

Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Winter Season 2012-2013

Volume 55, 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 centred on the observation, study and protection of the birds of the province and preservation of their habitats.

Nova Scotia Bird Society
c/o The Nova Scotia Museum
1747 Summer Street
Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

E-mail: nsbs@chebucto.ns.ca

Find us on Facebook

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

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

Inside This Issue

Special Points of Interest:

Full colour-illustrated report of winter birds; Christmas Bird Counts; discovery of our first Ross's Goose; first photos in Canada of three offshore birds; how Barolo Shearwater got its name; sorting out the winter's Mew (Common) Gulls; 19th Century newspaper account of birds.



Cover: "the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying" – winter birding at Cherry Hill Beach, Dec. 28, 2012. [Photo Steven Hiltz]

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Vol. 55, Issue 2*Address below***Production Assistants***Vacant***Records Editor***Lance Laviolette***Events Editor***Kate Steele***Seasonal Bird Reports***John Belbin**Chris Field**Nic Fieldsend**Ulli Hoeger**Ken McKenna**Ian McLaren**Eric Mills**Susann Myers**Rick Whitman***Banner Artist & Line Art***Trevor Herriot***Other Help***Ulli Hoeger**Eric Mills**Mary McLaren**Chris Pepper***Bird Reports to:***Lance Laviolette**RR # 1, Glen Robertson, ON,**KOB 1H0**Lance.laviolette@Imco.com***Photo submissions to:***Ian McLaren, Photo Editor**Address below***Other Items for publication to:***Ian McLaren, Acting Editor**Nova Scotia Birds, 1755 Cambridge St.,**Halifax, B3H 4A8**iamclar@dal.ca*

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Message from the Acting Editor

This issue is more-or-less on schedule, just before half-way through the year. As you will see, it's been an exciting winter, with one new species for the province, and several other great finds.

John Belbin, long-time Section Editor, will leave us after this issue, having given us, as usual, his thoughtful report on the winter's waterfowl, loons and grebes; many thanks to John for his years of contributions to this quarterly. We welcome Nic Fieldsend and Rick Whitman to our roster.

Readers will find some tentative changes in presentations of our seasonal reports – tentative, because a uniform approach has not been adopted. Following a meeting of our Section Editors, it was concluded that there is now less need for very lengthy tabulations of seasonal records. First introduced in 2004, the tables have been largely winnowed from direct reports to the Society and from the e-mail groups Nature NS and the Nova Scotia Rare Bird Alert (NS-RBA). The tabulations since 2004 will remain available (and now on-line) as a resource for assessing changes in abundance, distribution, and seasonal trends of our birds between 2004 and present. However, given the long-time availability of on-line sources like Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Bird Counts, and in recent years the increasingly useful eBird, our extensive tabulations will no longer be as useful for such monitoring and research. We cannot match, for example, the almost 15,000 numerical bird records entered from Nova Scotia during winter 2012-13.

Varied approaches and styles of the seasonal reports have always been a virtue of our quarterly. In this issue, some section editors have still included quite extensive tables, others none. Some have chosen to greatly condense reports of common species in their sections by month or season, while others have tabulated selected daily counts. Much depends on the amount of information for the various bird groups. Some groups have few species or are relatively uncommon in winter, so that all or nearly the season's records can be mentioned in the narrative. All have attempted to analyse and place in context the bird records in their sections, which will interest most readers in thinking about their own observations through the season. Let us know what you think.



Notes from the President, David A. Currie

With this issue comes one of the dramatic changes we intend to make this year. After 58 years, and not without some sadness, we are retiring the Nova Scotia Bird Society's familiar crest. The Atlantic Puffin continues to endear us and with the artistry of *Capture Design's*, Jordan Allen, we have hopefully found a way to present this amazing bird icon in a colourful, modern and powerful way that will be recognizable and enjoyed for many years to come.

As you know, we are in the process of completing our new website and with it, we have now digitized 150 back issues of *Nova Scotia Birds*, and before that the *Nova Scotia Museum Newsletter*, which began chronicling the activities of the NSBS in May 1955. Reading short articles by people like Harrison Lewis, Willett Mills, and Robie Tufts takes you back to those earlier days when birding was just beginning to become a more widespread activity. Look for those past issues soon as we get closer to launching the website.

We welcome Rick Whitman and Nic Fieldsend to our editorial board with many thanks for giving up their time and helping us to provide what continues to be a much sought-after publication. A very special thank you, also, to John Belbin for all his years of editing the waterfowl and loons-through-grebes sections, as he takes a well-deserved break after this issue of *Nova Scotia Birds*.

Our magazine is a wonderful way of not only staying in contact with our members, but just as importantly, it continues to be a respected source of information for students, researchers and keen birders who follow trends and anticipate problems as we witness changing climate and habitat loss. It will become even more widely used as we move forward with web-based publications.

I hope you get out and enjoy our birds on your own or on one of our many field trips but if not, try looking at the amazing photos on our Facebook page and throughout this issue of *Nova Scotia Birds*.

Important Agenda Item for Next Annual General Meeting

In order to comply with recent changes to the Canadian Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (CNCA) and the Societies Act of Nova Scotia, the existing "Constitution and By-Laws" had to be converted/amended to a "Memorandum of Association and By-Laws". This was done with the assistance of the legal counsel of our honorary solicitor. The "Memorandum of Association" and the "By-Laws" each require a "special resolution" to be passed by the membership at the next Special/Annual General Meeting. Another terminology/technical change is that the "Executive Committee" is now a "Board of Directors" and all are elected as "directors" at the AGM. Also a few adjustments have been made and updates added to reflect modern realities, such as electronic notification, websites, etc. A copy of the "Memorandum of Association and By-Laws" will be available on our website or you can request an electronic or paper copy from the President.



WINTER BIRD REPORTS

NOTE: The following are frequently used abbreviations and acronyms, especially to save space in in tables and text. In addition, months and most county names (except when stand-alone) are abbreviated, and the latter are always in *italics* to distinguish them from towns with the same names. Well known cities and towns are spelled out in full, without their counties or municipalities. Cardinal and ordinal directions may be abbreviated (as w., n.e., etc.) and capitalized only when part of a place name.

General terms

Ad. = adult
 BBS – Breeding Bird Survey
 Bch., bch. = Beach, beach
 Brk. = Brook
Ca. = approximately
 CBC = Christmas Bird Count
 f. = female
fide = on the authority of
 Hbr. = Harbour
 I. = Island (pl. Is.)
 imm. = immature
 juv. = juvenile (first post-nestling plumage)
 Lr. = Lower
 m. obs. – many observers
 n.d. = no details (unsupported by documentation)
 no. – number or numbers
 nr. = geographically near
 obs., as in '2 obs.' = observer (s), *not* observation(s)
 Pk. = Park
 Pen. = Peninsula
 ph. = photographed
 PP = Provincial Park
 Pt. = Point (*not* Port)
 PPP, Halifax = Pt. Pleasant Park, Halifax

pr. = pair
 R. = River
 rept(s). = report(s)
 Sanc. = Sanctuary, as in several Game Sanctuaries
 spec. = specimen
 thr. = through a season, as in 'thr, summer'
 var. obs. = various observers
 yng. = young
 + or ++ with numbers = more; with dates = later

Geographical locations

APBS = Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, *Cum.*
 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
 Hbr., hbr. = Harbour, harbour
 HRM = Halifax Regional Municipality
 Keji. NP = Kejimikujik National Park
 Keji. Seaside NP = Kejimikujik NP Seaside Adjunct
 PPP, Halifax = Point Pleasant Park, Halifax
 Seal I. = Seal Island, Outer Tusket Is., *Yar.*
 Uniacke Pk. = Uniacke Estate Museum Park, *Han*

Note: The CBC results from all count circles are given in this issue, and are only partly reviewed in the following reports (generally given as totals from all circles combined).

Waterfowl

By John Belbin

Reports from a Ducks Unlimited Atlantic Flyway station in Maine in late fall showed greatly reduced numbers of waterfowl passing through and thus, far fewer opportunities for hunting. The blame was placed on the relatively warm weather causing birds to remain in Canada instead of migrating south. If this trend holds we should be getting more opportunities to see numbers of waterfowl during our coming winters.

A **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** was shot Dec 6 in an *Antigonish* cornfield and was subsequently identified by BID. The bird had apparently been misidentified as a Graylag, an unfortunately common occurrence. Photos indicate that it was a first-fall bird of the Greenland subspecies. An individual of that subspecies was reported and photographed in November near Dominion, *CBRM* (see last issue). It seems likely that this was the same bird that met with the *Antigonish* hunter.

An influx of SNOW GEESE was discovered in the *HRM* area on New Year's Eve day. Mike King reported nine "Lesser" Snow Geese at Hartlen Pt. golf course and among them was a rare **ROSS'S GOOSE**, which he photographed. He also found six more Snow Geese at Bissett L. Six Snow Geese were also seen briefly at Rainbow Haven that day and may have been the same birds; 22 showed up there the next day. (See Mike King's account of these discoveries, p. 65.) Several people commented that, in addition to being noticeably smaller, the Ross's has more vividly pink legs (shown in Sibley's guide) and considerably whiter plumage than a white-morph Snow Goose. It is in fact the smallest of the three varieties of white geese (about half the weight of a "Lesser" Snow). Ross's Goose breeds in the low arctic tundra, mainly near Queen Maud Gulf, southern Southampton I., the w. coast of Hudson Bay. Its appearance here places it to the far east of its normal migration pattern through central and western USA, but it has been expanding its eastern range recently so we may see more of them. Its two-week stay at the golf course gave other people the chance to see it.



The differences in relative body and bill size between the **ROSS'S** and SNOW GOOSE are obvious in this image (Jan 4). Note also the 'whiter than-white' plumage of the smaller goose, and its vividly dark pink legs. See also the photo (p. 65) taken on the day of discovery. [Photo Mike King]

On Jan 8 a different group of no fewer than 32 Snow Geese, including one juvenile that had been released after rehabilitation at "Hope for Wildlife", were chased from the airstrip of Shearwater Airbase for safety reasons (*vide* DAC, MIK). Fifteen, including presumably the same young one, were found later that day at nearby McCormacks Bch. in E. Passage, *HRM*. They continued to be seen until at least Feb 17 elsewhere in E. Passage, including grassy areas of the airbase near the shore road and away from the landing strip. Photos indicate that these were "Greater" Snow Geese. (See below). Other Snow Geese were subsequently seen elsewhere in the province, including three near Lockport in late January and an immature and an adult there in late February (identifiable from photos as "Greater"). Notable was a group of 13 asleep on the ice in Indian Bay East E. near Port Medway on Jan 10. The widespread sightings seem to indicate that small numbers over-wintered here, significantly more than in the past.



A group of SNOW GEESE different from the flock with the Ross's Goose at Hartlen Pt. appeared Jan 8 at nearby McCormacks Bch, HRM (photo Jan 17). They were apparently part of a flock chased from the Shearwater Airbase, including a rehabilitated immature. Note the flat head profile and large bill of the young one. They were seen later in various parts of E. Passage and were last reported Feb 17. [Photo Joshua Barss-Donham]

Differences between the Hartlen Pt. "Lesser" SNOW GEESE (two at left) and the "Greater" found later in E. Passage, including McCormacks Bch. (two at right), are shown on these images. Note the flatter crowns and larger bills of those at right. [Photos: above left Richard Stern (Jan 4), below left Mike King (Jan 8); two at right, Joshua Barss-Donham (Jan 17)]



The SNOW GEESE at Lockeport, both in late January (left) and late February (right), appeared from their head profiles to be "Greater" [Photos: left, Pat MacIntosh; right, Bill Crosby]

Large numbers of CANADA GEESE again gathered in fall in the Colchester region. The origin of these birds changes as the season progresses and flocks continue to pass through, with very few northern Canada or Greenland birds early on. By early December ELM reported that the proportion had risen from about 5% to about 30 - 40%. Occasionally ringed birds from goose-banding stations in W. Greenland are discovered. On Dec 9 an adult female that was initially ringed in Issunga, W. Greenland was identified. It had been previously seen in Saint-Mathias-sur Richelieu, Quebec, in spring when it was travelling north. This latest sighting may indicate that it was heading for Amherst, MA, a location where many Greenland Canada Geese gather. Very large numbers of Canada Geese were also found on the Glace Bay and Yarmouth CBCs. The number of BRANT reported this year is significantly smaller than this time last year.

An unusually large group of **14** GADWALL showed up Dec 23 in Yarmouth Hbr. and was reported by RDE. This number is higher than most past totals for regional CBCs throughout the province. While AMERICAN BLACK DUCK normally creates little interest, it is notable just how many survive the bitter chill of deep winter by taking to tidal waters. They seem to find enough food even where they must dodge fast moving ice flows. There were many reports of extensive flocks in our estuaries and along coastlines. In excess of 1600 Black Ducks and 1100 MALLARDS were found on the Wolfville CBC. Although we know that Black X Mallard hybrids are regular in urban areas, they seemed to be reported from only a few localities. Two BLUE-WINGED TEAL were seen on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC and one on the Shubenacadie count, but not thereafter. Fifteen NORTHERN SHOVELERS on the Antigonish CBC were outstanding. One at the Kiwanis Pond in Truro between from early December (BLM) into early January was also unusual. Among the 150 or so wigeon present at Sullivans Pond on Dec 18, two were EURASIAN males and two or three were Eurasian females (JCZ). Small numbers of Eurasian Wigeons were seen around the province throughout the winter.

A couple of observations may indicate that more **HARLEQUIN DUCKS** overwinter on the more rugged parts of our coastlines than is generally realized. Ian Harte reported a group of 36 near the lighthouse at Louisbourg in late January, a rare observation for that area. Previously, 46 were found (RSM) near Seal Rock in the Keji Seaside NP when the "Wild for Waterfowl" count was held Nov 18. Another group found no less than 61 at Johnstons Pond near Port L'Hebert. Similar numbers were found there last year. Second-hand reports have at times had more than 100 birds at this location. Of the record 264 on CBCs, 207 were on the Port l'Hebert count, and 46 on the Sheet Hbr. count. Ken McKenna found 33, 22 of them males, in mid-February at Sober I., *HRM*. A census for this species would be a major undertaking due to the dispersed and somewhat inaccessible regions they frequent.

Three rare **CANVASBACKS** were located in the Mahone Bay region by Ryan Harvey Jan 16, consisting of two males and a female. The same day two males were seen in Bedford Cove (DOC) and one (of these?) showed up Jan 24 in Purcells Cove on the Northwest Arm of Halifax Hbr. Ray Staszko managed to obtain an excellent video clip of the Purcells Cove male. A single **TUFTED DUCK** was apparently present in Glace Bay Hbr. over the Christmas and New Year's period and was still there Jan 2 when BEC was able to check it out. Presumably the same individual was still present on Feb 17 for the Glace Bay NSB field trip. Another was later found in Dartmouth by CSS and stayed to be seen by participants in the NSBS sewer stroll.

Of the CBC record of 287 LESSER SCAUP, 204 were on the Halifax-Dartmouth count. One of the increasing hazards that waterfowl face in this area is predation by our expanding population of Bald Eagles. Ray Staszko was photographing a surfacing Lesser Scaup at Purcell's Cove when it suddenly vanished in the talons of a Bald Eagle. The scaup clearly could not see the approaching eagle as it surfaced from a dive, a hazard that is common to diving ducks. The unfortunate diving ducks also cannot be warned by other birds in the area, as they would be if they were on the surface. However, Bald Eagles are quite capable of taking any unwary individual as their success with gulls clearly shows.

The CBC totals of two of our scoters were close to their long-term average, but **BLACK SCOTER** set an all-time high. **LONG-TAILED DUCK**, **BUFFLEHEAD** and **COMMON GOLDENEYE** had below average counts, but **BARROW'S** set a near record, mostly because of large numbers on the Margaree and Cheticamp counts. The CBCs of all three mergansers were above long-term CBC averages and **HOODED** and **RED-BREASTED** set all-time records. Over 100 Hooded Mergansers were located on each of the Lunenburg and Pictou CBCs. The Pictou region again proved to be the merganser capital of Nova Scotia, with the largest CBC numbers for all three mergansers. Cape Breton also had good numbers of these birds at several localities. A sizable flock of **COMMON MERGANSERS** that included only females was spotted by Nancy Dowd on Boxing Day at Petite Rivière, *Lun*. Paul Lindgreen photographed a small flock of Red-breasted Mergansers performing mating rituals Feb 26 at Flemming Pk. in Halifax. They may have been pushing the season a little.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

Dec 6 *Antigonish* 1(shot) *fide* BID

ROSS'S GOOSE

Dec 31-Jan 13 Hartlen Pt., *HRM* 1 MIK *et al.*

Snow Goose

Dec 2 The Hawk, CSI 2 JON
 Dec 16 Yarmouth CBC 1
 Dec 31-Jan 15 Hartlen Pt., *HRM* 9 MIK *et al.*
 Dec 31 Bissett L., Dartmouth 6 MIK
 Jan 1 Rainbow Haven, *HRM* 22 MIK
 Jan 3 W. Pubnico, *Yar* 3 AAD
 Jan 1-21 Lockeport 3 JQA
 Jan 8-Feb 17+? E. Passage areas, *HRM* 16 (diff group) MIK *et al.*
 Jan 10 Indian Bay East, *Lun* 13 Chris Brown
 Jan 16 Lilydale, *Lun* 6 Nicole Willis
 Jan 29 Woods, *Shel* 6 JON
 Feb 22-28 Lockeport Back Hbr. 1 ad., 1 imm. DJC

Canada Goose

CBC total 12905
 Dec 1 First South, *Lun* 150 JAH
 Dec 9, 25 Onslow, *Col* 1000, 2500 ELM
 Dec 31 Rainbow Haven, *HRM* 1500+ MIK
 Jan 20 Riverport, *Lun* 150 JAH
 Feb 2 Port Joli, *Queens* 465 JAH, DPO
 Feb 15 Martinique Bch. PP 300 DMW, FLL
 Feb 17 Glace Bay NSB field trip 700 DBM

Brant

Dec 7 CSI 27 JON
 Dec 14, 15 Brier I., Cape Sable CBCs 5, 36
 Feb 11 CSI 100+ RIW, BLF, CST
 Feb 27 CSI 75 RDE

Wood Duck

Dec 9 Torbrook, *Anna* 1 m. WPN
 Dec 16 Port Williams sewage, *Kings* 1 m. GFO
 Dec 16 Halifax-Dartmouth CBC 5

Gadwall

CBC total 16
 Dec 1 Sullivans Pond, *HRM* 1 NSBS
 Dec 16 Port Williams sewage, *Kings* 2 m. GFO
 Dec 23 Yarmouth Hbr. 14 RDE
 Jan 1 Greens Pt., *Pict* 1 DBM
 Jan 1 Little Bras d'Or, *CBRM* 10 KJM
 Feb 2, 23 Lunenburg Hbr. 2 m. JAH

Eurasian Wigeon

CBC total 16
 Dec 2 Kiwanis Pond, Truro 1f BLM
 Dec 2, 26 Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth 2 JCZ
 Dec 7 Windsor sewage ponds 1 RBS
 Dec 12 W. Lawrencetown, *HRM* 1 m. DAM
 Dec 13 Red Bridge Pond, Dartmouth 2 pr. JCZ
 Jan 1 Greens Pt., *Pict* 1 pr. KJM
 Jan 4 NW. Arm, Halifax a few Jeff MacLeod
 Feb 2 Yarmouth Hbr. 2 m. JOS

American Wigeon

CBC total 422
 Dec 2 Kiwanis Pond, Truro 30+ BLM
 Dec 12 W. Lawrencetown, *HRM*, 200 DAM
 Dec 13 Wolfville Hbr. no. RBS
 Dec 18 Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth 150 JCZ
 Jan 1 Little Bras d'Or, *CBRM* dozens DBM
 Feb 17 Glace Bay, NSBS field trip 80 DBM

American Black Duck

CBC total 13865
 Dec 1 Oxners Bch., *Lun* 39 JAH
 Dec 16 First L., Sackville, *HRM* 78 PEL
 Dec 16 Port Mouton, *Queens* 31 JAH
 Jan 1 Pictou Hbr. CBC 1573 KJM
 Jan 13 Hartlen Pt., *HRM* 103 JAH
 Jan 22 Evangeline Bch., *Kings* 500+ RBS

Feb 17 Glace Bay NSB field trip hundreds DBM

Mallard

CBC total 6258
 Dec 1 First South, *Lun* 66 JAH
 Dec 2 Kiwanis Pond, Truro huge numbers BLM
 Dec 16 Wolfville Hbr. 200+ RBS

Mallard x American Black Duck

CBC total 64

Northern Shoveler

CBC total 16
 Dec 2 Kiwanis Pond, Truro 1f BLM

Northern Pintail

CBC total (record high) 55
 Dec 1 Baccaro, *Shel* 11 JON
 Dec 1 Little Dover, *Guys* 1 KJM
 Dec 12 PPP, Halifax 1 imm. m DAM
 Dec 16 Port Williams sewage, 1f GFO
 Jan 1 Dominion, *CBRM* 1f DBM
 Jan 9 Black Rock Bch., *HRM* 1 pr. AGH
 Jan 13 Hartlen Pt., *HRM* 2 JAH
 Feb 24 Indian Pt., *Lun* 1f JAH

Pintail x Mallard

Feb 15 Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth 1 BBU



First-winter male NORTHERN PINTAIL is quite variable. This one, Dec 12 at PPP, Halifax, is beginning to develop its chocolate-coloured head and some dorsal finery. [Photo Don MacNeill]

Green-winged Teal

CBC total 127
 Dec 1 Oxners Bch., *Lun* 2 JAH
 Dec 1 Little Dover, *Guys* 3 KJM
 Dec 12, Jan 9 Rainbow Haven PP 30, 15 DAM
 Dec 13 Wolfville Hbr. 2 RBS
 Dec 16 Summerville, *Queens* 15 JAH

Canvasback

Jan 16, 17 Sunnybrook, Mahone Bay 2m, 1f Ryan Harvey. ELM
 Jan 16 Bedford Cove, *HRM* 2 m LOC
 Jan 24-28 Purcells Cove, *HRM* 1 m. Ray Staszko

Redhead

Dec 12 Bissett L. *HRM* 2 m. DAM
 Jan 20, 27 Bayport, *Lun* 1 m. JAH

Ring-necked Duck

CBC total 47
 Dec 1 Kingsburg, *Lun* 4 JAH

Dec 16	First L., Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	32	PEL
Feb 24	Mahone Bay	10	JAH
TUFTED DUCK			
Dec 20	Glace Bay CBC	2	
Jan 2	Glace Bay Hbr.	1	BEC
Jan 12	Dartmouth	1	CSS, NSBS
Feb 2	Lions Park, Bedford	1 m.	Josh Barss-Donham
Feb 17	Glace Bay NSB field trip	1 m.	DBM

Jan 27, Feb 2	Port L'Hebert, <i>Shel</i>	9, 11	CST, JAH
Feb 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	33	KJM, CHK
Feb 23	Hemeons Head, <i>Queens</i>	28+	CST



One of the CANVASBACK males was nicely photographed Jan 16 at Mahone Bay, *Lun.* [Photo Kevin Lantz]

Greater Scaup			
CBC total		2406	
Jan 1	Pictou Hbr. CBC	1143	KJM
Jan 9, 20	Bayport, <i>Lun</i>	100, 370	JAH
Feb 2	Lions Park, Bedford	many	Josh Barss-Donham
Feb 6	Bayport, <i>Lun</i>	280	JAH
Feb 16	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	102	FLL
Feb 17	Glace Bay NSB field trip	hundreds	DBM
Lesser Scaup			
CBC total		287	
Dec 23	The Sydneys CBC	42	
Jan 1	Florence Big Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	25	DBM
Jan 11	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	1	RBS
Jan 20	Bayport, <i>Lun</i>	3	JAH
Feb 16	Dartmouth-Eastern Passage	154	FLL
Feb 17	Glace Bay NSB field trip	30	DBM
Common Eider			
CBC total		7165	
Dec 15	Shag Hbr., <i>Shel</i>	82	JAH
Dec 16	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	8	JAH
Dec	Louisbourg CBC	1409	BUS
Jan 12	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun</i>	large flock	RBS, RWH
Jan 13	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	12	JAH
Feb 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	19	KJM, CHK
Feb 15	Martinique Bch. PP	44	DMW, FLL
Feb 16	PPP, Halifax	120+	PLC
Feb 17	Glace Bay NSB field trip	hundreds	DBM
Harlequin Duck			
CBC total		264	
Dec 26	Chebogue Pt., <i>Yar</i>	1	AAD
Dec 26	Prospect Pt., <i>HRM</i>	4	JUO
Jan 12	Port George, <i>Anna</i>	2	AND
Jan 20	Louisbourg lighthouse	36	Ian Harte



GREATER SCAUP is a "bay duck" in winter, but this one chose the rich forage in the reduced flow of a small stream during February (here Feb 27) in Gardiner Mines, *CBRM.* [Photo Eric Boutilier]

Surf Scoter			
CBC total		523	
Dec 16	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	9	JAH
Dec	Louisbourg CBC	42	BUS
Jan 9	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	some	DAM
Jan 12	Port George, <i>Anna</i>	some	AND
Feb 15	Martinique Bch. PP	9	DMW, FLL
White-winged Scoter			
CBC total		522	
Dec 26	Cooks Bch., <i>Yar</i>	4	ALX
Jan 9	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	some	DAM
Jan 12	Port George, <i>Anna</i>	some	AND
Feb 16	PPP, Halifax	40+	PLC
Black Scoter			
CBC total		1684	
Dec 2	Western Head, <i>Queens</i>	6	DPO
Dec 23	Thomas Raddall P. <i>Queens</i>	14	JAH, DPO
Jan 12	Port George, <i>Anna</i>	some	AND
Feb 18	PPP, Halifax	12	Shannon Doane
Long-tailed Duck			
CBC total		1558	
Dec 1	Kingsburg, <i>Lun</i>	8	JAH
Dec 23	Thomas Raddall PPP, <i>Queens</i>	13	JAH, DPO
Dec	Louisbourg CBC	151	BUS
Jan 12	Port George, <i>Anna</i>	some	AND
Feb 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	57	KJM, CHK
Feb 15	Martinique Bch. PP	33	DMW
Feb 17	Glace Bay NSB field trip	50	DBM
Bufflehead			
CBC total		1083	
Dec 1	Kingsburg, <i>Lun</i>	16	JAH
Dec 1, 12	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	13	PMU, DAM
Dec 2	Antigonish sewage ponds	many	KJM
Dec 16	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	32	JAH
Dec	Louisbourg CBC	78	BUS
Dec 22	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	36	JAH
Jan 12	<i>Lunenburg</i> coastal locs.	many	RBS, RWH
Jan 25- Feb 23	Lockeport	up to 12	DJC
Feb 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	14	KJM, CHK
Feb 15	Martinique Bch. PP	52	DMW, DLL

Common Goldeneye

CBC total		2063	
Dec 23	Thomas Radall PP, <i>Queens</i>	7	JAH, DPO
Dec 24	Mahone Bay	14	AHU
Jan 1	Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i>	30	SJF
Dec	Louisbourg CBC	78	BUS
Jan 13	Bedford Cove, <i>HRM</i>	6	LOC
Jan 13	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	46	JAH
Jan 20	<i>Lunenburg</i> coastal locations	100	JAH
Jan 22	Port Williams sewage, <i>Kings</i>	40+	RBS
Jan 25	Pugwash Hbr., <i>Cumb</i>	many	VIR
Jan 26	Bayport, <i>Lun</i>	280	JAH
Feb 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	195	KJM, CHK
Feb 24	Dartmouth Cove	large flock	PMU

Barrow's Goldeneye

CBC total		66	
Dec 24	Mahone Bay	1pr	AHU
Dec 27	Sand Pt., <i>Pict</i>	1f	KJM
Dec 31	Bedford Basin, <i>HRM</i>	1	ALX
Jan 1	Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i>	1	SJF
Jan 2	Porters L., <i>HRM</i>	1m	CHP
Jan 12	Bedford Basin	5	SMB
Jan 20	Barachois Hbr., <i>Col</i>	1	JOK
Jan 20	Lunenburg	1	JAH
Jan 25	Pugwash Hbr., <i>Cumb</i>	2	VIR
Feb 24	Prospect Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1m	BLM

Common x Barrows Goldeneye

Jan 11	Dartmouth Cove	1 m	RBS
Jan 20	Mahone Bay	1m	JAH

Hooded Merganser

Dec 1	First South, <i>Lun</i>	14	JAH
Dec 12	W. Lawrencetown Marsh,	45	DAM
Dec 12	Saxon St Pond, <i>Kings</i>	4	LNE
Dec 23	Thomas Radall P. <i>Queens</i>	11	JAH, DPO
Dec 26	Eel L. <i>Yar</i>	dozens	AAD

Dec	Louisbourg CBC	141	BUS
Jan 1	Pictou Hbr. CBC	125	KJM
Jan 2	Lunenburg CBC	107	JAH
Jan 6	Meaghers Grant, <i>HRM</i>	6	Steve Shearer

Common Merganser

CBC total		2190	
Dec 2	Lake Banook, <i>HRM</i>	2 rafts	JCZ
Dec 2	First Lake, <i>Lun</i>	11	PEL
Dec 26	Petite R. <i>Lun</i>	15 f.	Nancy Dowd
Jan 1	Pictou Hbr. CBC	665	KJM
Jan 20	De Wolfe Park, Bedford	7	Paul Lindgreen
Jan 20	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun</i>	8	JAH
Jan 25	Pugwash, <i>Cumb</i>	many	VIR
Feb 17	Glace Bay NSB field trip	20	DBM

Red-breasted Merganser

CBC total		7769	
Dec 6, 20	Lawrencetown Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	50, 65	DMW
Dec 15	Shag Hbr., <i>Shel</i>	9	JAH
Dec 16	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	31	JAH
Dec 22	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	21	JAH
Dec 24	River Bourgeois, <i>Rich</i>	8	RIV
Dec 26	Petite R. <i>Lun</i>	many	Nancy Dowd
Jan 1	Pictou Hbr. CBC	3843	KJM
Jan 9	Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i>	30	BEC
Jan 12	<i>Lunenburg</i> coastal locations	many	RBS, RWH
Jan 13	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	10	JAH
Jan 26	Bayport, <i>Lun</i>	10	JAH
Feb 2	Lions Park, Bedford	many	Joshua Barss-Donham
Feb 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	31	KJM, CHK
Feb 16	PPP, Halifax	15	PLC
Feb 17	Glace Bay NSB field trip	40	DBM

Ruddy Duck

Dec 1	Bissett L. <i>HRM</i>	2	NSBS
Dec 15	Wolfville Hbr.	1 f. or imm.	JWW
Jan 1	Little Bras d'Or, <i>CBRM</i>	1 f.	DBM
Jan 3, 4	Deaforth, <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP, FLL

Galliformes**By Rick Whitman**

A question regarding the continuing presence of **GRAY PARTRIDGE** has been answered. Ross Hall reported that Dalhousie Agricultural Campus staff observed a covey of six on campus in mid-winter and that he saw the tracks of a covey Mar 4. The CBC Gray Partridge total was 98 as recently as 1987. None have been reported for the past three years. The 15-year average total for SPRUCE GROUSE on the CBC is 8.3 birds, but 16 were counted in 2012. Singles were found on the counts of Bedford-Sackville, Halifax-Dartmouth, Cape Sable, and Port L'Hebert, three in Louisbourg, and nine in Sheet Hbr. RING-NECKED PHEASANT on the CBC was within 10% of the 15-year average total while RUFFED GROUSE were 68% of that average, but in line with the past five years. The complete geographic limits of eBird reports are indicated below by the counties named.

GRAY PARTRIDGE

late Jan or Feb	Bible Hill, <i>Col</i>	6	<i>fide</i> ROH
Mar 4	Bible Hill, <i>Col</i>	5 tracks	ROH

Ring-necked Pheasant

Dec-Feb	<i>Shel-Cumb-Pict-HRM</i> , 146 repts.	1-17 birds	eBird
Dec 9-Feb 25	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1-3	DMW
Dec 13-Feb 28	Mid.Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1-3	VJH
Dec 14	Brier I.	4	CBC
Dec 29	Truro	37	CBC
Jan	Clarence, <i>Anna</i>	2-4	MCR
Jan 27	Aylesford, <i>Kings</i>	22	GMV
Feb 15	Ostrea L., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW, FLL

Ruffed Grouse

Dec-Feb	<i>Queens-Cumb-CBRM</i> . 50 repts.	1-5 birds	eBird
Dec-Feb	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1-3	KFS
Dec 14	Brier I.	5	CBC
Dec 16	Liverpool	1	JAH, DPO, KEL
Dec 22	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
Dec 23	E. Port L'Hebert, <i>Queen</i>	1	JAH, DPO, SJF
Dec 29	Truro, <i>Col</i>	10	CBC
Jan 5	Clarence, <i>Anna</i>	4	MCR
Feb 15	Porters L., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW, FLL

Spruce Grouse

Dec 23	E. Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	1 f.	JAH, DPO, SJF
Dec 31-Feb 2	Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1-2 m. f.	KFS

Loons and Grebes

By John Belbin

RED-THROATED LOONS are uncommon in the winter months as well as being fairly hard to see in the rougher waters off shore. Its CBC total was the lowest since 1995, but a few well dispersed reports of this species into the colder days of January indicated that some were attempting to overwinter here. Its CBC total was about average for recent years, but COMMON LOON lived up to its name as our commonest diver, with some good counts from around the province. The numbers found Dec 24 on the Sheet Hbr. CBC were again confirmed in mid-February by KJM and CHK, indicating that these birds were not simply passing through.

