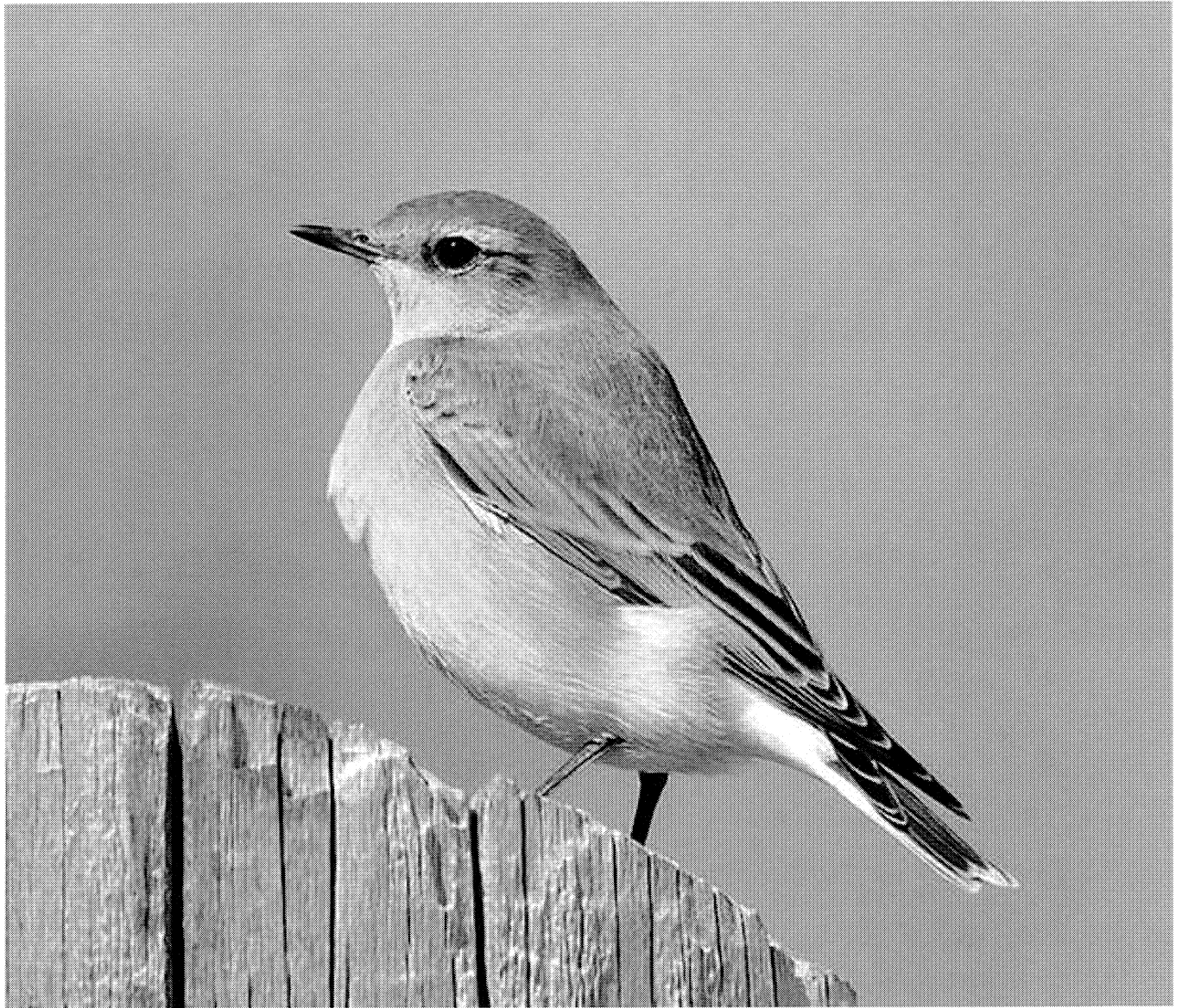


Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society

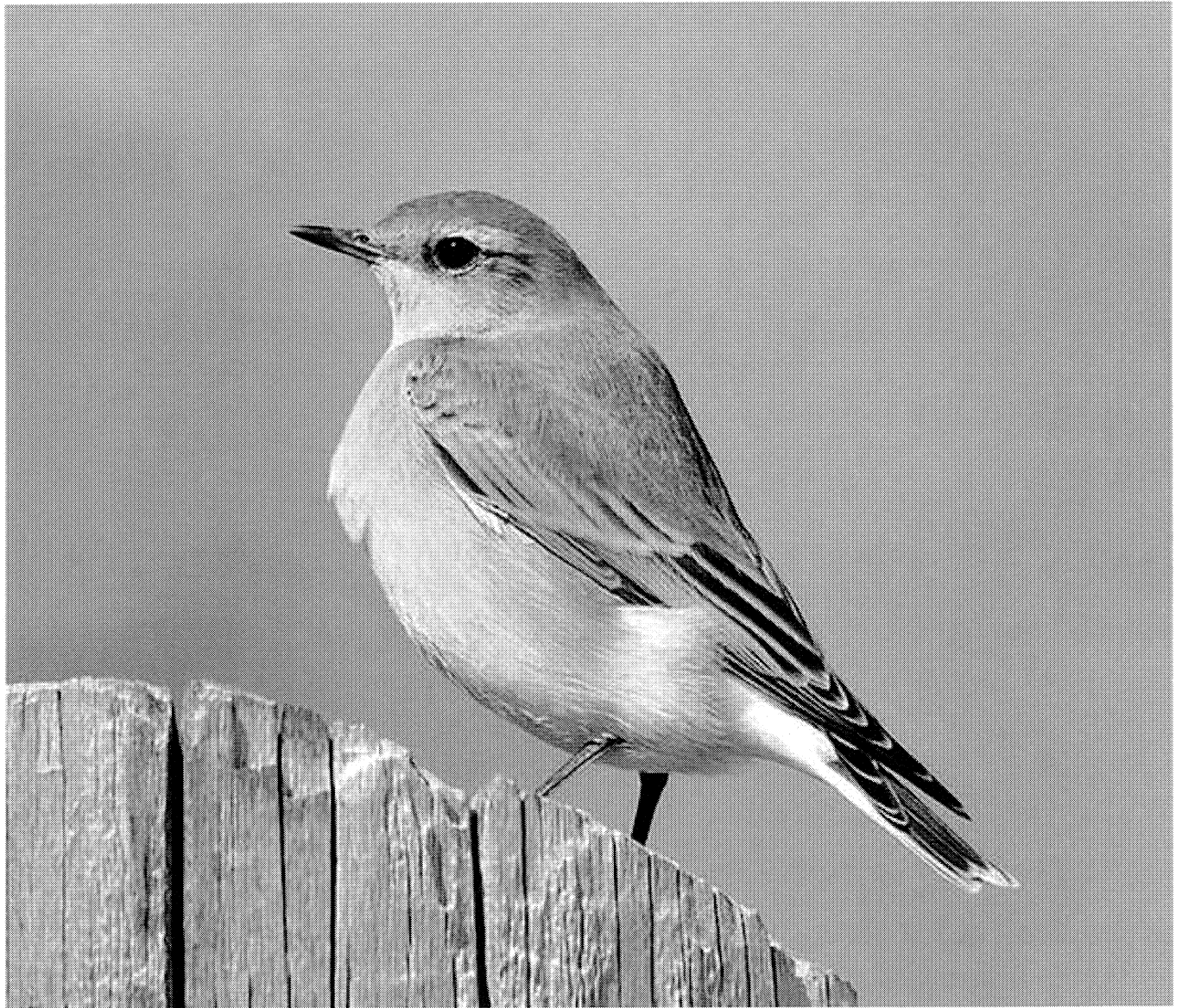


Winter 2012

(The Birds of Autumn)

Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Winter 2012

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NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Executive 2011-2012

President	Patrick Kelly
Vice President	Terry Boswell
Past President	Vacant
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Director	Kathleen MacAulay
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Director	Helene Van Doninck
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Honorary Auditor	Ruth E. Smith

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

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Special points of interest:

- President's Corner
- The Early October Fallout of Southern Birds
- Update on Piping Plovers in Nova Scotia: 2011 Report (BSC)
- Photo Gallery - Urban Waterfowl
- The Big Year Comes to Nova Scotia
- Upcoming Events

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Cover: An early NORTHERN WHEATEAR, Sep. 16 at Margaretsville, Ann., was well documented and photographed. [Photo Richard Stern]

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS

WINTER 2012

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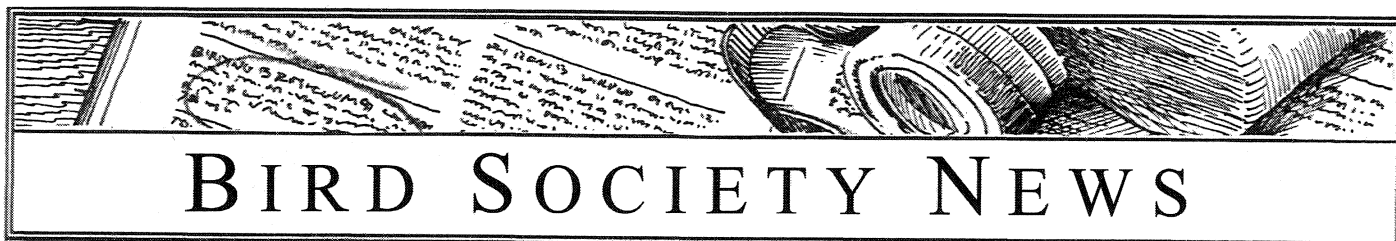
Published four times a year.



This SNOW GOOSE October 23 at Falmouth, Hants, played second fiddle to the Pink-foot hanging around the same fields, but was a pretty sight, nonetheless. Its relatively short neck and stubby bill suggest it might have been of "Lesser" Snow Goose stock. [Photo Rita Viau]



A white-headed COMMON GRACKLE was an oddity, August 1 at a feeder in Dartmouth. [Photo Brenda McAloney]



BIRD SOCIETY NEWS

President's Corner

By Patrick Kelly

This report will cover a wide range of topics. I will try to keep it as concise as possible.

Annual General Meeting: I was unable to attend the annual general meeting due car problems (bent rims caused by sliding on ice into two curbs!). I would like to thank all of the people who have given their time and expertise to make the society work. This includes the members of the executive committee, the people who lead our many field trips, those who report the birds that they see (whether on their own or part of organised counts), the production team that puts together the society's publication, the auditor who reviews our financial statements, and all those members who work in the background. Without a lot of people, the society would not exist. It is unfortunate that we have been having a problem with the turnout at meetings. From what I have gathered, there has not actually been a quorum at either of the last two AGMs. At least in this case, it was not due to lack of notice, as we mailed a separate notice to all members well in advance of the meeting. That may be a sign of the times. On the other hand, our Facebook group now has almost 200 members and is growing. Thanks to Helene VanDoninck for starting this initiative. This year past we also participated in the Outdoor Sports & RV Show and provided some startup funding for Ian McLaren's new book (working title: All the Birds of Nova Scotia) which will be published in 2012 by Gaspereau Press.

The 2011 Executive Committee: I would like to thank all of those who served on the executive committee last year. It was unfortunate that an unexpected health issue required Jim Cameron to step down as president early in the year. Terry Boswell, as vice-president, did a great job of filling in. It was also good to have experienced people in the treasurer's (Gillian Elliott) and membership secretary's (Ulli Hoeger) positions. Pat McKay continues to get out the minutes of the meetings of the executive meetings in short order and also hosts the meetings when she is not birding abroad. Kathleen MacAulay, Chris Pepper, Tuma Young, and Helene Van Doninck are the remaining directors and participated fully in the meetings, and always provided valuable input. Bob McDonald is also a member of the executive committee by virtue of chairing the Society's Sanctuary Trust. This year, we had our first "wireless" executive meeting with Helene participating from Truro via Skype. It worked well, and hopefully this will encourage people from outside the Halifax area to participate on the executive.

The 2012 Executive Committee: The slate that was circulated was acclaimed at the AGM. Kathleen MacAulay will be leaving the executive, due to her studies. The only other change is that I'm back as president for one more year. I want to note that this will be my last year on the executive, as I plan to step down from executive at the end of this year. I am applying for a sabbatical for 2013 and have been involved in many volunteer positions over the last 20 years that I have decided to take a sabbatical from them as well. In the words of Bilbo Baggins, in *The Lord of the Rings*: "Why, I feel all thin, sort of stretched, if you know what I mean: like butter that has been scraped over too much bread." I have a checklist of duties for any members who may want to consider taking on the position next year.

Certificates of Appreciation: The society awarded five of these in late 2010 although by the time you read this, the last of them should have been received by the recipients. They were awarded to: Sharon and George Digout (many contributions to the Society and the Sanctuary Trust), Bob McDonald (many contributions to the Society and the Sanctuary Trust), Fritz McEvoy (conducting and coordinating surveys), Murray Newell (field trips and promotion of Cape Sable Island), and Jim Wolford (field trips & conservation of chimney swifts).

Puffin of the Year: The 2012 award goes to James Hirtle for his long contributions to the society as a field trip leader, (often showing up on many other trips well outside his usual area). He was a co-coordinator of Region 19 Mersey-Lehave for the recent five-year Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas. He contributes numerous sightings to the society's magazine, and through the NatureNS listserve and has been instrumental in raising awareness of birds as one of the long-time organisers of the South Shore Naturalists. This award normally would have been presented at the society's annual general meeting, but James' work schedule did not allow it, which is why it was felt that a South Shore Naturalists meeting would be a timely place. Eric Mills, who was at the AGM and was to be the speaker at their next meeting volunteered to present the award in Bridgewater. Eric is a past-president as well as previous recipient of the award, so it was quite fitting. On a less happy note, at their recent AGM, the South Shore Naturalists, due

to a lack of new people to run the club, passed a motion to disband and a small committee has been formed to disperse the club's assets.

By-law Changes: While I was not at the AGM, there was some concern over the executive committee's ability to change the by-laws unilaterally. That was the way they were written, likely when they were originally approved, as they were not changed since then. As it turns out, the province recently changed the Societies Act, and the revised Constitution/Bylaws will need some significant changes before they will be approved by the Registry of Joint Stock Companies. For starters, the word "constitution" is no longer used, we have no mechanism to remove officers, and changes now require, if I understand correctly, a signed document stating that 3/4 of the people in attendance at a meeting called to approve them voted in favour. Fortunately, our honorary solicitor, Tony Robinson, has agreed to review them, along with the feedback we have received from the province, and hopefully we will have a new set ready for adoption at the 2012 AGM.

Membership Survey: We got some feedback on the future of the society and its publication from the AGM notice (about 15 responses came in). In an effort to look at the broader community, including non-members, and lapsed members, Tuma Young prepared a brief on-line survey which was advertised in several places, including the Society's Facebook page, web site, and several listservs. While this produced a lot more responses (about 70) it was disappointing to find that 15 of them were attacks on other people, often based on things that happened in the distant past. It is not clear if these were from members, past members, or non-members, but I would have thought most people would have outgrown this sort of behaviour in junior high school. These submissions were deleted and the executive has had a chance for a first cut at the results. There are lots of interesting ideas and opinions.

Getting the Lead Out: Helene Van Doninck has recently become very active in a campaign to replace lead shot in hunting. She has a lot of first-hand experience with raptors who have ingested lead from dead animals or gut piles left over from deer hunting. Not only are animals affected, but X-rays show that the lead fragments spread out in a fine "spray" and contaminate most of the shot animal, thus any meat from it used for food also contains high amounts of lead. She has given presentations all over the province and has been getting lots of support from people in the outdoors community including hunters, especially as many were unaware of the problem. She has gotten funding from several organizations, including this society, to make a presentation at a conference in Utah, that could help to make this a continent-wide issue. It is worth noting that last year she was the recipient of the Canadian Wildlife Federation's Stan Hodgkiss Canadian Outdoorsperson of the Year Award for her commitment to wildlife conservation.

NS Birds: As you are likely aware, after many years of dedicated service, Blake Maybank has decided to step down as editor of the Society's quarterly publication. I would thank him for the marvelous job that he has done for many years! A meeting was held recently with Blake, many of the seasonal editors, and the executive committee to discuss the future of the publication. The role of the editor is to coordinate all of the activities (we have a working production schedule), as well as to review the seasonal reports for any sighting which may be missing. Recruitment of new seasonal editors arises occasionally. The person who holds this position should have considerable knowledge of the birds of Nova Scotia. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact me.

We also need two seasonal editors, as after many years of excellent service, two of our veteran seasonal editors are stepping down: Wayne Neily who looked after both Galliformes and Diurnal Raptors, and Hans Toom who looked after the Flycatchers to Thrushes section. I would like to thank both of them for the work they have done on the magazine.

Until we have an editor, the production team of Lise Cormier, Pam Mills, and Terry Boswell will do their best to fill the role, but Terry will only be able to fill in for so long, and without an editor, the publication may cease until one can be found. That has happened for a nine month period in the past.

As was mentioned at the AGM, the magazine is put out by the combined efforts of a large number of volunteers and the editor. This year the publication has been unfortunately delayed for a variety of reasons. Hopefully things are back on track, and we will get caught up on the lost time eventually. There was discussion both from the membership feedback, the survey and the AGM that most were receptive to an electronic format of some sort, but keeping a printed version as well, at least initially, for those who did not have computer access. The main point that needs to be made is without the layout for a printed version, one cannot have an electronic version. Most members would be content to have only rarities and unusual numbers or occurrences of commoner birds listed by the seasonal editors, with these sightings presented in a more narrative approach rather than tabular, to make it more interesting and enjoyable to read. This was what was done in the past. The current format, as noted by one person, "reads like a telephone book". It should also be kept in mind that no listing can include everything, and that NS Birds is not an "official" rare records publication but a listing of what was reported, and not necessarily confirmed.

Field Trips and Regular Meetings: While it was noted that it was important that getting the material published in a timely manner should be a priority task for a new editor, the last delays have often meant that there was no advance printed notice of some field trips and meetings. Even when meetings did have sufficient notice and publicity, the turnout has been very low, and it

has also been almost impossible to find speakers. The various surveys did have a number of common themes, one was that the society is too Halifax-centred, many members are too far away to attend meetings, many find most topics not of great interest... but everyone loves field trips! The executive has decided to try going with two meetings in Halifax (the AGM in November and Members Slide Night in January) and two out-of-town meetings, one in the fall and one in late spring/early summer that will have a theme, hopefully several presenters and field trips. If a speaker does become available, we can still have a meeting, but it will likely not be with enough notice to get in the newsletter.

Even if everything goes perfect, the newsletter requires field trips to be set quite far in advance. For example, the ideal schedule for the Spring issue is to have the field trips in to the editor by mid-April for trips that would run from mid-June to early September. We have found that for various reasons, field trips leaders are not as willing to commit to dates four to five months in advance as they used to. Keep in mind, that assumes that the issue is on time. Field trips that are popular, or held jointly with other nature groups, like the Halifax Field Naturalists, or Blomidon Naturalists Society, still get a good turn out, but some have been announced well in advance and had no one show up.

This means that people will have to rely more on electronic communication. This is especially true for bird-related events that happen on short notice, such as the recent talk at St. Mary's University by wildlife photographer Scott Linstead. Field trips are put on our web site as soon as they are confirmed. They are announced on the NatureNS listserv, typically a week in advance. I also send out a monthly e-mail report to all members for whom we have a working e-mail address, listing all the trips for the coming five weeks. Unfortunately, each month there seem to be several e-mail addresses that no longer work. If you are not receiving e-mails, please send an update to ulli.hoeger@dal.ca so that he can correct your membership information.

Recent Deaths: Lastly, the Maritimes birding community had two of its members die recently. Don Purchase was a past executive member of the society. He and his wife, Joan, were jointly awarded the Puffin of the Year in 1981 for their years of contributions. Several donations were made to the society in his name and we are very grateful for that consideration.

Brian Dalzell, a well-known birder from New Brunswick died suddenly in November of last year. He was the driving force behind the establishment of a bird observatory and landbird banding station on Grand Manan in 1995, until it was dissolved to create the Fundy Bird Observatory. He was heavily involved in the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas, and recorded the highest number of species (186) while atlassing in 211 squares. There is a tribute to him at the MBBA web site, at the time of writing.

Patrick Kelly
President, Nova Scotia Bird Society





AUTUMN BIRD REPORTS

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

ad. = adult
 alt. = alternate plumage, i.e., breeding plumage
 Bch = beach
 BBS = Breeding Bird Survey
ca. = *circa*, i.e., approximately
 CBC = Christmas Bird Count
 f. = female
fide = "according to" or "On the authority of"
 Hbr. = harbour
 I. = Island
 imm. = immature
 juv. = juvenile
 L.R. = Local Record
 m.obs. = many observers
 m. = male
 nd = no details, i.e., unconfirmed by documentation
 NHS = National Historic Site
 NSMC = Nova Scotia Migration Count
 o-w = over-wintered
 PP = Provincial Park
 Pen. = Peninsula
 ph. = photographed
 pr. = pair
 R. = River
 SP = Sewage Ponds
 spec. = specimen
 thr. = throughout the season
 Tr. = trail
 var.obs. = various observers
 w. = winter

Place Names

3 Fathom Hbr Three Fathom Harbour, *HRM*

APBS	Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, <i>Cumberland</i>
Ann. Royal Marsh	Annapolis Royal Marsh, <i>Annapolis</i>
Apple River	Apple River, <i>Cumberland</i>
Belleisle	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Annapolis</i>
Blanche	Blanche Peninsula, <i>Shelburne</i>
BPI	Bon Portage (Outer) Island, <i>Shelburne</i>
Brier I.	Brier Island, <i>Digby</i>
Canso	Town of Canso, <i>Guysborough</i>
CBI	Cape Breton Island, <i>Nova Scotia</i>
CBHNP	Cape Breton Highlands National Park
CBRM	<i>Cape Breton Regional Municipality</i>
Cherry Hill	Cherry Hill Beach, <i>Lunenburg</i>
Cole Hbr.	Cole Harbour, <i>HRM</i>
Conrad	Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i>
Crystal Crescent	Crystal Crescent Beach Provincial Park, <i>HRM</i>
CSI	Cape Sable Island, <i>Shelburne</i>
Glance Bay	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>
Hartlen Pt.	Hartlen Point, <i>HRM</i>
HRM	<i>Halifax Regional Municipality</i>
Keji	Kejimikujik National Park
Long I.	Long Island, <i>Digby</i>
Louisbourg	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>
Martinique	Martinique Beach Provincial Park, <i>HRM</i>
Musq.	Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>
PPP	Point Pleasant Park, <i>HRM</i>
Schooner Pond	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>
Seal I.	Seal Island, Outer Tuskets, <i>Yarmouth</i>
Sober I.	Sober Island, <i>HRM</i>
Sullivan's Pd.	Sullivan's Pond, <i>Dartmouth, HRM</i>
Taylor Head PP	Taylor Head Provincial Park, <i>HRM</i>
Uniacke	Uniacke Estate Museum Park, <i>Hants</i>
W. Lawrencetown	West Lawrencetown Marsh, <i>HRM</i>

Waterfowl

By John Belbin

Geese caused some major excitement in the Falmouth-Windsor area of Hants Co. A large group of Canada Geese was seen by Ryan Harvey to contain a **SNOW GOOSE**, an unusual sighting in itself. Checking out the area the next day Eric Mills spotted a large European Grey Goose. Subsequent study showed that this was a rare **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE**. It showed up almost every day for over five weeks. It brought a lot of viewers to the area, and quite a bit of publicity. A Pink-footed Goose was also seen near Antigonish last Dec 3, three were recorded in Pictou in February 2005, and others have been photographed in Cape Breton, could this be part of a trend? The breeding population in Greenland and Iceland was estimated at 10,000 pairs in 1989 and had increased to approximately 270,000 by 2005 as reported in Wetlands International's *Waterfowl*. Possibly a few are beginning to migrate in our direction. The accompanying Canada Geese in this Hants Co. flock numbered up to 1000 birds, which required some careful observation to pick out the rare one. Both birds were well photographed by other observers.

The **SNOW GEESE** appearing in the Onslow area seemed to consist of at least one family unit with one mature individual and three juveniles keeping company. Two other young Snow Geese were associating with a different flock of Canada Geese. All

appeared to be Greater Snow Geese with long necks and bills. A Greater Snow Goose appeared in new Glasgow at the Linacy Golf Course in mid November. Five more Snow Geese showed up at White Point in Queens Co., giving a surprisingly high total for the period.

ACKLING GEESE were identified twice in the Masstown-Onslow region of Colchester Co. by ELM despite being part of very large flocks of Canada's. They appeared to be the smaller Richardson's variant which nests in Arctic coastal Canada and normally winters in Texas or Mexico.

The large numbers of Canada Geese in the Onslow region in early November appeared to be mostly "Atlantic" Canadas (*B.C. canadensis*), but a significant number showed plumage variations that may have indicated an origin in Labrador or Ungava. A few dwarfed individuals were also noted that may have come from Greenland. Overall the numbers of Canada Geese being seen continues to increase significantly. A neck-ringed individual with the code GDI was seen on Nov 8 in Masstown. It was ringed in West Greenland in 2008.

Once considered rare, the **GADWALL** is now being seen regularly in small numbers. Some of this is probably due to observers knowing what to look for as this duck normally associates with Mallards from which it can be hard to distinguish. However, the silvery-grey back of the male, smaller size and the fact that it appears to ride higher in the water help to separate the two species. Unfortunately it also readily hybridizes with Mallards and American Wigeon creating mixtures which add to the confusion.

The first **Harlequin Duck** of the season showed up on Oct 5 in an unusual location, the Canso causeway. A major storm raging at the time was probably a contributing factor. The Harlequin that Hans Toom found in a pond at Sandy Cove Beach was very unusual. Later on it was caught wandering on land and proved to have a damaged mandible, which explains its strange activities. Another unusual sighting was of a single male in Port Morien near Glace Bay. Little Port l'Hebert, Shelburne and the area near Keji Seaside adjunct in Queens Counties again had the highest numbers of these birds. A group of waterfowl observers organized by NCC and BSC and led by Sue Abbott found 80 of these normally hard-to-find birds in that area.

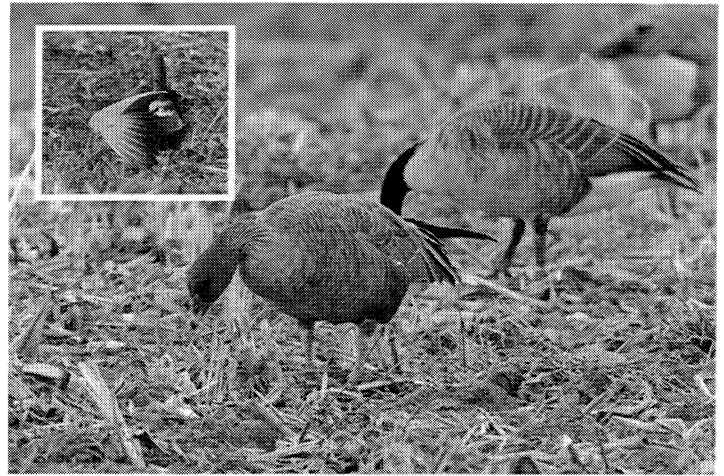
Elizabeth Doull found both a post-eclipse **TUFTED DUCK** and a **REDHEAD** at Bissett Lake after an unusual major tropical storm in November. Both birds were photographed by Chris Pepper and seen by others in this convenient location. Later in the month she found two male **CANVASBACKS** at the same location, which is becoming a source for unusual birds. PMU found two female Canvasbacks to go with the males the next day.

GREATER SCAUP gathered in their traditional post-breeding area of Granton, on the Middle River of Pictou, in late August. The numbers then declined rapidly over the next two weeks as they moved on. However large numbers later showed up at Big Island on the Northumberland Strait. The only reports of **LESSER SCAUP** came from Bissett Lake in the Halifax area.

An unusual and out-of-season **LONG TAILED DUCK** was seen on the Pt. Michaud birding field trip by KJM on Aug 27. This was the day before the remnants of Hurricane Irene were due to arrive in the region. Elsewhere the numbers of these birds seen remained relatively low, they have obviously not built up to the normal winter levels in this reporting period. It is also noticeable that there are far fewer sea duck of all kinds being reported, particularly from the Fundy region. Hopefully this is not a trend.

BLM and IAM watched a group of 35 Red Breasted Mergansers engaged in co-operative fishing at Three Fathom Harbour. They formed a "conga" line and drove the fish into a small area where they could easily be caught. Large numbers of mergansers of all kinds once again appeared in the Pictou region. KJM saw 400 Red Breasted Mergansers at Pictou Lodge and scores elsewhere in the region, but despite that the overall numbers of Mergansers and Scaup all appear to be greatly reduced this year.

The still rare **RUDDY DUCK** is being increasingly seen in the Halifax region. As many as eight individuals have been noted, at four different localities.



