



# ISLAND NATURALIST

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**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.....Dwaine Oakley, Crossroads 569-1815 oakleym@eastlink.ca  
Vice-President.....Dan Kennedy, Vernon River 651-2926 dankennedy@islandtelecom.com  
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Director - Publicity.....vacant

**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](mailto:nhspei@isn.net)

The *next deadline* for articles, sightings, or other newsletter information is **November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006**.

**Illustrations/Pictures:** The Society extends a special thanks to MAD Lab and Hal Hinds for their photographs and 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](http://www.isn.net/~nhspei)

**Cover Illustration:**

The American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) was once the tree which dominated much of Prince Edward Island's forests. As such, the leaves and nuts (fruit) illustrated on this month's cover, provided the base of nutrient flow for many of the plants and animals in the Island's forest. On September 8<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Doug Sobey presented his illustrated seminar "Early Descriptions of the Forests of Prince Edward Island II: The British and Post Confederation Periods 1758 - c. 1900" at the K.C. Irving Lecture Theatre at U.P.E.I. See the story starting on page 3.

## ANNUAL MEETING - NOMINATIONS CALL!

The terms of the current Executive Committee expire at the January meeting in 2006. If you would be interested in serving on the Executive or any Society Committees, please contact the President, Dwaine Oakley at 569-1815 or the Nominating Committee Chairperson, David Seeler at 566-4505. Thanks.

## SOME SELECTED COMMENTS ON THE FORESTS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND by Doug Sobey

### ON THE EXTENT OF THE FORESTS IN THE LANDSCAPE:

John Cambridge (1793), a resident proprietor and merchant based at Murray Harbour, in a letter to two fellow-Quaker women in England preparing to join him on the Island: "Let me entreat you both to prepare your minds not to see numberless green fields but groves upon groves of wilderness woods with here and there a mean house in a small opening erected on the edge of a river."

Walter Johnstone (1822), a visitor and author of *Letters Descriptive of Prince Edward Island*: "The country is one entire forest of wood; all the exceptions to the truth of this, literally are not much more, even including the present clearances, than the dark spots upon the moon's face, as they appear to the naked eye, compared to the brighter parts thereof."

Lieutenant-Governor A. A. MacDonald (1885), in reply to a request for information on the forests of the Island for a report on Canadian forests: "There are no forests of any extent in the province of Prince Edward Island, where they have disappeared under the axes of the settler and the lumberman."

Alfred Burke (1902), a Catholic priest at Alberton and an advocate for reforestation, in a paper presented to the Canadian Forestry Association: "The general desire, and indeed the practice [*on the Island*] was to get rid of every tree in sight. Today whole settlements may be visited where the farm buildings stand out bleak, bare and storm-beaten, without a single tree to protect, beautify or endear – not one along the roadside, the line fence, the out-places; possibly a bit of coppice on the rear of the half tilled farm, where the improvident holder still gathers enough of sapling wood to sustain the kitchen stove in hard weather."

### ON THE BEECHWOODS:

John Stewart (1806), a member of the House of Assembly, and author of *An Account of Prince Edward Island*: "Beech grows in great abundance, probably better than half of the Island is covered with it, in some districts forming nine-tenths of the forest, in others it is more mixed with other trees."

Captain John MacDonald (1804), a proprietor based at Tracadie: "The great bulk of the wood of this island consists of beech".

Walter Johnstone (1822), a visitor and author of *Letters Descriptive of Prince Edward Island*: "Of all the different kinds of wood upon the Island, the beech, when growing separately by itself, is the most beautiful. The ground it occupies is the freest from underwood, or any thing to obstruct one's way, while in summer it furnishes the most delightfully refreshing shade over head of any I have met with. The land where it abounds is the easiest cleared both as to the cutting, burning, and rotting of the stumps; and the land, when cleared, is reckoned the second best in quality of any in the Island."

Moses Perley (1847), a visiting author: "Generally on Prince Edward Island [beech] is so abundant as to constitute extensive forests, the finest trees growing on fertile, level or gently sloping lands, which are proper for the cultivation of grains".

### ATTITUDES TO FOREST UTILIZATION AND CONSERVATION:

John Stewart (1806), a member of the House of Assembly, and author of *An Account of Prince Edward Island*: "Every tree which is cut down in the forest opens to the sun a new spot of earth, which, with cultivation, will produce food for man and beast".

Walter Johnstone (1822), a visitor and author of *Letters Descriptive of Prince Edward Island*: "The whole Island might be cultivated if the wood were destroyed, except the marshes, and I believe even some of these only require draining to render them fruitful".

An anonymous writer in the *Summerside Progress*, reminiscing in 1867 **on the subject of 'Country life in the**

**past generation’:** “The settler waged war against the forest with fire and steel. The waste of timber now seems very deplorable. Splendid trees were cut down merely to be burned. Every Spring had its fires in the woods of greater or less extent. The woods on fire presented a scene of terrible beauty and magnificence. At night it is really sublime. Everything is dry and everything burns rapidly.”

J. William Dawson (1871), a geologist, in a geological study commissioned by the Island’s government: “[*Given*] the rapid disappearance of the forests ... it is worthy of consideration whether measures should be taken by the Government for the protection of the remainder of the forests”.

#### **ON TIMBER THEFT:**

An anonymous letter-writer to the *Prince Edward Island Register* (a newspaper) in 1826: “The practice of clandestinely cutting timber has been a very serious detriment to the property of proprietors of townships; during a late inspection of a township it was ascertained, that all the settlers had been, and some of them deeply, engaged in making timber.” ... “It has been supposed that 20,000 tons of timber have been taken from one half-lot in this Colony without the proprietor's leave, and without his getting one farthing for stumpage, his just right; and thus he was deprived, at 3s. 6d. per ton, of the considerable sum of 3500£. !” ... “If you ask a purchaser of timber, whether he does not feel that he ought to pay stumpage for what timber he knew was pilfered from the proprietor; or whether he ought to buy from settlers who have none of their own, [*nor*] the means of coming honestly by it ..., without questioning them how they came by it, lest he might be deemed a receiver of stolen goods, ... he will reply – ‘I ask no questions. I know nothing about it. It is no business of mine. What is brought to me, that I buy’.”

Sir George Seymour (1840), the proprietor of Lot 13, while on a visit to the Island: “Mr. Pope is an acute and able man [i.e. *Joseph Pope, the leader of the Conservative block in the House of Assembly*]. I see he is inclined to respect all property except that in timber which even he who is reckoned a high principled man gets when he can without any question of ownership.”

Amos McWilliams (1875), a farmer and lumberer in Lot 7, in response to questions from the Land Commission of 1875: “I have been over the land looking for timber. I have had a permit sometimes, and sometimes a roving commission, and when I got a stick I told them. ... If the stick suited me I cut it, and told them of it. ... I will not swear that before 1860 I always told. It would not be stealing. To take money would be stealing. I believe many did more than I did. I do not know how Stewart [*i.e., the proprietor of Lot 7, Robert B. Stewart of Strathgartney*] could lose what he never had. ... The proprietor’s land is public property to us.”

