



NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER



VOL. 2 NO. 4
DECEMBER, 1959

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Minister

THE HON. ROBERT L. STANFIELD

Museum Board of Governors

DR. H. P. MOFFATT, Chairman D. K. CROWDIS, Secretary

Members

C. R. K. ALLEN	F. W. DOYLE	DR. H. D. SMITH
DR. WILL R. BIRD	T. P. LUSBY	HAROLD WEIR
DR. A. E. CAMERON	N. D. PHINNEY	DR. C. B. WELD

Director

DONALD K. CROWDIS

Editor

INEZ G. ROBERTS

Vol. 2

December 1959

No. 4

EDITORIAL

Once when asked what good an invention was, Michael Faraday inquired, "what good it a newborn baby?"

It is often thus with a new organization, unless it is just a copy of what has been done elsewhere—the launching of a new society is an act of faith. We know that some good will come of it.

In the case of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, much good has come. Its membership has grown, bringing over 550 people, interested in birds, into contact with each other. Systematic observations have been carried on. Unusual occurrences now are more often represented by collected specimens. Some of the like-minded persons brought together by the Bird Society have gone on to take part in larger conservation measures.

The Nova Scotia Bird Society, itself a result of acquaintances made or nurtured at Audubon Screen Tour gatherings, has set an example which in some measure has been responsible for the organization of other societies associated with the Museum.

For these reasons, beyond the fact that it is a member of the family in any case, the Bird Society has been given the pages of this Museum Newsletter once again to use as a special Bird number and these lines are intended more as a salutation than as an editorial.

D. K. Crowdis
Director, Museum of Science

Cover: We are featuring on our cover, a very interesting skin study of the white ibis found on Bon Portage Island, Nova Scotia, by Mrs. Morrill Richardson, July 1959. The white ibis breeds from Lower California and South Carolina to Venezuela and Peru. It winters from Mexico and Florida, southward. The white ibis stands about two feet and is identified by its white plumage, black wing-tips, red bill, legs and feet. It feeds on fishes, crayfish and insects. Photographed by H. F. Roberts, Museum of Science.

WHITE IBIS—A NEW BIRD FOR NOVA SCOTIA

To Mr. and Mrs. Morrill Richardson of Bon Portage Island goes the credit for the first record of the occurrence in Nova Scotia of the White Ibis (*Guara alba*). Probably tropical storm "Cindy" must be credited with some assistance. A bird more at home in South America or in Louisiana is not encountered every day on the often fog-shrouded islands off of our coast and when the unexpected does occur it is indeed fortunate for the Nova Scotia Bird Society that members such as the Richardsons are on the spot and capable of taking advantage of the occurrence.

The story of finding the birds is best told in Mrs. Richardson's own words. She writes, "'Cindy' passed here Saturday, July 11, giving us no more than a short windy spell and a brief rain shower. Tropical storms often bring us strays and I looked forward to a bird walk. Sunday morning I heard an unfamiliar bird in the swamp near the house and from the note (which reminded me of the Great Blue Heron's, but shorter, softer, altogether more pleasant) I thought I might find one of the smaller herons, such as have come here on other storms. But I couldn't venture into the swamp; because of the exceptionally wet weather our swamps are mostly impassable. That afternoon, despite the rain, I walked up the eastern side of the island but saw few birds and no strays."

"Monday noon, July 13, the fog lifted momentarily and I took my binoculars for a quick walk along the wooded border of the mowing-field, for the young birds are interesting and numerous there now. As I neared the swamp a white bird flew up, startling me — at first by the noise of its big wings and then by its appearance, for I had never seen anything like its bright pink face and long decurved bill and its long pink legs. It flew a short distance to a somewhat bare swamp-spruce and perched there, uttering plaintive cries. I could observe it carefully and it was still there after I went to the house for my 'Peterson' and returned. Then I got my color camera and started to work my way closer to the tree. I have a telephoto lens and could have got a fair shot, but just as I prepared to snap the picture a swirl of black fog rolled between me and the ibis and the bird lifted and flew the approximate quarter-mile across the swamp. It must have stayed on the tree-top fifteen minutes. It appeared weary and when it left it flew rather low and slowly."

Mrs. Richardson goes on to tell of watching the bird on the two following days, of how it appeared to grow weaker and of the apparent fading of the brilliant pink color of the face, bill and legs. Realizing that it was a "first" for the Province and knowing that it would not be able to survive here she arranged to have it collected. The specimen, a fully-plumaged adult white ibis is now in the Nova Scotia Museum of Science.

It will be recalled that the centre of tropical storm "Cindy", on her way north, turned inland over South Carolina before continuing in a north-easterly direction over the Atlantic. South Carolina is just within the summer range of the White Ibis and thus it is quite probable that this bird was carried from there, a distance of some 1100 miles south-west of Bon Portage Island.

As Mrs. Richardson has remarked, "tropical storms often bring us strays" so it is well to remember that it is the bird student who makes a point of getting out after such storms (and after NE gales in the winter too), who is rewarded with the great satisfaction of seeing exotic birds.

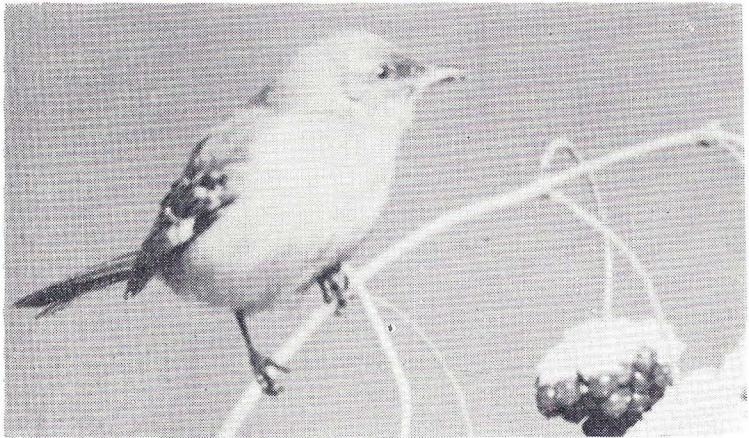
BIRD STUDY IN NOVA SCOTIA

Now that you are reading the various reports in this issue of the NEWSLETTER, it is salutary to recall that it has not always been possible to collect this sort of co-operative data in this Province. As a matter of fact, the compilation of notes on Nova Scotian birds was the result of sixty-six years of virtually unassisted work by Andrew Downs, the outstanding naturalist of this area, in the 19th century. His "Catalogue of The Birds of Nova Scotia" was published in the Proceedings of the Nova Scotia Institute of Science in 1888 and those who possess a copy of this work today are indeed fortunate.

Subsequent important publications dealing with more restricted areas, are E. Chesley Allen's "Annotated List of Birds of Yarmouth County" (1916) and "Birds of The Grand Pré Region" by Robie W. Tufts, (1918). Mr. Tufts, more than any other person, has kept the interest in Nova Scotia's birds high and it is his recent writings which are today the authentic references for the occurrence of birds on our Province. These are "Annotated List of Nova Scotia Birds", published in August, 1956, as a supplement to the Museum's NEWSLETTER and additional notes, in the December 1957 issue and in this issue.

