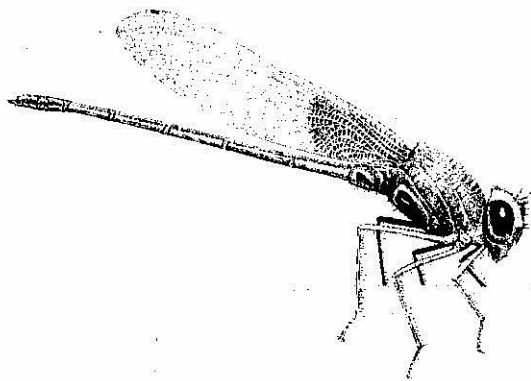


# **Blomidon Naturalists Society Newsletter**



Spring 1996

Volume 23, No. 1

*Spring has  
sprung....*

Comet Hyukatake -  
Late April

Ruby spot  
*Hetaerina americana*

## **1996 Spring Programme**

### **MONDAY EVENING MEETINGS**

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the third Monday of the month and start at 7:30 p.m. at Acadia University in Room 244 in the Beveridge Arts Centre. All meetings are open to the public and BNS members are encouraged to bring friends and neighbours.

#### **May 20 (Victoria Day) A Walker's Guide to Native Ferns**

John Pickwell will present a layperson's guide, without technical detail, on where, when and how to find our native ferns. This should help sort out what for many is a very complicated problem. (John will be one of the leaders of a trip along the Gaspereau River on Saturday June 15).

#### **June 17 A Native Person's Appreciation of Nature**

Gloria Christmas of the Kjiptuk Aboriginal College, Miqmaq Native Friendship Centre, Halifax will speak on the significance of nature in the lives of native peoples. We hope that members of our local band will join us for this presentation. It should be very interesting.

There are no evening meetings in July and August.

## Editorial Board

**Chair:** Susan Montonen

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**Production:** Phil Taylor

**Illustrations:** Fred Scott

**Advertising:** Neil Cloghesy

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*"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).*

The Blomidon Naturalists Society is a member of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists, the Nova Scotia Trails Federation, the Brier Island Ocean Study (BIOS), and an Affiliated member of the Canadian Nature Federation.

The Blomidon Naturalists Society is a registered charity. Receipts (for income tax purposes) will be issued for all donations.

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## Notes from the Editor

Sun, rain, snow, hail! It must be spring! Thanks to Fred Scott who provided us with all of the illustrations -- Fred does these drawings using a paint program on his Macintosh computer. Also, thanks to Pamela Mills and Sherman Boates for their update on endangered species conservation in the province, and to all our regular contributors.

If you would like to submit something for the newsletter, I am always interested in receiving articles from any of our members. Just give me a call at 542-0437 and we can discuss your idea.

**The deadline for the Summer newsletter is June 30, 1996.**

Susan Montonen  
smontone@ace.acadiau.ca

## SPRING - SUMMER 1996 FIELD TRIPS

### **Sunday May 18 - BIRDS, FLOWERS AND CAPE SPLIT**

◆ Note date change

Sherman Williams will have help from a couple of leaders for this popular outing. It is a good hike - 5 km, all up hill to the Cape, but well worth it. Wear appropriate clothing and bring lunch. Be prepared to bring out everything you take in. Meet at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre, Wolfville at 8:30 a.m. or at the parking lot at the end of the road beyond Scotts Bay at 9:15 a.m. Rain or shine.

### **Saturday June 15- FLOWERS & FERN, WOODS & WARBLERS**

A team of leaders, George Alliston, Bernard Forsythe and John Pickwell will help us to get the most of a walk along the Gaspereau River. Meet at 12:30 p.m. at Robie Tufts Nature Centre (RTNC), Wolfville, or 1:00 p.m. at the White Rock bridge. This is not a difficult hike. You can turn back at any time you wish without fear of getting lost.

### **Sunday June 16 - PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP**

This workshop will give tips on how to photograph flora without destroying the subject or damaging the environment in which it exists. The venue is the same as Saturday June 15, above. Meeting times are 9:00 a.m. at RTNC and 9:30 a.m. at the White Rock bridge. Karin Robertson will co-ordinate.

### **Saturday July 13 - DRAGONFLIES**

If you missed last year's trip here is another. Tom Herman and Paul Brunelle will take us to where the action is. Meet at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre, Wolfville at 10:00 a.m. Let's hope warm clothing will not be required.

### **Saturday August 3 - SHOREBIRDS OF THE MINAS BASIN**

Meet Sherman Boates at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre, Wolfville at 11:30 a.m. or at 12 noon at the Windsor Visitors Information Centre at the Windsor causeway. Bring a lunch, rubber boots and wear clothing suitable for a muddy beach. The trip is on rain or shine.

### **Sunday August 11 - THE SUMMER NIGHT SKY**

The sky will feature 'shooting stars' and lots of other interesting objects to look at. The Perseid Shower is at its height on the night of 11-12 August. Meet at the Grand Pré parking lot at 9:00 p.m. Roy Bishop, Sherman Williams and Larry Bogan will be your guides. The cloud date is Monday August 12, same place and time.



# Announcements

## **FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA NATURALISTS 1996 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Dates: June 7, 8, 9

Host: Annapolis Field Naturalists Society

Location: Annapolis Royal

All BNS members are invited to Annapolis Royal on the second weekend in June to meet with other naturalists from across the province and to share a weekend of talks, field trips and socializing. You will learn of the history, natural history, and environmental problems, projects, and solutions in this beautiful and historic part of our province.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a detailed program, a list of accommodations and a registration form. You are encouraged to register early to ensure your participation in those events that are of most interest to you. Hope to see you there!

## **OWL VIDEO AVAILABLE TO BNS MEMBERS**

During the BNS's investigation of short-eared owls, a National Audubon Society videotape on North American owls, "Owls Up Close" was purchased for use by participants in this investigation. The 55-minute tape is now available for loan, free to all BNS members. It can be picked up from Neil Cloghesy at Earthwhile Pursuits, 276 Main St., Wolfville during business hours.

## **NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT DAY MAY 11, 1996**

Now that spring has finally arrived the crocuses are in bloom, pussy willows are bursting their seams, and the birds from the sunny south are returning northwards. Blackbirds and grackles are visible, killdeer can be heard, and waterfowl are on the move too. Who hasn't seen skeins of Canada geese passing overhead lately, flying in 'V' formation and heard their wonderful, and almost haunting communication calls - surely a sound of spring. We can expect other species to follow in the next few weeks.

North American Migration Count Day will be taking place on Saturday May 11, 1996, all over the continent. WE NEED YOUR HELP. Would

you be willing to spend part or most of that day participating in monitoring the return of migrating bird populations for your local county, or other parts of Nova Scotia, as either a field observer or a feeder watcher, from your home?

If you are interested in participating as a 'counter' in our provincial effort for this worthwhile N.A.M.C. project please contact Judy Tufts, P.O. Box 1313, Wolfville NS B0P 1X0 tel 1-902 542-7800 by April 22

## **Society Business and Notices**

### **"NATURE CALLS" YOUTH GROUP**

We live in a rural setting. We are surrounded by nature, diverse ecosystems, life. It is all there, waiting to be discovered, examined, explored. We are inviting young people to listen to the "Call of Nature" and discover more of the natural world around us.

