



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 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 PE C1A 8C1 (phone 368-1224). Annual membership is \$20 and renewals are due in January. Multi-year renewals are \$20 per year for which you wish to renew. Membership expiry dates are shown in the top right hand corner of the mailing label or by a notice provided to those receiving electronic newsletters.

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

2012 Executive:

PresidentIan Scott, Charlottetown 892-5796 scotts@pei.sympatico.ca
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NEWSLETTERS are normally published quarterly and are available in Acrobat Reader colour format via E-mail or in black & white 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, 368 Brazel Road, Donagh, P.E.I. C1B 0T9 or via E-mail to jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca The *next deadline* for articles, sightings, or other newsletter information is *December 5, 2012*.

Illustrations/Pictures: The Society extends a special thanks to Bill Bowerbank, Greg Feetham, Father Frank Jay, Paulette Kelly, and Doug Murray for their photographs in this issue.

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: www.NaturePEI.ca

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.

Cover Illustration:

The Monarch butterfly larvae seen here feeding on a swamp milkweed in Suffolk, PEI was photographed by Paulette Kelly on July 23rd, 2012. Monarch butterflies are very strong flyers and can migrate considerable distances. Using three to four generations of offspring during a year, the species leapfrogs from its Mexico, Baja California, or central California wintering grounds to move northward to Canada. The last generation of Monarchs each year lives longer and returns southward back to its wintering grounds.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS:

The Society has been one of the leaders in responding to the original plan to modify the Trans-Canada Highway to Strathgartney which would have put the road through a portion of the Strathgartney Provincial Park and a designated natural area. The public outcry led to the announcement of “Plan B” which also caused an outcry as this new route will also have a significant impact on various habitats including streams, old hemlock, tolerant hardwood forest, and other habitats. On August 10th, the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the New Haven - Bonshaw Realignment of the Trans-Canada Highway was released. Despite a very short review period, the Society’s Executive reviewed the report. It found that the report was deficient in a number of areas and sent an e-mail identifying a number of these deficiencies.

In September, the Society sent a letter of support for a PromoScience funding application titled Mobile Island Ecology for UPEI to provide hands on learning experiences for PEI youth. The project promotes an understanding of ecology, software engineering, information science and the scientific method. One of the outcomes will be the availability of plant and animal images for developing lesson plans in schools and for the public. Another is the collection and storage of images of plants and animals collected via cell phones, cameras, and other devices with location and time attached to the image so that things like distribution maps for various species can be compiled.

In August, Susan Whitaker advised the Board that, with great and genuine regret, she was submitting her resignation as the Society’s Treasurer due to major new assignments at work and pressing family needs. She indicated that she would like to offer assistance to the Society once the circumstances change.

On Sept. 9th, 15 people assembled for a Society birding trip led by Ron Arvidson. They discovered 38 species on the outing which covered 120 km and included Wharf Road in Nine Mile Creek, Inman Park, DeSable, Victoria, Borden Lagoons and Noonan's Marsh and Carleton Cove. It ran from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The highlights included Red Knot, Wood Duck, Northern Shovelers, Lesser Scaup, Killdeer, Ruddy Turnstone, and Caspian Tern.

As part of the Membership Committee’s initiatives, work is underway on the redevelopment of the Society’s brochure. Barb MacDonald is leading this initiative which will be completed this autumn.

PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE ON PEI:

Recommendation # 2 of the Report of the Commission of Land and Local Governance was the creation of a new conservation strategy for Prince Edward Island. The Environmental Advisory Council was assigned the task of developing an engagement document to solicit public ideas and suggestions from the public for consideration by the Minister. Thus, on August 10th, 2012, *Planning for a Sustainable Future: A Time for Questions* was released jointly by Environment, Labour and Justice Minister Janice Sherry and Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs Minister Wes Sheridan via a press release announcing the appointment of the Land Use Planning Task Force members, namely: Janice Harper (Charlottetown), Carol Horne (Charlottetown), Paul Gallant (Souris West), Marvyn Webster (Kelvin Grove) and John Handrahan (Tignish) who will serve as Chair. During the coming months, the Environmental Advisory Council and the Task Force will collaborate on a number of the consultation activities. The two groups will then recommend sustainable land use policies to government.

If you are concerned about nature, what needs to be done to achieve sustainable use, protection or management of our natural resources, and the future of land use planning on PEI, you should review the “*Planning for a Sustainable Future: A Time for Questions*”. The Sustainable Future website is now open at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/susfuture.pdf> You can now contribute your thoughts on what is needed for a sustainable future on the Island and how it can be achieved now via E-mail, an on line automated form, or mail (see page 2 of the Foundation Document). The Task Force will announce other venues for discussion at a later date.

