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**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 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 by a notice provided to those receiving electronic newsletters.

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

2011 Executive:

PresidentIan Scott, Charlottetown, 892-5796 scotts@pei.sympatico.ca
Vice-President Dwaine Oakley, Stratford 569-1815 dwayne.oakley@gmail.com
Past PresidentDiane Griffin, Stratford, 628-5748 dianegriffin@eastlink.ca
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NEWSLETTERS are normally published quarterly and are available in Acrobat Reader colour format via E-mail or in black & white 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 *December 5, 2011*.

Illustrations/Pictures: The Society extends a special thanks to Dwaine Oakley, Allie McLennan, Trevor Wadman and Ian Scott 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 September 2011 version of the Society's web site is now active at www.NaturePEI.ca Please forward you comments to the Society via the website.

Cover Illustration:

Dwaine Oakley's picture of a Great Crested Flycatcher marked the first picture to document this species on PEI, the second confirmation of this species nesting on PEI and only the sixth and seventh known records.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS:

Eight people attended the Society's Maritime Butterfly Atlas clinic at the J. Frank Gaudet Tree Nursery property on July 10th. Donna Martin and Rosemary Curley led the event and sunny hot conditions led to the capture of a variety of species.

Eleven people participated the Maritime Butterfly Atlas clinic at the PEI National Park's Greenwich Interpretation Centre which was led by John Klymko. This event was cosponsored by the PEINP, the Society, and the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre. While not ideal weather wise, a number of participants attended the Saturday morning workshop.

NOMINATION CALL, ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION:

The Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island's Annual Meeting and election will be held on January 3, 2012. 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).

DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR BENNETT AUTUMN BIRDING CLASSIC FUND RAISER:

The Island Nature Trust and the Natural History Society are again partnering for the 16th year to deliver the Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic bird count fund raiser on September 24-5, 2011. The funds raised will support land acquisition and management by the Island Nature Trust. In the past 15 years, over \$17,500 has been donated and the majority of these funds have had matching fund grants multiply the effect of these generous donations. In addition to the fund raising element, the Natural History Society publishes the bird data so that we gain further insights into fall migration of birds during the late September early October period.

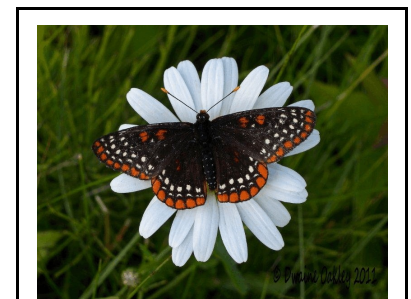
This year, there will be three teams exploring the Island's forests, fields, bays, marshes and headlands in search of birds. The Society's team is Dwaine Oakley, Fiep de Bie, Ray Cooke and Dan McAskill. The Trust's Team Dodo consists of Shannon Mader, Molly Stevens and Jackie Waddell. The Trust's third team is Ron Arvidson, Ian Scott, and Donna Martin. Team Dodo has issued a fund raising challenge to all other teams including others willing to take up this challenge to raise more money than them - they feel confident they can win that challenge!

You can help by making a donation to the Island Nature Trust at P.O. Box 265, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7K4 or by contacting the Trust at 892-7513. Feel free to identify the team to whom you wish make a donation.

PROGRESS BEING MADE IN SECOND YEAR OF MARITIME BUTTERFLY ATLAS:

Two butterfly and associated field trips provided potential altasers with the skills to start participating in this newest Maritimes atlasing project and a number of new participants are actively taking part in the project across the province. More are needed especially in western and eastern PEI.

Participants have the choice of either collecting close up photographs or a specimen to confirm the species and thus create a permanent record that can be verified for species. They complete a sheet for each sample site which describes the habitat by checking off habitat types, its location and other pertinent. After the first visit, they use the site number to shorten the documentation process. Participants can either enter the information on line or print the information on the data sheets and send it and the photographs or samples to John Klymko at the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre, P.O. Box 6416, Sackville NB E4L 1G6. There is a website with pictures, key identification features and other information so that participants can obtain information online. You will need highspeed internet access to use it effectively.



Baltimore Checkerspot
at Portage July 16, 2011.
Photo by Dwaine Oakley

The PEI specimens will go to the New Brunswick Museum until such time as a PEI Natural History Museum is established.

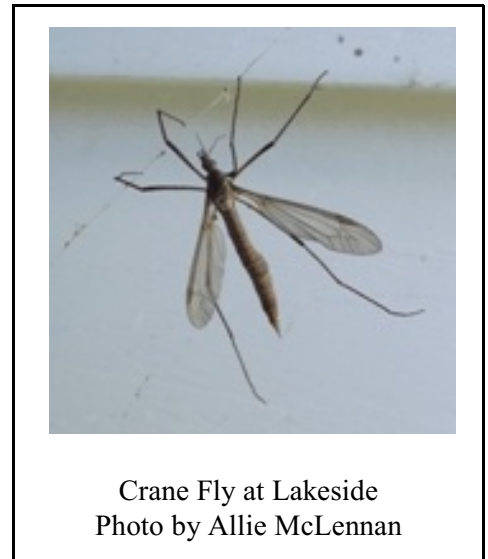
CRANE FLY FEAST:

On September 5th, Allie McLennan observed 100s of crane flies on the walls of his home at Lakeside. They were covering the wall, perched on various yard structures and were swarming in the air. For a flock of ~100 Bonaparte's, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, the feast was on. They hovered and swerved to capture these tidbits and followed the insects as they moved in the air column. Allie was able to capture a number of digital images and one is shown here. Ben Hoteling indicated that they were of the family Tipulidae and are a true fly.

Crane flies are known by a number of other names. In the United Kingdom, they are called dandy long legs although in United States this name is usually used for a spider (i.e. an arachnid) and they are called mosquito hawks, mosquito eaters, skeeter eaters, gallinippers and jimmy spinners. Contrary to some of these names, they do not bite and the adults do not eat other insects although the larvae of some species can eat mosquito larva. There are over 4,000 species world wide and in North America there are more than 1,500 species. They range in size from 5 to over 50 mm and are distinguished from other true flies by a transverse V-shaped groove on the dorsal part of the thorax.

At an ecosystem level, crane flies serve as a food source for many birds, fish, frogs, spiders, certain predaceous insects and even carnivorous plants. The larva are detritus feeders that break down organic material in streams, forest floors and other habitats. This larval feeding behaviour enriches soils and water while renewing and modifying the habitat for other species. The adult stage primarily exists to breed and only certain species visit flowers presumably for nectar. During their adult stage, they live about 10 to 15 days but the flight of crane flies usually lasts 25 to 30 days. Several species during their larval stage are considered important pests and, when abundant, can be destructive to lawns, golf courses, rangelands and certain other crops.

