



ISLAND NATURALIST

ISSUE # 222

JAN. - MAR., 2017

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

- *President's Report*
- *Nature PEI News;*
- *Nature PEI Photo Contest;*
- *BioBlitzs on PEI Planned;*
- *Drumming Katydid Discovered;*
- *News from About;*
- *Red Fox Caching Behaviour;*
- *Inaugural CBC-4-Kids;*
- *Barn Swallow Nesting Structure;*
- *Christmas Bird Counts;*
- *Bahamas Piping Plover;*
- *Butterfly Atlas Update;*
- *2016 Bird List;*
- *Red-throated Rescue*
- *Great sighting reports: Western Conifer Seed Bug; River Otter; Willet, Sanderlings, & Eastern Kingbird in winter; Snowy Owl; Black-backed Woodpecker; Pileated Woodpecker; Peregrine & American Kestrels in winter; Gray Jays; White-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Thrasher; Northern Mockingbird; Northern Cardinal*
- *Environmental Calendar*



**NATURE PEI - NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND P.O. BOX 2346,
CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. C1A 8C1**

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month from October to June at 7:30 p.m. at **Beaconsfield's Carriage House, corner of West and Kent Street in Charlottetown**. Each meeting commences with a brief business meeting followed by a nutrition break and our guest speaker. Members and non-members are welcome.

Membership is open to anyone interested in the natural history of Prince Edward Island. Membership is available at any meeting or by contacting the Treasurer at P.O. Box 2346, Charlottetown PE C1A 8C1. Annual membership is \$20 and renewals are due in January. Multi-year renewals are \$20 per year for which you wish to renew. Membership expiry dates are shown in the top right hand corner of the mailing label or by a notice provided to those receiving electronic newsletters.

The Society is directed by a volunteer Executive elected from its members.

2017 Executive:

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NEWSLETTERS are normally published quarterly and are available in Acrobat Reader colour format via E-mail or in black & white hard copy delivered by mail. Hard copies are printed on recycled paper. Articles, notes, reports, drawings, bird sightings, plant records, pictures, etc. are welcomed from members and non-members. If you have seen anything unusual, please share it with us. It is important to have your nature observations recorded so that others may learn from them. All contributions should be sent by mail to Dan McAskill, Newsletter Editor, Nature PEI (NHSPEI), 368 Brazel Road, Donagh, P.E.I. C1B 0T9 or via E-mail to jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca. The *next deadline* for articles, sightings, or other newsletter information is *June 10th, 2017*.

Illustrations/Pictures: The Society extends its thanks to Ron Arvidson, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Victoria Doan, Bob Harding, Dale Murchison, Doug Murray, Dwaine Oakley, Brenda Penak, and John te Raa for the use of their photographs.

Reprinting: Editors of other newsletters and teachers wishing to copy classroom materials are welcome to reprint articles from the Island Naturalist (except when copyrighted). Due acknowledgment must be provided to the Island Naturalist, the author and illustrator.

Web page: www.NaturePEI.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NaturePEI>

Nature PEI gratefully acknowledges support from the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture which enables distribution of newsletters to schools and libraries desiring it. The Society has representation on the board of the Island Nature Trust. The Society is a registered charity and a non-profit organization (Part 2, PEI Companies Act). Tax receipts are issued for donations to the Society and these funds are used to further the work of the Society.

Cover Illustration:

These Brant were photographed by Dale Murchison over or on the Hillsborough River just off the QEH. Prior to the decline of eelgrass in the 1930s, this species congregated in the thousands along the coastal waters and bays around the Island. The species was once market hunted on PEI and many barrels full were exported to the northeastern states for food or were taken for the feather trade. Prior to the imposition of the Migratory Birds Convention Act, they shot them in the spring just before they migrated northwest. The massive eelgrass decline caused the migration route to change to an overland route to and from southern Hudson's Bay and only a small amount continued to migrate along the coast to the Northumberland Strait. The largest number we now know off frequenting PEI is on the Hillsborough but there are reports at Covehead, Rustico and Tryon River.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016:

By Rosemary Curley

Nature PEI: the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island

(This report has been condensed by author to fit this newsletter).

It is good to see many members and guests here tonight [January 3, 2017]. Our turnouts have been low since November when we began a nomadic existence while repairs to the Carriage House were underway. We thank an anonymous conservation group for enabling our use of the Farm Centre, and the Town of Stratford for providing free space in the Town Hall.

We had many good programs in 2016; birding events in April at Bonshaw, May at Mount Stewart, and June at Fullertons Marsh were led by Ron Arvidson, Dan McAskill and Diane Griffin respectively. Presentations were made by Dan McAskill (birds) and Rosemary Curley (plants and mammals) to community schools in Souris and Montague respectively. In March, we hosted a Marsh Monitoring and e-Bird workshop featuring Holly Lightfoot of Bird Studies Canada and Luke Walker of Acadia University. Unfortunately there were no volunteers who could follow the protocol for marsh monitoring. Frances Anderson led an October lichen fieldtrip at Brookvale. Our monthly meeting speakers entertained while informing us; thanks to Dale Murchison, Sean Landsman, John Klymko, Caleb Harding, Don Jardine, Frances Anderson, Beth Hoar and Dr. Helene van Donnich who spoke on topics ranging from butterflies to city trees. We also successfully encouraged the showing of the bird film "The Messenger" at City Cinema. In May, we helped organize the launch of the *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritimes* with Bird Studies Canada at the Confederation Centre Library. Nature PEI was a partner in the Atlas work, and it is a thrill to see the work of many naturalists packaged neatly in a super-attractive volume. If you do not have a print copy, it is now online on the Atlas website. The site will remain active for use of naturalists and biologists. Check it out!

In 2016 we met with others to try to effect change. We made a presentation to the Environmental Advisory Council on the draft Water Act outlining areas of concern including contaminants and water withdrawals, and we followed up with a letter. We visited with Minister Robert Mitchell to ask for core funding to assist with conservation programs and received a response indicating that such funding was not available. We met with the Guardian staff to apprise them of issues in conservation and ask for more nature conservation topics in the newspaper. In June we took part in the hearings about climate change hosted by Sean Casey, MP. We also met with Prince Edward Island National Park staff and commented on the latest edition of the Park Management Plan. We suggested that the key mandate of nature conservation be more upfront in the document.

As usual, we endeavoured again to make the case for a museum with natural history collections, and to that end we met in January with Minister Doug Currie, but apparently without much consequence--though we may have in some way encouraged the appointment one of our members, Diane Griffin, to the Board of the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation in June. Her October appointment to the Canadian Senate was a cause for rejoicing (Congratulations Senator Griffin!) but we are now encouraging others to apply to replace Diane and another outgoing member on the PEIMHF Board. In November we met with other supporters of a new museum and discussed ways to make progress. In December we wrote a letter to Premier Wade MacLauchlan to explain why we need a museum that includes a natural history focus. A meeting with the Premier has been requested. [Editors note: A meeting took place in late January, 2017].

In 2016, Nature PEI formed an Awards committee led by Gerald MacDougall, so if you know of anyone who should be nominated for any type of environmental award, please let us know. Our Board member Robert Harding received a Natural Heritage Activity Award from the Museum and Heritage Foundation this year for his work on documenting Island animals, and outgoing Board member Julie Vasseur and the Nature Conservancy of Canada received the Hon. J. Angus MacLean Natural Areas Award from Island Nature Trust for exceptional effort in conserving natural areas. We are proud our Board members received awards, but we don't believe awards should be limited to Board members.

Many of our activities are repeated and still greatly appreciated each year, for example, donations to Island Nature Trust; the donation of prizes for the provincial Science Fair and judging of the natural history entries (thanks to Gerald MacDougall and Diane Griffin); the carrying out of our Bird Counts, Christmas, Bain and Bennett; and the preparation of the Island Naturalist. Thanks to all the members who contributed stories photos and sightings to the newsletter and to Dan McAskill for making each issue such

a “good read”. We’ve begun supplying Robertson Library at UPEI and the Guardian with complementary copies.

There are other projects that are carried on for a long time but without anything to show for hard work. Such is the case with Margaret Mallett’s slide collection which for over a year we have tried to have digitized, and we are still not there. Thanks Dan and Ian.

We now have a database of spiders after the second year of our Spider Project. A minimum of 29 collectors took part in the exploration of these little-known creatures. We arrived at 197 species as a final count from an initial species list of 38. Thanks to The PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund, PEI Invasive Species Council, UPEI Biology Department, and the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division for supporting this work. Special thanks go to Mark Arsenault who led all collectors with the tallest stack of data cards, and also whipped the database into shape with some help from Julie Vasseur and willing students.

Our 50th Anniversary is in 2019, and we’ve already begun planning for it. The history of the first 25 years is on our website. We’ll complete the same for the last 25 years. We are tentatively looking at community school programs, a birding course, a salute to medicinal plants and a weekend of nature entertainment. Suggestions are welcomed.

What is in the works for 2017? The PEI Conservation Strategy, the first produced in Canada, is now 30 years old, and still no endangered species are listed. We will be asking government to designate the Piping Plover (it is about time!) and to produce a renewed Conservation Strategy. We are in the early planning stages of taking part in a Bioblitz that is being organized through the Canadian Wildlife Federation and Parks Canada. This will be an outdoor event with some experts on hand to help identify things. It should be fun.

Thank you to all our wonderful members who keep this society afloat by renewing their memberships (106 in 2016), supporting our in-house raffles and taking part in events. February is Members Night. You’re invited to show your photography and talk about nature, and if the photos in our newsletter are any indication, it should be a great show. Please check our website at naturepei.ca to make sure of the location. Thanks also to outgoing executive members Julie Vasseur and Diane Griffin, and all those who agreed to serve in 2017. Finally, we salute our Birding on PEI Facebook and Nature PEI webpage managers, Sharon Clark, Ron Arvidson and Ian Scott. We never forget that David Seeler maintains the birding list service that we are addicted to. Thank you for listening.

SOCIETY NEWS:

At the Society’s Annual General Meeting, the Society welcomed Connie Gaudet and Luke Peters to its board. Connie assumed the Program and Publicity directorship and Luke took on the Field Trips directorship.

Work on our citizen science spider project wound down with the submission of the Wildlife Conservation Fund final report, the reconciliation of the spider data base so that reports can be sent to participants and the drafting on a scientific paper on the outcomes. Thanks to Rosemary Curley, Bob Harding, Caleb Harding, Kyle Knysh (UPEI), Dr. Joe Bowden, and Mark Arsenault who bore the brunt of the paper and laboratory work required to pull all the pieces together.

To raise funds to enable the Society’s charitable and citizen science initiatives, a fund raising raffle was held. The draw for the prize winners was conducted at the Society’s February 2017 meeting. Congratulations were extended to Shelagh Connors who won the Bushnell spotting scope and tripod, Harry Yeo who won the *Second Atlas of Maritime Breeding Birds*, and Jeanne Maki who won a year’s annual subscription for the Society. A special thanks was extended to Canadian Tire who donated the scope and Rosemary Curley who donated the Atlas.

Nature PEI has continued to advocate for development of the nature mandate of the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation (Museum). It encouraged two members to submit applications to join the Museum Board, held conversations with key staff of the Museum, and held a meeting with a core group of individuals interested in a museum. Rosemary Curley, Dr. Ed MacDonald and Dan McAskill represented the Society during a meeting with Premier Wade MacLauchlan and Minister Doug Currie on February 15th to discuss ways and means to include nature within the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation and the need for a PEI Museum of Human and Natural History.

