

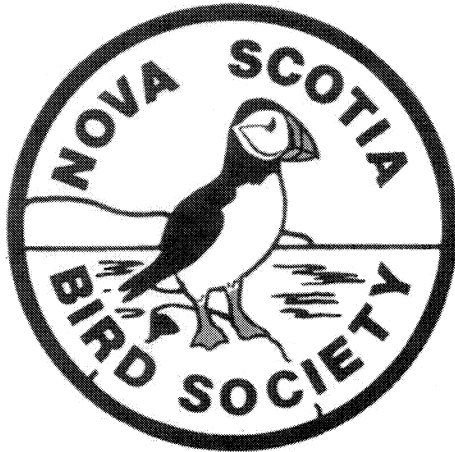
Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Winter 2011-2012

Volume 53, Issue 2



NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

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Formed in 1955, the Nova Scotia Bird Society is a member of Nature Nova Scotia and Nature Canada. The activities of the Society are centered on the observation, study and protection of the birds of the province and preservation of their habitats.

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Glace Bay CBC [Photo Allan Murrant]

Cover: This beautiful young male
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD was found
near Homeville, CNRM, during the

Nova Scotia Birds

Winter 2011-12

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Among three DICKCISSELS this winter, one at Greenwich, Kings, that appeared in mid-January (here Jan. 16) and was sought by numbers of birders. [Photo Richard Stern]

Comments from the Acting Editor

Having recently become editor *pro tem* of this journal devoted to recording and documenting the birds of our province, I am filled with admiration for my predecessors. If this issue is less professionally produced than usual, I hope that I can continue to learn the tasks of editing and producing your quarterly. It is not easy to maintain an enterprise that is dependent on so many volunteer participants. For a number of reasons, including illness and other pressing commitments, our previous editorial team was unable to continue, so members are only receiving this issue, after a considerable delay. We are working hard to catch up, and hope that the fourth and last issue of this year will be in members' hands before the year's end. Since it will arrive too late to announce forthcoming Society field trips and other events (i.e. those in spring 2012), such information is not included in this issue. Fortunately, most members have been apprised of Society news either by e-mail or letter.

The Board of the Society has been discussing changes in the form and content of *Nova Scotia Birds*, including switching to e-publication with colour images (with the membership option of a printed version), and encouraging more breadth of content. Some changes will doubtless be driven by the fact that much detailed information is now available on-line for perusal and analysis (BBS, CBC, eBird, and many photo sites). In the meanwhile, our traditional format and content will be retained until the end of this year's issues.

Ian McLaren,
Acting Editor

NOTE: The following are frequently used abbreviations. In addition, months and most county names are abbreviated, and all are in *italics*. Well known cities and towns are spelled out in full, without their counties and municipalities Cardinal and ordinal directions are abbreviated (n., n.e., etc.) and capitalized when part of a place name.

General terms

Ad. = adult
 BBS – Breeding Bird Survey
ca. = approximately
 CBC = Christmas Bird Count
 f. = female
 fide = on the authority of
 imm. = immature
 juv. = juvenile (post-nestling plumage)
 m. obs. – many observers
 n.d. = no details (unsupported by documentation)
 NSMC = Nova Scotia (spring) Migration Count
 ph. = photographed
 pr. = pair
 spec. = specimen
 var. obs. = various observers

Geographical terms and locations
 APBS = Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, Cum

Ann. Roy. Marsh = marshes near Annapolis Royal, *Ann.*
 BPI = Bon Portage (Outer) I. Shel.
 Brier I. = Brier Island, *Digby*
 CBI = Cape Breton Island
 CBHNP = Cape Breton Highlands National Park
 CBRM = Cape Breton Regional Municipality
 HRM = Halifax Regional Municipality
 I. = Island (plural Is.)
 Keji. NP = Kejimikujik National Park
 Keji. NP Adjunct = Kejimikujik NP Coastal Adjunct
 Lr. = Lower
 Pk = Park
 PP = Provincial Park
 PPP. Halifax = Point Pleasant Park, Halifax
 Pt. = Point or Port
 Seal I. = Seal Island, Outer Tusket Is., *Yar.*
 Uniacke Pk. = Uniacke Estate Muesum Park, *Hants*



Some Christmas Bird Counts offered seawatching from wild coasts, here being enjoyed by Rob Boone and Terry Power during the Louisbourg count. [Photo Ken Donovan]



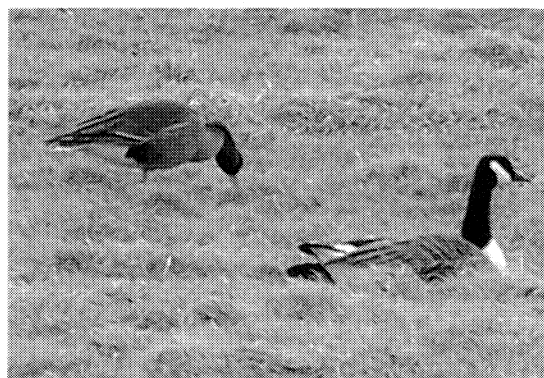
WINTER BIRD REPORTS

Waterfowl

By John Belbin

The **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** which was first seen in the Windsor area in October returned frequently until late December, allowing very large numbers of interested people to add this rare species to their lists. It was with a large flock of Canada Geese – up to 1000 at times, so it was often hard to locate from a distant viewing location. What appeared to be a juvenile **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** showed up with 28 Canada Geese in Knoydart, Antigonish County. This is the same field in which a Pink-footed Goose was seen on 27 December 2010. PMA noted that the bird had a prominent white wing-bar suggesting European or Russian White-fronted Geese, of the race *albifrons*. According to IAM it matched expectations for a Greenland bird, subspecies *flavirostris*. It was a distinctly dark-backed first-winter bird (no ventral barring, little or no white "front"), but with a large and strongly orange, not pink, bill. Another Greater White-fronted Goose was seen in late February by Nicolle Wallace and subsequently seen and photographed (JAH et al.). Examination of the images identified this one as also of the Greenland subspecies, which is almost never domesticated. None the less, field identification of

subspecies and origins of Greater White-fronted Geese remain a problem for all observers at the present time.



This first-winter **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** (no white face patch) was found Jan. 27 at Knoydart, *Ant.* The marked white tips of its greater coverts were thought to be suggestive of an Old-World subspecies, but do occur on young of other subspecies, and its orange bill and its blackish back are characteristics of our "usual" Greenland subspecies, *flavirostris*. [Photo John Kearney]

KJM and Bob Bancroft located a **SNOW GOOSE** in the Abercrombie area of Pictou Harbour. It was in the company of a flock of Canada Geese and appeared to be the same bird that was found on the Linacy Golf Course the previous week. Three diminutive geese showed up in a hoard of about 3000 CANADA GEESE when ELM checked them over early December in the Onslow region. They proved to be **ACKLING GEESE**. The characteristics of the CANADA GOOSE flocks had also changed from previous weeks, with a visible increase in the proportion of large, white-breasted of Atlantic Canada (subspecies *canadensis*) and a relative decline in the numbers of the smaller and darker-breasted northern form (subspecies *interior*). The latter types had presumably moved on. A pair of **BRANT** grazing on the mudflats within the town of Digby was an unusual and welcome sighting. We get few records of Brant from that region or from any location other than CSI. The same three observers found an unusually large group of about 40 Harlequin Ducks in the stormy waters of the cove at Centerville, *Digby*.

We continued to be favoured by wintering wigeons; the CBC of **EURASIAN** was second highest, and of **AMERICAN WIGEON** the highest ever. A pair of American December 27 near on the La Have R., *Lun.*, was followed by nine shortly later in nearby Kingsburg; they are rarely seen in the Lunenburg region (none on the CBC), making them noteworthy. The **MALLARD** is a prolific inter-breeder with other species and the resultant hybrids often prove a challenge to identify with their mixed plumage. They regularly breed with **AMERICAN BLACK DUCK** (see CBC) and are a threat that species in many places, as they tend to replace them, the hybrids usually

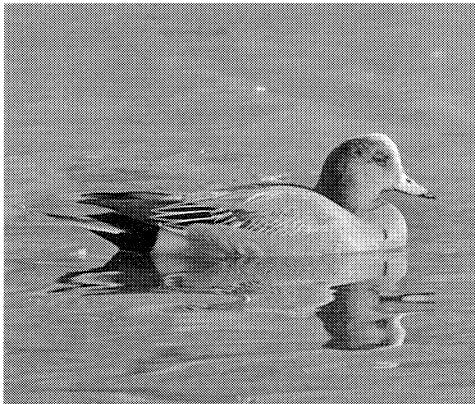
being fertile. They are known to interbreed with at least 50 other species; a Wikipedia article has a much higher estimate. One of the more common and attractive hybrids, a Mallard X Pintail has often been present at Sullivan's Pond over the last year (also on this CBC, along with a Mallard x Am. Wigeon), and showed up again at Point Pleasant Park on New Year's Day and January 27 (KAM, RJS). Another mix that is sometimes seen is a Mallard x Gadwall, which is known as Brewer's Duck after ornithologist Thomas Brewer. All these hybrids can be highly confusing but can provide unusual photos.

A couple of **CANVASBACKS** first located in late November continued in the Dartmouth region for some time giving many observers the chance to see them. BES spotted a male **TUFTED DUCK** in Glace Bay Hbr. the day after a major storm swept the Province. It was in a large flock of **GREATER SCAUP**. (The one in Bissett Lake in November was also found the day after a major storm – see last issue, and also article in present issue, p. 58, on Tufted Duck hybrids with scaup.) Most of the **CBC LESSER SCAUP** were on the Halifax-Dartmouth count. The **REDHEAD** at the Port Williams sewage plant (GFO) was believed to be the first at that location. It was present for some time. The beautiful male Redhead that showed up in the Barrington Passage area on Boxing Day, and remained through winter, had been attracted by some feral ducks. A female was later identified at Purcell's Cove. **COMMON EIDERS** showed in large numbers in the Louisbourg area of Cape Breton on several occasions. On February 18, Bill Bussey reported several thousand birds offshore between Lighthouse Point and Lorraine Head. A rare female **KING EIDER** was identified at Daniel's Head CSI by JON. This was the only one seen this winter; five were recorded last year. Scoters, especially **WHITE-WINGED**, were in below average numbers on the CBC, and were clearly otherwise under-reported. The 122 **HARLEQUIN UCKS** on the Port l'Hebert CBC were exceptional.

The CBC total of **HOODED MERGANSER** was the highest ever, but the other two mergansers were somewhat below long-term averages. Their numbers in the Pictou region, along with those of scaup, were far below the norm for the past few years. KJM speculated that something is dramatically affecting their food supply or changing their migration patterns. An experimental fishery, recently started in the area, should be carefully monitored to see if it is a contributing factor. PMA pointed out that recent reports of large numbers of Striped Bass moving into the Northumberland area could also have a significant impact on the supply of Silversides, their main food. KJM has also reported that the numbers of ducks in general have been very low this winter in the Pictou region.

Pink-footed Goose				Gadwall			
Oct 22 – Dec 30	Windsor, <i>Hants</i>	1	RBS <i>et al</i>	CBC	(most Pictou Hbr.)	11	
Greater White-fronted Goose				Dec 1	CSI	1	JON
Jan 27	Knoydart, <i>Ant</i>	1	JOK	Dec 1	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1m	BLM
Feb 19-26	Garden Lots, <i>Lun.</i>	1 ph	Nicolle Wallis	Dec 16	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2	JWW
Snow Goose				Jan 7	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	2	JED
Dec 6	Pictou Hrb.	1	KJM, Bob Bancroft	Feb 4	NSPC Trenton, <i>Pic.</i>	5	KJM
Cackling Goose				Feb 29	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	2	HAT
Dec 5	Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	3	ELM	Eurasian Wigeon			
Canada Goose				CBC		14	
Dec 2	Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	8,629		Dec 1, 15	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM
Dec 4	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	1000+	ROH	Dec 4	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	2m	SEM,
Dec 5	Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	456	JAH	PMC			
Dec 10	CSI	3000	ELM	Dec 10	CSI	1	JAH, DPO
Dec 11	Bissett L. <i>HRM</i>	30	JAH, DPO	Dec 12, 27	Sullivan's Pond, <i>HRM</i>	3, 5	JED, IAM
Dec 11-Feb. 19	<i>Lun.</i> , var. locs.	hundreds	CDA	Dec 16	Windsor sewage	1	RBS
Dec 15	Windsor, <i>Hants</i>	Flocks, 38-340	JAH, DPO	Dec 18	W. Lawrencetown marsh, <i>HRM</i>	3	JOL
Dec 18	E.Port l'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	800	JOB	Dec 18	Kennedy's Cove, <i>Ant</i>	1	RFL
Jan-Feb	3 Fathom Hbr. <i>HRM</i>	147	JAH	Feb 24	Glac Bay	1f	BEC
Jan 15	CSI, <i>Shel</i>	200	SEM	American Wigeon			
Jan 27	Knoydart, <i>Ant.</i>	75	JAH	CBC		992	
Feb 18	Felton S., <i>Lun.</i>	28	JOK	Dec 1, 15	Red Bridge Pond, Dartmouth	80, 115	BLM
Brant				Dec 4	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	33	SEM, PMC
CBC (CSI only)		340	JAH	Dec 10	CSI	2	JAH, DPO
Jan 8	CSI	11		Dec 16	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	3	JWW
Feb 2	CSI	15	RDE	Dec 24, 27	Bridgewater, Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	2, 9	JAH
Feb 19	Digby	300	JON	Dec 27-Jan. 2	Dartmouth	20-50	var. obs.
Wood Duck				Feb 17, 27	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	13, 11	DMW
CBC	Antigonish, CSI only	2		American Black Duck			
Dec 13	Canard R., <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF	CBC		12,736	
Dec 18, Jan 20	Chester, <i>Lun</i>	1 m	Terry Danks	Dec 4	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	273	JAH
Jan 20	Rhodes Corner, <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH	Dec 18	East Port l'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	145	JAH
Feb 5	Lillydale, <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH	Dec 27	Oxner's Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	42	JAH
				Jan 10	Daniels Head, CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	125	JON

Jan 15	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	78	JAH
Feb 18	Rose Bay, <i>Lun</i>	53	JAH



Up to three drake EURASIAN WIGEON at Sullivans Pond this winter (this one Jan. 8) caused some interest because their greenish eye patches seemed to hint at past hybridization with American Wigeon. However, they had no other indications of mixed plumage, and the literature reveals that such green patches (especially in certain lighting) are found in "pure" Eurasian drakes in Europe. [Photo Richard Stern]

Mallard

CBC		4,922	
Dec 10	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	52	JAH, DPO
Dec 16	Habitant R. Canning, <i>Kings</i>	65	JWW
Feb 9	Port Williams, sewage ponds, <i>Kings</i>	100	JWW

Blue-winged teal

CBC, Dec. 18	Halifax-Dartmouth only	3	
Dec 1	Yarmouth Hbr.	1	JON

Northern Shoveler

CBC	Antigonish, Broad Cove. <i>Lun.</i>	4, 1	
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Northern Pintail

CBC		3	
Dec 4	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	13	JAH
Dec 12	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	6	DAM
Dec 14	Habitant R. Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1 m	BLF
Feb 4	New Glasgow sewage lagoon	2	KJM
Feb 5	Lillydale, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH

Green-winged Teal

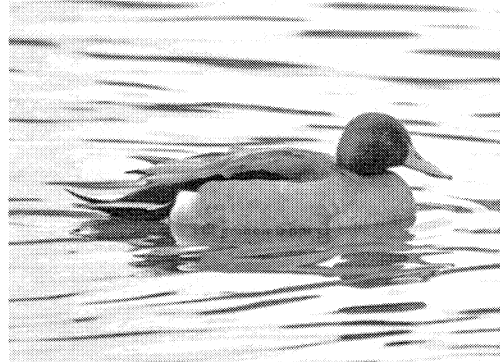
CBC		134	
Dec 4	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	14	JAH
Dec 10, Jan 3	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	20	DOU, DAM
Jan 7	Garden Lots, <i>Lun.</i>	7	JAH
Feb 19	Summerville, <i>Queens</i>	11	JAH

Canvasback

CBC	Halifax-Dartmouth only	1	
Dec 3	De Said L. <i>HRM</i>	2	DOU
Dec 9	Bissett L. <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP

Redhead

Dec 26-end Feb.	Barrington Passage, <i>Shel.</i>	1	RDE et al.
Jan 1	Salt Marsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	1	MZE
Feb 12	Purcell's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 f	DOU



Hybrid dabbling Ducks are frequent, especially of AMERICAN BLACK DUCK X MALLARD, but this one appears to be product of Mallard and PINTAIL. A Mallard X AMERICAN WIGEON is remarkably similar, but usually has a more variably toned head and less spiky tail [Photo Bernard Burke]



Among images by a number of photographers of the drake REDHEAD wintering at the sewage lagoons at Port Williams, *Kings*, this one (Feb. 16) seemed the most off-beat. [Photo Richard Stern]

Ring-necked Duck

CBC		69	
Dec 1- Jan. 1	Dartmouth area lakes. ponds	1-2	Var. obs.
Dec 14	Stillwater L. <i>HRM</i>		"flock" PST
Dec 27	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	23	JAH

Tufted Duck

Feb 12, 26	Glace Bay	1m (ph)	BEC, ALM, CAM
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Scaup sp.

Dec 6, Jan 1	Bissett L. <i>HRM</i>	uncounted	RSM, KAM
Jan 3, 25	Dartmouth Cove	20, 3	David Schlosberg

Greater Scaup

Jan 10	Daniels Head, CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	180	JON
Jan 20, Feb. 29	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	300, 440	JAH
Jan 28	Feltzen South, <i>Lun.</i>	120	JAH
Jan 29	Purcell's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	no.?	DOU
Feb 5	Bridgewater, <i>Lun.</i>	40	JAH
Feb 12	Glace Bay	flock	BEC
Feb 23	Sober I. <i>HRM</i>	66	KJM

Lesser Scaup

CBC		99	
Dec 1	De Said L. <i>HRM</i>	27	BLM
Dec 2	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	some	Nic Fieldsend
Dec 6	De Said L., <i>HRM</i>	63	RSM
Jan 24	Pt Williams sewage ponds, <i>Kings</i>	2	JWW
Jan 29	Purcell's Cove, <i>HRM</i> no.?		DOU
Feb 18	Lunenburg	11	JAH
Feb 29	First South, <i>Lun</i>	100	JAH

Common Eider

CBC		6,979	
Dec 1	Duncan Reef, <i>HRM</i>	"myriad"	HAT
Dec 2	Merigomish Hbr. <i>Pic.</i>	40	KJM
Dec. 4-Feb. 18	widely, 8 repts., 4-140	indivs	
Dec 4, 18	East Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	4	JAH

King Eider

Dec 13	Daniel's Head, CSI	1f	JON
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Harlequin Duck

CBC		161	
Dec 1, Jan. 7	Duncan Reef, <i>HRM</i>	2, 3	HAT, DGU
Dec 3	Point Michaud Beach, <i>Rich.</i>	1m	WMA
Dec 18, Jan 9, Feb. 16	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	11, 7 m., 10	PBG, RBS
Dec 18	Crystal Crescent Beach, <i>HRM</i>	6	BLM
Dec 30	Margaretville, <i>Ann.</i>	2	RBS
Jan 15	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH
Feb 4	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	9	SAB
Feb 15	Sambro I., <i>HRM</i>	11	Stephen Manuel
Feb 19	Centreville, <i>Digby</i>	40	BLF, RBS, RIW
Feb 23	Sober I. <i>HRM</i>	4	KJM

Surf Scoter

CBC		520	
Dec 1	Parkers Cove, <i>Ann.</i>	several	RBS
Dec 1	Saints Rest, <i>Col.</i>	3	KJM
Dec 2	La Have R. <i>Lun.</i>	several	JAH
Dec 4	East Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	2	JAH
Dec 12	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	2m	DOU
Jan 9	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	a few	PBG

White-winged Scoter

CBC		504	
Dec 1	Parkers Cove, <i>Ann.</i>	several	RBS
Dec 2	Sand Dollar Bch, & Conrad's I., <i>Lun.</i>	Sev.	JAH
Dec 2	Melmerby Beach P.P., <i>Pic.</i>	58	KJM
Dec 4	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	20+	Nic Fieldsend
Dec 4, 18	East Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	16, 42	JAH
Jan 9	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	a few	PBG
Feb 5	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	9	BEC

Black Scoter

CBC		561	
Dec 1	Saints Rest, <i>Col.</i>	3	KJM
Dec 2	Kingsburg Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Dec 4	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	3	Nic Fieldsend
Jan 1	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	3	DOU
Feb 5	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	2	BEC

Long-tailed Duck

CBC		1,732	
Dec 1	Parkers Cove, <i>Ann.</i>	several	RBS
Dec 4, 18	East Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	4, 15	JAH
Dec 10	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	7	JAH, DPO
Dec 27	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	18	JAH
Jan 10	Daniels Head, CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	45	JON
Feb 4	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	10	SAB
Feb 5	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	8	BEC
Feb 19	Digby	8	RIW
Feb 26	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun</i>	56	JAH
Feb 27	Port George, <i>Anna</i>	4	BPG

Bufflehead

CBC		931	
Dec 2	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	11	DMW
Dec 3	Chester-Mahone Bay area, <i>Lun</i>	12+	Ryan Harvey
Dec 4	White Pt. - Summerville, <i>Queens</i>	2	JAH
Dec 12	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	flock	DOU
Feb 4	Greens Point, <i>Pict</i>	2	KJM
Feb 19	Cherry Hill Beach, <i>Lun</i>	72	JAH
Feb 26	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun</i>	50	JAH

Common Goldeneye

CBC		2428	
Dec 27-Feb. 29	<i>Lun.</i> , var. locs.	Flocks, 7-49	JAH
Dec 30-Jan. 30	Dartmouth Cove	up to 14 m, 7 f	var. obs.
Jan 25	Pt. Williams sewage ponds, <i>Kings</i>	2m, 1f	RBS
Feb 4	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	9	SAB
Feb 11, 15	Pt. Williams sewage ponds, <i>Kings</i>	12, 33	GFO

Barrow's Goldeneye

CBC		39	
Dec 2	W. Head, <i>Queens</i>	1 m	DPO
Dec 18	Dunn's Beach, <i>Ant</i>	1 m	KJM
Jan 7	W. Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Jan 27	Dartmouth Cove	1 m	JED
Jan 29	Purcell's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Feb 1	Lunenburg	2m, 1f	JAH
Feb 6	Waterside, <i>Pic.</i>	2m	KJM
Feb 4	Big Gut Bridge, <i>Pic.</i>	no.?	KJM

Hooded Merganser

CBC		510	
Dec 2, 3	Saxon St. Pond, <i>Kings</i>	4, 6	RBS, James Churchill
Dec 3	Chester-Mahone Bay area, <i>Lun.</i>	8	Ryan Harvey
Dec 4	White Pt. - Summerville, <i>Queens</i>	2	JAH
Dec 4	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	14	JAH
Dec 11, 27	Riverport, <i>Lun</i>	10, 12	JAH, DPO
Dec 12	Silver L. <i>Kings</i>	3	JWW
Jan 1	W. Lawrencetown Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	30	KAM
Jan 23	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	5	JED
Feb 4	Big Gut Bridge, <i>Pic.</i>	no.?	KJM
Feb 29	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	36	JAH

Common Merganser

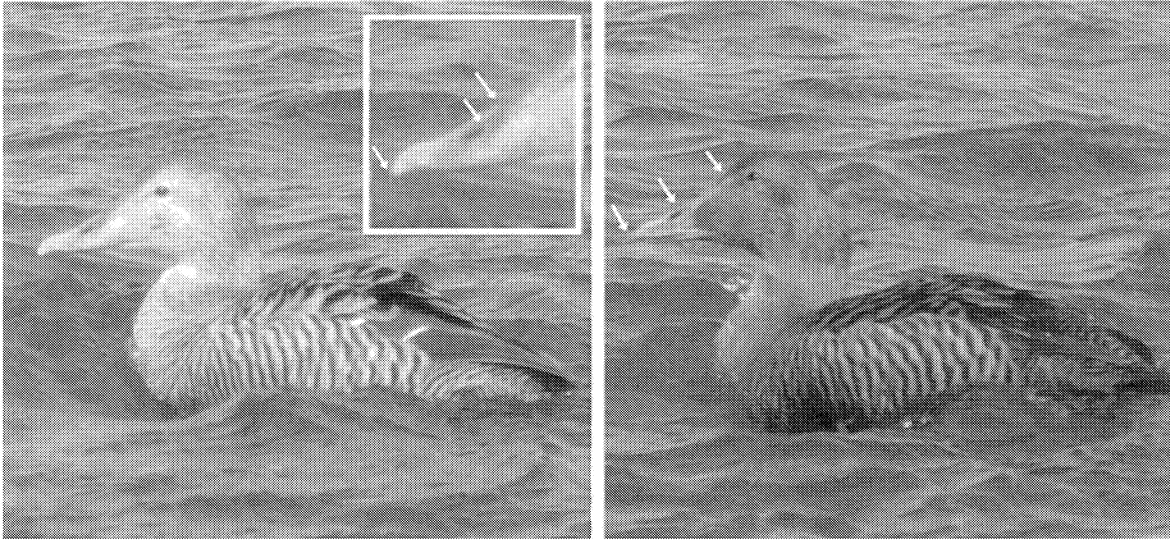
CBC		1,234	
Dec 1	Economy Pt., <i>Col.</i>	2	KJM
Dec 2	Bissett L. <i>HRM</i>	12	Nic Fieldsend
Dec 3-Feb. 29	Var. locs. <i>Lunenburg</i>	4-6	indivs. JAH et al.
Dec 4	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	63	SEM, PMC
Dec 4	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	3	JAH
Dec 13	River Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	15	JSH
Dec 23	Micmac L. <i>HRM</i>	17	Graham Williams
Feb 22	Sullivan's Pond, <i>HRM</i>	6	BLM

Red-breasted Merganser

CBC		534	
Dec 4	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	9	Nic Fieldsend
Dec 4, 18	East Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	3, 29	JAH
Dec 15, 23	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	30, 19	DMW
Dec 17	Shag Hbr. <i>Shel.</i>	9	JAH
Dec 17	Woods Hbr. <i>Shel.</i>	16	JAH
Dec 27, Feb. 18	3. locs., <i>Lun.</i>	8, 3, 5	JAH
Jan 8	CSI, <i>Shel</i>	no.?	ROD
Jan 9	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	a few	PBG
Jan 23-26	Dartmouth to E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	2-7	Sev. obs.
Feb 4	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	3	SAB
Feb 18	Lunenburg, <i>Lun.</i>	5	JAH
Feb 18	Feltzen South, <i>Lun.</i>	6	JAH
Feb 27	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	6	BPG

Ruddy Duck

Dec 1, 6	Bissett L. <i>HRM</i>	4, 3	BLM, RSM
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These two roughly equidistant COMMON EIDERS (brought closer from a single photo with no size changes), were found February 18 at Rainbow Haven PP, HRM. Pale plumage is typical of the Hudson Bay subspecies *sedentaria*, but also in some females of the more widespread Nunavut subspecies *borealis*. This one appears to have a relatively longer bill in front of the nostril, compared with the length of the ‘frontal processes’ behind it, which is characteristic of *borealis*. Also, it seems, if anything, smaller than the dark female; *sedentaria* is on average the largest subspecies. So, this may be our first photographically confirmed *borealis*. Such unusual eiders are always worth photographing. [Photo Jeff Ogden]

Galliformes

By Ian McLaren

There’s never much to say about these birds; RING-NECKED PHEASANT may seem too commonplace to bother reporting, and RUFFED GROUSE are seldom and SPRUCE GROUSE almost never encountered. The CBC results help: Pheasants were fewer than recorded since the early 1990s, while Ruffed Grouse were within recent limits, and this year’s CBC was the first since the 1980 with no report of Spruce Grouse (count week only).

Ring-necked Pheasant			
CBC total	380		
Thru season	19 locs, <i>Pic. to Ann.</i>	60	all eBird
Ruffed Grouse			
CBC total	125		
Thru season	13 locs, <i>Pic. to Lun.</i>	21	all eBird

Spruce Grouse			
CBC total		1 cw	
Jan. 3,	E. Apple R. <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Jan. 14	Portapique, <i>Col.</i>	1	KEL
Jan. 17	Sheffield L, <i>Kings</i>	1	RIW
Jan. 27	E. Apple R. <i>Cum.</i>	3	KFS
Feb. 14	E. Apple R. <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS

Loons through Grebes

By John Belbin

Although RED-THROATED LOON produced a record CBC, and COMMON LOON numbers were within recent limits, far fewer of the latter than normal were seen in the Lockeport area this winter (DJC). However numbers seemed reasonable at other locations along the South Shore.

Blake Maybank found more than **120** HORNED GREBES at Graves Island Provincial Park, Lunenburg on December 3, which is by far the largest flock, reported in many years. It easily surpasses the totals achieved on any individual CBC for the last four or five years. In fact this number would rival the CBC provincial total in most years. Most were still there two weeks later. Horned Grebes are less gregarious than most other grebes and often migrate as

singles, which makes a group of this size even more unusual. Some 20 RED-NECKED GREBES were reported at the same location, again a large gathering for this species, although it is known to flock. There didn't seem to be a weather-related reason for these large groupings. Both Horned and Red-necked Grebes were seen at the inner end of Bedford Basin during the Bedford-Sackville CBC on December 27. They are rarely noted this far into the harbour area, so this was another unusual occurrence for these birds.