Editor's Note: Adapted from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Crane Flies of Pennsylvania. For more information, see <http://iz.carnegiemnh.org/crane-fly/introduction.htm#Introduction>



Crane Fly at Lakeside
Photo by Allie McLennan

DECLINES IN BIRDS THAT FEED ON FLYING INSECTS:

A study using the North America Breeding Bird Surveys from 1966 to 2006 has shown that, starting in the mid 1980s for most species, there are widespread declines in the birds that eat aerial insects such as swallows, flycatchers, swifts and nighthawks. In addition, these declines are more pronounced in the northeast and in bird species that migrate longer distances (those that winter in South America). The analysis suggests that the declines are linked to changes in flying insect populations and may be related to underlying ecosystem changes.

Editor's Note: This article was developed from a research paper by Silke Nebel, Alex Mills, Jon D. McCracken, and Philip D. Taylor's "Declines of Aerial Insectivores in North America Follow a Geographic Gradient" published in *Avian Conservation and Ecology - Écologie et conservation des oiseaux* 5(2): 1. [online] <http://www.ace-eco.org/vol5/iss2/art1/> The work was sponsored by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists and Bird Studies Canada.

PREDATOR VERSES PREY:

By Ian Scott

A den of foxes living in a culvert on the Taylor Road in North Granville which have roadside signage indicating one should drive with care, face challenges from predators. This summer one of the young of the year was found dead and test results from Atlantic Veterinary College showed the cause as a predator attack. Last year a similar carcass was found with the same test results one mile away. In both cases, it was not possible to determine if the kills were from a coyote or a dog.



JULY BIRDING BIG DAY:

By David Seeler, Dwaine Oakley & Dan McAskill

On July 16th, David, Dwaine and Dan headed to western PEI to conduct a big day count. We started at 02:30 hrs from Sherwood, travelled to North Cape, Campbellton, Elmsdale, Alberton, Foxley River, Covehead Harbour and finished our day at our starting point at 21:35 hours and identified 86 species. In total, we covered 527.5 km and covered almost all habitat types during the day. The winds were quite variable and ranged from light to strong to dead calm. We tried owl recording broadcasts at Richmond and North Cape but had no luck with the owls. We did see two winter fire flies at Richmond. The birds started singing at Tignish Run just before dawn. Overall, the woodland birds were relatively quiet but the cloudy misty conditions that continued for most of the day helped with the birding.

The first highlight was hearing a Black-billed Cuckoo then having it come within several metres by playing its song. Then we found a farm pond at Elmsdale on the Dock Road in which there were four Solitary Sandpipers, a Least Sandpiper, two Killdeer, and several Lesser Yellowlegs. Next, we picked up a Broad-winged Hawk and, as Dwaine had noticed one in this area in a few previous years, we played its song and it responded from the woods. And, very quickly, we noticed a second adult Broad-winged Hawk at Tyne Valley. Next, while driving through Portage, we picked by a flycatcher and returned to the site for another look. Dwaine picked it out again and confirmed it as a Great Crested Flycatcher. Better still, it was carrying food to a nest box and very quickly we seen a second adult. Lastly, Dwaine picked up an Eastern Bluebird at Lower New Annan on the Schurman Point Road. Fortunately, Les Homans was at home and came right over. He had a brief but confirming look at this new bird for his PEI list.

Another highlight of the day was the discovery of Great Cormorants at the Norway colony.

Pied-billed Grebe	Broad-winged Hawk (2)	Black Guillemot	Black-capped Chickadee
Northern Gannet	American Kestrel	Rock Pigeon	Boreal Chickadee
Double-crested Cormorant	Ruffed Grouse	Mourning Dove	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Great Cormorant	Sora	Black-billed Cuckoo (1)	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Great Blue Heron	Black-bellied Plover	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Eastern Bluebird (1 male)
Canada Goose	Killdeer	Belted Kingfisher	Veery (2)
Gadwall	Greater Yellowlegs	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Swainson's Thrush
American Wigeon	Lesser Yellowlegs	Northern Flicker	American Robin
American Black Duck	Solitary Sandpiper (4)	Alder Flycatcher	Gray Catbird
Mallard	Willet	Least Flycatcher	European Starling
Blue-winged Teal	Spotted Sandpiper	Great Crested Flycatcher	Cedar Waxwing
Green-winged Teal	Whimbrel	(2 bring food to nest box)	Yellow Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Least Sandpiper	Red-eyed Vireo	Magnolia Warbler
Greater Scaup (100+)	Bonaparte's Gull	Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Common Eider	Ring-billed Gull	American Crow	Black-throated Green
White-winged Scoter	Herring Gull	Common Raven	Warbler
Osprey	Great Black-backed Gull	Tree Swallow	Black-and-white Warbler
Bald Eagle	Caspian Tern	Bank Swallow	Ovenbird
Northern Harrier	Common Tern	Barn Swallow	Common Yellowthroat

Chipping Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Nelson's Sparrow
Song Sparrow

Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco

Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle

Purple Finch
American Goldfinch

The highlights of the day are bolded in the list above.

PINK WING TAGGED GULL ALERT!

Adapted from <http://sableislandgulls.wordpress.com/research/>



Wing-tagged Herring Gull at New London
Photo by Trevor Wadman

Researchers at Acadia University have issued an alert for wing-tagged gulls sightings. Postdoctoral researcher Dr. Rob Ronconi, who is working with Professor Phil Taylor are after reports and/or photos of Herring Gulls with pink wing tags and leg bands. This research is supported by Encana Corporation's Deep Panuke project and is tracking the movements of gulls from Sable Island, Nova Scotia.

They captured gulls during the breeding season to track them with electronic tags and mark them with coloured wing- and leg-bands. The purpose is to study how gulls interact with offshore platforms and vessels, and to learn more about the year-round movements of these birds. Sightings throughout the year will help researchers to map out the home range and migration routes of Sable Island gulls.

If you see one of these birds, please note the following information:

Date, Location (be specific), Band Colour, and Observer Name

Additional details:

Time & GPS position

Band & code colour (e.g. white on pink)

3-letter code on the wing tag (e.g. AAZ)

Habitat (e.g. platform, vessel, pier, parking lot, beach, city)

Behaviour (e.g. following boat, loafing on beach, flying by, feeding)

Other comments and stories

Photos are always welcome and can help to identify the letter code

Your sightings of marked gulls will help with this research project to monitor the year-round movements of these birds. Even partial information is welcome (e.g. you saw a pink wing tag but missed the letter code). Please report your sightings of marked birds by posting comments on this blog or emailing Dr. Ronconi at robert.ronconi@acadiau.ca

The first few sightings from PEI have already been submitted. Kevin Curley and IWMC staff at New London managed to snap a few pictures on September and submitted them to Dr. Ronconi. The IWMC staff also reported seeing another gull with a similar tag that was "red" rather than "pink". Several red wing tagged birds were picked up from a Massachusetts tagging project in the past two years. More recently, Trevor Wadman picked up a pink wing tagged Herring Gull at his New London property on Sept. 14th.

