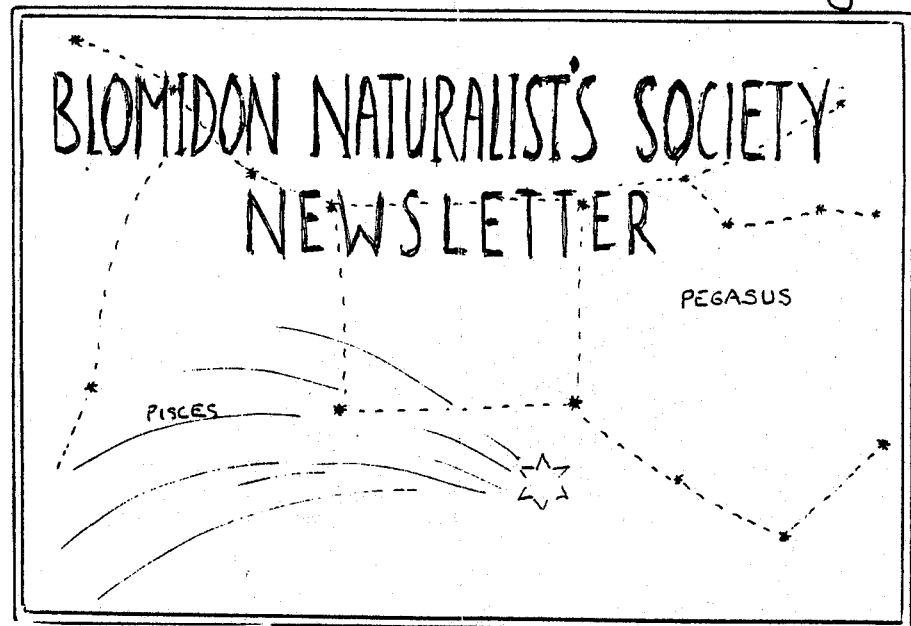


L. Bogan



VOLUME 12
 NUMBER 4
 DECEMBER 1985

The BNS Newsletter is published on equinoxes and solstices.

SOCIETY NEWS

BNS Winter - Early Spring Programme

MONDAY EVENING MEETINGS: All these meetings will start at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in room 244 of the Beveridge Arts Centre at Acadia University.

1. January 20 -- Rick Penny on "Nature Photography". Rick brings expertise to us from the Camera Corner in New Minas.
2. February 17 -- Dr. Graham Daborn will give a talk and show a film, "The Power and the Tide" (20 minutes, made by Hubert Schuurman).
3. March 17 -- Gary Saunders will give a talk on "The Trees of Nova Scotia".
4. April 21 -- Karen Casselman will give an illustrated talk on her recent trip to Scotland, Ireland, and the Hebrides.

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
SOCIETY NEWS	
Winter - Early Spring Programme: Evening Meetings..cover	
Field Trips.....	1
A Gremlin in Our Word Processor.....	1
Acknowledgements.....	1
Conservation.....	3
Halley's Comet Contest.....	15
Jokes for the Young Fry.....	6
SOCIETY BUSINESS	
Audited Financial Statements.....	16
BNS Newsletter Deadline - March 20.....	1
Dues.....	15
Officers and Directors - 1985-1986.....	17
FIELD TRIP REPORTS	
Blomidon Naturalists' Club Foray - Ken Harrison.....	2
BNS Escapades on Ice - Tom Herman.....	5
Canoe Outing Field Trip - Larry Bogan.....	4
NATURE REPORTS	
Bird Nesting Survey - 1985 - Bernard Forsythe.....	9
Icebound House Sparrow - Bill Thexton.....	8
Sightings of Interest.....	6
FROM OTHER PUBLICATIONS	
Nesting Success and Productivity of Bald Eagles in Nova Scotia - 1985 - Peter J. Austin-Smith and Gerald E. Dickie.....	12
Wildlife Field Notes - George Boyd from <u>Conservation</u> ..	8



Editors: Jean Timpa, George and Margaret Alliston
 Art and Production: Mary Pratt, Pat Clifford, Shirley
 Foote, Shireley Van Nostrand and Mariam Zinck
 Distribution: Lana Churchill and Brenda Thexton

"The primary objective of the Society shall be to encourage and develop in its members an understanding and appreciation of nature. For the purpose of the Society, the word 'nature' will be interpreted broadly and shall include the rocks, plants, animals, water, air, and stars."

from the BNS constitution

Field Trips: All times are given for meeting at the Gym parking lot of Acadia University.