#### **ON THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE FOREST-BASED INDUSTRIES AND AGRICULTURE:**

Walter Patterson (1774), the first governor of the Island, in a letter to the Colonial Secretary in London: “There hath been some timber sent home [*i.e. to Great Britain*], but I look upon all kinds of Trade which is not calculated principally to promote agriculture to be detrimental to the peopling of the Island”.

Samuel Hill (1839), based at Cascumpec, author of an immigrant’s handbook: “The export of timber is the very worst branch of trade that a rural population could be called upon to support. It begets dissolute habits, and is a nursery of moral depravity. It has diverted the agriculturist from his more steady pursuits.”

George Coles (1853), the premier of the Island at the time: “It would have been a benefit to the country if there had not been half the number of ship-yards in the Island that there have been. Instead of having contributed to the agricultural prosperity of the country, they have greatly retarded it.”

**William Lord (1853), a ship-builder and member of the House of Assembly:** “This country is best adapted to agriculture; ... the sooner it is cleared of its timber, the better it will be for the general interest, for then agriculture will be prosecuted with all our energies as it ought to be.”

FROM: Sobey, Douglas (2006) *Early Descriptions of the Forests of Prince Edward Island: The British and Post-Confederation Periods (1758- c. 1900)*. P.E.I. Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry, Charlottetown.

## NEIL BENNETT AUTUMN BIRDING CLASSIC

by Dan McAskill

For the 12<sup>th</sup> year, the Natural History Society will be working in conjunction with the Island Nature Trust to raise money for the acquisition and protection of natural areas throughout the province. This year, the team will consist of Dan McAskill, Ray Cooke, David Seeler, Dwaine Oakley, and Eric Marcum. On September 24<sup>th</sup>, they will take to the fields, woods, shore, and wetlands to count birds, collect sightings for the newsletter, and to raise money for the Island Nature Trust's conservation programs. You can help in this effort by providing a post count donation to the Island Nature Trust. Simply contact the Trust at 566-9150 for credit card donations or mail your donation to the Island Nature Trust at P.O. Box 265, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7K4.

## OWL PREDATION OBSERVED:

by Dwaine Oakley

Early on the morning of August 4<sup>th</sup> while banding birds at the MAPS station located at the Macphail Woods, I came across an interesting site. When first setting up the mist nets just before six, there were a few birds calling around the site but not many. Shortly after the nets were up, I made my first round of net checks but this time when I started around the circuit there were many species of birds giving alarm calls around net number one. At first I thought it might be one of the resident Barred Owls but soon I found a fresh wing which, from at first glance, looked like a crow. So I knew that it was probably a Great Horned Owl who was the culprit.

I soon found the Great Horned Owl perched high in a maple tree and it intently stared backed at me as I checked other mist nets. When Jennifer Roma showed up to volunteer, I told her about the owl and rechecked the wing which I discovered was a Common Raven and not a crow due to its size and more purplish gloss. Also, it was an adult due to primary wing feathers missing and lots of feather wear on those remaining. Jennifer later confirmed my identification when she found the rest of the beheaded corpse under some ferns nearby. I can only imagine the strength that the owl must have to take prey that is roughly the same size and weight as itself.

As some sort of payback, we later heard a large group of crows mobbing the owl around eight that morning. When we went to investigate, I saw the crows chase the owl deeper into the woods.

On a happier note, I banded my first juvenile Ovenbird that was just recently fledged.

## BRANCH LIBRARY DISTRIBUTION OF ISLAND NATURALIST:

The Natural History Society has been promoting the Society's programs to encourage increased education and participation in the Society's activities. In June 2004, as part of these efforts, Sharon Clark contacted Norma Collier, the Branch Services Librarian, to determine if she would be willing to coordinate the distribution of the Society's *Island Naturalist* to the 41 branch libraries of the P.E.I. Provincial Library Service system. Thus, during the two years, the *Island Naturalist* was on display along with other magazines in our Island's libraries. Sharon contacted Norma in August, 2006 to poll the libraries on the *Island Naturalist* readership levels. On August 7<sup>th</sup>, Norma indicated that, except for one or two locations, "most libraries report the newsletter is not being used". Thus, the Society will continue to provide the *Island Naturalist* to these locations as well as the copy to the Confederation Library. Complete collections of the *Island Naturalist* are available at the Robertson Library Island Studies desk, at the Confederation Library in Charlottetown, and at the National Archives at Ottawa.

## TREE RING HISTORY:

adapted from MAD Lab Report 2006-02 and P.E.I. Government forestry history records

In approximately 1982, a tree section from the base of the stump of an Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) was cut in Belfast and mounted on a display panel. The tree was hundreds of years old and was used to educate thousands of students and adults who have seen the section displayed in the Forest Extension Sections trailer which was brought to exhibitions across the province for many years. In recent years, it has been on display at the P.E.I. Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry's J. F. Gaudet Tree Nursery headquarters where hundreds to students and

preschoolers view the display which shows the size of the tree during various time periods during specific historical time points. During the summers of 2005 and 2006, the display was placed in the Hillsborough River Eco-Centre in Mount Stewart.

Besides depicting the tree size of this multi-century hemlock tree, tree disks such as this one can be analysed to provide valuable information on climatology well beyond the normal weather records that are available in the area. The study of these tree rings is called dendrochronology. A number of years ago, Mount Allison University established the Mount Allison Dendrochronology Lab (MAD Lab). Mr. William Glen, the former Manager of Resource Inventory and Modelling Section with the Department, had submitted a few samples for the lab's analysis. In 2005, he delivered the Eastern Hemlock section to the lab and it was assigned reference number 06AA002. It was analysed by Colin P. Laroque of MAD Lab. The Lab's analysis indicate that tree section showed the classic suppressed growth of this species early in life, until radial growth was released, when the tree probably achieved a dominant canopy position. The results of the ring measurement analysis showed that the tree started growing in 1671 and its growth variation is shown below (ref: Tree ring dating of an Eastern Hemlock stump from Belfast, PEI, Mount Allison Dendrochronology Lab). This is the believed to be the oldest archived sample from Prince Edward Island, and is currently one of the oldest in the Maritimes.

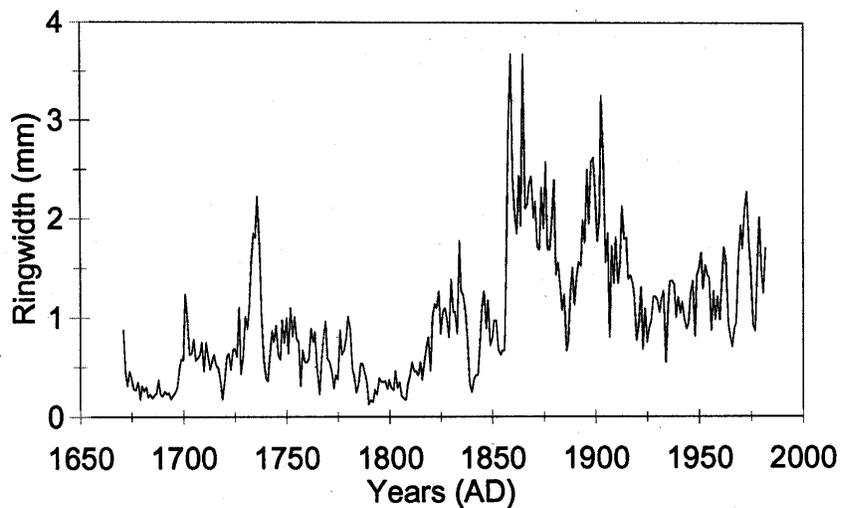


Figure 1. Ring measurements of MAD Lab sample 06AA002, a series of Eastern Hemlock data from Belfast, PEI. The series spans a time frame of 1671 to 1982.

**RARE BIRD REPORT - FORSTER'S TERN:**

Observer: David Seeler

**Date of Observation:** 27 August 2006

**Time of Observation:** 07:50 – 08:45 hrs.

**Place of Observation:** EAST POINT      **UTM:** 579008 E      5144877 N

**Weather:** It was a clear day with moderate winds out of the NNE. While there was no cloud cover at the location of the sighting, further to the east the sun was covered by a light layer of high cloud significantly reducing glare and providing very good viewing conditions for pelagic birding. Temperature: 14°C; Dew Point: 9°C; Visibility: 24 Km; Winds: 26 – 28 km/hr NNE

**Habitat & Viewing Distance:** The observation was made off the coast at East Point from a distance of 100 to 500

metres. The tern in question was flying a loop between East Point and the beach just east of Beaton's Point and returning back to East Point further out over the Gulf to restart the "feeding loop" again.

**Equipment:** Pentax 80mm ED Spotting Scope with a SMC XW-14 (36 X) eyepiece.  
Swarovski EL 8.5x42 Binoculars

**Circumstances of Observation:** I was scanning the Gulf for the presence of petrels when I started to follow a feeding group of Common Terns which were close in to the Point (approximately 100 m out). It did not take long to notice that there was one tern with the group which was a little larger than the rest and which had a slightly different flight pattern. When it banked close to shore and more details regarding plumage were evident, I knew it was unlikely to be a Common Tern due to the prominent head pattern, and decided to follow this bird exclusively in regards to my observations. Since the bird's flight path was to the north or west of the Point (I was by the south west corner of the building which I used as a wind break), the light patterns for viewing consisted of either frontal or side-lighting as the bird flew. At no time did back-lighting occur. The bird in question tended to follow a circular path. When closer to land, it headed from the Point to the cove and beach to the west and then looped around to the north-east further out as it headed to a point just north of East Point. It then worked its way closer to shore and headed west again. This pattern was followed repeatedly as I observed the bird. The Common Terns followed a similar but much smaller pattern, tending for the most part to stay closer to East Point. My immediate concern was to note the plumage characteristics in order that I could determine if this was an adult or immature bird, and then to attempt to note as many unique plumage features that I could in order to facilitate identification of the bird. I stayed recording voice notes until I was confident that I had observed the details I would need in order to identify the bird. NO books or aids were used during the period of observation. Only a quick check of Sibley's was made as I prepared to leave East Point in order to get an impression as to what I needed to find out about moult in patterns in our more common terns.

**Details:** This bird was 10 to 20 percent larger than the Common Terns (both adult and immature) that it was with and smaller than the Caspian Terns which flew by the Point during this time. The most striking observation was the plumage pattern associated with the head, nape, and back of the bird. Its wing beats seemed to be slower and deeper than those of the Common Terns present and its flight appeared to be more direct. It did not appear to "hover" prior to diving, but rather it seemed to briefly "stall" and then dive.

**Body:** The neck was white. The mantle and coverts to the primary and secondary flight feathers were a very light shade of gray which contrasted with the white primary and secondary flight feathers. After a period of observation, it became apparent that the ventral tips of the outermost primaries were edged slightly in black giving the underside trailing edge a dark appearance. This did not appear to be the case on the dorsal surface of these feathers.

The underside of the body was entirely white.

The head was completely white with the exception of a black rectangular shaped area that extended from the eye into the post ocular area on both sides of the head. This black area did not extend to the top of the head or back into the nape or dorsal neck area. The dorsum of these regions were white. This feature was very striking and could be seen at all distances at which the bird was observed.

The tail was forked and the feathers were white with no apparent markings.

The bill was clearly visible and black. As the bird banked providing a profile view, I could appreciate that the base had some reddish tinge to it. This could have been due to "fringing" effects of the optics, but the observation was consistent and I could observe the reddish bills with their black tips of the Common Terns present.

The legs were reddish-orange in colour.

**Considerations:** It was clear that this was not a juvenile or immature Tern. It had no carpal or primary markings or brownish plumage. The plumage of the bird in question was either pure gray or white. Only the patch on its head and the tips of the underside of its outer primaries were black. The adult Common Terns present still had full hoods and red bills tipped in black. In the same lighting conditions, the characteristic markings on the primaries of the Common Terns were clearly visible. The questions that I had in my mind as I finished the days outing were: 1) When do adult Common and Arctic Terns moult into basic plumage? (as these are the most likely possibilities – Caspian Tern was not a possibility) and 2) Is it possible that basic plumage variations of either Tern might show what I had observed?

It was not until the following Tuesday when I could get the references at the UPEI library, did it become clear that both the Common and Arctic Tern adults moult into basic plumage later in the fall (September to October) and often on the wintering grounds. It became apparent that they could be ruled out based on this information and the plumage characteristics of the bird in question. Further, an E-Mail communication from Ian McLaren and the references I consulted clearly demonstrated that not only were Common and Arctic Terns ruled out as possibilities (no matter the age), that the plumage pattern observed is characteristic of the Forster's tern. Forster's Terns are marsh birds in the nesting season, but off the nesting site, and on migration they do use coastal areas, close in to shore to feed. I have also been able to find other Maritime Records of a Forster's Tern for Nova Scotia indicating that they can occur at this of year in this region.

**Vocalizations:** None Heard  
**Photographs:** None Taken  
**Experience with Species:** None  
**Conclusion:** Basic plumaged Forster's Tern

#### RESOURCES USED:

1. Seabirds: An Identification Guide. Peter Harrison. 1985.
2. The Complete Guide to the Birds of Europe. L. Svensson, D. Zetterstrom; P.J. Grant. 2000.
3. The Sibley Guide to Birds. 1<sup>st</sup> edition, second printing. D. Sibley. 2001.
4. Flight Identification of European Seabirds. A. Blomdahl, B. Breife; N. Holmstrom. 2003.
5. National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America – 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. 1987.
6. Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*). In The Birds of North America, No. 707. Hatch, J. J. 2002. (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.
7. Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*). In The Birds of North America, No. 618. Nisbet, I. C. T. 2002. (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.
8. Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*). In The Birds of North America, No. 595. McNicholl, M. K., P. E. Lowther, and J. A. Hall. 2001. (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.
9. The Birds of Canada – Revised Edition. W.E. Godfrey. 1986.
10. Lives of North American Birds. K. Kaufman. 1996.
11. Forster's Tern. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Website:  
[www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/Forsters\\_Tern\\_dtl.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/Forsters_Tern_dtl.html)
12. Lets Take Another Look – In Search of Louisiana's mid-sized *Sterna* terns. LOS News (1999) #186: Page 2.  
Identification and Ageing of Forster's Tern. Julian Hough. Web Site: [www.naturescapesimages.net/Forsters.html](http://www.naturescapesimages.net/Forsters.html)

**LONG DISTANCE MIGRATION:** Adapted from Bird Studies Canada's Latest News Sept. 8, 2006

Shearwaters are renowned for their ability to soar on ocean wind currents and as long distance migrants. Utilizing electronic tags which collect data on the location of an animal and weigh only 6 grams, Scott Shaffer, a research scientist at the University of California installed tags on 33 Sooty Shearwaters at two breeding colonies in New Zealand. The tags were placed on the shearwaters in January through March, 2005 and, nineteen of the twenty 20 tags were recovered when they returned to their breeding colonies from their pelagic flights in the Pacific. The data was rich in new information and helped to confirm theories on movement. On the latter front, Sooty Shearwaters were shown to migrate in a massive figure eight pattern, likely the result of the global wind patterns influencing the Pacific Ocean. The discovery that individual shearwaters made a prolonged stopover at just one location in either Japan, Alaska, or California and stayed there for the remainder of the migration and then came back to New Zealand. Some birds travelled 910 kilometres in a single day and some were recorded to have dived 68 metres below the surface of the ocean.

**NEWS FROM ABOUT:** compiled by Dan McAskill

Great news at Nature Canada with the announcement by Federal Environment Minister Rona Ambrose that the government had signed two contribution agreements for over \$1 million dollars. Minister Ambrose indicated that these agreements commit Nature Canada to undertake a participatory process of exploration, identification, and assessment of current activities of over 360 local and provincial nature groups across Canada as well as consultation with national

conservation organizations and provincial land trusts on the development of the national alliance on conservation. (Adapted from a Nature Canada E-mail dated Jul. 27, 2006 and Minister Ambrose's Jul. 8 speech at Nature Canada's AGM held at Red Deer - transcription/speech released by Media Q Inc. )

Thanks again to everyone who donated wonderful items for our prize draws which helped raise much needed funds and of course thanks to all those who bought tickets every month. The big basket draw helped raise over \$150.00 which is very impressive considering tickets were sold only at a few meetings. Shirley Prowse won so congratulations to Shirley and again thanks to all those who donated items and were so generous in buying tickets. Monies raised help to pay for the rental of the space at the Farm Centre, postage to mail the newsletter and so forth (adapted from E-mail release by Sharon Clark)

The Nature Trust web site has now changed to [www.islandnaturetrust.ca](http://www.islandnaturetrust.ca)

An extraordinary monarch butterfly migration occurred this year. I am wondering if you or any of your colleagues know PEI naturalists, entomologists or others who could tell me if there have been any sightings on PEI of adult monarch butterflies, eggs or larva? I am now receiving many reports from Quebec, a few from New Brunswick and a couple from Nova Scotia. (Adapted from INT E-mail dated Jun 26 from Don Davis of Toronto, ON)(see insect sightings in this issue on PEI reports)

News that a 130 car parking lot was being constructed within part of the Blooming Point natural area adjacent to the parking lot next to the beach without the necessary public meeting and discussion was met with consternation by many naturalists. The supposed rationale is that rescue vehicles cannot get access to the beach during an emergency. (Adapted from Jun. 30, 2006 Guardian article)

A number of Society members were fortunate to observe the Western Reef Heron which was found in Glace Bay, Cape Breton in late June, July, & Aug. It was last reported on Aug. 8 (DO, DCS, and UPEI ListServe)

A coalition of environmental groups today served Federal Environment Minister Rona Ambrose with a petition giving her 60 days to step in to protect two endangered plants, tiny cryptanthe and small-flowered sand verbena, in Alberta or face a lawsuit. Alberta Wilderness Association, Federation of Alberta Naturalists, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Sierra Club of Canada and Nature Canada, represented by Sierra Legal Defence Fund, are threatening the suit to test the federal government's intention to protect Canada's endangered wildlife. (Adapted from an Aug. 15/06 Nature Canada E-mail)

Bird Studies Canada (BSC) has been recognized for its participation in NEST, a local program offering environmentally oriented work experience to students enrolled in college and university. BSC was noted in the Tillsonburg News as one of the key partners in the Norfolk Environmental Stewardship Team, or NEST for short, which is in the second year of a pilot phase. BSC's head office in Port Rowan, ON, is located in Norfolk County. Students participating in the work experience typically have goals of making a career in biology, conservation, environmental planning or related fields. (From BSC Latest News Sept. 8/06)

Thomas Waite, who has conducted a 25-year study of the birds along with Canada's Dan Strickland, says Gray Jays that store frozen food to help survive icy winters are dying out in parts of North America because global warming is rotting their hoards. Gray Jays can stash away tens of thousands of food items — blueberries, beetles, even strips of meat from a carcass of a moose killed by wolves — in pine trees around their territories to help them get through the winters. They nest earlier than most other birds and rely on stores of frozen food to feed young, which typically hatch in April. "Jays can sit on eggs or even have nestlings with snow about," Waite said. The scientists found that birds had more young in years after a cold autumn than a warm autumn and that birds living near an extra source of winter food, such as a bird feeder by a house, did better after a warm autumn than those in a remote forest. (From BSC Latest News Sept. 8/06)

#### **WEATHER EVENTS:**

CBC media reports on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>, of water spouts at Savage Harbour, Argyle Shore, and Hillsborough River. The first hard frost in the Clyde Road area was on Sept. 4 (KEM) and Donagh on Sept. 4 (JDM).

#### **ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:**

Compiled by J. Dan McAskill

**PLANTS:** The last petals of hawthorns fell and Clematis flowers opened on Jun. 7; bachelor's buttons flowered on Jun. 9;

buttercups and white Dutch clover flowered in on Jun. 25; foxglove, and day lily in flower on Jul. 1 in Donagh (JDM).

Joe pye weed, purple-fringed orchid, water hemlock, brown headed daisy, sweet clover, vetch, spirea, low hop clover, and red clover in flower at North Enmore, balsam poplar found at North Enmore on Jul. 20 (JDM, DS, SM). The first barley fields were being harvested at Spring Valley on Jul. 24 (LY) and at Johnston's River on Aug. 1 (JDM). Goldenrod starting to flower at Mermaid on Jul. 24 (JDM). Sunflowers starting to bloom at Mt. Herbert on Jul. 26 (JDM). Red Oak with mature embryos were falling on Aug. 24 at Upton Road in Charlottetown. There were excellent crops of American Mountain Ash berries at Donagh and a good crop of Mountain Ash in Hampton in Sept. (JDM).

### INSECTS:

The first luna moth seen since locating to Clyde Road was seen on Jun 18 (IGM). Adult Monarch Butterflies were observed at East Point on Jun. 28 & 1 at Little Harbour on Jul. 12 (DO), 2 at North Enmore on Jul. 20 (DS, SM, JDM), 2 at Borden saltmarshes on Jul. 29 (D&MS, SM, JB), and multiple adults at West Royalty on the Confederation Trail and larvae feeding on swamp milkweed and 2 chrysalis at Marshfield on equipment in shed on Sept. 2 (GK). White-faced Meadowhawk, male & female interrupted darner, four spotted skimmer, salt marsh coppers at North Enmore on Jul. 20 (DS, SM, JDM). Maritime Copper (aka Salt Marsh Copper) (*Lycaena dospassosi*) - few dozen at Alaska salt marsh on Jul. 20 and samples taken for N.B. Museum (DS, SM, JDM) and hundreds at Borden salt marshes on Jul. 29 (DS). 2 probable Short-tailed Swallowtail (*Papilio brevicauda*) at Borden Saltmarshes on Jul. 29 (D&MS). The very large green caterpillar of a polyphemus moth (*Anteraea polyphemus*) was found on a small pin cherry in the Harmony Junction area on Aug. 31 (SG).

### AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES:

Northern leopard frogs being seen in lawns at Donagh and Savage Harbour in late Jul. to mid-Aug (JDM). A red elf was found dead on a road in North Enmore on Jul. 20 and green frogs were calling at various fresh water wetlands in the North Enmore and Alaska (DS, SM, JDM).

### MAMMALS:

2 silver and 1 red colour phases were seen in one red fox litter at Riverside Park in June (WFB, EM). Several bats flying over cottages at Savage Harbour on Aug. 30 & Sept. 17 (JDM). 2 Eastern Chipmunks hoarding sunflowers at Charlottetown feeders in Sept. (EMu).

**BIRDS:** **Common Loon** - 4 flying overhead at West Cape on Jun. 7 (EBM), 1 at East Point on Jul. 9 (DCS); **Northern Gannet** - 16 at East Point on Sept. 9 (DCS); **American White Pelican** - 1 at Jude's Point (near Tignish) on Jul. 28-29 (BL & BH via JBI via DCS), 1 reported at Victoria on Aug. 10 (NW via IAM); **Great Blue Heron** - 29 at Brackley North Marsh & 22 at Covehead Marsh on Jul. 8, 70 at Covehead Bay on Jul 13, 67 at Covehead Bay, 28 at Brackley Bay, & 16 at Tracadie Bay on Jul. 30 (DC&ES); **Snowy Egret** - 1 at Covehead Bay on Jul 31 & Aug. 1 (HC); **Anhinunga?** - a bird acting snake like in the water and sporting a white tail band and white on the wings was reported at West Keppock on Aug. 11 (Phillipa Hunter via FRC); **Canada Geese** - 5 at Dalvay on Jul. 15 & 9 adults and immatures at Stanhope Marsh (DC&ES), at Westmoreland River on Aug. 10 (DC&ES), the first skein of 30 geese was seen flying was in Donagh on Aug. 21 (JDM) and LY reported 8 at a Sherbrooke wheat field on Aug. 26, 100 plus at Sherbrooke and Donagh on Sept. 8 (JDM); **Wood Ducks** - 1 at Hyde Pond on Jun. 7 (EBM), 5 at Borden Lagoon on Jul. 29 (DC&ES), 1 male in non-breeding plumage except for cheek patch at New Glasgow on Jul. 3 (BeHo), at Mt. Stewart on Aug. 1 (DC&ES); **Gadwell** - 3 females and 27 immatures at Covehead Pond on Jul. 11 (DC&ES); **American Black Duck** - female with 6 young at Miscouche Lagoon on Jul. 16 (DC&ES); **Green-winged Teal** - 21 at East Lake on Jul. 9 (DC&ES); **Greater Scaup** - female still at Hyde Pond on Jun. 7 (EBM); **Lesser Scaup** - male still at Hyde Pond on Jun. 7 (EBM); **Common Eider** - 5 at West Cape on Jun. 7 (EBM), 64 flying over Borden on Jun 14 (EBM), 16 at East Point on Jul. 4 (DC&ES); **Black Scoter** - 29 at West Cape on Jun. 7 (EBM), at East Point on Aug. 5 (DC&ES); **Common Merganser** - 1 at North Enmore on Jul. 20 (DS, SM, JDM); **Red-breasted Merganser** - 2 at West Cape on Jun. 7 (EBM), at East Point on Aug. 5 (DC&ES); **Osprey** - young osprey in a nest and 2 parents flying around in Argyle Shore on Jun. 21 (FdB, EBM, RS), osprey nests in the DeSable/Victoria/Tryon area in 3<sup>rd</sup> week Jun but I have not checked lately for young (One on Argyle Shore Rd close to the Free Church of Scotland, another on a platform at the old Little Christo's plant in DeSable and four are between Victoria and Tryon on the back road that starts at the Victoria Kindergarten - the first on a platform by the "fish plant" the next two north of the road in hedge rows and the last to the south on the shore just before the road curves north to Tryon & 7th is back on the clay road that runs off the Appin Rd back of Emyvale (RA, JBI, BCM, SGC), newly fledged Osprey flying in South Melville on Jun. 28 (RA), 1 at Rusticoville, Tracadie Harbour, and Brackley in Jul. (DC&ES), 2 young fledged at Wright's Creek nest (WFB, EM), at Cymbria, Oyster Bed Bridge, Tryon River, Tracadie Harbour, North Rustico, Johnston's River, Mt. Stewart, Donagh, Fullerton's Marsh, St. Peter's Harbour (DC&ES, JDM) in August, 2 in nest at Grand Pere Point on Aug. 13 (DC&ES), in tree with flatfish at Hampton on Aug. 25 (JDM); **Bald Eagle** - 21, mostly mature, reported this spring at Head of Hillsborough (WFB, EM), 1 at Covehead Bay, Robinson's Island, Rusticoville, and Kildare Capes in Jul. & Aug. (DC&ES); **Northern Harrier** - 1 male at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 11 (DC&ES), 3 males & 1 female in North Enmore to O'Leary area on Jul. 20 (DS, SM, JDM), 2 at West Cape on Aug. 17 (EBM), 2 hunting fields at Hampton

