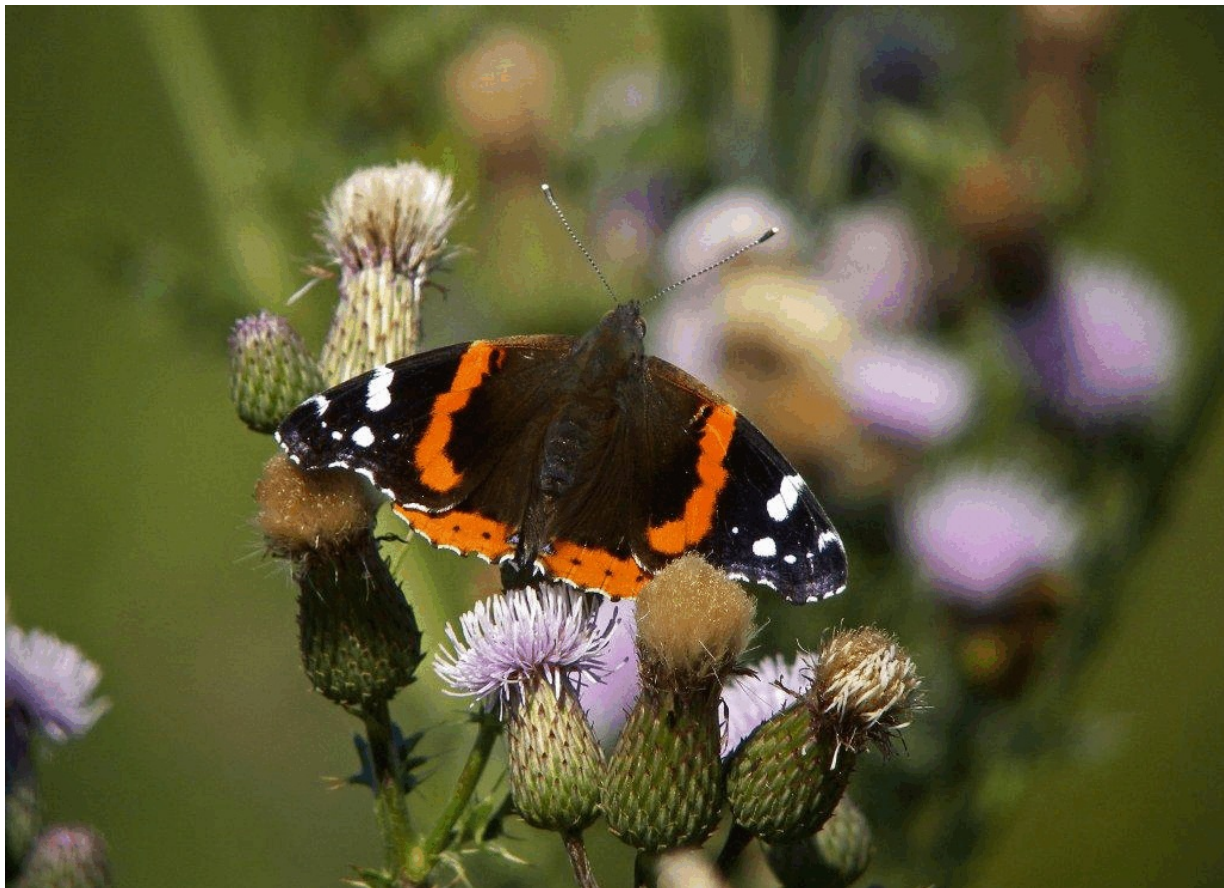




ISLAND NATURALIST

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If you have not already done so, please renew your 2010 membership

**NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
P.O. BOX 2346, CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. C1A 8C1**

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month (except July, August, and September) at 7:30 p.m. at the Farm Centre, 420 University Avenue, Charlottetown. Each meeting commences with a brief business meeting followed by a nutrition break and a guest speaker. Members and non-members are welcome.

Membership is open to anyone interested in the natural history of Prince Edward Island. Membership is available at any meeting or by contacting the Acting Treasurer at P.O. Box 2346, Charlottetown C1A 8C1 (phone 569-1209). Annual membership is \$20 and renewals are due in January. Membership expiry dates are shown in the top right hand corner of the mailing label or a notice provided by those receiving electronic newsletters.

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

2010 Executive:

President Diane Griffin, Stratford, 569-2343 dianegriffin@eastlink.ca
Vice-President Ian Scott, Charlottetown, 892-5796 scotts@pei.sympatico.ca
Past President Fred McCardle, Kinkora, 887-2338, fmccardle@pei.aibn.com
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NEWSLETTERS are normally published quarterly and are available in Acrobat Reader format via E-mail or in hard copy delivered by mail. Hard copies are printed on recycled paper. Articles, notes, reports, drawings, bird sightings, plant records, etc. are welcomed from members and non-members. If you have seen anything unusual, please share it with us. It is important to have your observations recorded so that others may learn from them. All contributions should be sent by mail to Dan McAskill, Newsletter Editor, NHSPEI, 368 Brazel Road, Charlottetown RR # 5, Donagh, P.E.I. C1A 7J8 or via E-mail to jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca The *next deadline* for articles, sightings, or other newsletter information is *November 15, 2010*.

Illustrations/Pictures: The Society extends a special thanks to Dwaine Oakley and Eleanor Beagan for their photographs in this issue.

The Natural History Society gratefully acknowledges support from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development which enables distribution of newsletters to schools and libraries desiring it. The Natural History Society is an affiliate of Nature Canada and has representation on the board of the Island Nature Trust. The Society is a registered, non-profit organization (Part 2, Companies Act). Tax receipts are issued for donations to the Society and these funds are used to further the work of the Society.

Reprinting: Editors of other newsletters and teachers wishing to copy classroom materials are welcome to reprint articles from the Island Naturalist (except when copyrighted). Due acknowledgment must be provided to the Island Naturalist, the author and illustrator.

Web page: The Society's Executive is currently working to reestablish its web page.

Cover Illustration:

The red admiral butterfly (*Vanessa atalanta*) is a migratory species that can vary widely in population. It can raise two or three generations in a season and, in a mild winter, some may successfully overwinter. Adults forage on a variety of wildflowers and are aggressive, often defending an area from others. It uses a wide variety of habitat from woodland glades to parking lots. The caterpillars roll up in leaves and usually feed on nettles.

NOMINATION CALL, ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION:

The Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island's Annual Meeting and election will be held on January 4, 2011. There are a number of vacancies anticipated. If you would be interested in serving on the Executive or one of the Society's other committees, please contact Dwaine Oakley or Diane Griffin (see inner cover for contact details).

SOCIETY NEWS:

Efforts to get the Society's website functional again went into a hiatus this summer because of the work loads. It is hoped that the site will be functional in the next few months.

Two members of Society's Executive and the Museum Committee were able to attend the Town of Stratford's Mr. William Thorsell lecture on the Royal Ontario Museum (see article on page 5).

GROWING LIKE A (HOG)WEED - FIRST RECORD ON PEI:

by Kate MacQuarrie

Recent reports of Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have generated ample media coverage and public concern about this plant in our region. Giant Hogweed sap can cause photosensitivity: Skin exposed to the sap may blister and burn when exposed to sunlight. There have also been reports of blindness caused by sap getting in the eyes.

Although Islanders have reported Hogweed sightings around PEI, to date all but one have turned out to be the similar Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*). However, we do have one confirmed population of Giant Hogweed in Cardigan. It appears to be confined to a fairly small area and efforts will be made to eradicate it next spring.

There are several fairly easy ways to tell Hogweed from Cow Parsnip:

Height - Giant Hogweed typically ranges up to about 16 feet tall when it's in flower; Cow Parsnip rarely exceeds 10 feet, and is more commonly in the six to eight foot range.

Leaves - Giant Hogweed leaves are shiny and have sharply toothed margins. Cow Parsnip leaves are dull; their margins have pointed tips but are not toothed all the way around.

Stems - Giant Hogweed stems have quite a bit of purple and are covered in stiff white bristles. Cow Parsnip stems may have some purple near the base but are mostly green. They have a light covering of soft hairs rather than stiff bristles.

So how great is the Hogweed threat? Media reports have called it "*a real horror*", tell us officials treat sightings like "*a bomb scare*" and have posted videos of extreme cases of burns from the sap. As a result, Hogweed hysteria has broken out in some areas. The reality is we have all sorts of plants that are toxic: Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Water Hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*, one of the most toxic plants in North America) are a few that come quickly to mind. One of the many nice things about plants is they hardly ever sneak up and attack you. As with Hogweed, if you are able to identify and avoid them, you have little to worry about. I would rank the Hogweed threat as low, especially in the Maritimes where it is essentially a garden plant and has not been found spreading far on its own.

Unfortunately, people are afraid of the unknown, and fewer and fewer people know their neighbours of other species. Don't let Hogweed (or other plants) keep you away from the outdoors - use it as one more reason to learn about our plants and animals!

For more info on Hogweed identification, check out the Ontario Weeds Fact Sheet at:

<http://www.ontarioweeds.com/weed.php?w=HERMZ>

For more inspiration to get you (and your kids!) outdoors, check out Richard Louv's book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*.

