock still seemed to be present May 25.

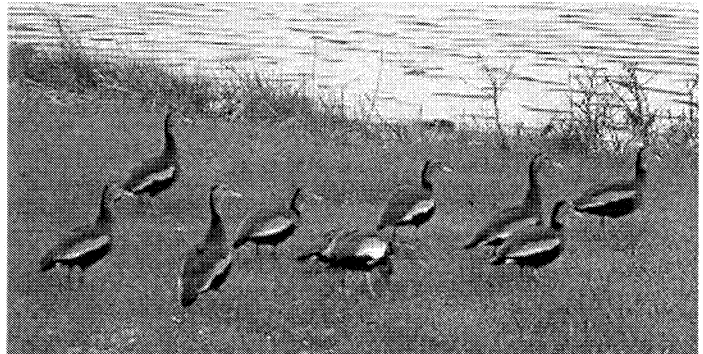
Large flocks of **CANADA GEESE** were reported early on from the Truro and Annapolis Valley areas. The numbers drop off rapidly as they move to their breeding regions. Later, Canada Geese were reported as breeding extremely well in the Valley. The most stunning example was at Phinneys Pond in Victoria Vale, *Anna.*, a small recreational pond that at first glance you wouldn’t think could support more than a single-family unit. Somehow there were large numbers there.

BRANT numbers were high on CSI as usual, but there were only two reports from elsewhere in the Province. Small numbers were seen on both Brier I. and Yarmouth, presumably just passing through.

Identifying or counting ducks that are well offshore is always an uncertainty and this may account for the apparent low levels of some species’ reports. April 4 TCR reported from Canso, “rafts of ducks along the shore with all the **SCOTERS** well represented, along with the massing **COMMON EIDERS**”. A very light coloured female, possibly an *S. m. sedentaria* from the Hudson Bay region, was seen at Baccaro Pt. by ELM. □

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------|-------------------------------|
| BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK | | | |
| May 24-Jun 4 | Country Hbr, <i>Guys.</i> | 9 | James Rhynold, Carol McIntosh |
| Greater White-fronted Goose | | | |
| Mar 29-Apr 2 | Onslow, Truro, <i>Col.</i> | 1 | JBO; ELM, IAM |
| Snow Goose | | | |
| Mar 24 | Nappan, <i>Cumb.</i> | 5 | JBO |
| Mar 29 | Onslow, Truro, <i>Col.</i> | 25 | JBO; DOU |
| Apr 2 | Onslow, Truro, <i>Col.</i> | 2 | ELM, IAM |
| Apr 11 | Monastery, <i>Ant.</i> | 1 | TCR |
| Apr 19 | Musquodoboit Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 2 | JCT |
| Canada Goose | | | |
| Mar 4 | Big I. <i>Pictou</i> | 47 | JOK |
| Mar thr | Conrad’s Beach, <i>HRM</i> | max 240 | DMW |
| Mar 6 | Apple R, <i>Cumb.</i> | 20+ | KFS |
| Mar 8 | Mira R. <i>CB</i> | 125 | LEL |
| Mar 9 | Dominion Bch. <i>CB</i> | 250+ | LEL |
| Mar 11 | Lower Habitant R. Canning, <i>Kings</i> | 1000 | BBT |
| Mar 20 | Nappan, <i>Cumb.</i> | 300+ | JAN |
| Mar 23 | Canard R, <i>Kings</i> | 300+ | JWW |
| Mar 24 | Nappan, <i>Cumb.</i> | 300 | JBO |
| Mar 29; Apr 2 | Onslow, Truro, <i>Col.</i> | 300; 800 | DOU; ELM, IAM |
| Apr 4 | Canning, <i>Kings</i> | 450+ | JWW |
| Apr 6 | W Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i> | 230 | SEM |
| Apr thr | Conrad’s Beach, <i>HRM</i> | max 68 | DMW |
| Apr 6 | Port Joli, <i>Queens</i> | 200 | JAH, DPO, DAW |
| Apr 19 | Canning, <i>Kings</i> | 95 | JWW |
| Apr 19 | New Minas DU, <i>Kings</i> | on nest? | JWW |
| Apr 21 | Kentville, <i>Kings</i> | on nest | AND |
| Apr 22 | Victoria Vale, <i>Anna.</i> | on nest | PBG |
| May 1-8 | Billtown, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | SLH |
| May 4 | Eden L, <i>Ant.</i> | 12 | KJM |

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| May 10 | 15 counties | 605 | NSMC |
| May 11 | Lake Milo, <i>Yar.</i> | pair, with juv. | JOS |
| May 12 | Hennigars Marsh, <i>Kings</i> | possibly 3 nests | JWW |
| May 13 | Kidstons Pond, <i>Kings</i> | 13 | JWW |
| May 18 | Victoria Vale, <i>Anna.</i> | pair and 5 juvs. | BPG |
| May 18 | Gaspereau L., <i>Kings</i> | 6 | Lesley Butters |
| May 25 | Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | pair and 6 juvs. | |
| May 29 | Victoria Vale, <i>Anna.</i> | 11 pairs, 1+7 juvs., 1+3 juvs | BPG |
| May 30 | New Minas, <i>Kings</i> | 2+3 juvs. | JCT |
| Brant | | | |
| Mar 2, 6, 30 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 1500, 4400, 3400 | MUN, JON |
| Mar 22 | Brier I. | 7 | RJS |



A flock of nine **BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCKS** appeared 24 May (9 here on May 27) at Country Hbr., *Guys.*, and before they left in early June it became evident that they were almost certainly our first of genuinely wild origin. [Photo Jimmy Rhynold]



An early CANADA GOOSE family was May 22 at Apple R., *Cum*,
[Photo Kathleen Spicer]

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| Apr 8 | Long Island, <i>Digby Neck</i> | 12 | RAH |
| May 3 | Pinkneys Pt. <i>Yar.</i> | 50 | Rachel Smith |
| May 3, 25 | Brier I. | 33, 61 | WAN; ELM, IAM |

Mute Swan (feral)

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|---|-----|
| Mar 12 | Tufts Cove, <i>Dartmouth</i> | 1 | PLC |
| Mar 27 | Sullivans Pond, <i>Dartmouth</i> | 1 | BBU |

Wood Duck

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Mar 29 | White Rock, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | Andrew Steeves |
| Apr 2-9 | Apple R. <i>Cum</i> | 1-2 | KJS |
| Apr 5 | Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i> | 2 | SAH |
| Apr 14 | Torbrook Mines, <i>Anna.</i> | male in breeding colours | PBG |
| Apr 17 | Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna</i> | 2 | IRO |
| Apr 20 | Antigonish Landing, <i>Ant.</i> | 4 | KJM |
| Apr 21 | Kentville, <i>Kings</i> | 4 | AND |
| Apr 21 | White Rock, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | Andrew Steeves |
| Apr 27 | Annapolis Royal marsh | 4 | DLO |
| May 2 | New Minas, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | JCT |
| May 6 | Tom Tidney River, <i>Shel.</i> | 3 pairs | SAH |
| May 6 | Gaspereau R. <i>Kings</i> | Barred Owl box with 15 eggs | BLF |
| May 10 | Lunenburg area | 2 | JAH |
| May 10 | New Minas sewage ponds, <i>Kings</i> | 5 | JWW |
| May 10 | 8 counties | 42 | NSMC |
| May 22 | Black River L., <i>Kings</i> | nestbox with 9 eggs | BLF |
| May 24 | Port l'Hebert | 2 | DPO |

Gadwall

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|------------------|------|
| Mar 2 | Yarmouth Hbr. | 2 males | MUN |
| Mar 8 | New Glasgow sewage plant | 3 | KJM |
| Mar 12 | Tufts Cove, <i>Dartmouth</i> | 2 | PLC |
| Apr 10 | Great Village, <i>Col</i> | 3 | VME |
| Apr 10 | Apple R. <i>Cum</i> | 1 | KFS |
| Apr 17 | Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna</i> | 4 | IRO |
| Apr 19 | Harris Pond, Canning, <i>Kings</i> | male | JWW |
| Apr 20 | Antigonish Landing, <i>Ant.</i> | 3 | KJM |
| Apr 27 | Three Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 2, newly arrived | SEM |
| May 10 | 3 counties | 9 | NSMC |

Eurasian Wigeon

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|------|---------------|
| Mar 8 | New Glasgow sewage plant | 1 | KJM |
| Mar 12 | Sullivans Pond, <i>Dartmouth</i> | male | PLC |
| Mar 14 | Tufts Cove, <i>HRM</i> | male | EGI |
| Mar 23 | Sherose Island, <i>CSI</i> | male | MUN |
| Apr 3 | Sullivans Pond, <i>Dartmouth</i> | 2 | Gayle MacLean |
| Apr 6 | Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | DMW |
| Apr 27 | Annapolis Royal Marsh | male | DLO |
| May 4, | Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i> | male | BBU |

American Wigeon

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|----|---------------|
| Mar 8 | New Glasgow sewage plant | 2 | KJM |
| Mar 12 | Sullivans Pond, <i>Dartmouth</i> | 20 | PLC |
| Mar 25 | Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | DMW |
| Mar 29 | Onslow, Truro, <i>Col.</i> | 15 | DOU |
| Apr 3 | Sullivans Pond, <i>Dartmouth</i> | 12 | Gayle MacLean |
| Apr 3 | Apple R., <i>Cum</i> | 2 | KFS |
| Apr 5 | Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i> | 2 | SAH |
| Apr 5 | Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i> | 4 | DMW |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Apr 17-27 | Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i> | max 7 | JCT; JWW |
| Apr 17-27 | Harris Pond, Canning, <i>Kings</i> | max 6 | JCT; JWW |
| Apr 17 | Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna</i> | 2 | IRO |
| Apr 17 | Apple R., <i>Cum</i> | 5 | KFS |
| May 10 | Crystal Cliffs, <i>Ant</i> | 2 | RFL |
| May 10 | 8 counties | 111 | NSMC |
| American Black Duck | | | |
| Mar-May | Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i> | max 35 | DMW |
| Mar 23 | Canard R, <i>Kings</i> | good numbers | JWW |
| Mar 29 | White Rock, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | Andrew Steeves |
| Apr 3 | Apple R., <i>Cum</i> | 150+ | KFS |
| Apr 15 | Gaspereau R, Avonport, <i>Kings</i> | 70 | JOB |
| Apr 19 | Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i> | 10 | JWW |
| May 6 | River Hebert, <i>Cumb.</i> | 30+ | Andrew Steeves |
| May 10 | 15 counties | 1503 | NSMC |
| May 18 | Gaspereau L. <i>Kings</i> | 6 | Lesley Butters |
| May 24 | Elderkin Pond, Wolfville | ad. & 7 juvs. | JCT |
| May 27 | Mira R, <i>CB</i> | fem. +7 juvs. | LEL |
| May 29 | Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 20 a+ 10 juvs. | RIV |

Mallard

| | | | |
|---------|--|------------------|----------------|
| Mar-May | Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i> | max 3 | DMW |
| Apr 2 | Port Williams sewage ponds, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | JWW |
| Apr 15 | Apple R. <i>Cum</i> | 4 | KJS |
| Apr 19 | New Minas DU, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | JWW |
| Apr 27 | Van Nostrands Ponds, <i>Kings</i> | 8 | JWW |
| May 10 | 15 counties | 749 | NSMC |
| May 18 | Gaspereau L. <i>Kings</i> | 3 males | Lesley Butters |
| May 20 | West Dublin, <i>Lun.</i> | fem.+11 juvs. | JAH |
| May 29 | Port Williams sewage ponds, <i>Kings</i> | 12 ads.+12 juvs. | GFO |

Northern Shoveler

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|------|----------|
| Mar 24 | Lawrencetown Marsh, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | J. Asley |
| Apr 17 | Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | JCT |
| Apr 19 | Apple R. <i>Cum</i> | 2 | KJS |
| Apr 20 | Antigonish Landing, <i>Ant.</i> | 4 | KJM |
| Apr 20 | Annapolis Royal | 2 | DLO |
| Apr 21 | Clarks Hbr, <i>CSI</i> | male | JON |
| Apr 27 | Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i> | male | JWW |
| May 1 | Apple R. <i>Cumb.</i> | 2 | KJS |
| May 10 | 3 counties, mostly <i>Cumb.</i> (10) | 14 | NSMC |

Northern Pintail

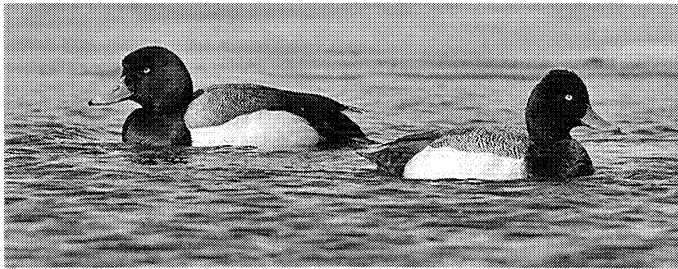
| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|---------|------------|
| Mar 4 | Big I. <i>Pictou</i> | 2 males | JOK |
| Mar 7 | Wentworth Park, Sydney | 1 | Jen Cooper |
| Mar 8 | Lyons Brook, <i>Pict.</i> | 2 | KJM |
| Mar 14 | Apple R. <i>Cum</i> | male | KJS |
| Mar 21 | Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i> | 2 | DOU |
| Mar 29 | Onslow, Truro, <i>Col.</i> | 10 | DOU |
| Apr 6 | Blanche, <i>Shel</i> | 2 | NSBS, JAH |
| Apr 11 | Antigonish Landing | 3 | RFL |
| May 3 | Cherry Hill Bch, <i>Lun</i> | 3 males | SJF |
| May 10 | 3 counties | 7 | NSMC |

Blue-winged Teal

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|----|------|
| Apr 17 | Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | JCT |
| Apr 27 | Van Nostrands Ponds, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | JWW |
| May 10 | 8 counties | 37 | NSMC |
| May 10 | Lilydale, <i>Lun.</i> | 2 | JAH |
| May 10 | Canning, <i>Kings</i> | 4 | JWW |

Green-winged Teal

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Mar 12 | Tufts Cove, <i>Dartmouth</i> | 1 | PLC |
| Mar 22 | Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i> | 2 | JAH |
| Mar 25 | Saxon St Pond, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | JCT |
| Apr 4 | Habitant R, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | JWW |
| Apr 12 | Nyanza, <i>Vic.</i> | 8 | BSK |
| Apr 13 | Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna</i> | 6-10 | DLO |
| Apr 17-27 | Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i> | max 20 | JCT; JWW |
| Apr 17 | Canning, <i>Kings</i> | 10 | JCT |
| Apr 17-27 | Saxon St Pond, <i>Kings</i> | max 15 | JCT; JWW |
| Apr 19 | Canning, <i>Kings</i> | 5 | JWW |
| Apr 20 | Antigonish Landing, <i>Ant.</i> | 20-30 | KJM |
| Apr 27 | Three Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 22 | SEM |
| Apr 27 | Van Nostrands Ponds, <i>Kings</i> | 10 | JWW |
| May 3 | Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 2 | RIV |
| May 6 | Tom Tidney R. <i>Shel.</i> | 8 | SAH |
| May 10 | 14 counties | 238 | NSMC |
| May 15 | Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | DMW |



Most can distinguish LESSER and GREATER SCAUP, like this twosome at Glace Bay, Mar. 31, once you get the hang of it. A more tricky problem would be to find a Greater Scaup of subspecies *marilla* from the Old World (including Iceland) in our wintering flocks. They are said to differ in having narrower and less intense vermiculations on the mantle and scapulars. [Photo Allan Murrant]

Ring-necked Duck

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Mar 19 | Apple R. <i>Cum</i> | 10 | KJS |
| Mar 19 | Deep Cove | 2 | CJF |
| Apr 4 | Wolfville area ponds, <i>Kings</i> | 5 | JCT |
| Apr 4 | Canso area lakes | 25-30 | TCR |
| Apr 7 | Bissett L. <i>HRM</i> | 5 | DOU |
| Apr 9 | Van Nostrums Pond, <i>Kings</i> | 7 | JWW |
| Apr 10 | Tupper L. <i>Kings</i> | 3 | AAM |
| Apr 17-May 4 | Harris Pond, Canning, <i>Kings</i> | max 8 | JCT; JWW |
| Apr 17 | Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna</i> | 25+ | IRO |
| Apr 20 | Church St Pond, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | RBS |
| Apr 20 | Mackay L. <i>Ant.</i> | 10 | KJM |
| Apr 27 | Spectacle L. <i>HRM</i> | 3 | DOU |
| May 4 | Gunns L. <i>Ant.</i> | KJM | |
| May 10 | 12 counties | 475 | NSMC |
| May 14 | Pomquet Hbr. <i>Ant.</i> | 8 | BLM, IAM |
| May 28 | Albert Bridge, <i>CB</i> | several pairs | LEL |

Tufted Duck x Greater Scaup hybrid

| | | | |
|-------|-----------------|---|-----|
| Mar 1 | Pictou Causeway | 1 | KJM |
|-------|-----------------|---|-----|

Scaup sp.

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------------|-------|-----|
| Mar 8 | Loch Broom, <i>Pict.</i> | 1000+ | KJM |
| Apr 4 | Dartmouth Cove, <i>HRM</i> | 100 | ULH |

Greater Scaup

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-----|------|
| Mar 24 | Three Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 75 | SEM |
| Apr 5 | First South, <i>Lun.</i> | 150 | JAH |
| Apr 6 | Three Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 60 | SEM |
| Apr 17 | Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna</i> | 3 | IRO |
| May 3 | West R, <i>Pict.</i> | 20 | KJM |
| May 10 | 4 counties, most <i>CBRM</i> (67) | 76 | NSMC |

Lesser Scaup

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------------|----|------------|
| Mar 7 | Sydney Hbr | 16 | Jen Cooper |
| Mar 12 | Dartmouth Cove, <i>HRM</i> | 30 | JOB |
| Mar 24 | Three Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 12 | SEM |
| Apr 5 | Clarks Hbr, <i>CSI</i> | 12 | MUN |
| Apr 6 | Three Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 2 | SEM |
| May 10 | 2 counties | 2 | NSMC |

Common Eider

| | | | |
|---------|---|------------------------|--------------|
| Mar-May | Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i> | max 150 | DMW |
| Mar 12 | Dartmouth Cove, <i>HRM</i> | 200 | JOB |
| Apr 2 | Baccaro Point, <i>Shel</i> poss. <i>S.m. sedentaria</i> | | ELM |
| Apr 5 | Dartmouth Cove, <i>HRM</i> | 50-100 | KGI |
| Apr 5 | Bayswater | 55 | CJF |
| Apr 6 | Prospect High Head, <i>HRM</i> | lots | PLC |
| Apr 6 | Three Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 50 | SEM |
| Apr 8 | North East Cove, <i>Brier I.</i> | many | AH |
| Apr 22 | Port George, <i>Anna.</i> | 11 | PBG |
| May 3 | Pinkneys Point, <i>Yar.</i> | 94 | Rachel Smith |
| May 3 | Pond Cove, <i>Brier I</i> | 60+ | WAN |
| May 10 | 11 counties | 1446 | NSMC |
| May 29 | North West Arm, <i>HRM</i> | 8 | Paul Murray |
| May 31 | Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i> | first clutch of chicks | DJC |

Harlequin Duck

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Mar 6, 22 | Port George, <i>Anna.</i> | 15, 13 | RBS; NSBS |
| Apr 6 | Prospect High Head, <i>HRM</i> | 10 | PLC |
| Apr 16, 27 | Herring Cove, <i>HRM</i> | 2, 3 | JEH; DOU |

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|------|--------------|
| Apr 20 | Ingomar, <i>Shel.</i> | 2 | SAH |
| Apr 22 | Port George, <i>Anna.</i> | 2 | PBG |
| May 3 | Baccaro Point, <i>Shel.</i> | 4 | MUN |
| May 23 | Arisaig, <i>Antigonish</i> | fem. | JOK |
| May 25 | Prospect High Head, <i>HRM</i> | 25 | Peter Browne |

Surf Scoter

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|-------|-------------|
| Apr 6 | Three Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 30 | SEM |
| Apr 6 | Port Morien, <i>CB</i> | 12 | Jen Cooper |
| Apr 20 | Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | DMW |
| May 3 | Pond Cove, <i>Brier I</i> | a few | WAN |
| May 6 | Pentz, Lahave R, <i>Lun.</i> | 50 | BPG |
| May 4 | Eden L, <i>Ant.</i> | 1 | KJM |
| May 10 | 10 counties, mostly <i>CBRM</i> (250) | 430 | NSMC |
| May 29 | North West Arm, <i>HRM</i> | 14 | Paul Murray |

White-winged Scoter

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-------|------|
| Mar 21 | Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i> | 5 | DOU |
| Apr 6 | Three Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 14 | SEM |
| Apr 20 | Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i> | 5 | DMW |
| Apr 23 | Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i> | 7 | DMW |
| May 3 | Pond Cove, <i>Brier I</i> | a few | WAN |
| May 10 | 8 counties, mostly <i>CBRM</i> (130) | 205 | NSMC |
| May 15 | Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i> | 8 | DMW |

Black Scoter

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|-----|------|
| Mar 29 | Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i> | 18 | MIK |
| Apr 4 | Dartmouth Cove, <i>HRM</i> | 3 | KGI |
| Apr 6 | Three Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 2 | SEM |
| Apr 16 | Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | DMW |
| Apr 20 | Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i> | 7 | DMW |
| Apr 22 | Port George, <i>Anna.</i> | 3 | PBG |
| May 3 | Pond Cove, <i>Brier I</i> | 20 | WAN |
| May 10 | 9 counties, mostly <i>Kings</i> (122) | 236 | NSMC |

Long-tailed Duck

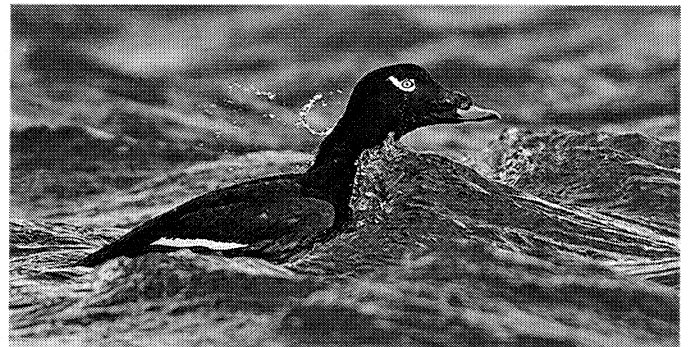
| | | | |
|--------|--|-------|---------------|
| Mar 22 | Morden, <i>Kings</i> - Port George, <i>Anna.</i> | a few | NSBS/BNS/AFNC |
| Apr 8 | Port Morien, <i>CB</i> | 2 | Jen Cooper |