NEWS FROM ABOUT:

Compiled by Dan McAskill

About 20 people participated in a shorebird field workshop on Aug. 21st, 2011 at Red Head Harbour. Dwaine Oakley was the leader of this five hour field trip which started at 1:00 P.M. He described the behaviour of various

species and their distinguishing features. Shannon Mader and Jackie Waddell provided planning and logistical support for this Island Nature Trust workshop.

The weekend of July 23rd, 2011 brought reports of three new fish kills on PEI at Trout, Mill and Big Pierre Jacques Rivers. Significant numbers of large speckled trout died and traces of pesticides were found in the fish. Through variation orders, fishing on these rivers was closed. After investigations of the kills, two farmers, Avar Smallman and Warren Ellis, were charged with violations of buffer zone regulations. On September 13th, Mr. Smallman plead guilty. Mr. Ellis' case was adjourned to October 11th. For more information on older fish kills on PEI, see the 2010 State of the Environment Report at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/fae/state/index.php3>

Japanese researchers from Tohoku University exploring the ways that certain invertebrates spread discovered that a tiny land snail can survive digestion by a bird, the Japanese White-eye. These tiny land snails *Tornatellides boeningi* only measure 2.5 mm in size and their small size may be part of the reason. About 15% of the snails survive passing through the bird's gut. It also helps to explain why genetic material from these snails was widely dispersed despite geographic isolation. (Adapted from Ella Davies' "Tiny snails survive digestion by birds", a BBC Nature News article dated July 11, 2011).

Certain plants can reproduce by suckering from the stem or roots and others can root from plant parts. The offspring are part of the original plant and therefore are genetically identical. However, horticulturalists have long known that trees produced from cuttings from different nurseries can sometimes develop different profiles, the so-called nursery effect. Professor Malcolm Campbell of the University of Toronto explored this effect using several widely planted poplar clones from different regions of Canada by comparing the functioning of certain genes to drought stress. The three hybrid poplar clones had been developed in different decades, one in the early 1900s (DN34), one in 1946 (Walker) and one in 1986 (Okanese). His team grew the plants from different provinces under identical conditions and monitored how they responded to water and drought. The Okanese clones from Alberta and Saskatchewan responded almost identically. However, the older two clones performed differently with the oldest clones being the most divergent. This experiment suggests that time was a factor in how genes were expressed. Similar findings on gene expression had been found by Spanish researchers in genetically identical twins. Professor Campbell's results were released in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. (Adapted from Mark Kinver's "Nursery effect study shows trees remember their roots", a BBC News Science and Nature article dated July 12, 2011).

A recent issue of *The Auk* provided a series of bird name changes in the official list of North American birds released by the American Ornithologists' Union. Changes for local birds include: changing the name of the Common Moorhen to Common Gallinule; rearrangements in the order of the birds especially the warblers (these will be recognized by reordering the Island Naturalist's bird reports in Issue 201), and changes in scientific names.

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

It is of interest to note that while some dolphins are reported to have learned English - up to fifty words used in correct context - no human being has been reported to have learned dolphinese -

Carl Sagan, astronomer and writer (1934-1996) Wordsmith.org

WEATHER EVENTS:

June and early July, 2011 were wet and cold. The weather finally changed in mid July but it was not until mid August that the weather became quite warm. August 28th brought the arrival of the northeastern quadrant of extra-tropical storm Irene which tracked through the St. Lawrence River valley. On PEI, there was between 21 and 39 mm of rain. The rain cleared on the 29th but strong winds shut down high-sided vehicles on Confederation Bridge with one gust on the bridge being clocked at 103 km/hr. A number of ferry crossings were cancelled from the wind and the Charlottetown Yacht Club experienced some challenges with broken lines. This former Class 1 Hurricane tracked along the coast of the United States from the Carolinas to New England shores then moved inland through southern Quebec and along the St. Lawrence.

ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:

Compiled by J. Dan McAskill

PLANTS:

First report of flowering (JDM): Jun. 30 - **Wild madder** at Fullerton's Marsh; Jul. 1 - **heal all, rough hawkweed & hostis** at Donagh; Jul. 2 - large mats of wild madder at Fullerton's Marsh, Johnston's River & other sites; Jul. 3 - **cow vetch** at Donagh; Jul. 4 - **northern bedstraw, smoothish hawkweed** at Glenfinnan & Webster's Corner; Jul. 5 - **peony** at Donagh flowerbed; Jul. 6 - **fireweed** at Johnston's River Marsh edge in Donagh; Jul. 9 - **evening primrose, wild rose** at Donagh; Jul. 10 - **hop clover** at Fullerton's Marsh, **Queen Anne's Lace (Wild Carrot)** at Donagh, Fullertons Marsh, **daisy fleabane, yarrow, multi-floral rose** at West Royalty (J. Frank Gaudet Tree nursery property); Jul. 14 - **foxglove** at Donagh flowerbed; Jul. 16 - **brown-eyed Susan** at Christopher Cross, **bird's foot trefoil** at Christopher Cross, Portage, **blue flag** at Norway & Portage, **red clover** at Norway, **morning glory** at Roseville, **Joe Pye weed** at Kelly Road; Jul. 17 - **yellow loosestrife, sheep laurel, tall meadow rue**, and some residual bunchberry flowers at Portage (JDM); Jul. 19 - first **goldenrod** at Donagh with general flowering on first week of August (JDM); Jul. 25 - **chicory** at Bonshaw (JDM); Aug. 5 - **spreading dogbane** at Springfield West and at Feehan's Shore on Aug. 6 (JDM), **spotted touch-me-not** at Richmond & Brockton (JDM, HI, ASC); Aug. 14 - **New York aster & common mullein** at Donagh (JDM); Aug. 15 - **sow thistle & purple loosestrife** at Savage Harbour (JDM); Aug. 27 - **jimsonweed** at North River (JDM); Aug. 20 - **seaside lavender & seaside goldenrod** at Foxley River (JDM, DMa).

