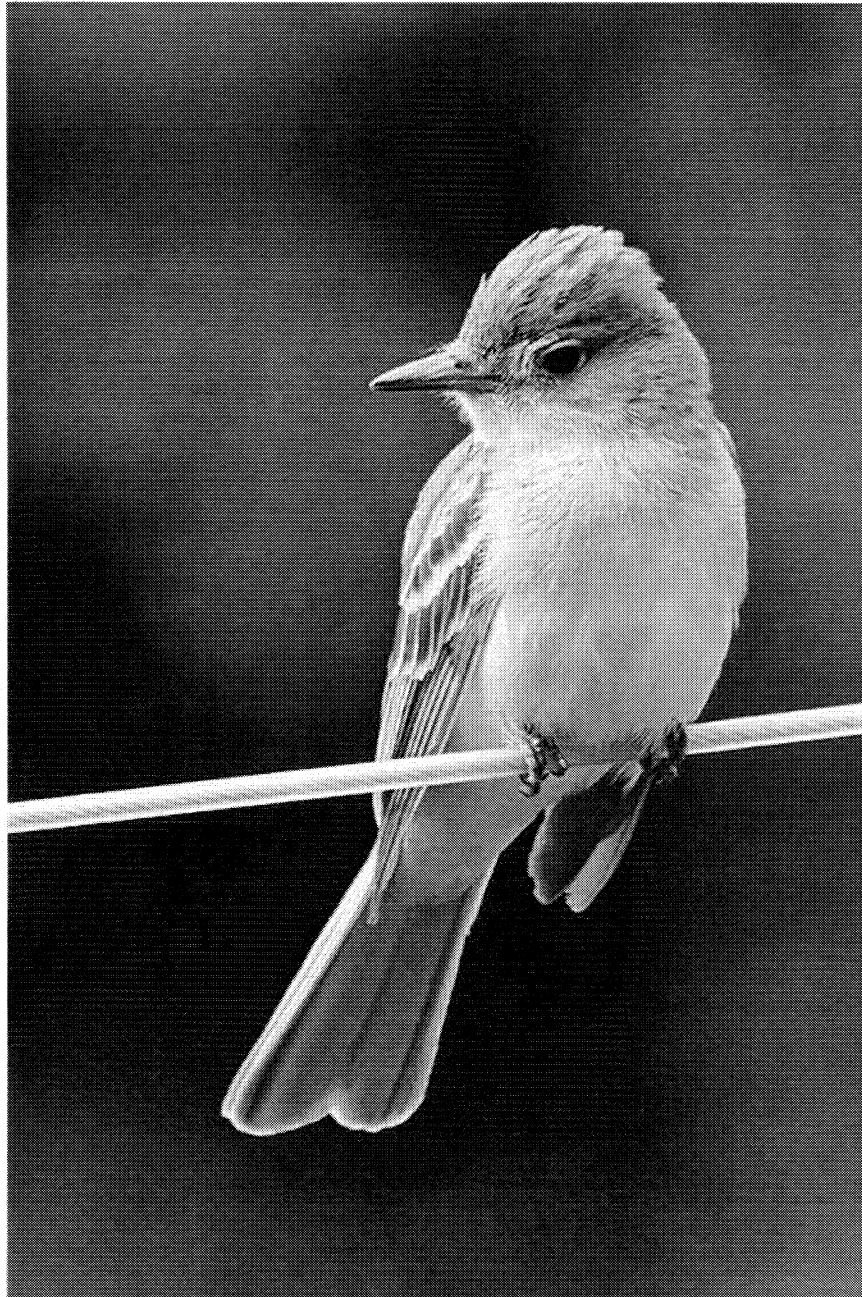


Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Autumn 2011

(The Birds of Summer)

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Executive 2010-2011



President	Jim Cameron
Vice President	Terry Boswell
Past President	Patrick Kelly
Treasurer (acting)	Gillian Elliott
Secretary	Patricia McKay
Membership Secretary	Ulli Höger
Director	Chris Pepper
Director	Kathleen MacAulay
Director	Tuma Young
Director	Helene Van Doninck
Chair NSBS Sanctuary Trust	Bob McDonald
Honorary Solicitor	Tony Robinson
Honorary Auditor	Ruth E. Smith

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.

Nova Scotia Bird Society
c/o Nova Scotia Museum,
1747 Summer Street,
Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6

Rare Bird Alert: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NS-RBA/>

Email: nsbs@chebucto.ns.ca

Web: <http://nsbs.chebucto.org>

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Special points of interest:

- Minutes of the NSBS Annual General Meeting
- Annual Report of the NSBS Sanctuary Trust
- Photo Gallery - Warblers and Habitat
- E-Bird Counts Versus Breeding Bird Survey Numbers
- Photo Gallery - Tour of Bird Islands

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Cover: Nesting GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS at Middleton, Ann., this summer (here June 9) successfully fledged their young in early July.
[Photo Richard Stern]

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS

AUTUMN 2011

Editor

Position currently vacant

Production Assistants

P. A. Mills

L. A. Cormier

Records Editor

Lance Laviolette

Photo Editor

Ian McLaren

Events Editor

Chris Pepper

Seasonal Bird Reports

John Belbin

Wayne P. Neily

Ulli Höger

Eric Mills

Ken McKenna

Ian McLaren

Susann Myers

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At last we have the first photo, to my knowledge, of our breeding HORNED LARK subspecies, *praticola*, this one found July 16 near Kingsburg, Lun. They once nested widely in the Valley and Colchester, but are now almost extirpated there. The grayish brown, rather than the rich-brown plumage of the visiting northern subspecies *alpestris*, is a useful distinction, but in this gray-scale image, the small bill is a useful distinction from *alpestris*. [Photo Richard Stern]



This summer's only "tickable" PURPLE GALLINULE stayed during late July near Sable River, Shel. and was nicely photographed for the record on August 3. [Photo Lisa Dash]



BIRD SOCIETY NEWS

Annual General Meeting - President's Report

By Patrick Kelly

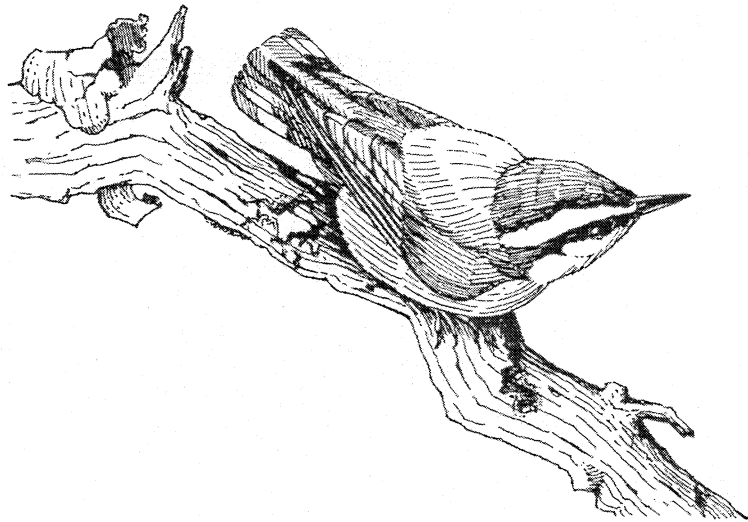
After preparing one report as president, it is quite difficult to do a second one without repeating myself, so I'll keep this fairly brief.

Once again I have been impressed by the number of people that are involved in all aspects of the Society, as well as their dedication to helping with the smooth operation of all the aspects of our activities. Many of them work quietly behind the scenes, other take a more public role, but all make important contributions to the Society's work and, from that, to birding in general. Without them the Society would be a lot poorer for everyone, including the birds, and I sincerely want to thank you all.

As is always the case, there are always unexpected bumps in the road, often caused by events beyond our control. There were some delays with the magazine due to illnesses, as Blake indicated in his editor's report. There are also times, when I have been busy doing one thing and overlooked items that had taken a back burner. The museum grant was one case this year, as was confusing the year in which certificates of appreciation were handed out with the year they were awarded so that we missed awarding them for a year. We will be catching up on that. Given that I'm not really sure what to say about things in the near future, I often have found the long lead time for reports for the magazine cause me to overlook submission deadlines. To give my successor a better handle on some of these items I'm doing up a month-by-month checklist, which I hope will make his job a lot easier.

The executive has been a pleasure to work with, and I'm looking forward to working with the new executive in the coming year. I hope to concentrate more on specific projects, such as updating the society's by-laws, the Outdoor Sports and RV Show should we be invited back, as well as on our web initiatives, which will include a new web site and digitising back issues of the magazine.

It has been an enjoyable learning experience serving as president, with the help of the executive and everyone else involved.



Minutes of the Nova Scotia Bird Society Annual General Meeting

Thursday, November 24, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Terry Boswell, Acting President, at 7:35pm. It was noted that there were only 17 people in attendance, which does not constitute an official quorum for the society.

- 1.0 Approval of the Agenda.** It was moved by Bob McDonald, and seconded by Mary Alward, that the agenda for tonight's meeting of the N.S.B.S. be approved as submitted. The motion was passed.
- 2.0 Approval of the Minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting.** It was moved by Bob McDonald and seconded by Tuma Young, that the minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting of the NSBS be approved. The motion carried.
- 3.0 Business arising from the Minutes.** The business arising from the minutes centred on discussion of the society's newsletter, NS Birds, and it was decided to defer this discussion until the 'New Business' item on the agenda.
- 4.0 Reports.**

4.1 Membership Report. This was presented by Membership Secretary, Ulli Hoeger. The situation shows a continuing slow decline in membership, though numbers did not decline so drastically this year as they did in the previous year. We currently have 295 members, down two from 2009-10. The problem is that although we are managing to gain new members, we are not keeping members, as they are not renewing their memberships. It was especially noted that this was true of some of our long time members.

Discussion following the presentation of the report centred on how this trend might be reversed.

The membership committee of Terry Boswell, Tuma Young and Wayne Neilly, established as a result of last year's AGM had some good ideas, but 'ran out of steam'. It was suggested that we need to investigate, possibly by having an on-line survey, to find out why we are continuing to lose members. We do now have a Facebook page, which currently has over 100 followers and is very active in reporting sightings and posting photographs. However, it was also pointed out that not everyone has computer access, so too much reliance on electronic media will exclude these people. It was suggested by Susann Myers that the Membership Committee should be reactivated, and that it set itself some concrete goals to be accomplished in a timely manner, with regular progress reports given to the Executive.

It was moved by Gillian Elliott and seconded by Susann Myers, that the Membership Report be approved. The motion carried.

4.2 Treasurer's Report. The report was presented by Treasurer Gillian Elliott (see Appendix 1). Expenses are down mainly because two issues of NS Birds have not been published yet. The society should be receiving two grants of \$2000 from the Museum this year, one for this year as well as one for last year due to our 2010 application having been late. To date we have only received one of these grants. We are looking into this matter. It was moved by Bob McDonald and seconded by Tuma Young, that the Treasurer's report be accepted. The motion carried.

4.3 Conservation Report. Helene Van Doninck was unable to present her report in person, but sent in her remarks by email: Activities undertaken in 2011:

- Represented the NSBS at the Rally and Press Conference for the Forests on Apr 13, 2011, hosted by the Ecology Action Centre.
- Representing the NSBS as part of the Bird Conservation Committee at the Ecology Action Centre. Current focus is an education campaign about the loss of North American birds due to free-roaming domestic cat predation and trying to convince cat owners to keep cats indoors (or otherwise away from birds via outdoor enclosures, leashes, etc).
- Participated in a day of action on May 23, 2011 at the Halifax Public Gardens to talk about keeping cats indoors.
- Currently working on a program (in collaboration with other groups including veterinarians) to promote keeping cats indoors for the sake of wildlife and cats. Program launch in 2012.

Plans for 2012

- Recruit members for the NSBS Conservation Committee. Anyone interested please contact Helene at birdvet@hotmail.com
- Address new issues as requested and continue with present issues.

Respectfully submitted
Helene Van Doninck, Chair – Conservation Committee, Nova Scotia Bird Society

It was moved by Susann Myers and seconded by Sylvia Fullerton, that this report be accepted. The motion passed.

4.4 Editor's Report. The Editor was not present to present his report. Further discussion on NS Birds was deferred to New Business.

4.5 Sanctuary Trust Report. The Sanctuary Trust Report was given by Chairman Bob McDonald. (Summary below, full report see Appendix 2)

It has been a quiet year for the Trust. There is no change to report on any of our six properties, three of which are tax exempt. Brief reports were filed by Eric Mills for Peters' Island off Brier Island, by Volunteer Warden Ted D'Eon for Outer Bald Island, and by Bob Mc Donald for Hertford Island.

The Sanctuary Trust also makes monies available in the form of grants in support of scientific research in ornithology, or donations to charities supporting wild birds. This year a donation of \$500 was made to the Cobequid Wildlife Centre to build flight cages to be used in the rehabilitation of sick or injured birds.

The Board of the Sanctuary Trust for 2011 -12 shall consist of the following persons:

Chair – Bob McDonald, Treasurer – Terry Boswell, Secretary – Suzanne Borkowski, Director – Dennis Hippern, President of NSBS (ex officio) – Patrick Kelly.

It was moved by Tuma Young and seconded by Patricia Chalmers, that this report be accepted. The motion passed.

4.6 Sanctuary Trust Financial Report. This was presented by the Trust Treasurer, Terry Boswell. The main points were:

- that the Trust's property taxes have been much reduced since some of the properties are now tax exempt. However, a late pay bill has just been received with respect to Hertford Island, which is supposed to be one of the tax exempt properties. This will be investigated.
- the insurance premium costs have gone up because we have doubled our liability coverage.
- the Trust has term deposits which mature next year, and Terry intends to do some research into what best to do with this money.

It was moved by Susann Myers, and seconded by Sylvia Fullerton that the report be accepted as presented. The motion carried.

4.7 President's Report. Acting President Terry Boswell mentioned some of the year's activities:

- Patrick Kelly organised the Society's table at the Outdoor Sports and R.V. show at Exhibition Park in the Spring. This always generates good publicity for the Society.
- Funding has been approved towards the publication costs of Ian McLaren's book, "All the Birds of Nova Scotia", which is to be published next year.
- The Society now has a group on Facebook, which is proving to be popular.

Due to the lateness of the hour, the Acting President just touched very briefly on the highlights, and expressed his thanks to all the volunteers involved in any of the society's activities such as the field trips, newsletter production, etc., as well as members who report on the birds of Nova Scotia either informally, or as part of organised counts.

It was moved by Susann Myers and seconded by Dennis Hippern, that the report be accepted. The motion carried.

4.8 Nominations Report. The following slate of 2011-2012 Executive nominations was submitted.

- President: Patrick Kelly
- Past President:
- Vice-President: Terry Boswell
- Treasurer: Gillian Elliott
- Membership Secretary: Ulli Hoeger
- Secretary: Pat McKay
- Director: Chris Pepper (Field Trip Coordinator)

- Director: Helene Van Doninck (Conservation Chair)
- Director: Tuma Young
- Chair, NSBS Sanctuary Trust: Bob McDonald (ex officio)

The Acting President called for nominations from the floor, but there were no further nominations. The above persons were declared elected to serve on the Executive for the year 2011-2012.

The following have agreed to serve for 2011-2012 and have been duly appointed by the Executive:

Editor: Vacant at present due to the resignation of the current Editor.
Honorary Solicitor: Tony Robinson
Honorary Auditor: Ruth E. Smith

It was moved by Bob McDonald and seconded by Sylvia Fullerton that the report be accepted. The motion passed.