INSECTS ATTRACTED BY MAPLE SAP:

Adapted from Christopher G. Majka publication

Certain insects are attracted by saps and nectars from trees and shrubs. Maple sap gathered in traditional bucket

collection systems can be a source of these specimens and there is very limited information on these species on Prince Edward Island. A preliminary study of these insects was conducted recently at Woodville Mills, Prince Edward Island. The study detected twenty-eight species of Coleoptera, Lepidoptera and Trichoptera in the buckets with 18 of these being newly recorded on Prince Edward Island. Nineteen of these species are known to be attracted to sap and nectars.

Species	Abundance	PEI Status
COLEOPTERA		
Carabidae		
<i>Dromius piceus</i> Dejean	scarce	previously collected on PEI
Coccinellidae		
<i>Anatis mali</i> (Say)	scarce	previously collected on PEI
Corylophidae		
<i>Orthoperus suturalis</i> LeConte	scarce	previously collected on PEI
Curculionidae		
<i>Trypodendron retusum</i> (LeConte)	abundant	new in PEI
<i>Xyloterinus politus</i> (Say)	scarce	previously collected on PEI
<i>Xyloborinus alni</i> (Niisima)	scarce	new in PEI
Dermestidae		
<i>Anthrenus castanae</i> Melsheimer	scarce	previously collected on PEI
Histeridae		
<i>Eupilotus assimilis</i> (Paykull)	scarce	previously collected on PEI
Lampyridae		
<i>Ellychnia corrusca</i> (Linnaeus)	very abundant	new in PEI
Nitidulidae		
<i>Cryptarcha ampla</i> Erichson	scarce	new in PEI
<i>Glischrochilus fasciatus</i> (Olivier)	abundant	previously collected on PEI
<i>Glischrochilus quadrisignatus</i> (Say)	abundant	previously collected on PEI
<i>Glischrochilus sanguinolentus</i> (Olivier)	scarce	previously collected on PEI
<i>Glischrochilus siepmanni</i> Brown	scarce	previously collected on PEI
Scirtidae		
<i>Cyphon confusus</i> Brown	scarce	new in PEI
<i>Cyphon variabilis</i> (Thunberg)	very abundant	new in PEI
Staphylinidae		
<i>Silusa californica</i> Bernhauer	scarce	new in PEI

<i>Nudobius cephalus</i> (Say)	scarce	new in PEI
LEPIDOPTERA		
Noctuidae		
<i>Crocigrapha normani</i> (Grote)	scarce	new in PEI
<i>Eupsilia vinulenta</i> (Grote)	abundant	new in PEI
<i>Eupsilia tristigmata</i> (Grote)	abundant	new in PEI
<i>Lithophane innominata</i> (J.B. Smith)	abundant	new in PEI
<i>Lithophane petulca</i> Grote	scarce	new in PEI
<i>Lithophane pexata</i> Grote	scarce	new in PEI
<i>Xylena cineritia</i> (Grote)	scarce	new in PEI
Tortricidae		
<i>Acleris chalybeana</i> (C.H. Fernald)	abundant	new in PEI
TRICHOPTERA		
Limnephilidae		
<i>Glyphopsyche irrorata</i> (Fabricius)	scarce	new in PEI
<i>Limnephilus ornatus</i> Banks	scarce	new in PEI

Adapted from a publication by Christopher G. Majka titled “Insects Attracted to Maple Sap: Observations from Prince Edward Island, Canada”. ZooKeys 51: 73-83 (2010).

LITTLE GULL AND RED-NECKED PHALAROPES:

By Dwaine Oakley

After searching through hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls in the last several weeks, I finally found an adult Little Gull on September 12th. The bird was foraging at the Borden lagoons on that morning with ~300 Bonaparte's Gulls. At first it was in the lagoon closest to the beach but later moved to the other lagoon where it was easily found in a smaller group of Bonies. Whenever the gulls took flight, the Little Gull stood out like a sore thumb with its jet black underwings and at one point put on quite show for Les Homans, Greg & Sandra Feetham, and myself. Later I was joined by Dan McAskill and the gull once again took flight showing the distinctive underwing pattern.

Also of note at the lagoon closest to the beach were 2 Red-necked Phalarope that allowed close observation near the fence.



Little Gull
Photo by Dwaine Oakley

STRATFORD OFFERS MUSEUM PRESENTATION:

Mr. William Thorsell, recently retired CEO of Toronto's world renowned Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), spoke at Stratford Town Hall's Southport/Bunbury Room on Thursday, September 23rd, 2010. His presentation is the second in a series that Stratford is presenting in order to encourage an Island wide dialogue regarding the proposed centralized Provincial Museum. Mr. Thorsell spoke with great passion on the how and what the Board of Directors and the

Museum's Foundation Board did to transform a \$250,000 loan from the Foundation's sinking fund into a \$292 million redevelopment of the Museum that continues today.

Mr. Thorsell joined the ROM in August 2000, following a decade as editor-in-chief of the Globe and Mail newspaper. Previous to that he had served as an administrator at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

MARITIME BREEDING BIRD ATLAS FIELDWORK FINISHES:

Adapted from BSC Latest News Sept. 24, 2010 & observations

The fifth and last field season of the Maritimes Breeding Bird Survey has now ended. A special thanks goes out to all those who have already entered their observations into the Atlas and to David Seeler who served as the Island's Regional Coordinator in getting the MBBA operational in year one and to Rosemary Curley who has for served as PEI's Regional Coordinator for four of the five years. Atlassers are encouraged to complete their data entry so that the next stages of this work can be completed as soon as possible.

The project now moves into a new phase of data analysis, and production of the book and web-based data products. The next imperative is to transform the immense dataset into easily-understandable and strategic information, and then to promote the use of this knowledge to guide the conservation actions needed to preserve wild birds and their habitats. As for the volunteers, we suspect there may be a migration of enthusiastic Maritimes atlassers to other provinces (Québec, Manitoba, and British Columbia) where atlases are still ongoing!

The MBBA met its five-year goal of a minimum of 20 survey hours and 10 point counts in all priority squares. From 2006-10, volunteers and field staff spent 44,000 hours atlassing, and gathered close to 250,000 breeding bird records. MBBA staff, partners, and supporters extend a huge thank-you to all volunteers for this incredible effort!

THE 11th NEIL BENNETT AUTUMN BIRDING CLASSIC: by Dan McAskill, Ray Cooke, Dwaine Oakley, Bill Bowerbank

The Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island and the Island Nature Trust designed the Autumn Birding Classic in 1995 as a long-term fund raiser partnership for the Trust's land conservation program and as a bird monitoring system for the autumn. In 1999, the Autumn Birding Classic was renamed the Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic in memory of Neil's significant contributions to the Trust. In the 15 years since its creation, this partnership has raised more than \$14,000. These contributions are augmented by a 1 to 2 time multiplier effect.

On Saturday, September 18th, amidst starlight skies, a 9°C. temperature, and no wind, Ray, Dwaine, Bill, and Dan started the count. It was 3:00 AM and we started out from Sherwood. Despite the chill before dawn and some ground mists, the day was spectacular. Over 20 shooting stars and bright sunshine highlighted the conditions during the day. At dusk, the then scattered clouds left red skies as the sun set while we drove back from Wood Islands. The temperature rose to 18°C during the mid-day then dropped to 13°C by the time we stopped. Winds ranged from 2 km/hr before dawn to 9 km around lunch and in late afternoon. The winds shifted from westnorthwest to southwest to east and then back to southwest during the day. By day's end at 8:35 PM, we had travelled 364 km and walked about 2 km.

The Team started birding at the Hillsborough River bridge piers with hundreds of Double-crested Cormorants. Lake Verde brought out first birds heard with a night time chorus of Canada Geese calling. Dwaine used an I-Pod to play various combinations of the calls of Saw-whet Owl, Barred Owl, Long Eared Owl, Great Horned Owl, Sora Rail, Virginia Rail and American Bittern at Lake Verde, Watervale (2 sites), Dromore, Riverton, and River Wetlands (near St. Peter's). Some or all members were successful in obtaining Northern Saw-whet Owl, Barred Owl, Great-horned Owl, American Bittern, and Virginia Rail.

We started picking up birds in earnest at River Wetlands with singing Swamp Sparrows and flights of teal and other ducks and the call-back responses of the bittern and rail. By the time we reached East Point around 8:45, we had stiff northwesterly. We stood on the second story outlook deck of the newly refabricated lighthouse building facility and scanned the waters for seabirds. Hundreds of adult and some immature Gannets were mostly flying to the west and there was a good group of about 100+ Black-legged Kittiwake and good numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls and small numbers of Common Tern. Most of the kittiwake and gulls were sitting on the water but there were enough foraging that

a few Parasitic Jaegers were attracted and a few conducted pursuit attacks resulting in the pursued bird regurgitating its food so that the jaeger left the attack and fed on the offering. Woodland birds were nominal but scopes revealed a good number of shorebirds feeding in the beach wrack west of the outlet to Beaton's Pond. We walked down the shore and the hoped for Baird's Sandpiper was not located but we had incredible views of three Pectoral Sandpipers at very short range and the opportunity to watch them adjacent to Least, White-rumped, and Semipalmated Sandpiper as well as an immature Piping Plover, many Semipalmated Plover and Sanderlings.