1. January 19 -- Sunday at 1:00 p.m. -- Ski and snowshoe trip to Blomidon Park. This is to be led by Sherman Williams.

2. February 2 -- Sunday at 10:00 a.m. -- Field trip to look for winter birds, especially raptors. Led by Richard Stern, this will be held with the Nova Scotia Bird Society. Since this trip should last until mid-to-late afternoon, a brown bag lunch is advisable.

3. February 16 -- Sunday at 8:00 a.m. -- Ski and snowshoe trip to Kejimikujik National Park. Bring a lunch.

4. March 25 or 26 -- Tuesday or Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. -- An owl trip led by Bernard Forsythe. Bernard hopes to locate the elusive Saw-whet Owls this year. If it is very windy March 25, the trip will be postponed to the next evening so all concerned (owls included) can hear better.

Acknowledgements

At this Yuletide season we thank all those who have given gifts of their time, effort and knowledge to lead field trips (Ken Harrison, Larry Bogan, Tom Herman, Peter Smith, Merritt and Wilma Gibson, and Roy Bishop), to present a fascinating and varied lecture series (Dick Brown, Zoe Lucas and all those who brought slides or displays to the Wildflower Night in December), to provide and serve refreshments at meetings, and to produce another issue of the BNS Newsletter.

BNS Newsletter Deadline - March 20, 1986

Please send articles, trivia, poetry and letters to the editors to Jean Timpa, P.O. Box 1382, Wolfville, N.S. B0P 1X0, or give them to me at meetings or field trips. What have you seen out there that has been unusual? What has been able to brave icy winds and dampness? What has been interesting to you? Please share your thoughts with us no matter how brief.

A Gremlin in our Word Processor

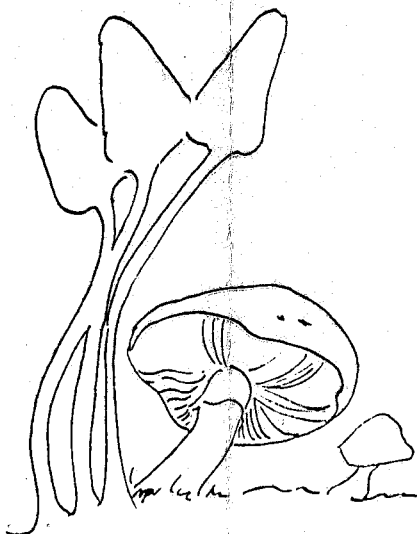
Just in case some of you are wondering what's going on, all issues in 1985 should have been marked "Volume 12". The June and September issues were accidentally marked "Volume 13". 1986 will be our thirteenth year.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Blomidon Naturalists' Club Foray
held in the
Kentville Research Centre Ravine
October 5th, 1985

by Ken A. Harrison
Kentville, N.S.
Foray Leader

Once again the foray was held on a day when the weather was perfect for such an outing. This was in spite of a weather man's forecast of "rain - at times heavy" given the previous evening. Some 30-35 members including children gathered at the picnic grove parking lot at the appointed time and set out in high spirits down the trail to the bottom of the ravine. Some pessimism was expressed before starting, that collecting mushrooms would be difficult because of four weeks of unusually dry weather. It was suggested that the lower parts of the ravine near the brook might be most rewarding for collectors. The dry weather certainly reduced the number of species found, but it was not long before specimens were found especially by the keen-eyed children. A sample of the Destroying Angel was found early and was welcomed for a demonstration of the points to note for the identification of this deadly species. Knowledge of this species is a must for anyone collecting mushrooms for the table.



Edible species were not abundant. No yellow chantarelles (Cantharellus cibarius) were seen. However, one collector found a very dark weathered specimen of a false chantarelle, Gomphus floccosus. This can cause an upset stomach and diarrhea. Several small edible puffballs were found, and these are good when pure white inside. An old specimen of the Pigskin Poison Puffball was found for comparison. This has traces of color in the inner flesh even when young and a thick skin that places it in the genus of Scleroderma. The edible puffballs were the pear-shaped Lycoperdon pyriforme and the Gem Studded Puffball, Lycoperdon perlatum (in older books L. gemmatum). A poisonous species collected by several was the Poison Paxillus (Paxillus involutus). This has been eaten but is now considered to contain a poison that slowly accumulates in the body, injuring the kidneys. It is a very common brown species with an inrolled margin. It is definitely poisonous, especially when eaten raw.