5.0 Puffin of the Year Award. This was awarded to James Hirtle for his long term support and commitment to the Society as a field trip leader, who often shows up on many other trips well outside his usual area. He was a co-coordinator of Region 19 Mersey-Lehave for the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas. He contributes numerous sightings to the magazine, and through NatureNS, and has been instrumental in raising awareness of birds as one of the long-time organisers of the South Shore Naturalists.

Since James was unable to be present to receive the award this evening, it is intended to present it to him at an upcoming meeting of the South Shore Naturalists' Club.

6.0 New Business.

6.1 Changes to Bylaws. Concern was expressed by several members on learning that the Bylaws can and have been changed in the past by decision of the Executive. It was felt that this was more appropriately done by the membership at an A.G.M. However, this could lead to a problem getting needed changes made due to lack of voting members. It was suggested by Tuma Young that the matter be looked into and a report made to the Executive within 60 days.

Perhaps the Societies Act may have some guidance on the matter.

6.2 Nova Scotia Birds. This is put out by the combined efforts of a large number of volunteers and the Editor. This year the publication has been unfortunately delayed for a variety of reasons. The current status is that the second issue of the year is at the printers, and the third issue is almost ready to go to print. It has been decided to hold back the second issue slightly so that both of these issues can be mailed together to save costs. The final issue for the year 2011 – The Birds of Summer – is still pending.

The current Editor, Blake Maybank, has indicated that he wishes to step down from the position after serving for many years. Terry thanked Blake for all his hard work and past contributions.

A meeting had been arranged between the Editor, all the Seasonal Editors and the Executive for November 23rd to discuss possible changes and improvements to the publication, and the Editor's role in the production of the magazine. Unfortunately this meeting had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the snowstorm. A change in the Editor might be the opportune moment for changing the format and/or the content of the publication.

There was a brief discussion – curtailed by lack of time – about what those members present at the A.G.M. would like to see happen to the magazine. Most were receptive to an electronic format of some sort, but keeping a printed version as well, at least initially, for those who did not have computer access. It was suggested that getting the material published in a timely manner should be a priority task for a new Editor. Most members would be content to have only rarities and unusual numbers or occurrences of commoner birds listed by the Seasonal Editors, rather than the recording of every last Robin, with these sightings presented in a more narrative approach rather than tabular, to make it more interesting and enjoyable to read. News of upcoming field trips, and field trip reports after the event were mentioned, but it is necessary for the magazine to come out on time in order to be useful to advise members of upcoming events. Book reviews were also enjoyed by some members. There was a request from one person to have a Nova Scotia Year List published once a year so that folk could see how well they had done with their own personal Year List in comparison.

7.0 Adjournment. The motion to adjourn was made by Blake Maybank, seconded by Terry Boswell.

Minutes recorded by Pat McKay, Secretary, Nova Scotia Bird Society

Appendix I - Treasurer's Report

Nova Scotia Bird Society Balance Sheet

as at September 30, 2010

(with comparative figures as at 30/09/2010)

ASSETS	<u>2010/2011</u>	<u>2009/2010</u>
ASSETS		
Current Bank Account	11,393	17,373
Power Savings Account	33,397	0
Term Deposits	0	23,819
Accounts Receivable	259	287
Prepaid Expenses	0	0
TOTAL ASSETS	45,049	41,479
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES		
PAYABLES		
Accounts Payable	200	120
Deferred Revenue	0	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	200	120
EQUITY		
Current Earnings	3,416	753
Accumulated Revenue	41,433	40,605
TOTAL EQUITY	44,849	41,358
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	45,049	41,478
	=====	=====

Terry Boswell, Acting President

Gillian Elliott, Acting Treasurer

R. Smith, Auditor

Nova Scotia Bird Society

Income Statement

for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011
(with comparative figures for the year ending
September 30, 2010)

	2010/2011	2009/2010
REVENUE		
Memberships	5,685	5,740
Advertising	80	40
Donations	0	100
Grants	2,000	0
Interest	578	808
Product Sales	338	155
Miscellaneous Income	129	226
Atlas Donations	0	14,708
TOTAL REVENUE	8,810	21,777
<hr/>		
EXPENSE		
Cost of Goods Sold	0	68
Nova Scotia Birds	3,261	3,856
Advertising and Promotions	53	123
AGM	256	180
Awards and Gifts	125	55
Bank Charges	70	
Bird Counts	65	150
Donations	650	250
Equipment	0	81
Honorariums	0	250
Insurance	456	350
Memberships	175	175
Miscellaneous Expenses	254	571
Monthly Meeting Expenses	30	206
Atlas Donations	0	14,708
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,395	21,024
<hr/>		
NET INCOME	3,416	753
(excess over expenses)	=====	=====

Appendix 2 - Annual Report of the Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary Trust

24 November 2011

Bob McDonald, Chair

Overall, it's been a rather quiet year for the NSBS Sanctuary Trust – all of our properties remain the same but I can give you some information about several of them.

As I suspect all of you know by now, the primary function of the Sanctuary Trust is to maintain our properties in good standing with respect to taxes. As announced last year, three of our six properties are now tax-exempt, saving us about \$600 per year. Let me briefly review our holdings and tell you a little about them.

Peter Island in Digby Co, located in Grand Passage between Long and Brier Islands, is tax-exempt but our property warden, June Swift, has moved to Newfoundland for study and did not send in a report. However, Eric Mills who has a cottage on Brier Island sent in a brief report indicating that the breeding birds consist mainly of Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, Double-crested Cormorants and Black Guillemots. Unfortunately, no terns have nested since 2001.

At the other end of the province, the Bird Society-owned Hertford Island, along with Provincially-owned Ciboux Island, comprise the Bird Islands. The Bird Islands have the distinction of being both an IBA (Important Bird Area) site and a Wildlife Management Area, a Provincial designation. They are visited regularly by Department of Natural Resources personnel who carry out occasional bird census work (from the water). To my knowledge, no one is permitted to land on the islands during breeding season. During a field trip associated with the Nature Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting in June, I had the opportunity to visit the Bird Islands on one of two commercial bird cruises (Donalda's boat goes out from the Englishtown wharf). Although we did have some rain, it was evident that the islands provide breeding habitat for Great and Double-crested Cormorants, Razorbills, Black Guillemots, Puffins, and Black-legged Kittiwakes. At least one Common Murre was also present! Photos taken during the excursion can be viewed on Richard Stern's terrific web site! (also, see the photo spread on page 32)

Across to Yarmouth Co, the Society owns 4 tiny islands, total area about 20 acres, known as the Bald Tusket Islands. Ted d'Eon is our property warden there and he sent in a report describing his visit to one of the islands, Outer Bald, in August 2011 when he accompanied a Dartmouth-based TV film crew, during the preparation of one segment of a 13-part series entitled Nova Scotia Revealed. The lure of visiting "Outer Baldonia" with its fascinating story, international overtones and eccentric former owner proved too hard to resist. The visit took place after the breeding season so as not to disturb the birds unduly and, with Ted along, we felt that such a visit would be acceptable. Ted reports that they saw few birds – gulls flying overhead, some Savannah Sparrows and several hundred Leach's Storm-petrel burrows, some of which were probably still occupied. They saw no petrels, not surprising since the adults return at night to feed the chicks in the burrows. The building remains, although it is falling into ruins. The film crew were very impressed with their visit and expressed their gratitude to the NSBS for allowing them to be there. The program featuring Outer Bald may be airing around May of 2012; I will try to find out more precisely and inform members. Ted also mentioned that there are some sheep on the island but he feels that there is little significant interaction with the petrels since the burrows are oriented horizontally in the banks of the island. Ted also supplied me with a neat nautical chart showing all 5 of the Bald Islands, 4 of which are owned by the Society.

We received no reports for any of our other properties, including 39-acre Indian Island, located in Lunenburg Co, near the mouth of Green Bay and about 6 km east of Broad Cove; the North Kemptville property, a 0.75-acre island near Georgie's Meadow in Yarmouth Co; and the 200-acre Kelsey Property inland, along the St Catherine's River Rd between Port Joli and Keji Seaside National Park. I have been able to obtain a map showing the Kelsey property with a proper grid system so using my trusty GPS unit, next year I hope to find it and do some exploring!!

One other thing that the Sanctuary Trust does from time to time is to make donations to support small bird-related research projects or bird rehabilitation centres. We received no applications for support during the 2010-2011 fiscal year and so no donations were made. However, recently it has come to our attention that the Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre has under construction a flight enclosure for large raptors, a project that is putting considerable strain on their resources. So, a week or two ago, the ST Board decided by e-vote to make a contribution to this project in the amount of \$500, and this evening we have Helene van Doninck, the founder and chief medical officer of the Centre, present to accept our contribution. Helene, would you like to come forward?

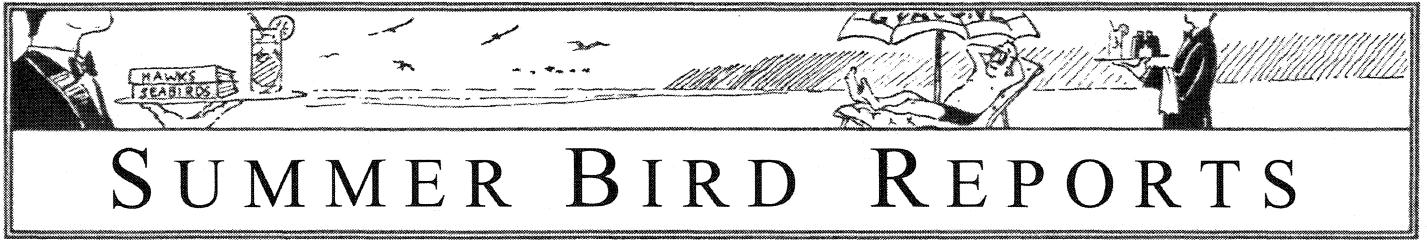
As always, the Sanctuary Trust welcomes your contributions along with your NSBS membership renewal. Donors of \$10 or more

will receive a charitable receipt that can be used at income tax time.

Finally, I am pleased to announce the composition of the Sanctuary Trust Board for 2011-2012. Terry Boswell will continue on as Treasurer and Suzanne Borkowski has agreed to begin a second three-year term as Secretary. Dennis Hippert begins his second year on the Board and I will continue on as Chair. Incoming NSBS President Pat Kelly is an ex officio ST Board member. I thank you all for your past service and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Thank you.
Bob McDonald, Chair





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	Kejimkujik 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

The large flock of 350 **Common Eiders** and 12 **American (Black) Scoters** that ELM found at Western Head in Queens County appeared to be all males. The Eiders were clearly molting and the Scoters were all immature birds. The smaller group noted by Nigel Jacket in Pubnico, Yarmouth was accompanied by many young chicks, indicative of recent breeding success in the area. RBS counted over 400 Common Eiders over a weekend on Brier Island in early July.

The Ring Necked Ducks that showed up in the Frog Pond of Flemming Park, *HRM* on July 23 were very early for that location, which normally only sees them when they are beginning migration.

Canada Goose

Jun 5	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	49	JAH
Jun 7	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	10	SLH
Jul 10	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	20	JAH
Jul 27	Peggy's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	49	JAH

Wood Duck

Jun 3	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	3	KFS
Jun 17	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	12	Kevin Lantz
Jul 2	Lillydale, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Jul 10	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	10	JAH

Jul 10	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	15	JAH	Jul 6	Iona, <i>Vic.</i>	18	Peder Svingen
Gadwall				Jul 10	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	24	JAH
Jun 6	Pond Cove, Brier I	1m	ELM	Jul 23	Flemming Park, <i>HRM</i>	2	PLC
Jun 17	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2	Kevin Lantz	Lesser Scaup			
Jul 10	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JAH	Jul 14	Chignecto, <i>Cumb.</i>	5	Patricia Folsom
American Wigeon				Common Eider			
Jun 5	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	5	JAH	Jun 3	Bird I. <i>Vic.</i>	8	Raymond Edwards
Jul 10	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	11	JAH	Jun 23	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	25	Nigel Jackett
Jul 16	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	13	KJM	Jun 24	Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	25	Nigel Jackett
American Black Duck				Jul 2	West Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	8	KFS
Jun 5	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	9	JAH	Jul 9	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	400	RBS
Jun 9	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	2+6 juv	DMW	Jul 16	Western Point, <i>Queens</i>	350	ELM
Jun 22	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1+7 juv	KFS	Jul 16	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	23	Kevin Lantz
Jul 2	Edgett's Beach, <i>Cumb.</i>	1+11 juv	KFS	Jul 20	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	6	DMW
Jul 10	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	76	JAH	Jul 25	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	22	RBS
Jul 15	Bras d'Or. CB	11	Peder Svingen	Jul 31	Pond Cove, Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	110	RBS
Jul 22	Stella's Pond, New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	6	JCT	Surf Scoter			
Jul 31	Clearland, Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH	Jul 17	Scenic Loop, <i>Inv.</i>	29	Peder Svingen
Mallard x American Black Duck				Jul 26	Big Merigo, <i>Pict.</i>	4	KJM
Jun 5	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	2	JAH	White-winged Scoter			
Jul 10	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	15	JAH	Jun 26	Western Head, <i>Queens</i>	2	ELM
Mallard				Jul 1	Pond Cove, Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1m	ELM
Jun 5	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	27	JAH	Jul 11	Evangeline Beach, <i>Kings</i>	9	JWW
Jun 9	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	9	DMW	Jul 17	Scenic Loop, <i>Inv.</i>	36	Peder Svingen
Jun 13	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	2+6 juv	JWW	Black Scoter			
Jun 22	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	3	KFS	Jun 21	Keji Park, <i>Anna.</i>	2	Robert Scranton
Jul 10	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	22	JAH	Jun 28	Walton Light, <i>Hants</i>	12	HAT
Jul 22	Stella's Pond, New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	46	JCT	Jul 15	Point Aconi, <i>CBRM</i>	2	Peder Svingen
Blue-winged teal				Jul 16	Western Point, <i>Queens</i>	12m	ELM
Jun 5	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	7	JAH	Jul 17	Scenic Loop, <i>Inv.</i>	1	Peder Svingen
Jun 17	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	Kevin Lantz	Jul 31	Western Point, <i>Queens</i>	1m	ELM
Northern Shoveler				Bufflehead			
Jun 5	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	2	JAH	Jul 10	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	1f	JAH
Jun 17	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	7	Kevin Lantz	Common Goldeneye			
Northern Pintail				Jun 4	Uisege Ban Falls, Baddeck	1	Nigel Jackett
Jun 5	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	8	JAH	Jul 14	Chignecto, <i>Cum.</i>	1	Sei Tokuda
Jul 10	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	2	JAH	Common Merganser			
Green-winged Teal				Jun 26	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Jun 5	Fort Hood, <i>Inv.</i>	6	RBS	Jul 6	Morien Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	5	Peder Svingen
Jul 10	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	2	JAH	Jul 16	Merigomish, <i>Pict.</i>	10	KJM
Jul 22	Stella's Pond, New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	a few	JCT	Jul 31	Clearland, Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Jul 22	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	2f	KFS	Red-breasted Merganser			
Ring-necked Duck				Jun 5	Lawrencetown Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	Tony Chubbs
Jun 5	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	26	JAH	Jul 31	Clearland, Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH

Galliformes

By Wayne P. Neily

With the end of the Atlas field work last year, we have few records available on which to base any population trends. Some interesting reports, as given below, may help with any multi-year or regional analyses. Number of reports received is in parentheses by the species name. They were from all parts of the mainland, but only one from Cape Breton Island.