Berries Ripe: Jul. 16 - **wild strawberry** in western PEI, **bunchberry** at Portage, **red-berried elder** at Portage, few **blueberries** ripe at Glenfinnan on Jul. 19 (JDM); Aug. 5 - **doll's eyes (white baneberry), red baneberry and false Soloman's seal** at Richmond & **yarrow** at Springfield West (JDM, ASC, HI); Aug. 9 - **mountain ash berries** turning orange at Donagh and first few red ones at Feehan's Shore on Aug. 14 (DM). Aug. 15 - some **choke cherry** and **Red-osier dogwood** in ripe berry stage at Donagh (JDM). Heavy crop of mountain ash in eastern Queens County (JDM). Good crop of **white spruce** cones in various sites in northeastern PEI and southern Queens County (JDM).

INSECTS: 2 winter fire flies at Harmony on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM).

During July butterfly workshop at J. Frank Gaudet Tree Nursery white admiral, European skipper, long dash skipper, little skipper, pearly eye butterfly, tiger swallowtail were captured or seen flying (FRC, DMa, FdB, KMacN, EC, JDM). Tent caterpillar at New Annan on Jul. 16 (JDM). 4 white admiral butterfly at Darlington on July. 17 (EC). Fire fly in mid July (GK). 3 fire flies at Donagh on Jul. 23 (JDM). Tiger swallowtail seen at Savage Harbour on Jul. 22 (JDM). 2 white admiral at Appin Road on Jul. 25 (JDM). 2 wood nymphs at Brocton woods road on Aug. 5 (JDM, HI, ASC). ~7 common wood nymph on Aug. 6 & ~7 pearly eye at Lower Suffolk Road on Aug. 6 plus 10+ pearly eyes at West Royalty on Aug. 6 (EC). 4 pearly eyes at St. Catherine's and 1 at Brookvale, Strathgartney and Appin Road in Aug. (EC). Fall web worm at Feehan's Shore and Savage Harbour on Aug. 14 & at Donagh on Aug. 15 (JDM). 2 seven spotted ladybird beetles on sandbar at Red Head Harbour on Aug 21 (DO, shorebird group). For the first time in years, very good flights of night flying moths at Donagh in late Aug. (JDM). Hundreds of small white moths flying in saltmarshes at Glenfinnan River and Savage Harbour Bay 2nd last week of August (JDM).



SNAILS & SLUGS: dozens of garden snails as well as orange slugs roadside in hop clover and grass at Nail Pond near steam on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM).

AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES: The heavy rains and wet conditions have dramatically increased sightings of northern leopard frogs on roads in northeastern Queens County in July through mid-August (JDM). High numbers seen in ditches in Portage area on Aug. 20 and at Donagh on Aug. 21 (JDM). 3 garter snakes in grass at Donagh on Aug. 3 (JDM). A recently shed red-bellied snake skin was found on the road in Glenfinnan South on Aug. 19 (JDM).

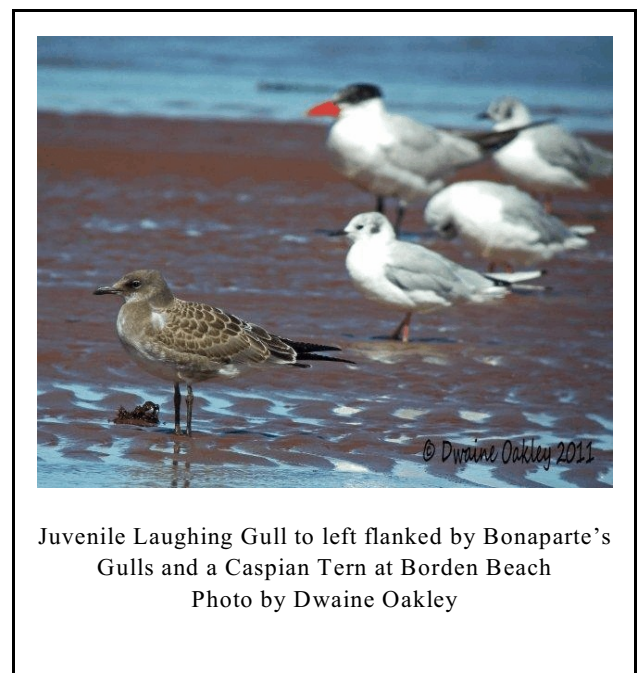
FISH: Good catches of tinker and spike mackerel off North Rustico on Aug. 14 and Charlottetown Harbour in August and September but few large mackerel (JDM, LY).

MAMMALS: 6 raccoons (3 groups of 2 young) seen in 4 km at French Village and Savage Harbour on Jul. 22 (JDM). 4 **gray seals** at North Cape on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM) and several off East Point on Aug. 27. There were about 20 UID seals at Rollo Bay WMA on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM). **Long-finned pilot whale** at Stanley River on Aug. 7 (DO, HF). Several pilot whales ~4 km off North Rustico on Aug. 14 (JDM). A minke whale was seen near the bell buoy off East Point on Aug. 27 (DO).