The interest in birds that is now apparent, stimulated in a large measure by these pioneers and furthered today by the Nova Scotia Bird Society, is certainly a far cry from the days of Andrew Downs.

—L. B. Macpherson.



THE HALIFAX MOCKING BIRDS

by *L. B. Macpherson*

The second Nova Scotia breeding record for this species is only a part of an interesting Mockingbird story. On December 15, 1957, W. J. Mills caught, banded and released a male Mockingbird at his home on Marlborough Ave., Halifax. A few days later a banded Mockingbird, undoubtedly the same one, was noted by Mrs. R. H. Helpard in the Pine Hill Drive area where it remained at least until the end of August, 1958.

On January 24, 1958, another Mockingbird, this time a female, as it turned out, "took up residence" in the Marlborough Ave. area and remained there until the end of March. These two areas are in the south end of Halifax, about one-third of a mile apart. Other observers noted an occasional Mockingbird between the two areas from time to time but generally they stayed in their respective locations.

Both birds were extremely belligerent during the winter, usually managing to keep all other birds away, much to the annoyance of their human neighbors who ordinarily enjoyed a varied collection of winter birds at their feeding stations. The Mockingbirds appeared to be first attracted to these areas by high-bush cranberries (*Viburnum* sp.) in the gardens. However, they were mainly nourished throughout the winter by raisins put out on the feeding platforms of Messrs. Mills and Harrison at Marlborough Ave. and by the Stairs and Helpards at Pine Hill Drive.

On April 3, 1958, Mrs. Stairs saw two Mockingbirds (one banded) together. The next day was the last that Mr. Mills regularly saw the unbanded bird in his garden although on April 24 both of them were there for a while, one chasing the other.

The pair were regularly seen from then on until late in August in a tract of wasteland bordered by Pine Hill Drive and Pine Hill College. The male bird exhibited typical territorial behavior and could be heard singing most mornings (starting as early at 6 a.m.) throughout the spring and summer. He had two or three regular singing perches in low trees. That this bird lived up to his name is evident in a song sequence described by Mr. Mills, in which recognizable imitations of Robin, Song Sparrow, Flicker and House Sparrow songs were interspersed among the characteristic notes of the Mockingbird's own fine song.

From the fact that the birds were often seen carrying food, it was quite obvious that they had a nest in the vicinity. In spite of considerable effort on the part of Mr. Mills and others it was not discovered until May 13th, 1959, in a lone three-foot high hawthorn tree, in the middle of the field at the back of several Pine Hill properties. Finally, on August 12, Mr. and Mrs. Stairs saw the two adults, with two young birds, thus confirming what had been suspected all summer. On that date the youngsters were drably marked, very fluffy, and very poor flyers, blundering into windows, car windshields and walls. The family was often seen together (three or four birds) from then until the end of the month.

The family group was not noted after the first week in September but at least one unbanded bird remained in the vicinity. It, or another one, has been there continually during the fall and winter of 1958-59, eating raisins and the berries on the Multiflora Rose hedge and as this is written (April 1959) is still to be seen regularly.

The Mockingbird is occasionally recorded in our Province in October and November, but the only previous breeding record is also from Halifax and relates to a nest, with young, found by Prof. F. H. Sexton.

BRIER ISLAND EXPEDITION – 1958

By Harrison F. Lewis

Another successful expedition to Brier Island, Digby County, by a field party of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, for the purpose of banding birds and carrying on general investigation of the bird life present, can now be reported.

The field party for 1958 consisted of Wickerson Lent, Willett J. Mills and the present writer. Wickerson Lent is resident in Westport, on Brier Island. The other members of the party arrived on the island at about 5:30 p.m. on October 15th and departed at 11:00 a.m. on October 20th.

This year's investigation therefore took place at a period later in the autumn than those of similar investigations in previous years, which all occurred in September. It was

hoped to obtain, through this change, information relating to a time of year for which records of the bird life of the island were notably inadequate.

There is no doubt that during the autumnal migration, periods of fine, calm, cold weather are characterized on Brier Island by maximum concentrations of birds. Periods of this type of weather normally occur in western Nova Scotia several times during the month of October and the field party had hoped that such a period would coincide with the time of its activity on the island. Unfortunately, this hope was not realized. Ideal periods of weather immediately preceded and followed the field party's stay on the island, but the weather during the stay varied from fair to poor for our purposes. Nevertheless, variations of bird concentration during that time, was very obviously related directly to variation in weather.

This year's field party banded on Brier Island, a total of 209 birds, or 118 more than the previous maximum, which was banded in 1957. With one exception, all the birds banded in 1958 were captured in five mist nets set among scattered alders and second-growth white spruce close to the north point of the island. The positions of the nets were those used in 1957, except that the northernmost net had to be shifted a few yards to avoid a woven-wire sheep fence that had been erected at some time during the year. The total number of net-hours was 101.

The daily catch of birds may be correlated with the weather conditions as follows:

- | | | |
|------------|---|--|
| October 15 | Fine, clear, moderate temperature. | 1 bird incidentally taken at close of day, when nets were being set up. |
| October 16 | Mild, partly cloudy; wind west, 10 miles per hour; clearing after storm. | 44 birds taken. Birds were milling locally, at various elevations, both individually and in small flocks, and were being harried by an occasional hawk. Pigeon hawk, sharp-shinned hawk and marsh hawk were noted. |
| October 17 | Mild, partly cloudy; wind southwest, 5 to 10 miles per hour. One or two light sprinkles early in the day. | 11 birds captured in nets. The only birds observed milling overhead were one flock of 11 robins, one flock of 4 goldfinches, and one flock of 70 to 80 blackbirds, either cowbirds or rusty blackbirds. One sparrow hawk and another hawk that was probably a sharp-shinned were seen. |

- October 18 A moderately heavy thunderstorm with rain occurred about 3:00 a.m. It was followed by heavy fog, which cleared about 8:45 a.m. The rest of the day was cloudy, with a few brief intervals of sunshine before noon. A north wind began about 7:30 a.m. and gradually increased to about 20 miles per hour. The temperature became decidedly cool. 38 birds were taken in the nets.
- October 19 Cool, but no frost. Partly cloudy. Fresh wind, up to 15 miles per hour, blew from north to northwest in the morning and from southwest in the afternoon. The evening was clear, with a light westerly breeze. This was much the best day experienced at the nets. 100 birds were taken. Birds suddenly increased in abundance about 10:00 a.m. The only overhead flights were those of a few small flocks, chiefly robins. Lent had to leave the netting area at 10:00 a.m. and birds netted so rapidly that Mills and Lewis had to furl one net at 10:10 a.m., in order to keep the situation under control.
- October 20 At previous midnight, the weather was cool, clear and calm. By 3:00 a.m. a north wind was blowing at about 20 miles per hour. It continued throughout the day, which was clear, sunny and cool. In the netting area, birds were much scarcer than on the previous day. There was comparatively little movement. Two or three flocks of rusty blackbirds, with 50 to 100 birds in each, were seen, but they did not go near the nets. 14 birds were netted before 10:00 a.m. when all nets were removed.

