



BLACK CROWNED
NIGHT HERON

Blomidon Naturalists Society

Fall 2001 – Volume 28 Number 3

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)

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The Blomidon Naturalists Society

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Illustrations by Mary Pratt (cover, pp. 3, 8, 12, 13, 14, 25)



Editor's Notes

Because of a serious lapse on my part, the North American Migration Count was omitted from the last issue of the newsletter. While it might seem long after the event, it is included in this issue for historical purposes and, as well, it may allow members to correlate some of what they've seen this summer with the varieties that appeared in early May.

In this issue Merritt Gibson writes of the impact of introduced bird species on native birds – in particular the unwelcome consequences of introducing House Sparrows and the European Starling to North America at the turn of the last century. It is perhaps fitting that Merritt touches on the unexpected outcome of these introductions when a move is afoot to introduce wild turkeys into Nova Scotia. Many of you may not be in sympathy with the idea. Do hunters really need another huntable species and, since turkeys are hunted in the spring, what might the impact be on species at the start of the breeding season? Copies of the proposal are available at DNR offices and at the NS government web site at <www.gov.ns.natr/wildlife>. I hope BNS members will examine the proposal and make their feelings known in writing to the Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, 136 Exhibition Street, Kentville, NS B4N 4E5 by Thursday, October 25, *or by e-mail to: shawsm@gov.ns.ca*

A more heartening local development arising from the activities of the North Mountain Old Forest Restoration and Conservation Group (see BNS newsletter – Winter 2000) is the participation of Kentville, Port Williams, and Canning Scout troops in building and placing nest boxes for cavity-nesting birds and small mammals, to act as surrogate habitats until the systems can create these features without help. The troops will be placing some 300 nest boxes on the North Mountain properties of landowner members in October and November of this year. Perhaps a continuing interest in nature, and the BNS, will be kindled as these young people carry out their tasks.

Mike McCall

Conservation Committee Members Needed

The conservation committee has been inactive for the last year and has recently lost a couple of its members. We are looking to build up the membership and get back to work. The purpose of the committee is to collect information on, and study conservation issues of, natural history in our local area. We report to the board of directors of the BNS and sometimes make presentations to public hearings on behalf of the BNS.

In the past we have studied the effect of ATVs on hiking trails, collected information on natural areas in our region, supported a protected area around Cloud Lake, and commented in public hearings on NS forest sustainability. We also support the Nova Scotia Nature Trust to identify worthwhile local natural areas for preservation. One important committee task will be to adopt guidelines to assist the BNS directors and the committee in responding to requests by other organizations for support of various public issues.

I encourage enthusiastic BNS members to join the committee. The frequency of meetings is not onerous. At present the membership is Jim Wolford, George Alliston, Tom Herman, and myself. Please contact me or a board member if you are interested.

Larry Bogan, chairman,
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Blomidon Naturalists Society

Summer/Fall 2001

Meetings

Unless otherwise noted all meeting are held at 7:30 p.m. in **Elliot Hall, Room 221**, Acadia University. Elliott Hall is the first building on the right as you go up University Avenue from the Arena parking lot.

Oct. 15, 2001 – Jim Wolford: **1996 Tour of Chile, Pategonia, and the Antarctic peninsula.** Lots of slides of penguins, seals ,etc.

Nov. 19, 2001 – Nancy Shakell and Mark Butler: **Environmentally friendly seafood choices and ocean health.**

December 10, 2001 – Amanda Lavers: **Studies of Flying Squirrels in Kejimikujik National Park and elsewhere in Nova Scotia.** Amanda will discuss habitats and ecology of both the Northern and the endangered Southern Flying Squirrels.

January 21, 2002 – **Show and Tell.** (in Patterson Hall, rooms 308 & 325) Bring up to 15 slides or anything else to share with us, or just yourselves.

February 18, 2002 – Trina Fitzgerald: **The Atlantic Bird Observatory and Monitoring of Migratory Bird Populations via Banding on Bon Portage and Seal Islands.**

Field Trips

Unless otherwise indicated, all field trips begin at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre (RTNC) on Wolfville's Front Street (look for the weird chimney in the NS Liquor Commission parking lot). Additional field trips may be announced at BNS meetings.

Saturday, Oct. 13, 2001 – A Walk Through the Clem Property, an old homestead and new acquisition of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust on the North Mountain north of Aylesford. Meet at 12:30 pm at RTNC. Leader: George Alliston (542-3651).

Friday, October 19. Observing the Autumn Sky, with Larry Bogan (678-0446) et al. Meet at RTNC at 7:15 p.m., or at 7:30 in the Rotary Club Stile Park just off Ridge Road, south from Highland Avenue (Wolfville). Features include the 3-day-old crescent Moon, Mars, Neptune, Uranus, and numerous other celestial objects (which amateur astronomers call the “deep sky objects”) such as the planetary nebula called the Helix and the globular cluster M-51. The Milky Way will be sweeping across the zenith. Bring warm clothes, binoculars, star charts, muted flashlights, etc.

Cloud/rain date: Saturday, Oct. 20.

Saturday, Oct. 20 - Geology of Blue Beach and Wallbrook Gravel Pit. Leader Ron Buckley (542-1815) promises lots of fossils, among other features. This will be a nice follow-up to Sherman Williams' recent tour of Horton Bluff. Meet at 1 pm at RTNC.

December 15 or 16, 2001 (TBA) – Wolfville Christmas Bird Count. Compilers are Stan Riggs (679-9746) <sriggs@accesswave.ca> and Jim Wolford (542-7650) <jww.triv@ns.sympatico.ca>.

A nature walk through history, VI

Birding with Prime Minister Borden

By Merritt Gibson

The Right Honourable Sir Robert Borden of Grand Pre was, in order of importance, a noted birder and Prime Minister of Canada, 1911 to 1920. I have already written of a birding trip along the Bay of Fundy in May 1900 when Sir Robert joined my group (see BNS Newsletter, Summer 2000). He was then our Member of Parliament, but the following year he became Prime Minister and I did not have an opportunity to bird with him again until the early 1930s.

On June 30, 1932, I was in Ottawa and decided to call on Sir Robert and his wife. I was immediately invited into his garden at Glensmere, his home in Ottawa, where the three of us spent a pleasant afternoon exchanging stories about birds.

