

Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Fall 2009

(The Birds of Summer)

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Executive 2008-2009



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

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Cover Photos: (**Upper left**) The nest of NORTHERN PARULA (this one in late June at Apple R., Cum.) inside a tightly bound Usnea lichen, is a pretty distinctive thing, yet seems to fool would-be nest predators. [Photo Kathleen Spicer] (**Center right**) Only rarely are nests of RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD discovered, and what's more photographed. This female was digiscovered as she sat on her lichen-covered nest, July 14 in Clairmont PP, Kings. [Photo Blake Maybank] (**Lower left**) We've all heard of the ability of ATLANTIC PUFFIN to carry several fishes in its seemingly clumsy bill. This one, July 10 off the Bird I., Vic., was managing at least three good-sized ones. [Photo Paul Murray]

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS

FALL 2009

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First, an erratum. The two photos of the Loggerhead Shrike in the previous issue (on page 23) were incorrectly attributed. The left-hand photo was courtesy of Don MacNeill, while the other was captured through the lens of Dave Currie. Our apologies to both photographers.

I hope Society members are enjoying this vigorous autumn. Christmas Bird Counts are not far away, nor is the winter birding season [I only mention this now as this is the last issue you'll receive before the snow flies.] You can follow the progress of Winter Birding at the following web site: tinyurl.com/nswinter

But although winter is nearly upon us this issue focuses on the birds of summer, and therefore it is appropriate to pass along the following nature notes from Bird Studies Canada.

“It’s time for a report from the beaches of Nova Scotia on our monitoring and protection efforts for endangered Piping Plovers. The good news is that the number of breeding pairs in Nova Scotia was higher in 2009 than in previous years. Staff, volunteers, and partners reported 51 breeding pairs at the end of the summer on 27 beaches. This number was up from 44 pairs in 2008, 45 in 2007, and 40 in 2006. How did they do? Two simple words: so-so. About half of the nests hatched, yielding an average of 1.7 fledglings per pair – just above the regional recovery target of 1.65 fledglings per pair. Flooding was a major problem for most regions in Atlantic Canada. In NS alone, a large storm in late June scoured beaches with immense force and caused nine pairs to lose nests.”

“Researchers from the Massachusetts Audubon Society and the USGS (Patuxent Wildlife Research Centre) were thrilled to find 12 Canadian-hatched Roseate Terns at staging sites in Cape Cod, MA, over a 38-day period from August 14-September 21, 2009. The birds, which were banded as chicks in 2009 on Country Island, Nova Scotia by staff of Environment Canada’s Canadian Wildlife Service, each sported colour bands which made them highly visible amongst thousands of terns staging at eight different sites in Cape Cod. These observations are critical to improving the understanding of staging behaviour and migratory timing of this Endangered seabird.”

Please support our knowledge of birds by participating in as many Christmas Bird Counts as you can manage. All are welcome, regardless of experience or skill level. Information on the various counts across the province, including dates and compilers’ contact info, may be found at: tinyurl.com/ns-cbcs

I wish you enjoyable and safe winter birding.

Blake Maybank

Editor



We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program, toward our mailing costs.



President's Corner

As I write this people are settled back into the normal routine of autumn. Our feathered friends, especially those that nest to the north of us, are doing the same, although in many cases they have a much longer trip. Still, it must be nice to be able to fly without having to deal with security screening and knowing that you will not have to wait at your destination for your baggage.

While some people plan trips and vacations specifically for birding, I expect that many of you are more like me. You take a trip for one reason or another, but binoculars and a field guide come along for those unexpected moments in any trip, where you see something you may not have seen before. The last four airports that I landed in have all been quite consistent; the first bird I saw was a House Sparrow! It is when one gets out into the more natural areas that one hopes to see something of interest. That was the case with my recent trip to Cypress Hills, Saskatchewan for an astronomy meeting, and a family visit to Airdrie and Banff, Alberta.

While I am sure that there are more exotic bird species to be found in mature lodgepole pine forest, all that I was able to see and hear on several hikes were Northern Flickers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Black-capped Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatches. Still, I was able to see and photograph a number of new species, which was when I discovered another thing which had not occurred to me. How far west do "eastern" birds come? I got quite excited by what I assumed was a Western Kingbird, having forgotten from several years ago that Western Kingbirds have a lot of yellow, only to find that the "Eastern Kingbird" has a range that stops at the Rocky Mountains. Given the number of raptors that I saw, it was hard enough to find out what they were without also discovering that Red-tailed Hawks are also quite common in the area! At least that saved me from having to think: now if I was back home, I would say that looked like a Red-tail... I wonder what it really is.

The active season for the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas has also come to a close. The fourth year has been an especially productive one for me personally. I have discovered just how much more one can see in July compared with earlier months, especially in terms of confirming breeding evidence. It also proves the point that you never know what you will come across by accident if you do not get outside and look, and sometimes only looking up can cause you to miss things. I was watching a small flock of swallows flying high over a field near a house and finally determined that they were cliff swallows. It was only when I was about to leave and across at the house that I noticed that there were cliff swallow nests under the eaves on all four sides of the house! A closer look soon showed an immature one sticking its head out, looking at a world it would soon get to explore.

Point counts are also something I have tried for the first time. and for those who have felt that you may not be up to the task, I would ask you to give it a try in the coming year. Even if you decide not to, you may find, as I have, that the point count locations I want to thank all of the members of the Society who have been working on this project.

There are members of the Society who may wish to volunteer for the Society's board, but are unable to as they do not live in the Halifax area. I am hoping to put together a list of projects that the board will be working on to which people could contribute without needing to be in the Halifax area. I hope that will make for more people becoming actively involved, which is always good for any organization.

Patrick Kelly

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Ulli Höger – Membership Secretary

Ulli was born and raised in Germany. As he became interested in flora, fauna, and exploring nature from early childhood, it was only logical for him to study biology at the University of Frankfurt. As an undergraduate student he became increasingly interested in ornithology and birding, and the latter activity became a more serious recreational activity for Ulli while he was working on his Ph.D. thesis. During the Fall of 1996 part of his thesis studies in invertebrate neuroscience brought him to Dalhousie University in Halifax. After graduating from the University of Frankfurt in February 1998 Ulli returned to Halifax to work as a research scientist in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at Dalhousie.

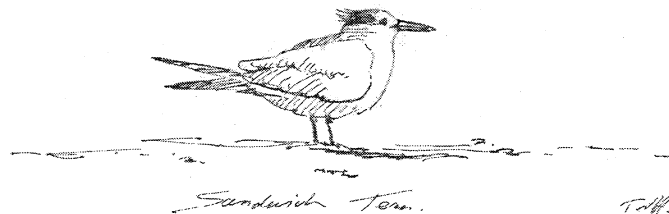
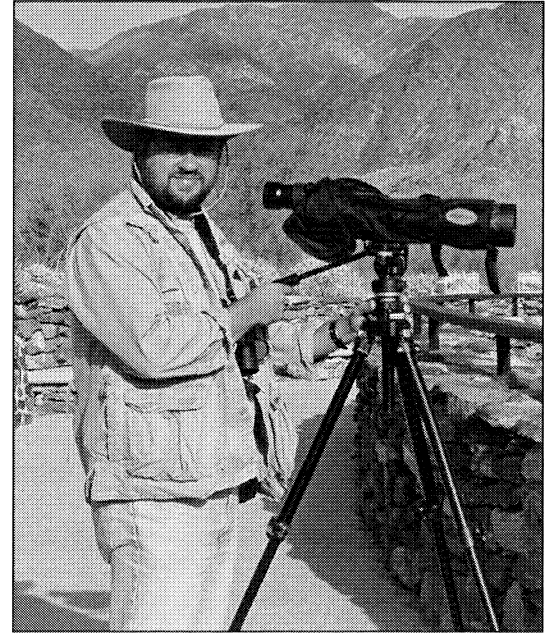
After his arrival Ulli lost no time doing some checking into birding in Nova Scotia. Via the internet he had heard about a Brown Shrike, but it left the area before he got a chance to see it. Ulli soon joined the Nova Scotia Bird Society and for his first field trip he jumped into a car with two other birders who had offered him a ride just a few days before at the monthly NSBS meeting. They turned out to be the trip leader, Ian McLaren, and Blake Maybank. Birding started at Martinique Beach and continued long after the official end of the trip with Ian and Blake giving him the “tour”. Ulli describes his first field trip experience as the perfect example of the hospitality and willingness to go the extra mile for guests and visitors that is typical of Nova Scotia in general and of its birding community in particular. Looking back on trips that took him to remote parts of Pictou county and offshore to Seal Island, Ulli recommends field trips led by our enthusiastic and knowledgeable field trip leaders as unique opportunities to explore the province and to get to know fascinating, little-known birding hot spots, often to areas that most native Nova Scotians don’t even know exist!

Ulli describes himself as a non-listing birder. Rather than chase after rarities for the next “tick” he prefers to spend time watching and observing birds and their behaviour - the biologist’s approach to birding? Next to birding, wildlife photography is his other favorite pastime. Here, as Ulli explains, the knowledge of bird behavior and habits acquired as an observant birder have tremendous value in anticipating the next frame worth taking. Hummingbirds and shorebirds are two of his favourite groups of birds, and you can often find Ulli at such places as Hartlen Point looking through his scope or his camera.

Ulli joined the Executive in 2007 as the Membership Secretary, and has done an outstanding job – streamlining the position and offering valuable perks to the members. He has more great ideas he’d like to introduce so watch for changes in the near future!

Ulli’s website is <http://www.dunlin.ca>, where he displays many of his fine photos.

Suzanne Borkowski
Past President, NSBS





FINE FOCUS

Sighting of an Unusual Petrel off Lunenburg

By Roy John

July 4, 2009, 1200-1400 Hrs.

Introduction

I recently participated in a mammal study in Nova Scotia under Chris Newman and Christina Buesching, researchers from the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit of Oxford University's Zoology Department. On Saturday 4 July 2009 we had a day off and became tourists. The group went to Lunenburg. As I had been to Lunenburg many times I opted for the 11:30 whale-watching cruise. I did not expect much, but the captain, Walter Flower, said there were lots of shearwaters about. Indeed we ran into a few flocks as soon as we got offshore.

Next we saw a Leach's Storm-Petrel as it flew close to the bow. A little later we saw a second Leach's Storm-Petrel. Then another petrel appeared, but it was flying in a more or less straight line. I was puzzled until I thought of a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel. The captain, who had seen the bird and thought it odd asked me what it was and I told him I thought it was a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel. I could not think of any other species that flew so straight. Next we saw two more Leach's and then the odd petrel appeared again. This time I concentrated on taking photographs. The captain asked me to explain the flight pattern differences. We then saw another Leach's Storm-Petrel and we both watched how it flew. We did the same with another Leach's. The odd petrel re-appeared for a third time and we observed its contrasting flight. Later we saw a small group of Wilson's Storm-Petrel and compared their flight to the other petrels.

Please note this was a whale watching cruise, but the captain tried to accommodate me as much as possible, bearing in mind the other 15 passengers.

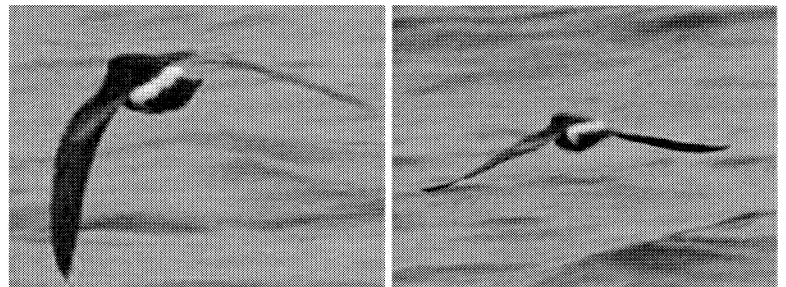
Description

The unknown petrel was about the same size as Leach's SP, but a lot darker, and this made it seem bigger at first. It was very dark blackish with only a trace of a carpal bar. The underwings were dark. In the same light the Leach's Storm-Petrel was brown and the wing bar was clearly visible. The rump was a straight band of pure white with no dividing line or curve, and not as extensive as a Wilson's Storm Petrel. The head and bill were blackish and contiguous in colour with the body. The tail had only a weak indentation and the feet were not visible.

The flight was remarkably straight for a petrel. The bird interspersed flapping flight with shearwater-like glides on down-bent wings. It was quite unlike the erratic Leach's Storm-Petrel or the fluttery flight of the Wilson's Storm-Petrel. It only changed direction after long straight runs and that made the bird look different immediately.

Conditions

The day was bright with a light overcast and a distant haze. The sea was calm with about a 1 m. swell.



These hastily obtained images, taken July 4 off Lunenburg and not yet judged by the Birds Records Committee, are first being considered, along with a description, by some seabird experts. These may be of our first thus-confirmed **BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL**. This species (possibly more than one involved) breeds on the Azores and Cape Verde Is., and turns up regularly well off the coast of s.e. U.S.A., and rarely n. off New England. The photos show its gliding fashion on somewhat bowed wings, its dark colour, pure white rump, relative lengths of parts of the wing, and lack of foot projection beyond the tail – all possibly field marks of the species. [Photo Roy John]

Equipment

10 x 43 Elite binoculars
Canon EOS D camera with 400 mm IS lens

Previous Experience with the species

I have seen Band-rumped Storm-Petrel off the central U.S. coast on pelagic trips.

I have seen Wilson's Storm-Petrel all over the world's oceans, probably in the hundreds of thousands in total.

I have seen Leach's Storm-Petrel in the Pacific and Atlantic many times and probably in the tens of thousands.

Other pelagic bird species seen on the trip

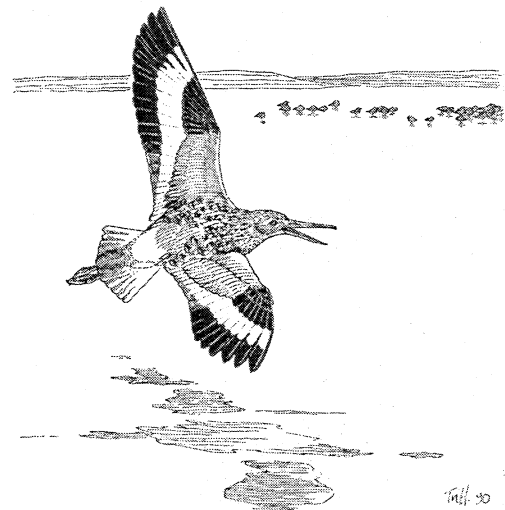
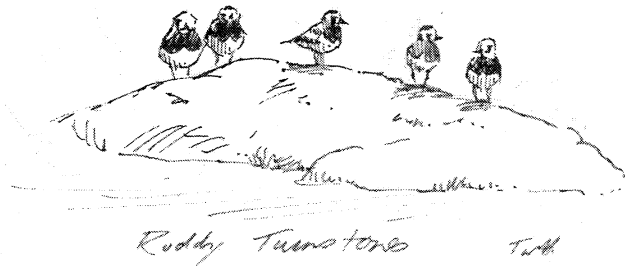
Northern Fulmar	Great Black-backed Gull
Greater Shearwater	Black-legged Kittiwake [3 nests]
Sooty Shearwater	Common Tern
Manx Shearwater	Arctic Tern
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Razorbill
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Black Guillemot
Northern Gannet	Atlantic Puffin
Herring Gull	No whales!

Discussion

After returning to the research centre in Cherry Hill I consulted the only bird book in the library, *Peterson's Eastern Guide*. The information in this guide is Spartan for Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, but it appeared to confirm my thoughts. I tried unsuccessfully to call Ian McLaren and then reached Eric Mills. I gave him an oral account and when he said it would be a first record I promised to send him and Ian a written account.

When I reached Ottawa and after I had written the above account I consulted *Seabirds of the World* by Peter Harrison, and *Sibley's Guide to the Birds*. I compared the information to my photographs and noted another characteristic, "the weak carpal bar does not reach leading edge of forewing" [Sibley] and this shows up in one photograph. My conclusion is that it was a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel [*Oceanodroma castro*].

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Resurrecting Nova Scotia's First Cinnamon Teal

By Ian McLaren, Eric L. Mills, and Stuart Tingley

Observations

In the morning of 2 Sept. 1983, Mills and Tingley encountered a teal on a small pond on the east side of Seal I. It had probably arrived recently, for it was feeding voraciously and was quite tame. ELM's field notes describe the bird from "luxurious views at 10-20m range."

"Head deep brown, eye-line and crown not contrasting strongly with ground colour of head. No loreal spot, merely a very slight lightening at the base of the bill. Bill very long and wide (the features we noted first, along with head colour and contrast). In front view [bill] notably spatulate, the irregular margins of the upper mandible folding down over the sides of the lower mandible. . . . Back and sides brown, large feathers with wide whitish margins, giving a variegated appearance. Gorget of brown fine streaks, grading into a red-brown belly and breast, not extending as far as the vent (probably iron staining). Wing pattern as in Blue-winged Teal. Blue covert area a clear, cleaner blue, quite vivid when the bird flew to another small pond."

They had with them a copy of Wallace and Ogilvie (1977), and Mills' notes state that the "bird resembled the drawings and photographs in the article showing Cinnamon Teal."

Next day, Mills, Tingley, Bruce Mactavish, and Edgar Spalding watched the bird associating with Blue-winged Teal on the island's largest pond. Mills noted, in comparison with the Blue-wingeds, its larger size (and that it rode higher in the water), larger bill, and that the "Blue-winged Teal were uniformly sandier (i.e. paler), with paler backs, contrasting caps and eye lines, and conspicuous loreal spots." The bird was also entered Sept. 6 (with a "?" and no further comments) on a checklist by Jamie McLaren and Steve Manuel, but they took no notes.

Mills' descriptions were taken by C.R.K. Allen (1984) as representing "almost certainly a Cinnamon Teal." Allen also noted that the bird had been photographed by Tingley, and that "We hope to have a verdict on the photographs for the next issue." That verdict never came, and probably for that reason the species was not included in Tufts (1986). Re-analysis of the bird strongly supports its identification as a Cinnamon Teal.