Sudden arrival of migrants on Brier Island, presumably from the Nova Scotia mainland, was particularly conspicuous in the case of the white-throated sparrow. From the 15th of October to the 18th, inclusive, not one individual of this species was netted. Not more than two per day were recorded on the island. Then abruptly, on the 19th, ten were netted. Three others were taken on the following morning.

The one bird banded by the field party that was not caught in a mist net, was a brown thrasher. On the evening of October 17th, when Mills and Lewis called on Society member Albert Welch, who is the keeper of the main, or west, light on Brier Island, he remarked that he had noticed a bird in the old-house of his station. His son and Mills then went to investigate and the son succeeded in capturing the bird, which proved to be a lively brown thrasher. It was banded and released. This species occurs in Nova Scotia only as a stray and this capture provides the first specimen record for the province.

The list of birds banded on Brier Island by the Society's field party in October, 1958, is as follows:

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-----	1
Hairy Woodpecker	-----	1
Brown Creeper	-----	1
Brown Thrasher	-----	1
Robin	-----	6
Hermit Thrush	-----	5
Swainson's Thrush	-----	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-----	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-----	2
Myrtle Warbler	-----	33
Black-throated Green Warbler	-----	2
Blackpoll Warbler	-----	1
Palm Warbler	-----	5
Canada Warbler	-----	1
American Goldfinch	-----	3
Savannah Sparrow	-----	2
Vesper Sparrow	-----	1
Slate-colored Junco	-----	104
White-throated Sparrow	-----	13
Fox Sparrow	-----	6
Swamp Sparrow	-----	3
Song Sparrow	-----	13

Twenty-two species in all.

During the field party's stay on Brier Island, afternoons were devoted to observation of birds in various suitable areas. Juvenile white-crowned were not uncommon. Unfortunately, only one of these was netted and this bird succeeded in giving its captor the slip before it was banded.

Other interesting observations of birds that were not banded are as follows:

One osprey on October 18th.

One killdeer at Pond Cove on October 18th.

Two western kingbirds together in Westport village on October 17th.

Two brown thrashers near the cemetery on October 19th.

A black-and-white warbler and a black-throated blue warbler in Westport village on October 19th.

A Cape May Warbler in Westport village on October 17th.

A yellow-breasted chat near the cemetery on October 19th.

A dickissel heard by Mills and Lent at the banding station on October 16th and 17th.

Two Lapland longspurs at Pond Cove on October 19th.

Some of the birds recorded above, though belonging to species that are well known in Nova Scotia, are of special interest because the dates of observation were so late in the year that these individuals were evidently stragglers from the main outward migration. In this category may be placed the osprey observed on October 18th, the Swainson's thrush netted on the 16th, the black-and-white warbler observed on the 19th, the Cape May warbler observed on the 17th, the black-throated blue warbler observed on the 19th, the black-throated green warblers netted on the 16th and 19th, and the Canada warbler netted on the 18th.

From the information available, it is fair to presume that a few such stragglers occur in Nova Scotia every autumn, but on the mainland of the province they are recorded very rarely. Because Brier Island is a concentration area for migrants and a last jumping-off place for birds leaving Nova Scotia by the route across the Bay of Fundy, the likelihood of such stragglers being recorded there is very much higher than on the mainland, especially when mist nets are used to capture them.

These annual autumnal investigations of bird life on Brier Island are not only very interesting to the participants, but are providing, as planned, additional information of various kinds about the birds of Nova Scotia. They could be made still more fruitful through increased participation that would permit lengthening the annual period of such research.

Calendar

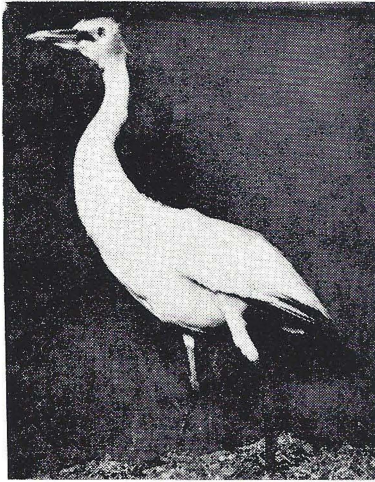
AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS—A yearly series of five colour films, with commentary by the photographer-naturalist. Sponsored by the Audubon Society of Canada and the Nova Scotia Museum of Science. Information may be obtained from the Museum Office.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY—Formed January 26, 1955. President, Dr. Harrison F. Lewis. Vice-President, C. R. K. Allen. Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Ward Hemeon. Editor, Dr. L. B. Macpherson.

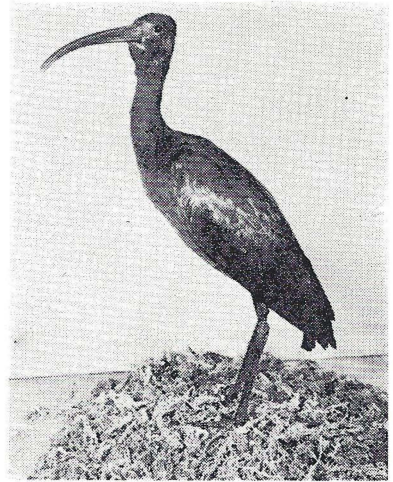
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA—Halifax Centre—Meets at the Nova Scotia Museum of Science, 8:00 p.m. last Wednesday of each month. Annual fee \$5.00. Any who are interested are invited to attend.

NOVA SCOTIA AQUARIUM SOCIETY—Junior Branch — Meets at the Nova Scotia Museum of Science, annual fee \$1.00.

MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY—Meets at the Museum of Science on the last Saturday of each month — annual fee \$3.00.



CATTLE EGRET



GLOSSY IBIS

LIST OF RARE AND UNUSUAL BIRDS
REPORTED BY MEMBERS OF THE
NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

By R. W. Tufts

The latest published list of rare and unusual birds reported by members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society appeared in the Museum Newsletter of December, 1957. Since then many additional records have come in but limited space makes it necessary to select for publication here only those which it is felt are outstanding in interest and value.

While it is highly probable that most of the birds listed below were correctly identified by the varied observers who reported them, there may be a few which caution will compel some readers to treat as hypothetical.

Again I wish to take this opportunity to thank those bird students whose observations have made the compilation of this list possible.

Red Throated Loon Three birds of this species were reported from Bon Portage Island, Shelburne Co., on January 15, 1959, by Mrs. Evelyn Richardson.

Gannet About 70 individuals were sighted off Westport, Digby Co., on December 31, 1957, by Wickerson Lent. Winter records for this species are few and far between. Two were observed from Bon Portage Island, Shelburne Co., on January 9, 1959, by Morrill Richardson.