The CBC totals of other regularly wintering grebes were somewhat above recent averages. HORNED GREBES were widely present when RBS and RIW checked out a number of coastal locations along the Lunenburg County shoreline on Jan 12. They showed up in good numbers on many of the CBCs. KJM and CHK found a total of 27 birds in six locations in the Sheet Hbr. region Feb 13, close to the number on the Sheet Hbr. CBC some six weeks earlier.

An astounding 153 RED-NECKED GREBES were found on the Louisbourg CBC, almost half the provincial count total, which may show that most of these birds are normally overlooked due to difficult winter viewing conditions. It is our most common winter grebe but low numbers are usually reported by casual observers.

Red-throated Loon			
CBC total		23	
Dec 1	Daniels Head, CSI	1	JON
Dec 9	Margaretsville, <i>Anna</i>	no.?	WPN
Dec 26	Cooks Beh., <i>Yar</i>	3	AAD
Dec 26	W. Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	3	KFS
Jan 9	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	DAM
Jan 13	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	2	JAH
Feb 24	Oakland, <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH
Common Loon			
CBC total		429	
Dec 1	Kingsburg, <i>Lun</i>	8	JAH
Dec 15	Shag Hbr., <i>Shel</i>	5	JAH
Dec 16	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	2	JAH
Dec 23	Thomas Radall PP, <i>Queens</i>	5	JAH, DPO
Jan 12	Port George, <i>Anna</i>	2	AND
Feb 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	20	KJM, CHK
Feb 23	Lunenburg area	30+	ELM
Pied-billed Grebe			
CBC total		3	
Dec 2	Goldboro, <i>Guys</i>	1	KJM
Dec 13	Forbes L., <i>Pict</i>	1	KJM
Dec 22	Lockeport Back Hbr.	1	DJC
Jan 4	Musquodoboit Hbr, <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP, FLL
Horned Grebe			
CBC total		173	
Dec 9	Margaretsville, <i>Anna</i>	1	WPN
Dec 15	Shag Hbr., <i>Shel</i>	1	JAH
Dec 16	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	5	JAH
Dec 20	Glace Bay CBC	38	
Dec 24	Sheet Hbr. CBC	34	
Jan 12	Port George, <i>Anna</i>	1	AND
Jan 12	Lunenburg coastal locs.	many	RBS, RWH
Jan 13	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	JAH
Jan 20	Prince Inlet Drive, <i>Lun</i>	2	JAH, DPO
Feb 1	Purcell Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Feb 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	9	KJM, CHK
Feb 16	Lower Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	5	BLM
Feb 25	Purdys Wharf, Halifax	1	Andy Beaumont
Red-necked Grebe			
CBC total		313	

Dec 26	Cooks Beh., <i>Yar</i>	1	AAD
Jan 9	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	some	DAM
Jan 20	Lunenburg	1	JAH
Feb 13	St. Andrews Loop, <i>HRM</i>	2	KJM, CHK
Feb 23	Bayport, <i>Lun</i>	2	JAH



Why this RED-NECKED GREBE, Feb 27 at W. Pubnico, *Yar*, has its foot in the air is a mystery. It seems pretty calm, so setting sails wouldn't be very effective [Photo Ron D'Entremont]

Tubenoses through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

A few tubenoses do occur in our waters into early winter, or even longer in the case of NORTHERN FULMAR, one of which was reported on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC. Although Fulmars are abundant on the fishing banks in winter, birders sensibly avoid the sea-states that accompany offshore birding in winter, so our knowledge of pelagic birds after October is rudimentary. Among those lingering into early winter was a GREAT SHEARWATER Dec 1 and a lone SOOTY SHEARWATER Dec 2, both found by Ron D'Entremont during lobstering trips to the rough waters west of Seal I. A LEACH'S STORM-PETREL found dead in *CBRM* a week later was not unprecedented as a record; a few birds of this species are still on their way south into the tropics in early December.

NORTHERN GANNETS were practically unknown on CBCs before 1978, after which a few became regular through the 1980s. But about 1991 some change occurred that resulted in Gannets becoming increasingly abundant on our December counts, so that now hundreds can be expected – for example the 319 reported on CBCs during the 2012 season, and a remarkable total of 655 in 1999. Such impressive single-count numbers occur in favoured places like the outer Bay of Fundy, where Brier I. gives one a taste of the early winter numbers. Water temperature and food supply undoubtedly play roles in how many Gannets we see, but it's by no means clear exactly what these birds are responding too, keeping them north in increasing numbers. By the first few days of January (see the table below) nearly all have left for the coastal waters off the s.e. U.S. and the Gulf of Mexico. We do know that poor food supplies in the N.W. Atlantic reduced the breeding success of Canadian gannets during summer 2012, and there is some anecdotal evidence that winter supplies were poor too and that some wintering birds far south of us were starving (as was true of wintering alcids – see the Gulls through Alcids section). We need more evidence of this or information to the contrary.

Cormorant reports in winter can be tricky to evaluate. The general picture, repeated year by year, is that DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS leave the province in numbers beginning in early September, to be replaced almost completely by GREAT CORMORANTS from farther north by early to mid-November. A few Double-crests do linger though, especially in protected shallow inshore waters and it is not unusual to find one or two in places like Halifax and Lunenburg harbours, also in s.w. Nova Scotia, well into January. This is the pattern tabulated below, which indicates that by the end of January most of the lingering Double-crests left or didn't survive. The moral of the story is that any apparent Double-crested Cormorant after the end of January in most Nova Scotian waters should be given a second critical look. Apparently that happened, because there were no reports in February despite lots of birding activity.

Northern Fulmar

16 Dec Halifax-Dartmouth CBC^{''}

1

Great Shearwater

Dec 1 w. of Seal I., *Yar*

1

RDE

Sooty Shearwater

Dec 2 w. of Seal I., *Yar*

1

RDE

Leach's Storm-Petrel

ca. Dec 7 Sydney Forks, *CBRM*

1 dead

fide DBM

Northern Gannet

CBC total

319

Dec 1-2 w. of Seal I.

"many"

RDE

Dec 1-2 Canso area, *Guy's*

15

KJM

Dec 2 W. Head., *Queens*

12

DPO

Dec 2 Kingsburg, *Lun*

2

KEL

Dec 9 Margaretsville, *Anna*

1 ad.

WPN, LNE

Dec 13 Off Northern Pt., Brier I.

50

ELM, AHM

Dec 14 Brier I. CBC

241

Dec 23 W. Head., *Queens*

1 ad.

ELM, AHM

Dec 23 Kingsburg, *Lun*

1

Chris Lantz

Dec 30 Louisbourg CBC

2

Jan 2 Bacarro, *Shel*

4

GRW

Jan 6 Off W. Head., *Queens*

1 ad.

ELM

Great Cormorant

CBC total

758

December *CBRM* to *Digby*, 25 locs.

ca. 384 indivs.

Jan-Feb *HRM* to *Yar*, 22 locs.

ca. 239 indivs.

Plus more than 30 similar reports on eBird, mainly from *HRM*

Double-crested Cormorant

CBC total

92

Dec 1 Canso, *Guy's*

1

KJM

Dec 5 Purcells Cove, *HRM*

5

DMC

Dec 5 Pictou causeway

5

KJM

Dec 5 Haliburton Gut, *Pict*

1

KJM

Dec 6 Tufts Cove, Dartmouth

2

KEL

Dec 8 N. Sydney, *CBRM*

1

DBM

Dec 23 Beach Meadows, *Queens*

1 ad., 1 imm.

ELM, AHM

Dec 25 Herring Cove area, *HRM*

9

Paul Mateuchy

Dec 29 Purcells Cove, *HRM*

5

DMC, GRW

Jan 3 Trenton, *Pict*

1

KJM

Jan 5 Sambro, *HRM*

9

TEB

Jan 9-Feb 19 BIO, Dartmouth

1-2

Tim & Anne Hall

Jan 12-20 Bayport, *Lun*

1 ad.

ELM, IAM, JAH

Jan 13 Half I. Pt., *HRM*

1

PAE

Jan 13 Shore Rd., Bedford, *HRM*

1

DMC

Jan 24 E. Passage, *HRM*

1

PMU

Jan 26 Herring Cove lookoff, *HRM*

2

TEB

Hérons

By Ulli Höger

Winter in Nova Scotia is not a prime season for herons and their kin. Later, when lakes and bogs freeze over they have to leave those habitats, but some may cling to the margins of the sea. At least rarely AMERICAN BITTERN, regularly GREAT BLUE HERON and, increasingly, **GREAT EGRET** may hang around anywhere in the province, extending their stay here to the limit.

An adult YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON is a rare sighting in our province and even more so in winter. Most reports are of immature birds found in mid-summer into fall, and are likely roaming around after gaining their independence. However, the mid-December report of an adult of this “crab heron” from the Pubnico region shows once again that Nova Scotia is always good for surprise sightings.

Speaking of surprise sightings, a GRAY HERON recently reported from Newfoundland should make us aware that this species has the potential to show up in Nova Scotia. So far we have no confirmed sighting of this Eurasian relative of our Great Blue Heron and given its relative similarity with the local species, “odd” Great Blues may warrant a second critical look. After all, we managed to crack similar hard nuts in this bird section with *bona fide* sightings of several Little Egrets and a Western Reef-Heron in recent years.



This GREAT EGRET was pressing its luck by lingering at Grand Desert, *HRM*, through much of December (here Dec 23). [Photo Paul Murray]

American Bittern

Dec 23 Port L’Hebert (CBC) 1

Great Blue Heron

CBC total	12	
Dec 9 Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
Dec 11 Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Dec 22 W. Dublin, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, DPO
Dec 23 Ragged Hbr., <i>Queens</i>	1 imm.	ELM, AHM
Dec 29 CSI	1	JON

Jan 5 Windsor, <i>Hants</i>	1	JWW
Jan 12 Sampsonville, <i>Rich</i>	1	BID
Feb 11 CSI	1	RIW, BLF
Great Egret		
Dec 1 - 23 Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	1	var. obs.
Dec 14 Blandford, <i>Lun</i>	1	CJF
Dec 15 CSI (Cape Sable CBC)	1	CBC
Dec 31, Jan 4 CSI	1	JON
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron		
Mid Dec. Lr. E. Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	1 ad.	RDE

Diurnal Raptors

By Rick Whitman

It could be that winter is the prime season in this province for diurnal raptor observations. Even our common breeders such as SHARP-SHINNED HAWK and RED-TAILED HAWK are more heavily reported then. Note the numbers of eBird reports below. TURKEY VULTURE was noted throughout the western half of the province, with 38 birds on the Yarmouth CBC, but no CBC reports east of Kingston. Single OSPREYS were reported on the Wolfville and CSI CBCs, but there were no other winter reports. As both of these were on Dec 15, they may marked the latest birds of the year. Three COOPER'S HAWKS were seen this winter (Kentville bird twice), and both were photographed. Six BROAD-WINGED HAWKS were recorded up to the early New Year. including three on CBCs and two photographed. The lack of any reports after Jan 9 may indicate the outcome for these "trapped" birds. At least three of the six were juveniles. A single ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, usually on Devils I., HRM, appears to have been the subject of 10 eBird and 3 observer reports. Three GOLDEN EAGLES were reported, with the CSI bird observed by numerous birders over 11 days or so. The NORTHERN GOSHAWK seen Feb 27 was already at work on an existing nest (which was used last year by Barred Owls). The annual Cyril Coldwell Count of eagles and other raptors, in eastern Kings County, is coded in the table as CCC.

TURKEY VULTURE, BALD EAGLE, NORTHERN HARRIER, AMERICAN KESTREL, MERLIN and PEREGRINE FALCON were all more numerous than their respective 15-year average CBC totals. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk and ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK were all below their 15-year average totals, but well within the normal variation for each species.

Turkey Vulture

CBC total		63	CBC
Dec 2-Feb 16	Yar-Cumb-HRM 5 repts.	1-5 birds	eBird
Dec-Feb	Yar-Cumb-Lun, 11 repts.	1-16	var. obs.

Osprey

Dec 15	Wolfville, Kings	1	CBC
Dec 15	CSI	1	CBC

Bald Eagle

CBC total		804	CBC
Dec-Feb	Shel-Digby-Cumb-CBRM , 234 repts.	1-135 birds	eBird
Dec-Feb	Anna-Cumb-HRM 8 repts.	1-6 birds	var. obs.
Feb 16	Eastern Kings	170 ad., 122 juv., 1 unknown.	CCC

Northern Harrier

CBC total	49	CBC	
Dec 2-Feb 16	Shel-Col-Ant-HRM 41 repts.	1-2	eBird
Dec 12-Feb 15	Shel-Kings-HRM-Lun, 10 repts.	1-3 birds	var. obs.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

CBC total		54	CBC
Dec 1-Feb 19	Shel-Cumb-CBRM-HRM , 51 repts.	1-2birds	eBird
Dec-Feb	Shel-Cumb-HRM-Lun, 11 repts.		var. obs.

COOPER'S HAWK

Jan 27	n. of Kentville	1 juv. ph.	RBS, RIW, BLF
Feb 2	Hammonds Plains, HRM	1 ad. ph.	Mike Lumsden
Feb 8	n. of Kentville	1 juv.	RBS
Feb 27	South Side, CSI	1 ph.	RDE

Northern Goshawk

CBC total		8	CBC
Dec 20	Lower Rose Bay, Lun	1	ELM
Dec 23	Joggins, Cumb	1	KFS
Jan 6	Front Centre Road, Lun	1	KEL
Feb 16	Oban, Rich	1	BID
Feb 27	White Rock, Kings	1 at nest	BLF, RIW

Broad-winged Hawk

Dec 15	Stillwater L., HRM	1 juv. ph.	John Rutherford
Dec 16	Shubenacadie	1	CBC
Dec 26	Conquerall Mills, Lun (Broad Cove CBC)	1 juv.	JAH
Jan 5	Mosherville, Hants (W. Hants CBC)	1	BLM,NIF,JED

Jan 5	Kingston, Kings	1	PBG
Jan 9	Upper Blandford, Lun	1 juv. ph.	RIW, BLF
Red-tailed Hawk			
CBC total		256	CBC
Dec-Feb	Queens-Cumb-Pict-HRM 110 repts.	1-6	eBird
Dec-Feb	Anna-Cumb-HRM-Lun 9 repts.	1-2	var. obs.
Feb 16	E. Kings	56	CCC
Rough-legged Haw			
CBC total		24	CBC
Dec 16-Feb 15	HRM, Kings 12 repts.	1	eBird
Jan 3-Feb 15	HRM 3 repts.	1	var. obs.
GOLDEN EAGLE			
Jan 4	Lyles Bay, Shel	1 juv.	
	"wing and tail patterns were clearly visible"		SAH
Jan 5	Upper Blandford, Lun	1 ad.	CJF
Jan 27-29	The Hawk, CSI	1 ad.	JON, TEC, MUN
Feb 6	The Hawk, CSI	1 ad.	CST
American Kestrel			
CBC total		11	CBC
Dec 1-Feb 23	HRM, Lun, Shel 5 repts.	1	eBird
Dec 1	Baccaro, Shel	1	JON, SAN
Dec 16	Dartmouth	1 f.	SAB
Merlin			
CBC total		22	CBC
Dec 15-Feb 18	Shel-Col-Guys 15 repts.	1	eBird
Dec 1	Kingsburg, Lun	1	JAH, DPO
Feb 16	Eastern Kings	1	CCC
Peregrine Falcon			
CBC total		10	CBC
Dec 28-Jan 28	Kings, HRM 4 repts.	1	eBird
Dec 6	Annapolis Royal	1	RBS
Dec 13	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1 m. prob.	tundrius
Dec 16	Conrad Bch, HRM	1 juv.	AGH
Dec 18	Truro	1	DAM
Jan 20	Dartmouth	1 ad.	IAM
Feb 27	Cape Sable, CSI	1	RDE



Three COOPER'S HAWKS were photo-documented this winter. From left, they are a first-winter bird, Jan 27 n. of Kentville, an adult, Feb 2 at Hammonds Plains, *HRM*, the same immature Feb 8 n. of Kentville, and another first-winter Feb 27 on CSI. The two birds at left expose their typically graduated tails, and the elongate heads with bills large relative to the forward-set eyes, are useful features on the two at right. [Photos from left: Richard Stern, Mike Lumsden, Richard Stern, and Ronnie D'Entremont]

Rallids, Cranes

By Ulli Hoeger

The **PURPLE GALLINULE** found in early December in Canso was a bird in the wrong place at the wrong time (that's what birders hope for). Our records list just over a dozen sightings in the last 25 years for this bird species that roams and breeds in the southern USA and beyond. **AMERICAN COOT** is the only rallid regularly seen during the winter season, at least as long as there is open water. Not much of a surprise as coots are the least elusive of the bunch, displaying themselves with a more duck-like attitude out in the open rather than sneaking through reeds and cat tails. Bisset L. in Dartmouth again hosted significant numbers throughout December and there were several reports from other corners in the province. Less usual, but not unprecedented, were the records of **VIRGINIA RAIL** and **SORA**.

Virginia Rail				CBC total		38	
Jan 6 - 7	Hacketts Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	Cathy & Sean	December	Bisset L., <i>HRM</i>	12-24	var. obs
	Potter			Dec 6-7	Red Bridge Pond, <i>HRM</i>	3	GAM
Sora				Dec 12-14	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i> . Ph.	1	Ian Harte
Jan 20	Big Tancook I., <i>HRM</i>	1	Hillary	Dec 13	Forbes L., <i>Pic</i>	3	KJM
	Dionne			Jan 12 - 14	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Pearl McCarthy
PURPLE GALLINULE				Feb 17	Horseshoe I., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMC
Early Dec	Canso, <i>Gtys</i>	1	TOK	Sandhill Crane			
American Coot				Dec 16	Yarmouth CBC	1	



Dec 14 at Fortress Louisbourg: walking on water, or not? [Photos Elaine Kelly-Harte]

Shorebirds

By Susann Myers

A remarkable 21 species of shorebird were found lingering in NS early in the winter season, a testament to the long spell of mild weather enjoyed in late fall. Only eight of those species were found after mid-January, but this is also above average. Eleven species of shorebird and one count-week species were found on the province's 32 CBCs, higher than the 10-year average of 10 species. The total of 395 shorebirds found on CBCs was 22 per cent lower than the 10-year average, however.

A **NORTHERN LAPWING**, possibly one of the two found in the province in November, lingered to Dec 1 to thrill birders in *Lunenburg*. It was spotted by JAH and DPO at Hirtles Bch. about 1:30 p.m., and was seen leaving and flying westward a few minutes later. Quite probably the same individual was found by SJF at 3:00 that same afternoon at Cherry Hill Bch., where she saw a Herring Gull harass it, put it to flight and pursue it westward out of sight.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER once again lingered into winter in good numbers, and the 33 found on five CBCs at the s.w end of the province (Broad Cove, White Point, Port L'Hebert, CSI, and Yarmouth) were more than twice the 10-year average. An **AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER** spotted by MUN Dec. 1 at Cooks Beach, *Yar*, was a very rare winter lingerer, with the latest record for the province being Dec 12. **SEMIPALMATED PLOVER** sightings were numerous for the season, with CBC records for only the third time in the past ten years.

One of the season's rarities was a probable **COMMON RINGED PLOVER** spotted by JON and SAN at CSI. They noted a wide black breast band extending well onto the nape, as well as the absence of an eye ring. No calls were heard, though, and unfortunately the bird did not linger to be photographed so that the plumage details, some of which can vary with stance, could be studied further. Also very rare this late was a **PIPING PLOVER** found Dec 9 by SJF at Cherry Hill Beach, *Lun*, providing only the second winter record for the province. Most leave NS by mid-September, and there have been only a few November reports and one previous winter record from Jan 25, 1967, on Sable Island.



SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS in winter deserve full scrutiny and photographs – just in case. This one, however, was clearly just that. The narrow neck band is uninformative in this “scrunched-up” pose, but the brownish rather than grayish back, extension of white above the gape and the short bill with swollen lower mandible, are good features of this species in contrast with Common Ringed Plover. [Photo Randy Lauff]

Two **SPOTTED SANDPIPER** sightings in *Shelburne* in December were also rare for winter. Most leave NS in Aug-Sept. and there have been only a handful of previous December sightings, the latest Dec. 22, so the one photographed by Russel Crosby at Pleasant Pt. Dec 29 was record-late. JON and SAN reported a **HUDSONIAN GODWIT** that survived at The Hawk, CSI until Dec 11, only the third winter record. This was presumably the same individual seen at CSI the week of Nov 11, and reported by JON as acting unwell

This late-staying SPOTTED SANDPIPER, Dec 29 at Pleasant Pt., *Shel*, was a young bird, as expected of stragglers and vagrants, and as revealed by its retained juvenile (dark-and-white fringed) wing coverts. [Photo, Russel Crosby]



The 13 RUDDY TURNSTONE found on the Cape Sable and Port L'Hebert CBCs were the largest number since 2002, and more than twice the 15-year average. Similarly, the five RED KNOT spotted on CBCs (Cape Sable and Broad Cove) along with one count week report (Port L'Hebert) were all in the southwest of the province. This year's five was the 10-year CBC average for Red Knot, but is only 27% of the average for the previous decade. SANDERLING numbers have shown a similar pattern of diminishment. Fifty-two were found on CBCs this season, again all in the southwest (Broad Cove, White Point and Yarmouth). This figure is roughly two-thirds of the 10-year average, but is only 23% of the average for the previous decade, when large flocks were seen most years.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER is another rare lingerer into the winter season, with WESTERN SANDPIPER being the more expected winter peep, as it winters on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. JON and SAN found four Dec. 1 at The Hawk, CSI, and the number grew to seven by Dec. 11, but no calls were heard and no photographs could be obtained to allow further study of plumage and bill details. A WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER spotted by JON and SAN Dec. 11 at CSI is also a winter rarity for most of the province, but has been found in nine winters since 1996 at CSI, the only site where they are known to have overwintered.

Numbers of hardy wintering PURPLE SANDPIPER fluctuate widely from year to year. They remained low throughout this winter season, with the total of 146 on CBCs well below the 10-year average of 181. For the first time since 2002, KJM did not find "Old Whitey", the individual with mostly-white wings, at Sober Island. DUNLIN numbers were also low. The CBC total of 132 was 20% below average, with all but one individual (Glance Bay, Dec 29) found in *Lun* and *Shel*. The only substantial flocks of the season were reported from CSI (Dec 1, 220) and Port L'Hebert (CBC Dec 23, 110).

A DOWITCHER found Dec 7 at The Hawk by MUN, CIN, JON and SAN, was seen again Dec 9 by JAH, but windy conditions prevented its identification to species. It was presumably one of the three LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER reported there Dec 11 by JON and SAN, however, some of which lingered long enough to provide a count week record for the Cape Sable CBC.

WILSON'S SNIPE was seen in its usual low numbers throughout the season. A better than average total of four was found on CBCs, two at Port L'Hebert and two in a bog outside Louisbourg that provided a fine reward to Laura and John Saunders for a morning spent tromping backwoods trails. Another snipe found mid-February in an open stream near Gardiner Mines, *CBRM*, seemed in the only photograph taken Feb 19 (Eric Boutilier) to have some features of the Eurasian COMMON SNIPE. However, the image was judged inconclusive, although perhaps worth future analysis (*vide IAM*). The only AMERICAN WOODCOCK sightings of the season were on CBCs, one at White Point and two at Economy.

small shorebird species

Dec 9	CSI	201	JAH
Dec 26	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	6	Nancy Dowd <i>et al.</i>

NORTHERN LAPWING

Dec 1	Hirtle's Bch., <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH, DPO
Dec 1	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	1	SJF

Black-bellied Plover				Dec 1	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	1	SJF
CBC total				Dec 1; Jan 27	Kingsburg Bch., <i>Lun</i>	3, 2	JAH <i>et al.</i>
Dec 1, 9	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	2, 3	SJF	Dec 28-Jan 30	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	9 to 2	var. obs.
Dec 1, 9	CSI	9, 6	JON, SAN; JAH	Dec 28, Feb 10	Hartlen Pt. Bch., <i>HRM</i>	11, 6	GRW, MIK
Dec 1, 29	Cape Sable, <i>Shel</i>	2, 5	JON, AXD	Jan 2	CSI	2	GRW
Dec 26	Cooks Bch., <i>Yar</i>	6	AAD	Jan 26	Crow Neck Bch., <i>Shel</i>	1	BJS, SIS
Jan 12	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	2	RBS, RIW	Feb 16	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Feb 2	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	1	JBO	SEMIPALMATED/WESTERN SANDPIPER			
AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER				Dec 1, 11	The Hawk, CSI	4, 7	JON, SAN
Dec 1	Cooks Bch., <i>Yar</i>	1	MUN	White-rumped Sandpiper			
Semipalmated Plover				Dec 11	CSI	1	JON, SAN
Dec 1	The Hawk, CSI	2	JON, SAN	Purple Sandpiper			
Dec 12-18	Cape Sable CBC	noted, count week		CBC total			
Jan 1	Pictou Hbr. CBC	1, ph.		Dec 8	PPP, Halifax	7	DMC
Jan 27	Sand Dollar Bch., <i>Lun</i>	1	Steve Shewchuk, <i>fide</i> JAH	Dec 12, 23-30	Duncan Reef, <i>HRM</i>	5, 2-3	HAT
COMMON RINGED PLOVER				Dec 15; Feb 2	Kingsburg, <i>Lun</i>	8	KEL
Dec 11	CSI	1	JON, SAN	Dec 26	Apple River Hbr., <i>Cumb</i>	17	KFS
PIPING PLOVER				Dec 29	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	17	GRW
Dec 9	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	1	SJF	Jan 2-26	Pt. Pleasant Park, <i>HRM</i>	1-20	var. obs.
Killdeer				Jan 2, 27	Baccaro Pt., <i>Shel</i>	15, 28	GRW, CST
Dec 15	Cape Sable CBC	1		Jan 12	Port George, <i>Anna</i>	12	AND
Dec 22, 29	CSI/Cape Sable, <i>Shel</i>	1	RDE, AAD	Feb 10	Hartlen Pt. Beach, <i>HRM</i>	32	MIK
Dec 26	Broad Cove CBC	1		Feb 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	9	KJM, CHK
Jan 4; 6	Seaforth, <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP, FLL; DMC	Feb 16	Pt. Pleasant Park, <i>HRM</i>	12	PLC
Feb	CSI	noted JON		Feb 16	Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i>	5	NSBS
SPOTTED SANDPIPER				Dunlin			
Dec 22	Allendale Wharf, <i>Shel</i>	1	Robert Turner	CBC total			
Dec 29	Pleasant Pt., <i>Shel</i>	1, ph. Russel Crosby		Dec 1, 9	The Hawk, CSI	220, 48	JON, SAN; JAH
Greater Yellowlegs				Dec 9; Jan 12	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	3, 1	SJF; RBS, RIW
Dec 1	The Hawk, CSI	2	JON, SAN	December	4 other mainland locs.	9 total	var. obs.
Dec 15	Cape Sable CBC	3		Jan 12, 20	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	2, 6	RBS, RIW; KEL
Dec 29	Glace Bay CBC	1		Feb 2	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	6	JBO
HUDSONIAN GODWIT				Feb	CSI	noted JON	
Dec 1, 11	The Hawk, CSI	1	JON, SAN	DOWITCHER SPECIES			
Ruddy Turnstone				Dec 7, 9	The Hawk, CSI	1	MUN, JON, SAN <i>et al.</i>
CBC	Cape Sable, Port L'Hebert	13 total		LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER			
Dec 1	The Hawk, CSI	1	JON, SAN	Dec 11	CSI	3	JON, SAN
Jan 12	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	2	RBS, RIW	Wilson's Snipe			
Red Knot				CBC total 41			
CBC total		5 + cw		Dec 1	Cape Sable, <i>Shel</i>	1	AAD, JON
Dec 1, 29	CSI, Cape Sable	6, 5	JON, SAN; RDE, AAD	Jan 1	CSI	1	GRW
Dec 9	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	2	SJF	Jan 2	Falmouth, <i>Hants</i>	1	Ryan Harvey
Dec 29, Jan 12	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i> , ph.	1	SJF; RBS, RIW	Jan 11-12	Port Maitland, <i>Yar</i>	1	Bill Curry
Feb 2	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	1	JBO	Feb 8	Whites L., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Sanderling				American Woodcock			
CBC total		52		CBCs Total			
Dec 1	The Hawk, CSI	123	JON, SAN	3			

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the following was unavailable for Volume 55, Issue 1, and is here presented in full.

Shorebirds (Fall 2012)

By Susann Myers

Shorebird migration was on schedule this fall. Plover numbers were generally high, as noted below, while most *Calidris* sandpipers were in well below average numbers.

NORTHERN LAPWING was among the few rarities of the season, with two individuals in November causing much excitement. The first, found by Kathy Ackers Holmes Nov 11 at Sandy Pt., *Shel*, was last seen next day (JON, SAN, RDE). The second was found by KJM and CHK Nov 13 at a ball field in Canso, where it lingered until Nov 28 and provided a lifer for many NS birders. Photos by Kathy Holmes, RDE, and TOK show that both were adult birds, from their long crests and lack of white or buffy fringing of the wing coverts, although differing in amount of fringing on back and scapulars.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER were widespread in good numbers, with the seasonal total of about 2070 slightly above average. The series of peaks seen in this species is more complex than for many shorebirds, with variable moult timing in both adults and juveniles, depending on their wintering grounds. Those making the long flight to S. America moult mainly on the wintering grounds, while others remain nearer the breeding grounds for most of their moult to non-breeding plumage, and move south late with Dunlin. This year, the largest numbers at most sites were seen in mid-August (240+ at the Windsor sewage ponds), with strong peaks in early September (165 at Matthews Lake, *Shel*) and mid-September (350 at CSI), and a late peak of 96 mid-October noted at Cherry Hill Beach. The first AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS arrived on schedule in Aug., and the great majority moved through in Sept. as usual. The seasonal total of about 245 was more than twice that of recent years, buoyed up by strong numbers reported from Shearwater and Sydney Airports.



The NORTHERN LAPWING at left was photographed Nov 12, its last day present at Sandy Pt., *Shel*, and the longer staying one at right, Nov 16 at Canso. The wing coverts (at least on the exposed forewing of the Canso bird) lack pale fringing, but the extent differs greatly on their backs and scapulars [Photos: left, Ronnie D'Entremont; Right, Tom Kavanaugh]

The intriguing possibility of another rarity, a juvenile **PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER**, was noted Sept 16 by NIF at Hartlen Point. Seen in company with juvenile American Golden-Plovers, this bird showed differences in plumage (warmer buff-yellow tones, plain, open face with prominent dark auricular spot). Unfortunately, because of wind and the restlessness of the flock, NIF was unable to be certain that the bird showed the shorter primary projection, longer tarsus or longer, thinner bill of the Pacific Golden-Plover and, as he knew, these structural differences are critical in confirming this identification. The report serves as a good reminder, however, to watch for possible Pacific Golden-Plovers in our region, which are not unprecedented, and to try for even distant photos that can be used to confirm structural differences. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER was most abundant throughout August and to mid-September as usual, and the total number reported for the fall season was 30% above average. Peaks were noted at Martinique and Crescent Bch. in *HRM* (July 31, 1360), Sandhills Bch. PP and Evangeline Bch., *Kings*, where mixed flocks with large numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers make them difficult to count. PIPING PLOVER was reported in above-average numbers in August, thanks to eBird records from a number of reliable observers. The majority were at four sites in *Shelburne*: Bills Cove, Crow Neck Beach, Johnstons Pond and Louis Head Bch. (seasonal high count of 8 by RIW, Aug 10). The latest fledglings, three seen with an adult, were noted by Sue Abbott Aug 16 at Louis Head. As usual, most had moved southward by September. The seasonal total of 43 KILLDEER was 20% below average, with the only concentration reported at Sydney Airport. Migrants were on schedule in August and September, with few appearances in November.

