



# ISLAND NATURALIST

ISSUE # 183

APR. - JUN. 2007

*Please renew your Society membership if you have not already done so - thanks!*



**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 \$20 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.

**2007 Executive:**

President.....Dwayne Oakley, Crossroads 569-1815 dwaine.oakley@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.....Jennifer Roma, Charlottetown, 368-8972 jennifer.roma@gmail.com  
Director - Acting Publicity.....Jennifer Roma, Charlottetown, 368-8972 jennifer.roma@gmail.com

**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 *May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007*.

**Illustrations/Pictures:** The Society extends a special thanks to Dwayne Oakley, Erich Haber, and Island Nature Trust 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 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 garlic mustard is a non-native plant which is invasive and can rapidly spread thus displacing native plants. The cover illustration shows the first year plant, second year plant, seed pod (silique), flower, leaf, stem, root and seed. The silique is the term used for a long, two valved capsular fruit with a thin, longitudinal septum bearing seeds. The cover illustration is by Erich Haber. For more information, please see the article on garlic mustard on page 7.

## 2006 PRESIDENTS' REPORT:

by Dwaine Oakley

I wish to extend a special thanks to the Society's members for their support for and participation in the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island during 2006. This year's volunteer Board was led by Dwaine Oakley (President), Dan Kennedy (Vice-president), Fiep de Bie and Beth Hoar (Secretary), Rosemary Curley (Treasurer), Sharon Clark (Publicity Director), Bonnie McOrmond (Program Director), and David Seeler (Past-President). Fiep continued as the Society's representative on the General Council of the Island Nature Trust. Fiep and Sharon resigned their positions in late summer. In August, Dan Kennedy took over as the Society's representative to the Island Nature Trust General Council.

The Society's monthly education presentations featured: "The Society's Annual General Meeting & Member Slide Night"; "Introduction to the Second Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas"; Diane Griffin's "An Expedition to Antarctica"; Beth Hoar's "Photographing Nature"; Sabine Dietz's Cape Jourimain Nature Centre - Who We Are, What We Do, Where We Are Going, Our Vision, Programs and Projects"; Bill Oehlke's "Discover the Beauty of Butterflies and Moths; Sheldon Opps & Marina Silva's "Foxes and Humans, a too Cozy Relationship"; Bill Glen's "Global Warming - Is It a Reality"; and Gary Schneider's "Improving Public Forests". A special thanks goes out to Jean Blanchard for her service as the lunch coordinator at our meetings and to Sharon Clark for the monthly prizes. Eric Marcum, Fiep de Bie, Dan Kennedy, Dwaine Oakley, Ben Hoteling, Bonnie McOrmond, and Ron Arvidson led Society birding field trips during the year including a feeder tour, birding field trips, and a pelagic birding trip. In total, thanks to the records of various sighting contributors, the Island's 2006 bird list reached 245 species. Problems were encountered with communications between the U.P.E.I Science Fair leading to no natural history awards competition being held. The Society hosted a booth and field trips at the Farmer's Market in May.

Thanks to David Seeler for maintaining the BirdList on U.P.E.I.'s server. Its popularity continued to increase and contributed significantly to the documentation of new sightings. Rarities identified in the BirdList Server were included in the Island Naturalist bird column and led to some stories being included.

The Society maintained its participation in various provincial and North American bird count projects. Vernon Laux coordinated the East Point Christmas Bird Count, Gary Schneider, Scott Sinclair and Ruth Richman coordinated the Montague Christmas Bird Count, and Dan McAskill coordinated the P.E.I. National Park and Hillsborough Christmas Bird Counts as well as the Bain Bird Count and reviewed the Island's Great Back Yard Bird Count reports. Maurice Roy of Parks Canada stoked the stove and set up the Dalvay Interpretive Centre for the P.E.I. National Park Christmas Bird Count potluck while Diane and Kevin Griffin hosted the potluck for the Hillsborough CBC. David Seeler led the Island's efforts on the Second Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas Project coordination. Bonnie McOrmond and Sharon Clark coordinated efforts on the Baillie Birdathon outings at three sites.

In addition to these efforts, the Society provided comments on the proposed introduction of wild turkeys to Prince Edward Island, cosmetic pesticides, the Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan for Charlottetown, a proposed Nova Scotia Museum Field Guide on Lichens, the East Point Wind Farm windmill array, and funding applications for the Wildlife Conservation Fund awards. Dan Kennedy participated in Affiliate Tele-conferences and Fiep de Bie attended the naturalist meeting with Nature Canada. During the year, the Society donated a subscription to the North American Birds to the Robertson Library at U.P.E.I., made a donation of \$100 to the Island Nature Trust's land conservation program and transferred \$1,500 to the Island Nature Trust towards publishing the new Flora of Prince Edward Island project. Sharon Clark and Bonnie McOrmond coordinated the production of the Society's program brochure. From January to August, Sharon continued the E-mail distribution of Society notices about upcoming Natural History Society events and later Dwaine Oakley took over this duty on an acting basis while efforts continued to recruit a Publicity Director. Dan Kennedy continued as the Society's web coordinator and Dan McAskill continued to coordinate responses to the Society's E-mail requests. In October, the Society's computer which was acquired under the Vol-Net program some years ago, crashed when the hard-drive failed. Due to its age, the computer was deemed unrepairable. After a few months delay, the E-mail service was restarted and is now being continued on a personal computer.

Thanks to the many Society members and others who contributed their wildlife observations and stories for the Society's *Island Naturalist*. This year, the *Island Naturalist* was published four times. Connie Pound Gaudet, Dwaine Oakley, the late Hal Hinds, Dover Colouring Books, and Bill Glen provided photographs, illustrations and/or drawings and Dan McAskill continued as the editor. During the year, members were offered a chance to obtain electronic issues of the newsletter in Acrobat reader format and a number of members accepted this offer. Linda and Allen Thomas and their family packaged and mailed the newsletter to members and schools.

Society members Dan McAskill, Dwaine Oakley, David Seeler, Ray Cooke, Eric Marcum, and Island Nature Trust staff combined their efforts to host the annual Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic. The donors contributing to this project provided \$1,600 towards the Trust's land conservation program. Jim Jenkins, Bruce Smith, Ben Hoteling, and the Wildlife Conservation Technology at Holland College led the Great Black-backed Gull tern platform installation project on Belvedere Pond and the egg removal project on the Hillsborough Bridge piers to assist the terns nesting there.

Thanks to fund-raising efforts by Sharon Clark, Bonnie McOrmond, and Fiep de Bie as well as the donor's generosity in contributing prizes, the Society's financial position again remained reasonably healthy. Sharon Clark, Jim Jenkins, Dorothy MacLeod, Bonnie McOrmond, Jim & Barbara Munves, Dwaine Oakley, Bruce Pigot, P.E.I. Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry, Ardeth Smith, and Doug Sobey gave financial to the Society during the year. The Society's revenues were \$1,809.43 while expenses were \$2,993.56. However, the expenses included \$1,500 towards the new plant book publishing costs and revenues of \$289 for fund-raising and \$109.77 for interest. The Society completed the year with assets of \$6,822.80 in its various accounts with the majority of this in the book publishing and project accounts which are held in a 1 year Guaranteed Investment Certificate valued at \$5,317.93 and savings accounts with \$246.27. To ensure that the Society remained in a healthy financial position, the Executive Committee recommended that the annual membership dues be increased to \$20.

**THANKS TO THE BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS!**

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007, the Natural History Society held its annual general meeting. Dan Kennedy, Vice-President, presented the Nominating Committee's report. Dwaine Oakley (President), Dan Kennedy (Vice-President), Beth Hoar (Secretary), and Rosemary Curley (Treasurer) re-offered their services to the Society and were re-elected. Jennifer Roma was elected Program Director and agreed to serve as Publicity Director until the vacant position is filled. Dan Kennedy will be the Society's representative on the Island Nature Trust.