Partly because of its large size relative to the accompanying Canada Geese, the lingering **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** near Windsor initially suggested its larger close relative, Bean Goose. It became savoured by many Nova Scotian and visiting birders, and photos like these, showing the short bill and pale upper wing coverts (insert), established its identity. [Photos Tuma Young]

Pink-footed Goose

Oct 22 -

Nov 30 Windsor, *Hants* 1 ELM, et al.**Greater White-fronted Goose**Oct 8 Big I. *Pict.* 1 BRS**Snow Goose**Oct 1 Big I. *Pict.* 1 KJMOct 18 - 27 Falmouth, *Hants* 1 Ryan HarveyOct 27 North R. *Col.* 2 adults, 2 juv ELMOct 27 Truro area, *Col.* 2 ROHNov 1, 19 Onslow, *Col.* 6 ELM, IAMNov 12 Onslow area, *Col.* several KAM

Nov 18 Linacy Golf Course, New Glasgow 1 MIK

Nov 22 White Point, *Queens* 5 MMI**Cackling Goose**Nov 1, 26 Onslow, *Col.* 1, 2 ELM**Canada Goose**Sep 11 Lyons Brook, *Pict.* 310 KJMSep 21 Salt Marsh Trail, *HRM* 40 BLMSep 29 Windsor sewage ponds, *Hants* 360 JOBOct 1 Big I. *Pict.* 420 KJMOct 6 Port Williams sewage ponds, *Kings* 160 JWWOct 18 Glenholme, *Col.* 700+ BBTOct 22 Windsor, *Hants* 1000 ELMOct 27 North R. *Col.* 500 ELMOct 27 Truro area, *Col.* 2000 ROHOct 27 French Basin Trail, *Ann.* 56 RBSOct 29 Wallace/ Fox Hbr. *Cumb.* 1500 BRSOct 29 Waterside PP, *Pict.* 240 KJMNov 1 Onslow, *Col.* 3000 ELMNov 2 Windsor, *Hants* 500 DACNov 5 First South, *Lun.* 180 JAHNov 9 Salt Marsh Trail, *HRM* 200+ PMUNov 12, 28 Bissett L. *HRM* 300 DOUNov 13 Pomquet Point, *Ant.* 500 BRSNov 15 Silver L. *Kings* 170 JWWNov 17 Windsor, *Hants* 1000 DAC

Nov 19 Onslow-Masstown 3500 IAM

Nov 20 Big Merigomish L, *Pict.* 400 KJMNov 27 Port Joli, *Queens* 1800 Sue Abbott**Wood Duck**Sep 16 Harmony, *Queens* 5 JAHSep 18 CSI, *Shel.* 2 Terry BoswellSep 22 French Basin Trail, *Ann.* 13 RBSOct 6 Gesner's Pond, Kentville, *Kings* 9 JWWOct 10 Tuckers L. *HRM* 1 GMUOct 21 Gesner's Pond, *Kings* 2 JWWOct 23 West Berlin, *Queens* 1 JAH**Gadwall**Sep 22, Oct 27 French Basin Trail, *Ann.* 1 RBSOct 20 Outer Tusket's, *Yar.* 2 IAM, SJFNov 9 Red Bridge Pond, *HRM* 2 CHP

Nov 26 Annapolis Royal marsh 12 BLM

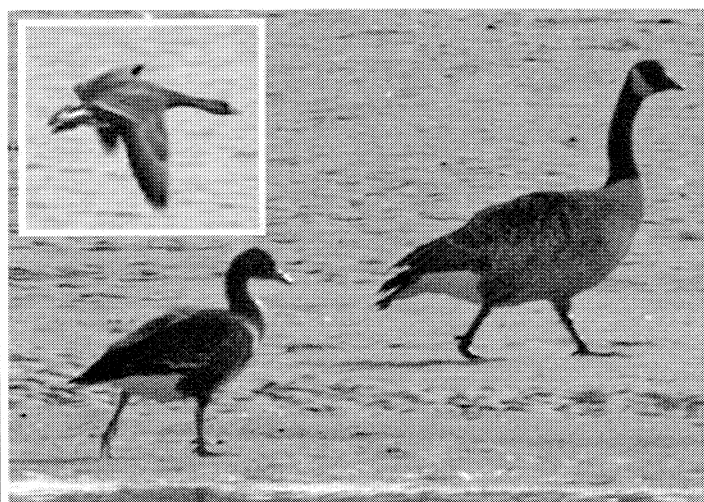
Nov 29 Antigonish sewage plant 1 KJM

Eurasian WigeonOct 23 Windsor sewage ponds, *Hants* 1 JOB

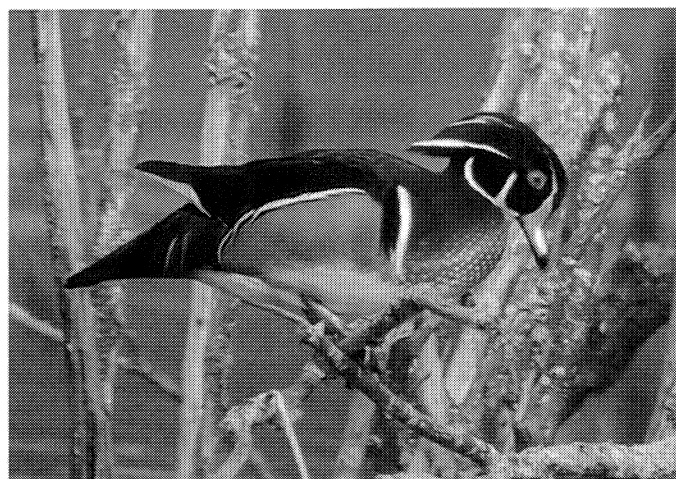
Nov 1 West Lawrencetown marsh 1m CHP

Nov 12 Grand Desert, *HRM* 3 Nic Fieldsend

Nov 26, 29 Antigonish Landing 1 KJM

American WigeonSep 12 Windsor sewage ponds, *Hants* 7 JWWSep 18 Big I. *Pict.* 10 KJMSep 22 French Basin Trail, *Ann.* 14 RBSSep 29, Oct 23 Windsor sewage ponds, *Hants* 4, 8 JOBOct 6 Canard Pond, *Kings* several JWWOct 23 Naugle, *HRM* 150 Dennis GarretOct 29 French Basin Marsh, *Ann.* 20 Dennis GarrettNov 6 Birch Cove park, *HRM* 10 MAZNov 9 Bissett L. *HRM* 5 PMUNov 9 West Lawrencetown Marsh, *HRM* 88 BLM, IAM

This fall's only GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, a first-fall bird briefly on Big I., *Pict.*, was photographed there October 4. Its back appears on the original image to have a grayish cast and the white band on the tail tip (insert) is quite narrow, suggestive of the northwestern subspecies (or separate species) *gambelli*, rather than the more regular Greenland *flavirostris* or an Old-World *albifrons* escaped from a waterfowl collection. However, it is difficult to be certain. The accompanying Canada Goose is very large; could it be of the stock introduced here from central Canada? [Photo Bruce Stevens]



A colorful male WOOD DUCK posed September 22 at Annapolis Royal, but unlike most birds, this is a Basic plumage, not the bright Alternate (breeding) plumage found in of most birds. [Photo Richard Stern]

Nov 12	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	45	Nic Fieldsend
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Nov 13, 26	Antigonish Landing	3, 14	BRS, KJM
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Nov 13	West Lawrencetown Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	100	RSM
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Nov 29	French Basin Marsh, <i>Ann.</i>	a few	PBG
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American Black Duck

Aug 25	Little Dyke Beach, <i>Col.</i>	200	ROH
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Sep 10	Wolfville Hbr. <i>Kings</i>	several	RBS
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Sep 12	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	80	JWW
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Sep 18	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	32	KJM
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Sep 18	Long Island, <i>Digby</i>	98	JAH
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Sep 22, Oct 27	French Basin Trail, <i>Ann.</i>	40	RBS
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Sep 25	Lower Debert Beach, <i>Col.</i>	60	ROH	Ring-necked Duck			
Sep 29	Windsor, <i>Hants</i>	216	JOB	Aug 27	L'Ardoise, <i>Rich.</i>	15	KJM
Sep 29	Hantsport, <i>Kings-Hants</i>	28	JOB	Sep 18	Missaquash Bog, <i>Cumb.</i>	20	ROH
Oct 1	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	307	KJM	Sep 21	Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	28	JAH
Oct 14	Habitant R. Canning, <i>Kings</i>	34	JCT	Sep 22, Oct 27	French Basin Trail, <i>Ann.</i>	3, 12	RBS
Oct 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	350	Robert Scranton	Oct 10	Harmony L. Digby Neck	60	JAH
			KJM	Oct 10	Tuckers L. <i>HRM</i>	50	GMU
Oct 29	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	58	KJM	Oct 10	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	30	PLC
Nov 26	Antigonish Landing	120	KJM	Nov 3	Tucker L <i>HRM</i>	12	GMU
Nov 27	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	357	Sue Abbott	Nov 6	Kingsburg Pond, <i>Lun.</i>	30	JAH
Mallard				Nov 6	Flemming Park, <i>HRM</i>	20	PLC
Aug 21	Birch Cove Park, <i>HRM</i>	65	MAZ	Nov 6, 12	Bissett L. <i>HRM</i>	6	DOU
Sep 4	Shubenacadie Wildlife Park, <i>Col.</i>	200	John Vandermeulen	Nov 12	Frog Pond, <i>HRM</i>	15	Susan Hunt
				Nov 20	Bissett L <i>HRM</i>	50+	Nic Fieldsend
				Nov 26	Annapolis Royal marsh	7	BLM
Sep 22	French Basin Trail, <i>Ann.</i>	37	RBS	Tufted Duck			
Sep 22	Bridgewater, <i>Lun.</i>	150	JAH	Nov 12 - 20	Bissett L. <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Sep 29	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	28	JOB	Greater Scaup			
Oct 7	Aylesford-Berwick <i>Kings</i>	100+	SLH	Aug 28	Granton, <i>Pict.</i>	200	KJM
Oct 10	New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	several dozen	GMY	Sep 4, 11	Granton, <i>Pict.</i>	125, 20	KJM
Oct 14	Habitant R. Canning, <i>Kings</i>	60	JCT	Oct 23	Bissett L. <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Nov 15	Saxon St. Pond, <i>Kings</i>	50+	JWW	Nov 5	Kingsburg Pond, <i>Lun.</i>	100	JAH
Nov 20	Corkum's Island, <i>Lun.</i>	46	JAH	Nov 9	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	50+	PMU
Nov 30	Miners Marsh, Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	20	JWW	Nov 24	Big Island, <i>Pict.</i>	351	KJM
Blue-winged teal				Lesser Scaup			
Aug 26	Brier Island, <i>Digby</i>	3	ELM, LAL	Oct 18	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	60	Terry Boswell
Aug 29	Bon Portage I. <i>Shel.</i>	3	LUB	Nov 9	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	10	BLM, IAM
Sep 10	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	2	NSBS, SEM	Nov 13	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	15	RSM
Sep 17	CSI south side, <i>Shel.</i>	40	Robert Scranton	Nov 20	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	40+	Nic Fieldsend
				Common Eider			
Sep 18	Missaquash Bog, <i>Cumb.</i>	80	ROH	Aug 12	Morden, <i>Kings</i>	15	SLH
Sep 22	French Basin Trail, <i>Ann.</i>	15	RBS	Aug 13	Keji Seaside Adjunct, <i>Queens</i>	43	JAH
Oct 2	Clarks Harbour, <i>Shel.</i>	a few	CST	Aug 15	West Pugwash, <i>Cumb.</i>	25	KJM
Oct 14	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2	JCT	Aug 20	Bird Islands, <i>Vic.</i>		BRS
Northern Shoveler				Aug 27	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	100	Josh Vandermeulen
Sep 22	French Basin Trail, <i>Ann.</i>	4	RBS	Aug 27	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	200	Josh Vandermeulen
Oct 21	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	3f	JWW	Aug 27	Lawrencetown Beach, <i>HRM</i>	50	Josh Vandermeulen
Nov 13, 26, 29	Antigonish treatment plant, <i>Ant.</i>	4	BRS, KJM	Aug 29	Bon Portage Island, <i>Shel.</i>	50	Janice Chard
Nov 26	Annapolis Royal marsh	1	BLM	Sep 9	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	30	SEM
Northern Pintail				Sep 10	Mira Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	70	SEM
Oct 1	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	9	KJM	Sep 17	Sober Island, <i>HRM</i>	46	KJM
Oct 6	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	4	JWW	Sep 18	Long I., <i>Digby</i>	19	JAH
Oct 16	Sandy Cove, <i>Digby</i>	1f	DAM	Sep 18	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	300	Terry Boswell
Oct 19	Outer Tusket's, <i>Yar.</i>	2	Robert Scranton	Sep 25	Cherry Hill Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	17	JAH
				Oct 2	Gull Island, <i>Pict.</i>	12	KJM
Nov 6, 26	Antigonish Landing	4, 3	BRS, KJM	Oct 5, 6, 9	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	20, 40, 100	KJM
Nov 6 - 15	Saxon St Pond, <i>Kings</i>	9	RBS	Oct 15	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	19	JAH
Nov 27	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	6	KJM	Oct 21	Outer Tusket's, <i>Yar.</i>	60	SJF
Green-winged Teal				Oct 23	Duncan's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	300	BLM
Aug 29	Bon Portage I. <i>Shel.</i>	24	LUB	Oct 25	Hartlen Point, <i>HRM</i>	raft	TUY
Sep 3	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	78	KJM	Oct 31	Western Head, <i>Queens</i>	75	ROH
Sep 10	Wolfville Hbr. <i>Kings</i>	2f	RBS	Nov 6	Herring Cove, <i>HRM</i>	200	Terry Boswell
Sep 18, Oct 1	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	36, 46	KJM	Nov 26	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	50	PBG
Sep 17	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	18	NSBS, JAH	Nov 27	Duncan's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	270	Terry Boswell
Sep 22, Oct 27	French Basin Trail, <i>Ann.</i>	13, 15	RBS	Harlequin Duck			
Sep 23	Big Tancook I. <i>Lun.</i>	30	BLM	Oct 5	Canso Causeway	1	Dennis Garrat
Oct 2	Clarks Harbour, <i>Shel.</i>	50	CST	Nov 8, 13	Sandy Cove Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1m, 3	HAT
Oct 6, Oct 28	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	many	JWW	Nov 10, 12	Duncan Reef, <i>HRM</i>	3m, 4f	HAT
Oct 9	Brier I, <i>Digby</i>	56	DAM	Nov 12	Brier Island, <i>Digby</i>	7	ELM
Oct 18	French Basin Trail, <i>Ann.</i>	25	Robert Scranton	Nov 18	Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i>	1m	BEC
				Nov 19	Little Port l'Hebert, <i>Shel.</i>	24	SJF
Nov 5	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	14	JAH, DAW	Nov 26	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	8	PBG
Nov 6, 13	Antigonish sewage ponds	15, 40	BRS	Nov 27	Keji Seaside Adjunct, <i>Queens</i>	62	NCC, BSC
Nov 6	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	some	RBS	Nov 27	Johnston's Pond, <i>Shel.</i>	18	NCC, BSC
Nov 10	Sheffield Mills, <i>Kings</i>	20+	JCT	Nov 29	Arisaig, <i>Ant.</i>	1m	KJM
Nov 13	3 Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i>	100	PMC, SEM	Surf Scoter			
Nov 13	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	30	RSM	Sep 3	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	70	KJM
Canvasback				Sep 9	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	8	SEM
Nov 28	Bissett L. <i>HRM</i>	2m	DOU	Sep 10	Mira Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	18	SEM
Redhead				Sep 10, 18, 24	Big Merigomish Island, <i>Pict.</i>	60, 125, 195	KJM
Nov 12 - 16	Bissett L. <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU				

Photo Gallery - Urban Waterfowl

The well-known gathering place for urban waterfowl at Bissett L., *HRM*, produced several nice finds this fall, including (Clockwise from upper left) CANVASBACK (November 29, male and female), REDHEAD (November 12, young male) and, best of all, a young male TUFTED DUCK (November 12). There were also numbers of RUDDY DUCKS, but this lively example was found November 9 along the Saltmarsh Trail, Cole Hbr., *HRM*. [Photos: Canvasbacks and Ruddy Duck, Paul Murray; Red-head and Tufted Duck, Chris Pepper]



Oct 1	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	108	KJM	Oct 1	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	9	KJM
Oct 5	Sandy Cove, <i>Digby</i>	8	KJM	Oct 9	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i>	18	JAH
Oct 13	Beaver Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	140	KJM	Oct 13	Sober Island, <i>HRM</i>	12	KJM
Oct 15	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	4	JAH	Oct 29	French Basin Trail, <i>Ann.</i>	10	Dennis Garratt
Oct 17	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	3	PMC, SEM	Nov 6	Saxon St Pond, <i>Kings</i>	12	RBS
Nov 6	Ogden's Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	several	BRS	Nov 9	West Lawrencetown Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	22	BLM, IAM
Nov 13	Bayfield Wharf, <i>Ant.</i>	4	BRS	Nov 12, 26	Corkum's Island, <i>Lun.</i>	11, 13	JAH
Nov 26	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	11	PBG	Nov 13	Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i>	4	RSM
Nov 27	Keji Seaside Adjunct, <i>Queens</i>	4	NCC, BSC	Nov 15, 21	Silver L., <i>Kings</i>	2	JWW
Nov 27	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	18	NCC, BSC	Nov 19	Haliburton Gut,	100	KJM
White-winged Scoter				Nov 20	Garden Lots, <i>Lun.</i>	good numbers	JAH
Sep 9	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	10	SEM	Nov 20	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	10	JAH
Oct 1, 4	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2, 16	KJM	Nov 20	Finlayson island, <i>Pict.</i>	36	KJM
Oct 10	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	21	KJM	Nov 26	Annapolis Royal marsh	30	BLM
Oct 27	Evangeline Beach, <i>Kings</i>	30	JCT	Nov 26	Antigonish Landing	4	KJM
Oct 27	Big Merigomish Island, <i>Pict.</i>	31	KJM	Nov 27	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	16	NCC, BSC
Oct 27	Keji Seaside Adjunct, <i>Queens</i>	9	NCC, BSC	Common Merganser			
Nov 12	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	26	Nic Fieldsend	Aug 6	Sandy Bottom L. <i>Ann.</i>	1f+8 juv	MCR
Nov 13	Bayfield Wharf, <i>Ant.</i>	7	BRS	Aug 6, Sep 3	Big Merigomish Island, <i>Pict.</i>	27, 105	KJM
Black Scoter				Aug 8	Salt Marsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	12	BLM
Sep 9	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	4	SEM	Aug 20	Abercrombie, <i>Pict.</i>	80	KJM
Oct 5, 8, 10	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	30, 10, 16	KJM	Aug 22	Watt Section Sheet Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	8	KJM
Oct 9	Hartlen Point, <i>HRM</i>	small flock	KAM	Sep 2	Conrad's Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	6	DMV
Oct 16	Gilbert's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	6	Robert Scranton	Sep 3, 18	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	105, 21	KJM
Oct 20, 27	Big Merigomish Island, <i>Pict.</i>	4	KJM	Sep 4	Granton, <i>Pict.</i>	135	KJM
Oct 22	Crescent Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	6	John Robart	Sep 5	Anti Dam Flowage, <i>HRM</i>	8	KJM
Nov 10	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	1	RBS	Sep 11	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	57	SEM
Long-tailed Duck				Sep 18	Cole Hbr. Trail, <i>HRM</i>	60	SEM
Aug 27	Pt. Michaud, <i>CB</i>	1	KJM	Sep 24	Lower Barney's River, <i>Pict.</i>	78	KJM
Aug 27	Capelin Cove, <i>Rich.</i>	7	Karen Roy	Oct 9	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	35	JAH
Oct 13	Beaver Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	10	KJM	Oct 9	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i>	24	JAH
Oct 23	Sambro pelagic trip, <i>HRM</i>	10	DAC	Oct 23	Aspotagon Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i>	some	Shawn Miner
Nov 7	Mader's Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	31	Kevin Lantz	Oct 27	French Basin Trail, <i>Ann.</i>	11	RBS
Nov 9	Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i>	22	BLM, IAM	Oct 29	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	65	KJM
Nov 10	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	2	RBS	Nov 5, 12	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	10, 15	JAH
Nov 12	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	several	Nic Fieldsend	Nov 6	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	30+	DOU
Nov 25	Sinclair's Island, <i>Pict.</i>	20	KJM	Nov 8	Conrad's Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	17	DMV
Nov 26	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	8	PBG	Nov 12	Frog Pond, <i>HRM</i>	6f	Susan Hunt
Nov 27	Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	7	JAH	Nov 12	Lake Banook, <i>HRM</i>	flotilla	GAM
Nov 27	Keji Seaside Adjunct, <i>Queens</i>	4	NCC, BSC	Nov 20	Back Harbour, <i>Lun.</i>	32	JAH
Nov 29	French Basin Marsh, <i>Ann.</i>	a few	PBG	Nov 22	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	flock	TUY
Bufflehead				Nov 25	Abercrombie, <i>Pict.</i>	60	KJM
Oct 27	French Basin Trail, <i>Ann.</i>	31	RBS	Nov 27	Haliburton Gut, <i>Pict.</i>	65	KJM
Nov 5	Kingsburg Pond, <i>Lun.</i>	5	JAH	Red-breasted Merganser			
Nov 7	Mader's Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	15	Kevin Lantz	Sep 28	Salt Marsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>		
Nov 9	Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i>	6	BLM, IAM	Sep 28	Cole Harbour	9	Karen Potter
Nov 9	Martinique Beach PP, <i>HRM</i>	9	BLM, IAM	Oct 10	Tuckers L., <i>HRM</i>	some	GMU
Nov 9, 30	Conrad's Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	7, 11	DMV	Oct 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	some	KJM
Nov 12	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	5	DOU	Oct 16	Gilbert's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	60	Robert Scranton
Nov 12	Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i>	9	Nic Fieldsend	Oct 25	Big Merigomish Island, <i>Pict.</i>	174	KJM
Nov 13, 26	Antigonish treatment plant, <i>Ant.</i>	5, 19	BRS, KJM	Nov 6	Ogden's Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	hundreds	BRS
Nov 20	Bissett L. <i>HRM</i>	10+	Nic Fieldsend	Nov 9	Three Fathom Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	35	BLM, IAM
Nov 25	Abercrombie, <i>Pict.</i>	45	KJM	Nov 12	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	50+	Nic Fieldsend
Nov 26	Annapolis Royal marsh	90	BLM	Nov 13	Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i>	30	RSM
Nov 27	Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	71	JAH	Nov 19	Pictou Lodge, <i>Pict.</i>	400	KJM
Nov 27	Keji Seaside Adjunct, <i>Queens</i>	22	NCC, BSC	Nov 22	Melmerby Beach PP, <i>Pict.</i>	1000	KJM
Nov 29	Antigonish sewage plant	20+	KJM	Nov 23	Gull Island, <i>Pict.</i>	1200	KJM
Common Goldeneye				Nov 24	Big Island, <i>Pict.</i>	106	KJM
Nov 20	Big Merigomish Island, <i>Pict.</i>	120	KJM	Nov 27	Thomas Radall Park, <i>Queens</i>	44	NCC, BSC
Nov 23	Caribou Island, <i>Pict.</i>	120	KJM	Nov 27	Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	42	NCC, BSC
Nov 25	Abercrombie, <i>Pict.</i>	60	KJM	Nov 29	Ogden's Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	150	KJM
Nov 26	Annapolis Royal marsh	3	BLM	Nov 29	Mahoney's Beach, <i>Ant.</i>	40	KJM
Nov 29	French Basin Marsh, <i>Ann.</i>	10+	PBG	Ruddy Duck			
Nov 29	Conrad's Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	3	DMV	Nov 6, 12	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	4, 3	DOU
Nov 29	Ogden's Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	21	KJM	Nov 9	Duncan's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	5f	HAT
Barrow's Goldeneye				Nov 9	Salt Marsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	1	PMU
Oct 29	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	25	KJM	Nov 13	Duncan's Reef, <i>HRM</i>	8	HAT
Nov 19	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	Nov 16, 20	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	5	DAM
Hooded Merganser				Nov 28	Desaid L., <i>HRM</i>	3	MIK
Sep 12	Big Merigomish Island, <i>Pict.</i>	12	KJM				

Rails, Cranes and Galliformes

By Ulli Hoeger

A **PURPLE GALLINULE** was seen for several days in a marshy area in Sable River. This colorful rail species is a rare visitor to our province and several birders were able to see this on close up.

The group of four **SANDHILL CRANES**, reported from Denmark (Nova Scotia, not Europe) could have been the ones that were seen during the summer in the Scotchburn area. Sightings of these cranes are still rare or uncommon in Nova Scotia, but in recent years we have always had several reports. Some even wintered in Nova Scotia. Could this be another species expanding its range? Time will tell.

AMERICAN COOTS set a new record on Bisset Lake in late Fall. Starting out with the usual few numbers steadily increased and reached a maximum of over 35. Many of those stayed well into the winter season, not surprising with the gentle transition between seasons.

A dead **SORA** that was found downtown Halifax could have been a migration victim. In many large cities along migration pathways huge numbers of birds are trapped by lights and strike buildings. **FLAP** (Fatal Light Awareness Program) is an North America wide initiative that for many years has encouraged corporations that own high rise buildings to reduce lighting them. On such **FLAP** buildings numbers of bird strikes has been greatly reduced. In Halifax such fatalities are largely unknown, likely due to the surrounding landscape that puts even the highest buildings below the horizon.

In late November a Sable River family reported a **SPRUCE GROUSE** that became a nuisance. Amongst other mischief he chased children and attacked windshield wipers. Even with Spruce Grouse having a reputation of not being the brightest, the antics of this particular specimen set new standards.



PURPLE GALLINULE is an occasional vagrant here (three this year), but very rarely as a juvenile like this one frequenting a small pond in Shag Hbr., *Shel.*, and nicely photographed on October 6. [Photo Ronald D'Entremont]

Sora

Sep 23	Big Tancook I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	NSBS field trip
Nov 1	Halifax downtown, <i>HRM</i>	1 dead	DEG

Common Gallinule (formerly Common Moorhen)

Nov 2	CSI, <i>Yar.</i>	4	BLM
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Purple Gallinule

Aug 3 - 5	Sable River, <i>Shel.</i>	1 adult	John Robart
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American Coot

Oct 23	West Berlin, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 23	Bisset Lake, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Oct 27	Upper South Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	ELM
Nov 2	CSI, <i>Yar.</i>	2	BLM
Nov 3	Miner's Marsh, Kentville	1	JWW
Nov 6	Antigonish Landing	4	BRS

Nov 12	Bisset Lake, <i>HRM</i>	14	DOU
Nov 30	Bisset Lake, <i>HRM</i>	>35	var. obs.

Sandhill Crane

Aug 10 - 15	Denmark, <i>Col.</i>	4	<i>fide</i> RLF
Sep 6	Mount Hanley, <i>Anna.</i>	1	Frances Lourie

Ring-necked Pheasant

Common in suitable habitat

Ruffed Grouse

Sep 18	Big I., <i>Pic.</i>	4	KJM
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Spruce Grouse

Oct 11	Port Howe, <i>Cum.</i>	several	VIR
Late			
November	Sable River, <i>Shel.</i>	1	reported online

Loons through Grebes

By John Belbin

A rare adult **PACIFIC LOON** was reported from the Aspotagon Peninsula of Lunenburg by Shawn Miner. The bird was in the company of nine Common Loons which enabled an easy comparison to be made. This bird was described as being about two-thirds the length of the Common Loons, had a much-narrower, shorter beak, a grayer head and nape, and still had considerable white on the cranial aspect of its back. The bird was last seen swimming northwest. The location was near the Mill Cove Road exit of route 329. A possible second Pacific Loon report was received more than two weeks later. The observation complete with a photograph occurred at Cow Bay by Nic Fieldsend. It could of course, be the same bird. It was well seen and described, and was probably a juvenile. Only a handful of these birds have been previously identified in Nova Scotia.

Red-throated Loons were widely found around the Province with good numbers as expected, in the Pictou region. All the Red-throated Loons seen at Port George on Nov 10 were in winter plumage.

PBG reported that four to eight **COMMON LOONS** could be regularly seen on the LaHave River between Miller's Point and Fort

Point. That included adults teaching juveniles to fish. Overall, the numbers of these birds being seen still appears to be lower than expected.

The first migrant HORNED GREBE of the season appeared on Big Island, *Pictou* on Sep 3. A number of them showed up later in the same region.

There were very few reports of loons or grebes coming from Cape Breton. There is obviously a gap in our coverage given the high numbers reported from Pictou and the Northumberland Strait areas nearby.

Red-throated Loon

Sep 29	Cottage Cove, <i>Anna</i> .	3	RBS
Oct 1	Big I. <i>Pict</i> .	1	KJM
Oct 12, 25	Big Merigomish Island, <i>Pict</i> .	6, 11	KJM
Oct 19	Outer Tusket's, <i>Yar</i> .	1	KJM
Oct 23	Sambro pelagic trip, <i>HRM</i>	2	DAC
Oct 27	Chebucto Head, <i>HRM</i>	4	BLM
Oct 29	Waterside PP, <i>Pict</i> .	15	KJM
Nov 5	CSI, <i>Shel</i> .	1	Laura Jones
Nov 6	Ogden's Pond, <i>Ant</i> .	several	BRS
Nov 6	Canso Causeway	3	DMB, NSBS
Nov 6	Kingsburg, <i>Lun</i> .	5	Kevin Lantz
Nov 9	Eastern Shore region	15	BLM, IAM
Nov 10	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	12	RBS
Nov 10	Purcell's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	RSM
Nov 11	Brier I, <i>Digby</i>	1	ELM
Nov 12	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	several	Nic Fieldsend
Nov 13	Duncan's Reef, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Nov 13	Pomquet Point, <i>Ant</i> .	1	BRS
Nov 14	NE Channel, Yarmouth	1	Christopher Vogel
Nov 19, 23, 29	Waterside PP, <i>Pict</i> .	10, 15, 15	KJM
Nov 19	Pictou Lodge, <i>Pict</i> .	10	KJM
Nov 19	Little Port L'Hebert, <i>Shel</i> .	3	SJF
Nov 29	Ogden's Pond, <i>Ant</i> .	6	KJM

Pacific Loon

Oct 23	Aspotagon Peninsula, <i>Lun</i> .	1	Shawn Miner
Nov 12	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	Nic Fieldsend

Common Loon

Aug 1, 13, 21	Big Merigomish Island, <i>Pict</i> .	16, 22, 32	KJM
Aug 8	Wreck Cove, <i>Vic</i> .	6	Kimberly Sucey
Aug 9	Moose I., Keji Park	14	Rick Whitman
Aug 9	Chignecto NWA, <i>Cum</i> .	2	David Fraser
Aug 15	Bayhead, <i>Col</i> .	3	KJM
Aug. 24	Cottage Cove, <i>Anna</i> .	a few	GFO
Sep 3, 24	Big Merigomish Island, <i>Pict</i> .	25, 27	KJM
Sep. 3, 18	Big I. <i>Pict</i> .	20, 21	KJM
Sep 10, 11	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	2	NSBS, SEM
Sep 11	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
Sep 10	Mira Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	14	SEM
Sep. 22	LaHave R., <i>Lun</i> .	4-8	PBG
Sep 23	Big Tancook I. <i>Lun</i> .	7	BLM
Sep 25	West LaHave, <i>Lun</i> .	9	JAH
Oct 5, 9	Brier I. <i>Digby</i>	4, 7	KJM
Oct 1	Big I. <i>Pict</i> .	32	KJM
Oct 13	Sober Island, <i>HRM</i>	9	KJM
Oct 16	Gilbert's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	10	Robert Scranton

Oct 23	Aspotagon Peninsula, <i>Lun</i> .	9+	Shawn Miner
Oct 23	Sambro pelagic trip, <i>HRM</i>	12	DAC
Oct 27	Chebucto Head, <i>HRM</i>	16	BLM
Nov 3	Peggy's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	4	Charlie Nims
Nov 10	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	1	RBS
Nov 11	Brier I, <i>Digby</i>	4	ELM
Nov 26	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	4	PBG
Nov 26	Margaretville, <i>Anna</i> .	7	PBG
Nov 27	Port L'Hebert, <i>Shel</i> .	8	NCC, BSC
Nov 27	Sable River Bay, <i>Shel</i> .	6	NCC, BSC

Pied-billed Grebe

Sep 19	Grant's Lake, <i>Pict</i> .	12	KJM
Sep 22	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna</i> .	2	RBS
Oct 10	Miners Marsh, Kentville	1	RBS
Oct 10	Tiddville, <i>Digby</i>	1	KJM
Oct 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM

Oct 23	Bissett L. <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Oct 27	Big Tancook I., <i>Lun</i> .	2	Hillary Dione
Oct 27	Hirtles Pond, <i>Lun</i> .	1	CST
Nov 3	Hamilton L <i>HRM</i>	1	GMU
Nov 5	Kingsburg Pond, <i>Lun</i> .	1	JAH
Nov 5	CSI, <i>Shel</i> .	1	Laura Jones
Nov 9, 20	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	1	PMU
Nov 9	Hartlen Point, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM, IAM
Nov 12	West Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	Nic Fieldsend
Nov 27	Coalburn, <i>Pict</i> .	1	KJM
Nov 30	Miners Marsh, Kentville	1	JWW

Horned Grebe

Sep. 3, 18	Big I., <i>Pict</i> .	1, 2	KJM
Oct 1	Big I., <i>Pict</i> .	8	KJM
Oct 12, 20, 25	Big Merigomish Island, <i>Pict</i> .	7, 8, 14	KJM
Oct 13	Beaver Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	5	KJM
Oct 16	Petite Riviere, <i>Lun</i> .	1	JAH
Oct 23	Aspotagon Peninsula, <i>Lun</i> .	some	Shawn Miner
Nov 7	Mader's Cove, <i>Lun</i> .	11	Kevin Lantz
Nov 13	Bayfield Wharf, <i>Ant</i> .	8	BRS
Nov 27	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	3	NCC, BSC
Nov 27	Johnston's Pond, <i>Shel</i> .	3	NCC, BSC



Although there have been over 20 reports here of PACIFIC LOON, some by multiple observers, details have often been lacking, and apparently there has been only one barely diagnostic photo. It is good to have a confirming photo along with a detailed description of this one found November 13 in Cow Bay, *HRM*. Sibley's Guide depicts a very similar "juvenile;" although the pale back markings are beyond sharp focus on this one. [Photo Nic Fieldsend]

Red-necked Grebe

Sep 9	Point Michaud, <i>Rich</i> .	1	SEM
Sep 11	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	4	SEM
Sep 18	Big I., <i>Pict</i> .	1	KJM
Sep 18, 24	Big Merigomish Island, <i>Pict</i> .	1, 1	KJM
Oct 7	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	6	KJM
Oct 12, 25	Big Merigomish Island, <i>Pict</i> .	1, 2	KJM
Oct 13	Sober I. <i>HRM</i>	5	KJM
Oct 16	Gilbert's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	30	Robert Scranton
Oct 31	Western Head, <i>Queens</i>	12	KJM
Nov 6	Canso Causeway	2	DMB, NSB
Nov 9	Seaforth, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM, IAM
Nov 10	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	2	RBS
Nov 15	Duncan's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	3	HAT
Nov 26	Margaretville, <i>Anna</i> .	7	PBG

Tubenoses through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

The season's records were dominated by exceptional sightings resulting from a series of southerly storms, including Hurricane Irene, which went ashore across New York City on Aug 28 and then moved inland thereafter. Its effect on the Maritime Provinces was small but noticeable, as will be clear from this section and the later one dealing with Gulls through Alcids.

