



ISLAND NATURALIST

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Pickerel Frog

Please renew you membership for January 1st, 2006

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 (except July, August, and September) at 7:30 p.m. at the Farm Centre, 420 University Avenue, Charlottetown. Each meeting commences with a brief business meeting followed by a nutrition break and a 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 C1A 8C1 (phone 569-1209). Annual membership is \$16 and renewals are due in January. Membership expiry dates are shown in the top right hand corner of the mailing label.

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

2005 Executive: President.....Dwayne Oakley, Crossroads 569-1815 oakleym@eastlink.ca
Vice-President.....Dan Kennedy, Vernon River 651-2926 dankennedy@islandtelecom.com
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NEWSLETTERS are normally published quarterly on recycled paper. Articles, notes, reports, drawings, bird sightings, plant records, 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 observations recorded so that others may learn from them. All contributions should be sent by mail to Dan McAskill, Newsletter Editor, NHSPEI, Charlottetown RR # 5, Donagh, P.E.I. C1A 7J8 or via E-mail to nhspei@isn.net

The *next deadline* for articles, sightings, or other newsletter information is **Feb. 22, 2006**.

Illustrations/Pictures: The Society extends a special thanks to Robert Harding and Dover Colouring Books for their illustrations in this issue.

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

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: The Society's web page is located at www.isn.net/~nhspei

Cover Illustration:

For decades, no sighting records of pickerel frogs on Prince Edward Island as in decades. The story on page 3 describes the recent confirmation of pickerel frogs on the Island.

ANNUAL MEETING - NOMINATIONS CALL!

The terms of the current Executive Committee expire at the January meeting in 2005. If you would be interested in serving on the Executive or any Society Committees, please contact the Nominating Committee Chairperson, David Seeler at 566-4505. Thanks.

NEW FROG SPECIES FOR PEI

By Robert W. Harding

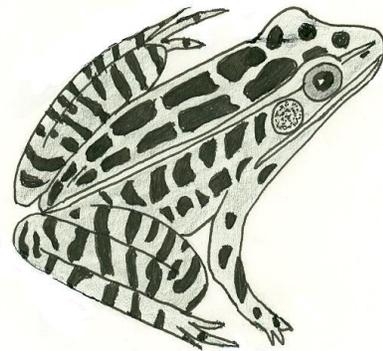
Pickerel Frogs (*Rana palustris*) have been found on PEI in recent years. While they were reported on the Island in the late 1800's, they were removed from our Island wildlife listings in the 1960's as they had not been found in subsequent herpetological surveys conducted in the province, although it has been noted that some of these early surveys did not cover relatively remote areas or bog habitats. Specimens have recently been confirmed as Pickerel Frogs from at least four different sites in Queens and Kings counties, suggesting that they have likely been here all along.

Pickerel Frogs are reminiscent of Northern Leopard Frogs (*R. pipiens*), but are brownish where Leopards are bright green, and they have squarish spots arranged in rows where Leopards have round or oval spots with no set pattern. Dark cross bands give the hind legs of Pickerel Frogs a striped appearance. Pickerel Frogs have yellow or orange on the concealed parts of their hind legs, but this is only apparent on older individuals. Pickerel Frogs are fairly plentiful in parts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and they appear to tolerate a wide range of habitats.

Pickerel Frogs are surprisingly well camouflaged, and their presence at a site is often only revealed when they jump. They are very good jumpers and can hide so well they seem to disappear right before your eyes. It has also been suggested that they were not found in earlier surveys using pitfall traps because they may have been able to actually jump out of the traps. Another suggestion as to why they have not been recorded in calling surveys is because their call is a low snore which does not carry well, and they apparently like to call underwater!

In July 2000, my son Jake caught what I called a Pickerel Frog at Glenfinnan Lake, Queens County. A digital photo was taken, but unfortunately we did not retain the specimen. As new records require proof, it could not be confirmed as a Pickerel Frog based on the photo alone, so the photo was filed away. Then, in August 2003, I was fortunate to catch a specimen on a peat bog on the Buckskin Road in Kings County. Two weeks later, Rosemary Curley of the PEI Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry, Dr. Don McAlpine of the New Brunswick Museum and I found another one in the woods near that site. These voucher specimens were retained as confirmation of the presence of Pickerel Frogs in PEI, and these specimens also served to validate the photo from August 2000. In September 2004, my children and I saw several Pickerel Frogs on a woods road near Wisener's Pond, Queens County, and finally succeeded in catching one of them. And in September 2005, we caught five specimens on a woods road near O'Keefe's Lake, Queens County. All of these PEI voucher specimens have been confirmed as Pickerel Frogs by Don McAlpine of the New Brunswick Museum.

Of course, there is a possibility that the Pickerel Frog could have been recently introduced, perhaps as bait for fishing - but given our Island sport fish species, this seems unlikely. I have also spoken with some Natural History Society members who felt they may have seen Pickerel Frogs in other parts of the Island as well. I believe



that they may have - but in order for the claim to be credible, proof is required. A retained specimen would confirm its presence in a new site; alternatively, a clear photograph may suffice. Any information on Pickerel Frogs in PEI, including new sites or information on possible introductions, should be passed on to the Natural History Society via our E-mail address nhspei@isn.net The information will be conveyed either myself, Rosemary Curley or Don McAlpine.

PEI's list of frogs and toads now stands at six: Pickerel Frog (*Rana palustris*), Northern Leopard Frog ® (*pipiens*), Green Frog ® (*clamitans*), Wood Frog ® (*sylvatica*), Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*) and American Toad (*Bufo americanus*).

Editor's Note: For confirmation of identification, please send close-up colour pictures of the specimens to the Society via surface mail or E-mail. To ensure that live specimens are kept healthy, put them in a plastic container or plastic bag with wet peat moss at the back of your refrigerator or keep them in a bucket with screened cover in the shade and contact the Society by E-mail or telephone Rosemary Curley at 368-4807.

SECOND BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT LAUNCHED!

By Becky Whittam & David Seeler

Twenty years ago, Maritime birders were gearing up for an important project, the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas. With the help of over 1,200 volunteers, who donated some 43,000 hours in the field, this project provided the most comprehensive study of bird distribution and abundance in the Maritimes. The resulting book became a standard on the shelves of birders across the region.

Breeding Bird Atlases have been produced in many European countries and in provinces and states across North America. They are normally repeated every 20 years to document changes in bird distribution that may reflect the influence of forestry, agriculture, urban expansion, climate change, natural disasters, bird feeding, and other natural or man-made forces. As one of the few tools that can document these changes scientifically, the atlas model has proved to be extremely valuable in long-term conservation planning and environmental assessment.

Next spring (2006) marks the 20-year anniversary of the start of field work for the first Maritimes Atlas. With this in mind, a dedicated steering committee consisting of members from various government, university, naturalist, birding and bird conservation organizations has been working hard to raise funds, make decisions and develop the infrastructure required for the second Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas.

Why conduct a second Atlas now?

Do Whip-poor-wills still breed in the Maritimes? Are Red-bellied Woodpeckers moving in? How severely have Barn Swallows declined over the last twenty years? These questions, and many more, can be answered through a second Atlas. Many factors have influenced bird distribution in the 20 years since work began on the first Atlas. All land stewards, planners and government agencies need current information on bird distribution and conservation in order to improve management of habitats and to satisfy new environmental assessment requirements, species-at-risk legislation, and heightened public and industry awareness.

How will it work?

The second Atlas will build on the experience and success of the first, using the same basic method and structure. In Ontario, researchers are now in the final year of compiling their second atlas (see www.birdsontario.org). Through a cooperative arrangement with Bird Studies Canada, our project will have access to Ontario's sophisticated online data-entry software, which will be modified for the Maritimes.

Atlasing fieldwork will be conducted from 2006 to 2010. As in the first Atlas, birders will be assigned to 10 x 10 km squares. Individuals working on the square will look for and record breeding evidence which includes everything from singing males to observing actual nests and fledglings. Within these squares, the birder assigned that square will be tasked with finding breeding evidence for an expected number of bird species (based on data

collected in the first atlas). In addition, some atlasers with good skills in the identification of birds by their songs will conduct point counts (10 minute counts of all birds seen or heard from a particular point) to determine the relative abundance of species in their square. This project and some of the training that we hope to offer will increase individual birding skills and awareness of how birds use landscapes to nest and then feed their young.

Completion of the new Atlas is set for 2012. It will be more comprehensive than the first edition in describing population trends and abundance estimates in the context of regional changes. A web-based, on-line version will be accessible to the public, with details of specific observations such as breeding status, locations, and dates, for use by naturalists, researchers, government agencies, and planners.

Introducing the Atlas staff

Karel Allard, the Coordinator, started work with the Atlas at the beginning of August, and will be employed by Bird Studies Canada in their Atlantic office housed within the Canadian Wildlife Service in Sackville, New Brunswick. Karel is a skilled and keen birder who is fluently bilingual. He has experience as a park interpreter, a teacher in schools and universities and as a field biologist for the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Stephen Gullage, an accomplished birder, has been hired as the Assistant Coordinator through Environment Canada's Science Horizons program. Stephen has just completed an MSc on forest birds will help tackle the mountain of essential tasks ahead. Much of the work will be led by the 26 volunteer regional coordinators (RCs) who will ensure accurate and consistent coverage by local volunteers. PEI's very own birding whiz, David Seeler, will coordinate efforts on the Island.

The Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas is a multi-partnered project led by a Steering Committee and associated subcommittees. Funding for the second Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas has been confirmed from the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund, the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund, the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Departments of Natural Resources and Environment Canada's Science Horizons Youth Internship Program. Additional sources of funding from both the private and public sector are being actively pursued.

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are the backbone of any atlasing project. With that in mind, it's never too early to start thinking about atlasing! The 2006 season can start as early as February or March, with Great Horned Owls, Gray Jays and crossbills already engaged in breeding activities. Individuals interested in volunteering to participate in the Breeding Atlas Project for PEI should contact David Seeler by E-Mail via seeler@upe.ca or by phone at 566-4505. During the coming months, opportunities to hone your visual and acoustic bird identification skills and knowledge will be offered and training sessions and/or kits will be made available. If you are interested, please send David an E-mail or telephone call to indicate your interest. A number of those who participated in the 1st Atlas are normally available at the Natural History Society meetings and can talk about bird atlasing.

BALD-HEADED BLUE JAYS?

From Bird Studies Canada Latest News Sept 16, 2005

At Bird Studies Canada, one of the signs of changing seasons is the type of bird questions we get from our members and the public. Recently, we have been receiving concerned calls about follically-challenged birds. While most of the calls are about Blue Jays, other baldies include Northern Cardinal, Common Grackle, and various sparrows.