Fig. 1. The apparent Cinnamon Teal, Seal I., Sept. 2, 1983. Note the long bill, the lack of whitish chin and loreal spot, and the low contrast of the darker crown with the rest of the head, which is warm brown in the color original. The strongly patterned flanks, have rich-buff feathers with whitish margins, but without conspicuous blackish internal markings on the flanks of a young Blue-winged (insert) on Saxon Pond, Kings, mid-Oct. 2004. [Photo: Stuart Tingley; insert, Richard Stern]

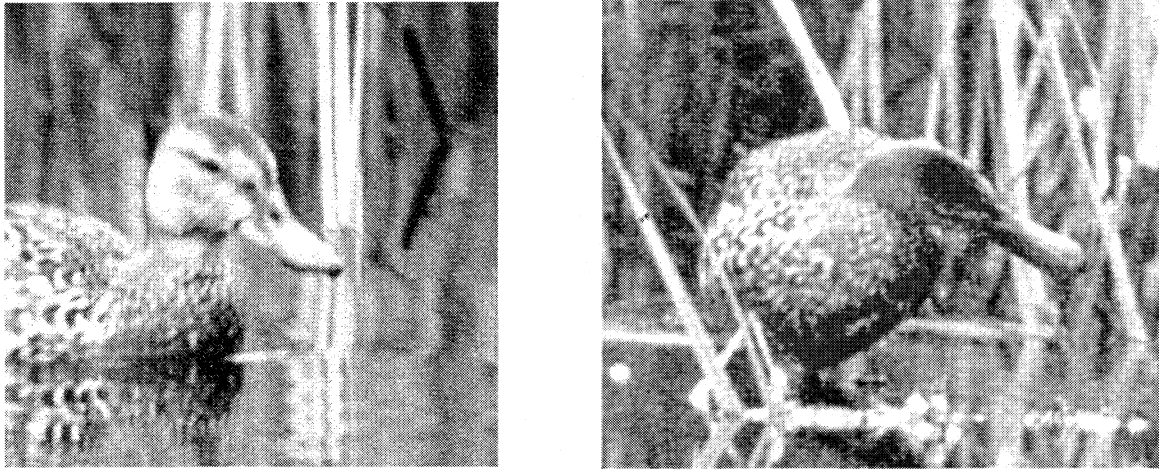


Fig. 2. The bill is clearly distinctly spatulate, with (clear in the left photo) anterior margins of the upper mandible “folding down over the sides of the lower mandible” (per Mills’ field notes). [Photos: Stuart Tingley]

Plumage and Bill Shape

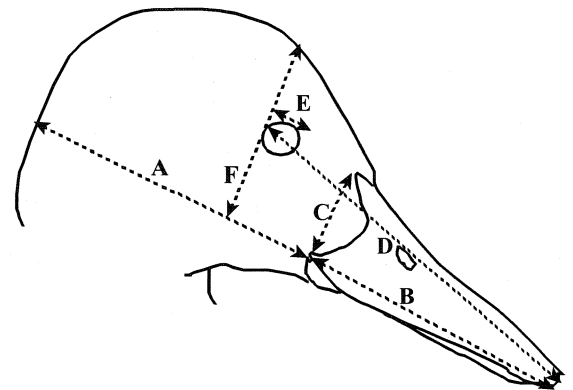
Problems of separating juveniles and Basic-plumaged Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teals have been widely noted (e.g. Jackson 1991, 1992). The latter are generally described and depicted as having grayer faces, more pronounced eye-lines, and whitish throats and more pronounced white loreal spots. At this time of year, either species should be largely in Basic plumage. We believe that the Seal I. bird was not an ad. male in Definitive Basic (“eclipse”) plumage: its plumage was not rufous-tinged (except possibly from iron-staining ventrally); and its dark eye, which is thought to become orange or scarlet by age eight weeks (Palmer 1976), showed no hint of red in any of the photographs. The relatively strong eye-line of the Seal I. bird may be a retained feature from the immediately prior Juvenal plumage; if so, the bird is probably in Basic I plumage. Its large size Sibley (2000) states that the female Blue-winged Teal’s sides are “more patterned” and the Cinnamon “plainer,” and depicts blackish marks or chevrons immediately inside the pale outer margins of the flank feathers of the latter. The detailed description of Basic I male Cinnamon Teal in Gammonley (1996) states: “Flank feathers large and broad compared to Juvenal, with pale margins and well-defined internal tan zones on dark base” (i.e., “dark base” not exposed?). Rohwer et al. (2002) detail the Basic I male Blue-winged Teal as having “Side and flank feathers brownish gray, with pale tan or whitish edges and internal markings.” This seems confirmed by the comparison with the flanks of Blue-winged Teal in Fig. 1. Basic I females in both accounts are said to be similar to Basic I males. The bill seems very long in profile, and distinctly spatulate (Fig. 2), approaching Northern Shoveler bill in appearance.

Despite apparent matches of plumage and bill, some caution is called for. Cinnamon Teals are said by Palmer (1976) to “have a wider range of individual variation in coloring than many of our other waterfowl species.” Furthermore, although some experts in western U.S. and elsewhere agreed that colour images of the Seal I. teal most resembled Cinnamon Teal, none was willing to offer a definitive opinion. Accordingly, we attempted to gain insight from measurements of photos of the two species.

Head Measurements

The analysis required published and web photos of heads of the two species in full profile (like Fig. 1, but not Fig. 2) and with good resolution in enlarged prints (not always possible with standard 72 d.p.i. web photos). We used 19 such photos of Blue-winged (12 fem., 7 male) and 27 of Cinnamon Teal (18 fem., 9 male). From these photos and Fig. 1 (much enlarged), we obtained the following dimensions.

We then used these ratios to assess differences in shape of the heads and bills of the two species. For example, the relative height of the bill can be expressed as the ratio of C/B or $C/(A+B)$, where $A+C$ = head length from bill tip. Relative width of the eye can be expressed as a ratio of the total head plus bill, $C/(A+B)$, or of head length alone, C/A . For technical reasons, these ratios had to be first transformed (as arcsine square roots) before being compared between species. A routine statistical procedure (stepwise discriminant analysis) was then used to select those transformed ratios that best distinguished the two species. In combination, the various ratios correctly classified 17 of 19 Blue-winged and 23 of 27 Cinnamon Teals. The most important of these ratios turned out to be relative head height ($F/[A+B]$), relative bill length ($C/[A+B]$), and relative eye length ($E/[A+B]$). Most importantly, based on these measurements the



Seal Island teal, entered in the analysis as a third, unknown category, was selected as having a 80.2% probability of being a Cinnamon Teal, and only a 19.8% probability of being a Blue-winged Teal, and it was most similar in the selected measurements to males of the former species.

Conclusion

We believe that the combination of plumage features and head and bill shape strongly support the identification of the Seal I. bird as a Cinnamon Teal, and probably a male in Basic I plumage. There is no other fully documented occurrence of the species in Nova Scotia, although one ad. male late September through early October 1999, in the estuary behind Daniels Hbr., C.S.I., Shelburne, was thought to be of wild origin (McKenna 2000). Ad. males have strayed occasionally as far east as Rimouski, QC, and New Brunswick, but Basic-plumaged birds and Alternate-plumaged females are more likely to be overlooked.

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This RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD was “stopped cold” at a private hummingbird “sanctuary” on S. Mountain, *Ann*. It is probably adult female (no buff feather edging or cinnamon tones below), which tend to migrate earlier than young-of-the-year. [Photo Ulli Hoeger]



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

3 Fathom Hbr = Three Fathom Harbour, *HRM*
 ad. = adult
 alt. = alternate plumage, ie, breeding plumage
 APBS = Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, *Cumberland*
 Ann. Royal Marsh = Annapolis Royal Marsh, *Annapolis*
 Bch = beach
 Belleisle = Belleisle Marsh, *Annapolis*
 BBS = Breeding Bird Survey
 BPI = Bon Portage Island, *Shelburne*
 Brier I. = Brier Island, *Digby*
ca. = *circa*, ie, approximately
 CBC = Christmas Bird Count
 CBHNP = Cape Breton Highlands National Park
 CBI = Cape Breton Island
CBRM = *Cape Breton Regional Municipality*
 Cherry Hill = Cherry Hill Beach, *Lunenburg*
 Crystal Crescent = Crystal Crescent Beach P.P., *HRM*
 CSI = Cape Sable Island, *Shelburne*
 f. = female
fide = “according to” or “On the authority of”
 Hartlen Pt = Hartlen Point, *HRM*
HRM = *Halifax Regional Municipality*
 I. = Island
 imm. = immature

juv. = juvenile
 Keji NP = Kejimikujik National Park
 Lawrencetown = West Lawrencetown Marsh, *HRM*
 m.obs. = many observers
 m. = male
 Martinique = Martinique Beach Provincial Park, *HRM*
 nd = no details, ie, unconfirmed by documentation
 NHS = National Historic Site
 NSMC = Nova Scotia Migration Count
 o-w = over-wintered
 P.P. = Provincial Park
 Pen. = Peninsula
 ph. = photographed
 PPP = Point Pleasant Park, *HRM*
 pr = pair
 R. = River
 Seal I. = Seal Island, *Yarmouth*
 SP = Sewage Ponds
 thr. = throughout the season
 tr. = trail
 Uniacke = Uniacke Estate Museum Park, *Hants*
 var.obs. = various observers
 w. = winter

Waterfowl

By John Belbin

No fewer than seven NORTHERN SHOVELERS were seen in Annapolis Royal by BLM. They are becoming regulars in that area.

A single RUDDY DUCK showed up in L’Ardois Richmond.

A large group of COMMON EIDERS composed of 11 females with 78 young seen off Eastern Passage (and other large crèches were reported), which suggests they had a successful breeding season.

Canada Goose

Jun 4	Nictaux, <i>Ann.</i>	2ad, 4imm	SLH
Jul 8	Otter Brook Marsh, <i>Col.</i>	50	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 11	Margaree Hbr, <i>Inv.</i>	100	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Wood Duck

Jun 15	Margaretsville DU, <i>Ann.</i>	2	PBG
Jun 19	Moose River, <i>HRM</i>	1m	CHP
Jul 8	Otter Brook Marsh, <i>Col.</i>	3	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 16	Ann. Royal Marsh	15	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Gadwall

Jun 7	Ann. Royal Marsh	4	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 14	Masons Pond, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH

American Wigeon

Jul 12	APBS		JAH
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Jul 23	New Minas DU, <i>Kings</i>	several	RBS
American Black Duck			
Jun 9,10	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	2, 11	DMW
Jul 14	Masons Pond, <i>Lun.</i>	6	JAH
Jul 16	Ann. Royal Marsh	20+	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Mallard			
Jun 26	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	25	Roy John
Jul 14	Masons Pond, <i>Lun.</i>	54	JAH
Jul 23	New Minas DU, <i>Kings</i>	many	JCT
Northern Shoveler			
Jun 7	Ann. Royal Marsh	8	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Northern Pintail			
Jul 14	Masons Pond, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Jul 16	Ann. Royal Marsh	4	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Green-winged Teal

Jul 4	Mooseland, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad, 3 juv	CHP
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Ring-necked Duck

Jun 7	Ann. Royal Marsh	60	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jun 29-Jul 1	Cooks L., <i>Lun.</i>	4, 2, 2	Roy John
Jul 5	Keji NP	2	Roy John
Jul 12	APBS		JAH

Greater Scaup

Jul 12	Freshwater L., CBHNP	2	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
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Common Eider

Jun 9	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	11 f, 78 juv	IAM
Jun 15	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	58	PBG
Jun 26	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	6	Roy John
Jul 2	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	lots	RBS
Jul 3	Lunenburg area	30	Roy John
Jul 7	Gillens Bch, <i>Guys.</i>	lots	Randy Eshbaugh
Jul 11	Louisbourg NHS	30	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 20	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	16	DMW

Surf Scoter

Jul 7	Gillens Bch, <i>Guys.</i>	1	Randy Eshbaugh
Jul 12	Ingonish Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	4	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

White-winged Scoter

Jul 8	Gillens Bch, <i>Guys.</i>		Chris Benesh
Jul 11	Aspy Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	7	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Black Scoter

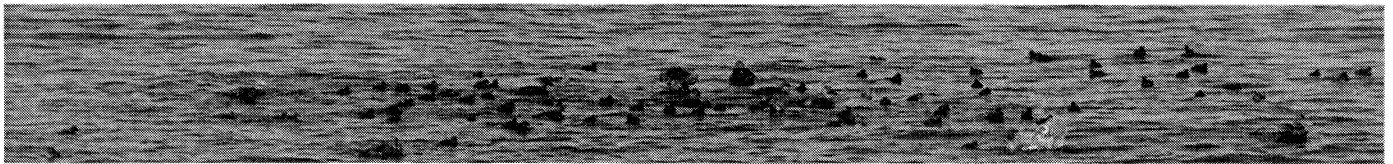
Jun 4	Margaretsville, <i>Ann.</i>	50	RBS
Jun 26	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Roy John
Jul 11	Ingonish Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Common Merganser

Jun 26	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Roy John
Jun 29, 30	Cooks L., <i>Lun.</i>	6, 8	Roy John
Jun 30	Mooseland, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad, 5 juv	CHP
Jul 15	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad, 9 juv	VJH
Jul 17	Kejimikujik L., <i>Ann.</i>	17	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Ruddy Duck

Jun 9	L'Ardoise, <i>Rich.</i>	1m	BID
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This large crèche of 11 COMMON EIDER females and 78 ducklings (suggesting very good hatching and survival rates) was one of several off E. Passage, *HRM*, in early June. [Photo Ian McLaren]

Galliformes

By Ulli Höger

Ruffed Grouse

Jun 9	Advocate, <i>Cumb.</i>	1 + 10	KFS
Jun 14	Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	3	CHP
Jun 16	Porters L., <i>HRM</i>	1 male	CHP
Jul 4	Mooseland, <i>HRM</i>	several	CHP
Jul 12	Freshwater L. tr., CBHNP	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Jul 18	Glenmore Rd., <i>Col.</i>	1 + 5	VJH
Jul 18	Fauxburg Rail-Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	1 drumming	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Spruce Grouse

Jun 16	Herring Cove, <i>HRM</i>	several chicks	Noel Taussig
Jul 8	Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	6	CHP

Loons Through Grebes

By John Belbin

A rare **PACIFIC LOON** was spotted at Port George, with details posted on NatureNS. It was believed to have been a second-summer bird. It could not be relocated.

The observations reported by Roy John were part of an Oxford University field program.

PACIFIC LOON

Jun 28	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	1	FLL, CSS, CLS
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Common Loon

Jun 24-			
Aug 4	Sandy Bottom L., <i>Ann.</i>	2 ad	MCR
Jun 26	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Roy John
Jul 2	Port George, <i>Ann.</i>	5	RBS
Jul 5	Keji NP	1	Roy John
Jul 6	Cooks Lake, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Roy John

Pied-billed Grebe

Jul 8	Otter Brook Marsh, <i>Col.</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 12	APBS		JAH
Jul 16	Ann. Royal Marsh	8 ad, 12 juv	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 18	Wallace Bay, <i>Cumb.</i>	6 ad, 10 juv	NSBS, GAM
Jul 30	Daniels Head, <i>CSI</i>	1	CST

Red-necked Grebe

Jul 8	Gillens Bch, <i>Guys.</i>	1	Chris Benesh
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Tubenoses through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

During the early summer, warm water appears to have moved onto the Scotian Shelf and close to shore, bringing with it unusual numbers of pelagic birds, listed below, notably a few **CORY'S SHEARWATERS**, good numbers of the three regular shearwaters, large numbers of **WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS** and what appears to be Nova Scotia's first **BAND-RUMPED**

STORM-PETREL, watched off Lunenburg with Wilson's and Leach's and photographed. The pictures are now in the hands of those who know this subtropical species well and we await their opinions. For those hoping for a repeat of this observation, as of mid to late August the coastal waters have cooled and pelagics have once again become scarce in nearshore waters of the Scotian Shelf. [Ed. Note – the photo, including Roy John's analysis, is included in the Fine Focus section of this issue.]

