

Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Winter 2009

(The Birds of Autumn)



NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Executive 2008-2009

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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.

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Reporting Deadlines

Spring 2009 issue: **Mar. 7, 2009**
Fall 2009 issue: **Aug. 7, 2009**

Summer 2009 issue: **June 7, 2009**
Winter 2009 issue: **Dec. 7, 2010**

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Special points of interest:

- President's Corner
- 2008 Puffin of the Year Award
- Autumn Bird Reports
- 2008 Piping Plover Breeding Report
- Trip Reports

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Cover Photo: The NSBS field trippers Nov. 29 at Canso were treated to a rare GREEN HERON. Photos of this species in Nova Scotia have seldom been published, and never in such portrait quality. [Photo Mike King]

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS

WINTER 2009

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When I accepted the offer to become editor of "Nova Scotia Birds" I knew that I'd be joining a collaborative volunteer effort: I wouldn't be working alone. As the magazine's masthead reveals there are many people who combine their respective skills and enthusiasms to bring you this quarterly journal. While each person's contribution is important there is no position more vital than that of the "Production Assistant", whose responsibility is to weave and knit the disparate articles, photographs, announcements, and advertisements into a format suitable for printing, within the limitations of page counts and budgets. Sterling Levy was at the production helm when I joined the fray, and I quickly came to trust his ability and judgement (while never taking him for granted – s'truth). And though I knew that eventually each volunteer moves on I had always hoped Sterling would exercise his superb layout skills indefinitely, or at least as long as I was the editor.

Alas, he has decided to hang up Publisher Software, that he might (one hopes) be able to concentrate more on birding and gardening, two of his other passions. He is missed, but he graciously stayed on until we could locate a new Production Assistant, and I'm pleased to report that Pamela Mills and Lise Cormier have agreed to share this task. As one might expect there have been a few coordination bumps during the transition, but I hope you'll agree they've turned out to be worthy successors to Sterling's nonpareil labours lo these many years. My thanks to Sterling for all he has done for the NS Bird Society and its magazine, and for making my editor's job that much easier. And my thanks to Pam and Lise for catching the baton, and continuing the race.

The strength of the NSBS lies in its members, and it is appropriate that their efforts be acknowledged. Out past-President, Suzanne Borkowski, recently attended a meeting of the East Hants Naturalists where she presented Roslyn MacPhee with a Certificate of Appreciation for her long, outstanding service to the Society. Roslyn led field trips (Shubenacadie) for many years, coordinated Christmas Bird Counts and Spring Migration Counts in her area, participated in the first and second Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas, and most importantly of all, encouraged others to take up birding as a pastime, and has helped to improve their skills. Our thanks, Roslyn, and congratulations.



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



Past President's Corner

As most of you know I'm stepping down tonight as President of the Society after four wonderful years, rich in experience, challenge, and a sense of accomplishment. I've met many interesting people, learned a lot about birds and birding, and developed an appreciation for different outlooks and points of view. It's been an enriching experience, and I highly recommend Board service to any of you who haven't tried it yet.

Normally, in my President's report, I give an account of the Society's activities over the past year; but, I'll just briefly summarize them for you tonight, since I have a lot of thank you's to give, and I want to leave you with a parting message.

We awarded five Certificates of Appreciation last year to the four retiring members of the former Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund Board, and one to James Hirtle for his outstanding volunteerism.

Our supplies of the book "Birding Nova Scotia" written by members of the Society and sold by us for the last 40 years, have finally run out. We haven't tried to replace it since Blake Maybank has an excellent book on the market: "Birding Sites of Nova Scotia". This is the bible for NS birders and the one we recommend to everyone looking for birds in the province. However, we feel there is a need for what amounts to a handbook listing some of the most popular birding hot spots and how to find them, with tips on what clothing is appropriate for our weather conditions, especially if taking a pelagic cruise, proper footwear, sunscreen, insect repellent, etc. It will be aimed at new birders and one-time visitors to the province, and will sell for \$10.00 or less. We'll be working on that over the next year or two.

We made a contribution to the Halifax North West Trails Association this year to put up Swallow boxes at Belcher's Marsh in Halifax. According to the last report, no swallows have nested there yet, but there's always next year. We also made a contribution the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust to help publish a birding brochure for the Gerry Lawrence Provincial Park. The brochure contains photos donated by Hans Toom.

Finally, we made a contribution to the scholarship fund set up by Saint Mary's University in memory of Gareth Akerman, one of our younger members who passed away in an airplane crash.

The Shelburne County Birding Festival committee asked us to recommend a speaker for their event this year. We sent them Richard Stern, who, we hear, did a stellar job. Thank you, Richard!

Our Membership Secretary, Ulli Hoeger, designed and printed our new membership cards which you received with your Spring issue of NS Birds. Thank you, Ulli!

We joined the Standing Tall campaign, a program of the Ecology Action Centre, which helps protect our forests – and that means to us, birding habitat; in particular, warbler habitat.

We revised and published a new birding checklist which contains 16 additional species, all in one list, instead of two, with asterisks denoting the rarer species.

We introduced a policy of covering one \$5.00 Audubon CBC fee per Individual and Student Membership, and two \$5.00 fees per Family membership. We again offered our Charitable Tax Receipt program for atlassing expenses, whereby volunteer atlassers who are NSBS members submit a list of their expenses along with a "donation" to us matching their total expenses. We return that amount to them along with an income tax receipt for their "donation". The net benefit to the atlasser is the tax receipt. We're doing it again this year. The deadline for submitting your claim, which can include last year's claim if you missed last year's deadline, is November 1st.

We presented five illustrated talks last year covering birds of California, Greenland, Argentina, Australia, and China. We offered 40 field trips; and ran a contest for creating a bird sanctuary in your own back yard. We only had two entrants for that contest, so both participants will have their photos published in Nova Scotia Birds. This tells me you prefer contests which involve listing. So; for next year, the contest will be in support of the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas. We'll be asking you to keep a list of all the species you see in Nova Scotia which evidence breeding: fledged young, adult pairs, birds carrying nesting material or food,

courtship behaviour, etc. Please do not look for nests. We don't want to disturb any of our birds. Breeding evidence can easily be noted just by keeping your eyes open. If you're already atlassing, this contest will be easy for you. Just use your list of species for your square plus your list of casual observations outside your square. If you're not an atlasser, just keep track of all the species you see in Nova Scotia in 2009 that are breeding. If you'd like your observations counted in the Atlas, just send them to the RC for the area in which you saw the birds. You can find out the RC's name and e-mail address from the Atlas website: www.mba-aom.ca, or just send your observations to me and I'll pass them along to the right person.

In May we again combined our annual out-of-area meeting with an Atlas workshop, this time in support of Regions 18 (Shelburne County) and 19 (Lunenburg and Queens Counties). It was another huge success, well attended, with talks on how to record raptor species, how to find elusive species, and how to distinguish easily confused species by sound. We had demonstrations on owling, and doing point counts, and field trips which focused on how to record what you saw for the Atlas. Next year we're planning a workshop for Region 16 (Annapolis and Digby) and 17 (Yarmouth).

Twenty years ago the NSBS donated a Puffin Trophy to the Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia. This trophy was to be awarded each year to the person who submitted the best slide or photo of a bird in Nova Scotia. I had the honour this year of presenting it to Jen Fried, Past President of the Photo Guild, for her digital photo of a Palm Warbler.

Finally we introduced a feature in our magazine called "Executive Profile". We think you should know something about the people who are serving on the Board of the Bird Society. So far we've done two: Barbara Hinds, and Mary Alward. Look for more of these in upcoming issues.

And now for my thank you's. First of all, I'd like to offer a resounding thank you to the team that produces our quarterly news magazine: our Editor: Blake Maybank, our Production Assistant: Sterling Levy, our Records Editor: Lance Laviolette, our Photo Editor: Ian McLaren, all the Seasonal editors, Peter LeBlanc who does the packaging and mailing, Ulli Hoeger who does the labels, and others who contribute in many and varied ways. It's a huge team effort and the results speak for themselves. I'd also like to thank the Museum for once again giving us a grant of \$2,000.00 to help with the publishing costs of our magazine.

Another big thank you goes to Peter and Linda Payzant for maintaining our website, to Bernice Moores and Gisele d'Entremont for managing our collection of back issues for the Archives; to Ralph MacLean for carving this year's Puffin; to Tony Robinson, our Honourary Solicitor, and Harold Forsyth, our Honourary Auditor; to Dave Currie for his work on the Christmas Bird Counts, and Hans Toom for his work on the Spring Migration Counts; to Bob McDonald, Chair of our Sanctuary Trust, and the Trust Board members: Mary Alward, Pat Kelly, Andy Horn, and George Digout; and to all of our Field Trip Leaders who work so hard to plan and organize the outings that we so enjoy. Last, but not least, I'd like to thank the members of the Executive for all their efforts: Mary Alward, Barbara Hinds, Ulli Hoeger, Andy Horn, David and Janey Hughes, Pat Kelly, Pat McKay, Susann Myers and Bob McDonald. I couldn't have done it without you!

Finally, I'd like to leave you with this parting message. During my four years as President, I came to realize and fully understand the importance of Nova Scotia as a birding location. Geographically, we jut out into the Atlantic Ocean. We're on a migratory flyway, the Atlantic Flyway. We get more than a hundred bird species landing here during spring and fall migration. We are the breeding place of choice for numerous other species. Christmas Bird Counts show, year after year, the many species of birds which try to survive the winter here. Our stats place us third, and sometimes even second, in Canada for the highest number of species in a Count Circle. British Columbia always beats us, and Ontario almost always beats us, but when you compare the number of birders combing the same amount of space, it's easy to see that we may well have more species than our birders are able to detect. The point I'm trying to make is the birds are here, but sometimes they go undetected. One example: a House Wren was breeding in a backyard in Cole Harbour for three years before any birders knew it. It was discovered on an NSBS field trip led by Bob Lindsay. The owners of the yard didn't know what the birds were. To them it was just a pair of cute little brown birds. How many other species have we missed? The range maps in your field guide show where birds breed, where they winter and where they are year round. These maps are based on available published data, like breeding bird atlases, Christmas Bird Count results and authentic birding magazines like *American Birds* and *Nova Scotia Birds*.

We birders, here in Nova Scotia, need to get out there and atlas. We need to participate in Christmas Bird Counts and Spring Migration Counts. And we need to document our sightings and submit them to *Nova Scotia Birds*, an authentic birding magazine read and used by scientists from different parts of the world. We need to put *Nova Scotia Birds* on the map!

My thanks to each and every one of you for making these last four years the best years of my life!

Suzanne Borkowski
Past President, Nova Scotia Bird Society

President's Corner

The first three months as president of the society has been quite interesting and an amazing learning experience. The society and its members are involved in such a wide scope of activities that it would be difficult to list them all. That level of activity is a great sign of the commitment of our members in their love for our feathered friends.

One of my goals is to try to improve communication between the executive and the members of the society. To that end, I have been sending out brief monthly letters to all members for whom we have an e-mail address on file. Nova Scotia Birds is a great resource for the society, but quarterly publications, by their nature, mean that some events, etc. will always occur after the publishing deadline. I hope this will help to keep most of our membership informed so that they can take advantage of timely news items. Since I know that not everyone has e-mail access, there will be some duplication between my printed column, and the monthly e-mail notices. If you have not received the e-mail notices, please send your name and e-mail address to Ulli Hoeger (uhoeger@dal.ca) so that he can update your membership information.

Please feel free to contact me (patrick.kelly@dal.ca) if you have any questions or comments.

The Society at the Atlantic Outdoor Sports, and RV Show: A new promotion company organised this year's version of the show, which was held March 12-15. They wanted to put the "outdoor" back into the show and donated booths for several nature groups, including ours. This attendance was just under 20,000 and our booth was busy for most of it. It was a great opportunity to raise the profile of birding and talk to a lot of people. To prepare for the show we updated the society's brochure and had 500 printed. Over 200 were distributed, along with brochures on the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas, printed lists of up upcoming field trips, and other handouts. Special thanks to Mary Alward, Suzanne Borkowski, Gail Bruhm, Bonnie Carmichael, Dave Currie, Brian and Janice Kenefick, Evie MacDonald, Bob and Wendy McDonald, Pat McKay, and Gary Murray for taking time to help with the booth. Special thanks should also go to Pat McKay's mealworm colony, which caught the attention of most of the children who were going by. A lot of people learned that "bird food" does not always consist of "bird seed". While there were lots of opportunities to talk to people about birds, for me a few stood out from the rest. One was a mother with her 3(?) year old daughter who knew all the birds that were on a posters and the ones that we had by the nests; her grandfather has been teaching her about birds. Another was a family that was driving to the show and spotted a bird standing under a tree by the side of the road. They had pictures on their camera and were thrilled to learn that it was a barred owl. I am hoping that we will be invited back next year and I hope that more of you will help out and have a great time.

New Brochure: As mentioned, we have updated the society brochure. If any one would like several copies to pass out to people who may be interested in joining the society, please let me know. This would be especially helpful if you are either give talks to groups, lead field trips, or do any other kind of public outreach.

New Treasurer Sought: After several years of dedicated and tireless service to the society, Janey Hughes has had to step down as treasurer for personal reasons. She is willing to stay on until a new treasurer can be found, and help to show them the ropes. If you are not sure exactly what the duties entail, feel free to ask. Keep in mind that the processing of membership fees, updating of the database, etc. is done by the membership secretary; the treasurer's role in that respect is to deposit the cheques. Familiarity with and access to a computer would be required. Please contact me (patrick.kelly@dal.ca) if you are interested or if you know someone who you feel might be willing to take on the position.

Out-of-Area Meeting/Atlas Workshop: As usual, the May regular meeting is being held outside of Halifax. This year it is Saturday May 30-31 and will be held at the Mountain Gap Inn near Digby and will promote Region 16: Annapolis Valley-Digby Neck, and Region 17: Southwest Shore. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm in the Annapolis Room, followed by an owl prowl. Sunday morning, 6:00 am, there will be a point count demonstration, followed by breakfast. Field trips will be led by me and Paul Gould. To book your room for Saturday night, go to: <http://www.mountaingapinn.ca> and click on "Around the Inn". The map will show you what each of the rooms is like by clicking on any rooftop. Choose from #1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 24, 25, 26, 27 (\$100.00 per room) or #41, 42, 43 (\$90.00 per room). This meeting/workshop is open to everyone! Given that many of you may wish to share a room, if you send me your contact information, I will pass it on to anyone else who is also looking for share a room.

New Payment Option for Membership Renewals: The executive is exploring options that would allow members to renew their memberships, and order society products, using a secure on-line system that would allow for payment by credit card. We investigated some options already, but before proceeding further, we want to know how many people would find this a method that they would use. Let me know if you would like this option for renewing your membership.

Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas, Year 4: While a lot of data has already come in, there are still some parts of the Maritimes

where coverage has not been as complete. The society does have a program to allow for some reimbursement for the costs. You do have to keep track of dates, squares visited, etc. with the net result being that you get an income tax receipt to cover most travel expenses. Details are on the cork board section of the web site, or you can contact me directly (patrick.kelly@dal.ca).

Birding Buddies: The executive has been looking at the idea of pairing new members up with more experienced members, preferably someone who lives in their own area, to help them get started. This could be anything from talking on the phone about some of the best local areas to find birds, to taking a new member out for an hour or two to show them the ropes, or even just someone they could call if they see or photograph a bird and are not sure what it is. The response so far has been great and the more people that we have, the better the coverage.

Make Your Letters Really Fly: On April 9th, Canada Post released two stamps with the theme of "Preserving the Polar Regions and Glaciers" as a way of highlighting the arctic's susceptibility to climate change. There are two stamps, issued in a checker-board pattern. One features the polar bear, while the other features the arctic tern. Details can be found at <http://www.canadapost.ca/Personal/ProductsServices/Collect/Stamps/>

Patrick Kelly
President, Nova Scotia Bird Society

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

As at September 30, 2008

(With comparative figures as at September 30, 2007)

	2007/08	2006/07
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank account	12,837	6,387
<u>Term deposits</u>	<u>22,089</u>	<u>28,000</u>
Total cash	34,926	34,387
Accounts receivable	479	596
Accumulated interest	415	2,249
<u>Prepaid expense</u>	<u>379</u>	<u>647</u>
	1,273	3,492
<u>Total Current Assets</u>	<u>36,199</u>	<u>37,879</u>
Total Assets	36,199	37,879
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	35	752
<u>Deferred revenue</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
Total Liabilities	35	752
Reserve	2,305	2,305
Members' equity		
Opening balance	34,822	33,940
Transfers from/to reserve	--	--
Surplus (deficit)	964	882
<u>Total members' equity</u>	<u>33,858</u>	<u>34,822</u>
Liabilities and equity	36,199	37,879

S. M. Borkowski, ~President

H. Forsyth, Auditor



J. Hughes, Treasurer



NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

INCOME STATEMENT

For the year ended September 30, 2008

(With comparative figures for the year ended September 30, 2007)

	2007/08	2006/07
Revenue		
Memberships	5,829	7,229
Product sales	205	529
Nova Scotia Museum grant	2,000	2,000
Advertising	180	40
Donations	--	18
Atlas donations	10,080	8,578
Interest	1,037	990
Foreign exchange	--	37
Other	9	107
	19,340	19,529
Total Revenue	19,340	19,529
 Expenses		
Cost of items for sale	1,406	--
Nova Scotia Birds Committees	5,850	7,476
Atlas Donations	10,080	8,578
Printing and stationery	23	557
Promotion	1,739	1,369
Equipment	158	--
Insurance	500	519
Miscellaneous expenses	547	148
	20,303	18,647
Total Expenses	20,303	18,647
 Net Income	 964	 882
 (Excess revenue over expenses/expense over revenue)		



Numbers of AMERICAN PIPITS were seen and photographed during September along the Saltmarsh Trail across Cole Hbr., HRM. [Photograph Paul Murray]

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Suzanne Borkowski

I am a birder. I started birding in the year 2000. Before that I had put up feeders in my yard, but I had no clue what the birds were that came to them. I attended a mini field trip to Sullivan's Pond and I was hooked! I tried going for walks to look for birds but still had trouble identifying them, so I signed up for the Halifax-Dartmouth Christmas Bird Count – for just a couple of hours – and was delighted to get 11 species. I wanted to keep going. I asked Fulton Lavender if I could do another one, all day this time. He referred me to Rich Peckham for the Bedford-Sackville CBC. Rich paired me up with an experienced birder. I drove to the designated address at 7:30 am on the day of the Count, and a man I'd never met before got into my car and said "Hi, I'm Bob McDonald".

This turned out to be a match made in Heaven. Bob didn't drive, and I had a big roomy Jeep and was willing to go anywhere (the next time you see me ask about our trip to Yarmouth to look for a Laughing Gull). I learned a lot about birds from Bob, and at his urging I joined the Bird Society, went on field trips, and started keeping a life list (I reached species #300 in Nova Scotia last summer).

In November 2001 a Common Chaffinch arrived in my yard (a Wilson's Warbler arrived about the same time -- read the full story in the Spring 2002 Issue of NS Birds). Since the Chaffinch was a North American rarity I had birders flying in from California, Texas, Georgia, Florida, and many parts of Canada. But more importantly to me, I met some of Nova Scotia's keen birders: Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Blake Maybank, Angus MacLean, Bernard Forsythe, Murray Newell, Johnny Nickerson, and many others. Some saw the Chaffinch, some didn't, but everyone got to see a Wilson's Warbler in the middle of a Nova Scotia winter, and everywhere I went people would ask me "How's Willy"? My husband, Leszek, who's not a birder, tolerated all this reasonably well; except perhaps for the morning after he got home from sea and opened the kitchen blinds to see strangers on our front deck looking in at him and waving!

Many of the birders I met were active in volunteer birding activities, and I followed suit, joining Project Feederwatch, participating in Nocturnal Owl Surveys, and becoming a regional coordinator for the second Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas.

Eventually I looked beyond Nova Scotia's borders, and in 2006 I went to Mexico with Blake Maybank's Maritimes Nature Travel Club, and in 2008 I went with them to Brazil. I've actually got a World List now!

I joined the Bird Society Executive in 2002 as Field Trip Coordinator, a position I still hold. This was an exciting opportunity for me. I travelled around Nova Scotia, meet new people, and saw lots of birds. In 2003 I became the Vice-President, and in 2004, just in time for the NSBS 50th Anniversary, I became President. I'm now serving as Past President and, of course, Field Trip Coordinator.

Leszek and I have two sons: Brad and Danek (short for Daniel). Brad is an Electronic Engineering Technologist and Danek graduated last spring with a Commerce degree in Marketing Management from Dalhousie University. My husband is a Sea Captain. I'm a retired High School English teacher, as well as a retired government worker; and for a short time I worked as a Veterinary Technician at a local animal hospital. None of these jobs gave me as much pleasure as being the President of the Nova Scotia Bird Society. I've met so many wonderful people over the last few years, made new friends, and learned a lot about nature and the environment. Life just keeps getting better!

Suzanne Borkowski – Past President - NSBS



2008 Puffin of the Year Award

This year's recipient of the Puffin award is a quiet, laid back person who doesn't like to blow his own horn. His ongoing efforts on behalf of the Bird Society are not always well known, but they are deeply significant.

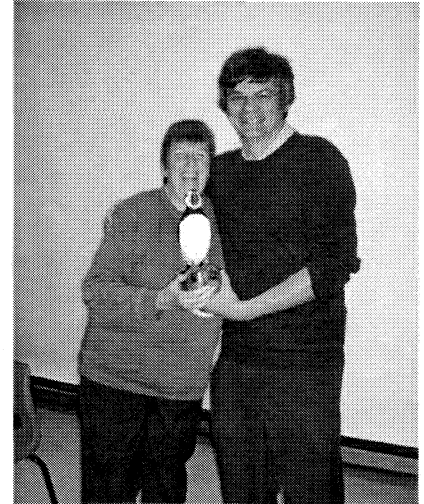
He served on the Executive for many years as a Director, Vice-President, President, and Past President. During his reign as President he helped stop the introduction of Wild Turkeys to Nova Scotia, a non-native species. He also stopped herbicide spraying in Kejimikujik National Park, and got the NS Department of Environment and Labour to review their list of acceptable herbicide sprays in Nova Scotia. He encouraged Sobey's to revise their plans to infill Moirs Pond in Bedford. And he was instrumental in helping the Cape Sable Island Important Bird Area get started. In addition he encouraged the Bird Society to support the maintenance of a manned station on Sable Island.

Speaking of Sable Island, most of you know probably don't know that this person wrote a management plan for the Ipswich Savannah Sparrow which breeds there. He's heavily involved with the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas as both a committee member and a field atlaser. He is also the Bird Society's representative to Bird Studies Canada.

He helped organize and bring to Halifax the Society of Canadian Ornithologists Conference in October of 2005; and this year he is helping to organize the "For the Birds" Conference at Dalhousie University next month; a joint undertaking sponsored by the NS Bird Society, Bird Studies Canada, the Ecology Action Centre, Dalhousie University and Nature Nova Scotia.

On a personal note, he's been an inspiration to me, and was always there when I needed him during my four years as President. So; have you figured it out yet? Of course, this year's recipient is none other than Andy Horn!

Suzanne Borkowski
President – Nova Scotia Bird Society



The recipient of this year's Puffin of the Year award, Andy Horn, is honoured by outgoing President, Suzanne Borkowski.



Editor's note: Eric Ruff, a long-time Bird Society member living in Yarmouth, recently retired as curator of the Yarmouth County Museum. But he never stops digging up the past, as revealed in this gem of an article he retrieved from the archives.

The Southern Mocking Bird

From the *Yarmouth Herald* June 24th, 1875:

The racy editor of the *Methodist Recorder*, Pittsburg, says: "But we must throw aside a handful of botanical specimens, and a page of memoranda for letter writing, else we should linger in these Mississippi woods all summer. Hark! 'Listen to the mocking bird!'—Yonder on that water-oak how proudly he balances himself on the swinging bough. Will he sing? Yes. Only hearken. His notes are clearer than the notes of flute, more shrill and ringing than the falsettoes of the most perfect flageolet, endless in variety as if his octaves reached into the ethery skies, and modulated with a grace beyond the range of words to express. He takes up the song of the thrush, the time-beat of the robin, the caroling of some distant swallows too faintly remote for our coarse ears to hear, the victor call of the lark mounting into the face of the sun, the chattering of the bluebird, and a score of remembered cadences from summers that are gone, and—hearken! He transposes them into a new creation. His original variations surpass Gottschalk's grandest liberties with "Home, Sweet Home." He swells his mellow melodies into an anthem; it rises, falls, repeats, strikes on, a very blessed babel of confusing, bewitching, captivating song, with notes too quick for pulsing time or quivering heart to tell—a miracle of melody. And all this from the throat of a stray mocking bird, one of a million in the Mississippi woods! If God has so endowed a wild warbler of the forest, what rapturous surprises await us in the eternal morning when the New Song shall strike our ravished ears."



AUTUMN BIRD REPORTS

Loons Through Grebes

By John Belbin

On Oct. 9 at Duncan’s Cove, near Sambro, HAT spotted a steady stream of RED-THROATED LOONS cruising by at a rate of 1-4 every minute. Others were mixed in with the large Common Eider flock. By Nov.1 a potentially larger group of migrating Red-throated Loons was seen flying south past Western Hd. (ELM) and in other locations the same day. A flock of 55 birds seen by KJM at Waterside remained for three weeks, presumably moulting, could not have been part of the migrating flocks seen elsewhere. He reported that 25% of them still had red throats as of Oct. 19, though all were in full winter garb by Nov. 1. He believes that the numbers in *Pictou* were only half of those in previous years.

A group of 13 HORNED GREBES showed up at Big I., *Pict.*, Oct. 18, and it had increased to 28 individuals by Oct. 25. The number of RED-NECKED GREBES reported this year is far below the same period last year.

Red-throated Loon

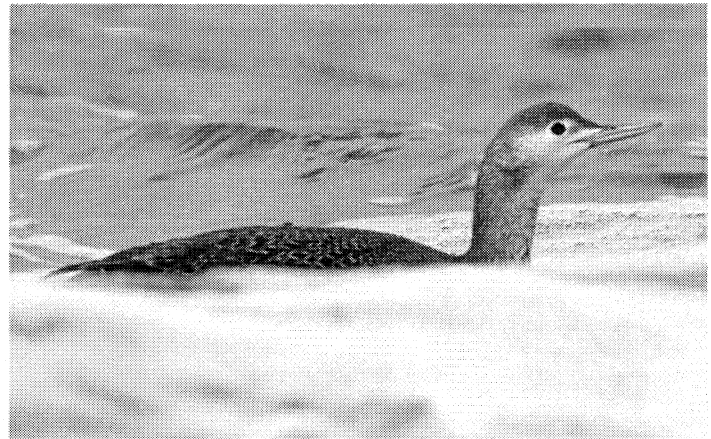
Oct. 9	Duncan’s Reef, <i>HRM</i>	1-4 per minute	HAT
Oct. 10	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	4	JOB
Oct. 11	Seal I., <i>Shel</i> .	1	NSBS
Oct. 16	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	1	PBG
Oct. 18, 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	7, 32	KJM
Oct. 19-			
Nov. 9	Waterside Park, <i>Pict.</i>	55	KJM
Oct. 22	Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i> .	1	HAT
Nov.1	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	111+	ELM
Nov. 1	Seaforth, <i>HRM</i>	11	SEM
Nov. 4	Duncan’s Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2	HAT
Nov. 11	Florence, <i>CBRM</i>	18+	DBM
Nov. 13	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	2	RBS
Nov. 14, 22	Ogden’s Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	6, 9	BRS
Nov. 17	Maders Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	5	JAH
Nov. 17	Westhaver Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
Nov. 23	Chance Hbr., <i>Pict.</i>	9	KJM
Nov. 23	Melmerby PP., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Nov. 24	The Guzzle,		
	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	4	BLF
Nov. 30	Antigonish Area	“Loads”	RFL
Nov. 30	Louisbourg	15	CSM, TMM

Common Loon

Aug. 3 & 11	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	6, 32	KJM
Aug. 14	W. Lahave, <i>Lun.</i>	6	PBG
Aug. 24	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	11	SEM
Sept. 27	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	36	KJM
Oct. 10	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	2	JOB
Oct. 12	Liscombe Game Sanctuary,		
	<i>Guys.</i>	2	GMU
Nov. 1	Catalone Gut Bch., <i>CBRM</i>	1	LEL
Nov.1	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	3	ELM
Nov. 1	Seaforth, <i>HRM</i>	2	SEM
Nov. 4	Jeddore Oyster Ponds, <i>HRM</i>	8	LUB
Nov. 11	Florence, <i>CBRM</i>	2	DBM
Nov.18	Barrington Passage, <i>CSI</i>	3	JCZ

Pied-billed Grebe

Aug. 23	Belle Isle Marsh, <i>Anna</i> .	3	JAH
Sept. 23	Duck L., <i>HRM</i>	2	CSS
Nov. 1	Bissett L. <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
Nov. 3	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Nov. 11	Florence, <i>CBRM</i>	2	DBM
Nov. 30	Chapel Gully, Canso	1	TCR



Although they are similar in shape – sleek and with the characteristic upturned bill – the juvenile RED-THROATED LOON, Nov. 23 at Big I., *Pict.* (above) was very different in appearance from the winter adult there a few days later (below). Note the chevron-like pale markings on the back of the juvenile and paired white dots on the adult. [Photos Bruce Stevens]

Horned Grebe

Sept. 27	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM
Oct. 11	Connors Brook, <i>Kings</i>	1	PBG
Oct. 11	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct. 18, 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	13, 28	KJM
Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>		Karen Macleod
Nov. 14, 22	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	2	BRS
Nov. 17	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i>	4	JAH
Nov. 23	Melmerby PP, <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM

Red-necked Grebe

Sept. 13	Sober I. <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM
Sept. 13	Louisbourg Hbr., <i>CBRM</i>	6	Bill Bussey
Sept. 27	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Oct. 18, 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3, 4	KJM
Nov. 1	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	2	ELM
Nov. 13	Wagners Bch., <i>HRM</i>		BLM
Nov. 14	Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i>	2	JON
Nov. 22	Ogden's Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	3	BRS
Nov. 30	Kingsburg Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH, DAW

Tubenoses Through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

Our rather sparse reports of the two common shearwater species are put into a broader context by Laurie Murison's report of the positions of birds radio-tagged in the Bay of Fundy near Grand Manan. By about mid-October, of early-tagged birds, one GREATER SHEARWATER was off South Africa, one had arrived on the breeding colony at Tristan da Cunha, one appeared to have died off Brazil, and one was still in the Bay of Fundy. Later-tagged birds were S of Nova Scotia, headed toward Europe, off Argentina and Brazil, and between South America and Africa. One SOOTY SHEARWATER was headed toward the UK and another was still in the Bay of Fundy.

