

Blomidon Naturalists Society

Winter 1998 - Volume 25 Number 4

Blomidon Naturalists Society

*"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 Newsletter* is published quarterly, in March, June, October and December by
The Blomidon Naturalists Society
P.O. Box 127
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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.

Visit us on the web

<http://www.go.ednet.ns.ca/~bns/home.htm>

WINTER PROGRAMME, 1998

MONDAY EVENING MEETINGS

Note that in January, February and March, our meetings will be held in Elliott Hall and Patterson Hall rather than the usual Beveridge Arts Center.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month and start at 7:30 p.m. at Acadia University. In January and March, the meetings are in room 221, Elliott Hall and in February, we are in room 308, Patterson Hall. In April, we return to our usual location, room 244 of the Beveridge Arts Centre. All meetings are open to the public and BNS members are encouraged to bring friends and neighbours.

Jan. 18. LESLIE ROGERS. *The Nova Scotia Nature Trust.* Leslie will tell us about the work of the Nature Trust; its organization, lands and legacies. Primarily, her presentation will be a photographic tour of the properties held by the Trust. Come and see some of Nova Scotia's beautiful natural places, and learn how you can help.

Feb. 15. MEMBERS' NIGHT. This is the night to tell others about your special interests in natural history. Our annual **Members' Night** is held in **Patterson Hall (Biology Dept.) Room 308**. Display tables, screens and projectors, and TV/Video equipment is available. Experiences, collections, pictures and slides, and artwork relating to natural history are welcomed. If you do not have anything to show and tell, come anyway and enjoy the interests of other members.

March 15. JIM WOLFORD. *The Poetic Greek Islands.* Jim will tell us about his recent visit to the Greek Islands. Outstanding photographs.

April 19. RAYMOND FIELDING. *The Shrubs of Nova Scotia.* Ray will tell us about our wild shrubs, with information on their values as ornamentals, in attracting wildlife, and for medicinal purposes. Ray has recently published a beautifully illustrated book about the shrubs of Nova Scotia. This will be a good opportunity to get your copy autographed!

FIELD TRIPS

January 30 & 31. EAGLE DAYS in SHEFFIELD MILLS. While not a "regular" field trip, BNS helps organize this event. Come and celebrate the eagles - local stewardship in action!

February 7. EAGLE COUNT- AND HAWKS TOO. For those who love CBCs, this is a must. Counts are coordinated to occur within a set time, and counters return to Paterson Hall to share their finds. Contact Jim Wolford for information.

February 13. WINTER SKY. The Minas Astronomy Group (MAG) will host the BNS. The group will proceed from the Robie Tufts Nature Center at 7:00 pm. If conditions outside are unfavourable, the group will have their observation experience inside!! Dress warmly, bring binoculars or telescopes, and a hot drink. Contacts: Larry Bogan, Roy Bishop, & Sherman Williams.

February 28. WINTER PLANTS. Ruth and Reg Newell will lead an afternoon walk to explore plants in winter. Meet at the Robie Tufts Center at 1:00 pm. Dress warmly and bring skis or snowshoes if snow conditions are favourable.

April 23. SPRING SKY. Sherman Williams and Larry Bogan will explore the heavens. The group will proceed from the Robie Tufts Nature Center at 8:30 pm. Dress warmly, bring binoculars or telescopes, and a hot drink. Cloud date is the 24th - same time and place.

April 25 - SPRING BIRDS. Jim Wolford will guide us to favourite shores, hedges, and ponds of the area. Waterproof clothing and footwear is recommended. Meet at the Robie Tufts Nature Center at 8:00 am. Bring lunch if you wish. Rain or shine.

Notes from the Editor... Happy New Year!

Now some new year's announcements. Membership fees are due now. Please provide Harold Forsyth with your dues, either by mail or at an evening meeting. The form is at the end of the newsletter; membership fees remain at \$18 for family, \$15 for an adult. Send to Harold at RR#2, Wolfville, NS, B0P 1X0.

The BNS 1999 calendars are available from Herbin's, Main Street, Wolfville, Shur-Gain, Port Williams, and at the evening BNS meetings.. Price is \$12 for an informative calendar filled with stunning, colour photographs.

And this bitter cold weather will end soon, I promise. Happy 1999. Susan Montonen
Susan Montonen@acadiau.ca; 902-542-0437

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SOCIETY NEWS

Conservation Committee Report Participation in the IRM of the DNR.

Larry Bogan, chairman

The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been involved in an Integrated Resource Management (IRM) study for the last couple of years. This originates from a decision in 1994, by DNR, that there must be a strategic plan for management of public lands which incorporates public input. This would shift management emphasis to multiple-use of Crown Lands from the present sector basis (e.g., forestry, hunting, etc.). The Western Region comprised of Kings, Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Queens, Shelburne and Lunenburg Counties is now under examination.

Crown Lands in our region have the following character and legal commitments

Water	28.5%
Coastal Islands	0.2%
Parks	2.1%
Protected Area	23.0%
Leased	0.9%
Timber Harvest	45.3%

As you can see there is no land uncommitted, which makes management difficult.

PUBLIC MEETING

A conservation committee representative attended the Kentville public meeting in October, and participated in discussion of management ideas.

A workbook with the following questions provided the basis for discussion:

- Why are you interested in Crown Land?
- What are the Broad Important Management Issues and Suggestions?
- What Current Activities do you do on Crown Land?
- What are Locations of Those Activities?
- Specify Issues on Forestry, Wildlife, Parks, Recreation, Energy and Mineral Extraction.
- Specify Blocks of Crown Land of Interest and Suggestions for Management

Our major concern was maintenance of wildlife habitat with emphasis on old growth forests, fresh water wetlands, and surrounding forest habitat. We recommended that all old growth forest be set aside for wildlife habitat. In fact, DNR in the western region has proposed setting aside 8% of all Crown Land in old growth forest. The problem is that only about 3% of the area can be identified as old growth. We recommended that lands committed for 'forestry' be reassessed for old growth forest so that no old growth be cut before it can be identified.

The committee had previously obtained forestry maps in order to identify locations of possible old growth forest in Kings County. We used topographical maps to locate wet lands on lakes and streams in addition to ones already known first hand. We concentrated on the large block of Crown Land in western Kings County (Anna-King Block) but looked at smaller one scattered elsewhere. The one area with the most densely grouped areas of older trees, has been committed to a forestry company starting in 1999. The mapped areas of old trees had not been 'ground proofed' so a couple of the committee members explored some of the areas. To their extreme disappointment they found one of the stands already being cut. A count of rings on stumps indicated sugar maple and ash trees ~110 years old and red spruce trees ~120 years old. After an inquiry to DNR, it was learned that the cuts were being done by a First Nations group, and at that time DNR could do nothing about the harvest. The committee has continued and will continue to search Crown Land for old tree stands but to date has not identified any other in Kings County.

The committee also made a written submission to the IMR planning team, including the above comments and details on the wetlands that we identified as needing protection. We suggested that a 200 metre buffer around streams and lakes is more realistic than the present 20 m. We also identified the Riverdale block (near Nimchin Lake) for old stands of trees to be preserved. Several scenic areas such as Blue Mountain (Gaspereau Lake) and North Twin Lake were also identified. Almost all the landscapes in the Crown Land is South Mountain Granite landscape with a little in the LaHave Drumlin landscape area. Preservation needs to be done in the Annapolis Valley but no Crown Land exists there.

If any members know of areas of old growth forest on Crown Land please let the conservation committee know of its existence.

The committee consists of: Larry Bogan (Chair), George Allison, Lorna Hart, Jim Wolford, Tom Herman, and Peter Austin-Smith.

Treasurer's Report 1997/98 Harold Forsyth

We ended the year with a net income of \$5,375. Our calendar project resulted in a net profit of \$3,200 which we expect to better in the coming year. Sales of the *Natural History of Kings County* continue to be steady. We had 208 paid up memberships during the year representing over 400 members. Special thanks go out to those who made financial donations to the Society: Reverend William Bishop, Peter Austin-Smith, Gerald Porter, Lily and Henry Meijer, MacPherson Eaton, Douglas Ells, Rick and Janet Whitman, Kathryn Fleiger, Edward Eagles, Susan Hergett, Brian Burke, Leslie Nichols, Jim Wolford, Gert Arkensteijn, Irmgard Lipp, Owen and Janice Stephens, David Simms, Vivian Sinclair, Ruth Butler and in support of our calendar: Curtis Chipman, Arthur Irving and Cobi Holdings Ltd. Also, thanks to Norm McGuinness for auditing the books.