In the past several months, the Society pledged \$500 towards the PEI Invasive Species Council to further a WCF application on its invasive species mapping project, \$200 for prizes for the PEI Science

Fair, and \$225 to the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation which provides us use of its Carriage House for our meetings.

The Society explored opportunities to further our knowledge on groups of invertebrates for which we have very little occurrence information for PEI. Discussions were held with the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre and UPEI and it was agreed that the Society would next focus efforts on flower flies (aka hover flies) and terrestrial snails and slugs. A Wildlife Conservation Fund (WCF) application for funding was developed and the necessary cash commitments required by the WCF were obtained from the Society and the PEI Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division. The Canadian Wildlife Federation approached the Society to serve as part of its national BioBlitz Canada 150 Event project. After considerable discussion to resolve the terms of the implementation contract, Rosemary Curley signed it on the behalf of the Society in March, 2017 (see BioBlitz article in this issue of the *Island Naturalist*) to deliver a BioBlitz at Carleton in June.



Leopard Slug at Victoria Park
September 6, 2014
Photo by Victoria Doan

Rosemary represented the Society at the PEI Invasive Species Council afternoon workshop on March 24, 2017 at the Farm Centre.

In April, the Society established a tag line for its correspondence and papers. It is “*Supporting citizen science since 1969*” and established a nature photography competition (see article below). It also acquired 22 copies of the Nature NB Checklist of Birds of New Brunswick for resale at upcoming Nature PEI meetings (These are available for \$5 each). These were provided by Nature NB in exchange for a donation to their Mary Majka Scholarship Fund.

In November 2015, the Society was one of a large number of groups who made submissions on the White Paper on a Water Act for PEI. In late March, Minister Robert Mitchell of the PEI Department of Communities, Land and Environment released its draft *Water Act* and opened a brief consultation period closing on April 18th, 2017. As both time and speakers spaces were limited for the advertized public meetings, the Society developed and submitted a written submission seeking significant changes in the document to better reflect Islanders and wildlife’s inherent water rights.

Other projects that are under discussion by the board include: needs for a PEI biodiversity strategy; speaker lineup; field trips lineup; improvements to the Society’s website; a flower fly pinning workshop Saturday, May 13th at 183 Upton Road in Charlottetown; Nature PEI’s Colouring Books and other publications; compilation of the Society’s minute book; 50th anniversary celebration (2019); and digitization of the Margaret Mallett slide collection which was donated by her estate.

NATURE PEI PHOTO CONTEST:

By Ian Scott

Nature PEI is conducting “Your Best Shot - Photo Contest” on its Facebook site. The categories are: Plants, Animals; Birds; Youth (age 19 and under), and People’s Choice. Individuals can enter up to three submissions of photos taken on Prince Edward Island. For more information, see the Society’s Facebook site. Winners will be featured in the *Island Naturalist* newsletter, during the Society’s member’s night photos, and a free year’s membership to Nature PEI including an electronic subscription for the *Island Naturalist*.

BIOBLITZ ANYONE?

By Dan McAskill

Do you want to know more about nature and biodiversity on the Island? This June, there will be two opportunities to get personally engaged with nature. Nature PEI and Parks Canada are each conducting a **signature Canada 150 BioBlitz** this June. A BioBlitz is an active period of surveying plants, animals and their habitats where interested youth and adults (citizen scientists) participate in the field with various biological experts to learn and record as many living species as possible within a designated area. The term BioBlitz was coined by Susan Rudy, a U.S. Parks Service Naturalist during that first event in 1996 at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington, D.C. where approximately 1,000 species were identified. Since then, BioBlitzs have been conducted across the world.

BioBlitzs can have great value in the field collection of a wide variety of specimens in a very short period of time. It is not unusual to discover new species in a given BioBlitz area especially on PEI where there is very little information for various groups. Some of the benefits include:

- ! Having Fun - Rather than a highly structured biological survey, the intent is to learn and to collect specimens or photograph and identify them in the field rather than measure density;
- ! Gathering species information - documenting species in a designated area that is relatively accessible can lead to establishing baseline information that can later focus more concentrated studies to address what was found;
- ! Identifying and documenting rare species or associations of species; and
- ! Appreciating biodiversity in small areas - obtaining a better appreciation of the numbers of species in small area when you look closely; and
- ! Making contacts with specialists - having a chance for one on one or small group chats with the specialists and become familiar with their work.

Depending on the leadership and availability of field experts for different species, a specialist will assist naturalists and volunteers to conduct an intensive field search for particular plants and animals over a designated, continuous time period usually 24 hours. After the field work, the species expert will assist participants in identifying or verifying the species and the information is posted onto a phone using the i-Naturalist app or via the internet. There will be people present to help citizen scientists to input the information.

The PEI National Park is hosting special Canada 150 events across the country during 2017 to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. From noon on June 9th to noon on June 10th, PEI National Park will be hosting its signature Parks Canada BioBlitz event on PEI. This informative, hands-on, 24-hour event will take place in the Brackley-Dalvay area of PEI National Park, with base-camp headquarters at the Dalvay administration building. Nature enthusiasts of all ages can team up with specialists who will be on hand for different biological species including birds, invertebrates, lichens and other plants, and nocturnal animals (bats, owls, and potentially moths!). These experts will assist you to locate, identify, catch and document as many different organisms as possible during the BioBlitz. When event plans are finalized, invitations will be extended to schools and other groups interested in participating to learn about the biodiversity of PEI National Park. For more information on this BioBlitz, contact the Park at www.parkscanada.gc.ca/pei Remember, admission is free this year!



Nature PEI will be leading BioBlitz Canada 150 Trout River Natural Area at Carleton, PEI for 24 hours on from noon on Friday June 16th to noon on Saturday June 17th. During this fun event, specimens will be collected and there will be early morning birding and nighttime listening for owls and amphibians. Nature PEI's Event Coordinator is Travis James tjames@upe.ca. He is assembling an e-mail list of participants and will be pleased to learn of your plans to help out. All age groups are welcomed as well as volunteers with expert knowledge about any wildlife species or families. For more information, watch the media and the Society's website at www.naturepei.ca or the Nature PEI Facebook site. These events are free.

(Adapted from PEI National Park email to Society; Canadian Wildlife Federation - Nature PEI BioBlitz Canada 150 Event service contract; Wikipedia and clarifications from Rosemary Curley and Bob Harding).

DRUMMING KATYDID: FIRST OCCURRENCES FOR MARITIMES:

by Robert W. Harding

The Drumming Katydid *Meconema thalassinum* (Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae) had not been recorded on Prince Edward Island - or anywhere else in the Maritimes - until recently. It is a European species, first recorded in North America in 1957 in Long Island, New York. It has subsequently spread across many northern states and into southern Ontario and British Columbia.

When we first encountered a male Drumming Katydid at our porch light in Summerville on August 30, 2015, I didn't know what it was. It looked like a katydid, but different from any I had seen before. And then a female was attracted to the same light a few nights later! I did not collect the specimens, but their very distinctive looks were evident in the photos I took. I couldn't find it in any of my reference books or on the usual websites. Eventually, I did find it online after an internet search using some very descriptive words – but only on websites showing European species.

I contacted John Klymko at Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (ACDC) who confirmed its ID. As it turns out, he had encountered a female Drumming Katydid in Borden-Carleton two years earlier, in September 2015! It would turn out to be the first Drumming Katydid recorded from the Maritime Provinces.



Male Drumming Katydid
Collected Aug. 30, 2015
Photo by Bob Harding

Katydids are related to grasshoppers and crickets, and are often leaf-green and well hidden in trees and shrubs. Most katydids ‘sing’ at night to attract a mate by rubbing their wings together. The Drumming Katydid is so named because instead of ‘singing’, the male ‘drums’ on a leaf with its back legs, creating a sound that is almost inaudible to humans. These insects are fairly small, measuring less than 20 mm (¾”) body length, although their whitish antennae are much longer. They are reported to feed on soft-bodied bugs, especially aphids. Both males and females are conspicuously marked, so identification can be confirmed with clear photographs.

Throughout the summer and fall of 2016, Drumming Katydids were reported from other PEI sites, including Mount Stewart, Stratford and locations in PEI National Park. Nova Scotia’s first reported sightings were near Halifax last summer, and it has not yet been recorded in New Brunswick. They may be widespread on PEI, and Nature PEI members are encouraged to photograph any Drumming Katydids they may see so that identification can be confirmed and distribution of these interesting insects can be more clearly understood.

Thanks to John Klymko, Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre for his assistance in confirming identifications and providing information on this family in the region.

NEWS FROM ABOUT:

Compiled by Dan McAskil

The City of Charlottetown finished year two of its Dutch Elm Disease Management Program. This year, 96 elms were identified on public and private land as being infected with Dutch elm disease. Since their diagnosis, these trees have been removed and wood and the bark which could harbour the bark beetles which can disperse the fungus has been properly disposed. About 45% of Charlottetown’s elm population remains alive and appears healthy. Some of these are majestic, old growth elms. (Adapted from the City of Charlottetown’s *From the Park Bench* newsletter Winter/Spring 2016/17)

RED FOX CACHING BEHAVIOUR:

By Judi Allen

This photo was taken just before the fox caught a vole (I assume a vole due to its size). He buried it in the snow in our back yard. It was interesting to watch how, after the burial, it used its muzzle to cover up the evidence.

INAUGURAL CBC4KIDS ON PEI:

By Luke Peters

Nature PEI and the Stratford Area Watershed Improvement Group hosted the Island’s inaugural CBC4Kids event on Saturday, January 8th, 2017 at Stratford’s Fullerton’s Conservation Park. Despite it being a chilly morning, there was a good turnout. A total of 13 bird species were noted. The following is what was observed:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 2 American Black Duck | 2 Common Raven |
| 1 Northern Goshawk | 19 Black-capped Chickadee |
| 1 Herring Gull | 1 Brown Creeper |
| 2 Downy Woodpecker | 4 Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| 8 Hairy Woodpecker (4 were heard but not seen) | 1 Pine Siskin (heard but not seen) |
| 2 Blue Jays (heard but not seen) | 2 American Goldfinch |
| 10 American Crow | |

Other animal or animal signs noted included:

- Red Squirrel
- Plenty of snowshoe hare tracks
- Red Fox tracks
- Coyote tracks
- Mink tracks
- Raccoon tracks

BARN SWALLOW NESTING STRUCTURE:

By Doug Murray



Barn Swallow Nesting Structure
January 2017
Photo by Doug Murray

Barn swallows used to be a common sight in the countryside but not so anymore. A reduction of available nesting sites is one of the reasons cited for the change. The Town of Stratford is developing the parcel of land around their wellfield site as a recreation area called Fullerton's Creek Conservation Park. It stretches from the Trans Canada Highway north to Fullerton's Marsh and currently includes 5 kilometres of trail built to Trans Canada Trail standards. Two new structures were constructed in the park late last fall, an elevated viewing platform on the edge of the marsh for viewing waterfowl and nearby, a swallow nesting structure.

The simple nesting structure provides for the basic needs of the birds; an elevated shelf, protected from the weather. It measures approximately 1.2 metres by 2.4 metres and is 2.7 metres to the shelf from the ground. The shelf is built around all four sides. Construction was done in the fall in the hope that birds migrating back to the region early in the spring will find it in time for nesting in May.



