

# **Nova Scotia Birds**

*A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society*



**Summer 2010**

**(The Birds of Spring)**

# NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Executive 2009-2010



President	Patrick Kelly
Vice President	James Cameron
Past President	Suzanne Borkowski
Treasurer	Sunetra Ekanayake
Secretary	Patricia McKay
Membership Secretary	Ulli Höger
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Chair NSBS Sanctuary Trust	Bob McDonald
Honorary Solicitor	Tony Robinson
Honorary Auditor	Harold Forsyth

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

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- Executive Profile - Jim Cameron
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- Upcoming Events

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This elegant LITTLE BLUE HERON was photographed Apr. 11 at Mahone Bay, Lun. [Photo Mike King]

**NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS**

SUMMER 2010

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**THE SPOTTING SCOPE**

Much earlier this year I established a tentative production schedule for "Nova Scotia Birds" in an attempt to coordinate the efforts of the large number of volunteers involved in the magazine's production: myself (Editor); the Seasonal Reports Compilers; Photos and Photo Captions; the authors of all the diverse sections (Weather Report, Member Profiles, Field Trip Reports, Christmas Bird Counts, Spring Migration Count, Upcoming Events, etc., etc.); the magazine designers; the printer; mailing the magazine. And part of what we do feeds into another series of deadlines, those established by "North American Birds" magazine, to which we submit bird sightings from Nova Scotia on a quarterly basis.

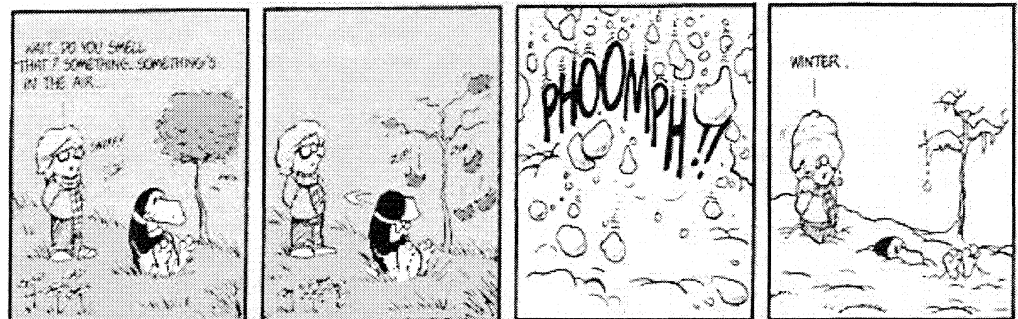
With so many people involved, and with all volunteering their time, it does not take much to interrupt the production schedule, sometimes only a little, but occasionally by a lot. Such is the case with this issue, as well as the one that will follow closely on its heels. On this occasion medical issues affected the involvement of at least two individuals who play key roles in the magazine's genesis, though I'm pleased to report that both have recovered. But the net result is that this issue is late getting to you, for which we apologise.

In this issue we welcome Wayne Neily to the stalwart crew of Seasonal Reports Compilers, taking on the chickens and chicken-hawks (i.e., Galliformes and Diurnal Raptors). Ulli has been ably writing these sections for some time, but he asked that his responsibilities be reduced, though he's still writing Herons and Rails. We are glad both that Ulli continues to be involved, and that Wayne has agreed to assist.

Winter approaches. It is inevitable. But those who love winter birding are never nonplussed by this seasonal turn, and are anxious to don toques and fur-lined binoculars to venture into Nova Scotia's erratic winter weather to find the birds of winter. To follow the winter birding fun, go to the following web site: [tinyurl.com/nswinter](http://tinyurl.com/nswinter).

Happy birding!

Blake Maybank  
Editor



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



## 2011 Board Nominations

Here are the nominations for the Nova Scotia Bird Society Executive, 2010-2011. Voting will occur during the Society's AGM, scheduled for 7:30 p.m., 25 November 2010, at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History. Nominations may also be given from "the floor" at that time.

President:	Jim Cameron
Past President:	Patrick Kelly
Vice-President:	Terry Boswell
Treasurer:	Sunetra Ekanayake
Secretary:	Patricia McKay
Membership Secretary:	Ulli Hoeger
Director:	Chris Pepper (Field Trip Coordinator)
Director:	Helene Van Doninck (Conservation Chair)
Director:	Kathleen MacAulay
Director:	Tuma Young

Chair - NSBS Sanctuary Trust: Bob McDonald

The following have agreed to serve for 2010-2011 and have been duly appointed by the Executive:

Editor: Blake Maybank  
 Honorary Solicitor: Tony Robinson  
 Honorary Auditor: Ruth E. Smith



## The Puffin of the Year Award for 2009

By Pat Kelly

The Puffin of the Year Award for 2009 goes to Ken McKenna. Unfortunately, he was not able to attend the annual general meeting due to work commitments. Fortunately, I was able to present it to him at the February meeting of the Pictou County Naturalists Club. The trip to New Glasgow was worth it just to see the puzzled/surprised look on his face when he saw me coming into the room.

Trying to surreptitiously find out about Ken's background reminded me a lot of the episode of M\*A\*S\*H where they tried to find out what the "B" and "J" in "B. J. Hunnicutt" stood for. The net result of my investigations was that Ken was born in Prince Edward Island, and has lots of brothers and sisters.

I did discover that he only became an avid birder during the first Maritimes breeding bird atlas, and that the birding bug bit him fiercely. That may explain why he volunteered to be a regional coordinator in the current atlas. The last time the statistics were published (last spring), he had put in the most field hours of any atlasser at 778, which is just over 32 complete days. I know that when the numbers for that fourth and fifth season are added in, that number will increase dramatically. He is also in the list of atlassers who have over 100 species and well as over 100 point counts. One can easily find his region on the interactive map. It's the one that is solid green!



When I asked others about Ken's interest in birds, all of the replies were along these lines:

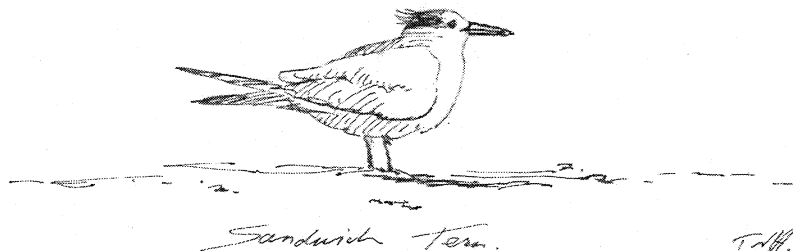
"He takes part in all sorts of surveys, and consistently does more Atlas squares and breeding bird survey routes, shorebird surveys etc., than anyone else I can think of. On trips, when everyone else is exhausted or "birded out", he's the one that's still going."

"When I think of Ken as a birder, I think of someone who endlessly helps the newer birders...he's quite good at that."

Ken has coordinated the Pictou Harbour CBC count for some time and has also lead many society field trips. He also is a frequent contributor to NatureNS, where he frequently shares his observations.

His appreciation of nature extends beyond birding and he currently is coordinating the Pictou County Naturalist Club. At the meeting, I discovered that there seems to be no official position as "president", but if there was one, that would describe what Ken does.

He has had a career as a family dentist, and while he recently sold his practice, he continues to work full time except when he's birding. How he finds the time amazes me!



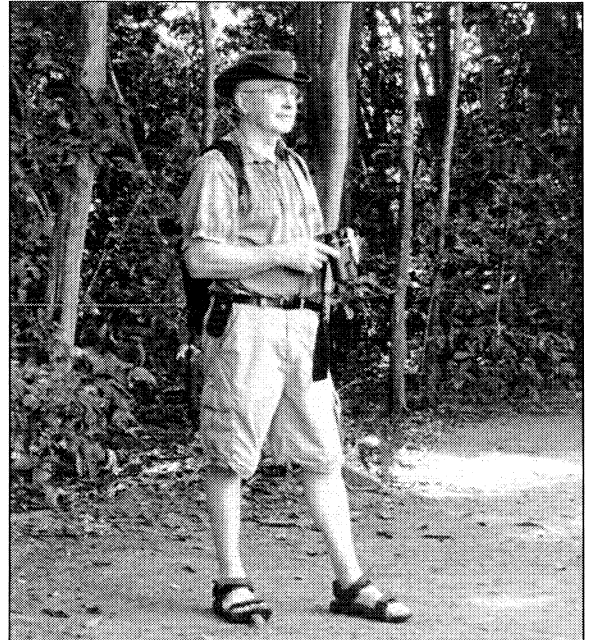
## EXECUTIVE PROFILE

### Jim Cameron – Vice President

Jim grew up in Pictou County “on top of the mountain” in a place called Woodfield, which is a farming community surrounded by woods – hence the name. Jim still associates the sounds of woodcock, grouse, and snipe with memories of his childhood. As a young boy he once found a dead Ruffed Grouse by the side of the road. With the help of his father he located her nest and brought it home to place under a clucking hen (a chicken indicating its readiness to nest). The ruse worked, and in time a dozen Ruffed Grouse chicks hatched and faithfully followed their foster mother around the yard. On another occasion he rescued an orphaned deer and kept it in his barn during hunting season so it wouldn't get shot.

Jim has always loved nature, birds in particular. When he made his first \$5.00 picking strawberries he bought a bird book: Taverner's Birds of Canada. He joined the Audubon Society and the Nova Scotia Bird Society and avidly read the publications of both. He also enjoyed using the annotated checklist of birds by Robie Tufts that was sent out to all NSBS members.

Jim's interest in Nature and Conservation led him to take Biology in University. After university Jim joined the Science Branch of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Jim moved to Sheet Harbour but his work took him all over the Maritimes focusing mainly on Atlantic salmon enhancement and development. The high point of his career was the seven years he spent on the Saint John River in New Brunswick. His work on the river involved leading a study by several user groups such as NB Power, Federal and Provincial Agencies, Native Groups, and Angling and Wildlife Associations. This study involved tracking salmon ultrasonically as they moved up the river and approached holding pools, fishways, dams and tributaries. As a result of this study and modifications to equipment and tracking techniques Jim travelled to an International Tracking Conference in Aberdeen, Scotland as the Canadian delegate. When the tracking study was over Jim worked with seven Maliseet native groups on the Saint John River to integrate the various groups into many salmon conservation projects on the river.



In the late nineties, Jim took an early retirement and returned to Sheet Harbour where he planned to spend much more time with his family. Sadly, his wife passed away after two years, but Jim still spends a lot of time with his son and his family in Halifax and his daughter and her family in Edmonton, Alberta. And he couldn't be prouder of his three grandchildren.


Jim is one of the founding members of the Beaver Canoe Club at Sheet Harbour and taught canoeing and kayaking. He is also a Nationally Certified Ladies Artistic Gymnastic Coach. Jim has birded in most European and Scandinavian countries, California and the Florida Everglades but his favorites are the Central American countries of Costa Rica and Nicaragua. His favorite work in Costa Rica was tracking jaguars at the Bosque Eternos de los Ninos Reserve. (Children's Eternal Rain Forest)

Jim joined the Executive of the NS Bird Society last year as Vice-President; and next year he'll be serving as our new President. He has made valuable contributions to the MBBA by atlassing many squares in both Halifax and Guysborough counties, including overnight trips to offshore islands. He has led several field trips for the Bird Society. He helped found the Friends of Taylor Head Provincial Park and leads monthly walks there. He's also helped have the Department of Natural Resources close a trail at Taylor Head Provincial Park to protect nesting and migrating birds.

Please join me in wishing Jim all the best in his future endeavours!

Suzanne Borkowski  
Past President, NSBS





# SPRING 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, ie, 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

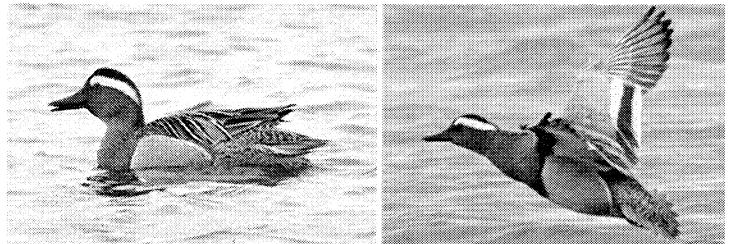
3 Fathom Hbr      Three Fathom Harbour, *HRM*

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

## Waterfowl

By John Belbin

The spring's rarest sighting was the **GARGANEY** found (and well-photographed) at the Beacon Street dam, Glace Bay, by Alan and Cathy Murrant. This little duck is rarely seen anywhere in North America, being mostly found in Eastern Europe and Russia. This is only the 4th sighting in Nova Scotia and the 2nd one documented by photos. Unfortunately it did not linger. As its range is known to fluctuate with climate variations we will possibly be seeing more of them, in future. Look for the large, straight bill to distinguish it from the Teals. A male Garganey subsequently seen in Saint John's NFLD April 30 was almost certainly the same bird.



Our fourth recorded (and 2nd photo'd) GARGANEY was a one-day wonder April 29 at Glace Bay; interestingly, another (or the same?) male turned up two days later near St. John's, NL, for a very brief visit. [Photos Allan Murrant]

Several BRANT were sighted outside their normal haunt of CSI, the first time this has happened for a few years, and a sign that they may be recovering.

There were several reports of early nesting this year. The CANADA GEESE seen in Kentville May 3 had a family a full 12 days earlier than last year.

Early WOOD DUCKS were seen in Middle Musquodoboit by RSM on March 27. Previous searches had turned up nothing.

There were several reports of the scarce GADWALL from around the Province. In Europe its expanding range is thought to be due to a great increase in eutrophication in ponds. Could that be happening here?

Jake MacDonald of Wolfville reported the first MALLARD nest with eggs on March 18, in his backyard.

NORTHERN SHOVELERS seem to be continuing their slow expansion throughout the Province with widely dispersed sightings. PMU obtained excellent photos of a pair that showed up in Dartmouth.

ALM was able to show visiting TUY the visible differences between Eurasian and North American (presumably Nearctic) races of GREEN-WINGED TEALS. The Eurasian has a horizontal white stripe above the wing, the Nearctic a vertical white line at the side of the breast.

The group of more than 70 LONG-TAILED DUCKS seen at Lockeport on March 31, were described by DJC as the "last group of spring". Numbers were normal over the winter.

A drake REDHEAD was found in a flock of about 500 Scaup at First South, LU by ELM. Also nearby was what he described as a "pigmentally challenged" Common Goldeneye, a "very strange bird". This individual was largely amelanistic.

On March 12, TUY found 4 COMMON MEGANSER males displaying and fighting for the attention of 4 females at the Waycobah First Nations in Cape Breton. An early spring indeed!

#### Canada Goose

Mar 6	Bayport, <i>Lun</i>	220	JAH
Mar 9	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1200	RBS
Mar 12	South Haven, <i>Vic</i>	10	TUY
Mar 13	Abercrombie, <i>Pict</i>	100	KJM
Mar 21	Lower Onslow-Masstown, <i>Col</i>	300	ELM
Mar 22	Habitant R., Canning, <i>Kings</i>	30+	JWW
Apr 7	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	70+	JWW
Apr 18	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb</i>	many	KJM
Apr 18	East Amherst, <i>Cumb</i>	many	KJM
Apr 24	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	12	ULH
Apr 25	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	10	NSBS
Apr 27	St. Croix pond, <i>Hants</i>	2 pr	JOB
May 3	Palmeto Woods, Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1 pr+7 juv	AND
May 8	province-wide	608	NSMC
	<i>Ann</i>	49	
	<i>Kings</i>	95	
	<i>Hants</i>	115	
	<i>Inv</i>	106	
May 24	St. Croix, <i>Hants</i>	3 pr+ juv	SMB, NSBS

#### Brant

Mar 10	CSI	1000	JON
Mar 26	Brier I.	300	ELM, AHM
Mar 28	CSI	3200	JON
Mar 28	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	small flock	RBS, BLF
Apr 12	Port George, <i>Ann</i>	12	AND
Apr 26	Goodwin's I., <i>Shel</i>	13	BRD
May 8	Brier I.	75	ELM

#### Mute Swan (escape)

Apr 28	Navy Island Cove, Dartmouth	1	ANH
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#### Wood Duck

Mar 21	Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	several	Eric Higgins
Mar 27	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	4m, 1f	RSM
Apr 3	Governors L., <i>HRM</i>	1m	KJM
Apr 12	Annapolis Royal, <i>Ann</i>	2	AND
Apr 18	Labrador L., <i>Lun</i>	2 prs.	CJF

Apr 25	Harris Pond, Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1m	NSBS
Apr 28	Halifax Public Gardens	1m	AND
May 8	province-wide	30	NSMC
	<i>CBRM</i>	11	
	<i>Kings</i>	9	
	<i>Pict</i>	4	
May 24, 31	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	3m, 5m	DOU, BBU



A drake WOOD DUCK was a pretty sight May 26 among Pond Lilies of Red Bridge Pond, Dartmouth. [Photo Paul Murray]

#### Gadwall

Mar 21	Crowes Mill, <i>Col</i>	1m	ELM
Apr 7, 9	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1m	JCT
Apr 18	East Amherst, <i>Cumb</i>	?	KJM
Apr 28	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb</i>	2 prs.	JCZ
Apr 30	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1m	JWW
May 2	Seaforth, <i>HRM</i>	2	DOU
May 8	NSMC, <i>Ann</i>	2	ShelH
May 15	Annapolis Royal marsh	4	BLM



**Eurasian Wigeon**

Mar 6	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	2m	IAM
Mar 27	Linden, <i>Cumb</i>	some	VicR
Apr 25	Cape Jack, <i>Ant</i>	1m	KJM

**American Wigeon**

Mar 3	Lunenburg Waterfront, <i>Lun</i>	3	JAH, DAW
Mar 9	First South, <i>Lun</i>	2	JAH
Mar 19	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2	JWW
Mar 27	Weirs Gut, <i>Pict</i>	2	KJM
Apr 2	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1 pr	AND
Apr 6	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	6	JOB
Apr 7, 19, 25, 30	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	4, 5, 7, 3	JWW
Apr 7	Harris Pond, <i>Kings</i>	5	JWW
Apr 18	Silver Sands Beach, <i>HRM</i>	3 prs.	HEK
Apr 20	Apple R., <i>Cumb</i>	1 pr	KFS
Apr 25	Cape Jack, <i>Ant</i>	3	KJM
Apr 28	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb</i>	2 prs.	JCZ
May 8	province-wide <i>Cumb</i>	95	NSMC
	<i>HRM</i>	11	
	<i>Hants</i>	13	
	<i>Pict</i>	12	
		31	



