



ISLAND NATURALIST

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Please renew your membership for 2009

**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:

President..... Fred McCardle, Kinkora, 887-2338, mcardlebros@pei.aibn.com
Vice-President.....Dan Kennedy, Vernon River 651-2926 dankennedy@islandtelecom.com
Past President.....Dwayne Oakley, Crossroads 569-1815 dwaine.oakley@pei.sympatico.ca
Secretary.....Beth Hoar, New Glasgow 621-0544 beth@greenthumbphoto.com
TreasurerRosemary Curley, Stratford 569-1209 rcurley@isn.net
Director - Program.....Jennifer Roma, Charlottetown, 368-8972 jennifer.roma@gmail.com
Director - Publicity.....Anne Bergstrom, Charlottetown, 892-3129 anne.flute@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 Please note: **The Natural History Society's E-mail and Web Address will change in December.**

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

Illustrations/Pictures: The Society extends a special thanks to Dwayne Oakley for his photographs in this issue.

The Natural History Society gratefully acknowledges support from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development 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: Until December, the Society's web page is located at www.isn.net/~nhspei See the Society's picture forum.

Cover Illustration:

This month's cover is an image of an American Three-toed Woodpecker. This is a rarely seen woodpecker on Prince Edward Island and it was discovered nesting in the Cavendish area last summer. Maritime Breeding Bird Atlasers certainly appreciate the ease of a photographic confirmation of such a record i.e. minimal entry work! This species of woodpecker is more typical of the boreal forest where large scale forest fires create the dead trees for ideal feeding habitat. On the Island, bark beetles often create the patches of dead bark on trees on which this woodpecker often forages.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

The Natural History Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on January 6th, 2009 at the Farm Centre. If you would be interested in offering your name in nomination for one of the positions or nominating a member for one of these positions on the Society's Executive, please contact Dwaine Oakley at 569-1815 or via E-mail dwaine.oakley@pei.sympatico.ca

THE 9th NEIL BENNETT AUTUMN BIRDING CLASSIC: by Dan McAskill, Ray Cooke, and Fiep de Bie

The Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island and the Island Nature Trust designed the Autumn Birding Classic in 1995 as a long-term fund raiser partnership for the Trust's land conservation program and as a bird monitoring system for the autumn. In 1999, the Autumn Birding Classic was renamed the Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic in memory of Neil's significant contributions to the Trust. In the 13 years since its creation, this partnership has raised more than \$15,000.

On Saturday, September 27th, Ray, Fiep, and Dan met to commence the 2008 Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic. We started out the day at 0300 hrs in Sherwood with no wind and a spectacular star filled night. It was approximately 12 degrees Celsius and increased to 18 degrees Celsius in early afternoon. The winds which started light just after dawn at 0620 hrs increased to south south east 18 km/hr by mid-afternoon. While at Little Harbour beach, the forecast rains commenced with a light sprinkle. Heavy rain just after 1700 hours brought a closure to our day's birding. By day's end at 1725 hrs, we had travelled 292 km and walked about 1 km.

Our team started birding at Hillsborough Bridge with the Double-crested Cormorants at the old bridge piers. Fiep used an I-Pod and speakers to play the calls of Saw-whet Owl, Great Horned Owl, American Bittern, Sora, and Virginia Rail. We tried Lake Verde, Dromore, and Avondale and were successful in obtaining Northern Saw-whet Owl, Barred Owl, Great-horned Owl, American Bittern, and Sora Rail responses.

By the time we reached East Point at dawn, we had perfect birding conditions. There was little wave action so visibility was great. The highlights of the day were the number of jaegers with all of us seeing a Pomarine and 9 or more Parasitic Jaeger and Ray seeing a Long-tailed Jaeger. The Pomarine Jaeger pursued a Northern Harrier close to land. There were also a good number of alcids present with Razorbills both flying and sitting on the water and Dovekie and Thick-billed Murre flying. Two Black-legged Kittiwakes were also seen. A Peregrine Falcon did a spectacular chase display near the cliff before alighting on a nearby spruce tree. On the land bird side at East Point, things were quieter but there was a good diversity of woodland birds and migrating flocks of Blue Jay totalling ~250 jays and ~150 American Robin. There were five immature Bald Eagles on East Point beach. In a grainfield opposite the fish plant at North Lake, we found the Sandhill Crane just where the Bird ListServer described it and we watched as it feed.

In total, the team observed 95 species down from the 108 seen last year. In addition to the birds seen below, we also observed several fox and two raccoons, heard or seen 3 red squirrels, and seen 3 gray seals.

Thanks to the various donors, the Trust's pledge collectors, and the team members, up to the time of publication of this Island Naturalist, \$1,235 was raised in the 2008 Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic.

Red-throated Loon	American Black Duck	Long-tailed Duck
Common Loon	Mallard	Hooded Merganser
Pied-billed Grebe	Blue-winged Teal	Common Merganser
Northern Fulmar*	Northern Shoveler	Red-breasted Merganser
Northern Gannet	Northern Pintail	Bald Eagle
Double-crested Cormorant	Green-winged Teal	Northern Harrier
Great Cormorant	Ring-necked Duck	Merlin
American Bittern	Greater Scaup	Peregrine Falcon
Great Blue Heron	Lesser Scaup	Virginia Rail
Canada Geese	Common Eider	Sandhill Crane
Wood Duck	Surf Scoter	Black-bellied Plover
Gadwall	White-winged Scoter	American Golden Plover
American Wigeon	Black Scoter	Semipalmated Plover

Greater Yellowlegs
 Lesser Yellowlegs
 Willet
 Red Knot
 Sanderling
 Semipalmated Sandpiper
 White-rumped Sandpiper
 Dunlin
 Short-billed Dowitcher
Pomarine Jaeger (1)
Parasitic Jaeger (7)
*Long-tailed Jaeger**
 Bonaparte's Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 Herring Gull
 Great Black-backed Gull
 Black-legged Kittiwake
 Caspian Tern
 Common Tern

Dovekie
 Thick-billed Murre
 Razorbill
 Rock Pigeon (Dove)
 Mourning Dove
 Great Horned Owl
 Barred Owl
 Northern Saw-whet Owl
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker*
 Northern Flicker
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Common Raven
 Black-capped Chickadee
 Boreal Chickadee
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 Winter Wren
 Golden-crowned Kinglet

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 American Robin
 European Starling
 Cedar Waxwing
 Yellow Warbler
 Cape May Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Chipping Sparrow
 Savannah Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Common Grackle
 Purple Finch
 American Goldfinch
 House Sparrow

Note: Species in italics are rarely seen here. * marks species where one individual observed the bird

BANDED RED KNOT AT GREENWICH:

On July 20th, 2008 Dwaine Oakley and David Seeler reported three Red Knot at Greenwich and later at the Red Head mud flats. One of these birds had a greenish flag L5N on its left leg and had a right leg metal band. The information was conveyed to the banding office and, via a series of E-mails, the following information was provided by Bill Pitts, Wildlife Technician Endangered & Nongame Species Program, NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife, Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, Robbinsville, NJ. This bird was initially captured on 31-May-03 in Mispillion, DE and was banded as -/-:m/- with band #0872-96978 and wing flag FL(L5N)/-:m/-. It was recaptured on 31-May-2008 at Mispillion Harbor, DE.