Gray Partridge (1)

This partridge barely clings to survival in the province with only one report, a pair in the Truro area.

Jul 20	NSAC, Bible Hill, <i>Col.</i>	2	Linda Hall; "saw two rush by ... Rock Garden building".
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Ring-necked Pheasant (12)

The Ring-necked Pheasant population seems stable; records show it from Digby county through the Valley to Halifax and Cumberland counties. The perching behaviour of one report is seldom seen in this species.

Jun 1	Salt Marsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	1	Marty Zelenietz
Jun 5	Folly Mtn./ Wentworth, <i>Col.</i>	1	JRH
Jun 15	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	1	Zachary Deutsch
Jun 18	Salt Marsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	1	Nigel Jackett; "sitting on a wooden fence."

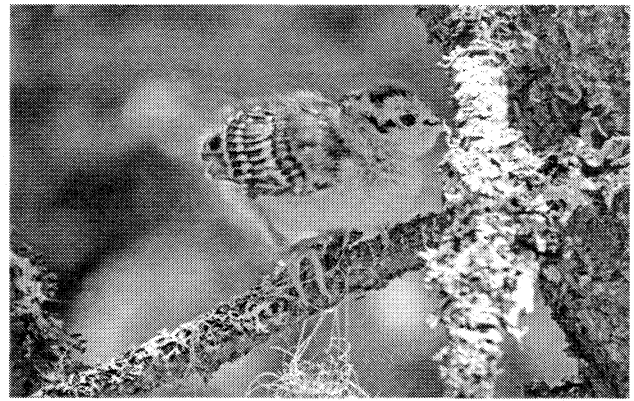
Jul 5	Amherst, <i>Cumb.</i>	4	Kim Eckert, Peder Svingen, and group
Jul 9	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1	RBS
Jul 27	Peggy's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	7	Tyler Bell

Ruffed Grouse (9)

The gradual decline of this species shown by BBS results in NS has made it difficult to detect the 10-year cycle here; the wet, cool, spring may have delayed a recovery that should have started by now (or is it loss of habitat to clear-cutting?).

Jun 3	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	2	WPN
Jun 6	Vincent's Lake, <i>Ant.</i>	1	KJM
Jun 21	Kejimikujik NP, <i>Ann.</i>	6	Robert Scranton
Jun 30	Shelburne/Welshtown BBS, <i>Shel.</i>	3	JRH
Jun 30	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1 ad. + 1 juv.	KFS

Jul 17	Five Islands-Economy area, <i>Col.</i>	1	JRH
Spruce Grouse (4)			
Scarce but widespread in suitable habitat, its records are all listed.			
May 31	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1 male	KFS
Jun 24	Methals L, <i>Kings</i>	1 f.. + 3 juv.	Rick Whitman, & Bernie Forsythe
Jul ?	Port Howe, <i>Cumb.</i>	1 f.. +12 "in front yard"	VIR
Jul 31	Skyline Trail, CBHNP, <i>Inv.</i>	1m.	Ron Erwin



The photographer came across this SPRUCE GROUSE chick on Wolfes I., *HRM*. Oddly, a male was attending the brood; they're usually not such good fathers. [Photo Chris Pepper]

Loons through Grebes

By John Belbin

RBS had an unusual view of five individual **Red Throated Loons** in full breeding plumage during a trip to Port George in late July. They are seldom seen in Nova Scotia during the summer months.

The COMMON LOONS found at Queensland Beaches in late July were all still in breeding plumages. The juvenile reported at Sandy Bottom Lake was the first for several years. There were several other reports of breeding success. The PIED-BILLED GREBES noted in Egerton, *Pictou* also had young with them.

Red-throated Loon

Jun 28	Walton Light, <i>Hants</i>	2	HAT
Jul 25	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	5	RBS

Common Loon

Jun 11	Maitland, <i>Lun.</i>	1+ juv	JAH
Jul	Sandy Bottom L. <i>Anna.</i>	2+1 juv	MCR
Jul 5	Mill L. <i>HRM</i>	2+2 juv	Kevin Lantz
Jul 10	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JAH
Jul 25	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	1	RBS
Jul 26	Big Merigo, <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM

Jul 27	Peggy's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	6	Tyler Bell
Jul 28	Queensland Beaches, <i>HRM</i>	8	PMU
Jul 31	Clearland, Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Pied-billed Grebe			
Jun 5	Amherst Point, <i>Cumb.</i>	15	JAH
Jul 16	Miners Marsh, Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1	AND
Jul 10	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JAH
Jul 16	Egerton, <i>Pict.</i>	4	KJM

Tubenoses through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

This summer IAM had the unusual opportunity to visit the NE Scotian Shelf area, including Banquereau and Sable Island. There were no exotic sightings, but N. FULMARS were abundant, along with the two common shearwaters although only a single MANX SHEARWATER. He also found a lone **CORY'S SHEARWATER**, a species of the slope water at the edge of the continental shelf, perhaps a forerunner of numbers seen inshore during the early fall, to be reported in another issue. FULMARS appeared in early summer in the Bay of Fundy, as they do, unpredictably some years, responding to some biotic factor like food supply or its absence in their breeding areas.

Along with Fulmars in the outer Bay of Fundy, observers noted significant numbers of both the common shearwaters, although SOOTY SHEARWATERS soon declined relative to the more abundant GREAT SHEARWATERS. At times, WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS were unusually abundant, probably reflecting the abundance of their copepod food. A LEACH'S STORM-PETREL in Northumberland Strait in mid July was unusual for mid summer.

The presence of a juvenile GREAT CORMORANT on the cliffs of Brier Island during the second week of June indicated nesting, once again, of this scarce breeder in the extreme west of the province, if not on Brier Island then on the St. Mary's Bay shore of Long Island and Digby Neck.

Northern Fulmar

(Including summary of reports from e-Bird)

Jun 28	N end of Banquereau	40	IAM
Mid Jul	Several reports from ferry to Port-aux-Basques, NL		
Jul 20	Off Brier I.	20	ELM
Jul 23	Off Brier I.	10	ELM

CORY'S SHEARWATER

Jun 28	N end of Banquereau	1	IAM
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Great Shearwater

(Including summary of reports from e-Bird)

Jun 27	Digby-St. John ferry	6	Nigel Jackett
Jun 28	N end of Banquereau	ca. 220	IAM
Jul 17	20 mi. SE Halifax	"Many"	Art Gaetan, <i>fide</i> DAC
Jul 20	Off Brier I.	ca. 250	ELM
Jul 23	Off Brier I.	ca. 300	ELM
Jul 31	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	25	ELM

Sooty Shearwater

(Including summary of reports from e-Bird)

Jun 5	N end Ciboux I., <i>Vic.</i>	1	NSBS
Jun 10	Off Northern Pt., Brier I.	1	ELM
27 Jun	Digby-St. John ferry	2	Nigel Jackett
Jun 28	N end of Banquereau	30	IAM
Jul 20	Off Brier I.	10	ELM
Jul 23	Off Brier I.	6	ELM

Manx Shearwater

Jun 28	N end of Banquereau	1	IAM
Jul 17	20 mi. SE of Halifax	1	Art Gaetan, <i>fide</i> DAC
Jul 20	Off Brier I.	1	ELM
Jul 23	Off Brier I.	1	ELM

Wilson's Storm-Petrel

(Including summary of reports from e-Bird)

Jun 27	Digby-St. John ferry	2	Nigel Jackett
Jul 14	Several reports from ferry to Port-aux-Basques, NL		
Jul 15	E side Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	Anne Doull, <i>fide</i> DOU

Jul 20	Off Brier I.	ca. 300	ELM
Jul 23	Off Brier I.	200+	ELM

Leach's Storm-Petrel

(Including summary of reports from e-Bird)

Jul 14	Several reports from ferry to Port-aux-Basques, NL		
Jul 16	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	10	KJM, Charlie Kendell

Northern Gannet

(Including summary of reports from e-Bird)

Jun 10	Off Northern Pt., Brier I.	4 imm.	ELM
Jun 11	Brier I.	20 imm.	ELM
Jun 26	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	3 imm.	ELM
Late Jun - mid Jul	Numerous records from <i>Inv.</i> and <i>Vic.</i>		
Jul 1	Northern Pt., Brier I.	15 imm.	ELM
Jul 6	Doctors Brk., <i>Ant.</i>	75	JOK
Jul 10	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	300	Terry Boswell
Jul 14	Baccaro Point, <i>Shel.</i>	"large flock"	Rachel Hoogenbos
Jul 16	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	ca. 30 imm.	ELM
ca. Jul 16	Canso Causeway, <i>Inv.</i>	25-30 ad.	David Johnston
Jul 20	Off Brier I.	ca. 25 imm.	ELM
Jul 23	Off Brier I.	20+	ELM
Jul 24	Off Rockdale Bch., <i>Rich.</i>	"hundreds"	BID
Jul 31	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	ca. 30, mainly imm.	ELM

Double-Crested Cormorant

(Including summary of reports from e-Bird)

Jun - Jul	numerous reports from throughout the province.		
Jun 9	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	2	DOW
Jul 9	Brier I.	300	RBS
Jul 20	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	50	DOW

Great Cormorant

(Including summary of reports from e-Bird)

About 8 reports in June-Jul, mainly from *CBRM*, *Inv.* and *Vic.*

Jun 10	Grand Passage, Brier I.	1 juv.	ELM
Jul 31	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	1 imm., 1 juv.	ELM

Hérons

By Ulli Höger

GREAT BLUE HERONS were a common sight after their return in Spring. The only "rare" bird reported in this section was an adult **YELLOW-CROWNED-NIGHT-HERON**. We get one or two reports for this species every year, but most of those are juveniles that show up in late summer or early fall after leaving their parents. Sightings of adults are even rarer!

American Bittern

May 8	Apple River, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 28, 29	Middlewood Railway Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	2	SJF
Jun 5	Amherst Point, <i>Cum.</i>	3	JAH, DAW
Jun 19, Jul 3	Apple River, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS

Great Blue Heron

All season common in suitable habitat frequently reported

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Jun 5 - 9	Rocky Run, <i>HRM</i>	1 adult	var. obs.
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Oddly, the **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** (this one June 5 at Rocky Run, *HRM*) is more commonly seen in Nova Scotia than the **BLACK-CROWNED**, although only the latter breeds in Shelburne and Yarmouth. [Photo Paul Murray]

Diurnal Raptors

By Wayne P. Neily

With the end of atlas last year, the numbers of reports of raptors in summer of 2011 was down, but nearly all of our rarer species were observed. Numbers of reports are given in parentheses after each species name, with representative records. All reports are appreciated and contribute to the analysis, whether the record is printed or not. Unfortunately, many of the rarities lack details (especially descriptions) that would allow them to be considered as confirmed records. Highlights are detailed below by species and include the first confirmed **breeding of Turkey Vulture**, and new reports of **Black Vulture**, **Swallow-tailed Kite**, and **Golden Eagle**.

All the regular species were present, but, except for Osprey and Bald Eagle, with very few reports. Whether this is just a post-Atlas letdown of effort, or a real decline, will need more seasons to detect.

BLACK VULTURE (1)

This is the only NS report this season; John noted the white wing-tips and distinctive flight as they flew over from WNW to SE. There were two records in early July in New Brunswick, including one in Dorchester, but this was probably different. as both of those were singles.

Jul 25 over home in Windsor area, *Hants* 2 John Robertson

Turkey Vulture (11)

As reported in the last NS Birds [53 (3): 33-34], the long-anticipated first confirmed nesting in Nova Scotia occurred this summer at the Lake Major Water Supply Plant, *HRM*. Three young flying with the pair of adults were seen there in early July by Watershed Manager Barry Geddes and other water plant staff, and later that month SMB and IAM found the apparent nest site. Workers there and SMB and TEB had observed the species in the vicinity in 2010, and this was likely the home base of the pair seen by AGH in the square to the north that provided our highest breeding evidence for the Atlas. It was also likely the source of the pair seen this year by Ron Gallant (see below). Other records were scattered, and suggest Advocate as a possible breeding site to be checked.

Jun 9 - 11 Brier I., *Digby* 2-3 ELM
 Jun 14 near Advocate, *Cumb.* 2 KFS
 "in woods."
 Jun 17 Belleisle Marsh, *Anna.* 1 KEL
 Jul 10 Bedford area, *HRM* 2 Ron Gallant
 "flying low over Rocky Lake Dr. (near a dead raccoon)."
 Jul 6 Westville, *Pict.* 1+ Peder Svingen
 Jul 13 Advocate, *Cumb.* 2+ KFS
 Jul 27 Apple River, *Cumb.* 1 KFS

Osprey (36)

One or two observers reported local declines, but the total reports were widespread except from the SW corner of the province, and almost equal to those of the eagles in number. One of these provides an early fledging date, and another an interesting interspecific behaviour, possibly of ravens scavenging in an active Osprey nest.

Jun 4 Along Hwy. 105, *Inv.* 1 Nigel Jackett
 Jun 11 Sackville River Trail, *HRM* 3 Donald
 McLaughlin;
 2 adults, 1 flying young,
 begging
 Jun 17 Belleisle Marsh, *Anna.* 1 KEL
 Jun 18 Fletcher's Lake, *HRM* 3 Billy Digout
 "nest in a transmission tower"
 had 2 ravens land in it,
 squawking; "after they left an
 adult Osprey came to the nest
 with a fish and an immature's
 head popped up."
 Jun 21 Kejimikujik NP 2 Robert
 Scranton
 Jun 26 Bedford-Dartmouth area 7 ULH;
 at four active nests; 1 juv. in
 nest at Bedford Wal-Mart
 Jul 2 Lilydale - Centre area, *Lun.* 2 JRH
 Jul 5 Amherst Marsh, *Cumb.* 1 Peder Svingen,
 Kim R. Eckert,
 et al.

Jul 6 Port Morien, *CBRM* 1 Peder Svingen,
 Kim R. Eckert,
 et al.
 Jul 10 McCormick's Beach, *HRM* 4 TEB
 Jul 12 CBHNP (east), *Vict.* 1 Anita Tully
 Jul 14 Salt Marsh Trail, *HRM* 3-5 MAZ
 "fishing"
 Jul 16 Merigomish, *Pict.* 1 KJM
 Jul 17 Salem Marsh, *Hants* 3 TEB
 Jul 31 Mahone Bay, *Lun.* 2 JRH

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (2)

For the third year in a row, at least one Swallow-tailed Kite has visited N.S., this time seen twice. There were at least two in the Maritimes this summer, seen and photographed together at Hammond River, N.B., by Jim Wilson on June 4. One was seen July 15 near Norton, N.B.; perhaps the other was our visitor. Neither of these N.S. records had confirming details (descriptions).

Jul 2 Brooklyn, *Queens* 1 Allan Smith
 "circling around my property."
 Jul 5, 6 East side, Martin's River, *Lun.* 1 Donna & Alan
 Rowlands
 "was perching in trees near
 river and ... harassed by crows."

Bald Eagle (39)

This was the most reported species this season, from all parts of the province; even allowing for its greater visibility, it has become one of our commonest raptors. The Shubenacadie River has long been known as a major winter concentration area for them, and the June 5 record indicates that this is also true in summer.

