



# ISLAND NATURALIST

## Nature PEI

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**NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND - NaturePEI**  
**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 **Beaconsfield's Carriage House on 2 Kent Street, 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 PE C1A 8C1. Annual membership is \$20 and renewals are due in January. Multi-year renewals are \$20 per year for which you wish to renew. 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.

**2013 Executive:**

President .....Ian Scott, Charlottetown 892-5796 [scotts@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:scotts@pei.sympatico.ca)  
Vice-President .....position vacant .....  
Past President .....position vacant.....  
Secretary .....Barbara MacDonald, Charlottetown 368-3268 [bajmacdonald@gmail.com](mailto:bajmacdonald@gmail.com)  
Treasurer .....Don Jardine, South Winsloe 368-2549 [dejardine@eastlink.ca](mailto:dejardine@eastlink.ca)  
Director- Program & Publicity ..... Rosemary Curley, Stratford 569-1209 [rcurleypei@eastlink.ca](mailto:rcurleypei@eastlink.ca)  
Director - Field Trips .....Ron Arvidson, South Melville 658-2566 [arvidson@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:arvidson@pei.sympatico.ca)

**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, Donagh, P.E.I. C1B 0T9 or via E-mail to [jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca) The *next deadline* for articles, sightings, or other newsletter information is *June 15, 2013*.

**Illustrations/Pictures:** The Society extends a special thanks to Greg Feetham, William Hartford, Liz MacKay, Allie McLennan, and Dwaine Oakley for their photographs in this issue.

**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:** [www.NaturePEI.ca](http://www.NaturePEI.ca)

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.

**Cover Illustration:**

The distinctive crossed -bills combined with the white wing bars distinguish the White-winged Crossbills from the Red Crossbills. While both species were seen this year, there were many more of the White-winged Crossbills. The bill shape allows easy extraction of seed from between the bracts of the conifer cones. Thanks to Greg Feetham for capturing and sharing this beautiful image in Summerside in December.

My special thanks to the Natural History Society's members and Executive Committee for their participation and support of natural history on Prince Edward Island during 2012. Commencing in January, this year's volunteer Board was led by Dwaine Oakley (President), Ian Scott (Past-President), Barb MacDonald (Vice-President), Heather Fenton (Secretary), Ron Arvidson (Field Trips Director), Christina Pater (Programs & Publicity Director) and Susan Whitaker (Treasurer). In February, Dwaine tendered his resignation as President due to pressing course and work loads. The Nominating Committee was reconvened and Ian Scott became the President and Dwaine moved to Past President. Rosemary Curley served as Treasurer until Susan returned from her travels. Lynne Douglas remained the Society's representative on the General Council of the Island Nature Trust until November. In December, Barb MacDonald was appointed the Society's representative. Dan McAskill continued as the Editor of the *Island Naturalist*. In August, Susan Whitaker submitted her resignation as Treasurer due to major new assignments at work and pressing family needs. Don Jardine was appointed as the new Treasurer in December.

In addition to the Society's normal work described below, the Society partnered with other groups to hold a well attended meeting regarding proposed road changes which would negatively affect Strathgartney Provincial Park's Natural Area designated hardwoods and later the Plan "B" alternative. It reviewed the Plan "B" environmental assessment and submitted comments on the deficiencies in it. Representatives of the Society met with the Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice regarding the wind farms at Black Marsh and East Point. Later they met with the Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs regarding the proposed new wind farm projects at East Point and Hermitage. The Society continued to build the relationship between the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation. It met with the Minister of Tourism and Culture to discuss the proposed natural history museum and education programs. The Society announced in December that the Society's regular monthly meetings would move to Beaconsfield's Carriage House in January. Ian Scott led this initiative as well as the preparatory work for a "Rare Birds of PEI" exhibition and an anthology of natural history articles from the *Island Magazine*.

An initiative with UPEI to scan the old issues of the *Island Naturalist* so that they are more readily accessible was commenced. The Society also issued letters of support for a new section of the Confederation Trail to link Stratford and a funding proposal to use electronic devices for citizen science species education and information collection on PEI.

The Society held eight Executive Committee meetings during the year. It registered the Nature PEI trademark for PEI so that the Society can re-brand itself in response to provincial initiatives in a number of other provinces. Susan Whitaker provided a review of the Revenue Canada Agency's new interpretation releases for the Executive and electronic banking capability was established. A web based electronic membership application process was explored but it was decided to not implement it this year. Efforts to recruit new Executive Committee members to address changes in the Executive were successful. Ian Scott, Barb MacDonald and Diane Griffin served on the Membership Drive Committee. Comments were sought on a new draft Society brochure prepared by Barb MacDonald. Rosemary Curley prepared and submitted the Charitable Income Tax Return for the Society. Rosemary Curley coordinated the periodic draw prizes which fund the PEI Science Fair natural history prizes. Diane Griffin and Rosemary Curley judged the natural history entries for the PEI Science Fair at UPEI and there were winners at two of the three category levels. Potential natural history and education project submissions for the PEI 2014 Fund grants were discussed. John Klymko of the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre led the third year's efforts for a Maritime Butterfly Atlas and Rosemary Curley expanded efforts to recruit participants for the Maritimes Butterfly Atlas.

The Society's monthly education presentations included: "The Society's Annual General Meeting and Member's night featuring Scott Roloson's "Tracking Rainbow Trout Movement in PEI's Rivers"; Shirley Gallant's "Wildlife Photos"; Dwaine Oakley and Ben Hoteling's "The American Kestrel Project"; Scott McBurney's "White-nosed Syndrome in Bat Populations"; Fred Cheverie's "Projects of the Souris and Area Watershed Group"; Diane Griffin and Rosemary Curley's "Wildlife of Ranthambore National Park, India"; Rosemary Curley's "Are Beavers Native to PEI?"; Jocelyn Plourde's "Changing the Conversation About our Changing Climate"; and Kyle Kynsh's "Biodiversity of Insects in PEI Springs". In addition to the audio-visual presentations, Ron Arvidson organized three birding field trips: Apr. 15 (use of falcons in bird control); Sept. 9 (Birding on the South Shore);

and Oct. 21 (East Point and Savage Harbour). These presentations were publicized in The Buzz, Guardian Community Notice columns, CBC radio and released on the Society's e-news list.

David Seeler again maintained the UPEI BirdList server for use of Island birders, issued updates to birders on the records to date and compiled both the 2012 bird list, and winter bird lists. The List Service (UPEI Birdlist Server [peibirders@lists.upei.ca](mailto:peibirders@lists.upei.ca)) continued as a primary tool for listers and others interested in birds and again contributed to the documentation of new sightings. Rarities identified there were included in the Island Naturalist bird column. Thanks to the records of sighting contributors, the Island's 2012 bird list reached 242 species.

The Society maintained its participation in various provincial and North American bird count projects. Scott Sinclair coordinated the Montague Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Dwaine Oakley coordinated the East Point CBC, and Dan McAskill coordinated the PEI National Park and Hillsborough Christmas Bird Counts as well as the Bain Bird Count. Dan reviewed the Island's Great Backyard Bird Count reports. Parks Canada hosted the potluck for the PEI National Park Christmas Bird Count at the Dalvay Administration Building lunch room and Diane and Kevin Griffin hosted the potluck for the Hillsborough CBC. Fiep de Bie and Dan McAskill led the Birds and Breakfast event of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Bald Eagle Festival. Some Society members participated in the "Big Birding Week" event coordinated by Parks Canada as part of the celebrations for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of PEI National Park.

During the year, the Society made a contribution of \$180 to the PEI Science Fair natural history prizes. Christina Pater coordinated the E-mail distribution of Society notices about upcoming Natural History Society events. The Society's website, NaturePEI.ca, continued. Ron Arvidson created a FaceBook page on Birding on PEI and, in December, Ian Scott added a Society FaceBook site. The work on the section editors for the web site is targeted to be completed in 2013.

Thanks to the many Society members and others who contributed their wildlife observations and stories for the Society's *Island Naturalist* with five issues being released (#'s 201 - 2005). Dwaine Oakley, Greg Feetham, Ron Arvidson, Dwaine Biggar, Bill Bowerbank, Suzanne Getson, Ben Hoteling, Father Frank Jay, Mark Keizer, Paulette Kelly, Rosanne MacFarlane, Donna Martin, Evelyn Martin, Jim McClean, George Mills, Doug Murray, Emily Mutch, Jenn Roma contributed photographs, illustrations and/or drawings and Ron Arvidson, Bird Studies Canada, Jean Blanchard, Kate Bredin, Ray Cooke, Lou Daley, Fiep de Bie, Sue Foster, Shirley Gallant, Kathleen MacAuley, Barb MacDonald, Carolyn MacDonald, Chris MacDonald, Gerald MacDonald, Gene MacDonald, Shannon Mader, Kate MacQuarrie, Donna Martin, Kelsey McGee, Paul & Arlene McGuigan, Doug Murray, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Dwaine Oakley, Roberta Palmer, Julie Paquet, Ian Scott, David & Elaine Seeler, Scott Sinclair, Molly Stevens, Jennifer Stewart, Linda Thomas, Jackie Waddell, Jean Watts, Julie-Lynn Zahavich contributed articles or their content. Members were again afforded the opportunity to obtain electronic issues of the newsletter in Acrobat reader format in full colour. Dan McAskill packaged and mailed the newsletter to members and schools.