The more information on the Land and Local Governance initiatives, please visit www.gov.pe.ca/landandlocalgovernance

JULY BIG DAY ON PEI:

by David Seeler, Ray Cooke, and Dan McAskill

On July 14 , 2012, David Seeler, Ray Cooke, and Dan McAskill got together for a big day birding event. David had noted that there was no July records posted by the American Birding Association for Prince Edward Island and it took little more for a team to be assembled. Thus, about ½ hour before midnight, we were off to start on our birding adventure beginning at midnight on the White Road in Donagh/Watervale. Some 21 hours later, we finished our birding day. It was dusk and the time was precisely 21:05 hours,

Fortunately, the day remained cloudy most of day which extended our hours of good woodland birding a lot. During the wee hours of the day, there were intermittent thunder showers between Auburn and Rollo Bay. The first real rain in weeks. During the day, we drove 365.3 km and walked about 1.5 km. By day's end, we had recorded 113 species seen or heard. To match the official ABA rules on 95% of the birds being recorded by all the observers present, we had to drop 1 species from the ABA list.

We commenced at the White Road in Donagh and proceeded via many stops to East Point. We then headed southwest to Lake Verde and finished our day at Hyde Park Pond in Cornwall. The species we seen are listed below with those bolded being considered nice sightings for the time of year.

Canada Goose	Sora	Hummingbird	Black-and-White Warbler
Wood Duck	Black-bellied Plover	Belted Kingfisher	Mourning Warbler
Gadwall	Piping Plover (Savage Harbour)	Hairy Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat
American Wigeon	Killdeer	Northern Flicker	American Redstart
American Black Duck	Spotted Sandpiper	Pileated Woodpecker (1)	Cape May Warbler
Mallard	Greater Yellowlegs	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Northern Parula
Blue-winged Teal	Willet	Eastern Wood Peewee	Magnolia Warbler
Northern Pintail	Lesser Yellowlegs	Alder Flycatcher	Blackburnian Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Upland Sandpiper	Least Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Eastern Kingbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Greater Scaup	Least Sandpiper	Blue-headed (Solitary)	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Common Eider	White-rumped Sandpiper	Vireo	Black-throated Green Warbler
Black Scoter	(1)	Red-eyed Vireo	Canada Warbler
Red-breasted Merganser	Short-billed Dowitcher	Blue Jay	Savannah Sparrow
Ruddy Duck (three at Allisary Creek Impoundment)	Wilson's Snipe	American Crow	Nelson's Sparrow
Common Loon (pair) at Lake Verde	American Woodcock	Common Raven	Song Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Bonaparte's Gull	Tree Swallow	Lincoln's Sparrow
Leach's Storm-Petrel (2)	Ring-billed Gull	Bank Swallow	Swamp Sparrow
Northern Gannet (~500 almost all adults)	Herring Gull	Barn Swallow	White-throated Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Great Black-backed Gull	Black-capped Chickadee	Dark-eyed Junco
Great Cormorant	Common Tern	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Great Blue Heron	Razorbill (3)	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Bobolink
Osprey	Rock Pigeon	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Red-winged Blackbird
Bald Eagle	Mourning Dove	Veery	Common Grackle
Northern Harrier	Swainson's Thrush	Hermit Thrush	Purple Finch
American Kestrel	Great Horned Owl (2)	American Robin	White-winged Crossbill
Merlin	Barred Owl	Gray Catbird	American Goldfinch
	Long-eared Owl (1)	European Starling	House Sparrow
	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Cedar Waxwing	
	Common Nighthawk	Ovenbird	
	Ruby-throated		

It was Ray's eagle eyes that picked out an Upland Sandpiper amidst the Anderson Road blueberry fields at a distance of at least several hundred metres. We seen fresh Pileated Woodpecker boring holes at the New Harmony Demonstration Woodlot then heard and later glimpsed it. The Leach's Storm-Petrels and Razorbills were found relatively close to the shore at East Point.

While we somewhat fatigued by day's end, we had a lot of fun and were lucky enough to pick up some great birds.

STRATFORD TRAIL EXPANDED:

By Doug Murray

In August, the Town of Stratford started work on a new section of walking trail in August and it is planned to be finished in September. This will expand recreation opportunities in Stratford.

The provincial tender for a new section of the Confederation Trail closed on Sept. 12.



