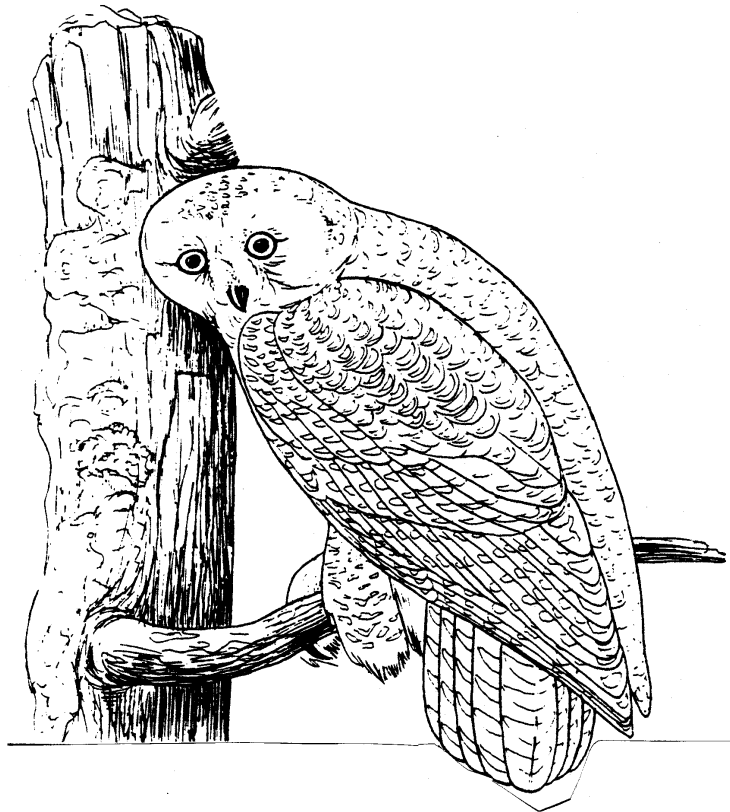




ISLAND NATURALIST

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If you have not already done so, please renew your 2006 membership

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.

2006 Executive: President.....Dwayne Oakley, Crossroads 569-1815 oakleym@eastlink.ca
Vice-President.....Dan Kennedy, Vernon River 651-2926 dankennedy@islandtelecom.com
Past President.....David Seeler, West Royalty 566-4505 seeler@upei.ca
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TreasurerRosemary Curley, Stratford 569-1209 rcurley@isn.net
Director - Program.....Bonnie McOrmond, Charlottetown 628-6994 bcmcormond@eastlink.ca
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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 **May 19, 2006**.

Illustrations/Pictures: The Society extends a special thanks to Dwayne Oakley, Kate Poole 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:

While numbers were low on the Island this year, the first Snowy Owls finally appeared in January at Earnscliffe. By mid-February, several had been reported at the Summerside Airport, Locke Shore Road in St. Eleanor's, and Borden. For over a century, the Island has seen periodic irruptions of these birds when lemming populations in the north are low.

I would like to extend my thanks and best wishes to each member of the Society for their support for and participation in the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island during 2005. This year, the Society's volunteer Board was led by Dwaine Oakley (President), Dan Kennedy (Vice-president), Fiep de Bie (Secretary), Arja Page & Dan McAskill (acting Treasurers), Sharon Clark (Publicity Director), Bonnie McOrmond (Program Director), and David Seeler (Past-president). In April, Rosemary Curley accepted the Treasurer's position and was appointed commencing in May.

The Society's monthly education presentations featured: "Member's Night - An Evening of Shared Natural History Images and Memorabilia"; Gary Schneider's "Meanderings Along Macphail's Trails"; Rick Hawkin's "Finding Frogs in the P.E.I. National Park"; Donna Giberson's "Canoes, Bugs, and the Arctic - A Collector's Story"; Pierre D'Aoust's "Marine Mammals on P.E.I."; Doug Sobey's "Mammalian Fauna of P.E.I.", Glenn Roberts' "Starry, Starry Night - the mysteries of fall and winter skies", and Eric Marcum "Winter Birds - what species overwinter on P.E.I. and where they can be found". A special thanks goes out to Jean Blanchard for her service as the lunch coordinator at our meetings and to Sharon Clark for the monthly prizes. Eric Marcum, Fiep de Bie, Dan Kennedy, Dwaine Oakley, Ben Hoteling, and Ron Arvidson led several Society birding field trips during the year including a feeder tour, birding trips, and the Island's first "Big Sit". Bonnie McOrmond organized a pelagic outing on Captain Jeffrey MacNeill's boat out of North Lake and a winter bird feeder tour. In total, thanks to the records of various sighting contributors, the winter bird list for 2004-05 reached 123 species. Fiep de Bie and Dan Kennedy reviewed the U.P.E.I Science Fair presentations and recommended the Society's awards to students from Miscouche Consolidated School and Stonepark Intermediate School. The Society hosted a booth and field trips at the Farmer's Market in May.

Use of the bird list program maintained by David Seeler on U.P.E.I.'s server continued to increase and helped listers to add to their individual lists and the documentation of new sightings. Some of the contributor's E-mails were adapted into Island Naturalist articles.

The Society maintained its participation in various provincial and North American bird count projects. Vernon Laux coordinated the East Point Christmas Bird Count, Gary Schneider, Scott Linkletter and Ruth Richman coordinated the Montague Christmas Bird Count, and Dan McAskill coordinated the P.E.I. National Park and Hillsborough Christmas Bird Counts as well as the Bain Bird Count. Maurice Roy of Parks Canada stoked the stove and set up the Dalvay Interpretive Centre for the P.E.I. National Park Christmas Bird Count potluck while Diane and Kevin Griffin hosted the potluck for the Hillsborough CBC. Ron Arvidson coordinated the Island's first "Big Sit" in Summerside.

In addition to these efforts, the Society supported, reviewed, and provided comments on the new forest policy for Prince Edward Island, funding applications for the Wildlife Conservation Fund awards, reviewed proposed changes to the Wildlife Conservation Fund, nominated Bruce Pigot for the Island Nature Trust's J. Angus MacLean's Natural Areas Award, and responded to correspondence on Strathgartney Park privatization, the new Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas proposal, a proposal to introduce wild turkeys to P.E.I., and the East Point wind farm proposal. Dan Kennedy participated in Affiliate Tele-conferences and the regional naturalist meeting with Nature Canada. During the year, the Society donated a subscription to the North American Birds to the Robertson Library at U.P.E.I. and made a donation of \$100 to the Island Nature Trust's land conservation program. The Society also made a motion to donate \$1,500 to the publishing of the new Flora of Pince Edward Island project once its ready to publish. Sharon Clark and Bonnie McOrmond coordinated the production of the Society's program brochure and Sharon started an E-mail distribution list to send out notices about upcoming Natural History Society events. Fiep de Bie attended the Canadian Nature Network and Nature Canada's Affiliates meetings in Ottawa in November. Late in 2005, Dan Kennedy took over the coordination of the Society's web site from Robin Phillips.

Many members contributed their wildlife observations and stories for the Society's *Island Naturalist* which was published five times this year. Ben Hoteling, Connie Pound Gaudet, Dwaine Oakley, Rudy Stoczek, the late Hal Hinds, Dover Colouring Books, P.E.I. National Park, and the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Forestry provided illustrations and/or drawings. Dan McAskill continued as the editor. Linda and Allen Thomas and their family packaged and mailed the newsletter to members and schools.

Society members Dan McAskill, David Seeler, Ray Cooke, Eric Marcum, and Island Nature Trust staff combined their efforts to host the annual Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic. The donors contributing to this project provided \$1,300 towards the Trust's land conservation program. Bruce Smith led the Great Black-backed

Gull egg removal project on the Hillsborough Bridge piers to assist the terns nesting there and Fiep de Bie continued as the Society's representative to the Island Nature Trust's General Council.