Thanks are due to RAH, CST and JON for counts of the growing flock of AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER at CSI, with eight found Aug 7 at Daniels Head Inlet, four at The Hawk and four on nearby Long I. SPOTTED SANDPIPER was reported in numbers almost 50% above average, thanks in part to eBird, where the typical sightings of ones and twos on migration were well reported. Migration was on schedule, with the great majority departing in August and September, and only four stragglers noted in Oct. Most SOLITARY SANDPIPER were found from mid-August to early September as usual, with Sept 15 as a very early final report. Numbers were above average, again partly attributable to reporting on eBird.

GREATER YELLOWLEG numbers were average overall, but with low numbers reported from some of their favourite staging areas along the Atlantic coast (e.g. 20 at Three Fathom Hbr., 50 at CSI, 67 at the Cole Harbour Saltmarsh Tr.). Late peaks at Big I., *Pict* (28, Sept 11) and Wolfville Hbr. (25, Sept 22) suggest that these sites may be used mainly by juveniles. WILLET numbers peaked in late July, before adults departed, but good numbers remained in August, mainly young of the year. At Three Fathom Hbr. *HRM*, four of the juvenile "Eastern" Willets still present Aug 19 were only half-grown, with downy feathering remaining at the back of the head. Only three "Western" Willets were identified as such this season, found by BLM Sept. 15 along the Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Tr., *HRM*. Numbers of LESSER YELLOWLEGS reported from the Atlantic coast peaked this year July 20-24, but a good later peak was seen Aug 7 at Big I., *Pict*. Lesser nests farther north than Greater Yellowlegs and winters farther south, so almost all depart NS by the end of September. As often, however, small numbers of lingerers were reported in October and early November.

An **UPLAND SANDPIPER** was reported on eBird, seen Sept 9 on Bon Portage I. by Janice Chard, but with no details provided. The Upland is a rare transient in NS, typically found on offshore islands and grassy coastal headlands. WHIMBREL migration peaked on schedule in early September, and the last sighting date of Oct 12 was also usual. Numbers reported were 31% above average, boosted by good-sized flocks at Shearwater and Sydney Airports. This was the only report received from CBI, a favoured stopover area, and no reports were received from CSI, where peaks of 100 or more have been noted in the past.

Total HUDSONIAN GODWIT numbers for the fall season were 30% below the average for recent years, but would have been average if the 29 found by RAH July 31 at CSI had remained one day longer. Most Hudsonian Godwit are believed to make non-stop flights from their staging areas at James Bay over the W. Atlantic to the coast of S. America. So autumns of fair weather, such as this one, tend to bring smaller numbers stopping over in the Maritimes. The season's only **MARBLED GODWIT**, found by BLF, provided interest to birders at Wolfville Hbr. over an extended period between Sept 11 and 27. Although not seen in Wolfville between Sept 14 and 17, this was apparently not the same individual reported at St. Andrews, NB, Sept 15 and 18. A rare transient in Nova Scotia that migrates mainly through w. North America, Marbled Godwit has been found here in 11 of the past 18 fall seasons.

RUDDY TURNSTONE was reported in numbers only slightly below the seven-year average, thanks in part to increased reporting on eBird. A few lingered into November as usual before continuing to their wintering grounds, which range from the s. US to Brazil and Chile. RED KNOT, whose *rufa* subspecies is declared Endangered, continued to decline in numbers this year. It was reported from only eight sites around the province and the seasonal total of *ca.* 150 was 22% below even the reduced numbers of the past four years. The 103 seen in August may have been mainly subspecies *rufa*, and one banded individual was found by RDE Aug 14 at Sandhills Bch. The seasonal total for SANDERLING was average at about 3150, but with few reports from CSI, where peaks are often about 10 times the numbers found elsewhere in the province. Those reported were most abundant in September-October as usual, with the season's high count of 738 at Martinique Beach.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER made a good showing, with numbers of both Semipalmated and mixed flocks of small shorebirds at their main staging areas around the Minas Basin peaking in about mid-August. Counts were also strong on the Eastern Shore (Martinique Bch.) and South Shore (Cherry Hill, *Lun*, CSI and other *Shelburne* sites, and Cooks Bch, *Yar*). Fewer than usual were reported lingering into October, and typically sparse numbers were found in November. Only one **WESTERN SANDPIPER** was reported this season, a moulting juvenile found by the author in a mixed flock of small shorebirds at Three Fathom Harbour, where close views of relatively stationary birds allow structural differences to be studied. Compared to Semipalmated, Western Sandpiper appears more front-heavy while feeding, with larger head and thicker neck, and a larger bill that often shows a slight droop. Numbers of LEAST SANDPIPER reported this year were almost 20% above average, with good concentrations noted in August and early September in the Grand Pré area and on the Eastern Shore (Martinique and Conrad Bch.), and the highest numbers found along the South Shore (Cherry Hill Bch., CSI, Matthews L.). Only very small numbers remained in October as usual, with two that lingered to Nov 6 at Cherry Hill Bch. very late for this species.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER was reported in low numbers and with only modest peak counts. Numbers peaked at Cherry Hill Bch. Aug 13, which is early for this late migrant, but the usual November stragglers were noted from around the mainland. Only seven BAIRD'S SANDPIPER were reported this season, well below the average of 24 for the previous seven years. Perhaps winds favoured their more usual migratory route through the interior of the continent. Most were on schedule between mid-August and late September, but DAC had a close view of one very late straggler at Hartlen Pt. Nov. 15. PECTORAL SANDPIPER numbers were also low, with the seasonal total 25% below average. Although migrants were widespread, the only good-sized flock found was at Big I., *Pict*. Most were noted in September as usual, with typical

lingers into October and early November. The first arrivals of wintering PURPLE SANDPIPER were on schedule in November, but in lower than average numbers, with the only small flock noted at Port Morien, *CBRM*, a much-favoured site.

DUNLIN, which is late migrants, was first spotted in early September and peaked on schedule in October-November, but the seasonal total was only half the average. STILT SANDPIPER is an uncommon transient in NS, but the total of three found was unusually low for the fall season (average 12). They can be hard to spot amongst flocks of feeding dowitchers and yellowlegs, with which they often associate, so they must have provided a thrill to both KEL and PMU, who found them this season. The season's total of about 80 BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER was almost twice the average, thanks to a report of 50 at Shearwater Airport, which regularly hosts large numbers according to Chris Hawkins, the Wildlife Control Officer for this large and active military airport. Almost all had left the province by mid-September as usual.

Migration of adult SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER peaked in July, with numbers well below average. Numbers in August, mainly juveniles, were also low, with the seasonal total of about 1370 only half the average. Migration also ended abruptly, with unusually few dowitcher reported in September and October. WILSON'S SNIPE migration peaked as usual in October. Regular monitoring of Miners Marsh in Kentville by Valley birders showed a remarkable build-up of snipe there, peaking at about 30 on Oct 28. AMERICAN WOODCOCK migrate at night, so typically few were noted.

Phalaropes were well-reported this season. As usual, RED-NECKED was far less numerous than RED PHALAROPE, with an unusually low reported peak number of 100. The peak count of Red Phalarope off Brier I. was later than usual; KJM and RBS reported eight to ten thousand there Sept. 15. No phalaropes were reported after Sept. 22, since adverse weather kept birders ashore after that date. ELM continued his counts of gale fly-pasts at Northern Point in October, but saw no phalarope.

small shorebird species

Aug 6	Daniel's Head, CSI	ca. 500	CST
Aug 6	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	ca. 23,000	JWW
Aug 13	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	ca. 25,600	JWW
Aug 18	Penney Bch./Avonport, <i>Kings</i>	ca. 5000	JCT

NORTHERN LAPWING

Nov 11-12	Sandy Point, <i>Shel.</i>	1, ad. ph.	K. Ackers-Holmes <i>et al.</i>
Nov 13-28	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1 ad., ph.	KJM, CHK; TOK, <i>et al.</i>

Black-bellied Plover

Aug 3, 24	Cherry Hill Bch, <i>Lun</i>	10, 44	SJF
Aug 5	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	60	GRW
Aug 6, 15, 28	Crescent Bch, <i>Lun</i>	12, 31, 68	JSC
Aug 7, 18	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	191, 240+	WPN; JCT
Aug 11	Cole Hbr/Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	50	BLM
Aug 14	Sandhills Bch PP, <i>Shel</i>	30	RDE
Aug 15, 26	CSI	250, 215	eBird
Aug 20, 29	East Pt/Horton Landing, <i>Kings</i>	71, 97	RIW
Aug 24; Sept 3	Matthews Lake, <i>Shel</i>	150, 165	G. Beaulieu
Aug 26; Sept 1	Cole Hbr Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	181, 130	SEM
other Aug	7 sites, widespread	71 total	var. obs.
Sept 1, 23	Cherry Hill Bch, <i>Lun</i>	31, 13	SJF
Sept 3	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	94	Tammy MacDonald
Sept 6, 26	Crescent Bch, <i>Lun</i>	27, 15	JSC
Sept 6; Oct 13	East Pt./Horton Landing, <i>Kings</i>	55, 62	RIW
Sept 8	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	60	NSBS, SEM
Sept 8	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	189	SEM
Sept 16	The Hawk, CSI	350	JON, SAN
other Sept	5 sites, widespread	51 total	var. obs.
Oct 6	CSI	52	JAH
Oct 7, 15	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	37, 96	SJF
Oct 12	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	21	KJM, CHK
Oct 13	Horton Landing, <i>Kings</i>	62	RIW
Oct 15	South Side Bch., CSI	24	BJS, SIS
other Oct	5 sites, widespread	61 total	var. obs.
Nov 2	Crow's Neck Bch., <i>Shel</i>	6, basic	BJS, SIS
Nov 3, 24	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	8, 1	JSC
Nov 4	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	46	DMC
Nov 5-22	East Pt./Horton Landing, <i>Kings</i>	2-3	RIW
Nov 6, 20	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	31, 7	SJF
Nov 23	The Hawk, CSI	14	BJS, SIS

American Golden-Plover

Aug 20, 29	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	2	DOU; KJM, RFE
Aug 20-30	4 mainland sites	17 total	eBird
Aug 30	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	ca. 12	DAC
Sept 10	Shearwater Airport, <i>HRM</i>	100-150	Chris Hawkins
Sept 8	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	80	NSBS
Sept 15, 23	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	ca. 50, 55	DGA, IAM
other Sept	11 sites, widespread	28 total	var. obs.
Oct	3 mainland sites, <i>Lun/Kings</i>	4 total	var. obs.
Nov 3	Cape Sable, <i>Shel</i>	2	RDE

PACIFIC GOLDEN-POLEVER

Sept 16	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1 juv., possible	NIF
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Semipalmated Plover

Aug 3, 13, 24	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	290, 676, 639	SJF
Aug 6, 15, 28	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	810, 550, 420	JSC
Aug 10	Sandhills Bch. PP, <i>Shel</i>	1000s	RAH
Aug 11	MacCormacks Bch, <i>HRM</i>	700	BLM
Aug 11	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	400	BLM
Aug 12	Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i>	4000	GRW
Aug 17	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	ca. 1250	JWW
Sept 1, 23	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	365, 51	SJF
Sept 2, 24	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	320, 329	SEM
Sept 6, 26	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	65, 50	JSC
Sept 8	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	400	SEM
Sept 8, 25	Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1344, 501	N. Gabrielian
Sept 25	McCormacks Bch., <i>HRM</i>	140	IAM
Sept 29; Oct 12	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	139, 17	KJM
Oct 7, 15	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	72, 123	SJF
Oct 15	Blanche Peninsula, <i>Shel</i>	50	RDE
Oct 21	Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i>	93	N. Gabrielian
Oct	8 mainland sites, widespread	ca. 80 total	var. obs.
Nov 23	The Hawk, CSI	2	BJS, SIS

Piping Plover

Aug 3-17	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	1-2 ad., 1 juv.	SJF
Aug 15	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	1	JSC
other Aug	4 sites, <i>Shel</i>	20 total	eBird
Sept 8	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	D&J Schlosberg

Killdeer

Aug 12-30	Middle R. dyke, <i>Pict</i>	3-6	KJM
Aug 31	Milford Station, <i>Col</i>	6	Steve Gerrior
other Aug	5 mainland sites	8 total	eBird
Sept 5	Port Williams area, <i>Kings</i>	2	RBS
Sept 8	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	13	NSBS
Sept 23	Brier I.	1	JAH, ELM
Sept 25	Rose Bay, <i>Lun</i>	1	KEL
Sept 25	Waterside PP, <i>Pict</i>	2	KJM
Nov 10-18	Lockeport, <i>Shel</i>	2-3	DJC
Nov 13	Crystal Crescent Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT

American Oystercatcher

Aug 7	CSI & nearby Long I.	16	JON
Sept 1	The Hawk, CSI	2, last report	RBS <i>et al.</i>

Spotted Sandpiper

Aug 2-29	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	3-8	var. obs.
Aug 8	CBHNP, <i>Vic</i>	3	eBird
Aug 8	Brier I.	4	GRW
Aug 12	Middle R. dyke, <i>Pict</i>	4	KJM
other Aug	15 mainland sites	25 total	var. obs.
Sept 9	McCormacks Bch., <i>HRM</i>	6	eBird
other Sept	13 mainland sites	18 total	var. obs.
Oct 12	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	1	KJM, CHK
Oct 16-12	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	2, 1	JWW
Oct 23-24	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1	ELM, KJM

Solitary Sandpiper

Aug 9, 14, 27	Miner's Marsh, Kentville	1, 3, 4	DOU, RIW, RBS
other Aug	6 mainland sites	7 total	var. obs.

Sept 1-15	5 mainland sites	singles	var. obs.
Sept 2	Blanche area, <i>Shel</i>	7	RDE <i>et al.</i>
Sept 3	Hebbsville, <i>Lun</i>	3	JAH
Sept 3	Habitant, <i>Kings</i>	3	eBird
Sept 7	Tancook I.	1	CJF, ELM
Sept 8	Tower Rd., Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	DBM
Greater Yellowlegs			
Aug 4, 19, 27	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	14, 15, 20	SEM
Aug 15	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	50	GRW
Aug 17, 27	Cooks Bch., <i>Yar</i>	25, 7	GRW
Aug 26; Sept 1	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	67, 33	SEM
other Aug	21 mainland sites	92 total	var. obs.
Sept 2, 24	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	12, 15	SEM
Sept 3	Matthews L., <i>Shel</i>	26	G. Beaulieu
Sept 11, 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	28, 10	KJM, CHK
Sept 12, 17, 22	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	12, 20+, 25	RBS, JWW, KEL
other Sept	25 sites, widespread	102 total	var. obs.
Oct 1, 16, 20	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	23, 21, 8	RIW, JWW
Oct 4	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	ca. 40	Julie Paquet
Oct 6	CSI	13	JAH
Oct 8	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	20+	DGA
Oct 15	Otter Rd., <i>Pict</i>	12	KJM
Oct 16	Rose Bay, <i>Lun</i>	15	KEL
Oct 20	Oxner's Bch., <i>Lun</i>	24	JAH
Oct 30; Nov 12	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	3, 1	KJM, CHK
other Oct	19 mainland sites	61 total	var. obs.
Nov 1-6	5 sites, widespread	11 total	var. obs.
Nov 2, 10	Rainbow Haven/Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	14, 10+	DAC, PMU
Nov 3	Crescent Bch, <i>Lun</i>	5	JSC
Nov 5	Conrad Bch. marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Nov 6-11	5 sites, <i>Lun</i>	10 total	SJF, JSC, JAH
Nov 13	Canso, <i>Gufs</i>	1	KJM, CHK
Willet			
Aug 1-15	5 sites, <i>Shel</i>	37 total	eBird
Aug 3, 17	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	20, 4 juv.	SJF
Aug 4	Taylor Head PP, <i>HRM</i>	15	NSBS
Aug 6	McCormacks Bch., <i>HRM</i>	15	GRW
Aug 6, 15, 28	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	85, 80, 3	JSC
Aug 7, 29	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	10, 6	KJM
Aug 13, 19, 27	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	19, 13, 4 juv.	SEM
Aug 16-26	3 sites, <i>Shel</i>	11 total	eBird
other Aug	17 mainland sites	51 total	var. obs.
Sept 1	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	2 juv., E.	SEM
Sept 1-17	7 mainland locations	16 total	var. obs.
Sept 15	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	3 W.	BLM
Lesser Yellowlegs			
Aug 4, 19, 27	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	16, 5, 2	SEM
Aug 7, 15, 29	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	58, 23, 5	KJM
Aug 21	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	dozens	RAH
Aug 26	Daniels Head, <i>CSI</i>	25	NIF
Aug 26; Sept 1	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	3, 2	SEM
other Aug	15 mainland sites	71 total	var. obs.
Sept 2, 19	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	2, 13	JSC
other Sept	6 mainland sites	15 total	var. obs.
Oct 23, 28, Nov 1	Miner's Marsh, Kentville	1, 2, 1	RBS, RSM, AND
Nov 4	Rainbow Haven PP	1	DMC
UPLAND SANDPIPER			
Sept 9	BPI	1, n.d.	eBird
Whimbrel			
Aug 6	Cleveland, <i>Inv</i>	1	eBird
Aug 7-29	8 sites, <i>Shel</i>	47	eBird
Aug 10-27	8 mainland sites	30 total	var. obs.
Aug 26	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	13	ROH
Sept 1, 21	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	53, 30+	DGA; DOU
Sept 2, 24	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	8, 1	SEM
Sept 8	Sydney airport, <i>HRM</i>	40	NSBS, SEM
Sept 8-15	Brier I.	1-4	eBird
Sept 8, 23	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	12, 5	SJF
Sept 10	Shearwater Airport, <i>HRM</i>	50-100	Chris Hawkins
Sept 14	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	8	PMU
other Sept	9 mainland sites	26 total	eBird
Oct 6	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DGA
Oct 12	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	2	PMU
Hudsonian Godwit			
July 31	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	ca. 29	RAH
Aug 1, 21	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	10, 3	RAH
Aug 5-8	Louis Head, <i>Shel</i>	6-12	AVM
Aug 10	Conrad Bch. marsh, <i>HRM</i>	2	VJH <i>et al.</i>
Sept 7	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	1	DGA
Sept 9	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	2	KJM
Sept 15, 16	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DGA; NIF
Oct 6	CSI	2	JAH, JON
Oct 10	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	eBird
week of Nov 11	Daniel's Head, <i>CSI</i>	1, unwell	JON
MARBLED GODWIT			
Sept 11-13 & 18-27	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	1, ph.	



The lingering **MARBLED GODWIT** at Wolfville was beautifully photographed 12 Sept. [Photo Richard Stern]

Ruddy Turnstone			
Aug 1	Bird Islands, <i>Vic</i>	2	eBird
Aug 2	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	14	DAC
Aug 4	Taylor Head PP, <i>HRM</i>	25	NSBS
Aug 7, 29	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	10, 1	KJM
Aug 10	McCormacks Bch., <i>HRM</i>	12	GRW
Aug 15, 26	CSI	15, 25	eBird
Aug 15, 28	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	3, 2	JSC
Aug 24	Matthews L., <i>Shel</i>	24	G. Beaulieu
other Aug	9 mainland sites	36 total	var. obs.
Sept 1	Kingsburg Bch., <i>Lun</i>	20	KEL
Sept 2-3	BPI	2-11	CLD <i>et al.</i>
Sept 6-26	4 sites, <i>Lun/Kings</i>	11 total	var. obs.
Sept 22	Caribou I., <i>Pict</i>	21	KJM
Oct 6	CSI	2	JAH
Oct 7, 15	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	1, 10	SJF
Oct 15	Blanche Peninsula, <i>Shel</i>	20	RDE
Nov 1-3	2 sites, <i>Pict</i>	singles	KJM <i>et al.</i>
Nov 6-20	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	2	SJF
Nov 23	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	2	BJS, SIS
Red Knot			
Aug 14, 18	Sandhills Bch. PP, <i>Shel</i>	12, 14	RDE, G. Beaulieu
Aug 17	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	1 alt.	G. Beaulieu
Aug 20, 29	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	2, 3	DOU, KJM
Aug 24	Matthews L., <i>Shel</i>	25	G. Beaulieu
Aug 25	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	60	G. Beaulieu
Sept 1	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	7 juv.	SEM
Sept 3; Oct 6	CSI	20, 2	JAH
Sept 6	East Pt., Grand Pre	3 (1 alt.)	RBS
Sept 8; Oct 4	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	17, 3	SEM; Julie Paquet
Sept 9	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	8	KJM
Nov 3	Cape Sable, <i>Shel</i>	2	RDE
week of Nov 11	Daniels Head, <i>CSI</i>	7	JON
Nov 20	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	3	SJF
Sanderling			
Aug 3-30	10 mainland sites	79 total	var. obs.
Aug 5-30	6 sites, <i>Shel</i>	187 total	eBird
Aug 12	Martinique Bch. PP, <i>HRM</i>	200	GRW
Aug 18, 25	CSI	366, 200	G. Beaulieu
Aug 24	Matthews L., <i>Shel</i>	245	G. Beaulieu
Sept	6 sites, <i>Shel</i>	120 total	eBird
Sept 6, 12, 26	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	10, 10, 120	JSC
Sept 8, 25	Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i>	738, 433	eBird
Sept 23	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	50	DMW
other Sept	13 sites, widespread	134 total	var. obs.
Oct 2-5	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	35-59	Julie Paquet; eBird
Oct 15	South Side Bch., <i>CSI</i>	350	BJS, SIS
other Oct	6 mainland sites	61 total	var. obs.
Nov 4	Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i>	288	eBird
week of Nov 11	Daniels Head, <i>CSI</i>	150	JON
Nov 23	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	35	BJS, SIS
Semipalmated Sandpiper			
Aug 3, 13, 24	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	63, 85, 245	SJF
Aug 4, 19	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	151, 136	SEM
Aug 5	Grand Pre, <i>Kings</i>	15,000	KEL
Aug 12	Martinique Bch. PP, <i>HRM</i>	1000	GRW
Aug 14	Sandhills Bch. PP, <i>Shel</i>	200	RDE
Aug 15, 25	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	3000, 675	GRW, G. Beaulieu
Aug 17	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	ca. 11250	JWW
Aug 17, 27; Sept 4	Cooks Bch., <i>Yar</i>	650, 400, 150	G. Beaulieu
other Aug	11 sites, widespread	290 total	var. obs.
other Aug	6 sites, <i>Shel</i>	1300 total	eBird
Sept	5 sites, <i>Shel</i>	477 total	eBird
Sept 1, 8, 23	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	77, 90, 12	SJF

Sept 8	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	60	SEM	Oct 4	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	ca. 25	Julie Paquet
Oct 1, 19	The Guzzle, Grand Pre	200, 6	RIW	Oct 6	CSI	25	JAH
Oct 4	Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i>	46	eBird	Oct 7, 15	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	51, 54	SJF
other Oct	10 sites, widespread	36 total	var. obs.	Oct 12, 30	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	67, 68	KJM, CHK
Nov 3	Waterside PP, <i>Pict</i>	1	KJM, STV	Oct 13, 25	Horton Landing/East Pt., <i>Kings</i>	25, 154	RIW
week of Nov 11	Daniels Head, CSI	a few	JON	other Oct	10 sites, widespread	46 total	var. obs.
WESTERN SANDPIPER				Nov 2	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	75	DAC
Sept 24	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1 juv.	SEM	Nov 3-28	8 mainland sites	41 total	var. obs.
Least Sandpiper				week of Nov 11	Daniels Head, CSI	250	JON
Aug 3, 17, 24	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	26, 168, 110	SJF	Nov 12, 15	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	28, 4	KJM
Aug 5, 18	Grand Pre, <i>Kings</i>	50, 100	WPN <i>et al.</i> , KEL	Nov 12, 29	The Guzzle, Grand Pre	123, 12	RIW
Aug 7, 15, 29	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	57, 18, 7	KJM	Nov 15, 27	Horton Landing/East Pt., <i>Kings</i>	100, 47	RIW, BLF
Aug 7, 26	Horton Landing/East Pt., <i>Kings</i>	18, 80	RIW	Nov 23	The Hawk, CSI	70	BJS, SIS
Aug 8	Brier I.	50	GRW	Stilt Sandpiper			
Aug 12, 25; Sept 8	Martinique Bch. PP, <i>HRM</i>	100, 46; 98	eBird	Aug 7	Beach Meadows, <i>Queens</i>	1	KEL
Aug 15, 25	CSI	300; 235	GRW; G. Beaulieu	Sept 8	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	2, ph.	PMU
Aug 19	Rose Bay, <i>Lun</i>	97	JAH	Buff-breasted Sandpiper			
Aug 22	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	145	eBird	Aug	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	1	KMA
Aug 28; Sept 3	Matthews L., <i>Shel</i>	195; 103	G. Beaulieu	Sept 1	Cape Sable, <i>Shel</i>	3	RBS <i>et al.</i>
other Aug	35 mainland sites	382 total	var. obs.	Sept 4	Cook's Bch., <i>Yar</i>	1	G. Beaulieu
Sept 1, 8, 23	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	69, 88, 15	SJF	Sept 4, 6	2 sites, <i>Pict</i>	3 total	KJM
Sept 6	East Pt., Grand Pre	100	RBS	Sept 7	The Hawk, CSI	2	DGA
other Sept	18 sites, widespread	211 total	var. obs.	Sept 8	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	15	NSBS
Oct 2-20	5 mainland sites	singles	var. obs.	Sept 10	Shearwater Airport, <i>HRM</i>	50	Chris Hawkins
Oct 7, 15	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	4, 8	SJF	Sept 12, 15	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2, 1	DAC; DGA
Nov 6	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	2	SJF	Sept 16	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun</i>	2 ad., 1 juv.	JAH
White-rumped Sandpiper				Oct 6	Blanche Pen. area, <i>Shel</i>	1	JAH
Aug 3, 13, 24	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	46, 75, 19	SJF	Short-billed Dowitcher			
Aug 12	Martinique Bch. PP, <i>HRM</i>	25	GRW	Aug 6, 15, 28	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun</i>	95, 62, 28	JSC
Aug 15	CSI	40	GRW	Aug 7	Beach Meadows, <i>Queens</i>	40	KEL
Aug 26; Sept 1	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	6, 28	SEM	Aug 7, 29	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	55, 9	KJM
Aug 27	Cooks Bch., <i>Yar</i>	40	G. Beaulieu	Aug 11	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	150	BLM
other Aug	14 mainland sites	75 total	var. obs.	Aug 14	Sandhills Bch. PP, <i>Shel</i>	150	RDE
Sept 1, 8, 23	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	11, 18, 2	SJF	Aug 15, 25	CSI	400, 117	GRW, G. Beaulieu
other Sept	10 sites, widespread	77 total	var. obs.	Aug 17, 27	Cooks Bch., <i>Yar</i>	100, 75	G. Beaulieu
Oct 17	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	17	SJF	Aug 26; Sept 1, 9	Cole Hbr, <i>HRM</i>	107; 93, ca.35	SEM; PMU
Oct 19; Nov 12	The Guzzle, Grand Pre	14, 7	RIW	other Aug	11 mainland sites	199 total	var. obs.
Oct 21	Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i>	13	eBird	Sept	8 sites, widespread	76 total	var. obs.
other Oct	5 sites, widespread	6 total	var. obs.	Oct 6	CSI	2	JAH
Nov 1, 11	Waterside PP, <i>Pict</i>	9, 5	KJM	Wilson's Snipe			
Nov 11; 20	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	1; 8	RBS, RIW; SJF	Aug 12-29	3 mainland sites	singles	var. obs.
Nov 12	Grand Pre, <i>Kings</i>	7	RIW	Sept 9	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	1	KJM
Nov 12	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	15	eBird	Oct 2-20	2 sites, <i>Pict, Shel</i>	4 total	KJM; RDE
Baird's Sandpiper				Oct 15; 28	Miner's Marsh, Kentville	16+, ca. 30	AND; RSM
Aug 11	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM	Nov 1; 12	Miner's Marsh, Kentville	14; 1	RIW; AND
Aug 12	Martinique Bch. PP, <i>HRM</i>	1 juv.	GTW	Nov 13	Black Duck Cove, <i>Guy's</i>	1	KJM
Aug 31; Sept 3	Brier I.	2; 2	RSM; RDE	American Woodcock			
Sept 4, 14	Brier I.	1, ph.	RIW; RBS	Aug/Sept	2 locations, <i>Lun/Digby</i>	singles	KEL
Sept 21, 23	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2, 1	DOU, DAC	Oct 6-Nov 4	4 locations, widespread	singles	var. obs.
Nov 15	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC	phalarope species			
Pectoral Sandpiper				Aug 3, 4, 8	off Brier I.	100s	Penny Graham
Aug 17-26	5 sites, <i>HRM/Lun/CSI</i>	8 total	var. obs.	Aug 6	off Brier I.	1000s	Penny Graham
Sept 1	Cape Sable, <i>Shel</i>	4	RBS <i>et al.</i>	Aug 20	off <i>Yar</i>	20	eBird
Sept 1	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh, <i>HRM</i>	9	SEM	Sept 15	off Brier I. (mostly Red)	1000s	RBS, KJM <i>et al.</i>
Sept 8	Sydney Airport, <i>CBRM</i>	8	NSBS	Red-necked Phalarope			
Sept 8, 23	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	5, 1	SJF	Aug 4	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1 ad., ph.	SEM
Sept 9	Little Hbr., <i>Rich</i>	12	BID, WMA	Aug 7	off Brier I.	100	GRW
Sept 26, 29	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	29, 27	KJM	Aug 18; Sept 8	off Sambro, <i>HRM</i>	12, 15	DAC <i>et al.</i>
other Sept	10 mainland sites	14 total	var. obs.	Aug 20	off <i>Yar</i>	9	eBird
Oct 7, 15	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	4, 18	SJF	Aug 25	Southeast Bank, <i>Shel</i>	ca. 100	DAC <i>et al.</i>
Oct 13-25	3 mainland sites	singles	var. obs.	Sept 15	off Brier I.	100	RBS
Nov 2	Rainbow Haven PP	1	DAC	Sept 22	off Brier I.	35	JAH
Purple Sandpiper				Red Phalarope			
Nov 12	Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i>	8	BEC, GEC	Aug 7	off Brier I.	1500	GRW
Nov 17, 29	2 sites, <i>Kings/HRM</i>	singles	var. obs.	Aug 18; Sept 8	off Sambro, <i>HRM</i>	3, 6	DAC <i>et al.</i>
Nov 22	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	noted	HAT	Aug 20	off <i>Yar</i>	151	eBird
Dunlin				Aug 25	Southeast Bank, <i>Shel</i>	20	DAC <i>et al.</i>
Sept 4	Lower Debert, <i>Col</i>	2	ROH	Sept 15	off Brier I.	8000-10000	KJM, RBS
Sept 8-23	7 mainland sites	18 total	var. obs.	Sept 22	off Brier I.	3	JAH
Sept 19, 29	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	25, 9	DOU, KJM				
Oct 1, 15	The Guzzle, Grand Pre	100, 53	RIW				

Gulls through Alcids

By Eric Mills

In early winter BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE can be stunningly abundant, especially during gales in the outer Bay of Fundy. How many birds did the 24,685 Kittiwakes estimated during the Dec 14 Brier I. CBC really represent? During flights like these, birds stream by apparently endlessly, usually headed out of the Bay. But where and when do they come in? Sometimes it is hard to avoid the thought that the birds one counts are heading back into the Bay somewhere over in New Brunswick waters and are being counted over and over again. This seems unlikely, but until someone tries the uncomfortable

and perhaps dangerous exercise of tracking flying kittiwakes by air in a Bay of Fundy gale, we just won't know the pattern and scale of this remarkable phenomenon.

Unique this winter was a **LITTLE GULL** found Dec 29 on the Glace Bay CBC and convincingly described (Della Murrant, *vide* AAM, CAM).

BLACK-HEADED GULL has been a winter feature of Nova Scotian estuaries and harbours for decades. They are probably increasing in abundance, although this would be hard to claim without taking into account increased effort, i.e. many more birders now than a few decades ago, and also their increased field skills. Whatever the changes during the past 40 years or so, this species may now be expected in almost any estuarine or other shallow-water Nova Scotian coastal environment in winter, although with a bias toward bigger communities (more food) and the northeast of the province (closer to their source area, probably mainly Iceland), as indicated in the tabulation below.

It's worth considering what accounts for the increased numbers of **BONAPARTE'S GULLS** in early winter, as documented in CBCs, and including an unusual 60 in the marsh at Garden Lots, *Lun.*, Dec 22. A sporadic presence on early counts (say from 1952 into the 1990s), this species began a remarkable increase between 1990 and 1993 that persists through winter 2012 (see CBC total). In part this may be due to increased number of count circles since the 1950s. Another factor could be increased attention to this species in the core of its early winter range, *Pictou* County (107 on *Pictou* CBCs during winter 2012-13). But inspection of the data shows that most early winter birds (320) were in the Strait of Canso (188) and Bras d'Or Lakes (132) areas, with a further 103 in Antigonish. Whatever attracts the birds to these areas (larval fish, larger zooplankton, sewage effluent?), most had left the province by early February.