The strangest - in fact, bizarre - record this autumn was of a **MASKED BOOBY** first seen on the road on Long I., *Digby*, Nov. 13, by two Brier Islanders returning home. They reported a strange white bird with blue feet to CAH, who searched for it the same day without success. The next day a hunter found the bird nearby, deep in the woods on the east end of Long I. CAH's description is clearly of a Masked Booby, only the second for the province. It was released, without being photographed, and not seen again. The only previous record was in March of 1989, far off SW Nova Scotia.

A **FRIGATEBIRD**, seen in Glace Bay Hbr. Aug. 25 was reported as a Magnificent, but without details of any kind to exclude other species. It does not go without saying that any frigatebird seen in the province is a Magnificent; Great, Lesser, and Ascension Island Frigatebirds have all been recorded in the North America or the North Atlantic and have to be taken into account in identifications.

Northern Fulmar

Sept. 20	Canso area, <i>Guys.</i>	18	TOK, CLS, NSBS
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Greater Shearwater

Aug. 14	Off Brier I.	Number?	JUS
Aug. 16	Seal I. area, <i>Yar.</i>	10	JAH, DPO, NSBS
Sept. 20	Canso area, <i>Guys.</i>	1	TOK, CLS, NSBS
Oct. 1	Off Brier I.	2+	JUS, Mark Tasker

Sooty Shearwater

Aug. 14	Off Brier I.	Number?	JUS
Aug. 16	Seal I. area, <i>Yar.</i>	3	JAH, DPO, NSBS
Oct. 1	Off Brier I.	10	JUS, Mark Tasker
Oct. 28	Duncan Reef, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT

Wilson's Storm-Petrel

Aug. 5	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	"a few"	ALD, <i>fide</i> DOU
Aug. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3	DOU
Aug. 14	Off Brier I.	Number?	JUS
Oct. 13	Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i>	3	CLS, CSS

(Wilson's?) Storm-Petrel

Oct. 18	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
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Leach's Storm-Petrel

Sept. 20	Canso area, <i>Guys.</i>	1	TOK, CLS, NSBS
Sept. 29	Wallace, <i>Cum.</i>	1	RBS
Nov. 1	Canso Causeway, <i>Guys./Inv.</i>	1	DJO, NSBS

MASKED BOOBY (2nd provincial record if accepted by NS Birds**Records Comm.)**

Nov. 13-14	Near Tiverton, <i>Digby</i>	ad. (details provided)	
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David & Heidi	
Tudor, CAH	

Northern Gannet

Aug. 1	Off Western Light, Brier I.	15	ELM, IAM
Aug. 6; 11	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	50+; 70+	DOU; KJM
Aug. 14	Off Brier I.	Number?	JUS
Aug. 16	Seal I. area, <i>Yar.</i>	212	JAH, DPO, NSBS
Aug. 22-			
Sept. 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1-9	KJM



We've had fewer WILSON'S PHALAROPES here in recent years. This one at Hartlen Pt., *HRM*, in mid September (here Sept. 14) gave pleasure to a number of birders. [Photo Mike King]

Aug. 24	Hell Pt., <i>Lun.</i>	12	JAH, DAW
Sept. 20	Canso area, <i>Guys.</i>	120+	TOK, CLS, NSBS
Sept. 20	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	60+	ELM
Sept. 27	Brier I.	35	JAH, NSBS
Oct. 1	Off Brier I.	Several ads.	JUS
Oct. 10	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	32+	JOB
Oct. 10-12	Seal I., <i>Yar.</i>	6-12	NSBS
Oct. 11	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	29	JAH
Oct. 12	Off Western Light, Brier I.	25+	ELM

Oct. 22	Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i>	100-400/hr	HAT	Sept. 19	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	2	JCT
Oct. 28-29	Duncan Reef, <i>HRM</i>	"several"	HAT	Sept. 20	<i>Lun./Queens</i> shore	100+ migrants	ELM
Oct. 31	Wagners Bch., <i>HRM</i>	40+	BLM	Sept. 22	Centreville, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
Nov. 1	<i>Queens</i> shoreline	150+	ELM	Oct. 9	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	10	DMW
Nov. 1	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	60	KJM	Oct. 10	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	2	JOB
Nov. 1-2	Canso Causeway, <i>Guys./Inv.</i>	Abundant	BBU, DJO	Oct. 10-12	Seal I., <i>Yar.</i>	300-500	NSBS
Nov. 6	Duncan Reef, <i>HRM</i>	3000/hr	HAT	Oct. 11	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	154	JAH
Nov. 8, 10	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1, 30	KJM	Oct. 18	Peters I., Brier I.	20	ELM
Nov. 11	Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i>	Hundreds passing	DAC, AZV	Oct. 18	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	22	KJM
Nov. 13	Wagners Bch., <i>HRM</i>	20	BLM	Nov. 10	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	4	KJM
Nov. 14	Off Ogdens Pd., <i>Ant.</i>	A few	BRS	Nov. 13	Wagners Bch., <i>HRM</i>	4	BLM
Nov. 17	Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	3	RAH	Great Cormorant			
Nov. 23	Canso Causeway, <i>Guys./Inv.</i>	200-300	LEL	Sept. 7	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	5	JAH, DPO, Peter Davies
Nov. 23	Westport hbr., <i>Digby</i>	200 est.	JUS	Sept. 20	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	3	ELM
Nov. 27	Canso Causeway, <i>Guys./Inv.</i>	200	ELM, AHM	Oct. 11	Western Light, Brier I.	3	ELM
Nov. 27	Ogdens Pd., <i>Ant.</i>	5 fishing	ELM, AHM	Oct. 13	Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i>	1	CLS, CSS
Double-crested Cormorant							
June 26-				Oct. 18	Peters I., Brier I.	10	ELM
Sept. 9	On beaches, Sable I.	5, 1 st -yr.	ZOL	Nov. 1	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	9	KJM
Aug. 2	Windsor causeway, <i>Hants</i>	4	JCT	Nov. 13	Wagners Bch., <i>HRM</i>	6	BLM
Aug. 17	Seal I. area, <i>Yar.</i>	20	JAH, NSBS	MAGNIFICENT? FRIGATEBIRD			
Aug. 22-21	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	14-55	KJM	Aug. 25	Glace Bay hbr., <i>CBRM</i>	1 fem., no details.	S. Mason, L. Mackenzie
Sept. 2	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	68	DMW				
Sept. 6-26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	12-42	KJM				
Sept. 4	Edgetts Bch., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS				
Sept. 14	Dartmouth waterfront	49	KGI				

Hérons

By Ulli Höger

The report of a very rare sighting came from Sable I., Nova Scotia's eastern outpost. After a night of heavy weather in mid August ZOL was able to observe a **LEAST BITTERN** for a few days. Reports of this stray species are extremely rare from our province, less than a handful in recent years, and even in their common distribution range this elusive and secretive species is not an easy find.

GREAT EGRETS are becoming more and more common, at least in some parts of the province. On the other hand we had fewer reports of SNOWY EGRETS than in previous years.

Fewer LITTLE BLUE HERONS were reported than in previous years while the clustered reports of CATTLE EGRETS in early November from a number of locations allowed many birders to see and study this uncommon species. Other reported species that are uncommonly seen were a GREEN HERON and four young YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS.

American Bittern							
Aug. 19	BPI	2	DBM	Oct. 27-29	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
Aug. 23	Belle Isle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JAH, DPO	Oct. 31	Tantallon, <i>HRM</i>	1	PST
Sept. 28	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	1	JAH, DAW, DPO	Nov. 2	Antigonish Landing, <i>Ant.</i>	1	Leslie Buckland-
Oct. 4	CSI	1	MUN	Nicks			
Oct. 15	Starrs Pt., <i>Kings</i>	1	AND	Nov. 11	Country Hbr. Mines, <i>Guys.</i>	1	JOK
Nov. 27	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	DAM	Snowy Egret			
Nov. 30	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1	NSBS	early Nov.	W. Dublin, <i>Lun.</i>	imm.	JAH
LEAST BITTERN							
Aug. 15-18	Sable I.	1 ad.	ZOL	Little Blue Heron			
Great Blue Heron							
Common Aug.-Oct.							
Oct. 22	New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	juv.	JCT	Oct. 30	Seaforth, <i>HRM</i>	1	Mary Taplin
Nov. 10	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	2	DMW	Early Nov.	Shelburne, <i>Shel.</i>	1	Belinda Bell
Nov. 16	CSI	6	JON, SAN	Early Nov.	CSI	1	JON
Nov. 17	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i>	imm.	JAH	Nov. 1	Voglers Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
Nov. 18	CSI	1	JCZ	Nov. 2	Elmsdale, <i>Hants</i>	1	Shannon Doane
Nov. 18	New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	juv.	JCT	Nov. 8	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1	MAG
Nov. 21	Little Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	2	BST	Nov. 9-10	Pleasantville, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Nov. 26	W. Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	Chris Pepper	Nov. 10	Saulneirville, <i>Digby</i>	3	Ernst Thibeau
Nov. 30	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW	Green Heron			
Nov. 30	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC	Nov. 28-30	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1	TCR
Great Egret							
Aug. 3	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	LAB, JSC	Black-crowned Night-Heron			
Aug. 2 - 18	Maitland, <i>Hants</i>	1	Virginia & Terry Redden	Sept. 7	BPI	imm.	NSBS
All season	CSI	1-3	var. obs.	Oct. 5	CSI	5	MUN
				Oct. 6	CSI	1	JAH <i>et al.</i>
				Oct. 13	CSI	2	CCS, CLS, FLL, MIK

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
 Aug. 10 Sable I.
 Aug. 24 Brooklyn, *Queens*

juv. ZOL
 juv. *vide* DPO

Sept. 7 Caribou, *Pict.*
 Oct. 5 Sober I., *HRM*

juv. KJM
 juv. KJM

Waterfowl

By John Belbin

A **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** was seen on two occasions near Truro, and ELM saw sufficient details to suggest a North American origin. Single **SNOW GEESE** were seen at widely separate locations and dates, with a blue morph Snow Goose just outside Windsor. A week later, one was noted near Truro, where it lingered for a week. A single **BRANT** at Big Pond, Florence, *CBRM* (DBM) was far outside their normal range in the province (on *CSI*). *CSS* found a mallard-sized **CAACKLING GOOSE** at the Port Joli observation area, which was still present a week later. Four seen much later in the Truro area appeared to belong to the mid-continental "Richardson's Goose" race.

WOOD DUCKS seem to have had a highly successful breeding season with quite large numbers being noted at several locations. Jeff Hiltz found the Bear R. full of them. However hunters had cleared them from Belle Isle Marsh, which is a major stopover, by the same day.



The dark back, neck, and head, and strong ventral streaking of this **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** 30 Sept. near Lwr. Onslow, *Cum.*, along with its orange bill and legs in the original image, mark it as the Greenland subspecies *flavirostris*, which have been regular here for a few seasons. [Photo Jeff Ogden]



A handsome 'BLUE' GOOSE was spotted this fall from time to time in fields at the Head of Cobequid Bay, *Col.* (here Oct. 1 near Masstown). It was in somewhat intermediate plumage (note its white belly), but within the "pure" blue morph range. [Photo Jeff Ogden]

Six of the somewhat rare and hard to identify **GADWALL** graced Sullivans Pond late in November. For more than a month a single male **EURASIAN WIGEON**

was seen on several occasions in the *HRM* area. **AMERICAN WIGEON** have been found in some surprising numbers and with a wide distribution. A lone **NORTHERN SHOVELER** seems to have made Bissett L. its home. Most of the relatively few reports of **NORTHERN PINTAIL** came from the Annapolis Valley, an area from which large numbers of **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** were also reported.

A single **REDHEAD** was located at Hartlen Pt. *BST* reported a large number of **BUFFLEHEADS** in Keji Seaside Adjunct, Nov. 21.

KJM spotted 530 **RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS** on Big I., *Pict.*, and almost the same number again at Waterside Park. Two other locations in *Pictou* had similar numbers. Weeks later a group of 1200 were at Powell Point PP. Over 200 **HOODED MERGANSERS** were also nearby.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

Sept. 30;
 Nov. 19 Central Onslow, *Col.* 1 JBO; ELM
Snow Goose
 Oct. 1 Masstown, Truro 1 JBO
 Oct. 5, 7 Canning, *Kings* 1 MAG
 Oct. 16 Gaspereau L., *Ant.* 1 Harriet MacMillan
 Oct. 25 Milford Station, *Hants* 1 Kathleen MacAuley
 Nov. 6 Windsor 1 blue phase ELM
 Nov. 11-19 Central Onslow, *Col.* 1 blue phase IAM, ELM

Brant

Nov. 4 The Hawk, *CSI* 7 JON
 Nov. 11 Florence, *CBRM* 1 DBM

CAACKLING GOOSE

Oct. 5-12 Port Joli, *Queens* 1 *CSS*
 Nov. 19 Central Onslow, *Col.* 4 ELM

Canada Goose

Sept. 4 Aylesford, *Kings* 100+ PBG

Sept. 18 Port Joli, *Queens* 100 JAH
 Sept. 19 Windsor Sewage Ponds, *Hants* 43 JCT
 Sept. 27 Big I., *Pict.* 400 KJM
 Sept. 29 Wallace Bay, *Cum.* 100 RBS
 Oct. 1 Masstown, *Truro* big flock JBO
 Oct. 5 Port Joli, *Queens* large number *CSS*
 Oct. 6 Windsor Sewage Ponds, *Hants* 65 JWJ
 Oct. 16 Gaspereau L., *Ant.* a few hundred Harriet MacMillan
 Oct. 16 Victoriavale, *Anna.* 38 PBG
 Oct. 18, 25 Big I., *Pict.* 560, 660 KJM
 Oct. 19, 31 Silver L., *Kings* 400, 600 JWJ; JCT
 Oct. 21 Windsor Sewage Ponds, *Hants* 150 JOB
 Nov. 1 Big I., *Pict.* 730 KJM
 Nov. 1 Salmon R. Truro 3000-4000 SGL

Nov. 6	Windsor	1200+	ELM	Mallard			
Nov. 9	Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	1500	ROH	Aug. 1	New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	60+	JCT
Nov. 11, 19	Central Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	1300, 2000+	IAM, ELM	Aug. 14	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	5	DMW
Nov. 13	Wolfville Sewage Ponds, <i>Kings</i>	100+	RBS	Aug. 17	Seal I., <i>Shel</i>	20	JAH
Nov. 26	Windsor Sewage Ponds, <i>Hants</i>	250+	JOB	Aug. 14	W. Lahave, <i>Lun.</i>	100+	PBG
				Sept. 23	Duck L., <i>HRM</i>	motley crew	CSS
Wood Duck				Oct. 16	Victoriavale, <i>Anna.</i>	30	PBG
Aug. 3	Antigonish sewage lagoon	15-20	KJM	Nov. 1	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	100	JCT
Aug. 3	Maitland, <i>Lun.</i>	4	JAH	Nov. 10-12	Saxon St. Pond, <i>Kings</i>	180-200	JCT
Aug. 20	Sheffield Mills, <i>Kings</i>	3	JCT	Nov. 11	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	few dozen	JWW
Aug. 23	Belle Isle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	45	JAH	Blue-winged Teal			
Sept. 14	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	31-32	RSM	Sept. 5	Sable I.	2	ZOL
Sept. 23	Duck L., <i>HRM</i>	2	CSS	Sept. 14	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	a few	RSM
Sept. 27	S. Brookfield, Digby Neck	2	JAH	Sept. 28	Brier I.	1	JAH
Oct. 15	Bear R., <i>Digby/Anna.</i>	many	Jeff Hiltz	Oct. 19	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	3	RIV
Nov. 11	Country Hbr. Mines, <i>Guys.</i>	1	JOK	Oct. 21	Windsor Sewage Ponds, <i>Hants</i>	2	JOB
Gadwall				Northern Shoveler			
Aug. 23	Pt. Michaud, <i>Rich</i>	1	NSBS, SEM	Aug. 28	Windsor Sewage Ponds, <i>Hants</i>	fem.	JCT
Oct. 27,				Sept. 14	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	1	RSM
Nov. 2, 9	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	3	RBS	Sept. 28	Brier I.	fem.	JAH
Nov. 11	Antigonish Landing	3	BRS	Sept. 29	Freeport Hbr., <i>Digby</i>	male	ELM, IAM
Nov. 11	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	male	JWW	Nov. 3-30	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	1 fem	DOU; var. obs
Nov. 22	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	6	MIK	Northern Pintail			
Nov. 25	Kiwanis Pond, Truro	2	JBO, ROH	Sept. 23	Duck L., <i>HRM</i>	1	CSS
Eurasian Wigeon				Oct. 13	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	CSS
Sept. 24	W. Lawrencetown Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	eclipse male	IAM, ELM	Oct. 19	Hartlens Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DAM
Oct. 13 - 24	Red Bridge Pond, Dartmouth	male	BBU	Oct. 19-			
Oct. 31-				Nov. 9	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	6-13	RBS; JCT; JWW
Nov. 6	W. Lawrencetown Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	male	Anders Adolfsson	Oct. 30	Lockhartville Pond, <i>Kings</i>	16	JOB
Nov. 11	East R., <i>Pict.</i>	male	KJM	Nov. 3	Lockhartville Pond, <i>Kings</i>	4	RBS
Nov. 17	W. Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	2	Paul Murray	Nov. 11	Antigonish Landing	1	BRS
Nov. 21	Sherose I., <i>Shel.</i>	2	JON	Nov. 11	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	3 males	JWW
American Wigeon				Nov. 25, 30	Kiwanis Pond, Truro	1	JBO, ROH
Aug. 3	Galt Pond, <i>Pict.</i>	50	KJM	Nov. 30	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	male	IAM
Sept. 24	W. Lawrencetown Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	30	IAM, ELM	Green-winged Teal			
Oct. 19	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	12	JWW	Aug. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	family	DOU
Oct. 21, 30	Windsor Sewage Ponds, <i>Hants</i>	18, 16	JOB	Aug. 23	Pt. Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	9	NSBS, SEM
Oct. 23	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	30	JCT	Aug. 28	Windsor Sewage Ponds, <i>Hants</i>	20+	JCT
Oct. 25	Millers Pt., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH	Sept. 1, 14	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	180, 141	SEM
Oct. 27	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS	Sept. 1-20	Sable I.	20	ZOL
Oct. 31,				Sept. 12	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	26	KJM
Nov. 6	W. Lawrencetown Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	130	Anders Adolfsson	Sept. 19	Windsor Sewage Ponds, <i>Hants</i>	20	JCT
Nov. 1	Mira Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	18	LEL	Oct. 15	Belle Isle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2 shot	Jeff Hiltz
Nov. 1	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	20+	JCT	Oct. 19, 30	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	100, 150	JWW; RBS
Nov. 3	Windsor Sewage Ponds, <i>Hants</i>	8	RBS	Oct. 21	Windsor Sewage Ponds, <i>Hants</i>	15	JOB
Nov. 11	Florence, <i>CBRM</i>	30	DBM	Oct. 25	New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	few	RBS
Nov. 17	W. Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	150	Paul Murray	Oct. 30	Avonport, <i>Kings</i>	40	JOB
Nov. 21	Sherose I., <i>Shel.</i>	5	JON	Nov. 1-11	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	350+	JCT; JWW
Nov. 25, 30	Kiwanis Pond, Truro	4-6, 20	JBO, ROH	Nov. 4	Salt Marsh Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	100	Paul Murray
Nov. 26	Windsor Sewage Ponds, <i>Hants</i>	7	JOB	Nov. 21	Sherose I., <i>Shel.</i>	1	JON
American Black Duck				Nov. 23	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	6	Rich Budman
Aug. 3, 31	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	38, 150	KJM	Nov. 26	Windsor Sewage Ponds, <i>Hants</i>	8	JOB
Aug. 3	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	60	JAH	Nov. 27	W. Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	10	DAM
Sept. 6	Conrads I., <i>Lun.</i>	50	JAH	Nov. 30	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	10	IAM
Sept. 26	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	74	JAH, DAW	Redhead			
Oct. 21, 30	Windsor Sewage Ponds, <i>Hants</i>	65, 90+	JOB	Nov. 29-30	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	BST; BLM
Oct. 27	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	25	RBS	Ring-necked Duck			
Oct. 30	Avonport, <i>Kings</i>	65	JOB	Aug. 24	Hells Pt., <i>Lun.</i>	4	JAH, DAW
Nov. 1	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	160	KJM	Sept. 23	Duck L., <i>HRM</i>	4	CSS
Nov. 13	Wolfville Sewage Ponds, <i>Kings</i>	600	RBS	Sept. 27	S. Brookfield, <i>Digby Neck</i>	1	JAH
Nov. 11	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	few dozen	JWW	Oct. 24	Spectacle Ls., <i>Lun.</i>	10	JAH
Nov. 21	Keji Seaside, <i>Queens</i>	120	BST	Oct. 24	Rhodes Corner, <i>Lun.</i>	10	JAH
Nov. 26	Windsor Sewage Ponds, <i>Hants</i>	85+	JOB	Oct. 26	Masons Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
Nov. 30	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	60+	IAM	Nov. 1	Mira Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	27	LEL
				Nov. 2	Second L., Sackville	43	RIV
				Nov. 3; 12	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	25+; 50+	DOU; Paul Murray
				Nov. 5	Flemming Park, <i>HRM</i>	1	JEH, PLC
				Nov. 15	Kingsburg Pond, <i>Lun.</i>	several	ELM

Scaup sp				Nov. 15	Kingsburg Pond, <i>Lun.</i>	a few	ELM
Nov. 2	First L., Sackville	4	RIV	Nov. 17	Princes Inlet Dr., <i>Lun.</i>	16	JAH
Nov. 3	Harris Pond, Canning, <i>Kings</i>	13	JCT	Nov. 21	Keji Seaside, <i>Queens</i>	150	BST
Greater Scaup				Nov. 23	Lower Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	12	Rich Budman
Oct. 11	Seal I., <i>Shel.</i>	2	NSBS	Nov. 27	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	5	DMW
Nov. 2	Upper Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	30	JAH	Common Goldeneye			
Nov. 11	Florence, <i>CBRM</i>	100	DBM	Nov. 23	Most New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i> area hbrs.	20-30	KJM
Lesser Scaup				Nov. 27	Middle LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	25	JAH
Nov. 3	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	20+	DOU	Nov. 30	Lingan, <i>CBRM</i>	8	CSM, TMM
Nov. 11	Florence, <i>CBRM</i>	6	DBM	Barrow's Goldeneye			
Common Eider				Nov. 11	Florence, <i>CBRM</i>	1	DBM
Aug. 3	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	4	KJM	Nov. 30	Antigonish Area	1	RFL
Aug. 14	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	22	DMW	Nov. 30	Lingan, <i>CBRM</i>	3	CSM, TMM
Aug. 17	Seal I., <i>Shel.</i>	26	JAH	Hooded Merganser			
Oct. 9	Duncan Reef, <i>HRM</i>	expanding flotilla	HAT	Aug. 22	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	8	KJM
Oct. 10	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	41	JOB	Sept. 20	Prospect Bay, <i>HRM</i>	6	BLM
Oct. 11	Connors Brook, <i>Kings</i>	3	PBG	Sept. 29	Wallace Bay, <i>Cum.</i>	2	RBS
Oct. 16	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	2	PBG	Oct. 4	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	8	JAH
Nov. 5	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>	a few	PBG	Oct. 11	R. Bougeois, <i>Rich.</i>	2	RIV
Harlequin Duck				Oct. 12	Liscombe Game Sanctuary, <i>Guys.</i>	7	GMU
Sept. 20	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	3	ELM	Oct. 25,			
Oct. 10	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	5	JOB	Nov. 3	New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	12, 13	RBS
Oct. 16	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	9	PBG	Oct. 26	Glace Bay Sanctuary, <i>CBRM</i>	9	CSM, TMM
Nov. 6	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	4 male	JON	Oct. 31	Silver L., <i>Kings</i>	6 males	JCT
Nov. 13	Little Port L'Hebert, <i>Shel.</i>	42	Gail Daniels	Nov. 1	Halibutton Gut, <i>Pict.</i>	220	KJM
Nov. 14	Flour Cove, Long I., <i>Digby</i>	19	CAH	Nov. 2	Silver L., <i>Kings</i>	9	RBS
Nov. 16	Flour Cove, Long I., <i>Digby</i>	14	CSS	Nov. 11	Florence, <i>CBRM</i>	3	DBM
Nov. 27	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	15	BLM	Nov. 11	Country Hbr. Mines, <i>Guys.</i>	4	JOK
Surf Scoter				Nov. 17	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i>	39	JAH
Aug. 3	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	64	KJM	Nov. 23	Black Pt., <i>Pict.</i>	10	KJM
Aug. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	30+	DOU	Nov. 27	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	some	DAM
Sept. 14	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	6	SEM	Nov. 30	Kiwanis Pond, Truro	f	JBO
Sept. 27	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	235	KJM	Common Merganser			
Oct. 10	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	38	JOB	Aug. 1	Mahone Bay	9	JAH
Oct. 11	Connors Brook, <i>Kings</i>	40-50	PBG	Sept. 14	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	17	SEM
Oct. 16	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	2	PBG	Sept. 19	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	40	SEM
Nov. 1	Catalone Gut Bch., <i>CBRM</i>	23	LEL	Sept. 22	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	25	KJM
Nov. 5	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>	a few	PBG	Sept. 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	45	KJM
Nov. 14	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	2	BRS	Nov. 3	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	30	DOU
Nov. 22	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	3	BRS	Nov. 4	Saltmarsh Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	50	Paul Murray
Nov. 23	Melmerby PP., <i>Pict.</i>	handful	KJM	Nov. 12	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	6	Paul Murray
Nov. 27	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	5	DAM	Nov. 14, 22	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	15 fems.	BRS
White-winged Scoter				Nov. 20	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	107	DMW
Aug. 3, 11	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	6, 4	KJM	Nov. 21	Keji Seaside, <i>Queens</i>	100	BST
Aug. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	20+	DOU	Nov. 24	L. Banook, <i>HRM</i>	12	Gayle MacLean
Oct. 10	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	9	JOB	Nov. 27	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	large number	DAM
Oct. 11	Connors Brook, <i>Kings</i>	4	PBG	Nov. 30	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	2	Andrew Steeves
Oct. 16	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	100+	PBG	Nov. 30	Glace Bay Sanctuary, <i>CBRM</i>	25	CSM, TMM
Nov. 13	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	2	RBS	Red-breasted Merganser			
Nov. 14	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	6	BRS	Oct. 19	Waterside Park, <i>Pict.</i>	150	KJM
Nov. 23	Melmerby PP, <i>Pict.</i>	handful	KJM	Oct. 25-			
Black Scoter				Nov. 1	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	530	KJM
Aug. 3, 11	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	6, 3	KJM	Oct. 26	Loiusbourg	10	CSM, TMM
Aug. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3	DOU	Nov. 1	Catalone Gut Bch., <i>CBRM</i>	17	LEL
Aug. 17	Seal I., <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH	Nov. 1	Waterside Park, <i>Pict.</i>	500	KJM
Oct. 9	Duncan Reef, <i>HRM</i>	several	HAT	Nov. 2	Chance Hbr., <i>Pict.</i>	500	KJM
Oct. 22	Chebucto Head, <i>HRM</i>	3	HAT	Nov. 2	Powell Pt. Park, <i>Pict.</i>	400	KJM
Nov. 14	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	1	BRS	Nov. 10	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1100	KJM
Nov. 27	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM	Nov. 17	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i>	11	JAH
Long-tailed Duck				Nov. 20	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	18	DMW
Oct. 26	Lingan, <i>CBRM</i>	40	CSM, TMM	Nov. 21	Keji Seaside, <i>Queens</i>	25	BST
Nov. 2	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	8-24	DJC	Nov. 23	Powell Pt. Park, <i>Pict.</i>	1200	KJM
Nov. 9	Northumberland Strait	small flock	Virginia Redden	Ruddy Duck			
Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>		Karen Macleod	Nov. 4, 5	Flemming Park, <i>HRM</i>	fem.	JEH, PLC
Nov. 17	Maders Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH	Nov. 6	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	1	Anders Adolfsson
Bufflehead				Nov. 15-21	Kingsburg Pond, <i>Lun.</i>	fem.	ELM
Oct. 26	Centreville, <i>CBRM</i>	20	CSM, TMM				
Nov. 3	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	5	DOU				

Rails, Cranes, and Galliformes

By Ulli Hoeger

Sora

Early Nov.	Frog Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	JEH, Carol Klar
Nov. 30	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1	NSBS

American Coot

Oct. 23	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	JCT
Nov. 1	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
Nov. 3	Little Albro L., <i>HRM</i>	1	Pat Millar
Nov. 12-15	Kingsburg Pond, <i>Lun.</i>	3	ELM
Nov. 3 & 12	Bisset L., <i>HRM</i>	4	var. obs.
Nov. 16	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	1	CCS, CLS, FLL, MIK

Nov. 17	W. Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	5	Paul Murray
Nov. 27	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	2	BBU

Nov. 27	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	3	BBU
Nov. 27	Bisset L., <i>HRM</i>	2	DAM
Nov. 30	Truro	2	JBO
Nov. 30	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	2	CSM, TMM

Gray Partridge

Nov. 30	Truro	5	JBO
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Ring-necked Pheasant

common

Ruffed Grouse

Oct.-Nov.	New Salem/Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1-3	KFS
Nov. 18	Barrington Passage, <i>Shel.</i>	1	AIS

Spruce Grouse

Oct. 25	St. Peter's, <i>Rich.</i>	2 ad. males	BID
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Diurnal Raptors

By Ulli Höger

A **BLACK VULTURE** was observed for an extended period of time in the Canso area by TCR.

