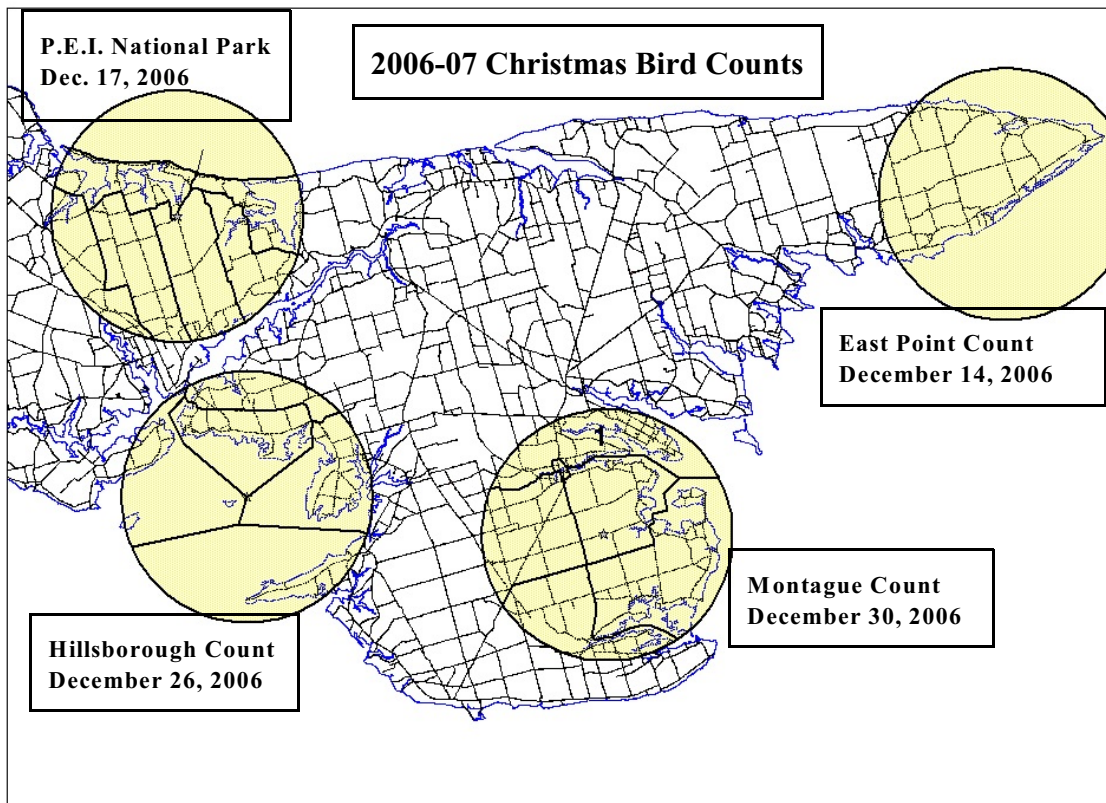




# ISLAND NATURALIST

ISSUE # 182

JAN. - MAR. 2007



**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 (please note the notice of motion to increase dues to \$20 on page 3). 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 dwaine.oakleym@pei.sympatico.ca  
Vice-President.....Dan Kennedy, Vernon River 651-2926 dankennedy@islandtelecom.com  
Past President.....David Seeler, West Royalty 566-4505 seeler@upei.ca  
Secretary.....Beth Hoar, New Glasgow 621-0544 beth@greenthumbphoto.com  
Treasurer .....Rosemary Curley, Stratford 569-1209 rcurley@isn.net  
Director - Program..... Bonnie McOrmond, Charlottetown 628-6994 bcmcormond@eastlink.ca  
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 February *15<sup>th</sup>, 2007*.

**Illustrations/Pictures:** The Society extends a special thanks to Dwaine Oakley and Bill Glen 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:**

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, contact the Society at [nhspei@isn.net](mailto:nhspei@isn.net) See Environmental Calendar for contact instructions. If your feeder is in one of the count circles, please call in your results.

## SOCIETY'S NOTICE OF MOTION:

The General Council (Executive) of the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island has reviewed the annual operating budget of the Society. In the past few years, the Society's cash flow has been supplemented by the interest from its publishing fund, raffles, and sales of tickets at its meeting. The General Council has passed a recommendation that a motion be introduced to move that the membership dues be increased to \$20 at the Society's annual general meeting on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007.

## ANNUAL MEETING - NOMINATIONS CALL!

The terms of the current Executive Committee expire at the January meeting in 2007. If you would be interested in serving on the Executive or any Society Committees, please contact the Nominating Committee Chairperson, David Seeler at 566-4505 or Dan Kennedy at 651-2926. Thanks.

## THE 7<sup>th</sup> NEIL BENNETT AUTUMN BIRDING CLASSIC: by Dan McAskill, Ray Cooke, David Seeler, Eric Marcum, & Dwaine Oakley

The Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic represents a long-term partnership between the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island and the Island Nature Trust designed as a fund raiser for the Trust's land conservation program. Overall contributions since the programs inception to more than \$11,000.