Blomidon Naturalists Society Statements of Operations and Surplus

Year Ended August 31	1998	1997
Revenue		
Advertising	\$ 720	\$ 220
Books	816	706
Calendar	9,627	0
Crests	84	230
Donations	2,443	416
Federation dues in	230	245
Grants: Career Summer Placement	0	2,140
GST rebate	726	158
Interest	106	328
Membership dues	3,167	2,814
Other	204	27
	<u>18,123</u>	<u>7,284</u>
Expenditures		
Administration	362	85
Awards and Meetings	75	201
Bad Debts	0	70
Books	368	335
Calendar	8,516	0
Crests	47	128
Eagle Project	430	570

Federation dues out	230	255
Memberships	142	140
Nature Centre	42	1,538
Newsletter	2,391	2,898
Other	145	97
Wages and benefits	0	2,806
	<u>12,748</u>	<u>9,123</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses	<u>\$ 5,375</u>	<u>\$(1,839)</u>

Surplus, beginning of year	\$ 9,305	\$11,144
Excess of revenue over expenses	5,375	(1,839)
Surplus, end of year	<u>\$14,680</u>	<u>\$ 9,305</u>

Blomidon Naturalists Society

Balance Sheet

August 31	1998	1997
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Assets

Current		
Cash	\$ 5,614	\$ 305
Term Deposit (1)	3,000	3,000
Accounts receivable	726	372
Inventory of books at cost	4,959	5,327
Inventory of crests at cost	381	428
	<u>14,680</u>	<u>9,432</u>

Liabilities

Current		
Payables and accruals	\$ 0	\$ 127

Equity

Surplus	14,680	9,305
	<u>\$ 14,680</u>	<u>\$ 9,432</u>

(1) Term Deposit - Royal Bank 1 year redeemable @ 2.75%

(2) Donations include \$1500 in support of '98 calendar and \$500 in support of '99 calendar.

DIRECTORS OF THE BLOMIDON NATURALISTS SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR 1997-98

President — Randy Milton 542-1761; Vice-President — Phil Taylor 542-0437; Past-President — Roy Bishop 542-3992; Secretary — Neil Cloghesy 542-4525; Treasurer — Harold Forsyth 542-5983; Directors at Large — Sue Bissix 542-9138; Merritt Gibson 582-7569; Lorna Hart 542-4470; Tom Herman 678-0383; Stan Riggs 679-9746

NATURAL HISTORY NEWS

Within a period of a week in early September, an immature Great Blue Heron paid four visits to my small (8' x 13') garden pool. After the 3rd visit I suspended a net over the pool, fearing that the fish and frogs would be completely wiped out. He was last seen on Sept. 15th. He looked the pool over, preened for half an hour and was on his way. By this time he was so tame I could take his picture from the nearby deck. While not eliminated, the numbers of goldfish and green frogs are greatly reduced.

Lorna Hart, Wolfville.

BNS Field Trip Report Walk into Black Hole, Oct. 11, 1998

by Jim Wolford, Wolfville

The date and time were picked for fall colours and low tide. For the former, I've always said that colours are enhanced by overcast conditions. But today's overcast was downright nasty, with steady rain all day. Nevertheless, three stalwarts and I did the trip in very memorable conditions. (I scouted this walk the day before to find the best areas for stream-crossings, but on the field trip day, gushing conditions rendered those efforts useless.)

We drove north from Sheffield Mills to Glenmont, then about 7 km further north on Black Hole Road, and parked where the road turns 90-degree to Baxter's Harbour. From Glenmont north, there were some nice displays of fall colours.

There are two ways into the Black Hole waterfall. The easy way, at low tide, is via a woods road about 150 m west of where we parked. That road or driveway leads north to the Bay of Fundy.

Walk past the two cottages onto the shore, then east just a few steps to the mouth of Black Hole Brook. Have rubber boots, and watch out for slippery rocks, and follow the brook until you hear and find the falls (it's not far).

The more difficult way in, which we used, requires a guide plus rubber boots plus a bit of a scramble down a very steep slope. A woods road heads east from that road-bend where we parked. Just for exercise, we crossed Black Hole Brook and continued east. Along the woods road there has been a lot of recent cutting of trees, and the road was quite muddy. Past the logging, the road turns north through alders to the Bay of Fundy, at the mouth of another creek.

Along that road we scared up a couple of ruffed grouse. We found mountain-ash berries that had been dropped by birds feeding in trees. Also there were two fresh gem-studded puffballs and, nearby, some older puffballs shedding spores. Add lots of unidentified mushrooms.

Then back to Black Hole Brook, and this time we followed it northwest downstream. Near the road we found two items of interest. First, I spotted an unusual caterpillar on a bracken fern -- it was smooth and bright yellow, with a black stripe all along the center of its back. Also there was a mass of honey mushrooms (I think) on the ground (undoubtedly on wood below the surface), and all over their yellowish gills were hundreds of insects that I believe were large thrips. The steady rain discouraged me from viewing them with my hand lens.

This walk required several crossings of Black Hole Brook, and our first one was in a spot of lovely fall colours. Thanks to the rain, the brook was full and running very rapidly. On the north side of the brook, we carefully walked a narrow path at the foot of a small cliff, then went up and over this ridge and through a bit of forest to the top of the loud waterfall. Then we had to descend a very steep slope to the bottom of the 12-13-metre? falls, which were really roaring, gushing tons of water, and releasing lots of spray.

From there was a bit of a scramble through very rough terrain to follow the brook out to its mouth. The ground and tree-trunks are loaded with lush mosses and lichens in Black Hole itself, which,

of course, is named because it's in the deep shade most of the time.

Along the brook you'll encounter a very small salt-marsh, mostly of goosetongues or seaside plantains, at the high-tide line, and then lots of rockweeds, periwinkles, other seaweeds washed in from offshore, and basalt rock-formations.

We walked out on the woods road past the cottages, past another nice-looking cobble beach, and back to our cars. We decided to have our late lunch at Deedee's Dinette at Scots' Bay. That was a great idea, and the Dinette was just closing for the winter. The food was hot in two ways and went a long way to warming our bodies and spirits.

TRIVIAL TIDBITS of Local Natural History

compiled by Jim Wolford
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Since my historic move of going "on-line" with electronic mail, the NatureNS naturalists across N.S. have increased my list of contributors and our area of coverage. For me, that's good, and I hope our readers agree.

mostly late September to late December, 1998

SKIES

Nov. 16-17 and 17-18 - Leonid meteor shower - on the first night, in 200 minutes of observation from 2:15 to 6:30 a.m., at least 194 Leonid meteors were seen along with 8-10 "sporadics" (non-Leonids) -- the sporadics were noticeably slower and dimmer than the frequently bright and sometimes long-lasting

Leonids, which sometimes came in bunches but never constituted a "meteor storm" -- check this out next year (peak of 33-year cycle?)(SW, who reported this was the best show of meteors that he has ever seen).

FUNGI

Oct 11 - at Black Hole (e. of Baxter's Harbour), we found a

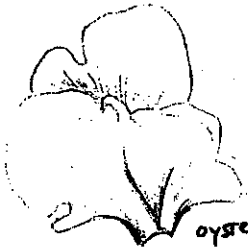
bunch of **honey mushrooms?** on the ground (undoubtedly on wood below the surface), and on their yellowish gills were many dozens of large **thrips** (insects)(JW,BNS).

(LA,LK,PM,JW).

Dec. 5 - in Wolfville, on maple stumps on a lawn, several aggregations of probable oys-

Oct 23 - **shaggy-mane** mushrooms just up in lawn-grass along a driveway at Grand Pré (PM,JW).

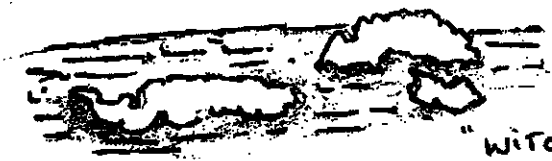
Oct 27 - two observations related to **Dutch elm disease?**: first, the "eagle tree" or "Kennedy tree" at Sheffield Mills has had a couple of large limbs removed -- why?; secondly, ne. of Wellington Dyke, a whole line of at least 10 or 12 large elms (diseased?) have recently been felled and cut up into sections (JW).



OYSTER MUSHROOM

Nov 8 - several bunches of orange "**witch's butter**" **jelly fungus** on a cut stump and,

ter mushrooms as well as lots of **polypores** or leathery shelf-fungi commonly called "**turkey-tails**" (JT) -- just after this report I found large clumps of probable **oyster mushrooms** on a stump at Canning and on several trunks of deciduous



"WITCH'S BUTTER"

nearby on the ground, a group of "**lobster mushrooms**" or "**orange mushroom pimples**" (*Hypomyces*, an ascomycete fungus that parasitizes, deforms, & discolours mushrooms that are either "brittle-gills" (*Russula* spp.) or "milk-caps" (*Lactarius* spp.)), near White Rock

trees in Kentville along Belcher St. (JW).