The Society's financial position again remained healthy. Sharon Clark, assisted by Bonnie McOrmond, arranged prizes and Sharon Clark and Fiep de Bie coordinated ticket sales for the Society's fund raising draws. Dwight Cargill, Karen Christensen, Sharon Clark, Rosemary Curley, Beryl Fraser, Jim Jenkins, Beverley Liepmann, Dwayne Sabine, Bruce Smith, and Doug Sobey gave financial gifts and others contributed material gifts to the Society during the year. The Society's revenues were \$2,931.42 while expenses were \$2,321.97. However, the revenue included the \$752.58 interest in the GICs. The Society completed the year with assets of \$8,183.11 in its various accounts with the majority of this in the book publishing and project accounts which are held in a 1 year Guaranteed Investment Certificate valued at \$5,274.18 and savings accounts with \$246.15.

THANKS TO THE BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS!

On January 3rd, 2006, the Natural History Society held its annual general meeting. David Seeler, the Past President presented the Nominating Committee report. Dwaine Oakley (President), Dan Kennedy (Vice-President), Fiep de Bie (Secretary), Rosemary Curley (Treasurer), Sharon Clark (Publicity Director) and Bonnie McOrmond (Program Director) re-offered their services to the Society and were re-elected. Fiep deBie will be the Society's representative on the Island Nature Trust.

The members expressed their thanks to the members of the Society's Executive for their significant contributions to the Society's members and the Island public.

FIRST FIELDFARE RECORD FOR P.E.I.:

By David and Elaine Seeler

Date of Observation: 11 January 2006

Time of Observation: 15:45 – 16:10

Place of Observation: We first observed this bird on Route 242 along the north side of the "loop" close to the Chapel Creek estuary area. UTM: 478921 E 5140626 N

Weather: At the time of the observation, light cloud cover had moved in providing a slight overcast which made for excellent viewing conditions. Cloud colour was a very light gray so no problem with colour casts occurred during this time. It was approximately 2° C and the wind was light at 11 km/hr out of the WSW. Barometric Pressure was 102.0 KPa and Visibility was 24 km.

Habitat: At this site, there is a small creek that runs from the south, under the road via a culvert and into Chapel Creek. It is a typical wetland area with shrubs and trees following the creek. On the south side of the road are two huge agricultural fields, which were grain fields during the last growing season. These fields are bordered with thick hedgerows that include berry-producing shrubs such as hawthorn and rose bushes. Snow cover at the time was negligible.

Equipment: Pentax 80 mm Spotting Scope with a Pentax SMC XW14 fixed power eyepiece (30X), Bausch and Lomb Elite IIE Binoculars (8x42) and Swarovski EL Binoculars (8.5 x 42). A digital voice recorder was used to record details as they were observed or noted while we observed the bird.

Distances from the bird: Viewing distances ranged from 20 feet to approximately 50 yards over the time of observation.

Circumstances: As we drove up to the area where the creek crosses the road, I noticed four birds flush from the side of the road. Three were Starlings, and they dropped down into the creek bed. The fourth flew across the road into the field on the south side of the road. The bird was "robin" sized and, for a brief moment, I thought we had found a robin. However, I quickly realized that the flight pattern was wrong and the colours of the bird were not consistent with those of a Robin. We quickly pulled to a stop - as did the bird, which landed about 20 feet inside the field. On landing, it immediately assumed an upright / alert posture and appeared to be watching us. On viewing the bird in our binoculars, we knew that it was truly an unusual find. We had an excellent side-view of the bird in a full alert standing position and lighting was perfect. We were immediately struck by the very pronounced markings on its breast and throat, as well as the colours of the bird – all of which were readily visible in detail. [see description below]

After about five minutes, the bird flew to the closest hedgerow, about 60 feet from our location and continued to warily watch us. Again we noticed the distinct flight pattern which was different than what we were used to here on PEI. We set up the scope and for the duration of our observations we took turns looking at the bird as it moved about for the next 20 minutes or so. We were able to note both upper and lower wing patterns but at no point did we mention leg colour in our oral notes. Finally the bird disappeared from sight into the grain field.

Description of Bird: This bird appeared to be “Robin” sized and had a similar body conformation. It was a very skittish bird and, once disturbed, it stayed to the hedgerows or trees lining the harvested grain fields in question. The chin, throat and upper breast had an underlying buffy / light yellow colour that was heavily marked with dark spots. The sides / flanks of the bird were much less marked by the dark spots which were much less obvious in colour, and the belly was clean and white. The head, nape, and rump were gray. The area around the eyes was very dark. A thin dark line that extended from the neck on the front of the bird towards the nape just under the cheek patch was noticed in the scope at close range. The bill was yellow and the tip of the bill was tipped in black. The mantle, scapulars and tertials (observed in flight) were light reddish brown (chestnut?) in colour. The tail feathers were black. Under-tail coverts were white. Also the under-wings had white patches that were clearly visible and well demarcated in flight.

Considerations: When we first observed the throat and upper breast markings of this bird in the field I had a sense for some reason that we either had a Redwing or Fieldfare. While it was unusual for the bird to be found with starlings, it seemed that this bird had aligned itself with these three. At least one observer later speculated that they might be in fact “true” European Starlings and blown off course with the Fieldfare. Once we finished scoping the bird, we checked Sibley’s for those two birds. Sibley’s only depicted the Fieldfare, and it was clear that it was probably a Fieldfare we had seen. However, it was not until we reached home and checked the 4th Edition of the National Geographic Field Guide that we knew that a Redwing could be ruled out based on the observations we had made.

Experience With Species: None

Vocalizations: None

Photographs: One taken by Dwaine Oakley the next day.

2005-06 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS: Results compiled by Dan McAskill, Ruth Richman, & Gary Schneider

For the 35th consecutive year, the Society conducted Audubon Christmas Bird Counts on Prince Edward Island. The 106th CBCs opened on Prince Edward Island with a change in date with the East Point Count being moved to December 14th. The 13th was a great winter day with Vern Laux, Lanny McDowell, and Edie Ray chalking up rarities like 4 Pine Warblers, 1 Winter Wren, 3 Red-necked Grebe, and a Dovekie. Plans for a group of Queen’s County birders to participate in the East Point CBC dematerialized with a winter storm commencing overnight and winds hitting 90 km per hour. Despite the conditions, the three New Englanders headed out in the storm and were able to locate forty odd some species. The highlight was an Atlantic Puffin.

The P.E.I. National Park was clear and sunny with good travelling conditions. Cold weather the week before reduced open water but bays were partly open and the gulf was clear of ice. Dire weather forecasts of storm surges, torrential rains and wind did not materialize on the Hillsborough CBC although it was raining lightly for much of the day. Count day conditions for the Montague count on December 31st were cool with light snow at times and a stiff breeze.

Based on the participant’s comments, the counters on the Island enjoyed the outings. Maurice Roy fired up the wood stove at the Dalvay interpretive centre so the participants could enjoy the pot luck around the fire. Diane and Kevin Griffin hosted the Hillsborough pot-luck. Both pot lucks were well attended and, based on their comments, enjoyed by those present. For the fifth year, Vernon Laux organized the East Point Christmas Bird Count encompassing the area from off East Point to the eastern outskirts of Souris. Unfortunately, the results for the East Point Count were not available at the time of publication. Gary Schneider, Scott Sinclair and Ruth Richman organized the Montague Count while Dan McAskill coordinated the P.E.I. National Park and Hillsborough counts.

During this year’s CBCs on the Island, owl surveys were conducted in the P.E.I. National Park count but no owls were heard. Most coastal waters were open but there were variable levels of ice in fresh water ponds and some bays. There were certainly some memorable sightings during the four count periods and counts days with a

Northern Harrier, Mew Gull, Black-headed Gulls, an Atlantic Puffin, a Red-bellied Woodpecker, a Northern Cardinal, and a good showing of Pine Grosbeaks. Last year's huge numbers of American Robin were not seen this year with scarcity being the norm.

The reports for the three CBCs for which we have numbers are provided below.