Red-throated Loon

CBC			73	
Dec 1	Parkers Cove, <i>Ann.</i>	several	RBS	
Dec 2	Dartmouth Cove	1	JED	
Dec 4	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	Nic Fieldsend	
Dec 18	Cooks Beach, <i>Yar</i>	2	RSD	
Jan 7	Grand Desert Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU	
Jan 7	Blue Rocks, <i>Lun</i>	2	JAH	
Jan 7-18	Lockeport, <i>Shel</i>	1	DJC	
Jan 17	Halifax Hbr.	1 ph	Justin Burke	

Common Loon

CBC			458	
Dec 1	Sambro <i>HRM</i>	2	HAT	
Dec 4	White Point – Summerville, <i>Queens</i>	2	JAH	
Dec 4, 18	E. Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	6	JAH	
Dec 17	Shag Hbr., Woods Hbr., <i>Shel</i>	10, 20	JAH	
Dec 18, Jan 9	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	1, 2	PBG	
Jan 15	CSI, <i>Shel</i>	5	JAH	
Jan 28	Feltzen South, <i>Lun</i>	3	JAH	
Feb 4	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	1	SAB	
Feb 15	Point Pleasant Park, <i>HRM</i>	12	BLM	
Feb 17	Fisherman's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2	PMU	
Feb 19	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	3	JAH	

Pied-billed Grebe

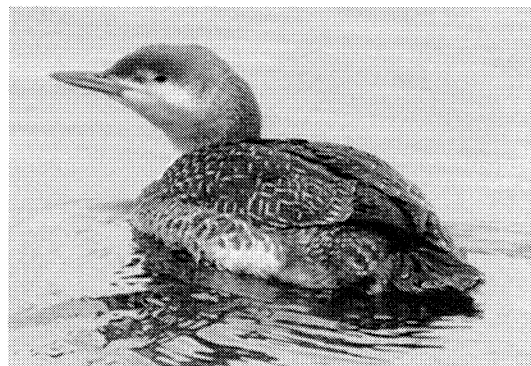
Dec 3	Roberts I. marsh, <i>Yar</i>	3	JON	
Dec 3	Mader's Cove, <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH	
Dec 10	Bissett L. <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU	
Dec 18	Pomquet, <i>Ant</i>	1	KJM	
Jan 21, Feb 10	Minesville, <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP	

Horned Grebe

CBC			172	
Dec 3, 17	Graves Island P.P., <i>Lun</i>	120, 80	BLM	
Dec 3	Chester-Mahone Bay area, <i>Lun</i>	6	Ryan Harvey	
Dec 4	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	1	JAH	
Dec 27	Bedford Bay, <i>HRM</i>		RSM	
Jan 15	CSI, <i>Shel</i>	5	JAH	
Jan 29	Purcell's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU	
Feb 19	Cherry Hill Beach, <i>Lun</i>	8	JAH	

Red-necked Grebe

CBC			180	
Dec 3	Graves Island P.P., <i>Lun</i>	20+	BLM	
Dec 3	Bayswater Beach PP	8	BLM	
Dec 4	White Point – Summerville, <i>Queens</i>	2	JAH	
Dec 4, 18	East Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	3, 1	JAH	
Dec 10, Jan. 15	CSI	1, 2	JAH, DPO	
Feb 4	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	3	SAB	
Feb 1	Digby	3	RIW	



Two experts from outside the province argued that the loon illustrated in the last issue (Vol. 14, No. 1, p. 14) that it was not a juvenile PACIFIC, but RED-THROATED LOON, like this one in Halifax Hbr., Jan. 18. Like last November's, The grey neck is not sharply cut off from the white foreneck, but contrasts with the white chin. Close up, the chevron-like white back markings are unique to Red-throated; Pacific has scalloped edgings. [Photo Justin Burke]

Tubenoses through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

It was an interesting winter for seabirds, the most noteworthy a **YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS** reported from Canadian waters at 42. 00° N, 66.19.14° W on the NE corner of Georges Bank on January 20. No details apart from position are available at the moment, so the possibility of an immature Black-browed Albatross, which would have a dark bill similar to Yellow-nosed, cannot be excluded.

NORTHERN FULMARS are the winter tubenose of our area, but are little seen, except by fishermen. Christopher Vogel's observations, as a professional seabird observer, of numbers in the Gulf of Maine on February 12 come as no surprise, but they are very useful in filling in information on this winter inhabitant of the fishing banks. The CORY'S SHEARWATER seen during the Louisbourg CBC on December 17 was late, but not unexpected considering the location, the northeastern part of our reporting area, and the date, during early winter when waters on the continental shelf are still relatively warm. GREAT SHEARWATERS also linger into early winter; the last

was reported from a lobster-fishing vessel west of Seal Island on December 6, two days after the last SOOTY SHEARWATER was seen in the same location by the same observer.

The numbers of early-winter NORTHERN GANNETS appear to be quite stable from year to year, and although a few may linger into the New Year, an immature along the Blue Rocks shore on the Lunenburg CBC, January 2, was the last of the winter, despite some concentrated sea-watching later.

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS

Jan. 20 NE cor. Georges Bank 1 *fide* RDE

Northern Fulmar

CBC Halifax-Dartmouth 2
Dec. 6 10 km W of Seal I., *Yar.* 3 RDE
Dec. 9 10 km W of Seal I., *Yar.* 5 RDE
Feb. 12 Gulf of Maine off Yarmouth 120
Christopher Vogel

Cory's Shearwater

CBC Louisbourg, 17 Dec. 1

Great Shearwater

CBC White Point, *Queens* 3
Dec. 2 10 km W of Seal I., *Yar.* 100+ RDE
Dec. 10 km W of Seal I., *Yar.* 2 RDE
Dec. 6 10 km W of Seal I., *Yar.* 2 RDE

Sooty Shearwater

Dec. 4 10 km W of Seal I., *Yar.* 1 RDE

Northern Gannet

CBC 159 (Brier I. 98, Halifax-Dartmouth 41)
Dec. 1 Northern Pt., Brier I. 25 ELM
Dec. 2 10 km W of Seal I., *Yar.* 20 RDE
Dec. 2 Off Northern Pt., Brier I. 8 ELM
Dec. 4 Arisaig, *Ant.* 2 JOK
Dec. 10 CSI 8 JAH, DOP

Dec. 18 Pomquet area, *Ant.* 1 KJM et al.

Jan. 1 C. Sable area, CSI 1 JAH

Jan. 2 Lunenburg CBC 1 imm.

Double-crested Cormorant

CBCs 90 (incl. Cape Sable 24, Halifax-Dartmouth 35)

Dec. 1 Westport hbr., Brier I. 1 ELM

Dec. 3 Lunenburg hbr. 1 SJF, JSC

Dec. 10 CSI 1 JAH, DOP

Feb. 1 Daniels Hd., CSI 1 JON, SAN

(Plus a few on eBird from *HRM*, *Pic.*, and S. Shore, Dec. to early Feb.)

Great Cormorant

CBCs widely 698

Dec. 1 Brier I. 100 ELM

Dec. 3 Blandford, *Lun.* 22 BLM

Dec. 10 CSI 25 JAH, DOP

Dec. 17 Shag Hbr., *Shel.* 13 JAH

Dec. 17 Woods Hbr., *Shel.* 3 JAH

Dec. 18 E. Pt L'Hebert, *Queens* 1 JAH

Jan. 1 Beach Meadows, *Queens* 9 ELM

Feb. 4 Prospect, *HRM* 1 SAB

Feb. 23 Sober I., *HRM* 7 KJM, CHK

(Plus low nos. on eBird -- *Guys.*, *HRM* and S. Shore through

Herons

By Ulli Höger

As expected, the seasonal reports in this section were sparse. Even although winter turned out to be milder than usual, sightings of herons and egrets dropped once shallows in lakes, ponds and marshes began to ice over. The CBC of GREAT BLUE HERON was the lowest since 1989. The GREAT EGRET that was a regular during autumn in the Grand Desert area was still present into early December. It could have been the same bird that has been seen there by locals for a few years now, and there is speculation that it was once released from Hope for Wildlife, a nearby wildlife rehab center, and has returned in the past to summer in NS. The lingering CATTLE EGRET on the Yarmouth CBC was most unexpected, and our latest ever.

Great Blue Heron

CBC 8
Dec. 12 Lunenburg, *Lun.* 1 KEL
Dec. 16 Brier I., *Digby* 2 ELM
Dec. 27 Shelburne, *Shel.* 1 Gretchen Markle
Jan. 2 Canning, *Kings* 1 JWW
Jan. 22 s.w. NS area, *Yar.* 3+ RDE
Feb. 2-7 CSI 1 var. obs

GREAT EGRET

early Dec Grand Desert, *HRM* 1 var. obs.
Dec. 1 Chebogue, *Yar.* 1 MUN, JON
Dec. 7 CSI 1 JON
Dec. 11 River Bourgeois, *Rich.* 1 BID

CATTLE EGRET

Dec. 18 CBC Yarmouth 1

Diurnal Raptors

By Ian McLaren

The CBC total of TURKEY VULTURE was an all-time record, and the large roost near Wedgeport, *Yar.*, was amazing. The CBC of BALD EAGLE was within limits for recent years, and in the season that followed, numbers were not outstanding. A Bald Eagle was attending a small/new nest December 9 at Grand Pré (RBS), and others were noted doing so from mid-Jan. on (var. obs.). There's presumably some competition for suitable sites in *Kings*. The two COOPER'S HAWKS were confidently reported by experienced observers, but it would be good to have

details of all sightings of this increasingly reported hawk. BROAD-WINGED HAWK was absent from CBCs for the first time in some years, and only one was seen subsequently. A twosome, apparently a pair, of **RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS** was fed through winter in Lunenburg, and fully confirmed by photographs, but the location within the county and images cannot be published because of householder concerns. Most regular accipiters and buteos were within recent CBC limits, but SHARP-SHINNED and RED-TAILED HAWK seemed particularly scarce, both with the lowest CBC totals since 1994.

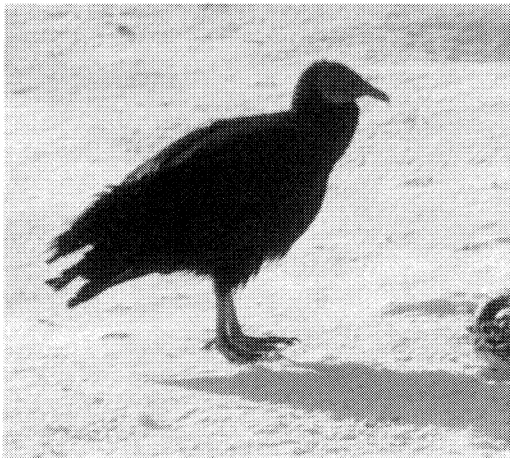
Important information on the photo in the last issue (Vol. 54, issue 1, p. 20), of the dark buteo at Lanarck, Ant., which was suggested to be a dark morph Red-tailed Hawk, came from William S. Clark, well-known expert and coauthor of the *Peterson Field Guide to the Hawks of North America* (2001, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, New York). He strongly argued (e-mail to IAM) that it was a classic dark-morph **HARLAN'S HAWK**, based its structure, plain whitish tail, and especially the dark underparts with no darker bars or streaks, but with small white patches, including on the throat. Although this morph has been reported as here "possible" a couple of times in the past, the photo confirms a very rare record for e. N. America. Clark, who is preparing an article on such occurrences, also believes that subspecies *harlani* is in fact a distinct species. So, Charlie Kendell and Ken McKenna should "bank" their find as a potential provincial "lifer"!

Turkey Vulture

CBC total	63		
Feb. 19	nr. Bridgetown, Ann.	1	RIW et al.
Feb. 20	nr. Wedgeport, Yar.	roost of 30+	RDE et al.
Jan. 8, 14	nr. E. Apple R., Cum.	1, 4	KFS
Jan. 8	Dartmouth	1	KEL
Jan. 22	Cole Hbr., HRM	1	MZE
Feb. 5, 19	nr. E. Apple R., Cum.	6,2	KFS
Feb. 19	Cherry Hill Bch, Lun.	1	JAH, KEL

Black Vulture

Dec. 16	Cheticamp	1 (ph)	via NSBS site
Feb. 14-29	Fairmont, Ant.	1 (ph).	RFL



This BLACK VULTURE was photographed Feb. 14 when appeared at RFL's unusual backyard feeder in the woods of Antigonish. Its dumpy silhouette is a give-away field mark.

Bald Eagle

CBC total	727	
Thru season	widely	130 repts. 600+indivs. E-bird + 11 obs.

Northern Harrier

CBC total	33		
2 Dec.- Jan. 15	Hartlen Pt., HRM	6 repts. (of 1?)	var. obs.
Dec 3.- Jan. 27	Lun.	4 repts (3 indivs.?)	E-bird + 1 obs.
27 Dec.	E. Long I., Kings	1	JOK
27 Feb.	Brule Shore, Col.	1	KJM

Sharp-shinned Hawk

CBC total	40		
4 Dec.-25 Feb.	Ant. -Shel.	18± indivs.	E-bird + 4 obs.

Cooper's Hawk

Dec. 7	Falmouth, Hants	1 "closely observed"	Ryan Harvey
Jan. 4	Little Hbr., Shel.	1 "pretty adult"	DHY

Northern Goshawk

CBC total	6		
Dec. 24-Feb. 22	"Home", Lun.	1 imm. repeat?	KEL
Dec. 29	Hartlen Pt., HRM	1	JVA
Jan. 4	Windsor	1	JVA
Jan. 5	Oakland, Lun.	1 ad.	KEL

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

See text

BROAD-WINGED HAWK

Jan. 7	near Antigonish	1	RFL
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Red-tailed Hawk

CBC total	189		
Through season	Ant. to Yar.	44 repts, 80±indivs.	E-bird + 6 obs.

Rough-legged Hawk

CBC total	28		
Through season	Devil's I., HRM	1 dark	var. obs.
Jan. 1	near Windsor	1	G. Williams
Jan. 8	Hartlen Pt., HRM	1 (same as Devil's I. bird?)	TBO
Feb. 5	Avonport, Hants	1 light	RIW
Feb. 9	Walters Cove, Guys.	1	KJM
Feb. 27	Cape John, Pic.	1	KJM

American Kestrel

CBC total	11		
Dec. 2	Rose Bay, Lun.	1	JAH
Dec. 16	Garden Lots, Lun.	1	KEL
Jan. 12	Lilydale, Lun.	1	KEL

Merlin

CBC total	16		
Dec. 4	White Pt., Queens	1	JAH
Dec. 10	CSI	1	JAH
Dec. 13	Halifax	1	KEL
Feb. 11	Dartmouth	1	MZE
Feb. 19	White Pt., Queens	1	JAH
Feb. 20	Dartmouth	1	CDA
Feb. 22	E. Apple R., Cum.	1	KFS

Peregrine Falcon

CBC total	8		
Thru winter	Halifax, var. locs.	1	DEG et al.
Jan. 15	Falmouth, Hants	1	Ryan Harvey
Jan. 18	CSI	1	JAH
January	Grand Pré, Kings	5 in area	fide JWW

Rails, Cranes

By Ulli Höger

Marked with a big question mark is the report of a possible **YELLOW RAIL** January 27 at a feeder in Sherbrooke. It was reported with the following description by Jean Robichaud: “*Had never seen one before. Larger than a robin. Rather chubby. First thought it was some kind of grouse but was smaller, same sparrow-like colouring. Walked like a chicken. Black on back between wings. When flushed there were distinct white bands midway on wings. Looked it up on internet and Yellow Rail was the best match.*”

The bird of the season for many birders in *HRM* was the **COMMON GALLINULE**. It had been known to us as Common Moorhen, but was renamed (actually the former name for) in July 2011 as a separate species from its Eurasian counterpart. Our previous latest was December 27 and our earliest in spring, April 4. “Vogel” (Dutch-German for bird), as it was dubbed at one point by its growing community of fans, survived all winter on Red Bridge Pond in Dartmouth and was for some time accompanied by an **AMERICAN COOT**. Sustained by daily food deliveries of greens and chopped salmon it even developed quite an attitude and took its stand against the ever-present Mallards and American Black Ducks. Local birders and photographers Nick Honig and Tuma Young compiled and presented an information poster for the children and their parents of the day care center next to “Vogel’s” home. It was a nice way to explain the presence of strangers armed with binoculars and cameras in the neighborhood.

The record-setting numbers of American Coots (over 25) on Bisset Lake in autumn carried over into early December, but numbers dropped steadily as the season advanced. Still, some lingered into January until the Lake was frozen. Other individuals were seen all season in Dartmouth’s Red Bridge Pond, Lake Micmac, Sullivans Pond triangle.

In recent years **SANDHILL CRANES** have become a more regular sight in Nova Scotia, even during the colder season. This winter we had several reports of individuals from a number of locations.

YELLOW RAIL (possible)			
Jan. 27	Sherbrooke, <i>Guys.</i>	1	Jean Robichaud
COMMON GALLINULE			
All season	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm.	var. obs.
American Coot			
Dec. – mid Feb.	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm.	var. obs.
All season	Birch Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	MZE <i>et al.</i>
Dec. – mid Jan.	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	> 26 in early Dec.	var. obs.

Dec. 1-3	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	1-2	JAH, KEL
Dec. 10	CSI,	1	JAH
Dec. 30	Pictou.	1	KJM
Early Jan.	Halifax hbr.	1	Justin Burke
Sandhill Crane			
Dec. 30	Bridgetown, <i>Ann.</i>	1	PES, Bonnie Smith
Jan. 4	Upper Granville, <i>Ann.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> KEL
Feb. 9	Cheggogin Pt., <i>Yar.</i>	1	Allan Crosby, RDE



The **AMERICAN COOT**, unlike its gallinule cousin, was routine here this winter. This one was photographed Jan. 7 on the Halifax waterfront [Photo Justin Burke]



SANDHILL CRANES like this adult Feb. 9 in a field near Yarmouth are increasingly regular. Its short bill, neck, and legs suggest it was of the tundra-nesting subspecies *canadensis*. [Photo Ronnie D’Entremont]



Some excitement among birders outside the province was caused by our COMMON GALLINULE when it was first reported as a Common Moorhen, a name recently restricted to that remotely possible Old-World species. Photographs are useful in discriminating the two species: our bird had the gallinule's chestnut-toned back, squared-off tail (rounded in the moorhen) and narrow extension of yellow along the bill's gape (insert). Although the last criterion has recently been disputed, the extreme elongation of yellow along the gape of this bird is unlike any image of Common Moorhen among web photos. [Photos: Nic Honig; insert, Paul Murray]

Shorebirds

By Susann Myers

Fourteen species of shorebirds were reported early in the season, most in average numbers. Although many had departed by mid-January, an above-average eight species lingered to overwinter. As well as the usual hardy Sanderlings, Purple Sandpipers and Dunlin, shorebirds that remained through winter included Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot and Long-billed Dowitcher. Twelve species were found on CBCs in NS, two more than the 10-year average. The CBC total of 359 shorebirds, although 30% below the 10-year average, is 8% above the average for the past 8 years. The high counts of Sanderlings seen from the mid-1990s to 2003 resulted in unusually high shorebird totals for those years, skewing the averages somewhat. Average figures quoted below are 10-year averages, however.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS lingered into winter in good numbers, and the 24 seen on CBCs were well above the average count of 16. Small numbers remained to winter, as is often the case. The **SEMPALMATED PLOVER** discovered during count week was a good find for the Yarmouth CBC. It provided only the second CBC record of the past 10 years, and winter records of this species occur only about once every three years in the province. The small numbers of KILLDEER reported were a little below average, but seemed much lower after last year's major December fallout.

Not surprisingly, all of the GREATER and LESSER YELLOWLEGS that lingered to December were found at the

balmy southwest end of the province. Similarly, the only reports after early January of RUDDY TURNSTONE, RED KNOT and SANDERLING were from Lunenburg County, mostly at Cherry Hill Beach.

“Peeps” are the smallest *Calidris* sandpipers. The three species of North American peeps are SEMIPALMATED, WESTERN and LEAST SANDPIPER. Although numerous on fall migration, peeps are rare winter lingerers in NS.

Two small groups were reported in early December at mainland locations, a tribute to the mild fall weather. The most unusual sighting, however, was of 35 Semipalmated Sandpiper (3rd CBC record) on the Port L’Hebert CBC. These peeps were found by Bob and Russel Crosby, long-time CBC participants. They report that the Semipalmated were at Little Harbour Lake, *Shel.* (a large coastal barachois) and were in two flocks that flew past them a couple of times at close range. No details were provided on how they ruled out the possibility of some Western Sandpipers in these flocks. Western is difficult to distinguish from Semipalmated in nonbreeding plumage and reporting of details on sightings of either species is encouraged, to help build our provincial records. The Crosby brothers also found a Least Sandpiper the same afternoon, on the beach at Louis Head Breakwater Road with a small group of Black-bellied Plovers. They were able to approach for a view at less than 50 yards with a 20 power spotting scope. This is only the second CBC record for this species in NS, the first being from 1976, and creeping slowly toward this sandpiper must have been an exciting way to end the afternoon. The 83 PURPLE SANDPIPERS found on CBCs were 60% below average, and numbers remained low throughout the winter. “Old Whitey”, a unique partly-white Purple Sandpiper, was found at Sober Island for the 10th consecutive year, providing a wonderful record of site fidelity for this species. DUNLIN were counted in roughly average numbers on CBCs, all at the southwestern end of the province. A small flock wintered at Crescent Beach as usual, dwindling from 12 in December to 8 by late February. Of the three LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS at Lr. Clarks Harbour, found on the Cape Sable CBC, at least one was still present in early March (JON). This is the third year of Long-billed records on CBCs, all from 2005 to the present. The two unidentified dowitchers on the Port L’Hebert CBC were probably of that species.

shorebird species

Dec 3 Point Michaud, *Rich.* ca. 60 BID, WMA

Black-bellied Plover

CBC 4
Dec 1 Lr. Debert Bch, *Col.* 2 KJM, CHK
Dec 1 Cherry Hill, *Lun.* 4 SJF
Dec 1 CSI some JON
Dec 4 Big I., *Pic.* 1 KJM, CHK
Dec 4 Seaforth, *HRM* 2 SEM, PMC
Jan 7 Cherry Hill, *Lun.* 2 SJF
Jan 21 Crow Neck Bch., *Shel.* 3 BJS, SIS
Feb 6, 18 Cherry Hill, *Lun.* 2 SJF

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER

CBC Yarmouth count week

Killdeer

CBC Economy 1
Dec 26, 27 Kingsburg Bch., *Lun.* 1 ELM; JAH, KEL
Feb 6 Trenton, *Pic.* 1 KJM

Greater Yellowlegs

CBC 5
Dec 1 CSI 5 JON

Lesser Yellowlegs

CBC 1 + cw.
Dec 1 CSI 4 JON

Ruddy Turnstone

Dec 3 The Hawk, *CSI* 3 MUN
Feb 6, 18, 27 Cherry Hill, *Lun.* 2 SJF BLF, RIW

Red Knot

Dec 1 Lr. Debert Bch., *Col.* 8 KJM, CHK
Dec 1 CSI some JON
Dec 4 Cherry Hill, *Lun.* 1 SJF
Dec 29 Hemeon’s Point, *Shel.* 2 SAB
Jan 8 CSI 1 RDE
Feb 6, 18 Cherry Hill, *Lun.* 3, 2 SJF

Sanderling

CBC 29
Dec 1 Lr. Debert Bch., *Col.* 20 KJM, CHK
Dec 1 CSI some JON
Dec 4 Big I., *Pic.* 2 KJM, CHK
Dec 4 Cherry Hill, *Lun.* 3 SJF
Dec 11 Gaff Pt., *Lun.* 14 KEL
Dec 27 Kingsburg Bch., *Lun.* 12 KEL
Jan 2 The Hawk, *CSI* 60 CST
Jan 7 Crescent Bch., *Lun.* 16 JAH *et al.*
Jan 28 Kingsburg Bch., *Lun.* 11 KEL
Feb 27 Cherry Hill, *Lun.* 6 BLF, RIW

Peep Species

Dec 5 Conrad Bch., *HRM* 6 D. & J. Schlosberg
Dec 29 Hemeon’s Pt., *Shel.* 3 SAB

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER

Dec 18 CBC, Port L’Hebert 35

LEAST SANDPIPER (2nd CBC record)

Dec 18 CBC, Port L’Hebert 1

Purple Sandpiper

CBC 83 + cw
Dec 6 Sambro Hbr., *HRM* some HAT
Jan 1 Margaretsville, *Ann.* 7 WPN
Jan 7 Crescent Bch., *Lun.* 12 JAH *et al.*
Feb 3 Baccaro Light, *Shel.* 13 BJS, SIS
Feb 9-21 3 locations, widespread 7 total var. obs.
Feb 9 Walters Cove, *Guys.* 25 KJM
Feb 10 Port Morien, *CBRM* 4 BEC, GEC
Feb 16 Port George, *Ann.* 5 RBS
Feb 18 Pt. Pleasant Pk, Halifax 13 PLC
Feb 18 Edgett’s Bch., *Cum.* 16 KFS
Feb 19 Cherry Hill, *Lun.* 20 JAH, DAW, KEL
Feb 23 Sober I., *HRM*

Dunlin			
CBC		172	
Dec 1	CSI	some	JON
Dec 1-30	Crescent Bch., Lun.	12	JSC, JAH
Dec 29	Hemeon's Pt., Shel.	35	SAB
Dec 30	Cherry Hill, Lun.	3	SJF
Jan 22	The Hawk, CSI	ca. 100	RBS <i>et al.</i>
Feb 14	The Hawk, CSI	20	JON, SAN
Feb 19, 25	Crescent Bch., Lun.	8	JAH, KEL <i>et al.</i>
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER			
Dec 2 - Jan 15,22	Clark's Hbr., CSI	3, 2	JON, SAN <i>et al.</i>

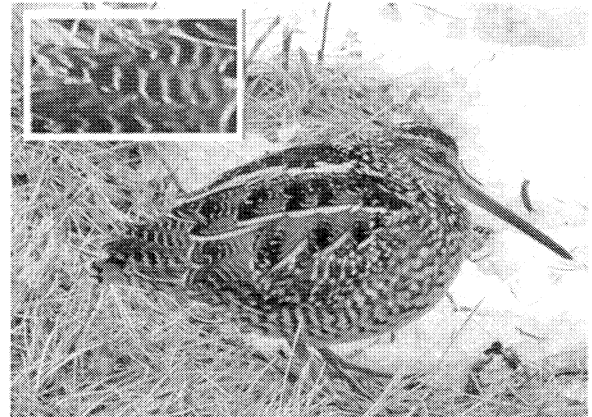


This partly leucistic (amelanistic) PURPLE SANDPIPER Feb. 23 on Sober II., HRM, nicknamed "Old Whitey" has apparently been wintering there for a decade. [Photo Ken McKenna]

Dec 1	Cherry Hill, Lun.	6	SJF
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Wilson's Snipe

CBC		2	
Dec 12	Grand Desert, HRM	2	DAM, DOU
Feb 4	Cow Bay, HRM	1, ph	



A WILSON'S SNIPE, Feb. 4 along Cow Bay Rd., HRM, differs from the Old-World COMMON SNIPE, which wandered last winter to s.e. Newfoundland. Wilson's is buffer, less contrasting and, unlike this bird, has roughly equally narrow black and pale bars on tertials (insert). [Photo Dennis Jones]

Gulls through Alcids

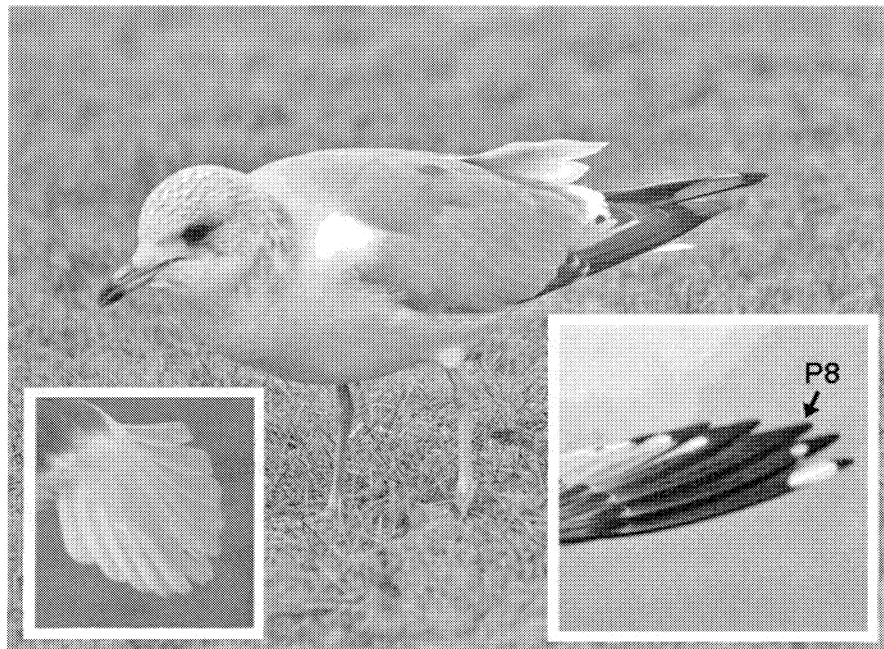
By Eric Mills

Under the right conditions, that is, gales unfavourable for birders but acceptable to the birds, BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES can be very numerous in the outer Bay of Fundy. Such was the case during the Brier Island CBC on December 16, when a rather short sea-watch gave a total of 4,681, impressive, but not a record for that location and time.