CONIFERS

early Oct. - on Grand Manan Island, **huge crop of cones of white spruces** opened and shed their seeds, which were widely dispersed by several

days of very strong winds. Predicted to do very well this winter, rather than finches like crossbills, are the **red-backed voles** on the forest floor (BD).

Oct. 5 - in the Antigonish area, **cone-crops** of both **spruce** and **white pine** were heavy -- also it's a good year for **mountain ash berries** (see also below)(RL).

Oct. 6 - at Liverpool, it was "snowing" seeds of **white pines** onto the ground, where up to 34 **mourning doves** were apparently feeding on them, on a plot recently dug up and seeded with grass (HD).

FLOWERING PLANTS

June - an element of the Coastal Plain flora, **eastern baccharis** (*Baccharis halimifolia*), a low shrub, was found on two coastal islands near the mouth of the Tusket River near Yarmouth by Ray Fielding (ME).

Sept. 2 - considerable numbers of **purple bladderwort** with all the **flowers white** (normally violet or purple), found at Pretty Mary Lake, Annapolis Co. (JSB, ME, NH).

Sept. 2 - **little floating bladderwort** (*Utricularia radiata*), provincially rare, beautiful, and unreported for about 40 years, was found on Pretty Mary Lake

and its connected sister, Mudflat Lake, Annapolis Co. -- its upper leaves are inflated and arranged in a whorl, serving for flotation (JSB, ME, NH).

Sept 30 to Oct 3 - very strong winds dramatically started to strip trees of their autumn leaves (JW).

Oct. 19 - a planted **rhododendron** on the Acadia Univ. campus was **in bloom** with white flowers (DT).

Oct 24 - **mouse-ear hawkweed** and **red clover** still in Bloom at Tremont (near Greenwood)(SH).

Nov 8 - This report came in from a NSBS birding trip on Cape Sable Island: "We were struck by the abundance of **cone and berry crops** bountiful clusters of **red mountain ash berries**, **rose hips**, and **Canada holly (fruits)** provided bursts of colour among the subdued grasses and shrubs and out



Butterandess

on the headlands there were dense clusters of **bayberries**" (PC).

Nov. 8 - butter-and-eggs in bloom on a roadside at Gasperreau (SH).

Nov. 10 - common yarrow in bloom along a road at Tremont (SH).

Nov. 23 - common dandelion in bloom on a lawn at Greenwood (SH).

Nov. 26 - celandine or swallow-wort (*Chelidonium*) blooming in a flower border at Tremont (SH).

Dec. 6 - an aster was still in bloom in a Wolfville back yard (JT).

INVERTEBRATES

summer? - a land snail new to Nova Scotia, *Succinea putris*, was found near Sydney Tar Ponds by Erich Haber -- also known from Ont., NY & PA and widespread in Europe (ME).

Oct 15 - Sherman Williams' e-mail message: "I'm looking for advice and other observations regarding **millipedes** invading the house. Around this time for the last three years I have been invaded by numerous millipedes. This year, once again, each night, several thousand millipedes have climbed up the foundation of the house and continue up

the exterior walls, concentrating around the doors and windows. I have collected a few hundred that have found their way into the house, especially into the basement. This has probably been the most numerous invasion so fara bit unsettling. One interesting observation is the very strong odour that they give off. It is very strong especially when several are concentrated together in a container. It has become a major problem at our house and I am curious to know more about these millipeded critters that have been extending the meaning of their name by visiting by the thousands. I would appreciate some advice on what the best way is to control them without resorting to poison and other "violence" against them." (SW). (He did get some advice from Dick Rogers of the Kentville Agric. Res. Stn.)

Oct 17 - plenty of earthworms still crawling around in freshloy-dug earth in a vegetable garden near Greenwood (SH).

early Nov - in an Acadia Biol. aquarium, a silver-spotted sea anemone (*Bunodactis stella*) gave birth to three baby anemones -- the adult was collected from Black Rock (Canada Creek) in early Sept. (CB,GG,IP).

Dec. 1 - on a very warm day, lots of active **garden slugs** in Wolfville (JW).

Nov. 7 - 6 kinds of **sea slugs**, and lots of some of them, found in low intertidal zone at The Guzzle (between ne. Grand Pré and Boot Island: small, red-gilled *Coryphella* especially abundant on masses of *Sabellaria*'s sandy tubes (polychaete worms); *Aeolidia*, which feeds on small *Metridium* anemones under rocks; *Dendronotus*, *Onchidoris*, *Acanthodoris*, and *Facelina* (check these out in Sherman Bleakney's very readable and entertaining book,



Sea Slugs of Atlantic Canada and the Gulf of Maine (1996, Nimbus/N.S.Museum))(GG,IP)

INSECTS - ODONATA

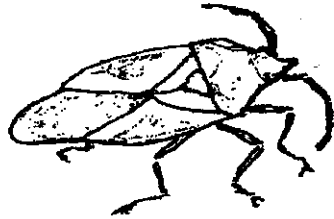
summer - one **Quebec emerald dragonfly** (*Somatochlora brevicincta*), one of only about six insect species listed on the IUCN Red List for Canada (rarities at risk), was found by Paul Brunelle at a bog in

Cumberland County -- it is now known from New Brunswick, Cape Breton (one site), and one lake in Quebec)(ME).

Oct. 16 - a **red-bodied skimmer dragonfly** was active at Canning (IP).

INSECTS - ORTHOPTERA

Oct 27 - **crickets** still singing in a flower garden near



Greenwood (SH).

INSECTS - HEMIPTERA

Aug. - 10 **small milkweed bugs** (these are colourful seed-eating bugs restricted to milkweed plants and warningly coloured) were collected at Coldbrook by Charles Twaddle (DR).

INSECTS - HOMOPTERA

Oct 15 - on Bay St. in Wolfville, lots of **starlings** were seen to be "**flycatching**" in the air -- the air was densely full of tiny insects, which upon inspection proved to be **aphids** and probably aphid-like **psyl-**

lids or jumping plant lice -- it seems weird that two different species would be swarming at the same time -- **true aphids** often have very complex life-cycles, involving asexual and sexual generations and switching between two different plants -- these aphids probably were the results of a sexual generation, the winged products of which then seek out a different plant on which to overwinter and then reproduce asexually in the spring (MW, JT, JW). (Starlings were again noticed flycatching over Wolfville and at Grand Pré on Oct. 18 by JT, PM, & JW.)

INSECTS - THYSANOPTERA

Oct 11 - many dozens of large **thrips** on the gills of honey mushrooms? at Black Hole (Baxter's Hbr.)(JW, BNS).

INSECTS - COLEOPTERA

Oct 17 - 2 completely different-looking **southern lady beetles** found near Greenwood -- one was red and had 19 spots, while the other was orange with only a few faint spots (SH).

Oct 18 - our first sunny and warm day for a long time -- I received many reports of people seeing large numbers of **lady beetles** being on houses and very active, flying a lot. In

Canning, Ian Paterson saw **hundreds** in total, of 3 species: roughly 40% **southerns** (both the heavily spotted and unspotted forms plus intermediates (see the Canadian Nature Federation colour brochure or call 1-800-267-4088 (Ottawa) to get one); 35% **7-spotted**; and 25% **2-spotted** -- at Grand Pré, Pat Martin & I saw 25 **southerns** (same variety of forms, mostly heavily spotted) -- at Delhaven, Joe Nocera saw significant numbers of **southern lady beetles** (both heavily and weakly spotted forms).

INSECTS - LEPIDOPTERA

July 26 - one **Baltimore checkerspot butterfly** (rare) seen on **yellow rattle** at Newtonville (sw. of Gaspereau)(JSB, ME).

Oct 11 - east of Baxter's Harbour, on a bracken fern, we found a smooth **caterpillar** that was all yellow except for a black stripe that ran its entire length along the center of its back (JW, BNS).

Nov. 15&20 - dozens of flying male **winter moths** (females are wingless) at Wolfville and Grand Pré, respectively (JW).

INSECTS - DIPTERA

Oct 8 - there was a deluge of **craneflies** at Delhaven -- the next day only a few could be

found (JN).

early Nov - some small flies (**prob. midges**) were swarming in the air (these are groups of males trying to attract females for mating) in a back yard in Wolfville (JT).

Dec. 1 - on a very warm day, tiny insects (**gnats?**) and possible **house flies** were flying in Wolfville (JT, BBT).

I N S E C T S

HYMENOPTERA

early Oct - an underground nest of **yellow jackets** among conifer tree-roots in a forest in residential south Wolfville was deeply dug up, probably by a **skunk?** -- this was when the wasps could still be seen coming into and leaving the nest in the daytime (DGT).

FISHES

mid Oct - the annual migration of "**needlefish**" (**Atlantic saury**) was reported to be "on" again at the Canso Causeway (KM). Randy Lauff tells me this lasts for weeks every year, and large numbers of opportunistic **predators** can be seen there then, e.g., bald eagles, gannets, gulls, dolphins, seals, etc.