Jun 1 Gulliver's Cove, *Digby* 1 ad. WPN
 Jun 2 Big Bras d'Or, *Vict.* 1+ Raymond
 Edwards
 Jun 5 Shubenacadie, *Col.* 33 JRH, DAW
 Jun 6 Merigomish, *Pict.* 1+ KJM
 Jun 16 NW Lake Egmont, *HRM* 2 Darrell Abolit
 new nest in a pine, "pretty sure
 they have young."
 Jun 25 Gaspereau, *Kings* 2 TEB
 also 2 at Starr's Point.
 Jul 5 Amherst marsh, *Cumb.* 1 Peder Svingen,
 Kim R. Eckert,
 et al.

(one of 8+ reports from the east half of NS by this Minnesota Birding Weeks tour)

Jul 15 Point Aconi area, *CBRM* 1+ Peder Svingen,
 et al.
 Jul 16 Big Island, *Pict.* 4 KJM
 Jul 17 Shubenacadie track, *Hants* 1 TEB
 Jul 17 Five Islands-Economy, *Col.* 8 JRH
 Jul 21 Sight Point, *Inv.* 1 Liz
 Markiewicz
 Jul 31 Mahone Bay, *Lun.* 1 JRH

Northern Harrier(13)

Fairly common from Pictou and Amherst to Digby Co., but with few records from Cape Breton I. and none from the South or Eastern Shores.

Jun 5 Amherst Point BS, *Cumb.* 2 JRH
 Jun 16 Gulliver's Cove, *Digby* 1m. WPN
 Jun 17 Belleisle Marsh, *Anna.* 1 KEL

Jun 25	Starr's Point, <i>Kings</i>	1	TEB
Jul 15	Margaree Valley, <i>Inv.</i>	1	Peder Svingen
Jul 16	Big Island, <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM & Charlie Kendall

"over big salt marsh."

Jul 17	Five Islands-Economy area, <i>Col.</i>	1	JRH
Jul 26	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM

Sharp-shinned Hawk (4)

Secretive as usual in summer – only four scattered records, all from the mainland.

Jun 5	Chester, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JRH
Jun 7	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
Jun 28	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	1	WPN
Jul	White Point, <i>Queens</i>	1	Margaret Millard

Northern Goshawk (2)

Very scarce and secretive, as usual.

Jun 19	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	Lois Codling; it "flew out of the woods behind our house."
Late June	Big Island, <i>Pict.</i>	1	Ann Doull "perching on a pole at east end of island."

Broad-winged Hawk (7)

This Buteo was reported only from the South Shore to Cumberland County and seemed absent from the Valley and eastern N. S.

Jun 5	Five Island Lake, <i>HRM</i>	1	KEM
Jun 8	Apple River area, <i>Cumb.</i>	2	KFS
		also 1 on Jun 10	
Jun 10	Along Hwy. 103, <i>HRM</i>	1	KEL
Jun 18	Herbert River Trail, <i>Hants</i>	1	RBS
Jun 22	Jordan Falls area, <i>Shel.</i>	2	Nigel Jackett & Jaime Hall

(This was species 139 on their cross-Canada bicycling birdathon to raise funds for Pacific rainforest conservation.)

Jun 22	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	1	Nigel Jackett & Jaime Hall one "feeding on a rodent at the top of a snag."
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Red-tailed Hawk (10)

Last year's commonest raptor showed the greatest reduction in reports this year, it was widely reported from the north half of the province, but was apparently absent from the Atlantic coast side.

Jun 1	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	4	WPN moving from W to E along S side of North Mtn.
Jun 3	Baddeck to North Sydney, <i>Vict.</i>	2	Nigel Jackett
Jun 5	Nappan, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	JRH
Jun 19	Shubenacadie track, <i>Hants</i>	1	TEB
Jun 25	Gaspereau Valley, <i>Kings</i>	1	TEB
Jul 6	St. Ann's Lookoff, <i>Vict.</i>	1	Peder Svingen

Golden Eagle (1)

Jun 5	CBHNP	1 ad.	Michael & Anne Britton – no other information available
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American Kestrel (9)

A few scattered records, mainly in agricultural and settled areas.

Jun 10	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1	ELM
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Jun 17	Pictou Lodge, <i>Pict.</i>	1+	"female arrived." MAZ
Jul 6	Along Hwy. 125, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Peder Svingen
Jul 6	Along Hwy. 104, <i>Col.</i>	2	Peder Svingen
		at 2 locations	
Jul 10	Nine-Mile River area, <i>Hants</i>	1	TEB
Jul 18	Melvorn Square, <i>Anna.</i>	1	Patrick & Barbara Giffin

Merlin (5)

Surprisingly few reports, but from around the mainland except the southwest.

Jun 5	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	1	Nelson & Pat Poirier at Chimney Swift watch
Jul 4	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	Paul McKinley
Jul 17	Five-Islands - Economy, <i>Col.</i>	1	JRH
Jul 23	Crystal Crescent PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	Bob McDonald
Jul 26	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM

Peregrine Falcon (2)

No reports this season from the known breeding sites.

Jun 12	Nine Mile River area, <i>Hants</i>	1	TEB
Jul 6	Near Canso Causeway, <i>Inv.</i>	1	Peder Svingen



The PEREGRINE FALCON is now a familiar sight in summer on the shores of the Bay of Fundy, and they do nest on our side. But this eyrie, with attendant adults, was easily accessible for long-lens photography on June 25 on the New Brunswick side of the bay. [Photo Richard Stern]

(Gyrfalcon (1))

An unconfirmed report of a species that should be far to the north at this season.

Jul 26	Clifton, <i>Col.</i>	1	Gary Rutherford; – details needed.
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Rails and Cranes

By Ulli Höger

As usual the summer season is not only a short time period, it is also the one with the lowest reports during the year. Most rails were reported as "heard", not surprising giving their complex, inaccessible habitat and secretive nature, only few SORA and COMMON MOORHEN showed themselves to observers. SANDHILL CRANES sightings seem to become more frequent in our province. Looking back we had in recent years reports ranging from individuals to smaller groups, and not only during migration time. The sighting of NORTHERN BOBWHITES in Nova Scotia is rare and this is good news. As Larry Bogan speculated in his sighting report the two individuals he flushed were almost certainly recently released game birds. Over the years we had few reports, often from the Valley, but it seems that this species has been unable to establish even local self-sustained

populations. The GRAY PARTRIDGES of Bible Hill are a different story. Here, at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, this non-native species has established a small, self sustained local population. For those who care, by now it should be tickable following ABA rules.

Virginia Rail				Gray Partridge			
May 27, Jun 3	Apple River, <i>Cum.</i>	1 heard	KFS	Jul 20	Bible Hill (NSAC), <i>Col.</i>	2	LHA
Sora				Ring-necked Pheasant			
Jun 5	Amherst Point, <i>Cum.</i>	8	JAH, DAW	All season	common in suitable habitat	frequently reported	
Jun 6	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	3	James Churchill	Ruffed Grouse			
Jun 22	Apple River, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	All season	Apple River, <i>Cum.</i>	several	KFS
Jul 10	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2	JAH	Jun 28	Advocate, <i>Cum.</i>	family group	KFS
Common Moorhen				Spruce Grouse			
Jun - Jul	Haliburton Farms, <i>Kings</i>	2	Dick Halliburton	May 2, May 17,			
Sandhill Crane				May 31	Apple River, <i>Cum.</i>	1 male	KFS
Early Jun	E. Noel, <i>Hants</i>	2	Trevor Reimer	Jun 24	Methals Lke, <i>Kings</i>	family group	Rick Whitman, BLF
Jun 25	Scotsburn, <i>Pic.</i>	4	Kay Wilson, Ray Strickland	Northern Bobwhite			
				Jul 16	Cambridge, <i>Kings</i>	2	Larry Bogan

Shorebirds

By Susann Myers

Late spring migrants continued to be seen into early June, and summering immatures were reported in their usual small numbers. Foggy conditions and an unusually rainy summer were challenging for shorebird enthusiasts, and probably contributed to the dearth of reports this season. The southward "fall" migration began in June and July, with roughly half of species appearing about one week later than average. Many species were also reported in unusually low numbers, suggesting a delayed breeding season in the north.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS were found in very low numbers, with only four returning migrants reported, compared to a typical seasonal total of 40 or more. Roughly average numbers of SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS were seen, but with no reports from CSI, which usually hosts the largest flocks of early migrants.

PIPING PLOVERS were reported in average numbers from established South Shore locations, but Sue Abbott of BSC noted June 2 that no breeders had been found at any HRM-area beach this year. This is a substantial change from recent years when over 10 chicks have fledged annually at Martinique Beach, and a pair has nested successfully at Conrad Beach. Four pairs of AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS were found by JON nesting in their usual locations at CSI, in their 12th consecutive breeding season there. Another pair was once again seen at Sand Hills Beach, suggesting that another breeding location has been established in Shelburne Co.

The seasonal total of nine SOLITARY SANDPIPERS was well above the average of three to four. The migration of adult WILLETS leaving their NS breeding grounds peaked in mid-July on the Eastern shore, and a week later on the South shore. HUDSONIAN GODWITS were reported in very low numbers (only three singles), with none of the usual groupings at favoured sites.

A first-summer WESTERN SANDPIPER roosting with dowitchers July 3 at Three Fathom Harbour was identified on the basis of its size (slightly larger than nearby Least Sandpipers), large square-shaped head and long bill, heavy at the base and with a pronounced droop at the tip. The previous week, a RUFF at the same location had provided another thrill. This was an adult male in moulting breeding plumage and still sported a partial black ruff and head tufts, long black feathers on breast and belly, and rufous upperparts barred with black.

Good numbers of returning SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS were reported, although flocks appeared roughly one week later than average and the migration was very gradual, without the large peaks typically seen in July. Roughly 25% of birds in early flocks at Three Fathom Harbour were the *hendersoni* sub-species, and *hendersoni* continued to be seen in good numbers to the end of July.

HAT had the great pleasure of seeing a male RED PHALAROPE



A "grounded" RED PHALAROPE did not seem to be in distress at Sandy Cove, HRM, on June 6. [Photo Hans Toom]

close-up at Sandy Cove June 5 and 6. Although common transients, Red Phalaropes move through rapidly offshore in late May, and are seldom seen from land. ELM noted that the first returning migrants he found off Brier I. July 20 were nearly all adults, and had arrived since July 18.

small shorebird species

Jul 18	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	500+	JWW
Jul 24	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	ca. 3000	JWW
Jul 25	Fuller's Bridge, <i>Rich.</i>	ca. 200	BID

Black-bellied Plover

Jun 1	Wolfville sewage ponds 12	R. Whitman	
Jun 4	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	5 ad., 3 imm.	JSC
Jun 10	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1 ad., 1 imm.	ELM
Jun 22, 30	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	2 imm; 1 ad.	SJF
Jul 7 - 29	3 mainland locations	singles	var. obs.

Semipalmated Plover

Jul 16 - 29	3 locations, widespread	32 total	var. obs.
Jul 16, 25	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	51, 120	SEM
Jul 21, 23	Pond Cove, Brier I.	29, 50	ELM, AHM
Jul 22, 27	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	22, 126	SJF
Jul 24	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	263	SEM

Piping Plover

Jun 2	Sand Hills Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	5	RMC
Jun 7, 22	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1, 4	SJF
Jun 8	Malagash, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	K. Anderson
Jun 22	South Side Bch., <i>CSI</i>	1	BJS, SIS
Jun 23	Black Pt. Bch., <i>Pict.</i>	1	J. & M. Alcorn
Jul 1	Baccaro/Crow Neck, <i>Shel.</i>	several	BJS, SIS
Jul 9	Sand Hills Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	several groups, 1 juv.	BJS, SIS

Jul 22, 27	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	4 ad., 2 ad.	SJF
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Killdeer

Jun 6	Antigonish, <i>Ant.</i>	2	N. Jackett
Jun 8	Middle Dyke Rd., <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
Jul 24	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	1	SEM

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

Jun - Jul	<i>CSI</i>	4 pr.	Jon
Jul 9	Sand Hills Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	2	BJS, SIS

Spotted Sandpiper

Jun	widespread	12 total	var. obs.
Jul	widespread	8 total	var. obs.
Jul 22, 23	River Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	1 ad., 1 juv.	RIV, M. Viau

Solitary Sandpiper

Jul 16, 31	Brooklyn, <i>Queens</i>	1 ad., 4 ad.	ELM
Jul 21	Cape North, <i>Vic.</i>	3	FMC
Jul 31	Shubenacadie, <i>Col.</i>	2	CHP, K. Steele

Greater Yellowlegs

Jun 26	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	2	SEM
Jul	10 mainland locations	23 total	var. obs.
Jul 3, 10	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	14, 29	SEM
Jul 6	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	12	P. Svingen
Jul 24	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	61	SEM
Jul 25	Fuller's Bridge, <i>Rich.</i>	ca. 24	BID
Jul 31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	5	RBS

Willet

Jun 1 - 10	3 mainland locations	4 total	var. obs.
Jun 4	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	6	BJS, SIS
Jun 12	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	5	SEM
Jun 21	South Side, <i>CSI</i>	2 ad., 4 juv.	RAH
Jun 24	Lwr. W. Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	10	N. Jackett
Jun 27	Oxner's Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	9	KEL
Jul	6 sites, widespread	32 total	var. obs.
Jul 3	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	18 ad., 3 juv.	SEM
Jul 9	Sand Hills Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	12	BJS, SIS
Jul 10, 16	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	43, 49 ad.	SEM
Jul 17, 24	Kingsburg Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	15, 5	KEL
Jul 22, 27	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	47, 15	SJF
Jul 24	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	62	SEM
Jul 25	Fuller's Bridge, <i>Rich.</i>	10	BID
Jul 25	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	12 ad., 2 juv.	SEM
Jul 29	Fox Hbr., <i>Cumb.</i>	29	PMC, SEM

Lesser Yellowlegs

Jul 3, 16	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	32, 19	SEM
Jul 9 - 31	7 sites, widespread	40 total	var. obs.
Jul 16, 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	62, 44	KJM, CHK

Jul 17	Kingsburg Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	12	KEL
Jul 24	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	15	KEL
Jul 24	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	12	SEM

Whimbrel

Jul 6 - 27	6 mainland locations	16 total	var. obs.
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Hudsonian Godwit

Jul 6	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	P. Svingen
Jul 11	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	1	JON, DOU
Jul 27	Peggy's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	T. Bell

Ruddy Turnstone

Jun 22	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1 basic	SJF
Jul 23	off Brier I.	1	ELM
Jul 25	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	5	SEM
Jul 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Jul 31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	10	RBS
Jul 31	Kingsburg Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	15	KEL

Red Knot

Jun 23	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	6, some alt.	N. Jackett
Jul 24	Cole Hbr. Trail, <i>HRM</i>	3 alt.	SEM
Jul 31	Kingsburg Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	KEL

Sanderling

Jul 1	Baccaro Pt./Crow Neck, <i>Shel.</i>	1, alt.	BJS, SIS
Jul 21, 23	Pond Cove, Brier I.	10 ad., 2 ad.	ELM, AHM
Jul 22, 27	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	11, 12	SJF

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Jun 11	Pond Cove, Brier I.	3 ad.	ELM
Jul 7	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
Jul 16, 25	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	9, 41	SEM
Jul 21	Pond Cove, Brier I.	ca. 100	ELM, AHM
Jul 22, 27	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	80, 48	SJF
Jul 24	Pond Cove, Brier I.	ca. 1000	ELM
Jul 24	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	487	SEM
Jul 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	121	KJM