BIRDS: **Common Loon** - 1 at East Point on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO); **Pied-billed Grebe** - at Sea Cow Pond on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Red-necked Grebe** - 1 at East Point on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO); **Northern Gannet** - at least 200 in feeding frenzy off Nail Pond on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 20+ at East Point on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO), 30 at East Point on Aug. 27 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Storm-petrel** - 5 about 4 km off North Rustico Harbour on Aug. 14 (JDM); **Double-crested Cormorant** - ~250 most days on Hillsborough Bridge piers in August (JDM), 200 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Great Cormorant** - 9 (2 adults) on ledge and on cliff face as well as 2 Double-crested Cormorants on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Great Blue Heron** - 60 at PEI National Park with 45 in Covehead Bay on Jul. 9 (DCS), 15+ at Northport, 25+ at Covehead flats, & 33 at Tracadie Harbour mudflats on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 100+ at Covehead Bay on Aug. 2 (DCS); **Turkey Vulture** - 1 at Ebsfleet - Pleasant View area in mid Jul. (MILA); **Canada Geese** - 4 at Pleasant View on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 70 at Stanhope Cape & 30 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 28 (DCS), 50 at Covehead Marsh on Jul. 31 & 70 on Aug. 19 (DCS), 6 at Savage Harbour on Aug. 14 (JDM), ~20 at North Rustico on Aug. 15 (JDM), 125 at Glenfinnan River on Aug. 24 (JDM), ~100 in a Donagh harvested grain field on Spt. 16 (JDM); **Wood Ducks** - 32 at Borden lagoon on Aug. 31 (DO); **Gadwall** - female with 2 young at Black Pond in Pleasant View (JDM); **American Black Duck** - female with 7 young (3/4 size adult) at Black Pond in Pleasant View on Jul. 16 (JDM); **Blue-winged Teal** - male at Black Pond in Pleasant View on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Green-winged Teal** - 25 at Rollo Bay WMA on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Greater Scaup** - ~100 in bay off Belmont on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Common Eider** - ~50 at North Cape on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 10+ at East Point on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO), 27 at East Point on Aug. 27 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Surf Scoter** - female at East Point on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO), & female on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **White-winged Scoter** - 2 flying offshore at Norway on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Black Scoter** - 1 at East Point on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO); **Hooded Merganser** - 3 at East Lake on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Common Merganser** - female at East Point on Aug. 20 & 1 female on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Red-breasted Merganser** - 2 at East Point on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO), 20+ at East Point on Aug. 27 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Ruddy Duck** - male & female with 4 young at Allisary Creek Impoundment (CM); **Osprey** - 1 at Tignish Run, 1 at Nail Pond, 1 at Skinner's Pond on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 2 fishing off Argyle Shore on Jul. 23 (LY, JDM), 2 regularly fishing in Jul. & Aug. off Savage Harbour beach (JDM), adults bringing food to young at North Rustico on Aug. 14 (JDM), at Brackley Bay, Oyster Bed Bridge, Tignish Run, Robinson's Island, Covehead Bay, & North Lake in Jul. & Aug. (DCS); **Bald Eagle** - adult took a pass at the cormorants at the Norway colony, adult flying north at Portage, 1 flying at Brackley North marsh, & 1 at Tracadie Harbour on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), adult flying at East Point, Dingwell's Mills, & Morell East & adult and immature at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Northern Harrier** - 2 females at St. Catherines on Jun. 16 (EC), male at Norway Black Marsh, female at Skinner's Pond, male at Kelly Road, male at West Devon on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), female at Elmsdale and Wellington & male at Haliburton on Aug. 5 (JDM, HI, ASC), male at Foxley River on Aug. 20 (JDM, DMA), 1 at East Point community & 1 at North Lake on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO), 1 at Appin Road on Aug. 22 (EC), 1 at Fairfield, 2 at Little Harbour marsh & 1 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM), 1 at Mermaid on Sept. 4 (JDM), 1 at Victoria on Sept. 14 (RA), 1 at Donagh on Sept. 16 (JDM); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 1 at Savage Harbour in Aug. 13 (JDM), 1 at East Lake on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Cooper's Hawk** - 2 interacting in aerial display at Foxley River on Aug. 20 (JDM); **Northern Goshawk** - 1 at East Point on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO), 1 at Canavoy on Aug. 21 (JDM), 1 at French Village on Sept. 2 (JDM); **Broad-winged Hawk** - 1 at Portage & 1 at Eilerslie on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Red-tailed Hawk** - 1 at Kensington and 1 at Norboro on Jul. 17 (JDM), 1 at Marshfield on Jul. 21 (DCS), 3 circling over Bonshaw Provincial Park with adult Bald Eagle flying through the group on Jul. 23 (JDM), 1 on wires at Wellington Station on Aug. 5 (JDM, HI, ASC), 1 at West Royalty on Aug. 9 (JDM), 1 in clearcut on Luke Road in Foxley River on Aug. 20 (DMA, JDM), 1 at Johnston's River

on Sept. 4 (JDM); **American Kestrel** - 1 at Brackley on Jul. 7 (DCS), 1 at Campbellton & 1 at Cymbria on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at Bonshaw at Argyle Shore Road on Jul. 23 (JDM), 1 at Knutsford on Aug. 5 (JDM, HI, ASC), 1 at Savage Harbour in Jul. & Aug. (JDM), 1 at McKenna Road on Aug. 14 (EC), 1 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 21 (Shorebird workshop group), 1 at Savage Harbour on Sept. 2 (JDM); **Merlin** - carrying starling at Sherwood on Aug. 6 (JDM), 1 at Beaton's Point near East Point & 1 at Brackley on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO), 1 at East Point on Aug. 27 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Peregrine Falcon** - 1 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 19 (DCS), 1 at Beaton's Point near East Point on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO), 2 at East Point on Sept. 5 (SCS, GS), 1 at East Point on Sept. 13 (CGa), 1 at Georgetown Royalty on Sept. 19 (SCS); **Gray Partridge** - 1 being pursued by a Merlin at Glenfinnan on Sept. 11 (JDM); **Ring-necked Pheasant** - female with ~9 young at Glenfinnan on Aug. 24 (JDM), dead male pheasant on road at Bethel on Aug. 25 (JDM); **Ruffed Grouse** - chick at Foxley River on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Sharp-tailed Grouse** - 2 females with at least 9 young at St. Margarets on Jul. 11 (W&SF); **Guinea Fowl** - foraging roadside at Brockton on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Sora** - 1 called at Cavendish marsh on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Shorebird migration underway** on Jul. 3 (DCS). **Black-bellied Plover** - 1 at Tracadie Harbour on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at Savage Harbour on Aug. 6 (JDM), 12+ at Red Head Harbour & 20+ at Rollo Bay on Aug. 14 (DO), 1 at Little Harbour beach, some at Rollo Bay, & 12 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM), 10 at MacPhee's Shore on Aug. 27 (JDM), 20 at Borden beach on Aug. 31 (DO), 54 in field at Mermaid (Heritage Point) on Sept. 4 (JDM); **American Golden Plover** - 1 in breeding plumage at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 12 (DCS), male at Brackley mudflats on Jul. 14 (DCS), 1 at Covehead Marsh on Jul. 30 (DCS), 1 at East Royalty sod farm on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO); **Semipalmated Plover** - 50 at Noonan's Marsh in Borden on Jul. 17 (G&SF), 100+ at Red Head Harbour & 300+ at Rollo Bay on Aug. 14 (DO), 200 at Red Head sandbar on Aug. 21 (DO, FdB, JW, RA, MK, SG, PF, MG, JDM, et al), ~24 at Borden beach on Aug. 31 (DO), at Boughton Island sand spit on Sept. 4 (SCS), 6 at Victoria on Sept. 14 (RA); **Piping Plover** - at Little Harbour Beach on Jul. 21 (CM); **Killdeer** - 2 in small pond on Dock Road at Elmsdale on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at Rollo Bay on Aug. 14 (DO); **Black Oyster Catcher** - *Donna Martin submitted E-mails with a description of this sighting at St. Eleanor's on the southwestern corner of Malpeque Bay on Aug. 25 (DMa)*, subsequent searches for this bird later that day (DO) and the next day were unsuccessful (DO, DCS); **Greater Yellowlegs** - 5 at PEINP on Jul. 3 (DCS), 24 at Noonan's Marsh in Borden on Jul. 7 & 35 on Jul. 17 (G&SF), 1 off Luke Road shore at Foxley River, 1 at Grand River Bridge, 2 at Brackley North marsh, 7 at Covehead flats, 2 at Tracadie Harbour, & 7 at Tracadie Harbour mudflats on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 30+ at Legion Shore in Malpeque Bay on Aug. 25 (DO), 1 at Red Head Harbour & 50+ at Rollo Bay on Aug. 14 (DO), 5 at East Point, several at Souris, ~10 at Rollo Bay, on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM), 24+ at Borden beach on Aug. 31 (DO); **Lesser Yellowlegs** - 3 at PEINP on Jul. 3 (DCS), 4 in small pond on Dock Road at Elmsdale, 2 at Belmont pond, 11 at Cavendish, 20 at Brackley North Marsh, 2 at Covehead flats, & 4 at Tracadie Harbour on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 6 at Noonan's Marsh at Borden on Jul. 17 (G&SF), 10+ at Rollo Bay on Aug. 14 (DO), 15 at North Lake, 2 at Souris Causeway, 8 at Rollo Bay WMA, 3 at Scotchfort on Hillsborough River saltmarsh on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO), 20+ at Legion Shore in Malpeque Bay on Aug. 25 (DO), 4 at East Lake, 8 at Little Harbour & ~8 at Rollo Bay on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM), 10 at Borden beach on Aug. 31 (DO); **Solitary Sandpiper** - 4 in small pond on Dock Road at Elmsdale on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at North Lake on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO), 1 at Legion Shore in Malpeque Bay on Aug. 25 (DO); **Willet** - 29 at PEINP on Jul. 3 (DCS), 5 at Tracadie Harbour mudflats on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at Savage Harbour on Jul. 23 (JDM), 1 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 14 (DO), 1 at Little Harbour beach on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Spotted Sandpiper** - 2 at Alberton at pond beside motel on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), at Little Harbour Beach on Jul. 21 (CM), 3 at East Point on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM), 1 at Hillsborough River off Battery Point Road on Sept. 2 (JDM), 1 at Victoria on Sept. 14 (RA); **Whimbrel** - 2 at Sea Cow Pond & Tignish Run and 1 Nail Pond on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 20 at Scotchfort on Aug. 1 (DO), 1 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 14 (DO), 15 at Greenwich and Red Head Harbour on Aug. 21 (DO, FdB, JW, RA, MK, SG, PF, MG, JDM, et al), 16 at Legion Shore in Malpeque Bay on Aug. 25 (DO), 1 at East Point, 1 at Little Harbour & 1 calling at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM), 32 at Scotchfort on Sept. 2 (JDM), 14 at East Point on Sept. 5 (SCS, GS); **Hudsonian Godwit** - 1 at Covehead Bay on Aug. 6, 9, 26, Sept. 4 & 5 (DCS), 4 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 8 (DCS), 33 at Covehead Bay on Aug. 13, 2 on Aug. 14 & 2 on Sept. 10 (DCS), 4 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 8, 1 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 14 (DO), 1 at Boughton Island sand spit on Sept. 4 (SCS, GS); **Ruddy Turnstone** - 2 at Covehead Bay on Jul. 21, 14 on Jul. 29, 20 on Aug. 2, 5 on Aug. 28, 9 on Aug. 29, 1 on Sept. 3 & 8 (DCS), 1 at Rollo Bay on Aug. 14 (DO), 9 at Red Head sandbar on Aug. 21 (DO, FdB, JW, RA, MK, SG, PF, MG, JDM, et al), 8 off East Point, 3 at Little Harbour beach & 9 at Red Head Harbour