REPTILES

July - (from conversation with Mike James in late Oct.) - Mike talked with two mackerel fishers (one based in Nfld., other in Yarmouth) about their sightings of **loggerhead turtles** on the Grand Banks off Nfld. -- apparently loggerheads were common/abundant in the 2nd half of July -- one fisher said he sometimes had one hooked loggerhead for each buoy marking long-lines (they just cut the line to release each turtle with the hook in its mouth -- prognosis unknown, but the hooks may eventually rust away) -- the turtles are attracted to the bait on the hooks -- apparently these turtles' diets are quite varied and they'll "eat nearly anything" (MJ).

end of Oct. - 2 PEI scallop-fishers saw a **leatherback turtle** in the Northumberland Strait (MJ).

Nov. 5 - a **leatherback turtle** was seen swimming in a harbour se. of Glace Bay (MJ).

Sept 16 - a very small (6-cm) **ringneck snake** was found on the soccer pitch of New Minas' Lockhart-Ryan Park -- it was released in adjacent woods, a probably safer habitat (JS).

Oct 13 - a **red-bellied snake** was found sunning itself on a cool afternoon on a dirt road

beside an onion field at Berwick (JS).

Oct 18 - a living **garter snake**, about 35 cm long, was brought home in Wolfville by the same **housecat** that caught a **wood frog** earlier this year (JT) -- the snake was released elsewhere in Wolfville (JW).

Oct 18 - a **garter snake**, about 30 cm long, was found on a lawn among fallen leaves near Greenwood (SH).

Oct 24 - a road-killed **ring-neck snake** from Mabou, Cape Breton, was sent into the N.S. Museum by teacher, Nadine Hunt -- this was the first record for Inverness County and only the 3rd for Cape Breton (DB). This prompted an e-mail response from RB, who photographed one less than 30 cm. long sunning itself on a footbridge on the Corney Brook Trail, C.B.Highlands National Park, a couple of Augusts ago.

MAMMALS

Oct 17 - a probable **little brown bat** was hanging under an eave at the New Minas Co-op; another similar **bat** was flying in a Wolfville yard late in the day, and seemed to respond to the squeaky noise of a clothesline being moved -- the latter bat was still present the next day (JT).

Oct 25 - a small, dark-brown **bat** (prob. **little brown**) was seen flying in the daytime near the start of the Cape Split Trail at Scots' Bay -- presumably the same bat was seen both before and after the long hike (GD).

late Oct - 30 **little brown bats** found in a long cement tunnel, possibly 30 m long, under a N.S.Power dam on the Nictaux River at South Nictau, Annapolis Co. -- the bats were in the west end of the tunnel -- could this be a hibernaculum? (GPP).

Nov 6 - in late afternoon 2 **bats** (presumably **little browns**) were flying around, probably "hawking" small midges that have been swarming lately, in a Wolfville back yard -- these bats were also interacting a bit (JT), and this could be courtship/mating, which happens at the hibernation site and can occur during the winter -- bats delay fertilization until late spring (JW).

Nov 21 - one **bat** was flying in a house yard at Lumsden Reservoir at 3 p.m. (BBY).

Dec 7 - one fairly large, dull brown **bat** was flying at mid day and trying to get into the Valley Regional Hospital cafeteria -- staff there were a bit concerned (RS).

Dec 8 - in very early a.m. a white **snowshoe hare** was nibbling plants in the Moonlight (seen by SW, who was observing the space-station and one Geminid meteor).

Oct 23-27 - an unidentified



mouse (not a vole) under bird-feeders at Murphy Lake (MT).

Oct 26 - a **red squirrel** was seen balancing on the thinnest of twigs and eating seeds of a maple tree, near Greenwood (SH).

Oct. 29 - last date when a **chipmunk** at Murphy Lake was seen active (had its cheek-pouches bulging)(MT).

Nov. 25 - a **chipmunk** was still foraging under bird-feeders near Greenwood (SH).

Dec. 17 - 5 **muskrats** seen (3 in river in Canning, 1 in marsh at Sheffield Mills, and 1 at Saxon St. Pond (JW).

Nov. 26 - an **ermine** (winter **short-tailed weasel**) seen in a woodlot about 15 km. north of Caledonia (TP).

early Oct - at Delhaven a resident family of **raccoons** and a **skunk** are very entertaining (JN).

early Oct - something, perhaps a **skunk?**, dug down among some conifer roots in some residential woods in Wolfville, to get at an underground nest of **yellow-jackets** -- this was when worker wasps could still be seen coming and going at the ground surface above the nest (DGT).

Oct 3-4 - overnight I twice saw at least 3 **raccoons** foraging under and on my bird feeders in Wolfville (JW).

Oct 14 - at night a foraging



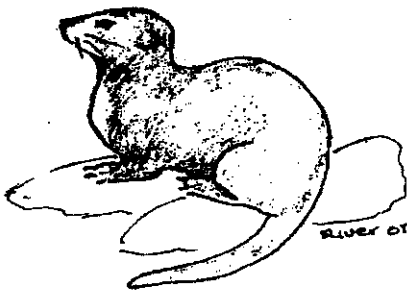
skunk was seen next to a house on e. Wolfville's Main St. (BBT).

mid Oct. - a **skunk** was road-killed in **Cape Breton** near Glendale -- reported by a

family member, but then carcass couldn't be found a week later (SM).

Oct. 29 - skunks are "back" in the Liverpool area -- also there's a very bad **distemper outbreak** hitting **raccoons**, especially in the Brooklyn area near Liverpool (lots of sick & dying 'coons and area affected is spreading -- outbreak began several months ago with calls to Dept. of Natural Resources about sick or dying animals) -- this is **canine distemper**, so dogs need to be vaccinated (MM).

Nov 10 - a **skunk** was freshly road-killed at Grand Pré -- this



is just one of many car-kills in the Wolfville area this autumn (JW).

late Nov. - one **river otter** seen in Minas Basin along the dyke by the Wolfville sewage ponds (DHS).

Sept 24 (approx.) - 2 **red foxes** seen one km n. of Victoria's Inn in Wolfville - one was normal **red phase** and the other

was **all black** except for white tip of tail (MH).

Oct 13 - in Kingston, a **red fox** was seen poking around in the Bowater Forest Seed Orchard (JN).

Oct 10 - at night, a **coyote** seen on a road at Folly Mountain? (nw. of Truro)(HDr).

Oct 25 - a **coyote** was road-killed on highway 101 on Avonport hill (TT).

Nov 4 - a large healthy **coyote** was seen crossing a field at the east end of Lower Wolfville (JGT).

Nov 6 - near Starr's Point, ne. of Willowbank Farm, a **very dark coyote** was seen at close range (DGT).

Nov. 13 - a rather large **coyote** crossed a road near the Canning Aboiteau at 11:30 p.m. (JN).

mid Oct? (I forgot to note the date!) - a **right whale** carcass washed ashore at Rattling Brook, **Newfoundland!**, and an expert was hoping that perhaps an individual identification could be accomplished (CBC).

Dec. 21 & 22 - 3 or 4 very probable **finback whales** were present off Chebucto Head south of Halifax, and they were

probably feeding on whatever **fish** were being caught by dozens of diving **gannets** (PP).

Oct. 10 (approx.) - Rick Ballard saw and photographed a **piebald white-tailed deer**, perhaps a yearling, "pure snow-white with large black spots really stands out at night hope it makes it through (hunting) season, but" -- photos were circulated via e-mail to NatureNS list of subscribers (RB).

late Oct - a **nearly-all-white white-tailed deer** has been seen lately by several people along Slater Road at Gaspereau -- this deer has a few small brown marks and a dark eye (CGP).

Nov. 4 - one **white-tailed deer** seen in a back yard in south Wolfville, where one or two deer have been seen off and on all summer (DGT).

Dec. 5 - just east of Gaspereau, in the daytime, 5 **white-tailed deer** crossed the road suddenly, and one was killed by a truck (PT).

CONTRIBUTORS

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DB - Debra Burleson
JSB - Sherman Boates
RB - Rick Ballard

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TT - Trevor Thorpe
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MW - Muhammed Waseem
SW - Sherman Williams
BBY - Betty & Barry Yoell

Fall Bird Report

Jean Timpa, Wolfville

HORNED GREBE -

Nov.13- One swimming/diving offshore, Margaretsville, Annapolis Co. (SLH)

SNOW GOOSE -

Oct. 28 - One swimming in Lakeville with 175 Canada Geese (BBT, JET)

GREAT BLUE HERON -

Sept.15- overhead in Greenwood (SLH)

Oct. 5 - overhead in Wilmot, Annapolis. Co. (SLH)

Oct. 17 - wading in village duck pond, Kingston (SLH)

Oct. 27 - One juvenile at New Minas bridge pond, 3 juveniles along river in Canning (JWW).