On Sunday, September 24th, David, Eric, Ray, Dwaine, and Dan met to commence the 2006 Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic. We started out day at 0300 hrs at a balmy 15 degrees Celsius with a light misty rain. The winds which started light at 0430 increased to 40 to 60 km/hr by 0630. The temperature decreased and, after having no wind for much of the day, by 1730 we were experienced side-ways rain in the 60+ km/hr winds.

We commenced birding at 03:15 hours using CD-ROM owl and marsh bird call play-backs to elicit responses. The response to our owl play-backs was productive as we tried stops at Mt. Albion/Lake Verde, Avondale, Elliotvale, Mooney's Pond, Riverton, and St. Charles. During this time, we picked up Northern Saw-whet Owls, Barred Owls, and Great-horned Owls but the elusive Long-eared Owl was not heard.

By dawn, we were travelling along route 16 at Rock Barra and picking up birds en route. Almost as soon as we stopped at East Point, we seen a Whimbrel on the lawn with an injured leg but strong flight skills. Dwaine was able to capture images by digi-scoping.

The highlights of the days outing that were seen by all the participants were Parasitic Jaegers and a Chimney Swift at East Point, a Peregrine Falcon at Hermanville, a Dickcissel at North Lake, and four Thick-billed Murre at Little Harbour. A Forster's Tern and a Long-tailed Jaeger were seen by one and two members of the team at East Point.

The group travelled 359 km by vehicle and about 1 km by foot. In total, we observed 99 species by one or more team member. In addition to the birds seen below, we also observed a muskrat, skunk, two small raccoons, a fox, eight red squirrels, and one gray seal and heard a group of coyotes calling.

Thanks to the various donors, Trust's pledge collectors, and team members over \$1,600 was raised in this year's Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic.

Red-throated Loon	Gadwall	Black Scoter
Common Loon	American Wigeon	Hooded Merganser
Pied-billed Grebe	American Black Duck	Red-breasted Merganser
Northern Gannet	Mallard	Bald Eagle
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue-winged Teal	Northern Harrier
Great Cormorant	Green-winged Teal	Sharp-shinned Hawk
American Bittern	Ring-necked Duck	American Kestrel
Great Blue Heron	Common Eider	Merlin
Canada Geese	Surf Scoter	<i>Peregrine Falcon</i>
Wood Duck	White-winged Scoter	Ruffed Grouse

Black-bellied Plover	Common Tern	Hermit Thrush
American Golden Plover	<i>Forster's Tern (1)</i>	American Robin
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Thick-billed Murre</i>	European Starling
Killdeer	Razorbill	Cedar Waxwing
Greater Yellowlegs	Black Guillemot	Magnolia Warbler
Lesser Yellowlegs	Rock Pigeon (Dove)	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Whimbrel	Great Horned Owl	American Redstart
Red Knot	Barred Owl	Common Yellowthroat
Sanderling	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Wilson's Warbler
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Chimney Swift</i>	Savannah Sparrow
Least Sandpiper	Belted Kingfisher	Song Sparrow
White-rumped Sandpiper	Downy Woodpecker	Lincoln's Sparrow
Baird's Sandpiper	Northern Flicker	Swamp Sparrow
Dunlin	Blue-headed Vireo	White-throated Sparrow
Short-billed Dowitcher	Red-eyed Vireo	White-crowned Sparrow
Wilson's Snipe	Blue Jay	Dark-eyed Junco
<i>Parasitic Jaeger</i>	American Crow	<i>Dickcissel</i>
<i>Long-tailed Jaeger (1)</i>	Common Raven	Bobolink
Bonaparte's Gull	Swallow UID	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull	Black-capped Chickadee	Pine Siskin
Herring Gull	Boreal Chickadee	American Goldfinch
Iceland Gull	Red-breasted Nuthatch	
Great Black-backed Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	
Caspian Tern	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	

**Note:** Species in italics are rarely seen here.

#### WINTER BIRD LIST CALL:

David Seeler

For the past several years, the Island has participated in the winter bird list competition compiled by Blake Maybank for 7 provinces and Iceland. Contributions towards this year's winter bird list will commence on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 and end on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at midnight. The process is simple, identify the species you see on the Island and forward your new sightings to David Seeler at [seeler@upe.ca](mailto:seeler@upe.ca). Last year we recorded 117 species while the previous year we hit 123 species. The list can be viewed at <http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/maybank/other/peiwinter.htm>

#### NEWS FROM ABOUT:

After many years of effort by the Tracadie Residents for Resource Protection, the Eagles Landing Tracadie Cross Bog was designated as a Natural Area on Nov. 8. This designation is the first new government land designation in some time. Unfortunately, it occurs shortly after a public meeting on the Island's first proposed de-designation of a designated Natural Area. This proposal would de-designate 0.3 ha of the St. Chrysostome Cedars natural area.