The identity of one of the reported **COOPER'S HAWKS** was confirmed by FLL based on digital photographs taken by the sole eyewitness. He had had the impression that he wasn't observing a Sharp-shinned Hawk. This is a prime example of how digital cameras are becoming more and more useful to document unusual sightings and provide a subsequent, 'close look' that is so often denied in the field.

An immature **SWAINSON'S HAWK** spent nearly two weeks at the Donkin mine site (Schooner Pond) in Cape Breton. Cathy and Allan Murrant first found it Sept. 20, and noted it daily through Oct. 5. They secured an excellent series of photos, firmly confirming this as the 6th provincial record. Two more immature Swainson's Hawks were reported by a birding party near Saulnierville late in the season, but without details.

As usual Brier I. proved again to be a significant location to witness the annual raptor migration. It is not known if its hawk-watch reputation was the reason for a visitor from the UK to spend some time on Brier, from where he contributed one of the two sightings of **GOLDEN EAGLES** this fall. The second report, accompanied by a written description, came from the Lunenburg area. The Brier I. bird was reported as a juvenile individual, the other one as an adult bird.



Two **COOPER'S HAWKS** were confirmed by photos this fall. The juvenile at left, Nov. 23 at Malignant Cove, *Ant.*, was typically narrowly streaked below, and the adult at right, subduing a Rock Pigeon Nov. 15 in the Codling's backyard in Lwr. Sackville, was diagnostically dark-capped. Note their long, flat-crowned heads with forward-placed eyes that seem smaller than their bills. [Photos: left, Bruce Stevens; right, Lois Codling]

BLACK VULTURE

October	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1 (ph.)	TCR
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Turkey Vulture

Aug. 22	Brier I.	8	LAL, ADL, PAC
Sept. 11	Round Hill, <i>Anna.</i>	4	RBS
Sept. 26	Digby Neck, <i>Digby</i>	2	JAH, DAW, DPO
Sept. 26; 27	Brier I.	2; 18	JAH, DAW, DPO; NSBS
Sept. 29	Bayhead, <i>Col.</i>	1	
Oct. 10	Brier I.	14	AHM
Oct. 11	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	2	TCR
Oct. 12-13; 20	Brier I.	>100; 20	ELM, AHM
Oct.-Nov.	Advocate, <i>Cum.</i>	1-3	KFS
Nov. 16	en route Long I., <i>Digby</i> -Yarmouth	>14	CCS, CLS, FLL, MIK

Osprey

common in Aug. & Sept.			
Oct. 8	Middle LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct. 17	Hubleys Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	Paul Boyer
Oct. 25	Millers Point Park, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, Janice
Kenefick			
Oct. 25	Middle LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct. 27	Seabright, <i>HRM</i>	1	Paul Boyer

Bald Eagle

common			
Nov. 11	Canso causeway, <i>Guys.</i>	15	LEL

Northern Harrier

Aug. 23	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	1	NSBS
Aug. 23	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	MCM, SEM
Aug. 25	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	male	Janet McGinity
Sept. 6	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	1	NSBS
Sept. 7	BPI	>6	NSBS

Sept. 10, 21	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	imm.	DJC	Rough-legged Hawk			
Sept. 13	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH	All Nov.	Devils I./Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2-3	var. obs.
Sept. 19	Brier I.	6	Stuart Reeves	Nov. 5	Melvorn Square, <i>Anna.</i>	1	PBG
Sept. 26	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	1	JAH, DAW, DPO	Nov. 30	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, DAW
Sept. 26-17	Brier I.	3	NSBS	Golden Eagle			
Sept. 27	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	4	KJM	Sept. 16, 19	Brier I.		juv. (no details)
Oct. 1	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	male	DJC				Stuart Reeves
Oct. 11	South Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM	Oct. 14-15	Centre, <i>Lun.</i>		ad. (details) JAH
Oct. 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	male	LDE	American Kestrel			
Nov. 1	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, Janice Kenefick	Aug. 7	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	DOU
Nov. 30	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1	NSBS	Sept. 5	New Salem, <i>Cum.</i>	3	KFS
Nov. 30	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	JOK	Sept. 6	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	1	NSBS
Nov. 30	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM	Sept. 7	BPI	2	NSBS
	Sharp-shinned Hawk			Sept. 27	CSI	1	GDE, JUO
All season	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1-3	KFS	Sept. 28	Long I., <i>Digby</i>	1	JAH, DAW, DPO
Aug. 6	Louisbourg	fem. + 2 juvs.	Pearl Magee, SEM	Oct. 2	Centreville, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM
			JAH, DAW	Oct. 5	CSI	1	MUN
Aug. 31	Indian Path, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, DAW	Oct. 11; 12	Brier I.	>10; 15	ELM, AHM
Sept. 3; 27	Brier I.	>3; 10	LAL, ADL, PAC; NSBS	Oct. 17	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
			CSM, TMM	Oct. 20	Brier I.	several	ELM
Sept. 27	Scotchtown, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM	Oct. 20	Ravenwood	1	Jeff Hiltz
Oct. 5	CSI	4	JAH, DPO, Peter McLeod	Oct. 30	Canso area, <i>Guys.</i>	1	NSBS
			ELM, AHM	Merlin			
Oct. 11-13	Brier I.	>50-100	ELM, AHM	All season	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1-2	ULH
Nov. 4	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT	Aug. 31	Apple R., <i>Cum</i>	1	KFS
	COOPER'S HAWK			Sept. 7	BPI	several	NSBS
Oct. 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1 unconfirmed	LDE	Sept. 15	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	2	KJM
			LOC, <i>fide</i> FLL	Sept. 26	Digby Neck, <i>Digby</i>	3	JAH, DAW, DPO
Nov. 15	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 (photo)	LOC, <i>fide</i> FLL	Sept. 26; 27	Brier I.	2; 5	JAH, DAW, DPO; NSS
Nov. 23	Malignant Cove, <i>Ant.</i>	imm. Unconfirmed	BRS				JAH, DPO, Peter McLeod
	Northern Goshawk			Oct. 5	CSI	4	ELM, AHM
Sept. 1	Crystal Crescent Bch., <i>HRM</i>	juv.	HAT	Oct. 11; 12	Brier I.	>10; 8	ELM, AHM
Oct. 5	CSI	1	MUN	Oct. 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	LDE
Oct. 12	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	GMU	Oct. 25	Spencers I., <i>CBRM</i>	1	MSM
Oct. 13; 18	Brier I.	imm.; 1	ELM, AHM	Nov. 5	Starrs Pt, <i>Kings</i>	imm.	JCT
Early Nov.	Whynotts Settlement, <i>Lun.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JAH	Nov. 15	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM
Nov. 22-23	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF	Nov. 24	Granville Ferry, <i>Anna.</i>	1	DLO
Nov. 30	Dover Hbr., <i>Guys.</i>	1	NSBS	Gyr Falcon			
Nov. 30	Lunenburg	fem.	JAH	Sept. 27	Brier I.	1 (written report)	JAH
	Broad-winged Hawk						
Sept. 7	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	imm.	KFS	Sept. 28	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1 (dark ph.)	no details MIK
Sept. 19	Brier I.	>200	Stuart Reeves				
Oct. 12; 13	Brier I.	170; 250	ELM, AHM	Peregrine Falcon			
	SWAINSON'S HAWK			Aug. 12, 28	Advocate/Eatonville, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
6 th provincial record, + 7 th -8 th records pending details accepted				Aug. 12	W. Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	1	RSM, WEM
Sept. 20-				Aug. 31	Conrads I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct. 5	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1 imm. (photos)	CAM, ALM	Sept. 7	BPI	1	NSBS
			CCS, CLS, FLL, MIK	Sept. 14	CSI	1	MUN
Nov. 16	Saulnierville, <i>Digby</i>	2 juvs. (no details)		Sept. 16	Burnside, <i>HRM</i>	1	RSM, WEM
				Sept. 19	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	imm.	SEM
	Red-tailed Hawk			Sept. 20	Carrs Brook, <i>Col.</i>	1	BRS
All season	Apple R.-New Salem, <i>Cum.</i>	1-2	KFS	Sept. 23	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
All season	Hortonville, <i>Kings</i>	albinistic	var. obs.	Sept. 26	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	1	JAH, DAW, DPO
Aug. 27	Eatonville-Advocate, <i>Cum.</i>	2 imms.	KFS	Sept. 26	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
Sept. 26	Digby Neck, <i>Digby</i>	6	JAH, DPO, DAW	Sept. 27	Scotchtown, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM
Oct. 12	Brier I.	4 imms.	ELM	Sept. 27	Brier I.	4	NSBS
Oct. 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	15	LDE	Oct. 5	CSI	3	ELM, AHM
Oct. 29	Centre, <i>Lun.</i>	5	JAH				
Nov. 17	Maders Cove, <i>Lun.</i>		JAH				

Shorebirds

By Susann Myers

Migrating shorebirds visited NS this fall were generally on schedule and in average to below-average numbers, with exceptions noted below. Several species appear to have departed early, with few reports of lingering yellowlegs, Whimbrel, or Ruddy Turnstones. The season was enlivened by the brief appearance of several rarities and by a remarkable fallout of about 10,000 shorebirds at CSI Oct. 22, when MUN found large numbers of newly-arrived Black-bellied Plovers, yellowlegs, Red Knots, Sanderlings, Dunlin and Semipalmated, Western and White-rumped Sandpipers.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER numbers peaked in late August, and October-November brought good numbers of late migrants,



A BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER at Hartlen Pt., HRM, gave pleasure to numbers of birders in mid-September. [Photo Paul Murray]

generally plovers that have moulted before leaving the Arctic. AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS were reported in the usual numbers, but with two October sightings swelling the seasonal total to 50% above average.

No concentrations of migrating PIPING PLOVERS were reported. Adults departed on schedule with the last noted August 16 at Cherry Hill and the last juveniles lingered to late September. DMW noted that this year's successful nesting at Conrad Bch., HRM, produced three young, a great relief after last year's vandalism. With the beach so heavily used by people and dogs in summer months, however, plover nestings remain precarious there.

Most members of this year's successful colony of AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS had left CSI by early September, but one adult and one juvenile remained together to at least Oct. 5, well past the average date of Sept. 15 for last sightings. An AMERICAN AVOCET was found by MUN Aug. 10 at Cooks Beach near Pinkneys Pt., Yar., and reported by others to Aug. 22. This rare vagrant, which breeds in the Prairie Provinces and western USA, has been annual in NS since 2000.

SPOTTED SANDPIPERS were reported in low numbers, with a seasonal total of only 22. The total of 15 SOLITARY SANDPIPERS was average however, with the majority appearing mid-August to early September as usual. Also typically, only one was found in CB.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS numbers continued low overall from the summer season, although few reports were received from the typical period of peak migration, around the second week of August. WILLET migration had peaked on schedule in July, but Willets were more closely scrutinized this fall than usual for identification to subspecies, thanks to IAM's encouragement and surveys. Of 70 that could be identified to subspecies in August, 49 were found to be 'Western' Willets and only 21 'Eastern'. All of the 12 identified in September were 'westerns'. LESSER YELLOWLEGS numbers also peaked on schedule in late July, but they continued to appear in their usual fall numbers. Almost all had moved through by mid-September, with only two October reports, which included the fallout at CSI.

WHIMBRELS were noted in lower than average numbers and the last sighting was approximately two weeks earlier than average. HUDSONIAN GODWIT numbers were also low, with a seasonal total of only about 25, rather than the usual 50 to 80 of recent years. Two MARBLED GODWITS were found at CSI Aug. 29 by MUN, JON, SAN and TEC. These are rare transients in NS that have appeared roughly once every two years since 1995, generally in August-September.

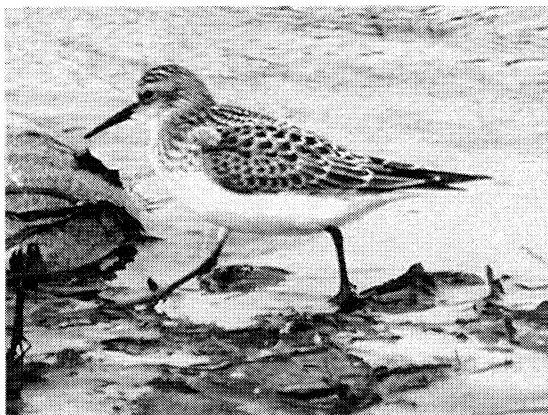
RUDDY TURNSTONES appeared in average numbers but departed early, with few October sightings and none in November, despite relatively mild conditions. RED KNOT numbers continued to decrease for August and early September, the migration period for the endangered *rufa* subspecies that winters at the S tip of South America. Only five were identified as adults/alternate plumaged in August, and the August total of 21 knots is reduced from 28 in 2007, 90 in 2006 and *circa* 52 in 2005. Regarding prospects for the *rufa*, Guy Morrison, the chief shorebird biologist for the Canadian Wildlife Service, noted to this author that January 2008 produced the lowest count yet of *rufas* at Tierra del Fuego, at 14,800. By September, any adults seen in NS belong to the Florida-wintering race, although lingering *rufa* juveniles may still move through to mid-month. September numbers were higher than usual, and have been increasing steadily since 2005, suggesting increased visitation by Florida-wintering knots. SANDERLINGS, which arrive late in NS from their high-Arctic breeding grounds, were present as usual in the greatest numbers in October. The Oct. 22 fallout at CSI produced the only concentration reported, although Sable I. records for fall sightings were available only to Sept. 21 at the time of printing.

Reported numbers of SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS peaked in mid-August, with good concentrations noted at CSI, Cherry Hill, the Eastern shore and Morien Bar. Few reports were received from the Bay of Fundy, the main staging area for this species, although JCT noted that Aug. 21 flocks of 16,700 peeps at Evangeline Beach and 2,500 at a Grand Pré dyke were mostly Semipalmated Sandpipers. The one WESTERN SANDPIPER reported at Cape Sable in September would be a typical annual showing for the province, so the presence of 15 on CSI Oct. 22 was exceptional. This number is unprecedented and suggests that the shorebirds in the CSI fallout came from the SE United States, where westerns are more regular in fall and winter.



This HUDSONIAN GODWIT in flight at Lawrencetown L., HRM, shows its diagnostic black wing linings. [Photo Paul Murray]

A **RED-NECKED STINT** was reported in a Sept. 11 sighting by CLS and CSS at Grand Desert, HRM. This is the first report of one in the province. The Red-necked Stint is a small Asian peep, much like the Semipalmated Sandpiper in size and structure, which is a regular migrant in W. Alaska but is rare on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North America. CLS noted that they studied the bird at length, at a distance of approximately 20 feet in a mixed flock of Least Sandpipers, one Semipalmated Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plovers and Sanderlings. The report e-mailed to the NatureNS listserve by CLS provided the following details on the bird: "*Size: larger than the Leasts but not larger than the Semipalmated Sandpiper. Bill: noticeably thinner than the Semipalmated Sandpiper's and very straight, lacking any droop at the tip. Colouring: rufous colouring, strongest on scapulars but also some rufous on the mantle; cap dark with some rufous; fainter buffy wash coming down over the breast from the back, but sides of face greyer; inside buffy area were faint diffused streaks, but the rest of the underparts were unmarked; well-marked white supercilium, white throat and very white belly (made Leasts look off-white in comparison). Legs and feet: black, toes appeared to lack webbing even at very close inspection. Behaviour: when feeding, dashed about very quickly.*" Of the several birders who subsequently tried to find the bird, only MIK was rewarded. He saw the bird briefly on Sept. 12 at a distance of only a few feet, without binoculars, and it flew before he could photograph it. Further details provided to this author verbally at Grand Desert Sept. 13 were: "*very rufous colouring on mantle and scapulars (CLS, MIK); noticeably grey in coverts; only faint mantle/scapular lines; rufous at side of neck and coming down onto side of breast*". Such details are important in distinguishing Red-necked Stint from the very similar Little Stint, for which there are 3 to 6 NS records. Any stint is a very good find in NS.



A BAIRD'S SANDPIPER was a nice find during an NSBS trip to BPI in late August. [Photo Brian Bartlett]

total. The first of the 2008 season, an adult in mostly basic plumage, was found, well described and photographed by RIV in River Bourgeois, *Rich.* The second, also an adult in basic plumage, was spotted by JAH at Conrad I., Lower Rose Bay, *Lun.*, and was reported with good details and a distant photograph. The third, described only as an adult in basic plumage, was discovered Sept. 11 at Dyke Road, Grand Desert by CLS and CSS.

The other major rarity of the season was a **BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER** at CSI Sept. 13-14. Found by JON, the bird was reported as seen by JON, CST, CLS and a visiting Ontario birder, Iain Wilkes. Postings to the NatureNS listserve at the time focused mainly on location and timing, to assist others in finding the bird. CLS noted the following details, however, in an email Sept. 15: "*in flight, dark leading edge to the wings; in juvenal plumage; split supercilium, quite evident, and a large dark spot behind the eye; general shape like a Dunlin's; feeding behaviour reminiscent of a Wilson's Snipe*". Iain Wilkes has also provided details in a Rare Bird Report, noting the juvenile age, size similar to White-rumped Sandpiper or Dunlin, plump shape and split supercilium, and describing the bill as longer than those of nearby White-rumped or Pectoral Sandpipers or Dunlin, and drooped at the end. He also noted that the head markings gave the appearance of dark lines converging at the front of the head, and that the bird showed a light and shortish bib. This is only the second Broad-billed Sandpiper sighting to have been reported for NS (the first was seen by BLM and IAM, Sept. 9, 1990).

Approximately 19 BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS were seen, an above-average number, most in scattered ones and twos with the only concentration found by PAC at Brier I. One spotted at Big I. Sept. 9 by KJM, however, was the first he had seen in *Pict.*, and the first he knew of there since 1968. The only RUFF of the season was one found Aug. 2 at CSI by MUN, as previously reported in the Fall 2008 issue.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS, which migrate through the interior of the continent and are uncommon to rare on both Atlantic and Pacific coasts, visited NS in good numbers; the seasonal total was about 30, compared to an average of 10. PECTORAL SANDPIPERS were reported in average numbers and were most numerous in September, as usual.

The season produced typically few reports of PURPLE SANDPIPERS, most in November. The sighting of two at Seal I. Aug. 16 is one of only a few that have occurred before the end of September. DUNLIN were found in average numbers, except for the fallout of 3,000 on CSI Oct. 22. As often occurs, they were most numerous in late October.

Three **CURLEW SANDPIPERS** were among the pleasant surprises of the shorebirding season. A Eurasian species that is a rare but regular migrant on the Atlantic coast, the Curlew Sandpiper has been found in NS more frequently in recent years, but there have still been fewer than 30 sightings in



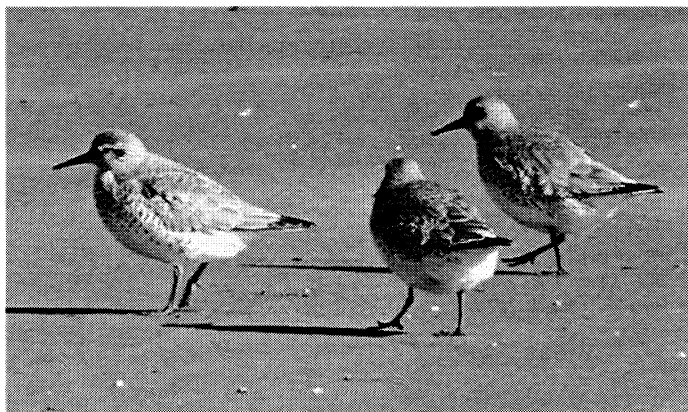
Of three CURLEW SANDPIPERS reported this fall, this one Aug. 24 at R. Bourgeois, *Rich.*, was the only one photographed for the record. [Photo Rita Viau]

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS peaked as usual in July but continued to arrive in good numbers to mid-August, with the usual lingerers in September and a final juvenile in October, with the diagnostic internal markings on the tertials. Four **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS** were reported for the season, a good number for this rare transient that breeds in tundra regions from NE Russia to NW Canada and migrates mainly west of the Mississippi R. ELM and IAM provided good details on two juveniles they found at Cole Hbr. Nov. 17. They noted that the two were still in mainly juvenal plumage, and identified them on the basis of unpatterned tertials, a key feature for identifying juvenile Long-billeds, as well as the classic pot-bellied and round-backed body form of this species.

A **WILSON'S PHALAROPE** was seen by several observers at Hartlen Pt. Sept. 14 to 18, and photographed. This western species is an uncommon transient in NS that occurs annually in ones and twos, most often from mid-August to mid-September. Interesting information on phalaropes in the Bay of Fundy was provided by Robin Hunnewell of UNB, who has been studying them for the past two years. She notes that these birds, which spend up to nine months of the year at sea, move through the Bay of Fundy on migration from Arctic breeding grounds to wintering areas at sea. In the Bay, they feed on invertebrates that are trapped at the surface by currents, thermal gradients and shelves. As in other recent years, RED-NECKED PHALAROPES were most common off NB while RED PHALAROPES abounded off NS. A boat-based survey Aug. 1 off Brier I. produced a count of 5,600 Red Phalaropes in six hours and no Red-neckeds. Aerial surveys of phalaropes Aug. 21 & 23 provided counts of 58,000 off Brier I. and an estimated 60,000 off nearby Moores Ledge. Ms. Hunnewell notes that 100,000 to 150,000 is a conservative estimate of the total passage of phalaropes in the lower Bay of Fundy in 2008.

shorebird species				Sept. 28, 29	Pond Cove, Brier I.	4, 2	ELM, IAM
Aug. 23	Big Pond, Brier I.	200-300	LAL	Oct. 14	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	6	A. Adolfssoon
Sept. 25	The Hawk, CSI	~700	BJS, SIS	Oct. 19	fields, Grand Pré dykes,		
Oct. 22	CSI	~10,000	MUN		<i>Kings</i>	32	LDE
peep species				Oct. 25	Central Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	14	ELM
Aug. 21	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	16,700	JCT	Semipalmated Plover			
Aug. 21	Grand Pré dyke, <i>Kings</i>	2,500	JCT	Aug.-Oct.	9 locations, widespread	146 total	var. obs.
Nov. 3	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	a few	RBS	Aug. 3, 11	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	35, 100	KJM
Black-bellied Plover				Aug. 4, 17	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	446, 858	SEM
Aug.-Nov.	13 locations, widespread	92 total	var. obs.	Aug. 9	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	ca. 500	Paul Murray
Aug. 17	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	125	SEM	Aug. 10;			
Aug. 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	88	BJS, SIS	Sept. 1	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	78, 394	SEM
Aug. 21	Grand Pré dyke, <i>Kings</i>	151	JCT	Aug. 11, 16	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	324, 725	SJF
Aug. 22;				Aug. 16	Seal I.	105	JAH
Sept. 22	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	28, 66	SJF	Aug. 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	2815	BJS, SIS
Aug. 22;				Aug. 21	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	~300	JCT
Sept. 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	30, 35	KJM	Aug. 23	Pt. Michaud Bch., <i>Rich.</i>	147	NSBS, SEM
Aug. 23;				Aug. 23;			
Sept. 6	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	344, 241	MCM, SEM	Sept. 8	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	560, 266	MCM, SEM
Aug. 27	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	60	DOU	Aug. 24	Louisbourg	70	SEM
Aug. 28;				Aug. 28	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	75+	DOU
Sept. 19	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	150, 122	JCT	Aug. 28	McCormacks Bch. PP, <i>HRM</i>	100+	DOU
Sept. 1;				Aug. 30	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	hundreds	SMB <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 18	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	37, 58	SEM	Sept. 3, 18	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	425, 380	SJF
Sept. 7	Sydney airport	105	NSBS, DBM	Sept. 6, 27	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	83, 38	KJM
Sept. 14	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	46	SEM	Sept. 14	River John, <i>Pict.</i>	60	KJM
Sept. 14	Brule, <i>Col.</i>	55	KJM	Sept. 14	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	82	SEM
Sept. 25	The Hawk, CSI	150	BJS, SIS	Sept. 19	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	286	SEM
Oct. 11, 24	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	115, 86	SEM	Oct. 18;			
Oct. 22	CSI	410	MUN	Nov. 1	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	53, 4	SEM
Oct. 25	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	48	SJF	Oct. 19	South Side Bch., CSI	35+	BJS, SIS
Oct. 27	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	90	JOB	Oct. 26	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	69	SJF
Oct. 29	Masstown, <i>Col.</i>	25	ELM, IAM	Oct. 31	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	3	VJH
Nov. 1	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	46	SEM	Nov. 1	Sandy Cove. Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT, LAE
Nov. 10	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	19	KJM	Piping Plover			
Nov. 24	The Guzzle, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF, <i>fide</i> JCT	early Aug.	Sable I.	1	B. Freedman
Nov. 29	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	3	SJF	Aug. 7	Crow Neck, Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	1, banded	BJS, SIS
American Golden-Plover				Aug. 9-22;			
Aug. 15, 27	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1, 3	DOU	Sept. 2	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	4, 1	DMW
Aug. 17-				Aug. 16, 22	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1 ad., 3 juvs.	ELM, SJF
Sept. 17	Sable I.	45+	ZOL	Aug. 30;			
Aug. 23-				Sept. 1	Big I. Causeway, <i>Pict.</i>	1 juv.	KJM
Nov. 2	9 locations	singles	var. obs.	Sept. 8	Martinique Bch. PP, <i>HRM</i>	2 juv.	VJH
Aug. 30;				Sept. 13	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1 juv.	JOW
Sept. 6	Sydney airport	~25, 38	DBM, SEM	Sept. 29	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1 juv.	ELM, IAM
Sept. 14, 18	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	8, 3	DOU	Sept. 29	Oxners Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1 juv.	J. Comolli, <i>fide</i> JAH
Sept. 19	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	2	MUN	Killdeer			
Sept. 26	Pond Cove, Brier I.	7	JAH	Aug. 5	Sandy Cove Bch., <i>HRM</i>	family	HAT, LAE
				Aug. 16	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	2 juvs.	SEM
				Sept. 5	Sable I.	1	ZOL
				Sept. 6	Sydney airport	19	NSBS, SEM