As we were leaving East Point, we heard some chickadees and set up to use a mod call to see what was there. The calls of eagles were heard and we had the luck to see a kettle of three adult Bald Eagles circling and calling above us and later two more and an immature circled northwestward. The mob call brought in amongst others a Warbling Vireo which Ray was able to identify and there was another vireo like bird which was seen too briefly to identify. During the balance of the day, most stops brought Black-capped Chickadees and a few Golden-crowned Kinglets. We found a few sites with groups of ten to twenty Yellow-rumped Warblers and a few Boreal Chickadees at a couple of sites. Despite our best efforts along the route we chose from Sherwood to Watervale, St. Peter's, Souris, East Point, Priest Pond, Hermitage, Souris, Corraville, Montague, Murray Head, Wood Islands and return to Sherwood, we were unable to find Dark-eyed Junco or Red-breasted Nuthatch. However, one of our day's target locations was Wood Islands. Dwaine had seen hundreds of terns earlier in the week and Nova Scotia birders were still seeing the influx of southern rarities brought in by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Earl. We checked the west side of the terminal and thoroughly enjoyed the sights of the clams squirting their gysers of water above the surface of the sand but, alas, there were no rarities. We went to the pond and beach between the fishing dock and the park and it again looked bleak. Then, Dwaine's sharp observation skills and his excited voice brought our attention onto a small gull sitting down on the sand. It was initially missed on the first sweep over the bar but he picked out a larger black bill than the adjacent Bonaparte's Gulls. It was a Laughing Gull. Dwaine was able to get first a confirming photograph and then was able to position himself onto the end of the dock where the light was perfect to capture incredible digiscope images of the Laughing Gull. Ray set up as well using a

motor-drive digital camera and the Laughing Gull flew to a short range attracted by Dwaine tossing part's of Ray's coveted eggplant sandwich onto the beach. Ray was able to capture images revealing a gull with missing feathers.

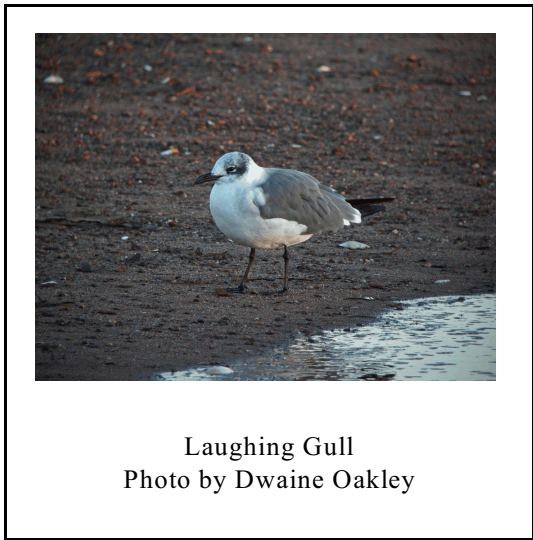
Besides those listed for River Wetlands, East Point and Wood Island's, the highlights of the day's outing were a Pied-billed Grebe at North Lake, 3 Hooded Merganser at Murray River, several Black-and-White Warblers at East Point and Campbell's Pond, good numbers of Northern Flickers (~20), a drake Wood Duck at the Community of East Point, a group of sixteen Ruddy Turnstone at Murray Head (near Cape Bear), American Kestrel at Kingsboro and White Sands, and Merlin at Lakeview and Wood Islands.

In total, we observed 81 species, down significantly from last year's 88 and 2008's 108. In addition to the birds seen below, we also observed several foxes, eight raccoons, close up looks of grey seals and a few harbour seals, a snowshoe hare, a muskrat, and several red squirrels. Gulls were seen feeding on a dead grey seal and harbour seal at Beaton's Shore and a dead grey seal at North Lake beach. There were three monarch butterflies feeding on red clover and two bunch berry plants

were still in flower at East Point. There were also two monarch butterflies seen at the Souris lighthouse. During the day, there were many sightings of yellow cabbage butterflies.

Thanks to the generosity of the many donors, to the date of publishing this newsletter on September 23rd, the Trust's pledge collectors and team members collected pledges of nearly \$1,000 for the 2010 Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic. The birds seen are listed below.

Pied-billed Grebe	Great Blue Heron	Mallard	Harlequin Duck (1)
Northern Gannet	Canada Geese	Blue-winged Teal	Common Eider
Double-crested Cormorant	Wood Duck	Green-winged Teal	White-winged Scoter
Great Cormorant	American Wigeon	Ring-necked Duck	Hooded Merganser
American Bittern	American Black Duck	Greater Scaup	Common Merganser



Laughing Gull
Photo by Dwaine Oakley

Red-breasted Merganser	White-rumped Sandpiper	Barred Owl	Cedar Waxwing
Bald Eagle	Pectoral Sandpiper	Northern Saw-whet Owl (2)	Northern Parula
Northern Harrier	<i>Parasitic Jaeger</i>	Belted Kingfisher	Yellow-rumped Warbler
American Kestrel	<i>Laughing Gull</i>	Downy Woodpecker	Black- and- White Warbler
Merlin	Bonaparte's Gull	Hairy Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat
<i>Virginia Rail</i>	Ring-billed Gull	Northern Flicker	Savannah Sparrow
Black-bellied Plover	Herring Gull	<i>Warbling Vireo</i> (1)	Song Sparrow
Semipalmated Plover	Great Black-backed Gull	Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Lincoln's Sparrow</i>
<i>Piping Plover</i>	<i>Black-legged Kittiwake</i>	Blue Jay	Swamp Sparrow
Killdeer	Caspian Tern	American Crow	White-throated Sparrow
Greater Yellowlegs	Common Tern	Common Raven	Purple Finch (1)
Lesser Yellowlegs	UID Murre (1)	Black-capped Chickadee	American Goldfinch
Ruddy Turnstone	Black Guillemot (2)	Boreal Chickadee	House Sparrow
Sanderling	Rock Pigeon (Dove)	Golden-crowned Kinglet	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Mourning Dove	American Robin	
Least Sandpiper	Great Horned Owl (2)	European Starling	

Note: Species in italics are rarely seen here at this time of year. Where less than all the participants observed the species, the number of observers is noted in brackets.

MARITIME BUTTERFLY ATLAS: By John Klymko, Mantises Butterfly Atlas Director, AC-CDC

A Common Buckeye, a vagrant butterfly for the Maritimes, was recently spotted in Nova Scotia. This is the second record for this vagrant species in the Maritimes this year, Ron Wilson saw one on July 27 in Charlotte Co., NB. This is the time of year when other vagrants could show up. Possibilities, including some real long shots, are Fiery Skipper, Little Yellow, Cloudless Sulphur, and Variegated Fritillary. I encourage anyone who spots Common Buckeye or any other vagrants to submit specimens or photographs to the Maritimes Butterfly Atlas. Please take a look at <http://accdc.com/butterflyatlas.html> for more information.

As always, the Atlas is also interested in any butterfly species from anywhere in the Maritimes!

NATURE CANADA ANNUAL MEETING AT NORTH CAPE:

The members of the Board of Directors of Nature Canada (formerly Canadian Nature Federation) assisted with the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas in a series of squares in western PEI where there were few sightings recorded. They held their Annual Meeting at North Cape Interpretive Centre on June 26th and passed several resolutions to target conservation action. One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation of the Douglas H. Pimlott Award, one of Canada's pre-eminent conservation awards, to Jackie Waddell for her leadership in conservation of natural areas on Prince Edward Island.

THE GARDEN SHED:

By Doug Murray

Last fall we built a garden shed which incorporates a couple of good-sized windows recycled from renovations to the house. It sits beside a couple of hectares of mixed woodland. We have been using it to start and harden off flowers and vegetables this spring. The double door has been wide open most days which led to a curious phenomenon. My cat alerted me to a small bird hopping around the upper reaches of a cupboard and some shelves inside. It was a red-breasted nuthatch. It found its way out again but a few days later another bird, a purple finch, was noted inside. I left it alone and checked on it after supper. It too was gone but was replaced by a very special visitor, obviously a warbler with very attractive plumage. I went in quietly to find out which one and the bird hopped toward one of the windows and dropped down on one of the potted plants. On impulse, I gently reached under the bird and he hopped onto my hand. We moved to the door and out on the step but at eye level I had a close look at a Parula Warbler with slate-blue on head and back, characteristic yellow throat and rusty yellow spot on the back, white eye ring and wing bars. We stared at each other at

arm's length for what seemed like minutes but was probably thirty seconds before he flew off. And of course no camera was at hand. It gives new meaning to "build it and they will come!"

