



ISLAND NATURALIST

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Varied Thrush
Photo by Dwaine Oakley

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

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month (except July, August, and September) at 7:30 p.m. at the Farm Centre, 420 University Avenue, Charlottetown. Each meeting commences with a brief business meeting followed by a nutrition break and a guest speaker. Members and non-members are welcome.

Membership is open to anyone interested in the natural history of Prince Edward Island. Membership is available at any meeting or by contacting the Treasurer at P.O. Box 2346, Charlottetown C1A 8C1 (phone 569-1209). Annual membership is \$20 and renewals are due in January. Membership expiry dates are shown in the top right hand corner of the mailing label or a notice provided by those receiving electronic newsletters.

The Society is directed by a volunteer Executive elected from its members.

2009 Executive:

President.....	Fred McCardle, Kinkora, 887-2338, fmccardle@pei.aibn.com
Vice-President.....	vacant
Past President.....	Dwaine Oakley, Crossroads 569-1815 dwaine.oakley@pei.sympatico.ca
Secretary.....	Beth Hoar, New Glasgow 621-0544 beth@greenthumbphoto.com
Treasurer	Rosemary Curley, Stratford 569-1209 rcurley@eastlink.ca
Director - Program.....	vacant
Director - Publicity.....	vacant

NEWSLETTERS are normally published quarterly and are available in Acrobat Reader format via E-mail or in hard copy delivered by mail. Hard copies are printed 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@npspei.org

The *next deadline* for articles, sightings, or other newsletter information is *Jun. 15, 2009*.

Illustrations/Pictures: The Society extends a special thanks to Dwaine 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: The Society's Executive is currently working to reestablish its web page. This should be completed in May.

Cover Illustration:

The Varied Thrush (*Ixorues naevius*) pictured here was found by Linda and Jessica Fry from Cardigan North on December 20, 2008. This thrush is normally found in the northwest region of the continent but sometimes is seen in the East. This is the Island's second report. Dwaine Oakley photographed this bird on April ??

SOCIETY NEWS:

During the Natural History Society's Apr. 7th meeting, members discussed the motion "Moved by Dan Kennedy and seconded by Meike Keunecke that the Natural History Society establish a steering committee to explore the feasibility of establishing a Natural History Museum of P.E.I. and this committee consist of Fred McCardle as chair and other members being Dan Kennedy, Bruce Smith, and Hal Mills". There was considerable discussion among the 21 members present with much of it focused on the wording. Some thought that it was tied to hydroelectric power development at Scales Pond or on a stand alone natural history museum. Committee members noted that the hydroelectric proposal would be implemented by group separate from the Natural History Society but it was hoped that profits from electric generation would help support natural history programs. It was also noted that members of the Society's Executive had met with Dr. David Keenlyside and expressed their continued support for the development of the provincial museum. Dr. Keenlyside stated that a request for proposals on a functional master plan had been called and that he was hoped that a consultant would be hired shortly. The original motion was defeated. Ian Scott, seconded by Dan Kennedy, moved that the Natural History Society continue to work in cooperation with the P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation in fulfillment of its mandate for the creation of a provincial museum of human and natural history for all. The motion was passed unanimously.

A Steering Committee consisting of Fred McCardle, Dan Kennedy, Bruce Smith, and Hal Mills are exploring solutions for the repair of Scales Dam which was breached on the weekend of April 4, 2009.

Norman Daoust has been working on the site template for the Society's new web site. The domain name of nhspei.org has been registered. The E-mail address template will be first name.last name@nhspei.org

Members of the Society expressed their thanks to Anne Bergstrom for her membership on the Society's Executive and expressed their best wishes on her move to Halifax.

PEI SCIENCE FAIR NATURAL HISTORY PRIZE WINNERS:

By Beth Hoar and Dwaine Oakley

Beth and I judged the natural history exhibits for the P.E.I. Science Fair for the selection of the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island's awards on April 2, 2009. The winners and titles of their projects are listed below.

Trevor Coffin from Mount Stewart Consolidated School Grade 8 won with his display was on "Giant Bluefin Tuna", Michael Peters and Parker Thomson of Bloomfield Elementary Grade 6 won with their presentation "Water Filter", and Matthew Bernard of the Grade 5 O'Leary Elementary class won with his presentation "The Buzz About Bees". Each of the winners was presented a cash prize and was offered a complimentary *Island Naturalist* for a year.

THE FUTURE OF THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM:

The Friends of the Farm have been concerned over the future of the Experimental Farm in Charlottetown for many years. On April 3rd, the Institute for Bioregional Studies hosted a meeting on the Future of the Farm to focus on the next steps to ensure that the Charlottetown Experimental Farm remains green and in the public domain. Shortly thereafter City of Charlottetown Counselor Mitchell Tweel hosted a meeting promoting it as green space. In addition, he and Jeff Brant, a representative of the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, participated in a CBC radio call in show. The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI released its plan for the Agriculture Research Station in Charlottetown.

NEW PEI MARCH MINI-BIG DAY RECORD:

By David Seeler and Dwaine Oakley

On March 28th, 2009, Dwaine Oakley and I decided to try and exceed the ABA's previous April record for a Big Day on PEI. Weather conditions were with us as we managed to exceed the previous record even before leaving Charlottetown proper. The species observed are listed below. We decided to make a loop around western Queens County and we did not try for any nocturnal species such as woodcock or owls - this was a day jaunt.

For the day we had a joint total of 50 species with Dwaine picking up a Horned Lark in flight making the total for the day 51 species. Also observed was an American Mink in Ellen's Creek. The big misses for the day were Hooded Merganser (seen the day before), Ring-necked Duck, Hairy Woodpecker, Pine Siskin, and Great Blue Heron.

SPECIES Observed: 50 + 1 Heard (Horned Lark) = 51

Ross's Goose	Great Cormorant	Black-capped Chickadee
Canada Goose	Bald Eagle	Boreal Chickadee
Gadwall	Red-tailed Hawk	Golden-crowned Kinglet
American Wigeon	Black-headed Gull	American Robin
American Black Duck	Ring-billed Gull	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Herring Gull	European Starling
Green-winged Teal	Iceland Gull	American Tree Sparrow
Greater Scaup	Greater Black-backed Gull	Song Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Glaucous Gull	Dark-eyed Junco
Common Eider	Rock Pigeon	Red-winged Blackbird
Surf Scoter	Mourning Dove	Common Grackle
Black Scoter	Belted Kingfisher	Common Redpoll
Long-tailed Duck	Downy Woodpecker	American Goldfinch
Common Goldeneye	Northern Flicker	House Sparrow
Barrow's Goldeneye	Northern Shrike	
Common Merganser	Blue Jay	Species Heard by 1 Person:
Red-breasted Merganser	American Crow	Horned Lark
Gray Partridge	Common Raven	

BOOK RECOMMENDATION:

By Scott Sinclair

I'd like to recommend a book that some may already know about, Silence of the Songbirds by Bridget Stutchbury, a Canadian ornithologist. It is disturbing, discussing the multiple threats that have led to a sharp decline in migratory songbirds. But it is written in a very engaging style, has loads of interesting discussion of bird behaviour and presents recent thinking on, for example, why forest fragments are unattractive to many species of breeding birds. It is in local bookstores and a copy is available through the Confederation Centre Library. (From PEI Bird Listserv March 2, 2008)

POLLEN COUNTS IN HAZELGROVE:

By Kate MacQuarrie

The P.E.I. pollen station started operation on March 15th and the first grains were captured on March 18th. Although alder is typically the first to appear, this year small amounts of cedar, maple and elm started the season. It is important to remember that pollen grains can travel quite some distance, and these are almost certainly not from local trees. Alder and hazelnut pollen appeared on April 4th, followed by poplar on April 8th. Alder started turning up regularly on April 8th (suggesting local plants), but as of April 22nd there has been no local maple. (Thanks to Aerobiology for permission to release this data).

HAWK IDENTIFICATION:

By Dwaine Oakley

Thought this might be of interest to some.

New silhouette hawk ID guide http://www.battaly.com/nehw/carrier_guide/carrier_guide_2008.pdf

A raptor ID slideshow can be downloaded from the following site as well.

<http://www.hmana.org/DataSubmission.php>

WINTER BIRD LIST:

Compiled by David Seeler

This winter list reflects the sightings for the December 1st 2008 to February 28th, 2009 period. It includes reports from the UPEI Bird ListServer, the Natural History Society of P.E.I., and the Great Backyard Bird Count.

SPECIES Reported 106

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

NEWS FROM ABOUT:

Compiled by Dan McAskill

On Saturday, April 4th, the Scale's Pond dam breached and released a torrent of water, ice, and silt. A large gap was created in the dam and a tremendous amount of silt was released into the Dunk River. There have been a number of occasions in the past where either spring melt flow or event rain storms threatened the structure. NHS President Fred McCardle showed a DVD at a recent meeting of the Society where water was cascading over the sides of the fishway. (See Society News on page 3).