Oct. 12	Westport, Brier I.	3	ELM, IAM	Willet			
Oct. 25	Central Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	1	ELM	Aug.	11 locations, widespread	39 total	var. obs.
Nov. 29	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF	Aug. 3 - 5	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	13W	ELM, IAM
American Oystercatcher				Aug. 3, 11	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	12, 14	KJM
Aug. 2	Daniel Hd., CSI	5	MUN	Aug. 4, 17	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	36; 9 (7W, 1E)	SEM
Sept. 9-				Aug. 7	Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	12	BJS, SIS
Oct. 5	CSI	ad. + juv.	var. obs.	Aug. 8	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	6W	IAM
AMERICAN AVOCET				Aug. 10, 16	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	11E, 1E	SEM
Aug. 10-22	Pinkneys Pt./Melbourne, <i>Yar.</i>	1	MUN, DPO, RAH	Aug. 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	14	BJS, SIS
Spotted Sandpiper				Aug. 13	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	5W	IAM
Aug. 3	Windsor	2	PKE	Aug. 16	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	~100	NSBS, ELM
Aug. 3, 11	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3, 8	KJM	Sept. 1	BPI	18	NSBS, RSM
Aug. 5	Sandy Cove Bch., <i>HRM</i>	ad. + juv.	HAT, LAE	Sept. 3-25	12 locations, widespread	18 total	var. obs.
Aug. 16	Seal I.	1	JAH	Oct. 18	Waterside Bch. PP, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Aug. 16	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	SEM	Lesser Yellowlegs			
Aug. 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	1	BJS, SIS	Aug.	7 locations, widespread	24 total	var. obs.
Aug. 24	Hell Pt., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH, DAW	Aug. 3, 11	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	110, 58	KJM
Aug. 24;				Aug. 4, 17	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	29, 17	SEM
Sept. 18	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	3, 1 juv.	var. obs.	Aug. 10, 16	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	34, 13	SEM
Sept. 28	Mink Cove, <i>Digby</i>	1	JAH	Aug. 23;			
Oct. 30	Bettys Cove, <i>Guys.</i>	1	JOK	Sept. 8	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	18, 21	MCM, SEM
Solitary Sandpiper				Aug. 28;			
Aug. 3 - 6	3 locations	singles	var. obs.	Sept. 19	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	10+; 35	DOU, IAM
Aug. 11 -				Sept.	7 locations, widespread	15 total	var. obs.
Sept. 7	7 locations	singles	var. obs.	Sept. 1, 14	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	19, 4	SEM
Aug. 12, 18	Sable I.	3, 4	ZOL	Sept. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	47	KJM
Sept. 20	Crescent Bch. ponds, <i>Lun.</i>	1	ELM	Sept. 14	Annapolis Royal	~12	RSM
Sept. 20-24	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF	Oct. 18	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	2	SEM
yellowlegs species				Oct. 22	CSI	20	MUN
Aug.-Sept.	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	18 - 27	JCT	Whimbrel			
Aug. 13	Beveridge Rd. Pond, <i>Yar.</i>	many	DPO	July 3-			
Oct. 19	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	~12	C. Moore, <i>fide</i> JWW	Sept. 9	Sable I.	28+	ZOL
Oct. 21	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	6	JOB	Aug.-Sept.	10 locations, widespread	22 total	var. obs.
Greater Yellowlegs				Aug. 3, 5, 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1, 7, 20+	var. obs.
Aug.-Sept.	14 locations, widespread	58 total	var. obs.	Aug. 7, 15	Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	6, 12	var. obs.
Aug. 4, 17	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	41, 18	SEM	Aug. 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	12	BJS, SIS
Aug. 10, 16	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	20, 22	SEM	Aug. 30	Lingan, <i>CBRM</i>	20+	DBM
Aug. 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	16		Sept. 7	Sydney airport	32	NSBS, DBM
Aug. 23;				Sept. 18, 25	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	several	HAT
Sept. 8	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	166, 78	MCM, SEM	Hudsonian Godwit			
Sept. 1;				Aug. 2, 28	CSI	3, 12	MUN; JON, SAN
Oct. 18	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	45, 44	SEM	Aug. 11	Lawrencetown R., <i>HRM</i>	2	RSM
Sept. 19;				Aug. 29-			
Oct. 24	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	26, 12	SEM	Sept. 28	3 locations	singles	var. obs.
Oct.	4 locations, widespread	singles	var. obs.	Sept. 27	Lr. Clarks Hbr., CSI	8	MUN
Oct. 7, 31	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	4, 1	DMW	Oct. 5	CSI	2	ELM, IAM
Oct. 22	CSI	60	MUN	MARBLED GODWIT			
Nov. 1	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	28	SEM	Aug. 29	The Hawk, CSI	2 (no details)	MUN <i>et al.</i>
Red Knot				Ruddy Turnstone			
Aug.	4 locations, widespread	5 total	var. obs.	Aug.-Sept.	8 locations, widespread	30 total	var. obs.
Aug. 16	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	4 alts.	SEM	Aug. 3, 11	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1, 4	KJM
Aug. 17	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad. + 1 juv.	SEM	Aug. 4, 17	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	7, 4	SEM
Aug. 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	3	BJS, SIS	Aug. 6	Daniel Hd., CSI	28	MUN
Aug. 23;				Aug. 11	Sable I.	10+	ZOL
Sept. 6	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	7, 39 juvs.	MCM, SEM	Aug. 16	Seal I.	10	JAH
Sept.	4 locations, widespread	16 total	var. obs.	Aug. 16	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	8	SJF
Sept. 1	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	3 alts.,		Aug. 23	Pt. Michaud Bch., <i>Rich.</i>	11	NSBS, SEM
		11 juvs.	SEM	Aug. 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	17	BJS, SIS
				Aug. 24	Hell Pt., <i>Lun.</i>	19	JAH, DAW



Juvenile RED KNOTS, like the one at left (Oct. 31 on Conrad Beach, *HRM*) can be heavily marked on the breast and flanks, unlike most field-guide images, resembling some illustrations of Great Knots. The latter are very different in structure – longer-legged and relatively smaller-headed, and shaped more like a Pectoral Sandpiper. [Photo Verna Higgins]

Sept. 3, 14	CSI	83, 14	JON, MUN	Aug. 17	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	23	SEM
Sept. 19	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	4	SEM	Aug. 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	159	BJS, SIS
Sept. 25	The Hawk, CSI	40+	BJS, SIS	Aug. 23	Pt. Michaud Bch., <i>Rich.</i>	18	NSBS, SEM
Oct. 11, 24	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	43, 24	SEM	Aug. 24	Hell Pt., <i>Lun.</i>	34	JAH, DAW
Oct. 22	CSI	800	MUN	Aug. 28	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	15	DOU
Oct. 31	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	8 juv.	VJH	Sept. 6	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	49	SEM
Sanderling				Sept. 14	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	56	SEM
Aug.-Nov.	15 locations, widespread	90 total	var. obs.	Sept. 26;			
Aug. 3	Pond Cove, Brier I.	2, arrivals	ELM, IAM	Oct. 26	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	8, 2	SJF
Aug. 5;				Oct. 27	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	6	JOB
Sept. 12	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2, 12	var. obs.	White-rumped Sandpiper			
Aug. 7	Baccaro Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	30	BJS, SIS	Aug.-Oct.	14 locations, widespread	50 total	var. obs.
Aug. 9;				Aug. 1, 3	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1	ELM, IAM
Sept. 13	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	~25, 30-40	var. obs.	Aug. 3, 11	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2, 10	KJM
Aug. 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	80+	BJS, SIS	Aug. 4, 17	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	4, 27	SEM
Aug. 23	Pt. Michaud Bch., <i>Rich.</i>	17	NSBS, SEM	Aug. 11, 30	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	18, 44	SJF
Aug. 24	Stoney I. Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	44	BJS, SIS	Aug. 15, 28	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	30+, 50+	DOU
Aug. 25	Scots Bay Bch., <i>Kings</i>	ca. 20	I. McKay	Aug. 16	Seal I.	10	JAH
Sept. 2	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	15	DMW	Aug. 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	10-15	BJS, SIS
Sept. 6	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	20	NSBS, SEM	Aug. 23	Pt. Michaud Bch., <i>Rich.</i>	17	NSBS, SEM
Sept. 8	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	31	MCM	Aug. 23;			
Sept. 18	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	30+	DOU	Sept. 8	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	85, 18	MCM, SEM
Sept. 22	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	24	SJF	Aug. 24	Hell Pt., <i>Lun.</i>	12	JAH, DAW
Oct. 19	South Side Bch., CSI	450	BJS, SIS	Sept. 3	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	26, last	SJF
Oct. 22	CSI	3150	MUN	Oct. 22	CSI	150	MUN
Oct. 27, 30	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	40, 12	JOB	Oct. 24	Wagners Bch., <i>HRM</i>	3 (first local record)	BLM
Nov. 2, 23	Chance Hbr., <i>Pict.</i>	40, 2	KJM, STV	Oct. 25;			
Nov. 2	Boat Hbr., <i>Pict.</i>	20	KJM, STV	Nov. 1	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	15, 5	SEM
Nov. 29	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	9	SJF	Oct. 31	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	10+	VJH
Nov. 30	Antigonish coastal waters, <i>Ant.</i>	1	NSBS, RLK	Nov. 1	Waterside Bch. PP, <i>Pict.</i>	8	KJM
Semipalmated Sandpiper				Nov. 2, 12	Sandy Cove Bch., <i>HRM</i>	3, 8	HAT
Aug.	7 locations, widespread	357 total	var. obs.	Baird's Sandpiper			
Aug. 3	Pond Cove, Brier I.	60, arrivals	ELM, IAM	Aug. 10	Daniel Hd., CSI	1	MUN
Aug. 3	Wolfville sewage plant, <i>Kings</i>	~100	RBS	Aug. 17-			
Aug. 3, 11	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	180, 90	KJM	Sept. 18	10 locations	singles	var. obs.
Aug. 4, 17	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	1135, 1620	SEM	Aug. 22	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	2	SJF
Aug. 11, 22	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	123, 444	SJF	Aug. 24,			
Aug. 14;				26-29	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1, 2	var. obs.
Sept. 2	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	35, 100	DMW	Sept. 2	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	5	DMW
Aug. 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	1700+	BJS, SIS	Sept. 6	Sydney airport	2	SEM
Aug. 20	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	120	ELM, AHM	Sept. 14, 18	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2 ads. + 3 juvs.	MIK, ULH, DOU
Aug. 23;				Sept. 17	Big Pond, Brier I.	2	S. Reeves
Sept. 6	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	940, 150	MCM, SEM	Oct. 9	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1	ELM, AHM
Aug. 28;				Oct. 29	field, Masstown, <i>Col.</i>	1	ELM, IAM
Sept. 19	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	150, 70	DOU, IAM	Nov. 2	McCormacks Bch. PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK, <i>et al.</i>
Sept.	5 locations, widespread	77 total	var. obs.	Pectoral Sandpiper			
Sept. 1, 14	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	203, 273	SEM	Aug. 2-			
Sept. 3;				Sept. 17	Sable I. ponds	5	ZOL
Oct. 26	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	103, 4	SJF	Aug. 9, 28	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	ALD, DOU
Sept. 19;				Aug. 10	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	SEM
Oct. 24	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	110, 1	SEM, IAM	Aug. 26-			
Oct. 6	Pond Cove, Brier I.	3	JUS	Sept. 27	7 locations	30 total	var. obs.
Oct. 22	CSI	300	MUN	Sept. 6, 7	Sydney airport	9, 16	SEM, DBM
Oct. 27, 30	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	500+, 250+	JOB	Sept. 19	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	90	BJS, SIS
Oct. 29	field, Masstown, <i>Col.</i>	2	ELM, IAM	Sept. 19	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	18	SEM
Nov. 1	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	8	HAT, LAE	Sept. 20, 27	CSI	4, 12	JCZ, GDE, JUO
WESTERN SANDPIPER				Oct. 19	Big Pond, Brier I.	1	RBS
Sept. 19	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	1 (no details)	MUN	Oct. 26	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	19	SJF
Oct. 22	CSI	15 (no details)	MUN	Nov. 9	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM
RED-NECKED STINT (report awaiting review by NS Birds Records Comm.)				Purple Sandpiper			
Sept. 11-12	Dyke Rd., Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	1 (details above)	CLS, CSS, MIK	Aug. 16	Seal I.	2	JAH
Least Sandpiper				Nov. 15	Duncan Reef, <i>HRM</i>	3	HAT
Aug.-Oct.	9 locations, widespread	43 total	var. obs.	Nov. 23	Chance Hbr., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Aug. 3	Pond Cove, Brier I.	20, arrivals	ELM, IAM	Nov. 23	Melmerby Bch., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Aug. 3, 11	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	30, 63	KJM	Nov. 30	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	12	SJF
Aug. 11, 22,				Dunlin			
30	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	30, 97, 42	SJF	Aug. 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	4, basic	BJS, SIS
Aug. 16	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	23	SEM	Aug. 28;			
Aug. 16	Seal I.	20	JAH	Sept. 18	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
				Sept.-Oct.	5 locations, widespread	8 total	var. obs.
				Sept. 19	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	60	MUN

Sept. 22;				Aug. 3, 11;			
Oct. 26	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	20, 19	SJF	Sept. 6	Big I, <i>Pict.</i>	46, 30, 25	KJM
Sept. 27;				Aug. 4, 17	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	1367, 197	SEM
Nov. 1	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	28, 18	KJM	Aug. 6	CSI	~3000	MUN
Oct. 11, 24	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	196, 438	SEM	Aug. 10	Sable I.	35+	ZOL
Oct. 18	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	55	SEM	Aug. 10, 16;			
Oct. 19	South Side Bch., <i>CSI</i>	850	BJS, SIS	Sept. 1	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	69, 111, 33	SEM
Oct. 22	CSI	3000	MUN	Aug. 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	2710	BJS, SIS
Oct. 29	field, Masstown, <i>Col.</i>	20	ELM, IAM	Aug. 23	Pt. Michaud Bch., <i>Rich.</i>	30	NSBS, SEM
Oct. 31	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	100+	VJH	Aug. 30;			
Nov. 3	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	~200	RBS	Sept. 7	Sydney airport	ca. 25, 23	DBM
Nov. 9 - 24	4 locations, widespread	13 total	var. obs.	Sept. 1	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	17	JCT
Nov. 30	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	13	SEM	Sept. 8	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	28	MCM
CURLEW SANDPIPER				Sept. 25	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	34	BJS, SIS
Aug. 24	River Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	1 ad., photo, details	RIV	Oct. 25	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	juv.	SEM
Sept. 6	Conrads I., Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1 ad., photo, details	JAH	LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER			
Sept. 11	Dyke Rd., Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad., basic	CLS, CSS	Aug. 8	Rainbow Haven marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1 (no details)	DOU
Stilt Sandpiper				~Sept. 1	BPI	1, calls	JCZ
Aug. 6, 10	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	4	MUN	Nov. 17	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	2 juvs., details	ELM, IAM
Aug. 25-26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	DOU	Wilson's Snipe			
Sept. 9, 20	CSI	2, 1	JON, JCZ	late Aug.	Annapolis Royal, <i>Anna.</i>	1	RSM, WEM
BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER (report awaiting review by NS Birds Records Comm.)				Aug. 31	Sable I.	1	ZOL
Sept. 13-14	CSI	1 juv. (details above)	JON, CLS, <i>et al.</i>	Sept. 19	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				Oct. 1, 19	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1, 3	KGI; DAM
Aug. 31	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	2	JON, SAN, <i>fide</i> MUN	phalarope species			
Aug. 31	McNabs I., <i>HRM</i>	1	A. Czapalay, <i>fide</i> JCZ	Aug. 3	off Brier I.	clouds	JUS
Sept. 1, 6	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1, 3 juvs.	DOU	Aug. 21	off Brier I.	58,000	<i>fide</i> R. Hunnewell
Sept. 2	Brier I.	6	PAC	Aug. 23	off Brier I.	60,000+	R. Hunnewell, <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 6, 7	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM, DBM	Aug. 26-29	off Brier I	1000s (mainly Red-necked)	RSM, WEM
Sept. 8	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	MCM	Aug. 29	mouth of St. Margarets Bay	4	PST
Sept. 9	Sable I.	2	ZOL	Sept. 17	off Brier I.	flocks	S. Reeves
Sept. 9	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	Sept. 28	pond, The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	2	MUN
Sept. 14-16	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2, photos	MIK, ULH, <i>et al.</i>	WILSON'S PHALAROPE			
Sept. 19	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	2	MUN	Sept. 14-18	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1, photo	MIK, ULH, <i>et al.</i>
RUFF				Red-necked Phalarope			
Aug. 2	Daniel Hd., <i>CSI</i>	1 (no details)	<i>fide</i> MUN	Aug. 3	Freeport Hbr., <i>Digby</i>	1 juv.	ELM, IAM
Short-billed Dowitcher				Aug. 23	off Brier I.	~300	FLL, <i>fide</i> LAL
Aug.-Sept.	8 locations, widespread	74 total	var. obs.	Sept. 20	off Canso	~43	CLS, TOK
				Oct. 8	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	juv.	L. Peters, <i>fide</i> HAT
				Red Phalarope			
				Aug. 1	off Brier I.	5,600	R. Hunnewell, <i>et al.</i>
				Aug. 23	off Brier I.	30,000+	FLL, <i>fide</i> LAL
				Sept. 20	off Canso	some	TOK, CLS

Gulls Through Alcids

By Eric Mills

Curiously the only LAUGHING GULLS of the summer-fall seasons were adults on Sable I. -- it is unusual for an autumn to go by without a small influx of post-breeding birds into Nova Scotia. Among the rarer gulls was a well described adult LITTLE GULL along the *Pictou* shore Nov.2.

A tagged RING-BILLED GULL seen on Martinique Bch., *HRM*, by Anders Adolffson April 14 proved to have been banded in Worcester, MA Mar. 26. This provides a clue as to where spring arriving birds come from. It would be interesting to know where the much more abundant late summer and fall birds originate.

While on a pelagic trip off Canso, *Gufs.*, Sept. 20, CLS fleetingly saw an imm. SABINE'S GULL. He provided well documented field notes for the sighting. BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES were seen on the same trip along with abundant POMARINE JAEGERs, PARASITIC JAEGERs, Northern Fulmars, a Greater Shearwater, and Leach's Storm-Petrels.

A ROYAL TERN on CSI, although undocumented, fits the pattern of sparse late summer - autumn visits to the province not linked to tropical storms.

The SOUTH POLAR SKUA photographed by JUS off Brier I. Aug. 14 appears to be only the second, fully documented, from that area, despite observations there of this Southern Hemisphere species in late summer and fall for many years.

Laughing Gull

July 3	South bch., Sable I.	ad.	ZOL
July 14	West Ponds, Sable I.	ad.	ZOL

LITTLE GULL

Nov. 2	Black Point Centre, <i>Pict.</i>	ad.	KJM, STV
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Black-headed Gull

Aug. 3	Antigonish sewage ponds	2 ads.	KJM
Aug. 9	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Sept. 21	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	8	DMW
Oct. 1	Glace Bay sanctuary	4	CAM, ALM
Nov. 2	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	JCZ
Nov. 14; 27	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	Several; 3+	BRS; ELM
Nov. 20	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Nov. 23	Powell Pt. PP, <i>Pict.</i>	ad.	KJM
Nov. 27	Back Hbr., Lunenburg	1	JAH
Nov. 30	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	58	IAM
Nov. 30	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM

Bonaparte's Gull

Aug. 3; 11; 30	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	41; 91; 500	KJM
Aug. 3	Antigonish sewage ponds	25	KJM
Aug. 11	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	~12	RSM
Sept. 3	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	ad.	DJC
Sept. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	355	KJM
Sept. 12-26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	142-190	KJM
Sept. 21	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	5	DMW
Sept. 22	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	3	CAM, ALM
Sept. 26	Pictou ferry terminal, <i>Pict.</i>	50	BLM
Sept. 29	Wallace, <i>Cum.</i>	"a few"	RBS
Oct. 1	Glace Bay sanctuary	8	CAM, ALM
Oct. 6-7	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	ad.	DJC
Oct. 13	Pond Cove, Brier I.	2 nd -year	ELM, AHM
Oct. 18	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	300	KJM
Oct. 19	Waterside PP., <i>Pict.</i>	100+	KJM
Oct. 19	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	50	CAM, ALM
Oct. 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	500	KJM
Nov. 1	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	250	KJM
Nov. 1	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	250	KJM
Nov. 1	Caribou light, <i>Pict.</i>	100+	KJM
Nov. 1	Pictou Causeway, <i>Pict.</i>	100+	KJM
Nov. 2	Conrads Bch., <i>Pict.</i>	1	JCZ
Nov. 2	Black Point Centre, <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM, STV
Nov. 2	Chance Hbr., <i>Pict.</i>	~700	KJM, STV
Nov. 8-10	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	75-100	KJM
Nov. 11	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	10+	Paul Murray
Nov. 14; 27	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	300+; ~200	BRS; ELM, AHM
Nov. 23	Powell Pt. PP, <i>Pict.</i>	200	KJM
Nov. 30	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	6	JAH, DAW

Ring-billed Gull

Aug. 14-22	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	9-14	DMW
Aug. 20	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	ad.	ELM, AHM
Aug. 31-			
Sept. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2-10	KJM
Sept. 1-			
Nov. 30	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	Numerous	DJC
Sept. 20	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	10	ELM
Sept. 21-			
Oct. 9	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	10-12	DMW
Oct. 9-10	Westport, Brier I.	14-20	ELM, AHM
Oct. 10, 11	Seal I., <i>Yar.</i>	3, 2	NSBS
Oct. 16	Wagners Bch., <i>HRM</i>	6 (high count)	BLM
Oct. 18-			
Nov. 8	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	25-70	KJM
Oct. 25-			
Nov. 19	Central Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	1000+ in fields	ELM
Nov. 19	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Nov. 23	New Glasgow sewer, <i>Pict.</i>	100+	KJM

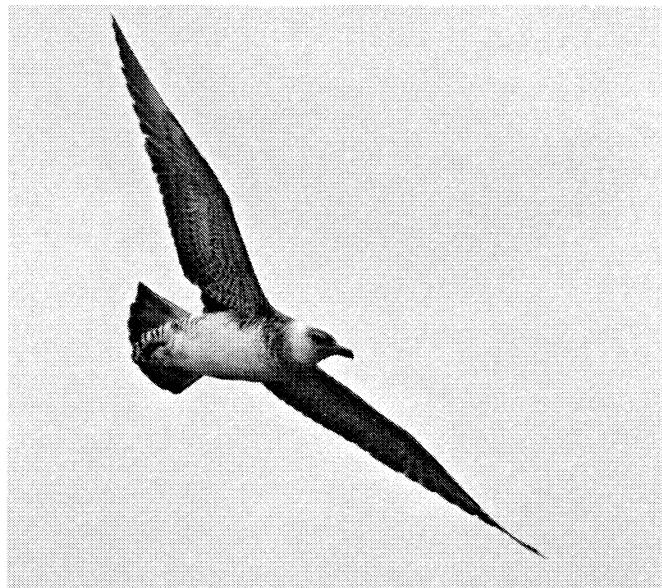
Iceland Gull

Oct. 21	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1 imm.	DJC
Nov. 1	Canso Causeway, <i>Guys./Inv.</i>	1 st -winter	DJO, NSBS
Nov. 2	New Glasgow sewer, <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Nov. 11	New Glasgow sewage lagoon, <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM
Nov. 11	Big Pond, Florence, <i>CBRM</i>	35+	DBM

Nov. 20	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Nov. 23	New Glasgow sewer, <i>Pict.</i>	15	KJM
Nov. 27	Canso Causeway, <i>Guys./Inv.</i>	est. 50	ELM, AHM
Nov. 28-29	Canso hbr., <i>Guys.</i>	est. 30	ELM, AHM
Nov. 30	Antigonish area, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL, NSBS
Nov. 30	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	ad.	DJC

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Aug. 30	Saxon St., <i>Kings</i>	4 ads.	<i>graellsii</i> RBS
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This subadult POMARINE JAEGER swept close by during a fall seabird survey on the Scotian Shelf. [Photo Karel Allard]

Sept. 20	Daniels Hd., CSI	1	JCZ
Oct. 13	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	1	CLS, CSS
Oct. 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	ad.	LDE
Oct. 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Oct. 31	Arisaig Pt., <i>Ant.</i>	1	JOK
Nov. 1	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	ad.	KJM
Nov. 2	Canard, <i>Kings</i>	ad.	RBS

Glaucous Gull

Summer-Aug. 3+	Freeport hbr., <i>Digby</i>	1, 2 nd -year	ELM, IAM
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SABINE'S GULL

Sept. 20	Canso area, <i>Guys.</i>	imm.	CLS
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Black-legged Kittiwake

Sept. 20	Canso area, <i>Guys.</i>	37+	TOK, CLS, NSBS
Sept. 27	Off Brier I.	5	JAH, NSBS
Sept. 28	Digby Neck, <i>Digby</i>	2	JAH, DPO, DAW
Sept. 29	Off Brier I.	20+	ELM, IAM
Oct. 1	Off Brier I.	10+	JUS, Mark Tasker
Oct. 2	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	2	(ad. & imm.) JAH
Oct. 12	Off Flint I., <i>CBRM</i>	7	CAM, ALM
Nov. 9	Caribou I. lighthouse, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM

Caspian Tern

Aug. 2	APBS	1	Kathleen MacAulay
Sept. 14	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	Karen & Lincoln Macleod
Oct. 5	Daniels Hd., CSI	2 ads.	ELM, AHM

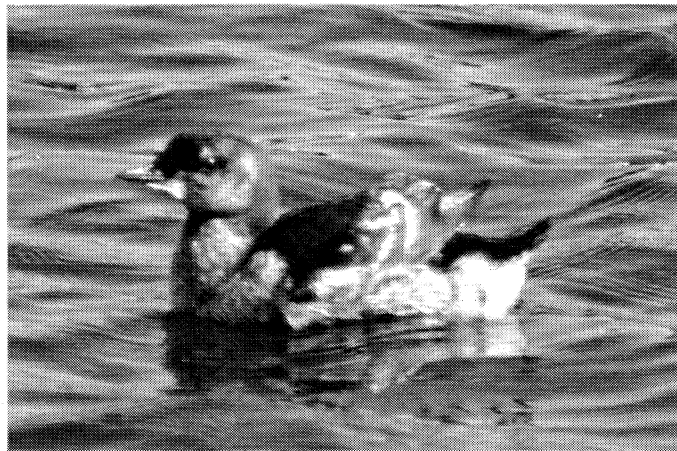
Black Tern

Aug. 30-31	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Sept. 16	Hartlens Pt., <i>HRM</i>	juv.	MIK

Common Tern

Aug. 3	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	35	KJM
Aug. 11	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	26	KJM
Aug. 11	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	12+	RMA
Aug. 14	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Aug. 17	Seal I. area, <i>Yar.</i>	9	JAH, NSBS

Aug. 22-31	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	10-37	KJM
Aug. 23	Pt. Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	27 ads. & imms.	SEM
Sept. 6	Lr. Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
Sept. 6	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	20	JAH
Sept. 6-26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	20-60	KJM
Sept. 7	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i> Davies	5	JAH, DAW, Peter
Sept. 10	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	6	CAM, ALM
Sept. 27	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	50+	KJM
Oct. 18	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM
ROYAL TERN			
Oct. 7	Hawk Point, CSI	1 (no details)	fide MUN
SOUTH POLAR SKUA			
Aug. 14	Off Brier I.	ad., photo	JUS
Pomarine Jaeger			
mid-Sept.	Seal I., <i>Yar.</i>	1	FLL
Sept. 20	Canso area, <i>Guys.</i>	21+	TOK, CLS, NSBS
Oct. 1	Off Brier I.	1	Mark Tasker
Oct. 12	Off Flint I., <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Nov. 15	Off Long I., <i>Digby</i>	1	CLS, CSS, FLL, MIK



The tiny bill and oddly patchy plumage of this juvenile BLACK GUILLEMOT off Brier I. might lead to identification confusion. [Photo Shelley Barneby]

Parasitic Jaeger			
Aug. 1	Off Western Light, Brier I.	1	ELM, IAM
mid-Sept.	Seal I., <i>Yar.</i>	2	FLL
Sept. 20	Canso area, <i>Guys.</i>	2	TOK, CLS, NSBS
Nov. 15	Off Long I., <i>Digby</i>	4	CLS, CSS, FLL, MIK
Dovekie			
Oct. 19	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1	TOK
Oct. 22	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Oct. 25	Wedge I., <i>HRM</i>	1	Anders Adolfsson
Oct. 29	Duncan Reef, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Oct. 29	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
~Oct. 30	Bridgewater, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
~Oct. 30	Pleasantville, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Common Murre			
Oct. 1	Off Brier I.	1	Mark Tasker
Razorbill			
Aug. 28-			
Sept. 3	Off Brier I.	2	LAL, ADL, PAC
Oct. 12	Off Flint I., <i>CBRM</i>	3	CAM, ALM
Nov. 1	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	2 flying SW	ELM
Nov. 14	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	1	BRS
Nov. 15	Off Long I., <i>Digby</i>	7	CLS, CSS, FLL, MIK
Nov. 30	near Antigonish	6+	RLF, NSBS
Black Guillemot			
Aug. 16	Seal I. area, <i>Yar.</i>	11	JAH, DPO, NSBS
Aug. 24	Louisbourg hbr., <i>CBRM</i>	10	SEM
Aug. 24	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	15	SEM
Sept. 13	Sober I.,	24	KJM
Sept. 14	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	4	SEM
Sept. 27	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Sept. 29	Seabright, <i>HRM</i>	3	Marian Boyer
Oct. 1	Off Brier I.	1	JUS
Oct. 5	Baccaro Pt., <i>Shel.</i>	5	ELM, AHM
Oct. 11, 12	Seal I. <i>Yar.</i>	3, 2	NSBS
Nov. 1	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	2	ELM
Nov. 6	Jeddore Oyster Pond, <i>HRM</i>	4	LUB
Nov. 28-29	Canso hbr., <i>Guys.</i>	~10	ELM
Nov. 30	near Antigonish	1	RFL, NSBS
Atlantic Puffin			
Aug. 14	Off Brier I.	Number?	JUS
Aug. 16	Seal I. area, <i>Yar.</i>	5	JAH, DPO, NSBS
Sept. 3	Bird Is., <i>Vic.</i>	Still present	BSK
Sept. 20	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	1 flying SW	ELM
Oct. 12	Off Flint I., <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Oct. 13	Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i>	1	CLS, CSS

Pigeon Through Woodpeckers

By Dorothy Poole

High numbers of MOURNING DOVES were reported by many, unfortunately Martin Thomas reported seeing dead and weak ones among his 40+ flock. Hopefully this is a local problem. A decrease in Christmas count numbers for this species however would indicate a wider spread of a problem.

There was a scattering of YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO sightings and only one BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO encountered. The latter was a little too close for BID who found the bird caught in the grill of his car.

BLF almost had a four-owl day Nov. 24. His first owl of the day was a SNOWY OWL followed by a NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL and then a GREAT HORNED OWL. The BARRED OWLS just did not cooperate that day to complete the quartette.

This season has been a Snowy Owl winter as can be seen by the numerous sightings. There were at least two around Halifax, one seen by MIK on Devils I. and the following day another showed up at Hartlen Pt. At least once both owls were together on Devils I. (ULH). CSI often hosts Snowy Owls and this year a whopping nine have been sighted there and on the surrounding Islands (JON, SAN). Not many can get a Snowy Owl on a yard list but MUN had one in his yard in Clarks Hbr.

The only LONG-EARED OWLS reported were the ones heard by ELM and AHM on Brier I., a reliable place for hearing these

owls in the fall. RFL's migration monitoring counted one BOREAL OWL and 25 Northern Saw-whet Owls.

The flock of COMMON NIGHTHAWKS (30) seen by PRG while he was playing baseball was the largest number he had ever seen. There was a September sighting of a CHIMNEY SWIFT by LDE but given he didn't have binoculars he could not rule out a possible Vaux or other species of swift.

There were unprecedented numbers of RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS for many this season. RAH reported at least three families and WIK had never seen as many. JOB saw at least 25 hummers in one day and others reported having to fill feeders often. Hopefully this means many more in the future. One partial leucistic hummingbird was seen by VJH and photographed by BBU. The picture showed some coloring in the soft parts ruling out its being an albino and some brown/rust feather coloring in the body making it not completely leucistic. The last hummingbird reported was seen during the last few days of October.

Cape Breton had a RED-HEADED WOODPECKER show up in mid November (see great photos by ALM, CLM at <http://www.capebretonbirds.ca/>). There was an earlier Red-headed woodpecker in Shubenacadie reported by Bea Levy and Gary Blaikie.

Susan Hunt had a female RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER show up again this year in her yard Sept. 15. This was the first report of what turned out to be a banner season for these woodpeckers. Shortly before the Thanksgiving weekend a few appeared and then from Oct. 12 on more and more were sighted. There were up to 14 sighted on Seal I. Thanksgiving weekend and the following week (FLL *et al.*). Thanks to all who reported their sightings. Every county in mainland Nova Scotia had at least one Red-bellied Woodpecker. CB had three sightings in CBRM, so only Inverness, Richmond and Victoria missed out. With the breeding atlas still on going it may be discovered to be a banner year for breeding as well.



In late September and early October YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS were noted; two on Brier I. (JAH, ELM *et al.*) and five on CSI (MUN). GMU was fortunate to have seen at least four BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS at Abrahams L. in the Liscomb Game Sanctuary. At least 50 NORTHERN FLICKERS were counted on Brier I. (ELM, AHM). KJM sighted four PILEATED WOODPECKERS Aug. 22 on one of his many days doing a fall migration count on Big I.

Of the numbers of photos of the RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS that arrived last autumn in unprecedented numbers, this one in Lunenburg Nov. 29 displayed its long woodpecker tongue – no doubt useful in extracting grubs from under the bark, but probably not in extracting sunflower seeds through wire mesh. [Photo James Hirtle]

Rock Pigeon			
Aug. 6, 12	Lawrencetown, HRM	3, 2	DMW
Aug.-Nov.	Tremont, Kings	4-5	SLH
Sept.-Nov.	Lwr. Sackville, HRM	1-7	RIV, APO
Sept. 14	Dartmouth	27	KGI
White-Winged Dove			
Sept. 11-13	Sable I	1	ZOL
Mourning Dove			
Aug.-Nov	Lawrencetown, HRM	up to 20	DMW
Aug.-Nov	Tremont, Kings	up to 14	SLH
Sept.-Nov	Apple R., Cum.	up to 9	KFS
Sept. 18	Bacarro, Shel.	21	JAH
Oct. 26	Conrads I., Lun.	23	JAH
Nov. 23	Falmouth, Hants	41	PKE
Nov. 23	near Port Williams, Kings	50+	Martin Thomas <i>vide</i> JWW
Nov. 24	White Pt., Queens	50+	Margaret Millard
Nov. 30	Wolfville	11	JCT
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			
Oct. 4-12	City Field, Halifax	1	DAC, AZV <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 5	Lingan, CBRM	1	DBM
Oct. 7	Dartmouth	1	KGI
Oct. 13	near Sullivans Pond, Halifax	1	KGI

Oct. 18	Hartlen Pt., HRM	1	TEP
Oct. 25	Big I., Pict.	1	KJM
Nov. 1	The Hawk, CSI	1	JON, SAN
Black-billed Cuckoo			
Oct. 19	St. Peter's, Rich.	dead	BID
Great Horned Owl			
Aug. 29-			
Sept. 1	BPI	2 duetting	NSBS, RSM <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 30	Sunrise Valley, Vic.	1 young	FMC
Oct. 12	Lower Rose Bay, Lun.	1	JAH
Oct. 13	Brier I.	1 calling	ELM
Oct. 15	Apple R., Cum.	2	KFS
Nov. 2	The Ponds, Pict.	1 photo	JOK
Nov. 5	east of Wolfville	1	RBS, BLF
Nov. 21	CSI	1	JON
Nov. 24	east of Wolfville	1	BLF, Rick Whitman
Nov. 30	Falmouth, Hants	1	PKE
Snowy Owl			
Oct. 25	near Fishermans Preserve	1	Anders Adolffson
Oct. 27	near Mattatal L., Col.	juv.	BRD
Nov. 3	Pictou Landing	1	KJM, STV
Nov. 5-6	CSI	3	JON, SAN
Nov. 9	Big I., Pict.	1	K. & L. MacLeod

Nov. 9	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	ALM, CLM
Nov. 12	Port Hawksbury, <i>Inv.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> DJO
Nov. 13	Clarks Hbr., <i>CSI</i>	1 in yard	MUN
Nov. 16	<i>CSI</i>	1	CST, JON
Nov. 17	Brier I.	1	CAH
Nov. 17	near Kennetcook, <i>Hants</i>	1	ANH
Nov. 18	<i>CSI & surrounding I.</i>	9	JON
Nov. 21	Daniels Hd., <i>Cape Sable</i>	5	JON
Nov. 24	Grande Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF
Nov. 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	BRS
Nov. 26-30	Devils I., <i>HRM</i>	fem.	MIK, var. obs.
Nov. 27-30	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	male	MIK, var. obs.
Nov. 28	near Capstick, <i>Vic.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> FMC

NORTHERN HAWK-OWL

Nov. 2	offshore oil rig	1 photo	<i>fide</i> IAM
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Barred Owl

Aug. 2	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	2	NSBS, JAH <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 11	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Oct. 12	Abrahams L., <i>HRM</i>	1 heard	GMU
Nov. 17	Near Noggins, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Nov. 18	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL

Long-eared Owl

Oct. 11-13	Brier I.	1-2 calling	ELM, AHM
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Short-eared Owl

Nov. 23	Big I. causeway, <i>Pict.</i>	1	BRS
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Boreal Owl

Nov.	Fairmont <i>Ant.</i> (monitoring)	1	RFL <i>et al.</i>
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Northern Saw-whet Owl

Oct. 12-13	Brier I.	1-2 calling	ELM, AHM
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Sept. 26-

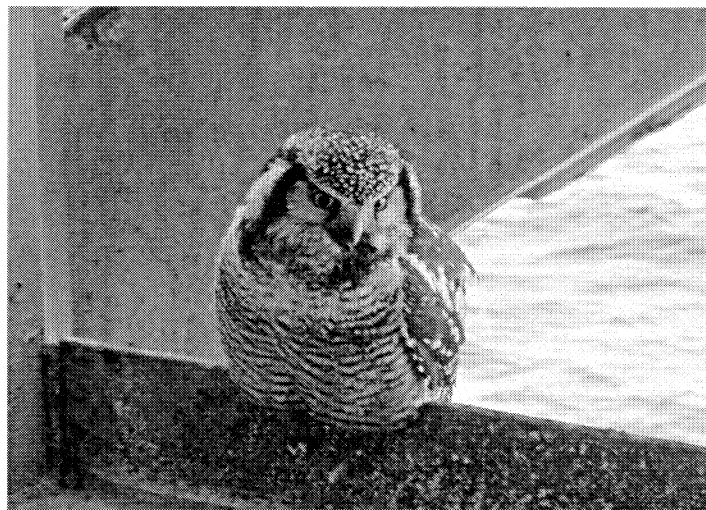
Nov. 24	Fairmont <i>Ant.</i> (monitoring)	25 mostly fems.	RFL, MZG <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 24	Wolfville	1	BLF, Rick Whitman



The SHORT-EARED OWL is often referred to as "diurnal," but like this one in the slanted light of late afternoon Nov. 23 on Big I., *Pict.*, prefer to hunt near close of day – the lovely word is "crepuscular." [Photo Bruce Stevens]

Common Nighthawk

Aug. 4	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	1	CIC
Aug. 13	Middle LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	10	JAH
Aug. 14, 18, 22	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	6, 3, 20	KFS
Aug. 17	Sydney & environs	10, 12, 8	DBM
Aug. 19	Brier I.	1	PAC
Aug. 21	Clyde R., <i>Shel.</i>	7	DBM
Aug. 22	Salem, <i>Cum.</i>	9	KFS
Aug. 23	<i>Anna., Queens, Lun.</i>	11, 10, 10	JAH
Aug. 25	Gardeners Mill, <i>Yar.</i>	30	PRG
Aug. 29-			
Sept. 1	BPI	1	NSBS, RSM <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 19	Georges R., <i>CBRM</i>	1	DBM



This NORTHERN HAWK-OWL was photographed Nov. 2 on the "Venture" Platform, about 25 km off the East Tip of Sable I. It rested a few hours, and then went on its way, hopefully to a successful landfall somewhere teeming with mice and voles. [Photo C. Roach, ExxonMobil Canada Ltd]"

Chimney Swift (*=usual chimney roost counts)

Aug. 9	McGowan L., <i>Queens</i>	1	PEH
Aug. 9, 10, 13	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.*</i>	74, 62, 23	KJM
Aug. 27	Brier I.	1	LAL, ADL, PAC
Sept. 8	Wolfville	1	LDE

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Aug.-Sept.	Carleton, <i>Yar.</i>	3 families	RAH
Aug.-Sept.	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	6+	KFS
Aug.-Sept. 6	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1-2	RIV, APO
Aug.-Sept. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Aug. 3	Truro	unprecedented numbers	WIK
Aug. 11	Halifax	first year in garden	PLC
Aug. 12	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Aug. 14	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 partial leucistic	VJH, IAM, BBU
Aug. 18	Trout L., <i>Anna.</i>	25+ (1 ad. male)	JOB
Aug. 19	Brier I.	latest resident	ELM
Aug. 20	offshore Brier I.	3	CCA, AMO
Aug. 23	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	1	NSBS, SEM <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 25, Sept. 4	Brier I.	1 ad male, 6	LAL, ADL, PAC
Sept. 5	St. Peter's, <i>Vic.</i>	latest ever	BID
Sept. 1-14	widely	28 reports	
Sept. 17	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	latest (3-5 families)	HAT
Sept. 17	Wolfville	1 latest ever	JCT
Sept. 19	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Sept. 20	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	fem.	RES
Oct. 1	Pleasantville, <i>Lun.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JAH
Oct. 6-8	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	fem.	DJC
Oct. 24	Milford Station, <i>Hants</i>	1	<i>fide</i> Kathleen MacAulay
Oct. 28-30	Doctors Brook, <i>Ant.</i>	male	JOK
Belted Kingfisher			
Aug.-Nov.	widely	1-4	22 reports
Nov. 30	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
Nov. 30	<i>Antigonish</i>	1	NSBS, RFL <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 30	White Rock, <i>Kings.</i>	1	Andrew Steeves
Red-headed Woodpecker			
Nov. 4	Shubenacadie, <i>Col.</i>	1	Bea Levy, Gary Blaikie

mid Nov+	New Waterford, <i>CBRM</i>	1, photo	ALM, CLM, B. Van Doninck	Nov. 12	Oakdale Crescent, Dartmouth	1	<i>vide</i> PLC
				Nov. 12	Shelburne	1	Peter McLeod
				Nov. 13	along tracks E Wolfville	fem. /imm.	RBS
				Nov. 17+	Big Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	JAM
				Nov. 20	Petite Riviere, <i>Lun.</i>	1	John Glandville
			Susan Hunt				<i>vide</i> JAH
Oct.-Nov.	Liverpool, <i>Queens</i>	male	<i>vide</i> Margaret Millard	Nov. 20+	Brooklyn, <i>Queens</i>	male	JAH, DPO
				Nov. 20	Wellington, <i>Yar.</i>	1	<i>vide</i> JAH
Oct. 5-24	Seal I.	14 (7 males)	FLL <i>et al.</i>	Nov. 21	Marlborough Ave., Halifax	1	CHE
Oct. 6-7	Dartmouth	fem.	MIK	Nov. 21	Rockingham, <i>HRM</i>	1	JEH
Oct. 7	Crousetown <i>Lun.</i>	male	David March	Nov. 22	Hebron, <i>Yar.</i>	2	MUN
Oct. 12-Nov.	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1-2 (males/fems.)	DPO	Nov. 22, 26	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	male	KJM, STV
				Nov. 24	Milford Station, <i>Col.</i>	1	Anders Adolfsson
Oct. 12	east Wolfville	male	BBT <i>vide</i> JWW	Nov. 24	Clydesdale, <i>Ant.</i>	1	<i>vide</i> BST
Oct. 12	Westport, Brier I.	1	ELM	Nov. 25	MSV University, Halifax	male	Kathleen MacAulay
Oct. 12-13	Fairview Cemetery, <i>HRM</i>	male	CLS, MIK, DAC	Nov. 26	Hatchet L., <i>HRM</i>	fem.	<i>vide</i> BLM
Oct. 13, 26	Birchdale Ave., Halifax	fem.	ANM	Nov. 27	south end of Halifax	1	ALD
Oct. 13, 22	BPI	1-2	LUB	Nov. 29	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	male	NSBS, TOK <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 13-Nov.	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JOA	Nov. 29	between Wolfville & Grand Pré		
Oct. 15	Shubenacadie, <i>Col.</i>	male	JBO			1	Andrew Steeves
Oct. 15	Sable R., <i>Shel.</i>	1	Gloria Gilbert				
Oct. 16	Long I., <i>Digby</i>	1	<i>vide</i> Heather Prime	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
Oct. 16	Waverley, <i>HRM</i>	fem.	LPP	Aug. 22	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Oct. 16-19	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	fem.	RFL, MZG	Aug. 18	Trout L., <i>Anna.</i>	1+	JOB
Oct. 17	Paradise, <i>Anna.</i>	fem.	John & Virginia Lee	Sept. 28	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	1 ad., 1 juv.	JAH, DAW, DPO
Oct. 17, 30	Birch Cove Park, Dartmouth	fem.	A. Adolfsson, FFL, CLS	Sept. 23,			
				Oct. 10	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1, 1	KFS
Oct. 17	Dalhousie Campus, Halifax	fem.	AGH	Oct. 10-12	Seal I.	5	var. obs.
Oct. 17	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1-2 fems.	H. & R. Delory	Oct. 10, 13	Westport, Brier I.	1, 1 imm.	ELM, AHM
			<i>vide</i> TOK	Oct. 5, 7	CSI	1, 5	MUN
Oct. 18	<i>Lunenburg</i>	7	<i>vide</i> JAH	Nov. 29; 30	Pt. Pleasant Park, <i>HRM</i>	1 juv.	DAM; HAT
Oct. 19, 29	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	male	TOK	Downy Woodpecker			
Oct. 20-23	Fort Needham, Halifax	1	Robert Thomas	Aug.-Nov.	Widely	1-6	~9 reports
Oct. 20+	White Pt., <i>Queens</i>	fem.	Margaret Millard	Hairy Woodpecker			
Oct. 24	South Berwick, <i>Kings</i>	1	<i>vide</i> JCT	Aug.-Nov.	Widely	1-3	~8 reports
Oct. 27	Westport, Brier I.	2 males	CAH	Black-backed Woodpecker			
Oct. 28	Sydney Mines, <i>CBRM</i>	2 (male, fem.)	Graham Benvie	Aug. 18	Trout L., <i>Anna.</i>	pair	JOB
			<i>vide</i> DBM	Sept. 22	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
				Oct. 12	Abrahams L., <i>HRM</i>	4	GMU
Oct. 30	Hebron, <i>Yar.</i>	1	EMU	Nov. 1	Brown L., <i>HRM</i>	fem.	Chris Pepper
Oct. 30-Nov.	Fraserville, <i>Cum.</i>	1	MSM, Bruce Morris	Nov. 6	Jeddore Oyster Ponds, <i>HRM</i>	1	LUB
Nov. 1-				Northern Flicker			
Nov. 17	Seabright, <i>HRM</i>	male	Eleanor Lindsay	Aug.-Nov. 8	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	max 8	KJM
Nov. 3	Liverpool, <i>Queens</i>	1	Peter Davies	Aug.-Sept.	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1-3	RIV, APO
Nov. 4+	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	JUM	Sept. 7	Caribou I., <i>Pict.</i>	9	KJM
Nov. 5, 6, 13	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	male	LOC	Sept. 12	Prospect Peninsula, <i>HRM</i>	8	BLM
Nov. 6	Waegwoltic Ave., Halifax	fem.	IAM	Sept. 14	Apple R. & environs, <i>Cum.</i>	15	KFS
Nov. 6	Amherst Pt., <i>Cum.</i>	fem.	Mark & Betty Gloutney	Sept. 18	Dartmouth	5 in yard	MIK
				Sept. 23	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Nov. 6, 23	Oak Ave., Wolfville	1	BLF, LDE	Oct. 12	Brier I.	50+	ELM, AHM
Nov. 8	Glen Haven, <i>HRM</i>	male	D., M. & L. Andrews	Nov. 1-30	widely	1-4	~9 reports
				Nov. 30	<i>Antigonish</i>	1	NSBS, RFL <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 9	Aylsford, <i>Kings</i>	1	H. Cogswell	Pileated Woodpecker			
			<i>vide</i> RBS	Aug. 11	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad., 1 juv.	VJH
Nov. 10	Cheverie, <i>Hants</i>	male	J. & M. Frame, S. Gould	Aug.-Nov.	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1-2	KFS
				Aug.-Nov.	Wolfville	1-2	JCT
Nov. 10, 15,				Aug.-Nov. 8	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1-4	KJM
20	Springhill, <i>Cum.</i>	1	CIC	Sept. 2	Quinan, <i>Yar.</i>	3	PRG
Nov. 10, 22	Westville, <i>Pict.</i>	1	RFE, STV	Nov. 20	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
Nov. 10	Pictou	fem.	KJM	Nov. 20	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1	AND
Nov. 12	Scotsburn, <i>Pict.</i>	fem.	<i>vide</i> KJM	Nov. 30	<i>Antigonish</i>	1	NSBS, RFL <i>et al.</i>

Flycatchers Through Thrushes

By Hans Toom

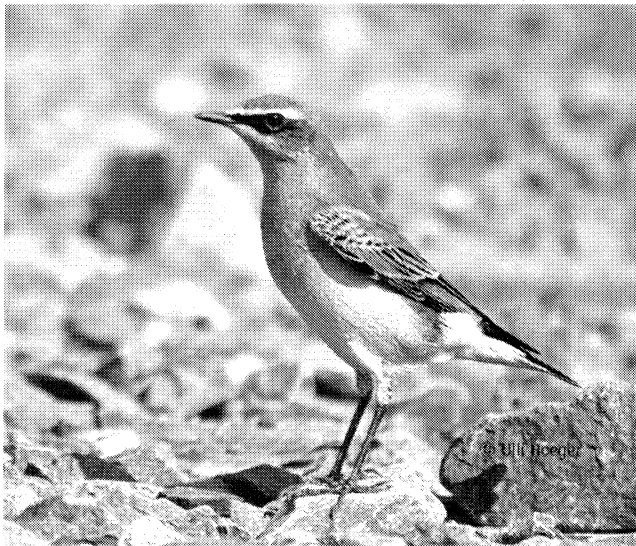
Lucas Berrigan reported a **FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER** on BPI Sept. 23. It overflew the wharf and was seen and photographed for an hour. "The shape of the outer primaries suggest the expected savana race although the palish back and prominent collar are not typical", says IAM shown Bob McMillan's excellent photographs taken circa Oct. 7 on CSI. There are four subspecies, two of which occur in North America. This bird is of the most widespread subspecies, *Tyranus savana savana*, which nests from Central Mexico to central Argentina.

MUN reported a Fork-tailed Flycatcher on CSI Sept. 24, likely the same bird, barring an extreme coincidence, hanging around the start of Daniels Head Rd. The bird remained in this location, especially in the area of the cemetery, until at least Oct. 8 allowing many birders and photographers to enjoy this very rare and spectacular visitor from the south. This species, although primarily an insectivore, will eat berries and small fruit, thus partially accounting for its durability in our climate.

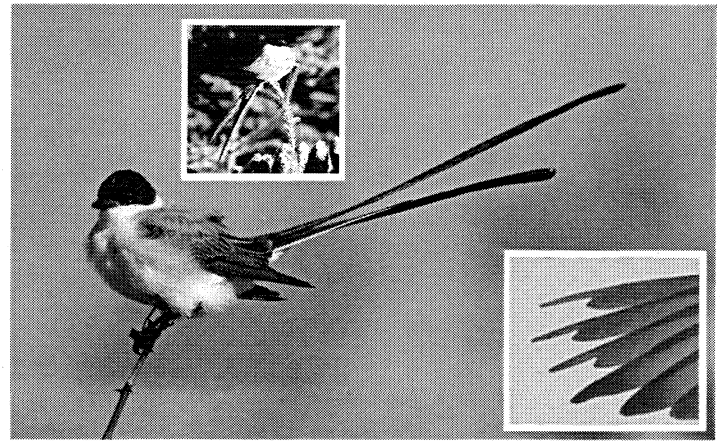
DBM received a description and photo from Glen and Kim Glenryan, concerning a bird visiting their property Oct. 11-12, at Southwest Margaree, *Inv*. The photo was accompanied by the following description: "The bird definitely had a dark head. The breast was gleaming white and it had a white collar almost all the way around its neck. Back was dark grey. The tail was as long as the body and deeply forked". Both the photo and the description clearly support yet another Fork-tailed Flycatcher sighting. Congratulations to the Glenryans for their observations and record keeping!

A **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** appeared on the lawn and nearby trees in the yard of Clyde and Lily Snook, Oct. 31, CSI, across the street from the same cemetery frequented by the Fork-tailed Flycatcher. This bird breeds in the south central United States and north-eastern Mexico and so, although very rare, is seen slightly more often than the Fork-tailed Flycatcher.

WHITE-EYED VIREO made three appearances this reporting period. First, Oct. 6, at Duncans Cove, *HRM* (HAT, as described below), Nov. 1 at Hartlen Pt. and finally by MIK Nov. 2 at Duncans Cove, *HRM*. The uncommon YELLOW-THROATED VIREO also made a few appearances. It was first seen Oct. 4, by JUO and GDE at Hartlen Pt., travelling with a flock of Black-capped Chickadees. Interestingly, when SMB and RSM were touring with a visiting UK birder at Herring Cove, *HRM*, they too spotted a Yellow-throated Vireo, also travelling with Black-capped Chickadees. Hartlen Pt. produced another Yellow-throated Vireo, Nov. 1 (TEP), this one travelling with an imm. White-eyed Vireos, quite the auspicious combination.



The black mask and distinct supercilium of this NORTHERN WHEATEAR, Sept. 21 on the Saltmarsh Trail across Cole Hbr., *HRM*, are characteristic of an adult male, but it has an exceptional amount of buff feathering on the margins of its wing feathers, which will be worn off to produce the pure black feathers by the next breeding season. [Photo Ulli Hoeger].



This FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER gave ample opportunities to life-listers and also to several photographers. The prize main photo, taken Oct. 4 on CSI, is perhaps a little spoiled by the inserts (although they are informative). The bird was first found Sept. 23 on BPI (upper insert) and apparently the same individual appeared next day on CSI – note the asymmetrically longer right tail fork of both. A birder visiting from Scotland photographed the bird in flight overhead, showing the deep notches of the outer three primaries (insert at right) that confirm it as the highly migratory subspecies *savanna*, which breeds S. of Brazil and winters in Amazonia. However, its rather pale back and extensive white collar are contrary to stated characteristics of that subspecies. Such photographs can help us refine our understanding of the origins of these greatly displaced wanderers. [Photos: Mike King; upper insert Luke Berrigan, lower left insert Bob McMillan]

DBM was birding Big Pond, Nov. 11, at Florence, *CBRM*, when he spotted what he believed was a CAVE SWALLOW. "The light band across the back of the neck, light throat, buffy rump and overall relatively stocky appearance (short wings and tail) for a swallow were noted. All strongly suggest a Cave Swallow". [Ed. Note - This bird was far off course since it is normally a resident of Texas, Mexico and the Caribbean. This sighting coincided with a strong movement of Cave Swallows in the NE, which resulted in the first provincial records for PEI and Newfoundland.]

The now annually occurring CAROLINA WREN is back again in this reporting period. It was seen Nov. 22-23 at the residence of Graham Hawkins, Hatchet L, *HRM*, a bird that also appeared at this location earlier this year in Feb.

KJM found a NORTHER WHEATEAR Aug. 30, foraging along the Big I. Causeway, *Pict*. SEM found another Sept. 20 on the causeway of the Cole Hbr. Salt Marsh Trail, *HRM*, while doing a Maritimes Shorebird Survey. This was a relatively tame bird and offered excellent views as it seldom strayed off the narrow causeway. SEM reports "The bird was a lovely bright adult male leucor-

hoa, still with black mask and wings, and bright peach-coloured breast. The white rump and upper tail with broad black subterminal band were obvious in flight, and a narrow white terminal band could also be easily seen”.

EASTERN BLUEBIRDS have been entertaining folks throughout Nova Scotia this year, especially Tom Baillie, of Watervale, *Pict.* On Sept. 4 he observed two adults and five chicks sitting on a wire outside his house, a photographer's dream opportunity. Karl Jensen also enjoyed observing some post nesting behaviour in his back yard Oct. 5, Coldbrook, *Kings*. He saw two adults and two young flying about his property between the bird house and the trees.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Aug. 1; 18	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1; 1	VJH
Aug. 15	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH
Aug. 18	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
Aug. 27; 29	Brier I.	1; 1	LAL, ADL, PAC
Sept. 2	Brier I.	1	LAL, ADL, PAC

Eastern Wood Pewee

Aug. 1	Fauxburg Trail, Mahone Bay	2	JAH
Aug. 29	Brier I.	5	LAL, ADL, PAC
Oct. 5-6	City Field <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, AZV, IAM, <i>et al.</i>

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Aug. 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	DOU
Aug. 28	Brier I.	15-20	LAL, ADL, PAC

Alder Flycatcher

Aug. 22-			
Sept. 22	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	6	KJM
Aug. 23	Belle I. Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	3	JAH, DPO
Aug. 28	Brier I.	30+	LAL, ADL, PAC
Oct. 10-12	Seal I.	2	KJM, <i>et al.</i>

Least Flycatcher

Aug. 7	Clearland Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Aug. 22-			
Sept. 22	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	9	KJM
Aug. 28	Brier I.	15-20	LAL, ADL, PAC
Oct. 10-12	Seal I.	1	KJM, <i>et al.</i>

Eastern Phoebe

Oct. 5	Daniels Head, <i>CSI</i>	1	ELM, AHM
Oct. 10-12	Seal I.	4	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 11; 12	Brier I.	1; 2	ELM
Nov. 12	Crystal Crescent Bch. <i>PP, HRM</i>	1	HAT

Western Kingbird

Sept. 22	West Light, Sable I	1	ZOL
Oct. 16	<i>CSI</i>	1	JON, SAN, TEC, <i>et al.</i>

Eastern Kingbird

Sept. 17-18	West Light, Sable I.	1	ZOL
Aug. 11	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1 ad., 3 juvs.	SJF

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (18th provincial record)

Oct. 31	Daniels Head Cemetery, <i>CSI</i>	1	JON, SAN
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FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER (16th and 17th provincial records)

Sept. 23	BPI, relocated to <i>CSI</i>	1	LUB, NSBS
Sept. 24-			
Oct. 8	Daniels Head Cemetery, <i>CSI</i>	1	MUN, <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 11-12	Southwest Margaree, <i>Inv.</i>	1	Glen and Kim Glenryan

Northern Shrike

Oct. 12-			
Nov. 24	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1 ad., 1 juv.	KFS
Nov. 20	Sandy Cove Road, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Nov. 23	Advocate, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS

White-eyed Vireo

Oct. 6	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	imm.	HAT
Nov. 1-2	Hartlen Point, <i>HRM</i>	imm.	TEP, <i>et al.</i>

Yellow-throated Vireo

Sept. 10	Herring Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	SMB, RSM
Oct. 4	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	JUO, GDE
Nov. 1	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP

Blue-headed Vireo

Aug. 22-			
Nov. 1	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	25 sightings	KJM
Oct. 10-12	Seal I,	8	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 11	Northern Pt. Brier I	1	ELM
Oct. 12	Lighthouse Rd., Brier I,	1	ELM



Wood-Pewees in fall (here Oct. 4 at the N. End Halifax City Field) should be scrutinized for possible Westerns. This one has two well-established field marks of Eastern – an all pale lower bill, and pronounced anterior wing bar. Another suggestive feature, according to recently published field studies, is the tendency of the Western to perch more upright -- the Eastern perches more horizontally with the tail drooped below the wings. This one is not quite behaving to expectations. [Photo Dave Currie]

Sept. 11	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Aug. 7	Clearland Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct. 5	Bacarro, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH
Sept. 3-5	Brier I.	1	LAL, ADL, PAC

Warbling Vireo

Sept. 18	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Sept. 27	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
Oct. 1	Tallahassee School, Dartmouth	1	MIK
Oct. 6	Waegwoltic Ave, <i>HRM</i>	2	IAM

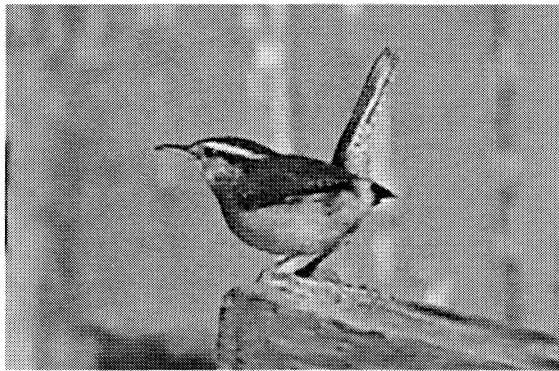
Philadelphia Vireo

Sept. 1; 5	Brier I.	1; 1	LAL, ADL, PAC
Sept. 17	Tallahassee School, Dartmouth	1	MIK
Sept. 22	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Sept. 23	BPI	3	LUB, NSBS
Sept. 27; 30	Lingan, <i>CBRM</i>	1; 1	DBM
Oct. 6	City Field, <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM
Oct. 31	Wagners Bch. Trail, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM

Red-eyed Vireo

Aug. 1	Long Hill, Mahone Bay	5	JAH
Aug. 2	Fauxburg Trail, Mahone Bay	8	NSBS
Aug. 7	Clearland Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
Aug. 14-			
Oct. 9	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	16	RIV, APO
Aug. 22-			
Nov. 10	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	30	KJM
Sept. 4-5	Brier I.	20+	LAL, ADL, PAC
Sept. 13	Clearland Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
Sept. 13	Conrads I., <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH

Sept. 14	Harbourfront Trail, Dartmouth	1	KGI
Sept. 22	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Sept. 27	Brier I.	1	JAH
Oct. 5	City Field, <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, AZV
Oct. 7-8	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Oct. 12	Northern Pt. Brier I.	1	ELM
Oct. 10-12	Seal I.	10	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Gray Jay			
Sept. 24-26	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Oct. 5	Shelbourne	2	JAH
Oct. 12-			
Nov. 24	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1-2 most days	
			KFS
Oct. 13	Route 103, <i>Shel.</i>	2	JAH
Oct. 26	Baleine, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM
Nov. 30	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Blue Jay			
Sept. 26	Brier I.	40	JAH, DAW, DPO
Oct. 10-13	Brier I.	500+ daily max.	ELM, AHM

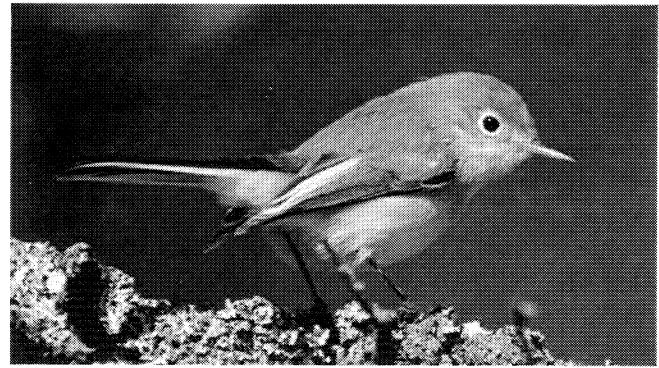


CAROLINA WREN has become a regular vagrant, but this cocky individual was a one-day first Oct. 10 in Springhill, *Cum.* [Photo Cindy Creighton]

American Crow			
Sept. 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	80	KJM
Oct. 18	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	100+	KJM
Common Raven			
Oct. 18; 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	20; 16	KJM
Horned Lark			
Sept. 26-			
Nov. 8	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	48	KJM
Oct. 9	Lingan Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	30	CSM, TMM
Oct. 10-12	Seal I.	7	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 31-			
Nov. 8	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	4	DJC
Nov. 23	Lockeport's Crescent Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	6	DJC
Tree Swallow			
Aug. 31	West Light, Sable I.	11	ZOL
Sept. 6	West Light, Sable I	5	ZOL
Bank Swallow			
Aug. 13	Lingan, <i>CBRM</i>	10 (last sighting)	DBM
Aug. 27; 31	West Light, Sable I	1; 1	ZOL
Cliff Swallow			
Aug. 10	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
CAVE SWALLOW (14th provincial record)			
Nov. 11	Big Pond Bch., Florence, <i>CBRM</i>	1	DBM
Barn Swallow			
Aug. 2	Windsor Causeway, <i>Hants</i>	24	JCT
Aug. 20	West Light, Sable I.	6	ZOL

Aug. 22-			
Sept. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	26	KJM
Sept. 1	Port Williams Sewage Pond, <i>Kings</i>	40	JAH
Black-capped Chickadee			
Aug. 1	Fauxburg Trail, Mahone Bay	16	JAH
Aug. 2	Mahone Bay	18	JAH
Aug. 3	Clearland Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	12	JAH
Oct. 5	South Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	15	CSM, TMM
Nov. 14	South Shore, <i>Lun.</i>	23	JAH
Boreal Chickadee			
Nov. 8	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	36	KJM
Oct. 10-12	Seal I.	83	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Red-breasted Nuthatch			
Aug. 3-			
Nov. 30	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	29	RIV, APO
Aug. 20	Brier I.	20	LIT
Sept. 9	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
Oct. 12	Northern Pt., Brier I.	40	ELM
Oct. 10-12	Seal I.	49	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
White-breasted Nuthatch			
Aug.-Nov.	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
Sept. 13	Clearland Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct.-Nov.	Bridgetown	2 most days	MCR
Oct.-Nov.	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1 most days	SLH
Nov. 3	Bridgewater	1	JAH
Brown Creeper			
Oct. 10-12	Seal I.	3	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 3-24	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	5	APO
Nov. 25	L. Echo, <i>HRM</i>	1	Chris Pepper
Carolina Wren			
Nov. 23	Hatchet L., <i>HRM</i>	1	Graham Hawkins, BLM
House Wren			
Oct. 6	City Field, <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM
Oct. 10	Seal I.	1	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 25	Hartlen Pt.	1	TEP
Nov. 1	City Field, <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM
Nov. 2	Dorthea Dr., Dartmouth	1	MIK
Winter Wren			
Oct. 5	Daniels Head, CSI	1	ELM, AHM
Oct. 28	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
Oct. 10-12	Seal I.	20	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Marsh Wren			
Oct. 12	Seal I.	1	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 2	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
Golden-crowned Kinglet			
Aug. 16	Seal I.	13	JAH, DPO
Aug. 27	Brier I.	10	LAL, ADL, PAC
Oct. 12	Brier I.	20	ELM
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
Oct. 10	Northern Pt., Brier I.	15	ELM
Oct. 12	Northern Pt., Brier I.	50+	ELM
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
Aug. 21	Brier I.	1	LAL, ADL, PAC
Aug. 30	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, AZV
Aug. 30	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, AZV
Sept. 1	Brier I.	1	LAL, ADL, PAC
Sept. 17	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Sept. 21	Linghan, <i>CBRM</i>	1	DBM
Sept. 23	BPI	1	LUB, NSBS
Sept. 24	Hartlen Pt.	1	IAM
NORTHERN WHEATEAR			
Aug. 30-31	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Sept. 19-21	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	1	SEM, <i>et al.</i>
Eastern Bluebird			
Aug.-Sept.	Watervale, <i>Pict.</i>	2 ads., 5 young	KJM, Tom Baillie
Aug. 23	New Salem, <i>Cum.</i>	4	KFS
Oct. 5	Coldbrook, <i>Kings</i>	4	Karl Jensen <i>vide</i> JCT
Oct. 14	New Salem, <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS
Nov. 10	Big Tusket I., <i>Yar.</i>	6+	Donnie Jacquard

Veery						
Oct. 11	Lighthouse Rd., Brier I.	1	ELM, AHM	Oct. 29	Duncan Reef, HRM	250+ HAT
Swainson's Thrush				Oct. 31	Wagners Bch. Trail, HRM	150 BLM
Aug. 14	Apple R., Cum.	1	KFS	Nov. 22	Portuguese Cove, HRM	50+ HAT
Oct. 10	Sandy Cove Rd., HRM	1	HAT, LAE			
Oct. 11	Lighthouse Rd., Brier I	10+	ELM, AHM			
Hermit Thrush						
Sept. 22-						
Oct. 19	Lwr. Sackville, HRM	4	RIV			
Oct. 11; 12	Lighthouse Rd., Brier I.	1; 5+	ELM, AHM			
Oct. 13	Northern Pt. Rd., Brier I	2	ELM			
Oct. 19	Brier I.	20+	ELM			
Nov. 9	Eatonville, Cum.	2	MSM			
Nov. 19	Barrington Passage	1	AIS			
Nov. 27	Crystal Crescent Bch. PP, HRM	1	HAT			
American Robin						
Sept. 26	Big I., Pict.	105	KJM			
Oct. 12	Northern Pt., Brier I.	500+	ELM, AHM			
Oct. 18	Duncans Cove to Sandy Cove, HRM	2000+	HAT			
Oct. 19	Northern Pt., Brier I	500	ELM			



This BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER was one of three that brightened the day for several birders during Thanksgiving Weekend on Seal I. [Photo Alan Covert]

Mimics Through Warblers

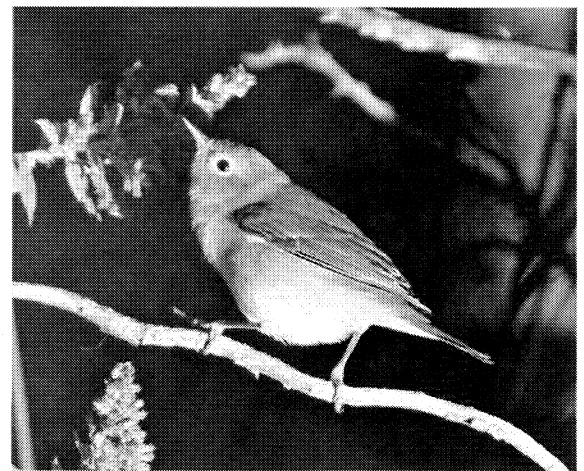
By Ken McKenna

The over 40 reports received of 1-2 GRAY CATBIRDS peaked in mid-September. NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS continued to be in low numbers and were only reported from six locations. There was only one record of BROWN THRASHER this reporting period, following a breeding season when there were no reports received -- the in-roads from a couple of years ago seem to have halted for this species. Mary Knockwood noted a "white starling" flush from the middle of a flock of EUROPEAN STARLINGS on a roadside wire between Oxford and Lower Shinimicas, Cum. This starling had very light brown stippling on the wings.

Once again this fall migration period AMERICAN PIPITS were first noted in the province along the Northumberland shore of Big. I., Pict., Sept. 12, a little later than in 2007 when the first *Pictou* sightings were Sept. 3. As was the case in 2007 the first BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS arrived in the province in the Port Morien area of CB, although they were a few days later this year. Nov. 16 there were an astounding 3,000 seen by the Murrants in the Port Morien area, and after last years Nov. 13 arrival of 10,000, this area would seem to be a major portal for arrival of this winter visitor to NS. This would also be the time of year to look for them. During the rest of the month there did not appear to be a dispersal of these birds to other areas of the province. CEDAR WAXWINGS seemed to be under-reported with a few small flocks noted in mid-September and possibly peaking in migration in mid-October when ELM noted 300+ on Brier I.

Distinct migration movements of warblers were noted Aug. 28-31, Sept. 23-27, and Oct. 10-12, with the movements most apparent on off-shore islands. A total of 33 species of warbler were reported this period. No details were received on either of the **BLUE-WINGED WARBLERS** -- the species is sufficiently rare to require some form of documentation. TENNESSEE WARBLER sightings are on a slight increase in the last couple of years, and ORANGE-CROWNED WABLERS continues to be well reported. The first reports of the latter species were again from the Schooner Pond area (CBRM), although slightly later than the mid-September date of 2007. Surprisingly there were not many reports of NASHVILLE WARBLER, despite it being a common nester in Canada.

Peak numbers of NORTHERN PARULA were in the Sept. 6-15 time period. Late August was clearly a peak time for YELLOW, CHESTNUT-SIDED, and MAGNOLIA WARBLER migration. There is no sign of any increase in CAPE MAY WARBLER sightings, with only five reports received. The Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas results thus far are showing an increase in BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER sightings, especially in New Brunswick, but there certainly were not many fall observations of this species in Nova Scotia. On the other hand, there was no shortage of YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS, particularly on Thanksgiving weekend, with a very large migration movement on the off-shore islands of Seal and Brier, Oct. 11&12.



This NASHVILLE WARBLER Oct. 11 on Seal I., displays its conspicuous eye ring. [Photo Alan Covert]

On Nov. 27, Andy Horn spotted an unusual warbler on the top of pine trees at Pt. Pleasant Pk. He got a better look Nov. 29 and gave this description: "plain yellow face, darkish cap although it seemed to be only toward the back of head; impression of a yellowish forehead—but I did not get a satisfactory top down view; overall body shape seemed shorter (less elongated) than usual *Dendroica* (but could have been just cold); call softly kissy with a little tick or some such quality at the end; small well contained bib (chickadee-ish or smaller) under-parts white without streaks or yellow wash (i.e., no yellow vent as in Black-throated Green warbler); back, when glimpsed, green with blackish stripes as connected dashes; wing bars present, and light edges to some of the wing feathers". This clearly described an exciting **HERMIT WARBLER**. Many observers got a chance to observe this rare warbler (three previous NS sightings) and many fine photographs were taken and shared on the internet (DAC, BRS, AAM, Alan Covert, RBS). To eliminate hybrid possibilities with Townsend's Warbler, the photos were analysed by experts familiar with this species from the west coast (Kimball Garret, Joe Morland and Will Russell) and all felt it was a good Hermit Warbler sighting, likely a hatch-year male.

Four records of **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** were a good showing for this rare, but regular fall vagrant. The fall influx of PINE and PRAIRIE WARBLERS was about average for the autumn season. Fall PALM WARBLER reports were average and some observers noted the western sub-species, although not as many as in some years. BAY-BREASTED WARBLERS, uncommon for many years, were almost missed this fall, and the usual numbers of mid-September BLACKPOLL WARBLERS were much reduced this fall, maybe slipping away undetected, or due to adverse winds.

A detailed rare bird report was submitted by DAC for an Oct. 30 **CERULEAN WARBLER** he saw in his yard at Old Birch Rd. in Dartmouth. The following is a brief summary extracted from that report: "under parts quite white overall, but becoming creamy/buff colour closer to the breast and throat, very short tail, long primaries, un-streaked back which was olive-green between the wings but darkening on neck and top of head to a neat blue-green colour from the back of the head forward, fine tan-coloured striping starting below the throat to the top of the breast, two starkly white broad and equal wing-bars on each wing, sharp separation of the blue-green colour from the buff/yellowish face, bill legs and feet black, dark supraloral area becoming more diffuse and broader as the eye line extended behind the eye giving the appearance of a dark facial patch". The two **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** reports from CSI are likely the same bird -- JCZ described the bird as a male with bright goldenrod colour in front and contrasting bluish gray wings and tail. There were only five OVENBIRD reports, but surely there must have been more than that seen. The Aug. 28 report of 15+ **NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** by the banding group on Brier I. likely represents a peak migration period for this species. The sole **LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH** was reported without details. **HOODED WARBLER** reports were from off-shore islands only, with the report from Seal I. a verbal report directly to me from FLL. **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** sightings followed the usual reverse migrant pattern of past years and were in about average numbers and distribution over the reporting period.

Gray Catbird				Sept. 14	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	18+	K. & L. MacLeod
August	<i>Lun. Pict., Shel.</i>	5 reports of 6-7 birds		Sept. 17	Hartlen Pt.	1	DOU
		var. obs.		Sept. 18	Duncan Reef, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
September	widely	23 reports of 38 birds		Sept. 19	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	3	SEM
		var. obs.		Sept. 19	Sable I.	1	ZOL
October	widely	11 reports of 13 birds		Sept. 22	Cabot Landing Bch., <i>Vic.</i>	2	FMC
		var. obs.		Sept. 26	Brier I.	32	ELM
Nov. 2	W. Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	JCZ	October	widely, mainland	9 reports 200+ birds	
Nov. 15	Rockingham, <i>HRM</i>	1	JEH			var. obs.	
Nov. 21	CSI	1 at feeder	JON	Nov. 4	Jeddore Oyster Ponds, <i>HRM</i>	1	LUB
Northern Mockingbird				Nov. 27	Crystal Crescent Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Sept. 29	Port Maitland, <i>Yar.</i>	1	ELM, IAM	Bohemian Waxwing			
Oct. 12	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	2 seen in past week	GMU	Nov. 3	Sand Point Rd., <i>CBRM</i>	3	CAM, ALM
				Nov. 6	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	30	CAM, ALM
Oct. 15-				Nov. 6	Sand Point Rd., <i>CBRM</i>	70	CAM, ALM
Nov. 14	Port Hawkesbury, <i>Inv.</i>	1 coming for 3 years		Nov. 10	Lower Barneys R., <i>Pict.</i>	6	KJM, A. Adolfsson
				Nov. 16	near Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i>	3000	ALM, CAM
Oct. 19	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1	BBT	Nov. 24	Lantz, <i>HRM</i>	11	Anders Adolfsson
Nov. 1	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK, FLL, CLS	Nov. 27	Canso	a few	TOK
Nov. 18	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	JEH	Nov. 28	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	20	SJF
Nov. 19	Brookfield, <i>Col.</i>	1	Susan Stevenson	Nov. 29	Doctors Brook, <i>Ant.</i>	4	JOK
Nov. 23	Wolfville	1	LDE	Nov. 30	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	31	JOK
Brown Thrasher				Cedar Waxwing			
Oct. 12	Seal I.	1	KJM, <i>et al.</i>	Aug. & Sept. widely		11 reports	var. obs.
European Starling				Oct. 10, 11,			
Sept. 27	Canso	400+ hawking ants		12	Seal I.	8, 60, 50	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
		TOK		Oct. 12	Brier I.	300+, fallout	ELM
Oct. 6, 7	Back Hbr. trail, <i>Lun.</i>	1000 very noisy		Nov. 4	Boutliers Pt., <i>HRM</i>	8	S. Townsend
		JAH		Nov. 9	Wolfville	a number	RBS
Oct. 10, 11,				Nov. 9	Pictou	9	KJM
12	Seal I.	0, 20, 40	KJM, <i>et al.</i>	Nov. 23	Wolfville	1	LDE
Nov. 30	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	300	JAH, DPO	BLUE-WINGED WARBLER			
American Pipit				Aug. 15	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH
Sept. 12	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	8	KJM	Oct. 1	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM

Tennessee Warbler			
Aug. 27	Brier I.	2	LAL, ADL, PAC
Sept. 17	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Sept. 20	Woodside, <i>HRM</i>	1	KGI
Sept. 22	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	only sighting this year
			VJH
Oct. 5	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Oct. 11	Canso	1	TOK
Oct. 11	Daniels Hd., <i>Shel.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> MUN
Orange-crowned Warbler			
Sept. 28	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	ALM, CAM
Oct. 1, 16, 19	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1, 1, 1	ALM CAM
Oct. 9	Lingan, <i>CBRM</i>	1	DBM
Oct. 10, 11, 12	Seal I.	1, 4, 6	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 11	Canso	2	TOK
Oct. 11, 12	Brier I.	1 each day	ELM
Oct. 13	Prince Margaret Blvd., <i>HRM</i>	1	CLS
Oct. 19	Lakeside Terrace, <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM
Oct. 20, 30	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Oct. 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Nov. 1	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
Nov. 2	Dartmouth areas	3	MIK, FLL, CLS
Nov. 3	Renwick Brook, <i>CBRM</i>	4	ALM, CAM
Nov. 4	Jeddore Oyster Ponds, <i>HRM</i>	1	LUB
Nov. 8	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Nov. 11, 12	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Nov. 14	Shore Rd., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
Nov. 17	Vienna St. Halifax,	1	SEM
Nov. 21	Cambridge St., Halifax	1	in barberry PLC
Nov. 27	Pt. Pleasant Pk., <i>HRM</i>	1	AGH
Nov. 28	Canso	1	<i>fide</i> TOK
Nov. 30	Pt. Pleasant Pk., <i>HRM</i>	3	BLM
Nov. 30	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	JOK
Nov. 30	Antigonish	1	RLF, NSBS
Nashville Warbler			
Aug.-Sept.	mainland locales	7 reports of 1 bird each	var. obs.
Oct. 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM
Oct. 10, 11, 12	Seal I.	2, 1, 1	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 12	Fairview cemetery, <i>HRM</i>	1	western subspecies
			MIK, CLS
Nov. 1	Duncan Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	also Oct. 25
			HAT
Northern Parula			
August	widely	13 reports of 47 birds	var. obs.
September	widely	11 reports of 38 birds	var. obs.
Oct. 10, 11	Seal I.	1 & 2	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 23	White Pt., <i>Queens</i>	1	feeder area Margaret Millard
Yellow Warbler			
August	widely	7 reports of 31 birds	var. obs.
September	widely	8 reports of 16 birds	var. obs.
Oct. 2	Brier I.	1	landed on boat
			JUS
Nov. 2	Dorothea Drive, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL, MIK, CLS
Chestnut-sided Warbler			
August	<i>Lun. & Pict.</i>	4 reports of 7 birds	
			JAH, KJM
Sept. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM
Sept. 6	Second L., <i>HRM</i>	1	RIV, APO
Sept. 13	Fauxburg Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Magnolia Warbler			
August	<i>Lun. & Pict.</i>	10 reports of 26 birds	
			JAH, KJM
Aug. 28	Brier I.	50+	LAL, ADL, PAC
Sept. 6	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	a few	JAH
Sept. 6, 12	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	9, 4	KJM
Sept. 7	Caribou I., <i>Pict.</i>	5	KJM
Sept. 13	Sable I.	1	ZOL
Sept. 14	French Basin trail, <i>Anna.</i>	1	RSM

Sept. 18	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH
Sept. 22, 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	5, 1	KJM
Oct. 5	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Oct. 11	Seal I.	1	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Cape May Warbler			
Aug. 21; 27	Brier I.	2; 2	LAL, ADL, PAC
Sept. 5	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	1 fem.	BLM
Sept. 25	Wagner Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1 fem.	BLM
Sept. 27	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
Black-throated Blue Warbler			
Sept. 7, 11	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1, 1	CAM, ALM
Sept. 11	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	only one this year
			VJH
Sept. 12	Sable I.	1	ZOL
Sept. 19	Cape Light, <i>Shel.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> MUN
Sept. 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Oct. 8	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Oct. 11, 12	Seal I.	1, 2	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 3-5	White Pt., <i>Queens</i>	1	at grapes Margaret Millard



A particularly tame adult male BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER spent much time Oct. 11-12 foraging on the ground in the Fishermen's Reserve on Seal I. [Photo Alan Covert]

Yellow-rumped Warbler			
August	widely	11 reports, 92 birds	var. obs.
September	widely	17 reports, ~500+ birds	var. obs.
Sept. 27	Brier I.	300+	JAH, NSBS
Oct. 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	45	KJM
Oct. 9	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	40	DHH
Oct. 10, 11, 12	Seal I.	200+, 500+, 200+	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 11, 12	Brier I.	300+, 3000+	ELM
Oct. 11	South Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	3	CSM, TMM
Oct. 11	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	5	KFS
Oct. 19	Brier I.	200+	ELM
November	widely	11 reports	var. obs.
Black-throated Green Warbler			
August	widely	8 reports, 25 birds	var. obs.
Aug. 28	Brier I.	20+	LAL, ADL, PAC
September	widely	13 reports, 38 birds	var. obs.
Oct. 5	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Oct. 10, 11	Seal I.	2, 1	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
HERMIT WARBLER			
Nov. 27-			
Dec. 5	Pt. Pleasant Pk., <i>HRM</i>	1	photo and description
			AGH
Blackburnian Warbler			
August	<i>Lun. Pict., Cum., Shel.</i>	5 reports, 7 birds	JAH, KJM, KFS, DPO
Sept. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Sept. 7	Caribou I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Sept. 13	Clearland trail, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

Oct. 16	CSI	1 white-lored in yard	TEC
Oct. 25	Hartlen Pt.	1 white-lored	TEP
Oct. 26-30	Stanford, <i>Yar.</i>	1 coming to suet	Jennifer Buckler
~Nov. 15	Port Medway, <i>Queens</i>	1	CSS
Pine Warbler			
Oct. 19	Watt Section, <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM
Nov. 1	Fairview cemetery, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL, MIK, CLS
Nov. 9	Pictou	1 dull	KJM
Nov. 12, 13	Pt. Pleasant Pk., <i>HRM</i>	1 bright	AGH
Nov. 15	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i> ,	fem.	LDE
Nov. 16	Beaverbank, <i>HRM</i>	4	CLS
Nov. 21-23	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JOA
Nov. 24	Westville, <i>Pict.</i>	1 struck window lightly	STV
Nov. 22	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 bright	HAT, LAE
Nov. 27	Pt. Pleasant Pk., <i>HRM</i>	1	AGH
Nov. 30	Lunenburg	3	<i>fide</i> JAH
Nov. 30	Pt. Pleasant Pk., <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM
Nov. 30	White Pt., <i>Queens</i>	2	Margaret Millard
Prairie Warbler			
Aug. 24	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	fem., photographed	AZV, DAC
Aug. 30	Chebucto Hd. Rd., <i>HRM</i>	male	AZV, DAC
Sept. 1	BPI	1	CLD, RSM <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 6, 26	Lingan, <i>CBRM</i>	1	DBM
Sept. 6	Brier I.	1	LAL
Sept. 7, 12	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1, 1	CAM, ALM
Sept. 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM
Sept. 17	Dartmouth	1	MIK
Sept. 20	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2	MIK
Sept. 20	Canso	4	TOK
Sept. 22	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL, MIK, CLS
Oct. 1	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
Oct. 5	CSI	2	MUN
Oct. 5	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Palm Warbler			
Aug. 31	Indian Path, <i>Lun.</i>	13	JAH, DAW
September	widely	15 reports, 50+ birds	<i>var. obs.</i>
Sept. 19	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	2 western	MIK
Sept. 28	South Head, <i>CBRM</i>	1 western	CAM, ALM
Oct. 10, 11, 12	Seal I.	16, 40, 23 eastern	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 10, 11, 12	Seal I.	4, 3, 4 western	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 12	Brier I.	75+ big arrival	ELM
Oct. 11-15	3 <i>HRM</i> locales	3 reports, 3 birds	CLS
Oct. 15	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	4+	PBG
Nov. 8	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Nov. 20	Brooklyn, <i>Queens</i>	1	DPO, JAH
Nov. 21	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1 western	FLL
Nov. 30	Pt. Pleasant Pk., <i>HRM</i>	1 western	BLM
Bay-breasted Warbler			
Sept. 18	Prospect Peninsula, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Oct. 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	adult fall male	KJM
Blackpoll Warbler			
August	widely	4 reports, 9 birds	<i>var. obs.</i>
Sept. 6-17	widely	7 reports, 9 birds	<i>var. obs.</i>
Sept. 19	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	12	MIK
Sept. 19	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	10	BLM
Sept. 22	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	6	KJM
Oct. 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	2	KJM
Oct. 10, 11, 12	Seal I.	2, 1, 1	KJM, <i>et al.</i>

Oct. 12	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH, DAW
Oct. 13	Chebucto Head, <i>HRM</i>	2	CSS, CLS
Nov. 14	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	trying peanut butter HAT
CERULEAN WARBLER			
Oct. 30	Dartmouth	imm., details provided	DAC
Black-and-white Warbler			
August	widely	12 reports, 38 birds	<i>var. obs.</i>
Sept. 6-13	widely	6 reports, 15 birds	<i>var. obs.</i>
Sept. 18-22	widely	4 reports, 12 birds	<i>var. obs.</i>
Oct. 6	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Oct. 12	Seal I.	1	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
American Redstart			
Aug. 1-31	widely	16 reports, 33 birds	<i>var. obs.</i>
Aug. 26	Brier I.	20-25	LAL, ADL, PAC
Aug. 31	Sable I.	3	ZOL
September	widely	5 reports, 6 birds	<i>var. obs.</i>
Oct. 5	CSI	1	MUN
Oct. 5, 19	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER			
Aug. 30-			
Sept. 1	Daniels Hd., CSI	1	details in text MUN; JCZ
Ovenbird			
Aug. 1	Fauxburg trail, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Aug. 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM
Sept. 7	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL, MZG
Sept. 7	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
Sept. 12	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Northern Waterthrush			
Aug.-			
Sept. 17	Sable I.	>6	ZOL
Aug. 28	Brier I.	15+	LAL, ADL, PAC
Aug. 30, 31	CSI	1, 2	MUN
Aug. 31	Cape Light, <i>Shel.</i>	2	JON, SAN
Sept. 12	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Sept. 14	Dartmouth	2	KGI
Sept. 20	Woodside, <i>HRM</i>	2	KGI
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH			
Aug. 31	Cape Light, <i>Shel.</i>	1	no details JON, SAN
Mourning Warbler			
Sept. 9	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1	young male DPO
Sept. 12	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Oct. 4-5	CSI	1	MUN
Common Yellowthroat			
August	widely	11 reports, 46 birds	<i>var. obs.</i>
Aug. 22-26	Brier I.	10-15+	LAL, ADL, PAC
September	widely	13 reports, 15 birds	<i>var. obs.</i>
Sept. 6, 12	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	10, 6	KJM
Sept. 22, 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	17, 9	KJM
Sept. 23	Beaverbank, <i>HRM</i>	8	CLS
Oct. 1	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	KIG
Oct. 10, 11, 12	Seal I.	7, 10, 25	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 4	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Nov. 9	Wolfville	1	BLF, Rick Whitman
Nov. 11	Antigonish	1	RFL, NSBS
HOODED WARBLER			
Sept. 1	Sable I.	fem. no details	ZOL
mid-Sept.	Seal I.	2 details by phone	FLL
Wilson's Warbler			
August	widely	7 reports, 41 birds	<i>var. obs.</i>

September	widely	5 reports, 9 birds		Sept. 5	Albert Bridge, <i>CBRM</i>	1	LEL
		var. obs.		Sept. 21	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
October	Sober, Seal and Big I.	3 reports, 3 birds		Sept. 23	BPI	3-4	LUB
		KJM		Sept. 30	Lingan, <i>CBRM</i>	1	DBM
Nov. 2	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	Oct. 3	Seaview Pk., <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, AZV
Nov. 2	Taylor Head PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	Jim Cameron	Oct. 6	CSI	1	MIK, CSS, CLS
Nov. 6	Dartmouth	1	Anders Adolfsson	Oct. 8	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Nov. 9	Pictou	2	KJM	Oct. 11	Seal I.	1	FLL
	Canada Warbler			Oct. 14	Brier I.	1	ELM
Aug. 1	Long Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH	Nov. 1	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
Aug. 2	Fauxburg trail, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, NSBS	Nov. 1-26	several HRM locales	13 reports, 8-10 birds	var. obs.
Aug. 25, 30	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1, 1	KJM				
Sept. 5	Springhill, <i>Cum.</i>	1	CIC	Nov. 9, 17,			
Sept. 9	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1	DPO	23	Wolfville	1	LDE, BLF, RBS
	Yellow-breasted Chat			Nov. 5	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
Aug. 31	CSI	1	<i>fide</i> MUN	Nov. 6	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	ALM, CAM

Tanagers Through House Sparrows

By Ian McLaren

It's hard to know if the sporadic accounts of some regular species reflects real scarcities, or under-reporting. Nevertheless, large movements of sparrows, icterids, and finches were reported.

All three tanagers were spotted this fall, with WESTERN in the unexpected majority

Most sparrows were about as expected, with migratory waves in September and mid-October. Among them were the usual regular vagrants, with only the **LARK BUNTING** an extreme rarity. Also interesting was a junco that arrived late October at HAB's feeders in Elgin, *Pict.* It was dark hooded, dark gray on the back and paler gray on the flanks; that is, with features of some male *cismontanus*, an intergrade population from the Canadian Rockies. It seemed a "ringer" for the individual that spent Dec. 2007 at the same feeders.

Note the apparent migrant NORTHERN CARDINALS to augment our resident breeders; the status of the latter will be clearer in our CBCs. The photo of the young male **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** at Lr. Kingsburg feeder in early November shows its richly coloured, unstreaked flanks, and it was said to be bright orange-yellow below – our first photographically confirmed since 1999.

The male **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** was identified by its "very bright iridescence," but no structural characteristics were submitted. Among scattered reports of COMMON GRACKLES were reports of huge feeding flights evidently associated with large beechnut crops (see DOL's observation), and also periodic migratory waves. Gayle MacLean observed one grackle with no head feathers Oct. 11 in Dartmouth – actually quite a common occurrence. Less commonplace was a family of six grackles in Lunenburg, four with white head feathers (JAH) – an inherited trait? There was an exceptional "show" of BALTIMORE ORIOLES this fall. Many will no doubt try to winter.

There were several reported die-offs of PURPLE FINCHES and other feeder finches. For example, about 10 Purple Finches died around GDI's residence in June, and the species was absent thereafter. It was a big fall for White-winged Crossbills in W. Europe as well – some sort of N. Hemisphere synchrony of cone crop? But why no fall reports of RED CROSSBILL? Randy Lauff observed two HOUSE SPARROWS in Antigonish struggling over a stick; he found from literature that they refurbish nest boxes for winter roosts.



A first-fall male **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK**, briefly present in early November, was photographed at a feeder in Upper Kingsburg, *Lun.* The black-and white image shows the typical bicoloured bill and lack of streaking on the flanks, and the original reveals its richly orange-buff flanks and facial markings. [Photo Ann and Denis Falvey]

Summer TanagerNov. 15-29 Bay St. Lawrence, *Vic.* male (photo) *fide* FMC**Scarlet Tanager**

Oct. 29 Canso male (photo) TOK

WESTERN TANAGER

Oct. 29 Canso male (photo) TOK

Nov. 1 Duncans Cove, HRM 1 (no details) FLL *et al.*

Nov. 24 Barrington Passage male (no details)

AIS

Eastern Towhee

Oct. 14 Hartlen Pt., HRM male A. Adolffson

Nov. 11-30 Hastings Dr, Dartmouth fem DAC, AZV; m.ob.

Nov. 15-30 Hubley, HRM male *fide* Shirley Hughes

Nov. 15 Springhill fem. CIC

Nov. 29 Wolfville new fem. JWW

American Tree Sparrow

Oct. 20 Duncan Cove, HRM 1 HAT

Nov. 1-30 12 locations 1 to 30+ var. obs.

Chipping SparrowSept. 6, 26 Big I., *Pict.* 1, 2 KJM

Sept. 26 Beaverbank, HRM 1 "new" CLS

Oct. 8 Dartmouth 2 DAC, KGI

Oct. 10-12 Seal I. up to 20 var. obs.

Oct. 18-

Nov. 13 4 locations 7 inds. 4 obs.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Oct. 8 Dartmouth 1 KGI

Oct. 10-12 Seal I. 1 (photo) var. obs.

Oct. 13 Chebucto Hd. Rd. HRM 1 CLS

Field Sparrow

Oct. 10 Seal I. 1 var. obs.

Oct. 11 CSI 1 MUN

Nov. 2 Broad Cove, Lun. 1 CSS

Vesper SparrowOct. 5-19 CSI 1 MUN *et al.*

Nov. 1 Duncans Cove, HRM 1 MIK

Lark Sparrow

Sept. 19 Spectacle L., HRM 1 MIK

Sept. 23, 26 Canso 1, 4 CLS, TOK

Oct. 4-12 City Field, N. Halifax 1-2 IAM, CLS, *et al.*

Oct. 12 Seal I. 1 (photos) var. obs.

LARK BUNTING

Sept. 19 CSI 1 (no details) MUN

Savannah SparrowAug. 22, 25 Big I., *Pict.* 6, 30 KJM

Sept. 6-28 6 locations big movements (up to 250)

7 obs.

Oct. 1 Dartmouth "many" KGI

Oct. 10-12 Seal I. up to 40 var. obs.

Oct. 12 Brier I. 50+ arrivals AAM, ELM

Oct. 18, 25 Big I., *Pict.* 4, 3 KJM**Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow**

Sept. 19, 23 Hartlen Pt., HRM none, 2 IAM

Oct. 5 Sober I., HRM. 1 KJM

Oct. 11, 12 Seal I. 3, 5 var. obs.

Oct. 18 Brier I. 4 ELM

Oct. 29,

Nov. 6 Duncan Reef, HRM 2, 1 HAT

Nov. 11 CSI 1 at feeder MUN

Nov. 13 Grand Pré, Kings "still plentiful"

RBS

Grasshopper Sparrow

Oct. 19-31 CSI 1 at feeder MUN

Nov. 29 Canso 2 TOK, NSBS

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Aug 2-26 5 locations 1-4, incl. attended young

var. obs.

Oct. 11, 12 Seal I. 4, 1 var. obs.

Fox Sparrow

Sept. 11 Whites L., HRM 1 imm., feeder

BLM

Oct. 6 Brier I. 2 migrants JUS

From Oct. 21 Portuguese Cove, HRM few HAT



A long-staying GRASSHOPPER SPARROW at MUN's feeder in Clarke's Hbr., CSI (here Oct. 19), became very approachable for a portrait, revealing the flat crown, large bill, and the unstreaked breast of an adult (strongly buff in the original). [Photo Bruce Stevens]

Nov. 2-30 10 locations 1-6 inds. var. obs.

Song Sparrow

Aug. 1-31 4 locations 1-8 inds. var. obs.

Sept. 1-30 9 locations incl. movements (up to 120)

var. obs.

Oct. 8 Sunrise Valley, *Vic.* "many" FMC

Oct. 10, 11,

12 Seal I. 15, 25, 60 var. obs.

Oct. 12 Brier I. 300+ ELM, AHM

Oct. 13 CSI "hundreds" MUN

Oct. 19 Halifax area big decline IAM

Oct. 28,

Nov. 1 City Field, N. Halifax 20-20 IAM

Nov. 1-30 4 locations 2-12 5 obs.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Sept. 16-28 7 locations 8 repts, 1-8 inds.

var. obs.

Oct. 4 N. End Halifax City Field 2 DAC, IAM

Oct. 10, 11,

12 Seal I. 2, 2, 10 var. obs.

Oct. 11 Brier I. 3+ ELM, AHM

Nov. 29 Hartlen Pt., HRM 1 BST

Swamp Sparrow

Sept. 14-26 6 locations movements of 6-40 var. obs.

Oct. 8 Duncan Cove "lots" HAT

Oct. 10, 11,

12 Seal I. 10, 20, 40 var. obs.

Oct. 12, 14 Brier I. 10+, 10+ ELM, AHM

Oct. 18, 25 Big I., *Pict.* 8, 5 KJM

Nov. 2-30 8 locations 1-10 var. obs.

White-throated Sparrow

Aug. 1-30 4 locations 1-13 4 obs.

Sept. 6-23 5 locations movements (up to 33)

5 obs.

Oct. 5 Sober I., HRM 85 KJM

Oct. 8 Sunrise Valley, *Vic.* "lots" FMC

Oct. 11, 12 6 locations 20+ to 400 6 obs.

Oct. 10, 11,

12 Seal I. 10, 20, 200 var. obs.

Oct. 12, 13,

19 Brier I. 100+, 200, 500+

ELM, AHM

Oct. 19 Grand Pré, Kings few LDE

Nov. 1-30 5 locations 1-6 inds. var. obs.

White-crowned SparrowSept. 22 Big I., *Pict.* 1 KJM

Sept. 23-27 Beaverbank, HRM 2 CLS

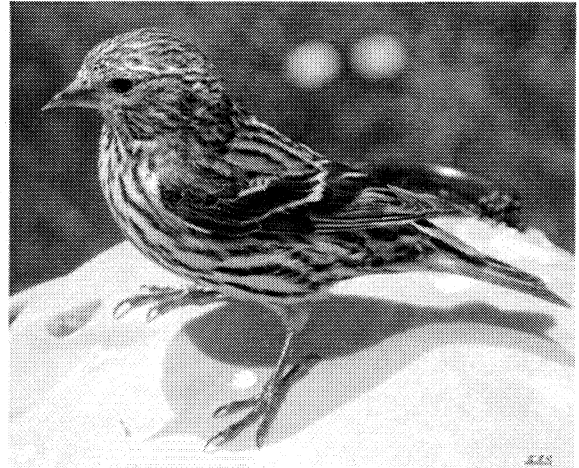
Oct. 8	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC		
Oct. 10, 11, 12	Seal I.	11, 25, 60	var. obs.		
Oct. 11, 12	CSI	4, 40	MUN		
Oct. 11, 12	Brier I.	1, 30	ELM, AHM		
Oct. 12-31	6 locations	1-2	5 obs.		
Nov. 1-14	4 locations	1-"many"	var. obs.		
Dark-eyed Junco					
Aug. 22, 30	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1, 5	KJM		
Sep. 12, 22, 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3, 24, 37	KJM		
Sep. 23-24	Sable I.	5	ZOL		
Sept. 24	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	big movement	HAT		
Oct. 10, 11, 12	Seal I.	9, 10, 30	var. obs.		
Oct. 12, 19	Brier I.	100, 500+	ELM, AHM		
Oct. 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	30-40	LDE		
Nov. 1-30	8 locations	2-20	var. obs.		
Nov. 21	E. LaHave, <i>Lun.</i> , to Liverpool	big movement, 400-500	JAH		
Dark-eyed Junco subsp. <i>cismontanus</i> (intergrade)					
Oct. 23-early Nov.	Elgin, <i>Pict.</i>	1	HAB, <i>fide</i> KJM		
Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco (subsp.?)					
Nov. 24-27	Spencers I., <i>Cum.</i>	1	no details	MSM	
Lapland Longspur					
Sept. 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM		
Sept. 27	Beaverbank, <i>HRM</i>	1	at feeder (!)	CLS	
Oct. 12	3 locations	4	to "several"	3 obs.	
Oct. 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM		
Nov. 13	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS		
Nov. 22	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	3	MIK		
Snow Bunting					
Oct. 20-29	3 locations	1-4 inds.	3 obs.		
Nov. 1-30	widely	19 repts., 2-100+	var. obs.		
Northern Cardinal					
Through season	6 locations		under-reported, 20+ ads.		
Oct. 11-12	Seal I.		migrant fem., male		
Oct. 12	Brier I.		1 fem. Arrived	ELM, AHM	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak					
Sept. 27	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>		imm.	FMC	
Oct. 3	Lr. Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>		imm. male	ELM	
Oct. 7	Lunenburg		fem.	HAT	
Oct. 11	Seal I.		1	var. obs.	
Nov. 20-30	4 locations		4 imms., fem	4 obs.	
BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK					
Early Nov.	Lr. Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>		1 st -winter male, feeder (photo)	Ann & Denis Falvey	
Blue Grosbeak					
Late Oct.-Nov. 2	Voglers Cove area, <i>Lun.</i>	1		CSS, <i>et al.</i>	
Indigo Bunting					
Sept. 23	Canso	2		CLS, <i>et al.</i>	
Oct. 4, 5, 8...13	N. End Halifax City Field	4, 5, 7...2		IAM, CLS, <i>et al.</i>	
Oct. 6-11	3 locations	6 inds.		var. obs.	
Nov. 1-30	4 locations	5 inds.		4 obs.	
PAINTED BUNTING					
Oct. 12	CSI		ad. Male (no details)	MUN	
Nov. 21-30	Dartmouth		1 ad. male (photos)	Gayle MacLean	
Dickcissel					
Aug. 31	Brier I.	1		LAL, ADL, PAC	
Aug. 31-Sept. 13	CSI		1 at feeder	MUN	

Sept. 14	CSI	1, different	MUN
Oct. 2-8	Dartmouth	2 males, feeder	MIK
Oct. 10	Brier I.	1	ELM
Oct. 11	Seal I.	1	var. obs.
Oct. 12-16	Canso	up to 2 males, 2 fem., 3 imm.	TOK
Oct. 15, 18	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 fem., 1 ad.	Male HAT
Oct. 19	CSI	1	MUN
Nov. 8	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	imm.	KJM
Nov. 14, 18	Pt. Hawkesbury	1, 2	DJO
Late Nov.	Canso	up to 8 inds.	TOK
Bobolink			
Aug. 20	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1 migrant	ELM
Aug. 25	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	6	NSBS
Aug. 31	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	6	KJM
Sept. 1	Brier I.	14	LAL, ADL
Sept. 4-16	Sable I.	6	ZOL
Sept. 6, 12	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1, 1	KJM
Oct. 4-5	N. End Halifax City Field	1	DAC, <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 10, 11	Seal I.	2, 3	var. obs.
Red-winged Blackbird			
Aug. 22, 31	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2, 6	KJM
Sept. 23	Beaverbank, <i>HRM</i>	3	CLS
Oct. 11	Dartmouth	"numbers"	Gayle MacLean
Oct. 16	Garden Lots, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
Nov 9-20	9 locations	9 repts, total	45+ inds. var. obs.
Eastern Meadowlark			
Oct. 13	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	CLS
Yellow-headed Blackbird			
Sept. 20	Sable I.	fem.	ZOL
Sept. 23	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm. (photo)	Marie & Rick Reid
Early-20 Oct.			
Watermish, <i>Guys.</i>	1		<i>fide</i> RFL
Oct. 11			
Canso	1 st		winter male TOK
Oct. 12-13			
Arichat, <i>Rich.</i>	1		<i>fide</i> GED
Nov. 1			
Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1		FLL, <i>et al.</i>



The glossiness of this male RUSTY BLACKBIRD Oct. 11 on Seal I. is obvious even in black and white. Similar barring can also be found on the back of fall-winter male Brewer's Blackbird, and some observers were tempted to identify it as such. However, Brewer's would not have rufous-buff tips on the tertials (white arrow) or wing coverts. Structure is also useful – Brewer's has a relatively longer tail and a thicker-based bill, usually with a straighter culmen. [Photo Alan Covert]

Nov. 25	Melbourne, <i>Yar.</i>	1	Rachel & Stuart Smith	Nov. 6-23	6 locations	flocks 6 to 100	var. obs.
Rusty Blackbird				Common Redpoll			
Oct. 10, 11, 12	Seal I.	11, 1, 20	var. obs.	Oct. 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	a few	KJM
Oct. 11	Brier I.	2	ELM	Oct. 11	near N. Kingston	30+	PBG
Oct. 16	CSI	1	JON	Oct. 24	Prospect Peninsula	10+	BLM
Nov. 3	E. LaHave (<i>Lun.</i>)	1	DWA	Oct. 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	4	KJM
Nov. 23-27	Spencers I., <i>Cum.</i>	1 feeder	MSM	Nov. 1-25	9 locations	1-40	var. obs.
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD				Pine Siskin			
Nov. 13	Little Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	Male	DHY	Sept. 11	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	many	VJH
Common Grackle				Sept. 22	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
August	4 locations	1-9 inds.	var. obs.	Early Oct.	Springhill	1 at feeder	CIC
Sept. 23	Whites L., <i>HRM</i>	75	BLM	Oct. 4-6	Dartmouth	30+	DAC
Sept. 23	CSI	"a horde"	BBU	Oct. 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	100s	KJM
Oct. 1	Dartmouth	"many"	Gayle MacLean	Oct. 8	Duncan Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2-3	HAT
Oct. 1-5	N. Mountain, <i>Kings</i>	1000+ overhead, late afternoon	DOL	Oct. 10, 11, 12	Seal I.	40, 2000, 1500	var. obs.
Oct. 19	Brier I.	250 arriving from S.	ELM	Oct. 10-13	Brier I.	~300, 200+, ~10,000, 500+	ELM, AHM
Nov 2-30	4 locations	1-4	var. obs.	Oct. 18	Brier I.	250+	ELM, AHM
Nov. 6	Brier I.	large movement	JUS				
Brown-headed Cowbird							
Oct. 4-5	N. End Halifax City Field	2	DAC, <i>et al.</i>				
October	CSI	numbers	MUN, <i>et al.</i>				
Late Nov.	3 locations	10 inds.	var. obs.				
ORCHARD ORIOLE							
Mid Sept.	Seal I.	1	FLL				
Oct. 30-							
Nov. 7	Fraserville, <i>Cum.</i>	fem.	<i>fide</i> MSM				
Baltimore Oriole							
Aug. 28	Pt. Williams. <i>Kings</i>	2 males singing	RBS				
Sept. 3-							
Oct. 1	9 locations	1-6 inds.	11 obs.				
Oct. 10, 11, 12	Seal I.	1, 5, 3	var. obs.				
Nov. 1-30	14 locations, <i>Vic. to Yar.</i>	20 reports, total ~43 inds.	var. obs.				
Pine Grosbeak							
Oct. 17	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT				
Oct. 29-							
Nov. 7	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	2-4 inds.	VJH				
Purple Finch							
Up to mid-Aug.	Port Hawkesbury	'numbers' at feeders	JSH				
Sept. 5, 11	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	2, 1	VJH	Oct. 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	35	KJM
Aug. 22	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM	Oct. 25	Duncan Cove, <i>HRM</i>	60	HAT
Oct. 10-20	Dartmouth	several	Gayle MacLean	Nov. 6-25	3 locations	1-8	3 obs.
Oct. 10, 11, 12	Seal I.	2, 5, 20	var. obs.	American Goldfinch			
Nov. 9	Wolfville area	many	RBS	Aug. 1-2/31	4 locations	1-23	var. obs.
mid-Nov.	Barrington	'numbers'	RMC	Sept. 1-30	7 locations	1-40+	var. obs.
Nov. 17, 26	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1, 1 imm.	VJH	Sept. 11-25	3 locations	young still begging	3 obs.
House Finch				Oct. 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	few	KJM
November	S. end Halifax	3 sightings, ~10 birds	var. obs.	Oct. 10, 11, 12	Seal I.	12, 50, 250	var. obs.
Nov. 22	Dartmouth	1 at feeder	MIK	Oct. 11-12	Brier I.	several 100s	ELM, AHM
White-winged Crossbill				Nov. 12-27	9 locations	1 to 120	var. obs.
Aug. 10	R. Bougeois, <i>Rich.</i>	10, males, fems.	RIV	Evening Grosbeak			
Aug. 13	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	20	VJH	Aug. 7, 26	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 juv. being fed	VJH
Aug. 16	Port Medway, <i>Queens</i>	"numbers"	JAH	Oct. 25	Spencers I., <i>Cum.</i>	17	MSM
Aug. 29-				Nov. 1-26	7 locations	flocks, 7-10+	var. obs.
1 Sept.	BPI	"abundant"	NSBS	Nov. 15	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	300-500 in small flocks	LDE
Sept. 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	25, incl. young being fed	KJM	House Sparrow			
Oct. 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	'numbers', mostly juvs.	KJM	Aug.-Nov.	N. End Halifax City Field	flock of ~30	IAM <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 10, 11, 12	Seal I.	2, 50, 300	var. obs.	Oct.	CSI	40+	MUN
Oct. 12	Brier I.	numerous	RBS	Late Nov.	near Canard, <i>Kings</i>	20	var. obs.
Oct. 24-31	4 locations	flocks 4-20	var. obs.	Nov.	Dartmouth	3 locations, ~30 inds.	var. obs.
Nov. 13	Wagner's Bch, <i>HRM</i>	350	BLM	Nov.	Port Hawkesbury	small flock	DJO



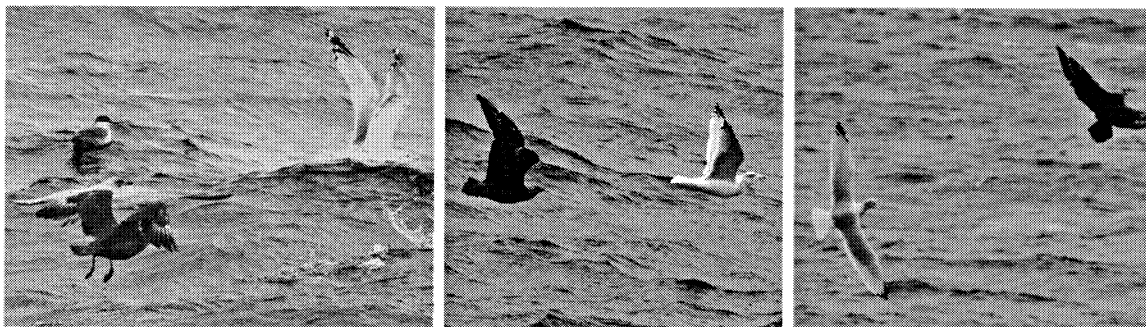
A remarkably tame PINE SISKIN perched on a hummingbird feeder in Apple R., *Cum.* [Photo Kathleen Spicer]

List of Contributors

Thanks to all of our contributors, including:

Sorted by initials

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Mills, Anne	AGH	Mills, Eric L.	ELM	Newell, Murray	MUN
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Linzey, Doug	DMW	Cameron-MacMillan, Maureen	MAG		
	DOL		MCM		



This sequence of a SOUTH POLAR SKUA pursuing and overshooting its chosen HERRING GULL victim was made in fall on the Scotian Shelf. The bulging throat of the gull in the middle panel shows why it was chosen, but whether or not it regurgitated its catch is not clear. [Photo Karel Allard]

TNSBS MEMBERS' TALLIES FOR 2008

Some of our members have submitted tallies of species seen in Nova Scotia, individual counties, or parts of counties, yards, and species seen while walking or biking (Green birding) for 2008. These tallies show just how bird rich our province is. Congratulations to Mike King who urges us all to "Go Birding"!

Nova Scotia

Mike King	279
Elizabeth Doull	261
Clarence Stevens, Sr.	252
Johnny Nickerson	240
Clyde Stoddart	223
James Hirtle	213
Suzanne Borkowski	209
Bob McDonald	200
Billy Digout	162
Shirley Hughes	155
Rachel Smith	155
Gary Hartlen	136
Rita Viau	135

Antigonish County

Richard Mash (Inland only)	93
----------------------------	----

Guysborough County

Clarence Stevens, Sr.	104
Suzanne Borkowski	84

Halifax County (HRM)

Clarence Stevens, Sr.	195
Suzanne Borkowski	172

Lunenburg County

Clarence Stevens, Sr.	150
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Queens County

Clarence Stevens, Sr.	114
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Shelburne County

Johnny Nickerson (Cape Sable Island only)	228
Clyde Stoddart (Cape Sable Island only)	166
Clarence Stevens, Sr.	124

Yard Tallies

Clarence Stevens, Sr. (cottage)	67
Clarence Stevens, Sr. (city)	50
Richard Mash	44
Patrick Kelly	37

Green Birding

Bernard Forsythe (December only)	58
Joan Czapalay (July only)	22

Nest Records*

Bernard Forsythe	140
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*It should be noted that Bernard has been submitting Nest Records to CWS' Maritime Nest Records Scheme since 1975. This year he passed 3000 nests representing 119 species of breeding birds in Nova Scotia. Congratulations Bernard!




Composing the day's bird list after the evening meal is a serious business on NSBS field trips, like this one to BPI on Labour Day weekend. The earnest scribes are Bob MacDonald and Wayne Neilly. [Photo Brian Bartlett]

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Weather - Eastern Annapolis Valley - Fall 2008

By Larry Bogan

Monthly Averages of Weather Data
Kentville, Nova Scotia 2008
(from Atlantic Food & Horticulture Research Centre, Kentville, N.S.)

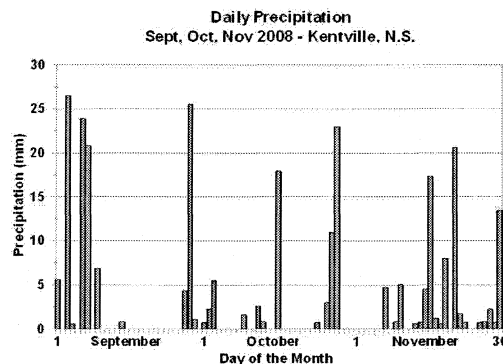
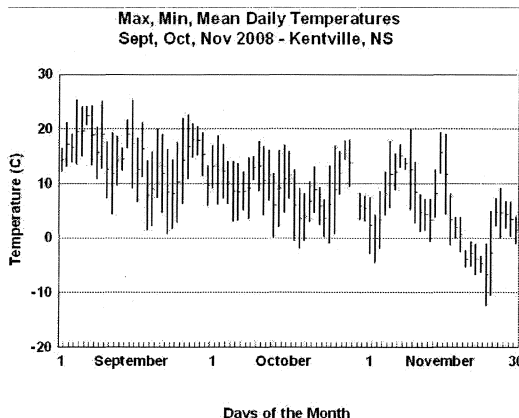
	Average Temperature (C)			Total Prec (mm)	Bright Sunshine (hours)
	Max	Min	Mean		
September	19.9	9.6	14.7	116	163.0
<i>47 yr avg</i>	<i>20.0</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>14.7</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>170.4</i>
October	13.9	4.4	9.2	69	162.2
<i>47 yr avg</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>9.3</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>156.9</i>
November	8.4	0.6	4.5	84	83.1
<i>47 yr avg</i>	<i>7.6</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>78.3</i>
Season	14.1	4.9	9.5	269	408.3
<i>47 yr avg</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>9.3</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>405.6</i>

The data in the table above shows that the Autumn weather in the Valley was pretty normal. Only November was a bit warmer than average. Precipitation is the most variable from year to year and that is the case here, but the season as a whole received 90% of its normal precipitation.

We essentially had our usual mild and pleasant Autumn. The precipitation did change from being wetter than normal by 26% in September to drier by 28% in November. The big event of the autumn was the heavy snowfall during the last week of November. That was a record breaker. On November 23 we had 34 cm on the ground which exceeded the previous record depth for a November of 23 cm in 1964. The average snowfall for a November is only 9 cm.

I have included the temperature and precipitation charts for the season. In these you can see that November had a much wider swings in temperature than the rest of the season. In a week near the end of that month the temperature ranged from 19 C to -12 C. The early part of the season had a slow gentle decrease in temperature with no wide variations. The first killing frost held off until the first week in November for most of the Valley.

Although November did not have a high amount of precipitation (despite the large snow fall), it seemed wet because we had some precipitation in 19 of the 30 days of that month.