Robert Emerson, Wendy Skeard and myself, Karin Robertson, are in the process of establishing a youth group with a focus on nature. The survey for the Young Naturalist Group that was published in the BNS newsletter (Autumn 1995) sparked our interest for this project. We believe there is a strong need for environmental/earth education and that this can best be achieved through awareness, practical application, and discovery. A needs assessment (questionnaire given to school children) will hopefully confirm the need and interest in establishing a naturalist group for young people.

Some of the objectives of the Youth Group are: (a) To promote an appreciation of nature, (b) To present positive opportunities to discover the surrounding natural environment, (c) To increase one's perception through observation and identification (this can be done with the use of field guides and programs such as frog watch, plant watch, bird wise and Habitat 2000, (d) To understand scientific theory and why it is important, and (e) Outdoor recreation skills.

We are very excited about the "Nature Calls" Youth Group. We see this program as one that will challenge young people, stimulate personal growth, and enhance their sense of responsibility towards their environment, their community, and themselves.

For more information on the "Nature Calls" Youth Group, please contact: Karin Robertson 542-4277,  
Robert Emerson 542-4778,  
Wendy Skeard 542-0825

**1995-96 DIRECTORS OF THE  
BLOMIDON NATURALISTS  
SOCIETY**

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*Vice-President*

Larry Bogan 678-0446

*Past President*

Tom Herman 678-0383

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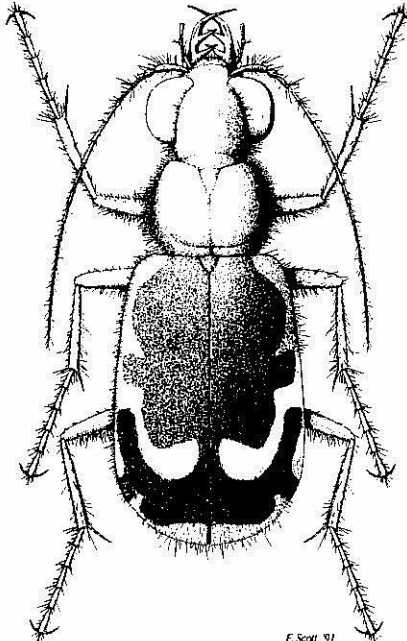
Randy Milton 542-1761

Blomidon Naturalists Society membership fees are due the 1st day of January of the year.

The deadline for submissions to the Summer issue of the BNS Newsletter is June 30, 1996.

**ANSWERING QUESTIONS  
FROM THE PUBLIC OVER  
THE INTERNET**

Larry Bogan, vice-president and co-designer of the BNS Home Page, has requested help from members. Occasionally, he receives nature-related questions over the Internet, and he does not always know the answers. If members have an e-mail address, and they would like to help in answering questions from the public, could they contact Larry at [lbogan@ace.acadiau.ca](mailto:lbogan@ace.acadiau.ca).



# Natural History Articles

## WHAT IS SO RARE AS A SMALL MAMMAL?

by Fred Scott  
Curator, Wildlife Museum,  
Acadia University

Our small mammals are diverse, often adaptable and usually numerous. They are a fundamental component of terrestrial ecosystems, especially the forests, where many species play a crucial role in dispersing the soil fungi associated with tree root systems and essential for the health of the trees.

Small mammals produce an enormous annual crop of protein that is used by other organisms. In a good year the populations of the more common species can number in the hundreds of millions of animals (an estimated 384 million in the Red-backed Vole, for instance), and a conservative calculation shows that the total mass of individual small mammals in the province could equal or slightly exceed the total mass of humans! In any given year nearly all of this mass is eaten by other animals. Small mammals harbour a large and varied set of ectoparasites, including about 20 species of fleas, seven of ticks and about 60 of mites. Some small mammals are capable of carrying pathogens of concern to people, like hantaviruses and the spirochete responsible for Lyme disease, though these two have not yet been found in our province. The introduced rats and

mice and some of our native species can become significant farm or household pests.

If small mammals are so important, what exactly are they?

In the standard definition, a small mammal is one with an adult weight of less than 1 kg and/or a total length (tip of nose to tip of tail) of less than 60 cm. This is about as far as the agreement goes among mammalogists, and their exceptions to the definition are exclusionary. For instance, though all but the larger fruit bats meet the size criteria, bats of any size are usually excluded because they fly and don't interact significantly with any nonflying mammals (vampire bats are a notable exception). However, very small carnivores like the Ermine or common weasel (*Mustela erminea*) are also excluded by many mammalogists because they interact too much with other small species by eating them, particularly the mice and voles that are their main prey. They are considered "external users" of the small mammal community and are lumped functionally with owls, hawks, foxes and other predators on small mammals. Thus, Ermine are indeed small, and they are certainly mammals, but they are not Small Mammals. This sort of discrimination could be called "trophism".

In line with this, and for the sake of simplicity, I define our small mammals as all members of the order Insectivora (the shrews and moles) and all rodents except the

Woodchuck, Beaver, Muskrat (actually a large aquatic vole) and Porcupine. This gives us 21 native and four introduced species:

**Order Insectivora (shrews and moles)**

**Family Soricidae (shrews)**

Arctic Shrew, *Sorex arcticus* (disjunct)

Common Shrew, *S. cinereus*

Smoky Shrew, *S. fumeus*

Gaspé Shrew, *S. gaspensis* (disjunct; discovered 1974)

Long-tailed Shrew, *S. dispar* (disjunct; discovered 1984)