This SPOTTED SANDPIPER, Aug. 3 on Brier I, seemed to be letting the photographer know that there were young hiding nearby. [Photo Richard Stern]

WESTERN SANDPIPER

Jul 10	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1, 1st summer	SEM
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Least Sandpiper

Jul 7 - 26	5 mainland locations	11 total	var. obs.
Jul 9	Sand Hills Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	7	BJS, SIS
Jul 16	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	ca. 25	KEL
Jul 21, 23	Pond Cove, Brier I.	20 ad., 50 ad.	ELM
Jul 22, 27	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	8, 23	SJF
Jul 24	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	12	SEM

White-rumped Sandpiper

Jul 23	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM
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Pectoral Sandpiper

Jul 31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1	RBS
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RUFF				
Jul 3	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1 m.	SEM	
Stilt Sandpiper				
Jul 18	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK	
Jul 31	Hell Pt., <i>Lun.</i>	1	DAW, JAH	
dowitcher species				
Jul 12	Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary	1	JAH	
Short-billed Dowitcher				
Jun 22	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1 alt.	SJF	
Jun 30	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1 basic	SJF	
Jul 3	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	125	SEM	
Jul 7, 22	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	15, 52	SJF	
Jul 9	Sand Hills Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	ca. 105	BJS, SIS	
Jul 9	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	500	CST	
Jul 10	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	565	IAM, SEM	

Jul 16, 23	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	198, 77	SEM
Jul 24	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	263	SEM
Jul 24	Pond Cove, Brier I.	ca. 50	ELM
Jul 24	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	39	KEL
Jul 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	47	KJM
Wilson's Snipe			
Jun - Jul	7 mainland locations	singles	var. obs.
American Woodcock			
Jun 11	Hardwood Lands, <i>Hants</i>	2 juv.	DOU
Jul 1	Baxter's Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
Red-necked Phalarope			
Jul 20	off Brier I.	ca. 6	ELM
Red Phalarope			
Jun 5, 6	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 m.	HAT
Jul 20	off Brier I.	ca. 300	ELM

Gulls through Alcids

By Eric Mills

An adult **FRANKLIN'S GULL**, reported without details, would be unusual at any time of year, but was doubly so in early June. Only one **LAUGHING GULL** was noted, at the end of May, but none from the summer season (June-July) itself. The first returning **BONAPARTE'S GULLS**, possibly non-breeders appeared in their usual haunts along the Northumberland Strait shore in mid July. So far no details are available of a **RING-BILLED GULL** nest somewhere on the North Shore of the province. To date, the only known nesting of this species was in CBI during the 1980s. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS** at widely-separated locations (E Cape Breton and Dartmouth) in early June were just two more occurrences of this now regular but puzzling non-breeder in North America. A very late **GLAUCOUS GULL** was in *HRM* in early June, and in Cape Breton, the Murrants noted that one first-summer bird detected in late May was still present in Glace Bay in mid July.

A **CASPIAN TERN**, present in *HRM* on June 6 - 7, seems to have been the first of an unusual number of occurrences of this species during summer and fall this year, documented more fully in next season's report.

The first **SOUTH POLAR SKUA** of the season was found by IAM on Banquereau, June 28, giving some information about when this Antarctic breeder begins its summer stay in the North Atlantic. A lone **LONG-TAILED JAEGER** (along with the two common jaegers) was photographed on July 17, an early date, from a shark-fishing boat well south of Halifax.



SOUTH POLAR SKUA is routine in summer, but it pays to go well offshore. This one was "ticked" by all the birding passengers when it came to "chum" from a small cruise vessel at the N. tip of Banquereau Bank on June 28. [Photo Isabelle Groc]

RBS was surprised to find the image of a **COMMON MURRE** among the Razorbills he photographed on Ciboux, one of the Bird Islands, *Vic.*, during a birding tour by Nature Nova Scotia members on June 5. Not one of the birders scanning the shorelines on the first trip had seen the murre. Tour group members reported three on the island a few weeks later. This species has not been known to breed on the Bird Islands for many years. The presence on Green Island, off the west side of *CSI*, of 30 adult **ATLANTIC PUFFINS** in June strongly suggests that breeding is taking place there, as it does on one or two small islands closer to Yarmouth.

FRANKLIN'S GULL				
Jun 4	Dan's Hd., <i>CSI</i>	1 ad., no details	JON, SAN	
Laughing Gull				
May 30	Cole Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	1 adult, ph.	MAZ	
Bonaparte's Gull				
Jul 16	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	15	KJM, Charlie Kendell	
Jul 18	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3	DOU	
Jul 24	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM	
Jul 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	
Jul 20	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DOW	
Black-headed Gull				
Jul 24	Conrads Bch, <i>HRM</i>	1	Terry Boswell	
Ring-billed Gull (Including summary of reports from e-Bird)				

Jun - Jul	Numerous reports of low numbers from throughout the province.		
Jun 3 - Jul 11	Birch Cove, Halifax	1-5	MAZ
late Jun	N. Shore, N. S.	nest	Andrew Boyne
Jul 16	Liverpool, <i>Queens</i>	1 nr adult	ELM
Lesser Black-backed Gull			
Jun 7	Neils Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	1 ad. <i>graelisii</i> , ph.	Sam Fried
Jun 23 - 29	Dartmouth Crossing	1 ad., ph.	BBU, KEL
Glaucous Gull			
Jun 6	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
Jul 18	(since May 22) Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1, 1st-summer	ALM, CAM
Black-legged Kittiwake (Including summary of reports from e-Bird)			

Early Jun- mid Jul	A few reports from <i>CBRM, Inv.</i> and <i>Vic.</i>		
Jun 3	Bird Islands, <i>Vic.</i>	200	Raymond Edwards
Caspian Tern			
Jun 6, 7	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
Jul 14	APBS	1	Sei Tokuda, <i>et al.</i>
Roseate Tern			
May 23	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
Jun 24	Lwr. W. Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	6-7	Nigel Jackett
Jul 11	W. Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	?	DOU
Common Tern (Including summary of reports from e-Bird)			
Jun - Jul	Numerous reports of small numbers from throughout the province.		
Jul 7	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	2	DOW
Jul 11	W. Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	?	DOU
Jul 16	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	ca. 25 ad.	ELM
Jul 18	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	60+	DOU
Jul 20	Off Brier I.	4 ad.	ELM
Jul 24	Peters I., Brier I.	22 ad.	ELM
Jul 26	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	2	DOW
Jul 31	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	5 ad.	ELM
Arctic Tern			
Jun 24	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	?	MAZ
	Lwr. W. Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	10	Nigel Jackett
Jul 6	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	5	Kim Eckert, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 11	W. Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	?	DOU
Jul 16	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	RBS
Black Tern			
Jun 5	APBS	5	JAH, DAW, <i>et al.</i>
SOUTH POLAR SKUA			
Jun 28	N end of Banquereau	1, ph.	IAM
Skua sp.			
Jul 10 - 16	20 mi. SE Halifax	seen daily	Art Gaetan, <i>fide</i> DAC
Jul 31	Off Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	1, prob. S. Polar	ELM
Pomarine Jaeger			
Jul 17	20 mi. SE Halifax	1?, ph.	Art Gaetan, <i>fide</i> DAC
Parasitic Jaeger			
Jul 17	20 mi. SE Halifax	1?, ph.	Art Gaetan, <i>fide</i> DAC
LONG-TAILED JAEGER			
Jul 17	20 mi. SE Halifax	1, ph.	Art Gaetan, <i>fide</i> DAC



The LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL is now found year-round, and surely will be nesting here someday. This one was found by a visiting birder June 7 at Neils Hbr., *Vic.* [Photo Sam Fried]

Common Murre			
Jun 5	Ciboux I., <i>Vic.</i>	1 ad.	NSBS
Jul 20	Off Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM
Jul 23	Off Brier I.	2 ad.	ELM
Razorbill			
Jul 1	Northern Pt., Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM
Jul 2	Off Northern Pt., Brier I.	3 flying	ELM
Jul 16	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	1 ad.	ELM
Jul 20	Off Brier I.	8 ad.	ELM
Jul 23	Off Brier I.	2 ad.	ELM
Black Guillemot (Including summary of reports from e-Bird)			
Jun - Jul	Scattered reports of low numbers from throughout the province.		
Jun 10	Brier I.	8	ELM
Jun 23	Green I., <i>Shel.</i>	30 prob. nesting	Nigel Jackett
Jul 24	R. Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	4	RIV, Mike Viau
Atlantic Puffin			
Jun 11	Off Western Light, Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM
Jun 23	Green I., <i>Shel.</i>	30	Nigel Jackett
Jul 14	Ferry to Port-aux-Basques, NL	2	Peder Svingen
Jul 20	Off Brier I.	ca. 25, mainly ad.	ELM
Jul 23	Off Brier I.	8	ELM

Pigeons through Woodpeckers

By Chris Field

This was a fairly quiet season for rarities with the only notable observation being a **White-Winged DOVE** at the feeders of Syd and Betty-June Smith in Villagedale near Barrington on July 12. Bernard Burke reported a black-billed cuckoo outside his computer window on June 29.

Chimney swifts were reported from their usual roosts with maxima of 645 for Temperance St. School (New Glasgow), 183 for Middleton High, 163 for McGowan Lake fish hatchery, 126 for RTNC in Wolfville, 77 for St. Bernard's Church and 65+ for the Upper Falmouth farmhouse. In addition, swifts were reported at several new locations including Mabou, Oxford, Miner's Marsh (Kentville) and Little River Lake (*Kings*).

Mourning Dove			
Jun - Jul	Lawrencetown., <i>HRM</i>	up to 10	DMW
Jun - Jul	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	up to 4	SLH
WHITE-WINGED DOVE			
Jul 12	Villagedale, <i>Shel.</i>	1	S. & B-J. Smith
Black-billed Cuckoo			
Jun 29	Dartmouth, <i>HRM</i>	1	BBU

Yellow-billed Cuckoo			
Jul 10	Bellisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JAH
Great Horned Owl			
Jun 25	Economy, <i>Cumb.</i>	1A/1Im	J. McLaughlin, N. MacLeod
Northern Saw-whet Owl			
Jun 6	CSI	1	L. Symonds

Common Nighthawk

Jun 11, 27	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1, 3	KFS
Jun 13	North R., <i>Col.</i>	6	B. Mills
Jul 12, 27	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
Jul 15	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	2	SLH
Jun 11, 27	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1, 3	KFS

Chimney Swift

Jun - Jul	Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i>	up to 6	MCR
Jun - Jul	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	up to 645	KJM
Jun - Jul	RTNC, <i>Hants</i>	up to 126	var. obs.
Jun 2	St. Bernards, <i>Digby</i>	77	P. Potter
Jun 2 - 16	McGowan L, <i>Queens</i>	up to 163	var. obs.
Jun-Jul	Falmouth, <i>Hants</i>	up to 65	C. Rutledge
Jun 2, 5	Oxford, <i>Cumb.</i>	2	var. obs.
Jun 5	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	3	J. Churchill
Jun 5	Mabou, <i>Inv.</i>	22+	WEM, RSM
Jun 7	Shelburne, <i>Shel.</i>	3	K. Potter
Jun 8	Springhill, <i>Cumb.</i>	6+	CIC
Jun 20	Lunenburg, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
Jun 27	Little River L., <i>Kings</i>	3	R. Whitman

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Jun - Jul	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	10+	KFS
Jun - Jul	Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i>	1 m, 1f	MCR
Jun 1, 17,			
Jul 31	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Jul	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	2m, 2f	SLH

Belted Kingfisher

Jun - Jul	scattered locations	1-2	var. obs.
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Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Jun 5	Wentworth Park, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	JAH, DAW
Jun 16	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Jun 16, Jul 1	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
Jun 30	Welshtown, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH, DPO

Downy Woodpecker

Jun - Jul	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	2	SLH
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Hairy Woodpecker

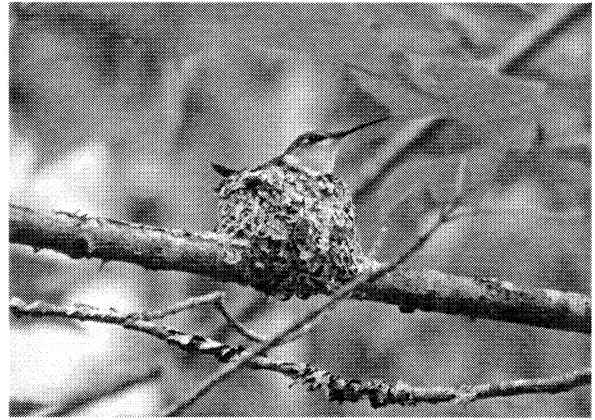
Jun - Jul	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
Jun - Jul	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1m/1f	KFS

Northern Flicker

Jun - Jul	scattered locations	1-2	var. obs.
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Pileated Woodpecker

Jun 5	Stewiacke, <i>Col.</i>	1	JAH, DAW
Jun 14	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
Jun 30	Welshtown, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH, DPO



It takes a sharp eye to spot a tiny RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD on her nest, like this one found July 11, literally above the Trans-Canada Trail near Moshers Lake, *Gufs.* [Photo Rick Whitman]



Lively and noisy young often signal a nest full of NORTHERN FLICKERS, like these ones June 27 at Seabright, *HRM.* Presumably the young are safe from most larger predators. Monkeys might be a problem. [Photo Joanne McCarthy]



This fledged, but fuzzy, GREAT HORNED OWL, June 11 at Hartlen Pt., looks more like a Teddy Bear, unless you glance at the feet and have second thoughts. [Photo Ian McLaren]



You have to be prepared to penetrate thick spruce woods to encounter a nesting BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER, like this found July 1 at Ostrea Lake, *HRM.* A nearly fledged young one obligingly checked out the photographer. [Photo Chris Pepper]

Flycatchers through Thrushes

By Hans Toom

A backyard wedding is a wonderful experience especially on a perfect day. To add to these festivities a WARBLING VIREO provided a serenade and Black-capped Chickadees frolicked at their nest box. Grackles were flying by with food to feed their chattering young. This is perhaps a sign of things to come for the married couple. The backyard for the wedding and the bird report was provided by RBS, July 11.

RBS reported a remarkable gathering of 500+ BANK SWALLOWS, July 28 at the Pt. William's Sewage Pond, *Kings*. Bank Swallows have been diminishing in numbers in recent years so perhaps this is a sign of a comeback.