Nov. 5 to Dec. 7 - one juvenile at Saxon St. Pond (JWW).

Nov. 9 - 2 juveniles at Saxon St. Pond (JWW).

Nov. 17 - one juvenile nw. of Port Williams. (JWW).

Nov. 19 - one juvenile along dyke east of Wolfville (JWW).

Nov. 30 - one juvenile in tidal canal west.end of Long Island, Grand Pré (JWW).

AMERICAN AVOCET -

Sept.14 and 20 - one at Windsor Causeway (BBT)

CANADA GOOSE -

Sept. 25 - 50+ at Windsor Causeway salt-marsh at high tide (JWW).

Sept. 17 - 21 in a flock on a

pond by the river at Shubenacadie (JWW).

Oct. 27 - 150 in Van Nostrand's Pond at Starr's Point (JWW).

Nov. 17 - 200 flying inland from Minas Basin over Wellington Dyke and up the Canard Valley at 3:45 p.m. (tide nearing low) (JWW).

Dec. 7 - 4 seen flying westward, south of Woodside (JWW).

AMERICAN WIGEON -

Sept. 1 - 3 females/immatures in Harris' Pond, Canning (JWW).

Oct. 27 - 8 (incl. 3 apparent pairs) in Harris' Pond, Canning, and 3 females/immatures in Canard Pond (JWW).

Nov. 17 - 4 (2 males) in Harris' Pond, Canning (JWW).

NORTHERN PINTAIL -

Aug. 24 - one female/immature at New Minas sewage ponds (JWW).

Oct. 27 - one male at New Minas sewage ponds; one female/immature at Canard Pond (JWW).

Nov. 9 - one male in Harris' Pond (JWW).

Nov. 10 - one male at New Minas sewage ponds (JWW).

Nov. 17 - 2 (1 male) at New Minas sewage ponds (JWW).

Dec. 2 - 9 at Saxon Road Pond (Matt Holder).

Dec. 4 - 2 males at Saxon St. Pond (JWW).
Dec. 7 - 8 (4 males) at Saxon St. Pond, and a single male in river in Canning (JWW).

WOOD DUCK -

Sept. 1 - 5 in Hennigar's Marsh w. of Sheffield Mills, and 2 more at Canard Pond (JWW).

GADWALL -

Nov. 17 - one male in CANARD POND (not in Harris' Pond, as one of Blake Maybank's summaries has it) (JWW).

MALLARD -

Numerous throughout period.

AMERICAN. BLACK DUCK
Numerous throughout period.

"BLALLARDS"? OR "MACK DUCKS"? i.e., MALLARD X BLACK DUCK "HYBRIDS" -
Nov. 17 - 2 in Canard Pond (green-headed blacks) (JWW).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL -

Nov. 9 - lots seen especially in Canard Pond & in river in Canning (JWW).
Nov. 10 - 5 at New Minas sewage ponds (JWW).
Nov. 14 - several dozens in Canard Pond (JWW).
Nov. 17 - 35 at Saxon St. Pond (many foraging on exposed mud-flats from draining of the pond), 30 at Canard Pond, plus 16 more at 4 other freshwater ponds (JWW).

Nov. 24 - about 120 at Saxon St. Pond, most of them grubbing on the vast exposed mud-flats at the s. end of the pond; also 20 more at Canard Pond (JWW).

Dec. 2 - 15 still at Saxon St. Pond; 6 at Canard Pond; 5 in river in Canning (JWW).

Dec. 4 - 50 still at Saxon St. Pond (JWW).

Dec. 7 - 10 in river in Canning (JWW).

AMERICAN WIDGEON -

Nov. 9 - 2 in Harris' Pond, one in Canard Pond (JWW).

Nov. 14 - 3 in Harris' Pond (JWW).

LESSER SCAUP -

Nov. 9 - 2 females/immatures in Canard Pond (angled heads) (JWW).

Nov. 14 to 17 - 3 females/immatures in Canard Pond (JWW).

GREATER SCAUP -

Oct. 16 - a single females/immatures at Port Williams sewage ponds (head rounded) (JWW).

Oct. 27 - 3 females/immatures (all with rounded heads) in Port Williams sewage ponds (JWW).

Nov. 17 - one very probable GREATER male at New Minas sewage ponds (head rounded, white wing-stripe long) (JWW).

SCAUP sp. - Nov. 9 - one in Kidston's Pond (nw. of Port

Williams) (seemed small but had rounded head) (JWW).

RING-NECKED DUCK -

Oct. 16 - 7 in Kidston's Pond, Church St., nw. of Port Williams (JWW).

Oct. 27 - 9 together in Canard Pond (one was male) (JWW).

Nov. 17 - one female/immature at Canard Pond (JWW).

Nov. 19 - one eclipse male at Port Williams sewage ponds (JWW).

COMMON GOLDENEYE -

Oct. 27 - one female/immature at Canard Pond, and one at Saxon St. Pond (JWW).

Nov. 9 - 2 nw. of Port Williams., 2 in Canard Pond (JWW).

Nov. 14 to 17 - 3 in Canard Pond (JWW).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER -

Nov. 9-14 - one immature in Kidston's Pond, nw. of Port Williams. (JWW).

Dec. 2 - 15 off Evangeline Beach at high tide (JWW).

HOODED MERGANSER -

Oct. 27 - 5 together in river at Canning Aboiteau (one was male) (JWW).

Nov. 1 - 7 females/immatures in Habitant River in Canning (PAM, JWW).

Nov. 2 - 3 (1 male, 2 females/immatures) nw. of Port Williams (JWW).

Nov. 5 - 6 in Saxon St. Pond (JWW).

Nov. 9 - 4 (1 male) nw. of Port Williams, 2 in Saxon St. Pond (JWW).

Nov. 14 - one female/immature nw. of Port Williams. (JWW).

Nov. 17 - 5 (1 male) nw. of Port Williams, 3 (1 male) w. of Sheffield Mills (JWW).

COMMON MERGANSER -

Sept. 6 - 16 in one group at Mahone Bay (all females/immatures - one large family?) (seen by JWW and PAM).

Oct. 31 - 8 females/immatures in White Rock Pond (JWW).

Nov. 5 - 4 in Saxon St. Pond (JWW).

Nov. 14 - one female/immature nw. of Port Williams. (JWW).

Dec. 2 - 3 females/immatures at Saxon St. Pond (JWW).

Dec. 7 - one female/immature in river in Canning (JWW).

COMMON EIDER -

Sept. 22 - 40 moulting males off Evangeline Beach, n. Grand Pre (JWW).

Oct. 6 - at 3 p.m., a wavy line of 160+ birds flew west past Wolfville, high above and along the Cornwallis River (JWW).

Nov. 13 - 3 males swimming offshore Margaretsville, Anna. Co. (SLH)

TURKEY VULTURE -

Sept. 27 - one seen at Brier Island Lodge (JWW, PAM).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK -

Sept. 26 - one repeatedly harassed American kestrels on Brier Island by displacing them from perch-sites and then chasing them (JWW, PAM).

NORTHERN HARRIER -
Nov. 3 - 2 (an adult male and a juvenile) seen at Grand Pré (JWW).

Nov. 17 - one adult female in Canard Valley (JWW).

Nov. 29 - one seen at Grand Pré (JWW).

Dec. 7 - an adult male seen just south of Port Williams (JWW).

BALD EAGLE -

Nov. 4 - 15 gathered at the Fuller chicken barn at Pereau (ne. of Canning) (10 adults, 5 immatures) (reported by Joe Nocera (JIN)). (Joe wondered whether the eagles were appearing early this year (vs. late Nov. or Dec. in most years). From what I've seen, I agree with Joe, but as to what it might mean? Perhaps they know something about the length and severity of the coming winter in this year of first El Nino and now La Nina? (JWW).

Nov. 12 - 11 gathered in morning near a couple of chicken barns at Hortonville -- 3 adults, rest immatures Also there were 7 more gathered at the chicken barn just east of

Wolfville on hwy. 1 (JWW).

Nov. 29 - about 20 at the Woodside chicken-barn feeding location (all plumages represented)(PAM,JWW).

RED-TAILED HAWK -

Aug. 7 - a juvenile, presumably one of the three fledged off Univ. Hall at Acadia Univ., was found freshly dead by Don Welton at the Wolfville Public Works Bldg., off Front St. The bird was found below a power-pole and wires, and it presumably flew into a line or electrified itself? The bird was not emaciated at all, no obvious injuries, although there was a small clean hole (no blood) in the left wing distal to the wrist (JWW).

approx. Aug. 11 - one was seen leaving the ground with a freshly caught pigeon (rock dove), s. of Univ. Hall on Acadia Univ. campus (seen by David Silverberg).