Photo by Doug Murray

OPPORTUNISTIC WOODPECKERS:

By Doug Murray

We noticed some unusual activity on a suet log in the backyard in mid-July and into August even though I had stopped filling it with suet when the weather turned warm. I had neglected to take it down and, although the birds had completely cleaned out the suet, Downy Woodpeckers were using it for another purpose. At least a couple of pair reside nearby. They visit our feeders year-round and we had noticed in years past that they have particular places in our backyard Butternut tree where they transport black oil sunflower seeds to open the shells. The suet log is adjacent to a seed feeder and the parent birds this year changed their pattern. The drilled holes in the log were a perfect place to wedge the shells for opening. An offspring waited on the log while a parent hopped back and forth delivering, opening and feeding them lunch. We had a perfect viewpoint from our elevated deck.

NEWS FROM ABOUT:

Compiled by Dan McAskill

Despite the great and passionate work of staff and volunteers, 2012 was a tough year for PEI's Piping Plovers. The Island Nature Trust's census showed that only 55 adults returned, down from 67 last year and the high of 112 in 2000. The spring high tides did more damage than normal and predation, especially by skunks, of eggs was high. Hopefully next year will bring more success. (Adapted from PEI Piping Plovers in 2012, Island Nature Trust Update #118 p. 5)

The Nature Conservancy of Canada held a clean up with 34 Conservation Volunteers on August 16th on Governor's Island. The volunteers helped erect a sign visible from the north-east point of the island, construct a fence around an old well on the western end, clean out two old camper trailers, and pick up all the marine debris scattered around the Island's beaches. PEI's Departments of Agriculture and Forestry and Environment, Labour and Justice staff were instrumental in boating volunteers to and from Governor's Island through Hillsborough Bay's choppy waters. (Shawna Wallace, NCC Conservation Volunteer Coordinator - New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island E-mail).

In recent years, it was estimated that house cats preyed about a billion birds and other animals each year. Thanks to a recent study by scientists from the University of Georgia and the National Geographic Society's Crittercam program, the predation of house cats foraging around their homes revealed the numbers were much higher than previously estimated. The house cats in the study were equipped with special video cameras around their necks so that the researchers could see their outside behaviour. Almost one-third of the cats in the study succeeded in capturing and killing animals. While on average they killed 2.1 animals per week they were outside, they brought home less than one of every four of their kills and birds represented roughly 13% of the wildlife killed. The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) estimates that cats are likely killing more than 4 billion animals per year in the U.S., including at least 500 million birds. (Adapted from Bird Studies Canada Latest News August 6, 2012)

Supported by Environment Canada's Environmental Damages Fund, Bird Studies Canada's Atlantic Region conducted two programs this year. They will be working in partnership with the Kennebecasis Naturalist Club and the Town of Sussex, NB, by expanding on previous Chimney Swift-watching events and by training community members to identify, monitor, and maintain important urban habitat for this species. In Nova Scotia, BSC staff will offer workshops and mentor community members to build local knowledge of coastal bird populations, habitats, site-specific threats, and conservation priorities. In addition, they will train Caretakers to identify, assess, and mitigate threats to coastal migratory birds and habitats in IBAs. (Adapted from Bird Studies Canada Latest News Sept. 7 2012)

WEATHER EVENTS:

Rainfall was very low this spring and summer with only 74.5 mm at Charlottetown in June and July combined. For the first time in years, a fire ban was put in place in July prohibiting even campfires for 6 days. The total precipitation amounts were 94.9 mm in April, 65.9 mm in May with 29.2 mm on the 9th and 15.2 mm on the 30th, 35.7 mm in June, 38.8 mm in July with 22 mm on the 24th, and 65.6 mm in August with 39 mm on the 16th. September 5th brought 62 mm of rain followed by dry weather then a cold front came in on the 9th and tropical storm Leslie arrived off Nova Scotia on the 10th and deposited another 97.6 mm. These numbers compare to the 1971 to 2000 30 year monthly averages of 87.8 mm in April, 97.7 mm in May, 93.2 mm in June, 85.8 mm in July, 87.3 mm in August and 95.4 mm in September.

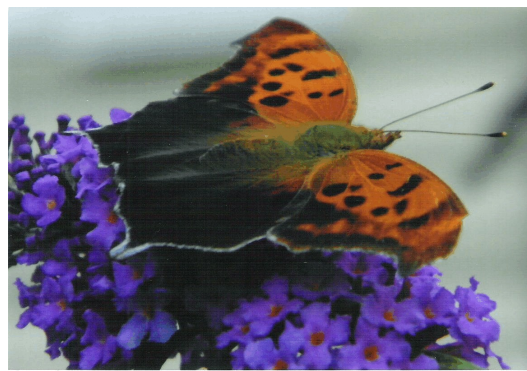
The Island received a deluge of rain on Sept. 5th with from 38 mm to 104 mm being recorded at various rain gauge stations (CBC Morning Show). More heavy rains came on the September 19th to 23rd.

ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:

Compiled by J. Dan McAskill

PLANTS: **Foxglove** flowering at Donagh on Jul. 24 (JDM). **Spotted touch-me-knot**, **pearly everlasting**, **New York aster** & **Joe Pye weed** in flower and **pin cherry** ripe at Vernon River on Jul. 28 (JDM). On Jul. 31 **Hydrangea** was in flower at Donagh (JDM). **Wild cucumber** in flower at Summerside on Aug. 1 and along field edges on the Blue Shank Road on Aug. 10 (JDM, DO). **Meadow mushroom** flush at Donagh and Watervale on Aug. 20 (JDM) and a heavy flush on the Donagh Road in Johnston's River and Donagh on Sept. 10th (JDM) and at several fields in Argyle Shore on Sept. 10th (LY). **Blackberries** ripe at Springvale on Aug. 18 (SW). First Red Maple partially turned red near Dunk River on Sep. 8 (LY, JDM). By Sept. 15, scattered **red maple** were starting to turn red and most **goldenrods** were going to seed (JDM). The first **Boletus** mushrooms were present at Donagh on Sept. 20 and fly agaric was seen at Bedeque on Sept. 22 (JDM). Horse chestnut leaves turning brown at Crapaud on Sept. 22 (JDM).

INSECTS: **Question Mark** photographed on butterfly bush at River View Estates in Charlottetown on Jul. 22 (WFB, EM); **Monarch** larvae on swamp milkweed at Suffolk on Jul. 23 and a **Painted Lady** butterfly adult on hawkweed on Aug. 19 (P&DK). Dozens of **Painted Lady** and a few **American Lady** butterflies at Point Prim as well as two **Monarch** adults coming into Point Prim from Northumberland Strait on Aug. 25 (JDM). Two reported at Argyle Shore in Sept. (DMa).



Question Mark butterfly at River View Estates
Photo by Bill Bowerbank

AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES: **Garter snake** on gravel at Donagh (JDM).

MAMMALS: 4 dead young **raccoon** on Donagh Road in 1 km on Aug. 30 (JDM). **Coyotes** following flail mower and picking up animals in blueberry fields near Culloden in late autumn of 2011 (TM).

BIRDS: Snow Goose - 1 flying with 12 Canada Geese at Desable on Sept. 1 (JDM, LY); **Canada Geese** - 20 flying at Desable on Sept. 1 (JDM, LY), 125 at Dunk River estuary on Sept 2 (LY), hundreds in air at Bethel on Sept. 19th (JDM), ~500 in a grainfield at Wilmot (JDM, LY); **Wood Ducks** - 3 males at Alberton Lagoon on Aug. 1 (DO, JDM), 1 at Borden Lagoons on Sept. 9 (RA); **Gadwall** - broods present at Alberton lagoon on Aug. 1 (DO, JDM); **American Black Duck** - ~40 at Wilmot River on Sept. 12 (LY, JDM); **Northern Shoveler** - 3 at Borden Lagoons on Sept. 9 (RA); **Green-winged Teal** - 10 at Traveller's Rest pond on Sept. 16 (JDM); **Lesser Scaup** - 1 at Borden Lagoons on Sept. 9 (RA); **Hooded Merganser** - 1 seen during air boat surveys at Allisary Creek Impoundment on Sept. 12 (BPD); **Hooded Merganser** - 1 seen during air boat surveys at Allisary Creek Impoundment on Sept. 12 (BPD); **Ruddy Duck** - seen during air boat surveys at Allisary Creek Impoundment on Sept. 12 (BPD); **Gray Partridge** - 20 roadside at Desable on Sept. 1 (JDM); **Ring-necked Pheasant** - 5 young pheasant (3/4 adult size) on Donagh Road in late August (JDM, LY) and singles seen on Donagh Road in early Sept. (JDM); **Ruffed Grouse** - 1 on deck at Donagh on Aug. 26 & in tree in Donagh on Sept. 21 (JDM); **Sharp-tailed Grouse** - 3 adults and 5 young at St. Margaret's on Aug. 21



