



# ISLAND NATURALIST

**ISSUE # 188**

**JUL. - SEPT. 2008**



Photo by Nina Linton

**NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND  
P.O. BOX 2346, CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. C1A 8C1**

**Meetings** are held of 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.

**2008 Executive:**

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**NEWSLETTERS** are normally published quarterly on recycled paper. Articles, notes, reports, drawings, bird sightings, plant records, etc. are welcomed from members and non-members. If you have seen anything unusual, please share it with us. It is important to have your observations recorded so that others may learn from them. All contributions should be sent by mail to Dan McAskill, Newsletter Editor, NHSPEI, Charlottetown RR # 5, Donagh, P.E.I. C1A 7J8 or via E-mail to [nhspei@isn.net](mailto:nhspei@isn.net)

The *next deadline* for articles, sightings, or other newsletter information is **September 15, 2008**.

**Illustrations/Pictures:** The Society extends a special thanks to Virginia MacSwain Jackson, Nina Linton, and Dwayne Oakley for their photographs 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) See the Society's picture forum.

**Cover Illustration:**

This month's cover photograph captures an incredible image of a Barred Owl in flight. Nina Linton used a playback of their calls during the Bird Studies Canada nocturnal owl surveys to attract this owl. The owl made a number of passes and Nina captured the image utilizing a strobe flash so as to freeze the motion. This image was one of a series captured on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at Iona, P.E.I. The Barred Owl normally nests in tree cavities and, in New Brunswick, they have a higher than average nest success rate every other year.

## CHICKADEE NEST BOX SUCCESS:

By Virginia MacSwain-Jackson

We put up our chickadee boxes this spring and soon had several chickadees investigate. We had two families take up residence in our boxes last year. If anyone is interested, they seem to like the unpainted nest boxes from Michael's Arts & Crafts store. The year Michael's opened I bought one and stuck it up in the yard not really thinking it would attract much and to our surprise the next day a pair of chickadees started to build and raised 9 young in it. I was lucky enough to be outside when they left the nest and was able to video most of them leaving. Since then we have used those boxes having two pairs raise their young in our yard the last two summers.

***Editor's Note:** Should you have an occupied nest box in your yard or elsewhere, please report this to the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas on-line or send your observations along with the location of the nest so that we can put the information into the MBBA records. The same goes for bird nest building, recently fledged young and certain other activities.*



Photo by Virginia MacSwain-Jackson

## BLUE WHALE REMAINS UNEARTHED:

Fiep de Bie, AVC Wildlife Technician

### An "inside" view of the blue whale excavation

It was November 2007 when I first heard about the Blue Whale. Andrew Trites, Marine Mammal Researcher at the University of British Columbia (UBC) had contacted AVC wildlife pathologist Pierre-Yves Daoust about a preliminary excavation of a Blue Whale skeleton at Nail Pond that had beached in 1987. The purpose of this exploratory dig was to find out if it was feasible to recover the skeleton for the Beaty Biodiversity Museum atrium at the UBC. This sounded pretty exciting and we agreed to meet with the UBC crew in early December. With the help of Conservation Officer Sandra Keough, the skeleton was easily found. The next day, five members of our wildlife pathology group armed with knives and shovels started to expose parts of the whale's backbone. With temperatures below -5 C the soil in the pit was frozen and it was very cold in the wind above the ground. To our big surprise we discovered that, after 20 years, the entire carcass is still encased in thick tough blubber and blue skin is clearly visible. We realized that, despite the many years, there was still a lot of tissue to be cut. After checking the condition of the bones, the decision is made: we are going to excavate the entire carcass in the spring! The location of the whale is marked with 2 x 4 boards and she is carefully reburied. A measuring tape placed along the backbone shows that she is more than 80 feet long...!

In May, 2008, after many emails about knives, shovels, pot/pans, manpower, accommodation, transportation and much more, the day was upon us...we will finally get our hands dirty. In the meantime, we have gathered quite a diverse and keen group of volunteers who are willing to get very dirty and very smelly. We have staff and former staff of the AVC Pathology Department, (grad) students from Mexico and Zimbabwe, and a DFO intern. Also, The Holland College Wildlife Conservation Technology class graciously helps out for a day.

The volunteers work in teams and jobs are assigned to dissect the whale, photograph the scene, dig out the remains, or wash and sharpen knives. A combination of knives, picks, crowbars, and shovels are used to carefully peel the blue skin and tough visceral tissues away from the bones. One by one the vertebra are carried out of the pit. The ribs proved to be the toughest to get out because they have collapsed and are firmly imbedded in skin and blubber. Knives get dull very fast when cutting through whale blubber and sand and, at one point, six people are washing and sharpening knives. As the last bones are carried into the truck, our group size dwindles as well. It took a full week to exhume this impressive blue whale.

We encountered wind, rain, cold and warm temperatures, but it did not seem to matter to anyone. This project was carried out in a spirit of cooperation and friendship between two coastal communities. In the evenings, we had wonderful home cooked meals and great conversations with everyone involved.

The media was out in full force and it was often mentioned that it would be nice if this whale could stay in P.E.I. If anything, I hope this blue whale made people aware of the need for a P.E.I. Natural History Museum. The Beaty

Biodiversity Museum will soon be home to the first blue whale skeleton on display in Canada and we are proud to have been part of it.

**2008 BAIN BIRD COUNT:**

by Dan McAskill, Ray Cooke,  
David Seeler, Dwaine Oakley,  
Gerald, Gene, & Carolyn  
MacDonald, Paul & Arlene  
McGuigan, and Jean Watts

At 2:30 am, on May 31<sup>st</sup>, the first team assembled in Charlottetown to commence the 2008 Bain Bird Count. It was clear, cool, and no wind to start the day. A crescent moon set the stage for a great day of birding. The forecast for rain late in the day eventually shut birding down with fairly heavy rain starting around 6 pm. The winds were low during the daylight hours with East Point being the only cold spot.

Leaves were only partly flushed so visibility was quite good in the hardwood forest and shrub areas. On the shrub side, only service berry and a few sheep laurel were in flower. The two teams birded in the central and northeastern parts of the Island for this year's Bain Bird Count.

The participants are listed above. One team birded for 13.5 hours and drove 70 km. The other team went from 2:30 am to 6:30 pm and covered some 354 kilometres by vehicle and about 1 km of walking. Together, they observed and/or heard 130 species, the same as last year's total on the Bain Bird Count. There was lots of laughter and camaraderie so a great day was had by all the participants. Dwaine, David, Ray, and Fiep added the American Three-toed Woodpecker to their life list, David and Fiep recorded the Green Heron as a life bird and Ray and Dwaine added the Green Heron to their Island list.

The numbers of warblers were relatively low but there was pretty good diversity. A Virginia Rail responded to the acoustic player coming with a foot or two. Other highlights of the day included : a Great Horned Owl and a Barred Owl coming out beside the vehicle, 3 Upland Sandpiper in the Anderson Road blueberry fields, a Little Blue Heron at Little Harbour, an immature male King Eider (seen by two people), Scarlet Tanager, and a Green Heron and a Three-toed Woodpecker at East Lake

The species bolded in the text marked highlights of the day.

Common Loon  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Northern Gannet  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Cormorant  
American Bittern  
Great Blue Heron  
**Little Blue Heron**  
**Green Heron** (7<sup>th</sup> P.E.I. Record)  
Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
Gadwall  
American Wigeon  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler (2 males)  
Green-winged Teal  
Ring-necked Duck

**King Eider**  
Common Eider  
White-winged Scoter  
Black Scoter  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
UID Buteo  
American Kestrel  
Merlin  
Ruffed Grouse  
Virginia Rail  
Sora  
Semipalmated Plover  
Piping Plover  
Killdeer  
Greater Yellowlegs

Lesser Yellowlegs  
Willet  
Spotted Sandpiper  
**Upland Sandpiper**  
Semipalmated Sandpiper  
Least Sandpiper  
White-rumped Sandpiper  
Dunlin  
Wilson's Snipe  
American Woodcock  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Iceland Gull  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Common Tern  
Black Guillemot  
Rock Pigeon



Scarlet Tanager photo by Dwaine Oakley

Mourning Dove	Black-capped Chickadee	Ovenbird
Great Horned Owl	Boreal Chickadee	Mourning Warbler
Barred Owl	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Waterthrush
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Winter Wren	Mourning Warbler
Common Nighthawk	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Common Yellowthroat
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Canada Warbler
Belted Kingfisher	Swainson's Thrush	<b>Scarlet Tanager</b>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Hermit Thrush	Chipping Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker	American Robin	Savannah Sparrow
Hairy Woodpecker	Gray Catbird	Song Sparrow
<b>American Three-toed Woodpecker</b>	European Starling	Lincoln's Sparrow
Northern Flicker	Cedar Waxwing	Swamp Sparrow
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Nashville Warbler	White-throated Sparrow
Eastern Wood Peewee	Northern Parula	White-crowned Sparrow
Alder Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler	Dark-eyed Junco
Least Flycatcher	Chestnut -sided Warbler	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Eastern Kingbird	Magnolia Warbler	Bobolink
Blue-headed (Solitary) Vireo	Cape May Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-eyed Vireo	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Common Grackle
Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Purple Finch
American Crow	Black-throated Green Warbler	Pine Siskin
Common Raven	Blackburnian Warbler	American Goldfinch
Tree Swallow	Palm Warbler	House Sparrow
Bank Swallow	Blackpoll Warbler	
Barn Swallow	Black-and-white Warbler	
	American Redstart	

A mink, a beaver, fox, raccoon, and a muskrat were also seen during the day.