Society members Ray Cooke, Dwaine Oakley, and Dan McAskill served as the Society's lead team for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic. This effort was expanded with the addition of three new teams with the Trust's Team Dodo (Jackie Waddell, Linda Thomas and Sue Foster), Me & My Peeps (Shannon Mader, Julie-Lynn Zahavich, and Shirley Gallant) and Ron Arvidson's team which included Ron, Donna Martin, Jean Blanchard, Ian Scott, Ian Manning, Kathleen MacAuley and Kelsey McGee. The Island Nature Trust's Barb McDonald coordinated their hosting efforts for Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic. The donors and sponsor contributing to this project provided almost \$4,435 towards the Trust's land conservation program. The PEI Department of Environment, Labour and Justice, PEI Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and Fitzpatrick & Company Chartered Accountants provided the Birding Classic's corporate sponsorships. (See *Island Naturalist* Issue 205 article)

Thanks to donors' generosity in maintaining memberships and contributing prizes, the Society's financial position again remained healthy. Ann Wootton provided a cash donation to the Society. Evelyn Martin, Bill Bowerbank, Ian Scott, Meika Keunecke, Dutch Thompson and others contributed birding and related books, nest boxes and other items for the raffle prizes that raised \$155 towards the NHSPEI's PEI Science Fair prizes. The Society's revenues were \$1,891.90 while expenses were \$1,358.39. The Society completed the year with assets of \$9,367.44 most of this reserved for book publishing and project funds.

## **2013 SOCIETY EXECUTIVE ELECTED:**

The Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island held its Annual General Meeting on January 8th, 2013. Diane Griffin, Ian Scott and Barb MacDonald served on the Nomination Committee. Ian and Barb presented the Nomination Committee's recommendations for each position and the following individuals were elected by acclamation: Ian Scott as President; Don Jardine as Treasurer; Barb MacDonald as Secretary; Rosemary Curley and Ron Arvidson as Directors. There was no nomination for the position of Vice-President.

In addition, there was a motion approved to appoint the Newsletter Editor as a voting member of the Executive. Dan McAskill was elected to this position with the proviso that the necessary constitutional changes are made.

On behalf of the Society's membership, Ian Scott thanked the outgoing Executive Committee members of the Society, namely: Christina Pater who has served as Program Director for 2011 and as Program Director and Publicity Director in 2012; Dwaine Oakley who served as President for January to February 2012 and Vice President for 2011, Heather Fenton who served as Secretary for 2012; and Sue Whitaker who served as Treasurer from March to August, 2012.

The Executive Committee will continue to attempt to recruit a Vice-President.

## **WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME FOUND IN PEI BATS:**

White-nose syndrome (WNS) in bats was first found in North America in 2006. It spread rapidly between bat caves in part at least by spelunkers (cavers) exploring caves and spreading the fungal spores. This fungal disease kills the vast majority of bats and, once a colony is infected, there is little that can be done for the bats. White-nose syndrome spread rapidly and, within several years, was found in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It has caused decimation of bats in many of the primary overwintering caves in northeastern North America.

The first suspicious sign of its presence on PEI was the report of a bat flying at Rocky Point on Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> by Lois Doan. Then, in early February, a northern long-eared bat was found at Bonshaw. This bat was showing symptoms of white-nose syndrome. Staff of PEI's Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division collected the specimen and delivered it to the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre at Atlantic Veterinary Centre for testing.

The Division put out a press release on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> asking for individuals seeing dead bats or bats outside to call the Division. The phone calls started quite quickly and 7 more specimens were picked up and sent to AVC for assessment. The results confirming the presence of white-nosed syndrome were announced on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> and a second press release and a Compass story with Rosemary Curley was aired. While suspected, the confirmation of WNS is disheartening to all those interested in biodiversity. While some individual bats may survive the outbreak, the important ecological roles that bats play will be seriously impaired if not eliminated.

To date, the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division has received 19 reports of dead and live bats from 10 locations across PEI. Should you see dead or dying bats, please report them to the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division at 902-368-4683 or Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre at 902-628-4314.

Dr. Don McAlpine of the New Brunswick Museum will be speaking on "The Decline and Fall of Bats in Eastern Canada at the May 7<sup>th</sup> NaturePEI - Natural History Society's meeting (see Environmental Calendar).

*Editor's Note:* Thanks to Rosemary Curley for provision of background information as well as to Dr. Scott McBurney and Dr. Heather Fenton for their presentation to the Natural History Society in April, 2012.

## **BIRD FEEDING ALTERNATIVES FOR FINCHES:**

by Doug Murray

We have had a Northern Flicker at our suet feeder and today it is using another feeder set up for small birds. I attached our Christmas tree to a post on our deck and have poured niger thistle seed into the top branches. The seed works its way down through the branches and when we get large influxes of goldfinch and redpoll, they feed all through the tree. One more point on my tree feeder - I hang a small niger feeder directly above the tree and the birds help to replenish supply in the branches.

The year went quickly. A warmer than normal winter followed by an early and warm spring, meant that migration and nesting was early this year on PEI. It is difficult to say how the dry summer season affected nesting success.

Despite the weather PEI Birders were out in force for most of the year eventually reporting a total of 242 species in 2012.

YEAR	# SPECIES
2003	236
2004	249
2005	261
2006	247
2007	245
2008	251
009	243
2010	236
2011	241
2012	242

Given the numerous reports in 2012 I have attempted to cover only the highlights. This does not mean that other reports were ignored - in fact all reports are critical if we are to fully understand the nature of how avian species move through or nest on PEI. I wish to thank everyone who supplied reports in 2012! The list of species reported in 2012 is provided below.

Late December 2011 brought rain and continued warm temperatures to PEI. As a result, snow cover was non-existent across PEI. This resulted in a wide dispersal of species due to large areas of available food sources. Black ice did slow birders down on January 1<sup>st</sup>, but by day's end, 49 species (up from 43 in 2011) were reported. Scott Sinclair and Gary Schneider did not let road conditions slow them down. They scoured the eastern end of PEI and discovered a surprisingly late Horned Grebe on the Montague River - a great find for January 1<sup>st</sup>. The same day, Cathleen Gallant located the first of numerous Snowy Owls to be reported on PEI in 2012. This was located along the south end of the Souris Line Road. A late flock of 30 Cedar Waxwings were found at Covehead (PEINP) by David and Elaine Seeler. An early Turkey Vulture was spotted at Scales Pond on the 9<sup>th</sup> by Allie McLennan. This raised the question "was this to be another banner year for Turkey Vultures on PEI?". The same day the Wildlife Technology Class from Holland College, which had the opportunity to observe the Turkey Vulture, also found a female Redhead Duck at the Oyster Bed Bridge Causeway. It was an excellent find. The first report of a calling Great Horned Owl at Monticello was made on the 10<sup>th</sup> by Gerald MacDonald. The same evening Gisele Martin had a Short-eared Owl calling for an hour or so close to her home in Maximeville. A report of a Red-bellied Woodpecker was forwarded by Lois Doan on the 13<sup>th</sup>, who reported that one was tending feeders of a home on Quinn Road in the Kingston area. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the first sighting of the year for Pileated Woodpecker most likely stunned Melanie Sutherland, Meridith Brison-Brown and Haley Jeffery when they unexpectedly happened upon one in the Strathgartney Provincial Park. This was the first of a number of sightings for this species in 2012. A late Purple Sandpiper was located by Gary Schneider et. al. at East Point on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. They were also fortunate enough to be able to observe a Glaucous Gull in the same locale making the trip well worthwhile. Snow cover remained elusive until the 27<sup>th</sup> of January when snow, sleet and rain blanketed PEI. Perhaps sensing the coming storm, birds flocked roadside and to feeders. Sherron and Warren Foulkes were thus able to find a number of Pine Grosbeak roadside on Whitty Road. Similarly, Snow Buntings were finally added to the List by Ron Arvidson as they too flocked roadside in South Melville.