The EASTERN BLUEBIRD continues to impress with its return in numbers to Nova Scotia with 34 individuals reported during June and July including several successful nest sites. The inbound migration of this species is interesting. Generally most of the mainland hosts this bird but their inbound arrival appears to be from over Tantramar Marsh from New Brunswick and also from the south western area, with half the Brier Island records occurring in June. They nest in the greatest numbers in the counties surrounding the Minas Basin and Cobequid Bay.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Jul 8	Shelburne BBS	1	JAH, DOP
Jun 30	Welshtown, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH, DPO

Eastern Wood Pewee

Jun 2	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1 m	JCT
Jun 10	Brier I.	1	EIM
Jul 8	Shelburne BBS	1	JAH, DOP
Jul 31	Long Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Jul 31	Fauxburg Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH

Alder Flycatcher

Jun 3 - 17	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1 most days	DMW
Jul 8	Shelburne BBS	4	JAH, DOP

Least Flycatcher

Jun 26	E. Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	1	ELM
Jun 28	Newton L., <i>Col.</i>	1	Joelle McLaughlin, Nick MacLeos
Jul 8	Shelburne BBS	8	JAH, DOP

Eastern Phoebe

Jun 5	Wentworth Park., <i>Cum.</i>	1	JAH, DAW
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Great Crested Flycatcher

Jun 1	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	GWT
Jun 5	Park St., Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	pair	AND, Lelia Dean
Jun 7	Forest Hill Rd., Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1	JLC

Eastern Kingbird

Jun 1	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	1	Ken MacAulay
Jun 5	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT, LAE
Jun 17	Miner's Marsh, <i>Kings</i>	pair	AND, Lelia Dean

Blue-headed Vireo

Jun 20	Apple R., <i>Col.</i>	2	KFS
Jul 8	Shelburne BBS	5	JAH, DOP

Warbling Vireo

Jun 11, 17	Middle Dyke Rd, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
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Philadelphia Vireo

Jun 27	Tatamagouche BBS	2	BRD
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Red-eyed Vireo

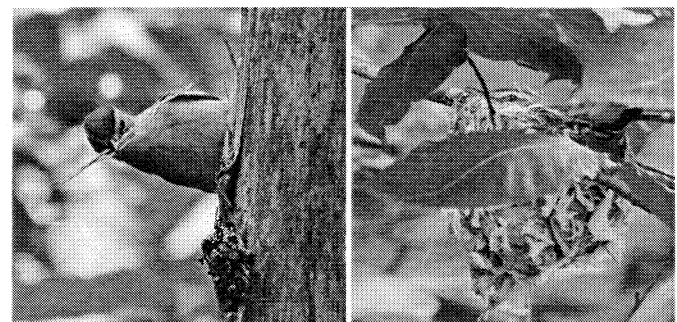
Jun 20	Apple R., <i>Col.</i>	1	KFS
Jun 27	Tatamagouche BBS	37	BRD
Jul 8	Shelburne BBS	23	JAH, DOP
Jul 22	Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i>	2 ad	MCR
Jul 31	Fauxburg Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	5	JAH
Jul 31	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	7	JAH

Tree Swallow

Jun - early Jul	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	nesting pair plus young	KFS
Jun 5	SW Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	pair	Ruth E. Smith
Jun 9	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	2	DMW
Jun 12	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	pair plus 5 eggs (dead)	JCT
Jul 8	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	2	DMW



An EASTERN PHOEBE nest under a bridge over the Gasperau River at White Rock, *Kings*, was discovered by renowned nest sleuth, BLF, and photographed May 28. [Photo Richard Stern]



The photographer was able to follow this RED-EYED VIREO's late (second?) but successful nest in an understory beech at White Rock, *Kings*, thus gaining data for the Maritimes Nest Record Scheme. It is remarkable that from small mouthfuls of fiber (here on July 1) the pair produced such a tightly woven nest (July 13). Can you spot the nestled adult male? [Photo Rick Whitman]

Bank Swallow

Jun 5	Folly Mt., <i>Col.</i>	7	JAH, DAW
Jul 11	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	20	JAH, DAW
Jul 28	Pt. William's Sewage Pond, <i>Kings</i>	500+	RBS

Barn Swallow

Jun - early Jul	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	pair plus young	KFS
Jun 5	Central Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	pair	Ruth E. Smith
Jun 7	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS
Jul 27	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	6	DMW

Cliff Swallow

Jun 5	Victoria Rd., Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	4 nests	AND, Lelia Dean
Jun 5	Amherst Sanctuary, <i>Cum.</i>	8	JAH, DAW
Jun 30	Welshtown, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH, DPO
Jul 2	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS

Boreal Chickadee

Jun 21	McGrath's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	Kathlyne Smith
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Red-breasted Nuthatch

Jun - Jul	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2-3	KFS
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Winter Wren

Jun 26	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
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Eastern Blue Bird

Jun 3	Gullivers's Cove Rd., <i>Anna.</i>	1f	WAN
Jun 3	Port Greville, <i>Cum.</i>	2m	Maureen Mills
Jun 7, 8	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1m	KFS
Jun 8	Gullivers's Cove Rd, <i>Anna</i>	2 pairs	WAN
Jun 8 - Jul 21	??	1m	KFS
Jun 10	Digby Wind Farm, <i>Anna.</i>	6	WAN
Jun 12 - 14	Spencer's L., <i>Cum.</i>	pair nesting	Maureen Mills
Jul 3	Cemetery, Brier I.	1m	ELM
Jul 8	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	pair	<i>fide</i> JAH
Jul 9	Lwr. Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	pair	
Jul 10	Roger Atwood, CSI	plus 5 young	JAH
Jul 10	Cemetery, Brier I.	2	CST
		pair plus young	KFS

Swainson's Thrush

Jun - Jul	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	pair nesting	GWT
Jun 8 - 11	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS

Hermit Thrush

Jul - Aug	Sandy Bottom L., <i>Anna.</i>	3	MCR
Jul 8	Shelburne BBS	65-70	JAH, DOP

American Robin

Jun 1 - 11	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	3-100	KFS
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Fledged young BARN SWALLOWS, these ones uncharacteristically perching on a tree at W. Lawrencetown, *HRM*, seem to have a particularly hostile stare – probably not enough to dissuade would-be predators. [Photo Rick Whitman]



Nesting GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS at Middleton, *Ann.*, this summer (here June 9) successfully fledged their young in early July. [Photo Rick Whitman]

Mimics through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

With the exception of Gray Catbird, mimic thrushes were reported in low numbers. There were 17 reports of 26 Gray Catbirds and all were from the mainland. The seven reports of NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD include a couple that indicate some are breeding successfully and just a hint that maybe low numbers of the last decade might be turning around. On the other hand, BROWN THRASHERS took a year off with no reports this summer unlike the 8 reports from June 2010. CEDAR WAXWINGS were widespread through the province with about 70 reports received. KJM found one on a nest on Big I. July 16, a normal date for this late nester. The table below notes findings on three BBS routes. Interestingly, JAH discovered 56 at one BBS stop on the Shelburne BBS route which was near a strawberry field. I am sure the farmer would be less impressed! While other species are just getting started with breeding, some like the European Starling were already with young in Lower Sackville a few days before June 1 (LOC).

I was able to garner reports of 21 Wood Warblers during this report period. Probably because this is the first year since the end of the second MBBA, most observers seemed to take a break from summer observations and really there was not enough data submitted to make much comment on many of the species.

On the James River BBS, OVENBIRD was the most common warbler. JOK has been working with night flight calls and on the nights of July 24 and 26, he heard NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH overhead at Doctors Brook, *Ant.*, possibly indicating some early fall movement of this warbler which is one of our early arriving warblers to N.S. in the spring. Both James River and Shelburne BBS routes each had seven BLACK AND WHITE WARBLERS.

TENNESSEE WARBLERS were noted singing early in the report period in a few widely separated areas of the mainland, but there were no reports at all for July. AMERICAN REDSTART was the most numerous warbler on the Tatamagouche BBS, June 27, (BRD). On a nocturnal survey July 26, JOK registered five American Redstart nocturnal calls at Doctors Brook, *Ant.* CAPE MAY WARBLER was not reported at all in this period indicating a continuing trend of the last decade and the only regular breeding warbler not noted this summer. The only BAY-BREASTED WARBLER report was an overnight call by JOK at Doctors Brook, July 26. There were eight reports of BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER and on BBS routes only 1-2 were reported.

YELLOW WARBLER was the second most common on the James River BBS route, but just barely made a presence on the Shelburne and Tatamagouche routes. The only BLACKPOLL WARBLER noted was one at Three Fathom Harbour July 17 (DOU). Fewer than normal PALM WARBLERS were noted by JAH on the Shelburne BBS, June 30. By July 26, two overnight flight calls were recorded by JOK at Doctors Brook, *Ant.*

After the little flurry of singing PINE WARBLERS last year by BRD, none were reported at all for the summer of 2011. A YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT report from early this spring was received late, but noteworthy enough to be mentioned. It was seen at the late date of March 4 at Broad Cove, *Lun.* (SJF).

Northern Mockingbird

Jun	Tatamagouche, <i>Col.</i>	2 (a pair?)	Jennifer Black
Jun 4	The Hawk, CSI	1	CST
Jun 4	Dartmouth	1	JOB
Jun 10	Brier I.	1	ELM
Jun 23	Sand River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
Jul 25	Bayers Lake, <i>HRM</i>	1	PST
Jul 27	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	2 separate nestings	JWW

Cedar Waxwing

Jun 6	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	37	KJM
Jun 27	Tatamagouche BBS, <i>Col.</i>	34	BRD
Jun 30	Shelburne BBS	66	JAH

Ovenbird

Jun 5	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	35	KJM
Jun 30	Shelburne BBS	20	JAH

Tennessee Warbler

Jun 1	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC
Jun 2, 3	Apple River, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Jun 5	James River BBS	2	KJM
Jun 11	Brier I.	1 singing	ELM

Mourning Warbler

Jun 5	Folly Mtn., <i>Col.</i>	2	JAH, DAW
Jun 5	James River BBS	3	KJM

Common Yellowthroat

Jun 5	James River BBS	19	KJM
Jun 30	Shelburne BBS	22	JAH

American Redstart

Jun 5	James River BBS	26	KJM
Jun 27	Tatamagouche BBS	24	BRD

Northern Parula

Jun 5	James River BBS	22	KJM
Jun 27	Tatamagouche BBS	22	BRD
Jun 30	Shelburne BBS	5	JAH
Jul 26	Doctors Brook, <i>Ant.</i>	5 overnight calls	JOK

Magnolia Warbler

Jun 5	James River BBS	16	KJM
Jun 30	Shelburne BBS	12	JAH

Yellow Warbler

Jun 5	James River BBS	25	KJM
Jun 27	Tatamagouche BBS	3	BRD
Jun 30	Shelburne BBS	2	JAH

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Jun 5	James River BBS	14	KJM
Jun 27	Tatamagouche BBS	10	BRD
Jun 30	Shelburne BBS	2	JAH

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Jun 4	Meisners Section, <i>Lun.</i>	5	SJF, JSC
Jun 30	Shelburne BBS	1	JAH

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Jun 5	James River BBS	2	KJM
Jun 30	Shelburne BBS	14	JAH

Canada Warbler

Jun 4	Moosehorn, L., <i>HRM</i>	1	Jeff MacLeod
Jun 4	James River BBS	2	KJM
Jul 31	Fauxburg Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH

Wilson's Warbler

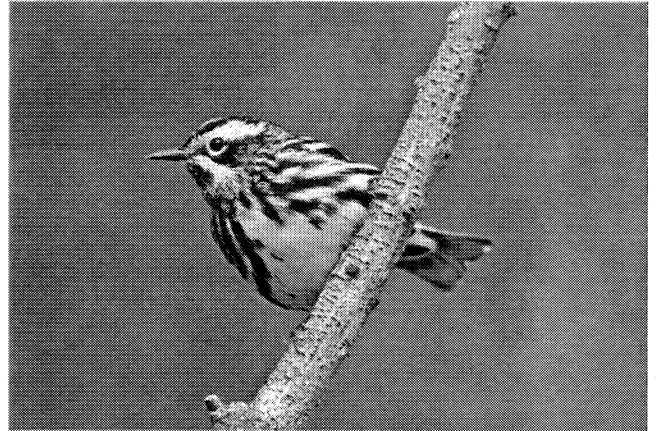
Jun 11	Brier I.	1 singing late migrant	ELM
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Photo Gallery - Warblers and Habitat

Summer is warblers, and warblers are summer. More eye-catching than any other of our birds, they are too often elusive behind foliage and at the tops of trees. The brilliant American (Canadian born) ecologist Robert MacArthur (1930-7972) sorted out their different habits and choices of conifers, from the highest tops to the interior foliage beneath, demonstrating how they divide up the available “niche space” to avoid interspecific competition. Think about it when you next see a BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER nipping small insects on the outermost branches on a tall red spruce, and a YELLOW-RUMPED in the interior of the lower foliage.



An AMERICAN REDSTART, so common in second growth woods, delighted a visitor from warbler-bereft Alaska, who photographed this male at Hartlen Pt., HRM. [Photo Alan Springer]



A BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER eyes the photographer, close up and personal at Cole Hbr. Heritage Pk., HRM. [Photo Hans Toom]



You're lucky to see, what's more photograph, a singing male BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER in such low foliage during the breeding season (here at Oakfield PP). This one might have come down to challenge another singer trying to pull a fast one. [Photo Hans Toom]



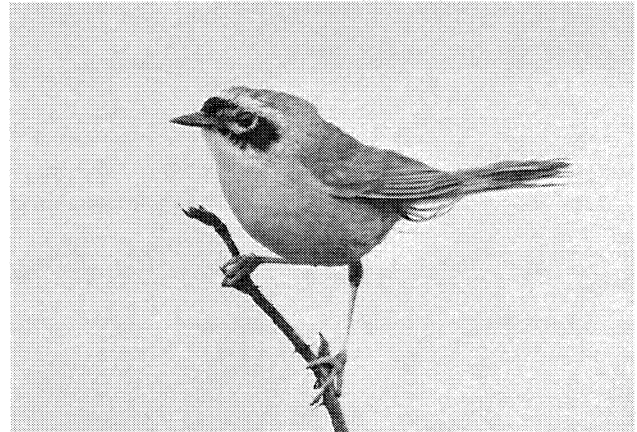
The striking BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER is one of our uncommon breeding warblers, found in largely deciduous woods with good ground cover This one was along the St. Margarets Bay Trail, HRM. [Photo Hans Toom]



The buzzy, rising trill of NORTHERN PARULA is one of the most frequently heard warbler songs through early summer. You generally have to search hard to find this tree-top singer, but this male, June 1 Cole Harbour Heritage Park, descended to eye level for its portrait. [Photo Hans Toom]



The OVENBIRD doesn't look, sing, or act much like most wood warblers, but living near and on the ground doesn't encourage flashy plumage, and its loud song is perfect for advertising through dense foliage. And, it was certainly a photographic prize June 12 near the St. Margarets Bay walking trail. [Photo Hans Toom]



The COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, this one July 9 on Brier I., is the most commonly encountered warbler on our Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS). A few decades ago, it was something of a cattail marsh specialist, but it has greatly expanded its niche, and now favours scrub and second growth along our rural roads. [Photo Richard Stern]



A male MYRTLE WARBLER surveys his domain at Chester Basin, Lun. [Photo Maxine Quinton]



The CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER favours smallish second growth, and accordingly holds its own in much of Nova Scotia, here in Richmond on June 5. [Photo Richard Stern]

Tanagers through House Sparrows

By Ian McLaren

The summer for reporting purposes is brief, the birds largely settled, and my tabulations reflect this. Atlassing has ended, but the long-term Breeding Bird Surveys continue, and now E-Bird has given us another way of assessing the status of our breeding birds. Also, more of us should be submitting reports to the long-active Maritimes Nest Records Scheme of CWS at Sackville, N.B.

Some observers commented on the nesting and other behaviours of our birds. For example:

RAH writes: "Nelson's Sparrows are constantly singing in the saltmarsh behind my house [on CSI]. Sound more like a hinge that needs oiling."