#### **NATURAL HISTORY AWARDS AT UPEI SCIENCE FAIR:**

By Beth Hoar and Dwaine Oakley

Beth Hoar and Dwaine Oakley evaluated the natural history presentations during the April 3, 2008 UPEI Science Fair competitions. This year there were winners in all three levels of schools. The winners were: Emma Banman of École St-Augustin in the Under 10 Category with her presentation “Connais - tu les hyenas?”; Bethany Farrell and Emily Wolfe of Miscouche Consolidated School in the Intermediate Category with their presentation “Are Blue Jays really blue?”; and Edward Gao of Colonel Gray High School in the Senior category with his presentation “Reactions of Balsam Fir seedlings to pollutants”.

#### **THE POP CAN BAN ENDS:**

On May 3, 2008 the Government of Prince Edward Island ended the “can ban”. About 40 years ago, the Government initiated studies of roadside litter in the province and these studies documented the contribution of various products including bottles. The Natural History Society was one of the groups that wrote a letter in support of a can on cans. First instituted in 1984, the government of the day created a law to ban the sale of carbonated beverage cans. Thus, Prince Edward Island eventually became the only place in Canada and the United States where pop and beer could only be sold in refillable bottles. The ban was originally put in place to protect the environment but eventually also became a tool that protected jobs at local bottling plants. The province also banned pop from being sold in plastic bottles. (Adapted from CBC & Guardian news stories of May 2-3 and information from R. Curley and D. McAskill)

**WINTER BIRD LIST:**

Compiled by David Seeler

SPECIES Reported: 112

Red-throated Loon	Common Merganser	Barred Owl	European Starling
Common Loon	Osprey	Boreal Owl	House Sparrow
Northern Gannet	Bald Eagle	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Pine Grosbeak
Double-crested Cormorant	Northern Harrier	Northern Long-eared Owl	Purple Finch
Great Cormorant	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Short-eared Owl	Red Crossbill
Great Blue Heron	Northern Goshawk	Belted Kingfisher	White-winged Crossbill
Canada Goose	Red-tailed Hawk	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Common Redpoll
Wood Duck	Rough-legged Hawk	Downy Woodpecker	Hoary Redpoll
American Wigeon	Merlin	Hairy Woodpecker	Pine Siskin
Gadwall	Peregrine Falcon	Black-backed Woodpecker	American Goldfinch
Green-winged Teal	Ruffed Grouse	Northern Flicker	Evening Grosbeak
Mallard	Sharp-tailed Grouse	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
American Black Duck	Gray Partridge	Horned Lark	American Tree Sparrow
Northern Pintail	Ring-necked Pheasant	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Song Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Purple Sandpiper	Cedar Waxwing	White-crowned Sparrow
Greater Scaup	Ring-billed Gull	Bohemian Waxwing	White-throated Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Great Black-backed Gull	Carolina Wren	Dark-eyed Junco
Common Eider	Glaucous Gull	Northern Mockingbird	Lapland Longspur
Long-tailed Duck	Iceland Gull	American Robin	Snow Bunting
Black Scoter	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Black-capped Chickadee	Northern Cardinal
Surf Scoter	American Herring Gull	Boreal Chickadee	Red-winged Blackbird
White-winged Scoter	Black-headed Gull	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Common Goldeneye	Bonaparte's Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Rusty Blackbird
Barrow's Goldeneye	Dovekie	Brown Creeper	Common Grackle
Bufflehead	Black Guillemot	Northern Shrike	Brown-headed Cowbird
Hooded Merganser	Rock Pigeon	Gray Jay	Bullock's Oriole
Red-breasted Merganser	Mourning Dove	Blue Jay	
	Great Horned Owl	American Crow	
	Snowy Owl	Common Raven	

**SEARCH FOR A PROVINCIAL MUSEUM:**

For those interested in the various attempts to create a "Provincial Museum", the latest issue of The Island Magazine (Number 63 - Spring/Summer) carries an intriguing and thought provoking by Catherine Hennessey on this journey to where we have arrived. You can obtain a copy at selected bookstores or through the P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation at 368-6600.

**NEWS FROM ABOUT:**

A cycling path was installed along the bay side between Brackley Beach and Covehead Harbour and the road was narrowed detracting significantly from opportunistic birding in the wetlands along the highway. This was formerly one of the pre-eminent shorebirding sites on Prince Edward Island. However, after this summer, parking will no longer be allowed along the road on most of the bay sites (JDM).

The Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO) reached a major milestone, becoming the first North American migration monitoring station to band 750,000 birds. The bird was banded at LPBO's Old Cut Field Station by Hugh McArthur, a long-time volunteer, Bird Studies Canada board member, and coordinator of the Friends of LPBO. On April 7 at 1:00 p.m., Hugh placed a special gold-coloured band on the right leg of a Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) to commemorate the occasion. (Adapted from BSC's Latest News April 18)

The grand opening of the Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Fund's new Research and Education Centre (REC) was held on Saturday, April 26, 2008. LPWRF recently signed a long-term Memorandum of Understanding to use and operate the former Ministry of Natural Resources Junior Ranger Camp north of Turkey Point.



The REC will be used to house part-time staff, students, and volunteers, and will be made available to many other conservation- and education-based organizations. (Adapted from BSC's Latest News April 18)

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) held its spring Species Assessment Meeting April 20 to 25 in Yellowknife, NT. BSC employee Dick Cannings attended the meeting as the co-chair for the Birds subcommittee. The status of the Canada Warbler was assessed as Threatened; this species has experienced a significant long-term decline over most of its breeding range. The reasons for the decline are unclear, but loss of forest on the wintering grounds in South America is a likely primary cause. The Ferruginous Hawk, formerly listed as Special Concern, was uplisted to Threatened because of a 64% population decline in Alberta (the heart of its Canadian range) since 1992. (Adapted from BSC's Latest News May 2)

The Borden lagoons were under construction on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Workers indicated that they were combining the three cells. (Adapted from ListServer E-mail from Les Homans). Also, the Cornwall lagoons were under construction in June (JDM, SM).

By May 31<sup>st</sup>, the gift shop at East Point had been moved closer to the light house as the ongoing erosion takes land off the shoreline.

Renowned environmentalist, **Charles Caccia** passed away on May 3rd in Ottawa. Most recently a senior fellow at the University of Ottawa's Institute for the Environment, Mr. Charles Caccia spent a large part of his career working to protect the environment and to promote social justice issues. Known as "the conscience" of the Liberal Party of Canada, Charles Caccia was an outspoken crusader who, over a span of more than four decades, fought for a wide range of causes. (From P.E.I. Eco\_Net Enews May 4 - 9)

Last August, Bird Studies Canada reported that the 2007 Red Knot Assessment Report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) showed substantial population declines of the subspecies *Calidris canutus rufa*, which is listed as Endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). The report predicted possible extinction for the *rufa* subspecies within ten years if the trend continues at current rates. A significant contributing factor to the population crash has been the reduced availability of horseshoe crab eggs, one of its primary food sources, due to over-harvesting in Delaware Bay, U.S., a key Red Knot stopover site. To address these concerns, the State of New Jersey passed legislation which bans horseshoe crab harvesting until such time as the USFWS determines that populations of both Red Knots and horseshoe crabs have returned to a level where they will be self-sustaining. (Adapted from BSC's Latest News May 16)

To date on Prince Edward Island, 243 alien invasive plants have been identified compared to Canada's total of 486. There are 333 in Nova Scotia and 321 in New Brunswick. 24 exotic species have been introduced to combat invasive species primarily in agricultural lands. These include cinnabar moth and flea beetles (*Longatarsus*) to combat tansy ragwort, *Hadriplontis litura* and *Urophora cadruui* for Canada thistle. (INT Alien Invasive Species workshop, April 24, 2008).

## WEATHER EVENTS:

Heavy snow fog on night of Apr. 1 reduced snow levels in fields and woods after 10 cm of snow on Apr. 1 (JDM). Open water in the channel at North River extended to Beach Grove point on Apr. 3 and there was no ice left on Hillsborough River at Charlottetown on Apr. 13 (JDM). Ice was covering 40% of Brackley Bay, 30% of the marsh, on Apr. 19 (JDM, ECM). Fields at Miscouche were bare but fields at Mill River were snow covered on Apr. 9 (JDM, HI). The lawn at Donagh was still 50% snow covered on Apr. 12 (JDM). It snowed for 8+ hours on Apr. 24 at Donagh but it melted off by the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> (JDM). Some snow still existed in the ditches at Green Park and Arlington on May 6 (JDM, HI).

## ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:

McAskill

Compiled by J. Dan

**PLANTS:** Maple sap started flowing at Mill River on Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup> (MA, EG). Crocus starting to flower at Donagh on Apr. 10 (JDM). Trembling aspen, willow, & alder catkins were open at Donagh on Apr. 18 (JDM). Hyacinth was in flower at Donagh on Apr. 25 (JDM). Hazelnut staminate flower open, first red maple flowers open, and hawthorn buds swelling at Donagh and first few dandelion in bloom at QEH berm on Apr. 29 (JDM). Bush honeysuckle flushing,





hazelnut catkins open, and red elder flowers open in Donagh on May 1 (JDM). First daffodils in flower and daffodil leaves sprouting from ground in Donagh on May 3 (JDM). Coltsfoot in flower at St. Margarets on May 3 (DO, DCS), coltsfoot in flower at Richmond, red maple in flower at Green Park (JDM, HI), red elder flowers at purple stage and their leaves starting to flush at Donagh on May 6 (JDM). White violets started flowering at St. Patrick's Road (near Peakes) and at Donagh on May 7 (JDM). Raspberry leaves 1/4 expressed and red oak buds flushing on May 7 (JDM). First dandelion in flower and butternut buds flushing at Donagh on May 17 (JDM). Yellow birch catkins open at Donagh on May 11 (JDM). Marsh marigold in flower at Mermaid on May 15 (JDM). Pin cherry starting to flower at Donagh, white and purple violets still flowering at Donagh and first large field flushes of dandelion between Donagh and Charlottetown on May 27 (JDM). Painted trillium in flower at New Harmony on May 30 (DO). Blue-bead lily in

bloom at Elmira on Jun. 2 (DO) Red oak in flower on Jun. 4 (JDM). Lilac, hawthorn, mountain ash, apple, and bush honeysuckle in flower at Donagh on Jun. 6 & choke cherry on Jun. 13 (JDM). Dandelion mostly gone to seed on Jun. 14 (JDM). Some blue and white violets still in flower at Donagh on Jun. 15 (JDM). Wild lily of the valley, bunchberry, mountain ash, apple, pink lady's slipper, and lupins in flower in Charlottetown on Jun. 20 (WFB, JDM). Yellow hawkweed, vine honeysuckle, and bush honeysuckle in flower in Donagh on Jun. 20 (JDM). Clematis starting to flower on Jun. 23 and foxglove starting to in flower in Donagh on Jun. 26 (JDM). Blue flag, alternate lead dogwood, pink lady's slipper, highbush cranberry, and twinflower in flower at Cambridge and Murray River on Jun. 29 (JDM, SM).

**INSECTS:** On May 5, first black flies and mosquitos at Donagh but none at Green Park on May 6 (JDM). June beetles very late this year in Donagh (JDM). The first tiger swallowtail were observed on Jun. 29 at Murray River and Cambridge (JDM, SM). The first fire fly was seen at Donagh on Jul. 5 (JDM).

**AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES:** Wood frogs calling at Avondale & Elliotvale on Apr. 11 (DO, DCS). Leopard frog calling on May 3 (DO) and American toad calling at Riverdale on May 4 (JW). Pickerel frog at Avondale on pond off 48 Road on May 8 (WCT).

**FISH:** Smelt at Bonshaw bridge on Apr. 10 (LY). Smelt at Red Point Road and Johnston's River flowage on Apr. 23 (JDM, DMacN)

**MAMMALS:** first raccoon on groundhog day at St. Charles. It had 3 legs and a second individual about a week later (S&WF). In late April, a mother raccoon was electrocuted on a power pole and 6 baby raccoons were sent to animal rescue centre (A&DS). 1 to 3 raccoons were seen almost daily at Donagh feeders from Apr. to Jun. (JDM). First eastern chipmunk on Mar. 24 at St. Charles feeders (S&WF) & at Crossroads feeder on Apr. 6 (DO), and Donagh feeders on Apr. 10 (JDM). Flying squirrel at Vernon River on Apr. 23 (DK). Striped skunk at St. Charles feeders on Mar. 26 (S&WF). Snowshoe hare eating tulip shoots in late March at St. Charles & beaver about 1/2 km out on ice off St. Margaret's on Apr. 11 (S&WF). Beaver at pond just northwest of Covehead Harbour on Apr. 19 (ECM, JDM) and in Marshall's Pond on May 11 (JHR). Coyotes calling at New London on Apr. 3 (TW). Red fox moving young at Argyle Shore on Apr. 23 (BC). Bat flying at Gowan Brae on May 15 (JHS). 12 harbour seals on Hillsborough Bridge pier on May 7 (JDM). A number of bobcat sightings were reported this spring with the latest being on Jul. 2 at Argyle Shore (BPo via DC).

**BIRDS:** **Red-throated Loon** - at Tryon River on Apr. 5 (DO); **Common Loon** - 1 off north shore at Stanhope & Dalvay on May 3 (DCS), 2 at New London Bay on May 4 (DCS), 1 at Tea Hill on May 11 (FdB), 1 at Priest Pond on May 30 (DCS), 1 at East Point on Jun. 1 & 1 at Covehead on Jun. 8 (DCS), pair calling at Lake Verde on Jun. 29 (JDM, SM)(Neighbour reported them calling at this Lake of past 5 to 6 years); **Pied-billed Grebe** - 1 at Brackley on Apr. 18 (DCS), 1 at Mount Stewart & 4 at Pisquid Pond on Apr. 19 (DCS), several pair at Mount Stewart on Apr. 27 (SGC); **Northern Gannet** - 2 at Dalvay on Apr. 12 (DC&ES), 1 at Dalvay on Apr. 17 (SGC, JBI), 200 at Cavendish on May 4 (DCS); **Double-crested Cormorant** - 1 flying at Hillsborough bridge in Charlottetown on Apr. 3 (DO), 1 at Tryon River on Apr. 5 (DCS), at Hillsborough Bridge piers on Apr. 7 (FdB), ~100 on Hillsborough River rocks in Charlottetown and 30 swimming on Apr. 14 (JDM), 1 at Wright's Creek, Dalvay & Cavendish on Apr. 19 (DCS), ~20 carrying nesting material at Orby Head on Apr. 19 (JDM, ECM), building nests at Orby Head on Apr. 27 (TW); **Great Cormorant** - 3 carrying nesting material at Orby Head on Apr. 19 (JDM, ECM), 3 at Stanley Bridge on Mar. 24 (DCS); **American Bittern** - at Five Houses marsh on May 3 (DO, DCS), at Avondale & Elliotvale on May 3 & 4 (RC); **Great Blue Heron** - 1 at Mt. Albion on Mar. 28 (DCS), 1 at Pinette on Mar. 29 (SGC), 2 at Naufrage Harbour on Apr. 2 (CGa), 4 at New London on Apr. 5 (TW), 1 at Maximeville on Apr. 6-7 (G&FMa), 1 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Apr. 9 (DO), 2 at Robinson's Island on Apr. 12 (DCS), 7 at Hillsborough River on Apr. 19 (SGC); **Great Egret** - 1 at McVane's Creek in Bothwell on May 22 (FFJ); **Little Blue Heron** - immature at Little Harbour on May 30 (DO, DCS); **Cattle Egret** - 1 at Wellington Island Waste Management site on Jun. 1 (DCS) & Jun. 18 (KC); **Green Heron** - 1 at East Lake on May 30 (RLD) This is the 7<sup>th</sup> known record of P.E.I. (see also Bain Count) and Jun. 1 (DCS); **Turkey Vulture** - 1 flying over Macphails Woods nursery on May 3 (GS); **Snow Geese** - 1 at Victoria on Mar. 17 (DCS), 5 at Vernon Bridge



