



# ISLAND NATURALIST

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**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 Acting 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.

**2010 Executive:**

President ..... Diane Griffin, Stratford, 569-2343 dianegriffin@eastlink.ca  
Vice-President ..... Ian Scott, Charlottetown, 892-5796 scotts@pei.sympatico.ca  
Past President ..... Fred McCardle, Kinkora, 887-2338, fmccardle@pei.aibn.com  
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**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 [jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca)

The *next deadline* for articles, sightings, or other newsletter information is *May. 15, 2010*.

**Illustrations/Pictures:** The Society extends a special thanks to Edith C. Huestis and Dwaine Oakley for their 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.

**Cover Illustration:**

Charlotte Stewart discovered the Island's 2<sup>nd</sup> record of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Bayview near Cavendish on November 15, 2009 and it stayed at the property until the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The photograph was taken by Edith C. Huestis, her sister. The flycatcher was hawking flies of its perch and returning to the roof to consume the flies.

I offer my thanks to the Society's members and Executive Committee for their support for and participation in the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island during 2009. This year's volunteer Board consisted of Fred McCardle (President), Dwaine Oakley (Past-President), Beth Hoar (Secretary), Rosemary Curley (Treasurer), and Anne Bergstrom (Publicity Director from January to June). At the start of the year, two Executive positions were vacant and by July, three were vacant despite efforts at recruiting replacements. Lynne Douglas remained the Society's representative on the General Council of the Island Nature Trust.

Despite weather conditions that stopped the February meeting, the Society's monthly education presentations featured: "The Society's Annual General Meeting and Member's night; David Carmichael "Native trees and shrubs and their management"; Jackie Waddell "The protected areas of the Island Nature Trust"; Bob Harding "Island dragonflies and damsels - a closer look at PEI's dragonflies and damselflies"; Donna Gibberson "Invasive species of the insect world"; Scott McBurney and Maria Forzán "Bird feeders and bird health, is there a connection"; and Randy Lauff's "Small Owls of the Maritimes". Due to unforeseen circumstances, the June meeting was cancelled. These presentations were publicized in The Buzz, Guardian Community Notice columns, and on CBC radio. A special thanks goes out to Jean Blanchard for her service as the lunch coordinator and to Rosemary Curley for arranging raffles for Science Fair prizes. Thanks to the records of sighting contributors, the Island's 2009 bird list reached 243 species. Dwaine Oakley and Beth Hoar judged the natural history entries for the U.P.E.I. Science Fair and there were winners at the three category levels.

The popularity of the U.P.E.I. Birdlist Server continued to increase and it again contributed to the documentation of new sightings. Rarities identified in the BirdList Server were included in the Island Naturalist bird column. The Society extends a special thanks to David Seeler for maintaining the BirdList server.

The Society maintained its participation in various provincial and North American bird count projects. Scott Sinclair coordinated the Montague Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Dwaine Oakley coordinated the East Point CBC, and Dan McAskill coordinated the P.E.I. National Park and Hillsborough Christmas Bird Counts as well as the Bain Bird Count. He also reviewed the Island's Great Backyard Bird Count reports. Peter Murphy of Parks Canada stoked the stove and set up the Dalvay Interpretive Centre for the P.E.I. National Park Christmas Bird Count potluck while Diane and Kevin Griffin hosted the potluck for the Hillsborough CBC. Rosemary Curley arranged owling nights and coordinated the Island's efforts for the fourth year of the Second Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Dwaine Oakley represented the Society on Maritime Noon's birds radio call-in shows in the spring and autumn. In September, on short notice, a number of Society birders also provided input into an inaugural Bird Conservation Plan largely driven by the Canadian Wildlife Service's perceived legislative needs in respect to impacts of various human activities on bird habitat.

In addition to these efforts, the Society continued to participate in the efforts to establish a provincial natural history museum component to a provincial museum through P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation. In relation to this effort, Fred McCardle solicited members for a committee to review various options in relation to the creation of a museum of natural history and raising potential support funds for its annual operation through hydro-electric generation at Scale's Pond. In late February, a notice of motion to this effect was delivered to the Society and was discussed at the Society's March meeting. After considerable discussion, the motion was defeated and a new motion was approved which continued the Society's support for a new museum of human and natural history

Many Society's members supported the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas surveys. During the year, the Society completed the transfer of \$1,000 to the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas and made a contribution of \$150 to the U.P.E.I. Science Fair natural history prizes. The Society also agreed to donate a subscription to the North American Birds to the Robertson Library at U.P.E.I. Anne Bergstrom coordinated the E-mail distribution of Society notices about upcoming Natural History Society events until July when she moved to Nova Scotia. Efforts to resurrect the Society's web were commenced in late winter and a URL was established. A first draft of the web site was created then work on the site stalled. Dan McAskill continued to coordinate responses to the Society's E-mail requests.

Thanks to the many Society members and others who contributed their wildlife observations and stories for the Society's *Island Naturalist* with four issues being released. Dwaine Oakley, Sharon Clark, and Jeremy Wyand contributed photographs and David and Elaine Seeler, Fiep de Bie, Ray Cooke, Sharon Clark, Dwaine Oakley, Kate MacQuarrie, Scott McBurney, Fred McCardle, Beth Hoar, Scott Sinclair, Dan McAskill, and Bird Studies Canada contributed articles or their content. Dan McAskill continued as the editor. Members were again afforded the opportunity to obtain electronic issues of the newsletter in Acrobat reader format.

Society members Ray Cooke, Fiep de Bie, Dwaine Oakley, Sharon Clark, and Dan McAskill, and Island Nature Trust staff combined their efforts to host the annual Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic. The donors contributing to this project provided nearly \$1,000 towards the Trust's land conservation program.

Thanks to Rosemary Curley and donor's generosity in contributing prizes, the Society's financial position again remained healthy. Dutch Thompson contributed swallow nest boxes and various members contributed other items for the raffle prizes. Ann Wootton and Brenda Penak gave financial donations to the Society during the year. The Society had revenues of \$1,886.83 and expenses of \$2,306.82 but \$1,000 of the expenses went towards the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas survey expenses. The Society completed the year with assets of \$8,139.14 in its various accounts with the majority of this in the book publishing and project accounts which are held in an one year Guaranteed Investment Certificate valued at \$4,797.24 and savings accounts with \$3,074.20.

## **THANKS TO THE BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS!**

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, the Natural History Society held its annual general meeting. The Board was unable to replace a number of vacancies and a search committee was struck. Rosemary Curley and Dwaine Oakley conducted a search and the following slate of officers was nominated and approved at the February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting: Diane Griffin (president); Ian Scott (Vice-President), Lois Dion (Publicity Director) and Rosemary Curley (Program Director). Rosemary agreed to continue as Treasurer for a brief time until a replacement was found. Fred McCardle moved to the position of Past President.

A special thanks is expressed to Dwaine Oakley for his considerable service to the Natural History Society. Besides his many presentations at Society's meetings and his leadership of various field trips, Dwaine served as Vice-President from February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002 to January, 2004. He was then elected President and served in that capacity until October 2008 when he moved to the position of Past-President.

In addition, our thanks goes out to Anne Bergstrom who served as Publicity Director from January 2008 to July 2009 when she moved to Halifax. Her diligence in building the Society's publicity programs was most appreciated.

Our heartfelt thanks are expressed to both Dwaine and Anne!

## **2009-10 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:**

Results compiled by Dan McAskill, Scott Sinclair & Dwaine Oakley

The Hillsborough Christmas Bird Count on December 27<sup>th</sup> marked the 39<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the Natural History Society has conducted Audubon Christmas Bird Counts on Prince Edward Island and it was the 110<sup>th</sup> consecutive CBC in North America. Storms meant the cancellation of the 1975 P.E.I. National Park CBC so it celebrated its 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This year, the Montague CBC celebrated its 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive year while the East Point count marked its 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary with one year missed.

This year, a cold snap in early December meant that the East Point and PEI National Park had high amounts of ice on the bays and ponds e.g. South Lake was 80% and Tracadie Bay was 95% iced over but there was virtually no coastal ice. Conditions warmed up quickly so that the Hillsborough CBC had little ice or snow cover as did the Montague Count. Visibility and weather conditions on the Hillsborough CBC on December 27<sup>th</sup> were good. At times, flurries, freezing rain, and rain limited visibility during the Montague CBC but most roads were accessible with a 4X4 vehicle. Snow conditions were variable with deeper snow on the lee side of hedgerows and in woodlands but small amounts of snow in the center of fields.

After a miss last year, the East Point Christmas Bird Count was re-established with Dwaine Oakley becoming the count coordinator. Peter Murphy of the P.E.I. National Park stoked the wood stove and served as host for the counters participating in the P.E.I. National Park CBC noon time potluck at the Dalvay Interpretive Centre. Here counters shared their birding highlights to allow any listers amongst the group to chase rarities after lunch. Diane and Kevin Griffin hosted a wonderful Hillsborough pot-luck and the participants shared their sightings after the feast. Scott Sinclair organized the Montague count while Dan McAskill coordinated the P.E.I. National Park and Hillsborough counts.