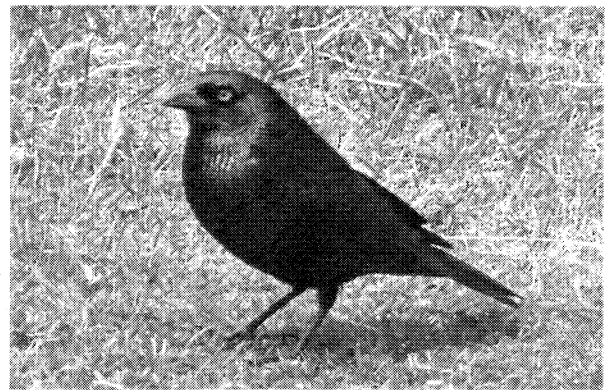
MMI reports: "What a year for grackles. There were over 50 in my yard [in Whites Pt.] yesterday."

And from JSH: "... I witnessed a grackle attacking a young House Sparrow [and] tried to save it and to my surprise it picked it up with its claws and flew off ..." ... other young, just old enough to fly, were quite upset and let everyone know about it." We know that grackles prey on eggs and nestlings, but others chimed in with similar extreme examples of "nature red in tooth and claw."

A less sanguinary observation came from GAM, whose sister "sent photos of young House Sparrows on her deck... one with a feather in its beak chasing the others... since many young animals like to play... perhaps young birds like to as well. Anyone have some ideas about this behaviour with the feather?"

There were few rarities for this section, among which our 4th BRONZED COWBIRD was outstanding. It was present on Seal I. for a couple of days in late July and identified and photographed July 29 by Charles Kenney. (There were rumours of one seen on CSI earlier in the month, but no direct information was received.) There is a recent record for Maine, but, as far as I know, no others in northeastern U.S.A. An INDIGO BUNTING was of interest, and a PAINTED BUNTING even more so. A couple of much less routine cardinalid rarities submitted as "possibles" were not accompanied by convincing evidence.

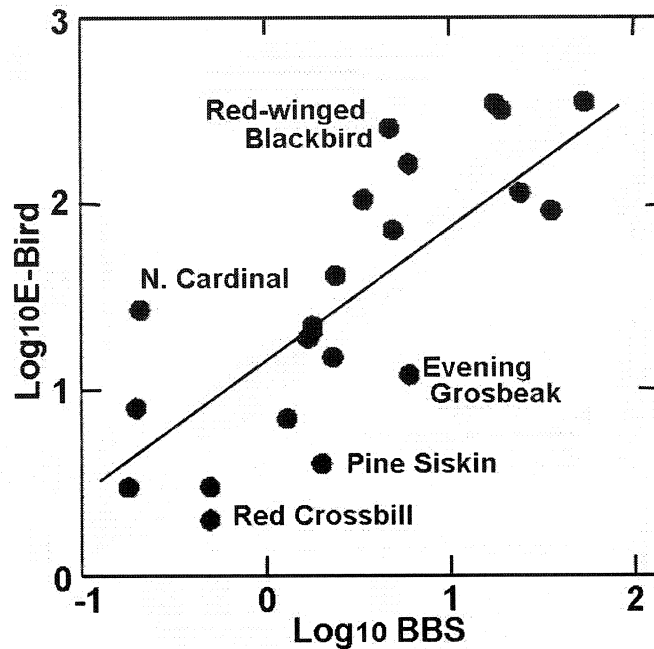
A "heads up" comes from Matthew (Matt) Young, ornithologist at Cornell University working on "call types" (subspecies, "semispecies" or possibly species) of RED CROSSBILL. Some camera-recorded calls sent by JAH seemed to him to fall between Type 2 (= subspecies *benderei*) and Type 8 (the Newfoundland subspecies *pernca*); hybrids among these call types are almost unknown, but much remains to be discovered about our populations.



Much the rarest vagrant this summer was this male BRONZED COWBIRD, which are exceedingly rare in the East. It visited a feeder on Seal I. in late July (here July 29), and supplied our 4th record of the species. Its distinctive shape gives it away, but its fiery red eyes are visible on the colour original. [Photo Charles Kenny]

E-Bird Counts Versus Breeding Bird Survey Numbers

Now, let's compare this summer's E-Bird total counts for sparrows, icterids, and finches with estimates of relative Breeding Bird Survey numbers (averages per route in Nova Scotia). On the graph below, numbers for each type of survey are plotted as logarithms, because it is generally found that bird numbers vary widely and are best expressed in that form. It's hardly surprising that there is a tendency for common birds to be counted more often and uncommon birds less often by both surveys. But, the scatter seems pretty haphazard. Since the BBS routes are placed randomly throughout the province, and run through representative habitats, they give a more reliable indication of relative abundances. It is also not surprising that open country and town birds (e.g. N. CARDINAL and RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD are over-represented, and some finches of coniferous forests are under-represented on in E-bird surveys; this reflects the habitat preferences of birders unconstrained by established BBS routes. So, accumulated E-Bird records are not designed to give us a clear picture of the true relative abundance of our bird species, but in the long run they should produce reliable population trends and, like the Atlas, will monitor spread of birds into new regions and or retreats from former ones, especially if E-Birders keep sampling the same favorite patches year after year.



Comparison of counts of species of sparrows, ictersids, and finches on E-Bird for June-July 2011 and the average counts per BBS route in Nova Scotia for the past few years.

Chipping Sparrow			
Jun - Jul	Widely	19	E-Bird
Jun 3,			
Jul 20 - 27	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1, 1	SLH
Jun - Jul	Widely	6 indivs.	4 obs.
Savannah Sparrow			
Jun - Jul	Widely	184	E-Bird
Nelson's Sparrow			
Jun - Jul	Widely	22	E-Bird
Fox Sparrow			
Jun - Jul	<i>Vic., Inv., HRM</i>	8	E-Bird
Song Sparrow			
Jun - Jul	Widely	250	E-Bird
Lincoln's Sparrow			
Jun - Jul	<i>Col., HRM, Vic.</i>	7	E-Bird
Mid-Jun	Terrance Bay, <i>HRM</i>	sev. singing	Jeff MacLeod
Swamp Sparrow			
Jun - Jul	Widely	41	E-Bird
White-throated Sparrow			
Jun - Jul	Widely	91	E-Bird



A NELSON'S SPARROW near Kingsburg, *Lun.*, on July 24, appeared to be defending its territory in hockey-goalie fashion. [Photo Kevin Lantz]



A sure sign of nesting success, logged for the Maritimes Nest Records Survey, was a fledgling ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK on June 23 at White Rock, *Kings*. [Photo Rick Whitman]

Dark-eyed Junco			
Jun - Jul	Widely	114	E-Bird
Jun - Jul	Widely	14+	4 obs.
Scarlet Tanager			
Jun 30	Shelburne	1	JAH
Northern Cardinal			
Jun - Jul	Widely	27	E-Bird
Jun 30	Shelburne	4 ads. + yng.	JAH, DPO
Jun 16	Wolfville	2 fledglings	Thextons
Jul 15,16	Wolfville	1, 2 fledglings	<i>fide</i> JWW
Jun - Jul	Widely	12+ indivs.	7 obs.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
Jun - Jul	Widely	7	E-Bird
Jun - Jul	Widely	6 indivs.	4 obs.
INDIGO BUNTING			
Jun 23	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT

PAINTED BUNTING

Jun 28 Ketch Hbr., *HRM* 1 male (P) Heather Goldie King

Bobolink

Jun - Jul Widely 15 E-Bird
Jun Apple R., *Cum.* 3+ M. Mills

Red-winged Blackbird

Jun - Jul Widely 253 E-Bird
Jun - Jul Widely 32+ 4 obs.

Rusty Blackbird

Jun 17 Pictou Lodge, *Pic.* obs. E-Bird,
M. Zelenietz

Common Grackle

Jun - Jul Widely 216 E-Bird
Jun - Jul *Col., HRM, Kings, Shel.* 120+ 5 obs.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Jun - Jul 3 E-Bird

BRONZED COWBIRD

Jun 28, 29 Seal I. 1 m. (P) Charles
Kenney, *et al.*

Baltimore Oriole

Jun 5 Spencers I., *Cum.* 1 male Maureen Mills

Pine Grosbeak

Jul 16, 17 CBH NP 3 P. Svingen

Purple Finch

Jun - Jul 72 E-Bird
Jun - Jul *Cum., HRM, Kings* 7+ 3 obs.

House Finch

No reports

Red Crossbill

Jun 23 Hubbards, *Lun.* 12 Peter Stowe
Jun 30 Welshtown, *Shel.* 2 JAH

White-winged Crossbill

No reports

Pine Siskin

Jun - Jul Halifax, Inverness 3, 1 E-Bird
Jun - Jul *Cum., HRM, Kings* 11+ 3 obs.

American Goldfinch

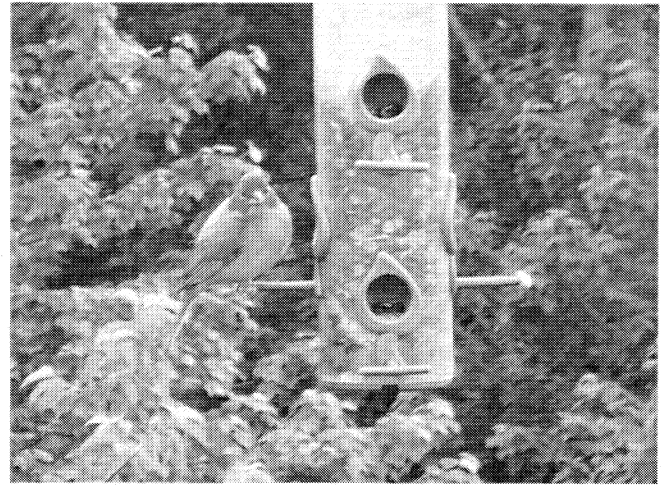
Jun - Jul Widely 343 E-Bird
Jun - Jul *Cum., HRM, Kings* 32+ 3 obs.

Evening Grosbeak

Jun - Jul Widely 12 E-Bird
Jun - Jul *Cum, HRM, Kings* 20+ 4 obs.

House Sparrow

Jun - Jul Widely 95 E-Bird



A stunning male PAINTED BUNTING was a seasonally very rare visitor in late July (here July 28) to a feeder in Ketch Hbr., *HRM*. [Photo Heather Goldie King]



The BOBOLINK is an increasing rare nesting species here and throughout its range, but numbers return to fields around Wolfville, where this one was singing its heart out on June 26. [Photo James Churchill]



A fully fledged RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD, this one along the Saltmarsh Trail near W. Lawrencetown, *HRM*, is remarkably sparrow-like, and can be confused as such by beginning birders. [Photo Rick Whitman]

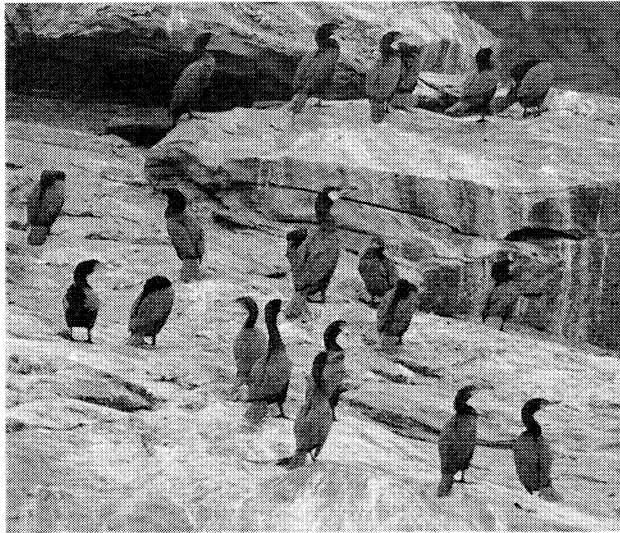
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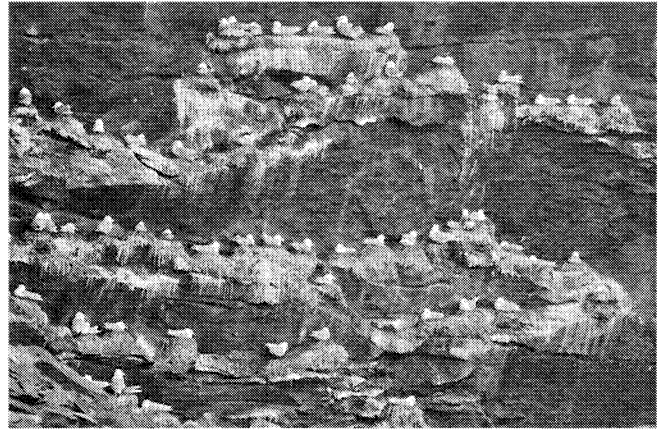
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Stevens, Bruce	BRS	Brennan, Mark	MAB	Boyer, Paul		Nims, Charlie
Starzomski, Brian	BST	Zelenietz, Marty	MAZ	Bruhm, Gail		Palmer, Martha
Murrant, Cathy	CAM	Cameron-MacMillan,		Bussey, Bill & Diane		Parson, Adora
Pepper, Chris	CHP	Maureen	MCM	Cannings, Richard		Peck, Matthew & Lisa
Field, Chris	CJF	Rice, Maggie	MCR	Cameron, Jim		Penner, Sydney
Stoddard, Clyde	CST	Nic Fieldsend	NIF	Cartwright, Cindy I.		Phillips, Jim
Currie, David	DAC	NS Bird Society		Chubbs, Tony		Prior, Paul
MacNeill, Don	DAM	Field Trip	NSBS	Crawford, Charles		Reers, Hendrik
Pugh, David	DAP	Vella-Geldart, Nicole	NVG	Culver, Ginny		Reid, Marie
Walmart, David	DAW	Barden, Olivier	OLB	Curry, Christine		Richey, Susan
Codling, Don	DCO	Giffin, Barbara &		Davis, Andrew		Rhodenizer, Glenn
Fiske, Dean	DEF	Patrick	PBG	de Grenier, Armand		Roberts, Nancy
Garrett, Dennis	DEG	Chalmers, Patricia L.	PLC	Elliot, Jim & Gillian		Robinson, Kate
Crosby, Donna	DJC	Murray, Paul	PMU	Evans, Paul		Rodriguez, Jennifer
Forbes, Don	DLF	Gould, Paul	PRG	Fieldsend, Nicholas		Sabean, Barry
Welch, Dottie	DMW	Stowe, Peter	PST	Flint, Peter		Saunders, Laura
Cormier, Dominic	DOC	Rachel Cooper	RAC	Gaquier, Sophie		Schlosberg, David & Jane
Doull, Elizabeth	DOU	Hoogenbos, Rachel	RAH	Garratt, Dennis		Steele, Kate
Poole, Dorothy	DPO	Stern, Richard	RBS	Garron, Louise		Svingen, Peder
Mills, Eric L.	ELM	Smith, Ruth E.	RES	Gladman, Pat		Swift, Jamie
Stern, Elizabeth	ELS	Lauff, Randy F.	RFL	Harwood, Avril		Swim, Donny
Spalding, Francis	FLS	Viau, Rita	RIV	Hawes, Pat		Tingley, Stuart
McEvoy, Fritz	FMC	Hall, Ross	ROH	Higgins, Ellen		Thibideau, Dan
MacLean, Gayle	GAM	Nickerson, Sandra	SAN	Hojberg, Jake		Timmons, Anthony
Forsythe, George	GFO	Myers, Susann	SEM	Jackett, Nigel		Tyson, Dan
Murray, Gary	GMU	Hawboldt, Sharon	SHH	Jenkins, Lois		Viau, Mike
Forsythe, Harold	HAF	Smith, Sid	SIS	Jennings, M.		Vibensky, G.
Toom, Hans	HAT	Fullerton, Sylvia	SJF	Jetté, Jean-François		Vogel, Christopher
McLaren, Ian	IAM	Hulford, Sheila	SLH	Joudrey, Angela		Water, David
Llechasseur, Isabelle	ISL	Borkowski, Suzanne	SMB	Kennard, Ellie		Webster, David
Hirtle, James	JAH	Sydney Penner	SYP	Klaiber, Allen & Denise		Whitman, Rick
Tufts, Judy	JCT	Kavanagh, Tom	TOK	LaCelle, Robert		Wigney, Bev
Czapalay, Joan	JCZ	Young, Tuma	TUY	Loch, John		Wilson, Sasha
Hiltz, Jeff	JEF	Höger, Ulli	ULH	MacDonald, Mike		
Hartley, Jean	JEH	Redden, Virginia	VIR	MacIntosh, Jeff		