on Apr. 2 (DK) & Apr. 3 (DO, BH), blue morph at Stanhope on Apr. 6 (NM via DO), 8 at New Annan on Apr. 7 (HM via JW); **Canada Geese** - at Naufrage on Apr. 6 (CGa), 9 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Apr. 9 (DO), thousands in grain and potato fields near St. Eleanors on Apr. 9 (JDM), 25 landing in Ducks Unlimited impoundment at Webster's Corner on May 11 (JDM), 1 pair with 4 goslings and 1 pair with 3 goslings at Allisary Creek Impoundment at Mount Stewart on Jun. 14 (JDM, FdB), 15 flying in flock at Mount Stewart on Jun. 15 (WFB, EM, JDM); **Brant** - ~50 at Hillsborough River near QEH in Charlottetown on Apr. 19 (SGC) & 61 on Apr. 20 (DCS); **Wood Ducks** - at Mount Stewart on May 11 & on Jun. 3 (DCS), 1 at Dalvay on Jun. 5 (DCS), male & female at Mount Stewart lagoon on Jun. 15 (FdB, JDM); **Gadwall** - 2 males & 2 females at Cymbria on Mar. 29 (FdB), at Naufrage on Apr. 6 (CGa), at Cavendish, Covehead, Brackley North & West Marshes on May 11 (DCS); **American Wigeon** - at Mount Stewart on Apr. 27 (SGC); **American Black Duck** - female with 8 young at Hyde Park on May 30 (JBI, SGC); **Mallard** - 5 hybrid males at Wright's Creek on Jun. 20 (WFB, JDM); **Blue-winged Teal** - at Hyde Park pond on May 3 (SGC) & May 4 (DCS), pair at Mount Stewart on May 3 (DO, DCS); **Northern Shoveller** - pair at Hyde Park pond on May 3 (SGC), pair at Covehead Harbour marsh on May 12 (DC&ES), at New London on May 13 (TW), male & female at Mount Stewart lagoon on Jun. 15 (FdB, JDM); **Northern Pintail** - male at Covehead Marsh on Jun. 6, male & female on Jun. 8 at Stanhope (DCS); **Green-winged Teal** - at Naufrage on Apr. 6 (CGa), many at Mount Stewart on Apr. 27 (SGC); **Ring-necked Duck** - 5 males & 3 females at Hyde Park on Apr. 5 (DO, DCS), 3 at Covehead on Apr. 13 (FdB), 2 at Boyver Creek on Apr. 15 (JDM), 20 at Mt. Stewart on Apr. 19 (DCS), at New Glasgow on May 17 (BeHo); **Greater Scaup** - 1194 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Apr. 9 (DO), 4 at Mt. Stewart on Apr. 19 (DCS), 20 at Long Pond on Apr. 19 (ECM, JDM), 4 at Coran Ban on May 2 (DCS), 5 at Long Pond on May 24 (DCS); **Lesser Scaup** - 1 at Hyde Park on Apr. 23 (ECM) & female on Jul. 1 (SM, JDM); **Sea Ducks** - 2000 to 3000 off East Point on Apr. 15; **King Eider** - see Bain Count article; **Common Eider** - small number in PEINP off MacKenzie Brook on Apr. 9 (DO), 40 at Brackley Bay on Jun. 6 (DCS); **Harlequin Duck** - pair at Goose River on Apr. 20 (CGa); **Surf Scoter** - 6 in PEINP off MacKenzie Brook on Apr. 9 (DO), 12 at Dalvay on Apr. 10 (DCS), 4 at Orby Head on Apr. 19 (JDM, ECM); **White-winged Scoter** - 3 at Orby Head on Apr. 19 (JDM, ECM); **Black Scoter** - 90 in PEINP off MacKenzie Brook on Apr. 9 (DO), 113 at Dalvay on Apr. 10 (DCS), male at Robinson's Island on May 11 (SGC); **Long-tailed Duck** - in PEINP off MacKenzie Brook on Apr. 9 (DO), 3 at Dalvay on Apr. 10 (DCS); **Bufflehead** - 2 at Long Pond on Apr. 17 (SGC, JBI), 1 at Long Pond on Apr. 19 (DCS) & 2 on Apr. 19 (ECM, JDM); **Common Goldeneye** - lots between Charlottetown and Pinette on Mar. 29 (SGC), 30 off boardwalk at Victoria Park in Charlottetown on Mar. 29 (SGC), 20 on Mar. 29 (FdB), 26 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Apr. 9 (DO), male & female at Robinson's Island & 1 at Long Pond on Apr. 18, at Dalvay Lake on May 3 (DCS); **Barrow's Goldeneye** - male at Oyster Bed Bridge on Apr. 9 (DO), 4 at Hyde Park on Apr. 19 (DCS); **Hooded Merganser** - pair at New London on Apr. 3 (TW), female at Harrington on Apr. 19 (ECM, JDM), at Long Pond on May 17 & 2 at Brackley West Marsh on May 24 (DCS); **Common Merganser** - 4 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Mar. 29 (FdB), at Naufrage on Apr. 6 (CGa), 13 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Apr. 9 (DO), pair at Hillsborough River on Apr. 19 (SGC), male & female at Mount Stewart on Jun. 15 (WFB, EM, JDM); **Red-breasted Merganser** - 2 pair at Pinette on Mar. 29 (SGC), 42 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Apr. 9 (DO), several pair at Robinson's Island causeway on Apr. 17 (SGC, JBI), good numbers at New London Bay & Summerside on Apr. 19 (TW), at Robinson's Island, Stanhope, Cavendish, and Tracadie Harbour on May 17 (DCS); **Ruddy Duck** - 2 males at Lake of Shining Waters on Jun. 2 (LH, DO, DC&ES), at West Royalty on Jun. 13 (GK), pair at Allisary Creek Impoundment, Mount Stewart on Jun. 15 (MM, WFB, EM, JDM); **Osprey** - 1 at Desable on Apr. 17 (DO, BH), at Brackley Beach, Cymbria, & Grand Pere Pt. on Apr. 18 (DCS), building nest at New London Bridge on Apr. 19 (TW), 4 at New London on Apr. 20 (TW), nesting by Wright's Creek on Apr. 20 (SGC), at Gulf Shore School nesting platform on Apr. 23 (JW), nesting at Bayside in late Apr. (FdB), nesting at entrance to Cavendish Campground on Jun. 16 (DCS); **Bald Eagle** - pair mating at New London on Mar. 28 (TW), landed on nest at Rte 267 on Apr. 6 (FdB, JBI, SGC, BCM, ST), 6 at Pisquid River on Apr. 23 (RT), 6 adult & 1 immature at Marshfield on Apr. 27 (SGC), nesting at Bayside in late Apr. (FdB), 5 soaring at Locke Shore Road with an Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, and a Rough-legged Hawk on May 7 (LH), eagle took adult Canada Goose at Clinton on May 31 (TW); **Northern Harrier** - feeding on meadow vole at Nine Mile Creek on Apr. 5 (DO), male at Naufrage on Apr. 6 (CGa), female at Clinton & male at Margate on Apr. 6 (TW), at Bedford & Dalvay on Apr. 7 (DCS), 1 at Keppock on Apr. 11 (KLA), 1 at Brackley Beach on Apr. 13 (FdB), male at Cherry Valley on Apr. 14 (DK), 2 at PEINP on Apr. 18 (DK), by late April also at Springbrook, North Cape (TW, RT); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 1 at Point Prim on Apr. 25 (GS), 8 in sky at East Point on May 3 & 4 (RC); **Northern Goshawk** - 1 at Point Prim on Apr. 25 (GS), pair nesting at St. Catherine's on Jun. 8 (EC); **Broad-winged Hawk** - 1 at Peakes on May 30 (DO, DCS); **Red-tailed Hawk** - 1 at Cavendish National Park on Mar. 29 (FdB), 1 at Frenchfort & 1 at St. Andrews on Apr. 4 (DCS), 1 at Albany on Apr. 5 (DO), 2 at Mt. Herbert on Apr. 6 (FdB, JBI, SGC, BCM, ST), 1 at Richmond & 1 at Spring Valley on Apr. 9 (JDM, HI), 2 at Tea Hill on Apr. 13 (FdB); 1 at Whim Road on Apr. 16 (JW), at Stanley Bridge & Tryon on Apr. 19 (DCS), 1 at Warren Grove on Apr. 26 (GS), pair on nest at Tea Hill/Crossroads on May 5 (FdB), 2 at Ebenezer & 2 at Old Tom Road (Prince Co.) on May 25 (DCS); **Rough-legged Hawk** - 2 present at Margate on Apr. 5, 7 (TW), 1 at Norboro on Apr. 19 (DCS), 2 at French River on Apr. 19 (TW), 1 at New London on Apr. 19 (TW, ECM, JDM); **American Kestrel** - 1 at Donagh on Apr. 4 (JDM), 1 at Chapel Creek & Brackley Beach on Apr. 10 (DCS), 1 checking nest box at Vernon River on Apr. 18 & occupying next box on 23<sup>rd</sup> (DK), Wildlife Conservation Technology students cleaned out kestrel boxes at Ebenezer on Apr. 18 (DO), 2 at nest box on Cymbria loop, 1 at French River, 1 at Dekker Road St Eleanor's, Pleasant Valley on Apr. 19 (JDM, ECM), 2 at Cymbria nest boxes on Apr. 20 (TW), 1 at Marshfield on Apr. 27 (SGC), 1 at Commercial Cross on May 13 (RT); **Merlin** - 1 at East Point & 1 at Brackley North Marsh on May 23 (DCS), pair at St. Peter's Lake on May 25 (DO, CW); **Peregrine Falcon** - 1 at Brackley on May 11 (DC&ES), 1 at St. Peter's Lake on May 25 (DO, CW); **Gray Partridge** - pair at Mermaid on Apr. 16 (JDM), pair at St. Peter's on Apr. 22 (JDM), pair at Vernon River on Apr. 14 (DK), 1