FOR OUR BIRDS:

by Bird Studies Canada Latest News 23 July 2008

Join bird enthusiasts and scientists on November 15-16, 2008 in Halifax, NS for a conference and workshop organized by Bird Studies Canada, Dalhousie University, Ecology Action Centre, and the NS Bird Society. ““For Our Birds 2008: Sharing science, conservation, and education about birds in Nova Scotia” has three main objectives: to increase communication about the science and conservation of birds; to engage new people in bird conservation; and to increase public awareness and action for birds. Seating is limited, so register soon!



The conference will be held at Dalhousie University and will begin with a keynote address by Janis Dickinson, Director of Citizen Science at Cornell University. On Saturday, scientists, birders, and government representatives will present talks on a variety of Nova Scotia-based bird science and conservation topics. A Sunday workshop to identify gaps, priorities, and actions for bird conservation in Nova Scotia will offer excellent opportunities for participants to interact, discuss, and learn. On Saturday evening from 4:30 to 6:30, there will be snacks, refreshments, and an opportunity for students and researchers to share research and projects during a poster session. Visit the For Our Birds 2008 website to learn more or to register. (Barred Owl photo by Dwaine Oakley)

2008 Hon. J. Angus MacLean Natural Areas Award:

by Jackie Waddell

At its Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 9th, the Island Nature Trust announced that the 2008 recipient of the 2008 Hon. J. Angus MacLean Natural Areas Award was Ms. Diane Griffin. Diane has made significant contributions to research, protection, conservation and legislation for natural areas here in Prince Edward Island and across Canada for over 30 years.

Diane spent months tramping the now protected dunes at Basin Head for her masters degree in the early 1970s and continued from there to Alberta to work in the natural areas program. She traveled back and forth to P.E.I. between 1984 and 1986 to eventually become the first Executive Director of Island Nature Trust. Diane worked as the first staff member of the Trust in 1984 and returned in 1986 to start the Trust's first staffed projects, building on the tremendous work started by an all volunteer Board of Directors and many hard working Committees.

By 1988, Diane had spearheaded the development of the P.E.I. Natural Areas Protection Act, working with then Minister of Environment Gilbert Clements. This led to the designation of the first Natural Areas on Prince Edward Island - forever protecting forests, off-shore islands, wetlands and shores. Diane developed an extensive landowner contact program, with staff working to protect identified candidate natural areas - 90% of which are in private ownership. Realizing that private stewardship was the only way certain important sites were going to be protected, Diane worked tirelessly throughout her tenure as Executive Director, to raise funds for the Trust to run programs required to bring natural areas into the public's awareness and to create the seeds of what will ultimately be a network of protected areas.

Diane has fought for natural areas with national organizations such as Wildlife Habitat Canada, Bird Studies Canada, the Canadian Nature Federation (now Nature Canada), and is currently working with the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

The highest level of national councils and groups such as the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas, the Canadian Environmental Advisory Council and the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy all benefitted from Diane's input and advice on protection of natural areas. Whether local, regional, provincial or national, Diane Griffin has personally ensured that thousands of acres of some of the finest natural areas in P.E.I. and across Canada are protected for future generations

In addition to this work, Diane helped spearhead the national Wildlife '87 Celebration, led land use appeal hearings at Greenwich, assisted with the Boughton Island hearings, contributed to two Maritime Breeding Bird Atlases, conducted floral surveys and contributed many botanical records for Prince Edward Island, supported efforts to create a museum of natural history on the Island, and much more.

BIRDS AND FLORA COURSE OFFERED AT UPEI SENIORS COLLEGE:

by Jackie Waddell

The largest enrollment in the UPEI Seniors College is the Birds and Flora course with 50 people attending classes. The course started with a birding introduction by Jackie Waddell and the second class was a field trip led by Jackie, Rosemary Curley and flora instructor for the course, Diane Griffin. This outdoor introduction to birding, birds and flora was a wonderful afternoon (the weather was perfect) at the Nature Trust-owned Jenkins Complex in Mount Albion. All who attended had a great time even if they did not see many birds. There continues to be a great deal of interest in nature, we just have to work at getting people out there! The remainder of the classes are indoors and most of the 200 species of birds we hope to cover will have to be crammed into about 8 hours of teaching!

NEWS FROM ABOUT:

Compiled by Dan McAskill

87 adult Piping Plover were discovered in a survey of 68 beaches across the Island. This compares to 107 in 2007. Despite vigorous efforts by Island Nature and Parks Canada staff to protect Piping Plovers with either symbolic fencing or predator exclosures, only 45 chicks fledged from 40 pairs across the Island thus yielding an average of 1.13 chicks per pair. This is a level well below the Atlantic Canada population sustainability estimate of 1.5 chicks fledged per pair. (Adapted from *Island Nature Trust Update* Issue 102 article)

More than ½ million dollars has been awarded to 27 community-based watershed groups across P.E.I. to assist with the operating costs to implement a variety of watershed management programs. (Adapted from *The Buzz*, August 2008)

Three brothers who have contributed significantly through their natural history work as both prolific writers and biologists were recently recognized by Okanagan College as Honorary Fellows. Dick Cannings serves as senior biologist with Bird Studies Canada and coordinates the Christmas Bird Counts across Canada. Rob is curator of entomology at the Royal BC Museum and Syd is the coordinator of NatureServe and Rob Cannings. (Adapted from an article in *BC Nature* Summer 2008)

The *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario*, published earlier this year by Bird Studies Canada, Environment Canada, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ontario Nature, documents the most comprehensive wildlife study in Ontario's history — and one of the largest and most detailed bird surveys ever undertaken in North America. A new article in *EnviroZine*, Environment Canada's online news magazine, features some of the highlights of this ground-breaking study on the state of Ontario's birds. This *EnviroZine* article, which provides an overview of the project, including details of some population declines and increases over the last 20 years. Copies of this extraordinary book are still available through the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario website or by calling 1-800-440-2366 (within Canada) or 416-444-8419 ext. 230 (from Toronto or outside Canada). (from *Bird Studies Canada Latest News* 16 July 2008)

In an article in the May 2008 issue of *The Condor*, biologists David Bonter and Michael Harvey at Cornell University used Project FeederWatch data from across Canada and the U.S. to assess the status of Evening Grosbeak populations — a species that predominantly breeds in the Canadian boreal forest. The research showed significant range wide declines since 1986, with a 50% reduction in the number of sites reporting the species, and a 27% decline in the average number of birds visiting feeders. Mechanisms driving the steep declines are not presently known, but investigations are urgently needed. (from *Bird Studies Canada Latest News* 10 September 2008)

Bernard Forsythe of Wolfville, Nova Scotia, made his first contribution to the Maritimes Nest Record Scheme (MNRS) in 1975. By 1981 he had submitted over 1000 cards, and, in 1991, he hit the 2000 mark. In 2008, Mr. Forsythe made a special effort to collect enough cards to reach the 3000 mark. Julie Paquet, MNRS coordinator with the Canadian Wildlife Service, received his 2008 cards this week. "This is a phenomenal effort from a single volunteer," said Paquet. "Mr. Forsythe is the first MNRS volunteer to submit over 3000 cards." MNRS nest record cards are stored at the Canadian Wildlife Service office in Sackville, NB, and are shared with BSC's Project NestWatch database, as well as the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas database. (from *Bird Studies Canada Latest News* Oct 10th issue).