This handsome male GREEN-WINGED (EURASIAN COMMON) TEAL was consorting at Homeville, *CBRM*, with an apparent N. American female (suggested by her strong eyeline and, in the original, lack of any orange at the base of the bill). This could lead to future i.d. confusion! [Photo Allan Murrant]

**American Black Duck**

Mar 20	Belleisle & Annapolis marshes, <i>Ann</i>	scores	NSBS, WAN
Apr 19	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	20	JWW
May 8	province-wide	875	NSMC

**Mallard**

May 8	province-wide <i>CBRM</i>	428	NSMC
	<i>Kings</i>	42	
	<i>Lun</i>	160	
		106	

**Blue-winged Teal**

Apr 1 - 6	Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i>	1 pr	SJF
Apr 4	Yarmouth, <i>Yar</i>	2m, 1f	JOS
Apr 18	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb</i>	2	KJM
Apr 22	Stella Pond, New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	1 pr.	JWW
Apr 28	APBS	1 pr	JCZ
Apr 30	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2	JWW
May 8	province-wide <i>Ann</i>	37	NSMC
	<i>Pict</i>	9	
	<i>Rich</i>	9	
		11	

**Northern Shoveler**

Mar 22	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2	AND
Apr 2, 7	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	3 prs	AND, JWW
Apr 18	Labrador L., <i>Lun</i>	1f	CJF
Apr 19	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1m	JWW
Apr 28	APBS	1 pr	JCZ
May 8	<i>Ann</i>	4	NSMC
May 8	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2	JCT
May 8	NSMC, <i>Kings</i>	3	JCT
May 14	East Berlin, <i>Queens</i>	2 m	DPO
May 16	Morris L., Dartmouth	1pr, (ph)	PMU
May 23	East Amherst, <i>Cumb</i>	2	DOU
<b>GARGANEY (4th provincial record)</b>			
Apr 28	Beacon St. Dam, Glace Bay, <i>CB</i>	1 (ph)	ALM, CAM

**Northern Pintail**

Mar 7	Wentworth Park, Sydney	1m	Shawn Miner
Mar 16	Church St., <i>Kings</i>	3prs	RBS
Mar 19	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	8	JWW
Mar 25	Cornwallis R., Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	2 prs	AND
Apr 18	East Amherst, <i>Cumb</i>		KJM
May 8	<i>Hants</i>	2	NSMC
May 8	<i>Kings</i>	1	NSMC

**Green-winged Teal**

Mar 13	Green Pt., <i>Pict</i>	2	KJM
Mar 19, 22	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2m, 4	JWW, AND
Mar 24	Cornwallis R., <i>Kings</i>	2 prs	JWW
Apr 7, 20	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	20	JWW
Apr 9, 10	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	11m, 2f	JCT
Late Apr	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	25+	JWW
Apr 21	Apple R., <i>Cumb</i>	7	KFS
May 8	province-wide <i>CBRM</i>	118	NSMC
	<i>Pict</i>	30	
	<i>Rich</i>	42	
		27	

**Eurasian (Common) Teal**

Mar 25	Cape Breton	1m	TUY
Apr 28	Hartlen Point, <i>HRM</i>	1m	DAC
May 30	West Berlin, <i>Queens</i>	1m	Dennis Garratt

**Redhead**

Mar 6, 8, 15, 20	First South, <i>Lun</i>	1m	ELM, JAH
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**Ring-necked Duck**

Mar 19, 22	Starrs Point, <i>Kings</i>	4	JWW
Mar 20	<i>Ann</i> marshes	scores	NSBS, WAN
Mar 25	Cornwallis R., Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1 pr	AND
Mar 29	Apple R., <i>Cumb</i>	9m, 1f	KFS
Apr 1	Rhodes Corner, <i>Lun</i>	2	JAH
Apr 3	Governors L., <i>HRM</i>	1m	KJM
Apr 5	Flemming Park, <i>HRM</i>	6	PLC
Apr 7	Harris Pond, <i>Kings</i>	8	JWW
Apr 12	Annapolis Royal, <i>Ann</i>	many	AND
Apr 24	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	2	ULH
Apr 25	Port Williams sewage ponds, <i>Kings</i>	1 pr	NSBS
Apr 28	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb</i>	10-12 prs	JCZ
May 2, 21	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	5, 2	DOU, BBU
May 8	province-wide <i>CBRM</i>	295	NSMC
		103	
May 15	Annapolis Royal marsh	50	BLC

**Scaup sp.**

Mar 13	Abercrombie, <i>Pict</i>	100	KJM
Mar 27	West R., <i>Pict</i>	flock o-w	KJM
May 8	NSMC, <i>Ant</i>	9	KEM

**Greater Scaup**

Mar 6	Bayport, <i>Lun</i>	large flock	JAH
Mar 6	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	90+	DOU
Mar 6, 15	First South, <i>Lun</i>	500	var. obs.
Mar 13	Pictou causeway, <i>Pict</i>	2000	KJM
Mar 20	First South, <i>Lun</i>	88	JAH
May 8	<i>Pict</i>	11	NSMC

**Lesser Scaup**

Mar 6, 20	First South, <i>Lun</i>	25, 2	ELM, JAH
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**Common Eider**

Mar 19	Port George, <i>Ann</i>	8	PBG
Mar 27	Purcells Cove, <i>HRM</i>	150	TUY
Mar 27	Duncan Cove, <i>HRM</i>	100	TUY
Apr 26	Goodwin's I., <i>Shel</i>	175	BRD
May 8	province-wide	1324	NSMC
	<i>Digby</i>	300	
	<i>HRM</i>	581	
	<i>Kings</i>	151	
	<i>Lun</i>	152	

**Harlequin Duck**

Mar 18	Baccaro, <i>Shel</i>	10	AIS
Mar 19	Port George, <i>Ann</i>	17	PBG
Mar 20, 21	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	6, 16	PLC, BLM
Mar 28	Brier I.	2	RBS, BLF
Mar 28	Trout Cove, Digby Neck	several	RBS, BLF
Apr 3	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	6m, 4f	JCZ
Apr 8	Port George, <i>Ann</i>	11	DOU
Apr 26	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	7	Peter Browne
May 6	Port George, <i>Ann</i>	6	JCZ, CLD

**Surf Scoter**

Mar 2	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	21	CHP
Mar 19	Port George, <i>Ann</i>	6	PBG
May 8	province-wide	53	NSMC
	<i>HRM</i>	7	
	<i>Hants</i>	20	
	<i>Pict</i>	19	
May 25	Dominion, <i>CBRM</i>	25	DBM

**White-winged Scoter**

Mar 19	Port George, <i>Ann</i>	2	PBG
May 8	province-wide	82	NSMC
	<i>HRM</i>	70	
May 25	Dominion, <i>CBRM</i>	55	DBM

**Black Scoter**

Mar 6	Rainbow Beach, <i>HRM</i>	17	DOU
Mar 14	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	40	KJM, CHK,
			RFE
Mar 28	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	8	RBS, BLF
Apr 24	Rissers Beach, <i>Lun</i>	100+	RBS
May 8	province-wide	313	NSMC
	<i>Ann</i>	30	
	<i>Cumb</i>	18	
	<i>HRM</i>	205	
	<i>Kings</i>	27	
	<i>Pict</i>	10	
May 27	Bird Island, <i>CB</i>	3	Danny Tyson

**Long-tailed Duck**

Mar 7	Halls Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	4	MMC
Mar 14	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	35	KJM, CHK,
			RFE
Mar 20	Morden <i>Kings</i> ;		
	Margaretville, <i>Ann</i>		NSBS, WAN
Mar 31	Lockeport, <i>Shel</i>	70+	DJC
Apr 7	French Village, <i>HRM</i>	1 pr	I. Marshall
Apr 17	Liverpool Hbr., <i>Queens</i>	150 ov	ELM
May 8	<i>HRM</i>	1	NSMC
May 8	<i>Kings</i>	2	NSMC

**Bufflehead**

Mar 13	Abercrombie, <i>Pict</i>	15	KJM
Mar 20	Belleisle & French Basin		
	marshes, <i>Ann</i>	scores	NSBS, WAN
Apr 12	Annapolis Royal, <i>Ann</i>	many	AND
May 8	<i>Lun</i>	2	NSMC
May 15	Annapolis Royal, <i>Ann</i>	1f	BLM

**Common Goldeneye**

Mar 3	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun</i>	60	JAH, DAW
Mar 6	Lower South Cove, <i>Lun</i>	275	ELM
Mar 7	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	several	RSM
Mar 13	Abercrombie, <i>Pict</i>	80	KJM
May 8	province-wide		NSMC
	<i>CBRM</i>	12	
	<i>Inv</i>	2	
	<i>Pict</i>	2	

**Barrow's Goldeneye**

Mar 6	Feltzen South, <i>Lun</i>	1m	ELM
Mar 7, 20	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	1m	RSM, PLC
Mar 13	Abercrombie, <i>Pict</i>	1m	KJM
Mar 17	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	2	DPO
Apr 3	Brooklyn, <i>Queens</i>	1m	JAH
Apr 4	Westport Hbr., Brier I.	2f	ELM

**Hooded Merganser**

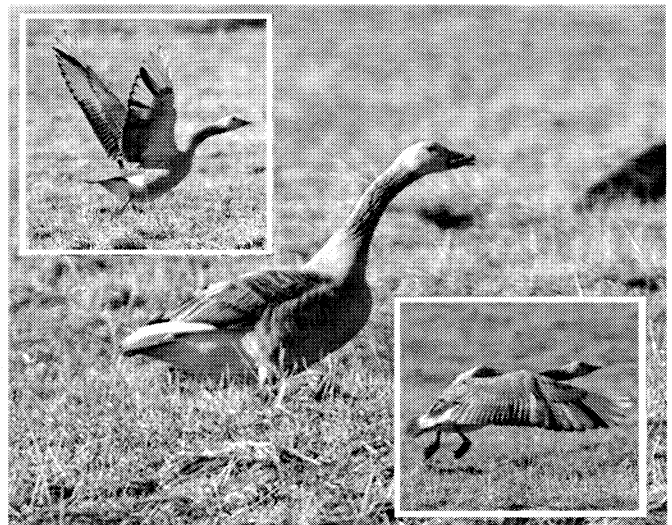
Mar 6	River Bourgeois, <i>CB</i>	1 ph	BBU
Mar 7	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	2	RSM
Mar 22	Lower Canard, <i>Kings</i>	1 pr	JWV
Mar 25	Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	1 pr	Eric Higgins
Mar 25	Flemming Park, <i>HRM</i>	2	PLC
Mar 26	Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i>	1 m	SJF
Apr 1	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 m	VJH
Apr 12	Margaretville DU., <i>Ann</i>	6	AND
Apr 18	Wallace area, <i>Cumb</i>	few	KJM
May 8	province-wide	44	NSMC
	<i>Pict</i>	21	

**Common Merganser**

Mar 3	First South, <i>Lun</i>	21	JAH, DAW
Mar 3	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun</i>	25	JAH, DAW
Mar 6	Bayport, <i>Lun</i>	61	JAH
Mar 9	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	4 prs	RBS
Mar 12	Waycobah First Nation, <i>Inv</i>	8	TUY
Mar 19	Eastern Shore, <i>HRM</i>	7	TUY
Mar 23, 31	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1 pr	JCT
Mar 27	Caribou R., <i>Pict</i>	120	KJM
Mar 28	Apple R., <i>Cumb</i>	2 m	JAH, DAW
May 8	province-wide	252	NSMC
May 8	<i>Pict</i>	86	
May 8	<i>Vic</i>	108	

**Red-breasted Merganser**

Mar 3	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun</i>	68	JAH, DAW
Mar 9	First South, <i>Lun</i>	69	JAH
Mar 19	Port George, <i>Ann</i>	5	PBG
Mar 20	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	12	PLC
Mar 20	Morden, <i>Kings</i> ;		
	Margaretville, <i>Ann</i>		NSBS, WAN
Mar 21, 28	Pictou Hbr., <i>Pict</i>	hundreds	KJM
Apr 26	Goodwin's I., <i>Shel</i>	3	BRD
May 8	province-wide	488	NSMC
	<i>Pict</i>	358	



This strange goose at Belleisle Marsh in late March (here 25 March) can be identified (note particularly large, thick bill) as a domestic derivative of GRAYLAG GOOSE, probably a mixture of a nearly "wild type" and the usual white barnyard form. [Photo Kevin Lantz]

## Galliformes

By Wayne P. Neily

Perhaps the most significant part of this spring's galliform report is the complete absence of GRAY PARTRIDGE (down from 1 in 2009 and 2 in 2008). We can only hope that more than the one on last year's Xmas Count survived the winter, and wonder why they seem to be doing much better in P.E.I. than in N.S. Its cousin, the CHUKAR, was reported from Pictou County, apparently the result of escapes or releases from bird-dog trials. These should continue to be reported, in case they become established here. The other phasianid, the RING-NECKED PHEASANT (*sensu lato*), is doing well in agricultural areas, with 194 of 357 observed on the NSMC being found in Kings County.

The native grouses appear to be in normal numbers. The RUFFED GROUSE is fairly common and widespread, although apparently near the low part of its cycle. Its drumming was heard from March 7 (PMA) on. SPRUCE GROUSE were, as usual, scarce, and restricted to the counties along the Atlantic coast, from Halifax to Cape Breton. More records to give a better picture of its distribution and any reports of its hooting call would be welcome.

<b>Chukar</b>			
May 5	Brulé Pt. Rd., <i>Pict</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JTR
May 23	Cape John, <i>Pict</i>	2	KJM
<b>Grey Partridge</b>			
May 8	nowhere		NSMC
<b>Ring-necked Pheasant</b>			
Mar 13	St. Margaret's Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	ELL
April - May	Bridgetown <i>Anna</i>	3+ m.	MCR
Apr 4	Brier I.	2+	JUS
Apr 7	Hainan I., <i>Lun</i>	1m.	TUY
Apr 9	Brier I.	"lots"	LAT
May 8	province-wide	357	NSMC
May 19	Palmer's Woods, <i>Kings</i>		AND
<b>Ruffed Grouse</b>			
Mar 7	Commons Lake, <i>Lun</i>	1m.	PMA
Mar 10	Martins River by the fire hall	1	PMA
Mar 14	Harmony, <i>Queens</i>	1	JAH, DOU
March - May	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1+	KFS
Apr 1	Middle Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1 drumming	VJH
Apr 12	Wagner's Bch, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Apr 12	Seloam L. Rd., <i>Guys</i>	1 drumming	KJM
May 7	Black R., <i>Kings</i>	1+	ANS
May 8	province-wide	132	NSMC
<b>Spruce Grouse</b>			
Apr 12	Seloam L., <i>Guys</i>	1m.	KJM
May 8	province-wide	11	NSMC



There were several reports of CHUKAR along the Northumberland Shore this spring, including this pair May 24 at Brule Pt. [Photo Karin Ashfaq]

	<i>HRM</i>	7	NSMC
	<i>Rich</i>	3	NSMC
	<i>CBRM</i>	1	NSMC
May 15	Moose River Road, <i>HRM</i>	1 m.	VJH



A male SPRUCE GROUSE displayed all its feathered finery 6 May near R. Bourgeois, *Rich*. [Photo Bernard Burke]

## Loons Through Grebes

By John Belbin

No fewer than 34 RED-THROATED LOONS were spotted moving through Brier Island on the day of the NSMC - perfect timing! They presumably disperse from that point onwards, and they remain rare everywhere else.

There are surprisingly few reports on COMMON LOONS as they disperse to their breeding areas, you'd think that this popular bird would be noticed and welcomed by residents. Far more were noticed on the NSMC, so birds are present but not being recorded.

The HORNED GREBES that DOU saw on April 8 were both in full plumage, another indication of the early season this year. However, none were found during the migration count.

**Red-throated Loon**

Apr 25	Halfway Cove, <i>Guys</i>	4	KJM
Apr 26	Goodwin's I., <i>Shel</i>	1	BRD
May 8	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	34	ELM
May 8	Fundy shore, <i>Kings</i>	1	NSMC
May 8	NSMC, <i>Ann</i>	7	SLH
May 13	Harborville, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS

**Common Loon**

Mar 19	Port George, <i>Ann</i>	7	PBG
Mar 20	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
May 26	Bridgetown, <i>Ann</i>	1 flying	MCR
Mar 28	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	many	RBS, BLF
Apr 4	Mill L., <i>Queens</i>	calling	PBG
Apr 18	APBS	2	KJM
Apr 26	Goodwin's I., <i>Shel</i>	2	BRD
May 6	Aylesford L., <i>Kings</i>	1	BRD
May 8	province-wide	190	NSMC
	<i>CBRM</i>	31	
	<i>Digby</i>	12	
	<i>HRM</i>	17	
	<i>Kings</i>	24	
	<i>Lun</i>	72	

**Pied-billed Grebe**

Apr 18	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb</i>	8-10	KJM
Apr 19	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW
Apr 24	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	ULH
Apr 25	Apple R., <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS

Apr 28	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb</i>	1	JCZ
Apr 29,			
May 13	St. Croix, <i>Hants</i>	1	JWW
May 2	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
May 4	French Basin,		
	Annapolis Royal	1	RBS
May 8	province-wide	9	NSMC
	<i>Cumb</i>	2	
	<i>Hants</i>	2	
	<i>Pict</i>	4	
May 18	Fleming Park, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
May 24	St. Croix, <i>Hants</i>	2	SMB, NSBS
May 26	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	PMU
<b>Horned Grebe</b>			
Mar 13	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	20	ELM, AHM
Apr 8	Port George, <i>Ann</i>	2	DOU
Apr 17	Beach Meadows, <i>Queens</i>	3	ELM
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>			
Mar 13	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	1	ELM, AHM
Mar 14	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	8	KJM, CHK, RFE
Mar 19	Port George, <i>Ann</i>	5	PBG
Mar 20, 21	Prospect High Head, <i>HRM</i>	2, 1	PLC, BLM
Apr 8	Port George, <i>Ann</i>	2	DOU
Apr 17	Beach Meadows, <i>Queens</i>	13	ELM
Apr 25	Halfway Cove, <i>Guys</i>	2	KJM
May 8	NSMC, <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP

## Tubenoses through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

The SOOTY SHEARWATERS seen on May 2 on the Laurentian Fan SE of Cape Breton were unusually early, at least as far as we know so far offshore. The only other tubenose reported this season was the LEACH'S STORM-PETREL seen from the ferry in the LaHave River estuary - not unprecedented but certainly unexpected.

The transition from wintering GREAT CORMORANTS to migrant and summering DOUBLE-CRESTS March and April is evident in the reports below. At the end of the reporting period, a lone GREAT CORMORANT was gathering grass on the cliffs of Green Head, Brier Island, and indication that even that far southwest a few Greats do stay to nest from time to time.