NEWS FROM ABOUT:

Compiled by Dan McAskill

After an oil and natural gas gusher, the *Deepwater Horizon* drilling rig exploded on April 20, 2010 killing 11 workers and injuring 17 others. Two days later the burning platform toppled into the Gulf of Mexico. In the ensuing three months before getting the top part of the well capped and subsequently sealed, some 4.9 million barrels of crude and an unknown amount of natural gas spilled into the Gulf of Mexico. The relief well and bottom kill process was completed on September 19th. Despite the mobilization of skimmer ships, floating containment booms, anchor barriers, sand-filled barricades, and chemical dispersants, significant numbers of birds, reptiles, and mammals were fouled with oil and a major cleanup is still underway. It is probable that the full consequences of this spill will not be known for years. (Adapted from BSC News Aug. 6 & Wikipedia)

The 110th Christmas Bird Count was a resounding success. There were 381 Canadian Counts and participation increased by some 800 bringing the total to 12,000! Two new species were added to the overall Canadian list, namely a Rustic Bunting seen at Creighton, SK and a Jack Snipe on the Queen Charlotte Islands, BC. (Adapted from a BSC letter by Dick Canning, Christmas Bird Count Coordinator)

As of September 24th, the 2010 Baillie Birdathon had brought in \$214,000 for bird conservation work. The fund is managed under the auspices of Bird Studies Canada and provides much needed financial support for bird study and conservation efforts by Bird Studies Canada, designated bird observatories, and research grants. (Bird Studies Canada Latest News September 24, 2010, BSC Website)

BirdLife International's latest evaluation of the world's birds has revealed that more species than ever are threatened with extinction. The annual Red List update, on behalf of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, now lists 190 bird species as Critically Endangered (the highest threat category). Three species have been uplisted to this category: Zapata Rail (Cuba), White-bellied Cinclodes (Peru), and Black-winged Starling (Indonesia). The Alaotra Grebe of Madagascar, previously classified as Critically Endangered, has been uplisted to Extinct. (Bird Studies Canada Latest News May 26, 2010)

The good news is that when conservation action is put in place, species can be saved. The Chatham Albatross (New Zealand), Yellow-eared Parrot (Colombia), and Azores Bullfinch (Portugal) have all been downlisted from the Critically Endangered category as a result of dedicated conservation efforts. For more information, visit the IUCN Red List website. Jun. 4, 2010)

Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan, was one of Canada's foremost conservationists, a professor, and a public servant during his 10 decades. By the time of his death last spring, he had authored over 260 scientific publications, supervised the research of some 100 graduate students, pioneered television in public television including three CBC nature series, helped form and/or led conservation organizations, and much more. For more information see www.bcnature.ca education page. (Adapted from BC Nature Summer 2010)

For the first time since breeding records have been kept for the species, an active Sandhill Crane nest was found near Chipman, New Brunswick this spring. Breeding maps in most field guides do not show Sandhill Cranes breeding much farther east than the Ontario-Québec border. However, recent breeding activity has been recorded in Maine (2000-08), Massachusetts and Vermont (2007-08), and New Jersey (2005). This northeastward range expansion is a by-product of the recent explosion of Sandhill Crane populations throughout North America.

The Eastern population of the Greater Sandhill Crane (the population that breeds in northeastern North America and now in New Brunswick) has rebounded from near extirpation. In the 1930s, just 25 breeding pairs were recorded in Wisconsin, but by 1996 the Eastern population had increased to more than 30,000 birds, aided by the cessation of hunting (from 1916-1961) and the restoration and protection of wetlands.

Sandhill Cranes nest in freshwater wetlands in an open landscape of grasslands or agricultural fields, and tend to avoid forested uplands. Participants in the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas are urged to keep their eyes peeled - while this may be the first nest discovered in the Maritimes, it certainly won't be the last! (Bird Studies Canada Latest News Jun. 4, 2010)

The new supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union checklist of North American birds was published on July 27, and it appears that Canada has added a new species of wren to its list. The Winter Wren was officially split into three species: the Pacific Wren, breeding in British Columbia and Alberta from the Rocky Mountains west; the Winter

Wren, breeding throughout the rest of Canada (including northeastern BC); and the Eurasian Wren, found in Eurasia. The Pacific Wren has a higher-pitched, more complex song and browner underparts than its sister species, the Winter Wren. Their calls also differ, with the Pacific Wren's *chip* more similar to that of a Wilson's Warbler, while the call of the Winter Wren is more like that of a Song Sparrow. The decision to split the species was based in part on studies near Tumbler Ridge, BC by Dave Toews and Darren Irwin of UBC, who showed that the two forms not only looked and sounded different, but they also recognized each other as different species, did not interbreed, and had significantly different genetic histories.

In other name changes, the Whip-poor-will becomes the Eastern Whip-poor-will (split from the form breeding in the southwestern United States and Mexico, now called the Mexican Whip-poor-will), and the Black Scoter becomes the American Scoter (split from the Eurasian form, which is still called the Black Scoter). On a more subtle note, the Greater Shearwater is now simply called the Great Shearwater to match its name elsewhere in the English-speaking world. There are many more changes to the scientific names and order of species on the North American checklist. Please see http://www.aou.org/checklist/suppl/AOU_checklist_suppl_51.pdf (Bird Studies Canada Latest News July 27, 2010)

Kate MacQuarrie was one of five directors re-elected to the Board of Directors of Bird Studies Canada on September 18th. (Bird Studies Canada Latest News September 24, 2010)

First conferred in 1996 as a means of recognizing those Islanders who have shown individual excellence or outstanding leadership in their community and in their chosen occupation or profession, Diane F. Griffin of Stratford, Father Brady Smith of Charlottetown, and Dr. Regis Duffy, CM of Charlottetown were the 2010 recipients of the Order of Prince Edward Island. It is the highest honour that can be accorded to a citizen of the Province. (Adapted from Lieutenant Governor's Office Jun. 18 Press Release)

BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL:

The 4th Annual Bald Eagle Festival at the Hillsborough River Eco-Centre and Pigot's Trail at Mount Stewart brought out ~500 people on June 12-13. Thirty-three people including 23 Becoming an Outdoors Woman Course attendees came out to the early morning birding led by Fiep de Bie and Dan McAskill. Over 200 people visited the eagle viewing station and the Allisary Creek Impoundment on the bank of the mainstream Hillsborough River, PEI's first designated Canadian Heritage River. There was a tour of the St. Andrew's historic Red Pine stand and a tour of the Pisquid River watershed enhancement sites. There were Bald Eagle presentations by Gerald MacDougall and Jackie Waddell, a taxidermy demonstration by Danny Clark, a celebration of the French culture with Acadian cooking, ROMA actors in period dress, Acadian basket making, Acadian song, viewing of the Acadian dykes, Mi'kmaq games and dancing, face painting, and much more. These were conducted primarily in the Hillsborough River Eco-Centre which houses artifacts celebrating the various cultures who resided on the Hillsborough River.

BATTLING BALD EAGLES SUCCESSFULLY DISENGAGED:

There is always something new to be seen in nature. On the evening of September 18th, Gerald MacDougall received a telephone call indicating that two adult eagles were grasped together on a lawn in Cornwall with their talons locked. He went to the location and found the two eagles indeed locked together and unwilling to release their talons. Each eagle had a talon in the breast of the other bird and were grasping the other talon. Despite the approach of people, they would not disengage. He draped covers over the heads of the two eagles and, with the help of two other people to carefully hold the claws, he was able to disengage the talons and release the eagles at far ends of the property. The eagles were able to fly off and hopefully will recover from this battle. Gerald has been working with eagles for 32 years and has never encountered this before.

WEATHER EVENTS:

On July 11th, very heavy rains caused local flooding. On Thursday, August 26, Charlottetown was deluged with 96 mm (almost 4 inches) of rain. It caused street flooding in many sites including the bypass adjacent to the Hillsborough River where the curbs held the water, at Royalty Plaza, the Charlottetown Airport parking lot, and a variety of other sites in Charlottetown. Only a few miles east of Charlottetown there was little rain and only 12.58 was recorded

at Harrington and 9 mm at Souris Line Road.

Tropical Storm Earl hit the Maritimes on September 4, 2010. It hit land in the Halifax area with winds blowing down some trees and did lead to a drowning. The eye tracked over Wood Island's but, by the time it reached PEI, the winds were down and the highest sustained wind speed at the Harrington station was only 57.3 km/hr at 7:00 PM and 34.6 at 6:00 PM at Souris Line Road. Between 1 PM on Sept. 4 and 5, 25.7 mm of rain was reported at Harrington and 18.8 mm at Souris Line Road. The maximum wind gust at Caribou was 107 km/hr. On the P.E.I., there was some crop and tree branch damage but it was no where near the damage of Hurricane Juan. Hurricane Igor passed off-shore of Nova Scotia on September 21st but hit eastern Newfoundland very hard with high winds (maximum gust 163 km/hr at Sagona Island on the south coast), torrential rains (238 mm), very significant road damage and home flooding in some areas, and a fatality.

Heavy rains again occurred on Sept. 17 with 34 mm of rain being recorded at the Harrington station

ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:

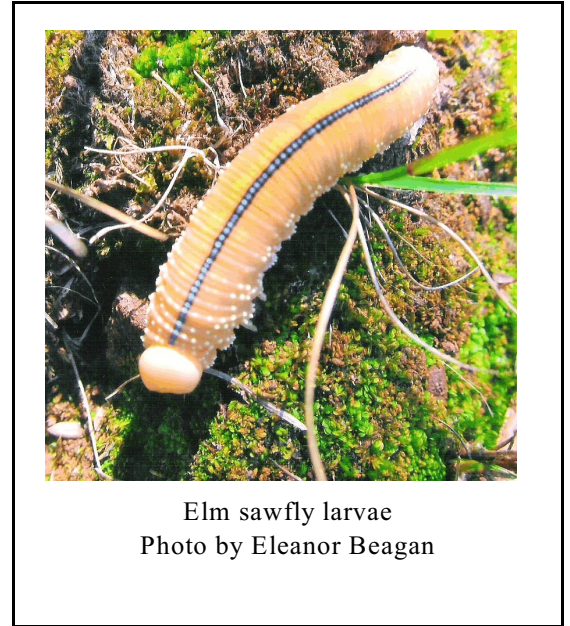
Compiled by J. Dan McAskill

Includes reports received up to September 29, 2010.