Nov. 25 - one swooping over road and flying along roadside, Hwy 101, Berwick (SLH)

BROAD-WINGED HAWK -

Sept. 26 - at the west end of Long Island (Digby Co.), 2 kettles seen in mid-afternoon, just starting to climb -- 15 + 40 birds (plus a few sharp-shinned hawks (JWW,PAM)).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK -
Dec. 4 - one dark-phase in
Canard Valley (JWW). (Merritt
Gibson said it had been there
about 10 days.)

PEREGRINE FALCON -

Aug. 4 - a most leisurely
observation of a perched adult
in a now-favourite elm tree at
Blomidon -- a **BANDED** bird,
with aluminum on right leg,
red on left -- this was reported
to Dept. Natural Resources
(Anne Woolaver).

Sept. 7 - one at east end of
Evangeline Beach, n. Grand
Pré (JWW,PAM).

Sept. 26-27 - at least 2 (prob.
3) on Brier Island (JWW,
PAM).

mid Oct. - one subadult seen
over Wolfville Ridge; then, 5
days later, one adult seen there
(both were seen well by Jamie
Simpson).

Nov. 22 - one imm. Long
Island Road, Grand Pré (BBT)

MERLIN -

- Aug. 23-24 - one seen at
Blomidon (Anne Woolaver).

-Oct. 30 - one seen flying over
downtown Wolfville (JWW).

-Dec. 2 - one perched at a
chicken-barn w. of Sheffield
Mills (JWW).

AMERICAN KESTREL -

Sept. 26-27 - 4 + 4 at West
Light and s. end of Gull Rock
Road, on Brier Is.
(JWW,PAM).

Oct. 11 - one male seen in

Gaspereau River Valley, e. of
Gaspereau (JWW, PAM).

RUFFED GROUSE - one
flushed near White Rock Pond
(JWW,PAM).

Nov. 26 - one flying into
woods, Tremont (SLH)

AMERICAN COOT -

Nov. 9 - 1 in Harris' Pond
(Canning) (JWW).

Nov. 14 - 1 in Canard Pond,
and 2 in Harris' Pond (JWW).

Nov. 17 - 2 in Canard Pond +
2 more in Harris' Pond -- this is
definitely a big year for coots,
everywhere it seems (in the
Valley we usually see none or
one in most years) (JWW).

Nov. 29 - 2 in Harris' Pond,
Canning (JWW,PAM).

Dec. 4 - 2 still in Harris' Pond
(JWW).

RING-BILLED GULL -

Nov. 17 - 2 at New Minas
sewage ponds (JWW).

Dec. 2 - 50 at and near
Wolfville sewage ponds
(JWW).

Dec. 4 - 140 + 50 at or near
Wolfville sewage ponds, and
another 50+ in Canard Valley
(JWW).

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED
GULL** - Nov. 5 - one adult
near Blueberry Acres (w. of
Sheffield Mills) (JWW).

ICELAND GULL -

Nov. 23 - one adult at
Wolfville sewage ponds
(JWW).

Nov. 30 - one adult at New Minas sewage ponds (JWW).

Dec. 2 & 4 - one adult at Wolfville sewage ponds (JWW).

Dec. 3 - one adult at New Minas sewage ponds (JWW).

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL -

Nov. 17 - one juvenile (or yearling?) at New Minas sewage ponds -- these are unusual in this part of N.S. at any season (JWW).

Nov. 24 - one first-winter immature at Port Williams sewage ponds (JWW).

BONAPARTE'S GULL -

Nov. 24 - one first-winter immature at Port Williams sewage ponds, with an immature BLACK-HEADED GULL (JWW).

PIPING PLOVER -

Sept. 23 - CBC Radio's This Morning show announced good

news for PEI piping plovers: 24 pairs fledged 69 young! (a record?).

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER -

Sept. 22 - 30 in a ploughed field at Grand Pre (dykelands)(BBT,JWW).


Sept. 27 - one, with 6 black-bellied plovers, + other shorebirds, at Pond Cove, Brier Island (PAM,JWW).

Oct. 23 - 50, West Grand Pre in ploughed field (BBT)

Nov. 3 - at least 40 in a big mowed field on Grand Pre dykelands, with 10 BLACK-BELLIES plus an interesting mix of SANDPIPERS (see below)(JWW).

WHIMBREL -

Sept. 7 - 2 at east end of Grand Pre's Long Island -- these were also seen elsewhere on the Grand Pre dykelands several days later by the Thextons



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GREATER YELLOWLEGS -
NOV. 24 to Dec. 2 - one on
mud-flats at edge of Saxon St.
Pond (JWW).

DUNLIN - Nov. 3 - at least 5
with other sandpipers &
plovers on Grand Pre dykeland
field (JWW).

RED KNOT - Nov. 3 - at least
5 with other sandpipers &
plovers on Grand Pre dykeland
field (JWW).

**WHITE-RUMPED
SANDPIPER** -
Aug. 20 - 20+ along shore of
Minas Basin at Wolfville
sewage ponds, with other
shorebirds at high tide (JWW).
Nov. 3 - 10 with other
sandpipers & plovers on Grand
Pre dykeland field (JWW).

**SEMIPALMATED
SANDPIPER** - Nov. 3 - 2 or 3
with other sandpipers and
plovers on Grand Pre dykeland
field (JWW).

WESTERN SANDPIPER
NOV. 3 - a single juvenile
seen very well with dunlins,
red knots, & semipalmated
sandpipers on a mowed field
on the Grand Pre dykelands --
all these sandpipers were
together and very close to my
car, from which I could easily
see with 10x binoculars and
25X scope the very noticeable
rufous/reddish colour in a line

where the scapulars meet the
back on both sides; the bird
otherwise looked like a
semipalmated sandpiper
(JWW).

COMMON SNIFE -
Oct. 27 - one feeding on
exposed mud-flat at edge of
Habitant River in Canning
(JWW).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS -
Oct. 27 - at least 8 along river
in Canning (JWW).

**BUFF-BREASTED
SANDPIPER** -
Sept. 23 - 2 seen with mixed
plovers + a pectoral sandpiper
in a mowed dykeland field at
Grand Pre (JWW, Matt Holder,
Dave Shutler).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER -
Sept. 27 - one at Pond Cove,
Brier Island (with 20 ruddy
turnstones, 4 sanderlings, a
semi' plover, 10 semi'
sandpipers, 4 greater
yellowlegs (JWW,PAM).

SANDERLING -
Sept. 22 - 15 at Kingsport
mud-flat at low tide (at
low-water line)(JWW).

RING-NECKED PHEASANT
Nov. 8 - 2 males along
roadside, Greenfield (SLH)

SHORT-EARED OWL -
Nov. 7 and 9 - w. Grand Pre
south of Win Peters (BBT)

29, head turning red (JWW)

LONG-EARED OWL -

Nov. 22 - one seen in a woodlot in the Canning area (fide JWW -- seen by someone very reliable -- I'm being purposely vague on location and observer -- just keep this report as worded above).

N. SAW-WHET OWL -

first week of Oct. to first week of Nov. - 3 heard "tooting" and seen regularly at Black River Lake -- around the cottage lights they appeared to be catching moths (Mark Elderkin (MFE)).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK -

Aug 17 - 30+ birds chasing swarms of flying insects (Insects visible as puffs of pale grey smoke) Tremont (SLH)

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD -

Aug 13 - 4 males, 1 female at feeder, Tremont (SLH)
Sept 17 - 1 female at feeder, Tremont (SLH)

NORTHERN FLICKER -

Nov. 16 - one at my feeders in Wolfville (JWW).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER -

Nov. 14-15 - an immature, storing sunflower seeds from feeder in trees, at 33 Holmes Hill Road, Hantsport (Buddy McCully, Sherman Williams (SAW)). note: Still there Nov.

PILEATED WOODPECKER -
Nov. 9 and 22 - one in flight in tree tops, Tremont (SLH)

Nov. 16 - one seen WITH AN ALL-WHITE HEAD, seen crossing the Bicentennial Hwy. near its junction with Hwy. 101 (Bedford) (Merritt Gibson (MAG)).

DOWNY WOODPECKER -

Aug 1 - 2 males, 3 females at birdfeeder (SLH)
Oct 11 - 3 females clinging to side of house under eaves to shelter from heavy rain, Tremont (SLH)

BELTED KINGFISHER -

Dec. 7 - one male has been at White Rock Canal for a week (seen by Brenda Coldwell)

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE -

Aug 17 - calling from woods, Tremont (SLH)

SAY'S PHEOBE -

Dec. 9 - I drove out to 217 Woodside Road, and the SAY'S PHEOBE was right there to be viewed by me and Joe Nocera at 12:30 p.m. I viewed it with my scope for about 15 minutes, and during that time it mostly sat but also foraged from the power-line and the peak of the house's roof. It was quite cold at the time, yet the bird was managing to find items to get. Then it flew off high and to the

north, toward the foot of the North Mountain. (JWW)

CHIMNEY SWIFT -

Oct. 3 - 5 seen at St. Joseph's Lake, Antigonish Co. (Randy Lauff, May Goring).