at Red Head on Apr. 14 (MK), pair at Macphail Woods on Apr. 25 (GS), pair at Vernon River on Apr. 28 (DK), newly hatched brood at Vernon Bridge on May 22 (Clare Birch via FRC), 2 at Fort Augustus on May 30 (DCS); **Ring-necked Pheasant** - Male at Johnston's River on Apr. 10 (JDM); feather pile found at Alexandra on Apr. 28 (FdB); **Ruffed Grouse** - 1 at Maximeville on Apr. 6-7 (G&FMa), at South Melville on Apr. 19 (RA), male displaying for female at Donagh on Apr. 25 (JDM), 1 drumming at Vernon River on Apr. 28 (DK), at Hyde Park pond on May 3 (SGC), at Murray Harbour on May 11 (GSa); **Sharp-tailed Grouse** - 2 at St. Margaret's on Mar. 28 (S&WF), 7 at MacEwen Road on Apr. 19 (DCS), at Anderson Road on May 28 (DCS); **Wild Turkey** - 1 at Buffalo Ranch at Milltown Cross in early Apr. (DS); **Virginia Rail** - at Elliotvale marsh in late May (RC); **Sora** - at Mount Stewart lagoon on May 3 (DO, DCS), at Avondale & Elliotvale on May 3 & 4 (RC), at Cavendish Farms in New Annan on May 7 (LH), at Noonan's Marsh in Borden on May 23 (JW); **American Coot** - 2 at Allisary Creek Impoundment on Jun. 9 (DCS); **Sandhill Crane** - 1 at East Point on May 22 (RH via FRC); **Black-bellied Plover** - 1 at PEINP on May 3 (RH), 1 in breeding plumage at Brackley Marshes on May 5 (DCS), 1 at Brackley North Marsh on May 5, 3 on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 6 on May 11, 17 on May 16, 21 on May 17, 27 on May 20, 24 on May 22, 36 on May 24, 44 on May 25, & 18 on May 27 (DCS), 3 at Eglinton Beach on May 26 (JHS), 40 at Covehead Harbour & 10 at Tracadie Harbour on Jun. 1 (SGC); **Semi-palmated Plover** - 3 at Cavendish on May 18, 41 at Covehead Marsh on May 27, 16 on Brackley North Marsh on May 28 (DCS); **Piping Plover** - 5 at Cavendish sandspit on Apr. 28 (DCS); **Killdeer** - 1 calling at Vernon River on Mar. 27 (JW), 1 at Stratford on Apr. 4 (FdB), 1 at Wood Islands on Apr. 28 (DCS); **Greater Yellowlegs** - at Brackley West & North Marshes & Oyster Bed on Apr. 28 (DCS), 6 at Seal River on May 1 (DK), 1 at Brackley North Marsh, 14 at Brackley West Marsh, 1 at Ellen's Creek on May 2; **Lesser Yellowlegs** - 3 at Brackley North Marsh on May 8 & 6 on the May 10 (DCS); **Willet** - 1 at Covehead on May 5 & 3 on May 27 (DCS), 5 at Mount Stewart on Jun. 14 (JDM, FdB), 2 at Souris River Causeway on Jun. 11 & 10 at Covehead on Jun. 18 (DCS); **Spotted Sandpiper** - 1 at Morell River on May 12 (DO, WCT), 1 at Cavendish on May 18 (DCS), 4 at East Lake on Jun. 1 (DCS); **Upland Sandpiper** - 2 at Anderson Road on May 25 (DO, CW) & 7 on May 29 (DO, L&JH); **Ruddy Turnstone** - 2 at Covehead marsh on May 25 & 27 (DCS); **Red Knot** - 1 ~Jun. 2 in PEINP (RH), 2 at Covehead on Jun. 9 (DCS), 3 with alternate plumage at Brackley marsh on Jun. 15 (DCS); **Semipalmated Sandpiper** - 2 at Brackley North marsh on May 23, at Covehead Marsh on May 27, & 4 at Little Harbour on May 31 (DCS); **Least Sandpiper** - 2 at Brackley West Marsh on May 7 & 1 on Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>, & 13 on May 19 (DCS), 20 at Cavendish Farms in New Annan on May 16 (LH), 10 at Brackley Beach marsh on May 23 (DCS); **Dunlin** - 9 at Tracadie Harbour on May 18 (DCS), at Tracadie Harbour on Jun. 4 (DCS); **Short-billed Dowitcher** - at PEINP on Jun. 8 (DCS); **Ruff** - female at Covehead Harbour on Jul. 4 (DCS); **Wilson's Snipe** - winnowing at Elliotvale & Union Road (near Montague) on Apr. 11 (DO, DCS), 9 winnowing at Ebenezer on Apr. 18 (WCT, DO), winnowing at Donagh on Apr. 18 (JDM), at St. Peter's, Morell River, & Clear Springs on Apr. 19 (DCS); **American Woodcock** - 1 killed on road at Montague on Mar. 28 (LJ via DO), 1 at Mickle Macum Road on Apr. 4 (DCS), 1 at Monticello on Apr. 6 (CGa), 1 at Maximeville on Apr. 6-7 (G&FMa), 2 at Avondale & 2 at Union Road on Apr. 11 (DO, DCS); **Bonaparte's Gull** - ~20 at Rollo Bay on Jun. 11 (DCS); **Ring-billed Gull** - 1 at Victoria Park on Mar. 21 (DCS), 5 at Tryon River on Apr. 5 (DCS); **Herring Gull** - wing tagged individual with code J2 at North Cape on Jun. 8 (banded on Feb. 2 at Leominster, Maine dump), also reported at Wellington IWMC site on Jun. 17 to 19 with right wing tag of J1 and left wing tag of J0 (EMA via FRC), also red wing tagged individual at Naufrage with tag #K15 (DGi via FRC); **Iceland Gull** - 20 at Stratford Lagoon on Apr. 19 (DCS); **Lesser-black-backed Gull** - 1 with changing plumage at Georgetown on Apr. 18 (SCS); **Glaucous Gull** - 1 at Victoria Park on Mar. 21 (DCS); **Great Black-backed Gull** - 2 pair with established nests on Hillsborough Bridge piers on May 7 (JDM); **Caspian Tern** - 1 at Mount Stewart on Apr. 27 (SGC), 2 at Tracadie Harbour on May 2, 4 at Covehead Harbour & 2 at Mount Stewart on May 3 (DCS), 1 at Covehead Bay on Jun. 1-2 (DCS); **Common Tern** - 3 at Hillsborough Bridge on May 5 (DO, BH), 10 on first Hillsborough Bridge pier near Charlottetown on May 7 (JDM), 10 at Covehead Bay on May 23, 12 at Tracadie Harbour on May 28, & 4 at Little Harbour on May 30, 9 at Covehead Bay on Jun. 1 (DCS); **Razorbill** - 2 at East Point on Jun. 27 (D&ECS); **Black Guillemot** - 3 at Orby Head on Apr. 19 (DCS), 7 at Orby Head on Apr. 19 (JDM, ECM), 2 at Cavendish on May 11 (SGC), 2 at North Cape on May 26 (DCS), 2 at Little Harbour on May 31 (RC, DCS, JDM, DO), 4 at West Cape on Jun. 15 (FdB); **Rock Pigeon** - 1 with 2 young in nest at Naufrage on Apr. 21 (CGa) **Mourning Dove** - numerous this winter at St. Charles feeders (S&WF), dove courting displays at Donagh on Apr. 18 (JDM), drinking from Charlottetown bird bath on Apr. 23 (EMu); **BSC Owl Surveys** - good numbers of Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, and Northern Saw-whet Owls reported by various surveyors; **Great Horned Owl** - 1 flew across the road at Elliotvale on May 30 (DO, DCS); **Northern Hawk Owl** - 1 found with broken wing and being mobbed by crows at Borden Carleton area on Apr. 28 then delivered to AVC where it had to be euthanized (FdB); **Barred Owl** - calling nightly at Coleville Road on Apr. 16 (RA), pair with young at Harrington on May 29 (PMcC via FRC); **Boreal Owl** - 2 calling at Union Corner in May (EG); **Northern Saw-whet Owl** - at New London on Apr. 5 (TW), at Pleasant Grove on Apr. 6-7 (SG), calling at Tea Hill on Apr. 7 (FbD), 2 at Marshfield on Apr. 27 (SGC); **Common Nighthawk** - 1 flushed off road and struck by car at Lorne Valley on May 31 (RC, JDM, DCS, DO); **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** - 1 at Cornwall on May 1 (SN), 1 at Murray Harbour on May 5 (SGa), 1 at Lady Fane on May 16 (GMcC), first of season at New Glasgow on May 17 (BeHo), first at New London on May 21 (TW), 1 at French River on May 25 & 1 at Palmer's Road on May 26 (DCS), 1 at Hyde Park on May 30 (JBI, SGC); **Belted Kingfisher** - 1 at Naufrage River & Quigley's Pond on Apr. 15 (CGa), 2 at Georgetown on Apr. 18 (SCS), nesting in shale pit at Long River on May 25 (TW); **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - 1 at Naufrage River on Apr. 15 (CGa), at South Melville on Apr. 19 (RA), male at Donagh on Apr. 19 (JDM), at Macphail Woods on Apr. 22 (GS), at Hyde Park pond on May 3 (SGC), 1 at Dalvay Woodland Trail on May 3 (DCS); **Hairy Woodpecker** - in good numbers this spring; **American Three-toed Woodpecker** - male at Dalvay Woodlands Trail on May 14 (AMH), see Bain Count, female building nest at Cavendish on Jun. 2 (LH, DO

DC&ES); **Black-backed Woodpecker** - male at Dalvay Woodlands Trail on May 14 (AMH) & Jun. 5 at Dalvay Woodlands (DCS) & 1 at Robinson's Island on Jun. 12 (DCS); **Northern Flicker** - 1 at Naufrage on Mar. 25 (S&WF), 1 at Cavendish National Park on Mar. 29 (FdB), at Monticello on Apr. 6 (CGa), 1 at Georgetown on Apr. 18 (SCS), 3 at New London on Apr. 19 (TW); **Pileated Woodpecker** - 1 seen on Apr. 20 + excavating sign for a few months at DeSable (BPe), 1 at Pleasant Grove on May 28 (SG); **Olive-sided Flycatcher** - 1 at Hyde Park Road on May 29 (DCS), 2 at Dromore & 2 at Pisquid Pond on May 30 (DO, DCS); **Eastern Wood Peewee** - 1 at Glencorradale (Rte 303) on May 30 (DCS, DO), 1 at Hopedale on Jul. 1 (SM, JDM); **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** - 1 at McVane's Creek at Bothwell on May 30 (DO, DCS), 1 at East Lake on Jun. 1 (DCS); **Alder Flycatcher** - 1 at Norway Road on May 26 & at Hyde Park on May 29 (DCS); **Least Flycatcher** - 1 at French River on May 25 (DC&ES) & at Anderson Road on May 28 (DCS); **Eastern Phoebe** - 1 at Red Head on Apr. 17 (MK), 1 at Cow River on Apr. 26 (CGa); **Great-crested Flycatcher** - 1 off Rte 9 at Kingston on Jul. 1 (SM); **Eastern Kingbird** - pair at Hyde Park on May 30 (JBI, SGC) & Jun. 2 (DCS), 2 at Anderson Road on Jun. 2 & 1 at Hunter River on Jun. 6 (DCS); **Northern Shrike** - 1 singing at Monticello on Apr. 3 (CGa), 1 at Albany on Apr. 5 (DO), 1 at Brackley Point Road on Apr. 12 (DC&ES), 1 hunting a field at Bonshaw on Apr. 17 (DO, BH), 1 at Cymbria on Apr. 20 (TW), 1 at Hyde Park on Apr. 23 (ECM), 1 at Allisary Creek Impoundment on May 22 (MM via FRC); **Blue-headed Vireo** - 3 at Morell River on May 12 (DO, WCT), 1 at Cavendish on May 18 & 7 at Dalvay Woodlands Trail on May 19 & 1 on Jun. 5 (DCS), 1 at Robinson's Island on Jun. 6 (DCS); **Warbling Vireo** - seen carrying nesting material on Jul. 5 at St. Andrews Creek Road (JDM); **Red-eyed Vireo** - at Hyde Park on May 25 (SGC), 1 at Tyne Valley on May 25, 1 at Tea Hill on May 25 (FdB), 1 at Pleasant View on May 26 & 2 at Afton Road on May 26 (DCS), 1 at Mount Stewart, & Robinson's Island on Jun. 3 (DCS), 1 at Dalvay Woodlands Trail on Jun. 5, and 1 at UPEI on Jun. 17 (DCS); **Philadelphia Vireo** - 1 at East Royalty on Jun. 20 (WFB, JDM); **Gray Jay** - 2 at Selkirk on Apr. 4 (CGa), 2 at Dromore on May 30 (DCS, DO); **Blue Jay** - 37 at Vernon River feeders on Mar. 29 (DK), numerous this winter at St. Charles feeders (S&WF), 14 at Maximeville on Apr. 6-7 (G&FMa), too many at Green Bay feeders on Apr. 16 (JW), carrying sticks at Crossroads in ealt May (DO) and at Donagh in early May (JDM); **American Crow** - carrying nesting material at Cymbria loop & North Rustico on Apr. 19 (JDM, ECM), at Hazelbrook on Apr. 22 & (JDM); **Common Raven** - nesting at Winsloe in Apr. & young hatched at month's end (B&RH); **Tree Swallow** - first of spring at Red Head on Apr. 18 (MK), 3 at Hunter River on Apr. 19 (ECM, JDM), first at Bunbury nest boxes on Apr. 26 (RT), 5 at Maximeville on May 2 (G&FMa), first of spring at Macphails Woods on May 3 (GS), 1 at Long Pond & 6 at Five Houses on May 3 (DCS), 4 at Cavendish Farms New Annan on May 7 (LH), large numbers at Hyde Park on May 22 (DCS), first arrived on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19 of 23 nest boxes at Red Head occupied by swallows on May 22 (MK), carrying food into nest box at Riverview Estates on Jun. 20 (WFB, EM); **Bank Swallow** - 5 at Hyde Park on May 21 & 22 (DCS) & 10 at East Point on May 30 (DCS, DO), 15+ at East Point on Jun. 11 (DCS), 5 at Wood Islands Provincial Park on Jun. 11 (DCS); **Barn Swallow** - at Alliston on Apr. 27 (PCu), in Tryon MBBA square on May 5 (RA), 5 at Hyde Park on May 21 & 1 at North Lake Harbour on May 30 (DCS), 4 at Earnscliffe on May 25 (FdB), 1 at Wood Islands Provincial Park on Jun. 11 (DCS), pair in Barn at Lake Verde & present near barns at Kinross on Jun. 29 (SM, JDM), few at Green Park Road in Emyvale on Jul. 1 (SM, JDM); **Boreal Chickadee** - 1 at Norway on May 26 (DCS); **Brown Creeper** - 2 at Morell River on May 12 (DO, WCT), 1 at High Bridge Road (Pisquid) on May 30 (DCS, DO); **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - numerous this winter at St. Charles feeders (S&WF), 4 at Murray Harbour North on Apr. 18 (VMJ); **White-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 in North Winsloe disappeared in Feb. (SGC), 1 at Cornwall throughout the winter on Apr. 9 (SN), 1 at Valley on May 12 (GS), 1 at Riverview Estates in Apr. (WFB, EM); **Winter Wren** - 1 singing at Naufrage River on Apr. 15 (CGa), 1 at Bubbling Springs trail on May 10 & 17 (DCS), 6 at Morell River on May 12 (DO, WCT), 1 at Dalvay Woodlands Trail on May 9 & 23, 3 at Hyde Park on May 29 (DCS), 1 at West Cape on Jun. 15 (FdB); **Golden-crowned Kinglet** - at South Melville on Apr. 22 (RA); **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** - singing at Naufrage on Apr. 21 (CGa), at Hyde Park pond on May 3 (SGC), 2 at Robinson's Island & 2 at Dalvay Woodlands Trail on May 3 (DCS); **Veery** - 1 at Palmers Road & 1 at Ascension on May 26 (DCS) 1 at Afton Road on May 29 (DO, L&JH), 1 at Howard's Cove at West Cape on Jun. 7 (FdB); **Swainson's Thrush** - at Dalvay Woodlands Trail on May 22 & 5 at New Harmony on May 30 (DCS); **Hermit Thrush** - 3 at Valley on Apr. 27 (GS, ML), several at various Kings County stops on May 3 & 4 (RC), 1 at Robinson's Island & 2 at Dalvay Woodlands Trail on May 3 (DCS), at Tea Hill on May 5 (FdB); **American Robin** - 1 foraging on ground at South Melville on Mar. 24 and flock in tree tops on Apr. 1 (RA), 2 at Pleasant Grove on Mar. 29 (SG), 2 at Sheep Pond on Apr. 2 (CGa), couple at Pleasant Grove on Apr. 6-7 (SG), 4 at Maximeville on Apr. 6-7 (G&FMa), plentiful this winter at St. Charles on Apr. 11 (S&WF); **Gray Catbird** - 1 at Hyde Park on May 30 & 2 on Jun. 1 (JBI, SGC); **Brown Thrasher** - 1 at Elephant Head on May 6 (BD); **European Starling** - 20 at Maximeville on Apr. 6-7 (G&FMa), 3 carrying nesting material at Charlottetown on Apr. 19 (JDM, ECM), 75 immature flocking at East Royalty on Jun. 20 (WFB, JDM); **Bohemian Waxwing** - at West Cape on Jun. 8 (FdB); **Cedar Waxwing** - 2 at Hyde Park on May 30 (JBI, SGC); **Blue-winged Warbler** - 1 male at Mansfield Road at Norway on May 26 (DCS) (the description will be in the next issue of the Island Naturalist); **Tennessee Warbler** - 1 at Glencorradale on May 30 (DO, DCS); **Nashville Warbler** - 1 at Old Tom Road on May 26 & 2 at Afton Road on May 28 (DCS); **Northern Parula** - at Monticello on May 7 (CGa), 2 at Morell River on May 12 (DO, WCT), several at St. Patrick's Road during Giving Tree's....Giving Hope CBCN event on May 17<sup>th</sup> (JDM); **Yellow Warbler** - at Bubbling Springs Trail PEINP on May 20 & at Hyde Park on May 22 (DCS), pair nesting in mock orange shrub at Bunbury on Jun. 7 (RT); **Chestnut-sided Warbler** - in shale pit at Long River on May 25 (TW), 1 at Ascension & Palmer Road on May 26 & 1 at Afton Road on May 28 (DCS), 1 at Portage on May 28 (JW), 1 at West Cape on Jun. 15 (FdB); **Magnolia Warbler** - 4 at Robinson's Island on May 20 & 4 at Dalvay Woodlands Trail on May 22 (DCS), at Earnscliffe on May 25 (FdB); **Cape May Warbler** - at Dalvay Woodlands Trail on May 19 & Bubbling Springs on May 20 (DCS); **Black-throated Blue Warbler** - 2 at New Harmony Demonstration Woodlot on May 30 (DCS, DO), 1 at East Point on Jun.

3 (DCS); **Yellow-rumped Warbler** - at Murray Harbour on Apr. 20 (GSa), first of spring at South Melville on Apr. 26 (RA), at Cow River on Apr. 26 (CGa), dozens at Morell River on May 12 (DO, WCT); **Black-throated Green Warbler** - 1 at Morell River on May 12 (DO, WCT), several at St. Patrick's Road during Giving Tree's...Giving Hope CBCN event on May 17<sup>th</sup> (JDM), 3 at Dalvay Woodlands Trail on May 19 & 1 at Bubbling Springs Trail on May 20 (DCS); **Blackburnian Warbler** - at Hyde Park on May 25 (SGC) & May 29 (DCS), 1 at Old Tom Road on May 26 (DCS); **Palm Warbler** - 2 at Bubbling Springs Trail PEINP on May 17 (DCS) & 1 at McVanes Creek in Bothwell on May 30 (DCS, DO); **Bay-breasted Warbler** - 1 at Norway on May 26 (DCS); **Blackpoll Warbler** - at Noonan's Marsh in Borden on May 23 (JW), at Robinson's Island on May 25 (DCS), 1 at Tea Hill on May 28 (FdB), 1 at Robinson's Island on Jun. 3 (DCS), 1 at West Cape on Jun. 10 (FdB), 1 at Emyvale on Jul. 1 (SM); **Black-and-White Warbler** - at Black River Road on May 9 (JHR), at Hyde Park on May 25 (SGC), 1 at Bubbling Springs Trail on May 24 & 1 at Norway on May 26 (DCS), at Earnscliffe on May 25 (FdB); **American Redstart** - 5 at Dalvay Woodlands Trail on May 22 & 1 at Robinson's Island on May 25 (DCS), 1 at Robinson's Island Jun. 3 to 12 (DCS); **Ovenbird** - several at St. Patrick's Road during Giving Tree's...Giving Hope CBCN event on May 17<sup>th</sup> (JDM), at Bubbling Springs Trail PEINP on May 17 (DCS), 16 at Dalvay Woodlands Trail on May 19 (DCS), at Earnscliffe on May 25 (FdB); **Northern Waterthrush** - 2 at Morell River on May 12 (DO, WCT), 2 at Afton Road on May 26 (DCS); **Mourning Warbler** - 1 at Glencorradale on May 30 (DCS, DO); **Common Yellowthroat** - 5 at Bubbling Springs Trail PEINP & 1 at Robinson's Island on May 20 (DCS); **Wilson's Warbler** - at Hyde Park on May 25 (SGC) & 30 (JBI, SGC), 1 at Robinson's Island on May 28 (DCS), 1 at McVanes Creek in Bothwell on May 30 (DCS, DO); **Canada Warbler** - 3 at Afton Road on May 28 (DCS, DO), 1 at Hyde Park on May 30 (JBI, SGC), 1 at Pisquid Pond on May 30 (DO, DCS), 1 at McVanes Creek in Bothwell on May 30 (DCS, DO); **Scarlet Tanager** - male at Afton Road on May 28 (DCS, DO), 1 at Munn's Road on Jun. 2 (DO); **American Tree Sparrow** - 1 at Vernon River on Apr. 9 (DK), 2 at Donagh feeders on Apr. 12 (JDM), 1 at Green Bay feeders on Apr. 16 (JW), 1 at West Royalty feeder on Apr. 19 (DCS); **Chipping Sparrow** - at South Melville feeders on Apr. 23 (RA), 1 at Red Point feeder on May 9 (JDM), at Stratford on May 12 (JHR), at West Royalty on May 20 (DCS); **Vesper Sparrow** - 5 at Anglo Tignish (Broderick & Mansfield Roads) on May 7 (BD) & 2 at Broderick Road in Norway on May 26 (DCS); **Savannah Sparrow** - at Souris on Apr. 25 (CGa), at Alexandra & Earnscliffe on Apr. 27 (FdB), at Hertz Road on Apr. 27 (SGC), at Covehead on Apr. 28 (DCS), 1 at Tracadie Harbour on May 2 & 1 at Cavendish on May 4 (DCS), at South Melville week of May 6 (RA); **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** - back at Covehead Marsh and Brackley North Marsh PEINP on Jun. 4 (DCS), 1 at Brackley North Marsh & Covehead Marsh on Jun. 8 (DCS), 1 at West Cape on Jun. 15 (FdB); **Fox Sparrow** - 1 at Crossroads feeder on Apr. 4 (DO), 1 or 2 at Donagh feeders on Apr. 8 to 20 (JDM), 2 at Vernon River on Apr. 7 (DK), at South Melville on Apr. 8 (RA), 2 at Crossroads on Apr. 12 (JCr), 4 at Murray Harbour North on Apr. 18 (VMJ), 1 at West Royalty feeder on Apr. 19 (DCS), 2 at Bubbling Springs Trail on Apr. 19 (ECM, JDM); **Song Sparrow** - first since Christmas at Vernon River feeders on Mar. 29 & lots on Apr. 7 (DK), first of season at Monticello on Apr. 4 (CGa), at Cornwall on Apr. 4 (SN), 1 at Crossroads feeder on Apr. 4 (DO), 2 at New Glasgow on Apr. 4 (BeHo), 10 at Borden on Apr. 5 (DO), singing at Earnscliffe area on Apr. 6 (FdB, JBI, SGC, BCM, ST), singing at South Melville on Apr. 8 (RA), 8 at Maximeville on Apr. 6-7 (G&FMA), ~6 at St. Charles on Apr. 11 (S&WF); **Lincoln's Sparrow** - 1 at Norway on May 26 (DCS) & 1 at Glencorradale on May 30 (DCS, DO); **Swamp Sparrow** - 1 at Five Houses (St. Peter's) on Apr. 19, 1 at Five Houses on May 3, & 1 at Brackley North Marsh on Apr. 28 (DCS), at Brackley North Marsh PEINP on Jun. 1, 4, & 17 (DCS); **White-throated Sparrow** - 1 at West Royalty feeder on Mar. 22 (DCS) 1 at Vernon River on Apr. 7 (DK), at Pleasant Grove on Apr. 6 (SG), at Charlottetown on Apr. 17 (AB), singing at Tea Hill on Apr. 22 (FdB), first at Bunbury feeders on Apr. 23 (RT), 1 at Cornwall on Apr. 23 & 25 on May 8 (SN), at South Melville on Apr. 24 (RA), singing at Green Park on May 6 (FRC, JDM, HI), 10 at Murray Harbour on May 11 (GSa); **White-crowned Sparrow** - 2 at Crossroads on Apr. 24 (JCr), 1 at Donagh feeders on Apr. 29 to May 3 (JDM), 1 in Tryon MBBA square on May 5 (RA), 2 at Mount Stewart on May 12, 1 on the 17<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> (BP), 1 at Fernwood on May 16 (GMcC), 4 at Rocky Point on May 16 (LD) 1 at Tea Hill on May 17 (I&DS); **Dark-eyed Junco** - singing at Tea Hill on Mar. 30 (FdB), singing at Monticello on Apr. 6 (CGa), 12 at Maximeville on Apr. 6-7 (G&FMA), 12 at Green Bay feeders on Apr. 16 (JW); **Snow Bunting** - 12 at Orwell Cove Road on Apr. 3 (DO, BH), 1 at Maximeville on Apr. 6-7 (G&FMA); **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** - 1 at South Melville on May 10 (RA), at Lady Fane on May 16 (GMcC), 1 at Stratford on May 16 (JCr), at New Glasgow on May 15 (BeHo), singing at Donagh on May 25 (JDM); **Indigo Bunting** - male at Barbara Weit Road (MSt via LH), 1 at Montague on May 29 (reported to JW), male at Caledonia on May 30 (JHS), 1 at Huntley on Jun. 1 (GK); **Bobolink** -12 at New Annan on May 16 (LH), at Earnscliffe on May 25 (FdB), at St. Peter's Lake on May 25 (DO, CW); **Red-winged Blackbird** - first on Mar. 27 at Vernon River feeders this spring (DK), 6 at Borden on Apr. 2 (JDM), at New London feeders on Apr. 6 (TW), 8 at Clyde River on Apr. 6 (DCS), 3 males at Donagh feeders on Apr. 6 (JDM), 2 at Monticello feeders on Apr. 7 (CGa), male at West Royalty feeder on Apr. 8 (DCS), first at South Melville on Apr. 11 for spring (RA), 1 at Green Bay feeders on Apr. 16 (JW), at Hillsborough River on Apr. 19 (SGC), female carrying food at Marshall's Pond on May 11 (JHR); **Rusty Blackbird** -1 at Afton Road on May 28 (DCS, DO, CW), 2 males tending 1 female at Upper Shore Road at Nail Pond on Jun. 25 (DFG, FRC); **Common Grackle** -2 at West Royalty feeder on Mar. 23 & 9 on Mar. 30 (DCS), first on spring at Tea Hill on Mar. 30 (FdB), first of year at South Melville yard on Apr. 1 (RA), at New London feeders on Apr. 6 (TW), 6 at Monticello feeders on Apr. 7 (CGa), 10 at Maximeville on Apr. 6-7 (G&FMA), 1 carrying nesting material at Macphail Woods on Apr. 27 (GS); **Brown-headed Cowbird** - 5 males & 3 females at Crossroads feeder on Apr. 4 (DO), male at West Royalty feeder on Apr. 4 (DCS), 1 at Tea Hill on Apr. 6 (FdB, JBI, SGC, BCM, ST) 1 at New London feeders on Apr. 6 (TW), 2 at Murray Harbour North on Apr. 18 (VMJ), 1 at Morell on Apr. 19 (DCS), 1 at South Melville feeders on Apr. 21 (RA), 4 at Tea Hill on Apr. 22 (FdB), male & female at Donagh feeders on Apr. 23 (JDM), female at Stratford on May 11, male on May 13, & 2 males & female on May 14 (JHR); **Baltimore Oriole**