As February got underway, 6 cm of snow blanketed PEI. Carol Nicholson reported in early February that the Red-bellied Woodpecker that has been at her feeders for weeks continued to visit. Snow drove 13 Evening Grosbeaks onto Bill Hartford's feeder system in Cape Egmont. Bill indicated that he had not seen this species on his property in February for a number of years. Dwaine Oakley, out with his Wildlife Technology Class, was quite pleased for many reasons to find a male Canvasback on the 6<sup>th</sup> loafing at Vernon Bridge. This bird lingered

allowing a number of birders to add it to their life lists. James McClean of Summerside had a great winter. Since the beginning of the year, he had at least 3 Baltimore Orioles visiting his feeders. By the 7<sup>th</sup> of February, they were joined by a Red-bellied Woodpecker (3<sup>rd</sup> report for the year). Ron Arvidson reported a flock of at least 800 Snow Buntings roadside in South Melville on the 8<sup>th</sup> demonstrating the power of snow cover. Unfortunately no other species were observed mingling within the flock. Elsewhere, Pine Siskins, Cedar Waxwings, American Robins, Common Redpolls, a Rusty Blackbird (Donagh), a Yellow-headed Blackbird (Souris) and at least one Yellow-rumped Warbler were all driven in to feeders and reported by many individuals throughout the province in mid-February. Of these, the report of a male Northern Cardinal, visiting Gary Schneider's feeders is of interest as it did linger allowing a number of people an excellent



Canvasback at Vernon Bridge  
© Dwaine Oakley 2012

opportunity to view it. Four over-wintering Red-tailed Hawks were also noted mid-month by Donna Martin along Rte. 2 between Kensington and Sherbrooke. A very late, and thus overwintering Ruby-crowned Kinglet, was found in the company of a number of Golden-crowned Kinglets on the 17<sup>th</sup> by Glen Saunders in the Valleyfield Demonstration Woodlot. The Hybrid Wigeon returned again to Ellen's Creek this year, but unlike in previous years it was in the company of a female Eurasian Wigeon. Dwaine Oakley managed to document the pair on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Even more unusual for PEI was the report of 9 Purple Sandpipers located on the breakwater at Graham's Pond by Jim Sutton. Sherron and Warren Foulkes had a special surprise on the 26<sup>th</sup> when upon arriving home they discovered a Northern Saw-whet Owl perched at their front door. Red-headed Woodpecker is quite rare for PEI so many were pleased when Gary Griffin reported on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February that the male which arrived in November 2011 was still present. Many birders had the opportunity to view this exquisite bird. The same day Patty Richard reported that another Red-bellied Woodpecker had overwintered at her place (4<sup>th</sup> report). Other reports of Red-bellied Woodpeckers at this time included one in Clinton (Donna Sutton) and another in Montague (Dale Murchison). By month's end, the Winter Bird List officially closed and collectively PEI Birders reported a total of 118 species over the count period. Not a bad effort, especially given the rough weather conditions PEI Birders faced during February.

March began with a report of 3 Turkey Vultures on the ice near the bridge at Grand River by Karen Feetham. Yet another Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported on the 7<sup>th</sup> at Tea Hill by Fiep de Bie, further confirming a mini-invasion of PEI by this species. An early Wood Duck was flushed by Rosemary Curley et. al. on the 7<sup>th</sup> at the DU project "Jenkins #5". Other early arrivals included a male Northern Harrier on the 11<sup>th</sup> (Maximeville - Gisele Martin), a Killdeer on the 12<sup>th</sup> (Stanhope - Ben Hoteling), and Common Grackles on the 13<sup>th</sup> (Charlottetown - Kathleen MacAulay) all likely due to a rapidly developing spring. Another over-winterer, a White-crowned Sparrow of the western sub-species "gambel" continued at Greg Feetham's feeders as of the 16<sup>th</sup>. Quite a good bird to have for winter company. Yet another Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported on the 17<sup>th</sup> to have been present for a few weeks in the Frenchfort Road area by Pat Malone. Only two days later, an early American Woodcock was heard "peenting" in the Green Bay area by Jackie Waddell. As Jackie succinctly put it: "*Another sure sign of spring*". Sometimes anything can appear at a feeder, so imagine Gary Schneider's surprise when, on the 25<sup>th</sup>, he found a Turkey Vulture perched on his platform feeder. Not sure how the Northern Cardinal or other species took to the new diner. Four days later Bill Hartford observed a Turkey Vulture riding the thermals over the Cape Egmont area. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued their march through PEI with yet another being observed in Charlottetown on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March by the Island Nature Trust building by Jim Sutton.

In April, northward bound migrants poured over and onto the Island. The first Winter Wren was reported by Ray Cooke at Gairlock on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Warmer weather than normal meant an early and rapid migratory movement for the period for many species. Pileated Woodpeckers were reported both in the Fanning Brook area (Mary Myers) and in the Grand Tracadie area, with the latter being observed in a nesting hole in a poplar tree. A probable Sandhill Crane was reported on the 18<sup>th</sup> by Gerry Kennific but it did not linger and its true identity can only be surmised. A Glossy Ibis which also did not linger was observed by Glen and Mary Beaton at the Alexandria Golf Course on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April. Unusual to be reported in spring on PEI, and thus an excellent find, Rick Hawkins of the PEINP reported the presence of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher close to the Homestead Trail at the Cavendish NP on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Ben Hoteling observed yet another Turkey Vulture in flight in the Millcove area on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April. The

warm weather continued through May. On the 3rd, a Summer Tanager was reported at David Smith's home on the Toronto Road. This report represents the 6<sup>th</sup> documented record for this species on PEI. Unfortunately it did not linger. A Western Tanager was reported to have visited the feeders of Frank Giles in Souris West on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May and represents the 3<sup>rd</sup> report of that species for PEI. Two days later, Ron Arvidson reported a Summer Tanager at the bridge on Mill River Road providing the province with its 9<sup>th</sup> report of that species for PEI. The first report of Eastern Bluebird for the year came from Roberta Palmer and Linda Thomas when they located one along Blooming Point Road on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The same day, Gerald MacDonald also located 3 Eastern Bluebirds in the Community of East Point quickly raising the ante.

As May came to a close and June commenced, two pair of Great-crested Flycatchers were confirmed to be on PEI during the nesting season. One pair, located in Prince County by Dwaine Oakley represents the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> reports of that species. The second pair located by David Seeler in Queens County represents the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> reports for this species for PEI. It is unclear if either pair successfully raised young this year but the eastern pair were still present well into July, and when last seen at least one was observed carrying food. Father Frank Jay reported a Brown Thrasher on the Church Road in Rustico on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, Kip Lemke happened upon an Indigo Bunting at Brackley Beach. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, Brenda Cobb reported that Bonnie Townshend of Souris River was hosting an Eastern Bluebird at her feeders. Mike Fitzgerald of Clyde River reported on the 23<sup>rd</sup> that a pair of Baltimore Orioles was coming to his yard and feeders. Caught by surprise, on the 28<sup>th</sup> Elaine and I had just finished a shorebird count for the PEINP when, on leaving the Covehead area, a Snowy Egret flew across our windshield and landed in the shallow waters of Covehead Bay. Fortunately the bird lingered for a short period and a number of birders were able to view it. Where it came from or where it went to is unclear. With June drawing to a close, Roger Gidding reported a Northern Mockingbird in his Charlottetown yard which had been there for a few days. By Month's end a total of 204 species were reported for PEI.

July 12<sup>th</sup> brought a report of a pair of Scarlet Tanagers that had been visiting the home of Harry Smith in South Melville. This is a slightly unusual and exciting report given, that in general only single birds had been reported in the past. Later on July 30<sup>th</sup>, Bill Hartford reported that a female Dickcissel had begun to frequent his property. This bird did linger providing yet another unusual report for what had been a very quiet month. A Great Egret was reported on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July by Alan McLennan who observed the egret at Savage Harbour. This bird moved around some but it did linger in the general area for at least 6 weeks. Visiting PEI, Mr. Valentine and his wife came across a very unusual sighting for PEI when they discovered a pair of Black-necked Stilt



Female Dickcissel in July at Cape Egmont  
© William Hartford

Sandpipers on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August in the Kildare River estuary. This report represents the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> report of this species for PEI and was an excellent find. Another egret - or perhaps the same one in mobile mode - was reported by Mark Keizer on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August in the area of Fullerton's Marsh. While unusual for PEI, the Carolina Wren does visit on occasion. This year one was observed at the Green Gables Alpacas in Birch Hill on the 12<sup>th</sup>. It is not known if the bird lingered in the area. September began with the first report of a number of reports filed later in the year of a Snow Goose observed with a small flock of Canada Geese on the 1st. The next day, Dwaine Oakley and David Seeler reported observing a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at East Point and a Little Gull at Little Harbour (pun intended). Later in September, on the 25<sup>th</sup>, David & Elaine Seeler reported 2 Yellow-headed Blackbirds in the company of a small flock of European Starlings along Rte. 25 just inside the Community of Covehead. Also in late August, "Walshie" reported daily sightings of Great Shearwaters off North Rustico on the NaturePEI website and this was confirmed by Harry Yeo who seen them off Tracadie Harbour.