A special thanks was expressed to Bonnie McOrmond who retired from the position of Program Director after serving since February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Bonnie was instrumental in collecting suggestions for programs, coordinating the speakers' presentations including their equipment requirements, setting up field tours, assisting with fund-raising, and much more. In addition, members expressed their thanks to the Society's Executive for their significant contributions to the Society and the Island public.

**2006-07 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:**

Results compiled by Dan McAskill, Ruth Richman, Gary Schneider, & Scott Sinclair

For the 36<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Society conducted Audubon Christmas Bird Counts on Prince Edward Island. The 107<sup>th</sup> CBCs opened on Prince Edward Island with the East Point Count being held on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The P.E.I. National Park was clear and sunny with good travelling conditions. There was very little ice but overnight frost allowed access in the morning over the mud roads. Afternoon snow did materialize on the Hillsborough CBC and visibility was quite reduced at times during this period. Count day conditions for the Montague count on December 30<sup>th</sup> were cool and relatively light winds.

Participants noted that the P.E.I. National Park count was one of the best weather days in many years. Maurice Roy stoked the wood stove at the Dalvay interpretive centre and the participants enjoyed the pot luck. Diane and Kevin Griffin hosted the Hillsborough pot-luck but the poor travel conditions reduced attendance. For the sixth year, Vernon Laux organized the East Point Christmas Bird Count encompassing the area from off East Point to the eastern outskirts of Souris. Unfortunately, the results for the East Point Count were not available at the time of publication. Gary Schneider, Scott Sinclair and Ruth Richman organized the Montague Count while Dan McAskill coordinated the P.E.I. National Park and Hillsborough counts.

There were no formal owl surveys this year. Most coastal waters were open and there was little ice on the P.E.I. National Park and Hillsborough counts. Cold weather after boxing day created some coastal ice for the Montague count. There were certainly some memorable sightings during the four count days and their associated count periods with a very cooperative Snowy Owl, Green-winged Teal, Northern Harriers, and a Lesser Black-backed Gull but very few winter finches. Last year's scarcity of American Robin was gone and there were good numbers present thanks to the very good crop of mountain ash and holly on the Hillsborough and Montague counts.

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

**OBSERVATIONS**

**NUMBERS OBSERVED**

	<b>National Park</b>	<b>Hillsborough</b>	<b>Montague</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Dec. 17, 2006</b>	<b>Dec. 26, 2006</b>	<b>Dec. 30, 2006</b>	<b>Dec. 18 - Dec. 31</b>
Red-throated Loon		CW		0
Double-crested Cormorant		4	4	8
Great Blue Heron	CW	1		1
Canada Geese	1,000	1,435	1,022	3,457
Gadwall			3	3
American Black Duck	245	795	1,326	2,366
Mallard/Black Duck Hybrid		1		1
Mallard	13	51	28	92

Northern Pintail	3	2		5
American Green-winged Teal	3	2		5
Greater Scaup	700			700
White-winged Scoter	6			6
Long-tailed Duck	8		26	34
Bufflehead			3	3
Common Goldeneye	55	107	995	1,157
Barrow's Goldeneye			13	13
Common Merganser	34	209	546	789
Red-breasted Merganser	3		41	44
Diving Ducks	50			50
Bald Eagle	46	5	26	77
Northern Harrier	4	3		7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	4	4	9
Northern Goshawk		1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk		2	2	4
Rough-legged Hawk		2	1	3
American Kestrel		1		1
Ruffed Grouse		1	8	9
Gray Partridge	5	16		21
Purple Sandpiper		2		2
Bonaparte's Gull	CW		19	19
Ring-billed Gull	58	21	110	189
Herring Gull	365	591	206	1,162
Iceland Gull	3	20	2	25
Lesser Black-backed Gull			1	1
Glaucous Gull		1		1
Great Black-backed Gull	130	250	32	412
Gull spp.	42		1,029	1,071
Black Guillemot			3	3
Rock Pigeon (Dove)	120	66	207	393
Mourning Dove	53	92	139	284
Great Horned Owl			CW	CW
Snowy Owl		1		1
Belted Kingfisher		1	2	3
Northern Flicker	5	15	2	22
Downy Woodpecker	1	9	18	28
Hairy Woodpecker	3	6	7	16
Blue Jay	140	197	283	620
American Crow	793	818	334	1,945
Common Raven	111	16	49	176
Horned Lark		CW		CW
Black-capped Chickadee	171	194	217	582
Boreal Chickadee	13	11	8	32
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	2	13	18
Brown Creeper	2	3	1	6
Golden-crowned Kinglet	25	22	20	67
American Robin	24	189	210	423
European Starling	777	10,716	1,340	12,833
Bohemian Waxwing	8	CW	62	70
Yellow-rumped Warbler		2	1	3
American Tree Sparrow	10		12	22
Song Sparrow			2	2
White-throated Sparrow		2	1	3
Dark-eyed (Northern) Junco	15	20	54	89
Snow Bunting	68	59	1,000	1,127
Common Grackle	1	0	1	2
Brown-headed Cowbird		2	27	29

White-winged Crossbill		CW		CW
Pine Siskin			4	4
American Goldfinch	118	154	557	829
Evening Grosbeak		1	15	16
House Sparrow	15	64	18	97
<b>Total Birds</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>16,189</b>	<b>10,055</b>	<b>31,494</b>
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Add Count Week Species</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Participants: Field	17	21	19	
Feeders	1	3		
<b>Mammals:</b>				
Red Squirrel	40	23	27	90
Red Fox	2	3	TRACKS	5+
Eastern Coyote			1	1
Muskrat	2			2
Snowshoe Hare			TRACKS	
Striped Skunk	1		1	2
Harbour Seal	2	15	5	22
Gray Seal		1		1
Seals (unidentified species)			10	10
Roaming House Cats	3	7		10
Walked: Km	12	18.7	22.5	53.2
Hours	5	9	13.75	27.75
Driven: Km	414.9	311.5	483.8	1210.20
Hours	22.25	24.25	21	67.50
Earliest Start	741	720		
Latest Ending	1606	1645		
Total Party Hours	27.25	33.25	34.75	95.25
Owling Hours	0	0	1	1.00
Owling Kilometres	0	0	0	0.00
Number of Feeder Reports	1	3		
Feeder Hours	1	3		
Snow Cover - aver. cm.	Trace	1	3	
Salt Water Bays - % frozen	0	0	50	
Salt Water - % frozen	0	0	0	
Fresh Water - % frozen	10	30	80	
Weather:				
Bright Sunshine (hrs)	4	0	4	
Precipitation	nil	snow in PM	0	
Cloud %	100 in PM	100	100 in PM	
Temperature C.	-2 to 1	-2 to 0	-9 to -5	
Wind Speed - aver km/hr	9 to 20	1 to 14	7 to 18	
Prevail. wind direction	WNW TO S	W TO E	W TO WSW	
Max. Wind Speed				

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

For registered counts, the entire data base is accessible on line through [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) and click your way to the results under birds and science.

Thanks to the many participants, namely: Ron Arvidson; Kerry-Lynn Atkinson; Jean Blanchard; Bill Bowerbank; Sharon Clark; Rosemary Curley; Wanda Curley; Lois & Victoria Doan; Emery Dowling; Chris & Blair Fraser; Cathleen Gallant; Diane Griffin; Gary Griffin; Don & Jane Harris; Ben Hoteling; Janet Hughes; Gordon Jackson; Marney Johnston; Dan Kennedy; Vernon Laux; Margie Loo; Gerald MacDonald; Margaret MacDonald; Virginia MacSwain-Jackson; Dan McAskill; Gail McCourt; Lanny McDowell; Bonnie McOrmond; Arlene & Paul McGuigan; Dot Neilson; Dwaine Oakley; Roberta Palmer; Brenda Penak; Anne Perry; Ruth Richman; Harry Robertson; Maurice Roy; Gary Schneider; David Seeler; Scott Sinclair; John Stewart; Jim Sutton; Linda Thomas;

Reg & Jean Thompson; Elizabeth Townshend; Jean Watts; and Glenda Wright. These counts would not be possible without their participation.