Congratulations to the many individuals, members, donors and staff that have contributed to the success of the Island Nature Trust as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary. It has protected 3,000 acres of natural areas, helped to conserve the endangered Piping Plover, been a strong voice in the protection of the Island's environment, promoted the creation of land trusts in other provinces, partnered with many agencies and non-government organizations on education and enhancement projects, and much more. On April 17th, the Trust celebrated its 25th Annual Island Nature Trust Fund Raising Dinner. Thanks to the many participants, donors, volunteers and staff, \$16,500 was raised for the Trust's land conservation activities.

The Canadian Red Cross was created by an act of Parliament and this year celebrates its 100th anniversary. This organization has had a tremendous disaster relief history in supporting people across the world including the Island. In addition to its relief and promotional efforts, it has been a strong force in first aid training which started in the 1930s and its water safety training program originated in PEI in 1946. Over the years, it has also provided outdoor education programs and much more. (Adapted from the Atlantic Zone Donor Report 2009).

Thanks to you, 2009 was another record year for the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)! Birders from across the United States and Canada submitted more than 93,629 checklists during the four-day event, a 9 percent increase in checklist submissions since last year. Participants counted a record 11,550,200 individual birds representing 619 species and submitted thousands of photos of common and rare birds. (Adapted from April 4 Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology GBBC E-mail)

During its meeting in Santa Marta, Colombia, February 23-27, 2009., the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) approved the designation of three new sites and the first ever "Landscape of Hemispheric Importance" (Rainwater Basin, Nebraska, U.S.) for inclusion in the Network. The sites are: Bahía Lomas (the first WHSRN site in Chile), Delta del Río Iscuandé (the first WHSRN site in Colombia), and Bahía Magdalena (Baja California, Mexico). With these additions, the Network is now 74 sites strong in 12 countries, with partners conserving and managing a total of 29 million acres (12 million hectares) of habitat for shorebirds. To learn more, visit the WHSRN website. (Adapted from BSC Latest News April Issue)

Owl data from NB, mainland NS, and PE was uploaded to the Maritimes Atlas database last fall. The project already has more owl records than the first Maritimes atlas, and the information is helping focus owl survey efforts in uncovered territory this winter and next. Over the course of the next two years, the Maritimes Atlas team will continue to look for additional breeding bird data from outside sources. Contact atlas coordinator Becky Stewart at bstewart@birdscanada.org for more information about the project. (Copied from BSC Latest News April Issue)

RARE BIRD REPORT - RUFF:

By David Seeler

Date of Observation: 4 July 2008

Time of Observation: 06:09 – 06:15

Place of Observation: PEI National Park, Covehead Marsh

UTM: 488044 E 5141692 N

Weather: A front had passed through overnight clearing the warm and humid air that had been present on previous days. It actually felt a little cold as I undertook to do another shorebird survey in the Prince Edward Island National Park (PEINP). This morning there was a particularly high tide which flooded the marshes on the northern border of Brackley and Covehead Bays. There was a partial clearing in effect at the time but while bright in the area of the observation the area was in shade due to cloud cover casting a shadow.

Temperature: 17°C. **Winds:** 11 Km **Visibility:** Excellent

Equipment: Pentax 80mm spotting scope with fixed eyepiece providing 32X magnification; Swarovski EL 8.5x42 Binoculars

Distance From Subject: less than 15 feet

Habitat: The observation was made in the PEINP in the marshes on the north side of Covehead Bay less than 15 feet from the side of the newly built hiking/cycling trail. The high tide had extensively flooded the marsh and there were only pockets of marsh above water close to the road.

Circumstances Of the Observation: I was in the process of conducting a shorebird survey for the PEINP when I happened upon a small group beside the road in Covehead Marsh that had apparently found an elevated area upon which to roost. The group included 12 Lesser Yellowlegs, 2 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Short-billed Dowitcher, 1 Willet and 1 other shorebird whose appearance was considerably different than the rest present. I first found the bird with

my binoculars and when realizing the significance of the find, I set up my scope and began to make voice notes on my digital recorder while watching the bird until the rising tide flushed them off the roosting spot. All birds flushed at once and headed in a south-easterly direction.

Details: My initial impression on seeing the bird was that it was a highly patterned bird that appeared to be not quite the size of the Greater Yellowlegs present. It was slightly larger than the Lesser Yellowlegs present.

Head & Neck: The bill length appeared to be approximately the same as the width of the head or perhaps slightly longer. It was modestly de-curved, particularly on the lower edge of the mandible. The bill was two toned in colour – dark towards the tip with a lighter colour towards the base. The base's lighter colour appeared to have a hint of orange or red-orange colour to it but the colouration was subtle.

The head and neck were evenly coloured light brown with a clear sharp even pattern of small darker stippling throughout. There was no noticeable eye ring. There was no eye line or supercilium. The pattern noted above was even on the head through the neck. The highly patterned fine stippling of the neck ended relatively abruptly towards the upper breast.

Back: The mantle was “scaly” and sharply patterned in appearance with evenly spaced dark stippling. This appearance was the result of a highly defined black and white versus a light gray as the alternating colours of the pattern. The tertial's had a very noticeable and readily visible pattern of solid barring interspaced with lighter coloured bars (perhaps light gray).

Underside: The under tail coverts and belly were white. The legs were light gray but considerable lighter in colour than the legs of the accompanying Willet.

Considerations: This bird overall general appearance or “jizz” looked much like members of the Tringa Species common to North America such as Greater Yellowlegs or Lesser Yellowlegs but its plumage clearly was inconsistent with those species. There are perhaps three species that might fit the detailed observations noted above – Common Redshank; Common Greenshank, and Ruff.

Little of the description above is consistent with published descriptions of Common Redshank (*Tringa tetanus*). There are quite noticeable differences between the observed bird and the written and photographic descriptions of Common Redshank. First, the bill on the observed bird was too small as compared to that of the Common Redshank and it was not shaped like the bill of a Common Redshank. Similarly, the unmarked belly, breast markings and highly patterned mantle of the observed bird is inconsistent with those of a Common Redshank. Further, the C. Redshank has a white rump while observed bird did not. Similar arguments can be used to rule out Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) which has a larger bill, lacks the distinct plumage noted above and, like the Common Redshank, has a white rump. This narrowed my considerations to Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). It clearly was not a Juvenal bird as there was no buff colouration to the plumage and this observation was in early July. Similarly, despite the significant variations in plumages between individuals of this species, the description is inconsistent with most descriptions of a male Ruff. Also the time of the observation made it less likely that it was a male that had moulted out of breeding plumage. Given this, I have come to the conclusion that the bird observed on July 4, 2008 in the PEINP at Covehead was in fact a female Ruff.

Vocalizations: None even though the Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs and Willet were all actively vocalizing

Photographs: None Taken

Conclusion: A Ruff and most likely a female of this Species

Identification Resources Used:

The Sibley Guide to Birds. 1st edition, second printing. D. Sibley. 2001.

The Complete Guide to the Birds of Europe. K. Mullarney, L. Svensson, D. Zetterstrom, P.J. Grant. 2000

National Geographic Guide to the Birds of North America. 5th Edition.

Field Guide to Birds of North America. E.S. Brinkley. 2007.

Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America. T. Floyd. 2008.

Shorebirds – An Identification Guide. P. Hayman; J. Marchant; T. Prater. 1986.

Audubon Society Master Guide to Birds. Volume 1 – Loons to Sandpipers. J. Farrand. 1983.

Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest. D. Paulson. 1993.

Shorebirds of North America – the Photographic Guide. D. Paulson. 2005

Photographic Guide to the Shorebirds of the World. D. Rosair; D. Cottridge. 1995.

Wading Birds of the World. E. Soothill; R. Soothill. 1982.

The Birds of Canada. Revised Edition. W.E. Godfrey. 1986.
Birds of Eastern and Central North America. 5th Edition. 2002.
Lives of North American Birds. K. Kaufman. 1996.
Birds of Ontario. J. Hughes. 2001
The Shorebird Guide, M. O'Brien, R. Crossley, and K. Karlson. 2006
Shorebirds of North America, Europe, and Asia. S. Message, D. Taylor. 2005.

RARE BIRD REPORT - BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:

By David Seeler

Date of Observation: 26 May 2008

Time of Observation: 05:45

Place of Observation: Blueberry barren in the Community of Norway off of Mansfield Road on Prince Edward Island. **UTM:** 421966E 5205431N

Weather: Light overcast conditions leading to excellent visibility and no detail washout due to sunshine from a low angle. Wind was moderate out of the SSW at 30 Km/hr.