So what's up with these bald birds? Several explanations have been proposed, with the two main ones being a severe case of feather mites and an unusual moult pattern. Wild birds normally carry small numbers of feather mites - tiny arthropods (related to ticks and spiders) specialized to feed on bird feathers. Birds must regularly groom their feathers to remove these mites and other parasites. While birds can groom most feathers with

their bills, they can't reach their head feathers. Mite populations on head feathers can build up to the point where the feather is totally destroyed and/or has been pulled out by the bird scratching at its head.

Adult Blue Jays and other songbirds normally replace all of their feathers in late summer/early fall following the breeding season. This moult is usually done gradually over a period of a few weeks, with feathers being shed and replaced in a regular, staggered pattern so that at no point is the bird naked or flightless. However, there is evidence that some individual birds will drop most or all of their head feathers all at once - resulting in temporary baldness. This atypical moult may be due to stress or malnutrition in a particular year, but some captive birds have been reported to follow this same pattern of going totally bald each year even though they are well fed and healthy. So it does look like some individual birds may indeed be "follically challenged" - at least on a seasonal basis. Whatever the cause, the good news is that this condition is normally short-term, with a new set of head feathers growing in within a few weeks.

For more information, <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/AboutBirdsandFeeding/BaldBirds.htm>

Editor's Note: This article was forwarded by Rosemary Curley and addresses a frequently asked question.

A NEWFOUNDLAND CHASE:

by Dwaine Oakley and David Seeler

1st - 5th September 2005

It was an innocent start to what eventually would become a four day trip to Newfoundland. Dwaine posed the question "Ever thought about trying for the Western Reef-heron and Little Egret?" After some discussion, it was clear to both of us that there was interest in chasing the two birds. It was also apparent that due to schedules, we would have to go the following weekend.

A flurry of activity resulted as ferry schedules were consulted, reservations, vacation and time off requests were made. The plan was to leave Charlottetown late Thursday and head for the ferry terminal in Cape Breton, with the expectation that we would leave Sydney at 01:00 Friday, September 1st for Newfoundland.

We left Charlottetown ahead of schedule under threatening skies and very humid conditions. Due to local squalls, we were concerned that the Wood Island Ferry might be delayed. Luck prevailed as we drove onto the Confederation Ferry as soon as we arrived at the terminal. Despite rain and otherwise less than ideal driving conditions in Nova Scotia, we arrived in good time at the Marine Atlantic Terminal in Sydney. The incoming ferry from Port aux Basques was delayed for approximately two hours due to a search and rescue operation. This eventually worked to our advantage. Leaving Sydney at 03:00 we reached Newfoundland waters by dawn providing us with close to two hours of birding time in the Cabot Strait.

During the voyage, more than 30 Greater Shearwater were observed. Wilson's and Leach's Storm-petrels were also present in good numbers and on occasion provided diagnostic challenges when they were at a distance from the ship. Black-legged Kittiwakes provided some entertainment for a short period of time, and a Northern Fulmar eventually showed up to cap off what was an exciting experience. As we approached the shoreline, sea birds faded out of sight as Gulls and Northern Gannet etc., became more prevalent. Just as we reached the harbour entrance at Port aux Basques, we found a small number of Red Phalarope working "slick lines" just off the breakwater. Two Spotted Sandpipers were observed on the breakwater itself. We were off to a good start.

Disembarking shortly after 08:00, we made for Stephenville Crossing in Southwestern Newfoundland, ticking birds as we travelled north. On arrival at the Stephenville Crossing mudflats, the tide was up. While numerous species of shorebirds were present, we did not see either the Little Egret or Western Reef-heron. Trying to keep our spirits up, we took the opportunity to familiarize ourselves with the area and we birded the mudflats and surrounds. We found 19 species on the mudflats in short order, including a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Shortly before noon, we left for Stephenville to check in to the hotel and used the remaining time until low tide to eat and

check out the Stephenville area for other birding opportunities.

In mid-afternoon, we returned to Stephenville Crossing and the Little Egret was picked up even before the car had rolled to a stop. It did not take too long to find the Western Reef-heron. It appeared to never stray too far from the Little Egret. We did learn later that afternoon from Neil Dollard that the pair had actually been observed engaging in bonding as well as "nest building" activities and were rarely found too far apart.

The Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) is a small white heron which has a black bill and legs with yellow feet. It is approximately 55 - 65 cm in length and has a wingspan of around 90 cm. It is a wetland bird that has a preference for lowland shallow waters especially along coasts and estuaries (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds). It winters in coastal estuaries, tidal inlets and salt marshes. The Little Egret's normal distribution is Southern Europe, much of Asia, North, East and South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. It was first reported in the Western Hemisphere on 16 April 1954 in the Barbados and the second report was in Newfoundland on 8 May 1954. It now breeds in the Barbados as of 1994 and has also been reported in Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Delaware, Virginia, and a number of Caribbean Islands.

The Western Reef-heron (*Egretta gularis*) was first reported in North America on Nantucket Island in 1983. Its normal range includes Western Africa and casually north to the Azores, Cape Verde Island as well as Spain. A second population stretches from the Persian Gulf to west India. Its normal breeding habitat is coastal wetlands and it tends to nest in colonies - often with other waders. The Western Reef-heron has two colour morphs, an all white morph and a dark grey morph. There are distinct similarities between this species and the Little Egret, which are considered by some to be subspecies of the same species. The Western Reef-heron at Stephenville Crossing was a slate blue grey (dark morph) except for a white throat and chin, a dark bill and legs with yellow feet.

We continued to bird the mudflat area adding a number of species to our list. At days end, we decided to remain in the Stephenville area and bird that area for the next two days using information that Mr. Dollard provided us. Saturday and Sunday were spent checking out these areas and we were not disappointed. We seemed to be in the right place at the right time as we did come across what appeared to be a significant movement of warblers throughout the areas checked. During this time we also routinely checked the mudflats at Stephenville Crossing for new arrivals (picking up a new species each time) and to take the opportunity to observe the Old World visitors each day.

In addition, we were awed by the scenery that presented itself to us in the region between the Trans Canada Highway, Long Point and Cape St. George. At one point, we were on a gravel road at the base of an immense cliff. The peak of this rock face was so high that the trees on top looked like toothpicks. It was mind boggling to watch Corvids soar along its face. Certainly, mountains, rock, bogs, marsh ponds abound. Each morning the mountain tops were obscured by fog or low lying clouds giving a surreal feeling to the view. Time and time again we came across habitat that we could only wish we had available to us on PEI. In one location, we stood at the edge of a bog area that stretched for as far as one could see detail. It was an absolutely stunning and a humbling experience. Later on Sunday, we did head north to Barachois Provincial Park in the hopes of finding Gray-cheeked Thrush. This species, unfortunately, eluded our collective efforts.

Early Monday morning was clear and calm. Given the lack of artificial light we were able to observe the galaxy in a way that one could never do at home. Before dawn a small number of moose were observed roadside as we made the trip towards Port aux Basques. One hundred species were added to our personal Newfoundland Lists by the time we left its waters Monday morning. The ferry ride back to Cape Breton home was uneventful as compared to the trip over with only a Parasitic Jaeger being added to our list and a couple of Greater Shearwaters being observed. Good weather continued to follow us and we arrived home in Charlottetown tired but ecstatic around 20:00 hrs.

Overall the trip produced a joint list of 101 species for Newfoundland and its surrounds. Two species were not observed by both of us. Dwaine picked up a Tennessee Warbler and I observed a Bay-breasted Warbler giving each of us a personal list for Newfoundland of 100 species. Of the species observed in Newfoundland, 99 were

jointly observed and these are listed below in American Birding Association order.

SPECIES JOINTLY OBSERVED

Common Loon	Black-bellied Plover	Common Tern	American Goldfinch
Northern Fulmar	Semipalmated Plover	Arctic Tern	Orange-crowned Warbler
Greater Shearwater	Wilson's Snipe	Black Guillemot	Nashville Warbler
Sooty Shearwater	Short-billed Dowitcher	Rock Pigeon	Yellow Warbler
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Whimbrel	Belted Kingfisher	Magnolia Warbler
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Greater Yellowlegs	Downy Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Northern Gannet	Lesser Yellowlegs	Northern Flicker	Black-throated Green Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Spotted Sandpiper	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Palm Warbler
Little Egret	Willet	Tree Swallow	Blackpoll Warbler
Western Reef-Heron	Ruddy Turnstone	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Black-and-white Warbler
Canada Goose	Red Knot	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	American Redstart
American Wigeon	Sanderling	Swainson's Thrush	Northern Waterthrush
Gadwall	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Hermit Thrush	Mourning Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Least Sandpiper	American Robin	Common Yellowthroat
Mallard	White-rumped Sandpiper	Black-capped Chickadee	Wilson's Warbler
American Black Duck	Baird's Sandpiper	Boreal Chickadee	Savannah Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Pectoral Sandpiper	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Fox Sparrow
Black Scoter	Dunlin	Gray Jay	Song Sparrow
White-winged Scoter	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Blue Jay	Lincoln's Sparrow
Common Merganser	Red Phalarope	American Crow	Swamp Sparrow
Osprey	Parasitic Jaeger	Common Raven	White-throated Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Ring-billed Gull	European Starling	Dark-eyed Junco
Merlin	Great Black-backed Gull	House Sparrow	Common Grackle
	American Herring Gull	Pine Grosbeak	
	Black-headed Gull	Purple Finch	
	Black-legged Kittiwake	Pine Siskin	
	Caspian Tern		

In total, we travelled 1,580 km by road and 355 km by sea. For anyone wishing such a four day birding excursion, it cost less than \$900 for the two of us for travel, meals, accommodations and incidentals.

Postscript: In response to a query regarding the status of the two birds, Terry Downey indicated that the last time that he saw both birds together was on Sept 6/05 and that he seen the Little Egret alone on September. 10, 11, & 20. Our special thanks was extended to Neil Dollard and Terry Downey whose support and information helped us greatly in planning.

Recommended Reading: S.G. Mlodinow, W.E. Davis and J.I. Dies' "Little Egret - With notes on Western Reef-heron" in *Birding* (2004) Vol 36, Pages 52 - 62.

PEI BIRDERS LIST:

By David Seeler

The PEI Birders List is now close to completing its second year of operation. Launched early in 2004, the List is designed to facilitate communications in regards to the observations of rare bird species on Prince Edward Island as well as document seasonal and migration reports of sightings on P.E.I. List membership has risen to 96 individuals representing 5 provinces since inception. Member's interests range from bird watching within the yard to listing activities across the Island. The Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island is grateful to the University of Prince Edward Island for offering this service which facilitates the Society's responsibility to

document the Avifauna of Prince Edward Island.