Only about one third of the usual numbers of BONAPARTE'S GULLS were recorded on CBCs this year. KJM speculated, in an e-mail message, that Bonaparte's Gulls and mergansers, both low in Pictou and Antigonish Counties during the fall, may have been responding to low numbers of Atlantic Silversides (*Menidia menidia*), a favoured food, which are being fished experimentally in Antigonish County and in PEI. This bears watching during the next year or two.

The first MEW (COMMON) GULL of the season was found on the Glace Bay CBC on December 31. Thereafter, a second-year bird, photographed by ALM and CAM, was at Schooner Pond, CBRM, on January 3, and one of the same age appeared in Dartmouth about February 23, lingering through the reporting period. It was joined by a second in March (further information to follow in the spring report).

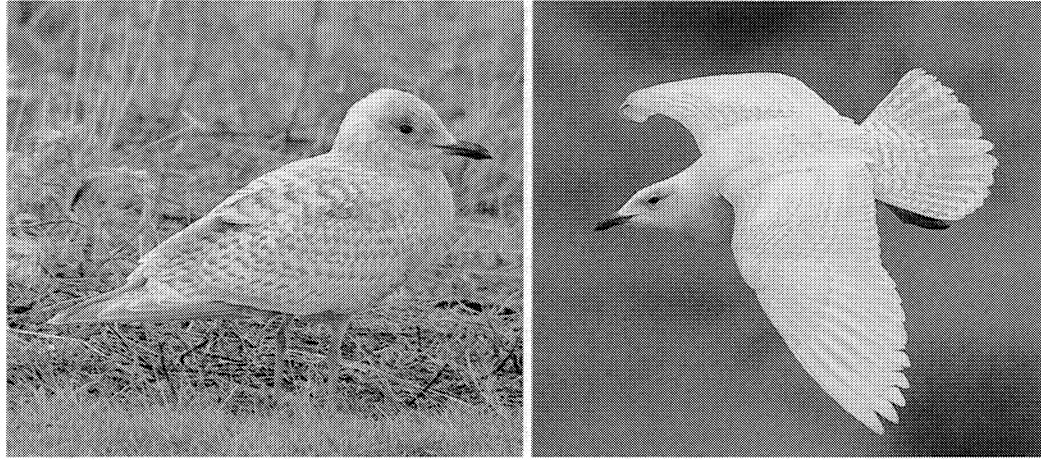
The hybrid HERRING x GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL observed by ALM and CAM at Beacon Street Dam, Glace Bay, on January 3 appears to have been the same bird that has wintered around Glace Bay for several years.



This second-winter MEW [COMMON] GULL appeared in late February and was diagnostically photographed (here Feb. 24 to Mar. 1) by its finder and others to confirm that it was indeed of the usual COMMON subspecies *canus* of Europe and Iceland. The western N. American subspecies of MEW GULL (*brachyrhynchus*, generally taken as a different species) has not been confirmed here. Key characters of second-winter Common include its extensively dark 7th primary (less black and with longer white “tongue” in Mew), all-white tail (normally more black on tip in Mew), and discrete head streaks (more diffuse in young Mew). [Photos Bernard Burke]

White gulls provided the most interesting and puzzling phenomenon of winter 2011-2012. Numbers of both ICELAND and GLAUCOUS GULLS were unusually high throughout, beginning in late December and continuing into March. In December, during the CBCs, Iceland Gulls were more than twice as abundant this year as last, and Glaucous Gulls about 50% higher than the previous year. In a letter, Derek Lovitch reported that numbers of both were unusually high in Maine by mid-February, and up to the end of that month hundreds were reported from throughout Nova Scotia. This was more than a local phenomenon. Unusual numbers of Iceland Gulls (including a significant number of *kumlieni*, usually rare in Europe) were reported beginning in January from Ireland, the UK, the Faeroe Islands, and the Netherlands. The warden’s blog from the Fair Isle Bird Observatory indicates unusual numbers there (between Orkney and Shetland) and in the Shetland Islands in January. There were also noteworthy numbers in Sweden, Denmark, Germany and France, and a few made their way as far south as Spain and as far east as Poland. The southernmost *kumlieni* was in northern Spain, and Belgium (which has only about 60 km of coastline) reported its first and second. The best summary of the Iceland Gull event is in the British publication *Birding World* (see issue 301, volume 25 (1), February 2012). A few quotations give the flavour of the winter’s happening: under the Faeroe Islands, “... a record influx of Iceland Gulls occurred throughout the islands during January and it was estimated at about 1700 birds, with about 10% of them showing characters of *kumlieni*.”; under France, “... at least 42 Iceland Gulls, three second-winter Kumlien’s Gulls ...” in the Pas-de-Calais; under Netherlands, “... a record influx of c. 50 Iceland Gulls”; under Poland, “six Iceland Gulls, including two adults ... from 17th [January]”. European commentators attribute the large numbers in Europe to NW gales in January. But this cannot be the case, because the buildup in the NW Atlantic began in late December, and this may prove to be the case in Europe too. Some other factor, probably related to ice cover or food supply, seems most likely; perhaps the light or non-existent ice cover in the southern Canadian Arctic, around Greenland, and in the Labrador sea forced these ice-edge feeders farther south in search of food. That at least some of the birds were starving is suggested by ALM and CAM’s observation of 40 eating bayberries on a headland at Schooner Pond, CBRM, on Jan.

29. Whatever the cause, the origin of these birds, including many in Europe must have been mainly the Canadian Eastern Arctic, judging by the numbers of Kumlien's Gulls seen in Europe.



The large influx of ICELAND GULL this winter triggered thoughts on their origins. The first-winter bird at left, is clearly a "Kumlien's," although rather small-billed, was found and photographed at Hartlen Pt., HRM, during the NSBS Jan. 8 "sewer stroll." The bird in flight (Mar. 12) was one of unusual numbers wintering on Minas Basin and surroundings. Its nearly white primaries and small bill, becoming slightly paler at the base, might suggest the Greenland-nesting, "true" Iceland Gull, *glaucoides*. Like this one, those normally have some grayish on primaries in first winter. However, some young birds produced in "Kumlien's" Gull colonies in Nunavut have similarly nearly white primaries. Genetic or isotope analysis might be the only way to sort out origins. [Photos Richard Stern]

A SKUA seen on the Louisbourg CBC on December 17 and well documented was too distant to identify to species with certainty. Although probability is on the side of Great Skua, the observer (SEM) quite rightly chose to remain cautious. Almost expectable now, two POMARINE JAEGERs were reported in December, the first off Seal Island on the 3rd and a fine adult viewed as it flew rapidly SW off Northern Point, Brier I., during the CBC on the 16th.

Although a few DOVEKIES, by ones and twos, were noted regularly in coastal waters between December and February, the numbers of most other alcids were unusually low. This is particularly true of the murre, which were few and far between. A count of 3556 RAZORBILLS at Brier I. during the CBC on December 16 may be attributed to the large numbers that winter near Grand Manan, NB, but few were reported elsewhere. BLACK GUILLEMOTS were present in normal numbers, but there no one attempted to document northern migrants and overwintering local birds. ATLANTIC PUFFINS were sparsely reported, but Christopher Vogel's report of 15 in the Gulf of Maine on February 9 indicates that there was a substantial wintering population there.

Black-legged Kittiwake

CBC		4795 (Brier I. 4681)	
Dec. 1	Northern Pt., Brier I.	1	ELM
Dec. 2, 3, 6	10 km W of Seal I., Yar.	10, 30+, 50	RDE
Dec. 6	10 km W of Seal I.	50	RDE
Feb. 9	Gulf of ME off Yarmouth	50	Christopher Vogel

Bonaparte's Gull

CBC		567 (low)	
Dec. 2	Melmerby, Pictou Ldg., Ant.	8, 20	KJM
Dec. 2	Sinclair's I., Pic.	80	KJM
Dec. 3	Bayport, Lun.	1	SJF, JSC
Dec. 4	Arisaig, Ant.	3	JOK
Dec. 4	Big I., Ant.	52	KJM
Dec. 5	Monks Hd., Ant.	119	JOK
Dec. 5	Pictou	12	KJM
Dec. 5	Sinclair's I., Pic.	100	KJM
Dec. 11	Lunenburg	4	JAH
Dec. 12	Grand Desert, HRM	1	DAM, DOU
Jan. 28	Kingsburg bch., Lun.	18	ELM

Feb. 27 Cherry Hill bch., Lun. 1 ad. RIW, BFO
(Plus low numbers from mainland areas on eBird through early winter).

Black-headed Gull

CBC		102	
Dec. 2	Conrad Bch., HRM	22	DMW
Dec. 4	Big I., Pic.	1 ad.	KJM, Charlie Kendall
Dec. 11	Lunenburg	1	JAH
Dec. 29	Eastern Passage, HRM	6	JVA
Jan. 2	Sullivan's Pd., Dartmouth	5	DOU
Jan. 10	Daniels Hd., CSI	2	JON, SAN
Jan. 28	Eastern Passage, HRM	5	TBO
Feb. 17	Conrad Bch., HRM	2	DMW
Feb. 21	Antigonish	27	KJM
Feb. 21	Poulamon, Rich.	1	KJM
Feb. 29	Antigonish	27	KJM

(Plus low numbers from HRM, Lun. on eBird throughout)

MEW (COMMON) GULL

Dec. 31 CBC Glace Bay 1
 Jan. 3 Schooner Pd., *CBRM* 1, 2nd-yr. ph. CAM, ALM
 23 Feb. + Shannon Pk., Dartmouth 1, 2nd-yr., ph. BBU et al.

Ring-billed Gull

CBC 1073
 Dec.-Feb. Lockeport, *Shel.* 3-16 DJC
 Dec. 17 Woods Hbr., *Shel.* 1 JAH
 Dec. 17 Broad Cove, *Lun.* 22 SJF
 Dec. 18 E. Pt. L'Hebert, *Queens* 3 JAH
 Jan. 1 Liverpool 3 ELM
 Jan. 28 Kingsburg bch., *Lun.* 8 ELM
 Feb. 16 Boyston, *Guys.* 3 KJM
 Feb. 19 Crescent, Cherry Hill Bchs., *Lun.* 16, 1 JAH
 Feb. 19 Bch., *Lun.* 1 JAH
 Feb. 20 Conrad Bch., *HRM* 1 DMW

(Plus ~120 on eBird of low nos. mainly in *Ant.*, *Col.*,
HRM, *Lun.*, *Pic.* and *Queens* through winter).

Herring Gull

CBC 18,840, otherwise common throughout

Herring x Great Black-backed Gull

Jan. 3 Beacon St. dam, Glace Bay 1 returned CAM, ALM

Iceland Gull

CBC 2,328
 Dec. 1 Westport, Brier I. 1 ad., 2 2nd-yr ELM
 Dec. 2 Westport, Brier I. 1 2nd-yr. ELM
 Dec. 5 E. Passage, *HRM* 1 ad. Nic Fieldsend
 Dec. 5 Hartlen Pt., *HRM* 1, 1st-yr. Nic, Fieldsend
 Dec. 5 New Glasgow 20 KJM
 Dec. 8 Broad Cove, *Lun.* 3 SJF
 Dec. 9 Purdys Wharf, Halifax 67 DGA
 Dec. 10 Lunenburg hbr. 1 ad., 2 imm. ELM
 Dec. 10-Mar. Lockeport 16+ DJC
 Dec. 13 Gull I., *Pic.* 12 KJM
 Dec. 18 E. Pt. L'Hebert, *Queens* 1 JAH
 Dec. 21 W. Pubnico, *Yar.* 10+ RDE
 Dec. 26 Linden, *Cum.* 10 KJM
 Dec. 27 Riverport, *Lun.* 2 JAH, DAW
 Halifax 27 Graham Williams
 Jan. 15 CSI 22 JAH
 Jan. 24-25 Pt. Williams sewage pds, *Kings* 2 imm. JWO, RBS
 Jan. 1 Liverpool area, *Queens* 6 ELM
 Jan. 28 Kingsburg area, *Lun.* 100+ ELM
 Jan. 28, 29 E. Passage area, *HRM* 67, 150, 125 3 obs.
 Jan. 29 Schooner Pd., *CBRM* 40 CAM, ALM
 Feb. 12 Pt. Williams, *Kings* 26 GFO
 Feb. 17 Bayview, *Pic.* 15 KJM
 Feb. 19 W. Berlin, Bch. Meadows *Queens* 1,3 JAH
 Feb. 21 W. Pubnico, *Yar.* "Many" DOP, EMU
 Feb. 21 Antigonish 32 KJM
 Feb. 31 Pt. Hawkesbury 50 KJM
 Feb. 23 Sober I., *HRM* 26 KJM, CHK
 Feb. 24 St. Peters, *Rich.* 2 RIV, Mike Viau

(Plus nearly 100 repts. of lower numbers throughout on eBird)

Lesser Black-backed Gull

CBC 6
 Dec. 2 near Canning, *Kings* 1 ad. RBS
 Dec. 14 Stellarton 1 KJM
 Dec. 17 Woods Hbr., *Shel.* 1 JAH, DPO
 Dec. 21-Feb. 27+ W. Pubnico, *Yar.* 1 ad. RDE et al.
 Jan. 1 E. Passage, *HRM* 1 Graham Williams
 Jan. 4-Feb. 4 Kiwanis Pd., Truro 1 ad., ph. ROH, JBO
 Feb. 2 Plymouth, *Pic.* 1 KJM
 Feb. 18 near Canning, *Kings* 1 ad. RBS

Glaucous Gull

CBC 29
 Dec.-Feb. Pier C, Pictou 1 imm. KJM
 Dec. 5 E. Passage, *HRM* 1, 1st-w. Nick Fieldsend
 Dec. 7 Indian Hbr., *HRM* 1 imm. HAT
 Dec. 12 Cow Bay, *HRM* 1 imm. DOU
 Dec. 26 Duncans Cove, *HRM* 3 DGU

Dec. 27 N end Bedford Basin, *HRM* 3 Graham Williams
 Dec. 30 Grand Pre, *Kings* 2 Graham Williams
 Jan. 1 E. Passage, *HRM* 2 Graham Williams
 Jan. 2, Feb. 14 Dartmouth 1 DOU, JED
 Jan. 7 Garden Lots, *Lun.* 1 JAH et al.
 Jan. 15 Glace Bay 2 CAM, ALM
 Jan. 22 Louisbourg, *CBRM* 1 CAM, ALM
 Jan. 26 Wolfville sewage ponds 1. 1st-w RBS
 Jan. 30 E. Passage, *HRM* 2 PMU
 Feb. 7 Pt. Pleasant Pk., Halifax 1 ad. AGH
 Feb. 12 Louisbourg, *CBRM* 1 CAM, ALM
 Feb. 16-19 Glace Bay 2 CAM, ALM
 Feb. 20 Bridgewater, *Lun.* 1 JAH
 Feb. 21 W. Pubnico, *Yar.* 2+ DOP, EMU

(Plus about 10 other reports on eBird from *Inv.* to *Lun.*).

Great Black-backed Gull

CBCs 4188 otherwise common throughout

SKUA Sp.

CBC Louisbourg 1

Pomarine Jaeger

Dec. 3 10 km W of Seal I., *Yar.* 1 RDE

CBC Brier I. 1

Dovekie

CBC 34
 Dec. 2,3, 4, 6 10 km W of Seal I. 2,1,2,1 RDE
 Dec. 2 Liscomb sanctuary, *HRM* 1 dead Tom Neily
 Dec. 2 E. Passage, *HRM* 1 TEB
 Dec. 28 Lunenburg 1 KEL
 Dec. 29 Roadside, Hubbards, *Lun.* 1 ph. fide PKE
 Dec. 29 E. Passage, *HRM* 1 JVA
 Dec. 31 Homeville, *CBRM* 3 CAM, ALM
 Jan. 8 Margaretsville, *Ann.* 1 PBG
 Jan. 22 Pt. Morien, *CBRM* 1 CAM, ALM
 Jan. 27 St. Peters, *Rich.* 1 ph. JSH
 Jan. 29 Purcells Cove, *HRM* 1 DOU
 Jan. 31 Gammon Rd., *HRM* 1 KJM
 Jan. 31 Harrigan Cove, *HRM* 3 KJM
 Jan. 31 Sober I., *HRM* 2 KJM
 Feb. 1-17 Sambro hbr., *HRM* 1 Stephen Manuel
 Feb. 1 CSI 2 JON, SAN
 Feb. 4 Prospect, *HRM* 4 (1 dead) SAB
 SUE Abbott
 Feb. 9 Gulf of Maine off Yarmouth 45 Christopher Vogel
 Feb. 14 Ketch Hbr., *HRM* 1 N.M. Dowd
 Feb. 23 Pt. Dufferin, *HRM* 1 KJM, CHK

Common Murre

CBC Halifax-Dartmouth
 Dec. 2 10 km W of Seal I., *Yar.* 20 RDE

Thick-billed Murre

CBC 8
 Dec. 29 Hwy 104, Truro, *Col.* 1 ph. KJM, CHK
 Jan. 8 CSI 1 ph. RDE
 Jan. 9 Sober I., *HRM* 1 KJM
 Jan. 15 CSI 1 JAH, KEL
 Jan. 26 Halifax hbr. 1 ph. DEG
 Feb. 9 Gulf of Maine off Yarmouth 7 Christopher Vogel

Razorbill

CBCs 3,577 (Brier I. 3,556,)

Dec. 1, 2 off N. Pt., Brier I. 4,6 ELM

Feb. 9 Gulf of Maine off Yarmouth 25 Christopher Vogel

Black Guillemot

CBC 446
 Dec.-Feb. Lockeport, *Shel.* "Scarce" DJC
 Dec. 1 Grand Passage, Brier I. 6+ ELM
 Dec. 2 Off Northern Pt., Brier I. 50+ arrival ELM
 Dec. 5 Cow Bay, *HRM* 5 Nic Fieldsend
 Dec. 6 10 km W of Seal I., *Yar.* 20 RDE
 Dec. 15 Pt. Mouton, *Queens* 7 JAH
 Dec. 17 Shag Hbr., *Shel.* 7 JAH
 Dec. 18 Woods Hbr., *Shel.* 1 JAH

Dec. 18	E. Pt. L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	3	JAH	Feb. 24	St. Peters, <i>Rich.</i>	1	RIV, Mike Viau
Jan. 6	Terence Bay, <i>HRM</i>	12	BLM	(Plus ~ 75 repts. of low nos. on eBird throughout the province)			
Jan. 9	Harrigan Cove, <i>HRM</i>	10	KJM	Atlantic Puffin			
Jan. 9	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	9	KJM	CBC			
Jan. 15	CSI	10	JAH, KRL	Dec. 2	Off Northern Pt., Brier I.	2	ELM
Feb. 23	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	5	KJM, CHK	Feb. 9	Gulf of Maine off Yarmouth	15	Christopher Vogel

Pigeon through Woodpeckers

By Chris Field

We'll begin by looking at the results from the Christmas counts. Both ROCK PIGEON and MOURNING DOVE were down about 20% from their 10-year average. A seasonal rarity was a **WHITE-WINGED DOVE** (52nd for the province). Overall owl numbers were consistent with their average, with BARRED and LONG-EARED slightly above average. There were reports of 11 snowy owls with eight being from southern Nova Scotia, two from *HRM* and one from Cape Breton. Up to four SHORT-EARED OWLS were seen at Grand Pré, with two or three more at Brule Point. Rick Whitman described some interesting interactions between these owls and ravens; it appeared to be a stand-off.

BELTED KINGFISHER numbers were well above average as were RED- BELLIED WOODPECKER. As noted in the autumn report we have had another surge in the numbers of that woodpecker. They were reported throughout, whereas there were only two reports of RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. Other woodpecker numbers were slightly below average, except for more than usual NORTHERN FLICKERS. The number of sightings of YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER was perhaps a reflection of the mild winter. Ted d'Eon reported a sapsucker in West Pubnico on February 16, but was hesitant about which one it was (given the remote possibility of vagrant Red-naped). Other woodpeckers were reported in usual numbers except for BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER, which remained low.

On a final note, Ally Manthorne passed on a report of a **possible** CHIMNEY SWIFT in the St. Margarets bay area on February 24. She writes that "the observer noted fluttering flight, pointed wings and a pale throat." It is certainly intriguing as the earliest previously reported in Nova Scotia is April 8.

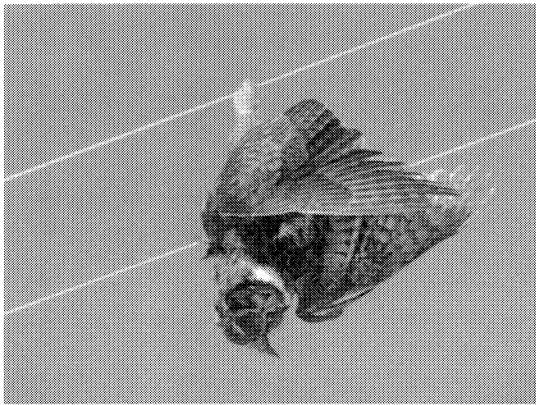
Rock Pigeon			
CBC total		5959	
Mourning Dove			
CBC total		5371	
Dec.-Feb.	Province-wide	263	eBird
WHITE-WINGED DOVE			
January	Prime Brook, <i>CBRM</i>	1 (ph)	Joan Mills



Right. This **WHITE-WINGED DOVE**, Jan. 23 in *CBRM* (our 6th for winter), had the darkish- brown back and warn brown breast said to characterize the s.e. US subspecies, *asiatica*. [Photo Joan Mills]

Great Horned Owl

CBC total			
13			
Dec. 9	downtown, Halifax, <i>HRM</i>	1	DGA
Dec. 18	Fraserville, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	JCZ
Jan. 30	Cape North, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC
Feb. 10	Upper Dyke, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
Feb. 27	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	C. Loncarevic



This GREAT HORNED OWL hanging from a live wire Jan. 30 at Cape North village, *Vic.*, produced a 2-second local power outage, but shows yet another hazard for these large, night-flying birds. [Photo Fritz McEvoy]

Snowy Owl

Dec. 2- Jan.15 (incl. CBC)	CSI up to 3	JON, SAN, JAH
Dec. 3	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1(fem) MIK
Dec. 12	Boot I., <i>Hants</i>	1 BLF
Dec. 17	Inverness, <i>Inv.</i>	1 A.Tingley
Dec. 27	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1 (imm) IAM
Dec. 31	Cook's Bch., <i>Yar</i>	1 RDE
Jan. 2	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1 S. McDormand
Feb. 17	Pt. Maitland, <i>Yar.</i>	1 B.Currie

Barred Owl

CBC total			
30			
Jan. 12	Blue Mountain, <i>King s</i>	1	KEL
Jan. 27	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	WPN
Feb. 17	Wolville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	2	JCT
Feb. 22	W. Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	1	DPO

Long-eared Owl

CBC	Bedford-Sackville, Lunenburg	5
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Short-eared Owl

CBC <i>HRM</i>			
2			
Jan. 13,24	Grand Pre, <i>Hants</i>	1	RIW
Feb. 10	Grand Pre, <i>Hants</i>	4	RBS
Feb. 20	Brule Pt., <i>Pic.</i>	2-3	JRU, Trish Rubin
Feb. 26	Grand Pre, <i>Hants</i>	1	KEL

Northern Saw-whet Owl

CBC <i>HRM, Lun .</i>			
6			
Jan. 3	Pentz L., <i>HRM</i>	1	JVA

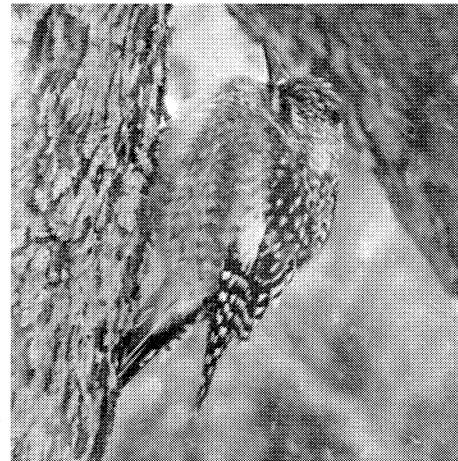
Red-headed woodpecker

CBC Shubenacadie, <i>HRM</i>			
1			
Jan. 15,28	S. Brookfield, <i>Queens</i>	1	JAH, KEL

Red-bellied Woodpecker

CBC total			
39			
Dec. 1-Jan. 3	Margaretsville, <i>Ann.</i>	1	WPN
Dec. 1	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1	DPO

Dec.1	Greenwood, <i>Kings</i>	1	SCY
Dec. 1	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	2	ELM
Dec. 2	Plymouth, <i>Pic.</i>	1	KJM
Dec. 2	Economy Pt., <i>Pic.</i>	1	KJM
Dec. 3	Birch Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
Dec. 18	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
Dec. 26	Soldier's Cove, <i>Rich.</i>	1	D. Cotie
Jan. 3-17	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1-2	JLC
Jan. 13- Feb. 15	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Jan. 14	Pleasant R., <i>Queens</i>	1	JAH
Jan. 18	Brickton, <i>Ann.</i>	1	V. Gaul
Jan. 21	Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	RIV
Jan. 27	south-end Halifax, <i>HRM</i>	2	DOU
Feb. 4	Pt. Pleasant park, <i>HRM</i>	1	AGH
Dec.-Feb.	6 counties	30	eBird



The juvenile plumage retained by this sapsucker (Feb. 13 at White Pt., *Queens*) marked it as a YELLOW-BELLIED, rather than a remotely possible Red-naped, which develops more adult plumage by this stage. [Photo Dorothy Poole]

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Dec. 1	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN, JON
Jan. 21	E. Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	1	CST
Feb. 9	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	1	CST
Feb. Feb. 13	White Pt., <i>Queens</i>	1	MMI

Downy Woodpecker

CBC total			
500			
Thru season			251 eBird

Hairy Woodpecker

CBC			
342			
Dec.-Feb. Province-wide			114 eBird

Black-backed Woodpecker

CBC <i>HRM</i>			
2			
Dec. 30	Mt.Uniacke, <i>Hants</i>	1	GWJ
Feb. 20	Ketch Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Feb. 24	Grrenfield, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS

Northern Flicker

CBC total			
169			
Dec.-Feb. 6 counties			45 eBird

Pileated Woodpecker

CBC total			
66			
Dec.-Feb. 5 counties			23 eBird

Belted Kingfisher

CBC total			
36			
Dec.-Feb. 5 counties			23 eBird

Flycatchers through Thrushes

By Ian McLaren

In summarizing E-bird and other records, I used the largest count from localities that were repeatedly visited during the season, in an effort to indicate what might have been present throughout.

Late *Empidonax* flycatchers are always worth close study, but sometimes elude identification. One on the Antigonish CBC was described by KJM as follows:

“On the Lower South-River section of the Antigonish CBC route today, Nicole MacDonald and I observed an Empidonax flycatcher early this morning (8:15) just after starting our route. We had just pushed in a number of chickadees when I became aware of a "Whit" call note . . . and were surprised to see an 'Empid' at such a late date. It spent most of the time we observed it over about a 10 min. period under cover, but it did fly out to the ground a few times and we had several too brief looks at the bird. Briefly there was some pale yellow on the lower belly, buffy-yellow wing bars, and a smallish eye-ring. I was not successful in getting any photos and the bird quit calling after we were able to make visual contact. I was quite happy at the time of calling it a juvenile Least Flycatcher, but after . . . reading a bit I am not sure that I can rule out Dusky Flycatcher. Since we had a large route to attend to on the CBC, we elected to move on.”

A number of features might distinguish Dusky from Least at this season, and can be photographed and vocalizations recorded by many digital cameras and the latter diagnosed by sonograms. Two **SAY'S PHOEBES** lingering from November both supplied record-late occurrences (previous latest Jan. 7). A newspaper report of an Eastern Kingbird in January is perhaps best ignored. The **WESTERN KINGBIRD** present since November in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Lr. Sackville, *HRM* (see this issue, p. 32) was the 7th to have lingered into December, but not our latest. It was not a big-invasion winter for **NORTHERN SHRIKE**, and the records suggest they may have mostly departed after the CBC and reappeared in late February. A photo of the tardy **BLUE-HEADED VIREO** at Wolfville might have been useful for consideration of other possibilities.

The CBC total for **GRAY JAY** was within recent limits, but that of **BLUE JAY** was the lowest since 1994, and DJC thought them “conspicuously absent” from Lockeport. The e-Bird total (only the largest counts chosen from all regularly revisited locations) was half that of last fall's, but that was from about half as many localities visited. It remains to be seen how this low total compares with those of future winters. Although the CBC total of **AMERICAN CROW** was below any since the early 1990s, its E-bird total per visited locality was about 36% higher than last fall's. The flock observed by the Giffins late February in *Kings* was particularly impressive. In contrast to those two regular corvids, the CBC total of **COMMON RAVEN** was within recent limits, and its E-bird total was almost exactly last fall's, although from slightly fewer localities. Does all this reflect autumn emigration of jays and immigration of crows? There is much to be learned from long-term e-Bird records. The **HORNED LARK** CBC total was the lowest since 1971, and subsequent winter reports were paltry. Migration, typically, appeared to be under way February 20 on the *Yarmouth* peninsulas, where there was group of at least six of our (now rarely) summering subspecies *pratricula* amongst good flocks of the routine northern subspecies *alpestris* (RDE et al.). The late **TREE SWALLOW** on CSI was far from where it should be; although in past years a few have overwintered.