PLANTS: Lilac starting in flower at Donagh on May 27 (JDM) and full flower at various areas in southeastern PEI on Jun. 5 as were apple and hawthorn (JDM, DCS, RC). Some choke cherry already past blossom stage while others were still with the raceme of flowers in SE PEI on Jun. 5 (JDM). Cotton grass showing white tuft and both blue-bead lily & Labrador tea in flower at Caledonia on Jun. 5 (JDM, DCS, RC). Following plants in flower on May 29 & Jun. 5 - rhodora, choke cherry, wild apple, wild strawberry, buttercup, mustard, (JDM, RC, DCS). Heavy rain stripped petals on many apple and hawthorn blossoms on Jun. 6 (JDM). Lilac almost done of flowering on Jun. 30 (JDM). Buttercup, chickweed, and hawkweed in flower and wild strawberry and bush honeysuckle flowering near done in Donagh on Jun. 11 (JDM). Clintonia starting to flower at Donagh on Jun. 15 and in full flower on Jun. 22 (JDM). Red-osier dogwood in flower at Donagh on Jun. 22 (JDM). Lupins in flower almost to the top of the spike at various locations between Charlottetown and Wellington on Jun. 23 (JDM). Foxglove in flower at Donagh on Jun. 24 (JDM). Blue flag, wild raisin, ox-eye daisy, white Dutch clover, and low hop clover in flower in various areas from Summerside, Foxley River, and North Cape on Jun. 26 (RY, JDM). Lupin gone to seed and vetch at Bridgetown, sheep laurel and wild raisin at Little River Road, blackberry & ox-eye daisy at Howe Bay, morning glory, wild rose, vetch, & chickweed at Eglington, orange and yellow hawkweeds, lupin, buttercup, white Dutch clover, & ox-eye daisy at Little Sands, and yarrow & multiflora rose at Wood Islands flowering on Jul. 2 (JDM). Brown-eyed Susan, vetch, evening primrose (few blossoms), & day lily flowering at Foxley River MBBA square (JDM). Amelanchier in berry at Point Pleasant on Jul. 4 (JDM, MK). Bladder campion & sweet clover at Brudenell Point & chicory at Alberry Plains flowering on Jul. 9 (JDM). Red-berried elder berries ripe at Campbellton on Jul. 10 (JDM, RC). Chicory in flower at Cape Bear on Jul. 14 (JDM). Red oak in woods at Mosquito Cove on Jul. 16 (JDM). Much of the mature tolerant forest on route 303 in MBBA block 20NS53 has been clearcut this year (JDM). Heavy flush of queen Ann's lace flowering at Foxley River, purple loosestrife flowering at Brockton, Joe Pye weed and first goldenrod flowering at Kelly Road in Roseville on Jul. 24 (JDM). DFG found beach spurge (*Chamaesyce polygonifolia*) and blue lettuce (*Lactuca biennis*) during NCC collections at Conway dunes this summer. Significant outbreak of anthracnose disease in Norway maples in various communities caused early leaf drop in August (JDM). Some red maples in Charlottetown area are starting to flag red on Sept. 26 (JDM). Trembling aspen turning brown and white birch turning yellow at Watervale and Donagh on Sept. 27 (JDM, LY). Small number of bolete mushrooms adjacent to larch and red pine in Donagh the week of Sept. 24 (JDM). Significant flushes of meadow mushrooms at West St. Peter's and Mount Stewart on Sept. 26 (E&BMcK).

Hay cut at Albany and bailed in Donagh on Jun. 11 (JDM).

INSECTS: Tiger swallowtail, sulphurs, and a small blue butterfly in flight on Jun. 5 in SE PEI (JDM). ED & MB netted and photographed a four-spotted Skimmer, a tawny-edged skipper, a sea milkwort and a phantom fly at Sunbury Cove on Jun. 20. Red admiral at Mill River & Kinkora on Jun. 9 & at Donagh on Jun. 10 (EC). Fire flies at Donagh on Jun. 22 (JDM). Mourning cloak butterfly at Black Bank Road on Jul. 3 (JDM). Ants flying at Savage Harbour with a few hundred Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls feeding on the aerial flight in early evening and at Stratford on July 27 (JDM). 1 white admiral at South Melville on Aug. 22 (EC). Elm sawfly larvae at Dromore Provincial Forest on Aug. 19 (EB, FRC, DFG). American dagger moth caterpillar in the greater Charlottetown area on Aug. 24 (LM). Ant swarms again at Savage Harbour with Ring-billed Gulls, Bonaparte's Gulls, European Starling and Common Grackle's hawking them on Aug. 27 and also at Mount Stewart (JDM). 3 Monarchs butterflies feeding on red clover at East Point and 2 at Souris lighthouse on Sept. 19 (DO, RC, WFB, JDM). In excess of 100 cabbage butterflies and one mourning cloak butterfly in eastern PEI seen during Bennett Autumn Birding Classic on Sept. 19. Ring-billed gulls hawking ants at Wilmot on Sept. 22 (JDM).



Elm sawfly larvae
Photo by Eleanor Beagan

JELLYFISH - Immature Beroe identified by translucent globe shaped jelly at Tracadie Harbour by new breach in Crowbush Sandhills (RMY).

AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES: Green frogs singing at Bloomfield (Jerry Road) on Jul. 10 (RC, JDM). Northern Leopard Frogs foraging in longer lawn grass in Donagh on August 12th (JDM) and at Savage Harbour on Aug. 21 (BeHo).

MAMMALS: ~250 grey seals at North Cape on Aug. 11 (DO). Coyote - 1 with 3 legs at Canoe Cove on Jul. 28 (LD). Pod of pilot whales at Egmont Bay roughly off West Point and heading toward Summerside on Jun. 4 (F&GM). 6 to 10 bats flying low over Crosby's Mill Pond in Bonshaw on Sept. 5 (EC)

BIRDS: Name Changes: Black Scoter in North America renamed American Scoter. Greater Shearwater was changed to Great Shearwater and the wrens were spilt. **Common Loon** - 2 at Victoria Park in Charlottetown on Jun. 2 (SGC), 2 adults at French Village (Crick Road Bridge) on Jul. 20 (via JDM); **Pied-billed Grebe** - 1 at Foxley River bridge on Jul. 24 (JDM); **Northern Gannet** - 9 at Cavendish Sandspit on Jul. 23 (DCS); **Double-breasted Cormorant** - 41 roosting on Covehead sandbar on Jul. 2 (DCS), nesting at sandspit at Beach Point on Jul. 5 (JDM), 160+ at Covehead Harbour on Aug. 8 (DCS), & 30 at Covehead Harbour on Sept. 12 (JDM); **American Bittern** - seen 4 times at Egmont Bay in 4 days up to Jul. 4 (G&FM) **Great Blue Heron** - 3 at Stanhope Marsh, 2 at Covehead, 18 at Covehead Bay, & 4 at Brackley West Marsh on Jul. 1 (DCS), 35 at Covehead Bay East, 1 at Stanhope Marsh, 22 at Covehead, 11 at Covehead Bay, and 4 at Covehead Marsh on Jul. 17 (DCS), 2 at Covehead Pond, 84 at Covehead Marsh, and 9 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 20 (DCS), 18 at Desable on Aug. 23 (RA); **Turkey Vulture** - 1 at Glengary on Jul. 10 & local person at Kelly Road indicated that it was present for a week or more (JDM, RC), 3 at Egmont Bay on Jul. 4 (G&FM), 1 at Fernwood on Jul. 7 (FRC), 1 at Alexander on Sept. 27 (reported by DK); **Snow Goose** - 1 at St. Eleanors on Sept. 26 (DO), 1 at Lake Verde on Sept. 26 (DK); **Canada Geese** - 2 adults with 4 downy young at Clarkin on Jul. 4 (JDM), 2 broods with 10 young at Mosquito Cove on Jul. 16 (JDM), 6 to 27 at Stanhope Marsh in Aug. (DCS), 300+ in stubble field at MacMillan Point on Aug. 16 (JtR), 50 going to Fullerton's Marsh grain field on Sept. 9 (JDM); **Wood Ducks** - 19 at Borden lagoons on Aug. 8 (R&AA), 2 males & female at Brackley pond on Sept. 12 (JDM), 2 at Borden lagoon on Sept. 12 (DO, JDM); **Gadwall** - 2 pair at Brackley Marsh on Jul. 3, 2 adults and 9 immature at Stanhope Marsh on Jul. 13, female with 9 young at Stanhope Marsh on Jul. 31 (DCS); **European Wigeon** - 1 at Campbell's Pond on Jun. 19 (DO); **American Black Duck** - female with 3 mostly feathered but non-flying young at Primrose on Jun. 5 (RC, DCS, JDM), female with 8 young at Stanhope Marsh on Jul. 15 (DCS); **American Wigeon** - common on many ponds this summer; **Mallard** - 12 at Kinkora Lagoon on May 30 & 13 at Mill Valley on Jun. 9 (EC); **Blue-winged Teal** - female with 7 eggs at marsh in York on Jun. 22 (JHR); **Northern Shoveler** - 3 at Borden lagoon on Sept. 12 (DO, JDM); **Ring-necked Duck** - female with 8 chicks at pond in Murray Harbour (GSa); **Greater Scaup** - at Borden lagoon on Sept. 12 (DO, JDM); **Long-tailed Duck** - male off Hebron on Jul. 3 (FRC); **Hooded Merganser** - 1 female at St. Eleanor's wind farm pond on Aug. 12 (DO); **Red-breasted Merganser** - female with chick at Murray Head on Jul. 14 and female with 2 chicks on Jul. 22 at Murray Head (JDM); **Ruddy Duck** - 5 at Mt. Stewart Wildlife Management Area on Sept. 26 (FdB); **Osprey** - 1 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 9, 18, & 31 (DCS), 1 at Cymbria on Aug. 8 (DCS), 2 during MacCallum's Point to Victoria outing on