View from under nesting structure roof
Photo by Doug Murray

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 2016-17:

Results compiled by Scott Sinclair, Dwaine Oakley & Dan McAskill

Audubon Christmas Bird Counts have been conducted for 117 consecutive years in North America. Bird Studies Canada has been the Canadian partner in the CBCs since the 101st count (2000-1). This year the weather forecasts were bad for two of the four counts and the East Point Count and the Hillsborough Counts were rescheduled to December 26th and January 2nd respectively. Thus, for the 46th consecutive year, the Natural History Society Nature PEI AKA Nature PEI conducted the Hillsborough Christmas Bird Count while the PEI National Park CBC celebrated its 45th as storms caused its cancellation in 1975. The Montague Christmas count celebrated its 33rd anniversary this year and was held on December 31. The East Point count which was planned for December 17th and occurred on December 26th marked its 14th anniversary with one year missed for severe weather.

The weather forecast for the PEI National Park CBC appeared questionable the day before the count but the snow stopped during the night and light rain commenced before dawn. The roads were largely cleared of snow and, by mid-day, most paved roads were clear of snow and ice. Thus the travelling was relatively good and frozen roads meant clay roads were passable where the snow had been plowed. Winter started early this year and the bays were largely covered by ice as were still fresh water areas. Despite the thaws and heavy rain during December, most unploughed roads were still impassable because of the size of the drifts left over from the late November and early December snow storms. However, by the date of the rescheduled Hillsborough CBC on January 2nd, the fields were 90% clear of snow while woodlands were still snow covered (10 to 30 cm).

Dwaine Oakley coordinated the East Point Christmas Bird Count. Because of the storms and available days, Dwaine went ahead with this rescheduled count but strong wind gusts made the conditions somewhat rugged although not as bad as some East Point CBCs. The first birders arrived at 7:30 am for the scheduled assembly time. Seven birders participated and birded the Point itself amidst a stiff northwest wind that created heavy surf along the north shore. Afterwards, two teams formed up and took to their zones.

The PEI National Park CBC was held on Sunday, December 18th. Through much of the day, light to at times moderate rain hampered birding walks. There was no ice along the north shore but ice covered almost all of the bays and fresh water ponds. There was a fairly good turn out of ten participants for the potluck and the food was both great and plentiful. Barb MacDonald of Parks Canada hosted the potluck in the Dalvay Administration Headquarters Lunch Room. Parks Canada provided a Parks Canada thermos which one of the counters took it home as a commemorative prize.

The Hillsborough CBC was scheduled for December 27th but the forecast high winds and snow were well underway and no ploughs were on the secondary roads at 6:00 am so the count was rescheduled to January 2nd. Bright sunshine and a relatively balmy day of -6° C commenced the day for the earliest birding team at 7:12 am

and bright sunshine remained in place throughout the day. Diane and Kevin Griffin hosted the evening potluck with four teams and 13 people participating.

The Montague CBC was held on December 31st with reasonably good birding although the wind was a challenge for acoustic birding at some sites. Sixteen field counters and two feeder watchers participated. Many of the unploughed winter roads were impassable because of snow banks. Dwaine Oakley coordinated the East Point CBC, Scott Sinclair organized the Montague count and Dan McAskill coordinated the P.E.I. National Park and Hillsborough CBCs.

The conifer cone crops were almost non-existent this year as were the mountain ash and winter berry crops. However, there was a very good crop of wild apples and a good crop of wild rose. In the Point Prim area, there was a good crop of high bush cranberry. As was the case the last five years, field counters again reported low numbers of woodland birds and sparrows. Finch diversity and numbers were both very low although there were good numbers of American Goldfinch at some feeders. The most unusual sightings were: 2 Harlequins at East Point, 4 Bufflehead at Basin Head, 7 Red-throated Loon, 4 Common Loon, 4 Northern Gannet, 1 Razorbill and 8 Black Guillemot at East Point, a Black Guillemot at Georgetown Harbour, a male Hooded Merganser at Montague River just below Knox's Dam and 2 at Basin Head, a Glaucous Gull at Basin Head, 1 Pine Grosbeak at Lakeville, a Rusty Blackbird near MacLure's Pond, 2 Purple Finch at Peter's Road, a Common Redpoll at East Point, and 26 Evening Grosbeaks at Brooklyn.

As usual, the standardized system of bird numbers, birders, travel, and weather data was collected so that the data was comparable to that from other CBCs in North America and the other count zones. This year's Island CBC summaries are provided below.

OBSERVATIONS

NUMBERS OBSERVED

Species	East Point	National Park	Hillsborough	Montague	Total
	Dec. 26, 2016	Dec. 18, 2016	Jan. 2, 2017	Dec. 31, 2016	Four Counts
Canada Geese	102	7	2260	464	2833
American Wigeon			2		2
American Black Duck	53	990	230	209	1482
Mallard	4	24	86	154	268
Green-winged Teal		17	7	3	27
Greater Scaup		381			361
Lesser Scaup		2			2
Common Eider	750	1	2		753
Harlequin Duck	2				2
Surf Scoter	1				1
White-winged Scoter	120				120
Black Scoter	105		12		117
Long-tailed Duck	955	12	107	185	1259
Bufflehead	4				4
Common Goldeneye	84	113	50	189	436
Barrow's Goldeneye	2	30		7	39
Hooded Merganser	2			1	2
Common Merganser	105	50	52	129	336
Red-breasted Merganser	36	5	300	71	412
Ring-necked Pheasant		1	9		10
Ruffed Grouse		1		3	4
Common Loon	4				4
Red-throated Loon	7				7
Northern Gannet	4				4
Double-crested Cormorant			2		2
Bald Eagle	4	25	26	41	96
Adults	4	9	12	25	50
Immature	0	14	13	15	42
Unknown	0		1	1	4
Northern Harrier				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			3	1	4
Northern Goshawk		1		1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	2	5	13	5	25
Rough-legged Hawk			9		9
Razorbill	1				1
Black Guillemot	8				9
Bonaparte's Gull				3	3
Ring-billed Gull	2	4	24	16	46
Herring Gull	81	45	242	825	1193
Iceland Gull	19	5	42	2	68
Glaucous Gull	1				1
Great Black-backed Gull	11	9	26	91	137
Rock Pigeon (Dove)	4	73	135	162	374
Mourning Dove		43	106	28	177
Belted Kingfisher	1	2	1	1	5

Downy Woodpecker		5	18	7	29
Hairy Woodpecker		1	6	4	10
Northern Flicker	1	2	5		7
Northern Shrike	1	2			3
American Kestrel			1		1
Merlin			1		1
Blue Jay	22	193	320	184	719
American Crow	144	525	954	367	1990
Common Raven	20	35	58	58	171
Black-capped Chickadee	14	125	248	180	562
Boreal Chickadee			1	2	3
Red-breasted Nuthatch		2	15	4	21
Brown Creeper			2	2	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	11	3	8	24
American Robin		6	6		12
European Starling	222	845	8298	977	10342
Bohemian Waxwing	43	1	84		128
Cedar Waxwing			110		110
Snow Bunting		58		7	65
American Tree Sparrow		8	9	2	19
Song Sparrow		1	1	1	3
White-throated Sparrow			1		1
Dark-eyed Junco		78	82	27	187
Red-winged Blackbird		1			1
Rusty Blackbird					1
Common Grackle			2		2
Brown-headed Cowbird			1	2	3
Pine Grosbeak	1				1
Purple Finch				2	2
Common Redpoll	1				1
Pine Siskin			10		10
American Goldfinch	12	93	81	133	318
Evening Grosbeak				26	26
Passerine spp.		3			3
House Sparrow			4	1	5
Total Birds	2957	3821	14058	4589	25425
Total Species	41	43	50	46	76
Add Count Week Species		0	0	0	0
Participants: Field	0	13	22	16	59
Count Parties	2	5 to 7	7 to 8	5	19 to 22
Feeders	0	3	4	2	8
Mammals:					
Red Squirrel	2	1	31	8	42
Red Fox	0	0	2	0	2
Coyote	0	0	3	0	3
Norway Rat	0	0	1	0	1
Harbour Seal	0	0	0	2	2
Seal spp	0	0	3	0	3
Roaming House Cats	0	0	8	2	10
Walked: Km	2	3.2	14.1	17.6	35.9
Hours	2.5	1	4.5	10.5	18.5
Driven: Km	128	502.6	452.5	363	1446.1
Hours	7	26.6	32.5	25.5	91.6
Earliest Start	0.3125	0.2916666667	0.3	0.3194444444	
Latest Ending	0.625	0.6604166667	0.6875	0.6458333333	
Total Party Hours	9.5	27.3	37.5	36.8	111.4
Owling Hours		0	0	0	
Owling Kilometres		0	0	0	
Number of Feeder Reports	0	2	3	2	
Feeder Hours		3	4.5	2	9.5
Snow Cover - aver. cm.	30	0 to 20	0 to 30	0 to 130	
Salt Water Bays - % frozen		90	90	0	
Fresh Water - % frozen		95	90	70	
Weather:	Light snow	Raining	sunshine	sunshine	
Bright Sunshine (hrs)	0	0	9.25	7	
Precipitation		9.4	0	0	
Cloud %	100	100	0	0	
Temperature C.	-6 to -5	2 to 9	-6 to 2	-7 to -5	
Aver. Wind Speed km/hr		24.77	11.8		
Wind speed range km/hr	27 to 45	11 to 33	8 to 24	5 to 30	
Prevail. wind direction		SSW to S	WNW	W	

where CW = species seen during the count week (three days before and after count day)

For registered counts, the entire data base is accessible on line through www.audubon.org and click your way to the results under birds and science.

Thanks to the many participants, namely: Jim Aquilani; Ron Arvidson; Jean Blanchard; Vanessa Bonnyman; Bill Bowerbank; Sharon Clark; Rosemary Curley; Wanda Curley; Fiep de Bie; Lois Doan; Victoria Doan; Diane Griffin; Gary Griffin; Ben Hoteling; Derek Lowe; Lucas MacCormack; Jill MacCormack; Gerald MacDonald; Tina MacKenzie; Brett MacKinnon; Benjamin MacNeill, Clare Martin; Kathy Martin, Dan McAskill; Arlene & Paul McGuigan; Janice McGuigan; Bonnie McOrmand; Dale Murchison; Robyn Murchison; Nicole Murtagh; Audrey Oakley, Dwaine Oakley; Ruth Richman; Gary Schneider; David Seeler; Scott Sinclair; Don and Alma Steeves; Ella Stewart; Liz Townsend; Simone VanInderstine; and Rosalind Waters. These counts would not be possible without their participation.

ISLAND NATURE TRUST POST TO BIRDING ON PEI:

Julie Lynn Zahavich

We have some exciting Piping Plover news - one of our plovers has been re-sighted! VC, a female plover who was banded in 2014 at St. Peter's Lake Run, has been re-sighted in Gilpin Point, South Abaco, The Bahamas!

VC has spent the last two summers on the beach in Cross River, PEI. In 2016, she successfully fledged 2 chicks. We held an event at Cross River this past summer to celebrate VC and her brood, and to put up signs that Grade 4 students at Souris Regional School made.

We hope that VC has a safe winter season and migration south. It won't be long now until our plovers return!

MARITIMES BUTTERFLY ATLAS:

By John Klymko

While the Maritimes Butterfly Atlas is in the rear-view mirror for most, it's front and centre at the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (AC CDC). Work continues on writing a book about the project in collaboration with the Maine Butterfly Survey. We've been busy finalizing datasets and planning the book's layout. Work at the AC CDC has been helped by a recent grant from the Gosling Foundation, not to mention all the other funders who have helped this project along the way (see accdc.com/mba/en/about.html for the complete list of funders).