Water Shrew, *S. palustris*

Pygmy Shrew, *S. hoyi*

Short-tailed Shrew, *Blarina brevicauda*

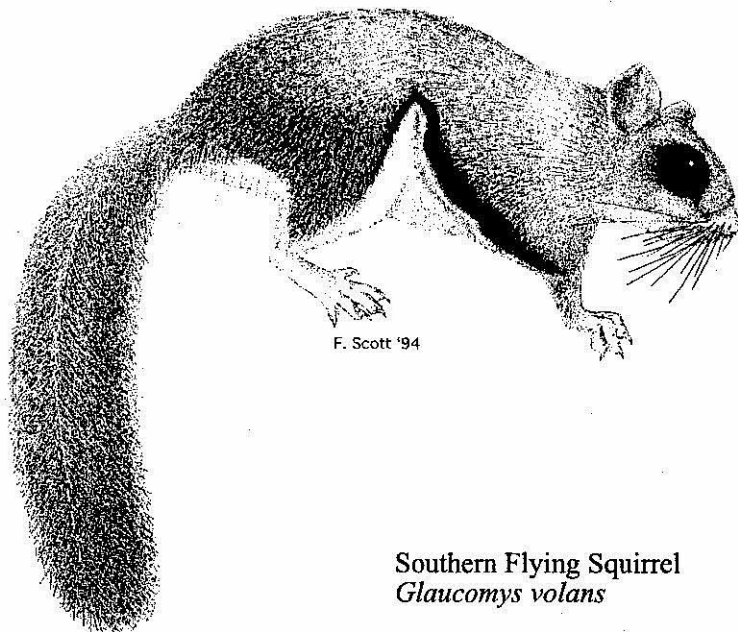
**Family Talpidae (moles)**

Star-nosed Mole, *Condylura cristata*

**Order Rodentia (rodents)**

**Family Sciuridae (squirrels)**

Eastern Chipmunk, *Tamias striatus*



Southern Flying Squirrel  
*Glaucomys volans*



- Gray Squirrel, *Sciurus carolinensis* (introduced but not established)  
 Red Squirrel, *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*  
 Southern Flying Squirrel, *Glaucomys volans* (disjunct; discovered 1971)  
 Northern Flying Squirrel, *G. sabrinus*
- Family Cricetidae (New World rats and mice)**  
 Deer Mouse, *Peromyscus maniculatus*  
 White-footed Mouse, *P. leucopus* (disjunct)
- Family Arvicolidae (voles and lemmings)**  
 Red-backed Vole, *Clethrionomys gapperi*  
 Southern Bog Lemming, *Synaptomys cooperi*  
 Meadow Vole, *Microtus pennsylvanicus*  
 Rock Vole, *M. chrotorrhinus* (disjunct; discovered 1974)
- Family Muridae (Old World rats and mice; introduced)**  
 Norway Rat, *Rattus norvegicus*  
 Black Rat, *R. rattus*  
 House Mouse, *Mus domesticus*
- Family Zapodidae (jumping mice)**  
 Meadow Jumping Mouse, *Zapus hudsonius*  
 Woodland Jumping Mouse, *Napaeozapus insignis*

Seven of these species are habitat specialists with a restricted and/or fragmented distribution and six of them (three shrews and three rodents, or 29% of the total) are disjunct, widely separated from other populations of their species in eastern North America. Four of the six are unexpected discoveries. In fact, no other equivalently-sized area in North America has recently provided so many mammalian surprises, and in the late 1970s several mammalogists from the United States came up here to collect simply because they had heard of those discoveries. It was a bit of a small-mammal rush, with the goal being to get not only specimens, but above all some publishable data (which most of them did).

This raises the question of why these species weren't discovered here long ago. The answer has to

do with fashions in mammal collecting, particularly trapping methods. Like most human endeavors, even mammalogy has its fashions.

Until the 1960s, the principal goal of most mammal collectors (as opposed to those studying living populations), was to take back museum-quality specimens in the form of study skins. This was time-consuming (someone who's really good can do only 10 or 12 skins a day) and collectors would set only the number of traps necessary to keep themselves busy making up skins. Since the capture rate ranges between 5% and 10% in most habitats, they would seldom set more than 100 snap traps per night for one or two nights per line. This simply isn't enough trapping effort to capture the uncommon and rare species, even in the right habitat. Snap

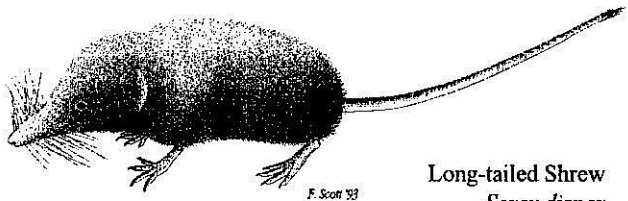
traps can only catch one animal per set and the common species will continue to fill them until their numbers are drastically reduced. Only then do the rare species have a chance to get captured. In a major trapping effort to find Long-tailed Shrews in the Wentworth Valley in 1986, I and my colleagues had to put in an average of about 1000 trap-nights for each of the four specimens we caught. At Lewis Brook on Cape Breton Island, it took me 1600 trap-nights to catch one Gaspé Shrew. Many of these traps were pitfalls, which can catch more than one specimen at a time and can't be pre-empted by the common species.

In addition to being rare, the Long-tailed and Gaspé Shrews and the Rock Vole are all restricted to forested talus slopes, the last two only on Cape Breton Island. These are steep slopes (35 to 40 degrees) of unconsolidated boulders of varying sizes. When undisturbed they can support well-developed forests. Because of the slope steepness, the boulders can be dislodged easily even when overgrown with mosses and ferns, which makes moving around on them not only strenuous but physically dangerous. These habitats simply didn't receive any significant trapping effort, because there was no reason to believe anything lived there that couldn't also be found where the going was easier and safer. In

Nova Scotia, the first intensive and systematic surveys of small mammals ever done in the province were carried out in our two national parks, in 1971 ( Kejimikujik) and 1974 (Cape Breton Highlands). These surveys sampled every recognizable habitat in each park with a minimum effort of 500 trap-nights, regardless of terrain difficulty, and turned up Southern Flying Squirrels in the first and Gaspé Shrews and Rock Voles in the second. Their presence in Nova Scotia was completely unsuspected but, given that they were here, it isn't really surprising that such systematic and intensive trapping captured them.

The intensive trapping that I and others have done on forested talus slopes has not only expanded our knowledge of the distribution of these recently discovered species. It has also revealed that the supposedly rare Southern Bog Lemming, with less than a dozen previous records for the entire province, is actually rather common, being the second most abundant small rodent after the Red-backed Vole at some of the talus sites.

Having over 23 years of field experience with small mammals in Nova Scotia, including my



Long-tailed Shrew  
*Sorex dispar*

discovery of the Long-tailed Shrew in the Cobequid Mountains in 1984, I know that there is an enormous amount of field work yet to be done just to fill in the distributional details of the species we know are here. It also is possible that one more species

awaits discovery. I have in mind the Northern Bog Lemming (*Synaptomys borealis*) which is found in the Gaspé Peninsula and could, like the Gaspé Shrew, have relict populations somewhere on Cape Breton Island.

## **ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION: A NEW NATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND UPDATES ON NOVA SCOTIA RECOVERY EFFORTS**

by **Pamela Mills and J. Sherman Boates, Department of Natural Resources, Kentville**

Despite the efforts of many organizations throughout Canada many of our wildlife species are endangered or are threatened with becoming endangered. Currently there are 262 species officially recognised as endangered, threatened or vulnerable in Canada. The threats to wildlife and their habitats are increasing. Some core causes of population declines are habitat loss and deterioration, climate change, and air, water and soil pollution. Direct action through scientific management, education and enforcement will help meet the challenge of maintenance and recovery of species at risk.

The federal, provincial, and territorial governments with the help of the public, including many environmental interest groups, have responded to this crisis with a National Approach to the Conservation of Endangered Species in Canada. It is hoped that this national framework will soon be

agreed to by all governments. The framework for the national approach recognizes that Canadian governments at all levels are responsible for the protection of species at risk. The purpose of a national approach is to provide a harmonized approach to the conservation of endangered species and its goal is to prevent any species from becoming extinct as a consequence of human activities.