During its two years of operation, the list has greatly facilitated the timely reporting of rare and accidental species on P.E.I. in such a fashion that individuals wishing to keep lists of their sightings now have the opportunity to investigate any unusual reports. In the past, we could only do this with volunteer phone out webs. The UPEI listserv better enables the Natural History Society to document rare species or new reports of birds never before seen on Prince Edward Island, create the permanent Island Naturalist records of birds, and improve service to birders not only on the Island but elsewhere. This effort encourages bird based travel to the Island from distant locations thus improving our local economy and improves participation of those engaging in Big Years (the total number of species seen during a given year) or other birding adventures based tourism activities.

Any one interested in watching birds or participating in documenting avifaunal species on PEI are heartily encouraged to join the PEIBirders List. You may do so online by going to:

<http://lists.upei.ca/mailman/listinfo/peibirders> Alternatively, you may contact me by E-Mail at seeler@upei.ca

We welcome all new members. The Natural History Society looks forward to your participation and to the possibility of exciting seasons and observations in 2006.

THE 6th NEIL BENNETT AUTUMN BIRDING CLASSIC: by Dan McAskill, Ray Cooke, Dave Seeler, Eric Marcum, & Dwaine Oakley

The Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic represents a long-term partnership between the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island and the Island Nature Trust designed as a fund raiser for the Trust's land conservation program. Up to this year, the donors have contributed over \$9,460.

On Sunday, September 25th, the David, Eric, Ray and Dan met to commence the 2005 Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic. There was an autumn chill in the air but it was a spectacular star light night with the half moon providing enough light to see any owl silhouettes that might be attracted to our CD-ROMs of owl calls. The winds were light and from the northwest early in the morning but increased to 20 km/hr from the south southwest by late afternoon. The temperature ranged from 6 to 15°Celsius and there was no precipitation. The relatively cool temperatures and wind kept the mosquitos at bay throughout the day.

After an on site discussion, we decided to head northwest as Dwaine, one of our team members, could not join us until the early afternoon because he was conducting a bird census at Norway that morning. We commenced birding at 03:10 hours using CD-ROM marsh bird call play-backs in an attempt to elicit responses. We tried marshes at North River and Warren Grove and were able to get our first bird, an American Black Duck. We heard some migratory calls overhead but could not identify these calls. As the early morning hours progressed, we switched to calling for owls. The response to our owl play-backs was more productive as we tried woodlands at Emyvale, Brookvale and Kelly's Cross. During this time, we picked up several Northern Saw-whet Owls, Barred Owl, Great-horned Owl, and two of the elusive Long-eared Owl. This was the first time that we had heard Long-eared Owls in this area on a bird count.

By dawn, we were travelling along route 13 at New Glasgow towards Cavendish picking up birds en route. At the Cavendish saltmarsh, we started picking up shorebirds (Greater Yellowlegs and Black-bellied Plover). At MacKie's Pond, David played the calls for bittern and rails and, again, we were unsuccessful in picking up any responses. However, while there, we picked up Eastern Kingfisher, 15 Greater Yellowlegs, and both species of teal common to P.E.I. A check of the barachois pond at Stanley Bridge for waterfowl added both Gadwall and Mallard to the day's list. Backtracking to the National Park at Cavendish once again, we explored the campground, woodlands, the saltmarsh and inner dune shore of the Cavendish sandspit, Clark's Pond, Lake of Shining Waters, and Orby Head. Highlights included a wave of migrating birds moving through the woods beside the Cavendish saltmarsh where we observed Pine and Blackpoll Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, and heard an American Pipit. Heading to French River and eventually Cape Tryon, two Red-throated Loon in breeding plumage were

found just off shore. Several stops later we picked up a Snow Goose at the Lake of Shining Waters in Park Corner and then continued our way along the north shore.

After leaving Queen's County, we headed towards the Indian River Wildlife Management Area where a glimpse of something black flying and flashing white on the wings against a bright sun led us to check the area more thoroughly. The glimpse turned out to be two large dragon flies mating but we decided to walk to the raised platform at upper end of the somewhat overgrown Indian River trail. Here we met up with Dwaine Oakley and the group observed a variety of ducks including three Hooded Merganser. From there, Beach Point became our next stop where scoter and loons were observed. On the way out, a small number of American Golden Plover were observed in an Hamilton field along with Black-bellied Plover. We then proceeded to check Schurman's Shore as well as Legion Shore (off Locke Road in Sherbrooke) picking up a White-rumped Sandpiper in the process. The Borden Lagoons and shoreline brought few new species but on leaving we decided to walk the Ducks Unlimited Interpretive trail and were rewarded with several quick views of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo which gave its call notes on three occasions. Heading back to Charlottetown via Rte 10, we were provided with spectacular views of a Stilt Sandpiper and two Pectoral Sandpiper at the saltmarsh in Tryon. Additional views of American Golden Plover were had at Victoria and two Osprey (one of which was an immature on the nest) were observed in Desable. We continued our trek along the south shore in an attempt to pick up additional water based species. Along the way, Northern Gannet, Common Grackle and Red-breasted Merganser were added to the list. As the day wound down, we added several Whimbrel to the list at Rice Point and the final species - House Sparrow - was added at Nine Mile Creek just at sunset.

It was a poor day for woodpeckers with only a few Northern Flickers despite the amount of deadwood in some of the woodland we travelled through and the feeding sign of a three-toed woodpecker.

The group travelled ~280 km by vehicle and about 2 m by foot. In total, we observed 90 species. In addition to the birds seen below, we also observed a skunk, two small raccoons, a fox, eight red squirrels, an eastern Chipmunk, a vole (in the talons of a male Northern Harrier), and one gray seal and heard a group of coyotes calling.

Thanks to the various donors, Trust's pledge collectors, and team members over \$1,300 was raised in this year's Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic.

Red-throated Loon	Black Scoter	Dunlin
Common Loon	Hooded Merganser	<i>Stilt Sandpiper</i>
Pied-billed Grebe	Common Merganser	Wilson's Snipe
Northern Gannet	Red-breasted Merganser	Bonaparte's Gull
Double-crested Cormorant	Osprey	Ring-billed Gull
Great Cormorant	Bald Eagle	Herring Gull
Great Blue Heron	Northern Harrier	Great Black-backed Gull
<i>Snow Goose</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Caspian Tern
Canada Geese	Red-tailed Hawk (immature)	Common Tern
Wood Duck	American Kestrel	Rock Pigeon (Dove)
Gadwall	Ruffed Grouse	Mourning Dove
American Wigeon	Sora	<i>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</i>
American Black Duck	Black-bellied Plover	Great Horned Owl
Mallard	American Golden Plover	Barred Owl
Blue-winged Teal	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Long-eared Owl</i>
Northern Pintail	Greater Yellowlegs	Northern Saw-whet Owl
Green-winged Teal	Lesser Yellowlegs	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Ring-necked Duck	Whimbrel	Belted Kingfisher
Greater Scaup	Sanderling	Northern Flicker
Common Eider	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Red-eyed Vireo
Surf Scoter	White-rumped Sandpiper	Blue Jay
White-winged Scoter	Pectoral Sandpiper	American Crow

Common Raven
Black-capped Chickadee
Boreal Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
American Robin
European Starling

American Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Pine Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Chipping Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow

Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow

Note: Species in italics are rarely seen here.

NATURE CANADA & CANADIAN NATURE NETWORK MEETINGS:

by Fiep de Bie

On behalf of the Natural History Society and Island Nature Trust I attended a Nature Canada (formally the Canadian Nature Federation) workshop on National Wildlife Areas followed by a two day Affiliates meeting. The objectives of the affiliate meeting were to revisit the goals and objectives on the Nature Network. Present at the meeting were representatives of Ontario, Nova Scotia, Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan and PEI. Here are the highlights and some background information:

National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

Some of Canada's best wildlife habitat has been set aside in a network of 51 National Wildlife Areas (NWAs) and 92 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBSs). We have one MBS, namely Black Pond in Eastern PEI. Environment Canada is manager of the protected areas network. NWAs are protected under the "Canadian Wildlife Act" and MBS under the "Migratory Bird Convention Act." Unfortunately, Canada's national wildlife area's and migratory bird sanctuaries are in a state of crisis. Development pressure is the leading cause of habitat destruction and biodiversity loss. Other threats are harmful public uses (ATVs), Pollution, Invasive Species and Climate Change. Most national wildlife areas are currently left without management. Root cause for this crisis is the lack of funding. The federal government spends about \$1.9 million per year on the network. This means that the entire NWA/MBS system is managed on \$0.16/hectare.

Important Bird Areas

Hundreds of sites in Canada are vitally important for our breeding, migrating, and wintering birds, and the conservation of these sites is a cornerstone of effective bird conservation. Nature Canada is a co-partner in the international Important Bird Area (IBA) program, which aims to identify, conserve and monitor a network of sites that provides essential habitat for bird populations. BirdLife International began the IBA program in Europe in the 1980s. Since that time, BirdLife partners in more than 100 countries have joined together to build the global IBA network. To date, 597 sites have been identified as IBAs in Canada. PEI has 6 Important Bird Areas.

Recommendation to improve the system

Nature Canada envisions a system where Environment Canada is building strong management in order to enforce and regulate protection of the system and to expand the system with new sites. Here are some of the recommendations made by Nature Canada and discussed by the affiliates:

- ◆ That the National Wildlife Area system be used as a primary tool to protect critical habitat for species at risk under the Species at Risk Act.
- ◆ That Important Bird Areas (IBAs) occurring on federal land will be included into the National Wildlife Area system in order to strengthen the system's protection of habitat for all types of migratory birds. As a

priority, we would like to focus on IBA sites in Atlantic Canada that are currently owned by the Canadian Coast Guard that contain significant wildlife and/or habitat. For example, an area which is owned by Canadian Coastguard and has potential to be designated as a National Wildlife Area is Cascumpec Sand Hills for its significant piping plover beach.

- ◆ That Environment Canada is reformed to incorporate the best features of public and Non Government Organizations (NGOs) protected areas, in order to add privately held land to the National Wildlife Area network. Island Nature Trust land holdings are protected under the Natural Area Protection Act, which is under provincial legislation. Designating land under the National Wildlife Areas would provide federal protection.
- ◆ That Environment Canada reform the Canada Wildlife Act, in order to provide legislative clarity regarding prohibitions and directions for biodiversity conservation. Migratory bird sanctuaries established under the Migratory Birds Convention Act provide a level of protection of migratory birds, but minimal protection for the habitat of these birds. Consideration should be given to upgrade Migratory Bird Areas to National Wildlife Areas to protect habitat other than only during the nesting season.

Affiliates Meeting

Nature Canada has attempted to work more closely on affiliate relations several times over the past 15 years. Who are the affiliates? Nature Network exists of representatives from environmental non-governmental organizations from all provinces and territories. Several affiliate meetings were held over the years in different provinces. Recurring goal for these meetings was to build a more powerful, accessible and visible Nature Network in Canada. What does this mean? This means more sharing and building awareness of National Nature issues. This can be achieved by more affective networking; email communication and regular conference calls. Nature Network will send out Action Alerts to the affiliates in order to tackle critical issues together nationally. Here are some other issues discussed at the meeting.