Double-crested Cormorant Wickerson Lent reported about 100 at Westport, Digby Co., on December 29, 1958.

Great Blue Heron Winter stragglers of this species were seen at Peggy's Cove, Halifax, Co., by Mrs. Mirian Wetmore (one on January 11, 1958); at Sable River, Shelburne Co., by Ainsley Chivers (one several times in December, 1958); at Country Harbour, Guysboro Co., by A. Burns Hodgson (one on December 16, 1958); at Westport, Digby Co., by Wickerson Lent (two present during December, January, and continuing in February, 1959).

Little Blue Heron One, in immature white plumage, was reported by M. H. Sarty, on August 26, 1958, at Sandy Lake, near Hammond's Plains, Halifax Co. It was noticed there for about two weeks. Another was seen on Bon Portage Island, Shelburne Co., by Mrs. Evelyn Richardson, on April 8, 1958.

Cattle Egret Another first for Nova Scotia is a Cattle Egret, which was reported by Mrs. Frank Craig, of East Sable River, Shelburne Co. It was correctly described as to shape and colour and was said to be "hob-nobbing" with her cow in the pasture near by. This was on November 23, 1957. A few days later, December 10, one was picked up dead, about 40 miles to the S.W., near the Cape Sable light, by Lightkeeper B. F. Smith. This specimen was sent to the Nova Scotia Museum of Science where it was mounted and placed on display. A third occurrence is reported by Charles Richardson who mentions having seen about six in a pasture near his home in Brooklyn, Queens Co., during November, 1957, which he says were feeding close to his cattle. This species was first recorded in the New World in Surinam, South America, about 1880, presumably having successfully crossed the South Atlantic from Africa.

Glossy Ibis A small visitation was recorded at Welsh-town, Shelburne Co., by H. F. Lewis and H. F. Tufts, who saw three feeding in a wet meadow on April 14, 1958. Subsequently four singles were observed: one at Hunt's Point, Queens Co., during the first week in May, by Ted Foster of Summerville Beach; one on May 1 near North Kingston, Kings Co., by A. G. Robertson; one on May 10 on a small pond between Amherst and Macan, Cumberland Co., by Robert Gray; and one at Lake Annis, Yarmouth Co., seen on May 8 and 9 by Jack Higby. Probably victims of gale-force winds these birds have been recorded in Nova Scotia only a few times.

Cooper's Hawk One was seen by the writer at Avondale, Hants Co., on November 12, 1957. This is the first record since 1940 and the fifth only for Nova Scotia.

Gyrfalcon One of these rare northern falcons was seen at Martinique Beach, Halifax Co., by T. F. T. Morland, on

January 26, 1958. There are very few authentic records for Nova Scotia, the first having been one collected by a farmer on the Grand Pre, Kings Co., on January 8, 1893, who brought it to H. F. Tufts for identification.

Virginia Rail H. F. Lewis reports having seen one at West Middle Sable, Shelburne Co., on February 19, 1958. It was walking along the margin of a small open brook which was bordered with deep snow. Several others had been seen on Chezzetcook Range, Halifax Co., by C. R. K. Allen and others during the period December 28, 1957, to January 25, 1958. Two individuals of this species in weakened condition died soon after capture at Wittenburg, near Stewiacke, Colchester Co., on December 22, 1958, and at North East Harbour, Shelburne Co., on December 27, 1958, respectively. Both specimens were forwarded to Harrison F. Lewis, the first by Mrs. Layton Dodsworth and the second by Walter Perry.

Killdeer Mrs. Evelyn Richardson saw one on Bon Portage Island, Shelburne Co., on November 1, 1958.

Golden Plover Once an abundant fall transient through Nova Scotia its numbers declined so alarmingly and suddenly about 1895 that its early extinction was predicted. Until recently it has been seen here in the fall with some regularity but only in small numbers. On September 5, 1958, while searching for mushrooms on the meadows just west of Berwick, Kings Co., I saw a flock of Golden Plovers that I estimated contained at least 125 birds. It was the largest congregation by far, that I had ever seen. They flushed from a low-lying pasture and circled past me within close range several times. The district was visited again on September 17 when I was both pleased and surprised to see the flock still present and its numbers markedly increased. They were spread over an area of approximately four acres adjacent to the highway. A conservative estimate placed their numbers at 300, the majority of which could be distinguished as birds-of-the-year by their lighter gray plumage; the adults still retained much of the black on their under parts. A few days later none was to be seen there.

Common Snipe One was seen near Sable River, Shelburne Co., on December 12, 1958, by Ainsley Chivers. What may have been the same bird was seen by Harrison F. Lewis at West Middle Sable, Shelburne Co., on December 24. A. Burns Hodgson saw one on his Christmas Count at Stormont, Guysborough Co., on December 28, 1958. A few winter regularly in Nova Scotia.

Marbled Godwit One was seen at West Lawrencetown, Halifax Co., on August 22, 1958, by T. F. T. Morland and on the following day twenty or more members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, on their annual Field Day, had the pleasure

of watching this bird feeding and flying within good binocular range. This constitutes the third record for the Province.

Laughing Gull During the summer of 1941 a small colony of these gulls, estimated at 25 pairs, bred on a small island off Harrigan Cove, Halifax Co. Subsequently the colony was broken up and no record of breeding has occurred since that time, although adult birds are seen from time to time. It has been suspected that the remnant of the colony may have established itself further off shore. Evidence that the species still breeds along that section of the coast is provided by Ronald Dicks who, I am informed, saw two young ones perched on a rock near the shore at Quoddy, Halifax Co., a few miles from the former colony, on August 23, 1958.

Forster's Tern An immature or winter-plumaged bird of this species was seen on October 19, 1958, at Lawrence-town, Halifax, Co., by C. R. K. Allen and L. B. Macpherson. It was observed for some minutes through the 40-power telescope while it was resting on a sand bar at a distance of about 150 yards and then at close range, with binoculars, while the bird was flying. The only previous record is one taken near Dartmouth on September 4, 1924.

Tern (sp?) A tern was seen off Wedgeport, Yarmouth Co., on December 1, 1957, and reported by I. J. Pothier. To whatever species it belonged, it was well off base at that time of year.

Mourning Dove One seen on July 31, 1958, on the Grand Pre meadows, by Moreton R. Bates, of Springfield, Mass. Summer records of this species are noteworthy but those for autumn are so commonplace that I no longer record them.

Western Kingbird Two were seen by H. F. Lewis and W. J. Mills at Brier Island, Digby Co., on October 17, 1958, and Mr. and Mrs. Wickerson Lent report having seen at least seven of this species on Brier Island earlier in the fall.

Great Crested Flycatcher H. F. Lewis reports having seen one near Wall's Lake, in Allendale, Shelburne Co., on November 7, 1957.

Eastern Phoebe One was reported on October 3, 1957, at Bon Portage Island, Shelburne Co., by Mrs. Evelyn Richardson, and Moreton R. Bates saw another near Breton Cove, Cape Breton Island, on July 28, 1958. This species has not yet been recorded as breeding in Nova Scotia.