**Sooty Shearwater**

May 2	Continental slope SE of CBI	ca. 40	Rob Ronconi
May 29	Off Brier I.	1	JUS

**Leach's Storm-Petrel**

May 21	LaHave R. ferry, <i>Lun</i>	1	JRH
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**Northern Gannet**

Apr 4	Western Light, Brier I.	2 ad	ELM, IAM
Apr 6	Off Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	First of spring	ALM, CAM
Apr 17	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	10 flying NE	ELM
Apr 19	Schooner Pd., <i>CBRM</i>	3	BEC, GEC
Apr 21	Western Light, Brier I.	4 ad.	ELM
Apr 22	Passing Brier I.	15	ELM
May 6	Passing Brier I.	75 imm.	ELM, AHM
May 8	province-wide	194	NSMC
	<i>Digby</i>	35	
	<i>CBRM</i>	85	
	<i>HRM</i>	1	
	<i>Kings</i>	50	
	<i>Pict</i>	1	
	<i>Shel</i>	22	

May 30	Passing Brier I.	ca. 20	ELM
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**Double-crested Cormorant**

Mar 17	Martinique Beh. PP	17 migrants	HAT
	Shelburne, <i>Shel</i>	35 migrants	PAM
Mar 27	Purcells Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2	TUY, Nick Honig
	Pictou hbr., <i>Pict</i>	6	KJM
	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1, first of spring	ALM, CAM
Mar 28	Brier I.	1	RBS, BLF, Rick Whitman
Apr 3	Grand Passage, Brier I.	1	ELM, IAM
	Pictou causeway	12 arrivals	KJM

Apr 4	Peters I., Brier I.	3	ELM, IAM
Apr 14	nr Grand Pre, <i>Kings</i>	5	JWW
Apr 21	Inner Gull Is., <i>HRM</i>	100	BLM
Apr 21 - 23	Brier I.	10-20+ daily	ELM
Apr 26	Goodwin I., <i>Shel</i>	250	BRD, Peter MacLeod
May 4	Canard Pd., <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW
May 6	Brier I.	30 migrants	ELM, AHM
May 8	province-wide	1886	NSMC
	<i>CBRM</i>	196	
	<i>HRM</i>	245	
	<i>Inv</i>	100	
	<i>Kings</i>	68	
	<i>Lun</i>	139	
	<i>Pict</i>	752	
	<i>Rich</i>	246	
May 30, 31	Brier I.	20	ELM
<b>Great Cormorant</b>			
Mar 13	Berlins area, <i>Queens</i>	10+	ELM
Mar 14	Off Sober I.	16-20	KJM, CHK
Mar 25	Grand Passage, Brier I.	5	ELM, AHM
Apr 3, 4	Brier I.	14, 20	ELM, IAM
Apr 5	Green Hd., Brier I.	9 on cliffs	ELM
Apr 17	Beach Meadows, <i>Queens</i>	3 ad.	ELM
Apr 21 - 23	Western Light, Brier I.	3 daily	ELM, IAM
May 8	province-wide	22	NSMC
	<i>CBRM</i>	11	
	<i>Col</i>	2	
	<i>Shel</i>	9	
May 31	Peters I., Brier I.	8	ELM

# Hérons

By Ulli Höger

Even though some birders had the impression that our GREAT BLUE HERONS were a bit ahead of schedule, in general it was a normal Spring (only first arrivals are listed below). By mid-April these waders could be found in their usual habitats.

We had an unprecedented number of Spring YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS. These rare visitors were observed in a number of locations, not only from the provincial hotspot CSI. The closely related BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON has bred for many years on CSI (and perhaps still does so), but there were no sightings elsewhere in the province.

GREAT EGRETS have become a more common visitor in recent years, and this Spring season we had several reports of sightings across the province. With TRICOLORED HERONS, GREEN HERONS, SNOWY and CATTLE EGRETS completing the line-up I am still waiting for a Reddish Egret to find its way up to Nova Scotia.



The YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON is a regular vagrant throughout the province, but one spending much of May 1 in a tree in W. End Halifax was unusual. [Photo Stuart Lane]

## American Bittern

Apr -			
early May	St. Croix, <i>Hants</i>	1	var. obs
May 6	Quinan, <i>Yar</i>	1	PRG
May 8	province-wide	22	NSMC
May 23	E. Amherst, <i>Cumb</i>	1	DOU

## Great Blue Heron

Mar 29	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	1	CCA
Mar 30	First South, <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH
Apr 2	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	2	ELM
Apr 3	Barrachois, <i>Col</i>	1	DBM
Apr 4	Upper Woods Hbr., <i>Shel</i>	3	DOC
Apr 9	Apple R., <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
May 8	province-wide	103	NSMC

## Great Egret

Mar 30	Canso, <i>Guys</i>	1	TOC
Apr 11	Lower Barrachois, <i>Col</i>	1	Bill Bussey
Apr 16	Head of Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Apr 16	Eagle Head, <i>Queens</i>	1	Phil Davis
Apr 22	Spryfield, <i>HRM</i>	1	Dennis Garratt
May 16	Ketch Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	Tony Barresi
May 20	CSI	1	JON, SAN
May 24	Spryfield, <i>HRM</i>	1	Linda Nesbitt
May 13 - 26	Sambro Bog, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT, var. obs.

## Snowy Egret

Apr 14, 28	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BEC, Bill Bussey, Gerry Lalonde
May 28	Sambro Bog, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT

## Little Blue Heron

Apr 6 - 16	Oakland, <i>Lun</i>	1	var obs.
Apr 26	E. Petpeswick Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1	PMU

## Cattle Egret

Apr 24 -			
May 5	Lilydale, <i>Lun</i>	1	Joe Christensen
May 11	Sanford, <i>Yar</i>	1	Angela Joudrey
Jun 6	Falmouth, <i>Hants</i>	1	Barry Sabean

## TRICOLORED HERON

Apr 17	CSI	1	CST
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## Green Heron

Mar 30	CSI	1	CST
Apr 5 - 8	CSI	1	JON, SAN
Apr 11	Queensport, <i>Guys</i>	1	JOK

## Black-crowned Night-Heron

May 20, 21	CSI	3	JON, SAN
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## Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

May 1	Halifax, <i>HRM</i>	1	Stuart Lane
May 13 - 22	CSI	1	AIS, JON, SAN, BBA

May 17 - 19, 27	Stonehurst, <i>Lun</i>	1	Earl Meister, var. obs.
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This CATTLE EGRET lived up to its name by hanging around cows at Lilydale, *Lun.*, in late April - early May (here May 6). [Photo Rita Viau]

# Diurnal Raptors

By Wayne P. Neily

With many species overwintering and no organized hawkwatches in the province, the raptor migration in N.S. is little understood and can be difficult to recognize. However, the migration count (NSMC) gives us an index to the relative abundance of the species here in early May, and is interesting to examine. Even allowing for its greater visibility, the Bald Eagle seems to be most numerous, with Osprey and Red-tailed Hawks tied for second, followed by Northern Harriers and American Kestrels. These five species accounted for 89% of the identified raptors.

TURKEY VULTURES returned to the west half of NS from 20-27 March, hit the isthmus of Chignecto by 7 April, and reached Sydney by 15 April. A peak of 20 was noted on Digby Neck on 13 April.

A couple of early OSPREYS were seen in Lunenburg Co. on 5 April, but most seem to have returned by 7-8 May. BALD EAGLES were nesting, apparently successfully, throughout the season and the province. An early NORTHERN HARRIER (March 8) in HRM may have overwintered, but males were arriving by March 28 (Advocate) and early April. SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS seemed to be migrating by late April and early May, and most BROAD-WINGED HAWKS arrived from April 24 on, although a very early one was in the Wileville area by March 16. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were gone by 22 March except for a surprising (albeit undocumented) two stragglers on the NSMC, and KESTRELS and MERLINS returned by early April. Five Peregrine reports are encouraging for the recovery of that species.

Rarities reported this season were two COOPER'S HAWKS and one GOLDEN EAGLE. So far, substantiating details have been received only for the Cooper's at Onslow.

## Turkey Vulture (8)

Mar 20	Port George, <i>Anna</i>	1	KEL
Mar 22, 23	Clementsport	2	Jeanette Kenny
	"have been flying around my home, sitting on chimney or trying to; one large male, I believe, small bird being the female, both with grey heads."		
Mar 24	Barrington-Pubnico area	"a number"	<i>fide</i> DOC
Mar 26	Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i>	1	SJF
	"uncommon here"		
Apr - May	Bridgetown, <i>Anna</i>	1-6	MCR
Apr 2	Brier I.	1	ELM
Apr 7	New Salem, <i>Cumb</i>	2	KFS
Apr 9 -			
May 24	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
Apr 11	Chelsea, <i>Lun</i>	1	SJF, JSC
Apr 13	Petit Passage, <i>Digby</i>	20	AMO
Apr 15	Sydney dump	1	Jen Cooper
Apr 16	West End Mall, Halifax	1	TUY
Apr 18	St. Peter's, <i>Rich</i>	1	TOB
Apr 23	Brier I.	7	ELM
May 1	Hubbards, <i>HRM</i>	5+	Deborah Fleming

"Saw one soaring at about 6:30 p.m. 30 minutes later, we drove up to Shatford School, and got out to watch it more closely. No binoculars. Once the bird landed in a tree, about 100 feet away from us, we saw four more in the trees. My husband went home to get binoculars, but the birds had flown into low cover by then, and we couldn't see them, though we walked around for a bit. We have not seen turkey vultures here before."

May 4	Cole Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	1	DHH
May 8	province-wide	8	NSMC
	<i>Cumb</i>	5	
	<i>Digby</i>	3	
	Kings (Black Rock)	1	David Taylor
May 8	Meteghan area, <i>Digby</i>	5	DOU
May 8	Bedford	1	GMU
May 8	Ash L., <i>HRM</i>	2	Greg Stevens
May 18	Upper Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	2	WPN
May 31	Brier I.	2	ELM
<b>Osprey</b>			
Apr 5	Chelsea, <i>Lun</i>	1	SJF, JSC
	"sitting on a power pole next to a nest from last year."		
Apr 5	Bridgewater	1	KEL
May 7	Middleton, <i>Anna</i> , by river	1	Bryson Crowell



TURKEY VULTURES, like this one May 1 over Chester Basin, have been wandering more regularly in recent years. [Photo Maxine Quinton]

May 8	province-wide	54	NSMC
May 30, 31	Brier I.	1	ELM
<b>Bald Eagle</b>			
Mar - May	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	2	KFS
	"Saw 2 on April 6th in our pasture gathering nesting material."		
Mar 7	Fox Harbour, <i>Cumb</i>	2+	TUY
	"on ice".		
Mar 12	Kelly's Mtn., <i>Vic</i>	1 ad.	TUY
	"carrying sticks".		
Mar 22	Greenwich, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad.	JWW
	"on nest".		
Apr 11	Lockeport, <i>Shel</i>	1 ad.	DJC
Apr 15	East Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	2 ad.	WPN
	"at nest, fem. apparently incubating."		
May 8	province-wide	347	NSMC
	incl. 144 ad. & 46 imm.		
	<i>Inverness</i>	126	
May 8 - 15	Dayspring, <i>Lun</i>	1 ad.	JAH
	"sitting high on nest which suggests a hatching."		



**Northern Harrier**

Mar 8	Mid. Musquodoboit	1 m.	VJH
Mar 28	Advocate, <i>Cumb</i>	1 m.	KFS
Apr 3	Petite Riviere, <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH
Apr 9	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1 m.	KFS
Apr 13	CSI	1 m.	JON, SAN
Apr 28	Nictaux West, <i>Ann</i>	1 m.	WPN
May 5	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1 f.	KFS
May 8	province-wide	45	NSMC
May 22	Bon Portage I.	2	CLD, et al.
May 29	Keji NP Seaside adj.	2	KEL

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Mar 11	Dartmouth	1	GAM
Apr 21, 24	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
Apr 29 -			
May 2	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH, WPN
May 8	province-wide	17	NSMC

**Cooper's Hawk**

Mar 3	Town of Shelburne	1 (nd)	PAM
Mar 21	Onslow, <i>Col</i>	1 ad.	ELM
	"crow-sized; long rounded tail; broad straight wings; stiff shallow flight. Crows in same binocular field for size comparison."		

**Northern Goshawk**

Mar 21	Chelsea, <i>Lun</i>	1	SJF
Apr 14	Uniacke	1	HAT
May 8	province-wide	5	NSMC
	<i>Kings</i>	1+	
	Nest near Hall's Harbour (Dave Shutler)		CBRM
	<i>Hants</i>		
	<i>Pictou</i>	2	
	Including one feeding on a Rock Pigeon (Pat McCarron, ph)		
May 15	Moose River Gold Mines	1	VJH
May 31	Sandy Lake Pk., <i>HRM</i>	1	GMU

**Broad-winged Hawk**

Mar 16	Wileville, <i>Lun</i>	1	SJF
Apr 24	Canaan, <i>Lun</i>	1	CJF
Apr 24	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	2	KFS
May 8	province-wide	12	NSMC
	Incl pair at Voglers Cove, <i>Lun</i>		SJF
May 18	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS

May 28	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
	<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>		
Mar 12	North Sydney	1	TUY
Mar 13	River Hebert, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
Apr 1	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
May 8	province-wide	54	NSMC
	<i>Kings</i>	24	

**Rough-legged Hawk**

Mar 5	Spa Springs, <i>Anna</i>	1	WPN
Mar 7	"Bob & the Boys", <i>Lun</i>	1 (dark)	JCZ, DER
Mar 10	CSI	1	JON
Mar 1 - 21	Brulé Pt. Rd., <i>Pict</i>	1	JTR
May 8	Annapolis	2 (nd)	NSMC

**Golden Eagle**

Mar 12	Brier I.	1 imm. (nd)	CAH
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**American Kestrel**

Apr 4	Wittenburg, <i>Col</i>	1	DAA
Apr 7	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
Apr 9	Brier I.	1	CAH
Apr 25	Belleisle	1	KEL
May 1	Gaspereau Valley, <i>Kings</i>	2	JAC
May 3	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vict.</i>	pair	FMC
	"male has been hunting there about a week".		
May 6	Four-Mile L., <i>Kings</i>	1	BRD
May 8	province-wide	43	NSMC

**Merlin**

Apr 6 - 8	Saint Mary's U., Halifax	1	Stephanie Dooley
Apr 10	Advocate Harbour	1 m.	MSM
Apr 23	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun</i>	pair	SJF
Apr 24	Blue Rocks, <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH
May 3	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	3	KFS
May 8	province-wide	23	NSMC
May 15	Cabot Trail	2	Humberto Berlanga
			WPN
May 17	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	KEL
May 21	Upper Tantallon, <i>HRM</i>	1	

**Peregrine Falcon**

Mar 11	Baccaro, <i>Shel</i>	1	JAH, DPO
May 7	Brier I.	1 ad. f.	CAH, ELM
May 8	province-wide	3	NSMC

## Rails and Cranes

By Ulli Höger

**Virginia Rail**

May 14	Caribou, <i>Pic.</i>	1	KJM
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**Sora**

May 8	province-wide	17	NSMC
May 14	Caribou, <i>Pic.</i>	several	KJM

## Shorebirds

By Susann Myers

This was a largely uneventful shorebird season, with spring migrants appearing in the usual small numbers and generally on schedule. There were no great rarities, but a Pectoral Sandpiper and Upland Sandpiper at Hartlen Point were nice finds.

Observers on the Atlantic coast were on the lookout for banded PIPING PLOVERS this spring, as 57 were marked with coloured bands and flags in the Bahamas over the winter. Sue Abbott found the first banded bird to reach Canada, in West Mabou May 5. This was the 18th of the banded Plovers to be located; the others were found along the Eastern seaboard as they traveled north.

KILLDEER are among our earliest and most enjoyable shorebird arrivals. The first this year was spotted March 11 at Cherry Hill Beach by SJF, about 10 days earlier than average. Another hardy individual was seen March 26 in Steam Mill, in heavy snow. Scarcely more than a week later, one was giving a broken wing display on Brier I., to lure JUS from a nest site. CST noted a remarkable family group May 12 on CSI, a pair of adults with 6 downy juveniles that he estimated to be about 3 days post-hatch. Killdeer typically lay three to five eggs, and six young are rare. Since both parents remain with the young, however, this is

unlikely to be a "blended" family.

Fewer RED KNOTS and SANDERLINGS are seen each year. Computer-generated trends predict that the *rufa* subspecies of Red Knot, that breeds in the Eastern Canadian arctic and winters at the southern tip of South America, will become extinct in 2010. Watch for Knots in early August to judge the accuracy of this prediction.

A PECTORAL SANDPIPER found April 1 by MIK was notable, as this species uses the central flyway in spring and there have been only a few spring records for N.S. Twelve wintering DUNLIN remained at Crescent Beach, *Lun.*, to March 12. JSC was delighted to see six still present May 16 in bright alternate plumage, the first time she has seen them there in breeding plumage. MIK also spotted the other good find of the season, an **UPLAND SANDPIPER** that stayed at Hartlen Point April 1 to 5. Upland Sandpipers have been seen in N.S. more regularly recently, with spring sightings in 9 of the past 15 years. These vagrants never stay for long, however, and this one was much sought after.

Both Nocturnal Owl Surveys and the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas have promoted reporting of WILSON'S SNIPE and AMERICAN WOODCOCK in recent years. KJM led the atlassing effort this year, with encouraging results: in March and April he found over 70 Woodcock, mostly in *Pict.*, including 18 in the early morning hours of the NSMC.

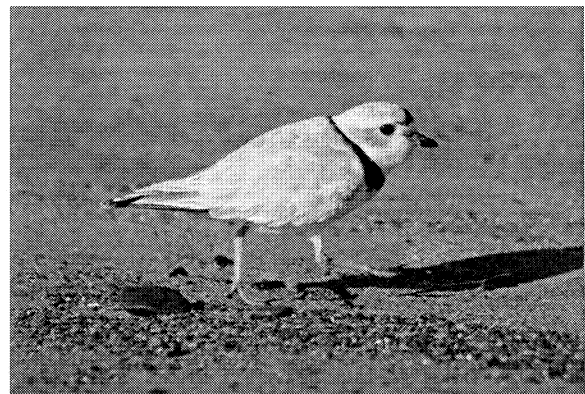
Only 15 species of shorebird were reported on the Nova Scotia Migration Count May 8, which is four fewer than the 10-year average. Shorebird numbers were also low, with a total of only 610 individuals seen, less than half of the 10-year average. One factor in this reduction is that few observers participated in *Shel.*, one of the most important shorebird areas of the province, and only 12 individual shorebirds were reported from that county. Also, the rain that made birding difficult for part of the day would have coincided with shorebird viewing at low tide in some parts of the province. These factors do not explain a steady downward trend in the numbers of some species, however, that has been seen over the past decade of NSMCs. Numbers of Killdeer, Eastern Willet and Spotted Sandpiper, all of which breed in the province, have all shown steady declines. It will be interesting to learn what the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas data shows regarding population trends for these species.