All Terrain Vehicles

The ATV as primarily recreation equipment is a top concern across the country. It has led to one of the biggest land use controversies across the country. Personally, I see more ATV tracks where I have never seen them before. There seem to be a rapid growth in ATV popularity on the island. ATV tracks have been seen on the beaches close to Piping Plover nesting areas. The amount of disturbance they bring to woods, fields, waterfronts and remote areas alarms the Canadian Nature Network. A national Committee is working to address this issue. The committee is focussing on the environmental impacts of recreational off-highway vehicles.

Species at Risk

The Species at Risk Act provides Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans and Parks Canada with the authority to protect nationally listed wildlife at risk to become extinct and provides for the recovery of endangered and threatened species. Also in the act are prohibitions to protect the critical habitat of these species. However, the act has not been enforced properly. Particularly concerning are the long delays by the government in adding new wildlife species to the legal list of species receiving protection by the act. You probably remember the “Report Card” with national and separate provincial sections to evaluate how well the Act performed in 2003. Not much improvement has been made since. In fact, there are species in Canada under development threat. One example is the Suffield National Wildlife Area within the Canadian Forces base in Alberta where Enca Corporation applied for a permit to drill up to 1,275 new gas wells within the protected area, threatening the last remaining undisturbed prairie grasslands in Canada, home to 14 species which are listed as species at risk (i.e. swift fox, Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, northern leopard frog, great plains toad and many rare plants).

Nature Canada and the affiliates will develop a questionnaire which will be distributed among members. It is important to express our views on how well Canada’s governments performed in protecting and recovering

Species at Risk. The outcome of this questionnaire will be gathered and presented at the third year anniversary of the Species at Risk Act.

Many challenges lie ahead, but there is the opportunity to make significant strides towards conserving nature in Canada. Many partners, including environmental and stewardship organizations, industry groups, governmental departments, politicians and all individuals that have an interest in nature can make a difference in protecting our wildlife.

Please contact me if you have any question concerning the above topics dfiep@hotmail.com or 569-1413 by phone or visit the Nature Canada's website: <http://www.cnf.ca/index.html>

SOCIETY OUTING:

By Fiep de Bie

I just came back from the Natural History Society's October 23rd field trip which was lead by Dwaine Oakley. We went to the North shore instead of Earncliffe and Dromore because of the likelihood of seeing a greater variety of birds and we were not disappointed. All together, we had nine people looking for birds.

This is what we found.

At the Ponds:

Greater Scaup
Pied-billed Grebe
Ring-necked Ducks
Common Goldeneye
Green-winged Teal
Hooded Mergansers (~ 20)
Common Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Mallards
Black Ducks
Hybrid (Mallard/black duck)
Gadwall

And new fall migrants: 3 female and one male Bufflehead

Covehead Bay:

2 Bald Eagles
Dunlin
Black-bellied Plover
Sanderling
Black-backed Gulls
Herring Gulls

At the Bubbling Spring trail:

Golden crowned Kinglets
Nuthatches
Boreal Chickadees
Blue Jays
Hairy Woodpecker

At the (windy) Dalvay shore:

One red-throated Loon
A flock of Long-tailed ducks
One Northern Gannet

I just looked outside and see that it started to rain. We were lucky again!

Editor's Note: Adapted from an E-mail report by Fiep de Bie dated October 23, 2005

LITTLE STINT:

By Ray Cooke

During the 2000 Autumn Birding Classic we were stopped at the Souris causeway observing shorebirds, when a small "peep" was noted. The initial feature which drew attention to this bird was the strong markings on its back which gave the impression of two bright stripes along its back. On inspection, the bird was noted to be very similar to a Least Sandpiper, however it had dark legs. The bird was viewed in good lighting conditions for several minutes by members of our group. The bird was seen through scopes with magnification of 20 to 60 power. Under higher magnification, the field of view was mostly taken up by the sight of the bird. That day, photos were not obtained, however on returning two days later, more distant views were noted, and photos were taken using a camera held to the end of the spotting scopes. Unfortunately these photos were not optimal as the bird was far too distant and the lighting was not as good.

As mentioned above, the initial features bringing attention to this bird were the strong markings on its back. It was noted to be in fresh, bright, plumage with no obvious plumage wear making the bird a juvenile. The bird was brightly coloured and its very reddish cap, with no obvious stripes, was well demarcated and stood out as a prominent feature. The bird was noted to have a light-coloured face, with an obvious eye line. The light facial colouration extending over most its face and a slightly darker colouration was over its posterior neck. Even with this slightly darker nape, the nape still clearly separated the cap from the mantle colour. The bill on this bird seemed to be similar in size to a Least Sandpiper but was noted to be quite thin. There was a white line present above the eye that seen to extend to the base of the bird bill. The supercilium line, was one of the features that made the bird's cap stand out so prominently. One of the bright lines on the back of this bird was due to the colouring of mantle feathers, with their white edges. The second of these prominent lines was the white edges of the scapular feathers which were noted to have a rufous colour in their centre. Tertiary feathers were also noted to have prominent edging. There was no obvious wing extension. There was striping on the bird's breast, but it seemed faint in the centre of its breast. The overall effect was that the bird had a light coloured breast. This bird's legs, seen under good conditions and with good magnification, were dark in colour. They did not appear to be covered with mud. When the bird flew, it revealed a dark-coloured rump. The bird's size could be judged well through comparison with adjacent Sanderlings which were seen both in front of and behind this bird in the same field of view.

With the very clear size estimates, the bird was easy identifiable as one of the "peep" Sandpiper's. Its legs, were clearly dark in colouration which limits options to some degree, although leg colour may not clear be a indication of species. The well-seen rump markings ruled out the possibility of the White-rumped Sandpiper and the bird did seem to large for this. The strong markings over its back as well as the prominent facial markings, make the possibility of the Baird's Sandpiper quite unlikely. Although leg colour fit for both Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers these were ruled out based on mantle and scapular colourations as well as bill shape and length. The tertiary markings were more prominent than those typically seen in both of these Sandpipers. As well, these bird's typically do not show the prominent cap visible in this bird. Other possibilities, were Least Sandpiper, Long-toed Stint, Little Stint, and Red-necked Stint. The Long-toed Stint typically exhibits light-coloured legs, making this identification less likely. As well, it does not have white edges to the scapulars feathers. The Red-necked Stint is a possibility. However this species is frequently not as bright in colouration and doesn't have the strong and prominent mantle and scapular lines. The colouration of the wing coverts also does not appear as dark, or as well demarcated as the bird in question. A Least Sandpiper, which would be the most common Sandpiper of this size, typically has light-coloured legs. The bird in question, did seem to have more prominent markings over the mantle and scapular areas than typically seen in Least Sandpipers. Least Sandpipers, typically do not have a prominent cap like this bird did. The colouration over the neck seems to merge more with both mantle and cap colours. As well, the colouration of the bird's breast was not as solid as that usually seen in the juvenile Least Sandpiper. The bird seen had much fainter markings.

Unfortunately, conclusive documentation by photography was not obtained although attempts were made to obtain photographs at a later date. The bird was not as cooperative and stayed beyond the optimal distance for the equipment. During the time of the Birding Classic, there was considerable discussion about this bird and it is my feeling that this bird represented a first Island recorded for Little Stint.

Editor's Note: from an E-mail from Ray Cooke to David Seeler dated Nov. 10 , 2005

BIRD RECORDS ON ISLAND HIT 250!

By David Seeler

Just a quick note to say that PEI reports have now surpassed the 250 goal for 2005! To my knowledge this is the first time that many species have been reported in one year AND we have close to two months to go!

Editor's Note: Adapted from an E-mail report by David Seeler dated Nov. 8, 2005

NEWS FROM ABOUT:

Compiled by Dan McAskill

The Atlantic Canada Tern Working Group met at the Canadian Wildlife Service building in Sackville, NB on Tuesday November 1. Topics included updates on Roseate Tern Recovery Strategy, foraging ecology, and New Brunswick & Newfoundland populations. (adapted from October 27 E-mail from Andrew Boyne)

The Holland College Renewable Resource Management Program has morphed into the Wildlife Conservation Technology program. They are now working from the Royalty Centre while the new facility is under construction.

After a competition, Mr. Kirby Tulk has joined the P.E.I. National Park as the new Parks Ecologist. He was formerly a warden at Terra Nova National Park in Newfoundland.

On November 20, I chopped down my asparagus fern, and in the top of it I found a used Yellow Warbler nest with one possibly predated egg and one unhatched egg. That's the first time I've seen a birds nest in asparagus! It was located next to dogwood and rose, which may have made it more attractive. (Nov. 21 E-mail from Rosemary Curley)

Mount Allison student Ben Phillips found the oldest red spruce (*Picea rubra*) in the world while taking tree borings working on a project in the Caledonia Highlands of the Fundy Basin fog forest. This tree grew in shade during its life span which has reached 445 years and was of much smaller diameter than some of its 300 year red spruce neighbours. This work is part of the Dendrochronology Lab at Mt. Allison University's studies on environment. (Adapted from a Times & Transcript article by Aloma Jardine of Oct. 19, 2005)

Off Road Vehicles (All Terrain Vehicles) have been a concern from naturalists across Canada and the United States. The number of wheeled types of these vehicles is increasing and naturalists are expressing concern over the amount of damage to natural habitats and unpaved roads and trails. A resolution of the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists has urged "the Ministry of Forests to enforce existing regulations and to clarify the jurisdictional roles of government agencies so that compliance and enforcement measures are effective". (Adapted from BC Naturalists' Conservation Report 43:2 Summer 2005)

The torrential rain storms on November 10 led to the discharge of some 700,000 gallons of raw sewage into Charlottetown Harbour from the Charlottetown sewage treatment plant on November 11th. (local news reports).