The eight reports of **MEW (COMMON) GULLS** recorded below probably represent at least three individuals that inhabited the Halifax Hbr. area from early January through February. Two seem to have favoured Sullivans Pond and Tufts Cove in Dartmouth. One was seen off and on in the storm water outfall off Purdys Wharf on the Halifax side of the harbour, and a photo obtained by Dennis Garratt Feb 15 shows a different individual from the Dartmouth birds. (See account of these birds by Bernard Burke, p. 69.) Another reported from Bedford, a few kilometres away could have been one of the preceding – or not. One of the Common Gulls found and photographed by Bernard Burke on the ice of Sullivans Pond was as large as a Ring-billed Gull, showed a stout greenish-yellow bill, a noticeably darker mantle than the Ring-bills, and a wing-tip pattern that resembled the central Russian subspecies of Common Gull, *Larus canus heinei* (see photo below). Some of these winter in northwest Europe, and this is not the first occurrence on Sullivans Pond of an apparent *heinei*; Ian McLaren and I studied, and Bernard Burke photographed, one apparently of this subspecies in winter of 2006-2007 (see McLaren's *All the Birds of Nova Scotia*, p 123 and Plate 48) and another possible one in 2009. An alert eye for gulls is always in order during winter.

HERRING and **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS** are well known travellers, to and from Newfoundland and to New England and the s.e. states from the Atlantic Provinces. A few are being marked, allowing these movements to be studied systematically. Thirty-seven Herring Gulls were wing-tagged during 2012 on the Witless Bay reserve in s.e. Newfoundland, using beige tags with black codes like X07 or X29. They also received black-on-orange colour bands, which have been used on Newfoundland Herring Gulls for some time (information from Alex Bond, University of Saskatchewan). Sable I. gulls are also being marked, using pink for Herring Gulls and yellow/lime green for Great Black-backed Gulls. Any marked gull can be reported to <www.reportband.gov>, for which you will receive information about the banding location. For more information about gull banding programmes, see also the website <<http://sableislandgulls.wordpress.com>>.

A gull Jan 25 at Sullivans Pond was clearly a second- or third-year "NELSON'S" GULL"; that is, a hybrid Herring x Glaucous Gull, as was first-winter "Nelson's Gull" in Glace Bay hbr.in February (see photos of both below).

After a slow start in December, except in *CBRM*, where numbers were high early in the month, **ICELAND GULL** numbers picked up markedly in January and February. A succession of easterly gales brought significant numbers inshore in February, as shown in the tabulation below. Numbers appear to have been about average this winter, as also true for **GLAUCOUS GULLS**. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS** also occurred in about average numbers, although where they come from (probably mostly from the new colonies in Greenland) is still something of a mystery, as is how many actually pass through the province during a year. One dark-mantled Lesser Black-back, likely of the continental European subspecies *Larus fuscus intermedius*, was noted briefly in January, and another in late February caused a bit of a stir by showing pinkish rather than yellow legs. Many wintering Lesser Black-backs, probably those with low hormone levels, do show pinkish, lead-coloured or indeterminate-coloured legs, although strong light will often allow a hint of the yellow that develops by the breeding season.



The COMMON GULL at left was one of two repeatedly found and photographed in Dartmouth (here Feb 13 at Sullivans Pond) Note its rather long body and bill (with a distinct black ring, here obscured by light reflection) and its slightly darker mantle compared with the Ring-bills, suggesting subspecies *heinei*. The small white tips of the gray “tongues” of p6-8 and narrow white tips of the inner primaries (insert) may also characterize that north-central Russian subspecies. [Photos Bernard Burke]



Two “NELSON’S” GULLS (GLAUCOUS x HERRING GULL) were nice finds this winter: at left, Jan 6 at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, and at right, Feb 22 at Glace Bay hbr. [Photos: left, Richard Stern; right Allan Murrant]

After a slow start in December, except in *CBRM*, where numbers were high early in the month, ICELAND GULL numbers picked up markedly in January and February. A succession of easterly gales brought significant numbers inshore in February, as shown in the tabulation below. Numbers appear to have been about average this winter, as also true for GLAUCOUS GULLS. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS also occurred in about average numbers, although where they come from (probably mostly from the new colonies in Greenland) is still something of a mystery, as is how many actually pass through the province during a year. One dark-mantled Lesser Black-back, likely of the continental European subspecies *Larus fuscus intermedius*, was noted briefly in January, and another in late February caused a bit of a stir by showing pinkish rather than yellow legs (photo below). Many wintering Lesser Black-backs, probably those with low hormone levels, do show pinkish, lead-coloured or indeterminate-coloured legs, although strong light will often allow a hint of the yellow that develops by the breeding season.



The pinkish legs of this LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, here Feb 22 at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, seemed puzzling, until it was pointed out that this can occur naturally, for reasons explained in the above text. [Photo Pat McKay]



Some gulls remain puzzling. This one, Feb 12 at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, has the pale rump and tail (insert) of a young GREAT or LESSER BLACK-BACKED, yet its plumage not checkered enough, and it appears to have some gray, not dark, feathers on the mantle. It most resembles a second-cycle EUROPEAN HERRING GULL, but what can be seen of its inner primaries (insert) does not show pale gray inner webs, forming a distinct paler panel on that species [Photos Bernard Burke]

Far out at sea while lobstering west of Seal Island in waters too rough for photography, Ron D'Entremont was visited by a small jaeger, apparently a **LONG-TAILED JAEGER**, rare at any time and unseasonably late on Dec 2. Only a few days later, Dec 6, a **FORSTER'S TERN** was reported on the adjacent mainland of CSI. Almost without exception, December tern in our province have all been that tern species.

The alcid season started slowly, but by mid-January it was obviously going to be DOVEKIE winter. Numbers were seldom high (except on the Brier I. CBC), but it was a rare trip to the shore in mid-to-late January and in February that did not yield at least a couple of Dovekies. As Hans Toom reported on Jan 16, "this has been the most active year for Dovekies that I've witnessed along my little stretch of coast in thirteen years . . . This morning there were about a dozen diving at Sambro Head in the shallow water. There were so many it looked like a school of feeding fish. This bird is not the slightest bit shy and a

pair marched right up to me when I was at the outfall from the Sambro Head Salt Marsh. Another one actually came up on the shoreline kelp heap.” There were numerous reports of Dovekies blown ashore or inshore during the winter’s vicious gales, some of which ended up in wildlife rehabilitation centres. Dovekies face many hazards including gull predation (there have been many reports over the years of Great Black-backed Gulls swallowing them whole). A recent scientific study gives evidence that on occasion “goosefish” (Monkfish, *Lophius americanus*) making forays from the bottom into surface waters may eat Dovekies (thanks to BLM for unearthing this information). In the longer term, warming of the North Atlantic may reduce the abundance of Dovekies’ favoured summer food, three species of large copepods, and thus reduce the survivorship of their young (see Paul Hess’s article in ABA’s *Winging It*, Dec. 2012, p. 10).

Both COMMON and THICK-BILLED MURRES were rather sparsely reported, but in early December it was clear that something was going on with RAZORBILLS. Sea-watching then revealed a steady passage of southward-bound birds in, after which numbers were relatively low through the end of February. But south of us, in New England, the Carolinas, in Florida and even on the Gulf of Mexico coast in Alabama, Razorbills occurred in unprecedented numbers, or even for the first (or second) time in the case of Alabama. As the reporter for the ABA publication *Winging It* (February 2013, p. 12) reported, “thousands of **Razorbills** made an astonishing invasion of FL; individuals were reported from nearly every coastal county, and hundreds appeared off *Palm Beach* and *Miami-Dade* as they made their way to the Gulf Coast, where the species reached AL for the 1st time [a later report says the second]. This incredible movement may have been driven by unusually warm water temperatures in the north (and a resulting lack of prey), as well as a population boom following efforts to protect the species’ breeding grounds”, and it goes on to say that “two flyby **Razorbills** in *Baldwin* 1/6 represented a 1st record for AL, while flocks of up to 40 were reported off Jekyll I., GA, and in FL, where only 14 previous records exist for the state, flocks of 150-500 appeared off *Palm Beach* and nearly 400 were seen off *Miami-Dade*.” Dovekies, Common Murres, and Florida’s fourth Thick-billed Murre were also noted in that state. By the middle of the month numbers had begun to diminish in Florida, very likely as a result of starvation, which probably initiated this unusual southward movement of alcids.

Black-legged Kittiwake

CBC total		24,704 (24,685 off Brier I)	
Dec 1	W of Seal I., <i>Yar</i>	“several”	RDE
Dec 9	Margaretsville, <i>Anna</i>	80+	WPN, LNE
Dec 14	Brier I. CBC	24,685	
Dec 23	Off W. Head, <i>Queens</i>	1 ad.	ELM
Dec 31	Chebucto Head, <i>HRM</i>	2	GRW
Jan 6	Off W. Head, <i>Queens</i>	2	ELM

LITTLE GULL

Dec 29	Glace Bay CBC	1	
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Black-headed Gull

CBC		108	
December-February	<i>Guys to Yar</i> , 23 locs.	ca. 140 indiv.	
	Plus several similar reports on eBird		

Bonaparte’s Gull

CBC total		650	
December	<i>CBRM to Lun</i> , 11 locs.	ca. 850 indivs.	
January-February	<i>Cumb to Lun</i> , 9 locs.	ca. 28 indivs	
	Plus other reports on eBird, mainly from <i>Pict</i>		

MEW (COMMON) GULL

CBC	Halifax-Dartmouth	3	
Jan 3-4	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun</i>	1	FLL, DMW, JOA
Jan 8-Feb 26+	Dartmouth	2 diff. ad., ph.	BBU et al.
Jan 15	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad.	JOL
Jan 18-Feb 15	Purdys Wharf, Halifax	1 diff. ad.	DGA

Ring-billed Gull

CBC total		1126	
December	<i>Vic to Shel</i> , 30 locs.	ca. 610 indivs	
January-February	<i>Pic to Queens</i> , ca. 18 locs.	ca. 261 indivs.	
	Plus more than 110 similar reports on eBird, mainly from <i>HRM</i> and <i>Pict</i>		

Herring Gull

CBC total		17622	
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Herring x Glaucous (“Nelson’s”) Gull

Jan 25	Sullivans Pd., Dartmouth	1, 3 rd yr; ph.	RBS
Feb 22	Glace Bay hbr.	1, 1 st -w.	ALM, CAM

Iceland Gull

CBC total		2075	
December	<i>Guys to Digby</i> (not incl. <i>CBRM</i>), 13 locs.	185 indivs.	
Dec 8	Glace Bay	300	DBM
January	<i>Guys to Queens</i> , 12 locs.	ca. 160 indivs.	

February	<i>Guys to Yar</i> , 23 locs.	ca. 492 indivs. (highlights below)	
Feb 1	Kingsburg Bch., <i>Lun</i>	70+	ELM
Feb 2	Lunenburg area	20	ELM
Feb 2	Kingsburg, <i>Lun</i>	50	KEL
Feb 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	13	KJM, CHK
Feb 11	W. Jeddore, <i>HRM</i>	20	DMW, FLL
Feb 11	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	40	DMW, FLL
Feb 11	Trenton, <i>Pict</i>	14	ROH
Feb 16	Lunenburg-Blue Rocks, <i>Lun</i>	170+	ELM, AHM, KEL
Feb 16	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	52	FLL
Feb 23	Lunenburg area	10	ELM
Feb 27	Cape Sable, <i>Yar</i>	15	RDE

Plus more than 50 similar repts on eBird, mainly from *HRM* and *Pictou*

Glaucous Gull

CBC total;		24	
December	<i>CBRM to Yar</i> , 11 locs.	24 indivs.	
January-February	<i>CBRM to Shel</i> , 12 locs.	15 indivs.	

Lesser Black-backed Gull

CBC total		6	
December-February	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1, 2 nd -w.	ALM, CAM
Dec 2	Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad.	BBU
Dec 11	nr. Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1	GFO
Dec 13	Middle Dyke Rd., <i>Kings</i>	1	LNE
Dec 15	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel</i>	1	JAH, DPO
January-February	Lr. W. Pubnico, <i>Yar</i>	1 ad.	RDE, AAD
Jan 2	Garden Lots, <i>Lun</i>	1	FLL, DMW
Jan 8	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	1 ad.	IAM
Jan 13-28	Bedford Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC, DOC, DOU
Jan 20	Moirs Pond, Bedford	1	JBD
Jan 26	First Pen., <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH
Jan 28	Long I., <i>Kings</i>	1 ad.	HAT, Ray Staszko
Feb 12	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	KEL
Feb 15-18	Boisdale, <i>CBRM</i>	2	Joe MacDonald
Feb 23	Sullivans Pond., Dartmouth	1 ad, <i>intermedius?</i> , ph.	PMC, BBU

Great Black-backed Gull

CBC total		2945	
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LONG-TAILED JAEGER

Dec 2	W of Seal I.	1 ad.	RDE
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FORSTER’S TERN

Dec 6	Guzzle, CSI	1 (n.d.)	MUN, CIN
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Dovekie

CBC total	71 (Brier I. 45)		
Dec 28	Canso, <i>Guys</i>	1	JOK
Dec 30	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 ashore	<i>fide</i> HAT
Dec 31	Chebucto Head, <i>HRM</i>	1	GRW
Jan 6	Long Bch., <i>CBRM</i>	1	ALM, CAM
Jan 7	Herring Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMC
Jan 9	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	DAM
Jan 9	Homeville, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BEC, GEC
Jan 12	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	DGA
Jan 12	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	1	RBS, RIW
Jan 12	Canso	5	JOK
Jan 13	E. Passage area, <i>HRM</i>	26	DMC, JAH et al.
Jan 13	Half I. Pt., <i>HRM</i>	6	PHE
Jan 13	Shore Rd., Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	5	DMC
Jan 13	W. Pubnico, <i>Yar</i>	1	RDE
Jan 14	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	2	DOU
Jan 16	Sambro Head, <i>HRM</i>	12	HAT
Jan 17	Lockeport	1	DJC
Jan 19	Second Pen., <i>Lun</i>	1	KEL
Jan 20	Middle W. Pubnico, <i>Yar</i>	2	AAD
Jan 20	Prospect High Head., <i>HRM</i>	5	Paul Mateuchy
Jan 20	Porters L., <i>HRM</i>	3+	PHE et al.
Jan 20	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM
Jan 20	Lunenburg-Maders Cove, <i>Lun</i>	15	JAH, DPO
Jan 20	Corkums I., <i>Lun</i>	2	KEL
Jan. 22	Dartmouth Cove	“several”	Don Forbes
Jan 11	Lunenburg	3	KEL
Jan 25	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	PMU
Jan 26-27	Dingle Pk., Halifax	2-4	TEB
Jan 29	Canso	3	JOK
Jan 30	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	4	BEC, GEC
Feb 1	W. Pennant, <i>HRM</i>	4	DAM
Feb 1	N.W. Arm, Halifax	3	DAM
Feb 1	Lunenburg	4	KEL
Feb 2-5	Lockeport	up to 5	DJC
Feb 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	9	KJM, CHK
Feb 13	Port Dufferin, <i>HRM</i>	12	KJM
Feb 13	Harrigan Cove, <i>HRM</i>	3	KJM
Feb 15	W. Jeddore, <i>HRM</i>	3	DMW, FLL
Feb 15	Brooklyn, <i>Queens</i>	2	Judy James
Feb 16	Lunenburg Hbr.	1	ELM, AHM
Feb 16	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun</i>	2	SJF
Feb 16	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	4	FLL
Feb 16	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Feb 17	N.W. Arm, Halifax	2	DMC
Feb 19	Lunenburg	2	KEL
Feb 23	Lunenburg	1	JAH

Plus several similar reports on eBird mainly from *HRM* in February.

Common Murre

CBC total (Brier I. 40)	44		
Jan 14	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Feb 16	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	2	FLL

Thick-billed Murre

CBC total	7		
Dec 26	W. Apple River, <i>Cumb</i>	1	KFS
Jan 14	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Jan 17	N.W. Arm, Halifax	2	DMC
Jan 27	Dingle Pk., Halifax	1	TEB
Feb 1	N.W. Arm, Halifax	1	DOU
Feb 1	PPP, Halifax	1	Paul Mateuchy
Feb 15	Daniels Hd., CSI	1, ph	AAD
Feb 15	Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW, FLL
Feb 16	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	2	FLL
Feb 17-23	N.W. Arm, Halifax	2+	DMC, Paul Mateuchy, TEB
Feb 26	Canso	1	JOK

Murre sp.

Dec 1	w. of Seal I.	40	RDE
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Razorbill

CBC total (Brier I. 936)	963		
Dec 2	W. Head, <i>Queens</i>	Groups, 30-60+	DPO
Dec 15	Kingsburg, <i>Lun</i>	12	KEL
Jan 6	Off W. Head, <i>Queens</i>	50	ELM
Jan 7	Herring Cove, <i>HRM</i>	3	DMC
Jan 8	W. Dover, <i>HRM</i>	2	DAM
Jan 12	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	NSBS
Jan 28	Bedford Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Jan 29	Brier I.	5	RIW, BLF
Feb 3	Lockeport, <i>Shel</i>	1 dead	DJC
Feb 13	Halifax hbr.	1	RIB
Feb 15	w. side St Margarets Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	Paul Mateuchy
Feb 16	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	5	FLL
Feb 22	n. end Bedford Basin, <i>HRM</i>	2	TEB
Feb 23	w. side Bedford Basin, <i>HRM</i>	1	Paul Mateuchy
End Feb	Rockland, <i>Shel</i>	1	<i>fide</i> DJC

Black Guillemot

CBC total	381		
Dec-Feb	18 locations, <i>Guys</i> to <i>Yar</i>	311 indivs.	(highlights below)
Dec 30	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	37	FLL

Plus about 50 reports on eBird from *HRM* of 1-7 individuals.

Atlantic Puffin

Dec 13	Off W. Light, Brier I.	1	ELM
Dec 16	Halifax-Dartmouth CBC	1	

Alcid sp.

Dec 14	Brier I. CBC	20,000	
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Pigeons through Woodpeckers

By Chris Field

The Christmas Bird Counts provide us with a rough idea of whether numbers for a species are stable, decreasing or increasing. In this group, the majority of species reported had totals that were close to their 10 year means. The GREAT-HORNED OWL (6 compared to mean of 11.6) and short-eared owls (0 compared to 2.4) showed the largest declines while the PILEATED WOODPECKER was down slightly (56 as compared to mean of 70.5). On the positive side, the number (6) of YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER was an all-time high with four reported from the Shubenacadie count and two from the Halifax count. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER numbers remained high with 21 reported with all but one in counts from Halifax/Truro south and west, with a single report from Sydney. The number of NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS (14) was high compared to the mean of 7.5, with 10 reported from the Halifax/Dartmouth and four from the Lunenburg count.

It is always difficult to assess eBird data, as the number of regular contributors is increasing, so any changes may just be due to increased reporting. The approximate number of each species reported on eBird is given in the table below. There were only three individual reports of SNOWY OWL this winter, two on CSI, one on Devil's I, *HRM*, and another in Jimtown, *Ant*;

the last was reported by Randy Lauff who said it was the first he'd ever discovered on his own, which is quite remarkable for someone who does so much work with owls. There was one report of a **BOREAL OWL** along the Salt Marsh Tr., *HRM*, near Bissett Rd., which I quote: "Heard repeated 'tieu' in response to Fulton's mimicking of the call note. Also heard 'chirp' calls and elongated version of 'tieu' " (DMW). In early December, one **LONG-EARED OWL** was chased by crows , producing an instructive photo (see below). Another was found injured on Cape Sable and unfortunately died shortly afterwards. **SHORT-EARED OWLS** were more commo, with reports of three at Grand Pré, *Kings*, two in Lawrencetown, and one in Seaforth, the latter both in *HRM*. **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS** continued to be well reported from feeders with the expectation that we will have more instances of breeding this year. There was only one report of a **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER** this season, but's never sure whether this means it is becoming very scarce or that observers are just not getting into their deep-woods territory.

Rock Pigeon			
CBC total		7378	
Dec-Feb	province-wide	1470	eBird
Mourning Dove			
CBC total		6739	
Dec-Feb	province-wide	1270	eBird
Great Horned Owl			
CBC total		6	
Dec-Jan	<i>HRM, Inv, Pict</i>	10	eBird
Snowy Owl			
Dec	<i>HRM, Shel</i>	2	
Dec 5	Jimtown, <i>Ant</i>	1	RFL
Dec 16	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMC
Dec 1&20, Jan5	CSI	up to 2	ALD, JON, SAN
Dec23	Pubnico, <i>Yar</i>	1	RSD
Barred Owl			
CBC total		22	
Dec-Feb	<i>Shel to CBRM,</i>	24	eBird
Long-eared Owl			
CBC total		2	
Dec 2	Lr. South R., <i>Ant</i>	1 (ph.)	Leslie Klapstein
Dec 3	CSI	1	MUN
Short-eared Owl			
Dec 22	Seaforth, <i>HRM</i>	1	PMC
Jan 1, 14, Feb 14	Horton Landing, <i>Kings</i>	up to 3	RIW
Jan 14, 15	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	up to 2	KST, P. Mateuchy
BPREAL OWL			
Feb 15	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW, FLL
Northern Saw-whet Owl			
CBC total		14	
Dec 19	Salt Marsh Tr., <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, GRW
Feb 24	Greenfield-Little L. area, <i>Kings</i>	1	RIW
Belted Kingfisher			
Dec-Jan	CBC total	29	
Dec-Feb	<i>Guys, HRM, Kings, Lun, Pict, Queens</i>	23	eBird
Red-bellied Woodpecker			
CBC total		21	
Dec-Feb	<i>Pict, Col, Cumb, HRM, Kings, Lun</i>	15	eBird
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
CBC total		6	
Jan 3	Tusket, <i>Yar</i>	1	AAD



Most **YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS** that have wintered here have been immature, so this apparent ad. female, Jan 3 at Tusket, *Yar*, was unusual. [Photo Alix D'Entremont]

Downy Woodpecker			
CBC total		529	
Dec-Feb	province-wide	139	eBird
Hairy Woodpecker			
CBC total		409	
Dec-Feb	province-wide	111	eBird
Black-backed Woodpecker			
CBC total		6	CBC
Feb 26	Greenfield, <i>Kings</i>	1	RIW
Northern Flicker			
CBC total		156	
Dec-Feb	province-wide	50	eBird
Pileated Woodpecker			
CBC total		56	
Dec-Feb	province-wide	32	eBird



LONG-EARED OWL (left, Dec 2 at Lr. South R., *Ant*) sometimes flies across open areas by day (this one flushed by crows), and the dark crescents at the base of the outer primaries can lead to its misidentification as Short-eared Owl. NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL (right: Feb 26 between Argyle & Quinnan, *Yar*) is generally loathe to flush, and prefers to pretend it is part of the tree. [Photos: left, Leslie Klapstein; right, Wilson D'Entremont]

Flycatchers through Thrushes

By Nic Fieldsend

A lone EASTERN PHOEBE photographed Dec 15 during the Wolfville CBC was the sole representative of the flycatchers during a typically quiet season for this group. Likewise a single BLUE-HEADED VIREO reported by CST at N.E, Harbour, CSI, *Shel* on Dec 25 was the only of the Vireonidae to be noted. This is not an unprecedented date for this species, but certainly made a welcome extra gift on Christmas Day.

An EASTERN PHOEBE was an excellent find, Dec 15 on the Wolfville CBC. [Photo Barry Sabean]



NORTHERN SHRIKE sightings continued to register low winter numbers across the province. Only 11 were seen during the combined CBCs, extending the trend of below average reports during recent years and well below the record high of 109 in 1995. A maximum of four was on the Amherst count, and there was long stayer in E. Apple River, *Cumb*, from Dec 19 to Jan 22 (KFS). Other singles were Jan 7 at Waughs River, *Col* (JOK), Dec 24 at Greenfield Little L. area trails, *Kings* (RIW), and Feb 23 at Three Brooks, *Pict* (KJM). One intriguing report of a "shrike sp" at E. Dalhousie, *Lun*, was thought by an "experienced observer" (*fide* JAH) to be a Loggerhead, but as no diagnostic details were provided, it was just another tantalizing 'one that got away'.



One of the few NORTHERN SHRIKES found on this season's CBC was this nice adult, Dec 14 on Brier I. Its odd moustachial mark does not appear on close inspection to be from displaced feathers or a stain. [Photo Richard Stern]

Another species conspicuous in its scarcity was the GRAY JAY, with only a handful of multiple sightings. Three were seen Feb 16 in Higginsville, *HRM* (CHP), with two found Jan 27 in Berwick, *Kings* (Lorne Tannas). Pairs were also found by RIW Feb 6 at Sheffield Lake, *Kings*, and Feb 13 at Black R., *Kings*. BLUE JAYS were trending in line with the 15-year CBC average, with notable counts of 46 at Clifton, *Col*, Dec 29 (ROH), 45 at Oak/Woodman in Wolfville, *Kings*, Dec 15 (Catherine Craig & Danielle Fife), and 35 on Main Street in Kentville, Feb 15 (Jay McConnell).

There was a notable influx of HORNED LARKS from early December to mid-January, with concentrations along the South Shore and in the Annapolis Valley. There were 250 in the area around Bent Farm, north of Middleton on Jan 8 (WPN) after a snowstorm, and other significant counts included 50 between Horton Landing and E. Point, *Kings*, Dec 3 (RIW), 27 on CSI, *Shel*, Dec 15 (DMC), 90 on Truro CBC, *Col*, Dec 29 (KMK), and 30 from Eastern Passage to Hartlen Point, *HRM*, Jan 13 (JAH), demonstrating their widespread distribution.



Pale lemon throat and grayish-brown plumage characterize the HORNED LARK subspecies *praticola*, formerly a regular breeder in the province. This one, Jan 26 at Lr. W. Pubnico, *Yar*, was a little ahead of schedule for this late-winter migrant, and may have wintered in the area. [Photo Alix D'Entremont]

Reported BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE numbers appeared to show a healthy increase, with the CBC total well above average, ranking it as the third most numerous passerine recorded in the province, lagging only behind American Crow and European Starling. Concentrations were reported in many areas, but KJM certainly takes the medal for his dedication to the cause with counts of 130 during the Springville CBC, Dec 15, 126 around Lower South River – Pomquet (Antigonish CBC), Dec 16, and 110 on the Economy CBC, Dec 27, and 114 on the Pictou Harbour CBC, Jan 1. Despite their relative abundance during the winter months, they still present the odd curiosities. One white-headed individual in Shubie Park, *HRM* was frequently seen feeding from the hand, while on 31 Jan, JSI heard one singing in *Kings*. Another was spotted carrying “bugs” into a nest box at White Pt., *Queens* (MMI), but presumably just finding a warm spot for a light snack rather than getting a head start on the breeding season!

The BOREAL CHICKADEE was, as always, harder to come by, but counts of 13 at Sober I. and Passage Dec 14 during the Sheet Harbour CBC (KMK), and 10 at Duncan's Cove, Jan 3 (David Waterfield), doubtless provided enjoyable viewing.

BOREAL CHICKADEES, like this one Feb 6 near Cape George, *Rich*, sometimes seem to be animated balls of fluff, which is a good tactic for a truly boreal bird. [Photo Jeannie Shermerhorn]



For our more regular (often urban) woodland species, it was a good winter for WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, just shy of the highest ever number recorded during the CBCs (364 vs 381 in 2010). Most reports registered individuals or small groups although MZE had a count of seven in Dartmouth, *HRM*, Dec 16 and two over-wintered at TOK's feeders in Canso. High counts of RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH included 10 seen by Debra Murray on Caribou Marsh Road, *CBRM*, Feb 17, and also at the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, *Queens*, Feb 25 (DOC). A gray-breasted (melanistic) individual frequented Eleanor Lindsey's feeder at the Head of St. Margaret's Bay, *HRM* (photo below).



The dark gray lower breast of this RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH at a feeder at the Head of St. Margarets Bay, *HRM*, was an oddity. And, no, the image is not upside down. [Photo Eleanor Lindsey]

It was a bumper year for the increasingly hardy RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS with a total of 21 representing a provincial record for the combined CBCs. The 10 seen on the Yarmouth count alone on Dec 16 was more than the total number recorded throughout the province in nine years of the preceding decade. One reported from early January on Jubilee Road in Halifax, *HRM*, by Sue Mathers was last seen Feb 10, but likely survived beyond.

Wrens are not regularly associated with the winter months, but this year a full set, including one rare and two occasional species, was discovered. A **CAROLINA WREN** that took up residence at Kissing Bridge Rd., Lunenburg, was first spotted Jan 2 during the Lunenburg CBC (CHP, KST, ph. below), and was still there, and later singing, until at least Feb 6 (*fide* KEL). Although very vocal, it was habitually skulky and required patience observation to be observed. A HOUSE WREN made a timely appearance Dec 15 for the Cape Sable I. CBC (CST et al., ph. below), and MZE found a WINTER WREN Dec 23 in Shubie Park, *HRM*. A brace of MARSH WRENS completed the list, the first of which was present since fall at Miners Marsh in Kentville and last reported 20 Dec. (CLS *fide* JWW). The second was successfully 'pished' out Jan 4 at the seaward end of Porters L, *HRM*, by FLL and CHP, and judging by distant photographs (by CHP), it was likely the regional subspecies *dissaeptus*.

A bright male EASTERN BLUEBIRD became a regular Jan 15-19 at Voglers Cove, *Lun* (SLF *et al.*), while the one seen on Wyman Rd., Yarmouth in late January (JOS) had increased to five by early February (MUN), suggesting they had overwintered, although the weather during the preceding period was harsh.

A thrush sp. – probably Swainson's as suggested by its uniform colour – was spotted on Dec 8 by JCZ near Port Greville, *Cumb*, and the only post-CBC HERMIT THRUSH made an appearance on Jan 4 in the yard of CHP's parents at Jeddore Oyster Pond, *HRM*. It reportedly appeared very cold, but in better spirits the following day after a good feed on holly and cotoneaster berries.



Two unusual wrens added lustre to their respective CBCs. At left, is the long-staying **CAROLINA WREN** photographed Jan 2 on the Lunenburg count, and at right a **HOUSE WREN**, Dec 15 at Centreville, CSI, on the Cape Sable count. The latter appears to match the grayer, subspecies *parkmanii*, which breeds east to central Ontario, rather than the more rufous eastern subspecies *aedon*. (n. to s. NB). [Photos: left, Chris Pepper; right, Jim Edsall]

AMERICAN ROBIN numbers were substantially down compared with last year's CBC totals (832 vs 3323) but continued to make their presence felt with notable counts of 34 in Habitant, *Kings*, on Dec 2 (Tim & Anne Hall) and 40 between Thomas Raddall PP, Sand Bay, and E. Port l'Hebert on Dec 23 (JAH). They were regularly encountered scrounging any available nutrition from the remaining fruit in later winter. James Churchill reported a large flock in excess of 150 on apples at the Kentville Research Station on Jan 10, while in Wolfville even the appeal of barberry proved too great, with JWW noting 22 feasting Jan 28, a group that appeared to stay in the vicinity until at least Feb 11.

A **VARIED THRUSH** first appeared Jan 7 in DOC's yard in Woods Harbour, *Shel*, and continued to arrive at daylight and make regular visits through to at least Feb 23.



A thing of beauty, and beautifully photographed, was this male **VARIED THRUSH** frequenting Woods Hbr, *Shel*, through late winter (here Jan 8). [Photo Ronnie D'Entremont]

Mimic-thrushes through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

All three regular mimic-thrushes were noted this winter. The three GRAY CATBIRDS on the CBCs were in *HRM* and singles were noted into January at Portuguese Cove, *HRM* (HAT), Port Maitland, *Yar* (Bill Curry), Bayport, *Lun* (*fide* JAH), and White Pt., *Queens* (MMI). As in last winter, NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD appears to be stabilizing at a higher overwintering number than those in the last decade. The 17 on nine CBCs this winter were about average, with seven of those on the Halifax-Dartmouth count. Unlike this winter's half dozen catbirds, the two dozen mockingbirds were more widespread through the province, with reports from north to Sydney Mines, Canso and Antigonish, and south to Woods Harbour, CSI, and Brier I. Larger numbers were in *Kings*, *HRM* and *Lunenburg*. David Johnston noted that his yard mocker in Port Hawkesbury did not readily accept blueberries at first but as the winter went on, it ate blueberries as well as its favoured grape jelly. Often mockingbirds will defend winter territories and, on New Year's Day, SJF observed her Broad Cove, *Lun*, bird taking on two Blue Jays. Although no BROWN THRASHERS were noted in winter 2011-12, there were two reports this winter of two birds with a taste for suet: one Dec 14 at Paradise, *Anna* (AAM), and the other Dec 29 at Hunts Pt., *Queens*, by Wim Noback – his first ever in 30 years at this location.