on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM), 1 at Souris River mudflats & 1 at Rollo Bay WMA on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO), at Borden beach on Aug. 31 (DO), 5 at Borden beach on Sept. 5 & 50+ on Sept. 11 (DO, HF), at Boughton Island sand spit on Sept. 4 (SCS), 30+ in evening at Victoria on Sept. 13 (RA); **Red Knot** - 2 at Covehead Bay on Jul. 28, 8 on Jul. 31, 18 on Aug. 15, 12 on Aug. 29, 3 on Sept. 10 (DCS), 2 at Tracadie Harbour on Aug. 1 (DCS), 2 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 14 (DO), 7 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 23 (DCS), 8 at Borden beach on Aug. 31 & 14 juveniles on Sept. 11 (DO); **Sanderling** - 10 at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 14 (DO), 5 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 17 (DCS), 14 at Borden beach on Aug. 31 & 40+ on Sept. 11 (DO), 66 between Tracadie Harbour entrance and Stanhope Campground Beach on Sept. 5 (DCS); **Semipalmated Sandpiper** - 2 at Noonan's Marsh in Borden on Jul. 7 & 100 on Jul. 17 (G&SF), 2 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 10 (DCS), at Red Head Harbour & 75+ at Rollo Bay on Aug. 14 (DO), 14 foraging on top of heavy algae mat on East Lake & 40 foraging at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM), 2,500 to 3,000 at Borden beach on Aug. 31 (DO), 2 at Borden beach on Sept. 5 (DO, HF), & 4 on Sept. 11 (DO), at Boughton Island sand spit on Sept. 4 (SCS); **Least Sandpiper** - 2 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 5 & 17 on Jul. 7 (DCS), 6 at Noonan's Marsh in Borden on Jul. 7 (G&SF), 1 in small pond on Dock Road at Elmsdale on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 3 at Red Head Harbour & 2 at Rollo Bay on Aug. 14 (DO), 100+ at Legion Shore in Malpeque Bay on Aug. 25 (DO), 7 at Legion Shore in Malpeque Bay on Aug. 25 (DO), 3 at Borden beach on Aug. 31, 3 on Sept. 5, & 4 on Sept. 11 (DO, HF), at Boughton Island sand spit on Sept. 4 (SCS); **White-rumped Sandpiper** - 1 at Noonan's Marsh in Borden on Jul. 17 (G&SF), 1 at Tracadie Harbour on Aug. 1 (DCS), 20+ at Red Head Harbour & 20+ at Rollo Bay on Aug. 14 (DO), 4 at Covehead Bay on Aug. 17 (DCS), 2 at Rollo Bay WMA on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO), 22 at Red Head sandbar on Aug. 21 (DO, FdB, JW, RA, MK, SG, PF, MG, JDM, et al), 2 at Legion Shore in Malpeque Bay on Aug. 25 (DO), 5 at south side of Malpeque Bay on Aug. 26 (DCS), 5 at Borden beach on Aug. 31 & 10+ on Sept. 11 (DO), at Boughton Island sand spit on Sept. 4 (SCS); **Baird's Sandpiper** - 1 probable at Borden beach on Aug. 31 (DO), 1 on small amount of exposed beach at Borden on Sept. 5 (DO, HF); **Pectoral Sandpiper** - 1 at south side of Malpeque Bay on 25 & Aug. 26 (DO, DCS), 1 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 28 (DCS), 1 at North Lake on Sept. 5 (SCS, GS); **Purple Sandpiper** - 1 at North Rustico sandbar on Jul. 14 (TM, ES), 2 at Noonan's Marsh in Borden on Jul. 17 (G&SF); **Dunlin** - 1 at Brackley North Marsh on Aug. 4 (DCS), 20 to 30 at Tracadie Harbour on Sept. 17 (DO, HF); **Curlew Sandpiper** - 1 at Brackley West Marsh on Aug. 25 (DCS); **Short-billed Dowitcher** - 28 at PEINP on Jul. 2 & 135 on Aug. 18 (DCS), 20 at Noonan's Marsh in Borden on Jul. 7 & 40 on Jul. 17 (G&SF), 15+ at Rollo Bay on Aug. 14 (DO), 30+ at Borden beach on Aug. 31 (DO), 5 at Boughton Island sand spit on Sept. 4 (SCS); **Common Snipe** - 1 winnowing at Portage on Jul. 17 (JDM), 1 at Rollo Bay on Aug. 14 (DO); **Red-necked Phalarope** - 1 at East Point on Sept. 12 (CGa); **Laughing Gull** - 1 juvenile photographed at Borden on Sept. 11 (DO); **Black-headed Gull** - 1 at Red Head Harbour & 1 at Rollo Bay on Aug. 14 (DO), 2 at Tracadie Harbour with about 30 Bonaparte's Gulls on Sept. 17 (DO, HF); **Bonaparte's Gull** - 5 off Nail Pond, 6 at Northport, & 25 at Covehead Harbour on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), several fishing offshore at Savage Harbour on Aug. 7 (JDM), 500+ at Rollo Bay on Aug. 14 (DO), ~15 with some Ring-billed Gulls hawking aerial insects (appeared to be flying ants) at Canavoy on Aug. 21 (JDM), ~100 at Little Harbour beach on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM), 200+ at Borden beach on Aug. 31 (DO), 300+ on Sept. 5, & 100+ on Sept. 11 (DO, HF); **Herring Gull** - pink wing-tagged individual (see article) banded at Sable Island photographed at New London on Sept. 14 (TW), another wing tagged individual was seen at the West Prince IWMC site at Wellington in early Sept. (KCu); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** - 1 at East Baltic with ~300 Ring-billed Gulls in freshly ploughed field on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Great Black-backed Gull** - 300 at Sea Cow Pond on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Caspian Tern** - 1 at Covehead Bay on Jun. 6 (DCS), 1 to 5 at Covehead Bay between Jul. 1 to 19 (DCS), 6 at