Aug. 15 (R&AA, JBI, SGC); **Bald Eagle** - adults with young at Egmont Bay on Jul. 4 (G&FM), adult or immatures seen at Covehead Marsh, Covehead Bay, Stanhope Marsh, Brackley North Marsh, and Robinson's Island in Jul. (DCS); **Northern Harrier** - 1 on Jun. 9 & 2 feeding young on Jul. 10 at Mill Road (EC), very agitated female swooping at observer at Cape Bear bog on Jul. 14 (JDM), male or female seen at Brackley North Marsh on July. 2, 4, & 15 (DCS), 1 at Victoria on Aug. 27 (RA), 1 at Borden Marsh on Sept. 12 (JDM), 1 at Wilmot Valley on Sept. 22 (JDM), 1 at Donagh on Sept. 21 & 26 (JDM), 1 13 at Mount Stewart WMA on Sept. 26 (FdB); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 1 at Launching Harbour on Jul. 16 (JDM), 1 at Roseville on Jul. 24 (JDM); **Northern Goshawk** - immature at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 29 (MK); **Red-tailed Hawk** - 1 at Kinkora on May 30 (EC), pair soaring at Union Road on Jun. 3-5 (JtR), 1 at Borden for past 2 weeks on Jun. 5 (G&SF), 1 at County Line Road on Jun. 5 (EC), 1 at Dunk River Road on Jun. 9 (EC), 1 at New Haven on Jun. 11 (JDM), 1 at Scales Pond & 1 at Campbell Road intersection with Rte. 246 on Jun. 26 (EC); **American Kestrel** - 1 near Charlottetown Airport on Jul. 10 (DCS), 1 at Bloomfield & pair at Lauretta Community Pasture on Jul. 10 (RC, JDM), 1 at Cornwall on Jul. 14 (DCS), 1 at Winsloe South on Jul. 23 (DCS), 1 at Brackley Beach on Sept. 12 (JDM); **Merlin** - 1 at Campbell's Cove Park on Jul. 14 (CM), 1 at Stanhope Marsh on Jul. 23 (DCS), 1 chasing 2 yellowlegs on Aug. 21 (DCS), at Dromore on Aug. 29 (FRC, DFG, EB); **Peregrine Falcon** - 1 at Belmont Provincial Park on Jul. 18 (DO), 1 at Confederation Bridge on Sept. 18 (FdB); **Gray Partridge** - 1 at Fort Augustus on Jun. 12 (JDM), female with 4 young at Brackley Beach on Aug. 4 (DCS); **Ring-necked Pheasant** - female with 4 young at Donagh on Jul. 19 (JDM), male at Donagh on Sept. 21 (JDM); **Ruffed Grouse** - female with 6 very young chicks at Annadale on Jun. 5 (DCS, RC, JDM), female with chick at Fairview on Aug. 3 (LD); **Virginia Rail** - 1 at Little River Road marsh on Jul. 2 (JDM); **Sora** - at marsh in York on Jun. 22 (JHR); **Common Moorhen** - 1 at Pigot's Trail on Jun. 11 (SG); **Sandhill Crane** - 2 at Darnley Basin on Sept. 29 (LH, G&SF); **Black-bellied Plover** - at PEINP on Jun. 22 (DCS), 15 at Covehead Marsh on Jul. 1, 7 on Jul. 5, & 7 on Jul. 30 (DCS), 7 at Covehead Marsh on Jul. 8, 1 on Jul. 16, 1 at Borden on Jul. 21 (DO), 18 on Jul. 27, 20 on Jul. 30, 25 on Aug. 3, 71 on Aug. 5, 28 on Aug. 14, 163 on Aug. 18, 132 on Aug. 20, 19 on Aug. 22, 89 on Aug. 23, & 45 on Aug. 25 (DCS), 11 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 28 & 5 on Jul. 30 (DO), during MacCallum's Point to Victoria outing on Aug. 15 (R&AA, JBI, SGC), at Desable on Aug. 23 (RA), 3 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 29 (MK); **Semipalmated Plover** - 1 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 20 (DO), 1 at Borden on Jul. 21 (DO), 1 on Jul. 24 at Covehead Bay, 51 on Jul. 27, 54 on Aug. 1, 152 on Aug. 5, 64 on Aug. 10, 81 on Aug. 14, 172 on Aug. 18, 101 on Aug. 21, 88 on Aug. 23, & 177 on Aug. 25 (DCS), 100+ at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 28 & 115 on Jul. 30 (DO), 23 at Hillsborough River by Mason Road on Aug. 6 (FdB), good numbers at Cape Traverse and Desable on Aug. 8 (R&AA), 35 during MacCallum's Point to Victoria outing on Aug. 15 (R&AA, JBI, SGC), at Desable on Aug. 23 (RA), 20 at Borden gravel parking lot on Sept. 12 (JDM), ~25 at Tea Hill on Sept. 21 (JHR); **Piping Plover** - 3 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 20 & on Jul. 30 (DO), 1 on nest at Cavendish Sandspit on Jul. 23 & 2 adults and 3 young on Aug. 7 (DCS), 1 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 28 (DO); **Killdeer** - 2 adults and 3 young at Mill Road on Jul. 10 (EC), 3 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 30 (DCS), 1 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 30; **Greater Yellowlegs** - reappeared at Covehead on Jun. 20 (DCS), 2 on Jul. 1 at Covehead Marsh, 5 on Jul. 6, & 9 on Jul. 10 (DCS), 1 on Jul. 6 at Covehead Bay, 19 on Jul. 12, 8 on Jul. 15, 27 on Jul. 18, 41 on Jul. 23, 71 on Jul. 27, 31 on Jul. 30, 53 on Aug. 4, 36 on Aug. 8, 54 on Aug. 14, 27 on Aug. 19, & 66 on Aug. 24 (DCS), 10+ at Rollo Bay on Jul. 17 (DO), 9 at Tea Hill Park on Jul. 21-2 (FdB), 10 at Borden on Jul. 21 (DO), 5 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 28 & 2 on Jul. 30 (DO), 7 at Hillsborough River by Mason Road on Aug. 6 (FdB), lots at Cape Traverse and Desable on Aug. 8 (R&AA), 1 at Skinner's Pond on Aug. 11 (DO), at Desable on Aug. 23 (RA), 3 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 29 (MK), 10 at Mt. Stewart Wildlife Management Area & 13 at Glenfinnan River on Sept. 26 (FdB); **Lesser Yellowlegs** - 2 at Stanhope Marsh & 13 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 10 (DCS), 30+ at Rollo Bay on Jul. 17 (DO), 7 at Belmont Provincial Park on Jul. 18 (DO), 4 at Covehead & 20 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 18 (DCS), 1 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 20 (DO), 5 at Borden on Jul. 21 (DO), 4 at Covehead, 8 at Covehead Marsh, & 7 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 25 (DCS), 1 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 28 (DO), 3 at Stanhope Marsh, 4 at Covehead Marsh, 36 at Brackley West Marsh, & 6 at Chapel Creek on Aug. 8 (DCS), 7 at Covehead Bay East, 2 at Covehead, 68 at Covehead Bay, 7 at Covehead Pond, 3 at Covehead Marsh, & 23 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 12 (DCS), 55 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 14 (DCS), 2 at Skinner's Pond on Aug. 11 (DO), 8 during MacCallum's Point to Victoria outing on Aug. 15 (R&AA, JBI, SGC), at Desable on Aug. 23 (RA), 4 at Stanhope Marsh, 11 at Covehead, 4 at Covehead Pond, 7 at Brackley North Marsh, & 5 at Brackley West Marsh on Aug. 25 (DCS), 2 at Augustine Cove on Aug. 29 (RA); **Solitary Sandpiper** - 1 at Skinner's Pond on Aug. 11 (DO), 2 at St. Eleanor's wind farm pond on Aug. 12 (DO), 4 at Pt. Deroche on Aug. 15 (SCS), 2 at Pt. Deroche on Aug. 16 (DCS), 1 at Brackley West Marsh pond on Aug. 19 (DCS); **Willet** - for a short period, only resident willet were present in PEINP bays then adults from away appeared the week before Jun. 22 (DCS), 8 at Covehead Marsh, 6 at Brackley North Marsh, & 1 at Brackley West Marsh on Jul. 1 (DCS), 1 at Covehead, 29 at Covehead Bay, & 4 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 12 (DCS), 2 at Rollo Bay on Jul. 17 (DO), 1 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 20 (DO), 4 at Tea Hill Park on Jul. 21 & Jul. 22 (FdB), 3 at Borden on Jul. 21 (DO), 8 juveniles at Covehead Bay on Aug. 25 (DCS); **Spotted Sandpiper** - 1 at Cavendish on Jul. 23 (DCS) 1 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 28 (DO), 1 at Stanhope Marsh on Aug. 20 (DCS), 1 at Borden Lagoon on Sept. 12 (DO, JDM); **Upland Sandpiper** - 1 at Anderson Road blueberry fields on Jul. 7 & 8 (DO) & on Aug. 15 (SCS); **Sanderling** - 15 at Augustine Cove on Aug. 29 (RA); **Whimbrel** - 3 at St. Peter's Lake Run on Jul. 16 (TM), 3 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 20 & 2 on Jul. 30 (DO), 1 at Cavendish Sandspit on Jul. 23 & Aug. 7 (DCS), 1 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 31, 1 at Rustico Island on Aug. 12, & 1 at Covehead on Aug. 15 (DCS); **Hudsonian Godwit** - 1 at Covehead Marsh on Aug. 20 (DCS); **Ruddy Turnstone** - at PEINP on Jun. 22 (DCS), 2 at Covehead Marsh on Jul. 19, 3 on Jul. 20, 4 on Jul. 24, 40 on Jul. 29, & 7 on Aug. 5, 29 on Aug. 9, 5 on Aug. 15, 28 on Aug. 16, & 3 on Aug. 21 (DCS), 2 at Borden on Jul. 21 (DO), 2 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 28 & 1 on Jul. 30 (DO), 3 at Hillsborough River by Mason Road on Aug. 6 (FdB), 15 during MacCallum's Point to Victoria outing on Aug. 15 (R&AA, JBI, SGC), 1 at Augustine Cove on Aug. 29 (RA); **Red Knot** - at PEINP on Jun. 22 (DCS), adult at Covehead Bay on Aug.