Public acceptance on the need for those living in the developed world to address the causes of climate change is limited. Many officials have been questioning the need despite overwhelming scientific evidence on primary causes and the need to act now. The Al Gore documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" is a though-provoking blend of scientific data, stunning photographic comparisons, cartoons and humour. Members are encouraged to see the documentary and, if you support the need to take action, take actions that will help reduce global warming (e.g. talk to others, encourage community plantings, reduce energy consumption, etc.)

The newest edition (5<sup>th</sup>) of the National Geographic's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* is now available in book stores. There have been numerous improvements from the 4<sup>th</sup> edition which makes it worth while to look at. The species sequence in the text closely (but not exactly) follows the new American Birding Association and American Ornithological Union's species information (Adapted from David Seeler E-mail dated Nov. 9/06)

On Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, the Prince Edward Island Forest Policy "Moving to Restore a Balance in Island Forests" was

released by Premier Pat Binns and Minister Jamie Ballem. The strategies identified in the policy include public forest identification and promotion, acquisition and retention, and management and conservation; combination of the private forest management programs, increased private-sector contributions and involvement in private land management programs, adding value to forest products; researching climate change on Acadian forest and associated wildlife, increasing hardwood production, providing education and training and much more. The policy is available on line at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/go/forestpolicy> or by calling 902-368-4700.

#### **WEATHER EVENTS:**

The autumn weather was dominated by warm weather and, at time, lots of rain. There were only a few days of light surficial frost on the ground. Tremendous overnight wind storm on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> cleared most hardwoods of leaves. The first ice was observed on Belvedere Pond was on November on 23<sup>rd</sup>. The first real snow of the season occurred on December 5th.

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

Compiled by J. Dan McAskill

#### **PLANTS:**

2 White-fringed Orchids (*Platanthera blephariglottis*), several tuberous grass-pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*), and many rose pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*) seen at Dromore on Jul. 12 (RWH). A great crop of apples & mountain ash occurred this year (BH, DO, LY, JDM). Red oak leaves starting to change colour on one tree and the leaves on that tree dropped on Nov. 4 with a second tree dropping most of its leaves on Nov. 9 (JDM). Inky cap mushrooms at Sherbrooke on Oct. 11 and a small flush of meadow mushrooms were seen at Margate. In general, there were few inky caps or meadow mushrooms seen this autumn despite good moisture levels (JDM). The warm conditions caused late flowering of red clover and peas (into late November).

#### **INVERTEBRATES:**

Heavy foraging flight of wild honey bees in Donagh on Oct. 8 (JDM). Bees buzzing by in Watervale on Nov. 16 (AC).

#### **FISH:**

Basking shark reported at the mouth of Enmore River in late Oct. (DO).

#### **MAMMALS:**

Eastern chipmunks still hoarding sunflower seeds at Donagh feeders on Dec. 2 (JDM).

**BIRDS:** **Red-throated Loon** - 16 off Cavendish on Nov. 19 (RA, JBI, BCM, SGC); **Common Loon** - 1 at West Cape on Oct. 11 (EBM), 1 at Long Pond on Oct. 21 (AG), on Nov. 12 (EBM, DO, JDM); **Pied-billed Grebe** - 1 at Black Pond on Oct. 21 (AG), 3 at Long Pond on Oct. 21 (AG); **Horned Grebe** - at Pownal Bay on Oct. 8 (DCS), 6 at Malpeque Bay on Nov. 1 (EBM); **Red-necked Grebe** - 12 at Pownal Bay on Oct. 8 (DCS), at West Point on Oct. 17 (EBM), 1 at East Point on Oct. 28 (DCS) & 1 on Nov. 16 (DK); **Northern Gannet** - thousands at East Point on Oct. 21 (AG); **Double-crested Cormorant** - ~15 on Nov. 12 (EBM, DO, JDM); **Great Cormorant** - several on Nov. 12 (EBM, DO, JDM); **Great Blue Heron** - 1 in early Nov. at Tignish (Judes Pt) (JBI), 1 at Victoria on Nov. 14-5 (JDM, LY); **Great Egret** - 1 reported at Cymbria loop on Nov. 1 (ASt via FRC); **Black Vulture** - seen and photographed at Stratford in late Nov. (EC via DCS); **Snow Geese** - 1 at Earnscliffe on Nov. 6 (DK), 1 adult & 1 juvenile at Lakeville on Nov. 21 (DO), at North Lake on Nov. 21 (JHS), at O'Leary in Autumn (NH); **Canada Geese** - much lower than normal numbers this autumn at many staging areas (JDM, DO, WFB, LY), none at Rollo Bay WMA on Oct. 4 (JDM), 10 at Lake Verde on Oct. 10 near dusk (JDM), 400 at Beach Grove on Nov. 8 (JDM), 1,000 at Souris Causeway and Souris Line Road on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM), ~1,000 in potatoes and grain at Summerside on Nov. 14 (JDM), ~500 in potato field at Black Horse Corner on Nov. 16 (JDM); **Swan** (probable Tundra)- 1 flying at East Point on Nov. 6 (DO, CGa, CW, AMH); **Gadwall** - 2 at East Lake on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM); **American Wigeon** - 25 in flooded potato furrows at Lower Freetown on Nov. 18 (JDM); **American Black Duck** - 20 at St. Peters on Oct. 4 (JDM), some