Great Egret at Savage Harbour
Photo by Greg Feetham

(W&SF); **Double-crested Cormorant** - ~250 at Alberton Harbour on Aug. 1 (DO, JDM), 3 on light standards at Wilmot River on Sept. 1 (LY, JDM); **Great Egret** - 1 at Savage Harbour on Aug. 1 (ADM) & 1 on Aug. 2 (JDM, FdB, FFJ, DO, AC) and seen by fishermen for at least 2 week before that, 1 photographed roosting in white spruce at Savage Harbour on Aug. 8 (G&SF), 1 at Fullerton's Creek estuary on Aug. 11 (MKe), 1 at Savage Harbour on Sept. 7 (via JW); **Osprey** - 1 at Alberton Harbour on Aug. 1 (JDM, DO), 1 at Savage Harbour on Aug. 26 (JDM); **Bald Eagle** - 2 immatures at Alberton, an immature at Norboro and an adult at Hazelgrove on Aug. 1 (DO, JDM); **Northern Harrier** - 1 at Kildare River on Aug. 1 (DO, JDM), female at Donagh on Aug. 8 (JDM), 1 at Crapaud on Sept. 12 (JDM), male at Albany on Sept. 22 (JDM); **Red-tailed Hawk** - 1 at Springvale on Jul. 30 (JDM),

1 soaring at Lord Selkirk Park on Aug. 25 (LY, JDM), 1 at Traveller's Rest on Sept. 8 (JDM, LY), 1 at Clyde River on Sept. 15 (JDM); **American Kestrel** - 1 at Victoria on Jul. 15 (BCI), 1 at Cascumpec on Aug. 1 (DO, JDM), 1 at Hampton on Sept. 8 (JDM, LY), 1 at Johnston's River on Sept. 8 (JDM), 1 on electric wires at Donagh on Sept. 23 (JDM); **Merlin** - 2 swooping at each other over fields at Desable on Sept. 1 (JDM, LY), 1 at Sherwood on Sept. 15 (JDM); **Black-bellied Plover** - 8 at Kildare River sandbar on Aug. 1 (DO, JDM), 20 at Tea Hill Park on Aug. 4 (FdB), 12 few km east of Chelton Beach Park on Aug. 17 (PMA), 12 at Carleton Cove on Sept. 11 & 16 on Sept. 19 (DMA); **Semipalmated Plover** - 20 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 9 (FdB, MK), 40+ at Tea Hill Park on Aug. 4 (FdB), numerous at Carleton Cove on Sept. 11 (DMA), 10 at Savage Harbour beach along wrack line on Sept. 9 (JDM), ~10 at North Rustico beach on Sept. 15 (FdB), 100 at Borden Carleton on Sept. 19 (DMA); **Piping Plover** - 1 at North Rustico beach on Sept. 15 (FdB); **Killdeer** - 1 at Noonan's Marsh on Sept. 9 (RA); **Black-backed Stilt** - 2 reported at Kildare River near bridge on Aug. 1 (RV via GSa); **Peeps** - ~200 at Alberton Harbour on Aug. 1 (DO, JDM), present a marsh at Chelton Beach Park on Aug. 17 (PMA), ~150 flying over fields at Middleton on Sept. 22 (JDM); **Spotted Sandpiper** - 2 juveniles and 2 adults at Hillsborough River at Mason Road on Aug. 4 (FdB); **Solitary Sandpiper** - 1 heard at Union - Black River Road intersection on Aug. 5 (DO, JeRo); **Greater Yellowlegs** - many at Pisquid River on Aug. 2 (FdB), a few at Hillsborough River at Mason Road & Tea Hill Park on Aug. 4 (FdB), present at marsh at Chelton Beach Park on Aug. 17 (PMA), few at Hillsborough River at Mason Road & Tea Hill on Aug. 4 (FdB), 22 at Carleton Cove on Sept. 11 & 30 Greater & Lessers on Sept. 19 (DMA); **Willet** - 8 at Grand River on Jul. 29 (DMA), 1 at Hillsborough River at Mason Road on Aug. 4 (FdB), 5 at southern Malpeque Bay east of Lockeshore Road on Sept. 12 (ED); **Lesser Yellowlegs** - 4 at Grand River on Jul. 29 (DMA), 12 at Kildare River & 2 at Alberton lagoon on Aug. 1 (DO, JDM), 1 at Tea Hill on Aug. 4 (FdB), 1 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 9 (FdB, MK), present at marsh at Chelton Beach Park on Aug. 17 (PMA), 8 at Carleton Cove on Sept. 11 & present on Sept. 19 (DMA); **Whimbrel** - 12+ at Kildare River sandbar on Aug. 1 along with 100+ peeps (DO, JDM); **Hudsonian Godwit** - 5 at Locke Shore Road Malpeque Bay on Aug. 1 (LH, G&SF); **Ruddy Turnstone** - 1 in the Victoria/Desable area on Jul. 29 (RA), 10 few km east of Chelton Beach Park on Aug.