<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>			
Apr 4	Cherry Hill.	1	SJF
Apr 5, 13	The Hawk, CSI	1, 9	JON, SAN
Apr 2, 29	The Hawk, CSI	17, 56	JON, SAN, <i>et al.</i>
May 8	province-wide	17	NSMC
	<i>Col</i>	10	
May 16	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	ca. 12	ULH
May 17, 29	The Hawk, CSI	48, 20	JON, SAN, D. Tyson
May 27	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	8 (5 alt.)	JSC
<b>American Golden-Plover</b>			
May 30	The Hawk, CSI	1	D. Tyson
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>			
May 23	3 Fathom Hbr.	1	SEM
<b>Piping Plover</b>			
Apr 3	Crow Neck Bch., <i>Shel</i>	1	AIS
Apr 6, 24	Cherry Hill.	2, 3	SJF
Apr 16, 22	Martinique	2, 3	HAT, LAE
Apr 17	Crow Neck Bch., <i>Shel</i>	4	BJS, SIS
Apr 25 -			
May 12	Lockeport, <i>Shel</i>	1 - 2	DJC
May 5	W. Mabou, <i>Inv</i>	2 pr.	S. Abbott
May 8	province-wide	12	NSMC
	<i>Ant</i>	5	
	<i>HRM</i>	3	
	<i>Lun</i>	2	
	<i>Shel</i>	2	
May 13	Kingsburg Bch., <i>Lun</i>	1 pr.	JAH
May 14	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL
May 16	South Side Bch., CSI	1	BJS, SIS
May 30	Northeast Pt., CSI	1	BJS, SIS



This elegant UPLAND SANDPIPER, increasingly scarce here in recent years and our earliest ever, was found April 1 at Hartlen Pt., *HRM*. [Photo Mike King]

<b>Killdeer</b>			
Mar 11	Cherry Hill	1	SJF
Mar 19	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	pr.	RBS
Mar 20	Aylesford, <i>Kings</i>	1	WAN
Mar 21	Ellershouse, <i>Hants</i>	1	GMU
Mar 26	Steam Mill, <i>Kings</i>	1	MMC
Mar 28	CSI	2	JON, SAN
Apr	6 locations, mainland	7 total	var. obs.
Apr 4	Brier I.	1, display	JUS
Apr 27	First South, <i>Lun</i>	nest	<i>fide</i> JAH
May 3	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel</i>	5	DOP



A PIPING PLOVER made a lively portrait at Martinique Beach PP soon after its return early April. [Photo Hans Toom]

May 8	province-wide <i>Hants</i>	44 13	NSMC
May 12	CSI	2 ad., 6 juv.	CST
<b>American Oystercatcher</b>			
Apr 10, 13	CSI	pr.	JON, SAN
Apr 21, 29	CSI	3	JON, SAN, <i>et al.</i>
May 8	CSI	some	JON, SAN
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>			
Apr 26	Goodwins I., <i>Shel</i>	1	BRD, P. MacLeod
May 2	Forest Glen, <i>Yar</i>	1	DAC
May 8	province-wide 11 counties	35	NSMC
May 23	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>			
May 17	The Hawk, CSI	1	JON, SAN
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>			
Apr 18	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW
Apr 18	River Philip, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KJM, ROH
Apr 18	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	4	SEM
Apr 21	Pond Cove, Brier I.	13	ELM
Apr 21	Daniels Hd, CSI	8	JON, <i>et al.</i>
Apr 21	Atwoods Brook, <i>Shel</i>	2	<i>fide</i> JON
May 3	Apple River, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 8	province-wide CBRM, <i>Pict</i>	136 34, 23	NSMC
May 8	Brier I.	27	ELM
May 16	Cole Hbr. Trail, <i>HRM</i>	10+	ULH
May 22	Island L., <i>Gufs</i>	breeding	KJM
<b>Willet</b>			
Apr 17	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	HEK
Apr 21	Atwoods Brook, <i>Shel</i>	2	<i>fide</i> JON
Apr 25	Clam Pt., CSI	1	BJS, SIS
Apr 25	L. Rose Bay, <i>Lun</i>	2	DAW, <i>fide</i> JAH
Apr 26	First South, <i>Lun</i>	2	JAH
Apr 26	Goodwins I., <i>Shel</i>	2	BRD, P. MacLeod
Apr 26	Lockeport, <i>Shel</i>	2	DJC
Apr 29	The Hawk, CSI		SAN
May	7 locations, mainland	42 total	var. obs.
May 8	province-wide <i>HRM</i> <i>Lun</i>	179 65 42	NSMC
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>			
Apr 25	L. Rose Bay, <i>Lun</i>	2	DAW, <i>fide</i> JAH
May 8	HRM, <i>Lun</i> , <i>Rich</i>	6, 2, 2	NSMC
<b>Whimbrel</b>			
May 12, 13	Kingsburg Bch., <i>Lun</i>	1	DAW, <i>fide</i> JAH
May 22	Taylor Head PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	JAC
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>			
Apr 13	The Hawk, CSI	1	JON, SAN
Apr 26	Goodwins I., <i>Shel</i>	25	BRD, P. MacLeod
May 17	The Hawk, CSI	3	JON, SAN
May 30	The Hawk, CSI	5	D. Tyson
<b>Red Knot</b>			
Apr 26	Goodwins I., <i>Shel</i>	1	BRD, P. MacLeod
Apr 29	The Hawk, CSI	17	JON, SAN
May 8	CSI	some	JON, SAN
May 17	The Hawk, CSI	7	JON, SAN
<b>Sanderling</b>			
May 8	CSI	some	JON, SAN
May 8	<i>Rich</i>	1	NSMC
May 24	Crow Neck Bch., <i>Shel</i>	28	BJS, SIS
<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>			
May 8	CBRM	2	NSMC
May 20	Lockeport, <i>Shel</i>	1	DJC
May 23	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	SEM
<b>Least Sandpiper</b>			
May 8	<i>Lun</i>	2	NSMC

May 23	3 Fathom Hbr.	1	SEM
May 29	West Berlin, <i>Queens</i>	1	D. Tyson
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>			
May 8	<i>Col</i>	1	NSMC
<b>PECTORAL SANDPIPER</b>			
Apr 1	Hartlen Pt.	1	MIK



A PECTORAL SANDPIPER was near-record early 28 March (here 1 April) at Hartlen Pt., *HRM*. [Photo Mike King]

<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>			
Mar 3 - 18	Pt Pleasant Park	8-12	ALD
Mar 20	Morden, <i>Kings</i>	15-25	NSBS, WAN
Mar 20	Margaretsville, <i>Anna</i>	15-25	NSBS, WAN
Apr 3	Western Light, Brier I.	17	ELM
Apr 13	Port George, <i>Anna</i>	ca. 20	AND
Apr 21, 22	Brier I.	6+, 5	ELM
May 8	Brier I. & <i>Lun</i>	32, 12	NSMC
<b>Dunlin</b>			
Mar 12	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	12	JSC
Mar 13	E. Port Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	80	ELM, AHM
Apr 21	The Hawk, CSI	1	JON, <i>et al.</i>
Apr 29	The Hawk, CSI	128	JON, SAN
May 8	CBRM, <i>Col</i>	1, 7	NSMC
May 16	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	6 alt.	JSC
May 17	The Hawk, CSI	80	JON, SAN
<b>UPLAND SANDPIPER</b>			
Apr 1 - 5	Hartlen Pt.	1, ph.	MIK, <i>et al.</i>
<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>			
Apr 13	The Hawk, CSI	1	JON, SAN
May 30	Hartlen Pt.	1	RIV
<b>Wilson's Snipe</b>			
Apr 1	Hartlen Pt.	1	MIK
Apr 5	Owl survey, <i>Pict</i>	1	KJM, CHK
Apr 13	Owl survey, <i>Pict</i>	3	KJM, CHK, RFE
Apr 21	Owl survey, <i>Hants.</i>	several	RBS, <i>et al.</i>
Apr 22	Westville, <i>Pict</i>	2-3	KJM, RFE
May	4 locations, widespread	12 total	var. obs.
May 2	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	2	AAM
May 8	province-wide <i>Pict</i>	58 23	NSMC
<b>American Woodcock</b>			
Mar 3	First South, <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH, DAW
Mar 17	Caribou I., <i>Pict</i>	1	KJM
Mar 18	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Mar 20- 31	8 locations, widespread	11 total	var. obs.
Apr	14 locations, widespread	ca. 73	var. obs.
May	8 locations, widespread	ca. 29	var. obs.
May 8	province-wide <i>Pict</i> <i>Hants</i>	60 23 16	NSMC
May 8	near Halls Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	nest, 4 eggs	J. Churchill
<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>			
May 29	off Brier I.	"clouds"	JUS

# Gulls Through Alcids

By Eric Mills

There is increasing evidence that our breeding HERRING GULLS may winter as far south as the mid-Atlantic states or beyond, but there is less evidence where wintering birds come from. An immature RING-BILLED GULL reported on by PRG in February proved to have been banded on July 2, 2009 in a colony near Varennes, Québec, just NW of Montréal.

## Black-headed Gull

Mar 13	Lwr LaHave, <i>Lun</i>	1 ad	ELM
Mar 14	Lwr Clarks Hbr., <i>CSI</i>	1	JON, SAN
Mar 30	Homeville, <i>CBRM</i>	6	ALM, CAM
Apr 5	The Guzzle, <i>CSI</i>	1	JON, SAN
Apr 18	Homeville, <i>CBRM</i>	3	ALM, CAM
May 8	<i>CBRM</i>	1	NSMC
	<i>Yar</i>	8	NSMC
May 16	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	?	ULH

## Bonaparte's Gull

Mar 6	Kingsburg Beach, <i>Lun</i>	1 ad.	ELM
May 19	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	?	ULH

## Ring-billed Gull

Mar 6	Kingsburg Beach, <i>Lun</i>	3 ad.	ELM
Mar 13	Lwr LaHave, <i>Lun</i>	8 ad.	ELM
	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	10	ELM
	New Glasgow, <i>Pict</i>	12	KJM
Mar 21	Salmon R., <i>Truro</i>	20 ad.	ELM
Mar 25, 27	Pea Jack Cove, Brier I.	1, 2 ad.	ELM
Apr 17	Lwr LaHave, <i>Lun</i>	6 ad.	ELM
May 8	Province-wide	46	NSMC
	<i>Col</i>	4	
	<i>Kings</i>	26	
	<i>Pict</i>	11	
	<i>Vic</i>	3	
	<i>Yar</i>	1	

## Herring Gull

May 8	Province-wide	7117	NSMC
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## Iceland Gull

Mar 6	Kingsburg & Lunenburg areas	11	ELM
Mar 13	Pictou Hbr., <i>Pict</i>	15	KJM
Mar 25, 27	Pea Jack Cove, Brier I.	6, 8	ELM, AHM
Apr 3	Off Northern Pt., Brier I. probably <i>L. g. glaucoides</i>	1	ELM
Apr 5	Off Northern Pt., Brier I.	3, 2nd-cy.	ELM
Apr 18	Linden, <i>Cumb</i>	1, 1st-cy.	KJM, ROH
May 8	<i>CBRM</i>	13	NSMC
	<i>Pict</i>	20	NSMC

## Lesser Black-backed Gull

Mar 13	East River, <i>Pict</i>	1 ad	KJM
Apr 15	N. Sydney, <i>CBRM</i>	1	ALM, CAM
Apr 18	Linden, <i>Cumb</i>	1 ad.	KJM, ROH
	Schooner Pd., <i>CBRM</i>	1	ALM, CAM

## Glaucous Gull

Mar 3	Duncans Reef, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad.	HAT
Mar 4	Second Pen., <i>Lun</i>	1	JRH, DAW
Mar 13	Sullivan's Pd.	1	DOU
	East River, <i>Pict</i>	1 imm.	KJM
	Bayview, <i>Pict</i>	8	KJM
May 8	<i>CBRM</i>	1	NSMC

## Great Black-backed Gull

May 8	Province-wide	1319	NSMC
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## Black-legged Kittiwake

Mar 14	North Hd, Morien Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	200 on colony	ALM, CAM
Mar 27	Off Northern Pt., Brier I.	1	ELM, AHM

## Caspian Tern

May 8	<i>Pict</i>	1	NSMC
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## Black Tern

May 23	E. Amherst, <i>Cumb</i>	5	DOU
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## Common Tern

May 2	Red Bridge Pd., Dartmouth	2	DOU
May 8	Province-wide <i>CBRM</i>	40 9	NSMC

	<i>HRM</i>	10	
	<i>Pict</i>	18	
	<i>Yar</i>	3	
May 20	Morien Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	ALM, CAM
May 22	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	2	Paul Murray
	<b>Dovekie</b>		
Mar 20	Morden, <i>Kings</i>	1	NSBS
	<b>Common Murre</b>		
Mar 20	Morden, <i>Kings</i>	6-10	NSBS
May 8	<i>CBRM</i>	1	NSMC
	<b>Razorbill</b>		
Mar 20	Morden, <i>Kings</i>	6-10	NSBS
May 6	Off Northern Pt., Brier I.	100+	ELM
		flying SW	ELM
May 8	<i>Kings</i>	8	NSMC
	<i>Digby</i>	3	NSMC
May 15	North Hd., Morien Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	10 on colony	ALM, CAM
May 31	Off Northern Pt., Brier I.	2	ELM
	<b>Black Guillemot</b>		
Mar 25, 27	Northern Pt., Brier I.	1, 6	ELM, AHM
Apr 4 - 23	Brier I.	4 max	ELM
Apr 17	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	6+	ELM
May 8	Province-wide	37	NSMC
	<i>Anna</i>	7	
	<i>CBRM</i>	4	
	<i>Digby</i>	23	
	<i>Kings</i>	3	

## Atlantic Puffin

May 29	Off Brier I.	"Lots"	JUS
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This rather puzzling young gull found and photographed March 11 at Sambro, *HRM*, seemed almost as white overall as some GLAUCOUS GULLS, but the distinct dark plumage markings and all-dark bill mark it as an apparent hybrid (or backcross) with GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL. Such hybridization has become quite regular in N. Labrador. [Photo Hans Toom]

# Pigeons Through Woodpeckers

By Chris Field

From the reports and the NSMC we can get some impressions of arrival dates along with absolute numbers. In comparing with 2009 numbers, the counts of MOURNING DOVES, owls and kingfishers were down slightly while woodpeckers increased slightly. The most dramatic drop was in RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS (78-31). JCT commented that in Kings County, many people were noticing a shortage this spring. On the other hand, the number of YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS increased dramatically (67-132). There was only slight drop in PILEATED WOODPECKERS and 3 elusive BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS showed up after a shut-out last year.

CAH reported another WHITE-WINGED DOVE at his feeder for several days. This is apparently the 47th provincial record. Owls were widely reported across the province with both LONG and SHORT-EARED OWLS included. One early COMMON Nighthawk appeared in HRM on NSMC.

CHIMNEY SWIFTS appeared as early as May 4 and have been reported from 8 locations. The numbers peak around the end of May with large numbers being observed at the Temperance St. School in New Glasgow, Middleton High School and an Upper Falmouth farmhouse. The RTNC swifts are down marginally from last year as are the McGowan Lake swifts for which here is only one count. Although there are swifts regularly over downtown Chester, it is not known where they are roosting.

DOWNY and HAIRY WOODPECKERS are widely reported with a single report of a RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER on Marlborough St. in south-end Halifax. There were only scattered reports of other woodpeckers aside from the NSMC counts.



A WHITE-WINGED DOVE in late May (here 23 May) on Brier I., was one of more than 40 on record for the province. It had the largely grey-toned plumage of a bird from S.W. U.S.A., rather than the Gulf Coast or Florida. [Photo Richard Stern]

<b>Rock Pigeon</b>			
May 8	14 counties	865	NSMC
Mourning Dove			
May 8	16 counties	1381	NSMC
<b>WHITE-WINGED DOVE (47th provincial record)</b>			
May 19 - 25	Westport, <i>Digby</i>	1	CAH, RBS
<b>Great Horned Owl</b>			
Mar 10	White's Lake, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Mar 25	Brier I.	1	ELM, AHM
Mar 28	Middle Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
Apr 2	Brier I.	2	ELM
May 8	4 counties	11	NSMC
<b>Barred Owl</b>			
Mar 6 - 16	Middle Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1-2	VJH
Mar 11	Oakfield Park, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Mar 12	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lun</i>	1	ELM
Apr 2	Three Mile L., <i>Ant</i>	1-2	MIK
Apr 28	Lynn Mountain, <i>Col</i>	1	JCZ
May 8	6 counties, Kings (31)	52	NSMC
<b>Long-eared Owl</b>			
Apr 2	Three Mile L., <i>Ant</i>	1	MIK
May 8	<i>Col</i>	1	NSMC
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>			
May 10, 11	Hartlen Point	1	MIK
<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>			
Mar 20	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lun</i>	1	ELM
Mar 21	Elmsvale, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH, C. Pepper
Apr 2	Three Mile L., <i>Ant</i>	5	MIK
Apr 9 - June 1	Glassburn, <i>Ant</i>	1-5	RFL, BRS
Apr 24	CBHNP	1	KAM, FMC, M. Palmer
May 8	5 counties	9	NSMC
<b>Common Nighthawk</b>			
May 8	<i>HRM</i>	1	NSMC
<b>Chimney Swift</b>			
May 4 -			
June 30	RTNC, Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	5-65+	JWW

May 4, 6	Middleton HS, <i>Anna</i>	25+, 44	CLD, WAN
May 5 -			
June 30	New Glasgow HS, <i>Pict</i>	44-356	KJM
May 20	McGowan Lake, <i>Queens</i>	139	B. Toms, <i>et al.</i>
May 22, 27	Upper Falmouth, <i>Hants</i>	108,300+	JOB, C. Rutledge
May 23	St. Bernard, <i>Digby</i>	46	K. Potter
May 24	Bear River, <i>Digby</i>	7	K. Potter
May - June	Chester, <i>Lun</i>	5	A. Lambert
<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</b>			
May 8	6 counties	31	NSMC
May 9	Middle Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1M	VJH
May 13 - 20	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1-3	JCT



It took a sharp eye to notice a NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL peering from a resting (or nesting?) cavity, March 20 near Jeddore, *HRM*. [Photo Chris Pepper]

May 25+	Bridgetown, <i>Anna</i>	2	MCR	Mar - May	East Chester, <i>Lun</i>	2	CJF
<b>Belted Kingfisher</b>				<b>Hairy Woodpecker</b>			
Apr 26	Gaspereau, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT	Mar 14	Timberlea, <i>HRM</i>	2	D. Stoddart-Pageau
Apr 26	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT	May 8	14 counties	269	NSMC
May 8	15 counties	169	NSMC	Mar - May	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1-2	JCT
<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>				Mar - May	East Chester, <i>Lun</i>	2	CJF
May 1	Southend Halifax, <i>HRM</i>	1	C. Helleiner	<b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b>			
<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>				May 8	Col., <i>Kings, Vict.</i>	3	NSMC
May 8	8 counties	132	NSMC	May 24	Middle Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
Apr 7	Middle Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH	<b>Northern Flicker</b>			
<b>Downy Woodpecker</b>				May 8	16 counties	481	NSMC
Mar 14	Timberlea, <i>HRM</i>	4	D. Stoddart-Pageau	<b>Pileated Woodpecker</b>			
May 8	14 counties	428	NSMC	May 8	13 counties	53	NSMC
Mar - May	Bridgetown, <i>Anna</i>	2	MCR				
Mar - May	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1-2	JCT				

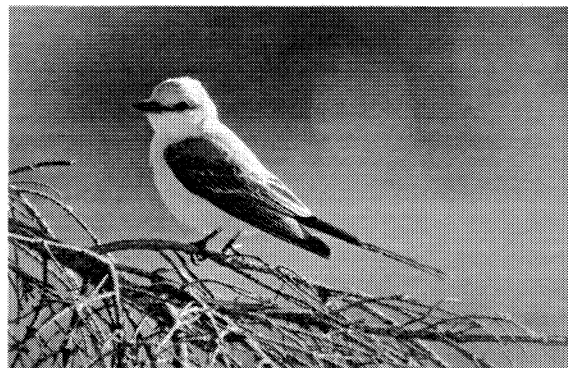
## Flycatchers Through Thrushes

By Hans Toom

Serendipity is often a big part of birding, such as when DOP and SJF stopped for lunch at The Land Road in Lockeport, *Shel*, on May 28 and heard a **WILLOW FLYCATCHER** singing nearby. There is only one confirmed Nova Scotia nesting of this species, MBBA (BRD). This species is extremely rare here, although in recent years it has become an annual visitor. It is threatened in much of its continent-wide range.

Another example of serendipity was on May 26 when DOP was about to submit a report on a rare bird she was listening to in her garden at Milton, *Queens* but when she rushed out of her house to spot it she saw another coveted sighting instead, a **GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER**. There is only one provincial confirmed nesting of this species, MBBA (Megan Crowley). This represents a sad decline of this elegant flycatcher from Nova Scotia although this cavity nesting flycatcher is hard to find in its tree top haunts.

There were at least three, possibly four **SISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHERS** observed this spring. The first ones were spotted on the same day, May 24, at Clam Pt., CSI, by John and Margaret Samuel, and at Great Village, *Col*, by Katherine Ogden. On May 28 a Mr. Hicks observed, and provided a "terrific" description, of one in his back yard in Port Clyde, *Shel*. (*vide* Dave Currie). From May 26 to May 30, one was observed flycatching at West Berlin, *Queens*. It was first spotted by Peter Davies, and then observed by many others. Either of the West Berlin or the Port Clyde birds could have been the CSI individual. Many migrants often follow the coastline north so a re-sighting would not be unexpected.



This **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**, only about the 22nd for the province, was found near W. Berlin, *Queens*, in late May (here 29 May), giving a number of birders ample opportunity for study and photographs. [Photo Mike King]

All swallows except the **BARN SWALLOW** showed marked declines on the NSMC. The decline of 40%-81% of most swallow species from the previous 10 year average is a concern. The Barn Swallow was the only swallow showing gains, up a whopping 45%. This pattern of reduced swallow populations is a continuing trend in recent years and worrisome.

On May 29, Sherbrooke, *Guys*, Dennis Garratt, spotted two **WARBLING VIREOS**, one in the town centre and another one in the Historic Village. There are only two confirmed provincial nestings of this species, MBBA (CDA, BRD).

There was one **PHILADELPHIA VIREO** reported during this year's MBBA survey and another one spotted on the NSMC, *Rich*. There are two confirmed nestings of this species, MBBA.

Anne Lambert heard a **CAROLINA WREN** singing, May 29 - 30, in Chester, *HRM*. There was one in this location all of last summer so it is possible that this wren over-wintered. Wrens can be skulkers and very hard to find if silent. The singing of the Carolina Wren is powerful, unmistakable, and can be heard from a great distance.

While travelling between Glasgow and Truro in the Mt. Thom area, *Pic*, April 4, MIK spotted a **NORTHERN WHEATEAR**. Since this species tends to wander in the late summer and fall this sighting is likely an over-wintering bird.

14 **EASTERN BLUEBIRDS** were spotted this spring, April 21 to May 21, on their inward migration, often checking out nest



boxes on route. This promises to be another bountiful year for this beloved bird. There are 18 confirmed nestings (MBBA) of this species but this is likely not a true representation of the actual number since most nest sites would be in natural cavities, not nest boxes. Last summer 88 were counted as breeders and migrants.

DOP heard a WOOD THRUSH singing for about five minutes, May 26, at her home in Milton, *Queens*. The flute like song of this thrush is unlike all our other thrushes. It is considered by many listeners as the finest singer of all our song birds. Another Wood Thrush was killed striking a window, May 21, in Cheboque, *Yar*. This thrush has declined locally in recent years and is becoming very rare. Sadly acid rain has contributed to the 43% continent wide decline of this elegant and beloved bird since 1966. There is one confirmed nesting of this species, MBBA (Anne M. Richard).

There was one GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH reported on the NSMC. The species has not been confirmed as a breeder (MBBA), although there remains the possibility of breeding on some of our north-eastern off-shore islands. The species has been documented as showing territorial behaviour in these locations. The species prefers to nest in Newfoundland and Labrador.

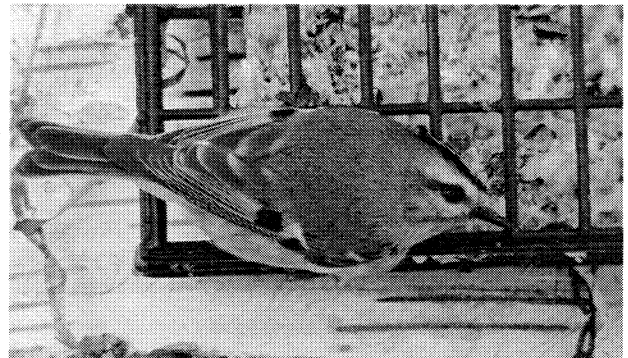
A visiting birder from B.C., Danny Tyson found a BICKNELL'S THRUSH, May 26, by the Bog Trail, Cape Breton Highlands National Park. During the current atlas there is but one confirmed nesting of this species, MBBA (FMC) in Cape Breton Highlands National Park, but due to the inaccessibility of much of the high altitudes of this park the actual number is certainly much higher, although the species is in general decline everywhere.

The influx of HERMIT THRUSH was unusually high during the NSMC, reporting at 63% above the previous 10 year average. This resilient species is so successful its population continent wide is increasing.

Our AMERICAN ROBIN was very abundant this spring with thousands reported everywhere during March. On March 26 and - 27 a weather event forced thousands, possibly over 10,000 individuals, onto Brier I. They covered the island, in backyards, woodlands and fields. It would certainly have been a sight to behold.

<b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b>				May 12	Crow Neck Beach, <i>Shel</i>	3	Dennis Garratt
May 29	Victoria Park, <i>Col</i>	1	SGL	May 14	Fisherman's Res., <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
<b>Eastern Wood Pewee</b>				May 14	Herbert R tr., <i>Hants</i>	1	BLM
May 23	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1m	JCT	May 17	Apple R., <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
May 26	Folly Mt., <i>Col</i>	1	DOU	May 29	South end Halifax	1	ALD
<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b>				<b>SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (19th through 21st records)</b>			
May 8	Kings	1	NSMC	May 24	Clam Pt., <i>CSI</i>	1	John & Margaret Samuel, others
May 31	Brier I.	1	ELM	May 24	Great Village, <i>Col</i>	1	Katherine Ogden
<b>WILLOW FLYCATCHER</b>				May 26 - 30	West Berlin, <i>Queens</i>	1 ph	Peter Davies, m. obs, ph
May 28	Lockport, <i>Shel</i>	1	DOP, SJF	May 28	Port Clyde	1	Mr. Hicks, <i>vide</i> DAC
<b>Alder Flycatcher</b>				<b>Northern Shrike</b>			
May 8	<i>HRM, Kings, Col</i>	3	NSMC	Mar 19	Apple River, <i>Cum</i>	1	KFS
May 8	Hartlen Pt	1	Dennis Garratt	Mar 22	McBain Rd, <i>Pic</i>	1	KJM, STV
May 24	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	several	VJH	Mar 22	Apple R., <i>Cum</i>	1	KFS
May 25	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1m	JCT	Mar 27	Brier I.	1	IEM, AHM
May 30, 31	Brier I.	10+	ELM	Mar 27	Brier I.	1 ad	ELM
<b>Least Flycatcher</b>				Apr 4	Brier I.	1 imm	ELM, IAM
May 6	Four Mile L, <i>Anna</i>	1	BRD	<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b>			
May 8	province-wide	37	NSMC	Apr 25	Annapolis Royal, <i>Anna</i>	1	IAM
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>				May 4	Jerry Lawrence PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Mar 28	Clark's Hbr., <i>CSI</i>	1	JON	May 6	Four Mile L, <i>Anna</i>	1	BRD
Apr 4, 5	Brier I.	1	ELM	May 8	province-wide	349	NSMC
Apr 4	Spencer's I., <i>Cumb</i>	1	MSM	<b>Warbling Vireo</b>			
Apr 5	Apple R., <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS	May 29	Sherbrooke, <i>Guys</i>	2	Dennis Garratt
Apr 6	Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i>	1	SJF	<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>			
Apr 7	Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i>	1	SJF	May 8	province-wide	16	NSMC
Apr 9	Palmeter's Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	AND	May 14	Smiley's PP, <i>Hants</i>	1	BLM
Apr 26	Gaspereau, <i>Kings</i>	1m	JCT	May 24	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
May 8	province-wide	19	NSMC	<b>Gray Jay</b>			
May 14	Smiley's PP, <i>Hants</i>	1	BLM	Mar, May	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	2 most days	KFS
May 14	Herbert R. trail, <i>Hants</i>	2	BLM	Apr 24	Canaan, <i>Lun</i>	2	CJF
May 23	Wentworth, <i>Col</i>	2	DOU	May 2	Petpeswick, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
May 31	Wesport, Brier I.	Pair nesting	David Pugh, ELM, IAM	May 8	province-wide	88	NSMC
<b>Great Crested Flycatcher</b>				<b>Blue Jay</b>			
May 26	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1	DOP	May 8	province-wide	1717	NSMC
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>				<b>American Crow</b>			
May 6	CSI	1	Fawne Atkinson	May 8	province-wide	3612	NSMC
May 7 - 9	Public Gardens, Halifax	1	DOU, BLM				
May 8	province-wide	8	NSMC				
May 8	Westport, Brier I.	2	ELM, AHM				
May 12	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT				

<b>Common Raven</b>							
May 8	province-wide	656	NSMC				
<b>Horned Lark</b>							
May 8	HRM	1	NSMC				
<b>Tree Swallow</b>							
Apr 5	Advocate Hbr, <i>Cumb</i>	1	MSM				
Apr 7	Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i>	5	SJF				
Apr 7	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	7	KFS				
Apr 8	Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i>	5	SJF				
Apr 11	Port Williams SP Kings	12	RBS				
Apr 11	Sanford, <i>Yar</i>	1	<i>fide</i> Angela Joudrey				
Apr 12	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT				
Apr 12	White Pt., <i>Queens</i>	2	Marg Millard				
Apr 12	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH				
Apr 12	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT				
Apr 17	Back Hbr., <i>Lun</i>	70	JAH				
Apr 21	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	12	JCT				
May 8	province-wide	1667	NSMC				
May 15	Ann. Royal Marsh	100+	BLM				
<b>Bank Swallow</b>							
May 8	province-wide	26	NSMC				
May 26	Conrad's I., <i>Lun</i>	8	JAH				
<b>Barn Swallow</b>							
Apr 5	Brier I.	1	ELM				
Apr 20	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	2	DOU, FLL				
Apr 27	East Amherst, <i>Col</i>	2	JCZ				
Apr 27	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS				
May 8	province-wide	739	NSMC				
May 22	Conrad's Beh, <i>HRM</i>	15	BLM				
<b>Black-capped Chickadee</b>							
May 8	province-wide	2969	NSMC				
<b>Boreal Chickadee</b>							
Mar 12	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	2	VJH				
Mar 14	Lunenburg, <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH, DOU				
Mar 19	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS				
May 8	province-wide	95	NSMC				
<b>Red-breasted Nuthatch</b>							
May 8	province-wide	219	NSMC				
May - June	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	pair breeding	JCT				
<b>White-breasted Nuthatch</b>							
Mar - May	Bridgetown, <i>Anna</i>	1-2 most days	SLH, MCR				
Mar - May	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	pair	JCT				
March 1 - 4	Chester, <i>HRM</i>	1	John Trainer				
Mar 1 - Apr 8	Springhill, <i>Cumb</i>	2	CIC				
Apr 4	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1m	KFS				
Apr 12	White Pt., <i>Queens</i>	1	Marg Millard				
May 8	province-wide	77	NSMC				
<b>Brown Creeper</b>							
Mar 8	White's L., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM				
Mar 22	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS				
Apr 14	Uniacke	20+	HAT				
May 6	Nichols L., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM				
May 8	province-wide	15	NSMC				
May 19	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT				
<b>CAROLINA WREN (25th record)</b>							
Mar 1	Chester, <i>HRM</i>	1	CJF, Anne Lambert				
<b>Winter Wren</b>							
Apr 10	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH				
Apr 14	Uniacke	30++	HAT				
Apr 15	Volger's Cove, <i>Lun</i>	1	SJF, JSC				
Apr 23 -							
May 1	Brier I.	6+	ELM, IAM				
Apr 25	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS				
May 8	province-wide	97	NSMC				
	Sandy L. Rd, <i>HRM</i>	9	BLM, IAM				
May 22	BPI	5	CLD, <i>et al.</i>				
<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b>							
Mar 6 - Apr 1	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	RIV, APO				
Apr 6	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	2+	KFS				
Apr 14	Uniacke	20++	HAT				
May 8	province-wide	219	NSMC				
<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>							
Mar 20	St. Peter's, <i>Rich</i>	1	BID				
Apr 13	Jerry Lawrence PP, <i>HRM</i>	1					HAT
Apr 14	Uniacke	2					HAT
Apr 24	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1					VJH
May 8	province-wide	603					NSMC
<b>NORTHERN WHEATEAR (40th record)</b>							
Apr 4	Mt Thom Area, <i>Pict</i>	1					MIK
<b>Eastern Bluebird</b>							
Apr 21, 22	Lighthouse Rd., Brier I.	1f					ELM
Apr 22	St. Peter's, <i>Rich</i>	2					Tony Burke
Apr 28	Lynn Mt Rd, <i>Col</i>	2					JCZ
May 8	province-wide	3					NSMC
May 10 - 21	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	pair					KFS
May 19	Abercrombie, <i>Pict</i>	pair					Adele MacKay
May 19	Elgin, <i>Pict</i>	1m					HAB, JEB
May 20, 21	New Salem, <i>Cumb</i>	1m					KFS
<b>Veery</b>							
May 8	<i>Pictou</i>	1					NSMC
May 14	Hebert R. tr., <i>Hants</i>	1					BLM
May 23	Wentworth Park, <i>HRM</i>	1					DOU
<b>Bicknell's Thrush</b>							
May 26	Bog trail, <i>CBHNP</i>	1					Danny Tyson
<b>Swainson's Thrush</b>							
May 8	province-wide	5					NSMC
May 23	Folley Mt, <i>Col</i>	1					DOU
May 23	BPI	3					CLD, <i>et al.</i>
<b>Hermit Thrush</b>							
Apr 8	Enfield, <i>HRM</i>	1					KAM
Apr 12	Shubie Pk, <i>HRM</i>	2					PLC
Apr 13	Jerry Lawrence PP, <i>HRM</i>	10+					HAT
Apr 13	Tusket Falls, <i>Yar</i>	1					Gerald Jacquard
Apr 22, 23	Lighthouse Rd., Brier I.	6					ELM
Apr 23	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1					KFS
Apr 24	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1					VJH
Apr 24	Canaan, <i>Lun</i>	2 pair					CJF
Apr 25	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1					JCT
May 6	Four Mile L, <i>Anna</i>	10					BRD
May 8	province-wide	392					NSMC
<b>Wood Thrush</b>							
May 21	Chebogue, <i>Yar</i>	1 morbund					John Sallows
May 26	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1					DPO
<b>American Robin</b>							
Mar 2	Peggy's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	50+					Marilyn Ewer
Mar 2	Elderbank, <i>HRM</i>	13					Chris Pepper
Mar 8	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	3-20+					KFS
Mar 15	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	flocks (7-12)					GWT
Mar 16	Milford Station, <i>Col</i>	8					KAM
Mar 21	Onslow Area, <i>Col</i>	100,s					EIM
Mar 22	Scotsburn Area, <i>Pict</i>	100's					KJM, STV
Mar 23	Debert, <i>Col</i>	100+					Maria Forman
Mar 26	Brier I.	1000's					ELM, AHM
Mar 27	Brier I.	500+					IEM, AHM
Mar 28	Brier I.	100's					RBS, others
Apr 12	White Pt., <i>Queens</i>	19					Marg Millard
Apr 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	14					HAT, LAE
May 8	province-wide	4419					NSMC



The GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET is an uncommon feeder visitor. This one was photographed March 12 at Sackville, *HRM*. [Photo Rita Viau]

## Mimics Through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

There were April reports of our three regular mimic warblers. Since there were no reports of GRAY CATBIRDS this past winter, it is possible the April 11 observation of one by JCT in *Shel-Yar* might have been an early migrant. Tuft's "Birds of Nova Scotia" (1986) lists April 16 as the earliest arrival date. The migration started in earnest May 7 with a steady trickle through the month of May. The province recorded 17 for the NSMC from 6 counties mostly from southern end of the province, but one was seen in Richmond Co. This is the highest total for this species on the NSMC in 10 years despite the early count date. NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD reports continue to be low, but BROWN THASHER reports are holding their own with a couple locales hosting repeat birds each spring.