- male at New Glasgow on May 17 (BeHo), at Hyde Park on May 30 (JBI, SGC), male & female at Hyde Park on Jun. 2 (DCS); **Purple Finch** - 1 at Argyle Shore on Apr. 16 (BC), 1 at Murray Harbour North on Apr. 18 (VMJ), 1 singing at Crossroads on Apr. 18 (DO), 6 at Vernon River on Apr. 18 (DK), 1 at Georgetown on Apr. 18 (SCS), 3 at Tea Hill on Apr. 19 (FdB), male & females at Donagh feeders on Apr. 20 (JDM), male & female at Charlottetown on Apr. 27 (AB); **Red Crossbill** - 10 at Tea Hill on Mar. 30 (FdB), 4 at Cavendish on Apr. 19 (JDM, ECM); **Common Redpoll** - ~100 at Vernon River feeders on Mar. 29 (DK), numerous this winter at St. Charles feeders (S&WF), 400 to 500 at Pleasant Grove cleaning up seed at feeders on Apr. 5, 100 at Maximeville on Apr. 6-7 (G&FMa), 100 at Green Bay feeders on Apr. 16 (JW), lots at Vernon River on Apr. 14 (DK), 20 at West Royalty feeder on Apr. 7 (DCS), few left at Crossroads on Apr. 18 (DO), still 20 at South Melville on Apr. 26 (RA), at Charlottetown on Apr. 27 (AB); **Hoary Redpoll** - few at Maximeville on Apr. 6-7 (G&FMa), 1 at West Royalty feeder on Apr. 7 (DCS); **Pine Siskin** - 25 at Tea Hill on Mar. 30 (FdB), 2 at Murray Harbour North on Apr. 18 (VMJ), 1 at Donagh feeders on Apr. 18 (JDM) 1 at Mount Stewart & Cornwall on Apr. 19 (DCS), at Vernon River feeders on Apr. 23 (DK), 3 at Murray Harbour on May 11 (GSa), at Stratford on May 12 (JHR); **American Goldfinch** - turning yellow in mid March at Donagh (JDM), occasionally this winter at St. Charles's feeders (S&WF), 10 at Green Bay feeders on Apr. 16 (JW); **Evening Grosbeak** - 4 to 6 about 6 times this winter at St. Charles feeders & male & female on Apr. 11 (S&WF), male at Mt. Stewart on Apr. 19 (DCS), pair at Stratford on May 12 (JHR); **House Sparrow** - carrying nesting material at Charlottetown on Apr. 19 (JDM, ECM).

Thanks to the following contributors who provided records for this listing, namely: KLA- Kerry-Lynn Atkinson; MA - Mark Arsenault; RA - Ron Arvidson; AB - Anne Bergstrom; JBI - Jean Blanchard; WFB - Bill Bowerbank; AC - Alma Currie; BC - Barb Currie; DC - Diane Callbeck; EC - Elwood Coakes; GDC - George Coade; F&JC - Fred & Janet Connolly; FRC - Rosemary Curley; KC - Kevin Curley; JCr - James Crombie; RC- Ray Cooke; SGC - Sharon Clark; PCu - Philip Curley; BD - Brian Dalzell; FdB - Fiep de Bie; RLD - Randy Dibblee; L&VD - Lois & Victoria Doan; S&WF - Sherron & Walter Foulkes; GBBC - Great Backyard Bird Count report; CG - Carolyn Gallant; CGa - Cathleen Gallant; SG - Shirley Gallant; CEG - Chuck Gallison; DGi - Debbie Gillis; EG - Edwin Gillis; DFG - Diane Griffin; AMH - Anne Marie Hartman; RH - Rick Hawkins; RHa - Ramsay Hart; B&RH - Ben & Rosalie Hoteling; BeHo - Beth Hoar; L&JH - Les & Joan Homans; RHa - Ramsay Hart; HI - Herb Isherwood; VMJ - Virginia MacSwain Jackson; FFJ - Father Frank Jay; JJo - Jaime Johnston; LJ - Locke Jones; DK - Dan Kennedy; MK - Meike Keunecke; GK - Gary Kiegan; SL - Steve Leath; ML - Margie Loo; BM - Barry Martin; EM - Evelyn Martin; ECM - Eric Marcum; EMa - Elizabeth Mallett; G&FMa - Gisele & Fred Martin; BMacD - Barb MacDonald; DMacN - Don MacNeil; HM - Helena MacDonald; JMacD - Jimmy MacDonald; MM - Matt MacKenzie; TM - Trevor MacKinnon; WJM - Wade MacKinnon; SM - Scott Make peace, JDM - Dan McAskill; AMcG - Arlene McGuigan; GMcC - Gail McCourt; ADM - Allie McLennan; PMcC - Phil McCabe; FMcC - Fred McCardle; BCM (formerly listed as BMcO) - Bonnie McOrmond; SN - Sharon Neill; EMu - Elaine Murley; SN - Sharon Neill; DO - Dwaine Oakley; BP - Bruce Pigot; BPe - Brenda Penak; BPo - Barb Pollard; GP - Geraldine Peters; MP - Melina Plamondon; SP - Shirley Prouse; JHR - Jennifer Roma; A&DS - Alma & Don Steeves; ASm - Ardeth Smith; DS - Dave Stewart; DC&ES - David & Elaine Seeler; I&DS - Ian & Daphne Scott; GS - Gary Schneider; GSa - Glenn Saunders; MSt - Myrna Stewart; SCS (formerly listed as SSi) - Scott Sinclair; JHS - Jim Sutton; ST - Steve Taylor; RT - Reg Dutch Thompson; AW - Anne Wootton; CW - Chris Wright; JW - Jackie Waddell; JWa - Jean Watts; TW - Trevor Wadman; WCT - Wildlife Conservation Technology Class; LY - Lorne Yeo.



Upland Sandpiper photo at Anderson Road by Dwaine Oakley



## 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 at 420 University Avenue in Charlottetown.  
YN = young naturalists encouraged to attend or participate*

- Jul. 13 - Pruning Trees and Shrubs** - slide show and hands-on demonstration of proper pruning methods. Includes a discussion of recommended books and tools. Begins at the Macphails Woods Nature Centre at 2 pm.
- Jul. 26 - Tree and Shrub Identification Walk** - learn how to identify a variety of native species using leaves, fruit and seed. The tour, led by Forest Technician Ruth Richman, includes a walk through the woods and begins at the Macphails Woods nursery at 10am.
- Aug. 3 - Forest Restoration Workshop** - a walk and talk in a wide variety of forest habitats at Macphail Woods. The focus will be on bringing back the native Acadian forest, looking at some of the methods used on the property and trying to find solutions to problems faced by woodlot owners. Meet at the Macphails Woods NatureCentre at 2 pm.
- Aug. 9 - Plants of Prince Edward Island** - led by biologist Kate MacQuarrie. A general look at many of the plants, both native and non-native, that you commonly encounter in the province. Begins at 10 am at the Macphails Woods nursery.
- Aug. 23 - Improving Riparian Zones** - waterways are key components of healthy ecosystems in this region, providing critical habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. Rob Sharkie, Executive Director of the Trout River Environmental Committee, will look at a variety of riparian habitats and discuss ways that they can be restored and improved. Meet at the Macphails Woods NatureCentre at 10 am.
- Sept. 27 - The Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic** - The Natural History Society's Birding Team will again be surveying the hills and vales of the Island for this fundraiser for the land conservation activities of the Island Nature Trust. Donations can be made through the Island Nature Trust at 892-7513 or via mail at the Trust at P.O. Box 265, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7K4.
- Sept. 28 - Autumn in the Forest** - a family walk along the trails of Macphail Woods, looking at both plants and animals. A great outing for people of all ages. Meet at the nursery at 2pm.
- Sept. 30 to Oct. 4 - Island Heritage Management Conference.** Land Use Conflict, Heritage Management & Planning of Space in Island Jurisdictions: Understanding the Principles and Practices Involved in Managing Natural and Cultural Resources will be held in Charlottetown and feature presentations from Island's across the world. For more information contact <http://ocs.vre.upei.ca/index.php/iis/> There is a \$140 registration fee not including evening meals or tour.
- Oct. 7 - Dr. David Keenlyside** will be the guest speaker at the Natural History Society's meeting which starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, 420 University Ave., Charlottetown. The topic of his talk will be released on the Society's web site and on community notice boards. **YN**
- Nov. 4 - Exploring the Hillsborough** - Dan McAskill will be the guest speaker at the Natural History Society's meeting which starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, 420 University Ave., Charlottetown. **YN**
- Dec. 2 - Birds at Risk on Prince Edward Island** -Rosemary Curley will be the guest speaker at the Natural History Society's meeting which starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, 420 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.