Few unusual shorebird species were reported in 2012. Donna Martin must have been quite pleased to locate and photograph 2 Stilt Sandpipers at St. Eleanor's in early October. There must be something about the Cape Egmont area. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, Bill Hartford reported yet another new yard bird when he was visited by a Red-bellied Woodpecker. Given the number reported on the Island to date one has to wonder if they nested here

last year. Also on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, Wade MacKinnon discovered 2 Sandhill Cranes in the Darnley area, clearly demonstrating that they had returned to the area again this year. The next day Greg & Sandra Feetham found 5 Sandhill Cranes loafing in the fields around the Darnley Bridge area. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, Jason Heffel noted a late swallow catching flies around his home in Souris West. The exciting aspect of this report is that he noticed an orange rump on the bird and that it had a squared tail! Unfortunately the bird did not linger and so it remains to our imagination as to whether this was a Cave Swallow, and thus a spectacular rarity, or an extremely late Cliff Swallow. Generally speaking Indigo Buntings are reported in the spring so it was a good find for Greg & Sandra Feetham when they located a female Indigo Bunting in a field with 2 Song Sparrows. They also found 6 American Pipits in a potato field in the same locale along Harmony Road. Cattle Egrets have been increasingly reported in the Fall on PEI so perhaps it should not have been a surprise when 4 were reported at Parks Corner by Eric Paynter on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October. This is a vast hilly area and subsequent attempts to relocate the birds were not successful. However, 2 Cattle Egret were observed on November 1<sup>st</sup> in a field with horses by Rosemary Gallinger at Seacow Pond near North Cape. Continuing with this theme, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 3, Cattle Egrets were observed in a field at a beef farm in Marshfield by Glen Kelly. Were there 9 Cattle Egret on PEI or did the group split up and lead PEI birders on a merry chase for a month or so? Back in October, the 6<sup>th</sup> record for Pink-footed Goose on PEI was established when Jim Sutton found one on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November in the company of Canada Geese in Guernsey Cove. This was a very good find. Rumours of at least one other Pink-footed Goose having been observed on PEI in 2012 have surfaced but to date no information has been proffered to confirm the sighting. The first of 2 Eastern Towhee reports was made by Dorothy MacLeod of Charlottetown, when one visited her yard on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of October. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued to make their presence felt on PEI in 2012. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of October, Brenda Cobbs notified me that another Red-bellied Woodpecker had taken up residence at Marcy Robinson's home in Rollo Bay. By all accounts, Mary was quite ecstatic to have such a beautiful bird tending her feeders.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, Rosemary Gallinger reported that a male Northern Cardinal had begun to visit her feeders on Palmer Road. Each year we receive reports of this species on PEI and I wonder when we will be able to routinely enjoy their presence at our feeders. The next day Fred Cheverie found an American White Pelican in Diligent Pond within the Community of East Point. This bird did linger providing many of our birders, and the CBC, with an opportunity to enjoy the views it provided. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> documented report of this species with at least 3 other undocumented reports also having been made over the years. A very late Greater Yellowlegs was discovered on the Souris River mudflats on the 9<sup>th</sup> by Dwaine Oakley. Presumably it made tracks to the south before it became too late. While returning home from East Point on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Greg and Sandra Feetham reported that they found a Cattle Egret in a pasture field at the intersection of Rte. 2 and Rte. 231. Our second Short-eared Owl report of the year came when Scott Sinclair found one working the East Point area on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. The same day Lois Doan observed a male Northern Cardinal at her feeders in Rocky Point and she last reported its presence at her home on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Joanne Dunphy of Souris also had a good visitor for the time of year when a Northern Mockingbird dropped into her yard for a brief stay. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> Danny Clark reported a Great Egret at Diligent Pond. It is difficult to say if the bird was blown onto PEI due to inclement weather or if it was the same one originally reported in Savage Harbour which had been moving about. The 26<sup>th</sup> brought a report of a male Eurasian Wigeon on the Barbara Weit River by Geoff Wood which is also a great find for PEI. Evening Grosbeaks were increasingly reported over the fall with the last report of the year being 7 tending Jackie Waddell's feeders at Green Bay.



Yellow-throated Warbler at York in December  
© Liz MacKay

A rare visitor to PEI, and in this instance only our 2<sup>nd</sup> confirmed record for the Province, Liz MacKay of York reported on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December that a Yellow-throated Warbler had arrived at their home. It remained at their home through the rest of 2012 and survived into early January. December 7<sup>th</sup> found another Red-bellied Woodpecker visiting the feeders of Gail and Joe Kern along the Argyle Shore. Surely a pair must have nested somewhere on PEI in 2012? On the 14<sup>th</sup> Geoff Wood passed along the message that the sole (and possibly late) American Coot for 2012 was located by Ben Moore in the Tignish River close to the bridge. The next day, Carolyn Cockram of Charlottetown reported an Eastern Towhee at her home. It is

difficult to say if it was the same bird which had earlier visited the home of Dorothy MacLeod in late October. Very late for PEI, a Wilson's Snipe was discovered in an open stream near Cass's Pond during the CBC by Roberta Palmer. Given that Pileated Woodpecker was reported in January, it is only fitting that we include the last report of the species for PEI in December. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of December, Juanita Kneabone reported 2 Pileated Woodpeckers in her yard. What an opportunity to view what generally is a very shy bird.

I think it is fitting to close this review with one final report. Dovekies are not readily observed on PEI unless there is a good storm in the works. On the second last day of the year, Jim and Karen Noble literally found a grounded Dovekie just off their doorstep! It must have been quite a sight to find this relatively rare bird dropping in for a visit. Fortunately, the strong winds that brought the bird to its personal predicament also permitted it the opportunity to actually take off from land. Last seen, it was headed towards Malpeque Bay, which I hope had some areas of open water for it to land on. Many others in similar situations in the past have been less fortunate.

What a year! Many sightings have not been included due to space constraints. However all reports are very important as we try to better understand the migration and avian usage patterns on and over PEI. Again I wish to thank everyone who took the time to send in a report.

In closing Elaine and I wish each and every one of you a fantastic year for 2013 and Good Birding to all!

## **SPECIES Reported: 242**

### **DUCKS, GEESE, AND WATERFOWL**

Pink-footed Goose  
Greater White-fronted Goose  
Snow Goose  
Brant  
Cackling Goose  
Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
Gadwall  
Eurasian Wigeon  
American Wigeon  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Northern Pintail  
Green-winged Teal  
Canvasback  
Redhead  
Ring-necked Duck  
Greater Scaup  
Lesser Scaup  
Common Eider  
Harlequin Duck  
Surf Scoter  
White-winged Scoter  
Black Scoter  
Long-tailed Duck  
Bufflehead  
Common Goldeneye  
Barrow's Goldeneye  
Hooded Merganser  
Common Merganser  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Ruddy Duck

### **PHEASANTS, GROUSE, TURKEYS, ALLIES**

Gray Partridge  
Ring-necked Pheasant  
Ruffed Grouse  
Sharp-tailed Grouse

### **LOONS**

Red-throated Loon  
Common Loon

### **GREBES**

Pied-billed Grebe  
Horned Grebe  
Red-necked Grebe

### **SHEARWATERS**

Great Shearwater

### **STORM-PETRELS**

Leach's Storm-Petrel

### **BOOBIES AND GANNETS**

Northern Gannet

### **CORMORANTS AND SHAGS**

Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Cormorant

### **PELICANS**

American White Pelican

### **HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNS**

American Bittern  
Great Blue Heron

Great Egret  
Snowy Egret  
Cattle Egret

### **IBISES**

Glossy Ibis

### **NEW WORLD**

### **VULTURES**

Turkey Vulture

### **OSPREY**

Osprey

### **HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES**

Northern Harrier  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Northern Goshawk  
Bald Eagle  
Broad-winged Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Rough-legged Hawk

### **RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS**

Virginia Rail  
Sora  
American Coot

### **CRANES**

Sandhill Crane

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS**

Black-bellied Plover  
American Golden-Plover  
Semipalmated Plover

Piping Plover  
Killdeer

### **STILTS AND AVOCETS**

Black-necked Stilt

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES**

Spotted Sandpiper  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Willet  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Upland Sandpiper  
Whimbrel  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Red Knot  
Sanderling  
Semipalmated Sandpiper  
Least Sandpiper  
White-rumped Sandpiper  
Baird's Sandpiper  
Pectoral Sandpiper  
Purple Sandpiper  
Dunlin  
Stilt Sandpiper  
Short-billed Dowitcher  
Long-billed Dowitcher  
Wilson's Snipe  
American Woodcock

### **GULLS, TERNS, AND SKIMMERS**

Black-legged Kittiwake  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Black-headed Gull

Little Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Iceland Gull  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Glaucous Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Caspian Tern  
Common Tern  
Arctic Tern

**SKUAS AND JAEGERS**  
Pomarine Jaeger  
Parasitic Jaeger

**AUKS, MURRES, AND PUFFINS**  
Dovekie  
Razorbill  
Black Guillemot

**PIGEONS AND DOVES**  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove

**OWLS**  
Great Horned Owl  
Snowy Owl  
Barred Owl  
Long-eared Owl  
Short-eared Owl  
Northern Saw-whet Owl

**NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES**  
Common Nighthawk

**HUMMINGBIRDS**  
Ruby-throated  
Hummingbird

**KINGFISHERS**  
Belted Kingfisher

**WOODPECKERS**  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
American Three-toed Woodpecker  
Black-backed Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker

**FALCONS**

American Kestrel  
Merlin  
Peregrine Falcon

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS**  
Olive-sided Flycatcher  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
Alder Flycatcher  
Least Flycatcher  
Eastern Phoebe  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Eastern Kingbird

**SHRIKES**  
Northern Shrike

**VIREOS**  
Blue-headed Vireo  
Philadelphia Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo

**CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES**  
Gray Jay  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Common Raven

**LARKS**  
Horned Lark

**SWALLOWS**  
Tree Swallow  
Bank Swallow  
Barn Swallow

**CHICKADEES AND TITS**  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Boreal Chickadee

**NUTHATCHES**  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch

**TREECREEPERS**  
Brown Creeper

**WRENS**  
Winter Wren  
Carolina Wren

**GNATCATCHERS**  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

**KINGLETS**  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

**THRUSHES AND ALLIES**  
Eastern Bluebird  
Veery  
Swainson's Thrush  
Hermit Thrush  
American Robin

**MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS**  
Gray Catbird  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher

**STARLINGS**  
European Starling

**WAGTAILS AND PIPITS**  
American Pipit

**WAXWINGS**  
Bohemian Waxwing  
Cedar Waxwing

**LONGSPURS AND SNOW BUNTINGS**  
Lapland Longspur  
Snow Bunting

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS**  
Ovenbird  
Northern Waterthrush  
Black-and-white Warbler  
Tennessee Warbler  
Nashville Warbler  
Mourning Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
American Redstart  
Cape May Warbler  
Northern Parula  
Magnolia Warbler  
Blackburnian Warbler  
Yellow Warbler  
Chestnut-sided Warbler  
Blackpoll Warbler  
Black-throated Blue Warbler  
Palm Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Yellow-throated Warbler

Black-throated Green Warbler  
Canada Warbler  
Wilson's Warbler

**BUNTINGS AND NEW WORLD SPARROWS**  
Eastern Towhee  
American Tree Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Vesper Sparrow  
Savannah Sparrow  
Nelson's Sparrow  
Fox Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco

**CARDINALS AND ALLIES**  
Summer Tanager  
Scarlet Tanager  
Western Tanager  
Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Dickcissel

**TROUPIALS AND ALLIES**  
Bobolink  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Yellow-headed Blackbird  
Rusty Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Baltimore Oriole

**SISKINS, CROSSBILLS, AND ALLIES**  
Pine Grosbeak  
Purple Finch  
Red Crossbill  
White-winged Crossbill  
Common Redpoll  
Hoary Redpoll  
Pine Siskin  
American Goldfinch  
Evening Grosbeak

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS**  
House Sparrow

## WEATHER EVENTS:

A rather narrow 10 to 15 cm deep belt of snow was laid down between Charlottetown and Brackley Beach on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> but warmer weather largely dissipated that snow. The first good winter snow storm occurred on Dec. 27 but was mostly restricted to western PEI. The nor'easter with winds of over 80 km per hour at times dropped about 15 cm of snow across much of the Island on Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>. The high winds and the accompanying storm surge continued on the next day (JDM). It broke up the 7 cm (3") of ice on the inner portion of St. Peter's Bay which were attracting some brave hearted smelt fishers (LY). Temperatures dropped into the -10 to -14° C and wind chills were in -23 to -25° C range. The January thaw occurred on Jan. 13 to 15 and largely cleared the 15 to 20 cm of snow and left many fields largely clear of snow. The ice on the Hillsborough River, which had been largely frozen over by Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, was open from the wharves to the harbour entrance on Jan. 14 and the ice on Belvedere Pond was open from the raceway to the edge of the pond adjacent to Riverside Drive and by weeks end to the spring by Walker Drive. Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> brought 1 day of -17 to -20° C before going to more average temperatures. The week of Jan. 21 to 25 brought real temperatures in the -17 to -21° C and wind chills into the -35° C before moving back into -12° C. Small leads were showing in pack ice off Brackley Beach and Covehead Harbour on Jan. 26 (JDM). Two high temperature records occurred on Jan. 30 and 31 with the latter recording a temperature of 12.3° C and there were associated wind gusts of over 90 km/hr (JDM).

By Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, the temperatures again dropped back below freezing but the snow in fields had largely disappeared. Blizzards on Feb. 4 and Feb. 9/10<sup>th</sup> again cloaked the province in snow with a combined 12 cm. The snow from the Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> blizzard was covered with heavy grains of sand along the Brazel Road in Donagh on Feb. 8 (JDM). These were promptly covered by a second blizzard on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and another blizzard on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> as well as heavy rain. High winds and rain meant that many fields in central Queens blew centre clear. Between Feb. and 24<sup>th</sup>, there was 20 cm of snow and 30.6 mm of rain in Charlottetown. There was more snow in western PEI than in Charlottetown but numbers were not available.

## ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:

Compiled by J. Dan McAskill

**PLANTS:** Good crop of staghorn sumac and winter berries at one homestead in Village Green (FdB, JDM).

**MAMMALS:** 63.8 pound **Eastern coyote** snared at Covehead by Randy Jewell on Dec. 3 (Charlottetown Guardian, HF); 1 wandering down road on Jan. 9 (W&SF); 1 at Pownal on Jan. 13 (FdB, JBI, KMacA, LF, SGC, BCM, IM). Lots of **red foxes** in Charlottetown and a red and silver at River View Estates (W&SF). **Muskrat** - 1 at Pownal on Jan. 13 (FdB, JBI, KMacA, LF, SGC, BCM, IM). **Bat** seen flying at Rocky Point on Jan. 12-3 & Feb. 13 (LD). A **northern long-eared bat**, the first bat discovered with then symptoms of white-nose syndrome on PEI, was found at Bonshaw in early February. It was sent to the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre at Atlantic Veterinary Centre for testing (Charlottetown Guardian Feb. 9, FRC) and the results confirming white-nosed syndrome were announced on Feb. 27 (FRC). To date, the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division has received 19 reports of dead and live bats from 10 locations across PEI. **Northern flying squirrel** at Donagh on Jan. 26 (JDM), 1 at Tea Hill on Jan. 27 (FdB). An all black (melanistic) red squirrel was pictured on CBC's Photo of the Day in January (SN). **Raccoon** foraging along Donagh Road on Feb. 1 and at feeders on Feb. 19 -21 (JDM).

**BIRDS:** **Canada Geese** - 500 at Dunk River estuary on Dec. 7 (JDM, LY), 2,000 at Alexandria on Dec. 24 (FdB), 100 at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 1 (DCS), 5,000+ in two small corn fields at Earncliffe on Jan. 1 (JDM), 41 at Murray River, 225 at Belle River grain field, & ~1,000 at Vernon River on Feb. 2 (DCS, JDM), 1,000 in corn stubble at Earncliffe on Feb. 16 (JDM); **Wood Ducks** - 1 at Pownal on Jan. 13 (FdB, JBI, KMacA, LF, SGC, BCM, IM); **Gadwall** - 100 at Chapel Creek in Cymbria on Dec. 16 (RA, FdB, JBI, SGC), 6 at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 1 (DCS), 9 on Jan. 26 (JDM) & 100 on Jan. 31 (BDP), at Legion Shore Road on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH), 1 at Pownal on Jan. 13 (FdB); **American Black Duck** - 40+ at Westmoreland River estuary at Desable on Dec. 7 (LY, JDM), 18 at Alberton on Dec. 20 (DCS), 100 in soya bean field at Bunbury on Dec. 27 (JDM), 1,000 in corn stubble at Earncliffe on Feb. 16 (JDM), 2 coming to feeder at Fernwood on Feb. 12 (GMcC), ~2,000 mostly blacks at corn and soya bean fields in Feb. (GS); **Mallard** - 40 flying at West Royalty over soya bean field on Dec. 6 (JDM), 30 at Chapel Creek in Cymbria on Dec. 16 (RA, FdB, JBI, SGC) & 80 on Jan. 26 (JDM), 6 at Gowan Brae on Jan. 4 (JGM, GSt), 40 at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 26 (JDM), 100 in corn stubble at Earncliffe on Feb. 16 (JDM), 50 at Fortune Bridge on Feb. 24 (DCS, JDM); **Northern Shoveler** - 3 at Hyde Creek-Ferry Road in Cornwall on Jan. 27 (RA) & male & female on Feb. 2 (JDM); **Northern Pintail** - 3 at Covehead Harbour on Dec. 15 (JDM), male & female at Alberton on Dec. 20 (DCS), at Clinton on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH), 4 males & 2 females at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 27 (IM, ME), 4 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 14