Bufflehead

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Mar 8 | Trenton Big Gut, <i>Pict.</i> | 12 | KJM |
| Apr 6 | Eastern Shore, <i>HRM</i> | 12 | Melvina Weatherby |
| Apr 6 | Port Joli, <i>Queens</i> | 23 | JAH, DAW, DPO |
| Apr 7 | Parrsboro | 35-40 | VME |
| Apr 7 | Chebogue R, <i>Yar.</i> | 3 | JOS |
| Apr 16 | Annapolis Royal | 50 | RBS |
| Apr 17 | Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna</i> | 25+ | IRO |
| May 10 | 5 counties, mostly <i>CBRM</i> (55) | 66 | NSMC |

Common Goldeneye

| | | | |
|-----------|--|----------|------------|
| Mar 1 | Antigonish Sewage Plant | 80 | BRS |
| Mar 5 | Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i> | 2 | DMW |
| Mar 7 | Sydney Hbr. | 93 | Jen Cooper |
| Mar 11 | Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i> | 6 | DMW |
| Mar 22 | Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i> | 107 | JAH |
| Apr 2 | Port Williams sewage ponds, <i>Kings</i> | 9 | JWW |
| Apr 8 | Dominion, <i>CB</i> | handfuls | Jen Cooper |
| Apr 10 | Tupper Lake, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | AAM |
| May 3 | West R. <i>Pict.</i> | 30-40 | KJM |
| May 10 | 6 counties | 69 | NSMC |
| May 10-29 | Avondale, <i>Pict.</i> | 2 | DOU |



As Nova Scotian gunners will attest, scoters ("coots" to them) are tough. This WHITE-WINGED SCOTER was surfing 16 Mar. at Morien Bar, *CBRM*. [Photo Allan Murrant]

Barrow's Goldeneye

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------------|----|-----|
| Mar 1 | Antigonish Sewage Plant | 1 | BRS |
| Mar 14 | Tufts Cove, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | EGI |
| Mar 16 | Hartlens Point, <i>HRM</i> | 2 | MIK |
| Apr 6 | Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i> | 1f | SAH |
| Apr 8 | Sandy Cove, <i>Digby</i> | 2 | RAH |

Hooded Merganser

| | | | |
|----------|--|----------------------|----------|
| Mar 8 | New Glasgow sewage plant | 10 | KJM |
| Apr 2 | Port Williams sewage ponds, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | JWW |
| Apr 5 | Blandford, Chester | 2 | CJF |
| Apr 5 | Bayswater, Chester | 2 | CJF |
| Apr 8-18 | Akins Marsh, Falmouth, <i>Hants</i> | 2 | AHM; JOB |
| Apr 10 | McGee Lake, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | AAM |
| Apr 10 | Apple R. <i>Cum</i> | 2 | KFS |
| Apr 20 | Saxon St Pond, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | RBS |
| Apr 22 | Victoria Vale, <i>Anna.</i> | 3 | PBG |
| Apr 22 | East Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i> | 2 fems. | PBG |
| May 10 | 5 counties, mostly <i>Pict.</i> (69) | 84 | NSMC |
| May 11 | Bayfield, <i>Ant.</i> | fem. | RFL |
| May 22 | Black River L., <i>Kings</i> | eggs in 4 nest boxes | BLF |

Common Merganser

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Mar 8 | New Glasgow sewage plant | 100 | KJM |
| Mar 28 | Canning, <i>Kings</i> | 11 | JWW |
| Mar 29 | White Rock, <i>Kings</i> | 26+ | Andrew Steeves |
| Apr 4 | Canning, <i>Kings</i> | 4 | JCT |
| Apr 5 | Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i> | 15 | DMW |
| Apr 7 | Saxon Street Pond, <i>Kings</i> | 5 | JWW |
| Apr 8 | Shubie Park, <i>Dartmouth</i> | 3 | PLC |
| Apr 13 | Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i> | 40 | JAH |
| Apr 15 | Gaspereau R, Avonport, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | JOB |
| Apr 19 | Canning, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | JWW |

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Apr 20 | Mackay L. <i>Ant.</i> | 3 | KJM |
| Apr 27 | Three Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | SEM |
| May 1 | Cole Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 8 | DHH |
| May 1 | Westphal, <i>HRM</i> | 7 | DHH |
| May 3 | Salt Marsh Trail, <i>HRM</i> | 3 | DHH |
| May 4 | Cloud L, <i>Kings-Anna.</i> | 2 | Andrew Steeves |
| May 6 | River Hebert, <i>Cumb.</i> | 12+ | Andrew Steeves |
| May 10 | 11 counties | 296 | NSMC |
| May 18 | Gaspereau Lake, <i>Kings</i> | 3 | Lesley Butters |

Red-breasted Merganser

| | | | |
|------------|---|-------------|---------------|
| Mar 3 | Dartmouth Cove, <i>HRM</i> | 2 | BBU |
| Mar 7 | Sydney Hbr | 4 | Jen Cooper |
| Mar 10, 25 | Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i> | 15, 21 | DMW |
| Mar 16 | Back Hbr, <i>Lun.</i> | 32 | JAH |
| Mar 22 | Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i> | 35 | JAH |
| Mar 22 | Morden, <i>Kings - Port George, Anna.</i> | 25+ | NSBS/BNS/AFNC |
| Apr 5 | First South, <i>Lun.</i> | 57 | JAH |
| Apr 6 | Prospect Bay, <i>HRM</i> | a few | PLC |
| Apr 6 | Three Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 30 | SEM |
| Apr 8 | North East Cove, Brier I. | many | RAH |
| Apr 19, 25 | Apple R. <i>Cum</i> | 9 | KJS |
| Apr 22 | Port George, <i>Anna.</i> | 2 | PBG |
| Apr 27 | Three Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 16 | SEM |
| May 3 | Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i> | 10 | DMW |
| May 10 | Crystal Cliffs, <i>Ant</i> | 3 | RFL |
| May 10 | 12 counties | 394 | NSMC |
| May 28 | Albert Bridge, <i>CBRM</i> s | everal pair | LEL |

Ruddy Duck

| | | | |
|--------|--|------|-----|
| May 29 | Port Williams Sewage Ponds, <i>Kings</i> | male | GFO |
|--------|--|------|-----|

□□□

Galliformes

By Ulli Hoeger

The CHUKAR visiting a backyard in Brookside was almost certainly an escapee as this species is commonly used to train hunting dogs. RING-NECKED PHEASANTS, another non-native species, were seen in many backyards as feeder birds and some reports indicate that they have spread into areas where their presence was previously unknown. □

Chukar

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|---|---------------|
| May 3-7 | Brookside, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | Tricia Murphy |
|---------|-----------------------|---|---------------|

Gray Partridge

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---|----------|
| Mar 29 & Apr 23 | Bible Hill, <i>Col.</i> | 2 | DOU, JCZ |
| May 25 | Bible Hill, <i>Col.</i> | 4 | ROH |

Ring-necked Pheasant

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|---------|---------------|
| mid-March | Downtown Halifax | 1 | Dousan Soudek |
| Mar 21 | Carleton, <i>Yar.</i> | 2 | RAH |
| Mar 28 | Falmouth, <i>Hants</i> | 8 | PKE |
| Apr 15 | S. Haven, <i>Vic.</i> | several | BSK |
| May 4 | Truro, <i>Col.</i> | 1 | Andrew Smith |
| May 10 | 12 counties | 505 | NSMC |

Ruffed Grouse

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|---|-----|
| March-May | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
|-----------|------------------------|---|-----|

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Mar 25 | Branch LeHave, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | JAH, DPO |
| Apr 4 | Granville Ferry, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | DLO |
| Apr 20 | Haggarts L, <i>Ant.</i> | drumming | KJM |
| Apr 26 | Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | MIK, FLL |
| May 7 | Albany New, <i>Anna.</i> | 2 | Lesley Butters |
| May 10 | 15 counties | 163 | NSMC |
| May 11 | Heckmans I., <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | JAH |

Spruce Grouse

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|------|-------------------|
| Apr 11&16 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| Apr 26 | Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | MIK, FLL |
| May 3 | Blanche Peninsula, <i>Shel.</i> | fem. | JAH <i>et al.</i> |
| May 4 | Milldam L., <i>Pict.</i> | 2 | KJM |
| May 10 | 3 counties | 9 | NSMC |

□□□

Rails and Cranes

By Ulli Höger

Only one birder witnessed the flight of six SANDHILL CRANES across downtown Halifax, but fortunately it was a well-known crane enthusiast. A group of these birds is unusual for our region as most sightings include only individuals. □

Virginia Rail

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------------|---|----------|
| May 10 | River John, <i>Pict.</i> | 1 | KJM |
| May 10 | Reserve Mines, <i>CBRM</i> | 1 | CSM, TMM |
| May 10 | <i>Cumberland</i> | 1 | NSMC |

Sora

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---------|------|
| May 5 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| May 10 | 3 counties, mostly <i>Cumb.</i> (7) | 13 | NSMC |
| May 12 | Amherst Pt., <i>Cumb.</i> | several | JBO |

American Coot

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| March-April | Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i> | several | var. obs. |
| Apr 27 | Annapolis Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | DLO |

Sandhill Crane

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------|----|-----------------|
| Mar 1 | Rosebay, <i>Lun.</i> | ~3 | <i>fide</i> JAH |
| Mar 14 | Halifax, <i>HRM</i> | 6 | ABM |

□□□

Diurnal Raptors

By Ulli Höger

The most remarkable news this spring was the reports of **BLACK VULTURES**. Over the last few years, reports of this species have become more frequent. However, unlike their cousins they are still a rare sighting, so keep your critical eyes open whenever a vulture circles the sky. Speaking of vultures, even with **TURKEY VULTURES** being reported in Nova Scotia for the past 40 years, the sightings in recent years have steadily increased. Formerly seen mostly in the southern parts of the province, they can now be seen all the way up to Cape Breton. Recent nesting in New Brunswick completes the picture of a species expanding its distribution range. □

Black Vulture

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| Apr 22 | Canso, <i>Guys.</i> | 1 | <i>fide</i> TOK |
| Apr 23 | Enfield, <i>Hants</i> | 2 | JCZ |

Turkey Vulture

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| Mar 2,8 | CSI | 1 | MUN |
| Mar 9 | Brier I. | 3 | JUS |
| Mar 30 | Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | Sheila Burke |
| Mar 31 | Spencer I., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | Maureen Mills |
| Apr 6-8 | Advocate, <i>Cumb.</i> | 5 | var. obs. |
| Apr 11 | Halifax | 1 | IAM |
| Apr 15-27 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| Apr 15 | E. Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | DLO |
| Apr 19 | Head of Jeddore, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | LUB, KGI |
| Apr 19 | Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i> | 1 | ULH |
| Apr 19 | Canning, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | JWW |
| Apr 20 | Greenwood, <i>Cumb.</i> | 4-6 | var. obs. |
| Apr 21 | Hazel Hill, <i>Guys.</i> | 3 | <i>fide</i> TOC |
| Apr 27 | Digby Neck, <i>Digby</i> | 2 | ELM, AHM |
| Apr 28 | Brier I. | 10 | ELM, AHM |
| May 4 | Clam Hbr., <i>HRM</i> | 1 | BBU |
| May 6 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 3 | KFS |
| May 6 | Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i> | 2 | DOC |
| May 7 | Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | LOC |
| May 10 | 2 counties | 6 | NSMC |
| May 18 | Cape Split, <i>Kings</i> | 3 | ELM |
| May 19 | Arlington, <i>Kings</i> | 3 | DOL |
| May 19 | N. Kingston, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | PBG |
| May 24 | CSI | 10 | MUN |
| May 26 | Middleton, <i>Anna.</i> | 2 | James Churchill |
| May 29 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 5 | KFS |
| May 29 | Barrington, <i>Shel.</i> | 3 | RMC |

Osprey

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|----|------|
| Apr 6 | Yarmouth | 1 | MUN |
| Apr 11 | Dartmouth | 1 | ULH |
| Apr 13 | Stellarton, <i>Pict.</i> | 1 | KJM |
| Apr 13 | Upper LaHave, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | JAH |
| Apr 13 | Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i> | 2 | JAH |
| Apr 13 | Belleville, <i>Yar.</i> | 2 | PRG |
| Apr 14 | Porters L., <i>HRM</i> | 1 | ANM |
| Apr 14 | Bedford Basin, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | GMV |
| May 10 | 15 counties | 81 | NSMC |

Bald Eagle

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Mar 6 | E. Wolfville, <i>Kings</i> | pair | JWW |
| Mar 10 | Noggins Corner, <i>Kings</i> | pair | JWW |
| Mar 13 | Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i> | mating | BBU |
| Mar 25 | Port Hawkesbury, <i>Inv.</i> | >50 | DJO, Mary K. Johnston |
| Mar 28 | Muskrat Farm, <i>Kings</i> | pair | JWW |
| Mar 28 | Canning, <i>Kings</i> | pair | JWW |
| Apr 27 | Muskrat Farm, <i>Kings</i> | chicks | JWW |
| Apr 27 | Noggins Corner, <i>Kings</i> | chicks | JWW |
| May 5 | Eden L., <i>Pict.</i> | nesting | KJM |
| May 10 | 13 counties | 300 | NSMC |
| May 13 | Bridgewater, <i>Lun.</i> | chicks | JAH |
| May 19 | Gasperau L., <i>Kings</i> | chicks | Lesley J. Butters |

Northern Harrier

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|------|-----|
| Mar 29 | Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i> | male | DJC |
| Apr 4 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | male | KFS |
| Apr 14 | Roslin, <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | BRS |
| Apr 15 | Edgetts Beh., <i>Cumb.</i> | pair | KFS |
| Apr 17-18 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | pair | KFS |

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|------|----------|
| Apr 17 | Upper Granville, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | DLO |
| Apr 26 | Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i> | male | RFL, MZG |
| Apr 28 | Belleisle, <i>Anna.</i> | male | MCR |
| May 10 | 12 counties | 65 | NSMC |

Sharp-shinned Hawk

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|----|----------|
| Mar 1&11 | Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | RIV, APO |
| Mar 16 | Falmouth, <i>Hants</i> | 1 | PKE |
| Mar 20 | Carleton, <i>Yar.</i> | 2 | RAH |
| Apr 13&26 | Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i> | 2 | RFL |
| April-May | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| May 4 | Sugar Loaf, <i>Vic.</i> | 1 | AAM |
| May 9 | Shag End, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | BLM |
| May 10 | 8 counties | 23 | NSMC |
| May 11 | Fairmont, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | RFL |

Northern Goshawk

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Apr 7 | Newtonville, <i>Kings</i> | nesting | BLF |
| Apr 22 | Black River L., <i>Kings</i> | nesting | BLF |
| May 3 | Oban, <i>Rich.</i> | 1 | WMA |
| May 10 | 5 counties | 6 | NSMC |
| May 13 | Milford Station, <i>Hants</i> | 1 | Kathleen MacAulay |

Broad-winged Hawk

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|------|-------------------|
| Apr 25 | Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i> | imm. | MIK <i>et al.</i> |
| May 10 | 4 counties | 4 | NSMC |
| May 12 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |

Red-tailed Hawk

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Mar 6 | Hortonville, <i>Kings</i> | 1 part. albino | JWW |
| Mar 8 | Exit 10, Hwy 101 | 1 part. albino | PKE, BLF |
| Apr 17 | Kingsport, <i>Kings</i> | nesting | JCT |
| Apr 20 | Haggarts L., <i>Ant.</i> | pair | KJM |
| May 4 | Blanche Peninsula, <i>Shel.</i> | 1 female | JAH <i>et al.</i> |
| May 7 | Albany New, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | Lesley Butters |
| May 10 | 11 counties | 89 | NSMC |

Rough-legged Hawk

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------|---|-----|
| Mar 28 | Greenwich, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | JWW |
| Apr 12 | Wallbrook, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | JWW |
| May 4 | Dingwall, <i>Vic.</i> | 1 | AAM |

American Kestrel

| | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Apr 6 | Bacarro, <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | JAH <i>et al.</i> |
|-------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|



A mating of **BALD EAGLES**, May 13 at Red Bridge Pond, Dartmouth, seemed a far from delicate affair. [Photo Bernard Burke]

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|------|-----------|-------------------------|--|---------|-----------------------|
| Apr 9 | Avon R., <i>Hants</i> | 1 | JOB | Apr 19 | Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i> | 1 | RFL |
| Apr 12 | Economy, <i>Col.</i> | 1 | fide JAN | Apr 19 | Acadia Campus, Wolfville, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | JCT |
| Apr 14 | Lemington, <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | JAN | May 9 | Brier I. | nesting | ELM |
| Apr 14 | Roslin, <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | BRS | May 10 | 13 counties | 39 | NSMC |
| Apr 16 | Harbour Center, <i>Ant.</i> | 1 | RFL | May 16-19 | BPI | 1 | CLD <i>et al.</i> |
| Apr 16 | Brier I. | 2 | CAH | Gyr Falcon | | | |
| Apr 17 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS | Apr 26 | Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i> | 1 | MIK, FLL |
| Apr 20 | Spa Springs, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | IRO | May 10 | New Waterford, <i>CBRM</i> | 1 | CSM, TMM |
| May 10 | 12 counties | 72 | NSMC | Peregrine Falcon | | | |
| May 10 | St. Andrews, <i>Ant.</i> | 1 | RFL | Mar 29 | Onslow, <i>Col.</i> | 1 | DOU |
| May 10 | Guysborough Intervale, <i>Guys.</i> | 1 | RFL | Apr 17 | Cape Split area, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | Ian McKay |
| Merlin | | | | May 10 | 3 counties | 5 | NSMC |
| Mar 28 | E. Advocate Hbr., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | JAN | May 10 | Black Rock, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | David Taylor, Ed Dodd |
| Apr 6 | Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i> | 1 | SEM | May 10 | Berwick, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | David Taylor, Ed Dodd |
| Apr 12 | Scots Bay, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | Ian McKay | May 12 | Amherst Pt., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | JBO |
| Apr 14 | Halifax | pair | ANM | May 17 | Cape Split, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | JWW |
| Apr 18 | Wolfville | 1 | PBG | | | | □□□ |

Shorebirds

By Susann Myers

Few shorebirds overwintered to linger until spring, so those that did, including a single BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER at Brier I., brightened a spring reporting season that boasted no rarities. Spring migration was generally on schedule, except that both PIPING PLOVERS and AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS were first reported a week later than average. A single GREATER YELLOWLEGS appeared two weeks earlier than average; the remainder of early yellowlegs sightings, however, followed on schedule in mid-April.

A few SANDERLINGS wintered at CSI and Conrad Bch., *HRM*, but the late appearance of a substantial flock at Sable I. in mid-March suggests that these were early migrants rather than wintering birds. Ever-hardy PURPLE SANDPIPERS remained into early spring in good numbers, and wintering DUNLINS lingered at CSI and Crescent Bch., *Lun.* As usual, there were few reports of WILSON'S SNIPE or AMERICAN WOODCOCK, except as a result of owl surveys conducted around the province. A Woodcock that appeared in Canso in late February remained to the end of March. It was considered by TOK to have wintered, but exceptionally early migrants have appeared in NS in the past by Feb. 27. As often, some PHALAROPES were observed off Brier I. in mid-May.

The Nova Scotia Migration Count (NSMC) May 10 brought reports of 19 species of shorebirds, which is average for the past 10 years. Many species were reported in below-average numbers but wet, windy weather on the mainland likely contributed greatly to the drop in sightings. Species substantially below average were Black-bellied Plover at 35% of their 10-year average, KILLDEER at 47%, SPOTTED SANDPIPER at 59%, WILLET and RED KNOT both at 55%, LEAST SANDPIPER at 42%, Purple Sandpiper at 13%, Wilson's Snipe at 67% and American Woodcock at 49%.

Sanderlings, an uncommon spring migrant in April-May, were found on NSMCs at an average of 145 between 1998 and 2002. That average number dropped to 10 in 2003-2007, and only five were found in 2008, another warning sign for this threatened species.