Sir Robert told me that he had identified “at least twenty-five species of birds that nested” at Glensmere. He recalled one in particular, for it was for a time a mystery bird. For several evenings he had seen the silhouette of a large bird in the “wild garden,” but the light was too poor to identify it. Then, one evening while he was closing the south gates of the avenue, the bird flew up from beside him. It was a Black-crowned Night Heron. Later, he found that it was nesting in the wild garden.



(Note: This article is based on a series of letters written by Sir Robert Borden and published in “Letters to Limbo” edited by Henry Borden, Robert’s nephew.)

We were sitting beside a large martin house while we talked, one with 25 apartments. However, Sir Robert said that martins had never used it but that it was used by a Tree Swallow. He also noted that the male brought food to his mate “only twice a day – about ten or eleven in the morning and about five in the afternoon”.

Lady Borden then told me of her experience with Tree Swallows. She had observed “about a hundred” swooping close to the ground and sometimes alighting. They had not seen so many swallows on the ground before and asked if I could offer an explanation. I suggested that a hatching of insects may have attracted the swallows. The Bordens smiled at my suggestion but made no comment.

Later, on returning to Wolfville, I told Robie Tufts, Chief Federal Migratory Bird Officer for the Maritime Provinces, about the Bordens’ observations. Robie laughed and told me they had written to him and that he had offered a suggestion similar to mine. He also told me they had written to P.A. Tavener, Chief Ornithologist of the National Museum of Canada, who suggested that it had been a cold day and there were no insects in the “upper air” but that the “chilled insects” had dropped from the air and trees to the ground. The Bordens, however, favoured their own explanation based on “some strong unexplainable stimulus”.

I enjoyed immensely my visit with the Bordens but it was time to leave. The Bordens, however, noted their plans to go to Lake Echo that weekend where, accompanied by J. Philip Bill of the Department of Justice and a keen naturalist, they hoped to go birding. They kindly invited me to join them on the Sunday. Early on our walk we saw an Ovenbird, Crested Flycatcher, Pileated Woodpecker, and a Winter Wren. Sir Robert told us he had seen seven Winter Wrens earlier in the spring at Echo Beach. They had “alighted in the sand within two feet of where I was sitting, one of them not more than two inches away.” Altogether that afternoon, with Bill’s help, we listed 32 species of birds.

I returned to Wolfville with my “bird list” expanded to include the Ottawa area, and having seen several species that were not regularly found in Nova Scotia.

Whale-watching Cruise off Brier Island

by Jim Wolford

Eleven of us were registered and received discounts from our host company, Brier Island Whale and Seabird Cruises. (BNS members registered for the Brier Island Whale and Seabird Cruise on August 18 were Elaine & Don Hendricks, Lorna Hart, Paula Magwood, Ladny Richmond, J.P. Huang, Dave Johnston, Bettie and Norman Dovan, Pat Martin, & Jim Wolford.)

Harold Graham and Kari Forbes captained the cruise while three other young women looked after the nature interpretation for the boatful of hopeful watchers. Just north of the whale-cruise wharf, as was the case last year, we passed several cages of jumping farmed Atlantic Salmon. As usual there were a few Great Blue Herons roosting in coniferous trees on the shoreline north of Westport. An early highlight, unusually close to land, was a skua (probably South Polar, but not seen well enough) that was harassing a Herring Gull just off Northern Light.

Dense fog was encountered just offshore to the north. Nevertheless, we soon spotted three single Northern Fulmars, some of which have remained in the Bay of Fundy all summer long, though this bird normally summers in the Arctic. We headed north toward Northwest Ledge, then east to Moore's Ledge and, after almost two hours encountered clear skies, very good visibility, and light wind, but no whales were in evidence.

However, I felt that I got my money's worth and then some from the abundance of seabirds. Besides those mentioned above, my estimated totals were 200+ Greater Shearwaters, four Atlantic Puffins, one Common Murre, 100+ Wilson's Storm Petrels, one Leach's Storm Petrel, 2000+ Red Phalaropes with perhaps 25 Red-necked Phalaropes among them (always a tough call because of the difficulty of getting a close look at these tiny birds), one Common Loon in winter or juvenile plumage (surprising so far offshore), and tens of the usual Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls. (Paula Magwood reported seeing a swan, but nobody

corroborated that one.)

Before the voyage I had wished for the Wilson's Storm Petrels, since I personally needed some experience with them (as opposed to Leach's, with which I am very familiar). Birders and field guides say to look for flight like butterflies or swallows (Wilson's) versus erratic flight like nighthawks (Leach's). Leach's are much longer-winged – their wing beat is quite slow, compared with the Wilson's, with its shorter, more rounded wings. The latter have fast wing beats and steady, fast flight, except when they flutter, butterfly-like, at the surface when feeding or looking for food. I'm quite confident now that I can make a high-probability guess for these two species of petrels.

After perhaps three hours, just off Long Island, east of Brier Island, a Zodiac full of whale-watchers had located two Humpback Whales. The various cruise companies all cooperate with each other via radios in finding the whales, and, before long, there were five commercial boats all nearby. The code of ethics for the operators mandates no more than two boats at a time for close observation of any group of whales.

These two Humpbacks consisted of young Mr. Burns (first sighted in 1995 and then every year thereafter) and Paw Print (a new whale for Fundy, but previously known as a southern Gulf of Maine whale). Both had distinctive and different dorsal fins (very pointed for Mr. Burns, very broadly rounded in Paw Print. Paw Print was making shallow dives, while Mr. Burns was just travelling slowly at the surface. A third Humpback, apparently a new and unnamed one for the Humpback catalogue, was feeding nearby. All three had been together the day before.

Elaine & Don Hendricks and Lorna Hart, who were in the 3:30 pm boat, encountered the same three whales. I'm jealous that they were extremely fortunate to have one of these whales breach a couple of times very close to the boat, and Don managed at least one good photo.

On our way back to Westport, we got very brief glimpses of two single Minke Whales, one of which was right in the harbour. Earlier in the cruise, a few of us briefly spotted a group of about 4 Harbour Porpoises.

Our hosts told us that recent sightings in the bay have included Finbacks,

occasional North Atlantic Right Whales, and Atlantic White-sided Dolphins, as well as Sooty and Manx Shearwaters.