(DCS), 20+ males in stubble field at Wood Islands on Feb. 13 (GS), 12 (11 males & 1 female) at Fortune Bridge on Feb. 24 (DCS, JDM); **Eurasian Wigeon** - 1 at Barbara Waite River Dec. 7 (GW); **American Wigeon** - 5 at Gowan Brae on Jan. 3 (JGM, GSt), male & female at Knox's Dam where the dam was drawn down (Feb. 2 (DCS, JDM); **American Green-winged Teal** - 10 at Alberton on Dec. 20 (DCS), 1 at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 1 (DCS), at Gowan Brea on Jan. 4 (JGM, GSt), 4 at Moore's Pond marsh in Stratford on Jan. 26 (G&SF), 20 (90% males in breeding plumage) at Hyde Creek- Ferry Road on Jan. 26 & 7 on Feb. 2 (JDM), at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 27-8 (SGC), 1 at Stratford lagoon on Feb. 16 (JDM); **Eurasian Green-winged Teal (Common Teal)** - 1 at Southwest River during last week of Nov. (GW), 1 male at Hyde Creek- Ferry Road on Jan. 26 (JDM) & photographed on Jan. 27 (RA, IM, ME); **Greater Scaup** - at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH) & ~1,000 on Jan. 26 (JDM); **Lesser Scaup** - at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH) & 2 males on Jan. 26 (JDM); **Common Eider** - 12 off Dalvay on Dec. 8 (JDM), 14 on Hillsborough River off Red Point Road on Dec. 30 (WMacG), off PEI National Park on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH), ~1,000 at East Point on Jan. 4 (JGM, GSt), 200+ off East Point on Feb. 24 (DCS, JDM); **Harlequin Duck** - 23 at North Cape on Dec. 14 (BMo), at East Point on Jan. 4 (JGM, GSt); **Black Scoter** - at East Point on Jan. 4 (JGM, GSt); **Long-tailed Duck** - 3 off Dalvay on Dec. 8 (JDM), off PEI National Park on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH), at East Point on Jan. 3 (JGM, GSt), 3 off Dalvay on Jan. 6 (DCS), 100 off Sheep Pond in Souris West and 50+ off East Point on Feb. 24 (DCS, JDM); **Bufflehead** - pair at Dalvay Lake on Dec. 8 (JDM), 2 at Covehead on Jan. 12 (DCS), 2 males & a female at Souris on Feb. 24 (DCS, JDM); **Common Goldeneye** - 50 at Vernon Bridge on Jan. 1 (JDM), ~400 on Jan. 26 (JDM); **Barrow's Goldeneye** - at Rustico on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH), 7 at Montague River on Jan. 1 (FdB, MK), 1 at Basin Head on Jan. 4 (JGM, GSt), 5 males at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 26 (JDM) & 20+ on Jan. 12 & Feb 14 (DCS), 3 males and 1 female at Cardigan & 4 males at Murray River at Cardigan spring on Feb. 2 (DCS, JDM), 4 males at Souris on Feb. 24 (DCS, JDM); **Hooded Merganser** - male at Dalvay Lake on Dec. 8 (JDM), at Cardigan on Dec. 29 (GW, DCI), at Clinton on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH), 1 male at Cardigan spring on Feb. 2 (DCS, JDM); **Common Merganser** - 6 at Monticello on Dec. 21 (JGM), 50 at Vernon Bridge on Jan. 1 (JDM), ~75 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 26 (JDM), 80 at Murray River on Feb. 2 (DCS, JDM); **Red-breasted Merganser** - 15 at Stanhope Bay on Dec. 8 (JDM), 6 at Tea Hill on Dec. 24 (FdB), pair at Hyde Creek-Ferry Road on Jan. 26 (JDM); **Gray Partridge** - 12 at Scotchfort on Dec. 16 (WFB, EM, JDM), at Locke Shore Road on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH), 12 at Johnston River feeder the week of Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> (PW), 43 seen in 6 coveys from of from 3 to 12 birds between Naufrage and Scotchfort on Feb. 24 (DCS, JDM); **Ring-necked Pheasant** - male at Bunbury on Dec. 6 (JDM), 1 male each at Bethel, Mount Herbert and Mermaid (WFB, DD, JDM), 4 males at Donagh & 3 males at Bunbury open fields + male flying at Bunbury on Jan. 5 (JDM), 8 at soya bean field in Bunbury on Jan. 7 (JBI), 5 males and a female at Donagh soya bean field and 3 males and 2 females at Bunbury soya bean field edge beside Fullerton's Creek and 6 males in soya bean field edge next to Bouvyer in Bunbury on Jan. 13 (JDM); **Ruffed Grouse** - 1 at New Haven on Dec. 4 (FRC), 1 at Wood Islands on Dec. 24 (FdB), 1 at Cherry Valley on Dec. 29 (FdB, JDM); **Sharp-tailed Grouse** - two groups in fields (6 and 8 to 10) between Marie and Morell East (W&SF); **Great Cormorant** - at East Point on Jan. 4 (JGM, GSt), 1 at Souris Harbour and 3 at East Point on Feb. 24 (DCS, JDM); **Great Blue Heron** - 1 at Tignish Harbour on Dec. 20 (DCS), 1 near Kingston on Jan. 29 (WG); **Northern Harrier** - 1 at Point Prim on Dec. 4 (KMacA), 1 male at Village Green on Dec. 29 (FdB, JDM), 1 at Brackley North Marsh on Jan. 12 (DCS), 1 at Dalvay on Jan. 24 (PA), 1 found dead roadside with missing lower legs at Summerville on Jan. 29 (LJ); **Bald Eagle** - 2 between Charlottetown and Wood Islands on Dec. 4, adult at Tracadie Harbour on Dec. 8 (JDM), 3 adults at Monticello on Dec. 17 (JGM), adult at Strathgartney on Jan. 6 (IS), 2 adults & 7 immatures at Covehead on Jan. 6 (DCS), 1 immature at Georgetown, 3 immatures at Montague, 1 adult at Wood Island's, and 2 adults at Cherry Valley on Feb. 2 (DCS, JDM); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 1 almost daily at Crossroad's feeders in Dec. (AO), 1 at Monticello on Dec. 17 (JGM), 1 took starling at Tea Hill on Dec. 24 (FdB), 1 at Meadowbank on Dec. 29 (KS), 1 struck window and flew away at Charlottetown on Jan. 28 (SGC), 1 at crossing over University Ave. UPEI on Feb. 1 (JDM), 1 at Hermitage Road on Feb.3 (JGM); **Northern Goshawk** - 1 at Georgetown Royalty on Dec. 7 (SCS), 1 struck and fought with an immature Iceland Gull on Dec. 24 then moved into a tree on my approach, the gull was badly injured but still alive the next day (JGM), 1 at Rocky Point feeders on Jan. 13 (LD); **Red-tailed Hawk** - 6 between Charlottetown and Wood Islands on Dec. 4 (KMacA), 1 immature at Upton Road in West Royalty on Jan. 3 (GDM), 1 adult at New London with prey on Jan. 3 (TW), at Tea Hill feeders on Jan. 9 (FdB), 1 carrying food and being mobbed by several crows at Stratford on Feb. 2 (DCS, JDM), 1 at Monticello on Feb. 3 (JGM), 1 at West Royalty yard on Feb. 13, 15 & 16 (DCS); **Rough-legged Hawk** - 1 dark phase at Vernon River on Dec. 16 (DMacN), 1 at Earnscliffe & 1 along Trans Canada on Jan. 13 (FdB, JBI, KMacA, LF, SGC, BCM, IM), 2 dark phase at Earnscliffe on Feb. 2 (JDM), 1 at Cherry Valley and 1 at China Point on Feb. 15 (DO, WCT); **American Kestrel** - 1 male at Earnscliffe on Feb. 14 (DO, JeRo); **Merlin** - 1 at New Glasgow on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH), 1 at Stratford on Jan. 29 (Laverda); **Peregrine Falcon** - 1 beside Confederation Bridge between PEI & NB on Dec. 4 (RTr); **Large dark falcon** - 1 flew by Holland College window on Jan. 7 at Charlottetown (DO); **American Coot** - 1 at