WESTERN KINGBIRD -

Nov. 24 - I saw the gorgeous bird at Woodside in bright sunshine (JWW).

HORNED LARK -

Nov. 3 - 12 seen on Grand Pre dykelands (JWW).

Nov. 17 - 5 in Canard Valley (JWW).

WATER PIPIT -

Sept. 22 - at least 12 in a ploughed field with GOLDEN PLOVERS on Grand Pre dykelands (JWW).

BARN SWALLOW -

Oct 14 - one bird flying across road, Port Lorne, Anna. Co. (SLH)

BOREAL CHICKADEE -

Aug 27 - 8+ males calling in evergreen trees, Big Tancook Island (SLH)

BROWN CREEPER -

Oct. 21 - feeding on diseased elm trees with White-Breasted Nuthatch and several Black-Capped Chickadees, Wolfville (JET)

AM. ROBIN -

Oct. 14 - 50+ flock flying

across fields, Port Lorne, Anna. Co. (SLH)

Nov. 5 - several dozens seen with CEDAR WAXWINGS ne. of Kentville (JWW).

Nov. 17 - 2 along river in Canning (JWW).

HERMIT THRUSH -

Nov. 1 - one seen well and probably a second one in Kentville Ravine (JWW).

VEERY - Oct. 10 - one seen at Avonport (URBANS).

N. MOCKINGBIRD -

Sept. 20 - one again at Grand Pre (JWW).

Oct. 6 - one seen at Avonport (URBANS).

Nov. 18 to Dec. 6 - 2 at "mockingbird corner" at Grand Pre (a long block north of the Grand Pre convenience store) (JWW).

CEDAR WAXWING -

Nov. 5 - several dozens seen with ROBINS ne. of Kentville (JWW).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT

- approx. mid Oct. - one killed itself by hitting a window at Hantsport -- the specimen was saved (Buddy McCully, Sherman Williams (SAW)).

Oct. 18 to 29 - one at a suet-feeder in Wolfville (Muhammed Waseem, Jean Timpa (JET)).

RED CROSSBILL -

Early Dec. - Red Crossbill, in the Main River area. (MLH)

WHITE - WINGED CROSSBILL -

Aug. 27 - one male calling from top of spruce tree, Big Tancook Island (SLH)

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -

Aug 27 - 6+ in woods, Big Tancook Island (SLH)

SPARROWS -

Nov. 19 - Today I walked the Wolfville dyke out to the Wolfville sewage ponds and beyond in early afternoon (high tide), and there was an **OMINOUS ABSENCE OF SPARROWS** (identifiable or otherwise) along the dyke and at the sewage ponds -- is this just because there's no snow yet, or because of what La Nina is about to bring us as the aftermath of El Nino?(JWW)

WHITE - THROATED SPARROW -

Nov. 6 - 4 or 5 appearing daily in backyard, Wolfville (GT)

CHIPPING SPARROW -

Oct. 18 - one at feeder, Tremont (SLH)

AM. TREE SPARROW - Nov. 10 - a small flock of about 5 at Grand Pre (JWW).

WHITE - CROWNED SPARROW - Oct. 12 - one adult seen at Avonport

(URBANS).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

- Nov. 4 - 40 at Avonport (URBANS).

BROWN - HEADED COWBIRD -

- Nov. 4 - 10 at Avonport (URBANS);- Nov. 10 - 3 males at Avonport (JWW);- Nov. 18 - 4 (3 males) at feeders at Grand Pre (JWW);- Dec. 4 - 12 among 1000+ starlings s. of Woodside (JWW).

C. GRACKLE -

- approx. Nov. 20 - 4 at feeders at Murphy Lake (along New Ross Road, King's Co.) (Miriam Tams (MAT).

MEADOWLARK sp. -

Oct. 11 - one seen well, but not well enough to look for species-marks, along Upper Sunken Lake Road, se. of Sunken Lake (PAM,JWW).

EUROPEAN STARLINGS -

Sept. 28 - 200+ flock along roadside over fields, Harmony (SLH)

Nov. 1 - 200+ flock along roadside field, Tremont (SLH)

EVENING GROSBEAK -

-this fall - Chuck Salmon has had about 35-50 Evening Grosbeaks at his feeder at #65 East Hall Rd, or the Hall Rd Extension, one of the birds is completely golden and has

some white where an EGB would normally be black. It has been there the last two mornings at about 0830.

- Nov. 5 - one male at Avonport (URBANS).

- approx. Nov. 20 - 16 at feeders at Murphy Lake (King's Co., along New Ross Road)(Miriam Tams (MAT)).

- Nov. 26 to 30 - one male at my feeders in Wolfville (JWW).

HOUSE SPARROW - the ALL-WHITE partial-albino (eye is dark, otherwise no clasp

details available) still in village of Gaspereau (at feeders near the Elementary School every day), has been there all summer (Gwen Gertridge).

Contributors :

MLH Matt Holder

SLH Sheila Hulford

JET Jean Timpa

BBT Brenda and Bill Thexton

GT Gerry Trueman

JWW Jim Wolford

and others as indicated in the list.

Christmas bird count summaries -- 1998

BRIER ISLAND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

December 22, 1998. 7:45am - 3:30pm. Rain and SSE gales, then rain and SW gales. 7 observers in field in 3 parties, and 1 at feeder. 8 hrs at feeders. Party hours 17.25 (8 on foot, 9.25 by car). Party km 41.75 (9.5 on foot, 32.25 by car).

Common Loon - 12; Horned Grebe - 2; Red-necked Grebe - 5; Northern Gannet - 1; Great Cormorant - 89; Double-crested Cormorant - 2; Great Blue Heron - 1; Common Eider - 113; Oldsquaw - 16; Surf Scoter - 1; Common Goldeneye - 38; Red-breasted Merganser - 33; Turkey Vulture - 2; Ring-necked Pheasant - 2; Purple Sandpiper - 84; Herring Gull - 1543; Iceland Gull - 22; Great Black-backed Gull - 487; Black-legged Kittiwake - 8; Razorbill - 15; Black Guillemot - 69; alcid sp. - 20; Rock Dove - 19; Mourning Dove - 43; American Crow - 53; Common Raven - 7; Black-capped Chickadee - 14; Boreal Chickadee - 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet - 21; European Starling - 14; American Tree Sparrow - 15; Song Sparrow - 5; Dark-eyed Junco - 3; Snow Bunting - 1; Common Grackle - 6; Brown-headed Cowbird - 3; House Sparrow - 20; 36 spp., 2791 individuals.

Participants: Peter Hope, Paul MacDonald, Ian McLaren, Anne Mills, Eric Mills (Compiler - RR#1, Rose Bay, Lunenburg Co. N. S. B0J 2X0), David Pugh, Richard Stern, Jim Wolford.

1998 WOLFVILLE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Sunday, Dec. 20, 1998

Compiled by Stan Riggs, with help on feeders by Jim Wolford

Our weather on Count Day was quite varied (i.e., the Maritimes in spades!); thankfully we had snow-cover from the storm of Dec. 18 (very well timed); most of the day was fairly warm (a few degrees above 0 C.), often sunny (argh!); in afternoon a stiff wind from the northwest developed and temperature dropped, then the wind abated a lot and it was warm again. We had 44 field observers in 24 field-parties plus 82 feeder-watchers at 62 feeders = 146 total observers. Our totals were 72 species on Count Day plus 10 more for Count Week. The species and numbers below that I (JW) personally find interesting are highlighted in bold.

