

Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Summer 2011

(The Birds of Spring)



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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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Special points of interest:

- Photo Gallery—Did You Know?
- Louisbourg Migration Count
- Identification of Yellowlegs
- Apparent First Nesting of Turkey Vultures in Nova Scotia
- Field Trip Reports

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Cover: A Common Redpoll settles onto a Canada goldenrod on a cold, windy day in November 2010 at the Glace Bay Bird Sanctuary in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

Tuma Young of Halifax captured the photo after he and his friends spotted a flock of redpolls at the sanctuary.

"My friends all chose to sit in the warm car, wished me luck, and tsk-tsk'ed me about standing in the cold for a picture when I could just sit in the warm car viewing them using binoculars," he recalls. "I stood around for about 15 minutes before the flock flew fairly close to me and I was able to take a number of shots." He used a Canon 1D Mark III, a 500mm lens, and a 1.4x extender.

Tuma tells us that in his native Mi'kmaq language, the bird's name is Puktowjij, meaning little flame. The reference is to the bird's red crown, which is also the inspiration for its scientific name: *Carduelis flame*.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS

SUMMER 2011

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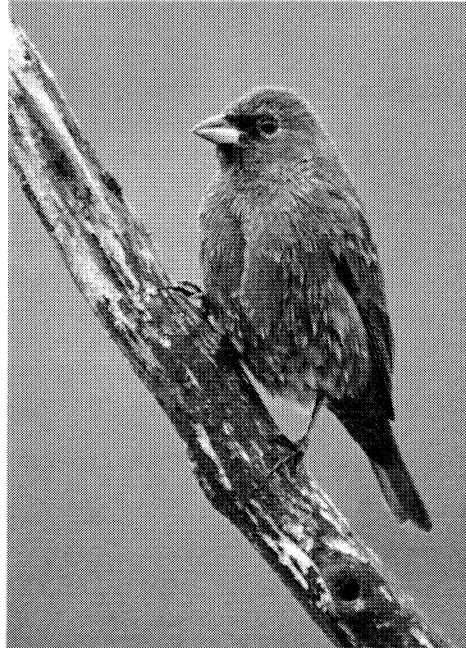
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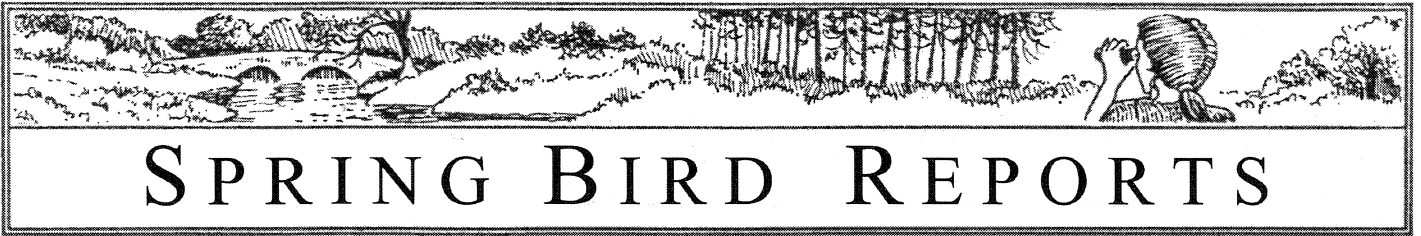
Published four times a year.



Although it was taken a few days before spring, this elegant BLUE JAY in flight was hard to exclude from the current issue of "Nova Scotia Birds." [Photo Richard Stern]



This spanking male INDIGO BUNTING, May 7 in Halifax, was among the few that delighted feeder watchers this spring. [Photo Vicki Gaul]



SPRING BIRD REPORTS

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	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	<i>Halifax Regional Municipality</i>
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

When 1700 **BRANT GEESE** and two **REDHEADS** show up at CSI on March 5 you know it's a sign of spring, even if the snow banks are still huge at the time. Sure enough, a day later everything started to melt. The Brant numbers built up considerably over that month. Good numbers were present on Brier Island for a considerable period of time, while others were identified off the tip of the Blanche Peninsula in Shelburne County. All this is an improvement over last year. In an unusual sighting, one was seen at Port George on the Bay of Fundy, early in April. Another was seen in Waterside P.P. in Pictou, one of a very few seen there since the extensive loss of Eel Grass in the region some years ago. Virtually every bird found on the NS Migration Count Day of May 14 was in the Digby count, presumably in the Brier area.

An immature **GREATER SNOW GOOSE** was present for a few days at the Sandyland Ponds of Port Maitland, Yarmouth, spending its time with a flock of Canada Geese. Another showed up later in the Canning region of the Annapolis Valley. A Canada Goose seen and photographed with that flock by RBS may have been a **Richardson's Goose**, much smaller than the others but visually larger than a Cackling Goose. Both are Arctic based. The Snow Goose seen by ELM on April 14 was again an

immature larger bird, presumably a Greater Snow Goose. There were several other reports that initially recorded a snow goose but on further investigation proved to be a bird of domestic origins – this is a common occurrence with this species.

The large flock of 1100 Canada Geese found by ELM in the Onslow-Masstown region consisted of about 25% smallish, dark-breasted individuals. They would seem to be B.C. interior and thus long distance migrants, freshly arriving.

The male **EURASIAN WIGEON** seen on Pond Cove, Brier Island on May 13 and 14 by ELM was believed to be a first record for the Island.

Greater Scaup were still being reported from the Lunenburg region at the end of April, about a month later than normal.

In a flock of about 20 Common Eiders seen at Eastern passage by IAM were two very pale females. They may well have been from the Arctic subspecies *Somateria borealis*, smaller and unusual visitors to this region. On April 30, BLM and IAM found flocks of Eiders at about 8 different locations along the Eastern Shore, from Eastern Passage to Lawrencetown Head. There was an apparently migratory movement occurring at that time. Of almost 7000 birds found province-wide on the NSMC, 2000 were in the Yarmouth region.

The man-made marsh and French Basin Trail at Annapolis Royal is rapidly becoming the best location in the province to see **BUFFLEHEADS** and several other unusual species such as **SHOVELLERS**.

A rare **TUFTED DUCK** showed up in CSI on April Fools' Day but it wasn't a gag. It was a very welcome sight.

6276 **American (Black) Scoters** were seen on the NSMC with over 5000 of those being found on the Digby count.

An excellent flock of about 100 **Red-Breasted Mergansers** were seen migrating at Shoal Cove, Blandford in Lunenburg on May 28 by ELM. On the migration count 654 were seen in Pictou from a provincial total of 958.



The relatively stubby bill and short, thick neck of this SNOW GOOSE, Mar. 31 at Canning, *Kings*, suggest that it was probably an off-track "Lesser." [Photo Richard Stern]

Snow Goose				Wood Duck			
Mar 8-10	Port Maitland, <i>Yar.</i>	1	Bill Curry	Mar 5	Brooklyn, <i>Queens</i>	1f o-w	ELM
Mar 21, 23	Canning Aboiteau, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS, AND	Mar 7	North Aldershot, <i>Kings</i>	1	AND
Apr 14	Lower Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	1	ELM	Mar 24	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	Gail Bruhm
Cackling Goose				Apr 8	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1 pr	Rick Whitman
Mar 21	Canning Aboiteau, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS	Apr 23	Sullivan Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1 pr	GAM
Canada Goose				Apr 24	Willard Fraser Pond, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Mar 8, 15	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	150, 105	DMW	Apr 30	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2 pr	GDE
Mar 10	Port Maitland, <i>Yar.</i>	flock	Bill Curry	May 1	Braeshore, <i>Pict.</i>	2 pr	KJM
Mar 10	Wellington Dyke, <i>Kings</i>	900	JWW	May 3	Little River L., <i>Kings</i>	2m, 1f	Rick Whitman
Mar 18	White Point, <i>Queens</i>	60+	MMI	May 7	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	8	GFO
Mar 18	Habitant R., Canning, <i>KI</i>	hundreds	AND	May 14	Akins Marsh, <i>Hants</i>	1m	JOB, NSMC
Mar 21	Canning Aboiteau, <i>Kings</i>	500+	RBS	May 14	Annapolis NSMC	11	
Apr 8	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	6-10	Rick Whitman	May 22	Belle Isle marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1f	DOU
Apr 10	Harris's Pond, Canning, <i>Kings</i>	~200	RBS	May 23	Lily L., Lakelands, <i>Hants</i>	some	SMB, NSBS
Apr 14	Onslow-Masstown, <i>Col.</i>	1100	ELM	Gadwall			
Apr 17	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	10+	CIC	Mar 12	East R., <i>Pict.</i>	11	KJM
May 7	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	lots	GFO	Mar 19	East Brooklyn, <i>Queens</i>	4	ELM
May 14	St. Croix pond, <i>Hants</i>	6+12 juv.	JOB, NSMC	Mar 20	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	WPN, NSB
May 14	Digby NSMC	105		Mar 27	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	2	RBS
May 21	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	10+	KFS	Mar 29, Apr 4	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1m	JWW
Brant				Mar 31	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1 ph	PMU
Mar 5	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	1700	JON	Apr 8	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	5	Rick Whitman
Mar 27	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	70+	RBS	Apr 8	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1m	Rick Whitman
Apr 1	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	5000	JON	Apr 8	Rossway, Digby Neck	4	ELM
Apr 3	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	1	Bradley	Apr 10	Harris's Pond, Canning, <i>Kings</i>	2	RBS
			Woodworth	May 7	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	4	GFO
Apr 8	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	200	ELM, AHM	May 18	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	2	DOU
Apr 9	Waterside P.P. <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	Eurasian Wigeon			
Apr 30	Blanche Peninsula, <i>Shel.</i>	22	ELM	Mar 5	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JON
May 14	Digby NSMC	50		Mar 31	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1 ph	PMU
May 21	Brier I. <i>Digby</i>	10	AHM	May 13	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1	ELM, NSMC

American Wigeon

Mar 6	Kiwansis Pond, <i>Col.</i>	several	JBO
Mar 8	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	2	DMW
Mar 23	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	2	AND
Mar 31	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	15 ph	PMU
Apr 4, 10	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	16, 23	JWW, RBS
May 7	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2m	GFO
May 14	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	2	JOB
May 14	Pictou NSMC	34	
May 18, 21	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	4	DOU, KFS

American Black Duck

Mar	Apple R. <i>Cumb.</i>	2-15	KFS
Mar 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	23	KJM
Mar 8, 15	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	38, 22	DMW
Mar 12	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	100+	KJM
Mar 30	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	26	RBS
Apr 8	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	dozens	Rick Whitman

Mallard

Mar 8, 15	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	12, 2	DMW
Apr 4	Margaretville DU, <i>Anna.</i>	8 prs	PBG
Apr 10	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	10	RBS
May 21	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	15+	KFS
May 30	Apple R. <i>Cumb.</i>	1+5 juv	KFS

Blue-winged teal

Apr 8	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1 m	Rick Whitman
Apr 8	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2	Rick Whitman
Apr 24	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2	AND
Apr 25	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	some	DAM
May 1	White Point, <i>Queens</i>	1m	ELM, AHM
May 14, 18	Apple R. <i>Cumb.</i>	2m 1f	KFS
May 14	Richmond NSMC	12	
May 18, 21	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	8, 5	DOU, KFS
May 25	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1 pr	JWW
May 29	Publicover Lake, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, NSBS

Northern Shoveler

Apr 8, 10	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1m	AND
Apr 8	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	Rick Whitman
Apr 8	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2m, 1f	Rick Whitman
Apr 11	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	2	DOU
Apr 25	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	some	DAM
Apr 30	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1 pr	GDE
May 7	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2	GFO
May 18	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	4	DOU

Northern Pintail

Mar 5	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	7	JON
Mar 10	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Mar 18	Saxon St. Pond, <i>Kings</i>	3	AND
Mar 23	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	2	AND
Mar 29, Apr 4	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2, 7	JWW
Apr 22	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	15	AAM
Apr 26	Maccan, <i>Cumb.</i>	1 pr	KFS
May 20	River Tillard, <i>Rich.</i>	1 pr	BID

Green-winged Teal

Mar 5	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	20	JON
Mar 6	Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	4	JBO
Mar 12	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1f	KJM
Mar 18	Saxon St. Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2	AND
Mar 24	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2	Gail Bruhm
Mar 30, Apr 8	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	30, 12	AND
Apr 8	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	5	Rick Whitman
Apr 8	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	4	Rick Whitman
Apr 16	Apple R. <i>Cumb.</i>	12	KFS
Apr 17	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	4	CIC
Apr 23	Edgett's Beach, <i>Cumb.</i>	1 pr	KFS
May 7	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	lots	GFO
May 18	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	2	DOU

Eurasian Green-winged Teal

Mar 12	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Mar 19	Ragged Hbr. <i>Queens</i>	2m, 1f	ELM
Mar 20	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	WPN, NSB

Redhead

Mar 5	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	2	JON
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Ring-necked Duck

Mar 5	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	14	ELM
Mar 20	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	12	WPN, NSB

Mar 30	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2m	AND
Apr 4	Van Nostrum's Pond, <i>Kings</i>	5m	JWW
Apr 8	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	10	AND
Apr 8	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	50	Rick Whitman
Apr 8	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	100	Rick Whitman
Apr 10, 17	Apple R. <i>Cumb.</i>	12, 22	KFS
Apr 16	Galt Pond, <i>Pict.</i>	12+	KJM
Apr 16	Coalburn, <i>Pict.</i>	20	KJM
Apr 17	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	many	CIC
Apr 19	Rhodes Corner, <i>Lun.</i>	17	JAH
Apr 30, May 7	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	many	GDE, GFO
May 14	Avondale Loop., <i>Hants</i>	10	JOB, NSMC
May 14	Richmond NSMC	74	
May 14	Pictou NSMC	73	
May 18, 21	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	15, 10	DOU, KFS

Tufted Duck

Apr 1	Daniel's Head, CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JON
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Scaup sp.

Mar 11	Gabarus, <i>CBRM</i>	50+	TUY
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Greater Scaup

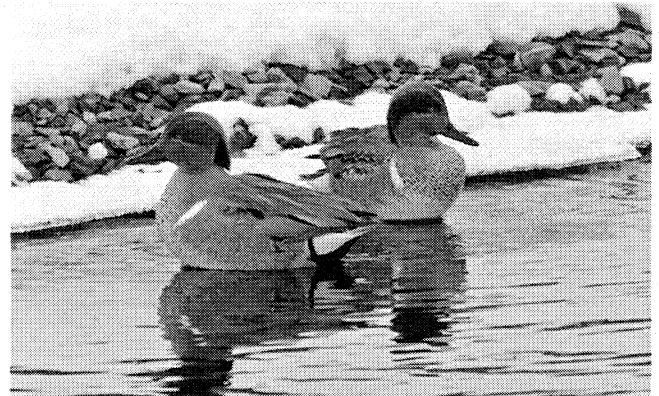
Mar 12	Port Hawkesbury, <i>Inv.</i>	6	TUY
Mar 22	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	250	JAH
Apr 4	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	19	PMU
Apr 9, 24	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	20, 21	JAH
Apr 30	Cow Bay L., <i>HRM</i>	60	BLM, IAM

Lesser Scaup

Mar 22	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	12	JAH
Mar 24	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	6	DMW
Apr 11	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	4	DOU

Common Eider

Mar 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	12	KJM
Mar 10	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	a few	RBS
Mar 10	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>	28	WPN
Mar 11	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	10+	TUY
Mar 19	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	20	IAM
Mar 27	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	several	RBS
Mar 30	Salt Marsh Trail, Cole Hbr. <i>HRM</i>	35 ph	PMU
Apr 3	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	150	KJM
Apr 4	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	30	PMU
Apr 16	Lighthouse Pt. Louisbourg		Bill Bussey
Apr 19	Port Bickerton, <i>Guys.</i>	flock	Alison Manthorne
Apr 19	Apple R. <i>Cumb.</i>	7	KFS
Apr 30	Several Eastern Shore locations	flocks	BLM, IAM
May 1	Pictou Lodge, <i>Pict.</i>	10	KJM
May 14	Port L'Hebert, <i>Shel.</i>	12	Gail Daniels
May 14	Yarmouth NSMC	2047	
May 14	Digby NSMC	1450	
May 14	Halifax Mun. NSMC	1168	



Even in gray-scale, it can be seen that the tone of the (structural) colour of the speculum in GREEN-WINGED TEAL (Feb 12 in Dartmouth) depends on viewing angle; that of the male in foreground is vivid green, whereas the background male's is deep blue. [Photo Richard Stern]

May 29	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	clutch of chicks	DJC
May 29	Crescent Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH, NSBS
May 31	Conrods Beach, <i>HRM</i>	large flock	David Schlosberg

Harlequin Duck

Mar 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	8	KJM
Mar 10	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	9	RBS
Mar 20	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	7	WPN, NSB
Mar 23	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	about 20	Jeff MacLeod
Apr 3	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	20	KJM
Apr 5	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	11	BBT
Apr 21	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	several	Bill Bussey
May 14	Port L'Hebert, <i>Shel.</i>	12	Gail Daniels
May 14	Cape Breton NSMC	8	

Scoter sp.