on Aug. 25 (JDM), female at DeSable, immature at Covehead, at Donagh in August (DC&ES, JDM) ; **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - family group at North Enmore on Jul. 20 (DS, SM, JDM), at Big Pond on Aug. 1 (DC&ES); **Northern Goshawk** - 2 over Tea Hill on Jun. 23 (FdB), 1 at West Cape on Jul. 11 (EBM); **Broad-winged Hawk** - 1 at Inverness on Jul. 8 (EBM), 2 at East Point on Aug. 14 (DO, LH), 1 immature at West Cape on Aug. 14 (EBM); **Red-tailed Hawk** - sub-adult at Kensington on Jul. 20 (SM, DS, JDM), 1 between New London and Hunter River on Jul. 25 (SM, DS), 1 at New Albany on Jul. 29 (D&MS), 1 at West Cape on Aug. 22 (EBM); **Rough-legged Hawk** - at West Cape on Jun. 7 (EBM); **American Kestrel** - 2 at West Cape on Jun. 14 (EBM), 1 at Ebenezer on Jun. 29 (JDM), at East Point on Jul. 4 (DC&ES), 1 at Robinson's Island on Jul. 1 (DC&ES), 1 regularly at Johnston's River in Jul. (JDM), male at North Enmore on Jul. 20 (DS, SM, JDM), 1 at West Cape on Aug. 17 (EBM); **Merlin** - 2 at East Point & 1 at Charlottetown Airport on Jul. 9 (DC&ES), 1 at North Enmore on Jul. 20 (JDM, DS, SM), 1 at Brackley Beach on Jul. 25 (DC&ES), at Covehead Pond, East Point, Summerside airport, Brackley West Marsh, Covehead Bay, in Aug. (DC&ES); **Gray Partridge** - 2 at Victoria/Tryon BBA survey area on Jul. 2 (RA), at Harrington on Jul.1 (DC&ES), at West Royalty on Jul. 12 (DC&ES), adult & 16 young at Locke Shore Rd. on Jul. 29 (DC&ES); **Ring-necked Pheasant** - female at West Cape on Jun. 7 (EBM); **Ruffed Grouse** - hen with chicks at Victoria/Tryon BBA survey area on Jul. 2 (RA), 6 at Brookvale Ski Park on Aug. 13 (EC); **Virginia Rail** - 1 at West Cape on Jun. 30 (EBM); **Sora** - 1 heard at West Cape on Jul. 11 (EBM); **Common Moorhen** - at least 2 at Allisary Creek on Jun. 25 (EB&JM), 1 at Allisary Creek on Jun. 22 & on Aug. 1 (DCS); **Shorebirds** - it appears that shorebird migration has begun with 100 at Allisary Creek on Jun. 25 (EB&JM); **Black-bellied Plover** - 4 at Covehead Harbour on Jul. 25 (DC&ES), 12 at Tracadie Harbour on Jul. 30 (DC&ES), 30+ at Borden beach on Aug. 6 (DO); **American Golden Plover** - 1 at Covehead on Jul. 25 (DC&ES), 2 at St. Eleanor's (Airport) on Aug. 22 (EBM), at Alexandria firing range on Aug. 27 (DC&ES); **Semipalmated Plover** - 2 at Tracadie Harbour on Jul. 13 & 80+ on Jul. 18 (DC&ES), 34 at Borden Beach on Jul. 29 (DC&ES), 65+ at Borden beach on Aug. 6 (DO); **Piping Plover** - adult with 4 chicks at Little Harbour on Jul. 12 (DO); **Greater Yellowlegs** - 5 at Allisary Creek on Jun. 25 (EB&JM), 1 at Brackley North Marsh & Covehead on Jul. 8 & 7 at Covehead on Jul. 11 (DC&ES), ; **Lesser Yellowlegs** - 20 at Cavendish wetlands on Jul. 4 (LH), 1 at Brackley North Marsh & 8 at Covehead Pond on Jul. 8 (DC&ES), 30+ at Rollo Bay on Jul. 12 (DO), 49 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 30 (DC&ES); **Solitary Sandpiper** - 4 at West Cape on Aug. 12 (EBM), 1 at pond at Anne of Green Gables on Sept. 5 (DCS); **Willet** - 10 at Covehead Harbour on Jul. 8 & 19 on Jul. 13 (DC&ES); **Spotted Sandpiper** - 1 acting territorial at Little Harbour on Jul. 12 (DO), 1 at East Point on Jul. 9 (DC&ES), 3 at Tignish Run on Jul. 29 (DC&ES), 5 at Miscouche Lagoon on Aug. 12 (EBM); **Whimbrel** - 4 at Summerside Harbour on Jul. 4 (LH), 7 at Covehead on Jul. 11 (DC&ES), 1 at Diligent Pond on Jul. 13 (EM), 8 in pasture field on Rte 123 on Jul.29 (DC&ES), 9 at St. Eleanor's (Airport) on Aug. 12 & 36 on Aug. 22 (EBM), at Covehead, & Hermanville in Aug. (DC&ES), 8 in blueberry fields at MacEwen Road on Sept. 10 (MacN); **Hudsonian Godwit** - 1 at Tracadie Harbour on Jul. 13, 4 on Jul. 30 & 1 on Aug. 26 (DC&ES), 2 at Covehead on Jul. 22 & at Covehead Bay Aug. 1-13 (DC&ES), at Brackley North Marsh On Aug. 21 & 31 (DC&ES), 1 at Dunk River in Summerside on Sept. 6 (EBM); **Marbled Godwit** - 1 at Red Head mud flats on Sept. 9 (DCS, DO, CW); **Ruddy Turnstone** - 1 at Tracadie Harbour on Jul. 18 (DC&ES), 4 at Stanhope Cape Beach on Jul. 22 (DC&ES), 20 at Borden Beach on Jul. 29 (DC&ES) & 88+ on Aug. 6 (DO), 8 at Stanhope on Aug. 12 (F&JC); **Red Knot** - 1 at PEINP on Jul. 22 (DC&ES), at Covehead Bay, Tracadie, and Brackley North Marsh in Aug. (DC&ES); **Sanderling** - at Souris Beach on Aug. 5 & Tracadie Harbour on Aug. 9 (DC&ES), 1 at Borden beach on Aug. 6 (DO); **Semipalmated Sandpiper** - 7 at Covehead Harbour on Jul. 11 (DC&ES), 6 at Little Harbour on Jul. 12 (DO), 6 at Tracadie Harbour on Jul. 15 & 100+ on Jul. 20 (DC&ES); **Least Sandpiper** - 11 at Covehead Bay on Jul. 8 (DC&ES), 16 at East Point on Jul. 9 (DC&ES), 10 at Borden beach on Aug. 6 (DO), 3 at Miscouche Lagoon on Aug. 12 (EBM), at Victoria on Aug. 22 (EBM); **White-rumped Sandpiper** - 1 at PEINP on Jul. 22 & 1 at Borden Beach on Jul. 29 (DC&ES), at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 3, Tracadie Harbour on Aug. 26 (DC&ES); **Baird's Sandpiper** - 1 at Borden Beach on Jul. 29 (DCS, DO); **Pectoral Sandpiper** - 1 at Belmont Park Marsh on Jul. 29 (DC&ES), at Tryon River Marsh on Aug. 13, immature at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 26, and immature at Rollo Bay on Aug. 27 (DC&ES), 1 at West Cape on Aug. 25 (EBM), 3 at Dunk River in Summerside on Sept. 6 (EBM); **Dunlin** - at Tracadie Harbour on Aug. 26 (DC&ES); **Stilt Sandpiper** - 1 at Brackley Beach PEINP entrance on Aug. 31 (DC&ES); **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** - 1 at West Cape on Aug. 22 & 23 (EBM), 1 at Dalvay wrack line on Sept. 3 (DC&ES); **Short-billed Dowitcher** - 10 at Covehead on Jul. 8 & 64 on Jul. 11 (DC&ES), 14 at Rollo Bay on Jul. 12 (DO), common in August at various central locations (DC&ES) 3 at Dunk River in Summerside on Sept. 6 (EBM); **Wilson's Snipe** - 4 at Dunk River in Summerside on Sept. 6 (EBM); **Laughing Gull** - 1 at East Point on Jun. 28 (DO); **Little Gull** - 1 at Miscouche lagoon on Jul. 15 (EBM); **Black-headed Gull** - 1 at Covehead Bay on Jul. 8 (DC&ES), 3 at Rollo Bay and 1 at Little Harbour on Jul. 12 (DO), adult & immature at Tracadie Harbour on Aug. 26 (DC&ES), 1 at Tracadie Harbour on Sept 14 to 16 (DCS), 1 at Covehead Harbour on Sept. 14 to 17 (DCS); **Bonaparte's Gull** - 15 at Miscouche lagoon on Jul. 15 & 18 on Jul. 16 (EBM, DC&ES), ~210 at Charlottetown Race Track oval on Aug. 17 (EC); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** - 2 at East Point on Jun. 28 (DO), 2 in field at Campbell's Cove on Sept. 9 (DO, DCS, CW); **Black-legged Kittiwake** - 2 immatures at East Point Aug. 5 (DC&ES); **Caspian Tern** - 2 fishing off Savage Harbour on Jul. 1 (JDM), 5 at Covehead Bay on Jul. 8 (DC&ES), 2 at Tracadie Harbour on Jul. 18 (DC&ES), 2 at West Cape on Sept. 6 (EBM); **Common Tern** - ~40 at Covehead Harbour with ~20 nests (DC&ES), dozens fishing around the Hillsborough Piers in the choppy waters on Jul. 1 (JDM), 4 at West Cape on Jul. 4 (EBM); **Arctic Tern** - returned to Covehead on Jun. 9 (DCS); **Forster's Tern** - 1 at East Point on Aug. 27 (DCS) (see description in this issue); **Black Guillemot** - While out at the mouth of Charlottetown Harbour on Jun. 21, a pair crossed my bow and then turned and headed south. First time in 30 years of boating that I have seen any in the Hillsborough Bay area (DGS), 7 at West Cape on Jul. 4 (EBM), at East Point on Aug. 5 & 17 (DC&ES); **Mourning Dove** - common this summer in Central & Eastern PEI (JDM); **Black-**