Despite an abundant cone crop on white spruce, field counters in all four counts noted very low numbers of woodland birds. With the exception of American Goldfinch, finches were virtually absent. There was also a good crop of birch seed and mountain ash berries with Montague having an especially large crop. The Hillsborough CBC featured a good crop of highbush cranberries. Some of the birding highlights included a Pileated Woodpecker in Brackley Beach,

a Baltimore Oriole in Tracadie Cross, a wonderful display from a female and male Peregrine Falcon as well as a flock of 2,500 American Robins at East Point, and a Black-headed Gull at Montague as well as hundreds of American Robins.

As usual, the standardized system of bird, birders, travel, and weather data was collected so that the data was comparable to that from other CBCs in North America and the other count zones. This year's Island CBC summaries are provided below.

**OBSERVATIONS**

**NUMBERS OBSERVED**

	<b>East Point</b>	<b>National Park</b>	<b>Hillsborough</b>	<b>Montague</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Dec. 19, 2009</b>	<b>Dec. 20, 2009</b>	<b>Dec. 27, 2009</b>	<b>Jan. 2, 2010</b>	<b>Dec. 19 - Jan. 2</b>
Red-throated Loon	9				9
Common Loon	4				4
<b>Northern Gannet</b>	1				1
Great Blue Heron		2	2		4
Great Cormorant	15				15
Double-crested Cormorant				9	9
Canada Geese	95		877	108	1,080
Gadwall	1				1
American Black Duck	196	177	618	561	1,552
Mallard	2	43	123	27	195
Northern Pintail	2	7			9
Gadwall		8			8
American Green-winged Teal		10	4		14
Greater Scaup	3	25			28
Common Eider	733	60			793
<b>Harlequin Duck</b>	6				6
White-winged Scoter	14				14
Black Scoter	264	3			267
Long-tailed Duck	819	30	1	139	989
Bufflehead	1			1	2
Common Goldeneye	57	176	93	376	702
<b>Hybrid Barrow's/Common Goldeneye</b>				1	1
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	4	10	3	18
Hooded Merganser				1	1
Common Merganser	57	11	124	320	512
Red-breasted Merganser	69			34	103
Bald Eagle	8	42	16	18	84
Northern Harrier		2	3		5
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1	CP	1	2
Northern Goshawk		3		1	4
Red-tailed Hawk	2	2	5	1	10
Rough-legged Hawk		1	5		6
Merlin				1	1
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	2		1	CP	3
Ruffed Grouse	1	2	2	2	7
Gray Partridge		66		4	70
Sharp-tailed Grouse	2				2
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>				1	1
Bonaparte's Gull	2		1		3

Ring-billed Gull	1	1	7	83	92
Herring Gull	539	237	407	425	1,608
Iceland Gull	125		122	8	255
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>				CP	CP
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>	1				1
Great Black-backed Gull	36	47	77	102	262
Black-legged Kittiwake	25				25
Razorbill	66				66
Black Guillemot	6				6
Rock Pigeon (Dove)	13	72	104	85	274
Mourning Dove	8	136	67	147	358
Northern Saw-whet Owl		1			1
Belted Kingfisher	1	1	1	1	4
Northern Flicker	3	5	3	2	13
Downy Woodpecker		8	8	19	35
Hairy Woodpecker	3	8	5	10	26
<b>Pileated Woodpecker</b>		1			1
Northern Shrike	3	1	1		5
Blue Jay	100	273	290	201	864
American Crow	159	305	1,043	536	2,043
Common Raven	49	90	34	73	246
Black-capped Chickadee	45	166	232	222	665
Boreal Chickadee	7	3		8	18
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	4	7	4	21
<b>White-breasted Nuthatch</b>				1	1
Brown Creeper		1	1	1	3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	41	49	24	48	162
American Robin	3,284	70	91	1,134	4,579
European Starling	395	891	10,900	1,706	13,892
Bohemian Waxwing	16		27		43
Cedar Waxwing	272	16	125	28	441
American Tree Sparrow			1	5	6
<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>	1				1
Song Sparrow	5	2	1	3	11
White-throated Sparrow	1	1		1	3
Dark-eyed (Northern) Junco	47	55	26	67	195
Snow Bunting	171	200	CP	11	382
Red-winged Blackbird		1	CP		1
<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>		1			1
Common Grackle	2			1	3
Brown-headed Cowbird				1	1
Pine Grosbeak	2				2
White-winged Crossbill	14			8	22
Pine Siskin				3	3
American Goldfinch	180	183	242	612	1,217
House Sparrow	26	57	121	18	222
UID passerine		16			16

<b>Total Birds</b>	<b>8,019</b>	<b>3,577</b>	<b>15,852</b>	<b>7,183</b>	<b>34,631</b>
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Add Count Week Species</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Participants: Field	9	14	16	28	67
Feeders	0	4	4	7	15
<b>Mammals:</b>					
Red Squirrel	3	17	26	22	88
Red Fox		2	2		4
Coyote	1				1
Striped Skunk			1		1
Raccoon			6		6
Snowshoe Hare			54		54
Harbour Seal			14	13	27
Short-tailed Weasel	1				1
Mink			1		1
Roaming House Cats		1	5		6
Walked: Km	16.5	16	11.6	25.1	69.2
Hours	8.5	6.75	7	26.2	48.45
Driven: Km	245	296.6	429.4	510.9	1481.90
Hours	23.5	24	29.5	14.2	91.20
Earliest Start	7:00 am	7:20 am	6:58 am		6.58 am
Latest Ending		4:00 pm	4:00 pm		4:00 pm
Total Party Hours	32	30.75	36.5		196.65
Owling Hours	0	0	0	0	0.00
Owling Kilometres	0	0	0	0	0.00
Number of Feeder Reports	0	3	4	7	14.00
Feeder Hours	0	12.5	8.5	?	
Snow Cover - aver. cm.	0 to 20	2 to 15	0 to 10	5 to 20	
Salt Water Bays - % frozen	0	75	50	10	
Salt Water - % frozen	0	0	0	0	
Fresh Water - % frozen	96	90	50	20 to 80	
Weather:					
Bright Sunshine (hrs)		0	2		
Precipitation	0	flurries	0	flurries, freezing rain, rain	
Cloud %		100	95	100	
Temperature C.	-6 to -10	-1 to -5	-1 to 1	-2 to 1	
Wind Speed - aver km/hr	9	15	14	25	
Prevail. wind direction	SW to S	mostly north	SSE to SSW	N	
Max. Wind Speed	13	24	17	43	

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

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

Thanks to the many participants, namely: Jeff Alward; Jim Aquilani; Erin Arsenault; Ron Arvidson; Jean Blanchard; Bill Bowerbank; John Burhoe; Sharon Clark; Ray Cooke; Rosemary Curley; Wanda Curley; Brian Dalzell;

Fiep de Bie; Lois Doan; Eric Edward; Chris & Blair Fraser; Shirley Gallant; Breanna Gardner; Diane Griffin; Gary Griffin; Don Harris; Ben Hoteling; Janet Hughes; Gordon Jackson; Art & Peggy Jenkins; Maureen Larkin; Margie Loo; Raymond Loo; Dave MacDonald; Gerald MacDonald; Margaret MacDonald; Virginia MacSwain-Jackson; Daniel MacRae; Donna Martin; Dan McAskill; Muriel McClean; Bonnie McOrmond; Arlene & Paul McGuigan; Peter Murphy; Dot Neilson; Dwaine Oakley; Melva O'Connor-Rafuse; Ann Perry; Ruth Richman; Gary Schneider; David Seeler; Scott Sinclair; Alma & Don Steeves; John Stewart; Greg Stroud; Jim Sutton; Elizabeth Townshend; Reg Thompson; Rosalind Waters; and Jean Watts. These counts would not be possible without their participation.

## MARITIME BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

The data collection phase of the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas will finish in 2010. There is still much to be done, especially in the western part of the province as well as southern Kings and Queens Counties. Your final push to contribute sightings of breeding behaviour will help to bring this major chapter to a fitting conclusion, the documentation of the breeding status of our feathered friends. To make this final push most effective, it would help if you could compare the MBBA data base for your home and areas in which you travel to determine if records you could contribute are in the data base e.g. if you have Barn Swallows in your yard but they are not recorded in the Atlas, E-mail your record to the MBBA. If you require more information, please contact Rosemary Curley, the Regional Coordinator for PEI, at 569-1209.

### 2009 IN REVIEW:

© David Seeler

This year 243 species were reported by Island birders which is very similar to the number of species reported over the last few years. I would like to thank those who made this review possible through their reports to the PEI Birder's List and to the Natural History Society of PEI.

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Species	236	249	261	247	245	251	243

Blustery weather kept even the most dedicated of birders off of the road for a good portion of January. On January 1st, we awoke to typical Nor'easter blizzard like conditions and a prediction that up to 50 cm. of snow was possible for the day. Clearly few were able to get out and the number of species reported (17) for New Year's Day dropped considerably over previous years' reports. Improvements in the weather over night enabled some to get out on the 2nd with reports of Ivory Gull, Glaucous Gull, Snowy Owl at North Rustico Harbour and a Red-tailed Hawk being reported at Cavendish West. Paul and Arlene McGuigan wrote to say that a Pine Warbler was tending their feeders on the 8th and that as far as I am aware stayed on until the 21st of the month. The Ivory Gull remained at North Rustico until the 7th and was last observed winging its way out of the harbour toward the Gulf. A second Snowy Owl report came out of New London where George Dowdle reported that one had been present from January 1st to the 20th.