A number of interesting fungi were collected. Jim Wolford brought in twigs supporting several tiny birds nest fungi (Crucibulum vulgare). The tiny nests, "splash cups", contained the eggs. Others found the three different species of Collybia that develop on the remains of decayed mushrooms: Collybia tuberosa that has its start in a sclerotium that resembles an apple seed, C. cookei that grows from a tiny knobby yellow sclerotium, and C. cirrhata growing without any sclerotia at the base.

Another group of mushrooms collected were Tricolomas, but it is necessary to be careful when collecting members of this genus. Tricholoma flavovirens was found and is edible but has several look-alikes. T. sejunctum and T. virgatum which were collected should not be eaten in Nova Scotia. Other poisonous species are known in this genus.

Two edibles were collected and saved to be eaten. The Abortive Entoloma (Entoloma abortivus), which has pinkish spores, once again is a species that has dangerous look-alikes but is quite safe when collected with its white abortive clusters. The abortive lumps are actually the growth that develops when the Entoloma is parasitized by the Honey Agaric, Armillariella mellea. It was unfortunate that we were a few days late for the Honey Agaric. A number of collections were made, but all were too old to be used for food. The second edible was one that I had not seen in quantity for years. It was the Velvet Footed Collybia Flammulina velutipes growing on a dead elm trunk. This is a species that is being produced commercially in Japan where it is grown on sawdust supplemented with nutrients in containers that resemble milk bottles. It has been called a winter mushroom because it can stand freezing, and I have seen squirrels digging it out to eat from under the snow.

A few ascomycetes were found. The Lobster Mushroom Hypomyces lactifluorum was seen after turning a Lactarius into a "lobster colored lump". A badly decayed Bolete came in covered with a bright yellow powder (mould) Sepeodium chrysospermum, the imperfect stage of an ascomycete.

It was unfortunate that Boletus edulis was not found but several badly weathered samples of the Boletales were found and brought to the sorting tables.

The party returned to the picnic grove tables by 3:40 p.m. and laid out specimens for identification. By 4:30 the leader had talked himself hoarse and this broke up a very pleasant outing. It was wonderful to see the interest of the younger members and how quickly they grasped that the diagnostic "death cup" "volva" of the Destroying Angel usually develops deep in the soil and is usually lost when collecting unless carefully dug out. Not knowing this was why the Houghtons in Hantsport died in 1933 after collecting and eating "mushrooms" that were snapped off at their stems at ground level. The death cups were left in the ground where I was able to dig them up later and identify them as the bases of the Destroying Angel, Amanita virosa.

Canoe Outing Field Trip

October 12, 1985

by Larry Bogan
Cambridge Station, N.S.

It was cool (6°C) with light winds when we set off to enjoy canoeing the waters of the South Mountain. Since it was Thanksgiving and the coolest day yet this Fall, participation was limited to two canoes and four people.

The wind picked up slightly, so we went to the North (Gaspereau) River between Gaspereau and Aylesford Lake. This is a delightfully long section of unbroken stillwater that meanders through woods and marsh for five kilometres. We followed it upwind for three kilometres then stopped for tea. Along the way, a large owl (Great Horned?) flew across the river, four Black Ducks scattered in front of us, and a Ring-necked Duck swam away downstream. The trees along the river were not nearly as pretty as I had seen here a couple of weeks earlier because many of the small maples that line the river had dropped their leaves.

The return trip was fantastic; with the breeze to our backs we could paddle leisurely and enjoy more scenes along the river. Two more ducks were flushed and a hawk (Sharp-shinned?) flew overhead. A mound of debris on the bank turned out to be a muskrat house. Even though it was cool and a bit windy, we agreed the outing was enjoyable and much better than staying at home.



BNS Escapades on Ice

by Tom Herman
Port Williams, N.S.

On a cool, cloudy but calm Sunday afternoon (December 8, 1985), a baker's dozen or so of us set out from Hwy. 101 upstream of Moore's Falls in search of anything (animal, vegetable or mineral) interesting. A dusting of fresh snow disguised the treacherous terrain underfoot. Nevertheless, Jim Wolford miraculously made it downhill to stream side in an upright position (to the best of my recollection); some of us were not quite so fortunate.

The crowd thinned slightly as we slowly wove our way along the stream bank. However, after gingerly crossing some interesting ice formations mid-stream, we found the going much easier.

Unfortunately the snow was too fresh to reveal many tracks; we did find a few: Red Squirrel, vole (probably), and Junco (how can we be sure, you ask?). Few things were active: Juncos, a very few Black-capped Chickadees and one Golden-crowned Kinglet. One of us caught a glimpse of an unidentified raptor. We discovered some nice woodpecker and sapsucker work, admired some of the larger hemlocks, and were introduced by Jim Wolford to some of the more cryptic plants.

We returned to the highway along the edge of the woods on the ridge immediately west of the stream. We then crossed, hoping to catch a glimpse of Moore's Falls. Unfortunately our efforts were unsuccessful, as footing was quite treacherous near the edge. At this stage the pace had slackened sufficiently to resolve some finer botanical disputes with the aid of Merritt Gibson's Snowside Companion, readily proffered from his pocket by Bernard Forsythe. All in all, a pleasant if relatively uneventful afternoon. One of us even managed to return to his car with keys still in pocket. Amazing.



Jokes for the Young Fry (and at Heart!)

1. Did you hear the watermelon joke?
2. What noise annoys a noisy oyster?
3. If an athlete gets athlete's foot, what does an astronaut get?
4. Why are elephants grey?
5. Why do elephants have trunks?
6. Which side of an ostrich has the most feathers?
7. What goes "ZZUB, ZZUB, ZZUB"?

(See answers elsewhere.)

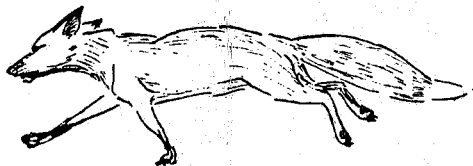


NATURE REPORTS

Sightings of Interest

We'd really like to have more contributors to this feature of our Newsletter!

Halley's Comet - from late November many of our membership, with their binoculars, scopes, and now Roy Bishop's fine telescope and assistance, have been able to observe this much touted celestial visitor. Special congratulations to Rachel Erskine who has seen Halley's Comet twice, once in 1986 and once in 1910! Who else has had two (separated by 76 years) sightings? Please let us know!



Reported Wildlife Sightings - Fall and Early Winter

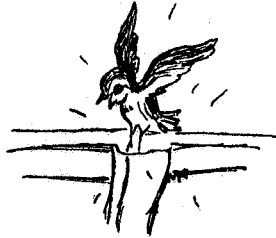
Species	No.	Location	Date	Observers ¹
Short-eared Owl	2	Grand Pre dykes	14 Nov	JGT
Red Fox	1	Canning	2 Dec	JGT
Silver Fox	1	Canning	5 Dec	JGT
American Woodcock	1	Wallbrook	6 Dec	JGT
Red Fox	1	Port Williams	13 Dec	JGT
Common Grackle	1	Port Williams	13 Dec	BBT
Goshawk	1	Newtonville	Early Dec	BBY
Snowy Owl	1	Grand Pre dykes	26,27 Dec	BSF, BBT, JT
Short-eared Owl	1	Grand Pre dykes	27 Dec	BBT, JT
Redpoll	30	Kingston area	27 Dec	JGT, LL
Great Blue Heron	1	Kingston area	27 Dec	JGT, LL
Horned Grebe	1	Kingston area	27 Dec	JGT, LL
White-winged Crossbill	39	Kingston area	27 Dec	JGT, LL
Oldsquaw	41	Kingston area	27 Dec	JGT, LL
Red-breasted Merganser	11	Kingston area	27 Dec	JGT, LL
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	Dempsey Corners	27,31 Dec	JGT, LL
Northern Harrier	1	Grand Pre dykes	30 Dec	JGT
Hungarian or Gray Partridge	5	Hortonville	30 Dec	JGT
Northern Shrike ?	1	Canada Creek	31 Dec	JGT
Muskrat	Sev.	Grand Pre	Dec	BBT
Red Fox	Sev.	Medford	Dec	BBT
Bohemian Waxwing	50	Middle Dyke Rd.	2 Jan	JGT
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Lakeville area	2 Jan	JGT
Pine Grosbeak	5+	Grand Pre	5 Jan	JGT
Rough-legged Hawk (dark phase)	1	Grand Pre	5 Jan	JGT
Bald Eagle	2	Gaspereau Valley	5 Jan	JGT
Red-tailed Hawk	1	Gaspereau Valley	5 Jan	JGT
Common Merganser	1	Gaspereau River	5 Jan	JGT
Red-winged Blackbird	1	Wolfville	6 Jan	BBT
Robin	5	Kentville	7 Jan	JGT
Turkey Vulture	1	Gaspereau	9 Jan	BSF
Goshawk	1	Wolfville-Ridge Rd	10 Jan	JGT
Cardinal (female)	1	Coldbrook	10 Jan	? ²
Robin	1	Wolfville	10 Jan	JGT
Brown Creeper	1	Wolfville	Early Jan	JW
Chipping Sparrow	1	Wolfville	Early Jan	JW
Robin	7	Wolfville	Early Jan	JW
White-throated Sparrow (partially albino)	1	Wolfville	Dec & Jan	GT
Pine Grosbeak	flocks of 20+	Gaspereau & Grand Pre	Dec & Jan	BBT

¹CONTRIBUTORS: Bernard and/or Sandra Forsythe (BSF), Lance LaViolette (LL), Bill and/or Brenda Thexton (BBT), Jean Timpa (JT), Gerry Trueman (GT), Judy and/or Gordon Tufts (JGT), Jim Wolford (JW), Barry and/or Betty Yoell (BBY).

²More information to follow.

Icebound House Sparrow
by Bill Thexton
Wolfville, N.S.

On December 22, about 7:30 a.m., I noticed a House Sparrow fluttering in a downspout in an eavestrough on one of our porches, about six feet off the ground. Apparently it had spent the night there during which time its feet became frozen in the ice. The problem was how to get it out without breaking its legs. Fortunately, this eavestrough was low enough for me to reach so I poured warm water down the spout -- at the same time managing not to drown the unfortunate bird. All was well. Off he flew to join the other fifty or so House Sparrows at our feeders.



Wildlife -- Field Notes

by George Boyd
from Conservation
Volume 9, No. 3, Fall 1985

Since 1955, Lands and Forests staff have banded 21,249 birds representing 34 different species. Much can be learned from a banding program including time and distance of migration, wintering areas and survival rates.

A blue-winged teal takes the record for travelling the farthest. An adult male banded in the Amherst area July 15, 1976 was recovered in Barranquilla, Columbia, South America on March 10, 1977.

The record for longevity goes to the immature male black duck banded at Sheffield Mills, Kings County on September 13, 1963. It was shot at Port Joli, Queens County during the hunting season of 1982 (19 years later).

However these individuals are unique. We have learned from our banding work that most black ducks hatched in Nova Scotia never leave Canada.

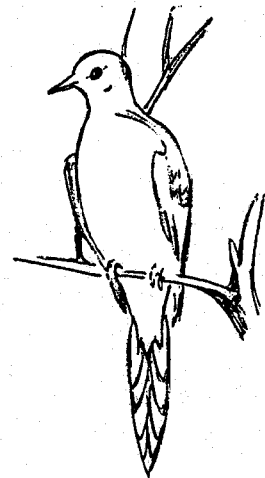
Conservation

The Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forests publication, Conservation, may be had free by writing to: N.S. Conservation, P.O. Box 68, Truro, N.S. B2N 5B8 and asking to be put on their mailing list. Published four times a year, it is well worth reading.

Bird Nesting Survey - 1985
by Bernard Forsythe
Wolfville, N.S.

June, 1985, was a difficult month for our nesting song birds. The many days of heavy rain caused some nests to tilt or collapse completely. Some nests that did manage to produce young in late June failed when the young died from exposure. As usual there was also the problem of brood parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird. The Chestnut-sided Warbler was especially hard hit; all of the seven nests that I located this season failed due to one or more of the above causes. If their first nest fails early in the nesting cycle, some songbirds will try to nest again (re nest), giving them a second chance to fledge young. The good weather in July helped those that re-nested make up for the losses in June.