days up to 500 to 700 with small numbers of mallards off Riverside Drive in Charlottetown in Nov. & Early Dec. (JDM), up to 300 at Ellen's Creek in Nov. (JDM), up to 200 at Victoria marsh in Nov. (JDM, LY); **Mallard** - 20 at Ellen's Creek on Dec. 1 (JDM); **Northern Pintail** - ~150 at St. Eleanors on Nov. 14 (JDM), 25 in flooded potato furrows at Lower Freetown on Nov. 18 (JDM); **Green-winged Teal** - lots at Vernon River on Nov. 5 (DK); **Redhead** - 4 at Leslie's Pond at Souris on Oct. 21 (AG, DCS) East Lake on Oct. 27 (Cga); **Ring-necked Duck** - 6 at Leslie's Pond at Souris on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM); **Common Eider** - ~200 on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM); **Harlequin** - 2 at East Point on Oct. 21 (AG), on Oct. 27 (CGa), 1 on Oct. 28 (DCS), 7 on Nov. 6 (DO, CGa, CW, AMH), 6 on Nov. 12 (EBM, DO, JDM), 2 at East Point on Nov. 17 (SSi); **Surf Scoter** - 10 at West Point on Oct. 17 (EBM); **White-winged Scoter** - 20 on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM); **Black Scoter** - ~100 on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM) **Long-tailed Duck** - 20+ at East Point on Nov. 6 (DO, CGa, CW, AMH); **Bufflehead** - female at Clark's Pond in Cavendish on Oct. 21 (DCS), at Black Pond on Oct. 21 (AG), 3 at Dalvay Lake on Oct. 23 (DCS); **Common Goldeneye** - at Black Pond on Oct. 21 (AG), small flock on Vernon River on Nov. 23 (DK); **Barrow's Goldeneye** - 1 on Vernon River on Nov. 23 (DK); **Hooded Merganser** - 19 at Clark's Pond in Cavendish on Nov. 19 (RA, JBI, BCM, SGC); **Common Merganser** - 4 at Vernon River on Nov. 4 & 16 on Nov. 5 (DK), ~200 probably feeding on silversides at East Point in early Nov. (Nov. 7 meeting report), ~100 at Diligent Pond on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM), large numbers at East Lake on Nov. 16 (DK); **Red-breasted Merganser** - 40 at East Point on Oct. 21 (AG); **Ruddy Duck** -20 at Black Pond on Nov. 6 (DO, CGa, CW, AMH), 3 at East Lake on Nov. 12 (EBM, DO, JDM), 2 at East Point pond on Nov. 17 (SSi); **Osprey** - 1 at New Dominion on Oct. 14 (EBM), 1 in early Nov. at Tignish (Judes Pt) (JBI); **Bald Eagle** - adult eagles seen at Hampton, Desable, Charlottetown, Stanhope, Cavendish, South Melville, East Point, St. Eleanors, Savage Harbour in Oct. & Nov. (JDM, DCS, DO, RA), 3 at West Cape on Oct. 4 (EBM), 1 immature at East Point on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM); **Northern Harrier** - 2 immatures at Hampton on Oct. 2 (JDM, LY), male & immature regularly in Oct. to mid-Nov. at Argyle Shore (JDM, LY), immature at Birch Hill on Oct. 11 (JDM, LY, LDa) male at West Point on Nov. 6 (EBM); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 2 at Hampton on Oct. 2 (JDM, LY), 2 at West Cape on Oct. 7 (EBM), 1 at Crossroads feeder on Nov. 1 (DO), 1 at Crossroads on Nov. 26 (JDM); **Northern Goshawk** - 1 at Argyle Shore on Nov. 13 (JDM, LY), 1 at West Point on Nov. 6 (EBM), 1 at Hermanville on Nov. 6 (DO, CG, CW, AMH), 