From January 15th to the 18th, the Island was subjected to a deep freeze when daily highs of -25° C. to -20° C. were recorded. Night time temperatures with wind chill dipped to -40° C. Extreme temperatures as these surely were acted as a barrier to birders as few ventured out to see what may be on PEI. This was complicated by the fact that despite earlier storms, light snow cover meant that fields were open and species such as Snow Bunting, Horned Lark and especially Lapland Longspur were simply difficult to find. Greg and Sandra Feetham did manage to keep a House Finch alive and apparently healthy when viewed by the author and others on the 17th. On January 20th Clive Stewart reported that a Mockingbird was at his feeder in Bellevue Cove. Short-eared Owls were tough to find but, around the 20th, John Reid Jr. located 2 working the fields in the Borden area in search of food. They stayed approximately a week before heading to a more hospitable locale.

Around the same time it became apparent that Pat's Ivory Gull find at North Rustico Harbour was in fact a harbinger of things to come – perhaps indicative of a serious disruption of normal Ivory Gull movements. Within days of disappearing from North Rustico, there was a surge of significant numbers of Ivory Gulls in Newfoundland, and just



a few days later in Nova Scotia. By the 27th, Ivory Gulls were being reported as far east as Iceland, the Hebrides, and France – far off their normal paths. One can only hope that this is not the result of severe natural forces directly affecting their seasonal pattern of movements as the result of global warming. By month's end 76 species were reported by Island birders as compared to 87 species reported for the same month last year.

Rosemary Curley and Kathleen MacNearney reported finding a late Rusty Blackbird in Murray River on the 4th of February. The next day a Red-bellied Woodpecker was the subject of a report when Lew Black of York Point Road reported one at his suet feeder. The same day, Dwaine Oakley reported a very tardy Northern Harrier in the Hampshire area. A couple of days later Dwaine Oakley and David Seeler reported a Common Loon off of Panmure Island and the return of the Lesser Black-backed Gull to the Cardigan area. Snowy Owl reports were few and far between but on the 20th, one was reported to be hanging out in the vicinity of the Hillsborough Bridge. On the 2nd of March a second Northern Mockingbird was reported by the Reid family in Clyde River via John Reid Jr. Whether this was the same bird as reported by Clive remains speculative. By March 14th, it was clear that at least 2 Northern Mockingbirds were on the Island. A third was then reported to be overwintering in Charlottetown. On the 11th of March, Linda Fry indicated that the male Varied Thrush (second record for PEI) was continuing to visit her feeders and it remained until the 18th of April allowing excellent views for those who chose to look for it. The 5th report of a Great Gray Owl for PEI came from Ray Cooke who heard one calling in the Miscouche area on March 10th around 10:00. Towards the end of the month, Ross's Geese returned to the Island with a vengeance. The first report for 2009 was made by Dwaine Oakley on the 21st of March and this represented the 3rd record of this species for the Island. The previous two records were reported just months ago in the Green Village area during the hunting season. A Black-headed Gull was added to the list on the 23rd when David and Elaine Seeler located one at Ellen's Creek. The next day, the first Turkey Vulture report came in when Kevin Doyle observed one in Earncliffe. Those who were able to get out had outstanding views when it chose to soar over the road a number of times at a height of less than 20 feet. Simply outstanding! A little later in the month the first of three American Birding Association (ABA) big days was carried out by David Seeler and Dwaine Oakley on the 28th of March during daylight hours. Fifty species were found by the two during the outing providing PEI with a new March ABA Big Day record.

April is generally a relatively quiet month but Les Homans had a surprise when he looked out his dining room window and observed a Ross's Goose flying by his home along Locke Shore Road giving PEI its 4th report for that species. Waldron Leard indicated that a Great Egret was in the North Lake area on the 10th. The next day, Dwaine Oakley and Dan McAskill located additional Ross's Geese – one at Borden with a Snow Goose (5th PEI RECORD) and one (6th PEI record) at Shipyard Point on Malpeque Bay. Mid-month, a 4th report of a Northern Mockingbird was made by Paul Gunn who had it at his feeders from the 12th to the 14th of the month. Two Turkey Vultures were photographed in the area of the Cape Egmont Lighthouse by Bill Hartford on the 14th providing PEI with 3 solid reports of this species for the season.

Ever elusive, but being reported from the National Park at Dalvay through to Caledonia and Culloden, Pileated Woodpeckers seem to be thriving. On the 21st Kip Smith reported that a pair spotted him while he was out. Clearly there is suitable habitat for them to live in but for how long is unknown. Sid Watts of Kilmuir was clearly pleased when a male Summer Tanager popped in on the 21st and remained until the 24th of April. Well photographed, this bird represented the second documented record of this species for PEI. But it would not be the last one reported for the year. Sheila Eastman had a pleasant surprise at her home in the East Baltic when one day she noticed a male Blue Grosbeak tending one of her feeders. It remained only three days, but it was observed and photographed by a small number of individuals giving PEI its 3<sup>rd</sup> documented record for that species. While checking for shorebirds at East Point, Jim Sutton stumbled upon our sole Northern Hawk Owl for the year on the 28th. The next day, Betty Howatt reported that a male Summer Tanager was visiting her feeders in Lower Tryon. One can only speculate as to whether this was the same Tanager that had left Sid Watt's place 4 days earlier. The tanager remained at the Howatt's farm until the 5th of May.

May was a most unusual month. Normal migratory patterns seemed to be disrupted with some species being reported much earlier than usual while others appeared to be significantly delayed. Brian Dalzell observed that many species were 2 to 3 weeks early but that the bulk of the migrating birds would arrive at the usual time. He attributed this pattern to unusual weather systems ( low pressure systems) off the coast of the Carolinas taking northward bound migrants out to sea and when they do make land again they are well into New England and the Atlantic Provinces. Arctic species seemed to stay later as well. A Snowy Owl was reported at the Charlottetown airport on the 6th and

much later in the year, Dwaine Oakley learned that a pair had over-summered in Slemon Park. Indigo Bunting reports began to roll in. Rick Hawkins reported a male at his feeders on the 5th and 6th while later in the month individual birds were reported at the MacDonald's Farm in Bonshaw, along with another being reported in Bonshaw at the same time. Linda Fry's feeders continued to attract good birds as she also reported an Indigo Bunting at her home. Within a day, Roy McNabb reported a male Indigo Bunting in Grand Tracadie. Reports of unusual birds continued as Cathleen Gallant reported yet another Northern Mockingbird at Cable Head on the 25th. Two days later yet another male Summer Tanager made its appearance at the Charlottetown feeders of Cindy MacMaster. This bird was the third report of the year and represented the 3rd documented record of the species for PEI. A rare spring sighting of a Wilson's Phalarope was made on the 27th by Dwaine Oakley and David Seeler at Little Harbour. A Whimbrel was also located at the same place and one must wonder if this was an Eurasian species given the time of year but, alas, distance precluded a definitive identification. Later that day, the same two observers were stunned when an Orange-crowned Warbler hopped up into the alder beside the passenger window of the car less than two feet from the passenger. A great chance to observe but neither thought to photograph the bird which represented the 11th report for this species on PEI.

The Bain's Bird Count was held on the 30th of May. This count was originally called the Francis Bain Bird-a-thon and was first held May 28, 1978. This was the second Provincial Bird-a-thon established in Canada and was designed to raise money for natural history projects and document both migratory and resident species on PEI in the Spring season. In 1978, 116 species were observed on that first outing. This year efforts were slightly hampered by the unusual migratory patterns of MANY passerine species and the fact that many species appeared to be reduced in overall numbers. Count totals for recent years are as follows:

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Species	139	128	144	131	130	127

The next day Roberta Palmer and Linda Thomas resurrected a bird from the past for PEI. While out on a big day outing they located a singing Whip-poor-will in Fairview. This species has not been reported for many years on the Island so this was an important find. Fortunately it stayed in the area for a few days so that others could add it to their PEI life list.

May passed quickly and on the 3rd of June, Rhonda and Joe Carter reported a Cattle Egret in Souris West. The egret stayed in the area for awhile and randomly appeared in a number of locations leading a few Island birders on a proverbial "goose chase". On the same day, from the other end of the Island, Cathleen Gallant found another Northern Mockingbird that was keeping company with Vesper Sparrows in a blueberry field. Years ago, Vesper Sparrows were somewhat common on PEI, but more recently they were rare finds if observed at all. However this was the second year that these nesting pairs had been reported – perhaps we are indeed returning to the old days. Ray Cooke, Dan McAskill, Dwaine Oakley and David Seeler were out on a Big Day attempt on the 6th when they stumbled across not one or two but rather 7 Eastern Bluebirds in a group on Savage Harbour Road. This entourage almost equalled the total of all previous reports for PEI. Unfortunately, they did not linger long and only a few had the chance to watch their antics. It would not be the last time that this species was reported on PEI in 2009.