Whilst perusing Canada Geese flocks for those elusive tag-alongs (such as Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese, etc.), keep in mind that 123 Canada Geese from western Greenland were marked with bright yellow neck collars this past summer. Each has a three-letter code beginning with the letter "G". Previous recoveries of Greenland Canada Geese have been made in Labrador City, and five were shot in New Brunswick in the 1990s. Danish researchers are trying to determine why their population of White-fronted Geese are in decline, and it is beginning to appear that intra-specific competition with invading Canada Geese from North America may be at least partially responsible. So they are not just taking over golf courses, city parks and backyard ponds here in North America! This week, five live Canada Geese from west Greenland were observed near Caribou, Maine. For details, go to <http://northernmainebirds.blogspot.com/> For information on the Danish program, you can go to <http://greenland08.wikispaces.com/Request+for+resightings+of+Canada+Geese> (E-mail from Brian Dalzell to PEI Bird ListServer Oct. 17/08)

Re previous article on Greenland geese - I found this very interesting. It should also add support to the opinions that recent Barnacle Geese that have shown up in the Northeast could have been wild birds from Greenland. (Email from Jim Wilson to PEI Bird ListServer Oct. 17/08)

EnCana, a major player in the gas industry, was heading for its 9th appearance for charges related to the *Wildlife Act* on Sept. 18, 2008. These charges are related to the installation of a section of pipeline in the National Wildlife Area. EnCana has applied for an application to drill 1,275 wells in the Suffield National Wildlife Area of Alberta, an area where the density of species at risk of extinction is one of the highest in Canada. (Adapted from a press release from the Alberta Wilderness Association, The Southern Alberta Group for the Environment, Federation of Alberta Naturalists, Nature Canada, and Grasslands Naturalists)

The emerald ash borer, a species which has had a devastating impact on ash trees, was discovered at

Montérégie, Quebec 45 km east of Montreal. The furthest east this insect has been discovered previously was Toronto. (Adapted from an E-mail from Ken Harrison of NRCan dated June 27, 2008).

A study of bat mortality at Pincher Creek wind turbines showed that 90% of the bats examined after death had signs of internal hemorrhaging in their respiratory system. This is consistent with a sudden drop in air pressure called barotrauma which causes the tiny sacs in the lungs to over-expand bursting the blood vessels in the lungs. (Adapted from Toronto Filed Naturalist "Bat Deaths at Windmills" TFN558-15. For further information see "Barotrauma is a significant cause of bat fatalities at wind turbines" at www.current-biology.com).

2nd Annual Bald Eagle Festival in Mount Stewart:

by Dan McAskill

Over 150 people went to the eagle viewing station on Pigot's Trail at the Allisary Creek Impoundment on June 14th and 15th, 2008. Kettles of eagles riding wind currents, eagles soaring over the river's edge, interactions between eagles, and views of the marsh dykes were what some of the participants who went to 2nd Annual Eagle Festival at the Hillsborough River Eco-Centre in Mount Stewart seen.

There was lots of program diversity with Rudy Stoczek being the guest eagle speaker, Marie Daley offering Island Irish Genealogy, Doug Sobey, J.P. Arsenault and Glen Kelly touring visitors to the old red pine stand, Bruce Pigot and Emmett McKenna hosting the Mount Stewart Wildlife Carving Club display, Fiep de Bie and Dan McAskill conducting an early morning bird tour, Methilda Knockwood-Snache, the Mi'kmaq drummers and a Mi'kmaq dancer providing the Mi'kmaq cultural showcase, Myha McAdam Young offering face painting and children's activities; Maria Van DeCappelle offering children's crafting in the library, and Margie Carmichael, Trevor McInnis, and Michael Pendergast offering the music cultural showcase.

WEATHER EVENTS:

High wind storm broke many branches on Jun. 13 (JDM). Hay harvest commenced on Jun. 16 at Donagh (JDM) and grain harvesting started at Kinkora on Aug. 18 (JDM). Frequent, very heavy rain storms including intense lightning and flooding in August and early September set records with 224 mm and 164 mm respectively reported at Harrington and 95 mm and 126 at Summerside. Torrential rains on Aug. 3 caused heavy soil movement (JDM). Post tropical storm Hanna on September 7th brought heavy rain with 86 mm at Charlottetown and 96 mm at Harrington weather stations. This storm brought a series on intense rain squalls in a short period and undermined the Trans-Canada Highway in Cornwall and the Brackley Point Road. Many other roadways were flooded during these peak rains. Hurricane Kyle on September 29th moved over New Brunswick but caused few problems on the Island. First hoar frost of the season at Donagh on Oct. 20 (JDM). The first snow storm occurred on November 2nd with the storm commencing in the eastern end and progressing westward to central P.E.I..

ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:

Compiled by J. Dan McAskill

PLANTS: Choke cherry and mountain ash in flower in various areas of Queens County on Jun. 13 (JDM). Clematis started flowering at Donagh on Jun. 21 and was in full flower on Jun. 25 (JDM). Poppy in flower at Donagh on Jun. 24 (JDM). Foxglove flowering in Donagh on Jun. 26 (JDM). Vetch and beach pea in flower at Savage Harbour on Jul. 5 (JDM). Chicory, sweet clover and Queen Ann's Lace in flower on Jul. 10 T Mt. Stewart (JDM). Fireweed starting to bloom on Jul. 14 at Johnston's River and at Donagh on Jul. 16 (JDM). Brown-eyed Susan, purple loosestrife in flower at Maple Hill and Mount Stewart on Jul. 20 (JDM). First goldenrod starting to bloom at Bunbury on morning of Jul. 30 (JDM). First evening primrose blossom open at West Royalty on Jul. 31 (JDM). Joe Pye weed in flower at Miscouche Bog on Aug. 4 (JDM, HI) and morning glory, spotted touch-me-not, and spirea in flower at Richmond on Aug. 5 (JDM). First few meadow mushrooms at Pleasant Valley, Traveller's Rest and Miscouche on Sept. 4 (JDM). Chicory still in flower at Morell on Sept. 6 (DO, JDM, DCS). First mature red oak acorns starting to drop at Charlottetown (JDM). By Oct. 15th in Donagh, ash leaves had largely fallen and some red oak had changed colour and were dropping leaves while some others were still green (JDM). Eastern Larch had taken on the golden colour in Prince County on Oct. 16 (JDM). Autumn leaf colour was at its highpoint around Oct. 11th with leaf fall cutting some colours in the lower Bonshaw Hills by Oct. 18th (JDM). There was a great crop of Canada Holly at Blooming Point this autumn.

INSECTS: Tiger swallowtail flying at Canavoy on Jul. 5 (JDM). First ant swarms seen this summer at East Royalty on Aug. 22 (JDM). 1000s of Ring-billed Gulls and Herring Gulls hawking either crane flies or flying ants between Souris and East Point on Sept. 26 (BMay).

AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES:

Leopard frogs crossing roads in Donagh and Savage Harbour in mid-July (JDM).

FISH:

At least 11 estuaries experienced white water syndrome (anoxic) fish kills in July and August in 2008 (DCS, news reports).

MAMMALS: Adult raccoon with three small young on Jul. 16 at Savage Harbour and Tarantum on Jul. 18 (JDM). Very few snowshoe hare road kills in late summer and early autumn but relatively high numbers of road killed raccoons and striped skunks (JDM). First 2 bats at Vernon River in a few years (DK). Harbour porpoise at beached at Rollo Bay in July (DO), 1 on West River above bridge in summer (CEG) and 1 see at Mount Stewart between the two bridges (CBC news on Sept. 8 (WC). 1 minke whale seen off Wood Island's Ferry on Sept. 26 (BMay).

BIRDS: **Red-throated Loon** - calling offshore at Argyle Shore on Oct. 17 (LY), several flying over Sherbrooke on Oct. 18 (JDM, LY); **Common Loon** - 1 at Covehead on Jul. 5 at Brackley (DCS), immature with 2 adults off Savage Harbour on Jul. 8 (RP); **Pied-billed Grebe** - good numbers this summer; **Horned Grebe** - 8 at Pownal Bay on Oct. 18 (DCS); **Red-necked Grebe** - 7 at Pownal Bay on Oct. 18 (DCS); **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** - 1 at East Point on Jul. 20 (DCS, DO); **Leach's Storm-Petrel** - 1 at East Point on Jul. 20 (DCS, DO); **Northern Gannet** - 50+ at East Point on Jul. 20 (DCS), good numbers at East Point this summer and autumn (DCS, DO, JDM), 7 at Covehead on Oct. 5 (DCS), 10 off Deroche Pond and ~20 off Dalvay on Nov. 2 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Double-crested Cormorant** - 100+ on the Hillsborough bridge piers on Jun. 21 (JDM), good populations at Charlottetown, Summerside, East Point, and Malpeque Bay (DCS, DO, JDM), 2 at silverside nets at Coran Ban on Nov. 2 (DO, DCS, JDM), 70 mostly on rock spit at Charlottetown's Hillsborough River (JDM); **Great Cormorant** - small numbers at East Point (DO, DCS, JDM); **American Bittern** - at Whitlock's Pond on Jul. 28 (FdB), 1 at Little Harbour on Sept. 6 (DCS, DO); **Great Blue Heron** - 11 to 12 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 1, 5, & 6, 1 to 17 at Brackley West Marsh during summer, and 1 to 21 at Covehead Bay in summer (DCS), 17 at Brackley West Marsh & 8 on Hillsborough River at Charlottetown on Oct. 19 but few remaining on Nov. 1 (DCS), 1 at Malpeque on Oct. 29 (JDM, DI, KB); **Cattle Egret** - 1 at Danny MacDonald's field in East point on Jul. 3 (WL via DO), 1 reported by RS at unknown Island location, 1 at Sheep Pond Road pasture on Oct. 20 and was there for 2 weeks before that (DMacC via DCS); **Ross's Goose** - 2 shot by hunters east of Charlottetown in the second week of Oct. (DCS report); **Snow Geese** - 1 white morph at St. Peter's on Oct. 9 (CG); **Canada Geese** - 21 at Covehead Pond on Jul. 23 & 51 on Aug. 5 (DCS), geese calling at Donagh on Aug. 21 (JDM), 200+ at Cavendish on Aug. 29 (DCS), 100+ at Stanhope Marsh, 300+ at Covehead Bay on Sept. 14 (DCS), 3000+ in small grain field at Mt. Mellick on Oct. 5 (JDM), based on body length, wing span and colours, 2 probable *Richardson's Canada Geese* taken by two Newfoundland hunters near Malpeque Bay on Oct. 10 were measured (JDM), 800+ at Souris Line Road field on Oct. 20 (DCS), yellow neck collared goose at Souris Line Road on Oct. 21 (DK), ~300 flying at dusk at Malpeque on Oct. 29 (JDM, DI, KB), 200 at Stanhope Bay, 250 at Covehead Bay and 200 at Dalvay Pond on Nov. 2 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Wood Ducks** - 12 at Dalvay Lagoon on Aug. 7 (DO); **Gadwall** - female with 8 young at Covehead Pond on Jul. 11 & 24 on Jul. 13 (DCS), 5 at Covehead Pond on Oct. 4 (DCS); **American Wigeon** - common in early autumn; **American Black Duck** - ~250 at Victoria, small numbers at Ellen's Creek, ~75 at Hillsborough River beside Riverside Drive on Oct. 18 (JDM), 75 at St. Peter's, 100 at Covehead Bay and 150 at Robinson's Island Causeway on Nov. 2 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Mallard** - ~50 in two ponds in Margate on Oct. 4 (JDM, LY), 3 at St. Peter's and 42 at Wright's Pond in East Royalty on Nov. 2 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Blue-winged Teal** - relatively small numbers by early Oct. (JDM); **Northern Shoveller** - 2 at Black Pond on Sept. 6 (JDM, DCS, DO); **Ring-necked Duck** - common in early autumn; **Greater Scaup** - several flocks at Black Pond on Sept. 27 (JDM, RC, FdB), female at John Archie's Pond on Oct. 17 (DCS), 10 at Long Pond on Nov. 2 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Lesser Scaup** - 6 males and a mated pair at Alberton lagoon on Jul. 26 (BD), 1 at Black Pond on Sept. 27 (JDM, RC, FdB); **Common Eider** - 1 at East Point on Jul. 20, 3 on Aug. 23, 15+ on Sept. 6, 100+ on Oct. 1, 200+ on Oct. 18 (DCS); **Surf Scoter** - 29 at East Point on Oct. 1 & 20+ on Oct. 18 (DCS); **White-winged Scoter** - 4 off East Point on Sept. 26 (BMay), 7 at Dalvay on Oct. 5 (DCS); **Black Scoter** - 6 at East Point on Oct. 1 & 100 on Oct. 18 (DCS), 24 at Dalvay on Oct. 5 (DCS); **Long-tailed Duck** - a few at East Point on Sept. 27 (JDM, FdB, RC), ~10 off Dalvay on Nov. 2 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Bufflehead** - 6 (males, females, juveniles) at Long Pond on Oct. 17 (DCS); **Common Goldeneye** - 4 at Pownal Bay on Oct. 19 (DCS), 4 in bay off Robinson's Island Causeway on Nov. 2 (JDM, DO, DCS); **Hooded Merganser** - 4 at Long Pond on Oct. 17 (DCS); **Common Merganser** - 6 at Long Pond on Nov. 2 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Red-breasted Merganser** - 250 off East Point on Sept. 26 (BMay), 60+ at Pownal Bay on Oct. 19 (DCS); **Ruddy Duck** - pair at Allisary Creek Impoundment on Jun. 14 (MM) & Jun. 15 (JDM, WFB, EM, DK), female with 6 young at Allisary Creek impoundment on Jul. (JDS& BP via FRC), 1 at Allisary Creek Impoundment on Sept. 27 (BMay); **Osprey** - 1 on nest in light standards at Sun Safe Park in Stratford (MKo, JDM), 1 on Sept. 6 at North Lake (DCS); **Bald Eagle** - killed a Great Blue Heron at Mill River on Jul. 15 but could not lift it to shore (G&BM), beautiful