1 at Cherry Hill on Nov. 23 (WFB, JDM), at Point Prim on Nov. 30 (DO); **Red-tailed Hawk** - 1 at Argyle Shore on Nov. 13 (JDM, LY), 1 at Norboro on Nov. 16 & Nov. 29 (JDM, DF), 1 at Vernon River on Nov. 26 (DK), 1 at South Melville on Nov. 27 (RA), 1 at Point Prim on Nov. 30 (DO); **Rough-legged Hawk** -1 light phase at West Point on Nov. 6 (EBM); **Peregrine Falcon** - 1 at East Point with songbird in talons in early Oct. (DO), 1 at East Point on Oct. 21 (AG) **Gray Partridge** - 9 at Harrington on Oct. 1 (DCS), 12 at Brackley Beach on Oct. 28 (DCS), 6 at Kensington potato field on Nov. 1 (MM, JDM), 13 at Stratford (Bunbury) on Nov. 20 (AWo), covey on beach at Hampton on Nov. 27 (RA), covey flushed on Dec. 1 at Desable (JDM, LY); **Ring-necked Pheasant** - 5 at Vernon River in early Oct. (DK); **Ruffed Grouse** - 2 doing displays at Wall's Bridge in Oct. (WFB, EM), 2 at West Point on Nov. 6 (EBM); **Sharp-tailed Grouse** - 1 at Hermanville on Oct. 27 (CGa); **American Coot** - 1 at Clark's Pond in Cavendish on Oct.21 (DCS), 3 at Black Pond on Oct. 21-2 (AG, DCS); **Black-bellied Plover** - at Covehead Harbour on Oct. 21 (AG), 1 at Covehead Harbour Nov. 21 (DCS); **Greater Yellowlegs** - at Covehead Harbour on Oct. 21 (AG); **Sanderling** - 20 at St. Eleanors on Nov. 14 (JDM); **Semipalmated Sandpiper** - at Covehead Harbour on Oct. 21 (AG); **Baird's Sandpiper** - 1 at Brackley North Marsh on Oct. 16 (DCS), 2 at Brackley Marsh North on Nov. 20 (DCS); **Pectoral Sandpiper** - at Brackley North Marsh on Oct. 16 (DCS); **White-rumped Sandpiper** - 5 at East Point on Nov. 17 (SSi), 1 at Brackley Marsh North on Nov. 20 (DCS); **Purple Sandpiper** -2 at East Point on Nov. 12 (EBM, JDM, DO), 1 on Nov. 16 (lifer for DK), 3 on Nov. 6 (DO, CGa, CW, AMH), & 10 on Nov. 17 (SSi), 1 at Point Prim on the exposed rocks below the seawall on Nov. 30 (DO); **Dunlin** - at Covehead Harbour on Oct. 21 (AG), 20 on Nov. 20 & 4 at Covehead Harbour on Nov. 21 (DCS); **Short-billed Dowitcher** - 8 on North Shore on Nov. 19 (RA, JBI, BCM, SGC); **Black-headed Gull** - 1 at East Point on Nov. 12 (JDM) 1 at Souris on Nov. 16 (DK); **Bonaparte's Gull** - ~200 at Belvedere Pond on Nov. 23 (JDM), ~50 at Diligent Pond on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM); **Mew Gull** - 1 at Stratford lagoon on Nov. (DO), 1 at Souris Causeway on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS); **Ring-billed Gull** - ~150 seen in fields between St. Eleanor's and Argyle Shore (JDM), 150 in field being harrowed at St. Eleanors on Nov. 14 (JDM); **Iceland Gull** - 2 juveniles at South Lake on Nov. 6 (DO, CGa, CW, AMH), at North Lake on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM) ; **Lesser Black-backed Gull** - 1 at South Lake & 1 at Lakeville on Nov. 6 (DO, CGa, CW, AMH); **Glaucous Gull** - 1 at North Lake on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM); **Black-legged Kittiwake** - ~70 at East Point in early Oct. (DO), few on Nov. 12 (EBM, DO, JDM); **Caspian Tern** - 1 at Covehead