Temperature: 13 ° C

Habitat: The observation was made in a Blueberry Barren at the intersection of two small hedge rows between 4 fields. The hedgerows consisted of small conifers and a few shrub-like bushes.

Distance from Bird: Less than 30 feet

Equipment: Swarovski EL 8.5x42 Binoculars

Circumstances Of Observation: I was just finishing recording details on two Vesper Sparrows that I had observed just to the east of my position. A very yellow bird with blue-grey wings flew out of a conifer in the east-west oriented hedgerow about 20 feet to the left of my position. I may have flushed it as I had started to play a recording that I had made of the singing Vesper Sparrow at that location to see if it or others would respond. The yellowish bird flew diagonally in front of me and through the north-south hedgerow to my right and continued on across the next blueberry barren to a wooded area on the western edge of the area. Subsequent attempts to re-locate it, after the initial observation, were unsuccessful. The distance to the bird was less than 30 feet at all times, and as soon as I saw (and heard it) flying out of the hedgerow I was able to watch it through my binoculars.

Details: I first noticed the yellow colouration as it flew. This was one obvious bird! The bird also gave the first of three short raspy "BUZZY" call notes as it left the hedgerow. Voice notes taken while I was observing the bird state that bird had a direct, fast and very strong flight. The under body from chin to the beginning of the under-tail coverts were bright yellow, but the under-tail coverts were not yellow but white. The wings were gun metal blue (bluish gray) with two wing bars and the under wings appeared greyish. The top of the tail was also blue-gray in colour and it was distinctly different than the colour of the back and nape. The top of the body (back and nape) was less colourful than the undersides – perhaps more olive in colour. I did not see the tail fanned out during flight.

Considerations: Given the very distinctive call and the fact I had not heard it before, I called Dwaine Oakley to see what birds would have such a call note so that I could narrow down the possibilities. After some discussion, we narrowed the possibilities down to two species (Golden-winged or Blue-winged Warbler) based on call and the fact that I believed it was a warbler. The call simply did not match that of a Savannah Sparrow which would have been in the area. Upon playing both calls, the Stoke's CD call for Blue-winged Warbler matched what I had heard in the field. Once back at the car I had the opportunity to check the Sibley's and National Geographic Guides and based on what I had observed, and my voice notes, I identified the bird as a male Blue-winger Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*).

Vocalizations: A raspy buzz call heard three times as it flew

Photographs: None taken

Conclusion: Blue-winged Warbler

Identification Resources Used:

The Sibley Guide to Birds. 1st edition, second printing. D. Sibley. 2001.

The Complete Guide to the Birds of Europe. K. Mullarney, L. Svensson, D. Zetterstrom, P.J. Grant. 2000

National Geographic Guide to the Birds of North America. 5th Edition.

Field Guide to Birds of North America. E.S. Brinkley. 2007.

Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America. T. Floyd. 2008.

The Birds of Canada. Revised Edition. W.E. Godfrey. 1986.
Birds of Eastern and Central North America. 5th Edition. 2002.
Lives of North American Birds. K. Kaufman. 1996.
Birds of Ontario. J. Hughes. 2001

WEATHER EVENTS:

February 23rd & 24th brought another winter storm with this rapidly moving system bringing high winds and ~25 cm of snow. After the storm, there were very few fields that had any bare ground. Feb. 27th brought warm temperatures again and a brief period of heavy rain on Feb. 28 (6.2 mm at Charlottetown) and an immediate cold snap that left a crust of snow. In total, February brought 23.2 mm of rain and 79.4 cm of snow. On Mar. 2nd, there was a dusting of snow, followed by freezing rain, and then heavy rain with 37.6 mm recorded at Charlottetown. Mar. 6 brought another 8.2 mm of rain then was followed by snow storms on Mar. 22-3 and Mar. 30-31.

Significant open water off the North shore from Cavendish to North Rustico on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM). Fields from Kensington to Maximeville still snow covered but some patches of bare ground roadside and in fields in the Charlottetown to Donagh area on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM). The late March snow storms still left some centre bare portions in fields. The bays and river estuaries were largely ice covered until Apr. 10 although there were large areas of open water in Northumberland Strait on Mar. 25 (JDM). Good portions of the Port of Charlottetown had open water on Mar. 27 (DO). There was still an ice fishing shack on the Hillsborough at Red Point Road on Apr. 3 (JDM). The water between the bridges at Mount Stewart and the river for a few hundred metres below the Main Street bridge was open on Apr. 3 (JDM). Last snow out of Donagh yard on Apr. 28 (JDM). Still 4 feet of snow on clay road at South Melville on Apr. 28 (RA).

Northumberland Strait covered in ice flows with small shore leads between Nine Mile Creek and Carleton, Malpeque Bay 90%+ ice covered, New London bay ~85% ice covered, Stanley Bridge ~75% ice covered, Clarke's Pond ~50% ice covered, Lake of Shining Waters 60% ice covered, and Covehead Bay 75% ice covered and North shore largely clear of ice except for scattered ice cakes between Cavendish and North Rustico on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM). On Apr. 11, East Lake 75% ice covered, North Lake ~60% frozen, St. Peter's Bay 80%+ frozen, North Shore and Morell River largely clear of ice, heavy ice from Rollo Bay to near East Point (DO, TO, JDM). On Apr. 19, no ice off shore at Monticello and muddy water extending 50 to 60 yards off shore (A&PM).

Dredging underway in North Lake run on April 19 with lines running into the sand dyked area (DO, TO, JDM).

ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS: Compiled by J. Dan McAskill from reports up to Apr. 25, 2009

PLANTS: Flower buds swelled on Red-berried Elder on Mar. 13 (DO). Red maple flower buds swelled at Union Corner and St. Raphael on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM). Mountain Ash buds opening in Donagh on Apr. 4 (JDM). First crocus in flower at Donagh on Apr. 9 (JDM). Pussy willow buds open on Apr. 8 (DMC) and at Cape Traverse & New Annan on Apr. 10 (JDM, DO) and at East Point, North Lake, Campbell's Pond, Hermanville, and Red Head on Apr. 11 (JDM, DO, TO). Crocus bed in flower at Morell on Apr. 11 (JDM, DO, TO). Poplar flower buds open at New Annan on Apr. 10 (JDM, DO). Amelanchier flower buds starting to flush at Cable Head on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM). Red Maple partly in flower at Donagh on Apr. 18 and fully in flower on Apr. 30 (JDM). Hazelnut catkins open and red elderberry leaves about 1/4 open on Apr. 27, trembling aspen in flower on Apr. 29, and first daffodil in flower, bush honeysuckle leaves flushing on Apr. 30 at Donagh. First lawn being mowed at May Point Road in Charlottetown on Apr. 29 (JDM).

INSECTS: Snow fleas appeared in abundance in Donagh on Feb. 17 (JDM). Moth flying at Donagh on Apr. 4 (JDM). Kelp flies at Borden shore below lagoons and many flies over cattail artificial marsh at New Annan on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM). Woolly bear caterpillar at Campbell's Cove on Mar. 17 (DO, JDM) & 1 at New Annan on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM). Water striders skimming between the ice flows in Cardigan River on Apr. 11 (RWH).

AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES: Tree frogs calling at Red Head Road on Apr. 3 (MK), calling at Robinson's Island on Apr. 10 (BH, DO, DCS, JDM). Spring peeps reported on CBC radio on Apr. 20 and in full chorus at Mount Stewart, woods pond at Johnston's River near Route 21 bridge, and to a lesser extent near Glenfinnan Bog, Glenfinnan, and Mermaid on Apr. 23 (JDM).

FISH: American smelt up at Pisquid River at Bobby Lead's Pond and Clark's Creek at Fort Augustus on Apr. 20 (GK) and in the creek on the Donagh Road in Johnston's River on Apr. 25 (JDM), and at Donagh bridge on Apr. 25 (JDM). Brown bullhead (catfish), an invasive fish species, appeared in a pond at Tyne Valley between 2000 and 2005 (FRC).

MAMMALS: Skunk at South Melville feeder on Feb. 12 (RA); 1 raccoon at Donagh feeders in mid-day on Feb. 15 and 2 to 3 nightly into April (JDM). Flying squirrels periodically throughout winter at Crossroads feeders (DO). Eastern chipmunk at St. Charles feeder on Mar. 19 (W&SF), at Watervale on Apr. 11 (ACu) & at Donagh on Apr. 11 (JDM). Lots (10 to 20) of seals at Canoe Cove on Mar. 23 (FdB, SGC). 34 Harbour seals at Charlottetown on Hillsborough River on Mar. 27 (DO). 2 red fox and 2 coyotes being seen periodically this winter on the Maximeville sand dunes in March (G&FMa). During day trip on Apr. 10, single red fox seen at Argyle Shore, Cape Traverse, Park Corner, Cavendish East, and Brackley Beach. 2 all white snowshoe hare at Cavendish and one half turned to brown at Brackley on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM). Bobcat found dead roadside near Hardy's Pond in April (BDP). Coyotes calling at New Zealand on Apr. 24 (FRC, GM).