EUROPEAN STARLING numbers still continue on the low side for the NSMC down about 20% of average. It is hard to discern a migration period for AMERICAN PIPIT as the March records are likely over-wintering birds and the May 2 record from Apple River would be an early record. BOHEMIAN WAXWING sightings seem to have petered out by the end of March. Quite a number of CEDAR WAXWINGS over-wintered and continued to be observed up to the usual May migration date. The total of 95 on NSMC day was second high only to May 8, 1999 when 190 were recorded.

A total of 24 warbler species were noted for this period, with 19 observed on the NSMC. About one third of the warbler species had early arriving representatives, some with record setting appearances. Not many people commented on waves of warblers arriving although JCT noted a flurry of arrivals May 21 - 23 in Wolfville ridge. A group on Brier I. for the Victoria Day holiday weekend only noted 11 species of warbler.

Halifax feeder watchers, LOC and GAM were successful in keeping at least 2 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS through the winter on such tasty tidbits as hulled sunflower seeds, mealworms and plum pudding. Suet and grape jelly seemed to be shunned as spring appeared on the horizon. NASHVILLE WARBLER migration seemed to be captured by the date of this year's NSMC with the highest ever total, almost 250% above average. The Port Joli Nashville was very early exceeding the earliest record in Tuft's "Birds of Nova Scotia" by 11 days. Not to be out-done, there were a couple of early records in April of NORTHERN PARULA, but not record-setters. The NSMC totals for Parula was a high record however, and 160% above average. A very early YELLOW WARBLER noted in Roslin, *Cumb.* by the father of BRS on April 1 is almost a record observation, but Tuft's "Birds of Nova Scotia" lists one from Brier I., March 28, 1965.

Despite the fact that in my atlasing, MAGNOLIA WARBLERS seems to be extremely abundant in central Nova, there were not a plethora of spring reports. The CAPE MAY WARBLER on the other hand is still in very low numbers and almost unreported. There was a distinct migration arrival for YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS April 21 - 24 and again our most abundant spring migrant warbler by far. The NSMC total (2134) was about 22% above average but not a record setting number as over 2900 were seen in 2001. The two BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS on April 5 in Spencers Island represent an extremely early arrival almost a month ahead of Tuft's "Birds of Nova Scotia" early date of May 3 which is now approaching the average arrival date. By May 8, this species was widespread and about 16% above average in total on the NSMC.

The May 3 appearance of a BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER in Palmetter Woods is ahead of the Tuft's "Birds of Nova Scotia" date by four days. PALM WARBLERS have the earliest arrival date of our spring nesters and this year they arrived before mid-April a little earlier than usual. Maybe this explains an observation by BRD of Palm Warblers collecting grubs May 29 in *Kings*, possibly already feeding young. Palm Warblers seem to have increased greatly in distribution in the current MBBA likely in response to clear-cut forestry so commonly used. Early nesting would sure help this species fill this niche. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER reports were quite localized this spring and by May 22 were numerous and vying for territories in prime breeding areas in the Liscomb Game Sanctuary. Results of this spring's concentration bare out in the current atlas where this region is a strong-hold for this species whereas it appears to be less so elsewhere in the province although they may not have yet reached other strong breeding areas in Cape Breton. A very early, but not unprecedented report of a BLACKPOLL WARBLER, was reported by BRD who found one singing on territory on Goodwins Island April 26. Historic earlier dates were 10 near Canso, April 18, 1969 and 6 at Gardiner Mines, April 22, 1974. Clearly mid-May is still the average arrival as only one was seen on the NSMC.

A BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER can also be added to the long list of warbler species with a very early arrival this spring. This sighting was March 17 in Richmond county and a month and a half ahead of the earliest late April arrivals. NAMC totals for this species were the second highest since the count started and 64% above the average. OVENBIRDS were also in big numbers for the NSMC with the highest total recorded since the count inception and 226% above average.

The exception to big numbers arriving this spring was the NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH. It is normally one of the early arriving warblers and the 29 recorded on the NSMC is a low number.

Hans and Laura Toom were fortunate to not only locate an early and rare KENTUCKY WARBLER but they were also able to procure excellent photos of this stray which appeared at a recently increasingly hot location for rarities at Sandy Cove, HRM. The bird lingered for others to see and photograph the following day, but likely did not make it much longer than that - the price to pay for such an early arrival to a location so far to the north of the northern breeding range of this species in Pennsylvania.

Sometimes our latest arriving breeding warbler, the MOURNING WARBLER, does not arrive in time for this report but a small number were located singing on territory in the north-eastern mainland in the latter part of May. The April 28 report of COMMON YELLOWTHROAT was a few days later than the early arrival date in Tuft's of April 25, but still quite an early record. This species seemed to arrive early in numbers this year as the 104 was the highest recorded on any of the NSMC years even though this was about the earliest date the count could be held.

Unlike last year when there were many reports of WILSON'S WARBLER, I could not find a single report before June. To round out the warblers with early sightings, a CANADA WARBLER was observed at the Palmeto Woods May 3, nine days earlier than Tuft's early date.



Nice views and photos were obtained of an overshooting (probably wind-driven) KENTUCKY WARBLER discovered April 17 (here April 18) at Sandy Cove, HRM. [Photo(s) Hans Toom, Mike King]

**Gray Catbird**

Apr 11	ShellYar	1	JCT
May 7	Jeddore, HRM	1	LUB
May 7	Brier I.	1	ELM
May 8	6 counties	17 (Lun-6)	NSMC
May 12	Sandy Cove Rd., HRM	1	HAT
May 13	Kentville, Kings	1	AND, L. Dean
May 14	Brooklyn, Hants	1	BLM
May 15	Milton, Queens	1	DPO
May 15	Apple River, Cumb	1	KFS
May 22 - 31	widely	various observers	

**Northern Mockingbird**

Mar 23	Halifax	1 over-wintered	DAM
Apr 5	Monastery, Ant	1	MIK
Apr 23 -			
May 31	Brier I.	1	CAH, ELM, L. Titus

May 3	Port Williams, Kings	1 nest, 3 eggs + ad.	RBS
May 5	Woods Harbour, Shel	1	DOC
May 8	Kings-3, Digby-1	4	NSMC
May 15	Ann. Royal causeway	1	BLM
May 17	Second Pen., Lun	1	fide JAH

**Brown Thrasher**

Apr 23	Brier I.	1	ELM, IAM
Apr 30	Port Williams, Kings	1 "back singing"	RBS
May 7	Brier I.	1	ELM
May 10 - 30	Portuguese Cove, HRM	1 returns to sing	HAT
May 24	Lunenburg locale	1	DAW fide JAH
May 30	Pt. Pleasant Pk, HRM	pair	FLL

**European Starling**

May 8	15 counties	3684	NSMC
	Kings	1031	

**American Pipit**

Mar 15	Hartlen Pt.	5	DOU
Mar 20	Wolfville Dyke	1	RBS
Mar 28	Brier I.	4	RBS, BLF, et al.

Mar 30	Hartlen Pt., HRM	1	RIV
Apr 2	Brier I.	4	ELM
May 2	Apple River, Cumb	1	KFS
May 14	Big I., Pict	2	KMA
May 17	Second Pen., Lun	6	fide JAH

**Cedar Waxwing**

Mar 1 - 30	Kings, Hants, HRM	7 reps of 175+	var. obs.
Apr 2 - 28	HRM, Kings	8 reps	var. obs.
May 8	4 counties	95 (Kings-68)	NSMC
May 12	Dartmouth	5	GAM
May 23	Loganville, Pict	40 arrivals	KJM

**Bohemian Waxwing**

Mar 18	Wolfville, Kings	50+	LUB
Mar 24	Hantsport, Hants	~25	MFU
	(Mixed in with Cedar Waxwings)		

**Tennessee Warbler**

May 8	Kings, Rich, Col	3	NSMC
May 26	Elliot Rd., Hants	1	NSBS fide SMB

**Orange-crowned Warbler**

Mar 1 - May 4	Dartmouth	1 o-w	GAM
Mar 1 - May 1	Lower Sackville, HRM	1 o-w	LOC
Mar 14	Lunenburg	1	JAH, DOU
May 2	CSI	1	DAC
May 8	HRM-1, Col-1	2	NSMC

**Nashville Warbler**

Apr 18	Port Joli, Queens	1	JOA
May 4	Lower Sackville, HRM	1	Dennis Garratt
May 5	Horton Bluff, Kings	1 singing	SAW
May 6	Four Mile L., Kings	5	BRD
May 6	J. Lawrence PP, HRM	1	HAT
May 6	Lower Sackville, HRM	1 singing	LOC
May 7	Brier I.	1 singing	ELM
May 8	10 counties (Hants-59)	216	NSMC

**Northern Parula**

Apr 21	Cranberry L, HRM	1 m	Lynn Karchewski
Apr 23	Prospect Pen. HRM	1 singing	BLM
May 3	Palmeto Woods, Kings	1	NAN
May 6	J. Lawrence P.P., HRM	1	HAT

May 6	Nichols L. <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
May 6	Browns Mtn. <i>Pict</i>	1	JOK
May 7	Black River, <i>Kings</i>	1	ANS
May 8	13 counties ( <i>Kings-116</i> )	399	NSMC
<b>Yellow Warbler</b>			
Apr 1	Roslin, <i>Cumb</i>	1	<i>fide</i> BRS
May 3	Woods Har., <i>Shel</i>	1m	
May 4	Ann. Royal Marsh	1	RBS
May 8	10 counties ( <i>Anna-23</i> )	103	NSMC
<b>Chestnut-sided Warbler</b>			
May 6	L. Lawrence P.P., <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
May 8	6 counties ( <i>Cumb-3</i> )	10	NSMC
May 18	Upper Branch, <i>Lun</i>	Sev. singing	MCR
May 18	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
May 21	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1 singing	JCT
May 23	Loganville, <i>Pict</i>	1	KJM
<b>Magnolia Warbler</b>			
May 7	Jeddore	1	LUB
May 8	7 counties ( <i>Col-16</i> )	47	NSMC
May 15	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
May 21	Caledonia, <i>Guys</i>	1	KJM
<b>Cape May Warbler</b>			
May 16	Lower Caledonia, <i>Guys</i>	1	KJM
May 24	Country Hbr. Mines, <i>Guys</i>	1	KJM
<b>Black-throated Blue Warbler</b>			
May 8	3 counties ( <i>Kings-10</i> )	12	NSMC
May 8	Keji NP	1	MAB
May 8	Mid. Musq, <i>HRM</i>	1m	VJH
May 15	Cape Split, <i>Kings</i>	2	<i>fide</i> JWW
May 15	Minto Rd., <i>Pict</i>	1	STV
May 26	Folly Mtn., <i>Col</i>	1	DOU
May 30, 31	Brier I.	3 singing	ELM
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>			
Mar 3	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	3	CHP
Mar 28	Waterside PP, <i>Pict</i>	2 o-w	KJM
Apr 4	Up. Woods Hbr., <i>Shel</i>	1 o-w	DOC
Apr 4	Martinique	some o-w	Darrell Abolit
Apr 21	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	4	KFS
Apr 23	Milford Station, <i>Col</i>	1 singing	KAM
Apr 23	Taylor Head, <i>HRM</i>	1	MAB
Apr 23	Brier I.	2 small groups	ELM
Apr 23	J. Lawrence PP, <i>HRM</i>	1 lots Apr 24	HAT
Apr 23	Prospect Pen., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Apr 23, 24	Pt. Pleasant Pk., <i>HRM</i>	arrivals	AGH
Apr 24	Lundy, <i>Guys</i>	abundant	KJM
May 8	17 counties	2134 ( <i>CBRM-413</i> )	NSMC
<b>Black-Throated Green Warbler</b>			
Apr 5	Spencers Island, <i>Cumb</i>	2	MSN
May 3	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM, NAN
May 3	Horton Bluff, <i>Kings</i>	1	SAW
May 4	Cape Split, <i>Kings</i>	1	NAN
May 6	J. Lawrence PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
May 6	Browns Mtn., <i>Pict</i>	1	JOK
May 6	Four Mile L., <i>Kings</i>	1	BRD
May 6	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
May 8	13 counties	308	NSMC
May 20	BPI	20	CLD, <i>et al.</i>
<b>Blackburnian Warbler</b>			
May 3	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM
May 8	6 counties ( <i>Kings -3</i> )	8	NSMC
May 12	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	several	James Churchill
May 18	Halifax	1	James MacLeod
May 22	Island L., <i>Guys</i>	1	KJM
May 24	Lunenburg Co. locales	in 3 locales	JAH, NSBS
May 26	Sandy L., west. <i>HRM</i>	1	SMB
<b>Pine Warbler</b>			
Mar. 12	Pt. Pleasant Pk.	1dull, ph.	Justin Burke
May 8	Richmond Co.	4	NSMC

<b>Palm Warbler</b>			
Apr 11	Indian Fields, <i>Shel</i>	1	JCZ
Apr 12	Salmontail L. <i>Kings</i>	1 singing	RBS
Apr 13	Black R., <i>Kings</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JWW
Apr 14	<i>Digby</i>	1	RBS
Apr 15	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	2	VJH
Apr 17	East R. <i>HRM</i>	2	CJF
Apr 17	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	1	JOA
Apr 18	Truemanville, <i>Cumb</i>	1 singing	ROH, KJM
May 8	14 counties	383	NSMC
	( <i>HRM-81, CBRM-67</i> )		
<b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b>			
May 22	Island L. <i>Guys</i>	30+	KJM
May 23	Kemptown, <i>Col</i>	1	KJM
May 24	Country Hbr. Mines, <i>Guys</i>	1	KJM
May 24	Isaacs Hbr. <i>Guys</i>	1	KJM
May 29	Crossroads Country Hbr.	3	KJM
<b>Blackpoll Warbler</b>			
Apr 26	Goodwins I. <i>Shel</i>	1 singing on territory	BRD, Peter MacLeod
May 8	<i>Kings</i>	1	NSMC
May 17	CSI	6	JON
May 18	Halifax	1	PLC, Jeff MacLeod
May 22	BPI	20	CLD, <i>et al.</i>
May 27	Island L. <i>Guys</i>	1	KJM
May 29	Sambro Head, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>			
Mar 17	St. Peters, <i>Rich</i>	1	BID
Apr 28	Mapleton, <i>Cumb</i>	1	JCZ
May 3	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	NAN
May 3	Back Centre, <i>Lun</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JAH
May 3	Horton Bluff, <i>Kings</i>	1	SAW
May 4	J. Lawrence PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
May 4	Cape Split, <i>Kings</i>	1	NAN
May 6	Browns Mtn., <i>Pict</i>	1	JOK
May 6	Nichols L. Trail, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
May 6	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
May 6	Four Mile L., <i>Kings</i>	1	BRD
May 7	Jeddore, <i>HRM</i>	several	LUB
May 8	14 counties	375	NSMC
<b>American Redstart</b>			
May 5	Horton Bluff, <i>Kings</i>	1	SAW
May 6	Four Mile L., <i>Kings</i>	1	BRD
May 8	8 counties	84	NSMC
May 9	Lower Economy, <i>Col</i>	1	Janet Quinn
May 13	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
May 16	Smithfield, <i>Guys</i>	1	KJM
May 22	BPI	15	CLD, <i>et al.</i>



This young female PINE WARBLER survived winter (here March 10) by using feeders in Pt. Pleasant Park, Halifax. [Photo Justin Burke]

**Ovenbird**

May 3	Palmer Woods, Kings	1	NAN
May 4	J. Lawrence PP	1	HAT
May 6	Browns Mtn., Pict	1	JOK
May 6	Arlington, Kings	1	DOL
May 7	Seven Bridges, Kings	singing	AND, L. Dean
May 8	10 counties	388	NSMC

**Northern Waterthrush**

May 2	Palmer Woods, Kings	1	AAM
May 6	Four Mile L., Kings	2	BRD
May 8	5 counties (Pict- 10)	29	NSMC
May 14	Smileys PP, Hants	1	BLM
May 24	Devils L., Guys	6	KJM

**KENTUCKY WARBLER (28th record)**

Apr 17, 18	Sandy Cove Rd., HRM	1 ad. male, photos	
			HAT, DAC,
			MIK

**Mourning Warbler**

May 23	Kemptown, Col	1	KJM
May 24	Country Hbr. Mines, Guys	1	KJM

May 24	Mid. North River, Col	1	KJM
May 26	Folly Mountain, Col	1	DOU
May 29	Archibald L., Guys	1	KJM
May 29	Sherbrooke, Guys	1	KJM
May 29	Crossroads Country Hbr.	3	KJM
May 30	Stillwater, Guys	1	KJM, et al.

**Common Yellowthroat**

Apr 28	Back Centre, Lun	1 fem.	Steven Hiltz
May 4	J. Lawrence PP, HRM	1	HAT
May 7	Jeddore, HRM	1	LUB
May 8	13 counties	104	NSMC

**Wilson's Warbler**

No reports this spring!

**Canada Warbler**

May 3, 14	Palmer Woods, Kings	1	AAM
May 22	Island L., Guys	1	KJM
May 23	J. Lawrence PP, HRM	1	BOC, BLM
May 24	Mid. Musq., HRM	1 fem.	VJH
May 24	Devils L. Guy.	1 fem.	KJM
May 31	Stillwater, Guys	1	KJM

## Tanagers Through House Sparrows

By Hans Toom

The CLAY-COLOURED SPARROW is the quintessential sparrow of Canada's prairie grasslands. It prefers the human modified habitat of aspen bluff and snowberry stands. The range of this species, the most numerous prairie passerine, has been expanding north and east since the turn of the century and now breeds as far east as southern and eastern Ontario. It is easily recognized by its buzzy song and distinctive facial pattern, noticeable from a considerable distance. It has become an annual regular in recent years and often migrates with the look-a-like Chipping Sparrow. It is often seen in Nova Scotia on Bon Portage and Seal Islands in the fall. KJM found one in the Churchill area, May 31, of the New Glasgow, *Pic.*, square while atlassing (MBBA). There are four possible nesting locations for this species in Nova Scotia (MBBA).

A FIELD SPARROW was spotted by KFS at Apple River, *Cum*, May 15. This uncommon vagrant is also an annual regular and is also easily recognized by its facial pattern, pinkish bill and legs, and the bold piercing eye-ring. It has been declining in numbers continent wide possibly due to the reduction of its prime breeding habitat of scrubby old fields. There are two possible and two probable nesting locations for this species in Nova Scotia (MBBA).