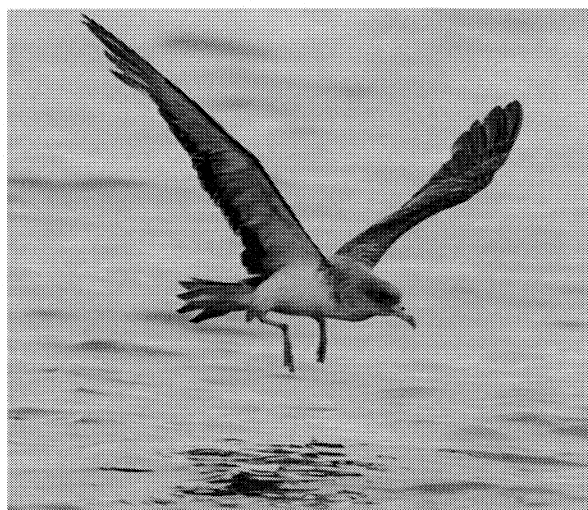
In the Bay of Fundy much of the action this season was concentrated along the north side, especially near Grand Manan and in Deer Island Passage, where feeding conditions appear to have been better than in the Brier Island region. Nonetheless, the season featured the presence of unusual numbers of NORTHERN FULMARS along the Brier Island ledges, for example 20 on August 20 (ELM), "3-4 dozen" on August 24 (BLF, Rich Whitman), and 30+ on Aug 27 (ELM). Fulmars remained regular off the island at least through the end of September. A southerly gale resulted in numbers coming close to shore along the Canso Causeway *Guys./Inv.* on October 5, when Dennis Garratt reported 30+ among a host of other seabirds.

Warm water inshore on the Scotian Shelf resulted in unusual numbers of **CORY'S SHEARWATERS**, for example, the 19 seen by a NSBS group on a pelagic trip 20 km SSE of Sambro, *HRM*, on September 25. The latest report was of one in the Northeast Channel of the Gulf of Maine, S of Yarmouth, on November 14 (Christopher Vogel), along with 110 GREAT SHEARWATERS, which had been regular in numbers up to a few thousand from early August through November in the outer Bay of Fundy. 3000 off Northern Point, Brier Island, during a gale on November 12 were unusual and likely represented the end of migration from the Fundy region. SOOTY SHEARWATERS preceded Greats into the Fundy region but thereafter were rather sparse throughout provincial waters except for 43 off Brier I. on September 18 (NSBS), and 35+ off Duncan's Cove, *HRM*, on October 1 (MIK, DAC). A late individual was seen from Northern Point, Brier I., on November 12 (ELM). MANX SHEARWATERS were regular but sparse: about 14 individuals in all, the last on October 1 off Duncan's Cove, *HRM*, October 1 (MIK, DAC). One photographed on September 5 off Halifax by Robert Lange (photo on NS-RBA website) had unusually dark underwings, but apparently fell within the normal variation of the species.

WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS were abundant in the outer Bay of Fundy early in August (for example, 300+ off Brier I. on August 13-14 – MIK, ELM), but thereafter most of them seem to have shifted north to the Grand Manan region according to reports on NatureNB. The last of the season was seen off Chebucto Head November 11 (DAC, DCO, FLL) during a gale and rain. More than 50 LEACH'S STORM-PETRELS, unusual for the location were off Big I., *Pict.*, on August 5 (DOU), and storm-blown birds were found at the Canso Causeway, *Guys./Inv.* (10+, Dennis Garratt), and Malignant Cove, *Ant.* (3, BRS) October 5.

A male **FRIGATEBIRD**, likely a **MAGNIFICENT**, spent some time over Seal I., *Yar.*, on October 22, where it was documented and photographed by a small NSBS party.

NORTHERN GANNETS are regular in our waters, either as non-breeders in summer or in increasing numbers as adults and immatures leave colonies in the Gulf of St. Lawrence from August onward. Unusual numbers included "thousands" off Duncan's Reef, *HRM*, on August 16 (HAT), 3000 near Pictou I. on September 11 (KJM, Rick Ferguson), and more than 1000 off the Canso Causeway, *Guys./Inv.*, during a gale on October 25 (Dennis Garratt). Absolutely none were present in the same place during a NSBS field trip on November 5, indicating the absence of their favourite food fish, Atlantic Saury (DBM).



Good numbers of CORY'S SHEARWATER during a pelagic trip, September 25 off Sambro, *HRM*, confirmed it as regular in inshore waters in fall [Photo Bruce Stevens]

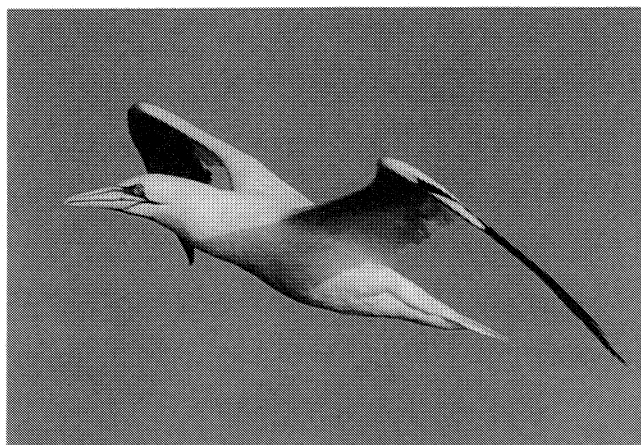


In the wake of Hurricane "Irene" at the end of August, strong northerlies drove a number of LEACH'S STORM-PETREL over a coastal pond at Malignant Cove, *Ant.*, giving an opportunity for photos. [Photo Bruce Stevens]

A “strange bird” reported ashore on Cape Sable, *Shel.*, two days earlier was found and retrieved dead by Ron D’Entremont and Sharron Marlor-Pylypec on October 29. It proved to be an immature **BROWN BOOBY**, perhaps, like the Frigatebird nearby on Oct 22, a bird displaced by very strong southerly winds that extended from off Florida and the N Caribbean to Nova Scotia on October 18-19. This is the fourth record of the species from the province, following an adult photographed August 1, 2010 at The Gully, near Sable I.

A few **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS** lingered into November, including individuals on Brier I. (ELM), E. LaHave, *Lun.* (JAH), and Halifax harbour (Lynn Karchewski) November 10, and 4-13 on Pier C, *Pictou*, November 23-27 (KJM), at times when they had been pretty much replaced everywhere by overwintering Great Cormorants.

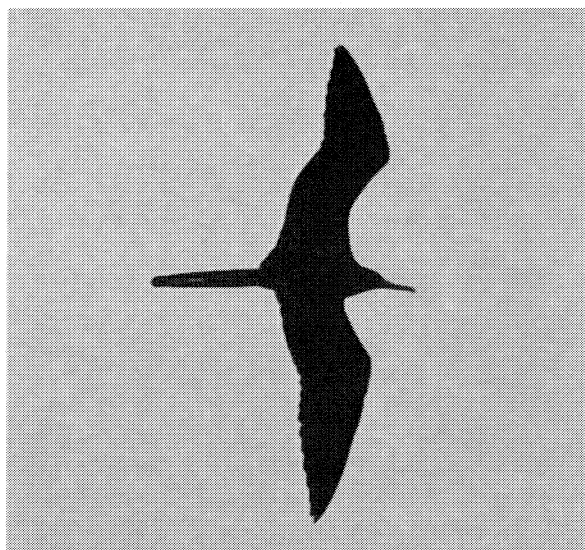
Finally, a note on **BERMUDA PETRELS (CAHOWS)** (*Pterodroma cahow*). This species, which breeds only on a few islets in Bermuda, exists as a population of only about 100 pairs and is the subject of a restoration project. It spends all but its breeding season (January-February) at sea and until recently its non-breeding range was virtually unknown except for a few occurrences off Cape Hatteras, NC. On April 12, 2009, an experienced seabird observer recorded, plausibly, a small gadfly petrel off the edge of the continental shelf 320 km SE of Halifax (see *Nova Scotia Birds*, Spring 2010, p. 12) that was apparently a Bermuda Petrel. Now information from geolocators (small electronic devices that record date and daylength, allowing the calculation of position to within 50-100km) on several birds has shown that they range widely away from Bermuda after the breeding season, some going north from off Cape Cod to the outer Gulf of Maine, just off Halifax, and into Cabot Strait, as well as far to the east of the Grand Banks. Of course finding a bird at sea that has a total population of less than 200 is unlikely – but they certainly do enter our waters and offshore observers, as well as those travelling on the continental shelf from spring through early winter should be alert.



NORTHERN GANNET is of course routine on any pelagic trip (here October 23 off Sambro, *HRM*), but their power and beauty are almost unmatched among the array of seabirds to be seen. [Photo Kevin Lantz]



This remarkable close-up of a couple of MANX SHEARWATERS, September 17 off Brier I., reveals an interesting difference in bill sizes; apparently there is no difference between the sexes. [Photo Bruce Stevens]



Although it is highly probable that any frigatebird appearing here is MAGNIFICENT, there are other remote possibilities. A quick analysis of a few Web photos of overhead birds suggests there may be differences among species in the relative lengths of tails: ratios of length from inner Secondaries (tertials) to tip of tail versus tip of bill were: 0.65-0.79 in Magnificent; 0.80-1.20 in Great; 0.0.77-1.00 in Ascension Frigatebird (record from U.K.). The ratios on four images of the Seal I., bird photographed October 22, ranged about 0.71-0.74 (this one about 0.72), placing it firmly in the MAGNIFICENT range. Also, adult male Lesser Frigatebird (one Maine record) almost always has white axillaries, and extreme brightening and enlargement of the small images failed to show any hint of red pixels in the foot area, which should show on Great. [Photo Charles Kendall]

Herons

By Ulli Höger

The sighting of 45 GREAT BLUE HERONS while traveling the Cole Harbour Saltmarsh trail in August was a sign of approaching the colder time of the year. During Fall migration such accumulations of herons can be seen in marshes and wetlands, often even more birds are obscured by reeds and other vegetation.

Big Tancook Island seems a little know birding hotspot that had been overlooked in the past. A **GLOSSY IBIS** that was discovered by a birding party was a highlight, but not the only rare sighting reported from the island.

This fall we had our now almost expected influx of big white birds. GREAT EGRETS and SNOWY EGRETS were reported on an almost regular basis, CATTLE EGRETS are still more uncommon. According to locals the GREAT EGRET that was seen in the Seaforth area for extended time could be an individual that was cared for and released from "Hope For Wildlife" a few years back. Indeed, in last few years a GREAT EGRET had been reported on and off from this area.

American Bittern

Oct 28 CSI, Yar. 1 CST



The AMERICAN BITTERN seldom comes out in the open, but this one, Sep 15 on CSI, was clearly tempted by the good fishing. [Photo Ronnie D'Entremont]

Great Blue Heron

Common all season

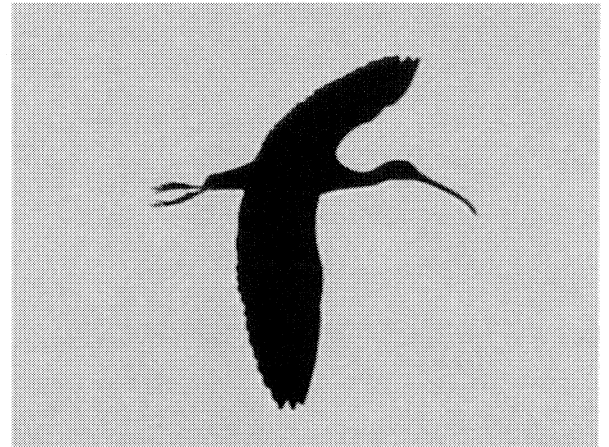
Aug 21 Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Tr., HRM 45 BLM
Sep 18 Big I., Pict. 20 KJM

Great Egret

Sep 26 - 30 Bayport, Lun. 1 Wendy Muiise
Oct 3, 18 CSI, Yar. 1 JON
Oct 22 Crescent Bch, Lun. 1 DAW
Oct 23 Grand Desert, HRM 1 ULH
Nov 6 Argyle Head, Yar. 1 CST
Nov 12 - Dec Seaforth, HRM 1 ULH

Snowy Egret

Oct 1 - 3 CSI, Yar. 1 JON
Oct 2, 3 Big Lorraine, CBRM 1 Carter Stevens
Oct 3 Crescent Bch, Lun. 1 Mark Langford
Oct 4 Lower Le Have, Lun. 1 Chris
Anderson,
Shirley
Robichaud



The only confirmed GLOSSY IBIS last fall was this one on Tancook I., Mahone Bay in late October (here Oct 22). [Photo Hillary Dionne]

Oct 14	Sober I., HRM	1	KJM
Oct 18	CSI, Yar.	1	JON
Oct 21	Big Tancook I., Lun.	2	CJF, et al.
Oct 22	Crescent Bch., Lun.	1	DAW
Oct 27	Oxner's Bch., Lun.	1	DAW
Little Blue Heron			
Sep 5	W. Quoddy, HRM	1 imm.	KJM, RFE
Cattle Egret			
Early Oct	Freeport, Digby	1	AMO
Oct 17 - 19	Port Bickerton, Guys.	2	Allison Manthorne
Oct 25	Lockeport, Shel.	1	DJC
Nov 6	Overton, Yar.	2	CST
Black-crowned Night-Heron			
Oct 1	CSI, Yar.	1	JON
Oct 18	CSI, Yar.	1	JON
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron			
Aug 2	Freeport, Digby	1 adult	fide RBS
Aug 29	Grand Desert, HRM	1 imm.	Paul Evans
Oct 23	Conrads Bch., HRM	1 imm.	DEG
Oct 25, Nov 4	Loiusbourg, CBRM	1	Bill Bussey
Glossy Ibis			
Oct 21	Big Tancook I., Lun.	1	CJF, et al.



The extent of yellow on the legs of some juvenile SNOWY EGRET, this one Oct 23 on Tancook I., is not generally recognized in field guides and generally described as "greenish" or "olive" in tone "on the back of the legs." [Photo Hillary Dionne]

Diurnal Raptors

By Wayne P. Neily

Autumn of 2011 seems to have been a “normal” one for diurnal raptors, with only one rarity and no spectacular movements of raptors reported within the Province. Since nearly all hawks avoid crossing expanses of water in migration, it is not surprising that Nova Scotia is not on a major flyway for them. We do not yet know how most of the raptors raised in this Province leave it and return seasonally, but the Isthmus of Chignecto seems to be the most likely route. Some birds (mainly immatures ?) end up on islands such as Brier and Seal (and one, this year, on Sable I.), but it is unclear where they go from there.

The dark-morph Gyrfalcon is rare and spectacular enough to be a lifetime memory for most who see this 'falcon of the emperors'. Richard Stern was fortunate enough to not only see one, but to get this splendid photo that he has shared with us (see photo and details on p. 21).

For each species the total number of reports received is given in parentheses, followed by the total number of birds observed and representative records.

Turkey Vulture (35)/71, in 6 counties, from August 18 to November 10

Most of the records (20) were from Digby Co., with all but three of the rest from either Halifax or Annapolis counties. Six of the seven HRM records were from the vicinity of the nest reported last season. One seen at Pictou Co. was farthest east, while singles were in Kings and Queens. Migration was underway by early September, with peaks of seven, at Bridgetown Sep 3, and Brier I., Oct 9. Twenty of the 35 records were from October.

Aug 18	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1	Marg Millard
Aug 18	Waverly area, <i>HRM</i>	1	TUY
Aug 26	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	4	ELM, LAL
Sep 1	Digby Neck, <i>Digby</i>	6	JVM
Sep 3	Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i>	7 “a kettle seen from highway 101”	John Loch
Sep 15	Digby Neck, <i>Digby</i>	4	JRH, DAW, DPO
Sep 26	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	1	DEG
Oct 5	Memerby Beach PP., <i>Pict.</i>	1	Steve Coates
Oct 6	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	6	KJM
Oct 9	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	7	PMK, DAM
Oct 9	over Seabright, <i>HRM</i>	1	Paul S. Boyer
Mid-Oct	near Harbourville, <i>Kings</i>	1 “one feeding on a road-killed skunk”	John Williams
Oct 18	Annapolis Royal, <i>Anna.</i>	2	Robert Scranton
Oct 26	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	1	WPN
Oct 27	over Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i>	1	RBS
Nov 10	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	6	ELM

Osprey (55)/86, in 9 counties, from August 1 to October 29

Half the records were from Halifax Co.; the rest scattered from Shelburne to Antigonish, no county with more than seven reports. A few young were still near nest sites in September, but the migration was well underway in early September, and most were gone by the third week. A few remained in N. S. until Oct 9, and, like last year, one stayed in eastern N. S. until near the end of the month.

Aug 1	Bayside, <i>HRM</i>	2 “flying over house”	Terry Chubbs
Aug 1	Big Merigomish Island, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Aug 9	Amherst Pt. Bird Sanct., <i>Cumb.</i>	2	Richard Cannings, David Fraser
Aug 14	Woodville area, <i>Kings</i>	1i	Larry Bogan
Aug 16	Avonport Beach, <i>Kings</i>	1 “low over land”	JWW, John & Janet Foster
Aug 21	Salt Marsh Tr., Cole Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	6	Leigh Ogden
Aug 22	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	3	KJM, Rick Ferguson
Aug 27	Eastern Passage-Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	6	JVM
Sep 1	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1	JVM

Sep 4	Shubenacadie Wildlife Park, <i>Col.</i>	1	JVM
Sep 10	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>		
	McCormack's Beach, <i>HRM</i>	4	Terry Boswell
Sep 12	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	1 “flying SW against wind”	WPN
Sep 17	Matthew's Pond, <i>Shel.</i>	1	Gretchen Merkle, Lawrence Lauzon
Sep 21	Dartmouth NW, <i>HRM</i>	1 “last of season”	Lynn Karchewski
Sep 23	Bridgewater, <i>Lun.</i>	1 “late-hatching young still returning to the nest”	JRH
Sep 29	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	2	WPN
Oct 4	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	AAM; noted by IAM as a “noisy young” from the local nest, from which the other had left a week or so earlier.
Oct 9	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1	KJM, DAM, PMK
Oct 29	Monk's Head, <i>Ant.</i>	1	Jake Chisholm

Bald Eagle (146)/348, in 16 of 18 counties, from August 1 to November 30

This was by far the most widely reported (and apparently commonest) raptor, with 34-41 reports for each of the four months. All counties except Cumberland and Guysborough were represented, with most from Pictou (39), Halifax (27), and Kings (16), probably reflecting observer activity as much as species distribution. By the end of the period, concentrations were gathering in areas with good winter food supplies, such as Bayview, Pictou Co., and near Canning, Kings Co.

Aug 1	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Aug 6	Port Joli harbour, <i>Queens</i>	2	Robert Addelson
Aug 9	Evangeline Beach, <i>Kings</i>	3i	JWW
Aug 10	Pomquet Beach, <i>Ant.</i>	2	Sue Abbott
Aug 16	Bayside (Inner Gull I.), <i>HRM</i>	1	Terry Chubbs
Aug 20	Bird Islands IBA, <i>Vic.</i>	4	BRS
Aug 20	Neil's Harbour, <i>Vic.</i>	2	Ross Furbush
Aug 20	Powell Point Park, <i>Pict.</i>	3 “new nest with 1 begging young, 2 adults nearby”	KJM, Rick Ferguson
Aug 21	Morien Bar, <i>CBHM</i>	1+	BRS
Aug 27	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	1	KJM
Sep 4	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM
Sep 7	Matthew's Pond, <i>Shel.</i>	1	Gretchen Markle, Jane Alexander
Sep 8	Windsor causeway, <i>Hants</i>	1	Mike MacDonald
Sep 9	Evangeline Beach, <i>Kings</i>	1i “shorebirds were accustomed to it.”	JWW
Sep 10	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	5	KJM

Sep 12	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	2i	"flying SW against the wind"	WPN
Sep 18	Western Light Rd., Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	2i	WPN	
Sep 27	Pollett's Cove area, <i>Inv.</i>	7	KEL	
Oct 2	Gull I. and light, <i>Pict.</i>	8	KJM	
Oct 7	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	4	KJM, PMK	
Oct 8	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1	KJM, PMK	
Oct 8	Corkum's I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JRH	
Oct 17	Annapolis Royal, <i>Anna.</i>	1	Robert Scranton	
Oct 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	4	Robert Scranton	
Oct 19-22	Seal Island, <i>Yar.</i>	1-2	KJM, IAM, SJF, <i>et al.</i>	
Oct 26	Brierly back road, <i>Ant.</i>	1	Jake Chisholm	
Nov 2	Shubenacadie Wildlife Park area, <i>Col.</i>	3	Charlie Nims	
Nov 5	Riverport, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JRH	
Nov 6	Point Aconi, <i>CBHM</i>	1a	WPN	
Nov 20	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	Terry Boswell	
Nov 25	Canning area, <i>Kings</i>	15	SLH	
Nov 27	Bayview, <i>Pict.</i>	65	"concentrating near an abbatoir"	KJM
Nov 27	Kejimikujik Seaside Adj., <i>Queens</i>	1	Sue Abbott	
Nov 29	Antigonish Landing, <i>Ant.</i>	3	KJM	
Nov 30	Conrad marsh, Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW	

Northern Harrier (82)/110 in 12 counties, mainly Digby, Pictou, Shelburne, Halifax, and Kings; from August 1 to November 30

The second-commonest of our raptors, these were on the move from early September and mostly gone by mid-October. There were only five November reports, and only two after Nov 8. The lack of reports from Cumberland made it difficult to detect the main migration.

Aug 1	Pond Cove, Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1	RBS
Aug 1	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	5	KJM
Aug 11	Grand Pré dykelands, <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW
Aug 20	Naas Head to Battery Pt., <i>Lun.</i>	1	KEL
Aug 21	Morien Bar, <i>CBHM</i>	1	BRS
Aug 24	French Mountain, CBHNP, <i>Inv.</i>	1	Ross Furbush
Aug 29	Bon Portage I., <i>Shel.</i>	3	Lucas Berrigan
Sep 9	Evangeline Beach, <i>Kings</i>	1	"small, dark brown, flushing but not chasing shorebirds"
			JWW
Sep 10	Hartlen's Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2	Terry Boswell
Sep 17	Daniel's Head, Cape Sable I., <i>Shel.</i>	3	Terry Boswell
Sep 18	Missiquash extension, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	Ross Hall
Sep 23	Big Tancook I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	BLM, PMK
Oct 8	over Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i>	1	WPN
Oct 9	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	3	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 10	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 18 - 22	Seal I., <i>Yar.</i>	1-5	KJM, IAM, SJF, Bernice Moore, Charles Kendell
Nov 5	North Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1i	WPN
Nov 8	Duncan's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 juv.	HAT
Nov 28	East Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	John Kearney
Nov 30	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1	Catherine Craig

Sharp-shinned Hawk (56)/165 in 11 counties, from August 20 to November 15

The extreme dates for this species likely represent the full period of its fall migration in N. S., and show how its secretive behaviour allows it to pass almost unnoticed in the breeding season. The peak movement is from mid-September to mid-October, and, specifically, the 50 on October 9; records were August - 6, September - 19, October - 29, and November - 4. Over one-half the records were from Digby Co.; the others fairly evenly distributed from Yarmouth to Inverness.

Aug 20	Neil's Harbour, <i>Vic.</i>	1	Ross Furbush
Aug 20	Powell Point Park, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM, Rick

Aug 22	Lochaber Mines, <i>HRM</i>	1	Ferguson
Aug 27	Truro, <i>Col.</i>	1	KJM
Aug 31	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1	Ross Hall
Sep 16	Virginia, <i>Anna.</i>	1	RBS
Sep 18	Western Light, Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	30	JRH
Sep 18	Northern Light, Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	5+	WPN, NSBS JRH, WPN, NSBS
Sep 18	The Cape, CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	1	Terry Boswell
Sep 23	Big Tancook I., <i>Lun.</i>	2	PMK, BLM
Sep 27	Pollett's Cove, <i>Inv.</i>	1	KEL
Oct 3	Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	Terry Boswell
Oct 8	Battery Hd. Rd., <i>Lun.</i>	1	"chasing a Y-b. Cuckoo"
Oct 9	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	50	JRH KJM, PMK, DAM
Oct 10	Digby Neck, <i>Digby</i>	10	JRH, DAW, DPO
Oct 21, 22	Seal I., <i>Yar.</i>	2-5	KJM, IAM, SJF, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 29	Annapolis Royal marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	Dennis Garrett
Nov 4	Timberlea, <i>HRM</i>	1	Debbie Stoddart- Pageau
Nov 6	Doctor's Brook, <i>Ant.</i>	1	John Kearney
Nov 15	over Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW

Cooper's Hawk (1) 1

No confirmed records and only one report this season; this may well have been valid, but for any rarity, enough description to explain the basis of identification is needed.

Oct 7	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1	PMK, DAM
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Northern Goshawk (9)/10 in 6 counties, from August 15 to November 27

Sparsely reported as usual, goshawks occurred throughout the season, and throughout the province, from Yarmouth to Richmond Co.

Aug 15	Toney River, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Aug 21	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Late Aug	Wentworth, <i>Cum.</i>	1	"one perched in a tree on the mountain"
Sep 17	Pond Cove, Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1	Dianne Powell
Oct 10	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	2	WPN, SMB DAM, Bernice Moore, Bernice Moore
Oct 11	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1	Bernice Moore
Oct 21	Wyman Rd., Yarmouth, <i>Yar.</i>	1i	"Raven-sized, pale-bellied, shape between Accipiter and Buteo", being chased by crows."
Nov 27	Oban area, <i>Rich.</i>	1	John Sollows
Nov 27	Cambridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	Billy Digout Larry Bogan

Broad-winged Hawk (16)/240 in five counties, from August 20 to November 18

Most reports (10) were from Digby Co., with four from Pictou, and singles from Annapolis, Kings, and Halifax counties. In its limited range, this is perhaps the most obvious hawk during fall migration in NS. Although it seems scarce all summer, migrants are moving by August 20, and kettles exceeding 100 birds (mostly immatures) are usually seen a few times each autumn along Digby Neck and the islands. Most were gone by October 11, but one extremely late one was reported from Spryfield in November.