Great Blue Heron - 2; Canada Goose - 854; Green-winged Teal - 60; American Black Duck - 1259; Mallard - 504; Northern Pintail - 4; **Northern Shoveler - 2**; Common Eider - 2; Surf Scoter - 2; White-winged Scoter - 7; ; Common Goldeneye - 9; Common Merganser - 13; Bald Eagle - 163 adults: 152 immatures: 5 unknown = total of 320 Bald Eagles; **Northern Harrier - 16**; Sharp-shinned Hawk - 6 (one had almost no tail!); **Northern Goshawk - 3**; Red-tailed Hawk - 133 (**including one nearly all-white individual**)(10th; winter?); Rough-legged Hawk - 7; **Merlin - 7**; Ring-necked Pheasant - 235; ; Ruffed Grouse - 5; **Killdeer - 1**; Ring-billed Gull - 265; Herring Gull - 30,610; **Ice-land Gull - 10**; Great Black-backed Gull - 3586; **Lesser Black-backed Gull - 1**; Rock Dove - 873; Mourning Dove - 1683; Barred Owl - 2; ; **Short-eared Owl - 3**; **Belted Kingfisher - 1**; Downy Woodpecker - 90; Hairy Woodpecker - 49; Northern Flicker - 46; **Pileated Woodpecker - 9**; Horned Lark - 280; Gray Jay - 6; Blue Jay - 473; American Crow - 17,658; Common Raven - 432; Black-capped Chickadee - 1069; **Boreal Chickadee - 127**; **Red-breasted Nuthatch - 140**; White-breasted Nuthatch - 21; **Brown Creeper - 16**; **Golden-crowned Kinglet - 184**; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 5** (one even SANG once!); American Robin - 34; **Northern Mockingbird - 7**; ; European Starling - 30,032; **Common Yellowthroat - 3**; Northern Cardinal - 3; American Tree Sparrow - 308; Savannah Sparrow - 16; Song Sparrow - 120; Swamp Sparrow - 3; White-throated Sparrow - 24; White-crowned Sparrow - 2; Chipping Sparrow - 13; ; Dark-eyed Junco - 573; Snow Bunting - 82; Red-winged Blackbird - 1; Common Grackle - 4; Brown-headed Cowbird - 8; Pine

Grosbeak - 8; Purple Finch - 50; White-winged Crossbill - 234; Pine Siskin - 53; American Goldfinch - 1028 (plus one blackish melanistic bird in Count Week); ; Evening Grosbeak - 150; House Sparrow - 1477 (including one all-white near-albino). Totals of 72 species and 95,323 individual birds on Count Day Count Week Species (10) for Wolfville Xmas Count, 1998
Red-throated Loon; Horned Grebe; Double-crested Cormorant; Virginia Rail; Bonaparte's Gull; Black Guillemot; Long-eared Owl; Wilson's Warbler; Tanager sp. (prob. Summer? Tanager); Lapland Longspur

Kingston Christmas Bird Count

FIELD OBSERVERS = 9 : FEEDER OBSERVERS = 34

COMMON LOON 2, HORNED GREBE 13, DOUBLE CRESTED CORMORANT 1, GREAT BLUE HERON 1, CANADA GOOSE 2, AMERICAN BLACK DUCK 73, MALLARD 6, COMMON EIDER 1, OLDSQUAW 57, BLACK SCOTER 29, SURF SCOTER 96, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER 46, RED-BREASTED MERGANSER 3, BALD EAGLE 5A:11, NORTHERN GOSHAWK 2, RED-TAILED HAWK 16, RING NECKED PHEASANT 28, RUFFED GROUSE 7, HERRING GULL 303, GREAT BLACK BACKED GULL 17, ROCK DOVE 231, MOURNING DOVE 413, DOWNY WOODPECKER 30, HAIRY WOODPECKER 19, NORTHERN FLICKER 3, PILLEATED WOODPECKER 3, BLUE JAY 158, AMERICAN CROW 875, COMMON RAVEN 68, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE 516, BOREAL CHICKADEE 2, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH 42, WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH 28, GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET 21, AMERICAN ROBIN 1, NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD 1, CEDAR WAXWING 2, EUROPEAN STARLING 2584, NORTHERN CARDINAL 2, AMERICAN TREE SPARROW 23, CHIPPING SPARROW 1, SONG SPARROW 3, WHITE-THROATED SPARROW 1, DARK-EYED JUNCO 191, COMMON GRACKLE 4, PINE GROSBEAK 2, PURPLE FINCH 13, RED CROSSBILL 10, WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL 2, PINE SISKIN 34, AMERICAN GOLDFINCH 407, EVENING GROSBEAK 121, HOUSE SPARROW 305: TOTAL INDIVIDUALS = 6825, TOTAL SPECIES = 53 [BARRED OWL CW]

WEST HANTS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - Dec.27, 1998

Compiled by Gail Davis (1-902-757-2107 or <rgdavis@istar.ca>)

Canada Goose 459; Green-winged Teal 29; Am. Black Duck 2092; Mallard 8; Com. Merganser 14; Red-Breasted Merganser 2; Bald Eagle 25; A 18; I. 7; N. Harrier 4; Sharp-Shinned Hawk 4; N. Goshawk 3; Red-Tailed Hawk 33; Rough-Legged Hawk 5;

Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Ring-Necked Pheasant 95; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 9; Purple Sandpiper 40; Ring-billed Gull 16; Herring Gull 818; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 153; Rock Dove 681; Mourning Dove 405; GreatHorned Owl 2; Barred Owl 4; N. Saw-whet Owl 1; Red-headed Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 21; Hairy Woodpecker 16; N. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 7; Horned Lark 45; Gray Jay 14; Blue Jay 241; Am. Crow 1269; Com. Raven 189; Black-capped Chickadee 565; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch 28; White-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 127; Am. Robin 32; Cedar Waxwing 33; Eur. Starling 4443; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Pine Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 16; Savannah Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 5; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 157; Snow Bunting 105; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Comm. Grackle 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 51; Pine Grosbeak 14; Purple Finch 31; Red Crossbill 6; White-winged Crossbill 57; Pine Siskin 40; Am. Goldfinch 453; Evening Grosbeak 233; House Sparrow 914; Total Species: 65; Total Individuals: 14,055

Autumn Weather Summary -1998

Larry Bogan, Cambridge Station, NS

Kentville Agriculture Centre

Weather Statistics September-November 1998

Month	Mean Temp (C)	Rain Fall (mm)	Bright Sunshine (hours)
September (37 yr avg)	15.3 (14.4)	134 (90)	152 (161)
October (37 yr avg)	8.8 (9.2)	192 (101)	122 (137)
November (37 yr avg)	3.0 (3.9)	45 (119)	74 (83)
Season (37 yr avg) (relative)	9.0 (9.2) -0.2	371 (310) 120%	348 (381) 91%

In general we had a wet and cloudy autumn in Nova Scotia..

Rainfall was up by 20% over the 37 year average and the sunshine hours down by 9% but most of it fell in a few days of the period. In only four days (see following) 60% of all the rain for the period fell. Heavy rain fell on September 22nd (36 mm) and 27th (52 mm) giving 2/3 of rainfall for the month. Very heavy falls occurred on October 11th (80 mm) and 29th (52 mm) making 130% of normal monthly rainfall and 69% of month's total. November was relatively dry with less than 2/5 of the expected rainfall.

There was an absence of any significant **snowfall** (at least in the Annapolis Valley) for the period when the 37 year average suggests that we should have had 13 cm in November and if you remember 1997, we had 1/2 metre in that month.

September was a delightfully warm month but October and November were cooler than average. If you look at the means for the month, the months got colder than average as we progressed through the period. September was almost 1 C above average and November was almost 1 C below average. It is interesting to examine the mean maximums and minimums of each month to observe how the character of the temperature was different.

In September: Maximums were normal but the Mean Minimums were 1.8 C higher. This month was warmer only because we did not have the cool nights; remember how late the frosts came this year. In October: Maximums were lower by 0.9 C but the Minimums were normal. October was cooler because we had cloudy weather with not as many nice warm, sunny days, but at least we had no cold nights. In November: Maximums were lower by 1.2 C and the Minimums were lower by 0.6 C. This month was cooler in every sense. Over the period the mean temperature drops about 1 C every 6 days.

Of course when you have a wet season, you can expect many days without bright sunshine and that is what we had. When we had the 80 mm of rain on October 11, it occurred in the middle of a 10 day period of nearly zero bright sunshine that accumulated 110 mm of rain. On the other hand, the longest stretch of sunny days for the period occurred in October right after that rain. It had 11 days of sun totalling 70 hours of bright sunshine. During the rest of the Fall, the sunny periods were broken up by 1 to 3 cloudy days. November was relatively dry but had many cloudy periods without rain.



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Sources for Local Natural History
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Information	Source	Office	Home	
Rocks & Fossils	Geology Dept. Acadia U.	542-2201		
Fish	NS Dept. of Natural Resources	679-6091		
Flora - General	Ruth Newell	585-1355	542-2095	
	Fungi	Darryl Grund	585-1252	542-9214
		Nancy Nickerson	679-5333	542-9332
	Lichens	Karen Casselman	424-7370	633-2837
	Seaweeds	Darryl Grund	585-1252	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	585-1684	542-7650	
	Jean Timpa		542-5678	
Hawks & Owls	Bernard Forsythe		542-2427	
Falcons & Eagles	Peter Austin-Smith		542-2109	
Mammals	Tom Herman	585-1469	678-0383	
Amphibians & Reptiles	Sherman Bleakney		542-3604	
	Jim Wolford	585-1684	542-7650	
Seashore & Marine Life	Sherman Bleakney		542-3604	
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