**billed Cuckoo** - 1 calling at West Cape on Jun. 23, 2 on Jul. 4, 1 on Jul. 8 (FdB, EBM), 1 flying at Inverness on Jun. 23 (FdB, EBM), several calling at North Enmore on Jul. 20 (DS, SM, JDM), 1 on Aug. 17 at West Cape (EBM); **Great Horned Owl** - 1 at Naufrage Harbour on telephone pole on Aug. 11 & 12 (CG); **Snowy Owl** - 1 at North Rustico breakwater in early Jun. (TG); **Barred Owl** - 1 at Howard's Cove on Jul. 29 (DC&ES); **Great Gray Owl** - 1 at Howard's Cove on Jul. 17 (EBM); **Common Nighthawk** - 1 at Lorne Valley on Jun. 25 (EB&JM); **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** - 1 at Howard's Cove on Jul. 29 (DC&ES), at East Point on Aug. 5 & 14 (DC&ES), 8 at West Cape on Aug. 25 (EBM), possible end of season concentration at Tryon Point feeders on Aug. 28 but few after that (B&EH), female, probable immature, came to red sticker in window at Beach Grove on Sept. 7 (JDM); **Belted Kingfisher** - quite common this summer around streams in Queens County (JDM, DCS); **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - adult feeding young at a sap lick in Donagh on Jul. 2 (JDM), immature at South Melville sunflower and niger feeders on Aug. 15 (RA); **Hairy Woodpecker** - 1 feeding young at Moore's Pond WMA on Jun. 9 (FRC), 2 feeding young in hole 15' up in poplar tree on Jul. 14 at Toronto Road (EC), at Howard's Cove on Jul. 29 (DC&ES); **Black-backed Woodpecker** - at Tryon Point feeders in August (B&EH); **Northern Flicker** - 6 on Jul. 14 at Toronto Road (EC), 15 roadside at Kelly's Cross on Aug. 6 (EC), 8 at Emyvale on Aug. 13 (EC), 1 found in wood stove on Aug. 15 (SCa), good numbers feeding on ants and berries in Aug. between O'Leary and St. Peter's (JDM); **Olive-sided Flycatcher** - 1 at West Cape on Aug. 18 (EBM); **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** - 1 at West Cape on Jun. 7 (EBM); **Alder Flycatcher** - common this summer (JDM, DC&ES, DO); **Great Crested Flycatcher** - 1 at Maple Plains on Jul. 24 (DS, SM); **Eastern Kingbird** - 1 at Donagh on Aug. 24 & 1 at Tarantum (Glenfinnan River) on Sept. 1 (JDM); **Yellow-throated Vireo** - 1 seen at close range in mixed forest at North Enmore on Jul. 20 (DS); **Red-eyed Vireo** - 7 at West Cape on Aug. 30 & 15 to 20 on Sept. 2 (EBM); **Blue-headed Vireo** - 1 at Robinson's Island on Jul. 1 & 1 at New Harmony (Rte 303/304) on Jul. 4 (DC&ES), 1 at Brookvale Demo Woodlot on Jul. 20 (EC); **Philadelphia Vireo** - 1 in fall plumage at New Dominion on Sept. 1 (EBM); **Blue Jay** - on nest on Jun. 11 at Riverside Estates in Charlottetown (WFB, EM); **Horned Lark** - 1 singing in Charlottetown on Jul. 3 (DC&ES), 1 at West Cape on Jul. 10 (EBM); **Bank Swallow** - 30+ at Covehead Harbour on Jul. 2 (DC&ES), 30+ at East Point on Jul. 4 (DC&ES), occupied nests with young at Grande Digue Shore on Jul. 20 (SM, DS, JDM), ~80 along with Tree Swallows and a few Barn Swallows in feeding flights, on vegetation tops along drainage channel, and wires at Alaska on Jul. 20 (SM, DS, JDM), 80+ at Cape Wolfe (Rtes 144/147) on Jul. 29 (DC&ES); **Cliff Swallow** - 1 at West Cape on Aug. 18 (EBM), 3 overhead at East Point on Sept. 9 (DO, DCS, CW); **Black-capped Chickadee** - 20 at West Cape on Jun. 7 (EBM); **Boreal Chickadee** - at North Enmore on Jul. 20 (DS, SM, JDM); **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** - 1 at Robinson's Island on Jul. 1 (DC&ES); **Winter Wren** - 2 at Howard's Cove on Jul. 29 (DC&ES); **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** - 1 at East Point on Sept. 9 (DO, DCS, CW); **Veery** - 1 at Afton Road on Jun. 25 (EB&JM), 3 at North Enmore on Jul. 20 (DS, JDM, SM); **American Robin** - very common in Jul. & Aug across Island (JDM); **Gray Catbird** - 1 at West Cape on Jun. 14 (EBM); **Northern Mockingbird** - 1 at East Point on Jul. 4 (DCS), 1 at Elmira on Jul. 11 (KMy via FRC); **Cedar Waxwing** - feeding on serviceberry/shadbush in South Melville on Jun. 25 (RA), 2 feeding 1 young at Toronto Road on Jul. 14 (EC), at North Enmore and Alaska on Jul. 20 (DS, SM, JDM) hawking insects off white spruce & at Mt. Ash in Fort Augustus & Donagh in late Aug. (JDM), at East Point on Aug. 26 (DC&ES); **American Pipit** - 1 at West Cape on Aug. 30 (EBM); **Northern Parula** - 5 at West Cape on Aug. 30 (EBM); **Chestnut-sided Warbler** - 2 at West Cape on Aug. 30 (EBM); **Magnolia Warbler** - 4 at West Cape on Aug. 30 (EBM); **Cape May Warbler** - 1 at Robinson's Island on Jul. 1 (DC&ES); **Black-throated Blue Warbler** - female at West Cape on Aug. 14 (EBM); **Black-throated Green Warbler** - 2 with 3 young at Brookvale Demo Woodlot on Jul. 20 (EC); **Blackburnian Warbler** - 1 at West Cape on Aug. 30 (EBM); **Mourning Warbler** - 1 at Robinson's Island on Jul. 3 & 1 at Bubbling Springs on Jul. 30 (DC&ES); **Wilson's Warbler** - 2 at West Cape on Aug. 22, 1 on Aug. 30 & Sept. 2 (EBM), 4 at East Point on Sept. 9 (DO, DCS, CW); **Canada Warbler** - 2 at West Cape on Aug. 30 & 1 at Dunk River in Summerside on Sept. 6 (EBM); **Scarlet Tanager** - 1 near New Harmony (303/304 junction) on Jun. 28 (DO), and Glencorradale on Jul. 4 (DCS, DO) & Jul. 15 (SSi), 1 at West Cape on Jul. 8 (EBM); **Savannah Sparrow** - scarce in North Enmore but found at Alaska on Jul. 20 (DS, SM, JDM); **Song Sparrow** - very common this summer (DC&ES, JDM); **Northern Cardinal** - 1 at Marshfield on Jul. 13 (GK via FRC), 1 at Bubbling Springs Trail on Jul. 27 (DFG); **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** - 1 feeding young on Jul. 20 at Appin Road (EC); **Eastern Meadowlark** - 1 at West Point on June. 23 (EBM, FdB); **Rusty Blackbird** - carrying food at North Enmore on Jul. 20 (SM, JDM); **Common Grackle** - flocks moving through spruce and larch stands on early Sept. (JDM); **Brown-headed Cowbird** - at West Royalty feeders on Aug. 3 (DC&ES); **Purple Finch** - 1 at Robinson's Island & male at West Royalty feeder on Jul. 1 and periodically Aug. 11 to 26 (DC&ES); **White-winged Crossbill** - 11 at West Cape on Jul. 8 (EBM); **Red Crossbill** - 5 at West Cape on Jun. 30 & 4 in early Jul. (EBM); **House Sparrow** - on Aug. 13 & 26 at West Royalty feeders (DC&ES).