The CBC total for **BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE** was the lowest since 2002, and **BOREAL CHICKADEE** continued its long decline, giving us the lowest CBC total since the early 1970s. Numbers per locality on E-bird (plus other observations) of the chickadees, both nuthatches and **BROWN CREEPER** were all about 20 to 50% higher than the same ratios in fall, but **GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET** per locality were 20% lower. Does this reflect increasing concentrations through winter near feeders of all but the last species? An impatient creeper was singing February. 27 in Kentville Ravine. Nine **WINTER WRENS** were an all-time CBC high.

The CBC **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER** was a nice, but not unprecedented, find, but the **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** found by AAM and CAM during the Glace Bay CNC at Homeville, *CBRM*, was gone by Feb. 10 (BEC). It supplied our ninth winter record. **EASTERN BLUEBIRD** seemed to leave us during winter, but might have been lurking in open country south of Yarmouth. A thrush that flew across a road December 18 near N. Advocate, *Cum.*, seemed uniformly brown above, and lacked rufous on the tail, JCZ We have had them before as stragglers.

HERMIT THRUSH on CBCs and subsequently were about as usual. AMERICAN ROBIN continued its upward CBC trend of recent years and the total was third largest ever. Several observers reported large flocks on the move through winter, presumably looking for less exploited berry crops. For example, HAT observed “thousands” on January 15-17 in flocks of 50-100 moving along the e. side of the Chebucto Pen., HRM. Over 1,000 were feeding on lawns in the Yarmouth area February 27 (“black-backed” looked for and not found), yet very few were noted in settled areas from Shel. to Lun. (DAC, et al.). Were the Yarmouth birds early returnees? The possible VARIED THRUSH in W. Pubnico was observed only one day by non-birders and identified by them from field guides, but the one at White Pt., Queens, lingered to be “ticked” by several birders.

LEAST/DUSKY FLYCATCHER

CBC Antigonish – see text. 1

SAY’S PHOEBE

To Feb. 19 Economy, Col. 1 (ph) B Maclaughlin et al.
Dec. 22, Jan. 9 Mt. Denson Rd., Hants 1 Dan Toews



This SAY’S PHOEBE (here Jan. 6) stayed at Economy, Col., later than any previous winter straggler in the province [Photo Shannon Breen]

WESTERN KINGBIRD

Nov. 27 to Dec. 17 Lr. Sackville. HRM 1 (ph) DGA et al.

Northern Shrike

CBC total 11
Dec. 1 Chebucto Hd., HRM 1 HAT
Dec. 2 Economy, Cum. 1 KJM, CHK
Feb. 19-20 near Kemptville, Yar. 1 RDE et al.
Feb. 24 Halls Hbr., Kings 1 MMC
Feb. 24 Broad Cove, Lun. 1 SJF
Feb. 29 Big I, Pic. 1 DOU

Blue-headed Vireo

Dec. 3 Sheffield Mills, Kings 1 JLC

Gray Jay

CBC total 76
Thru season E. Apple R., Col. 2 KFS
Thru season Chebucto Head, HRM. 3 var. obs.

Dec. 12 E. Big Intervale, Ant. 6 Patrick Wall
Jan. 3 Egypt Highlands, Ant. 2 Patrick Wall

Blue Jay

CBC total 4,333
Thru season 105 locs., 693 indivs. eBird + 3 obs.

American Crow

CBC total 27,739
Through season Widely 166 locs., 4,405 indivs eBird
Feb. 27 fields nr. Berwick, Kings flock of ca.4,000 PBG

Northern Raven

CBC total 1,744
Thru season 70 locs., 294 indivs. eBird

Horned Lark

CBC total 56
Dec. 29 Clifton, Col. 6 ROH
Dec. 31 Cooks Bch., Yar. “several” RDE
Jan. 8 CSI 3 CST
Feb. 4 Grand Pré, Kings flock AAM, KEL
Feb.20 Yarmouth peninsulas 80+ RDE et al.

Tree Swallow

Dec. 22 The Hawk, CSI 1, “flying east” CST

Black-capped Chickadee

CBC total 10,479
Thru season 140 locs., 1,155 indivs. eBird + 9 obs.

Boreal Chickadee

CBC total 224
Thru season 14 locs., 69 indivs eBird+ 3 obs.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

CBC total 399
Thru season 41 locs., 98 indivs. eBird+ 5 obs.

White-breasted Nuthatch

CBC total 240
Thru season 29 locs., 49 indivs. eBird+ 6 obs

Brown Creeper

CBC total 78
Thru season 17 locs., 29 indivs. eBird + 5 obs.

Winter Wren

CBC total 9
Dec. 18 Thomas Raddall PP 1 JAH

Golden-crowned Kinglet

CBC total 78
Thru season 55 locs., 176 indivs. eBird . + 3 obs.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

CBC total 6
Dec. 2 Dartmouth 1 JED
Mid-Dec. to late Feb. Oak Wood Dr. Col. 1 Shelley Benvie

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER

CBC Halifax 1

Eastern Bluebird

CBC Brier I., Yarmouth count week
Dec. 1 Brier I. 4 ELM
Dec. 1 Chebogue, Yar. 2 JON
Feb. 4-29 Wyman/Chebogue Rds., Yar. 4-10 JOS et al
Feb. 26 CSI 4 CST

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

Dec. 31 – Feb. 10 1 AAM, CAM, var. obs.

Swainson’s Thrush

Dec. 18 N. Advocate, Cum. 1 possible (see text) JCZ

Hermit Thrush

CBC total 3
Dec. 17 CSI 1 RDE

American Robin

CBC total 3,323
Thru season Widely 2,450+ eBird +12 obs.

VARIED THRUSH

Jan. 24 W. Pubnico, Yar. 1 probable fide RDE
Feb. 13-19 White Pt., Queens 1m. (ph.) MMI et al.



This **VARIED THRUSH**, about our 36th, turned up in mid-Feb. 12 at White Pt., Queens, where it was enjoyed by visiting birders for almost a week thereafter. [Photo Dorothy Poole]

Mimics through Wood Warblers

By Ken McKenna

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD numbers were up this winter, with highest CBC total in a decade. Only three GRAY CATBIRDS were reported, but I could find no reports of BROWN THRASHER. I also did not receive any early reports of BOHEMIAN WAXWING, but a few were about by mid-December, as indicated by the CBCs. The largest number, 100, was from the Eskasoni count and most of the others were from Cape Breton and the northern mainland indicating that this nomadic species was coming in from the north or northwest. By the latter part of January, flocks containing hundreds were moving from Cape Breton to the Annapolis Valley and by mid-February large flocks were reported from Annapolis County. The table below highlights some of the larger flocks, but small groups were encountered widely to the end of the report period. During this CBC period, an observer had more chance of encountering CEDAR WAXWING than Bohemian. Over 300 Cedars were observed on 12 counts, with a couple of counts reporting more than 65 birds. Of interest was a flock of 100+ seen at Wolfville ridge by BLF that were actually in cedar trees.

Despite a relatively easy winter weather-wise, warbler numbers were in average to below average numbers. Twelve species of warbler were noted over the report period and 186 individuals of seven species were noted on the CBCs, two of those species in record numbers. The 12 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS on the various CBCs is above the average of 7-8 and an nice increase from two from last year but less than the high of 17 from 2008. The small NORTHERN PARULA was more abundant than usual this winter and seen on a record three CBCs.

YELLOW WARBLER is normally not noted in winter, so BLF's observation of one on December 1 in a rose tangle in Wolfville area barely made it into this report, and joins less than a handful reported in the winter period in the province. The 12 PINE WARBLERS on CBC's were fewer than average, and in general there seemed to be smaller numbers around this winter. This was even so for YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER. The 143 on the CBC fits an increasing trend in the last few years, but in the previous decade 250-500+ were noted on CBC's. As in most winters lately, a couple of **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLERS** were present into January. The Terence Bay bird was described as yellow-lored. The most commonly reported warbler this winter was YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. Their total numbers were not as great as for Yellow-rumped Warblers, but 20 plus two in count week set a new CBC record, with 17 alone on the Halifax-Dartmouth count. A number survived into late February and at least one Halifax Chat made it through this report period (GDE).

Northern Mockingbird

CBC	12	
Dec.1 -Feb. 29 Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1, often	HAT
Dec. 1- Feb. 29 Bush I. PP, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JSC, LAB
Dec. 1 Rainbow Haven PP	1	IAM, BLM, JED
Dec.-Feb. Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BUS
Dec.-Feb. Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	var. obs.
Dec.-Feb. Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
Dec.ember Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM,
ALM		
Dec. 3- Jan. 5 Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1	var. obs.
Dec. 10 Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	DEG
Dec. 10 Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
Dec. 18 Dartmouth-Akerley, <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, JED
Dec. 18 Antigonish	1	RFL, KDE
Dec. 18 E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, JED
Dec. 21-Feb. Halifaxbackyard	1	DAM
Jan. 15 Scots R., <i>Rich.</i>	1	BID
Feb. 12 Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	1	Heather Drope

Gray Catbird

Dec. 1 CSI	1	JON
Dec. 17 Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	Nick von Maltzahn
Feb. 4 Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 (ph)	Dominique Gusset
Dec. 1 Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM

European Starling

CBC	60,309	
Thru season widely	379 repts	eBird

American Pipit

CBC	21	
Dec. 16 Brier I.	7	ELM
Feb. 4 Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	1	SAB
Feb. 19 Salt Marsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	1	MZE
Feb. 26 Grand Pre, <i>Kings</i>	6	KEL

Bohemian Waxwing

CBC	169	
Feb. 1-15 E. Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1-45	KFS
Feb. 2 Port Hawkesbury	200+	DJO
Feb. 4 Grand Pre, <i>Kings</i>	25+	RBS
Feb. 5 Abercrombie Pt., <i>Pic.</i>	80	KJM
Feb. 5 Pictou	100	KJM
Feb. 11 Hantsport, <i>Hants</i>	140+	JOB
Feb. 17 Meadowvale, <i>Ann.</i>	39	WPN
Feb. 17 Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	40+	PBG
Feb. 17 Bridgetown	700+	MCR
Feb. 20 Kentville	300	JLC
Feb. 21 Sydney	80+	BUS
Feb. 24 Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	300	AND

Cedar Waxwing

CBC	310	
January widely	7 repts.	var. obs.
Jan. 31 Wolfville	100+ on cedar tree	BLF
February widely	17 repts.	var. obs.
Feb. 17, 20 nr. Kentville	80, 300	AAM,
JLC		

OVENBIRD

CBC Petite Riviere, <i>Lun.</i> (CBC)	1	Olivia Bell, LAB, DAC
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Black and White Warbler

CBC The Sydneys	1	
Dec. 2 Dartmouth	1	JED

Orange-crowned Warbler

CBC	12	
Dec. 1 Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM, BLM, JED
Dec. 2 Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	1	JED
Dec. 3 Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	1	KJM, CHK
Dec. 9 Bisset L., <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP
Dec. 17 Wood Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH, DPO
Jan. 28 Feltzen South, <i>Lun.</i>	1	"bright" JAH

Common Yellowthroat

Dec. 1 Kentville area	1	RBS
Dec. 6 Cole Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	1	RSM, WEM
Dec. 10 CSI	1	JAH, DPO
Dec. 13 Wolfville	2	BLF

Northern Parula

CBC	3	
Dec. 1 Economy Pt., <i>Col.</i>	1, also CBC	B. McLaughlin, KJM
Dec. 3 Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	1	KJM, CHK
Dec. 6 Dartmouth	1	DAC
Dec. 25 Rockdale, <i>Rich.</i>	1	David Cotie <i>fide</i> BID

Yellow Warbler

Dec. 1 Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF
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Palm Warbler

Dec. 1 Rainbow Haven PP	1, "Western"	IAM, BLM, JED
Dec. 1 CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JON
Dec. 24 Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1, dull "Western"	G. Williams
Dec.. 27 Dartmouth	1, "Western"	Lynn Karchewski
Jan. 1 Stoney I. <i>Shel.</i>	1	CST, BJS
Jan. 15 Daniels Harbour, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH et al.

Pine Warbler

CBC	12	
Dec.- Jan. 12 Seabright, <i>HRM</i>	1	ELI
Dec. 7, Jan.. 6 S. end Halifax	1 m.	PLC
Dec. 13 West LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Paul Shields <i>fide</i> JAH
Dec. 17 Plymouth, <i>Pic.</i>	1	KJM
Dec. 18 Pomquet, <i>Ant.</i>	2	KJM, Nicole MacDonald
Dec. 18 Spryfield, <i>HRM</i>	2	TEB
Jan. 8 Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1 m.	JSB
Jan. 23 S. end Halifax	1	Sue Matheson
Jan. 31 Delhaven, <i>Kings</i>	1, "bright"	Jan. Cooper

Yellow-rumped Warbler

CBC	143	
Dec. 1 Rainbow Haven PP	8	IAM, BLM, JED
Dec. 3 Lunenburg	6	JAH
Dec. 3 Paddys Head, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Dec. 4 West Pt. Bch., <i>Queens</i>	16	DPO, JAH
Dec. 10 CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	5	DPO, JAH
Jan. 8 Rainbow Haven PP, <i>HRM</i>	5	JAH
Jan. 15 CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	19	JAH
Feb. 5 Lunenburg	1	JAH, DPO,
DOU		
Feb. 20 Back Hbr. trail, <i>Lun.</i>	7	JAH

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

Dec. 27 Terence Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1 until mid. Jan..	F.
Dryden		
Jan. 5 Brooklyn	1 present for a week	Judy Jones

Wilson's Warbler

Dec. 1 Cole Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	1 m.	DAM
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Yellow-breasted Chat

CBC	20	
Dec.- Jan. 31 <i>HRM</i>	16 repts. of singles	var. obs.
Dec. 1 Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JOA
Dec. 1 CSI	1	JON
Dec. 8 Wolfville	1 in yard	JWW
Dec. 13 Lower LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JAH
Dec. 19 Florence, <i>CBRM</i>	1	R. & K. McRae
Dec. 25-Feb. 12 Sand Lake, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Dec. 26-Jan.24 Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC,
Jan. 1-31 Morden, <i>Kings</i>	1	GMV <i>et al.</i>
Jan. 20 Chester	1	<i>fide</i> JAH
Feb. 4 South Brookfield, <i>Queens</i>	1	Sherry McInnis
Feb. 4 Lunenburg	1	<i>fide</i> JAH
Feb. 4-5 S. end Halifax	1	Kaye Parker <i>et al.</i>
Feb. 6 Halifax	1	Lynn Karchewski
Feb. 16 Halifax	1	GDE
Feb. 18 Fairview, <i>HRM</i>	1	Nancy McNair



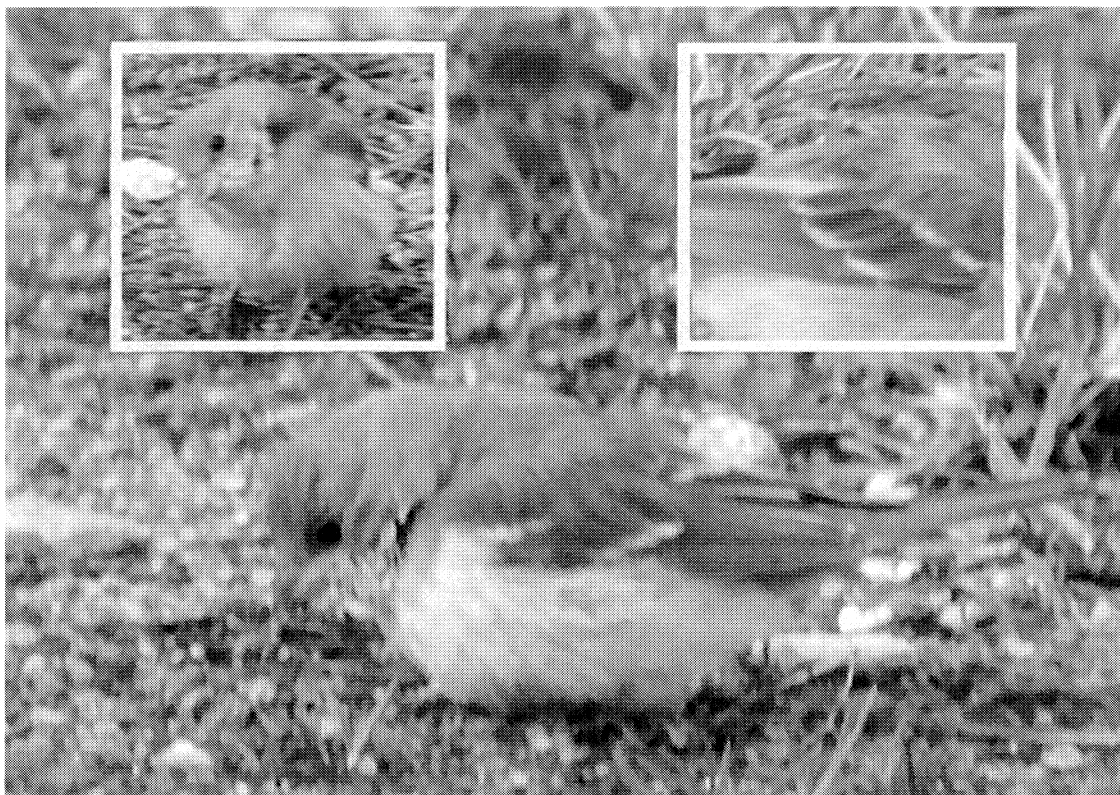
An unusual number of NORTHERN PARULAS lingered this winter, including this one photographically confirmed for the Economy, Col., CBC (Photo Joelle MacLaughlin)

Tanagers to House Sparrow

By Ian McLaren

Again, we've kept the longspurs and SNOW BUNTING here, although they belong before the warblers; the former was almost missing and the latter gave the lowest CBC since 2004; with little or no snow, were they less inclined to be seen on plowed and snow-fenced roadside margins? Perhaps lack of snow also offered widespread shelter and food for our regular sparrows, which were in generally below-average numbers on CBCs and thereafter. There were also fewer sightings of less regular ones; an EASTERN TOWHEE was noteworthy, but there were **no** post-CBC CHIPPING, FIELD, LINCOLN'S or WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.

A wintering INDIGO BUNTING was unusual, and a late-appearing ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK more so, but the CBC **LAZULI BUNTING** is a strong candidate as bird of the year. The species has occurred in Québec and Maine, but not elsewhere in Atlantic Canada, and there is only one documented NS sighting (Sept. 30 on Seal I.; Maybank & McKenna, 1997, NS Birds 39[3], pp. 44-45). Its discovery was remarkable. During a break from the Cape Sable count on December 17, Murray Newell recognized it from the car as something different when it flushed from the graveled margin of the entrance to the coffee shop (well-known to birders) at Barrington Passage, *Shel*. Then Cindy Newell spotted it in a nearby tree, and it obligingly flew again to the ground near their car, allowing her few quick photos while Murray studied it, before it flew off. It couldn't be found again by them, or by a few who searched in following days. They were understandably puzzled by the bird, but the photos led them and JON to a diagnosis, and they posted photos of it as a Lazuli Bunting on their Web photo site. The photos (some included here) show diagnostic features: strong white wing bars, no ventral streaking (see photo), and suitably gray-backed, somewhat azure-tinged on nape, wings and tail. The expected peach-buff tone of its breast was very restricted, and its plumage elsewhere, including wing bars, lacked the usual brown tones of young birds. Consultation with experts on molts and plumages confirmed that it was a male in largely juvenile plumage that was very faded or perhaps deficient in brownish pigments (pheomelanins). It had not completed the expected first "preformative" plumage, which normally occurs during fall migration of the species from w. U.S.A. to Mexico and beyond. A similar young male, but with more brownish feathers on back and elsewhere, appeared during February at Wellfleet, Massachusetts. The record stands as an example of good spotting, photo confirmation, and careful identification by its finders.



The most exciting find of this year's CBCs, and perhaps of the entire year, was the province's first photographically confirmed **LAZULI BUNTING**, found Dec. 17 by Cindy and Murray Newall at Barrington Passage. The insert at left shows the restricted rich buff on breast, and the insert at right shows details of the distinct white wing bars (tips of greater and median coverts). See discussion in text. [Photo Cindy Newell]

Surprisingly, our three **DICKCISSELS** were only discovered following the local CBCs. Numbers of **COMMON GRACKLE** and **RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD** were well below CBC averages of recent years, but the count of **BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD** (the one in most widespread decline) was within recent ranges. As usual, Susann Myers gets the prize for oriole husbandry, but a few others were successful on a smaller scale this winter. Our most unexpected icterids were meadowlarks apparently of both species. The CBC bird at Conrad Bch., *HRM*, was posted as **EASTERN**, and described as having the darkish back, and head markings, and extensive white on tail of that species (John Loch, e-mail to IAM). Soon after it was rediscovered in February, a distant image (see photo) was enough to reveal the diagnostic extensively white three outer tail feathers. The other was believed by JOK to be a **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**, based on its "pale back" and "yellow extending on the face," his "only hesitation being the distance [150 m of] the bird." Although the Western has only been photographically confirmed here twice, it may be almost as regular on our winter beaches as the Eastern (now rare here).

Our **HOUSE FINCH** population continues to dwindle. Ron Ridout's annual winter finch forecast for eastern Canada is always worth considering. He wrote: "Cone crops are excellent and extensive across much of the boreal forest and the Northeast. It will not be a flight year. . . Crossbills and Pine Siskins should be widespread in low numbers. A small movement of Pine Grosbeaks is probable because mountain-ash berry crops are variable and some . . . of poor quality in the boreal forest. Evening Grosbeak numbers are increasing as spruce budworm outbreaks expand in the boreal forest so some may show up at feeders in . . . the Northeast. Redpolls are unlikely to come south because the dwarf birch crop is bumper in the Hudson Bay Lowlands." His predictions largely checked out (see tabulations). One exception was **PINE SISKIN**, which appeared suddenly (whence?) in mid-February in numbers at feeders throughout the province. One wishes for more frequent and systematic counts of winter finches at feeders and "local patches" to match those of **AMERICAN GOLDFINCH** at Debbie Stoddart-Pageau's feeders, graphically



Pale outer tail feathers do not always signify an unusual sparrow. Others can show them, especially when back-lit, like this SONG SPARROW, mid-February at Kingsburg, Lun. [Photo Kevin Lantz]

INDIGO BUNTING

CBC to Feb. 17 +? Lunenburg	1ph.	fide JAH
Dickcissel		
Dec. 24- March Halifax feeder	1	SUM
Jan. 12-15 +? Greenwich, Kings	1	JCT et al.
Late Jan.-Feb. 13 Lunenburg	1	LAB, JAH, JSC

Red-winged Blackbird

CBC	22	
Late Dec.-Feb. 5 locs., Rich. to Lun.	130+	eBird+others

EASTERN MEADOWLARK

Dec. 18, Feb. 14 Conrad Bch., HRM	1	JOL, CHP, DAC
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WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Jan. 23 Northumberland coast	1 (see text)	JOK
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Rusty Blackbird

Jan. 7 Felton S., Lun.	1	JAH
Jan. 30 New Salem, Cum.	3 in Bl.-bird flock	JBO

Common Grackle

CBC	9	
Dec.-Feb Pictou to CSI	14	eBird+others

Brown-headed Cowbird

CBC	113	
Dec.-Feb. Rich. to Yar,	24+	eBird+others

Baltimore Oriole

CBC	28	
Dec Pictou-Lun.	5	eBird+others
To early Jan Digby, HRM, Kings, Lun.	8	var. obs.
To Feb. 6 Pictou	1	KJM
Feb. 18 Fairview, Halifax	1 imm.	Nancy McNair
Thru winter Halifax, Windsor	7, 3	SUM, RAH

Pine Grosbeak

CBC	44 (well below average)	
Dec. 9 Liscombe Game Sanct., HRM	1	KJM
15 Dec. Spry Hbr., HRM, area	4	KJM
25 Dec. Hubbards, HRM	1	Peter Stowe
Jan. 9 Bell I., Lun.	1	SJF
Jan. 28 CSI	2	RBS (ph)
Feb. 4 Oban, Rich.	5	BID
Feb. 5 Wallace, Cum.	"Flock"	Hank Scarth
Feb. 27 River John, Pic.	3	KJM
Feb. 29 Sampsonville, Rich.	7	BID

Purple Finch

CBC	376	
Dec.-Feb. 40+ locs.	305+	eBird+others

House Finch

CBC	27	lowest in years
Dec. 5 Dartmouth	5	NIF
Dec. 9 St. Marys Boat Club, Halifax	9	DAC
Feb. 3 Conrose Pk., Halifax	5+	DOU

Red Crossbill

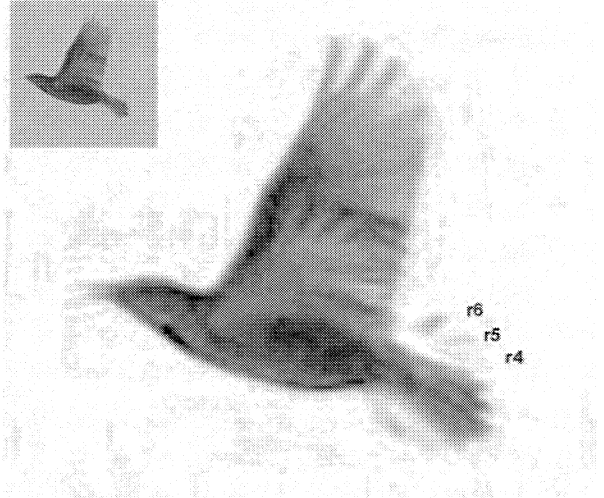
CBC	11	
Jan. 30 E. Wentworth, Cum.	1	JOK

White-winged Crossbill

CBC	202	
Dec.-Feb. 14 n. mainland locs.	113+	eBird+others

Common Redpoll

CBC	213 (low year)	
Dec.-Feb.	ca. 80	eBird+others



This photo shows what can be done with a distant photo of a meadowlark with a bit of cropping, brightening, and sharpening that reveals largely white outer rectrices, r4-6, of the EASTERN MEADOWLARK subspecies magna. [Photo Dave Currie]

Pine Siskin

CBC	336	
Dec 5 locs.	58 indivs.	eBird+others
Jan. 9 Liscomb Game Sanct., HRM	1	KJM
Jan. 23 Sapsonville, Rich.	1 melanistic	BID
Jan. 24 Apple R., Cum.	2	KFS Feb. 4-6 Apple
R., Cum. 3	KFS	
Feb. 9 2 locs., Guys.	30, 80.	KJM
Feb. 12-15 12 locs., Guys to Digby	70 + "flocks"	eBird+others
Feb. 16-29 5 locs.	50+	eBird+others

American Goldfinch

CBC	11,072	
Dec. 47 locs.	1620+	eBird+others
Jan. 25 Locs.	350+	eBird+others
Feb. 32 locs.	630+	eBird+others

Evening Grosbeak

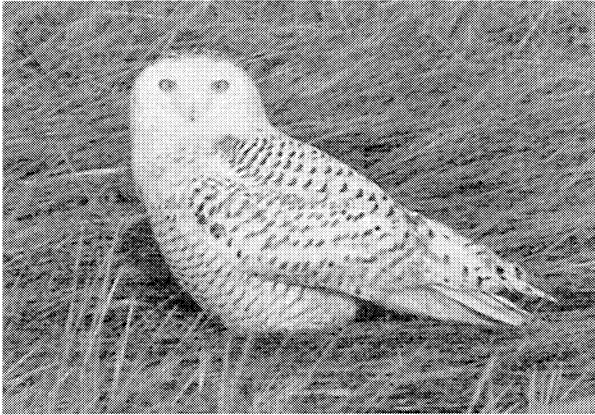
CBCs	548 (lowest since 1966)	
Dec. HRM, Lun.	45+	JAH, KEL
Jan. 6 locs.	95+	eBird+others
Feb. 7 locs.	85+	eBird+others

House Sparrow

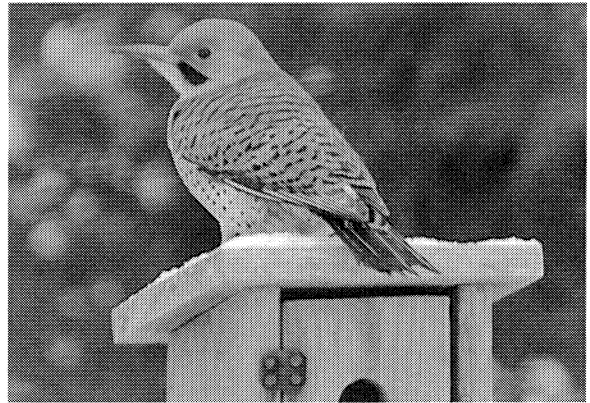
CBCs	1671	
Dec.-Feb. 21 locs.	185 +	eBird+others
Feb. 16-29 5 locs.	50+	eBird+others

A Portfolio of Winter Landbirds

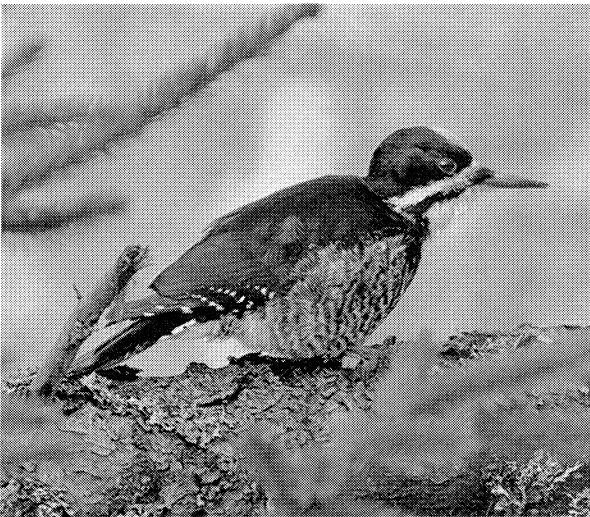
These images from the 2011-2012 winter-season images are gleaned from the Society's Facebook and other photo files.