### **How the Framework Works**

Since species do not respect political boundaries, it is necessary to have a national partnership to co-ordinate the responsibilities and interests of all jurisdictions responsible for wildlife management. The framework takes a two level approach, species considered at risk across their range in Canada (nationally) and species not at risk nationally but that are provincially/regionally at risk. Species considered to be at risk nationally will be dealt with through co-operative involvement of all affected jurisdictions in a national approach. The provincial/regional jurisdictions will be responsible for dealing

with species at risk within their areas. The federal, provincial and territorial governments are responsible for establishing legislative authority over all wild species within their jurisdictions and developing the ability to designate species as endangered or threatened at the national or provincial level. This legislative authority will provide each level of government with the capacity to protect, manage, and restore those species with designations and their habitats, within their jurisdictions. This authority will enable governments to regulate or establish prohibitions on the killing, injury, possession, and trafficking of designated species, and to protect critical habitats on crown lands. The provinces and territories have primary legislative responsibility for wildlife in Canada, except for migratory birds, fish, marine mammals and other aquatic organisms. Emphasis is to be placed on the prevention of species being placed at risk as a result of human actions. The management of species, habitats and ecosystems will be done using the principles of sustainable use, making every effort to maintain biological diversity. The conservation of endangered species contributes to the broader strategy of maintaining biological diversity.

### **COSEWIC and RENEW**

Assessment of a species' national status will be carried out by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). If a species is considered to be at risk across its range in Canada, COSEWIC will

designate it as nationally Endangered or Threatened, or Evaluated but not Designated. The opportunity for public input is incorporated into the assessment and designation processes. RENEW (Recovery of National Endangered Wildlife in Canada) works to unify and direct the recovery efforts of all parties concerned with endangered species management. National Recovery Plans will be prepared and tabled within one year of designation for endangered species and within two years for threatened species. The recovery plans will be periodically revised and updated. The assessment, designation and recovery of species that are at risk provincially/regionally but not nationally is the responsibility of the jurisdictions within the range of that species. The provincial/regional designations may be expanded beyond Endangered and Threatened. Each province or territory will create compatible methods to scientifically assess and designate species at risk. The provinces and territories are responsible for any regulations and prohibitions for each designated species. They are also responsible for the preparation and implementation of recovery plans.

Endangered species legislation has been proposed at the federal level. Once a national approach to endangered species legislation has been agreed upon between the provinces, territories and the federal government implementation of legislative changes necessary for Nova Scotia to fulfil its role in

this national approach will be initiated. A lot of progress toward the conservation of nationally endangered wildlife has already been made in Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia was the first province to begin the public consultation process on endangered species conservation in May 1995.

### **Endangered Species in Nova Scotia**

There are literally thousands of organisms that live in Nova Scotia - plants, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects, other invertebrates, birds, fungi, protists and bacteria. The Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History recognizes 449 organisms as rare in the province, nationally COSEWIC lists 39 species at risk as occurring in Nova Scotia. A *Nova Scotia Species at Risk* series of pamphlets are being produced by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR) to increase public awareness and education.

**The Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) was designated as Endangered by COSEWIC in 1978. The NSDNR participated with the Canadian Wildlife Service in a Peregrine Falcon hacking program from 1982 to 1991. A total of 109 young birds were released from three Nova Scotia sites at the Bay of Fundy. In spring 1995, during a helicopter survey, the NSDNR located the first active Peregrine Falcon nest found in Nova Scotia in forty years.

In 1986 the **Roseate Tern** (*Sterna dougallii*) was officially desig-

nated by COSEWIC as threatened. The NSDNR conducted a systematic survey of coastal Nova Scotia in 1995, and this survey revealed an unknown breeding colony on Country Island, Guysborough County. This discovery increased the Canadian Roseate Tern population from 120 to 180. Wooden tern nesting shelters are being used on several islands to help reduce nest predation by gulls and enhance breeding success. Two of the offshore breeding areas will be protected as Provincial Wildlife Management Areas.

**The Piping Plover** (*Charadrius melodus*) has gained international attention as an endangered species. The Piping Plover was first designated, by COSEWIC, as threatened in 1978 but was later up-listed to Endangered in 1985. There are fewer than 50 pairs breeding in the province. The NSDNR continues to conduct yearly surveys of known and potential Piping Plover nesting beaches trying to track population increases or decreases. The Halifax Field Naturalists have spearheaded a Piping Plover Guardianship Program, raising public awareness about the plight of the Piping Plovers. NSDNR staff along with many other interested volunteers participate in an International Piping Plover Census carried out every 4 years, with the next census to take place in 1996.

**The Blanding's Turtle** (*Emydoidea blandingi*) was officially designated by COSEWIC as Threatened in 1993. There are

about 100-180 individuals living in lakes and rivers in or around Kejimikujik National Park in Nova Scotia. The Blanding's Turtle Recovery Team has nearly completed the Recovery Plan. Much of the work outlined in the recovery plan has already been initiated by the Acadia Centre for Wildlife and Conservation Biology and Kejimikujik National Park. Blanding's Turtle is one member of the rare coastal plain flora and fauna group that exists mainly in the southwestern part of the province.

Plant species such as the endangered Pink coreopsis (*Coreopsis rosea*) and Thread-leaved sundew (*Drosera filiformis*), listed as endangered by COSEWIC, are also a part of this group. Coastal plain species are populations that moved northward into Nova Scotia from Cape Cod after the last ice age when a land bridge was exposed and the sea level was 100m below that of today. As the sea level rose it covered the land bridge leaving the Nova Scotian populations separated (disjunct) from the main population.

While the provinces, territories

and federal governments with the help of the public, environmental groups, and industry are working together on a framework for a national approach to endangered species conservation, the implementation of a national approach requires the involvement of all Canadians if we are going to achieve the goal of preventing any species from becoming extinct as the result of human activities. COSEWIC will be responsible for the national designation of species at risk while RENEW will direct any recovery efforts. Principles of sustainable use will be used to carry out the management of species, habitats and ecosystems, promoting the maintenance of biological diversity.

Human activities in Nova Scotia and the rest of the world have resulted in the degradation and loss of wildlife habitat. It is important that we, as individuals and communities, examine the impact of our actions on the environment, all wildlife and wildlife habitat. It is essential that we continue to recognize that everyone can contribute to the conservation of endangered species.