BIRDS: **Red-throated Loon** - 2 at Victoria on Apr. 19 (DO, DCS, RC, JDM); **Common Loon** - 1 at Panmure Island on Feb. 7 (DCS, DO), 5 at Victoria on Apr. 19 (DO, DCS, RC, JDM); **Pied-billed Grebe** - at Cape Traverse River bridge on Apr. 19 (DO, DCS, RC, JDM) **Northern Gannet** - 1 at East Point on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM), 1 adult at Victoria on Apr. 19 (DO, DCS, RC, JDM), 25 at North Cape on Apr. 27 (BD); **Double-crested Cormorant** - 4 at Hillsborough Bridge on Apr. 5 and 20 near bridge on Apr. 6 (DO), 100 at Stewart's Cove in Stratford on Apr. 7 (DGS), 6 at Meadowbank, 9 at Dunk River, 20 at Southwest River estuary, 2 at Stanley Bridge, 8 at Bayview, 7 at Clarke's Pond at Cavendish on Apr. 10 (DO, DCS), ~100 on Dunk River estuary and River at Ross's Corner on Apr. 19 (DO, DCS, RC, JDM); **Great Cormorant** - 12 at East Point on Mar. 17 (DO, JDM), several at East Point on Mar. 22 (BD, RL), 30 perched on ice cakes, 2 at Cavendish East on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), flying and swimming at East Point on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM); **American Bittern** - in eastern PEI on Apr. 26 (DO, DCS); **Great Blue Heron** - 1 at Ellen's Creek on Mar. 28 (SGC), 1 at Moore's Pond in Stratford on Mar. 29 (A&PM), 1 at Dunedin West River Bridge on Apr. 2 (LD), 8 on the ice at Stewart's Cove in Stratford on Apr. 7 (DGS), 3 at Tea Hill Park on Apr. 10 (FdB), 6 at Meadowbank, 1 at Borden Marsh, 1 at Waite's River estuary in Sherbrooke, 1 at Indian River, 1 at Hamilton, 1 at New London, 1 at Stanley Bridge, 1 at Brackley Beach, 2 at Robinson's Island on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), 7 at Webster's Corner plus heron on Glenfinnan Island nests on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM); **Great Egret** -1 reported at East Lake and later at North Lake on Apr. 10 (WHL) but not located on Apr. 11 (JDM, DO); **Turkey Vulture** -1 feeding on road killed skunk at Earnsliffe on Mar. 23 (DK), on Mar. 24 (BH, DO, DK, DC&ES), 2 at Cap Egmont on Apr. 15 (WH); **Ross's Goose** - *third P.E.I. record at North Tryon on Mar. 21 (DO)*, on Mar. 21 (JtR), on Mar. 22 (DO, DCS, R&JT, FdB, RP, SGC, DB, RL), on Mar. 23 (DO, BH, MM), on Mar. 25 (WCT), on Mar. 28 (DK), on Mar. 29 (DO, SGC, JBl, BCM, ST), on Apr. 2 (JDM), Ross's Goose based on size and colour flying with 3 Canada Geese at Locke Shore Road on Apr. 4 (LH), adult photographed at Borden amidst ice flows off the lagoons then moved into the potato field just west of the lagoons on Apr. 10 (JDM, DO), 1 photographed at a distance at Lower Hamilton in potato field between Shipyard River and Shipyard Road Shipyard on Apr. 10 (JDM, DO, LH, BM); **Snow Goose** - 1st year at Borden amidst ice flows off the lagoons then moved into the potato field just west of the lagoons on Apr. 10 (JDM, DO, LH, BM), immature at Tryon on Apr. 19 (DO, DCS, RC, JDM); **Canada Geese** - 18 in Murray River area on Feb. 16 during GBBC (JHS), at Clyde River on Mar. 4 (RA), 30 at West Royalty on Mar. 11 (DCS), 1,500 at Souris River on Mar. 17 (DO, JDM), 600+ at Vernon Bridge field on Mar. 20 (PC via FRC), thousands at Tryon River & 200 at Victoria on Mar. 20 (RA), 5,000 including neck collared goose with A5K collar at Tryon River and adjacent fields on Mar. 21 (DO), neck collared (ATH) goose at North Tryon, 1,500 to 2,000 at China Point corn field and adjacent fields on Mar. 23 (DO) & large flock at Vernon Bridge on Mar. 23 (DK), 36 at Maximeville on Mar. 23 (G&FMa), 600 at Fullerton's Marsh on Apr. 10 (JDM), 750 at Tryon River, ~1,000 at Cape Traverse, 500 at Borden, 200 at St. Eleanor's lagoon and adjacent field, 350 at Gunning Shore Road, ~4,000 at two locations at Chichester Cove (Malpeque Bay), ~12,000 to 14,000 at Shipyard River and 3 adjacent fields, 400 at Southwest River estuary, 3 pairs browsing lawns at Cavendish on Apr. 10 (JDM, DO), highly territorial pair chasing other pair at North Lake on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM), ~4,000 Canada Geese at Pisquid River WMA on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM), 5,000 at Grand River bridge on Apr. 11 (GMcC); **Brant** - 5 amidst ice flows at Victoria on Apr. 10 (JDM, DO), 30 at Victoria on Apr. 10 (LH, BM), 2 offshore of Beaton's Point at East Point on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM), ~50 at Wright's Creek on Apr. 15 & at East River on Apr. 19 (SGC), 80 at Marshfield field on Apr. 25-6 (MAA) and 47 at Mermaid on Apr. 29 (WJM), ~80 flying at Mermaid on May 2 (JDM); **Wood Ducks** - male at Avondale on 48 Road on Mar. 17 (DCS, DO, JDM), male at Pisquid River on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM), 2 males at Southampton (MacDonald Pond) on Apr. 24 (DO, CGa); **Gadwall** - 15 at New Annan lagoons, 18 at Harding Creek & pair at Ellen's Creek on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), pair at Indian River on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM); **American Wigeon** - at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 14 (GBBC) & 3 at Harding Creek & 2 pair on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), 7 at Shipyard River estuary and potato fields on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM); **American Black Duck** - 36 at Moore's Pond WMA at Milltown Cross on Feb. 11 (FRC), 4 at Cardigan River on Mar. 6 (FdB, JBl, BCM, SGC), 74 at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 14 (JDM), 200 at Harding Creek on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Mallard** - male at Moore's Pond WMA at Milltown Cross on Feb. 11 (FRC), 4 at Cardigan River on Mar. 6 (FdB, JBl, BCM, SGC), 60 at Ellen's Creek on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Blue-winged Teal** - male at Cavendish wetlands on Apr. 19 (DCS, DO, RC, JDM, RP); **Northern Shoveler** - pair at Borden Lagoon & male at New Annan lagoon on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), pair at

Tryon on Apr. 11 (RA), 5 at Cavendish lagoons on Apr. 19 (DO, DCS, RC, JDM), 2 pairs doing courtship displays at Mount Stewart with additional males attempting to intercede on May 2 (DO); **Northern Pintail** - 1 at Abney on Feb. 7 (DCS), 1 at Moore's Pond WMA at Milltown Cross on Feb. 11 (FRC), 2 at Breadalbane area on Feb. 16 during GBBC, 1 at Breadalbane on Mar. 5 (JDM), 15 at Harding Creek & pair at Ellen's Creek on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), at North Tryon on Mar. 28 (DK), pair at Cape Traverse, male at Dunk River, pair at St. Eleanor's lagoon, 50 at Waite's Creek estuary in Sherbrooke, 30 at Chichester Cove (Malpeque Bay) on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), 10 at Pisquid River WMA on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM); **Green-winged Teal** - 4 males & 2 females at Moore's Pond WMA at Milltown Cross on Feb. 11 (FRC), 12 at Dunk River by Hatchery Bridge on Feb. 20 (GMcC), 5 at Breadalbane area on Feb. 16 during GBBC, 9 at Ellen's Creek on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), 4 at Ferry Road in Cornwall on Mar. 20 (RP), 15 drakes at Tryon River, 20 drakes at Cape Traverse, 30 males at Waite's Creek estuary, pair at New Annan lagoons, 50 at Shipyard River estuary on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM); **Ring-neck Duck** - male at Hyde's Park Pond on Apr. 7 (DCS) & Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), male at Bunbury on Apr. 10 (JDM), male at Tryon River, male at St. Eleanor's lagoon, Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), 3 pair at Bunbury on Apr. 11 (RT); **Redhead** - 1 at Oyster bed Bridge causeway in Mar. (LJ via DO); **Greater Scaup** - 30 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 8 (DCS), female at Moore's Pond WMA at Milltown Cross on Feb. 11 (FRC), 120 at Oyster Bed Bridge causeway on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), 50+ at Charlottetown on Hillsborough River on Mar. 27 (DO), 2 at Dunk River, 25 at Shipyard River estuary, at Southwest River estuary, 5 at North Rustico shore, 250 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM); **Lesser Scaup** - pair & male at Oyster Bed Causeway on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at Charlottetown on Hillsborough River on Mar. 27 (DO); **Common Eider** - 3 at East Point on Mar. 6 (FdB, JBI, BCM, SGC), 100 on Mar. 17 (DO, JDM), 1 male at Charlottetown on Hillsborough River on Mar. 27 (DO), male amidst ice flows at Victoria on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), two large rafts of eider and scoter at East Point on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM) with 500+ eider, at Orby Head on Apr. 11 (RP, LT); **Harlequin Duck** - pair at Monticello on Apr. 19 (A&PM); **Surf Scoter** - 2 at Charlottetown on Hillsborough River on Mar. 27 (DO), 13 amidst ice flows at Victoria, 30 at Cavendish East, & ~200 at North Rustico shore on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), ~350 at East Point on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM); **White-winged Scoter** - at Victoria on Apr. 19 (DCS, RC, DO, JDM); **Black Scoter** - 12 males at East Point on Mar. 22 (BD, RL), 25 amidst ice flows at Victoria, 10 at Cavendish East, 20 at North Rustico shore on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), 150 at East Point on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM), 25/minute passing between 5:30 and 6:00 PM at North Cape on Apr. 27 (BD); **Long-tailed Duck** - 40 at Panmure on Feb. 7 (DCS), 8 at East Point on Mar. 6 (FdB, JBI, BCM, SGC), 200 on Mar. 17 (DO, JDM), 8 amidst ice flows at Victoria on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), 30 at East Point on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM); **Bufflehead** - pair & male at Indian River estuary on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), 2 pair at Indian River on Apr. 16 (LH) & 4 at impoundment on Apr. 19 (RP, DO, DCS, RC, JDM); **Common Goldeneye** - 12 at East Point on Mar. 6 (FdB, JBI, BCM, SGC), pair at Clinton pond, 15 at Harding Creek, 10 at Cape Turner, ~100 at Oyster bed Bridge causeway on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), pair at Ferry Road in Cornwall on Mar. 20 (RP), 60 at Charlottetown on Hillsborough River on Mar. 27 (DO); **Barrow's Goldeneye** - 2 at Cardigan River on Mar. 6 (FdB, JBI, BCM, SGC), 27 at Oyster Bed Bridge causeway on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), pair at Ferry Road in Cornwall on Mar. 20 (RP), 25+ at Charlottetown on Hillsborough River on Mar. 27 (DO); **Hooded Merganser** - pair at Charlottetown Harbour in late Mar. (SM via FdB), pair at Hyde's Park pond & male at New Annan on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM); **Common Merganser** - 200 at Cardigan River on Mar. 6 (FdB, JBI, BCM, SGC), 25 at Harding Creek & ~50 at Oyster bed Bridge causeway on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), 3 at Charlottetown on Hillsborough River on Mar. 27 (DO), small numbers at Tryon River, Cape Traverse, Indian River, New London, Cymbria, many locations during day's outing on Apr. 11 with concentrations (DO, JDM); **Red-breasted Merganser** - 30 at Panmure on Feb. 7 (DCS), at Canoe Cove on Mar. 23 (FdB), 200 at Charlottetown on Hillsborough River on Mar. 27 (DO), at many locations with concentrations of 65 at Southwest River estuary and 70 at New London on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), 30 at Victoria Park in Charlottetown on Apr. 11 (SGC); **Osprey** - first of season eating fish in poplar tree at New London on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), 1 on nesting platform at Victoria on Apr. 11 (RA), 1 at Wright's Creek nesting platform on Apr. 10 (DK, WFB, EM) & pair on Apr. 19 (SGC), 1 on nesting platform at Desable & spruce tree nest at Argyle Shore on Apr., 17 (RA); **Bald Eagle** - adult and immature at Breadalbane on Feb. 21 (FdB), 2 adults and 2 immatures roosting in trees overlooking ducks at Clinton on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), widespread reports this winter at Maximeville, 2 adults and 1 immature at Seal River (Vernon Bridge), 1 to 3 at Hillsborough Bridge, 20+ at mink carcasses at Dunstaffnage, Desable, Victoria, adult & immature at Tryon River, adult at Cymbria, 2 adults at Johnston's River, adult and immature at Donagh, (DO, DCS, JDM, RA, FdB, DK, SGC, RP), pair on nest at Borden (BH, DO, DGM), pair tending nest at Tracadie Harbour on Apr. 11 (SGC), adult at East Royalty on Apr. 29 (MC); **Northern Harrier** - male at Middleton on Apr. 9 (FdB), female at Victoria, male at St. Eleanor's lagoon, female at New Annan, female perched in white spruce at Robinson's Island on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), female at North Lake, (DO, TO, JDM), female at St. Anne's on Apr. 11 (RP, LT), 1 at Bunbury on Apr. 21 (RT), 2 at Panmure Island on Apr. 29 (GSa, JA), male at Donagh on May 2 (JDM); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 1 periodically at Red Head Harbour feeder in Feb. (MK), 1 periodically at Maximeville in Feb. (G&FMa), 1 at Wellington, Murray Harbour & New Glasgow during GBBC, 1 at Blooming Point on Mar. 23 (CJL), adult took & devoured a male Dark-eyed Junco at Donagh feeders on Apr. 1 (JDM), adult at Crossroads feeder on Mar. 31 (DO), 1 at East Point on Apr. 11 (DO, TO), ~20 picking off migrants as they came in off the water at East Point on Apr. 26 (DCS, DO); **Northern Goshawk** - 1 at Cymbria on Feb. 8 (DCS), 1 at Parkdale on Feb. 21 (DCS), 1 in Murray River area on Feb. 16 during GBBC (JHS), 1 at Ferry Road in Cornwall on Mar. 20 (RP); **Red-tailed Hawk** - 1 at Murray River & 1 at Gaspereau on Feb. 7 (DCS), 1 at West Royalty on Feb. 27 (DCS), 1 at Margate on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at Mount Herbert on Mar. 14 (JDM), 1 at Freetown Road on Mar. 19 (GMcC), 1 at Desable & 1 at West

River Causeway on Mar. 22 (BD, RL), on 2 at Earncliffe on Mar. 23 (DO), 1 at New London on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), 1 at Greenwich on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM), 1 at Hunter River on Apr. 11 (RP, LT), 1 at Pleasant Valley & Hazelgrove on Apr. 19 (DO, DCS, RC, JDM); **Rough-legged Hawk** - 1 at Fairview/Rocky Point in 2nd week of Feb. (LD), 1 at Charlottetown Mall on Mar. 21 (RP), 1 at Afton Road Provincial Forest on Mar. 21 (CJL), 1 at route 2/Coleville Road on Mar. 21 (FdB), 2 light morph and 1 dark morph at Earncliffe on Mar. 23 (DO) & on Mar. 28 (FdB), 1 at West River Causeway on Mar. 27 (LD), 2 light morphs at Earncliffe on Apr. 2 (JDM), 1 at Argyle Shore on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), 1 at Colville Road on Apr. 28 (RA); **American Kestrel** - pair at Campbell's Pond (first of season) and male at Midgell on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM), 1 at Sandy Point Road in South Melville on Apr. 15 (RA), pair checking nest box at Vernon River on Apr. 16 (DK), 1 at Bunbury on Apr. 17 (JDM) & 18 (FdB), 1 at Bethel on Apr. 26 (RP); **Merlin** - 1 periodically at Red Head Harbour in Feb. (MK), at Wellington on Feb. 13 (WH), 1 at West Royalty on Feb. 15 (DCS), 1 at Bunbury on Mar. 16 (RT), male took vole off low tree at East Point & one flying at East Lake on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM); **Gray Partridge** - 6 at Fairview golf course from mid-Jan. to early Feb. (LD), 4 at Cymbria on Feb. 8 (DCS), 6 at Cap Egmont on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), 6 in Charlottetown in early Mar. (SP), down to 1 at Kinkora in early Mar. (FMcC), 2 at East Royalty on Mar. 27 (MC), pair at Vernon River on Apr. 10 (DK), male of pair responded to calls aggressively vocalizing and displaying at Greenwich on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM); **Ring-necked Pheasant** - 2 males at Johnston's River on Feb. 14 & 25, 2 females and a male on Feb. 19, and 2 males and a female on Feb. 27, 3 males at Johnson's River on Mar. 10 (JDM), male at Johnston's River on Apr. 10 (JDM), male crowing and displaying at Mermaid the week of Apr. 10 (WJM), male displaying by female at Johnston's River on Apr. 18 & male roadside on Apr. 30 at Johnston's River (JDM), 1 at Bunbury on Apr. 21 (RT), female at Donagh on May 2 (JDM); **Ruffed Grouse** - 1 budding in flowering crab at Pleasant Grove on Feb. 14 (SG), 3 at Maximeville on Feb. 15 (G&FMa), 2 budding in grey birch on Mar. 14 (DO, DCS, JDM), 2 at Bunbury on Mar. 17 (RT), 4 budding at South Melville on Mar. 17 (RA), 1 roadside at East Point on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM), courtship display at Cardigan Head on Apr. 11 (RWH), 1 aggressive grouse displayed and went after mirror on truck at Gladstone on Apr. 26 (DO, CGa), 1 attached car at North Cape on Apr. 27 (BD); **Virginia Rail** - 1 at Corraville on Apr. 24 (DO, CGa), in eastern PEI on Apr. 26 (DO, DCS); **Sora** - 5 at Mount Stewart on May 2 (DO); **Black-bellied Plover** - at Brackley Beach on Apr. 19 (DO) & Apr. 23 (DC&ES); **Piping Plover** - 3 at Boughton Island on Apr. 10 (JHS); **Killdeer** - 1 at Long Pond outflow on Mar. 18 (RH), 1 at Alexander on Apr. 4 (DCS, DO), 1 at Sobey's in Charlottetown on Apr. 9 (FdB), 2 at New Annan on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM) & 19 (DO, DCS, RC, JDM); **Greater Yellowlegs** - 4 at Fullerton's Marsh on Apr. 26 (RP), in eastern PEI on Apr. 26 (DO, DCS), 7 at Rollo Bay flats on Apr. 27 (WHL); **Whimbrel** - 1 reported in eastern PEI on Apr. 26 (DO, DCS); **Semipalmated Sandpiper** - arrived at Brackley Beach on Apr. 23 (DC&ES); **Wilson's Snipe** - 1 winnowing at Donagh on Apr. 16 (JDM) & 1 at Fullerton's Marsh on Apr. 19 (DO), winnowing at 2 sites on Bethel Road on Apr. 26 (RP), in eastern PEI on Apr. 26 (DO, DCS); **American Woodcock** - first report in first week of Apr. at Morell (MK), in eastern PEI on Apr. 26 (DO, DCS); **Black-headed Gull** - 1 at Wellington on Feb. 13 (WH), 1 adult at CRHS & Ellen's Creek on Mar. 20 & adult & 1st year on Mar. 21 (RP, DO), on Mar. 22 (DCS), on Mar. 24 (DO); **Ring-billed Gull** - 15 to 20 at Ellen's Creek on Mar. 20 (RP); **Iceland Gull** - 20+ at Victoria Park on Mar. 24 (DO), ~200 amidst ~2,000 gulls at Clermont on Apr. 19 (DO, DCS, RC, JDM); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** - 1 stealing food from goldeneye at Cardigan Bridge on Feb. 7 (DCS, DO), 1 at Cardigan on Feb. 21 (DCS, LT, RP), & on Mar. 17 (DO, DCS), adult on ice at Borden on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), several at Clermont on Apr. 17 (RC) & 5 adults on Apr. 19 (DO, DCS, RC, JDM); **Glaucous Gull** - 3rd winter on ice at Victoria Park on Mar. 24 (DCS, DO), 1st year at Borden on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM); **Great Black-backed Gull** - 2 at Hillsborough bridge piers & light standards on Feb. 17 and a pair on two piers on Feb. 27 (JDM), pair at piers on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), two displaying bill to bill with stretched necks at North Rustico on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM); **Caspian Tern** - 2 at Dunk River at Ross's Corner on Apr. 19 (DCS, DO, RC, JDM); **Mourning Dove** - 6 to 14 at Red Head Harbour in Feb. (MK), the usual 1 to 8 in early to mid Feb increased up to 30 at Donagh feeders Feb. 20 then declined to normal level (JDM), 14 at Crossroads feeder on Mar. 31 (DO); **Great Horned Owl** - 3 at Murray Harbour on Mar. 29 (FRC, DFG, NL, BT, GSa); **Snowy Owl** - 1 hunting after dark at Hillsborough Bridge on Feb. 11 & 16 (DO), 1 at Mermaid, probably injured, on Apr. 29 (WJM); **Northern Hawk Owl** - 1 at East Lake dunes on Apr. 28 (JHS); **Barred Owl** - 1 calling at Tea Hill on Mar. 26 (FdB), 1 at Ives Point Road on Mar. 27 (FRC, DFG, GMa, SG), 1 at Macphail Woods on Apr. 18 (GS), 2 at Hunter River on Apr. 25 (FRC, DFG); **Great Gray Owl** - 1 calling at Union Corner on Mar. 10 (RC); **Long-eared Owl** - 1 at White Road in Watervale on ~Mar. 10 (DO, DCS), 1 at Ives Point Road on Mar. 27 (FRC, DFG, GM, SG), 1 at Murray Harbour on Mar. 29 (FRC, DFG, NL, BT, GSa); **Short-eared Owl** - 1 at North Cape on Apr. 27 (BD); **Boreal Owl** - 1 found dead at Hillsborough Park on Feb. 20 (FdB); **Northern Saw-whet Owl** - 1 at Johnston's River on Feb. 14 (JDM), 1 at Murray Harbour on Mar. 29 (FRC, DFG, NL, BT, GSa), singing at South Melville for several nights around Apr. 5 (RA), 1 at Hunter River on Apr. 25 (FRC, DFG); **Belted Kingfisher** - 1 at Murray River on Feb. 7 (DCS), 1 at Holme's Pond in South Melville on Feb. 12 (RA), 1 at Miscouche on Feb. 13 (MPI), 1 in early Mar. in Hunter River area (LDo), 1 at Knox's Dam in early Mar. (FRC), 1 at Cardigan River on Mar. 6 (FdB, JBI, BCM, SGC); 1 at North Rustico on Mar. 14 (DO, DCS, JDM), 1 at Ellen's Creek on Mar. 29 (SGC), 1 calling at Donagh on Apr. 8 (JDM), 1 at New London on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), 1 at Morell River on Apr. 11 (JDM, DO, TO), 1 at McKie's Pond on Apr. 11 (RP, LT); **Red-bellied Woodpecker** - 1 at York Point Road on Feb. 7 (DCS), 1 at Cornwall on Feb. 13 to 16 (L&EB), 1 at Richmond on Feb. 14 (MPI); **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - first of season at Crossroad's Norway maple tree on Apr. 11 (DO), first of season at Donagh on Apr. 11 (JDM), 1 drumming on TV tower at Watervale on Apr. 25 (AC) 2 at Bethel on Apr. 26 (RP), at Elliott Park in Cornwall on Apr. 28 (SN); **Downy Woodpecker** - 1