Purple Martin On March 2, 1958, a male was picked up dead near his home by Foster Liske, of West Middle Sable, Shelburne Co. The specimen was presented to the Nova Scotia Museum of Science for mounting. Purple Martins do not normally reach Nova Scotia until the last days of April or early in May.

Winter Wren One was observed in swampy woods near Louis Head, Shelburne Co., on December 27, 1958, by Harrison F. Lewis. Another was seen on the same day near Port Wallis, Halifax Co., by Miss Ethel Crathorne. Winter stragglers of this species are decidedly rare.

Long-billed Marsh Wren A specimen collected at East Lawrencetown, Halifax Co., on February 15, 1958, by C. R. K. Allen was only the third that has been recorded here. It was later authoratively identified as being the first of the subspecies *Telmatodyles palustris dissaeptus* for the province.

Mockingbird During the summer of 1957, Carl Adshade saw one carrying insects in its beak, at Debert, Colchester Co., but was unsuccessful in trailing the bird to its nest or young. This constitutes the second breeding record for the species in Nova Scotia. Winter records are frequently reported. A pair wintered in Halifax in 1957-58 and apparently raised a brood there in 1958. The story of these birds is more fully recorded elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter.

Brown Thrasher One was recorded by H. F. Lewis at West Middle Sable, Shelburne Co., on December 23, 1957. The first specimen record of this species for the Province was taken at Brier Island, Digby Co., on October 17, 1958. It was captured alive in a shed, banded and released, by H. F. Lewis and W. J. Mills. Wickerson Lent reports having seen two Brown Thrashers near Westport, Digby Co., on October 19, 1958.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Two sight records: one on October 10, 1957, at Melvern Square, Annapolis Co., where I. J. Pothier saw two under optimum conditions; and one at Wine Harbour, Guysborough Co., where Gordon MacLeod saw one on August 30, 1958, likewise under favourable conditions. No specimen of this bird has as yet been recorded for the Province.

Water Pipit (formerly called American Pipit or Titlark) These spring and fall transients usually pass through during April and from September to late October. John Erskine reports seeing three on the Grand Pre, on March 17, 1958

Yellow-throated Vireo A species not hitherto recorded for Nova Scotia was added to the list by Mrs. Miriam Wetmore who found one dead near her home at Indian Harbour, Halifax Co., on April 9, 1958. The specimen was presented to the Nova Scotia Museum of Science.

Warbling Vireo One was reported seen near Ingonish Beach, Cape Breton, on July 27, 1958, by Moreton R. Bates, and on October 10, 1957, Mrs. Evelyn Richardson reported one on Bon Portage Island. No specimen of this species has yet been collected in Nova Scotia.

Connecticut Warbler Mrs. Evelyn Richardson reported to H. F. Lewis that she observed closely one of these rare warblers on Bon Portage Island, Shelburne Co., on September 21, 1958. She mentioned also having seen one there on May 17, 1956. It can be distinguished in life from the Mourning Warbler, which it closely resembles, only by an observer who is qualified to detect their minor differences.

Yellow-breasted Chat Three additional records of this bird have been received. One comes from Bon Portage Island, where Mrs. Evelyn Richardson saw one on September 18, 1957; one from C. R. K. Allen who saw one on October 10, 1957, on the outskirts of Halifax City; and one from Mrs. A. S. G. Grant, who enjoyed the daily visits of one at her feeding tray in Halifax as late as January 22, 1958, where it fed largely on fresh grapes.

Baltimore Orioles and Meadowlarks Both species have been reported so many times as observed during late fall and winter that such are becoming commonplace. Breeding records of either species, however, are still noteworthy. Two pairs of Baltimore Orioles nested successfully at Gaspereau, Kings Co., in large elms, during the summer of 1958. In early August, 1958, as many as eight Meadowlarks at once were observed several times by Stewart Whitman at Upper Granville and Belleisle, Annapolis Co. On August 8 at least two of these were very dark on the back and were believed to be young individuals. These were watched by Stewart Whitman, Gordon Troop and Rev. Calder Fraser.

Orchard Oriole During the period May 25 to June 5, 1958, one was reported by R. S. Johnson who saw it repeatedly near his home in Liverpool.

Western Tanager A brilliant male of this species, one not hitherto recorded in Nova Scotia, made its appearance in the garden of John Russell, in Digby, about November 20, 1957. An unsuccessful effort to collect it was made on December 4. On the following day it was killed by a neighbor's cat. Positive identification was made possible by a salvaged wing for the finding of which Mr. Russell deserves much credit. This bit of conclusive evidence was retained by the National Museum where it was sent for examination. At that season this bird would have been at home in southern California.

Summer Tanager Many sightings and some specimens of this bird's close relative, the Scarlet Tanager have been recorded down the years, but reports of Summer Tanagers are still decidedly noteworthy. One was seen on Bon Portage Island, on October 9 and 10, 1957, by Mrs. Evelyn Richardson; and on April 10, 1958, Mrs. Blunt picked up a dead specimen at Indian Harbour Lake, Guysborough Co., which she sent to C. R. K. Allen for identification. Still another was

seen at West Middle Sable, Shelburne Co., on April 24, 1958, and reported by H. F. Lewis.

Cardinal A female appeared in the garden of Miss Louise Daley in Digby on January 6, 1958. Being in a somewhat weakened condition it was trapped and kept in captivity until the following spring, during which period it fed almost wholly on sunflower seeds.

Indigo Bunting These spring visitors, unquestionably transported here by adverse weather conditions, continue to show up, usually in late April. One was seen at Sherbrooke, Guysborough Co., on April 9, 1958, by John C. Hingley. Four other records are: one at Allendale, Shelburne Co., on April 25, 1958, seen by Warren Allen; one at Big Tusket Island, Yarmouth Co., on May 24, 1958, reported by I. J. Pothier; one at Bon Portage Island, on May 18 and 20, 1958, as reported by H. F. Lewis; and one near Digby on May 15, 1958, reported by Heath Gray.

Dickcissel From Bon Portage Island, Mrs. Richardson reports Dickcissels: one on August 28, 1957, and four on September 20 and 21, 1958. At Port Wallis, Halifax Co., Mrs. F. White saw one on September 28, 1958. She mentions that its black throat patch had a faded or clouded appearance.

Evening Grosbeak Though common enough in late fall and winter, summer records still continue to arouse interest. On July 3, 1958, William Ryan of Silver Springs, Maryland, saw a female at Ingonish Beach, Cape Breton, and on July 28 of that year, Moreton R. Bates saw a male there. The first breeding record for the Province was made at Ingonish Beach, when Sherman Bleakney, of Wolfville, saw several bob-tailed young there that were barely able to fly, about August 1, 1958.

Ipswich Sparrow One seen on January 26, 1958, at Martinique Beach, Halifax Co., by C. R. K. Allen. Winter records of this bird though not rare, as decidedly uncommon.