OBSERVATIONS

NUMBERS OBSERVED

	National Park	Hillsborough	Montague	Total
	Dec. 18, 2005	Dec. 26, 2005	Dec. 31, 2005	Dec. 18 - Dec. 31
Red-throated Loon		2		2
Double-crested Cormorant			1	1
Canada Geese	130	885	131	1,146
American Black Duck	253	595	349	1,197
Mallard/Black Duck Hybrid	30			30
Mallard	23	28	22	73
Northern Pintail		1		1
American Green-winged Teal	3	16		19
UID Duck			107	107
Greater Scaup	230			230
Scaup species		4		4
Common Eider	2	2		4
White-winged Scoter	1		1	2
Long-tailed Duck	34	7	96	137
Common Goldeneye	40	97	237	374
Common Merganser	142	140	164	446
Red-breasted Merganser		38	66	104
Osprey			1	1
Bald Eagle	39	9	28	76
Northern Harrier		CW		CW
Sharp-shinned Hawk		3		3
Northern Goshawk	2		1	3
Broad-Winged Hawk			1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	2	3	4	9
Rough-legged Hawk	1			1
Hawk species unidentified		1	1	2
Ruffed Grouse	1	2	11	14
Gray Partridge	41	37		78
Black-headed Gull	1			1
Bonaparte's Gull	3		6	9
Mew Gull		1		1
Ring-billed Gull	10	13	27	50
Herring Gull	639	150	312	1,101
Iceland Gull	2	130	9	141
Lesser Black-backed Gull			1	1
Glaucous Gull		1		1
Great Black-backed Gull	286	96	16	398
Gull spp.	15		399	414
Black Guillemot			8	8
Rock Pigeon (Dove)	148	109	145	402
Mourning Dove	32	36	182	250
Barred Owl			1	1
Belted Kingfisher		1		1

Red-bellied Woodpecker			1	1
Northern Flicker	2	1	3	6
Downy Woodpecker	7	18	18	43
Hairy Woodpecker	3	4	12	19
Northern Shrike	1	cw		1
Blue Jay	170	172	219	561
American Crow	658	3,710	637	5,005
Common Raven	140	17	49	205
Horned Lark		20		20
Black-capped Chickadee	219	200	382	801
Boreal Chickadee	13	2	5	20
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7	8	7	22
White-breasted Nuthatch		1		1
Brown Creeper	1		1	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	9	12	12	33
American Robin	1	1	2	4
European Starling	1,619	3,820	1,449	6,888
Bohemian Waxwing	2	259	134	395
Cedar Waxwing			22	22
Waxwing spp	17			17
American Tree Sparrow	15	7	23	45
Chipping Sparrow			4	4
Lark Sparrow			1	1
Song Sparrow	2	1	15	18
Dark-eyed (Northern) Junco	16	2	56	74
Lapland Longspur		7		7
Snow Bunting	52	1,888	101	2,041
Northern Cardinal		cw		cw
Red-winged Blackbird		1	1	2
Common Grackle		cw	3	3
Brown-headed Cowbird			35	35
Pine Grosbeak	5	34	12	51
Purple Finch	1		16	17
Common Redpoll	27	109	144	280
Pine Siskin	2	1	32	35
American Goldfinch	123	103	323	549
Evening Grosbeak	2		19	21
House Sparrow	21	91	64	176
Total Birds	5,245	12,896	6,129	35,281.00
Total Species	50	53	57	77
Add Count Week Species	2	3	0	6
Participants: Field	22	20	30	58
Feeders	6	4	12	18
Mammals:				
Red Squirrel	20	22	30	50
Red Fox	4	2		4
Muskrat		1		1
Snowshoe Hare		1		1
Striped Skunk		1	1	2
Harbour Seal	1	2	5	8

Gray Seal		1		1
Roaming House Cats		1		1
Walked: Km	12	10.5	20.5	43
Hours	6.25	6.25	10.5	23
Driven: Km	380.5	520.6	511	1412.10
Hours	31	23	31	85.00
Earliest Start	530	720	730	
Latest Ending	1700	1545	1530	
Total Party Hours	37	29.25	41.5	107.50
Owling Hours	1.5	0	0	1.50
Owling Kilometres	25	0	0	25.00
Number of Feeder Reports	4	1	12	17.00
Feeder Hours	13	2		31.00
Snow Cover - aver. cm.	15	20	little	
Salt Water Bays - % frozen	40	60		
Salt Water - % frozen	0	0	0	
Fresh Water - % frozen	95	95	90	
Weather:				
Bright Sunshine (hrs)	8	0	0	
Precipitation	Nil	drizzle	light snow	
Cloud %	Nil	100	100	
Temperature C.	-3 to -1	0 to 1	-11 to -4	
Wind Speed - aver km/hr	18 to 22	15 to 25	brisk	
Prevail. wind direction	W to WSW	NE	W to NW	
Max. Wind Speed	22			

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

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: Lenore & Roger Andrew; Jean Blanchard; Bill Bowerbank; Dana Cairns; Gabrielle Cheverie; Cathy & Pat Chan; Sharon Clark; Rosemary Curley; Wanda Curley; Fiep deBie; Bernadette Dowling; David Dowling; Emery Dowling; Chris & Blair Fraser; Carolyn Gallant; Cathleen Gallant; Diane Griffin; Gary Griffin; Ann-Marie Hartman; Don Harris; Jane Harris; Beth Hoar; Ben Hoteling; Janet Hughes; Sandra Hume; Gordon Jackson; Art Jenkins; Jessie Jenkins; Sonny & Barb Johnston; Glen Kelly; Dan Kennedy; Vernon Laux; Bill Loo; Margie Loo; Alex MacDonald; Gerald MacDonald; Margaret MacDonald; Allie MacPhee; Virginia MacSwain-Jackson; Eric Marcum; Kathy Martin; Dan McAskill; Lanny McDowell; Bonnie McOrmond; Arlene & Paul McGuigan; Kristina Murray; Dwaine Oakley; Roberta Palmer; Brenda Penak; Melva O'Connor Rafuse; Edie Ray; Ruth Richman; Harry Robertson; Maurice Roy; Gary Schneider; David Seeler; Scott Sinclair; Don & Alma Steeves; John Stewart; Linda Thomas; Jean Thompson; Reg (Dutch) Thompson; Elizabeth Townshend; John Warren; Jean Watts; Jim Willard; David Wood; and Glenda Wright. These counts would not be possible without their participation.

NEWS FROM ABOUT:

Male gypsy moths were found in many areas in Queens and Prince County with 81 or 400 pheromone traps having the moths. In recent years, this is not unusual as the males fly and the females which cannot fly are present in New Brunswick. Unfortunately, for the first time, egg masses were discovered on Prince Edward Island, all of them at the Charlottetown Experimental Farm. (Adapted from an article by David Carmichael of the J.F. Gaudet Tree Nursery)

Dwaine Oakley participated in CBC Radio's Maritime Noon call-in on wild birds on Jan. 20th

2005 YEAR END LISTSERV REPORT:

By David Seeler

It is hard to believe that yet another year has come and gone. The PEI-Birders Listserv is now 2 years old and has 105 members from at least 4 Provinces. This accomplishment is directly due to the efforts of each of you. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your participation in this endeavour.

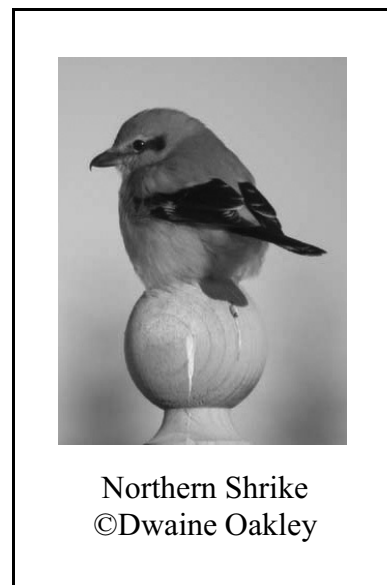
At this time, PEI had 261 bird species reported for 2005 up from 249 in 2004, and 236 in 2003. Many of the species observed were documented through photographs this year. We extend our thanks to those who did so. The year started as 2004 ended – rarities such as Mew Gull, Brown Thrasher and Eastern Meadowlark being reported in early January. Every few weeks it seemed that another rarity to Prince Edward Island was reported and Island Birders had the opportunity to view these birds. The Pink-footed Geese returned to Nine Mile Creek after a brief visit to the mainland affording those who missed them the first time an opportunity to view them. Northern Hawk Owls were observed on numerous occasions and Fred and Gisele Martin were fortunate to have one visit their property for a number of days. The year continued with Varied Thrush, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Fork-tailed Flycatcher being added to the PEI Checklist. Fred and Gisele again were fortunate enough to find an unusually “off-course” Marbled Godwit in early June. Redhead and Ruddy Ducks appeared in good numbers as the year came to a close and a Cattle Egret joined the list late in the year. The Mew Gull returned to Stratford again in December - perhaps the beginning of a long relationship with the Island.