Two WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS in *Rich.* were a good find; they are uncommon in spring, usually found on offshore islands or CBI. Another highlight of the NSMC was the three DOWITCHERS spotted by observant participants. □

small shorebird species

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| May 10 | <i>Kings, Lun.</i> | 43, 1 | NSMC |
| Black-bellied Plover | | | |
| Apr. 12, 25 | The Hawk, CSI | 5, 27 | JON |
| Apr. 18 | Pond Cove, Brier I. | 1 | JUS |
| Apr. 20 | Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i> | 1 | SEM |
| May 7 | The Hawk, CSI | 61 | JON, SAN |
| May 10 | <i>Shel.</i> | 28, 29 | NSMC |
| May 13, 30 | Powells Bch., <i>Shel.</i> | 2 | BJS, SIS |
| May 18-19 | Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i> | 6 | BJS, SIS |
| May 24 | Johnstons Pond Bch., <i>Shel.</i> | 6, some alt. | DPO |
| May 25 | Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i> | 17 | JAH, NSBS |
| May 28 | Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i> | 18 | SJF |
| May 31 | CSI | 45+ | BJS, SIS |
| American Golden-Plover | | | |
| May 7 | CSI | 1 | DOU |

Piping Plover

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Apr. 12, 14 | Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i> | 2 | IAM, HAT |
| Apr. 19 | Crow Neck, Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i> | 4 | BJS, SIS |
| Apr. 20 | Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i> 2 pairs | JAH | |
| Apr. 23, 25 | Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i> | 1, 3 | P. Murray, MIK |
| Apr. 27 | Sand Hills Bch. PP, <i>Shel.</i> | 2 | BJS, SIS |
| May 3 | Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i> | 8 | ULH |
| May 4 | Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i> | 6 | JAH |
| May 10 | <i>HRM</i> , South shore, <i>Vic.</i> | 3, 6, 2 | NSMC |
| May 13 | Powells Bch., <i>Shel.</i> | 2 | BJS, SIS |
| May 24 | Johnstons Pond Bch., <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | DPO |
| May 31 | South Side, CSI | 1 | BJS, SIS |
| Killdeer | | | |
| Mar. 24 | Dublin Shore, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | JAH |
| Mar. 24 | Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i> | 1 | SEM |
| ca. Mar. 26 | Starrs Pt., <i>Kings</i> | 1 | BLF, fide JCT |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|------|
| Mar. 29 | Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i> | 1 | MIK | |
| Mar. 29 | MacCormacks Bch., <i>HRM</i> | 1 | MIK | |
| Mar. 30 | CSI | 6 | MUN | |
| Mar. 31 | Middle LaHave, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | AHM | |
| Apr. 1 | Saxon St. Pond, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | BBT, <i>fide</i> JWW | |
| Apr.-May | 10 locations, widespread | 20 total | var. obs. | |
| May 10 | South Mt., <i>Kings</i> | 1, on nest | RBS | |
| May 10 | <i>Hants, Kings, Pict., Total</i> | 11, 11, 9, 41 | | NSMC |
| American Oystercatcher | | | | |
| Apr. 17 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 2 | CST, MUN | |
| Apr. 19-May 31 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 4 | MUN, JON, SAN | |
| May 10 | CSI | 4 | MUN, NSMC | |
| Spotted Sandpiper | | | | |
| May 7 | Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | JCT | |
| May 10 | Little Pockwock L., <i>HRM</i> | 1 | SMB | |
| May 10 | <i>Hants, Kings, Total</i> | 4, 6, 19 | | NSMC |
| May 28 | Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i> | 2 | SJF | |
| Solitary Sandpiper | | | | |
| May 10 | <i>Kings</i> | 2 | NSMC | |
| Greater Yellowlegs | | | | |
| Apr. 5 | Lyles Bay, <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | JAH, NSBS | |
| Apr. 20 | Saxon St. Pond, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | RBS | |
| Apr. 20 | Sand Hills Bch. PP, <i>Shel.</i> | 7 | BJS, SIS | |
| Apr. 21; May 7 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 1, 5 | JON, SAN | |
| Apr. 23 | Lr. Clarks Hbr., <i>CSI</i> | 8 | MUN | |
| Apr. 25 | Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i> | 2 | MIK | |
| Apr. 27; May 3 | Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i> | 5, 18 | SEM | |
| Apr. 27; May 2 | Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i> | 3 | SJF, JSC | |
| May 3-25 | 6 locations, widespread | 14 total | var. obs. | |
| May 10 | <i>CBRM, Pict., Rich., Total</i> | 41, 79, 23, 263 | | NSMC |
| Willet | | | | |
| Apr. 20, 27 | Sand Hills Bch. PP, <i>Shel.</i> | 1, 8 | BJS, SIS | |
| Apr. 21; May 7 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 1, 11 | JON, SAN | |
| May 3 | Martinique Bch. marsh, <i>HRM</i> | 10 | ULH | |
| May 3, 18 | Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i> | 6, 25 | SEM | |
| May 3, 28 | Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i> | 4, 19 | SJF | |
| May 3-25 | 5 locations, widespread | 16 total | var. obs. | |
| May 7 | Conrad marsh, <i>HRM</i> | ca. 15 | P. Murray | |
| May 9, 30 | Goose Pt., <i>Shel.</i> | 8, 12 | BJS, SIS | |
| May 10 | <i>HRM, Pict., Yar., Total</i> | 36, 46, 35, 256 | | NSMC |
| May 31 | CSI | 20 | BJS, SIS | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | | | | |
| Apr. 20 | Sand Hills Bch. PP, <i>Shel.</i> | 2 | BJS, SIS | |
| May 3 | Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i> | 2 | SEM | |
| May 10 | <i>CBRM, Rich., Total</i> | 12, 4, 24 | | NSMC |
| Whimbrel | | | | |
| May 28 | Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | SJF | |
| Ruddy Turnstone | | | | |
| Apr. 15-25 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 1 | CST, JON, MUN | |
| Apr. 20 | Sand Hills Bch. PP, <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | BJS, SIS | |
| May 10 | <i>Shelburne</i> | 2 | NSMC | |
| May 28 | Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i> | 6 | SJF | |
| May 31 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 4 | BJS, SIS | |
| Red Knot | | | | |
| Apr. 12, 16 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 2, 3 (1 alt) | JON, SAN | |
| Apr. 21 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 14+ | BJS, SIS | |
| May 7 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 9 | JON, SAN, NSBS | |
| May 10 | <i>Shelburne</i> | 11 | NSMC | |
| May 13 | Powells Bch., <i>Shel.</i> | 2 basic | BJS, SIS | |
| May 28 | Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i> | 3 ads. | SJF | |
| Sanderling | | | | |
| Mar. 12 | Sable I. | 200+ | ZOL | |
| Apr. 20, 25 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 1 | MUN, JON | |
| Apr. 25 | Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i> | 2 | MIK | |
| May 3, 28 | Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i> | 1, 2 | SJF | |
| May 7 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 12 | JON, SAN | |
| May 10 | <i>Shelburne</i> | 5 | NSMC | |
| May 13 | Powells Bch., <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | BJS, SIS | |



This nesting Killdeer was a nice find during the NAMC in *Kings*. [Photo Richard Stern]

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | | | | |
| May 10 | <i>CBRM</i> | 2 | | NSMC |
| May 24 | Johnstons Pond Bch., <i>Shel.</i> | 5 | | DPO |
| May 25 | Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i> | 2 | | JAH, NSBS |
| Least Sandpiper | | | | |
| May 10 | <i>CBRM, Total</i> | 6, 11 | | NSMC |
| May 24 | Johnstons Pond Bch., <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | | DPO |
| May 24 | Port L'Hebert, <i>Shel.</i> | 15 | | JAH |
| May 25 | Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | | JAH, NSBS |
| White-rumped Sandpiper | | | | |
| May 10 | <i>Richmond</i> | 2 | | NSMC |
| Purple Sandpiper | | | | |
| Mar. 14 | Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i> | 3 | | SJF |
| Mar. 16 | Seaforth, <i>HRM</i> | 52 | | SEM |
| Apr. 8, 18 | Brier I. | 5, 97 | | RAH, JUS |
| Apr. 22 | Port George, <i>Anna.</i> | ca. 40 | | PBG |
| May 1 | Duncan Reef, <i>HRM</i> | 30+ | | HAT |
| May 10 | <i>CBRM</i> | 6 | | NSMC |
| Dunlin | | | | |
| Mar. 22 | Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i> | 16 | | JAH, DOP |
| Apr. 16, 25 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 2, 39 (some alt.) | | JON, SAN |
| May 7 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 165 | | JON, SAN |
| May 10 | <i>Shelburne</i> | 76 | | NSMC |
| May 25 | Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | | JAH, NSBS |
| dowitcher species | | | | |
| May 10 | <i>Hants</i> | 2 | | NSMC |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | | | | |
| May 7-10 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 1 | | JON, SAN, NSMC |
| Wilson's Snipe | | | | |
| Apr. 5 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 1 | | MUN |
| Apr. 20-27 | 2 locations singles | | | var. obs. |
| Apr. 20-May 30 | 10 owl surveys, <i>CBI</i> | 16 total | | var. obs. |
| Apr. 21 | owl survey, Three Brooks, <i>Pict.</i> | 3 | | KJM |
| May 10 | <i>CBRM, Pict., Total</i> | 30, 22, 76 | | NSMC |
| American Woodcock | | | | |
| late Feb.-Mar. | Canso, <i>Guys.</i> | 1 | | TOK |
| Mar. 16 | Gold R., <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | | <i>fide</i> JAH |
| Mar. 24-May 17 | 10 locations, widespread | | | singles var. obs. |
| Apr. 16 | owl survey, <i>Hants</i> | several | | RBS <i>et al.</i> |
| Apr. 20 | owl survey, <i>Ant.</i> | several | | KJM |
| Apr. 20-May 30 | 10 owl surveys, <i>CBI</i> | 31 total | | var. obs. |
| May 10 | <i>Hants, Pict., Total</i> | 8, 19, 41 | | NSMC |
| phalarope species | | | | |
| May 19 | off Brier I. | some | | <i>fide</i> SBA |

□□□

Gulls Through Alcids

By Eric Mills

Late ICELAND and GLAUCOUS GULLS lingered well into May in a few locations and an adult LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was a fixture, uncharacteristically, in Prospect Bay, HRM, between mid-February and mid-March.

RFL's discovery of breeding BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES on Cheticamp I., Inv., extends the breeding range of this scarce Nova Scotian resident to the west coast of CBI.

A SKUA of undetermined species off Brier I. late in May could have been a late departing GREAT, or an early-arriving SOUTH POLAR. Our knowledge of these two species, even in summer when SOUTH POLAR is usually seen, is rudimentary. The large number of ATLANTIC PUFFINS seen by CAH off Brier I. May 31 is puzzling. By late May the bulk of the Northwest Atlantic Puffins are off SE Newfoundland, although the colony in our waters, on Machias Seal I., NB, might just account for such a large number of birds. □

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------|----------|
| Laughing Gull | | | | Apr. 5 | Canard, Kings | ad. | RBS | |
| May 16 | L'Ardoise, Rich. | 1 | WMA | Apr. 20 | Saxon St., Kings | ad. <i>graeellsii</i> | RBS | |
| Black-headed Gull | | | | May 10 | Annapolis | 6 | NSMC | |
| Mar. 13-Apr. 5 | Conrads Bch., HRM | 1-10 | DMW | May 10 | Kings | 2 | NSMC | |
| Mar. 21 | Hartlen Pt., HRM | ad. | DOU | May 11 | Canard Pd., Kings | 1, 3 rd -winter | RBS | |
| Apr. 11 | Cole Hbr., HRM | 1 | CHE | Glaucous Gull | | | | |
| Apr. 20 | Antigonish Landing, Ant. | 2 | KJM | Jan. 23-Apr. 12 | L. Micmac area, Dartmouth | 1, 1 st -winter | BBU | |
| May 14 | Antigonish Landing, Ant | 1 | BLM, IAM | Mar. 13 | Sambro hbr., HRM | 1, 2 nd -winter | HAT | |
| Bonaparte's Gull | | | | Mar. 21 | Hartlen Pt., HRM | 3 (1 ad.) | DOU | |
| May 10 | Pictou | 1 | NSMC | May 10 | CBRM | 2 | NSMC | |
| Mar. 11 | Conrads Bch., HRM | 3 | DMW | May 10 | Kings | 3 | NSMC | |
| May 3 | Pictou causeway, Pict. | 3 ads. | KJM | May 10 | Pictou | 1 | NSMC | |
| May 14 | First L., Lwr. Sackville, HRM | 1 | RIV | ca. May 20-26+ | Freeport, Digby | 1, 2 nd -yr. Roger Outhouse, | ELM | |
| Ring-billed Gull | | | | May 23 | Arisaig, Ant. | 2 ads. | JOK | |
| Mar. 11 | Conrads Bch, HRM | 3 | DMW | Great Black-backed Gull | | | | |
| Mar. 15 | Pictou area 50 migrants | KJM | | May 10 | Peaks in Inv., Shel., HRM, Kings | 4139 | NSMC | |
| Mar. 21 | Hartlen Pt., HRM | 30+ | DOU | Black-legged Kittiwake | | | | |
| Mar. 22 | Broad Cove, Lun. | 25 ads., migrants | SJF | May 10 | CBRM | 614 | NSMC | |
| Apr. 6 | Cape Negro, Shel. | 2 ads. | NSBS | May 15 | Cheticamp I., Inv. | Breeding | RFL | |
| Apr. 7 | South Gut, Vic. | 1 | BSK | May 25 | Northern Pt., Brier I. | 5 ads. | ELM, IAM | |
| Apr. 14 | Conrads Bch., HRM | 10 | DMW | Caspian Tern | | | | |
| May 10 | 8 counties | 290 | NSMC | May 14 | Moser R., HRM | 1 | HAB, JEB | |
| May 14 | Antigonish Landing, Ant | 60 | BLM, IAM | Common Tern | | | | |
| Herring Gull | | | | May 10 | Ant., HRM, Pic., Vic. | 2, 9, 6, 3 | NSMC | |
| May 10 | Peaks in Shel., Kings, Pict., Digby | | 8949 | NSMC | May 14 | Tracadie Hbr, Ant. | 10 | BLM, IAM |
| Iceland Gull | | | | May 19-24 | Conrads Bch., HRM | 1-4 | DMW | |
| Mar. 1 | Lockeport, Shel. | imm. | DJC | Arctic Tern | | | | |
| Mar. 8 | East R., New Glasgow, Pict. | 6-8 | KJM, Rick Ferguson | May 24 | Conrads Bch., HRM | 1 | DMW | |
| Mar. 8 | Pier C, Pictou | Only 2 | KJM, Rick Ferguson | SKUA SP. | | | | |
| Mar. 13 | Sambro hbr., HRM | "Several" | HAT | May 31 | Off Brier I | 1 | CAH | |
| Mar. 21 | Hartlen Pt., HRM | 25+ | DOU | Jaeger sp. | | | | |
| Mar. 21 | Dartmouth Cove, HRM | 10+ | DOU | May 31 | Off Brier I. | 1 | CAH | |
| Mar. 22 | Cottage Cove, Anna. | 1 | NSBS | Common Murre | | | | |
| Apr. 4 | New Minas sewage ponds, Kings | 1, 1 st -winter | JWW | Apr. 26 | Chebucto Hd., HRM | 70 | MIK, FLL | |
| Apr. 6 | Pt. Latour, Shel. | 1, 1 st -winter | NSBS | Razorbill | | | | |
| Apr. 19 | Hartlen Pt., HRM | 24, mainly 1 st -winter | IAM | Apr. 26 | Chebucto Hd., HRM | 2 | MIK, FLL | |
| Apr. 19 | New Glasgow, Pict. | 1 | KJM | Black Guillemot | | | | |
| May 1 | Culloden, Digby | 1 | WAN | Apr. 6 | Baccaro, Shel. | 2 | NSBS | |
| May 10 | 6 counties, mostly CBRM (43) | 54 | NSMC | May 3 | Culloden, Digby | 1 | WAN | |
| May 11 | Hartlen Pt., HRM | 1 | RIV | May 10 | Ant, CBRM, Vic, | Total | 15, 20, 22, 65 | NSMC |
| May 11 | Canard Pd., Kings | 1, 1 st -winter | RBS | May 24 | Brier I. | 4 ads. | ELM | |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | | | | Atlantic Puffin | | | | |
| Feb. 14-Mar. 16+ | Hd. of Prospect Bay, HRM | ad. | BLM, EGI | ca. May 19 | Off Brier I. | A few | <i>fide</i> SBA, JUS | |
| Mar. 23 | Danields Hd., CSI | ad. | AHM, ELM, IAM | May 31 | Off Brier I. | "Hundreds" | CAH | |
| Apr. 4 | near Canard Pd., Kings | 2 ads. | JWW | | | | | |

Pigeon Through Woodpeckers

By Dorothy Poole

According to JAN in E. Advocate, *Cumb.*, ROCK PIGEONS are only seen twice a year, in the spring and again in the fall. Eastward in *Antigonish*, RFL reported them nesting at cliffs. Mike Coady, a forest technician, found a dove on a forestry plot at Halfway Brook Lake, near Sheet Harbour, HRM, 13 May 2008. He heard it call ("sounded like an owl"), and managed two photos of the bird before it flew, but never saw the bird subsequently. Initial examination of the photos indicate the bird is a **EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE**, and his description of the call is consistent with that assessment. This is the first occurrence for the province and region, though the species' arrival has been anticipated. The **WHITE-WINGED DOVE** stayed in Halifax the month of March and then in May, DHY found one in his yard in Little Hbr., *Shel.* This put his yard list total into the 220's. From pictures, IAM said the latter bird was probably of the SE subspecies *asiatica*, which has become the usual one in recent years. It is much browner than *mearnsi* from the SW US and Mexico, which was the more common one in earlier years. The majority of MOURNING DOVES reported were at feeders. *Kings* had the highest NSMC (347), almost a quarter of the total.

A very unexpected bird on the Port l'Hebert NSBS field trip was a YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO that was flushed from the ground. The bird flew to a nearby bush and allowed all a long look.

As HAT reported, the NSMC was held on a very rainy, windy day for most so that all the low numbers are hopefully an aberration and not a downward trend. There were only 12 GREAT HORNED OWLS on the NSMC, with CB reporting more than half of those. TOK in Canso continues to find rarities. He reported a SNOWY OWL that had flown up from Gertie Mackenzie's driveway as she drove in. Unfortunately it stayed only a short time. He also saw a **NORTHERN HAWK OWL** perched briefly on a snag. RFL found his owl survey numbers very low this year but in CB one team found an astounding 19 BARRED OWLS (BID, JSH). New for CB owl surveys was a SHORT-EARED OWL. There were six Short-eared Owls seen in one day at Grand Pré, *Kings* (SMC).

There was one report (RAH) of a very early (late March) COMMON NIGHTHAWK and only a few thereafter, most from late May.

"CHIMNEY SWIFTS are back to putting on good shows", KJM reported. New Glasgow had two nights of over 300 swifts and there were 200 plus at two of the other chimney sights. JWW reported 81 May 20 which "bodes well for having substantially more swifts this year than our best totals for one night of about 80 for the past two seasons (and Hurricane Wilma of late autumn of 2005 gets the blame.).

There were two second-hand reports of exceptionally early RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS; one in *Kings* Apr 2 (AND) and the other Apr 3 in *Antigonish* (RFL). As AND wrote "given the strong westerly winds I am prepared to accept this unusual report". For the rest of us they pretty much arrived on schedule, the first and second week of May, with males arriving before the females. For JFO and JOS the hummingbirds arrival coincided with the first Quince blooms. On Brier I. CAH reported four May 6, but the hummingbirds weren't widespread in *Victoria* until May 20 which BSK said was very late. Although the NSMC count this year (78) was half last years total (153), which itself was a record high, it matches the previous four years. *Kings* (37) accounted for almost half this years NSMC.

BELTED KINGFISHER NSMC counts were low (177) but two counties *CBRM* (52) and *Pictou* (32) accounted for about 50 percent. Did those two counties escape the rain and wind?

A RED-HEADED WOODPECKER was found on CSI by JAN & SAN May 28 but stayed only one day. No word after March of the RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS in Jollimore. Joyce Dodd in Berwick saw a flyover male Red-Bellied Woodpecker followed by a possible female. There had been a male in the area in recent years. The first report of YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER came from Yarmouth in late March but the majority of sightings were in mid-April with one to three sighted. The exception to that were 8-10 counted by KJM while scouting an old owl survey route in *Pictou*. Only *Hants* (21), *Kings* (18), *Pictou* (27) and *Digby* (1) accounted for the NSMC tally of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. This years NSMC of DOWNY WOODPECKERS was a record high (487) and HAIRY WOODPECKERS numbers were above average.

Not since 1993 has there been no BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS reported on the NSMC. JOW *et al.* were fortunate to see two pairs on the NSBS Fred Dobson Trail walk in late May and one continues being sighted at Mt. Uniacke (GMU). NORTHERN FLICKERS were low on the NSMC but were abundant in *Hants* (93) and *Kings* (92), accounting for almost 40% of the total (478). Although 59 was a 10-year low for PILEATED WOODPECKERS, that is only two less than the 2004 report. A Pileated Woodpecker was seen in Point Pleasant Park, Halifax.□

Rock Pigeon

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Apr 8 | E. Advocate, <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | JAN |
| May 10 | 16 counties | 1268 | NSMC |
| EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE (1st provincial record) | | | |
| May 13 | Halfway Brook L., <i>HRM</i> | 1, ph | Mike Coady |
| White-winged Dove (45th and 46th provincial records) | | | |
| Mar 1-29 | Halifax | 1 | Sandra Sperker <i>fide</i> IAM |
| May 19-25 | Little Hbr., <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | DHY, <i>et al.</i> |
| Mourning Dove | | | |
| May 10 | 17 counties | 1520 (lowest since 2000) | NSMC |
| March-May | Widely | 1-18 | 12 obs. |

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------|---|------------------------|
| May 24 | NSBS Port L'Hebert | 1 | CST, DPO <i>et al.</i> |
|--------|--------------------|---|------------------------|

Great Horned Owl

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Mar 19, Apr 7&10 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 2 heard | KFS |
| Apr 13 | <i>Lunenburg</i> (owl survey) | 1 | JAH, Gary Selig, DPO |
| Apr 15 | <i>Kingsburg, Lun.</i> | 1 | DAW <i>fide</i> JAH |
| Apr 16 | Falmouth, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | RBS |
| Apr 16 | <i>Antigonish</i> (owl survey) | 1 | RFL, MZG |
| Apr 20-May 30 | CBI (10 owl surveys) | 6 | var. obs. |
| Apr 20 | <i>Richmond</i> (owl survey) | 1 | BID, JSH |
| Apr 20 | <i>HRM</i> (owl survey) | 1 | PLC, SMB |
| Apr 21 | <i>Pictou</i> (owl survey) | 5 | KJM, R. Ferguson, C. Kendall |
| May 1-15 | Debert, <i>Col.</i> | 1 calling | Maria Forman |
| May 3 & 4 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 2 calling | KFS |
| May 6 | Charlesville, <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | DOC |
| May 10 | NSMC | 12 | |
| May 10 | 5 counties | 12 | NSMC |
| May 16-19BPI | | 3 | CLD <i>et al.</i> |
| May 16 | Middle Porters L., <i>HRM</i> | pair duetting | SEM |
| May 20 | Cape George, <i>Rich.</i> | 2 calling | JSH |

Snowy Owl

| | | | |
|--------|-------|---|----------------------------------|
| Mar 23 | Canso | 1 | Gertie MacKenzie <i>fide</i> TOK |
|--------|-------|---|----------------------------------|

NORTHERN HAWK OWL

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|---|-----|
| Apr 10 | Glasgow Hd. Rd., <i>Guys.</i> | 1 | TOK |
|--------|-------------------------------|---|-----|