17 (PMA), 2 at Inman Park in Canoe Cove & 1 in Desable on Sept. 9 (RA), 1 at North Rustico beach on Sept. 15 (FdB); **Red Knot** - 2 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 9 (FdB, MK), 24 a few km east of Chelton Beach Park on Aug. 17 (PMA), 11 at Carleton Cove on Sept. 9 (RA), 52 on Sept. 11 & 7 on Sept. 19 (DMA); **Dunlin** - 3 at Borden Carleton on Sept. 19 (DMA); **Sanderling** - 10 at Savage Harbour beach along wrack line on Sept. 9 (JDM), 20 at North Rustico beach on Sept. 15 (FdB), 60 at Borden Carleton on Sept. 19 (DMA); **Semipalmated Sandpiper** - 20 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 9 (FdB, MK), 40+ at Tea Hill on Aug. 4 (FdB), 60 a few km east of Chelton Beach Park on Aug. 17 (PMA), 5 at North Rustico beach on Sept. 15 (FdB), 36 at Borden Carleton on Sept. 19 (DMA); **Least Sandpiper** - 30 a few km east of Chelton Beach Park on Aug. 17 (PMA); **White-rumped Sandpiper** - 2 a few km east of Chelton Beach Park on Aug. 17 (PMA); **Short-billed Dowitcher** - several at Kildare River sandbar on Aug. 1 (DO, JDM), 2 at Borden Carleton on Sept. 19 (DMA); **Long-billed Dowitcher** - 1 at Borden Carleton on Sept. 19 (DMA); **Bonaparte's Gull** - 12 at Kildare River and ~25 at Alberton lagoon on Aug. 1 (DO, JDM), dozens hawking insects at Wilmot River & Charlottetown on Sept. 8 (JDM, LY); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** - 1 at St. Eleanor's Lagoon on Sept. 17 (RAR); **Little Gull** - 1 adult with Bonaparte's Gulls at Little Harbour Beach on Sept. 2 (DO, DCS); **Ring-billed Gull** - large flocks hawking insects and in fields at Mount Herbert and Bunberry on Aug. 18 (JDM) and at Wilmot River on Sept. 8 (JDM, LY); **Herring Gull** - Charlottetown Harbour Authority using a person at night to scare off gulls from the wharf to minimize the droppings of the gulls because of complaints from some cruise ship visitors to Charlottetown (CBC News Story); **Caspian Tern** - 1 fishing off Savage Harbour on Jul. 29 & Sept. 9 (JDM), 2 at Desable on Sept. 9 (RA), 2 at Shaw's Beach with a flock of Common Tern in Brackley on Sept. 25 (KMacA); **Common Tern** - 30+ at southern Malpeque Bay east of Lockshore Road on Sept. 12 (ED); **Arctic Tern** - 3 at Gunning Shore on Malpeque Bay on Aug. 1 (LH, G&SF); **Mourning Dove** - good numbers this summer in Central PEI (JDM); **Common Nighthawk** - 1 at Bellevue Pond in late Aug. (TM); **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** - 2 at Savage Harbour in Jul. & Aug. (JDM), 1 at Crossroads on Sept. 3 (DMu), an all white hummingbird was seen at Suffolk the week of Aug 31 (GD&CC), another whitish hummingbird at Alexander on Sept. 8 (DCS), and 1 white hummingbird in northeastern PEI on ~Sept. 8th for 2 days (BCB), 1 normal coloured individual at Savage Harbour feeders on Sept. 9 (JDM); **Belted Kingfisher** - 2 along Hillsborough River at Stratford (Mason Road) on July 28 (AW); **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - 1 immature at Clyde Road on Aug. 4 (FFJ), 1 immature at Vernon River feeders on Sept. 3 (DK); **Northern Flicker** - 2 roadside at Central Kildare on Aug. 1 (DO, JDM); **Olive-sided Flycatcher** - 1 at South Melville on Jul. 31 (RA); **Alder Flycatcher** - 1 at Vernon River on Jul. 28 (JDM); **Great Crested Flycatcher** - 1 reported in Portage area and 1 at French Village area in late spring 2012 (via JDM); **Eastern Kingbird** - 1 at Johnston's River WMA in Donagh on Jul. 28 and early August (JDM); **American Crow** - dipping bread in bird bath at Cornwall on Aug. 1 (DD); **Gray Jay** - 2 at Crowbush Golf Course on Sept. 2 (ADM); **Barn Swallow** - 2 at Kildare River on Aug. 1 (DO, JDM); **Brown Creeper** - adult feeding a young in a butternut tree at Stratford on Aug. 14 (DMu); **Carolina Wren** - 1 at Green Gable Alpacas at Birch Hill on Aug. 12 (via RA); **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** - 1 at East Point on Sept. 2 (DO, DCS); **American Robin** - an almost all white robin (leucistic) was seen at West Covehead the week of Sept. 4 (C&PF); **European Starling** - ~300 near junction Rattenbury Road and Route 2 on Sept. 16 (JDM); **Cedar Waxwing** - plentiful this summer in Central and Eastern PEI (JDM), one struck window at Coran Ban on Aug. 1 (VM); **Black-and-white Warbler** - 1 at Robinson's Island on Sept. 25 (KMacA); **Tennessee Warbler** - 1 at East Point on Sept. 2 (DO, DCS); **Magnolia Warbler** - at Brookvale Ski Park on Sept. 2 (FdB); **Blackburnian Warbler** - 1 at Brookvale Ski Park on Sept. 2 (FdB); **Black-throated Green Warbler** - at Brookvale Ski Park on Sept. 2 (FdB); **Palm Warbler** - 1 at Robinson's Island on Sept. 25 (KMacA); **Wilson's Warbler** - 1 at East Lake on Sept. 2 (DO, DCS); **Song Sparrow** - 2 periodically at Donagh feeders in Aug & Sept. (JDM); **Swamp Sparrow** - 2 recently fledged young at Grand River on Jul. 29 (DMA), at Noonan's Marsh on Sept. 9 (RA); **Dark-eyed Junco** - 12 at Donagh feeders on Sept. 2 (JDM); **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** - 1 immature at Mont Carmel on Aug. 11 (DMA), 2 immature at Crossroads on Sept. 3 (DMu); **Dickcissel** - female photographed at Cape Egmont on Jul. 27-30 & heard on Aug. 3 and seen on Aug. 15 (WGH); **Yellow-headed Blackbird** - 2 seen at Covehead on Sept. 25 (DC&ES); **Purple Finch** - many at Vernon River feeders & bird bath on Sept. 3 (DK); **American Goldfinch** - many at Vernon River feeders and bird bath on Sept. 3 (DK); **Evening Grosbeak** - immature at Vernon River feeder, first since Jan. 2009 (DK); **House Sparrow** - ~20 at Summerside feeders on Sept. 8 (JDM, LY, BSo).