#### **Definition of Terms:**

Extinct	No longer exists
Extirpated	No longer found in Nova Scotia, but found elsewhere
Endangered	Threatened with imminent extinction or extirpation
Threatened	Likely to become endangered unless situation changes
Vulnerable	At risk because of low numbers or restricted occurrence

**Summary of the number of taxa in each COSEWIC designation for Canada (April 1995).** Numbers for Nova Scotia are in brackets

	Vulnerable	Threatened	Endangered	Extinct
Birds	24 (5)	7 (1)	15 (4)	1 (0)
Mammals (Terrestrial)	18 (2)	4 (0)	5 (1)	3 (0)
Mammals (Marine)	5 (4)	3 (1)	6 (2)	2 (2)
Fish	38 (0)	12 (0)	3 (1)	2 (0)
Plants	31 (3)	33 (4)	23 (4)	2 (0)
Lichens	1 (0)	-	-	-
Amphibians & Reptiles	7 (0)	3 (1)	4 (1)	1 (0)
Total	124 (14)	62 (7)	56 (13)	11 (2)

**Species at risk in Nova Scotia (with official COSEWIC status)**

**Fish and Marine**

**Mammals**

*Extirpated*

Atlantic Grey Whale  
Atlantic Walrus

*Endangered*

Atlantic Whitefish  
Bowhead Whale  
Northern Right  
Whale

*Threatened*

Harbour Porpoise

*Vulnerable*

Blue Whale  
Fin Whale  
Humpback Whale  
Sowerby's Beaked  
Whale

**Birds**

*Extinct*

Great Auk  
Labrador Duck  
Passenger Pigeon

*Endangered*

Harlequin Duck  
Peregrine Falcon  
Piping Plover  
Loggerhead Shrike

*Threatened*

Roseate Tern  
*Vulnerable*  
Eastern Bluebird  
Ipswich Sparrow  
Least Bittern\*

Cooper's Hawk\*

Short-eared Owl

**Amphibians and  
Reptiles**

*Endangered*

Leatherback Turtle

*Threatened*

Blanding's Turtle

**Mammals**

*Endangered*

Eastern Cougar

*Vulnerable*

Gaspé Shrew  
Southern Flying  
Squirrel

**Plants**

*Endangered*

Eastern Mountain  
Avens  
Water-Pennywort  
Pink Coreopsis  
Thread-leaved  
Sundew

*Threatened*

Golden Crest  
Plymouth Gentian  
Sweet Pepperbush  
Redrod

*Vulnerable*

Lilaeopsis  
New Jersey Rush  
Long's Bulrush

\*species at the extralimital extent of their range or that may have bred historically in Nova Scotia

## VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED FOR LOON WATCH EVENTS AT KEJIMKUJIK

by Peter Hope,  
Chief Park Naturalist,  
Kejimikujik National Park

"For many Nova Scotians the presence of loons on a lake is considered an indicator of a wild and natural environment. However, researchers have growing concerns about the stability of our loon population. They recognize that the health of species, such as loons, which are at a high level in the food chain, provide a good measure of environmental quality."

When I wrote that paragraph a year ago, it seemed to sum up the concern I felt for our loons. Then in January 1996, the bottom dropped out when Canadian Wildlife Service researcher Neil Burgess reported that adult loons in Kejimikujik National Park had the highest levels of mercury in their blood yet noted in North America. Today as I write this I sit and wonder, uncertain of the magnitude of the problem.

Surveys of common loons and other water-birds, carried out by Dr. Joe Kerekes of the Canadian Wildlife Service, began in Kejimikujik National Park in 1988. This study has determined that territorial loon pairs are known to occur in all 25 lakes, which are greater than 20 hectares, among the 46 lakes within Kejimikujik National Park. The seven year breeding population data indicates the number of residential loons remains stable at

around 39 pairs while the number of chicks fledged may vary annually but averages 11. The annual fluctuations of breeding success may be the result of changes in water levels during the nesting period, but predation by raccoons and greater black-backed gulls, and human disturbance are probably contributing factors.

To supplement the data gathered in the CWS study, on August 20, 1995 the first Loon Watch was held at Kejimikujik National Park. Volunteers, park staff and CWS biologists, twenty-one people in total, dispersed by canoe to survey lakes throughout the eastern part of the park.

During the Loon Watch fourteen different lakes were surveyed by the fourteen teams of participants. The resultant count was 53 adult loons and two young of the year. Nine pairs were noted still together on their home lakes, however most loons had congregated in one huge group of 22 seen on Kejimikujik Lake. The Loon Watch permitted a comparison with the resident loons observed throughout the summer-long survey.

The opinion of volunteers and researchers was that the Loon Watch was both fun and scientifically valuable. So for 1996 two separate Loon Watch events will be scheduled. The first one, scheduled for Sunday June 2, will help to confirm the number of territorial pairs on lakes in the



middle of the nesting season. The second Loon Watch, set for Sunday August 18, will compare with the 1995 results.

Volunteers are requested who could assist for either or both of these Loon Watch programs. Volunteers should be experienced birders who are able to canoe and bring the canoeing equipment necessary. All participants will gather at the Kejimikujik National Park Visitor Centre by 8:45 a.m. sharp for a brief orientation session before dispersing to their assigned lakes. The survey will involve approximately two hours

of observation around mid-day. After the survey, a debriefing meeting will be held at the Visitor Centre.

These surveys can provide meaningful assistance to biologists trying to understand and protect our common loons. Hopefully, you can volunteer your help and join in a good cause. Interested participants should contact Peter Hope at Kejimikujik National Park (phone 902-682-2770) or write c/o Box 236 Maitland Bridge, N.S. B0T 1B0 (including your phone number) well before either Loon Watch.

## TRIVIAL TIDBITS of Local Natural History

**selected and compiled by  
Jim Wolford, Site 1, Comp.61,  
RR#3, Wolfville, N.S. B0P-1X0**

The following reports are mostly from late November 1995 to mid March 1996.

### SKIES

Jan. 1/96 - a very bright **meteor** streaked from east to west at about 4 a.m., seen from Wolfville, perhaps came to Earth near Greenwich? (And this observer swears sobriety!) (DB).

Feb. 12/96 - **sundogs** seen on both sides of the sun in evening and late afternoon (LB).

### PLANTS

Mar. 27/96 - **silver maple** flowers just opening in Wolfville (JW).

### INVERTEBRATES

Jan. 18/96 - a large **earthworm** sluggishly active at edge of

melted snowbank on Acadia Univ. campus in Wolfville (JW).

Dec. 24/95 - two very small black **spiders** crossing a woods road at Diligent River (west of Parrsboro)(AF).

Dec. 18 (approx.)/95 - a large adult **predaceous diving beetle** found in a flooded basement of a house being built near Aldershot -- then kept in an aquarium and became "tame" (FB).

Feb. 17/96 - (heard on INFORMATION MORNING, CBC-radio, by BBT) - Gini Proulx in Annapolis County spoke of having 30+ **ladybird beetles** with 19 spots on each in her room -- she put sweetened water on a sponge for them. [See Nature Canada, April/95 -- these are perhaps an Old World immigrant, *Harmonia axyris*, that was introduced into se. U.S.A. about five

years ago -- it is predicted to become dominant in Canada, probably at the expense of native ladybirds(JW).]

early Feb. /96 - **crane flies** alive and active inside a house on Wolfville Ridge - "They keep going back to our dining room where all the house plants are located for the winter including geraniums and fuschia (not in bloom), even when I try to relocate them to our greenhouse (I think it is too cold for them there! Wings have lots of dark brown/black markings - almost like dots or patches in about three groupings along wing - very attractive" (JGT). [See last newsletter report of huge nos. of adults in Sept./95.]

Mar. 15/96 - a **butterfly**, possibly a question-mark, flew into a patio at Forest Home (GG).

### AMPHIBIANS

Mar. 22/96 - single **spring peepers** heard at Wilmot (Ann. Co.) by Maggie Crocker and near North Sydney by Ryan Martin (both observers were registered Frogwatchers)(HCH).

### MAMMALS

Dec. 25/95 - one **flying squirrel** at bird feeder at Diligent River (AF).

Feb. 22/96 - one **flying squirrel** coming to feeders on Wolfville Ridge (JGT).

Dec. 12/95 - in very early morning, 50+ **meadow voles** seen scampering in fresh shallow snow along dyke at Port Williams

- hawks and dogs were chasing them (LC).

Feb. 9-12/96 - a **meadow vole** seen under black-oil-sunflower-seed feeders, gathering seeds during a mild spell, on Wolfville Ridge - more voles were obviously around, since there were networks of small pathways and tunnels through the snow in the back yard (JGT).

late Jan. or early Feb./96 - a **mink** seen at the salt-marsh culvert at Kingsport (JF).

Mar. 15/96 - a **mink** crossed a highway in the New Ross area (DT).

Jan. 26/96 - a **skunk** freshly road-killed at Port Williams school (several warm days preceded last night)(JW).

Feb. 9/96 - two **raccoons** asleep in adjacent trees in mid-afternoon in Grand Pre village (BBT).

Dec. 14/95 - a **coyote** seen in a field on the southwest dykelands at Grand Pre (BBT).

Jan. 31/96 - **coyote** tracks seen around the edge of a pond in a Wolfville back yard (DGT).

Feb. 10/96 - a **red fox** seen in a Centreville yard (PJC).

Feb. 17/96 - (heard on INFORMATION MORNING, CBC-radio, by BBT) Gini Proulx reported that a dark **cougar** had been reported "by a reliable source" in the Princedale area, south of Annapolis Royal - also,

five or six years ago another was reported not far from this area.

Feb. 21/96 - a **harbour seal** seen at Annapolis Royal, above the power dam (BBT).

Mar. 18/96 - a single **harbour porpoise** seen in the Cornwallis River about 0.5 km. east of Port Williams (IJ).

Dec. 24/95 - six **white-tailed deer** seen on a blueberry lot; also seen were signs of their scraping for food in the nearby woods, at Diligent River (AF).

## CONTRIBUTORS

DB - David Burton

FB - Fred Bond

LB - Larry Bogan

LC - Lana Churchill

PJC - Pat & Joe Clifford

AF - Alice V. Fuller

JF - Janet Finer

GG - Gary Graves

HCH - Halifax Chronicle-Herald

IJ - Ian Jonsen

BBT - Brenda & Bill Thexton

DT - David Thexton

DGT - Dianne & Gordon Thorpe

JGT - Judy & Gordon Tufts

JW - Jim Wolford

## BNS WINTER 1995-96 BIRD SIGHTINGS

by **Richard Stern**  
Kentville, NS

I would like to mention that this column is intended to be a partial compilation of some of the more interesting bird sightings in West Hants, Kings, and East Annapolis Counties during the recent season, for readers' interest and (hopefully) pleasure. These sightings and descriptions in no way constitute any sort of "official" list for our area. Many are unverified by detailed feather-by-feather description, photos or specimens. There is no "official" Nova Scotia list, and no rarities committee in the province, to verify records, as there is in many other provinces and states (and countries). I simply report what birders and other interested observers tell me about, without attempting to confirm anything, unless sounding really outrageous, or of major interest such as a "first for the county" etc. If people wish to have rare sight-

ings recorded for posterity, then of course they should submit impeccable, detailed descriptions, preferably corroborated by witnesses and/or photos, that eliminate "look-alike" species, to organisations such as the N.S. Bird Society, or the National Museum of Natural Sciences.

**NORTHERN FULMAR** - JWW had an intriguing sighting of 2 white birds flying way out over the Minas Basin just before Xmas, with stiff wing beats, and "flap-glide" flight style, which he felt were this species of seabird, hitherto unrecorded for the county. Unfortunately they never came closer, and never returned, so we should keep a watch out for other possible individuals this winter.

**CANADA GOOSE** - About 200 were around the Canning/Hillaton area, on the Minas Basin at high tide, 18 March (RBS).

**DUCKS** - As usual, a few "puddle ducks" have stayed around where

unfrozen water has allowed, e.g. a few **BLACK DUCKS** and 1-2 **COMMON GOLDENEYE** on the Cornwallis River (RBS) and 10 **MALLARDS** on the Canard River Jan. 14 (BBT). There were 3 male **HARLEQUIN DUCKS** in the surf off the rocks at Margaretsville Feb. 11 (AAM, RBS).

**TURKEY VULTURE** - Slowly extending their range into Nova Scotia, they have long been regular over Brier Island, and in recent years, over Yarmouth Co. and Cape Sable Island. SW and RB saw one over Avonport during the first week in Jan. This is their detailed account:- "On Sunday, Jan. 7th, Roy Bishop and I, on our way for a cross-country ski, observed a Turkey vulture soaring just above the Bluff Road in Avonport, in the vicinity of what is locally called Haliburton's Hill. It landed in the field on a cow carcass partly buried in the snow. We were able to drive to the carcass for a closer look. The vulture flew off and alighted on a fence post not too far off. It had a bare red head and a few white feathers in the tail. When in flight the fringe of underwing white feathers contrasted with the black. And it soared with a very open V posture as opposed to the straight line posture of a soaring eagle. It was observed in the same location the following day (JT, BBT). Sightings are now almost annual in King's Co."

**NORTHERN GOSHAWK** - G/MA report 2 of these spectacu-

lar raptors that hung around their feeders in West Brooklyn during the last week in Dec. One was seen unsuccessfully chasing a Mourning dove, and both allowed very close approach.

**BALD EAGLE** - As usual King's Co. remains the capital of N.E. North America for this species. 300 were seen on the "official" Jan.21 eagle count, 100-140 fewer than 1995 (perhaps because of dispersal due to lack of snow cover). I cannot top SW's description of one sighting, so here it is, quoted from him - "Roy and I were on a cross-country ski trek on a trail that follows the upper Gaspereau River Valley (we were about 5 km up from the start of the trail) when we witnessed a fly-in of several Bald eagles. The river valley is a deep cut ravine, with slopes covered in good sized hemlocks, pine, spruce and a mix of hardwood trees. This Sunday afternoon was very beautiful - the river valley was decked out in fresh white snow along with sunshine and blue sky; just perfect conditions for skiing. Just before 5 PM as the sun was setting we decided to turn about and head back down the ravine for home. A few minutes into our outward journey, we looked up and witnessed a magnificent sight.

Eagles were going overhead, wave after wave of them. In the stillness you could hear the rush of air from their wings; they were calling back and forth to each other in their rather discordant, high pitched squawks. In all, between 45 and 50 eagles passed

overhead in the 5 minutes or so that we stood and watched the spectacle. This time in the late afternoon, the eagles are heading up the ravine to take up their evening roost in the large trees somewhere near the area where we had just been skiing. That was a special moment! It is difficult to express the emotions we felt during that unplanned moment that brought together eagles, snow, trees, and skiers in a beautiful river valley illuminated in that special lighting that follows sunset and the beginning of the gathering twilight."

By late March, there have been at least 4 pairs of Eagles actively nesting in King's Co., including a pair building on a platform in Melanson, put up several years ago for that purpose by BLF and Cyril Coldwell. This is an extremely unusual occurrence.

**RED-TAILED HAWK** - 83 were seen on the 21 Jan. annual "eagle count" from 10-11 a.m., and probably represents a reasonably accurate tally of the eastern King's Co. population. The Gaspereau area partial-albino was not seen after mid - Nov., but the Sheffield Mills area partial albino was seen Jan. 17, and again in mid-March, for about a week, for the 7th successive winter (PJC).

**MERLIN** - One has been seen intermittently by JT in the Wolfville area, and others have been seen by JWW in Avonport, Kingsport and Wolfville.

**AMERICAN KESTREL** - MAG saw one on Jan. 19 at

Lower Canard. These are normally summer visitors, but there are a few winter sightings. Overall numbers appear to be in decline in our area recently.

**GRAY PARTRIDGE** - Numbers are still very low, but 10 were around Starr's Pt. in late Dec. (fide JWW).

**COMMON SNIPE** - BBT saw one near Windsor Feb. 4. These are much more frequently seen when displaying in Spring, or on migration in late fall.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** - An adult was at the Kentville landfill site, with the usual thousands of Herring and Greater black-backed gulls (RBS), 3 Jan., and another (presumably the Nov. individual) was back at Gaspereau on Jan. 20 (fide JWW). The population of this species is "exploding" in N. America. This individual was, as in most cases, identifiable as to the "graelsii" race that breeds in the U.K., Iceland and the Faroes, by its slate gray, as against black, back.

**GLAUCOUS GULL** - 6 birds were at the Kentville dump 27 Jan. (RBS), all 1st and 2nd winter plumaged.

**DOVEKIE** - A bird of this species "dropped out of the sky" in front of L/MW's truck just before Xmas, in New Minas. They called a knowledgeable friend, who explained that these birds sometimes get blown inland during storms, and if they hit the ground, they are unable

to take off again. Accordingly, this bird was taken to Hall's Harbour, and successfully launched into the Bay of Fundy at high tide, and was last seen swimming out to sea.

**BARRED OWL** - RBS has seen several in trees along the Rte 101 at points between Windsor and Middleton.

**GREAT HORNED OWL** - BLF has had birds prospecting around the nest platform he built a few years ago at Wallbrook, on the hillside in woods, early Feb. to early March. One was hooting away at midnight in the trees between Valley Regional Hospital and the Professional Centre Feb. 7 (RBS) - an unexpected benefit of being on call at the hospital!

**SHORT-EARED OWL** - GF saw one flying west along the Cornwallis River at dusk, high in the sky in snow, Dec. 21., and RBS flushed one from a ditch along Wellington Dyke in mid-morning Dec. 24. JWW also saw one flying near Kentville Jan. 12. These locations are all fairly close together, so there is the possibility that they are all of the same bird.

**SNOWY OWL** - An injured individual was found on the Canard Dyke in early March, captured by BLF, and shipped to the Raptor Rehab. Center on the South Shore. Sadly, X-rays showed that it would never fly again, and it had to be put down.

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** - The few sightings this winter of this small and delightful

creature have been 1 or 2 hooting at night in the Lumsden area (BLF, RBS), but HF had a nice look at one on 19 March. He says "I had an interesting sighting last night at 1 AM as I was out looking at the comet. A saw-whet owl landed in a tree beside the house not more than 20 feet away and in the light of the back door light. By chance I even had my binoculars in hand as I had been looking at the comet and had the best look I have ever had of a saw-whet in the wild. It flit around mystically for a couple of minutes and then disappeared into the dark."

**HORNED LARK** - The only sizable flock noted was 200+ at Grand Pre Dyke Jan.2 (BBT), with smaller numbers there later in Jan. (JCT). On the latter occasion there were 16 **LAPLAND LONGSPUR** there with them.

**NORTHERN FLICKER** - MP saw 2 on Wolfville Ridge Feb.5, and RBS saw 1 in the town of Wolfville Feb.10. One also visited JWW's feeder. There are usually a few of these summer residents that seem to stay around and survive our winters.

**PILEATED WOODPECKER** - Individuals continue to be regularly seen, often around civilisation, e.g. over Palmetter's subdivision, Kentville on Jan. mornings (RBS), and 1 perched on a power pole in Tremont 14 Feb., (SLH). Valentine's Day - was it drumming, looking for a mate?

**RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET** - JT reported one to JWW in

Wolfville Feb. 6. There are very few previous reports of this species over-wintering in our province, but perhaps the warm weather helped it to survive.

**RED - BREASTED NUTHATCH** - A partial albino, with an almost white head and light gray crown, and white blotches on the wings, was visiting a feeder in Auburn in Dec. (fide JCT).

**AMERICAN ROBIN** - 50 were in Wolfville Jan. 9 (DT), and flocks were also noted by BLF this Jan.

**CAROLINA WREN** - BLF heard one singing and tracked it down, at White Rock, 23 Feb. It was seen by most of the local birders the next morning. This is a species that seems to be expanding its range northwards, probably as a result of the milder winters in recent years. There are 7 or 8 records for N.S., and this is a 1st for King's Co. Its loud, ringing, "teakettle, teakettle" song makes it easy to locate if singing. This one also gave a two-note sing-song type of call. The white superciliary stripe, decurved bill, rusty flanks and barred tail were also very noticeable.

**NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD** - HF saw one in Port Williams in early Jan.

**NORTHERN SHRIKE** - Lots around this winter, all over the area, and seen by numerous observers. This is another irruptive northerly breeder, with large numbers this far south only every

6 or 7 winters. StM saw one chase a Mourning Dove under her deck in early Feb.

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING** - Sizable flocks were appearing around berry trees and shrubs in Wolfville by early Jan. (BLF, BBT), and SLH of Kingston noted flocks of up to 150 in Tremont and Kingston in mid-Jan. to early Feb. JCT counted 170 near Hortonville on Jan. 9, and around 500 in Wolfville Feb.5. JWW also saw around 500 there three weeks later.

**COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** - Any warbler is a welcome addition to the winter birding scene, but unfortunately very few of them survive, so from the bird's point of view it is not desirable. An individual of this species was in BBT's backyard in Wolfville Dec. 3-6.

**NORTHERN CARDINAL** - Lots reported this winter, from all over the area. Numerous Xmas Counts in the Maritimes had record years for this species this winter. A male has been singing, to an accompanying female, usually from a bush, on Bay St., Wolfville, from early Feb. on. Hopefully some will stay around to nest this spring.

**AMERICAN TREE SPARROW** - It seemed a bumper season for this northern visitor early this winter, but numbers seemed to thin out after Xmas.

**PINE GROSBEAK** - Definitely a good winter for this species, small flocks being seen all winter

all over our area by numerous observers, oddly nearly all immature and female plumage.

**HOUSE FINCH** - Still maintaining a tenuous hold in our area, a male was at a Wolfville feeder Dec. 25 (fide JWW) and one in GT's yard in Wolfville Jan. 20. and on into March.