Vesper Sparrow Stewart Whitman reports having seen one at Gordon Troop's feeding station at Upper Granville, Annapolis Co., on December 16 and 26, 1958.

Lark Sparrow A female was collected on August 9, 1958, at Upper Granville, Annapolis Co. This specimen was sent to the writer by Gordon Troop for identification and subsequently was presented to the National Museum.

Oregon Junco The first record for the Province of this western species was a bird seen at Mrs. B. C. Silver's feeding station at Bedford, Halifax Co., on January 8, 1959. It was observed, at leisure, from a distance of five feet (through a window) by C. R. K. Allen and L. B. Macpherson. This species has been expected here because it turns up, in winter, oc-

casionally, in the N.E. United States where bird-watchers are considerably more common than they are here. The same bird, or another one, was reported on January 9 and 10 at the feeding station of Mrs. Frank White, Port Wallis, Halifax Co. The bird observed in both cases was so strikingly marked that there was no possibility of confusing it with an immature Slate-coloured Junco.

Swamp Sparrow One was seen by H. F. Lewis at West Middle Sable, Shelburne Co., on December 25, 1957, and numbers were seen throughout the winter in the East Lawrence-town area, Halifax Co., by C. R. K. Allen and L. B. Macpherson, one of which was collected on February 15. The specimen was forwarded to W. Earl Godfrey, Curator of Ornithology at the National Museum, who classified it as belonging to the northern race *Melospiza georgiana ericypta*.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 1958

This was the fourth consecutive year that the Nova Scotia Bird Society sponsored Christmas Counts in the Province and each year the number of members taking has grown. Four years ago 33 observers participated in counts in 8 areas. This year 17 usable counts were submitted as a result of the efforts of 73 people, a most gratifying indication of the growth of our Society.

Neither during the fall nor early winter were rarities and strays at all common, possibly because there were no widespread storms during migration and because wintry conditions began so early. Nevertheless 84 species were noted on the counts, only six less than in the record year of 1957.

Baddeck, Victoria Co., Dec 31, 1958. 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Base point observer's home: town of Baddeck and St. Patrick's Channel; wood roads. Snow on ground, inshore waters frozen. Wind N, light. Temp. 6°. Three observers. Party hours 4. Party miles 12, by foot and car.

Black Duck, 2; Common Merganser, 4; Great Black-backed Gull, 2; Herring Gull, 10; Blue Jay, 4; Common Raven, 12; Common Crow, 20; Black-capped Chickadee, 10; Starling, 30; House Sparrow, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 1; Purple Finch, 5. Species identified, 12; individuals counted, 101. Beth MacRae, Gladys MacRae, Katherine MacRae.

Springville, Pictou Co., Jan. 1, 1959. 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Base point Kenney residence: farmland and woodlots along the East River in Plymouth and Stellarton. Overcast. Lakes and rivers frozen, ground covered with 6-in. to 2-ft. of snow. Wind N-NW, light. Temp. 20°. Four observers in 2

parties. Party hours 9 (on foot 7, by car 2). Party miles 39 (on foot 9, by car 30).

Black Duck, 1; Common Merganser, 11; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 5; Herring Gull, 57; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 13; Common Raven, 5; Common Crow, 31; Black-capped Chickadee, 39; Boreal Chickadee, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Robin, 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Starling, 48; House Sparrow, 35; Common Grackle, 1; Purple Finch, 6; Slate-colored Junco, 4. Species identified, 22; individuals counted, 275. (Additional species seen in area during count period: Ring-necked Pheasant, Cowbird, Snow Bunting.) Fred Kenney (compiler), Margaret Kenney, Terence Lindsay, Cecily Tod.

New Glasgow, Pictou Co., Dec. 29, 1958. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Base point MacDonald Street: Big Gut and surrounding woods, Trenton and New Glasgow town dumps, Trenton airport, Abercrombie and Alma. Overcast. 6-in. snow, deeper in woods. Only open water in strong current at Big Gut. Wind light. Temp. cold. Two observers. Party hours 6 (on foot 3, by car 3). Party miles 30 (on foot 6, by car 24).

Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 20; Herring Gull, 160; woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 3; Common Raven, 8; Common Crow, 84; Black-capped Chickadee, 8; Boreal Chickadee, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Starling, 121; House Sparrow, 52; Slate-colored Junco, 6. Species identified, 13; individuals counted, 468. (Additional species seen in area during count period: Robin, Song Sparrow.) E. Holdway, Terence R. Lindsay (compiler).

Pictou, Pictou Co., Dec. 23, 1958. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Base point town of Pictou: Harbour, West River, local farmland and woodlots. Cloudy with sunny intervals. Ground hard frozen with 14-in. snow. Sea and rivers completely frozen over. Wind NW, 20 m.p.h. Temp. 24-28°. One observer. Party hours 7 (on foot). Party miles 9.

Pigeon Hawk, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 5; Herring Gull, 78; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 5; Common Crow, 45; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; Starling, 86; House Sparrow, 40; Savannah Sparrow, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 8; White-throated Sparrow, 1. Species identified, 12; individuals counted, 278. (Additional species seen in area during count period: Gray Partridge, Downy Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak.) E. Holdway.

Country Harbour, Guysborough Co., Dec. 28, 1958. 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Base point Country Harbour School: E and W side of Country Harbour. Both sides of harbour were travelled by foot and boat. Clear and cold. 8-in. of snow on

the ground. No ice in the harbour. Wind N-NW, light. Temp. 15-20°. Three observers, 5 feeding stations watched. Party hours 8 (on foot 6, by boat 2). Party miles 10 (on foot 9, by boat 1).

Common Loon, 5; Canada Goose, 20; Black Duck, 300; Common Goldeneye, 200; Oldsquaw, 50; Common Eider, 100; Common Merganser, 25; Red-breasted Merganser, 10; ducks unidentified, 150; Bald Eagle, 1; hawks unidentified, 5; Spruce Grouse, 10; Ruffed Grouse, 25; Ring-necked Pheasant, 3; Common Snipe, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 10; Herring Gull, 20; Great Horned Owl, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Gray Jay, 3; Blue Jay, 6; Common Raven, 10; Common Crow, 25; Black-capped Chickadee, 50; Boreal Chickadee, 24; Robin, 2; Starling, 75; House Sparrow, 20; Slate-colored Junco, 20; Tree Sparrow, 5; Song Sparrow, 1; Snow Bunting, 25. Species identified, 30; individuals counted, 1205. Gordon A. Cook, A. Burns Hodgson (compiler), Clare Hodgson.

Fort Ellis, Colchester Co., Dec. 28, 1958. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Base point observer's home: Highway 2 and side-roads, farms, woods. Overcast, light snow becoming heavy in p.m., river frozen, 10-in. snow. Wind NE, light. Temp. 5° to 15°. One observer. 7½ hours, 7 miles on foot.

