

Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Winter 2010

(The Birds of Autumn)

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Executive 2009-2010



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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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Canso confirmed its reputation as a paramount vagrant trap, especially for feeder birds, with our second confirmed EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE, which appeared in early October (here Oct. 7). This image shows it as substantially bulkier than the nearby Mourning Dove. [Photo Tom Kavanaugh]

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS

WINTER 2009

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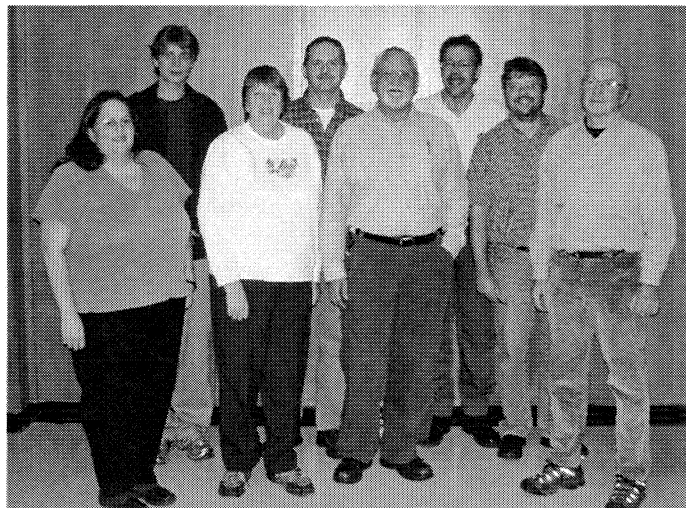
THE SPOTTING SCOPE

Just a few announcements this issue:

- The committee dealing with the three archival collections of Nova Scotia Birds and its predecessor Nova Scotia Bird Society Newsletter is still in need of copies of all issues dated 1950's and 1960's. Your help in contributing any of them will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Bernice Moores at 902-422-5292 or abmoores@chebucto.ca.
- The Nova Scotia Bird Migration count will be held Saturday, May 8th this year. Anyone is welcome to join in -- all you need is confidence in identifying the species you report. If you would like to help out and know who your county coordinator is contact them to confirm what area you will be covering and to receive your field/feeder watcher forms. A list of counties with coordinators will be posted as soon as possible. If you don't know who your coordinator is, have no county coordinator or have any other questions about the NSMC e-mail Chris Pepper at cpepper@ymail.com, phone (902)483-6693 or phone (902)829-3478 and he can assist you with what you need.
- The Nature Trust's 13th Annual Dinner & Auction will take place October 28, 2010 at the World Trade & Convention Center in Halifax. They are pleased to be joined this year by native Nova Scotian Dr. George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation and long time supporter and volunteer of the Nature Trust. Tickets can be purchased by calling Nicole or Robin at (902) 425-5263, emailing robin@nsnt.ca, or by filling out the Ticket Order Form available on their website at www.nsnt.ca. Early bird prices of \$150 for Patron tickets and \$100 for Regular tickets expire on August 1.

Happy birding!

Blake Maybank
Editor



NS Bird Society - 2010 Executive

From left to right: Helene Van Doninck, Chris Pepper, Suzanne Borkowski, Terry Boswell, Bob McDonald, Pat Kelly, Ulli Hoeger, Jim Cameron. Missing: Pat McKay, Sunetra Ekanayake, Kathleen MacAulay.

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



Society Financials

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY		
BALANCE SHEET		
As at September 30, 2009		
(With comparative figures as at September 30, 2008)		
	<u>2008/09</u>	<u>2007/08</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank account	20,022	12,837
Term deposits	19,994	22,089
Total cash	40,016	34,926
Accounts receivable	300	479
Accumulated interest	384	415
Prepaid expense	-	379
Total Current Assets	40,700	36,199
Total Assets	<u>40,700</u>	<u>36,199</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	95	35
Deferred revenue	-	-
Total Liabilities	95	35
Reserve	2,305	2,305
Members' equity		
Opening balance	33,898	34,822
Transfers from/to reserve	-	-
Surplus (deficit)	4,442	964
Total members' equity	38,300	33,858
Liabilities and equity	<u>40,700</u>	<u>36,199</u>

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY**INCOME STATEMENT**

For the year ended September 30, 2009

(With comparative figures for the year ended September 30, 2008)

	<u>2008/09</u>	<u>2007/08</u>
Revenue		
Memberships	7,075	5,829
Product sales	915	205
Nova Scotia Museum grant	2,000	2,000
Advertising	80	180
Donations	50	-
Atlas Donations	17,034	10,080
Interest	788	1,037
Foreign exchange	52	1
Other	9	9
	<u>28,003</u>	<u>19,340</u>
Expense		
Cost of Items for Sale	428	1,406
Nova Scotia Birds	4,168	5,850
Committees	-	-
Atlas Donations	17,034	10,080
Printing and stationery	61	23
Promotion	1,262	1,739
Equipment	-	158
Insurance	500	500
Miscellaneous expense	108	547
	<u>23,561</u>	<u>20,303</u>
Net Income	<u>4,442</u>	<u>964</u>
(Excess revenue over expenses/expense over revenue)		

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Kathleen MacAulay – Director, Conservation Committee

Kathleen, one of our new Directors, is the youngest member on the Executive. Just 21 years old, she is finishing an Honours degree in Biology, with a minor in Chemistry. For her honours project she'll be working with Randy Lauff on comparative nesting habitats of Saw-whet and Boreal Owls.

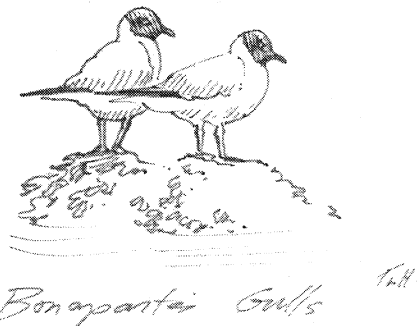
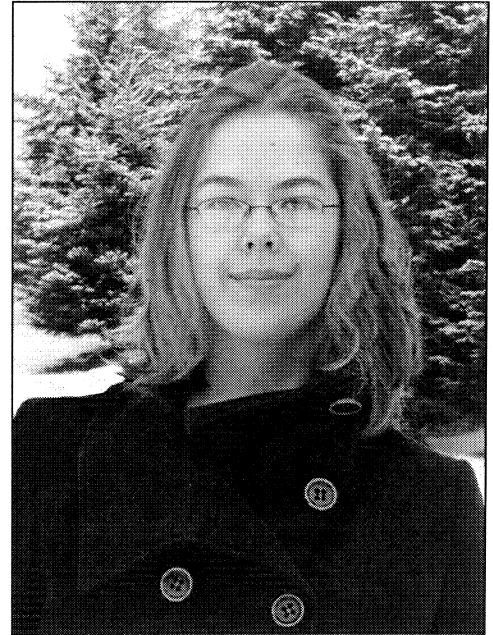
Kathleen loves birds. She owns a parrot named Connor who likes and responds only to her and no one else. As a child she remembers seeing an American Goldfinch at her grandmother's feeder that let her approach quite closely without flying off. She was fascinated by this friendly, bright-coloured bird. She used to take long walks through the woods by her home in Enfield, and make notes of what she saw. Like most beginners she had a tendency to misidentify some of the birds she observed. She remembers thinking she saw a lot of Red-shouldered Hawks back then. It didn't take her long to hone her skills, however, and realize that she was seeing immature Broadwings which have been known to nest in those woods. She's now a very competent birder. Many of you may be familiar with her postings on Nature NS.

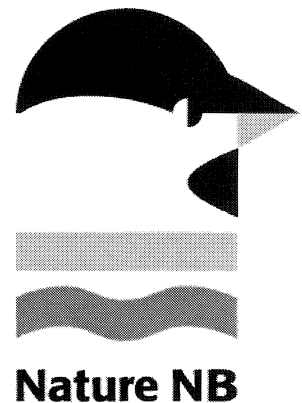
Kathleen wants to pursue a career as a Veterinarian: not your average dog and cat vet, but one who works with wildlife, perhaps even endangered species. In preparation for this she volunteers at the Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre just outside Truro, working with Helene Van Doninck, another new Board member. She gets to wash oiled birds (ask her to tell you about an Eagle she helped clean), feed and medicate birds and animals, and advise callers on what to do with the injured wildlife they find. "No, you can't keep it as a pet!" she often has to tell them.

She discovered the Nova Scotia Bird Society when she was given a gift membership by her sister; but it wasn't until she ran into a group of field trip participants at Sullivans Pond looking for the Ivory Gull, that she really got involved. She joined the group and went with them to Tufts Cove. She does Christmas Bird Counts and Spring Migration Counts. One year she was fortunate enough to see a Northern Harrier's nest while doing a Count in the Kennetcook area. She's an atlaser for the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas and last year she led her first field trip at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park. This year she'll be taking over the NSBS Shubenacadie field trip from Rob Woods who is stepping down.

Please join me in welcoming Kathleen to the Executive of the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

Suzanne Borkowski
Past President, NSBS





Wings Over Queens County: A New Brunswick Festival of Nature, is a new spring event organized by *A Celebration of Birds Nature Club* of the Village of Gagetown from May 21 to 23, 2010. This event is intended to highlight the diversity of nature in our own back yard, which will cover southern Queens County on both sides of the St. John River including the Grand Lake Meadows, part of the Protected Natural Area. Jemseg and Cambridge-Narrows, as well as the Village of Gagetown will be hosting events, meals, field trips, etc. Over 260 species of birds have been identified in these areas. The Protected Natural Area of Grand Lake Meadows, our three rivers converging at Gagetown, eight lakes, Ducks Unlimited compounds and two ferries will combine to create endless possibilities for a great weekend.

For the first time, Nature NB, our provincial umbrella group for 13 local Naturalist Clubs, will be holding its Annual General Meeting in the Village of Gagetown, N.B., and they have timed their event to coincide with Wings Over Queens County. Nature NB's AGM is scheduled for Friday evening May 21st, at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 71, Tilley Road.

Saturday and Sunday will see many activities held all over southern Queens County.

- Several workshops will be held, including: Monarch Butterflies, Bats, Experiencing the Birds through photography, and the Budding Naturalist – connecting children and youth with nature.
- Up to ten field trips per day will be held over Saturday and Sunday, including the “Dawn Chorus” for dedicated birders, a Memorial Walk and Dedication in memory of our beloved birder, the late Enid Inch, as well as other field trips exploring every nook and cranny of this rich habitat.
- A “Guest’s Program” is also planned (e.g., tours of area wineries, historical walks, etc.)
- Events for children and seniors are planned
- Local service clubs and church groups will offer home-made meals and boxed lunches.

Please watch the Gagetown Village website (<http://www.villageofgagetown.ca>), Nature NB website (<http://www.naturenb.ca>) and A Celebration of Birds website (under construction) for further details as they unfold.

For more information on the schedule of events, accommodations, restaurants, workshops, Guest’s Program and where to shop, please contact:

Roberta MacKenzie at bluriver@nb.sympatico.ca Tel: 506-488-1908,
 Bonnie Hamilton Bogart at bonniehb@nb.sympatico.ca Tel: 506-488-1888 or
 Brigitte Noel bebite@nbnet.nb.ca Tel: 488-2404.

Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary Trust - Annual Report

23 November 2009

Bob McDonald, Sanctuary Trust Chair

This is the second annual report of the “new” Sanctuary Trust (ST). Board members include Mary Alward (Treasurer), Suzanne Borkowski (Secretary), Andy Horn, George Digout, Patrick Kelly (ex officio) and myself.

The ST is responsible for maintaining the various Bird Society-owned properties scattered around the province from Cape Breton to Yarmouth and Digby Counties. We pay the property taxes on our six properties (our sanctuaries) and try to keep informed about the birds that use them.

Many of our properties are islands – Hertford in Cape Breton, Indian near Green Bay, the small Bald Islands in the Tusket group, and Peters in Grand Passage between Brier and Long Islands. We also own two mainland properties in southwest NS – the Kelsey Property south of Port Joli near Keji Seaside National Park and the North Kemptville property near the Digby/Yarmouth Co line. We now have Wardens for four of our sanctuaries and they have sent in short reports.

Ken Gregoire flew over Indian Island and reports that although cormorant numbers seemed normal, eider numbers have been low for the past two years. June Swift also reports normal cormorant numbers, eiders still present and one Canada Goose nest. However, terns still have not returned since gull numbers remain very high. Joyce Allen visited the Kelsey Property several times this summer and reports bird activity much the same as previous years although Grey Jays are getting scarce and no Great-horned Owl nest was found. Joyce sent a picture of a small owl nest box that had been erected on the property by Dirk van Loon of the Harrison Lewis Centre. Unfortunately, there were no takers this year, perhaps next year?

Finally, Dave McCorquodale sent in quite an extensive report for Hertford Island. Hertford is one of the two major islands in the Bird Islands group off Cape Dauphin in Victoria Co, CB. The Bird Islands were designated an Important Bird Area in 2000 and now form part of a Wildlife Management Area under protection by DNR. Hertford’s sister island Ciboux is Provincial crown land. The Trust Board feels that the WMA agreement will ensure better protection and enhanced oversight of this very valuable property. Dave’s report reveals just how important this sanctuary is. Two seabird counts, organized by Terry Power of DNR, were carried out in 2009. Unfortunately, Herring and Greater Black-backed Gull numbers remain high (in the hundreds) so nesting terns are absent. Black-legged Kittiwakes have nested on the islands since 1980 and in June almost 1500 nests were counted. By mid-July, however, virtually all nests had been abandoned possibly due to lack of food (capelin) nearby. Possibly the 68 Bald Eagles also seen in mid-July were present to take advantage of the easy source of food. Future nesting surveys may help in the understanding of the dynamics of the kittiwake populations and the scavenging eagles.

On a more positive note, numbers of nesting alcids were at historically high levels. Counts of individual birds, not nests, revealed the presence of over 2500 Razorbills, 1000 Atlantic Puffins and 800 Black Guillemots. Great Cormorants have returned (about 100 nests were tallied) and there were twice that number of Double-crested Cormorant nests. Several dozen Bank Swallows and one singing Song Sparrow were also noted.

I extend my thanks to all Property Wardens for their efforts and their reports.

From time to time, the ST also is able to award modest amounts of funding in support of bird study, rehabilitation or welfare. Last year we made a donation to the Hope for Wildlife Centre in Seaforth. This year, we made two awards – one in support of Randy Lauff’s on-going research on small owls and their use of nest boxes and one to the Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre located in Brookfield towards the construction of a large raptor flight cage. Thank you messages were received from both Randy and Helene van Doninck and they have promised reports on the progress of their projects.

If NSBS members would like to see us continue to support projects such as these, please consider making a donation to the Sanctuary Trust when you renew your Society membership. Charitable donation receipts will be issued for donations of \$10 or more.

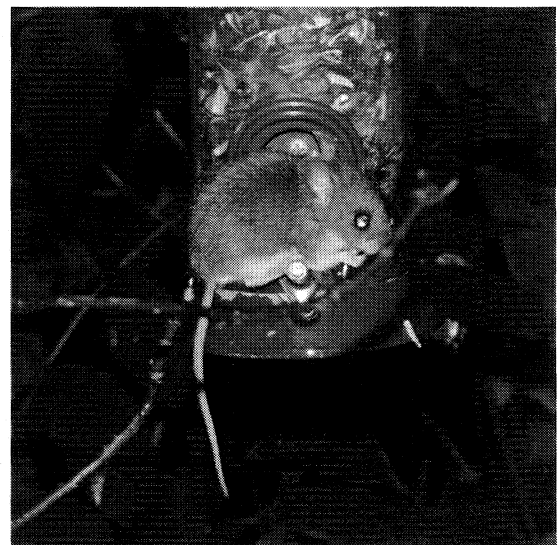
The Sanctuary Trust Board for 2009-2010 will be comprised of Suzanne, Andy, George, Patrick and me. Mary Alward, our Treasurer, has decided to resign from the Board due to the pressure of work, family and other obligations. We are sorry to see Mary go and we thank her for her most generous service to the Bird Society and the Trust over the past two years. Thankfully, we do have a volunteer who has agreed to complete the final year of Mary’s 3-year term as Treasurer. May I introduce Terry Boswell who will be serving as ST Treasurer for 2009-2010. Many thanks, Terry, and welcome to the Board!

Thank you.

2009 Field Trip Leaders Recognized

The Nova Scotia Bird Society offered 56 field trips in 2009. Please join me in thanking the field trip leaders who volunteered their time and efforts in planning and offering these wonderful outings:

Bob McDonald Sue Abbott	Sewer Stroll 1 Beginning Birders: Point Pleasant Park	James Hirtle Jim Cameron & Warren Parsons	Mahone Bay Taylor Head Provincial Park
James Hirtle	Beginning Birders: Lunenburg	Billy Digout & Weldon MacPhail Eric Mills Fritz McEvoy Claire Diggins Bonnie Carmichael	Point Michaud Cherry Hill Beach Cabot Landing Bon Portage Island Beginning Birders: Point Pleasant Park
Suzanne Borkowski & Bob McDonald George Crowell & Bev Crowell	HRM Harbour Hop Glace Bay & Area Harbour Hop Valley Birding	Susann Myers James Hirtle & Wayne Neily Blake Maybank	Cape Breton Shorebirds Brier Island Weekend Editor's Outing: Peggy's Cove Loop Cheticamp Island Beginning Birders: Windsor Birders Walk: Point Pleasant Park
Bernard Forsythe Maureen Cameron-MacMillan Bonnie Carmichael & Gail Bruhm Wayne Neily Donna Ensor	North Sydney and Area Beginning Birders: Halifax Along the Fundy Shore Baccaro & Blanche Peninsula Martinique Beach	Gordon Delaney Patrick Kelly	
Ian McLaren Bethsheila Kent	Baddeck and St. Ann's Area Beginning Birders: Halifax Beginning Birders: Annapolis Valley Wolfville Area Cape Sable Island Bon Portage Island Beginning Birders: Halifax Historic Hants County The Fred Dobson Warbler Walk	Patricia Chalmers	Port Hawkesbury Canso and Area Antigonish Coastal Waters Metro "Hot Spot" Birding
Bonnie Carmichael & Gail Bruhm Wayne Neily	Port l'Hebert Conquerall Mills Kejimikujik Seaside Adjunct Lake Ainslie McNabs Island Beginning Birders: Truro Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary Beginning Birders: Middle Musquodoboit Grand River & Loch Lomond Herbert River Trail Shubenacadie Beginning Birders: Parrsboro Beginning Birders: Port Greville Square Bash: Walton River Beginning Birders: Martinique Beach	David Johnston & Dave McCorquodale Tom Kavanaugh & Steve Bushell Randy Lauff Mike King	
Jim Wolford Murray Newell Claire Diggins Suzanne Borkowski Suzanne Borkowski Patricia Chalmers			
Dorothy Poole & Clyde Stoddart James Hirtle Gary Hartlen & Peter Davies			
Barrie Fraser Cheryl Davis Ross Hall Kathleen Spicer			
Verna Higgins			
Shirley Halliday			
Patrick Kelly Rob Woods Joan Czupalay			
Joan Czupalay			
Suzanne Borkowski Sue Abbott			
Lynn Zimmerman & Carolyn Chant Paul MacDonald	Marble Mountain Wallace Bay		



Occasionally we display an honorary bird on these pages, and this nocturnal mouse at a feeder in Antigonish should qualify. The Deer Mouse and White-footed Mouse are very difficult to distinguish by overall appearance, but this one, on close inspection, seems to have a bicolored tail, and thus appears to be the former species. [Photo Randy Lauff]



AUTUMN BIRD REPORTS

NOTE: The seasonal reports frequently use the following abbreviations (counties are in *italics*):

ad. = adult
 alt. = alternate plumage, i.e., breeding plumage
 Bch = beach
 BBS = Breeding Bird Survey
 ca. = *circa*, i.e., approximately
 CBC = Christmas Bird Count
 f. = female
fide = "according to" or "On the authority of"
 Hbr = harbour
 I. = Island
 imm. = immature
 juv. = juvenile
 L.R. = Local Record
 m.obs. = many observers
 m. = male
 nd = no details, i.e., unconfirmed by documentation
 NHS = National Historic Site
 NSMC = Nova Scotia Migration Count
 o-w = over-wintered
 PP = Provincial Park
 Pen. = Peninsula
 ph. = photographed
 pr = pair
 R. = River
 SP = Sewage Ponds
 spec. = specimen
 thr. = throughout the season
 Tr. = trail
 var.obs. = various observers
 w. = winter

Place Names

3 Fathom Hbr = Three Fathom Harbour, *HRM*
 APBS = Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, *Cumberland*
 Ann. Royal Marsh = Annapolis Royal Marsh, *Annapolis*
 Apple River = Apple River, *Cumberland*
 Belleisle = Belleisle Marsh, *Annapolis*
 Blanche = Blanche Peninsula, *Shelburne*
 BPI = Bon Portage (Outer) Island, *Shelburne*
 Brier I. = Brier Island, *Digby*
 Canso = Town of Canso, *Guysborough*
 CBI = Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia
 CBHNP = Cape Breton Highlands National Park
 CBRM = *Cape Breton Regional Municipality*
 Cherry Hill = Cherry Hill Beach, *Lunenburg*
 Cole Hr. = Cole Harbour, *HRM*
 Conrad's = Conrad's Beach, *HRM*
 Crystal Crescent = Crystal Crescent Beach P.P., *HRM*
 CSI = Cape Sable Island, *Shelburne*
 Glace Bay = Glace Bay, *Cape Breton*
 Hartlen Pt = Hartlen Point, *HRM*
 HRM = Halifax Regional Municipality
 Keji = Kejimikujik National Park
 Long I. = Long Island, *Digby*
 Louisbourg = Louisbourg, *Cape Breton*
 Martinique = Martinique Beach Provincial Park, *HRM*
 PPP = Point Pleasant Park, *HRM*
 Schooner Pond = Schooner Pond, *Cape Breton*
 Seal I. = Seal Island, Outer Tusquets, *Yarmouth*
 Sober I. = Sober Island, *HRM*
 Taylor's Head PP = Taylor's Head Provincial Park, *HRM*
 Uniacke = Uniacke Estate Museum Park, *Hants*
 W. Lawrencetown = West Lawrencetown Marsh, *HRM*

Waterfowl

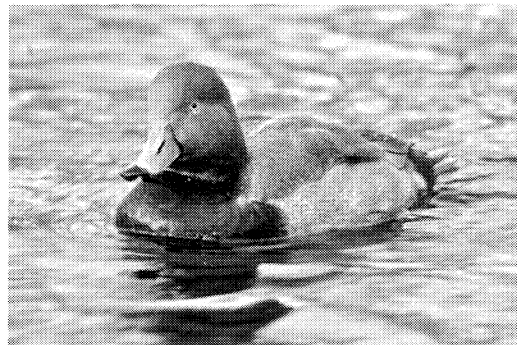
By John Belbin

The huge flocks of geese in the Truro region are always worth checking out as they sometimes contain a rarity or two. This year did not disappoint. MIK picked out both a **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** and a **ACKLING GOOSE** on Nov. 27. JBO spotted 2 **SNOW GEESE** on 28 Nov, one was a white variant the other one a blue.

On a trip from Lunenburg to Kempt JAH spotted no fewer than 13 **WOOD DUCKS** -- they seem to be doing well this year. On 11 October he noted many large groups of **Canada Geese** moving through the Lunenburg region, the most he had ever seen in the area.

A **GADWALL** spent a few days in the Canard region of Kings, giving several observers a chance to see it. Several **EURASIAN WIGEONS** were reported from the Glace Bay area of Cape Breton.

Three **CANVASBACKS** were seen in Lyle's Bay, Port Clyde by SAH. There appeared to be 2 females and an immature male. A **REDHEAD** was seen and photographed at the Beacon St. Dam in Glace Bay by Tuma Young, ALM, CLM. They have been seen and photographed there before. It was later joined by another, and the two were present through the autumn, according to JUM.



The male **REDHEAD**, like this one in late November at Glace Bay, is surely one of our most striking waterfowl. [Photo Tuma Young]

A very early female **HARLEQUIN DUCK** was spotted at Sandy Cove on 17th Oct., by JAH and DPO. The species seems to be more widely reported this year, which is encouraging news for this threatened species. In late November JCZ saw at least 34 individuals in 3 distinct flocks off Prospect Pen., a regular wintering area.

On the NSBS field trip to the Canso area on 7 Nov, KJM was able to identify a hybrid **BARROWS/ COMMON GOLDENEYE**, in Embree Pond, Port Hawkesbury.

KJM had a nice sighting at Chance Harbour, Pic., when a flock of 500 **RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS** flew by near the wharf area. The Pictou area is known for these late fall gatherings.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

Oct. 6	Harris Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
Nov. 27	Truro, <i>Col.</i>	1	MIK

Snow Goose

Oct. 9	Central Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	1	ROH
Nov. 28	Truro, <i>Col.</i>	2	JBO
Nov. 30	Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	2	DOU

Brant

Oct. 12	Seal I.	6	BLM
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CACKLING GOOSE

Nov. 27	Truro, <i>Col.</i>	1	MIK
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Canada Goose

Aug. 4	Dalhousie L. <i>Ann.</i>	4	SLH
Aug. 26	East R., <i>Lun.</i>	41	JAH
Mid Sep-			
mid Oct	Bridgetown, <i>Ann.</i>	abundant	MCR
Sep. 20	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	64	GFO, JCT
Sep. 23	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	50+	SLH
Oct. 2, 6	Windsor SP, <i>Hants</i>	80, 240	JOB
Oct. 6	Harris Pond, <i>Kings</i>	130	JCT
Oct. 9	Central Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	1000+	ROH
Oct. 10, 19	Big I. <i>Pic.</i>	35, 465	KJM
Oct. 11	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	many	JAH
Oct. 12	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	128	JAH
Oct. 13, 17	Port Williams sewage, <i>Kings</i>	34, 250	JCT
Oct. 17	Harris Pond, Canning, <i>Kings</i>	100	JWW
Oct. 17	Silver L., <i>Kings</i>	500	JWW
Oct. 17	Port Williams SP, <i>Kings</i>	250	JCT
Oct. 25, 31	Waterside P.P., <i>Pic.</i>	250	KJM
Oct. 26,			
Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	700+	KJM
Nov. 4	Lower Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	2000	IAM
Nov. 7	Port Williams SP, <i>Kings</i>	14	JWW
Nov. 9	Lower Habitant R., <i>Kings</i>	200	BBT
Nov. 14	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	174	JAH, DPO
Nov. 19	Curry's Corner, <i>Hants</i>	200	JWW
Nov. 21	Waterside P.P., <i>Pic.</i>	300	KJM
Nov. 23	Victoria Vale, <i>Ann.</i>	59	PBG
Nov. 26	Feltzen South, <i>Lun.</i>	265	JAH

Wood Duck

Aug. 1	Lilydale, <i>Lun.</i>	5	JAH
Aug. 12	Back Centre, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Sep. 1-10	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	2	ALD
Sep. 15	Conrads I., Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	2	ELM
Sep. 18	Lunenburg to Kempt, <i>Lun., Queens</i>	13	JAH
Sep. 20	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	4	GFO
Sep. 21	Wolfville SP, <i>Kings</i>	2 (pr)	JCT
Sep. 29	Chipman's Corner, <i>Kings</i>	4+	JWW
Oct. 4	Annapolis Royal, <i>Ann.</i>	10-15	DLO
Oct. 11	Stevenson's L., <i>Lun.</i>	13	JAH
Oct. 15	Lilydale, <i>Lun.</i>	10	JAH
Oct. 19	Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	1m	ELM
Oct. 24	Lower Clarks Hbr., <i>CSI</i>	1f	JON

Gadwall

Oct. 2-6	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1m	JWW, JCT
Oct. 24	Lower Clarks Hbr., <i>CSI</i>	2	JON
Oct. 31	New Glasgow, sewage, <i>Pic.</i>	3	KJM

Eurasian Wigeon

Oct. 2	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1m	BBU
Nov. 29	Windsor sewage lagoons, <i>Hants</i>	1	PKE
Nov. 29	Antigonish Landing, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL

Nov.	Glace Bay area, <i>CBRM</i>	several	JUM
American Wigeon			
Oct. 2	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	6	JWW
Oct. 4	Annapolis Royal marsh, <i>Ann.</i>	6	DLO
Oct. 6, 15	Windsor SP, <i>Hants</i>	9, 12	JOB
Oct. 6	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	32+	JCT
Oct. 10	Big I. <i>Pic.</i>	2	KJM
Nov. 7	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	20-30	GAM
Nov. 19, 29	Windsor SP, <i>Hants</i>	17+, 15	JWW, PKE

American Black Duck

Sep. 12	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	83	JAH
Oct. 6, 15	Windsor SP, <i>Hants</i>	70+	JOB
Oct. 10	Big I. <i>Pic.</i>	150	KJM
Oct. 16	Windsor SP, <i>Hants</i>	80	JWW
Nov. 7	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	10	JWW
Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	70	KJM
Nov. 21	Windsor causeway, <i>Hants</i>	170	RBA

Mallard

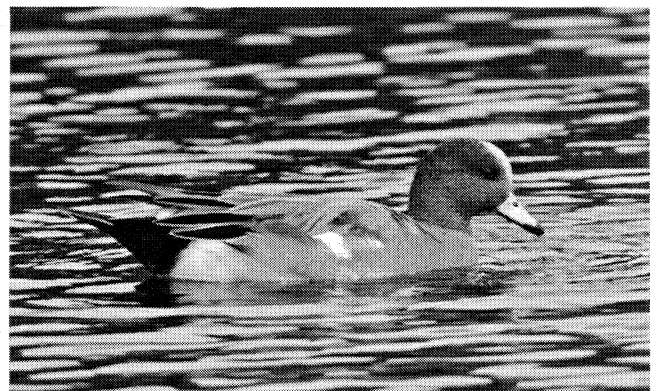
Aug 10	Port Williams SP, <i>Kings</i>	family	JWW
Aug 10	New Minas DU, <i>Kings</i>	sev. families	JWW
Aug 15	Conrads I., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
Aug. 31	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	30	RJS
Sep. 29	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	a few	JWW
Oct. 16	Martin's R., <i>Lun.</i>	100	JAH
Oct. 17	Graves I. P.P., <i>Lun.</i>	10	Paul MacDonald
Oct. 17	Port Williams SP, <i>Kings</i>	24+	JCT
Oct. 27,			
Nov. 23	Conrads Bch, <i>HRM</i>	8, 9	DMW
Oct. 28	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	16	Paul MacDonald
Nov. 8	Port Williams SP, <i>Kings</i>	60	JWW
Nov. 10	Victoria Vale, <i>Ann.</i>	100+	PB

Blue-winged teal

Sep. 11	Lower Clark's Hbr, <i>CSI</i>	12	Lynne Perry
Oct. 6	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
Oct. 24	Lower Clarks Hbr., <i>CSI</i>	3	JON

Northern Shoveler

Oct. 2, 6, 17	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1m, 3, 1f	var. obs.
Oct. 4	Annapolis Royal, <i>Ann.</i>	4	DLO
Nov. 13	Saxon St. Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1f	JCT



This male EURASIAN WIGEON at Red Bridge Pond, Dartmouth, still had traces of its summer (eclipse) plumage when photographed on Oct. 5. [Photo Tuma Young]

Nov. 29	Antigonish SP, <i>Ant.</i>	5	RFL	Nov. 12	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	4m, 1f	RBS
Northern Pintail				Nov. 20	Prospect Pen., <i>HRM</i>	34	JCZ
Aug 15	Conrads I., <i>Lun.</i>	5f	JAH	Nov. 23	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	12	PBG
Aug. 29	Port Clyde, <i>SH</i>	5	JAH, DOP	Scoter sp.			
Oct. 2, 6, 17	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	4m, 8, 4	var. obs.	Oct. 24	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	60	KJM
Oct. 24	Lower Clarks Hbr., <i>CSI</i>	2	JON	Surf Scoter			
Oct. 31	Kingsburg Bch, <i>Lun.</i>	1f	JAH	Oct. 10	Big I. <i>Pic.</i>	30+	KJM
Nov. 7, 13	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	10, 4m, 3f	JWW, JCT	Oct. 12	Cape George, <i>Ant.</i>	17	BRS
Nov. 14	Kingsburg Bch, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH, DPO	Oct. 24	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	5	KJM
Nov. 29	Second Pen., <i>Lun.</i>	1f	JAH	Oct. 28	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	15	Paul MacDonald
Green-winged Teal				Oct. 31	Margaretsville, <i>Ann.</i>	100+	PLC
Aug 15	Conrads I., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH	Nov. 1	Margaretsville, <i>Ann.</i>	good numbers	RBS
Sep. 10	Cherry Hill	46	SJF	Nov. 4, 19	Taylor Head P.P., <i>HRM</i>	5, 2	JAC
Sep.12	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	40	JAH	Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	43	KJM
Sep. 21	Wolfville SP, <i>Kings</i>	3	JCT	Nov. 18	Mahone Bay Hbr., <i>Lun.</i>	10	Paul MacDonald
Sep. 29,				White-winged Scoter			
Oct. 2	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	20, 50++	JWW	Sep 18-21	Brier I. <i>Digby</i>		JAH
Oct. 4	Annapolis Royal, <i>Ann.</i>	30-40	DLO	Oct. 10	Big I. <i>Pic.</i>	3	KJM
Oct. 6	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	~200	JCT	Oct. 11	Seal I.	6	BLM
Oct. 6, 15	Windsor SP, <i>Hants</i>	6, 8	JOB	Oct. 17	Digby Neck, <i>Digby</i>	1	JAH, DOP
Oct. 10, 26	Big I. <i>Pic.</i>	15, 43	KJM	Oct. 31	Margaretsville, <i>Ann.</i>	many	PLC
Oct. 17	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	100	RBS	Nov. 4, 19	Taylor Head P.P., <i>HRM</i>	2	JAC
Oct. 24	Lower Clarks Hbr., <i>CSI</i>	5	JON	Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	10	KJM
Oct. 24	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	3	KJM	Nov. 13	Clearland, <i>HRM</i>	2	JAH, DAW
Oct. 28	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	8	Paul MacDonald	Black Scoter			
Nov. 7	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	50+	JWW	Sep 18-21	Brier I. <i>Digby</i>		JAH
Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	11	KJM	Oct. 11	Seal I.	30 flying	ELM, IAM, BLM
Nov. 19	Windsor SP, <i>Hants</i>	4	JWW	Oct. 28	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	5	Paul MacDonald
Nov. 13	Saxon St. pond, <i>Kings</i>	19	JCT	Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	2	KJM
Nov. 22	Melbourne, <i>Yar.</i>	28	PRG	Nov. 28	Evangeline Bch, <i>Kings</i>	40	JCT
CANVASBACK				Long-tailed Duck			
Sep. 10	Port Clyde, <i>SH</i>	3 nd	SAH	Oct. 24	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	20	KJM
Redhead				Oct. 28	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	6	Paul MacDonald
Sep. 26	Beacon St. dam, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Tuma Young, ALM, CAM	Oct. 31	Margaretsville, <i>Ann.</i>	4	PLC
Nov.+	Glace Bay area, <i>CBRM</i>	2	JUM	Nov. 4, 19	Taylor Head P.P., <i>HRM</i>	18, 40	JAC
Ring-necked Duck				Nov. 8	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	103	JAH, DAW
Aug 10	Port Williams SP, <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW	Nov. 11	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	3	PBG
Sep. 19	Russell L., <i>HRM</i>	5	PMC	Nov. 18	Mahone Bay Hbr., <i>Lun.</i>	36	Paul MacDonald
Sep. 29	Port Williams SP, <i>Kings</i>	3	JWW	Bufflehead			
Oct. 1-2	Port Williams SP, <i>Kings</i>	6	JCT	Oct. 11	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct. 4	Annapolis Royal, <i>Ann.</i>	15-20	DLO	Oct. 22	Melbourne L., <i>Yar.</i>	10	PRG
Oct. 31	Hirtles Pond, <i>Lun.</i>	106	ELM	Oct. 30	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	3	SJF
Oct. 31	Masons Bch, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH, DAW	Nov. 19	Taylor Hd., <i>HRM</i>	1	JAC
Nov. 14	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	1m	JAH, DPO	Nov. 21	Annapolis Royal, <i>Ann.</i>	50+	Gail Bruhm
Greater Scaup				Common Goldeneye			
Oct.15	Lilydale, <i>Lun.</i>	8	JAH	Oct. 12	Ogden's Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	1m	BRS
Oct. 25	Pictou causeway, <i>Pic.</i>	250	KJM	Nov. 7	Canso causeway	a few	NSBS
Oct. 31	Masons Bch, <i>Lun.</i>	62	JAH, DAW	Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	15	KJM
Lesser Scaup				Nov. 14	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH, DPO
Nov. 14	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	13	JAH, DPO	Nov. 21	Waterside P.P., <i>Pic.</i>	90	KJM
Common Eider				Nov. 24	Conrads Bch, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Aug. 12, 16	Conrads Bch, <i>HRM</i>	3,14	DMW	Barrow's Goldeneye			
Aug. 22	Louisburg area, <i>CBRM</i>	15	Bill Bussey	Nov. 14	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	1m	JAH, DPO
Aug. 24	Hartlen Pt	80	BLM	Hooded Merganser			
Aug. 29	Bacarro, <i>SH</i>	568+	JAH, DOP	Aug. 24-Oct.1	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	2	ALD
Sep. 2,				Aug. 26	East R., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
Oct. 6	Conrads Bch, <i>HRM</i>	30, 7	DMW	Aug 31	Bayers Lake pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	JOW
Oct. 24	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	21	KJM	Sep. 25	Conrads I. beach, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct. 31	Margaretsville, <i>Ann.</i>	many	PLC	Oct. 17, 20	Silver L., <i>Kings</i>	20-30, 18	RBS, JCT
Nov. 4, 19	Taylor Head P.P., <i>HRM</i>	36, 60	JAC	Oct. 22, 23	Martinique Bch	3, 1	CHP
Nov. 11	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	300+	PBG	Oct. 23	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	12	Paul MacDonald
Nov. 20	Prospect Pen., <i>HRM</i>	15	JCZ	Oct. 24	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	2	KJM
Harlequin Duck				Oct. 25	Abercrombie, <i>Pic.</i>	10	KJM
Oct. 17	Sandy Cove, <i>Digby</i>	1f	JAH, DPO	Oct. 25, 31	Haliburton Gut, <i>Pic.</i>	40, 170	KJM
Oct. 20	Arisaig Point, <i>Ant.</i>	1	JOK	Nov. 7	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2	JWW
Oct. 26	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	m, f	KJM	Nov. 9	Harris Pond, Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW
Oct. 31	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	3m, 3f	PLC	Nov. 10-30	Prospect Bay, <i>HRM</i>	10	BLM
Nov. 1	Prospect Pen., <i>HRM</i>	3m, 4f	RSM	Nov. 12	Silver L. <i>Kings</i>	40	JCT
Nov. 2, 11	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	14, 4	PBG				
Nov. 2	Daniels Head, <i>CSI</i>	2f	JON				
Nov. 4, 19	Taylor Head P.P., <i>HRM</i>	11, 6	JAC				
Nov. 7	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	2	Ian Harte				
Nov. 11	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	9	KJM				

Nov. 22	Conrads Bch, <i>HRM</i>	1	David Schlosberg	Nov. 22	Conrads Bch, <i>HRM</i>	30	David Schlosberg
Nov. 28	Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	3f	VJH	Nov. 29	Second Pen., <i>Lun.</i>	64+	JAH
Nov. 29	Second Pen., <i>Lun.</i>	25	JAH	Red-breasted Merganser			
Common Merganser				Sep. 8, 30	Conrads Bch, <i>HRM</i>	12, 2	DMW
Aug. 1,				Sep. 26	Wagners Bch, <i>HRM</i>	6	BLM
Nov. 17	Sandy Bottom L., <i>Ann.</i>	1f	MCR	Oct. 10	Big I. <i>Pic.</i>	1	KJM
Aug. 26,				Oct. 17	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	50	JAH, DPO
Sep. 25	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	12, 60	JAH	Oct. 24	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM
Oct. 10	Big I. <i>Pic.</i>	20	KJM	Oct. 31	Waterside P.P., <i>Pic.</i>	95	KJM
Oct. 11	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	51	JAH	Nov. 4	Taylor Head P.P., <i>HRM</i>	8	JAC
Oct. 25	Pictou causeway, <i>Pic.</i>	50	KJM	Nov. 9	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	2	PMU
Oct. 27, 28	Conrads Bch, <i>HRM</i>	18, 36	DMW	Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	170	KJM
Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	35	KJM	Nov. 15	Chance Harbour, <i>Pic.</i>	600	KJM
Nov. 13	Conrads Bch, <i>HRM</i>	53	DMW	Nov. 28	Conrads Bch, <i>HRM</i>	2	DMW

Galliformes

By Ulli Höger

Ring-necked Pheasant

Oct 11	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	Paul Boyer
Oct 23	Truro, <i>Col.</i>	8	WIK

Gray Partridge

Aug 16	Bible Hill, <i>Col.</i>	2 + 9	ROH
Nov 30	Bible Hill, <i>Col.</i>	9	DOU

Ruffed Grouse

Oct 03	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Nov 18	Sunrise Valley, <i>CBRM</i>	3	FMC
Nov 24	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2	HAT

Spruce Grouse

Aug 24	E. Port Medway, <i>Queens</i>	5	ELM
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Loons Through Grebes

By John Belbin

The first **Red-necked Grebe** of the season in the Pictou area was driven in by strong NE storm winds after the passage of Hurricane Bill. No others appeared in that area. Two other early birds appeared in Green Bay, Lunenburg, 3 days later.

Big Island, *Pic.* seems to be the location to find **Horned Grebes**. They are reported from there consistently.

KJM had a sighting of 28 Horned Grebes in a pleasant outing on Nov 15th, an unusually large grouping even for this location, which draws many waterfowl in late fall.

KJM sighted a large group of 90 winter-plumaged **Red-throated Loons** at Waterside PP Oct. 25th. A less fortunate sighting of 3 RT Loon carcasses on the beach at Cow Bay was made by HEK.

Red-throated Loon

Aug. 30	Herring Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Sept. 30	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	2	ALD
Oct. 25, 31	Waterside P.P., <i>Pic.</i>	90, 50	KJM
Nov. 4	Taylor Head P.P., <i>HRM</i>	1	JAC
Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	17	KJM
Nov. 12	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	2	RBS
Nov. 15	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	3 dead	HEK
Nov. 15	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	5	KJM
Nov. 21	Waterside P.P., <i>Pic.</i>	3	KJM

Common Loon

Aug. 14	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Aug 24	Scots Bay, <i>Kings</i>	11	IAM
Sept. 1-11	Sandy Bottom L., <i>Ann.</i>	1	MCR
Oct. 17	Graves I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	Paul MacDonald
Oct. 24	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	13	KJM
Nov. 1	Annapolis R., <i>Ann.</i>	4	DLO
Nov. 4	Taylor Head P.P. <i>HRM</i>	3	JAC
Nov. 11	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	1	PBG
Nov. 22	Western Head, <i>Queens</i>	15	ELM

Pied-billed Grebe

Aug. 29	Ravenscroft, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH, DOP
Sept. 7	3 Fathom Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Sept. 7	Grand Desert L. <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM

Sept 20	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
Oct. 11, 12	Seal I.	2	DOM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 13	Back Center, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct. 17	Silver L., <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW

Horned Grebe

Oct. 16	Queensland, <i>HRM</i>	3	JAH
Oct. 16	Blandford, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
Oct. 17	Graves I. P.P., <i>Lun.</i>	4	Paul MacDonald
Oct. 25	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	7	JOK
Oct. 31	Margaretsville, <i>Ann.</i>	1	PLC
Nov. 1	Hacketts Cove, <i>HRM</i>	6	RSM
Nov. 4, 19	Taylor Head P.P., <i>HRM</i>	3, 6	JAC
Nov. 9, 15	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	9, 28	KJM
Red-necked Grebe			
Aug 24	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	1	KJM
Aug 27	Green Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	2	Nicholas von Maltzahn
Oct. 17	Graves I. P.P., <i>Lun.</i>	3	Paul MacDonald
Oct. 24	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	4	KJM
Nov. 1	Margaretsville, <i>Ann.</i>	2	RBS
Nov. 4	Taylor Head P.P., <i>HRM</i>	2	JAC
Nov. 12, 23	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	1, 1	RBS, PBG

Tubenoses through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

Two fishermen from Cape Sable Island, James and Gareth Greenwood, working at 43E07.25'N, 66E20.34'W (ca. 75 km SW of CSI) on 29 August 2009, encountered and photographed a **BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS**. Their photograph shows it at close range on the water among Greater Shearwaters. It is an immature, with a pink bill and dark tip (adults have unmarked yellow bills), but lacking dark on the bill near the eye, and apparently also lacking the gray collar typical of younger immature mollymauks of this species. This is the first confirmed record for the province (following three sight records in the 1980s and one in 1991) of this southern hemisphere species that has been seen far more often extralimally in the Northeast Atlantic than in our part of the world. One was seen and photographed in Maine between Seal and Vinalhaven Islands on July 16, and there is a possibility that the same bird was involved - the distance is not so great across the Gulf of Maine - although the photographs that I have seen (thanks to Derek Lovitch, Stella Walsh and John Drury in Maine) suggest that the bird in Maine waters, although roughly the same age and identical in plumage, had a slightly differently patterned yellowish-tinged bill. But comparison is difficult and it is hard to be sure. An adult was photographed off northern Labrador in June, suggesting that there was an incursion into the Northwest Atlantic this year.

Of equal interest, on September 30 an experienced seabird observer working on a research vessel at the south end of the Halifax Line (a series of stations SE from Halifax occupied for oceanographic research for many years) near the edge of the continental shelf reported two **AUDUBON'S SHEARWATERS**, mentioning details of face pattern, undertail coverts and flight style that are convincing. There are five previous reports, like this one all sight records, but this small black and white shearwater has yet to be confirmed provincially by a specimen or photograph.

In early summer water temperatures inshore on the Scotian Shelf were reported as being unusually warm, likely resulting in the occurrence of the probable **BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL** documented in the last issue of *Nova Scotia Birds*. But by August the water had cooled (it never did warm up in the outer Bay of Fundy) and the chance of subtropical and tropical pelagic species diminished. Nonetheless, there were fascinating differences this year compared to many in the recent past, including the presence of hundreds of **WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS** near Brier Island, and in the same area thousands of **SOOTY SHEARWATERS**, usually far less abundant than the Greaters but this year outnumbering them by a wide margin. This is hard to account for, but there is some evidence that **SOOTY SHEARWATERS** feed more on crustaceans like euphausiids and somewhat less on fish and squid than Greaters, so perhaps food supply was the explanation for the unusual ratio of abundances this year. As for the Storm-Petrels, their preferred food is also euphausiids, so their unusual abundance could be explained the same way - but we have no direct evidence for any of this.

A lone **MANX SHEARWATER** just off Northern Point, Brier Island, on November 6 was unusually late in the Bay of Fundy.

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS

Aug. 29	SW of CSI	1 imm, ph.	James & Gareth Greenwood
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Northern Fulmar

Aug. 1	Off Brier I.	10 (1 dark)	ELM
Aug. 15	Off Northern Pt., Brier I.	2	MIK
Sep. 7	40 km S of Halifax	ca. 50	NSBS
Sep. 26	40 km S of Halifax	200-250	NSBS

Cory's Shearwater

Sep. 7	40 km S of Halifax	1	NSBS
Sep. 30	Edge of cont. shelf S of Halifax	1	Dave Fifield

Greater Shearwater

Aug. 1	Off Brier I.	500	ELM
Aug. 7	Off Flint I., <i>CBRM</i>	7	CAM, ALM
Aug. 13	nr Pearl I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	ELM, IAM <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 15	Off Northern Pt., Brier I.	253 in 1 hr.	MIK
Aug. 27	Off Northern Pt., Brier I.	500+	ELM
Aug. 28	Off Brier I.	est. 300	ELM
Aug. 30	Off Western Light, Brier I.	500 in 1.5 hr	ELM
Sep. 7	40 km S of Halifax	ca. 50	NSBS
Sep. 19	Northern Pt., Brier I.	20 in 3 hr.	ELM
Sep. 26	40 km S of Halifax	12	NSBS
Nov. 1	Off Pt. George, <i>Ann.</i>	"flock"	RBS, AAM



It was only a matter of time before a **BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS** was photographically confirmed in our waters (we have three well-documented sightings). This one, sitting massively among the Greater Shearwaters, although not "twitchable", was photographed by an alert fisherman on Aug. 28, some 70 km s.e. of CSI. Its black-tipped bill marks it as a subadult: these roam the World for several years before maturing and breeding on one of several islands in the Southern Ocean. [Photo Gareth Greenwood]

Nov. 22	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2	Dominique Gusset	Aug. 29	Off Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	ca. 90	
				Aug. 30	Off Western Light, Brier I.	50+ in 1.5 hr	ELM
				Sep. 18	Off Western Light, Brier I.	30+	ELM
				Sep. 19	Northern Pt., Brier I.	200+ in 3 hr	ELM
				Sep. 22	Pictou I., <i>Pic.</i>	900	BLM
				Oct. 13	South Beach, Sable I.	6 imm.	ZOL
				Oct. 25	Caribou I., <i>Pic.</i>	60	KJM
				Nov. 1	Off Pt. George, <i>Ann.</i>	Numbers?	RBS, AAM
				Nov. 4	Taylor Hd. PP, <i>HRM</i>	2	Jim Cameron
				Nov. 7	W side of Brier I.	200 fishing	ELM, AHM
				Nov. 7	Canso Causeway, <i>Inv.</i>	2500-3000	DBM, NSBS
				Nov. 9	Wagners Bch., <i>HRM</i>	3	BLM
				Nov. 9	Beach Meadows PP, <i>Queens</i>	1	JRH
				Nov. 22	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	10+	ELM
					Double-crested Cormorant		
				Aug. 6	Wedge I., <i>HRM</i>	Nesting "in abundance"	
							Paul Boyer
				Aug. 16	Conrad's Bch., <i>HRM</i>	40	DMW
				Aug. 26	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i>	200	JAH
				Aug. 29	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	15	JRH, DPO
				Aug. 30	Brier I.	100, flocking	ELM
				Sep. 2	Conrad's Bch., <i>HRM</i>	54	DMW
				Sep. 12	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	230	JAH
				Sep. 15	Port Mouon hbr.	ca. 50	Ruth E. Smith
				Sep. 16	Brier I.	ca. 50	ELM
				Sep. 17-18	Brier I.	150+	ELM
				Sep. 18	Hortonville, <i>Kings</i>	30 imm.	JWW
				Sep. 22	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
				Sep. 30	E tip Sable I.	1 imm.	ZOL
				Oct. 6	Conrad's Bch, <i>HRM</i>	32	DMW
				Oct. 17	Pt. Williams SP, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
				Oct. 17	Graves I., <i>Lun.</i>	4	Paul MacDonald
				Oct. 20	W ponds, Sable I.	1 imm.	ZOL
				Oct. 25	Caribou I., <i>Pic.</i>	ca. 100	KJM
				Oct. 31	Pictou causeway, <i>Pic.</i>	50+	KJM
				Nov. 7	Canso Causeway, <i>Inv.</i>	40	DBM, NSBS
					Great Cormorant		
				Aug. 30	Brier I.	3 ad.	ELM
				Aug. 31-			
				Sep. 1	Brier I.	5 ad., 1 imm.	ELM
				Sep. 16	Peters I., Brier I.	10	ELM
				Sep. 26	Wagners Bch., <i>HRM</i>	6	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
				Sep. 30	South Beach, Sable I.	1 imm.	ZOL
				Oct. 10	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	3	KJM, Charlie Kendall
				Oct. 11	Ballantyne Cove, <i>Ant.</i>	2 imm.	BRS
				Nov. 5-7	Brier I.	20+	ELM, AHM
				Nov. 9	Beach Meadows PP, <i>Queens</i>	8	JRH
				Nov. 15	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	1	KJM, Rick Ferguson
				Nov. 19	Taylor Hd. PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	Jim Cameron

Hérons

By Ulli Höger

Reports indicate that the Little Blue Heron at Port Clyde had been there for the previous two months. Immature individuals of this species are easily mistaken for one of the white egret species, and this ID pitfall should be taken into consideration when giving Cattle Egrets and Snowy Egrets a 2nd critical look. In fact, take a third look, since LITTLE EGRET (a vagrant to N.S.) is also similar in appearance, and can be easily over-looked. The Little Egret reported this autumn may have been the same individual that was frequently spotted during the summer from the same general area. I find it encouraging that such rare species are found and reported by birders. For me this is a sign for the increasing skill level and confidence to make such a call within our birding community.

Another uncommon species for Nova Scotia that was reported more frequently this Fall was YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. Notably (and as is usually the case in the province) all were immatures, a fact that made their correct identification more challenging, and reaffirms my earlier statement. Well done!