Again this year, PEI participated in the Winter Bird List competition for observations from December 1st to February 28th with our sister provinces. In the 05/06 Winter Season 117 species were reported, as compared to the 04/05 season where 123 species were reported.

Personal PEI birding achievements (Year List – YL; Life List – LL) for 2005 include the following: Ray Cooke YL 176, LL 302; Les Homans YL 203, LL 250, Eric Marcum YL 191, LL 270; Dwaine Oakley YL 234, LL 258; David Seeler YL 238, LL 266; Elaine Seeler YL 193, LL 238.

Below is the 2005 List of Species and the 2005-06 Winter Bird List reported to have been observed on Prince Edward Island in ABA bird list order. To join the listserv, 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

Good Birding, David Seeler



Bird Species Reported in 2005: 261 species

Red-throated Loon	Cattle Egret	Blue-winged Teal	Barrow's Goldeneye
Common Loon	American Bittern	Northern Shoveler	Bufflehead
Pied-billed Grebe	Pink-footed Goose	Canvasback	Hooded Merganser
Red-necked Grebe	Greater White-fronted Goose	Redhead	Red-breasted Merganser
Horned Grebe	Snow Goose	Ring-necked Duck	Common Merganser
Greater Shearwater	Canada Goose	Greater Scaup	Ruddy Duck
Sooty Shearwater	Brant	Lesser Scaup	Black Vulture
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Wood Duck	Common Eider	Turkey Vulture
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Eurasian Wigeon	King Eider	Osprey
Northern Gannet	American Wigeon	Harlequin Duck	Bald Eagle
Double-crested Cormorant	Gadwall	Long-tailed Duck	Northern Harrier
Great Cormorant	Green-winged Teal	Black Scoter	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Great Blue Heron	Mallard	Surf Scoter	Cooper's Hawk
Great Egret	American Black Duck	White-winged Scoter	Northern Goshawk
Snowy Egret	Northern Pintail	Common Goldeneye	Broad-winged Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk	Great Black-backed Gull	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler
Rough-legged Hawk	Glaucous Gull	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Chestnut-sided Warbler
American Kestrel	Iceland Gull	Horned Lark	Magnolia Warbler
Merlin	Thayer's Gull	Tree Swallow	Cape May Warbler
Gyr Falcon	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Northern Rough-winged	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Peregrine Falcon	American Herring Gull	Swallow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ruffed Grouse	Black-headed Gull	Bank Swallow	Black-throated Green
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Bonaparte's Gull	Cliff Swallow	Warbler
Gray Partridge	Little Gull	Barn Swallow	Blackburnian Warbler
Ring-necked Pheasant	Black-legged Kittiwake	American Pipit	Pine Warbler
Sandhill Crane	Caspian Tern	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Palm Warbler
Virginia Rail	Common Tern	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Bay-breasted Warbler
Sora	Arctic Tern	Bohemian Waxwing	Blackpoll Warbler
Common Moorhen	Dovekie	Cedar Waxwing	Black-and-white Warbler
American Coot	Thick-billed Murre	Winter Wren	American Redstart
American Golden-Plover	Razorbill	Gray Catbird	Ovenbird
Black-bellied Plover	Black Guillemot	Northern Mockingbird	Northern Waterthrush
Semipalmated Plover	Atlantic Puffin	Brown Thrasher	Mourning Warbler
Killdeer	Rock Pigeon	Veery	Common Yellowthroat
Piping Plover	Mourning Dove	Swainson's Thrush	Wilson's Warbler
American Woodcock	Black-billed Cuckoo	Hermit Thrush	Canada Warbler
Wilson's Snipe	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	American Robin	Western Tanager
Short-billed Dowitcher	Eastern Screech-Owl	Varied Thrush	Eastern Towhee
Long-billed Dowitcher	Great Horned Owl	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	American Tree Sparrow
Hudsonian Godwit	Snowy Owl	Black-capped Chickadee	Chipping Sparrow
Marbled Godwit	Barred Owl	Boreal Chickadee	Lark Sparrow
Whimbrel	Great Gray Owl	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Savannah Sparrow
Upland Sandpiper	Northern Hawk Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	Nelson's Sharp-tailed
Greater Yellowlegs	Boreal Owl	Brown Creeper	Sparrow
Lesser Yellowlegs	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Northern Shrike	Fox Sparrow
Solitary Sandpiper	Northern Long-eared Owl	Gray Jay	Song Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper	Short-eared Owl	Blue Jay	Lincoln's Sparrow
Willet	Common Nighthawk	American Crow	Swamp Sparrow
Ruddy Turnstone	Chimney Swift	Common Raven	White-crowned Sparrow
Red Knot	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	European Starling	White-throated Sparrow
Sanderling	Belted Kingfisher	House Sparrow	Dark-eyed Junco
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Red-headed Woodpecker	Blue-headed Vireo	Lapland Longspur
Western Sandpiper	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Philadelphia Vireo	Snow Bunting
Least Sandpiper	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Red-eyed Vireo	Northern Cardinal
White-rumped Sandpiper	Downy Woodpecker	Pine Grosbeak	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Baird's Sandpiper	Hairy Woodpecker	Purple Finch	Indigo Bunting
Pectoral Sandpiper	Black-backed Woodpecker	Red Crossbill	Dickcissel
Dunlin	Northern Flicker	White-winged Crossbill	Bobolink
Purple Sandpiper	Pileated Woodpecker	Common Redpoll	Red-winged Blackbird
Stilt Sandpiper	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Hoary Redpoll	Eastern Meadowlark
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Pine Siskin	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Red-necked Phalarope	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	American Goldfinch	Rusty Blackbird
Pomarine Jaeger	Alder Flycatcher	Evening Grosbeak	Common Grackle
Parasitic Jaeger	Least Flycatcher	Tennessee Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Mew Gull	Eastern Phoebe	Nashville Warbler	Baltimore Oriole
Ring-billed Gull	Eastern Kingbird	Northern Parula	Orchard Oriole

2005-06 Winter Bird List: 115 species observed or heard

Compiled by David Seeler

Red-throated Loon	Red-necked Grebe	Double-crested Cormorant	Great Blue Heron
Common Loon	Northern Gannet	Great Cormorant	Great Egret

Cattle Egret	Northern Harrier	Mourning Dove	Blue Jay
Snow Goose	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Great Horned Owl	American Crow
Canada Goose	Northern Goshawk	Snowy Owl	Common Raven
American Wigeon	Red-tailed Hawk	Barred Owl	European Starling
Gadwall	Rough-legged Hawk	Short-eared Owl	House Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	Merlin	Boreal Owl	Pine Grosbeak
Mallard	Ruffed Grouse	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Purple Finch
American Black Duck	Sharp-tailed Grouse	Belted Kingfisher	White-winged Crossbill
Northern Pintail	Gray Partridge	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Common Redpoll
Northern Shoveler	American Coot	Downy Woodpecker	Hoary Redpoll
Redhead	Long-billed Dowitcher	Hairy Woodpecker	Pine Siskin
Ring-necked Duck	Sanderling	Northern Flicker	American Goldfinch
Greater Scaup	Purple Sandpiper	Horned Lark	Evening Grosbeak
Lesser Scaup	Ring-billed Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Common Eider	Great Black-backed Gull	Bohemian Waxwing	Pine Warbler
Harlequin Duck	Glaucous Gull	Cedar Waxwing	Eastern Towhee
Long-tailed Duck	Iceland Gull	Winter Wren	American Tree Sparrow
Black Scoter	Thayer's Gull	Brown Thrasher	Lark Sparrow
Surf Scoter	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Fieldfare	Song Sparrow
White-winged Scoter	American Herring Gull	American Robin	Dark-eyed Junco
Common Goldeneye	Black-headed Gull	Black-capped Chickadee	Snow Bunting
Barrow's Goldeneye	Bonaparte's Gull	Boreal Chickadee	Northern Cardinal
Bufflehead	Dovekie	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
Hooded Merganser	Razorbill	White-breasted Nuthatch	Rusty Blackbird
Red-breasted Merganser	Black Guillemot	Brown Creeper	Common Grackle
Common Merganser	Atlantic Puffin	Northern Shrike	Brown-headed Cowbird
Osprey	Rock Pigeon	Gray Jay	Baltimore Oriole
Bald Eagle			

WEATHER EVENTS:

The cold weather commenced the first week of December and Belvedere Pond was about 50% iced over on Dec. 6. West River above West River Bridge was about 75% iced over whereas the area below was ~25% iced over. The first blizzard of the season, a nor-easter, brought ~25 cm with 60 to 90 km/hr winds on Dec. 14-5. Warm conditions and little snow provided excellent foraging conditions for field feeding species. For the first time in many decades, the Hillsborough River was essentially open in January and hundreds of Canada Geese were overwintering on the river at Marshfield and at Stratford then going to fields for foraging (GK, DG, AW). Estimates of Canada Geese indicate that there were ~5,500 at Orwell Bay (FRC) with flights of 2,000 being seen at Vernon River in early February (DK). A short cold snap in mid-February concentrated wintering Common Merganser and Black Duck at Vernon River on Feb. 13 (DK) and created ice on the Hillsborough's tributaries and much of the main river (JDM).

ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:

Compiled by J. Dan McAskill

PLANTS:

Pussy willows were in bloom on Dec. 26th in Mermaid and on Jan. 8th in Murray Harbour (WFB, JDM, DCS, DO).

INSECTS:

JHS reported that he seen the first snow fleas this season at Panmure Island on Feb. 4.

MAMMALS: A litter of 4 silver and 3 red fox raised at the Belvedere Golf Course led to frequent sightings with 2 silver fox and 2 red fox being seen frequently between the QEH and Riverside Estates (WFB, EM, JDM). One of the silver fox was killed by a car in mid-December (WFB). Frequent sightings of red fox in roads and field edges in the Queen's County area with 1 to 3 sightings on many days (JDM). 1 short-tailed weasel (ermine) on Feb. 5 was seen at St. Charles (W&SF) and a mink at a Cape Wolf stream on Feb. 21 (EBM). One of the three sperm whales that beached in New Brunswick and was towed out to sea ended up near West Cape (EBM) and another at Maximeville (F&GM). The lack of thick winter ice left Grey Seals

struggling to find calving grounds and there were media reports of large numbers of grey seals on Pictou Island. 2 young raccoons were observed in a tray feeder & a Northern Flyer squirrel was seen on a hanging feeder on Jan. 17 at Crossroads (DMu). A small striped skunk was present on Jan. 21 at Crossroads (DMu)

BIRDS: **Red-throated Loon** - 1 off Stanhope on Dec. 1 (DK), 3 at East Point on Dec. 9 (CG, CGa, GC); **Common Loon** - at East Point on Dec. 3 (CG, CGa, GC), at Rustico Bay at Cymbria on Jan. 1 (DCS); **Red-necked Grebe** - 3 on Dec. 13 & 1 on Dec. 14 at East Point (VL, ER, LMcD); **Northern Gannet** - 1 off Stanhope on Dec. 1 (DK), immature with injured wing found in field at West Cape on Dec. 21 that was sent to AVC died in late Dec. (FdB); **Double-crested Cormorant** - 10 at East Point on Dec. 3 (CG, CGa, GC), 1 immature at West Cape on Dec. 12 (FdB, EBM), 1 at Charlottetown Bridge piers on Dec. 18 (DO), 2 at Rustico Bay on Jan. 1 (DCS), 1 at Cape Bear on Jan. 8 (DCS), 5 at North Lake Hbr. In Feb. (WMacK); **Great Cormorant** - 3 at North Lake on Jan. 5 (DCS); **Great Blue Heron** - 1 at Stanhope Marsh on Dec. 12 (F&JC), 1 at Pleasant Grove on Jan. 19 (AB via FRC), 1 at Horne's Creek in Marshfield on Jan. 21 (GK), 1 at St. Peter's in Feb. (WMacK); **Great Egret** - 1 at Seal River on Feb. 13 (WC, WMacK); **Cattle Egret** - 1 at Grand Tracadie on Dec. 1, 2, & 4 (DO, DK, FdB, DCS); **Snow Geese** - 4 at Morell East on Jan. (WMacK); **Canada Geese** - ~200 seen flying at St. Eleanor's and Traveller's Rest on Dec. 10 (JDM, WFB), hundreds at Horne's Creek in Marshfield (GK) in Jan. & Feb. (GK), a few hundred on the Hillsborough River in Stratford in Jan. & Feb. (AWo, DG), 120 at West River Causeway on Jan. 1 (EBM), 20 at Bellevue on Jan. 4 (DT), thousands at Pownal Bay in Jan. (DK), ~5,000 at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 19 (FdB, DK, JBl, JWa, BCM), 325 at Souris River this winter (WMacK), ~1,000 lifted off from a Johnston's River cornfield near dusk on Feb. 23 (JDM); **Gadwall** - 1 at Harding Creek on Jan. 1 & 6 males & females on Jan. 14 (DCS), 4 at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 31 (EBM), 3 at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 19 (JDM), 43 at New Glasgow on Feb. 17 (DCS); **American Wigeon** - 1 in Central Queens on Jan. 1 (DCS); **American Wigeon X European Wigeon cross** - male at Ellen's Creek on Dec. (DO), 5 to 13 this winter at Gowan Brae (WMacK); **American Black Duck** - at Long Pond on Dec. 4 (CW, KLA), ~300 at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 11 (DD), ~75 to 150 most days this winter at Belvedere Pond crossing (JDM); **Mallard** - male & female at Long Pond on Dec. 4 (CW, KLA), 22 at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 19 (JDM); **Northern Shoveler** - at Leslie's Pond on Dec. 3 (DCS, DO), male at Knox's Pond in Montague on Jan. 14 & 16 (CT, SSi); **Northern Pintail** - 1 male at Ellen's Creek on Dec. 7 & Feb. 19 (EBM, JDM), 17 males & females at Harding Creek in Clinton on Jan. 14 (DCS); **American Green-winged Teal** - 4 at Clyde River on Jan. 3 & 7 at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 31 (EBM), 1 at Little Basin on Jan. 8 (DCS, DO, JDM), 3 on Jan. 14 (DCS) & 20 at Harding Creek in Clinton on Feb. 4 (BHo), 5 at Horne's Creek in Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 19 (DCS); **Redhead Duck** - old report of 60 at Seaview (JWo via DCI), at Leslie's Pond on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS), male at Knox's Pond in Montague on Jan. 14 & 16 (CT, SSi), 8 at Harding Creek in Clinton on Feb. 4, 3 on Feb. 18 & 19 (DO, DCS) Oyster Bed Bridge & pair on Feb. 18 (DO) & 7 at Bayview Causeway on Feb. 19 (DCS); **Ring-neck Duck** - male & female at Long Pond on Dec. 4 (CW, KLA), male at Knox's Dam on Jan. 15 (DCS); **Greater Scaup** - female at Ferry Road in Cornwall on Jan. 1 (EBM), ~800 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 19 (JDM); **Lesser Scaup** - 1 female at Long Pond on Dec. 4 (CW, KLA); **Common Eider** - 2 at West Cape on Dec. 12 (FdB, EBM), 10 off Stanhope on Dec. 1 (DK), tons at East Point on Dec. 3 (CG, CGa, GC), 7 off Cavendish East on Jan. 1 (DCS); **Harlequin** - Male at Cardigan in Feb. (WMacK); **Surf Scoter** - female at Cavendish East on Dec. 9 (AMH, DO, CW); **White-winged Scoter** - 1 at East Point on Jan. 5 (DCS); **Black Scoter** - at East Point on Dec. 9 (CG, CGa, GC), at East Point on Dec. 3 (CG, CGa, GC), 25+ at East Point on Jan. 8 (DCS); **Long-tailed Duck** - at East Point on Dec. 9 (CG, CGa, GC), 4 off Stanhope on Dec. 1 (DK), at East Point on Dec. 3 (CG, CGa, GC), 200 at Cape Bear on Jan. 8 (DCS, DO, JDM), 3 male & 3 female at Georgetown on Feb. 19 (FdB, DK, JBl, JWa, BCM); **Bufflehead** - male & female at Long Pond on Dec. 4 (CW, KLA); **Common Goldeneye** - 15 off Tea Hill park on Dec. 1 (FdB), 300 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 19 (JDM); **Barrow's Goldeneye** - at Long Pond on Dec. 4 (CW, KLA), 20 at West River on Dec. 23 (EBM), few at Clyde River on Jan. 3 (EBM), 2 females at Pinette Bridge on Jan. 8 (DCS, DO, JDM), 3 at Grand River on Jan. 14 (DCS), 2 pair at Montague River on Jan. 16 (SSi), 1 at West Cape on Dec. 19 (EBM, FdB), male at Vernon River on Feb. 17 (DK), 19 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 19 (DCS); **Hooded Merganser** - male & female at Long Pond on Dec. 4 (CW, KLA); **Common Merganser** - male at Long Pond on Dec. 4 (CW, KLA), 80 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 19 (JDM); **Red-breasted Merganser** - 6 at West Cape on Dec. 12 (FdB, EBM), 3 males & 13 females at Georgetown on Feb. 19 (FdB, DK, JBl, JWa, BCM); **Osprey** - 1 at New Glasgow on ~Feb. 22 (JiH via DCS); **Bald Eagle** - immature flying over West Royalty on Dec. 2 (JDM), two being seen regularly at New Glasgow in Nov. & early Dec. (IS), 2 adults at Souris & 2 immatures & 1 adult at Selkirk Confederation Trail on Dec. 9 (CG, CGa, GC), immature at Hermanville on Dec. 16 (CG, CGa, GC), 3 adults at Clyde River on Jan. 1 (EBM), adult at Alberton on Jan. 4 (G&BM), 1 at Orwell Cove on Jan. 4 (DT), 6 wintering on Scott's Creek in Marshfield in Jan. (GK); **Northern Harrier** - 1 at Orwell on Jan. 8 (DCS, JDM, DO); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 1 at Parkdale on Dec. 8 (EBM), 1 at West Cape on Jan. 4 (EBM), 3 unsuccessful passes at feeder birds at Crossroads feeders on Feb. 1 (DO), 1 at Chapel's Creek on Cymbria loop on Feb. 11 (DCS); **Northern Goshawk** - adult male at Tracadie and Grand Tracadie on Dec. 18 (JDM, BeHo), 1 at Caledonia on Jan. 3 (JHS), pair calling near nest at North Granville on Feb. 10 (RH); **Broad-winged Hawk** - at East Point area during BSC fall surveys; **Red-tailed Hawk** - adult holding a snowshoe hare with two crows standing by on Dec. 10 (WFB, JDM), 1 at Wilmot Valley on Dec. 12 (FdB, EBM), 1 at Norboro making at strike in an alder swale on Dec. 13 (JDM), 1 at Clear Springs on Dec. 16 (CG, CGa, GC), 1 at Rocky Point & Clyde River on Jan. 3 (EBM), 1 at Milton on Feb. 20 (JDM); **Rough-legged**