Some 500 scientists from 60 countries contributed their information to the Global Amphibian Assessment. The results are disheartening with 32% of the world's 5,743 species now being considered threatened with extinction and concern being expressed on nearly 1,300 others. In comparison, 12% of bird species and 23% of mammal species are threatened. (Adapted from Toronto Field Naturalists 534 -7)

Established in 1976, The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation (the Baillie Fund) provides grants to individuals or groups for projects that further the mission of Bird Studies Canada, namely: contribute to our understanding of Canadian birds in their natural environment; increase Canadians appreciation of wild birds and their habitats; or advance the conservation of Canadian birds. Bird Studies Canada is now accepting applications for James L. Baillie Memorial Fund grants in 2006. The deadline for applications for Regular Grants is Dec. 15, 2005 and the deadline for applications for Small Grants is Jan. 15, 2006. The James L. Baillie Award for Student Research is administered by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists and the deadline is Jan. 30, 2006. Please refer to the web based materials for further information or contact Jane Beckett at 519-586-3531 ext. 217 or

E-mail her at jbeckett@bsc-eoc.org (Adapted from an Oct. 25 E-mail from Jane Beckett)

CALL FOR WINTER BIRD LIST SUBMISSIONS:

By David Seeler

I wish to remind everyone about the Winter Bird List Competition amongst the Maritime Provinces and beyond. Each year the regional Provinces participate in a friendly competition to see who can identify the most species over the "Winter Season". The time frame for this event is the 1st of December, 2005 to 28th of February, 2006. The intent is to identify as many species of over wintering birds as is possible. Reports should be made to either the PEI Birders list OR to directly me at Seeler@upe.ca Please start the subject line with "WBL." Those wishing to see how the provinces are fairing can visit Blake Maybank's website at <http://www3.ns.stmpatico.ca/maybank/other/peiwinter.htm>

WEATHER EVENTS:

Thunder storm associated hail wrecked havoc with blueberry crops which were later than normal in some areas near Dundee (RF). Hurricane Ophelia swung further off shore and the predicted high winds and storm surge on Sept. 17-18 ended up being a good rain storm and only 50 to 70 km/hr winds. (JDM, RC). A near miss from Hurricane Wilma seemed to have pushed swallows to the Island in late October (DO, EBM, DCS, JDM). A torrential rain storm in about 1 to 1.5 hours flooded highways in Charlottetown and Cornwall leaving 10 to 20 cm of flowing water on many road surfaces where flow was impeded by curbs and shoulders on Nov. 10 (JDM). The first snow flurries of the new season in Central P.E.I. were seen on Nov. 11 (JDM).

ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:

Compiled by J. Dan McAskill

PLANTS:

There were good crop of wild pears (*Amelanchier* spp.) at East Point and false holly in Argyle Shore and East Point wetlands in mid Nov. (JDM, DCS). The autumn foliage colours were about 50% pronounced on Oct. 5 in the Bonshaw Hills north but minimal at New Harmony on Oct. 8 (JDM). Almost full colours on Oct. 22 in Fredericton and Inkerman (JDM). 80% of red oak leaves were off trees, 100% of sugar maple, and 80% of larch had turned golden on Nov. 6 in Donagh (JDM).

SPIDERS:

1 black & yellow garden spider at Iona on Aug. 20 (TM).

INSECTS:

Ants swarmed at Sherbrooke and dozens of cabbage butterflies were feeding in clover field on Oct. 3 (JDM, WFB, LY). Several woolly bear caterpillars in Hampton and Argyle Shore were completely brown rather than brown and black in early Oct. (JDM). 1 woolly bear caterpillar at Hampton on Nov. 29 (LY, JDM, WFB). Several reports of ground nesting or low nesting paper wasp nests were reported in September but one of the highest nests ever seen (~12 m up a tree) was located at Cavendish. On Oct.12, a few painted lady butterflies were seen at Norway (DO) and red admiral butterflies were seen at Wood Island on Oct. 30 (L&JH, D&SK, DO).

AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES:

~100 Leopard Frog were seen crossing Donagh Road mostly towards the Johnston's River impoundment during rain storms in mid-Sept. and, during warmer evenings in late October and early November a few were still being seen (JDM). Garter snake was seen on the Argyle Shore Road on Sept. 20 (LY).

MAMMALS: The warm weather has meant that skunks and raccoons are still quite active and road strikes are being seen.

BIRDS in Field Checklist of Birds order: **Red-throated Loon** - 1 off Point Prim on Sept. 18 (HR), at Cavendish on Oct. 1 (DC&ES), at Cavendish on Oct. 10 (EBM), 1 at West Point on Oct. 29 (EBM, FdB), 1 at East Point on Nov. 4 (AG), 5 off Dalvay on Nov. 13 (DK), 12 at East Point on Nov. 19 (DO, DCar) & few on Nov. 26 (DO, JJo, CW, C&CG, GC); **Common Loon** - at Cavendish on Oct. 1 (DC&ES), 1 at East Point on Nov. 4 (AG), 2 off Robinsons Island on Nov. 13 (DK), 1 at East Point on Nov. 26 (DO, JJo, CW, C&CG, GC); **Horned Grebe** - 1 off Earnscliffe on Pownal Bay on Oct. 2 (DCS) & 3 on Oct. 15 (DO, DCar), 3 at Robinson's Island (DCS), 1 at East Point on Oct. 29 (DCS, DO), 2 at Earnscliffe on Nov. 6 (AG); **Red-necked Grebe** - off Cavendish sandspit on Oct. 1 (DC&ES), good number off Earnscliffe on Pownal Bay on Oct. 2 (DCS), 1 at East Point & 2 at Earnscliffe on Oct. 15 (DO, DCar), at East Point on Oct. 29 (DCS, DO), at East Point on Nov. 4 (AG), 8-10 at Earnscliffe on Nov. 6 (AG); **Sooty Shearwater** - 2 at East point on Oct. 26 (DC&ES); **Storm-Petrel** - 1 UID at East Point on Oct. 15 (DO, DCar), 2 UID off East Point on Nov. 19 (JDM); **Northern Gannet** - ~125 fishing in the heavy surf off East Point on Sept. 18 (RC, JDM), many at Cavendish on Oct. 10 (EBM), many at West Cape on Oct. 27 (EBM, FdB), 100 at East Point on Nov. 4 (AG); **Double-crested Cormorant** - 400 at Hillsborough bridge piers on Oct. 22 (JDM), 25 at Hillsborough River in Charlottetown on Nov. 11 (DCS), 5 off East Point on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM), 1 over Charlottetown Harbour (GP); **Great Cormorant** - 1 off East Point on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM) & Nov. 29 (DO, WCT); **Great Blue Heron** - 2 at Borden lagoon on Nov. 5 (AG), 1 perched in top of hedgerow spruce between hay and grain field at Black Horse Corner on Nov. 10 (JDM, LY), 2 on Hillsborough River on Oct. 3 (GP), 7 at Souris on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM); **Cattle Egret** - 1 in cattle pasture at Grand Tracadie on Nov. 30 & Dec. 1 (RM, JM, DCS); **Snow Geese** - 2 at Lake of Shining Waters at Park Corner on Sept. 25 (DCS, JDM, EBM, RC); **Canada Geese** - ~1,000 at Lake Verde in mid to late-Sept. (Various reports) & 700 on Oct. 25 (JDM), 5 at Mount St. Mary's hay field on Sept. 21 (JDM, DS), 300 at Upton Rd. soya bean field on Sept. 25 (JDM), several thousand 1 at Cavendish on Sept. 25 (DCS, JDM, EBM, DK) 100 at Coleman on Nov. 11 (EBM), 2,000 + in potato fields at Black Horse Corner on Nov. 12 (JDM, WFB), 200 at Covehead Harbour on Nov. 13 (DK), the numbers of Canada Geese this year are up substantially this year compared to the last few years (JDM); **American Wigeon** - ~20 at Black Pond on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM); **Gadwall** - 2 to 4 at Miscouche lagoon on Nov. 5 (EBM, FdB, DO), 2 males at Black Pond on Nov. 19 (JDM, DCS); **American Black Duck** - 50 at grain field off Mt. Edward Rd. in Charlottetown on Oct. 10 (WFB, JDM), 200 at Long Pond on Nov. 4 (AG), 250 at Leslie's Pond on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM); **Mallard** - 5 at Long Pond on Nov. 4 (AG), ~12 at Leslie's Pond on Nov. 19 (JDM, DCS); **Northern Shoveler** - 2 females at Borden on Oct. 31 (DO), 4 at Black Pond on Nov. 19 (JDM, DCS, DO, DCar); **Northern Pintail** - 5 at Coleman on Nov. 11 (EBM); **Green-winged Teal** - 7 at Miscouche lagoon on Nov. 5 (EBM, FdB), 8 at Hyde Pond in Cornwall (EBM), 3 at Long Pond on Nov. 4 (AG), 40 at Earnscliffe on Nov. 6 (AG), at Black Pond on Nov. 19 (JDM, DCS); **Redhead Duck** - 7 males & 1 female at Souris West on Nov. 4 (AG), male & female at Miscouche lagoon on Nov. 5 (EBM, FdB), 1 at Leslie's Pond Souris West on Nov. 5 (DCS), 2 males & 2 females at Miscouche Pond on Nov. 6 (DO), 18 at Leslie's Pond in Souris on Nov. 19 (DCS, DO, DCar, JDM); **Ring-necked Duck** - 10 at Long Pond on Nov. 4 & on Nov. 13 (AG, DK), female at Miscouche Pond on Nov. 6 (DO); **Greater Scaup** - 1 at Clark's Pond (Cavendish) (RA), 1 at Borden lagoon on Oct. 12 (DO), 20 at Long Pond on Nov. 4 (AG), at Earnscliffe on Nov. 6 (AG), 20 at Long Pond on Nov. 13 (DCS), 2 at East Point on Nov. 26 (DO, JJo, CW, C&CG, GC); **Lesser Scaup** - 3 at Long Pond on Oct. 5 (DO), 1 at Miscouche lagoon on Nov. 5 (EBM, FdB), 15 at Long Pond on Nov. 4 (AG); **Common Eider** - 20 off Dalvay on Nov. 13 (DK), 150 at East Point on Nov. 19 (DO, DCar, DCS, JDM) & many on Nov. 26 (DO, JJo, CW, C&CG, GC); **Harlequin Duck** - 4 at East Point on Oct. 13 (DCar), female on Oct. 15 (DO, DCar), 3 males & 2 females on Oct. 26 (DC&ES), on Oct. 29 (DCS, DO), 2 on Nov. 4 (AG), 7 on Nov. 17 (BDo), ~20 off on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM, DCar, DO), 4 males & 11 females on Nov. 26 (DO, JJo, CW, C&CG, GC), & 4 males & 1 female on Nov. 29 (DO, WCT); **Surf Scoter** - off East Point on Sept. 18 (RC, JDM), 5 at West Point on Oct. 29 (EBM, FdB); **White-winged Scoter** - ~30 off East Point on Sept. 18 (RC, JDM), at Cavendish on Oct. 10 (EBM), at East Point on Nov. 4 (AG), 6 off Dalvay on Nov. 13 (DK) 9 off East Point on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM); **Black Scoter** - ~25 off East Point on Sept. 18 (RC, JDM), at East Point on Nov. 4 (AG), 1 off East Point on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM); **Long-tailed Duck** - first of autumn at East Point & Earnscliffe on Oct. 15 (DO, DCar), at East Point on Nov. 4 (AG), 500 off East Point on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM, DCar, DO) & ~1,000 on Nov. 26 (DO, JJo, CW, C&CG, GC); **Bufflehead** - 6 to 8 males & females at Long Pond in early Nov. (DO, DK, DCS); **Common Goldeneye** - at Long Pond on Oct. 5 (DO), at Earnscliffe on Nov. 6 (AG); **Barrow's Goldeneye** - 1 at Hyde Pond in Cornwall on Nov. 5 (EBM); **Hooded Merganser** - 3 at Black Pond (East) on Oct. 2 (SSi) & 9 on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM), 8 at Clark's Pond in Oct. (RA) & 16 on Nov. 12 (DCS), up to 15 at Long Pond on Oct. 16, 18, & 21 (DCS), 12 at Long Pond on Nov. 4 (AG), 3 at East Lake on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM); **Common Merganser** - 100 at Long Pond on Nov. 4 (AG), many at Earnscliffe on Nov. 6 (AG); **Ruddy Duck** - 18 at Miscouche lagoon on Nov. 5 (EBM, FdB, DCS), ~12 on Nov. 6 (DO), & 10 on Nov. 11 (EBM); **Bald**