2016 PEI BIRD REPORT:

Compiled by David Seeler

SPECIES Reported: 231

DUCKS, GEESE, AND

WATERFOWL

Greater White-fronted Goose

Snow Goose

Brant

Barnacle Goose

Canada Goose

Wood Duck

Gadwall

American Wigeon

American Black Duck

Mallard

Blue-winged Teal

Northern Shoveler

Northern Pintail

Green-winged Teal

Redhead

Ring-necked Duck

Tufted Duck

Greater Scaup

Lesser Scaup

Common Eider

Harlequin Duck

Surf Scoter

White-winged Scoter

Black Scoter

Long-tailed Duck

Bufflehead

Common Goldeneye

Barrow's Goldeneye

Hooded Merganser

Common Merganser

Red-breasted Merganser

Ruddy Duck

PHEASANTS, GROUSE,

TURKEYS, ALLIES

Gray Partridge

Ring-necked Pheasant

Ruffed Grouse

Sharp-tailed Grouse

LOONS

Red-throated Loon

Common Loon

GREBES

Pied-billed Grebe

Horned Grebe

Red-necked Grebe

STORM-PETRELS

Leach's Storm-Petrel

BOOBIES AND GANNETS

Northern Gannet

CORMORANTS AND SHAGS

Double-crested Cormorant

Great Cormorant



Sharp-shinned Hawk - Stratford
Dec. 2016 Photo by Dwaine Oakley

HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNS

American Bittern

Great Blue Heron

Great Egret

Little Blue Heron

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS

Glossy Ibis

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Turkey Vulture

OSPREY

Osprey

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES

Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Northern Goshawk
Bald Eagle
Broad-winged Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk

RAILS, GALLINULES, AND

COOTS

Sora
American Coot

CRANES

Sandhill Crane

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS

Black-bellied Plover
American Golden-Plover
Semipalmated Plover
Piping Plover

Killdeer

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES

Spotted Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs
Willet
Lesser Yellowlegs
Whimbrel
Hudsonian Godwit
Ruddy Turnstone
Red Knot
Sanderling
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Purple Sandpiper
Dunlin
Stilt Sandpiper
Ruff
Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson's Snipe
American Woodcock

GULLS, TERNS, AND SKIMMERS

Black-legged Kittiwake
Bonaparte's Gull

Black-headed Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Iceland Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Glaucous Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Caspian Tern
Common Tern
Arctic Tern

SKUAS AND JAEGERS

Pomarine Jaeger
Parasitic Jaeger

AUKS, MURRES, AND

PUFFINS



Black Guillemot at Souris
2017 Photo by Dale Murchison

Common Murre
Razorbill
Black Guillemot

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove

CUCKOOS

Black-billed Cuckoo

OWLS

Great Horned Owl
Snowy Owl
Northern Hawk Owl
Barred Owl
Short-eared Owl
Northern Saw-whet Owl

NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES

Common Nighthawk

HUMMINGBIRDS

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

KINGFISHERS

Belted Kingfisher

WOODPECKERS

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker
American Three-toed Woodpecker
Black-backed Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker

FALCONS AND CARACARAS

American Kestrel
Merlin
Gyr Falcon
Peregrine Falcon

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Olive-sided Flycatcher
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Eastern Kingbird

SHRIKES

Northern Shrike

VIREOS

Blue-headed Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo

CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES

Gray Jay
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven

LARKS

Horned Lark

SWALLOWS

Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow

CHICKADEES AND TITS

Black-capped Chickadee
Boreal Chickadee

NUTHATCHES

Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch

TREECREEPERS

Brown Creeper

WRENS

Winter Wren
Carolina Wren

GNATCATCHERS

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

KINGLETS

Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

THRUSHES AND ALLIES

Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Swainson's Thrush
Hermit Thrush
American Robin

MOCKINGBIRDS AND

THRASHERS

Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher

STARLINGS

European Starling

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS

American Pipit



Cedar Waxwing at South Melville
2017 Photo by Ron Arvidson

WAXWINGS

Bohemian Waxwing
Cedar Waxwing

LONGSPURS AND SNOW

BUNTINGS

Lapland Longspur
Snow Bunting

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Black-and-white Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Mourning Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
American Redstart
Cape May Warbler
Northern Parula
Magnolia Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Palm Warbler
Pine Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Canada Warbler
Wilson's Warbler

BUNTINGS AND NEW WORLD SPARROWS

Eastern Towhee
American Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow

Savannah Sparrow
Nelson's Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco

CARDINALS AND ALLIES

Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES

Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Baltimore Oriole

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS, AND

ALLIES

Pine Grosbeak
Purple Finch
Red Crossbill
White-winged Crossbill
Common Redpoll
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Evening Grosbeak

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow

AN INTERESTING SUNDAY MORNING!

By Daphne Davey

As I was shovelling my driveway, a car pulled up and a woman said she had an emergency and could I help? (She knew me slightly through the watershed group). Turned out she had a toddler in the back seat and a red-throated loon in a cardboard box in the trunk. She had found the bird by the side of the road in Breadalbane on Saturday and kept it overnight as she had slid off the road with her car the day before and wasn't ready to deal with the bird until today. However, she had determined that it was not likely injured, and had contacted the AVC for advice. They referred her to Hope for Wildlife (not terribly near at hand!). Hope offered to drive halfway to PEI to meet her, but her domestic situation made this impossible. So she loaded up the bird on Sunday and headed towards Victoria to find open water -- when she saw me in my driveway.



Loon release at Victoria Dec. 2017

Long story short, we pulled up at the Victoria causeway and found a (the only) flight of steps to the beach and open water. I was dressed for wading through slush, sand, and lapping water (in the pouring rain). So, while she watched from the road with her toddler, I carried box and bird gingerly down the slippery steps and released it into the water. The loon immediately swam away and, soon thereafter, we saw it dipping its head and neck into the water although we didn't see it fly away (not that we could stay more than a minute to watch it under the circumstances). She did take a couple of photos so I'll be interested to see how they turn out.

WEATHER EVENTS:

By Christmas week, ice thickness off the Stanhope Golf Course was 25 cm and the ice at St. Peter's Bay was 20 cm thick (LY). More rains and some warm temperatures left fields in southern Queens County 90% clear of snow while woodlands had 10 to 30 cm on snow on Jan. 2 (JDM). Significant snowfall from nor-easter with 16.4 cm of light snow and drifting on Jan. 7th and 26.4 cm on Jan. 8th with winds 5 to 40 km/hr and gusts over 60. Temperatures plummeted to -17°C and wind chills to -27°C the following morning. By Jan. 13th, 2 days of warm conditions, rain and fog radically dropped snow levels in the fields with many fields becoming 90% clear of snow and woodlands showing windows clear of snow around tree trunks (JDM). Ice on Hillsborough River off Mermaid was thin and treacherous some days week of Jan. 13th while thick ice off Stanhope Golf Course and St. Peter's (LY). Ice storm followed by heavy rain cleared most of snow from fields Jan. 24-25th (JDM). Snow on Feb. 5-6 gave a light scuff of snow in fields and, on Feb. 8th to 10th, another storm brought 6.8, 14, and 10.6 cm respectively of snow and high northwest to north winds that created some drifts and added to woodland snow level but exposed fields still allowed foraging in central Queens Co. This was followed by another NorEaster on Valentines day (13th-14th) that brought 42.8 cm of wind driven powder snow and then another storm on the 16th which brought another Nor'easter bringing 18.2 cm of snow (JDM). Several days of rain and warm conditions dropped snow levels appreciably and caused some flooding of ditches on the 25th and 26th of February then temperatures rose to 8 to 10°C. By Feb. 27-28th, many fields were 80 to 90% clear of snow, there were melted areas around tree trunks, and maple sap was running (JDM). On Mar. 7, Glenfinnan River was open at the Route 21 bridge down to the cove and upstream as well (JDM) while Fullerton's Creek was still largely froze over on Mar. 15. Despite storm forecasts for March 15th, we received only 6 to 8 cm of snow and fields were largely clear of snow within 24 hours. On Mar. 16, the river channel from Hillsborough bridge to Rocky Point was open. The blizzard forecasts for March 22-3, were on the mark with Charlottetown receiving 26 cm but the amounts around the province ranged down to 11 cm. High winds created significant drifts on Mar. 22-23 with 31.4 cm of snow in Charlottetown but other areas only received 10 cm. Warm weather followed in the next week. On Mar. 27, Fullerton's Creek channel was partly open above the bridge but the bay below the bridge was still iced over. The main river was Although there were flood warnings up for Apr. 7, only 12.2 mm of rain with temperatures of 3 to 15°C. Glenfinnan Lake and Bovyer Creek Pond iced over with white ice on Apr. 7 but Glenfinnan Lake 90% ice free on Apr. 10 but Bovyer Creek Pond still froze over. On Apr. 7th, the mainstream Hillsborough was mostly open. The first area of burned grass was seen at Donagh on Apr. 10 (JDM). Apr. 12th brought a temperature of 13 to 17°C and woodlands in Donagh and Glenfinnan were about 20% clear of snow in more open areas. Some snow remained along hedgerows. Bovyer Creek Pond 50% open on Apr. 12 and O'Keefe's Lake about 80% ice free (JDM).

ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:

Compiled by J. Dan McAskill



Western Conifer Seed Bug
Collected winter 2017
at Donagh PE
Photo by Bob Harding

PLANTS: In some areas such as Point Prim, there was a good crop of **High Bush Cranberry** which attracted waxwings and a few robins during the Hillsborough CBC. The first **pussy willows** were reported at the J. Frank Gaudet Nursery on Mar. 23 (KEM) and 1 bush at Donagh on Mar. 28 (JDM). The first **pussy willow** were seen at Hazelgrove on Apr. 5 (KEM) & at Hardy's Pond on Apr. 15 and **speckled alder** pollen being shed (JtR). First **crocus** in flower at Donagh on Apr. 11 but alder catkins still closed that day and were open on Apr. 15 (JDM). **Coltsfoot** in flower roadside near the QEH (EM, WFB) & at Hardy Pond (JtR) on Apr. 15. **Hazelnut** catkins open at Donagh on Apr. 15 (JDM).

INSECTS: A **wooly bear** reported to CBC during the week of Jan. 13th (CBC Radio). In Donagh a **Western Conifer Seed Bug** *Leptoglossus occidentalis* was discovered in my house, collected and delivered to Bob Harding who identified it (JDM, RWH). Brownish medium sized **butterfly** flying adjacent to Royalty Oaks on Apr. 13 (JDM).

AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES:

First reports of wood frogs and spring peepers was on Apr. 14 during owl survey route from Vernon River to Union Road (DO, BMacK, BD, TC).