Hawk - 1 light morph & 1 dark morph at Blue Shank Road in Wilmot Valley (FdB), 1 at Harding Creek on Jan. 14 (DCS), 1 at Vernon River on Feb. 17 (DK), 1 at Cymbria on Feb. 18 & 19 (DO, JDM), 1 at Margate on Feb. 18 (DO), 1 being mobbed by 2 raven at Vernon River on Feb. 13 (DK), 1 at Locke Shore Road on Feb. 21 swooping at Snowy Owl (EBM, FdB), 1 at North Tryon on Feb. 24 (EBM); **Merlin** - 1 at West Cape chasing Snow Buntings on Dec. 16 (FdB, EBM), 1 at Riverview Estates in late Jan. (EM); **Gray Partridge** - 11 at Long Creek on Dec. 16 (EBM, FdB), 6 at Rustico on Jan. 12 & 1 at Cymbria on Jan. 15 (DCS); **Ruffed Grouse** - 2 at Tea Hill on Dec. 6 (FdB), 2 at West Cape on Dec. 12 (FdB, EBM), 1 on lawn this winter at St. Charles's until Feb. 5 (W&SF); **Sharp-tailed Grouse** - 7 at Hermanville on Dec. 9 & 8 on Dec. 16 (CG, CGa, GC), 8 at Greenwich and 1 at Cable Head on Dec. 16 (CG, CGa, GC), 1 at St. Margaret's on Feb. 5 (W&SF); **Sanderling** - 5 at Panmure Island on Feb. 4 (JHS); **Purple Sandpiper** - 2 at East Point on Dec. 9 (CG, CGa, GC); **Long-billed Dowitcher** - 1 on Rustico Bay at Cymbria on Dec. 4 (DCS); **Black-headed Gull** - 1 adult at Belvedere Pond on Dec. 12 (RC), 1 at Tracadie Harbour on Dec. 18 (DCS, EBM, JDM, BeHo, FdB, AMH, DO); **Bonaparte's Gull** - lots at Belvedere Pond on Dec. 1 (DK), 1 at Lower Montague on Jan. 8 (DCS, JDM, DO); **Mew Gull** - 1 at Stratford Lagoon and on ice off Aptos Lane on Dec. 26, Jan. 1, 13, 16 (DCS, EBM, DO, FdB); **Ring-billed Gull** - 1 at Montague on Feb. 19 (FdB, DK, JBl, JWa, BCM), 2 at North Rustico on Feb. 19 (JDM); **Thayer's Gull** - 1 at Stratford on Jan. 16 (DO) & 1 on Jan. 17 at Stratford (DCS); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** - 1 at Georgetown at Wharf Road on Dec. 4 (SSi); **Glaucous Gull** - adult at West River Causeway on Jan. 1 (EBM), 1 at Cavendish on Jan. 1 (DCS), 1 at Victoria on Feb. 19 (DCS); **Dovekie** - 1 weakened bird at Campbell's Cove on Dec. 3 was attacked and killed by marauding Great Black-backed Gulls (DCS, DO), 1 at East Point on Dec. 13 (VL, ER, LMCD); **Razorbill** - at Campbell's Cove on Dec. 3 (DCS, DO); **Black Guillemot** - at Georgetown Harbour on Jan. 16 (SSi), 1 at Georgetown on Feb. 19 (FdB, DK, JBl, JWa, BCM); **Atlantic Puffin** - 1 East Point on Dec. 14 (VL, ER, LMCD); **Mourning Dove** - 12 at New Dominion feeder daily in early Dec. (EBM), 3 to 7 daily at Donagh feeder from Dec. to late Feb. (JDM, RHP), 30 at Bear River on Dec. 19 (CGa), up to 15 from normal 3 to 5 this winter at St. Charles feeder until Feb. 5 (W&SF), up to 51 at Riverview Estates feeders in late Jan. & Feb. (WFB, EM) 51; **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** - at East Point area during BSC fall surveys; **Great Horned Owl** - 1 at Redhead in Dec. (MK), 1 at Avondale & 1 at Lake Verde on Jan. 21 (DCS); **Snowy Owl** - 1 at Earncliffe on Jan. 5 (JH), 1 at Sherbrooke on Feb. 10, 18 & 21 (ED, LH, DO, DCS, EBM, FdB), 2 at Summerside Airport, 1 at Borden, and 1 at Montague in mid-Feb. (Graphic newspapers via EBM); **Barred Owl** - 1 at Canavoy on Dec. 17 (GG) & Jan. 19 (DO, WCT), 1 at Georgetown Royalty in early Feb. (SSi), pair calling at North Granville on Feb. 10 (RH); **Short-eared Owl** - wing-injured owl found at Trout River and sent to AVC was released in Jan. (FdB); Boreal Owl at Clinton in Feb. (C via WMacK); **Northern Saw-whet Owl** - 1 at North Granville on Feb. 10 (RH) **Belted Kingfisher** - 1 at Murray River on Jan. 4 (DT), 1 at Basin Head on Jan. 5 (DCS), 1 at Knox's Pond in Montague on Jan. 14 & 16 (CT, SSi); **Downy Woodpecker** - 2 at New Glasgow (BeHo), 2 at Charlottetown feeder in Dec. (SGC); **Hairy Woodpecker** - 2 at West Cape on Dec. 19 (EBM), unusual number (up to 8) present at feeders & apple trees in Dec. & drumming on Jan. 1 at New Glasgow (BeHo); **Red-bellied Woodpecker** - 1 at Montague on Dec. 6 (DK, PM) & 2 on Dec. 9 (DK), 1 at Tyne Valley on ~Dec. 10 (PO via GS); **Northern Flicker** - 1 at Stanhope on Dec. 1 (DK), 1 at New Dominion on Jan. 3 (EBM), 1 at Charlottetown suet feeder on Jan. 22 (DGS), 1 at Brackley on Feb. 19 (DCS); **Northern Shrike** - 1 at Queen's Point Road in Grand Tracadie on Nov. 30 (DO, LH, DK), 1 at Charlottetown feeder in Dec. (SGC), 1 at Rocky Point on Dec. 25 (DC&ES), 1 at West Cape on Jan. 29 (EBM); **Gray Jay** - at East Point area during BSC fall surveys, 5 at Cardigan North on Jan. 21 (DO, L&JH, DK, KLA, CG, CGa, CW); **Horned Lark** - 12 at West Cape on Dec. 21 (EBM), at Earncliffe on Dec. 24 (DCS), 10 at York Point Road on Dec. 26 (EBM), 3 at West Cape on Jan. 4 (EBM); **American Crow** - 800 at Earncliffe on Feb. 11 (DCS), thousands at Victoria Park and Brighton roost this winter. CBC radio interview in Feb. on ways and means to reduce population in Charlottetown (JDM); **Black-capped Chickadee** - 6 at Charlottetown feeder in Dec. (SGC); **Boreal Chickadee** - 9 at Blooming Point, Grand Tracadie, & Stanhope on Dec. 18 (JDM, BeHo, DO, AMH, FdB), 2 at Knox's Pond on Jan. 14 & 16 (SSi); **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - at feeders in Crossroads (DMu) 2 most days at Donagh feeders (JDM, RPh); **White-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 at Rocky Point feeder in late Nov. & early Dec. (LD), 1 at North Milton on Dec. 25 (SGC), 1 at New Glasgow feeder & Summerside feeder on Feb. 4 (BeHo, BMi, LH); **Winter Wren** - 1 at East Point on Dec. 13 (VL, LMCD, ER); **Golden-crowned Kinglet** - 2 at West Cape on Dec. 21 (FdB), 2 at Tea Hill on Feb. 24 (FdB); **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** - at East Point area during BSC fall surveys; **American Robin** - very few reports this winter and a very low crop of mountain ash berries (JDM), 1 at West Cape on Dec. 21 (FbD), 4 at Bunbury feeders on Jan. 4 (DT); **Fieldfare** - *first record on Jan. 11 at Cymbria (DC&ES)* & on Jan. 11 - 15, Feb. 4, 11 (DO, L&JH, SSi, DC, RC, DK, EBM); **Brown Thrasher** - 1 at Kildare on Jan. 4 to 6 (Td'A via FdB); **Bohemian Waxwing** - 14 at West Cape on Dec. 12 (FdB, EBM), at Earncliffe on Dec. 24 (DCS), 50 at North River on Jan. 1 (EBM), 113 in Charlottetown on Jan. 16 (DO), 25 at Vernon River on Jan. 26 (DK), 37 in Hawthorne hedge in Marshfield on Jan. 28 (GK), 7 eating highbush cranberry at New Dominion (EBM), 8 finishing off Tea Hill high-bush cranberries on Feb. 24 (FdB); **Cedar Waxwing** - 55 at Charlottetown on Jan. 14 (I&DS), 15 on Lower Malpeque Road on Feb. 11 (DCS); **Yellow-rumped Warbler** - 2 at Cavendish East on Dec. 9 (AMH, DO, CW); **Pine Warbler** - 1 at Riverview Estates on Dec. 1 to 12, Jan. 16, Feb. 19 (WFB, EM, JDM, DO, DCS), 4 near East Point on Dec. 13 (VL, ER, LMCD); **Eastern Towhee** - 1 at Tea Hill on Feb. 5, the first at this site since 1993 (J&DS); **American Tree Sparrow** - 3 back at Donagh feeder starting on Dec. 17 & up to 5 most days through to mid-Feb. (JDM, RHP), 2 at Bunbury feeders on Jan. 4 (DT), 1 at Vernon River on Jan. 26 (DK), 1 at Cymbria on Feb. 4 (DCS); **Lark Sparrow** - 1 at Murray Harbour North on Dec. 31 to Feb. 24 (VMJ, GJ, DO, DCS, JDM); **Song Sparrow** - 1 at Tracadie on Dec. 18 (DO, AMH, FdB, JDM), 1 on Jan. 7, 8, & 31 & Feb. 10 & 13 at West Royalty