at Maximeville on Feb. 15 (G&FMA), 4 at Crossroads feeder on Mar. 31 (DO); **Hairy Woodpecker** - 1 at Maximeville on Feb. 15 (G&FMA), 1 excavating hole at Union Corner on Mar. 14 (DO, JDM), 3 at Crossroads feeder on Mar. 31 (DO); **Three-toed Woodpecker** - female at Wellington -St. Timothee on Feb. 14 (WH on GBBC); **Black-backed Woodpecker** - 1 at Cavendish on Apr. 11 (RP, LT); **Pileated Woodpecker** - 1 near QEH in Charlottetown on Apr. 11 (A&DS), pair at Culloden on Apr. 21 (KS via GS); **Northern Flicker** - 1 at Dromore on Feb. 9 (AC), 2 or 3 at Winsloe on Feb. 13-16 (HEF), 1 at Stratford on Feb. 9 (A&PM), 2 at Bear Shore Road at St. Margarets on Mar. 18 (W&SF), 2 doing a display on Orby Head nest box at MacNeill's Lane on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), 1 all winter at Cornwall (SN); **Northern Shrike** - 1 at Montague, Wellington Station, & Montague during GBBC (GBBC), 1 at Middleton on Feb. 26 (SG), 1 at Tea Hill on Mar. 1 (FdB), 1 at Cardigan Head on 48 Road on Mar. 7 (DO), 1 at Vernon River on Mar. 18 (DK), 1 at Blooming Point for three weeks on Mar. 21 (CJL), 1 at North Tryon on Mar. 21 (DO, R&JT, SGC, RP), 1 at Earnslcliffe on Mar. 23 (DCS, DO), 1 at New Annan on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), 1 at Clear Springs on Apr. 21 (DO, BH), 1 at North Cape on Apr. 27 (BD); **Blue-headed Vireo** - 1 singing at Middleton on Apr. 30 (FdB); **Gray Jay** - 1 seen at Kelly Road in Hermanville on Apr. 30 (CG); **Blue Jay** - 1 with part of upper bill missing at Stratford feeders and using its bill sideways to pick up food (DO), 30 at Crossroads feeder on Mar. 31 (DO); **American Crow** - 1 with about 2 inches off top beak at Blooming Point in Apr. (CJL), WCT students, BeHo, DO, & JDM conducted three crow counts at Victoria Park on Mar. 4, 5, & 10, crow with about 2 inches off the upper bill at Blooming Point on Apr. 5 (CJL), carrying nesting material at West Royalty (Upton Rd.) on Mar. 18 and at Hazelbrook on Apr. 3 (JDM), carrying nesting material at Cape Traverse on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), carrying thatching material at Greenwich, St. Peter's, Red Head Harbour, Webster's Corner, Glenfinnan, and pair mating at Maple Hill, and 1 carrying branches at Clark's Creek on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM); **Common Raven** - 1 carrying nesting material at Belvedere Golf Course in Charlottetown on Mar. 1 (JDM), pair responded immediately to calls on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM); **Horned Lark** - 2 or 3 at Tyne Valley during GBBC, 3 at Middleton on Feb. 21 (FdB), at Middleton on Feb. 26 (SG), 1 at Montague on Feb. 14 during GBBC, ~20 at Norboro on Mar. 5 (JDM), 34 flying at Lower Hamilton on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM); **Tree Swallow** - 1 flying at New Annan on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), several hunting flies at Cavendish lagoons then two appeared to be fighting over Cavendish wetlands on Apr. 19 (DO, DCS, RC, JDM, RP), 1 at Johnston's River on Apr. 25 (JDM), pair at Kingsboro on Apr. 27 (WHL); **Boreal Chickadee** - 1 at Donagh on Apr. 1 (DO, JDM), 1 at Canoe Cove on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), 2 near Dunk River at Middleton on Apr. 19 & on Apr. 30 (FdB); **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 at Murray River & 1 at Lower Malpeque Road on Feb. 7 (DCS), relatively scarce this winter, mostly 1 or 2 but up to 8 at feeders during the GBBC at Charlottetown, Breadalbane, Montague, York, Stratford, Vernon River, New Glasgow, Cardigan, Wellington from Feb. 13 - 16, 2 at Crossroads feeder on Mar. 31 (DO), 1 at Donagh on Apr. 1 (DO, JDM); **White-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 at Montague area during GBBC (JHS); **Brown Creeper** - 2 at East Point on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM), 1 at Watervale on Apr. 11 (AC), 1 at Middleton on Apr. 19 (FdB); **Golden-crowned Kinglet** - few near Dunk River at Middleton on Apr. 19 (FdB); **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** - in eastern PEI on Apr. 26 (DO, DCS), 6 at Middleton on Apr. 30 (FdB); **Varied Thrush** - male documented by photograph at L. & P. Fry's feeders in Cardigan North and present daily from Dec. 20 to Apr. 18 (L,J&PF, DCS, SCS, GS, DO, LH, RP, LT, JDM, BD, RL); **Hermit Thrush** - in eastern PEI on Apr. 26 (DO, DCS); **American Robin** - 2 at Murray Harbour North on Feb. 7 (DCS), 1 at Charlottetown on Feb. 14 (GBBC), influx with 12 at St. Charles on Mar. 18 (W&SF), numerous roadside at Rocky Point on Mar. 20 (LD), 2 at edge of fields at Cape Traverse & 1 at QEH on Mar. 23 (DO), 25 on lawn at Summerside on Mar. 23 (G&SF), 6 at Dominion on Mar. 23 (FdB, SGC), ~25 swirling over East Point on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM); **Northern Mockingbird** - 1 in Murray Harbour area on Feb. 14 (IY), 1 in Charlottetown during late Jan., Feb. & Mar. (BCM via DO, on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), on Mar. 28 (DCS, DO), 1 at Clyde River (with pictures) on Mar. 1 (JR via DCS), 1 at Charlottetown on Apr. 11 (SGC), 1 at Winsloe on Apr. 12 to 14 (PGu via DO); **European Starling** - entering hole in utility pole at St. Eleanor's & light standard at Cavendish & cliff faces at Orby Head on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM) **Bohemian Waxwing** - at South Melville feeder on Feb. 12 (RA), 11 at Clyde River on Feb. 13 (MF), 14 at Bedeque on Feb. 20 (GMcC), ~100 at Montague on Feb. 21 (RP, LT, CN), 4 at West Royalty on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), 6 at Lower Montague on Mar. 15 (RT), 12 eating high bush cranberries at South Melville on Mar. 17 (RA), 50 at Rocky Point apples on Mar. 20 (LD), 25 at Victoria on Mar. 23 (FdB, SGC), 3 at Fairview on Apr. 2 (LD); **Cedar Waxwing** - 1 at West Royalty on Feb. 8 (DCS), 1 at Winsloe on Feb. 13 (HEF), at Montague on Feb. 21 (CN); **Summer Tanager** - male reported at Kilmuir on Apr. 21 to 23 (SAW, DO, BH, R&JT, DCS), male at Lower Tryon on Apr. 29 - May 2 (BHow); **Magnolia Warbler** - 1 at Murray Harbour on Apr. 29 (GSa, JA); **Yellow-rumped Warbler** - at Watervale on Apr. 25 (AC), 2 at Bethel on Apr. 26 (RP), 2 at Hyde Park on Apr. 26 (SGC), at Heatherdale on Apr. 26 (FdB), 1 at South Melville on Apr. 26 (RA), at Colville Road on Apr. 28 (RA), 4 at Murray Harbour & 2 at Panmure Island on Apr. 29 (GSa, JA) **Pine Warbler** - 1 still at Stratford on Apr. 3 (A&PM); **Palm Warbler** - 2 at St. Peter's Harbour & Creek Roads in Bristol on