One of two NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS wintering in E. Passage, *HRM*, was this one photographed during the NSBS "Sewer Stroll" field-trip, Jan 12 [Photo David Currie]

As usual, the most numerous species of this section is the EUROPEAN STARLING. It was noted on all CBCs and there were over 700 e-bird submissions. The ca. 59,000 total on the CBCs this year is similar to last year's and almost exactly the 15-year average, with the Shubenacadie count having the highest total of 7600. Jim Wolford felt 1000+ was an impressive aggregation Dec 4 at Jawbone Corner, *Kings*. AMERICAN PIPITS were noted throughout the report period, but not from Cape Breton except for two on the Louisbourg CBC. The CBC total of 80 was 30% higher than average, the Port L'Hebert count the highest, with 30. High winter counts from the 18 other reports were 50 at Cape Sable (AAD, RDE) Dec 29 and 50 on at E. Passage, *HRM* Jan 13 (JAH). The latest report was of five at Martinique Bch., *HRM*, Feb 17 (DMW, FLL).



Two open-country birds among the largely tree-perching birds in this section, included an itchy AMERICAN PIPIT on CSI in January, and a very tame first-fall LAPLAND LONGSPUR Dec 1 at Canso, and [Photos: left, Ronnie D'Entremont; right, Alan Covert;]

In general, BOHEMIAN WAXWING followed a pattern similar to last year's with more observations from Cape Breton in December and sightings further south as winter progressed. A total of 3763 was noted on the CBCs, above the 15-yr. average of 3000, with Glace Bay having the largest count at 1468. It appears the pattern of alternating high followed by a low year is returning. There have been only a couple of exceptions to this over the last 25 years of CBCs. A handful of reports of flocks

of 100+ continued into February, mostly from *HRM* and *Kings*, with the largest count of 250 in Halifax, Feb 13 (Kathlyne Smith). In late February, Bohemian Waxwings were noted finishing off rose hips, viburnum, barberry and multiflora rose. The latest report was of 90 at New Minas, *Kings*, Feb 28 (Lyndon Jensen). CEDAR WAXWINGS were less encountered this winter, with a total of 75 on five CBCs, well below the 15-year average of 510. Jim Edsell reported a somewhat unusual association of a single Cedar Waxwing with a flock of redpolls, Feb 3 in Dartmouth. Jim Wolford reported a flock of 30-35 in high-bush cranberry, Feb 6 in Wolfville.

A group of birders exploring the Canso waterfront Dec 1 got great close-up photos of a single LAPLAND LONGSPUR as it ducked in and out of docks that had been pulled ashore. A total of 35 was noted from three CBCs, with the highest number of 28 on the Port L'Hebert count. None were reported in January, but there were three February reports: several Feb 3 in Truro and nearby Masstown (JBO), one Feb 8 at Falmouth, *Hants* (Ryan Harvey), and seven Feb 24 at Big I., *Pict* (CHK, KJM). Numbers of SNOW BUNTINGS on CBC's (1411) were 15% above the 15-year average, and seen on 18 counts. No exceptional numbers were reported outside the CBC season, with 11 reports totaling 131 birds in February, among them the largest total of 50 at Melmerby Bch PP, Feb 24 (CHK, KJM).

Eleven warbler species were noted over the season, including nine species totaling 317 individuals on the CBCs and, as I note below, one species that set a record CBC number. The winter's only OVENBIRD was seen Dec 4 at the foot of Coburg Rd. in Halifax (GDE). I received three reports of BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER between Dec 4 and Dec 11 in s.-end Halifax (DMC, ACO, GDE, ABM). All the sighting locations are close to one another, so there was likely only one bird.

The ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER appears to be a bird of early winter, when there were quite a few observations. As in last year, the CBC total of 14 was above the 15-yr. average of nine. They were on seven counts, including five on the CSI count. Elizabeth Doull studied a photo of one taken by PMC Dec 4 in Dartmouth and noted it was missing a tail feather. Dominic Cormier took detailed notes of one in Dartmouth the same day. His description follows: “. . . saw it well for 10 min. as it searched for food . . . The throat, breast and head were yellow with wings and tail being slightly duller yellow in colour; distinct, but faint streaking on breast and bright yellow on the undertail coverts . . . yellowish broken eye-ring, no wing bars or white edges to the tail. The bird was solid yellow without any grey around head or nape”. He felt it was an adult male of one of the Pacific subspecies, which he has seen in the west on many occasions. A very bright bird seen Dec 16 by RBS in Greenwich, *Kings*, was also felt to be of western origin. Most of the approximately 20-24 birds noted were in December with only four reports into the first week of January: at Long Bch., *CBRM* (CAM, ALM), CSI (RDE, SMA), Lr. W. Pubnico, *Yar* (AAD), and First Peninsula, *Lun* (DAC, KST, CHP). Only two COMMON YELLOWTHROATS were noted: On Dec 20, one was observed on the Amherst CBC, and RDE and SMA started their year list Jan 1 with one on CSI.

While searching through a flock of kinglets and creepers Dec 26 on the Broad Cove CBC, ELM and AHM discovered an imm. m. CAPE MAY WARBLER in spruces at the end of First Point, *Lun*, only the fourth CBC observation of this species. The Murrants had a late MAGNOLIA WARBLER Dec 29 at Long Beach, *CBRM*, during the Glace Bay CBC. They were able to obtain its photo Dec 31, and noted it into the first week of January. This extends the latest winter record of Dec 21 in “All the Birds of Nova Scotia” (McLaren 2012). A BLACKPOLL WARBLER was studied on Dec 15 at distances down to 2 m by JAH at Barrington on the Cape Sable CBC. It was described as a fall-plumage bird with striping and olive green back. This was the third CBC record. Fewer than a dozen PALM WARBLERS were seen in the report period, with seven found on four CBCs, three of them on the CSI count. At least five of the Palm Warblers were described as “Western” and one as “Eastern”. Other reports did not distinguish the subspecies involved. Two Palm Warblers survived into January: a “western” at Long Beach, *CBRM* (CAM, ALM) was photographed Dec 31, but survived into the first week of January, and another Jan 5 at White Point, *Queens* (DHU, JHU). PINE WARBLER numbers were up over last winter with a total of 24 on 13 of the 31 CBCs, above the 15-year average of 17, and with eight on the Halifax-Dartmouth count. Three other counts had count-week records. Some Pine Warblers were “pampered” at feeders, with the Codlings of Lr. Sackville providing two small feeding cages with a nice assortment of goodies, including meal worms, peanut butter, suet, grape jelly and hulled sunflower seed. There were at least seven records into February and at least three birds to the end of the report period – one at Mahone Bay, *Lun* (JOA), and two at Middle Musquodoboit, *HRM* (Lyle Bates *fide* VJH). Although, YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER was the most common wintering warbler by a factor of 10, with 237 on CBCs, it was found on three fewer counts than Pine Warbler. The CBC total was the highest in six years and almost equal to the 15-yr. average; observers on the CSI count produced half that total. A few were noted into February – two Feb. 6 in Lunenburg (JAH), two Feb 15 at Martinique Bch. PP (DMW, FLL), and one Feb. 23 at Battery Pt., *Lun* (ELM). With last fall's reports of three “AUDUBON'S” YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, it is not surprising that one was found this winter, Jan 5 at Rainbow Haven PP (DGA). He spotted it in a group of 20 “Myrtles” in spruces by the changing house, and thought it “stunning”. It was rediscovered next day (DMC, JVA) and last seen Jan 12 with its group of 30 “Myrtles” (DGA).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT was seen in record CBC numbers. It was also the most commonly reported warbler this winter and second only to Yellow-rumped Warbler in numbers observed. The 27 through the CBC season produced a new record, with 18 on the Halifax-Dartmouth count alone. Many of the approximately 35 chats otherwise reported over the winter were from traditional locations in the capital area and south, but there were also reports Dec 1 at Port Caledonia, *CBRM* (J &D Smith); Dec 11 at Abercrombie, *Pict* (Judy Whitman); Dec 28 in Sampsonville, *Rich* (*vide* JSH); Jan 1 in Pictou (STV, Amber Vines); and Jan 5 in Sydney (Margaret Fraser). The Pictou sighting made the latest record known for the county. Unlike last year, the cold snap in January led to only one report into February. Some were weakened and taken by predators, such as a Dartmouth chat found Jan 22 killed by a cat (Don Forbes). The Codlings' Lr. Sackville chat that disappeared Feb 8 after a storm (LOC) was the latest reported.



Among the “routine” winter warblers were, above left an ORANGE-CROWNED Dec 26 on the Bedford-Sackville CBC, and above right a “Western” PALM Dec. 15 on the Cape Sable CBC. [Photos: left, Bob McDonald; right, Ronnie D’Entremont]

Also regular, this one in particularly obscure first-fall plumage, was the PINE WARBLER at right, Jan 12 in Brookfield, *Col.* [Photo, Susan Stevenson]



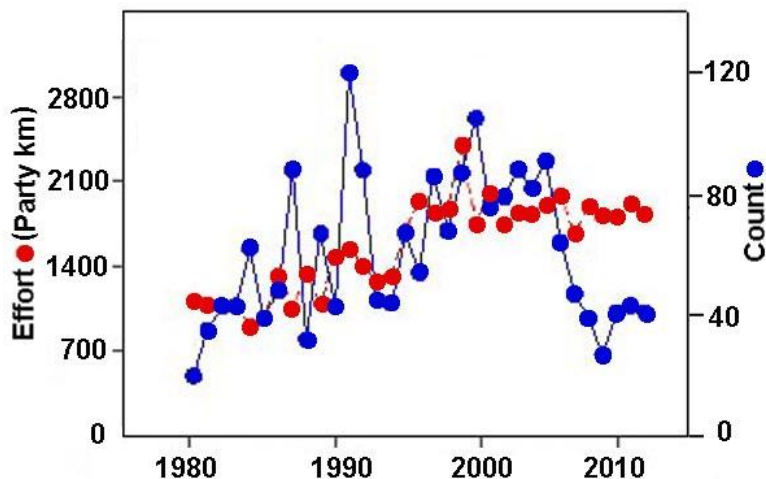
Much less routine was this MAGNOLIA WARBLER found Dec 29 at Long Bch., *CBRM*, during the Glace Bay CBC. [Photo, Allan Murrant]

Sparrows to House Sparrow

By Ian McLaren

It was a bountiful winter for sparrows, with much open terrain for foraging. In summing monthly or seasonal numbers of some common species in this section, *I have included the only highest seasonal or monthly totals at repeatedly surveyed locations [often feeders] from eBird) as better indications of what might have been present in that locality.* This enables comparisons with last winter’s similarly summarized records (in *NS Birds*, vol. 54, issue 2).

Four **EASTERN TOWHEES** on CBCs were exceeded by only two previous counts of six. One of these lingered in Lr. Sackville, *HRM*, until at least mid-February (PEL), and another was first reported early January in Jollimore, *HRM*, but had probably been at feeders earlier (*fide* PLC). The CBC total of **AMERICAN TREE SPARROW** was not far below long-term average, although almost three times higher than last year’s. There was little change in reported numbers through winter, but more individuals were reported overall (276+ vs. 115+ last winter) at more locations (79 vs. 46 last winter). Even if we attribute the increased number of localities surveyed to increased effort, including more observers, this amounts to almost 40% more wintering Tree Sparrows per surveyed location. The CBC total of 22 **CHIPPING SPARROWS** was much higher than last year’s, but also close to long-term average. About 10 were reported through winter, but eBird reports were not supported by details, and other *Spizella* should be kept in mind. The single CBC **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** at Woods Hbr., *Shel.* (Cape Sable CBC; JAH) was a nice find, but was trumped by TOK at Canso, who nurtured three through winter. An unusual wintering **LARK SPARROW** was found Feb 10 at Cape Negro, *Shel* (MUN). The CBC of 41 **SAVANNAH SPARROWS** was about average for recent years, and only a paltry 33 in 15 localities were reported otherwise (eBird + 3 other obs.). One attended a feeder in early January at Fall R. (David Waterfield, see photo below). Like other grassland birds, especially in the East, the Savannah is in serious decline, and this is very evident in our CBCs (see graph below). Two or three **IPSWICH SPARROWS** were still present Dec. 1 at Conrad Bch., *HRM* (CHP, NSBS field trip), and three were noted on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC, but none was reported thereafter, although they were present on E. Shore beaches (*fide* CHP). Possibly some were not distinguished in eBird reports of Savannahs on other beaches.



The recent decline of the SAVANNAH SPARROW in the CBC totals since 1980-81 is evident at left. Note that in earlier decades the total counts rose in parallel with increased effort, but were more variable. Might that have been due to the more variable, and sometimes severe, Decembers then? From the mid-1990s, counts (and weather) became less variable, but more recently counts have again decreased sharply.

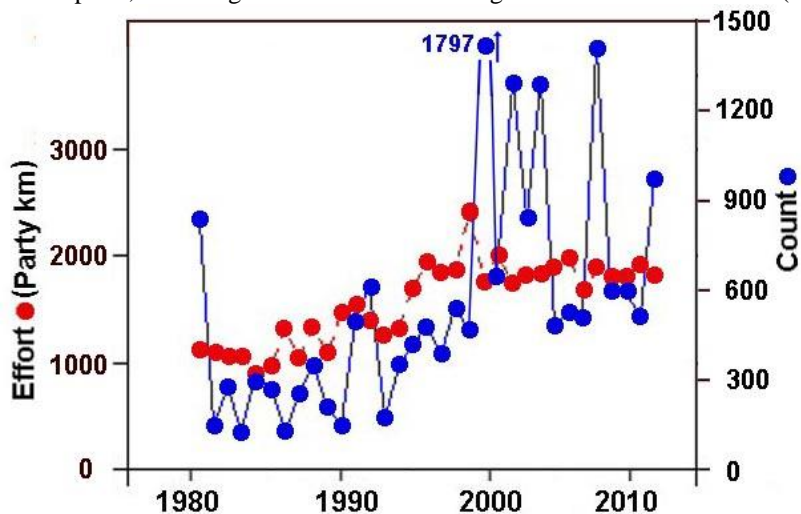
The combined CBC total of 13 **FOX SPARROWS** was close to long-term average, as were 11 singles (eBird + 3 obs.) through winter from CSI to *Richmond*, at least four at feeders, The CBC total of 1539 **SONG SPARROWS** was within recent limits, and they were well represented in winter from *Yarmouth* to *CBRM*, with perhaps a slight decrease per surveyed locality through the three months. (See table below; mostly from eBird plus a few other reports.) The first reported singing was around Feb 20 in Dartmouth (Chris Kennedy) and others were singing before month’s end.

SPECIES	DECEMBER	JANUARY.	FEBRUARY
Song Sparrow	320+ at 88 locs.	250+ at 92 locs.	300+ at 105 locs.
White-throated Sparrow	238 at 47 locs.	128 at 26 locs	122 at 42 locs.
Dark-eyed Junco	484 at 56 locs.	320 at 84 locs.	896 134 locs.



Neither SAVANNAH (left., Jan 11 at Fall R., *HRM*) nor FOX SPARROW (right, Feb 1 n. of Kentville) is usual at feeders in winter. [Photos: left, David Waterfield; right, Richard Stern]

A single LINCOLN'S SPARROW on the Dec 15 CSI CBC was the only one reported. SWAMP SPARROW was somewhat below long term average on the CBCs (21 vs about 30 average). The CBC total of 964 WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS was near the long-term average (see also graph below), but numbers per locality diminished through winter (see above table). Four CBC WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS were right on the long-term average, but there were only three later reports, including of three nurtured through winter at Canso feeders (TOK).



The long-term pattern of WHITE-THROATED SPARROW on CBCs differs substantially from that of Savannah Sparrow (above). The total counts up to the late 1990s seem to increase roughly paralleled the increase in effort, but became even more variable in recent years. Why? Perhaps, with winter warming this hardy species need not arrive sooner from more wintry places to the north and west.

DARK-EYED JUNCO, like the white-throat, varies greatly on CBCs from year to year, but this year's count was close to the long-term average. Of interest was the apparent February increase in numbers and locations where they were encountered (see above table). Does this suggest immigration from more wintry regions to the north and west? There was some "western flavour" among them (see photo below of a "brown" juncos; two others were photographed). One *bona fide* "OREGON JUNCO", 13 Dec-mid-Jan+, at a feeder on Rockingstone Rd., Spryfield, *HRM*, was apparently of the usual subspecies *montanus* (Martin Willison, see photo below).



At left is a first-winter bird (retaining pale-tipped juv. greater coverts), Jan 6 at Fall R., *HRM*. We don't usually see young as brown as this in earlier fall. Such juncos are generally taken as of the "SLATE-COLORED" subspecies group, but seem more common further west (as one can confirm by searching web photos), and may reflect spread of genes from the OREGON subspecies group. At right is an ad. male of that group, Jan. 13 in Spryfield, *HRM*, almost certainly assignable to the Rockies subspecies *montanus*, judging from its drab brown back. [Photos: left, David Waterfield;; right Martin Willison]

NORTHERN CARDINAL populations continued to increase, with the CBC total (247) about 27% more than the previous highest in the 2010-11. Over 215 were reported from 70+ localities (eBird + eight otherwise reported) through winter. This is many more than reported last winter, but only from the mainland, although they have now reached Cape Breton. One in Dartmouth was singing in mid-January (JED).

A male NORTHERN CARDINAL attending a feeder north of KENTVILLE, makes a striking image during a snowstorm [Photo Richard Stern]



Two imm. m. **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS** were prize finds on the Wolfville CBC. One managed to survive at feeders through winter (RBS, RIW *et al.*); see next spring-season issue. In past years we've had a few singles on CBCs, and four have remained through winter. [Note also the belated photo of a **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** below.] One immature male **INDIGO BUNTING** stayed in Lanark, *Ant*, into early December (Marilyn O'Brien). Another late-November arrival at the Mills' feeders at Lr. Rose Bay, *Lun*, reappeared from time to time through winter, especially during hard weather (ELM, AHM). A third appeared at a Halifax feeder Dec 13 and stayed through winter (SEM),

One of two **INDIGO BUNTINGS** attending feeders through winter (here Dec 22) was this young male in Halifax. The apparent lack of streaking on breast and flanks and grayish cast dorsally initially tempted speculations about young Lazuli Bunting, but the missing streaks reappeared when its plumage was less puffed-out, and the lack of peach-tones on breast also precluded that more exotic possibility. [Photo Pat McKay]



Sometimes images from previous seasons are worth printing for the record and future reference. This bird was foraging on a lawn Oct 8 at Hay Cove, *Rich*. Its general pattern and colours seem unmistakably those of a (probably first-fall male) **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK**, a rare vagrant here. [Photo Frances Oram]

There were single **DICKCISSELS** on the Sydneys and Lunenburg (ph., CHP) CBCs. Another was in Barrington late December to at least late January (Michael Drenth). But as, usual, TOK’s Canso feeders had more, with two reported in December, three or four in January until the cold snap, and at least one into February.

The **RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD** CBC total was low (22, 13 of them on the Shubenacadie CBC), as in the previous three winters. Individuals or small numbers totalling 26 birds at 12 localities (sometimes designated “female(s)” but probably mostly first-winter males) appeared irregularly throughout the mainland. More interesting were larger flocks that appeared from time to time (see table below: the single dates noted may not imply single-day transience).

Date	Locality	No.	Observer(s)
Late Dec.-mid Feb+	Nr. Falmouth, <i>Hants</i>	Up to 250	Ryan Harvey + var. obs.
Jan 8	Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	20	DGA
Feb 2	Yarmouth	40-50	JOS
Feb 15	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	25	VJH
Feb 26	Dartmouth	20	Andy Beaumont
Feb 28	Front Centre, <i>Lun</i>	15	KEL

These flocks, except for the one in farmlands near Falmouth, may have been wandering, perhaps widely. Is it also possible that those in February had come from farther south?

An EASTERN MEADOWLARK that arrived at Grand Desert, *HRM*, at the end of November survived through February with a bit of help from CHP and KST (photo below). Another meadowlark found Feb 2 at Chebogue Pt., *Yar*, was not specifically identified, but described as having a “pale, streaky back”(DOU), suggesting Western.



The EASTERN MEADOWLARK wintering at Grand Desert, *HRM*, is readily identified from these images. A strong indication is the brown and black-streaked back, not gray-toned and “frosty”. Close-up, subtle indicators are: the throat’s yellow not extending to the gape (right image); the longish black streaks on the strongly buff flanks (left image); the broad dark bars and dark central shaft on the middle tail feather; and extensive white on outer tail feathers (all 3 partly exposed on the right side on the left image). [Photo Chris Pepper]

A young male **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** found late December in Falmouth, *Hants* (Ryan Harvey), continued to attract searchers, and was last noted Feb. 8. One photographed Feb 17 in the “Valley” appeared to be a different bird, but information about it has been lost. [*It is also worth recording here that another of this rarity was found and photographed by Rita Viau Oct. 11, 2011, at Hartlen Pt., HRM, but was not mentioned in the Fall-season 2011 issue.*] The alarmingly decreasing RUSTY BLACKBIRD was not found on the CBC; it was also absent last year, but had occurred in all other CBCs back to 1988. Otherwise, the only report was of one in early December at Canso (TOK). After a slow start (four Dec 6 at Apple River, *Cumb* [KFS] and one Dec 8 in Halifax [DMC]), the COMMON GRACKLE produced an above-average CBC total of 236 (highest since 2007-08). They became scarcer thereafter, with only 12 reports of 34 as singles or in small groups (up to 5) from Brier I. to Oban, *Rich*. In addition, there were wandering (?) flocks of 12 on Dec 9 at Cape D’Or, *Cumb* (JCZ), 13 on Jan 14 at E. Passage, *HRM* (Bryan Bezanson), and eight Feb 7 at Head of St. Margarets Bay, *HRM* (ELI). Finally, might a flock of 25 on Feb. 23 at Chebogue, *Yar* (RAS) have been early spring arrivals? BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD was also well represented on the CBC, with an above-average 194 (highest since 2003-04), but seemed to thin out later. A flock of 16 was noted Dec 2 near Spa Springs, *Anna* (WPN) and, surprisingly, a (wandering?) flock of 4 in December at Lr. Sackville, *HRM*, became 17 on Jan 6, and 40 on Jan.8, almost all males plus three females (DGA). Otherwise, ca. 20 were recorded through winter at nine localities, mostly at feeders, from Yarmouth to *HRM*.

The six CBC BALTIMORE ORIOLES were greatly below average and the fewest since 2002-03. Not as many as usual were sustained at feeders. Of nine or ten reported from *Anna* to *Pict*, only two, one at Lr. Sackville (DOC, LOC) and a female at Head of St. Margarets Bay (ELI), *HRM*, was reported through late February (LOC). One interesting and puzzling oriole attended (surprisingly) a peanut feeder from mid-December to a least mid-January on Clearland Rd. in Mahone Bay. It was first reported as Bullock’s, then briefly as a (remotely) possible Hooded, and finally as a probable BALTIMORE X BULLOCK’S ORIOLE. The caption of the following image attempts a diagnosis.



This photograph of an oriole Dec 15 in the outskirts of Mahone Bay, was puzzled over when received. The gray back and yellowish underparts and face seemed to suggest Bullock's, as did a hint of black "teeth" marks on the white tips of the outer median coverts. However, the bird seemed too extensively yellow below and on the head, so that the yellow supercilium does not stand out from a darker crown and eye line as it would in a young female Bullock's in similar plumage. Later observations by ELM, IAM and JAH suggested it might be a hybrid with Baltimore. [Photo Lloyd Westhaver]

PINE GROSBEAK bounced back from the last three lower CBC totals, with 288 birds spread from Brier I. to the Sydneys. Otherwise, December produced only three larger counts of 36, 8 and 12 in three *Pictou* localities (KJM), plus five counts of 1 to 5 in seven localities in *Pictou*, *Guysborough* and *Richmond*. For a month thereafter there were only singles Jan 3 at Port Williams, *Kings* (GRW), Jan 22 at Grand Pré, *Kings* (RBS), and Feb 2 at E. Apple R., *Cumb* (KFS). Then there were counts in *Kings* of 10 on Feb 8 near Greenfield and 26 on Feb 24 near Mud L. (both RIW). Does this pattern suggest that the species largely abandoned our poor cone and berry crops in mid-winter, but began to trickle back or through in February? The CBC total of 98 PURPLE FINCH was only about one fifth of the long-term average, and other reports were paltry – about 60 birds at 18 locations from *Shelburne* to *CBRM*. The largest count among the latter was 15 in Kentville, Feb 17 (Susan Wehrell). The HOUSE FINCH CBC total of 70 was only three below the all-time record (in 2006-07), all on the Halifax-Dartmouth (21) and Yarmouth (49) counts. Yet there must have been severe under-reporting afterwards, with only a single report of one Feb 16 at a Jubilee Rd, Halifax, feeder (Su Mathers). It would be good to have more effort put into its ongoing status.

Only one RED CROSSBILL (Dec 3 in Truro; ROH) was reported prior to the CBCs, for which the total of 109 was the largest since 1999. Few lingered thereafter (table below, all but two reports from eBird). The scanty numbers might suggest that most arrived and left the cone-poor province in late December, and that some passed through in February. One male Jan 23 at Waughs River had thin, pale-white coverts bars (JOK), not unknown in this species, and apparently not indicating hybridization. Finally, a plea is in order for recording flight calls (with digital camera or otherwise) so that the "call-types" (subspecies, species?) of our Red Crossbills here can be sorted out. There have already been recent surprises (see next issue).

Date	Locality	No.	Observer(s)
Jan 12	Sampsonville, <i>Rich</i>	1 m., 1 f.	BID
Jan 14	Hublely, <i>HRM</i>	"A few"	SMB
Jan 22	Front Centre Rd., <i>Lun</i>	1	KEL
Jan 23	Waughs R., <i>Col</i>	3	JOK
Feb 4	Waughs R., <i>Col</i>	7	JOK
Feb 22	Great Village. <i>Col</i>	5	Rick Chisholm
Feb 23	Mersey-Tobeatic Res. Inst.	9	DMC
Feb 23	Sampsonville, <i>Rich</i>	2 arrived	BID

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were similarly spotty, perhaps due to the same cone shortage. Only one was reported prior to CBCs, for which the total (462) was below average, although above the previous three years, with few noted thereafter. Like Red Crossbill, there seemed to be renewed movement after mid-February (table below; some dates are for first arrival).

Date	Locality	No.	Observer(s)
Dec 1,2	<i>Guys</i> , 3 locs.	14, 6, 1	KJM
Dec 2, 3	<i>Kings</i> , 2 locs.	1, 5	RIW
Up to Dec 9	Sampsonville, <i>Rich</i>	up to 26	BID
Dec 22-Jan 1	<i>Cumb, HRM, Rich</i> , 6 locs,	1, 6, 4, 6, 6, 3	3 obs.
Jan 5	E. Chester, <i>Lun</i>	2	CJF
Jan 5	Kingston	2	PBG
Feb 17-23	<i>Kings</i> , 3 locs	singles	Pat Davis, RIW

COMMON REDPOLL put on a big show, with a CBC total of 4,358 that was only exceeded in 2007 and 1999. Unlike the boreal winter finches, it depends on neither conifers nor wild fruits, and clearly favours feeders, and was even more widespread and numerous after December (See following table from eBird plus a few independently reported records).

Month	Distribution	No. (nearest 10)
December	<i>Anna</i> to <i>Vic</i> , 52 locations	2210
January	<i>Shel</i> to <i>Vic</i> , 275 locations	4280
February	<i>Shel</i> to <i>CBRM</i> , 270 locs.	4280

HOARY REDPOLLS were assiduously sought and documented, but did not reach the numbers reported in winter 2007-08 (6 vs the record 14 on that CBC). Most tabulated below (excludes CBC birds) were either assumed to be or critically identified or photographed as the largely n.w. Canada subspecies *exilipes*. As expected, almost all were in ones or twos; a couple of reports of much larger numbers (without i.d. details) are not included. One identified (and well-described) as *hornemanni* (breeding in Greenland and n. Baffin I) was at feeders Feb 4 in Lr. Rose Bay, *HRM* (ELM).

Date	Locality	No.	Observer(s)
Dec 6	Tufts Cove, Dartmouth	1 ph.	KEL
Dec 24++	Cape George, <i>Rich</i>	8 (1 ph.)	JSH
January	<i>HRM, Kings, Lun, Pict</i> , 8 locs.	16	6 obs.
February	<i>Col, CBRM, HRM, Kings, Lun</i> , 10 locs.	15 (4 ph.)	9 obs.



The redpoll at left seems about the same size as the other, is short-bibbed, and lacks a brown wash on flanks and face, so is presumably a darkish COMMON REDPOLL of subspecies *flammaea*. The bird at right appears grayer and more pallid, but is heavily streaked on the flank, and seems to be a pink-flushed ad. m. *flammaea*. Photos of upper or under tail coverts are useful. [Photo Maxine Quinton, Feb 14 at Mahone Bay]

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This Hoary Redpoll shows that even first-winter birds (note brown wash on head and breast) are relatively unstreaked below and, most importantly, have unstreaked tail coverts. The face is not extremely “squashed in”, indicating that this one is the regular subspecies *exilipes*. [Photos Charlie Kendall]



The pink-washed redpoll at left (Feb 14 at Mahone Bay) has the frostiness and almost unstreaked underparts of a HOARY REDPOLL, and is presumably *exilipes*, as it lacks the even more “scrunched in” face of the larger *hornemanni*. The one at right (Feb 8 at Mahone Bay) seems overall frosty from below, but its markedly streaked flanks and undertail coverts belie it as a COMMON REDPOLL. [Photos Maxine Quinton]

There was a middling total, somewhat below long-term average, of 557 PINE SISKIN on CBCs, although it was the highest since 2008. They remained relatively uncommon through winter, and most flocks were at feeders. Might the spread from the central mainland in February, as suggested in the table below, reflect a developing shortage of wild food?

Month	Distribution	No. (nearest 10)
December	<i>COL, CUMB, HANTS, HRM, KINGS</i> , 11 locs.	80
January	<i>COL, HRM, KINGS, PICT</i> , 9 locs.	150
February	<i>YAR to VIC</i> , 13 locs.	110

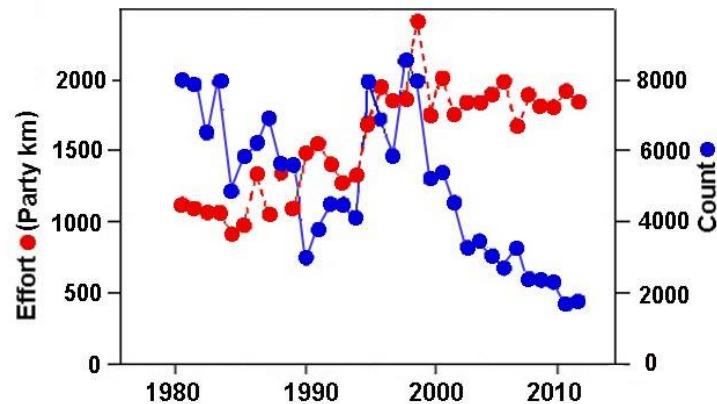
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH produced a CBC total of 7,873, not far below the 10-year average, and it remained common through winter. Because many on-line reports were vague about numbers of this routine species, the table below is based only on eBird, which may better reflect their seasonal pattern. What is the meaning of the clear February increase? Was it a return of earlier out-migrants or an in-migration of birds from less food-rich boreal regions (with fewer feeders)?

Month	Distribution (eBird only)	No. (nearest 10)
December	<i>SHEL</i> to <i>CBRM</i> , 77 locs.	710
January	<i>SHEL</i> to <i>PIC</i> , 56 locs.	590
February	<i>SHEL</i> to <i>CBRM</i> , 136 locs.	1830

The big winter-finch news was the return of EVENING GROSBEAK to its status in earlier decades, with a CBC total the highest since 1995-96, and it vied with goldfinch in numbers at feeders. One should keep in mind that the species was unknown here until the early 20th century, and was later encouraged eastward by 1970s-1990s outbreaks of Spruce Budworm as food for its young. That insect began to increase again in eastern Canada 7-8 years ago. So, enjoy the grosbeak's recovery, but think of what it might mean.

Month	Distribution	No. (nearest 10)
December	<i>KINGS</i> to <i>CBRM</i> , 15 locs.	180
January	<i>SHEL</i> TO <i>CBRM</i> , 25 locs.	410
February	<i>LUN</i> to <i>CBRM</i> , 40 locs.	890

Finally, the HOUSE SPARROW population continues to tumble, with several observers commenting on local declines. Again, this decline is manifest in the long-term CBC totals (graph below). Note that the population seemed to begin its decline in the 1980s, and the apparent recovery in the 1990s might have been a response to increased effort. With stabilization of effort since, the population has declined even more rapidly. Through the season individuals and groups up to 40, totalling 275, were reported in localities (almost all on e-Bird) from *Shelburne* to *CBRM*.