feeders (DC&ES); **Dark-eyed Junco** - 1 male at Donagh feeder on Dec. 24 (JDM, RHP); **Snow Bunting** - 5 at East Point on Dec. 9 (CG, CGa, GC), 60 to 120 at West Cape on Dec. 19 & 21 (FdB), at Earnscliffe on Dec. 24 (DCS), 60 at Locke Shore Rd. in Sherbrooke on Dec. 26 (LH); **Northern Cardinal** - female at Wellington on Dec. 14-5 & Jan. 8, 14 (F&GM, R&AG, DCS), male at Point Prim feeder on Dec. 25 (ThM), male at Union Corner on Feb. 4 (LH); **Red-winged Blackbird** - 1 at Bonshaw feeder on Dec. 10 (W&LG), 1 at Crossroads feeder on Dec. 24 (DO); **Rusty Blackbird** - 4 at Johnston's River late Dec./early Jan. (P&JW via DO); **Common Grackle** - 1 at Long Creek on Dec. 21 (EBM, FdB), 1 at Point Prim feeder on Dec. 25 (ThM), 22 at Sherwood feeder on Jan. 22 (DGi); **Brown-headed Cowbird** - 3 at Vernon River feeders on Dec. 25 & female on Feb. 11 (DK), 1 at Rice Point on Jan. 1 (DCS), 1 at Crossroads feeders on Feb. 1 (DO); **Baltimore Oriole** - female at Sherwood cedar hedge and feeders on Dec. 18 & 20, Jan. 26 (BHa), 1 at Borden feeder Dec. to Jan. (PL, R&AG via DO), 1 male at North Rustico on Jan. 26 & 30 (BE, DO, LH); **Pine Grosbeak** - 5 at West Cape on Dec. 12 & 9 on Dec. 21 (FdB, EBM), on Rte 2 between Mt. Stewart & Charlottetown (DO), 2 on Dec. 23 at Mermaid (JDM), 4 males & 2 females at Village Green on Dec. 26 (WFB, JDM); **Purple Finch** - female at New Dominion on Dec. 11 (EBM), at Crossroads feeders on Dec. 8 (DO), 2 at West Cape on Jan. 4 (EBM), at Charlottetown feeder on Jan. 4 (SGC), 4 at Tea Hill on Jan. 4-6 (FdB), 2 at New Dominion on Jan. 10 (EBM), ~15 at Crossroads feeders on Feb. 1 (DO), none this winter at St. Charles's feeder until Feb. 5 (W&SF); **Red Crossbill** - at East Point area during BSC fall surveys; **White-winged Crossbill** - 1 at West Cape on Dec. 12 (FdB, EBM), 1 at Crossroads feeders on Feb. 1 (DO); **Hoary Redpoll** - 1 at Caledonia on Jan. 3 (JHS), at West Cape on Jan. 4 (FdB); **Common Redpoll** - first 3 of the season at Crossroads feeders on Dec. 8 (DO), 50 at West Cape on Dec. 19 (EBM), ~60 at Locke Shore Rd. in Sherbrooke on Dec. 25 (L&JH), 40 at West Cape on Jan. 4 (FdB), 35 at Tea Hill on Jan. 4-6 (FdB), few at New Dominion on Jan. 11 (EBM), first small flock of this winter at Crossroads feeders (DMu), 50 at Vernon River feeders on Jan. 24 (DK), ~60 at Crossroads feeders on Feb. 1 (DO), none this winter at St. Charles's feeder until Feb. 5 (W&SF); **Pine Siskin** - 1 at Crossroads feeders on Dec. 8 (DO), at New Dominion on Jan 1 (EBM), 2 at West Cape on Jan. 4 (EBM), 12 at Bunbury feeders on Jan. 4 (DT) 3 at Tea Hill on Jan. 4-6 (FdB), 16 at New Dominion on Jan. 10 (EBM), few at Vernon River feeders on Jan. 24 (DK); **American Goldfinch** - few at Charlottetown feeder on Jan. 4 (SGC), 35+ at Vernon River feeders on Jan. 24 (DK), surprisingly absent this winter up to late Jan. at Crossroads (DMu), ~50 at Crossroads feeders on Feb. 1 (DO), none this winter at St. Charles's feeder until Feb. 5 (W&SF); **Evening Grosbeak** - 1 at Crossroads feeder and 1 female at Vernon River feeder on Dec. 5 (DO, DK), 3 at Valley Dec. 23 to 29 & 33 on Dec. 30 (GS, ML), few at Tea Hill on Jan. 4-6 (FdB), 6 at Vernon River on Jan. 26 (DK), 24 at New Glasgow feeder on Feb. 5 (BeHo); **House Sparrow** - 3 at Locke Shore Rd. for the first time this year in Sherbrooke on Dec. 25 (L&JH), 20 at Agro Co-op in Charlottetown on Feb. 19 (JDM). **Errata: Eastern Phoebe** in issue #178 was actually at North Cape (DCS). The **Black-billed Cuckoo** I had on 22 October was along Rte 16 in the Community of East Point just west of Lighthouse road (not at basin Head) (DCS).