## **ALIEN SPECIES: GARLIC MUSTARD**

by Paige Harris

Invasive alien species are not uncommon to PEI. You may already be familiar with invasive plants such as: purple loosestrife, common dandelion, Kentucky bluegrass, lily-of-the-valley and now garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata*. Invasive aliens are non-native plants that are introduced intentionally or accidentally, threaten biodiversity and are very hard to control. Invasive species often have no natural predators, disease or competition and are able to move into habitats and take over, putting native species at risk. Garlic mustard has recently been identified on PEI. It is one of the most rapidly spreading invasive species in eastern Canada with no natural enemies in North America. Learning to identify this invasive species is not difficult and ultimately important to its control. When found early in its life, this plant is easier to remove and control.

Island Nature Trust has received funding from Environment Canada's Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program and Parks Canada to develop an educational brochure and conduct an Island-wide survey for garlic mustard in situations where it is most likely to be found: golf courses and campgrounds. The brochure is available now and will be circulated to all golf course owners or managers on PEI in March, 2007. At that time, the Trust will be requesting permission to allow a Nature Trust employee to conduct a survey of golf courses for garlic mustard in the late spring and summer of 2007.

Garlic mustard is a member of the mustard family (Brassicaceae). It is a cool season biennial herb (two-year life cycle), with coarsely toothed triangular to heart-shaped leaves. Alternate leaves grow on stalks about 12 mm to 5 cm (½ to 2 inches) long. Their leaves give off a garlic or onion odour when crushed. Mature flowering plants can reach up to 60 cm to 105 cm (2-3.5 feet).

### **Habitat**

Garlic Mustard tolerates shade and grows in rich, moist areas. This plant can be found growing in natural and disturbed areas, forest, river flood plains, trails, roadsides, hedgerows and gardens. Garlic Mustard grows aggressively and can form dense patches that dominate space, nutrients, moisture and light. Native spring-flowering woodland plants (e.g. sweet cicely, spring beauty, Dutchman's breeches and violets) grow in the same habitat and may be out-competed by garlic mustard. Not only does garlic mustard compete with native plants for habitat, previous studies in Canada have shown that several compounds produced by garlic mustard root systems may affect growth of native plants. These compounds may affect the relationship between soil fungi and root systems needed for nutrient and water uptake in many plants (including trees and shrubs).

### **Biology and Spread**

Garlic mustard reproduces mainly by seed. After seeds are produced they germinate in spring, usually in the first or second year after prolonged exposure to cold. First year plants grow close to the ground as rosettes of dark purple to green kidney-shaped leaves. Rosettes stay green through the winter and grow into adult flowering plants the following spring. Leaves of second year plants have little resemblance to those of the first year plants.

In the second half of the garlic mustard's life cycle, a flowering stalk is produced (early May) with a cluster of white flowers at the top and upper leaf axils (where the leaf joins the stem). The flowers are white with four petals (approximately 6 mm in diameter), forming a cross. Second year plants produce triangular shaped leaves that are sharply toothed. These leaves range in size from 2.5 to 7.5 cm (1-3 inches) wide and gradually get smaller as they approach the top of the stem. Flower production occurs continuously at the top of the stalk. Flowers mature into four-sided seed pods called siliques. Siliques form on stalks below flowers and are approximately 1.5 mm (1/16 of an inch) wide and 2.5 to 5 cm (1-2 inches) long. They become dry and papery at maturity.

### **Management**

One plant can produce thousands of shiny black seeds that can spread several meters from the parent plant. Seeds are dispersed mainly by humans and animals although they can be carried in water flow. Wind dispersal is not as common as the seeds do not drift well. By the end of June most of the leaves have died leaving stalks and siliques that may hold viable seed for the rest of the summer. Seeds can remain viable in soil for at least five years so a long term commitment for effective management is required. The main goal is to prevent seed production and spread until there are no stored seeds remaining.

In areas where small numbers of plants exist, removal by hand is possible. This needs to be done before seeds are set to avoid further spread. It is best to do this in the spring when the ground is still wet. The entire plant, including the root, must be removed because new plants can grow from root fragments. Pulled plants should be placed in plastic bags and removed from the site, especially if flowers are present, to avoid further infestation.

For areas with larger numbers of plants, where hand-pulling plants is not possible, flowering stems can be cut at or a few inches above ground level. This is because plants may still be able to produce flowers at leaf axils

(where leaf joins the stem) if plants are cut too high up the stalk. Stalks can be cut when seed pods have developed, but before seeds mature and are scattered. Stalk should be placed in plastic bags and removed from the site. Management of garlic mustard in this way can continue through most of the summer.

### **To prevent further spread:**

- ❖ Monitor non-infested forest frequently and thoroughly. Remove small numbers of plants before they spread
- ❖ Seeds can be spread by humans. Clean shoes, clothing and equipment after working or walking in infested areas
- ❖ Do not add plants to your compost bin or pile. Compost temperatures may not get hot enough to destroy garlic mustard seeds
- ❖ Remove second year plants before they go to seed to avoid spreading seeds accidentally

If you find garlic mustard, please contact Jackie Waddell, Executive Director of Island Nature Trust, at 892-7513 or 566-9150. Island Nature Trust staff will investigate the site this spring as part of our garlic mustard project with its partners, the Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program of Environment Canada and PEI National Park.

### **NEWS FROM ABOUT:**

The Island Nature Trust's and P.E.I. National Park Piping Plover nest protection and monitoring programs indicated an overall success rate of 1.65 chicks fledged per pair slightly above the estimated sustainable population level of 1.5 chicks per pair. The more aggressive programs in the Park had a fledged rate of 2.73 chicks per pair while the symbolic fencing, monitoring and intervention utilized by the 25 Island Nature Trust volunteers had a 1.28 chicks per pair. (Adapted from Island Nature Trust Update Issue 94)

Congratulations go out to the Prince Edward Island Model Forest Partnership who won a 2006 Prince Edward Island Environmental Award. The Partnership includes forest landowners, industry members, academics, environmentalists, government agencies, tourism operators, and other interested parties. Under Canadian Forestry Service Model Forest funding support through the Nova Model Forest, they have led discussions on integrated forest management, research and education. Most of the funding was used to encourage project development in these areas.

You can obtain an update on the Island winter birds as well as links to winter bird lists for much of Canada, St. Pierre et Miquelon at Blake Maybank's web site at <http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/maybank/other/peiwinter.htm>

The impacts of climate change on bird populations was discussed at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Nairobi, Kenya last November. A paper was presented which reviewed over 200 scientific articles on birds throughout the world. The report indicates that climate change is affecting bird's behaviour and could lead to significant declines in many species. For more information see [www.panda.org/climate/birds](http://www.panda.org/climate/birds) (Adapted from a Nov. ens-newswire.com release)

### **2006 YEAR END PEI BIRDERS REPORT:**

By David Seeler

2006 seemed to go fast. Overall it was quieter in 2006 than last year with only 247 species being reported. In 2005 there were 261 species reported while in 2004 participants reported 249 species on PEI. Again, in most instances, rarities were documented or photographed and I would encourage everyone to continue to do this.

This past year 44 species were reported on January 1 (18%) and by the end of January, 84 or 34% of the species observed over the year had already been reported. By July 1, 211 species - or 86% of the species reported in 2006 had already been observed - quite an achievement. Or, perhaps, a testament to the fact that most species on PEI can be picked up in the first half of the year. My own opinion is that with some modest effort over 200 species can be observed by the end of June.

This year's notable sightings started with the Mew Gull again appearing in Stratford and being counted on January 1. Virginia MacSwain-Jackson, in Murray Harbour North, continued to demonstrate that her feeders have substantial drawing power as yet another Lark Sparrow made their place its home during this time for the Island's 6th record. This bird was photographed by Dwaine Oakley. By January 4<sup>th</sup>, a late Brown Thrasher had made its presence known on PEI. A new species for the Island - Fieldfare - was observed by a number of individuals as well as documented by the original observers and eventually photographed by Dwaine Oakley. By late January, a late Great Egret had been reported.