picture of an adult seen at Mount Carmel was submitted to the Natural History Society on Sept. 12 (L&KB), carrying nesting material at North Granville in Sept. (I&DS), an immature (~2.5 years old) carrying a stick at Campbell's Pond in PEINP on Nov. 2 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Northern Harrier** - 1 at Sherbrooke on Oct. 8 to 10 (JDM, LY), 3 hunting Hampton fields in late September and early Oct. (JDM, LY), immature at Cornwall on Oct. 18 (JDM), at Victoria West in Sept./Oct. (AH), at Malpeque on Oct. 29 (JDM, DI, KB); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - a family of Blue Jays was training group members in attack avoidance against a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Donagh on Sept. 13. On Oct. 19, over a 1.5 hour period, a single Sharp-shinned Hawk made at least 25 unsuccessful attacks on individual Blue Jays in a group of 12 at Donagh feeders (JDM), 2 at East Point on Oct. 18 (DCS), 1 at Wright's Creek attacking a crow and vice versa on Nov. 2 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Northern Goshawk** - 1 at West Cape on Jul. 1 (FdB), 1 went through a mist at the Cameron's Island Bird Banding Station in late Oct. (DO, WCT); **Red-tailed Hawk** - 2 at East Point on Sept. 6 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at Sherbrooke on Oct. 8-11 (JDM, LY), immature at Cardross on Oct. 31 (JDM); **Rough-legged Hawk** - 1 at Sherbrooke on Oct. 8 (JDM, LY); **American Kestrel** - 1 on wires at Donagh and at Savage Harbour on Jul. 24 (JDM), attached flock of small birds on Oct. 9 (JDM, DH); **Peregrine Falcon** - juvenile hunting shorebirds at Cavendish on Aug. 22 (DCS), 1 at East Point on Sept. 27 (FdB, RC, JDM); **Gray Partridge** - pair at Savage Harbour on Jul. 5 (JDM), adult with 2 young at Brackley on Aug. 12 & 8 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 24 (DCS), ~5 small young with adults at West Royalty on Aug. 28 (JDM), juvenile partridge at Kinkora area in Aug. (FMcC), ~22 (1 covey) at Traveller's Rest on Sept. 20 (LY, JDM), 12 at Vernon River in early Oct. (DK); **Ring-necked Pheasant** - 2 at Johnston's River entering soybean field on Oct. 4 (JDM), 1 at Earnscliffe on Oct. 19 (DCS), male at Johnston's River on Oct. 27 (JDM); **Ruffed Grouse** - 1 at Bethel on Aug. 2 (JDM), 1 at New harmony on Oct. 11 (JDM); **Sharp-tailed Grouse** - 1 struck by car at Brackley on Oct. 26 (DCS); **Virginia Rail** - 1 photographed at Mackie's Pond on Campbellton Road on Oct. 6 (TW); **Sandhill Crane** - 1 at Bear River on Jul. 25 (CG & JG via DO), 1 at Anglo Tignish on Aug. 9-10 (MMcI), 1 at North Lake from Sept. 18 to at least Oct. 1 (JHS, SCS, FdB, RC, JDM, DCS); **Black-bellied Plover** - 1 at Tracadie Harbour on Jul. 4, 10 at Covehead Marsh on Jul. 29, 2 on Jul. 30, 5 on Jul. 31, 15 on Aug. 5, 2 to 24 on Aug. 6 (DCS), 3 at Covehead Brackley saltmarsh on Aug. 7 (DO), 1 to 17 at Covehead Marsh on Aug. 8, 1 to 76 on Aug. 9, 105 to 115 on Aug. 15 (DCS), 6 at Sherbrooke on Oct. 6 (JDM), 28 at Covehead Bay on Oct. 20 (DCS), 1 at Tracadie Harbour saltmarsh on Nov. 2 (DO, DCS, JDM); **American Golden-Plover** - 2 at Alexandra on Sept. 1, 1 at Covehead Bay on Sept. 11 & 14 (DCS), 4 at Red Head Harbour on Sept. 6 (DCS, DO, JDM), 8 at Covehead on Sept. 19, 4 on Sept. 21, 1 on 23rd & 26th (DCS), 2 to 3 at Covehead on Oct. 6, 7 & 8 (DCS); **Semi-palmated Plover** - back at Cavendish on Jul. 18 (DCS), 27 at Tracadie Harbour on Jul. 19 (DCS), 10 at Covehead Brackley saltmarsh on Aug. 7 (DO), 126 at Cavendish sandspit on Aug. 30 (DCS), 13 at Covehead Bay on Oct. 13 (DCS); **Piping Plover** - 4 at Cavendish sandspit on Jul. 7, 2 on Jul. 18, and 1 on Aug. 30 (DCS); **Killdeer** - 11 at Afton Road blueberry fields on Aug. 23 (DCS, DO); **Greater Yellowlegs** - 1 to 69 at Covehead Bay in Jul., 1 to 96 at Covehead Bay in Aug., and 1 to 30 at Covehead Bay in Sept. 12 at Covehead Brackley saltmarsh on Aug. 7 (DO), 1 at Covehead Bay on Oct. 20 (DCS), 1 flying at Sherbrooke on Oct. 21 (JDM, LY); **Lesser Yellowlegs** - 6 at Covehead Brackley saltmarsh on Aug. 7 (DO), up to 78 at Brackley North Marsh between July and Oct. 4 (DCS), 33 at Souris River mudflats and 10 at Souris River on Jul. 20 (DCS); **Solitary Sandpiper** - 2 in cow pasture pond near Rustico on Aug. 22 (DCS), 1 in roadside pond at Morell (Rte 322) on Aug. 29 (LF via DCS), 1 at North Lake (inner bay above Rte 16 bridge) & 1 at Glenfinnan River saltmarsh pond on Sept. 6 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Willet** - common in bays and saltmarshes this summer, 45 at Covehead Bay on Jul. 22 and 4 on Sept. 11 (DCS), **western form** at Dalvay on Aug. 10 (DCS); **Spotted Sandpiper** - at Covehead, East Point, Barbara Weit River, East Point, and Little Harbour (DCS, DO, JDM); **Whimbrel** - 1 at Covehead Marsh on Jul. 2 (DCS), 1 at Savage Harbour on Jul. 20 (RP), 1 at Covehead Brackley saltmarsh on Aug. 7 (DO), 10 at Covehead on Aug. 9 (DCS), 15 at Afton Road blueberries fields on Aug. 23 (DCS, DO); **Hudsonian Godwit** - 2 to 3 at Covehead Harbour on Jul. 22 to 28 (DCS), 1 at Covehead Brackley saltmarsh on Aug. 7 (DO), 6 at Covehead on Sept. 27 & 8 on Sept. 28 (DCS), 3 at Covehead Bay on Oct. 4, 13 on Oct. 20, small group on Oct. 26 (DCS); **Ruddy Turnstone** - 1 at Redhead Harbour mudflats on Jul. 20 (DCS, DO), 2 at Covehead on Jul. 20, 6 on Jul. 30, 14 on Jul. 31, 17 on Aug. 15 (DCS), 4 at Savage Harbour on Jul. 20 (RP), 8 at East Point on Jul. 23, 1 at North Lake, and 6 at Campbell's Cove on Jul. 23 (DCS), 12 at Covehead Brackley saltmarsh on Aug. 7 (DO); **Red Knot** - 3 with 1 carrying a greenish flag L5N on left leg and having a right leg metal band (see article page 4) at Redhead Harbour mudflats on Jul. 20 (DCS, DO), 4 at Covehead Bay on Jul. 21, 1 on 23rd, 1 on 27th, 4 on 28th, 18 on 29th, 1 on Aug. 12, 3 on 18th, 1 on 22nd, 2 on Sept. 4, 10 on 15th, and 17 on 29th (DCS), 2 on Aug. 4 at Covehead, 1 juvenile on 24th, 1 on Sept. 27 (DCS), 2 at Covehead Brackley saltmarsh on Aug. 7 with one with orange flag indicating it was banded in Argentina (DO), 1 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 18, 5 at Tracadie Harbour on Aug. 9, 8 on 18th (DCS), 2 immature at Campbell's Cove & 6 at Rollo Bay on Aug. 23 (DCS), 25 at Rollo Bay on Sept. 6 (DCS, DO, JDM), 43 at Souris River Mudflats on Oct. 18 (DCS), 57 at Tracadie Harbour on Oct. 25 (DCS); **Sanderling** - back at Cavendish on Jul. 18 (DCS), 50 at Cavendish on Aug. 11 and 87 on Aug. 30 (DCS), 120 off East Point on Sept. 26 (BMay), 200+ at East Point, 36 at Souris River, and 3 at Dalvay on Oct. 18 (DCS), 3 at Deroche Pond shore and 2 at Dalvay on Nov. 2 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Semipalmated Sandpiper** - 2 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 1, 14 on Jul. 16, common until at least Oct. 4 (DCS), 10 at Covehead Bay on Oct. 18 & 4 on 20 (DCS); **Least Sandpiper** - 1 at Cavendish on Jul. 7 (DCS), common until late Sept (DCS); **White-rumped Sandpiper** - 7 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 10 (DCS), 3 at Cavendish on Aug. 11 (DCS), 8 at East Point beach on Sept. 21 (SCS), 1 at Covehead on Oct. 13 (DCS); **Baird's Sandpiper** - 1 at Covehead on Jul. 21 (DCS), 1 in cow pasture pond near Rustico on Aug. 22 (DCS), 1 at Basin Head on Sept. 6 (DCS, DO), 2 at Covehead on Sept. 27 (DCS); **Pectoral Sandpiper** - 1 at Rte. 25 pond on Sept. 11 (DCS), 1 at Covehead Bay on Sept. 13, 4 on 20th, 29 on 21st, 9 on 22nd (DCS), 26 on Sept.