Apr 3	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	~200	KJM
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Surf Scoter

Mar 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	4	KJM
Mar 10	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	a few	RBS
Mar 10	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>	6	WPN
Mar 11	Gabarus, <i>CBRM</i>	6	TUY
Apr 16	Lighthouse Pt. Louisbourg		Bill Bussey
Apr 16	Bayswater Beach P.P., <i>Lun.</i>	10	BLM, IAM
Apr 30	Petpeswick Inlet, <i>HRM</i>	26	BLM, IAM
Apr 30	St. Margaret's Bay, <i>HRM</i>	200	DAM
May 1	Pictou Lodge, <i>Pict.</i>	4	KJM
May 14	Pictou NSMC	130	
May 20	Truro, <i>Col.</i>	1 pr	SGL
May 31	Conrods Beach, <i>HRM</i>	a few	David Schlosberg

White-winged Scoter

Mar 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	2	KJM
Mar 10	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	a few	RBS
Mar 11	Gabarus, <i>CBRM</i>	6	TUY
Mar 11	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	10+	TUY
Apr 9	Martinique Beach, <i>HRM</i>	a few	IAM, NSBS
Apr 16	Bayswater Beach P.P., <i>Lun.</i>	8	BLM, IAM
May 14	Richmond NSMC	350	

American (Black) Scoter

Mar 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM
Mar 20	Morden, <i>Kings</i>	34	WPN, NSB
Apr 4	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	6	PMU
Apr 5	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	1	BBT
Apr 9	Martinique Beach, <i>HRM</i>	a few	IAM, NSBS
Apr 10	Indian Hbr., <i>Guys.</i>	2 ph	RIB
Apr 30	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	24	BLM, IAM
May 13	Morden, <i>Anna.</i>	400+ ph	GMV
May 14	Digby NSMC	5042	
May 14	Kings NSMC	651	
May 29	Crescent Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	45	JAH, NSBS

Long-tailed Duck

Mar 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	16	KJM
Mar 10	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>	8	WPN
Apr 15	Apple R. <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
Apr 16	Black Point Area, <i>HRM</i>	30	BLM, IAM
Apr 16	Bayswater Beach P.P., <i>Lun.</i>	8	BLM, IAM
Apr 30	West Berlin, <i>Queens</i>	1m	ELM
May 1	Pictou Lodge, <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
May 1	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
May 14	BPI, <i>Shel.</i>	2	CLD
May 14	Pictou NSMC	21	
May 14	Digby NSMC	10	

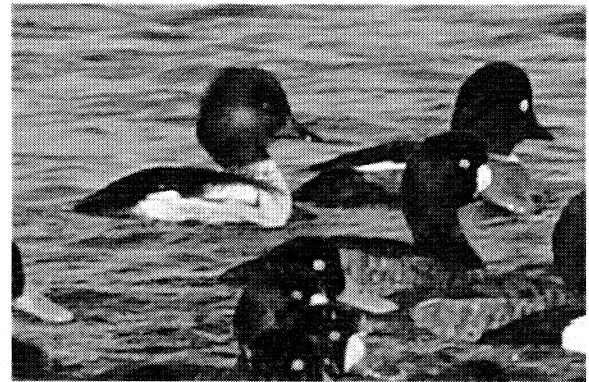
Bufflehead

Mar 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	9	KJM
Mar 20	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	90+	WPN, NSB
Mar 21	Apple R. <i>Cumb.</i>	11	KFS
Mar 21	Inner Port Mouton Bay, <i>Queens</i>	11	RES
Mar 30	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	80	RBS
Mar 30	Mader's Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	13	JAH, NSBS
Mar 30	Oakland, <i>Lun.</i>	22	JAH
Apr 8	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	50	Rick Whitman
Apr 16	Graves Island P.P., <i>Lun.</i>	27	BLM, IAM
Apr 30	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	200	GDE
Apr 30	Conrad's beach, <i>HRM</i>	3	BLM, IAM

May 1	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	25	JAH
May 1	Petite Riviere, <i>Lun.</i>	66	JAH
May 14	Digby NSMC	150	

Common Goldeneye

Mar 3-29	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	2-6	DMW
Mar 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	36	KJM
Mar 11	Gabarus, <i>CBRM</i>	30+	TUY
Mar 12	Port Hawkesbury, <i>Inv.</i>	6	TUY
Mar 22	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	30	JAH
Apr 3	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	7	DMW
Apr 8	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2f	Rick Whitman
Apr 8	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	10	ELM
May 1	Granite L.	2	CHP
May 7	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	lots	GFO



A rarely seen hybrid between COMMON GOLDENEYE and BUFFLEHEAD, Mar. 5 off Bayport, *Lun.*, was a good find. Note that it is almost as large as the nearby female goldeneye, has mere hint of a face patch, a dark eye, a white patch extending to the forewing, and other mixed features. [Photo Kevin Lantz]

Barrow's Goldeneye

Mar 22	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Apr 8	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1m, 2f	ELM
Apr 16	Caribou R., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM

Hooded Merganser

Mar 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	2	KJM
Mar 14	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>	2	WPN
Mar 19	Malagash, <i>Cumb.</i>	2m	Maureen Mills
Mar 23	Seven Bridges, <i>Kings</i>	1m	AND
Mar 25	Loon L., Brookside, <i>HRM</i>	2	Jeff MacLeod
Apr 16	Maccan, <i>Cumb.</i>	4m 3f	Karen Mills
Apr 25	Victoriavale, <i>Anna.</i>	some	DAM
May 14	Pictou NSMC	55	

Common Merganser

Mar 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM
Mar 8, 29	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	8	DMW
Mar 12	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	a few	KJM
Mar 11	Gabarus, <i>CBRM</i>	20+	TUY
Mar 18	Canning Park, <i>Kings</i>	6	AND
Mar 20	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2	WPN, NSB
Mar 29, Apr 4	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1, 6	JWW
Apr 7	Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i>	4m, 5f	MCR
Apr 13, 17	Apple R. <i>Cumb.</i>	8, 11	KFS
Apr 16	Fortress Barachois, <i>CBRM</i>		Bill Bussey
Apr 16	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	8	JCT
Apr 22	Sandy L. <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
Apr 30	West Lawrencetown Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	7	BLM, IAM
May 14	Herbert R., <i>Hants</i>	1 pr	JOB
May 14	Pictou NSMC	78	

Red-breasted Merganser

Mar 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	11	KJM
Mar 10	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	a few	RBS
Mar 10	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>	1	WPN

Mar 11	Gabarus, <i>CBRM</i>	50+	TUY	Apr 16	Fortress Barachois, <i>CBRM</i>		Bill Bussey
Mar 11	Halifax Hbr. <i>HRM</i>	6	DOU	Apr 16	Black Point Area, <i>HRM</i>	13	BLM, IAM
Mar 20	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2	WPN, NSB	Apr 16	Bayswater Beach P.P., <i>Lun.</i>	15	BLM, IAM
Mar 21	Inner Port Mouton Bay, <i>Queens</i>	9	RES	Apr 22-28	Apple R. <i>Cumb.</i>	2-4	KFS
Mar 22, 24	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	15, 17	DMW	May 14	Pictou MSMC	654	
Apr 3	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i>	74	JAH	May 28	Blandford, <i>Lun.</i>	~100	ELM

Loons through Grebes

By John Belbin

10 **Red-throated Loons** in a group was a notable sighting by DAM on the Fundy shore at Hampton, *Anna*. Normally, the most significant gatherings reported are in the fall and on the Northumberland coast, although in the last two years large groups were spotted moving through Brier Island.

An unusual light-billed LOON caused some excitement and considerable discussion early in March. What appeared to be a very rare **YELLOW-BILLED LOON** was seen and photographed at Purdy's Wharf in Halifax by Dennis Garratt. These are almost never seen anywhere in Eastern North America, being normally restricted to the Arctic and Pacific coasts, with another group in northern Norway and nearby northern coastal Russia.

The biggest of the loons, it is known as the White-billed Diver in Europe, even there it is rare. This individual was entangled in a fishing line. The first one ever seen in Maine was only sighted in October 2010, six miles off Portland, from a whale boat. That one was recorded as only the 3rd on the entire east coast. If confirmed this would have been Nova Scotia's first sighting. However, subsequent examination of the images makes this unlikely, and the bird seen is probably a variant of the Common Loon.

That same Maine sighting recorded flocks of over 100 **Common Loons** gathering well off shore and may be an indication of extensive migrations that we seldom see. Loons are clearly comfortable in open ocean regions. 319 birds were seen during the NSMC with 52 of those in the Digby region.

The **HORNED GREBES** and **RED NECKED GREBES** reported from Sober Island on April 3 were all beginning to change into breeding plumage. BLM and IAM found an unusually large number of Grebes on the move in the west St. Margaret's Bay – Mahone Bay region on Apr 16th. It appeared to be a migration movement. This ties in with reports that Graves Island PP near Chester is a commonly used stopover for many wintering Grebes, a location that should be checked more frequently. An amazing 130 Red Necked Grebes were seen in the Blanche peninsula of Shelburne at the end of April.



A loon photographed Mar 9 off the docks in downtown Halifax attracted a lot of attention, as it seemed to have characteristics of the very rare **YELLOW-BILLED LOON** (no confirmed records here). However, all experts reviewing the photos concluded that it was a **COMMON LOON**. A Yellow-billed entering Alternate (breeding) plumage would have a distinctly butterfly bill (gray or ivory at most on this one) without a continuously dark culmen, and its head shape and rather small incoming white spots on its back are characteristic of Common. It may have been delayed in acquiring its dark bill by trauma from the fishing line (?) wrapped around its forehead and chin. It could not be found again, despite much searching. [Photo Dennis Garratt]

Red-throated Loon

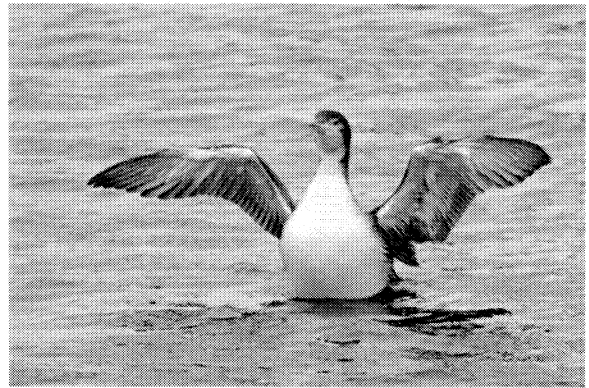
Mar 5	Liverpool, <i>Queens</i>	1	ELM
Mar 20	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>		WPN, NSB
Apr 22	Sandy L. <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
Apr 25	Hampton, <i>Anna.</i>	10	DAM
May 14	Kings, NSMC	3	

Common Loon

Mar 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	13	KJM
Mar 10	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>	4	WPN
Mar 11	Gabarus, <i>CBRM</i>	10+	TUY
Mar 20	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>		WPN, NSB
Mar 27	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	several	RBS
May 5	Apple R. <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
May 14	Lily L., <i>Hants</i>	1 pr	JOB, NSMC
May 14	Port L'Hebert, <i>Shel.</i>	4	Gail Daniels
May 14	Digby, NSMC	52	
May 14	Cape Breton, NSMC	44	
May 23	Mount Uniacke, <i>Hants</i>	2	SMB, NSBS

May 27	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
May 29	Publicover Lake, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, NSBS
Yellow-billed Loon?			
Mar 9	Purdy's Wharf, Halifax	1	Dennis Garratt
Pied-billed Grebe			
Apr 8	Ann. Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	Rick Whitman
Apr 11	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Apr 22-			
May 30	Apple R. <i>Cumb.</i>	1pr	KFS
Apr 24	Willard Fraser Pond, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Apr 25	Grants L. <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
May 14	Pictou, NSMC	7	
May 18	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	10+	DOU
May 22	Belle Isle marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	DOU
Horned Grebe			
Mar 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	6	KJM
Mar 20	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>		WPN, NSB
Apr 3	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	4	KJM

Apr 16	Brier I. <i>Digby</i>	2	RBS
Apr 16	Black Point Area, <i>HRM</i>	13	BLM, IAM
Apr 16	Graves Island P.P., <i>Lun.</i>	55	BLM, IAM
Apr 30	Blanche Peninsula, <i>Shel.</i>	6	ELM
Red-necked Grebe			
Mar 5	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	4	KJM
Mar 11	Halifax Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Mar 20	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>		WPN, NSB
Apr 3	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	2	KJM
Apr 16	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Apr 16	Black Point Area, <i>HRM</i>	4	BLM, IAM
Apr 16	Bayswater Beach P.P., <i>Lun.</i>	7	BLM, IAM
Apr 16	Graves Island P.P., <i>Lun.</i>	3	BLM, IAM
Apr 30	Blanche Peninsula, <i>Shel.</i>	130	ELM
May 14	Lyons Brook, <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
May 14	Digby NSMC	6	



The spread wings of a COMMON LOON (April 11 off Bedford] seem small for such a massive body. In flight, they do seem projectile-like. [Photo Rosemary Gallinger]

Tubenoses through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

The very large number of LEACH'S STORM-PETRELS reported during the Nova Scotia Migration Count (NSMC) on May 14 were presumably members of the colony on Bon Portage (Outer) Island, *Shel.*

Definitely of interest during a quiet spring season were six reports of BROWN PELICANS within a two week period. All were seen by fishermen or ferry operators. The number of birds involved is difficult to ascertain, but it was probably at least four, assuming that the bird off Cape Sable was seen elsewhere on the Southwestern Shore and that the Port Bickerton and St. Peters birds were the same. There was no evident reason for this influx, such as a major storm.

Northern Fulmar			
May 21	Cabot Strait, off <i>Vic.</i>	15	James Neves
Great Shearwater			
May 22	Scotian Shelf SE of Halifax	1	James Neves
Wilson's Storm-Petrel			
May 21	Chedabucto Bay, <i>Rich.</i>	8	James Neves
May 22	Scotian Shelf SE of Halifax	2	James Neves
Leach's Storm-Petrel			
May 14	<i>Shel.</i>	100,000	NSMC
May 22	Scotian Shelf SE of Halifax	20	James Neves
Northern Gannet			
(Highlights of reports submitted by e-mail and to e-bird)			
Mar 19	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	1 ad.	ELM
Apr 3	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	3	KJM
Apr 8	Western Light, Brier I.	1 ad	ELM
Apr 16	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	25+	Bill & Dianne Bussey
	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3+	KJM
Apr 19	Off Drum Hd., <i>Guys.</i>	many passing	Ally Manthorne
Apr 30	Off Baccaro Pt., <i>Shel.</i>	10	ELM
May 1	Pictou Lodge, <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	50+ (steady movement SW)	ELM, AHM
	Captains Pd., <i>Ant.</i>	2	JOK
May 7	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	50 migrants	ELM
May 14	province-wide	1078	NSMC
	<i>CBRM</i>	781	
	<i>Digby</i>	253	
	<i>HRM</i>	29	
	<i>Lun.</i>	2	
	<i>Pict.</i>	3	
	<i>Rich.</i>	8	
	<i>Shel.</i>	2	
May 22	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	24	DMW

BROWN PELICAN			
Apr 28	Off Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	1	Eric Cunningham, <i>fide</i> CST
ca. Apr. 27	off Tiverton, <i>Digby</i>	1	Ritchie Crocker, <i>fide</i> CAH
Apr 30	Chester hbr, <i>Lun.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> Hillary Dionne
May 1	Off Pt. Bickerton, <i>Guys.</i>	1	Andrew Kaiser, <i>fide</i> Ally Manthorn
May 1-ca. 4	E. Pt. L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JON
ca. May 10	Off St. Peters, <i>Rich.</i>	1	Myles Richards, <i>fide</i> BID
ca. May 14	Off Blandford, <i>Lun.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> CJF
Double-crested Cormorant			
(Highlights of reports submitted by e-mail and to eBird)			
Mar 22	Pictou causeway	a few arrivals	Amber Vines
Apr 2	Pictou causeway	32	KJM
Apr 3	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	4-5	KJM
	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
Apr 4	R. Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	2	JSH
Apr 9	Brier I.	10 migrants	ELM, AHM
	Pictou causeway	250	KJM
Apr 9-May 22	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1-2	DMW
Apr 10	Prospect area, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Apr 14	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	40 flying	HAT, LAE
Apr 19	Off Drum Hd., <i>Guys.</i>	many flying	Ally Manthorne
May 1	Queens shores	hundreds of migrants	LM
	Captains Pd., <i>Ant.</i>	24	JOK
May 3	Grand Passage, Brier I.	10 ad.	ELM

May 7	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	10 ad.	ELM	Great Cormorant			
May 13	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT	Mar 6	Dublin Shore, <i>Lun.</i>	2	Kevin Lantz
May 14	Brier I.	30 ad.	ELM, AHM, MUN NSMC	Mar 10	Beach Meadows, <i>Queens</i>	15	ROH
	province-wide	3452		Mar 11	Halifax hbr.	3	DOU
	<i>Anna.</i>	46		Mar 19	Beach Meadows, <i>Queens</i>	8	ELM
	<i>CBRM</i>	294		Mar 15	Sydney River, <i>CBRM</i>	1 ad.	Bill & Dianne Bussey
	<i>Col.</i>	3		Mar 20	Pt. George, <i>Anna.</i>	3	NSBS
	<i>Cumb.</i>	23		Mar 26	Peters I., Brier I.	30	RBS
	<i>Digby</i>	372		Apr 3	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	60	KJM
	<i>HRM</i>	773		Apr 8-10	Peters I., Brier I.	25	ELM, AHM
	<i>Hants</i>	20		Apr 10	Beach Meadows, <i>Queens</i>	20	ROH
	<i>Inv.</i>	14		May 3-4	Peters I., Brier I.	5-6 imm.	ELM
	<i>Kings</i>	69		May 7	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	4 imm. going	ELM
	<i>Lun.</i>	151		May 13-14	Peters I., Brier I.	3-7 imm.	ELM, AHM
	<i>Pict.</i>	1078		May 14	province-wide	95	NSMC
	<i>Queens</i>	2			<i>CBRM</i>	80	
	<i>Rich.</i>	177			<i>Digby</i>	7	
	<i>Shel.</i>	59			<i>HRM</i>	7	
	<i>Yar.</i>	384			<i>Rich.</i>	1	
May 15	Pictou causeway	700	KJM	May 21	Peters I., Brier I.	2 imm.	ELM, AHM
May 28	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	19	JAH	May 24	Catalone, <i>CBRM</i>	50	Mary Vallis

Hérons

By Ulli Höger

GREAT BLUE HERONS started to arrive in the last quarter of March and had been reported from all parts of the province by early April. Unusual were Spring sightings of LITTLE BLUE HERONS and a GREEN HERON, the latter one from CSI.

The white egrets are now almost to be expected sightings in some parts of NS, not only on CSI. Some stayed for several days in the area of their initial sightings, giving many birders the opportunity to tick them off for their Spring lists.