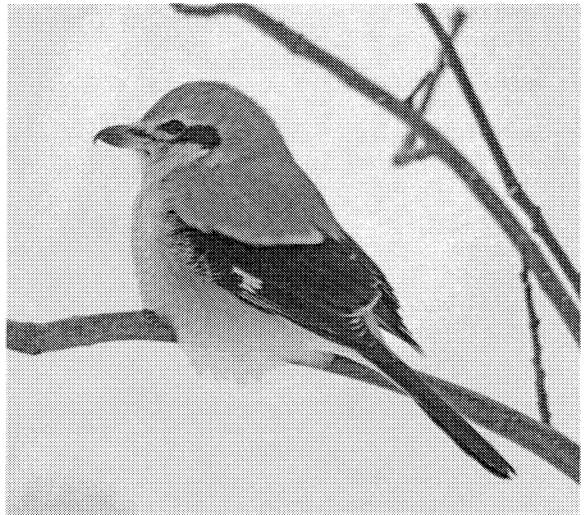
There was a big invasion of SNOWY OWL across much of North America, but less so here. This young male, Dec. 27 at Conrad Bch., HRM, appeared more puzzled than predatory. [Photo Ian McLaren]



A NORTHERN FLICKER, Jan. 21 near Port Williams, Kings, presumably wasn't house hunting; if it chose this one, it would have to make some renovations. [Photo Richard Stern]



This male BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER posed handsomely in late February on a felled spruce in woods s. of Wolfville near Greenfield, Kings. [Photo Richard Stern]



In exchange for being allowed to look over some backyard bird feeders at McLellans Brook, Pic., this NORTHERN SHRIKE offered a spritely portrait. [Photo Keith MacDonald]



A RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET was a surprise late-January drop in at a snow-covered residence in Halifax. [Photo Shelley Benvie]



This single BOHEMIAN WAXWING represents this winter's modest show of these beautiful wanderers. [Photo Jeff Ogden]



NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD continued its slight upward trend this winter, and are always welcome when they turn up in a backyard rose thicket, like this one early February in Dartmouth. [Photo Brenda McAloney]



There were good numbers of YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT this winter, including highest CBC ever, and more photos than usual were obtained, of this tail-less one included. One hope it survived the mild winter. [Photo Wade Rudolph]



This adult male ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK appeared and was photographed Feb. 29 at a New Glasgow feeder, but surely must have wintered somewhere in the area. [Photo Keith MacDonald]



A FIELD SPARROW was photographed when discovered in Dartmouth on Nov. 29. It lingered into early December, but not for the CBC period. [Photo David Currie]

Flycatchers through Thrushes, Fall 2011

By Ian McLaren

This is a summary, for the record, of highlights of the fall season, not available for the last issue (Vol. 54, Issue 1). Note, however, that some photos from that season were included in that issue. Many of the eBird reports were also posted on NatureNS or NS-RBA. Some unusual records summarized in the text are not tabulated.

Disturbingly, there were only two reports of OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: singles Aug. 10 on The Bowater-Mersey lands in *HRM* (DMC) and Aug. 13 on Big Merigomish I., *Pic.* (KJM). As usual, the three regular *Empidonax* species were early migrants, but were reported sparsely, almost all on eBird, with a peak of a dozen ALDERS Aug. 21 on Big Merigomish I. (KJM). Migrant EASTERN PHOEBES were later, as expected,; six singles between Sept. 27 and Oct. 10, and a peak of five on Oct. 5 at Melmerby Beach PP, *Pic.* (KJM). No details were supplied for 10 abnormally early on Sept. 1 on Brier I. A SAY'S PHOEBE that appeared Nov. 25 in a backyard at Mt. Denson, *Hants*, was described with details suggesting the southwestern subspecies *saya* (Dan Toews), as did the photo of another that appeared Nov. 29 at Economy Pt., *Col.* (Joelle MacLaughlin). Both these birds stayed into winter. The one-day ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER Nov. 26 at Antigonish Landing was well-studied, recorded, and photo'd (by KJM et al.) making our fourth record of this vagrant from the southwest U.S. or Mexico (see image page 34). Interestingly, it was eight days later than last year's at nearby Lanark, *Ant.* James Churchill reported that the pair of GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS that earlier nested unsuccessfully in Kentville was still present and vocalizing frequently on Aug. 17-18. That only a single EASTERN KINGBIRD was reported - one found Aug. 6 on Big Merigomish Island (KJM) - is doubly astonishing since it was outnumbered by two vagrant tyrannids. One WESTERN KINGBIRD was observed and photographed Oct. 4 at Indian Hbr., *HRM* (BLM), another seen Oct. 24 on CSI (CST), a third photographed at Black Pt. on St. Margarets Bay, *HRM* (Joseph Tinney, *fide* BLM), and a fourth began its longer stay on Nov. 27 at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Lr. Sackville, *HRM* (Dennis Garratt et al. ph.). Even more exciting was our eleventh FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER found and photographed Oct. 9 by David Walmark just n. of Middleton, *Ann.* (see image in last issue). It disappeared after that day. Interestingly, others were found Oct. 11 in PEI, and Oct. 18 in s.e. Newfoundland.

Our two common vireos were well reported. Only four PHILADELPHIA VIREOS were noted between Sept. 5 and Oct. 1, but all the vireos, including WARBLING and vagrant **YELLOW-THROATED** and **WHITE-EYED**, were almost entirely associated with the large bird fallout beginning Oct. 2 and assumed to account for birds seen up to 8 Oct. (see write-up in last issue, p. 46). Accounting for probable repeats, these included about 40+ Red-eyed, 7 Warbling, 8 Philadelphia, 4 Yellow-throated, and 9 White-eyed, from Canso to CSI and Brier I. Later reports included a White-eyed Oct. 22 on Seal I. (KJM et al.).

A total of 11 GRAY JAYS was spotted from Digby Neck to *Inverness*, but mostly in *HRM*. Counts of the regular corvids (table) included repeats from the same localities, but given their similar noisiness and conspicuousness, their proportions (1 raven to 11 crows and 4.5 jays) may be about right. Recent BBS estimates have given ratios of roughly 1 raven to 5.4 crows and 0.7 jays per route. Perhaps jays are quieter than the other two along BBS routes during their breeding seasons. Andy Dean note that crows seem to have abandoned their traditional roost site on Boot I., *Kings*, and are now streaming westward of Kentville in fall evenings. None of the HORNED LARKS was attributed to subspecies, but all were probably mostly or all northern migrant *alpestris*. TREE SWALLOW was sparsely reported and maybe this reflects observations by MMI at White Pt., *Queens*, that, after fierce competition for one of her Tree Swallow birdhouses, the winners abandoned their chicks. Is a shortage of nest sites one cause of that swallow's steep decline? BANK SWALLOW reports were concentrated on Big Merigomish I., *Pic.*, with four of the five eBird reports, including large movements of ca. 200 on in early August (KJM). BARN SWALLOW was more widely noted, but again mostly on Big Merigomish I. (KJM). The only other swallows were two CLIFF SWALLOWS reported to JAH Oct. 8 on Second Pen., *Lun*. Their white foreheads were mentioned, eliminating possible Cave Swallow.

The reports of BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE included many from repeat locations, but certainly reflect their abundance. Finding BOREAL CHICKADEE requires more work, so it is not surprising that one tenth as many reported, but the BBS shows steady recent decline.. The total of RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH – in much the same habitat – also seems lower than might be expected. Most WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were reported, often repeatedly from a few urban or semi-urban sites in *Pictou*, *HRM*, *Kings*, *Lunenburg*, and *Queens*, so as few as 18 individuals might have been involved. Of interest were a probable migrant Aug. 13 on BPI and two found Oct. 18-19 on Seal I. The 14 BROWN CREEPERS on eBird between Aug. 22 and Nov. 22 were found widely, whereas almost all of the few WINTER WRENS reported were on our southern islands. One creeper was heard singing Sept. 19 on Big I., *Pic.* (KJM). The E-bird reports of GOLDEN-CROWNED and RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS may give a better estimate of relative abundance than recent BBS ratios of about six Ruby-throated to one Golden-crowned, given that the former is such a loudmouth in early summer. A dozen migrants of the former appeared Oct. 6-7 on Brier I. Five **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS** were good finds: Sept. 10 on Brier I. (WAN), Oct. 29 at Duncans Cove, *HRM* (ACO, ph.), Nov.13 at Glace Bay (BEC), Nov. 21 at Port Hawkesbury (DJO), and Nov. 29 at Little Port L'Hebert, Shel. (DOE, SJF) and near the Quinpool Rotary during the CBC in Halifax (DHU).

A **NORTHERN WHEATEAR** Sept. 15-16 at Margaretsville, *Kings* (Rick Whitman, et al.; image by RBS on last winter's issue cover), and another Sept. 9 on CSI (CST), were early, but not record-so. The only reports of EASTERN BLUEBIRD were from Brier I. where a family lingered in early Sept. (RBS), three were noted Sep. 18 and Oct. 8-9 (var. obs.), and one on 10 Nov. (ELM). A **TOWNSENDS SOLITAIRE** that may have been glimpsed three or four weeks earlier was well studied Nov. 21 when it lurked in a Multiflora Rose bush at Portuguese Cove. *HRM* (HAT). SWAINSON'S and HERMIT THRUSH may have been under-reported, and the lack of other thrushes seems unusual. AMERICAN ROBINS were occurred more or less evenly among months, They were said to be "gone" from the Northumberland Str. Area Nov. 8-10 (JOK), when "large numbers" appeared on Brier I. (ELM). Large counts (50 or more) of presumed migrants of 131 on Oct. 23 near Doctors Brook, *Ant* (JOK); 70 on Nov. 23 on Caribou I., *Pic.* (KJM); and 151 in and near Thomas Raddall PP and 50 in Keji Seaside Adjunct, *Queens*, both on Nov. 27 (Sue Abbott, JAH).

In the following table, "s. islands" means any or all of BPI, Brier I., CSI, and Seal I.

Alder Flycatcher

Aug. 9 – Sept. 14 Antigonish to Brier I. 12 repts, 35 indivs.
eBird + 2. obs.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Aug. 16	Bayside, HRM	1	Terry Tubbs
Aug. 17	BPI	1	Janice Chard
Sept. 1	Brier I.	1	JVA

Least Flycatcher

Aug. 6- Sept. 3 Pictou to s. islands 11 repts, 35 indivs. eBird only

Uncommon or rare flycatchers See text

Blue-headed Vireo

Aug. 2-22 Oct. *Guys.* to BPI 38 Repts, 85 indivs. eBird + 4 obs

Red-eyed Vireo

Aug. 1- Oct. 22 widely 60 repts., 50+ indivs eBird + 7 obs.

Other Vireos See text

Blue Jay

Thru season CBRM to s. islands 201 repts, 1,320 indivs.
eBird + 3 obs..

American Crow

Thru season *Pic.* to s. islands
14 repts, 3,220 indivs eBird+ 2obs.

Northern Raven

Thru season CBRM to s. islands 98 repts, 295 I indivs. eBird only

Horned Lark

Sept. 18 -Nov. 23 *Pic.* to s. islands 9 repts, 24 indivs eBird only

Tree Swallow

Aug. 4 - Sept 23. *Pic.* To *Shel.* 8 repts, 19 indivs. eBird+ 1 obs..

Bank Swallow

Aug 1, 6, 13, 21	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pic.</i>	200, 50, 2, 2	KJM
20 Aug.-31-12	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	2	KEL

Barn Swallow

Aug. 1 – Sept. 25 *Rich.* to BPI 20 repts, 142 indivs
eBird + DMW

Black-capped Chickadee

Thru season *Vic.* to s. islands 342 repts., 1964 indivs.
eBird + sev. obs

Boreal Chickadee

Thru season *Pic.* to s. islands 44 repts, 158 indivs. eBird only.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Thru season *Ant.* to s. islands 53 repts., 88 indivs. eBird
+ 1 obs.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Thru season *Pic.* to s. islands 40 repts, 55 indivs. eBird
+ 2 obs.

Brown Creeper

Thru season *Pic.* to s. islands 12 repts, 14 indivs.
eBird only

Winter Wren

Aug. 11	BPI	1	ABO
Oct. 7, 9	Brier I.	2, 1	KJM
Oct. 12	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pic.</i>	1	KJM
Oct. 19-22	Seal I.	2+	sev. obs.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER See text

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Thru season *Ant.* to s. islands 83 repts, 322 indivs. eBird + 2 obs.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Aug. 6–Oct. 22 *Guys.* to Brier I. 32 repts, 75 indivs. eBird only

Swainson's Thrush

Aug. 13, 27, Sept. 10	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pic.</i>	singles	KJM
Aug. 20, 24, 26, 29, 30	BPI	5 singles	ABO
Aug. 39	N. Mountain, <i>Kings</i>	1	JVA
Sept. 5	Anti Dam Flowage, <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM

Hermit Thrush

Aug. 1-Nov. 16 *Ant.* to Seal I. 19 repts., 39 indivs.
eBird + 3 obs.

American Robin

Thru season *Ant.* to Brier I. 173 repts., 1,420+ indivs.
eBird + 3 obs.



The province's fourth **ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** appeared briefly Nov. 26 at Antigonish Landing and, fortunately, Ken McKenna was standing by to check it out, photograph it, and eliminate other remote possibilities.

List of Those Contributors Represented by Initials.

Names of other contributors are spelled out in full in the seasonal reports. Thanks to all.

ABO	Atlantic Bird Observatory	DGA	Garratt, Dennis
AGH	Horn, Andy	DGU	Gusset, Dominique
ALM	Murrant, Allan	DHU	Hughes, David
AND	Dean, Andy	DHY	Young, David H.
BBU	Burke, Bernard	DMC	Cormier, Dominic
BEC	Crowell, Beverly	DOU	Doull, Elizabeth
BID	Digout, Billy	DPO	Poole, Dorothy
BJS	Smith, Betty June	eBird	eBird Online Checklist
BLF	Forsythe, Bernard	ELI	Eleanor Lindsey
BLM	Maybank, Blake	ELM	Mills, Eric L.
BUS	Bussey, Bill	EMU	Murphy, Ethelda
CAM	Murrant, Cathy	FMC	McEvoy, Fritz
CDA	Davis, Cheryl	GEC	Crowell, George
CHK	Kendell, Charlie	GFO	Forsythe, George
CHP	Pepper, Chris	GMY	Gary Myers
CST	Stoddard, Clyde	GWI	Williams, Geraldine
DAC	Currie, David	IAM	McLaren, Ian
DAM	MacNeill, Don	JAH	Hirtle, James
DAW	Walmark, David		

JBO	Ogden, Jeff	PES	Smith, Peter C.
JCZ	Czupalay, Joan	PKE	Kelly, Patrick
JED	Edsall, Jim	PLC	Chalmers, Patricia L.
JLC	Churchill, James	PMC	McKay, Pat
JOB	Belbin, John	PMU	Murray, Paul
JOK	Kearney, John	PST	Stowe, Peter
JOL	Lock, John	RAH	Hoogenbos, Rachel
JON	Nickerson, Johnnie	RBS	Stern, Richard
JOS	Sollows, John	RDE	d'Entremont, Ron
JRU	Rubin, John	RFL	Lauff, Randy F.
JSC	Cohrs, Shirley	RIV	Viau, Rita
JSH	Shermerhorn, Jeannie	RIW	Whitman, Rick
JVA	Vandermuelen, Josh	RJS	Speirs, Robert J. N.
JWW	Wolford, Jim	ROH	Hall, Ross
KAM	MacAuley, Kathleen	RSM	McDonald, Robert S.
KEL	Lantz, Kevin	SAB	Abbott, Sue
KFS	Spicer, Kathleen	SAN	Nickerson, Sandra
KJM	McKenna, Ken J.	SCY	Yetman, Scott
KMA	MacLeod, Karen	SEM	Myers, Susann
LAB	Bell, Lise Ann	SIS	Smith, Sid
MIK	King, Michael	SJF	Fullerton, Sylvia
MMC	McCall, Mike	WMA	MacPhail, Weldon
MMI	Millard, Margaret	WPN	Neily, Wayne
MUN	Newell, Murray		
PBG	Giffin, Patrick & Barbara		



2011-1012 Nova Scotia Christmas Bird Counts

By David Currie

Being so exposed and reaching precariously into the Atlantic as our Province is, we do tend to get more than our share of unusual weather events followed by extraordinary wayward birds. Our Christmas Bird Counts not only keep a very telling account of the trends of our resident birds but also give us some insight on the effects of weather on birds in late Fall and early Winter. Of the 33 NS Christmas Counts, 22 submitted results to add to the National Audubon Society's database; the highest ever. Hopefully we can increase that number over time. We had 1166 observers either in the field or at feeders taking part which resulted in 169 species, two recognizable subspecies and several hybrids totaling 141,998 individual birds.

The 34 Red-bellied Woodpeckers counted could be the real beginning of a more stable resident population. The openness of the season and mild temperatures seemed to have been a factor in low numbers of Harlequin Ducks, Common Eider, loons and grebes compared to most years.

Strong SE winds at Brier Island reduced the passerine counts but the sea watching was extraordinary with amazing numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes, Razorbills and Iceland Gulls flowing by North Light. The **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** at West Hants decided to finally move on just two days before count day but stayed long enough to become Canada's first ever record for Christmas Count period. The **CORY'S SHEARWATER** at Louisbourg was Nova Scotia's first but only the second ever for Canada. Yarmouth's **CATTLE EGRET** was another first for NS, first for the Atlantic and of only a few for Canada. Halifax/Dartmouth contributed Common Gallinule, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and an Eastern Meadowlark among other more unusual species and the beautifully photographed **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** was a surprise discovery during the Glace Bay count. Amazing was the **LAZULI BUNTING**, first for Canada on a CBC, was hastily photographed below the drive-thru speaker at Tim Horton's in Barrington Passage by Cindy and Murray Newell. It was never relocated.

Birds that achieved all time high numbers this period included both Eurasian and American Wigeon, Hooded Merganser, Turkey Vulture and Yellow-breasted Chat. Look for these species to keep increasing as we see more open and mild winters in the future. Horned Lark, Boreal Chickadee, Evening Grosbeak and House Sparrow continue to slide downward in numbers, all of which were the lowest numbers in 30 years.

Top 20 most numerous species with comparison to last 15 year average.

Species	Actual 2011	15-yr. Avg	Species	Actual 2011	15 yr Avg
European Starling	33.318	31.024	Mallard	2.719	2.224
American Crow	15.319	20.650	Bl. Legged Kittiwake	2.649	1.674
Herring Gull	10.408	14.018	Blue Jay	2.393	3.154
American Black Duck	7.036	8.714	Gt-Black-backed Gull	2.313	3.014
American Goldfinch	6.116	4.868	Razorbill	1.976	.776
B-capped Chickadee	5.789	6.359	American Robin	1.835	.901
Canada Goose	4.767	6.488	Red-br. Merganser	1.805	2.001
Common Eider	3.855	3.367	Greater Scaup	1.497	2.477
Rock Pigeon	3.292	4.179	Common Goldeneye	1.341	1.593
Mourning Dove	2.967	3.494	Dark-eyed Junco	1.303	2.769

Results/Effort with Corresponding 15 Year Averages

Results/Effort	Actual 2011	15 Yr. Average
Total Species Seen	169	166
Total Individual birds	241,998	282,622
Observers in Field	600	642.2
Feeder Watchers	566	600.33
Number of Hours	1810	1891.73
Number of Kilometres	12370.97	12786.1

AMHERST, Dec 19; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -14 to -2C. Wind N 0-15kmph. No snow cover. Still partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. clear. P.M. partly cloudy. 28 field observers in 14-15 parties. Total party hours 107.65 (61.65 on foot, 46 by car). Total party kilometres 553.6 (86.10 on foot, 467.50 by car).

Am. Black Duck 133	Common Merganser 119	Ring-necked Pheasant 52	Ruffed Grouse 15
Bald Eagle 38	Northern Harrier 16	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Northern Goshawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 9	Rough-legged Hawk 24	Ring-billed Gull 3	Herring Gull 229
Iceland Gull 36	Glaucous Gull 1	G. Black-backed Gull 115	Rock Pigeon 376
Mourning Dove 267	Barred Owl 1	R-bellied Woodpecker 2	Downy Woodpecker 2
Hairy Woodpecker 20	Northern Flicker 2	Pileated Woodpecker 6	Woodpecker sp. 2
Northern Shrike 2	Gray Jay 11	Blue Jay 172	American Crow 666
Common Raven 62	Horned Lark 4	B-capped Chickadee 732	Boreal Chickadee 14
R-breasted Nuthatch 100	Brown Creeper 7	G-crowned Kinglet 106	American Robin 22
Northern Mockingbird 2	European Starling 2206	Bohemian Waxwing 1	Am. Tree Sparrow 46
Song Sparrow 7	D-eyed Junco 16	Snow Bunting 809	Pine Grosbeak 4
Purple Finch 1	Pine Siskin 2	W-winged Crossbill 72	Common Redpoll 116
Pine Siskin 2	Evening Grosbeak 127	House Sparrow 2	

Total Species 51, about 7,111 individuals. K, Bertolyn, Sean Blaney, Doug Bliss, Sydney Bliss, Paul Bogaard, A. Boyne, Sandy Burnett, Greg Campbell, Margaret Campbell, Donald Colpitts, Blake Daley, Vicky Daley, K. Davidson, Samara Eaton, Patrick Kelly, John Klymko, Colin MacKinnon, Adam MacPherson, Ally Manthorne, Hughie Manthorne, **Julie Paquet, (compiler)**, K. Porter, Sarah Robinson, Al Smith, Becky Whittam, John Wile, Laura Wilson.

ANTIGONISH, Dec 17; 6AM to 5PM. Temp. -3 to -1C. No snow. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. Cloudy, light snow. P.M. clear. 14 field observers in 8 parties and 6 at feeders. Total party hours 45.33 (30.5 on foot, 15.28 by car). Total party kilometres 373.25 (353.2 on foot, 20.05 by car).

Canada Goose 1704	Gadwall 1	Eurasian Wigeon 1	American Wigeon 20
Am. Black Duck 752	Mallard 55	Northern Shoveler 4	Northern Pintail 10
Am. Gr-winged Teal 1	Ring-necked Duck 10	Greater Scaup 80	Surf Scoter 80
White-winged Scoter 2	Long-tailed Duck 5	Bufflehead 19	Common Goldeneye 81
Barrow's Goldeneye 1	Hooded Merganser 53	Common Merganser 306	R-breast. Merganser 259
Merganser sp. 6	Black DuckXMallard 1	Duck sp. 1	Ruffed Grouse 6
Red-throated Loon 1	Pied-billed Grebe 1	Horned Grebe 1	Northern Gannet 1
Bald Eagle 72	Red-tailed Hawk 7	Black-headed Gull 44	Bonaparte's Gull 247
Ring-billed Gull 142	Herring Gull 529	Iceland Gull 41	G. B-backed Gull 40
Gull sp. 97	Rock Pigeon 244	Mourning Dove 153	Belted Kingfisher 1
Downy Woodpecker 5	Hairy Woodpecker 6	Northern Flicker 4	Pileated Woodpecker 5
Woodpecker sp. 1	Empidonax sp. 1	Gray Jay 2	Blue Jay 104
American Crow 457	Common Raven 30	B-capped Chickadee 280	Boreal Chickadee 6
Red-breasted Nuthatch 3	Brown Creeper 2	G-crowned Kinglet 28	American Robin 18
Northern Mockingbird 1	European Starling 2095	Cedar Waxwing 9	Pine Warbler 2
Am. Tree Sparrow 13	Song Sparrow 3	Swamp Sparrow 1	W-throated Sparrow 1
D-eyed Junco 17	Purple Finch 5	Common Redpoll 2	American Goldfinch 197
Evening Grosbeak 35	House Sparrow 3		

Total Species 65, plus 1 hybrid about 8,346 individuals. (CW. American Coot, Red-winged Blackbird) Charlotte Brosha, Leslie Bucklands-Nicks, Allison Dallien, Krista DeCoste, David Garbary, Marilyn Gerriets, Leslie

Klapstein, Oona Landry, Randy Lauff, Nicole MacDonald, Lynda MacLellan, Harriet MacMillan, Ken McKenna, Tony Miller, Josephine Monkman, Kerstin Mueller, Marilyn O'Brien, Mark Pulsifer, Karen Sears, Bunny Smith, **Bruce Stevens (Compiler)**.

APPLE RIVER, Dec 30; 8AM to 4PM. Temp. -7 to -2C. Winds W 20-30kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 6 field observers in 4 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 24 (11.5 on foot, 12.5 by car). Total party kilometres 257 (20 on foot, 237 by car)

Am. Black Duck 184	Mallard 2	Common Eider 2	Long-tailed Duck 1
Bufflehead 3	Common Goldeneye 1	R-breasted Merganser 7	Ruffed Grouse 5
Red-throated Loon 1	Common Loon 1	Red-necked Grebe 1	Turkey Vulture 8
Bald Eagle 4	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Red-tailed Hawk 3	Peregrine Falcon 3
Ring-billed Gull 37	Herring Gull 280	Iceland Gull 1	G. B-backed Gull 5
Gull sp 30	Black Guillemot 1	Mourning Dove 34	Downy Woodpecker 2
Hairy Woodpecker 3	Northern Flicker 1	Northern Shrike 2	Gray Jay 2
Blue Jay 35	American Crow 112	Common Raven 18	B-capped Chickadee 68
Boreal Chickadee 2	Red-breasted Nuthatch 2	G-crowned Kinglet 7	American Robin 1
European Starling 158	Am. Tree Sparrow 8	Song Sparrow 4	W-throated Sparrow 2
Dark-eyed Junco 34	Red-winged Blackbird 1	Common Grackle 19	Baltimore Oriole 3
W-winged Crossbill 20	Common Redpoll 25	American Goldfinch 124	

Total Species 46, about 1,267 individuals. (CW. Purple Sandpiper, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Bohemian Waxwing). Debbie Fillmore, Joan Harbison, Jane Mills, Maureen Mills, Jeff Ogden, George Perry, Blaine Spicer, **Kathleen Spicer (compiler)**.

BARRINGTON BAY/CAPE SABLE ISLAND, Dec 17; 7:45AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 1 to 15C Wind calm. No snow. Still water open, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 14 field observers in 7 parties. Total party hours 62.5 (11 on foot, 44 by car, 7.5 by boat). Total party kilometres 492 (16 on foot, 461 by car, 15 by boat).

Brant 11	Canada Goose 54	Gadwall 1	Eurasian Wigeon 1
American Wigeon 3	Am. Black Duck 373	Mallard 71	Northern Pintail 4
Am. Green-winged Teal 2	Greater Scaup 75	Lesser Scaup 6	Common Eider 686
Surf Scoter 15	White-winged Scoter 14	Black Scoter 11	Long-tailed Duck 38
Bufflehead 22	Common Goldeneye 1	Hooded Merganser 5	Common Merganser 2
R-breasted Merganser 64	Ring-necked Pheasant 3	Ruffed Grouse 1	Red-throated Loon 3
Common Loon 82	Horned Grebe 11	Red-necked Grebe 8	Northern Gannet 5
D-crested Cormorant 24	Great Cormorant 61	Great Blue Heron 2	Bald Eagle 4
Northern Harrier 2	Sharp-shinned Hawk 4	Red-tailed Hawk 2	American Kestrel 4
Merlin 1	Peregrine Falcon 2	Greater Yellowlegs 2	Lesser Yellowlegs 1
Sanderling 7	Dunlin 60	Long-billed Dowitcher 3	Ring-billed Gull 6
Herring Gull 1180	Iceland Gull 3	L. Black-backed Gull 1	G. Black-backed Gull 483
Dovekie 3	Thick-billed Murre 1	Razorbill 2	Black Guillemot 75
Rock Pigeon 124	Mourning Dove 331	Snowy Owl 2	Belted Kingfisher 3
R-bellied Woodpecker 1	Downy Woodpecker 1	Hairy Woodpecker 5	Northern Flicker 18
Gray Jay 2	Blue Jay 56	American Crow 663	Common Raven 13
B-capped Chickadee 111	Boreal Chickadee 6	Red-breasted Nuthatch 6	G-crowned Kinglet 33
R-crowned Kinglet 1	Hermit Thrush 1	American Robin 433	Northern Mockingbird 1
European Starling 1496	American Pipit 2	Bohemian Waxwing 10	Cedar Waxwing 65
Orange-cr. Warbler 3	Y-rumped Warbler 74	Am. Tree Sparrow 8	Savannah Sparrow 3

Song Sparrow 67	Swamp Sparrow 11	W-throated Sparrow 46	Dark-eyed Junco 31
Northern Cardinal 10	Lazuli Bunting 1	Red-winged Blackbird 1	Brown-headed Cowbird 3
Purple Finch 5	W-winged Crossbill 22	American Goldfinch 87	House Sparrow 18

Total Species 92, about 7,278 individuals. Terry Crowell, Raymond d'Entremont, Ron D'Entremont, Paul Gould, James Hirtle, Laura Jones, Sharron Marlor, Cindy Newell, **Murray Newell (compiler)**, John Nickerson, Lillian Perry, Dorothy Poole, Aileen Smith, June Smith.