Black-legged Kittiwake at Rollo Bay on August 8, 2008. Photo by Dwaine Oakley

20th at Covehead, 75 on 21st, 68 on 22nd and 1 on 28th (DCS), 1 at Covehead on Oct. 19 (DCS); **Dunlin** - 1 at Covehead Bay on Sept. 11, 15 on 15th, 5 on 16th, 192 on 19th, 98 on 21st, 14 on 22nd, 81 on 23rd, 56 on 26th, 8 on 27th, 44 on 28th, 86 on 29th, and 275 on Oct. 4th (DCS), 8 at Covehead on Sept. 19, 1 on 20th, 19 on 21st, 70 on 22nd, 26 on 23rd, 90 on 26th, 33 on 27th, 63 on 28th, and 5 on 29th (DCS), 1 at East Point beach on Sept. 21 (SCS), 20 at Brackley Point mudflats on Oct. 4 (DCS), 41 at Covehead Bay & 60 at Souris River mudflats on Oct. 18 & 180 at Covehead Bay on Oct. 20 (DCS), 2 at Tracadie Harbour saltmarsh on Nov. 2 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Ruff** - female reeve at Covehead Marsh on Jul. 4 (DCS); **Dowitcher** - ~150 at Savage Harbour on Jul. 5 (RP); **Short-billed Dowitcher** - 1 at Brackley West Marsh on Jul. 2 & 11 on Jul. 5 (DCS), 120 at Barbara Weit River on Jul. 26 (DCS), 2 to 132 at Covehead Bay in July to Aug. (DCS), 1 at Covehead Bay on Oct. 1 (DCS); **Long-billed Dowitcher** - adult at Brackley Marsh West on Aug. 27 (DCS), 1 at Stewart's Cove in Stratford (DGS); **Wilson's Snipe** - 3 at East Point beach on Sept. 21 (SCS); **American Woodcock** - 1 on road at Suffolk on Aug. 10 (SG), 1 at Townshend's Woodlot in late Oct. (DO); **Wilson's Phalarope** - adult at Brackley West Marsh on Sept. 20-21 (DCS); **Red-necked Phalarope** - 2 at Dalvay Sewage Lagoons on Aug. 6 (LT, RH, MMack); **Red Phalarope** - 1 seen off Wood Island's