Paul Elderkin had an interesting Mourning Dove nest three feet from the ground in a spruce tree on his lawn. The adults had placed a few pieces of grass and wood stems on top of an old grackle nest and by May 6 it held two feathered young doves. A few days later the short-tailed young were seen around the lawn. Then on May 17 there was an adult back on the nest that now contained one egg. No attempt had been made to clean up the nest after the first brood left. The second nesting attempt failed in late May. The Mourning Dove has become a regular nesting bird in the Wolfville area in recent years.





Usually Gray Jays are very quiet around their nests. Mark Elderkin and I located a nest with four feathered young on April 25 at Black River. The adults appeared unconcerned about our presence. This nest was near a nest box that was being visited by Barred Owls. When one of the owls came near the jay nest the adult jays would become very excited, chasing after and diving at the owl's back. Then they would perch a foot or so from the owl, scolding it until they left the area. Apparently, when a predator as skilled as the Barred Owl is around, it calls for a drastic change in strategy for defending a Gray Jay nest. One of the owls had missing tail feathers. Although the jays were probably not the cause, it was amusing to envision them plucking feathers from the startled owl.

The following list is a summary of the 104 nest cards, representing 45 species of birds, that were sent to the Nest Record Scheme. Most of the nests whose fate is recorded as "unknown" were not revisited to determine the nests' fate. The Barred Owl nest box results were not included this year, as Mark Elderkin is using them in his study, and will be reporting them at a later date. It was a real treat to be able to join Mark on many outings to learn more about these fascinating night hunters. I am already counting the days before it is time to begin the 1986 nesting season.

No. found	Species	Outcome ¹		
		S	F	?
1	American Black Duck	1		
1	Hooded Merganser	1		
1	Common Merganser		1	
1	Bald Eagle		1	
2	Northern Goshawk	2		
1	Red-tailed Hawk	1		
2	Ring-necked Pheasant	1	1	
1	Sora	1		
1	Great Black-backed Gull			1
2	Mourning Dove	1	1	
2	Great Horned Owl	2		
1	Short-eared Owl	1		
1	Hairy Woodpecker	1		
2	Eastern Wood Pewee	1	1	
2	Alder Flycatcher	1	1	
1	Least Flycatcher			1
1	Great Crested Flycatcher	1		
1	Eastern Kingbird		1	
2	Barn Swallow	2		
1	Gray Jay	1		
3	American Crow	1	1	1
5	Common Raven	1	4	
1	Black-capped Chickadee			1
3	Veery		2	1
2	Hermit Thrush			2
4	American Robin		2	2
1	Gray Catbird	1		
2	Cedar Waxwing		2	
1	Solitary Vireo			1
3	Yellow Warbler		1	2
7	Chestnut-sided Warbler		7	
1	Magnolia Warbler		1	
2	Yellow-rumped Warbler			2
1	Palm Warbler	1		
1	American Redstart	1		
2	Ovenbird		1	1
1	Common Yellowthroat			1
1	Chipping Sparrow		1	
1	Savannah Sparrow		1	
6	Song Sparrow	2	1	3
4	White-throated Sparrow			4
5	Dark-eyed Junco	1	2	2
8	Red-winged Blackbird	1	1	6
9	Brown-headed Cowbird	1	6	2
3	American Goldfinch	3		

¹S=Successful, F=Failed, ?=Unknown

NESTING SUCCESS AND PRODUCTIVITY OF BALD EAGLES
(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
IN NOVA SCOTIA, 1985

by Peter J. Austin-Smith
and Gerald E. Dickie
from
WILDLIFE DIVISION NOTE
Number 8
Nova Scotia Department of
Lands and Forests

This information is preliminary and therefore subject to change.

Introduction

Each year for the past two years, nestling bald eagles from Nova Scotia have been donated to the United States as part of a broad-scale program to aid in re-establishing eagle breeding populations within their former northeastern breeding range. Four eaglets were shipped to New Jersey in 1983, and in 1984, 6 young eagles were transported to a hack site in mid-central Massachusetts (Austin-Smith and Dickie 1984). The Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forests agreed to provide these young birds because of studies which indicated the provincial population was reproductively healthy.