List of Contributors Represented by Initials.

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

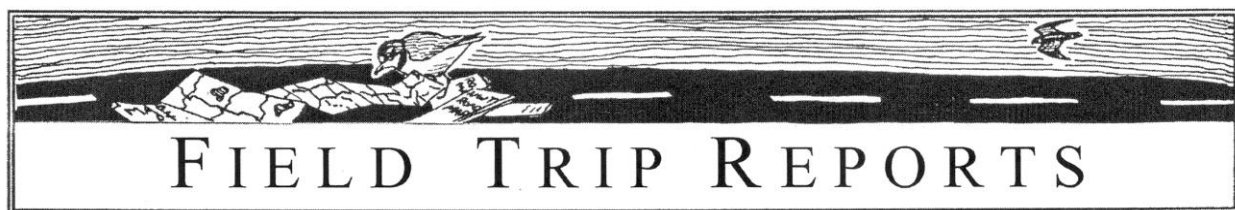
AAD	D'Entremont, Alix A.	BID	Digout, Billy	DAC	Currie, David
AAM	MacLean, Angus	BLF	Forsythe, Bernard	DAM	MacNeill, Don
ABM	Moores, Bernice	BLM	Maybank, Blake	DBM	McCorquodale, David
ACO	Covert, Alan	BUS	Bussey, Bill	DCO	Codling, Don
AGH	Horn, Andrew	CAM	Murrant, Cathy	DGA	Garratt, Dennis
AHM	Mills, Anne	CDA	Davis, Cheryl	DJC	Crosby, Donna J.
AHU	Hughes, Anne	CHK	Kendell, Charlie	DMC	Cormier, Dominic
ALM	Murrant, Allan	CIN	Newell, Cindy	DMW	Welch, Dottie M.K.
AND	Dean, Andy	CJF	Field, Chris J.	DOC	Cameron, Dorothy
AVM	Avery Nagy-MacArthur	CHP	Pepper, Chris	DOU	Doull, Elizabeth
BBU	Burke, Bernard	CSS	Stevens, Clarence, Sr.	DPO	Poole, Dorothy
BEC	Crowell, Beverly	CST	Stoddard, Clyde	eBird	eBird Online Checklist

EIL	Lindsay, Eleanor	JUO	O'Brien, Judy	RIB	Ballard, Rick
ELM	Mills, Eric L.	JWW	Wolford, Jim	RIV	Viau, Rita
FLL	Lavender, Fulton L.	KEL	Lantz, Kevin	RIW	Whitman, Rick
GAM	MacLean, Gayle	KFS	Spicer, Kathleen	ROH	Hall, Ross
GDE	D'Entremont, Giselle	KJM	McKenna, Ken J.	RSD	D'Entremont, Raymond
GEC	Crowell, George	KMA	Karen MacLeod	RSM	McDonald, Robert S.
GFO	Forsythe, George	KST	Steele, Kate	SAH	Hiltz, Sandy
GRW	Williams, Graham	LNE	Neily, Larry	SAN	Nickerson, Sandra
GMY	Myers, Gary	LOC	Codling, Lois	SEM	Myers, Susann
HAT	Toom, Hans	MIK	King, Michael	SJF	Fullerton, Sylvia
IAM	McLaren, Ian	MUN	Newell, Murray	SMA	Marler, Sharron
JAH	Hirtle, James	PBG	Giffin, Patrick, Barbara	SMB	Borkowski, Suzanne
JCZ	Czapalay, Joan	PEL	Peter Leblanc	STV	Vines, Steve
JED	Edsall, Jim	PHE	Paul Evans	TEB	Boswell, Terry
JOA	Allen, Joyce	PLC	Chalmers, Patricia L.	TEC	Crowell, Terry
JOK	Kearney, John	PMC	McKay, Pat	TOK	Kavanagh, Tom
JOL	Loch, John	PMU	Murray, Paul	VIR	Redden, Virginia
JON	Nickerson, John	RAS	Smith, Rachel	VJH	Higgins, Verna
JOS	Sollows, John	RBS	Stern, Richard	WPN	Neily, Wayne
JOS	Sollows, John	RDE	D'Entremont, Ron		
JQA	Alexander, Jane	RFL	Lauff, Randy F.		

Corrections, Autumn Season, Vol. 55, Issue 1

Page 8. The photo of the Cackling Goose was taken by Robert Lange, not Ken McKenna.

Page 10. The Aug 9 record of a LITTLE BLUE HERON by Rick Whitman was actually of a CATTLE EGRET.



Only some of the regular field trips sponsored by the Society are documented, although the bird sightings are incorporated in seasonal reports. (To include all would fill an issue!). The first report really belongs in the Fall-Season issue, but gives a glimpse of our Society's important series of introductory field trips.

Beginner Birder's Field Trip, Cranberry Lake, Dartmouth, November 24, 2012

By Chris Pepper and Kate Steele

Despite the forecast calling for showers, seven people showed up for our Beginner Birder's field trip to Cranberry Lake. The rain was quite heavy before we started, but bad weather held off for most of the walk. Eighteen species were observed (see list below) with the most unexpected species being a single AMERICAN COOT feeding in the lake AND seen at close range.

AMERICAN WIGEON, AMERICAN BLACK DUCK, MALLARD, AMERICAN COOT, RING-BILLED GULL, HERRING GULL, ROCK PIGEON, HAIRY WOODPECKER (heard), BLUE JAY, AMERICAN CROW, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET, AMERICAN ROBIN, EUROPEAN STARLING, SOME SPARROW, WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, DARK-EYED JUNCO (heard), and AMERICAN GOLDFINCH.

Annual Dartmouth-Halifax Sewer Stroll, January 12, 2013

By Suzanne Borkowski

Approximately 30 people gathered at McCormack's Beach for the NSBS's annual Sewer Stroll, with more people joining us as the morning progressed. Some were from the Halifax Field Naturalists, some from the Bird Society and a fair number had just heard about it, mainly from Dave Currie's postings on Facebook, and decided to come along! The weather was great - a mix of sun and cloud with very little wind and temperatures ranging from -6 to +4.

We did a quick scan of the beach and saw the usual gulls, a BLACK SCOTER, a COMMON MURRE, some RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS, and a few AMERICAN BLACK DUCKS and MALLARDS. Things got exciting when we reached Hartlen Point. Everyone had great looks at the **ROSS'S GOOSE** and the accompanying SNOW GEESE. On the water we added DOVKIE, BLACK GUILLEMOT, COMMON GOLDENEYE, COMMON EIDER and ICELAND GULL. While we were watching we heard and saw a flock of HORNED LARKS land on the beach in front of us; and over Devils Island we scoped a NORTHERN HARRIER and a ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK. A couple of people noted two BALD EAGLES flying overhead. A NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD at McCormack's Lane was shown to us by Dave Currie, and a RAZORBILL was added a little further along the coast.

In the cove across from Tim Hortons (Main Road in Eastern Passage) Clarence Stevens Jr. found a **TUFTED DUCK** mixed in with a group of GREATER and LESSER SCAUP. With a bit of work, most of us managed to pick it out. It kept hiding among the Scaup, but its bad hairdo gave it away.

At Sullivans Pond we added GADWALL, EURASIAN WIGEON, and NORTHERN PINTAIL. We tried to pick out the MEW GULL but just couldn't pick it out! Where was Bernard Burke when we needed him? On Silvers Road, just down from Sullivan's Pond we saw the BALTIMORE ORIOLE at Judy O'Brien's feeder. We also saw PINE SISKINS and PURPLE FINCH in that area.

In the afternoon we visited Tufts Cove, a feeder near Albro Lake Road, Lois Codling's feeder in Lower Sackville, and a couple of spots along the Bedford waterfront. These stops gave us another Oriole, a YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, COMMON REDPOLLS with one HOARY, some BUFFLEHEAD, GLAUCOUS GULLS and five BAROW'S GOLDENEYE. We ended the day with 64 species.

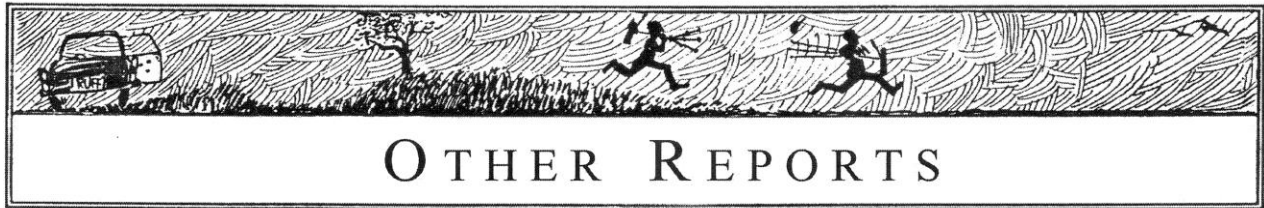
Glace Bay to Homeville. CBRM, Field Trip, February 16, 2013

By David McCorquodale

It was a beautiful day for the Society's Cape Breton outing with Bev and George Crowell. We started at the sewage outlet at Fisherman's Park, then inspected the Glace Bay Harbour, Renwick Brook, Port Morien Harbour and then Homeville. The focus was on waterfowl and gulls. A secondary focus was a good amount of visiting and catching up with friends. All are welcome to join us on the next outing.

Gulls in order of abundance were: ICELAND, HERRING, GREAT BLACK-BACKED, BLACK-HEADED, and RING-BILLED. It was not so easy to rank waterfowl. They were as follows: CANADA GOOSE (about 700 at Homeville), AMERICAN BLACK DUCK (hundreds), MALLARD (dozens), AMERICAN WIGEON (about 80), GREATER SCAUP (hundreds), LESSER SCAUP (about 30), **TUFTED DUCK** (1 male), COMMON GOLDENEYE (fewer than 30, surprisingly low), BUFFLEHEAD (about 10), COMMON MERGANSER (20), RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (about 40), SURF SCOTER (about 20), WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (about 30), COMMON EIDER (hundreds), LONG-TAILED DUCK (about 50)

There was a bit of spring in the air, including a singing SONG SPARROW and a lone GREAT CORMORANT with white flanks. However the loons we saw were all in winter plumage. In between winter and spring, the five PURPLE SANDPIPERS at Morien were hunkered down, but sitting in the sun on the side of the breakwater.



Nova Scotia Christmas Bird Counts. 2012

Compiled By David A. Currie

Thirty-three CBC's were conducted this year, with a brand new one at Tatamagouche; so a warm welcome to John Rubin and his participants there. Most encouraging is that 29 of these are now being submitted to Audubon to make a very significant impact as time goes on to assessing overall trends in northeastern North America. We can be very proud of the tremendous contributions we make to bird studies.

Although it wasn't a startling "off the wall" season with unbelievable rarities, things seemed to come together and we managed a total of an exceptional 172 species, several hybrids and a couple of subspecies. This is the first year since I took over coordination of CBC's (1989) that we did not add at least one new species to the all-time CBC list. That stands at 288!

Although it reflects the recent Spruce Budworm outbreak, it was a treat to see Evening Grosbeaks back in the top twenty most numerous birds this season with almost double the 15 year average! A very welcome sight and widely reported.

For more results from Christmas Bird Counts, visit Audubon's Historical Data site at <http://netapp.audubon.org/cbcobservation/>

Twenty most abundant species by party hour with corresponding fifteen year average for each.

Species	Actual 2012	15 yr. Avg	Species	Actual 2012	15 yr Avg
European Starling	32.681	30.876	Rock Pigeon	3.758	4.067
American Crow	25.094	20.920	Mourning Dove	3.648	3.57
B-legged Kittiwake	13.648	2.032	Mallard	3.457	2.367
Herring Gull	9.735	13.472	Dark-eyed Junco	2.936	2.751
Bl-capped Chickadee	7.696	6.54	Blue Jay	2.863	3.118
Am. Black Duck	7.659	8.673	Common Redpoll	2.40	1.527
Canada Goose	7.129	6.489	Bohemian Waxwing	2.078	1.611
American Goldfinch	4.349	4.980	Evening Grosbeak	1.980	1.05
Red-breast Merganser	4.292	2.190	Great Bl-backed Gull	1.626	2.845
Common Eider	3.958	3.447	Common Goldeneye	1.581	1.602

Results/Effort with Corresponding 15 Year Averages

Results/Effort	Actual 2012	15 Yr. Average
Total Species Seen	172	165.7
Total Individual birds	320410	279369

Observers in Field	592	639
Feeder Watchers	539	601
Number of Hours	1837.7	1887
Number of Kilometres	13232	12778

AMHERST, Dec 20; 7:45AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -4 to 2C. Wind N 0-5kmph. Snow cover 0-15cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 25 field observers in 11-14 parties, 1 at feeders, 2 hours and 4km. owling. Total party hours 96.5 (52 on foot, 44.5 by car). Total party kilometres 567.56 (68.5 on foot, 499 by car).

Canada Goose 91	Common Merganser 34	Ring-necked Pheasant 63	Ruffed Grouse 4
Bald Eagle 23	Northern Harrier 3	Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Red-tailed Hawk 8
Rough-legged Hawk 10	American Kestrel 1	Merlin 1	Ring-billed Gull 10
Herring Gull 289	Iceland Gull 19	G B-backed Gull 133	Rock Pigeon 472
Mourning Dove 169	Barred Owl 1	Downy Woodpecker 14	Hairy Woodpecker 11
Pileated Woodpecker 3	Northern Shrike 4	Gray Jay 4	Blue Jay 126
American Crow 541	Common Raven 82	Horned Lark 94	B-capped Chickadee 578
Boreal Chickadee 4	R-breasted Nuthatch 23	W-breasted Nuthatch 1	Brown Creeper 5
G-crowned Kinglet 60	American Robin 7	European Starling 1973	Bohemian Waxwing 20
Cedar Waxwing 3	Common Yellowthroat 1	Am. Tree Sparrow 47	Vesper Sparrow 1
Song Sparrow 5	W-throated Sparrow 7	Dark-eyed Junco 65	Snow Bunting 305
Red-winged Blackbird 1	Br.-headed Cowbird 1	Pine Grosbeak 162	Red Crossbill 18
W-winged Crossbill 38	Common Redpoll 1134	American Goldfinch 167	Evening Grosbeak 887
House Sparrow 12			

Total Species 54, about 7,775 individuals, Julie Paquet, (compiler).

ANTIGONISH, Dec 16; 7:15AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -7 to -5C. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies cloudy all day. 18 field observers in 8 parties and 7 at feeders. Total party hours 38.21 (14.83 on foot, 23.38 by car). Total party kilometres 348.4 (21 on foot, 327.4 by car).

Canada Goose 1952	Gadwall 1	American Wigeon 3	Am. Black Duck 1180
Mallard 106	Northern Shoveler 15	Northern Pintail 5	Am. Green-winged Teal 6
Ring-necked Duck 1	Greater Scaup 15	Lesser Scaup 6	Surf Scoter 7
Black Scoter 4	Long-tailed Duck 15	Bufflehead 18	Common Goldeneye 91
Barrow's Goldeneye 1	Hooded Merganser 38	Common Merganser 458	R-breast Merganser 785
merganser species 25	Black /Mallard hybrid 1	duck sp. 15	Ruffed Grouse 6
Common Loon 3	Horned Grebe 1	Northern Gannet 2	D-crested Cormorant 2
Bald Eagle 57	Northern Harrier 4	Red-tailed Hawk 5	Rough-legged Hawk 1
Black-headed Gull 33	Bonaparte's Gull 103	Ring-billed Gull 41	Herring Gull 618
Iceland Gull 22	G B-backed Gull 45	gull species 7	Rock Pigeon 253
Mourning Dove 176	Belted Kingfisher 1	Downy Woodpecker 4	Hairy Woodpecker 6
Northern Flicker 3	Pileated Woodpecker 1	Blue Jay 112	American Crow 1104
Common Raven 58	Horned Lark 8	B-capped Chickadee 302	R-breasted Nuthatch 5
Brown Creeper 3	G-crowned Kinglet 20	American Robin 2	European Starling 1271
Bohemian Waxwing 200	Pine Warbler 1	Am. Tree Sparrow 27	Song Sparrow 6
W-throated Sparrow 2	sparrow species 1	Dark-eyed Junco 37	Pine Grosbeak 25
Red Crossbill 1	W-winged Crossbill 1	Common Redpoll 26	American Goldfinch 104
Evening Grosbeak 112	House Sparrow 17		

Total Species 66, about 9,612 individuals. (CW. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-winged Blackbird, Purple Finch). Bruce Stevens (Compiler).

APPLE RIVER, Dec 29; 8AM to 4PM. Temp. -8 to -2C. Winds calm. Snow cover 15-20cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies clear all day. 5 field observers in 3 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 20.5 (15.5 on foot, 5 by car). Total party kilometres 96 (17.5 on foot, 78.5 by car)

Am. Black Duck 258	Mallard 2	Common Eider 4	W-winged Scoter 1
Black Scoter 4	Long-tailed Duck 1	Common Goldeneye 15	Barrow's Goldeneye 1
R-breasted Merganser 1	Ruffed Grouse 2	R-throated Loon 3	Common Loon 2
loon species 1	Horned Grebe 3	Bald Eagle 9	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
Northern Goshawk 1	Ring-billed Gull 2	Herring Gull 201	G B-backed Gull 9
Mourning Dove 63	Downy Woodpecker 8	Hairy Woodpecker 5	Northern Shrike 2
Gray Jay 5	Blue Jay 38	American Crow 52	Common Raven 14
B-capped Chickadee 138	Boreal Chickadee 8	R-breasted Nuthatch 13	Brown Creeper 1
G-crowned Kinglet 9	Hermit Thrush 2	American Robin 10	European Starling 94
Am Tree Sparrow 26	W-throated Sparrow 6	Dark-eyed Junco 11	Snow Bunting 80
Common Grackle 4	Pine Grosbeak 3	W-winged Crossbill 5	Common Redpoll 112
American Goldfinch 143	Evening Grosbeak 69		

Total Species 45, about 1,312 individuals. Kathleen Spicer (compiler).

BARRINGTON BAY/CAPE SABLE ISLAND, Dec 15; 7:30AM to 5:15PM. Temp. -3 Wind NW 40kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 17 field observers in 7 parties. Total party hours 54 (19 on foot, 40 by car). Total party kilometres 539 (14 on foot, 525 by car).

Brant 36	Canada Goose 174	American Wigeon 2	Am. Black Duck 274
Mallard 54	Northern Pintail 2	Am. Green-winged Teal 4	Greater Scaup 27
Common Eider 425	W-winged Scoter 2	Black Scoter 12	Long-tailed Duck 4
Bufflehead 61	Common Goldeneye 7	Hooded Merganser 6	R-breast Merganser 34
Ruffed Grouse 1	Spruce Grouse 1	Common Loon 31	Horned Grebe 3
Red-necked Grebe 3	Northern Gannet 4	D-crested Cormorant 11	Great Cormorant 49
Great Blue Heron 6	Great Egret 1	Osprey 1	Bald Eagle 8
Northern Harrier 4	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Red-tailed Hawk 2	American Kestrel 4
Merlin 1	Black-bellied Plover 10	Killdeer 1	Greater Yellowlegs 3
Ruddy Turnstone 6	Red Knot 3	Dunlin 15	Ring-billed Gull 6
Herring Gull 820	Iceland Gull 8	Lesser BI-backed Gull 1	G B-backed Gull 520
Black Guillemot 4	Rock Pigeon 10	Mourning Dove 255	Snowy Owl 1
Belted Kingfisher 2	Northern Flicker 17	Blue Jay 89	American Crow 482
Common Raven 15	B-capped Chickadee 245	Boreal Chickadee 14	R-breasted Nuthatch 19
W-breasted Nuthatch 4	Brown Creeper 4	House Wren 1	G-crowned Kinglet 27
American Robin 37	Northern Mockingbird 3	European Starling 611	American Pipit 15
O-crowned Warbler 5	Y-rumped Warbler 118	Palm Warbler 3	Blackpoll Warbler 1
Yellow-breasted Chat 1	Am Tree Sparrow 6	Clay-colored Sparrow 1	Savannah Sparrow 1
Fox Sparrow 2	Song Sparrow 62	Lincoln's Sparrow 1	Swamp Sparrow 6
W-throated Sparrow 73	D-eyed Junco 27	Snow Bunting 1	Northern Cardinal 9
Red-winged Blackbird 4	Common Grackle 2	Br-headed Cowbird 33	Purple Finch 3
Red Crossbill 25	W-winged Crossbill 27	Common Redpoll 5	Pine Siskin 5
American Goldfinch 27	Evening Grosbeak 15	House Sparrow 15	

Total Species 91, about 4,971 individuals (CW. Semipalmated Plover, Long-billed Dowitcher) Murray Newell (compiler).

BEDFORD/SACKVILLE, Dec 27; 7AM to 5:00PM. Temp. -8 to -1C. Wind NE 10-30kmph. Snow 0-7cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies partly cloudy all day. 27 field observers in 17-20 parties, 23 at feeders 3.25 hours and 100.5kms owling. Total party hours 79.40 (49.40 on foot, 30 by car). Total party kilometres 636.80 (73.8 on foot, 563 by car).

Canada Goose 48	Am. Black Duck 591	Mallard 109	Ring-necked Duck 41
Lesser Scaup 4	Bufflehead 16	Common Goldeneye 139	Barrow's Goldeneye 9
Hooded Merganser 49	Common Merganser 18	R-breasted Merganser 33	R-necked Pheasant 15
Spruce Grouse 1	Common Loon 3	D-crested Cormorant 1	Bald Eagle 2
Sharp-shinned Hawk 6	American Coot 2	Ring-billed Gull 83	Herring Gull 902
Iceland Gull 9	Lesser bl-backed Gull 1	Glaucous Gull 1	GB-backed Gull 28
Rock Pigeon 264	Mourning Dove 223	N Saw-whet Owl 4	Downy Woodpecker 39
Hairy Woodpecker 22	Northern Flicker 3	Pileated Woodpecker 3	Gray Jay 1
Blue Jay 141	American Crow 8082	Common Raven 41	B-capped Chickadee 668
Boreal Chickadee 9	R-breasted Nuthatch 35	W-breasted Nuthatch 23	Brown Creeper 8
G-crowned Kinglet 52	American Robin 11	N Mockingbird 1	European Starling 1697
Cedar Waxwing 38	O-crowned Warbler 1	Pine Warbler 4	Y-breasted Chat 3
Eastern Towhee 2	A Tree Sparrow 4	Savannah Sparrow 1	Fox Sparrow 1
Song Sparrow 98	W-throated Sparrow 56	D-eyed Junco 255	Northern Cardinal 7
R-winged Blackbird 1	Common Grackle 1	B-headed Cowbird 6	Purple Finch 4
W-winged Crossbill 21	Common Redpoll 106	Pine Siskin 31	American Goldfinch 310
Evening Grosbeak 6	House Sparrow 5		

Total Species 66, about 14,399 individuals. Compilers, John Loch, Bob McDonald, and Richard Peckham.

BIG POND/ESKASONI, Dec 26; 7:45AM to 4PM. Temp. -2 to 2C. Wind W 10-25kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water open. A.M. partly cloudy. P.M. partly clear. 18 field observers in 7 parties, 15 at feeders. Total party hours 38 (20.5 on foot, 17.5 by car). Total party kilometres 280 (19.5 on foot, 260.5 by car).

Canada Goose 88	Am. Black Duck 192	Mallard 4	Gr. Winged Teal 5
Greater Scaup 158	W-winged Scoter 13	Long-tailed Duck 4	Common Goldeneye 272
Common Merganser 108	R-breast Merganser 803	duck species 5	Ruffed Grouse 2
Common Loon 11	Horned Grebe 1	Red-necked Grebe 46	D-crested Cormorant 9
Bald Eagle 46	Red-tailed Hawk 2	Black-headed Gull 2	Bonaparte's Gull 132
Ring-billed Gull 18	Herring Gull 186	Iceland Gull 6	G B-backed Gull 9
Rock Pigeon 12	Mourning Dove 55	Great Horned Owl 1	Barred Owl 1
Belted Kingfisher 2	Downy Woodpecker 6	Hairy Woodpecker 4	Northern Flicker 3
Pileated Woodpecker 7	Gray Jay 4	Blue Jay 43	American Crow 223
Common Raven 19	B-capped Chickadee 282	Boreal Chickadee 8	R-breasted Nuthatch 6
Brown Creeper 2	G-crowned Kinglet 36	American Robin 2	European Starling 487
Bohemian Waxwing 2	Song Sparrow 3	W-throated Sparrow 2	Dark-eyed Junco 7
sparrow species 1	Pine Grosbeak 32	W-winged Crossbill 12	Common Redpoll 82
American Goldfinch 82	Evening Grosbeak 55	House Sparrow 5	

Total Species 53, about 3,608 individuals. (CW. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Pine Warbler) Jack MacNeil (compiler).

BRIDGETOWN, Dec 29; 8:00AM to 5PM. Temp. -4 to -3C. Wind W 7-11kmph. Snow 3-8cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy. P.M. partly clear. 8 field observers in 5 parties, 34 at feeders. Total party hours 35.25 (6.75 on foot, 28.50 by car). Total party kilometres 387.90 (13.5 on foot, 374.40 by car).

Canada Goose 350	Mallard 4	Common Eider 107	Surf Scoter 123
W-winged Scoter 61	Black Scoter 6	scoter sp. 21	Long-tailed Duck 16
Common Goldeneye 3	Hooded Merganser 1	Common Merganser 42	R-breasted Merganser 1
R-necked Pheasant 42	Red-throated Loon 3	Common Loon 9	Horned Grebe 1
Red-necked Grebe 7	D-crested Cormorant 2	Turkey Vulture 18	Bald Eagle 20
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Red-tailed Hawk 25	hawk species 2	American Kestrel 1
Merlin 1	Ring-billed Gull 4	Herring Gull 131	Iceland Gull 1
G B-backed Gull 2	B-legged Kittiwake 6	Dovekie 1	Thick-billed Murre 1

Razorbill 7	Rock Pigeon 489	Mourning Dove 611	R-bellied Woodpecker 1
Downy Woodpecker 18	Hairy Woodpecker 19	Northern Flicker 4	Northern Shrike 1
Blue Jay 330	American Crow 473	Common Raven 69	B-capped Chickadee 440
R-breasted Nuthatch 6	W-breasted Nuthatch 13	Brown Creeper 2	G-crowned Kinglet 2
American Robin 41	European Starling 1252	Bohemian Waxwing 41	Cedar Waxwing 1
Am. Tree Sparrow 49	Song Sparrow 34	W-throated Sparrow 25	D-eyed Junco 416
Northern Cardinal 19	Common Grackle 60	B-headed Cowbird 17	Baltimore Oriole 1
Pine Grosbeak 1	W-winged Crossbill 4	Common Redpoll 206	Pine Siskin 21
American Goldfinch 581	Evening Grosbeak 121	House Sparrow 19	

Total Species 67, about 6,411 individuals. David Colville (compiler).

BRIER ISLAND, Dec 14; 7:15AM to 5:15PM. Temp. 4 - 5C. Wind W 10-50kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Skies partly clear all day. 12 field observers in 5 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 37.5 (21.5 on foot, 4 by car, 12 by boat). Total party kilometres 129 (33 on foot, 81 by car, 15 by boat)

Brant 5	Canada Goose 2	Am. Black Duck 129	Mallard 4
Lesser Scaup 2	Common Eider 400	Surf Scoter 1	W-winged Scoter 1
W-winged Scoter 13	Black Scoter 8	Long-tailed Duck 63	Bufflehead 17
Common Goldeneye 44	R-breast Merganser 32	R-necked Pheasant 4	Ruffed Grouse 5
Common Loon 57	Red-necked Grebe 7	Northern Gannet 24	D-crested Cormorant 6
Great Cormorant 314	Turkey Vulture 6	Bald Eagle 3	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 2	Merlin 1	Purple Sandpiper 6	Black-headed Gill 1
Ring-billed Gull 26	Herring Gull 1713	Iceland Gull 37	Glaucous Gull 10
G B-backed Gull 577	B-leg Kittiwake 24685	Dovekie 45	Common Murre 40
murre species 200	Razorbill 936	Black Guillemot 79	alcid species 20,000
Rock Pigeon 22	Mourning Dove 48	Great Horned Owl 1	Barred Owl 1
Belted Kingfisher 1	R-bellied Woodpecker 1	Hairy Woodpecker 2	Northern Shrike 1
Blue Jay 27	American Crow 117	Common Raven 16	B-capped Chickadee 219
R-breasted Nuthatch 6	W-breasted Nuthatch 1	Winter Wren 2	G-crowned Kinglet 13
R-crowned Kinglet 1	American Robin 1	Northern Mockingbird 1	European Starling 93
American Pipit 14	Y-rumped Warbler 1	Savannah Sparrow 1	Song Sparrow 10
W-throated Sparrow 1	Dark-eyed Junco 17	Snow Bunting 25	Northern Cardinal 1
Red-winged Blackbird 1	Common Grackle 25	W-winged Crossbill 33	Common Redpoll 91
Pine Siskin 11	American Goldfinch 129	Evening Grosbeak 3	

Total Species 71, about 50,659 individuals. Eric Mills, (compiler).

BROAD COVE, Dec 26; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -7 to -4C. Wind NW 4-20kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 16 field observers in 8 parties, 3 at feeders. .5 hours and 5km owling. Total party hours 55.25 (30.5 on foot, 24.75 by car). Total party kilometres 362 (315.5 by foot, 46.5 by car).

Canada Goose 341	Am. Black Duck 276	Mallard 347	Greater Scaup 1
Common Eider 67	Surf Scoter 37	W-winged Scoter 2	Black Scoter 368
Long-tailed Duck 19	Bufflehead 76	Common Goldeneye 72	Hooded Merganser 37
Common Merganser 4	R-breast Merganser 109	Ruffed Grouse 1	Red-throated Loon 1
Common Loon 28	Horned Grebe 24	Red-necked Grebe 8	Northern Gannet 2
Great Cormorant 9	Bald Eagle 9	Northern Harrier 1	Sharp-shinned Hawk 2
Broad-winged Hawk 1	Red-tailed Hawk 3	Merlin 2	Black-bellied Plover 3
Killdeer 1	Red Knot 2	Sanderling 13	Purple Sandpiper 22
Dunlin 6	Ring-billed Gull 12	Herring Gull 325	Iceland Gull 1
G B-backed Gull 19	Black Guillemot 18	Rock Pigeon 208	Mourning Dove 417
N. Saw-whet Owl 1	Belted Kingfisher 1	Downy Woodpecker 12	Hairy Woodpecker 4
Northern Flicker 1	Blue Jay 110	American Crow 285	Common Raven 22

B-capped Chickadee 428	Boreal Chickadee 7	Red-breasted Nuthatch 22	W-breasted Nuthatch 16
Brown Creeper 6	G-crowned Kinglet 39	R-crowned Kinglet 1	American Robin 2
European Starling 582	Bohemian Waxwing 75	Cape May Warbler 1	Y-rumped Warbler 1
Am. Tree Sparrow 4	Song Sparrow 34	W-throated Sparrow 28	Dark-eyed Junco 139
Snow Bunting 1	Northern Cardinal 3	Common Grackle 4	Red Crossbill 11
W-winged Crossbill 12	Common Redpoll 30	Pine Siskin 3	American Goldfinch 98

Total Species 72, about 4,877 individuals. Sylvia Fullerton (compiler).

CALEDONIA, Dec 16; 7:30AM to 5:30PM. Temp. -12.6 to -3C. Wind N 2-9kmph. Snow 2cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. 20 field observers, 18 at feeders. Total party hours 37 (26.75 on foot, 10.25 by car). Total party kilometres 180.05 (81.05 on foot, 99 by car).

Canada Goose 12	Am. Black Duck 4	Mallard 7	Ruffed Grouse 7
Bald Eagle 4	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Red-tailed Hawk 3	Rock Pigeon 5
Mourning Dove 49	Barred Owl 4	Y-bellied Sapsucker 2	Downy Woodpecker 21
Hairy Woodpecker 25	Northern Flicker 4	Pileated Woodpecker 1	Gray Jay 1
Blue Jay 106	American Crow 33	Common Raven 36	B-capped Chickadee 508
R-breasted Nuthatch 87	W-breasted Nuthatch 33	Brown Creeper 6	G-crowned Kinglet 16
American Robin 1	European Starling 65	Song Sparrow 4	W-throated Sparrow 1
Dark-eyed Junco 15	Snow Bunting 12	Red-winged Blackbird 2	Purple Finch 5
W-winged Crossbill 16	Pine Siskin 6	American Goldfinch 115	Evening Grosbeak 135

Total Species 36, about 1,352 individuals. Amanda Lavers (compiler).