Plant Walk at Blomidon Provincial Park

August 22, 2001

by Ruth E. Newell

Approximately 20 people participated in a plant walk at Blomidon Provincial Park in what was, after a long hot summer, rather refreshing, foggy weather. Our main goal was to visit the mature, deciduous woodland with its unique assemblage of plants found on the Blomidon Peninsula within the park. We first had to walk through a variety of other habitats, each with its own characteristic species groupings. As we walked along the roadway near the beginning of our trek, we spotted a few Alternated-leaved Dogwoods (*Cornus alternifolia*). They were along the edge of the woods a short distance past the main gate to the park. This woody dogwood species is also called the Pagoda Tree because of its alternating, horizontal tiers of branches. This feature is especially noticeable in tall specimens and gives this tree a very attractive appearance.

After crossing an open field dotted with flowering Eyebright (*Euphrasia officinalis*), Heal-all (*Prunella vulgaris*), and Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), our path took us through a short stretch of coniferous woods. Here we spotted both White and Red Baneberry (*Actaea alba* and *A. rubra*). Both species were in full fruit and we able to compare the



differences between these two woodland species. Looking at fruit color is not always a dependable means of telling the two baneberries apart, as there is a white-berried form of Red Baneberry and a red-berried form of the White Baneberry. Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*) was also fruiting and provided delightful splashes of red-orange on the forest floor. Nearby we sampled some wild gooseberries (*Ribes hirtellum*).



LOBELIA
(SPICATA)

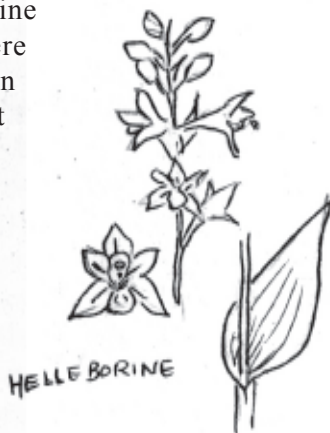
The last field we crossed before entering the deciduous forest has a large population of Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*). This plant is known from only a few sites within Nova Scotia and is considered rare in the Maritimes. Unfortunately, our timing for viewing this plant was poor – the field had been mowed at some point over the summer. However, we were still able to locate a few unscathed flowering stalks. This species is a denizen of old fields, and the practice of mowing this field within the park probably allows this species to persist here.

At this point we entered the deciduous forest. Here amidst the majestic, mature Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), and Yellow Birch (*Betula lutea*), we saw rich, green carpets of Woodgoldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*) and numerous species of ferns (Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), Silvery Spleenwort (*Deparia acrostichoides*), Ostrich Fern (*Matteucia struthiopteris*), Wood Fern (*Dryopteris spp.*), Beech Fern (*Phegopteris connectilis*), etc.) The fruiting stalks of the rare Wild Leek (*Allium tricoccum*) were in great abundance. The presence of this plant here contributes to the uniqueness of this area, as it is only known in four or five locations in Nova Scotia. This member of the lily family has an interesting life cycle. The leaves emerge early in the spring and by mid-July have withered and died back. It is at this point in the growing season that the flower stalks appear.



WILD
LEEK

Amongst the more dominant vegetation here, we found a few plants of the Helleborine orchid (*Epipactis helleborine*) that were still in flower. It was at this very location in 1985 that Bernard Forsythe made the first discovery of this orchid species in Nova Scotia. Helleborine is considered to be an introduction from Europe and was first documented in North America in 1879 from New York State (Case, 1987). It has the capacity to spread quickly in a somewhat weedlike manner, unlike most of our native orchid species. Since being discovered in Nova Scotia in Kings County, it has been documented from quite a few other counties.



We observed a small number of Purple Trillium (*Trillium erectum*) with their dark red fruit. Although locally common within Kings County, this attractive, purple-flowered trillium is quite rare elsewhere in Nova Scotia. Another scattered inhabitant of these deciduous woods is Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum pubescens*), with its graceful, delicate arching stems and inconspicuous pairs of flowers/berries hanging below the leaves.

I hope the evening was enjoyed by all.

References

Case, Frederick W., Jr. 1987. "Orchids of the Western Great Lakes Region." *Cranbrook Institute of Science Bulletin* 48. 254 pp.

North American Migration Count in Nova Scotia

by Judy Tufts, NS coordinator for NAMC

After a night of patchy drizzle and temperatures around 5 °C, a little fog and a few isolated showers greeted us on Saturday morning before we set out to count birds. During the morning, the weather improved and many areas enjoyed sunny periods. However, Pictou Co. had to contend with poor visibility for the day, while Cape Breton Co. was plagued with drizzle. Winds were northerly light; highs 9–15 ; lows 3–5.

Thirty-two people went owling; 385 people were “in the field”; 49 took up “stationary watches”, and 393 spent time watching feeders. Antigonish County was unable to participate this year.

Results

217 bird species, and 119,831 individual birds counted.

General highlights for the province

A couple of wonderful rarities were still around in Cape Breton to be counted: A Black-tailed Gull and a Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) of the Eurasian nominate race.

Other interesting observations: one Tri-coloured Heron (Lingan Bay), a Great Egret (Pictou) and a Glossy Ibis (Upper Woods Hbr., Shelburne) The Brier Island team found impressive raptor kettles of 60 Broad-winged Hawks over the island, with a single Red-shouldered Hawk in one of the kettles. Turkey Vultures appeared not only on Brier (15), but in Yarmouth (4) and in Annapolis and Victoria counties (one each). Four Caspian Terns were noted, two in Sheet Harbour, Halifax Co., one each in Cumberland and Inverness counties. Six species of owls were recorded, but the saddest is that of a young Snowy Owl – found by a DNR team from Lawrencetown, Annapolis Co. – being harassed by crows on count day, but found dead the next day from what appeared to be starvation; injuries were not apparent.

Four new species were added to our provincial list this year: Great Crested

Flycatcher (Coldbrook), two Whip-poor-wills (Halifax Co.), Vesper Sparrow (Kings) and Dovekie (Shelburne).

Other interesting species of note and bright colour: Summer Tanager (Sydney River), two Scarlet Tanagers, three Orchard Orioles (two on Brier Is, one on CSI), and 22 Baltimore Orioles (Shelburne Co. held 11), four E. Bluebirds (Brier Island area and Cumberland Co.); and on Cape Sable Island birders found two Indigo Buntings, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and a pair of American Oystercatchers. Off the coast from Halifax lies Sable Island, and from there came word of one Yellow-billed Cuckoo and a Peregrine Falcon (another Peregrine was spotted in Cumberland Co.). In Yarmouth Co. one Red-bellied Woodpecker came to a backyard; singles of Wood Thrush, Brown Thrasher, and Blue Grosbeak were tallied on Seal Island by the Acadia University team of bird banders. Two Northern Shrike, five Common Redpolls, and four Horned Larks (Kings) lingered elsewhere.