On the 19th, David Seeler reported a surprisingly late group of 12 Black-bellied Plovers which were accompanied by 2 Red Knots at Covehead. The first report of a visiting birder from Quebec City was received detailing observations from the 27th through the 1st of July. Olivier Barden located a pair of Eastern Bluebirds in Cape Wolfe, a first summer Black-legged Kittiwake at Borden and on the 1st, he noted 3 Arctic Terns at the tip of the Cavendish Sandspit from the Cape at French River. Olivier also carried out a sea watch off the north shore within the National Park at Cavendish and was rewarded for his efforts when he observed 2 Wilson's Storm-petrels, one immature Parasitic Jaeger, 1 Black-headed Gull and an adult Broad-winged Hawk – all uncommon reports for PEI during the months of June and early July. As June drew to a close, David Smith reported 2 Sandhill Cranes in the Baltic area just west of Kensington. The pair was later relocated by Greg Feetham and Les Homans in the Darnley area.

By the end of June, 214 species had been collectively reported by Island birders. This represents 88 % of the species observed on PEI during 2009. At least two birders had personal goals of making 200 by the end of June but these dreams would not come to pass with personal totals of 199 and 198 being attained.

Given the number of reports which were made during this period and the number of rarities documented, it appeared that 2009 would be a busy year. However, that would not be the case. The number of reports dropped dramatically as we headed further into the breeding season and other responsibilities kept people closer to home. Gerald MacDonald however was out regularly checking his “local patch”. On July 12th, he was rewarded with his persistence when an inquisitive Swainson’s Warbler finally popped up from the ground into an alder patch to investigate the intruder to its space. Gerald’s observation was the 2nd report of this species for PEI. A group of birders from Quebec engaged in some pelagic birding on the 5th of July while taking the ferry to the Iles-de-la-Madeleine and noted more than 150 Sooty Shearwaters, 75 plus Greater Shearwaters, and more than 20 Northern Fulmar while in PEI waters. Clearly an organized pelagic tour by Island birders out of Souris is long overdue! July literally melted into August with few reports being made as most birds and birders kept to shady cool spots. Shorebird migration was in full swing during this time but numbers were down over previous years. It was not until the 8th of September that Les Homans reported a Red-necked Phalarope in the Lagoons at Borden. Greg Feetham having also checked the Lagoons out just a day earlier reported a pair of Ruddy Ducks at the same locale.

An early Snowy Owl was reported in Alberton on the 11th of September jointing the two which had over summered in Slemon Park. At some point in time, no one is sure exactly when, American Goldfinches literally disappeared. It did not take long though for people to notice and to speculate as to the reason why they were no longer visiting feeders across the region. The most likely explanation was the over abundance of natural foods on the Island this year reduced their need to utilize feeders. It was not until our first cold snap and snow fall in late December that they returned to the feeders they had previously abandoned. The Bennett’s Bird Count was held on the 26th of September. This count represents a partnership between the Natural History Society and the Island Nature Trust and serves not only as a fund raiser for the INT but as an autumn avian monitoring system for the Island. This year, good numbers of Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers were observed during the count, but notably, no storm-petrels were reported despite their over abundance elsewhere in the Atlantic region. The team located 88 species with previous years listed below for comparison purposes.

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Species	88	90	99	108	95	88

The Jaegers did not leave the waters off of East Point as a week later good numbers of Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers were observed by Dwaine Oakley and David Seeler. Others continued to report seeing these species when they visited the area as well. Closer to home, the Island’s 3rd documented record for Yellow-breasted Chat was made on the 26th, when one was banded on Cameron Island. The banding station banded a Pine Warbler the next day. Given the success of the banding station over the years, it seems that Cameron Island and Point Prim itself are sites which should be checked more frequently during the fall migration period.

On November 1st, while out checking his ‘local patch’ Gerald MacDonald came across a Rufous-sided Towhee literally within its back yard proving once again the important thing is to get out and enjoy what nature brings to you. A Cooper’s Hawk is not a common species to PEI and they are rarely reported. I can only imagine Dwaine Oakley’s delight when he happened upon one soaring above his head on the beach just to the west of East Point on November 14th. I am not sure how much more excitement could be generated but Dwaine managed to enhance his when he also located a female King Eider loafing with Common Eider just off of East Point. This too was an excellent find given the time of year in which the observation was made. Two more Cattle Egrets made their appearances during the month of November. One lingered at John Hayden’s farm in Cherry Valley, while another visited the MacInnis Brothers’ Farm at St. Peter’s over the same time frame. On the way home from viewing the egret at St. Peter’s, Les Homans stopped in at the Waste Energy Plant and collared an elusive male Eurasian Wigeon on the 22nd. Later, Dwaine Oakley was able to identify a female Eurasian Wigeon at the same locale raising the question – how long had the pair been there? One thing is for sure, they did not stay long. Dan Kennedy passed along reports of a male Northern Cardinal which had been visiting the town of Montague for a few weeks thus bring the month of November to a close.

On December 2nd, Greg Stroud found a Broad-winged Hawk at Cavendish leading one to wonder if it was the same bird reported there back in July by Olivier. December 5th found Dwaine Oakley and David Seeler attempting another Big Day. Conditions were absolutely perfect for night time birding so the night hours found the two out

looking for owls well before sunrise. Sixty nine species were found besting the previous December record of 63. Chris Mutch was able to confirm that a late American Kestrel was again trying out our mild December weather, while Sharon Clark had a Baltimore Oriole check into her feeder system for an extended stay. Hopefully both birds make it through the winter season if they choose to remain on PEI. Gyrfalcons are not reported every year, but one was possibly observed at Covehead mid-month and a day later on the 19th, Barry Martin discovered one at Traveller's Rest. It did not linger. Last seen, it was swiftly heading west.

Like the falcon, so did 2009 fade quickly into the distance. I wish to thank everyone on the list for contributing their reports so that the records for PEI can be maintained by the Natural History Society. Within hours we will start another year and a year list for 2010 will begin. Please keep the reports coming. All the best to each of you and your families for 2010!

#### **WEATHER EVENTS:**

The first true snow storm on the season dropped ~10 cm of snow in early December over the Island although there was a previous sifting of snow and ice crystals in November. There were very few days on which the ground was surface frozen for the day up to Dec. 6 (JDM). A cold snap the second & third weeks of December froze many bays but warm weather came again the week of Dec. 22 (JDM). Borden lagoons were frozen over on Dec. 29 (LH).

A strong storm surge occurred on the night of Jan. 2-3, 2010. The high winds (up to 105 km/hr) and storm caused considerable damage to a home at Victoria, a restaurant roof at Alberton, and heavy coastal erosion at Jacques Cartier and West Point Provincial Parks (CBC radio reports, FRC, JDM).

After a very mild winter with light snow falls and little snow cover, there was a good snow fall on the weekend of January 29<sup>th</sup> and a heavier storm on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Stubble was still visible in fields after the storm but there was about 30 cm of snow in woodlands. By February 24<sup>th</sup>, some fields were almost centre bare, grass was visible around some foundations, there were water channels through the ice between the Hillsborough Bridge and the harbour entrance, between Fullerton's Marsh Bridge and the impoundment, and from the Belvedere Pond stream to the highway.

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

Compiled by J. Dan McAskill

#### **PLANTS:**

Fall dandelions in flower at Charlottetown on Nov. 1 (ASa). Very heavy crop of white spruce cones across central and eastern PEI (DO, FRC, JDM).

#### **INSECTS:**

Mosquito larva in bucket at Culloden on Dec. 5 (JHS). Snow fleas appeared in Caledonia on Feb. 17 (JHS).

#### **AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES:**

Calling at Culloden on Dec. 5 (JHS).

**MAMMALS:** 2 albino muskrat were trapped at Blanchard's Pond near Tignish (DGM). Coyote in Lakeside yard in early Feb. (ADM). 2 raccoons and a striped skunk were present at Donagh feeders in mid-February (JDM). 1 harbour seal with 2 fresh wounds at Wood Island's on Feb. 6 (DO)

**BIRDS: See also the CBC reports. Red-throated Loon** - 1 at East Point on Dec. 2 (SCS), 5 at East Point & 2 at Little Harbour on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO); **Common Loon** - 1 at Little Harbour on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO); **Northern Gannet** - 6 all but 1 sub-adult at East Point on Dec. 2 (SCS), 3 at East Point & 1 at Little Harbour on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 2 first year at East Point on Jan. 1 (DO), 2 at Georgetown on Jan. 24 (RP); **Double-crested Cormorant** - 1 at Souris Harbour, 1 at North Lake, & 2 at Charlottetown on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 at Georgetown on Jan. 1 (DO), 3 immature at Montague on Jan. 20 (FRC, KMcn); **Great Cormorant** - 1 at East Point on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO) & 1 at Bear Point on Dec. 13 (DCS), immature at East Point & 2 at Souris Harbour on Jan. 1 (DO), 6 at Graham's Pond on Feb. 1 (JHS) & 5 on Feb. 6 (DO), 2 at East Lake on Feb. 22 (W&SF); **Great Blue Heron** - 1 at Chapel Creek on Nov. 29 (DCS), 2 at North Lake & 1 at St. Peter's Bay on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 at Stratford in early Dec. (FdB), 1 on Hillsborough on Dec. 20 (GK), 1 at Canavoy on Jan. 8 (FRC), 1 at Fullerton's Creek on Jan. 10 (JDM), 1 at Norris Pond on Jan. 20 (WHL), 1 at Moore's Pond Creek in Stratford on Jan. 20 (A&PM), 1 at Tyne Valley area on GBBC; **Snow Goose** - 1 at New Zealand on Dec. 5 (outfitter via DO, DCS); **Canada Geese** - 300 at Covehead Bay on Nov. 16 (DCS), Fish & Wildlife's aerial goose survey provided an estimate of 58,000 Canada Geese in the coastal waters (bays) and fields near the bays in November (RLD), 200 at Indian River on Dec. 27 (BM, LH), 5 at Cymbria on Dec. 28 (DO), 94 at Basin