The reddish neck and bicolored bill of adult LITTLE BLUE HERONS (like this one Aug. 31 on Brier I.) have sometimes led to their misidentification as Reddish Egret, for which we have only two early sight records. The latter are larger, dark-legged, almost always shaggier, and have a much more active feeding style. [Photo Eric Mills]

American Bittern

Oct 24	CSI	1	JON
Oct 25	Lawrencetown	1	ROG

Great Blue Heron

Oct 6	Martinique	11	BLM
Oct 11	Lawrencetown	3	Paul Boyer
Oct 24	CSI	7	JON
Oct 25	E. Chezzetcook, HRM	15	ROG
Nov 9	Salt Marsh Trail, HRM	5	PMU

Great Egret

Aug 11	White Point, Queens	2	GLG
Oct 8	CSI	1	TEC
Oct 18	Barrington, Shel.	1	MUN
Oct 28	CSI	1	JON

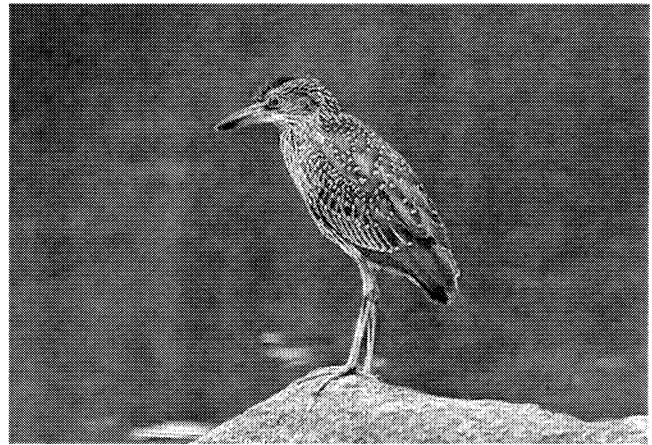
Little Egret

Aug 21	Lawrencetown Beach P.P.	1	IAM
Aug 23	Fishermans Cove, HRM	1	FLL, MIK

Little Blue Heron

Aug 6	W. Chezzetcook, HRM	2 imm.	FLL, MIK
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Aug 8 - 25	Port Clyde, Shel.	1 imm.	SAH
Aug 12	LaHave, Lun.	1 imm.	fide JAH
Aug 30 -			
Sep 5	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1 ad.	AHM, ELM
Oct 18	W. Pubnico, Shel.	1	JON
Cattle Egret			
Nov 19	Glace Bay, CBRM	1	BES
Green Heron			
Oct 11	Seal I.	1	DAM, BLM
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron			
Jul 23	Hackett's Cove, HRM	1 imm.	Susan Rolston,
fide ELM			
Aug 1	Riverport, Lun.	2 imm.	fide JAH
Aug 10-16	Sambro, HRM	1 imm.	HAT
Aug 20-27	Brier I.	1 imm.	JUS, ELM ,
			et al.
Aug 20	Middle West Pubnico, Shel.	1 imm.	PRG, et al.
Sep 20-23	Lockeport, Shel.	1 imm.	DJC, Russ &
			Bill Crosby,
			Danny Swim



This juvenile YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, possibly one of several seen in the region during summer, this one lingered this summer at Indian Harbour, HRM. As distinctions from Black-crowned, note in addition to shape of bill and length of legs, the smaller and rounder white spots on its wings and pale margins of secondaries. [Photo Hans Toom]

Diurnal Raptors

By Ulli Höger

The trend of widespread vulture sightings in all parts of the province continues. The two BLACK VULTURES circling over Brier Island were rare, of course, and represent the first multiple sighting of the species for N.S. Sightings of GOLDEN EAGLES are rarely documented in our province, but the report by Dennis Garrat, a British birder, came with a written description of his sighting that supported his identification. In other parts of the world the preparation of written reports is standard procedure for birders' sightings of rare or uncommon species, and for Golden Eagles in Nova Scotia such reports are most welcome, due to the abundance of immature Bald Eagles in our airspace.

We had a number of reports for COOPER'S HAWKS this fall, another species that requires a second and third critical look in the field. The species is more frequently reported now than in the past, and one can only wonder if they are getting more common or if birders are more confident making the call. [Ed Note: Notwithstanding the increasingly frequent reporting of Cooper's Hawks, only a few reports have been accompanied by confirming photos or written reports. The species is always tricky to separate from Sharp-shinned Hawk, and we can't learn the true status of the species if there is not careful documentation.]

A dark phase GYRFALCON from CSI was the final addition to the rare raptor sightings we had this past autumn season.

The participants on the Sept. 26 NSBS Editor's Field Trip to the Prospect Peninsula were treated to an unusually large (for HRM) hawk flight – read the details in the Field Trip report elsewhere in this issue.

Black Vulture							
Sep 16	Brier I.	2	BLF				
Turkey Vulture							
Aug 14	Brier I.	2	Dennis Garrat				
Aug 29	Catalone, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Bill Bussey				
Aug 31	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	Barry Geddes				
Sep 26	Chester Basin, <i>Lun.</i>	1	PLC				
Oct 2	Dartmouth, <i>HRM</i>	1	Jim and Gillian Elliott				
Oct 4	Ingonish, <i>Vic.</i>	2	LEL				
Oct 8	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	Kathleen MacAulay				
Oct 11	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	Paul Boyer				
Oct 12	Crystal Crescent Bch, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT				
Oct 17	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	10	JAH, et al.				
Oct 19	Pinkney's Pt, <i>Yar.</i>	12	PRG				
Osprey							
Oct 1	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	GMU				
Oct 3	CSI	1	RMC				
Oct 3	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm	BLM				
Oct 11	Seal I.	5	BLM, et al.				
Oct 17	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	1	JAH, et al.				
Bald Eagle							
Sep 22	Pictou I., <i>Pic.</i>	6	BLM				
Oct. 11-12	Seal I.	1	m. obs.				
Oct 17	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	9	JAH, et al.				
Oct 26	Bay St. Lawrence, <i>CBRM</i>	50	FMC				
Northern Harrier							
Aug 14	Brier I.	>6	Dennis Garrat				
Sep 26	Wagner's Bch, <i>HRM</i>	4	BLM, et al.				
Oct 9	Lakevale, <i>Ant.</i>	1	BRS				
Oct. 9	Seal I.	3	m. obs.				
Oct 17	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	several	JAH, et al.				
Oct 21	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT				
Nov 2	CSI	3	JON				
Nov 9	Wagner's Bch, <i>HRM</i>	1 m	BLM				
Nov 22	Mid Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 m	VJH				
Sharp-shinned Hawk							
Sep 16	Brier I.	>100	ELM				
Sep 17	Brier I.	>75	ELM				
Sep 26	Wagner's Bch, <i>HRM</i>	70	BLM, et al.				
Oct. 9-11	Seal I.	10 daily	m. obs.				
Oct 16	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1 juv	RFL				
Oct 17	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	23	JAH, et al.				
Cooper's Hawk							
Sep 26	Wagner's Bch, <i>HRM</i>	1 (unconf.)	BLM, et al.				
Oct 12	Seal I., <i>Yar.</i>	1 nd	Dave Tannahill				
Nov 10	Lwr Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 nd	LOC				
Northern Goshawk							
Sep 2	Keji NP, <i>Queens</i>	1 imm.	Jim and Gillian Elliott				
Sep 20	Keji NP, <i>Queens</i>	1	JAH				
Sep 26	Wagner's Bch, <i>HRM</i>	4	BLM, et al.				
Oct 16	Second Pen., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH				
Nov 5	Brier I.	1	ELM				
Broad-wing Hawk							
Sep 5	Brier I.	6	ELM, AHM				
Sep 17	Brier I.	600-1000 in single flock	ELM				
Sep 26	Wagner's Bch, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM, et al.				
Red-tailed Hawk							
Sep 26	Wagner's Bch, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM, et al.				
Oct 17	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	14	JAH, et al.				
Oct 19	(arrival date) Hortonville, <i>Kings</i>	1 albino	RBS				
Rough-legged Hawk							
Nov 5	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS				
Golden Eagle							
Aug 15	E. Ferry, <i>Digby</i>	1 sub ad.	Dennis Garrat				
American Kestrel							
Aug 2	Ross Creek, <i>Kings</i>	1	HAT				
Aug 14	Brier I.	1	Dennis Garrat				
Sep 26	Wagner's Bch, <i>HRM</i>	3	BLM, et al.				
Oct 16	Queensland, <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH.				
Oct 17	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	1	JAH, et al.				
Merlin							
Aug 3	Halifax, <i>HRM</i>	4	CHE				
Aug 25	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS				
Sep 26	Wagner's Bch, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM, et al.				
Oct 9	Seal I., <i>Yar.</i>	10	BLM, et al.				
Oct 9	Malignant Cove, <i>Ant.</i>	1	BRS				
Nov 13	Halifax, <i>HRM</i>	1	GMU				



This lovely portrait of a female MERLIN Aug. 25 at Grand Pré softens its reputation as a scourge of the locally concentrated shorebirds. [Photo Richard Stern]

Gyr Falcon

Nov 6 CSI 1 JON, SAN

Peregrine Falcon

Aug 9 Grand Pré, *Kings* 1 JWW
 Aug 10 Big I., *Pic.* 1 DOU, ALD
 Aug 14 Brier I. 1 Dennis Garrat
 Aug 13 Grand Pré, *Kings* 1 JCT
 Aug 21 Windsor, *Hants* 1 RBS
 Aug 21, 25 Grand Pré, *Kings* 1 imm. var. obs.
 Sep 01 Back Bay, *HRM* 1 BLM
 Sep 26 Wagner's Bch, *HRM* 1 BLM, et al.
 Oct 11 Seal I. 4 BLM, et al.
 Oct 17 Gulliver's Cove, *Digby* 6 JAH et al.
 Oct 26 Second Pen., *Lun.* 1 JAH, DAW

Rails and Cranes

By Ulli Höger

Every year we receive several reports of SANDHILL CRANES. Noteworthy are the two reported from the Grand Pré area. These two individuals stayed in this area well into the winter season, where two Sandhill Cranes were reported during the deep freeze period we had during late January / early February. Some observers had the impression that these two individuals were smaller than the ones they had seen before, offering the possible explanation of young birds that "took the wrong turn".

American Coot				Oct 28 -			
Nov 23	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Ian Harte	Nov 28	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	2	var. obs.
Sandhill Crane							
Oct 7	Mulgrave, <i>Guys.</i>	1	TOC				

Shorebirds

By Susann Myers

This fall's shorebird migration was somewhat scantily recorded, with few or no reports from some of the major staging areas. All reports received were greatly appreciated, particularly the detailed records from sites such as Cherry Hill, Grand Pre, and Windsor that provide information on migration timing. First arrivals were reported at average dates for almost all species. The earliest migrants could have been failed breeders, however, based on reports of a cold, late spring in the Canadian Arctic. This could also explain the gradual migration that many species appeared to make, with few large peaks. The season brought only a few unusual finds: a possible Common Ringed Plover, a Eurasian Whimbrel, a single Ruff, a handful of Long-billed Dowitchers, and three Wilson's Phalaropes.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS were reported in average numbers, with peaks as usual in mid to late August. There was a notable concentration of late migrants at CSI in October; late flocks of this plover are generally made up of birds that have moulted before leaving the Arctic. The bulk of AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS was seen as usual in September, but in only small numbers, nothing to compare to the peak counts of 100 to 300 recorded at various sites in the 1980s. The count of 31 at Sydney Airport September 12 was not a fair indication of the season, however, as the date of the NSBS field trip coincided this year with the annual stockcar races held on one of the two runways, with much resulting disturbance to shorebirds.

A possible COMMON RINGED PLOVER was photographed by Nick Honig at Conrad Beach September 4; see the photograph, and caption by IAM on page 20. Common Ringed and Semipalmated Plovers are difficult to distinguish, and definitive identification of the very rare Common Ringed Plover relies on details such as the amount of webbing between the toes and comparison of calls, neither of which was available for this sighting. Identification from a single photograph is also tricky, and this bird may not be attributable to species. A web-based discussion arose from this photograph, however, led by IAM and ranging from New England to NL and Ireland. Several recent sightings of Common Ringed Plover in eastern North America were mentioned, including five in NL in the past three years, and three in MA between 1990 and 2000. It therefore remains an important species to watch and listen for in NS.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER numbers were low overall except for good peaks of juveniles in early October. For a discussion of breeding success of PIPING PLOVERS, see Sue Abbott's report. DJC noted that the juveniles found at Lockeport's Crescent Beach in late August and early September were visitors, as none bred there this year. Both adults and juveniles departed on schedule, except for an extremely late lingerer at CSI November 8. KILLDEER also moved through on schedule this season, but in low numbers.

Only one report of AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS was received from CSI, but it confirmed that at least one pair bred successfully this season. There were no reports to indicate whether the recent build-up from one or two pairs into a small breeding colony had continued.



Distinguishing GREATER and LESSER YELLOWLEGS is easy when they're side-by-side. [Photo Richard Stern]

SPOTTED SANDPIPERS were widespread and reported in average numbers, except from Cape Breton. They departed as usual from late August through September, with only one October straggler. SOLITARY SANDPIPERS were scarce, with only eight reported around the province compared to average annual totals of 20 to 30 in recent years. The low number was probably linked to high water levels around freshwater ponds, reported from several areas.

Few reports of GREATER YELLOWLEGS were received from their major staging areas. They appear to have moved through gradually but in small numbers, with no major concentrations reported. WILLETS were also poorly reported from major staging areas, so their breeding success this year is unknown. They appeared to leave on schedule, however. Increased numbers of reports are distinguishing between Eastern and Western Willets on fall migration, thanks to encouragement from IAM. Similarly, LESSER YELLOWLEGS appear to have visited in small numbers, with no major concentrations reported.

WHIMBREL also seem to have been on schedule but scarce, with few reports and only small numbers found. Of only five that persisted through this year's car races at Sydney Airport, one was a **EURASIAN WHIMBREL**, first found and beautifully photographed by ALM and CAM September 6. This phaeopus subspecies is a rare visitor from Eurasia that has been reported in NS more often in the past decade, possibly due to increased observer skills and effort. The bird was refound on the NSBS field trip September 12 and was seen in flight, providing good views of the wedge of white extending up the back from the rump, but only a fleeting glimpse of the white underwing coverts.

HUDSONIAN GODWITS moved through on schedule but in low numbers, with the only concentration reported at CSI. The **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** found at CSI by JON and SAN July 11, present to July 13. They provided a convincing verbal report of their sighting, but no other purported observers offered any documentation.

RUDDY TURNSTONES, a common transient, were on schedule, appearing mainly in August–September. As usual, they were widespread but with no large concentrations. RED KNOT numbers in August were once again only half those reported in the previous year. This supports the dire forecast for the rufa subspecies, which is the group migrating through the Maritimes in August. Rufa breeds in the Canadian Arctic and is predicted to become extinct in 2010 or soon after. Later migrants, likely members of the subspecies that overwinters in and around Florida, were also greatly reduced in number. The peak of 67 noted at CSI October 6 is very low compared to last year's October peak there of 800. SANDERLINGS, which are most abundant in NS in September–October, were found as usual in large numbers at CSI at that time. Other good concentrations were found at sites in Lunenburg, HRM and Sable I., with numbers average compared to the past decade.

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPERS were as usual most abundant in August and still common through mid-September. The story of their movements is most clearly read in the "small shorebirds" records from the Bay of Fundy, with peaks of around 100,000 and 60,000 in mid-August recorded as mostly Semipalmated Sandpipers. SAW noted that many shorebirds were heard overhead departing after 11:00 p.m. August 23, which helped to explain the much-reduced numbers in the following days. LEAST SANDPIPERS were reported in good numbers from mid-August to mid-September, with the August peaks roughly two weeks later than average and no major concentrations seen. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS were reported in the greatest numbers in late August and September as usual, but peak numbers were less than a quarter of those recorded in recent years.

A total of 26 BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS was seen, a good number, and roughly twice the totals recorded in the 1990s, possibly due to better reporting. Baird's are uncommon transients here, as they migrate mostly through the interior of the continent. The first PECTORAL SANDPIPERS were not reported until mid-August, a month later than average. They were most common as usual in September, but were found in uncommonly small numbers. PURPLE SANDPIPERS were first reported as usual in November. A flock of 14 at Crescent Bch., Lun. was a welcome sight to JSC.

DUNLIN were on schedule, but seen in low numbers. This is a late migrant, rarely reported before mid-August and most numerous from mid-to-late October. The seasonal high was found, as usual, at CSI, where JON reported 650 October 22. STILT SANDPIPERS, rare transients, were spotted only at Hartlen Point this season, possibly the same individual over a two and a half week period. A total of 27 BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS were found, which is average for recent years. The first was seen about a week earlier than usual, but the last moved through on schedule in September.



About 15 Eurasian Whimbrels, subspecies (or species) phaeopus, have been reported here. This one was convincingly photographed Sept. 6 at Sydney Airport. Note the lack of barring on its white back, eliminating the eastern Siberian subspecies variegatus. It is also notably more blackish brown above than the accompanying American Whimbrels. [Photo Allan Murrant]



Adult BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS, like this one Aug. 21 near Minas Basin, occur here less often than juveniles, and those are usually a little later in fall. [Photo Richard Stern]

BJS and SIS spotted the only **RUFF** of the season, at CSI. Of 11 Ruffs seen in fall in the past 13 years, 5 have been at CSI, which attracts numerous rarities. Good numbers of juvenile **SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS** were still moving through in early August. The small numbers in September and 2 lingerers in October were typical. Tuma Young reported a **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** September 27 in Homeville, *CBRM*, seen with *ALM* and *CAM*. The marsh in Homeville is adjacent to the Morien Bar estuary, a location of frequent Long-billed sightings over the years. Long-billed Dowitchers are most often found at CSI, however, where four were once again spotted by JON October 28, with 2 lingering to November 8. There were as usual few fall reports of **WILSON'S SNIPE** and **AMERICAN WOODCOCK**.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE, a western species, is an uncommon transient here, most often seen in small numbers in fall. The majority have been found at offshore islands, and this year showed the same pattern with one at CSI and two spotted off Brier Island. There were few reports of **RED-NECKED** and **RED PHALAROPES**, which are common offshore migrants.

small shorebird species

Aug. 6	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	9,500	JCT
Aug. 13	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	ca. 100,000	JCT
Aug. 21	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	60,000+	JCT, P.
McLeod			
Aug. 23, night	Horton Bluff, <i>Kings</i>	many departing	SAW
Aug. 24	Dartmouth-Hartlen Pt.	1000+	BLM, JOW
Aug. 25	Avonport Bch., <i>Kings</i>	8,000 - 10,000	JCT
Aug. 27	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	8,000 - 10,000	JCT
Sept. 6	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	max. 2000	ULH
Sept. 7	CSI	ca. 500	BJS, SIS
Sept. 17	Rainbow Haven Bch., <i>HRM</i>	ca. 200	DHH
Oct. 16	Windsor SL, <i>Hants</i>	60	JWW
Oct. 22	Melbourne, <i>Yar.</i>	ca. 100	PRG
Nov. 22	Conrad's Bch., <i>HRM</i>	ca. 15	D. Schlosberg

peep species

Aug. 21	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1000s	RBS
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Black-bellied Plover

Aug.-Nov.	15 locations, mainland	103 total	var. obs.
Aug. 6, 19	Windsor SL, <i>Hants</i>	64+, 240+	JCT
Aug. 16, 31	3 Fathom Hbr	30, 47	SEM
Aug. 21	Grand Pre dykes, <i>Kings</i>	36	JCT
Aug. 21	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	217	MCM
Aug. 22	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	31	KJM
Aug. 22	Cherry Hill	46	SJF
Sept. 3	CSI	59	SEM
Sept. 12	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	162	NSBS, SEM
Oct. 1, 30	Sable I.	15, 20	ZOL
Oct. 3	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	50+	JCT
Oct. 3, 17	3 Fathom Hbr	40, 38	SEM
Oct. 6, 22	Hawk flats, CSI	325, 375	JON
Oct. 16	Windsor SL, <i>Hants</i>	50	JWW
Oct. 27	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	31	MCM
Nov. 4	Taylor Hd. PP, <i>HRM</i>	6	JAC
Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	16	KJM
Nov. 16	Cherry Hill	14	SJF
Nov. 19	Windsor SL, <i>Hants</i>	2	JWW
Nov. 28	3 Fathom/Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	5	SEM

American Golden-Plover

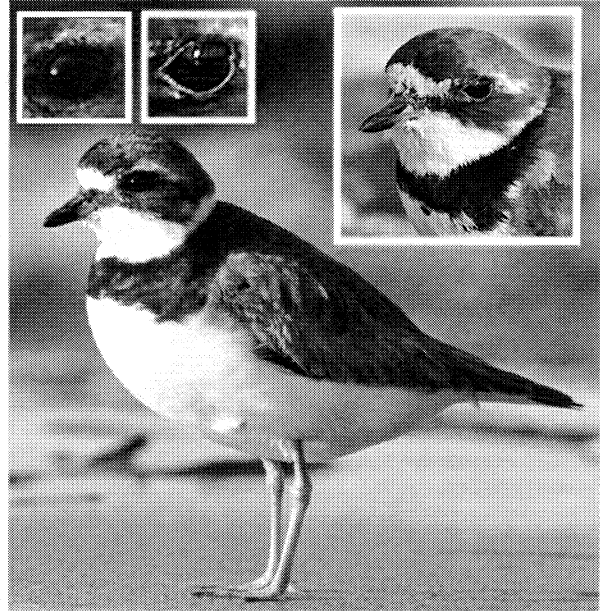
Aug. 22	Sable I.	2	ZOL
Aug. 23	nr. Hartlen Pt.	1	MIK, FLL
Aug. 24	Hartlen Pt.	5	BLM, JOW
Aug. 27	Brier I.	4 juv.	ELM
Aug. 30	Brier I.	1 ad., 1 juv.	ELM
Sept.	6 locations	singles	var. obs.
Sept. 3	Sable I.	30+	ZOL
Sept. 12	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	31	NSBS, SEM
Sept. 19	field, Harbour Center, <i>Ant.</i>	2	RFL, M. Palmer
Oct. 6	Martinique	1	BLM
Oct. 6	The Hawk, CSI	1	JON
Oct. 12	Hartlen Pt	1, photos	BBU, RIV
Oct. 16	Conrad's Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	C. Pepper
Oct. 18	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	6-7	RBS

COMMON RINGED PLOVER

Sept. 4	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1 possible	N. Honig, T. Young
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Semipalmated Plover

Aug.-Oct.	12 locations, widespread	216 total	var. obs.
Aug. 2, 13	Cherry Hill	153, 495	SJF



This worn adult plover, Sept. 4 on Conrad Beach, *HRM*, has features suggesting **COMMON RINGED PLOVER**, which breeds in northern Nunavut, but normally migrates to and from Europe. It would be about the 6th reported here (only one diagnostically photographed) and was recognized as interesting (by Allan & Cathy Murrant) from this stunning image, the only one obtained. Features that may distinguish it from adult Semipalmated (right insert, Aug. 20, 1980, at Grand Pré) include: its thicker breast band (although this depends greatly on posture and may not always be useful); its relatively longer and less bulbous-tipped bill; the tendency for the lower edge of the dark lores to rise above the gape in Semipalmated (more pronounced in young and winter-plumaged adults); and close-up (two inserts at left), the Semipalmated has a thin, but clear, yellow orbital ring, whereas the Common Ringed Plover has an obscure brownish or dark orange one that is rarely visible. Even so, shorebird experts were divided on its identification, and a couple raised the (unknown) possibility of hybrids where its range overlaps with Semipalmated. Conclusion: we have more to learn about this difficult identification issue. [Photo Nicolas Honig; inserts Richard Stern]

Aug. 2, 16	3 Fathom Hbr	209, 115	SEM
Aug. 12	Old Barns, <i>Col.</i>	36	SGL
Aug. 20	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	164	DMW
Aug. 21	Grand Pré dykes, <i>Kings</i>	20	JCT
Aug. 21	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	182	MCM
Aug. 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	35	KJM
Sept. 4, 25	Cherry Hill	191, 243	SJF
Sept. 7	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	120	BLM
Sept. 11	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	300	BJS, SIS
Sept. 12	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	47	JAH
Sept. 20	3 Fathom Hbr	142	SEM
Sept. 20	Crow Neck Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	52	BJS, SIS
Sept. 27	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	174	MCM
Oct. 3	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	34	PMC, SEM
Oct. 3, 17	3 Fathom Hbr	336, 15	SEM
Oct. 3, 31	Cherry Hill	84, 18	SJF
Oct. 6	Martinique	350	BLM
Oct. 6	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	86	JON
Oct. 22	Pinkneys Pt., <i>Yar.</i>	ca. 50	PRG
Oct. 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	14	JOK
Nov. 1	Kingsburg Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	12	JAH
Nov. 4	Taylor Hd. PP, <i>HRM</i>	6	JAC
Nov. 8	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	7	JON, SAN
Nov. 28	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	2	SEM

Piping Plover

Aug. 2	Crow Neck Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	12	BJS, SIS
Aug. 4, 20	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	4, 2	DMW
Aug. 13	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	3 juv.	DAM, ABM, FLL
Aug. 14-17	Conrad's I. marsh, <i>Lun.</i>	1 juv.	ELM
Aug. 19, 28	Cherry Hill	6; 4 juv.	SJF
Aug. 24-25	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1 juv.	DJC
Sept. 4	Cherry Hill	2	SJF
Sept. 8	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1 juv.	DJC
Nov. 8	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	1	JON, SAN

Killdeer

Aug.-Sept.	4 locations, widespread	singles	var. obs.
Aug. 1	Pond Cove, Brier I.	2	ELM, AHM
Sept. 12	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	8	NSBS, SEM
Sept. 25	Conrad's I. Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
Oct. 12	3 Fathom Hbr	1	SEM
Nov. 28	Seaforth, <i>HRM</i>	1	KAM

American Oystercatcher

Aug. 6	CSI	2 ad., 3 juv.	BJS, SIS
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Spotted Sandpiper

Aug.-Sept.	9 locations, widespread	singles	var. obs.
Aug. 1	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT, LAE
Aug. 1	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	2	NSBS, JAH
Aug. 15	Stoney I. Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	2	BJS, SIS
Aug. 19	Windsor SL, <i>Hants</i>	2	JCT
Aug. 31	3 Fathom Hbr	5	SEM
Sept. 12	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	4	JAH
Sept. 21	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	2	JCT
Sept. 21	Cherry Hill	4	JAH, DAW
Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2	HAT
Oct. 10	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC

Solitary Sandpiper

Aug. 2, 7	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad.	EGI; HAT, LAE
Aug. 8	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	DOU, ALD
Aug. 11	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 juv., new	HAT
Aug. 25	Ginger Hill Pond, Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
Aug. 29	Blanche Pen., <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH, DPO
Aug. 31	field, Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
Sept. 18, 21	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2	HAT

yellowlegs species

Aug. 18	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	ca. 30	JWW
Oct. 4	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	ca. 20	fide JCT
Oct. 22	Melbourne, <i>Yar.</i>	ca. 70	PRG

Greater Yellowlegs

Aug.-Oct.	14 locations, mainland	54 total	var. obs.
Aug. 2, 13	Cherry Hill	4, 15	SJF
Aug. 16, 31	3 Fathom Hbr	33, 31	SEM
Aug. 22, 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3, 9	KJM

Sept. 11	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	12	BJS, SIS
Sept. 19	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	20	JCT
Sept. 20	3 Fathom Hbr	30	SEM
Sept. 27	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	76	MCM
Oct. 2, 16	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	18, 14	JWW
Oct. 4	Ann. Royal marsh	10-15	DLO
Oct. 6, 22	Hawk flats, <i>CSI</i>	17, 20	JON
Oct. 11, 17	3 Fathom Hbr	30, 27	SEM
Oct. 19, 22	Pinkneys Pt., <i>Yar.</i>	10	PRG
Oct. 27	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	9	JOK
Oct. 27	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	21	MCM
Oct. 31	Cherry Hill	1	SJF
Nov. 4	Taylor Head PP, <i>HRM</i>	3	JAC
Nov. 9	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	4	PMU
Nov. 11	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM
Nov. 15	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Nov. 15	3 Fathom Hbr	1	SEM

Willet

Aug.-Sept. 12	6 locations, mainland	14 total	var. obs.
Aug. 1	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	5	NSBS, JAH
Aug. 2, 16	3 Fathom Hbr	18, 24	SEM
Aug. 2, 22	Cherry Hill	14, 1E	SJF; JAH
Aug. 12	L. Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	20	JAH
Aug. 13	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	several W	DAM, ABM, FLL
Aug. 14	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	2E, 1W juv.	ELM
Aug. 22, 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	9, 7	KJM
Aug. 26	MacCormacks Bch., <i>HRM</i>	2W	BLM, et al.
Sept. 2	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	7E, juv.	SEM
Sept. 12	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	4W	JAH
Sept. 20	3 Fathom Hbr	1	SEM
Oct. 28	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	PMA