This year we recorded the highest number of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (146) that we have ever counted in an NAMC (Kings Co. tallied 37); last year there were 124. Until two years ago we barely tallied a dozen in any count. Twenty-two warbler species were seen with 25% to 50% higher numbers recorded in most of the species (2,911 Yellow-rumped Warblers alone!). Other species also showed definite signs of abundance: Least Flycatchers quadrupled their numbers this year (90) over last year's migrants, while twice as many Blue-headed Vireos were notched. Sparrow numbers were up in most species; Song Sparrows led the way with 3,237. A high of 136 White-crowned Sparrows were found; a Field Sparrow was an unexpected visitor on CSI.

Mockingbirds have definitely taken a strong toehold in Kings Co., with 18 of the 25 found around the province. I heard of one nest with two nestlings in Kentville. But surprisingly, numbers of Cardinals (12) seen around the province do not represent the true number now in the province, or do they? House Finches were also well down (13). Is that an indication of fewer numbers of this species in the province?

Some additional highlights from Annapolis-Kings-Hants counties: one American Coot was found on Starrs Point; one lingering Purple Sandpiper

remained at Margaretsville; 372 Chimney Swifts were registered in Bear River, while only 32 were seen in Wolfville; 350 flickers were tallied in Kings-Hants. Among waterfowl, 19 species were counted. Five species of flycatchers were back, 20 warbler species shared our counties with us (with nearly 600 Yellow-rumps here in the Valley!), and 12 species of Sparrows were tabulated (including 12 White-crowned Sparrows in Kings).

All in all, most birders found May 12 an exceptional day for this year's spring count. Weather cooperated in most areas, and there were plenty of birds to be found.

Personally, I had a wonderful day, and a fascinating encounter with nature. I was in Palmetter Woods in Kentville, observing bird activity on the Cornwallis River where a "sentinel" Canada Goose out on the river was determined to keep me in sight as I moved around the river bank area. Deciding to rest for a few minutes and watch the Canada Goose – I was also keeping an eye on an Osprey perched on a snag in the distance – I suddenly became aware of noisy, rustling sounds on my right. Turning, I found myself suddenly being eyed by a rather upset mink standing beside a fallen log ten feet away. The rustling noise had come from the carpet of dead leaves the little guy had bounced through. With much agitated huffing and puffing and nose twitches, the mink surveyed me. I was curious to note that this mink had a whiteish patch approximately the size of a silver dollar on its forehead, which intrigued me. Inadvertently, I had become an unexpected, rather large obstacle in its path. After two unsuccessful attempts by the mink to figure out how to get around me and the log, it was clearly time for me to move on and let the mink continue his/her interrupted journey – maybe to a food source or on to a den with kits nearby. It was a pretty special nature moment, nevertheless.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to all who participated in this year's North American Migration Count (NAMC) on Saturday, 12 May 2001. You all deserve great credit for a wonderful effort in this year's provincial count.

The detailed results of the count for the Valley – by county – are on the following two pages.

North American Migration Count —

Species	Anna	Kings	Hants	Species	Anna	Kings	Hants
Red-thrtd Loon	3	3	2	Least Sandpiper	-	12	-
Common Loon	5	28	15	Purple Sandpiper	1	-	-
Pied-B. Grebe	2	-	2	Peep sp *	-	1	-
Red-Nk. Grebe	1	1	-	Common Snipe	11	22	30
Great Cormorant	1	-	-	Am. Woodcock	3	3	20
D-C Cormorant	16	33	144	Ring-Billed Gull	-	55	27
Am.Bittern	4	-	3	Herring Gull	59	1526	267
Gt.Blue Heron	6	23	8	Grt.Blk.-Bk.Gull	4	674	165
Canada Goose	155	28	119	Gull sp *	-	60	7
Wood Duck	17	1	-	Black Guillemot	2	2	-
Green-wing Teal	-	23	3	Rock Dove	92	214	225
Am. Black Duck	19	176	241	Mourning Dove	106	386	389
Mallard	3	113	46	Grt. Horned Owl	1	3	2
Blue-Winged Teal	18	6	9	Snowy Owl	1	-	-
N. Shoveler	2	-	1	Barred Owl	1	23	9
Gadwall	-	2	-	N. Saw-whet Owl	-	-	1
American Wigeon	-	7	10	Common Nighthwk	-	-	4
Ring-necked Duck	47	14	45	Chimney Swift	378	32	-
Common Eider	6	59	-	R.-t. Hummingbird	19	37	25
Black Scoter	-	1	-	Belt. Kingfisher	2	18	6
Surf Scoter	2	7	30	Yel-bell. Sapsucker	8	8	20
Wht-Wing Scoter	10	-	-	Downy Woodpeckr	30	104	75
Common Goldeneye	2	-	-	Hairy Woodpecker	9	50	55
Bufflehead	56	-	-	Blk-back. Woodpkr	-	-	4
Hooded Merganser	2	2	2	Yel-shaft. Flicker	21	164	186
Common Merganser	2	15	1	Pileated Woodpkr	4	10	10
Red-Br Merganser	3	14	-	East. Wood Pewee	1	-	-
Turkey Vulture	1	-	-	Yel-Bell. Flyctchr	-	1	-
Osprey	-	2	19	Least Flyctchr	4	17	15
Bald Eagle adult	1	26	36	Eastern Phoebe	2	4	-
Bald Eagle imm *	-	2	21	Gt. Crst Flyctchr	-	1	-
Bald Eagle age? *	-	2	1	Horned Lark	-	4	-
Northern Harrier	1	4	7	Tree Swallow	354	509	260
Sharp-Shin. Hawk	2	3	3	Bank Swallow	4	5	-
Northern Goshawk	-	-	4	Cliff Swallow	-	4	4
Broad-wing Hawk	-	-	4	Barn Swallow	24	68	140
Red-Tailed Hawk	6	31	17	Gray Jay	1	4	7
American Kestrel	2	4	10	Blue Jay	86	346	402
Merlin	-	6	1	American Crow	110	990	681
Rng-nk Pheasant	32	181	90	Common Raven	21	279	120
Ruffed Grouse	5	8	40	Blk-cap Chickadee	102	493	411
Sora	5	3	2	Boreal Chickadee	-	2	17
American Coot	-	1	-	Red-brstd Nthtch	8	46	43
Killdeer	4	24	17	Wht-brstd Nthtch	1	18	4
Great. Yellowlegs	2	36	4	Brown Creeper	-	4	8
Lessr. Yellowlegs	-	6	-	Winter Wren	3	5	26
Eastern Willet	1	22	14	Gld-crwn Kinglet	2	16	59
Spotted Sand.	8	22	7	Rby-Crwn Kinglet	15	54	227

* *unidentified or subspecies*

— Results for the Valley

Species	Anna	Kings	Hants	Species	Anna	Kings	Hants
Veery	-	-	2	N. Cardinal	3	2	-
Swainsons Thrush	2	2	-	Ros-brstd Grsbk	8	21	5
Hermit Thrush	7	35	95	Am. Tree Sparrow	-	12	12
American Robin	153	833	998	Chipping Sparrow	10	76	43
Gray Catbird	3	1	-	Field Sparrow	-	-	-
N. Mockingbird	1	18	-	Vesper Sparrow	-	1	-
Cedar Waxwing	-	-	6	Savannah Sparrow	36	166	105
Eur. Starling	202	1796	910	Fox Sparrow	-	1	1
Blue-head. Vireo	11	82	84	Song Sparrow	89	886	391
Red-eyed Vireo	4	20	13	Lincoln's Spar.	-	-	2
Vireo sp *	13	-	1	Swamp Sparrow	13	12	33
Tennessee Warb.	1	1	-	Wht-throat Spar.	42	150	281
Nashville Warb.	4	10	53	Wht-crown Spar.	1	12	1
Northern Parula	22	73	63	Dark-eyed Junco	62	141	286
Yellow Warbler	20	49	14	Bobolink	22	33	10
Chstnt-side Warb.	1	-	7	Red-wing Blkbrd	235	717	480
Magnolia Warbler	3	10	7	Rusty Blackbird	-	39	8
Cape May Warb.	-	3	-	Common Grackle	572	538	554
Blk.-thtd.blu.Wrb.	6	2	-	Brn-head Cowbird	9	45	40
Yellow-rump Wrb	50	288	242	Blackbird sp *	-	20	9
Blk.-thtd.grn.Wrb.	38	110	84	Baltimore Oriole	3	1	-
Blackbrnian Warb	4	3	2	Pine Grosbeak	-	3	21
Palm Warbler	4	6	54	Purple Finch	82	212	282
Bay-brstd Warb.	1	-	1	House Finch	-	-	4
Blackpoll Warb.	-	4	-	Red Crossbill	1	4	4
Blk & Wht Warb.	30	72	116	Ww Crossbill	-	46	9
Amer.Redstart	-	1	-	Common Redpoll	-	-	1
Ovenbird	33	96	38	Pine Siskin	45	164	269
North. Watrthrsh	6	16	10	Am Goldfinch	195	979	926
Comm. Yellowthr	12	4	2	Eve. Grosbeak	63	177	253
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	1	House Sparrow	30	225	242

Total: 152 species for the Valley

Start time	430	530	500	Car (km)	144	810	1024.5
Stop time	2330	2200	2200	Boat (km)			
				Bike (hr.)		20	32
Owling				ATV (km)			
Time (hr.)	4	0.75	2	Parties (#)	14	35	45
Distance (km)	0.2	1	2	Observers (#)	18	45	61
Parties (#)	1	2	2				
Observers (#)	1	3	5				
Regular				Stationary			
Foot (hr.)	37.5	100.25	112.5	Time (hr.)	13	14	16
Car (hr.)	7.5	48	749.5	Parties (#)	10.5	7	6
Boat (hr.)				Observers (#)	8	10	6
Bike (hr.)		2	3.5	Feeder Watcher			
Other				Time (hr.)	28.5	145.25	84
Foot (km)	47.6	127	146.25	Feeder watchers (#)	12	62	40
				Feeder stations (#)	6	49	39

Valley Birds

by Angus MacLean

This report covers the period from late March to early September.

Great Blue Herons were late arriving (or not reported?) on Apr 9. A Great Egret was seen west of Berwick along Hwy 1 on Apr 9 (T. Bezanson). An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron on Aug 15 at Lower Grand Pre did not linger (Lloyd Duncanson). A Glossy Ibis spent a day at a flooded field in Port Williams Apr 21 (S. Boates, m. obs.).

A Snow Goose was noted near Canning Mar 29 (JCT, GWT). It was not reported again. A few Green-winged Teal and Ring-necked Ducks began to show up about Apr 12. A number of broods of the latter species was noted later, as were at least two Wood Duck broods, all in Kings. A Eurasian Green-winged Teal was at Grand Pre Apr 28 (BLF). There are expectations this sub-species may soon be raised to full species status.

A male Northern Shoveller was present in a flooded field in Port Williams on Apr 6 (JWW). At times during the following week, up to five were present. One male remained there to Apr 25 (JWW). A male Gadwall was in the same field Apr 12–13 (JWW) and Apr 21 (m. obs.). On Apr 25 a pair was on the New Minas Sewage Ponds (BBT) and one male was still there May 1 (JWW). At Canning May 7, four were spotted in the Habitant R. (Ian Paterson, Glenys Gibson).

A pair of Lesser Scaup was on the Port Williams Sewage Ponds Apr 19–25 (JWW, JCT). Four (2m., 2f.) Harlequin Ducks were at Margaretsville on Mar 28 (PBG). The same number was at Port George Apr 23 (PBG).

The three Scoter species were reported in small numbers along the Fundy Coast through April, but no large congregations were noted.

A Turkey Vulture was seen Apr 28 near Welsford, Kings (Bev Schneider), always a rarity in the eastern Valley.

One Broad-winged Hawk was reported at Tremont Aug 26 (SHH).

Undoubtedly others were seen. JWW reported in early April Red-tailed Hawks were incubating eggs at the two sites in the Wolfville area. There were later reports of fledglings.

Rough-legged Hawks were still around the Grand Pre and Port Williams dykelands Apr 12 (MAG).

A seldom-reported species in summer, American Kestrel, was noted at Hortonville near Hwy. 101 Jul 19 (JWW). It nests rarely and irregularly through the Valley, but can be seen more often in fall. Peregrine Falcons were scarce until the late summer, when the shorebird migration got underway – one at Kingston May 12 (T. Rubin).

BLF encountered a family of Spruce Grouse Jul 7 at Greenfield, Kings. He was interested in photographing it, as the female was a gray morph (see NGS Guide & Sibley) and the others he has seen have been the red/rufous morph. AAM & BLF checked the site the next morning and could not find the family. Finally one red morph female was found in the same area. It's likely she had a family nearby, too, although none was seen. From this it would appear that family groups do not maintain a territory. Mike McCall reports a Spruce Grouse, seen by another person at Halls Harbour in late June.

Soras starting calling at several ponds near Wolfville May 4–5 (JET, BBT). No Virginia Rails were reported there this summer.

A few Killdeer were trickling in by Apr 5, the latest date for them in many years. RBS found about 1,000 Black-bellied Plovers near the Wolfville sewage plant Aug 28. In early September numbers of American Golden Plover started showing up at Grand Pre. A nice grouping of 35 Willets was at Wolfville Jul 21 (JET). JCT reports 97 yellowlegs, mostly Greater, at their favorite roosting spot, Harris Pond, in Canning. A Calgary couple found two Baird's Sandpipers at Evangeline Beach on Aug 6 (fide JWW).

A flock of ~25 Purple Sandpipers was at their favorite winter locale, Port George, on Mar 28, and perhaps the same flock was there Apr 8 (PBG).

GWT's dog flushed an American Woodcock on the Wolfville Ridge Apr 9. This is a normal arrival date, but so few are noted until they start calling.

On Mar 27 JWW noted five Iceland Gulls still lingering at the New Minas sewage ponds, and RBS reports one adult at the Wolfville sewage ponds Apr 15. The latest, an imm., was at Canard Pond on Apr 29 (NSBS/BNS field trip).

An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was along Saxon St. on Mar 29, and later two adults were there for a few weeks (RBS). This is a favored wintering location for this species. BLF puzzled over an adult with flesh-colored legs at Grand Pre Aug 24–25. None of the recent guides, including Sibley, mentioned any exception to the normal yellow legs, but Godfrey (1984) does mention that some exhibit this anomaly. At any rate, such coloration is extremely rare.

An imm. Glaucous Gull was seen in the Port Williams area Apr 22 (RBS), and perhaps the same was seen Apr 29 at Canard Pond (NSBS/BNS field trip).

Along the Fundy coast in late March, a number of Common Murres were found dead, and this was the story in other parts of NS and NB. Certainly many were never noted, as gulls and raptors would find dead and injured birds rather quickly. "Wrecks" of alcids are not rare, but usually pertain to Dovekies, not a strong flyer.

Short-eared Owls were present in small numbers at the Guzzle (near Boot Island), Grand Pre, through the spring. On Sep 10, BBT found one near the same location.

JWW has presented a chronology of the Chimney Swift activity at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre chimney on the Net. The peak period was June 5–12, ranging from 165 to 230. The rest of the summer, ending about Aug 1, saw numbers much lower. A count at the Middleton High School chimney in mid-June was 261.

A very early hummingbird was in Coldbrook Apr 24 (fide RBS). However, most arrived around their normal time of May 10–12. In mid-summer

many people reported them absent from their feeders, although SHH said three were regulars in Tremont through the summer. Females returned to many feeders from mid-August through early September.

Not two but three Eastern Phoebes were noted carrying nesting material at Millville, Kings, on Apr 20 (PBG). Phoebes are fairly common nesters throughout the Valley.

A male Great-crested Flycatcher appeared, as in the past several years, in Coldbrook on May 7 and stayed till about Aug 1. Unfortunately, it did not find a mate (AAM, SMM). Another was calling in another Coldbrook location about the end of June. BLF reports one in his backyard at Wolfville Ridge Jun 17.

Tree Swallows (3) made an appearance at Canard Pond Apr 12 (MAH). Small numbers in scattered locations were next noted about Apr 20–21. By the Apr 25 flocks were the norm. Other swallow species were lightly reported but appeared to arrive at their normal times.

A Hermit Thrush was reported at Middleton Apr 9 (Adora Parsons, fide PBG). The first reported in Kings was on Apr 17 at Wolfville Ridge (GWT).

JET found 5–6 American Pipits along the Grand Pre dykes Mar 28, the first report since January.

A Brown Thrasher was in Canning May 4–5 (MAG).

Twenty Bohemian Waxwings were noted with a few Cedars in Wolfville on Apr 3 (JWW).

Northern Shrikes lingered in April, one at Spa Springs, Annapolis Co. on the 8th (PBG) and another in Annapolis on the 10th (RBS).

Early vireo and warbler sightings: one Blue-headed Vireo, May 2, Wolfville Ridge (JCT); Chestnut-sided Warbler, Palmetter Woods, May 18 (AAM); one Black-throated Green Warbler, May 2, Coldbrook (DSH); one Black-throated Blue Warbler, May 3, Coldbrook (DSH); Black and White & Parula Warbler, May 3, Palmetter Woods, Kentville (JCT); two

Northern Waterthrush, May 4, Palmetter Woods, Kentville (AAM); Cape May & Nashville Warblers, May 12, Coldbrook (AAM). BLF noted a Magnolia Warbler feeding a young Cowbird at Blomidon on Aug 21.

A Scarlet Tanager was singing on Wolfville Ridge May 27 (JCT). The individual, a male, was described as having an orange belly, perhaps a second-year male just gaining its breeding plumage.

Male Cardinals were seen and heard in Kentville and Coldbrook through the period (RBS, AAM), and in parts of Annapolis (SHH). These birds, apparently prospecting for mates and finding no takers, move on after a few days. Nevertheless, it's a sign that the Valley population is increasing.

The elusive Eastern Towhee in Wolfville was last seen Apr 14 (E. Doull).

Three American Tree Sparrows lingered at the Urban's Avonport feeders until Apr 20. As if on cue, Chipping Sparrows were noted the following day to take over from their near cousins. However, one Tree Sparrow was still at a Coldbrook feeder Apr 27 (AAM).

An Ipswich Sparrow was seen at the Kentville Research Station Apr 21 (RBS). This species is rarely seen away from the coast.