Barred Owl

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| March-May | Wolfville area | 8 boxes, 18 young | BLF |
| Mar 1+ | Wentworth Station, <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | <i>fide</i> Heather Drope |
| Mar 5-6 | Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i> | 1 | RFL |
| Mar 5 | <i>Antigonish</i> Hbr., <i>Ant.</i> | 1 | RFL |
| Mar 12 | Pleasant Valley, <i>Yar.</i> | 1 | RAH |
| Mar 22-23 | Hantsport | 1+ | MIK |
| Mar 24-28 | Avonport, <i>Kings</i> | 1 calling | SAW |
| Mar 25 | Wolfville | 2 | JCT |
| Apr 13 | <i>Lunenburg</i> (owl survey) | 14 | JAH, Gary Selig, DPO |
| Apr 14 | Halifax | 1 heard | Brian Bartlett <i>et al.</i> |
| Apr 16 | <i>Antigonish</i> (owl survey) | 4 | RFL, MZG |
| Apr 18 | <i>Lunenburg</i> (owl survey) | 8 | JAH, Gary Selig, DPO |
| Apr 20-May 30 | CB (10 owl surveys) | 55 | var. obs. |
| Apr 20 | <i>Richmond</i> (owl survey) | 19 | BID, JSH |
| Apr 20 | James R., <i>Ant.</i> | 2 duetting | KJM |
| Apr 20 | Woodburn, <i>Pict.</i> | 2 duetting | KJM |
| Apr 20 | Chance Hbr., <i>Pict.</i> | 1 | KJM |
| Apr 20 | <i>Colchester</i> (owl survey) | 11 | SEM, PMC |
| Apr 20 | <i>HRM</i> (owl survey) | 3 | PLC, SMB |
| Apr 21 | <i>Pictou</i> (owl survey) | 14 | KJM, R. Ferguson, C. Kendall |
| Apr 22 | Georgefield, <i>Hants</i> | 1+calling | ROW |
| Apr 30 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| May 2 | <i>Cumberland</i> (owl survey) | 9 | KFS |
| May 3 | Rt. 103 Sable R., <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | JAH, DAW, DPO |
| May 3 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 2 heard | KFS |
| May 3 | <i>Lunenburg</i> (owl survey) | 8 | SJF, JAH |
| May 4 | Culloden, <i>Digby</i> | 1 | WAN |
| May 5 | Rt. 103 Sable R., <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | Mike & Anne Britton |
| May 10 | 12 counties, <i>Kings</i> (25) | 66 (10yr. average) | NSMC |
| May 10 | Gardiner Mines, <i>CBRM</i> | 1 | CSM, TMM |
| May 15 | Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i> | 1 | RFL |
| May 26 | Palmeter Woods, <i>Kings</i> | 2 duetting | AAM |

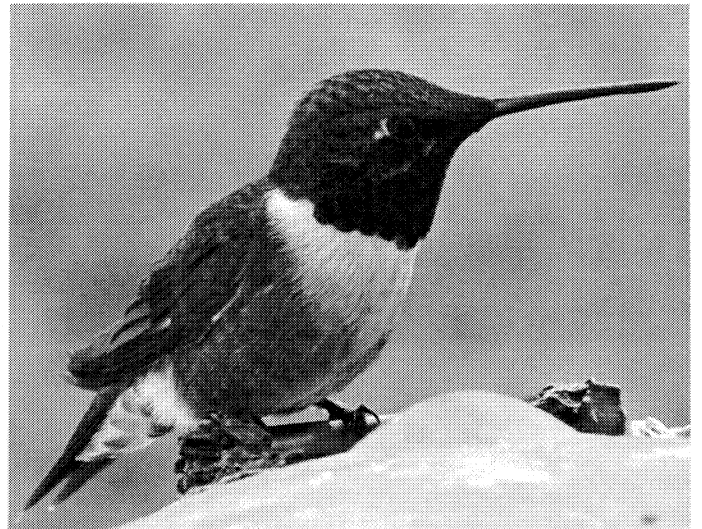
Long-eared Owl

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Apr 20-May 30 | CB (10 owl surveys) | 2 | var. obs. |
| Apr 21 | Georgefield, <i>Hants</i> | 1 heard | ROW |

Short-eared Owl

| | | | |
|----------|----------------------|---|-----|
| Mar 6-14 | Prospect, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | BLM |
|----------|----------------------|---|-----|

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Mar 11 | Grand-Pré, <i>Kings</i> | 6 | SMC <i>fide</i> JWW |
| Apr 6 | Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | SEM |
| Apr 6 | Prospect, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | JEH, PLC |
| Apr 20-May 30 | CB (10 owl surveys) | 1, a first | var. obs. |
| May 8 | Brier I. | 2 | CAH |
| May 16-19BPI | | 1 | CLD, JCZ <i>et al.</i> |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl | | | |
| Mar 1-27 | Highland Village, <i>Col.</i> | 1 | VME |
| Mar 10-12 | <i>Pictou.</i> | 1 heard | Richard Murphy <i>fide</i> KJM |
| Mar 22-23 | Hantsport | 1 | MIK |
| Apr 7 & 8 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| Apr 13 | <i>Lunenburg</i> (owl survey) | 3 | JAH, Gary Selig, DPO |
| Apr 16 | Falmouth, <i>Kings</i> | 3 | RBS |
| Apr 20-May 30 | CBI (10 owl surveys) | 3 | var. obs. |
| Apr 20 | <i>Colchester</i> (owl survey) | 4 | SEM, PMC |
| Apr 20 | <i>HRM</i> (owl survey) | 3 | PLC, SMB |
| Apr 16-17 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| May 3 | <i>Lunenburg</i> (owl survey) | 1 | SJF, JAH |
| May 10 | 3 counties | 5 (2 nd lowest since 2000) | NSMC |
| May 13 | | 2 nests | RFL |
| May 16 | Springhill, <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 heard | CIC |
| Common Nighthawk | | | |
| Mar 24 | Carleton, <i>Yar.</i> | 1 | RAH |
| May 6 | River Hebert, <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | A. Steeves, H. Thurston |
| May 21 | McGowan L., <i>Queens</i> | 1 | PEH |
| May 25 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| May 26 | Rockland, <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | JCZ |
| May 29 | Avondale, <i>Pict.</i> | 1 | DOU |
| May 29-30 | Halifax | 3 | Lesley Butters |
| May 30 | Middleton, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | IRO |
| Chimney Swift (*=usual chimney roost counts) | | | |
| May 7, 18, 22 | New Glasgow, <i>Pict.*</i> | 10, 355, 387 | KJM |
| May 24, 25, 27 | New Glasgow, <i>Pict.*</i> | 282, 310, 485 | KJM |
| May 10 | <i>Kings</i> | 31 (2 nd lowest since 2000) | NSMC |
| May 14, 19 | Middleton, <i>Anna.*</i> | 65, 240 | WAN; CLD, JCZ |
| May 16-19BPI | | 1 | CLD <i>et al.</i> |
| May 18, 20, 28 | Wolfville* | 50, 81, 30 | JWW; HAF, JWW |
| May 20 | Truro* | 3 | LHA, ROH |
| May 21, 22 | McGowan L., <i>Queens</i> | 225, 205 | PEH |
| May 22 | St. FX, <i>Ant.</i> | 3 | BRS |
| May 23 | Kentville, <i>Kings</i> | 1+ | Katherine McKee <i>fide</i> JWW |
| May 26 | Truro | 100 | JBO |
| May 28 | Brier I | 6+ | DAP |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | | | |
| Apr 2 | Torbrook, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | Tom Uhlman <i>fide</i> AND |
| Apr 3 | North Grant <i>Ant.</i> | 1 | <i>fide</i> RFL |
| Apr 27 & May 4+ | White Pt., <i>Queens</i> | male | Margaret Millard |
| May 3 | CSI | male | RAH |
| May 6 | Brier I | 4 | CAH |
| May 6 | Wolfville | male | SMC <i>fide</i> JCT |



RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS, like this one late May at Apple R., Cum., can become very tame. [Photo Kathleen Spicer]

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| May 7 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | male | KFS | May 10 | 4 counties | 67 (10 yr. average) | NSMC |
| May 8 | Scots Bay, <i>Kings</i> | male | Ian McKay | May 29 | Vaughan, <i>Hants</i> | 1 | PKE |
| May 8 | Milford, <i>Anna.</i> | male | Kathleen MacAulay | Downy Woodpecker | | | |
| May 8 | Spencers I., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | Maureen Mills <i>vide</i> JAN | May 10 | 16 counties | 487 (record high) | NSMC |
| May 8 & 10 | Truro | 1 | WIK | Mar-May. | Widely | 1-4 | var. obs. |
| May 9 | Tusket Falls, <i>Yar.</i> | 1 | Carol Jacquard | Hairy Woodpecker | | | |
| May 9 | E. Advocate, <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | JAN | May 10. | 15 counties | 230 (about 10 yr average) | NSMC |
| May 9 | Wolfville | male | JCT | Mar-May. | Widely | 1-3 | var. obs. |
| May 9 | Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i> | male | DOC | Black-backed Woodpecker | | | |
| May 9 | Brier I. | 2 | G. & L. Garron, DAP | Mar 6 | Long Lake <i>HRM PP</i> | 1 | Lesley Butters |
| May 9 | Windsor | fem. | Angela Joudrey | May 10 | 0 counties | NONE (first time in 15 years) | NSMC |
| May 10 | 11 counties | 78 (half last year's total) | NSMC | May 28 | NSBS Fred Dobson Walk | 4 (2 pairs) | JOW <i>et al.</i> |
| May 10 | LaHave, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | Jim Sewell | May 28 | Mt. Uniacke Park, <i>Hants</i> | male | GMU |
| May 11-31 | widely | 1-4 | 21 obs. | May 29 | Browns Mt., <i>Ant.</i> | 1 | JOK |
| Belted Kingfisher | | | | May 31 | St. Ninian, <i>Inv.</i> | 1 | WMA |
| Mar 8 | New Glasgow area | fem. | Rick Ferguson, KJM | Northern Flicker | | | |
| Mar 24 | Antigonish | male | RFL | Mar 4 | Big I., <i>Pict.</i> | 1 | JOK |
| Apr 6 & 27 | Three Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | SEM | Mar 15 | Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | SJF |
| Apr 16 | Brier I. | 1 | CAH | Mar 19 | Bridgewater, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | JAH |
| Apr 20 | French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | DLO | Mar 22-23 | Hantsport, <i>Hants</i> | 1+ | MIK |
| Apr 19-21 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | male | KFS | Mar 23-24 | Wolfville | male | JWW |
| Apr 21 | White Rock, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | Andrew Steeves | Mar 24 | Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | MCR |
| Apr 21 | Stellarton, <i>Pict.</i> | 1 | KJM | Mar 28 | Port Williams, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | RBS |
| Apr 25 | Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i> | 1 | MIK | Apr 4 | E. Advocate, <i>Cumb.</i> | male | JAN |
| Apr 28 | Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | DMW | Apr 9 | Falmouth, <i>Kings</i> | 1+ | JOB |
| May 4 | New Minas, <i>Kings.</i> | 2 pairs | RBS | Apr 10-18 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | male | KFS |
| May 6 | River Hebert, <i>Cumb.</i> | 6 | A. Steeves, H. Thurston | Apr 11 | Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 1-6+ | LOC |
| May 6 | Jollimore, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | PLC | Apr 11+ | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 6 | KFS |
| May 7 | Mira R., <i>CBRM</i> | 2 pairs | LEL | Apr 13 | <i>Lunenburg</i> | many | JAH |
| May 8 | White Rock Bridge, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | JCT | Apr 15 | Wolfville | 2pair | JWW |
| May 10 | 12 counties | 177 (lowest since 1998) | NSMC | Apr 18 | Brier I. | 1+ | JUS |
| May 11-31 | widely | 1-2 | 5 obs. | Apr 21 | Jeddore, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | LUB |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | | | | Apr 22+ | Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 1-3 | RIV, APO |
| May 28 | The Hawk, <i>CSI.</i> | 1 | JON, SAN, MUN, CST | Apr 22 | Maryvale, <i>Ant.</i> | 2 | RFL |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | | | | Apr 23 & May 3 | Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i> | 1,1 | RFL |
| Mar 1-31 | Jollimore, <i>HRM</i> | fem. | Susan Hunt | Apr 23+ | Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | DMW |
| Apr 19 | Berwick, <i>Kings</i> | 1-2 | Joyce Dodd <i>vide</i> P. Giffin | May 2 | Jollimore, <i>HRM</i> | 2 | PLC |
| May 18, 19 | Brier I. | male | CAH | May 6 | Brier I. | 10 | CAH |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | | | | May 10 | 16 counties | 478 (10 yr. low) | NSMC |
| Mar 25 | Yarmouth | 1 | JOS | May 11-31 | widely | 1-3 | 6 obs. |
| Apr 5 | Granville Ferry, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | DLO | Pileated Woodpecker | | | |
| Apr 10 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | fem. | KFS | Mar 15 | Wolfville | 1 | JCT |
| Apr 11 | Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i> | male | DOC | Mar 31 | Pt. Pleasant Park, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | <i>vide</i> PLC |
| Apr 13 | Browns Mt., <i>Pict.</i> | 1 | JOK | Mar 31 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| Apr 14 | Sunken L. <i>Kings.</i> | 1 | BLF | Apr 7 | Millers Pt. Park, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | JAH, Pat Gladman |
| Apr 14 | Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i> | male | DJC | Apr 13 | New Salem, <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| Apr 17 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 2 pairs | KFS | Apr 17 | Halifax | male | CHE |
| Apr 19 | Three Brooks area, <i>Pict.</i> | 8-10 | KJM | Apr 22 | Georgefield, <i>Hants</i> | 2 | ROW |
| Apr 21 | Lumsden Reservoir, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | Barry Yoell <i>vide</i> JWW | May 1 | Sunken L., <i>Kings</i> | 2 pairs | Andrew Steeves |
| Apr 21 | Sampsonville, <i>Rich.</i> | 1 | BID | May 8 | White Rock Bridge, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | JCT |
| Apr 22 | Georgefield, <i>Hants</i> | 1 | ROW | May 9 | Kentville, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | AND |
| Apr 22 | Maryvale, <i>Ant.</i> | 11 | RFL | May 10 | 11 counties | 59 (10 yr. low) | NSMC |
| Apr 27 | The Hawk, <i>CSI.</i> | 3 | MUN | May 18 | Cape Split, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | ELM |
| May 1 | Sunken L., <i>Kings</i> | 2 pairs | Andrew Steeves | May 18 | Palmeter Woods, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | AAM |
| May 3 | Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i> | 1 | RFL | May 31 | Maccan area, <i>Cumb.</i> | 2 | KFS |
| May 4 | White Pt., <i>Queens</i> | 1 | Margaret Millard | May 31 | Pt. Pleasant Park, <i>HRM</i> | male | PLC |
| May 6 | Brier I | 2 | CAH | □□□ | | | |
| May 7 | St. Ninian, <i>Inv.</i> | 1 | WMA | | | | |

Flycatchers Through Thrushes

By Hans Toom

The OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER has recently been listed as threatened. There were only two reports of this flycatcher in the spring period. However, it may be under reported since it frequents forest canopies where it is often hard to see and visually identify, unless it turns to reveal its "open dinner jacket" front to the observer. It is often confused with other smaller flycatchers from a distance. From the forest canopy it sallies forth after insects especially where the canopy is close to water or a meadow. Its powerful song can be heard from a considerable distance. The three part song is often truncated to only the last two parts: "three beers".

The YELLOW-THROATED VIREO more commonly occurs as a reverse autumn migrant but an extremely rare spring example was found (May 9) by ELM on the Camp Road area, Brier I.

The **BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE** is extremely rare in Nova Scotia. This audacious and brazen bird of the central continental plains is a non-migrant. Its breeding range barely extends into north-western Ontario. Until recently it was thought to be the same species as the Eurasian Magpie but the two species have been separated. Current evidence has it more akin to the western Yellow-billed Magpie.

Joe and Janet McKinnon, Owls Head Rd., Clam Hbr., spotted a magpie foraging at their trout pond by their house circa Apr 30. The bird was shy but predictably quite vocal so it was more often heard than seen. Despite repeated attempts by many birders to see this bird over the next few days only a few were successful. The bird was skittish, which suggests a wild bird, but with the limited evidence there is no way to be certain that this bird was not an escapee or even a ship assisted Eurasian Magpie. The call described by DAC as "a series of 5-6 nasal yak, yak, yak or ch-yak, ch-yak, ch-yak" suggests that the chatter of our magpie is similar to the Black-billed Magpie. This remains our best evidence as to the bird's identity. The chatter of the Eurasian Magpie is faster and lower in tone. Unfortunately no audio recordings were made. The only previous record of a Black-billed Magpie was on Brier I. in 1973.

[Ed. Note: There is but a single record of Black-billed Magpie for the Atlantic Canada, a bird photographed May 13, 1973 on Brier Island by Wayne Neily. This sighting occurred before the North American species was split from its European cousin, but the photo shows (what is now) a *Pica hudsonia*, from western North America. The species remains on the Nova Scotia list pending an assessment by the province's rarities committee regarding the bird's possible origin. IAM notes: "Some mentioned the particularly blue iridescence of its wings, and the one poor photo available showed vivid blue with no shift to greenish on the coverts. That is characteristic of the Eurasian Magpie (*Pica pica*), but DAC, who heard it call, concluded after comparisons with recorded calls that the bird was a Black-billed, not a Eurasian. Whatever it was, it is clear that East Coast records of magpies should consider the possibility of (presumably ship-assisted) Eurasians in addition to escaped Black-billed."]]

The **PURPLE MARTIN** is probably extirpated in Nova Scotia, but remarkably one young male turned up May 20 at SMB's place in Sunrise Valley, CBI. It was photographed checking out a swallow box. Recent reports (SMB) from Liscomb, *Guys*. suggest that this bird may be attempting a comeback. This is all the more intriguing since the possible new location at Liscomb is far removed from its past breeding area around Amherst. □

Olive-sided Flycatcher

May 30 Mathals L, Bog, *Kings* 1 BLF
 June 5 Big Hbr., *Vic.* 1 BSK

Eastern Wood Pewee

May 30 Palmeters Woods, *Kings* 4 JCT, MMC
 May 30 Milton, *Queens* 1 DPO
 May 30 White Rock tr., *Kings* 1 BLM

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

May 8 White Rock Bridge R. Trail, *Kings* 1 JCT
 May 10 *HRM*, *Kings* 1, 2 NSMC
 May 19 Gaspercau Valley, *Kings* 1 JCT, SMC

Alder Flycatcher

May 18 Apple R., *Cumb.* 6 KFS
 May 25 Northern Pt. Rd., Brier I, 1 ELM, IAM



A MAGPIE in early March at Clam Bay, *HRM*, (here Mar. 4) was a startling find. Even more surprising was the possibility that it was not a Black-billed Magpie, most of which in e. N. America are assumed to be escapees from captivity. The vividly blue iridescence of its wing coverts and its calls (as diagnosed by DAC) suggest that it might have been a Eurasian Magpie. That species is not notably migratory in W. Europe, and could only appear here as an escapee or possibly after hitchhiking on a transatlantic vessel. [Photo W. Deazley]

May 30 Wolfville Ridge, *Kings* 1 BLF

Least Flycatcher

May 9 Outram, *Anna.* 3 IRO
 May 10 Palmeters Woods, *Kings* 3 JCT, SMC
 May 10 Ann., *Kings* 2, 5 NSMC

Eastern Phoebe

Apr 8 Wilmot, *Anna.* 1 IRO
 Apr 16 Conrose Field, Halifax 1 PLC
 Apr 17 White Rock, *Kings* 1 BLF
 Apr 17 Apple R., *Cumb.* 1 KFS
 Apr 21-23 Apple R., *Cumb.* 1 KFS
 Apr 23 Indian Path, *Lun.* 1 JAH, DPO
 May 1 Apple R., *Cumb.* 1 KFS
 May 4 White Rock, *Kings* Nesting pair BLF
 May 8 White Rock Bridge, *Kings* 2 JCT,
 May 10 *Inv.*, *Kings*, *Pict.* 1, 2 NSMC
 May 30 Smileys PP, *Hants* 1 John Cribb

Eastern Kingbird

May 8 Westport, Brier I. 1 ELM
 May 10 Westport, Brier I. 1 JUS
 May 10 4 counties, esp. *Kings* (10) 13 NSMC
 May 24-25 Westport, Brier I. 1 ELM, IAM
 May 29 Apple R., *Cumb.* 1 KFS
 May 29 Avondale, *Pict.* 1 DOU

Northern Shrike

Mar 6 Maccan area, *Cumb.* 1 KFS
 Mar 13 Mid Musquodoboit *HRM* 1 HAT
 Mar 14 Apple R., *Cumb.* 1 KFS
 Mar 14 Advocate, *Cumb.* 1 KFS
 Mar 16 Prospect, *HRM* 1 EGI, SGI
 Mar 24 Diligent R., *Cumb.* 1 Ann Mills
 Mar 26 Fraserville, *Cumb.* 1 Ann Mills
 Mar 26 Fox R., *Cumb.* 1 Ann Mills
 Apr 5 Wolfville Hbr., *Kings* 1m JCT
 Apr 13 New Waterford, *CBRM* 1 CSM, TMM
 Apr 15 West Beach, *Cumb.* 1 KFS