Eagle - 5 at East Point on Oct. 2 (SSi), 2 at South Melville on Oct. 2 (RA), adult at Fairfield on Oct. 4 (AI), juvenile at North Lake on Oct. 5 (AI), 2 juvenile at East Point on Oct. 7 & 1 eating baby raccoon at East Point beach on Oct. 7 (AI), 2 adults & 1 juvenile soaring with ravens at St. Peter's on Oct. 7 (AI), 2 doing aerial displays at Hampton on Oct. 11 (JDM, WFB, LY), 6 immatures soaring at Norway on Oct. 12 (DO), 1 at Black Horse Corner on Oct. 6 & 13, 2 adults & immature at Black Horse Corner on Oct. 15 (JDM, WFB, LY), 2 at West Point on Oct. 28 (EBM, FdB), mature at Covehead Harbour on Nov. 13 (DK); **Northern Harrier** - 1 at East Point on Oct. 2 (SSi), at North Lake on Oct. 5 (AI), 1 at East Point on Oct. 7 (AI), 1 to 3 at Hampton on Oct. 10, 11, & 27 & Nov. 2 & 17 & 1 at Black Horse Corner on Oct. 15 & 22 & Nov. 12 (LY, WFB, JDM), 1 at Argyle Shore on Oct. 6 & Nov. 18 & 1 at Wilmot on Oct. 6 (JDM, LY), 1 male at West Point/Cape on Nov. 11 (EBM); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 1 on the telephone wires in Sherwood on Sept. 18 (RC), 1 at Sherbrooke on Oct. 3 & 24 (JDM, WFB, LY), 1 at Hampton on Oct. 11 (WFB, JDM, LY), 1 at Black Horse Corner on Oct. 15 (JDM, WFB, LY) 1 at Sherbrooke on , & 1 at Black Horse Corner on Oct. (LY, WFB, JDM), 1 at Howard's Cove on Oct. 31 (EBM, FdB), 1 at East Point on Nov. 19 (DO, DCar, DCS, JDM); **Coopers Hawk** - 1 at Churchill on Oct. 6(JDM); **Northern Goshawk** - immature at St. Peter's on Oct. 15 (DO, DCar), 1 at Cameron's Island in Pownal Bay Oct. 20 (DO, FdB, DK), 1 at Dalvay Woodland Trail on Nov. 13 (DCS), 1 at East Point on Nov. 19 (DCS, DO, DCar, JDM); **Broad-winged Hawk** - 1 at Searletown on Oct. 11 (JDM, WFB); **Red-tailed Hawk** - 1 at Argyle Shore on Sept. 20 (JDM, LY), 1 juvenile at Wilmot on Oct. 11 (JDM, WFB), 2 at Wilmot on Oct. 12 (DD), 1 at Black Horse Corner on Oct. 6 & 13 & Nov. 1 & immature dark phase on Nov. 12 (JDM, WFB, LY), 1 at Pleasant Valley on Nov. 5 (JDM), 1 at Valleyfield on Nov. 9 (JDM, RCo), 1 at Annandale on Nov. 19 (JDM, DCS), juvenile near Richmond on Nov. 24 (FdB), 1 adult each at Middleton, Hampton, Desable, & Long Creek on Nov. 27 (FdB, EBM); **Rough-legged Hawk** - 1 dark phase at Black Horse Corner on Oct. 22 (JDM), 1 dark phase at West Point/Cape on Nov. 11 (EBM), at Vernon River on Nov. 28 (DK); 1 light phase and 1 dark phase at Hampton on Nov. 29 (WFB, JDM, LY); **American Kestrel** - 1 at Hampton on Oct. 11 (JDM, WFB), 1 at Rock Barra on Oct. 15 (DO, DCar); **Merlin** - 1 on telephone wires on Sept. 18 (JDM, RC), 1 at East Point on Oct. 2 (SSi), 1 at Hampton on Oct. 10 & 11 (JDM, WFB, LY), 1 at West Point on Oct. 29 (EBM, FdB); **Peregrine Falcon** - at East Point beach on Oct. 6 (AI); **Gray Partridge** - ~8 at Hampton in mid-Sept. & Nov. 10 (LY), 6 at Slemmon Park on Nov. 6 (DO); **Ruffed Grouse** - good population levels being seen in Sept. (RD); **Sharp-tailed Grouse** - 3 at Hermanville on Oct. 15 (DO, DCar); **Black-bellied Plover** - at Cavendish on Oct. 1 (DC&ES), several at Tracadie Bay on Oct. 10 (EBM), 9 over fields at Sherbrooke on Oct. 3 & 5 on Oct. 24 (JDM, WFB, LY) 5 or 6 at West Cape on Oct. 27 (EBM, FdB); **American Golden Plover** - heard at Cavendish on Oct. 1 (DC&ES), at Rollo Bay on Oct. 15 (DO, DCar); **Semipalmated Plover** - at Cavendish on Oct. 1 (DC&ES), many at Tracadie Bay on Oct. 10 (EBM), 1 at Covehead Bay on Nov. 4 (AG); **Greater Yellowlegs** - 5 at Souris Causeway on Sept. 18 (JDM, RC), 12 in late Oct. at Alexandra (FdB); **Lesser Yellowlegs** - 1 at Souris Causeway on Sept. 18 (JDM, RC); **Whimbrel** - 5 off East Point on Sept. 18 (RC, JDM); **Hudsonian Godwit** - juvenile in field pond on York Point Road on Oct. 17 (EBM); **Red Knot** - 1 at Covehead Bay on Nov. 4 (AG); **Sanderling** - at Cavendish on Oct. 1 (DC&ES), 12 at Covehead Bay on Nov. 4 (AG), 50+ at North Cape on Nov. 6 (DO), 2 at East Point beach on Nov. 19 (DO, DCar, DCS, JDM) & on Nov. 26 (DO, JJo, CW, C&CG, GC); **Semipalmated Sandpiper** - at Cavendish on Oct. 1 (DC&ES); **White-rumped Sandpiper** - 1 at Tracadie Bay on Oct. 10 (EBM), 2 at North Cape on Nov. 6 (DO); **Purple Sandpiper** - 2 to 5 at East Point on Nov. 26 to 30 (DO, JJo, CW, C&CG, GC, LH, DCS, WCT); **Dunlin** - at Cavendish on Oct. 1 (DC&ES), 5 in winter plumage at Anglo Rustico on Oct. 30 (JB, BCM), 35 at Covehead Bay on Nov. 4 (AG); **Stilt Sandpiper** - at Tryon saltmarsh on Sept. 25 (DO, DCS, JDM, EBM, RC); Long-billed Dowitcher - 5 & 6 at Covehead/Brackley marsh on Nov. 13 to 17 (DO, DC&ES, D&SK, FdB); **Red-necked Phalarope** - at Borden lagoon on Oct. 12 (DO); **UID Jaeger** - 2 at East point on Oct. 26 (DC&ES); **Pomarine Jaeger** - 1 at East point on Oct. 26 (DC&ES), 1 chasing Black-legged Kittiwakes at East Point on Oct. 29 (DCS, DO); **Parasitic Jaeger** - 3 at East point on Oct. 26 (DC&ES), at East Point on Oct. 29 (DCS, DO); **Little Gull** - 1 adult at Wood Islands on Oct. 29 & 30 (DCS, DO, L&JH, DK); **Black-headed Gull** - at Rollo Bay on Oct. 15 (DO, DCar), at Rollo Bay on Oct. 29 (DCS, DO) & 1 or 2 on Nov. 6 (AG), 3 at Hyde Pond in Cornwall & 1 at Charlottetown race track on Nov. 5 (EBM), 1 1st year at Miscouche Pond on Nov. 11 (EBM); **Bonaparte's Gull** - ~50 off East Point on Sept. 18 (RC, SSi, JDM), 2 at Charlottetown waterfront on Oct. 3 (GP), 30 at Belvedere Pond on Oct. 25 (JDM), 100+ at Rollo Bay on Nov. 6 (AG), 100+ at Souris Harbour on Nov. 19 and ~10 swarming repeatedly over a seal that was rolling over at the surface and then diving on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM); **Ring-billed Gull** - hundreds in pasture fields and potato fields just after harvests in the Kensington area (JDM, WFB); **Herring Gull** - hundreds in pasture fields and potato fields just after harvests in the Kensington area (JDM, WFB); **Iceland Gull** - 1 at Stratford on Nov. 5 (EBM), at Souris sewage lagoon on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM), 1 at Slemmon Park sewage lagoon on Nov. 27 (FdB, EBM); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** - 1 in 3rd winter plumage at Slemmon Park on Oct. 16 (EBM), adult at St. Eleanor's in plowed field & adult in potato field at Borden on Nov. 6 (DO), 1 adult at Souris on Nov. 19 (JDM); **Glaucous Gull** - 1 at Souris on Nov. 19 (JDM, DCS), 1 at Slemmon Park sewage lagoon on Nov. 27 (FdB, EBM); **Black-legged Kittiwake** - 5 seen