Harbour on Oct. 21 (DCS); **Common Tern** - 12 at West Cape on Oct. 4 (EBM), 17 at Covehead Harbour on Oct. 21 (AG), on Nov. 19 (RA, JBl, BCM, SGC); **Arctic Tern** -1 at Covehead Harbour on Oct. 19 (DCS); **Razorbill** - 1 on Nov. 12 at East Point (EBM, DO, JDM); **Black Guillemot** - 1 at East Point on Oct. 21 (RG, D&ES, AG), several on Nov. 12 (EBM, DO, JDM), 1 at West Point on Nov. 6 (EBM); **Rock Pigeon** - ~25 at Argyle Shore this autumn (JDM); **Mourning Dove** - 4 at Argyle Shore feeders in Nov. (LY), 3 at Donagh feeder on Nov. 26 (JDM); **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** - 1 at Beach Grove on Oct. 14, 15 & Oct. 22 (AG, DCS); **Great Horned Owl** - 1 at Red Head in Sept. (MK); **Belted Kingfisher** - 1 at East Lake on Nov. 12 (EBM, DO); **Red-bellied Woodpecker** - male at New Dominion peanut feeders on Oct. 17 to 23 (EBM); **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - 1 at West Cape on Oct. 4 (EBM); **Hairy Woodpecker** - 1 at Argyle Shore suet feeder and drilling Scots pine in Nov. (LY, JDM) **Black-backed Woodpecker** - male at West Cape on Nov. 1 (EBM); **Northern Flicker** - 2 at Hampton on Oct. 2 (JDM, LY); **Northern Shrike** - 1 at West Cape on Oct. 11 (EBM), 1 first year at East Point on Oct. 28 (DCS), 1 at West Point which appeared to be trying to catch a Northern Flicker on Nov. 6 (EBM); **Blue-headed Vireo** - 2 at West Cape on Oct. 7 (EBM); **Gray Jay** - 1 at Farmington on Nov. 12 (DO, JDM, EBM); **Blue Jay** - 130 at West Cape on Oct. 4 (EBM), small flocks totalling 50 birds migrating through Argyle Shore on Oct. 10 (JDM), leucocystic (one having mostly white feathers) at Summerside ~Nov. 24 (JBr of Journal Pioneer via JW); **American Crow** - the large roost at Victoria Park still numbers in the 1,000s (JDM); **Common Raven** - ~15 working coastal wind currents at Argyle Shore on Oct. 9 (JDM, LY), 6 at Birch Hill on Oct. 11 (JDM LY); **Horned Lark** - in sandhills off Malpeque Bay on Oct. 18 (FRC); **Boreal Chickadee** -1 at East Pt. & 1 at East Lake on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM); **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 calling at Birch Hill on Oct. 11 (JDM LY), 2 at Donagh feeders in mid-Nov to early Dec (JDM); **White-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 at Charlottetown feeders on Dec. 2 (BCM); **Brown Creeper** - 2 at West Cape on Oct. 11 (EBM), 1 at East Lake on Nov. 12 (DO, JDM, EBM); **Winter Wren** - 1 at West Cape on Oct. 8 (EBM); **Golden-crowned Kinglet** - 11 at West Cape on Oct. 14 (EBM); **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** - many at West Cape on Oct. 4 (EBM), 2 at West Cape on Nov. 1 (EBM); **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** - 2 at East Point in early Oct. (DO); **Hermit Thrush** - 2 at West Cape on Oct. 11 (EBM); **American Robin** - 10 at Sherbrooke on Nov. 11 (JDM), 2 at Argyle Shore on Nov. 13 (JDM, LY), 2 at Stratford feeding on bumper crop of Mt. Ash on Nov. 20 (DO); **European Starling** - ~1,000 in Mt. Herbert on Nov. 13, ~700 swirling over Sherbrooke fields on Nov. 16 (JDM, LY), ~3,000 swirling over the Hillsborough Bridge roost in Charlottetown on Dec. 1 (JDM); **Bohemian Waxwing** - 2 at West Point on Oct. 17 (EBM), in Mt. Ash at Vernon River and Donagh in early Nov. (DK, JDM), 9 at Georgetown Royalty on Nov. 3 (SSi), ~30 at St. Andrews feeding on holly berries on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM); **Cedar Waxwing** - at New Glasgow in early Oct. (BeHo), 9 at Stratford feeding on bumper crop of Mt. Ash on Nov. 20 (DO); **Nashville Warbler** - 1 at West Cape on Oct. 7 (EBM); **Magnolia Warbler** - 1 at West Cape on Oct. 8 (EBM); **Yellow-rumped Warbler** - many at West Cape on Oct. 4 (EBM), 8 foraging in spruce at Argyle Shore on Oct. 10 (JDM), 2 East Point & 1 at East Lake on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM); **Pine Warbler** - 1 at Riverside Estates in Nov. (WFB, EM); **Palm Warbler** - at West Cape on Oct. 7 (EBM); **Common Yellowthroat** - 1 at West Cape on Oct. 7 (EBM); **American Tree Sparrow** - at Hermanville on Nov. 6 (DO, CGa, CW, AMH), at Vernon River on Dec. 5 (DK); **Chipping Sparrow** - winter plumaged individual at West Cape on Oct. 4 (EBM); **Clay-coloured Sparrow** - winter plumaged adult at West Cape on Oct. 4 (EBM); **Fox Sparrow** - 3 at West Cape on Oct. 14 (EBM), 1 at Crossroads feeder on Oct. 10 through Nov. 12 (DO); **Song Sparrow** - at Crossroads feeders on Oct. 10 (DO); **Swamp Sparrow** - 2 at East Lake on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM); **White-throated Sparrow** - 1 at Crossroads feeders on Oct. 10 (DO); **White-crowned Sparrow** - 1 at West Cape on Oct. 7 (EBM) **Dark-eyed Junco** - at Crossroad's feeder in Nov. (DO); **Lapland Longspur** - 4 at Brackley on Oct. 6 (DCS); **Snow Bunting** - 1 on Oct. 31 at Basin Head (WCT class), 75 at Georgetown Royalty on Nov. 3 (SSi), 40 at Argyle Shore on Nov. 13 (JDM, LY), 200 at Victoria on Nov. 13 & 17 (JDM, DF, LY); **Northern Cardinal** - female at Tryon Point on Nov. 9 (BeH); **Indigo Bunting** - female at Crossroads feeder on Nov. 1-2 (DO); **Red-winged Blackbird** - 15 flying at Argyle Shore with a few grackles on Oct. 10 (JDM); **Rusty Blackbird** - adult with 2 young this summer at Riverton/Lorne Valley (BH); **Common Grackle** - ~200+ at O'Leary on Oct. 17 (EBM); **Brown-headed Cowbird** - 1 to 8 at West Royalty feeders in Oct. (DCS), 4 males & 1 female at Vernon River feeders on Nov. 19 (DK); **Northern Oriole** - at New Dominion on Oct. 17 (EBM); **Baltimore Oriole** - at West Cape on ~Sept. 25 (EBM); **Pine Grosbeak** - 4 at West Cape on Nov. 1 (EBM), 2 at Crossroads feeder on Nov. 1 (DO), 10 feeding on Mt. Ash at Vernon River on Nov. 6 (DK); **White-winged Crossbill** - 30 at West Cape on Oct. 4, 50 on Oct. 7, many flocks of 30 to 40 at West Cape on Nov. 1 (EBM), flock at East Point on Nov. 6 (DO, CGa, CW, AMH), 1 on Nov. 12 (EBM, DO, JDM); **Common Redpoll** -flock at East Point on Nov. 6 (DO, CGa, CW,