**COMMON REDPOLL** - Up to 20 of this irruptive winter finch were around Wolfville Dec. 17, and in Feb. (JT, BBT), but it does not appear to be a good winter for this species in our area this year. SLH saw just one with some Goldfinches in Tremont 17 Feb.

G/MA	George/Margaret Alliston
RB	Roy Bishop
PJC	Pat and Joe Clifford
BLF	Bernard Forsythe
GF	George Forsyth
HF	Harold Forsyth
MAG	Merritt Gibson
SLH	Sheila Hulford
AAM	Angus MacLean
StM	Stella MacLean
MP	Mary Pratt
RBS	Richard Stern
BBT	Brenda/Bill Thexton
DT	Diane Thorpe
JT	Jean Timpa
GT	Gerry Trueman
JCT	Judy Tufts
L/MW	Laurie/Marie Ward
SW	Sherman Williams

### WINTER WEATHER - 1995-6 WEATHER STATISTICS AND COMMENTS DECEMBER 1995, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1996

by Larry Bogan  
Cambridge Station, NS

Graphs are the best way to review the whole season in detail at a glance. When I plotted the daily weather data for the 95-96 winter season every graph had something of interest.

The temperature graph is the most interesting. Note the warm period at the end of December, then the cold spell in early January held the large snow fall in December. The graph also shows the warm, rainy period that melted the snow in mid-January. The temperature in February had the widest swings of the winter including the coldest days of the winter and ending with the warmest period of the winter. February's average tem-

perature was 1.7 C above the norm but with December's lower than normal by 1.4 C, the winter was just about average overall.

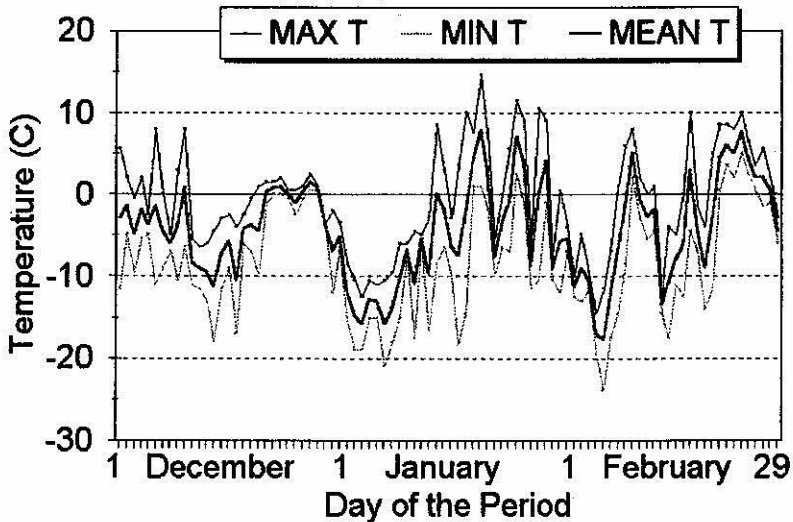
Quite a few low pressure systems found their way over Nova Scotia. As a result we had a cloudier than normal winter and received only 3/4 of the normal sunny days. The cloudiness in February was the worst with 1/2 the expected bright sunshine hours. Surprisingly, we had below average precipitation. December had nearly twice the snow but only 1/4 the rain expected for the month while February had twice the rain we normally get.



*Monthly Totals of Weather Statistics from Kentville, N.S. Agriculture Research Centre*

	Mean Temperature (°C)	Snowfall (cm)	Rainfall (mm)	Precipitation (mm)	Sunshine (hours)
DEC 1995	-3.8	108	18	95	45
30 year mean	-2.4	57	75	129	60
JAN 1996	-5.5	40	49	76	80
30 year mean	-5.4	71	65	134	72
FEB 1996	-3.8	52	91	110	53
30 year mean	-5.5	64	40	104	103
<b>PERIOD</b>	<b>-4.38</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>178</b>
<b>30 year mean</b>	<b>-4.41</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>235</b>

**Max, Min and Mean Daily Temperature  
Kentville, NS - Winter 1995-96**



**Sources for Local Natural History**  
(compiled by Blomidon Naturalists Society)

<b>Information</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Home</b>	
Rocks & Fossils	Geology Dept. Acadia U.	542-2201		
Fish	NS Dept. of Natural Resources	679-6091		
Flora - General	Ruth Newell	542-2201	542-2095	
	Fungi	Darryl Grund	542-2201	542-9214
		Nancy Nickerson	679-5333	542-9332
	Lichens	Karen Casselman	424-7370	633-2837
	Seaweeds	Darryl Grund	542-2201	542-9214
	Mosses & Ferns	John Pickwell		681-8281
Birds - General	Bernard Forsythe		542-2427	
	Richard Stern	678-4742	678-1975	
	Gordon & Judy Tufts		542-7800	
	Jim Wolford	542-2201	542-7650	
	Jean Timpa		542-5678	
Hawks & Owls	Bernard Forsythe		542-2427	
Falcons & Eagles	Peter Austin-Smith		542-2109	
Mammals	Tom Herman	542-2201	678-0383	
Amphibians & Reptiles	Sherman Bleakney		542-3604	
	Jim Wolford	542-2201	542-7650	
Seashore & Marine Life	Sherman Bleakney		542-3604	
	Jim Wolford	542-2201	542-7650	
	Graham Daborn	542-2201	542-5373	
	Michael Brylinsky	542-2201	582-7954	
Indian Prehistory & Archeology	Ellis Gertridge		542-2816	
	James Legge		542-3530	
Astronomy	Roy Bishop		542-3992	
	Sherman Williams	542-3598	542-5104	
	Larry Bogan		678-0446	

April 1996						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 7:30 - BNS Meeting	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 1996						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 NAMC day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Cape Split Hike
19	20 7:30 - BNS Meeting	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 1996						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 FNSN AGM →	8 →
9 →	10	11	12	13 <i>Executive Meeting</i>	14	15 Gaspereau River Walk
16 Photo Workshop	17 7:30 - BNS Meeting	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

# Blomidon Naturalists Society 1996 Membership Fees

Each member receives four issues yearly of the BNS Newsletter. The Blomidon Naturalists Society is a registered charity. Receipts for income tax purposes will be issued for all donations. The membership fee itself is not tax-deductible. Members may also join the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists through the BNS and will receive their quarterly newsletter; the membership is not tax-deductible.

Please enclose a cheque or money order payable to "Blomidon Naturalists Society" and forward to:

Harold Forsyth  
RR #2, Wolfville, NS. B0P 1X0

Number	Membership Classification	Price	Total
_____	Individual Adult	\$12.00	\$ _____
_____	Family	\$15.00	\$ _____
_____	Individual Junior (under 16 years)	\$1.00	\$ _____
_____	Federation of NS Naturalists Membership	\$5.00	\$ _____
_____	Tax-deductible donation		\$ _____
	<b>Total</b>		\$ _____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership      Individual Adult   
                                   Individual Junior   
                                   Family       (Number of people)

Join the Federation of NS Naturalists?    Yes       No   
 Is this is a gift subscription?            Yes       No