The IPSWICH SPARROW was hard to find this spring but ELM found three May 27; one at Westport, Brier I., and two at Whipple Pt., Brier I. One of the Whipple birds may have been a Savannah X Ipswich hybrid, "gray backed, but with brownish wings and coverts and breast streaking more well defined than the average Ipswich".

Four SUMMER TANAGERS turned up this spring in various locations throughout the province. This southern nester has become an annual regular in recent years and the male is easily recognized in its overall bright red colour. The population of this species is stable. Despite its northern venturing it is fragile and will easily perish in cool moist climates if it cannot find food quickly. It is fond of eating wasps and bees year round!

Five SCARLET TANAGERS were reported, now considered more of a transient than a vagrant. It is secretive and prefers forest interiors so is hard to find except when it gives itself away by its burry song. The call note of this tanager is an unmistakable "chick-burr". Its population is stable.

There were only two BLUE GROSBEAKS reported. The coast to coast breeding range of this bird has been expanding northward in recent years although it continues to breed well south of Nova Scotia.

The EASTERN TOWHEE was reported three times. It breeds just south of us in New England so its annual occurrence in Nova Scotia is not surprising. There are five possible nesting locations for this species in Nova Scotia (MBBA).

Seventeen reports of INDIGO BUNTING this spring may not be a record but nonetheless this vibrant and colourful bird is welcome wherever it turns up. SAW had an experience, May 20, at Avonport, Kings, "The crowning sight, about 7 p.m., was my male Rose-breasted Grosbeak and the bunting (Indigo), side by side, about 20 or 30 cm apart, together on the platform feeder. What a colourful sight that was. By the time I had the camera in hand the grosbeak had flown and the bunting left a few seconds later." With 17 possible and probable nesting locations located (MBBA), it is safe to say the species does indeed breed in Nova Scotia, though not yet confirmed.



During every fall when navigation or instinct fails them BALTIMORE ORIOLES arrive in Nova Scotia, sometimes in considerable numbers, and become trapped by the instinctive knowledge that they must stay and live or die in place. They cannot accumulate sufficient fat reserves during the day's feeding to survive the night and still have a surplus left over in the morning to carry them on a long flight. Slowly it gets worse and they suffer starvation and hypothermia and then they die, almost always by February. This occurs every year. The orioles always survive for the longest time in Halifax where they are protected from the wind and the temperature is a little warmer, but they die eventually, none the less. This winter through the **heroic** and relentless efforts of a true bird lover, SEM managed to bring at least nine orioles through our winter, feeding them up to 1000 meal worms per week in her special starling and jay proof enclosure.

Maxine Quinton of Chester Basin, *Lun*, had a very rare plumaged PURPLE FINCH at her feeder this spring, "a sub adult male with yellow-tinged feathering, instead of the usual raspberry, on the rump and upper tail coverts, crown and parts of upper breast". FMC had seen an example of this colouration in an adult male, May 4, 2007, *Vic*, with photos and video.

**Chipping Sparrow**

Apr 23	Westport, Brier I.	2	ELM, IAM
Apr 26, 27	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1-2	KFS
Apr 27	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
May 2	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	RIV
May 6, 7	Westport, Brier I.	1-3	ELM
May 7	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic</i>	1	FMC
May 8	province-wide	210	NSMC
	<i>Kings-</i>	93	
May 9	Brier I.	several	ELM
May 9	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	RIV
May 14	Smiley's PP, <i>Hants</i>	1	BLM
May 20	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	pair	JCT

**Clay-coloured Sparrow**

May 31	Churchville, <i>Pic</i>	1	KJM
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**Field Sparrow**

May 15	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
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**Savannah Sparrow**

Apr 21	Brier I.	10	ELM
Apr 25	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	2	KFS
May 2	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	4	KFS
May 8	province-wide	425	NSMC

**Savannah "Ipswich" Sparrow**

Mar 27	Brier I.	3	ELM
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**Fox Sparrow**

Mar 18	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	DHU
Mar 19	Advocat Hbr., <i>Cumb</i>	2	MSM
Mar 19	White's L., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Mar 20	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
Mar 26 - 29	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1-2	JCT
Mar 28	Westport, Brier I.	1	ELM
Mar 31	Timberlea, <i>HRM</i>	1	Debbie

			Stoddart-Pageau
Apr 7 - May 8	White's L., <i>HRM</i>	1 singing	BLM
Apr 26	Godwin's I., <i>Shel</i>	2	BRD, Peter McLeod
May 8	province-wide	15	NSMC

**Song Sparrow**

Mar 26, 27	Brier I.	major arrival	ELM
Apr 26	Godwin's I., <i>Shel</i>	8	BRD, Peter McLeod
May 8	province-wide	2158	NSMC
	<i>Kings-</i>	497	

**Lincoln's Sparrow**

May 8	province-wide	4	NSMC
	Berwick, <i>Kings</i>	2	
May 31	Lighthouse Rd., Brier I.	1	ELM

**Swamp Sparrow**

Apr 20	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
Apr 24	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
May 8	province-wide	156	NSMC

**White-throated Sparrow**

Mar 3, 4	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	10 o-w	JCT
late Apr	White's Lake, <i>HRM</i>	10+ o-w	BLM
Apr 11	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
May 8	province-wide	1118	NSMC

**White-crowned Sparrow**

Apr 26 - 28	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT, LAE
May 7, 8	Westport, Brier I.	3-5	ELM
May 8	province-wide	29	NSMC
May 10	Clark's Hbr., <i>CSI</i>	5	JON, SAN
May 11 - 13	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1m	Pat Dix <i>fide</i>
	AND		
May 12	Plymouth, <i>Pict</i>	1	KJM
May 13	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1	Pat Dix <i>fide</i>
	AND		
May 14	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic</i>	1	FMC
May 16	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	No	HAT, LAE
May 16	Purcell's Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1	ANM
May 16	Morden, <i>Kings</i>	2	DOU
May 16	Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i>	1	SJF
May 16	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT, LAE
May 16, 17	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
May 17	Morden, <i>Kings</i>	2	AND
May 18	BPI	1	LUB
May 22, 23	BPI	1-2	CLD, <i>et al.</i>

**Dark-eyed Junco**

Mar 4, 5	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	10-13	JCT
Mar 26	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	17	JCT
Mar 26, 27	Brier I.	major arrival	ELM
May 8	province-wide	1203 (-50%)	NSMC

**Summer Tanager**

Apr 5 - 19	Pt. Michaud, <i>Rich</i>	1	WMA
Apr 19	L'Ardoise, <i>Rich</i>	1	JSH
May 12	BPI	1f	Brad
			Woodworth
May 15	Oxford St., Halifax	1	Ava Czapalay
			<i>fide</i> JCZ

**Scarlet Tanager**

Apr 4	South St., Halifax	1m	Nita Graham
			<i>fide</i> CHE
May 17	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	1	JON, SAN
May 18	BPI	1m	LUB
May 21	Palmeters Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	AND
May 21	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1m	Dennis Garratt
May 24	Conquerall Bank, <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH
May 5	Hartlen Pt	1	DAC
May 11	Cape Split, <i>Kings</i>	1	Nancy
			Nickerson
May 17	Parkdale, <i>Lun</i>	1	Mike Wentzell
			<i>fide</i> JAH

**Northern Cardinal**

Mar 1 -			
May 30	Bridgetown, <i>Anna</i>	pair	MCR
Mar 1 -			
May 30	White's Lake, <i>HRM</i>	1f	Jane Stewart
Mar 7 - 21	Gaspereau, <i>Kings</i>	pair	PHT
Mar 14	Ridge Rd, <i>Kings</i>	pair	PHT
Mar 26	Westport, Brier I.	1f	ELM
Apr 4	Clearland, <i>Lun</i>	pair	JAH,
			Anne Hughes
Apr 8	Bible Hill, <i>Col</i>	1f	LHA

Apr 15	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	pair	Sharon Kinsman <i>fide</i> JCT	Mar 17	Brier I.	2+	Laura Titus
Apr 22, 23	Brier I.	2	ELM	Mar 18	Port Howe, <i>Col</i>	flock	VIR
Apr 26	Pt. Pleasant Park	1	AGH	Mar 18	Plymouth, <i>Pict</i>	2	KJM
May 4	Hantsport, <i>Hants</i>	pair	MFU	May 8	province-wide	1532	NSMC
May 5	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	pair	JWW	<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>			
May 8	province-wide	51 (Kings-44)	NSMC	Apr 27	Fleming Park, Halifax	1	PLC
May 10	Windsor Junction, <i>HRM</i>	pair	Brian MacDonald	May 7	Westport, Brier I.	1	ELM
May 15	Ann. Royal Marsh	2m	BLM	May 8	province-wide	82	NSMC
May 15	Granville Ferry, <i>Anna</i>	3	BLM	<b>Common Grackle</b>			
May 24 - 26	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1, 2	LOC, Andrew Stadnyk	Mar 6 - 13	Roslin, <i>Cumb</i>	1+	BRS
				Mar 8	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	3	KFS
				Mar 11	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	GMU
				Mar 12	Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC
				Mar 14	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	10+	KFS
				Mar 15	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
				Mar 19	Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i>	pair	SJF
				Mar 21	Lockeport, <i>Shel</i>	5	DJC
				Apr 5	Rhode's Corner, <i>Lun</i>	50	JAH
				May 8	province-wide	2841	NSMC
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>				<b>Brown-headed Cowbird</b>			
May 5	Plymouth, <i>Pic</i>	1m	KJM	Mar 15	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	10+	DOU
May 5	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1m	LOC	Apr 1 - 10	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1-7 most days	KFS
May 6	Brier I.	2	ELM	Apr 10	Roslin, <i>Cumb</i>	1	BRS
May 6	Brier I.	pair	ELM, AHM	May 19, 20	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1m	KFS
May 6	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1m	KFS	May 26	Smiley's PP, <i>Hants</i>	1	SMB, <i>et al.</i>
May 6	Westport, Brier I.	pair	ELM	May 8	province-wide	26	NSMC
May 7	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic</i>	1	FMC	<b>Orchard Oriole</b>			
May 7 - 14	Grand R., <i>Rich</i>	1	Martha Holmes	May 10 - 12	Clark's Hbr., CSI	2 m	JON, SAN
May 7 - 15	Cambridge Station, <i>Kings</i>	1m	Larry Bogan	May 12	Clark's Hbr., CSI	1f	JON, SAN
May 8	province-wide	34	NSMC	May 17	The Hawk, CSI	4	JON, SAN
May 9	Brier I.	3m, 1f	Laura Titus	May 19	White Point, <i>Queens</i>	1 imm	MMI
May 9	Brier I.	5	ELM	<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>			
May 9	Wood's Hbr., <i>Shel</i>	1m	DOC	Mar 1 -			
May 9	Westport, Brier I	2m, 3f	ELM	Apr 15	Halifax	9 daily, o-w	SEM
May 10	Clark's Hbr., CSI	4	JON, SAN	May 3	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	Daphne Frandsen
May 11	Simms Settlement, <i>Lun</i>	1	EIB	May 4	Plymouth, <i>Pict</i>	1m	Eleanor Mackay
May 14	St. Peter's, <i>Rich</i>	1m	BID	May 5	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel</i>	1	DOC
May 14	East Berlin, <i>Queens</i>	pair	Peter Davies, <i>fide</i> DPO	May 8	province-wide	8	NSMC
May 15, 16	Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i>	3	SJF	May 9	Brier I.	1m	Laura Titus, ELM
May 16	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1m	RIV	May 9	Wood's Hbr., <i>Shel</i>	2m	DOC
May 16	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1m	KFS	May 10	Clark's Hbr., CSI	5	JON, SAN
May 17	Parkdale, <i>Lun</i>	1	Mike Wentzell, <i>fide</i> JAH	May 10	Halifax	1m	PER
May 19	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	3	AND	May 11	Simms Settlement, <i>Lun</i>	1	EIB
May 20	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1m	Dennis Garratt	May 12	White Point, <i>Queens</i>	1	MMI
May 26	Smiley's PP, <i>Hants</i>	1	SMB, <i>et al.</i>	May 12	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT, LAE
May 27	Mid Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1m	VJH, Chris	May 14	CSI	1m	Fawne Atkinson
Pepper				May 14	Lwr. W. Pubnico, <i>Yar</i>	3	RSD
<b>Blue Grosbeak</b>				May 14	East Berlin, <i>Queens</i>	2m, 1f	Peter Davies, <i>fide</i> DPO
Apr 11, 12	Ferguson's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	Laurie Alexander	May 15	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1	DPO
May 15	Cambridge Station, <i>Kings</i>	1	Larry Bogan	May 16	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1m	KFS
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>				May 17	The Hawk, CSI	7	JON, SAN
Apr 28	CSI	1	JON, SAN	May 18	BPI	2m	LUB
Apr 29	Lwr. Clarke's Hbr., CSI	1	Debbie Stoddart- Pageau	May 19	White Point, <i>Queens</i>	1	MMI
May 9	Brier I.	1m	ELM	May 19	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	2	RBS
May 13, 14	Lwr. Rose Bay, <i>Lun</i>	1m	ELM	May 22	Red Bridge Pond, Dartmouth	2	BBU
May 13	New Glasgow, <i>Pic</i>	1m	Bob Hanes	May 25	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1f	KFS
May 14	Lwr. W. Pubnico, <i>Yar</i>	3	RSD	<b>House Finch</b>			
May 19, 20	Elgin, <i>Pic</i>	1m	HAB, JEB	Apr 16	Chestnut St., Halifax	3m, 4f	Sarah McGuire
May 20	Avonport, <i>Kings</i>	1m	SAW	<b>Purple Finch</b>			
May 27	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC	Mar 1 -			
May 29	Sherbrooke, <i>Guys</i>	2m	Dennis Garratt	May 31	Apple River, <i>Cum</i>	2-12+ daily	KFS
<b>Dickcissel</b>				Mar 1 -			
May 8 - 12	Mira R., <i>CBRM</i>	1	NSMC	May 31	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	6-12+ daily	HAT, LAE
<b>Bobolink</b>				Mar 6 -			
May 8	province-wide	37	NSMC	May 31	Mid. Musq, <i>HRM</i>	1-10 daily	VJH
May 11	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic</i>	1m	FMC	Mar 22, 23	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	2-3 daily	JCT
May 16 - 26	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1-3 daily	KFS	May 8	province-wide		NSMC
<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>				<b>Red Crossbill</b>			
Mar 10 - 18	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1-12+	KFS	May 8	province-wide	12	NSMC
Mar 11	Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i>	1m	SJF				
Mar 13	Bellislie Marsh, <i>Anna</i>	1m	Neil Green				
Mar 13	Bridgewater, <i>Lun</i>	1	Terry Boswell				
Mar 14	Blockhouse, <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH, DOU				

**White-winged Crossbill**

Mar 1 -			
May 30	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	2-10+ some days	KFS
Mar 12	Mid. Musq, <i>HRM</i>	1m	VJH
May 8	province-wide	71	NSMC
May 28	Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i>	1f, 2juv	SJF, JSC

**Pine Siskin**

Mar 1 -			
May 31	Mid Musq, <i>HRM</i>	1-6 most days	VJH
Mar 1 -			
May 31	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1-5 most days	KFS
May 8	province-wide	158	NSMC

**American Goldfinch**

Mar 1 -			
May 31	Bridgetown, <i>Anna</i>	1-6 most days	MCR
Mar 1 -			
May 31	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	6-20 daily	HAT, LAE
Mar 3 - 31	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	10-50 most days	JCT
May 8	province-wide <i>Kings</i>	4052 915	NSMC

**Evening Grosbeak**

Mar 1 -			
Apr 30	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1-20 some days	KFS
Mar 2 -			
May 24	Mid Musq, <i>HRM</i>	1-14 most days	VJH
Mar 14	Harmony, <i>Queens</i>	55	JAH, DOU
May 8	province-wide	342	NSMC
May 15	Glenwood Ave., Dartmouth	1	GAM

**House Sparrow**

Apr 4, 5	Westport, Brier I.	2	ELM, IAM
May 8	province-wide	320 (-53%)	NSMC



A number of abnormally white (amelanistic) birds have been reported (and depicted in NS Birds) in recent years, but melanistic or partially melanistic individuals, like this male American Goldfinch at Apple River, *Cum.*, are much less frequent. [Photo Kathleen Spicer]

**List of Contributors**

Thanks to all of our contributors, including:

Sorted by initials

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Dean, Andy	AND	McCorquodale, Dave	DBM	Tufts, Judy	JCT
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Since GLOSSY IBIS has become less frequent in recent springs; these two (of three) at Bellisle Marsh, *Ann.*, were a nice find.  
[Photo Cliff Sandeson]



## Weather - Eastern Annapolis Valley - Spring 2010

By Larry Bogan

### Monthly Weather Record Summary '96 Kentville, N.S.

March, April, May 2010

*(Data for CDA Kentville, N.S. from Environment Canada)*

The spring weather in Nova Scotia this year was unusual delightful. It was warm, sunny, and dry. The result is that the growing season was advanced by, some say, as much as two weeks. The temperatures table quantitatively shows what happened.

Compare the mean temperatures in March, April, and May with the long term averages and you will see that were 3.2°, 4.1°, and 1.4° C above the averages. The whole season was very much above average, 2.6° C. Look at the graph of temperatures for the season.

After a few days below freezing at the end of March there were only four days of near zero temperatures in mid-April. During that same period, the daily maximum reached 20° C or above on 14 days (note that three of those days occurred in early April).

Of course warm and sunny means dry, and the precipitation was very much below normal for the period. It got drier and drier as we progressed through the season. For March, April and May the percentage of normal rainfall were 64%, 39%, and 28%. For the whole spring 2010 we received only 45% of the normal rainfall for the season.

I have included a rainfall graph to show the distribution of precipitation. Although it appears that we had good spread of rainfall throughout the season, the amounts were tiny. We had some precipitation on half of the days but of those 46 days, 37 had less than 5 mm of rain. Only two days had more than 10 mm. The largest amount of precipitation occurred on March 23 when we got 22 cm of snow, the only significant fall during the month. Except for that day, there was very little snow on the ground this spring.

The sunshine hours for March and April were both above their normals by 20 hours per month. Unfortunately, the May sunshine hours data are incomplete but, as I remember, that month was also nice and sunny.

My rule of thumb is that in winter and spring, we have 1/3 clear and 2/3 cloudy weather. That was not the case this spring. In summer I expect 2/3 clear and 1/3 cloudy... we shall see.