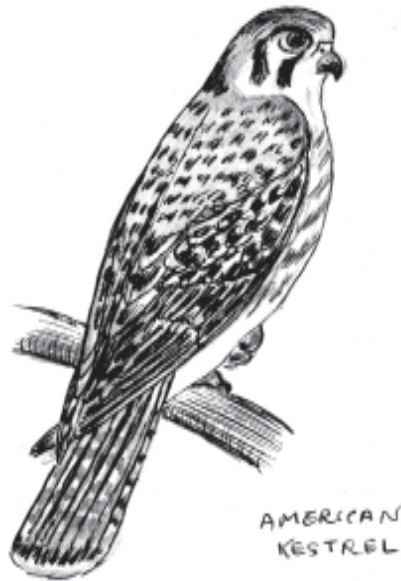
The first Fox Sparrows (2) were reported at Pat MacLeod's feeders in the Gaspereau Valley Apr 2 (fide JCT). Eight showed up in Falmouth on Apr 9 (Jane MacConnell).

An adult White-crowned Sparrow paid a visit to JMC's feeder in Falmouth Apr 9 and the Urbans in Avonport had one Apr 17 & May 18. One was at Sherman Williams' feeder in Avonport May 19.

Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles were late arriving, but by Apr 10 could be found in noisy groups throughout Annapolis and Kings. Brown-headed Cowbirds, on the other hand, are not as noticeable, although by May they seem to be in every wooded area. However, BLF found them scarce in his wanderings.

SHH in Tremont reports fair numbers of Purple Finches through the winter, but in eastern Kings this species did not appear in numbers until early April when many were singing. A f. House Finch was in Coldbrook Jun 7–8 feeding with a flock of Cedar Waxwings (AAM).

Around the first of April, Pine Siskins started to show up in good numbers at certain feeders in eastern Kings. Many people noted their absence during the winter months.



The reporters

AAM	Angus MacLean	JWW	Jim Wolford
BBT	Bill & Brenda Thexton	MAG	Merritt Gibson
BLF	Bernard Forsythe	MAH	Matt & Andrea Kingsley
DSH	Dave Shutler	PBG	Pat & Barb Giffin
GWT	Gordon Tufts	RBS	Richard Stern
JCT	Judy Tufts	SHH	Sheila Hulford
JET	Jean Timpa	SMM	Stella MacLean

Annapolis & Kings refer to counties

Annapolis Valley Weather – Summer 2001

by Larry Bogan

	Mean min. temperature (deg.C)	Mean max. temperature (deg.C)	Mean avg. temperature (deg.C)	Rainfall (cm)	Evaporation (mm)	Bright sunshine (h)
June (40 yr. average)	24.1 (21.9)	12.6 (10.1)	18.3 (16.1)	80 (67)	51 (129)*	213 (212)
July (40 yr. average)	25.0 (25.0)	12.9 (13.5)	19.0 (19.3)	27 (70)	130 (162)*	252 (232)
August (40 yr. average)	27.5 (24.1)	15.1 (13.1)	21.3 (18.6)	12 (9)	155 (120)*	239 (217)
Season (40 yr. average)	25.6 (23.7)	13.6 (12.3)	19.6 (18.0)	119 (228)	336 (411)*	704 (661)

Source: Food & Horticultural Research Centre, Kentville, NS.

** Five-year average (40-year average not available for evaporation)*

Hot and dry are the two adjectives that describe to me the three summer months this year. Sometimes the weather statistic show something different from what I remember, but the conditions were so extreme this season that it is unlikely.

Temperatures

The temperature chart shows the daily extremes in temperature with a vertical line and notes the daily mean temperature with a short horizontal mark. In early June the mean temperatures rose steadily to the low 20s and stayed there for most of the next 2½ months. Only in mid-July was there a two-week period with average temperatures slightly below 20 °C. Fifteen days this summer had highs of 30 or more in Kentville (September – when there were a couple of days that hot – is not included).

Mean daily temperature was 2.2 °C above the 40-year mean in June; July was about average, while August was 1.7 °C above mean. The season as a whole was 1.6 °C above the long-term mean temperature. Because we

sleep through the coolest part of the day, we are usually only alert to the day's highest temperature. Thus, a mean maximum temperature for the season 1.9 °C above average made it seem even hotter this year.

Rainfall and Evaporation

Only June had more rainfall than average, while July and August were so dry that by the end of the season we had only slightly more than half the average rainfall. August got only one-eighth the expected rain for the month. (We did have a heavy rainfall on September 1, which helped some). Instead of giving a rainfall chart, I have included the pan evaporation data for Kentville. This indicates the rainfall deficit for the day by measuring the amount of water evaporation from an open pan. The negative values occur when there is significant rainfall to increase the level of the water in the pan. Two-thirds of the season's rain fell in June and after mid-July there was practically no rain.

The total evaporation for the three months was 336 mm. Compare that with the rainfall of 119 mm. Every summer season has a deficit of water in Nova Scotia, and we expect to make that up during the other, cooler seasons of the year. This year actually was no worse than any other in the last five years but we have been having drought conditions in the Annapolis Valley recently. Farmers must irrigate much more than in the past.

Sunshine Hours

There is not much to say about sunshine. We had only slightly more than expected from the long term averages. That is not what gave us the hot weather. The jet stream was north of Nova Scotia for most of the summer, and we kept getting hot, dry air from the south flowing over us. Hence the larger number of hazy, humid days this summer.

This year the season started earlier with plants and birds and appears to be holding on. I still have a hummingbird at the feeder as I write this on September 11.

Note: the usual charts for sunshine and evaporation were not available for this issue.

What's In The Sky?

by Roy Bishop

New Moon: October 16, November 15, December 14

Full Moon: October 2 (Harvest Moon), November 1 (Hunter's Moon),
November 30, December 30

Winter begins on Friday, December 21, at 15:21 (AST)

The Changing Stars

With the cool evenings of autumn the spectacular summer Milky Way sinks in the southwest, leaving the southern part of the sky to the dim stars of the constellations Aquarius the water carrier, Piscis Austrinus the southern fish, Cetus the whale, Pisces the fishes, and Eridanus the river. We need rain. Will these watery constellations bring it?

Amongst these sprinklings of dim evening stars, one star stands out, low in the southern sky. This is Fomalhaut, part of the southern fish and a first magnitude star that outshines all others in its lonely corner of the heavens. (Fomalhaut is pronounced fo-mal-aut, with the emphasis on the first syllable.) Despite its dominance of the southern autumn sky every year, few people can name this star, or even recognize its name. Fomalhaut is bright primarily because it is one of our sun's nearest neighbours. The light entering your eyes from Fomalhaut this autumn left that star barely 25 years ago, in 1976.