Correction: The Wilson's Storm-Petrel reported on July 14 in the last issue was a Leach's Storm-Petrel

Thanks to the following contributors who provided records for this listing, namely:

Thanks to the following contributors who provided records for this listing, namely: AA - Anne Arvidson; RA - Ron Arvidson; RAr - Ron Arsenault; WFB - Bill Bowerbank; AC - Alma Currie; BCl - Barb Clement; BCo - Brenda Cobb; BCB - Boneta Carter-Bruce; FRC - Rosemary Curley; GD&CC - George & Charlene Coade; SGC - Sharon Clark; FdB - Fiep de Bie; DD - Daphne Davies; ED - Ella Donovan; C&PF - Clarice & Phil Fraser; G&SF - Greg & Sandra Feethan; W&SF - Warren & Sherron Foulkes; GGr - Garry Gregory; BH - Ben Hoteling; WGH (formerly BHa) - Bill Hartford; L&JH - Les & Joan Homans; FFJ - Father Frank Jay; DK - Dan Kennedy; JK - John Klymko; MK - Meika Keunecke; MKe - Mark Keizer; P&DK - Paulette & Donnie Kelly; ADM - Allie McLennan; DMA - Donna Martin; DMu - Doug Murry; EM - Evelyn Martin; JDM - Dan McAskil; KMacA - Kathleen MacAulay; PMa - Paul Mackenzie; REM - Rosanne MacFarlane; TM - Tom Matheson; VM - Vince MacIntyre; DO - Dwaine Oakley; BDP - Brad Potter; JeRo - Jennifer Roma; BSo - Ben Sonier; DC&ES - David & Elaine Seeler; GSa - Glenn Saunders; IS - Ian Scott; RV - Ron Valentine; AW - Anne Wootton; JW - Jackie Waddell; SW - Sue Whitaker; LY - Lorne Yeo.

DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR BENNETT AUTUMN BIRDING CLASSIC FUND RAISER:

The Island Nature Trust and the Natural History Society are again partnering for the 17th year to deliver the Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic bird count fund raiser on September 29-30, 2012. The funds raised will support land acquisition and management by the Island Nature Trust. In the past 16 years, over \$19,000 has been donated and the majority of these funds have had matching fund grants multiply the effect of these generous donations. In addition to the fund raising element, the Natural History Society publishes the bird data so that we gain further insights into fall migration of birds during the late September early October period.