1 & 1 on Aug. 7 (DCS), 1 at Cavendish Sandspit on Aug. 7 (DCS), 3 at Tracadie Harbour on Aug. 16 (DCS), 6 at Covehead Bay on Aug. 22 (DCS), 5 at Covehead Bay on Aug. 25 (DCS); **Sanderling** - 3 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 20 (DO), 4 at Borden on Jul. 21 (DO), 5 at Cavendish Sandspit on Jul. 23 (DCS), 10 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 28 & 31 on Jul. 30 (DO), 1 at Tracadie Harbour on Aug. 16 (DCS); **Semipalmated Sandpiper** - 3 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 17 (DCS), 10+ at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 20 (DO), 30+ at Borden on Jul. 21 (DO), 32 at Cavendish Sandspit on Jul. 23, 45 at Brackley mudflats, & 1 at Brackley North Marsh, 108 at Covehead Bay on Jul. 28 (DCS), 50+ with 1 leucistic & 1 rufous morph at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 28 & 60+ on Jul. 30 (DO), 16 at Covehead Bay on Aug. 4 & 6 at Brackley North Marsh (DCS), 3 at Hillsborough River by Mason Road on Aug. 6 (FdB), good numbers at Cape Traverse and Desable on Aug. 8 (R&AA), 3 at Covehead on Aug. 14, 146 at Covehead Bay, & 5 at Brackley North Marsh (DCS), 20 during MacCallum's Point to Victoria outing on Aug. 15 (R&AA, JBI, SGC), 326 at Covehead Bay, 1 at Brackley North Marsh, 48 at Brackley mudflats, 1 at Brackley West Marsh on Aug. 15 (DCS), 10 at Covehead Marsh, 19 at Brackley North Marsh, & 1 at Brackley West Marsh on Aug. 24 (DCS), 148 at Covehead Bay & 55 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 25 (DCS); **Least Sandpiper** - 25 at Covehead Marsh on Jul. 6 (DCS), 17 at Covehead Bay & 3 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 17 (DCS), 1 at Borden on Jul. 21 (DO), 2 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 28 & 8 on Jul. 30 (DO), 1 at Stanhope Marsh, 18 at Covehead Marsh, 13 at Brackley North Marsh, & 38 at Cavendish Sandspit on Aug. 7 (DCS), 1 at Skinner's Pond on Aug. 11 (DO), 10 at Covehead, 2 at Covehead Marsh, & 8 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 23 (DCS), 4 at Augustine Cove on Aug. 29 (RA); **White-rumped Sandpiper** - 7 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 28 & on Jul. 30 (DO), 2 at Hillsborough River by Mason Road on Aug. 6 (FdB), 2 during MacCallum's Point to Victoria outing on Aug. 15 (R&AA, JBI, SGC), 4 at Augustine Cove on Aug. 29 (RA); **Baird's Sandpiper** - 1 at Cavendish Sandspit on Aug. 7 (DCS); **Pectoral Sandpiper** - at St. Eleanor's Pond on Aug. 7 (DO), 2 at Brackley West Marsh on Aug. 12 (DCS); **Dunlin** - 1 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 29 (MK); **Short-billed Dowitcher** - 3 at Covehead Marsh on Jul. 1 & 11 on Jul. 6 (DCS), 3 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 6 (DCS), 56 at Covehead Bay, 4 at Covehead Marsh, & 108 at Brackley North Marsh (DCS), 33 at Covehead Bay & 161 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 17 (DCS), 3 at Rollo Bay on Jul. 17 (DO), 27 at Borden on Jul. 21 (DO), 98 at Covehead Bay & 111 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 28 (DCS), 94 at Covehead Bay & 3 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 15 (DCS), 4 at Covehead, 10 at Covehead Bay, & 9 at Brackley Marsh on Aug. 25 (DCS); **Long-billed Dowitcher** - 1 at Borden marsh with 40+ Short-billed Dowitcher on Jul. 24 (DO), 1 at Brackley West Marsh on Aug. 12 (DCS), 1 at St. Eleanor's on Sept. 19 (DO); **Wilson's Phalarope** - 1 at Belmont Park pond on Aug. 27 (RV), 1 at Borden lagoons on Sept. 6 (LH, G&SF, DO); **Red-necked Phalarope** - 1 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 27 (DO), 1 at Red Head Harbour on Jul. 28 (DO), 2 at St. Eleanor's lagoon on Sept. 6 (DO, DeM, LH, G&SF), 2 on Sept. 12 (DO, G&SF, LH, JDM); **Little Gull** - 1 located by DO at Borden Lagoon on Sept. 12 (DO, LH, G&SF, JDM); **Laughing Gull** - 1 discovered and photographed during the Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic at Wood Islands on Sept. 18 (DO, RC, WFB, JDM) & Sept. 19 (DCS, DO, LH, G&SF). Probably brought in with Hurricane Earl; **Black-headed Gull** - adult at Covehead on Jul. 17 (DCS), 2 at Covehead Bay on Jul. 18 & 1 on Jul. 19 (DCS); **Bonaparte's Gull** - 15+ at Borden on Jul. 21 (DO), 4 at Covehead Bay on Jul. 24, 16 on Jul. 30, 20 on Aug. 5, 75 on Aug. 8, & 50+ on Aug. 20 (DCS), 32 at Hillsborough River by Mason Road on Aug. 6 (FdB), lots at St. Eleanor's, Miscouche, & Borden lagoons on Aug. 7 (DO), ~300 at Borden lagoons on Sept. 6 (DO) & ~100 on Sept. 12 (DO, JDM), ~25 at Belvedere Pond on Sept. 22 (JDM); **Ring-billed Gull** - 1 at Covehead Bay on Jul. 1 (DCS), wing tagged gull A268 was at Burger King in Charlottetown on Aug. 18 (JtR) and was delivered to AVC later that same day where it was euthanised because of a broken leg (JHR). This bird was originally tagged at Shrewsbury MA on Oct. 9, 2009; **Herring Gull** - downy young at sandspit at Beach Point on Jul. 5 (JDM), ~50 at North Cape on Aug. 11 (DO); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** - adult at St. Eleanor's Summerside west, Borden beech and Lagoon on Sept. 26 (DO); **Greater Black-backed Gull** - downy young at sandspit at Beach Point on Jul. 5 (JDM), ~1,000 third year at Nail Pond flushed by eagle and ~200 at North Cape on Aug. 11 (DO); **Caspian Tern** - 10 at Covehead Bay on Jul. 2, 5 on Jul. 10, 4 on Jul. 23, 11 on Aug. 14, 11 on Aug. 20, & 1 on Aug. 22 (DCS), 3 at Desable on Aug. 23 (RA), 5 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 29 (MK), 1 at Brackley Beach entrance marsh on Sept. 12 (JDM), 1 at Mt. Stewart Wildlife Management Area on Sept. 26 (FdB); **Common Tern** - ~12 around Hillsborough Pier closest to Charlottetown on Jun. 5 (JDM), 2 at Covehead Marsh on Jul. 3 (DCS), nested at Egmont Bay but predated by Jul. 4 (G&FM), 75 at Greenwich on Jul. 30 (DO), 4 adults & an immature at Cavendish Sandspit on Aug. 7 (DCS), 15 at Covehead Bay on Aug. 8 (DCS), 100+ at Covehead Harbour on Aug. 20 (DCS), 20 at Desable on Aug. 23 (RA), 60 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 29 (MK), ~20 at Covehead Harbour on Sept. 12 (JDM), 300 to 400 at Wood Islands week of Sept. 12 & 19 (DO); **Black Guillemot** - nesting in cliffs at Little Sands and Cape Bear in early Jul. (JDM), 10 seen on water and entering cliffs at Kelly Road shore at Campbellton on Jul. 10 (JDM, RC); **Rock Pigeon** - ~30 at Borden on Sept. 12 (JDM); **White-winged Dove** - 1 at PEINP in Cavendish on late June or early July (DSch); **Black-billed Cuckoo** - 1 at St. Eleanor's on Jun. 22 (DO); **Great Horned Owl** - at Red Head on Sept. (MK); **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** - at Kelly Road on May 30 & at Scales Pond on Jun. 16 (EC), 1 at Covehead Bay East on Aug. 24 (DCS); **Belted Kingfisher** - 1 at Dunk River on Jun. 5 & 9 (EC), 1 at Covehead Pond on Jul. 1 & in general area through summer (DCS); **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - at Scales Pond on Jun. 5 (EC), male & female at New Dominion on Aug. 2 (LD); **Northern Flicker** - 1 at Stanhope on Jul. 31 (DCS); **Pileated Woodpecker** - 1 at Elmira off Confederation Trail on Jun. 11 (RP); **Olive-sided Flycatcher** - singing at Foxley River bog on Jun. 26 (RY, JDM) & on Jul. 24 (JDM), singing at Murray Head on Jul. 5 (JDM); **Eastern Wood Peewee** - singing steadily at Scales Pond on Jun. 20 (ED, MB), good numbers in southeastern PEI in early Jul. (JDM, MK), 1 at Kinkora on Jul. 3 (EC), 1 at Mill Road on Jul. 12 (EC); **Willow Flycatcher** - singing at Campbellton on Jul. 10 (RC, JDM); **Eastern Kingbird** - 1 at Lakeside on Jun. 20 (ADM), 1 juvenile at Brackley Beach on Aug. 4 (DCS); **Red-eyed Vireo** - 1 at Stanhope Marsh on Jul. 4 (DCS); **Tree Swallow** - 10 at Watervale on Jul. 25 with 5 begging for food (JtR); **Bank Swallow** - at South Melville on Jun. 2 (RA), 50 nesting at Egmont Bay on Jul. 4 (G&FM), 87 nest cavities at Kelly Road shore at Campbellton on Jul. 10 (JDM, RC), 2 at Stanhope on Jul. 15 & 21st (DCS), 3