Aug 20	Powell Pt. Park, <i>Pict.</i>	4	"in a group of 7 hawks"
			KJM, Rick Ferguson
Aug 20	Pictou Landing, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Aug 21	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	1i	KJM
Sep 2	Pond Cove, Brier I., <i>Digby</i>		"a good showing"
			ELM
Sep 3	Springfield, <i>Anna.</i>	1	John Loch
Sep 3	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM, Ann Doull
Sep 18	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	152	"three groups kettling (largest 72)"
			WPN, JRH, NSBS
Sep 19	Rossway, <i>Digby</i>	4	"in a kettle with two larger Buteos"
			WPN
Oct 10	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	KJM
Oct 10	Central Grove, Long I., <i>Digby</i>	2+	KJM

Nov 18	nr. Long Pond, Spryfield, <i>HRM</i>	1 "overhead"	HAT
Red-tailed Hawk (40)/127 in 7 counties (Digby 12, Kings, 12, others all from the N side of NS), from August 7 to November 28			
Migration peaked in October (16 reports), and, as befits a resident species, reports for the other months are lower but similar (six, eight and 10). The absence of reports from the isthmus of Chignecto (lack of rare geese?) means that the migration is not as clear as last year, and the complete absence of South Shore, Halifax, and Eastern Shore records is surprising.			
Aug 7	Maple Lake, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Aug 17	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	2a	WPN
Aug 18	Canning aboiteau, <i>Kings</i>	2 "circling together"	JCT
Aug 24	Along Skyline Tr., CBHNP, <i>Inv.</i>	1	Ross Furbush
Sep 4	Cape John, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Sep 19	Rossway, <i>Digby</i>	1 "in a kettle with four Broad-wingeds"	WPN
Sep 29	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	4 "circling"	WPN
Oct 5	Memerby Beach PP, <i>Pict.</i>	2	Steve Coates
Oct 10	Digby Neck, <i>Digby</i>	2	JRH, DAW, DPO
Oct 12	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	72	WPN, kettles of 54 and 17 Buteos were moving W on a light east wind, mostly too high to identify, even with a scope; all seemed about the same size, however, and those that could be identified were this species.
Oct 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	3	Robert Scranton
Oct 26	Brierly Back Road, <i>Ant.</i>	1	Jake Chisholm
Oct 29	Windsor, <i>Hants</i>	2	JRH
Nov 7	Windsor, <i>Hants</i>	1	Lois Codling
Nov 13	Cambridge area, <i>Kings</i>	1	Terry Boswell
Nov 22	Fraser Mtn., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Nov 26	Spa Springs area, <i>Anna.</i>	3	PBG
Nov 27	Bayview, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Nov 28	East Grand Pré area, <i>Kings</i>	1	John Kearney

Rough-legged Hawk (4)/4 in three counties, from September 19 to November 29

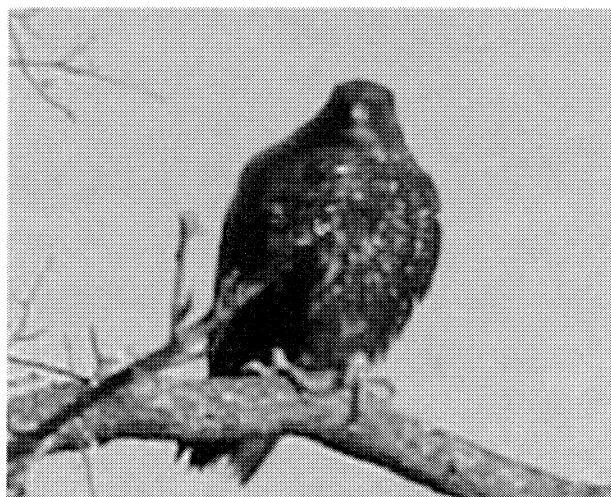
Last summer one light morph bird stayed over just outside N.S. near the CBC International towers on the Tantramar marsh, seen there up to September 4 by the late Brian Dalzell. That may have been the origin of an extremely early Rough-legged that appeared at Rossway on September 19. Others arrived in low numbers in mid- to late November.

Sep 19	Rossway, <i>Digby</i>	1 "a light one in a kettle with five other Buteos"	WPN
Nov 10	Doctor's Brook, <i>Ant.</i>	1 "light morph, new arrival"	
Nov 19	Three Brooks, <i>Pict.</i>	1 "dark morph"	KJM, Charles Kendall
Nov 28	Lanark, <i>Ant.</i>	1	KJM

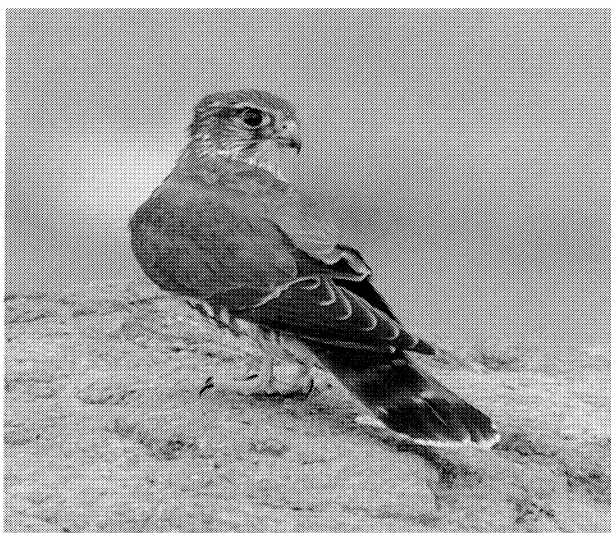
American Kestrel (46)/92, in 12 counties, from August 6 to October 31

Widely reported this year, the kestrel migration seemed diffuse and spread more evenly over September and October than last year, but with a peak in early October. Surprisingly, no November stragglers were reported.

Aug 6	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Aug 13	Kejimikujik NP (seaside), <i>Queens</i>	1	JRH, DPO
Aug 18	Hantsport, <i>Hants</i>	1	JRB
Aug 20	Evangelina Beach, <i>Kings</i>	1	KEL
Aug 20	Naas Head to Battery Pt., <i>Lun.</i>	1	KEL
Aug 22	Trafalgar, <i>Guys.</i>	1	KJM
Aug 28	Spa Springs, <i>Anna.</i>	1m	WPN
Sep 2	Bon Portage I., <i>Shel.</i>	1	Janice Chard
Sep 5	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Digby</i>	2 "a pair"	WPN
Sep 17	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	3	JRH, NSBS
Sep 24	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Sep 26	Lower Debert, <i>Col.</i>	1	Ross Hall
Oct 5	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	16+	KJM, Jim Taylor, Rob Reid
Oct 6	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	18	KJM
Oct 9	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	6	KJM, PMK
Oct 18	Terence Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Oct 23	Andrews Head, <i>Queens</i>	1	JRH, DPO
Oct 31	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1	Fritz McEvoy



Something about this dark buteo, November 29 at Lanark, *Ant.*, did not seem right for Rough-legged, so a distant photo was obtained. Its bulkiness and large, strong feet suggest it might be a dark-morph RED-TAILED HAWK, very rare in the East. Its ragged tail apparently lacks the barring that should be seen on a dark-morph of the far-northwestern subspecies *harlani*. [Photo Charles Kendall]



A small male MERLIN, posed nicely October 10 on Brier I. It appears quite innocent, but can create mayhem in flocks of shorebirds. [Photo Richard Stern]

Merlin (73)/91, in 11 counties, from August 3 to November 28

The third most-reported raptor (after Bald Eagle and harrier), Merlin records were concentrated in Digby (19), Halifax (15), and Pictou (12) counties, and almost half of them were in September (33). Most migrants were gone by mid-October, but a few stragglers remained to the end of the period.

Aug 3	Lilydale, <i>Lun.</i>	1	KEL
Aug 9	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Aug 12	Ken-Wo Golf Club, New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	1 "a fledgling calling for food"	JCT
Aug 15	West Pugwash, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KJM
Aug 24	near Western Light, Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	3	Leigh Ogden
Aug 31	Bon Portage I., <i>Shel.</i>	1	Janice Chard
Aug 31	Hartlen Point, <i>HRM</i>	1	BRS
Sep 3	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1	JRH, DAW

Sep 9	Jack's Lake, <i>HRM</i>	1	"one feeding on <i>Aeschna</i> sp."	Bob McDonald
Sep 17	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	3		JRH, WPN, NSBS
Sep 18	The Cape, <i>CSL</i> , <i>Shel.</i>	2		Terry Boswell
Sep 21	Annapolis Royal, <i>Anna</i> .	1		RBS
Sep 24	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	1		KJM
Sep 30	Malignant Cove, <i>Ant.</i>	1		BRS
Oct 8	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	3		KJM, PMK
Oct 9	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1		KEL
Oct 9	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	3		KJM, PMK
Oct 18 - 22	Seal Island, <i>Yar.</i>	1-3		KJM, IAM, SJF, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 21	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	"an adult with steel blue back"	Hans Toom
Nov 9	Grand Desert Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	"one chasing Snow Buntings"	IAM, BLM
Nov 20	Lunenburg, <i>Lun.</i>	1		JRH, DAW
Nov 20	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	1		KJM
Nov 28	Dominion Beach, <i>CBHM</i>	1		TUY, NIH, ALM, CAM

Gyrfalcon (1) /1

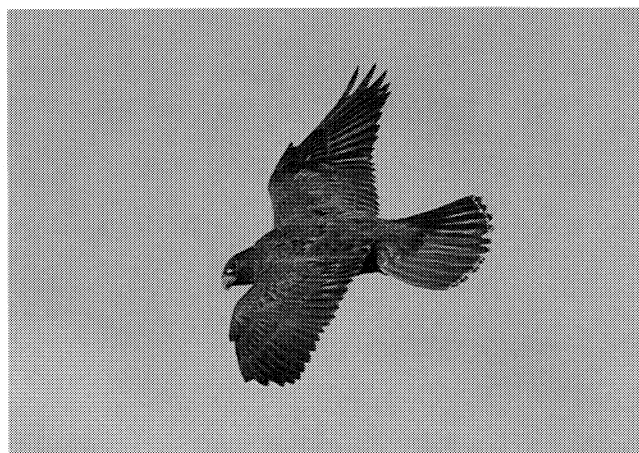
One documented occurrence, about average for late autumn – but a spectacular one! Another "possible" was circling high over Oxner's Beach, Lun. Co., on November 5 (JRH). Described as raven-sized and the shape of a Peregrine, it could not be confirmed.

Oct 26	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	"a dark morph bird, battling strong west winds over the dyke (see photo); it flew off towards the east"	RBS
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Peregrine Falcon (40) /49 in 8 counties, from August 4 to November 21

Well reported for a threatened species, the late summer ones were mainly hunting the great flocks of shorebirds around Minas Basin, probably from one or two eyries. Migration peak was in early October, with most birds gone by mid-month, but a few stragglers into November. One can only wonder if those strays to Seal or Sable Islands ever made it back to the mainland.

Aug 4	Evangeline Beach, <i>Kings</i>	1	"large ... made half-hearted dive at peeps"	JWW
Aug 7	The Guzzle, Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	"a dark bird, with extensive helmet"	RBS
Aug 16	Evangeline Beach, <i>Kings</i>	1		JWW, John & Janet Foster
Aug 25	Little Dyke Beach, <i>Col.</i>	1		Ross Hall
Aug 29	Bon Portage I., <i>Shel.</i>	1		Lucas Berrigan
Sep 2	Pond Cove, Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1		ELM.
Sep 9	Evangeline Beach, <i>Kings</i>	1	"flew past the motel"	JWW
Sep 16	Bear River, <i>Digby</i>	1		JRH, DAW, DPO
Sep 17	Northern Light, Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1		JRH, WPN, NSBS
Sep 27	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1		DAC
Oct 4	East Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1		Chris Pepper
Oct 6	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	2		KJM
Oct 8, 9	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1		KJM
Oct 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1		KJM, Charles Kendell, Rick Ferguson
Oct 15	The Guzzle, Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	"imm., darkly streaked below"	JWW, KEL



There is nothing grander than a GYRFALCON on the wing, this one October 26 at Grand Pré. Such blackish individuals are very rare here. Note its broad wings and tail, good distinctions from Peregrine at a distance. [Photo Richard Stern]



Is this event, observed November 21 at the Cape Sable Light, inherent revenge against an ancient crime when "a falcon towering in her pride of place was by a mousing owl hawk'd at and kill'd." (Shakespeare's "Macbeth.")? [Photo Ronald D'Entremont]

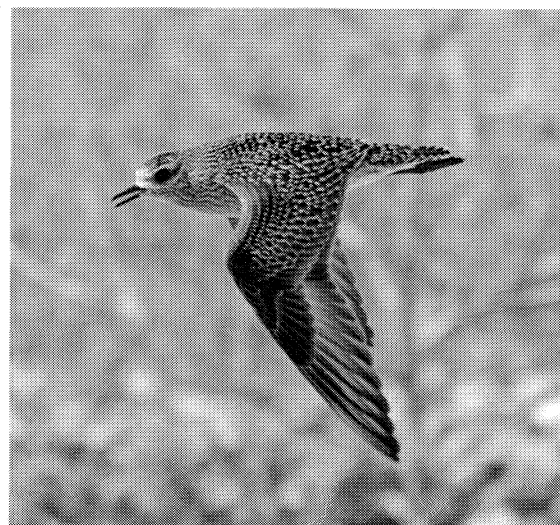
Oct 15	Western Head, <i>Queens</i>	1	"a <i>F. p. anatum</i> , on rocks"	ELM
Oct 19	Seal Island, <i>Yar.</i>	1		KJM, IAM, SJF, <i>et al.</i>
Nov 2	Sable I., <i>HRM</i>	1	" <i>F. p. tundrius</i> "	BLM
Nov 21	Cape Sable light, <i>Shel.</i>	1		Ron d'Entremont

Shorebirds

By Susann Myers

Arrival of shorebirds from their northern breeding grounds was generally one to two weeks behind schedule this year, and many species were reported in lower than average numbers. Our knowledge of the season's timing and peaks is thanks largely to regular counts at favoured staging areas made by dedicated shorebirders, such as JON and SAN at CSI; BJS, SIS and Aileen Smith at a variety of *Shel.* sites; SJF at Cherry Hill; and JCT, JWW and RBS in the Wolfville to Windsor area. Very welcome this year were reports from observers who have newly taken up surveys for the Atlantic Canada Shorebird Survey: Christine Curry (Bill's Cove, *Shel.*), BID (Point Michaud, *Rich.*) and Gretchen Markle (Matthew's Pond, *Shel.*).

Numbers of BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS returning southward showed the usual series of peaks through the fall season, as new waves of migrants arrived and departed. Unlike most shorebirds, many adult Black-bellieds remain in the north through a partial moult, so flocks are typically made up of mixed ages. This year's reports showed a slow start to migration and low numbers, including low peak numbers from traditionally favoured sites such as the Windsor sewage ponds, Cole Harbour Saltmarsh Trail and Morien Bar. AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS, an uncommon migrant here, also arrived late, with the first reported in late August rather than mid-month. They were widely reported and in good numbers in September-October, however, with a seasonal total of about 200, which is twice the average. This is a bird that feeds mainly on upland habitats rather than mudflats, so it was not unusual that the largest concentration was found at Sydney Airport on the annual NSBS field trip there. Juveniles make up the majority of later migrants, like the one beautifully photographed by Ronald D'Entremont at CSI.



This sharp, fully frozen flight image of a juvenile AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER is a thing of beauty in gray-scale, even without the golden spangling. [Photo Ronald D'Entremont]

No breeding pairs of SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS were reported in N.S. this year. Migrants from the north arrived just a few days later than average in mid-July, and were reported in their usual abundant flocks in August and September. Good peaks were found around the province, particularly at the Cole Harbour Saltmarsh Trail (1200), Cherry Hill (665), Pomquet Beach (390) and Grand Pre (450). JWW found a new roosting site at Luckett's Vineyards, *Kings*, with a surprising count of 440. Semipalmated Plovers were noted as making up a substantial part of the counts of small shorebird species at Evangeline Beach in late September and early October. They also undoubtedly contributed to the strong numbers of mixed shorebirds reported at The Hawk, CSI, in September. PIPING PLOVERS had a difficult breeding season in N.S. this summer; see the report in this issue from Sue Abbott, Program Coordinator for BSC. Low chick survival very likely contributed to early departures, with a total of only eight lingerers reported in August-September. The last were two juveniles seen by Heather Ryan at Port Hood Beach, *Inv*.

The seasonal total of 65 KILLDEER was 25 per cent above average, with reports from widely scattered areas. Although seen in many coastal locations on migration, this is primarily a bird of wet fields and pastures; thus, the peak count of 21 was at Sydney Airport. JON provided a welcome report to BLM on the breeding success of the four pairs of AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS at CSI this season. One pair nested at Daniels Head, with three young fledged. Two pairs nested on Cape Sable; one was unsuccessful, the other fledged one young. The fourth pair nests on islets south of Cape Sable and had not been checked. Two adults were also reported at Sand Hills Beach in both July and August.

One of the season's few rarities was an AMERICAN AVOCET found by BID and WMA at ponds behind Point Michaud Beach, *Rich*. October 29. Although great looks were had with a spotting scope, no camera was available and the bird was not found again. WMA is very familiar with this species from time spent in western Canada, but this bird provided a new species for BID. This is about the 16th fall record for N.S., counting as one record the 6 to 10 avocets found in the province after Hurricane Wilma, 2005.

It is always difficult to comment on SPOTTED SANDPIPER migration, since Spottedts don't congregate in migratory flocks and are little seen. This year a nice movement was observed in Cape Breton, though, with BID reporting a total of 10 moving through the south Bras D'Or Lake area near St. Peter's September 5 and Heather Ryan seeing another 12 at Port Hood the following day. A few stragglers were found in October as usual, the latest seen October 29 by Karen Roy at Capelin Cove, *Rich*. SOLITARY SANDPIPERS appeared on schedule in mid-July and the seasonal total was average. Uncommon migrants in N.S., Solitary Sandpipers are usually found at the edges of shallow freshwater ponds. They were reported this fall only at mainland locations, and as usual were seen mostly from mid-August through early September. None of the typical stragglers were found this October.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS were abundant as usual, with peak numbers from mid-August to early September. Only two large peaks were reported: 74 at the Cole Harbour Saltmarsh Trail in late August and "dozens" at The Hawk, CSI in mid-August. Moderate numbers were still being seen in October as usual, and there were several reports of lingerers into November, the last being two at Grand Desert, *HRM*, November 21. WILLETS were reported in very modest numbers in August, the great majority apparently having departed this year in July. Juvenile Eastern Willets from local breeding populations continued to be reported to September 3 (3 Fathom Hbr.), while Western Willets were reported migrating through the province from August 21 onwards, the last spotted October 1 at The Hawk, CSI. LESSER YELLOWLEGS moved through on schedule, with peak numbers from early August to early September. Interestingly, the peak of 140 at Big I., *Pict*. was seen August 1 with numbers dwindling gradually to late August, while at the Cole Harbour Saltmarsh Trail numbers built steadily through August to a peak of 107 on August 26. This suggests that mainly adults are staging at Big I., and mainly juveniles at Cole Harbour. Modest numbers remained through September, and there were typically few sightings after early October.

Another rarity this season was an UPLAND SANDPIPER found and photographed at Hartlen Point September 11 by Dennis Garratt. Although one has been spotted in the province almost annually in recent years, this one provides the first fall record since 2005. WHIMBREL were reported in average numbers this season, except that no reports were received from CBI or CSI, where they generally stage in good numbers. The largest flocks reported were of modest numbers in HRM. Almost all were seen on schedule in August and September, with the only October lingerer found at Seal I. on October 20.

HUDSONIAN GODWITS are long-distance migrants, with the majority of the eastern population making spectacular non-stop flights from James Bay to South America, and only small numbers appearing in the Maritimes and New England. Singles began to be seen in N.S. in July as usual, with larger groups spotted from August to mid-September. Above-average numbers were reported this year, with the largest flocks at Hartlen Point, HRM and Bill's Cove, Shel. A group of 11, mostly juveniles, was somewhat late on October 23 along the Cole Harbour Saltmarsh Trail, while only one rare November straggler was reported. Five MARBLED GODWITS were reported this season, all between early August and late September, but with no accompanying documentation. This species migrates mainly through western North America on its long flights to Central and South America, and is a rare transient in N.S. With improved reporting, it has been noted in N.S. almost annually since the mid-1990s. Three reported together this year at Lower Debert Beach were a rare occurrence, single birds being the norm.



The sharply decreasing UPLAND SANDPIPER, here September 11 at Hartlen Pt., is always worth photographing for the record. [Photo Dennis Garratt]

The first RUDDY TURNSTONES appeared a week later than average in July, and numbers peaked late this fall, in September rather than August. Overall numbers were average, however. Good concentrations were reported at Pomquet Beach, Cape Sable and Gull I. Turnstones do not migrate as far as many shorebirds, wintering from the southern U.S. to Brazil and Chile, so stragglers are common. A few lingered into November this year as usual, all at Cherry Hill and CSI. The first RED KNOTS were also reported a week later than average in July, but numbers were higher than usual in the fall season. Good numbers seen in August, more than 20 per cent above the average of the past few years, is particularly encouraging for the endangered *rufa* subspecies that migrates at that time. The season's high count of 200 was from CSI late in the season as usual, but Red Knots also made a good showing in Cape Breton (Point Michaud, Morien Bar) and on the south shore (Sand Hills Beach, Cherry Hill). Because the *rufa* subspecies has been assessed by COSEWIC as Endangered, the CWS organized a focussed Red Knot survey this year by volunteers. It will be interesting to see the results.

The first SANDERLINGS arrived from their high arctic breeding grounds on schedule and as usual built to peak numbers in September – October. They were widespread and in very good numbers at many beaches, with record-breaking highs for CBI, where only small flocks are usually reported. The seasonal total of about 3450 was average, but the total at sites other than CSI was two and a half times the average. The highest count reported was at Point Michaud, where regular fall surveys were conducted for the first time in many years, by BID. Flocks were still substantial at the southwest end of the province in November.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS are the province's most abundant shorebird migrants. No very large concentrations were reported from the Bay of Fundy, where the majority of this species stage before taking flight to northern South America. But widespread good numbers were reported from Cape Breton and the Atlantic coast, which typically see more juveniles than adults. As usual, numbers dropped sharply after September, except for a late flock of 110 at CSI. Only two WESTERN SANDPIPERS were reported this season, both seen by this author while scanning groups of Semipalmated Sandpipers during regular shorebird surveys. Both were largely-moulted adults, with only a few rufous scapulars remaining, and both had very long bills, making identification simpler and indicating females.

LEAST SANDPIPERS were found in good numbers at widespread mainland sites, but with none of the huge flocks that boost numbers in some years. SJF's regular counts at Cherry Hill Beach show the timing of this year's migration very clearly, with adult migration peaking in mid-August and the juvenile peak following in early September. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS are relatively late migrants, and their numbers peaked as usual in September. They were widespread and unusually abundant this season, with an amazing peak of about 2000 at The Guzzle, Kings in mid-September. Strong numbers at Grand Pré through October are normal there, but this year's October counts of 200 and 350 were higher than usual.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS are rare transients in N.S., as most of the population migrates through the interior of the continent. Found in N.S. largely at the drier edges of beaches, they were spotted mainly in August and September as usual, but in relatively

low numbers. The seasonal total of 16 was only 60 per cent of the average of recent years. Three dashing about on runways at the Sydney Airport provided a nice identification challenge on the NSBS field trip September 10. The first PECTORAL SANDPIPER was noted about two weeks later than average July 31, and they did not become regular until September, also two weeks behind schedule. Numbers were strong, however, with the seasonal total roughly one-third above average. Good-sized flocks were seen throughout the province, with the peak counts 50 at CSI (JON) and 60 found by DOU's sharp eyes in a field at Big I., at high tide.

Wintering PURPLE SANDPIPERS began to arrive in November, on schedule and in good numbers. The seasonal total of 55 was three times the average, boosted by a count of 26 at Port Morien, a favoured wintering site. DUNLIN arrived a little behind schedule, with only two singles found in the first half of Sept. Numbers then peaked as usual between late September and mid-October. Despite good counts at Lower Debert Beach, Grand Pré and CSI, the seasonal total of about 814 was less than half of the 7-year average. This may be due simply to the small number of reports from CSI, however, which is clearly the main Dunlin destination of the province, with peak counts of 650 to 3000 in 2005 to 2009. The first STILT SANDPIPERS arrived on schedule in July, but the total of nine for the fall season was 30 per cent below average. A group of seven adults and juveniles August 26 at Brier I. (ELM) was a good-sized group. The only other sightings were of two singles; the last one at Hartlen Point was enjoyed by several observers and nicely photographed.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS typically appear in a short time-frame between late August and the end of September. This year's first group was spotted about a week earlier than average August 12 at Hartlen Point (HAT), but most came through on schedule in September. The seasonal total of about 20 was less than half of average, with the largest group reported being five at Sydney Airport. Monitoring of this species, which is considered threatened, continues to be important. It should be looked for at airports, sod farms, golf courses and other short-grass fields.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER migration continued to follow July's pattern of a very gradual movement, with no large peaks reported. The seasonal total of under 1000 was only about a quarter of the average, but again was difficult to judge without reports from CSI, a highly favoured location. Very few juveniles were seen at HRM locations by this author, suggesting a poor breeding season. LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS breed in the high arctic regions of eastern Siberia, northern Alaska and northwest Canada, and are rare transients in Atlantic Canada. Four or five were found in N.S. this season, slightly above average. All appeared in late October and November, when these relatively late migrants are more to be expected than Short-billeds. The majority were spotted at CSI, where they most often occur. The one found on Sable I. by BLM during a long-hoped-for first visit must have been especially thrilling.



Although they have become routine in small numbers every fall, it is hard to resist a portrait of a beautifully feathered juvenile BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER, like this one September 11 on CSI. [Photo Ronald D'Entremont]

Only 10 WILSON'S SNIPE were reported, a low total. No concentrations were found and there were no reports from CBI, where fall migrants often seem to gather. Most departed in October as usual, with lingerers into November. The four AMERICAN WOODCOCK reported were also a low number, with no migration movement noticed in October.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE is a western species that normally reaches the Atlantic coast well south of N.S. Only one was reported in the province this fall, seen and photographed at Morien Bar, CBRM by BRS and Allison Dallien. Migration reports of RED-NECKED and RED PHALAROPES in NS waters depend on pelagic monitoring, mainly off Brier I., and owe much to the dedication of ELM and LAL. Both species are circumpolar breeders with large breeding populations in northern Canada, the Red-necked in wet arctic tundra and sub-arctic marshes and bogs (estimated at over 2 million) and the Red in high-arctic coastal tundra (estimated at 1 to 2.5 million). Both are pelagic outside of the breeding season and migrate far offshore, but relatively small numbers do gather in the outer Bay of Fundy, a favoured feeding area. This year's flocks were reported as nearly all Red Phalaropes as usual, Red-neckeds being most common off N.B. Reports off Brier I. from mid-August were on schedule, with a tremendous count of about 75,000 in passing flocks August 29 (LAL). Far fewer were seen after September, as usual. The count of 200 Reds October 9 (KJM, *et al.*) was high for this date.

shorebird species

Nov 9	CSI	ca. 3500	JON, SAN
Nov 21	CSI	2500	JON

small shorebird species

Aug 4	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	ca. 15,000	JWW
Aug 17	Lower Onslow, <i>Col.</i>	ca. 4000	SGL
Aug 19	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	ca. 20,000	JWW
Sep 3	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	thousands	RAH
Sep 9	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	ca. 3000	JWW
Oct 15	Grand Pré/Evangeline, <i>Kings</i>	ca. 400	JWW
Nov 12	Onslow cornfield, <i>Col.</i>	ca. 30	K. MacAulay

Black-bellied Plover

Aug 1, 13, 29	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2, 2, 5	KJM, RFE
Aug 1, 21	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	5, 11	SEM
Aug 7, 18	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	46, 45	SJF
Aug 10 - 31	26 locations, widespread	90 total	Var. obs.
Aug 13, 26	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	87, 111	SEM
Aug 19	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	dozens	R. Whitman
Aug 29	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	ca. 150	JCT
Aug 30	Sand Hills Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	41	A. Smith
Sep	15 locations, widespread	87	Var. obs.
Sep 3	3 Fathom/W. Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	81	SEM
Sep 3, 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	19, 40	KJM
Sep 4, 25	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	30, 56	SJF
Sep 10	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	90	NSBS, SEM
Sep 11	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	142	SEM
Sep 18	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	111	SEM
Oct	16 locations, widespread	174 total	Var. obs.
Oct 1, 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	60, 16	KJM
Oct 11, 26	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	46, 45	SJF
Oct 22	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	50	JAH, DPO
Oct 23	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	138	SEM
Oct 29	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	ca. 50	RBS,

Nov 2, 21	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	52, 5	SJF
Nov 5-22	9 locations, widespread	60 total	Var. obs.
Nov 12	Onslow cornfield, <i>Col.</i>	ca. 20	K. MacAulay
Nov 14	Daniels Head, <i>CSI</i>	37	JON, SAN
Nov 24, 29	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM

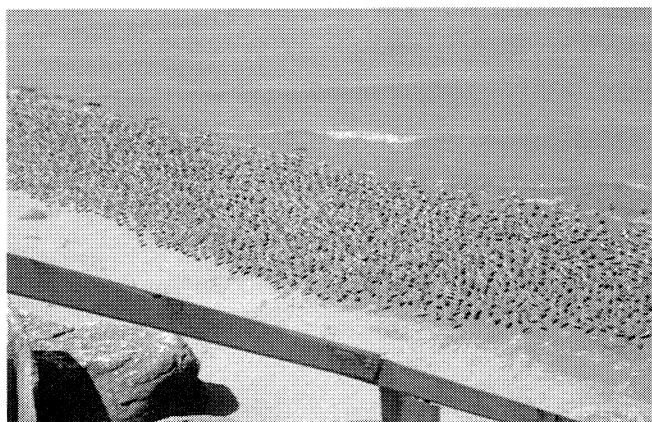
American Golden-Plover

Aug 28-29	3 mainland locations	7 total	Var. obs.
Sep	10 locations, widespread	20 total	Var. obs.
Sep 6, 14	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	8, 14	DOU, DMC
Sep 10	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	80	NSBS, SEM
Sep 17	Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i>	22	T. Boswell
Oct	6 locations, widespread	12 total	Var. obs.
Oct 1	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	9	KJM
Oct 1, 25	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	11, 4	MIK; TUY
Oct 3	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	8	T. Boswell
Oct 23	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	17	SEM
Oct 26; Nov 2	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	2, 1	SJF

Semipalmated Plover

Aug 1	King's Wharf, Dartmouth	60+	PMC
Aug 1 & 4	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	ca. 100	JWW
Aug 1, 21	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	235, 205	SEM
Aug 1, 25	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	250, 200	RBS; ELM, <i>et al.</i>
Aug 6, 13	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	110, 180	KJM, RFE
Aug 7, 21	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	433, 1200	SEM, BLM
Aug 7, 18	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	210, 665	SJF
Aug 8-29	7 locations, widespread	186 total	Var. obs.
Aug 10	Pomquet Bch., <i>Ant.</i>	390	S. Abbott
Aug 15-28	3 sites, <i>HRM</i>	720 total	Var. obs.
Aug 16-30	4 locations, <i>Shel.</i>	932 total	C. Curry, A. Smith
Aug 29	BPI	100	LUB
Sep 2	Luckett's Vineyards, <i>Kings</i>	440	JWW
Sep 3 - 16	5 locations, widespread	165 total	Var. obs.
Sep 3, 17	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	306, 350	SEM
Sep 3, 18	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	103, 42	KJM
Sep 3, 25	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	393, 382	SJF
Sep 9	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	170	JWW
Sep 10	MacCormack's Bch., <i>HRM</i>	450	T. Boswell
Sep 11	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	159	SEM