American Bittern				Apr 10 - 21	Tancook I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	Hillary
May 8	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	Apr 22 - 27	Maitland, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Dave & Anita Lahey
May 14	Middle Mousquodobit, <i>HRM</i>	1 male (calling)	VJH				
Great Blue Heron				Snowy Egret			
Mar. 31	Spencers I., <i>Cum.</i>	1	MSM	Apr 4 - 16	Sambro, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Apr 2	Yarmouth, <i>Yar.</i>	7	MUN	Apr 18 - 20	Back Harbor, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Apr 3	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1	DIT	Apr 30	Yarmouth, <i>Yar.</i>	1	CLS
Apr 5	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	1	Ken MacAuley	May 15	Tiddville, <i>Digby</i>	1	ELM
Apr 6	Glace Bay, <i>CBC</i>	1	BEC	Little Blue Heron			
Apr 11	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU	Apr 10	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1	ELM, AHM
Apr 12	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	3	KFS	Apr 27	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOM
Apr 17	St. Peters, <i>Rich.</i>	2	BID	Apr 13, 23, 30	CSI	1	MUN, JON
Apr 22	River Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	1	RIV	May 8	Manganese Mines, <i>Col.</i>	1	Kevin Lantz
May 28	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	2	DMW	Green Heron			
Great Egret				Apr 27-30	CSI	1	MUN, JON
Apr 6	Indian Path, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Catherine Pross	Black-crowned Night-Heron			
				Apr 27	CSI	3	JON

Diurnal Raptors

By Wayne P. Neily

No report available.

Rails, Cranes and Galliformes

By Ulli Höger

A SPRUCE GROUSE reported from Brier Island on April 9 by ELM and AHM was the first sighting of this species on the island since 1971 by the two observers that are frequent visitors to the location.

Remarkable are also more frequent and continued sightings of SANDHILL CRANES in our region. Reports during the past winter season from the Valley and Windsor region already fed suspicions that several individuals tried to winter in Nova Scotia. Early spring reports put further life in such a hypothesis.

Virginia Rail

May 16	Lorne Station, <i>Pic.</i>	1	STV
May 27	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
June 3	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS

Sora

May - June	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	several	KFS
May 18	Amherst, <i>Cum.</i>	1	DOU

American Coot

Apr. 22	W. Lawrencetown Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP, Kate Steele
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Sandhill Crane

Mar. 10	Starr's., <i>Hants</i>	1	RBS
Apr 6	Clarence, <i>Anna.</i>	3	<i>fide</i> Kevin Lantz
Apr 25	Gulliver's Cove,	1	WAN
May 14	Northfield, <i>Hants</i>	2	<i>fide</i> KAM
May 19	Bible Hill, <i>Cum.</i>	2	LHA

Gray Partridge

Mar 5	Truro, <i>Col.</i>	7	ROH
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Ring-necked Pheasant

Mar 14, 17	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	2	DMW
Apr 3, 8	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	2	DMW
Apr 13,			
May 20	Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	2	RIV, APO

Ruffed Grouse

All season	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	several	KFS
Mar 25	White's Lake, <i>HRM</i>	1 drumming	<i>fide</i> BLM
Apr 30	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	GWT

Spruce Grouse

Apr 9	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1	ELM, AHM
May 2, 17, 31	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1 male	KFS
		3	JON



SPRUCE GROUSE are notably tame, but this one on April 9, very unusual for Brier I., seemed excessively indifferent; fortunately for it, they are said to taste too much of spruce needles for discerning palettes. [Photo Eric Mills]



The subspecies of SANDHILL CRANE, here March 9 near Canning, *Kings*, may be easier to guess at when they're flying. This one resembles the arctic subspecies *canadensis*, which has relatively short bill, neck and legs, and lack of a distinctly pale panel along the base of the flight feathers; Sibley's guide is among the few to show this distinction. [Photo Richard Stern]

Shorebirds

By Susann Myers

About 300 wintering shorebirds, mostly Black-bellied Plovers, Sanderlings and Dunlin, remained at CSI at the beginning of spring (JON). Other winterers that lingered into spring around the province included small numbers of Black-bellied Plovers, Killdeer, Red Knots, Sanderlings, Purple Sandpipers and Dunlin.

Spring migrants were reported in the usual sparse numbers. Although first arrivals were generally within a week of average, the main migration was delayed, no doubt by the season's cool, rainy weather. Only 249 WILLETS, just 65% of the 10-year average, were found back on their breeding grounds May 14 on the Nova Scotia Migration Count (NSMC), despite its late date this year.

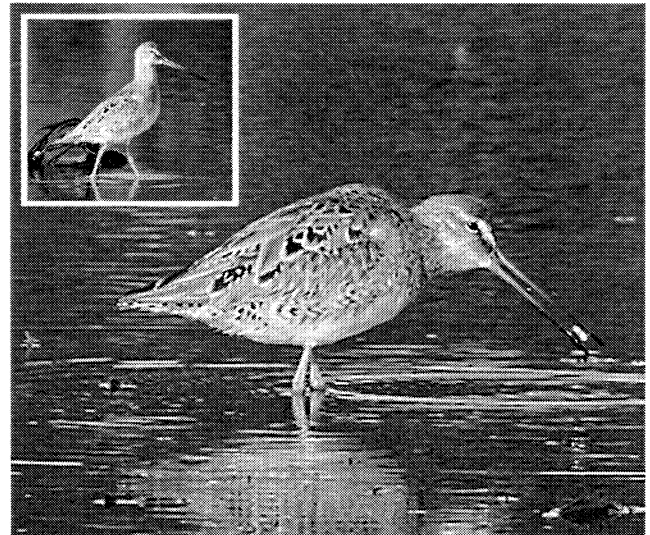
Thirteen shorebird species in total were reported on the NSMC, well below the 10-year average of 18 and the lowest since 1996. The total of 694 individual shorebirds was also low, only 61% of the 10-year average. Participant numbers were the lowest since

1997, however, and drizzle through half the province likely also accounted for some drop in shorebird numbers.

The season was enlivened by a couple of rarities, both well photographed. A **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** spotted by KEL April 10 provided only the fourth spring record for the province, all from the South shore since 2004. And a **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** found by KFS April 18 at the Edgett's Beach Marsh just outside Apple River was both record-early (previous earliest arrival April 29, in 1977) and unexpected at this inland location.

shorebird species

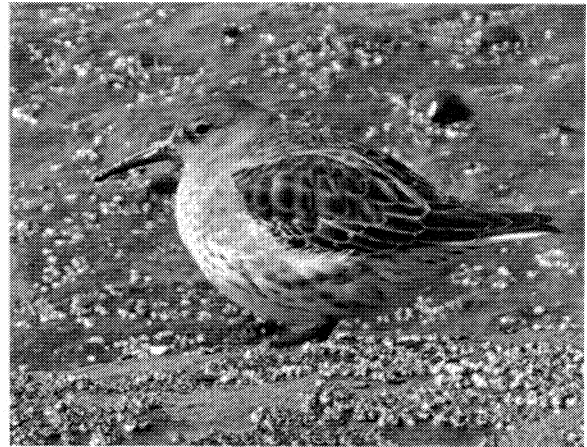
Apr 1	CSI	300, wintered	JON
Apr 25	The Hawk, CSI	160	CST
Black-bellied Plover			
Mar 14	Cherry Hill, Lun.	2	SJF
Mar 19	Sunday Pt., Yar.	2, wintered	RAS
Apr 25	CSI	35, wintered	JON
Apr 30	Big I., Pict.	1	KJM, CHK, RFE
May 14	Yar., Lun.	44, 8	NSMC
May 22	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1, br.	ELM
May 23	Cherry Hill, Lun.	28	SJF
May 24	L. Debert, Col.	60	ROH
May 28	Crescent Bch., Lun.	20	JAH, NSBS
May 30	Rose Bay, Lun.	1	JAH
Piping Plover			
Apr 8	Cherry Hill, Lun.	some	DAW, A. de Grenier
Apr 9	Baccaro Pt., Shel.	5	BJS, SIS
Apr 12	Lockeport, Shel.	1	DJC
Apr 15	Daniels Hd., CSI	3	CST
Apr 26	Cherry Hill, Lun.	2	SJF
May 1, 14	Cherry Hill, Lun.	5, 4	SJF, NSMC
May 14	Ant., CBRM	3, 2	NSMC
May 24-30	Lockeport, Shel.	pr.	DJC
Killdeer			
Mar 2	3 Fathom, HRM	1, wintered	CHP
Mar 6	Hartlen Pt., HRM	6	T. Boswell
Mar 7	CSI	7	JON, SAN
Apr 3	Wolfville Ridge, Kings	1	JCT
Apr 3	Second Peninsula, Lun.	1	JAH
Apr 4	Saxon St. Pond, Kings	1	JCT
Apr 8-30	13 sites, widespread	17 total	var. obs.
Apr 25	Lun.	2 nests, eggs	G. Rhodenizer
May	2 sites	singles	var. obs.
May 14	Hants, Total	13, 36	NSMC
May 28	Bentley Meadow, Kings	pr., nesting	AND
American Oystercatcher			
Apr 13	Daniels Hd., CSI	pr.	JON
Apr 25	CSI		
Spotted Sandpiper			
May 3	L. River Lake, Kings	2	R. Whitman
May 14	Kings, Total	12, 32	NSMC
May 24	Masstown, Col.	1	ROH
May 25	Pt. Pleasant Park, HRM	5	C. Nims
May 26	Long Lake PP, HRM	5	C. Nims
May 30	North River, Col.	2	ROH
Solitary Sandpiper			
May 14	Hants	3	NSMC
Greater Yellowlegs			
Apr 2	3 Fathom, HRM	1	PMC, SEM
Apr 10	Hawk guzzle, CSI	2	CST
Apr 20	n of Sheet Hbr., HRM	1	G. & J. Elliot
Apr 20	Lawrencetown, HRM	1	CHP, K. Steele
Apr 21	Black Oler Farm, Lun.	3	KEL
Apr 21-30	5 sites, widespread	singles	var. obs.
Apr 22	River Bourgeois, Rich.	6	RIV
Apr 23	Crescent Bch., Lun.	2	JAH
Apr 23	Westville, Pict.	2	RFE



The identification of this **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** is suggested by its more upright posture when alert and markedly hunched back when feeding. This is confirmed by the (unusually wide) white margins on the otherwise black new scapular feathers, without any rufous in the original. It made our first spring record, apart from one that survived into March 2006 on CSI. This one also might have wintered in the region. [Photo Kevin Lantz]

Apr 23	Quarry I., Pict.	12	CHK
Apr 23	Louisbourg, CBRM	3	B. & D. Bussey
Apr 25	Palmeters Woods, Kings	2	RBS
Apr 30	3 sites, HRM	5 total	BLM
May 1-21	5 sites, Pict.	8 total	KJM
May 7	Apple R., Cumb.	1	KFS
May 14	Rich., Total	40, 102	NSMC
Willet			
Apr 10	Tancook I.	1	Hillary
Apr 20	Osborne Hbr., Shel.	some	GLG
Apr 20	Lockeport, Shel.	2	DJC
Apr 21, 22	L. Rose Bay, Lun.	1, 2	DAW, JAH
Apr 22-30	9 sites, widespread	13 total	var. obs.
Apr 23	Cherry Hill, Lun.	3	JAH
Apr 23	Crescent Bch., Lun.	4	JAH
Apr 25	First South, Lun.	4	JAH
Apr 30	Cole Hbr., HRM	4	BLM
May	12 sites, widespread	16 total	var. obs.
May	Crescent Bch., Lun.	5 pr.	JSC
May 1, 14	Cherry Hill, Lun.	7, 20	SJF
May 14	Yar., Lun., Total	67, 60, 249	NSMC
May 21	Big I., Pict.	4	KJM
Lesser Yellowlegs			
May 14	Ant., HRM, Kings	1, 6, 6	NSMC
Ruddy Turnstone			
May 23	Cherry Hill, Lun.	2	SJF
Red Knot (wintered)			
Mar 6	Point Michaud, Rich.	4, ph.	WMA
Mar 14	Cherry Hill, Lun.	3	SJF
Apr 25	CSI	3, wintered	JON
Sanderling			
Apr 3, 4	Hartlen Pt., HRM	1	RIV, HAT
Apr 6, 9	Martinique Bch, HRM	30+, 16	HAT, NSBS
Apr 25	CSI	1	JON
Semipalmated Sandpiper			
May 31	Martinique Bch., HRM	5	D. & J. Schlosberg
Least Sandpiper			
May 14	Anna., Pict., Total	4, 4, 12	NSMC

May 14, 23	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	3, 4	NSMC, SJF
Purple Sandpiper			
Mar 2, 18	Pt. Pleasant, <i>HRM</i>	6, 17	PMU, KEL
Mar 4	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
Mar 5	E. Port Medway, <i>Queens</i>	5	JAH
Mar 5, Apr 3	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	7, 4	KJM
Mar 15, 31	Edgett's Bch., <i>Cumb.</i>	50, 20	KFS
Mar 31	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	7	RBS
Apr 6, May 14	Sambro, <i>HRM</i>	ca. 25	PLC, HAT
Apr 23	Edgett's Bch., <i>Cumb.</i>	10	KFS
Apr 30	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM, CHK, RFE
May 14	<i>HRM</i> , Brier I.	24, 6	NSMC
Dunlin			
Mar 12, 26	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	12, 8	JSC, JAH
Apr 9	Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i>	ca. 12	IAM, NSBS
Apr 25	CSI	20, wintered	JON
May 14	<i>Lun.</i>	9	NSMC
May 16	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	6 br.	JSC
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER			
Apr 10	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1, ph.	KEL
Wilson's Snipe			
Mar 1	Middle Musquodoboit	1	VJH
Apr 8	Brier I.	1	ELM, AHM
Apr 10	Tancook I.	1	"Hillary"
Apr 13, 23	Westville, <i>Pict.</i>	some,	RFE
Apr 22	Lilydale, <i>Lun.</i>	2	KEL
Apr 22-30	9 location, <i>Pict.</i>	11 total	KJM
Apr 25	Belleisle marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	some	DAM, CRM
Apr 28	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
May 14	<i>Pict.</i> , Total	40, 75	NSMC
May 19-			
June 28	3 owl surveys, CBI	6 total	var. obs.
American Woodcock			
Mar 14, 20	<i>Lun.</i>	singles	<i>fide</i> JAH
Mar 21	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	4	DAC, FLL
Mar 22	Flat Brook, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	M. Mills
Mar 23	Middle Musquodoboit	1	VJH
Mar 26	<i>Anna.</i> , <i>Kings</i> , <i>Cumb.</i>	singles	var. obs.
Mar 27	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM
Mar 29-31	E. Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	2	KFS
Apr 8	owl survey, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL



This PURPLE SANDPIPER was starting to moult into breeding plumage, with a few chestnut-margined (but hardly "Purple") scapulars and mantle feathers, March 31 near W. Beach, *Cum.* [Photo Kathleen Spicer]

Apr 9	owl survey, Tangier, <i>HRM</i>	4	PLC, SMB
Apr 10, 22	2 owl surveys, <i>Pict.</i>	7 total	KJM, CHK, RFE
Apr 24	Tony Mills to Pictou	15+	KJM, CHK
Apr 25	Clarence, <i>Anna.</i>	1	DAM, CRM
May 8	Louisbourg area, <i>CBRM</i>	f. + 4 downy, ph.	L. & M. Peck
May 14	<i>Pict.</i> , Total	35, 72	NSMC
May 19-28	3 owl surveys, CBI	5 total	var. obs.
Red-necked Phalarope			
Apr 18	Edgett's Bch., <i>Cumb.</i>	1, ph.	KFS
Red Phalarope			
May 22	off Halifax Hbr.	2000-4000	James Neves
May 22	south of Halifax	85	James Neves

Gulls through Alcids

By Eric Mills

The season's only LAUGHING GULL was reported without details on the last day of the reporting period.

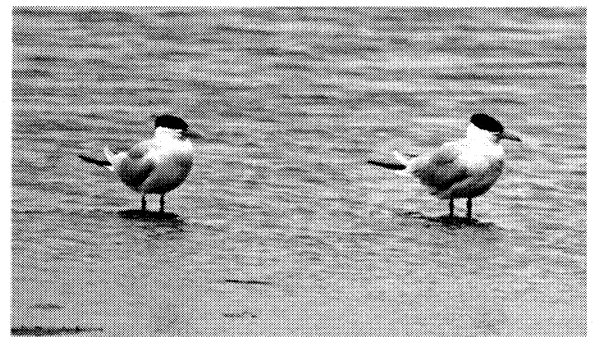
An adult LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL in Glace Bay on April 20 appeared exceptionally dark backed, but according to the photographers, ALM and CAM, it was a typical *L. fuscus graellsii* taken under difficult lighting conditions. A fine picture of it is on the Cape Breton birds website, <http://www.capebretonbirds.ca>.

A first-summer GLAUCOUS GULL in Glace Bay, *CBRM*, in late May was still present into July.

The regularly-wintering hybrid HERRING x GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL that has spent several winters around Glace Bay was seen only once, in March, but was presumably in the area throughout.

Unique this winter and spring was the adult IVORY GULL that flew west past Sid and Betty June Smith at Baccaro Point in early March.

The CASPIAN TERN that spent April 27 in Westport Harbour, Brier Island, was the first reported from the island in spring. BLACK TERNS are expected in the Amherst Point marshes in late May, but the two at Lawrencetown Beach, *HRM*, in late May, although still well within their migration window, were unusual.



CASPIAN TERN is relatively rare at any season along the Atlantic Coast – here May 21 at Conrad Beach PP, *HRM*. [Photo Andrew Stadnyk]

Two fine adult POMARINE JAEGERs were documented, the first at sea off Country Harbour during the first week of May. The second, apparently in distress, was seen for several days later in the month along the road in Melmerby Beach PP, *Pict.*

In a practically acid-free winter (save for Black Guillemots), the only DOVEKIES of the season were seen in mid-May, the first on the Fundy shore of *Kings* during the NSMC and the other off Sydney accompanying Puffins.

Black-legged Kittiwake

May 7	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	1 ad. going	SW ELM
May 14	<i>CBRM</i>	85	NSMC
May 19	Off Sydney, <i>CBRM</i>	30	James Neves
May 22	Scottian Shelf SE of Halifax	7	James Neves

Laughing Gull

May 30	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1? no details	Marty Zelenietz
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Bonaparte's Gull

Mar 11	Halifax hbr.	1	DOU
Mar 13	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
Apr 2	nr Caribou, <i>Pict.</i>	2 imm.	KJM
Apr 22	Lunenburg area	7	Kevin Lantz
May 1	Lyons Brk., <i>Pict.</i>	4	KJM
May 14	Lyons Brk., <i>Pict.</i>	10	STV - NSMC
May 21	APBS	20+	DOU
	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	6	KJM

Black-headed Gull

(Highlights of reports submitted by e-mail and to eBird)

3 Mar-early Apr	Birch Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1-12	Marty Zelenietz
Mar 6	Sullivans Pd., Dartmouth	15	Terry Boswell
Mar 11	Halifax hbr. Pt. Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	10+ 3	DOU TUY, Nick Honig
Mar 12	Pt. Hawkesbury, <i>Inv.</i>	1	TUY, Nick Honig
Mar 13	Guysborough area, <i>Guys.</i> Garden Lots, <i>Lun.</i>	14 1	KJM Kevin Lantz
Mar 14	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i> province-wide <i>CBRM</i> <i>HRM</i> <i>Rich.</i>	6 40 14 2 24	DMW NSMC
Mar 20	Guysborough, <i>Guys.</i>	1	KJM
Mar 26	Antigonish Ldg., <i>Ant.</i>	8	KJM
Mar 27	Brownsville, <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM
Mar 30	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	PMU
Apr 3	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Apr 9	Back Oler marsh, <i>Lun.</i> Homeville, <i>CBRM</i>	1 12	JAH ALM, CAM
Apr 10	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	4	HAT, LAE
May 15	Crescent Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	Nicholas von Maltzahn
May 20	Morien Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1 ad.	ALM, CAM

Ring-billed Gull

(Highlights of reports submitted by e-mail and to eBird)

Feb 28-May 30	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	Several	DJC
Mar-early May	Birch Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2-20	Marty Zelenietz
Mar 6	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	10	Terry Boswell
Mar 20-26	Sullivans Pd., Dartmouth	13	Terry Boswell
Mar 26	Antigonish	15-30	KJM
Mar 28	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	11	JAH
Mar 28	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	33	KJM
Apr 2-9	Lyons Brook, <i>Pict.</i>	100-300	KJM
Apr 11	Haliburton Gut, <i>Pict.</i>	230	KJM
Apr 16	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	47	KJM
Apr 18	W. Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	10+	KFS
May 14	province-wide <i>CBRM</i>	135 13	NSMC



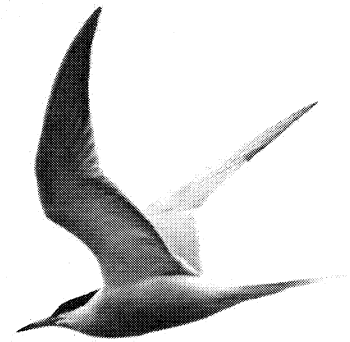
A somewhat discomfited (injured wing?) POMARINE JAEGER lingered at Melmerby Bch PP, *Pic.*, in early May (here May 6), allowing close study by a number of birders. [Photo John Kearney]

	<i>Cumb.</i>	3	
	<i>HRM</i>	18	
	<i>Hants</i>	6	
	<i>Kings</i>	10	
	<i>Lun.</i>	3	
	<i>Pict.</i>	81	
	<i>Rich.</i>	1	
May 19	Off Sydney, <i>CBRM</i>	30	James Neves
May 22	Halifax hbr.	50	James Neves
May 29	Annapolis Royal, <i>Anna.</i>	4	Charlie Nims
	Herring Gull		
May 14	province-wide	10,249	
	Iceland Gull		
	(Highlights of reports submitted by e-mail and to eBird)		
Mar 5	Liverpool, <i>Queens</i>	2, 1st-w.	ELM
	Eagle Hd. bch., <i>Queens</i>	2, 1st-w.	ELM
Mar 6-8	Birch Cove, Halifax	2-3	Marty Zelenietz
Mar 11	Halifax hbr.	20+	DOU
Mar 13	Antigonish, <i>Ant.</i>	2	KJM
Mar 12	Pt. Hawkesbury, <i>Inv.</i>	4	TUY, Nick Honig
	Northside, <i>CBRM</i>	1 <i>kumlieni</i>	TUY, Nick Honig
Mar 13	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	6	JAH
Mar 19	Liverpool area, <i>Queens</i> Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2, 2nd-w. 20	ELM KJM
Mar 20	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	1 imm.	NSBS
Mar 23	New Minas sewage lagoon, <i>Kings</i>	2	AND, Lelia Dean
Mar 23- mid Apr	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	A few	DJC
March 26	Brier I.	1	RBS
Apr 2	<i>Pict.</i> locations	19	KJM
Apr 9	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	15	KJM
Apr 22	Canard Pd., <i>Kings</i> Lunenburg area Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2 6 4	AAM Kevin Lantz KJM
Apr 30	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1, 1st-w.	BLM, IAM
May 1	Pictou hbr. Captains Pd., <i>Ant.</i>	5 imm. 1	KJM JOK
May 14	province-wide <i>CBRM</i> <i>Digby</i> <i>HRM</i> <i>Kings</i> <i>Pict.</i> <i>Yar.</i>	44 17 1 2 1 3 20	NSMC

May 16	Crescent Bch., Lun.	1	Nicholas von Maltzahn
May 19	Off Sydney, CBRM	1	James Neves
May 21	Big I., Pict.	1	KJM
May 31	Glance Bay, CBRM	4	ALM, CAM
Lesser Black-backed Gull			
Mar 31	Beacon St. Dam, Glance Bay, CBRM	1 ad.	ALM, CAM
Apr 2	Lwr. Canard, Kings	1 ad.	RBS
Apr 15	Schooner Pd., CBRM	2 ad.	CAM, ALM
Apr 20	Glance Bay, CBRM	1	GEC
May 1	Pictou hbr.	1 ad.	KJM
May 3	Canard, Kings	1 ad.	JCT
May 14	Waterside PP, Pict. Pict.	1 ad. 1	KJM-NSMC NSMC
May 22, 31	Glance Bay, CBRM	1 ad.	ALM, CAM
Glaucous Gull			
Mar 6	Lwr Canard, Kings	2 imm.	RBS
	New Glasgow, Pict.	1	KJM
Mar 10	Schooner Pd., CBRM	1	ALM, CAM
Mar 12	Pt. Hawkesbury, Inv.	6	TUY, Nick Honig TUY, Nick Honig KJM
	Northside, CBRM	1	
Mar 19-Apr 2 ca. Mar 20-	Pictou hbr., Pict.	1	
Apr 2	Pictou hbr.	1 imm	KJM
May 14	Brier I.	1	MUN, Cindy Penney- NSMC
May 14	CBRM	1	NSMC
May 18	Morien Bay	1	ALM, CAM
May 19	Off Sydney, CBRM	2	James Neves
May 22 - July	Glance Bay, CBRM	1, 1st-summer	ALM, CAM
Herring x Great Black-backed Gull			
March 10	Beacon St. Dam, Glance Bay, CBRM	1 ad.	ALM, CAM
Great Black-backed Gull			
May 14	province-wide	5090	NSMC
IVORY GULL			
Mar 5	Off Baccaro Pt., Shel.	1 ad.	SIS, BJS
Caspian Tern			
April 27	Westport, Brier I.	1	CAH
May 21	APBS	1	DOU
Black Tern			
May 21	APBS	5-7	DOU, KFS
May 22	Lawrencetown Bch., HRM	2	Andy Stadnyk



It's spring (here April 11), but this BLACK GUILLEMOT at Cape George, Rich., hadn't quite completed moulting into its jet-black summer garb. [Photo Jeannie Shermerhorn]



Overhead, the COMMON TERN, here May 21 at Conrad Beach PP, HRM, can be distinguished from the Arctic by its longer head and neck projection, more "rowing" wing beats and broader dark margin (not always a "wedge" of black) of the outer wing. [Photo Andrew Stadnyk]

Common Tern

(Highlight of reports submitted by e-mail and from eBird)

May 6	Cole Hbr., HRM	1?	Marty Zelenietz
May 7	Abercrombie, Pict.	2	
May 8	Bedford, HRM	2	LOC
May 14	province-wide	96	NSMC
	HRM	10	
	Inv.	2	
	Pict.	78	
	Shel.	6	
May 15	Abercrombie, Pict.	75	KJM
May 23	Maders Cove, Lun.	18	JAH
May 25	Margaree Forks, Inv.	1	Patrick Wall
Arctic Tern			
May 23	Maders Cove, Lun.	4	JAH
Pomarine Jaeger			
May 6	Off Country Hbr., Guys.	1 ad., photo	Hughie Manthorne, fide Ally Manthorne
May 12-ca.17	Melmerby Bch., Pict.	1 ad., photo	Paul MacDonald, KJM, et al.

Parasitic Jaeger

May 19	Off Sydney, CBRM	2	James Neves
May 20	Off CSI	1	fide CST

Dovekie

May 14	Kings	1	NSMC
May 19	Off Sydney, CBRM	1	James Neves

Common Murre

Mar 20	Margaretsville, Anna.	1	NSBS
May 14	CBRM	1	NSMC
May 14	Shel.	2	NSMC
May 19	Off Sydney, CBRM	11	James Neves

Thick-billed Murre

Mar 5	Sober I., HRM	1 freshly dead	KJM
Mar 12	NW Arm, Halifax	1	Terry Boswell
Mar 20	Pt. George, Anna.	1	NSBS
Mar 25	Halifax hbr.	3	JSI

Razorbill

May 14	Digby	2	NSMC
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Black Guillemot

(Highlights of reports by e-mail and to eBird)

Mar 5	Beaver Hbr., HRM	2	KJM
Mar 6	Eastern Passage, HRM	1	Terry Boswell
Mar 11	Halifax hbr	3	DOU

Mar 12	Gabarus, <i>CBRM</i>	2	TUY, Nick Honig	<i>HRM</i>	4	
	NW Arm area, Halifax	ca. 13	Terry Boswell	<i>Kings</i>	38	
Mar 20	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	2	NSBS	<i>Shel.</i>	1	
Apr 8-10	Grand Passage, Brier I.	3	ELM, AHM	<i>Yar.</i>	8	
Apr 16	Cleveland Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM	May 19	Off Sydney, <i>CBRM</i>	8 James Neves
May 14	province-wide	76	NSMC	Atlantic Puffin		
	<i>CBRM</i>	20		Apr 19	Off Drum Hd., <i>Guys.</i>	"a few" Ally
	<i>Digby</i>	5		May 19	Off Sydney, <i>CBRM</i>	3 Manthorne James Neves

Pigeons through Woodpeckers

By Chris Field

The spring season was quiet in terms of rarities for this group. The first reports of the migrants were as expected. Chimney swifts were first reported at the Temperance Street School in New Glasgow with 4 on May 4 followed by 60 and 189 on May 14 at RTNC and Middleton High respectively. The largest number was 550 at Temperance Street School in New Glasgow on June 10th. The out of town May meeting of the Bird Society was held in New Glasgow with a focus on the swifts which a large crowd watched plunge into the chimney. Swifts were reported from 13 locations across the province although only about eight roosts have been reported. The first hummingbirds were reported on April 30 and had reached the Margaree Valley by May 7. Only report of a common nighthawk was on May 25 in Apple River from K. Spicer.

J. Tufts reported a barred owl nest in her garden and speculates that B. Forsythe's pair have moved across the road. The first yellow-bellied sapsucker was on Brier Island on April 9. A red-bellied woodpecker was excavating a nest on Greenwood Ave. in south end Halifax as reported by C. Helleiner on April 15. B. Moores also had a red-bellied woodpecker on the same day in central Halifax. Perhaps one of the nesting pair.

In looking at the reports from the NSMC, there appear to be a few trends over the past 10 years. Mourning doves, barred owls and pileated woodpeckers are all in a downward trend and their 2011 numbers were well below the 10 year mean. Yellow-bellied sapsuckers on the other hand continue to increase in numbers with 131 reports as compared to the 10 year mean of 71. Northern saw-whet owls and belted kingfishers were down this year while ruby-throated hummingbirds and chimney swifts were up but in all cases there is no consistent trend. Other species were close to their 10-year mean.



Ally Manthorne had an intriguing report from owl route 12 stop 6 from Liscomb to Sherbrooke on April 11. She reported that two owls responded by a whinnying characteristic of the eastern screech owl. Unfortunately subsequent efforts to re-locate the owls were unsuccessful.

PILEATED WOODPECKERS seem to have become tamer, like this one April 4 at Apple River, *Cum.* [Photo Kathleen Spicer]

Rock Pigeon	May 14	province-wide	NSMC	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Mar. 21	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2	DAC, FLL
Mourning Dove	Mar-May	province-wide	284 reports	ebird	Mar-Apr	<i>Guys., Hants, Kings</i>	3	ebird
	May 14	province-wide	1891	NSMC	May 14	<i>Lun. (2), Hants</i>	3	NSMC
Great Horned Owl	Mar 21	Sambro area, <i>HRM</i>	2	DAC, FLL	Common Nighthawk			
	Mar 29	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS	May 25- Jun 1	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
	Apr-May	5 counties	7	ebird	Chimney Swift			
	Apr-May	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad., 2 imm.	JCT, Gambatti	May 4-31	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	up to 457	KJM
	Apr 18	Palmeters Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	AND	May 8-31	McGowan L., <i>Queens</i>	up to 100	B. Thoms, A. Belliveau, A. Pray-Leslie
	May 13, 14	Bon Portage I., <i>Yar.</i>	2 ad., 1 imm.	CLD	May 13-31	RTNC, <i>Hants</i>	up to 100	JWW and others
	May 13, 14	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad., 1 imm.	6 observers	May 14	Anna. (189), <i>Pict.</i> (22)	211	NSMC
	May 14	<i>Ann., HRM, Kings, Shel.</i>	20	NSMC	May 14	Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	189	WAN
Barred Owl	Mar 4, 5, 8	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH	May 17-31	Upper Falmouth, <i>Hants</i>	up to 120	C. Rutledge
	Apr 9	Rhodes Corner, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH	May 29	St. Bernard, <i>Digby</i>	101	P. Potter
	Apr 9, 25	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH	May 29	Oxford, <i>Cumb.</i>	4	JUP, A. Manthorne, B. Whittam
	Apr-May	6 counties	17	ebird	May 29	Bible Hill, <i>Col.</i>	1	LHA, ROH
	May 14	8 counties (<i>Kings</i> 17)	44	NSMC	May 29	Springhill, <i>Cumb.</i>	4	CIC
	May 14	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT				

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Apr 30	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
May 1	Bayport, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
May 1, 2	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	2	F. & M. Sgambatti
May 3	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
May 6	Spencers I., <i>Cumb.</i>	2	M. Mills, B. Morris
May 7	Margaree Valley, <i>Inv.</i>	1	J. & A. Aitkens
May 7	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
May 7-23	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	APO, RIV
May 8	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	1	RES
May	8 counties	24	ebird
May 14	14 counties (<i>Kings</i> 51)	139	NSMC

Belted Kingfisher

Mar-May	8 counties	35	ebird
May 14	11 counties (<i>Pict.</i> 43)	145	NSMC

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Apr 15	<i>HRM</i>	1	ABM, CHE
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Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Apr 9	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1	ELM
Apr 13, 14	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	2	KFS
Apr-May	<i>Kings, Pict.</i>	17	ebird
May 14	6 counties (<i>Pict.</i> 76)	131	NSMC

Downy Woodpecker

Mar-May	12 counties	283	ebird
May 14	14 counties	370	NSMC

Hairy Woodpecker

Mar-May	9 counties	137	ebird
May 14	14 counties	265	NSMC

Black-backed Woodpecker

Mar 24	Greenfield, <i>Kings</i>	1	R. Whitman
May 14	<i>Col., Kings, Rich.</i>	3	NSMC
May 16	Liscombe Lodge, <i>HRM</i>	2	JOA

Northern Flicker

Mar-May	11 counties	117	ebird
Apr 10	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
May 14	14 counties (<i>Kings</i> 136)	644	NSMC

Pileated Woodpecker

Mar 2	Greenwich, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
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This male DOWNY WOODPECKER, viewed through a Halifax kitchen window, was in aggressive mode, waving its head back and forth, with crest raised. As might be guessed, another male was doing likewise at the end of the branch. [Photo Ian McLaren]

Mar 15	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	4	JOA
Mar 23	Coldbrook, <i>Kings</i>	2	AAM
Mar-May	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	up to 2	KFS
Mar-May	7 counties	37	ebird
Apr 8	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	2	SLH
Apr 13	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
Apr 30	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
May 14	10 counties (<i>Kings</i> 13)	48	NSMC

Flycatchers through Thrushes

By Hans Toom

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

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

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

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

Joe and Janet McKinnon, Owl's Head Road, Clam Harbour, spotted a magpie foraging at their trout pond by their house circa April 30. The bird was shy but predictably quite vocal so it was more often heard than seen. Despite repeated attempts by many

birders to see this bird over the next few days only a few were successful. The bird was skittish, which suggests a wild bird, but with the limited evidence there is no way to be certain that this bird was not an escapee or even a ship assisted Eurasian Magpie. The call described by DAC as "a series of 5-6 nasal yak, yak, yak or ch-yak, ch-yak, ch-yak" suggests that the chatter of our magpie was similar to the Black-billed Magpie. This remains our best evidence as to the bird's identity. The chatter of the Eurasian Magpie is faster and lower in tone Unfortunately no audio recordings were made. The only previous record of a Black-billed Magpie was on Brier I. in 1973.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

May 30	Mathals L, Bog, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF
June 5	Big Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK

Eastern Wood Pewee

May 30	Palmeter's Woods, <i>Kings</i>	4	JCT, MMC
May 30	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1	DOP

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

May 8	White Rock Bridge R. Trail, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
May 19	Gaspereau Valley, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT, SMC

Alder Flycatcher

May 18	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	6	KFS
May 25	Northern Pt. Rd., Brier I.	1	ELM, IAM
May 30	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF

Least Flycatcher

May 9	Outram, <i>Anna.</i>	3	IRO
May 10	Palmeter's Woods, <i>Kings</i>	3	JCT, SMC

Eastern Phoebe

Apr 8	Wilmot, <i>Anna.</i>	1	IRO
Apr 16	Conrose Field, Halifax	1	PLC
Apr 17	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF
Apr 17	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Apr 21-23	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Apr 23	Indian Path, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, DPO
May 1	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 4	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	nesting pair	BLF
May 8	White Rock Bridge, <i>Kings</i>	2	JCT
May 30	Smiley's PP, <i>Hants</i>	1	John Cribb

Eastern Kingbird

May 8	Westport, Brier I.	1	ELM
May 10	Westport, Brier I.	1	JUS
May 24, 25	Westport, Brier I.	1	ELM, IAM
May 29	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 29	Avondale, <i>Pic.</i>	1	DOU

Northern Shrike

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

Blue-headed Vireo

May 5	Palmeter' Woods, <i>Kings</i>	2m	JET
May 5	Davidson L., <i>Hants</i>	3	BLF
May 5	Middlewood, <i>Lun.</i>	3	SJF
May 6	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1m	JET
May 7	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 8	Gaspereau Valley, <i>Kings</i>	3-4	JCT
May 9	Camp Rd., Brier I.	1	ELM
May 9	Outram, <i>Anna.</i>	1	IRO
May 10	Palmeter' Woods, <i>Kings</i>	10	JCT, SMC
May 10	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL
May 16	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	RIV, APO
May 16-19	BPI	1	CLD, et al
May 24, 25	Northern Pt. Rd., Brier I.	1	ELM, IAM

Yellow-throated Vireo

May 9	Camp Rd., Brier I.	1	ELM
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Red-eyed Vireo

May 22	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
May 29	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	2	BLF

May 30	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1-2	KFS
May 31	Wilmot, <i>Anna.</i>	1	IRO
Gray Jay			
Mar 6	Shulie Rd., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Mar 7	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Mar 12	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS
Mar 15	Eagle Head, <i>Queens</i>	2	DPO
Mar 23	R. Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	2	RIV
Mar 29	Gaspereau Mt., <i>Kings</i>	pair +3 fledged	BLF
Blue Jay			
Mar-May	Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1-9	RIV, SPO
Mar-May	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	8-10	RFL, MZG
Black-billed Magpie			
Apr 30-May 4	Clam Harbour area, <i>HRM</i>	1	Joe and Janet McKinnon, EIM, IAM, DAC, DOU

Purple Martin

May 20	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1m	FMC
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Tree Swallow

Apr 8	Wilmot, <i>Anna.</i>	1	IRO
April 13	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2	DLO
April 16	R. Hebert, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Apr 16	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
April 17	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	5	KFS
April 22	Daniel's Head, <i>CSI</i>	10+	Rachel Hoogenbos
Apr 25	DU Pond, Cornwallis R., <i>Kings</i>	60-70	JCT
May 6	Port Hastings, <i>Inv.</i>	4	Andrew Smith
May 23	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	2	DJC

Bank Swallow

May 10	Pond Cove, Brier I.	2	ELM
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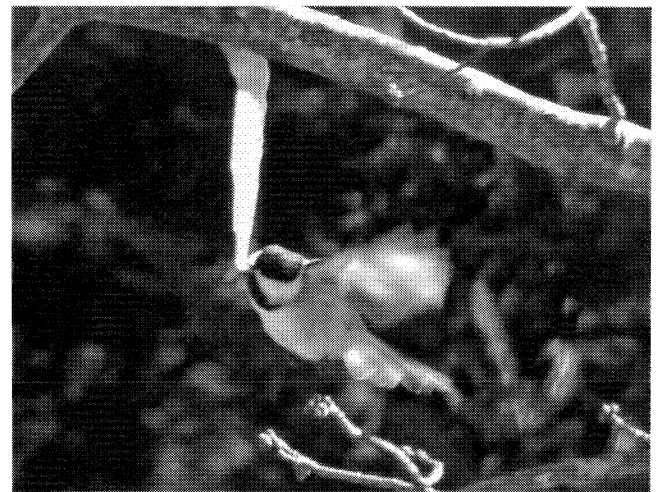
Barn Swallow

Apr 8	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	pair	SJF
Apr 25	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Apr 26	Crouses Settlement, <i>Lun.</i>	2	ELM
May 6	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	2	DOP
May 16	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	4	KFS



A WHITE-EYED VIREO, May 12 near Minesville, *HRM*, was an exceptional find in spring. It is bright enough to be mistaken as a warbler, but its hefty bill and, of course, its white iris, identify it. [Photo Chris Pepper]

May 18	Volger's Cove, Lun.	4	SJF
Black-capped Chickadee			
May 9	Northern Pt, Brier I.	15	ELM
May 24, 25	Northern Pt, Brier I.	30	ELM
Mar 25	Branch LaHave, Lun.	34	JAH
Boreal Chickadee			
Mar-May	Portuguese Cove, HRM	4-8 daily	HAT, LAE
May 16-19	BPI	17	CLD, et al.
Red-breasted Nuthatch			
March-May	Apple R., Cum.	2	KFS
Mar- Apr	Wolfville Ridge, Kings	1	JCT
Apr-May	Tremont, Kings	1 most days	SLH
Apr-Mar	Location, County	2-4 daily	RFL, MZG
Mar 7-May 30	Lr. Sackville, HRM	1-2 most days	RIV, APO
Mar 8, 9	Tremont, Kings	1	SLH
Mar 15-			
May 18	Port Hastings, Inv.	1 most days	Andrew Smith
White-breasted Nuthatch			
Mar-May	Tremont, Kings	1 most days	SLH
Mar- Apr	Wolfville Ridge, Kings	1m	JCT
Mar 2-Apr 10	Sunrise Valley, Vic.	1-2	FMC
Mar 2-May 31	Lr. Sackville, HRM	1-2 most days	RIV, APO
Mar 4	Dartmouth	2	Judy O'Brien
Apr 4	Fox Pt., Queens	1	Andrew Duval
Apr 8	St. Peters, Rich.	1	WMA
Apr 9	East Advocate, Cum.	1	Ann Mills
May 16-19	BPI	1	CLD, et al.
Brown Creeper			
Mar 3-Apr 8	Lr. Sackville, HRM	1 most days	RIV, APO
Mar 22	Garden Lots, Lun.	1	JAH
Apr 20	Wolfville Ridge, Kings	1	JCT
Apr 22	Jerry Lawrence PP, HRM	numerous	HAT
Apr 27	Second L. PP, Lr. Sackville, HRM	1	RIV
May 4	Apple R., Cum.	1	KFS
Winter Wren			
Apr 20	Cape D'or, Cum.	2	Jane Mills
May 16-19	BPI	30	CLD, et al.
May 10	Fairmont, Ant.	1	RFL
Apr 6	Gaspereau Mt., Kings	1	BLF
May 15	Apple R., Cum.	1	KFS
Apr 24	Milton, Queens	1	DOP
May 9	Outram, Anna.	2	IRO
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
May 25	Benham Rd, Shel.	1	JCZ
Golden-crowned Kinglet			
Apr 23	Blue Rocks, Lun.	1	JAH, DPO
May 9	Outram, Anna.	1	IRO
May 16-19	BPI	15	CLD, et al.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
Apr 21	Apple R., Cum.	1	KFS
Apr 22	Jerry Lawrence PP, HRM	numerous	HAT
Apr 22	Conrad's I., Lun.	1	JAH, DPO
Apr 22	Indian Path, Lun.	1	JAH, DPO
Apr 23	Blue Rocks, Lun.	5	JAH, DPO
Apr 24	Fairmont, Ant.	1	MZG
May 16-19	BPI	20	CLD, et al.
Eastern Blue Bird			
Apr 6-9	East Advocate, Cum.	1	Jane Mills
May 2	Cole Harbour, HRM	pair	Theresa Revoy
May 20	White Rock, Kings	1m	BLF
May 23	Watervale, Pic.	pair	Thomas Baillie
Veery			
May 9	Outram, Anna.	1	IRO
Gray-checked Thrush			
May 14	The Hawk, CSI	1	MUN
Swainson's Thrush			
May 28	Apple R., Cum.	1	KFS
Hermit Thrush			
Apr 19	Portapique, Cum.	1	Ann Mills
Apr 21	E. Margaretville, Anna.	no	IRO
Apr 22	Jerry Lawrence PP, HRM	numerous	HAT
Apr 22	Indian Path, Lun.	1	JAH, DPO
Apr 27	Fairmont, Ant.	2	RFL

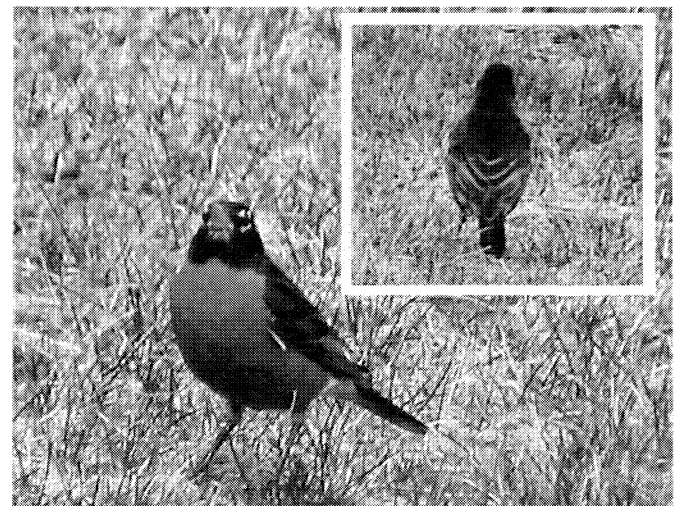


A resourceful chickadee took to catching drips from a frozen "sapcicle" during the freeze-thaw of spring (here March 20) at Rhodes Corner, Lun., no doubt enjoying the added sugar. [Photo Mandy Eisenhauer]

Apr 27	Apple R., Cum.	2	KFS
May 4	Spectacle L., HRM	1	RIV, APO
May 5	Palmetter's Woods, Kings	1	JET
May 8	Gaspereau Valley, Kings	2	JCT
May 24	Lighthouse Rd., Brier I.	1	IAM

American Robin

Mar 7	Apple R., Cum.	1	KFS
Mar 7	W. Apple R., Cum.	3	KFS
Mar 15-			
May 31	Lr. Sackville, HRM	1-6 most days	RIV, APO
Mar 21	Advocate, Cum.	3	Jane Mills
Mar 25	Bridgetown area, Anna.	flocks	MCR
Mar 25	Sheffield Mills, Lun.	70-80	JCT
Mar 28	Fairmont, Ant.	2	RFL
Mar 29	Onslow, Col.	40	DOU
Mar 29	Lockeport, Shel.	1	KFS
Mar 30	Lockeport, Shel.	flocks	KFS
Apr 10-			
May 30	Fairmont, Ant.	10	RFL



"Black-backed Robins," sometimes called "Newfoundland Robins," especially males like this one near Three-Fathom Hbr., April 3, are quite distinctive – note the almost occluded white throat stripes as well as the blackish back. But, they aren't from Newfoundland, don't represent a coherent subspecies, and sometimes nest in Nova Scotia. [Photo Ian McLaren]

Mimics through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

The March sighting of a GRAY CATBIRD in Halifax is likely an over-winter survivor, but for the second year in a row, we have an early April sighting, this time from Port Bickerton, Guys. that could be a spring arrival. The 26 seen on the NSMC is the second highest on this count since the 35 of May 13, 2000. NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS continue in low numbers and only a couple of BROWN THRASHERS were noted this period. The EUROPEAN STARLING numbers on the NSMC are the statistically the same for the last 3 years, but significantly lower than the last decade. There were scattered reports of BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS through the report period lasting to the migration count. The 15 is the second highest number recorded for the spring count since the 31 tallied May 13, 2000 and the first reported for eight years. A few CEDAR WAXWINGS made an early appearance, but the bulk of the migration starts in the last week of May somewhat correlating to blooming of fruit trees as well as insect hatches.

I was able to find spring records for 26 species of warbler and 18 of these were noted on the NSMC, May 14. The only breeder not reported for this period was the MOURNING WARBLER which often just makes it back for this report period. The spring weather pattern did seem to keep the mid-May arrivals back somewhat and a major migration event of warblers was noted on Machias Seal I. in New Brunswick on May 25.

Both OVENBIRD and NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH had new record highs for the NSMC with Ovenbird totals of 450 far outstripping previous high of 288 and 16 more Northern Waterthrush than the previous high of 60. The BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER from Lower Sackville noted on the winter report made an appearance April 2 for RIV and APO thus made the list of warblers that survived the past winter.

The PROTHONOTARY WARBLER was a brilliant male photographed on the window sill of Marsha Tedford during the April 4-5 stay in Yarmouth Co. This early date just surpassed the April 6, 1973 record in Tuft's Birds of NS. IAM noted it was likely helped along by a strong SW airflow from the US gulf coast and along the east US coast to Nova Scotia after the passage of a low pressure system through the Great Lakes on April 4.

All the TENNESSEE WARBLER sightings were on the NSBS late May field trip in Pictou Co. and the four were only a few kilometres apart. With the help of suet and nuts, a couple of ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS were successful in surviving the winter in Lunenburg Co. There were no reports of spring migrants. There were no details on the Yarmouth CONNECTICUT WARBLER other than it was travelling through alders. The Prospect, HRM KENTUCKY WARBLER was not seen, but identified by sound only. The Victoria Co. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER is a very early report and I would have liked to have some details, but Tuft's Birds of NS has an early report also on the same April 7 date. PALM WARBLERS appeared to the first of our nesting warblers to return, well ahead of the average date of April 20, and only a few days off the early Tuft's record of April 7.



This PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, one of a few overshooting vagrants in early April (here about April 5) posed outside a window of a home near Carleton, Yar. It was submitted as a mystery bird, but its brilliant yellow garb, blue-gray wings and particularly long, decurved bill are a give-away. [Photo Marsha Tedford]

A nice number of PINE WARBLERS made it through winter. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER migration was first noticed Apr 21-23 but numbers on the NSMC were the lowest in 14 years and at just over 1300 birds represent a significant drop when most years have greater than 2000 birds. The Pictou Co. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER from Apr 30 breaks the early Tuft's Birds of NS record of May 3.

Gray Catbird				May 27-29	5 mainland counties	6 reports	E-bird
Mar. 24	Halifax	1	Sue Mathers	Northern Mockingbird			
April 9	Port Bickerton, <i>Guys.</i>	1	Ally Manthrone	Mar 8	Halifax	1 ate grapes and jelly	DAM
May 14	mostly <i>Yar. & Kings</i>	26	NSMC	Apr 14	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1 B&A Melville feeder	<i>fide</i> JWW
May 18	Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	1	PBG	May 1	Economy Pt., <i>Col.</i>	1	N.G. MacLeod
May 20	Melmerby, <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM, RFE	May 14	White Pt., <i>Queens</i>	1	MMI
May 21	Egerton, <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM	May 14	BPI	1	PMC, <i>et al.</i>
May 21	Merigomish, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	Brown Thrasher			
May 22	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC	Apr 24	The Hawk, <i>Shel.</i>	1	CST
May 22	Lorne, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM				

Apr. 29	Lower Clarks Hbr. <i>Shel.</i>	1	JON
May 3-4, 9	Apple River <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
European Starling			
Mar. 30	Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	500	RBS
May 14	widely	3624	NSMC
Mar-May	province-wide	255 reports	E-bird
American Pipit			
Mar 20	Wine Harbour, <i>Guys.</i>	2	KJM
Mar 23	Oxner Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	6	ELM, AHM
Mar 30	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	RIV
Apr 10	Salt Marsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	?	Marty Zelenietz
Apr 10	Brier I.	a few	ELM
May 2	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
May 13, 22	Brier I.	1	MIK, DAC, ELM
Bohemian Waxwing			
Mar 5	Liverpool area, <i>Queens</i>	9	JAH
Mar 11	Gabarus, <i>CBRM</i>	30+	TUY, <i>et al.</i>
Mar 12	Dartmouth	18	GAM
Mar 13	Birch Cove, <i>HRM</i>	4	Marty Zelenietz
Mar 13	Monastery, <i>Ant.</i>	21	KJM, RFE, CHK
Mar 14	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	4	HAT, LAE
Mar 19	Liverpool, <i>Queens</i>	25	ROH
Mar 29	Dayspring, <i>Lun.</i>	12	Kevin Lantz
Apr 10	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Apr 23	Speichs Lake, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
May 14	<i>HRM-4, CBRM-11</i>	15	NSMC
Cedar Waxwing			
Apr 15	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC
May 14	<i>Pict.-6, CBRM-2, Hants-3</i>	11	NSMC
May 27	Palmeto Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
May 28	Churchville, <i>Pict.</i>	2	NSBS <i>fide</i> KJM
May 29	MacLellan Marsh, <i>Pict.</i>	2	NSBS <i>fide</i> KJM
May 29	Centredale, <i>Pict.</i>	2	NSBS <i>fide</i> KJM
May 31	Dartmouth	3	GAM
Ovenbird			
Apr 30	Forest Glade, <i>Anna.</i>	1 heard	PLC
May 1	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	1 seen and heard	PLC
May 6	metro Halifax	1	CLS
May 8	Central Caribou, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
May 14	<i>Kings-225, Pict.-59</i>	450, new high	NSMC
May 14-29	widely, mainland only	19 reports	E-bird
May 21	Big I.	15	KJM
May 24	Crousetown area, <i>Lun.</i>	14	JAH
Northern Waterthrush			
May 4	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	1	Rick Whitman
May 6	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1	James Churchill
May 6	Metro Halifax	1	CLS
May 7	St. Pauls, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
May 14	<i>Pict.-33, Kings-24</i>	76, new high	NSMC
May 28-30	mainland only	4 reports	E-bird
Black and White Warbler			
Apr 2	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 over-wintered	RIV, APO
Apr 30	Churchville, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM, RFE, CHK
May 4	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	1-2	Rick Whitman
May 6	White Rock Pd. <i>Kings</i>	1	James Churchill
May 6	metro Halifax	1	CLS
May 6	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
May 7	Willard Fraser Rd., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
May 7	Brookville, <i>Pict.</i>	1, also 1 Brook Rd.	KJM
May 7	Nichols L. Trail, <i>HRM</i>	1	NSBS <i>fide</i> DOM
May 14	widely, mostly mainland	425	NSMC

May 14-30	widely	39 reports	E-bird
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER			
Apr 5-6	Carleton River, <i>Yar.</i>	1 brilliant m., photo	Marsha Tedford
Tennessee Warbler			
May 29	Elgin, <i>Pict.</i>	2	NSBS <i>fide</i> KJM
May 29	Centredale, <i>Pict.</i>	2	NSBS <i>fide</i> KJM
Orange-crowned Warbler			
Mar 30 -			
mid-Apr	Bridgewater, <i>Lun.</i>	1 suet feeder	BBT <i>fide</i> JWW
May 5	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1 over-wintered	ELM, AHM
Nashville Warbler			
May 14	widely	179	NSMC
May 14-28	mainland only	9 reports	E-bird
CONNECTICUT WARBLER			
Apr 30	Yarmouth Bar Rd.	1, in alders	CLS, CSS
KENTUCKY WARBLER			
Apr 23	N. of Prospect Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1, heard only	BLM
Common Yellowthroat			
May 14	<i>HRM, Hants, Kings</i>	76	NSMC
May 14-30	widely, mainland only	18 reports	E-bird
American Redstart			
May 13	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
May 14	mainland only		20 NSMC
May 14-28	mainland only	10 reports	E-bird
May 22	BPI	15	CLD, <i>et al.</i>
May 27	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	1 yard, first in 23 years	Bill Bussey
Cape May Warbler			
May 14		3	NSMC
Northern Parula			
May 3	South Alton, <i>Kings</i>	3-4 singing weakly	Rick Whitman
May 4	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	3	Rick Whitman
May 6	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	present	James Churchill
May 6	Metro Halifax	present	CLS
May 7	Digby	1	GFO
May 7	MacLellans Brook, <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
May 14	widely	428	NSMC
May	widely, mainland only	40 reports	E-bird
Magnolia Warbler			
May 6	Halifax	present	CLS
May 14	widely	64	NSMC
May 14-31	widely, mainland only	13 reports	E-bird



Rita Viau sustained this BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER through winter at her feeders in Lr. Sackville, *HRM* – the first to make it through March in Nova Scotia. (Here it is perched on a goose decoy March 14.) [Photo Rita Viau]

Bay-breasted Warbler

May 7	Tarbot Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	1	Beverley Brett
May 22	Perch L. Rd., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
May 29	Centredale, <i>Pict.</i>	1	NSBS <i>fide</i> KJM

Blackburnian Warbler

May 14	6 mainland counties	9	NSMC
May 14-28	mainland only	7 reports	E-bird
May 23	Uniacke Estate, <i>Hants</i>	1	NSBS <i>fide</i> SMB

Yellow Warbler

May 7	French Basin Trail	6+	GFO
May 7	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
May 7-30	widely	29 reports	E-bird
early May	Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i>	several	MCR
May 14	widely	199	NSMC
May 23	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2	DOU
May 24	APBS	4	KFS

Chestnut-sided Warbler

May 14	BPI	1	PMC
May 14	widely	28	NSMC
May 17	<i>Lun.</i>	1 at his home	Kevin Lantz
May 21	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM
May 22	Brier I.	present	PMC
May 23-31	widely, mainland only	13 reports	E-bird

Blackpoll Warbler

May 14	BPI	1	PMC
May 14	<i>Shel.</i>	1	NSMC
May 22	Brier I.	present	PMC
May 22	BPI	20	CLD, <i>et al.</i>
May 26	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Apr 30	Forest Glade Rd., <i>Anna.</i>	1	PLC
May 3	South Alton, <i>Kings</i>	1 singing strongly	Rick Whitman
May 14	mainland only	14	NSMC
May 22-30	mainland only	5 reports	E-bird
May 23	Centredale, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM, RFE
May 29	Blomidon PP, <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW

Palm Warbler

Apr 10	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL
Apr 10	Brier I.	1 bright yellow	ELM
Apr 22	Springhill, <i>Cumb.</i>	6	JEF
Apr 22	Goat L.-East R., <i>HRM</i>	present	CJF
Apr 22	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
Apr 23	<i>Rich.</i>	1	JSH
Apr 23	Powers L. Trail, <i>HRM</i>	couple singing	BLM
Apr 23	Maple L.-Perch I., <i>Pict.</i>	7 males on territory	KJM
May 14	widely	204	NSMC
late April-May	widely, mainland	26 reports	E-bird

Pine Warbler

Mar 8, 20, 24	Birch Cove Pk., <i>HRM</i>	1 each visit, also Apr 4	Marty Zelenietz
Mar 18-21	Avonport, <i>Kings</i>	1 dull, over-wintered	Kay Bishop <i>fide</i> JWW
May 18	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1 bright, seen to Apr 5	SAW, <i>fide</i> JWW
Mar 26	Sheet Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	1 over-wintered	KJM, RFE
Apr 3	Bridgewater, <i>Lun.</i>	1 over-wintered	<i>fide</i> JAH
Apr 13	Back Centre, <i>Lun.</i>	1 photographed	STH <i>fide</i> JAH

Yellow-Rumped Warbler

Mar 5	Salt Marsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	present over winter	Marty Zelenietz
Mar 5	Summerville Beach	65 over-wintered	ELM
Mar 6, 19	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Mar 26	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM, RFE
Mar 28	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	5	KJM
Mar 31	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Apr 16	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1 singing	KJM
Apr 21	Sambro Hd., <i>HRM</i>	2 spring males	HAT
Apr 21	Wyman Rd., <i>Yar.</i>	1	John Sollows
Apr 22	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1 singing	RBS
Apr 22	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
Apr 23	widely mainland	10 reports	var. obs.
Late Apr- May	widely	97 reports	E-bird
May 14	widely	1306	NSMC



Like a number of our warbler species, the CHESTNUT-SIDED (this male May 27 in *Kings*) has, alas, shown a significant decline in the Breeding Bird Survey counts since the mid-1960s. [Photo Richard Stern]

Black-throated Green Warbler

Apr 30	Churchville, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM, RFE, CHK
May 3	South Alton, <i>Kings</i>	1	Rick Whitman
May 3	North Mtn., <i>Kings</i>	1	DOL
May 6	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	James Churchill
May 6	metro Halifax	present	CLS
May 7	Digby	1	GFO
May 7	Indian Path, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
May 14	widely, province-wide	431	NSMC
May 14-31	widely	34 reports	E-bird

Canada Warbler

May 22	Maple L., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
May 23	J. Lawrence PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Mar 23	Fauxburg Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
Mar 28	Conquerall Mills, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Kevin Lantz
Mar 28	Brook Rd., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM

Wilson's Warbler

May 22	Trafalgar, <i>Pict.</i>	1 on territory	KJM
May 22	Brier I.	present	PMC

Tanagers through House Sparrows

By Ian McLaren

It is sometimes difficult to distinguish first migrants of birds that also overwinter locally, but some were noted as first of the season or as having “arrived.” Later reports of common species are “lumped.”

Again SNOW BUNTING is placed at the beginning, instead of the end, of the sparrows to alert readers that they “really” belong just preceding the warblers, but it makes more sense to keep it in this section. Of particular interest was the large movement of these “snowbirds” in mid-April in Cape Breton and on Northumberland shores; where did they come from?

In this era of global change, we should be alert to earlier arrivals of birds. Most sparrows were first noted earlier than the average dates in Tufts' Birds of Nova Scotia (3d ed., 1986) Among those that bested the record-early dates in Tufts were: CHIPPING SPARROW (by one day); FOX (by one day, or 16 days if the Donkin bird was a migrant); WHITE-THROATED (by six days if some of “many” on 22 Mar. were migrants); WHITE-CROWNED (by six days). Of interest were the two “**OREGON JUNCOS**”. As with the three confirmed (of six reported) in previous springs, the one photo'd was apparently of the brown-backed (not rufous) Rockies subspecies *montanus*, as was the other well described one.

NORTHERN CARDINALS are generally welcome, but Jen Cooper wrote of one annoying male that was stopped from attacking a rear car window by draped towels, but then turned to the front passenger window and mirror, “bombing the car into quite a mess. The equally colourful exotic buntings and grosbeaks under-performed this spring. The report (MMI) of a possible female-plumaged **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** at White Pt., *Queens*, in early May mentioned its bicoloured bill (also occasional on ROSE-BREASTED) and unstreaked yellow breast, and also that it appeared to respond to a recorded call of the species. Even so, photos are almost mandatory in support of this tricky i.d.

Among the icterids, BOBOLINK were scarce, but most others (including the widely diminishing BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD) seemed in good numbers. The Middleton **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** was rated as a female by a number of observers; however, the last report referred to it as a young male. First-Basic plumages of the two sexes are similar, and probably details or photos are needed. Some 30 previous reports of **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** have generally been without details, and we have yet to obtain any confirming photos of that most tricky icterid i.d. – can we do better?

Among the usual “winter finches” the 16 PINE GROSBEAKS at Louisbourg were a treat, given the increasingly rarity here of this boreal bird. The report of two HOUSE FINCHES in Sydney (James Neves) stated that “I hear them daily at home in GA and am confident that the birds heard were not another finch . . .” There are earlier reports from Louisbourg and New Waterford. JAH's observation of a recently fledged RED CROSSBILLS (otherwise scarce) reminds us of how early these birds nest – easy, I guess, when you feed babies with Nutella®. The two at a feeder May 5 in Lr. Rose Bay (ELM) were “very large billed,” suggesting one expected subspecies, *bendirei* (= Call Type 2). Among good numbers of lingering COMMON REDPOLLS, the two reports of HOARY are not surprising. Of equal interest was one COMMON photo'd by JSH at Cape George, *Rich.*, that had features of the e. Nunavut subspecies (some say species) *rostrata* (see photo).



All the “**OREGON JUNCOS**” confirmed here by specimen or photo (most, oddly, in spring) have been attributable to the Rocky Mt. subspecies *montanus*, like this female April 11 at Sampsonville, *Rich.*, marked by its brown back, without any rufous tone. [Photo Jeannie Shermerhorn]



At least two and perhaps three kinds of redpolls are in this photo obtained April 3 at Cape George, *Rich.* The HOARY REDPOLL is easy – distinctly frostier and with a more “squashed-in” bill than the others, but with the more pronounced flank and back streaking (and more so in worn spring plumage) suggesting the more regular subspecies *exilipes*. The COMMON REDPOLL in front seems to be the regular subspecies *flammea*, but the background bird one has the dark plumage, long bill with curved culmen, and pronounced black bib of the high-arctic subspecies *rostrata*, which some believe is a separate species. [Photo Jeannie Shermerhorn]

It would be alarming to note the paucity of HOUSE SPARROW reports, except that one was new for its area, and one report that some dairy farms have “lots.”

Snow Bunting

Early March	CSI	“many”	CST
Mar. 5	Lindsay L., <i>HRM</i>	10	VJH
Apr 14-16	Along Northumberland Str.	“thousands”	JOK
Apr 16	Sunshine Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	ca. 100 feeders, 1000s along roads	FMC
Apr 20	Along Northumberland Str.	“fewer”	JOK
Apr 21	Louisbourg	1, backyard	Bill Bussey
Late April	Sunshine Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	Last ones	FMC

Eastern Towhee

Mar 5	<i>Queens</i>	1	JAH, e-bird, nd
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American Tree Sparrow

March-April	17 locs.	ca. 105 indivs.	12+ obs.
May 7	4 counties	6 indivs.	NSMC

Chipping Sparrow

Apr 19	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1	DOC
Apr 19	E. Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
Apr 22-30	6 locs.	8 indivs	5 obs.
May	Widely	13 repts, 20+ indivs.	13+ obs.

Savannah Sparrow (all mainland subsp.?)

Apr 18-20	E. Apple River	2	KFS
Apr 18	Kentville	3 singing in fields	James Churchill e-bird
Apr 22-30	widely, e-bird, etc.	40+ indivs.	
May	widely e-bird, NSMC. etc.	400+ indivs	

Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow

Mar 23	Hartlen Pt.	1 (ph.)	TUY
Apr 1	Salt Marsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	1	
Apr 2, 8	Hartlen Pt.	4, 2	IAM, DOM
Apr 8	Brier I., Martinique, Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1, 1, 1	ELM, HAT
Apr 9	Martinique	9	NSBS
Apr 10	Prospect, Cole Hbr, <i>HRM</i>	1, 1	BLM, HAT
>Mid-April	Widely, e-bay, NSMC	100s	m. obs.

Fox Sparrow

Mar 3	Donkin, <i>CBRM</i>	1 (migrant?)	Bev Crowell
Mar 18	3 locs.	3 arrived	EBB, ELM, HAT
Mar 19	3 locs.	3 arrived	BLM, SLH, Lantz
Mar 20-Apr.14	Widely	32+ indivs.	19 repts,
Apr 10	Lr. Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	On territory	BLM
Apr 15 -			
May 31	Widely	widely, incl. e-bird, NSMC	m. obs.



FOX SPARROWS were a particularly good “show” this spring. This early migrant arrived March 19 in a backyard in Economy, *Cum.* [Photo Janet Quinn]

Song Sparrow

Through			
March	widely	migrants?, wintered	var. obs.
Mar 17	Tremont, <i>Anna.</i>	1st migrant	WAN
Mar 18	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	“many”	AND
Mar 18	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1, 1st of season	VJH
Mar 18-21	sev. repts, e-bird	up to 10+ indivs.	sev. obs.
Mar 19	<i>Queens</i> shores	ca. 200, arrivals	ELM
Mar 22	Wolfville	1st of yr.	AAM
Mar 23-			
May 30	Widely	100’s, incl. .	var. obs.



During migration (here May 8 at Hartlen Pt., *HRM*) we sometimes see very dark, heavily streaked SAVANNAH SPARROWS, that are probably en route to their breeding grounds on the Ungava Peninsula. Although the subspecies *labradorius* is now considered to be dubiously demarcated, such birds are certainly very different from our locally breeding birds. [Photo Rita Via]



The male “IPSWICH SPARROW” in spring, this one March 13 at Hartlen Pt., *HRM*, can be striking against the dark seaweed. [Photo Tuma Young]

Lincoln's Sparrow

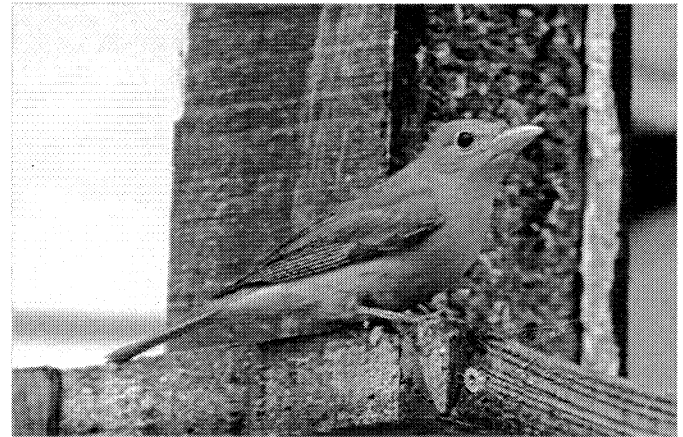
May 7	NSMC, 4 counties	6 (only reports)
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Swamp Sparrow

Apr 10	Rhodes Corner, <i>Lun.</i>	1 singing - wintered?	K. Lantz, JAH
Apr 14, 22	Big. I., <i>Pic.</i>	2, 2 singing	KJM

Apr 23	Cherry Hill, W. Berlin, <i>Lun.</i>	1, 1	JAH
Apr 30	2 locs. <i>Pic.</i>	1, 1	KJM
May	e-bird, NSMC, etc.	ca. 200 indivs.	m. obs.
White-throated Sparrow			
March.	Sev. locs., wintering? Birds	10+ indivs.	var. obs.
Mar 22-23	Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	"many" (migrants?)	JCZ
Apr 10	Canning	2 (migrants?)	RBS
Apr 20-30	Widely, incl. e-bird	30+, some as arrived or 1st	m. obs.
May 1-31	Widely, incl. e-bird, NSMC	1,500+	m. obs.
White-crowned Sparrow			
Apr 16	Brookfield	1	"Pussyfoot"
Apr 21-22	Louisbourg	1	Bill Bussey
Apr 27-28	CSI	3 at feeders	JON
May 18	Sunshine Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC
May 22	Brier I.	1	PMC
May 23	Lunenburg	1	JAH
Dark-eyed Junco			
Early March	W. Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	"2-5 most days" (wintered?)	SLH
Mar 5-13	Bayport, <i>Lun.</i>	up to 16 (wintered)	JAH
Mar 12	Morris L. Pk., <i>HRM</i>	6 new?	T. Boswell
Mar 14-21	11 locs., incl. e-bird	8 repts, 60+ indivs.	var. obs.
Mar 22-31	15 locs., incl. e-bird	17 repts., 125+ indivs.	var. obs.
April-May	Widely	100's	m. obs.
DARK-EYED ("OREGON") JUNCO			
Apr 11	Sampsonville, <i>Rich.</i>	1 (ph.)	JSH
Apr 15	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1 (full details)	ELM, AAM
SUMMER TANAGER			
May 12	Louisbourg	1 m.	<i>fide</i> Bill Bussey
May 12-17	Port Mouton, <i>Shel.</i>	1 1st-spring m.	Ken MacAuley
May 13-15	Brier I.	2 m., 1 f.	ELM, <i>et al.</i>
May 15	Blandford, <i>Lun.</i>	1 m.	CJF, <i>et al.</i>
Scarlet Tanager			
Apr 27-29	Brier I.	1 m.	CAH
May 2-15	Brier I.	1 m.	Laura Titus, ELM, <i>et al.</i>
Northern Cardinal			
Through season	widely, e-bird mainland counties, not <i>Shel.</i> , <i>Guys.</i>	28 indivs. total 98 indivs.	var. obs. NSMC
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
Apr 23	Bayport, <i>Lun.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JAH
May 1	Osborne Hbr.	1 at suet	GLG
May 6-15	6 locs.	6 indivs.	var. obs.
May 15	Brier I.	8	ELM
Mid-end May	9 locs., incl. e-bird	15 indivs.	5 obs.
BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK?			
See text.			
Blue Grosbeak			
Apr 16	Quoddy, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm. m.	Debbie MacDonald
May 14-15	Brier I.	1 m.	ELM, MUN
Indigo Bunting			
Apr 11	Bayport, <i>Lun.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JAH
Apr 22	Windsor	1	Angela Joudrey
May 3	Dartmouth	1	<i>fide</i> JAH
May 4	Chester Basin, <i>Lun.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JAH
NSMC	3 locs.	4 indivs.	
May 7-21	4 locs.	3 m. 1 f.	var. obs.
Bobolink			
May 8	Belleisle Marsh	2 m.	GFO
May 15	NSMC	11 indivs.	var. obs.
May 18	Kentville	sev. m. singing	RBS
May 18-31	e-bird, 7 locs.	6+ indivs.	var. obs.
May 27	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1 singing	SLH

Red-winged Blackbird			
Mar 14	Apple River, Wolfville	1st migrants	KFS, JWW
Mar 16-22	incl. e-bird, widely	15 repts, 50+ indivs.	var. obs.
Mar 23-31	incl. e-bird, widely	11 repts, 90+ indivs.	var. obs.
Apr-May	widely	many	
Apr 8	Brier I.	still migrating	ELM
To end May	widely	casual repts	var. obs.
EASTERN MEADOWLARK (not?)			
See text			
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD			
Mar 19-Apr 4	Middleton, <i>Anna.</i> , farm	1 young, f. or m.?	WPN, <i>et al.</i>
Rusty Blackbird			
Apr 20	Antigonish	1	JOK
May 7	Tarbot, <i>Vict.</i>	3	Brett
May 14	Blandford, <i>Pic.</i>	2	<i>fide</i> KJM
May 15	NSMC, CBRM, <i>Pic.</i> , <i>Rich.</i>	18	var. obs.
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD			
Apr 21	CSI	1, nd	CST
Common Grackle			
to early March	Whites Pt., <i>Queens</i>	2	MMI
Mar 17-21	widely. Incl. e-bird	37+ all migr.?	12 obs.
Mar 22-			
May 31	widely, incl. e-bird, NSMC	thousands	m. obs.



SUMMER TANAGERS, this one at May 16 at Blandford, *Lun.*, are more frequent than Scarlets as spring "overshoots," although only the latter breed here in small numbers. [Photo Hans Toom]

Brown-headed Cowbird			
Mar 20	Middleton, <i>Anna.</i> , farm	2	WAN
Mar 27	Doctors Brk., <i>Ant.</i>	2	JOK
Mar 30, 31	Middleton, <i>Anna.</i> , farm	6, 15 m., 5 f. new?	DOM, AND
Mar 31	E. Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
April-May	widely, incl. e-bird, NAMC	100+	m. obs.
ORCHARD ORIOLE			
Apr 28	Brier I.	f.	CAH
May 21	Hantsport	m.	JSI
Baltimore Oriole			
Wintered to			
May 9	Cape George, <i>Rich.</i>	1 young m.	JSH
Wintered to			
late Mar.	Glace Bay	1 f.	Bev Crowell
Apr 23	White Pt., <i>Queens</i>	2 m.	MMI
May 4, 7	Brier I.	1 m	ELM, Laura Titus
May 9	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1	DOC
May 15	NAMC	none	
May 18	Morden, <i>Kings</i> , & Windsor	1 m., & 1 m.	GMY, Angela Joudrey

Pine Grosbeak

Apr 3	Pictou	12	KJM
Apr 9	Central Caribou, <i>Pic.</i>	1	KJM
Apr 21	Louisbourg	16	Bill Bussey
May 15	e-bird, Lun., Kings, <i>CBRM</i>	18	sev. obs.

Purple Finch

March	4 reports of overwintered (?) birds		
Apr 13	Salt Marsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	nos. ? migr. ?	M. Zelenietz
Apr 16	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	1 migr. ?	KJM
Apr 18, 19	E. Apple River, <i>Cum.</i>	1st of season	KFS
Apr. 19	Kentville	1st of season	AND
Apr 21-30	8 locs.	sev., 1st of season	6 obs.
May	incl. e-bird, NSMC	1800+	m. obs.

House Finch

Late March-

May	Kings/Dal Campus, Halifax	2+ pairs	PAC, Bob Farmer
Apr 9, 10	Brier I.	1 m. singing	ELM
Apr 13, 14	Bayers L., downtown Halifax	1, 1	JCZ, J. Bruce
May 15	NSMC, 4 counties	13 indivs.	var. obs.
May 15, 19	Sydney Wharf	2 singing	James Neves
Late May	S. end Halifax	1 m.	ALD

Red Crossbill

Mar 5	Bayport, <i>Lun.</i>	4, incl. fresh juvenile, feeder	JAH
Apr 3, May 1	Louisbourg	2 m., 1 f., 1 f.	Bill Bussey
Apr 9	Arichat	30	Jack & Peggy Ouellette
Apr 3-May 13	Bayport, <i>Lun.</i>	1-3 indivs.	JAH
May 5, 29	Lr. Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1 f., 1 m., 1 f., 2 m.	AHM, ELM JAH
May 14	Lahave, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH

White-winged Crossbill

Mar 6	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	18	DMW
Mar 26	Halls Harbour, <i>Kings</i>	5 f., 1 ad. m., 1 imm. m.	MMC
Mar 26	Brier I.	3	RBS
Mar 26	Marie Joseph, <i>Guys.</i>	30	KJM
Mid-May	Pt. Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	several	George Ball
May 15	NSMC, mostly <i>CBRM</i>	68	var. obs.

Common Redpoll

March	widely	10 repts, 260++ indivs	var. obs.
Apr 2-12	widely	4 repts	
Apr 19	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1 latest	VJH
Apr 22	Springhill	last of large flock	JEF

Hoary Redpoll

Mar 20	Aylesford, <i>Kings</i>	3	WAN, NSBS
Apr 7	Cape George, <i>Rich.</i>	1 ph.	JSH

Pine Siskin

Mar 13,			
Apr 10	Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1, 1	LOC
Mar 15	Woods Harbour, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DOC
Apr 22	Springhill	"a few"	JEF
May 6, 29	Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1, 1	APO, RIV
May 26	Mid. Musq.	1	VJH

American Goldfinch

March-May	widely	8+ repts, 1-50+ indivs & "many," etc.	var. obs.
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Evening Grosbeak

March	2 repts.	20+ indivs.	JAH, RMC
April	4 repts.	35+ indivs.	4 obs.
May	5 repts.	3 indivs. + 5, + 2 pr,	5 OBS.

House Sparrow

Mar 30	Bent Farm, Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	"lots"	PMU
Early April	White Pts., <i>Queens</i>	1, "1st in years"	MMI



At last we have some insight into the "call types" of RED CROSSBILL that occur here. This one, photographed and recorded April 24 at Bayport, *Lun.*, was diagnosed by Cornell University researcher, Matthew Young as **Type 2**, probably equivalent to subspecies *bendirei*, which along with **Type 10** may be the most common forms in the Maritimes and n.e. U.S.A. **Type 2** has a very robust bill, some just as deep as, but with a relatively longer upper mandible than that of Newfoundland **Type 8** (= subspecies *pernca*). Photos suggest that *pernca* has much more dark, dusky gray on its plumage, even in adult males, but again, recordings of call are required to confirm that it wanders here. [Photo (and recording) James Hirtle]



A fully plumaged male HOUSE FINCH in late April at Whitney Pier, *CBRM*, was apparently the first to be photographically documented for Cape Breton I. [Photo Susan King]

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Photo Gallery - Did You Know?



A COMMON CROW photographed during May in Halifax sported a mildly deformed bill. There has been some concern about an apparent recent increase of bill deformities among corvids and other birds, especially in Alaska and BC. It is known that these are not inborn, but can develop in older birds, but the causes are still being investigated. [Photo Maxine Quinton]



Recently, a complete “rewrite” of the scientific names and sequences of the wood warblers has been instituted by the American Ornithologists’ Union, based on extensive genetic analysis of the whole range of species. As their common (English) names remain unchanged, this will not alarm birders, but among the firm conclusions is that the AMERICAN REDSTART (this one 36 May in *Kings*) is actually closely related to the *Dendroica* warblers, whereas some former *Dendroica* species do not belong there at all. The upshot is that all the *Dendroica* warblers are now in the Redstart genus *Setophaga* (which was described earlier and thus has name “priority”). I think we’ll agree it’s not a bad standard bearer. [Photo Richard Stern]



The NORTHERN GOSHAWK can be surprisingly bold in vicinity of the nest. This male, photographed April 7 near Minesville, *HRM*, came to inspect the intruder on its territory. [Photo Chris Pepper]



WEATHER & OTHER REPORTS

Western Nova Scotia Weather - Spring 2011

By Larry Bogan

This weather report will depart from my usual ones. The weather data that I had access to directly from the Kentville Agriculture Research Station for decades is no longer available and the equivalent data available for Kentville, from Environment Canada (EC) is incomplete for April and May of this year. As a result I have chosen to use the EC data for Kejimkujik National Park for this report. The data is accessible to everyone at the EC website. (http://www.climate.weatheroffice.gc.ca/climateData/canada_e.html)

Monthly Climate Summary Kejimkujik National Park and Sanfield Int'l Airport March, April, May 2011

	Average Temperature (C)			Total Precipitation (mm)	Stanfield A. Total Prec. (mm)
	Max	Min	Mean		
March	5	-5.9	-0.5	54	68
<i>30 yr avg</i>	<i>4.1</i>	<i>-6.2</i>	<i>-1.1</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>134</i>
April	10.6	0.4	5.5	146	124
<i>30 yr avg</i>	<i>10.0</i>	<i>-0.6</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>118</i>
May	17.0	7.9	12.5	99	124
<i>30 yr avg</i>	<i>16.7</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>110</i>
Season	10.8	0.8	5.8	299	316
<i>30 yr avg</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>362</i>

30 year averages are from 1971 through 2000

I was expecting to tell you that we had a very wet spring but the data does not allow me to say that. In the western part of the province, we received less than the thirty year average amount for the season. We did have a very cloudy season but I do not have the sunshine data to back that up, however, if you look at the large number of days that we received rain this spring that is convincing enough.

Temperatures:

The temperature steadily climbed during the whole spring season and overall was slightly warmer than normal. The mean daily temperature rose above freezing at the end of March. May was the warmest month, of course, and was well above average by 2 C. On the other hand, March was below average by 0.6 C. It is interesting to note that in May the mean daily maximum temperature was only 0.3 C above the norm while the mean daily minimum temperature was 3.6 C above the norm. This is because we had such cloudy weather that we had few cold frosty nights. If you look at the temperature graph you will note that there was no frost this season after the 23 April when the usual last day of frost is in mid-May.

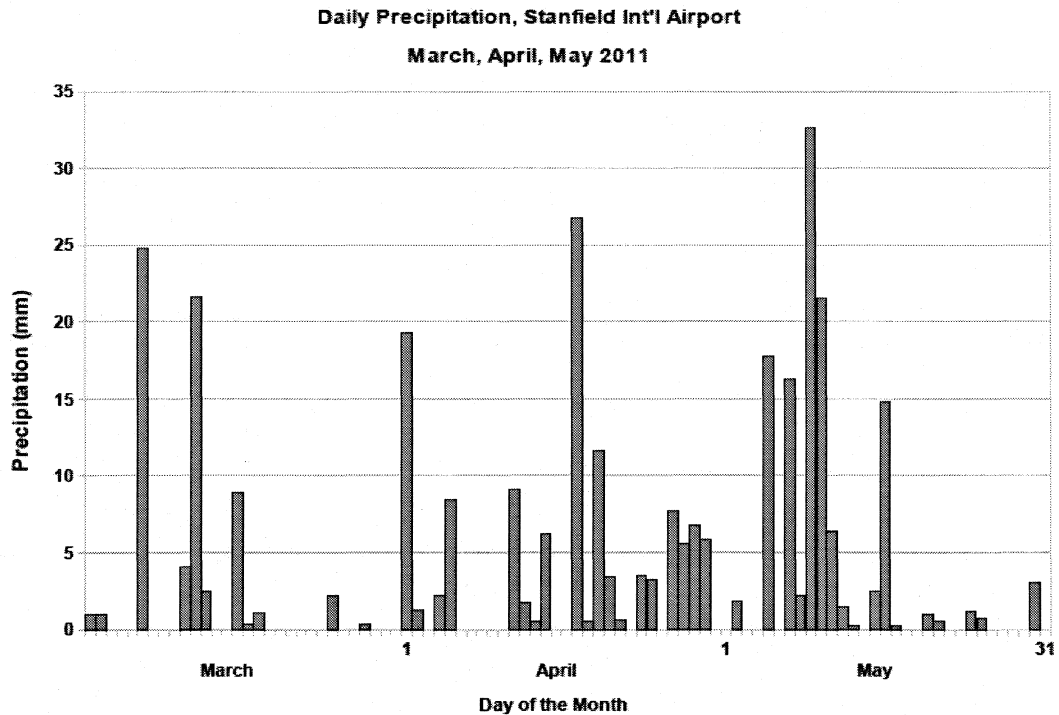
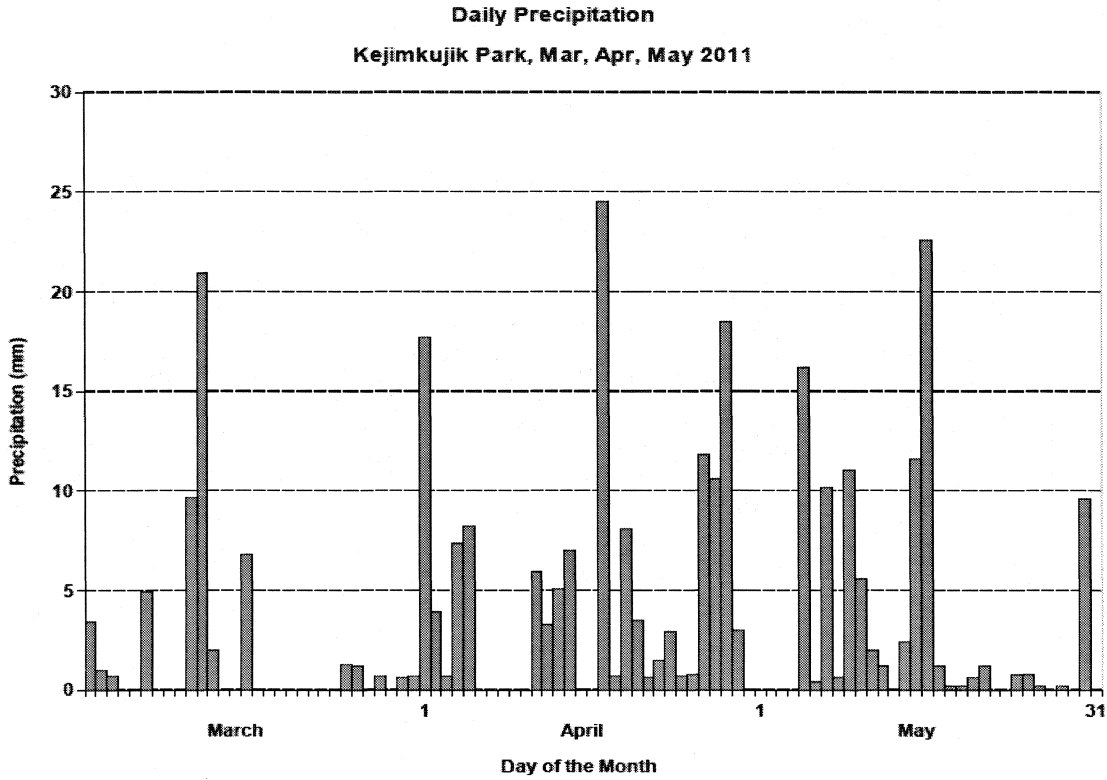
Precipitation:

I forgot how dry March was probably because we had 45 cm snow on the ground at the beginning and it stayed until the 16th of the month. It was down to 22 cm by the 8th and disappeared during the next week.

The graph of precipitation for the season is telling in that there are 56 days of the 92 when we had some precipitation. 18 days were dry in March, but only 8 in April, and 10 in May. April was the wet month with 25% more rain than normal; May was normal with 100 mm but March received only 42% of its normal precipitation. It was the frequent low pressure systems that


moved over Nova Scotia that kept us cloudy and damp with few dry periods. The longest dry periods we had in April and May were five days, one at the beginning of April and the other at the first of May. Since then it has been cloudy and showery (written on the 6th of June). Hopefully, the sequence of low pressure systems will stop and we can get to some sunny dry weather.

I have included the monthly totals of precipitation at the Stanfield International Airport to determine if there was a difference in this area. As you can see the normals are similar and the precipitation this spring were only 20 mm less in April and 20 mm more in May.



Louisbourg and Area Migration Count 2011

Common Loon	Northern Gannet	Double-Crested Cormorant	Great Cormorant
Great Blue Heron	Canada Goose	Blue-Winged Teal	
Green-Winged Teal (one was Eurasian/Common Teal sub-species)	American Black Duck	Harlequin Duck	Mallard
Ring-Necked Duck	Common Eider	Black Scoter	Surf Scoter
White-Winged Scoter	Bufflehead	Common Merganser	Red-Breasted Merganser
Osprey	Bald Eagle	Northern Harrier	Sharp-Shinned Hawk
Red-Tailed Hawk	American Kestrel	Merlin	Peregrine Falcon
Ruffed Grouse	Spruce Grouse	Greater Yellowlegs	Spotted Sandpiper
American Woodcock	Black-Headed Gull	Herring Gull	Iceland Gull
Great Black-Backed Gull	Ring-Billed Gull	Black-Legged Kittiwake	Common Murre
Black Guillemot	Rock Pigeon	Mourning Dove	Belted Kingfisher
Downy Woodpecker	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Flicker	Pileated Woodpecker
Tree Swallow	Barn Swallow	Gray Jay	Blue Jay
American Crow	Common Raven	Pine Grosbeak	Evening Grosbeak
Rose-Breasted Grosbeak	Yellow-Rumped Warbler	Palm Warbler	American Tree Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow	Fox Sparrow	Song Sparrow	White-Throated Sparrow
House Sparrow	Red-Winged Blackbird	Rusty Blackbird	European Starling
Common Grackle	Brown-Headed Cowbird	American Robin	Hermit Thrush
Red Crossbill	White-Winged Crossbill	Pine Siskin	American Goldfinch
Purple Finch	Dark-Eyed Junco	Black-Capped Chickadee	Boreal Chickadee
Red-Breasted Nuthatch	Golden-Crowned Kinglet	Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	Summer Tanager



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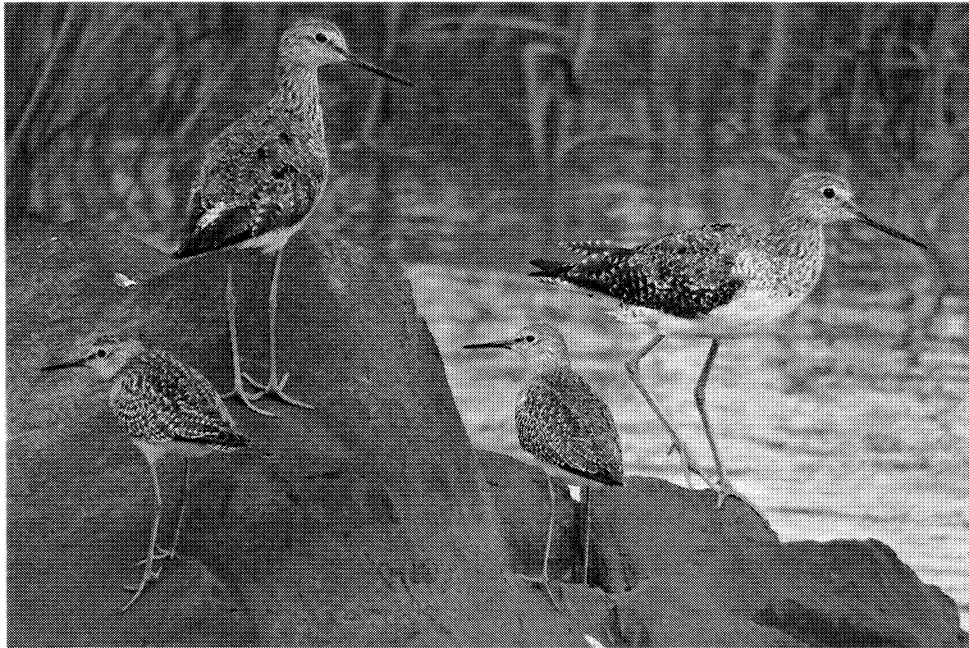
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Identification of Yellowlegs

By Richard Stern, Port Williams, September 2011

Separating two of our most widely distributed and frequently seen shorebirds in the field isn't hard when seen together, as in this photo I recently took on the rocks in Wolfville Harbor at high tide. The photo was taken by holding up a point and shoot camera to the eyepiece of a spotting scope (a technique called digiscoping). But when a single bird, or a flock of one species, is seen so that no size comparison can be made, identifying which one you are looking at can be more problematical. So we have to rely on some other field marks.