BEDFORD/SACKVILLE, Dec 27; 7AM to 5:30PM. Temp. -2 to 2C. Wind SW 5-10kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies partly cloudy all day. 35 field observers in 21 parties, 31 at feeders 3 hours and 81.5kms owling. Total party hours 114.2 (72.45 on foot, 41.75 by car). Total party kilometres 969.60 (112.9 on foot, 856.7 by car).

Canada Goose 32	Am. Black Duck 692	Mallard 152	Am. Green-winged Teal 1
Ring-necked Duck 6	Common Goldeneye 137	Barrow's Goldeneye 12	Hooded Merganser 60
Common Merganser 12	Red-br. Merganser 107	Ring-necked Pheasant 20	Ruffed Grouse 3
Common Loon 9	Horned Grebe 1	Red-necked Grebe 1	D-crested Cormorant 2
Great Cormorant 2	Bald Eagle 2	Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Northern Goshawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 3	Merlin 1	American Coot 1	Purple Sandpiper 2
Ring-billed Gull 78	Herring Gull 1032	Iceland Gull 30	L. Black-backed Gull 1
Glaucous Gull 3	G-Black-backed Gull 61	Razorbill 2	Black Guillemot 2
Rock Pigeon 390	Mourning Dove 395	Great Horned Owl 2	Barred Owl 1
Long-eared Owl 4	N. Saw-whet Owl 1	Belted Kingfisher 3	R-bellied Woodpecker 2
Downy Woodpecker 67	Hairy Woodpecker 49	B-backed Woodpecker 1	Northern Flicker 3
Pileated Woodpecker 11	Gray Jay 2	Blue Jay 386	American Crow 7002
Common Raven 51	B-capped Chickadee 909	Boreal Chickadee 9	R-breasted Nuthatch 48
W-breasted Nuthatch 14	Brown Creeper 11	G-crowned Kinglet 65	American Robin 10
Northern Mockingbird 4	European Starling 2925	Cedar Waxwing 4	Orange-cr. Warbler 1
Yellow-breasted Chat 1	Am. Tree Sparrow 2	Song Sparrow 150	Swamp Sparrow 3
W-throated Sparrow 23	Sp. species 16	Dark-eyed Junco 374	Northern Cardinal 11
Common Grackle 3	Baltimore Oriole 8	Pine Grosbeak 1	Purple Finch 10
Red Crossbill	W-Winged Crossbill 24	Common Redpoll 3	Pine Siskin 48
American Goldfinch 700	Evening Grosbeak 1	House Sparrow 67	

Total Species 78, about 16,288 individuals. Suzanne Borkowski, Yvette Buckley, Patricia Chalmers, Marilyn Hallis, Margaret Clark, Lois Codling, Shane Costantino, Charles Cron, David Currie, Davina Davis, Nadine Doucet, Jim Edsall, P. Farmer, Brian Field, Chris Field, Renee Field, Jean Hartley, Andy Horn, David Hughes, Susan James, Nancy Jennings, Linda Kempster, Jonathan Kenny, Rita Kinney, Carol Klar, Julie La Rosa, Fulton Lavender, Pat Leader, John Loch, Martha Loch, Sherin Malekhamadi, Don MacLaughlin, Carol MacNeill, Don MacNeill, **Bob McDonald (compiler)**, Wendy McDonald, Bernice Moores, Julie Morris, Gary Murray, Maureen Nowlan, Allan Owen, Glorena Patterson, **Richard Peckham (compiler)**, Chris Pepper, Anita Pouliot, Walter Regan, Carolyne Renton, Barry Sawyer, Mr. Snow, Clarence Stevens Jr., Clarence Stevens Sr., Rita Viau, Azor Vienneau, Dottie Welch, Graham Williams, Nelida Young.

BIG POND/ESKASONI, Dec 26; 7:40AM to 4PM. Temp. -8.3 to 1.4C. Wind E to SW 3-5kmph. Snow 8cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 17 field observers in 7 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 30.5 (14.25 on foot, 16.25 by car). Total party kilometres 230.5 (20.5 on foot, 210 by car).

Canada Goose 155	Am. Black Duck 59	Mallard 2	Greater Scaup 120
W-winged Scoter 3	Bufflehead 1	Common Goldeneye 80	Common Merganser 168
R-breast. Merganser 225	Ruffed Grouse 3	R-throated Loon 4	Common Loon 8
Horned Grebe 3	Red-necked Grebe 7	Cormorant species 2	Bald Eagle 19
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Red-tailed Hawk 1	Black-headed Gull 3	Bonaparte's Gull 20
Ring-billed Gull 5	Herring Gull 64	G-Black-backed Gull 3	Rock Pigeon 7

Mourning Dove 61	Belted Kingfisher 1	R-bellied Woodpecker 1	Downy Woodpecker 5
Downy Woodpecker 5	Hairy Woodpecker 6	Pileated Woodpecker 4	Gray Jay 2
Blue Jay 62	American Crow 166	Common Raven 15	B-capped Chickadee 202
Boreal Chickadee 202	R-breasted Nuthatch 5	G-crowned Kinglet 3	American Robin 171
European Starling 717	Bohemian Waxwing 100	Cedar Waxwing 8	Song Sparrow 4
Dark-eyed Junco 1	Common Grackle 1	Common Redpoll 7	American Goldfinch 83

Total Species 48, about 2,606 individuals. George Ball, Barbara Cash, Theresa Cash, April Digout, Billy Digout, George Digout, Jim Guy, Tony Hajjar, Dave Harris, John W. MacInnis, Frank MacIsaac, Ruth MacIsaac, Tracey MacIsaac, Alanna MacNeil, Ann-Marie MacNeil, Braden MacNeil, Brian MacNeil, **Jack MacNeil (compiler)**, Dave McCorquodale, Bernard Murphy, Christine Thomson, Melvin White, Joe Wickens.

BRIDGETOWN, Dec 28; 8:30AM to 5PM. Temp. 6 to 12C. Wind S 25kmph. Snow 5cm. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, light rain. P.M. partly cloudy/clear light rain. 10 field observers in 5 parties, 26 at feeders. Total party hours 27.5 (2.5 on foot, 25 by car). Total party kilometres 350 (3 on foot, 347 by car).

Am. Black Duck 61	Mallard 126	Common Eider 37	Surf Scoter 36
W-winged Scoter 31	Black Scoter 8	Scoter sp. 137	Long-tailed Duck 6
Common Merganser 30	R-breasted Merganser 13	R-necked Pheasant 11	Red-throated Loon 2
Common Loon 8	Red-necked Grebe 6	Turkey Vulture 7	Bald Eagle 3
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Red-tailed Hawk 3	American Kestrel 1	Merlin 1
Herring Gull 502	G. Black-backed Gull 43	Rock Pigeon 271	Mourning Dove 262
Downy Woodpecker 12	Hairy Woodpecker 9	Northern Flicker 1	Northern Shrike 1
Blue Jay 90	American Crow 206	Common Raven 51	B-capped Chickadee 290
R-breasted Nuthatch 3	W-breasted Nuthatch 15	G-crowned Kinglet 4	American Robin 8
European Starling 889	Cedar Waxwing 1	Am. Tree Sparrow	Song Sparrow 6
W-throated Sparrow 3	Dark-eyed Junco 76	Sparrow sp. 1	Northern Cardinal 9
Common Grackle 5	Pine Grosbeak 1	Purple Finch 3	Pine Siskin 10
American Goldfinch 256	Evening Grosbeak 11	House Sparrow 6	

Total Species 50, about 3,579 individuals. (CW. Canada Goose) Joyce Burbridge, Bill Caudle, Pearle Chambers, James Churchill, **David Colville (compiler)**, Justin Colville, Anne Cottenden, David Cottenden, Patricia Croscup, Viola Doucette, Marilyn Durling, Noel Durling, Bill Goucher, Sharon Hawboldt, Steve Hawboldt, Marg Hirtle, Phil Kent, Bev Marshall, Ernie Marshall, Fred Marshall, Heather McCormick, Wayne Neilly, Anne Parker, Doug Parker, Maggie Rice, Christine Ross, Jean Smith, Les Smith, Alberta Wade, Bev Ward, Jane Wightman, John Wightman, Lib Woolaver.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec 16; 7:15AM to 5:15PM. Temp. 7C. Wind SW 35-45kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy. P.M. partly clear. 7 field observers in 4 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 35.5 (29 on foot, 6.5 by car). Total party kilometres 134 (27 on foot, 107 by car).

Am. Black Duck 97	Mallard 2	Am. Green-winged Teal 3	Common Eider 216
Surf Scoter 3	W-winged Scoter 8	Black Scoter 9	Long-tailed Duck 226
Bufflehead 8	Common Goldeneye 3	R-breasted Merganser 21	R-necked Pheasant 10
Common Loon 20	Red-necked Grebe 6	Northern Gannet 98	D-crested Cormorant 1
Great Cormorant 109	Great Blue Heron 2	Turkey Vulture 1	Red-tailed Hawk 1
Wilson's Snipe 1	Ring-billed Gull 6	Herring Gull 846	Iceland Gull 153
G.Black-backed Gull 319	Bl-legged Kittiwake 4681	Pomarine Jaeger 1	Razorbill 3556
Black Guillemot 39	Atlantic Puffin 10	Alcid sp. 353	Rock Pigeon 18

Mourning Dove 46	R-bellied Woodpecker 1	Blue Jay 20	American Crow 62
Common Raven 14	B-capped Chickadee 55	R-breasted Nuthatch 1	G-crowned Kinglet 9
European Starling 55	American Pipit 7	Y-rumped Warbler 1	Savannah Sparrow 1
W-throated Sparrow 1	Snow Bunting 10	Northern Cardinal 1	R-winged Blackbird 3
Common Grackle 10	Brown-headed Cowbird 4	American Goldfinch 2	

Total Species 51, about 11,140 individuals. (CW. Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird). David Currie, Ross Fisher, Frank Garron, George Garron, Louise Garron, Michael Kieley, Dawn MacKenzie, Crystal McDormand, Ian McLaren, Anne Mills, **Eric Mills,(compiler)**.

BROAD COVE, Dec 30; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -4 to 3C. Wind W 4-45kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 23 field observers in 10 parties, 16 at feeders. Total party hours 77.5 (27.75 on foot, 49.75 by car). Total party kilometres 445 (371.50 by foot, 73.5 by car).

Canada Goose 290	Am. Black Duck 243	Mallard 294	Northern Shoveler 1
Ring-necked Duck 1	Greater Scaup 5	Common Eider 87	Surf Scoter 90
W-winged Scoter 3	Black Scoter 3	Long-tailed Duck 129	Bufflehead 199
Common Goldeneye 52	Hooded Merganser 34	Common Merganser 59	R-breast Merganser 133
Ruffed Grouse 4	Red-throated Loon 3	Common Loon 41	Horned Grebe 22
Red-necked Grebe 12	Great Cormorant 10	Bald Eagle 12	Northern Harrier 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk 4	Red-tailed Hawk 2	Merlin 1	Bl-bellied Plover 3
Sanderling 20	Purple Sandpiper 11	Dunlin 14	Ring-billed Gull 19
Herring Gull 364	Iceland Gull 3	G. Black-backed Gull 47	Black Guillemot 11
Rock Pigeon 121	Mourning Dove 291	Great Horned Owl 1	Barred Owl 1
Belted Kingfisher 6	R-bellied Woodpecker 1	Downy Woodpecker 19	Hairy Woodpecker 6
Northern Flicker 1	Pileated Woodpecker 1	Gray Jay 1	Blue Jay 233
American Crow 329	Common Raven 32	B-capped Chickadee 465	Boreal Chickadee 2
R-breasted Nuthatch 14	W-breasted Nuthatch 9	Brown Creeper 4	G-crowned Kinglet 58
R-crowned Kinglet 1	American Robin 296	European Starling 519	Cedar Waxwing 8
Orange-cr. Warbler 1	Y-rumped Warbler 7	Ovenbird 1	Am. Tree Sparrow 2
Chipping Sparrow 1	Song Sparrow 44	Swamp Sparrow 2	W-throated Sparrow 53
Sparrow sp. 5	Dark-eyed Junco 208	R-winged Blackbird 9	Common Grackle 2
Purple Finch 47	American Goldfinch 497		

Total Species 74, about 5,525 individuals. (CW. Northern Mockingbird, Common Redpoll). Bruce Allen, Lise Bell, Olivia Bell, Barbara Byrd, Shirley Cohrs, Alan Covert, David Currie, Linda DeMone, Paul DeMone, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, Donna Ensor, Eric Ensor, **Sylvia Fullerton (compiler)**, Pat Gladman, James Hirtle, Blair Hodgman, Ian McLaren, Anne Mills, Eric Mills, Eileen Morrison, Dorothy Poole, Joyce Purchase, Dave Walmark.

CALEDONIA, Dec 18; 7:45AM to 5PM. Temp. -5 to -1C. No NE 0-30kph. Snow 1cm. Still open, moving open. Skies cloudy all day. 15 field observers in 11 parties, 14 at feeders. Total party hours 39.5 (30.5 on foot, 9 by car). Total party kilometres 166.75 (60.25 on foot, 106.5 by car).

Canada Goose 45	Ring-necked Duck 20	Hooded Merganser 14	Ruffed Grouse 14
Bald Eagle 3	Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Red-tailed Hawk 1	Rock Pigeon 18
Mourning Dove 48	Barred Owl 2	Downy Woodpecker 18	Hairy Woodpecker 16
Pileated Woodpecker 4	Blue Jay 36	American Crow 37	Common Raven 48
B-capped Chickadee 284	R-breasted Nuthatch 6	W-breasted Nuthatch 32	Brown Creeper 6
G-crowned Kinglet 32	American Robin 1	European Starling 75	Fox Sparrow 1
Song Sparrow 2	Dark-eyed Junco 12	Pine Grosbeak 1	Purple Finch 29
W-winged Crossbill 30	Pine Siskin 13	American Goldfinch 200	Evening Grosbeak 61

Total Species 32, about 1,111 individuals. Jane Barker, Remi Brisson, Eric Cole, Judy Cole, Harry Delong, Rod Ford, Nancy Frayle, Marguerite Holdright, Myra Holdright, Lorraine Hope, Peter Hope, Peggy Hopper, Steve Hopper, Jackie Jorrissen, Mary Keirstead, Rod Keirstead, **Amanda Lavers (compiler)**, Tammy Lewis, Pierre Martel, Chris McCarthy, Elliot Payzant, Alexi Payzant, Barb Rogers, Peter Rogers, Terje Rogers, Kyle Rowter, Jonathon Sheppard, Tom Shupe, David Small, Rick Swain, Wendy Whynot.

CHETICAMP, Dec 20; 8AM to 4PM. Temp. 4 to 7C. Wind N 25-30kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 5 field observers in 5 parties. Total party hours 12 (7.5 on foot, 4.5 by car). Total party kilometres 145.3 (5.5 on foot, 139.8 by car)

Am. Black Duck 55	W-winged Scoter 1	Common Goldeneye 21	Common Merganser 30
Red-throated Loon 1	D-crested Cormorant 9	Great Cormorant 9	Cormorant sp. 20
Bald Eagle 2	Bonaparte's Gull 5	Ring-billed Gull 1	Herring Gull 28
Iceland Gull 8	Glaucous Gull 9	G-Black-backed Gull 23	Gull sp. 35
Black Guillemot 2	Rock Dove 7	Mourning Dove 6	American Crow 78
Common Raven 9	B-capped Chickadee 12	G-crowned Kinglet 1	American Robin 1
European Starling 251	Snow Bunting 12		

Total Species 26, about 629 individuals. (CW. Mallard, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, Barred Owl, Blue Jay, Bohemian Waxwing, American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak). Alfred Aucoin, Heather **Davis, Gordon Delaney (compiler)**, Erich Muntz, Jean-Marc Renaud.

ECONOMY, Dec 27; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. 0 to 11C. Wind NW 8kmph. Snow cover 4cm. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. partly cloudy. P.M. partly clear/cloudy. 10 field observers in 6 parties, 4 at feeders, 2 hour and 1.5km. owling. Total party hours 42 (26 on foot, 16 by car). Total party kilometres 67 (31 on foot, 36 by car).

Am. Black Duck 406	Mallard 6	Surf Scoter 17	W-winged Scoter 7
Long-tailed Duck 8	Bufflehead 8	Common Goldeneye 6	Common Merganser 2
Ring-necked Pheasant 12	Ruffed Grouse 9	Red-throated Loon 10	Common Loon 1
Bald Eagle 10	Northern Harrier 1	Red-tailed Hawk 3	Peregrine Falcon 1
Killdeer 1	Sanderling 2	Purple Sandpiper 4	Ring-billed Gull 138
Herring Gull 272	Iceland Gull 1	G. Black-backed Gull 14	Rock Pigeon 16
Mourning Dove 83	Belted Kingfisher 1	Downy Woodpecker 16	Hairy Woodpecker 16
Northern Flicker 1	Pileated Woodpecker 4	Northern Shrike 2	Gray Jay 4
Blue Jay 62	American Crow 211	Common Raven 18	B-capped Chickadee 293
Boreal Chickadee 3	R-breasted Nuthatch 27	G-crowned Kinglet 30	American Robin 4
European Starling 373	Northern Parula 1	Am. Tree Sparrow 29	Savannah Sparrow 2
Song Sparrow 13	Dark-eyed Junco 257	Common Grackle 1	W-winged Crossbill 26
Common Redpoll 53	Pine Siskin 61	American Goldfinch 367	Evening Grosbeak 29
House Sparrow 2			

Total Species 53, about 3,042 individuals. (CW. Sharp-shinned Hawk, **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, Red-winged Blackbird, Snow Bunting). Shannon Breen, Keith Chisholm, Irene Cooke, Charles Kendall, Nick MacLeod, Ken McKenna, **Bradford McLaughlin (compiler)**, Debra McLaughlin, Emily McLaughlin, Holly McLaughlin, Joelle McLaughlin, Robert McLaughlin, Bruce Shields, Patty Smart.

GLACE BAY, Dec 31; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. 11 field observers in 6 parties, 7 at feeders, 1 hour and 1km. owling. Total party hours 40 (29 on foot, 11 by car). Total party kilometers 223 (215 on foot, 8 by car).

Canada Goose 841	American Wigeon 350	Am. Black Duck 680	Mallard 234
Am. BlackXMallard 19	Northern Pintail 2	A. Green-winged Teal 15	E. Green-winged Teal 1
Ring-necked Duck 1	Greater Scaup 1630	Lesser Scaup 10	Common Eider 73
Surf Scoter 115	W-winged Scoter 51	Black Scoter 1	Long-tailed Duck 281

Bufflehead 98	Common Goldeneye 124	Hooded Merganser 3	Common Merganser 61
R-breast Merganser 112	Ruffed Grouse 3	Red-throated Loon 7	Common Loon 25
Horned Grebe 10	Red-necked Grebe 6	Northern Gannet 1	D-crested Cormorant 4
Great Cormorant 161	Bald Eagle 16	Northern Harrier 3	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
Northern Goshawk 1	Merlin 1	Peregrine Falcon 1	Purple Sandpiper 8
Black-headed Gull 3	Bonaparte's Gull 4	Common (Mew) Gull 1	Ring-billed Gull 1
Herring Gull 653	Iceland Gull 643	G-Black-backed Gull 119	G.B-backXHerring Gull 1
Dovekie 4	Razorbill 3	Black Guillemot 11	Rock Pigeon 184
Mourning Dove 156	Barred Owl 1	Belted Kingfisher 2	Downy Woodpecker 6
Hairy Woodpecker 3	Northern Flicker 1	Gray Jay 1	Blue Jay 180
American Crow 393	Common Raven 27	B-capped Chickadee 237	Boreal Chickadee 3
Brown Creeper 6	G-crowned Kinglet 4	Mountain Bluebird 1	American Robin 403
Northern Mockingbird 1	European Starling 891	Cedar Waxwing 9	Y-rumped Warbler 13
Yellow-breasted Chat 1	Am. Tree Sparrow 1	Fox Sparrow 1	Song Sparrow 9
Lincoln's Sparrow 1	Dark-eyed Junco 54	Pine Grosbeak 1	Purple Finch 3
Pine Siskin 25	American Goldfinch 99	House Sparrow 208	

Total Species 76 plus 1 subspecies, 2 hybrids, about 9,321 individuals. (CW. Glaucous Gull, Short-eared Owl, Pileated Woodpecker Allan Murrant, **Cathy Murrant (compiler)**).

HALIFAX/DARTMOUTH, Dec 18; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp -7 to -4C. Wind NE. 19 to 22kmph. No snow. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. clear, P.M. cloudy. 73 field observers in 29 – 54 parties, 69 at feeders 3.5 hours and 50kms owling. Total party hours 304.5 (74 on foot, 228.5 by car, 1 by boat, 1 by bicycle). Total party kilometres 1204.9 (267.5 on foot, 930.4 by car, 2 by boat, 5 by bicycle).

Canada Goose 1598	Gadwall 1	Eurasian Wigeon 9	American Wigeon 484
Am. Black Duck 1369	Mallard 717	Blue-winged Teal 3	Northern Pintail 5
Am. Green-wing Teal 13	Canvasback 1	Ring-necked Duck 26	Greater Scaup 33
Lesser Scaup 72	Common Eider 688	Harlequin Duck 2	Surf Scoter 7
W-winged Scoter 20	Black Scoter 48	Long-tailed Duck 121	Bufflehead 89
Common Goldeneye 57	Hooded Merganser 69	Common Merganser 93	R-breast Merganser 309
MallardXN. Pintail 1	Am. WigeonXMallard 1	Am BlackXMallard 5	R-necked Pheasant 29
Ruffed Grouse 3	Red-throated Loon 9	Common Loon 18	Pied-billed Grebe 1
Horned Grebe 1	Red-necked Grebe 14	Northern Fulmar 2	Northern Gannet 41
D-crested Cormorant 35	Great Cormorant 63	Cormorant sp 7	Vulture sp. 1
Bald Eagle 34	Northern Harrier 1	Sharp-shinned Hawk 4	Red-tailed Hawk 5
Rough-legged Hawk 1	Merlin 5	Peregrine Falcon 1	Common Gallinule 1
American Coot 33	Purple Sandpiper 34	Wilson's Snipe 1	Black-headed Gull 18
Bonaparte's Gull 5	Ring-billed Gull 235	Herring Gull 2085	Iceland Gull 342
L. Black-backed Gull 2	Glaucous Gull 6	G.Black-backed Gull 171	B-legged Kittiwake 112
Gull sp. 271	Common Murre 2	Razorbill 14	Black Guillemot 45
Atlantic Puffin 1	Rock Pigeon 983	Mourning Dove 279	Great Horned Owl 2
Short-eared Owl 1	N. Saw-whet Owl 1	R-bellied Woodpcker 10	Downy Woodpecker 54
Hairy Woodpecker 26	B-Backed Woodpecker 1	Northern Flicker 17	Pileated Woodpecker 4
Northern Shrike 1	Gray Jay 2	Blue Jay 445	American Crow 376
Common Raven 53	B-capped Chickadee 1343	Boreal Chickadee 23	R-breasted Nuthatch 13
W-breasted Nuthatch 15	Brown Creeper 6	House Wren 1	Marsh Wren 1
G-crowned Kinglet 108	B-gray Gnatcatcher 1	Hermit Thrush 1	American Robin 92
Northern Mockingbird 4	European Starling 9960	Cedar Waxwing 29	Orange-cr. Warbler 6
Northern Parula 1	Y-rumped Warbler 18	Pine Warbler 3	Yellow-breasted Chat 17
Eastern Towhee 1	Am. Tree Sparrow 15	Savannah Sparrow 10	Savannah (Ipswich) Sp. 1

Song Sparrow 408	Swamp Sparrow 1	W-throated Sparrow 93	Dark-eyed Junco 224
Lapland Longspur 17	Snow Bunting 201	Northern Cardinal 31	Eastern Meadowlark 1
Common Grackle 2	Baltimore Oriole 11	Purple Finch 3	Pine Siskin 5
American Goldfinch 871	Evening Grosbeak 2	House Sparrow 671	

Total Species 114 about 26,040 individuals, 1 subspecies, 3 hybrids. Sue Abbott, Karel Allard, Mary Allward, Lili Arsenault, Steve Andrews, Brenda Bale, Steve Bale, Laurie Banks, Suzanne Borkowski, Megan Boucher, Andrew Boyne, David Boyce, Terry Boswell, Monique Breau, Gail Bruhm, Mark Butler, Bonnie Carmichael, Patricia Chalmers, Eric Chaytor, Dominic Cormier, Alan Covert, Charles Cron, Mike Crowell, David Currie, Liz Doull, Catherine Earley, Jim Edsall, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, Derek Fenton, Chris Field, Meredith Flannery, Bill Freedman, Dennis Garratt, Richard Hatch, Chris Hawkins, Andy Horn, Sara Iverson, Janet Jericho, Mary Joyce, Lynn Karchewski, Paul Kempster, **Mike King (compiler)**, Elizabeth Kwindt, Henk Kwindt, Peter Kydd, Richard Lapaix, **Fulton Lavender (compiler)**, Marty Leonard, John Loch, Mike MacDonald, Nancy MacDonald, Gail MacLean, Chris Majka, Karen March, Blake Maybank, Bob McDonald, Ian McLaren, Ann Morrison, Maureen Nowlan, Richard Peckham, Chris Pepper, Karen Potter, Jen Rock, Rob Ronconi, Doug Sherman, Alan Springer, Cindy Staicer, Richard Starr, Kate Steele, Rita Viau, Dottie Welsh, Sarah Wong, Marty Zelenietz.

HIGHLANDS, Dec 28; 8:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 4C. Wind NW 30kmph. Snow 5cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 10 field observers in 6 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 25.5 (5 on foot, 9.5 by car). Total party kilometres 94 (10 on foot, 84 by car).

Am. Black Duck 4	W-winged Scoter 3	Common Goldeneye 82	Common Merganser 11
R-breasted Merganser 2	Duck sp. 6	Common Loon 1	Great Cormorant 2
Bald Eagle 10	Herring Gull 59	Glaucous Gull 2	G-Black-backed Gull 3
Dovekie 1	Rock Pigeon 11	Mourning Dove 6	Pileated Woodpecker 2
Blue Jay 9	American Crow 47	B-capped Chickadee 28	Boreal Chickadee 8
American Robin 3	European Starling 50	Bohemian Waxwing 30	Dark-eyed Junco 6
Pine Grosbeak 1	Purple Finch 11	American Goldfinch 40	

Total Species 27, about 438 individuals. (CW. Hairy Woodpecker, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch). Sara Bakker, **James Brigland (compiler)**, Michael Brigland, Chris Gorey, Maxine Hardy, Sheldon Lambert, Anne Marie Morrison, Freeman Morrison Fritz McEvoy, Ken Murray, Linda Murray, Gordon Rideout, Elaine Wallace.

KINGSTON, Dec 28; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. -6 to -3C. Wind SW 25-50kmph. Snow 10-20cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, light snow. P.M. partly clear. 24 field observers in 11 parties, 85 at feeders, .5 hours and 12km. owling. Total party hours 76.5 (16.75 on foot, 59.75 by car). Total party kilometres 970 (29 on foot, 941 by car).