Red-tailed Hawk at Summerside  
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Tignish River on Dec. 14 (BMo via GW) & Dec. 16 (G&SF); **Wilson's Snipe** - 1 at Cass's Pond on Dec. 16 (RP, LT), 1 at Earnscliffe on Dec. 14 (GW); **Bonaparte's Gull** - 50 at Stanhope Bay on Dec. 8 (JDM); **Black-headed Gull** - 1 at Stratford lagoons on Dec. 24 (DO), 1 at Stratford on Feb. 15 (DO, WCT); **Ring-billed Gull** - 1 at Cavendish on Jan. 13 (DCS); **Herring Gull** - present in low numbers this winter (JDM); **Iceland Gull** - 4 at Monticello on Dec. 21 (JGM); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** - 1 at Georgetown Royalty on Dec. 24 & Jan. 1 (SCS), adult at Montague near wharf on Feb. 2 (DCS, JDM); **Glaucous Gull** - 1 at Stratford on Dec. 26 (FdB), 1 at Cavendish on Jan. 13 (DCS); **Great Black-backed Gull** - 17 at Murray Harbour on Feb. 2 (DCS, JDM); **Dovekie** - 1 at Malpeque on Dec. 30 in lull of the nor'easter (J&KN via SH); **Rock Pigeon** - 14 at Monticello on Dec. 17 (JGM), 23 at Crapaud on Dec. 30 (DD); **Mourning Dove** - 8 at Argyle Shore in early Dec. (LY, JDM), 40 to 50 at Shamrock on Dec. 13 (RB, MMcM), 30+ at grain silo at Earnscliffe on Jan. 1 (JDM), up to 35 at South Winsloe feeders in Jan. (DEJ), 4 to 16 at Donagh feeders in Jan. (JDM); **Snowy Owl** - three reported near feeders this winter (PM), 1 at Summerside on Feb. 28 (DO, MS, JO); **Great Horned Owl** - calling at Georgetown Royalty on Dec. 24 (SCS); **Barred Owl** - 1 near Newton on Dec. 2 (FMcC), see CBC report; **Northern Saw-whet Owl** - 1 calling at Stanhope on Feb. 26 (BH); **Belted Kingfisher** - 1 at Brudenell on Dec. 4 (DMacN), 1 at Wood Island's on Dec. 4 (KMacA), 1 at Monticello on Dec. 21 (JGM), 1 at Rocky Point on Jan. 13 (LD), 1 at Bay Fortune on Feb. 24 (DCS, JDM); **Red-bellied Woodpecker** - 1 at Argyle Shore in early Dec. (J&GK), 1 at Rollo Bay in Dec. (MRo), pair observed at Charlottetown feeder summer 2012 (via DO), male & female near Hunter River during 2012 summer and a male on Jan. 5 (LF); **Downy Woodpecker** - 2 at Pleasant Grove on Jan. 4 (SG), 1 at Egmont on Jan. 6 (G&SF, LH), 2 at Tea Hill feeders in Jan. (FdB), male or female in Jan. (JDM), 1 at West Royalty feeders in Jan. & Feb. (DCS); **Hairy Woodpecker** - 1 female most days at Crapaud in Dec. (DD), 1 at Egmont on Jan. 6 (G&SF, LH), 2 at Tea Hill feeders in Jan. (FdB), 1 female in Jan. (JDM), 1 at West Royalty feeders in Jan. & Feb. (DCS); **Black-backed Woodpecker** - 1 at Green Road on Nov. 29 (BH), 1 at Winter River Trail on Dec. 2 (JMB); **Northern Flicker** - male & female at Riverside estates in Charlottetown in early Dec. (WFB, EM), 1 at Locke Shore Road on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH), 1 at Charlottetown on Jan. 4-6 (LT), 1 at Tea Hill feeders on Jan. 7 & 13 & 2 on Jan. 27 (FdB), 1 at Lakeside on Jan. 12 (ADM), 2 immatures at Stratford feeders in Dec. & Jan. (A&PM), 1 at West Royalty feeders in Jan. 2 & Feb. 5, 8, 17 & 18 (DCS); **Pileated Woodpecker** - 1 at Naufrage on Dec. 2 (CGM), 2 at Hazelgreen Road on Dec. 28 (JKn via REM), 2 calling at Alliston on Feb. 25 (IM); **Northern Shrike** - 1 at Monticello on Dec. 17 & Feb. 3 (JGM), 1 at Indian River on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH); **Gray Jay** - 1 at Monticello on Dec. 28 (JGM), 1 at Dromore on Feb. 16 (DO); **Blue Jay** - 30+ at Crossroads feeders in Dec. (AO); **Horned Lark** - 3 at Earnscliffe on Dec. 29 (FdB, JDM), 20+ on Jan. 1 (JDM), 60 on Jan. 6 (DCS), 6 on Jan. 13 (FdB, JBl, KMacA, LF, SGC, BCM, IM), & 20 on Jan. 18 (DCS), at Locke Shore Road on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH), 100 at Pownal on Jan. 18 (DCS), 18 at Tea Hill on Jan. 6 (FdB), 18 at Community of East Point on Feb. 24 (DCS, JDM); **Black-capped Chickadee** - 10 at Pleasant Grove on Jan. 4 (SG), 4 to 8 at Donagh in Jan. (JDM); **Boreal Chickadee** - 1 at Linkletter on Jan. 6 (G&SF, LH), 3 at Monticello on Feb. 3 (JGM); **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 at Woodlands Trail in PEI National Park on Dec. 25 (FdB), 2 at Pleasant Grove on Jan. 4 (SG); **White-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 at Cornwall on Jan. 4 (SN), 1 at Tea Hill feeders on Jan. 7 (FdB); **Boreal Chickadee** - at Point Prim on Dec. 4 (KMacA), 1 at Linkletter on Jan. 6 (G&SF, LH); **Cliff or Cave Swallow** - 1 swallow with orange rump and square tail at Souris West on Oct. 15 (JHe via DO); **Brown Creeper** - 1 most days at Stratford in Dec. & early Jan. + Jan. 30 (A&PM); **Golden-crowned Kinglet** - 2 at Woodlands Trail in PEI National Park on Dec. 25 (FdB), female eating suet at Elliott Park feeder on Feb. 9 (SN); **American Robin** - 1 at Point Prim on Dec. 4 (KMacA), 1 at Sherwood on Jan. 25 at Sherwood (BR), 1 at Rocky Point feeding on holly berries on Feb. 9 (LD), 2 at Cherry Valley on Feb. 15 (DO, WCT); **Brown Thrasher** - photographed this winter at Tignish (D&JGa via ST); **Northern Mockingbird** - 1 at Souris on Dec. 15 (JD); **European Starling** - 7,000+ daily at Hillsborough bridge roost in Nov. & Dec. (JDM, DO), 1,000 plus in Jan. - Feb. at Earnscliffe (JDM), 2,000 during drive via Route 2 from Urbainville to Charlottetown on Feb. 15 (JDM); **UID Waxwings** - flock at Stratford on Dec. 28 (JC); **Bohemian Waxwing** - 18 at Pownal on Dec. 6 (FdB), 33 at Woodlands Trail in PEI National Park on Dec. 25 (FdB), 300 to 400 feeding on winter berries at Village Green on Dec. 29 (FdB, JDM) 110 at West Royalty feeders in Jan. 5 (DCS), 12 at Sherwood feeders on Jan. 30 (CCo); **Cedar Waxwing** - see CBC report; **Lapland Longspur** - 35 at Earnscliffe on Dec. 29 (FdB, JDM), 5 on Jan. 1 (JDM), 150 on Jan. 5 (DCS), 10 on Jan. 13 (FdB, JBl, KMacA, LF, SGC, BCM, IM), & 87 on Jan. 18 (DCS), 4 at Lake Shore Road on Jan. 6 (G&SF, LH); **Snow Bunting** - very few reports in Dec. (JDM), 8 to 10 at Earnscliffe on Dec. 29 (FdB, JDM) & 50+ on Jan. 1 (JDM), at Locke Shore Road on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH), 42 at Stanhope on Jan. 6 (DCS), 15 at North Rustico on Jan. 13 (DCS), 1 at West Royalty feeders in Jan. 18 & Feb. 14 (DCS) 15 at Wood Islands on Feb. 2 (DCS, JDM), 300 roadside at Donagh on Feb. 22 (JDM), ~400 during 287 km road trip to NE PEI on Feb. 24 (DCS, JDM); **Pine Warbler** - 1 in NE PEI in late Dec. (WB via GGr & DO), 1 at Alberton on Jan. 3 (JWe); **Yellow-throated Warbler** - 1 at Little York on Dec. 7 (LM, DO, BH, JeRo, BHa), on Dec. 8 (G&SF, FdB, SGC, JDM), Dec. 14 (DO), Dec. 16 (RP, LT, RA, FdB, JBl, SGC), still present on Jan. 3 (LM); **Eastern Towhee** - 1 at Charlottetown (Beer Street) on Dec. 15 (CC); **American Tree Sparrow** - 1 at Stratford feeders most days in Dec.- Jan. (A&PM), at Locke Shore Road on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH), 2 or 3 most days at Donagh feeders in Jan. & Feb. (JDM), 5 at Monticello on Feb. 3 (JGM), at Wood Islands on Jan. 10 (GS), 1 at Watervale on Feb. 18 (AC), 2 at Tryon in Feb. 18 (BCI), 5 at Cable Head on Feb. 24 (DCS, JDM); **Fox Sparrow** - few at Charlottetown (Doc Blanchard Cres.) on Dec. 31 (BN); **Song Sparrow** - 1 at Stratford feeders on Dec. 12 to Jan. 30 (A&PM), 1 at Wood Islands on Dec. 24 & 2 in early Jan. (GS), 1 at Wood Islands on Jan. 10 (GS) & Feb. 2 (DCS, JDM), 1 at West Royalty feeders in Jan. & Feb. (DCS); **White-throated**