Another first for PEI - a Carolina Wren appeared in Charlottetown (reported by Kevin Teather) around April 10<sup>th</sup>. A vocal bird, its song served as a beacon for those who made the effort to look for it. Again, Dwaine was able to document this bird with photographs. An Eastern Screech-owl was heard along Rte 5 by the Bain's Bird Count team headed up by Dan McAskill towards the end of May providing the Island's 8th report of this species. Nancy Ching reported an American White Pelican at Black Pond on the 28th of May. This report was well



documented by various individuals through photographs providing the Province with its 4th record of this species. Later in the year others were reported at Jude's Point and Victoria. These reports are most likely the same bird as previously reported by Nancy as it moved back and forth from NB to Cape Breton providing those regions with new records.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> at East Point, visiting birders Paul Lehman and Richard Jeffers, along with Dwaine Oakley found a Laughing Gull at East Point. A Great-crested Flycatcher was found by Scott Makepeace and Dwayne Sabine as they participated in the MBBS on PEI in July. A sighting of an out of season Great Gray Owl was made by Eric Marcum at West Cape who also reported a Clay-coloured Sparrow in the same area later in the year on October 2. Details are still to come in regards to a report of the Island's third sighting of a Yellow-throated Vireo by Dwayne Sabine. This report is listed in the MBBS database by Dwayne as fledged young being observed.

Early August found yet another Island first being reported with a brief description of an Anhinga which was observed in West Keppock on the 11th by Phillipa Hunter. A Forster's tern was observed and documented by David Seeler on 27 August at East Point for the Island's second record. Ray Cooke reported another at Little Harbour later in the year on September 24th while participating in the Bennett's Bird Count. On the same day, Ray also observed a Long-tailed Jaeger at East Point.

2006 also marked the beginning of the second Maritime Breeding Bird Survey with approximately 30 volunteers to date having signed up to participate on PEI. This exciting project is scheduled to continue until 2011 with all three Maritime Provinces participating. Information on the MBBS may be found at: <http://www.mba-aom.ca/english/index.html> If you are interested in participating please get in touch with David Seeler (Seeler@upe.ca).

The PEI-Birders Listserve has aged another year and has grown to 122 members. I would like to thank you for your participation. Should you know of anyone who may wish to register as a member of the List, please let me know at Seeler@upe.ca.

The 2006 List of Species reported to have been observed on PEI is listed below. Please let me know of any omissions.

#### **SPECIES REPORTED ~ 247**

Red-throated Loon	Greater Scaup	Ruffed Grouse	Least Sandpiper
Common Loon	Lesser Scaup	Sharp-tailed Grouse	White-rumped Sandpiper
Pied-billed Grebe	Common Eider	Gray Partridge	Baird's Sandpiper
Red-necked Grebe	Harlequin Duck	Ring-necked Pheasant	Pectoral Sandpiper
Horned Grebe	Long-tailed Duck	Virginia Rail	Dunlin
American White Pelican	Black Scoter	Sora	Purple Sandpiper
Northern Gannet	Surf Scoter	Common Moorhen	Stilt Sandpiper
Double-crested Cormorant	White-winged Scoter	American Coot	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Great Cormorant	Common Goldeneye	American Golden-Plover	Parasitic Jaeger
Anhinga	Barrow's Goldeneye	Black-bellied Plover	Long-tailed Jaeger
Great Blue Heron	Bufflehead	Semipalmated Plover	Red Phalarope
Great Egret	Hooded Merganser	Killdeer	Mew Gull
Snowy Egret	Red-breasted Merganser	Piping Plover	Ring-billed Gull
American Bittern	Common Merganser	American Woodcock	Great Black-backed Gull
Snow Goose	Ruddy Duck	Wilson's Snipe	Glaucous Gull
Canada Goose	Black Vulture	Short-billed Dowitcher	Iceland Gull
Brant	Osprey	Hudsonian Godwit	Thayer's Gull
Wood Duck	Bald Eagle	Marbled Godwit	Lesser Black-backed Gull
Eurasian Wigeon	Northern Harrier	Whimbrel	American Herring Gull
American Wigeon	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Upland Sandpiper	Black-headed Gull
Gadwall	Cooper's Hawk	Greater Yellowlegs	Bonaparte's Gull
Green-winged Teal	Northern Goshawk	Lesser Yellowlegs	Laughing Gull
Mallard	Broad-winged Hawk	Solitary Sandpiper	Little Gull
American Black Duck	Red-tailed Hawk	Spotted Sandpiper	Black-legged Kittiwake
Northern Pintail	Rough-legged Hawk	Willet	Caspian Tern
Blue-winged Teal	American Kestrel	Ruddy Turnstone	Common Tern
Northern Shoveler	Merlin	Red Knot	Arctic Tern
Redhead	Gyrfalcon	Sanderling	Forster's Tern
Ring-necked Duck	Peregrine Falcon	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Thick-billed Murre

Razorbill	Tree Swallow	Yellow-throated Vireo	Common Yellowthroat
Black Guillemot	Bank Swallow	Blue-headed Vireo	Wilson's Warbler
Rock Pigeon	Cliff Swallow	Red-eyed Vireo	Canada Warbler
Mourning Dove	Barn Swallow	Pine Grosbeak	Scarlet Tanager
Black-billed Cuckoo	American Pipit	Purple Finch	Eastern Towhee
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Golden-crowned Kinglet	House Finch	American Tree Sparrow
Eastern Screech-Owl	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Red Crossbill	Chipping Sparrow
Great Horned Owl	Bohemian Waxwing	White-winged Crossbill	Clay-coloured Sparrow
Snowy Owl	Cedar Waxwing	Common Redpoll	Vesper Sparrow
Barred Owl	Carolina Wren	Hoary Redpoll	Lark Sparrow
Great Gray Owl	Winter Wren	Pine Siskin	Savannah Sparrow
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Gray Catbird	American Goldfinch	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Northern Long-eared Owl	Northern Mockingbird	Evening Grosbeak	Fox Sparrow
Short-eared Owl	Brown Thrasher	Tennessee Warbler	Song Sparrow
Common Nighthawk	Eastern Bluebird	Nashville Warbler	Lincoln's Sparrow
Chimney Swift	Veery	Northern Parula	Swamp Sparrow
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Swainson's Thrush	Yellow Warbler	White-crowned Sparrow
Belted Kingfisher	Hermit Thrush	Chestnut-sided Warbler	White-throated Sparrow
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Fieldfare	Magnolia Warbler	Dark-eyed Junco
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	American Robin	Cape May Warbler	Snow Bunting
Downy Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Northern Cardinal
Hairy Woodpecker	Black-capped Chickadee	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Black-backed Woodpecker	Boreal Chickadee	Black-throated Green Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Northern Flicker	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Blackburnian Warbler	Dickcissel
Pileated Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch	Pine Warbler	Bobolink
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Brown Creeper	Palm Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Shrike	Bay-breasted Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Gray Jay	Blackpoll Warbler	Rusty Blackbird
Alder Flycatcher	Blue Jay	Black-and-white Warbler	Common Grackle
Willow Flycatcher	American Crow	American Redstart	Brown-headed Cowbird
Least Flycatcher	Common Raven	Ovenbird	Baltimore Oriole
Great-crested Flycatcher	European Starling	Northern Waterthrush	
Eastern Kingbird	House Sparrow	Mourning Warbler	
Horned Lark			

#### WEATHER EVENTS:

The weather was unusually warm until late December with winter conditions finally causing bay ice formation by Dec. 28. There was 7 cm of ice in the head of Stanhope Bay on Jan.1 and a few brave hearted smelt fishers had augured holes and were catching some smelt. The first real cold snap occurred during the week of Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>. That week, F&GM reported that Egmont Bay went from completely open to frozen as far as the eye could see although wind broke up some on it on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> then refroze. By mid-February, ice was 30 to 35 cm thick at St. Peters, Stanhope, and Mermaid estuaries (LY). A wind storm in mid-February caused severe wind erosion covering many the snow in ditches, snow banks, and homes with a layer of eroded soil.

#### ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:

Compiled by J. Dan McAskill

#### PLANTS:

The warm conditions were causing unusual flowering with dandelions in flower on the China Point peninsula on Dec. 26 (JWa). Red-berried elder flower buds starting to flush in Donagh (JDM)

**MAMMALS:** Red fox at East Point on Jan. 1 (W&SF), daily at Stanhope (F&JC), 2 silver and 1 red at Argyle Shore (LY). Breeding activity of red foxes was reported at Hillsborough Bridge and Argyle Shore on Feb. 7 (RT, LY). 3 red squirrel, an eastern chipmunk, and an ermine at Maximeville feeders on Jan. 22 and a seal about 240 metres feet from shore on Dec. 30 & Jan. 1 then headed out (G&FMa). 30 seals on ice upstream of Hillsborough Bridge on Jan. 1. (DO). 3 to 4 red squirrels daily at Charlottetown (SGC) and several daily at Donagh feeders in Jan. & Feb. (JDM). Red squirrels commenced the eating and clipping of white spruce buds and started pursuit chases at Donagh on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> (JDM). 1 red-backed vole at Cherry Hill on Oct. 20/06 (BP).

**BIRDS:** **Red-throated Loon** - 2 at Point Prim on Dec. 29 (DCS, JDM); **Horned Grebe** - 1 at East Point on Dec. 4 (DCS); **Red-necked Grebe** - 1 at East Point on Dec. 4 & 2 on Dec. 14 (DCS, DO, VL, DA, CGa, JJo, CW, CG, IG), 2; **Northern Gannet** - at Red Point Park on Jan. 7 (D&ES); **Double-crested Cormorant** - at East Point on Dec. 3 (DCS, DO), 3 to 4 at Charlottetown on Jan. 1 (DO, DC&ES, JDM, WFB); **Cormorant (UID)** - 6 at East Point on Jan. 1 (W&SF); **Great Blue Heron** - 1 at Chapel Creek on Jan. 1 (DC&ES); **Black Vulture** - 1 at East Prince Landfill on Dec. 22-3 (FiM via FRC); **Canada Geese** - ~100 at Ellen's Creek WMA on Nov. 30 (DD), ~6,000 off ice in Waterside on Dec. 29 (JDM, DCS), 60 at Tryon on Jan. 14 (RA), at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 1 (SGC), ~1,500 overwintering on Feb. 1 at Vernon River (DK); **Gadwall** - 2 at Ellen's Creek WMA on Nov. 30 (DD), at Clinton on Feb. 17 (CGa, CW, EMcE), 40 at Chapel's Creek & 6 at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 18 (JDM); **American Wigeon** - 2 at Ellen's Creek WMA on Nov. 30 (DD), 1 at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 1 (SGC); **American Black Duck** - ~350 at Ellen's Creek WMA on Nov. 30 (DD), ~1,000 off Waterside ice on Dec. 29 (DCS, JDM), ~500 at Vernon Bridge on Jan. 1 (DC&ES), ~200 at Souris River Estuary on Jan. 7 (DC&ES), ~700 on Hillsborough River at Riverside Drive & ~200 at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 8 (JDM), ~60 at Mink River on Jan. 21 (JHS); **Mallard** - 71 at Ellen's Creek WMA on Nov. 30 (DD), 10 at Souris on Jan. 7 (DC&ES), male at Murray River on Feb. 11 (JHS), at Clinton & Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 17 (CGa, CW, EMcE), 5 at Chapel's Creek on Feb. 18 (JDM); **Northern Shoveler** - 1 at Andrew's Pond in Charlottetown in Dec. (Via DCS); **Northern Pintail** - 1 in Queens in Jan. (DC&ES), pair at Fortune on Feb. 11 (JHS), 26 at Clinton on Feb. 17 (CGa, CW, EMcE); **Green-winged Teal** - 23 at Ellen's Creek WMA on Nov. 30 (DD), 3 at Cornwall on Jan. 1 (DC&ES), at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 1 (SGC), 4 males & female at High Bridge in Pisquid East on Feb. 4 (GK), at Oyster Bed Bridge in early Feb. (CGa); **Redhead** - 2 males & 1 female at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 21 (DC&ES) & 2 on Jan. 22 (DO, DCS), early to mid-Feb. (CW, EMcE, CGa, JDM); **Ring-necked Duck** - at East Lake on Dec. 14 (DO, VL, DA, CGa, CW, CG, IG); **Greater Scaup** - thousands swirling above Brackley Bay on Dec. 10 (DC&ES), 100 on Jan. 1 (DC&ES), 200 at Shaw Beach on Jan. 12 (DC&ES), at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 17 (CGa, CW, EMcE), 125 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 18 (JDM); **Lesser Scaup** - 1 at Black Pond National Wildlife Area at Little Harbour on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS), at Black Pond on Dec. 14 (DO, VL, DA, CGa, JJo, CW, CG, IG), 1 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 1 (DC&ES), 2 at Cornwall on Feb. 18 (GBBC); **Common Eider** - 200 at East Point on Jan. 7 (D&ES), at Souris on Feb. 18 (CGa); **Harlequin Duck** - 2 at East Point on Dec. 14 & Jan. 7 (DO, VL, DA, CGa, JJo, CW, CG, IG, D&ES); **White-winged Scoter** - 3 at East Point on Jan. 7 (D&ES); **Black Scoter** - 100 at East Point on Jan. 7 (D&ES); **Long-tailed Ducks** - many at East Point on Jan. 1 (W&SF), 5 at Dalvay on Jan. 3 & 10 at Red Point Park on Jan. 7 (DC&ES); **Bufflehead** - 4 at Black Pond National Wildlife Area at Little Harbour on Dec. 3 & 3 on Dec. 14 (DO, DCS, VL, DA, CGa, JJo, CW, CG, IG), male at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 22 (DO); **Common Goldeneye** - in open water at Oyster Bed Bridge (20 to 50), Vernon Bridge (80), Cardigan Bridge (10), Murray River (8), Montague River (10), Georgetown Harbour (10), West River Causeway (15 to 50), Bayfield Causeway (200) on Jan. 1 (DC&ES), at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 17 (CGa, CW, EMcE); **Barrow's Goldeneye** - 2 at Black Pond National Wildlife Area at Little Harbour on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS), 5 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 1 & 11 on Jan. 21 (DC&ES), many with quite a few 1<sup>st</sup> winter males present at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 22 (DO), present at Vernon River in Jan. & Feb. (DK), at Cardigan River on Feb. 10 (CGa), at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 17 & 9 on Feb. 18 (CGa, CW, EMcE), 4 at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 18 & 23 (JDM, GS); **Hooded Merganser** - 34 at Black Pond National Wildlife Area at Little Harbour on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS), male at Murray River in early Feb. (FRC) & Feb. 11 (JHS); **Common Merganser** - 40 at Mink River on Jan. 21 (JHS), Oyster Bed Bridge (10 to 90), Vernon Bridge (100), Montague River (20), Georgetown Harbour (10), West River Causeway (50), 200 to 600 this winter at Mink River (JHS); **Red-breasted Merganser** - 15 at Georgetown Royalty on Jan. 14 (DC&ES), at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 17 (CGa, CW, EMcE); **Ruddy Duck** - 4 at Black Pond National Wildlife Area at Little Harbour on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS) **Bald Eagle** - 2 at Souris Causeway on Nov. 6, 1 at Albany on Nov. 10, & 1 at North Granville on Nov. 17 (EC), adult & immature at Stanhope Cape lighthouse on Jan. 4 (F&JC), 2 juveniles at Strathgartney on Jan. 15 (AMH, SMC, KP, AT), 1 at Fanningbrook on Jan. 15 (RT), immature chased, caught a plastic bottle blowing across the ice at Murray River, and then was unable to free itself from it on Jan. 21 (JHS), 4 adults & 2 immature at Mink River on Jan. 21 (JHS), 2 at Maximeville in Jan. (G&FMa), 1 at Fernwood & North Bedeque on Jan. 15 (GMcC), 2 immatures at Point Prim on Jan. 25 (HR), in January at Winsloe, New Dominion, Rocky Point, Vernon Bridge, Black Pond, Elmira, & Souris (DC&ES), 1 adult & 2 immature on ice at Hillsborough Bridge on Feb. 10 (JDM), 1 at Pisquid on Feb. 10 (RT), adult pair near nest in Mayfield and adult near nest at Trout River on Feb. 10 (JW, AT), 2 immatures at Mink River on Feb. 11 (JHS), pair at nest site in Earncliffe on Feb. 18 (JDM); **Northern Harrier** - 1 at East Point on Nov. 26 (EC), male & immature at Point Prim & Camp Buchan on Dec. 29 (DCS, JDM), male at Stanhope on Jan. 4 (F&JC), 2 at Borden on Jan. 5 (JR via JJ), male at Vernon River on Jan. 21 (DK), immature at North Rustico on Jan. 21 (DC&ES), 1 at Wellington on Feb. 6 (EC), 1 at Hillsborough Bridge on Feb. 10 (RT, JDM), 1 eating pigeon on ice at Hillsborough Bridge on Feb. 24 (DO, JHR); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 1 regularly at Vernon River feeders on Jan. 21 (DK), occasional sighting at Caledonia this winter (JHS), 1 at MacEwen's Road on Feb. 14 (JDM) 1 at Orwell on Feb. 23 (GS); **Northern Goshawk** - occasional rare sighting at Caledonia this winter (JHS); **Red-tailed Hawk** - 1 at Milton & Richmond on Nov. 22 (EC), 1 at Borden & South Melville on Jan. 14 & Feb. 1 (RA), 1 at Desable on Jan. 9 (RA), 2 at Cumberland on Jan. 25 (LD), 1 at Charlottetown on Jan. 31 (CGa), 1 at Rusticoville and 1 at Wheatley River on Feb. 10 (JW, AT), 1 landed in tree at