Am. Black Duck 186	Mallard 270	Common Eider 10	Harlequin Duck 2
Common Merganser 4	Ring-necked Pheasant 13	Ruffed Grouse 5	Red-necked Grebe 1
Turkey Vulture 1	Bald Eagle 11	Sharp-shinned Hawk 5	Red-tailed Hawk 10
American Kestrel 1	Purple Sandpiper 13	Herring Gull 56	G-Black-backed Gull 4
B-legged Kittiwake 1	Rock Pigeon 211	Mourning Dove 359	R-bellied Woodpecker 3
Downy Woodpecker 56	Hairy Woodpecker 38	Northern Flicker 1	Pileated Woodpecker 1
Blue Jay 223	American Crow 3714	Common Raven 384	Horned Lark 1
B-capped Chickadee 512	R-breasted Nuthatch 13	W-breasted Nuthatch 50	Brown Creeper 5
G-crowned Kinglet 4	American Robin 51	European Starling 3189	Am. Tree Sparrow 7
Chipping Sparrow 4	Song Sparrow 6	W-throated Sparrow 17	Dark-eyed Junco 200
Lapland Longspur 1	Northern Cardinal 13	Red-winged Blackbird 1	Br-headed Cowbird 48
Pine Grosbeak 3	Purple Finch 5	Common Redpoll 1	Pine Siskin 5
American Goldfinch 845	Evening Grosbeak 28	House Sparrow 26	

Total Species 51, about 10,618 individuals. (CW. White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Razorbill, Cedar Waxwing, **Eastern Towhee**). Spike & Carole Allen, Ron & Sharon Baker, Ron Blackert, Larry Bogan, Patricia Bunn, Bob & Karen Campbell, Claire Campbell, David Campbell, Kathy Chapman, Tony Chaulk, John Collins, Laura Combs, Ashley Colville, David Colville, Keegan Colville Cathy Crook, Kenneth Crowell, Tom & Elizabeth Cushing, Ella & Howard Dalton, Valerie Despres, Bea Deveau, Claire Diggins, Daniel Diggins, David Diggins, Ed & Joyce Dodd, Harold Elliott, Muriel England, Shirley Fahie, Joan & Bobby Featherstone, Barbara & Patrick Giffin, Pamela Giffin, Lloyd & Mary Lou Graham, Carol & Leonard Gregory, Dylan Gubernt, Sheila Gubernt, Mark Hamilton, Lilli Hand, Shirley Harris, Arlene Healy, Donna & Ron Hill, Patricia House, Sheila L. Hulford, Sibella Hulford, Michael Inkpen, Brian Jones, Jack & Karen Keddy, Don & Ruth Kelly, Cathou Laroque, Andrea Leeson, David & Tonya Ludlow, Pam MacLachlan, Mark MacFadyen, Mary MacMillan, Patricia MacMillan, Jason McInnis, Colleen McKinnon, Ethel McLane, Weldon Morash, Jacquie & Jonathan Muers, Gary Myers, **Wayne Neily (compiler)**, Adora Parsons, John & Susan Paull, Gerry & Lillian Pellerin, Daniel Penner, Debbie Proctor-Scoville, Noreen Reagh, Mable Robar, Twila Robar-DeCoste, Gail & Ron Rogerson, Shirley & Kay Sanford, Helen Sharp, Roger Short, Herb & Judy Snell, Richard Stern, Ralph & Marilyn Swinimer, Barb Thompson, Charles & Doris Tye, Judy & Malcolm Uhlman, Jake Waldner, Margaret Waldner, Margot Walker, Mary Lou Ward, Audrey Wellwood, Robert Wolfe, Scott Yetman.

LOUISBOURG, Dec 17; 6:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -1 to 0C. Wind NW 0-10kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, P.M. partly cloudy. 28 field observers in 14 parties, 11 at feeders, 1 hour and 5.5km. owling. Total party hours 61 (46.25 on foot, 12.75 by car, 2 by bicycle). Total party kilometres 195.15 (62.85 on foot, 122.3 by car, 10 by bicycle).

Am. Black Duck 81	Mallard 4	Common Eider 3505	Harlequin Duck 2
Surf Scoter 65	W-winged Scoter 64	Black Scoter 313	Long-tailed Duck 201
Bufflehead 79	Common Goldeneye 125	Common Merganser 3	R-breast Merganser 108
Ruffed Grouse 10	Red-throated Loon 6	Common Loon 43	Loon species 2
Horned Grebe 5	Red-necked Grebe 83	Cory's Shearwater 1	Northern Gannet 3
D-crested Cormorant	Great Cormorant 64	Bald Eagle 9	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 1	Hawk sp. 1	Purple Sandpiper 5	Black-headed Gull 4
Bonaparte's Gull 13	Herring Gull 113	Iceland Gull 18	G.Black-backed Gull 28
Gull sp. 1	skua sp. 1	Dovekie 7	Thick-billed Murre 4
Razorbill 1	Black Guillemot 138	Rock Pigeon 53	Mourning Dove 48
Great Horned Owl 1	Short-eared Owl 1	Hairy Woodpecker 1	Northern Flicker 1
Pileated Woodpecker 3	Woodpecker sp. 1	Northern Shrike 2	Gray Jay 7
Blue Jay 48	American Crow 186	Common Raven 29	B-capped Chickadee 109
Boreal Chickadee 40	Red-breasted Nuthatch 22	G-crowned Kinglet 218	American Robin 669
Northern Mockingbird 1	European Starling 684	Cedar Waxwing 9	Song Sparrow 6
Dark-eyed Junco 10	Sparrow sp. 6	Purple Finch 2	Pine Siskin 6
American Goldfinch 239	Finch sp. 35	House Sparrow 35	

Total Species 60, about 10,199 individuals. Sandy Anthony, Mary Lou Blunden, Rob Boone, Linda Burke, Philip Burke, Abby Bussey, Avery Bussey, **Bill Bussey (co-compiler)**, Dianne Bussey, Eddie Bussey, Jennifer Bussey, Maureen Cameron-MacMillan, George Crowell, **Ken Donovan (co-compiler)**, Dave Harris, Bethsheila Kent, John Lahey, Elizabeth LaLonde, Gerry LaLonde, Jackie MacDonald, Patsy MacDonald, John W. MacInnis, David MacLeod, Jeff MacLeod, Allan MacMillan, Loretta Magee, Pearl Magee, Philip Magee, Dave McCorquodale, Fabian McKenzie, **Susann Myers (co-compiler)**, Joan Mills, Terry Power, Bev Sarty, Laura Saunders, Margaret Smith, Lawrence Troke, Monique Vassallo.

LUNENBURG, Jan 2; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. 5 to 10C. Wind SW 30kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, heavy rain. P.M. partly clear, light rain. 24 field observers in 11 parties, 14 at feeders, 5

hours and 94km. owling. Total party hours 73.5 (22.75 on foot, 50.75 by car). Total party kilometres 514.6 (27.5 on foot, 487.1 by car).

Canada Goose 7	Wood Duck 1	Am. Black Duck 272	Mallard 430
Northern Pintail 3	Am. Green-winged Teal 2	Greater Scaup 160	Common Eider 36
Harlequin Duck 7	Surf Scoter 6	W-winged Scoter 30	Long-tailed Duck 141
Bufflehead 77	Common Goldeneye 202	Barrow's Goldeneye 2	Hooded Merganser 140
Common Merganser 50	R-breast Merganser 246	R-necked Pheasant 15	Ruffed Grouse 1
Red-throated Loon 3	Common Loon 45	Horned Grebe 18	Red-necked Grebe 2
Northern Gannet 1	D-crested Cormorant 2	Great Cormorant 78	Gr. Blue Heron 1
Bald Eagle 6	Northern Harrier 1	Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Red-tailed Hawk 7
American Kestrel 1	Merlin 1	Black-headed Gull 16	Bonaparte's Gull 87
Ring-billed Gull 5	Herring Gull 1051	Iceland Gull 101	Glaucous Gull 2
G-Black-backed Gull 201	B-legged Kittiwake 1	Dovekie 1	Black Guillemot 25
Atlantic Puffin 2	Rock Pigeon 150	Mourning Dove 211	Great Horned Owl 3
Barred Owl 17	Long-eared Owl 1	N. Saw-whet Owl 4	Belted Kingfisher 2
R-bellied Woodpecker 1	Downy Woodpecker 19	Hairy Woodpecker 13	Northern Flicker 9
Blue Jay 103	American Crow 459	Common Raven 41	B-capped Chickadee 443
Boreal Chickadee 16	R-breasted Nuthatch 12	W-breasted Nuthatch 1	Brown Creeper 2
G-crowned Kinglet 45	R-crowned Kinglet 2	Hermit Thrush 1	American Robin 121
European Starling 1692	Cedar Waxwing 2	Y-rumped Warbler 7	Y-breasted Chat 1
Am. Tree Sparrow 8	Song Sparrow 66	Swamp Sparrow 5	W-throated Sparrow 65
Dark-eyed Junco 159	Northern Cardinal 5	Red-winged Blackbird 12	Common Grackle 10
Br-headed Cowbird 12	Baltimore Oriole 1	Purple Finch 15	Pine Siskin 1
American Goldfinch 311	House Sparrow 29		

Total Species 86, about 7,564 individuals. Joyce Allen, Greg Amos, Bill Billington, Eileen Billington, Edith Burgess, Shirley Cohrs, Brian Delaney, Kelly Delaney, Paul Demone, Hillary Dione, Martha Farrar, Chris Field, Sylvia Fullerton, Pat Gladman, Brenda Hiltz, Steven Hiltz, **James R. Hirtle (compiler)**, Joanne Hubley, Sandy Jordan, Brian Kenefick, Janice Kenefick, Kevin Lantz, Fulton Lavender, Don MacNeill, Paul McDonald, Alan McTavish, Earl Meister, Anne Mills, Eric Mills, Dorothy Poole, Laura Roblee, Clarence Stevens Sr., David Vanrijn, Robert Weld, Dottie Welsh, Shirley Woods.

MARGAREE, Dec 28; 7AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 4 to 6C. Wind W 5kmph. No snow. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. A.M. cloudy, foggy, rain. P.M. cloudy, foggy, rain, snow. 17 field observers in 5 parties, 12 at feeders. Total party hours 48 (32.25 on foot, 15.75 by car). Total party kilometers 216 (9.5 on foot, 206.5 by car).

Am Black Duck 46	Scoter sp. 3	Bufflehead 6	Common Goldeneye 28
Common Merganser 15	Duck sp 12	Ruffed Grouse 1	Grebe sp 1
D-crested Cormorant 2	Bald Eagle 14	Northern Harrier 1	Red-tailed Hawk
Bonaparte's Gull 3	Herring Gull 58	Iceland Gull 1	Gr. Black-backed Gull 6
Rock Pigeon 34	Mourning Dove 32	Great Horned Owl 2	Barred Owl 1
Downy Woodpecker 3	Hairy Woodpecker 4	Pileated Woodpecker 1	Blue Jay 66
American Crow 251	Common Raven 20	B-capped Chickadee 117	Boreal Chickadee 3
R-breasted Nuthatch 5	W-breasted Nuthatch 1	G-crowned Kinglet 1	American Robin 12
European Starling 201	Bohemian Waxwing 12	W-throated Sparrow 1	Dark-eyed Junco 18
Pine Grosbeak 20	American Goldfinch 75	Evening Grosbeak 18	House Sparrow 4

Total Species 39, about 1,100 individuals. Stephen Basker, George Boyce, Clifford Collins, Heather Curley, Ann Earle, Barrie Fraser, Debbie Hart, Eunice Hart, Frances Hart, Karen Hart, David Ingraham, **Colonel**

MacLellan (compiler), David MacLellan, Jackie MacLellan, Rosie MacLellan, Christine MacLeod, Verna MacMillan, Kathleen MacPhail.

PICTOU HARBOUR, Jan 1; 7:30AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -7 to 0C. Wind SW 7-25kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy, light rain snow all day. 13 field observers in 7-8 parties, 17 at feeders, 1 hour and 10km. owling. Total party hours 54.5 (15 on foot, 39.5 by car). Total party kilometres 567 (17 on foot, 550 by car).

Canada Goose 509	Gadwall 8	Eurasian Wigeon 1	American Wigeon 40
Am. Black Duck 483	Mallard 31	Northern Pintail 2	Am. Green-winged Teal 4
Greater Scaup 364	Lesser Scaup 1	Common Eider 3	Surf Scoter 8
W-winged Scoter 5	Black Scoter 5	Long-tailed Duck 29	Bufflehead 47
Common Goldeneye 482	Barrow's Goldeneye 2	Hooded Merganser 35	Common Merganser 138
R-breast Merganser 748	Tufted Duck X scaup 1	Black Duck X Mallard 1	Duck sp. 7
R-necked Pheasant 32	Ruffed Grouse 8	Red-throated Loon 4	Common Loon 1
D-crested Cormorant 7	Turkey Vulture 1	Bald Eagle 54	Red-tailed Hawk 7
Merlin 1	Bonaparte's Gull 12	Ring-billed Gull 45	Herring Gull 701
Iceland Gull 80	Glaucous Gull 1	G-Black-backed Gull 95	Gull sp. 7
Rock Pigeon 316	Mourning Dove 76	Barred Owl 1	Belted Kingfisher 5
R-bellied Woodpecker 1	Downy Woodpecker 12	Hairy Woodpecker 10	Northern Flicker 2
Pileated Woodpecker 2	Blue Jay 66	American Crow 1092	Common Raven 198
B-capped Chickadee 341	R-breasted Nuthatch 10	W-breasted Nuthatch 2	Brown Creeper 7
G-crowned Kinglet 27	American Robin 94	European Starling 1807	Bohemian Waxwing 14
American Tree Sparrow 3	Song Sparrow 16	W-throated Sparrow 1	Sparrow sp. 2
Dark-eyed Junco 54	Baltimore Oriole 2	Purple Finch 3	American Goldfinch 422
Finch sp. 15	House Sparrow 5		

Total Species 65 plus 2 hybrids, about 8,616 individuals. (CW. Horned Grebe, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Coot). Tim Brennan, Carolyn Brennan, Pat Christensen, Bonnie Davidson, Krista DeCoste, Rick Ferguson, Elwin Hemphill, Janey Hemphill, Charlie Kendell, Randy Lauff, Nicolas MacLeod, Pat McCarron, Jayne McCathy, **Ken McKenna (compiler)**, Deborah McLane, Cheryl McLane, Bob McLaughlin, Brad McLaughlin, Joelle McLaughlin, Kevin O'Brien, Wynne O'Brien, Dan Panting, Joan Panting, Rob Reid, Doreen Snow, Henry Snow, Amber Vines, Steve Vines, Pat Vines.

PORT L'HEBERT, Dec 18; 7AM to 5:10PM. Temp. -5 to 2C. Wind NE 20kmph. Snow 1-2cm. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. partly cloudy, light snow. P.M. cloudy. 14 field observers in 18 parties, 1 at feeder. Total party hours 41.5 (26 on foot, 15.5 by car). Total party kilometres 369 (51 by foot, 318 by car).

Canada Goose 717	Am. Black Duck 1515	Mallard 13	Northern Pintail 13
Am. Gr.-winged Teal 19	Greater Scaup 8	Common Eider 122	Harlequin Duck 122
Surf Scoter 13	W-winged Scoter 23	Black Scoter 27	Long-tailed Duck 58
Bufflehead 108	Common Goldeneye 26	Common Merganser 11	R-breasted Merganser 55
Red-throated Loon 2	Common Loon 42	Pied-billed Grebe 2	Horned Grebe 24
Red-necked Grebe 12	Great Cormorant 9	Bald Eagle 7	Northern Harrier 2
Northern Goshawk 1	Red-tailed Hawk 1	American Kestrel 1	Black-bellied Plover 14
Least Sandpiper 1	Dowitcher species 2	Western/Semi-P. Sp. 35	Bonaparte's Gull 1
Ring-billed Gull 22	Herring Gull 251	Iceland Gull 4	G.Black-backed Gull 51
Dovekie 3	Black Guillemot 16	Rock Pigeon 17	Mourning Dove 20
Great Horned Owl 1	Belted Kingfisher 1	Downy Woodpecker 1	Hairy Woodpecker 1
Northern Flicker 13	Blue Jay 33	American Crow 91	Common Raven 3

Horned Lark 4	B-capped Chickadee 56	W-breasted Nuthatch 1	Winter Wren 1
G-crowned Kinglet 44	American Robin 488	Northern Mockingbird 1	Cedar Waxwing 62
European Starling 360	Y-rumped Warbler 1	Am. Tree Sparrow 2	Song Sparrow 24
W-throated Sparrow 14	W-crowned Sparrow 2	Dark-eyed Junco 22	Snow Bunting 5
Purple Finch 2	Pine Siskin 3	American Goldfinch 86	House Sparrow 7

Total Species 68, about 4,719 individuals. (CW. Northern Shoveler, Ruffed Grouse, Merlin, Common Grackle). **Bill Crosby (compiler)**, Donna Crosby, Russel Crosby, Gail Daniels, Glenn Demolitor, Emeron Fiske, Sylvia Fullerton, James Hirtle, Janet Lloyd, Danny Mason, Dorothy Poole, Robert Turner, Vic Wolfe.

ST. ANN'S, Dec 16; 7:15AM to 4:15PM. Temp. -4 to 4C. Wind SW 10kmph. No snow. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. cloudy. P.M. cloudy, light rain. 11 observers in 9 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 32.5 (27.5 on foot, 5 by car). Total party kilometres 121.7 (57.2 by foot, 54.2 by car).

Canada Goose 45	Am. Black Duck 44	Greater Scaup 8	Surf Scoter 52
W-winged Scoter 21	Black Scoter 3	Long-tailed Duck 8	Common Goldeneye 226
Common Merganser 5	R-breast Merganser 106	Ruffed Grouse 3	Common Loon 12
Red-necked Grebe 3	Bald Eagle 15	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Red-tailed Hawk 2
Ring-billed Gull 16	Herring Gull 152	Iceland Gull 3	G. Black-backed Gull 2
Gull sp. 2	Belted Kingfisher 1	Downy Woodpecker 1	Northern Flicker 1
Gray Jay 5	Blue Jay 74	American Crow 100	Common Raven 15
B-capped Chickadee 133	Boreal Chickadee 4	R-breasted Nuthatch 7	G-crowned Kinglet 8
American Robin 33	European Starling 17	Song Sparrow 2	Dark-eyed Junco 10
Snow Bunting 10	American Goldfinch 176	Evening Grosbeak 33	

Total Species 38, about 1,359 individuals. Dan Banks, Diana Banks, Heather Dauphinee-Wilson, **Bethsheila Kent (compiler)**, Floyd Kent, Dennis Laffan, Jim Morrow, Sharron Morrow, Hugh Mueller, Jeannie Mueller, Susann Myers, Laura Saunders, Penny Steele, Marion Thompson.

ST. PETER'S, Dec 27; 7:08AM to 4:08PM. Temp. -2 to 5C. Wind SW10-15kmph. Snow 0-5cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. partly cloudy. P.M. clear. 13 field observers in 9 parties, 17 at feeders. Total party hours 34.3 (20.5 on foot, 13.8 by car). Total party kilometres 226.4 (24.2 by foot, 202.2 by car).

Canada Goose 19	Wood Duck 1	Am. Black Duck 82	Mallard 28
Am. Gr-winged Teal 8	Greater Scaup 1	Common Eider 1389	Surf Scoter 10
W-winged Scoter 94	Black Scoter 94	Long-tailed Duck 93	Bufflehead 9
Common Goldeneye 89	Common Merganser 9	R-breast Merganser 194	Duck sp. 6
R-necked Pheasant 2	Ruffed Grouse 2	Common Loon 22	Horned Grebe 16
Red-necked Grebe 6	Northern Gannet 1	D-crested Cormorant 1	Bald Eagle 15
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Black-headed Gull 9	Bonaparte's Gull 27	Ring-billed Gull 2
Herring Gull 215	Iceland Gull 9	Glaucous Gull 1	G. Black-backed Gull 20
Gull species 7	Dovekie 14	Thick-billed Murre 2	Black Guillemot 9
Rock Pigeon 34	Mourning Dove 124	Belted Kingfisher 3	R-bellied Woodpecker 1
Downy Woodpecker 1	Northern Flicker 4	Northern Shrike 1	Gray Jay 17
Blue Jay 43	American Crow 269	Common Raven 26	B-capped Chickadee 128
Boreal Chickadee 22	R-breasted Nuthatch 11	G-crowned Kinglet 22	American Robin 115
European Starling 1038	Am. Tree Sparrow 1	Savannah Sparrow 7	Savannah (Ipswich) 1
Song Sparrow 16	Dark-eyed Junco 19	Lapland Longspur 1	Brown-headed Cowbird 1
Pine Siskin 1	American Goldfinch 240	House Sparrow 86	

Total Species 61, about 4,665 individuals, plus 1 subspecies. (CW. Spruce Grouse, Great Horned Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, **Northern Parula**, Pine Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak). Tony Burke, **Billy Digout (compiler)**, George Digout, Marj Digout, Sheila Digout, Stan Digout, Billy Holmes, Martha Holmes, Wendell Holmes, David Johnston, Gordie Landry, Helen MacDonald, Sheila MacDonald, Donnie MacDonald, Esther MacDonnell, John W. MacInnis, Elaine MacNeil, Jack MacNeil, Weldon MacPhail, David McCorquodale, Emily Meyers, Susann Myers, Daniel Nightingale, Frances Oram, Norman Oram, Jeannie Shermerhorn, Bernie Sockett, Sheila Sockett, Jennifer Sonntag, Jessie Sonntag.

SHEET HARBOUR, Dec 15; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -4 to 4C. Wind S 20-40kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. A.M cloudy. P.M. cloudy, light rain. 12 field observers in 7 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party hours 53.5 (36 on foot, 17.5 by car). Total party kilometres 188.25 (51.5 on foot, 136.75 by car).

Am. Black Duck 84	Common Eider 34	Harlequin Duck 26	Surf Scoter 6
W-winged Scoter 33	Black Scoter 6	Scoter sp. 7	Long-tailed Duck 244
Bufflehead 19	Common Goldeneye 24	Hooded Merganser 23	Common Merganser 8
R-breast Merganser 106	R-necked Pheasant 5	Ruffed Grouse 2	Common Loon 29
Horned Grebe 51	Red-necked Grebe 3	Northern Gannet 4	Great Cormorant 10
Bald Eagle 2	Herring Gull 379	Gull sp. 7	Black Guillemot 22
Rock Pigeon 53	Mourning Dove 33	Downy Woodpecker 1	Hairy Woodpecker 6
Northern Flicker 1	Pileated Woodpecker 2	Gray Jay 4	Blue Jay 42
American Crow 148	Common Raven 20	B-capped Chickadee 170	Boreal Chickadee 34
Red-breasted Nuthatch 16	Brown Creeper 2	G-crowned Kinglet 59	American Robin 22
European Starling 403	Am. Tree Sparrow 12	Song Sparrow 26	Swamp Sparrow 2
W-throated Sparrow 28	Sparrow sp. 1	Dark-eyed Junco 59	Common Grackle 6
Pine Grosbeak 8	White-winged Crossbill 4	Common Redpoll 6	Pine Siskin 11
American Goldfinch 381			

Total Species 50 about 2,694 individuals. (CW. Canada Goose, Purple Sandpiper, Black-backed Woodpecker). Patricia Batstone, Pat Bennett, **Jim Cameron, (compiler)**, George Child, Bill Clark, Sharon Clark, Thelma Crowell, Warren Cruickshank, Lil Cruickshank Boyd Daye, Jim Elliott, Gillian Elliott, Charles Kendell, Cathy Kruch, Lena Lowe, Ken McKenna, Robert Moser, Warren Parsons, Chris Pepper, Devon Query, Nancy Witherspoon.

SHUBENACADIE, Dec 18; 6:45AM to 4PM. Temp. -6 to -3C. Wind N 15kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. clear. P.M. cloudy. 19 field observers in 14 parties, 19 at feeders, .5 hours and 2km owling. Total party hours 37 (4.5 on foot, 32.5 by car). Total party kilometres 268.6 (11.3 by foot, 257.3 by car).

Canada Goose 222	Am. Black Duck 198	Mallard 250	Ring-necked Pheasant 18
Ruffed Grouse 9	Bald Eagle 26	Northern Goshawk 1	Red-tailed Hawk 5
Ring-billed Gull 19	Herring Gull 53	Rock Pigeon 254	Mourning Dove 307
Barred Owl 4	R-headed Woodpecker 1	Downy Woodpecker 13	Hairy Woodpecker 7
Northern Flicker 1	Pileated Woodpecker 2	Gray Jay 3	Blue Jay 203
American Crow 601	Common Raven 86	B-capped Chickadee 233	R-breasted Nuthatch 5
G-crowned Kinglet 27	European Starling 2484	Swamp Sparrow 3	W-throated Sparrow 4
Dark-eyed Junco 13	Snow Bunting 21	Red-winged Blackbird 2	Common Grackle 17
Br-headed Cowbird 10	Purple Finch 11	American Goldfinch 392	Evening Grosbeak 17
House Sparrow 12			

Total Species 37, about 5,534 individuals. (CW. American Kestrel, **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, White-breasted Nuthatch). Barbara Aitken, Fred Ashley, Wylie Barbrick, Barbara Bower, Rob Cameron, Carol Goswell, Brenda Grantmyer, Audrey Hungerford, John Hungerford, Irene Isenor, **Myrna Isenor (compiler)**, Leckie Langley, Kathleen MacAulay, Anne MacDonald, Roslyn MacPhee, Sharon MacPhee, Roland McCulloch, Jenna Marshall, Muriel Miller, Juanita Murphy, Carolyn Myers, Jacques Perron, Roby Scammel, George Searle, Dale Smith, Blanche Tanner, Enith Thomas, Julie Towers, Faye Wallace, Art West, Myrna West, Bernice Williams, Frank Woodworth.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec 17; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. -2C. Wind NW 5-10kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Skies partly cloudy all day. 8 field observers in 5 parties, 8 at feeders, .5 hrs. and 5km. owling. Total party hours 37 (15 on foot, 22 by car). Total party kilometres 430 (21 by foot, 409 by car).

Canada Goose 123	Am. Black Duck 69	Mallard 5	Common Goldeneye 11
Hooded Merganser 21	Common Merganser 7	Ring-necked Pheasant 5	Ruffed Grouse 8
Bald Eagle 18	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Northern Goshawk 1	Red-tailed Hawk 6
Ring-billed Gull 67	Herring Gull 240	Iceland Gull 1	G. Black-backed Gull 12
Rock Pigeon 286	Mourning Dove 199	R-Bellied Woodpecker 3	Downy Woodpecker 20
Hairy Woodpecker 14	Pileated Woodpecker 4	Gray Jay 4	Blue Jay 161
American Crow 667	Common Raven 29	B-capped Chickadee 484	Boreal Chickadee 4
R-breasted Nuthatch 29	W-breasted Nuthatch 7	Brown Creeper 4	G-crowned Kinglet 76
R-crowned Kinglet 1	European Starling 1153	Pine Warbler 1	Am. Tree Sparrow 17
Song Sparrow 13	Swamp Sparrow 2	W-throated Sparrow 2	Dark-eyed Junco 35
Snow Bunting 79	Common Grackle 1	Pine Grosbeak 3	Purple Finch 3
W-winged Crossbill 2	Pine Siskin 60	American Goldfinch 502	Evening Grosbeak 68
House Sparrow 39			

Total Species 49, about 4,581 individuals. (CW. **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Lesser Black-backed Gull**). Ed Cormier, Claire Foote, Ralph Foote, Rick Ferguson, Trudy Grant, Charlie Kendall, John MacKarney, Karen MacLeod, Linc MacLeod, Ken McKenna, Sally Polley, Margie Reid, Rob Reid, Sue Uhren, Amber Vines, **Steve Vines (compiler)**.

STRAIT OF CANSO, Dec 28; 7AM to 3:45PM. Temp. 4.2 to 7.1C. Winds NE 15-26. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water partly open. Skies cloudy all day. 9 field observers in 7 parties, 11 at feeders. Total party hours 35.25 (25.75 on foot, 9.5 by car). Total party kilometres 158.5 (19.5 on foot, 139 by car).

Canada Goose 40	Am. Black Duck 142	Mallard 30	Greater Scaup 8
Scaup sp. 4	Common Eider 5	Surf Scoter 14	W-winged Scoter 7
Black Scoter 16	Scoter sp. 60	Long-tailed Duck 39	Bufflehead 2
Common Goldeneye 107	Hooded Merganser 55	Common Merganser 55	R-breast Merganser 181
Goldeneye Hybrid 1	Black DuckXMallard 1	Ruffed Grouse 2	Red-throated Loon 1
Common Loon 10	Horned Grebe 4	Red-necked Grebe 5	Northern Gannet 1
Great Cormorant 6	Bald Eagle 14	Red-tailed Hawk 1	Black-headed Gull 1
Bonaparte's Gull 135	Ring-billed Gull 69	Herring Gull 304	Iceland Gull 128
Glaucous Gull 2	G. Black-backed Gull 14	Gull sp. 11	Dovekie 1
Black Guillemot 21	Rock Pigeon 143	Mourning Dove 71	Belted Kingfisher 3
Downy Woodpecker 2	Northern Flicker 1	Pileated Woodpecker 1	Gray Jay 1
Blue Jay 54	American Crow 276	Common Raven 18	B-capped Chickadee 191
Boreal Chickadee 8	Red-breasted Nuthatch 4	Brown Creeper 1	G-crowned Kinglet 40
American Robin 50	European Starling 496	Cedar Waxwing 68	Song Sparrow 3

Dark-eyed Junco 4	Purple Finch 15	Pine Siskin 25	American Goldfinch 230
House Sparrow 25			

Total Species 56 plus 2 hybrid, about 3,175 individuals. (CW. American Tree Sparrow). Michaellette Barrington, Karen Burke, Maureen Cameron-MacMillan, Floyd Carter, Billy Digout, David Fifield, Freda Fifield, **David Johnston (compiler)**, Mary Johnston, Tanya King, Nicole MacDonald, Allan MacMillan, Thelma MacPherson, Trueman MacPherson, David McCorquodale, Susann Myers, Anna Peeples, Early Peeples, Betty Talbot, Louis Talbot.

THE SYDNEYS, Dec 20; 7:15AM to 4:45PM. Temp. 4 to 7C. Winds NW 9-20kmph. Snow 0-2cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, light rain. P.M. partly clear. 18 field observers in 8-10 parties, 19 at feeders, .25 hours and 2kms. owling. Total party hours 45 (27 on foot, 18 by car). Total party kilometres 303 (17 by foot, 286 by car).