Sep 17	Daniels Hd, <i>CSI</i>	100	T. Boswell
Sep 18	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	181	SEM
Sep 26	L. Debert Bch., <i>Col.</i>	300	ROH
Sep 28	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	150	S. Abbott, K. Potter
Oct 1-17	3 locations, <i>HRM</i>	32 total	Var. obs.
Oct 1, 12, 27	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	40, 23, 2	KJM
Oct 3, 11, 26	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	171, 85, 2	SJF
Oct 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	450	R. Scranton
Oct 22	Seal I.	33	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Nov 2 - 25	5 mainland locations	20 total	Var. obs.
Piping Plover			
Aug 21	CSI	1 ad.	CST
Aug 29	BPI	2	LUB
Sep 1	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	3	BLF
Sep 9	Port Hood, <i>Inv.</i>	2 juv.	H. Ryan
Killdeer			
Aug	8 mainland locations	10 total	Var. obs.
Aug 15	Bayhead, <i>Col.</i>	8	KJM
Aug 20	Pond Cove, Brier I.	3	ELM
Aug 27	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	5	J. Vandermeulen
Aug 29	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	6	B. & D. Bussey
Aug 29	BPI	2	LUB
Sep	7 mainland locations	9 total	Var. obs.
Sep 10	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	21	NSBS, SEM
Oct 29	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM, STV
American Oystercatcher			
Aug 17	CSI and Cape Sable	4 pr., 4 juv.	JON
Aug 30	Sand Hills Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	2	A. Smith
AMERICAN AVOCET			
Oct 29	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	1	BID, W. MacPhail
Spotted Sandpiper			
Aug	6 mainland locations	16 total	Var. obs.
Aug 1	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	8	KJM
Sep	12 locations, widespread	18 total	Var. obs.
Sep 5	S. Bras D'Or L., <i>Rich.</i>	10	BID
Sep 5, 17	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	5, 2	KJM, RFE
Sep 6	Port Hood, <i>Inv.</i>	12	H. Ryan
Oct 1 - 29	4 locations, widespread	singles	Var. obs.
Solitary Sandpiper			
Aug 2-29	8 mainland locations	singles	Var. obs.
Aug 27; Sep 3	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	2	SJF
Aug 31;			
Sep 10	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2, 3	HAT, LAE
Sep 3, 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1, 2	KJM
Sep 4-24	5 mainland locations	singles	Var. obs.
Sep 23	Big Tancook I., <i>Lun.</i>	2	NSBS, BLM
Sep 25	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH, DAW



This image, obtained August 11 from the parking lot at Grand Pré beach, shows a traditional mass of SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERs in resting mode – perhaps until a Peregrine or Merlin appears nearby. [Photo Rick Whitman]

yellowlegs species

Oct 14	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	50	JCT
Greater Yellowlegs			
Aug	8 locations, widespread	44 total	Var. obs.
Aug 1, 15	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	10, 16	JWW
Aug 1, 21	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	10, 22	SEM
Aug 7, 26	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	36, 74	SEM
Aug 19	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	dozens	R. Whitman
Sep 3	W. Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	20	PMC, SEM
Sep 3, 17	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	6, 14	SEM
Sep 3-25	4 locations, <i>Pict.</i>	40 total	KJM
Sep 7	Matthew's Pond, <i>Shel.</i>	30	G. Markle, <i>et al.</i>
Sep 8	S. Bras D'Or L., <i>Rich.</i>	20+	BID
Sep 10	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	ca. 20	RBS
Sep 11	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	37	SEM
Sep 17	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	9	T. Boswell
Sep 18	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	41	SEM
Oct	5 mainland locations	17 total	Var. obs.
Oct 14, 25	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	10, 11	JWW
Oct 17	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	16	PMC, SEM
Oct 22	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	12	KEL
Oct 23	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	47	SEM
Nov 5	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	7	JAH
Nov 7	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	4	PMU
Nov 9	Conrad Bch. area, <i>HRM</i>	8	BLM, IAM
Nov 13, 21	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	8, 2	SEM, TUY
Nov 14	Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i>	6	JON, SAN
Willet			
Aug	9 locations, widespread	16 total	Var. obs.
Aug 1, 6, 29	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	10, 5, 1	KJM
Aug 1, 21	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	17E, 4E	SEM
Aug 7, 13, 26	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	15, 11, 4	SEM
Aug 10	Pomquet Bch., <i>Ant.</i>	7	S. Abbott
Aug 10, 18, 27	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	2, 8, 1W	SJF
Aug 16, 29	Bill's Cove, <i>Shel.</i>	5, 6	C. Curry
Aug 21	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	2W	BLM
Aug 27	Chezzetcook Inlet, <i>HRM</i>	1 W	BLM
Sep 2-12	6 locations, widespread	7 total	Var. obs.
Sep 3	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	2 juv., E	SEM
Sep 11	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
Sep 19	<i>CSI</i>	3W	BLM, NSBS
Sep 23	Big Tancook I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	NSBS, BLM
Oct 1	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	1W	JON
Lesser Yellowlegs			
Aug	4 locations, widespread	11 total	Var. obs.
Aug 1, 6, 27	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	140, 77, 36	KJM
Aug 1, 27	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	3, 14	SEM
Aug 7, 13, 26	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	4, 20, 107	SEM
Aug 13, 29	Pond Cove, Brier I.	6 juv., 15	ELM., IAM, LAL
Aug 27	Taylor Hd., <i>HRM</i>	15	ROH
Aug 27	Chezzetcook Inlet, <i>HRM</i>	30	BLM
Aug 28	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	25	T. Boswell
Sep	11 locations, widespread	32	Var. obs.
Sep 3	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	20	PMC, SEM
Sep 3	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	27	PMC, SEM
Sep 3, 10, 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	17, 12, 1	KJM
Sep 12	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	7	JWW
Sep 28	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	9	S. Abbott, K. Potter
Oct 1-22	8 mainland locations	ca. 10 total	Var. obs.
Oct 29	Daniles Hd., <i>CSI</i>	some	JON
UPLAND SANDPIPER			
Sep 11	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1, ph.	D. Garratt
Whimbrel			
Aug	10 mainland locations	44 total	Var. obs.
Aug 10	Pomquet Bch., <i>Ant.</i>	16	S. Abbott
Aug 12	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	24	HAT
Aug 19	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	10	R. Whitman
Aug 27	E. Lawrencetown marsh, <i>HRM</i>	ca. 30	PMC, SEM
Aug 30	Sand Hills Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	12	A. Smith
Sep	7 locations, widespread	16 total	Var. obs.
Sep 7	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	13	LAL
Sep 11, 14	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	26, ca. 40	D. Garratt,

Oct. 20	Seal I.	1	DMC KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Hudsonian Godwit			
Aug 7-28	3 locations, <i>HRM</i>	6 total	Var. obs.
Aug 10, 16	Bill's Cove, <i>Shel.</i>	10, 11	C. Curry
Sep 3	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	6	RAH
Sep 7-16	4 locations, widespread	6 total	Var. obs.
Sep 15	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	17	T. Chubbs
Oct 1	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Oct 1	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	7	JON
Oct 2	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	5	D. Garratt
Oct 5-8	Brier I.	2	KJM
Oct 23	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad., 10 juv.	SEM
Nov 6	Antigonish Landing, <i>Ant.</i>	1	BRS, A. Dallien



Godwits in Juvenile or winter plumage always deserve a second look, and preferably flushed to expose underwing and tail patterns. This one September 7 on Brier I., with its slightly up-curved bill (almost straight in Black-tailed) and anchor-shaped markings on the mantle (coarser in Bar-tailed) is identifiable from the photo as a juvenile HUDSONIAN GODWIT without recourse to its black underwings. [Photo Richard Stern]

MARBLED GODWIT

Aug 4	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1, nd	ALD, <i>fide</i> DOU
Sep 3	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	1, nd	RAH
Sep 26	L. Debert Bch., <i>Col.</i>	3, nd	ROH, H. Stewart

Ruddy Turnstone

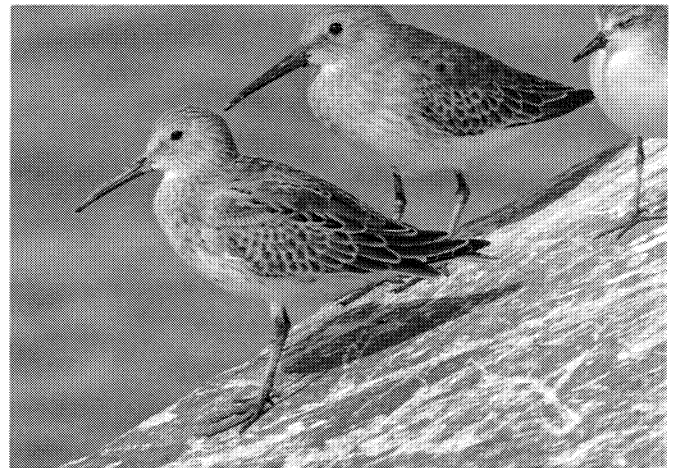
Aug 1 - 26	13 locations, widespread	33 total	Var. obs.
Aug 1, 13	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	5, 6	RBS, ELM
Aug 6, 13	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	20, 10	KJM, RFE
Aug 10	Pomquet Bch., <i>Ant.</i>	36	S. Abbott
Aug 27	Taylor Hd., <i>HRM</i>	15	ROH
Aug 30	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	ca. 12	PMU
Sep	13 locations, widespread	35 total	Var. obs.
Sep 10	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	25	T. Boswell
Sep 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	50	T. Boswell
Sep 18, 25	Gull I., <i>Pict.</i>	27, 50	KJM
Oct	8 locations, widespread	21 total	Var. obs.
Nov 6, 21	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	6, 2	SJF
Nov 14	Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i>	2	JON, SAN

Red Knot

Aug	3 mainland locations	singles	Var. obs.
Aug 13	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	3 ad.	SEM
Aug 27	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	26	NSBS, KJM
Aug 29	BPI	1, banded	LUB
Aug 30	Sand Hills Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	18	A. Smith
Sep 2	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1	ELM
Sep 2-3	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3 juv.	BRS, KJM
Sep 3, 10	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	10, 3	SJF

Sep 11	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	42 juv.	SEM	Aug 1, 27	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	2, 13	SEM
Sep 14	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	15	BID	Aug 7, 18, 27	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	30, 196, 102	SJF
Sep 18	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	7 juv.	SEM	Aug 10	Pomquet Bch., <i>Ant.</i>	58	S. Abbott
Sep 26	L. Debert Bch., <i>Col.</i>	1	KJM, ROH	Aug 13	Pond Cove, Brier I.	60+	ELM
Oct	4 mainland locations	17 total	Var. obs.	Aug 13, 21	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	90, 92	KJM, RFE
Oct 1, 29	Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i>	150, 200	JON	Aug 13, 26	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	40, 41	SEM
Nov 12	Conrad marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1	ULH	Aug 20, 26	Pond Cove, Brier I.	ca. 200	ELM
Nov 14	Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i>	78	JON, SAN	Aug 29	Bill's Cove, <i>Shel.</i>	35	C. Curry
Nov 21	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	3	SJF	Aug 29	BPI	25	LUB, <i>et al.</i>
Sanderling				Sep	6 locations, widespread	64 total	Var. obs.
Aug 1-29	6 locations, widespread	24 total	Var. obs.	Sep 4	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	108	PMC, SEM
Aug 10	Pomquet Bch., <i>Ant.</i>	19	S. Abbott	Sep 4, 25	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	111, 65	SJF
Aug 10	Kingsburg Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	50	KEL	Sep 15	The Guzzle, <i>Kings</i>	100	T. Boswell
Aug 13, 29	Pond Cove, Brier I.	4, 20	ELM, IAM, LAL	Sep 16	Brier I.	24	JAH, DAW, DPO
Aug 19	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	dozens	R. Whitman	Sep 17	Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i>	100	T. Boswell
Aug 28	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	55	T. Boswell	Oct 1	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	10	MIK
Aug 30	Sand Hills Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	54	A. Smith	Oct 3, 26	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	45, 3	SJF
Sep	16 locations, widespread	386 total	Var. obs.	Nov 2	Sable I.	1	BLM
Sep 9, 14	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	130, 1000+	SEM, BID	White-rumped Sandpiper			
Sep 10, 11	3 sites nr. Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	160 total	SEM	Aug	4 mainland locations	9 total	Var. obs.
Sep 17	Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i>	500	T. Boswell	Aug 5	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	8+	ALD, DOU
Sep 25	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	123	JAH, DAW	Aug 7, 18, 24	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	3, 13, 34	SJF
Sep 26	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	250+	D. Garratt	Aug 13, 29	Pond Cove, Brier I.	10, 25	ELM, IAM, LAL
Oct	12 locations, widespread	293 total	Var. obs.	Aug 26	Bon Portage I.	7	LUB
Oct 8	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	200	D. Stoddart-Pageau	Sep 3, 10	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	59, 16	SJF
Oct 11, 26	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	71, 120	SJF	Sep 4	W. Chezzetcook marsh, <i>HRM</i>	84	PMC, SEM
Oct 22	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	130	JAH, DPO	Sep 5	Bras D'Or L., <i>Rich.</i>	25	BID
Nov 2	Sable I.	30	BLM	Sep 9	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	10	SEM
Nov 2, 11, 21	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	110, 26, 4	SJF	Sep 11	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	15	SEM
Nov 8-19	6 locations, widespread	158 total	Var. obs.	Sep 11	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	ca. 50	D. Garratt
Nov 9	4 locations, E. shore, <i>HRM</i>	90 total	BLM	Sep 15	The Guzzle, <i>Kings</i>	ca. 2000	T. Boswell
Nov 13	Sand Hills Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	225	BJS, SIS	Sep 18	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	26	SEM
Nov 14	Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i>	230	JON, SAN	Sep 18	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	100	T. Boswell
Nov 19 - 24	4 locations, <i>Pict.</i>	9 total	KJM	Sep 26	L. Debert Bch., <i>Col.</i>	ca. 160	ROH
Semipalmated Sandpiper				Oct 3, 25	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	35, 16	SJF
Aug 1	Brier I.	200	RBS	Oct 14, 27	Grand Pre, <i>Kings</i>	ca. 200, 350	RBS, JOK
Aug 1, 27	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	78, 107	SEM	Oct 29	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	12	KJM, STV
Aug 1, 29	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	165, 170	KJM	Nov 2-28	5 locations, widespread	10 total	Var. obs.
Aug 7, 10, 27	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	57, 112, 160	SJF	Baird's Sandpiper			
Aug 7, 12	Grand Pre, <i>Kings</i>	10000; 8000	RBS	Aug 24-Sep 25	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
Aug 7, 13, 26	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	328, 454, 306	SEM	Aug 26	BPI	1	LUB
Aug 10	Pomquet Bch., <i>Ant.</i>	186	S. Abbott	Aug 28	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	3	D. Garratt
Aug 13, 29	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1700; ca. 600	ELM, IAM, LAL	Aug 29	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM, IAM, LAL
Aug 23-31	3 sites, <i>Shel.</i>	270 total	C. Curry	Sep 9	Sandy Cove Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, AZV
Aug 25	L. Dyke Bch., <i>Col.</i>	425	ROH	Sep 10	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	3	NSBS, SEM
Aug 30	Sand Hills Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	245	A. Smith	Sep 18	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	1	SEM
Sep	5 locations, widespread	400 total	Var. obs.	Oct 8, 10	BPI	2, 4	B. Woodworth, <i>et al.</i>
Sep 3, 10, 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	120, 55, 41	KJM	Nov 13	Duncan's Reef, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Sep 3, 17	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	128, 300	SEM	Pectoral Sandpiper			
Sep 4	W. Chezzetcook marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1400	PMC, SEM	Aug 1, 25	Brier I.	1	RBS, ELM, <i>et al.</i>
Sep 4, 10, 25	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	191, 60, 40	SJF	Aug 10	Kingsburg Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	KEL
Sep 11	N. Grand Pre, <i>Kings</i>	ca. 1000	R. Whitman	Aug 21, 29	2 locations, widespread	singles	KJM, BRS
Sep 14	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	1000+	BID	Aug 26	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	4	SEM
Sep 18, 28	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	366, 120	SEM, S. Abbott	Sep 1 - 23	8 locations, widespread	14 total	Var. obs.
Sep 25	L. Debert Bch., <i>Col.</i>	ca. 650	KJM, ROH	Sep 10	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	15	NSBS, SEM
Sep 15	The Guzzle, <i>Kings</i>	7000	T. Boswell	ca. Sep 10	Port Hood, <i>Inv.</i>	11+, ph.	<i>fide</i> S. Abbott
Sep 17	Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i>	1000	T. Boswell	Sep 18	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	20	SEM
Oct	14 locations, widespread	45 total	Var. obs.	Sep 19	CSI	50	JON
Oct 1, 12	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	115, 3	KJM	Sep 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	17	KJM
Oct 3	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	20	DOU	Sep 25	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	27	SJF
Oct 3, 11, 26	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	40, 65, 9	SJF	Oct	6 locations, widespread	13 total	Var. obs.
Oct 6	Brier I.	8	KJM, <i>et al.</i>	Oct 1	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	12	MIK
Oct 15	The Guzzle, <i>Kings</i>	10	KEL	Oct 3, 26	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	42, 41	SJF
Oct 19, 22	Seal I.	22, 8	KJM, <i>et al.</i>	Oct 4, 9	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	12, 60	KJM, DOU
Nov 1, 2	<i>HRM, Lun.</i>	2 singles	CHP, SJF	Nov 2	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	7	SJF
Nov 13	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	110	CST	Nov 7	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	3	AGH
WESTERN SANDPIPER				Nov 12	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	1	NIF
Sep 11	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1 ad.	SEM	Nov 13	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	3	SEM
Sep 18	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad.	SEM	Purple Sandpiper			
Least Sandpiper				Nov 12	off Brier I.	6	ELM
Aug 1	Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	50	RBS				

Nov 17-19	3 mainland locations	singles	Var. obs.
Nov 18	Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i>	26	BES, GEC
Nov 27	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	5	T. Boswell
Nov 27	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	15	S. Abbott
Dunlin			
Sep 9, 15	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	1, alt.	SEM; BID
Sep 11	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	D. Garratt
Sep 18, 28	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	9, 41	SEM, S. Abbott
Sep 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	17	KJM
Sep 26	L. Debert Bch., <i>Col.</i>	200	ROH
Sep 30	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1, ph.	R. Whitman
Oct	7 mainland locations	14	Var. obs.
Oct 3, 26	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	45, 41	SJF
Oct 12, 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	20, 60	KJM
Oct 14, 27	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	ca. 200, 55	RBS, JOK
Oct 23	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	93	SEM
Nov 14	Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i>	135	JON, SAN
Nov 19	Little Port L'Hebert, <i>Shel.</i>	20	SJF, DOE
Nov 26	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	ca. 28	IAM
Stilt Sandpiper			
Aug 26	Pond Cove, Brier I.	7	ELM
Sep 11	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
Sep 29 - Oct 2	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	Var. obs.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			
Aug 12	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	4	HAT
Sep 1-25	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1	BLF, SJF
Sep 2, 3	Pond Cove, Brier I.	2 juv., 3	ELM, LAL
Sep 6, 18	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2, 1	DOU, DAC
Sep 10	Sydney airport, <i>CBRM</i>	5	NSBS, SEM
Sep 10	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	2	DJC
Sep 11	CSI	1 juv., ph.	R. D'Entremont
Sep 23	BPI	2	C. Craig, <i>et al.</i>
Sep 26	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	1	D. Garratt, DAC
Sep 26	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	D. Garratt, DAC
Oct 1	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
Short-billed Dowitcher			
Aug	6 locations, widespread	70 total	Var. obs.
Aug 1, 21, 27	3 Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	31, 19, 1	SEM
Aug 6, 29	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	40, 48	KJM
Aug 7, 13, 26	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	264, 460, 49	SEM
Aug 8, 27	Chezzeetcook Inlet, <i>HRM</i>	80, 40	BLM
Aug 27	Silver Sands Bch., <i>HRM</i>	ca. 350	IAM
Sep 3-11	8 locations, widespread	38 total	Var. obs.
Sep 3, 10, 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	49, 10, 1	KJM
Sep 18, 28	Cole Hbr. trail, <i>HRM</i>	13, 3	SEM, S. Abbott
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER			
Oct 29	Daniels Hd, <i>CSI</i>	1	JON
Nov 2	Sable I.	1	BLM
Nov 22	L. Clark's Hbr., <i>CSI</i>	3	JON
Wilson's Snipe			
Sep 22-24	Port Greville, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	JCZ
Sep 27	Conrad marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Oct 10	Second Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i>	3	G. Rhodenizer
Oct 19-22	Seal I.	2-3	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Nov 2	Sable I.	2	BLM
Nov 5	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	KEL
American Woodcock			
Aug 11	Pine Tree Row, <i>HRM</i>	1	T. Chubbs
Oct 12	Dynamite trail, <i>Lun.</i>	1	KEL
Oct 13	Plymouth, <i>Pict.</i>	1, displaying	KJM, RFE, CHK
Nov 25	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP
phalarope species			
Aug 25	off Brier I.	10,000+	ELM
Aug 29	off Northern Pt., Brier I.	ca. 75,000	LAL
Sep 3	off Brier I.	1000s	RBS
Oct 10	off Brier I.	100	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
WILSON'S PHALAROPE			
Aug 21	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1, ph.	BRS, A. Dallien



Although the short-billed Greenland-breeding DUNLIN (subspecies, or perhaps species, *arctica*) might well occur here, as it has in New England, our regular subspecies *hudsonia* shows considerable variation in bill length (although little or no overlap with *arctica*). This short-billed one, September 30 at Grand Pré, is probably a male. It retains the characteristic rufous-margined scapulars of adult *hudsonia*, which are dull cinnamon in *arctica*. [Photo Rick Whitman]



Although a STILT SANDPIPER, this one September 29 at Hartlen Pt., appears and often behaves like a small yellowlegs, its strongly marked back and duller legs are distinctive. [Photo Rita Viau]

Red-necked Phalarope

Aug 14	NW Ledge area, off Brier I.	ca. 20	ELM, MIK
Aug 25	off Brier I.	50	L. Ogden
Sep 11, 25	off Sambro, <i>HRM</i>	2, 4	DAC, <i>et al.</i>
Sep 17	off Brier I.	ca. 290	NSBS, JAH
Oct 5	Canso Causeway	5+	D. Garratt
Oct 23	off Sambro, <i>HRM</i>	2	DAC, <i>et al.</i>
Red Phalarope			
Aug 12, 13	NW Ledge, off Brier I.	ca. 300, 2000+	ELM, MIK
Aug 20	Neils Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	6	R. Furbush
Aug 27	nr. NW Ledge	ca. 1000	ELM
Sep 3	off Brier I.	20,000	RBS
Sep 17	off Brier I.	ca. 30	NSBS, JAH
Oct 5	Canso Causeway	1	D. Garratt
Oct 8	off Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	4	BRS, A. Dallien
Oct 9	off Brier I.	200	KJM, <i>et al.</i>

Gulls through Alcids

By Eric Mills

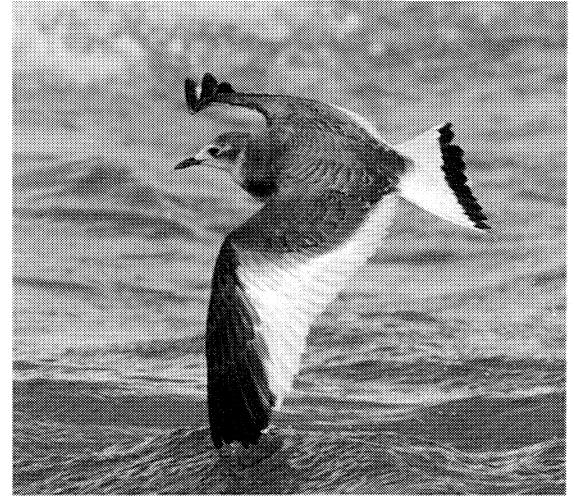
During a southerly gale on October 5, an outstanding array of seabirds accumulated at the Canso Causeway, *Guys./Inv.*, including an **250+** BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES, an immature SABINE'S GULL (undocumented), a LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, **70** POMARINE JAEGERs, plus **1000+** Gannets, **30+** Fulmars, 15+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 10+ Leach's Storm-Petrels, 5 Red-necked Phalaropes, a Red Phalarope, and a Harlequin Duck (Dennis Garratt). Earlier, an immature **SABINE'S GULL** was found and photographed September 20 at Schooner Pond, CBRM (ALM, CAM – see www.capebretonbirds.ca/sabinesgull.html).

A few BONAPARTE'S GULLS, failed breeders or non-breeders, appeared during the first week of August, mainly along the Northumberland Strait shore, but there was evidence of arrivals by September 1, for example **700** at Caribou I., *Pict.* (KJM, Rick Ferguson) that day, and later in the season "a few hundred" at the Canso Causeway, *Guys./Inv.*, November 5 (NSBS); 400-500 at Ogden's Pd., *Ant.*, November 6 (BRS); 350 at Waterside PP, *Pict.*, November 19 (KJM, Charlie Kendell); and 300 remaining at Ogden's Pd. Nov. 29. BLACK-HEADED GULLS were sparsely but regularly reported during the fall from many areas; in HRM numbers have never recovered since the greatly regretted closing of the major sewer outfalls. RING-BILLED GULLS continue to increase in numbers, especially early in the season, for example, **280** adults at Cow Bay and 60 at Rainbow Haven, *HRM*, on August 27 (IAM); **120** at Hartlen's Pt., *HRM*, on August 30 (HAT); and **200** in the Missaquash marsh, *Cumb.*, September 18 (ROH). Later in the season, there were 120 at Antigonish Ldg., *Ant.*, in a region where high numbers are more usual.

A HERRING GULL observed at Glace Bay, *CBRM*, on October 3 had been wing-tagged on Sable Island (ALM, CAM), and one at Pier C, Pictou, on November 19 (KJM, Charlie Kendell) had been banded at Witless Bay, NL, in July 2006. ICELAND GULLS were sparse until late fall, when their numbers increased markedly, to be noted in a later issue. Only two GLAUCOUS GULLS were reported, both at Pier C, Pictou, November 27 (KJM). LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS are almost outside the noteworthy category, after increasing markedly since the first was detected in 1970. But two adults on September 25 and another October 23 well out at sea 20 km SSE of Sambro, *HRM*, pose the questions of just how many are passing through and where they come from. A LESSER BLACK-BACK x HERRING hybrid, well photographed at Glace Bay, *CBRM*, was present from August 30-October 21 (ALM, CAM – see www.capebretonbirds.ca/rarebird.html).

The track of Hurricane Irene, which moved inland across the W end of Long Island, NY, on August 28 didn't portend great things for the Maritime Provinces. But the intense southerly circulation well offshore on the east side of the storm did bring us some birds, notably a SOOTY TERN, found dead September 1 at East Side, Port L'Hebert, *Queens*, by Brad Woodworth and his grandfather. The specimen is now in the NS Museum of Natural History. An adult LEAST TERN was found by Frédéric Hareau of Montréal in Grand Passage, Brier I., August 11, before the storm. After Irene there was an adult in Pond Cove on August 29 (ELM, IAM, LAL, ALA; photo), and an immature at Cooks Bch., *Yar.*, on August 31 (Ron D'Entremont; photo). In New Brunswick, Least and Royal Terns were seen about the same time, all attributable to displacement by the hurricane.

Only one FORSTER'S TERN was reported (without documentation) this season, on CSI, November 19 (MUN, Cindy Penney). CASPIAN TERNS seem to have been more abundant than usual: nine reports of 14 individuals from CBRM., *Pict.*, *Col.*, *Anna.*, Brier I., and BPI between August 24 and October 23.



It takes great luck to find a SABINE'S GULL in Nova Scotia, and great skill to obtain such a stunning photo. [Photo Allan Murrant]



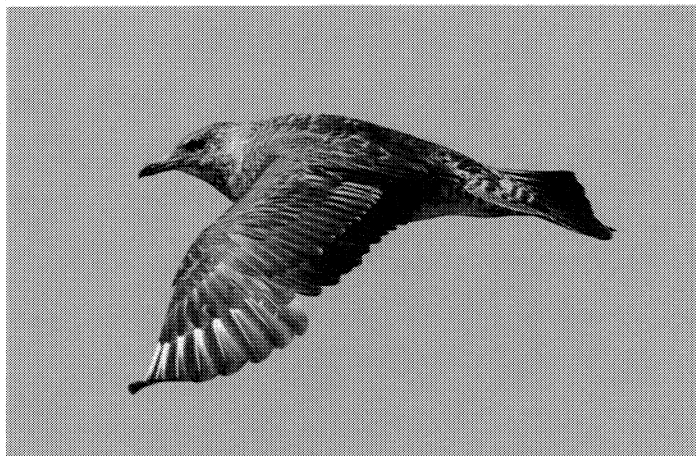
This 3d-cycle gull at Glace Bay in September-October is a good candidate for HERRING X LESSER BLACK-BACKED. As is typical in this hybrid, the legs were pink, not yellow, but in other respects is seemed quite intermediate in characteristics. [Photo Allan Murrant]

A GREAT SKUA was reported by a seabird observer (Christopher Vogel) working in the Northeast Channel area of the Gulf of Maine (S of Yarmouth) on November 14. There was only one report of a SOUTH POLAR SKUA – one that spectacularly circled and was photographed by the pelagic observers of the NSBS on September 25 about 20 km SSE of Sambro, *HRM*. The 70 POMARINE JAEGERs seen by Dennis Garratt at the Canso Causeway, *Guys./Inv.*, during a southerly gale on October 5 were only part of a seabird spectacular described earlier in the Tubenoses through Cormorants section of this report. Elsewhere, 26 Pomarines were reported between September 1 and November 11; on the latter date, during a southerly gale there were seven off Northern Pt., Brier I. (ELM) and five off Chebucto Hd., *HRM* (DAC, DCO, FLL).

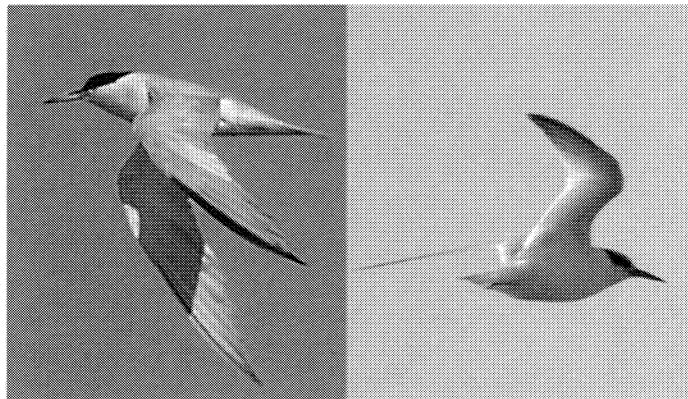
Most alcids were scarce this fall. But they were out there somewhere, presumably where the feeding was good. During a southerly gale on November 11, DAC, DCO and FLL estimated 25,000 DOVEKIES passing Chebucto Hd., *HRM*. That day, their observations also included one Fulmar, one Wilson's Storm-Petrel, about 1350 Northern Gannets, about 1600 Black-legged Kittiwakes, five POMARINE JAEGERs, one PARASITIC JAEGER, five+ COMMON MURREs, and about 1200 RAZORBILLS. ATLANTIC PUFFINS were reported from most birder-attended whale-watch cruises off Brier Island between mid-August and the end of September. According to Ralph Eldridge, reporting to NatureNB, puffins were late fledging young on the closest breeding colony to Brier I., Machias Seal I., N.B.; many had not left their nest burrows at the end of August, and significant mortality may have been caused by Hurricane Irene. Fledglings were still emerging on September 8. Three, the last of the fall season off SW N.S., were reported in the Northeast Channel area, Gulf of Maine, S off Yarmouth, on November 14 (Christopher Vogel).