*[Ed. Note – in Halifax, in March, we experienced 15 consecutive days with at least some sunshine, an unprecedented event for me in spring.]*

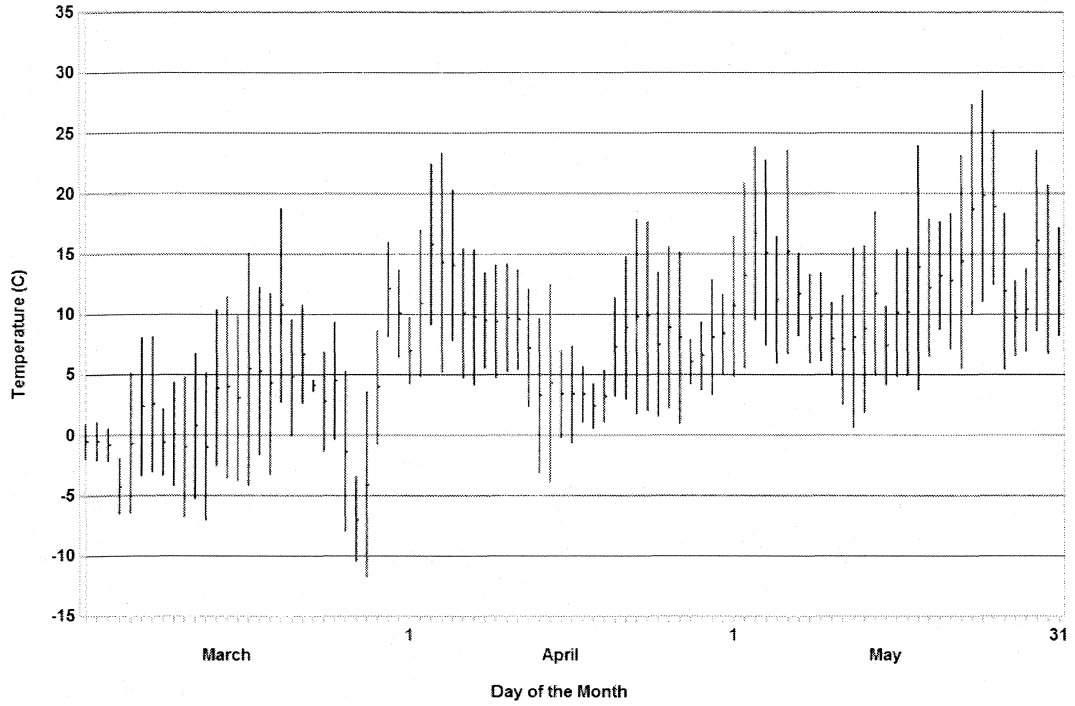


*Red Knots*

*TWB*

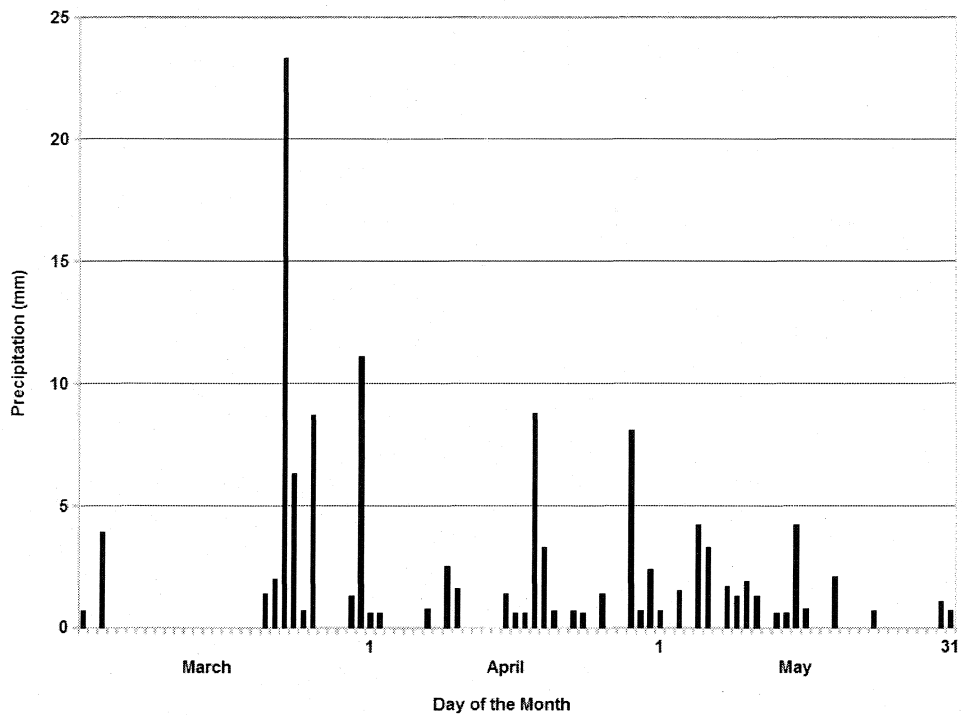
### Min, Max, Mean Daily Temperatures

Mar-May 2010 Kentville, N.S.

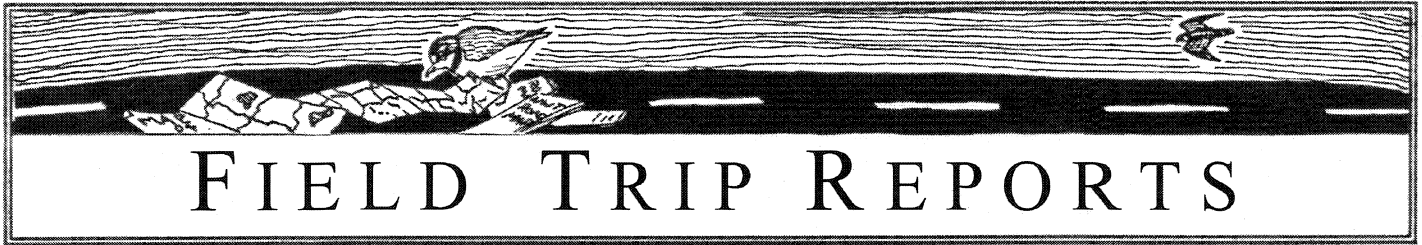


### Daily Precipitation

Mar, Apr, May 2010 Kentville, NS







### **Valley Birding**

**27 February 2010, Leaders: Bernard Forsythe and Suzanne Borkowski**

The NS Bird Society "Valley Birding" trip was a great success. We had no rain whatsoever, and no wind. The day was cloudy but mild - perfect birding weather!

We saw more than 30 eagles during the course of the day, and about half as many Red-tailed Hawks, including great looks at the albino red-tail. We saw at least two Rough-legged Hawks, both light-phase, and had exceptionally good looks at a male adult Peregrine Falcon. It was perched on the crossbar of a power pole on the Grand Pre road and looked to be comfortably sated after having eaten a meal. We assumed this because it seemed quite happy to let us stare at it with binoculars and scopes. It was still there as we slowly drove past it.

Other birds of interest were a Red-throated Loon off Evangeline Beach, and the Northern Mockingbird on Front Street in Wolfville. We had a Red-breasted Merganser at Kingsport, which Bernie said was unusual for the area. Except for some Horned Larks, and a White-breasted Nuthatch, land birds, especially finches, were few and far between. Our tally for the day was 28 species.

Suzanne Borkowski

### **Beginner's Bird Walk, Point Pleasant Park**

**1 May 2010, Leader: Bonnie Carmichael**

We had a great turn-out for this walk, 22 in all, but it was slow going, and many areas were not covered. But everyone's interest was high, among returnees and new participants. In addition to the common resident birds we were pleased to see Broad-winged Hawk, Merlin, Barn Swallow, and Hermit Thrush.

Bonnie Carmichael

### **Conquerall Bank**

**23 May 2010, Leader: James Hirtle**

On May 23, 2010 I met with participants for the Conquerall Bank Field Trip. With lots of other bird outings going on the turnout was the worst that I've ever had -- where normally 15-40 people would be present, this year I had two, Dorothy Poole and Clarence Stevens Sr. The weather co-operated and we had a decent day with 46 species, down by almost 30 species from what we usually see. Warbler numbers were definitely down as compared to other years, but we had a number of highlights for the outing: a male Scarlet Tanager singing by a church at Conquerall Bank; a Hermit Thrush nest with three young at Fitch Road; and a Boreal Chickadee nest along the Watermill Road.

Along Fitch Road a large group of suckers by a culvert held our attention for a while. A number of Blackburnian Warblers and a Bobolink were probably the other best birds seen. In the afternoon we joined together into one vehicle to try for some recently reported rarities, including Purple Martin, Brown Thrasher, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, and Whimbrel. Luck, however, was not with us for any of these species. We were disappointed that these birds had departed, but still got to see some nice places and other birds.

James Hirtle

### Historic Hants County

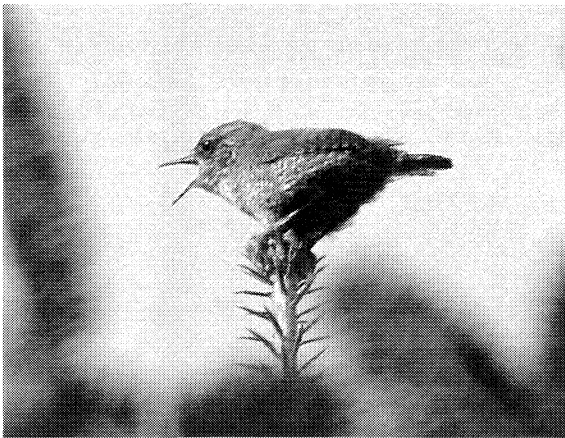
24 May 2010, Leader: Suzanne Borkowski

We had a gorgeous day for our Hants County field trip! We tallied 73 species, our best tally yet for this trip.

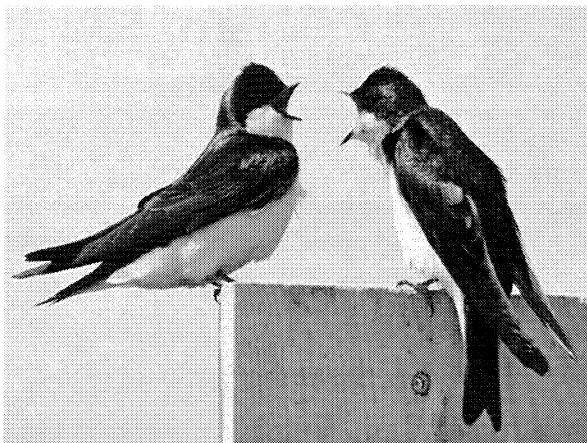
We started at Mount Uniacke House with 14 participants. Highlights here included Eastern Wood-Pewee, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-backed Woodpecker and Pileated Woodpecker. On Elliott Road we had Northern Waterthrush, Veery, Least Flycatcher, American Redstart, Nashville Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Tennessee Warbler. By the end of the day we had tallied 16 warbler species. Near Smiley's Provincial Park we saw Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Bobolink, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Swamp Sparrow.

We ended our trip at the St. Croix Recreation Park, where we failed to see the American Bittern that had been reported there recently: however a pair of very active Pied-billed Grebes were a nice treat for us. The three pairs of Canada Geese with numerous goslings in tow were not too happy with the Grebes' antics. By this time we were down to 7 participants and we called it a day.

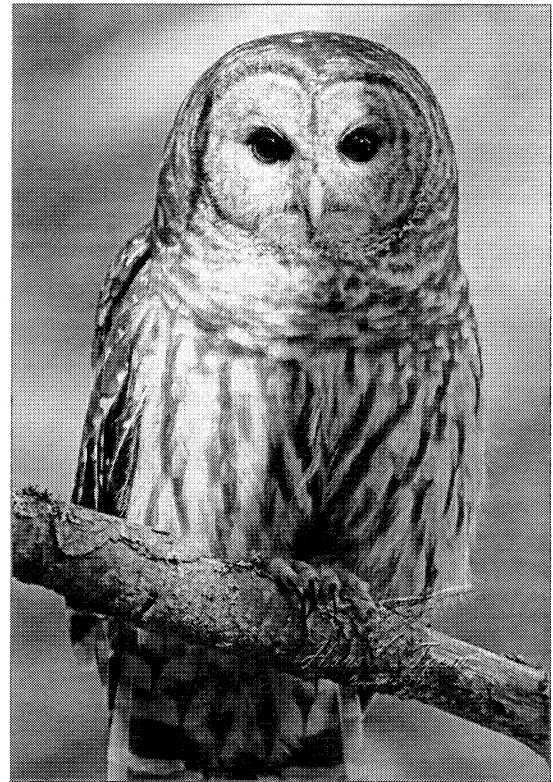
Suzanne Borkowski



A WINTER WREN was singing its heart out, April 5 near E. Chezzetcook, HRM. Was it an early arrival, or had it wintered in the region? [Photo Chris Pepper]



Bickering male TREE SWALLOWS, or a courting pair? It's hard to tell, but they make an amusing photo. [Photo Janet Quinn]



This particularly fine portrait of a BARRED OWL was obtained 11 March, in Oakfield PP. [Photo Hans Toom]



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](mailto:suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca)

**Sat 06 Nov 2010: New Birders' Walk– Point Pleasant Park - Halifax**

Leader: Bonnie Carmichael, E-mail: [bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

**Sun 28 Nov 2010 – Antigonish Coastal Waters**

Leader: Randy Lauff 867-2471 E-mail: [rlauff@stfx.ca](mailto:rlauff@stfx.ca).

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Dragon Fly Café on the TCH #104, just east of exit #35 (Lower South River). This trip covers the waters of St. George's Bay and Antigonish Harbour. We'll end the day at Ogden's Pond which has hosted thousands of gulls, ducks and, in some years, inland gannets.

No rain date.

**Sat 04 Dec 2010: New Birders' Walk – Shubie Park on Waverley Rd - Dartmouth**

Leader: Bonnie Carmichael, E-mail: [bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com](mailto:bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com)

Meet at the Fairbanks centre parking lot at 9:30 am. We'll take a leisurely walk around part of the park to look for late migrants and other winter birds. Duration: 2 hours.

**Sat 04 Dec 2010 – Metro "Hot Spot" Birding**

Leader: Mike King 434-6099 430-2748 E-mail: [mikenjenn1@hotmail.com](mailto:mikenjenn1@hotmail.com)

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at McCormack's Beach. We will check local sites for rarities and unusual birds as a prelude to the Christmas Bird Counts. Great way to start your winter list!

Rain date: Sun 05 December.

**Mon 14 Dec 2010 to Sun 03 Jan 2011 – Christmas Bird Counts**

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

**Sat 08 Jan 2011 – New Birders' Walk**

Leader: Bonnie Carmichael, E-mail: [bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

**Sun 9th Jan 2011 – Sewer Stroll I – Halifax/Dartmouth Area**

Leaders: Bob McDonald 443-5051 E-mail: [bobathome@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:bobathome@hfx.eastlink.ca) and Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922 E-mail: [suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca](mailto:suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca)

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of McCormack's Beach Provincial Park, just past Boondocks Restaurant in Eastern Passage. We'll look for rare birds and regular winter visitors. Dress for cold weather and bring a lunch. Plan to carpool as much as possible.

No rain date.

**Sat 16 Jan 2011 – Beginning Birders Trip – Lunenburg**

Leader: James Hirtle 764-2182 E-mail: [jrhbirder@hotmail.com](mailto:jrhbirder@hotmail.com)  
Pre-Registration is Necessary!

Meet at 8:30 am in the parking lot of the Community Centre in Lunenburg. Drive past the Save-Easy and Tim Hortons. Turn in just before the bowling alley to the parking lot for the Community Centre and Skating Arena. You'll also see a large skateboard park. We'll bird from First South to Lunenburg, along the Lunenburg Waterfront, some areas in and around Lunenburg itself, out to Blue Rocks and then along the shoreline to Mahone Bay. Bring binoculars, field guide if you have one, warm footwear and snacks. Trip will last approximately four hours.

Rain date: Sat 23 January.

**Thu 27 Jan 2011 – Members' Photo Night**

NSMNH, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 7:30 p.m. With the increasing popularity of digital photography, Members' Photo Night has become one of our most popular meeting themes. Bring along 15 – 20 of your favourite photos or slides related to birds or birding.

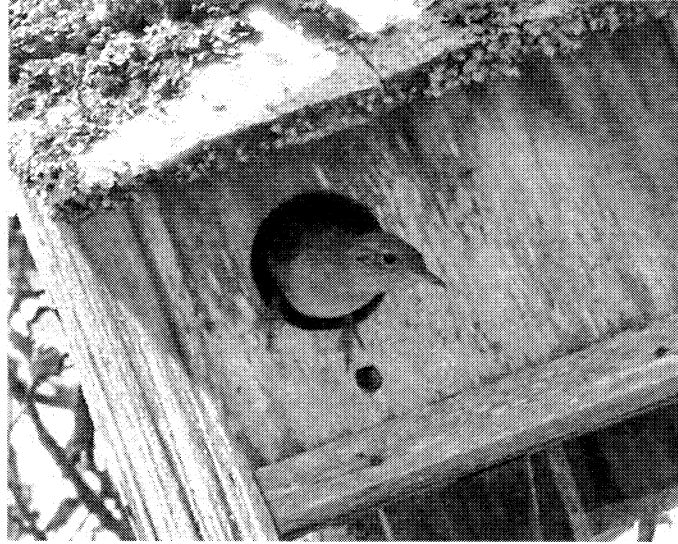
**Sat 12 Feb 2011 – Halifax Harbour Hop**

Leaders: Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922 E-mail: [suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca](mailto:suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca) and Bob McDonald 443-5051 E-mail: [bobathome@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:bobathome@hfx.eastlink.ca)

This will be a joint trip with the Halifax Field Naturalists and will combine the former HFN Sewer Stroll and the NSBS Sewer Stroll II. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot at McCormack's Beach Provincial Park, just past Boondocks Restaurant in Eastern Passage. We will visit Hartlen Point, Eastern Passage, Dartmouth Cove, Sullivan's Pond, Tuft's Cove and the Bedford Waterfront. If the weather conditions are favourable and time permits, we will also visit Herring Cove and Chebucto Head. Dress warmly and bring a lunch.  
No storm date.

**12 Feb-15 Feb 2011 – Great Backyard Bird Count**  
Watch for details on Nature NS and on our website.

**Thu 24 Feb 2011 – Regular Meeting**  
NSMNH, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 7:30 p.m.



A vagrant male HOUSE WREN on Big Tantook I. in late May filled this nest box with sticks, either to lure a female (no luck there) or deter unlikely other males from claiming nest sites. [Photo Hillary Dione]

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