Glenroy on Feb. 14 (JDM), 1 at Brackley, 2 at Margate & pair & single at Kensington on Feb. 17 (CGa, CW, EMcE), 1 at Cherry Valley on Feb. 18 (JDM), 1 at Valley on Feb. 22 (GS, ML); **Rough-legged Hawk** - at Albany in early Jan. (BCM), 2 at Borden on Jan. 5 (JR via JJ), 1 at Hampton on Jan. 7 (RA), 2 at Hampton on Jan. 14 (RA), 1 dark morph at South Melville on Jan. 23 (RA), 2 at Cumberland on Jan. 25 (LD), at Orwell Bay on Jan. 24-6 (GS, DK), 1 at Vernon River on Feb. 2 (DK), 1 dark phase at Kensington & at Margate on Feb. 17 (CGa, CW, EMcE), 1 at China Point on Feb. 18 (JDM), 3 in group at Earnscliffe on Feb. 23 (GS); **Golden Eagle** - 1 reported at Cape Traverse in late Jan. (JR via DO); **Peregrine Falcon** - 1 at Fairfield on Dec. 14 (DO, VL, DA, CGa, JJo, CW, CG, IG), 1 probable at Hillsborough Bridge on Feb. 8 (F&JC), 1 at New London on Feb. 15 (FFJ, DB); **Gyr Falcon** - dark morph individual harassing gulls and ducks at Diligent Pond & at Beaton's Point East Point on Dec. 13 (DO, VL, DA, CGa, EMcE, JJo, CW, CG, IG); **Gray Partridge** - 15 at Locke Road on Dec. 7 (LH), 11 at Cumberland on Jan. 24 (DC&ES), several coveys in early Feb. (SP, BH), 9 at Southampton in snow covered field on Feb. 14 (JDM), tracks near hedge at Bunbury on Feb. 15 (FRC), 10 at Charlottetown Research Stn on Feb. 20 & 21, 9 at St. Eleanors on Feb. 21 (JDM), 8 at Crapaud on Feb. 22 (JDM); **Ring-necked Pheasant** - male & female at Fernwood on Feb. 18 (GMcC), 4 at York on Feb. 18 (GBBC); **Sharp-tailed Grouse** - 4 at Hermanville on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS), 12 at Hermanville on Jan. 15 (W&SF); **Ruffed Grouse** - 2 under apple tree at Maximeville on Jan. 22 (G&Fma), male struck sliding door and was killed on Jan. 22 in Shamrock (MC via JW), 1 in woods edge at Murray Harbour on Jan. 21 (GSa), at Donagh woodland on Feb. 9 (JDM), 13 at Monticello On Feb. 16 (GM), 2 earing Mt. ash berries in Donagh on Feb. 17 (JDM); **American Coot** - 4 at Black Pond National Wildlife Area at Little Harbour on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS), at Basin Head on Dec. 14 (DO, VL, DA, CGa, JJo, CW, CG, IG); **Little Gull** - 1 non-breeding adult at East Point on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS); **Black-headed Gull** - 1 at Souris Lagoon on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS); **Bonaparte's Gull** - 2500+ at East Point on Dec. 14 (DO, VL, DA, CGa, CW, JJo, CG, IG) at East Point on Jan. 8 & 4 at Georgetown Harbour on Jan. 14 (D&ES); **Mew Gull** - 1 at Souris Bridge on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS), 1 at Stratford lagoons on Jan. 12 (DO) & Jan. 13 (DC&ES); **Herring and Great Black Backed Gulls** - ~600 with 90% Herring Gulls on ice at Hillsborough Bridge (DCS, JDM); **Ring-billed Gull** - 2 at Stratford lagoons on Jan. 13 (DC&ES); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** - 1 at Georgetown Royalty on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS), 1 seen regularly in Jan. at Ferry Wharf Road at Georgetown (SSi, DC&ES), 1 at Cardigan Bridge on Jan. 19 (SSi); **Glaucous Gull** - 1 at Stratford Lagoon on Jan. 1 & 1 at Souris on Jan. 7 (DC&ES), 2<sup>nd</sup> winter individual at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 12 (DO), 1 at Kensington on Feb. 17 (GBBC); **Purple Sandpiper** - 1 at Point Prim lighthouse shore on Nov. 30, Dec. 3 (DO, DCS), 1 at Maximeville beach on Dec. 17 (G&Fma); **Black Guillemot** - at East Point on Jan. 8 & 1 at Georgetown Harbour on Jan. 14 (D&ES); **Rock Pigeon** - 11 at Charlottetown feeder (EMu); **Mourning Dove** - 8 at Stanhope feeder on Dec. 22 (F&JC), 25 at Vernon River feeders on Jan. 21 (DK), 8 to 13 daily in Jan. at Donagh feeders (JDM), 20 daily at St. Charles feeders in Dec. & early Jan. (W&SF), 9 appeared at South Melville feeders on Jan. 19 (RA); **Great Horned Owl** - 1 calling at Georgetown on Jan. 7 (SSi), 1 at Watervale on Jan. 10 (DCS, DO); **Snowy Owl** - 1 periodically at St. Eleanor's Dec. 19 to Feb. 3 (TW), 1 at Charlottetown Airport on Dec. 24 (DO, DCS), 1 at Hillsborough Bridge in Charlottetown on Dec. 25 to early Jan. 14 (DO, JDM, WFB, DC&ES, RT, JBl, CW, JJo, JJe, TO, CGa, CG, I&DS), 2 at Borden on Jan. 5, 7 (JR via JJ, DO), 1 in field at St. Eleanor's on Feb. 21 & 23 (JDM, CW, CG, CGa, EMcE), 1 at Hillsborough Bridge on Feb. 24 (DO, JHR); **Short-eared Owl** - 1 at North Lake on Dec. 13 (DO), at Dalvay on Jan. 22 (CW), 1 at Cumberland Line Road on Jan. 25 (LD), 1 at Fernwood on Jan. 22 (GMcC), 1 at East Lake on Feb. 22 (FFJ, DB); **Barred Owl** - 1 at Dromore on Jan. 10 (DCS, DO), 1 at Strathgartney on Jan. 15 (AMH, SMC, KP, AT); **Northern Saw-whet Owl** - 2 at Avondale, 2 at Auburn, & 1 at Johnston's River on Jan. 10 (DCS, DO); **Belted Kingfisher** - 1 at Pownal on Dec. 29 (DCS, JDM), at Basin Head on Jan. 1 (W&SF), 1 at Cardigan on Jan. 14 (DC&ES), 2 male at Murray River on Feb. 11 (JHS); **Downy Woodpecker** - 2 at Charlottetown feeders in Dec. & Jan (SGC), 2 at Bunbury feeders in Dec. (SN), male at Stanhope feeder on Dec. 22 (F&JC), 1 daily at St. Charles feeders in late Dec & early Jan, (W&SF), 2 at Vernon River feeders on Jan. 21 (DK), 1 at Maximeville feeders on Jan. 22 (G&Fma), 3 males & 2 females at Dromore on Jan. 22 (AC); **Hairy Woodpecker** - 1 at Vernon River feeders on Jan. 2 (DK), pair at Charlottetown feeders (SGC), 2 females at Dromore on Jan. 22 (AC); **Black-backed Woodpecker** - 1 at Vernon River on Feb. 10 (DK), 1 at Reeds & Rushes Trail in Dalvay on Feb. 24 (CW), female at Valley on Feb. 25 (GS, ML); **Northern Flicker** - 2 eating black grapes at Vernon River in late Dec. (DK), 1 periodically at Charlottetown feeders in Dec. to Feb. (SGC), 1 periodically at Vernon River feeders on Jan. 21 & Feb. (DK), 1 at Fort Amherst on Jan. 24 (DC&ES), 1 at New Dominion on Jan. 26 (DC&ES), 1 at South Melville on Jan. 31 (RA), 1 in tree line at Valley on Jan. 31 (GS), 2 at Caledonia on Feb. 22 (JHS); **Pileated Woodpecker** - 1 at Woodville Mills/St. Georges on Feb. 21 (JDS via DK); **Northern Shrike** - 1 at Chepstow on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS), 1 at Alberton on Jan. 8 (EC), 1 at Bellevue on Jan. 14 (DC&ES), 1 at Clearsprings on Jan. 22 (CGa, CG); **Gray Jay** - 1 at Valley on Dec. 13 (GS); **Blue Jay** - 7 at Charlottetown feeders on Dec. 22 (EMu), 20 at Vernon River feeders on Jan. 21 (DK), 8 at Maximeville feeders on Jan. 22 (G&Fma); **American Crow** - group pecking an individual crow at Bunbury on Dec. 18 (SN), thousands daily at the Victoria Park roost in Jan. & Feb., carrying nesting material at Valley on Feb. 23 (GS); **Horned Lark** - ~100 at Earnscliffe on Dec. 29 (DCS, JDM); **Black-capped Chickadee** - 10 at Maximeville feeders on Jan. 22 (G&Fma), many at Fernwood feeders on Jan. 22 (GMcC); **Boreal Chickadee** - at Monticello on Feb. 11 (CGa), at Margate on Feb. 17 (CGa, CW, EMcE); **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - 4 at Stanhope feeder on Dec. 22 (F&JC), 2 at Donagh feeders in Dec. & Jan. (JDM), 2 at Murray Harbour feeders on Jan. 21 (GSa), 1 at Fernwood feeders on