Northern Fulmar

June 14	Off Brier I.	3	MIK, FLL
July 15	Off Brier I.	25	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
July 18, 19			
	Off Hartlen Pt	1	MIK, CLS, CSS
July 26	Pearl I., <i>Lun.</i>	1 light	ELM
July 31	Off Brier I.	6	ELM



A NORTHERN FULMAR photographed in late July in the Bay of Fundy, is here caught dancing across the water like a Storm-Petrel. [Photo Paul Comeau]

CORY'S SHEARWATER

July 18	Off Hartlen Pt	2	MIK
July 19	Off Hartlen Pt	3	MIK
July 28	Off Hartlen Pt	2	MIK

Greater Shearwater

June 14	Off Brier I.	8	MIK, FLL
July 1	nr Blandford, <i>Lun.</i>	6	CJF, <i>et al.</i>
July 15	Off Brier I.	200	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
July 18	Off Hartlen Pt	15	MIK
July 19	Off Hartlen Pt	12	CLS, CSS
July 28	Off Hartlen Pt	2	MIK
July 31	Off Brier I.	ca. 100	ELM

Sooty Shearwater

June 7	Off Brier I.	8	ELM
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June 14	Off Brier I.	35	MIK, FLL
July 1	nr Blandford, <i>Lun.</i>	6	CJF, <i>et al.</i>
July 4	Morien Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	2	CAM, ALM
July 5	W. Ironbound I., <i>Lun.</i>	2	ELM
July 15	Off Brier I.	15	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
July 18	Off Hartlen Pt	6	MIK
July 19	Off Hartlen Pt	5	CLS, CSS
July 28	Off Hartlen Pt	14	MIK
July 31	Off Brier I.	ca. 200	ELM

Manx Shearwater

June 14	Off Brier I.	1	MIK, FLL
July 15	Off Brier I.	3	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
July 18	Off Hartlen Pt	1	MIK
July 19	Off Hartlen Pt	2	CLS, CSS
July 28	Off Hartlen Pt	2	MIK

Wilson's Storm-Petrel

June 14	Off Brier I.	Hundreds	MIK, FLL
July 1	Blandford, <i>Lun.</i>	1	CJF, <i>et al.</i>
July 4	Morien Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
July 15	Off Brier I.	30	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
July 18-19	Off Hartlen Pt	1-2	MIK, CLS, CSS
July 26	nr Pearl I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	ELM
July 31	Off Brier I.	ca. 150	ELM

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL

July 4	Off Lunenburg	1 photo	Roy John
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Leach's Storm-Petrel

June 14	Off Brier I.	3	MIK, FLL
July 15	Off Brier I.	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Northern Gannet

June 6	Off Northern Pt., Brier I.	10	ELM
June 7	Off Brier I.	20	ELM
June 17	W. Ironbound I., <i>Lun.</i>	14+	JRH
July 5	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	60	ELM
July 5	W. Ironbound I., <i>Lun.</i>	20	ELM
July 15	Off Brier I.	15	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
July 21	Hartlen Pt	50+	ELM, IAM
July 31	Off Brier I.	ca. 50	ELM

Double-crested Cormorant

June/July	Inner Gull I., <i>HRM</i>	100+ nests	BLM
June/July	Outer Gull I., <i>HRM</i>	20 nests	BLM
June 9-			
July 31	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1-13	DMW
June 17	W. Ironbound I., <i>Lun.</i>	Nesting	JRH
June 19	Gull Rock, <i>Digby</i>	2 nests	ELM

Hérons

By Ulli Höger

LEAST BITTERNs were reported by MIK, FLL, and CLS, from the Amherst area -- this species is the most elusive in the province. [Ed. Note – no details yet provided]. Another rarity reported from several places were **LITTLE EGRETS**. The one reported from Cow Bay/Eastern Passage could be likely the same individual that stayed for an extended period of time – well into August. Reliable reports suggest the presence of two individuals in Cow Bay salt marsh at one point.

American Bittern

Jun 14	Beaverbank, <i>HRM</i>	>1	CLS
Jul 11	APBS	4	JAH

Least Bittern

Jun 20	APBS	2 calling	MIK, FLL, CLS
Jun 20	East Amherst, <i>Cumb.</i>	1 calling	MIK, FLL, CLS

Great Blue Heron

Common and widespread

Great Egret

Jun 2	Albert Bridge, <i>CBRM</i>	1	LEL
Jun 9	Albert Bridge, <i>CBRM</i>	2	Tuma Young
Jul 5	West Berlin, <i>Queens</i>	2	JAH
Jul 25	White Pt., <i>Queens</i>	2	CJF

LITTLE EGRET

Jul 3	CSI	1	JON
Jul 7	Cow Bay marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT

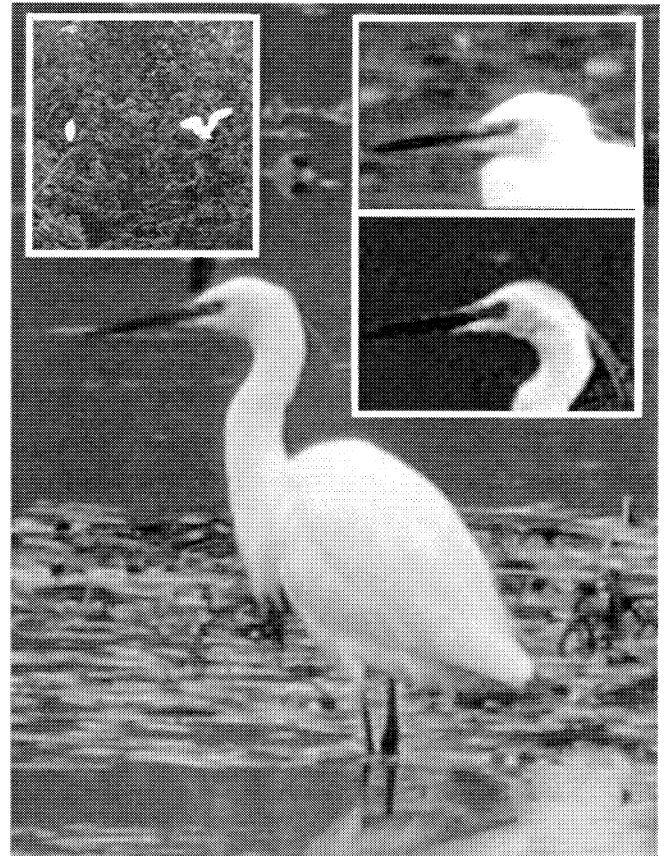
Jul 14	Cow Bay marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1	Marie Reid
Jul 21	Cow Bay marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1-2	HAT
Jul 26	McCormacks Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	David Britton
Jul 28	Cow Bay marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1	several obs.
Cattle Egret			
Jun 8 - 11	Otterbrook, <i>Col.</i>	1	Corinne Redden-Belanger
Jul 4	Cow Bay marsh, <i>HRM</i>	2	Marie Reid
Green Heron			
Jun 4	Brier I.	1	FLL, CSS
Jun 8	Brier I.	1	ELM
Jun 14	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
Jul 5	Eagle Head, <i>Queens</i>	1	Coyler Durnivich
Black-crowned Night Heron			
Jul 26	Riverport, <i>Lun.</i>	2 juv.	<i>fide</i> JAH



An adult CATTLE EGRET in breeding plumage hung around Upper Stewiacke, *Col.*, in early June (here June 11), and gave great opportunities for close-ups and this “action shot.” [Photo Corinne Redden-Bélanger]



Among several juvenile YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS this summer, this one stayed for some time (here July 14) at Sambro, *HRM*. Bill shape and length of legs in crouching birds may not be clear, but in comparison with young, Black-crowned note the smaller and rounder white spots and the pale margins of secondaries, not present in Black-crowned. [Photo Rita Viau]



A combination of photos indicates that two small white herons lingering near Cow Bay, (insert upper left – July 17, far across *HRM*, salt marsh) were indeed both **LITTLE EGRETS**. The complete image is of one seen several times in late July (here July 27) at nearby Eastern Passage, and shows a pale spot at the back of the left lores (also with a hint of reddish breeding colours on the original), similar to the left lores of one digiscoped July 21 on the Cow Bay salt marsh (insert upper right). By contrast a very distant individual photographed much earlier (July 7) on that salt marsh was said by the photographer, and appears in great enlargement (lower right insert), to have all-dark lores, a sign that it wasn't in breeding mode. [Photos: David Britton, with inserts: upper left, Rick Reid; upper right, Hans Toom; lower right, Ian McLaren]

Diurnal Raptors

By Ulli Höger

Summer season is traditionally slow in respect to bird reports. However, here is some very exciting and encouraging news: After years of speculation the first successful nesting of **PEREGRINE FALCONS** was confirmed in our province. Another step in the remarkable recovery of a species, that was recently still listed as endangered. Reliable reports indicate the presence of two downy chicks in the nest earlier in the season, of which at least one successfully fledged. Now let us keep our fingers crossed that this was the first of many more successful nesting seasons to come. To aid the self control of explorative curiosity details about location, observers, and reporters are kept confidential. For the time being Hants county has to suffice. Now, what about those **TURKEY VULTURES**? Where and when will they become breeders in our neck of the woods?

Turkey Vulture

Jun 5	Brier I	10	ELM
Jun 18	Little R., <i>Dig.</i>	1	ELM
Jun 27	Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	1	RAH
Jun 26	Halifax airport, <i>HRM</i>	1	Shawn Hicks
Jul 11	Waverly, <i>HRM</i>	1	JAH
Jul 12	Black Rock, <i>Kings</i>	1	PKE
Jul 14	Digby Neck, <i>Dig.</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 15	Long I., <i>Dig.</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 21	New Salem, <i>Cumb.</i>	8	KFS
Jul 31	Brier I.	1	ELM

Osprey

Common in all suitable habitats.

Bald Eagle

Common in all suitable habitats.

Jul 10	Bird Islands, <i>Vic.</i>	60	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
(read gulls/alcids summary for more info)			

Northern Harrier

Jul 5	West Berlin, <i>Queens</i>	1	JAH
Jul 11	Grand Etang, <i>Inv.</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 14	Marsh Rd., <i>Dig.</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 15	Long I., <i>Dig.</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 16	Port Royal, <i>Ann.</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 23	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	VJH

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Jul 8	Beaver Mtn PP, <i>Ant.</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
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Northern Goshawk

Jun 14	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL
Jun 16	Minesville, <i>HRM</i>	2	CHP
Jul 11	South Mtn, <i>CBHNP</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 12	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Jul 16	Mickey Hill PP, <i>Ann.</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Broad-winged Hawk

Jun 6	Brier I.	1	ELM
Jun 7	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
Jul 14	Clairmont PP, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 15	Long I., <i>Dig.</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

American Kestrel

Jul 28-31	Brier I.	1 female	ELM
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This could be from "Lord of the Rings", but it's only an unattractively disposed **TURKEY VULTURE**, July 21 at New Salem, *Cumb.* [Photo Kathleen Spicer]

Merlin

Jun 23	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1 f. injured	JWW
Jul 12	APBS	1	JAH
Jun 20	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	1 male	JCT
Jul 29	Halifax, <i>HRM</i>	1	CHE

Peregrine Falcon

Jun 7	Seaview Park, <i>HRM</i>	1	ta-boz
Jun 18	Kingsport, <i>Kings</i>	1	PKE
Jun 21	Advocate, <i>Cumb.</i>	4	KFS
Jul 13	Auld's Cove, <i>Ant.</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 20	Bear R., <i>Ann.</i>	1	JWW
Jul 21	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	ELM, IAM
Jul 26	Avonport Penney Bch., <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW

Rails and Cranes

By Ulli Höger

Of interest for atlasers monitoring the Pond Road area in Pubnico could be a report of a **VIRGINIA RAIL** with 3-4 chicks. On the other hand the absence of **AMERICAN COOT** and **COMMON MOORHEN** in the Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary was noted by several observers that visited the area.

Virginia Rail

Jun 20	APBS	several	CLS, FLL, MIK
Jun 29	Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	1 with chicks	RAH
Jul 11	APBS	1	JAH
Jul 18	Wallace Bay, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	GAM
Jun 13	Glenholme Marsh, <i>Col.</i>	1	BLM

Jun 14	Duck L., Beaverbank, <i>HRM</i>	2	CLS
Jun 20	APBS	several	CLS, FLL, MIK
Jul 16	Ann. Royal Marsh	2 ad., 3 juv.	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 18	Wallace Bay, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	GAM
Jul 12	APBS	1	JAH

American Coot

Jul 16	Ann. Royal Marsh	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
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Shorebirds

By Susann Myers

Northbound shorebirds continued to be seen in N.S. into early June, as usual, and non-breeders lingered in typically small numbers. Weather conditions in the central and eastern Canadian Arctic reportedly remained so cold as to considerably delay and even threaten this year's breeding season for shorebirds. The effects on shorebird migration in N.S. were difficult to determine, as so few reports were received this season. Notably, there were none from CB and almost none from CSI, where the largest concentrations of most species occur. Based on the reports that were submitted, however, most migrant species were first reported a week or more later than average. Also, this author noted a more drawn-out, gradual migration than usual. At Three Fathom Hbr., for instance, numbers of adult SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS were constant for several weeks in Jul-August, without the usual late-July peak.

Rarities this season included an **AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER** at Canso. This species is very rare except at CSI and its vicinity. Unfortunately, no reports were received on how the breeding colony at CSI fared this year. JON, with wife Sandra, found an adult **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** with Hudsonian Godwits on CSI July 11-14, and noted its striking white underwings, and long, straight bill with a slight downcurve near the tip. No photos were obtained, however, and if any other observers viewed the bird, none provided any documentation. This is just the second record for the province. A **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** reported at Hartlen Pt. in mid-July was also a very uncommon sighting. Few are found in N.S. at any time of year, and most are seen from late August through November.

small shorebird species

Jul 19	Evangeline Bch., Kings	small flock	<i>fide</i> JCT
Jul 20	Evangeline Bch., Kings	100+	<i>fide</i> JCT
Jul 23-24	Grand Pré, Kings	ca. 1000	<i>fide</i> JCT
Jul 25	Cole Hbr. marsh, HRM	150 peeps	ULH
Jul 26	Penney Bch., Kings	70-80	JWW

Black-bellied Plover

Jun 3	Cow Bay, HRM	12	DHH
Jun 10	Cherry Hill Bch	9	SJF
Jun 18	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM
Jun 20, 28	Cherry Hill.	2, 1	SJF
Jul 9	Cooks Bch., Yar.	1	PRG
Jul 26	Grand Desert, HRM	5	SEM
Jul 28	Cow Bay, HRM	some	HAT
Jul 29	Cherry Hill	1	SJF
Jul 31	Hell Pt., Lun.	5	DAW, JAH
Jul 31	The Hawk, CSI	34	BJS, SIS

Semipalmated Plover

Jul 7	Cow Bay, HRM	12	HAT
Jul 16, 29	Cherry Hill	12, 61	SJF
Jul 20	Cape Sable, Shel.	5	BJS, SIS
Jul 25	Cole Hbr. marsh, HRM	200	ULH
Jul 26	3 Fathom Hbr	190	SEM
Jul 31	The Hawk, CSI	ca. 100	BJS, SIS

Piping Plover

Jun 3	Cow Bay, HRM	pr.	DHH, HEK
Jun 7	Rainbow Haven, HRM	1	DHH
Jun 9	Conrad Bch., HRM	2 ad.	DMW
Jun 13	Crow Neck, Shel.	5	BJS, SIS
Jun 20	Cherry Hill	5 ad., 5 chicks	

Jul 16	Cherry Hill	6 ad., 3 juv.	SJF
Jul 19	Fox Bar, Shel.	2 pr., 1 on nest	

Jul 26	Crow Neck, Shel.	14	GLG
Jul 31	Conrad Bch., HRM	1 ad., 4 juv.	DMW

Killdeer

Jun 3	Cow Bay, HRM	2	DHH
Jul 9	Cooks Bch., Yar.	1	PRG
Jul 10	Cow Bay Marsh, HRM	pr., juvs	HEK
Jul 20	Cape Sable, Shel.	3	BJS, SIS
Jul 29	Cherry Hill	1	SJF

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

Jun 17	Sand Hills PP, Shel.	2	AIS
Jun 24 -			
Jul 20	Canso, Guys.	1	TOK

Spotted Sandpiper

Jun 3	Cow Bay, HRM	2	DHH
Jun 8	Cape Sable, Shel.	1	BJS, SIS
Jun 10	Cherry Hill	2	SJF
Jun 24	Indian Falls, Lun.	3	JAH, DPO
Jul 10	Cow Bay, HRM	pr., juvs.	HEK
Jul 25 - 31	6 locations, mainland	10 total	var. obs.



A sprightly SPOTTED SANDPIPER (self-confirming its name at this season) was photographed July 26 at Cole Hbr. [Photo Gary Myers]

Solitary Sandpiper

Jul 31	Sandy Cove, HRM	1	HAT
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Greater Yellowlegs

Jun 3	Cow Bay, HRM	2	DHH
Jun 5	Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM
Jun 10	Cherry Hill	1	SJF
Jun 14	New Hbr., Guys.	2	SJF
Jul 1	Flat I., Lun.	1 ad.	ELM, et al.
Jul 1	Tangier River, HRM	1	CHP
Jul 5, 12	3 Fathom Hbr	1, 2	SEM
Jul 7	Mooseland, HRM	2 ad., 2 juv.	CHP
Jul 9	Beveridge Rd., Yar.	6	PRG
Jul 11	nr. Big Brook L., Guys.	1, display	KJM
Jul 10 - 31	10 locations, mainland	49	var. obs.
Jul 26	Cole Hbr. Marsh, HRM	100+	PMU

Willet			
Jun 3	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	10+	DHH
Jun 7	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	10+	SEM
Jun 10	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	8	DMW
Jun 10, 20, 28	Cherry Hill	11, 19, 28	SJF
Jun 16	Crow Neck Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	ca. 6	BJS, SIS
Jul	8 locations, mainland	49 total	var. obs.
Jul 5	3 Fathom Hbr	19 ad., 4 juv.	SEM
Jul 18	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	17	JCT
Jul 25	Cole Hbr. Trail, <i>HRM</i>	250-300	ULH
Jul 26	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	ca. 100 Eastern	ELM
Jul 26	3 Fathom Hbr	31 Eastern	SEM
Jul 27	Conrad's I., <i>Lun.</i>	ca. 30 Eastern	ELM
Lesser Yellowlegs			
Jun 27	3 Fathom Hbr	1	PMC, SEM
Jul 5, 12	3 Fathom Hbr	8, 27	SEM
Jul 9 - 31	7 locations, mainland	13	var. obs.
Jul 16	Ann. Royal Marsh	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 26	3 Fathom Hbr	60	SEM
Jul 26	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	25	SEM
Jul 26	W. Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	75	SEM
Whimbrel			
Jul 11 - 31	7 locations, mainland	13 total	var. obs.
Hudsonian Godwit			
Jul 21	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	10	ELM, IAM
BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (description provided) (2nd provincial record)			
Jul 11-14	CSI	1 ad	JON, SAN
Ruddy Turnstone			
Jul 20	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	4	BJS, SIS
Jul 28	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	some	HAT
Jul 31	The Hawk, CSI	4	BJS, SIS
Jul 31	Hell's Pt., <i>Lun.</i>	40	DAW, JAH
Red Knot			
Jul 20	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	1	BJS, SIS
Sanderling			
Apr. 9	Sable I.	350+	ZOL
May 5	Sable I.	40+	ZOL
Jun 3	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	3	DHH
Jul 20	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	ca. 40	BJS, SIS
Jul 26 - 29	4 locations, mainland	22 total	var. obs.
Jul 31	The Hawk, CSI	80	BJS, SIS
Semipalmated Sandpiper			
Jun 8	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	7	BJS, SIS
Jun 10, 28	Cherry Hill	1	SJF
Jul 15	Conrad's I., <i>Lun.</i>	25	JAH
Jul 16	Ann. Royal Marsh	4	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 16, 29	Cherry Hill	50, 160	SJF
Jul 20	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	450	BJS, SIS
Jul 26	Crow Neck, <i>Shel.</i>	20	BJS, SIS
Jul 26	3 Fathom Hbr	55	SEM
Jul 26	W. Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	25	SEM
Jul 29	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	100	RBS
Jul 31	The Hawk, CSI	150	BJS, SIS
Least Sandpiper			
Jul 16	Cherry Hill	51	SJF
Jul 20 - 31	5 locations, mainland	12 total	var. obs.
White-rumped Sandpiper			
Jul 20	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	2	BJS, SIS
Jul 29	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER			
Jul 26	Hartlen Pt.	2	MIK
Stilt Sandpiper			
Jul 18	Hartlen Pt.	1	MIK
Jul 31	Hell Pt., <i>Lun.</i>	1	DAW, JAH



An adult eastern WILLET, one of numbers with young frequenting Cow Bay, *HRM*, in July, is striking in flight, and, also, if you let them get too close to your head. [Photo Hans Toom]

dowitcher species

Jul 12 Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary 1 JAH

Short-billed Dowitcher

Jun 10 Cherry Hill 2 SJF
 Jul 5 3 Fathom Hbr 15 SEM
 Jul 7 Cow Bay marsh, *HRM* ca. 30 HAT
 Jul 9 - 31 7 locations, mainland 180 total var. obs.
 Jul 9 The Hawk, CSI 1100 JON
 Jul 12 3 Fathom Hbr 900 SEM
 Jul 16 Ann. Royal Marsh 14 BLM, *et al.*
 Jul 20 Cape Sable, *Shel.* 2400 BJS, SIS
 Jul 25 Cole Hbr. marsh, *HRM* 2000-2500 ULH
 Jul 26 3 Fathom Hbr 920 SEM
 Jul 26 Grand Desert marsh, *HRM* 250 SEM
 Jul 26 W. Chezzetcook, *HRM* 330 SEM

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER

Jul 18 Hartlen Pt. 1 MIK

Wilson's Snipe

Jun 15 Apple River, *Cumb.* 1 KFS
 Jul 8 Brookfield Marsh, *Col* 1 BLM, *et al.*
 Jul 15 Long I., *Digby* 1 BLM, *et al.*

American Woodcock

Jun 9 Lighthouse Rd., Brier I. 1 ad., fledged young
 ELM
 Jun 13 Whites L., *HRM* 1 f., 2 juvs. J. McFadgen

Red-necked Phalarope

Jul 15 Off Brier I. 8 BLM, *et al.*
 Jul 19 Hartlen Pt. 24 MIK *et al.*
 Jul 28 Hartlen Pt. 80 MIK
 Jul 31 Hell Pt., *Lun.* 5 DAW, JAH

Red Phalarope

Jul 15 Off Brier I. 5 BLM, *et al.*
 Jul 26 Hartlen Pt. 1 MIK
 Jul 28 Hartlen Pt. 25 MIK
 Jul 31 Hell Pt., *Lun.* 13 DAW, JAH

Gulls Through Alcids

By Eric Mills

The **LONG-TAILED JAEGER** (or jaegers) listed below was part of the influx of pelagics accompanying a warm water incursion close to shore during June and early July.

The tour operators who visit the Bird Islands, Victoria Co., CBI, report that the **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES** there (1400 pairs) failed to nest successfully this year and left the colony a month early. The culprits were 60+ **BALD EAGLES**, as BLM said, "loitering about both islands, eyeing the young Kittiwakes and cormorants. This concentration of eagles is most unusual and suggests that their regular fare, larger fish, were not available to them.....The Razorbills did manage to get their young fledged and off the colonies, but as they nest within rock crevices and burrows, they were out of the reach of the eagles.....the eagles are now staking out the entrances to the puffin burrows, preventing the puffins entering to feed their young." This unusual behaviour of the eagles does indeed seem to have been due to lack of fish: the fisheries biologist Peter Comeau tells me that herring and mackerel left the area of the Bird Islands early this year, herring into the Bras d'Or Lakes and mackerel into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, creating a food shortage.

Many tern colonies have been unsuccessful this year, due to cold and wet weather in July, and apparently there was no evidence of **ROSEATE TERN** nesting in the Mahone Bay area. Despite disturbance by a Coast Guard helicopter, the Westhaver Island colony in Mahone Bay did produce some **COMMON TERN** young, and there was some evidence of success by Arctic and Common Terns on the more remote Grassy Island, also in Mahone Bay.

[Ed. note: There were 42 **Roseate Tern** nests on North Brother Island, Yarmouth County, reflecting a continuing decline in nest numbers since 2002, when there were 90 nests. And this is despite the tireless labours of Ted d'Eon and his volunteer assistants, who set nest boxes, control predation, and monitor the colony. There was considerable mortality on North Brother Island of young terns, mostly Common Terns, this year, mostly due to starvation. Roseate Tern chicks seemed to fare better, but it was not possible to get a count of the number of young that fledged. [<http://www.geocities.com/teddeon509/tern09.html>]

The first breeding plumage **DOVEKIE**, found on July 7 in eastern Nova Scotia was a total surprise - but it was soon followed by more in eastern Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and off Brier Island, totalling at least 12 in all. What this tells us is not clear - but my guess is that there has been a breeding failure somewhere, perhaps triggered by lack of food within the normal range of this alcid, the closest part to us being the west coast of Greenland. BLM has reported that the Bird Island tour operator reports that there have been Dovekies off Ciboux Island in summer for several years, including three years ago, two years ago, and in early and mid July this year.



DOVKIES have lingered around our coasts in the past, but an unusual number were reported this summer. Various observers saw up to five around the Bird Is., *Vic.* (top photo) and other individuals were photographed at Wine Hbr., *Guys* (below left, 7 July) and off Brier I. (below right, July 15). [Photos: top, Allan Murrant; below left, Bill Heck; below right, Blake Maybank]

Pomarine Jaeger

June 6 Northern Pt., Brier I. 1 ad. light ELM

Parasitic Jaeger

June 14 Off Brier I. 2 MIK, FLL

July 31 Off Brier I. 2 ad. ELM

LONG-TAILED JAEGER

July 18-19 Off Hartlen Pt 1 light MIK, CLS, CSS

Laughing Gull

June 3 Morien Bay, *CBRM* 1 ad. CAM, ALM

June 20 Lingan, *CBRM* 1 ad. DBM

June 22-24 Eastern Passage, *HRM* 1 imm. MIK, SHU

June 28 Hartlen Pt 1 ad., 1 2ndyr ELM

July 14 Brier I. 1 ad. Dennis Garratt

Black-headed Gull

July 29 Conrad's Bch., *HRM* 1 DMW

July 21 Conrads Bch., *HRM* 2 ad. IAM, ELM

Bonaparte's Gull

June 20 Lingan, *CBRM* 2 imm. DBM

July 21 Conrads Bch., *HRM* 1 ad. IAM, ELM

Ring-billed Gull

June 20 Lingan, *CBRM* 1 DBM

July 21 Cow Bay Pd., *HRM* 100 ad., 5 imm. ELM, IAM

Black-legged Kittiwake

June 6-7 Brier I. 14+ ELM

June 14 Off Brier I. 3 MIK, FLL

June 15 Port George, *Anna*. 13 PBG

June 19 Gull Rock, *Digby* 25 2ndyr ELM

June/July	Bird Is., <i>Vic.</i>	1400 pairs	<i>fide</i> BLM
July 5	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	1 ad.	ELM
July 9	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	30	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
July 26	Pearl I., <i>Lun.</i>	~20 ad., 6 nests	ELM
July 31	Off Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM
IVORY GULL			
Winter 2008/2009			
	Sable I., <i>HRM</i>	1 dead; specimen	ZOL
Caspian Tern			
June 20	nr Amherst, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	CLS <i>et al.</i>
Common Tern			
June 2	Albert Bridge, <i>CBRM</i>	Nesting	LEL
June 6	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
July 5	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	6 ad.	ELM
July 9	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1 nest	HEK
July 27	Conrads I., Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	6 ad.	ELM
Arctic Tern			
July 1	Grassy I., <i>Lun.</i>	2+	CJF, <i>et al.</i>
July 10	Bird Is., <i>Vic.</i>	10	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Black Tern			
June 20	E. Amherst, <i>Cumb.</i> & APBS	"Lots"	CLS <i>et al.</i>
DOVEKIE			
July 7-8	Wine Hbr., <i>Guys.</i>	1 ad.	Hardy Eshbaugh, <i>et al.</i>
July 9-20	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1	TOK
ca. July 9-20	Black Duck Cove, <i>Guys.</i>	1	TOK
July 10-21	Bird Is., <i>Vic.</i>	2-5 ad.	BLM, Brian Starzowski, CAM, ALM
July 13	Morien Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1 ad.	CAM, ALM
July 15	Off Brier I.	2 ad.	BLM
July 18	Off Brier I.	3 ad.	Penny Graham, BLM
Common Murre			
June 14	Off Brier I.	3	MIK, FLL
Thick-billed Murre			
May 25	Morien Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Razorbill			
June-July	Morien Hd., <i>CBRM</i>	6 (nesting?)	CAM, ALM
June 14	Off Brier I.	7	MIK, FLL
Black Guillemot			
June 6-7	Brier I.	6-10 ad.	ELM
June 17	W. Ironbound I., <i>Lun.</i>	4	JRH
July 5	W. Ironbound I., <i>Lun.</i>	4	ELM
July 10	Bird Is., <i>Vic.</i>	100	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
July 26	Pearl I., <i>Lun.</i>	50	ELM

July 31	Grand Passage, Brier I.	2 ad.	ELM
Atlantic Puffin			
June 14	Off Brier I.	9	MIK, FLL
July 10	Bird Is., <i>Vic.</i>	400	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
July 15	Off Brier I.	12	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
July 26	Pearl I., <i>Lun.</i>	ca. 20 nests	ELM
July 31	Off Brier I.	4 ad.	ELM



Numbers of birders got to see RAZORBILLS on and around the Bird Is., *Vic.*, this summer and several photographs were submitted. [Top photo Paul Murray, bottom photo Blake Maybank]

Pigeons Through Woodpeckers

By Chris Field

A single **WHITE-WINGED DOVE** was reported (DOC) on July 8 in Woods Harbour. **BLACK-BILLED CUCKOOS** showed up on June 18 in West River St. Marys (*Guys. Co.*) as reported by BLM. Single birds were reported in July throughout mainland Nova Scotia. with up to three in the Elmsvale-Middle Musquodobit area though July by KFS, VJH, M Jennings.

There were very few reports of owls with SMB reporting a **LONG-EARED, BARRED,** and **NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS** on her BBS route near Spondo Lake (*Lun. Co.*). BLM noted a **GREAT-HORNED OWL** at Whites Lake (*HRM*) on July 29, a second for the area, and KFS observed one being harassed by crows in Apple River (*Cumb. Co.*) on June 29.

COMMON NIGHTHAWKS were widely reported (12 reports) with the only concentration being 6-12 flying over the Waegwoltic Club in Halifax on August 2 (Ava Czapalay). There were only two reports of **CHIMNEY SWIFTS** away from traditional roosting sites, one in Bridgetown, the other in Chester. Anne Lambert reports that she's been unable to find their roost in the Chester area.

A pair of breeding **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS** was reported in Birch Cove Park, Dartmouth based initially on a photo in the Community Herald as noted by BBU. Bob Warrior confirms the breeding was successful and one juvenile male has been coming to his feeder. This is the second confirmed breeding of this species in Nova Scotia. There were two reports of breeding **YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS** (VJH and JAH, DPO) as well as one report of breeding **PILEATED WOODPECKERS** (SMB, RSM).

Mourning Dove

Widespread and common

WHITE-WINGED DOVEJul 8 Woods Harbour, *Yar.* 1 DOC**Black-billed Cuckoo**

Jun 18 West R St Marys, *Guys.* 1 BLM
 Jun 24-Jul 7 W. Apple River, *Cumb.* 1 KFS, BLM
 Jul 9 Meaghers Grant, *HRM* 1 CHP
 Jul 13 Lockeport, *Shel.* 1 E. Billington
 Jul 14-28 Elmsvale, *HRM* 2 VJH, M. Jennings
 Jul 19 Porters Lake, *HRM* 1 Peter May
 Jul 21 Fairmont, *Ant.* 1 RFL
 Jul 21-26 Middle Musquodobit, *HRM* 1 VJH

Great Horned Owl

Jun 15 Apple River, *Cumb* 1 KFS
 Jul 29 Whites Lake, *HRM* 1 BLM

Barred Owl

Jun 11 Porters Lake, *HRM* 1 CHP
 Jun 17 Spondo Lake, *Lun.* 1 SMB

Long-eared OwlJun 17 Spondo Lake, *Lun.* 1 SMB**Northern Saw-whet Owl**Jun 17 Spondo Lake, *Lun.* 1 SMB**Common Nighthawk**

Jun 17 Spondo Lake, *Lun.* 1 SMB
 Jun 17 Falmouth, *Hants* 1 PKE
 Jun 23 Minesville, *HRM* 1 CHP
 Jun/Jul Apple River, *Cumb.* 1-5 KFS
 Jul 4 Glenmore, *HRM* 1 VJH
 Jul 8 Mooseland, *HRM* 1 CHP
 Jul 20 Joggin Bridge, *Digby* 2 MCR

Jul 28 Elmsvale, *HRM* 1 VJH, M. Jennings
 Jul 31 Brier Island, *Digby* 1 ELM
 Aug 1 Sandy Bottom Lake, *Anna.* 1+ MCR

Chimney Swift

Jun 24-25 Bridgetown, *Anna.* 3 MCR
 Jun/Jul Chester, *Lun.* 10+ A. Lambert

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Jun 11 Lawrencetown, *HRM* 1 DMW
 Jun 15 Clairemont PP, *Kings* 1 nest BLM, *et al.*
 Jun/Jul Bridgetown, *Anna.* 2 MCR

Belted Kingfisher

Jun 24-Aug 1
 Sandy Bottom Lake, *Anna.* 1 MCR
 Jul 31 Lawrencetown, *HRM* 1 DMW

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Jun 7-9 Chelsea, *Lun.* 1 SJF, JSC
 Jun 15 Middle Musquodobit, *HRM* 2 VJH
 Jun 18 Trafalgar BBS, *Guys.* 4 BLM
 Jun 24 Indian Lake, *Lun.* 2 JAH, DPO

Downy Woodpecker - widespread and common

Jun 6 Lawrencetown, *HRM* 1 DMW
 Jun 24 Sandy Bottom Lake, *Anna.* 1+ MCR
 Jul Tremont, *Kings* 1-2 S. Hulford

Hairy Woodpecker - widespread and commonJul Tremont, *Kings* 1 S. Hulford**Black-backed Woodpecker**Jun 27 Lanesville, *Col.* 1 VJH**Pileated Woodpecker**

Jul 11 Mount Uniacke, *Hants* 2 SMB, RSM
 Jul 29 Apple River, *Cumb.* 1 KFS
 Jul 29 Tremont, *Kings* 1 S. Hulford

Flycatchers Through Thrushes

By Hans Toom

An increase in reports of the threatened **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** is heartening, although no obvious reason for such an increase is evident. This flycatcher is distributed continent-wide but has declined at a steady rate for 30 years, with a recent decline of 3.3% per year, 1996-2001, according to BBS statistics. It has the longest migration of any of our flycatchers, so it arrives late and leaves early, allowing little time for nesting. It has been speculated that it prefers areas of post-fire habitats for nesting, so look for it to increase in numbers in the area of recent burns such as the Percell's Cove or Porter's Lake fires, especially where these burns are adjacent to water. The song of this flycatcher is easy to learn, sounding like, "quick, three beers" or often just "quick, three". It's a passive hunter waiting in tall trees (often beside water) for its large insect prey to pass by.

JCT had a memorable experience this summer with a **EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** family. The male sang cheerfully on her property from late May and raised a family nearby. The flycatcher spent a lot of time in her garden singing and calling. Often it was the first bird to sing in the morning even before daylight and then it would continue to as late as 10 P.M. This is serendipity indeed!

The usually rare **WILLOW FLYCATCHER** has been more evident in the last two years, with five encounters reported this year. This flycatcher has four distinct subspecies spread over the continent with our *Empidonax traillii* holding down the largest range, from Nova Scotia to eastern British Columbia, and south almost to the U.S./Mexican border states. They very rarely breed in Nova Scotia, although it has been a confirmed breeder here in the past. Also, it has been confirmed as a breeder only once during the recent Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas project.

The **SEDGE WRENS** first reported May 31 in the Tiddville Marsh, *Digby*, remained until at least June 15, with numerous reports of a single bird and one report (unconfirmed) of two birds in the same area. No indication of breeding was discovered other than a male singing. It has nested in small numbers in New Brunswick but generally it remains loyal to the central continent for breeding purposes, especially Minnesota and Manitoba. The wren does have a propensity to wander after nesting, so its resulting BBS range limit is nearly continent-wide, even into Cape Breton Island. It has not been confirmed as a breeder anywhere in the Maritime provinces during the recent MBBA project's four years of data.

The **EASTERN BLUEBIRD** continues to prosper and increase in numbers in Nova Scotia, with 15 pairs reported this year. Three pairs were reported to have successfully nested, although the actual number is likely much higher. The continent-wide recovery of this small blue thrush has been a great success story, so keep building and putting up bluebird boxes. There are 12 confirmed nesting locations in Nova Scotia according to the Atlas.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	4 m	BLM
Jun 14	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	2	KJM
Jun 14	Larry's R. BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	2	SJF, JSC
Jun 15	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
Jun 15	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant/Guys.</i>	6+	SJF, JSC
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	4 m	BLM
Jun 19	Wooden's R. Trail, <i>HRM</i>	1 m	BLM
Jun 20	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
Jun 26	Lindsay L., <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
Jun 26	Porters's L., <i>HRM</i>	2 m	CHP
Jul 1	Upper Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH, DPO
Jul 28	Elmsvale, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH, M Jennings

Eastern Wood Pewee

Jun-Jul	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
Jun-Jul	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1 some days	SLH
Jun 14	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	8	KJM
Jun 14	Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	3 m	CHP
Jun 30-Jul 2	Cherry Hill	3	Roy John
Jul 4	Offshore islands, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Roy John
Jul 4	Whycocomagh PP, <i>Inv.</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 5	Keji NP, <i>Queens</i>	1	Roy John
Jul 6	Cherry Hill	1	Roy John
Jul 14	Clairmont PP, <i>Kings</i>	2	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 15	Beech Hill, Keji NP, <i>Ann.</i>	2	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Jun 14	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	1	KJM
Jun 14	Larry's R. BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	3+	SJF, JSC
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	4 m	BLM

Alder Flycatcher

Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	25 m	BLM
Jun 14	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	52	KJM
Jun 14	Larry's R. BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	28	SJF
Jun 15	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant/Guys.</i>	47	SJF
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	22 m	BLM
Jun 26-27	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	3	Roy John
Jun 29-Jul 3	Cherry Hill	10	Roy John
Jul 4	Offshore islands, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Roy John
Jul 5	Keji NP, <i>Queens</i>	1	Roy John
Jul 8	Brookfield Marsh, <i>Col.</i>	2	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 11	Thomas Radall PP, <i>Queens</i>	1	Roy John
Jul 6-10	Cherry Hill	4	Roy John

WILLOW FLYCATCHER

Jun 13	E. Montrose, <i>Col.</i>	1 m	BLM
Jun 14	Grafton Area, <i>Kings</i>	2	AAM
Jun 14	East Preston, <i>HRM</i>	3	Terry Boswell
Jul 3	W. R Bridge, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL, Bruce Stevens
Jul 19	Burgess Mt., <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM

Least Flycatcher

Jun 14	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	12	KJM
Jun 15	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant/Guys.</i>	4	SJF
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	17	BLM
Jul 4	Offshore islands, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Roy John
Jul 9	Sheffield Mills, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
Jul 14	Clairmont PP, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Eastern Phoebe

Jun 14	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	1	KJM
Jun 17	Walden, <i>Lun.</i>	2	SMB
Jun 17	Lunenburg BBS, <i>Lun.</i>	2	SMB
Jul 30	The Lodge, Brier I.	1	ELM, AHM

Eastern Kingbird

Jun 3	Dingwall, <i>Vic.</i>	3	FMC
Jun 7	Freeport, <i>Pic.</i>	Pair	ELM
Jun 9	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
Jun 14	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	1	KJM
Jul 9	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
Jul 15	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS

Blue-headed Vireo

Jun 14	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	4 m	KJM
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	21 m	BLM

Warbling Vireo

Jun 23	Parkdale/Maplewood, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
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Red-eyed Vireo

Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	41 m	BLM
Jun 14	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	58 m	KJM
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	43 m	BLM
Jun 27	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	10	Roy John
Jun 29-Jul 3	Cherry Hill	5	Roy John
Jul 4	Offshore islands, <i>Lun.</i>	4	Roy John

Gray Jay

Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	4 families	BLM
Jun 18	Porter's L., <i>HRM</i>	2 ad, 2 juv	CHP
Jul 1	Mooseland, <i>HRM</i>	2 ad, 2 juv	CHP
Jul 6	Keji NP, <i>Queens</i>	2	Roy John
Jul 9	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	2 ad, 4 juv	KFS
Jul 14	Elmsvale, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad, 1 juv	VJH, M Jennings
Jul 25	Rose Head, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
Jul 28	Mid Musq., <i>HRM</i>	2 ad, 2 juv	CHP

American Crow

Jun 14	James R. BBS	53	KJM
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Common Raven

Jun 14	James R. BBS	6	KJM
Jul 2	Cherry Hill	20	Roy John

Tree Swallow

Jun-Jul	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	8+	KFS
Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	5 (low)	BLM
Jun 19	Moose R., <i>HRM</i>	pair	CHP
Jun 29-Jul 3	Cherry Hill	19	Roy John
Jul 8	Brookfield Marsh, <i>Col.</i>	10+	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Jun 8	Tiddville Pond, <i>Dig.</i>	1 ad	ELM
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Bank Swallow

Jun-Jul	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	4+	KFS
Jun 16	Cheverie, <i>Hants</i>	12	PKE
Jun 18	North Medford, <i>Kings</i>	25	PKE
Jun 27	Lanesville, <i>Col.</i>	30+ nests	VJH

Cliff Swallow

Jun 7	Annapolis Royal, <i>Ann.</i>	15	BLM
Jul 1	E. Ironbound I., <i>Lun.</i>	2	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 5	Advocate Hbr, <i>Cumb.</i>	3 nests (low)	BLM
Jul 8	Otter Brook Marsh, <i>Col.</i>	4	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 9	Louisbourg NHS, <i>CBRM</i>	50+	BLM
Jul 9	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	2	JAH, DPO
Jul 23	Elderbank, <i>HRM</i>	1 nest	VJH

Barn Swallow

Jun-Jul	Carleton, <i>Yar.</i>	8 pairs	RAH
Jun 9	Conrad Rd., <i>HRM</i>	4	DMW
Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	2 (v. low)	BLM
Jun 13	Ann. Royal Power Station	24	RAH
Jun 26	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	5	Roy John
Jul 8	Brookfield Marsh, <i>Col.</i>	10+	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 8	Otter Brook Marsh, <i>Col.</i>	10+	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 9	Louisbourg NHS, <i>CBRM</i>	30+	BLM
Jul 12	White's Corner, <i>Kings</i>	24	PKE

Black-capped Chickadee

Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	20	BLM
Jun 14	James R. BBS	21	KJM
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	7	BLM
Jun 27	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	30	Roy John

Boreal Chickadee

Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	1 (low)	BLM
Jul 13	Beaver Mtn PP, <i>Pict.</i>	5	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 14	Chipman Brook, <i>Kings</i>	5+	PKE
Jul 24	Mid. Musq, <i>HRM</i>	2	VJH
Jul 25	Rose Head, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
Jul 26	Garden Lots, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Jun-Jul	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1-2 most days	KFS
Jun-Jul	White's Lake, <i>HRM</i>	2 pr	BLM
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	2 (low)	BLM
Jul 26-29	Risser's Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	Several	MCR

White-breasted Nuthatch

Jun	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	daily	JCT
Jun-Jul	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1-3 some days	SLH
Jul 1	Bridgetown, <i>Ann.</i>	1 ad	MCR
Jul 14	Clairmont PP, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 15	Beech Hill, Keji NP, <i>Ann.</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Brown Creeper

Jun 11	Porters L., <i>HRM</i>	1 m	CHP
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Winter Wren

Jun 11	Porters L., <i>HRM</i>	2 m	CHP
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	2 m	BLM
Jun 16	Minesville, <i>HRM</i>	1 m	CHP
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	4 m	BLM
Jun 18	Brier I.	2	ELM
Jun 18	Porters L., <i>HRM</i>	5 m	CHP



The HERMIT THRUSH is rated one of the finest singers in North America, but this one in July is probably expressing its concern for nearby young at Jerry Lawrence PP, *HRM*. [Photo Hans Toom]

SEDGE WREN

Jun 1-15	Tidville Marsh, <i>Digby</i>	2	Numerous
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Golden-crowned Kinglet

Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	1 m (low)	BLM
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Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Jul 7-9	Cherry Hill Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	4	Roy John
Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	4 (low)	BLM
Jun 14	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	6	KJM

Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	24 m	BLM
Jun-Jul	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	most days	KFS

Eastern Bluebird

Jun-Jul	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	pair, 3 juv	Donna & Doug Barber
Jun 2-Jul 28	Mid. Musq., <i>HRM</i>	pair	VJH, Wanda Higgins
Jun 6	Georgefield, <i>Hants</i>	2m, 1f	ROW
Jun 6	Lighthouse Rd., Brier I.	1 pair	ELM; MIK
Jun 7	Parrsboro, <i>Cumb.</i>	1m	JCZ
Jun 9+	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	pair (nest)	KFS
Jun 14	Brier I.	2 pair	MIK
Jun 14+	New Salem, <i>Cumb.</i>	pair (nest)	KFS
Jun 20	Lighthouse Rd., Brier I	4m, 2f	ELM
Jul 2	Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	pair (4 eggs)	Terry Boswell
Jul 29	Westport, Brier I.	2 ad, 3 juv	ELM

Veery

Jun 14	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	10	KJM
Jun 15	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant/Guys.</i>		

		2	SJF
Jun 27	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Roy John
Early Jul	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
Jul 1-7	Cherry Hill	1-2	Roy John
Jul 8	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	2 ad, 3 juv	GWT, JCT
Jul 16	Mountain Gap, <i>Ann.</i>	1 m	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 18	Greenwood, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad	MCR
Jul 25	Rose Head, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH

Swainson's Thrush

Jun-Jul	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1 most days	KFS
Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	11 m	BLM
Jun 14	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	5	KJM
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	33 m	BLM
Jul 2-3	Cherry Hill	2	Roy John

Hermit Thrush

Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	19 m	BLM
Jun 14	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	10	KJM
Jun 16	Minesville, <i>HRM</i>	1 nest	CHP
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	26 m	BLM
Jun 19	Long L., <i>HRM</i>	1 f, 3 eggs	CHP
Jun 24	Sandy Bottom L., <i>Anna.</i>	several	MCR
Jul 1	Upper Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	75	JAH, DPO
Jul 26-29	Rissers Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	1+	MCR

American Robin

Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	76	BLM
Jun 14	James R. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	56	KJM
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	38	BLM
Jun 26-27	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	60	Roy John
Jun 30	Cherry Hill	20	Roy John

Mimics Through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

BBS data continues to reflect the on-going decline in the numbers of neotropical migrants, especially as revealed in the smaller numbers of most species of breeding warblers. Warblers that are Spruce Budworm specialist feeders (Cape May, Tennessee, Bay-breasted) continue to be very scarce, especially Cape May Warblers. There were a number of TENNESSEE WARBLERS heard singing, but no confirmed nestings, and most males found here were likely unmated. BAY-BREASTED WARBLERS are easier to locate, as they switch to other foods when budworms are scarce. CANADA WARBLERS were hard to come by.

As numbers of individuals decline it becomes harder to attract mates – BLM noted an unpaired male MAGNOLIA WARBLER singing 10+ hours a day in White's Lake, *HRM*, between mid-May and mid-July. The bird's perseverance went unrewarded. Other warblers still singing by mid-July are also likely to be unmated.

The late May YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT reported along the eastern shore last May continued to sing into June.



This puzzling warbler photographed in early June at Spry Harbour, *HRM*, is a patchwork male YELLOW-RUMPED, partially amelanistic, with largely white head and flanks. [Photo Juanita and Robie Cooper]

Gray Catbird

Jun 8-13	Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
Jun 28	Black Harbour Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	4	JAH
Jul 2-5	Scotchtown, <i>Queens</i>	pair	Marg Pacey
Jul 4	Walton R. <i>Hants</i>	1	SMB, RBS
Jul 13	Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i>	pair	PLC
Jul 14-15	Brier I.	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 16-17	Mountain Gap, <i>Ann.</i>	1	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 19	Dartmouth	1 singing	GAM

Northern Mockingbird

Jun 9	New Salem, <i>Cumb.</i>	1	KFS
Jun 24	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH

Cedar Waxwing

Jun 28	Smileys PP, <i>Hants</i>	1 nest	HAT
Jul 4	Gabarus L. <i>CBRM</i>	6 eating strawberries	Dianne Bussey

Tennessee Warbler

Jun 2	Brier I.	1	CLS, FLL
Jun 14	Larrys River, <i>Guys.</i>	5	SJF
Jun 14	James River. BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	1	KJM
Jun 15	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	1	SJF
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	1 m.	BLM
Jun 20	Mooseland, <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP
Jul 4	Moose River	1	CHP
Jul 4	West Apple R., <i>Cumb.</i>	1 m.	KFS, BLM
Jul 5	Advocate Hbr, <i>Cumb.</i>	1 m.	KFS

Nashville Warbler

Jun 7	Freeport area, <i>Digby</i>	10 singing	ELM
Jun 14	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	1 m.	KJM
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	4 m.	BLM

Northern Parula

Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	10 m.	BLM
Jun 14	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	25 m.	KJM
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	16 m.	BLM
Jun 30	Apple River, <i>Cumb.</i>	1 at nest	KFS

Yellow Warbler

Jun 13-16	Bridgetown, <i>Anna.</i>	1	MCR
Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	5 m. (low)	BLM
Jun 14	James R. BBS, <i>Anna.</i>	15 m.	KJM
Jul 13	Little Tancook I., <i>Lun.</i>	Lots carrying food	HAT

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	11 m. (high)	BLM
Jun 14	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	8 m.	KJM
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	8 m.	BLM

Magnolia Warbler

Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	20 m.	BLM
Jun 14	Larrys River BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	57 m.	SJF
Jun 14	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	20 m.	KJM
Jun 15	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	48 m.	SJF

Cape May Warbler

Jun 13-14	Blue Mtn., <i>HRM</i>	1	CLS
Jun 14	Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Jun 11	Porters L., <i>HRM</i>	4 (8 reported Jun 18)	CHP
Jun 13	Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	1 also Jul 8	CHP
Jun 13-14	Blue Mtn., <i>HRM</i>	1	CLS
Jun 24	Sandy Bottom L. <i>Anna.</i>	1 singing	MCR
Jul 1	Port Clyde area BBS	5	JAH
Jul 17	Beech Hill, Keji NP	2 m., 1 f.	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 28	Murphy L., <i>Kings</i>	m. with young	PKE

Yellow-rumped Warbler

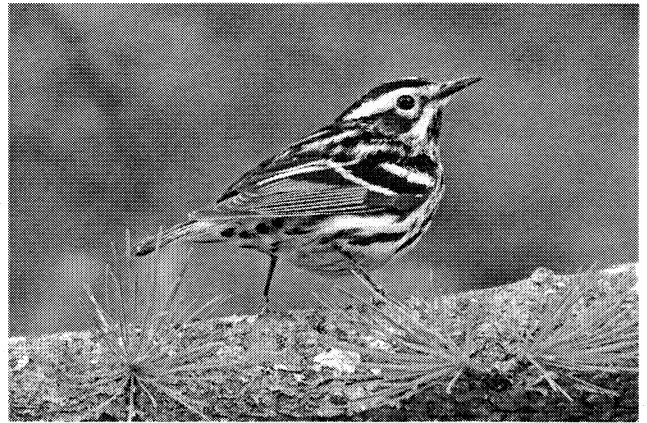
Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	5 m.	BLM
Jun 14	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	2	KJM
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	10 m. (low)	BLM

Black-throated Green Warbler

Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	6 m.	BLM
Jun 14	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	4	KJM
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	10 m.	BLM
Jul 10	Little Harbour, <i>Shel.</i>	1 found dead	GLG

Jul 26-29	Rissers Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	Several singing	MCR
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Through The Lens of Hans Toom



Without colour to tip the scales, surely the BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER, like this male in June at Jerry Lawrence PP, *HRM*, is among the most striking of warblers. [Photo Hans Toom]



A male BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER in June at at Jerry Lawrence PP, *HRM*, offered an unusually striking close up image. [Photo Hans Toom]



OVENBIRDS rarely allow themselves to be photographed, but this one in June at Jerry Lawrence PP, *HRM*, was "Puttin' on the Ritz." [Photo Hans Toom]

Blackburnian Warbler

Jun 14	Higginsville, <i>HRM</i>	2 m.	CHP
Jun 14	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	5	KJM
Jun 15	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	1	SJF
Jun 15	Wentzell Lake, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF, JSC
Jul 25	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	3 incl. 1 HY	LOC

Palm Warbler

Jul 7	Mooseland, <i>HRM</i>	1 carrying food	
			CHP
Jul 13	Chebuco Head, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
Jul 18	Polly Cove tr., <i>HRM</i>	family	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Bay-breasted Warbler

Jun 15	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant./Guys.</i>		
		1 m.	SJF
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	2 m.	BLM
Jul 19	Lewis L. PP, <i>HRM</i>	1 m.	BLM
Jul 19	Old Annapolis Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1 m.	BLM
Jun 20	Mooseland, <i>HRM</i>	m. feeding female	CHP
Jul 1	East Ironbound I. <i>Lun.</i>	1 m.	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 4	Moose River, <i>HRM</i>	pair w. food	CHP
Jul 13	Little Tancook I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	HAT

Blackpoll Warbler

Jun 6	Brier I.	sev. singing	ELM
Jun 18	West Ironbound I., <i>Lun.</i>	3 m. 1 f.	JAH
Jul 1	East Ironbound I. <i>Lun.</i>	2 m.	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Black-and-white Warbler

Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	4 m.	BLM
Jun 14	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	8 m.	KJM
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	7 m.	BLM

American Redstart

Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	13 m.	BLM
Jun 14	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	11 m.	KJM
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	17 m.	BLM

Ovenbird

Jun 7	Whale L. square, <i>Lun.</i>	Most com.	Warbler JAH, DAW
Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	6 m.	BLM
Jun 14	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	10 m.	KJM
Jun 18	Trafalgar, BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	5 m.	BLM

Northern Waterthrush

Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	2 m.	BLM
Jun 14	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	7 m.	KJM
Jun 15	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant./Guys.</i>		

		7 m.	SJF
Jun 20	Mooseland, <i>HRM</i>	2	CHP
Jun 28	Fauxburg Tr., <i>Lun.</i>	Aggressive pair	

			JAH, Roy Johns
Jul 12	Warren L., CBHNP	1 m.	BLM, <i>et al.</i>

Mourning Warbler

Jun 8	Georgefield square, <i>Hants</i>	1	ROW
Jun 13-14	Blue Mtn.-Birch Cove L. WA		
		1	AGH

Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	1 m.	BLM
Jun 14	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	3	KJM
Jun 15	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Ant./Guys</i>		
		1	SJF
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	2 m.	BLM
Jun 20-21	Wentworth Valley, <i>Col.</i>	many	CLS, FLL, MIK
Jul 11	Folly Mtn., <i>Rich.</i>	2	JAH
Jul 12	Warren L., CBHNP	1 m.	BLM, <i>et al.</i>
Jul 27	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 carrying food	CHP

Common Yellowthroat

Jun 13	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	3 m. (low)	BLM
Jun 14	James River BBS, <i>Ant.</i>	23 m.	KJM
Jun 18	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	9 m.	BLM



A sprightly COMMON YELLOWTHROAT scolded the photographer in July at Ducans Cove, *HRM*. [Photo Hans Toom]

Canada Warbler

Jun 5	Grafton, <i>Kings</i>	2	AAM
Jun 5	Somerset Rd., <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF, JSC
Jun 16	Minesville, <i>HRM</i>	1	CHP
Jul 25	Rose Head, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH

Yellow-breasted Chat

Jun 14	Musquodoboit Trailways, <i>HRM</i>	1 singing	LUB
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Tanagers Through House Sparrows

By Ian McLaren

Once again, both the Atlas and BBS routes will supply better information than the generally casual reports (although always there are some faithful correspondents) on the numbers, trends and distributions of our summer birds.

There were biases towards reports of the less "easy" sparrows – more LINCOLN'S than CHIPPING, SONG or WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS, for example. Does paucity of reports of SWAMP SPARROWS and juncos signify anything? A few nests, fledglings, or grasslings of the regular species were reported. NELSON'S SPARROW on islands of Mahone Bay might suggest an unappreciated reservoir of this "species of concern" on such islands.

There was no echo of the spring bonanza of tanagers, with only a couple of SCARLET TANAGERS reported.

So far they have only been found on 15 current Atlas squares, with only one "probable" breeding, compared with 20 squares and five confirmed in the previous Atlas. Their widely dwindling populations may be inhibiting their spread north. There were no extralimital N. CARDINALS, and no boost from the spring overshoots of ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS and INDIGO BUN-

TINGS. Only one BLUE GROSBEAK lingered.

BOBOLINKS, widely in decline, were greatly down on PLC's N. Kingston BBS (1 vs. av. of 14 in recent years), perhaps a result of flooded fields. Good numbers of fledglings were due to delayed haying on the Bellisle Marsh, *Ann.*, and grazed fields at the head of St. Mary's Bay, *Digby*, were populous (est. 40, BLM). The also benefited at the Bélanger farm in Upper Stewiacke, *Col.*, by mowing from the field's centre out to the edges (Corrine Redden-Bélanger). The regular blackbirds were drastically underreported (and cowbirds not at all), but RUSTY BLACKBIRDS received more attention. The YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD was undocumented, but a full report was submitted (on file records committee) on our second sighting of BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE, with some salient features (as distinctions from Common and Great-tailed Grackle) as follows (seen by CSS and FLL).

"A large long-tailed grackle at or near crow length . . . thick bill tapering gently on outer half, with more decided decurve than on Common Grackle . . . Head (without raised feathers) very round with distinct forehead, more . . . vertical than on Common Grackle. Eyes proportionately small . . . diamond yellow . . . Legs proportionately longer than on nearby (50 m) Common Grackles (much longer) . . . Wing cord . . . appeared longer than tail. Central rectrices blunted and shorter than adjacent ones. Primaries appeared decidedly 'hooked back' in flight [which was] straight ahead (very fast) with strong rowing wingbeats . . . Colour: uniform bluish-black hue to body without any discernable purple tones – slight bluish-green tint to scapulars . . ." (FLL).

PURPLE FINCH was presumably underreported, but individuals with encrusted eyes (mycoplasmal conjunctivitis) were noted Jun 8 in Rhodes Corner, *Lun*, and on one that died Jun 19 in *Shel.* (P. MacLeod). Surely the paucity or absence of reports of other finches and HOUSE SPARROW does not reflect their true status.

Scarlet Tanager

Jun 25 Comagun, *Hants* 1 male PKE
 Jul 19 Coldbrook, *Kings* 1 singing AAM

Chipping Sparrow

Jun Widely 6 repts., 12+ indivs.
 4 obs.

Savannah Sparrow

Jun-Jul HRM, *Lun.* Few casual repts.
 Jul 9 Louisbourg NHS 40+ ind. BLM, *et al.*

Nelson's Sparrow

Jun-Jul Coastal *Yar, Shel, Lun, HRM* 4 repts 3 obs.
 Jun 20 Subenacadie, inland HRM present ROW, NSBS
 Jul Bellisle Marsh, inland *Ann.* successful fledging
 SHH
 Jul 1, E. Ironbound, Flat I., *Lun.* present CJF, *et al.*
 Jul 13 Big Tancook I., *Lun.* present CJF, *et al.*
 Jul 13 Risser's Bch PP, *Lun.* 5 BLM, *et al.*
 Jul 27 Conrads I., *Lun.* 20+ ads., fledglings, 10+ singing
 ELM

Fox Sparrow

Jun-Jul coastal HRM, *Vic.* present as usual
 3 obs.
 Jun 13 islands off Little Hbr, HRM breeding confirmed
 IAM, *et al.*
 Jul 9, 13 islands in Mahone Bay, *Lun.* breeding confirmed
 CJF, *et al.*

Song Sparrow

Jun, Jul widely casual repts. sev. obs.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Jun 7-Jul 19 *Shel., Lun., HRM, Ant, Guys* 8 repts, 25+ indivs.
 6 obs.
 Jun 29 Fauxburg Trail, *Lun.* 3 young JAH, Roy John

Swamp Sparrow

Jun 13, 18 BBSs *Col, Guys.* 0 (!), 3 m. BLM
 Jul 8 Brookfield Marsh, *Col.* 5 BLM, *et al.*

White-throated Sparrow

Jun 13, 18, BBSs *Col., Guys.* 13, 25 m. BLM

Dark-eyed Junco

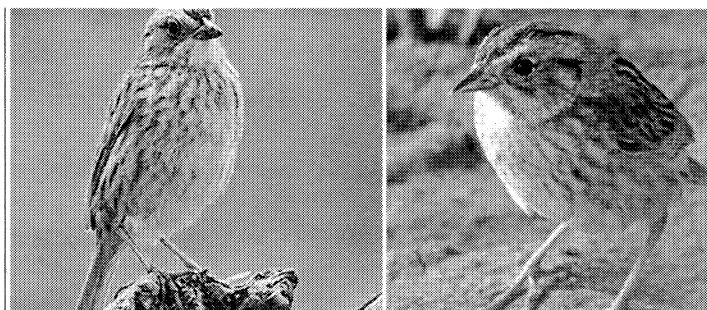
Jun 13, 18 BBSs *Col., Guys.* 5, 6 m. (low) BLM
 mid-Jun W. end Halifax fledglings IAM

Scarlet Tanager

Jun 25 Comagun, *Hants* 1 male PKE
 Jul 19 Coldbrook, *Kings* 1 singing AAM

Northern Cardinal

Jun-Jul Brier I., *Ann, Shel, Kings, HRM* 11 repts, 20+ indivs, pairs.
 var. obs.
 Jul 29 Brier I., Wolfville fledglings DAP, JWW



Our breeding NELSON'S SPARROW – yes, no longer that clunky "Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow" – is more variable than field guides indicate. The one at left (Port Williams, *Kings*) has narrower, sharper breast streaks on strongly buff-brown breast and flanks, as sometimes illustrated for inland (prairies) Nelson's Sparrow, or even for the Sharp-tailed Sparrow of the U.S. e. Coast. The one at right (Cow Bay HRM) has the expected broad, blurry breast and flank streaks, but also has pronounced white streaks on the blackish back, again like inland Nelson's Sparrow. Neither of course (in the colour versions) has the strongly orange-ochre face of Sharp-tailed Sparrow. [Photos: left, Richard Stern; right, Hans Toom]

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Jun 12-16 Kentville pr. at feeder L. Marshall
 Jun 15 Roman Valley, *Ant/Guys* 1 singing m. SJF
 Jun 17 Walden, *Lun.* 2 SMB
 Jul 8 Whycocomagh PP, *Vic.* 1 BLM, *et al.*
 Jul Tremont, *Kings* pr. occasional. at feeder
 SLH

Blue Grosbeak

Jun 10-12 Cape Forchu, *Yar* 1 f. Christopher Banks

Indigo Bunting

Early Jun Lr. Sackville, HRM m. at feeder Andrew Stadnyk
 Jun 19-20 E. Amherst, *Col.* Singing m. CLS, *et al.*

Bobolink

Jun-Jul *Ann., Digby, Shel, Kings,* 6 repts. 50+ indivs., prs.
 6 obs

Red-winged Blackbird

Jun-Jul *Lun., HRM* 4 repts, 10+ indivs.
 3 obs.
 Jul 8 Brookfield Marsh, *Col.* 20+ BLM, *et al.*

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

Jun 13 near Kentville 1 (no details)
fide GFO, HAF

Rusty Blackbird

Jun 17 New Germany, *Lun.*, BBS 1 (BBS) SMB
Jun 27 Cogmagun, *Hants* 1 "carrying food"
PKE

Jul 4 Cooks L., *Lun.* 1 Roy John
Jul 11 Warren L. Trail, *CBHNP* 2 ad., 4 juv. BLM

Common Grackle

Jun-Jul *Lun., HRM* 3 repts., 20+ indivs.
3 obs.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE

Jun 4 Freeport, *Digby* 1 ad. m. FLL, CSS

Brown-headed Cowbird

No reports!

Baltimore Oriole

6 Jun Woods Hbr., *Shel.* 1 f. at feeder DOC
Jun 13-14 near St. Peters, *Rich.* 1 m. at feeder

fide BID

Late Jun Pt. Williams, *Kings* m., f. at feeder
Lisa Eye

Pine Grosbeak

Jun 25 Mid. Musq., *HRM* 1 pr. Sandy MacLachlan
Jul 10 Uisge Ban Falls Trail, *Vic.* 1 ad., 2 juv. BLM

Purple Finch

Jun-Jul *Kings, Lun., HRM* 10 reports, up to 4 indivs.
4 obs.

House Finch

Jun-Jul Halifax W. end 4 (+?) IAM
Jun 19 Whites Pt., *Queens* 1 fem., "first" there
MMI

Red Crossbill

Jun 12- end Jul Lr. Rose Bay, *Lun.* two prs., 2 juvs.
AHM, ELM
Jul 13 Big Tancook I., *Lun.* 12 + ads. Juvs., feeder
CIF, *et al.*

White-winged Crossbill

No reports!

Pine Siskin

Jul, most days Tremont, *Kings* 2-4 indivs. SLH
Jul 8 Beaver Mtn PP, *Ant.* 1 BLM, *et al.*

American Goldfinch

Jun-Jul widely 15 casual repts.
var. obs

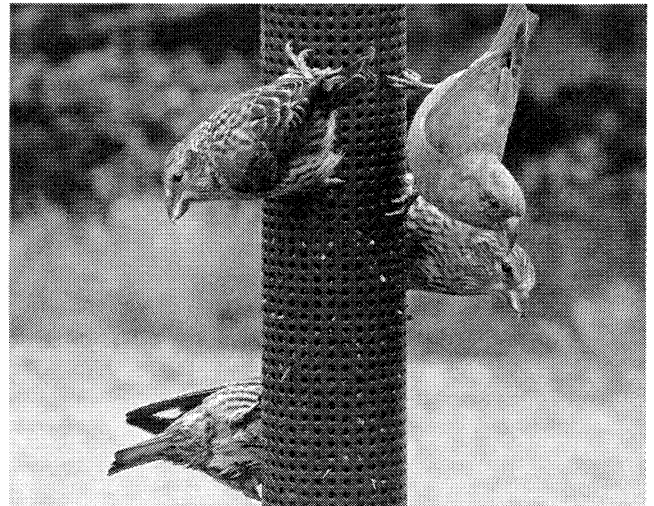
Evening Grosbeak

Jun 17 St. Peters, *Rich.* M., f. at feeder, 1st in a year
BID

Jul 1-8 *Lun.* heard most days
Roy Johns

House Sparrow

Jul 9-11 Baddeck, *Vic.* 10+ BLM, *et al.*



RED CROSSBILLS were widespread at feeders this summer, often accompanied by young that had presumably fledged much earlier in spring. [Photo Eric Mills]

List of Contributors

Thanks to all of our contributors, including:

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Hoogenbos, Rachel	RAH	Bussey, Diane		Schlosberg, David & Jane
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Hall, Ross	ROH	Davies, Peter		Swinimer, Hope
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Digout, Sharon	SDI	Goreham, Rebecca		Villis, Magi
Myers, Susann	SEM	Hollenburg, Vicky		Westphalen, Gisela
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Fullerton, Sylvia	SJF	Isnor, William		



Weather - Eastern Annapolis Valley - Summer 2009

By Larry Bogan

Monthly Averages of Weather Data Kentville, Nova Scotia 2009

(from the Canada Food & Horticulture Research Centre, Kentville, N.S.)

	Average Temperature (C)			Rain (mm)	Sunshine (hours)
	Max	Min	Mean		
June	21.6	11.6	16.6	62	169
<i>48 yr avg</i>	<i>21.9</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>205</i>
July	12.0	1.5	6.7	112	188
<i>48 yr avg</i>	<i>9.3</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>232</i>
August	18.0	6.8	12.4	178	246
<i>48 yr avg</i>	<i>16.2</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>10.6</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>215</i>
Summer	23.9	13.5	18.7	352	603
<i>48 yr avg</i>	<i>23.8</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>18.2</i>	<i>229</i>	<i>652</i>

Temperatures:

How do you remember the summer? It certainly changed from June to August. I remember early summer as wet and cool, but the data shows that the June mean temperature was actually 1/2 degree above average. Perhaps it felt cooler because the maximum temperatures for June were a bit lower than normal (0.3°C), and the mean temperature for July was actually below normal by a tiny bit (0.3°C). Or perhaps the perceived coolness was due to the lack of sunshine – both June and July had only 80% of their usual quota of hours of sunshine.

It wasn't until August that the sunshine really helped to heat up the Valley and the rest of the province. That month we had 115% of normal sunshine and as a result the maximum, minimum, and mean temperatures were all above normal by 1.3°C. It was the warmth of August that increased the whole season's temperature to be 1/2°C above the norm.

Precipitation:

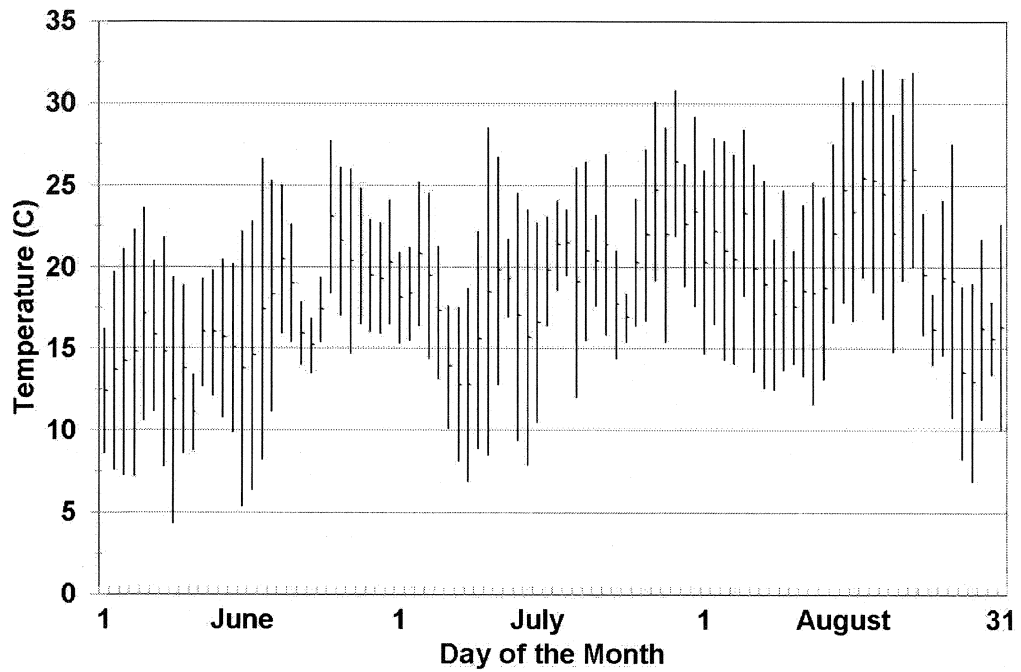
The cloudiest period for the summer was a three week period starting in the middle of June. The hottest period of the summer was in the middle of August, when we had eight days in a row with a high over 30°C. At the end of July there were two days over 30°C. Lawns stayed green this summer because we had adequate rainfall throughout. There was only one week in mid-August this summer that did not have some precipitation. The total rainfall was well above average, 154% of normal. The coolest month, June, had the least rain, but most days (18) with recorded precipitation. July had 14 days of rain while August had 16. August received half of all the rainfall for the summer but most was from the heavy rains associated with hurricane Bill and tropical depression Danny that passed by on last two weekends of that month. Those two storms contributed 150 mm of rain, 87% of August's rainfall total.

Summary:

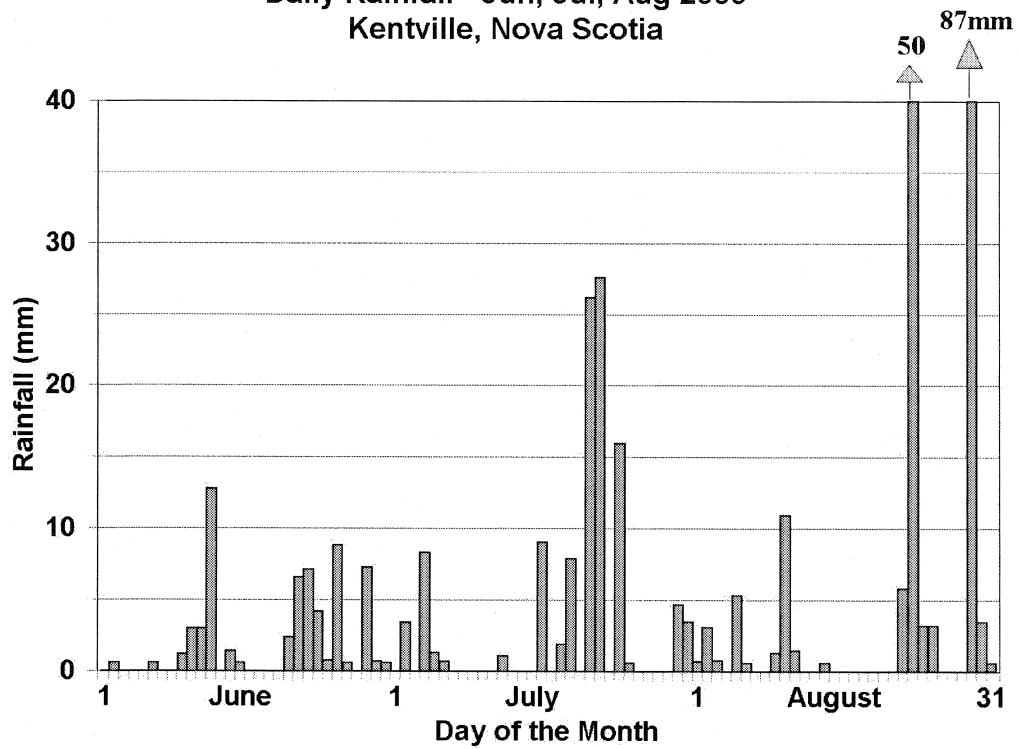
The summer of 2009 had average temperatures, was mostly cloudy though sunny at the end, with abundant precipitation throughout, with most coming in August.

See the graphs on temperature and precipitation for daily details.

Daily Temperatures -Jun, Jul, Aug 2009 Kentville, Nova Scotia



Daily Rainfall - Jun, Jul, Aug 2009 Kentville, Nova Scotia





Bicycle Birding on Pictou Island

By Blake Maybank

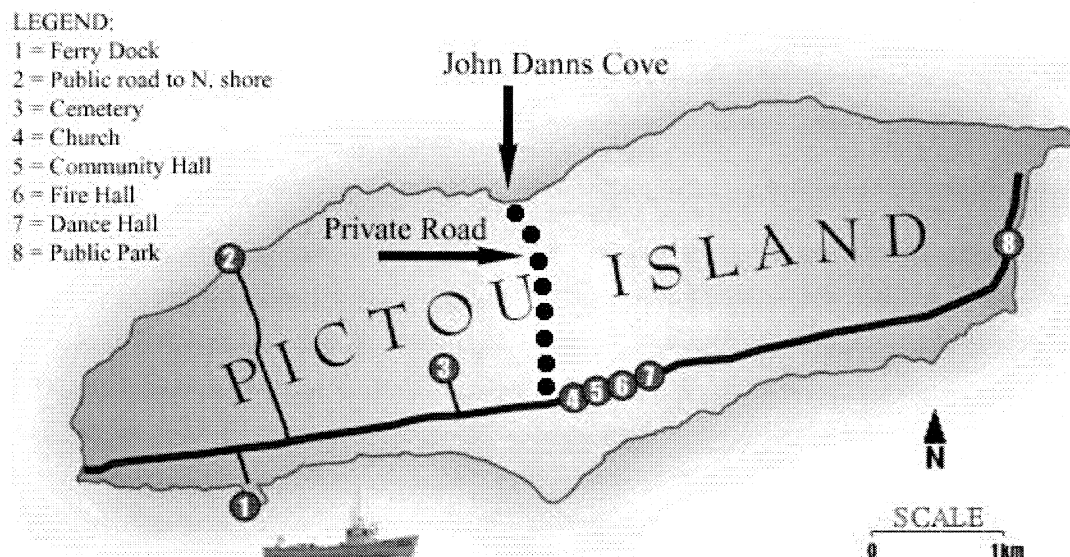
On 22 Sept. 2009 Martine and I took the 07:00 ferry to Pictou Island. We've long talked of visiting this special place, and finally organised ourselves enough to do it. I researched the island in advance, and found the following two web sites of great utility:

<http://www.pictouisland.com/> This site (though not updated in over a year) gave all the information anyone might need to plan an outing to the island.

<http://www.pictouislandferry.ca/> This is the site for the Pictou Island ferry service, and though it too had not been updated since 2008, the ferry schedule and fares were unchanged.

There are only three days each week, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, in which there are early and late round-trip crossings, which are needed if you plan to spend a day on the island. The ferry (a smallish converted fishing vessel, leaves from the fishing wharves which lie immediately to the east of the PEI Ferry Terminal at Caribou, in Pictou County. It is about a 2 hour 15 minute drive from Halifax, so we left town at 04:30 in order to secure a place with our bicycles on the "first come - first served" ferry that leaves at 07:00 (if the ferry fills a second run usually occurs, but one risks missing two hours on the island).

It was an easy 40 minute crossing on a modified fishing vessel, and we shared the trip with a dozen other passengers, lots of supplies, and many bales of hay -- our first marine hay ride. Birding was quite active during the crossing, as there were "clouds" of Northern Gannets plunge-diving for herring, which were "running" at the time. Quite a show.



Once we arrived at the wharf on Pictou Island it was all a bike ride, and we spent the next 9 hours exploring the island. The island is roughly 8 km long (east-west) and 2 km wide (north-south), and while it once was heavily settled and mostly farmed, today forest has re-occupied the bulk of the island. Access to the island is via a provincially-maintained unpaved road that runs the length of the island just in from the southern shore. You could hike the road, but biking is more efficient.

All land on the island is privately owned, and almost all the properties lie close to the provincial road. While there is no longer any farming many residents (and some summer cottage owners) take pains to keep enormous lawns mown, hayfields harvested, and

meadows “bush-whacked”. I expect there should be Bobolinks on the island, though we were present after they would have left. (Atlas data shows on 32 species recorded so far, but many more should breed there.)

There are several easy side trips off the main road. One is on the only public road that leads to the island’s north shore, which leads off the road 800 metres east from the junction with the road to the ferry dock at Pictou Harbour. A second is the short track that leads to the island’s Pioneer Cemetery. The third is a private road that starts 50 metres west of the church – this road leads, in 1.5 km, to John Dann’s Cove and beach, and while the road is private, hikers and bicyclists are permitted to use it. But no vehicles, please! It was a rough enough peddle - most cars would find it impossible to navigate.



Looking west along Dann’s Beach. [Photo Blake Maybank]



Looking west along the main east-west road running the length of the island. [Photo Blake Maybank]

This beach was the highlight of the trip. It is one km long, and at its eastern end was covered in kelp, which had attracted mobs of gulls, mostly hundreds of Bonaparte’s Gulls, at least 800. While we relaxed we also watched Bald Eagles flying back and forth between Pictou Island and PEI, lying within easy view (and flight) to the north. This beach is also the only spot on the island where you might expect a few shorebirds, but it was quiet when we were there, with only one Semipalmated Plover, one Spotted Sandpiper, and three Least.

There was good sea-watching from the western point of the island, and among the birds flying past were a group of five Caspian Terns (I saw another off the eastern point). At the eastern end of the island there is a primitive public picnic park, with a pit privy and change house for the unsupervised beach. Another Caspian Tern flew by here.



Part of the large congregation of Bonaparte’s Gulls feeding along Dann’s Beach. [Photo Blake Maybank]

There is also a toilet at the Community Centre. There are no stores on the island, so you have to bring your own food and water for the day. Two homes are available for rent, and a B&B is planned for 2010 – the web site will have details. It would be fun to explore the island during breeding season, and staying overnight would make it more productive.

There was plenty of songbird activity along the road edges, as well as behind the beach areas. Most (but not all) the migrant birds were associating with the chickadee flocks, and the chickadees were primarily Boreal, with but a few Black-capped. The warblers were almost all Yellow-rumped Warblers, with only two other warbler species noted, one parula and two Nashvilles. Sparrow flocks were comprised of Song and White-throateds, though I did find one Chipping and one Lincoln's.

One surprise was the unexpected hordes of late autumn mosquitoes, which made stopping in shady places in the woods a bit of a trial.

Regardless, I heartily recommend this island to everyone. We



The Sutherland Presbyterian Church on Pictou Island.
[Photo Blake Maybank]

East Ironbound and Flat Island

By Chris Field

The trip to islands in the mouth of Mahone Bay took place on 1 July 2009, on a boat chartered from Daryl Gates, a local fisherman from Blandford. There were six birders aboard: Alan Covert, Blake Maybank, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Hans Toom, and myself.

We left the dock in Blandford shortly after 6:00 a.m. and headed to East Ironbound. The wind was light from the southeast with overcast skies and light fog. On the trip out there were a number of seabirds including a Wilson's Storm-Petrel, some Northern Gannets, and several Greater and Sooty Shearwaters.

Once on East Ironbound we split into two groups, one heading east and the other west. The birdlife on the island was quite active and we were able to both add new species to atlas square 20MQ12, and get confirmations for several other species. We added Fox Sparrows (CF), Bay-breasted Warbler (S) and Cliff Swallow (P). We confirmed Barn Swallows (NY) (large numbers of Barn Swallows around the fish sheds), American Redstart (CF), Savannah Sparrow (CF), Boreal Chickadee (FY) and Black Guillemots (AE). We also had Blackpoll Warbler (A).



The harbour at East Ironbound Island. [Photo Blake Maybank]



Chris Field rowing his boat ashore, to Flat Island.
[Photo Blake Maybank]

Another 11 species were found on the island for which there was already comparable breeding evidence.

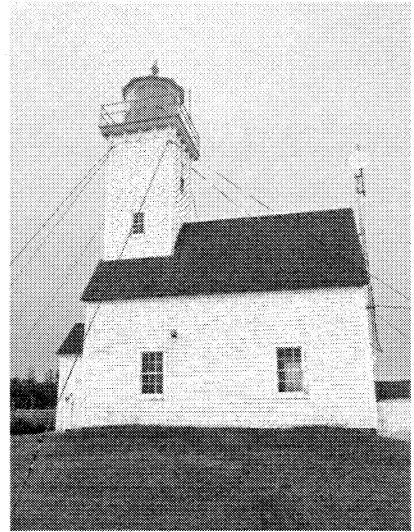
After leaving East Ironbound, about 9:30 a.m., we headed towards Flat Island. This island is uninhabited and has a fringe of live boreal forest around the perimeter, with deadfall everywhere in the interior. We landed in a small boat and again split up into groups. We were on the part of the island in square 20MQ11 (Pearl Island) so almost all the breeding activity observed was new. There was evidence of a Great Black-backed Gull colony but no fledged birds, although one nest contained a broken egg. It was felt that the breeding had not been successful and we wondered if young gulls had been predated by the Bald Eagle on the island. Eric Mills observed a single Greater Yellowlegs which might be a possible breeder. Other notable birds were a Nelson's Sparrow (S) and a Lincoln's Sparrow (S). We had a total of 20 species

on Flat Island of which Song Sparrows (CF) were by far the most abundant. We also confirmed Common Eider (FY), American Crow (FY), American Robin (CF), Yellow-rumped Warbler (FY), Savannah Sparrow (CF) and Common Raven (FY).

We then headed to Grassy Island in 20MQ02 (Tanook). Grassy Island is a rock outcrop with a small grassy area in the center. There were fledged young Herring Gulls and we estimated the colony size to be nearly 100 pairs. We had Arctic Terns and a Tree Swallow near the island, and large numbers of eiders with fledged young. As we sailed past Little Tanook, we were able to confirm Great Black-backed Gulls (FY) and Herring Gulls (FY). We returned to the wharf in Blandford shortly after 1:30 p.m. Everyone agreed it had been a very successful atlassing trip and expressed an interest in re-visiting East Ironbound during Fall migration.



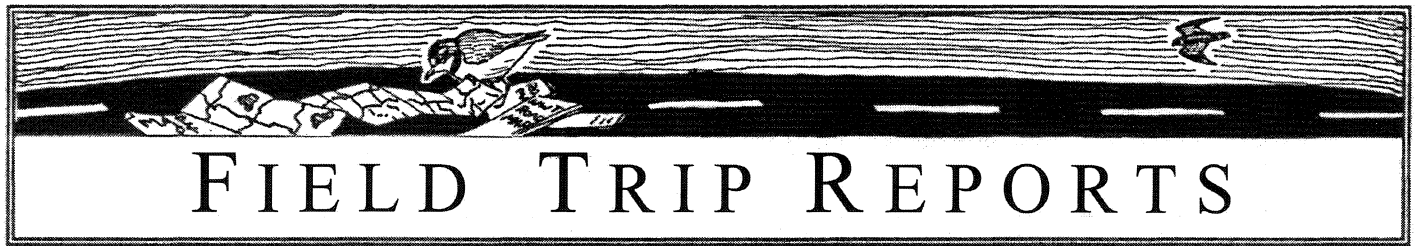
Some dwellings on East Ironbound Island. [Photo Blake Maybank]



The East Ironbound Lighthouse. [Photo Blake Maybank]



July 16 at dawn, shorebirds stirring on Silver Sands Beach, HRM, and a tall ship, sails down in slack winds, running lights gleaming – could be another century. [Photo Marie Reid]



20 June 2009 - Shubenacadie

Leader: Rob Woods

On Saturday morning the trip started, as is customary, with a short walk at the Milford Recreation Centre. Afterwards we visited the cemetery and the usual wet spots around Shubenacadie before heading up the Nova Scotia Sand and Gravel road. Nothing very unusual was seen, with all the standard warblers and flycatchers present. The two highlights were the Nelson's Sparrow for the second year in a row in the fields just past the Firehall, and at least a dozen Bank Swallows at their usual spot in the sand pits.

Rob Woods

27 June 2009 - Beginning Birders' Workshop/Field Trip – Parrsboro

Leader: Joan Czapalay

On Saturday, June 27, I gave a workshop/ field trip for beginning birders at the Fundy Museum in Parrsboro. Although it was well-advertised in the community, including the local high school, only seven people registered, and only five attended. However, it was a successful day, with two keen new birders, a student/staff person from the museum, an 11-year old beginning birder, and Cindy Creighton, who was a great help. A Bald Eagle pair took turns perching beside the museum, but predictably did not show when they were invited! On the property we saw Mourning Doves, nesting Song Sparrows, and American Goldfinch. Looking out on the river at low tide we saw American Black Ducks, American Crow, Herring Gulls, and Great Black-backed Gulls. At our picnic spot we added Common Raven, Starlings, Robins, Savannah Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Common Yellowthroat.

Our afternoon field trip was to the parking area and lower part of the hike to Ward's Falls. There we found Swainson's Thrush, Ovenbird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Redstart, Yellow and Magnolia Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, and lots of mosquitoes and black flies.. We didn't get all the way to the Falls, and we didn't see all that we heard, but we had a good time.

The Port Grenville workshop on Sunday was cancelled at 10:15 a.m. as no one had registered by that time.

Joan Czapalay

04 July 2009 - Square Bash! Region 20: Walton River

Leader: Suzanne Borkowski

Only one person showed up for this field trip, Richard Stern, probably due to the weather outlook: rain!

First thing in the morning it was quite nice; but by 8:00 am it had clouded over and we were treated to sporadic rain showers. By 11:00 am it was raining in earnest and we had to call it a day.

We managed to tally 29 species, the highlights being a Barred Owl calling first thing in the morning, Red Crossbills flying past, Evening Grosbeaks, Gray Catbird, Red-tailed Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and an Eastern Wood-Pewee. We heard three different flycatchers, Alder, Least, and Yellow-bellied; and saw, as well as heard, several warblers singing, including Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, and Palm.

This is a difficult square to access. It's entirely in the woods, with very few logging roads, no homes, cottages, or feeders, and only one lake which was in a spot we couldn't reach. Richard's 4-wheel-drive vehicle proved invaluable.

Suzanne Borkowski

Taylor Head Provincial Park

Leaders: Jim Cameron and Warren Parsons

Saturday morning dawned clear and cool. A cold front had moved through overnight, clearing the fog from the park and producing one of the few clear days this summer. An ardent group of birders representing Halifax, Tantallon, Owls Head, Economy, Truro, Spry and Sheet Harbour, and France assembled for the walk.

The group was immediately busy on the trails close to the parking lot watching chickadees, warblers, sparrows, and thrushes. A brightly coloured bird pausing for a minute in some shrubbery by a small cliff had everyone scrambling for their books. The bird was identified as a juvenile Northern Cardinal and was a surprise for the group and a good start for the hike.

As the group entered Spry Bay trail and stopped to watch feeding Osprey and terns across the bay they were surprised to see a dark Peregrine Falcon swooping over the tree tops and down the open field. Almost immediately a Broad-winged Hawk circled across the bay and soon disappeared from sight.

Little Harbour, usually a "Mecca" for waders, was empty. At this midpoint on the trail the group decided to split up and some birders returned to the parking lot while the rest continued around to the headland, on the Headland Trail. The group, going to the headland, was soon rewarded with the sight of a Bonaparte's Gull (in breeding plumage) at one of the small coves along the shoreline and a small flock of Whimbrel which flew out of the barrens near the headland. The group finally arrived back at the parking lot near 4 P.M., tired but happy with some great birds and spectacular scenery.

Some of the day's other highlights were Northern Gannet, Black-bellied Plover, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, and Blackpoll Warbler.

James Cameron

01 August 2009 - Mahone Bay

Leader: James R. Hirtle

Twelve people joined me at the Three Churches parking lot in Mahone Bay, including a gentleman from France. A Spotted Sandpiper and 20 Common Mergansers were just a few of the birds at the start. The road by the Mush-A-Mush River, which is usually alive with birds, produced very little, but Clearland did not let us down. As we parked and started our walk up over the hill to the trail, a light-coloured gull with a black head flew overhead, flying inland – it was a Bonaparte's Gull, rare to this area for this time of year. The best Clearland birds were two singing male Northern Cardinals and a Blackburnian Warbler.