Summer Tanager at Kilmuir
Photo by Dwaine Oakley

Apr. 24 (FdB, MK), 2 at Murray Harbour on Apr. 29 (GSa, JA); **American Tree Sparrow** - 12 at Red Head Harbour in Feb. (MK), 6 at Bunbury feeders on Feb. 13 (R&JT), number increased to 9 at Donagh feeders on Mar. 1 & 5 during snow storm on Mar. 31 (JDM), 2 at Cymbria Loop on Mar. 21 (RP), 1 at Robinson's Island on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM), 1 at Crossroads feeders on Apr. 25 (DO); **Chipping Sparrow** - 1 at Crossroads feeders on Apr. 25 (DO), 1 at Panmure Island on Apr. 29 (GSa, JA); **Savannah Sparrow** - 3 on Bethel Road on Apr. 26 (RP), in eastern PEI on Apr. 26 (DO, DCS), at Alexander on Apr. 26 (FdB), 10 at Colville Road on Apr. 28 (RA); **Fox Sparrow** - 2 in Souris area on Feb. 13 (GBBC), 1 at Rocky Point on Apr. 2 (LD), 1 at Mt. Buchanan on Apr. 4 (DCS, DO), 1 at Crossroads on Apr. 5 & Apr. 20 (DO), 1 at South Melville on Apr. 8 (RA), 1 at Bunbury on Apr. 11 (RT), first of season at Valley and Donagh feeders on Apr. 12 (GS, JDM), 1 at Cornwall on Apr. 28 (SN); **Song Sparrow** - 2 at Bunbury feeders on Feb. 13 (R&JT), 1 at Cornwall feeders on Mar. 30 (SN), 1 calling at East Point on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM), 1 at Stratford, Winsloe, & Montague, 2 at Charlottetown, & 4 at Souris area feeder during GBBC, 1 to 2 at West Royalty in Feb (DCS), first of spring at New Glasgow feeders on Mar. 23 (BeHo), first of spring at Stratford feeders on Mar. 24 (A&PM), 3 at Crossroads feeder on Mar. 31 (DO), singing at Earncliffe on Apr. 3 (JDM); **Swamp Sparrow** - 3 at Bethel on Apr. 26 (RP), in eastern PEI on Apr. 26 (DO, DCS); **White-throated Sparrow** - 1 at East Royalty on Feb. 8 (MC&BW), 1 at West Royalty in Feb (DCS), 1 at New Glasgow & 1 in Charlottetown on Feb. 14 (GBBC), 2 at North Rustico feeder on Feb. 8 (DCS), 1 at Montague, 2 at Wellington Station on Feb. 16 (GBBC), fresh plumaged adult at Crossroads on Apr. 19 (DO), at Watervale on Apr. 25 (AC), 2 on Bethel Road on Apr. 26 (RP), at Charlottetown and Stanhope on Apr. 26 (SGC), 1 at South Melville on Apr. 26 (RA), 6 at Murray Harbour on Apr. 29 (GSa, JA); **Dark-eyed Junco** - numbers increased to 10 on Mar. 1 at Donagh feeders (JDM), 24 at Crossroads feeder on Mar. 31 (DO); **Lapland Longspur** - 2 at North Rustico on Feb. 8 (DCS), at Tyne Valley on Feb. 13 to 15 (GBBC), 1 at East Point with ~400 Snow Buntings on Mar. 17 (JDM, DO); **Snow Bunting** - 300 at Cherry Valley on Feb. 12 (FRC), 80+ at Middleton on Feb. 21 (FdB), 500 at Donagh on Feb. 19 & Mar. 25 (JDM), 50 at Cap Egmont, 200 at Mt. Carmel, 5 at Union Corner, 10 at Slemmon Park, 60 at North Rustico on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), Mar. 18 was last day this winter that buntings were seen at Summerville feeders (RWH), 50 at Crossroads feeder on Mar. 31 & third time since feeder established (DO), 30 at Middleton on Apr. 9 (FdB), 1 at Orby Head on Apr. 19 (SG); **Blue Grosbeak** - 1 at East Baltic on Apr. 24 (Wayne & Sheila Eastman via WHL), photographed on Apr. 26 (DO, DCS); **Blackbirds (Common Grackle, Red-wing Blackbird, & European Starling)** - 2 flocks of ~100 birds each over East Point on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM), 100s in trees at Kinsboro on Apr. 20 (WHL, SL, FCh); **Red-winged Blackbird** - 1 at Vernon Bridge area on Feb. 14 (GBBC), female at Rocky Point feeder on Feb. 16 (LD), 8 at New London on Mar. 18 (TW), at Summerville feeders on Mar. 20 (RWH), first 3 spiffy males on Mar. 19 & 15 at Crossroads feeder on Mar. 31 (DO); **Rusty Blackbird** - 1 at Murray River on Feb. 7 (DCS); **Common Grackle** - 5 at Charlottetown during GBBC, present at Stratford feeders on Mar. 29 (A&PM), at New Glasgow feeder on Mar. 18 (BeHo), at Summerville feeders on Mar. 18 (RWH), 1 at Crossroads feeder on Mar. 19 (DO), coming in at Rocky Point apples on Mar. 20 (LD), 2 at Mount Stewart on Mar. 21 (GM), few at Middleton on Mar. 21 (FdB), 6 at Summerside feeders on Mar. 23 (G&SF),



Blue Grosbeak at East Baltic
Photo by Dwaine Oakley

few at Canoe Cove on Mar. 23 (FdB, SGC), 2 at Maximeville on Mar. 23 (G&FMa), 70 at Union Road (Charlottetown) on Mar. 30 (JtR), 8 at Crossroads feeder on Mar. 31 (DO); **Brown-headed Cowbird** - 1 at West Royalty in Feb (DCS), 13 at Murray River feeder on Feb. 7 (DCS), 30 at Alliston on Feb. 14 during GBBC (PC), 3 at Crossroads during GBBC (DO), 20 males at Crossroads feeder on Mar. 19 & 12 on Mar. 31 (DO); **Purple Finch** - 2 at Cornwall on Feb. 14 (L&EB), 4 to 6 at Crossroads feeders this winter (DMu), 3 males after long absence at Rocky Point feeders (LD) & 3 males at Watervale feeders on Apr. 11 (AC), 2 males & 2 females at Cornwall on Apr. 17 (SN), at New Glasgow on Apr. 18 (BeHo), male at Crossroads on Apr. 19 (DO); **House Finch** - 2 at feeders in Wellington area during GBBC (WH), female this winter at Summerside until at least Mar. 1 (G&SF), female at feeder at Cap Egmont in late Jan. (WH); **White-winged Crossbill** - male & female at Riverside Estates in Charlottetown on Feb. 12 (WFB&EM), 2 at Clyde River on Feb. 13 (MF); **Common Redpoll** - 50 at Cavendish feeder on Feb. 8 (DCS), 6 finally at Vernon River feeders on Feb. 12 (DK), influx of sightings at feeders in early to mid Feb. with a few to 30 coming to feeders (GBBC), 20 at Maximeville on Mar. 14 (DCS, DO, JDM), 20 at St. Charles feeders on Mar. 18 (W&SF), 40 at Vernon River on Mar. 23 (DK), 48 at Maximeville on Mar. 23 (G&FMa), 10 at Crossroads feeder on Mar. 31 (DO), ~100 at Pleasant Grove feeders on Apr. 6 & Apr. 5 (SG), 2 at East Point on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM);

Hoary Redpoll - 2 in Charlottetown on Feb. 15 (GBBC); **Pine Siskin** - 20 at York on Feb. 14 & 10 at Charlottetown on Feb. 15 (GBBC), 20 at Pleasant Grove on Feb. 14 (SG), ~15 at Charlottetown on Feb. 24 (SGC), 2 at Crossroads feeder on Mar. 31 (DO), at Stratford feeders on Apr. 3 (A&PM), flying at North Rustico shore on Apr. 10 (DO, JDM); **American Goldfinch** - 35 at Red Head Harbour in Feb. (MK), 40+ at Murray Harbour on Feb. 7 (DCS), disappeared at Vernon River feeders on Feb. 12 (DK), 25 at Clyde River on Feb. 13 (MF), 30 at Pleasant Grove on Feb. 14 (SG), 36 at Maximeville on Feb. 15 (G&FMa), 36 at Vernon River on Mar. 23 (DK), 6 Crossroads feeder on Mar. 31 (DO); **Evening Grosbeak** - 9 in Murray River area on Feb. 16 during GBBC (JHS), some at St. Charles feeders on Mar. 18 (W&SF), 1 at East Point on Apr. 11 (DO, TO, JDM), 1 male at Watervale feeders on Apr. 11 (AC), 1 at North Cardigan on Apr. 11 (SGC), 3 at Vernon River on May 1 (DK); **House Sparrow** - 10 at Murray Harbour on Feb. 7 (DCS), 15 to 50 at West Royalty feeder during Feb. (DC&ES), 20 at York Point on Mar. 14 (DO, DCS, JDM).

Older Reports: Chukar Partridge at Stratford on Apr. 13 (DGS). Belated report this winter of Snowy Owl at Cherry Valley and at Vernon Bridge (DK). Pair of Pileated Woodpeckers seen for last several years on Kelly Road near Souris Line Road and 1 at East Baltic in May 2008 (Gillans via WHL). Pileated Woodpecker seen several times in Brudenell in Feb. & Mar., 2008 (BA&MH via SCS). 2 Purple Finch recorded in West Royalty in January were incorrectly entered.

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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*

- May 5 - Island Dragons and Damsels - A Closer Look at PEIs Dragonflies and Damselflies** - Bob Harding will be the guest speaker for the Natural History Society's meeting which starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, 420 University Ave. Charlottetown. **YN**
- May 9 - Giving Trees...Giving Hope** - The Canadian Breast Cancer Network and the P.E.I. Environment, Energy and Forestry are hosting the *Giving Trees...Giving Hope* fund-raiser at Richmond a short distance west of Summerside. This event allows participants to obtain trees and shrubs (wildlings or container grown seedlings) in exchange for a donation to the work of CBCN. Technicians, foresters, and wildlife biologists will be there to answer questions about the species and planting sites. For more information, contact the Wellington Forestry Office at 902-854-7260.
- May 15 - Arbour Day!** - Arbour Day, the third Friday in May on PEI, celebrates the planting of trees for their many values. This is a great opportunity to plant a tree that provides high wildlife value for cover and food.
- May 30 - Bain Bird Count** - The Society has conducted this spring bird count on the last Saturday in May for approximately thirty years. Individual or small groups of birders count all species seen or heard during this 24 hour period and the results are recorded in the Island Naturalist. For more information or to submit count results, please contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351 or E-mail at jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca
- Spring-Summer - Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas's 4th field season!** To participate on P.E.I. please contact Rosemary Curley at 569-1209 or via E-mail at rcurley@eastlink.ca. For more information contact <http://www.mba-aom.ca/>
- Jun. 2** - The speaker for the Natural History Society's June meeting will be announced.

For more information, comments and suggestions for future programs or field trips, please contact a member of the Society's Executive

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.