Some "WESTERN" WILLETS are totally identifiable at a glance, like this rangy gray individual found Sept. 14 at Glace Bay. [Photo Tuma Young]

Lesser Yellowlegs

Aug.-Sept.	7 locations, widespread	28 total	var. obs.
Aug. 1	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	16	NSBS, JAH
Aug. 12	L. Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	12	JAH
Aug. 16, 31	3 Fathom Hbr	91, 33	SEM
Aug. 22, 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	81, 84	KJM
Sept. 3, 25	L. Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	9, 6	JAH
Sept. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	ca. 20	KJM
Sept. 20	3 Fathom Hbr	14	SEM
Oct. 3, 11	3 Fathom Hbr	4, 5	SEM
Oct. 22	Hawk flats, <i>CSI</i>	4	JON
Oct. 22	Melbourne, <i>Yar.</i>	12	PRG
Oct. 27	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	JOK

Whimbrel

Aug.-Oct.	11 locations, widespread	17 total	var. obs.
Aug. 2	Crow Neck Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	1	BJS, SIS
Aug. 3	Duncan's Reef, <i>HRM</i>	8	HAT
Aug. 5	Louis Head Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	8	GLG

Aug. 13	The Hawk, CSI	several	ABM, DAM, FLL	Oct. 3, 31	Cherry Hill	19, 7	SJF
Aug. 16, 20	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	3, 4	DMW, C. Pepper	Oct. 6	Martinique	400	BLM
Aug. 22	Wild Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	11	SEM, B. Bussey	Oct. 6, 22	Hawk flats, CSI	350, 1700	JON
Sept. 3	Crow Neck, <i>Shel.</i>	3	BJS, SIS	Oct. 19, 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	12, 24	KJM
Sept. 3	Conrad's I., <i>Lun.</i>	5	JAH	Nov. 5	Stoney I. Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	52	BJS, SIS
Sept. 6, 12	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	1 Eurasian, photos	ALM, CAM, NSBS	Nov. 11, 29	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	25, 1	JSC
Sept. 7	Martinique	5	VJH	Nov. 9, 15	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	9, 2	KJM, RFE
Sept. 12	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	4	NSBS, SEM	Nov. 22, 29	Cherry Hill	3, 4	SJF
Sept. 12	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	6	JAH	Semipalmated Sandpiper			
Oct. 6	Sable I.	1	ZOL	Aug.	6 locations, mainland	94 total	var. obs.
Oct. 11	Cherry Hill	1	SJF	Aug. 2, 16	3 Fathom Hbr	168, 106	SEM
Hudsonian Godwit				Aug. 2, 19	Cherry Hill	130, 153	SJF
Aug. 6	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH	Aug. 12	Old Barns, <i>Col.</i>	ca. 2000	SGL
Aug. 13	The Hawk, CSI	18	ABM, DAM, FLL	Aug. 15	Conrad's I., <i>Lun.</i>	84	JAH
Aug. 30	CSI	4	BJS, SIS	Aug. 22, 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	125, 94	KJM
Oct. 3	Grand Pré dykes, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad., 1 juv.	<i>fade</i> JCT	Aug. 24	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	500	BLM
Oct. 18	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	2	RBS	Sept.	5 locations, mainland	ca. 60 total	var. obs.
Nov. 6	Daniels Head, CSI	1	JON, SAN	Sept. 2	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	60	DMW
BLACK-TAILED GODWIT				Sept. 3, 11	CSI	475, 750	SEM, BJS, SIS
July 11-12	CSI	1	JON, SAN	Sept. 4, 25	Cherry Hill	121, 8	SJF
Ruddy Turnstone				Sept. 12	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	47	JAH
Aug.-Sept.	4 locations, widespread	10 total	var. obs.	Sept. 27	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	31	MCM
Aug. 1	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	21	NSBS, JAH	Oct.	5 locations	ca. 21 total	var. obs.
Aug. 13	The Hawk, CSI	a few	ABM, DAM, FLL	Oct. 3, 12	3 Fathom Hbr	90, 3	SEM
Aug. 22	Wild Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	7	SEM, B. Bussey	Oct. 6	Martinique	40	BLM
Aug. 22	Cherry Hill	3	SJF	Oct. 6, 22	CSI	39, 70	JON
Sept. 1	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	14	DJC	Nov. 1	Kingsburg Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	7	JAH
Sept. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	7	KJM	Nov. 4	Taylor Hd. PP, <i>HRM</i>	6	JAC
Sept. 7	3 Fathom Hbr	25	BLM	Least Sandpiper			
Sept. 12	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	12	JAH	Aug. 1	Duncan Reef, <i>HRM</i>	several	HAT, LAE
Sept. 16	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	30	HAT	Aug. 2, 22	Cherry Hill	38, 200	SJF
Oct. 16	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	2	DJC	Aug. 9	The Guzzle, Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	ca. 25	JWW
Oct. 22	The Hawk, CSI	3	JON	Aug. 15	2 locations, <i>Lun.</i>	60 total	JAH
Red Knot				Aug. 16, 31	3 Fathom Hbr	21, 16	SEM
Aug. 2	3 Fathom Hbr	1, alt.	SEM	Aug. 20	various beaches, <i>Shel.</i>	31 total	BJS, SIS
Aug. 13	The Hawk, CSI	1	ABM, DAM, FLL	Aug. 21	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	24+	JWW
Aug. 19, 28	Cherry Hill	2, 3	SJF	Aug. 21	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	8	MCM
Aug. 22	Wild Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	1 juv.	SEM, B. Bussey	Aug. 22, 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	24, 15	KJM
Aug. 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	4	KJM	Sept.	6 locations, mainland	13 total	var. obs.
Aug. 26	MacCormacks Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>	Sept. 1, 25	Cherry Hill	106, 15	SJF
Sept. 2	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	3 juv.	SEM	Sept. 3	Conrad's I., <i>Lun.</i>	25	JAH
Sept. 3	CSI	2 ad., 2 juv.	SEM	Sept. 11	The Hawk, CSI	90+	BJS, SIS
Sept. 4	Cherry Hill	4	SJF	Sept. 12	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	25	JAH
Sept. 12, 27	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	7, 5	NSBS, MCM	Oct. 2	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	2	JWW
Sept. 17	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1	ELM	Oct. 3	Cherry Hill	3	SJF
Oct. 3, 17	3 Fathom Hbr	2 juv.	SEM	Oct. 6	The Hawk, CSI	7	JON
Oct. 6, 22	The Hawk, CSI	67, 26	JON	Nov. 1	Kingsburg Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct. 27	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	8	MCM	White-rumped Sandpiper			
Nov. 2	Daniels Head, CSI	8	JON	Aug. 1	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1	ELM, AHM
Sanderling				Aug. 1	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	1	NSBS, JAH
Aug.-Nov.	14 locations, mainland	92 total	var. obs.	Aug. 13-31	5 locations, mainland	16 total	var. obs.
Aug. 1	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	3	NSBS, JAH	Aug. 13, 22	Cherry Hill	2, 30	SJF
Aug. 2, 13	Cherry Hill	1, 14	SJF	Aug. 14-17	Conrad's I., <i>Lun.</i>	7-20	ELM
Aug. 2	Crow Neck Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	65	BJS, SIS	Aug. 21	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	51	MCM
Aug. 31	Stoney I. Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	85	BJS, SIS	Aug. 24	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	50	BLM
Sept. 2	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	20	DMW	Sept.	2 locations, mainland	11 total	SEM
Sept. 3, 20	Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	30+, 26	BJS, SIS	Sept. 4, 25	Cherry Hill	5, 10	SJF
Sept. 4, 10	Cherry Hill	175, 265	SJF	Sept. 27	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	27	MCM
Sept. 11	The Hawk, CSI	1500	BJS, SIS	Oct.	3 locations, mainland	7 total	var. obs.
Sept. 12	Cape LaHave I., <i>Lun.</i>	208	JAH	Oct. 3	3 Fathom Hbr	13	SEM
Sept. 12	Schooner Pond Bch., <i>CBRM</i>	9	NSBS, SEM	Oct. 3, 31	Cherry Hill	1, 9	SJF
Sept. 29 -				Oct. 17, 29	Sable I.	20+	ZOL
Oct. 30	Sable I.	500+	ZOL	Oct. 19, 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	13, 2	KJM, JOK
Oct. 2, 6	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	200, 250	IAM, DMW, G. Rotzell	Oct. 24	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	11	KJM, CHK
				Oct. 27	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	13	MCM
				Nov. 4	Taylor Hd. PP, <i>HRM</i>	4	JAC
				Nov. 9	Wagners Bch., <i>HRM</i>	12	BLM
				Nov. 9, 15	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3, 2	KJM, RFE
				Baird's Sandpiper			
				Aug. 1	Duncan Reef, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT, LAE
				Aug. 16-			
				Sept. 12	7 locations, mainland	singles	var. obs.
				Aug. 21, 29	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1, 2	IAM
				Aug. 22	Cherry Hill	1 ad., 1 juv.	NSBS, ELM
				Aug. 27, 31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	4, 1 juv.	ELM

Sept. 2	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	3	DMW
Sept. 14	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	4	DOU
Sept. 19 - 20	Brier I.	1 juv.	RBS
Oct. 6	Martinique	1	BLM
Pectoral Sandpiper			
Aug. 17	Conrad's I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	ELM
Aug. 20	various beaches, <i>Shel.</i>	1	BJS, SIS
Aug. 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Aug. 28	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1	ELM
Aug. 31	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	2	DJC
Sept. 3, 25	Conrad's I., <i>Lun.</i>	3, 1	JAH
Sept. 7, 11	CSI	several, 2	BJS, SIS
Sept. 17	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	4	DHH
Sept. 18, 20	Pond Cove, Brier I.	4	ELM, RBS
Sept. 20, 25	Cherry Hill	3, 16	SJF
Oct. 2	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM, G. Rotzell
Oct. 3	3 Fathom Hbr	2	SEM
Oct. 19	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM
Oct. 31	The Hawk, CSI	some	JON, SAN
Purple Sandpiper			
Nov. 7, 14	Cherry Hill	3, 1	SJF
Nov. 12	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	14	JSC
Dunlin			
Aug. 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	12+	JCT
Sept.-Oct.	9 locations, mainland	23 total	var. obs.
Sept. 20	3 Fathom Hbr	12	SEM
Sept. 25	Cherry Hill	10	SJF
Oct. 3	Wolfville dykes, <i>Kings</i>	50+	JCT
Oct. 6, 22	Hawk flats, CSI	140, 650	JON
Oct. 18	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	ca. 100	RBS
Oct. 19, 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	36, 60	KJM
Oct. 27	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	40	MCM
Oct. 29	Sable I.	2	ZOL
Nov. 9, 15	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	30, 5	KJM, RFE
Nov. 15	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	3	SEM
Nov. 23	Melbourne, <i>Yar.</i>	4	PRG
Stilt Sandpiper			
Sept. 21, 24	Hartlen Pt.	1	RIV, DOU
Oct. 9	Hartlen Pt.	1	TEP
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			
Aug. 21	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	MCM
Aug. 28	Fishermans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2	RIV
Aug. 28, 31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1 juv., 3	ELM, AHM
Aug. 30	Hartlen Pt.	1	MIK
Aug. 30	CSI	2	BJS, SIS
Sept. 2-3	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1 juv.	ELM, AHM
Sept. 5	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	"Rich"
Sept. 5-8	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
Sept. 12	Schooner Pond Bch., <i>CBRM</i>	1	NSBS, SEM
Sept. 13, 16	Hartlen Pt.	3, 12	MIK; HAT
Sept. 20	Cherry Hill	2	SJF



BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS, like this beautifully marked juvenile, are regular transients (this one Aug. 30) at Pond Cove, Brier I. [Photo Eric Mills]



This fresh-plumaged juvenile PECTORAL SANDPIPER, Sept. 17 at Conrad Beach, *HRM*, confirms it as one of our more elegant shorebirds. [Photo Tuma Young]

RUFF

Sept. 11 The Hawk, CSI 1, details BJS, SIS

dowitcher species

Oct. 16 Wolfville Hbr., *Kings* 1 JWW

Short-billed Dowitcher

Aug. 4 locations, mainland 32 total var. obs.

Aug. 2, 13 Cherry Hill 26, 56 SJF

Aug. 2, 16 3 Fathom Hbr 810, 160 SEM

Aug. 3 Conrad Marsh, *HRM* 12 DMW

Aug. 12, 15 Conrad's I., *Lun.* 20, 23 JAH

Aug. 21 Morien Bar, *CBRM* 38 MCM

Sept. 3 locations, mainland 6 total var. obs.

Sept. 2 Crescent Bch., *Lun.* 30 SEM

Sept. 10 Cherry Hill 14, last SJF

Sept. 11 The Hawk, CSI ca. 50 BJS, SIS

Sept. 20 3 Fathom Hbr 14, last SEM

Sept. 27 Morien Bar, *CBRM* 3 MCM

Oct. 4 Wolfville Hbr., *Kings* 1 fide JCT

Oct. 22 Melbourne, *Yar.* 1 PRG

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER

Sept. 27 Homeville, *CBRM* 1 T. Young, et al.

Oct. 28-31 The Hawk, CSI 4 JON

Nov. 8 The Hawk, CSI 2 JON, SAN

Wilson's Snipe

Oct. 13-20 Sable I. 1 ZOL

Oct. 19 CSI 2 F. Atkinson

Oct. 25 Second Pen., *Lun.* 1 DAW, JAH

American Woodcock

Sept. 5, 26 2 locations, mainland singles HAT, JCZ

Oct. 9 Mines Rd., *Lun.* 1 PMA

Oct. 9 - 12 Seal I. 1 fide BLM

Oct. 20 near Wolfville, *Kings* 1, dead fide JWW

Oct. 25 Georgefield, *Hants* 3 ROW

WILSON'S PHALAROPE

Sept. 5 CSI 1 CLS, CSS

Sept. 20 off Brier I. 2 JAH, et al.

Red-necked Phalarope

Aug. 1, 28 Northwest Ledge, off Brier I. 6, ca. 200 ELM

Sept. 2 - 3 Hartlen Pt. 1 juv. MIK

Sept. 20 off Brier I. some SMB, et al.

Sept. 26 off Eastern Passage, *HRM* 1 DAC, et al.

Red Phalarope

Aug. 1 Northwest Ledge, off Brier I. ca. 500 ELM

Sept. 20 off Brier I. some SMB, et al.

Sept. 26 off Eastern Passage, *HRM* 3 DAC, et al.

Oct. 19 Sable I. 2 dead, juv. ZOL

Gulls Through Alcids

By Eric Mills

The adult **FRANKLIN'S GULL** photographed near Halifax on October 2, rare at any time, was the only one of the season, but not of the year. Only one **LAUGHING GULL** was reported, far below normal, and from an unusual location, away from the South Shore.

An adult and an immature **SABINE'S GULL** were beautifully photographed by the skipper of a charter fishing boat south of Halifax in mid-September, to the chagrin of local birders, who had been in the same location a week before, and went back about 10 days later, without seeing this beautiful and rare pelagic species. However, the other trips had their compensations, including splendid views of **POMARINE JAEGER**s, and the chance to study and argue over at least skuas, both of which south of Halifax appeared to be **GREAT SKUAS**; the only **SOUTH POLAR SKUAS** were those mentioned, as usual, from the outer Bay of Fundy on pelagic trips off Brier Island in August and September (but only one report submitted).



A **FRANKLIN'S GULL** wandered from the prairies to stop briefly at Eastern Passage, *HRM*, during early October (here Oct. 2). [Photo Ian McLaren]

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS, once rarities, are now regular practically year-round in some locations. It is worth taking a close look at them, for as *RBS* reported in late September of a group near Greenwich, Kings, "one of the *LBB* Gulls has a much darker mantle and upper wings than the others...It's easy to pick out from the other more typical *graellsii*. I think there's a chance it might be an *intermedius*...", i.e. from one of the continental races of Lesser Black-back, rather than the usual *UK-Iceland graellsii* that predominate here.

August was the month for rare terns, a **GULL-BILLED TERN** for a day or two beginning on the 2nd in the Melbourne sanctuary near Yarmouth, and a **LEAST TERN** from the 23rd for three days or so in Eastern Passage, *HRM*, a favoured location for a good many scarce gulls and terns.

A fine immature **LONG-TAILED JAEGER** practically posed for Tom Kavanaugh off Canso on September 2.

To complete the season, *NSBS* members on the Strait of Canso field trip on November 7 were treated to a seabird spectacle caused by the seasonal concentration of Atlantic Saury near the north side of the Canso Causeway - actively feeding on them, according to *DBM*'s estimates, were **2500-3000** **NORTHERN GANNETS**, **40** **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS**, **50** **BALD EAGLES**, **5000+** **HERRING GULLS**, **1000+** **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS**, **15** **ICELAND GULLS**, **90** **BONAPARTE'S GULLS**, **12** **RING-BILLED GULLS**, AND **50** **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES**. This is an annual event in late fall, but spectacular and memorable nonetheless.

FRANKLIN'S GULL

Oct. 2, 3	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad., ph.	IAM, Gerd Rotzell
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Laughing Gull

Sep. 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	ALD
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Black-headed Gull

Aug. 12	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	4	DMW
Aug. 16	Conrads Bch, <i>HRM</i>	3	DMW
Oct. 22	Beveridge Rd., <i>Yar.</i>	1	Paul Gould
Oct. 27	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Oct. 31	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Nov. 8	Kingsburg bch., <i>Lun.</i>	16	JRH
Nov. 5	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1, 1st-cycle	ELM, AHM
Nov. 14	Kingsburg bch., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JRH, DPO

Bonaparte's Gull

Aug. 1	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JRH, NSBS
Aug. 1	Westhaver Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	5	JRH, NSBS
Aug. 10	Dartmouth, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm.	PAC
Aug. 29	Livingstone Cove, <i>Ant.</i>	7, very early	RFL
Sep. 22	Pictou I., <i>Pict.</i>	800+	BLM
Oct. 25	Catalone Gut, <i>CBRM</i>	19	CAM, ALM
Oct. 19	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	250	KJM
Oct. 31	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	50	KJM
Oct. 31	Caribou light, <i>Pict.</i>	50	KJM

Oct. 31	Haliburton Gut, <i>Pict.</i>	150	KJM
Oct. 31	Sinclair I., <i>Pict.</i>	50	KJM
Nov. 8	Kingsburg bch., <i>Lun.</i>	50	David Walmark
Nov. 7	Canso Causeway, <i>Inv.</i>	90	DBM, NSBS
Nov. 9	Kingsburg bch., <i>Lun.</i>	20	JRH
Nov. 9	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	PMU
Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	50	KJM
Nov. 14	Kingsburg bch., <i>Lun.</i>	60	JRH, DPO
Nov. 15	Chance Hbr., <i>Pict.</i>	900	KJM
Nov. 21	Haliburton Gut, <i>Pict.</i>	100+	KJM
Nov. 21	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	150	KJM
Nov. 21	Chance Hbr., <i>Pict.</i>	1000	KJM
Nov. 23	Pt. George, <i>Anna.</i>	1	PBG
Nov. 26	Feltzen South, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
Nov. 29	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i>	7	JAH, DAW

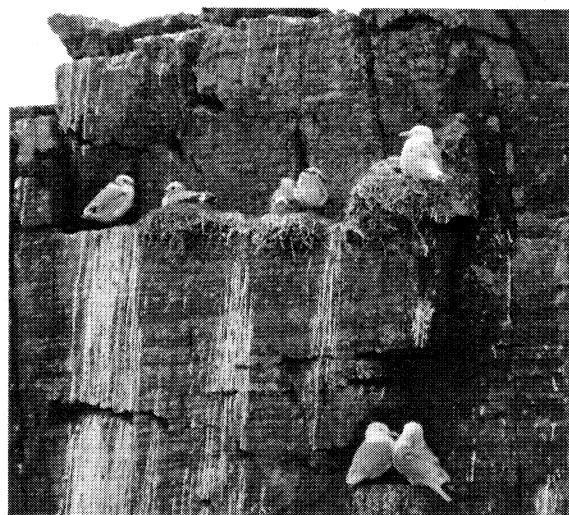
Ring-billed Gull

Aug. 16	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	7	DMW
Sep. 2	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	3	DMW
Sep. 16	Pond Cove, Brier I.	2 ad.	ELM
Sep. 18-19	Brier I.	3 imm.	ELM
Sep. 22	Pictou I., <i>Pict.</i>	50	BLM
Sep. 30	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Oct. 6	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	200	DMW

Oct. 27	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	4	DMW
Nov. 7	Canso Causeway, <i>Inv.</i>	12	DBM, NSBS
Nov. 9	Kingsburg bch., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JRH
Nov. 10	near Wilmot, <i>Kings</i>	3	PBG
Herring Gull			
Nov. 7	Canso Causeway, <i>Inv.</i>	5000+	DBM, NSBS
Iceland Gull			
Sep. 19	near Canard, <i>Kings</i>	1 Kumlien's	George & Harold Forsyth
Oct. 19	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Oct. 31	Kingsburg Pond, <i>Lun.</i>	1, 2nd-yr.	ELM
Oct. 31	Caribou light, <i>Pict.</i>	3 ad., 1-2nd-cy.	KJM
Nov. 1	Off Pt. George, <i>Anna.</i>	1	RBS, AAM
Nov. 8	Kingsburg bch., <i>Lun.</i>	3	JRH
Nov. 8	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Nov. 7	Canso Causeway, <i>Inv.</i>	15	DBM, NSBS
Nov. 11	Col. Lockes Bch., Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	ad. & imm.	DJC
Nov. 14	Kingsburg bch., <i>Lun.</i>	5	JRH, DPO
Nov. 21	Caribou I. area, <i>Pict.</i>	ca. 6	KJM
Lesser Black-backed Gull			
Aug. 24	near Canning, <i>Kings</i>	2 ad. graellsii	IAM
Sep. 2	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1 ad., ph.	Ron Arsenault
Sep. 6	Lwr Canard, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad.	RBS
Sep. 13-20	near Canning, <i>Kings</i>	4 ad.	George & Harold Forsyth
Oct. 1	South Beach, Sable I.	1 ad.	ZOL
Oct. 2	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1, 2nd-cycle, ph.	IAM, Gerd Rotzell
Oct. 4	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad., ph.	BBU
Oct. 11, 12	Seal I., <i>Yar.</i>	1, 1st-cycle	Gerd Rotzell, et al.
Oct. 18	Grand Pre area, <i>Kings</i>	2	RBS
Oct. 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1 ad.	KJM
Nov. 1	N. Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	3	RBS, AAM
Nov. 5	Lwr. Canard, <i>Kings</i>	2	RBS
Nov. 10	near Wilmot, <i>Kings</i>	4	PBG
Nov. 18	Sydney, <i>CBRM</i>	1, 1st-cycle	CAM, ALM
Nov. 22	Eagle Hd. Bch., <i>Queens</i>	1 ad. graellsii	ELM
Nov. 28	Grand Pre, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad.	JCT
Glaucous Gull			
Oct. 14	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Nov. 8	Kingsburg bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JRH
Nov. 14	Kingsburg bch., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JRH
Great Black-backed Gull			
Nov. 7	Canso Causeway, <i>Inv.</i>	1000+	DBM, NSBS
Black-legged Kittiwake			
Aug. 13	Pearl I., <i>Lun.</i>	ads. & young	ELM, IAM, et al.
Aug. 15	Off Northern Pt., Brier I.	120	MIK
Aug. 16	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	2	ELM
Aug. 28	Northern Pt., Brier I.	7 ad.	ELM
Aug. 30	Grand Passage, Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM
Sep. 1-2	Brier I.	5-10+	ELM
Sep. 19	Northern Point, Brier I.	6	ELM
Sep. 20	Off Brier I.	2	NSBS
Sep. 26	40 km S of Halifax	2	NSBS
Nov. 1	Off Pt. George, <i>Anna.</i>	numbers?	RBS, AAM
Nov. 7	Canso Causeway, <i>Inv.</i>	50	DBM, NSBS
Nov. 13	Wagners Bch., <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM
Nov. 22	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	2 ad.	ELM
SABINE'S GULL			
Sep. 12-13	ca. 40 km. S of Halifax	1 ad., 1 imm., ph.	Art Gaetan
Sep. 26	ca. 100 km E of Cape Breton	1 ad. (details)	Al Guarente
Caspian Tern			
Aug. 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1 ad.	KJM
Aug. 25, 26	Red Bridge Pond, Dartmouth	1	BBU
Aug. 30	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	DOU, ALD
Sep. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Sep. 22	Pictou I., <i>Pict.</i>	6	BLM
LEAST TERN			
Aug. 23-26	Eastern Passage area, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK, FLL, et al.

GULL-BILLED TERN

Aug. 2	Melbourne Sanctuary, <i>Yar.</i>	1, ph.	Barbara Ruff
Common Tern			
Aug. 3	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	5	DMW
Aug. 13	near Pearl I., <i>Lun.</i>	10	ELM, IAM, et al.
Aug. 16	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	1	ELM
Arctic Tern			
Aug. 13	near Pearl I., <i>Lun.</i>	1 ad.	ELM, IAM
Aug. 16	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	20 ad., 3 groups	ELM
Aug. 26	Blandford, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Sep. 22	Pictou I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	BLM
Black Tern			
Aug. 8	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JRH
GREAT SKUA			
Sep. 7	40 km S of Halifax	ca. 2, ph.	NSBS
Sep. 26	40 km S of Halifax	ca. 2, ph.	NSBS



We've previously shown a photo of BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES sitting on nests in their tiny new "colony" on Pearl I., off Mahone Bay. This confirms their success in caring for near-fledging young (in at least three nests) on Aug. 13. [Photo Ian McLaren]



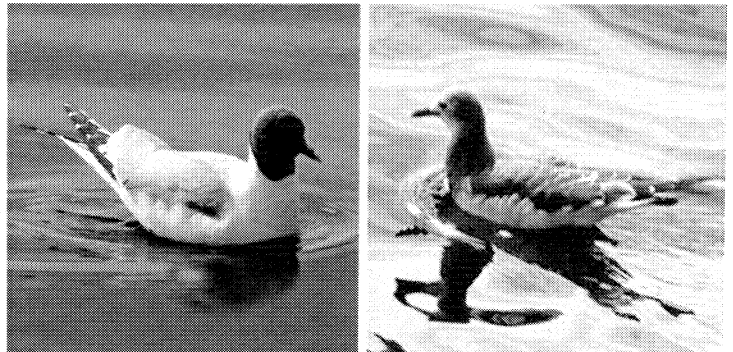
Oddly, a CASPIAN TERN (same one?) has been observed over Red Bridge Pond in Dartmouth for the last three summers or autumns. Its massive bill is nicely displayed in this image obtained Aug. 26. [Photo Bernard Burke]

Pelagics!

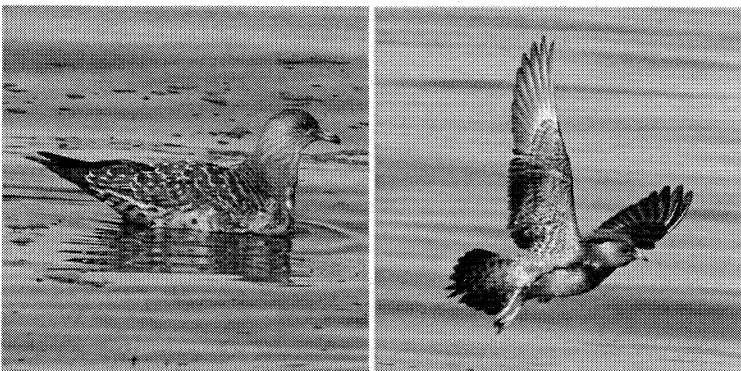
A couple of pelagic birding trips went about 20 nautical miles offshore on a chartered shark-fishing boat (which tags and releases them for population studies). This proved very exciting, and promises more future opportunities. Here are some of the findings. Of course, Canso also remains a very tempting place to see some of these species close to shore.



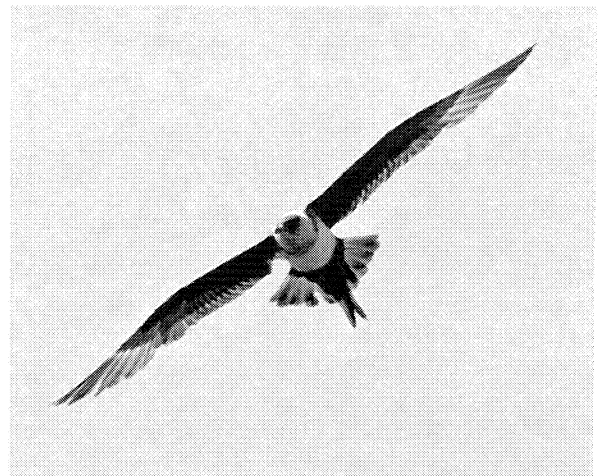
At least two GREAT SKUAS, and no certainly identified South Polars, were photographed during the Sept. 6 trip off Halifax. This one had all the right field marks – rufous-toned underparts, many whitish internal feather markings on back and mantle and wing coverts, distinct dark cap, heavy bill. But it also had a pale patch at the base of its upper mantle – said to be a feature of S. Hemisphere skuas. However, image-surfing indicates that these patches on a few Great Skuas on their breeding grounds. [Photo Mike King]



Two rarely seen SABINE'S GULLS, an adult and juvenile, were photo-documented Sept. 9 by the skipper of the shark-tagging boat about 35 km off Halifax – alas, there were no birders to see them. [Photo Art Gaetan]



This jaeger was found Sept. 4 just outside Canso Hbr. Its rather slight structure, including head and bill, distinct central tail projection, pale belly and rather narrow pale primary patch, mark it as a rarely seen juvenile LONG-TAILED JAEGER. [Photos Tom Kavanaugh]



This classy, light-morph adult PARASITIC JAEGER was one of several of the species that repeatedly inspected the "chum" used to lure sharks and birds during the Sept. 6 trip off Halifax. [Photo Richard Stern]

SKUA sp.			
Sep. 26	ca. 100 km E of Cape Breton	1 (details)	Al Guarente
SOUTH POLAR SKUA			
Sep. 20	Off Brier I.	1, no details	NSBS
Pomarine Jaeger			
Sep. 7	40 km S of Halifax	8 ad., ph.	NSBS
Sep. 20	Off Brier I.	"several"	NSBS
Sep. 26	40 km S of Halifax	2, ph.	NSBS
Parasitic Jaeger			
Aug. 5	Off Flint I., <i>CBRM</i>	2	CAM, ALM
Aug. 15	Off Northern Pt., Brier I.	1, ph.	MIK
Sep. 7	40 km S of Halifax	1 ad., 1 imm.	NSBS
Sep. 19	Northern Pt., Brier I.	6	ELM
Sep. 20	Off Brier I.	2	Laura Titus, NSBS
Nov. 1	Off Pt. George, <i>Anna</i> .	3-4	RBS, AAM
Jaeger sp. (prob. Parasitic)			
Oct. 8	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Nov. 7	Off Pea Jack Cove, Brier I.	1	ELM
LONG-TAILED JAEGER			
Sep. 2	near Canso, <i>Guys</i> .	1 imm., ph.	TOK
Razorbill			
Aug. 13	near Pearl I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	ELM, IAM, <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 15	Chance Hbr., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Black Guillemot			
Aug. 13	Pearl I., <i>Lun.</i>	ca. 25	ELM, IAM, <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 16	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Aug. 25	Off West Light, Brier I.	83	PAC
Aug. 29	Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	24	JRH, DPO
Sep. 1	Brier I.	25 (15 imm.)	ELM
Sep. 2	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Oct. 4	Lawrencetown L., <i>HRM</i>	1 imm.	Henk Kwindt
Oct. 24	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	30	KJM, Charlie Kendell
Oct. 28	Cape LaHave Is., <i>Lun.</i>	3	Paul MacDonald
Nov. 1	Margaretsville, <i>Anna</i> .	1	RBS, AAM



A rare GULL-BILLED TERN Aug. 2 at the Melbourne Lake Game Sanctuary, *Yar.*, was beautifully photographed for the record. [Photo Reigh Higgins]

Nov. 4	Taylor Hd. PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	Jim Cameron
Nov. 18	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	8	Paul MacDonald
Nov. 19	Taylor Hd. PP, <i>HRM</i>	3	Jim Cameron
Atlantic Puffin			
Aug. 1	Off Brier I.	1	ELM
Aug. 13	nr Pearl I., <i>Lun.</i>	3	ELM, IAM, <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 15	Off Northern Pt., Brier I.	2	MIK
Aug. 28	Off Brier I.	10	ELM
Sep. 26	40 km S of Halifax	2	NSBS

Pigeons Through Woodpeckers

By Chris Field

A **EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** was reported (and photographed) by TOK at his feeder in Canso on October 6. This is only the second confirmed sighting in Nova Scotia. The Canso area continues to delight with its wonderful suite of rarities.

An early **SNOWY OWL** was seen on the Hawk, Cape Sable I. by AIS and her daughter Julie on September 6 as reported by JCZ who wonders if it might now be a resident. One hatch-year **BOREAL OWL** was reported on November 11 in Fairmont, Ant. by RFL and MZG. In the same area there were 23 mostly female hatch-year **NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS** from late September to early November. Our only report of **LONG-EARED OWLS** was of a pair September 3 on Brier Island (ELM, AHM).

There were only 2 reports of **BLACK-BILLED CUCKOOS** and one of **YELLOW-BILLED**, all from HRM. Small numbers of **COMMON NIGHTHAWKS** were widely reported with the largest flock being 8+ in Beach Meadows, *Lun* (DPO). The latest **RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** was reported up to November 9 in Kentville by Dianne Nickerson.

The report of the New Glasgow Temperence St. **CHIMNEY SWIFTS** was not included in the last issue so the highlights as reported by KJM are given here. The first report is of 74 birds on May 11 reaching a peak of 424 on May 19. The numbers then declined over the summer with August having 45 at the beginning of the month with the last three seen on August 22. There were only three other reports in August.

Susan Hunt reported that "her" female **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER** returned to her feeder in HRM on September 27. Two **YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS** and seven **PILEATED WOODPECKERS** were reported, almost all from southern N.S. **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS** were widely reported throughout the period.

Rock Pigeon	Oct. - Nov. Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	up to 20	S. Hulford	to early Sep. Bridgetown, <i>Ann.</i>	2	MCR
				Sep. 10 - 11 CSI	sev.	RAH
Mourning Dove	Aug. - Nov. Widely	up to 50	5 obs.	Oct. 23 -		
EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE	Oct 6 Canso, <i>Guys</i> ,	1 ph.	TOK	Nov.9 Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1	D. Nickerson
Black-billed Cuckoo	Aug. 15 Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	1	C. Pepper	Belted Kingfisher		
Oct. 25 Seaview Park, <i>HRM</i>	1	AGH		Sep.15 Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	1	R. Smith
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Oct. 6 Chocolate L., <i>HRM</i>	1	B&D. Carmichael	Sep. 19,		
Great Horned Owl	Oct. 28 Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW	Oct. 13 Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Nov. 6 Camp Rd, Brier I.	1	AHM		Oct. 6 Sheffield Mills, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
Barred Owl	Aug-Nov Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1-2	RFL	Oct. 20 Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	C. Pepper
Sep. 6 Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	1	C. Pepper		Nov. 26 First South, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Nov. 5 Dartmouth	1	L. Ladouceur		Red-bellied Woodpecker		
Long-eared Owl	Sep. 3 Brier I.	2	ELM, AHM	Sep. 27 - Nov. Halifax	1f	S. Hunt
Boreal Owl	Nov. 11 Fairmont, <i>Ant</i>	1	RFL, MZG	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Late Sep.- early Nov. Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	23	RFL, <i>et al</i>	Aug. 9, Sep. 5 Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	S. Hulford
Common Nighthawk	Aug. 11 Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i>	3	MCR	Oct. 11 Seal I.	5	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 13 Mid Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	3	VJH		Downy Woodpecker		
Aug. 15 Conrads I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH		Oct. - Nov <i>Kings, HRM</i>	1-2	4 obs.
Aug. 16 - 19 Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1-3	KFS		Oct. 12 Seal I.	1 migrant	BLM
Aug. 17 Lwr Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	8	APO		Hairy Woodpecker		
Aug. 27 North Pt., Brier I.	4	LAL		Oct. - Nov. Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1-2 occ.	S. Hulford
Sep. 4 Beach Meadows, <i>Queens</i>	8+	DPO		Oct. - Nov. Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	2+	KFS
Sep. 4 Westport, Brier I.	3	L. Thurber		Oct. 11 Seal I.	2 migrants	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Sep. 4 Big I, <i>Pic.</i>	1	ALD		Oct. 29 Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	1 migrant	BLM
Chimney Swift	to Aug. 22 New Glasgow, <i>Pic.</i>	up to 45	KJM	Nov. Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i>	1f	MCR
Aug. 6 Fort Needham, <i>HRM</i>	3	B. Thomas		Black-backed Woodpecker		
Aug. 6 Lawrencetown, <i>Ann.</i>	9	DLO		Aug. 18 Uniacke Park, <i>Hants</i>	1	RIV
Aug. 17 Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS		Aug. 25 Shaw I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	B. Hodgson
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Aug. - Sep. 1 Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW	Sep. 10 Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Aug. Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	3+	S. Hulford		Sep. 11 Mid Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
Aug. - Sep. 9 Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	3+	JCT		Sep. 13 Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	1	C. Pepper
Aug. - Sep. 16 Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	up to 4	KFS		Sep. 19 Brier I.	1	WAN
				Oct. 3 Lake Echo, <i>HRM</i>	1	C. Pepper
				Nov. 22 Sober I., <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM
				Northern Flicker		
				Aug. - Nov. <i>Kings, Ant.</i>	1-2	JCT, RFL
				Sep. 17 Brier I.	150	ELM
				Oct. 9 Seal I.	50+	var. obs.
				Pileated Woodpecker		
				Sep. 10, 24 Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	S. Hulford
				Sep. 18 Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
				Sep. 18 Greenwich, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
				Oct. 1 Cambridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	S. Hulford
				Oct. 7 Woodville, <i>Kings</i>	1	S. Hulford
				Nov. 9 Browns Brook, <i>Lun.</i>	1	P. MacDonald
				Nov. 25 Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS

Flycatchers Through Thrushes

By Hans Toom

There were two sightings of WESTERN KINGBIRDS this fall. At Hartlen Point Ian Marshall was surprised to have one land beside him on the entrance gate to the golf course parking lot, just after a Northern Harrier swooped past.

Vagrant vireos were in short supply, with only one WHITE-EYED VIREO, at Hartlen Point. Among the rare autumn vireos (most found at coastal migrant traps) there were eight WARBLING VIREOS (an average showing) and but a single PHILADELPHIA VIREO. In the current Maritimes Atlas data there is but one confirmed Nova Scotia nesting for each species, though there are a small number of possible or probable nestings.

Charlie and Kelly Fitzgerald, local fisherman, found and photographed a tan COMMON RAVEN. This coloration is caused by a loss of eumelanin (black) but not pheomelanin (brown). It must have been a very attractive bird to see.

PURPLE MARTINS have been extirpated as breeders in Nova Scotia, so we must now be content with migrant sightings, and there were only two this autumn. In the current atlas there are no confirmed nesting sites in Nova Scotia but there are three possible or probable locations, so perhaps the species will return.

Many observers reported a marked decline in our swallow population this summer, and this carried over into the autumn. This decline may be due to the species' dependence on flying insects, or calamities on their wintering territories. Only one rare swallow

was noted, a NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW at Hartlen Point Aug. 23.

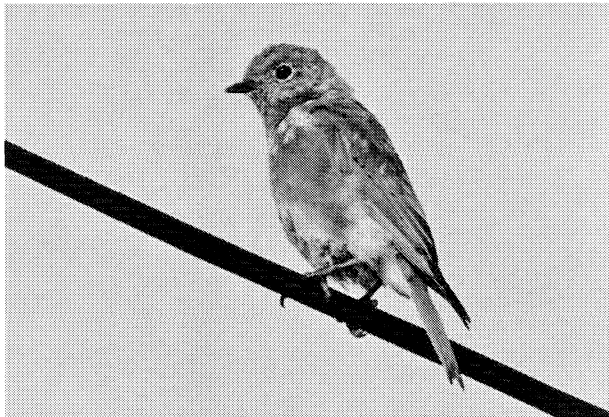
There was one report of CAROLINA WREN. It was singing for most of September over the shady streets of Chester, Lun., as reported by Ann Lambert Sep. 22. Two possible or probable nesting locations have been found in Nova Scotia and one confirmed in New Brunswick, according to the MBBA. Its powerful song is easily remembered once heard.

On Nov 13 HAT was scanning his front yard platform feeder at Portuguese Cove, HRM, to see if any American Tree Sparrows had returned from their northern boreal forest nesting grounds and was surprised and delighted to capture a HOUSE WREN in his field of view. BLM also reported one from Prospect, HRM, on Oct. 22.

DOP reported a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER beside a road Sep. 20, at Western Head, Queens. Interestingly she saw two last year in Oct on the same stretch of road. On Sep. 22, HAT found one at Duncan's Cove and another one Nov 17 that lingered until at least Nov 21. The second one at Duncan's Cove was seen by many birders. Overall this species was scarce this year. Only one possible nesting location has been found in the Maritime Provinces, in Nova Scotia. (MBBA)

On Sep. 26 DAW found our first NORTHERN WHEATEAR of the fall at the Lower Rose Bay Cemetery, Lun. Dr. John D. Lloyd, while visiting LaHave Oct. 1, reported a the second NORTHERN WHEATEAR alongside the beach near the Fort Point Historic Site. Analysis of his photos showed a bright cinnamon breast indicative of the usual Greenland Nunavut subspecies *leucorrhoea*.

Our EASTERN BLUEBIRD is our good news story. It continues to thrive and is expanding its numbers and territory in Nova Scotia. A remarkable 88 Eastern Bluebirds were reported, some while nesting and some during migration, included adults and juveniles. This expansion of the species has been ongoing for several years now. They are primarily nesting in a crescent around the Minas Basin and Cobequid Bay, in Cumberland, Colchester, Kings, and Hants counties. These counties have some of Nova Scotia's finest mixed forests and gentle summer weather. The BBS results indicate that the Eastern Bluebird is an increasing species continent-wide. Since the Eastern Bluebird supplements its diet by wild fruit it is not as susceptible to swings in flying insect populations as our swallows.



This young EASTERN BLUEBIRD 19 Sept. on Brier is in ragged molt into its first Basic plumage (worn into the breeding season). It could have been raised locally, but juveniles can wander before completing this molt. [Photo Richard Stern]



This male EASTERN BLUEBIRD was among a dozen lingering past mid-October at Economy, Cum. [Photo Jane Quinn]

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Aug 12	Mid Musquodoboit., HRM	1	VJH
Aug 28	Brier I.	1	ELM
Sept 1	Brier I	1	ELM

Eastern Wood Pewee

Aug 1 - 20	Lake Echo, HRM	Family	CPE
Aug 25 - 30	Wolfville Ridge, Kings	3+	JCT
Aug 26	Fauxburg Tr., Lun.	1	JAH
Aug 31	Fauxburg Tr., Lun.	1	JAH
Sept 2	Wolfville Ridge, Kings	3+	JCT
Sept 29 - 30	Wolfville Ridge, Kings	1	JCT
Oct 25	Halifax	1	Terry Boswell

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Sept 17	Brier I.	1	ELM
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Eastern Phoebe

Oct 9 - 12	Seal I.	6	BLM, et al.
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Western Kingbird

Sept 25	Hartlen Pt.	1	Ian Marshall
Nov 30	CSI	1	JON

Eastern Kingbird

Aug 2	Grand Pre, Kings	3	HAT, LAE
Aug 7	Port Williams, Kings	1	Unsigned
Aug 22	Higginville, HRM	5	CPE
Aug 29	Volger's Cove, Lun.	3	JAH
Sept 5	Brier I.	1	ELM
Sept 20	Ketch Hbr., HRM	1	HAT

Northern Shrike

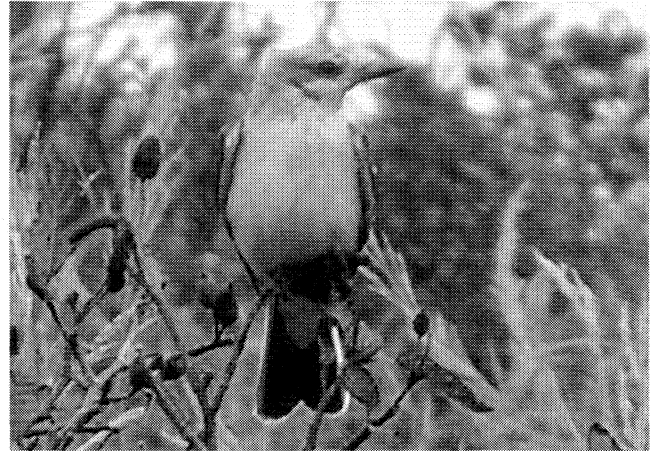
Nov 16	Apple River, Cumb.	1	KFS
Nov 16	New Salem, Cumb.	1	KFS

White-eyed Vireo

Oct 2	Back Cove, Hartlen Pt.	1	IAM, Gerd Rotzoll
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Blue-headed Vireo			
Aug 29	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	4	JAH, DOP
Aug 30	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL
Sept 8	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL
Sept 15	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	1	Ruth E. Smith
Sept 26	Clearland Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
Sept 26	Fauxburg Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
Oct 17	Digby Neck, <i>Digby</i>	1	JAH, DOP
Nov 3	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1	DOP
Warbling Vireo			
Aug 22	St. Margaret's Bay Tr., <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM
Sept 19	Duncan's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	5	DAC, FLL, AZV
Sept 26	Chocolate L., <i>HRM</i>	1	JCZ
Oct 9	Back Cove, Hartlen Pt.	1	TEP
Oct 12	Crystal Crescent	1	HAT
Philadelphia Vireo			
Sept 7	St Catherine's R., <i>Queens</i>	1	CLS, CSS
Red-eyed Vireo			
Aug 26	Fauxburg Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Aug 29	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	3	JAH, DOP
Aug 30	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	3	RFL
Sept 5	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	3	RFL
Oct 9	Back Cove, Hartlen Pt.	1	TEP
Oct 24	Big I., <i>Pic</i>	1	KJM
Gray Jay			
Aug-Nov	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	2-4	KFS
Oct 3	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	4	BLM, Gerd Rotzoll
Oct 3	Allendale, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
Nov 19	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	5	KFS
Blue Jay			
Sept 2 - Nov	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1-33	RFL
Sept 18	Northern Pt., Brier I.	80	ELM
Sept 26	Wagner's Bch., <i>HRM</i>	120	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 3	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	60	BLM, Gerd Rotzoll
Oct 5 - Nov	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	8-30+	KFS
Common Raven			
Circa late Aug	Sunshine Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1 tan colour	FMC
Horned Lark			
Oct 16	Conrad's Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	CPE
Oct 18	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	flock	HEK
Nov 4	Taylor Head PP, <i>HRM</i>	3	JAC
Nov 5	Brier I.	11	ELM
Nov 7	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	1	CPE
Dec 7	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	32	JAH, DAW
Purple Martin			
Aug 30	Chebucto Head, <i>HRM</i>	1f	BLM, IAM
Oct 14	Daniel's Head, CSI	1	JON
Tree Swallow			
Aug 26	Second Pen., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Sept 2	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	4	JAW, DAW
Northern Rough-winged Swallow			
Aug 23	Hartlen Pt.	1	MIK, FLL, others
Bank Swallow			
Oct 15	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Barn Swallow			
Aug 1	Black Centre, <i>Lun.</i>	74	JAH
Aug 12	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	4	DMW
Oct 14	The Hawk, CSI	2	JON
Cliff Swallow			
Aug 20	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	2	DOU, ALD
Aug 30	Pond Cove, Brier I.	11 imm	ELM, AHM
Oct 15	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Black-capped Chickadee			
Aug 29	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	23	JAH, DOP
Sept 1	Brier I.	20	ELM
Sept 26	Fauxburg Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	19	JAH
Nov 8	Beach Meadows, <i>Queens</i>	20	JAH
Boreal Chickadee			
Sept 6	Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	5	CPE
Sept 11	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	12	BLM

Sept 22	Picou I.	35	BLM
Sept 29	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	20	BLM
Oct 3	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	30	BLM
Nov 22	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	4	VJH
Nov 30	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	3	KFS
Red-breasted Nuthatch			
Sept 26	Fauxburg Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
Nov 5	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
Nov 30	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	3	KFS



This WESTERN KINGBIRD, Sept. 25 at Hartlen Pt., *HRM*, has a massive bill, seemingly far outside the normal range for this species. It is not an illusion from foreshortening – the image is enlarged from a more distant photo. Could it result from what seems to be feather loss from the head, making the bill large by comparison? It matches no other exotic kingbird species, but could it have genes from one of the larger-billed species? [Photo Ian Marshall]

White-breasted Nuthatch			
Aug-Nov	Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i>	2	MCR
Aug-Nov	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1-2	SLH
Sept-Nov	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1-2	JCT
Oct 22	White Pt., <i>Queens</i>	4-5	MMI
Oct 11	Seal I.	1	DAM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 14	Antigonish, <i>Ant.</i>	1 pair	RFL, Martha Palmer
Oct 18	Clayton Park, <i>HRM</i>	1	RES
Oct 22	Mount Uniacke Park, <i>Hants</i>	1	HAT
Nov 22	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	2	DAC, AZV
Nov 25	Martin's Pt., <i>Lun.</i>	1	PMA
Brown Creeper			
Sept 17	Indian Path, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct 11	Seal I.	3	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 20	Lake Echo, <i>HRM</i>	1	CPE
Oct 28	E. Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	CPE
Oct 30	Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	1	CPE
Nov 4	Minesville, <i>HRM</i>	1	CPE
Nov 15	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	1	KJM, RFE
Carolina Wren			
Sept 5 - 22	Chester, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Anne Lambert, CJF
House Wren			
Oct 22	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Nov 13	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Winter Wren			
Oct 11	Seal I.	4	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
Sept 20	Western Head, <i>Queens</i>	1	DOP
Sept 22	Duncan's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Nov 17 - 21	Duncan's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Oct 17	Digby Neck, <i>Digby</i>	5	JAH, DOP
Oct 25	Second Pen., <i>Lun.</i>	11	JAH, DAW
Oct 29	Lawrencetown, <i>Anna.</i>	2	DLO
Nov 4	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	4+	KFS
Nov 15	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	18	KJM, RFE
Nov 22	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	3	VJH
Nov 23	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Nov 25	Martin's Pt., <i>Lun.</i>	1	PMA

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Oct 11	Seal I.	15	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 16	Eastside Martin's R., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct 17	Digby Neck, <i>Digby</i>	21	JAH, DOP
Oct 22	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
Oct 25	E. Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	CPE
Oct 30	Lawrencetown, <i>Anna.</i>	1	DLO
Nov 1	White's L., <i>HRM</i>	1	Observer
Nov 2	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS

Northern Wheatear

Sept 26	Lwr. Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	DAW
Oct 1	LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	1	John Lloyd

Eastern Blue Bird

Aug-Nov 1	Westport, <i>Brier I.</i>	2ad, 4juv	ELM
Aug-Oct	New Salem., <i>Cumb.</i>	8	KFS
Aug-Oct	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	2-8	KFS
Aug 16	Ferguson's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	3	DAC, AZV
Sept 13	Upper Nine Mile R., <i>Hants</i>	5imm	Jen Fried
Oct 2, 12	Five Islands, <i>Col.</i>	12m, 4f	Janet Quinn
Oct 2	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	3-4	Bruce Martin
Oct 7	Five Islands, <i>Col.</i>	12m, 4f	Janet Quinn
Oct 14	Shortts L., <i>Col.</i>	1	Dr. Colin MacPhee
Oct 18	Georgefield, <i>Hants</i>	2m, 1f	ROW
Oct 19	Diligent R., <i>Cumb.</i>	3m, 3f	Gale and Rod Boland

Spencer's I., *Cumb.*

Oct 26	Spencer's I., <i>Cumb.</i>	12	<i>vide</i>
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Swainson's Thrush

Sept 2	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1	DOP
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Hermit Thrush

Aug 20	Wagner's Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Sept 1	Sandy Bottom L., <i>Anna.</i>	1	MCR
Sept 19	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL
Sept 26	Fauxburg Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Sept 28	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	1	RES
Oct 2	Sandy Bottom L., <i>Anna.</i>	1	MCR
Oct 3	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	6	BLM, Gerd Rotzoll
Oct 7	Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i>	2	MCR
Oct 17	Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	1	CPE
Oct 17	Bear R., <i>Digby</i>	4	JAH, DPO
Oct 17	Digby Neck, <i>Digby</i>	6	JAH, DPO
Nov 3-4	Lake Echo, <i>HRM</i>	1	CPE

American Robin

Oct 25	Doctor's Brook, <i>Ant.</i>	300+	JOK
Nov 7	Brier I.	50+	ELM, AHM
Nov 11	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	60	KJM



A small "migrant trap" near Duncan's Cove, *HRM*, augmented by some strategically placed bird feeders, has begun to produce a variety of vagrants, including this sprightly BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER on Sept. 22. [Photo Hans Toom]



"Albino" is a term for individual animals that produce no melanin, including in the eye and other parts without fur or feathers. This BLUE JAY has dark bill and eye and is not even a "partial albino" or "leucistic." It indeed lacks the ability to make melanin in some of its feathers, but blue colours are produced by refraction of light by small spaces and particles in the feathers. So, this individual has lost the ability to form those internal feather structures and is not in any sense albinistic. It's best simply called a "white Blue Jay." [Photo Gary Myers]

Mimics Through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

Mimic thrush numbers were down this autumn. A GRAY CATBIRD was heard singing as late as Aug. 6 by JCT at Grand Pré (*Kings*). NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS, though still being recorded, continue a downward trend. The BROWN THRASHER in Pictou was discovered in a tangle of multiflora rose beside McCulloch House Museum and continued into the next report period.

AMERICAN PIPITS reports were a little later than the average date of fall arrival. After the multitude of BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS the last two falls, it is not surprising this nomad was barely reported this autumn. On Aug. 22, CHP discovered a nest with 3+ young CEDAR WAXWINGS about 1m. in height in a small spruce in Higginsville, *HRM*. Fall reports of this species

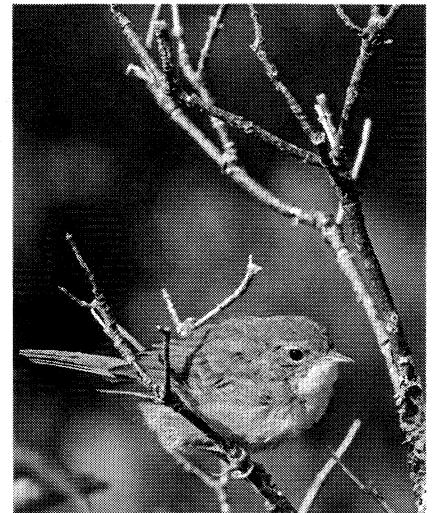
were mainly on the northern mainland where large crops of Hawthorne, Canada holly, wild apples and mountain ash remain basically untouched.

For the 6th year in a row, 33 species of warbler were recorded for the fall period with migrant breeding warbler numbers supplemented by western and southern species blown off course. DOU describes a male **BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** at Duncans Cove, *HRM* as having a yellow body, blue wings with wing bars and distinctive black eye line. She had two good looks at this bird on Oct. 6. A number of observers were able to view the female **GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** at Hartlen Pt. After a small burst of **TENNESSEE WARBLERS** last year, the number reported has dropped to a token two sightings. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS** show the usual late arrival to N.S. from more northern breeding areas with mid-October a peak arrival date and some of these still found into late November.

The data received this year was complimented by sightings from a study in Nuttby Mountain, the highest peak in mainland N.S., in the centre of the Cobequid Highlands. A regular route was followed consisting of 20 five minute stops during which a mobbing tape was played. Interestingly about half the stops were in a >20 year old spruce plantation where the bulk of the warbler sightings occurred. The data collected by SIT and analysed by BRD seems to indicate a two-peaked migration for several species. BRD speculated this might indicate an earlier exit by hatch-year birds and two-three weeks later by adults. Species that demonstrate this two tiered migration are indicated in the table below with an * marking the peak numbers and include **NASHVILLE**, **NORTHERN PARULA**, **MAGNOLIA**, **YELLOW-RUMPED**, **BLACK-THROATED GREEN**, **PALM** and **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT**.

Two **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS** were noted, bringing the all time provincial total to eight. The first was found by BRD about an hour after dawn Sept. 18 on an offshore island near Lower Woods Harbour. It was a hatch year male and moribund and had apparently struck guy wires of a radio tower. It died shortly after despite attempts to revive it and the specimen was delivered to IAM a few weeks later and the specimen was forwarded to the NS Museum of Natural History. The second report was a female found by IAM in the west end of Halifax, Nov. 9. It was seen by several others and photographed over the next couple of weeks, and was last seen Nov. 24.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLERS are reported almost annually now from *HRM*, but a report from Antigonish by *RFL et al.* is a rare sighting from northern mainland. The Dartmouth bird was photographed by DAC and IAM sent in the following analysis from the photo "a particularly long-billed and yellow-lored and yellow-chinned bird of the sort breeding largely on the Delmarva Peninsula" of the mid-Atlantic Coast.



This young **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT**, Aug. 9 at Grand Pré, *Kings*, has largely completed its first moult, but retains a few worn and wispy juvenile feathers. [Photo Hans Toom]

Both **PINE WARBLER** and **PRAIRIE WARBLER** sightings were down significantly in number this fall. The number of "western" **PALM WARBLERS** was also very low. One was found with a small number (12) of "eastern" Palms on Seal I. Thanksgiving weekend and a second seen on the Canso field trip Nov. 28. **BLACKPOLL WARBLER** migration seemed to peak in the Sept. 12-17 time period. A male Blackpoll was found in partial late breeding plumage Sept. 17, *BLM*. Several were found dead near radio tower guy wires on an island near Lower Woods Harbour (BRD). A **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** carrying nest material Aug. 1, by *PLC* seems to be rather late for a warbler to be nesting.

A **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** was plucked out of the water off Brier I. by a whale-watching boat Aug. 24 and returned to shore dead. One found by *JAH* Sept. 17 was described as bright yellow, no eye-ring, white under tail and no wing bars. Once again, a fall **CONNECTICUT WARBLER** was noted from Shelburne County, but no details were provided. Usually there are very few reports of migrant **MOURNING WARBLERS**, but from the data from Nuttby Mountain, they seem to be in small numbers in the elevated area of the central part of the province with peak migration confined to a short period in the last week of August and first nine days of September. Since the current Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas suggests Mourning Warblers prefer the higher elevated areas of central and northern N.S., it is plausible the birds migrate along higher elevation ridges.

The two **HOODED WARBLER** reports come from opposite ends of the province. Nova Scotia usually receives quite a number of reports of wayward **YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS**, but this fall the numbers were unusually low, with five reports of four to five birds.

Gray Catbird

August	var. mainland locations	6 reports of 6 birds	
Sep. 6	East Berlin, <i>Queens</i>	1	JAH
Sep. 10, 12	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	3, 8	HAT
Sep. 28	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	1	RES
Oct. 2	Porters Lake, <i>HRM</i>	2	CHP
Oct. 2	Lwr Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	2	BRD
Oct. 2	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	2	DJC
Oct. 7	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	ALM, CAM
Oct. 11	Seal I.	4	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Northern Mockingbird

Aug. 24	Annapolis Royal	1	DLO
Nov. 5	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	JEH
Nov. 26	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	AND, L. Dean

Brown Thrasher

Nov. 14 - 30	Pictou	1	KJM
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European Starling

Sep. 30	Windsor, <i>Hants</i>	100's	hawking insects
Oct. 27	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	300	DMW

American Pipit

Sep. 17	Wagners Beach, <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM
Sep. 18, 19	Brier I.	?	NSBS
Sep. 22	Pictou I.	1	BLM
Oct. 10, 19	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2, 3	KJM
Oct. 28	Crystal Crescent	1	HAT
Oct. 28	Is. off Lwr Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	23	BRD
Nov. 9	Wagners Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Nov. 20	Prospect Barrens, <i>HRM</i>	7	JCZ, <i>et al.</i>

Bohemian Waxwing

Nov. 21	Plymouth, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Nov. 26	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS

Cedar Waxwing

August	var. mainland locations	3 reports	DMW, JAH, CHP
Sep. 2	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Oct. 10	Hantsport	some	MFU
Oct. 17	Bear River, <i>Digby</i>	14	JAH
Oct. 20	The Ponds, <i>Pict.</i>	30+	KJM
Oct. 24	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	2	KJM, CHK
Oct. 25	3 Pictou Co. locales	90+	KJM
Oct. 31	Waterside P.P., <i>Pict.</i>	17	KJM
Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	120 at Canada Holly	KJM
Nov. 24	Doctors Brook, <i>Ant.</i>	45 at Hawthorne	JOK

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER

Oct. 6	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 m. details above	DOU
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GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

Sep. 21	Hartlen Pt.	1 f. FLL, DAC, <i>et al.</i>	
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Tennessee Warbler

Aug. 10	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	DOU
Sep. 13	Hartlen Pt.	1	Dennis Garratt

Orange-crowned Warbler

Oct. 11, 12	Seal I.	1, 1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 14	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Oct. 20, 22	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	ALM, CAM
Oct. 25	Halifax	1	Terry Boswell
Nov. 5	Dartmouth	1	DAC
Nov. 7	w. end Halifax	1	IAM
Nov. 8	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	2	DAW, JAH
Nov. 9 - 16	w. end Halifax	1-3	var. obs.
Nov. 11	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM
Nov. 15	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM, RFE
Nov. 18	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT

Nashville Warbler

Aug. 22, 27	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	4, 6	SIT, BRD
Aug. 26	Clearland, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Aug. 27	Wagners Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1 poss. <i>ridgwayi</i>	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Sep. 2, 3	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	11*, 8*	SIT, BRD

Sep. 9, 10	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1, 3	
Sep. 11	Lwr Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC
Sep. 13	Hartlen Pt.	1	Dennis Garratt
Sep. 17	Wagners Beach, <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM
Sep. 17, 18, 22	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	3, 7*, 9*	SIT, BRD
Sep. 21	Hartlen Pt.	1	DAC
Sep. 22	Pictou I.	1	BLM
Sep. 29	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	2	SIT, BRD
Oct. 1	Is. off Lwr Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	5	BRD
Oct. 10 - 11	Seal I.	3 incl. 1 poss. <i>ridgwayi</i>	fide BLM
Nov. 9	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Nov. 10	w. end Halifax	1 also on 14 th	DAC

Northern Parula

Aug. 1 - 2	Margaretsville, <i>Anna</i>	fledged young	PLC
Aug. 15	Conrads I., <i>Lun.</i>	5	JAH
Aug. 22, 27	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	8, 6	SIT, BRD
Aug. 26	Hartlen Pt.	8	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 29	Fauxburg Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
Aug. 29	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	5	DPO, JAH
Sep. 2, 3, 9	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	7*, 12*, 5	SIT, BRD
Sep. 13	Hartlen Pt.	2	MIK
Sep. 17	Is. off Lwr Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	5	BRD
Sep. 10, 17, 18	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	14*, 11*, 2	SIT, BRD
Sep. 22	Pictou I.	1	BLM
Oct. 7	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1	SIT, BRD
Oct. 30	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 also seen Nov. 1	LOC

Yellow Warbler

Aug. 13	Is. off Lwr Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	50	BRD
Aug. 15	Conrads I., <i>Lun.</i>	4	JAH
Aug. 15	Oxners Bch, <i>Lun.</i>	6	JAH
Sep. 2	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Sep. 2, 3	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1, 3	SIT, BRD
Sep. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Sep. 12	Hartlen Pt.	a sprinkling	IAM
Sep. 13	Hartlen Pt.	2	MIK
Sep. 17	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1	SIT, BRD

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Aug. 1-2	Margaretsville, <i>Anna</i>	fledged young	PLC
Aug. 24	Annapolis Royal	1 fall plumage	DLO
Aug. 26	Fauxburg Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Aug. 29	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH, DPO
Sep. 3, 4, 9, 10	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	2, 4, 1, 2	SIT, BRD
Sep. 21	Hartlen Pt.	present	fide DAC
Sep. 22, 29	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1, 1	SIT, BRD

Magnolia Warbler

Aug. 22, 27	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	3, 21*	SIT, BRD
Sep. 2, 3, 9, 10	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	13, 9, 13*, 6	SIT, BRD
Sep. 13	Hartlen Pt.	2	MIK
Sep. 17, 18	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	2, 4	SIT, BRD
Sep. 25	Crescent Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Sep. 29	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1	SIT, BRD

Cape May Warbler

Aug. ?	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	DOU, ALD
Aug. 31	Halls Harbour, <i>Kings</i>	1	MMC
Sep. 21	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	AAM, CAM
Sep. 26	Fauxburg Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	1 fall f.	JAH

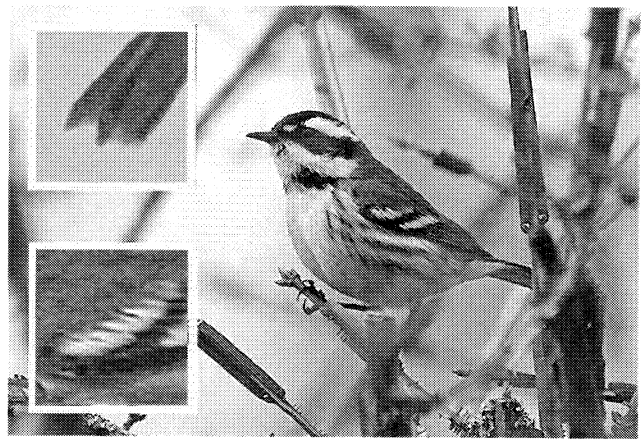
Black-throated Blue Warbler

Aug. 22	St. Margarets Bay Tr., <i>HRM</i>	2m, 3f	BLM
Sep. 2, 3, 10	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1, 1, 1	SIT, BRD
Sep. 17	Wagners Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1 m.	BLM
Sep. 18	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1	SIT, BRD
Sep. 19	Earlton, <i>Col.</i>	2	SGL
Oct. 2	Porters Lake, <i>HRM</i>	1 m.	CHP
Nov. 5	Portland St., <i>HRM</i>	1 m.	DAC

Yellow-rumped Warbler

August	mainland locales	4 reports	var. obs.
September	widely	19 reports of 535 birds	var. obs.
Sep. 2, 3, 9, 10	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	32*, 21*, 8, 11	SIT, BRD
Sep. 17, 18	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	25, 13	SIT, BRD

Sep. 22, 29	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	43*, 41*	SIT, BRD
October	widely	9 reports, hundreds	
			var. obs.
Oct. 7	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	15	SIT, BRD
Oct. 9	Is. off Lwr Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	100+	BRD
Nov. 7	Summersville, <i>Queens</i>	a few	MMI
Nov. 8	Beach Meadows, <i>Queens</i>	2	JAH
Nov. 14	Waterside P.P., <i>Pict.</i>	2& 3 Nov. 21	KJM
Nov. 15	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM, RFE
Nov. 23	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1 imm.	FMC
Nov. 24	Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm.	VJH
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER			
Sep. 18	Is. off Lwr Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1 HY m., spec.	BRD
Nov. 9 - 24	w. end Halifax	1 f., ph	IAM; m. obs.
Black-throated Green Warbler			
Aug. 1 - 2	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	carrying food	PLC
Aug. 22, 27	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	4, 26*	SIT, BRD
Aug. 26	Fauxburg Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Aug. 29	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i>	1 ad. with fussy	fledged young
			JAH
Sep. 2, 3, 9, 10	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	27*, 28*, 20, 19	SIT, BRD
Sep. 11 - 26	var. locations	4 reports of 8 birds	
			var. obs.
Sep. 17, 18, 22	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	34*, 13, 12	SIT, BRD
Sep. 29	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	7	SIT, BRD
Oct. 7	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1	SIT, BRD
Blackburnian Warbler			
Aug. 1	Clearland, <i>Lun.</i>	1	NSBS
			fide JAH
Aug. 1 - 2	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	FY fed by adults	
			PLC
Aug. 22	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1	SIT, BRD
Sep. 2, 3	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	2, 1	SIT, BRD
Sep. 8	Bear Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Sep. 9, 10	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1, 2	SIT, BRD
Sep. 11	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC
Sep. 18	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1	SIT, BRD
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER			
Nov. 7 - 8	Dartmouth	1 photographed on Nov. 14	
			DAC
Nov. 10	Antigonish	1	RFL,
			M. Palmer
Pine Warbler			
Oct. 24	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM, CHK
Oct. 25	Georgefield, <i>Col.</i>	1	ROW
Oct. 26	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	AAM, CAM
Oct. 26	Pt. Pleasant Park, <i>HRM</i>	1 well-marked	AGH
Nov. 14	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Nov. 18	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Nov. 28	Canso	1	NSBS
Nov. 29	Williams Pt., <i>Ant.</i>	1	NSBS
Prairie Warbler			
Aug. 24	Hartlen Pt.	1 imm.	BLM
Sep. 4	Wagners Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm, ph.	BLM
Sep. 16, 17	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	AAM, CAM
Nov. 28	Canso	1	NSBS
Palm Warbler			
Aug. 27	Wagners Beach, <i>HRM</i>	5	BLM
Aug. 29	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	5	DPO, JAH
Aug. 30	Reynoldscroft, <i>Shel.</i>	10	CST
Sep. 9, 10	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	2, 1	SIT, BRD
Sep. 11	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	35	BLM,
			Gerd Rotzoll
Sep. 13 - 17	<i>HRM & Lun.</i>	3 reps 13 birds	JAH, BLM,
			D. Garratt
Sep. 17	Brier I.	50+ arrivals	ELM
Sep. 17, 18	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	19*, 5	SIT, BRD
Sep. 22, 29	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	5, 21*	SIT, BRD
Oct. 3 - 17	var. mainland locations	6 repts of 33 birds	
			var. obs.
Oct. 20	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	2	SIT, BRD
Oct. 22	Is. off Lwr Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	3	BRD
Oct. 28	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	1	RES



A BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER lingering in s. end Halifax was a Nova Scotia "lifer" for many birders. The inserts (both early Nov.) add important detail to the main image of the bird found Oct. 21 in a Japanese Knotweed thicket. The upper insert shows its pointed tail feathers and the lower the limited black streaks in the median wing coverts, both typical of first-fall individuals and, together with the limited black throat, identify it as a young male. [Photos: Richard Stern; inserts: top, Ann Morrison; bottom, Mike King]

Oct. 30	Port Hawkesbury area	2	DJO
Nov. 28	Canso	1 western	NSBS
Bay-breasted Warbler			
Aug. 22	St Margarets Bay Tr., <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM
Sep. 2, 3	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1, 1	SIT, BRD
Sep. 10, 22	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1, 1	SIT, BRD
Oct. 1	near Lower Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1	BRD
Blackpoll Warbler			
Aug. 22	St. Margarets Bay Tr., <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM
Aug. 25	west end Halifax	1	IAM
Sep. 2, 3, 10	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1, 1, 1	SIT, BRD
Sep. 12	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	active numbers	HAT
Sep. 12	Hartlen Pt.	30-40	IAM
Sep. 13	Hartlen Pt.	50+	MIK
Sep. 17	Is. off Lwr Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	50+	BRD
Sep. 17	Wagners Beach, <i>HRM</i>	5	BLM
Sep. 17	Indian Path, <i>Lun.</i>	8	JAH
Sep. 17, 18	Nutty Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	2, 4	SIT, BRD
Sep. 18	Is. off Lwr Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	several found dead	
			BRD
Sep. 19 - 20	locales heads of Halifax Hbr.	many	DAC, FLL,
			AZV



The yellow underparts of this PALM WARBLER 19 Sept. on Brier I. mark it as an eastern bird - "Western" Palm Warblers generally begin to appear in October. [Photo Richard Stern]

Sep. 22	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	14	SIT, BRD	CONNECTICUT WARBLER	Aug. 30	Reynoldscroft, <i>Shel.</i>	1 nd	CST	
Sep. 26	Clearland & Fauxburg Tr.s	5 each trail	JAH		Mourning Warbler	Aug. 27	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	4	SIT, BRD
Sep. 29	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	8	SIT, BRD		Aug. 27, 3, 9	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	6, 3, 1	SIT, BRD	
Oct. 3	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	6	BLM		Sep. 26	Dartmouth	1 1 st fall, dead	GAM	
Oct. 7	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1	SIT, BRD		Common Yellowthroat	Aug. 22	Wild Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
Oct. 9	Is. off Lwr Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	5	BRD		Aug. 27	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	4	SIT, BRD	
Black and White Warbler					Aug. 30	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	3	RFL	
Aug. 1 - 2	Margaretsville, <i>HRM</i>	nest building!	PLC		September	widely mainland	5 reports	var. obs.	
August	assorted mainland locales	5 reports of 5 birds			Sep. 2, 3, 9, 10	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	25*, 33*, 18, 19	SIT, BRD	
			var. obs.		Sep. 17, 18, 22	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	23*, 25*, 24*	SIT, BRD	
Aug. 22, 27	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	4, 6	SIT, BRD	Sep. 29	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	9	SIT, BRD		
September	four mainland locations	singles	var. obs.	Oct. 7	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	4	SIT, BRD		
Sep. 2, 3, 9, 10	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	10, 5, 6, 3	SIT, BRD	Oct. 17	Digby Neck	1	JAH, DPO		
Sep. 17, 18, 22	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	2, 1, 3	SIT, BRD	Oct. 17	Shubenacadie	2	K. MacAulay		
October	no reports			Oct. 17	Princedale, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JAH		
Nov. 3	Lake Echo, <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP	Nov. 11	Pt. Pleasant Park	1 1 st year	AGH		
Nov. 7, 10	west end Halifax	1	BRD, DOM	HOODED WARBLER	Sep. 11	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	AAM, CAM	
American Redstart				Oct. 9 - 10	Seal I.	1 imm. f., ph.	BLM, <i>et al.</i>		
Aug. 26	Fauxburg Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH	Wilson's Warbler	Aug. 22	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	2	SIT, BRD	
Aug. 27	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	5	SIT, BRD	Aug. 25	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM, <i>et al.</i>		
Aug. 29	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	3	JAH, DPO	Aug. 26	Hartlen Pt.	2	BLM, <i>et al.</i>		
Sep. 2, 3, 9	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	7, 6, 1	SIT, BRD	Aug. 27	Mid- Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 m.	VJH		
Sep. 13	Hartlen Pt.	3	MIK	Sep. 2	Is. off Lwr Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1	BRD		
Sep. 17	Is. off Lwr Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	10	BRD	Sep. 2	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1	SIT <i>fide</i> BRD		
Sep. 18, 29	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1, 1	SIT, BRD	Sep. 11	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC		
Oct. 10	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	Nov. 21	Pictou	1 f.	KJM		
Oct. 13	Crystal Crescent	a few	HAT	Nov. 30	New Glasgow	1 f.	KJM		
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER				Canada Warbler	Aug. 13	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 first for yard	HAT	
Aug. 24	Brier I. offshore	1 dead (see text above)	<i>fide</i> LAL	Aug. 17	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad. M.	HAT		
Aug. 30	Westport, Brier I.	1	Linda Thurber	Sep. 9	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1	SIT, BRD		
Sep. 17	Indian Path, <i>Lun.</i>	1 f.	JAH	Sep. 21	Hartlen Pt.	1	DAC, <i>et al.</i>		
Ovenbird				Yellow-breasted Chat	Aug. 25	Brier I.	1	LAL	
Aug. 1 - 2	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	abundant and easy to find	PLC	Oct. 17	Shubenacadie	1	K. MacAulay		
Aug. 22	St Margarets Bay Tr., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM	Oct. 29	west end Halifax	1	IAM		
Aug. 22, 27	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	1, 1	SIT, BRD	Nov. 19	west end Halifax	1	DOM		
Aug. 26	Fauxburg Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH	Nov. 22	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC		
Sep. 2, 3	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	5, 2	SIT, BRD						
Sep. 6	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM,						
			P. Szantor						
Sep. 7	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1 singing!	SLH						
Sep. 21	Hartlen Pt.	1	<i>fide</i> DAC						
Sep. 22	Nuttby Mtn, <i>Col.</i>	2	SIT, BRD						
Northern Waterthrush									
Sep. 2	Is. off Lwr Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	5	BRD						
Sep. 7	Clyde R., <i>Shel.</i>	1	DPO, CST						
Sep. 11-13	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	AAM, CAM						

* indicates peak numbers at Nuttby Mountain surveys by SIT

Tanagers Through House Sparrows

By Ian McLaren

It seemed a paltry season overall for the seed-eating tribe. The tabulated sparrow records reveal few mass movements through or out of the province, and neither synchronous nor spatially coincident among species. Some species were either extraordinarily scarce or greatly under-reported: what happened to the usual large movements of Tree, Fox and White-crowned sparrows, and juncos? The only great sparrow rarity was a much "ticked" **SPOTTED TOWHEE** that supplied only our second record: the first was well documented by two experienced observers May 11, 1986, on CSI. Subspecies are trickier than suggested in field guides, but the current bird did appear to be from expected (closest to us) Great Plains breeding population *arcticus* (see photo caption). A "very orange" **NELSON'S SPARROW** at Conrad Beach, *HRM*, was perhaps one of the inland subspecies (Cris Pepper), and it might have been instructive to peer at another late individual (Nov. 23) yard in nearby Lawrencetown (DMW). Worth belated mention is **SONG SPARROW** that turned up in springs 2008 and 2009 in KAM's backyard in Milford Station; it had been banded on BPI in Oct. 2003, making it least six year's old.

We seldom have a fall with only a single tanager, but the other migrant cardinalids were about at par. **NORTHERN CARDINAL** continues to spread and consolidate (e.g., the first record for the Prospect Peninsula at White's L.), but we'll get a better indication of this from our more formal bird surveys.

BOBOLINKS and the "black" icterids are becoming less common, and we saw only a few of the mass movements of yore, except

possibly of Common Grackles. We did continue to enjoy the usual "drift" (displaced east) and "reverse migrant" Baltimore Orioles. We have yet to add to our two known old photos of **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**, and most writeups have not supplied critical details of bill and body shapes.

There were mixed views on the woodland food crops, with *HRM* and some southern counties seemingly depauperate and Cape Breton and Kings well supplied. Winter finches either stayed away from or "crashed" in the province, with almost no reports of some species, and limited numbers of others. Maybe we'll do better in winter, as Ron Pittaway's annual winter finch forecast has us with a better cone crop than Ontario and Québec.

Eastern Towhee

Early Aug. Auberndale, *Lun.* 1, n.d. rept. to JAH
Oct. 22 - 25 Schooner Pond, *CBRM* 1 f. ph. ALM, CAM

SPOTTED TOWHEE

Nov. 6 - 30+ Hatchet L. *HRM* 1 m., 1st NS ph. Record
G. & V.
Hawkins, *et al.*

American Tree Sparrow

Oct. 17 Digby Neck 2 DOP, JAH
Nov. 13 Portuguese Cove, *HRM* 1 singing (!) HAT
Nov. 10 - 30 4 locs. singles 3 obs.

Chipping Sparrow

Sept. 22 -
Oct. 18 widely 3 indivs. 3 obs.
Oct. 18 Digby Neck 200+ DOP, JAH
Oct. 19 CSI 20 JAH, *et al.*
Nov. 1 - 30 widely 3 indivs. 3 obs.
Nov. 22 Voglers Cove, *Lun.* 5 at feeder ELM

Clay-colored Sparrow

Oct. 18 Digby Neck 2 DOP, HAT
Oct. 18 White Pt., *Queens* 1 MMI

Field Sparrow

Sept. 19 Brier I. 1 NSBS
(*fide* WAN)
Oct. 14 Long Bch. Rd., *CBRM* 1 (ph.) ALN, CAM

Lark Sparrow

Aug. 26 -
Sept. 2 Brier I. 1 ad., 1 imm. ELM *et al.*
Sep. 7 - 8 Schooner Pond, *CBRM* 2 (ph.) ALM, CAM
Oct. 9 Seal I. 1 ELM, IAM
Oct. 12 - 13 Canso 1 DAC *et al.*
Oct. 30 Barrington 1 JON
Nov. 29 Pomquet, *Ant.* 1 RFL, NSBS

Savannah Sparrow

Aug. 1 - 31 7 locs. 1-3 indivs. 3 obs.
Sept. 2 - 26 4 locs., *Lun.*, *Queens* 1-3 indivs. JAH
Sept. 17 Brier I. 20 arrivals ELM
Sept. 25 Conrad's I., *Lun.* 15 JAH
Oct. 17 - 25 4 locs., *HRM*, *Lun.* 1-"sev." indivs. 4 obs.
Oct. 31,
Nov. 1 BPI, Brier I. 6, 2 Jukka Jantunen

Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow

Sept. 22 - 24 Duncans Cove (reef), *HRM* 1 HAT
Oct. 2-9 3 beaches, *HRM* 2-"several" 3 obs.
Oct. 24 Sober I., *HRM* 2 KJM
Oct. 26 Hartlen Pt., *HRM* 1, 1st-fall IAM

Nelson's Sparrow

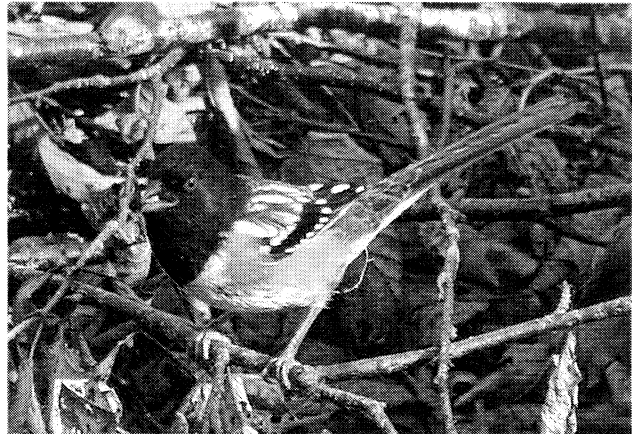
Aug. 12 - 16 Lr. Rose Bay, *Lun.* up to 10 JAH
Aug. 8 - 15 3 *HRM* beaches 17, 6, 7 P. Blake
Sept. 12 Crescent Bch, *Lun.* 2 JAH
Oct. 5 Conrad's Bch., *HRM* 2 Chris Pepper
Nov. 23 Lawrencetown, *HRM* 1 in yard DMW

Fox Sparrow

Oct. 7 Schooner Pond, *CBRM* 1 ALM, CAM
Oct. 12 Sand L., *CBRM* 1 at feeder ALM, CAM
Oct. 17 Lr. Sackville, *HRM* 1 at feeder LOC, DOP
Oct. 25 E. Lawrencetown, *HRM* 1 at feeder Chris Pepper

Song Sparrow

Aug. 1 - 31 19 locs. 1-6 indivs. 8 obs.
Sept. 1 - 30 17 locs. 1-16 indivs. 7 obs.
Sept. 22 Pictou I. 60 BLM
Oct. 1 - 31 16 locs. 1-20+ indivs. 7 obs.
Oct. 17 Digby Neck 140+ JAH, DOP
Nov. 1 - 30 5 locs. 1 to "dozens" 5 obs.



The rarity of the season (here Nov. 9), with only one previous sight record here, was certainly this male **SPOTTED TOWHEE** at Hatchet L., *HRM*. Many were able to see it through the generosity of Graham and Vicki Hawkins, who keep a well-stocked feeder. This image (among many available) shows the observable difference in tone of the black feathering – jet black on the head, and more slate-black on the back. (This is not always evident in under-exposed images). This, together with the large white dorsal spots, fit the Great Plains subspecies *arcticus*, although two museum consultants have noted some overlap with specimens from the ranges of nearby subspecies. [Photo Bernard Burke]

Lincoln's Sparrow

Aug. 1 - 31 *Yar.*, *Lun.* 1-5 indivs.. 4 obs.
Sept. 13 Higginnsville, *HRM* 1 singing Chris Pepper
Sept. 22 Pictou I. 1 BLM
Oct. 9 - 25 4 locs. 4+ indivs. 3 obs.

Swamp Sparrow

Aug. 30 Port Clyde, *Shel.* flock JAH, DOP
Sept. 5 - 21 4 locs., *Lun.* 1-4 indivs. JAH
Oct. 3 Duncans Cove *HRM* "lots" HAT
Oct. 17 Prunedale, *Ann.* 1 JAH, DOP
Oct. 17 Digby Neck 2 JAH, DOP

White-throated Sparrow

Aug. 1 - 31 6 loc. 1-5 indivs. 5 obs.
Sept. 1 - 30 5 loc. 1-"plenty" 5 obs.
Sept. 22 Pictou I. 70 BLM
Oct. 1 - 31 7 loc. 1-5 indivs. 6 obs,
Oct. 9 - 11 Seal I. 30 BLM, *et al.*
Oct. 10 Big I., *Pic.* "widespread" KJM
Nov. 1 - 30 10 locs. "none" to "dozens" 7 obs.

White-crowned Sparrow

Oct. 1 Port Williams, *Kings* 1 (eastern) RBS
Oct. 16 locale 1 ph. Tuma Young
Oct. 18 Sandy Cove, *Digby* 2 JAH, DOP

Dark-eyed Junco

Aug. 1 - 31 widely 1-2 indivs. 4 obs.
Aug. 29 Beaverdam, *Lun.* 25+ DOP, JAH
Sept. 1 - 30 8 locs. 1-6+ indivs. 5 obs.

Oct. 1 - 31	6 locs.	1-6+ indivs.	4 obs.
Nov. 1 - 30	4 locs.	1 to "few"	4 obs.
Lapland Longspur			
Oct. 2	Rainbow Haven Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1 imm.	IAM
Oct. 10	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	Chris Pepper
Oct. 19	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	6	KJM
Nov. 5	Brier I.	2	ELM
Nov. 11	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	4	KJM
Snow Bunting			
Oct. 1	1	1	AAM, RBS
Oct. 20 - 31	10 locs.	1-50+ indivs.	9 obs.
Nov. 1 - 30	8 locs.	3-60 indivs.	9 obs.
Scarlet Tanager			
Oct. 20	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1 st -fall m. (ph.)	ALM, CAM
Northern Cardinal			
Through season			
	Metro <i>HRM</i>	under-reported, 6+ birds	var. obs.
Through season			
	Wolfville	2 ads, 6 young (+?)	JWW
Through season			
	Brier I.	1 pr? (young)	ELM
Through season			
	<i>Lun.</i>	6+	JAH, DPO
Through season			
	<i>Queens</i>	6	DPO, JAH
Aug. 25	Barrington	1 m.	RMC
Sept. 5	N. Pt. Brier I.	1 imm. m., arrived?	ELM
Oct. 30 -			
Nov. 30	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	pair	RBS
Nov. 18	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	m. in chicken wire	RBS
Nov. 11	Doctors Brook, <i>Ant.</i>	1	JOK
Nov. 12, 29	Lunenburg	1 m.	JAH
Nov. 21+	Whites L., <i>HRM</i>	1 f., arrived	BLM
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
Aug. 22	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	1	KJM
Sept. 5	Brier I.	1	LAL
Sept. 6	CSI	1	Eileen Smith
Sept. 11-			
Oct. 11	widely	2 imm. f., 6+ imm. m.	6 obs.
Nov. 30	CSI	1 imm.	JON
Blue Grosbeak			
Sept. 28	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1 imm. m.	KFS
Oct. 9 - 12	Seal I.	1 imm. m.	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 17	Digby Neck	1	JAH, DOP
Indigo Bunting			
Oct. 2 - 26	<i>CBRM</i> -Seal I.	5 repts., 9+ indivs.	4 obs.
Nov. 28	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1 imm.	RFL
Dickcissel			
Aug. 19	Brier I.	1	LAL
Oct. 6 - 12	Canso	2-3 at feeder	TOK
Oct. 6 - 7	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	1 (1 st for Prospect Pen.)	Peter Browne, DOM
Oct. 27	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	Chris Pepper
Nov. 6	Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i>	1 ad f.	SJF
Nov. 24 - 27	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad.f.	HAT
Bobolink			
Aug. 6	Hortonville, <i>Kings</i>	2 m. singing	JCT
Mid-Aug.	Cookville. <i>Lun.</i>	30	rept. to JAH
Aug. 22	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	4	KJM
Aug. 26	2 nd Pen., <i>Lun.</i>	32 (~50 rept. after "Bill")	JAH
Oct. 11	Seal I.	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Eastern Meadowlark			
Oct. 15	near Kentville	1	AAM
Nov. 10	CSI	1	JON
Red-winged Blackbird			
August	5 locs.	1-4 indivs.	2 obs.
Aug. 29	2 nd Pen., <i>Lun.</i>	83	JAH

Aug. 31	Bellisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	R. Bourque
Oct. 17	Digby Neck	66	JAH
Oct. 17 - 31	widely	5 indivs.	4 obs.
Yellow-headed Blackbird			
Early Aug.	Antigonish outskirts	1	<i>vide</i> RFL
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD			
Nov. 21	Jollimore, Halifax	1m. calling, limited details	FCG
Rusty Blackbird			
Oct. 22	CSI	1	JON
Nov. 15	Woodside, <i>HRM</i>	1 m.	Marie Reid
Common Grackle			
August 1 - 31	9 locs.	1-15 indivs.	JAH, SLH
Aug. 25	Barrington	large flock	ROM
Sept. 13	Port Howe, <i>Cumb.</i>	100+	Virginia Redden
Sept. 12 - 19	Whites L., <i>HRM</i>	flocks to 200	BLM
Sept. 19	Brier I.	6 arrived	ELM, JAH
Oct. 8 - 30	9 locs.	flocks 4-50+	7 obs.
Oct. 17	Brier I.	1 partly white	Laura Titus
Nov. 1 - 31	widely	>flocks 30-300+	13 obs.
Brown-headed Cowbird			
Oct. 4	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	nos.?	Dennis Garret
Oct. 17	Brier I.	sev. flocks	Laura Titus
Nov. 3, 22	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1 fem. 2 f. & 1 m.	KFS



The very narrow streaking on rich buff underparts (on the colour original) of this grosbeak in late October at Schooner Pond, *CBRM*, put one in mind of young female Black-headed Grosbeak. But it also had the characteristic suffuse red patch on the upper breast of first-fall male ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK – where it is always buff or yellowish in female Black-headed. [Photo Allan Murrant]

Baltimore Oriole

Aug. 28 -			
Sept 2	Brier I.	3+ indivs.	ELM
Aug. 29	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DOP, JAH
Sept. 8 - 20	5 locs.	8+ indivs.	4 obs.
Oct. 2 - 30	widely	11 indivs.	var. obs.
Oct. 9	Seal I.	12+	ELM, IAM
Oct. 31	Halifax	3 imm. m., 2 fs.	SUM
Nov. 1 - 30	<i>CBRM</i> to CSI	10 reports, 15+ indivs.	9 observers
Pine Grosbeak			
Nov. 24	Mid Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 m. singing	VJH
Purple Finch			
Aug. 2 - 21	2 locs.	1-6 indivs.	2 obs.
Sept. 2	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	2	DMW
Oct. 2	Wolfville	1 m. singing	JWW

Oct. 6, 19	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1,1	DMW	Sept. 4	Tremont, <i>HRM</i>	1	SLH
Oct. 27	Cobequid Mts.	10-15	BDZ, S. Tingley	Early Nov.	Springhill	"a few"	CIC
House Finch				American Goldfinch			
Through season				Aug. 2 - 31	3 locs.	1-6 indivs.	2 obs.
	Halifax Pen.	3 sightings, ca.	10 birds var. obs.	Sept. 30	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	2	DMW
Nov. 26	Doctors Brook, Ant.	1 f/imm. -1 st	JOK	Oct. 1 - 31	1 locs.	1-2	1 obs.
Red Crossbill				Nov. 1 - 30	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1-15+ indivs.	4 obs.
Aug. 6	Bayport, <i>Lun.</i>	1	HAT	Evening Grosbeak			
Sept. 6	E. Port Medway, <i>Queens</i>	1	JAH	Mid-July	Glencoe Stat., <i>Inv.</i>	15 incl. yng	??]
White-winged Crossbill				Aug. 20	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	Pr. with 1 yng	KFS
Nov. 11	Seloams L., <i>Guys.</i>	1 in full song	KJM	Sept. 3 - 25	Tremont, <i>HRM</i>	3-8+	SLH
Nov. 11, 25	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	heard calling	KFS	Oct. 17	nr. Clementsvale, <i>Ann.</i>	20	JAH
Nov. 30	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	6+	KFS	Oct. 27	Bridgetown, <i>Ann.</i>	3-4 at feeder	MCR
Common Redpoll				Oct. 29	Apple R.	2 feeder	KFS
Mid-Oct.	Bridgewater	nos?	<i>fide</i> JAH	Nov. 10 - 29	6 locs.	6-18+ at feeders	6 obs.
Oct. 31	Waterside PP, <i>Pic.</i>	1	KJM	House Sparrow			
Pine Siskin				Through season	Brier I to <i>HRM</i>	7 flocks, 5-25+	var. obs.
Aug. 11 - 31	4 locs.	1-2 indivs.	JAH, SLH		Still none on Big. I.		DOU

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Weather - Eastern Annapolis Valley - Autumn 2009

By Larry Bogan

Monthly Averages of Weather Data Kentville, Nova Scotia 2009

(from the Canada Food & Horticulture Research Centre, Kentville, N.S.)

	Average Temperature (C)			Rain (mm)	Sunshine (hours)	Snowfall (cm)
	Max	Min	Mean			
September	20.2	8.3	14.2	67	178	
48 yr avg	20.0	9.4	14.7	92	169	
5 yr avg	20.8	9.7	15.2	66	191	
October	11.0	2.9	7.0	150	80	
48 yr avg	13.7	4.7	9.2	106	142	
5 yr avg	14.3	5.2	9.7	108	150	
November	18.0	6.8	12.4	178	246	0
48 yr avg	16.2	5.0	10.6	90	215	18
5 yr avg	20.8	9.7	15.2	66	191	62
Season	14.0	3.9	8.9	279	373	
48 yr avg	13.8	4.7	9.3	314	388	
5 yr avg	14.5	5.1	9.8	280	379	

I usually compare the current monthly data with the average for the months over the 1960-2008 period, but this time I have another average, the one for the 5 years, 2003-2008.

Temperatures:

November was a wonderful month, because it was relatively warm and sunny when usually it is darker and cooler as we head toward winter weather. October, in contrast, was a bit of a disappointment because it was cloudier and cooler than usual. November averaged 1.6° C above normal while October was 2.2° C below normal. Even September was a bit below the normal for the year by 0.5° C. The autumn season this year was about 0.4° C cooler than average. For the last five years the autumn months all have been above average in mean temperature by 0.5° C. This autumn has changed that trend.

If you look at the graph of daily temperatures for the season, you will see that September had fairly uniform temperatures, but then in early October the temperatures steadily declined and levelled off late in the month. Interestingly, the temperatures remained at that level throughout November, yielding the relatively warmer month.

Rainfall:

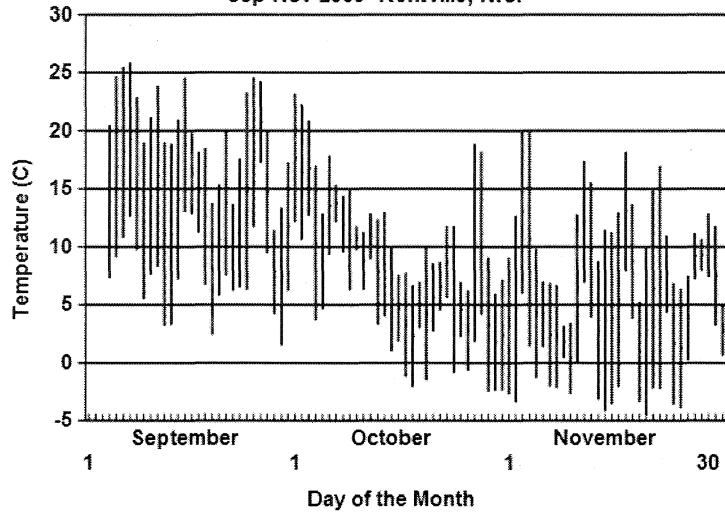
Rainfall for the season was down 12% from the 48 year normals but about the same as the last five years. September had 72%, October 140%, and November 53% of their normal rainfall amounts. The graphics show how the precipitation was distributed throughout the season. We had some heavy rainfalls in October. There was no significant snow in November when usually there is about 16 cm during the month [Note: there was more than 8 cm of snow in the HRM area on Nov. 4]. In the last five years we have averaged 62 cm in the month. Last years snows in November helped raise that average.

Sunshine Hours:

November had 50% more sunshine than usual but October had only 56% of its expected amount. With September being about normal, the season was only down a little from the average. Note that the five year average is also down the same amount.

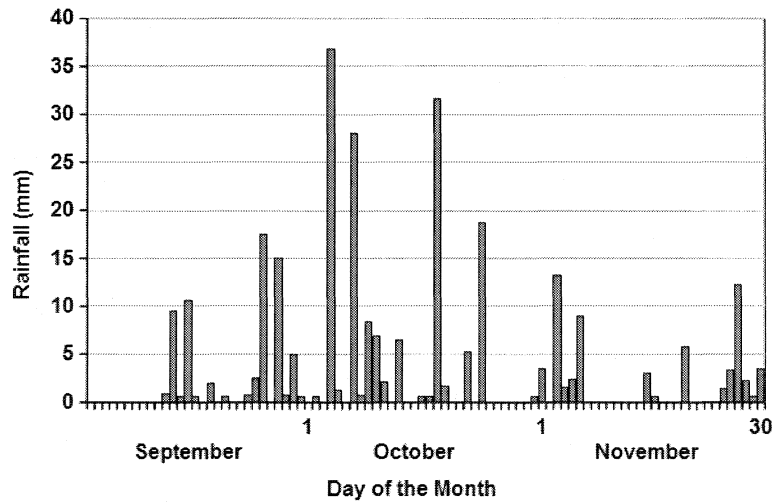
Daily Max, Min and Mean Temperature

Sep-Nov 2009 Kentville, N.S.



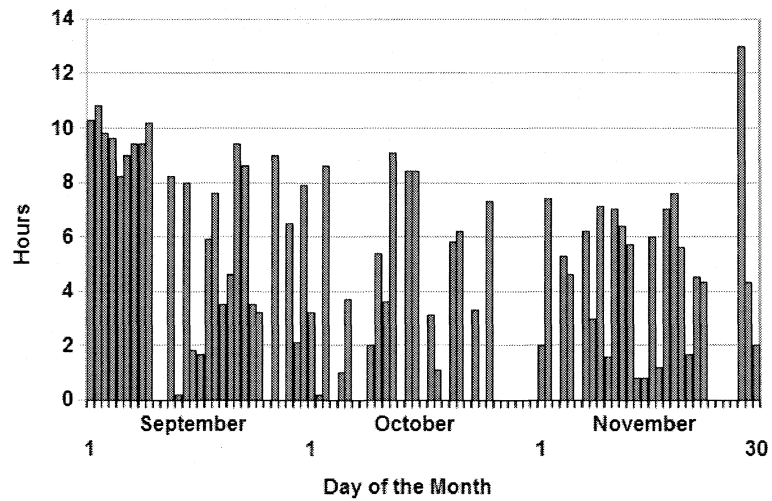
Daily Rainfall

Sep-Nov 2009, Kentville, N.S.



Daily Bright Sunshine Hours

Kentville, NS Sep-Nov 2009



News from Bird Studies Canada

Piping Plovers Colour-Marked in the Bahamas

In an effort to determine where Piping Plovers wintering in The Bahamas are staging during migration, and breeding, 57 birds were uniquely colour-marked this winter in The Bahamas for Environment Canada by Sidney Maddock and Peter Doherty, with help from The Bahamas National Trust. Each bird has a black flag (band with a tab sticking out slightly) on the upper left leg, nothing on the upper right, a single colour band on one lower leg, and two colour bands (which can be the same colour on top of each other) on the other lower leg. Colours used included red, orange, yellow, white, light green, dark green, dark blue, and black.

Please report all sightings to Cheri Gratto-Trevor, Prairie and Northern Wildlife Research Centre, Environment Canada, at cheri.gratto-trevor@ec.gc.ca. Please note the colour and location of each band on the bird, the location and behaviour of the bird (on nest or brood, foraging at migratory stop-over, etc.), the presumed sex of the bird (if possible), and information about how many birds at specific locations were examined for bands.

New Canadian IBA Website Launched

Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada are thrilled to announce the launch of a new website for the Canadian Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program [<http://www.ibacanada.ca>]. The site's main goals are to share information about IBAs in Canada, and to empower more Canadians to reconnect with nature as volunteers for the IBA Caretaker Network. The new, fully bilingual website provides information, tools, and mapping features to help IBA partners and volunteers more effectively monitor birds and assess conditions at key sites. There are nearly 600 Canadian IBAs, many of which are not legally protected. Thirty of them lie within Nova Scotia.

IBAs are internationally agreed-upon sites that support threatened birds, large groups of birds, and birds restricted by range or habitat. The Canadian IBA Program is led by BirdLife International co-partners Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada, with critical support from a suite of regional organizations (including BC Nature, Federation of Alberta Naturalists, Nature Saskatchewan, and Nature Québec), and hundreds of volunteers nationwide. TransCanada Corporation and a U.S. Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grant provided funding for the new website.



The BUDGERIGAR is, of course, a native of Australia, although there is a diminishing introduced population in s. Florida. This was one of an apparently mated pair of green "wild types" in Dartmouth during August (here Aug. 24). Budgies had been seen nearby in spring 2008, but it is unlikely they would have survived winter. [Photo David Currie]



Bhutan: The Cloud Kingdom

By Bernice Moores

Illustrations by Jennifer Moores

In November 2008 it was my great pleasure to spend two weeks in Bhutan, the world's youngest democracy, with the world's youngest king. Bhutan, a constitutional democratic monarchy, is located in the eastern Himalayas. It is small, just 175 km north to south and 300 km east to west (similar in size to Switzerland), and sandwiched between the world's two most populous nations, India and China.

In Bhutan, unlike in any other country, Gross National Happiness (GNH) is considered more important than Gross National Product. The four pillars of GNH are:

1. promotion of equitable and sustainable socioeconomic development;
2. preservation and promotion of cultural values;
3. conservation of the natural environment; and
4. establishment of good governance.

Seventy percent of Bhutan's more than 600,000 people live off the land, mostly by farming. Neatly-terraced fields of crops such as rice, potatoes, and mustard were a common sight along mountain trails and narrow, high-altitude, winding roads.

I was part of a group of 14 organised by **The International Crane Foundation** and led by Dr. George Archibald, its co-founder, and a Nova Scotian. He was leading his 14th annual Bhutan expedition. Our "Travels with George" always provide a splendid mix of fun and enlightenment. Hishey Tshering of **Bhutan Birding & Heritage Travels** was our superb Bhutanese guide. All agreed his slogan "Arrive as our guest, depart as our friend" sums up the meaningful and entertaining experiences we had with him. His bus was aptly named 'Grus Mobile'*.

The people of this peaceful kingdom, whether children walking to and from school, or migrant families of farm workers returning with their livestock from warmer months spent in the mountains, impressed us as being contented and healthy. They were consistently pleasant people who made us feel completely welcome everywhere.

Buddhist culture is evident everywhere in Bhutan. Prayer flags are often placed in open locations such as mountain passes to allow breezes to carry prayers printed on them upward to heaven. Prayer wheels, whether placed at roadsides and powered by mountain streams, or in monasteries to be turned by residents and visitors, are another example of the enchanting qualities of this appealing nation.

Bhutan's unique style of architecture is striking. Excellent examples are the massive dzongs. These were fortresses built centuries ago, both as monasteries and as refuges for entire villages in the event of invasion. They now function as monasteries, and house government offices. The traditional style is also used for temples, shops, office buildings, and homes.

Natural beauty is everywhere. Every day the stunning sight of snow-capped peaks atop the dark green Himalayas was ours to admire. Jhomolhari, at 7,314 m, known as the Goddess Mountain and believed to be home to the protector goddess Jomo, was always enchanting, and especially so at sunset.

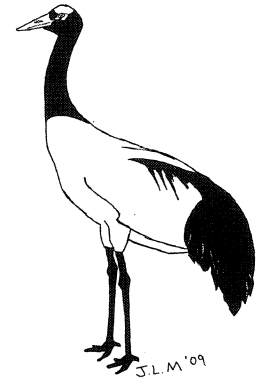
Seventy-three percent of Bhutan is forested, mostly old-growth forest. Biological diversity is highly respected and promoted, and much is protected by legislation. An extensive variety of rhododendrons, orchids, and medicinal plants abound, which would make a spring visit spectacular. With 369 orchid species Bhutan is considered to have the richest orchid diversity in the entire Eastern Himalayan region.

More than 700 bird species have been identified in Bhutan and more may exist in its unexplored areas. As many species occur in this small country as breed in all of North America. During our two-week stay we saw 139 species. The full list of species is on a web site at <http://tinyurl.com/icf-bhutan>. Three birds were particularly impressive and I'd like to tell you about them.

Black-necked Crane, *Grus nigricollis*, 139 cm.

Adults have an ashy-white body with black head, neck and bustle, a white patch behind the eye, and a red crown patch. Also known as the alpine crane, it breeds at 3500 – 5000 m. on the Tibetan Plateau where there are fresh water wetlands, and in spring and fall migrates over the Himalayas. Black-necked Crane numbers have increased from 7,000 in 1990 to 11,000 in 2009. Of these 450 to 500 spend the winters in central Bhutan's Phobjika Valley (3,000 m.) where they share a serene communal pasture with local farm animals. In addition to grass the cattle feed on dwarf bamboo, keeping it short, thereby allowing the cranes access to emerging shoots. The cranes also fly each day to farm fields to feed on leftovers from the harvest, as well as mollusks and other crane delicacies.

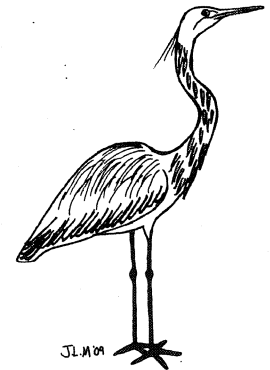
They overnight in the wettest part of the valley for safety from predators, which include leopards, Yellow-throated Martens, foxes, and Leopard Cats. BirdLife International's 2009 Red List reports this bird as Vulnerable due to its single small population. One fear is that loss of breeding habitat for this species may result from global warming as melting glaciers enlarge and deepen the wetlands on which they depend. To the local people Black-necked Cranes are considered to be spiritual birds, in part because they come to Bhutan over the Himalayas from Tibet, as did the religious gurus in times past.



White-bellied Heron *Ardea insignis*, 127 cm.

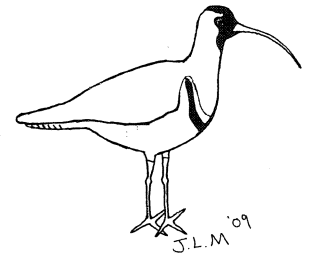
This species is similar in size to our Great Blue Heron, but has a longer neck and a heavier bill, is darker overall, and has a white belly. Its preferred feeding habitat is shallow water on the rocky shores of fast-moving rivers in the foothills and lowlands of the eastern Himalayas. Nests are built in trees near these rivers. White-bellied Herons prefer undisturbed habitat.

It is the world's rarest heron, and one of the 50 rarest birds in the world. It appears in the 2009 Red List as Critically Endangered. The global population is estimated at fewer than 250 and its decline is predicted to continue. In Bhutan, where only 37 White-bellied Herons were counted in 2009, its prime feeding areas are being threatened by construction of the Punatsangchu Hydro Project, and by removal of materials for road construction. Such disturbances will interfere with migration of the fish on which the herons depend. Discussions are underway to mitigate these threats.



Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*, 38-41 cm.

Ibisbill is a wader, the only member of its family, and may be related to oystercatchers, avocets, and stilts (Ibisbill chicks resemble oystercatcher chicks.). It's similar in shape and size to our Whimbrel, and is a very attractive bird, with a plain gray back and neck, black face, black and white breast bands, a white belly, and darkish red bill and legs. The long, decurved bill is used to remove aquatic creatures from around river stones. Its preferred feeding habitat is the rocky shorelines of slow-moving rivers in the Himalayas where it often feeds with head and neck submerged. An altitudinal migrant, its nest consists of a scant amount of vegetation placed in small depressions on rocky shores where the sitting bird is very well camouflaged. It winters in the Himalayan foothills. The 2009 Red List describes Ibisbill as being of Least Concern. It occurs over a very large range in several countries in the Himalayan region.



Bhutan is a proud, peaceful, sovereign, and independent nation. English is used and understood widely. The air and water are crystal clear, there is little emphasis on material possessions, and the lifestyle has changed little over the centuries. The elegant national dress, the kira for females and the gho for males, is worn by everyone most of the time. Bhutan, The Cloud Kingdom, is also fondly referred to as The Last Shangri La. Our group was indeed fortunate to have two weeks in which to enjoy its fascinating culture and natural heritage, and all returned home with wonderful memories that will last a lifetime.

A suggestion for further reading is *So Close to Heaven, The Vanishing Buddhist Kingdoms of the Himalayas*, by Barbara Crossette, a New York Times Asia correspondent. It's part travelogue and part history – a personal portrait of the region.

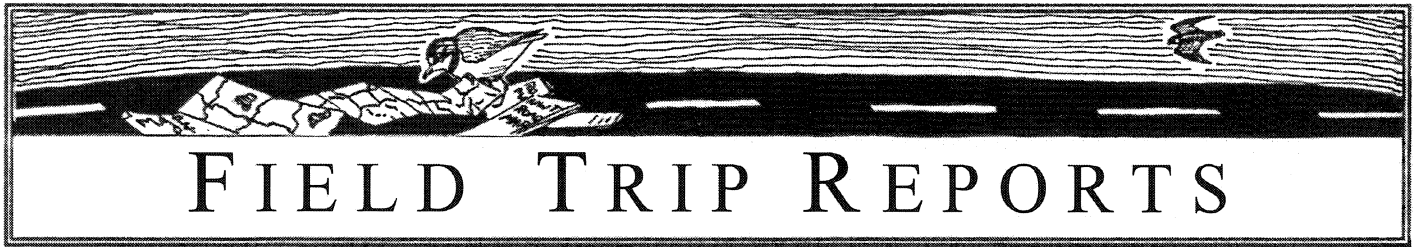
You will find additional information at these websites:

International Crane Foundation - www.savingcranes.org

Bhutan Birding & Heritage Travels - www.bhutanheritage.com

Royal Society for the Protection of Nature - www.rspnbhutan.org

* [Ed. Note – 11 of the 15 crane species in the world are classified within the Genus *Grus*].



**Beginning Birders' Field Trip – Truro
31 May 2009, Leader: Ross Hall**

The Truro Beginners' Birding Trip enjoyed a day of good weather and sampled a variety of mature softwood and hardwood forest and dykeland habitats in Bible Hill. Only one couple, Cheryl and Brian Jobe from Eastern Passage, joined Linda and I for the walk. It is rewarding to share information with interested people and Cheryl in particular has a sharp eye and good hearing. We offered advice on better binoculars and field guides. We saw about 30 bird species, some posing for good looks and the experience that some birds pop out only for a quick glimpse or tease by calling in the foliage. Looking up at an eagle's nest they had a close look at an adult eagle. Two foxes and a muskrat added to our animal list. I know we will see this couple on future NSBS trips.

Ross Hall

**Brier Island
18-20 September 2009, Leaders: James Hirtle and Wayne Neilly**

The Brier Island weekend field trip was great this year. The pelagic trip on Sunday was especially rewarding, providing great looks at rare species that were lifers for some participants. The list for the entire weekend was around 95 species. Some of the highlights included: Wilson's Phalarope; South Polar Skua; and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

James R. Hirtle and Suzanne Borkowski

**Editor's Field Trip – Prospect Peninsula, HRM
26 September 2009, Leader: Blake Maybank**

On the Nova Scotia Bird Society's field trip on Saturday, 26 September, we were lucky enough to experience the largest hawk flight I've ever seen in HRM. We hiked the full length of the Wagner's Beach trail from the cul-de-sac at the end of the Cedar Court subdivision, to the "Yellow Bus" trailhead beside house #1225 on the Prospect Bay Road. This trail runs N/S down the western side of the Prospect Peninsula, and as we cleared the trees and started along the barrens section of the trail we noted that the north winds had blown many raptors down the length of the Prospect Peninsula. They seemed to reorient themselves along the higher coast north of Wagner's Beach, before flying west across the mouth of Shad Bay, in the direction of the East Dover Peninsula.

The bulk of the raptors were accipiters and falcons, and they (along with a harrier) were the only ones to cross the water. The buteos simply soared up and retreated north up the peninsula. Other birds were caught up in this diurnal migration -- Blue Jays and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Every time we scanned with binoculars we could see birds moving up and out across the mouth of Shad Bay -- warblers, jays, hawks, and unidentified finches. Our conservative count of the birds involved was as follows:

Sharp-shinned Hawk	80+ (more soaring and flying birds were too distant to ID, but were likely SSHA)
Northern Goshawk	4
Coopers Hawk	1 (not confirmed, but it was highly suggestive based on size and shape -- but at a distance)
Northern Harrier	2
American Kestrel	3
Merlin	1
Peregrine Falcon	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Broad-winged Hawk	1
Blue Jay	120+
Yellow-rumped Warbler	75+ counted, but many, many warblers were seen high flying west, and were likely Yellow-rumped as

well.

Of note: the two raptors I most regularly encounter on the Prospect Peninsula, Osprey and Bald Eagle, were not seen.

Many of the raptors were seen at close quarters, giving us the opportunity to discuss flight field marks, and with Suzanne Borkowski's help we were able (by grace of the raptor fly-by) to help the beginners enjoy this great opportunity to learn about migrating raptor identification. Most of the group had life birds in the process, especially with the very cooperative Northern Goshawks, two of which put on a superb show.

Four species were new to the Wagner's Beach Trail list - Goshawk, Peregrine, Kestrel, and Red-tailed Hawk, bringing the trail list to more than 100 species. Not too bad for a picturesque piece of coastal barrens and scrubby spruce.

Blake Maybank

New Birders Walk – Point Pleasant Park 3 October 2009, Leader: Bonnie Carmichael

This was another beautiful day and I think we had a great group (13 participants) that all worked together to find these species. We birded Point Pleasant Park between 0930-1145, and tallied 19 species, including Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and Swamp Sparrow.

Bonnie Carmichael

Canso Causeway Outing 7 November 2009, Leaders: David Johnston and David McCorquodale

The annual Strait of Canso Causeway Walk took place on Saturday, November 7 with approximately 15 participants, led by David McCorquodale and David Johnston. Migrating skipjacks (a.k.a. billfish, needlefish, Atlantic Saury), driven by strong northerly winds, were concentrated along the north side of the Causeway. The large numbers of fish attracted large numbers of fish-eating birds (our estimate was more than 10,000), for a relatively easy meal. Most spectacular were the wheeling and diving gannets. Many were sitting on the water presumably digesting the skipjacks they had just eaten. At any one time you could count a dozen or more spray plumes as another gannet plunged in to pick up another billfish.

Gulls were wheeling around, often chased by others if a billfish was hanging out of its mouth. The number of Bonaparte's Gull was typical for this time of year and most of these usually stay until late December. At least two storm-petrels, very likely Leach's, flew over the choppy waves -- the strong winds made it difficult to ascertain for sure which species. Unusually high numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted, both adults and first year birds. Occasionally a couple have been seen on this outing, but 50 is unprecedented. In contrast the numbers of Bald Eagles, although still impressive, was lower than in recent years. We suspect many were roosted on sheltered hillsides nearby rather than braving the buffeting winds.

Estimated numbers:

Northern Gannet	2500-3000
Double-crested Cormorant	40
Bald Eagle	50
Herring Gull	5000+
Great Black-backed Gull	1000+
Iceland Gull	15
Bonaparte's Gull	90
Ring-billed Gull	12
Black-legged Kittiwake	50

The windy, blustery conditions and the cool temperatures made it uncomfortable to stand and scope the waters. They also limited the visibility of passerines. It was not until the middle of the afternoon that we saw our first Black-capped Chickadees and American Goldfinches. The only passerines of note were a Common Grackle at the Johnston's feeder and a Red-winged Blackbird in Point Tupper. Another bird of note was a hybrid Barrow's X Common Goldeneye at Embree Pond in Port Hawkesbury that Ken McKenna picked out.

David Johnston and David McCorquodale, 15 November 2009

Antigonish Coastal Waters
29 November 2009, Leader: Randy Lauff

About 18 participants joined me on a jaunt around the county, despite the early foul weather, which undoubtedly contributed to the lower than average total count.

Despite this there were a few highlights, including: a Lark Sparrow at Pomquet Point (seen by only a few); a Pine Warbler at Williams Point; five Northern Shoveler at the sewage treatment plant; and a Eurasian Wigeon at the Antigonish Landing. The Wigeon has been a staple on this trip for several years now, but is always a nice find. The Indigo Bunting which had been reported for about a week at my own feeders, was not relocated on the trip, nor afterwards.

Randy Lauff

Metro "Hot Spot" Birding
05 December 2009, Leader: Mike King

Thanks to all who attended the field trip. The day was very slow as there were not many birds reported to go looking for so we had to try and find our own. It looked like it would be very hard to beat last year's list. For awhile I thought we were going to have a bigger head count of birders than birds. There were 27 people including myself and only 53 species of birds.

Highlights included:

Orange-crowned Warbler (Coburg Rd.)
 Black-and-white warbler (Birchdale Ave.)
 Thick-billed Murre (back cove, Hartlen Point)
 Killdeer (golf course, Hartlen Point)
 7 Black-headed Gulls (Hartlen Point)
 Northern Cardinal (Sullivans Pond and Clifford Dr.)
 3 Swamp Sparrows (Dorothea Dr.)
 Red-necked Grebe and Red-throated Loon (Eastern Passage Harbour)

GO BIRDING,

Mike King

Sewer Stroll 1 – Halifax/Dartmouth Area
10 January 2010, Leaders: Bob McDonald & Suzanne Borkowski

Leaders Bob and Suzanne met up with a sizable group (25-30) of beginning and experienced birders on a very pleasant morning for the first field trip of the year and decade.

Among the usual suspects at McCormacks Beach we found several Black-headed Gulls, one Glaucous Gull and Richard Stern found a pair of Northern Pintails. We stopped a couple of times at the pull-offs along Shore Drive on our way to Hartlen Point and were able to add more species, including Red-throated Loon. Hartlen was a little disappointing: no buntings, larks or pipits on the kelp and no raptors over Devil's Island.

At our traditional pit stop at Tim's near Shearwater we spotted a Sharp-shinned Hawk put up with the Blue Jays at the feeders across the street. A walk to the cove yielded 2 Bufflehead females but the Northern Shoveler and Gadwall seen earlier in the week were no-shows. Dartmouth Cove provided our first Black Guillemots of the day, unfortunately the only alcid seen during the day.

Although Sullivan's Pond itself was rather disappointing, in nearby Findley Park the woodpeckers must have been having a convention. We noted Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers and Suzanne then located a Red-bellied Woodpecker that put on quite a show. At Gayle MacLean's feeders on Glenwood Ave, we saw two American Robins, and our target species, the Orange-crowned Warbler at Gayle's suet feeder. Many thanks, Gayle.

Visits to Hastings Avenue added Northern Cardinal and Canal Street added Eurasian Wigeon to the tally. After (a rather late) lunch break at Tim's we proceeded to Tufts Cove where we had excellent views of two male Barrow's Goldeneye and, farther out, several Great Cormorants and Common Loons. While I was scanning farther out in Halifax Harbour, a Ring-necked Pheasant flew

across the Cove and through my scope view. Bernard Forsythe spotted a Bald Eagle overhead and, as we were getting into the cars, we noted a Red-tailed Hawk being escorted off the premises by a group of very vocal crows.

After a brief stop at the mouth of the Sackville River in Bedford to add Common Merganser, we dropped in to Jonathan Kenney's feeders nearby to see if we could add any of the special birds he had noted during the Christmas Bird Count. We were fortunate to spot a Common Grackle, for which there have been few reports this winter. Hoping our luck would continue we visited Susann Myers on Vienna St. in peninsular Halifax. Susann graciously welcomed our motley crew into her kitchen where we were able to view 10(!) of her Baltimore Orioles resting near her fruit-filled feeding stations. Many thanks, Susann.

All in all, it was a very good day – 52 species, pleasant weather, and great company. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Bob McDonald

Sewer Stroll 2 – Halifax/Dartmouth Area

13 February 2010, Leaders: Suzanne Borkowski and Bob McDonald

Thirty participants gathered at McCormacks Beach on a chilly, wintry morning for the combined NSBS Sewer Stroll 2 and the HFN Sewer Stroll. Birds of interest included all three Scoter species seen from Shore Road, two Rough-legged Hawks and a Northern Harrier at Hartlen Point, a Peregrine Falcon that did a fly-by at Tufts Cove, and Purple Sandpipers at Point Pleasant Park. Land species were down this time compared to the first Sewer Stroll in January, evidenced by a complete lack of warblers, no winter finches, and only one lone Downy Woodpecker heard drumming late in the day at Point Pleasant Park. Our total for the day was 44 species:

Suzanne Borkowski

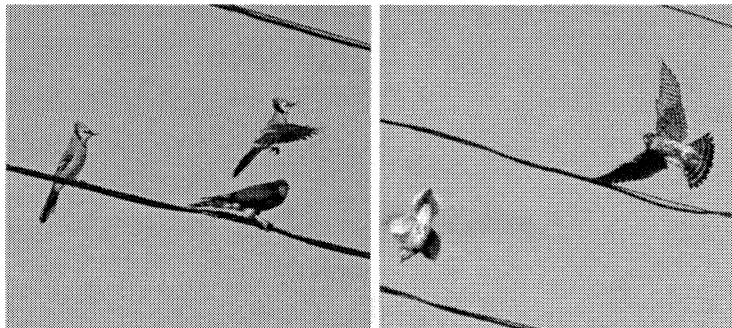
New Birders' Walk – Sullivans Pond (March)

06 March 2010, Leader: Suzanne Borkowski

Five participants braved the chill winds to meet me at Sullivans Pond in Dartmouth for the NSBS March *New Birders' Walk*. Things were pretty quiet there. The group quickly learned to distinguish between female Mallards and Black Ducks, and to pick out Ring-billed and Iceland Gulls from a group of mostly Herring Gulls. We saw two Eurasian Wigeons, several American Wigeons, and some Canada Geese in the water. Across the street we heard Song and House Sparrows singing, and we heard a flock of Waxwings as they flew overhead. They didn't land, however, so we couldn't tell if they were Bohemians or Cedars.

A quick stop at Birch Cove Park produced a Brown Creeper (a lifer for one of our group) and several White-breasted Nuthatches. Surprisingly there was not a woodpecker to be seen. We officially ended our trip at Dartmouth Cove, where we added a Common Loon, a Common Eider, and some Common Goldeneye to our list. Two people came with me to Hastings Drive where we finally saw a White-throated Sparrow. Our final tally for the day was 22 species.

Suzanne Borkowski



This amusing diptych shows BLUE JAYS harassing a MERLIN Sept. 6, on CSI, until that feisty little falcon had enough. [Photo Debbie Pageau]



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Thu 22 Apr 2010 – Regular Meeting

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

The Atlantic Canada Nocturnal Owl Survey

Guest Speaker: Greg Campbell

Join Greg Campbell of Bird Studies Canada as he reveals population trends and other data emerging from the Nocturnal Owl Survey in Nova Scotia which is now entering its 9th year.

Sun 25 Apr 2010 – Wolfville Area

Leader: Jim Wolford 542-9204 E-mail:

jimwolford@eastlink.ca

This will be a joint trip with the Blomidon Naturalists Society, pond hopping for ducks and early migrants. Possibly there will be a visit to Wolfville Ridge first for Barred Owls, before the pond-hopping. Meet at the town wharf off the east end of Front Street in Wolfville at 10:00 a.m. Dress warmly and bring a lunch.

No rain date.

Sat 01 May 2010 – Cape Sable Island

Leader: Murray Newell 745-0801

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 01 May 2010 – New Birders' Walk – Point Pleasant Park - Halifax

Trip Leader: Bonnie Carmichael, E-mail:

bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com

Meet in the Lower parking lot at the end of Point Pleasant Drive by the wall overlooking Black Rock Beach at 9:30 am. We'll take a leisurely walk around part of the park to look for birds in their natural habitat on land and on the water.

Duration: 2 hours.

No rain date.

Sat 15 May 2010 - Beginning Birders' Walk - Baillie Ard Trail, Cape Breton

Leader: Joan Czapalay 406-6678 E-mail:

joancz@ns.sympatico.ca

Meet at Mo's Restaurant, 951 Hwy #2, Five Islands, Cumberland County at 9:00 am. Anyone interested in atlassing

for early birds in the Five Islands alder swamp, meet Joan at Mo's at 6:00 am.

Sat 15 May - Sun 16 May 2010 – Out-of-Area Meeting/ Atlas Workshop

Speakers: Becky Stewart (Atlas Coordinator), and Joan Czapalay (Region 15).

This year's Out-of-Area Meeting/Atlas Workshop will be held at the Four Seasons Retreat in Upper Economy, Colchester County, and will promote Region 15: Chignecto Peninsula. Join Joan on Saturday morning, 9:00 am, at Mo's Restaurant in Five Islands for a square bash of 20MR13 and 20MR14. Any who wish to check out early birds in the Five Islands alder swamp may join Joan from 6-8 am at Mo's. If you're not arriving until noon, check into your housekeeping cottage and enjoy your lunch at one of the picnic tables on the grounds. Then join Dave Harris in the afternoon for a walk (and atlassing) of the cliffs on the Bay of Fundy, a tidal river, beaver pond, Acadian forest, nearby wetlands, and more, all within a few minutes walk from the cabins. Dinner will be at a local restaurant. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm in the Conference Centre. Sunday morning make breakfast in your own cottage, then join one of our trip leaders for a priority square bash of 20MR34 (Sugarloaf Mountain) in the morning and/or 20LR72 (Port Greville with Joan: Meet at the Age of Sail Museum in Port Greville at 1:00 pm). Everyone's Welcome!

To book your room for Saturday night, go to: <http://www.fourseasonsretreat.ns.ca/> or call 1-888-373-0339; or (local) 1-902-647-2628. Be sure to give your contact info to Suzanne (cell: 488-0345) to be kept informed of times and meeting places.

Schedule:

- Sat 15 May – 6:00 am: Atlassing an alder swamp in Five Islands
 9:00 am: Square Bash - Lynn Mountain Road
 1:00 pm: Atlassing around Four Seasons Retreat
 5:30 pm: Dinner-at a local restaurant
 7:30 pm: Meeting at Four Seasons Retreat Conference Centre
- Sun 16 May – 8:00 am: Square Bash – 20MR34
 1:00 pm: Square Bash – 20LR72 Port Greville
 6:00 pm: Dinner at Wild Caraway Restaurant in Advocate

Wed 19 May 2010 – The Fred Dobson Warbler Walk

Leader: Patricia Chalmers 422-3970 E-mail:

plchalmers@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.

Fri 21 May – Mon 24 May 2010 – 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 22 May 2010 – Port L’Hebert

Leaders: Dorothy Poole 354-4844 E-mail:

dpoolex@ns.sympatico.ca

and Clyde Stoddart 745-2105.

Meet at 8:00 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 23 May 2010 – Conquerall Mills

Leader: James Hirtle 764-2182 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.

No rain date.

Mon 24 May 2010 – Historic Hants County

Leader: Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922 E-mail:

sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.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.

Fri 28 May 2010 – Sun 30 May 2010 – Nature Nova Scotia AGM

The 2010 Annual General Meeting will be held at Sherbrooke in Guysborough County with the St. Mary’s River Association (also holding its AGM that weekend). There will be a Meet & Greet on Friday night (May 28), talks, field trips, workshops, a breakfast on Sunday morning (May 30) and the of course the AGM. The Nova Scotia Nature Trust will be holding their Conference in that area on the same weekend, so there will be an opportunity to participate in some of their events. Please visit the NatureNS website for complete program details: <http://www.naturens.ca/>

Sat 29 May 2010 – Kejimkujik 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.

Rain date: June 5th

Sat 29 May 2010 - Lake Ainslie field trip, Cape Breton

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. This trip will involve some light hiking, so be sure to wear comfortable footwear. Pack a lunch, as we will be stopping for a picnic on the trail.

Sun 30 May – 2010 – Beginning Birders’ Trip (Truro)

Leader: Ross Hall 893-9665 E-mail: ross.hall@ns.sympatico.ca

Meet at 8:30am - 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 05 June 2010 - 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 05 June 2010 – 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 05 June 2010 - Ben Eion Warbler Walk, Cape Breton

Leader: John W. MacInnis 539-6451

Meet at 9:00 am at the Ben Eoin Provincial Park entrance. We can expect to see and hear a number of different warbler species along the trails of this lovely park. Bring a lunch, and wear comfortable footwear.

Rain date: June 12th

Sat 05 June 2010 – New Birders’ Walk – Point Pleasant Park - Halifax

Trip Leader: Bonnie Carmichael, E-mail:

bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com

Meet in the Lower parking lot at the end of Point Pleasant Drive by the wall overlooking Black Rock Beach at 9:30 am. We’ll take a leisurely walk around part of the park to look for birds in their natural habitat on land and on the water.

Duration: 2 hours.

No rain date.

Sat 12 June 2010 – Shubenacadie

Leader: Kathleen MacAulay 758-3364 E-mail:

roughlegged_hawk@yahoo.ca

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.

No rain date.

Sat 19 June 2010 – Dawn Chorus at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park

Leader: Cindy Staicer 494-3533 (wk); 478-3635 (cell) E-mail:

cindy.staicer@dal.ca

Meet at 4:30 am at the entrance to the park on St. Margaret’s Bay Road, Hwy #3, close to Tantallon. The gate won’t be open at that hour, so we’ll bird along the road to the parking lot, then do the loop around the park and work our way back to the cars. If there’s enough interest we’ll explore part of the St. Margaret’s Bay Trail which runs alongside the park. Trip duration: 3-4 hours. Bring water, snacks, and insect repellent.

No rain date.

Fri 25 June 2010 - 6th Annual Tern Festival

West Pubnico, Yarmouth & Acadian Shores

Contact: Bernice d’Entremont 762-3380 E-mail:

musee.acadien@ns.sympatico.ca

Complete details and a schedule of events can be found on the NS Tourism website:

www.NovaScotia.com Check under “What to do” then “Festivals & Events”.

Sat 03 Jul 2010 – New Birders’ Walk – Point Pleasant Park - Halifax

Trip Leader: Bonnie Carmichael, E-mail:

bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com

Meet in the Lower parking lot at the end of Point Pleasant Drive by the wall overlooking Black Rock Beach at 9:30 am.

We’ll take a leisurely walk around part of the park to look for birds in their natural habitat on land and on the water.

Duration: 2 hours.

No rain date.

Sat 10 July 2010 - Abrahams Lake Bird Walk

Leaders: Jim Cameron 885-2970 E-mail:

jim.cameron@ns.sympatico.ca and Warren Parsons 772-2207

E-mail: rosalieeast@ns.sympatico.ca

This will be a joint walk with the Friends of Taylor Head Prov. Park Society. Meet at 9 a.m. in Sheet Harbour at the N.S. Tourist Bureau (Old MacPhee House). As you come from Halifax this is the first building on your right as you cross the bridge on the West River. Abrahams Lake Preserve is owned by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and is located 38 km. from Sheet Harbour in the Liscomb Game Sanctuary. This preserve has one of the few old growth forests in the province and birds nesting by the trail include Ravens, Goshawks, Hairy Woodpeckers, Black-backed Woodpeckers, Swainson Thrush, and Bay-breasted Warblers. Birds nesting in the sanctuary are Greater Yellowlegs, Red-tailed Hawks and Common Mergansers. We will spend about 3 hrs. on the 6.5 km. of trail and eat lunch by Abrahams Lake. Bring a lunch.

No rain date

Sat 10 July 2010 – 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 11 July.

Sun 11 July 2010 – Wallace Bay

Leader: Paul MacDonald 627-2568 E-mail:

paulrita2001@yahoo.com

Meet at the Wallace Wharf, at 8:30 a.m. Take Hwy #104 to exit #11, then Hwy #4 North to Wentworth Centre; then Hwy #307 to Wallace. The wharf is right in front of you when you reach the end of #307 at Rte#6. 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. Birds of interest in 09 were Virginia Rail and Laughing

Gull.
No rain date.

Sun 18 July 2010 - Beginning Birders Field Trip

Leaders: Jim Cameron 885-2970 E-mail:
jim.cameron@ns.sympatico.ca and Warren Parsons 772-2207
E-mail: rosalieeast@ns.sympatico.ca

This will be a joint walk with the Friends of Taylor Head Park Society. Meet at 10 a.m. at the end of the Taylor Head Prov. Park access road. Taylor Head Park is situated 100 km. from Halifax in Spry Bay and 11 km. before Sheet Harbour on the # 7 Hwy. Prior to the walk we will discuss equipment, guide books, and audio and visual aids useful to birders. We will take a casual walk along Powers Pond and look at nesting birds such as Common Terns, Willets, Lincoln's Sparrows, and Spotted Sandpipers. The Walk will take about three hours and we will eat lunch on the trail. Take binoculars if you have them and a lunch.

No rain date.

Sat 31 Jul 2010 – Mahone Bay

Leader: James Hirtle 764-2182 E-mail: jrhbirder@hotmail.com
Meet at 8:00 a.m. across from the three churches in Mahone Bay, Lunenburg County. We'll explore a variety of habitats. Bring a lunch. The trip will conclude about 3:00 p.m.
No rain date.

Sat 07 Aug 2010 — Beginning Birders Trip – Windsor, Hants County

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

Limited registration. Pre-registration is required.

These trips are geared for those who have always had an interest in bird watching, but were not sure how it was actually

done. Bring binoculars and field guides, if you have them. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the parking lot for the Windsor Tourist Bureau, which is just north of Exit 6 (Water Street) on Highway 101. We should be 1–2 hours and will visit a few different types of habitat in the town of Windsor.

Sat 07 Aug 2010 – New Birders' Walk – Point Pleasant Park - Halifax

Trip Leader: Bonnie Carmichael, E-mail:
bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com

Meet in the Lower parking lot at the end of Point Pleasant Drive by the wall overlooking Black Rock Beach at 9:30 a.m. We'll take a leisurely walk around part of the park to look for birds in their natural habitat on land and on the water. Duration: 2 hours.

No rain date.

Sat 07 August 2010 - Taylor Head Provincial Park Walk

Leaders: Jim Cameron 885-2970 E-mail:
jim.cameron@ns.sympatico.ca and Warren Parsons 772-2207
E-mail: rosalieeast@ns.sympatico.ca

This will be a joint trip with the Friends of Taylor Head Prov. Park Society. Meet at the end of the park access road (last parking lot) at 9 a.m. Taylor Head Park is 100 km. from Halifax and 11 km. before Sheet Harbour. Taylor Head has over 17 km. of trails. We will do Spry Bay Trail in the morning and eat lunch by Powers Pond. We will watch nesting and brooding Common Tern, Cormorants, Com. Eiders, Willets, and Spotted Sandpipers. Migrating Whimbrels should be present along with other waders. Terrain is rugged so sturdy boots are recommended. Take a hearty lunch. An optional walk to the Headland after lunch is offered.

No rain date.



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