off East Point on Sept. 18 (RC, SSi, JDM), at Red Head on Oct. 15 (DO, DCar), 4 at East point on Oct. 26 (DC&ES), 62 adults roosting at East Point on Oct. 29 (DCS, DO), 1 at East Point on Nov. 19 (JDM); **Caspian Tern** - 2 at East Point on Oct. 2 (SSi); **Common Tern** - 10 seen off East Point on Sept. 18 (RC, SSi, JDM), 1 at Wood Islands on Oct. 29 (DCS, DO); **Dovekie** - 1 found on land at Montague on Oct. 28 & released to saltwater by AVC staff (FdB); **Murres** - 2 at East Point on Oct. 2 (SSi); **Razorbill** - 2 at East Point on Oct. 15 (DO, DCar), at East point on Oct. 26 (DC&ES); **Black Guillemot** - 6 at East Point on Nov. 19 (DO, DCar, DCS, JDM); **Rock Pigeon** - 10 at Argyle Shore on Nov. 18 (JDM, LY), 40 at Cardigan feed mill on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM); **Mourning Dove** - 5 at West Royalty feeder on Oct. 10 & 28 & Nov. 19 (DC&ES), 1 at Parkdale on Oct. 13 (GP), 3 at Hillsborough Village feeder on Oct. 23 (WFB, EM); **Black-billed Cuckoo** - 1 at Basin Head on Oct. 22 (DCS); **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** - 1 at Norway on Oct. 1 (DO), 1 at Cameron's Island in Pownal Bay on Oct. 19 & 20 (DO, FdB, DK), 1 at Borden on Sept. 25 (DO, DCS, JDM, EBM, RC) 1 emaciated individual found dead at North Granville in late Oct. (IS), DO reported significant numbers found dead in southern N.S. on N.S. bird line; **Short-eared Owl** - 2 at Brackley to Covehead sand dunes on Nov. 18 (JS, DO, DC&ES, D&SK, FdB); **Northern Saw-whet Owl** - 1 at St. Charles on Nov. 13 (DCS, JDM); **Belted Kingfisher** - 1 at Hillsborough River on Sept. 23 & 28 (GP), on wires over Fullerton's Marsh most days in September & October (JDM), 14 at Rte. 19W on Oct. 27 (DC&ES), 1 at Cardigan on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM), 1 at Wood Islands on Nov. 19 (DO, DCar); **Chimney Swift** - 1 at West Cape on Oct. 27 (EBM, FdB), 11 at Canoe Cove on Oct. 27 (EBM, FdB), 2 at Little Sands & 5 at Wood Islands on Oct. 29 (DCS, DO); **Red-bellied Woodpecker** - 1 at Tyne Valley on Dec. 23 (HM), 1 at Tea Hill in Dec. (GMacE); **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - at Norway on Oct. 1 (DO); **Hairy Woodpecker** - 1 at Parkdale on Oct. 13 (GP), 1 feeding on dying larch at Donagh on Oct. 21 (JDM), 1 at York Pt. in early Nov. (AS); **Black-backed Woodpecker** - 1 at Appin Road in Desable on Oct. 6 (AMH via DO) **Northern Flicker** - at East Royalty feeder on Oct. 23 (WFB, EM), 1 at East Point on Nov. 19 (DCS, JDM, small numbers in late Oct. & early Nov. (JDM)); **Eastern Phoebe** - 1 at East Point on Oct. 22 (DO, DC&ES); **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** - 1 reported (see description below in this report) on Oct. 20 (G&BMacI); **Red-eyed Vireo** - 1 at Norway on Oct. 1 (DO); **Northern Shrike** - 1 at Elmira on Oct. 15 (DO, DCar), 1 at Norway on Oct. 28 (AMH, JJo, DO), 1 at West Point on Oct. 29 (EBM, FdB), at Rollo Bay on Oct. 29 (DCS, DO), 2 at North Lake on Nov. 4 (AG); **Blue Jay** - large flocks at East Point on Oct. 2 (SSi), 25 over grain fields at Hampton on Oct. 12 (JDM, WFB, LY); **Horned Lark** - 50 over grain fields at Black Horse Corner on Nov. 1 (JDM, WFB); **Tree Swallow** - at Stanhope on Oct. 28 (DO); **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** - 2 at Dalvay on Oct. 28 (DO); **Bank Swallow** - 1 at East Point on Oct. 29 (DCS, DO); **Barn Swallow** - 2 at East Point & 2 at High Bank on Oct. 29 (DCS, DO), 6 at East Point on Nov. 4 (AG), 2 at North Rustico on Nov. 6 (DO), 3 at West Point/Cape on Nov. 11 (EBM), 1 at Hampton on Nov. 17 (JDM), 7 at East Point on Nov. 19 (DCS, DO, DCar, DO), 1 at East Point on Nov. 29 (DO, WCT); **Boreal Chickadee** - 1 at West Cape on Nov. 24 & 3 on Nov. 27 (FdB, EBM); **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - at Tea Hill on Nov. 14 (FdB), several daily at Donagh feeders (JDM, RPH); **White-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 at Annandale on Nov. 9 (JDM); **Brown Creeper** - 1 at Tea Hill on Oct. 3 (FdB), at Bubbling Springs on Oct. 7 (DCS), 1 at Cameron's Island in Pownal Bay Oct. 20 (DO, FdB, DK); **Winter Wren** - 1 at Norway on Oct. 28 (AMH, JJo, DO), 1 at Norway on Nov. 7 (EBM); **Golden-crowned Kinglet** - small numbers reported in October and November, 3 at West Cape on Nov. 24 (FdB); **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** - 1 at West Point on Oct. 29 (EBM, FdB); **Hermit Thrush** - 1 at Norway on Oct. 1 & 1 on Nov. 6 (DO); **American Robin** - many at East Point on Oct. 2 (SSi), large group enjoying Mt. Ash berries at Tea Hill on Oct. 3 (FdB), ~30 at Wilmot on Oct. 12 (DD), small numbers at Hampton & Black Horse Corner in Oct. & early Nov. this year (DCS, JDM, WFB), 3 at Parkdale on Nov. 5 (GP); **American Pipit** - 3 at Norway & Cavendish on Sept. 25 (DO, EBM, JDM, DCS, RC), 2 on wrack line at Borden beach & 1 on a bare patch of ground at the top of the cliff at Norway on Oct. 12 (DO), 39 at St. Peter's on Oct. 15 (DO, DCar), 12 at West Point on Oct. 28 (EBM, FdB), 3 at Victoria on Oct. 30 (DCS), 1 flying at East Point on Nov. 19 (DO, DCar, DCS, JDM); **Waxwing** - 1 flock at East Point on Oct. 2 (SSi); **Bohemian Waxwing** - 6 at West Point on Oct. 28 & 60 on Nov. 5 & 30 at Howard's Cove on Oct. 31 (EBM, FdB), 8 at Norway on Oct. 28 (AMH, JJo, DO), 26 at Bubbling Springs trail on Nov. 4 (AG), 14 at West Point/Cape on Nov. 11 (EBM), 35 at Tea Hill on Nov. 14 (FdB), 4 at Argyle Shore wetland on Nov. 18 (JDM, LY), 12 at East Point on Nov. 19 (DO, DCar, DCS, JDM) & ~30 at East Point on Nov. 29 (DO, WCT); **Cedar Waxwing** - 5 at Parkdale on Sept. 2 (GP), 15 at Hampton on Oct. 27 & (JDM, LY), 120 at Vernon River on Nov. 28 (DK); **Tennessee Warbler** - at Norway on Sept. 25 (DO); **Nashville Warbler** - at Norway on Sept. 25 (DO); **Northern Parula** - at Norway on Sept. 25 (DO); **Yellow Warbler** - at Tea Hill on Oct. 3 (FdB); **Magnolia Warbler** - at Norway on Sept. 25 (DO); **Black-throated Blue Warbler** - 1 in breeding plumage at Norway on Oct. 1 (DO); **Yellow-rumped Warbler** - at Norway on Sept. 25 (DO); 2 at Wilmot on Oct. 12 (DD), 1 at East Point on Oct. 22 & 1 at Cavendish on Oct. 23 (DCS); **Black-throated Green Warbler** - at Norway on Sept. 25 (DO); **Pine Warbler** - 1 at Cavendish on Sept. 25 (DCS, EBM, RC, JDM), 1 most days at feeder in Riverview Estates in East Royalty from Nov. 1 to Dec. 1 (WFB, EM); **Palm Warbler** - at Norway on Sept. 25 (DO); **Blackpoll** - at Norway on Sept. 25 (DO); **Black-and-White Warbler** - at Norway on Sept. 25 (DO); **American Redstart** - at Norway on Sept. 25 (DO);

Common Yellowthroat - at Norway on Sept. 25 (DO), 1 at Cavendish on Oct. 1 (DCS), at Tea Hill on Oct. 3 (FdB); **Wilson's Warbler** - 1 at East Point on Oct. 2 (SSi); **No Land birds** - at East point on Oct. 26 and, with the exception of one day, low numbers of land birds being seen this year at East Point during autumn migration this year (DC&ES), 1 at Little Sands on Nov. 19 (DO, DCar); **UID Sparrow** - 10 at Argyle Shore wetland on Nov. 18 (JDM, LY); **American Tree Sparrow** - 1 at West Cape on Oct. 27 (EBM, FdB), 1 at Norway on Oct. 28 (AMH, JJo, DO); **Savannah Sparrow** - lots at daybreak but soon disappeared at Norway on Oct. 1 (DO); **Fox Sparrow** - 1 at Norway on Oct. 1 (DO), 1 at Stratford feeder on Oct. 20 (DO), 1 at Howard's Cove on Oct. 31 (EBM, FdB); **Song Sparrow** - numerous at Tea Hill on Oct. 3 (FdB), numerous at Norway on Oct. 1 (DO), at Vernon River on Oct. 5 (DK), 1 at Norway on Oct. 28 (AMH, JJo, DO); **Lincoln's Sparrow** - 1 at Wood Islands on Oct. 29 (DCS); **Swamp Sparrow** - at least 6 at Norway on Oct. 1 (DO), 1 at Norway on Oct. 28 (AMH, JJo, DO), 1 at Leslie's Pond at Souris on Nov. 19 (JDM, DCS); **White-throated Sparrow** - 1 singing at Tea Hill on Oct. 3 (FdB), numerous at Norway on Oct. 1 (DO), at Vernon River on Oct. 5 (DK), 3 in hedgerow at Hampton on Oct. 12 (JDM, WFB, LY) 10 at East Point on Oct. 22 (DCS), 1 at Norway on Oct. 28 (AMH, JJo, DO); **White-crowned Sparrow** - 5 at Norway on Oct. 1 & 2 on Oct. 12 (DO), 1 at Vernon River on Oct. 5 (DK), 4 at South Rustico on Oct. 10 (EBM); **Dark-eyed Junco** - largest flock was 13 at Norway on Oct. 1 (DO), at Vernon River on Oct. 5 (DK); **Lapland Longspur** - at Norway on Oct. 28 (AMH, JJo, DO) **Snow Bunting** - 27 at West Point on Oct. 28 (EBM, FdB), 47 at Norway on Oct. 28 (AMH, JJo, DO), ~50 at Slemmon Park on Nov. 6 (DO), 50 at Black Horse Corner grainfield on Nov. 5 & 400 on Nov. 12 (JDM, WFB, LY), 500+ at Hampton fields on Nov. 17 (JDM); **Dickcissel** - 1 at Norway on Sept. 25 (DO), 1 at Cavendish on Oct. 1 (DC&ES), 1 making the "farting" call at Norway on Oct. 1 (DO); **Red-winged Blackbird** - small flock over grain fields at Hampton on Oct. 12 (JDM, WFB, LY); **Rusty Blackbird** - 5 at Norway on Sept. 25 (DO); **Common Grackle** - ~700 grackles and starlings at Harrington on Oct. 10 (EBM), 30 at Vernon Bridge on Oct. 29 (DCS), 17 at Parkdale on Nov. 14 (GP), 1 at Tea Hill on Nov. 14 (FdB), none seen between Rollo Bay, Cardigan, and Charlottetown on Nov. 19 excursion (JDM, DCS); **Brown-headed Cowbird** - 2 males at Stratford feeders on Oct. 12 (DO), 2 at Charlottetown feeders in Oct. 23 (WFB, EM); **Northern Oriole** - 1 at West Point on Nov. 7 (EBM); **Pine Grosbeak** - 6 at Howard's Cove on Oct. 31 (EBM, FdB), 17 at West Point/Cape on Nov. 11 & 8 on ~Nov. 21 (EBM, FdB); **White-winged Crossbill** - 4 at West Point on Oct. 28 (EBM, FdB), 2 at Norway on Oct. 12 (DO), 6 at Norway on Oct. 28 & Nov. 6 (AMH, JJo, DO), ~15 at East Point on Nov. 19 (DO, DCar, DCS, JDM); **Pine Grosbeak** - 20 at West Point on Nov. 5 (EBM, FdB), 4 at Annandale on Nov. 19 (DO, DCar); **Purple Finch** - 1 to 6 at West Royalty feeder (DC&ES), 4 at Murray Harbour & 1 at Point Prim on Oct. 29 (DCS), several at East Point on Nov. 19 (DO, DCar, DCS, JDM); **Common Redpoll** - 30 at Norway on Oct. 28 & Nov. 5 (AMH, JJo, DO), 20 at Howard's Cove on Oct. 31 (EBM, FdB), 45 at West Point on Nov. 5 (EBM, FdB); 5 at Argyle Shore on Nov. 57 (JDM), ~100 at Hampton on Nov. 17 (JDM), 100 at Argyle Shore wetland on Nov. 18 (JDM, LY); **Pine Siskin** - 1 flying over at Borden lagoon on Oct. 12 (DO), at Norway on Nov. 6 (DO), several at East Point on Nov. 19 (DO, DCar, DCS, JDM); **American Goldfinch** - 6 at Parkdale feeder on Oct. 13 (GP), at East Point on Nov. 19 (DO, DCar, DCS, JDM); **Evening Grosbeak** - 1 at Norway on Oct. 28 (AMH, JJo, DO), 1 at Howard's Cove on Oct. 31 (EBM, FdB), 6 males & 1 female at Crossroads feeder on Nov. 8 (DO), 1 at East Point on Nov. 19 (DO, DCar, DCS, JDM).