A highly successful pelagic trip September 25 out of Sambro, *HRM*, produced a "lifer" SOUTH POLAR SKUA for some, and beautiful close-up photos. The bird is in an interesting state of moult (timely for a S. Hemisphere skua), with missing outer greater coverts exposing the white bases of the underlying Secondaries. [Photo Bruce Stevens]



The POMARINE JAEGER is our largest jaeger, and this one seemed almost as bulky as the attendant South Polar Skua during the pelagic trip September 29 off Sambro, *HRM*. The species shows more white at the bases of primaries, and dark-morph birds like this one also tend to show more white markings on the rump and upper tail coverts than found on similar plumages of the other two species. [Photo Bruce Stevens]



Two LEAST TERNS were presumably brought HERE on the fringes of Hurricane Earl. The one at left was photographed August 29 at Pond Cove, Brier I., and the tail-less juvenile at right on August 31 at Cooks Bch., *Yar*. [Photos: left, Lance Laviolette; right, Ronnie D'Entremont]

Pigeons through Woodpeckers

By Chris Field

Probably the most notable feature of the fall season for this group was the irruption of red-bellied woodpeckers. The first was reported in Kentville on September 4 but the major influx began in early October with the first reports coming from Halifax and Brier Island. From October 23 to the end of November there were 28 reported with all coming from Halifax and west until October 28 when there was a report from *CBRM* followed in early November by reports from New Glasgow and Baddeck and subsequently Antigonish. There have been two previous irruptions in 2005 and 2008 giving a faint suggestion of a three year cycle. It's possible that this cycle could be related to mast (very abundant) acorn crops. Apparently 2010 was a mast year for acorns leading to increased productivity and recruitment throughout New England but acorns are scarce this year at least in Maine. Derek Lovitch suggests the lack of acorns seems to be the deciding factor in triggering these large-scale irruptions. Over the fall period there have been about 150 reports of red-bellied woodpeckers from southern New Brunswick. There were four reports of the now uncommon red-headed woodpecker coming from *Yarmouth*, *Pictou*, *Queens* and *HRM*.

Minnie McLeod of Louisburg had a lovely male rufous hummingbird show up at her feeder prior to August 21. It was confirmed by Bill and Diane Bussey and duly photographed. Based on the maps in Sibley, it is the most likely vagrant hummingbird to show up in Nova Scotia. It is the 8th record for the province since 1967. A check of ebirds for New Brunswick and Maine didn't show any reports of rufous hummingbirds for August.

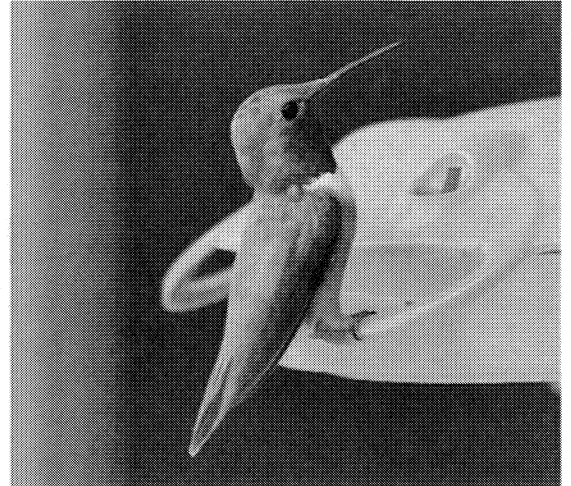
On September 11, Ray Staszko reported to Hans Toom he had seen and videoed what appeared to be a small tufted owl, possibly an eastern screech owl near McIntosh Run in Spryfield. There has been considerable discussion about whether it could have been a young great-horned owl. Hans has done some very careful analysis (see <http://www.hanstoom.com/Journal/Page6.html>) and gives careful arguments that it has to be a small owl eliminating the great-horned owl. It's certainly interesting that this is the second report of a possible eastern screech owl this year. I personally am convinced by Hans' argument but do hope we can get clearer photographic evidence in the future.

White-winged doves were reported by the Murrants at Sand Lake, *CBRM* on September 21 and by Carl Haycock on November 16 on Brier Island. The only reports of snowy owls were from the Cape Sable area where there were reports of two at the end of November with a third on Green Island.

Chimney swifts were reported through August with 323 reported in New Glasgow on August 4. Cheryl Rutledge reported noisy babies in their Falmouth chimney on August 9 and three fledged swifts flying on August 26. The last large number reported was 78 at Middleton on August 21. The last reports were from Antigonish on October 1 and St. Esprit, *Rich.* on October 28, the latter by Weldon McPhail. Thanks to Jim Wolford for tabulating the chimney swift sightings.

Yellow-billed cuckoos showed up in October with 21 reports with many from Halifax south but several from *CBRM* and one from St. Anns, *Vict.* The last reports were from Hirtles Beach and Schooner Pond, *CBRM* both on October 29. Only one black-billed cuckoo was reported from Seal Island.

Common nighthawks were lightly reported with about 10 reports, the latest being a single bird on September 3. The ruby-throated hummingbirds were leaving feeders by late August with a few lingering to mid-September. Richard McKay of Huntington Pt., *Kings* had 50+ coming to his feeders in mid-summer but by August 16 only had four-five males left.



This fall's only reported RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD, at Louisbourg (here August 14) was readily identifiable as an adult male – young and females are more difficult. [Photo Ian Harte]



First-fall sapsuckers always deserve close scrutiny, given the remote possibility that a Red-naped could wander here. This young male, October 7 in Westport, Brier I., retains the characteristic brownish juvenile back plumage of hatching-year YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, but has begun to develop red feathering on crown and throat. [Photo Richard Stern]

Mourning Dove			
Aug.-Nov.	province wide	220 reports	Num. obs.
WHITE-WINGED DOVE			
Sep 21 - 24	SandLake, CBRM	1	ALM,CAM
Nov 16	Brier I., Digby	1	CAH
Black-billed Cuckoo			
Oct 21	Seal I., Yar.	1	Sev. obs.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			
October	province-wide	21 reports	Var. obs.
Great Horned Owl			
Aug - Sep	Shel., Digby, Pict.	11 reports	Var. obs.
Barred Owl			
Sep - Nov	Kings, Lun.	4 reports	Sev. obs.
Common Nighthawk			
Aug - Sep 3	Hants, Lun., Shel.	11 reports	Var. obs.
Chimney Swift			
Aug - Oct 28	province-wide	42 reports	Num. obs.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
Aug - Sep 13	province-wide	55 reports	Num. obs.



WHITE-WINGED DOVE is annual here, but each one deserves scrutiny and photographing. This one seemed to have a wash of brown over the head and breast, and might have come from some intermediate zone between the long-established population in the U.S. Southwest and the West Indian subspecies spreading from Florida and along the Gulf Coast. [Photo Allan Murrant]

Belted Kingfisher			
Aug - Nov	province-wide	89 reports	Num. obs.
Red-headed Woodpecker			
October	Pict., Queens, Yar.	3 reports	JAH, R. Kirkmount
Red-bellied Woodpecker			
Sep - Nov	province-wide	27 reports	Num. obs.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
Aug - Oct 22	Ant., Cumb., Digby, Lun., Yar.	15 reports	Num. obs.
Downy Woodpecker			
Aug - Nov	province-wide	195 reports	Num. obs.
Hairy Woodpecker			
Aug - Nov	province-wide	70 reports	Num. obs.
Black-backed Woodpecker			
Aug - Sep	HRM	3 reports	3 obs.
Northern Flicker			
Aug - Nov	province-wide	122 reports	Num. obs.
Pileated Woodpecker			
Aug - Nov	province-wide	43 reports	Num. obs.



In the welter of reports of RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER this fall, a few RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS, like this first-fall bird November 2 in Yarmouth, were much rarer finds. [Photo Eric Ruff]

Flycatchers through Thrushes

By Hans Toom

This report was unavailable.

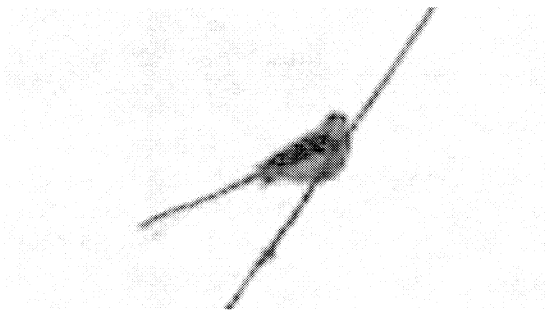
Photo Gallery - Flycatchers Through Thrushes



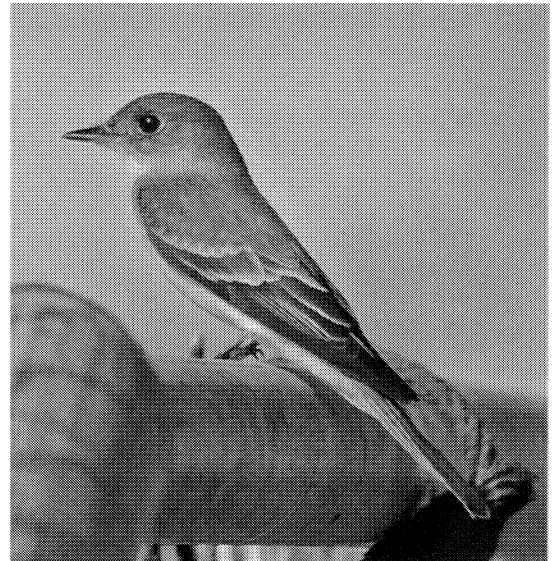
Always a delight among our autumn strays, this tiny, hyperactive BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, October 29 at Duncans Cove, *HRM*, paused momentarily for its portrait. [Photo Alan Covert]



Among several vagrant WHITE-EYED VIREOS this fall, a "fallout" adult October 3 at Hartlen Pt., *HRM*, obliged with an excellent portrait. [Photo Bruce Stevens]



This image obtained by cell-phone camera of a FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER at Middleton, *Anna.*, demonstrates that even a low-quality image can confirm some very rare visitors. [Photo David Walmark]



The pale breast of this bird makes it pretty clearly an EASTERN WOOD-PEEWEE. But photos like this one are useful in doubtful examples. The ratio of extension of primaries from the pale margined tertials is close to 1:1 in Western Wood Pewee. In this one, the ratio is about 0.7, strongly indicating Eastern. [Photo Ronald d'Entremont]



This SAY'S PHOEBE, spotted November 20 at Upper South River, *Ant.*, was photographed next day. Its somewhat palish back and breast suggest that it came from the Great Plains or southwest U.S., rather than the populations breeding in Alaska-Yukon. [Photo Richard Marsh]

Mimics through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

All three species of mimic thrushes were noted in good numbers this fall. There were about 20 GRAY CATBIRD reports primarily of single birds and most from August and September. Latest reports received were 1-2 on Seal I., October 18-22 (KJM). First fall reports of AMERICAN PIPIT came from Big I., *Pict.* on September 18, with a peak of 30 September 24. Two days later an equal number were seen at Debert Beach by ROH. Pipits were wide spread through the province in Oct and there were still 30 at Brier I. November 10. A few locations had single digit observations to the end of the report period. EUROPEAN STARLINGS remain abundant with more than 250 reports to E-bird. A flock of 200 on Brier I. Nov 10 were considered migrants, ELM.

BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS must have had a source of food further north as there were **no observations** in the province for this period despite a reasonable crop of berries and fruit. CEDAR WAXWINGS were not overly abundant this fall either. Largest number reported was 78 by the NSBS field trip to Brier I. September 18. A small flock was seen November 3 and November 26 in south-end Halifax (AGH, ALD).

Thirty-two species of warbler highlight this report period. There were a couple of well documented warbler fall-outs from weather patterns. A persistent SW flow in August was interrupted on the night of August 31 with 4-5 hours of NW winds producing a migration of NS birds to Brier I. including 100+ Wilson's Warblers, 40+ Black-throated Green Warblers and 15 Northern Waterthrush.

On October 1, 10 species of warbler were discovered at Chebucto Head and Duncans Cove, but a fall-out of reverse migrants including many southern warblers took place October 2 and 3 when birds were deposited along the Atlantic coast from Port Morien to CSI, but particularly in the Hartlen Pt.-Chebucto Head area where 22 species of warbler were found by birders over a two day period. A number of **BLUE-WINGED, PROTHONOTARY, HOODED, CERULEAN,** and **PRAIRIE WARBLERS** as well as a single **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** and a few **YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS** were spotted by a number of observers after this weather pattern which is analyzed by Dr. McLaren in this issue. Many of the birds at Hartlen Pt. October 5 were less than a meter above the ground and because of strong winds, difficult to see.

A warbler seen briefly October 15 at Hartlen Pt. was described as having strong yellow under-parts, grey hood with prominent white eye-ring but skulking. This seems to fit the description of a **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**. The early October storm brought more than average **HOODED WARBLERS** to the province with 5-6 in a two day period.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLERS were widely reported with peak reporting from mid-August to early September. Nine were tallied September 1 on Brier I., (LAL, *et al.*). Reports tapered in late September and the only October report was at Hartlen Pt. on the 18th by DAM. **NASHVILLE WARBLERS** were seen in steady numbers till mid-October with no reports of more than four birds. Latest sighting was November 27 in a walk by BLF from Wolfville to Greenwich, *Kings*.

In reviewing about 100 reports of **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT**, it could be determined that peak migration was in the September 1-14 period with 23 reports of 96 birds. A moderately large movement was detected on Brier I. September 11 by ELM when 25+ were observed. Observations continued into late October, but surprisingly, none were seen in November although a few are usually noted during the Christmas bird count season.

The bulk of the forty **AMERICAN REDSTART** observations were from August. **NORTHERN PARULA** migration was spread out in the first half of the report period, and ended with a strong count of 20 on Brier I. October 7 after a night of strong NW winds. From about 50 **MAGNOLIA WARBLER** reports, there seemed to be a couple of peak migration observations. On Big I., *Pict.*, 16 were observed August 21 by KJM. Another smaller peak of 4-5 birds was seen by groups on Big I as well as Brier I. September 18. The latest sightings were October 10 of single birds at Digby Neck and Bear River by JAH. Most of the 23



This apparent first-fall male **CERULEAN WARBLER** (note distinct "black teeth" on white tips of wing coverts) was among the best finds in the fallout at Hartlen Pt. *HRM*, October 3, and was a "lifer" for several. The grayscale image cannot capture the distinctive blue-gray wash on its back and tail. [Photo David Currie]

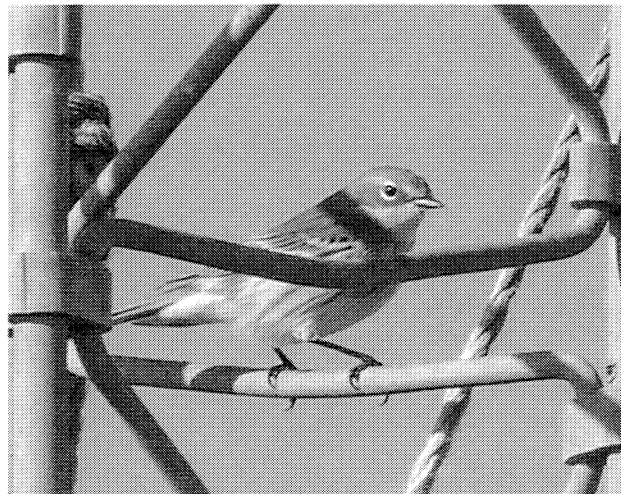
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER reports were from August till mid-September. The storm system of the early days of October brought single additional October sightings at Chebucto Head, October 4 (DAC, *et al.*) and Birch Cove Park October 6, in *HRM* (Marty Zelenietz) as well as a single October 6 at BPI (Bradley Woodworth). Latest sighting goes to IAM from Seal I. October 22.

The majority of YELLOW WARBLER sightings were in August with about 25 reports. A peak of 12 were observed on Big I., *Pict.*, by KJM August 21. IAM and son James noted a number of juveniles at Hartlen Pt. August 23. There were 12 September reports with a nice observation of 10 migrants at Brier I. on the 1st by Josh Vandermeulen. Latest records were one from Big I. (KJM) and three on Brier I. September 18 (NSBS). Since most of the BLACKPOLL WARBLER reports were derived from E-bird submissions, I have summarized the observations in a semi-monthly report below. A peak of 18 were noted on Sober I., *HRM*, September 17 (KJM). As with some other species, the early October storm brought along a few more Blackpolls especially to areas around Halifax Harbour. Some observers reported Blackpoll as the most common of the several hundred warblers October 3. These birds were likely caught up in their overseas migration to South American and brought here by the southerly flow. Marty Zelenietz noted 15 at Birch Cove Park October 4 and others observed stragglers till October 8. Latest observations were singles by a group on Seal I. October 21-22.

A few PALM WARBLER reports were received from August with the largest number of 12 reported in Lochaber Mines, *HRM*, August 22, (KJM). The same location still had 10 on September 17. IAM reported small numbers at Hartlen Pt. September 28, but the weather of early October brought in some western sub-species.

Once again YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS were the most numerous warbler reported this period with 161 reports to E-bird alone. Although there was a steady number of reports from August forward, numbers started to climb from the end of September and through most of October. DAM reported a large fallout on Brier I. October 11. Some of the higher counts are outlined below. There were eight reports from November including a report of 15 from Sable I., by BLM where he was able to photograph one with some characteristics of the "Audubon" race.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS were widely reported in small numbers through to the end of the first week of October when a day total of 20 were noted by a group birding Brier I. on the 7th. Latest and only sighting after that was one at Hartlen Pt. September 23 (DAM).



The weakly yellowish throat of this YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER perched on a communications tower, November 2 on Sable I., suggested the "AUDUBON'S" subspecies. However, the pale (not very weak) supercilium and some extension of the pale throat under the auriculars seemed to indicate an intergrade, perhaps a backcross, with the "MYRTLE" subspecies. [Photo Blake Maybank]

Northern Mockingbird

Oct 4	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK, DAC
Oct 6	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
Oct 21	Seal I.	1	SJF
Oct 22	Wolfville Wharf, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF
Oct 22	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	SMB
Oct 28	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	1	<i>fide</i> Bill

Oct 29	Halifax	1	<i>fide</i> JOW
Oct 29	Halifax, west-end	1	Christina
			Andreycyk

Oct 31	Middle Dyke Rd., <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
Oct 31	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	
Nov 8	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
Nov 26	Antigonish	1	KJM
Nov 29	Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM

Brown Thrasher

Sep 25	Whites Lake, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Oct 4	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	AAM
Oct 6	Dartmouth	1	CHP
Oct 19, 21	Seal I.	1	KJM
Oct 25	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT

Ovenbird

Aug 1, 13, 21	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1, 2, 1	KJM
Aug 11	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 yard	Andy Stadnyk
Aug 20	Powell Pt. P.P., <i>Pict.</i>	1	RFE, KJM

Sep 1	Brier I.	6	LAL, ADL, PAC
Sep 3	Springfield, <i>Anna.</i>	1	John Lock
Sep 18	Rosfield, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Sep 23	Maryvale, <i>Ant.</i>	1	BRS
Oct 3	Sandy Cove	1	DAM

Northern Waterthrush

Aug 24	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP
Aug 28	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Sep 1	Brier I.	15	LAL, ADL, PAC
Sep 3 - 4	Brier I.	a few	RBS
Sep. 5	Sober I.	1	RFE, KJM

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER

Aug 26 - 27	BPI	1 male	LUB, Janice Chard
Sep 27	Chebucto Head, <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC
Oct 2	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2	DEG
Oct 3	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	3	DAC, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 18, 19	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	ALM, CAM

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

Sep 11	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DEG
Oct 2	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2	MIK, DAC
Oct 3	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	CLS, PEL, DCO, LOC

Tennessee Warbler

Aug 6	Tidnish, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	Debbie Cusick
Sep 25	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	1	B & D Bussey
Oct 6	BPI	1	Bradley Woodworth

Orange-crowned Warbler

Sep 18	Brier I.	2	NSBS <i>fide</i> JAH
Sep 21, 24	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	ALM, CAM
Sep 23	Big Tancook I., <i>Lun.</i>	1, <i>celata</i>	NSBS <i>fide</i> BLM
Sep. 29	Back Harbour Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct 2	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	2	CAM, ALM
Oct 3	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 3	CSI	1	JON
Oct 8	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DEG
Oct 8, 11, 18	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	ALM, CAM
Oct 19, 24	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	3	ALM, CAM
Oct 21, 22	Seal I.	2	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 23	Ragged Hbr., <i>Queens</i>	1	JAH, DPO
Oct 28	The Hawk, CSI	1	CST
Oct 30	Halifax	1	Terry Boswell
Nov 3	Back Hbr. Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
Nov 8	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Nov 8	Sullivans Pond	2	Jim Edsall
Nov 17	Birch Cove Pk., <i>HRM</i>	1	MAZ
Nov 20	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1 <i>celata</i> , photo	KJM
Nov 27	Wolfville area, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF
Nov 27	Long Beach, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM

CONNECTICUT WARBLER

Sep 10	Daniels Head, <i>Shel.</i>	1	CST
Oct 15	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DEG

Mourning Warbler

Aug 6	Mid. Barneys R., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Sep 10	Hiking Trail Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Sep 18	Rossfield, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Sep 30	Brier I.	1	DEG
Oct 8	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM

HOODED WARBLER

Oct 3	Sandy Cove <i>HRM</i>	1 imm.	BLM
Oct 3	Duncans Cove	1 imm.	BLM
Oct 3	BPI	1 banded	Janice Chard
Oct 4	Sambro Creek, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL, HAT
Oct 4	BPI	1	B. Woodworth, J. Chard
Oct 4	East Lawrencetown	1 adult male	CHP

American Redstart

Aug - Sep	widely	40 reports	Var. obs.
Oct 2	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Oct 3	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Oct 5	Pleasant Hill Cemetery	1	CLS
Oct 6	Brier I.	1	KJM, <i>et al.</i>

Cape May Warbler

Oct 3	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	<i>fide</i> DAC
Oct 21	Seal I.	1	KJM
Oct 22	Seal I.	1, photo	CHK, KJM

CERULEAN WARBLER

Aug 17	BPI	1 1st fall, a lifer	LUB
Oct 2	Chebucto Head, <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC
Oct 2	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2	DEG
Oct 3	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	3	<i>fide</i> DAC

Northern Parula

Aug - Sep	widely	44 reports	Var. obs.
Oct 1	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Oct 2, 19	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Oct 3	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM
Oct 6	Brier I.	5	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 7	Brier I.	20	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 22	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	2	CAM, ALM
Oct 23	Ragged Hbr., <i>Queens</i>	1	JAH, DPO

Bay-breasted Warbler

Aug 3	off Shag Harbour, <i>Shel.</i>	1 landed on boat	Curtis Quinlan
			<i>fide</i> Ryan
			Harvey



Although the ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER is said by some sources to have yellowish soles, the all-yellow feet of this one, November 13 on CSI, seemed anomalous. [Photo Ronnie D'Entremont]

Aug 12	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2 males	ALD
Sep 11	Brier I.	1	ELM
Sep 17	Liscomb Sanctuary	1	RFE, KJM
Chestnut-sided Warbler			
Aug 6, 13	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Aug 7	Centredale, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Aug 13	Keji Seaside Adjunct	1	JAH, DPO
Aug 21	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1, also Sep 6	LOC
Aug 27	Baxters Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	3	RBS
Sep 18	Rossfield, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Sep 18	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Sep 18	Brier I.	7	NSBS
Sep 24	Lunenburg	1	<i>fide</i> JAH
			Richard Skevington



Male AMERICAN REDSTART retains its immature plumage until more than a year old and, like this one near Port Williams, *Kings*, begin to acquire black patches of adult plumage at summer's end. [Photo Richard Stern]

Blackpoll Warbler

Aug 1 - 14		3 reports of 5	E-bird
Aug 15 - 31	widely	7 reports of 14	E-bird
Sep 1 - 14	widely	6 reports of 14	E-bird
Sep 15 - 30	widely	8 reports of 30	E-bird

Oct 1 - 14	widely	3 reports of 19	E-bird	Aug 12	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	1	ALD
Oct 15 - 31		4 reports of 4	E-bird	Aug 13	Hartlen Pt. <i>HRM</i>	2	AGH <i>fide</i> RBS
Black-throated Blue Warbler				Aug 14	St. Margarets Bay Trail	1	BLM
Aug 21	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	Aug 16	Bayside, <i>HRM</i>	1	Terry Chubbs
Aug 22	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC	Aug 19, Sep 6	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC
Sep 5	Timberlea, <i>HRM</i>	1	D. Stoddart-Pageau	Aug 21	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
			NSBS	Sep 11	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
Sep 18	Brier I.	1	<i>fide</i> JAH	Oct 3	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, <i>et al.</i>
Sep 24	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1, male	ALM, CAM	Wilson's Warbler			
Oct 6	Brier I.	2	KJM, <i>et al.</i>	Aug 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	DOU
Oct 18, 19	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1, female	CAM, ALM	Aug 27	Baxters Harbour, <i>Kings</i>	2	RBS
Oct 22	Seal I.	1	KJM, <i>et al.</i>	Aug 28	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
Palm Warbler				Sep 1	Brier I.	100+	LAL, ADL, PAC
Aug - Sep		widely	Var. obs.	Sep 2 - 31	widely	6 reports of 7 birds	Var. obs.
Oct 3	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1 eastern, 1 western	DAC, <i>et al.</i>	Oct. 2	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	6+	DEG
Oct 3	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 eastern, 1 western	BLM	Oct 1 - 5	widely	5 reports of singles	Var. obs.
Oct 4	Pt Pleasant Pk., <i>HRM</i>	2 western	AGH	Nov 29	Cole Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	DAC
Oct 7, 9	Brier I.	30, 1	KJM, <i>et al.</i>	Yellow-breasted Chat			
Oct 8	Back Hbr. Trail, <i>HRM</i>	2	JAH	Aug 27	Taylor Head PP	1	ROH
Oct 9	BPI	2 western banded	B. Woodworth, J. Chard	Aug 30	BPI	1	LUB
			CHK, RFE, KJM	Aug 30	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	CSS
Oct 13	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM, <i>et al.</i>	Sep 5	Brier I.	1	LAL, ADL, PAC
Oct 18, 21	Seal I.	2, 1	JAH, DPO	Sep 14	Dartmouth	1 dead, killed by cat	David Schlosberg
Oct 23	Andrews Hd. <i>Queens</i>	1	ABM	Oct 2	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DEG
Nov 27	Halifax	1 western	DEG	Oct 3	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, <i>et al.</i>
Nov 27	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1 eastern		Oct 4, 5	BPI	1	Bradley Woodworth
Pine Warbler				Oct 22	Seal I.	1	CHK, KJM
Sep 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	Oct 31	Pt. Pleasant Pk.	1	AGH
Sep 25	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	4 imm.	Terry Boswell	Nov 1	Dartmouth (Hastings)	2, 1 Nov 19	Jim Edsall
Oct 9	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	2	GWT	Nov 7	Sand Lake, <i>CBRM</i>	1, yard	CAM, ALM
Oct 18	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	2	CAM, ALM	Nov 19	Dartmouth (Hastings)	1	Jim Edsall
Oct 24	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM	Nov 19	Dartmouth (Dorothea)	1	DAC
Nov 17	Terence Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1, photo, very dull	DAC <i>fide</i> BLM				
Nov 21	Halifax, south-end	1	AGH				
Nov 27	Wolfville area, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF				
Nov 30	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	<i>fide</i> HAT				
Yellow-rumped Warbler							
Aug - Sep		widely	Var. obs.				
Sep 30	Brier I.	200	DEG				
Oct 3	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	200	BLM				
Oct 6 - 9	Brier I.	45, 150, 200, 200	KJM, <i>et al.</i>				
Oct 10	Digby Neck	109	JAH, <i>et al.</i>				
Oct 18 - 21	Brier I.	46, 30, 30, 70	KJM, <i>et al.</i>				
Oct 23	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	100	BLM				
Oct 23	Northumberland Strait	numerous nocturnal	JOK				
Oct 23	Ragged Hbr., <i>Lun.</i>	20	JAH				
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER							
Oct 4	E. Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1 photographed	CHP				
Oct 21	Seal I.	1 white-lored, photo	CHK, KJM, <i>et al.</i>				
Nov 12	Brooklyn, <i>Queens</i>	1	SJF, JSC				
Nov 27	Long Beach, <i>CBRM</i>	2	CAM, ALM				
Prairie Warbler							
Sep 24	Schooner Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM				
Oct 3, 5	Hartlen Pt. <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC				
Oct 4	BPI	1	Bradley Woodworth				
Oct 11	BPI	1	B. Woodworth, Janice Chard				
Canada Warbler							
Aug 1	BLT Trail, <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM				

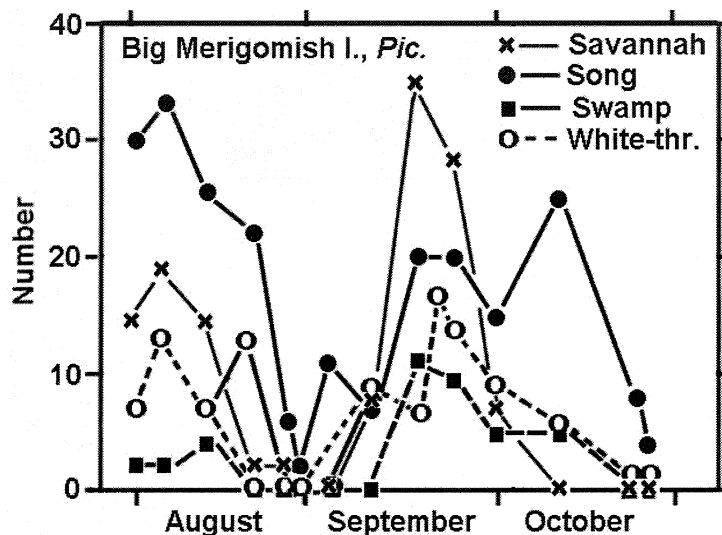


YELLOW-THROATED WARBLERS have become almost ho-hum, in early winter, but it's interesting to find a reverse migrant, like this one October 21 on Seal I. [Photo Charles Kendall]

Tanagers through House Sparrows

By Ian McLaren

In the tabulations, I include all rare or unusual sightings, including the “fallout” rarities, but summarize observations of routine species, although show large numbers and sequential counts on some islands to indicate migratory movements. Regular counts by KJM of sparrows on Big Merigomish I., *Pict.*, strikingly illustrate the potential value of E-Bird in clarifying the migration of common species at a particular birding site.