Yellow-throated Vireo

May 9 Camp Rd., *Brier I.* 1 ELM

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Blue-headed Vireo | | | |
| May 5 | Palmeters Woods, <i>Kings</i> | 2m | JET |
| May 5 | Davidson L., <i>Hants</i> | 3 | BLF |
| May 5 | Middlewood, <i>Lun.</i> | 3 | SJF |
| May 6 | Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i> | 1m | JET |
| May 7 | Nichol's Lake, <i>HRM</i> | 1m | BLM |
| May 7 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| May 8 | Gaspereau Valley, <i>Kings</i> | 3-4 | JCT |
| May 9 | Camp Rd., Brier I. | 1 | ELM |
| May 9 | Outram, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | IRO |
| May 10 | 16 counties, esp. <i>Kings</i> (79) | 204 | NSMC |
| May 16 | Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | RIV, APO |
| May 16-19 | BPI | 1 | CLD <i>et al.</i> |
| May 24-25 | Northern Pt. Rd., Brier I. | 1 | ELM, IAM |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | | |
| May 10 | 5 counties | 14 | |
| May 22, 29 | Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i> | 1, 2 | JCT; BLF |
| May 30 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1-2 | KFS |
| May 31 | Wilmot, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | IRO |
| Gray Jay | | | |
| Mar. 6 | Prospect Penin., <i>HRM</i> | 2 | BLM |
| Mar 6 | Shulic Rd., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| Mar 7, 12 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1, 2 | KFS |
| Mar 15 | Eagle Head, <i>Queens</i> | 2 | DPO |
| Mar 23 | R. Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i> | 2 | RIV |
| Mar 29 | Gaspereau Mt., <i>Kings</i> | Pair +3 fledged | BLF |
| May 10 | 10 counties | 49 | NSMC |
| May 30 | Uniacke Estate, <i>Hants</i> | 1 | BLM |
| Blue Jay | | | |
| Mar-May | Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 1-9 | RIV |
| Mar-May | Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i> | 8-10 | RFL, MZG |
| Mar-May | ? | 8-12 | HAT, LAE |
| May 10 | 17 counties | 1663 | NSMC |
| American Crow | | | |
| May 10 | 18 counties | 4872 | NAMC |
| Common Raven | | | |
| May 10 | 18 counties | 661 | NAMC |
| BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE | | | |
| Apr 30-May 4 | Clam Hbr. area, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | J. & J. McKinnon, ELM, IAM, DAC, DOU |
| Purple Martin | | | |
| May 20 | Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i> | 1m | FMC |
| Tree Swallow | | | |
| Apr 8 | Wilmot, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | IRO |
| April 13 | Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i> | 2 | DLO |
| April 16 | R. Hebert, <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| Apr 16 | Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | JCT |
| April 17 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 5 | KFS |
| April 22 | Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i> | 10+ | RAH |
| Apr 25 | DU Pond, Cornwallis R., <i>Kings</i> | 60-70 | JCT |
| May 6 | Port Hastings, <i>Inv.</i> | 4 | Andrew Smith |
| May 10 | 16 counties | 1520 | NSMC |
| May 23 | Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i> | 2 | DJC |
| Bank Swallow | | | |
| May 10 | 3 counties, esp. <i>Rich.</i> (50) | 63 | NAMC |
| Cliff Swallow | | | |
| May 10 | <i>Cumb., Inv.,</i> | Total 24, 35, 67 | NAMC |
| Barn Swallow | | | |
| Apr 8 | Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i> | pair | SJF |
| Apr 25 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| Apr 26 | Crousés Settlement, <i>Lun</i> | 2 | ELM |
| May 6 | Milton, <i>Queens</i> | 2 | DPO |
| May 10 | 11 counties | 403 | NSMC |
| May 16 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 4 | KFS |
| May 18 | Volgers Cove, <i>Lun.</i> | 4 | SJF |
| Black-capped Chickadee | | | |
| Mar 25 | Branch LaHave, <i>Lun.</i> | 34 | JAH |
| May 9 | Northern Pt, Brier I. | 15 | ELM |
| May 10 | 17 counties | 2673 | NAMC |
| May 24-25 | Northern Pt, Brier I. | 30 | ELM |
| Boreal Chickadee | | | |
| Mar-May | Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i> | 4-8 daily | HAT, LAE |
| May 10 | 14 counties | 63 | NAMC |
| May 16-19 | BPI | 17 | CLD <i>et al.</i> |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------|-------------------|
| March-May | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 2 | KFS |
| Mar- Apr | Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | JCT |
| Apr-May | Tremont, <i>Kings</i> | 1 most days | SLH |
| Apr-Mar | ? | 2-4 daily | RFL, MZG |
| Mar 7-May 30 | Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 1-2 most days | RIV, APO |
| Mar 8-9 | Tremont, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | SLH |
| Mar 15-May 18 | Port Hastings, <i>Inv.</i> | 1 most days | Andrew Smith |
| May 10 | 16 counties | 356 | NAMC |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | | | |
| Mar-May | Tremont, <i>Kings</i> | 1 most days | SLH |
| Mar- Apr | Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i> | 1m | JCT |
| Mar 2-Apr 10 | Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i> | 1-2 | FMC |
| Mar 2-May 31 | Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 1-2 most days | RIV, APO |
| Mar 4 | Dartmouth | 2 | Judy O'Brien |
| Apr 4 | Fox Pt., <i>Queens</i> | 1 | Andrew Duval |
| Apr 8 | St. Peter's, <i>Rich.</i> | 1 | WMA |
| Apr 9 | E. Advocate, <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | Ann Mills |
| May 10 | 10 counties, esp. <i>Kings</i> (43) | 67 | NAMC |
| May 16-19 | BPI | 1 | CLD <i>et al.</i> |
| Brown Creeper | | | |
| Mar 3-Apr 8 | Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 1 most days | RIV, APO |
| Mar 22 | Garden Lots, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | JAH |
| Apr 20 | Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | JCT |
| Apr 22 | Jerry Lawrence PP, <i>HRM</i> | Numerous | HAT |
| Apr 27 | Second L. PP, Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | RIV |
| May 4 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| May 10 | 6 counties | 14 | NAMC |
| Winter Wren | | | |
| Apr 20 | Cape D'Or, <i>Cumb.</i> | 2 | Jane Mills |
| May 16-19 | BPI | 30 | CLD <i>et al.</i> |
| May 10 | Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i> | 1 | RFL |
| Apr 6 | Gaspereau Mt., <i>Kings</i> | 1 | BLF |
| May 15 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| Apr 24 | Milton, <i>Queens</i> | 1 | DOP |
| May 9 | Outram, <i>Anna.</i> | 2 | IRO |
| May 10 | 8 counties | 55 | NAMC |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | | | |
| Apr 23 | Blue Rocks, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | JAH, DPO |
| May 9 | Outram, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | IRO |
| May 10 | 14 counties | 135 | NAMC |
| May 16-19 | BPI | 15 | CLD <i>et al.</i> |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | | | |
| Apr 21 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| Apr 22 | Jerry Lawrence PP, <i>HRM</i> | Numerous | HAT |
| Apr 22 | Conrads I., <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | JAH, DPO |
| Apr 22 | Indian Path, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | JAH, DPO |
| Apr 23 | Blue Rocks, <i>Lun.</i> | 5 | JAH, DPO |
| Apr 24 | Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i> | 1 | MZG |
| May 10 | 15 counties | 523 | NAMC |
| May 16-19 | BPI | 20 | CLD <i>et al.</i> |



Even in black and white, we can suspect this is a HERMIT THRUSH, May 15 near Kentville, from its up-cocked tail (also differing in tone from the back), pattern of breast spots, and extensive pale (flesh-coloured) inner half of the lower bill. [Photo Angus MacLean]

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------|---|-----|
| May 25 | Benham Rd, <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | JCZ |
|--------|-------------------------|---|-----|

Eastern Bluebird

| | | | |
|---------|---------------------------|------|----------------|
| Apr 6-9 | E. Advocate, <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | JAN |
| May 2 | Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i> | pair | Theresa Revoyn |
| May 10 | <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | NAMC |
| May 20 | White Rock, <i>Kings</i> | 1m | BLF |
| May 23 | Watervale, <i>Pict.</i> | pair | Thomas Baillie |

Veery

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|------|
| May 9 | Outram, <i>Anna.</i> | 1 | IRO |
| May 10 | 4 counties | 6 | NAMC |
| May 29 | Fauxburg Trail, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | BLM |

Gray-cheeked Thrush

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------|---------------------|-----|
| May 14 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | 1 [no details – cd] | MUN |
|--------|----------------------|---------------------|-----|

Swainson's Thrush

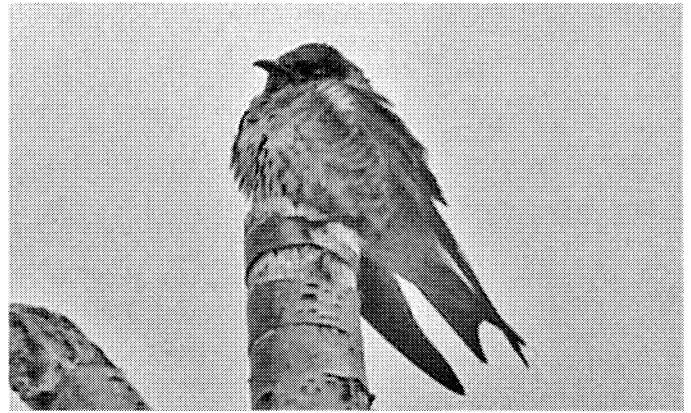
| | | | |
|--------|------------------------|----|------|
| May 10 | 5 counties | 19 | NAMC |
| May 28 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |

Hermit Thrush

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Apr 19 | Portapique, <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | Ann Mills |
| Apr 21 | E. Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i> | No | IRO |
| Apr 22 | Jerry Lawrence PP, <i>HRM</i> | Numerous | HAT |
| Apr 22 | Indian Path, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | JAH, DPO |
| Apr 27 | Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i> | 2 | RFL |
| Apr 27 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 2 | KFS |
| May 4 | Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i> | 1 | RIV, APO |
| May 5 | Palmeters Woods, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | JET |
| May 8 | Gaspereau Valley, <i>Kings</i> | 2 | JCT |
| May 10 | 16 counties | 192 | NAMC |
| May 24 | Lighthouse Rd., Brier I. | 1 | IAM |

American Robin

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Mar 7 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| Mar 7 | W. Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 3 | KFS |
| Mar 15-May 31 | Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 1-6 most days | RIV, APO |
| Mar 21 | Advocate, <i>Cumb.</i> | 3 | JAN |



Transient PURPLE MARTINS, like this one 20 May at Sunrise Valley, *Vic.*, sometimes turn up in unexpected places. Such birds should be scrutinized and if possible photographed, as a several exotic Neotropical martins have wandered to N. America. The pale "collar" of female-plumaged Purple Martins (this one probably a first-summer male) eliminates other possibilities. [Photo Fritz McEvoy]

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|--------|------|
| Mar 25 | Bridgetown area, <i>Anna.</i> | flocks | MCR |
| Mar 25 | Sheffield Mills, <i>Lun.</i> | 70-80 | JCT |
| Mar 28 | Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i> | 2 | RFL |
| Mar 29 | Onslow, <i>Col.</i> | 40 | DOU |
| Mar 29 | Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i> | 1 | KFS |
| Mar 30 | Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i> | flocks | KFS |
| May 10 | 18 counties | | NAMC |
| Apr 10-May 30 | Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i> | 10 | RFL |

Mimics Through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

Our mimic thrushes appear to be declining with only seven GRAY CATBIRDS and no NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS or BROWN THRASHERS noted on the NS Migration Count (NSMC), May 10. Of the four mockingbird reports that were received, three were likely over-wintering birds. One of the four Brown Thrashers was a successful over-wintering bird in Cole Hbr., *HRM* (PMC).

EUROPEAN STARLING numbers continued the low trend on the NSMC with this year's total very similar to last year's, down about 40% from 6-10 years ago. The plethora of BOHEMIAN WAXWING reports over the winter months continued into early spring, but after the first week of April the sightings halted. The report from late May seems to be an anomaly and corresponds to the time when CEDAR WAXWINGS were starting to migrate into the province.

A respectable 25 species of warbler were reported this spring, several making an April appearance. With the poor weather on the southern part of the mainland on the NSMC, only 17 species were recorded and the total number of warblers (2341) was down considerably.

Reports of GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS are now rare and spring reports even more so. SJF sent along a report of a repeated sighting of this species seen on three different days in the yard of Richard Carreiro and Shirley Abberton in Lower Rose Bay, *Lun.* The warbler was observed foraging in the open buds of a maple tree and the distinctive yellow wing patches and crown were noted.

The Apr 30 report of a YELLOW WARBLER on Brier I. seems early, but there are historical records from there March 28, 1965 and April 15, 1973 [Birds of Nova Scotia-Tufts, 1986]. There were no reports received of CAPE MAY WARBLERS this spring.

Both JUS and CAH reported a large influx of YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS to Brier I. May 6. All were reported to be heading northward, landing on boats, falling in the water and being scooped up by gulls. An early BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER was found singing April 26 in a hemlock grove where one nested the previous year clearly staking out a prime nesting spot before any other. This bird was clearly an early-bird with the average NS arrival May 14.

Spring occurrences of YELLOW-THROATED WARBLERS are rare and the April 24 find in the yard of JON at CSI was six days earlier than the April 30, 1983 record for Brier I. HAT closed out the report period with another report of this warbler. Not to be content with one vagrant, JON closed May with a female CERULEAN WARBLER, also spotted on CSI. □



The MOURNING WARBLER is one of our more elusive regular warblers, difficult to coax out of raspberry thickets and other dense cover. [Photo Richard Stern]

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Gray Catbird | | | |
| May 10-12L. Sackville, HRM | 1 | LOC | |
| May 10 4 counties | 7 | NSMC | |
| May 13 Harbourfront Trail, HRM | 1 | KGI | |
| May 13 Chebucto Head Rd., HRM | 1 | HAT | |
| May 16-19BPI | 20 | CLD <i>et al.</i> | |
| May 19 Coldbrook, Kings | 1 | AAM | |
| May 19 Avonport, Kings | 1 | SAW | |
| May 20 CSI | 1 | MUN | |
| Northern Mockingbird | | | |
| ~Mar 9-16 Beach Meadows, Queens | 1 at suet feeder | DPO | |
| Mar 16 Port Hawkesbury, Inv. | 1 daily visitor | DJO | |
| Apr 1 Bedford, HRM | 1 present all winter | JEH | |
| May 9 Wolfville Ridge, Kings | 1 | BLF | |
| Brown Thrasher | | | |
| Mar 16 Cole Hbr., HRM | 1 present all winter | <i>fide</i> PMC | |
| May 15 Brier I. | 1 digging June bugs | DAP | |
| May 19 Newtonville, Kings | 1 | MAG <i>fide</i> JCT | |
| May 21 Rockingham, HRM | 1 | JEH | |
| European Starling | | | |
| May 3 Crystal Cliffs, Ant. | 10+ nesting at cliffs | RFL | |
| May 10 16 counties | 4299 | NSMC | |
| American Pipit | | | |
| Mar 24 Seaforth, HRM | 3 | SEM | |
| Mar 29 Hartlen Pt., HRM | 1 | MIK | |
| May 15 Big I., Pict. | flock | ALD | |
| May 19 Sunrise Valley, Vic. | 1 in garden | FMC | |
| Bohemian Waxwing | | | |
| Jan 5 Sable I. | 200 | ZOL | |
| Mar 2 Wolfville | 800+ | JWW | |
| Mar 3 Wolfville | 150+ | JCT | |
| Mar 4 Kentville | 50-100 | David Webster | |
| Mar 6 Lawrencetown | 30+ | DLO | |
| Apr 5 Wolfville | 300 | Pat Hawes <i>fide</i> JWW | |
| Apr 5 Blandford, Lun. | 1 | CJF | |
| Apr 6 Kingston, Kings | 6 eating barberry | PBG | |
| May 23 Carleton, Yar. | 12+ | RAH | |
| Cedar Waxwing | | | |
| Mar 27 Greenwich, Kings | 7 | BLF | |
| May 10 3 counties (mostly Kings) | 22 | NSMC | |
| May 19 & 26 Apple R., Cumb. | 1 & 7 | KFS | |
| May 29 & 31 Lr. Sackville, HRM | 1 & 7 | RIV | |
| GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (22nd provincial record) | | | |
| May 14, 21 & 22 Lower Rose Bay, Lun. | 1, see report above | <i>fide</i> SJF | |
| Tennessee Warbler | | | |
| May 9 Brier I. | 1 | ELM | |
| May 10 APBS | 1 | JBO (NSMC) | |
| May 10 Richmond Co. | 2 | NSMC | |
| May 24 Port L'Herbert | 1 | NSBS <i>fide</i> CST | |

| | | | |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Nashville Warbler | | | |
| May 5 Palmetr Woods, Kings | 1 singing | JCT | |
| May 6 Brier I. | 6 | CAH | |
| May 9 Milton, Queens | 1 male | DPO | |
| May 10 7 counties, mostly Hants (12) | 26 | NSMC | |
| May 10-11 Albert Bridge, CBRM | 1 | LEL | |
| May 16-19BPI | 6 | CLD <i>et al.</i> | |
| May 24 Brier I. | 6+ | ELM | |
| Northern Parula | | | |
| Apr 22 Jerry Lawrence PP | 1 singing | HAT | |
| May 6 Brier I. | 2 | CAH | |
| May 8 White Rock, Kings | 2 | JCT | |
| May 10 Palmetr Woods, Kings | 16 | JCT | |
| May 10 12 counties | 143 mostly Kings (66) | NSMC | |
| May 14-31 mainland locations | 5 reports of 1-2 birds | var. obs. | |
| May 16-19BPI | 6 | CLD <i>et al.</i> | |
| Yellow Warbler | | | |
| Apr 30 Brier I. | 1 | AHM, JUS | |
| May 6 Brier I. | 18 | CAH | |
| May 10 9 counties | 43 mostly Kings (25) | NSMC | |
| May 16-19BPI | 22 | CLD <i>et al.</i> | |
| May 15-19 widely on mainland | 7 reports of 10 birds | var. obs. | |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | | | |
| May 7 Palmetr Woods, Kings | 1 singing | AND, L. Dean | |
| May 10 4 counties | 8 | NSMC | |
| May 16-19BPI | 3 | CLD <i>et al.</i> | |
| May 16-31 mainland locations | 3 reports of 3 birds | var. obs. | |
| Magnolia Warbler | | | |
| May 5 Palmetr Woods, Kings | 1 | JCT | |
| May 9 Milton, Queens | 1 | DPO | |
| May 10 6 counties (mostly Hants- 9) | 21 | NSMC | |
| May 16-19BPI | 17 | CLD <i>et al.</i> | |
| May 16 Lily L., Anna. | 2 | James Churchill | |
| May 18 Musquodoboit Trail, HRM | 5 | LUB | |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | | | |
| May 6 Brier I. | 1 | CAH | |
| May 10 4 counties | 8 (mostly Digby-5) | NSMC | |
| May 14 & 18 Apple R., Cumb. | 1 | KFS | |
| May 16-19BPI | 6 | CLD <i>et al.</i> | |
| May 17 Jerry Lawrence PP, HRM | 1 | HAT | |
| May 18 Cape Split | 1 | ELM | |
| May 25 Maryvale, Ant. | 1 | BRS | |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | | | |
| Apr 5 Southdale, HRM | 1 singing | KGI | |
| Apr 17 Apple R., Cumb. | male | KFS | |
| Apr 19 Head of Jeddore, HRM | 1 | KGI, LUB | |
| Apr 21 Kentville | 1 singing | AND, L. Dean | |
| Apr 22 Jerry Lawrence PP, HRM | 1 | HAT | |
| Apr 23 Fairmont, Ant. | 1 | RFL | |
| May 2 Jollimore, HRM | 40 all gone | May 6 PLC | |
| May 6 CSI | 36 | MUN | |
| May 6 Brier I. | 100+ | CAH | |
| May 10 18 counties | 1524 | NSMC | |
| May 11-31 widely including Cape Breton | 5 reports of hundreds | var. obs. | |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | | | |
| Apr 24 CSI | 1 | <i>fide</i> MUN | |
| Apr 27 The Hawk, CSI | 1 | MUN | |
| May 6 Brier I. | 6 | CAH | |
| May 7 Quinan, Yar. | 1 singing | PRG | |
| May 8 White Rock, Kings | 2 | JCT | |
| May 10 10 counties | 168 (mostly Kings-95) | NSMC | |
| May 11-31 widely | | | |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | |
| Apr 26 Conquerall Mills, Lun. | 1 singing | SJF | |
| May 9 Outram, Anna. | 1 | IRO | |
| May 10 3 counties | 8 | NSMC | |
| May 12-31 4 mainland counties | 5 reports of 5 birds | NSMC | |
| YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER | | | |
| Apr 24 CSI | 1 yard of | JON <i>fide</i> MUN | |
| May 28 Portuguese Cove, HRM | 1 | HAT | |
| Pine Warbler | | | |
| Mar 2 Falmouth, Hants | 1 present since Jan. | PKE | |
| Mar 25 Port Hawkesbury, Inv. | 1 over-wintered | DJO | |
| May 9 Brier I. | 1 singing | ELM | |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Palm Warbler | | | May 10 | <i>Kings</i> | 2 | NSMC |
| Apr 15 | The Hawk, CSI | 1 | JON, SAN, CST | May 16 | North Mt., <i>Anna.</i> | 1 James Churchill |
| Apr 16 | Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i> | 2 | ULH | May 16-19BPI | | 6 CLD <i>et al.</i> |
| Apr 16 | Dublin Shore, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | JAH | May 18-25 widely | | 2 reports of 12 birds var. obs. |
| Apr 16 | Brier I. | 2 | CAH | Ovenbird | | |
| Apr 17 | Deep Cove Mt., <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | CJF | May 7 | Palmeto Woods, <i>Kings</i> | 1 singing AND, L. Dean |
| May 6 | Brier I. | 14 | CAH | May 8 | White Rock, <i>Kings</i> | 2 JCT |
| May 10 | 14 counties | 205 | NSMC | May 8 | Milton, <i>Queens</i> | 1 singing DPO |
| Apr 19-May 19 widely | | 8 reports of 16 birds | var. obs. | May 9 | Tremont, <i>Kings</i> | 1 SLH |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | | | May 10 | 6 counties | | 96 mostly <i>Kings</i> (54) NSMC |
| Apr 15 | Riverport, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 | <i>fide</i> JAH | May 16-19BPI | | 2 CLD <i>et al.</i> |
| May 16-19BPI | | 2 | CLD <i>et al.</i> | May 20 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 KFS |
| May 18 | Powers Lake Tr., <i>HRM</i> | 1 | BLM | Northern Waterthrush | | |
| May 20 | McLellans Brook, <i>Pict.</i> | 1 | KJM <i>et al.</i> | May 5 | Conquerall Mills, <i>Lun.</i> | 2 nested here last year SJF |
| May 24 | Wolfville, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | JCT, SMC | May 8 | White Rock, <i>Kings</i> | 2 JCT |
| May 30 | Uniacke Estate, <i>Hants</i> | 1 | BLM | May 8 | Palmeto Woods, <i>Kings</i> | 1 singing RBS |
| Blackpoll Warbler | | | May 9 | S. of Trafalgar | | 1 HAT |
| May 6 | Brier I. | 1 | CAH | May 10 | 5 counties | 23 NSMC |
| May 10 | 2 counties | 4 (<i>Kings</i> -3, <i>Hants</i> -1) | NSMC | Mourning Warbler | | |
| May 16-19BPI | | 26 | CLD <i>et al.</i> | May 28 | Baxters Hbr., <i>Kings</i> | 1 RBS |
| May 20 | McLellans Brook, <i>Pict.</i> | 3 | KJM <i>et al.</i> | Common Yellowthroat | | |
| May 25 | Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | 1 | RIV | May 6 | CSI | 2 MUN |
| CERULEAN WARBLER | | | May 30 | The Hawk, <i>CSI</i> | fem., no details | JON, MUN |
| Black-and-White Warbler | | | May 6 | Brier I. | 4 | CAH |
| May 8 | Palmeto Woods, <i>Kings</i> | 1 | RBS | May 8 | White Rock, <i>Kings</i> | 2-3 JCT |
| May 8 | White Rock, <i>Kings</i> | 215 | NSMC | May 10 | 13 counties | 7 reports of 20 birds var. obs. |
| May 10 | 13 counties | 7 reports of 20 birds | var. obs. | May 11-19 widely | | |
| American Redstart | | | May 6 | CSI | 1 | MUN |
| May 6 | Brier I. | 2 | CAH | May 16-19BPI | | 1 <i>fide</i> JCZ |

Tanagers Through House Sparrows

By Ian McLaren

As usual, the varied reports submitted, along with those gleaned from the web-archives of NatureNS and NS-RBA, give a good impression of timings of arrivals and departures, but the NSMC snapshot is particularly valuable for distributions and relative abundances. Given the poor weather conditions on the NSMC date, above-average counts are meaningful.