Head on Jan. 1 (DO), 250+ at Village Green on Jan. 2 (DCS, DO, JDM), 725 at Cherry Valley on Jan. 6 (FRC), 65+ at Murray River on Jan. 20 (FRC, KMcN), lots of geese in corn field off Hyde Park Road on Jan. 20 (SN), 8 at Hillsborough River in Charlottetown on Jan. 22 (JDM), 1000+ at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 6 (DO); **Gadwall** - 12 at Chapel Creek on Nov. 16 (DCS), at Clinton on Dec. 27 (BM, LH), 152 at Cymbria & 19 at Clinton on Dec. 28 (DO), 1 at Ellen's Creek on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 at Gowan Brae on Jan. 1 (DO), 5 at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 10 (DO, JDM), large number off Cymbria on Feb. 7 (JtR); **Eurasian Wigeon** - male at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 15 (RA); **American Wigeon** - 2 at Leslie's Pond Souris West on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), at Clinton on Dec. 27 (BM, LH), 1 at Clinton on Dec. 28 (DO), 11 at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 10 (DO, JDM), female at Greek River on Feb. 11 (FRC, KMcN, RRA); **American Black Duck** - 700 at Covehead Harbour on Jan. 10 (DCS, DO, JDM) & 280 at Stewart Cove (DO, JDM), lots at Murray River & 160+ at Mink River on Jan. 20 (FRC, KMcN); **Mallard** - 8 at Horne Cross Creek in Oyster Bed Bridge (DCS, DO), 105 at Darnley Bay on Dec. 27 (BM, LH), at Clinton on Dec. 27 (BM, LH), 11 at Cymbria & 28 at Clinton on Dec. 28 (DO), 22 at Andrew's Pond on Wright's Creek on Jan. 10 (DCS, DO, JDM), lots at Murray River & few at Mink River on Jan. 20 (FRC, KMcN); **Northern Pintail** - 20 males & females at Clinton on Dec. 3 (G&SF), on Dec. 27 (BM, LH), 6 at North Rustico Harbour & 43 at Clinton on Dec. 28 (DO), male at Montague & pair at Mink River on Jan. 20 (FRC, KMcN), 1 at Sturgeon Bridge on Feb. 6 (DO), male at Moore's Pond on Feb. 11 (FRC, KMcN, RRA), at Route 6 near Winsloe Rd on Feb. 15 (JtR); **Green-winged Teal** - at Cavendish on Dec. 2 (GNS), 8 at Ellen's Creek on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 3 at St. Peter's River & 10 at Cornwall Pond on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 9 at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 10 (DO, JDM), 7 males & a female at Moore's Pond on Feb. 11 (FRC, KMcN, RRA); **Ring-necked Duck** - 6 at Rustico on Nov. 30 (FdB), 6 at Leslie's Pond Souris West on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO); **Greater Scaup** - 200+ at Brackley Bay on Nov. 29 (DCS), 3 at East Lake on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), ~200 at Covehead Harbour on Jan. 10 (DCS, DO, JDM), 150 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 13 (JtR); **Lesser Scaup** - 1 at Brackley Bay on Nov. 29 (DCS), 1 male at Oyster Bed Bridge with ~200 Greater Scaup & ~50 Common Goldeneye on Feb. 19 (DO, WCT); **Common Eider** - 1,300 females in late Oct. (DO), 600+ at East Point on Nov. 22 (DCS), 100+ on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> (DCS, DO), 500+ at East Point on Jan. 1 (DO), 1 at Savage Harbour run on Jan. 10 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at Panmure Island on Feb. 6 (DO); **Harlequin Duck** - 3 females in late Oct. (DO) & 5 individuals at East Point on Dec. 2 (SCS), 5 male at Orby Head on Dec. 3 (G&SF), 8 at East Point on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO) & 6 on Jan. 1 (DO), 1 at Georgetown on Feb. 1 (GNS); **Surf Scoter** - plenty at East Point in late Oct. (DO), pair at Souris Harbour on Jan. 1 (DO); **White-winged Scoter** - very few in late Oct. (DO) & 3 at East Point on Nov. 22 (DCS, 2 on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> (DO, DCS), 50+ at East Point & 5 at Souris Harbour on Jan. 1 (DO); **Black Scoter** - 50+ at East Point on Nov. 22 (DCS), 240+ at East Point on Jan. 1 (DO), 1 immature at Graham's Pond on Feb. 6 (DO); **Long-tailed Duck** - 12 females in late Oct. ? (DO), 400+ at East Point on Nov. 22 (DCS), 100+ at East Point on Jan. 1 (DO), 2 at Georgetown on Jan. 24 (RP), 3 at Panmure Island on Feb. 6 (DO); **Bufflehead** - 1 at Leslie's Pond on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), female at Basin Head & male at Georgetown Royalty on Jan. 1 (DO), 2 at Covehead on Jan. 17 (GNS); **Common Goldeneye** - lots at Murray River & some at Mink River on Jan. 20 (FRC, KMcN), several at Cardigan, 6 at Seal River, 20+ at Montague, 6 at Panmure Island, & 20+ at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 6 (DO); **Hybrid Barrow/Common Goldeneye** - 1 at Montague in early Jan. (DO, DCS, JDM), 1 at Georgetown in late Jan. (GNS), 1 at Cardigan on Feb. 1 (GNS) & Feb. 6 (DO); **Barrow's Goldeneye** - 4 at Black Pond on Dec. 2 (SCS), 3 at Cornwall on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 at Murray River & 2 at Vernon Bridge on Dec. 13 (DCS), 59 males & 49 females at Trout River in Roxbury on Jan. 7 (FRC), 5 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 18 (GNS), 1 male at Montague plus 2 males & 1 female at Murray River on Jan. 20 (FRC, KMcN), 2 male & 1 female at Montague & few at Cardigan on Feb. 1 (GNS), 12 at Cardigan, 1 at Montague, 2 at Sturgeon Bridge, & 6 at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 6 (DO); **Hooded Merganser** - 2 males & 8 females at Moore's Pond in Stratford on Dec. 1 (LH, G&SF), 3 at Black Pond on Dec. 2 (SCS), 3 at Leslie's Pond & 16 males & females at Moore's Pond in Stratford on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), pair at Murray River on Dec. 13 (DCS), pair at Murray River on Jan. 1 (DO), pair at Montague on Jan. 2 (DO, DCS, JDM), pair at Murray River on Jan. 20 (FRC, KMcN); **Common Merganser** - 39 at Cymbria on Dec. 28 (DO), lots at Murray River & some at Mink River on Jan. 20 (FRC, KMcN), at Cardigan, 12+ at Seal River, & 12+ at Montague on Feb. 6 (DO); **Red-breasted Merganser** - 1 at Little Harbour & 1 at Bear Point on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 2 at Vernon Bridge on Dec. 13 (DCS), 20+ at East Point & 50+ at Souris Harbour on Jan. 1 (DO), 75 at Charlottetown on Hillsborough River on Jan. 10 (DO, JDM), pair at Seal River, 2 female at Montague, 6+ at Panmure Island on Feb. 6 (DO); **Osprey** - at East Lake on Feb. 22 (W&SF) **Bald Eagle** - carrying sticks at Hardy Mill Road in early Nov. (FRC), immature being shadowed by crow at Kingston on Dec. 17 (LD), 2 immature at West River on Dec. 18 (LD), immature at Strathgartney on Feb. 11 (JtR), eating a Canada Goose on the ice at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 20 (DO, WCT); **Northern Harrier** - 1 at Kelvin Grove on Nov. 26 (EC), 1 at Beaton's Point (East Point) on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 at Kingsboro on Feb. 24 (WHL); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 2 at Cameron's Island Banding Station in Oct (DO, WCT), 1 at East Royalty on Jan. 8 (FRC), 1 at West Royalty feeders on Jan. 10 (DO, DCS); **Northern Goshawk** - 1 adult male was stunned striking the house wall in Donagh on Dec. 6 (JDM), 1 at Tracadie Harbour & 1 at Corran Ban on Jan. 10 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at Rocky Point on Feb. 15 (LD), 1 at Marshfield feeders on Feb. 15 (A&PJ), 1 took Blue Jay at South Melville feeders on Feb. 17 (RA); **Broad-winged Hawk** - juvenile at Cavendish on Dec. 2 (GNS), 1 being mobbed by 3 American Crows at Stanhope on Feb. 11 (GNS); **Red-tailed Hawk** - 3 between Summerside and Palmer's Road on Dec. 1 (LH, G&SF), 1 at Sherbrooke on Dec. 5 (JDM, LY, TG), 1 at York on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 at Rocky Point on Dec. 19 & Dec. 21 (LD), 2 at Clinton & 1 at Albany, Sherbrooke, Borden &

North River Causeway on Dec. 28 (DO), 1 at West Royalty & 1 at New Glasgow on Dec. 28 (DCS), 1 at Priest Pond on Jan. 1 (DO), 1 at Vernon River area on Jan. 2 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at Hampton on Jan. 4 (RA), 1 at Union Road on Jan. 5-6 (JtR), 1 at Crapaud & 1 at North River Causeway on Jan. 7 (RA), 1 at Mount Stewart on Jan. 8 (FRC), 1 between South Melville & Breadalbane on Jan. 20 (G&SF), 1 at Blue Shank Road/Rte 2 on Jan. 27 (RT), 1 attacked Herring Gull at UPEI on Feb. 3 but it was chased off and the gull escaped (DCS), 1 at Kingsboro on Feb. 3 (WHL), 1 juvenile at Central Bedeque & adult at New Annan on Feb. 21 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Rough-legged Hawk** - 1 dark phase at Cherry Valley on Nov. 17 (DCS), 1 at Brackley on Dec. 7 (GNS), 1 at Blooming Point on Dec. 8 (CJL), 3 at Cherry Valley/Earnscliffe on Dec. 13 (DCS, DO), 1 at Covehead Harbour on Dec. 19 (RC, JDM), 1 at Brackley Beach on Dec. 15 (GMcC), 1 at Johnston's River on Donagh Road on Dec. 17 (JDM), 1 at St. Peter's Lake on Jan. 8 (FRC), 1 at Victoria on Jan. 23 (RA), 1 at Wood Island's on Feb. 6 (DO); **American Kestrel** - 1 at Pownal on Dec. 13 (CMu); **Merlin** - 1 at Brackley North Marsh on Nov. 18 (DCS), 1 at East Point on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 at Summerside on Jan. 20 (G&SF); **Gyrfalcon** - 1 being mobbed by 3 crows at Traveller's Rest on Dec. 19 (BM via LH); **Peregrine Falcon** - 1 at East Point on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO); **Gray Partridge** - 8 at York Point (ASm) & 2 coveys at Brackley (SP) in late Oct., 2 18 at Harrington on Dec. 18 (DCS), 2 at Milton on Dec. 19 (GNS), 9 giving a bunch of crows a hard time at Locke Shore Road on Dec. 20 (LH), 13 at Locke Shore Road on Dec. 29 & Jan. 1 (LH), 1 at North Lake on Jan. 1 (DO), 1 at Hampton on Jan. 4 (RA), 5 at Blooming Point on Jan. 10 (DCS, DO, JDM), 9 at Middleton in early Jan (FMcC), 8 at Summerville on Feb. 10 (JDS via FRC), flock at Covehead on Feb. 11 (GNS), 5 roadside near dusk at Johnston's River on Feb. 14 (JDM), 7 at Lyndale on Feb. 19 (WS via FRC); **Ring-necked Pheasant** - male at Brackley in late Oct. (SP), male in corn field at Cymbria on Dec. 19 (RC, JDM), male at Donagh on Dec. 17, Jan. 4 and at Johnston's River on Donagh Road on Jan. 8 (JDM), male & 2 females at Cymbria area on Feb. 15 (JtR), 3 males at Johnston's River on Feb. 17, 1 male & 3 females in corn field & hedge at Cymbria (JDM, DO, DCS), female at Bunbury on Feb. 15 to 19 (RT), male at Little Harbour on Feb. 23 (WHL, FCh, CMo); **Ruffed Grouse** - 1 roadside at Hampton on Dec. 3 (LY), 1 drumming at Indian Bridge on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 2 at Bunbury on Dec. 14 (RT), 1 at Tea Hill on Jan. 3 (FdB), 1 browsing in clover at Jacques Cartier Park on Jan. 7 (FRC), 1 budding birch at South Melville on Feb. 19 (RA); **American Coot** - at Souris on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO); **Purple Sandpiper** - 2 flying in late Oct. 31 (DCS, DO), 2 at Graham's Pond on Feb. 1 (JHS); **UID Shorebirds** - 10 at Grand Pere Point on Jan. 10 (JtR), 1 at Poverty Beach on Feb. 20 (JB via JHS); **Black-headed Gull** - 1 at Pinette on Dec. 13 (DCS, DO), 1<sup>st</sup> year at Basin Head & 4 at Souris Harbour on Jan. 1 (DO); **Bonaparte's Gull** - 1 at Little Harbour & 1 at East Lake on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), ~50 at Borden lagoons on Dec. 7 (JDM), 1 at Pinette on Dec. 13 (DCS, DO), 1 at Cardigan on Feb. 1 (GNS); **Ring-billed Gull** - 10 at Pinette on Dec. 13 (DCS, DO), 1 at Montague on Jan. 24 (RO); **Iceland Gull** - at Cavendish on Dec. 2 (GNS), 20+ at Basin Head on Jan. 1 (DO), 110 at Victoria Park and Stratford on Jan. 10 (DO, JDM), 1 at Montague on Jan. 24 (RO); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** - 1 at York on Dec. 2 (JtR), 1 at North Lake on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 2<sup>nd</sup> winter individual at Rollings Pond in Cavendish on Dec. 28 (DO), 1 at Georgetown Royalty on Jan. 1 (DO), adult at Borden on Feb. 21 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Glaucous Gull** - a 1<sup>st</sup> year at Bellevue Cove on Dec. 5 (DGS); **Razorbill** - 20+ at East Point on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO); **Black Guillemot** - 1 at East Point on Dec. 2 (SCS), 2 at East Point on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 2 at Georgetown on Jan. 24 (RP); **Mourning Dove** - 9 to 20 at Donagh feeders on Dec. 6 through Feb 22 (JDM); **Great Horned Owl** - 1 at White Road on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 at Fortune/Rollo Bay on Jan. 5 (WHL), 1 at Rollo Bay on Jan. 20 (WHL); **Snowy Owl** - 1 at Mason Road in Bunbury on Dec. 1 (DJ), 1 at Locke Shore Road on Dec. 20 (LH) & Jan. 4 -20 (G&SF, DCS, DO), Jan. 20, Feb. 12 (LH, G&SF), 2 at Locke Shore Road on Feb. 16 (LH), 1 on top of Borden lighthouse on Feb. 21 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Barred Owl** - 1 at White Road on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 calling at Tea Hill on Jan. 7 (FdB), 1 calling at Caledonia on Jan. 27 (JHS); **Short-eared Owl** - 1 at PEINP dunes at Covehead on Jan. 13 (RH); **Northern Saw-whet Owl** - 1 at White Road on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO); **Belted Kingfisher** - 1 at Basin Head on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 at Mount Stewart on Dec. 5 & 1 at Orwell on Dec. 14 (RT), 1 at Cymbria on Dec. 28 (DO), 1 at Basin Head, 1 at Souris Harbour, & 1 at Gowan Brae on Jan. 1 (DO), 1 at Montague, 1 at Mink River & 1 at Pownal on Jan. 20 (FRC, KMcN), 2 between South Melville & Breadalbane on Jan. 20 (G&SF), 1 at Dover on Jan. 28 (RT), 1 at Hardy Mill Road on Feb. 10 (SG), 1 at Souris area during GBBC, 1 at Winsloe on Feb. 19 (SS), 1 at Basin Head on Feb. 22 (W&SF); **Downy Woodpecker** - 1 at Red Point Park on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 at Caledonia on Dec. 13 (DCS, DO, JHS), 1 at West Royalty feeders on Dec. 20, 25, 28, & 30 (DCS), 2 at Rocky Point on Jan. 28 (LD); **Hairy Woodpecker** - 1 at Red Point on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 at Charlottetown on Dec. 19 (DCS), 1 at West Royalty feeders on Dec. 20 & 24 (DCS), 1 at Mount Royal on Jan. 7 (FRC), 1 at Wood Islands on Jan. 27 (GS), 2 at Rocky Point on Jan. 28 (LD), 1 at Donagh feeders in Feb. (JDM); **Northern Flicker** - 2 at East Point Community, 1 at North Lake & 1 at Priest Pond on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 at Charlottetown feeders on Dec. 18 & 31 (SGC), 3 at Marshfield on Dec. 20 (GK); 1 at Rocky Point on Dec. 21 (LD), 1 at West Royalty feeders on Dec. 25, 30 & 31 (DCS), 1 at Charlottetown on Dec. 28 (RT), 1 at Tea Hill on Jan. 7 & Feb. 20 (FdB), 1 at Bunbury on Jan. 11 (FRC), 3 at Marshfield on Dec. 20 (GK), 1 at Alliston feeder on Jan. 17 (PC via FRC), 1 at Rocky Point on Jan. 18 (LD), 1 at Wood Islands on Jan. 27 (GS), 2 between New Haven & Strathgartney on Feb. 11 (RA), 1 at Stratford on Feb. 11 (CAS), 1 at Summerville on Feb. 15 (JDS via FRC), 2 at Watervale feeders on Feb. 21 (ACu), 5 during 235 km road trip on Feb. 21 (DCS, DO, JDM), 2 males at Watervale on Feb. 21 (ACu), 1 at Winsloe South on Feb. 20 (DEJ), 1 at Priest Pond on Feb. 22 (W&SF); **Northern Shrike** - 1 at Cavendish on Nov. 30 (FdB), 1 at Bayfield on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO) 1 at Argyle Shore & 1 at Central Bedeque on Feb. 21 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at East Lake on Feb. 22 (W&SF); **Scissor-tailed**

*Flycatcher - 1 at Bayview hawking shingle flies from Nov. 15 to 22 with picture submitted (CAS via BCo, SGC & DO);* **Gray Jay** - 1 at Summerville on Jan. 18 (JDS via FRC); **Blue Jay** - very good numbers at many feeders this winter; **American Crow** - the crow roost at Brighton Road has been disrupted by use of a screamer device with some dispersal of the numbers (media reports); **Common Raven** - mating behaviour starting at nest site at Winsloe (B&RH); **Horned Lake** - 20 at Locke Shore Road on Jan. 1 (LH), 5 near Kensington on Jan. 18 (GNS), ~25 at Kingston on Feb. 14 (RA); **Black-capped Chickadee** - lots going through at Cameron's Island Banding Station in Oct (DO, WCT), 7 at York on Dec. 2 (JtR), 30+ between South Melville & Breadalbane on Jan. 20 (G&SF); **Boreal Chickadee** - 2 at East Point and 1 at East Lake on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), at Locke Shore Road on Jan. 1 (LH), 4 between South Melville & Breadalbane on Jan. 20 (G&SF); **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - at Robinson's Island on Nov. 14 (DCS), 1 at Red Point Park, 1 at East Point, & 1 at East Lake on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 2 at Charlottetown feeders with many chickadees on Dec. 18-19 & 31 (SGC, DCS), 1 at St. Charles on Dec. 7 (W&SF), 1 at Tea Hill feeders on Jan. 7 (FdB), 1 at Springhill on Jan. 7 (FRC), 10+ between South Melville & Breadalbane on Jan. 20 (G&SF), 2 at Rocky Point on Jan. 28 (LD); **White-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 at Culloden on Dec. 7 & still present during GBBC (JHS) & Dec. 13 (DCS, DO, JHS), 2 at Rte 231 on Jan. 20-21 (G&SF); **Brown Creeper** - at Cameron's Island Banding Station on Oct. 26 (DO, WCT), 1 at Rocky Point on Dec. 19 & Jan. 28 (LD), pair at Summerside on Feb. 19 (G&SF); **Winter Wren** - at Cameron's Island Banding Station on Oct. 26 (DO, WCT); **Golden-crowned Kinglet** - good movement with 12 banded and numerous others in woodlands at Cameron's Island Banding Station on Oct. 28 (DO, WCT), 2 at York on Dec. 2 (JtR), 8 between South Melville & Breadalbane on Jan. 20 (G&SF); **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** - good movement at the Cameron's Island Banding Station on Oct. 14 (DO, WCT), 1 between South Melville & Breadalbane on Jan. 20 (G&SF); **Hermit Thrush** - movement with 15+ hanging around the Cameron's Island Banding Station on Oct. 16 with 2 being banded (DO, WCT); **American Robin** - 200+ overhead at Cameron's Island Banding Station on Oct. 27 (DO, WCT), at Blooming Point on Dec. 15 (FRC), calling at St. Charles on Dec. 7 (W&SF), 50+ at Lake View on Jan. 1 (DO), ~10 at Woodlands Trail in Dalvay on Jan. 13 (RH), 16 at Union Road on Jan. 16 (JtR), 8 at Bunbury on Jan. 22 (JDM), 30+ at old Victoria Road on Jan. 23 (RA), 80+ at Murray Harbour North on Jan. 25 (JHS), 10 at Wood Islands on Jan. 27 (GS), good numbers roadside during GBBC weekend (Feb. 12-15) with 200 at Union Road (JtR), 100+ on Brackley Point Road (SGC), 18 at Mermaid (JDM), ~30 at Head Hillsborough, St. Teresa's, & Cardigan on Feb. 10 (ADM), 2 at Pleasant Grove on Feb. 11 (SG), everywhere in northeastern PEI on Feb. 22 (W&SF); **Northern Mockingbird** - 1 at Caledonia on Feb. 22 (JHS); **European Starling** - 30 at Wood Islands on Jan. 27 (GS); **Bohemian Waxwing** - large flock at Blooming Point on Dec. 15 (FRC), 1 at Tracadie Harbour with 75 Cedar Waxwing on Jan. 10 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Cedar Waxwing** - 40 to 50 at North Lake on Dec. 2 (SCS), 50 at East Point Community on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 75 at Stratford (Battery Point) on Dec. 5 (GNS), 20 feeding on hawthorne berries at Rocky Point on Jan. 23 (LD, VD), 30 at QEH on Feb. 11 (MC), 7 at Wellington, 14 at Wellington Station, & 14 at Montague on GBBC; **Yellow-rumped Warbler** - 1 at East Point Community on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 2 at Cape Egmont with 10 Black-capped Chickadees on Feb. 20 (DO, LH); **Pine Warbler** - at Cameron's Island Banding Station on Oct. 28 (DO, WCT), 1 at Tracadie on Dec. 20 & Jan. 6 (GG); **Yellow-breasted Chat** - 1 at Cameron's Island Banding Station on Oct. 26 (DO, WCT); **Rufous-sided Towhee** - 1 at Monticello on Nov. 9 (GM); **American Tree Sparrow** - 1 at Cable Head East on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 at Bunbury feeders on Dec. 26 (RT), 10 in corn field at Cymbria on Dec. 28 (DO), 1 at Locke Shore Road on Jan. 1 (LH), 1 at Stratford on Feb. 3 (DFG), 1 at Bunbury on Feb. 3 (RT); **Song Sparrow** - 1 at Souris, 1 at Little Harbour, 1 at East Point, 1 at East Point Community, 1 at North Lake, & 1 at Wood Islands Prov. Park on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 in corn field at Cymbria on Dec. 28 (DO), 1 at Wellington Station area on GBBC, 1 at South Melville feeders on Feb. 19 (RA), 2 at Confederation Trail near UPEI on Feb. 22 (MF via FRC); **White-throated Sparrow** - 6 at Cameron's Island Banding Station on Oct. 27 (DO, WCT), still lots with 7 banded at Cameron's Island Banding Station on Oct. 29 (DO, WCT), at Woodlands Trail in Dalvay on Jan. 13 (RH), 2 at Blooming Point on Jan. 19 (CJL), 4 to 5 at Bonshaw, 3 at Montague & 2 at Summerside area on GBBC, 6 at South Melville on Feb. 17 & 7 on Feb. 19 (RA); **Dark-eyed Junco** - first sign at the Cameron's Island Banding Station on Oct. 15 with 1 banded (DO, WCT) 2 at East Point Community on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 2 at West Point on Jan. 7 (FRC), 6 at Belle River, 5 at Montague, 11 at Bonshaw, & 2 at Donagh on GBBC, 2 at Winsloe South on Feb. 20 (DEJ); **Lapland Longspur** - 4 at Brackley on Feb. 11 (DC&ES), 1 at Wellington Station with 47 Snow Bunting on Feb. 15 (BHa), 2 at Locke Shore Road on Feb. 16 (G&SF), 1 on Feb. 17 (LH); **Snow Bunting** - 20 at Blooming Point on Dec. 1 (CJL), ~30 at Sherbrooke on Dec. 5 (JDM, LY, TG), 150 at Beaton's Point on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 12 at Wood Islands on Dec. 13 (DCS, DO), 200 at Cherry Valley on Jan. 2 (JDM), large numbers at Cable Head and Norway in late Jan. (DO), 7 at Panmure Island on Feb. 6 (DO), 30 at Union Road on Feb. 11 (JtR), ~30 at Union Road on Feb. 11 (SG), ~25 at Kingston on Feb. 14 (RA); **Northern Cardinal** - male at ?? On Jan. 1 (CBC Compass posting from MP via SN), 1 at two Montague feeders (DK); **Red-winged Blackbird** - 1 at West Royalty feeder on Dec. 30-1 (DCS), 20 at Wood Islands on Jan. 27 (GS); **Common Grackle** - 6 at Summerside on Dec. 11 & 13 (G&SF), 2 at Monticello on late Nov. & Dec. 12 (GM), 1 at Johnston's River on Donagh Road on Dec. 17 (JDM), 1 at Caledonia on Jan. 20 for most of winter (JHS), 50 at Wood Islands on Jan. 27 (GS), 3 at Charlottetown & 1 at Montague area on GBBC, 1 at Borden on Feb. 21 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Brown-headed Cowbird** - 15 at Dover & 7 at Guernsey Cove on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 12 at Alliston feeder on Jan. 17 & 20 in mid-Feb. (PC via FRC), 5 at Wood Islands on Jan. 27 (GS), 1 at Borden on Feb. 21 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at Bunbury on Feb. 24 (RT); **Baltimore Oriole** - female at