at Cavendish Sandspit on Jul. 23 (DCS), ~70 at Argyle Shore Provincial Park on Jul. 25 (RA), numerous at Twin Shores on Aug. 27 (C&W); **Cliff Swallow** - 1 photographed at Augustine Cove on Jul. 17 (G&SF); **Barn Swallow** - 1 at South Melville on Jun. 2 (RA), nesting at Annandale boatsheds on Jun. 5 (DCS, JDM, RC), 1 entering a barn at Brackley Beach on Jul. 1 (DCS), 2 in Fairview on Jul. 15 (LD), 5 on wires at Riverdale Road on Jul. 16 (LD), adult with 4 newly fledged young at Sandy Point Road in Desable on Jul. 23 (RA), 2 during MacCallum's Point to Victoria outing on Aug. 15 (R&AA, JBI, SGC), hundreds at Clyde River on Aug. 20 and three or four nesting pair this summer (J'nB); **Gray Jay** - adult with 3 recently fledged young at Red House Road on Jun. 5 (DCS, RC, JDM), 2 adults and 3 juveniles at Dromore on Aug. 29 (FRC, DFG, EB); **Common Raven** - 30+ at blueberry field on Little River Road in Howe Bay on Jul. 2 (JDM); **Black-capped Chickadee** - fledged young at St. Eleanor's on Jun. 22 (DO); **Boreal Chickadee** - 1 feeding young at County Line Road on Jun. 19 (EC), at Point Pleasant on Jul. 4 (JDM, MK), 1 foraging at Rocky Point on Jul. 16 (LD), fledged young with adults at East Baltic on Jul. 16 (JDM), at Dromore on Aug. 29 (FRC, DFG, EB); **Veery** - singing at Bloomfield on Jul. 10 (RC, JDM); **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 carrying nesting material at Mill Road on Jul. 1 (EC); **Hermit Thrush** - nest building with cup mostly built at Little River Road on Jun. 5 (JDM, DCS, RC); **Gray Catbird** - 1 at Tea Hill on Jul. 21 & Jul. 22 (FdB); **Northern Mockingbird** - 2 in Sherwood on Aug. 8 (JtR); **Cedar Waxwing** - very common this summer; **Eastern Kingbird** - 2 at Canoe Cone on Aug. 8 (R&AA), 1 at Pius MacDonald's Pond on Jun. 29 (ADM); **Nashville Warbler** - 1 at Kinkora on May 30 (EC), 1 at Tory Road in Foxley River on Jul. 24 (JDM); **Yellow Warbler** - at Dromore on Aug. 29 (FRC, DFG, EB); **Chestnut-sided Warbler** - at Doyle Road in Bloomfield on Jul. 10 (RC, JDM); **Black & White Warbler** - at Dromore on Aug. 29 (FRC, DFG, EB); **American Redstart** - male & female at Riverdale on Jul. 24 (LD); **Mourning Warbler** - at Tea Hill for 2 months up to on Jul. 21 (FdB), female at Dromore on Aug. 29 (FRC, DFG, EB); **Nelson's Sparrow (formerly Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow)** - 1 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 5 (DCS); **Lincoln's Sparrow** - 1 carrying nesting material at Mill Road on Jun. 12 (EC); **Swamp Sparrow** - 1 or 2 at Brackley North Marsh, Covehead Marsh, & Stanhope Marsh between Jul 1 & 24 (DCS); **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** - 1 at Dromore on Aug. 29 (FRC, DFG, EB); **Bobolink** - 4 at South Melville on Jun. 2 (RA), at Foxley River, High Bank, White Sands, Little Sands, & Cape Bear in early Jul. (JDM), at Glengary (Division Line Road) on Jul. 10 (JDM, RC); **Baltimore Oriole** - female at Crossroads on Jun. 18 (DO), 1 male at Cornwall on Jun. 29 (TH via FdB), 1 at Doyle Road in Bloomfield on Jul. 10 (RC); **Purple Finch** - 1 at West Royalty on Aug. 9 (DCS); **Red Crossbill** - 2 immature at Summerside on Aug. 28 (SGa); **American Goldfinch** - 10 at West Royalty on Aug. 9 (DCS); **House Sparrow** - fledged young at Beach Point on Jul. 14 (JDM), 15 at West Royalty on Aug. 9 (DCS).

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ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR:

Note: All Society presentations and field trips are open to the public.

Society meetings start at 7:30 PM at the Farm Centre at 420 University Avenue in Charlottetown.

YN = young naturalists encouraged to attend or participate

- Oct. 5 - Mountains as Habitat for Primates in Costa Rica.** Rosalyn Ridlington-Abbott will be the guest speaker for the Natural History Society's meeting which starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, 420 University Ave. Charlottetown. The presentation will cover aspects of her research but will focus more on the rainforest habitat she worked in, the indigenous community there, and the primate (and some avian) wildlife of interest that inhabits the area as well as the conservation importance of the region. YN
- Oct. 20 - We're Bats for Halloween.** This Island Nature Trust Nature Series talk at Confederation Centre Library starts at 7:00. Bats and lots of nocturnal and other creepy crawlies will be shown in a narrated slide show by Jackie Waddell. Eye of newt and toes of toad
- Nov. 2 - Red Fox Photography.** Ben Boulter will be the guest speaker for this illustrated presentation on red foxes at the Natural History Society's meeting which starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, 420 University Ave. Charlottetown. YN
- Nov. 17 - Feeding Wild Birds in Winter.** This old standby Island Nature Trust Nature Series talk still works and keeps people coming back for more information on feeder birds, their health, feeds, feeders, and more. It is offered at Confederation Centre Library and starts at 7:00.
- Dec. 7 - Setting Up Your Yard for Bird Photography.** Shirley Gallant will be the guest speaker for the Natural History Society's meeting which will provide imagery and instructions on back yard bird photography. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, 420 University Ave. Charlottetown. YN
- Dec. 14 to Jan. 5 -** Each year, many natural history and birding groups participate in **Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs)**. These can be registered counts through Audubon and Bird Studies Canada (BSC) or unregistered counts. For registered counts, adults who are not-BSC members must pay a \$5 fee which is used to assist with the preparation of the CBC reports, the critical element for the documentation of bird population trends. There are four Christmas counts on Prince Edward Island, namely, the Prince Edward Island National Park CBC (registered), the Hillsborough CBC (registered), the Montague CBC (unregistered), and the East Point CBC (registered). The Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island coordinates the counts. To participate or obtain more information, contact the Society at jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca
- Jan. 4 - Close up Views of Recent Bird and Other Sightings.** Dwaine Oakley will be featuring his incredible digiscoped images of birds and other species at the Natural History Society's Annual General meeting which starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, 420 University Ave. Charlottetown. YN
- Feb. 1 - On the Brink of Extirpation; Recovery Strategies for the Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster on PEI.** Kerry-Lynn Atkinson will be the Natural History Society's guest speaker and, using images, will speak on the recovery strategies for the extremely rare aster. The meeting which will start at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, 420 University Ave. YN

For more information, comments and suggestions for future programs or field trips, please contact a member of the Society's Executive