Rare Bird Description: While travelling on the Mill River East Road around 11:30 am, a bird flew across in front of my vehicle. The most obvious part of the bird was the length of the tail. It was blackish-gray with white underbody and the tail was at least 10-12 inches long. After checking my guide, I believe it was a Fork-tailed Flycatcher. (Garth MacIsaac Email dated Oct. 20, 2005)

Thanks to the following contributors who provided records for this listing, namely: R&AA - Ron & Anne Arvidson; JB - Jean Blanchard; WFB - Bill Bowerbank; DCar - Dwight Cargill; FRC - Rosemary Curley; GC - Gabrielle Cheverie; RC - Ray Cooke; RCo - Reg Conohan; SGC - Sharon Clark (formerly listed as SCl); FdB - Fiep de Bie; BDo - Bill Dockendorff; DD - David Dowling; LD - Lois Doan; RD - Randy Dibblee; AG - Alex Gray; C&CG - Carolyn & Cathleen Gallant; AMH - Anne-Marie Hartman; B&RH - Ben & Rosalie Hoteling; L&JH - Les & Joan Homans; AI - Aaron Ince; JJo - Jaime Johnston; D&SK - Dan & Sharon Kennedy; GK - Glen Kelly; BMa - Barry Martin; BCM (formerly listed as BMcO) - Bonnie McOrmand; EM - Evelyn Martin; EBM (formerly EMA) - Eric Marcum; EMu - Elaine Murley; GMacE - Glen MacEachern; G&BMacI - Garth & Bonnie MacIsaac; JM - John MacLeod; JDM - Dan McAskill; RM - Roy McNabb; TM - Tom Matheson; DO - Dwaine Oakley; BPi - Bruce Pigot; GP - Geraldine Peters; SP - Shirley Prouse; HR - Harry Robertson; RHP - Robin Phillips; AS - Ardeth Smith; DC&ES - David & Elaine Seeler; DSm - David Smith; GS - Gary Schneider; IS - Ian Scott; SSI - Scott Sinclair; JS - Jessica Simons; WCT - Wildlife Conservation Technology class of Holland College; LY - Lorne Yeo; JW - Jackie Waddell; JWa - Jean Watts.

TRUST PRODUCES NEW CALENDAR:

By Bruce Smith

The Island Nature Trust is proud to sponsor an activity which will beautify houses across P.E.I., Canada and even around the world for the next 12 months. Award winning photographers Wayne Barrett and John Sylvester have donated the use of some of their best environmental images so that a magnificent colour calendar could be produced. Experienced graphic designer Kate Westphal donated her time to design the layout. With the size and quality of the photographs, we are sure many will want to frame some of the images. The calendar is being printed on Prince Edward Island. The proceeds from the sale of the calendar, which sells for \$15.00 plus PST, will be used to carry out the natural areas conservation work of the Trust. If you have people on your Christmas list who are interested in the environment, who might enjoy Island scenes all year long, or who are difficult to buy for, why not consider the Island Nature Trust's calendar. It features a colour picture for each month. You can purchase one or more of these beautiful calendars by stopping by the Trust's Office at Ravenwood in the Experimental Farm or, if you prefer, just give us a call at 892-7513 and we will arrange delivery.

ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR:

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

Society meetings start at 7:30 PM at the Farm Centre on University Avenue in Charlottetown.

YN = young naturalists encouraged to attend or participate

- Dec. 14 to Jan. 5** - Each year, many natural history and birding groups participate in **Christmas Bird Counts** (CBCs). These can be registered counts through Audubon Society and Bird Studies Canada (BSC) or unregistered counts. For field counters on registered CBCs, adult non-BSC members, must pay a \$5 fee which is used to assist with the preparation of the CBC reports, the critical element for the documentation of bird population trends. There is no fee for children, BSC members, or bird feeder watchers on registered counts and no fees on unregistered counts. Field participants are assigned a specified area to ensure that the entire count circle is viewed.
- Dec. 14 - The East Point Christmas Bird Count.** Please contact Dwaine Oakley at 569-1815 or oakley@eastlink.ca for details and to register.
- Dec. 18 - The Prince Edward Island National Park Christmas Bird Count** This count features a lunch time pot-luck at the Dalvay Interpretative Centre. Please contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351 or E-mail at nhspei@isn.net for information or to register.
- Dec. 26 - The Hillsborough Christmas Bird Count.** There will be a pot-luck after the event for participants at a site to be announced. Please contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351 or E-mail at nhspei@isn.net for information or to register.
- Dec. 31 - The Montague Christmas Bird Count.** Please contact Gary Schneider at 659-2081 or garyschneider@pei.sympatico.ca for information or to establish your count area.
- Jan. 1** - Membership renewal time for the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island
- Jan. 3 - Natural History Society of PEI Annual General Meeting. Members slide presentations** – Dwaine Oakley will start off the slide presentations with some of his stunning shots of such rare birds as the Northern Hawk Owl. If others are interested in showing their own slides contact Dwaine Oakley at oakley@eastlink.ca. This Natural History Society's meeting starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, University Ave., Charlottetown. **YN**
- Jan. 18 - "Winter Wildlife, Tracks, Adaptations and Signs"** Jackie Waddell will narrate slides and talk about what's happening under, in and over the snow as part of the Island Nature Trust's Nature Series of talks at Confederation Centre Library. The presentation starts at 7:00 pm. The storm date is Jan. 25.
- Feb. 7 - Introduction to the Second Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas.** At 6:45 pm, just before the Society's regular meeting, Karel Allard will speak on this new exciting opportunity for birding enthusiasts of all experience levels to learn more about breeding bird behaviour and to contribute sightings of breeding birds that will assist in the creation of new Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas (see page 2 of this issue).

- Feb. 7 - An Expedition to Antarctica.** Diane Griffin will peak our interests with the highlights of her recent trip to Antarctica – a destination many of us will only dream about. This Natural History Society’s meeting starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, University Ave., Charlottetown. **YN**
- Feb. 15 - “Eagles, Hawks and Owls of PEI”** will feature the variety of eagles, hawks and owls in the various seasons. This is part of the Island Nature Trust’s Nature Series of talks at Confederation Centre Library. The presentation starts at 7:00 pm. The storm date is Feb. 22.
- Mar. 7 - Photographing Nature.** Beth Hoar, of Green Thumb Photography in New Glasgow, will provide members with tips and techniques on getting that perfect shot. This Natural History Society’s meeting starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, University Ave., Charlottetown. **YN**
- Mar. 15 - “Where and When to See Wildlife on PEI”** will feature hot spots for birding, where and when to see mammals, reptiles, and amphibian, outdoor etiquette, when to not disturb, and much more. This is part of the Island Nature Trust’s Nature Series of talks at Confederation Centre Library. The presentation starts at 7:00 pm. The storm date is Mar. 22.
- April 4 - Foxes and Humans, a too cozy relationship?** Sheldon Opps, Assistant Professor of Physics and Marina Silva, Assistant Professor of Biology, both from UPEI and working on mammal fragmentation on PEI, will do a presentation about the changing habitat of foxes. This Natural History Society’s meeting starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, University Ave., Charlottetown. **YN**
- May 2 - Cape Jourimain Nature Centre - Who we are, what we do, where we are going, our vision, programs and projects.** Sabine Dietz, Executive Director of Cape Jourimain Nature Centre. This Natural History Society’s meeting starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, University Ave., Charlottetown. **YN**
- May 27 - The Society’s Bain Bird Count.** Please contact Dan McAskill at 902-569-4351 or E-mail at nhspei@isn.net for information or to register.
- Jun. 6 - Discover the beauty of Butterflies** -- Bill Oehlke, shares his love and knowledge of these beautiful creatures. This Natural History Society’s meeting starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, University Ave., Charlottetown. **YN**

For more information, comments and suggestions for future programs or field trips, please contact Program Coordinator, Bonnie McOrmond at bcmcormond@eastlink.ca or call 628-6994.

SHARE YOUR LOVE OF NATURE WITH OTHERS

The Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island is requesting donations of nature equipment, books or resources to allow others to enjoy the wonders of nature. If you have binoculars, field guides, butterfly nets etc., that you would like to donate, please contact Bonnie McOrmond or bring your donation to the monthly meeting of the Natural History Society, the first Tuesday of each month from October to June, at the Farm Centre on University.