Canada Goose, 1; Common Merganser, 160; Bald Eagle, 1; Spruce Grouse, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Herring Gull, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Gray Jay, 2; Blue Jay, 5; Common Raven, 10; Common Crow, 27; Black-capped Chickadee, 25; Boreal Chickadee, 26; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 16; Starling, 4; House Sparrow, 2; White-winged Crossbill, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 2; Song Sparrow, 2; Snow Bunting, 10. Species identified, 20; individuals counted 305. (Additional species seen in area during count period: Sparrow Hawk, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch.) Robert Gibbon.

South Maitland, Hants Co., Dec. 28, 1958. 10-11:30 a.m.; 1-4:00 p.m. Base point village: main road and side roads along Shubenacadie River. 16-in. snow. Wind NW, light. Temp. 22°. One observer. 4½ hrs., 5-mi. (foot).

Ring-necked Pheasant, 2; Herring Gull, 8; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 2; Common Crow, 5; Boreal Chickadee, 5; Brown Creeper, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 2; Snow Bunting, 35. Species identified, 10; individuals counted 64. Roy K. Rhyno.

Port Wallis, Halifax Co., Dec. 27, 1958. 8-11:00 a.m.; 12:30-3 p.m. Settled community and outlying districts of farm and woodland. Fine. Ground covered with 6-8 in. old snow; lakes frozen. Wind nil to light. Temp. 8-28°. Four observers in 2 parties; 2 feeding stations watched. Party hours 5½ (on foot 5, by taxi ½). Party miles 14 (on foot 8, car 6).

Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 25; Common Raven, 4; Common Crow, 27; Black-capped Chickadee, 23; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Robin, 1; Starling, 111; House Sparrow, 149; Cowbird, 2; Am. Goldfinch, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 4; Tree Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 1. Species identified, 15; individuals counted, 354. Ethel Crathorne (compiler), Betty Topple, Florrie White, Frank White.

Cole Harbour-Chezzeetcook, Halifax Co., Dec. 27, 1958. 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Base point Mineville bridge: Eastern Shore Highway, Porter's Lake, Wedge Island, Lawrencetown, Three-fathom Harbour, Seaforth and Chezzeetcook; mixed woods 45%, salt water 30%, fresh water 10%, salt and brackish marsh 10%, farms and settlements 5%. Cloudy in a.m. then sunny, lakes and small inlets frozen, 12-in. snow, visibility over sea poor. Wind NW 10 to 5 m.p.h. Temp. 18 to 25°. Twelve observers in 4 parties. Party hours 38 (on foot 12, by car 26). Party miles 135 (on foot 26, by car 109).

Common Loon, 2; Red-necked Grebe, 1; Horned Grebe, 17; Canada Goose, 290; Mallard, 1; Black Duck, 440; Pintail, 1; Greater Scaup, 150; Common Goldeneye, 64; Bufflehead, 9; Oldsquaw, 36; Common Eider, 17; White-winged Scoter, 5; Common Scoter, 3; Common Merganser, 5; Red-breasted Merganser, 21; ducks unidentified, 370; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Purple Sandpiper, 6; Great Black-backed Gull, 41; Herring Gull, 725; Ring-billed Gull, 4; Black-headed Gull, 18; Thick-billed Murre, 1; Dovekie, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Gray Jay, 8; Blue Jay, 8; Common Raven, 66; Common Crow, 110; Black-capped Chickadee, 44; Boreal Chickadee, 18; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 6; Starling, 220; House Sparrow, 61; Common Grackle, 2; Brown-headed Cowbird, 23; Evening Grosbeak, 1; Pine Grosbeak, 1; White-winged Crossbill, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 85; Tree Sparrow, 4; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 16; Snow Bunting, 8. Species identified, 49; individuals counted, about 2927. (Additional species seen in area during count period: Sanderling, Horned Lark (Redwinged Blackbird.) B. W. Allen, C. R. K. Allen, John Comer, Ronald Dicks, Fred Dobson, Mrs. John W. Dobson, David McCarter, J. A. McCarter, Ian Macpherson, L. B. Macpherson (compiler), H. P. Moffatt, T. F. T. Morland.

Halifax, Halifax Co., Dec. 28, 1958. 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Base point Henry Lake on Old Sambro Road: city, harbour, Northwest Arm, and roads to Herring Cove, Sambro, Prospect and Timberlea; mixed second growth woods, mostly conifer 50%, salt water 15%, open barrens 15%, fresh water 7%, small farms 7%, city and villages 6%. Overcast with much haze in a.m. then snow; lakes and inlets frozen, 12-in. old snow, visibility very poor. Wind nil. Temp. 27 to 30°. Nineteen observers in 7 parties and watching 10 feed-

ing stations. Party hours 28 (on foot 8, by car 20). Party miles 93 (on foot 16, by car 77).

Common Loon, 3; Red-necked Grebe, 2; Horned Grebe, 7; Great Cormorant, 1; Canada Goose, 67; Common Goldeneye, 38; Oldsquaw, 12; Common Eider, 3; White-winged Scoter, 2; Red-breasted Merganser, 4; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Glaucous Gull, 1; Iceland Gull, 7; Great Black-backed Gull, 520; Herring Gull, 4200; Ring-billed Gull, 4; Black-headed Gull, 3; Dovekie, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Horned Lark, 2; Gray Jay, 2; Blue Jay, 24; Common Raven, 6; Common Crow, 42; Black-capped Chickadee, 26; Boreal Chickadee, 2; Mockingbird, 1; Robin, 11; Starling, 7500; House Sparrow, 2500; Redwinged Blackbird, 1; Common Grackle, 5; Brown-headed Cowbird, 70; Evening Grosbeak, 44; Slate-colored Junco, 15; Song Sparrow, 2; Snow Bunting, 7. (Additional species seen in area during count period: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Fox Sparrow.) C. R. K. Allen, Mrs. G. P. Backman, Mrs. E. A. Bell, Mrs. Walter Black, Walter Chute, Mrs. Arthur Coffill, John Comer, Fred Dobson, Mrs. John Doull, Miss Alice Falkenham, Mrs. Eric Grant, R. A. Kanigsberg, Gordon Larkin, L. B. MacPherson (compiler), Mrs. L. B. MacPherson, William Menchions, W. J. Mills, T. F. T. Morland and Mrs. C. L. Torey.

Wolfville, Kings Co., Dec. 27, 1958. Base point Acadia University: west to Kentville, east to Avonport, south to Black River and north to Pereau. Partly clear, partly overcast; 14-in. old snow; visibility excellent. Wind W, light. Temp. 22 - 26°. Ten observers in 4 parties (two at feeding stations). Party hours 18. Party miles 104 (on foot 13, by car 91).

Mallard, 2; Black Duck, 76; Green-winged Teal, 12; Common Goldeneye, 82; Common Merganser, 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 6; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 7; Gray Partridge, 28; Ring-necked Pheasant, 70; Great Black-backed Gull, 32; Herring Gull 1125; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Horned Lark, 25; Blue Jay, 49; Common Raven, 32; Common Crow, 168; Black-capped Chickadee, 10; Boreal Chickadee, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Robin, 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Starling, 300; House Sparrow, 400; Common Grackle, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 68; Purple Finch, 7; Pine Grosbeak, 42; Pine Siskin, 11; American Goldfinch, 27; Slate-colored Junco, 98; Song Sparrow, 6; Lapland Longspur, 12; Snow Bunting, 25. Species identified, 38; individuals counted, 2742. Sherman Bleakney, Ruth Davidson, J. S. Erskine, Mary Forbes, Margaret Miller, Ralph Mosher, Eric Mullen, Ann Sexton, Peter Smith, R. W. Tufts (compiler).