Like all shorebirds, determining one of three possible plumages is important - adult breeding, adult non-breeding, and juvenile. Indeed that's essential when trying to sort out rare "peeps", juvenile dowitchers and others, but even after sorting that out, the two yellowlegs can look very similar. The best plumage to separate the two is the adult breeding plumage, where Greater has a well-marked spotty, streaky breast, whereas Lesser has a smoother gray wash. This is less obvious in the other two plumages, where there is some overlap. Unfortunately this field mark is not visible in the photo. If you see some barring along the flanks in any plumage, it's more likely to be a Greater. Overall Greater appears generally more coarsely marked than Lesser.

Probably the best visual field mark is the bill. Greater has a hefty looking bill that is about 1 and 1/2 times as long from the base to the tip as the distance from the base to the back of the head. Lesser has a more dainty and thinner looking bill that is about the same length from the base to the tip as the distance from the base to the back of the head. Often (but not always) Greater's bill is slightly upturned, but Lesser's never is. Greater often has a yellowish-gray base to the bill, but Lesser's is all black. Unfortunately some Greater's seem to have slightly shorter bills and some Lesser's have slightly longer!

The legs on Lesser are obviously thinner, but that can be hard to tell in the field without a nearby Greater for comparison. The "knees" (actually the ankles) look more "knobbly" and obvious on Greater.

The overall "jizz" or impression of the bird can be important. Greater is a hefty bird, about the size of a Willet or Dowitcher, and gives the overall impression of a large shorebird. Lesser gives more of a dainty impression. Some people seem good at distinguishing the call. If the Greater gives its typical strident three note "Tew tew tew" it's pretty diagnostic, but there are other calls that at least to my ears have considerable overlap.

In many cases, then, like other confusion species, it's best to use a combination of field marks. If you see a single Yellowlegs with a heavily marked spotted breast, a hefty bill with a yellowish base, and is slightly upturned, and has "knees" that look like an ex-football player with osteo-arthritis, giving a loud three note call as it flies off, then you have a Greater. If you see one with just a gray washed breast, a thin all black dainty looking bill that is dead straight, and hardly visible "knees", that gives several softer notes, you have a Lesser. Get hold of one of the excellent field guides that most birders use, and study the field marks I have mentioned carefully, in both the text and the illustrations, and it will become easier with practice!

Apparent First Nesting of Turkey Vulture in Nova Scotia

By Suzanne M. Borkowski and Ian A. McLaren

In early June 2011, SMB was contacted by Barry Geddes, Provincial Watershed Manager, who reported that a pair of Turkey Vultures was frequenting the area around the Lake Major water processing plant area, often perching on its roof (Fig. 1). Vultures had also been present the previous summer. The vultures had also been seen by Terry Boswell (e-mail to IAM) when he had surveyed the surrounding Atlas square in 2010, and rated as present in suitable habitat, and therefore possibly breeding. Barry Geddes believed they were nesting close to the plant, as employees had seen vultures landing in a somewhat open glade in mixed woods just beyond southwest corner of the plant fence. Most importantly, in early July, workers at the plant observed three young vultures – described as somewhat smaller and with black heads – accompanying the two adults at the plant. Unfortunately, no photos of the young birds seem to have been obtained.



Fig. 1. Pair of adult Turkey Vultures perched on the Lake Major Water Supply Plant, early June 2011. [Photo credit unknown]

Accordingly, on 13 July 2011, SMB and IAM visited the possible nesting area. Large, angular granite blocks had been dumped during plant construction down the slope just beyond plant fence (Fig. 2). Since we were aware that nest sites described in the literature have included “dark recesses . . . among tumbled boulders” (Kirk and Mossman 1992), IAM searched the boulder-strewn slope and found what he believed was the vultures’ nest cavity. He was alerted by a peculiar, musky odour in the area, not rotten or unpleasant, but not apparently confined to the presumed nest site.



Fig. 2. Part of the boulder-strewn slope below the southwest corner of the water plant’s fence. The nest was at the far edge of the boulders. [Photo IAM]

IAM returned on 23 July to photograph the presumed nest site and its surroundings. The apparent nest site (Fig. 2) was at the shrubby western margin of the boulders in a cavity about a half-metre wide and high and about a metre long, of suitable width and ease of access for a brooding vulture. It was the only one of three or four possibly suitable cavities found on the boulder slope that had a level-bottom without projecting rocks, and was the only one that had pieces and smaller chips of wood on its floor. There were no bones, bits of fur or feathers, or any other evidence of delivered meals. But there was a coating of white, powdery material on the floor of the cavity.

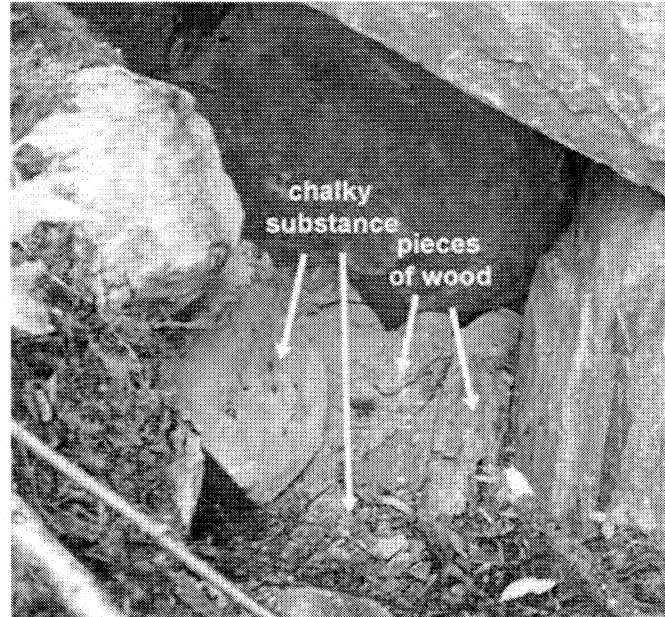


Fig. 3. Interior of presumed vulture nest site (flash used). The slanted slab above covered the cavity into a distance of nearly a metre. Pieces of wood appeared to have been placed in the floor, which was covered with a white, chalky substance. [Photo IAM]

One unexpected feature was the complete lack of remains of food or foul odour in the apparent nest and its general vicinity. Kirk and Mossman (1992) state that there is: “No known nest sanitation, except that excreta may be directed toward sides of nest and regurgitant is normally eaten by adult or nestlings.” Coles (1944) wrote that “conditions of comparative cleanliness surrounded the nests . . .” Howe (quoted in Bent 1937, p. 15) commented that there was “absolutely no odor about the nest” when it held eggs, but there was a “vile odour” when the young had hatched. Kempton (quoted in Bent, 1937, p. 14) wrote of one long-studied nest that “No offensive odors were noted during the five years of observation (except when the nestlings would regurgitate for me).” Possibly undisturbed nest sites, like the apparent one described here, remain cleaner because the young have not regurgitated defensively. The chalky white powder on the floor of the presumed nest cavity was puzzling, but distinguished it from other similar cavities among the boulders. Was it dried excreta, which in birds may consist substantially of crystalized uric acid as a urinary end product, like the “whitewash” around seabird nests?

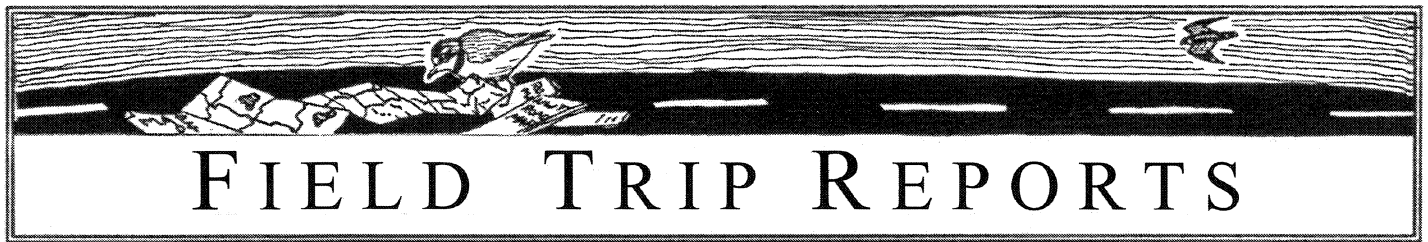
Although the evidence is circumstantial, we believe the observations of the birds and characteristics of the apparent nest site strongly indicate the first known nesting of Turkey Vulture in Nova Scotia.

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Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary

21 May, 2011, Leader: Kathleen Spicer

No one showed up for the walk but I decided to do some birding for around 90 minutes. Just a little mist and + 6°C. Saw or heard 42 species also stopped at impoundment just before parking lot . 10+ Canada Geese, 4 American Wigeon, 1 Black Duck, 15+ Mallards, 5 Blue winged Teal, 1 male Northern Shoveler, 10+ Ring-necked Ducks, heard 1 Ruffed Grouse, saw & heard 1 Common Loon, 5 Pied billed Grebe, 1 Osprey, 1 Bald Eagle on nest , heard Sora, 7 Black Terns, 5 Mourning Doves, 1 Belted Kingfisher, 3 Flickers, heard a Blue -headed Vireo, 3 Blue Jays, 2 American Crows, 100+ Tree Swallows, saw 2 Barn Swallows, 8+ Black-capped Chickadees, heard 2 Red -breasted Nuthatches, 2 Golden -crowned Kinglets, heard 2 Ruby -crowned Kinglets, 8 + Robins, 1 Starling, 1 Nashville Warbler, 2 Northern Parula, 4 Yellow Warblers, 1 Magnolia warbler, 6+ Yellow-rumped Warblers, heard 1 Black Throated Green Warbler, 1 Common Yellowthroat, 2 Song Sparrows, 1 Swamp Sparrow, 3 White Throated Sparrows, 1 D.E. Junco, heard Bobolinks, 5+ Red-winged Blackbirds, and 3 C. Grackles.

Kathleen

Historic Hants County

21 May 2011, Leader: Suzanne Borkowski

A group of 20 birders met at Mount Uniacke House for the Historic Hants County field trip yesterday (so called because it is the longest running trip offered by the NS Bird Society. It was first led by Robie Tufts, the Society's first President.)

The weather was a mix of sun and cloud - quite fortunate given all the rain we've had recently. A walk around the grounds of the Estate produced a few warblers, most notably a couple of Blackburnians, a pair of Loons on the lake and a Broadwinged Hawk flying high overhead. On route to our next stop we pulled over to check the bog for Swamp Sparrows and were lucky enough to find not only our target species but a singing Lincoln's Sparrow as well!

At the small lake just past Hwy 202 at the foot of Coles Road (Does anyone know the name of this lake?) a few people were fortunate enough to get good looks at some Wood Ducks. Others spent 20 minutes trying to spot an Ovenbird that was singing close to the road, while others enjoyed great close-up looks at a Northern Parula.

On Elliott Road Patricia Chalmers spotted a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker excavating a nest cavity. At the bottom of this road we heard, but didn't see Northern Waterthrush and Least Flycatcher. A few saw a male American Redstart and a couple saw a Pileated Woodpecker fly by.

Lunch was enjoyed at Smiley Park by which time we had seen/heard 58 species. At the feeder across the road we added Evening Grosbeak, White-breasted Nuthatch and Downy Woodpecker. In Windsor we added a few more ending the day with 64 species.

Thanks to all the participants, especially those who helped with ID's and showed birds to others who might not have otherwise spotted them.

Suzanne Borkowski

Blomidon Park Pond Life Field Trip for N.S. Dept. of Nat. Resources and Blomidon Naturalists Society

29 May, 2011, Leader: Jim Wolford

We had a nice warm day (up to 25 °C) with Sunny breaks but mostly overcast, windy at first but calm in the woods, with black flies present but not a problem -- small housefly-like flies were the biggest problem for myself, since they seem to be attracted by my perspiration?

Perhaps 20 people were along for most of the way, including Andy Dean, Bernard Forsythe, and Richard Stern; thus I didn't need to point out the birds at all. Also with us was Cecil ?, a seasonal employee of the Dept. of Nat. Resources.

My welcome to the walk emphasized the conflicting mandates of both provincial and national parks: protection of representative habitats and all forms of biodiversity, AND the recreational uses of the outdoors by people. I mentioned that everything is

protected in these parks, and that I had a special one-day permit to temporarily collect pond life with a dip-net for educational purposes, with the proviso that anything collected gets quickly returned to its habitat.

Usually this annual late-May foray finds an early-Spring forest floor, but I found the flora to be quite advanced, despite our very cool and wet Spring. Red trilliums were nearly all finished with blooming; flowers seen included pin cherry along park road, trailing raspberries or dewberries, blue-bead lily or *Clintonia*, bunchberry or Canada dogwood, red-berried baneberry, hobblebush, American fly honeysuckle, striped maple or moose maple, wild strawberry and blue violets in the big open field where we parked our cars by the park trail map, and red elderberry near the registration building. Of course the abundant, but provincially very rare, wild leeks in leaf were shown and discussed. Other plants pointed out included mountain maple (lots), sugar maple, red spruce vs. balsam fir, Christmas fern, New York fern, sensitive fern, and ostrich fern (but most of the latter in the nw. corner of the campground seem to be gone now -- look for oodles of them along the descending steps just north of the lower park parking lot).

Birds heard or seen included ovenbird, American redstart, black-throated green warbler, winter wren (at the pond), red-eyed vireo, raven, black-throated blue warbler, etc. (others could add several species).

Less than a mile along this part of the Jodrey Trail is the very special vernal or ephemeral woodland pond with no inlet or outlet. Water here comes from Spring runoff/melt, plus any precipitation during the year, plus perhaps seeps from springs? This year I was particularly interested in how the pond life would appear, since last year the pond was extremely dry and nearly non-existent in late May, after a very warm and very dry spring.

We had a light moment at the pond when we all had to wait a bit for my second rubber boot to arrive (volunteers carried the two buckets with one boot in each).

This year the pond is predictably very large and very full of water. As usual I set up two upturned buckets and white enamel pans on top of them with pond water, and then swept my dip-net back and forth a few times through the pond water. The emptied net contents revealed much less life than we are used to seeing there.

Medium-sized dark tadpoles (of wood frogs?) were most obvious, but much less abundant than in other years. And a single spring peeper was heard calling. We did find the very rare fairy shrimps, but only a few of both sexes, and the females had egg-sacs at their tail-bases. These would have laid very few eggs last year, and it might take a few to several years to bring the population back up. Other crustaceans seen were lots of tiny "water fleas" (*Daphnia* relatives). These Cladocerans were seen to form dense active clusters in the corner of the enamel pan where reflected light was maximal (adaptation for finding food, i.e., microscopic swimming algae). Also a few small red water mites were present. Lots of black flatworms or planarians were gliding on the pan bottoms, and there were a few small snails.

Aquatic insects: this year there were no damselfly larvae, no caddisfly larvae in cases, very few fly larvae (one mosquito larva, 1 fly pupa, no midge larvae), only one aquatic beetle larva, one very tiny dragonfly larva, and one big adult swimming backswimmer.

Because the water level was so high, it was difficult to find places to look for bright green masses of eggs of yellow-spotted salamanders, which are seen there in most years. My guess is that they were probably present but just not observable, being below the surface attached to sticks or aquatic vegetation. (The symbiotic alga is only found associated with amphibian eggs; the salamander larvae use the oxygen produced by the algae to speed their development, and in turn the algae utilize the waste products of the developing salamanders -- thus a mutualistic symbiosis benefitting both partners.)

Beginner's Bird Walk

3 August, 2011, Leader: Bonnie Carmichels

Thanks so much for coming on Saturday and thanks for everyone's sharp eyes and ears. Here is a list of birds seen by part or all:

- | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Crow | 7. Northern Cardinal | 13. Northern Flicker | 19. Cedar Waxwings |
| 2. Blue Jay | 8. Junco | 14. Common Yellowthroat | 20. Ruby-throated Hummingbird |
| 3. American Robin | 9. Black Capped Chickadee | 15. Yellow-rumped Warbler | 21. Broad-winged Hawk |
| 4. Herring Gull | 10. American Goldfinch | 16. Chestnut-sided Warbler | 22. Rock Dove |
| 5. Grackle | 11. Song Sparrow | 17. Red-eyed Vireo | 23. Mourning Dove |
| 6. European Starling | 12. White-throated Sparrow | 18. Blue-headed Vireo | 24. Golden-crowned Kinglet |

Hope to see you next month on the 1st Saturday of September.

Bonnie