Some sparrow highlights are worth noting. The two AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS in *CBRM* were late, although not the latest on record. The CLAY-COLORED SPARROW that wintered in Wolfville and an apparent spring transient at White Pt., *Queens*, were among the few spring records. The two NSMC LARK SPARROWS in *CBRM* were not otherwise reported. A NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW at Cherry Hill Bch., *Lun.*, was exceptionally early, as were others on the current and past NSMCs. There is a good chance that they had overwintered locally, or were of the earlier-migrating Prairies subspecies.

Both "IPSWICH" and mainland SAVANNAH SPARROWS were on time; the former is viewed by HAT as our true harbinger of spring, and I agree. A mere two LINCOLN'S SPARROWS on the NSMC and another May 24 in *Antigonish* suggest they arrived largely undetected. The WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW was very uncommon in spring until recent years, and this year there were unprecedented numbers (highest ever on the NSMC). Was this a shift in its migratory pathway?

It was a so-so year for colourful spring "overshoots" at feeders – tanagers, Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings orioles – although observers reported them with the usual enthusiasm.

The two (overwintered?) DICKCISSELS on the NSMC in *CBRM* were not otherwise reported. The male BOBOLINKS Apr 6 in *Kings* were a day earlier than any on record. Other icterids were mostly on time and in usual numbers, but meadowlarks deserve special mention. The winter survival of the EASTERN MEADOWLARK near Glace Bay was unusual enough, but the WESTERN MEADOWLARK on CSI was only our second documented one with photos. It was very odd to see it grubbing around in spruce woods near the feeder that sustained it. It's too bad the meadowlark at Freeport, Digby, didn't stay for closer scrutiny; we cannot take any of them here as Eastern by default.

The winter excitement about finches, especially REDPOLLS, continued into spring. Most of the locally breeding species, particularly PINE GROSBELLS, seemed under-reported, judging from the good numbers on the NSMC. It may be time for us

to start looking closely at RED CROSSBILLS and to obtain photos and especially voice recordings. At least four "semispecies" probably occur here, and it would be of interest to know more of their comings and goings.

HOUSE SPARROWS were apparently ignored by our reporters, and fewer than ever were on the NSMC. They are in real trouble, as manifest in both the CBC and BBS and I for one miss them. ☐

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|--|--|----------------------------|-----------|
| Summer Tanager | | | | Apr 20-22 Cumb., HRM, Queens | 3 repts., 5+ inds. | var. obs. |
| May 14 CSI | 1 | MUN | | May 10 15 counties | 122 NSMC | |
| Scarlet Tanager | | | | May widely | 8 repts., 44 inds. | var. obs. |
| May 19 Spencers I., Cumb. | male | M. Mills | | White-throated Sparrow | | |
| May 24 Woods Hbr., Shel. | fem. | DOC | | Through March widely | 2 repts., several | var. obs. |
| May 28 Palmeters Woods, Kings | male | AAM | | Mar 26 Aylesford, Kings | 5+ arrivals? | NSBS |
| Eastern Towhee | | | | Mar 28 Pt Williams, Kings | "numerous" arrivals? | RBS |
| May 9 Brier I. | 1 singing | ELM | | Apr 3 Brier I. | big arrival | CAH |
| American Tree Sparrow | | | | Apr 19-27 7 locales | first arrivals | var. obs. |
| March widely | 3 repts., 11 inds. | var. obs. | | May 1-31 widely | 11+ repts., 40+ inds. | var. obs. |
| April widely | 7 repts., 32+ inds. | var. obs. | | May 6 Brier I. | 250+ major arrival | ELM |
| May 3-15 widely | 4 repts., 6 inds. | var. obs. | | May 10 18 counties | 1396 NSMC | |
| May 10 7 counties | 22 NSMC | | | May 18 Fairmont, Ant. | 21 arrived | RFL |
| May 28 Albert Bridge, CBRM | 2 (late) | LEL | | White-crowned Sparrow | | |
| Chipping Sparrow | | | | Winter to Apr 5 Wolfville | 1 imm. at feeder | JWW |
| Apr 9 Apple R., Cumb. | 1, feeder | KFS | | Winter to Mar Pt. Williams, Kings | 1 at feeder | fide JWW |
| Apr 22 near Margaretsville, Kings | 5 at feeder | PBG | | Apr 3 Brier I. | Nos. arrived | CAH |
| Apr 26-30 3 mainland locs. | 4 inds. | var. obs. | | Apr 5, 12 Wolfville | singles, new | JWW |
| May 10 15 counties | 232 NSMC | | | Apr 17 Apple R., Cumb. | 1 | KFS |
| May 1-31 widely | 8 repts., some on terr. | var. obs. | | Apr 20 Granville Ferry, Ann. | 1 | DLO |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | | | | May 10 10 counties | 184 NSMC | |
| Winter to Apr 16 Wolfville | 1 at feeder | JWW | | May 1-31 widely | 29 repts., 1 to "many" | var. obs. |
| May 8-13 White Pt., Queens | 1 at feeder (Ph.) | M. Millard | | Dark-eyed Junco | | |
| Vesper Sparrow | | | | Winter into March widely | 1-30+ inds., feeders | var. obs. |
| May 16 L'Ardoise, Rich. | 1 | WMA | | Mar 8 Fairmont, Ant. | 1 st at feeder | RFL, MZG |
| Lark Sparrow | | | | Mar 24 E. Advocate, Cumb. | 2 new at feeder | JAN |
| May 10 CBRM | 2 | NSMC | | Mar 29 Sunshine Valley, Vic. | 1 singing | FMC |
| Savannah Sparrow | | | | Apr 1-12 widely | 15 repts., 1-15 inds. | var. obs. |
| Apr 17 Apple R., Cumb. | 2 | KFS | | Apr 15-May 31 | widely 7 repts. 1-50 inds. | var. obs. |
| Apr 20-31 widely, mainland | 11 repts., 30+ inds. | | | May 10 17 counties | 2456 NSMC | |
| May 2-30 widely | few repts., on terr. | var. obs. | | Lapland Longspur | | |
| May 6 Brier I. | "100s" arrive | CAH | | Mar 23 Grand Pré Dyke, Kings | flock | MIK |
| May 10 15 counties | 431 NSMC | | | Mar 29 Hartlen Pt., HRM | 2 | MIK |
| Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow | | | | Snow Bunting | | |
| Mar 29 Hartlen Pt., HRM | 6 | MIK | | Mar 3 Apple R. | 10 | KFS |
| Apr 3, 8 Martinique Bch., HRM | 2, 6 | HAT | | Mar 22 2 nd . Peninsula, Lun. | 1 | DPO, JAH |
| Apr 7 Crystal Crescent Bch., HRM | 1 | HAT | | Mar 29 Hartlen Pt., HRM | 1 | MIK |
| Apr 16 Martinique Conrad Bch., HRM | 23 | NSBS | | Northern Cardinal | | |
| Apr 23-May 9 HRM, Lun. | 4 repts., 10 inds. | var. obs. | | Mar 3 Wilmot, Anna. | male | IRO |
| Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow | | | | Through season Metro Halifax, Dartmouth | 3 repts. of 6+ inds. | var. obs. |
| May 6 Cherry Hill Bch., Lun. | 1 "early" | SJF | | Through season Wolfville, Port Williams area | up to 7 males, 3 fems. | var. obs. |
| Fox Sparrow | | | | Through season Brier I. | 1-2 pairs nesting | var. obs. |
| Mar 20 Broad Cove, Lun. | 1 | SJF | | Through season Barrington, Shel. | 2 (?) pairs | RMC |
| Mar 25-31 widely, mainland | 8 repts., 18 inds. | var. obs. | | Through season Liverpool | male, singing | var. obs. |
| Apr 1-17 widely, mainland | 17 repts., 40+ inds. | var. obs. | | | | |
| Apr 5, 10 Glace Bay | 1, 9 | B. Crowell | | | | |
| Apr 10 Sunshine Valley, Vic. | arrival | FMC | | | | |
| Apr 19 Crystal Crescent Bch., HRM | on territory | HAT | | | | |
| May 6 CSI | on territory | MUN | | | | |
| May 10 9 counties | 39 | NSMC | | | | |
| May 16-19BPI | 60 on territory | CLD et al. | | | | |
| Song Sparrow | | | | | | |
| Wintered, March widely | 4 reports, sev. inds. | var. obs. | | | | |
| Mar 21 Wolfville Ridge | 1 arrived | JCT | | | | |
| Mar 23-31 widely, mainland | 6 repts., 20+ inds. | var. obs. | | | | |
| Apr 1-15 widely | 7 repts., 70+ inds. | var. obs. | | | | |
| Apr 15-May 31 widely | casual repts. | var. obs. | | | | |
| May 10 17 counties | 1947 NSMC | | | | | |
| May 15 Granville Ferry, Anna. | nest, young | Jon Percy | | | | |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | | | | | | |
| May 10 Inv. | 2 | NSMC | | | | |
| May 24 Fairmont, Ant. | 1 | RFL | | | | |
| Swamp Sparrow | | | | | | |
| Apr 15 Beach Meadows, Queens | 1 | DPO | | | | |
| Apr 17 near Canard, Kings | 1 singing | AND | | | | |
| Apr 17 Bellisle Marsh, Anna. | 20+ | IRO | | | | |
| Apr 19 Crystal Crescent PP | arrived | HAT | | | | |



This CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, coming to a feeder early May at Whites Pt., Queens, supplied one of our few spring records. The question remains: had it wintered locally, like the one in Wolfville, or had it wandered off course while migrating from its normal winter range? [Photo Margaret Millard]

| | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Through season | Milton, <i>Queens</i> | pair | DPO | |
| to Mar 24 | Aylesford, <i>Kings</i> | male | WAN | |
| Mar 28 | Avonport, <i>Kings</i> | male, new | SAW | |
| Mar 31 | Truro | male, 1 st for yard | LHA | |
| Apr 19 | Fraserville, <i>Cumb.</i> | male | JAN | |
| Apr 21 | Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i> | male, 1 st | LOC | |
| May 10 | 6 counties | 30 | NSMC | |
| May 24 | Wolfville Ridge | 2 new | <i>fide</i> JCT | |
| May 26 | St. Peters, <i>Rich.</i> | male | <i>fide</i> BID | |
| May 29 | Canning, <i>Kings</i> | 3 ads., 2 fledglings | MAG | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | | | | |
| Apr 16 | Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i> | ad. male | HAT | |
| Apr 20 | Barrington | male | MUN | |
| May 6-12 | Brier I. | 5+ | CAH, ELM | |
| May 8-10 | CSI | 7+ | JON, MUN | |
| Early May | W. Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i> | male | <i>fide</i> IAM | |
| May 10 | 9 counties | 55 | NSMC | |
| May 15-31 | widely | 20 repts., 48+ inds. | var. obs. | |
| Blue Grosbeak | | | | |
| Apr 30, May 3 | Brier I. | fem. | AAM, JUS, WAN | |
| May 31 | Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i> | young male | FMC | |
| Indigo Bunting | | | | |
| May 3 | Brier I. | 1 | WAN | |
| May 3 | CSI | fem. | NSBS | |
| May 8 | CSI | "a lot" | MUN | |
| May 9 | Brier I. | 1 | JUS | |
| May 10 | <i>Shel., Hants</i> | 2 | NSMC | |
| May 14 | Lr. Sackville | 1 | LOC | |
| May 15-31 | widely | 16 repts., singles | var. obs. | |
| Bobolink | | | | |
| Apr 6 | Tremont, <i>Kings</i> | 2 males (earliest on record) | SLH | |
| Apr 7 | Wolfville Dykes | male | J. Cribb | |
| May 10 | 3 counties | 3 | NSMC | |
| May 15 | Brier I. | 12+ | CAH | |
| May 15 | E. Advocate, <i>Cumb.</i> | | JAN | |
| May 16-24 | widely | 8 repts., 14+ inds. | var. obs. | |
| May 22 | Wolfville Ridge | 1 fem. distraction display | JCT | |
| Red-winged Blackbird | | | | |
| Mar 6 | Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i> | male, singing | SJF | |
| Mar 12 | Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i> | 1 male, feeder | KFS | |
| Mar 15 | Pt. Williams | male, singing | RBS | |
| Mar 21 | Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i> | 1 new | SJF | |
| Mar 23 | Lr. Canard, <i>Kings</i> | 2 new | <i>fide</i> JWW | |
| Mar 25-31 | widely | 9 repts., 47+ inds. | var. obs. | |
| Apr 1 | Brier I. | fallout | CAH | |
| Apr 3-May 31 | | widely | many repts. var. obs. | |
| May 10 | 16 counties | 1262 | NSMC | |
| May 15 | Dartmouth | nest | Gayle MacLean | |
| Eastern Meadowlark | | | | |
| to Mar 15 | Glance Bay | 1 | GEC | |
| WESTERN MEADOWLARK (2nd provincial record) | | | | |
| Mar 16-25 | Stoney I. Rd., CSI | 1 at feeder | MUN, et al. | |



In late May (here May 27) several birders treated themselves to a brilliant male YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD in S. End Halifax. [Photo Bernard Burke]



This female BLUE GROSBEAK, Apr. 30 on Brier I.) was one of only two reported this spring. [Photo Anne Mills]

Meadowlark sp.

Mar 3 Freeport, Long I., *Digby* 1, briefly AMO, CCA

Yellow-headed Blackbird

May 1 Clam Hbr. area male *fide* AAM
May 25-28 S. end Halifax ad. male B, & J. Wiscombe, *et al.*

Rusty Blackbird

Mar 29-29 Bay St. Lawrence, *Vic.* 1 fem., feeder *fide* FCM
Mar 31-Apr 2 Milton, *Queens* 1 1st-year male, singing DPO
May 4 Mildam L., *Pict.* male on terr. KJM
May 10 4 counties, esp. *CBRM* (24) 27 NSMC
May 11 Pockwock L. area, *HRM* male SMB, NSMC

Common Grackle

Mar 9 Lr. Sackville, *HRM* 1 new, wanderer? DCO, LOC
Mar 20-23 CSI Arrived MUN
Mar 21 E. Advocate, *Cumb.* 6 new JAN
Mar 22 Wolfville 2 new *fide* JWW
Mar 27-Apr 5 widely 21 repts., 140++ inds. var. obs.
Apr 6-May 31 widely many repts. var. obs.
May 6 Port Hawkesbury 1 partial amelanistic ("albino") DJO
May 10 18 counties 3359 NSMC

Brown-headed Cowbird

Mar 25-into Apr Milton, *Queens* male, sang 1 month DPO
Apr 1 Canso "a few" TOK
Apr 5 Apple R., *Cumb.* 2 KFS
Apr 6 Port Clyde, *Shel.* 6 NSBS
Apr 14-May 8 widely 9 repts., 18 inds. var. obs.
May 10 11 counties 74 NSMC

Orchard Oriole

May 8-10 Brier I. male CAH, ELM
May 18 Portuguese Cove, *HRM* 1 imm. male HAT
May 18 Jollimore, Halifax fem. PLC
May 18-20 CSI 1 imm., 1 ad. male MUN
May 23-24 Brier I. 2 males, 2 fems. ELM
May 26 Wellington, *Yar.* male F. Barclay

Baltimore Oriole

to end March Wolfville, Truro & Broad Cove, *Lun.*, singles at feeders LHA, JAH
May 8-10 Brier I. 3 CAH, ELM
May 16-31 widely 13 repts., 27+ inds. var. obs.

Pine Grosbeak

Mar 22-23 *Kings* nos.? MIK
Apr 12 Samsonville, *Rich.* 1 BID
May 10 4 counties, esp. *Inv.* (29) 43 NSMC

Purple Finch

mid-April Lr. Sackville, *HRM* pair arrived LOC
mid-April Port Mouton, *Queens* arrival K. MacAuley
Apr 17 Apple R., *Cumb.* 5 males, 1 fem. KFS
Apr 20-30 widely 10 repts., 18++ inds. var. obs.
May 10 17 counties 2415 NSMC
May 1-31 widely 11 repts., 93+ inds. var. obs.

House Finch

March-May S & W. Halifax occ. sightings var. obs.
Apr 18 Apple R., *Cumb.* male KFS
May 8-15 Cornwallis, *Anna.* 2 males, 1 fem. *fide* EGI
May 10 Digby pair WAN (NSMC)

May 10 4 counties 10 NSMC
 May 18 Port Hastings, *Inv.* male Andrew Smith
 May 24 Brier I. 1 at feeder CAH, J. Denton

Red Crossbill

Mar 23 *Kings* nos. MIK
 May 20 Rose Bay, *Lun.* 3+ AAM
 Apr 15 Kentville pair at feeder AND
 Apr 17 Port Mouton, *Queens* pair at feeder K. MacAuley
 May 7-11 White's Lake, *HRM* 1 pair BLM
 May 10 5 counties 54 NSMC
 May 12 Maryvale, *Ant.* 1 male, 4 fems. BRS
 May 17 Shad Bay, *HRM* 1 male BLM
 May 18 Portuguese Cove, *HRM* 1 HAT

White-winged Crossbill

Winter to April Victoria "numerous", inds. Later BSK
 Mar 15-17 Wolfville 1 male, 2 imm./fems. *fide* JWW
 Mar 22-23 *Kings* nos.? MIK
 Early May *Lun.* 2 *fide* JAH
 May Wolfville 1 male, 2 imm./fems. *fide* JCT, JWW
 May 8 Cambridge Station, *Kings* 2 L. Bogan
 May 10 6 counties 30 NSMC
 May 26 near Kentville 2 AAM

Common Redpoll

Mar 1-15 widely 18 repts., 1,820+ inds. var. obs.
 Mar 9 Dartmouth possible subsp. *rostrata* MIK
 March 16-31 widely 7 repts., 360+ inds. var. obs.
 April 1-15 widely 19 repts., 900+ inds. var. obs.
 Apr 14-17 Canso 125-150 TOK
 Apr 18-19, 20 Canso none, 20-30 "new" TOK
 Apr 19-22 widely 1 to 20 inds. var. obs.
 May 10 7 counties 40 NSMC

May 3-31 widely, 7 locales

Hoary Redpoll

Mar 5 Wolfville Ridge 1 JCT
 Mar 18-31 widely 6 repts., 15 inds. (subsp.?) var. obs.
 Apr 5 E. Chester, *Lun.* 1 CJF
 Apr 7-8 Wolfville Ridge 1 JCT
 Apr 11 Sunrise Valley, *Vic.* 2 FMC

Pine Siskin

Mar 11-28 widely 7 repts., 165+ inds. var. obs.
 Apr 2 Crowes Mills, *Col.* 1 white-capped Al Lusk
 Apr 12 Samsonville, *Rich.* "still lots" BID
 Apr 15-30 widely 7 repts., 10++ inds. var. obs.
 May 10 15 counties 815 NSMC
 May 1-18 widely 7 repts., 30+ inds. var. obs.

American Goldfinch

Mar 2-31 widely 5 repts., 65+ inds. var. obs.
 Apr 6 Dartmouth 1 new Gayle MacLean
 Apr 7 Head Jeddore, *HRM* 2 new JFO
 April-May widely 15+ repts., 170+ inds. var. obs.
 May 10 18 counties 2886 NSMC

Evening Grosbeak

Mar 11 Tremont, *Kings* 3 fems. SLH
 Mar 23 locale? male, fem. V. Redden
 Mar 22-23 *Kings* nos.? MIK
 Apr 5-30 widely 7 repts., 15+ inds. var. obs.
 May 10 15 counties 350 NSMC
 May 1-31 widely, mainland 7 repts., 30+ inds. var. obs.