Bridgetown, Annapolis Co., Dec. 26, 1958. 7.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Base point Bridgetown P.O.: farm land in Valley,

wooded areas on North and South Mountain. Bay of Fundy at Hampton. Cloudy in a.m., bright p.m. 6-in. of old snow, river frozen to Tupperville, open beyond. Visibility over the sea very poor. Wind N, 15 m.p.h. Temp. 5 to 15°. Eleven observers in 3 parties (6 feeding stations watched). Party hours 21 (on foot 4, by car 14, by horse 3). Party miles 46 (on foot 5, by car 35, by horse 6).

Great Cormorant, 1; Common Merganser, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Ring-necked Pheasant, 9; Great Black-backed Gull, 15; Herring Gull, 124; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Gray Jay, 1; Blue Jay, 51; Common Raven, 3; Common Crow, 172; Black-capped Chickadee, 20; Boreal Chickadee, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Robin, 3; Starling, 194; House Sparrow, 433; Common Grackle, 4; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2; Evening Grosbeak, 10; Purple Finch, 2; Pine Grosbeak, 3; Vesper Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 7; Tree Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 1; Snow Bunting, 58. Species identified, 29; individuals counted, 1138. (Additional species seen in area during count period: Gray Partridge, Horned Lark, Rusty Blackbird, White-winged Crossbill.) C. S. Bothamley, Mrs. C. S. Bothamley, Alan Fraser, Calder Fraser (compiler), Peter Fraser, Walter Harlow, Louise Harlow, Ruth Little, Roy Whitman, Stewart Whitman, Gordon Troop.

Karsdale, Annapolis Co., Dec. 24, 1958. 7.45 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Base point observers home: north shore of Annapolis Basin, fields and open woods, foot of North Mountain. Clear, 6-in. to 1-ft. of snow, water frozen. Wind NW, light. Temp. 14 to 21°. One observer. 6-hrs., 3½ mi. foot.

Black Duck, 22; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 2; Herring Gull, 53; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 17; Common Crow, 15; Black-capped Chickadee, 13; Boreal Chickadee, 3; Starling, 40; House Sparrow, 10; American Goldfinch, 1; Song Sparrow, 1. Species identified, 15; individuals counted, 181. (Additional species seen in area during count period: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pin Siskin, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting.) Joseph Johnson.

Brier Island, Digby Co., Dec. 29, 1958. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. About half of the island and adjoining coastal waters covered. Clear, ground partly bare, sea calm. Wind E 10 m.p.h. Temp. 37°. One observer. Party hours 6 (on foot 4, by boat 2). Party miles 10 (on foot 4, by boat 6).

Common Loon, 11; Red-necked Grebe, 3; Horned Grebe, 7; Great Cormorant, 59; Black Duck, 16; Common Goldeneye, 46; Bufflehead, 3; Oldsquaw, 117; Harlequin Duck, 3; Common Eider, 70; White-winged Scoter, 26; Surf Scoter, 4; Common Scoter, 2; Common Merganser, 30; Red-breasted Merganser, 7; ducks unidentified, 16; hawks unidentified, 6;

Ring-necked Pheasant, 7; Purple Sandpiper, 76; Great Black-backed Gull, 29; Herring Gull, 136; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Dovekie, 9; Black Guillemot, 40; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Blue Jay, 4; Common Raven, 9; Common Crow, 52; Black-capped Chickadee, 15; Boreal Chickadee, 9; Robin, 17; Starling, 70; House Sparrow, 100; Common Grackle, 20; Evening Grosbeak, 2; Common Redpoll, 13; Pine Siskin, 22; American Goldfinch, 7; White-winged Crossbill, 20; Savannah Sparrow, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 4; White-throated Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 3; Snow Bunting, 17. Species identified, 42; individuals counted, 1120. (Additional species seen in area during count period: Great Blue Heron, Redwinged Blackbird.) Wickerson Lent.

Liverpool, Queens Co., Dec. 26, 1958. 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Base point Park St., Liverpool: town and estuary of Mersey River. Clear. 1-ft. of snow. Estuary frozen above strong tidal area. Temp. 12°. Wind NW, 15 m.p.h. One observer (1 feeding station). Hours 6. Miles 2.

Black Duck, 1; Common Goldeneye, 17; Bufflehead, 2; Great Black-backed Gull, 1; Herring Gull, 7; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 4; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; Starling, 27; House Sparrow, 75; Common Grackle, 2; Cowbird, 17; Slate-colored Junco, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 3. Species identified, 16; individuals counted, 167. (Additional species seen in area during count period: Common Crow, Robin, Redwinged Blackbird.) R. S. Johnson.

West Middle Sable, Shelburne Co., Dec. 27, 1958. 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Base point West Middle Sable schoolhouse: West Middle Sable to Hemmeon Head and Matthews Lake; mixed woods, largely coniferous 57%, ocean shore 10%, sheltered brackish water 10%, sand beach 8%, scattered rural community 15%. 96% cloudy; snow nil at ocean to 10-in. inland, lakes and shallow arms of sea frozen. Wind N to W, up to 5 m.p.h. Temp. 7-28°. Four observers (1 party, 3 feeding stations). Hours on foot, 9½. Miles 15.

Common Loon, 2; Red-necked Grebe, 4; Horned Grebe, 3; Great Cormorant, 52; Canada Goose, 52; Black Duck, 300; Greater Scaup, 110; Common Goldeneye, 28; Bufflehead, 21; Oldsquaw, 5; Common Eider, 16; Common Merganser, 2; Red-breasted Merganser, 23; Great Black-backed Gull, 8; Herring Gull, 225; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Horned Lark, 4; Gray Jay, 7; Blue Jay, 13; Common Raven, 2; Common Crow, 26; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; Winter Wren, 1; Starling, 47; House Sparrow, 20; Redwinged Blackbird, 3; Brown Headed Cowbird, 10; Slate-colored Junco, 12; White throated Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 2. Species identified, 30; individuals counted, 1008. (Additional species seen in area during count period: Common Snipe, Downy Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Robin, Tree Sparrow, Snow Bunting.) Betty Dingwall, Harrison F. Lewis (compiler), Laura N. Lewis, Mrs. Cecil Thompson.

Museum Hours

Science exhibits, office and library, Spring Garden Road, Halifax, N. S.

MONDAY to SATURDAY, inclusive 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

THURSDAY EVENINGS 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Historical Exhibits, Citadel Hill Branch

EVERY DAY, including Saturday and Sunday.....9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Copies of each number of the Newsletter are available at the Museum at 10c each.