Thanks to the following contributors who provided records for this listing, namely: Td'A - Terese d'Amour; KLA - Kerry-Lynn Atkinson RA - Ron Arvidson; AB - Anita Bradley; JB1 - Jean Blanchard; WFB - Bill Bowerbank; C - E. Clements; DC - Dwight Cargill; DC1 - Danny Clark; F&JC - Fred & Janet Connolly; FRC - Rosemary Curley; GC - Gabrielle Cheverie; RC - Ray Cooke; SGC - Sharon Clark; WC - Walter Conohan; FdB - Fiep de Bie; DD - Dave Dowling; ED - Edie Doyle; LD - Lois Doan; BE - Bill Evans; W&SF - Warren & Sherron Foulkes; CG - Carolyn Gallant; CGa - Cathleen Gallant; R&AG - Robert & Alice Gallant; DG - Diane Griffin; DGi - Donna Giberson; GG - Gary Griffin; W&LG - Bill & Liz Glen; AMH - Ann-Marie Hartman; B&RH - Ben & Rosalie Hoteling; BHa - Bob Hambly; BeHo - Beth Hoar; JH - John Hayden; JiH - Jim Hancock; L&JH - Les & Joan Homans; RH - Rick Hawkins; GJ - Gordon Jackson; VMJ - Virginia MacSwain Jackson; GK - Glen Kelly; DK - Dan Kennedy; MK - Meike Keunecke; PL - Paula Lenentine; VL - Vern Laux; BMi - Bob Milligan; EM - Evelyn Martin; G&BM - Garth & Bonnie MacIsaac; WMacK - Wade MacKinnon; EBM - Eric Marcum; G&FMa - Gisele & Fred Martin; JDM - Dan McAskill; LMcd - Lannie McDowell; PM - Pat McGowan; BCM (formerly listed as BMcO) - Bonnie McOrmond; DMu - Doug Murray; ThM - Thelma Murchinson; DO - Dwaine Oakley; PO - Paul Offer; RPh - Robin Phillips; ER - Edie Ray; DC&ES - David & Elaine Seeler; DGS - Dave Stewart; I&DS - Ian & Daphne Scott; J&DS - Jeanette & Don Scott; GS - Gary Schneider; SSi - Scott Sinclair; JHS - Jim Sutton; CT - Charlie Trainor; RT - Reg Dutch Thompson; CW - Chris Wagner; P&JW - Phil & Jane Ward; JW - Jackie Waddell; JWa - Jean Watts; AWo - Ann Wootton; JWo - Jeff Wood; WCT - Wildlife Conservation Technology Class; 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 the Farm Centre on University Avenue in Charlottetown.
YN = young naturalists encouraged to attend or participate*

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**
- April 22 - Owl Prowl** - a slide show and talk on the owls of PEI. Learn about this fascinating family, including calls and how to find them. Then we'll go out for a walk along the trails to see what might be around. Meet at the Macphail Woods Nature Centre at 7:30 pm. A great way to celebrate Earth Day. . **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 13 - Amphibian Talk and Walk** - Gary Schneider will host a Macphail Woods slide show and talk on amphibians at the Macphail Woods Nature Centre. Then it's off to walk the trails and find spring peepers, toads and other night callers. Wear waterproof shoes and bring a flashlight. Talk starts at 7:30 pm at the Nature Centre. **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.
- May 27 - Bird Identification Walk** - Gary Schneider will host a Macphail Woods stroll along the trails of Macphail Woods, looking at year-round residents and returning migratory birds. A great walk for the whole family. Bring your boots and binoculars. Begins at the nursery at 8 am.**YN**
- Jun. 3 - Birds & Breakfast** will be co-hosted by the Natural History Society and the P.E.I. National Park. Birders should meet at Dalvay Interpretive Centre at 6:30 am. Breakfast will be served at 8 am after the bird outing at a cost of \$5 per person or \$15 for family. For more information, contact Bonnie McOrmond at 628-6994 or via E-mail at bcmcormond@eastlink.ca.
- 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**
- Jun. 10 - Tree and Shrub Identification Walk** - Gary Schneider will host a Macphail Woods event for participants to learn how to identify a variety of native species using leaves, fruit and seed. The tour includes a walk through the woods and begins at the Macphail Woods nursery at 9 am. **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.

WEEKLY PEAK SHOREBIRD NUMBER OBSERVATIONS IN THE PEINP - 2005:

From 29 April to 26 November 2005: 81 Outings

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Month	April		May				June				July				August				September				October					Nov.		
Week	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7

Species	April		May				June				July				August				September				October					Nov.		
BBPL		1			9	47	13	2			2	2	2	2	3	34	51	40	86		21	17	40	44	14	33	32		1	
SEPL												10	35	29	70	57	33	48		16	2		7	1		25				
WISN																										1				
SBDO							3		6	5	46	41	43	35	21	56	30	15										2	1	
LBDO																												4	4	
HUGO											2			1	5	1					1									
GRYE		5	17	2	58	17	2	3	3	3	7	7	18	31	27	43	54	28	54	3	25		3	3	20	12		17	4	
LEYE				4	2		1		2	17	57	60	45	41	63	43	28	35	10	1	1				1					
RUTU												2	6		10	5	2	2	1											
REKN												2	7								1							15		
SAND																3	22	1		9	1		27	2	9	1		3		
SESA												10	18	9	58	33	49	36	11				7		2	16				
LESA					47	16				1	3	10		1	8	56	35	9												
WRSA															1	10			1										3	
PESA														1		1	1			1						5				
DUNL						1													1	7	8	45	129	27	1		123	8		
WILL				2	2	6	5	5	2	8	7	39	8	11	2	1	4	3					2							

Where BBPL = Black-bellied Plover; SEPL = Semipalmated Plover; KILL = Killdeer; WISN - Wilson's Snipe; SBDO = Short-billed Dowitcher; LBDO = Long-billed Dowitcher; HUGO = Hudsonian Godwit; GRYE = Greater Yellowlegs; LEYE = Lesser Yellowlegs; RUTU = Ruddy Turnstone; REKN = Red Knot; SAND = Sanderling; SESA = Semipalmated Sandpiper; LESA = Least Sandpiper; WRSA = White-rumped Sandpiper; PESA - Pectoral Sandpiper; DUNL - Dunlin; WILL - Willet.