Toward midnight you will see the bright stars of winter rising in the east. The harbinger of these lamps of frost is the small, spectacular star cluster known as the Pleiades, or Seven Sisters. Resembling a tiny dipper-shaped figure, this misty apparition decorates the autumn eastern evening sky. In the time of sailing ships, the appearance of the Pleiades in the east was recognized as a sign of autumn storms and cold. Use binoculars to better experience the beauty of this cluster of stars.

Planets

Saturn and Jupiter dominate the late evening and morning skies this fall. Saturn rises first, followed an hour or so later by brighter Jupiter. Both planets are well-placed very high in our skies during the next few months, permitting good telescopic views of these huge worlds. Saturn

is in opposition to the Sun on December 3, Jupiter on January 1. Last June, Mars was closer to Earth and brighter than it has been since 1988. We are now leaving Mars behind as Earth pulls ahead in its faster orbit, so through this autumn Mars becomes dimmer and sets in the southwest in late evening.

Venus remains very bright in the eastern pre-dawn sky during October and November, but vanishes into the light of dawn in December. Mercury lies within 1 degree (two Moon-diameters) of Venus during the last week of October and first few days of November. Thus, Venus will be a good guide to locating Mercury during this period. All you have to do is rise well before the Sun and use a viewing site having a low horizon toward the east.

Meteors

The annual Leonid meteor shower peaks on November 18. The best time to look should be before dawn on the 18th or after midnight the following night. The Moon will not interfere. All we need is clear skies. This year Earth will pass close to dust ejected from the parent comet of the Leonids, Comet Temple-Tuttle. A 'meteor storm' has been predicted for observers on the other side of the world (e.g., Australia) on the morning of the November 19, although some astronomers expect that the event may occur a few hours earlier and be visible from western North America on the morning of the 18th. It remains to be seen how much of a 'storm' occurs and from where on Earth it will be seen best. I cannot say how good the Leonids will be over Nova Scotia, but if you don't look, you won't see any meteors at all. Another reliable meteor shower, the Geminids, peaks near midnight on the night of December 13/14. As for the Leonids, moonlight will not interfere. All that is needed is a clear sky, a dark viewing site, and warm clothing.

Eclipses

There is an annular eclipse of the Sun on December 14, but it is not visible from Nova Scotia. In our hemisphere, only parts of Costa Rica and Nicaragua lie within the path of annularity. On the morning of December 30 the full Moon passes through the penumbra of Earth's shadow, causing a slight but noticeable dimming of the southern portion of the Moon. Maximum eclipse occurs at 6:30 am with the Moon low in the northwestern sky.

Strange spider may be a black widow

by Chris Lambie in *The Daily News*

September 2, 2001

A huge drilling rig docked at Woodside Wharf in Dartmouth may be crawling with more than tradesmen. The *Eirik Raude* arrived in Halifax Harbour on July 26 following a tow from Mississippi.

“We’ve had one black widow spider found on the rig,” said Steve Southall, the business agent for Local 1 of the Marine Workers Federation. “We found one mixed in with a bunch of Nova Scotia spiders; I guess they must have been partying or something.”

Black widows are smaller than a dime, with a red hourglass on the underside. While their bites don’t normally kill healthy people, they can cause paralysis, said provincial entomologist Eric Georgeson. “The spider is pretty shy, and it usually doesn’t bite you unless it gets trapped between your skin and your clothing,” he said.

“This rig’s been fumigated now four or five times,” Southall said. “One (black widow) got through there somehow.”

Georgeson said black widows have hitched a ride to Nova Scotia from warmer climes before. “We often get them up on cartons of fruit, and people find them in stores,” he said. “But they won’t live through the winter. They can’t handle the cold.”



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Gleanings

Jon Stone, Canadian Wildlife Service, July 24, 2001

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Preliminary information has now been received from all four Atlantic provinces for the **International Piping Plover census** conducted June 3–16.

This year there were 402 adults counted, compared to 319 in 1996, 385 in 2000. Population increases were reported in PEI and NF, with a slight decline in NS and NB.

Increases in population over the past few years are likely a result of productivity attributed to the efforts of guardians and other conservation efforts, fairly good weather, and the creation of suitable habitat by winter storm events. Provincial government agencies such as DNR in Nova Scotia have also helped the plovers recover. While there was a slight decline in this province, there is little doubt it would have been greater without the work of the provincial agency and the Nova Scotia Piping Plover Guardian Program with the many volunteers who spent time on the beaches.

Adapted from Allison Lawlor in the Globe and Mail, Aug. 30

Two dead crows found in Toronto's north end are presumed to have the **West Nile virus**.

Further tests are being conducted in a Winnipeg laboratory on another six crows and one blue jay after preliminary tests showed they may have the virus. The dead birds have been found in Toronto, Halton, Peel, and Windsor-Essex.

The first confirmed case of the virus in Canada was a dead crow in Windsor, Ontario, on Aug. 22. Since then, 11 cases have been confirmed in southern Ontario. In their effort to monitor the spread of the virus, Toronto health officials plan to continue trapping mosquitoes until the first frost. Dead crows and blue jays will also be collected for testing.

The mosquito-borne virus can cause encephalitis, a potentially deadly inflammation of the brain, but health officials say only about one percent of infected people show any symptoms.

At least ten people have died in the United States since 1999, when the virus was first detected in North America.

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<i>Fritillaria</i>	<i>Amaryllis</i>
<i>Galanthus</i>	Paperwhites
<i>Iris</i>	Rock-garden Daffodill
<i>Muscari</i>	Large-flowering crocus
<i>Scilla</i>	Other species of crocus



Blomidon Naturalists Society 2000 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
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Number	Membership Classification	Price	Total
_____	Individual Adult	\$15.00	\$ _____
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_____	Tax-deductible donation		\$ _____
		Total	\$ _____

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Type of membership Individual Adult
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Join the Federation of NS Naturalists? Yes No
 Is this a gift subscription? Yes No

Memberships are due January 1st, 2000

Sources of Local Natural History
(compiled by Blomidon Naturalists Society)

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
	Jim Wolford	585-1684	542-7650
	Michael Brylinsky	585-1509	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