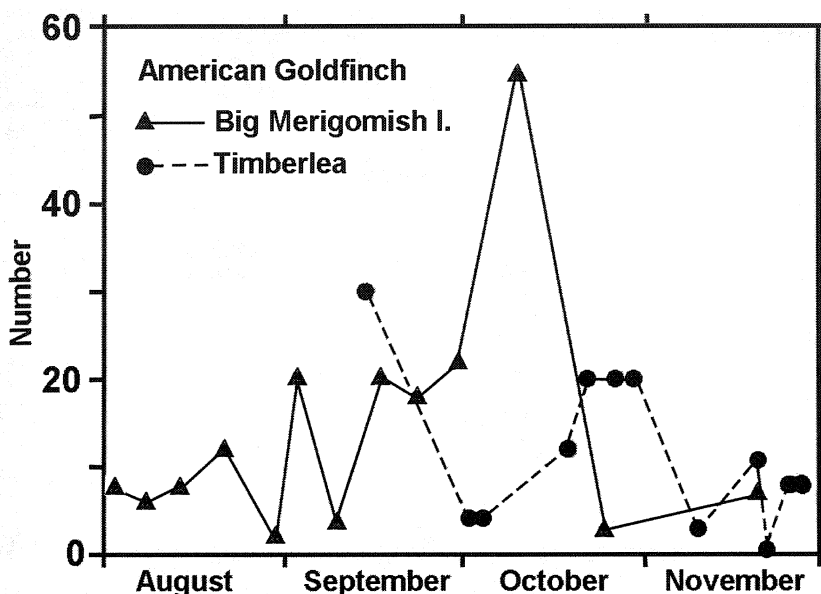
All four species apparently departed from the park in August (residents?) and reappeared and departed again during September (migrants?), except for SONG SPARROW which lingered into October. In addition there were major movements elsewhere (not tabulated): “50++” mostly SONG, with SWAMP, WHITE-THROATED, and SAVANNAH, October 3 at Chapel Gully, Canso (TOK); “lots” of SONG, WHITE-THROATED October 4 in Pt. Pleasant Pk, Halifax; “many” SONG October 7 at City Field, N. Halifax Pen. (DAC); and “unprecedented numbers” of SONG SPARROWS Oct. 11 at a feeder on Brier I. (David Pugh). Yet there were “very few” sparrows October 9 on Big I. *Pictou* (DOU). The late September drop of numbers on the N mainland (graph) and high counts on the central mainland in early October and a little later on Brier I. might suggest a southbound migratory wave of sparrows. Yet, migration is prolonged: witness the 10 “newly arrived” WHITE-THROATED on Brier I. (ELM). Although about 23 have been recorded here, it has been some years since our last **LARK BUNTING** (see photo), which has been decreasing drastically in its core range in the Great Plains. The possible **BAIRD’S SPARROW** was seen independently and tentatively identified from its appearance and calls by BLM and HAT, but neither feels that their observations were sufficient for a firm record. The species is certainly overdue here, but difficult to find and study, and a photo is probably needed for wide acceptance.

Late broods of **NORTHERN CARDINAL**, suggest that all is well with them, and as another indication of their spread, the one singing at St. Georges Channel, Rich, was only the second BID had seen on Cape Breton I. The outstanding fallout in early October featured both tanagers, Blue Grosbeak, and **INDIGO BUNTING** among other “southerners,” as discussed in an account elsewhere (p. 46). The first-fall **PAINTED BUNTING** September 21 at Schooner Cove, *CBRM*, had molted its body plumage, but retained most wing-feathers, suggestive of a south-central rather than southeast U.S. origin; however, expert opinion (Peter Pyle) suggests that its subspecies are a tricky call.

As discussed in my account of the early October “fallout,” both **DICKCISSEL** and **BOBOLINK** contributed to the birding excitement. The only reported **MEADOWLARK** posed and was photo’d only at a distance, but its strong head markings and extensively white tail were enough to certify it as an **EASTERN**. Among the blackbirds, **BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS** continued to be scarce, but a **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** (Kevin Lantz), and a female **BREWER’S BLACKBIRD** (with its distinctive plumage and dark eyes) on Sable I. (BLM) were excellent finds.

Between irregular appearances and spotty reporting, it is hard to deal with the comings and goings of our “winter finches,” and should we be worried about the complete absence of reports of **HOUSE FINCH**? **PINE SISKIN** certainly came through resoundingly, and huge movements on our S. islands suggest that they were bound elsewhere. As an exercise suggesting how we might do better, I graph (below) E-bird records for **AM. GOLDFINCH** (an honorary “winter finch”) from a well-monitored “wild” area (by

KJM) and from an equally well-watched backyard with feeders (by Debbie Stoddart-Pageau).



Note that during the clear seasonal peak in the “wild” goldfinches of the N. mainland, there was an apparent drop at the mid-mainland feeders, and a recovery of the latter as the “wild” birds diminished. I don’t know if there is any relationship between these two patterns, but clearly if more people submitted periodic lists from their “favourite patches,” which are perhaps more useful than scattered observations during birding excursions, we might learn more about the whithers and whences of our common birds.

Lapland Longspur

Oct 3	Chebucto Head, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT, var. obs.
Oct 6 - Nov 12	Richmond to Seal I.	1-5 indivs.	Var. obs.

Snow Bunting

Oct 25	Big. Merimogish I. <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Oct 27 -			
Nov 20	Widely	1-20 indivs.	Var. obs., E-bird
Nov 9 - 13	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	90-250 indivs.	Var. obs.
Nov 10	Brier I.	70	ELM, AAM
Nov 13	3-Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	30	PMC, SEM

Eastern Towhee

Oct 7	Chebucto Head, <i>HRM</i>	1 m.	Rick Whitman, Var. obs.
Nov 18+	Blrch Cove, Halifax	1 fem..	MAZ, var. obs.
Nov 27	Wolfville	1	BLF

American Tree Sparrow

Oct 29	White Pt., <i>Shel.</i>	1	MMI
Nov 9	Rainbow Haven PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM, IAM
Nov 20 - 29	5 locs, Ant., <i>Pict.</i>	Total 17	KJM

Chipping Sparrow

Through season		widely	50+ indivs.
		Var. obs., + E-bird	

Clay-colored Sparrow

Sep 28 +	Halifax, City Field	1-2	DAC
Oct 4, 9	Chebucto Head, <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, MIK, Nic Fieldsend
Oct 21, 23	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT, BLM
Oct 22	Seal I.	1 (ph)	KJM, <i>et al.</i>

Field Sparrow

Nov 29 +	Dartmouth	1	DAC, var. obs.
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Vesper Sparrow

Sep 1	Brier I.	1, “seen well”	J. Vandermeulen
Late Sep	CSI	1	JON
Oct 6	Brier I.	1 (ph)	KJM
Oct 7	Seal I.	1	<i>fide</i> CST
Oct 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	Robert Scranton

Lark Sparrow

Sep 18 - 25	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1, 2 (ph)	AAM, CAM
Sep 17	Malay Falls, <i>HRM</i>	1	
Oct 2, 3	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	AAM, CAM
Oct 3	Duncans Cove	1	HAT

LARK BUNTING

Oct 22	Seal I.	1, 1st-fall (ph)	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
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Years of dumping clean fill and compost on the “City Field” bordering Bedford Basin in N. End Halifax has produced massive growth of forbs and grasses that have attracted interesting species, including vagrants like this spanking CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, September 28. Alas, it is slated to become part of the nearby container port, and the birding bonanza will soon be over. [Photo David Currie]



Oddly, only two FIELD SPARROWS were reported this fall, this one October 22 on Seal I. [Photo Charles Kendell]

Savannah Sparrow

Aug - Oct	widely	40+ repts, 1-5 indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
Aug - Oct	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	See graph	KJM
Sep 11	Conrad I., <i>Lun.</i>	22	JAH
Oct 11	CSI	10	D. Stoddart-Pageau

Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow

Oct 15	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, DOP
Oct 19	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Oct 23	Petite Rivière, <i>Lun.</i>	4	JAH, DOP
Oct 27, 29	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1(ph)	Rick Whitman
Nov 9	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM, IAM

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

Oct 17	BPI	1(ph)	Brad Woodworth
Oct 27	S. Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	Bethsheila Kent

Nelson's Sparrow

Aug 9 - Sep 25	widely	12 repts. 1-4 indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
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Aug 1, 6, 13, 21, 24	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	3, 4, 15, 5, 2	KJM
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Baird's Sparrow

Oct 3	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 "possible"	HAT, BLM
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Fox Sparrow

Aug 13 - Sep 2	BPI	1-4 indivs. (breeding pop'n)	ABO
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Oct 16	Whites L., <i>HRM</i>	1 migrant at feeder	BLM
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Oct 28 - Nov 22	4 locs., widely	singles	4 obs.
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Song Sparrow

Aug - Nov	widely	350 repts., 1-20 indivs.	
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Sep 6 - 8	Many obs., + E-bird Halifax	2 fledglings (late)	SEM
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Sep 11	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	3 fledglings (late)	SEM
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Aug - Oct	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	See graph	KJM
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Nov 20	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	4	KJM
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Lincoln's Sparrow

Aug 16	BPI	1 (migrant?)	ABO
Sep 4	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Oct 4	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1	JAH
Oct 18, 22	Seal I.	1, 1	KJM, <i>et al.</i>



LARK BUNTING has become a very rare vagrant here in recent years, so this one October 22 on Seal I., was a lucky find. [Photo Ken McKenna]



The "IPSWICH SPARROW" is rarely seen away from Atlantic coastal beaches during migration, so this one, October 27 at Grand Pré, was worth photo-documenting. [Photo Rick Whitman]



Field guides generally don't emphasize the strength of the white eye rings on fresh-plumaged GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS found here in fall. This one was appeared October 17 on BPI. [Photo Brad Woodworth]

Swamp Sparrow

Aug 1 -			
Nov 22	widely	65+ repts., 1-7 indivs.	Many obs., + E-bird
Aug - Oct	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	See graph	KJM
Oct 5	Melmerby Bch. PP, <i>Pict.</i>	11	KKM

White-throated Sparrow

Aug - Nov	widely	90+ repts., 1-6 indivs.	Many obs., + E-bird
Aug - Oct	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	See graph	KJM
Oct 4	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>		KJM
Nov 10	Brier I.	10 "newly arrived"	ELM

White-crowned Sparrow

Sep 27	Glace Bay	1	BEC
Late Sep	CSI	1	JON
Oct 3 - 9	Widely	9 indivs.	Var. obs.
Oct 22	Seal I.	2	KKM, <i>et al.</i>

Dark-eyed Junco

Aug - Nov	Widely	90+ repts., 1-10 indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
Sep 4	Mt. Uniack, <i>Hants</i>	30	R. Vandermuelen
Sep 18	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	18	KJM, R. Ferguson

Summer Tanager

Sep 25	BPI	1 banded	ABO
Oct 3	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2	DAC, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 4	E. Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP

Scarlet Tanager

Oct 2	Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	CLS
Oct 2, 3	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU, MIK, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 4	E. Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	CHP

Northern Cardinal

Aug - Nov	Mainland counties	28+ indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
August	St. Georges Channel, <i>Rich.</i>	1 singing	BID
Aug 31	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1 late young	Ellie Kennard
Sep 23	Wolfville	1 recent fledgling	JWW
Sep 24	Rockingham, <i>HRM</i>	1 recent fledgling	JEH

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Aug 3 - 31	Widely	12 indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
Oct 7	Dartmouth	1	DAC

Blue Grosbeak

Oct 2, 3	Hartlen Pt	8	DAC, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 2, 3	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	6, 1	AAM, CAM
Oct 3	CSI	2	JON
Oct 3, 4	Portuguese. Sandy Coves, <i>HRM</i>	4	BLM, HAT, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 3, 5	Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1, 2	CLS, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 4	Canso	8-9	TOK
Oct 4	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, MIK
Oct 5	White Pt., <i>Shel.</i>	3	MMI
Oct 5	BPI	2	ABO
Oct 6 - 21	Widely	34 indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
Nov 9	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM, IAM
Oct 2, 3	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2	DAC, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 3	CSI	2	JON
Oct 3	Portuguese. Sandy Coves, <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM, HAT, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 3, 5	Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	3, 2	CLS, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 4	Canso	1	TOK
Oct 4	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC
Oct 4	PPP	1	AGH

Indigo Bunting

This elegant female NORTHERN CARDINAL visited a feeder August 3 at Wallace, *Cumb.* [Photo Ian Murray]



BLUE GROSBEAK was well-represented by several photos this fall, among them this one taken October 8 on Brier I. [Photo Alan Covert]

Oct 5	BPI	5	ABO
Oct 7 - 23	widely	14+ indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
1 Nov	S. End Halifax	1	AGH
PAINTED BUNTING			
1st week Aug	Seal I.	1	<i>fide</i> CST
Sep 21	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1 imm. (ph)	AAM, CAM
Dickcissel			
Sep 25	BPI	2	ABO
Sep 29	N. end Halifax	1	DAC
Oct 2	Hartlen Pt.	2	MIK, <i>et al.</i>
Oct 2	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	2	AAM, CAM
Oct 4	Canso	2-3	TOK
Oct 4	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, RBS
Oct 4	Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	CLS, RBS
Oct 4	E. Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP
Oct 4	PPP	1	AGH

Oct 7	Gulliver's Cove, <i>Dig.</i>	1	WAN
Oct 29	CSI	1	CST
Nov 5 - 8	Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOC, LOC
Nov 30	Falmouth	1	Ryan ??
Bobolink			
Aug 1	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Sep 11 - 18	3 locs., <i>Pict.</i>	2-5 indivs.	KJM
Oct 3	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	5	IAM
Oct 4	Canso	30+	TOK
Oct 9	2nd Pen., Petite Rivière, <i>Lun.</i>	12, 1	JAH, DPO
EASTERN MEADOWLARK			
Oct 19 - 22	Seal I.	1 (ph)	KJM, <i>et al.</i>
Red-winged Blackbird			
August	Widely	8 repts, 1-20 indivs	Var. obs., + E-bird
Aug 31	near Kentville	flock 200, m & f	RBS
Sep - Oct 5	Widely	7 repts., 1-15 indivs.	Var. obs., + E-Bay AGH
Nov 1	PPP	15	
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD			
Oct 8	Kingsburg Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	Kevin Lantz
Rusty Blackbird			
Sep 26	Battery L., <i>Pic.</i>	2	KJM
Oct 8, 9	Brier I.	2	NSBS
Oct 26	Brierly Brook, <i>Ant.</i>	2	Jake Chisolm
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD			
Nov 2	Sable I.	1 fem.	BLM
Common Grackle			
Aug - Nov	Widely	40 repts, 1-20 indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
Aug 11	Plymouth, <i>Ant.</i>	50	KJM
September	Widely	12 repts., 1-9 indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
Sep 4	<i>Kings</i>	40	JAH
Oct 4	Halifax	400+	PAC
Oct 5, 6 - 10	Brier I.	4, 30-35, 10	KJM, NSBS
Oct 14	100+	PPP	DOU
Oct 19	Timberlea, <i>HRM</i>	100	Debbie Stoddart- Pageau
November	Widely	6 repts., 1-2 indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
Nov 10	Brier I.	"large flocks"	ELM
Brown-headed Cowbird			
Aug 18	Cochester	1	Ross Hall
Aug 31	Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 young at feeder (ph)	John Liddard
Sep 15, 23, 25	Bridgewater	2, 1, 1	JAH
Nov 4	Halifax	1 m	DOM
ORCHARD ORIOLE			
Aug 24	BPI	1	ABO
Baltimore Oriole			
Aug 27	BPI	1	ABO
Sep 16 - 30	widely	4 locs., 8 indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
Oct 2 - 23	Widely	8 locs., 21 indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
Nov 1 - 15	widely	6 locs., 10 indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
Nov 16 - 30	widely	4 locs., 13 indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
Pine Grosbeak			
Nov 25	Middle Musq, <i>HRM</i>	2	CHP



Both meadowlark subspecies are rare here, so even distant "record shots" are desirable. This image, greatly up-pixelated, brightened, and sharpened from the original, shows the wide white tail margins and strong head markings, especially the dark eyestripe, characteristic of EASTERN MEADOWLARK. [Photo Ken McKenna]

Purple Finch

Through season	var. locs.	64 repts. mostly 1-4 indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
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House Finch

NO REPORTS!

Red Crossbill

Sep 17	Seloams L. turnoff, <i>HRM</i>	1	KJH
White-winged Crossbill			
Oct 12	Brooklyn, <i>Queens</i>	3	SJF, JSC
Aug 22	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	4	KJH
Aug 22	Seloams L. turnoff, <i>HRM</i>	4	KJH
Sep 5, 17	Seloams L. turnoff, <i>HRM</i>	6, 1	KJH
Oct 31	Seal I.	4	KJM, <i>et al.</i>

Common Redpoll

Oct 29	Waterside PP, <i>Pic.</i>	6	KJM
Nov 19, 23	Waterside PP, <i>Pic.</i>	3, 50	KJM
Nov 20	Big Merigomish I., <i>Pic.</i>	2	KJM

American Goldfinch

Through season	Widely	196 repts., 2055 indivs.	E-bird
Nov 8	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	"hundreds"	HAT
Nov 20	Garden Lots, <i>Lun.</i>	46	JAH
Pine Siskin			
August	Widely	8 repts., 9 indivs.	E-bird
September	Widely	4 repts., 5 indivs.	E-bird
Oct 7-22	8 locs., HRM to S. Counties	12 to 40+ indivs.	Var. obs., + E-bird
Oct 6 - 10	Brier I.	1, 30, 30, 65, 1	KJM
Oct 9 - 11	BPI	500-1000	ABO (Brad Woodward)

Oct 19 - 22	Seal I.	400, 1, 0, 40	
Nov 8	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	"hundreds"	HAT

Evening Grosbeak

Nov 27	Timberlea, <i>HRM</i>	2 f, 1 m	Debbie Stoddart- Pageau
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House Sparrow

Through season	Max. E-bird counts, 11 locs.	total 81	Var. obs.
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Nickerson, Johnnie	JON	Abbott, Sue		MacLeod, Karen	Woodworth, Brad
Cohrs, Shirley	JSC	Ackroyd, Diana & William		MacLeod, Lincoln	
Swift, June	JUS	Alcom, Jane & Mike		Magee, Philip	



Weather - Annapolis Valley - Autumn 2011

By Larry Bogan, Cambridge Station

Monthly Averages of Weather Data Kentville, Nova Scotia 2011 Environment Canada

	Average Temperature (C)			Total Precipitation (mm)	Snowfall (cm)
	Max	Min	Mean		
September	21.6	10.7	16.2	45	0
<i>September avg</i>	<i>19.4</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>0</i>
October	14.8	6.4	10.7	165	0
<i>October avg</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>9.0</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>2</i>
November	10.8	0.6	5.7	156	44
<i>November avg</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>3.8</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>12</i>
Season	15.8	5.9	10.9	367	
<i>30 yr avg</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>9.0</i>	<i>242</i>	

What a pleasant and interesting Fall the Valley has had this year! Not only has it been consistently warmer than normal all three months of the autumn but we had a record snowfall at the end of November. The previous records were a 27 cm one-day snowfall on November 14, 1916 and a record snow depth for November of 23 cm in 1964. This year Kentville had about 40 cm* snowfall on Nov 23 piling up to 31 cm on the ground. In addition, the season had 50% more precipitation than usual. (* *Environment Canada no longer measures snowfall directly, but estimates it from the precipitation.*)

Temperature:

The Autumn season's mean temperatures was a significant 1.9°C above average. Both September and November were also 1.9°C above average and October was not far behind with a 1.7°C. While September and October had both above-normal maximum and minimum temperatures, November was different with a maximum temperature 3.3°C above normal but a minimum only 0.5°C above normal, i.e., we had very warm days and closer-to-normal cool nights. I suspect this latter fact is due to the unusual amount of sunny days we had in November. (*Environment Canada no longer publishes bright sunshine hours so this is a guess.*)

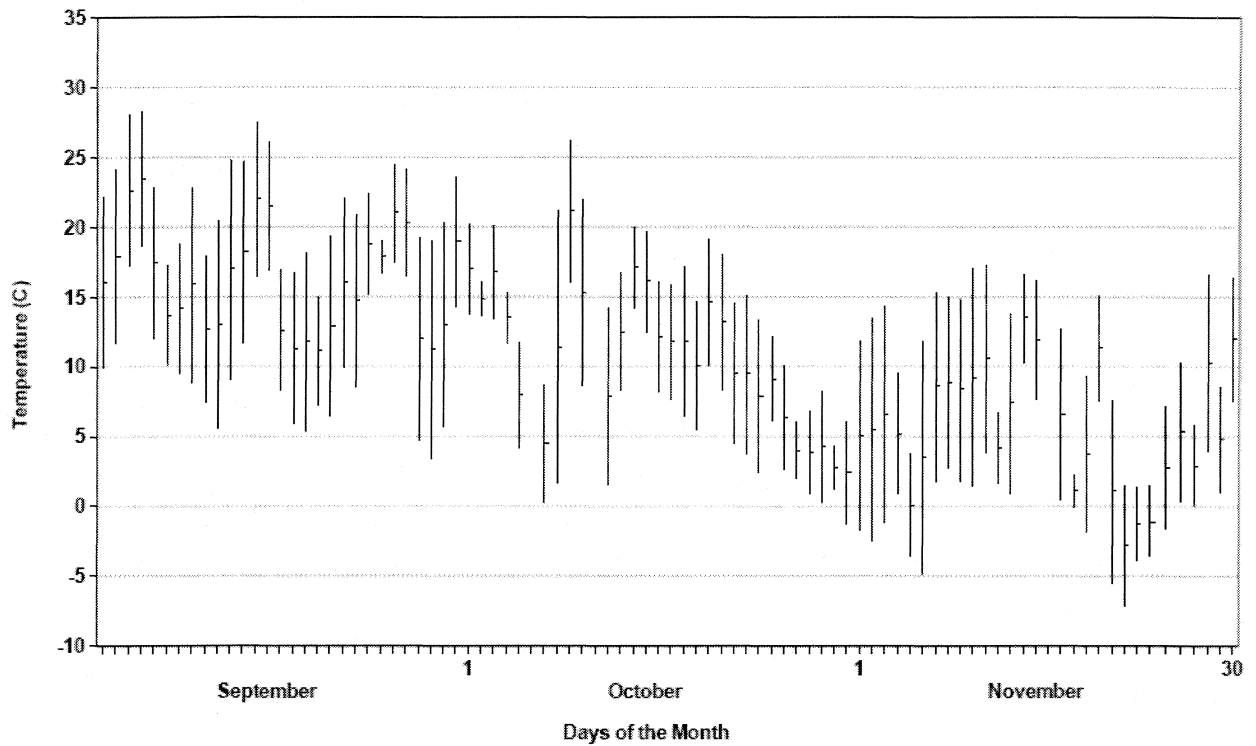
Precipitation:

If you look at the ponds and ditches beside the road, you will see plenty of standing water (Dec 5). Much of this is from the melt of that record snowfall on Nov 23. However, even without that 44 mm of precipitation, the season would still have had an above normal precipitation. September was a dry month getting only a little more than half its expected precipitation. Most of the rain fell in October which got 165 mm, ¾ more than normal. The season ended with precipitation 50% over the average. Most of that came in heavy rainfalls. Six days (none of these in September) during the season had more than 25 mm, dropping 252 mm or 2/3 of the season's 367mm total (two of those days, in October, each had more than 60 mm providing ½ of that amount.)

You can see from the precipitation chart that there was a uniform distribution of moisture throughout the autumn. The wettest period was the latter part of October when there were 18 days with only six dry days. During this period 129 mm of rain fell. This was also a period of dropping temperatures. The mean daily temperature dropped from 12°C at the beginning to 2°C at the end. The first heavy frost of the season did not come until the end of this period. Only at the end did the temperatures start to rise leading into the warmer-than-normal November.

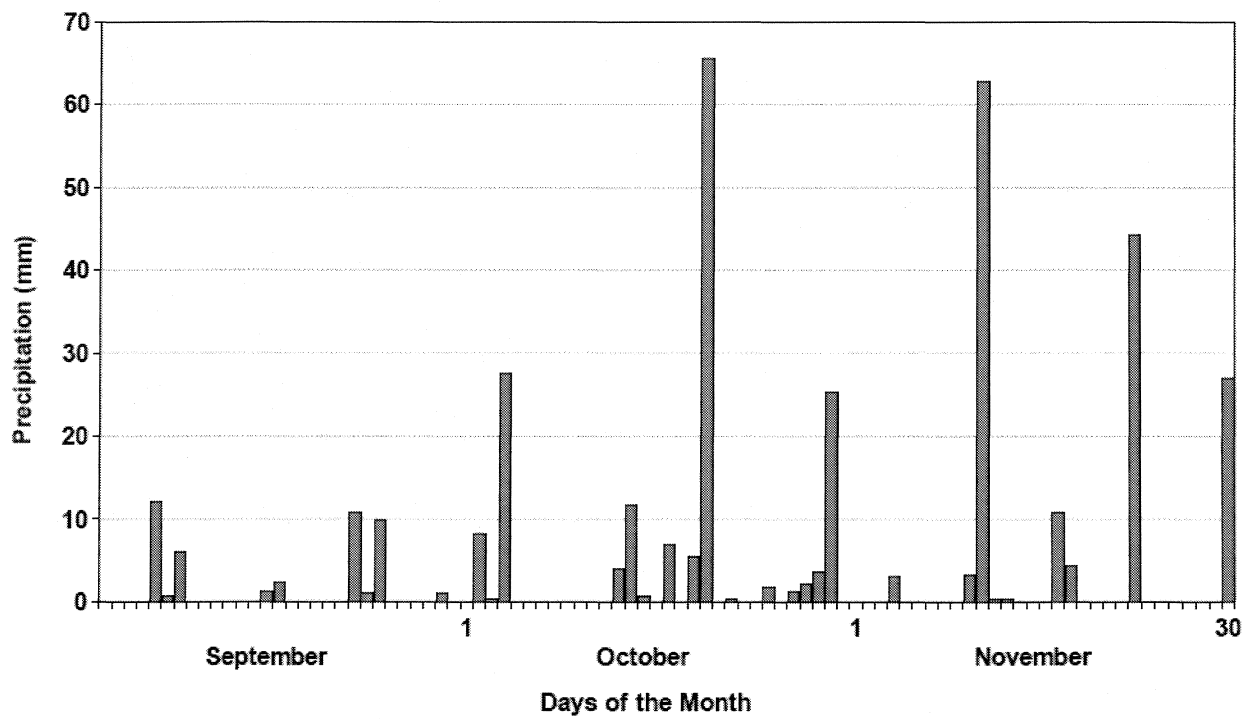
Daily Temperature - Sept-Nov 2011

Kentville, N.S.



Total Precipitation - Sept-Nov 2011

Kentville, N.S.



The Early October Fallout of Southern Birds

By Ian McLaren

This autumn's outstanding fallout was first sensed at Hartlen Pt. and Schooner Pond, CBRM, on Oct 2 and resoundingly next day. It featured "southern" vireos, warblers (notably a very rare CERULEAN WARBLER), tanagers, and good numbers of INDIGO BUNTING and BLUE GROSBEAK, along with unusual numbers of offshore migrants like RED-EYED VIREO and BLACKPOLL WARBLER. The wind patterns and the atmospheric pressure at 850 mb (at about the height at which birds might fly) in early morning of Oct 2 are sketched below. On this occasion, a number of ships at sea supplied good coverage.

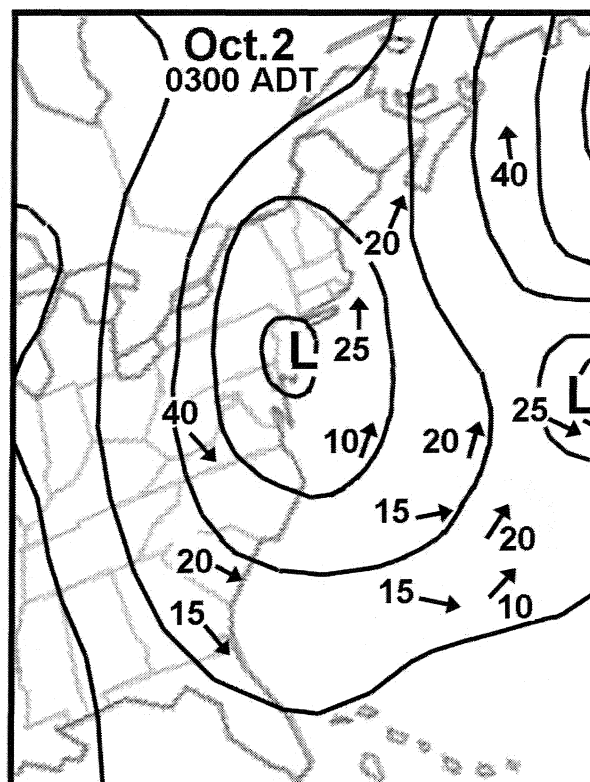
It seems obvious that a storm (deep low-pressure system) that moved up the U.S. coast and west of Nova Scotia in early October propelled many birds offshore in southeastern U.S., which then flew northeast downwind (as they will when in doubtful circumstances) to our shores. Interestingly, Hurricane "Irene" which followed roughly the same track in late August as the early October low, apparently delivered some LEAST TERNS, but no "southern" landbirds; presumably little landbird migration had begun. The huge fallout of early-October 1998 originated as a similar offshore movement of birds from southeastern U.S., but also involved a small, intensifying low in the Gulf of Maine that flung them ashore on a narrow stretch of coastal Shelburne. This autumn's birds arrived all along our coast, from Schooner Cove, CBRM, to CSI and BPI. There is a hint, however, that they peaked a little later further south; for example only a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER was noted Oct 2 on CSI, and only two each of INDIGO BUNTING and BLUE GROSBEAK next day. Furthermore, "southerners" (YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, PRAIRIE WARBLER, YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT) were first noted Oct 4 on BPI, and others (INDIGO BUNTINGS, BLUE GROSBEAKS, HOODED WARBLER) not until next day. Even farther to the south, rarity lists beginning Oct 2 in coastal Maine and Massachusetts were paltry compared with ours (from <http://listserv.arizona.edu/archives/birdeast.html>)

Interestingly good numbers of DICKCISSEL and BOBOLINK were among the apparent arrivals – a total of 10-11 and 35+ respectively on Oct 2-4. Although their core breeding ranges are in Central U.S.A., they winter respectively in Venezuela and the Pampas of S. America, and are known to cross the Caribbean.

It is also interesting that Hurricane Irene in late August, which followed a similar path to the early October storm, delivered a few "southern" seabirds, notably LEAST and SOOTY TERN, but no obvious fallout of landbirds. Presumably, migration had largely not begun in southeastern U.S.A.