AMH) none seen this autumn up to Nov. 16 at Watervale feeders (AC); **Pine Siskin** - 20 at West Cape on Oct. 8 (EBM), 1 on Nov. 12 (EBM, DO, JDM); **Evening Grosbeak** - at East Point on Oct. 28 (DCS), 4 at East Point feeders on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM); **House Sparrow** - at North Lake on Nov. 12 (DO, EBM, JDM)

**Older Reports via DCS :** **Thayer's Gull** - 1 at Stratford Lagoon on Jan. 16, 2006 (Dwight Cargill); **Great Gray Owl** - 1 at St. Catherine's in early June 2005 (Bruce Lowther); **Marsh Wren** - 2 at Indian River WMA on Jun. 15, 1998 (Dwight Cargill); **Yellow-throated Vireo** - 1 at St. Patrick's Road on Sept. 9, 2001; **Blue-winged Warbler** - 1 at Riverton on Jun. 6, 1995; 1 **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Summerside in late July or August (George Clark); **Red-shouldered Hawk** - Tyne Valley on Apr. 18, 2003 (Sonya Martin & Delbert Francis); **Eastern Screech Owl** - junction of Rtes 5 & 215 on Jun. 6, 2004 (Ray Cooke, Eric Marcum, & David Seeler); **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** - at North Lake on June 4, 2005 (Ray Cooke, Dan McAskill, David Seeler); **Purple Gallinule** - Carleton Cove in Borden on Dec. 11, 1997 (Andrew McFarlane); **American Avocet** - 2 at New London Bay on Nov. 8, 1965 (Pat Narroway); **Northern Lapwing** - at Black Pond on Jan. 22, 1966 (CWS report); **Lark Sparrow** - Murray Harbour North on Jan. 4, 1997 (Virginia MacSwain-Jackson); **Ruff** - Brackley Marsh in July 1975 (Mrs. M. Ainley), Brackley Marsh on Aug. 4, 1973 & May 23025, 1973 (Angus MacLean); **Clay-coloured Sparrow** - at East point on Oct. 2, 2002 (Vernon Laux); **Summer Tanager** - at Sherwood on May 12, 1993 (Heather Butler & Mike Winn); **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** - 3 at Seaview on Sept. 26, 2005 (Sally Hoof); **Swan** at Savage (Harbour) Pond in the 1950s (Harold Affleck via BPI);

Thanks to the following contributors who provided records for this listing, namely: RA - Ron Arvidson; JBl - Jean Blanchard; JBr - Jim Brown; WFB - Bill Bowerbank; AC - Alma Currie; DC - Dwight Cargill; EC -Ellis Cawthorn; FRC - Rosemary Curley; GC - Gabrielle Cheverie; RC- Ray Cooke; SGC - Sharon Clark; LD - Lois Doan; LDa - Lou Daley; W&SF - Warren & Sherron Foulkes; DF - Dave Fram; AG - Alex Gray; CG - Carolyn Gallant; CGa - Cathleen Gallant; AMH - Ann-Marie Hartman; B&RH - Ben & Rosalie Hoteling; BeH - Betty Howatt; BeHo - Beth Hoar; NH - Nelson Hurry; RWH - Robert Harding; DK - Dan Kennedy; MK - Meike Keunecke; EM - Evelyn Martin; EBM - Eric Marcum; JDM - Dan McAskill; MM - Max McAskill; BCM - Bonnie McOrmond; DO - Dwaine Oakley; ASt - Alan Statham; DC&ES - David & Elaine Seeler; SSi - Scott Sinclair; JHS - Jim Sutton; RT - Reg Dutch Thompson; CW - Chris Wagner; JW - Jackie Waddell; JWa - Jean Watts; AWo - Ann Wootton; WCT - Wildlife Conservation Technology Class; LY - Lorne Yeo.