Ferry on Sept. 26 (BMay); **Little Gull** - adult in non-breeding plumage at East Point Beach on Aug. 28 (DO); **Pomarine Jaeger** - 1 at East Point on Sept. 27 (JDM, RC, FdB); **Parasitic Jaeger** - adult and immature at East Point on Sept. 6 (DCS), 9+ at East Point on Sept. 27 (JDM, RC, FdB), adult at East Point on Oct. 1 (DCS); **Long-tailed Jaeger** - 1 at East Point on Sept. 27 (RC), adult at East Point on Oct. 1 (DCS); **Little Gull** - adult in non-breeding plumage at beach at East Point on Aug. 28 (DO); **Black-headed Gull** - 1 at Rollo Bay on Aug. 8 (DO); **Bonaparte's Gull** - 1 to 3 at Covehead marshes on Jul. 1 to 23rd (DCS), 6 on Jul. 29th, 12 on 30th and 25 on Aug. 5 (DCS), 40 at East Point on Aug. 23 and 20 on 28th (DCS), 200 at Rollo Bay on Aug. 8 (DO), 50+ at East Point Beach on Aug. 28 (DO), ~30 at Argyle Shore feeding with Ring-billed Gulls on ant swarms on Aug. 30 (JDM), 80+ at East Point on Sept. 5 (DCS), 100s seen off Wood Island's Ferry on Sept. 26 (BMay), 30+ at Covehead Bay on Oct. 18 (DCS); **Ring-billed Gull** - 250 at Sherbrooke on Oct. 9 (JDM), 1000s hawking either crane flies or flying ants between Souris and East Point on Sept. 26 (BMay); **Herring Gull** - 1000s hawking either crane flies or flying ants between Souris and East Point on Sept. 26 (BMay) **Great Black-backed Gull** - 2 pair nesting on the Hillsborough bridge piers on Jun. 21 (JDM); **Black-legged Kittiwake** - 1 at Rollo Bay on Aug. 8 (DO), 1 adult and 2 immatures at East Point on Aug. 28 (DO), immature at East Point on Sept. 21 (SCS), 11 at East Point on Oct. 1 (DCS); **Caspian Tern** - 4 at Covehead on Jul. 1, 19 on 4th, 18 on 21st (DCS), 7 at Savage Harbour on Jul. 5 (RP), 26 at Covehead Bay on Sept. 3 (DCS), 5 on Sept. 29 (DCS), 1 at Covehead Bay on Oct. 7 (DCS); **Common Tern** - by Jun. 21, the tern nesting at the Hillsborough Bridge piers were no longer present (JDM), 6 at Covehead Harbour on Jul. 2, 10 on Jul. 23rd, 40 on Aug. 15 (DCS), 20 at Tracadie Harbour on Jul. 2 (DCS), ~12 at Savage Harbour on Jul. 5 (RP), nest with 3 eggs at Savage Harbour on Jul. 20 (RP), 20+ at Covehead Bay on Jul. 29, 32 on Aug. 3, and 49 on Aug. 31 (DCS), 30+ at Rollo Bay on Aug. 8 (DO), 20+ at East Point Beach with 5 juveniles on Aug. 28 (DO), 20+ at East Point on Sept. 6 (DCS, DO, JDM), 3 at Covehead Bay on Oct. 13 (DCS); **Razorbill** - 4 at East Point on Oct. 1 (DCS); **Black Guillemot** - 7 at East Point on Oct. 1 (DCS); **Mourning Dove** - 4 on Aug. 15, 6 on 23rd, 8 on 30th and 8 on Oct. 4 at West Royalty feeders (DCS); **Short-eared Owl** - 1 at Clyde Road on ~Oct. 1 (KEM); **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** - 20 at Kelly's Cross feeders on Jul. 13 (EC), 1 at East Point on Aug. 23 and 2 at East Point Community on Aug. 23 (DCS), present at Argyle Shore feeders until mid-Sept. (LY); **Belted Kingfisher** - 1 carrying fish into nest hole at Stratford on Jun. 21 (JDM), reported at Dalvay, Covehead Bay, Brackley North Marsh, North Lake, Rollo Bay, Stratford, Fullerton's Marsh (DCS, JDM); **Red-bellied Woodpecker** - 1 at Tracadie on Nov. 1 (RMcN); **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - at Tea Hill on Jul. 6 (FdB); **Downy Woodpecker** - 1 at West Royalty feeders on Jul. 21 & Aug. 30 (DCS); **Northern Flicker** - good numbers this summer; **Pileated Woodpecker** - 1 at Pleasant Grove on Jul. 17 (documented with pictures)(SG); **Eastern Wood Peewee** - 1 singing on territory on Confederation Trail west of Elmira on Aug. 28 (DO); **Eastern Kingbird** - 1 at Donagh in late Jul. (JDM), 3 at Clyde River on Jul. 28 (EC), family at French Village beaver pond in Jul. And Aug. (JDM); **Northern Shrike** - 1 at Indian Road near Green Meadows on Oct. 28 (DO), 1 at Deroche Pond on Nov. 2 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Red-eyed Vireo** - 3 singing on territory on Confederation Trail west of Elmira on Aug. 28 (DO); **Warbling Vireo** - 1 at French Village on Jul. 5 (JDM); **Gray Jay** - 1 in Baldwin's Road area in mid-Oct. (DO); **Blue Jay** - many moving at East Point on Sept. 21 (SCS); **Bank Swallow** - 10 at Stanhope on Jul. 2 & 25+ at Stanhope on Jul. 27 (DCS), 4 at Dalvay on Jul. 6 (DCS), 4 at Cavendish on Jul. 18 & 2 on Aug. 21 (DCS), 1 at East Point on Aug. 23 (DCS); **Cliff Swallow** - 6 at East Point on Sept. 6 (DCS, JDM, DO); **Barn Swallow** - 2 at North Lake on Aug. 23 (DCS); **Boreal Chickadee** - at Norway on Jul. 5 (FdB); **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - small numbers being heard in late September to mid-October (JDM); **Brown Creeper** - 2 at West Cape on Jul. 1 (FdB), fledged young with adult at Alpine Ski Park in Brookvale