House Sparrow

May 10 13 counties 414 NSMC

□□□



This spring's WESTERN MEADOWLARK at Stoney I., CSI, was the only our second to be photographically confirmed (right panel; 23 Mar., insert, 16 Mar.). A comparison with an EASTERN MEADOWLARK that wintered at Glace Bay (left panel, here 24 Feb.) highlights its distinctive features. The Western's yellow malar was well shown in the original colour images. The black-and-white version shows its generally pale plumage, including head stripes, its whitish scapular edgings, and the shorter streaks on its paler flanks. Note also the Western's narrow dark tail bars, compared with the Eastern's broader ones joined by a "spine" on the central tail feather (insert, left panel). [Photos: left, Allan Murrant; right, Ian McLaren, insert Dorothy Poole]

List of Contributors

Thanks to all of our contributors, including:

Sorted by initials

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|-----------------------|
| MacLean, Angus | AAM | Nickerson, Johnnie | JON | Burke, Sheila |
| Moores, Bernice | ABM | Alexander, Jane | JQA | Butters, Lesley J. |
| Annapolis Field | | Cohrs, Shirley | JSC | Churchill, James |
| Naturalists Club | AFNC | Metcalf, Hugh "Junior" | JUM | Colbo, Murray |
| Mills, Anne | AHM | Swift, June | JUS | Cooper, Jen |
| Doull, Ann | ALD | Wolford, Jim | JWW | Cribb, John |
| Moir, Andy | AMO | Mueller, Kerstin | KEM | Crowell, Beverly |
| Dean, Andy | AND | Spicer, Kathleen | KFS | Dean, Lelia |
| Morrison, Ann | ANM | Gigeroff, Kier S. | KGI | Denton, J. |
| Pouliot, Anita | APO | McKenna, Ken J. | KJM | Dodd, Ed |
| Thexton, Bill & Brenda | BBT | Elliot, Laura | LAE | Dodd, Joyce |
| Burke, Bernard | BBU | Ellis, Lynn | LEL | Duval, Andrew |
| Digout, Billy | BID | Hall, Linda | LHA | Drope, Heather |
| Smith, Betty June | BJS | Codling, Lois | LOC | Elliot, Wendy |
| Forsythe, Bernard | BLF | Berrigan, Lucas | LUB | Ferguson, Rick |
| Maybank, Blake | BLM | Gibson, Merritt | MAG | Forman, Maria |
| Blomidon Naturalist Society | BNS | Rice, Maggie | MCR | Garron, George |
| Stevens, Bruce | BRS | King, Michael | MIK | Garron, Louise |
| Kent, Bethsheila | BSK | Newell, Murray | MUN | Giffin, Patrick |
| Haycock, Carl | CAH | Goring, May | MZG | Gladman, Pat |
| Callaghan, Christine | CCA | NS Bird Society Field Trip | NSBS | Haliburton, R. |
| Helleiner, Chris | CHE | NS Migration Count | NSMC | Hawes, Pat |
| Field, Chris | CJF | Giffin, Barbara & Patrick | PBG | Hunt, Susan |
| Diggins, Claire | CLD | Kelly, Patrick | PKE | Jacquard, Carol |
| MacDonald, Clive S. | CSM | Chalmers, Patricia L. | PLC | Johnston, Mary K. |
| Stoddard, Clyde | CST | McKay, Pat | PMC | Joudrey, Angela |
| Currie, David | DAC | Hoogenbos, Rachel | RAH | Kendell, Charlie |
| Pugh, David | DAP | Stern, Richard | RBS | Lusk, Al |
| Walmart, David | DAW | Lauff, Randy F. | RFL | MacAuley, Kathleen |
| Codling, Don | DCO | Viau, Rita | RIV | MacAuley, Ken |
| Crosby, Donna | DJC | McCormick, Roland | RMC | MacKenzie, Gertie |
| Johnston, David | DJO | Hall, Ross | ROH | MacLean, Gayle |
| Lowe, D. | DLO | Hiltz, Sandy | SAH | McKay, Ian |
| Welch, Dottie M. K. | DMW | Nickerson, Sandra | SAN | McKee, Katherine |
| Cameron, Dorothy | DOC | Williams, Sherman | SAW | McKinnon, Janet & Joe |
| Linzey, Doug | DOL | Barnaby, Shelly | SBA | Millard, Margaret |
| Doull, Elizabeth | DOU | Digout, Sharon | SDI | Mills, Ann |
| Poole, Dorothy | DPO | Myers, Susann | SEM | Mills, Maureen |
| Gidney, Elizabeth | EGI | Gidney, Shane | SGI | Murphy, Richard |
| Mills, Eric L. | ELM | Smith, Sid | SIS | Murphy, Tricia |
| Lavender, Fulton L. | FLL | Fullerton, Sylvia | SJF | Murray, Paul |
| McEvoy, Fritz | FMC | Hulford, Sheila | SLH | O'Brien, Judy |
| Randall, Frank | FRR | Borkowski, Suzanne | SMB | Outhouse, Roger |
| Crowell, George | GEC | McCurdy, Sheila | SMC | Percy, Jon |
| Digout, George | GED | Bushell, Steve | STB | Redden, Virginia |
| Myers, Gary | GMY | MacDonald, Theresa | TMM | Revoy, Theresa |
| Brennan, Harry | HAB | Crane, Tom | TOC | Selig, Gary |
| Toom, Hans | HAT | Kavanagh, Tom | TOK | Sewell, Jim |
| McLaren, Ian | IAM | Hoeger, Ulli | ULH | Smith, Andrew |
| Roseby, Ian | IRO | Meredith, Valerie | VME | Smith, Rachel |
| Hirtle, James | JAH | Neily, Wayne | WAN | Soudek, Dusan |
| Mills, Jane | JAN | McDonald, Wendy | WEM | Sperker, Sandra |
| Ogden, Jeff | JBO | MacPhail, Weldon | WMA | Steeves, Andrew |
| Tufts, Judy | JCT | Lucas, Zoe | ZOL | Stonehouse, Brian |
| Czapalay, Joan | JCZ | | | Taylor, David |
| Brennan, Jean | JEB | Baillie, Thomas | | Thurston, Harry |
| Hartley, Jean | JEH | Bartlett, Brian | | Uhlman, Tom |
| Timpa, Jean | JET | Bogan, L. | | Webster, David |
| Belbin, John | JOB | Britton, Anne | | Yoell, Barry |
| Kearney, John | JOK | Britton, Mike | | |

□□□



American Goldfinch Study

By Bernard Forsythe, Wolfville N.S.

During the 2007 nesting season I filled out 115 bird Nest Cards representing 35 species of birds. The cards were submitted to the Maritimes Nest Records Scheme, run by the Canadian Wildlife Service, with assistance from Bird Studies Canada (<http://tinyurl.com/nestwatch>). Nest records are required to monitor breeding success of our resident birds. Changing conditions have made all of my 33 years of recording nests interesting.

American Goldfinches were one of my highlights in 2007. Many were drawn to the Wolfville area in late summer to take advantage of seed-bearing wildflowers found in abandoned fields and on roadside banks. I found the first of 25 active goldfinch nests on July 8, while young fledged from the latest nest September 7. In all 16 nests were successful while nine nests failed. Below are the egg totals and number of young fledged.

25 Nests

Clutch Sizes (18 nests)

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 4 nests with 6 eggs | total 24 eggs |
| 10 nests with 5 eggs | total 50 eggs |
| 4 nests with 4 eggs | <u>total 16 eggs</u> |
| | total 90 eggs |

For seven nests the number of eggs is unknown, as they were either predated during the egg stage, or the nest was found after the eggs had hatched.

Young fledged (16 nests)

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 nests with 5 fledged young | total 15 young |
| 7 nests with 4 fledged young | total 28 young |
| 4 nests with 3 fledged young | total 12 young |
| 2 nests with 2 fledged young | <u>total 04 young</u> |
| | total 59 young |

Nest Failures

Five nests failed during egg stage: four nests were predated, and eggs failed to hatch in one nest.

Four nests failed during the rearing stage: three nests were predated, and one nest had all the young dead in the nest.

Nest Productivity

Young fledged from 16 successful nestings = 3.7 young per nest.

Young fledged from 25 attempted nestings = 2.4 young per nest.

Weather - Eastern Annapolis Valley - Spring 2008

By Larry Bogan

Monthly Weather Summary - 2008
Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre in Kentville, N.S.

| | Temperature | | | Precip (mm) | Snow (cm) | Bright Sunshine hours |
|--------|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | Max (°C) | Min (°C) | Mean (°C) | | | |
| March | 3.0 | -6.5 | -1.8 | 114 | 31 | 137 |
| * | (3.4) | (-5.2) | (-0.9) | 104) | (42) | (133) |
| April | 12.0 | 0.8 | 6.4 | 57 | 1 | 210) |
| * | (9.2) | (0.0) | (4.6) | (84) | (13) | (152) |
| May | 16.3 | 5.3 | 10.8 | 94 | 0 | 201) |
| * | (16.2) | (5.0) | (10.6) | (80) | (0) | (191) |
| Season | 10.4 | -0.1 | 5.1 | 265 | 32 | 548 |
| * | (9.6) | (-0.1) | (4.8) | (268) | (55) | (476) |

*The values in parentheses are the averages of the last 47 years

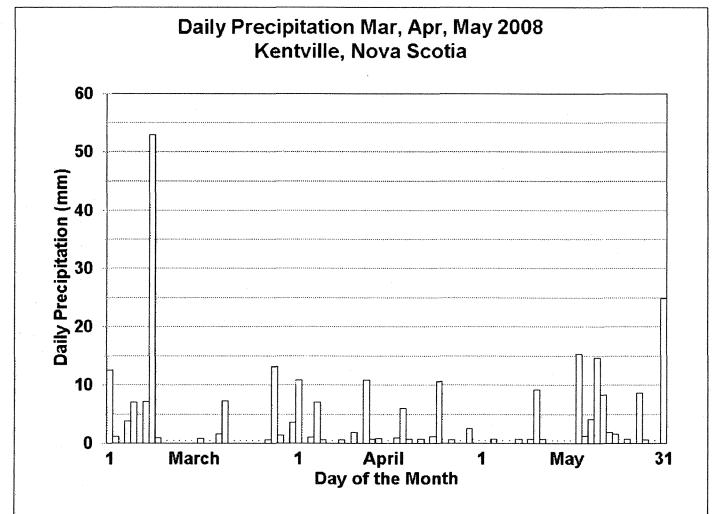
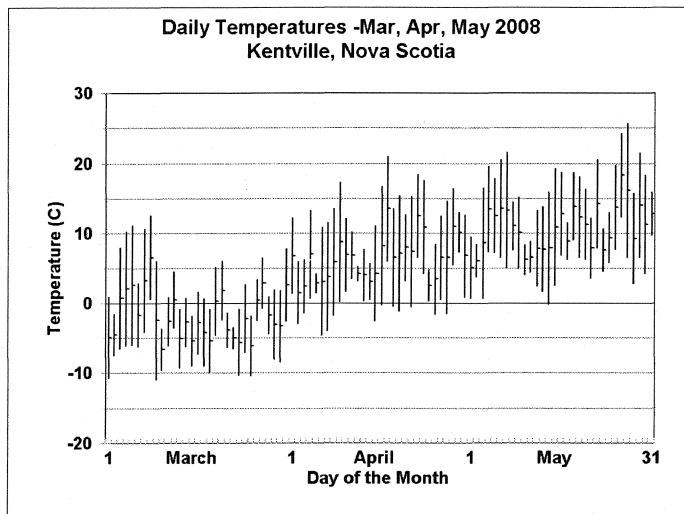
If you look at the last four lines in the table above, you will note that the month of May and the whole spring season in 2008 was pretty well normal. The only thing that is a bit different is that it was 15% sunnier than expected.

April was the outstanding month of the season this year. It's mean temperature was 1.8° C above average, it had only 2/3 of the expected rainfall AND saw 1/3 more bright sunshine than usual. There was a particularly nice period in the middle of the month (16-23 April) when six of the days got above 15°C and five had more than 10 hours of bright sunshine.

March was a cool month with the mean temperature about 1° C below the normals. As you can see in the graph of the daily temperatures, the temperatures were averaging around -3° C all of that month and then quickly warmed in the first week of April to above the 5° C level. From then on the temperature very slowly rose in April and May. April's excess warmth balanced out March's coolness to yield the average spring season.

The precipitation was nicely distributed throughout the season with more in March and May. After we lost the 15 cm of snow cover that had on March 4th, the snow cover stayed at about 6 cm for the rest of the month. We kept our blanket of snow into the first week of April with it all disappearing suddenly on 6th. The season started warming then.

All in all, after the snow left the ground, it has been a pleasant spring.



Minutes of the Nova Scotia Bird Society Annual General Meeting Thursday, October 25, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Suzanne Borkowski, President, at 7:40 PM, who started by introducing the Executive to the members present.

1.0 Approval of last year's minutes. It was moved by Bob MacDonald, and seconded by Blake Maybank, that the minutes of the 2006 AGM be approved as submitted. It was suggested that the name of the person writing the minutes should be added. The motion carried. There was some discussion as to whether the AGM minutes should be published in NS Birds. Blake Maybank as Editor was against this proposition as it would take up too much space and increase the cost of printing substantially. Suzanne pointed out that the main points of the minutes are covered in the magazine by her article "President's Corner" already.

2.0 Business arising. There was no further business arising from the minutes.

3.0 Special Presentation

The President gave a small gift to Nellie Snyder, a founding member of the NSBS, who celebrated her 90th birthday this month. Joan Waldron thanked Nellie for all her services to birding in Nova Scotia.

4.0 Treasurer's Report.

Mary Alward presented her treasurer's report (Details in Appendix 1). It was moved by Mary and seconded by Doug Roy, that the financial statements be accepted. The motion passed.

5.0 Membership Report.

The Membership Secretary Janey Hughes reported that the Society has 382 memberships, representing 503 members. Of the 382 memberships, there were 207 individual, 104 family, 16 student, 19 life members, 14 institutional, and 22 complimentary. This is a decrease of about 9% from last year. There were 72 new members. Those who were members the last year and who chose not to renew their membership were equally divided amongst new and old members. It was noted that no one who was given a complimentary membership bothered to renew that membership this year.

Janey mentioned that the Executive were considering the issuing of membership cards for all members. This would hopefully serve as a renewal reminder, and also as a proof of membership for special discounts for members offered at certain retail outlets. It was suggested by Wayne Neiley that a Membership Committee be set up to try to attract more members, especially targeting younger people. Suzanne mentioned that Bonnie Carmichael has volunteered to assist the Membership Secretary. It was moved by Janey and seconded by Barbara Hinds, that the Membership Report be accepted. The motion passed.

6.0 Editor's Report.

Blake Maybank presented the Editor's report. The Society's magazine, NS Birds, has a long history of having very thorough bird reports, which have made it the envy of many other places in North America. The magazine is produced quarterly, by a very large body of volunteers, and due to the number of people who have to be involved in its production, it is usually a little late. However the end result speaks for itself.

There have been no major changes in the past year, and no major changes are planned for the coming year. More advertisements inside it would be nice, to help with the cost of production, and Blake asked that everyone keep this in mind, and try to spread the word at every opportunity. There is always a need of more volunteers; in particular, anyone interested in becoming a sub-editor should speak to Blake about it. Doug Roy asked how much it would cost to have colour photos in the magazine. Blake explained that this was too much to consider with our present budget.

Blake moved, seconded by Clarence Stevens, that the Editor's Report be accepted. The motion passed.

7.0 Conservation Report.

David Hughes gave the conservation report in which he mentioned briefly all the causes that the NSBS has responded to over the past year, starting with the fireworks at Sullivan's Pond. He touched briefly on what he would like to see happen in the coming years, which is to identify important areas for birds around the Province, and to consider what needs to be done to save/improve them.

It was moved by David, and seconded by Barbara Hinds, that the Conservation Report be accepted. The motion passed.

8.0 Puffin of the Year Award.

The President presented the Puffin of the Year Award to Eric Mills. (*See Winter 2008 Issue*).

9.0 President's Report

The text of the President's Report is in Appendix 3. (*See Winter 2008 Issue*)

It was moved by Suzanne Borkowski, and seconded by Pat Chalmers, that the President's report be accepted. The motion passed. Blake Maybank thanked the President for all her hard work on behalf of the NSBS, which owes her a great debt.

10.0 Nominating Committee Report.

Past President Andy Horn presented the report of the nominating committee:

For the Executive, nominations are:-

President — Suzanne Borkowski

Vice President — David Hughes

Past President — Andy Horn

Treasurer — Janey Hughes

Secretary — Pat McKay

Membership Secretary — Ulli Hoeger

Directors — Mary Alward, Barbara Hinds, Patrick Kelly, Susann Myers

There being no further nominations from the floor, the President declared the nominees appointed.

Honorary Solicitor - Tony Robinson

Honorary Auditor - Harold Forsythe

It was moved by Eric Mills, and seconded by Bob McDonald, that the Honorary Solicitor and Auditor be approved. The motion passed.

11.0 New Business.

11.1 The President announced that the Society would cover the \$5 cost of one Christmas Bird Count per member, for all members who were not also members of Bird Studies Canada, provided the count was done for the National Audubon Society. The intent of this is to encourage participation in Christmas Bird Counts.

11.2 There was some discussion about the success of the Yard List Competition. It was moved by Clarence Stevens, and seconded by Lesley MacDonald that a competition be held on an annual basis for the highest number of bird species on a yard list, and also for the greatest number of species seen in Nova Scotia. The motion was carried with one dissenting vote.

11.3 Special Resolution (Appendix 4) (*See Spring 2007 Issue*)

The President introduced the new resolutions for The Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary Trust, a new name for what was originally called the Nova Scotia Sanctuary Trust, which define the make-up and the activities of the Trust. Tony Robinson, the Solicitor for the NSBS has seen and approved the resolutions.

It was moved by Blake Maybank, and seconded by Sterling Levy, that the Resolution be carried.

Discussion from the floor included a question by Joan Waldron as to why there was no Financial Report for the Sanctuary Trust. The President explained that the previous Trust members were active for less than half of the year, and consequently did not feel that they were in a position to give a financial report, and the new Trust members are too recently appointed to be able to give a report. The President reported informally on the Trust's activities over the past year. One of the first tasks for the newly appointed Trust Treasurer, Mary Alward, will be to have a proper audit of the Trust's finances done.

The motion was passed unanimously (including two proxy votes).

11.4 Announcements

11.4.1 The NSBS now has newly designed Life Member Certificates. The President was very pleased to be able to present the very first of these new certificates to Dorothy Poole.

12.0 Motion to Adjourn.

The motion to adjourn was made by Eric Mills, and seconded by Bob McDonald. The motion passed. □

Nova Scotia Migration Count 2008

The 19th consecutive Nova Scotia Migration Count was held this year on May 10. The weather was variable and nasty at times, with driving rains and high winds confronting participants from the onset in the lower third of the mainland. The stormy weather moved north during the morning and by midday fully one half of the mainland was affected. The northern half of the mainland and Cape Breton Island enjoyed more moderate winds with cloudy bright skies, until much later in the day.

Despite this weather 581 observers braved the elements to list 181 species and over 76000 individual birds. The count was stable as evidenced by our marker bird, the Black-capped Chickadee. The chickadee is non-migratory, widespread, and has a stable population, so its tally is representative of the stability of the entire count. The Black-capped Chickadee numbers were down from previous year's averages by 14%, a modest reduction attributable to the birds reluctance to sing in adverse weather, and also the ability of the listeners to hear its song (with rolled-up car windows and the swipe of windshield wipers).

Overall there was a startling 25% reduction in numbers of individual birds, partially attributable to the weather, and a slight 6% decrease in the species count to 181, the lowest species count since 1997. Northern Gannet numbers were down 78% , Common Eider and all the scoters were also down 44%-54%. Sadly, Evening Grosbeaks and House Sparrows continue to decline, each down by 55% compared to previous years' averages.

There was a dearth of long-legged waders this year. Only one Great Egret was counted, Snowy Egret was absent entirely, a bird last uncounted in 2001, and the Little Blue Heron was also absent, last uncounted in 2002. The most species counted by county award goes to *Kings* with 121, followed closely by *CBRM* and *Pic*, both at 116 species.

Highlights this year were: the record number of 184 White-crowned Sparrows; two Eurasian Wigeons in *Pictou*; four American Oystercatchers on *CSI*; a Tri-coloured Heron in *CBRM*; an Orchard Oriole in *Digby*; and the now reliable pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers, near The Dingle, *HRM*.

I hope that this year's drop in numbers of both individual birds and species is a weather related one-year glitch and not a dire portent of things to come. I thank all of this year's participants and look forward to doing it all again next year.

Hans Toom - Provincial Coordinator, Nova Scotia Migration Count

2008 NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT SUMMARY

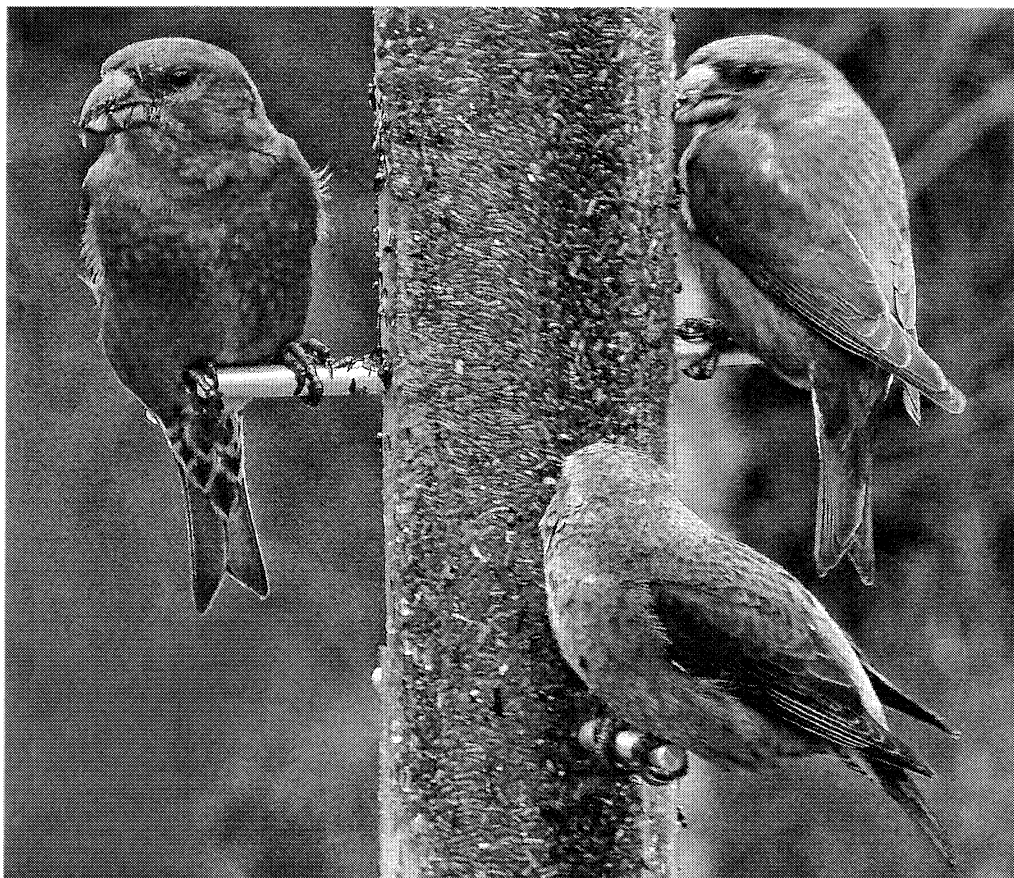
| <u>Species</u> | <u>10-May</u> | <u>% Change</u> | <u>Species</u> | <u>10-May</u> | <u>% Change</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Red-throated Loon | 16 | | Scaup species | 4 | |
| Common Loon | 206 | -11.3% | Common Eider | 1446 | -51.0% |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 13 | | Harlequin Duck | 18 | |
| Red-necked Grebe | 4 | | Long-tailed Duck | 4 | |
| Northern Gannet | 407 | -77.6% | Black Scoter | 236 | -51.0% |
| Great Cormorant | 294 | -14.4% | Surf Scoter | 430 | -44.1% |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 2836 | -13.2% | White-winged Scoter | 205 | -54.2% |
| American Bittern | 15 | | Scoter species | 40 | |
| Great Blue Heron | 255 | -30.6% | Common Goldeneye | 69 | |
| Great Egret | 1 | | Bufflehead | 66 | |
| Snow Goose | 1 | | Hooded Merganser | 84 | |
| Brant | 35 | | Common Merganser | 296 | 19.7% |
| Canada Goose | 605 | 23.4% | Red-breasted Merganser | 394 | -41.0% |
| Wood Duck | 42 | | Ruddy Duck | 2 | |
| Green-winged Teal | 238 | 5.4% | Turkey Vulture | 6 | |
| American Black Duck | 1503 | -21.2% | Osprey | 81 | |
| Mallard | 749 | 10.8% | Bald Eagle adult | 212 | -8.4% |
| Northern Pintail | 7 | | Bald Eagle Immature | 88 | |
| Blue-winged Teal | 37 | | Bald Eagle Age? | 25 | |
| Northern Shoveler | 14 | | Northern Harrier | 65 | |
| Gadwall | 9 | | Sharp-shinned Hawk | 23 | |
| American Wigeon | 111 | 2.8% | Northern Goshawk | 6 | |
| Ring-necked Duck | 475 | -15.5% | Broad-winged Hawk | 4 | |
| Greater Scaup | 76 | | Red-tailed Hawk | 89 | |
| Lesser Scaup | 2 | | Buteo species | 3 | |