Juvenile Laughing Gull to left flanked by Bonaparte's Gulls and a Caspian Tern at Borden Beach
Photo by Dwaine Oakley

Covehead sandbar and 5 at Tracadie Harbour on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 2 at Savage Harbour on Jul. 23 & Aug. 6 & 4 on Aug. 13 (JDM), 2 at East Point on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM), 3 at North Lake on Sept. 5 (SCS, GS), 4 at Borden beach on Sept. 11 (DO); **Common Tern** - 20 in run and appear to be nesting on Island off Luke Road shore at Foxley River on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 4 nests at Covehead Harbour Bridge beach on Jun. 26 but human disturbance within a few days caused their destruction (DCS), 2 nested at Stanhope marsh in late June to mid July (DCS), 65 at Greenwich sand bars on Aug. 21 (shorebird workshop group), ~10 at East Point, ~50 at Little Harbour Beach, ~10 at Rollo Bay bar, & ~60 at Greenwich/Red Head Harbour bars on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM), 2 at Borden beach on Sept. 11 (DO); **Arctic Tern** - 1 at Covehead Bay on Aug. 10 (DCS); **Black Guillemot** - 3 at Norway off Black Marsh, 6 at North Cape, & 15 at Kelly Road at Roseville on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **White-winged Dove** - 1 at Little Harbour Road on Jul. 12 (BK); **Mourning Dove** - 1 to 3 heard or seen at many sites during western PEI birding trip on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Black-billed Cuckoo** - 1 responded to playback at Phee Shore Road at Norway on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Common Nighthawk** - 1 on Route 225 on Jun. 23 (EC), 1 flying at Birch Hill Drive on Jul. 20 (DO), 1 at Grant's Bridge in Riverton on Aug. 5 (DO); **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** - 5 at Campbellton feeders on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at St. Catherines on Aug. 22 (EC), 1 chasing a sandpiper very aggressively out over the water at East Point on Aug. 27 (DCS), 1 foraging on white spruce needles at East Point on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Belted Kingfisher** - 1 at Black Pond in Pleasant View, family at Roseville, 1 at Central Lot 16 on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 struck window and recovered at Bunbury on Aug. 4 (DFG); **Barred Owl** - vary curious one followed observer at Sulloik for 100s metres on Sept. 14 (SAM); **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - juvenile drilling on a red oak at Donagh on Aug. 10 (JDM); **Northern Flicker** - single birds seen at Pleasant View, Foxley River on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 8 at Appin Road on Aug. 22 (EC), 3 on lawn at Bunbury in late Aug. (AW); **Eastern Wood Peewee** - 1 at Hyde Park on Jul. 8 (FdB, ShM); **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** - 2 at Appin Road on Aug. 22 (EC); **Alder Flycatcher** - calling at Tignish Run, North Cape, Norway, Christopher Cross, Roseville on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Least Flycatcher** - 1 at North Cape & Sea Cow Pond on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Great Crested Flycatcher** - 1 carrying food and entering nest box at Portage with a pair present on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Eastern Kingbird** - 3 at Hyde Park on Jul. 8 (FdB, ShM), 2 hawking insects at French Village on Aug. 5 & 6 (JDM); **Philadelphia Vireo** - 1 at Homestead Trail in Cavendish on Jul. 3 (G&FM); **Red-eyed Vireo** - 2 at Homestead Trail in Cavendish on Jul. 3 (G&FM) **Common Raven** - ~75 at Sea Cow Pond on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Tree Swallow** - at least 4 at Skinner's Pond, 1 on wire at Alberton, 2 at Belmont Park on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Bank Swallow** - 80+ at Borden lagoons on Jun. 25 (DCS), ~20 each flying at Nail Pond, Tignish, ~20 flying at Skinner's Pond, ~30 at Kelly Road, ~25 on wires & flying at Campbellton, ~15 at Belmont Park on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 20 tending nests at North Rustico on Jul. 17 as well as 20+ in sand pile (FdB), 1 at East Point on Aug. 20 (DCS, DO); **Barn Swallow** - 1 at Brackley on Jun. 28 (DCS), adults feeding young on wires at Skinner's Pond with ~12 present & 1 flying at Kelly Road, several flying at Campellton on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 2 over sandflats at Red Head Harbour on Aug. 21 (shorebird workshop group), 6 at North Lake on Aug. 27 with 2 entering an open window & 4 at Priest Pond (DO, DCS, JDM); **Boreal Chickadee** - 4+ at Sea Cow Pond on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 2 at Community of East Point on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - first of day at Watt's Road in Tracadie Cross after 527 km birding trip on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **White-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 at Homestead Trail in Cavendish on Jul. 3 (G&FM); **Brown Creeper** - 1 at Valleyfield on Jun. 12 (DCS), 1 foraging on red oak at Donagh on Sept. 18 (JDM); **Golden-crowned Kinglet** - first of day at Watt's Road in Tracadie Cross after 527 km birding trip on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Eastern Bluebird** - 1 at New Annan on Jul. 1 (DCS, DO, JDM, LH), 2 adults feeding 2 immatures at New Annan on Jul. 17 (LH, BM, G&SF); **Veery** - 1 heard at Black Pond in Pleasant View & 1 seen at Cemetery Road Roseville in on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **American Robin** - carrying food on Jul. 24 at Savage Harbour (JDM); **Gray Catbird** - 1 at Hyde Park on Jul. 8 (FdB, ShM), singing at Black Pond in Pleasant View on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Cedar Waxwing** - heard or seen at many sites during western PEI birding trip on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Yellow Warbler** - 2 at Community of East Point on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Magnolia Warbler** - 2 at East Point on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM) **Yellow-rumped Warbler** - 20+ at Community of East Point on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Black-throated Green Warbler** - 2 at Community of East Point on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Pine Warbler** - 1 at McKenna Road on Aug. 14 & 25 & 1 at Brookvale (Ross Road) on Aug. 25 (EC); **Palm Warbler** - at Homestead Trail in Cavendish on Jul. 3 (G&FM); **Black-and-white Warbler** - 1 at Community of East Point on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **American Redstart** - 2 at East Point & 2 at Priest Pond on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Mourning Warbler** - 2 at Hyde Park on Jul. 8 (FdB, ShM), at Teahill on Jul. 16-7 (FdB); **Common Yellowthroat** - 1 at