Tour of Bird Islands

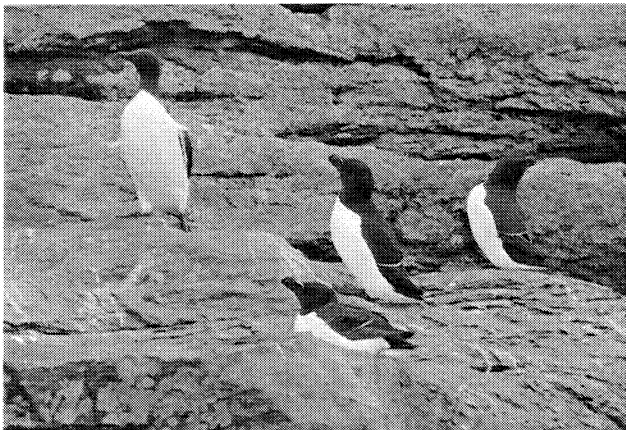
During a tour, organized by the Federation of NS Naturalists, to the Bird Islands, north of the Sydneys, Richard Stern produced this photographic record of its treasures. The islands, Hertford and Ciboux, are owned by the Society Nova Scotia Bird Society and have been well protected for decades, but marauding Bald Eagles have recently raised a conservation issue.



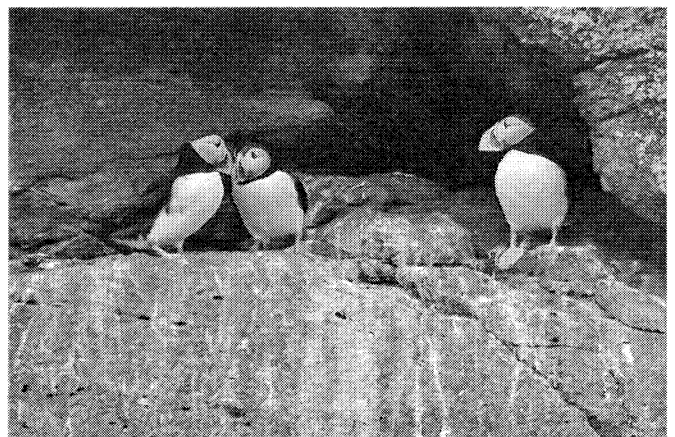
Of course the Bird Islands hold no record for cormorants, but it was good to see both species at home together.



The **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** colony on the Bird Islands is the largest in the province, but recently they had a hard time bringing off young before they are snatched from their nests by eagles.



The **RAZORBILL** colony has long been the province's largest, were everywhere on the islands' cliffs, but it was only after he studied his photos that he spotted this **COMMON MURRE** amongst them (far left). The last pair possibly breeding there was more than 50 years ago, and one hopes this is a small sign of a comeback.



Again, the **ATLANTIC PUFFIN** colony on the islands remains our largest, although they have been spreading nicely elsewhere.



Weather - Eastern Annapolis Valley - Summer 2011

By Larry Bogan

Monthly Averages of Weather Data Kentville, Nova Scotia 2011

	Average Temperature (C)			Total Precipitation (mm)
	Max	Min	Mean	
June	19.51	9.81	14.68	120
<i>June avg</i>	21.6	10.5	16.1	81
July	24.58	14.03	19.33	97
<i>July avg</i>	24.8	14.0	19.4	88
Aug	24.12	13.75	18.96	77
<i>Aug avg</i>	24.2	13.5	18.9	86
Season	22.71	12.5	17.63	294
<i>30 yr avg</i>	23.55	12.69	18.16	255

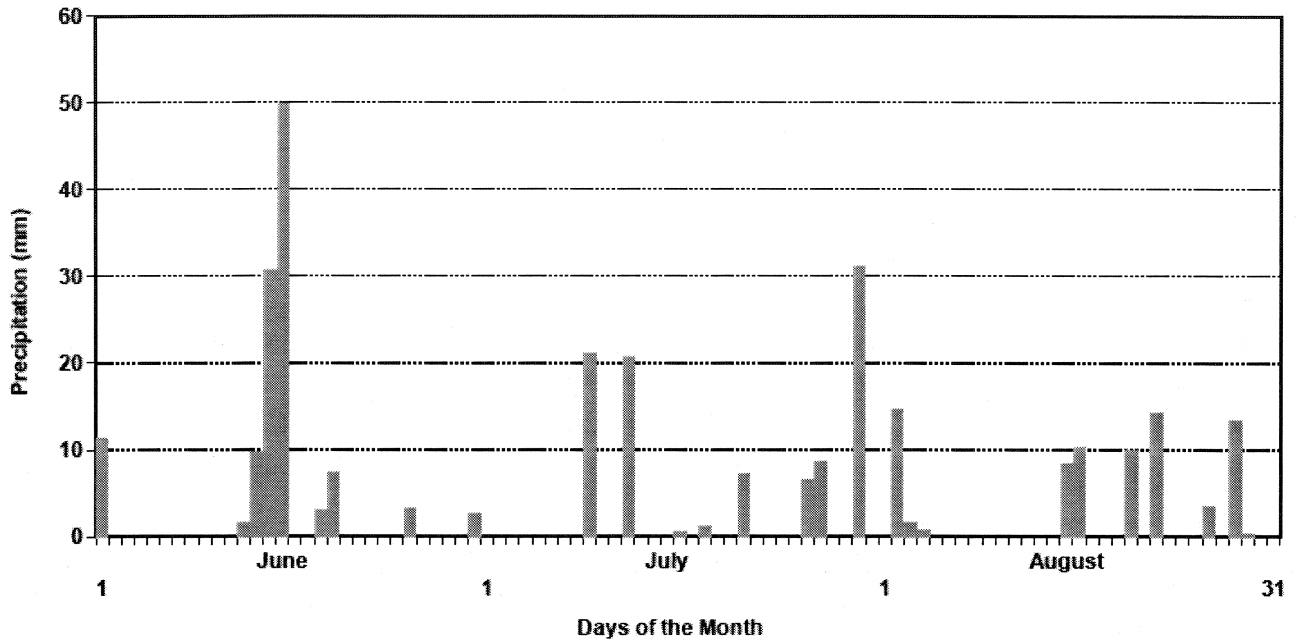
The summer of 2011 progressed like a normal summer of any year after we got through the cool, wet start in June.

Temperature: June was cooler by 1.5 C than an average June month. After that temperature in July and August matched the averages and the season as a whole was only about 0.5 C below the norm. See the included chart for the variability of the temperatures for the summer season.

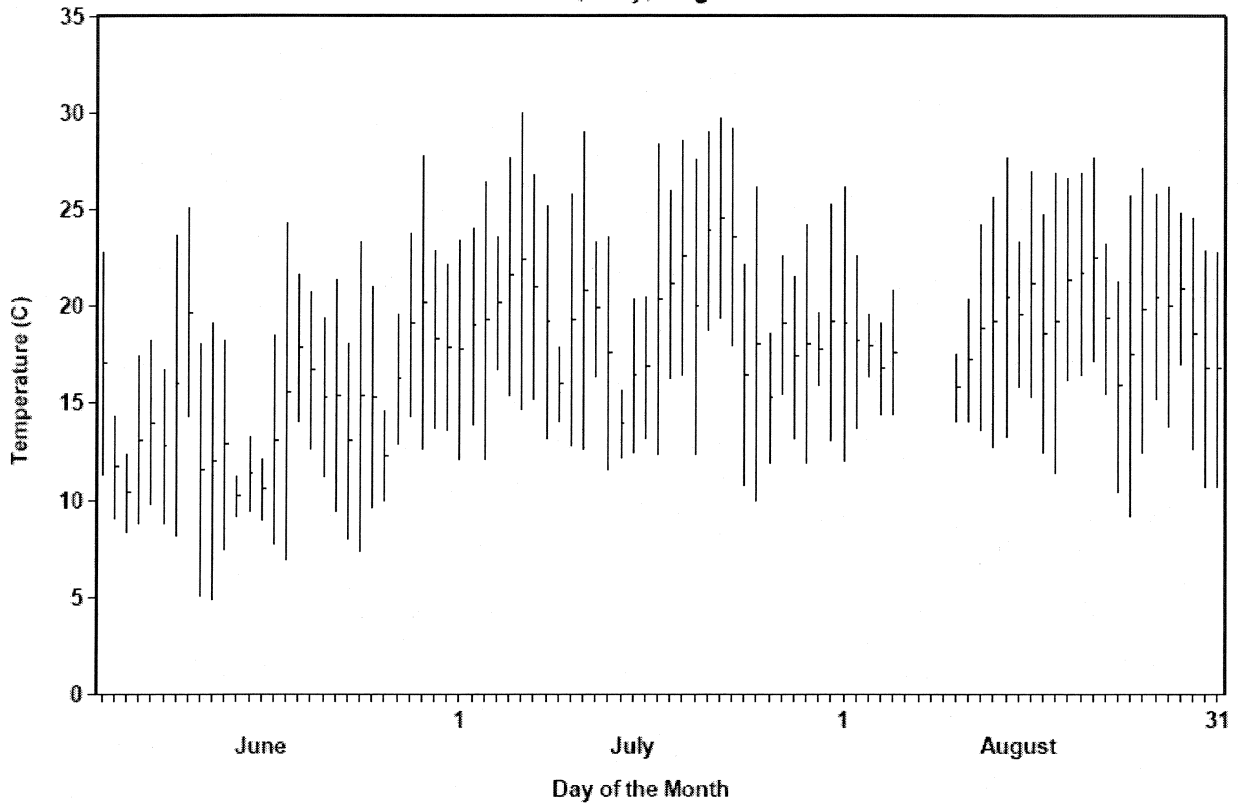
Precipitation: Most rain in June fell in the period from the 12th through the 19th. Only two of those days had no rain and the total for that period was 102 mm. The net accumulation that month was 50% over average rainfall for the month while July was a little above and August a little below average. July's rainfall was spread over the whole month but the heaviest was on 30th with 31 mm. August also had well distributed rain with about 15 mm falling every week on one or two days. This is shown in the chart of daily rainfall.

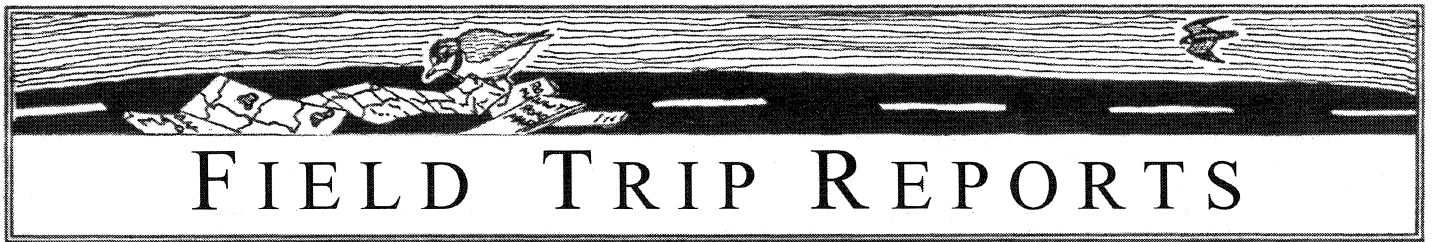
Wind: Summer is a time of the lightest winds of the year. However, hurricane Irene made landfall in the USA and was a tropical storm by the time it passed west of Nova Scotia on the 29th of August. That day we had wind gust of about 60 kph. The windiest parts of the other months were in June on the 18th and 19th with 48 kph maximum gusts; July on the 15th and 23rd, there were 44 kph gusts; August on the 22nd and 28th had 50 kph.

**Daily Precipitation, Kentville, NS
June, July, August, 2011**



**Daily Temperatures
June, July, August 2011**






Brier Island Weekend

16 - 18 Sept, 2011, Leaders: James R. Hirtle and Wayne Neilly

Leaders for this trip were James R. Hirtle and Wayne Neilly. We had a great weekend with four birders from Texas and one from Ontario joining us. Friday was very windy with high waves and we kicked off the weekend after some birding at the Lodge for registration and to let people know the plans for the weekend. Early Saturday morning showed promise with lots of seabirds close into North Light. Land birding on the island was slow, but a trip out to Gull Rock Road gave enough excitement to make it interesting for all. At Pond Cove a belted kingfisher was playing escape from a sharp-shinned hawk, and we watched the same scenario about 10 times. A Caspian tern was a thrill first spotted by Clyde Stoddart. On the way back we were surprised to find the road blocked by a fallen logging truck. The chances of this happening at that time were about as much as me winning the lottery. We had to make our way on foot and thankfully we had some help by some others of the group, so that we were able to catch the pelagic. On the pelagic, a group of well over a 1000 great shearwaters was a sight to see and there were more sooty shearwaters in one spot than the majority of birders on the boat had seen. I know I vastly underestimated both species as I only counted what was on one side of the boat as we went by. Both boat trips had four manx shearwaters and two manx shearwaters together in the water at close range was a real treat. There were numbers of both red and red-necked phalaropes. On Saturday evening the whole group went to the wonderful restaurant at Freeport.

Sunday morning birds were in large numbers everywhere. To my knowledge 13 species of warblers were observed, possibly more. These included one black-throated blue warbler and at least two orange-crowned warblers. Wayne Neilly had a number of Lincoln's sparrows. We had a few gray catbirds, a number of eastern wood pewees, numbers of red-eyed vireos and blue-headed vireos. Cedar waxwings were on the move and were headed out. There was only one sizeable kettle of hawks on Sunday with about 40 broad-wings in it and an osprey flying above. We saw most of the expected hawks and Suzanne Borkowski had a northern goshawk. We also saw a peregrine falcon a number of times and watched many sharp-shinned hawks, merlins, American kestrels, and a northern harrier. Three eastern bluebirds made an appearance on Sunday and Suzanne Borkowski found a female blue grosbeak on Saturday. On Friday, Dorothy Poole, David Walmark and I had two large terns, but they were too far away to positively id. We think they were Caspians. On Sunday, Clarence Stevens Sr. and some others also saw a Caspian tern. David Walmark had seen an unknown swallow, and others saw a barn swallow later, which was likely the same bird. Clarence Stevens Sr. had an American golden plover at Pond Cove on Saturday. After compiling the birds seen we had 75 species total for the weekend.

James Hirtle



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