Canada Goose 33	American Wigeon 26	Am. Black Duck 1068	Mallard 301
Am. Gr-Winged Teal 1	Greater Scaup 218	Lesser Scaup 3	Surf Scoter 25
W-winged Scoter 133	Long-tailed Duck 75	Bufflehead 43	Common Goldeneye 430
Barrow's Goldeneye 22	Common Merganser 23	R-breast Merganser 171	Black DuckXMallard 42
Duck sp. 11	Ring-necked Pheasant 11	Common Loon 3	Northern Gannet 1
Great Cormorant 107	Bald Eagle 22	Northern Harrier 1	Purple Sandpiper 4
Black-headed Gull 4	Bonaparte's Gull 8	Ring-billed Gull 6	Herring Gull 1435
Iceland Gull 712	Glaucous Gull 2	G. Black-backed Gull 322	Gull sp. 27
Black Guillemot 18	Rock Pigeon 417	Mourning Dove 120	Belted Kingfisher 3
R-Bellied Woodpecker 1	Downy Woodpecker 10	Hairy Woodpecker 8	Northern Flicker 7
Pileated Woodpecker 2	Gray Jay 5	Blue Jay 72	American Crow 4000
Common Raven 65	B-capped Chickadee 306	Red-breasted Nuthatch 9	G-crowned Kinglet 5
American Robin 24	European Starling 10000	Blk & White Warbler 1	Am. Tree Sparrow 3
Song Sparrow 23	W-throated Sparrow 1	Dark-eyed Junco 4	American Goldfinch 296
House Sparrow 307			

Total Species 54 plus 1 hybrid, about 21,005 individuals. (CW. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Yellow-breasted Chat, Baltimore Oriole). Bill Baillie, Ed Barrington, Rob Beresford, Mary-Lou Blunden, Bill Bussey, Maureen Cameron-MacMillan, Robert Campbell, Donnie Courage, April Digout, Billy Digout, Ken Donovan, Eleanor Dunning, John Dunning, Mary Jane Elliott, Bill English, David Forrester, Abbey Keeping, Bethsheila Kent, Andrew MacDonald, Arthur MacDonald, Yvonne MacDonald, Paul MacDougall, John W. MacInnis, Lillian MacKeigan, Margaret Ann MacKinnon, Jack MacNeil, **David McCorquodale (compiler)**, Susann Myers, Terry Power, Gordon Sampson, Laura Saunders, Jennifer Stephen, Chris Thomson, Roger Tobin, Chris Thomson, Lydia Urban, Monique Vassallo, Al Zwicker.

TRURO, Dec 29; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -4C. Winds W 50-70kmph. Snow 2cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, light snow. P.M. cloudy. 9 field observers in 8 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 57 (16.5 on foot, 40.5 by car). Total party kilometres 606 (31 on foot, 575 by car).

Canada Goose 938	American Wigeon 38	Am. Black Duck 175	Mallard 825
Am. Gr-winged Teal 1	Ring-necked Pheasant 32	Ruffed Grouse 1	Bald Eagle 10
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Red-tailed Hawk 5	Merlin 1	American Coot 1
Ring-billed Gull 2	Herring Gull 175	G. Black-backed Gull 12	R-bellied Woodpecker 3
Downy Woodpecker 8	Hairy Woodpecker 5	Gray Jay 1	Blue Jay 142
American Crow 2093	Common Raven 11	Horned Lark 6	B-capped Chickadee 220
R-breasted Nuthatch 6	W-breasted Nuthatch 2	Brown Creeper 1	G-crowned Kinglet 14
American Robin 1	European Starling 2985	Thick-billed Murre 1	Rock Pigeon 500
Mourning Dove 203	Am. Tree Sparrow 24	Savannah Sparrow 1	Song Sparrow 4

W-throated Sparrow 7	Dark-eyed Junco 76	Northern Cardinal 5	Common Grackle 1
Brown-headed Cowbird 2	Purple Finch 2	W-winged Crossbill 2	Pine Siskin 62
American Goldfinch 854	Evening Grosbeak 45	House Sparrow 8	

Total Species 47, about 9,512 individuals. Linda Hall, **Ross Hall (compiler)**, Rip Irwin, Charlie Kendall, Betty Lynds, Ina Major, Marilyn MacWha, Ken McKenna, Jeff Ogden, Chris Pepper, Allan Richard, Anne Richard, Cliff Sandeson, Rose Selwyn-Smith, Harold Stewart, Sheila Stewart, Neil Taylor.

WEST HANTS, Dec 28; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. 5 to 10C. Wind S 5-50kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies cloudy, light to heavy rain all day. 17 field observers in 12 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 64 (15.4 on foot, 48.6 by car). Total party kilometres 798.7 (24.1 by foot, 774.6 by car).

Canada Goose 461	Eurasian Wigeon 2	American Wigeon 7	Am. Black Duck 408
Mallard 86	Ring-necked Pheasant 15	Ruffed Grouse 1	Bald Eagle 18
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Red-tailed Hawk 10	Rough-legged Hawk 1	Merlin 1
Ring-billed Gull 51	Herring Gull 326	Iceland Gull 1	G. Black-backed Gull 52
Rock Pigeon 196	Mourning Dove 178	Downy Woodpecker 4	Hairy Woodpecker 6
Northern Flicker 3	Blue Jay 124	American Crow 891	Common Raven 55
B-capped Chickadee 325	W-breasted Nuthatch 4	Brown Creeper 1	G-crowned Kinglet 3
American Robin 7	European Starling 2753	Song Sparrow 12	Dark-eyed Junco 59
Northern Cardinal 2	Common Grackle 5	Purple Finch 11	American Goldfinch 425
Evening Grosbeak 66	House Sparrow 26		

Total Species 38, about 6,598 individuals. (CW. **Pink-footed Goose**, Pileated Woodpecker, Pine Siskin). George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, John Belbin, Louis Coutinho, Gail Davis, Ryan Harvie, Angela Joudrey, **Patrick Kelly (compiler)**, Peggy Kochanoff, Blake Maybank, Shita Prativi, Sheila Robarts, Neil Robarts, John Robertson, David Simpson, Richard Stern, Elizabeth Stern, Jim Wolford, Avarad Woolaver, Frank Wollaver.

WHITE POINT, Dec 15; 8:30AM to 4PM. Temp. 0 to 5C. Wind SW 22-40kmph. No snow cover. Still water open. Moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 4 field observers in 3 parties, 1 at feeder. Total party hours 19.75 (7.5 on foot, 12.25 by car). Total party kilometres 165 (11 on foot, 154 by car).

Am. Black Duck 163	Mallard 111	Am. Gr-winged Teal 12	Common Eider 23
Surf Scoter 19	W-winged Scoter 21	Black Scoter 5	Long-tailed Duck 21
Bufflehead 54	Hooded Merganser 3	R-breast Merganser 33	Red-throated Loon 1
Common Loon 6	Horned Grebe 5	Red-necked Grebe 1	Great Shearwater 3
Northern Gannet 2	Great Cormorant 13	Bald Eagle 3	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
Herring Gull 386	Iceland Gull 7	G. Black-backed Gull 281	Black Guillemot 9
Rock Pigeon 87	Mourning Dove 69	R-bellied Woodpecker 1	Downy Woodpecker 10
Hairy Woodpecker 5	Northern Flicker 1	Blue Jay 33	American Crow 106
Common Raven 10	B-capped Chickadee 79	W-breasted Nuthatch 3	G-crowned Kinglet 16
American Robin 16	European Starling 938	Y-rumped Warbler 1	Pine Warbler 1
Warbler sp. 1	Song Sparrow 24	Swamp Sparrow 2	W-throated Sparrow 24
Dark-eyed Junco 7	Northern Cardinal 7	Purple Finch 57	American Goldfinch 84

Total Species 47, about 2,765 individuals. Sylvia Fullerton, **James Hirtle (compiler)**, Margaret Millard, Dorothy Poole, Clarence Stevens Sr.

WOLFVILLE, Dec 17; 8AM to 5:15PM. Temp. -4 to 0C. Wind NW 0-10kmph. Snow 0-5cm. Still water partly frozen. Moving water open. Skies partly cloudy all day. 46 field observers in 28 parties, 82 at feeders. Total party hours 140 (85.8 on foot, 54.2 by car). Total party kilometres 960 (169.5 on foot, 790.5 by car).

Canada Goose 180	American Wigeon 2	Am. Black Duck 2152	Mallard 620
Common Eider 1	Surf Scoter 3	W-winged Scoter 1	Scoter sp. 6
Common Goldeneye 4	Hooded Merganser 18	Common Merganser 9	R-breasted Merganser 4
Ring-necked Pheasant 93	Ruffed Grouse 5	Red-throated Loon 1	Common Loon 3
Great Blue Heron 3	Bald Eagle 249	Northern Harrier 3	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 87	Rough-legged Hawk 1	Merlin 2	Peregrine Falcon 1
Ring-billed Gull 18	Herring Gull 4361	Iceland Gull 1	L. Black-backed Gull 2
G. Black-backed Gull 833	Gull sp. 300	Rock Pigeon 296	Mourning Dove 678
Great Horned Owl 1	Barred Owl 1	R-bellied Woodpecker 5	Downy Woodpecker 86
Hairy Woodpecker 54	Northern Flicker 44	Pileated Woodpecker 1	Blue Jay 848
American Crow 1430	Common Raven 280	Horned Lark 11	B-capped Chickadee 976
R-breasted Nuthatch 20	W-breasted Nuthatch 80	Brown Creeper 6	G-crowned Kinglet 51
R-crowned Kinglet 1	American Robin 1	Northern Mockingbird 4	European Starling 5836
Cedar Waxwing 38	Am. Tree Sparrow 53	Savannah Sparrow 19	Song Sparrow 1
Swamp Sparrow 1	W-throated Sparrow 58	Sparrow sp. 2	Dark-eyed Junco 264
Lapland Longspur 1	Snow Bunting 51	Northern Cardinal 26	Baltimore Oriole 2
Pine Grosbeak 1	Purple Finch 30	American Goldfinch 1516	Evening Grosbeak 7
House Sparrow 83			

Total Species 66, about 22,013 individuals. (CW. Wood Duck, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Turkey Vulture, Snowy Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-winged Blackbird). Derek Allerton, George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, Jim Amos, Diana Anderson, Helen Archibald, Peter Austin-Smith Sr., John Belbin, Charlane Bishop, Diana Bisop, Sue Bissix, Sherman Bleakney, Sherman Boates, Fen Boates-Bishop, **Alison Bogan (compiler)**, Larry Bogan, Soren Bondrup-Neilsen, Linda Brown, Carol Buckley, Nancy Burbidge, Scott Burbidge, Margaret Burton, Andrew Cameron, Andy Cann, Ken Cheslock, Lana Churchill, James Churchill, Murray Colbo, Jack Colwell, Sandi Connelly, Pete Connelly, Catherine Craig, Peggy Crawford, Lillian Davidson, Gail Davis, Andy Dean, Pat Dix, Tony Duke, Paul Elderkin, Wendy Elliott, Lisa Eye, Harold Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Sandra Forsythe, Hedley Fulton, Glenys Gibson, Jamie Gibson, Doreen Guppy, Eileen Harris, Patricia Hawes, Heather Hennigar, Terry Hennigar, Tom Herman, Dennis Hippem, Bob Horne, John Horton, Winnie Horton, Dave Johnson, Ari Kalkman, Pat Kelly, Sandy Kempton, Ginny Lee, Jean Leung, Holly Lightfoot, Doug Linzey, Linda Lusby, Jake MacDonald, Angus MacLean, Stella MacLean, Carolyn Mallory, Mark Mallory, Ron Margeson, Shirley Marston, Eleanor Mason, Janey McClain, Sheila McCurdy, Pat McLeod, Randy Milton, Terri Milton, Adele Mullie, Pat Murphy, Terry Murphy, Edna Mutch, Gary Ness, Pam Nickerson, Nancy Nickerson, Bill O'Brien, Mike O'Brien, Iris Owen, John Owen, Ian Paterson, Linda Pearson, Terry Pearson, Dorothy Perkin, Mary Pratt, Cecil Pulsifer, Stan Riggs, Barry Sabeau, Linda Sacouman, David Shutler, David Silverberg, Elizabeth Stern, Richard Stern, Ed Sulis, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Martin Thomas, Laura Thompson, Jean Timpa, Dave Tracy, Lois Tracy, Kurtis Trzcinski, Judy Tufts, Elizabeth Walter, Jane Warren, Gertrude Waseem, Mohommed Waseem, Rena Waters, Jacquie White, **Jim Wolford (feeder co-ordinator)**, Don Wright, Irene Wright, Barry Yoell, Elizabeth Yoell, Earl Young, Sheila Young.

YARMOUTH, Dec 18; 7:45AM to 5PM. Temp. -5 to -2. Wind N 11-26kmph. Snow 0-1cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 20 field observers in 7-8 parties, 16 at feeders. Total party hours 50 (9.75 by foot, 40.25 by car). Total party kilometres 593 (20.5 by foot, 573 by car).

Canada Goose 604	American Wigeon 22	Am. Black Duck 460	Mallard 257
Gr-winged Teal 52	Ring-necked Duck 5	Lesser Scaup 7	Scaup sp. 18
Common Eider 62	Surf Scoter 6	W-winged Scoter 3	Black Scoter 12
Long-tailed Duck 8	Bufflehead 40	Common Goldeneye 29	Hooded Merganser 29
Common Merganser 4	R-breast Merganser 64	Duck sp. 23	Ring-necked Pheasant 2
Ruffed Grouse 1	Red-throated Loon 6	Common Loon 28	Red-necked Grebe 3
D-crested Cormorant 3	Great Cormorant 1	Cormorant sp. 2	Cattle Egret 1

Turkey Vulture 45	Bald Eagle 5	Red-tailed Hawk 6	Rough-legged Hawk 1
Hawk sp. 2	American Kestrel 3	American Coot 3	Black-bellied Plover 7
Greater Yellowlegs 3	Purple Sandpiper 2	Dunlin 98	Ring-billed Gull 77
Herring Gull 461	Iceland Gull 1	G. Black-backed gull 309	Gull sp. 7
Black Guillemot 2	Rock Pigeon 132	Mourning Dove 225	Belted Kingfisher 1
R-bellied Woodpecker 2	Downy Woodpecker 17	Hairy Woodpecker 12	Northern Flicker 30
Blue Jay 108	American Crow 550	Common Raven 13	Horned Lark 30
B-capped Chickadee 347	Boreal Chickadee 1	Red-breasted Nuthatch 2	W-breasted Nuthatch 4
Brown Creeper 7	Winter Wren 1	G-crowned Kinglet 13	American Robin 73
European Starling 1613	American Pipit 12	Orange-cr. Warbler 1	Northern Parula 1
Y-rumped Warbler 21	Pine Warbler 5	Am. Tree Sparrow 9	Song Sparrow 33
W-throated Sparrow 62	Sparrow sp. 10	Dark-eyed Junco 37	Lapland Longspur 1
Northern Cardinal 48	Common Grackle 6	Br-headed Cowbird 33	Baltimore Oriole 1
Purple Finch 25	House Finch 24	American Goldfinch 182	Finch sp. 2
House Sparrow 3			

Total Species 78, about 6,481 individuals. (CW. Semipalmated Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Great Horned Owl, **Eastern Bluebird**, Northern Mockingbird, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, Red-winged Blackbird). Howard Bain, Martyn Bowler, Sandy Bowler, Emmi Comeau, Raymond d'Entremont, Ronnie d'Entremont, Ted D'Eon, Sharman Fells, June Graves, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Angela LeBlanc, David Mahoney, Ethelda Murphy, Leah Murphy, Dermot O'Sullivan, Sally O'Sullivan, Arthur Porter, Dick Pothier, Marilyn Pothier, Melvin Pothier, Mike Pothier, Leslie Robinson, Marcie Rogers, **Barbara Ruff (complier)**, **Eric Ruff (complier)**, Rachel Smith, Stuart Smith, Clark Sollows, David Sollows, John Sollows, Vera Sollows, Clyde Stoddart, Debbie Sullivan, Barbara Surette, Dorothy Ward.

A Graylag Goose (*Anser anser*) in Nova Scotia

By Eric Mills (286 Kingsburg Road, RR#1, Rose Bay, NS B0J 2X0 – e.mills@dal.ca)

On November 3, 2010, I found a Graylag Goose in a flock of Canada Geese on the Jennings family farm, Shore Road, Masstown, Colchester County, Nova Scotia, a few kilometers west of Truro. My notes (slightly edited) for that date read:

Just after noon today, I found a "Grey Goose" in big flock of Canadas (1000-2000) along the Shore Road in Masstown, Col. Co. It was big, nearly as big as the Canadas it accompanied, showed a large orange bill, long sloping profile, heavy neck, neck streaking, pink legs, a pale gray head (somewhat darker on the cap - this varied with light and angle), gray neck and underparts, and darker wings and coverts. I watched it for about an hour and a half at a range of ca. 300-400m as it fed, marched about with the Canadas, for uncomfortably long times fell asleep in hollows in the grass, and in general proved frustrating to see well. I got some inferior photographs which seemed to bear out my visual observations. Tellingly, although I did not see it in flight, it stretched a wing once and showed a gray forewing. ... This appears to be a Graylag Goose.

On the following day, this bird was photographed well by Jeff Ogden of Truro (Fig. 1), making it clear that it was indeed a Graylag Goose and confirming my original field observations.



Figure 1. Graylag Goose, Masstown, Colchester Co., NS, Nov. 4, 2010. Photo: Jeff Ogden.

Its field marks, particularly the combination of orange bill and pink legs indicated that it was a bird of the western European subspecies *Anser anser anser*, and its facies was that of a wild bird rather than a barnyard goose, being relatively slender (not pot-bellied), having fully gray-brown feathering (no white patches on body, neck or head), and having normally-coloured bill and feet (see comments later). I concluded that the Masstown bird was an adult, although an analysis later by Ian McLaren showed that it had coverts and eyelid tones typical of an immature bird (Fig. 2).



Figure 2. Graylag Goose, Onslow, Col. Co., NS., with a small northern Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis interior*, in the background. Inset shows the asymmetrically-pointed covert feathers

with marked white ends; adult covert feathers would be symmetrical and show less white (information from Ian McLaren). Photograph: Tuma Young (insert by Mike King).

After its discovery on Nov. 3 in Masstown, the Graylag moved about with a flock of Canada Geese, appearing sequentially in fields or ponds in Lower Onslow, North River, and Central Onslow, Colchester County, all sites within a few km of the original location. It was seen by many birders from near and far throughout November, and apparently left not long after it was re-found by Ian McLaren and me in a small flock of Canada Geese in Central Onslow on Dec. 9, at a time when the fields were freezing and most of the Canada Geese were leaving. A Graylag Goose that Anne Mills and I found with a flock of Canada Geese at the upper end of Yarmouth harbour, NS, on Feb. 23, 2011 may have been the same bird; it appeared to be the same age and was indistinguishable in any features from the bird seen the preceding fall near Truro. It disappeared with the Canadas within minutes before it could be photographed and could not be relocated.

Graylag Goose (spelled Greylag in Europe) is an extreme rarity in North America. At the time the Nova Scotia bird was discovered, in early November 2010, there was only one accepted record of the species on this continent, a bird that came aboard an exploration vessel (and was photographed) 200 kilometers SE of St. John's, NL, from April 24 May 2, 2005. See:

<http://birding.typepad.com/peeps/2010/11/page/2/>.

Also: Maybank, B. 2005. Atlantic Provinces & St. Pierre et Miquelon. *North American Birds* 59 (3): 396.

An adult discovered on 29 February 29, 2009, in Wallingford, CT, is still in limbo after a decision by the relevant local rarities committee to wait for more evidence of its wild origin (information from Paul A. Buckley, Narragansett, RI); there is no mention of this occurrence in *North American Birds*. A specimen in the New Brunswick Museum of a goose seen and photographed near Saint John, NB, on November 30, 2007, shot by a hunter on Grand Manan four days later, and identified then as an immature Greater White-fronted Goose, was re-identified in mid-November 2010 as a Graylag Goose (information from Stuart Tingley, Shediac, NB). Next, during an extended period of NE winds in the North Atlantic, a wild Graylag Goose was photographed in flight from a vessel 180 n.miles E of Cape Bonavista, NL, on 3 December 3, 2010 (information from Bruce Mactavish, St. John's, NL). Finally, from at least November 14 into December 2011 a Graylag Goose was with hundreds of Canada Geese at or near Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu, Québec, in the Chambly region SE of Montréal. See:

<http://birding.typepad.com/peeps/2011/11/graylag-geese-quebec.htm>.

Thus, although the Nova Scotia Graylag appeared to be an actor in an emerging pattern of vagrancy from the Old World, it was an extreme rarity. Determining the likelihood of its wild provenance is of high priority. The evidence for the wild origin of the Nova Scotian Graylag Goose is the following:

1) The bird had a wild phenotype, showing no evidence of being a "barnyard goose" – that is, it did not show the pot-bellied facies or plumage variations found in domesticated Graylags. On the varieties of Graylag Goose. See:

<http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/005/Y4359E/y4359e03.htm>

and: <http://www.feathersite.com/Poultry/NDG/Geese/Greylag/BRKKGrey.html>

2) This bird belonged to the western European Graylag race, *Anser anser anser*, the Icelandic populations of which are highly migratory, and which leave for their wintering grounds on Scotland in the last half of October into November (Cramp et al. 1977. *Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Birds of the Western Palearctic*. Volume 1. Ostrich to Ducks, p. 416). Thus the timing of migration in the Old World is consistent with arrival in Nova Scotia in early November (see also point 7 following).

3) It was an immature, and thus of an age most likely to wander.

4) Weather patterns throughout late fall of 2010 were favourable to vagrancy. For much of late October through November strong air flow from the northeast persisted across the North Atlantic, resulting in a remarkable arrival of northern geese in our area, including several Greenland Canada Geese (see point 8 following), an adult Greenland

White-fronted Goose found in Central Onslow, Colchester Co., on 10 November, and the Graylag Goose at sea off Newfoundland in early December.

5) Its behaviour indicated wild origin; the bird interacted normally with the Canada Geese it accompanied, occasionally squabbled with them, and was wary of predators and human presence.

6) Photographs taken later showed that the bird had an intact hallux on each foot, a feature indicating that it was probably not from a collection (hind toe clipping is sometimes used, at least in North America, to distinguish captive birds from wild ones).

7) Graylag Goose populations have expanded dramatically during the past 30 years, particularly in Iceland, where the population in 2009 was over 100,000. See:

http://www.wwt.org.uk/research/monitoring/species/2010/iceland_greylag_latest2010.asp

8) The Canada Geese that the Graylag accompanied included many birds (an increasing number through November) of northern origin, referable to *Branta canadensis interior* of northern Quebec, eastern Nunavut, and West Greenland. At least four neck-ringed Canadas in this flock had been captured and marked in 2008 or 2009 in West Greenland (information from Tony Fox, University of Copenhagen) – see:

<http://greenland08.wikispaces.com/Request+for+resightings+of+Canada+Geese>
also: P. Hess. 2009. Geese from Greenland. *Birding* 41 (3): 26).

Graylag Goose is a vagrant in Greenland, but a wandering bird could easily join a flock of northern Canadas in the Arctic or Subarctic and this is likely what took place.

On balance, although the evidence is circumstantial, it is substantial and very much consistent with a wild origin of the Graylag Goose found in Masstown, NS, in November 2010. A Nova Scotia Bird Records Committee no longer exists, so this paper is intended to make the case, by publishing evidence, of the validity of Nova Scotia's first, and North America's 4th, Graylag Goose, as a wild bird.

Tufted Duck and its Scaup Hybrids in Nova Scotia

Ian McLaren (Biology Department, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS B3H 4R1)

and Kenneth McKenna (Box 218, Stellerton, NS B0K 1S0)

We have had over 30 records of more than 40 TUFTED DUCKS in the province, and among them have been at least three different apparent male hybrids with scaup, all in the Northumberland Strait region. This winter, one was discovered during the Pictou Harbour CBC by Steve and Amber Vines and was seen there by others until at least the end of February. Its hybrid nature is quite evident in Figure 1, but its parentage is not entirely clear.

Figure 2 compares the two North American species of scaup. The tightly spaced vermiculations (narrow barring) on the hybrid seem to indicate GREATER SCAUP parentage, but there is a complication. The GREATER SCAUP of Iceland, where its hybridization with Tufted Duck is said to be regular, is of the Eurasian subspecies. It is said to have more widely-spaced vermiculations and it would also be interesting to look for them among our wintering flocks. The difference in vermiculations might be evident in good images, although according to some authorities, these may be too variable to be reliable, and how would one detect a hybrid with LESSER SCAUP, with similarly widely-spaced vermiculations; from head shape? A more reliable difference may be the extent of white on the flight feathers, usually only on the inner six primaries on North American Greater Scaup, but said to extend to outer primaries on the Eurasian subspecies. Photos of Greater Scaup stretching their wings or in flight might be especially useful – yet another challenge for our skilled photographers.

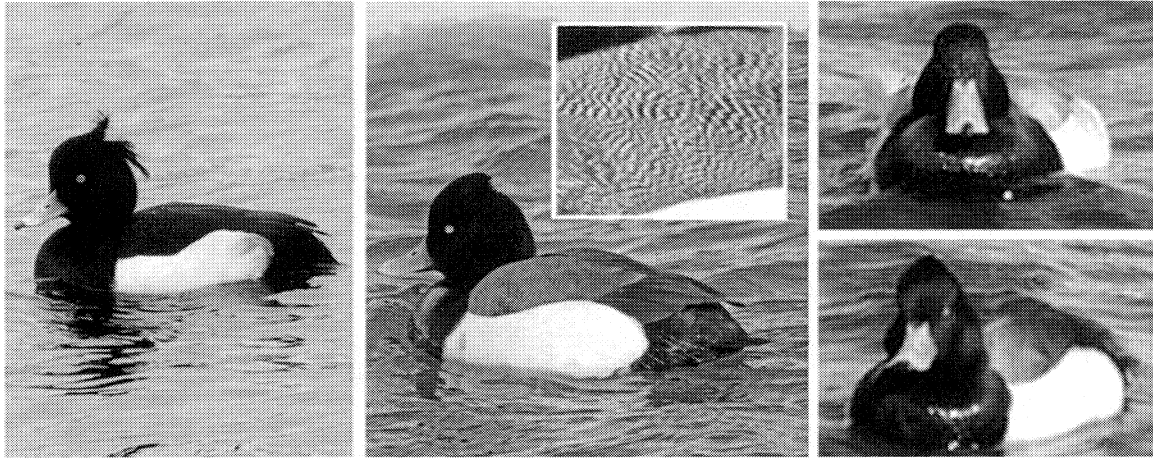


Fig. 1. A male Tufted Duck (at left), Feb. 26 2012 at Glace Bay compared with the Tufted Duck X Scaup hybrid (middle) on the same day at Pictou,. Note the hybrid's minimal tuft and dark gray, not black, back with dark vermiculations; the insert shows the enlarged back with heightened contrast. At right (Feb. 25, 2012 at Pictou), the hybrid's bill (below) has a weak version of the white subterminal band and broader black "nail" of its Tufted rather than Greater Scaup parent (above). [Photos: left, Allan Murrant; middle and right, Ken McKenna]

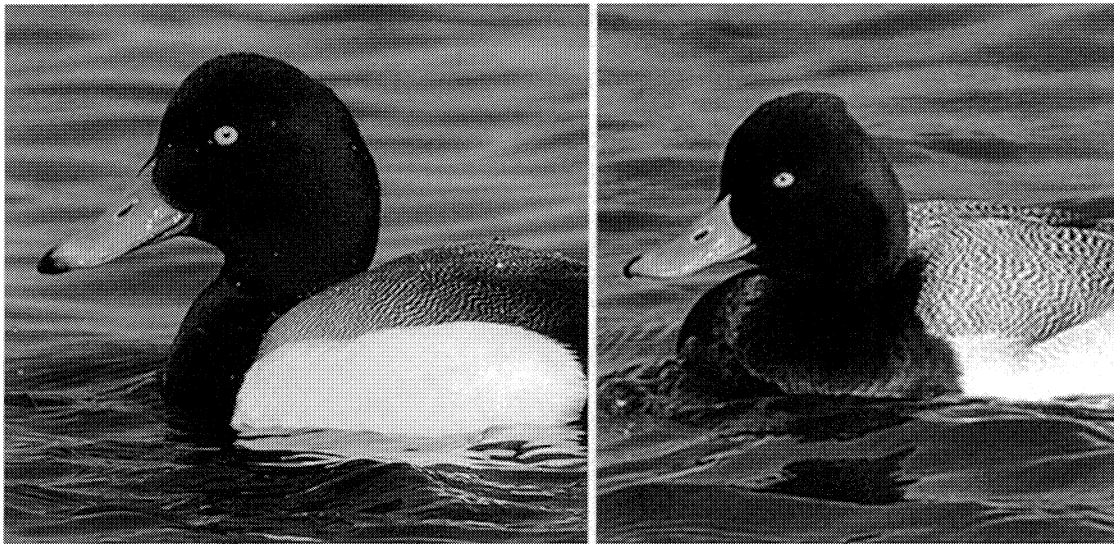



Fig. 2. On the back patterns of GREATER SCAUP, Mar. 24, 2008 at Glace Bay (left) and LESSER SCAUP, Jan. 24, 2007, at New Waterford (right), note the coarser, wider-spaced vermiculations on the latter. [Photos Allan Murrant] The Old-World subspecies *marilla*, is said by some authorities to have finer, more widely spaced dark vermiculations compared with the North American *mariloides*. Do the broad, closely spaced vermiculations on the Antigonish bird suggest that hybridization had occurred with "our" Greater Scaup, which nests in the true taiga across the continent, with outliers breeding in the Maritimes, rather than with one in Iceland?



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