East Lake on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Chipping Sparrow** - at Christopher Cross, Sea Cow Pond, Roseville on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Savannah Sparrow** - 20+ at North Lake on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Nelson's Sparrow** - 1 at Covehead Marsh on Jun. 18, Jun. 30, Jul. 6, Jul. 8, Jul. 22, & Jul. 25 + 1 at Brackley North Marsh on Jul. 7 & Jul. 8 (DCS), 1 at Homestead Trail in Cavendish on Jul. 3 (G&FM), 1 at Hyde Park on Jul. 8 (FdB, ShM), 1 at Belmont Park pond & 1 singing at Brackley West Marsh (Entrance marsh) on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), 1 at Canavoy saltmarsh on Aug. 27 (JDM); **Swamp Sparrow** - 2 East Lake & at Little Harbour marsh on Aug. 27 (DO, DCS, JDM); **Dark-eyed Junco** - first of day at Watt's Road in Tracadie Cross after 527 km birding trip on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Bobolink** - at Norway, male & 2 females at Nail Pond, male singing at Belmont on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM); **Common Grackle** - small flock of 12 at Norway on Jul. 16 (DCS, DO, JDM), ~100 in horse paddock in Lake Side on Aug. 21 (JDM); **Purple Finch** - regular visitors at Donagh & West Royalty feeders in Jul-Aug (JDM, DCS), 2 at East Point on Aug. 27 (JDM, DCS, DO); **White-winged Crossbill** - flying over at Granville on Aug. 7 (DO).

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Eastern Comma at Portage
on July 16, 2011
Photo by Dwaine Oakley

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

- Sept. 24 - Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic Fund Raiser** - Bad weather date is Sept. 25th. See article p. 3.
- Sept. 25 - Autumn in the Forest.** Macphail Woods is hosting a walk along the trails of Macphail woods to explore the natural history of plants and animals. The walk starts at 2:00 PM at Macphail Woods.
- Sept. 27 - Screening of Gasland.** PEI Sierra Buddies will present a documentary on environmental and human health by Josh White on fracking (hydraulic fracturing). It will be hosted at 7:30 PM at Murphy's Community Centre on Richmond Street (Victoria Row) in Charlottetown.
- Oct. 1 - Field Trip to Greenwich.** Diane Griffin will lead a Natural History Society field trip to Greenwich. For car pooling, please meet at the Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet parking lot on St. Peter's Road at 7:00 am. The field trip is planned to allow a return back to the parking lot at 1 to 1:30 pm.
- Oct. 4 - Rare Plants of Prince Edward Island.** Gary Schneider 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. YN
- Oct. 8 - Feeding Wild Birds in Winter.** Jackie Waddell will offer this Island Nature Trust presentation at the Crapaud Library at 7:00 PM.
- Nov. 1 - Ecological Integrity in the PEI National Park.** Paul Giroux 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. YN
- Dec. 6 - Natural History Society's Presentation** - Our guest speaker for this evening will be announced in the next newsletter. The Natural History Society's meeting which starts 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 three registered counts. To participate or obtain more information, contact the Society at jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca
- Dec. 17 (Saturday) - The East Point Christmas Bird Count.** Please contact Dwaine Oakley at 569-1815 or dwaine.oakley@gmail.com for details and to register. The date may change in the advent of severe weather so please contact your coordinator.
- Dec. 18 (Sunday) - The Prince Edward Island National Park Christmas Bird Count** - This count features a lunch time pot-luck at the Parks Canada Administration Building lunchroom in Dalvay. Please contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351 or E-mail at jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca for information or to register. The date may change in the advent of severe weather so please contact your coordinator.
- Dec. 27 (Tuesday) - The Hillsborough Christmas Bird Count.** There will be a pot-luck after the event for participants at 6 p.m. at Fiep de Bie's in Tea Hill. Please contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351 or E-mail at jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca for information or to register. The date may change in the advent of severe weather so please contact your coordinator.
- Dec/Jan - The Montague Christmas Bird Count.** The date will be announced in the next issue of the Island Naturalist and the Society's web site www.NaturePEI.ca
- Jan. 3 - Natural History Society's Annual General meeting** which starts at 7:30 pm at the Farm Centre, 420 University Ave. Charlottetown. Speaker to be announced. YN

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