on Jun. 28 (EC); **Winter Wren** - 1 at West Cape on Jul. 1 (FdB); **Carolina Wren** - 1 at Lake of Shining Waters in Cavendish on Jul. 31 (SB via KT); **Eastern Bluebird** - pair seen for short period at Summerside on Jul. 16 (G&SF); **Hermit Thrush** - at Norway on Jul. 5 (FdB), juvenile at Tea Hill on Jul. 28 (FdB); **American Robin** - good numbers migrating at Sherbrooke on Oct. 18 (JDM, LY); **Gray Catbird** - at Tea Hill on Jul. 14 (FdB); **Cedar Waxwing** - small flocks being seen in late Sept. (JDM); **Nashville Warbler** - at Norway on Jul. 5 (FdB), 1 at East Point community on Aug. 23 (DCS); **Yellow Warbler** - see Bennet article page 3 ; **Chestnut-sided Warbler** - carrying food at Norway on Jul. 5 (FdB); **Magnolia Warbler** - at Robinson's Island on Jul. 6 (FdB); **Cape May Warbler** - see Bennet article page 3; **Black-throated Blue Warbler** - pair at Brookvale Alpine Ski Park on Jun. 28 (EC), 1 at East Point on Sept. 6 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Yellow-rumped Warbler** - many moving at East Point on Sept. 21 (SCS), 3 at Stanhope on Sept. 28 (DCS); **Blackburnian Warbler** - at Robinson's Island on Jul. 6 (FdB); **Prairie Warbler** - 1 at East Point on Aug. 23 (DCS, DO); **Blackpoll Warbler** - 1 at Tena Campbell Pond on Sept. 6 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Black-and-White Warbler** - at Norway on Jul. 5 (FdB), juvenile at Tea Hill on Jul. 28 (FdB), 1 at East Point on Aug. 23 (DCS); **American Redstart** - 1 at East Point on Sept. 6 (DCS, DO, JDM) ; **Ovenbird** - juvenile at Tea Hill on Jul. 3 (FdB), 1 singing on territory on Confederation Trail west of Elmira on Aug. 28 (DO); **Mourning Warbler** - 1 at East Point on Jul. 20 (DCS); **Common Yellowthroat** - see Bennet article page 3; **Wilson's Warbler** - 10+ at East Point area on Aug. 23 (DCS, DO) ; **Canada Warbler** - 3 on Confederation Trail west of Elmira on Aug. 28 (DO); **American Tree Sparrow** - 1 at Deroche Pond on Nov. 2 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Chipping Sparrow** - 3 at Crossroad's feeders in late Oct. (DO); **Savannah Sparrow** - many moving at East Point on Sept. 21 (SCS); **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** - at Brackley North Marsh Jul. 1 to 27 (DCS); **Fox Sparrow** - 1 at Donagh feeders on Oct. 7 (JDM), 3 to 4 at Donagh feeders from Oct. 18 to Nov. 1 (JDM), 1 at Vernon River feeders on Oct. 27 (DK); **Song Sparrow** - many moving at East Point on Sept. 21 (SCS), at Crossroads and Donagh feeders in first week of Oct. (DO, JDM); **Lincoln's Sparrow** - 1 at East Point on Sept. 21 (SCS); **Swamp Sparrow** - see Bennet article page 3; **White-throated Sparrow** - influx at Crossroads and Donagh feeders in first week of Oct. (JDM); **White-crowned Sparrow** - 1 immature at Greenwich among dozens of migrant Song and White-throated Sparrows on Sept. 27 (BMay), at Crossroads and Donagh feeders in first week of Oct. (DO, JDM); **Dark-eyed Junco** - good numbers showing up at feeders in October; **Snow Bunting** - at Sherbrooke in mid Oct. (JDM), 15 at Deroche Pond and 12 at Covehead Harbour on Nov. 2 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** - 2 juveniles at Forest Hill WMA on Jul. 28 (FdB); **Indigo Bunting** - 1 at Crossroad feeders in mid Oct. (DO, DC&ES); **Red-winged Blackbird** - ~250 at Sherbrooke on Oct. 18 (JDM, LY), small number in Hermitage grainfield with Common Grackles on Oct. 25 (FRC); **Yellow-headed Blackbird** - 1 at Tracadie on Aug. 7 (RMcN via DO); **Brewer's Blackbird** - 1 at Vernon River feeders on Oct. 27 (DK); **Common Grackle** - small numbers being seen or heard in mid-Oct. (JDM), 1,000 at Hermitage corn field on Oct. 25 (FRC); **Brown-headed Cowbird** - 14 at West Royalty feeder on Oct. 4 & 1 on Nov. 2 (DCS); **Baltimore Oriole** - pair at Charlottetown near Hermitage Creek Trail in Jun. & Jul. (BN), 1 at Crossroad's feeders in mid-Oct. (DO, DC&ES); **Pine Grosbeak** - 1 at East Point on Aug. 23 (DCS); **Purple Finch** - 1 to 5 at West Royalty feeders this summer (DCS), good numbers at Crossroads and Riverview Estates feeders in last week of September (DO, WFB, EM); **White-winged Crossbill** - ~30 at Cameron's Island during WCT banding station season in Oct. (DO); **Pine Siskin** - 3 at Nordic Ski Park on Jun. 18 (EC), 30 to 50 at Cameron's Island during WCT banding station season in Oct. (DO); **American Goldfinch** - small numbers being heard flying over fields at Argyle Shore, Desable, Sherbrooke in late September to mid-Oct. (JDM); **Evening Grosbeak** - 12 at Townshend Woodlot in late Oct. (DO, WCT); **House Sparrow** - 8 to 20+ at West Royalty feeders this summer (DCS).

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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

- 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**
- Nov. 12 - The Future of the Charlottetown Experimental Farm - Conflicting Views** - a Friends of the Farm presentation at Beaconsfield's Carriage House starting at 7 pm with a presentation by Laura Lee Howard and Dr. Bert Christie.
- Nov. 13 - State of the Island Environment 2008: Looking Back, Looking Ahead** - Panel discussion being hosted by U.P.E.I. Environmental Studies at U.P.E.I., 242 McDougall Hall starting at 7 pm.
- Nov. 13 - First Islanders in an Evolving Ancient Landscape** - Dr. David Keenlyside will be the guest speaker for the Hillsborough River Association's Annual Meeting at the Hillsborough River Eco-Centre, 104 Main Street in Mount Stewart starting at 7 pm. He will be speaking on the various early cultures and landscape changes as well as some of the artifacts that were discovered in this region. **YN**
- Nov. 14 to 15 - For Our Birds 2008: Sharing science, conservation and education about birds in Nova Scotia** conference in Halifax (see page 4)
- 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**
- Dec. 14 to Jan. 5** - Each year, many natural history and birding groups participate in **Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs)**. These can be registered counts through Audubon and Bird Studies Canada (BSC) or unregistered counts. For registered counts, adults who are not-BSC members must pay a \$5 fee which is used to assist with the preparation of the CBC reports, the critical element for the documentation of bird population trends. There are four Christmas counts on Prince Edward Island, namely, the Prince Edward Island National Park CBC (registered), the Hillsborough CBC (registered), the Montague CBC (unregistered), and the East Point CBC (registered). The Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island coordinates the first three counts while Vern Laux coordinates the East Point count. To participate or obtain more information, contact the Society at nhspei@isn.net
- Dec. 14 - The Prince Edward Island National Park Christmas Bird Count** This count features a lunch time pot-luck at the Dalvay Interpretative Centre. Please contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351 or E-mail at nhspei@isn.net for information or to register.
- Dec. ? - The East Point Christmas Bird Count.** Please contact Dwaine Oakley at 569-1815 or dwayne.oakley@pei.sympatico.ca for details and to register. The date has yet to be determined so please contact Dwaine.
- Dec. 27 - The Hillsborough Christmas Bird Count.** There will be a pot-luck after the event for participants at 6 p.m. at a place to be announced. Please contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351 or E-mail at nhspei@isn.net for information or to register. The date may change so please contact your coordinator.
- Dec. 28 - The Montague Christmas Bird Count.** The date was not established at the time of the newsletter release. See the Society's web page for further information.
- Jan. 1** - Membership renewal time for the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island
- Jan. 6** - Natural History Society of P.E.I.'s Annual Meeting and members night.

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

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.