In early 1985 a tentative agreement was reached to donate a further 8 eaglets for hacking¹ in Massachusetts. The agreement was dependent upon the present year's production being considered high enough to permit the taking of this number of nestlings for translocation to the United States.

This report, based on aerial surveys, presents an assessment of the 1985 reproductive status of the Nova Scotia bald eagle population.

Procedure

Methodology and terminology are based largely on Postupalsky (1974). Previously documented bald eagle nest sites were surveyed using aircraft as were new nests found incidentally during the survey flights. Circumstances prevented many mainland nest sites and those in one county on Cape Breton Island from being surveyed twice during the breeding season. The remaining nest sites were surveyed twice; the first time between 21 and 30 April and again between 27 and 29 May.

¹ Hacking is a falconry technique whereby young raptors are placed in a natural nest or on an artificial platform and provided with food until they are free-flying and self-sufficient.

The first flight survey of nest sites determined occupancy and the second recorded nest success and eaglet production. Information from the second survey was used to plan the eaglet banding program and to make preliminary arrangements for selecting donor nests. Hughes 500 helicopters with three person crews were used for the aerial surveys. Most nest sites were plotted using an air navigational aid (LORAN) which gives the site location as a six digit figure each for latitude and longitude. These numbers will be used in the memory system of the LORAN equipment for locating the nests in future years.

Findings

Bald eagle nesting and productivity data for 1985 showed that the breeding population was reproductively sound (Table 1). A total of 266 nest sites were surveyed in 1985 compared to 238 the previous year. All 28 new sites were on Cape Breton Island. Using data obtained from areas where two surveys were undertaken during the breeding season, a total of 115 sites were occupied (Table 1).

Average clutch size, for nests on Cape Breton Island in which entire egg counts were possible (n=63), was 2.14. Hatching success was nearly 68%.

Total number of active nests was 137 (Table 1) compared to 118 in 1984. Successful nests, i.e. those with at least one young bird in an advanced stage of development, comprised 74% of the active nests. All three 1983 donor nests were inactive in 1985. Three of the four 1984 donor nests were active and produced a total of 5 eaglets in 1985.

At least 173 to 177 young eagles were known to have been produced in Nova Scotia in 1985 (Table 1). Average number of young per occupied nest (based on two nest visits) was higher this year with 1.14 young compared to 0.94 in 1984. This increased production of young eagles occurred only in Cape Breton Island nests. The reasons for this increase are unknown.

Current eaglet production for the Nova Scotia population is greater than at any time in the past for which records are available. The eight eaglets involved in the 1984 translocation project represent slightly less than 5% of the 1985 production. This figure is within the suggested range of total fledgling production for a donor population.



Acknowledgements

We wish to thank the Sub-division Biologists and Forests Technicians, Operations Branch, for their assistance in collecting the field data for this report.

References

Austin-Smith, Peter J. and Gerald E. Dickie 1984. Nesting success and productivity of bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in Nova Scotia 1984. Lands and Forests Technical Note #28. N.S. Dept. of Lands and Forests, Halifax.

Postupalsky, S. 1974. Raptor reproductive success: some problems with methods, criteria and terminology. Raptor Research Report Number 2:21-31.



Table 1. Bald eagle nesting and productivity in Nova Scotia, 1985.

	Main-land	Cape Breton	Total
Nest sites surveyed	43	223	266
Occupied nests ¹	--	--	(115) ²
Active nests ³	32	105	137
Successful nests	25	76	101
Pre-fledged young	45	128-132 ⁴	173-177 (131)
Young/occupied nest	--	--	(1.14)
Young/active nest	1.41	1.22-1.26	1.26-1.29
Young/successful nest	1.80	1.68-1.74	1.71-1.75

¹Occupied nests - two adults present or evidence of a pair.

²Numbers in brackets based on those nests surveyed early in nesting season and determined to be occupied.

³Active nest - eggs and/or young present; or adult in incubation posture.

⁴Range of eaglet numbers.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Halley's Comet Contest

In our last issue Rachel Erskine kindly contributed a very picturesque anecdote of her encounter with Halley's Comet seventy-six years ago. Needless to say she is looking forward to seeing it again.