CHETICAMP, Dec 21; 8AM to 4PM. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 5 field observers in 3 parties. Total party hours 12.5 (4.5 on foot, 8.5 by car). Total party kilometres 151.6 (8.5 on foot, 143.1 by car)

D-crested Cormorant 4	American Black Duck 73	Common Goldeneye 98	Barrow's Goldeneye 20
Common Merganser 4	R-breasted Merganser 35	duck species 5	Bald Eagle 4
Ruffed Grouse 1	Bonaparte's Gull 9	Herring Gull 34	Iceland Gull 8
Glaucous Gull 1	G B-backed Gull 18	Black Guillemot 2	Rock Pigeon 43
Mourning Dove 3	Barred Owl 1	Downy Woodpecker 6	Hairy Woodpecker 2
Gray Jay 1	Blue Jay 7	American Crow 84	Common Raven 9
B-capped Chickadee 10	Boreal Chickadee 2	W-breasted Nuthatch 1	G-crowned Kinglet 6
American Robin 1	European Starling 557	Am. Tree Sparrow 1	Dark-eyed Junco 2
Snow Bunting 16	Pine Grosbeak 10	W-winged Crossbill 12	Pine Siskin 8
American Goldfinch 18	House Sparrow 6		

Total Species 38, about 1,122 individuals. (CW. Mallard, Common Eider, Long-tailed Duck, Northern Goshawk, alcid species, Pileated Woodpecker), **Gordon Delaney (compiler).**

ECONOMY; Dec 27; 8AM to 4PM. Temp. -5 to -2. Skies cloudy with snow all day. 10 field observers in the field, 11 at feeders.

Red-throated Loon 4	Canada Goose 2	Am. Black Duck 448	Mallard 12
Long-tailed Duck 2	Black Scoter 1	Surf Scoter 47	Common Goldeneye 10
Barrow's Goldeneye 1	Bufflehead 10	Common Merganser 1	Bald Eagle 6
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Northern Goshawk 2	Red-tailed Hawk 1	Ring-necked Pheasant 3
Ruffed Grouse 16	Purple Sandpiper 5	American Woodcock 2	Ring-billed Gull 195
Herring Gull 117	G. B-backed Gull 3	Rock Pigeon 21	Mourning Dove 89
Downy Woodpecker 15	Hairy Woodpecker 14	Northern Flicker 1	Pileated Woodpecker 3
Gray Jay 2	Blue Jay 45	American Crow 181	Common Raven 13
B-capped Chickadee 283	Boreal Chickadee 3	R-breasted Nuthatch 15	W-breasted Nuthatch 7

Brown Creeper 5	G-crowned Kinglet 19	American Robin 36	Northern Shrike 2
European Starling 265	Northern Cardinal 2	Am. Tree Sparrow 17	Chipping Sparrow 1
Clay-colored Sparrow 1	Song Sparrow 7	W-throated Sparrow 7	Dark-eyed Junco 137
Snow Bunting 378	Pine Grosbeak 3	Purple Finch 9	Common Redpoll 48
Pine Siskin 30	American Goldfinch 120	Evening Grosbeak 156	House Sparrow 4

Total Species 56, about 2,826 individuals. (CW. Great Blue Heron, Spruce Grouse. **Bradford and Joelle McLaughlin, (compilers).**

GLACE BAY, Dec 29; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. -3 - 3C. Wind W 6-32kmph. Still water open, moving water open. No snow cover. 13 field observers in 8 parties, 10 at feeders. Total party hours 43 (16 on foot, 27 by car). Total party kilometers 329 (27 on foot, 312 by car).

Canada Goose 1893	Eurasian Wigeon 1	American Wigeon 212	Am Black Duck 972
Mallard 172	Black/Mallard Hybrid 21	Northern Pintail 3	Am.Green-winged Teal 4
Tufted Duck 2	Greater Scaup 518	Lesser Scaup 22	Common Eider 572
Surf Scoter 70	W-winged Scoter 105	Black Scoter 591	Long-tailed Duck 256
Bufflehead 66	Common Goldeneye 168	Hooded Merganser 6	Common Merganser 36
R-breast Merganser 175	Ruffed Grouse 4	Red-throated Loon 2	Common Loon 19
Horned Grebe 38	Red-necked Grebe 1	D-crested Cormorant 5	Great Cormorant 101
Bald Eagle 16	Sharp-shinned Hawk 3	Peregrine Falcon 1	American Coot 3
Greater Yellowlegs 1	Purple Sandpiper 12	Dunlin 1	Little Gull 1
Black-headed Gull 4	Bonaparte's Gull 1	Ring-billed Gull 10	Herring Gull 807
Iceland Gull 902	Lesser Bl-backed Gull 1	Glaucous Gull 1	G B-backed Gull 191
Dovekie 11	Thick-billed Murre 3	Razorbill 1	Black Guillemot 7
Rock Pigeon 265	Mourning Dove 55	Belted Kingfisher 1	Downy Woodpecker 7
Northern Shrike 2	Gray Jay 1	Blue Jay 129	American Crow 331
Common Raven 52	B-capped Chickadee 200	Boreal Chickadee 15	Red-breasted Nuthatch 4
Brown Creeper 3	G-crowned Kinglet 20	European Starling 3140	Bohemian Waxwing 1468
O-crowned Warbler 1	Magnolia Warbler 1	Pine Warbler 1	Palm Warbler (West) 1
Am Tree Sparrow 9	Savannah Sparrow 5	Song Sparrow 14	W-throated Sparrow 2
D-eyed Junco 10	Snow Bunting 7	Red-winged Blackbird 5	Pine Grosbeak 3
Purple Finch 2	W-winged Crossbill 15	Common Redpoll 57	American Goldfinch 98
Evening Grosbeak 116	House Sparrow 220		

Total Species 82 plus 3 hybrids, about 9,321 individuals. Cathy Murrant (compiler).

HALIFAX/DARTMOUTH, Dec 16; 7:30AM to 6PM. Temp -13.6 to -12C. Wind NW. 6 to 13kmph. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies partly cloudy all day. 85 field observers in 36 – 48 parties, 73 at feeders 6 hours and 5kms owling. Total party hours 327.2 (246.7 on foot, 80 by car, .5 by boat). Total party kilometres 1605.5 (305 on foot, 1298.5 by car, 2 by boat).

Canada Goose 1163	Wood Duck 5	Gadwall 4	Eurasian Wigeon 7
American Wigeon 141	Am. Black Duck 1733	Mallard 943	Blue-winged Teal 2
Northern Shoveler 1	Northern Pintail 28	A. Green-winged Teal 13	Redhead 1
Ring-necked Duck 4	Greater Scaup 36	Lesser Scaup 202	scaup species 9
Common Eider 988	Harlequin Duck 9	Surf Scoter 5	White-winged Scoter 23
Black Scoter 11	scoter species 3	Long-tailed Duck 62	Bufflehead 173
Common Goldeneye 106	Barrow's Goldeneye 4	Hooded Merganser 17	Common Merganser 92
R-breast Merganser 174	Ruddy Duck 5	Mallard/Pintail hybrid 1	Wigeon/Mallard hybrid 1
Black/Mallard hybrid 4	duck species 20	Ring-necked Pheasant 60	Ruffed Grouse 3
Spruce Grouse 1	R-throated Loon 3	Common Loon 19	Horned Grebe 1
Red-necked Grebe 2	Northern Fulmar 1	Northern Gannet 41	D-crested Cormorant 5
Great Cormorant 75	cormorant species 3	Bald Eagle 15	Northern Harrier 6

Sharp-shinned Hawk 7	Northern Goshawk 1	Red-tailed Hawk 3	Rough-legged Hawk 3
American Kestrel 2	Merlin 4	Peregrine Falcon 5	American Coot 29
Purple Sandpiper 50	Black-headed Gull 18	Bonaparte's Gull 10	Mew Gull 3
Ring-billed Gull 468	Herring Gull 1880	Iceland Gull 136	L B-backed Gull 1
Glaucous Gull 7	G B-backed Gull 124	B-legged Kittiwake 4	gull species 30
Dovekie 2	Common Murre 4	Thick-billed Murre 2	Razorbill 14
Black Guillemot 35	Atlantic Puffin 1	Rock Pigeon 1128	Mourning Dove 615
Great Horned Owl 3	Snowy Owl 1	Barred Owl 5	Long-eared Owl 1
N. Saw-whet Owl 6	Belted Kingfisher 1	R-bellied Woodpecker 7	Downy Woodpecker 93
Hairy Woodpecker 42	B-backed Woodpecker 2	Northern Flicker 23	Pileated Woodpecker 1
Gray Jay 7	Blue Jay 497	American Crow 2049	Common Raven 70
B-capped Chickadee 2284	Boreal Chickadee 14	Red-breasted Nuthatch 64	W-breasted Nuthatch 32
Brown Creeper 17	G-crowned Kinglet 147	R-crowned Kinglet 3	Hermit Thrush 1
American Robin 41	Gray Catbird 3	Northern Mockingbird 7	European Starling 7111
American Pipit 17	Bohemian Waxwing 33	O-crowned Warbler 4	Y-rumped Warbler 37
Pine Warbler 8	Palm Warbler 2	warbler species 1	Y-breasted Chat 18
Am. Tree Sparrow 55	Savannah Sparrow 12	Savannah (Ipswich) Sp. 3	Fox Sparrow 6
Song Sparrow 611	Swamp Sparrow 6	W-throated Sparrow 201	sparrow species 5
D.E. Junco (Oregon) 1	Dark-eyed Junco 382	Lapland Longspur 1	Snow Bunting 1
Northern Cardinal 34	Indigo Bunting 1	Common Grackle 6	Br-headed Cowbird 1
Baltimore Oriole 2	Pine Grosbeak 3	Purple Finch 21	House Finch 21
Red Crossbill 6	W-winged Crossbill 43	Common Redpoll 65	Pine Siskin 18
American Goldfinch 997	Evening Grosbeak 51	small finch species 6	House Sparrow 734

Total Species 127 about 26,756 individuals. Mike King (compiler), Fulton Lavender (feeder co-ordinator).

KINGSTON, Dec 22; 6:45AM to 5:30PM. Temp. 4 to 9C. Wind E 0-15kmph. Snow 0-10cm. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. cloudy. P.M. partly cloudy. 27 field observers in 11 parties, 96 at feeders, 1 hour and 36km. owling. Total party hours 87 (19 on foot, 68 by car). Total party kilometres 924 (30 on foot, 894.5 by car).

Canada Goose 69	Am. Black Duck 58	Mallard 123	Common Eider 26
Surf Scoter 19	W-winged Scoter 8	Long-tailed Duck 6	R-breast Merganser 13
R-necked Pheasant 19	Ruffed Grouse 4	R-throated Loon 3	Common Loon 9
Horned Grebe 3	R-necked Grebe 11	Northern Gannet 9	Turkey Vulture 1
Bald Eagle 11	Northern Harrier 1	Sharp-shinned Hawk 3	Northern Goshawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 26	Purple Sandpiper 3	Herring Gull 248	G B-backed Gull 10
B-legged Kittiwake 1	Thick-billed Murre 1	Razorbill 5	alcid species 100
Rock Pigeon 351	Mourning Dove 632	Barred Owl 2	Belted Kingfisher 3
R-bellied Woodpecker 1	Downy Woodpecker 70	Hairy Woodpecker 73	Northern Flicker 2
Pileated Woodpecker 15	Northern Shrike 1	Gray Jay 4	Blue Jay 516
American Crow 9126	Common Raven 438	B-capped Chickadee 1203	Boreal Chickadee 2
Red-breasted Nuthatch 91	W-breasted Nuthatch 76	Brown Creeper 14	G-crowned Kinglet 22
American Robin 1	Northern Mockingbird 1	European Starling 3833	Bohemian Waxwing 250
Eastern Towhee 1	Am. Tree Sparrow 8	Chipping Sparrow 8	Song Sparrow 22
W-throated Sparrow 32	W-crowned Sparrow 1	sparrow sp. 12	Dark-eyed Junco 539
Snow Bunting 200	Northern Cardinal 18	Red-winged Blackbird 2	Common Grackle 43
B-headed Cowbird 112	Pine Grosbeak 12	Purple Finch 9	Red Crossbill 31
W-winged Crossbill 48	Common Redpoll 75	Pine Siskin 4	American Goldfinch 968
Evening Grosbeak 122	House Sparrow 90		

Total Species 72, about 19,875 individuals. (CW. Cedar Waxwing). Wayne Neily (compiler).

LOUISBOURG, Dec 15; 6:30AM to 4PM. Temp. -1C. Wind NW 30-40kmph. Snow cover 2cm. Still water open, moving water open. Skies partly cloudy all day. 28 field observers in 20 parties, 16 at feeders, .8 hour and 6km. owling. Total party hours 46 (46 on foot). Total party kilometres 68.8 (68.8 on foot).

Am. Black Duck 153	Mallard 4	Northern Pintail 1	Greater Scaup 1
Common Eider 1409	Harlequin Duck 1	Surf Scoter 42	W-winged Scoter 50
scoter species 17	Long-tailed Duck 151	Bufflehead 78	Common Goldeneye 79
Common Goldeneye 79	Common Merganser 17	R-breast Merganser 141	Ruffed Grouse 13
Spruce Grouse 3	Red-throated Loon 1	Common Loon 21	Horned Grebe 2
Red-necked Grebe 153	Northern Gannet 2	Great Cormorant 24	Bald Eagle 30
Sharp-shinned Hawk 3	Wilson's Snipe 2	Bonaparte's Gull 1	Herring Gull 146
Iceland Gull 17	Glaucous Gull 1	G B-backed Gull 16	gull species 22
Dovekie 2	Black Guillemot 55	Rock Pigeon 62	Hairy Woodpecker 2
Gray Jay 13	Blue Jay 50	American Crow 236	Common Raven 34
B-capped Chickadee 163	Boreal Chickadee 38	Red-breasted Nuthatch 14	W-breasted Nuthatch 2
Brown Creeper 1	G-crowned Kinglet 54	R-crowned Kinglet 3	American Robin 5
European Starling 218	Cedar Waxwing 28	Pine Warbler 2	Song Sparrow 8
W-throated Sparrow 2	Dark-eyed Junco 8	Snow Bunting 10	Pine Grosbeak 9
Purple Finch 1	Red Crossbill 1	W-winged Crossbill 31	Common Redpoll 11
Pine Siskin 21	American Goldfinch 63	Evening Grosbeak 1	House Sparrow 52

Total Species 70, about 3,801 individuals. Ken Donovan (co-compiler).

LUNENBURG, Jan 2; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -12 to -9C. Wind NW 30-45kmph. Snow cover 6-15cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy. P.M. clear. 25 field observers in 13 parties, 10 at feeders, 5.5 hours and 120km. owling. Total party hours 67.5 (24 on foot, 43.5 by car). Total party kilometres 640.90 (30.5 on foot, 610.4 by car).

Canada Goose 334	Gadwall 1	American Wigeon 12	Am. Black Duck 400
Mallard 521	Northern Pintail 3	A. Green-winged Teal 28	Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup 6	Common Eider 14	Surf Scoter 31	W-winged Scoter 2
Black Scoter 7	Long-tailed Duck 75	Bufflehead 127	Common Goldeneye 230
Barrow's Goldeneye 2	Hooded Merganser 107	Common Merganser 124	R-breast Merganser 289
Ring-necked Pheasant 7	Ruffed Grouse 1	Common Loon 21	Horned Grebe 6
Red-necked Grebe 3	Northern Gannet 2	Great Cormorant 32	Bald Eagle 18
Northern Harrier 4	Sharp-shinned Hawk 5	Red-tailed Hawk 7	Rough-legged Hawk 1
hawk species 2	Merlin 3	Purple Sandpiper 7	Black-headed Gull 8
Bonaparte's Gull 86	Ring-billed Gull 63	Herring Gull 1637	Iceland Gull 43
L B-backed Gull 1	G B-backed Gull 74	B-legged Kittiwake 7	Dovekie 4
Black Guillemot 29	Rock Pigeon 205	Mourning Dove 311	Long-eared Owl 1
N Saw-whet Owl 3	Belted Kingfisher 3	Downy Woodpecker 14	Hairy Woodpecker 12
Northern Flicker 8	Blue Jay 122	American Crow 297	Common Raven 36
B-capped Chickadee 624	Boreal Chickadee 14	Red-breasted Nuthatch 14	W-breasted Nuthatch 17
Brown Creeper 7	Carolina Wren 1	G-crowned Kinglet 39	R-crowned Kinglet 1
Hermit Thrush 2	American Robin 21	European Starling 1004	American Pipit 2
Bohemian Waxwing 52	O-crowned Warbler 1	Y-rumped Warbler 16	Y-breasted Chat 1
Am. Tree Sparrow 27	Savannah Sparrow 3	Fox Sparrow 1	Song Sparrow 84
Swamp Sparrow 1	W-throated Sparrow 49	Dark-eyed Junco 223	Northern Cardinal 19
Dickcissel 1	Baltimore Oriole 1	Pine Grosbeak 3	Purple Finch 5
W-winged Crossbill 4	Common Redpoll 2	Pine Siskin 9	American Goldfinch 129
Evening Grosbeak 3	House Sparrow 27		

Total Species 89, about 8,061 individuals. James R. Hirtle (compiler).

MARGAREE, Dec 29; 8AM to 1PM. Temp. -3 to -1C. Wind W 30-40kmph. Snow cover 4-8cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies partly cloudy all day. 5 field observers in 1-2 parties, 5 at feeders. Total party hours 8 (4 on foot, 4 by car). Total party kilometers 67 (9 on foot, 58 by car).

Am. Black Duck 3	Bufflehead 12	Common Goldeneye 130	Barrow's Goldeneye 24
Common Merganser 14	Ruffed Grouse 1	Northern Gannet 2	Bald Eagle 6
Herring Gull 27	G B-backed Gull 3	Rock Pigeon 30	Mourning Dove 12
Downy Woodpecker 2	Hairy Woodpecker 1	Pileated Woodpecker 1	Blue Jay 61
American Crow 140	Common Crow 10	B-capped Chickadee 65	Boreal Chickadee 2
G-crowned Kinglet 1	European Starling 490	Dark-eyed Junco 12	Pine Grosbeak 25
Purple Finch 3	W-winged Crossbill 4	Common Redpoll 14	American Goldfinch 14
Evening Grosbeak 33			

Total Species 29, about 1,142 individuals. Colonel MacLellan (compiler).

PICTOU HARBOUR, Jan 1; 7:30AM to 5:15PM. Temp. -7 to -2C. Wind W 15-50kmph. Snow 8-12cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies cloudy all day. 14 field observers in 8-10 parties, 16 at feeders. Total party hours 47 (22 on foot, 25 by car). Total party kilometres 356.8 (22.8 on foot, 334 by car).

Canada Goose 1190	Gadwall 10	Eurasian Wigeon 2	American Wigeon 30
Am. Black Duck 1573	Mallard 184	Northern Pintail 3	Am. Green-winged Teal 5
Greater Scaup 1143	Lesser Scaup 3	Common Eider 3	Surf Scoter 27
W-winged Scoter 2	Black Scoter 2	Long-tailed Duck 50	Bufflehead 38
Common Goldeneye 535	Barrow's Goldeneye 1	Hooded Merganser 125	Common Merganser 665
R-breast Merganser 3843	Black/Mallard hybrid 2	R-necked Pheasant 61	Ruffed Grouse 4
Common Loon 3	Horned Grebe 3	Northern Gannet 2	D-crested Cormorant 10
Bald Eagle 65	Northern Harrier 5	Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Red-tailed Hawk 10
R-legged Hawk 1	Semi-palm Plover 1	Bonaparte's Gull 56	Ring-billed Gull 51
Herring Gull 645	Iceland Gull 43	G B-backed Gull 70	gull species 16
Rock Pigeon 240	Mourning Dove 240	Great Horned Owl 1	Belted Kingfisher 4
Downy Woodpecker 13	Hairy Woodpecker 19	Northern Flicker 6	Pileated Woodpecker 4
Blue Jay 159	American Crow 907	Common Raven 124	Horned Lark 1
B-capped Chickadee 509	R-breasted Nuthatch 10	W-breasted Nuthatch 14	Brown Creeper 3
G-crowned Kinglet 39	American Robin 25	European Starling 1912	Bohemian Waxwing 258
Y-rumped Warbler 3	Y-breasted Chat 1	Am Tree Sparrow 33	Chipping Sparrow 3
Song Sparrow 34	Swamp Sparrow 1	W-throated Sparrow 5	sparrow species 1
Dark-eyed Junco 87	Snow Bunting 11	Pine Grosbeak 8	Purple Finch 6
Common Redpoll 677	Hoary Redpoll 2	Pine Siskin 3	American Goldfinch 175
Evening Grosbeak 357	House Sparrow 11		

Total Species 75 plus 1 hybrid, about 16,397 individuals. (CW. Black Guillemot, Pine Warbler). Ken McKenna (compiler).

PORT L'HEBERT, Dec 23; 7AM to 5:00PM. Temp. -2 to 4C. Wind NW 20-45kmph. Snow 0-1cm. Still water open, moving water open. 12 field observers in 8-9 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 49 (43.5 on foot, 5.5 by car). Total party kilometres 436 (55 by foot, 381 by car).

Canada Goose 163	Am. Black Duck 440	Mallard 15	Common Eider 211
Harlequin Duck 207	Surf Scoter 16	W-winged Scoter 18	Black Scoter 86
Long-tailed Duck 92	Bufflehead 180	Common Goldeneye 12	Hooded Merganser 34
Common Merganser 9	R-breast Merganser 128	Ruffed Grouse 2	Spruce Grouse 1
Red-throated Loon 1	Common Loon 38	Pied-billed Grebe 1	Horned Grebe 17
Red-necked Grebe 2	Northern Gannet 11	D-crested Cormorant 3	Great Cormorant 15
American Bittern 1	Bald Eagle 9	Northern Harrier 3	Red-tailed Hawk 1

American Kestrel 2	Merlin 2	Black-bellied Plover 3	Ruddy Turnstone 7
Purple Sandpiper 12	Dunlin 110	Wilson's Snipe 2	Black Headed Gull 13
Bonaparte's Gull 2	Ring-billed Gull 12	Herring Gull 280	Glaucous Gull 2
G B-backed Gull 28	B-legged Kittiwake 1	Black Guillemot 12	Rock Pigeon 65
Mourning Dove 58	Belted Kingfisher 2	Downy Woodpecker 6	Hairy Woodpecker 1
Northern Flicker 5	Gray Jay 1	Blue Jay 37	American Crow 35
Common Raven 8	Horned Lark 15	B-capped Chickadee 97	Boreal Chickadee 1
Red-breasted Nuthatch 10	Brown Creeper 12	G-crowned Kinglet 65	American Robin 47
European Starling 230	American Pipit 30	Bohemian Waxwing 2	Y-rumped Warbler 7
Pine Warbler 2	Am Tree Sparrow 7	Savannah Sparrow 7	Song Sparrow 12
Swamp Sparrow 2	W-throated Sparrow 10	Dark-eyed Junco 8	Lapland Longspur 28
Snow Bunting 6	Northern Cardinal 1	Purple Finch 4	W-winged Crossbill 16
American Goldfinch 24	House Sparrow 6		

Total Species 80, about 34,071 individuals. (CW. Greater Scaup, Great Blue Heron, Killdeer, **Spotted Sandpiper**, Red Knot, Orange-crowned Warbler, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, Common Grackle, House Finch, Common Redpoll, Evening Grosbeak). **Bill Crosby (compiler).**

ST. PETER'S, Dec 27; 6:45AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -4 to -1C. Wind NW 9 - 25kmph. Snow 0-5cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. clear. P.M. partly cloudy. 13 field observers in 9 parties, 19 at feeders. Total party hours 46 (31.5 on foot, 14.5 by car). Total party kilometres 227.2 (38 by foot, 189.2 by car).

Canada Goose 24	Am. Black Duck 178	Mallard 83	Am. Green-winged Teal 7
Greater Scaup 1	Common Eider 2481	Harlequin Duck 1	Surf Scoter 12
W-winged Scoter 12	Black Scoter 563	Long-tailed Duck 98	Bufflehead 2
Common Goldeneye 70	Common Merganser 58	R-breast Merganser 202	Ruffed Grouse 2
Red-throated Loon 2	Common Loon 45	Horned Grebe 16	Red-necked Grebe 20
Northern Gannet 1	D-crested Cormorant 4	Great Cormorant 7	Bald Eagle 12
Northern Harrier 1	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Red-tailed Hawk 1	Merlin 2
Black-headed Gull 6	Bonaparte's Gull 16	Herring Gull 181	Iceland Gull 7
G-B-backed Gull 16	Dovekie 1	Black Guillemot 6	Rock Pigeon 33
Mourning Dove 76	Downy Woodpecker 8	Hairy Woodpecker 3	Northern Flicker 1
Pileated Woodpecker 1	Gray Jay 20	Blue Jay 71	American Crow 416
Common Raven 20	B-capped Chickadee 193	Boreal Chickadee 20	R-breasted Nuthatch 21
Brown Creeper 4	G-crowned Kinglet 19	European Starling 630	Bohemian Waxwing 300
Y-rumped Warbler 1	Am Tree Sparrow 7	Savannah Sparrow 3	Song Sparrow 11
Swamp Sparrow 1	Dark-eyed Junco 14	Snow Bunting 3	Pine Grosbeak 7
W-winged Crossbill 28	Common Redpoll 10	Hoary Redpoll 3	Pine Siskin 1
American Goldfinch 57	Evening Grosbeak 16	House Sparrow 65	

Total Species 67, about 6,239 individuals. (CW. Ring-billed Gull, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Pine Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat). **Billy Digout (compiler).**

SHEET HARBOUR, Dec 24; 7:15AM to 5PM. Temp. -6 to 8C. Wind SE 0-10kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. clear. P.M. partly cloudy. 14 field observers in 7 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 47.5 (31.25 on foot, 16.25 by car). Total party kilometres 219.20 (45 on foot, 174.20 by car).

Am. Black Duck 105	Common Eider 72	Harlequin Duck 46	Surf Scoter 61
W-winged Scoter 7	Black Scoter 16	Long-tailed Duck 382	Bufflehead 6
Common Goldeneye 57	Hooded Merganser 26	Common Merganser 27	R-breasted Merganser 82
R-necked Pheasant 23	Ruffed Grouse 3	Spruce Grouse 9	Red-throated Loon 1
Common Loon 42	Pied-billed Grebe 1	Horned Grebe 34	Red-necked Grebe 18
Great Cormorant 14	Cormorant species 3	Bald Eagle 2	Northern Goshawk 1
Purple Sandpiper 23	Herring Gull 233	G B-backed Gull 1	Gull species 1

Black Guillemot 49	Rock Pigeon 74	Mourning Dove 124	Downy Woodpecker 2
Hairy Woodpecker 4	B-backed Woodpecker 4	Northern Flicker 2	Pileated Woodpecker 1
Gray Jay 3	Blue Jay 54	B-capped Chickadee 253	Boreal Chickadee 46
R-breasted Nuthatch 12	W-breasted Nuthatch 2	Brown Creeper 3	G-crowned Kinglet 65
European Starling 261	Am. Tree Sparrow 11	Fox Sparrow 2	Song Sparrow 19
W-throated Sparrow 12	sparrow species 1	Dark-eyed Junco 18	Red Crossbill 1
W-winged Crossbill 27	Common Redpoll 11	American Goldfinch 50	Evening Grosbeak 52
House Sparrow 1			

Total Species 57 about 2,679 individuals. Jim Cameron, (compiler).

SHUBENACADIE, Dec 16; 6:15AM to 4PM. Temp. -17 to -5C. Wind NW 15-20kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. clear. P.M. clear. 15 field observers in 10 parties, 17 at feeders, .75 hours and 6km owling. Total party hours 51.25 (9.15 on foot, 42.1 by car). Total party kilometres 285.4 (28.4 by foot, 257 by car).

Canada Goose 325	American Wigeon 2	Blue-winged Teal 1	Am. Black Duck 110
Mallard 541	Northern Pintail 4	A. Green-winged Teal 25	Hooded Merganser 2
Common Merganser 111	R-necked Pheasant 9	Ruffed Grouse 4	Bald Eagle 24
Northern Harrier 1	Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Northern Goshawk 1	Broad-winged Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 7	Black-headed Gull 1	Ring-billed Gull 88	Herring Gull 26
Iceland Gull 1	Rock Pigeon 153	Mourning Dove 198	Barred Owl 2
Y-bellied Sapsucker 4	R-bellied Woodpecker 1	Downy Woodpecker 10	Hairy Woodpecker 11
Pileated Woodpecker 5	Gray Jay 3	Blue Jay 298	American Crow 409
Common Raven 60	B-capped Chickadee 416	Boreal Chickadee 3	Red-breasted Nuthatch 12
W-breasted Nuthatch 6	Brown Creeper 5	G-crowned Kinglet 37	American Robin 1
European Starling 7600	Bohemian Waxwing 4	Am. Tree Waxwing 23	Savannah Sparrow 1
Song Sparrow 12	Swamp Sparrow 1	W-throated Sparrow 1	Dark-eyed Junco 208
Red-winged Blackbird 13	Common Grackle 3	B-headed Cowbird 1	Pine Grosbeak 15
Purple Finch 2	Common Redpoll 9	Pine Siskin 28	American Goldfinch 273
Evening Grosbeak 335	House Sparrow 39		

Total Species 58, about 11,488 individuals. (CW. Bufflehead, American Coot). Myrna Isenor (compiler).

SPRINGVILLE, Dec 15; 7:45AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -7 to -2C. Wind NW 20-70kmph. Snow cover 5-15cm. Still water open, moving water partly frozen. A.M cloudy. P.M. partly clear. 7 field observers in 5 parties, 14 at feeders, 1.5 hrs. and 30km. owling. Total party hours 35.5 (8.5 on foot, 27 by car). Total party kilometres 446 (9 by foot, 437 by car).

Canada Goose 54	Wood Duck 1	Am. Black Duck 443	Mallard 46
A. Green-winged Teal 1	Ring-necked Duck 1	Greater Scaup 1	Common Goldeneye 6
Hooded Merganser 26	Common Merganser 6	R-necked Pheasant 13	Ruffed Grouse 2
Pied-billed Grebe 1	Pied-billed Grebe 1	Bald Eagle 15	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 6	American Coot 2	Ring-billed Gull 51	Herring Gull 87
Iceland Gull 1	G B-backed Gull 6	Rock Pigeon 182	Mourning Dove 172
R-bellied Woodpecker 2	Downy Woodpecker 12	Hairy Woodpecker 12	Pileated Woodpecker 1
Blue Jay 97	American Crow 6100	Common Raven 50	B-capped Chickadee 461
Boreal Chickadee 7	R-breasted Nuthatch 5	W-breasted Nuthatch 13	Brown Creeper 2
G-crowned Kinglet 47	European Starling 1180	Bohemian Waxwing 97	Song Sparrow 8
W-throated Sparrow 4	Dark-eyed Junco 95	Snow Bunting 60	Baltimore Oriole 1
Pine Grosbeak 12	Common Redpoll 64	Pine Siskin 8	American Goldfinch 212
Evening Grosbeak 506	House Sparrow 26		

Total Species 49, about 10,239 individuals. (CW. Northern Goshawk, Great Horned Owl, Northern Mockingbird). Steve Vines (compiler).

STRAIT OF CANSO, Dec 28; 7:15AM to 5PM. Temp. 3 to 4C. Winds NE 10-15kmph. Snow cover 0-2cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M cloudy. P.M. local fog. 13 field observers in 9 parties, 11 at feeders. Total party hours 37.2 (24.7 on foot, 12.5 by car). Total party kilometres 247.9 (22 on foot, 225.9 by car).

Canada Goose 31	Am. Black Duck 138	Mallard 7	Greater Scaup 15
Common Eider 18	Surf Scoter 46	W-winged Scoter 3	Black Scoter 3
scoter species 7	Long-tailed Duck 140	Bufflehead 23	Common Goldeneye 86
Hooded Merganser 7	Common Merganser 63	R-breast Merganser 351	Black/Mallard hybrid 2
duck species 22	Ruffed Grouse 3	Common Loon 23	Horned Grebe 6
Ring-necked Grebe 13	D-crested Cormorant 6	Great Cormorant 1	Bald Eagle 12
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Northern Goshawk 1	Red-tailed Hawk 2	Bonaparte's Gull 188
Ring-billed Gull 6	Herring Gull 162	Iceland Gull 121	Glaucous Gull 1
G B-backed Gull 10	gull species 21	Dovekie 5	Black Guillemot 61
Rock Pigeon 161	Mourning Dove 51	Belted Kingfisher 2	Downy Woodpecker 3
Hairy Woodpecker 1	Northern Flicker 1	Pileated Woodpecker 1	Gray Jay 9
Blue Jay 38	American Crow 339	Common Raven 8	B-capped Chickadee 213
Boreal Chickadee 14	Red-breasted Nuthatch 4	W-breasted Nuthatch 1	G-crowned Kinglet 13
R-crowned Kinglet 1	Northern Mockingbird 1	European Starling 810	Pine Warbler 1
Am. Tree Sparrow 1	Savannah Sparrow 1	Song Sparrow 13	W-throated Sparrow 2
W-crowned Sparrow 1	Dark-eyed Junco 26	Common Grackle 2	Purple Finch 1
Red Crossbill 9	W-winged Crossbill 8	Common Redpoll 8	Pine Siskin 1
American Goldfinch 44	Evening Grosbeak 4	House Sparrow 25	

Total Species 67 plus 1 hybrid, about 3,424 individuals. David Johnston (compiler).