Jan. 22 (GMcC), 2 at Vernon River feeders on Feb. 1 (DK), at Monticello on Feb. 11 (CGa); **White-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 at Charlottetown feeder on Dec. 2 (BCM), 1 at Cornwall on Feb. 17 (GBBC); **Brown Creeper** - 1 at Charlottetown feeders on Dec. 23 (SGC); **Carolina Wren** - 2 at Summerside feeders and hedge in Dec. then seen on Jan. 18 to Feb. 21 (BMi, LH, BM, DO, DC&ES); **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** - male at suet feeder in Maximeville on Jan. 27 (G&FMa); **Eastern Bluebird** - 1 male at Murray Harbour North on Dec. 10 (VMJ); **American Robin** - seen at Tryon (30), Donagh (1 to 4), Charlottetown (5), Vernon River (20 to 200), Fairview (small group), Rocky Point (20 to 25), Point Prim (~10), Stanhope (few), Georgetown Royalty (20), New Dominion (1 to 8), Rocky Point (4), Cornwall (1), Orwell (10), at in southern PEI in Dec./Jan, (RA, JDM, DO, HR, DK, F&JC), 1 at Grand-Pere Point Rd on Feb. 11 (JHR), 1 at Macphail Woods on Feb. 19 (GS); **American Pipit** - 1 heard at Victoria Park on Dec. 9 (DCS), 1 at East Point on Jan. 7 (D&ES); **Bohemian**



Carolina Wren by D. Oakley

**Waxwing** - ~50 at Point Prim on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS), 100 at Vernon River on Feb. 10 (DK), 1 at Valley eating dried berries on Feb. 22 (GS, ML); **Cedar Waxwing** - ~50 at Point Prim on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS), 2 at Cumberland on Jan. 26 (LD), 80 at Tea Hill on Feb. 18 (JDM); **Waxwing** spp. - ~9 at Dromore on Jan. 22 (AC), ~100 at Sturgeon on Jan. 31 (SSi); **Yellow-rumped Warbler** - 4 at Point Prim on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS), 3 at Brackley Beach on Jan. 22 (DO, LH), 1 trying for flies on a window at Caledonia on Feb. & 22 (JHS), 1 at Monticello On Feb. 16 (GM); **Pine Warbler** - 1 at Riverside Estates in Dec. & Jan. (WFB, EM), 1 at Cornwall on Jan. 2 (NW), bright male eating suet at Crossroads on Jan. 14 (DO, DC&ES); **American Tree Sparrow** - 1 at Vernon River on Dec. 12 (DK), 1 at Valley feeders on Dec. 13 (GS), 1 at Vernon River feeders on Jan. 21 (DK), 2 at Maximeville feeders on Jan. 22 (G&FMa), 3 most days at Donagh feeders in Jan. with up to 13 some days in early Feb. (JDM); **Song Sparrow** - 1 at Charlottetown feeders on Dec. 3 (DCS), 7 reported at Richmond & 5 in West Royalty area on Feb. 18 (GBBC), 1 at Earnscliffe on Feb. 23 (GS); **White-throated Sparrow** - 1 on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS) & 1 at Crossroads feeders on Jan. 14 (DC&ES), 1 at Point Prim feeders on Dec. 29 (DCS, JDM), 1 at Vernon River feeders on Jan. 21 (DK), 5 at Alexandra in Feb. (A&DS); **Dark-eyed Junco** - 2 at Dromore in early Jan. (AC), 1 at Fernwood feeders on Jan. 22 (GMcC), 2 at Maximeville feeders on Jan. 22 (G&FMa), 12 appeared at South Melville feeders on Jan. 19 (RA), 2 or 3 most days at Donagh feeders in Jan. To mid-Feb (JDM); **Lapland Longspur** - 12 at Earnscliffe on Feb. 24 (DO); **Snow Bunting** - 150 at Northport on Dec. 5 (EC), small flock at Valley on Dec. 13 (GS), 13 at Camp Buchan on Dec. 29 (DCS, JDM), 30 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 1 (DC&ES), 80 at Tracadie Cross on Jan. 7 (DC&ES), 43 at North Rustico & 12 at Anglo Rustico on Jan. 23 (DC&ES), 24 at Maximeville feeders on Jan. 20 (G&FMa), ~150 at Fernwood on Feb. 3 (GMcC), ~80 at Donagh on Feb. 8 (JDM), 120 at South Freetown on Feb. 10 (RT); **Northern Cardinal** - female at Charlottetown on Dec. 29 (JM via JW); **Dickcissel** - 1 at East Baltic on Dec. 9 (DCS); **Red-winged Blackbird** - 1 at Belfast on Feb. 17 (GBBC), 1 at Richmond on Feb. 18 (GBBC); **Common Grackle** - 2 at Montague on Dec. 3 (DO, DCS); **Brown-headed Cowbird** - 3 at Point Prim feeders on Dec. 29 (DCS, JDM), at Rice Point on Jan. 1 (DC&ES); **Purple Finch** - only 1 reports in Dec.-Jan. with 1 at Stanhope feeder on Dec. 22 (F&JC); **Common Redpoll** - no reports in Jan.; **Pine Siskin** - very few reports in Jan., 1 at Kensington area on Feb. 18 (GBBC); **American Goldfinch** - ~70 in mid-Dec. & ~100 at Dromore feeders in early Jan. (AC), 35 at Vernon River feeders on Jan. 21 (DK), 10 to 30 most days at Donagh feeders (JDM); **Evening Grosbeak** - male & female at Riverside Estates in Charlottetown on Dec. 9 & 10 (WFB, EM), 2 males & 5 females at Watervale on Feb. 18 (AC); **House Sparrow** - at Riverside Estates in Charlottetown on Dec. 9 (WFB, EM), 10 to 12 at Bunbury feeders in Dec. (SN), 25 at Point Prim on Dec. 29 (DCS, JDM), 6 at Cherry Valley on Jan. 1 (DC&ES).