If you can remember seeing Halley's Comet seventy-six years ago, or can interview someone who saw it, please write your or their impressions of it for us and send it to Jean Timpa, P.O. Box 1382, Wolfville, N.S. B0P 1X0, preferably before our next Newsletter deadline, March 21, 1986. The tale (tail) will be close to its best then!

Dues

At our October annual meeting, it was decided that the BNS dues for 1985-1986 remain the same as they have been for the past several years i.e. \$5.00 for a regular membership and \$1.00 for those sixteen years of age or younger. If your address appears in red ink on this Newsletter, you still owe us dues for this year. We cannot send further issues of the Newsletter if we do not receive the dues before the end of March. What better bargain can you find these days for \$5.00? Please send your dues to our new Treasurer, Martha Dodge, R.R. 3, Wolfville, N.S. B0P 1X0. If you are uncertain whether you owe or not, call Martha at 542-5243.



1. It's pit-iful!
2. A noisy noise annoys a noisy oyster.
3. Missile toe.
4. So you can tell them apart from blueberries.
5. Because they don't have glove compartments.
6. The outside.
7. Three bees flying backwards.

Answers to Jokes

BLOMIDON NATURALISTS' SOCIETY
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
September 1, 1984 - August 31 1985

<u>INCOME</u>	
Memberships	\$765.00
Bank interest	12.95
	<u>\$777.95</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Bank service charges	\$ 3.06
Meetings and speakers	75.00
Administrative expenses	149.23
News letter	332.84
Repayment on overpayment of dues	5.00
	<u>\$565.13</u>
<u>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$212.82</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT AUGUST 31, 1985

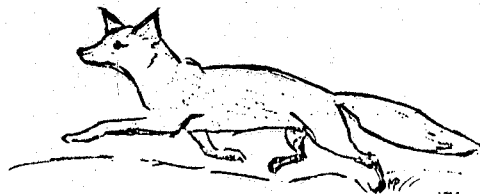
<u>ASSETS</u>	
Cash	\$570.06
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
None	
<u>SOCIETIES EQUITY</u>	
Balance September 1, 1985	\$357.24
Add: Excess of Income over Expenses	212.82
	<u>\$570.06</u>

Norman W. McGuinness, Treasurer

Auditor's note: I have examined the above statement and available records, and find them in order.

Pre-numbered duplicate receipts should be issued for all income received. This would facilitate checking cash receipts to book records.

(signed) George Fraser



Blomidon Naturalists' Society
Officers and Directors -- 1985-1986

At our annual meeting in October, the following officers and directors were elected for 1985-1986. Members are encouraged to contact them with suggestions for programmes, field trips, the Newsletter or any aspect of our Society.

<u>President</u>	
Mr. James Wolford c/o Biology Department Acadia University, BOP 1X0	Home: 542-7650 Office: 542-2201 ext 391 or 334
<u>Vice President</u>	
Dr. Tom Herman 129 High Street Port Williams, N.S. BOP 1T0	Home: 542-7607 Office: 542-2201 ext 469 or 334
<u>Past President</u>	
Dr. Richard Stern 23 Pleasant Street Kentville, N.S. B4N 1E9	Home: 678-1975 Office: 678-4742
<u>Treasurer</u>	
Ms. Martha Dodge R.R. 3 Wolfville, N.S. BOP 1X0	Home: 542-5243
<u>Secretary</u>	
Mr. Bill Thexton Box 991, 36 Main Street Wolfville, N.S. BOP 1X0	Home: 542-3722
<u>Directors</u>	
Dr. Larry Bogan R.R. 2 Cambridge Station, N.S. BOP 1G0 (away until June 1986)	Home: 678-0446 Office: 542-2201 ext 318 or 401
Mr. Bernard Forsythe R.R. 2 Wolfville, N.S. BOP 1X0	Home: 542-2427
Mr. Ellis Gertridge R.R. 1 Wolfville, N.S. BOP 1X0	Home: 542-2816
Dr. Merritt Gibson Box 35 Canning, N.S. BOP 1H0	Home: 582-7569 Office: 542-2201 ext 250 or 334
Mr. Gordon Tufts Box 1313 Wolfville, N.S. BOP 1X0	Home: 542-7800
Ms. Jean Timpa Gaspereau Avenue, Box 1382 Wolfville, N.S. BOP 1X0	Home: 542-5678