MAMMALS:

Striped Skunk active at Reeve's Estates the week Dec. 24th (DO) and 1 walking during day at Earncliffe on Jan. 1 (JDM). One **Coyote** at Fox Meadows Golf Course on Dec. 27 (LM), 1 at Hazelbrook on Jan. 1 (CH), and 3 at Rocky Point, 2 in one field and another in an adjacent field on Jan. 2 (LD, VD). **Red Fox** at Stanhope and West Covehead on Jan. 6 (JDM). Black fox at Summerside with squinted eyes and poorly furred (DMa). 1 **Coyote** crossing ice at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 1 (LP, WCT). **Harbour Seal** at East Point on Jan. 12 (BMacK, BDo). 1 Grey Seal at East Point on Jan. 28 (BMacK, BDo). **Eastern chipmunk** ran across the road in Donagh on Feb. 27th and 1 was seen at Dromore feeders on Feb. 28 (AC), daily starting on Apr. 8 (JDM). There was a dead **striped skunk** on the road in Johnston's River on Feb. 28th and one on the Donagh Road on Mar. 6. A **raccoon** at Donagh feeders on Feb. 28 and Mar. 20 (JDM). A **masked shrew** at DeGros Marsh on Mar. 5 (JAI). Two river otters were legally trapped on PEI this past trapping season an immature male at Cardigan and a mature male at Elliotvale. While there have been sporadic sightings over the years, these are the first specimens taken on the Island since a male was taken in 1973 at Cardigan. (GGr, RLD)

BIRDS: **Brant** - ~12 on Hillsborough River opposite the QEH on Apr. (DMur) & 16 on Apr. 12 (JtR); **Canada Geese** - 300+ at Orwell Cove on Dec. 31 (JDM, DCS, DO) & 2,000 on ice on Dec. 1 (JDM), 200+ at Souris West on Jan. 14 (BMacK), 93 at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 1 (LP, WCT), 90 at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 19 (RA, BPEI, WFB, EM), V of geese flying on Mar. 7 (recorded at Nature PEI meeting), 7 flying westward along the shore at Savage Harbour on Mar. 9 (JDM, MH), first skein of geese coming in from the south at Argyle Shore on Mar. 10 (LY), 250 at Vernon Bridge and 50 at Seal River (Cherry Valley) on Mar. 12 (JDM), 117 at Cardigan & 300 at Souris on Mar. 13 (DMc), 250 at Clyde River on Mar. 14 (DMc), flocks feeding in fields off Clyde River the week of Mar. 15th (LY), ~1,000 along the open water of both sides of the Glenfinnan River on Mar. 22 (JDM), 4 returned for spring to pasture field at Johnston's River on Mar. 25 (JDM), 1,000+ at Earncliffe on Mar. 31 (JtR), thousands in corn field on West River on Apr. 3 (NHS meeting report), lots at Monticello on Apr. 9 (JGM); **Gadwall** - 5 at Cymbria on Feb. 20 (VB), 2 at Hyde Park Pond on Mar. 24 (BJ), 2 during drive Desable to Bedeque to Chelton on Apr. 9 (VB, RA, SGC, JBI, DMa, BCM), 2 at Bedeque Bay on Apr. 9 (DMa), 25 at North Cape on Apr. 12 (DMa); **American Wigeon** - 1 at Stratford Lagoons on Jan. 2 (JDM, WFB), 8 at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 19 (JDM); **American Black Duck** - 16 at Lower Rollo Bay & 22 at North Lake Creek on Jan. 14 (BMacK), ~50 at Belvedere Pond on Jan. 18 (JDM), 27 at Vernon Bridge & 3 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 1 (LP, WCT), 128 mostly at Ellen's Creek, Belvedere Pond, & Hermitage Creek on Feb. 19 (JDM), 185 between Read's Corner and Mill River on Mar. 7 (DMa), 24 at Vernon Bridge and 35 at Seal River (Cherry Valley) on Mar. 12 (JDM) 120 at Cardigan on Mar. 13 (DMc); **Mallard** - 2 at Lower Rollo Bay & 5 at North Lake Creek on Jan. 14 (BMacK, BDo), 13 at Montrose on Jan. 24 (BMacK, BDo, BMacN), 7 between Read's Corner and Mill River on Mar. 7 (DMa); **Norther Shoveler** - 7 at Borden on Apr. 13 (DMa); **Blue-winged Teal** - 1 at Borden lagoons on Apr. 13 (DMa); **Northern Shoveler** - 11 at Noonan's Marsh on Apr. 12 (DEJ); **Northern Pintail** - 3 at Cymbria & 50 at Oyster Bed Bridge Pond on Feb. 20 (VB), 3 at Hyde Park Pond on Mar. 14 & 4 on Mar. 24 (BJ), 29 at North River Causeway on Mar. 14 (DMc), 25 at South Rustico field on Mar. 31 (JtR), 1 at Chelton on Apr. 9 (VB); **Green-winged Teal** - 7 at Stratford Lagoons on Jan. 2 (JDM, WFB), 4 male & 2 female at Souris Line Road on Jan. 28 (BMacK, BDo), mating at Wright's Creek early Feb. (JMa), 11 at Ellen's Creek on Mar. 13 (DMc); **Ring-necked Duck** - 6 at North Cape on Apr. 12 (DMa), 9 at Borden on Apr. 13 (DMa); **Greater Scaup** - ~660 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 1 (LP, WCT) & 250 on Feb. 20 (VB), 1 at North River Causeway on Mar. 14 (DMc), 100 at Rustico Causeway on Apr. 9 (JtR); **Lesser Scaup** - 4 photographed at North Cape on Apr. 12 (DMa), 4 at Borden on Apr. 13 (DMa) **Common Eider** - raft at East Point on Jan. 14 & Jan. 28 (BMacK, BDo), 35 at East Point on Feb. 20 (BJ), 5 at Souris & 250 at east Point on Mar. 13 (DMc), 1,200 at East Point on Apr. 9 (SCS, JtR), 50 at North Cape on Apr. 9 (BJ), 65 at Summerside Harbour on Apr. 13 (DMa); **Harlequin Duck** - 20 at East Point on Apr. 9 (SCS); **Scoter spp.** - 150 at East Point on Apr. 9 (SCS); **Surf Scoter** - 5 at East Point on Apr. 9 (SCS), 11 at North Cape on Apr. 12 (DMa); **White-winged Scoter** - 1 at East Point on Feb. 17 (ASp); **Black Scoter** - 40 at North Cape on Apr. 9 (BJ), 270 at East Point on Apr. 9 (SCS), 6 at Gulf Shore Parkway on Apr. 12 (BJ); **Long-tailed Duck** - 3 at Lower Rollo Bay & at East Point on Jan. 14 (BMacK, BDo), 3 at Northport on Jan. 24 (BMacK, BDo, BMacN), at East Point on Jan. 28 (BMacK, BDo), 1 at Oyster Bed Bridge pond on Feb. 20 (VB), 70 at East Point on Feb. 20 (BJ) & 13 on Apr. 9 (SCS), 2 at Grand River Bridge on Feb. 21 (DMa), 10 at Souris & 7 at Red Point & 6 at East Point on Mar. 13 (DMc); **Bufflehead** - 2 at Basin Head on Jan. 14 & 2 males & female on Jan. 28 (BMacK, Bdo), 5 at Souris on Feb. 20 (BJ), 7 at Souris Bridge & 3 at Red Point, on Mar. 13 (DMc) & 4 on Mar. 16 (DMa), 4 at Black Pond on Apr. 2 (SCS) **Common Goldeneye** - 11 male & 1 female at Lower Rollo Bay & 27 at Basin Head on Jan. 14 (BMacK, BDo), 40 Oyster Bed Bridge & 12 at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 1 (LP, WCT), 40 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 20 (VB), 65 at Grand River Bridge on Feb. 21 (DMa), 20 at Souris on Mar. 13 (BJ); **Barrow's Goldeneye** - 41 Oyster Bed Bridge & 9 at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 1 (LP, WCT), 1 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 20 (VB), 18 at Grand River Bridge on Feb. 21 (DMa), 19 at Foxley River on Mar. 2 (DEJ), 13 between Read's Corner and Mill River on Mar. 7 (DMa), 9 at Souris & 2 at Cardigan on Mar. 13 (DMc), 10 at Hyde Park Pond on Mar. 24 (BJ), 3 at Dunk River on Apr. 9 (BJ); **Hooded Merganser** - 1 male at Valleyfield River below Knox Pond on Dec. 31 (DO, JDM), 2 at Black Pond on Jan. 2 (SCS); 1 hen at Oyster Bed

Bridge on Feb. 1 (LP, WCT); **Common Merganser** - 8 males and a female at Fullerton's Creek impoundment on Jan. 5 (DMu), 11 females at Basin Head on Jan. 14 (BMacK, BDo), 20 at Oyster Bed Bridge & 22 at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 1 (LP, WCT), 10 at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 19 (RA, BPEI), 15 at Grand River Bridge on Feb. 21 (DMa), 13 at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 19 (JDM); **Red-breasted Merganser** - pair in open water at Fullerton's Creek impoundment on Jan. 5 (DMu), 8 close to shore and others further out at Rocky Point on Feb. 24 (BPe), 7 at East Point on Mar. 13 (DMc), 12 at Souris Bridge on Mar. 16 (DMa); **Gray Partridge** - 4 at Summerville in early Jan. (RWH), big group at Rustico, small group at Souris and 4 at Summerside week of Feb. 17 (DMa), 8 at East Point on Feb. 20 (BJ), 3 at Midgell on Feb. 26 (JGM); **Ring-necked Pheasant** - 2 males & 3 females at New Dominion in Dec. (VD), 10 digging through snow in soyabean field at Donagh on Jan. 11 (JDM) and a few sporadic sightings to mid-Feb then none on the Donagh to Charlottetown corridor from mid-Feb to end of March (JDM), male at Chelton on Apr. 6 (DMa); **Ruffed Grouse** - 2 taking white birch buds and a 3rd nearby at Monticello on Jan. 27 (JGM), 1 dead on road in Monticello on Feb. 26 (JGM); **Escaped Turkey** - 1 at Chelton on Apr. 9 (DMa, VB, RA, SGC, JBL, BCM); Loon spp. - 1 at East Point on Apr. 9 (SCS); **Red-throated Loon** - 1 at Basin Head on Jan. 2 (SCS); **Common Loon** - 2 flying offshore at Wood Islands on Jan. 28 (DO), 1 at Ferry Wharf Road in Georgetown on Feb. 19 (SCS); **Red-necked Grebe** - 1 at Basin Head on Jan. 2 (SCS); **Northern Gannet** - 3 at East Point on Apr. 9 (JtR, SCS), 2 at North Cape on Apr. 12 (DMa); **Double-crested Cormorant** - 4 on Hillsborough Bridge pilings on Apr. 4 (LM), 7 at Bedeque Bay on Apr. 9 (DMa), 25 during drive Desable to Bedeque to Chelton on Apr. 9 (VB, RA, SGC, JBL, DMa, BCM), 36 at Dunk River on Apr. 9 (BJ); **Great Cormorant** - 17 to 30 at East Point on Apr. 9 (JtR, SCS), 5 at Cascumpec on Apr. 9 (BJ), 1 photographed at Gulf Shore Parkway on Apr. 12 (BJ); **Great Blue Heron** - 2 at Montrose on Jan. 24 (BMacK, BDo, BMacN), 1 at Allisary Creek on Jan. 30 (GK, PA), 2 flying at Kinlock Beach on Apr. 5 (LM), 5 at Georgetown on Apr. 8 (SCS) 1 at East Point on Apr. 9 (JtR), 1 at Wellington Pond on Apr. 5 (R&A), 1 at Cascumpec & 2 at Tyne Valley on Apr. 9 (BJ), 1 at Borden on Apr. 9 (DMa), first 1 of spring at Fullerton's Creek on Apr. 10 (JDM), 6 flying at DeGros Marsh on Apr. 10 (JAL&DMacN), 9 at Belvedere Pond in Charlottetown on Apr. 12 (JtR), 8 at North Cape on Apr. 13 (DMa); **Turkey Vulture** - 1 at Belfast in Mar. 13 (AStr via DLM); **Osprey** - first of season at Rustico on Apr. 14 (JtR); **Bald Eagle** - adult being mobbed by crows and jays at Rocky Point and another adult at Fairview on Jan. 4 (LD), adult at Canoe Cove on Jan. 15 (BPe), 1 or 2 screaming near Naufrage River nesting site on Jan. 27 (JGM), 2 adults and 2 immatures doing aerial displays swooping and rolling over in the air at Vernon River on Mar. 12 (JDM); **Northern Harrier** - 1 female at South Lake on Jan. 12 (BMacK, BDo), 1 at Point Prim on Jan. 29 (FdB), 1 in late Mar. at unidentified site (EC), 1 at Stratford in Mar. (AW), 1 at Monticello on Apr. 9 (JGM), 1 at Rustico on Mar. 31 (JtR); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 1 at Reeves Estates feeder area in early Jan. (DO), 1 at Horne's Cross Road on Jan. 27 (VB), 1 on the deck railing at Crapaud on Feb. 10 (DD), 1 killed a Blue Jay at Webster's Corner feeders in early Feb. (RFJM), 1 at Monticello feeders on Feb. 27 (JGM), 1 adult at Fox



Red-tailed Hawk at Earnscliffe Apr. 3, 2017
Photo by John te Raa

Meadows on Apr. 3 (LM); **Northern Goshawk** - 1 at Portage on Feb. 11 (BMacK, DO), 1 at Reeve's Estates feeder area in early Feb. (BMacK, DO), 1 at Monticello on Feb. 20 & Feb. 26 (JGM), 1 either flying through or perched at Desable on Jan. 30, Mar. 9 & Mar. 11 (BPe), 1 at South Melville on Mar. 12 (RA) **Red-tailed Hawk** - 1 repeatedly swooping at an adult Bald Eagle in the top of a spruce tree at Earnscliffe making the eagle lower its head and raising its wings on Jan. 1 (JDM), one at Meadowbank on Jan. 4 (LD), 1 adult at Johnston's River WMA on Jan. 5 (JDM), 1 at Goose River on Jan. 14 (BMacK, BDo), 1 each at Stratford, Mt. Pleasant, Brae, West Point, Campbellton, Waterford, and 2 at Portage and 2 at Cape Wolfe on Jan. 24 (BMacK, BDo, BMacN), 1 at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 1 & 3 between Earnscliffe and PEI National Park (LP, WCT), 1 at Hermitage Creek Charlottetown on Feb. 19 (JDM), at Earnscliffe-China Point on Feb. 19 (RA, BPEI), 1 at West St Peters on Mar. 1 (JDM), 1 adult at Riverdale on Mar. 7 (BPe), 1 at Pigot's Trail on Mar. 10 (JDM, ML), 1 adult at Earnscliffe on Mar. 12 (JDM), 2 at Cherry Valley on Apr. 2 (LM); **Rough-legged Hawk** - 1 dark phase in tree top at Cherry Valley on Jan. 1 (JDM), 1 at Earnscliffe on Jan. 14 (BMacK, BDo), 1 light morph at West Point on Jan. 24 (BMacK, BDo, BMacN), 1 at Earnscliffe area on Feb. 1 (LP, WCT), 1 flying over Allisary Creek Impoundment on Feb. 11 (JDM), 1 at East Lake on Mar. 13 (DMc), 1 photographed on Apr. 2 at Earnscliffe (JtR), 3 at Earnscliffe- China Point on Feb. 19 (RA, BPEI) & 1 at China Point on Feb. 28 (DMur), 1 dark phase at Cherry Valley and 1 adult at Earnscliffe on Mar. 12 (JDM), 1 at China Point and 4 at Earnscliffe on Apr. 2 (LM);

Killdeer - first one of spring at Charlottetown at Mount Edward horse pasture on Apr. 10 (DO), 1 heard at Union Road on Apr. 11 (JtR), 2 at Borden on Apr. 13 (DMa), 1 at McKenna's Pond on Apr. 13 (KMcK); **Willet** - 1 photographed at Belvedere Pond on Mar. 7 (JtR), 1 at Mermaid on Apr. 10 (WJM); **Sanderling** - 2 photographed at Basin Head on Jan. 29 and 1 on Jan. 30 (SD); **Wilson's Snipe** - 1 at Shamrock on Apr. 10 (RC); **American Woodcock** - 1 singing at Monticello on evening of Apr. 5 & 1 on Apr. 9 (JGM); **Parasitic Jaeger** - 1 seen at North Cape on Feb. 21 (DMa); **Dovekie** - 1 at East Point on Feb. 19? (ASp); **Razorbill** - at East Point on Jan. 2 (SCS); **Black Guillemot** - see CBC reports, 6 at East Point on Apr. 9 (SCS); **Bonaparte's Gull** - 1 at Souris on Mar. 13 (DMc), 1 photographed at North Cape on Apr. 12 (DMa), 1 at Borden on Apr. 13 (DMa); **Black-headed**

Gull - 1 adult almost in alternate plumage at Souris near treatment plant on Mar. 16 & 22 (DMa) & Apr. 9 (SCS); **Ring-billed Gull** - 1 at Lower Rollo Bay on Jan. 14 (BMacK, BDo); **Herring Gull** - 65 between Read's Corner and Mill River on Mar. 7 (DMa), bright adult at Charlottetown on Mar. 22 (JDM); **Thayer's Gull** - 1 photographed at Borden on Mar. 25 (DMa); **Iceland Gull** - ~15 at Charlottetown Sewage Treatment plant on Jan. 11 & 11 on Feb. 18 (JDM), 11 between Read's Corner and Mill River on Mar. 7 (DMa), 4 working wind shear along Hillsborough Bridge on Mar. 12 (JDM), 1 at Summerside on Mar. 19 (DMa), 22 at Souris on Mar. 16 (DMa); 1 to 10 most days at Hillsborough Bridge up to Apr. 11 (JDM); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** - 1 at Basin Head on Jan. 14 (BMacK, BDo), 1 photographed at Borden on Mar. 22 (DMa), 2 at Barbara Weit River New Annan on Apr. 13 (DMa) **Glaucous Gull** - 1 at Borden on Jan. 6 (JDM), 1 first cycle at Summerside wharf on Jan. 17 (DMa), 1 at Charlottetown Sewage Treatment Plant on Feb. 18 (JDM), 1 at Summerside on Mar. 14 & 2 on Mar. 29 (DMa), 1 between Read's Corner and Mill River on Mar. 7 (DMa), 1 at Ellen's Creek on Mar. 13 (DMc), 1 3rd year feeding at roadside manure pile between Borden and Summerside on Mar. 22 (DMa), 1 at Gulf Shore Parkway on Apr. 12 (BJ); **Great Black-backed Gull** - 2 adults & 1 immature at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 19 (JDM), 130 between Read's Corner and Mill River on Mar. 7 (DMa), at least one pair on the Hillsborough Bridge piers late Mar. (JDM); **Rock Pigeon** - 40 to 50 at Rollo Bay on Jan. 14 (BMacK, BDo); **Mourning Dove** - 15 to 25 daily at Riverview Estates (Charlottetown) in Jan.-Feb. (WFB, EM), 16 at Desable on Jan. 13 (BPe), 6 at Anglo Tignish On Feb. 20 (DG); **Great Horned Owl** - 1 calling at Stanhope on Jan. 5 and three times week of Feb. 14 (BH), 1 calling at Desable on Jan. 18 (BPe), 1 electrocuted at Selkirk on Jan. 27 (JGM) 1 calling at Monticello on Feb. 19 (JGM), 1 calling at Horne Cross Road on Feb. 7 & Mar. 7 & Apr. 7 (VB); **Snowy Owl** - 1 at Cape Bear on Dec. 31 (via SCS), 1 at Charlottetown Airport on Jan.23 (BJ), 1 at Cherry Valley on Feb. 21 (RWH); **Barred Owl** - 1 perched in Butternut tree overlooking feeders at Desable on Feb. 6 & 16 & photographed on Feb. 18 (BPe), 1 at Georgetown Royalty on Mar. 22 (SCS); **Short-eared Owl** - 1 at Battery Road Marsh at The Mile House on Apr. 15 (RP); **Northern Saw-whet Owl** - 1 at Stanhope on Feb. 6 (BH), 1 at Tea Hill on Mar. 7 (FdB), 1 calling South Melville on Mar. 22 (RA) 1 at Bonshaw on Mar. 14 (DMc), 1 calling at Monticello on Apr. 9 (JGM); **Belted Kingfisher** - 1 at Hermitage Creek (Charlottetown) on Feb. 19 (JDM), 1 at Georgetown Royalty on Feb. 21 (SCS), 1 at Rte 10 near Borden on Feb. 23 (DMa), 1 at Pondsides Park in Stratford on Apr. 3 (LM); **Woodpecker** - drumming at Donagh woodlands in early Feb. (JDM); **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - 1 at Reeves Estates on Apr. 18 (DO); **Downy Woodpecker** - male & female at Donagh suet feeders periodically in Jan. & Feb. (JDM), male & female at Riverview Estates suet feeders daily in Jan. - Mar.. (WFB, EM), pair at Stratford feeders on Feb. 18 (A&PM), 1 at Anglo Tignish On Feb. 20 (DG), 1 at Cape Egmont on Feb. 26 (LR); **Hairy Woodpecker** - male and female at Donagh suet feeders on Jan. 6 and periodically in Jan. & Feb. (JDM), 1 at Anglo Tignish On Feb. 20 (DG), male & female at Riverview Estates suet feeders periodically in Jan. - Mar. (WFB, EM), 2 males & a female at Stratford feeders on Feb. 18 (A&PM); **Black-backed Woodpecker** - 1 at Woodlands Trail in PEI National Park on Dec. 22 & Jan. 18 & Feb. 17 (BH), 1 at Winter River Trail on Feb. 5 (LP), female at Monticello on Mar. 14 (JGM); **Northern Flicker** - 1 at Charlottetown in Dec. (W&SF), 1 at Stratford feeders on Jan. 1 (DMu), 1 at Slemmon Park feeders on Jan. 30 (G&SF), 1 at Riverview Estates suet feeders periodically in Jan. & Feb. (WFB, EM), 1 at Stratford feeders on Feb. 18 (A&PM), 1 at Horne's Cross Road on Feb. 28 (VB), 1 at Georgetown Royalty on Mar. 2 (SCS), 1 at Hazel Grove on Mar. 10 (BPe), 2 at Monticello on Apr. 9 (JGM); **Pileated Woodpecker** - fresh feeding sign at Woodlands Trail in PEI National Park on Dec. 22 (BH) and in poplar streamside at Bell's Hill in Montague on Dec. 31 (DO, JDM, DCS), 1 crossing Rte 2 at a swampy area west of and near Morell on Feb. 24 (AL), 2 at Dromore on Feb. 23-4 (AC), 2 excavating cavity at Dromore on Mar. 7 (BD), 1 at Brackley Beach on Mar. 9 (NM), 1 at Caledonia on Mar. 25 (JBe), 1 at Bangor area in Mar. (MNM); **American Kestrel** - 1 on telephone wires at Cherry Valley on Jan. 1 (JDM), 1 at Cherry Valley on Feb. 17 & 1 photographed on Feb. 28 (DMur), & 1 on wires on Apr. 2 (LM), 2 at Lord's Pond on Apr. 9 (VB, RA, SGC, JBI, DMa, BCM), 1 at Tyne Valley on Apr. 9 (BJ), 1 at Ebenezer on Apr. 10 (VB); **Merlin** - 1 flying at Morell on Mar. 1 (JDM), 1 at Summerside on Feb. 22 & Mar. 27 & Mar. 31 (DMa); **Peregrine Falcon** - 1 at Cavendish on Jan. 29 (G&SF), 1 at Brush Wharf Road near Vernon Bridge on Mar. 31 (DLM); **Eastern Phoebe** - 1 at Indian Bridge on Apr. 15 (DO); **Eastern Kingbird** - 1 seen at Souris Line Road on Feb. 9 & observer submitted a completed documentation form for this rare winter record (KM); **Northern Shrike** - 1 at East Lake on Jan. 14 (BMacK, BDo), 1 at West Point and 1 at Cape Wolfe on Jan. 24 (BMacK, BDo, BMacN), 1 at Cable Head & 1 at Clearspring on Jan. 28 (BMacK, BDo), 1 near Richmond on Feb. 11 (DO, BMacK), 1 around backyard in Suffolk from Jan. 24 to mid Feb. (LS), 1 at Goose River on Feb. 26 (JGM), 1 at Unionvale on Mill Rd. Mar. 7 (DMa), 1 at Green Bay on Mar. 29 (JW), 1 at Battery Road at The Mile House on Apr. 15 (RP); **Gray Jay** - 1 at Launching on Apr. 5 (JAl&DMacN); **Blue Jay** - ~50 foraging in partially exposed grass field at Webster's Corner on Feb. 11 (JDM), 22 at Monticello on Feb. 19



Barred Owl at Desable Feb. 18, 2017
Photo by Brenda Penak

(JGM), 6 at Horne's Cross Road on Feb. 18 (VB), 12 at South Melville feeders on Feb. 18 (RA), 12 at Anglo Tignish On Feb. 20 (DG); **American Crow** - thousands in Victoria Park roost this winter although, for some reason, part of them moved to some other wooded areas in Charlottetown for part of the winter (JDM), 1 with a brown wing at Rocky Point in Dec. (LD), 1 with white feathers on one wing at Bell's Hill in Montague on Dec. 31 (DO, DCS, JDM), ~500 flying amongst trees at Ravenwood in Charlottetown on Feb. 6 (JDM), 1 crow with whitish crusty material by its eyes at Charlottetown near Wright's Creek ~Feb. 7 (S&WF), a crow carrying nesting material at Tea Hill on Feb. 27 (FdB), 2 mating at Bedford on Mar. 16 (RWH); **Common Raven** - many groups of 2 to 4 individuals doing aerial displays in Queens County in late Jan. & early Feb. (JDM), 1 mating pair at Pleasant Grove on Feb. 21 (RWH), individual carrying nesting material at Horne's Cross Road on Mar. 7 (VB); **Horned Lark** - 12 at Park Corner on Feb. 11 (BMacK, DO), 5 at China Pt. Earnscliffe on Feb. 19 (LM); **Tree Swallow** - 2 at Stratford on Apr. 13 (LM); **Barn Swallow** - 2 at Cherry Valley on Apr. 13 and 7 on Apr. 15, fully 2 weeks before last year's arrival (JH via)BJH); **Black-capped Chickadee** - 2 at Nail Pond on Jan. 24 (BMacK, BDo, BMacN), 3 at Naufrage on Jan. 28 (BMacK, BDo), 12 at Allisary Creek woodlands on Feb. 11 (W&SF, JGM, ML, JDM), 8 at Horne's Cross Road on Feb. 18 (VB), 6 at Monticello on Feb. 19 (JGM), 12 at Anglo Tignish On Feb. 20 (DG), 8 at Riverview Estates suet feeders periodically in Jan. - Mar. (WFB, EM); **Boreal Chickadee** - 1 at Fort Amherst Port La Joye woodlands in Dec. (LD, VD), 2 at Nail Pond on Jan. 24 (BMacK, BDo, BMacN), 1 at Naufrage on Jan. 28 (BMacK, BDo), 1 at North Rustico on Jan. 29 (G&SF), 1 at Point Prim on Jan. 29 (FdB), 1 at Monticello on Feb. 11 & 3 on Feb. 26 & Mar. 14 & 2 on Apr. 9 (JGM), 1 at Montague in Feb. (DMa), 2 at McKenna's Pond on Mar. 18 (KMCK), 2 during drive Desable to Bedeque to Chelton on Apr. 9 (VB, RA, SGC, JBl, DMa, BCM); **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - calling at Allisary Creek woodlands on Feb. 11 (W&SF, JGM, ML, JDM), 1 to 2 all winter at Donagh feeders (JDM), first of season at Clearview Estates on Mar. 27 (DMu); **White-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 at Horne's Cross Road feeders on Feb. 25 & Mar. 11 & Mar. 22 (VB); **Brown Creeper** - 1 through Dec. at Rocky Point feeder (LD), 1 at Stratford feeders on Feb. 18 (A&PM), 1 at Georgetown Royalty on Feb. 26 (SCS); **Golden-crowned Kinglet** - 2 at Nail Pond on Jan. 24 (BMacK, BDo, BMacN), 2 on Jan. 28 (BMacK, BDo), calling at Allisary Creek woodlands on Feb. 11 (JGM, ML, JDM), 3 at Dunk River on Mar. 16 (DMa), 2 at butternut tree in Crapaud on Mar. 27 (BCI); **American Robin** - a few at Allisary Creek on Jan. 30 (GK, PA), 1 at Cardross week Feb. 17 (via A&PM), 1 at Summerside on Feb. 21 & on Mar. 10 (DMa), 1 at Stratford yard on Apr. 4 (LM), 16 at Georgetown on Apr. 8 (SCS), 50 at East Point woods on Apr. 9 (SCS), 4 at Monticello on Apr. 9 (JGM), 3 at Hardy's Pond on Apr. 9 (JtR), 10 during drive Desable to Bedeque to Chelton on Apr. 9 (VB, RA, SGC, JBl, DMa, BCM), 2 at Lord's Pond on Apr. 9 (DMa), finally, ~50 in two fields at DeGros Marsh demonstrated the spring wave into the Island on Apr. 10 (JAl&DMacN), 21 at Hardy's Pond on Apr. 10 (JtR), first of spring roadside in Johnston's River on Apr. 10 (JDM), 12 at McKenna's Pond on Apr. 13 (KMCK); **Brown Thrasher** - 1 at Sherwood on Mar. 27 & Apr. 1 & Apr. 4 & Apr. 15 (RP); **Northern Mockingbird** - 1 at Stanhope in late December (via LM); **European Starling** - thousands using the Hillsborough Bridge roost in Charlottetown (JDM), two fighting over an earthworm in Stratford on Jan. 3 (FRC); **Bohemian Waxwing** - 55 at Tea Hill in early Feb. (FdB), 130 at Victoria on Mar. 14 (DMa), 60 at South Melville on Mar. 8 & 37 on Mar. 27 (RA), 9 at Summerside on Mar. 24 (DMa), 50 at North Cape on Apr. 12 (DMa); **Cedar Waxwing** - 25 at Summerside on Feb. 21 & 4 on Mar. 10 (DMa), 15 at Winsloe South on Feb. 28 (DEJ), 22 at Georgetown Royalty on Mar. 22 (SCS), 50 at Red Point Road on Mar. 26 (DMacNe), 9 at South Melville on Mar. 27 (RA), 12 at Charlottetown in Mar. (DMacL); **Lapland Longspur** - 20 to 30 at Park Corner on Feb. 11 (BMacK, DO), 18 at China Pt. Earnscliffe on Feb. 19 (RA, BPEI), 2 at Elmira on Apr. 2 (SCS); **Snow Bunting** - 5 at Orwell just after the snow storm (LT), 50 at Cavendish field on Feb. 8 (HY), ~25 at Fort Augustus on Feb. 11 (JDM), 12 at Park Corner & 300+ at Fredericton on Feb. 11 (BMacK, DO), 15 at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 19 (WFB, EM), 42 at China Pt. Earnscliffe on Feb. 19 (RA, BPEI), heard at Monticello on Feb. 20 (JGM), 12 at Anglo Tignish On Feb. 20 (DG), 300 at East Point on Feb. 20 (BJ), 2 at Cape Egmont on Feb. 26 (LR), 100 at Bear River on Mar. 10 (JGM), 12 at Monticello on Apr. 9 (JGM), 1,000 at Elmira on Apr. 2 (SCS); **American Tree Sparrow** - 7 at Donagh feeders on Jan. 1 & 8 on Jan. 8 & 0 to 7 daily during GBBC (Feb 15-20), then few until heavy snow days in Mar. 23 when 3 reappeared (JDM), 1 at Stanhope feeders on Jan. 18 (BH), at Crapaud feeders on Feb. 16 (BC), 3 at Summerside on Mar. 17 (DMa), 1 at Borden on Apr. 12 (DEJ), 3 at Summerside on Apr. 13 (DMa); Chipping Sparrow - 1 at Horne's Cross Road on Apr. 17 (VB); **Savannah Sparrow** - 1 at Crapaud feeders on Feb. 16 (BC), 3 at Summerside on Apr. 13 (DMa), 1 at Battery Road at The Mile House on Apr. 15 (RP); **Fox Sparrow** - 1 heard singing and seen at DeGros Marsh on Apr. 10 (JAl&DMacN), 1 at Ebenezer on Apr. 10 (VB), 1 at Hardy's Pond on Apr. 10 (JtR); **Song Sparrow** - 1 in hawthorne hedge in Sherwood on Feb. 5 (JCo), 1 at Riverview Estates in Charlottetown on Feb. 19 (WFB, EM), 2 at Cymbria on Feb. 20 (VB), 2 between Read's Corner and Mill River on Mar. 7 (DMa), several singing and welcoming spring at Stratford on Mar. 9 (LM), singing at DeGros Marsh on Mar. 20 (JAl&DMacN), 1 at Stratford feeders on Apr. 4 (CG), 2 at Summerside on Apr. 4 (DMa), 5 at Monticello on Apr. 9 (JGM), 3 during drive Desable to Bedeque to Chelton on Apr. 9 (VB, RA, SGC, JBl, DMa, BCM), 2 at Lord's Pond on Apr. 9 (DMa), 8 at North Cape on Apr. 13 (DMa); **White-throated Sparrow** - 1 singing at Mount Buchanan from Jan. 26 to Feb. 15 (LT), 2 at Summerside on Apr. 13 (DMa); **Dark-eyed Junco** - 8 at Donagh feeders on Jan. 1 & 4 on Jan. 8 & 0 to 13 daily during GBBC Feb 15-20) but very few in Mar. until 3 appeared after heavy snow on Mar. 22-23 (JDM), 6 at Riverview Estates feeders periodically in Jan. & Feb. (WFB, EM), at Crapaud feeders on Feb. 16 (BC), 6 at Horne's Cross Road on Feb. 18 (VB), 3 at South Melville feeders on Feb. 18 (RA), 5 at Monticello on Feb. 19 (JGM), 4 at Anglo Tignish On Feb.

20 (DG), 15 to 20 this winter at Glenfinnan (ML), 40 at East Point woods on Apr. 9 (SCS); **Northern Cardinal** - 1 at Chelton (via RA Birding on PEI) and still present on Apr. 5 (G&SF) & Apr. 6 (DMA) & on Apr. 9 (VB, RA, SGC, JBI, DMA, BCM); **Red-winged Blackbird** - male at Stanhope feeders on Jan. 12 & Feb. 18 (BH), 20+ at Glenfinnan ~ Feb 14 (ML), 2 at Summerside on Feb. 22 (DMA), 2 males at marsh beside Farmer's Market on Mar. 6 (SGC), 8 singing in poplars at Desable on Mar. 10 (BPe), first of year at Georgetown feeders on Mar. 14 (SCS, 1 at Crapaud feeders on Mar. 16 (DD), 10 at Georgetown Royalty on Mar. 22 (SCS), 1 at Horne Cross Road on Mar. 23 (VB), 4 at South Melville on Mar. 27 (RA), 3 at Summerside On Mar. 31 & 3 on Apr. 4 (DMA), 3 males arrived at Riverside Estates on Apr. 5 (WFB, EM), first of year at Elmwood on Apr. 9 (BJ), 2 at Lord's Pond & 3 at Borden on Apr. 9 (DMA), 2 at South Lake on Apr. 9 (SCS), 11 at North Cape on Apr. 13 (DMA); **Rusty Blackbird** - 1 at MacClure's Dam in Murray River on Dec. 31 (FRC, WC); **Common Grackle** - 8 at Cape Egmont on Feb. 26 (LR), 1 first of spring back at Stratford on Mar. 8 (P&AM), 1 first of spring back at Crapaud on Mar. 11 & 16 (DD), 1 at Horne Cross Road on Mar. 21 (VB), 2 at Summerside on Mar. 10 & 11 on Mar. 31 & 5 on Apr. 4 (DMA), 5 at Georgetown Royalty on Mar. 22 (SCS), 11 at Earncliffe on Apr. 2 (JtR), 1 carrying nesting material at Stratford (FRC), first of year at Elmwood on Apr. 4 (BJ), 4 at Winsloe South on Apr. 4 (DEJ), 3 at Lord's Pond on Apr. 9 (DMA), 12 at South Lake on Apr. 9 (SCS), 10 on lawn at Riverside Estates on Apr. 10 (WFB, EM), 2 seen at Donagh and 2 at Mount Herbert on Apr. 11 (JDM), 35 at North Cape on Apr. 13 (DMA) **Brown-headed Cowbird** - 1 at feeders in Montague in early Feb. (L&RA), 7 at Summerside on Feb. 28 & 6 on Mar. 31 (DMA), 3 males & a female at Crapaud feeders on Apr. 7 (DD), 2 during drive Desable to Bedeque to Chelton on Apr. 9 (VB, RA, SGC, JBI, DMA, BCM), 7 at North Cape on Apr. 13 (DMA); **Pine Grosbeak** - 2 at Unionvale on Mill Rd. Mar. 7 (DMA); **Purple Finch** - 1 at Slemmon Park feeders on Jan. 30 (G&SF), returned to Riverview Estates feeder on Mar. 28 for several days (WFB, EM); **Common Redpoll** - many at Crapaud feeders on Feb. 16 (BC), 1 with goldfinch at Horne's Cross Road feeders on Feb. 25 (VB); **Pine Siskin** - 4 at Donagh feeders on Feb. (JDM), 1 at Elmwood on Apr. 12 ((BJ), 2 at Horne's Cross Road on Apr. 17 (VB); **American Goldfinch** - ~20 to 30 most days at Riverview Estates (Charlottetown) in Jan.-Mar. (WFB, EM), 10 at Desable on Jan. 4 (BPe), 7 at Horne's Cross Road on Feb. 18 & 25 on Feb 25 (VB), 6 at Montague on Feb. 18 (DMur), 14 at Monticello on Feb. 19 (JGM), large influx at Donagh feeders with very few being seen this winter then ~35 on Mar. 11 and over 60 on Mar. 12 (JDM); **Evening Grosbeak** - 3 females at Desable on Jan. 4 (BPe), 1 at Cape Egmont feeders on Feb. 21-23 (WGH); **House Sparrow** - 4 at Anglo Tignish On Feb. 20 (DG), 3 at Naufrage on Mar. 11 (SCS), female carrying nesting material & 10 present at Confederation Centre on Mar. 22 (JDM), 5 at Summerside on Mar. 29 (DMA).

Older Reports/ corrections/additions: Brown trout being fished as a recreational fishery at Mount Stewart near Confederation Trail crossing of Hillsborough River (REM) and BDo picked up a brown trout at Glenfinnan River in 2016. The melanistic red squirrel noted by Dwaine Oakley in November was seen in Dromore (DO). Pair **Pileated Woodpeckers** were observed for two days at Pownal in June or July 2016 (RR). ~100 **Common Grackles** at Mount Pleasant on Oct. 8 (BPe). 1 adult **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at Desable on Oct. 20 & Nov. 4 (BPe). 1 male seen on Nov. 2 and 1 **Evening Grosbeak** heard on Nov. 6 & 4 **Pine Siskins** seen at Desable on Nov. 6 (BPe). **Great Horned Owl** hooting for 30 min (11:05 to 11:35 pm) at Desable on Dec. 4 (BPe). For the first time in many years, the PEI Forests, Fish & Wildlife conducted 14 Ruffed Grouse drumming survey routes with 146 stops between Apr. 27 and May 7, 2016 (GGr).

Thanks to the following contributors who provided records for this listing, namely: JAl - Judi Allen; L&RA - Lenore and Roger Andrews; MA - Mark Arsenuault; PA - Phil Arbing; RA - Ron Arvidson; JBI - Jean Blanchard; VB - Vanessa Bonnyman; WFB - Bill Bowerbank; AC - Alma Currie; BC - Barbara Clements; BCo - Brenda Cobb; EC - Elwood Coakes; FRC - Rosemary Curley; RC - Ray Cooke; SGC - Sharon Clark; TC - Trevor Coffin; WC - Wanda Curley; BD - Billy Dockendorff; BDo - Brie Donovan; BPEI - Birding on PEI/Nature PEI Field Trip; FdB - Fiep de Bie; DD - Daphne Davey; LD - Lois Doan; SD - Sara Deveau; VD - Victoria Doan; G&SF - Greg & Sandra Feetham; W&SF - Warren & Sherron Foulkes; CG - Connie Gaudet; DG - Donna Gaudet; GGr - Garry Gregory; MRG - Marlene Guignon; BH - Ben Hoteling; BJH - Bonnie Hayden; CFH - Caleb Harding; JH - John Hayden; MH - Megan Harris; RWH - Robert Harding; WGH - Bill Hartford; BJ - Bill Jamieson; DEJ - Don Jardine; GK - Glen Kelly; JK - John Klymko; AL - André Laurin; ML - Morgan Laverty; A&PM - Arlene & Paul McGuigan; BCM - Bonnie McOrmond; BMacK - Brett MacKinnon; BMacN - Ben MacNeil; BMo - Ben Moore; DLM - Dave McRuer; DMA - Donna Martin; DMacL - Dorothy Macleod; DMc - Dave McCorquodale; DMu - Doug Murray; DMur - Dale Murchison; DMacN - Dave MacNearney; DMacNe - Don MacNeil; EM - Evelyn Martin; G&FMa - Gisele & Fred Martin; GMcC - Gail McCourt; JDM - Dan McAskill; JGM - Gerald MacDonald; JM - Jeanne Maki; KM - Kathy McCormack; KEM - Kate MacQuarrie; KMCK - Ken McKenna; LM - Lucas McCormack; MNM - Mary Myers; MMc - Matt McIver; NM - Nicole Murtagh; LP - Luke Peters; REM - Rosanne MacFarlane; RFJM - Ronald MacDonald; WJM - Wade MacKinnon; DO - Dwaine Oakley; BPe - Brenda Penak; RP - Roberta Palmer; SP - Shirley Prowse; JtR - John te Raa; LR - Leone Richard; PR - Pat Richards; RR - Rob Redmond; AStr - Amanda Streight; SR - Sharon Roper; ASm - Ardeth Smith; ASp - Andrew Spencer (Cornel Lab); DC&ES - David & Elaine Seeler; GS - Gary Schneider; IS - Ian Scott; LS - Lynne Smith; SCS -

Scott Sinclair; RT - Reg Thompson; LT - Liz Townshend; AW - Anne Wootton; JW - Jackie Waddell; JWa - Jean Watts; WCT - Wildlife Conservation Technology Class; HY - Harry Yeo; LY - Lorne Yeo.

ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR:

Note: All Society presentations and field trips are open to the public.

Society meetings start at 7:30 PM at Beaconsfield, the Carriage House, corner of West and Kent Street, Charlottetown. YN = young naturalists encouraged to attend or participate

Apr. 4th to Apr. 30th - Nature PEI's Facebook Photo Contest (see Society News article).

April 28nd - Island Nature Trust Annual Dinner & Auction - is set for Top of the Park at Red Shores in Charlottetown with reception starting at 6 PM and meal at 7 PM. A beautiful buffet meal, raffles and auction will help to raise funds for the Trust's ongoing land conservation and acquisition program. Tickets are \$50. To arrange tickets, please contact the Trust at 902-892-7513.

May 2rd - Tucking Your Socks In - Ticks in the Maritimes Cause New Style Trends. Kami Harris will be the guest speaker for the Society's meeting which starts at 7:30 PM at Beaconsfield's Carriage House, corner of West and Kent, Charlottetown. YN

May 6th - Birding and History Hike at Pigot's Trail - Dan McAskill will be the interpreter for this All Around the Hillsborough Canadian Heritage River Canada 150 event cosponsored by Trails-4-All and the Hillsborough River Association. Those interested should meet at Indigo parking lot for car pooling at 8:30 am or at the Hillsborough River Eco-Centre at 9 am. Please bring your binoculars.

May 6th - Smelt Festival. The annual Smelt Festival features tours of smelt spawning areas, nature hikes and birding, wagon rides, children's farm tour, geocaching, a traditional smelt fry and barbeque and more. The Pisquid River Enhancement Project and Hillsborough River Association Smelt Festival will be hosting it from 10 am to 1 pm at Shephard's Farm, 66 Whittlesy Road (off Joey's Road) in Pisquid. For more information see Facebook Hillsborough_Watershed_Management

May 17th - Birding and History Hike at Pigot's Trail - Dan McAskill will be the interpreter for this All Around the Hillsborough Canadian Heritage River Canada 150 event cosponsored by Island Trail's Wednesday Hiking Group and the Hillsborough River Association. Those interested should meet at Indigo parking lot for car pooling at 8:30 am or at the Hillsborough River Eco-Centre at 9 am. Please bring your binoculars.

May 19 - Flower Flies Pinning Workshop. This is the prelude to Nature PEI's latest citizen science project. Kyle Knysh will be our leader for this workshop and will give hands on instruction for pinning and collection. In addition, the necessary equipment will be distributed. The workshop is 1 to 4 pm at the J. Frank Gaudet Tree Nursery lecture hall at 183 Upton Road in Charlottetown.

May 27th - Nature PEI's Bain Bird Count - This is the Society's spring bird count which documents the movement of migrating birds to PEI. The counts can take place anywhere on the Island between midnight and midnight during this day. Birders are encouraged to form teams and participate in this event. For more information, please contact Dan McAskill at 902-569-4351 or by email at jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca

June 6th - Arizona Dreamin' - Birding Where Its Much Warmer. Rosemary Curley, Diane Griffin & Dan McAskill will be the guest speakers for the Society's meeting which starts at 7:30 PM at Beaconsfield's Carriage House, corner of West and Kent, Charlottetown. YN

June 9th -10th - Parks Canada BioBlitz. 24-hour event will take place in the Brackley-Dalvay area of PEI National Park, with base-camp headquarters at the Dalvay administration building. *See article above.*

June 16th-17th - Nature PEI's BioBlitz. This Nature PEI Canadian Wildlife Federation Canada 150 will be held at Coleman. *See article above.*

October 3th - The Secret Life of Bats. Jordi Segers, the National White Nose Syndrome Scientific Program Coordinator of AVC's Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative will be the guest speakers for the Society's meeting which starts at 7:30 PM at Beaconsfield's Carriage House, corner of West and Kent, Charlottetown. He will be providing a window into the world of these secretive and fascinating creatures. YN

November 7th - PEI Flora: Regional Themes and New Discoveries. Sean Blaney of the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre will utilize photos and descriptions of recent plant discoveries on the Island. will be the guest speakers for the Society's meeting which starts at 7:30 PM at Beaconsfield's Carriage House, corner of West and Kent, Charlottetown. YN