Mew Gull photographed by Dwaine Oakley at Souris Causeway mudflats on Dec. 3, 2006



## ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR:

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

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

**YN = young naturalists encouraged to attend or participate**

**Dec. 14 to Jan. 5** - Each year, many natural history and birding groups participate in **Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs)**. These can be registered counts through Audubon 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)

**Dec. 14 - The East Point Christmas Bird Count.** Please contact Dwaine Oakley at 569-1815 or [dwaine.oakley@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:dwaine.oakley@pei.sympatico.ca) for details and to register.

**Dec. 17 - The Prince Edward Island National Park Christmas Bird Count** This count features a lunch time pot-luck at the Dalvay Interpretative Centre. Please contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351 or E-mail at [nhspei@isn.net](mailto:nhspei@isn.net) for information or to register.

**Dec. 26 - The Hillsborough Christmas Bird Count.** There will be a pot-luck after the event for participants at 6 p.m. Diane and Kevin Griffin's in Stratford. Please contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351 or E-mail at [nhspei@isn.net](mailto:nhspei@isn.net) for information or to register.

**Dec. 30 - The Montague Christmas Bird Count.** Please contact Gary Schneider at 659-2081 or [garyschneider@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:garyschneider@pei.sympatico.ca) for information or to establish your count area.

**Jan. 1** - Membership renewal time for the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island

**Jan. 2 - Natural History Society of PEI Annual General Meeting & Adopt-an-Eagle Program**– The Annual Meeting will be followed by an narrated slide show by Jackie Waddell which will describe the lives of Bald Eagles and efforts currently underway to protect and monitor them. This Natural History Society's meeting starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, University Ave., Charlottetown. **YN**

**Jan. 15 - Feeding Wild Birds in Winter:** Jackie Waddell will speak on how and what to feed wild birds in winter. This Island Nature Trust presentation will be held at the Hillsborough River Eco-Centre in Mount Stewart at 7 p.m.

**Jan. 17 - Beaches and Dunes - Life on the Edge:** This narrated slide show at the Confederation Centre Public Library will provide a little summer in winter. Jackie Waddell will speak on the animals and plants that survive in this harsh, dynamic environment. This Island Nature Trust presentation starts at 7:00 p.m. The storm date is Jan. 24.

Feb. 6 - **Natural History Society presentation** - to be announced.

Feb. 21 - **Things that Go Bump in the Night:** In the dark nights of winter or summer, lots of animals have evolved to take advantage of the same niches as day-time creatures This narrated power point presentation will show some of those animals native to PEI and will include owls, flying squirrels, and bats. Join Jackie Waddell of the Island Nature Trust at the Confederation Centre Public Library at 7:00 p.m. The storm date is Feb. 28.

*For more information, comments and suggestions for future programs or field trips, please contact Program Coordinator.*

## 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 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 - 2006:**

**From 11 April to 22 November 2006: 98 Outings**

**© David Seeler**

Month	May					June				July				August				September				October				November						
Week	1	8	15	22	29	2	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	2	13	20		
Species																																
BBPL			26	50	41				2					15	36	25			50	35	40	77	64	52	83	55	34	36	26	16	10	2
AMGP																						1			5							
SEPL												21	20	16	53			105	40	5	10	16	29	18	12							
KILL																																
GRYE	6	2	24	8	1				5	5	19	17	40	47	28			44	41	65	23	41	53	44	21	36	40	18				
LEYE									6	10	19	9	75	55	54			40	47	25	2	6	6									
WILL	1	1	4	6	7	3	3			24	11	20	15	5	4	4			2		5	1	1	1								
WHIM												2							4				1									
HUGO												2	5	1	6			4	4	2			8	5			7	1	6	2		
RUTU					2							4	26	18	9			18	2	5	1	1										
REKN												1		5	2				11	100	14	13	2			5	2					
SAND																					15	36	34	22	146	25	31	37	40	11	34	1
SESA					4							19	47	12	33			111	35	172	94	50	30	95	55	40	30	6	59			
LESA			12		2							11	11	6	7	17	37			11	2	5										
WRSA												1								8							11	1	1			
BASA																																
PESA																																
DUNL					1																4	10	35	140	248	179	291	134	122	114	178	16
STSA																																
BBSA																																
SBDO									4	10	70	37	104	85	50			34	36	40	7	6							14			

Where BBPL = Black-bellied Plover; AMGP = American Golden Plover; SEPL = Semipalmated Plover; KILL = Killdeer;; GRYE = Greater Yellowlegs; LEYE = Lesser Yellowlegs; WILL - Willet.; WHIM - Whimbrel; HUGO = Hudsonian Godwit; RUTU = Ruddy Turnstone; REKN = Red Knot; SAND = Sanderling; SESA = Semipalmated Sandpiper; LESA = Least Sandpiper; WRSA = White-rumped Sandpiper; BASA = Baird's Sandpiper; PESA - Pectoral Sandpiper; DUNL - Dunlin; STSA = Stilt Sandpiper; BBSA = Buff-breasted Sandpiper; SBDO = Short-billed Dowitcher