We next proceeded to Long Hill to try for a Barred Owl. We saw many birds there, but no owl, although 34 American Crows suggested one was close by. Great looks at an Alder Flycatcher were a treat.

We went to Blockhouse next, beating it out of Mahone Bay ahead of the Wooden Boat Festival Parade. A quick stop at a convenience store produced a male and female Northern Cardinal.

The Fauxburg Trail was our next location and there we saw many species including a young Hermit Thrush, a Yellow Warbler carrying food, an Ovenbird, an Eastern Wood-Pewee, a Gray Catbird, and two young Lincoln's Sparrows, just to mention a few.

We stopped next for lunch at Westhaver Beach. There we were able to observe 31 Common Terns and a lone Arctic Tern. A fly-by of five more Bonaparte's Gulls was unexpected. A quick stop at Lilydale gave us a Blue-winged Teal and Wood Ducks in eclipse plumage with young. After that a stop at Back Oler Farm marsh in Garden Lots produced 80 Short-billed Dowitchers and a Greater Yellowlegs.

At that point it was the consensus of the group that we should go to Hell's Point at Kingsburg. It did not disappoint, as for shorebirds we had three Sanderlings, two Spotted Sandpipers, 21 Ruddy Turnstones, six Willets, a White-rumped Sandpiper, 25 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 16 Lesser Yellowlegs, along with Short-billed Dowitchers. Some Northern Gannets flew by also and some of us had perfect looks at a pair of agitated Swamp Sparrows. In all a good day with somewhat over 65 species seen.

James R. Hirtle

22 August 2009 – Cherry Hill Beach

Leader: Eric Mills

A few hardy souls appeared for the pre-hurricane field trip to Cherry Hill Beach. It turned out to be a lovely day in all respects, foggy but not too foggy, breezy but not too windy (kept the mosquitoes on their toes), sea lavender (*Limonium*) in glorious bloom, tide just right - and a pile of our regular shorebirds on the inner flats and then on the outer beach as the tide rose - and rose - and

rose. There was nothing rare, but stunningly close views of many species, including two fine Baird's Sandpipers (a juvenile and an adult), six Piping Plover (an adult and five immatures of various ages), unusual numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers (30), a Red Knot, an Eastern Willet, a couple of Whimbrels, and the usual other faces. It was interesting to see so many juvenile Least Sandpipers (the number has been increasing practically daily in this area), and the appearance of numbers of juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers in the flocks that were scrambling to feed on the wave-swept outer beach. A great morning!

Eric L. Mills

Labour Day Weekend – Bon Portage Island

On Friday, September 8th, seven of us set out for Bon Portage Island in two boats in warm, sunny conditions. After a walk to the lighthouse and a late supper we hung around outside the cabin watching for petrels and bats and checking the night sky. Due to the bright moonlight, returning Petrels were scarce but we enjoyed watching some whirling nighthawks and bats and were able to examine a baby Leach's Storm-Petrel from one of the thousands of long, peaty burrows.

Saturday was sunny and calm and the bushes were hopping with vireos, flycatchers, and some species of warblers. There were flocks of shorebirds on each coastline and we watched Semipalmated, Least, and Bairds Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Willets, Ruddy Turnstones, Whimbrels, Sanderlings, Short-billed Dowitchers, one Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers. There were Green-winged Teal, eiders, American Black Ducks, Common Terns, Black Guillemots, and Belted Kingfishers along the shoreline and a Baltimore Oriole was seen at the north end, as well as two species of chickadees and many Golden-crowned Kinglets. Sunday was the day that many raptors showed up over the savannah and along the shore. We spotted Peregrin Falcons, Northern Harriers, Merlins, Sharp-shinned Hawks, American Kestrels, and one mystery hawk. On Monday two members scared up five Wilson's Snipe at the north end and stood eye-to-eye with three Great Horned Owls, perhaps the same family that was seen there in May.

Warblers which were on the island were: Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Blue and Green Warblers, Black-and-white, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, and Wilson's.

The group planted a small shrub and many bulbs in a small garden in memory of Dr. P.C. Smith near the Big Camp, and hopes flowers will bloom there in the spring of 2010.

A wonderful sharing time of birding and socializing ended with a count of 77 species. On this trip were: Bob McDonald, Pat McKay, Peter Richard, Janet McGinity, Rebecca Goreham, Dennis Hippert, and Claire Diggins.

05 September 2009, New Birders' Walk

Leader: Bonnie Carmichael

The weather was fine and warm for the first New Birders' Walk at Point Pleasant Park in Halifax. 14 participants joined trip leader Bonnie Carmichael for a walk which ranged from Black Rock Beach to Prince of Wales Drive, Heather Road, Cambridge Drive, Ogilvie Road, Fort Road, and covering numerous footpaths along the way. Despite having filled all the bird feeders in those areas of the park the night before, all of them were empty by the time we got to them. The group, made up mostly of women, and mostly new birders, but not necessarily first-timers, was not disappointed, however. By the end of the two hour walk we had gotten good looks at 24 species of birds:

American Black Duck	Double-crested Cormorant	Osprey
Herring Gull	Great Black-backed Gull	Mourning Dove
Northern Flicker	Blue-headed Vireo	Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay	American Crow	Common Raven
Black-capped Chickadee	Red-breasted Nuthatch	American Robin
European Starling	Cedar Waxwing	Yellow Warbler
Common Yellowthroat	Song Sparrow	White-Throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco	Common Grackle	American Goldfinch

Bonnie Carmichael



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 Events Editor, Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922. E-mail: suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca

Thu 27 Nov 2009 – NSBS Annual General Meeting

NSMNH, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, N.S., 7:30 p.m.

As usual, the AGM will be followed by a wine and cheese reception; a great opportunity to meet and mingle.

Sat 28 Nov 2009 – Canso and Area

Leaders: Tom Kavanaugh 366-3476 E-mail:

terri.crane@ns.sympatico.ca and Steve Bushell 366-2527

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Chapel Gully Trail parking lot in the town of Canso, Guysborough County. Come down Main Street, turn right onto Union, go past the Marina and take the next right onto Wilmot. The parking lot is at the top of the hill. Fall migration is in full swing on Canso at this time of year, so be prepared for almost anything!

No rain date.

Sun 29 Nov 2009 – Antigonish Coastal Waters

Leader: Randy Lauff 867-2471 E-mail: rlauff@stfx.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Dragon Fly Café on the TCH #104, just east of exit #35 (Lower South River). This trip covers the waters of St. Georges Bay and Antigonish Harbour. We'll end the day at Ogdens Pond which has hosted thousands of gulls, ducks and, in some years, inland gannets.

No rain date.

Sat 05 Dec 2009 – Metro "Hot Spot" Birding

Leader: Mike King 434-6099 E-mail:

mikenjenn1@hotmail.com

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Sullivans Pond and dress warmly. We will check local sites for rarities and unusual birds as a prelude to the Christmas Bird Counts. Great way to start your winter list!

Storm date: Sun 06 December.

Sat 05 Dec 2009 – New Birders' Walk

Trip Leader: Bonnie Carmichael E-mail:

bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com

Meet in the Lower parking lot at the end of Point Pleasant Drive by the wall overlooking Black Rock Beach at 9:30 am. We'll take a leisurely walk around part of the park to look for birds in their natural habitat on land and on the water. Duration: 2 hours.

Mon 14 Dec 2009 to Sun 03 Jan 2010 – Christmas Bird Counts

For information on where and when Christmas Bird Counts will be held this year in Nova Scotia, click on Blake Maybank's Winter Birding link on the "links" page of our website: <http://nsbs.chebucto.org> Blake will update this page as information becomes available. Don't forget; NSBS members are eligible to have one Audubon Count fee paid per Individual and Student Membership – and two fees paid per Family Membership!

Sat 02 Jan 2010 – New Birders' Walk

Trip Leader: Bonnie Carmichael E-mail:

bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com.

Meet at Hawthorne Street, Dartmouth, by Sullivans Pond at 9:30 am. We'll take a leisurely walk around Sullivans Pond, Findley Park and the Dartmouth Waterfront to look for ducks, seabirds and other winter visitors. Duration: 2 hours.

Sun 10 Jan 2010 – Sewer Stroll 1 – Halifax/Dartmouth Area

Leaders: Bob McDonald 443-5051 E-mail:

bobathome@hfx.eastlink.ca and Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922

E-mail: suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of McCormack's Beach Provincial Park, just past the Boondocks Restaurant in Eastern Passage. We'll look for rare birds and regular winter visitors. Dress for cold weather and bring a lunch. Plan to carpool as much as possible.

No storm date.

Thu 28 Jan 2010 – Members' Photo Night

NSMNH, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 7:30 p.m.

With the increasing popularity of digital photography, Members' Photo Night has become one of our most popular meeting themes. Bring along 15 – 20 of your favourite photos or slides related to birds or birding.

Sat 06 Feb 2010 – New Birders' Walk

Trip Leader: Suzanne Borkowski, E-mail:

suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca.

Meet at Hawthorne Street, Dartmouth, by Sullivans Pond at 9:30 am. We'll take a leisurely walk around Sullivans Pond, Findley Park and the Dartmouth Waterfront to look for ducks, seabirds and other winter visitors. Duration: 2 hours.

12 Feb-15 Feb 2010 – Great Backyard Bird Count

Watch for details on Nature NS and on our website.

Sat 13 Feb 2010 – Sewer Stroll 2 – Halifax/Dartmouth Area

Leaders: Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922 E-mail:

suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca and Bob McDonald 443-5051 E-mail: bobathome@hfx.eastlink.ca

This will be a joint trip with the Halifax Field Naturalists and will combine the former HFN Sewer Stroll and the NSBS Sewer Stroll 2. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot at McCormack's Beach Provincial Park, just past Boondocks Restaurant in Eastern Passage. We will visit Hartlen Point, Eastern Passage, Dartmouth Cove, Sullivan's Pond, Tuft's Cove and the Bedford Waterfront. If the weather conditions are favourable and time permits, we will also visit Herring Cove and Chebucto Head. Dress warmly and bring a lunch.

No storm date.

Sat 13 Feb 2010 - Glace Bay and Area "Harbour Hop".

Leaders: George Crowell and Bev Crowell 849-5317

Meet at 9:00 am at the Fishermen's Memorial Park, Glace Bay. We'll be checking a number of birding sites in and around the community for a chance to see our winter ducks and gulls, and to get out and enjoy a winter day.

Storm Date: Sat 20 February.

Thu 25 Feb 2010 – Regular Meeting

Postponed From an Earlier Date

NSMNH, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, NS, 7:30 pm.

Piping Plovers in Nova Scotia: What we know and don't know, and why there's hope for recovery

Guest Speaker: Sue Abbott

Sue Abbott has worked for over ten years on bird monitoring, research and conservation projects – from seabirds to shorebirds to songbirds. Understanding the effects of human disturbance on birds and habitats and using outreach as a tool to mitigate this threat are two common threads that link much of her past and present work. Sue is a program coordinator for Bird Studies Canada, a national non-profit dedicated to increasing the appreciation, understanding and conservation of Canada's birds. She currently coordinates the Piping Plover Conservation Program and the Important Bird Area Program in Nova Scotia.

Sat 27 Feb 2010 – Valley Birding

Leader: Bernard Forsythe 542-2427 and Suzanne Borkowski

445-2922 E-mail: suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca

This will be a joint trip with the Blomidon Naturalists Society. Meet at 9:00 am at the town Wharf, east end of Front Street in Wolfville. We'll be looking for raptors, lingering winter

visitors, and rarities in and around Canning and Grand Pre. Dress warmly and bring a lunch.

No storm date.

Sat 06 Mar 2010 – New Birders' Walk

Trip Leader: Bonnie Carmichael, E-mail:

bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com.

Meet at Hawthorne Street, Dartmouth, by Sullivans Pond at 9:30 am. We'll take a leisurely walk around Sullivans Pond, Findley Park and the Dartmouth Waterfront to look for ducks, seabirds and other winter visitors. Duration: 2 hours.

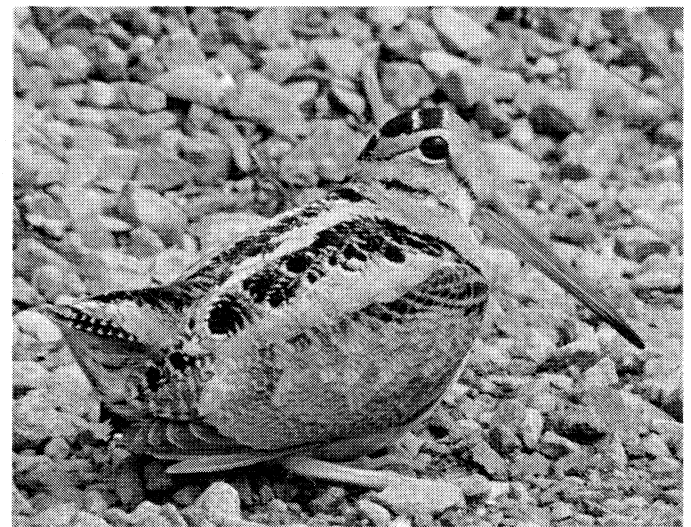
Sat 13 Mar 2010 - North Sydney and Area

Leader: Maureen Cameron-MacMillan 727-2733 E-mail:

maureen_cameron@excite.com

Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the duck pond across from the Clearwater Fish Plant, 139 Queen Street, North Sydney. At our meeting place we'll look for Mallards, American Black Ducks and gulls, and hopefully an "odd duck" or two. We'll then work our way north along the harbour, with stops at the Lobster Pound restaurant parking lot on Queen Street, Archibald Park on Commercial Street, and Indian Head Beach and the Purves Street Look-off to check out the harbour birds.

Rain date: 20 March.



A remarkably tame AMERICAN WOODCOCK, at roadside June 9 on Brier I., had been confirmed earlier as a breeding species for the Atlas. [Photo Eric Mills]

Sat 20 Mar 2010 - Along the Fundy Shore

Leader: Wayne Neily 765-2455 E-mail:

neilyornis@hotmail.com

Focusing on the early spring birds of the Bay of Fundy and the ecozones from it to the Annapolis Valley; this will be a joint trip with the Nova Scotia Bird Society, the Blomidon Naturalists and the Annapolis Field Naturalists. Meet at 9:00 am in Aylesford, just on the north side of Exit 16 on Hwy #101. We'll visit the shore at Morden, Margaretsville, Port George, and perhaps Port Lorne and Hampton, before heading back into the Valley to check some sites on the way to Annapolis Royal. Dress warmly with layers; the Fundy shore

can be cold and windy at that time of year, and bring a lunch.

Pre-Registration is preferred in order to help with planning, but not required.

Thu 25 Mar 2010 – Regular Meeting

NSMNH, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, NS, 7:30 pm.

Recovery, Rehabilitation and Release of Wild Birds.

Guest Speaker: Helene Van Doninck

Helene Van Doninck is a Doctor of Veterinary medicine, who owns and operates the Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Truro. She and her volunteers have successfully rehabilitated many injured birds to the wild including loons, eagles, raptors and even a Boreal Owl. Join Helene as she shows us the step by step recovery process of some of these fortunate birds.

Sat 27 Mar 2010 – Baccaro & Blanche Peninsula

Date to be Confirmed

Leader: Donna Ensor 875-4269 E-mail: smokeytow@yahoo.ca
Early spring birding with Donna. Rarities have shown up here quite often at this time of year. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot at exit 28 off Hwy #103 (Port Clyde). Dress warmly and bring a lunch.

No rain date.

Sat 04 Apr 2010 – New Birders' Walk

Trip Leader: Bonnie Carmichael, E-mail:

bonniecarmichael@hotmail.com

Meet in the Lower parking lot at the end of Point Pleasant

Drive by the wall overlooking Black Rock Beach at 9:30 am. We'll take a leisurely walk around part of the park to look for birds in their natural habitat on land and on the water. Duration: 2 hours.

Sat 10 Apr 2010 – Martinique Beach

Leader: Ian McLaren 429-7024 E-mail: iamclar@dal.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Scotiabank parking lot, Bridge Plaza, Dartmouth. Look for early migrants as well as possible rarities. Bring a lunch.

No rain date.

Thu 22 Apr 2010 – Regular Meeting

NSMNH, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, NS, 7:30 pm.

To Be Announced

Sun 25 Apr 2010 – Wolfville Area

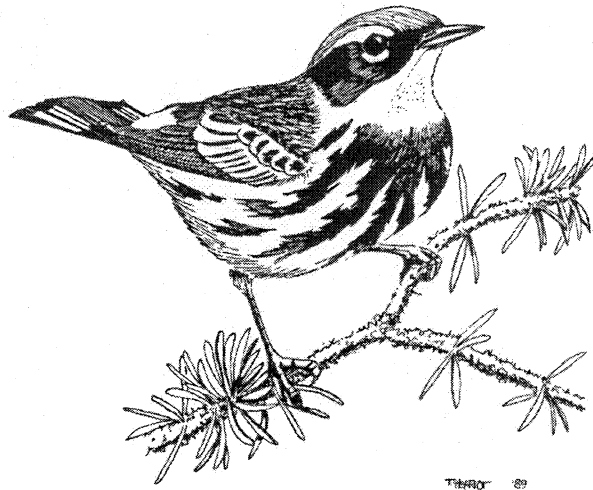
Leader: Jim Wolford 542-9204 E-mail:

jimwolford@eastlink.ca


This will be a joint trip with the Blomidon Naturalists Society, pond hopping for ducks and early migrants. Possibly there will be a visit to Wolfville Ridge first for Barred Owls, before the pond-hopping. Meet at the town wharf off the east end of Front Street in Wolfville at 10:00 a.m. Dress warmly and bring a lunch.

No rain date.





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