Cameron's Island Banding Station on Oct 27 (DO, WCT), female at Blooming Point on Dec. 9 (CJL), 1 juvenile at Charlottetown feeders on Dec. 15, 18, 19, & 31, Jan. 10 (SGC, DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at Blooming Point on Jan. 10 (DCS, DO, GG, JDM); **Purple Finch** - male at Watervale on Feb. 7 & 21 (ACu); **Pine Grosbeak** - pair at Brudenell on Jan. 7 (BL), male at St. Charles on Feb. 22 (W&SF); **White-winged Crossbill** - 9 at East Point Community on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 45 at Wellington Station & 5 at Tyne Valley area on GBBC, roadside on Rte. 11 at Higgin's Road on Feb. 19 (G&SF); **Hoary Redpoll** - no reports this winter; **Common Redpoll** - almost no reports this winter; **Pine Siskin** - 2 at East Point Community on Dec. 5 (DCS, DO), 1 at Wood Islands on Jan. 27 (GS), 1 at Watervale on Feb. 7 (ACu), 1 at Belle River area on GBBC, ; **American Goldfinch** - 20 at Culloden on Dec. 7 (JHS), 6 at St. Charles on Dec. 7 (W&SF), up to 30 at West Royalty feeders in Dec. (DCS), 50+ at East Point on Jan. 1 (DO), 100+ at Alliston in mid-Feb. (PC via FRC), 100+ at Watervale on Feb. 21 (ACu); **Evening Grosbeak** - 10 at St. Charles on Dec. 7 (W&SF); **House Sparrow** - up to 30 at West Royalty feeders in Dec. (DCS).

**Older reports:** European Goldfinch at East Royalty in Aug., 2009 (photo from Linda Schneider via WFB, EM).

Thanks to the following contributors who provided records for this listing, namely: RA - Ron Arvidson; JB - John Burhoe; JBl - Jean Blanchard; WFB - Bill Bowerbank; ACu - Alma Currie; BCo - Brenda Cobb; EC - Elwood Coakes; FRC - Rosemary Curley; FCh - Fred Cheverie; MC - Michelle Cottreau; PC - Philip Curley; RC - Ray Cooke; SGC - Sharon Clark; JKC - John Clements; FdB - Fiep de Bie; LD - Lois Doan; RLD - Randy Dibblee; VD - Victoria Doan; G&SF - Greg & Sandra Feethan; MF - Maria Forzan; W&SF - Warren & Sherron Foulkes; CGa - Cathleen Gallant; GG - Gary Griffin; SG - Shirley Gallant; TG - Tim Gairns; RH - Rick Hawkins; B&RH - Ben & Rosalie Hoteling; BHa - Bill Hartford; L&JH - Les & Joan Homans; A&PJ - A&P Jenkins; DJ - David Johnston; DEJ - Don Jardine; GK - Glen Kelly; DK - Dan Kennedy; BL - Brian Lundrigan; CJL - Chris Long; WHL - Waldrom Leard; BM - Barry Martin; DGM - Gerald MacDougall; DMacN - Don MacNeil; EM - Evelyn Martin; GM - Gerald MacDonald; KMacN - Kathleen MacNearney; FMcC - Fred McCardle; GMcC - Gail McCourt; JDM - Dan McAskill; A&PM - Arlene & Paul McGuigan; KMcK - Ken McKenna; ADM - Allie McLennan; CMo - Chad Mooney; CMu - Chris Mutch; SN - Sharon Neill; DO - Dwaine Oakley; SP - Shirley Prowse; RP - Roberta Palmer; JR - John Read; JtR - John te Raa; RRA - Rosalyn Ridlington-Abbott; JHR - Jennifer Roma; ASa - Alan Saint; ASm - Ardeth Smith; A&DS - Alma & Don Steeves; CAS - Charlotte Stewart; DC&ES - David & Elaine Seeler; DGS - David Stewart; GS - Gary Schneider; GNS - Greg Stroud (formerly reported as GS); JDS - JD Somers; SCS - Scott Sinclair; JHS - Jim Sutton; SS - Shawn Schofield; WS - Walter (Spud) Stewart; RT - Reg Dutch Thompson; JW - Jackie Waddell; JWa - Jean Watts; WCT - Wildlife Conservation Technology Class; LY - Lorne Yeo.



Purple Sandpiper at East Point

Photo by Dwaine Oakley



## ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR:

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

*Society meetings start at 7:30 PM at the Farm Centre at 420 University Avenue in Charlottetown.*

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

- Mar. 3 - Shorebirds in Decline in the Maritime Shorebird Survey.** Kate Robinson 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
- Mar. 17 - The Aliens are Coming!** Jackie Waddell will talk about some of the invasive alien species found in PEI and some of their impacts on our natural environment. This is part of the Confederation Centre Library series and starts at 7:00 pm.
- Mar. 20 - Moncton Workshop on New Brunswick Butterflies.** Jim Edsall will be Nature Moncton's workshop leader for this workshop which provides lots of natural history on the species and breaks them down into manageable groups so that attendees will know many by name. The workshop will run from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Tankville School, 1665 Elmwood Drive, Moncton, NB. There is a \$10 charge for individuals and \$15 for families. More information is available on line at [www.naturemoncon.org](http://www.naturemoncon.org) Reservations are required so contact Charlotte Johnson at 506-432-6478 or [johnson2@xplornet.com](mailto:johnson2@xplornet.com)
- Mar. 24 - Panel Discussion about Coyotes on PEI.** This PEI Wildlife Federation workshop features Randy Dibblee (Biologist, P.E.I. Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry), Carl Balsor (President, PEI Trappers Association), and Dr. Simon Gadbois (Canid Behaviour Specialist & Professor at Dalhousie University) The meeting will start at 7:00 pm at the Farm Centre.
- Apr. 7 - PEI Butterflies & the Maritimes Butterfly Atlas Project.** John Klymko 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
- April 16 - Island Nature Trust Fund Raising Dinner.** This is one of the core fund raisers for the Trust's land conservation programs. The dinner is lots of fun with prizes, raffles and auctions. A great meal is served by the Delta. Tickets are \$50 and can be obtained through Trust directors or contact Barb at 892-7513.
- April 21 - Wildlife Friendly Gardening.** Jackie Waddell will talk about everything from choosing native plants to avoiding pesticides - make your garden safe and attractive to wildlife - be careful what you wish for in some cases. This is part of the Confederation Centre Library series and starts at 7:00 pm.
- April 22 - Earth Day.**
- May - Birding for Conservation with the Baillie Birdathon.** This birdathon sponsored through Bird Studies Canada allows individuals to combine a fun day of birding with pledge collection. A portion of the funds collected will go to a local conservation group while BSC handles the tax receipts. For more information contact [www.birdscanada.org/support/birdathon](http://www.birdscanada.org/support/birdathon) or contact Kristine Dobney at 1-888-448-2473 or [birdathon@birdscanada.org](mailto:birdathon@birdscanada.org)
- May 5 - Mi'kmaq Confederacy Resource Management Programs.** Randy Angus 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 22 - International Biodiversity Day.**
- May 30 - Bain Bird Count** - The Society has conducted this spring bird count on the last Saturday in May for thirty-two years. Individual 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](mailto:jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca)
- Jun. 2 - Why should Nova Scotia Moose Care About Their Antlers?** Scott McBurney 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

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

Weekly Peak Shorebird Numbers Observed in the PEINP - Brackley During 2009

173 Excursions from April 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009

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Month	April		May				June					July				August					September				October				November				
Species	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	31 <sup>1</sup>	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	
AMGP						2																3											
BBPL	1		1	21	71	64	19	8	12	27	16		4	17	31	125	221	129	93	23	64	54	82	99	87	53	48	15	19	15	2		
SEPL					11	1									4	111	241	108	201	15	96	53	41	15	12	1							
KILL																																	
WISN																																	
SBDO						6	2			3	10	27	31	31	113	144	101	59	30		13	11	17	1	1								
LBDO																			1			1											
HUGO												1	2	1		2	3	10	2	1		1					2	2		1	1	1	
WHIM													2		1	1	1		24		1												
GRYE	6	13	36	47	37	8		2				10	16	42	66	93	129	72	59	36	73	66	49	11	17	25	7	15	2				
WILL			6	15	11	17	11	12	19	19	27	26	9	27	21	17	7	6	12	1	2	2	1										
LEYE			4	1	3	1						5	2	27	74	68	109	114	113	6	20	26	16	1	1								
RUTU						3	2							2	38	39	24	18	9		5	7	2	1	1								
REKN						6		1	2						1	6	1		9		9	50	37	89	4	11	58	3	62	5	18		
SAND																			8		1	29	5	124	62	47	12	22	4	21			
SESA				39	2			2					6	16	120	106	160	213	405	40	413	29	114	96	172	91	83	17	1				
LESA			143	44	12					1		1	3	33	24	164	126	23	5	30	1	5		4									
WRSA																	10	8								7	19	1		1			
BASA																	1									1							
PESA																		1		1		6	1	1									
DUNL	2			13	31	1																37	248	311	124	153	156	76	118	6			
WIPH																1						1											
SPSA				1																													
STSA																						1											