Nova Scotia's 2008 Piping Plover Breeding Season

by Sue Abbott

Mostly Good News for Piping Plovers in 2008

Plover breeding success in NS over recent years has typically been good in the north and poor in the south so we're please to report that plovers in southern NS had a more successful year in 2008. There was no notable change in overall numbers of breeding pairs. Our annual two-week 'window count' in early June recorded 38 breeding pairs, compared to 40 in 2007, while the end of season tally in 2008 estimated 44 pairs compared to 45 in 2007. As mentioned in past reports, we remain well below the recovery target of 60 breeding pairs for Nova Scotia -- there's still much work to be done.

In 2008, a total of 51 nests were monitored across the province, 60% of which hatched, compared to 50% in 2007. Southern NS plovers had a much more successful year, producing an average of 2 fledglings per pair, a total which far exceeded the 1.5 fledglings per pair in 2007, and the recovery target of 1.65 fledglings/pair. Of note was Cherry Hill Beach, Lunenburg Co. where five pairs produced 15 fledglings – a banner year for this beach. These positive results from 2008 will hopefully add much needed recruits to our declining southern NS plover population. Plovers in northern Nova Scotia produced fewer young per pair in 2008 over 2007, but still exceeded the recovery target of 1.65. Cape Breton plovers had an outstanding season, producing three to four fledglings per pair, but pairs in Pictou and Antigonish County experienced nest losses due to predation, flooding, and human disturbances.

Plover Protection & Volunteers in 2008

The successes in southern NS were largely due to successful protection measures, including the use of predator exclosures (fencing around the eggs), and sand bags to prevent flooding. Many volunteers assisted us with these efforts and our combined educational outreach reached close to 900 people on plover breeding beaches. In total, 72 people helped survey beaches, protect habitat, and share plover-friendly messages. Thirteen dedicated volunteers monitored nests and chicks at four beaches. Volunteer effort helped protect two nests on two Halifax County beaches from flooding using sandbags, and both nests successfully hatched and fledged young.

Our plover team is growing in NS and our goal is to continue build community involvement. In 2009, we need passionate people to help set-up beach signage in May and June, and keen observers to assist with monitoring and protection activities during May through August. Contact us to learn how you can help. We thank our partners, in particular Environment Canada, Parks Canada Agency, NS Dept. of Natural Resources, and The Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.

Bird Studies Canada (BSC) is a national, non-profit organisation dedicated to advancing the appreciation, understanding and conservation of birds and their habitats. The NS Piping Plover Conservation Program monitors and protects breeding Endangered Piping Plovers and their beach habitat by engaging a network of community partners and volunteers. Interested in learning more? Contact Sue Abbott (nsplovers@gmail.com; 902/426-4055) or visit our new web pages: <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/volunteer/nsplover/>

The Magpie at Clam Harbour, May 2008

by Dave Currie, 1 June, 2008

On May 3, 2008, after being out of country for two weeks, I ventured out to try to find a magpie that had been reported a few days earlier at Russell Road in Clam Hbr., HRM, by Mr. and Mrs. MacKinnon. The skies were cloudy as I left Dartmouth but were clearing nicely with light winds by the time I got to the area at 6:00 A.M. I had expected to see other vehicles with birders lining the road, but I was the only one there. I drove very slowly along Russell Rd. and soon saw what was obviously a Magpie fly approximately 80 m ahead and 2-3 m. above the ground from west (water side) of the road toward what I soon realized was the MacKinnon's home across the road.

I was only able to see where the bird headed, so slowly approached the area where it might have landed. I stopped the car with windows down and engine off, and almost immediately heard the chatter notes I will describe later. I recognized them as similar to magpie calls I had heard in Alberta on two different visits, most recently 2006. The calls were obviously coming from the

area where the bird flew less than half a minute before. It was extremely frustrating to be able to hear and not see the bird, seemingly so close by. I later concluded that it was probably out of view inside the fenced area of a trout pond on the MacKinnon's property but I didn't want to disturb them or the bird at this time of day, so did not drive up into their driveway for a better look.

I remained in the car hoping it would re-appear and not be frightened away if others were coming to see it. It called about 10 times over the next 15 minutes while it was obviously moving eastward, all the time out of sight. Each time it called, it was the same, a series of 5-6 notes I can best describe as a rapid consistent "chack, chack, chack, chack, chack". When I arrived four crows were foraging on the shore near the road, Willets were calling, a few Song Sparrows and Robins, were singing, and a couple of Tree Swallows appeared briefly near the house, none of course calling like a magpie. I did not consider the possibility that I had heard a Blue Jay, as the calls came from where the magpie had just flown and were quite unlike those of Blue Jay, which I did not see or hear during the three hours I waited for the magpie to reappear. I am thus certain that the calls came from the magpie.

At about 7:00 A.M., other birders had arrived and Mrs. MacKinnon came outside, so for the first time, I got out of the vehicle and spoke with her. She said she hadn't seen the magpie that morning but that it was at a friend's property on the main road the evening before. I then started scouring the area from the Government Wharf to the Provincial Park with no luck. I later checked with birders stationed at Russell Drive and, since it still had not come back, I left for home. I understand that someone heard the bird the following day, but I seem to have been the last to see it.

I constantly tried to imitate the calls I heard to myself (fortunately for others I was alone!) to keep them fresh in mind as I drove back to Dartmouth. I felt by the time I got home, that I would be able to match the memorized calls with those on my audio CDs or from the internet. Only a small portion of the Black-billed calls on the CD of Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs resembled them in any way, but they are longer and higher pitched. The Black-billed calls I remembered hearing in Alberta also seemed far more nasal, more raucous, more rapid, and more varied, not chattering repetitively like the bird that morning at Clam Hbr. However, having listened to calls on three websites, I believe that the calls I heard most closely resembled those of the Eurasian Magpie. These sites are:

#1 <http://www.birding.dk/galleri/stemmermp3/Pica%20pica%201.mp3>

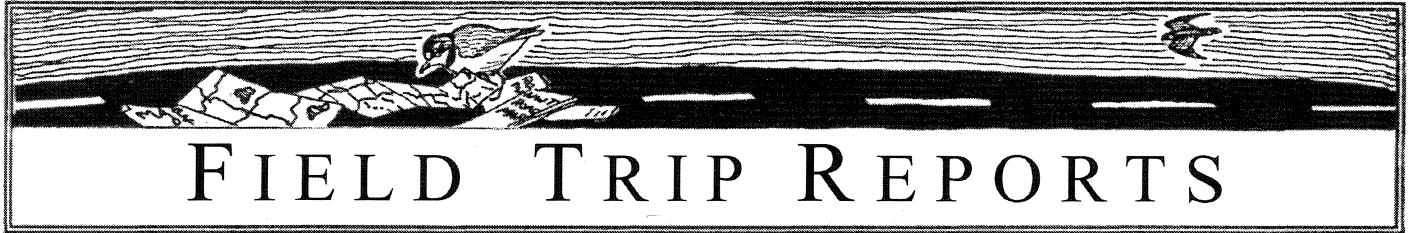
2 http://www.naju-bgs.de/download/vogelstimmenpage/VOGELSTIMMEN_MP3/elster.mp3

#3 <http://www.cserkesz.hu/~szazs/egyeb/madarhang/Pica.pica.mp3>

Ulli Hoeger was good enough to find the calls on a German website (# 1) that I was able to hear within 5 hours of hearing the bird in the field. When I heard those calls, I was amazed at how close they were. Their pitch and repetitiveness are remarkably similar to what I heard, but were perhaps slightly less nasal. The other two recordings (# 2 and 3) did not sound like those I heard and I could not find anything else on the internet that came closer than # 1.

In conclusion, from my limited experience with calls of Black-billed, and a few recordings on an internet site, I feel that the magpie calls I heard at Clam Hbr. resembled those of the Eurasian species and did not match those I've heard of Black-billed Magpie in the field or on recordings.

Ian McLaren's comment. Most, but not all, Black-billed Magpies in the e. N. America are believed to have escaped from captivity. The Eurasian species is relatively non-migratory in w. Europe, and has not been found in N. America, or even in Iceland. It would likely occur here only as an escapee, or perhaps more likely in this example, as a hitchhiker from a transatlantic vessel.



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

2008 Field Trip Leaders Recognized

The Nova Scotia Bird Society offered 43 field trips in 2008. Please join me in thanking the field trip leaders who volunteered their time and efforts in planning and offering these wonderful outings:

Bob McDonald	Sewer Stroll I
George Crowell & Bev Sarty	Glace Bay & Area Harbour Hop
Fulton Lavender	Sewer Stroll II
Barb Glassey & Maureen C. MacMillan	North Sydney & Area
Bernard Forsythe	Valley Birding
Wayne Neilly	Along the Fundy Shore
Donna Ensor	Baccaro & Blanche Peninsula
Ian McLaren	Martinique Beach
Bethsheila Kent	Baddeck & St. Ann's Area
Jim Wolford	Wolfville Area
Murray Newell	Cape Sable Island
Barc Cunningham	Owling in Southeastern Cape Breton
Claire Diggins	Bon Portage Island (spring)
Mike King	Dartmouth Lakes
Suzanne Borkowski	Beginners Field Trip (Frog Pond/Halifax)
Suzanne Borkowski	Historic Hants County
Dorothy Poole & Clyde Stoddart	Port l'Hebert
James Hirtle	Conquerall Mills
Joan Waldron	The Fred Dobson Warbler Walk
Peter Davies & Gary Hartlen	Kejimikujik Seaside Adjunct
Cheryl Davis	McNab's Island
Barrie Fraser	Lake Ainslie & Area
Kathleen Spicer	Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary
Laura Saunders & Bill Bussey	Baille Ard Trail, Cape Breton
Tom Kavanaugh & Steve Bushell	Canso & Area (spring)
Patrick Kelly	Herbert River Trail
Rob Woods	Shubenacadie
Cindy Staicer	Dawn Chorus on the Shearwater Flyer Trail
Maureen Cameron-MacMillan	Bird Islands
Paul MacDonald	Wallace Bay
James Hirtle	Mahone Bay
Jim Cameron & Warren Parsons	Taylor Head Provincial Park
Eric Mills	Cherry Hill Beach
Billy Digout & Weldon MacPhail	Point Michaud
Claire Diggins	Bon Portage Island (fall)
Susann Myers	Cape Breton Shorebirds
Blake Maybank	Peggy's Cove Loop
James Hirtle & Wayne Neily	Brier Island
Gordon Delaney	Cheticamp Island
David Johnston & Dave McCorquodale	Canso Causeway/Port Hawksbury
Tom Kavanaugh & Steve Bushell	Canso & Area
Randy Lauff	Antigonish Coastal Waters
Mike King	Metro "Hot Spot" Birding

Suzanne Borkowski; Field Trip Coordinator - NSBS

Point Michaud**23 Aug 2008, Leaders: Billy Digout and Weldon MacPhail**

About twenty birders gathered at 8:30 a.m. at the D.O.T. building in St. Peter's to attend the NSBS field trip to Point Michaud. Another five people met us at the beach. We went by a different route than usual due to a beaver-flooded path and didn't see the usual warblers, Swamp Sparrows and Ring-necked Ducks, but we managed to spot 32 species, with a Red Knot and a Baird's Sandpiper being the more notable. Although the fog kept us from seeing many seabirds it also kept the hot sun at bay, and the temperature was perfect for a walk. As Susann Myers said: "I don't remember a field trip at Point Michaud when the shorebirds hung around so well and provided such good looks for everyone - it was just great."

After a wonderful morning we proceeded into the sunshine and to George and Sharon Digout's house in River Bourgeois for a great meal of fish chowder, garden stew, and all the trimmings. Thanks to them for that. And thanks to all the birders who attended, sharing expertise and scopes with the others.

Species List: Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Northern Harrier, Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-plover, Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Mourning Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, American Crow, Common Raven, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Billy Digout

Metro "Hot Spot" Birding**06 Dec 2008, Leader: Mike King**

I thank everyone who attended and those who helped me lead my first field trip. It will be one that I will remember for a long time. 26 birders showed up before the end of the day. It was a great day to be birding. We ended the trip with 73 species and some great rarities.

Highlights included:

Sullivan's Pond - American Coots

Eastern Passage Pond - Redhead

Hartlen Point - Snowy Owl (3), Glaucous Gull, Red-winged Blackbird

Bisset Lake - Northern Shoveler, White-winged Crossbill

Dorothea Drive - Northern Cardinal

Clifford Street - Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Northern Cardinal

Hastings Drive - Eastern Towhee, Yellow-breasted Chat, Northern Cardinal

Jamieson Street - Lark Sparrow

Point Pleasant Park - Hermit Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler

Vienna Street - Baltimore Oriole (5)

Waegwoltic Avenue - Summer Tanager, House Finch

GO BIRDING!

Mike King

Sewer Stroll I**11 Jan 2009, Leader: Bob McDonald**

With a snow-storm forecast for the afternoon, a smaller than usual group, about 15 of us, met at McCormack's Beach in Eastern Passage at the appointed hour. The group included at least six new or fairly new birders so it was fun to introduce them to the variety of wintering gulls and seabirds that are regular visitors to the Halifax Harbour. At McCormack's Beach we spotted Iceland Gull (as well as our three regular gull species), Common Loon, and several Black Guillemots, all in winter plumage. On the way to Hartlen Point several stops along the road produced White-winged Scoter, Common Eider, Lesser and Greater Scaup, and Red-breasted Merganser. We walked down to the shore at Hartlen Point where we added Glaucous and Black-headed Gulls

to the gull tally, noted Northern Harrier along the shore, and Rough-legged Hawk on Devils Island. Unfortunately, we could not pick up Snowy Owl on the Island or the golf course, and there were no birds in the kelp beds.

After the usual pit stop at Tim's on Pleasant St. we accessed Dartmouth Cove from Old Ferry Road, where we added Common Goldeneye to the list and saw several more Black Guillemots. Sullivan's Pond produced American Coot (2), Canada Goose (2), and many American Wigeon but, sadly, no Eurasian! And then the snow started! Since we knew we were running out of time, we made a quick dash to the canal near Alderney Landing where we were able to add Eurasian Wigeon to the day list.

Our last species of the day (added at 12:30pm) was the usually cooperative Greater White-fronted Goose at the Horseshoe Island in the Northwest Arm. We ended the day with a paltry 32 species, an all-time low for this field trip, but we did find some good birds and introduced some new birders to the excitement of winter birding!

Bob McDonald

Beginning Birders Trip- Wintering Birds of Point Pleasant Park Sun 18 Jan 2009; Leader: Sue Abbott

A small but hardy group of eight joined Sue Abbott (Bird Studies Canada) at Black Rock Beach in Point Pleasant Park, Halifax on January 18, 2009 for a beginner's bird walk. Despite the frigid temperature (minus 22!) we walked the coastline and discussed key points, e.g., divers versus dabblers. The participants appreciated a handout outlining some basic ID tips for common coastal waterbirds. We then walked into the coniferous forest and had great looks at a few usual suspects: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hairy Woodpecker, and Black-capped Chickadee.

Sue Abbott

Beginning Birders' Trip – Lunenburg 31 Jan 2009, Leader: James Hirtle

The forecast for January 31 kept fluctuating back and forth as to whether it was going to be nice or nasty. This scared off many who would have attended the Beginning Birders' outing on that day. I had only one person show up, but we had a good few hours in the field. We went to First South, Lunenburg and out to Blue Rocks and ended the day with 34 species. Highlights were White-winged Crossbills, seven Northern Pintails, Bohemian Waxwings, a Glaucous Gull, and a Black-headed Gull. Temperatures remained comfortable allowing us to go bare handed. The attendee, Judy Smits, was able to identify a few more sparrows on her own and also to recognize some more gull species at the end of the outing.

James Hirtle

HRM Harbour Hop 08 Feb 2009, Leaders: Suzanne Borkowski & Bob McDonald

Bob McDonald and I co-led the HRM Harbour Hop (formerly the NSBS Sewer Stroll II and the HFN Sewer Stroll – but the sewers are gone!). It was a huge success. Despite predictions of a major rain/snow storm, the weather was perfect until about 4:00 pm: overcast, mild, very little wind, so great viewing conditions.

More than 30 participants started the day at McCormack's Beach, and 10 people were still birding at Point Pleasant Park at 4:30 pm where the trip officially ended. Lots of new birders joined us, as well as birders from Lunenburg and Queens Counties, Shelburne County, Annapolis Valley, the Eastern Shore, Halifax, Dartmouth, Bedford, Sackville, Truro, New Brunswick, and even Colorado!

Highlights included the Greater White-fronted Goose, the King Eider, Barrow's Goldeneye, a Northern Mockingbird, a Gray Catbird, Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings, American Pipits, a Lapland Longspur, Snow Buntings, six species of Gulls, a Red-necked Grebe, and a Red-bellied Woodpecker seen by Dennis Hippert while waiting at a traffic light in downtown Dartmouth!

The final tally was close to 60 species.

Suzanne Borkowski



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 02 May 2009 – Cape Sable Island

Leader: Murray Newell 745-3340 E-mail: dowitcher@eastlink.ca

Meet at Tim Horton's in Barrington Passage at 7:45 a.m. We will bird the Cape Sable Island hot spots for spring migrants. Bring waterproof footwear and a lunch. No rain date.

Sat 09 May 2009 – Spring Migration Counts

Contact Hans Toom 868-1862 htoom@hfx.eastlink.ca or your Regional Coordinator to participate.

Fri 15 May – Mon 18 May 2009 – Bon Portage Island

Leader: Claire Diggins 825-6152 E-Mail: claire_diggins@hotmail.com

Pre-Registration is Necessary!

Depart 6:00 p.m. on Friday from the Prospect Point Wharf in Shag Harbour, Shelburne County. Bring food, drinking water, warm clothing, footwear for rough (beach cobble) and wet terrain, a flashlight, mattress sheet and a sleeping bag. Carry gear in waterproof bags or containers. Field guides are available on the island as are cooking pots, utensils and dishes. There is a charge of \$45.00 for three nights accommodation for NSBS members plus a donation for the boat trip.

Please Note: If getting on or off the island cannot be done safely, the trip will be moved to Brier Island.

Sat 16 May 2008 – Beginning Birders' Field Trip – (Halifax)

Leader: Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922 E-mail: suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca

Pre-registration is Necessary!

Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Jerry Lawrence Prov Park (formerly Lewis Lake Prov. Park off Hwy #3 between exits #4 and #5. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them, a snack, and sturdy footwear. We'll spend a couple of hours identifying birds in and around the Park. No rain date.

Mon 18 May 2009 – Historic Hants County

Leader: Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922 E-mail: suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Mount Uniacke House.

Take exit #3 off Hwy #101 and drive approx. 8 km along rte #1 towards Windsor. Uniacke House is on your left. The main gate will be locked, but the 2nd gate (coming from Halifax) will be open. We'll start by exploring some of the grounds at Mt. Uniacke then continue along back-country roads through Hants County. Bring a lunch to be enjoyed at Smiley Park. No rain date.

Wed 20 May 2009 – The Fred Dobson Warbler Walk

Leader: Joan Waldron 477-4273 E-mail: waldrojo@ns.sympatico.ca

Meet at 6:00 a.m. in the "Park and Ride" lot at the junction of Prospect Road (Rte #333) and St. Margaret's Bay Road (Rte #3) near exit #2 on Hwy #103. Duration: 3 hours. Waterproof footwear and fly repellent are recommended.

Sat 23 May 2009 – Port L'Hebert

Leaders: Dorothy Poole 354-4844 E-mail: dpooler@ns.sympatico.ca and Clyde Stoddart 745-2105.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Chef's Table (formerly the Grub 'n' Grog Restaurant) on Hwy #103 at Sable River. We'll explore the Sable River areas as well as the areas in and around Port L'Hebert. Wear sturdy footwear and bring a lunch. No rain date.

Sun 24 May 2009 – Conquerall Mills

Leader: James Hirtle 766-4642 E-mail: jrhbirder@hotmail.com
Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the dam area of Petite Riviere, near the intersection of Conquerall Mills and the Crousetown Road. Directions: Turn left off Hwy #103 at the sign for Conquerall Mills just past exit #14. Drive 3.5 km along this road. The dam will be on your left. We'll be exploring Fitch Road and Dagley Road along Publicover Lake, as well as Brown Branch Brook, Mount Pleasant, and Hebb Mills. In the afternoon we can check out Station Road, Fauxburg, Long Hill and Oakland. Bring a lunch, sturdy footwear, socks that can be pulled up over pantlegs (to discourage ticks) and sunblock. Rain date: Sun 31 May.

Sat 30 - Sun 31 May 2009 – Out-of-Area Meeting/Atlas Workshop

Please note: There will be no meeting of the Bird Society at the Museum of Natural History on Thursday, May 28th.

Speakers: Becky Stewart (Atlas Coordinator), Patrick Kelly (Region 16) and Paul Gould (Region 17)

This year's Out-of-Area Meeting/Atlas Workshop will be held at the Mountain Gap Inn near Digby and will promote Region 16: Annapolis Valley-Digby Neck, and Region 17: Southwest Shore. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm in the Annapolis Room, followed by an owl prowl. Sunday morning, 6:00 am, there will be a point count demonstration, followed by breakfast. Field trips will be led by Pat Kelly and Paul Gould. To book your room for Saturday night, go to: <http://www.mountaingapinn.ca> and click on "Around the Inn". This map will show you what each of the rooms is like by clicking on any rooftop. Choose from #1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 24,25,26,27 (\$100.00 per room) or #41, 42, 43 (\$90.00 per room). This meeting/workshop is open to everyone!

Sat 30 May 2009 – Kejimikujik Seaside Adjunct

Leader: Gary Hartlen 354-7250 E-mail: garych@eastlink.ca and Peter Davies 354-5389 E-mail: p.davies@ns.sympatico.ca
Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Seaside Adjunct. Directions: Take Hwy #103 to exit #22 (unmarked) and drive approx 6 km down the St. Catherine's River Road to the park. There are washroom facilities on site. We will be walking from the parking lot to the ocean where Piping Plovers will be nesting. Expect warbler species in full breeding plumage and nesting shorebirds on the trail to the headland. Wear waterproof footwear, long pants (to discourage ticks) and bring a lunch. No rain date.

Sat 30 May 2009: Lake Ainslie field trip

Leader: Barrie Fraser (258-2364)
Meet at 1:00 pm, Kirkwood Art Studio, East Lake Ainslie (Route 395).
This afternoon field trip will include some lakeshore and forest birding, and a spectacular look at an eagle's nest, and possibly even a visit to the Kenlock Dump. This trip will involve some light hiking. Pack a lunch, as we will be stopping for a picnic on the trail.

Sun 31 May – 2009 – Beginning Birders' Field Trip (Truro)

Leader: Ross Hall 893-9665 E-mail: ross.hall@ns.sympatico.ca
Meet at 8:30 am at the Bible Hill graveyard/ start of trail at end of Warren Drive. We'll bird the Bible Hill Trail and Dykeland. Bring binoculars, field guide if you have one, and snacks. Trip will end at 11:30 am. No rain date.

Sat 06 June 2009 - Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary

Leader: Kathleen Spicer 392-2815 E-mail: kbspicer@ns.sympatico.ca
Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the A.P.B.S. parking lot. Take exit #3 from Hwy #104 at the Wandlyn Inn and proceed a few kilometers toward Nappan. Watch for the entrance on the left. Wear appropriate footwear for wet conditions and bring insect repellent.
No rain date.

Sat 06 June 2009 – Beginning Birders Field Trip (Middle Musquodoboit)

Leader: Verna Higgins 384-2286 E-mail: vjhiggins@xplornet.com

Meet at 9:00 am in the Natural Resources Education Centre parking lot (off Hwy 224 near Middle Musquodoboit) for a 2 to 3 hour hike in the Centre woodlot to see and hear late migrant and resident songbirds. No rain date.

Sat 13 June 2009 - Birding in Grand River and Loch Lomond

Leader: Shirley Halliday (562-5698)

Meet at 7:30 am at 209 Grand River Road, East Grand River. A wonderful variety of habitats will be explored, including forest, lakeside, field and seashore. Lunch will follow, so please contact Shirley if you wish to attend. Storm date: June 20.

Sat 13 June 2009 – Herbert River Trail

Leader: Patrick Kelly 494-3294 (w) 472-2322 (h) patrick.kelly@dal.ca

This easy walk follows the rail bed of the former train line that ran from Windsor to Truro via Kennetcook. It runs along the Herbert River for a good part of its length. Meet at the Newport Rink parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Take Exit 5 from Highway 101 and follow Highway 14 east for about 10 km to the village of Brooklyn. At the cenotaph, keep left and follow Highway 14 north for just under 1 km. At the intersection (Petro Canada station) Highway 14 turns right. Continue straight on Highway 215 (Note the YIELD sign, you do NOT have the right of way!). The rink is on the right as soon as you exit the intersection. Bring insect repellent. We should be done by lunchtime. Rain date Sun 14 June.

Sat 13 June – Sun 14 June 2009 – Nature Nova Scotia AGM

The 2009 Annual General Meeting will be held at the Interpretive Centre of the Grand Pre National Historic Site. Please visit their website for complete program details. <http://www.naturens.ca/>

Sat 20 June 2009 – Shubenacadie

Leader: Rob Woods 261-2122 E-mail: rrtwoods@yahoo.com
Pre-Registration is Necessary!

Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the back parking lot of the Milford Community Centre. Take exit #9 off Hwy #102 to Milford. Turn right at the T intersection. Take next right and drive past the fire hall to the Community Centre's back parking lot. We will spend the first hour walking the trails at the centre. Facilities are unavailable on the route after the first hour or so.

Sat 27 June 2009 – Beginning Birders Workshop and Field Trip – Parrsboro

Leader: Joan Czapalay E-mail: joancz@ns.sympatico.ca or call 1-866-856-DINO

Pre-Registration is Necessary!

The "Birding for Beginners" workshop will run from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Fundy Museum in Parrsboro. A field trip to practise your new skills will be held from 1:30 – 4:00 pm. All are welcome, but pre-registration is necessary.

Sun 28 June 2009 – Beginning Birders Workshop and Field Trip – Port Greville

Leader: Joan Czapalay E-mail: joancz@ns.sympatico.ca or call 1-902-348-2030

Pre-Registration is Necessary!

This “Birding for Beginners” Workshop will run from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Age of Sail Museum in Port Greville. A field trip to practise your new skills will be held from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. All are welcome, but pre-registration is necessary.

Sat 18 Jul 2009 – Wallace Bay

Leader: Paul MacDonald 627-2568 E-mail: paulrita2001@yahoo.com

Meet at the Wallace Wharf at 8:30 a.m. Primary points of interest are the impoundments at the Wallace Bay National Wildlife Area. The morning will consist of a three-hour walk along a woodland trail, so come prepared with sturdy footwear, water, and a lunch.

No rain date.

Sat 18 July 2008 - Beginning Birders Trip - Birds of Martinique Beach Prov Park

Leader: Sue Abbott 222-2880 E-mail: sabbott@bsc-eoc.org

Limited registration. **Pre-registration required.** Meet at 10:00 am at the farthest parking lot (boardwalk#8) along the Martinique Beach Provincial Park road. If you love the beach and would like to improve your ability to identify the songs and calls of beach birds, join Bird Studies Canada on this 2-hour walk focusing on the fascinating and often secretive birds that breed in beach, dune, and salt marsh habitat. We will also observe Piping Plovers from a safe distance, and learn about why they are endangered, what is being done to recover their population at Martinique and across Nova Scotia, and how you can help. Contact Sue Abbott for more information.

No rain date.



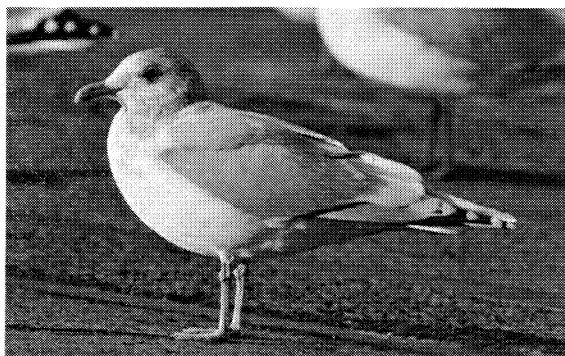
This portrait of a MARSH WREN, Oct. 11 on Seal I., is perhaps the best ever published in *NS Birds*. On the original the deep buffy flanks, brown back, and unbarred rump suggest that it was of the regional subspecies *dissaeptus*. [Photo Richard Stern]



A CATTLE EGRET lived up to its name at Pleasantville, Lun. [Photo James Hirtle]



This BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO, photographed July 20 near Milton, Queens, appears to be an adult (red orbital ring in original), and presumably was a (rarely photographed) summer resident rather than an early migrant. [Photo Dorothy Poole]



A probable "KUMLIEN'S GULL" Nov. 17 at Pictou appears to have dark eyes (but these are shaded) and rather dark primary tips, but its very greyish-pink legs are most uncharacteristic of THAYER'S as an alternative. [Photo Anders Adolfsson]



Up to five YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS were on Seal I. during Thanksgiving Weekend. Any adult-plumaged sapsucker here in fall deserves a second look on the remote chance it could be a vagrant Red-naped Sapsucker from the West. But those still in Juvenal plumage, like this one, can be taken as Yellow-bellied, which, unlike young Red-naped, retains this plumage into late fall or early winter. [Photo Alan Covert]



SNOWY OWLS normally sit boldly in view, but this one Nov. 26 on Big I., Pict., seemed unusually coy. [Photo Bruce Stevens]