TATAMGOUCHE, Jan 5; 7:15AM to 4:15PM. Temp. -6 to -3C. Wind NW 10-48Kmph. Snow cover 5-15cm. Skies cloudy all day. 8 field observers in 8 parties. Total party hours 33 (7 on foot, 26 by car). Total party kilometres 408 (13 on foot, 395 by car).

Canada Goose 305	Am. Black Duck 10	Common Eider 1	Black Scoter 1
Common Goldeneye 134	Barrow's Goldeneye 3	Common Merganser 73	R-breast Merganser 60
R-necked Pheasant 15	Ruffed Grouse 9	Bald Eagle 4	Northern Harrier 2
Red-tailed Hawk 3	Ring-billed Gull 3	Herring Gull 66	G B-backed Gull 2
Rock Pigeon 34	Mourning Dove 75	Downy Woodpecker 7	Hairy Woodpecker 3
Northern Flicker 1	Pileated Woodpecker 2	Gray Jay 1	Blue Jay 64
American Crow 250	Common Raven 24	Horned Lark 2	B-capped Chickadee 119
Red-breasted Nuthatch 3	G-crowned Kinglet 17	American Robin 4	European Starling 335
Am. Tree Sparrow 68	Song Sparrow 14	Dark-eyed Junco 60	Snow Bunting 185
Common Grackle 2	Common Redpoll 514	Pine Siskin 1	American Goldfinch 52
Evening Grosbeak 79			

Total Species 41, about 2,607 individuals. (CW. Pine Grosbeak). John Rubin (compiler).

THE SYDNEYS, Dec 23; 7AM to 4:45PM. Temp. 1 to 6C. Winds SW 8-17kmph. Snow 0-1cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 28 field observers in 14 parties, 27 at feeders. Total party hours 64.75 (44.5 on foot, 20.25 by car). Total party kilometres 483 (29 by foot, 454 by car).

Canada Goose 247	Eurasian Wigeon 2	American Wigeon 20	Am. Black Duck 892
Mallard 412	Am. Green-winged Teal 1	Greater Scaup 312	Lesser Scaup 42
Common Eider 257	Surf Scoter 10	W-winged Scoter 160	Long-tailed Duck 85
Bufflehead 59	Common Goldeneye 469	Barrow's Goldeneye 1	Common Merganser 176
R-breast Merganser 434	Black/Mallard hybrid 36	duck species 45	R-necked Pheasant 21
Ruffed Grouse 2	Common Loon 9	Horned Grebe 1	Red-necked Grebe 2
D-crested Cormorant 1	Great Cormorant 103	Bald Eagle 26	Northern Harrier 1

Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Red-tailed Hawk 3	Purple Sandpiper 6	Black-headed Gull 22
Bonaparte's Gull 1	Ring-billed Gull 29	Herring Gull 1483	Iceland Gull 647
G B-backed Gull 462	Black Guillemot 14	Rock Pigeon 640	Mourning Dove 250
Belted Kingfisher 2	R-bellied Woodpecker 1	Downy Woodpecker 18	Hairy Woodpecker 16
Northern Flicker 3	Blue Jay 195	American Crow 2133	Common Raven 62
B-capped Chickadee 734	Boreal Chickadee 12	Red-breasted Nuthatch 16	W-breasted Nuthatch 3
Brown Creeper 6	G-crowned Kinglet 29	American Robin 2	Northern Mockingbird 1
European Starling 5964	Bohemian Waxwing 743	Cedar Waxwing 5	waxwing species 15
Pine Warbler 1	warbler species 1	Yellow-breasted Chat 1	Am. Tree Sparrow 1
Song Sparrow 42	Swamp Sparrow 1	W-throated Sparrow 1	Dark-eyed Junco 34
Dickcissel 1	Baltimore Oriole 1	Pine Grosbeak 27	Purple Finch 27
W-winged Crossbill 11	Common Redpoll 1	Pine Siskin 7	American Goldfinch 299
Evening Grosbeak 70	House Sparrow 223		

Total Species 76 plus 1 hybrid, about 18,155 individuals. David McCorquodale (compiler)

TRURO, Dec 29; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -3--1C. Winds NW 10kmph. Snow 0-2cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. 11 field observers in 8 parties, 10 at feeders .5 hours and .10km owling. Total party hours 54.5 (22.5 on foot, 32 by car). Total party kilometres 589 (35 on foot, 554 by car).

Canada Goose 1185	American Wigeon 4	Am. Black Duck 383	Mallard 754
Northern Pintail 2	A. Green-winged Teal 5	Common Merganser 6	R-necked Pheasant 37
Ruffed Grouse 10	Bald Eagle 18	Red-tailed Hawk 8	Merlin 1
Peregrine Falcon 1	American Coot 2	Herring Gull 1091	L B-backed Gull 1
G B-backed Gull 24	Rock Pigeon 635	Mourning Dove 287	Barred Owl 2
Belted Kingfisher 1	R-bellied Woodpecker 1	Downy Woodpecker 16	Hairy Woodpecker 11
Northern Flicker 1	Pileated Woodpecker 2	Blue Jay 210	American Crow 8209
Common Raven 17	Horned Lark 90	B-capped Chickadee 363	Boreal Chickadee 8
Red-breasted Nuthatch 8	W-breasted Nuthatch 6	Brown Creeper 5	G-crowned Kinglet 29
American Robin 26	European Starling 5579	Bohemian Waxwing 5	Pine Warbler 1
Palm Warbler 1	Am Tree Sparrow 66	Savannah Sparrow 2	Song Sparrow 22
Swamp Sparrow 1	W-throated Sparrow 21	Dark-eyed Junco 151	Lapland Longspur 6
Snow Bunting 173	Northern Cardinal 7	Red-winged Blackbird 1	Common Grackle 2
Pine Grosbeak 15	Red Crossbill 3	Common Redpoll 228	Pine Siskin 16
American Goldfinch 313	Evening Grosbeak 156	House Sparrow 25	

Total Species 61, about 20,253 individuals. Ross Hall (compiler).

WEST HANTS, Jan 5; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -3C. Wind Variable 0-30kmph. Snow cover 15-30cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. cloudy. P.M. partly cloudy. 12 field observers in 12 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 66.4 (21.4 on foot, 45 by car). Total party kilometres 686.5 (40.8 by foot, 645.7 by car).

Canada Goose 665	Am. Black Duck 1128	Mallard 136	R-necked Pheasant 92
Ruffed Grouse 1	Great Blue Heron 1	Bald Eagle 29	Northern Harrier 2
Northern Goshawk 1	Broad-winged Hawk 1	Red-tailed Hawk 18	Ring-billed Gull 39
Herring Gull 207	G B-backed Gull 14	Rock Pigeon 312	Mourning Dove 407
Barred Owl 1	R-bellied Woodpecker 1	Downy Woodpecker 21	Hairy Woodpecker 25
Northern Flicker 17	Pileated Woodpecker 1	Blue Jay 380	American Crow 569
Common Raven 61	B-capped Chickadee 368	R-breasted Nuthatch 1	W-breasted Nuthatch 15
Brown Creeper 2	G-crowned Kinglet 6	American Robin 2	European Starling 2060
American Pipit 2	Bohemian Waxwing 213	Pine Warbler 1	Am. Tree Sparrow 80
Savannah Sparrow 1	Song Sparrow 45	W-throated Sparrow 36	Dark-eyed Junco 444
Snow Bunting 315	Northern Cardinal 6	Red-winged Blackbird 2	Common Grackle 7

Red Crossbill 3	Common Redpoll 510	Pine Siskin 37	American Goldfinch 705
Evening Grosbeak 203	House Sparrow 22		

Total Species 50, about 9,474. Patrick Kelly (compiler).

WHITE POINT, Dec 16; 8:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -11 to -3C. N 25-30kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen. Moving water open. Skies clear all day. 5 field observers in 2 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 16 (9 on foot, 7 by car). Total party kilometres 90.5 (8 on foot, 82.5 by car).

Canada Goose 7	Am. Black Duck 77	Mallard 51	A. Green Winged Teal 17
Common Eider 67	Surf Scoter 16	W-winged Scoter 1	Black Scoter 2
Long-tailed Duck 32	Bufflehead 53	Hooded Merganser 2	R-breasted Merganser 13
Ruffed Grouse 2	Red-throated Loon 2	Common Loon 11	Horned Grebe 13
Red-necked Grebe 16	Great Cormorant 12	Bald Eagle 1	hawk species 1
B-bellied Plover 2	Sanderling 4	American Woodcock 1	Herring Gull 310
G B-backed Gull 45	Black Guillemot 7	Rock Pigeon 84	Mourning Dove 91
Downy Woodpecker 8	Hairy Woodpecker 7	Northern Flicker 1	Blue Jay 56
American Crow 83	Common Raven 3	B-capped Chickadee 96	Red-breasted Nuthatch 8
W-breasted Nuthatch 8	G-crowned Kinglet 16	R-crowned Kinglet 1	American Robin 29
Northern Mockingbird 1	European Starling 66	Y-rumped Warbler 28	Pine Warbler 1
Y-breasted Chat 1	Am Tree Sparrow 2	Song Sparrow 42	W-throated Sparrow 63
Dark-eyed Junco 64	Northern Cardinal 14	Common Grackle 5	W-winged Crossbill 7
Common Redpoll 9	Pine Siskin 9	American Goldfinch 72	Evening Grosbeak 1

Total Species 55, about 1,641 individuals. James Hirtle, (compiler).

WOLFVILLE, Dec 15; 8AM to 4:15PM. Temp. -6 to -3C. Wind NW 18-30kmph. Snow 0-5cm. Still water partly open. Moving water partly open. AM cloudy. PM partly clear.. 57 field observers in 16 parties, 84 at feeders. 2 hours and .5km owling. Total party hours 150.60 (83.15 on foot, 67.45 by car). Total party kilometres 910.35 (152.75 on foot, 757.6 by car).

Canada Goose 779	Am. Black Duck 1631	Mallard 1142	Long-tailed Duck 1
Common Goldeneye 2	Hooded Merganser 6	Common Merganser 10	Ruddy Duck 1
duck species 280	R-necked Pheasant 170	Ruffed Grouse 1	Red-throated Loon 1
cormorant species 2	Great Blue Heron 2	Osprey 1	Bald Eagle 1
Northern Harrier 4	Sharp-shinned Hawk 6	Cooper's Hawk 1	Red-tailed Hawk 108
Rough-legged Hawk 4	hawk species 1	Merlin 4	Peregrine Falcon 3
Ring-billed Gull 16	Herring Gull 2661	Iceland Gull 46	G B-backed Gull 411
gull species 301	Rock Pigeon 245	Mourning Dove 647	Barred Owl 1
R-bellied Woodpecker 3	Downy Woodpecker 74	Hairy Woodpecker 45	Northern Flicker 38
Pileated Woodpecker 2	Eastern Phoebe 1	Blue Jay 862	American Crow 1614
Common Crow 1614	Common Raven 370	Horned Lark 183	B-capped Chickadee 1361
Red-breasted Nuthatch 15	W-breasted Nuthatch 70	Brown Creeper 10	Marsh Wren 1
G-crowned Kinglet 25	American Robin 185	European Starling 6280	O-crowned Warbler 1
Pine Warbler 1	warbler species 2	Am. Tree Sparrow 38	Chipping Sparrow 11
Savannah Sparrow 1	Song Sparrow 231	Swamp Sparrow 1	W-throated Sparrow 140
W-crowned Sparrow 2	sparrow species 3	Dark-eyed Junco 1863	Northern Cardinal 56
R-breasted Grosbeak 2	Common Grackle 39	Br-headed Cowbird 7	Pine Grosbeak 16
Purple Finch 19	W-winged Crossbill 12	Common Redpoll 157	Pine Siskin 231
American Goldfinch 1705	Evening Grosbeak 64	House Sparrow 114	

Total Species 69, about 24,637 individuals. Alison Bogan (compiler), Jim Wolford (feeder co-ordinator).

YARMOUTH, Dec 16; 7:45AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -7.5 to -3.8C. Wind N 7 - 17kmph. Snow .5cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 20 field observers in 8 parties, 14 at feeders. Total party hours 50.3 (12 by foot, 38.3 by car). Total party kilometres 658.5 (38.3 by foot, 640 by car).

Snow Goose 1	Canada Goose 1413	Am. Black Duck 461	Mallard 487
Northern Pintail 4	Am. Green-winged Teal 6	Greater Scaup 16	Common Eider 43
W-winged Scoter 2	Long-tailed Duck 6	Bufflehead 78	Common Goldeneye 38
Hooded Merganser 38	Common Merganser 2	Red-breast Merganser 31	Ring-necked Pheasant 5
Ruffed Grouse 4	Common Loon 25	Red-necked Grebe 1	Great Blue Heron 3
Turkey Vulture 38	Bald Eagle 12	Northern Harrier 7	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 3	Rough-legged Hawk 4	American Kestrel 1	Sandhill Crane 1
Black-bellied Plover 15	Sanderling 35	Ring-billed Gull 88	Herring Gull 226
G B-backed Gull 78	Black Guillemot 3	Rock Pigeon 183	Mourning Dove 227
Barred Owl 1	Belted Kingfisher 3	R-bellied Woodpecker 2	Downy Woodpecker 17
Hairy Woodpecker 21	Northern Flicker 12	Pileated Woodpecker 1	Gray Jay 1
Blue Jay 158	American Crow 409	Common Raven 15	Horned Lark 26
B-capped Chickadee 392	Boreal Chickadee 5	Red-breasted Nuthatch 21	W-breasted Nuthatch 7
Brown Creeper 3	G-crowned Kinglet 6	R-crowned Kinglet 10	Hermit Thrush 1
American Robin 69	Northern Mockingbird 1	European Starling 1771	waxwing species 1
O-crowned Warbler 1	Y-rumped Warbler 25	Y-breasted Chat 1	Eastern Towhee 1
Am. Tree Sparrow 11	Savannah Sparrow 2	Fox Sparrow 1	Song Sparrow 39
W-throated Sparrow 182	sparrow species 10	Dark-eyed Junco 79	Northern Cardinal 53
Red-winged Blackbird 1	Common Grackle 2	Br-headed Cowbird 16	Purple Finch 1
House Finch 49	W-winged Crossbill 17	Common Redpoll 68	Pine Siskin 40
American Goldfinch 108	Evening Grosbeak 13	House Sparrow 16	

Total Species 82, about 7,275 individuals. Barbara Ruff and Eric Ruff (compliers).

The Discovery of Nova Scotia's First Ross's Goose

By Michael King

Late in the day on Dec 31, I discovered the Ross's Goose amongst a flock of nine "Lesser" Snow Geese on the still green Forces Golf Course at Hartlen Pt., *HRM*. I had seen the Snow Geese earlier in the day mixed in with a flock of a couple of hundred Canada Geese, but had not noticed the Ross's Goose. Rita Viau arrived a few minutes later. We wanted to get photographs of the Snow Geese to try to determine if they were "Greater" or "Lesser", but they "spooked" before we got close enough. All the geese flew toward the "Back Cove" of Hartlen Pt., so I drove off to see if I could relocate them. I found a huge flock (1500+) of Canadas at Rainbow Haven PP, and watched six Snow Geese apparently trying to land, but they did not, and flew toward Cole Harbour. Then I drove to the north end of Bissett L, and watched them land on the lake in the midst of a couple of hundred Canadas.

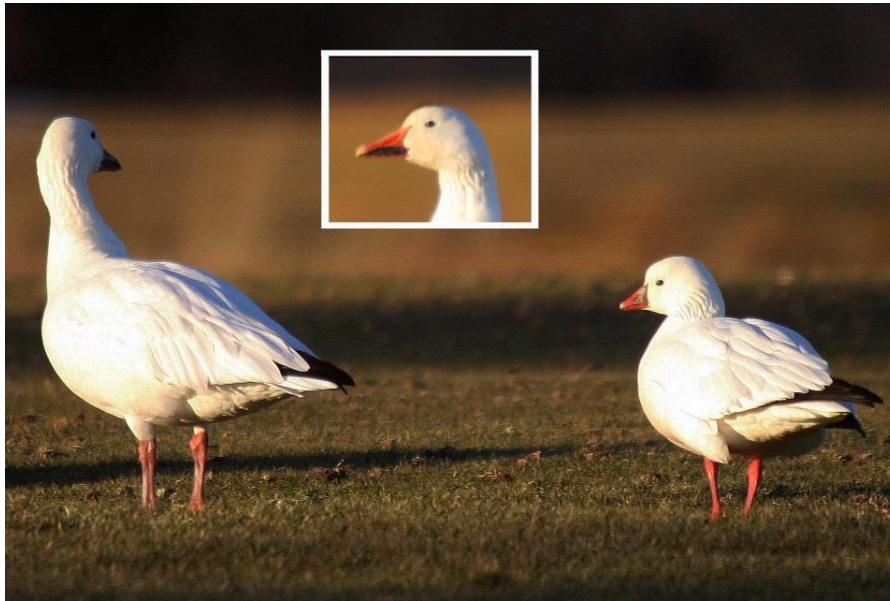
Then I headed back to Hartlen Pt. to see if it was possible that there was more than one flock, and behold the flock of ten white geese was back on the golf green. I made my way through the tall grass and shrubs that grow along the stream that separates the two greens closest to the entrances of the golf course. I then realized that one of the white geese was noticeably smaller so, with Ross's in mind, I got as many photos as I could (and drained the camera battery). In the evening, when I was able to charge the battery and view the images, I hoped Dave Currie and Fulton Lavender could help with my suspicions, and sent a couple of images to Ian McLaren for his opinion, and he quickly agreed with my diagnosis.

I had hesitated posting out a rare bird alert until next morning, because I wanted to confirm my identification before sending people out on a possible "wild goose chase". As it turned out, the Ross's and its companions were there on New Year's Day for the keenest birders, and it was seen by many others until the day it was last reported, Jan 13.

The Ross's Goose was certainly part of a larger eastward movement of "Lesser" Snow Geese at the time. For example, the sightings on the day of discovery of a group of nine with the Ross's, and six without suggests these were two different

groups. Also, while the Hartlen Pt. group was being observed in early January, a confirmed group of 32 Snow Geese, to which a previously trapped immature one had been added, had been frequenting the nearby Shearwater Airbase. The geese, for safety reasons, were finally harassed off the airfield in early afternoon of Jan 8. On my way home from work that day, I saw 15 Snow Geese, including (presumably) the released young one, at McCormacks Beach in Eastern Passage. Others saw this group, sometimes recorded as 15, sometimes as 16, grazing on the airbase property near Shore Rd., up until Feb.10. [Acting Editor's Note. The last-mentioned group turned out to be "Greater" Snows, so may not have been part of the eastward movement. These and other winter occurrences of Snow Geese are discussed in the Waterfowl section, see p. 5]

Below is a collage of two of the images I obtained late in the day of discovery.



Note the smaller size, very different head profile, stubby bill without the SNOW GOOSE'S dark "grinning patch", gray at the base of the bill, and more vividly pink legs of the ROSS'S GOOSE. Photographed late on discovery day, Dec 31.

First Photographic Documentation of Barolo Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, and White-faced Storm-Petrel in Canadian waters

By Tom Johnson

During August 2012, I was fortunate to be aboard NOAA ship Henry B. Bigelow during a NOAA Climate Variability on the East Coast (CliVEC) cruise as a seabird biologist for the City University of New York. While most of the survey took place in US waters above the Continental Shelf, on August 17, 2012, the ship entered deep water off the Continental Shelf in Nova Scotian waters, and we encountered a remarkable diversity of seabirds. In less than one day of surveying this area with line transects, Holly Goyert (PhD candidate at City University of New York) and I recorded a remarkable diversity of seabirds, three of which (Barolo Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, and White-faced Storm-Petrel) were photographically documented in Canadian waters for the first time.

BAROLO SHEARWATER (*Puffinus baroli*)

At 11:51 AM [ca. 200 km s. of Bacarro, *Shel*], I noticed a small, black-and-white shearwater flying with rapid bursts of wingbeats heading opposite the ship's path. Through binoculars, I could see that this was a tiny shearwater that appeared even smaller than the Audubon's Shearwaters that I'd recently seen off Massachusetts. Several times during the brief glides, the bird raised its head up in an unusual posture and looked to each side. Most notable, however, were the pale bands near the trailing edge of the inner part of each wing (pale greater and median covert tips) and the extensively white underwing and

undertail coverts; the wing panels, underparts, and whitish face (with the eye obviously offset by a vague white outline) combined to point toward identification as Barolo Shearwater (formerly considered to be a North Atlantic representative of Little Shearwater, and now referred to in various sources as North Atlantic Little Shearwater, Macaronesian Shearwater, Baroli Shearwater, and Barolo Shearwater), a taxon I'd never seen before. I excitedly grabbed my camera and fired off a series of photos before the bird disappeared down the ship's beam. Total observation time was less than 15 seconds. Water depth was 1740 meters; sea-surface temperature, 78°F.

Later, as the ship moved north into shallower water [ca.180 km s. of Bacarro], the Barolo Shearwater magic continued. After the excitement of the first Barolo Shearwater, Holly Goyert and Sammi Ocher joined me on the flying bridge and they were present for subsequent observations of the day's rarities. The second Barolo Shearwater appeared at 2:55 PM and paralleled the ship for 5-10 minutes, affording great views to Holly, Sammi, and me. Because it was so close to the ship, this was the day's best opportunity to study the details of identification, and this individual also cooperated for the best photos. This bird had a very white face (a bit more so than the other Barolo Shearwaters seen today) and even stopped to forage briefly, landing and dipping its head underwater while flailing its thin wings around (very much like Audubon's Shearwater in manner). Water depth was 1460 m; sea surface temperature, 74°F. We had a more distant sighting of a third Barolo Shearwater at 3:25 PM. This bird flew alongside the moving ship for a solid 3-4 minutes, and we were able to see and photograph the relevant details as described above. Water depth was 1155 m.; sea surface temperature, 70°F. The fourth and final Barolo Shearwater sighting of this eventful day came at 4:30 PM after we'd continued northward into the shallower waters of the Northeast Channel (~150 km s. of Bacarro). Water depth was 314 m; sea surface temperature, 70°F.

Barolo Shearwater has only been found a few times in late summer or early fall off the eastern coast of North America. North American records were reviewed by Steve N.G. Howell's "Petrels, Albatrosses & Storm-Petrels of North America": one specimen from Sable Island, Nova Scotia on 1 Sept 1896; three birds seen south of Sable Island, Nova Scotia in late September 2003; one bird on 25 Aug 2007, about 135 km southeast of Nantucket, Massachusetts; an additional specimen record from South Carolina is noted by Howell [*op. cit.*] to be an Audubon's Shearwater. Additionally, Michael Force saw one individual 160 miles ESE of Nantucket, MA on 29 July 2011 while surveying seabirds on a NOAA cruise (M. Force pers. comm.). Just nine days after the 2012 Nova Scotia sightings reported herein, one individual was photographed on a pelagic birding trip off Massachusetts on 26 Aug 2013.



Above are the first (left) and second **BAROLO SHEARWATERS** photographed of four seen well off shore, but within Nova Scotian waters, Aug. 17, 2012. [Photos Tom Johnson] The bird at left is in its unusual head-up posture.



The third of four **BAROLO SHEARWATERS** observed Aug. 17, 2012, off Nova Scotia, showed, at left, its short tail and pale undertail coverts compared with the similar Audubon's, and at right its more extensively white face and more pale plumage on upper wings (presumably from wear) compared with the two earlier individuals. [Photos Tom Johnson]

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER (*Puffinus lherminieri*)

At 2:30 PM, a small, black-and-white shearwater passed by the bow of the ship. Without binoculars, I could see that this was a larger, slower-flapping, and longer-tailed bird than the Barolo Shearwaters that I had studied earlier in the day. Through binoculars, I could see solidly dark brown upperparts and a mostly pale face, with the dark eye and dark lores isolated in white. The underparts were mostly white, but most notably, the undertail coverts were largely dark. I wasn't able to see the underwing pattern very well in the field, but was able to document this individual with a series of photos as it quickly flew away from the ship. Given the unexpected Barolo Shearwater sightings of the same day, I should probably acknowledge the potential problem of eliminating Boyd's Shearwater (*Puffinus boydi*) with respect to Audubon's Shearwaters in North America; my impression was of a larger, longer billed, slightly slower flapping bird than the Barolo Shearwaters. Since Boyd's is supposed to be Barolo-like in size and with a shorter bill than Audubon's, I feel reasonably comfortable that this was definitely an Audubon's Shearwater, which is regular in deep, warm water off the edge of the Continental Shelf north to Massachusetts in late summer.



This **AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** found Aug. 17, 2012, off Nova Scotia, is the first to be photographically documented in Canada. Note the brown-tinged upperparts, long tail, and dark undertail coverts.

White-faced Storm Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*)

At 3:23 PM, just before the third Barolo Shearwater of the day scampered past. I was following a passing Sanderling in my binoculars when I noticed a slow, pale blob splashing on the water's surface ahead of the ship. After many years of dreaming about this bird, I immediately recognized the pogo-stick flight action and foot splashes of a White-faced Storm-Petrel. It had a gray-brown back and inner upperwings that contrasted with black remiges and rectrices, a pale gray rump, largely white underparts (except for dark ventral surfaces to the remiges), and a white face marked by a black cap and a thin black postocular mask. This was a bird that I'd anticipated seeing for a long time, and I wasn't disappointed by its stunning appearance and uniquely bizarre foraging flight style. Water depth was 1155 meters; sea surface temperature = 70°F. At 3:47 PM, just after we'd crossed up onto the edge of the Continental Shelf, another distinctive White-faced Storm-Petrel bounced into view alongside the ship. More than a few expletives were shared with my companions on the flying bridge, and more photos were taken. Water depth was 344 meters; sea surface temperature = 70°F.



These first photographs obtained of **WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL** in Canada nicely show both its distinctive plumage and its long, frequently dangled legs. [Photos Tom Johnson]

Barolo Shearwater (*Puffinus baroli*); What's in the Name

By Eric L. Mills

Barolo is a small village in the Italian Piedmont not far south of Torino. Barolo Shearwater was named for the Marchese Carlo Tancredi Falletti di Barolo (1783-1838), and possibly his wife the Marchesa Guilietta Francesca Falletti di Barolo (1785-1864) of Torino; one or both probably came from the village, and the Marchese maintained a small bird collection.

As nobleman and mayor of Torino, Falletti may have been the patron of Franco Andrea Bonelli (1784-1830), naturalist and Professor of Zoology in the University of Torino, also director of its zoological museum. Bonelli's name is commemorated in a number of European bird species, notably Bonelli's Eagle and Bonelli's Warbler (now split into e. and w. species).

Bonelli got a specimen of a small black and white shearwater from another naturalist, the French zoologist Louis-Antoine-François Baillon (1778-1855), about 1820 and probably named it for Falletti, as Barolo Shearwater, although the formal description of the species was by the French biologist Charles-Lucien-Jules Bonaparte (1803-1857) in 1857; he appears to have called it *Puffinus baroli*. Later it came to be called *Puffinus assimilis baroli*, part of the Little Shearwater complex, and only in the 21st century was it separated from Little Shearwater in the taxonomy accepted by the British Ornithologists' Union (as a subspecies *P. baroli baroli* of Macaronesian Shearwater, *P. baroli*). It has not yet been accepted as a species separate from Little Shearwater by the American Ornithologists' Union, although Pamela Rasmussen of Michigan State University, a member of the AOU's Committee on Classification and Nomenclature, has recommended that it be split, removing Little Shearwater from the North American list and adding Barolo Shearwater: <http://www.aou.org/committees/nacc/proposals/2013-A.pdf>, which includes alternative proposals).

(The above was cobbled together, with a few leaps of faith, from Barbara & Richard Mearns, 1988, *Biographies for Birdwatchers. The Lives of Those Commemorated in Western Palearctic Bird Names*; Steve Howell, 2012, *Petrels, Albatrosses & Storm-Petrels of North America*); and the American Ornithologists Union website).

A Portfolio of Mew (Common) Gulls

By Bernard Burke

Repeated observation of the MEW (COMMON) GULLS in Dartmouth from early January led me to conclude that two different individuals were involved. Here is small selection a series of photos taken through early spring demonstrating that conclusion. An individual photographed by Dennis Garratt Fen 18 at Purdys Wharf, on the Halifax side of the harbour, seems to differ from either of the Dartmouth birds.

These photos, taken Jan 13 at Sullivans Pond, shows a feature that distinguished this gull though the season – a particularly small bill with an obscure ring, and a missing second outermost primary (P 9) on the right wing.



This is apparently the same bird Feb 25 at Sullivans Pond. Note the same smallish bill with obscure ring, round head, and the missing primary in the right wing, but it has lost almost all of the winter-duskiness of the head plumage.

This individual, Jan 8 at Sullivans Pond, differs from the above in its duskier head, longer bill with a more distinct dark ring, and notably because it has both outer primaries (p9 and p10) in the right wing. It appears to be the same one depicted in the Gulls to Alcids section (p. 24) [Photo Bernard Burke]



This individual, Mar 21 at Tufts Cove, shows the same features as the above bird, but has lost some of the duskiness of the head plumage. [Photo Bernard Burke]

This individual, photographed by Dennis Garratt at Purdys Wharf, on the Halifax side of the harbour, differs from either of the above two. Its photo shows it had a full complement of primaries, but with a distinct small “mirror” (white spot inside the black tip, see insert) on P 8 of both wings, not found in the other two.



Birds in Our Past

Eric Ruff has forwarded two more items gleaned from the archived "Yarmouth Herald". One might conclude from the first that the author was one of us, and from the second that this might be how bird feeding began here.

From the Yarmouth Herald, May 5, 1881

USEFULNESS OF BIRDS AT SEA.

The pleasure of watching birds at sea, whether in the air or skimming the ocean wave's crest, is to many minds very keen. And there is something more to be considered. Mariners can often tell their way by these birds, especially when nearing a coast. I well remember how I used to watch for them on approaching certain coasts, such as parts of Patagonia, too low to be seen at the ordinary distance. Once, when coming from Monte Video, with a mail and important government dispatches on board for the Falkland Islands I was able to run on my course in safety, owing to a particular bird having joined company with us. On the occasion referred to we were approaching the land in thick, misty weather with a strong fair breeze. It had been clouded over for a day or two so that my solar observations were somewhat doubtful. I was anxious, for it was draw-

ing toward evening, and I wished to get into Port Stanley with the mail that night. It was, however, so thick, that we could not see a mile ahead. Presently a shrill noise was heard, a flapping of wings made us look around and above; and soon we saw what we called the "pilot" bird. I knew my distance now, for these birds never fly beyond so many miles from land. Therefore, we cautiously ran on till I caught a glimpse of a bluff cape, then steered more easterly, till after dark, with a clear night, I sighted Cape Pembroke light, and knowing the passages well, worked my vessel up Port William, then shot through the "Narrows" and anchored in Port Stanley, nearly opposite Government house, about 1 o'clock in the morning. Next day I was thanked by his excellency the governor—himself a high naval officer—for the quick trip made, and the dispatches, being long-wished-for private correspondence, we had brought. But to this day I thank God's feathered pilots, who had then and often shown me the way.—*Chambers' Journal.*

Dec 29, 1886

The Christmas Sheaf.

There is a pretty and curious custom in Norway. A pole is fastened up over the door of the barns and the farm-houses, and on the top is a little sheaf of wheat. A traveller was for a long time puzzled to understand what it could mean. He did not know the language well enough to understand the answers of the peasant when he asked them about the sheaf, so he had made up his mind that the little sheaf of corn must be an offering set out for the use of Nigél, or one of the spirits of wind, water, or storm, in whom the peasants of Norway more than half believe. But he was wrong.

One day he fell in with an old Norwegian gentleman, who stopped at the same farmhouse, and who spoke English. He asked him the meaning of those mysterious sheaves of corn. He laughed heartily at the stranger's guesses, and then told him that the little sheaves were put out at Christmas time every year "that the birds might have a merry Christmas." Every Christmas-ove the old sheaf is taken down and a fresh one put up. The Norwegian custom is worthy of imitation.



The advertisement features a central image of a piping plover standing on a sand dune. To the left, a pair of green Vortex binoculars is shown. To the right, a Vortex spotting scope is mounted on a tripod. In the top right corner, the Vortex Optics logo is displayed, including the text "VORTEX OPTICS" and "UNCONDITIONAL UNLIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY".

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