This year, there will be five teams exploring the Island's forests, fields, bays, marshes and headlands in search of birds. The Society's team is Dwaine Oakley, Ray Cooke and Dan McAskil; Team Dodo consists of Jackie Waddell, Linda Thomas, Kristina Ivkov, and Sue Foster; Me and My Peeps is Shannon Mader, Shirley Gallant, Julie-Lynn Zahavich and Emily Mutch; Birding on PEI has Ron Arvidson, Jean Blanchard, Ian Scott and Donna Martin; and PEINP has Frances Gertech and Paul Giroux.

You can help by making a donation to the Island Nature Trust at P.O. Box 265, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7K4 or by contacting the Trust at 892-7513. Feel free to identify the team to whom you wish make a donation.



Painted Lady butterfly at Suffolk PE
on cone flower Aug. 2012
Photo by Paulette Kelly



Great Egret in Savage Harbour Bay on Aug. 8, 2012
Photo by Father Frank Jay

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

- Sept. 29th The Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic** - This fun birding event collects valuable information on bird migration movements and raises funds for the Island Nature Trusts land protection and acquisition programs. For information on forming a team, check out the information on the Trust's website at www.islandnaturetrust.ca Donations can be sent to the Island Nature Trust at P.O. Box 265, Charlottetown PE C1A 7K4 or via telephone to 902-892-7513.
- Oct. 2nd - Are Beavers Native to PEI?** Rosemary Curley will be the guest speaker for the Society's first presentation of the autumn. Meeting starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, 420 University Ave., Charlottetown. YN
- Oct. 17 - Crows, Ravens and Jays.** How and why are these species treated differently. Are they protected or not? Jackie Waddell will illustrate the discussion with some great slides and hopefully some noise. This presentation is part of the Confederation Library Nature Series and will start at the library at 7:00 PM
- Oct. 23-5 - Atlantic Society of Fish & Wildlife Biologists Meeting.** This meeting will feature presentations from professionals in the field of wildlife biology and students. The meeting will be held at the Rodd Charlottetown Hotel. More information will be available from the Island Nature Trust in early October or the ASFWB website.
- Oct. 23 - The Prospect of Development: The Pursuit of a Second National Park on Prince Edward Island.** Dr. Ed MacDonald will give a work in progress on his research on this topic. This is the first of a six part, free lecture series co-hosted by Parks Canada and UPEI's Department of History in celebration of PEI National Park's 75th Anniversary. It runs on consecutive Tuesdays. These presentations will be held at the KC Irving Lecture Hall (Room 104) at UPEI starting at 7:00 PM. For more information on this series contact 902-672-6350.
- Oct. 30 - Early Glimpses of Natural and Human History at Greenwich.** Dr. David Keenlyside will be providing his presentation as part of PEI National Park's 75th Anniversary Celebration. The presentation will be held at the KC Irving Lecture Hall (Room 104) at UPEI starting at 7:00 PM.
- Oct. 31st - 2012 Experience Canadian Heritage Rivers photo contest** - The Canadian Heritage River System and Canoeroots & Family Camping magazine are sponsoring an online photo contest featuring activities on Canadian Heritage Rivers. The Island has two designated Canadian Heritage River Systems, the Hillsborough River and Three Rivers. Winning photographs will be published online and in Canoeroots Magazine and will tour across Canada in the Reel Paddling Film Festival. Contest details are available at <http://www.canoerootsmag.com/chrsphotocontest/>
- Nov. 6th - Changing the Conversation About our Changing Climate.** Jocelyn Plourde will be the Society's guest speaker. Meeting starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, 420 University Ave., Charlottetown. YN
- Nov. 13th - The Changing Coastline of PEI National Park.** Dr. Donald Forbes will be providing this presentation as part of PEI National Park's 75th Anniversary Celebration. The presentation will be held at the KC Irving Lecture Hall (Room 104) at UPEI starting at 7:00 PM.
- Dec. 4th - Biodiversity of Insects in PEI Springs.** Kyle Kynsh will be the Society's guest speaker. Meeting starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, 420 University Ave., Charlottetown. YN
- Dec. 14 to Jan. 5** - Each year, many natural history and birding groups participate in **Christmas Bird Counts** (CBCs). These can be registered counts through Audubon and Bird Studies Canada (BSC) or unregistered counts. For registered counts, adults who are not-BSC members must pay a \$5 fee which is used to assist with the preparation of the CBC reports, the critical element for the documentation of bird population trends. There are four Christmas counts on Prince Edward Island, namely, the Prince Edward Island National Park CBC (registered), the Hillsborough CBC (registered), the Montague CBC (unregistered), and the East Point CBC (registered). The Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island coordinates the three registered counts. To participate or obtain more information, contact the Society at jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca