

Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Autumn 2010

(The Birds of Summer)

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

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

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Inside This Issue:

Special points of interest:

- NSBS Sanctuary Trust Annual Report
- Book Review - "Birds of Canada"
- Summer Bird Reports
- Birds in the News and in Science
- From Bird Studies Canada
- Field Trip Reports
- Upcoming Events

Bird Society News	4
NSBS Sanctuary Trust Annual Report	4
In Memoriam - Evelyn (Lowerison) Coates	5
Executive Profile - Chris Pepper	6
Book Reviews	7
Summer Bird Reports	9
Waterfowl	9
Galliformes	10
Loons through Grebes	11
Tube-noses through Cormorants	11
Hérons	12
Diurnal Raptors	12
Rails and Cranes	14
Shorebirds	14
Gulls through Alcids	16
Pigeons through Woodpeckers	18
Flycatchers through Thrushes	19
Mimics through Warblers	21
Tanagers through House Sparrows	24
Weather & Other Reports	28
Weather - Eastern Annapolis Valley - Summer 2010	28
Birds in the News and in Science	30
From Bird Studies Canada	31
Field Trip Reports	33
Upcoming Events	35

Cover: Various sea ducks sometimes linger here, south of their breeding ranges, during summer. This striking male HARLEQUIN DUCK photographed June 11 at Queensland Bch. PP, HRM, was accompanied by a more elusive female. Breeding of the species has been confirmed in northern N.B., and suspected on an inland section of the Tusket R., Yar.; could the occasional pair breed on other more remote stretches of our rivers? [Photo Kevin Lantz]

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS

AUTUMN 2010

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

ISSN 0383-9537.

Published four times a year.



A juvenile NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL peered from the nest hole, June 3 near Jeddore, HRM, where an adult was photographed in March (see photo below from last issue). The young were gone from the nest a week later. [Photo Chris Pepper]



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



Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary Trust - Annual Report

25 November 2010

Bob McDonald, Sanctuary Trust Chair

All but one of the six members of the current Board of the Sanctuary Trust have now completed their terms of office. They are: Terry Boswell (Treasurer), Andy Horn, George Digout, Pat Kelly (NSBS President) and me. Suzanne Borkowski (Secretary) has one more year in her term. So there will be some changes in the composition of the Board and I'll mention those later.

The function of the Sanctuary Trust remains as always – to maintain the NSBS-owned properties in good (tax) standing and to attempt to ensure that they remain good habitat for both breeding and migrating species.

Treasurer Terry Boswell has utilized a spreadsheet format that details at a glance all our properties, their current assessment values and the tax instalments we pay. Terry went back three years so some comparisons can be made. This makes it easy to track our current tax bills that are not surprisingly our major annual expense (roughly \$1,060 in calendar year 2009). Our other major expense is insurance at \$500 (in 2009). Our income comes almost wholly from members' donations, varying from a total of \$1,000 to 2,000 per year. In some years, we are able to make donations to various projects, from funding research endeavours to supporting rehabilitation centres.

All of our properties are classified as 'Resource' by the municipal tax offices and so are taxed as such. For some historical reason, one property, the Kelsey property south of Port Joli, is tax-exempt. It seemed to me that since we own these properties for conservation purposes, and since the province has 'Conservation Property Exemption Bill # 208' on the books, I decided to apply for tax-exempt status for all of our taxable properties. Within 24 hours of calling Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) in Truro, I found out that they were not the entity to contact. PVSC sets property assessment values and sends out the assessment notices but does not decide on tax status; the municipalities do this. So I wrote to the Chief Executive Officers of all municipalities with a detailed plea for tax-exempt status for our property or properties within their districts. Of four letters written, we have had replies from three, one of which (Digby County) accepted our argument! Peter Island, located between Long and Brier Islands, is now tax-exempt!! The other two replies indicated that I should work with the Protected Areas staff in the Provincial Environment Department. This process is not quite so straightforward and I've not yet pursued this approach. One municipality did not respond by mail so I phoned them last week. I learned the great news that Hertford Island, one of the Bird Islands in Victoria County, is also tax-exempt!! Having these two major properties now tax-exempt will save the Sanctuary Trust over \$600 per year!

Most of our properties now have Wardens usually living close by who have agreed to send in occasional reports. Ken Gregoire flew over Indian Island in Lunenburg Co. several times and simply reported fewer Common Eider nests than usual. It would be great to find someone who occasionally visits Indian Island by boat. June Swift reported some terns were seen in Westport Harbour but doesn't think that they are back nesting on Peter Island. Joyce Allen visits the Kelsey Property several times per year and reports fewer warblers being seen although woodpeckers, including Pileated, are well represented. Unfortunately, the owl nest box erected by Dirk van Loon of the nearby Harrison Lewis Centre still had no takers. Ted d'Eon in Pubnico is our new Property Warden for the Bald Tusket Islands. Along with several friends, Ted visited a couple of the islands by boat in June. Ted gave me a DVD which one of the group put together describing their visit to Outer Bald Island (Outer Baldonia!!) and I hope to be able to show it to you after my report. Ted also kindly sent me this link to share with others should you wish a virtual visit. (<http://teddeon.com/OuterBald2010/>)

As I indicated previously, the Sanctuary Trust has a history of supporting research projects and giving donations to wildlife rehab centres. We had no applications for support this year and, frankly, we simply forgot to make any donations before fiscal year-end. We are, however, considering making a donation within the next month or two to the Hope For Wildlife Centre which was called upon to make a huge effort to care for the many birds which were driven, often exhausted and starving, up here by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Earl. Perhaps the most famous example is Ralph, the Brown Pelican, who is still waiting for his 'Green Card' so that he can be transported to the southern US where he will be much more at home. Meanwhile he is relying heavily on Hope's

hospitality and is reported to be doing well after many setbacks!

As always, the Sanctuary Trust welcomes your contributions along with your NSBS membership renewal. Donations of \$10 or more will receive an official receipt that can be used at income tax time.

Finally, I'd like to announce the composition of the Sanctuary Trust Board for 2010-2011. Terry Boswell, after serving a one-year term, has agreed to begin a 3-year term as Treasurer; Suzanne Borkowski will stay on as Secretary; and I have agreed to a second 3-year term as Chair. Andy Horn and George Digout will be leaving the Board after their 3-year terms. Dennis Hippert has accepted a 3-year term as a new Board member. The NSBS President is an ex officio member of the ST Board and so as Patrick Kelly leaves, we welcome Jim Cameron to that position. So, many thanks to Andy, George and Patrick for their service to the ST, and welcome to Dennis and Jim.

Thank you.

In Memoriam
Evelyn (Lowerison) Coates
Another of the Old Guard Gone

Evelyn (Lowerison) Coates from Cumberland County, probably the earliest member of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, died in Amherst 13 November 2009, aged 82. Evelyn was born and schooled in Dorchester, N.B., and lived there until she undertook nursing training, around 1945, in Amherst. She lived in Cumberland County for the rest of her life.

We have no information on where or when her enthusiasm for birds began, but it was well-established by 1960, when she was recommended to me as a likely cooperator in the Maritimes Nest Records Scheme (begun that year). She may have received some encouragement from Ashford Fox of Amherst, a correspondent of Robie Tufts and brother of Evelyn Richardson (of Bon Portage Island fame). I met Evelyn first through the 1961 Christmas Bird Count, when she and Dora Myers started the count at Amherst.

For the next decade Evelyn provided the main focus for Bird Society activity in Cumberland County, where she organized the Christmas counts, as well as excursions to Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary. Her nest records were mostly from the Amherst area, where she encouraged nest-finding efforts, especially by Bill McNutt, a major contributor in the late 1960s. She also reported from interior Guysborough County, where she and Bill Coates had a "summer home - hunting camp" at Cameron Settlement by West Branch St. Marys River for many years. She checked the cormorant colony at Abercrombie (Pictou Co.) while passing there en route to and from Cameron Settlement. Her enthusiasm for birds also infected her elder sister June, whose husband and family initiated the Northport CBC (Cumberland Co.) around 1970.

After the early 1970s Evelyn's observations, especially at Amherst Point, were overshadowed by those of Con Desplanque (of Amherst) and Stu Tingley (of Aulac), who devoted more time birding there than Evelyn ever spared in her crowded life - which included also a nursing career, a husband, and support for the Cumberland County Museum and the New Democratic Party (not in that or any order!). Her participation in bird observations continued long after she handed over organization of the Amherst CBC to Stu Tingley in 1973, and it showed an upsurge - with easier opportunity - when she moved to a "home in the woods" near Fenwick after her husband died around 1979.

Evelyn had many friends, though she was little known to the present generation of NSBS members to whom this account may serve as a memorial. She will be missed in this area.

A.J. (Tony) Erskine



EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Chris Pepper – Field Trip Coordinator

Chris was born right here in Nova Scotia and grew up in Lake Echo, just outside of Dartmouth. As a child he always loved the woods. In fact, one of his earliest aspirations was to become a forest ranger. To this day he is completely at home in the woods. His father used to take him hunting and fishing every winter and spring, and Chris remembers seeing Barred Owls, Kingfishers, Common Nighthawks, and Spruce Grouse. He was given his first field guide when he was eight years old – the Golden Guide to the Birds of North America.

A few years ago his parents built a camp in the deep woods between Higginsville and the Mooseland Road. Chris spends as much time there as he can. He gets to see and hear so many birds right outside the camp: Gray Jays, Boreal Chickadees, Black-backed Woodpeckers, Canada Warblers, and lots of Hawks. At first he had some difficulty learning to ID the hawks, but checking field guides helped, and he took pictures of everything he saw and asked different people to help identify them. The first bird he identified on his own was a Hermit Thrush; he had learned to recognize their song. The second bird was a Magnolia Warbler. He used to think warblers were tropical birds, and was delighted when he learned that they bred here in Nova Scotia.

He found the Nova Scotia Bird Society on the internet and joined right away. He came to some meetings, met some interesting people like Blake Maybank, who took him on a Christmas Bird Count in Shubenacadie. He also did the Truro CBC where he got to see his first Common Redpoll. He had read about these little birds in our magazine, Nova Scotia Birds, and was hoping he'd get to see them. He joined the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas and met Verna Higgins, a Bird Society member and a neighbour who lives in Higginsville. He covered more than one square with Verna, and also spent a lot of time atlassing on his own.

Chris could tell you some interesting stories about his days spent in the woods, atlassing. On one occasion he spotted a fairly tall dead stump or snag with an entrance hole. Thinking it would be a great spot for an owl or a woodpecker he decided to go over and give it a knock. Just as he was about to do this, he looked up and noticed a small peep hole below and to the left of the nest entrance; and even more surprising, he could see the eye of a bird looking right at him! He backed away, carefully, but checked this tree often and was soon rewarded with close up views of a Saw-Whet Owl leaving and entering the nest. He got some great pictures!

The most memorable day was when he was walking down an old logging road and as he was scanning the far side of a large clearing he noticed a bear staring at him that was too close for comfort. Chris shouted "Hey!" in a deep voice expecting the bear to run in the opposite direction, but instead there was a split second of silence, then it charged right for him. Chris started clapping his hands frantically and screamed like he never knew he could. The bear closed the gap from 20 yards to 10 yards before it turned in the other direction and while looking over his shoulder at Chris it sauntered off into the tree line. Chris continued walking back to his truck on very shaky legs and made lots of noise at every stop for the rest of the day. (Who says atlassing is boring?)

Chris joined the Executive in 2009 as Director and Field Trip Coordinator, and in 2010 he took over the Nova Scotia Spring Migration Count from Hans Toom. He also does the mailings for the Bird Society Magazine. Please join me in wishing Chris all the best in his endeavours. If you haven't met him yet, you may run into him on a field trip, or on a trail in the woods.

Suzanne Borkowski
Member, Nova Scotia Bird Society





Birds of Canada

by Tyler L. Hoar, Ken De Smet, R. Wayne Campbell, and Gregory Kennedy,
Edmonton, Lone Pine Publishing, 2010. 528p.

This is one of the latest and most ambitious of the Lone Pine series of well-illustrated regional guides to birds and other groups of living things. The size of a large field guide, it is something of a compromise between a guide for beginning birders and a comprehensive reference to Canada's birds. It is ideal for the intermediate level birder who wants a good, but not too bulky, reference for the car, or for browsing at home or cottage. For the beginner who has learned the field marks of his or her local species from a Peterson, this makes a good gift to allow expansion of knowledge about these species and an introduction to those of the rest of Canada. For the serious birder, it will not replace Godfrey's *The Birds of Canada*, but is a useful complement, being a handy reference for updated information, especially nomenclature, taxonomic and range changes.

Most of the book consists of one-page accounts and illustrations of the 451 species considered regular in Canada. This is based on Denis Lepage's Avibase list of 658 species for Canada, provided as a check-list at the end, although at least ten species that Avibase considers regular in Canada are relegated to the appendix of "Rare and Accidental Species" or omitted. For each regular species, the top half of the page is shared by a text introducing interesting aspects of that species and by one or more paintings showing the major adult plumages, and, for most water birds and raptors, flight patterns. The bottom quarter of the page is devoted to a map showing the Canadian range of the species by season and a close-up photo. The other quarter page consists of field-guide style notes with the headings ID, Size, Habitat, Nesting, Feeding, Voice and Similar Species.

The book also contains a number of features of special value to beginners or casual birders. One is the Lone Pine colour code to groups, which helps the observer select a group closest to the unknown bird by providing small illustrations of typical members of 23 groups – mostly orders for non-passerines and families for passerines, each coded to a particular colour. An 11-page key (called "reference guide") at the front of the book colour codes thumbnail-sized illustrations of all 451 regular species to these groups, with reference to the main page number for the species, so that even someone who does not know the name of a species, or its taxonomic position, can quickly find it.

The 22-page introduction is also especially valuable to beginners. It includes a good section on "Ecoregions of Canada", based on the Environment Canada classification and using their controversially restricted definition of 'taiga'. Sections on "Conservation and Protected Spaces" and "Where to Bird in Canada" are evidently very limited for topics that can and have had complete books devoted to them. Other headings in the introduction are 'Migration', 'Winter', 'Canadian World Record Setters', 'Beginning to Learn the Birds', 'Classification', 'Techniques of Birding' (perhaps the most useful section), 'Birding Activities' and 'About the Species Accounts'.

After the species accounts is a 10-page appendix covering 40 species of "Rare and Accidental Species", all but eight illustrated. This is useful to experienced observers, although the selection is somewhat arbitrary, and several of the species (e.g., Cory's Shearwater, Great and South Polar Skuas, Common Ringed Plover, Horned Puffin, and Eastern Yellow Wagtail) deserve full-page coverage as species regularly occurring. Surprisingly, the last two, which have limited breeding ranges in Canada, are among the eight not illustrated. A useful glossary follows the appendix, with an oversimplified bird topography diagram at the end, and after that one page of "Selected References", which is not very well selected, and the very useful complete checklist of 658 Canadian birds. This check-list has the added value of including the status of any species designated as at risk in Canada (endangered, etc.).

As might be expected with experienced ornithologists such as Campbell and De Smet among the authors, the quality of information is very good and few errors were noted, although some details of the range maps need work. For example, Mallards are shown as wintering in the Maritimes only in a narrow band around the Bay of Fundy, instead of occurring throughout. Lone Pine's usual high editing standards apply, so the few typos are not serious, e.g., the page numbers for the cuckoos in the key are reversed, and Common Pochard is included in the Canada list at the end, although Avibase does not currently list it for Canada.

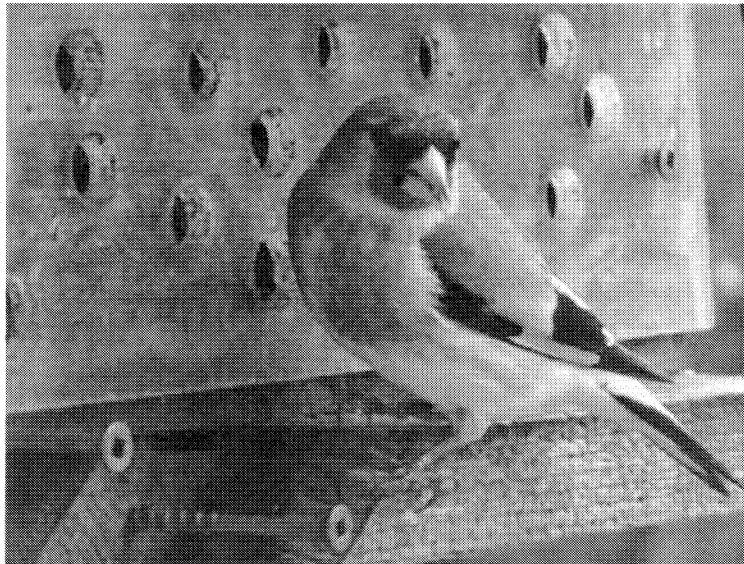
There are a few changes that could easily be made in another printing that would add to its value for birders in Canada. The most important of these is to include, in the space across from the international ("scientific") names, the currently approved French

name in each species account. These change about as often as the English ones, so, especially for anglophones birding in the quarter of Canada that is mainly French-speaking, it would be useful to have this name in a reference, even for the 20% of the population that is functionally bilingual.

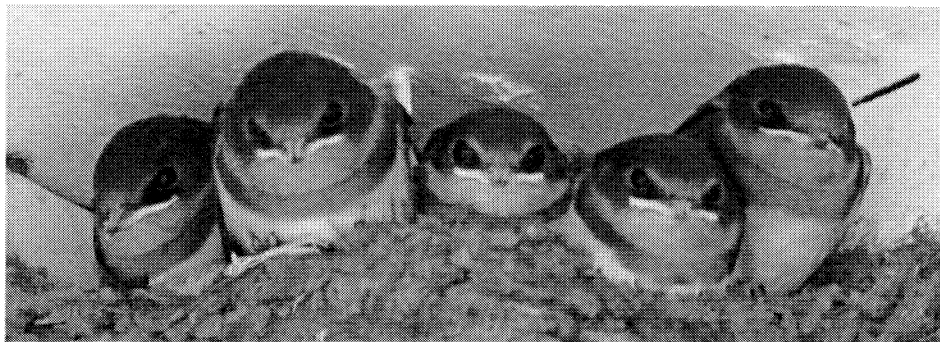
The three artists, who make such an important contribution to the creative content, should, it seems to me, be recognized on the main title page, but this is a situation common to most Lone Pine books. Although we can see the three styles, readers also have no way of knowing which goes with which of the artists (Ross, Nordhagen, and Pluciennik) – admittedly of interest to only a few very curious readers like myself.

As it is, however, it is a very good value at \$32.95 paperbound and even better at \$39.95 cloth-bound, and I would definitely recommend it for any Canadian birders.

Wayne Neily



A striking male EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH, the second reported this year, visited June 21 at a feeder in Advocate, *Cum*. [Photo Ernie Morris]



A brood of BARN SWALLOWS, late July near Liverpool, is beginning to appear somewhat disgruntled with crowded life on the nest. [Photo Dorothy Poole]



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

ad. = adult	APBS	Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, <i>Cumberland</i>
alt. = alternate plumage, i.e., breeding plumage	Ann. Royal Marsh	Annapolis Royal Marsh, <i>Annapolis</i>
Bch = beach	Apple River	Apple River, <i>Cumberland</i>
BBS = Breeding Bird Survey	Belleisle	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Annapolis</i>
ca. = <i>circa</i> , i.e., approximately	Blanche	Blanche Peninsula, <i>Shelburne</i>
CBC = Christmas Bird Count	BPI	Bon Portage (Outer) Island, <i>Shelburne</i>
f. = female	Brier I.	Brier Island, <i>Digby</i>
<i>fide</i> = "according to" or "On the authority of"	Canso	Town of Canso, <i>Guysborough</i>
Hbr = harbour	CBI	Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia
I. = Island	CBHNP	Cape Breton Highlands National Park
imm. = immature	CBRM	<i>Cape Breton Regional Municipality</i>
juv. = juvenile	Cherry Hill	Cherry Hill Beach, <i>Lunenburg</i>
L.R. = Local Record	Cole Hbr.	Cole Harbour, <i>HRM</i>
m.obs. = many observers	Conrad's	Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i>
m. = male	Crystal Crescent	Crystal Crescent Beach Provincial Park, <i>HRM</i>
nd = no details, i.e, unconfirmed by documentation	CSI	Cape Sable Island, <i>Shelburne</i>
NHS = National Historic Site	Glace Bay	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>
NSMC = Nova Scotia Migration Count	Hartlen Pt	Hartlen Point, <i>HRM</i>
o-w = over-wintered	HRM	Halifax Regional Municipality
PP = Provincial Park	Keji	Kejimikujik National Park
Pen. = Peninsula	Long I.	Long Island, <i>Digby</i>
ph. = photographed	Louisbourg	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>
pr = pair	Martinique	Martinique Beach Provincial Park, <i>HRM</i>
R. = River	Musq.	Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>
SP = Sewage Ponds	PPP	Point Pleasant Park, <i>HRM</i>
spec. = specimen	Schooner Pond	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>
thr. = throughout the season	Seal I.	Seal Island, Outer Tuskets, <i>Yarmouth</i>
Tr. = trail	Sober I.	Sober Island, <i>HRM</i>
var.obs. = various observers	Sullivan's Pd	Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, <i>HRM</i>
w. = winter	Taylor Head PP	Taylor Head Provincial Park, <i>HRM</i>
	Uniacke	Uniacke Estate Museum Park, <i>Hants</i>
	W. Lawrencetown	West Lawrencetown Marsh, <i>HRM</i>

Place Names

3 Fathom Hbr Three Fathom Harbour, *HRM*

Waterfowl

By John Belbin

Kevin Lantz found and photographed a pair of **HARLEQUIN DUCKS** at Queensland Beach PP on June 11. This is extremely late for this species, although they have been known to linger into the first week of June on the Bay of Fundy.

WOOD DUCKS bred well on the Annapolis Royal Marsh and family groups were seen by many observers. This is proving to be an excellent site to find many otherwise unusual water birds.

Don MacNeil found a flock of 34 **COMMON MERGANSERS** at the Head of Mahone Bay on July 24th, which seems early for such a gathering.

RUDDY DUCKS appear to have bred in the marsh at Annapolis Royal and were seen by several observers. A nest and eggs were found in the Antigonish area.

Canada Goose

Jun 10	Ann. Royal Marsh	4 pr+ juv	Lois Jenkins
Jun 24	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2+ juv	JCT
Jul 8	First L., Lwr Sackville	11	RIV

Wood Duck

Jun 4	Ann. Royal Marsh	4	DOU
Jun 9	Harris Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1 m	JWW
Jun 10	Ann. Royal Marsh	3 pr+ juv	Lois Jenkins
Jun 10	Red Bridge Pd, <i>HRM</i>	5 m	PMU
Jun 18	Apple River	1 m	SJF
Jun 27	Ann. Royal Marsh	many juv	JAH
Jul 17	Lower Meaghers Grant, <i>HRM</i>	1+2 juv	VJH

Gadwall

Jun 4	Ann. Royal Marsh	2	DOU
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Eurasian Wigeon

Jun 9, 10	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1 m	RIV
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American Black Duck

Jul 15	Berwick, <i>Kings</i>	23	Sydney Penner
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Mallard

Jun 16	Apple River	12	KFS
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Blue-winged teal

Jun 27	Ann. Royal Marsh	2	JAH
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Northern Shoveler

Jun 4	Ann. Royal Marsh	6?	DOU
Jun 27	Ann. Royal Marsh	3	JAH

Green-winged Teal

Jun 4	Ann. Royal Marsh	4	DOU
Jun 27	Ann. Royal Marsh	several M	JAH
Jul 1	River Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	1 pr	RIV
Jul 26	Big Island, <i>Pict.</i>	2	DOU, ALD

Ring-necked Duck

Jun 10	Ann. Royal Marsh	1+ 4 juv	Lois Jenkins
Jun 10	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	PMU
Jun 20	Antigonish town	family	RFL

Common Eider

Jun 12	Cow Bay Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	6 f +12 juv	PMU
Jun 26 - 29	Whitehead-or Bay, <i>Guys.</i>	good numbers	KJM
Jul 1	Taylor Head PP, <i>HRM</i>	several rafts	NSBS, GAM
Jul 31	Lawrencetown Head, <i>HRM</i>	15	BLM, NIF

Harlequin Duck

Jun 11	Queensland Bch, <i>HRM</i>	1 pr (ph)	Kevin Lantz
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Black Scoter

Jun 15	Meat Cove, CBI	1 f	Avery Bartels
Jul 31	Lawrencetown Head, <i>HRM</i>	1 f	BLM, NIF

Common Goldeneye

Jul 4	Cheticamp Flowage, <i>Inv.</i>	2 broods	RFL
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Common Merganser

Jun 17	Crosskill L., <i>Col.</i>		VJH
Jul 24	Head of Mahone Bay, <i>Lun..</i>	34	DAM

Red-breasted Merganser

Jul 2	River Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	3 m	RIV
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Ruddy Duck

Jun 1	Ann. Royal Marsh	1+	Lois Jenkins, SHH
Jun 10	Ann. Royal Marsh	2+ juv	Lois Jenkins
Jun 22	Ann. Royal Marsh	1 m	SYP
Jun 29	Antigonish town	nest	RFL

Galliformes

By Wayne P. Neily

Although many were reporting to the Atlas and BBS, there were relatively few reports directly to NS Birds or to NatureNS for regular species this June and July. The details of these databases (MBBA, BBS) and that of E-bird are not easily accessible unless they are copied to us by the observer. Even knowing the number and distribution of these records helps our understanding of the species, so they are used to the extent possible. The MBBA this year provides one of the best indicators of this, and the number of squares and regions in which each species was reported in N.S. are given by species. This excludes the Tintamarre region, because of the difficulty of separating N.S. and N.B. records in it.

The Ring-necked Pheasant and both native grouse are present in good numbers while the Gray Partridge clings to survival in the Province with at least one brood in the Truro area. Happily, no other exotic introduced species were reported this season.

Gray Partridge

MBBA in 2010: no N. S. reports.

Jul 2	Truro, NSAC premises	1	DOU
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"Ross Hall told me later that there is a brood hidden beneath a bush on the premises".

Ring-necked Pheasant

MBBA in 2010: in 98 squares in 10 of 12 regions; most in Chebucto-Musquodoboit (24) and Annapolis Valley- Digby Neck (23).

Jun - Jul	widely	18 rpts of 32 ind	eBird
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Jun - Jul	widely	7 rpts of 21 ind	6 obs
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Jul 17	Port Howe, <i>Cum.</i>	10 imm	VIR
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Ruffed Grouse

MBBA in 2010: in 172 squares in 12 of 12 regions; most in Mersey-LaHave, Cobequid, and East Cape Breton Island (20 each).

Jun 5	Money Pt., <i>Vic.</i>	1	AVB
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Jun 11	Shelburne area	3	JAH
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Jun 12	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	1	KJM
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Jun 25	Scots Bay east, <i>Kings</i>	14	SYP
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Jul 7	Caribou L. area, <i>Lun..</i>	5 broods	JAH, DPO
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Jul 11	Samsonville, <i>Rich..</i>	1 + 7 juv.	BID
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Jul 23	Whale L. area, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JRH
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Jul 29	French Mtn., CBHNP, <i>Inv.</i>	1	Peter Flint
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Spruce Grouse

MBBA in 2010: in 35 squares in 10 of 12 regions; most in Guysborough (9) and Cape Breton Highlands (9).

Jun 9	Benjie's L.Tr, CBHNP	1	AVB
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Jun 16	Apple River	1 f 5 juv	KFS
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Jul 6	French Cove, <i>Rich..</i>	1 f 3 juv	BID
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Jul 6	Fleet Settlement, <i>Guys.</i>	1 f 3 juv.	SEM
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Jul 7	Fishing Cove R., CBHNP	1+	Denise & Allen Klaiber
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Jul 8 - 16	Carleton area, <i>Yar.</i>	2 broods	LEB, Jean-François Jetté
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Loons through Grebes

By John Belbin

The **PIED-BILLED GREBES** that bred in the French Basin Marsh at Annapolis Royal were seen by many observers. This same marsh seems to have attracted several significant and normally secretive water birds.

The young **Common Loons** reported from Lake Paul were the first ones seen at that location in several years.

Red-throated Loon				Jul 17	Kejimikujik	several (ph)	GMU
Jun 9	Harborville, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS	Pied-billed Grebe			
Common Loon				Jun 4	Ann. Royal Marsh	6+juv	DOU
Jul 2	Sandy Bottom L., <i>Anna.</i>	1	MCR	Jun 9	Harris Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW
Jul 7	Lay L., <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH, CHP	Jun 26	Oakland, <i>Lun.</i>	1	DAM
Jul 8	Lake Paul, <i>Kings</i>	2 juv	Angela Joudrey	Jul 16	Carleton, <i>Yar.</i>	nest	LUB

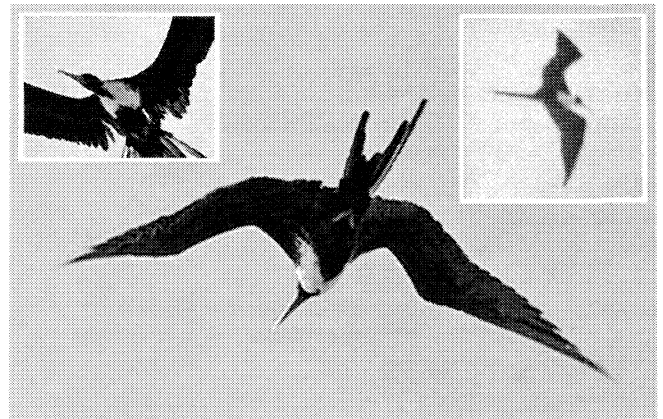
Tubenoses through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

NORTHERN FULMARS are not always present in the outer Bay of Fundy in summer, but this appears to have been a Fulmar year and a few were seen on many whale tours during the early summer. Shearwaters arrived about on time, in early June, although off Brier Island numbers were never high through June and July. The northward movement of **GREAT SHEARWATERS** is protracted, and while some from the breeding colonies on Tristan da Cunha had reached the Bay of Fundy by late June, some were still in the tropical Atlantic making their way north, according to satellite tracking. In contrast to last summer, when they were superabundant, **SOOTY SHEARWATERS** were quite scarce throughout in the Bay of Fundy area off Brier Island.

GREAT CORMORANTS appear to have nested again on the magnificent cliffs of Green Head, Brier Island, although there was no evidence of breeding there in 2009.

The birds of the season were a female **FRIGATEBIRD** that visited a fish weir in the inner Bay of Fundy on July 17 and adult female **MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRDS**, one photographed near Shag Harbour on July 21, and another, or the same, that visited each whale tour boat in turn near Moores's Ledge, north of Brier Island, on July 24 and was photographed stunningly for a positive identification. Another, seen in early August, will be reported in the next seasonal report; it is possible that the same bird was involved in each sighting.



An adult female **MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** (including the left insert) was amply photographed July 24 off Brier I. (Key differences from other remote possibilities include the shape of its white breast patch, and black head). Interestingly, another female was photographed July 21 off Shag Hbr., *Shel.* (right insert). In some ways it appears different from the Brier I. bird – notably in its seemingly longer tail and less black extending back on the throat – although this could be a result of different photographic aspect. [Photos Jamie Swift; right insert, Karen Townsend]

Northern Fulmar			
Jun 11	Off Brier I.	1	ELM
Jun 17	Off Brier I.	A few	DCO, LCO
Jul 17	Off Brier I.	4	ELM
Great Shearwater			
Jun 8	Off Brier I.	A few	JUS
Jun 11	Off Brier I.	~ 120	ELM
Jul 16	Off Brier I.	6	ELM, AHM
Jul 17	Off Brier I.	50	ELM
Jul 31	Off Brier I.	50	ELM, AHM, RBS
Sooty Shearwater			
Jun 11	Off Brier I.	~ 30	ELM
Jun 17	Off Brier I.	A few	DCO, LCO
Manx Shearwater			
Jun 11	Off Brier I.	1	ELM
Jul 6	Off Brier I.	?2	JUS

Wilson's Storm-Petrel			
Jun 8	Off Brier I.	1	JUS
Jun 11	Off Brier I.	200+	ELM
Jun 17	Off Brier I.	A few	DCO, JCO
Jul 16	Off Brier I.	6	ELM, AHM
Jul 17	Off Brier I.	20	ELM
Jul 31	Off Brier I.	10	ELM, AHM, RBS
Northern Gannet			
Jun 7	Off Brier I.	20, Imm.	ELM
Jun 11	Off Brier I.	~ 25	ELM
Jun 26	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	11 imm.	ELM
Jul 22	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	50+	DJC
Jul 30	Off Brier I.	100 imm.	ELM, AHM
Jul 31	Off Brier I.	50 imm.	ELM, AHM, RBS

Double-crested Cormorant

Jun - Jul	Brier I.	100+ ad./imm.	ELM
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Great Cormorant

Jun 7	On cliffs, Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM
Jun 26	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	2 imm.	ELM
Jul 2	Peters I., Brier I.	1 ad., 2 imm.	ELM
Jul 3	Green Hd., Brier I.	10 (2 ad.).	ELM
Jul 30	Brier I.	3 imm.	ELM

FRIGATEBIRD SP.

Jul 17	Off Carrs Brook, <i>Col.</i>	1 fem.	fide FLS
MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD			
Jul 21	Shag Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1 fem., photo	fide JCZ
Jul 24	Off Brier I.	1 fem., photo	JUS, Jamie Swift

Hérons

By Ulli Höger

GREAT BLUE HERONS were seasonally common in our province. Less common were the TRICOLORED HERONS reported from Cow Bay marsh, a reminder to give our common herons more than a quick glance when driving by. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS were seen in previous years in some locations. Still, this species remains a very rare visitor in Nova Scotia. Its cousin, the BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, bred as usual on CSI, even if reports of sightings from the region were scarce.

American Bittern

May 30 - Jun	Apple River	1	KFS
Jun 18	Belleisle Marsh	1	LOC
Jul 24	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DEF, Jeff MacIntosh

Great Blue Heron

common

TRICOLORED HERON

Jun 8	Cow Bay Lake, <i>HRM</i>	2	Marie Reid
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Great Egret

May 16	Spryfield, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
Jun 12 - 19	Cow Bay Lake, <i>HRM</i>	1	PMU
Jul 21	CSI	1	JON
Jul 21	Cow Bay Lake, <i>HRM</i>	2	RIV

Snowy Egret

Jun 8	Cow Bay Lake, <i>HRM</i>	2	Marie Reid
Jun 9 - 10	Brier I.	1	Louise Garron, ELM

Little Blue Heron

Jun 6	Spry Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	Jim Cameron
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Cattle Egret

Jun 6	Falmouth, <i>Hants</i>	1	Barry Sabean
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Black-crowned Night-Heron

Jul 27	Shearwater Yacht Club, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm., nd	DLF
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Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Jul 11	Voglers Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Mid Jul	Ann. Royal Marsh	1 imm.	fide RBS



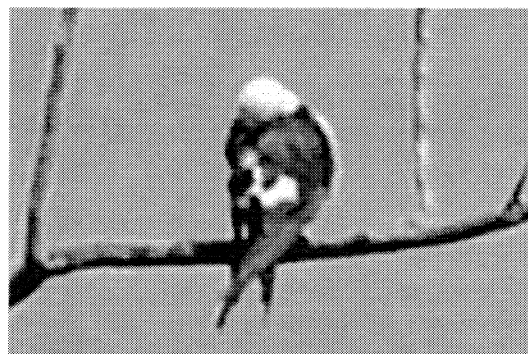
“Southern” herons are routine here, but this adult LITTLE BLUE HERON at Spry Bay, *HRM*, was apparently the only one of its species reported this summer. [Photo James Cameron]

Diurnal Raptors

By Wayne P. Neily

As in 2009, one of the raptor highlights this year was a **SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** (*Elanoides forficatus*) that appeared briefly, was seen and documented by one alert family, and disappeared after about 15 minutes, eluding all others in Nova Scotia interested in birds. This was the ninth documented provincial record, and it was seen flying in, landed in a tree, and was photographed and watched 10-15 minutes, at Lawrencetown, *Ann.*, on 5 July by Diana and William Ackroyd, before it took off towards the east.

Other highlights were the summer occurrences of two species not yet known to breed in Nova Scotia. The **GOLDEN EAGLE** has long nested in Gaspé, but so far there is no confirmed breeding in the Maritimes. In the first MBBA, a pair seen in the Highlands of Cape Breton was the best indication of breeding found, and this year, one or more immatures seen by Randy Lauff and Tony Miller near the south edge of CBHNP provides the only N.S. record for the second atlas (see details below). Although they conservatively treated it as a visitor, the description best fits a bird in juvenile plumage, and it could be



As usual, a wandering SWALLOW-TAILED KITE, near Lawrencetown, *Anna.*, about the tenth for the province, lingered only briefly, but was confirmed for the record by the lucky photographer. [Photo Dianna Redden]

worthwhile to check Mount Franey or the cliffs of the upper Clyburn valley if anyone can get in there next May or June.

The second species rare in summer here, but nesting at least sparingly in New Brunswick, and a likely future addition to our breeding species, is the **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK**. Three sightings for N.S. in 2010 were reported to the Atlas, two for sw N.S., and one for the Isthmus of Chignecto. The limited information we have is given below, but there are very few summer records for N.S., and those without details are considered unconfirmed.

The **TURKEY VULTURE** is another species whose nesting in N.S. remains unconfirmed, but the 10+ records this summer suggest that we must be very close to adding it.

Most of the regular species were present in good numbers and widely distributed. Because of the widespread effort on the MBBA this year, it provides one of the best indicators of this, and the number of squares and regions in which each species was reported are given by species. This excludes the Tintamarre region, because of the difficulty of separating N.S. and N.B. records in it. Only the Sharp-shinned Hawk seemed to be in lower numbers than expected, perhaps because it is more secretive than most raptors at this season.

Turkey Vulture

MBBA in 2010: in 8 squares in 5 of 12 regions; most in Annapolis Valley – Digby Neck (3); no breeding confirmed, the highest evidence level reported was a pair seen by Andy Horn on 3 Jul.

Jun 4	Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	1	DOU
Jun 7 - 9	Grafton, <i>Kings</i>	2	JLC
Jun 9	Sandy Cove, <i>Digby</i>	1	ELM
Mid - Jun	Jordan Falls, <i>Shel.</i>	2	Donny Swim, Elliot Morash, <i>fide</i> DJC
Jun - Jul	Apple River	1+	KFS
Jul 1	Heatherton, <i>Ant.</i>	1	BRS
Jul 2	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	2	JRH, Pat Gladman
Jul 3	Halifax airport, <i>HRM</i>	3	AGH
Jul 15	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
Jul 30	Exit 10, Hwy. 101, <i>Kings</i>	1	BRD

Osprey

MBBA in 2010: in 110 squares in 11 of 12 regions; most in Mersey-LaHave (21) and Chebucto-Musquodoboit (19).

Jun - Jul	Widely	15 casual reports by 10 observers	
Summer	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	0	DJC

“second summer in a row I have not seen any here”.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (9th provincial record)

Jul 5	Lawrencetown, <i>Anna.</i>	1 ph.	Diana & William Ackroyd
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Bald Eagle

MBBA in 2010: in 162 squares in 12 of 12 regions; most in SW Cape Breton I. (25) and East Cape Breton I. (22). Second only to Red-tailed Hawk in raptor abundance and distribution.

Jun - Jul	Widely	18 casual reports by 15 observers	
Jul 28	Eleven Mile L., <i>Anna.</i>	2 ad	MCR

“This is the first time I have ever seen eagles on the Milford lakes, and another frequent traveller agrees (both of us going back 30+ years)”

Late Jul	Kolbec, <i>Cum.</i>	6+, “2 nests, one with 2 juv.”	JEF, Cindy I. Cartwright
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Northern Harrier

MBBA in 2010: in 103 squares in 12 of 12 regions; most in Cobequid (18) and East Cape Breton I. (14).

Jun - Jul	Widely	9 casual reports by 8 observers	
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Sharp-shinned Hawk

MBBA in 2010: in 60 squares in 11 of 12 regions; most in Mersey-LaHave (12) and Chebucto-Musquodoboit (11).

Jun 26	Farmington, <i>Lun.</i>	1	BLM
Jun 30	Mount Uniacke, <i>Hants</i>	1	SYP

COOPER'S HAWK

MBBA in 2010: no Nova Scotia records. No definite records this season.

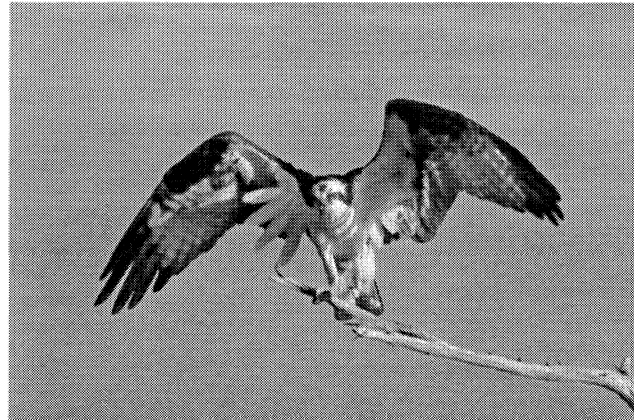
Northern Goshawk

MBBA in 2010: in 39 squares in 9 of 12 regions; most in Chebucto-Musquodoboit (11) and Mersey-LaHave (8).

Jun 24	near Gold River, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JRH; vocalizing.
Jul 2	Chéticamp Flowage, <i>Vic.</i>	1 juv.	RFL, Tony Miller
Jul 2	Chéticamp Flowage, <i>Vic.</i>	1 ad.	RFL, Tony Miller

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

MBBA in 2010: in 3 squares in 3 of 12 regions; one each in Chignecto Peninsula, Southwest Shore, and Lower South Shore. None had evidence of breeding beyond birds in suitable habitat in summer. For two, all we know so far are the names of the lucky observers and the approximate locations (atlas squares). These are Kate Robinson in 20MR03, Cranberry Lake, *Cum.*, and Steven Furino in 20KP93, Barrington Lake, *Shel.* The third was Jun 18 at a reservoir above Bear River, *Anna.*, Brian Dalzell. This was an ad., initially harassed by crows, soaring “about 50m over the hardwood forest above the reservoir”; it circled and disappeared over a nearby ridge.



An OSPREY in Sackville, *HRM* this summer showed an unusual display of its axillary feathers. [Photo Stephanie Dooley]

Broad-winged Hawk

MBBA in 2010: in 74 squares in 12 of 12 regions; most in Mersey-LaHave and Chebucto-Musquodoboit (15 each).

Jun - Jul	Widely	12 casual reports of 13 birds by 10 observers
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Red-tailed Hawk

MBBA in 2010: in 166 squares in 12 of 12 regions; most in Mersey-LaHave (23) & Chebucto-Musquodoboit (20). The most widespread raptor.

Jun - Jul	Widely	9 casual reports of 15 birds by 10 observers
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GOLDEN EAGLE

MBBA in 2010: in 1 square of 1 of 12 regions (Cape Breton Highlands - see following).

2 Jul, n. of Chéticamp Flowage, *Vic.*, 1-3 juv., RFL & Tony Miller; single immatures were seen at three locations by both observers. One was about 2 km north of the north arm of the flowage, it and one 1km south were in CBHNP,

the third was farther south along the North Arm. Each eagle was mainly brown, with "a whitish band near the base of the tail, and a white patch on each wing", with "little to no other white" (RFL). Whether there were 2-3 birds involved, or one seen three times, these observations raise the possibility that this species, which has been increasing across eastern Canada in recent years, may be nesting in N. S., or at least in the Atlantic region.. The observers considered, however, that these were more likely second-year birds and so not evidence of local nesting.

American Kestrel

MBBA in 2010: in 82 squares in 12 of 12 regions; most in Chebucto-Musquodoboit (11), and Chignecto Peninsula, Cobequid, and Antigonish (10 each).

Jun 7	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1 m.	WPN
Jun 16	Cornwallis Square, <i>Kings</i>	1	SYP
Jun 19	Albany, <i>Anna</i> .	1	WPN
Jul 30	Bayside Cemetery, <i>Pict</i> .	1 juv	Susan Richey, John Munn
Jul 30	Trout Lake, <i>Anna</i> .	1	WPN

Merlin

MBBA in 2010: in 61 squares in 12 of 12 regions; most in Southwest Cape Breton I. (13) and Mersey-LaHave (10).

Jun 12	Cow Bay Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1	RIV
Jun - Jul	Apple River	1	KFS
Jul 17	Evangeline Beach, <i>Kings</i>	1	1 SYP
Jul 24	Cow Bay Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1	RIV
Jul 28	Acadia U., <i>Kings</i>	2 juv.	JCT
Jul 29, 30	Delhaven, <i>Kings</i>	2 ad, 2 juv	GFO, HAF, RBS, RAC
Jul 30	Wolfville Elem. School	1 ad, 1 juv	JCT.
Jul 30	Cherry Hill village, <i>Lun</i> .	2 ad, 4 juv	SJF

Peregrine Falcon

MBBA in 2010: in 4 squares in 3 of 12 regions; Chebucto-Musquodoboit (2), Annapolis Valley-Digby Neck and Lower South Shore (1 each).

Jun 7 - 9	Grafton, <i>Kings</i>	1	JLC
Jun 11	Spicer's Cove, <i>Cum</i> .	1	KFS

Jun 24	Horton Bluff, <i>Kings</i>	2 imm.	JWW
"yearling siblings that were thought to have been fledged at that site in 2009".			
Jul 1	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS, ELS
"low and slow fly by over Canada Day celebrations".			
Early Jul	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad.	MAR



This adult PEREGRINE FALCON lingered around Cow Bay in early July. It was of the regionally breeding subspecies *anatum* (note the characteristically broad moustachial stripe), which raises the question of if and where it might have been nesting. [Photo Marie Reid]

Rails and Cranes

By Ulli Höger

Even if other birders were not able to confirm it, a convincing report of VIRGINIA RAILS leading chicks was of interest, not only for atlasers. Given the secretive nature of rails, one can only wonder what is hiding away and out of sight in our marshes and bogs.

Virginia Rail

Jun 22	Ann. Royal Marsh	2 ad + 3 imm.	SYP
Jun 23	Ann. Royal Marsh	1	PLC

Sora

Jun 10	Ann. Royal Marsh	1	Lois Jenkins
Jun 17, 22	Belleisle	1, 2	Michael Bowen, SYP
Jun 27	Ann. Royal Marsh	6	JAH

American Coot

Jun 4	Ann. Royal Marsh	1	DOU
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Jun 12	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	1	PBG
Jun 17	Belleisle	2	Michael Bowen

Sandhill Crane

Jun 10	Benjie's L., CBHNP	1	AVB
"A lone adult flew over myself and Dave Simpson in between net rounds while banding. It was calling frequently and I got a quick look at it through the tree tops."			
Jun 16, 27	Yarmouth area	1	CST, HAT
Jul 22	Torbrook Mines, <i>Anna</i> .	1	WAN

Shorebirds

By Susann Myers

Shorebirds reported in June were the usual mix of northbound migrants, summering non-breeders and local breeding populations. The onset of southward migration brought more activity in July, generally on schedule. No rare vagrants were reported this season, but collecting breeding evidence was the focus of birding activity in the province, for the final year of the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas.

Nesting PIPING PLOVERS were reported in fairly good numbers, with some breeding successes despite predation. DOU and ALD, with Karen and Lincoln MacLeod, found a pair of adults with 4 juveniles at Big Island, the first they had seen there in decades.

The little breeding colony of AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS at CSI also fared reasonably well. JON reports that four young

survived to fledge at CSI, one at Daniels Head and three more at Long Head. An encouraging development for the future of the N.S. population was an adult pair seen associating closely throughout the summer at Canso, where a single bird summered in 2009.

Breeding pairs of GREATER YELLOWLEGS were reported from three locations this summer. Data entered to date for the second Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas shows breeding evidence for 43 Atlas squares in mainland N.S. (mainly in eastern regions) and 23 squares in Cape Breton. This is a vast change from the three mainland and seven Cape Breton squares with breeding evidence in the first Atlas of 1986 to 1990, and is likely due to increased observer effort.

Breeding evidence has also increased for the EASTERN WILLET, with the second Atlas showing evidence in about 123 squares on the mainland and 29 on Cape Breton Island, versus 98 and 18 respectively in the first Atlas. Noisy and excitable, Willets are easily detected at their coastal breeding sites, so this increased evidence hopefully reflects a continued recovery for the species. Due to over-hunting and egging, the Willet population north of South Carolina had been reduced by the 1890s to small remnants in Yarmouth and Digby counties, from which it has slowly expanded. Willets now breed throughout suitable areas of N.S., P.E.I. and N.B., and less commonly in Newfoundland.

shorebird species

Jul 19 The Hawk, CSI ca. 6000 JON, SAN

Black-bellied Plover

Jun 3, 18 Cherry Hill 7, 3 basic SJF
 Jun 5 The Hawk, CSI 39 JON, SAN
 Jun 8 Cow Bay, HRM some M. Reid
 Jul 1 The Hawk, CSI 39 JON, SAN
 Jul 27 Long I., Grand Pré 1 SYP
 Jul 30 Lawrencetown R., HRM some DOU
 Jul 31 Cherry Hill 5 SJF

Semipalmated Plover

Jun 3 Kingsburg, Lun. 1 DAW
 Jul 11, 29 Lockeport area, Shel. 1, 24 DJC
 Jul 16 3 Fathom Hbr 37 SEM
 Jul 17 Baccaro Point, Shel. 8 BJS, SIS
 Jul 18 Cherry Hill 20 JAH
 Jul 27 Wolfville Hbr., Kings a few RBS
 Jul 31 Westport, Brier I. 30 ELM
 Jul 31 Cherry Hill 297 SJF

Piping Plover

Jun 3 Cherry Hill 6 SJF
 Jun 5 Daniels Head, CSI pr. RAH
 Jun 9 Cape Sable, CSI pr., nest D. Nickerson,
 S. Wilson
 Jun 17 Big I., Pict. 2 ad., 4 juv. DOU, ALD,
 et al.
 Jul 16 3 Fathom Hbr 1 ad. SEM
 Jul 17 Baccaro Point, Shel. 17, ads. & juvs. AIS
 Jul 17 - 24 Lockeport, Shel. 1 ad. DJC
 Jul 18 Cherry Hill 6 ad., 8 juv. JAH et al.
 Jul 24 Glace Bay Bch., CBRM 1 ad., 3 juv. T. Young,
 ALM, CAM

Jul 27 Daniels Head Bch., CSI 2 ad., 2 juv. RAH

Killdeer

Jun 12 Cow Bay L., HRM 1 PMU
 Jul 3 Pond Cove, Brier I. 1 ad. ELM
 Jul 10 +/- Sandy Cove, HRM 1 juv. HAT
 Jul 22 Melbourne, Yar. 1 PRG
 Jul 22 Cooks Bch., Yar. 1 ad., 2 juv. PRG

American Oystercatcher

Jun 4 - Jul 15 Canso, Guys. pr., photos TOK
 Jun - Jul CSI 4 prs. JON, SAN
 Jun 9 Cape Sable, CSI 2 BJS, SIS
 Jul 21 Daniels Head, CSI pr., nested JON, SAN
 Jul 26 - 27 Daniels Head, CSI 2 ad., 2 juv. RAH, JON,
 SAN

Spotted Sandpiper

Jun 3, Jul 4 Cherry Hill 1 SJF
 Jun 7 Port Morien, CBRM 1 MCM
 Jun 12 Cow Bay L., HRM 1 PMU
 Jun 23 Sambro I., HRM a few, nesting HAT
 Jul 2 River Bourgeois, Rich. 1 RIV
 Jul 2 Morien Bar, CBRM 1 ad. SEM
 Jul 3 Corney Brook, Inv. 1, display MCM

Jul 8 Ben Eoin, CBRM 1, agitated JWM
 Jul 15 Pomquet I., Ant. pr., breeding RFL, fide KJM
 Jul 30 Windsor SP, Hants 1 JCT

Solitary Sandpiper

Jul 16 Ogden area, Guys. 1 KJM
 Jul 16 Lighthouse Rd., Brier I. 1 ad. ELM, AHM
 Jul 19 Mitchell Bay, Guys. 1 KJM

Greater Yellowlegs

Jun 6 - 9 near L. Rossignol, Queens pr., agitated fide LUB
 Jun 7 Pond Cove, Brier I. 2 ELM
 Jun 7 Port Morien, CBRM pr. MCM
 Jun 13 near Heckmans I., Lun. 1 JAH
 Jul 4 Cherry Hill 1 SJF
 Jul 16 3 Fathom Hbr 12 SEM
 Jul 17 Lochaber Mines, HRM 2 ad., 4 juv. KJM
 Jul 18 Cherry Hill 3 JAH
 Jul 18 Taylor Head PP, HRM a few NSBS, GAM
 Jul 19, 27 Wolfville Hbr., Kings a few RBS
 Jul 22 Melbourne, Yar. 4 PRG
 Jul 30 Windsor SP, Hants 1 JCT
 Jul 30 near Port Morien, CBRM family MCM

Willet

Jun 3, 18 Cherry Hill Bch., Lun. 9, 31 SJF
 Jun 9 Cape Sable, CSI 2 D. Nickerson,
 S. Wilson
 Jun 11 Pond Cove, Brier I. 1 ELM



This pair of AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS spent the summer (here July 15) around Canso. Although no evidence of nesting was discovered, it might be remembered that Audubon claimed to have found them nesting as far n. as the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Might they some day again fill their former range? [Photo Tom Kavanaugh]

Jun 12	Cow Bay Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	5	PMU	Jul 14	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	3	HAT
Jun 12	East Quoddy, <i>HRM</i>	ca. 20	SEM	Jul 16	3 Fathom Hbr	10	SEM
Jun 24	fields near Tatamagouche	2 pr.	BRD	Jul 17	Baccaro Point, <i>Shel.</i>	11	BJS, SIS
Jul 2	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	53	SEM	Jul 18	Cherry Hill	39	JAH
Jul 4	Cherry Hill	41	SJF	Jul 22	Long I., Grand Pré	ca. 470	JCT
Jul 6	Ecum Secum, <i>HRM</i>	ca. 6	SEM	Jul 27	Windsor/Grand Pré	thousands	SYP
Jul 16	3 Fathom Hbr	92	SEM	Jul 31	Westport, Brier I.	10	ELM
Jul 17	Baccaro Point, <i>Shel.</i>	5	BJS, SIS	Jul 31	Cherry Hill	100	SJF
Jul 18	Cherry Hill	48	JAH	Jul 31	Hd of Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	2000+	BLM, NIF
Jul 19	Mitchell Bay area, <i>HRM</i>	2 families	KJM	Least Sandpiper			
Jul 19	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	ca. 20	RBS	Jul 15	Pomquet I., <i>Ant.</i>	1	KJM
Lesser Yellowlegs				Jul 17	Baccaro Point, <i>Shel.</i>	2	BJS, SIS
Jun 12	Cow Bay Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	3	PMU	Jul 18	Cherry Hill	1	JAH
Jun 28	Berry Head, <i>Guys.</i>	2	KJM	Jul 21, 31	Cherry Hill	5, 17	SJF
Jul 2	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	4	SEM	Jul 27	Long I., Grand Pré	ca. 2	SYP
Jul 15	near Bayfield, <i>Ant.</i>	2	KJM	Jul 30	MacCormacks Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Jul 16	3 Fathom Hbr	67	SEM	Jul 30	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	2	JCT
Jul 18	Taylor Head PP	a few	NSBS, GAM	Jul 30	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	DOU, ALD
Jul 21, 31	Cherry Hill	6, 21	SJF	White-rumped Sandpiper			
Jul 22	Melbourne, <i>Yar.</i>	60	PRG	Jul 31	Hd of Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	6	BLM, NIF
Jul 31	Hd of Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	500+	BLM, NIF	Jul 31	Cherry Hill	4	SJF
Whimbrel				Pectoral Sandpiper			
Jun 30	The Hawk, CSI	1	JON, SAN	Jul 18	Cherry Hill	1	JAH
Jul 1	Martinique	2	N. Roberts	Short-billed Dowitcher			
Jul 15 - 28	6 locations, widespread	singles	var. obs.	Jun 30	The Hawk, CSI	17, new	JON, SAN
Jul 20	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3	DOU, ALD, <i>et al.</i>	Jul 1, 8	The Hawk, CSI	100, 500+	JON, SAN
Hudsonian Godwit				Jul 16	3 Fathom Hbr	610	SEM
Jul 11	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	H. Reers, S. Gaquier	Jul 19	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	ca. 20	RBS
Jul 30	Lawrencetown R., <i>HRM</i>	8	DOU	Jul 21, 31	Cherry Hill	18, 29	SJF
Ruddy Turnstone				Jul 22	Melbourne, <i>Yar.</i>	26	PRG
Jun 5	The Hawk, CSI	1	JON, SAN	Jul 27	Long I., Grand Pré	small flocks	SYP
Jun 8	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1 - 2	M. Reid	Jul 30	Windsor SP, <i>Hants</i>	24	JCT
Jul 23	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	3	RIV	Jul 31	Hd of Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	2000+	BLM, NIF
Jul 28	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	6	DAW	Wilson's Snipe			
Jul 29	Daniels Head Bch., CSI	30	RAH	Jun - Jul	Marion Bridge, <i>CBRM</i>	1	MCM
Jul 30	3 Fathom Hbr	a few	DOU	American Woodcock			
Red Knot				Jun - Jul	Marion Bridge, <i>CBRM</i>	1	MCM
Jun 5	The Hawk, CSI	21	JON, SAN	Jun 19	Strathlorne, <i>Inv.</i>	1	MCM
Jul 23	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	RIV	Jun 19	East Lake Ainslee, <i>Inv.</i>	1	MCM
Sanderling				Jun 19	Aylesford L., <i>Kings</i>	1, on nest	AAM
Jun 3	Cherry Hill	1	SJF	Red-necked Phalarope			
Jun 25	Martinique	2, alt.	VJH, M. Jennings	Jul 17	West of Brier I.	2	ELM
Jul 17	Baccaro Point, <i>Shel.</i>	16	BJS, SIS	Jul 31	Northwest Ledge, off Brier I.	ca. 500	ELM, AHM
Jul 18	Cherry Hill	12	JAH	Red Phalarope			
Jul 30	MacCormacks Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU	Jul 17	West of Brier I.	3	ELM
Semipalmated Sandpiper				Jul 31	Northwest Ledge, off Brier I.	ca. 5000	ELM, AHM
Jul 13	Wedge I., St. Margs Bay, <i>HRM</i>	2	P. Boyer				

Gulls through Alcids

By Eric Mills

A **FRANKLIN'S GULL** in late June on the flats of Eastern Passage, rare at any time although unpublicized in this case, appears to have been an adult or near-adult. The season brought only one **LAUGHING GULL**, although in a location often frequented by this species.

Terns, as ever, seem to have been on the brink this summer. However, **COMMON TERNS** appear to have reestablished themselves on Wedge Island, in outer St. Margaret's Bay, a location that once held a sizable colony that also included Arctic and Roseate Terns. Commons also spent some time on a small island in Upper South Cove, *Lun.*, where they have nested sporadically.

Both **COMMON MURRES** and **RAZORBILLS** were more frequent than usual off Brier Island. Probably these were early-dispersing adults from the colony on Machias Seal Island, New Brunswick.

Black-legged Kittiwake

Jun 7	White Point, <i>Vic.</i>	4	Avery Bartels
Jul 2	Grand Passage, Brier I.	1, 2nd-cy.	ELM

Bonaparte's Gull

Jul 18	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	RIV
Jul 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	"Big flock"	ALD
Jul 28	Tidnish, <i>Cum.</i>	4	Debbie Cusick
Jul 30	Westport, Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM
Jul 31	Hd of Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	1, 2nd-cy.	BLM, NIF

Laughing Gull

Jul 11	Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i>	1 ad., photo.	Hendrik Reers, Sophie Gaquier
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FRANKLIN'S GULL

Jun 20	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad.?	DOU
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Ring-billed Gull

Jul 27	Cherry Hill	3	SYP
Jul 28	Tidnish, <i>Cum.</i>	2	Debbie Cusick

Herring Gull

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	m.obs
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Great Black-backed Gull

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	m.obs
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Caspian Tern

Jun 12, 20	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	RIV, DOU
Jul 3	Main-a-Dieu, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Tony Timmons

Common Tern

Jun 6	Cheticamp	10	Avery Bartels
Jun 8	off Brier I.	A few	JUS
Jun 26	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	2 ad.	ELM
Jul 9	Wedge I., St Margs Bay, <i>HRM</i>	Nesting	Paul Boyer
Jul 21	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	50+	RIV
Jul 25	Country I., <i>Guys.</i>	100+	Avery Bartels
Jul 30	Grand Passage, Brier I.	10 (1 imm.)	ELM, AHM
Jul 31	Kingsburg Bck, <i>Lun.</i>	8	Kevin Lantz

Arctic Tern

Jul 25	Country I., <i>Guys.</i>	100+	Avery Bartels
Jul 31	off Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM, AHM, RBS

Roseate Tern

Jun 16	Lwr. W. Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	1	DCO, LCO
Jul 3	Roberts I. area, <i>Yar.</i>	3	JAH
Jul 25	Country I., <i>Guys.</i>	3	Avery Bartels

South Polar Jaeger

Jul 27	off Brier I.	2, photo	JUS
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Parasitic Jaeger

Jul 6	off Brier I.	1	JUS
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Common Murre

Jun 11	off Brier I.	1	ELM
Jul 31	off Brier I.	2 ad.	ELM, AHM, RBS

Razorbill

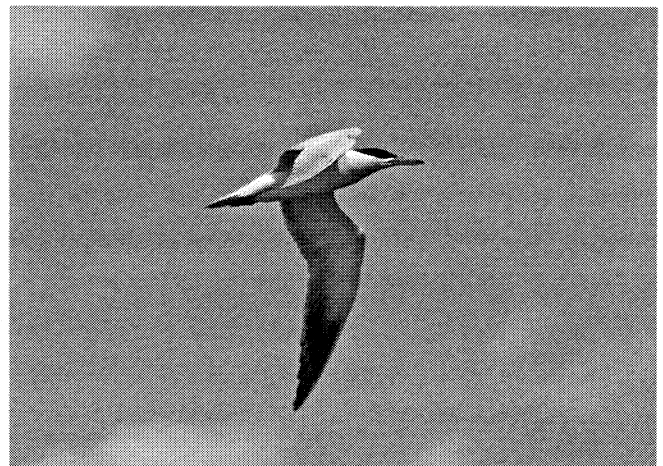
Jul 6	off Brier I.	2	JUS
Jul 25	Country I., <i>Guys.</i>	2	Avery Bartels
Jul 30	off Brier I.	2 ad.	ELM
Jul 31	off Brier I.	2 ad.	ELM, AHM, RBS

Black Guillemot

Jun 7	White Point, <i>Vic.</i>	25	Avery Bartels
Jul 3	St. Paul I., <i>Vic.</i>	15	Avery Bartels
Jul 25	Country I., <i>Guys.</i>	25	Avery Bartels

Atlantic Puffin

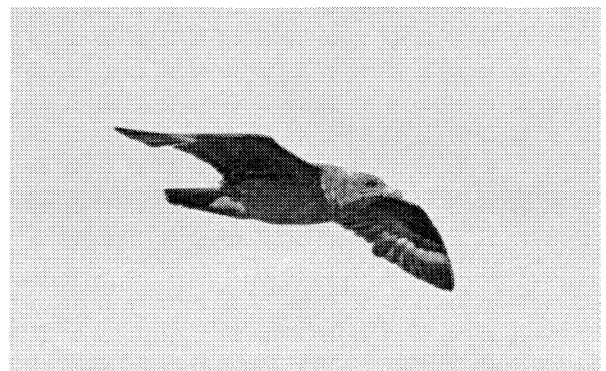
Jun 8	off Brier I.	A few	JUS
Jun 11	off Brier I.	ca. 50	ELM
Jun 12	off Brier I.	12	Michael & Joy Bowen
Jun 17	off Brier I.	A few	DCO, LCO
Jul 3	St. Paul I., <i>Vic.</i>	1	Avery Bartels
Jul 17	off Brier I.	3 (1 imm.)	ELM
Jul 31	off Brier I.	6 ad.	ELM, AHM, RBS



This CASPIAN TERN, presumably a late-spring migrant, was photographed 10 June over Cow Bay, *HRM*. [Photo Rita Viau]



Is this an upside-down COMMON TERN on Mahone Bay? If you look carefully you'll see that the darker plumage of the upper wing surfaces continues across the mantle. But why should it be spitting upwards? [Photo Maxine Quinton]



This SOUTH POLAR SKUA was one of two that investigated a whale-watching vessel 27 July off Brier I. Its cold, unstreamlined, blackish-brown plumage, with just a hint of paler nape, is characteristic of the dark morph of the species. [Photo June Swift]

Pigeons through Woodpeckers

By Chris Field

The highlight for this section is the report of two **WHITE-WINGED DOVES**. The first occurred at a feeder in Lower Clarks Harbour and was present from June 28-30 as reported by Terry Crowell and the Nickersons. The second appeared at Rachel Cooper's feeder in Delhaven on July 28th and was present for a couple of days. Lucas Berrigan and a colleague, while atlassing in Yarmouth County, heard a singing **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO**, the first such occurrence in Nova Scotia for this regular autumn rarity. In the same area they heard at least three different singing **BLACK-BILLED CUCKOOS**.

There were 12 reports of **COMMON NIGHTHAWKS**, mainly from the southern part of the province. Paul MacDonald reports that the New Canada Bridge on the LaHave is a reliable area for nighthawks.

CHIMNEY SWIFTS were reported regularly from 6 locations from St. Bernard's Church in Digby through the Annapolis Valley to the Temperance Street School in New Glasgow. Thanks to Jim Wolford for compiling the reports. The numbers were the highest throughout the season at the Temperance Street School and Middleton Regional High with numbers between 100-200. Ken McKenna reported 624 at Temperance Street on June 2nd but the numbers had dropped back to less than 200 within a week. Ken also reports smoke in the chimney several times but the numbers seem to have held up. The numbers at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre (RTNC), Wolfville, and the McGowan Lake fish hatchery were in the 20-103 range throughout the season while St. Bernard's Church had two reports with 140+ swifts. At an old farmhouse in Upper Falmouth up to 85 swifts were reported.

James Churchill reported a female **Red-bellied Woodpecker** sitting in a pothole in the middle of a dirt road north of Berwick, behaving rather like a flicker. Lucas Berrigan speculates that they may have heard an **American Three-toed Woodpecker** drumming near Upper Ohio, Shelburne County. They were unable to locate the bird.

Rock Pigeon

Jun - Jul widespread common m.obs

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (49th and 50th NS records)

Jun 28 - 30 Lower Clarks H., *Shel.* 1 JON, TEC

Jul 28 - 31 Delhaven, *Kings* 1 R. Cooper

Mourning Dove

Jun - Jul widespread common m.obs

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Mid - Jul Carleton, *Yar.* 1 singing LUB, *et al.*

Black-billed Cuckoo

Jun 7 Brier I. 1 ad. ELM

Mid - Jul Carleton, *Yar.* 3 singing LUB, *et al.*

Jun 24 Gold River, *Lun.* 1 JAH

Jun 30 Lawrencetown, *HRM* 1 CHP

Great Horned Owl

Jun - Jul White's Lake, *HRM* 1 pr BLM

Barred Owl

Jun 6 Grande Anse, *Inv.* 1 Avery Bartels

Jun 16, 23 Whale L. area, *Lun.* 1 JAH

Common Nighthawk

Jun 6, 13 Hardwood Lands, *HRM* 5&2 DOU

Jun 9 New Canada Br. *Lun.* 12 PMA

Jun 12 W. River St. Marys, *Guys.* 1 BLM

Jun 17 Jerry Lawrence PP, *HRM* 1 BLM

Jun 22 Chipman Brook, *Kings* 1 SYP

Jul Sandy Bottom L., *Anna.* 1-2 MCR

Jul 7 Gore, *Hants* 1 SMB

Jul 15 Barrington, *Shel.* 4 ELM

Jul 16, 18 Bridgewater, *Lun.* 2 JAH

Jul 19, 29 Elmsvale, *HRM* 5 VJH

Jul 31 Long Lake, *Lun.* 3 JAH

Chimney Swift

Jun - Jul RTNC, *Hants* up to 103 var.obs.

Jun - Jul New Glasgow, *Pict.* up to 624 KJM

Jun - Jul St. Bernards, *Digby* up to 168 P. Potter

Jun - Jul Middleton, *Kings* up to 238 var.obs

Jun - Jul Upper Falmouth, *Hants* up to 85 C. Rutledge

Jun - Jul McGowan L., *Queens* up to 88 A. Pray-Leslie

Jun 3 - 28 Meisners Section, *Lun.* 7 SJF,JSC

Jun 15 - Jul 31 Bridgetown, *Anna.* 2-4 MCR

Jun 30, Jul 7 Lower Meaghers Grant, *HRM* 3 VJH

Jul 19 Berwick, *Kings* 5 SYP

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Jun - Jul widespread common eBird

Jun - Jul Bridgetown, *Anna.* 4 MCR

Jun - Jul Apple R., *Cum.* 8+ KFS

Jun - Jul Carleton, *Yar.* 7-10 RAH

Jul 13+ Lockeport, *Shel.* ~10 DJC

Belted Kingfisher

Jun - Jul widespread common eBird

Jun - Jul Lockeport, *Shel.* 1 DJC

Jul 1 River Bourgeoise, *Rich.* 1 RIV

Jul 28 - 3 Milford L., *Anna.* 3 MCR

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Jun 15 N. of Berwick, *Kings* 1 f. JLC

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Jun - Jul widespread common m.obs

Jun 13 Hardwood Lands, *HRM* 1 DOU

Jul 7 Gold River, *Lun.* 7 JAH

Downy Woodpecker

Jun - Jul widespread common eBird

Jun - Jul Tremont, *Kings* 2-4 SLH

Jun - Jul Bridgeown, *Anna.* 3 MCR

Jun 2 Apple R., *Cum.* 3 KFS

Hairy Woodpecker

Jun - Jul widespread common eBird

Jun - Jul Tremont, *Kings* 1-2 SLH

Jun 10 - 16 Bridgetown, *Anna.* 2 MCR

Northern Flicker

Jun - Jul widespread common eBird

Pileated Woodpecker

Jun 13 Hardwood Lands, *HRM* 1 DOU

Jun 20 Kejimkujik 2 Michael

Jun 25 Scots Bay, *Kings* 1 Bowen

SYP

Flycatchers through Thrushes

By Hans Toom

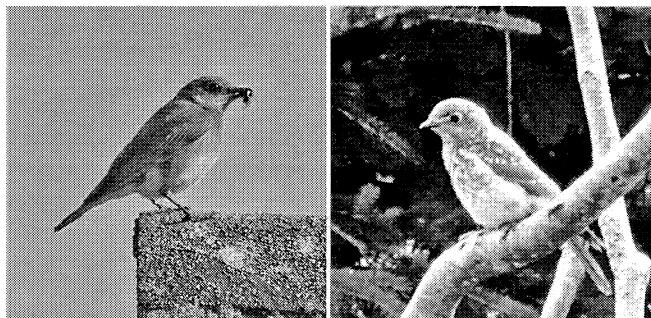
The WILLOW FLYCATCHER is a rare visitor to Nova Scotia with Belleisle Marsh becoming a favourite location for this species in recent years, perhaps indicating a yet undiscovered breeding site. Sydney Penner found one there June 22 and said, “by far the biggest surprise, though, was a willow flycatcher at Belleisle. I both saw and heard the bird in good conditions. It repeatedly made the standard willow fitz-bew call. The contrast with the alder flycatchers calling in the same area was obvious. It also made some single-note vocalizations, all of which were consistent with it being a willow.” AAM reported another Willow Flycatcher at Murphy Lake area, Kings, June 23. The Willow Flycatcher has not been confirmed as a breeder in Nova Scotia (MBBA), although there is one confirmation from New Brunswick.

The West Berlin **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** reported in spring lingered through at least June 8.

An act of serendipity occurred during a conversation between RBS and Avril Harwood during a BNS meeting. She described a bird flying by her property in early June at Woodside, northwest of Canning, Kings. The description was a probable match for a **FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER**. It was paraphrased by RBS, “and from her description, and also her own ID when she looked it up in a field guide, there’s a high probability that it was a Fork-tailed Flycatcher. She described a bird whose body reminded her a bit of a Junco, and the extremely long tail waved up and down as it flew. The bird appeared generally dark in appearance, rather than light gray.”

The **EASTERN BLUEBIRD** continues to be Nova Scotia’s bird success story as the population continues to increase year over year. Over the two month summer reporting period there were 52 individuals noted. Hundreds of thousands of bluebird boxes built and installed by bluebird lovers have helped to conserve and enhance this species. Always follow hole size and post height recommendations to discourage other species such as starlings, house sparrows, wrens and tree swallows from using the nest boxes.

BICKNELL’S THRUSH is among the most rare and least understood of our passerines, numbering perhaps 50,000 worldwide (and declining sharply). Identification of this bird by sight is best left to experts since it is almost identical to the Gray-cheeked -- reliable field identification is by song. It cannot be restated better than the writings of John Burroughs, “The song is in a minor key, finer, more attenuated, and more under the breath than that of any other thrush. It seemed as if the bird was blowing in a delicate, slender, golden tube, so fine and yet flute-like and resonant the song appeared. At times it was like a musical whisper of great sweetness and power.” Dan Tyson, a visiting birder, found one by the Bog Trail, Cape Breton Highlands NP, on May 26. The International Bicknell’s Thrush Conservation Group has devised a plan to increase the population of the Bicknell’s Thrush by 25% over the next 50 years, mostly by preventing further loss of breeding and wintering habitat. It winters primarily on four islands in the Greater Antilles. The decline in this species is reflected in the changes between the two Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlases. This time the species was found in many fewer squares (confirmed in only one), and was restricted to northern Cape Breton (MBBA).



EASTERN BLUEBIRDS, as usual, nested on Brier I. in June (left); elsewhere, and soon after, a spotted juvenile wandered into Apple River, Cum. (right). [Photos: left, Richard Stern; right Kathleen Spicer]

[Editor’s Postscript – the following information appeared after Hans had finished his report.

The Atlas project turned up a most unexpected surprise, the presence of territorial singing Gray-cheeked Thrushes on islands off the eastern shore of the mainland. The following is from Becky Whittam, the Atlas Coordinator:

“Thought you’d be interested to hear that, in our Atlassing work on islands of coastal Nova Scotia, we have discovered what we believe to be territorial Gray-cheeked Thrushes on at least three islands in Guysborough and Halifax counties. Greg Campbell first discovered these birds in the last week of May on Harbour Island, Country Harbour, Guysborough County. Kate Bredin [with Ken McKenna] found them again last Wednesday, and then found more on Whitehead and Raspberry Islands. Videos and song recordings are yet to be analyzed but several of us have listened to the recordings and the general consensus is that they are GCTH.”

One of the birds was mist-netted, and feathers were taken for DNA analysis. This represents a significant range extension away from the nearest (and declining) breeding population on the island of Newfoundland. This also calls into question other coastal, low-elevation sightings of purported Bicknell’s Thrushes from both atlas projects, including my own record (from the first atlas) from Isle Madame, and reports from St. Paul’s Island off Cape Breton during the first year of this atlas.

Even though the atlas project is now finished it is worth seeking out further examples of breeding Gray-cheeked Thrushes. My guess is they could occur along the outer edges and islands of the eastern mainland and off Cape Breton, essentially anywhere near sea level where Blackpoll Warblers and Fox Sparrows also breed. The habitats and climate of these areas are very "Newfoundlandish" in character.]

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Jun 2	Carleton, <i>Yar.</i>	2	LUB
Jun 5	Crosskill L., <i>Col.</i>	1	VJH, CHP
Jun 6 - 7	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Jun 10	Kejimkujik	3	Michael & Joy Bowen
Jun 13	Hardwood Lands, <i>Col.</i>	1	DOU
Jun 21	Crosskill L., <i>Col.</i>	1	VJH, CHP
Jun 21	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	20	SJF
Jun 26	Caribou L., <i>Anna.</i>	1	JAH
Jul 7	Lwr. Meagher's Grant, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH, CHP
Jul 16	Moody's Corner, <i>Digby</i>	3	LUB

Eastern Wood Pewee

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
Jun 2	Lighthouse R., Brier I.	1	ELM
Jun 10	Camp R., Brier I.	1	ELM

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Jun 10	East Ferry, <i>Digby</i>	2	ELM
Jun 12	W. River St. Marys, <i>Guys.</i>	4	BLM
Jun 13	Hardwood Lands, <i>Col.</i>	1	DOU
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS	3	BLM
Jul 2	Tiverton, <i>Digby</i>	1	ELM
Jul 2 - 3	St. Pauls I., <i>Vic.</i>	3	Avery Bartels

Alder Flycatcher

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
Jun 11	Money Pt., <i>Vic.</i>	8	Avery Bartels
Jun 12	W. River St. Marys, <i>Guys.</i>	16	BLM
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS	23	BLM
Jun 20	Roman Valley BBS	17	SJF
Jun 21	Larry's River BBS	1 (low)	SJF

Willow Flycatcher

Jun 22	Belleisle Marsh	1 m	SYP
Jun 23	Murphy L., <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM

Least Flycatcher

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
Jun 20	Larry's River BBS	7	SJF
Jun 21	Roman Valley BBS	7	SJF

Eastern Phoebe

Jun 7	Westport, Brier I.	Nesting pair	ELM
Jul 16	Berwick, <i>Kings</i>	4	SYPr

Great Crested Flycatcher

Jun - Jul	Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	Nesting pair + juv's	Adora Parson <i>fide</i> WAN
Jun 6 - 12	Upper Ohio, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JCZ, LPE
Jul 14	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM

Eastern Kingbird

Jun 5	Crystal Crescent	12+	St. Mary's U. Bioblitz
Jun 9	Berwick, <i>Kings</i>	Nesting pair	JLC
Jun 20	Hardwood Lands, <i>Col.</i>	1	DOU

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

Jun 8	West Berlin, <i>Queens</i>	1	CJF, v.obs
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Fork-tailed Flycatcher (probable)

Early Jun	Woodside, <i>Kings</i>	1	Avril Harwood <i>fide</i> RBS
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Blue-headed Vireo

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
Jun 12	W. River St. Marys, <i>Guys.</i>	9	BLM

Warbling Vireo

Jun 10	Somerset, <i>Kings</i>	1	JLC
Jul 30	Big I., <i>Digby</i>	No	ALD

Philadelphia Vireo

Jun 17	Big Intervale, <i>Inv.</i>	2 at nest	Avery Bartels
Jul 3	Goffs, <i>HRM</i>	1	AGH

Red-eyed Vireo

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
Jun 7	Westport, Brier I.	1	ELM

Jun 12	W. River St. Marys, <i>Guys.</i>	33	BLM
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS	39	BLM
Jul 31	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	Nesting pair	Anita Pouliot

Gray Jay

Jun 2	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2 ad, 4 juv	KFS
Jun 5	Money Pt., <i>Vic.</i>	3	Avery Bartels
Jun 21	Crosskill L., <i>Col.</i>	2 ad, 1 juv	VJH, CHP
Jun 26	Simpson's Corner, <i>Lun.</i>	2 ad, 1 juv	SJF, JSC
Jul 1	R. Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	4	RIV, Mike Viau

Blue Jay

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS	8 (v. low)	BLM
Jun 22	Advocate, <i>Cum.</i>	70+	KFS

American Crow

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
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Common Raven

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
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Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Jun 7	Dingwall Pond, <i>Vic.</i>	1 (details)	Avery Bartels
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Tree Swallow

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
Jun - Jul	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	Nesting pair	KFS

Bank Swallow

Jun 5 - 21	Crosskill L., <i>Col.</i>	20 nest sites	VJH
Jun 20	Hardwood Lands, <i>Col.</i>	20	DOU
Jun 22	Belleisle Marsh	10	SYP
Jul 23	Port Williams SP, <i>Kings</i>	6+	JCT
Jul 31	Blomidon, <i>Kings</i>	2	JCT

Barn Swallow

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
Jun - Jul	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2 ad, 2 juv	KFS
Jul 30	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	4	JCT
Jul 31	Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	20	BLM, NIF

Cliff Swallow

May 15 - Jul	Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	5-6 nest sites	VJH, E. & J. Higgins
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Jun 2 Carleton, Yar.

Jun 2	Carleton, <i>Yar.</i>	Colony	LUB
Jun 26	Farmington, <i>Lun.</i>	6	BLM
Jun 28	Lay L. Rd., <i>HRM</i>	6 nest sites	VJH
Jul 1	Molega L. Rd., <i>Lun.</i>	3 pr	SJF, JSC
Jul 19	Berwick, <i>Kings</i>	1	SYP
Jul 31	Second Pen., <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH

Black-capped Chickadee

Jun-Jul	widespread	common	eBird
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Boreal Chickadee

Jun - Jul	11 reports, widely	1-3	eBird
Jun - Jul	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1-4 daily	HAT, LAE
Jul 2	R. Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	1	RIV
Jul 19, 29	Elmsvale, <i>HRM</i>	1 juv	VJH
Jul 31	Mines Rd., <i>HRM</i>	6	BLM, NIF

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
Jul 31	Brier I. Roadsides	3	ELM

White-breasted Nuthatch

Jun - Jul	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1-2 most days	SLH
Jun - Jul	Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i>	2 ad, 1 juv most days	MCR
Jun 20	Kejimkujik	7	Michael & Joy Bowen

Jul 14 - 27 Lwr. Sackville, HRM

Jul 14 - 27	Lwr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	RIV, APO
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Jul 17 Aylesford, Kings

Jul 17	Aylesford, <i>Kings</i>	7	SYP
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Brown Creeper

Jun 20	Kejimkujik	1	Michael & Joy Bowen
Jul 7	Lwr. Meaghers Grant, <i>HRM</i>	2 ad, 1 juv	CHP
Jul 29	Branch L., <i>Anna.</i>	1 ad	MCR

Winter Wren

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
Jun 12	W. River St. Marys, <i>Guys.</i>	6	BLM
Jun 21	Larry's R. BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	7	SJF
Jul 22	White's L., <i>HRM</i>	1 migrant	BLM

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
Jul 10	Abraham L., <i>HRM</i>	15	SYP

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
Jun 12	W. River St. Marys, <i>Guys.</i>	29	BLM
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS	13	BLM

Eastern Bluebird

Jun 1	Blomidon PP	1	<i>fide</i> BLM
Jun 2	Brier I.	1m, 2f	IAM
Jun 2, 6, 7	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1 m	KFS
Jun 6	Westport, Brier I.	2m, 3f	ELM
Jun 7	Hall's Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	pair	Richard McKay <i>fide</i> JCT
Jun 7	Brier I.	5-6	IAM
Jun 8	Baptist Church, Brier I.	1	JUS
Jun 9 - Jul 31	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	pair, 3 juv	VCH, Ellen Higgings
Jun 10	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	pair	Dan Thibideau
Jun 16	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1 m	KFS
Jun 18	Pugwash, <i>Col.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> GAM
Jul 2	Economy Pt., <i>Col.</i>	1	DOU
Jul 3	Somerset, <i>Kings</i>	1m	JAH
Jul 3	Huntington Pt., <i>Kings</i>	nesting pair	RBS
Jul 3	CSI	nesting pair, 3 juv	JON, others
Jul 13	New Salem, <i>Cum.</i>	1 juv	KFS
Jul 30	West LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	10-15	<i>fide</i> JAH

Veery

Jun - Jul	8 reports, widely	1-3	eBird
Jun 3	Simpson's Corner, <i>Lun.</i>	6	SJF
Jul 16	Willow Ave., <i>Kings</i>	15	SYP

Bicknell's Thrush

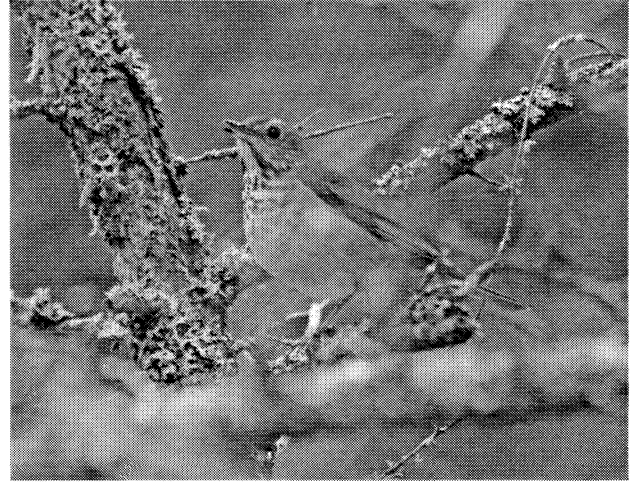
May 26	Bog Trail, CB Highlands NP	1	Dan Tyson
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GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (see narrative)**Swainson's Thrush**

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS	43 m.	BLM
Jun 20	Roman Valley BBS	4	SJF
Jun 21	Larry's R. BBS	7	SJF

Hermit Thrush

Jun - Jul	widespread	common	eBird
Jun 12	W. River St. Marys, <i>Guys.</i>	15 m.	BLM
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS	21 m.	BLM



Among the most interesting "Atlas" finds this summer were several GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSHES apparently breeding on islands off the Eastern Shore (here June 27), where Bicknell's Thrush might have been expected. They were identified in the field by song, and feather samples taken for genetic analysis. The original of this image shows somewhat warmer tones, especially on wings and tail, compared with the boreal-taiga subspecies *aliciae*, although not nearly as warm as on Bicknell's Thrush. This suggests that these birds will prove to be outlying individuals of the Newfoundland subspecies *minimus*. [Photo Ken McKenna]

Mimics through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

GRAY CATBIRDS were noted dropping a fecal sac June 16 in Lockeport (DJC).

Atlas maps indicate that although breeding NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD numbers seem to be on the decline, there appears to be a slight easterly extension to breeding territory of the BROWN THRASHER with early summer sightings from widespread areas of the province. There was some discussion on courtship behaviour of CEDAR WAXWING with RFL noting a pair passing berries in late June.

Reports were received from 23 species of breeding warbler this summer but no reports of any vagrant species. Atlas maps have filled in nicely for most warbler species. KJM noted the NORTHERN PARULA to be the most common warbler detected on the James R. BBS route in north-eastern N.S. Hemlock trees in mature mixed woods appeared to be the place to look for BLACKBURNIAN and BAY-BREASTED WARBLERS for CHP near Porters Lake, *HRM*. On June 18, he noted 18 and 8, good numbers for these species in a day of birding.

Brian Dalzell is well familiar with PINE WARBLERS from N.B. and by taking special effort searching pines in N.S., he came up with three probable breeding locations in Kings and Shelburne counties. WPN added two singing males in red pine near Trout L., *Anna*. Atlas maps have shown quite an expansion of this species into N.B. in the present atlas and it appears that the process is just starting to be detected in NS with these sightings.

This summer, Dr. Jay Pitocchelli from Saint Anselm College in Manchester N.H. was conducting a study in macro-geographic variation in MOURNING WARBLERS. His study was comparing Maine MOWA to those in Wreck Cove, N.S. and Newfoundland. KJM supplied him with a number of locations of singing males just off the TCH 104 east of the Canso Causeway. Dr. Pitocchelli recorded songs of a number of these birds and very preliminary results indicate a specific N.S. dialect with the break between the Maine birds occurring in the marshlands and farms near Moncton and the Bay of Fundy.

In mid-June, Bruce Stevens noted a COMMON YELLOWTHROAT male dabbling at a window as it perched in a nearby tree branch. The bird would move from the branch and hover for 2-3 seconds dabbling at the window. The bird did this action more or less continuously for at least two hours. He described the action as not overly aggressive. There was a female COYE within 10m.

Gray Catbird

Jun 5	Medway Pen., <i>Queens</i>	4	JAH
Jun 6 - Jul 31	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	several pair	DJC
Jun 9	Lake Rossignol, <i>Queens</i>	1 in pine forest	LUB
Jun 12	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	RIV
Jun 18	Dartmouth	1	GAM
Jun 20	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	APO
Jun 22	Cape D'Or, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Jun 22	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	2	JWW
Jun 25	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	2	PRG
Jul 31	Clearland Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH

Northern Mockingbird

Jun	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1-2 possibly nesting	JCT
Jun 8	Steep Creek, <i>Guys.</i>	1 on lawn	Patricia McCormick
Jun 24	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1 carrying food	RBS
Jun 28	Kingsburg Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	1	DAW fide JAH

Brown Thrasher

Jun 2	Catalone, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Philip Magee
Jun 3	Springfield, <i>Anna.</i>	1	fide JAH
Jun 8	Old Sambro Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1 crossed road	HAT
Jun 8	Cow Bay Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1 sang, photographed	Marie Reid
Jun 12	Berwick, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM
Jun 15	Bayfield, <i>Ant.</i>	pair	RFL
Jun 22	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1 well described	Ellie Kennard
Jun 26	The Hawk, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JON, SAN

European Starling

Jun - Jul	province-wide	common	eBird
Jun 3	Lunenburg	7 nests, battling adults	JAH
Jul 17	Greenwich, <i>Kings</i>	400+	JWW, Pat Hawes

Cedar Waxwing

Jun - Jul	province-wide	common	eBird
Jun - Jul	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	small flocks	DJC
Jun 3	Tantallon, <i>HRM</i>	20	PST
Jun 21	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	nest building with reed	David Webster
Jun 29	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	borrowing nest material	RBS
Jun 29	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	4	SLH
Jul 3	Middle Cape, <i>CBRM</i>	1 carrying nest material	JWM fide SEM
Jul 25	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	a lot	PRG
Jul 29	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	6+ at sewage lagoons	JCT

Tennessee Warbler

Jun 11	Brier I.	1 singing late migrant	ELM
Jun 12	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	1	KJM
Jul 2	St. Paul's I., <i>Vic.</i>	3	Avery Bartels
Jul 15	Sandy Cove Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT

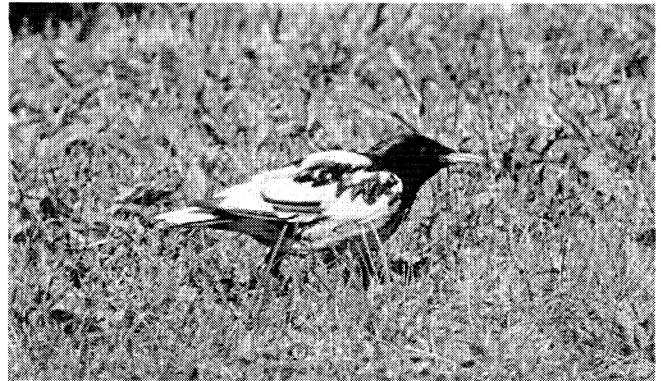
Nashville Warbler

Jun - Jul	9 reports	11 indiv.	eBird
Jun 6	Hardwood Lands, <i>Hants</i>	1	DOU
Jun 7, 11	Brier I.	1	ELM
Jun 12	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	5	KJM
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	7	BLM

Jul 2	St. Paul's I., <i>Vic.</i>	7	Avery Bartels
Jul 18	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1 singing	PLC, JEH
Jul 30	Brier I.	1	ELM
Jul 31	Clearland Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH

Northern Parula

Jun - Jul	province-wide (40 rpts)	common	eBird
Jun 12	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	35, on 28 of 50 stops	KJM
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	19	BLM
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	22	BLM
Jul 30	Brier I.	1, dawn arrival	ELM
Jul 31	Clearland Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	10	JAH



This patchwork EUROPEAN STARLING was foraging July 31 on a lawn at Annapolis Royal. [Photo Jane DeWolfe]

Yellow Warbler

Jun - Jul	province-wide (90 rpts)	common	eBird
Jun 12	James R., BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	25	KJM
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	12	BLM
Jun 21	Bissett L. marsh, <i>HRM</i>	7	Lynn



As if to amplify its beauty, this male YELLOW WARBLER chose a song perch in a flowering Multiflora Rose bush in June near Kentville. [Photo Richard Stern]

Jun 22	Bellisle Marsh	20	Karchewski				WPN
Jul 17	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	family	SYP				BRD
Jul 18	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	feeding young	ALD, DOU				BRD
Jul 23	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	10 (sewage lagoons)	PLC, JEH				
			JCT				
Jul 30, 31	Brier I.	3, 10 dawn arrival					
			ELM				
Chestnut-sided Warbler							
Jun - Jul	15 reports	35 indiv.	eBird				
Jun 12	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	16	KJM				
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	5	BLM				
Jul 31	Clearland Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	7	JAH				
Magnolia Warbler							
Jun - Jul	province-wide 24 reports	40+ indiv.	eBird				
Jun 12	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	17	KJM				
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	10, low	BLM				
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	2, v. low	BLM				
Jun 21	Larry's R. BBS, <i>Guys</i>	33, low	SJF				
Jul 11	Welshtown area, <i>Shel.</i>	14	JAH				
Jul 15	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1 singing	HAT				
Jul 31	Brier I.	1, dawn arrival	ELM				
Cape May Warbler							
Jun 8	Woodens R. Trail, <i>HRM</i>	1 singing	BOC, BLM				
			<i>et al.</i>				
Jun 12	Trafalgar, <i>Guys.</i>	1 singing	BLM				
Jun 22	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	CHP				
Black-throated Blue Warbler							
Jun - Jul	mainland, 10 reports	16 indiv.	eBird				
Jun 9	Sandy Cove, <i>Digby</i>	1 m, rare breeder					
			ELM				
Jun 10	Tiverton, <i>Digby</i>	1 m, rare breeder					
			ELM				
Jun 12	Shelburne BBS route	six locations	JAH				
Jun 13, 18	Eatonville, <i>Cum.</i>	male	KFS				
Jun 23	Meisners Section, <i>Lun.</i>	2-3 pairs, 1 with young	SJF, JSC				
Jul 7	Lower Meaghers Grant, <i>HRM</i>	1 singing	CHP, VJH				
Yellow-rumped Warbler							
Jun - Jul	province-wide 45 reports	100+ indiv.	eBird				
Jun 12	James R., BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	6	KJM				
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	4, low	BLM				
Jun 20	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant. - Guys.</i>	20	SJF				
Jun 21	Larrys River BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	18	SJF				
Jul 30, 31	Brier I.	10, 15 dawn arrival					
			ELM				
Black-throated Green Warbler							
Jun - Jul	province-wide 30 reports	50+ indiv.	eBird				
Jun 3	Hubbards, <i>HRM</i>	1 yard bird	PST				
Jun 12	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	5	KJM				
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	9	BLM				
Jun 12	Shelburne BBS	none detected!	JAH				
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	7	BLM				
Jun 20	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant-Guys.</i>	20	SJF				
Jul 10	Abraham L., <i>HRM</i>	10	SYP				
Jul 16	Caribou L. BBA square, <i>Lun.</i>	carrying food	JAH				
Jul 30, 31	Brier I.	5, 10 dawn arrival					
			ELM				
Blackburnian Warbler							
Jun - Jul	provincewide, 15 reports	20 indiv.	eBird				
Jun 12	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	4	KJM				
Jun 18	Porters Lake, <i>HRM</i>	28 m.	CHP				
Jun 21	Larrys River BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	1	SJF				
Jul 10	Abraham L., <i>HRM</i>	6	SYP				
Jul 16, 18	Caribou L. BBA square, <i>Lun.</i>	most common warbler					
			JAH				
Jul 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	DOU, ALD				
Jul 31	Brier I.	1, dawn arrival	ELM				
Pine Warbler							
May 27	Upper Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	singing in red pine					
			BRD				
Jun 8	Trout L., <i>Anna.</i>	2 singing in white pine					
Jul	Two Mile L., <i>Kings</i>	on territory					WPN
late Jul	Coldbrook, <i>Kings</i>	singing male					BRD
Palm Warbler							
Jun 11	Welshtown area, <i>Shel.</i>	6	JAH				
Jun 19	W. Dalhousie Rd, <i>Ann.</i>	4	Michael & Joy				
			Bowen				
Jun 22	Mines Road, <i>HRM</i>	4	BLM, NIF				
Jul 7	Gold River, <i>Lun.</i>	4	JAH				
Bay-breasted Warbler							
Jun 8	Big Intervale, <i>Vic.</i>	7	Avery Bartels				
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	1	BLM				
Jun 18	Porters Lake, <i>HRM</i>	8 males	CHP				
Jun 26	Lake Torment, <i>Lun.</i>	1	BLM				
Jul 7	Lwr Meaghers Grant, <i>HRM</i>	1 singing	VJH, CHP				
Jul 10	Abraham L., <i>HRM</i>	2	SYP				
Jul 16, 18	Caribou L. BBA square, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH				
Blackpoll Warbler							
Jun 2	Brier I.	decrease in migrants					
			ELM				
Jun 5	Money Pt., <i>Vic.</i>	8	Avery Bartels				
Jul 2 - 3	St. Paul's I., <i>Vic.</i>	2	Avery Bartels				
Jul 17	Harbour I., Country Hbr, <i>Guys.</i>	8	Avery Bartels				
Black-and-white Warbler							
Jun - Jul	provincewide, 24 reports	34 indiv.	eBird				
Jun 12	James R., BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	10	KJM				
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	4, low	BLM				
Jun 20	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant. - Guys.</i>	1, low	SJF				
Jun 21	Larrys River BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	2, low	SJF				
Jul 18	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC, JEH				
American Redstart							
Jun - Jul	provincewide, 45 reports	100+ indiv.	eBird				
Jun 12	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	19	KJM				
Jun 12	Shelburne BBS	almost absent	JAH				
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	22	BLM				
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	5, low	BLM				
Jun 20	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant. - Guys.</i>	12	SJF				
Jun 20	Kejimkujik	10	Michael & Joy				
			Bowen				
Jun 25	Rte 358 Scots Bay, <i>Kings</i>	25	SYP				
Jul 15	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	singing	HAT				
Jul 30, 31	Brier I.	2	ELM				
Ovenbird							
Jun - Jul	provincewide, 35 reports	100+ indiv.	eBird				
Jun	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1-2 daily	SLH				
Jun 2	Brier I.	2 migrants	ELM				
Jun 11	Welshtown area, <i>Shel.</i>	21	JAH				
Jun 12	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	13	KJM				
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	5	BLM				
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	6	BLM				
Jun 20	Kejimkujik	10	Michael & Joy				
			Bowen				
Jun 20	Black Rock trails, <i>Kings</i>	10	SYP				
Northern Waterthrush							
Jun 11	Big Intervale, <i>Vic.</i>	5	Avery Bartels				
Jun 12	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	8	KJM				
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	2	BLM				
Jun 20	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant. - Guys.</i>	5	SJF				
Jul 2	St. Paul's I., <i>Vic.</i>	5	Avery Bartels				
Mourning Warbler							
Jun 5	Money Pt., <i>Vic.</i>	3	Avery Bartels				
Jun 12	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	2	KJM				
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	1	BLM				
Jun 20	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant. - Guys.</i>	2	SJF				
Jun 21	Larry's River BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	1	SJF				
Jul 3	St. Paul's I., <i>Vic.</i>	8	Avery Bartels				
Common Yellowthroat							
Jun - Jul	provincewide, 80 reports	150+ indiv.	eBird				
Jun 12	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	25	KJM				
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	9	BLM				

Jun 13	Roslin, <i>Cum.</i>	1 attacking reflection	<i>fide</i> BRS
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	10	BLM
Jun 20	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant. - Guys.</i>	20	SJF
Jul 30, 31	Brier I.	2 dawn arrivals	ELM
Wilson's Warbler			
early Jul	CBHNP	many	RFL, Tony Miller BLM
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	2	BLM
Canada Warbler			
Jun 5	Glenmore Rd., <i>Col.</i>	1 singing	VJH, CHP
Jun 7	Brier I.	1 singing migrant	ELM
Jun 8	Molega L., <i>Lun.</i>	1 singing	JSC, SJF
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	1	BLM
Jun 20	Creignish-Judique, <i>Inv.</i>	at a few sites	RFL, Martha Palmer
Jun 21	Perch L., <i>Pict.</i>	2	MAB
Jun 23	Meisners Section, <i>Lun.</i>	2 on separate territories	JSC, SJF
Jun 24	Gold R. area, <i>Lun.</i>	pair carrying food	JAH
Jul 2	Long I., <i>Digby</i>	3 sites, scarce breeder	ELM
Jul 7	Caribou R. BBA square, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, DPO
Jul 7	White Settlement, <i>Hants</i>	1 male	SMB



This handsome male CANADA WARBLER posed nicely June 30 in CBHNP. [Photo Fritz McEvoy]

Tanagers through House Sparrows

By Hans Toom

Summer always produces fewer informal reports (e.g. on *NatureNS*) because some birders are busy doing BBSs (data available after summer) and atlassing. I've tabulated some such reports as "casual" because they do not reflect real abundances. For that purpose eBird reports may prove increasingly useful. Ideally, one should use the raw eBird files, with their information on daily effort as party hours. I've been content to use the weekly summaries in eBird files of number of reports for each month (June, July) as a rough estimate of effort in obtaining the monthly totals. The eBird results are more representative of reality than the "casual reports," which tend to overemphasize unusual species and ignore the commonplace – for example there were only four "casual" reports of SONG SPARROW, which was one of the most abundantly reported on eBird. Unfortunately, the eBird tabulations of weekly summaries do not include localities or names of the few pioneers who are entering their finds on eBird. The long-term trends should be based on the raw files and will prove increasingly useful (along with CBC and BBS) in following populations of our birds.

The CLAY-COLORED SPARROW in early June was presumably a misplaced migrant, but the singing male a month later had obviously made a bad choice. This species is well known for setting up territories well beyond its normal range. Mavillette Bch. PP was explored by AHM and ELM in mid-June, who were hoping to find a possible SALT MARSH SPARROW, as reported last June, but had to be content with a good population of NELSON'S SPARROW.

The subspecies of the adult WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW lingering on CSI was not noted; in the past such late spring birds have often been of "western" stock.

The eBird counts of SCARLET TANAGERS in July match the good number of Atlas finds in the last 5 years; only four were rated as "probably" breeding, however. Interestingly, there were more "casual" eBird reports of NORTHERN CARDINAL -- everyone loves to see and report that charismatic bird.

There were no rare icterids this year, but of interest were the good counts of BOBOLINK and paucity of BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD. Both were originally Great Plains species, and are widely declining in the East. The former, not the latter, is listed by COSEWIC as threatened. Maybe nobody cares about the mischievous cowbird. Even eBird reports may give a misimpression of numbers of RUSTY BLACKBIRD, which have been confirmed as breeding widely by the second Atlas. As usual, there was a scattering of summering BALTIMORE ORIOLES, a few of which have been confirmed as breeding on the mainland, especially in the Annapolis Valley. The beautiful yellow male oriole photographed by G. Vibensky was featured on the *Chronicle-Herald* website; it may have had a nutrition problem at time of moulting.

Without eBird, we would have little impression of our summering "winter finches," and we really need to develop a focussed program to track our disappearing HOUSE SPARROWS.

Chipping Sparrow

Jun 11	N. Pt. Rd., Brier I.	1 late migrant	ELM
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS, Col.	6 m.	BLM
Jun	Widely	4 repts, 6+ indivs.	eBird
Jul	Widely	7 repts, 6 indivs.	eBird
Jul 14 - 15	Tremont, Kings	1 ad., 1 imm.	SLH
Jul 31	Brier I.	1 imm. migrant	ELM

Clay-colored Sparrow

Jun 3	Portuguese Cove, HRM	1 ad.	HAT
Jun 29, Jul 3	Lakelands, Hants	1 singing	SUB

Savannah Sparrow

Jun	Widely	3 casual	7 obs.
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS, Col.	4, low	BLM
Jun	Widely	14 repts, 28 indivs.	eBird.
Jul	Widely	13 repts, 24 indivs.	eBird

Nelson's Sparrow

Jun	Lun.	1 repts, 7+ indivs.	eBird
Jul	Widely	3 repts, 4 indivs.	eBird
Jul 15	Mavillette PP, Yar.	7+m, + 3 juvs.	AHM, ELM

Fox Sparrow

Jun 8	Woodens R. tr., HRM	1 singing	BLM
Jun	Cape Breton I.	3 repts, 7 indivs.	eBird
Jul	Cape Breton I.	4 repts, 3 indivs.	eBird

Song Sparrow

Jun, Jul	Widely	5 casual repts.	4 obs,
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS, Col.	48	BLM
Jun	Widely	68 repts., 50 indivs.	eBird
Jul	Widely	57 repts., 67 indivs.	eBird

Lincoln's Sparrow

Jun 12	Cow Bay, HRM	4	DOU
Jun	Widely	3 repts, 10 indivs.	eBird
Jul	Widely	6 repts, 6 indivs.	eBird

Swamp Sparrow

Jun	Widely	13 repts, 20 indivs.	eBird
Jul	Widely	3 repts, 8 indivs.	eBird

White-throated Sparrow

Jun - Jul	Widely	5+	3 obs.
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, Guys.	20	BLM
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS, Col.	17	BLM
Jun	Widely	5 repts, 26 indivs.	eBird
Jul	Widely	.	eBird

White-crowned Sparrow

Jun 1	CSI	1 at feeder	F. Atkinson
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Dark-eyed Junco

Jun 12, 19	BBSs Col., Guys.	5, 6 m. (low)	BLM
mid-Jun	W. end Halifax	fledglings	IAM
Jul 28 - 30	Branch L., Ann.	Abundant	MCR
Jun	Widely	6 repts, 20 indivs.	eBird
Jul	Widely	26 repts, 27 indivs.	eBird

Scarlet Tanager

Jul 19	Big I., Pic.	1 f.	ALD
Jul	Widely	6 repts, 1 indivs.	eBird

Northern Cardinal

Jun - Jul	Brier I., Ann., Shel., Kings, HRM	11 repts, 20+ indivs, pairs	var. obs.
Jul 29	Brier I., Wolfville	fledglings	DAP, JWW
Jun	mainland	3 repts, 3 indivs.	eBird
Jun	mainland	1 rept, 4 indivs.	eBird

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Jul 5, 10	Wolfville Ridge	m. on property	JCT
Jul 15	Wolfville Ridge	f. At feeder	JCT
Jul	Tremont, Kings	pr. occasional. at feeder	SLH
Jun - Jul	mainland	4 repts, 4 indivs.	eBird

Bobolink

Jun 19	Londonderry BBS, Col.	7 low	BLM
Jun 24	Near Tatamagouche	6 f. Feeding young	BRD
Jun - Jul	Ann., Dig., Shel., Kings	6 repts. 38+ indivs., prs.	6 obs.
Jun	Widely	3 repts, 32 indivs.	eBird
Jul	Widely	6 repts, 29 indivs.	eBird

Red-winged Blackbird

Jun - Jul	Lun., HRM	5 repts, 10+ indivs.	4 obs.
Jun	Widely	8 repts, 70 indivs.	eBird
Jul	Widely	32 repts, 67 indivs.	eBird

Rusty Blackbird

Jun	Cape Breton I.	3 repts, 7+ indivs.	eBird
Jul		No repts.	eBird

Common Grackle

Jun - Jul	Lun., HRM	5 repts., 20+ indivs.	3 obs.
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS, Col.	36	BLM
Jun	Widely	11 repts, 31 indivs.	eBird
Jul	Widely	24 repts, 56 indivs.	eBird

Brown-headed Cowbird

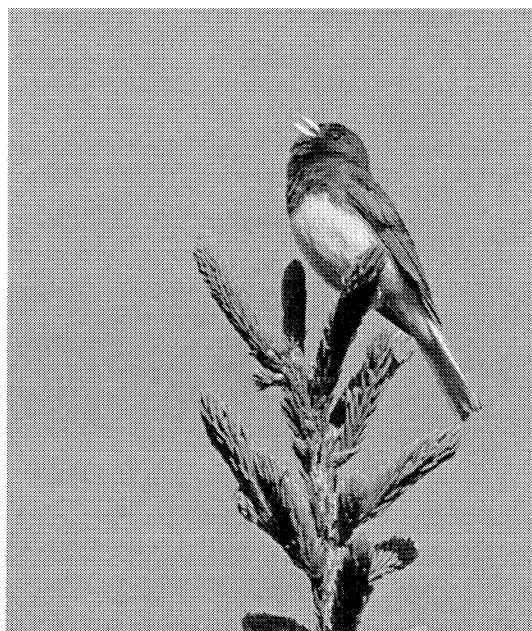
Jun	Bellisle Marsh	1	SYP, et al.
Jul	No repts.!		

Baltimore Oriole

Jun	Widely	1 pr. 3 singing males	4 obs.
Jun	Lun.	1 rept, 1 indiv.	eBird
Jun 11	Dartmouth	1 male, yellow variant (ph.)	G. Vibensky
Jul	loc.?	1 rept., 1 indiv.	eBird

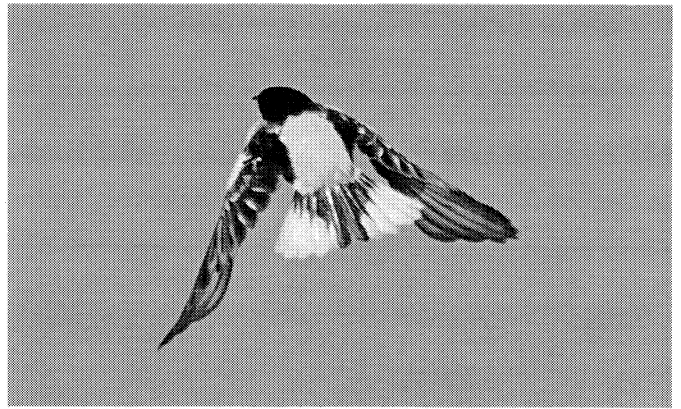
Pine Grosbeak

Jun - Jul	Cape Breton I.	3 repts, 6 indivs.	eBird
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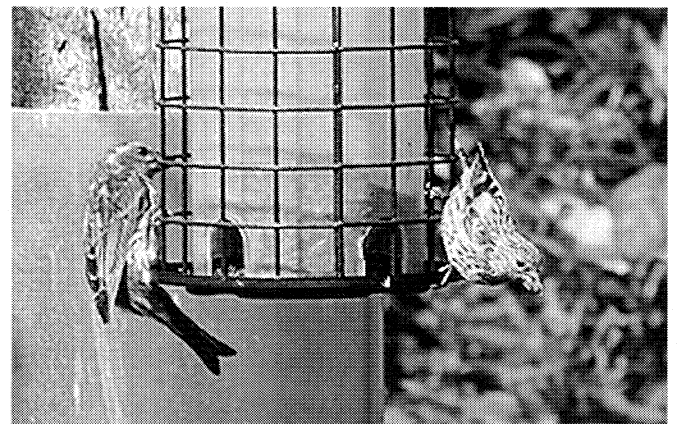


When you hear a trilling DARK-EYED JUNCO, like this one on Brier I. in June, look first at the very tips of nearby conifers. [Photo Richard Stern]

Purple Finch			
Jun	Widely	26 repts, 36 indivs.	eBird
Jul	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	2-3 indivs.	SLH
Jul	Widely	14 repts, 20 indiv.	eBird
House Finch			
Early Jun	Halifax, W. End	4 singing m.	IAM
Red Crossbill			
Jun 1	Bayport, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
Jul	no repts.		
White-winged Crossbill			
Jun, early	Bridgetown, <i>Ann.</i>	Up to 4	MCR
Jun 7	Benjie's L, CBHNP	10	Avery Bartels
Jul	Cape Breton I.	2 repts, 4 indiv.	eBird
Pine Siskin			
Jun, early	Bridgetown, <i>Ann.</i>	Up to 4	MCR
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	1	BLM
Jul	Cape Breton I.	2 repts, 2+ indivs.	eBird
Jul, mid	Bridgetown, <i>Ann.</i>	Up to 15	MCR
Jul	Cape Breton I.	2 repts, 4 indivs.	eBird
American Goldfinch			
Jun	Widely	12 repts, 69+ indivs.	eBird
Jun - Jul	Bridgetown, <i>Ann.</i>	Sev. At feeder	MCR
Jul	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	2-4 indivs.	SLH
Jul	Widely	53 repts, 42 indivs.	eBird
Evening Grosbeak			
Jun 12	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	3	BLM
Jun 19	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	3	BLM
Jun 22	mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1 m.	VJH
Jun	Widely	2 repts, 7 indivs.	eBird
Jul 5	mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1 f.	VJH
Jul	Widely	2 repts, 7 indivs.	eBird
House Sparrow			
Jun	Widely	2 repts., 7 indivs.	eBird
Jul	Widely	4 repts, 17 indivs.	eBird



A BALTIMORE ORIOLE male of a breeding pair near Kentville, offered a remarkable image in flight. [Photo Richard Stern]



This PINE SISKIN summering at Doctors Brook., *Ant.*, had an unusually large yellow patch on its wing. This appears to have resulted from missing primary coverts, presumably molted and not yet replaced, which exposed the yellow bases of its primaries. [Photo John Kearney]

List of Contributors

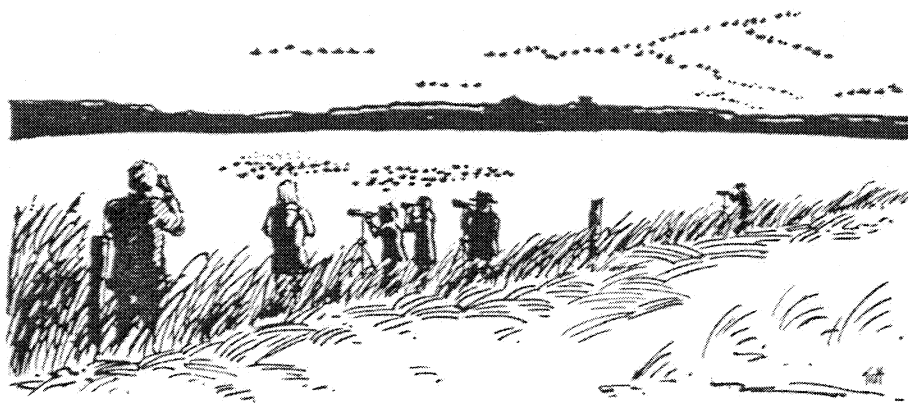
Thanks to all of our contributors, including:

Sorted by initials

MacLean, Angus	AAM	Stoddard, Clyde	CST	Toom, Hans	HAT
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Pouliot, Anita	APO	Crosby, Donna	DJC	Hartley, Jean	JEH
Avery Bartels	AVB	Forbes, Don	DLF	Churchill, James L.	JLC
Digout, Billy	BID	Doull, Elizabeth	DOU	Nickerson, Johnnie	JON
Smith, Betty June	BJS	Poole, Dorothy	DPO	Cohrs, Shirley	JSC
Maybank, Blake	BLM	Mills, Eric L.	ELM	Swift, June	JUS
Carmichael, Bonnie	BOC	Stern, Elizabeth	ELS	MacInnis, John W.	JWM
Dalzell, Brian	BRD	Spalding, Francis	FLS	Wolford, Jim	JWW
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Field, Chris	CJF	Forsythe, Harold	HAF	Codling, Lois	LOC

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WEATHER & OTHER REPORTS

Weather - Eastern Annapolis Valley - Summer 2010

By Larry Bogan

Monthly Averages of Weather Data
 Kentville, Nova Scotia 2010
 (from the Canada Food & Horticulture Research Centre, Kentville, N.S.)

	Average Temperature (C)			Rain (mm)	Sunshine (hours)	Avg. Wind Km/h
	Max	Min	Mean			
June	21.7	11.5	16.6	183	187	7.5
49 yr avg	21.9	10.3	16.1	69	204	3.0
July	26.2	16.1	21.2	93	219	8.2
49 yr avg	23.9	14.3	19.1	109	177	6.9
August	25.8	13.5	19.6	57	268	6.9
49 yr avg	24.4	13.3	18.9	94	220	8.7
Season	24.6	13.7	19.1	334	674	7.5
49 yr avg	23.4	12.6	18.0	272	601	6.3

The summer of 2010 was 1.1^c warmer than average. This was a result of three months that were all above normal temperatures: June by 0.5^c, July by 2.1^c and August by 0.7^c. We had a few very hot days this summer with a maximum of 30^c or above: June had 1, July had 6, and August had 2. As I am writing this in early September, those 2 days in August were part of a longer hot spell that extended four more days into September and broke temperature records. If you look at the temperature graph it shows very little fluctuation of temperatures from mid-June to the end of August. During that period the days nearly all averaged between 15 and 25^c, a very comfortable range.

Precipitation was adequate this summer, helping lawns and gardens stay green, but rainfall distribution was quite uneven. The graph of precipitation for the period clearly shows what happened. June received more than half of the summer's rainfall with 183 mm of the 334mm total. The other two months received only 45% of the total rainfall and were below normal with July getting 85% of its usual amount and August being the driest at only 60% of long term average.

There was no shortage of sunshine for the summer of 2010. June was a bit cloudy and did not receive the normal sunshine hours but July and August more than made up for that. July had 25% more and August 20% more sunshine than the norm for the 49 year average.

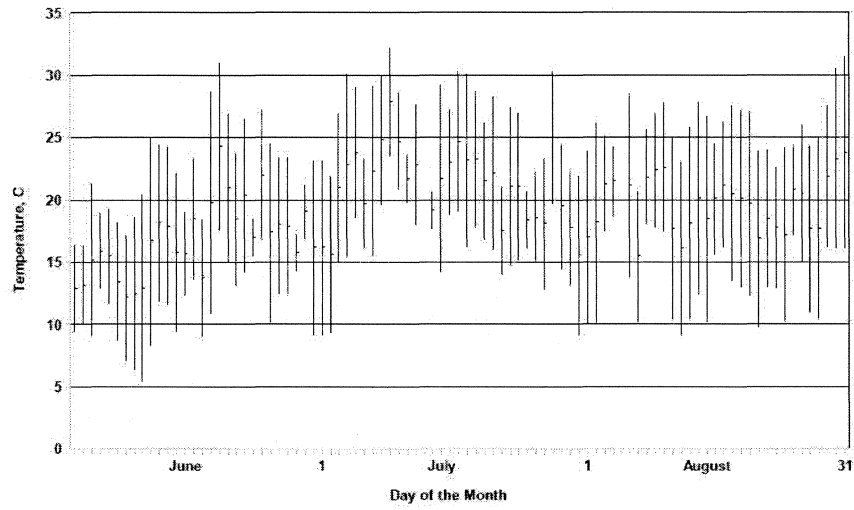
I have included some wind data in the monthly summaries this season.

Valley Weather Stations

The data I use to write these comments each issue comes from the Agricultural Research Centre in Kentville, but there are many private weather stations up and down the Annapolis Valley. Some of these upload their data to the Weather Underground (<http://www.wunderground.com>) and you can see their data at that site. I learned of this recently when I upgraded my weather station so that my computer would record my data. Stan Riggs, a BNS member, has been doing this for some time and has a weather website (<http://www.coldbrookweather.ca>) you can visit for more details on our local weather. There are 9 weather stations on the Weather Underground from Annapolis Royal to Hantsport. See them on a google map at <http://www.wunderground.com/wundermap>

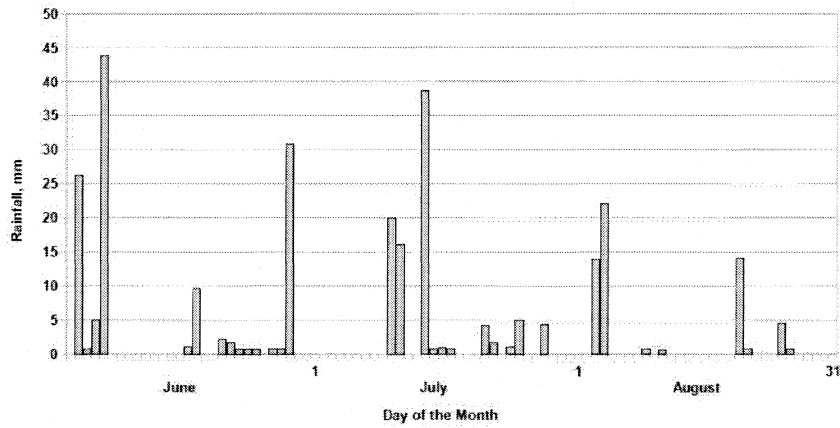
Daily Temperatures June, July, Aug 2010

Kentville Nova Scotia



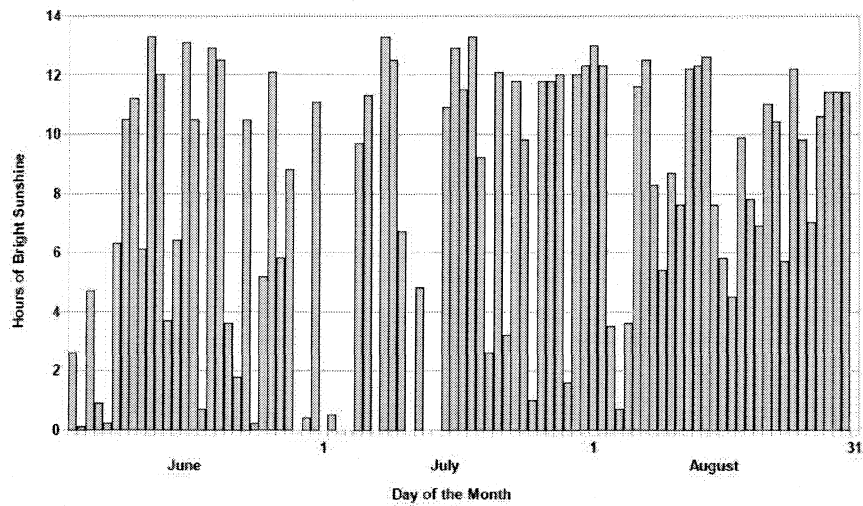
Daily Rainfall, June, July, August 2010

Kentville, Nova Scotia



Daily Bright Sunshine Hours

June, July, August 2010, Kentville, N.S.



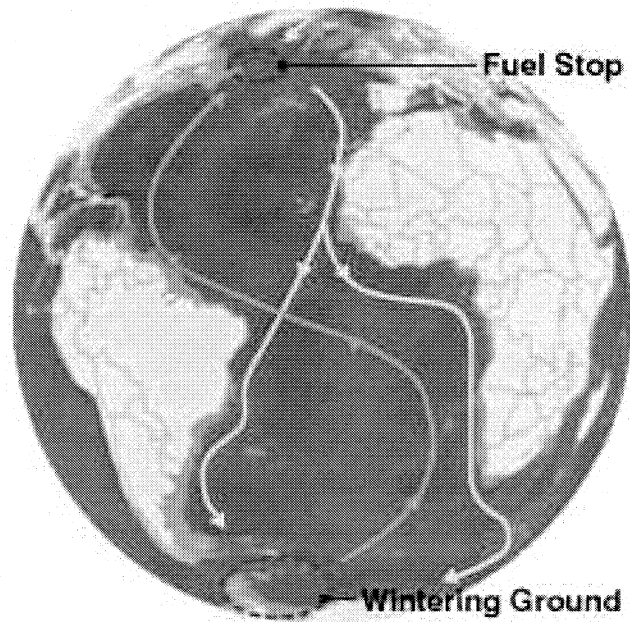
Birds in the News and in Science

Arctic Tern's Epic Journey Mapped

By Jonathan Amos, Science correspondent, BBC News

The Arctic tern's extraordinary pole-to-pole migration has been detailed by an international team of scientists. The researchers fitted the birds with tiny tracking devices to see precisely which routes the animals took on their 70,000km (43,000 miles) round trip. The study reveals they fly down either the African or Brazilian coasts but then return in an "S"-shaped path up the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

The long-distance adventure is described in the US journal PNAS.



After setting out (pale line) the birds pause in the North Atlantic (dark circle) to feed. Going home (darker line), they follow the winds.

Total distance travelled: 70,900km
 On southbound leg: 34,600km
 Daily progress south: 330km
 On northbound leg: 25,700km
 Daily progress north: 520km
 Within Winter grounds: 10,900km

"From ringing, we knew where the Arctic tern travelled," said Carsten Egevang of the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources. "The new thing is that we've now been able to track the bird during a full year of migration, all the way from the breeding grounds to the wintering grounds and back again."

The avian world is known for its great migrations. Albatrosses, godwits, and sooty shearwaters all undertake epic journeys. But none can quite match the Arctic tern's colossal trip. Starting in August and September, this small bird - which weighs little more than 100g (3.5oz) - will head away from Greenland with the intention of getting to the Weddell Sea, on the shores of Antarctica.

It will spend about four or five months in the deep south before heading back to the far north, arriving home in May or June. A team from Greenland, Denmark, the US, the UK and Iceland attached small (1.4g/0.05oz) "geolocators" to the animals to find out exactly where they went on this polar round trip.

The devices record light intensity. This gives an estimate of the local day length, and the times of sunrise and sunset; and from this

information it is possible to work out a geographical position of the birds. The geolocators were provided by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS).

"The use of these devices on seabirds is not only revolutionising our understanding of migration patterns, but the resulting data on distribution also help address the requirement to identify important biological hotspots," said Richard Phillips from BAS, a co-author of the PNAS paper.

The first surprise is that the terns do not make straight for the Antarctic when they leave the Arctic, but make a lengthy stop-over in the middle of the North Atlantic, about 1,000km (620 miles) north of the Azores. Here, they feed on zooplankton and fish to fuel themselves for the long journey ahead.

"We were able to compare biological productivity in the ocean from satellite imagery and we could see a high productive area that the birds will spend time in," said Mr Egevang. "Even more importantly, it's the last high productive area before they enter tropical waters where we know productivity is low."

The birds then head south along the coast of Western Europe and western Africa before making a choice, either to continue hugging Africa or sweep across the Atlantic from the Cape Verde Islands to continue the journey along the Brazilian coast.

About half the birds that were tracked decided to take the South American path. It is not clear why, but the researchers believe wind might make either route seem favourable to the terns. After spending their northern winter months in Antarctic waters, the terns then fly back towards the Arctic. But rather than retracing their southward flight paths, the birds follow a gigantic "S" pattern up the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

"This is completely new knowledge," Mr Egevang told BBC News.

"They make a detour of several thousand km but once we start comparing the route to the prevailing wind system, it makes perfect sense - moving in a counter-clockwise direction in the Southern Hemisphere, and clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere. "It's just more energy-efficient for them to do that even though they are travelling several thousand more km than if they flew in a straight line."

From Bird Studies Canada

Building NS Caretaker Network

22 September 2010 – During summer, Nova Scotia residents and tourists flock to the same South Shore beaches used by breeding Piping Plovers and large numbers of migratory shorebirds, where there are extensive tracts of Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Bird Studies Canada and over 50 volunteers work intensively to recover endangered Piping Plovers at these IBA sites; however, much of our monitoring and conservation work stops when plovers finish breeding. Many volunteers have a keen interest in other shorebirds, but lack the skills to identify them. Fall workshops, targeting active and new volunteers, intend to change this.

This month, BSC is leading workshops at South Shore IBAs to increase knowledge about the value of IBAs and build shorebird identification skills. The goal is to grow capacity for local monitoring and conservation of IBAs. Participants will join a growing Canadian network of volunteer Caretakers who act as watchdogs at IBAs. Enthusiasm for the first workshop, held on September 11, led to the scheduling of a second workshop on September 29. Funding from the NS Habitat Conservation Fund and Nature Canada, along with in-kind support from Environment Canada's Atlantic Canada Shorebird Survey, are helping build a solid foundation for IBA and shorebird conservation in Nova Scotia.

Hemispheric Conservation Plan for Bicknell's Thrush

29 July 2010 – The International Bicknell's Thrush Conservation Group (IBTCG) has unveiled a plan to protect one of North America's most rare and vulnerable songbirds, the Bicknell's Thrush, across its entire range from Canada to the Caribbean. A Conservation Action Plan for Bicknell's Thrush proposes to increase the global population of Bicknell's Thrush by 25% over the next 50 years, mostly by preventing further loss of the bird's breeding and wintering habitats. The principal agencies and organizations involved in developing the plan include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, and Bird Studies Canada in close collaboration with Canadian government and non-government partners.

Visit the IBTCG website [<http://www.bicknellsthrush.org/news.html>] to view the full conservation plan and trilingual, non-

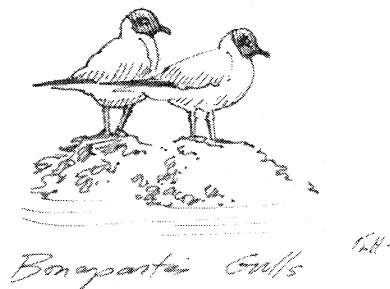
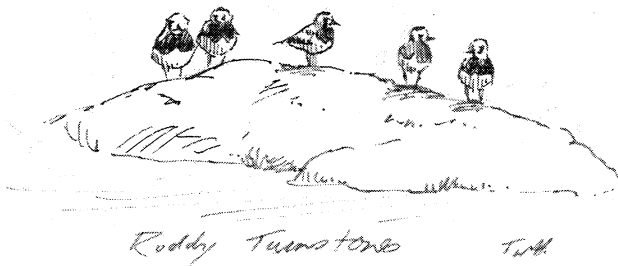
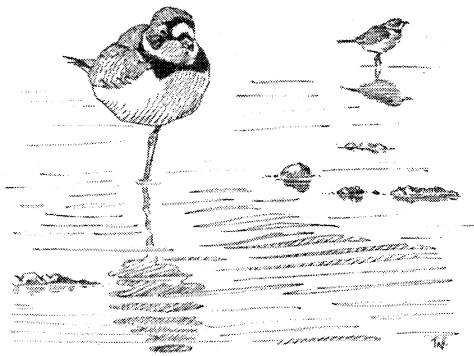
technical summaries. Visit the BSC website [<http://www.birdscanada.org/research/speciesatrisk/bith>] to learn more about our Bicknell's Thrush research in Atlantic Canada.

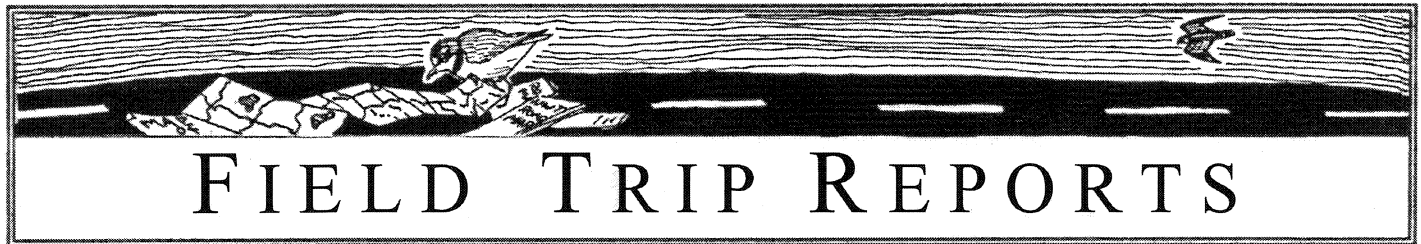
Cape Breton Piping Plover among Bahamas-bound 'Snowbirds'

22 November 2010 – Cape Bretoners aren't the only 'snowbirds' enjoying Bahamas beaches during winter. Staff from Bird Studies Canada's Nova Scotia Piping Plover Conservation Program [<http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/nsplover/>] discovered a very special Piping Plover during May 2010 surveys of Cape Breton beaches. A colour-banded Piping Plover – one of 57 banded in The Bahamas in January 2010 – was observed at West Mabou Beach Provincial Park in Cape Breton, N. S.

The banding project was initiated by Environment Canada researcher Dr. Cheri Gratto-Trevor, to better understand connectivity between Caribbean wintering and Canadian and U. S. breeding grounds. Two volunteers and the N. S. Department of Natural Resources helped BSC monitor the West Mabou plover's breeding success. His first nest attempt was washed out after a heavy rain storm in early June, but a subsequent nest hatched and fledged two young.

Four of the 57 Bahamas-banded plovers were observed in Atlantic Canada during the 2010 breeding season, and three out of the four (including the 'Caper') were re-sighted in the Bahamas this November by plover biologist Sid Maddock. This banding study is helping fill significant knowledge gaps about Piping Plover wintering areas, and highlights the conservation importance of the Caribbean. BSC is grateful for financial support for population monitoring provided by Environment Canada.





Herbert River Trail, West Hants

10 July 2010, A joint trip of Blomidon Naturalists Society and Nova Scotia Bird Society

We had nine participants. It was very hot and humid and, at 11:30 a.m., we finished just in time to avoid a downpour of rain.

During the walk the emphasis was on atlassing for birds. Sightings included Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and Spotted Sandpiper. We also saw about 10 green frogs of all sizes, an ATV-killed baby raccoon, and a chipmunk.

Plants in bloom included Fringed Loosestrife, Swamp Candle (another Yellow Loosestrife), Yellow Pond Lily, Evening Primrose, a very large riverside bed of Flowering Common Elderberry, Tall Meadow Rue, Common Cinquefoil with both 5- and 4-parted flowers (watch out when using Newcomb or other guides on flowers), Blue Vetch, wild roses galore, Bird's-foot Trefoil, White Sweet Clover, Red Clover, Fireweed, Chicory, and Indian Pipe (just one plant).

We noted young terminal galls on willow stems (called willow pinecone galls) caused by a large fruit fly. Later we saw the fully formed old willow pinecone galls, from which the overwintered fly larva/pupa emerges in spring.

Jim Wolford

Beginning Birders Field Trip, Taylor Head Provincial Park

18 July 2010, Leaders: Jim Cameron and Warren Parsons

Many thanks to the organizers, Jim Cameron and Warren Parsons for arranging a wonderful outing at this simply spectacular provincial park.

Jim Cameron led the walk which was preceded by a detailed look at the best types of binoculars and helpful equipment aids, how to properly focus binoculars, a look at good field guides, etiquette while participating on field trips, and the steps to properly identify birds.

The walk itself lasted a little longer than the planned 3 hours but nobody was complaining. It was a fairly rugged trail but we were able to see some great birds. Dark-eyed Juncos were in and about as well as a number of Song and White-throated Sparrows. A Hermit Thrush landed close by as we were starting out.

For myself I saw my first Boreal Chickadee. We checked on a successful nesting colony of Common Terns. We saw both Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, several of each actually perching on the same rock. Jim brought his scope so we were all able to see the detailed markings. We saw a number of rafts of Common Eider with young of different ages, and various kinds of gulls in different stages of maturity. A female Common Yellowthroat made for a wonderful view thanks to a little 'pishing' by Jim to coax it out. One of the members also saw the male a little further along the way. A number of Yellow-rumped Warblers were happening into view now and then. An Osprey and several Bald Eagles were noted in the air or on their nests.

It was a very memorable field trip. Thanks again!

Gayle MacLean

Brier Island Weekend**18–19 September 2010, Leaders: James Hirtle and Wayne Neily**

My thanks to all the 24 participants, including two couples from Ontario and one from Georgia, for helping make it an enjoyable weekend. As for posting a final tally, I may be able to do that later, but I'm not sure that I have one now, as most people did not stay for the compiling session at lunch Sunday at the Lighthouse Café. James and I did combine lists Saturday evening, and I do know of some additions Sunday, so I have a list of 112 species, or 113 if one counts the Black Skimmer seen by James at Pond Cove while scouting on Friday before the official start of the trip, but which was not present on Saturday or Sunday. Some of these need details to document them, although none (except the skimmer) was an exceptional rarity for N.S. Since getting home, I have seen at least two species from the Saturday pelagic trips reported to eBird (Leach's Storm-Petrel and Common Murre) that had not been reported to either of the leaders. Thus we have potentially at least 115+ species for Brier Island (excluding species seen en route on Long I. or Digby Neck).

The weather was great for observing - calm and mild Saturday and with a light easterly wind Sunday - but not so good for migration, at least until late morning Sunday, when some diurnal migrants (mainly raptors) began moving. For Friday evening, after a get-acquainted session at the Lodge, the owls/nocturnal migrants group heard at least two Saw-whet Owls and had great looks at Jupiter and the Moon (and the Alcor/Mizar eye test of the ancients), but heard very few migrants moving.

Saturday morning the air and sea were both very still. There was a fair variety of migrants on the island in low numbers, but we had to work to get them. Near the Lodge, an American Woodcock was flushed from the roadside in the pre-dawn light, but not seen by most. Early the best result was scanning from the Northern Light area, where, among other things, we saw about 10 Laughing Gulls head out of Grand Passage to rest on the waters of the Bay, good views of Northern Gannets, Common Eider females, grey seals, both cormorants, and, best of all, a Northern Fulmar (light morph), the first I have seen at Brier I. Beating the bushes and krummholz there and along the Gull Lake Rd. turned up a fair variety of passerines, including flocks of Blue Jays, both chickadees, both kinglets, and both nuthatches, 14 species of warblers, from Nashville to Wilson's, Philadelphia Vireo, and Baltimore Oriole, as well as some Sharp-shinned Hawks. At Pond Cove, there was the usual variety of water birds, from Canada Geese and a Wood Duck to the common gulls (plus one Laughing). Two young Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, three species of plovers and five of sandpipers, including a Ruddy Turnstone, 10 Sanderlings, and 6 Dunlins were also there. Ken McKenna had an early American Pipit nearby.

The p.m. whale and seabird cruises both went well, each with about a dozen members of our group on board. The water and air were so calm that even the shearwaters had to flap if airborne, and so many remained on the water even when we approached closely. Our group (the Brier I. W. & S Tour) had 100+ Great Shearwaters (and great views), about 10 Sooty Shearwaters, a possible Manx, 20+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 20+ Northern Gannets, and good flocks of phalaropes (estimated 1400 Red-necked and 1350 Red), 25+ Atlantic Puffins, 6+ Black Guillemots, 2+ Razorbills, plus the usual gulls and one Laughing and one Black-legged Kittiwake (not seen by all). For mammals, we had about 4 Humpback Whales, a Sei, good looks at an Orca, and schools of White-sided Dolphins. The other boat had most of the same species but had no Storm-Petrels, their phalaropes were mainly Red, and they had a definite Manx Shearwater.

Sunday had more of most of the same species on the island, with a modest flight of hawks, very high overhead, being the main difference. The largest kettle I heard of was of 30 Broad-wingeds, seen by David Walmark; our group later saw 2 Osprey, 2 Bald Eagles, a few Sharp-shinneds, one Cooper's, 4+ Broad-wingeds, 1 Red-tailed, and one Peregrine Falcon over the Peajack Road area. At the shore nearby, Pat Giffin spotted a late Ruby-throated Hummingbird in time for the rest of us to glimpse it, and near the Baptist Church at about 10:50 a dull female Eastern Bluebird posed for us until the parishioners arrived to claim their parking for the service.

Cheers,

Wayne P. Neily
Tremont, Kings Co., Nova Scotia



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

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

Sat 05 Feb 2011: New Birders' Walk– Point Pleasant Park - Halifax

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

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

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 and Bob McDonald 443-5051 E-mail: 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.

Sat 12 Feb 2011 – Glace Bay and area "Harbour Hop"

Leaders: George Crowell and Bev Sarty 849-5317 Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Fishermen's Memorial Park, Glace Bay We'll be checking a number of birding sites in and around the community for a chance to see our winter ducks and gulls, and to get out and enjoy a winter day. Storm date: February 19.

18 Feb-21 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.

Ghost Bird

Ghost Bird is a full-length documentary about the recent possible discovery of ivory-billed woodpeckers in the southern United States, a bird long thought to be extinct. This is a repeat screening for those who may not have been able to attend the November screening. You can watch the trailer at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=fX3rL1XF9M0

Sat 26 Feb 2011 – Valley Birding, Kings County

Leaders: Patrick Kelly (902) 472-2322 E-mail: patrick.kelly@dal.ca and Suzanne Borkowski (902) 445-2922 E-mail: suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca

This will be a joint trip with the Blomidon Naturalists Society. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Wolfville waterfront. We will be looking for raptors, lingering winter visitors, and rarities in and around Canning and Grand Pré. Dress warmly and bring a lunch.

No storm date.

Sat 5 March 2011 – New Birders' Walk– Point Pleasant Park - Halifax

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

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

Sun 21 Mar 2011 - Along the Fundy Shore

Leader: Wayne Neily 765-2455 E-mail: neilyornis@hotmail.com

Focusing on the early spring birds of the Bay of Fundy and the ecozones from it to the Annapolis Valley; this will be a joint trip with the Nova Scotia Bird Society, the Blomidon Naturalists and the Annapolis Field Naturalists. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in Aylesford, just on the north side of Exit 16 on Hwy #101. We'll visit the shore at Morden, Margaretsville, Port George, and perhaps Port Lorne and Hampton, before heading

back into the Valley to check some sites on the way to Annapolis Royal. Dress warmly with layers; the Fundy shore can be cold and windy at that time of year, and bring a lunch.

Pre-Registration is preferred in order to help with planning, but not required.

No storm date.

Thu 24 March 2011 – Regular Meeting

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

Book Auction in Support of the Sanctuary Trust.

The last time we held an auction for the Sanctuary Trust, we raised over \$500. Most of the books for this auction have been donated by Barbara Hinds, with others donated by Joan Czapalay and the society. There is a wide selection and everyone is likely to find something they will like. Blake Maybank did a great job as the auctioneer at the last event and has agreed to preside over this year's event.

Sat 02 Apr 2011: New Birders' Walk– Point Pleasant Park - Halifax

Leader: Bonnie Carmichael, E-mail:

bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com

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

Sat 9 Apr 2011 – Martinique Beach

Leader: Ian McLaren 429-7024 E-mail: iamclar@dal.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Scotiabank parking lot, Bridge Plaza, Dartmouth. Look for early migrants as well as possible rarities. Bring a lunch.

No storm date.

Sun 10 April 2011 – Wolfville Area

Leader: Jim Wolford 542-9204 E-mail:

jimwolford@eastlink.ca

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

No storm date.

Sat 23 April 2011 – Baddeck and St. Ann's area Field Trip

Leader: Bethsheila Kent 295-1749; E-mail:

birding.naturewalks@bellaliant.net

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at 4296 Highway 105 (just west of Exit 11 to the Cabot Trail). We will carpool from our meeting place and scour the St. Ann's area for birding hotspots. Alcids, scoters, and teal are among the sights we can expect to see. Bring a lunch, and if weather permits, we will enjoy it on the trail.

No storm date.

Thu 28 April 2011 – Regular Meeting

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

Birding the Raj: Adventures on a Nature and Cultural Tour of Northwest India

Guest Speaker: Blake Maybank

In early 2010, Blake led a trip to India to see birds as well as to explore the culture. Join him as we explore part of the Indian subcontinent. Blake has been a member of the Nova Scotia Bird Society for 25 years, and he is currently the editor of *Nova Scotia Birds*, as well as a regional editor for *North American Birds*.



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