It is often assumed that such displaced birds suffer heavy mortality, but past evidence indicates that many of those that reach land do find their ways south, and perhaps there is a hint of this in the records from Nova Scotia. Although some of the "southerners" found through October might have lingered through the month from the earlier event (especially the hardy INDIGO BUNTINGS and BLUE GROSBEAKS) some "southern" vireos and warblers on Seal I. and elsewhere in later October probably reflected a continuing tendency through the month for southwesterly airflow from southern U.S. and the Caribbean. Our MAGIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD and BROWN BOOBY were possibly delivered by intense southwesterly offshore airflow east of a low-pressure system moving in the centre of the continent in mid-October.

Pressure at 850 MB in early a.m. Oct 2 on coastal U.S.A. and selected wind directions and speeds (nearest 5 knots). Redrawn from <http://nomads.ncdc.noaa.gov/ncep/charts>.



Update on Piping Plovers in Nova Scotia: 2011 Report from Bird Studies Canada

Submitted to Nova Scotia Bird Society by Sue Abbott, Bird Studies Canada (9 April 2012)

Bird Studies Canada (BSC) is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the appreciation, understanding and conservation of birds and their habitats. BSC's Piping Plover Conservation Program was initiated in 2006 and aims to recover Piping Plovers and conserve beach habitat in NS through a network of over 100 volunteers and partners. From Cape Sable Island to Cape North, volunteers spent over 1,100 hours in 2011 surveying beaches, monitoring plovers, protecting habitat and conducting educational outreach.

We are pleased to share a synopsis of the 2011 plover breeding season. If you have any questions or are interested in learning more, please contact Sue Abbott (by email nsplovers@gmail.com or by phone 902/426-4055) or visit BSC's web site: www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/nsplover/.

Piping Plover Population & Breeding Success in 2011

Cold, wet weather in spring and summer likely dampened Piping Plover breeding success in NS in 2011. The number of year-end breeding pairs in NS (45) decreased from 2010 (49). Despite the decrease in pairs, the total number of year-end adults (101) was equal to 2010 due to higher than usual number of singles in southern NS. Our team of staff, volunteers and partners monitored 43 of 45 (96%) breeding pairs, including three pairs at Parks Canada's Kejimikujik Seaside. Plover productivity (number of fledglings produced per monitored pair) in northern and southern regions was below the 1.65 fledglings/pair target set in the Recovery Strategy for Piping Plovers. A total of 47 nests were found on 20 beaches across the province – fewer nests than recent years. All but one nest was monitored to determine outcome (hatch or cause of failure). More nests successfully hatched (65%) compared to the average over the past five years (56%). Chick survival, however, was poor (particularly in southern NS) contributing to the low number of fledglings (53) produced overall.

As mentioned in past reports to the NS Bird Society, the population of Piping Plovers remains below recovery target of 60 breeding pairs for NS, but we are seeing positive steps toward recovery (see graph). Since 2005, the number of breeding pairs has increased by over 28%. Much of the population growth during this period has been in southern NS – a region that had experienced severe declines and loss of habitat.

2011 International Piping Plover Breeding Census in Nova Scotia & Winter Census in The Bahamas

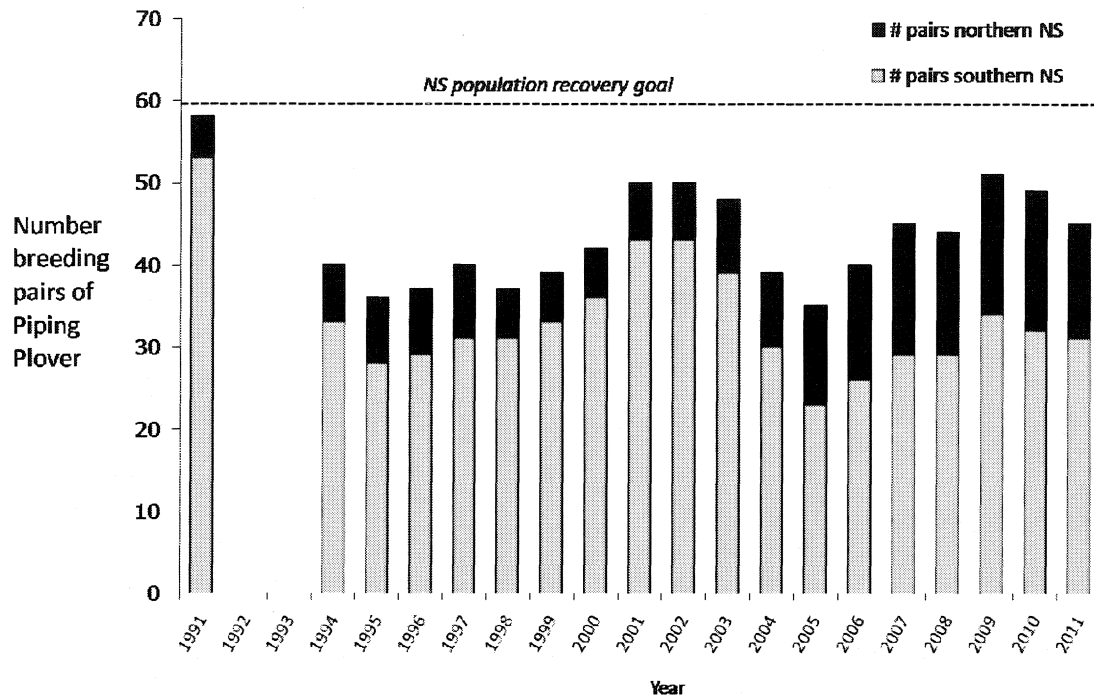
Initiated in 1991 by the US Geological Survey, the International Piping Plover Census occurs every five years on the plover's breeding and wintering grounds. Census results help evaluate patterns and trends in abundance and distribution across the plover's North American range. In 2011, we completed the fifth International Piping Plover Breeding Census in Nova Scotia and assisted in an expanded Winter Census in The Bahamas.

A terrific team of BSC staff, volunteers, and staff from Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service, NS Dept Natural Resources and Parks Canada conducted the 2011 Breeding Census in NS during 4-17 June. We counted 92 adults, which represents a small but encouraging 6% increase in adults from 2006. Newfoundland and Quebec were the only other Eastern Canadian provinces with population increases between 2006 and 2011. The long-term population trend for NS shows a -19% decrease since 1991.

Staff from BSC and Environment Canada helped conduct the 2011 International Piping Plover Winter Census in The Bahamas (23 Jan-5 Feb). Bahamas National Trust (BNT) and US Geological Survey coordinated the Bahamas census efforts. Preliminary Census results from USGS document over 1,000 Piping Plovers – representing about 12% of the estimated population (based on 2006 Breeding Census). To support plover conservation efforts on the Bahamian wintering grounds, BSC continues to work with BNT, US and Canadian partners.

Join our Team

Our plover team is growing in NS and our goal is to continue to build community involvement towards recovering Piping Plovers and conserving beach habitat. Please contact us to learn how you can get involved or support the program. We thank our volunteers, partners and funders, including Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada Agency, NS Dept. of Natural Resources and the Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.



Graph showing number of breeding pairs of endangered Piping Plovers in Nova Scotia, 1991-2011 (Note: Monitoring data incomplete in 1992 and 1993)

A Magnificent Day on Seal Island

By Ken McKenna

A group of five birders (veterans Ian McLaren, Sylvia Fullerton, Bernice Moores, and newbie Charlie Kendell and myself) were safely deposited on Seal I. Oct 18, 2011 after a slightly rocky boat ride in 40+ km/ hr winds from Clark's Harbour but handled well by captain Charles Kenney. Over the next couple of days we experienced a variety of wet weather conditions but we were able to get out for some of each day to discover some interesting birds with goodies such as Eastern Meadowlark, Brown Thrasher, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Indigo Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks.

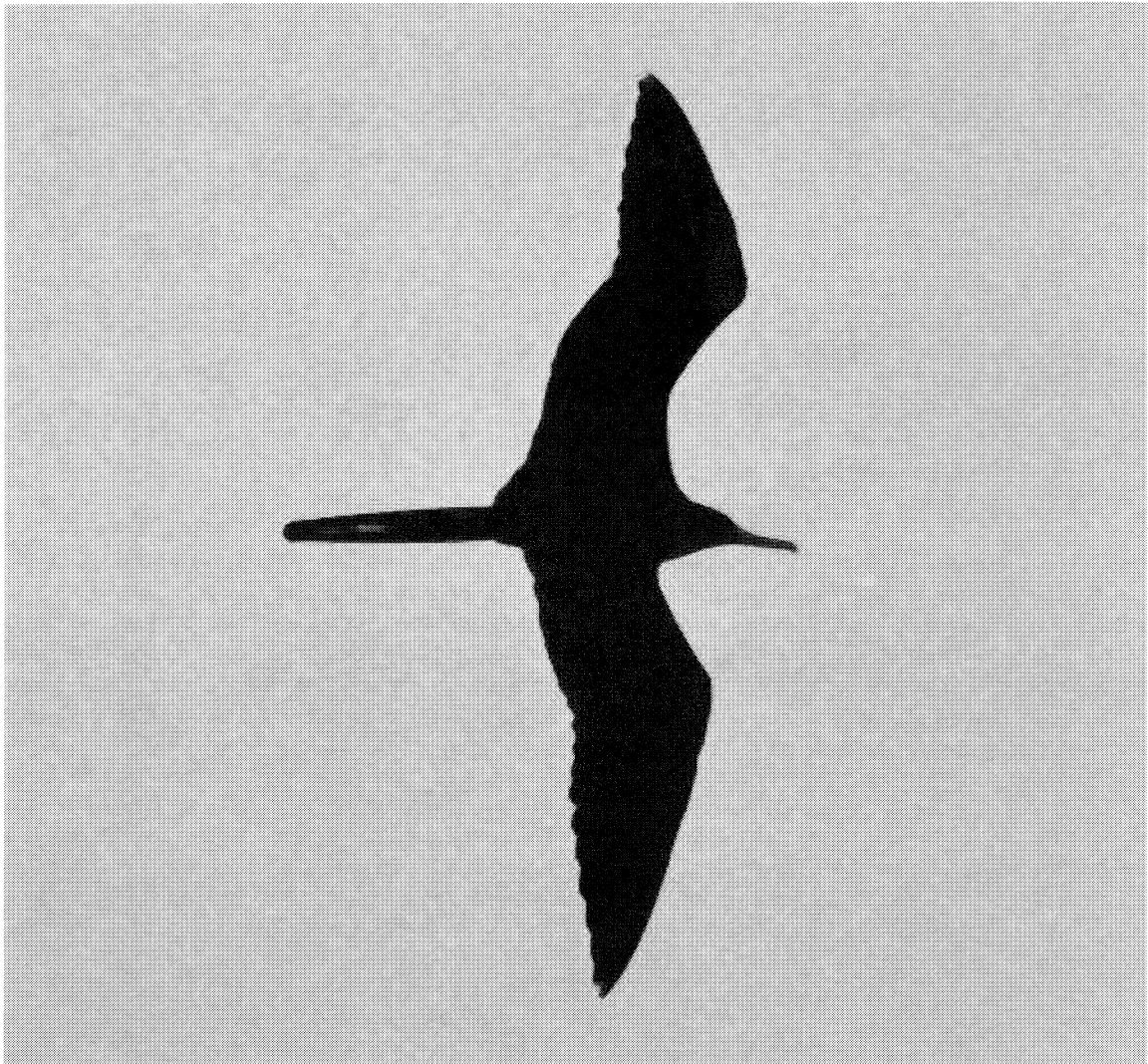
There was a nice change of the NE wind to SW Oct 21-22, and both days brought nice additions to our list with Oct 22 being a memorable day for all. On our morning outing to the East Village lighthouse and area we had the above mentioned birds as well as Red-bellied Woodpecker, White-eyed Vireo, two American Coots, Orange-crowned Warbler, and best of all an immature **LARK BUNTING** discovered by Bernice in the East Village. We were able to study the bunting closely and get some nice photos and feeling quite satisfied, retired to the cookhouse for lunch.

After lunch, Charlie and I decided to make a circuit of the north end of the island starting near the wreck of the old Fermont. Right away we were rewarded with a Yellow-breasted Chat and Clay-coloured Sparrow in the same bush. After photographing a nice Cape May Warbler, we came across a bird which was fly-catching from the cliff and dropping to the shore and coming back to the cliff again. As we got closer we confirmed our suspicions that our flycatcher was an immature Red-headed Woodpecker.

After rounding the north tip, we quickened our pace as daylight was starting to disappear. Along the route, we put up and photographed a junco with some hint of Oregon. When we finally reached the cobble beach, and barrier pond, Charlie spotted a large circling bird and blurted "What's that?!" as he pointed up. It was a male frigatebird with a completely dark profile and immediately we both started to snap photos as I knew they would be needed to positively identify the species. After ten minutes we became aware that Bernice was on the beach a few hundred meters ahead of us, but she seemed unaware of the bird above her as she was on a beach-combing mission to obtain some lobster-trap wire for her feeders back in Halifax. We yelled and yelled as we ran toward her, the frigatebird still making circles above us. When we finally reached her, she indicated she had seen the bird a few hours back and had rushed to the East Village where she had described her find to Ian and Sylvia, but alas at that time the frigatebird was not visible as it had flown out to sea in a southerly direction. I asked Bernice if she thought Ian and Sylvia had

seen it and she said she did not think so as they were back in the West Village cookhouse. I felt pretty certain that a Frigatebird would be a nice addition to Ian's immense NS list and was unsure if Sylvia had seen one in the province or not. Looking at the circling frigatebird and then glancing at the setting sun, I felt I might have just enough time to make it to the West Village.

As best as I could, I ran on the cobble beach, periodically looking back to see that the frigatebird was still circling. At the cookhouse, I managed to alert Sylvia and Ian and they swiftly exited the cookhouse grabbing scopes as they went out the door and ran out far enough to both get good scope views of the frigatebird before it made one last circle and settled in the trees at the back of the pond to spend the night. It was a new NS bird for all of us, and Ian's measurements from the photos strongly supported its identification as a **MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** - a magnificent and memorable day indeed!

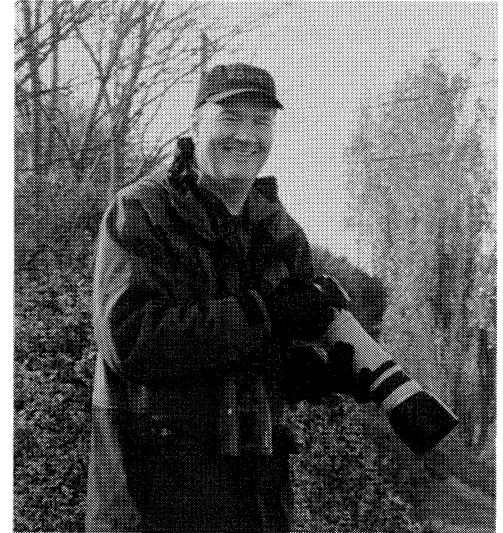


Although it is highly probable that any frigatebird occurring here is MAGNIFICENT, there are other remote possibilities. A quick analysis of a few Web photos available of overhead birds suggest that there may be differences among species in the relative lengths of tails: ratios of length from inner Secondaries (tertials) to tip of tail versus tip of bill were: 0.65-0.79 in Magnificent; 0.80-1.20 in Great; 0.77-1.00 in Ascension Frigatebird (record from U.K.). The ratios on four photos of the Seal I. bird ranged from about 0.71 to 0.74 (this one about 0.72), placing it firmly in the MAGNIFICENT range. Also, adult male Lesser Frigatebird (one Maine record) almost always has white axillaries, and extreme brightening of the small images failed to show any hint of red pixels in the foot area, which should show on Great. [Photo Charles Kendall]

The Big Year Comes to Nova Scotia

By John Vanderpoel

Many of you are aware of last year's movie, *The Big Year*, which starred Steve Martin, Jack Black, and Owen Wilson. The film follows three avid birders, who are all out to break the previous record for the most species seen in a big year, with one of the three being the current holder of the record. Several birds feature prominently in the film, including a pink-footed goose. John Vanderpoel of Colorado was doing a Big Year in 2011 and started long before the film's release in mid-October. Little did I know when I saw the movie, that the same species would play a role in a real-life quest that would bring an equally avid birder to Nova Scotia late in the year. The following excerpt from his blog tells the story of his visit to Nova Scotia and the bird that brought him to our province:



"I arrived in Halifax last night at 10:00 PM Atlantic Time. Another long day both in the air and at multiple airports had me feeling pretty tired. But I figured that tired feeling would quickly fade under the adrenalin rush from seeing my target bird – the Pink-footed Goose originally located by Eric Mills on Oct. 22. Those of you who actually saw the movie *The Big Year* know that this particular rarity has a prominent role in the plot. And speaking of the movie, several people have asked me to review it. I'll leave that to the movie critics, but I will say that from the perspective of a Big Year competitor, I feel that the movie successfully captured the essence of a North American Big Year. The thrill, the heartbreak, the camaraderie formed with others met along that year-long road. I must also add that although Angelica Huston did a good job in capturing one side of Debi Shearwater, she missed the other side of Debi – the warmth and humor that's there if you dig a little.

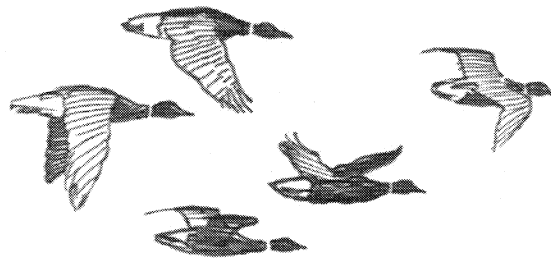
Anyway, David Currie picked me up at the airport and invited me to stay the night with him and his lovely wife Louise. It was easy to catch a good night sleep and I awoke refreshed this morning and ready to chase. Dave and I arrived at Falmouth after a forty-minute drive and set up in the church parking lot opposite the field that the geese had been flocking to the last few days. Visibility was clear with the sun positioned directly behind us. After a couple of minutes we were joined by Rick Whitman and soon after John Robertson who lives five houses down the street and has been keeping tabs on the Pink-footed recently. Curt McNeil then joined our group as well. The Canada Geese began to arrive in the fields around 8:30 AM. Everything seemed on course for a stress free morning. Almost immediately though, the geese deviated slightly from their previous routine. The majority of the geese began to land in a field a half mile further west than usual so Dave, John and I drove over to check it out. Rick held fort at the original location since there were a few landing there as well. No luck and then incoming geese slowed down. Dave thought we may have to check the Falmouth dike road, but we stopped back at John Robertson's house first. Then several other small groups of Canada Geese began to filter in. Around 9:35 AM we spotted a distant group of fifteen geese flying towards us. As they approached Dave was on the Pink-footed quickly, followed immediately by Rick and John. Bingo! The Pink-footed Goose landed in the field in front of us 100 yards away.

How good does that get? High fives were exchanged by all. I was ecstatic. A life goose and number 732 for the year! I'm sure they felt a wee bit relieved that my trip to Nova Scotia did not go in vain.

After our group disbanded, Dave and I birded Cape Sable Island where the best animal of the day was a Long-tailed Weasel crossing the road – a new mammal for my Quest for a Thousand! All in all a thoroughly enjoyable day. I've now moved ahead of Bob Ake into sole position of second place behind Sandy Komito's 745 species. Tomorrow I fly to Boston to team up with Doug Koch and "Bland Liz" Southworth for a run at the Barnacle Goose. Stay tuned, it should be anything but dull. A big thank you to Dave and Louise Currie for being gracious hosts, to Rick Whitman for getting this whole ball rolling and to John Robertson for keeping tabs on the goose and for hosting us in his front yard!!"

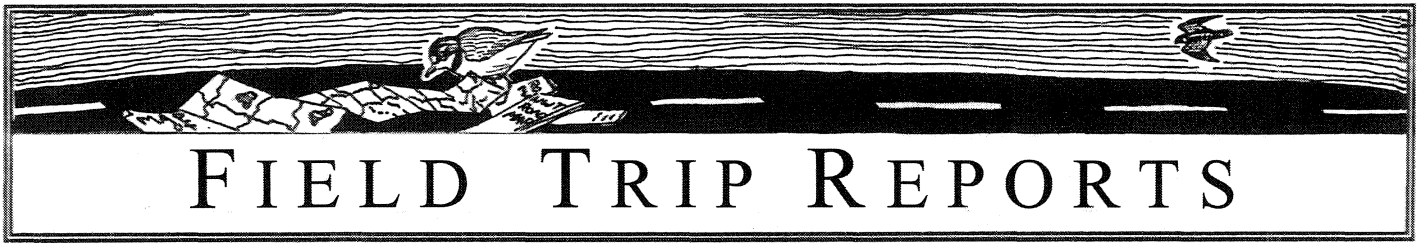


From left to right: David Currie, John Robertson, John Vanderpoel, and Rick Whitman. The Pink-footed Goose is in the field behind them. (Photo by David Currie)



Brant

Tom. 91



Mahone Bay

31 July, 2011, Leader: James R. Hirtle

We met at the three churches in Mahone Bay as usual. I was pleased to find that a birder from Toronto and one from Ohio had joined us. We checked out either side of the Mush-A-Mush River, with one side of the river being quiet, but with enough species on the other side to make it a little exciting. A male Northern Cardinal and a Belted Kingfisher were nice as were two Gray Catbirds. We next went to the Dynamite Trail in Clearand, which provided a nice range of bird species. Two Verrys were seen by the group and three more Gray Catbirds were added. Once returning to the cars we saw a spat between an Osprey and a Bald Eagle and by the time we left for Long Hill we were up to 31 species. Upon reaching Long Hill an Eastern Wood Pewee and a Blackburnian Warbler were highlights. It was later in the morning, so I bypassed Maitland and went straight to the Fauxburg Trail behind Mahone Bay, which is actually an extension of the Dynamite Trail that runs into Lunenburg. Nine species of warblers including two Canada Warblers and two Blackburnians were great. At that point the field trip took a turn for the worse and my car broke down; I had to call it a day with a little over 40 species.

James R. Hirtle

Brier Island Weekend

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

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

Sunday morning birds were in large numbers everywhere. To my knowledge 13 species of warblers were observed, possibly more. These included one Black-throated Blue Warbler and at least two Orange-crowned Warblers. Wayne Neilly had a number of Lincoln's Sparrows. We had a few Gray Catbirds, a number of Eastern Wood Pewees, numbers of Red-eyed Vireos and Blue-headed Vireos. Cedar Waxwings were on the move and were headed out. There was only one sizeable kettle of hawks on Sunday with about 40 Broad-Wings in it and an Osprey flying above. We saw most of the expected hawks and Suzanne Borkowski had a Northern Goshawk. We also saw a Peregrine Falcon a number of times and watched many Sharp-shinned Hawks, Merlins, American Kestrels, and a Northern Harrier. Three Eastern Bluebirds made an appearance on Sunday and Suzanne Borkowski found a female Blue Grosbeak on Saturday. On Friday, Dorothy Poole, David Walmark and I had two large terns, but they were too far away to positively id. We think they were Caspians. On Sunday, Clarence Stevens Sr. and some others also saw a Caspian Tern. David Walmark had seen an unknown swallow, and others saw a Barn Swallow later, which was likely the same bird. Clarence Stevens Sr. had an American Golden Plover at Pond Cove on Saturday. After compiling the birds seen we had 75 species total for the weekend.

James Hirtle



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

Ideas and suggestions for future trips are welcome. You do not need to be an expert to lead a field trip, and the trip does not need to last all day. You just need to share your favourite birding spots. Any questions, comments or suggestions, as well as all field trip reports should be directed to the Field Trip Coordinator, Chris Pepper, at 483-6693 or E-mail: cpepper@ymail.com

Sat May 12 2012 – Nova Scotia Spring Migration Count

Details can be found on the Corkboard area of this web site [HERE](#) Contact Chris Pepper 483-6693 Email: cpepper@ymail.com or your Regional Coordinator to participate.

No storm date for this trip.

Sat May 19 2012 – Port L'Hebert, Shelburne Co.

Leader: Dorothy Poole 354-4844 Email:

dpoolex@ns.sympatico.ca

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Chef's Table (formerly the Grub 'n' Grog Restaurant) on Highway 103 at Sable River. We'll explore the Sable River areas as well as the areas in and around Port L'Hebert. Wear sturdy footwear and bring a lunch.

No storm date for this trip.

Mon May 21 2012 – Historic Hants County

Leader: Suzanne Borkowski 488-0345 Email:

suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Mount Uniacke House. Take Exit 3 off Highway 101 and drive approximately 8 km along Route 1 towards Windsor. Uniacke House is on your left. The main gate will be locked, but the 2nd gate (coming from Halifax) will be open. We'll start by exploring some of the grounds at Mt. Uniacke then continue along back-country roads through Hants County. Bring a lunch to be enjoyed at Smiley Park.

No storm date for this trip.

Wed May 23 2012 – Fred Dobson Warbler Walk, Halifax Co.

Leader: Joan Waldron Email: waldrojo@ns.sympatico.ca

Meet at 6:00 AM at the Park & Ride lot at the junction of Prospect Rd. (Route 333) and St Margarets Bay Rd. (Route 3). Duration: 3 hours. Waterproof footwear and fly repellent are recommended. We will be looking for early warblers and the winter wren.

No storm date for this trip.

Fri May 25 2012 to May 28 2012 – Bon Portage Island, Shelburne Co.

Leader: Claire Diggins 825-6152 Email:

claire_diggins@hotmail.com

Pre-Registration is Necessary!

Depart 6:00 p.m. on Friday from the Prospect Point Wharf in Shag Harbour, Shelburne County. Bring food, drinking water, warm clothing, footwear for rough (beach cobble) and wet terrain, a flashlight, mattress sheet and a sleeping bag. Carry gear in waterproof bags or containers. Field guides are available on the island as are cooking pots, utensils and dishes. There is a charge of \$45.00 for three nights accommodation for NSBS members plus a donation for the boat trip.

Please Note: If getting on or off the island cannot be done safely, the trip will be moved to Brier Island.

No storm date for this trip.

Sat May 26 2012 – Conquerall Mills, Lunenburg Co.

Leader: James Hirtle 530-2101 Email: jrhbirder@hotmail.com

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the dam area of Petite Riviere, near the intersection of Conquerall Mills and the Crousetown Road. Directions: Turn left off Highway 103 at the sign for Conquerall Mills just past Exit 14. Drive 3.5 km along this road. The dam will be on your left. We'll be exploring Fitch Road and Dagley Road along Publicover Lake, as well as Brown Branch Brook, Mount Pleasant, and Hebb Mills. In the afternoon we can check out Station Road, Fauxburg, Long Hill and Oakland. Bring a lunch, sturdy footwear, socks that can be pulled up over pantlegs (to discourage ticks) and sunblock.

Storm date: May 27.

Sat May 26 2012 – Middle Musquodoboit, Halifax/Colchester Counties

Leader: Verna Higgins 384-2286 Email:

vjhiggins@xplornet.com

Meet at 8:00am at the Natural Resources Education Centre parking lot (off Highway 224 near Middle Musquodoboit) for a 2 to 3 hour hike in the Centre woodlot to see and hear late migrant and resident songbirds.

No storm date for this trip.

Sat June 9 2012 to June 17 2012 – Sable Island and the Gully

This is not a NSBS field trip, but as a unique and local pelagic trip, it was felt it was worthy of attention. This trip is being organised by Sacajawea Tours. For more info contact Jennifer

Modigliani at jennifer@sacajaweatours.com Tel. (902) 579-3344 or visit the tours section of their web site at: <http://www.sacajaweatours.com/tours.html>
No storm date for this trip.

Fri June 22 2012 – Tern Festival, West Pubnico, Yarmouth County

This will be the 8th annual Tern Festival. At this year's event, Harry Thurston will be talking about his book, *The Atlantic Coast*. More details will be added closer to the date of the event. For information contact:

Musée des Acadiens des Pubnicos
et Centre de recherche
C.P. 92, Pubnico-Ouest
B0W 3S0
Tel: 902-762-3380
Fax: 902-762-0726
email: musee.acadien@ns.sympatico.ca
website: <http://www.museeacadien.ca>
No storm date for this trip.

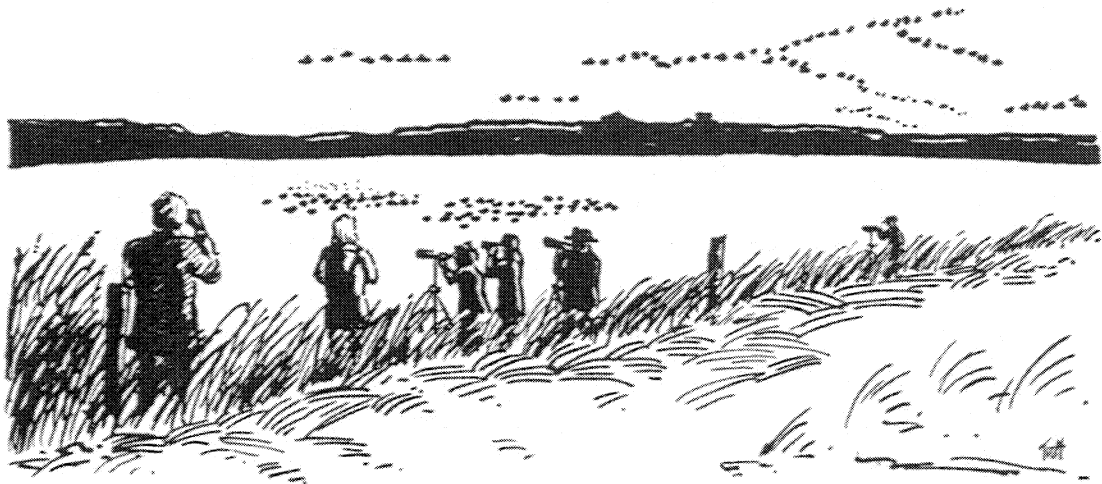
Mon June 25 2012 – New Birders' Walk, Windsor, Hants Co.

Leader: Patrick Kelly 494-3294 (w) 472-2322 (h) Email: patrick.kelly@dal.ca

Pre-registration is required.

This trip is geared for those who have always had an interest in bird watching, but were not sure how it was actually done. Bring binoculars and field guides, if you have them. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the parking lot for the Windsor Tourist Bureau, which is just north of Exit 6 (Water Street) on Highway 101. We should be 1–2 hours and will visit a few different types of habitat in the town of Windsor.

No storm date for this trip.





A late-staying Great Egret (although far from record-late) was a nice “tick” and a beautiful sight for several birders, and well photographed on November 16. [Photo Stephanie Dooley]



The RED-EYED VIREO, this one September 1 at Hartlen Pt. *HRM*, is holding its own in Nova Scotia (BBS), and continues to perform a useful role by gleaning leaf-eating caterpillars. [Photo Paul Murray]



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