**Older Reports and Corrections:** The date for the Black Vulture sighting in issue 182 has been corrected to mid Nov. (10 days commencing between Nov. 10 & 15 (D,L,K,&GC). As well, the Short-billed Dowitcher report by RA is changed to Dunlin. There was a **Curlew Sandpiper** at Brackley Marsh on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2002 and at Covehead on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002 (DCS). **Caspian Tern** at Mt. Stewart WMA on Oct. 3/06 (BP). 1 **Red Phalarope** in winter plumage at Summerside Harbour on Oct. 10/06 (AF). 1 **Barred Owl** at Cherry Hill on Oct. 7 (BP). 2 **Gray Jays** at Cherry Hill on Oct. 7/06 (BP). 1 **Brown Creeper** at Cherry Hill on Oct. 20/06 (BP). 1 **House Finch** at Brackley Beach on Jun. 22/06 (DSa).

Thanks to the following contributors who provided records for this listing, namely: DA - Dennis Abbott; KLA- Kerry-Lynn Atkinson RA - Ron Arvidson; JBI - Jean Blanchard; DB - Donna Burke; WFB - Bill Bowerbank; AC - Alma Currie; D,L,K,&GC - Doris, Leonard, Kevin, & Glenda Carver; EC - Elwood Coakes; F&JC - Fred & Janet Connolly; FRC - Rosemary Curley; GC - Gabrielle Cheverie; RC - Ray Cooke; SGC - Sharon Clark; MC - Molly Colburn; DD - Dave Dowling; LD - Lois Doan; AF - Andrea Foster; W&SF - Warren & Sherron Foulkes; GBBC - Great Backyard Bird Count report; CG - Carolyn Gallant; CGa - Cathleen Gallant; IG - Ian Gray; AMH - Ann-Marie Hartman; B&RH - Ben & Rosalie Hoteling; BeHo - Beth Hoar; L&JH - Les & Joan Homans; VMJ - Virginia MacSwain Jackson; FFJ - Father Frank Jay; JJ - Jim Jenkins; JJe - Jesse Jenkins; JJo - Jamie Johnston; GK - Glen Kelly; DK - Dan Kennedy; MK - Meike Keunecke; ML - Margie Loo; VL - Vern

Laux; BM - Barry Martin; EM - Evelyn Martin; SMC - Siobhan Marie-Curry; G&FMa - Gisele & Fred Martin; GM - Gerald MacDonald; FiM - Finton MacKinnon; JM - Joyce MacLeod; EMcE - Erin McEvoy; JDM - Dan McAskill; GMcC - Gail McCourt; BCM (formerly listed as BMcO) - Bonnie McOrmond; BMi - Bib Milligan; EMu - Elaine Murley; SN - Sharon Neill; DO - Dwaine Oakley; TO - Thomas Oakley; BP - Bruce Pigot; KP - Krystal Pyke; SP - Shirley Prouse; HR - Harry Robertson; JR - John Read; JHR - Jennifer Roma; A&DS - Alma & Don Steeves; DSa - Dwayne Sabine; DC&ES - David & Elaine Seeler; I&DS - Ian & Daphne Scott; GS - Gary Schneider; GSa - Glenn Saunders; SSi - Scott Sinclair; JDS - J.D. Summers; JHS - Jim Sutton; AT - Aleida Tweten; RT - Reg Dutch Thompson; CW - Chris Wagner; JW - Jackie Waddell; JWa - Jean Watts; NW - Nigel Weaver; JWo - Jeff Wood; TW - Trevor Wadman; WCT - Wildlife Conservation Technology Class; LY - Lorne Yeo.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR:

*Note: With the exception of the Introduction to Birding Course, the Society's presentations and field trips are open to the public.*

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

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

- Mar. 6 - Natural History Society Introduction to Birding Course Featuring Loons, Cormorant, Herons, Waterfowl, Hawks, & Grouse** - This is the second of four parts of the Natural History Society's which will be held during the Society's meetings from February through May. The course starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, University Ave., Charlottetown. There will be a fee of \$20 for non-Society members and this will include a year's membership in the Society. **YN**
- Mar. 10 - Natural History Society Bird Course Field Trip** - meet at the Farm Centre rear parking lot at 9 am.
- Apr. 3 - Natural History Society Introduction to Birding Course Featuring Rails, Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns, Owls, Flycatchers & Jays** - This is the third of four parts of this Natural History Society birding course which will be held during the Society's meetings from February through May. The course starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, University Ave., Charlottetown. There will be a fee of \$20 for non-Society members and this will include a year's membership in the Society. **YN**
- Apr. 4 - PEI Provincial Science Fair** - Being held at CARI Centre at UPEI.
- Apr. 12 - The Atlantic Salmon Foundation fund raising dinner.** Please contact Rob Sharkie at 886-3390 to purchase tickets.
- Apr. 28 - Natural History Society Bird Course Field Trip** - meet at the Farm Centre rear parking lot at 9 am.
- May 1 - Natural History Society Introduction to Birding Course Featuring Larks, Swallows, Wrens, Warblers, Sparrows, Grosbeaks, Blackbirds, & Finches** - This is the fourth and final part of the Natural History Society's which will be held during the Society's meetings from February through May. The course starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, University Ave., Charlottetown. There will be a fee of \$20 for non-Society members and this will include a year's membership in the Society. **YN**
- May 4 - The Island Nature Trust's Annual Fund Raising Dinner and Auction.** Tickets are \$50 and include a partial tax receipt. Please contact the Trust at 566-9150 for tickets.
- May 19 - Natural History Society Bird Course Field Trip** - meet at the Homestead Trail parking lot beside the Cavendish Campground at 9 am.
- May 26 - The Society's Bain Bird Count.** Please contact Dan McAskill at 902-569-4351 or E-mail at [nhspei@isn.net](mailto:nhspei@isn.net) for information or to register.
- Jun. 5 - Wildflowers of Prince Edward Island** - Just in time for spring and summer, Kate MacQuarrie will be providing an illustrated presentation on the Island's wildflowers. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, University Ave., Charlottetown. **YN**

*For more information, comments and suggestions for future programs or field trips, please contact the Society's Program Director, Jennifer Roma at 368-8972 [jennifer.roma@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.roma@gmail.com)*

**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.