Thanks to the following contributors who provided records for this listing, namely: RA - Ron Arvidson; JB - Jac Badcock; JBl - Jean Blanchard; WFB - Bill Bowerbank; EC - Elwood Coakes; F&JC - Fred & Janet Connolly; FRC - Rosemary Curley; SCa - Sharon Campbell; GC - Gabrielle Cheverie; HC - Holden Curran; RC - Ray Cooke; SGC - Sharon Clark; FdB - Fiep de Bie; CG - Carolyn Gallant; CGa - Cathleen Gallant; DFG - Diane Griffin; SG - Sarah Glinz; TG - Terry Gauthier; BHa - Brett Hardy; B&EH - Betty & Everett Howatt; B&RH - Ben & Rosalie Hoteling; BeHo - Beth Hoar; L&JH - Les & Joan Homans; GK - Glen Kelly; DK - Dan Kennedy; BL - Blair LeClair; EM - Evelyn Martin; EB&JM - Eric & Jim Marcum; EMu - Elaine Murley; EuM - Eugene MacAuley; IAM - Ian McLaren; JDM - Dan McAskill; BCM (formerly listed as BMcO) - Bonnie McOrmond; IGM - Ian MacQuarrie; KEM - Kate MacQuarrie; KMy - Kenneth Myers; MacN - MacNeareys; SM - Scott Makepeace; DO - Dwayne Oakley; DC&ES - David & Elaine Seeler; DGS - Dave Stewart; DS - Dwayne Sabine; MS - Mary Sabine; SSi - Scott Sinclair; RS - Rob

## 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**

- Oct. 3 - 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 meeting starts at 7:30 PM at the Farm Centre, University Ave., Charlottetown. **YN**
- Oct. 7 - 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Provincial Forest Fall Frolic.** Provincial Forests and the PEI Roadrunners Association co-sponsor this 4.6 or 12.3 km run which starts at the New Harmony Demonstration Woodlot. The \$10 registration fee is donated to MacIntyre House.
- Oct. 18 - Fall Colours.** Jackie Waddell will make a presentation on fall colours and viewsapes. Discussion includes protected forests and the status of landscape protection on PEI. This is part of the Confederation Centre Library Nature Series of lectures by the Island Nature Trust. Presentation starts at 7:00 PM at Confederation Centre Public Library.
- Oct. 21 - New Possibilities for Business and Pleasure”: A Forum on Non-Timber Forest Products.** This forum cohosted by the Public Forest Council and the PEI Model Forest Partnership will be held at the Kaylee Hall at Poole’s Corner. The topics range from harvesting, processing and marketing wild mushrooms to Forest Art. The cost is \$15 which includes a lunch of edible non-timber forest products. Pre-registration is required (telephone 902-368-4700).
- Nov. 7 - Global Warming - Is It Reality?** Bill Glen will provide an illustrated presentation on the potential impacts global warming could have on the tree species of Prince Edward Island. This Natural History Society meeting starts at 7:30 PM at the Farm Centre, University Ave., Charlottetown. **YN**
- Nov. 12 - A Winter(ish) Tree and Shrub Identification Walk** Ruth Richman will help you learn how to identify native species using twigs, fruit, seeds and buds. Begins at the Macphail Woods nursery at 2pm. This is a Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project event.
- Nov. 15 - Feeding Wild Birds in Winter.** Jackie Waddell will narrate a slide show and have examples of seeds and feeders on display. Door prize of a 5 lb bag of nyjer seed. This is part of the Confederation Centre Library Nature Series of lectures by the Island Nature Trust. Presentation starts at 7:00 PM at Confederation Centre Public Library.
- Nov. 16 - Feeding Wild Birds in Winter** - An Island Nature Trust lecture at the Montague Public Library. Jackie Waddell will narrate a slide show and have examples of seeds and feeders on display. Door prize of a 5 lb bag of nyjer seed. Presentation starts at 7:00 PM
- Dec. 5 - Improving Public Forests.** Earlier this year, the Province of Prince Edward Island reached a renewable, 10 year lease agreement with the ECOPEI to manage 800 hectares (2,000 acres) of public land in southeastern PEI. Gary Schneider of the Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project will review his plans to demonstrate sustainable management and Acadian forest restoration techniques on these public forests. Gary will use his photographs to show the good, the bad and the ugly of this piece of land. In addition, he will reveal how Society members and friends can help. This Natural History Society meeting starts at 7:30 PM at the Farm Centre, University Ave., Charlottetown. **YN**
- 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 and Bird Studies Canada (BSC) or unregistered counts. For registered counts, adults who are not-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 are four Christmas counts on Prince Edward Island, namely, the Prince Edward Island National Park CBC (registered), the Hillsborough CBC (registered), the Montague CBC (unregistered), and the East Point CBC (registered). The Natural History Society of Prince Edward

Island coordinates the first three counts while Vern Laux coordinates the East Point count. To participate or obtain more information, contact the Society at [nhspei@isn.net](mailto:nhspei@isn.net)

*For more information, comments and suggestions for future programs or field trips, please contact Program Coordinator, Bonnie McOrmond at [bmcormond@eastlink.ca](mailto:bmcormond@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.