| <u>Species</u> | <u>10-May</u> | <u>% Change</u> | <u>Species</u> | <u>10-May</u> | <u>% Change</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| American Kestrel | 72 | | Tree Swallow | 1520 | -50.6% |
| Merlin | 39 | | Bank Swallow | 62 | |
| Peregrine Falcon | 5 | | Cliff Swallow | 67 | |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | 505 | 23.6% | Barn Swallow | 403 | -32.0% |
| Spruce Grouse | 9 | | Gray Jay | 49 | |
| Ruffed Grouse | 163 | -11.8% | Blue Jay | 1663 | -17.0% |
| Virginia Rail | 3 | | American Crow | 4872 | -13.1% |
| Sora | 12 | | Common Raven | 661 | -17.1% |
| Black-bellied Plover | 29 | | Black-capped Chickadee | 2673 | -14.4% |
| Piping Plover | 11 | | Boreal Chickadee | 62 | |
| Killdeer | 41 | | Chickadee species | 10 | |
| Greater Yellowlegs | 263 | 2.7% | Red-breasted Nuthatch | 356 | 11.0% |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 24 | | White-breasted Nuthatch | 67 | |
| Solitary Sandpiper | 2 | | Brown Creeper | 14 | |
| Willet | 256 | -42.5% | Winter Wren | 55 | |
| Spotted Sandpiper | 19 | | Golden-crowned Kinglet | 135 | -51.1% |
| Ruddy Turnstone | 2 | | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 523 | -16.3% |
| Red Knot | 11 | | Eastern Bluebird | 1 | |
| Sanderling | 5 | | Veery | 6 | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | 2 | | Swainsons Thrush | 19 | |
| Least Sandpiper | 11 | | Hermit Thrush | 192 | -45.6% |
| White-rumped Sandpiper | 2 | | American Robin | 3572 | -27.6% |
| Purple Sandpiper | 6 | | Gray Catbird | 7 | |
| Dunlin | 76 | | Cedar Waxwing | 22 | |
| Peep species | 44 | | Northern Shrike | 3 | |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | 1 | | European Starling | 4299 | -22.3% |
| Dowitcher species | 2 | | Blue-headed Vireo | 204 | -27.3% |
| Wilson's Snipe | 76 | | Red-eyed Vireo | 14 | |
| American Woodcock | 41 | | Vireo species | 6 | |
| Bonaparte's Gull | 1 | | Tennessee Warbler | 3 | |
| Ring-Billed Gull | 290 | -22.0% | Nashville Warbler | 26 | |
| Herring Gull | 8949 | -33.6% | Northern Parula | 143 | -3.8% |
| Iceland Gull | 54 | | Yellow Warbler | 43 | |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | 8 | | Chesnut-sided Warbler | 8 | |
| Glaucous Gull | 6 | | Magnolia Warbler | 21 | |
| Greater Black-backed Gull | 4139 | -20.2% | Black-throated Blue Warbler | 8 | |
| Black-legged Kittiwake | 614 | -7.7% | Yellow-rumped Warbler | 1524 | -22.6% |
| Gull species | 334 | -48.3% | Black-throated Green Warbler | 168 | -42.7% |
| Common Tern | 20 | | Blackburnian Warbler | 8 | |
| Black Guillemot | 65 | | Palm Warbler | 184 | -18.6% |
| Rock Pigeon | 1268 | -15.2% | Eastern Palm Warber | 21 | |
| Mourning Dove | 1520 | -13.7% | Blackpoll Warbler | 4 | |
| Great Horned Owl | 12 | | Black and White Warbler | 215 | -8.6% |
| Barred Owl | 66 | | American Redstart | 2 | |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl | 5 | | Ovenbird | 96 | |
| Chimney Swift | 31 | | Northern Waterthrush | 23 | |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 78 | | Common Yellowthroat | 9 | |
| Belted Kingfisher | 177 | -18.7% | Wilson's Warbler | 3 | |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 67 | | Northern Cardinal | 30 | |
| Downy Woodpecker | 487 | 24.1% | Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 55 | |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 230 | 5.8% | Indigo Bunting | 2 | |
| Northern Flicker | 478 | -27.1% | Dickcissel | 2 | |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 59 | | American Tree Sparrow | 22 | |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | 3 | | Sparrow | 232 | -9.1% |
| Least Flycatcher | 7 | | Lark Sparrow | 2 | |
| Empidonax species | 1 | | Savannah Sparrow | 431 | -19.9% |
| Eastern Phoebe | 5 | | Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 1 | |
| Eastern Kingbird | 13 | | Fox Sparrow | 39 | |

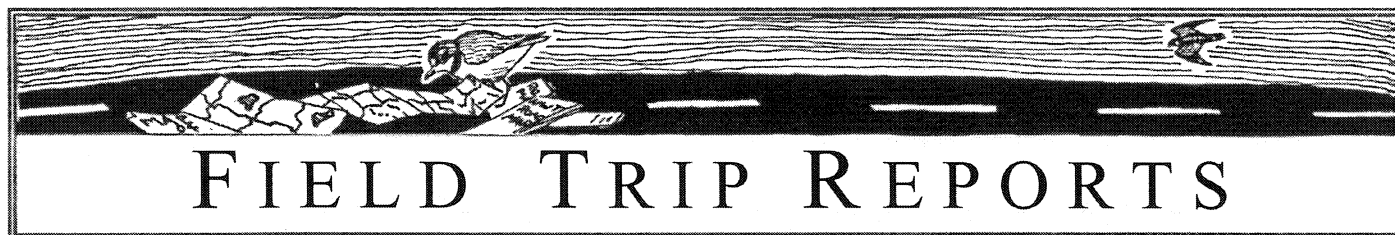
| <u>Species</u> | <u>10-May</u> | <u>% Change</u> |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Chipping Sparrow | 232 | -9.1% |
| Song Sparrow | 1947 | -17.8% |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | 2 | |
| Swamp Sparrow | 122 | -28.7% |
| White-throated Sparrow | 1396 | -3.2% |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 184 | 204.6% |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 2456 | -9.5% |
| Bobolink | 3 | |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 1262 | -33.1% |
| Rusty Blackbird | 27 | |
| Common Grackle | 3359 | -29.8% |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 74 | |
| Blackbird species | 10 | |
| Orchard Oriole | 1 | |
| Baltimore Oriole | 5 | |
| Pine Grosbeak | 43 | |
| Purple Finch | 2415 | 7.7% |
| House Finch | 10 | |
| Red Crossbill | 54 | |
| White-winged Crossbill | 30 | |
| Common Redpoll | 40 | |
| Pine Siskin | 815 | -37.5% |
| American Goldfinch | 2886 | -35.4% |

| <u>Species</u> | <u>10-May</u> | <u>% Change</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Evening Grosbeak | 350 | -54.9% |
| House Sparrow | 414 | -54.6% |
| Duck Species | 80 | |
| Raptor Species | 3 | |
| Shorebird Species | 15 | |
| Sparrow Species | 51 | |
| Cormorant Species | 17 | |
| Warbler Species | 2 | |
| Crossbill Species | 4 | |
| Swallow Species | 1000 | |
| Rare | | |
| Tri-coloured Heron | 1 | |
| Eurasian Wigeon | 2 | |
| American Oystercatcher | 4 | |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 2 | |
| Total species on counts | 181 | -5.8% |
| Total birds counted | 76514 | -25.5% |
| Counties | 18 | |
| Total Observers | 581 | |

□□□



These Red CROSSIBILLS at Rose Bay, Lun., were among numbers photographed at feeders this spring. Their stout bills suggest they might have been one of two subspecies (“call types,” or possibly “semispecies”) – namely the widely wandering *pusilla* or the less nomadic endangered Newfoundland Red Crossbill, *pernca*, which has occurred here. More photos and especially recordings of calls might help settle such identifications. [Photo Anne Mills]



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Martinique Beach

12 Apr. 2008, Leader: Ian McLaren

A dozen people showed up, despite the bad weather forecast. In the event, the walk out on the beach was showery, but almost dry on the return. Bouts of heavier rain developed on the way back along the shore road, but didn't stop us from taking another stroll along the n.w. stretch of Conrad Beach. We saw about 41 species (one or two others may have been seen by some). Of interest was a pair of Piping Plovers half way along Martinique Beach, and more Ipswich Sparrows than ever before on this field trip – 26 in all, including 16 on Martinique Beach and seven on Conrad Beach. I estimate that there were about 8 per km on about 3 km of beach walked fairly thoroughly, close to the peak found on these beaches during more formal censuses by my students and me in early Apr. 1971. The Ipswich Sparrow seems to be doing well, as also indicated by healthy Sable I. census estimates in recent years.



A dozen NSBS field trippers (including the photographer) set out on a stroll along Martinique Beach, HRM, on a damp, but not daunting, Apr. 12. [Photo Kier Gigeroff]

Beginning Birders' Field Trip

18 May 2008, Leader: Suzanne Borkowski

Six enthusiastic birders met at the Frog Pond in Jollimore for the NSBS Beginning Birders' trip. The weather was cloudy, cool, a bit windy, but at least it wasn't raining.

After receiving some instructions on how to focus their binoculars, and how to notice birds by listening for them and watching for movement in the trees and shrubs, and of course how to "pish"; we set off and discovered our first bird of the day: a Black-capped Chickadee. Most noticed a Herring Gull flying overhead and were surprised to learn that there were other types of gulls to be seen in Nova Scotia. Crows were distinguished from Ravens, and Tree Swallows from Barn Swallows. A Downy Woodpecker was seen working on the trunk of a tree and pointers were given on how to distinguish it from a Hairy Woodpecker. In the marsh area of the trail we added Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle.

All were entranced by the song of the White-throated Sparrow; but everyone agreed that the bird of the day was a Dark-eyed Junco whose beak was crammed full of nesting material! Despite seeing only two warbler species: Yellow-rumped and Palm, we managed to tally 22 species in our hour long walk. Thanks to all who participated and keep on birding!

McNabs Island

31 May 2008, Leader: Cheryl Davis

On Saturday May 31, under sunny skies, a birding trip to McNabs Island, led by Cheryl Davis, took place. The nine participants, including the leader, met at the McCormack's Beach parking area at 7:00 am before being ferried over to the island.

Once on the beach, maps were consulted and the group trekked off with high hopes of not only seeing the historical sites of the island but enjoying some good birding in a variety of habitats. In most circumstances binoculars did the job but on a few occasions a good spotting scope would have made identification a lot easier.

It quickly became clear that the most common bird of the day was going to be the American Redstart, followed closely behind by the American Goldfinch. Other birds such as the Black-capped Chickadee appeared to be in short supply which was a surprise to the group. Except for an Osprey no other birds of prey were seen.

Nesting appeared to be in full swing by some species and nesting cavities were found for both the Northern Flicker and the Hairy Woodpecker. One of the delights of the morning was discovering a colony of Barn Swallows at the old location of Fort McNab. No surprises were found on the island but towards the end of the day a flycatcher, first located by Suzanne Borkowski

near Fort Ives was later determined to be a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. With departure time set for 4:00 pm the group swiftly made its way to the rendez-vous location but not before experiencing a brief rain shower.

At the end of the day, participants, though tired, were pleased with the 50 species that they had found; which included Common Loon, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler.

Weekend at White Point (Out-of-area Meeting and Atlas Workshop)

24 – 25 May 2008, Leaders: Becky Stewart, Peter Hope, Donna Ensor, James Hirtle

The 2008 Conference at White Point Resort to promote Regions 18 and 19 was a resounding success! About 40 people attended the meeting on Saturday night at which Donna and Peter gave overviews of their regions and Becky, assisted by Ivy Austin, gave a wonderful presentation on how to complete your square, how to record breeding evidence for raptors, where to look for those hard-to-find species and how to distinguish similar species in the field by sight, sound and habitat.

A walk around the grounds on Saturday night turned up a few distant owls, and the point count demonstration the next morning detected numerous warblers, finches and sparrows, some of which could be seen courting or carrying nesting material!

James Hirtle led a field trip in Conquerall Mills later that day (see the Spring issue for the trip report) and Donna and Peter led trips in the opposite direction, Port Mouton and Southwest Port Mouton – the focus of these trips being how to record what you see for the atlas.

My thanks to the leaders and to all who attended. Happy atlassing!

- Suzanne Borkowski

Port l'Herbert

24 May 2008, Leaders: Dorothy Poole and Clyde Stoddart

Nine people showed up for the field trip to Port l'Herbert. At noon we visited Arnold's or Little Harbour.

Warblers seen were: Black and White, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Magnolia, Palm, Tennessee, Yellow-rumped, Yellow, and Northern Parula. We heard Nashville Warbler, and Ovenbird. Other birds included Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Phoebe, and at David Young's, White-winged Dove. Dorothy may add a few others.

- Clyde Stoddart

Thanks Clyde for the report. Later after you had to leave we walked about the Johnson Pond area. We saw courting Common Terns and Roseate Terns and the following shore birds:

1 Piping Plover
6 Black Bellied Plovers (some in full breeding plumage)
5 Semipalmated Sandpipers
1 Least Sandpiper
7+ Willets

The last new birds for the day were Gray Jays. We had a total of about 70 species for the day. Also of note was that a new area was discovered; a part of the railroad trail that has not been upgraded, where a Pied-billed Grebe was heard and a pair of Wood Ducks seen.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo was the biggest surprise followed by the Tennessee Warbler. The latter bird was at David Young's place. Despite the weather (rain off and on after 11:00 am) there were a good number of birds!

- Dorothy Poole

Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary

07 June 2008, Leader: Kathleen Spicer

Five birders met at the APBS parking lot on Saturday, June 7th for the Nova Scotia Bird Society Field Trip. The weather was great; a little sun, a little cloud.

We tallied 49 species as we walked around the park, and another 3 across the street in the John Lusby Salt Marsh, bringing our total to 52 species for the day.

Highlights included: Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Sora, American Coot, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, both Red-eyed and Blue-headed Vireos, Cedar Waxwings, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler (heard only), Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Black & White Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Swamp Sparrow and Bobolinks.

Many thanks to Kathleen Spicer who did a fabulous job leading this trip.

On the way home, Joan Waldron, Hubert Boudreau and I checked 206 East Victoria Street in Amherst for Purple Martins. For the second year in a row, none had shown up to use the nest boxes. The owner has now boarded up the entrances to discourage Starlings and Tree Swallows from taking over. We also stopped at Wentworth Park. No Eastern Phoebe under the bridge this year, but we did hear a Veery calling.

-Suzanne Borkowski

Wallace Bay

19 July 2008, Leader: Paul MacDonald

This field trip went very well. Four birders joined trip leader Paul MacDonald. The weather turned out to be fine. The rain let up at the start and held off until it was over.

We saw several duck broods, and Pied-billed Grebes on their nests. A few shorebirds had returned; Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpipers, and some not identified. It was a good day ending with a nice visit to the museum.

- Paul MacDonald

Report on Birding Trip to Bon Portage Island

Six participants went to Bon Portage Island on Friday, August 29th for the NS Bird Society Field Trip. The crossing was warm and calm. We explored some of the east shoreline before a late supper. Each day was a mix of fog and sun and the bushes and trees were pretty quiet. With lots of hard work we managed to spot the following birds on or near the island: Canada Geese, Black Ducks, Green-winged Teal, Common Eiders, DC Cormorants, N Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, American Kestrels, Merlins, Great Horned Owls, WW Crossbills, Flycatchers, Catbirds, a Winter Wren, a Scarlet Tanager, Purple Finches, a Common Nighthawk, an Osprey, a Hermit Thrush, and several species of sparrows.

There was a large number of shorebirds each day and we saw Semiplumbed Sandpipers, Least Sandpipers, Spotted Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plovers, Black-bellied Plovers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Willets, Spotted Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, and White-rumped Sandpipers.

Hummingbirds, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Chickadees, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Cedar Waxwings were being seen in increasing numbers all weekend.

We were surprised by the low count of warblers but spotted Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Black-th Green, Blackpoll, Black and White, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Cape May, Common Yellowthroat. More warblers seemed to be moving in as we were leaving.

Highlight birds were: a Little Blue Heron, a Prairie Warbler, a Lark Sparrow, a Black-crowned Night-Heron, and a female Peregrine Falcon.

There were several species of butterflies on the island: Monarch, Painted Lady, A. Copper, Cabbage White, Elfin, Fritillary, Red Admiral to the best of our knowledge.

All members enjoyed the ambience of this beautiful spot and the food and friendship made for an excellent addition to the bird and plant life.

- Claire Diggins



UPCOMING EVENTS

Field trips are open to non-members as well as members. Feel free to phone or E-mail the field trip leader or contact person ahead of time to obtain further information, directions or restrictions (e.g. dogs are not normally allowed on field trips). The area code for Nova Scotia is 902. NSMNH = The Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax.

Ideas and suggestions for future trips are welcome. You do not need to be an expert to lead a field trip, and the trip does not need to last all day. You just need to share your favourite birding spots. Any questions, comments or suggestions, as well as all field trip reports should be directed to The Events Editor, Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922. E-mail: suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca

Sat 18 Oct 2008 - Meeting and Field Trip in Cheticamp.

Leader: Gordon Delaney 224-2490 E-mail: gordon.delaney@pc.gc.ca

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Visitors' Centre in the C.B. Highlands National Park Headquarters building. From the Visitors' Centre we will proceed to Cheticamp Island where we will see migrating seabirds and shorebirds, as well as do some birding along forest trails.

Meeting: 2:00 p.m. in the Theatre Room of the Cape Breton Highlands National Park Headquarters building. Speaker to be announced.

Thu 23 Oct 2008 – NSBS Annual General Meeting

NSMNH, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia. 7:30 p.m. As usual, the AGM will be followed by a wine and cheese reception; a great opportunity to meet and mingle.

Sat 01 Nov 2008 - Port Hawkesbury Meeting and Field Trip

Leaders: David Johnston 625-1534 E-mail: dwj.jem@ns.sympatico.ca and Dave McCorquodale 563-1260 E-mail: david_mccorquodale@capebretonu.ca

Meet at 9:00 am at the Tourist Information Building in Port Hastings.

At the Canso Causeway there are frequently concentrations of gulls, eagles and gannets that are feeding on migrating skipjacks (aka billfish) in November. In addition we will check out the waterfront for loons, grebes, alcids and waterfowl; stop at feeders for lingering migrants; and scan a few fields and creek valleys for sparrows and warblers. Lunch will follow at the home of David and Mary Johnston.

Meeting: 3:00 pm. Speaker and location to be determined.

Sat 15 Nov to Sun 16 Nov 2008 – FOR OUR BIRDS

Rowe Management Building, Dalhousie University, University Avenue, Halifax, NS

This groundbreaking Conference will focus on increasing communication about the science and conservation of birds; engaging new people in bird conservation; and increasing public awareness and action for birds. Keynote speaker: Dr. Janis Dickinson, Director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. For registration and more information contact Mark Butler, Ecology Action Centre, 429-5287; e-mail: Birds@ecologyaction.ca; website:

www.ecologyaction.ca/coastal/birds

Sponsored by the Nova Scotia Bird Society, the Ecology Action Centre, Dalhousie University, and Bird Studies Canada.

Thu 27 Nov 2008 – Regular Meeting – Auction!

NSMNH, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, NS, 7:30 pm.

Many birders from across Nova Scotia were greatly saddened by the passing of Eric Cooke in January of 2008. However, Eric has left a legacy to the N.S. Bird Society! Eric's family has donated his books and other birding material to the Society, and the Executive has decided that these items will be auctioned off with the proceeds going to the Sanctuary Trust Fund. Be sure to attend - you will be supporting the Trust and you just might pick up that rare, out-of-print or hard-to find item that you've been looking for!

Sat 29 Nov 2008 – Canso and Area

Leaders: Tom Kavanaugh 366-3476 E-mail: terri.crane@ns.sympatico.ca and Steve Bushell 366-2527

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Chapel Gully Trail parking lot. Come down Main Street, turn right onto Union, go past the Marina and take the next right onto Wilmot. The parking lot is at the top of the hill. Fall migration is in full swing on Canso at this time of year, so be prepared for almost anything! No rain date. Accommodations will be available just outside Canso and in Antigonish for those wishing to do Randy's trip the following day.

Sun 30 Nov 2008 – Antigonish Coastal Waters

Leader: Randy Lauff 867-2471 E-mail: rlauff@stfx.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Dragon Fly Café on the TCH just east of exit #35 (Lower South River). This trip covers the waters of St. Georges Bay and Antigonish Harbour. We'll end the day at Ogdens Pond which has hosted thousands of gulls, ducks and, in some years, inland gannets. No rain date.

Sat 06 Dec 2008 – Metro "Hot Spot" Birding

Leader: Mike King 434-6099 E-mail: mikenjenn1@hotmail.com

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Sullivans Pond and dress warmly. We will check local sites for rarities and unusual birds as a prelude to the Christmas Bird Counts. Great way to start your winter list! Storm date: Sun 07 December.

(Continued on back cover)

Sun 14 Dec 2008 to Sat 03 Jan 2009 – Christmas Bird Counts

For information on where and when Christmas Bird Counts will be held this year in Nova Scotia, click on Blake Maybank's Winter Birding link on the "links" page of our website: <http://nsbs.chebucto.org> Blake will update this page as information becomes available. Don't forget; NSBS members are eligible to have one Audubon Count fee paid per Individual and Student Membership – and two fees paid per Family Membership!

Sun 11 Jan 2009 – Sewer Stroll I – Halifax/Dartmouth Area
Leader: Bob McDonald 443-5051 E-mail: bobathome@hfx.eastlink.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of McCormack's Beach Provincial Park, just past Boondocks Restaurant in Eastern Passage. We'll look for rare birds and regular winter visitors. Dress for cold weather and bring a lunch. Plan to carpool as much as possible. No storm date.

Thu 22 Jan 2009 – Members' Photo Night

NSMNH, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 7:30 p.m.

With the increasing popularity of digital photography, Members' Photo Night has become one of our most popular meeting themes. Bring along 15 – 20 of your favourite photos or slides related to birds or birding. ☐



**For
the
Birds**

Nature Shop
Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia

SEE with Binoculars & Scopes
FEED with the best Bird Feeders
ATTRACT with Baths & Shelter
LEARN with Books, Software & CDs
ENJOY with Gifts for Bird-watchers
FORECAST with Weather Instruments

www.ForTheBirdsNatureShop.ca (888) 660-6529



This apparent white-striped morph of WHITE-THROATED SPARROW Apr. 26 in Sackville, retained an unusual amount of juvenile streaking at this late date. Was it from a late brood the previous summer?
[Photo Rita Viau]