**Sparrow** - 3 at South Winsloe feeders on Jan. 28 (DEJ), 1 at West Royalty feeders in Feb. 3 & 5 (DCS); **White-crowned Sparrow** - 1 at Wood Islands on Jan. 10 (GS), 1 at Wood Island's on Feb. 2 (DCS, JDM); **Dark-eyed Junco** - at Stratford feeders on Dec. 12 (A&PM), a few daily at Donagh feeders in Dec. & up to 10 in Jan. & Feb. (JDM), dozen at Wood Islands on Dec. 24 & Jan. 4 (GS), 2 at Crapaud on Dec. 30 (DD), 6 at Charlottetown (Doc Blanchard Cres.) on Dec. 31 (BN), 12 at Pleasant Grove on Jan. 4 (SG), 12 at Wood Islands on Jan. 10 (GS); **Northern Cardinal** - 1 at Morell in Nov. 30 (MF via GSt), male daily at Palmer's Road in early Dec. (RG), picture of male on CBC TV web site on Jan. 4 (CCI via DCS), 1 at Rustico around Christmas (JG via RA FaceBook site), 1 at Nail Pond on Jan. 5-6 (LB via JBl) 1 photographed at York Point on Jan. 8 (L&BM); **Red-winged Blackbird** - 2 females at Monticello on Nov. 19 (JGM), 1 at Stanhope on Dec. 16 (FRC, DFG), 12 at Wood Islands on Dec. 24 into early Jan. (GS) & 5 on Feb. 2 (DCS, JDM), 1 at Murray Harbour on Jan. 1 (DL via FRC), female at Johnston River feeder the week of Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> & 4 on Jan. 21 (PW via ADM), 2 females at West Royalty on Feb. 17 & 18 (DCS); **Common Grackle** - 1 at Crapaud on Dec. 17 (DD), 1 at Johnston River feeder the week of Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> (PW); **Brown-headed Cowbird** - 3 at Wood Islands on Dec. 24 & 24 on Jan. 10 (GS), 2 pair at Johnston's River in mid Jan. (PW via ADM), 2 females at Stratford feeders on Feb. 10 (A&PM), 2 at South Melville feeders on Mar. 1 (R&AA); **Pine Grosbeak** - 6 taking grit at Monticello in early Dec. (JGM), 6 to 8 with 1 male at Breadalbane on Dec. 13 (MJ), 6 at Monticello on Dec. 17 (JGM), 3 roadside at North Lake on Jan. 4 (JGM, GSt), 2 taking shelter in storm in early Feb. at Monticello (JGM), 50+ at Greenwich soya bean field on Feb. 24 (DCS, JDM); **Purple Finch** - at Charlottetown (Doc Blanchard Cres.) on Dec. 31 (BN), pair at Wood Islands in early Feb. with redpolls and dozens of goldfinches (DBe), pair at Wood Islands on Feb. 7 (DBe), 1 at Tea Hill feeders on Feb. 22 (FdB); **Red Crossbill** - male & female at Annadale on Dec. 12 (CG); **White-winged Crossbill** - 2 at Souris on Dec. 2 (CGM) at Wood Islands on Dec. 4 (KMacA), small group at Rice Point on Dec. 10 (DCa), male & female at Winsloe South feeders on Dec. 14 (DEJ), at Locke Shore Road on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH), at Johnston River feeder the week of Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> (PW); **Hoary Redpoll** - 1 photographed at Lakeside feeders on Jan. 20 & Feb. 10 (ADM), 1 *exilipes* race at West Royalty on Feb. 18 (DCS), 1 at Souris with flock of Common Redpoll on Feb. 24 (DCS, JDM); **Common Redpoll** - 29 at Monticello on Dec. 17 (JGM), at Locke Shore Road on Jan. 1 (G&SF, LH), 30 at Stratford feeders on Jan. 6 (DFG), at Lakeside feeders on Jan. 11 (ADM), at Johnston River feeder the week of Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> (PW), at Georgetown Royalty feeders on Feb. 2 (DCS, JDM), at Tryon in Feb. 18 (BCI); **Pine Siskin** - 2 at Tea Hill on Dec. 25 & 3 on Feb. 24 (FdB), flock at Charlottetown (Doc Blanchard Cres.) on Dec. 31 (BN); **American Goldfinch** - 16 at Monticello on Dec. 17 (JGM), 10 at Pleasant Grove on Jan. 4 (SG), 10 at Stratford feeders on Jan. 6 (DFG), 4 to 24 at Donagh feeders in Jan.-Feb. (JDM), 12 at Wood Islands on Feb. 7 (DBe), many at Tryon in Feb. 18 (BCI); **Evening Grosbeak** - female almost daily at Crossroad's feeders in Dec. (AO), 7 at Springvale on Dec. 2 (JW), 24 at Emyvale feeders from before Christmas to at least late Jan. (VB via JW), 1 at Emyvale on Jan. 29 (Emyvale), males & 1 female at Montague feeder on Jan. 1 (JDM), 2 at feeders beside Black Pond (Pleasant View) in early Jan. (JBl), 12 at South Melville feeders on Mar. 1 (R&AA); **House Sparrow** - 12 at St. Eleanors on Jan. 6 (G&SF, LH), 8 to 18 at West Royalty feeders in Jan. & Feb. (DCS).



Hoary & Common Redpolls at Lakeside  
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**Error Correction:** The Cattle Egret citation by RG in Island Naturalist #205 should have read **2 Cattle Egrets** at Seacow Pond on Nov. 1, 2012.

**Older reports:** Great Shearwater off North Rustico in Aug. (Walshie) Tracadie Harbour in Aug. (LY).

Thanks to the following contributors who provided records for this listing, namely: AA - Anne Arvidson; PA - Paul Ayles; RA - Ron Arvidson; DBe - Dean Bears; JMB - Jean Brunet; JBl - Jean Blanchard; LB - Linda Bernard; MBB - Meredith Brison-Brown; RB - Rusty Bittermann; VB - Valerie Beer; WB - Wanda Bailey; WFB - Bill Bowerbank; AC - Alma Currie; BCl - Barbara Clements; BCo - Brenda Cobb; CC - Carolyn Cockram; CCl - Cecil Clements; CCo - Cheryl Coulson; DCI - Doug Clarey; DCa - Don Carroll; EC - Elwood Coakes; FRC - Rosemary Curley; GC - Ginny Cook; JC - Jim Crombie; RC - Ray Cooke; SGC - Sharon Clark; FdB - Fiep de Bie; DD - Daphne Davies; JD - Joanne Dunphy; LD - Lois Doan; ME - Millard Ells; G&SF - Greg & Sandra Feethan; HF - Heather Fenton; LF - Leah Fraser; MF - Muriel Fraser; W&SF - Warren & Sherron Foulkes; CG - Carolyn Gallant; DFG - Diane Griffin; D&JGa - Donna & James Gaudet; GGr - Garry Gregory; JG - Jacqueline Gallant; RG - Rosemary Gallinger; SG - Shirley Gallant; WG - Wayne Gairns; BH - Ben Hoteling; BHa - Bonnie Hayden; BHo - Betty Howatt; BeHo - Beth Hoar; WGH (formerly BHa) - Bill Hartford; L&JH - Les & Joan Homans; JHe - Jason Heffel; SH - Sally Hooff; DEJ - Don Jardine; LJ - Locke Jones; MJ - Marianne Janowicz; J&GK - Joe & Gail Kern; JKn - Juanita Kneabone; MK - Meika Keunecke; DL - Derek Lowe; ADM - Allie McLennan; A&PM - Arlene & Paul McGuigan; BCM - Bonnie McOrmond; BMo - Ben Moore; B&GM - Bonnie & Garth MacIsaac; CGM - Cathleen (Gallant) MacCormack; DMacN - Dave MacNearney; DMo - Denise Motard; GDM - Gerald MacDougald; GMcC - Gail McCourt; IM - Ian Manning;

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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 Beaconsfield's Carriage House at 2 Kent Street in Charlottetown.*

*YN = young naturalists encouraged to attend or participate*

- Mar. to Apr. 28 - Canada's Waterscapes, Yours to Enjoy, Explore and Protect Exhibition.** Eptek Centre in Summerside, one of the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation's sites is hosting the Canadian Museum of Nature's Canada's Waterscapes Exhibition. Eptek is open 10 am to 4 pm Tuesday to Friday and Sunday 12 to 4 pm. Admission by donation.
- Mar. 20 - Shorebirds of PEI.** Shannon Mader will be offering this presentation as part of the Island Nature Trust's Confederation Centre Public Library Nature Series. The presentation starts at 7:00 PM at the Confederation Library.
- Mar. 24 - Dragonfly Workshop.** Parks Canada staff will be providing a presentation on dragonflies At Eptek Centre in Summerside at 2 pm. The presentation will be offered in French at 1 pm. Admission by donation.
- Apr. 2 - Canadians, Cacti and Chachalacus.** Sue and John Whitaker, the guest speakers for the Society's regular monthly meeting, will take you along on their four month trip across parts of Canada and the United States with their 13 foot trailer and 90 pound dog. They will show some fascinating photos and highlight some of the amazing natural history they experienced on their journey. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm at Beaconsfield's Carriage House at 2 Kent Street.
- Apr. 26 - Island Nature Trust Annual Dinner and Auctions.** This gala fund raising dinner will be held at the Wanda Wyatt Dining Hall at UPEI. Tickets are \$50 and are available from the Trust at 892-7513 or at the Natural History Society's March and April meetings. The reception starts at 6 pm.
- May 7 - The Decline and Fall of Bats in Eastern Canada.** Dr. Don McAlpine will be the guest speaker for the Society's regular monthly meeting. He will be speaking on white-nosed syndrome in the caves of the Maritimes. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm at Beaconsfield's Carriage House at 2 Kent Street.
- May 22 - International Day of Biodiversity.** The theme is *Water and Biodiversity*
- May 25 - The Natural History Society's Bain Bird Count.** Members are encouraged to form teams and participate in this Society spring bird count. Please contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351 or by E-mail at [jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca)
- Jun. 4 - Birding through the Seasons.** Ron Arvidson will feature a retrospective look at birding fun with friends and enemies, in the many secret PEI places, through the seasons for the Society's regular monthly meeting. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm at Beaconsfield's Carriage House at 2 Kent Street.
- Jun. 16 to 19 - The 2013 Canadian Rivers Heritage Conference** which will be held at the Delta Prince Edward. This prestigious international river heritage conference focuses on the theme *Rivers: Building Nations . . . Sustaining Peoples* and will bring together a wide spectrum of individuals interested in various facets of rivers from their aesthetic qualities and sense of place to science, watershed governance, culture and economy. For more information, please contact or contact Don Jardine, the Conference Coordinator, by phone at 902-368-5092 or via e-mail at [contact@riversconference.ca](mailto:contact@riversconference.ca) See our website at [www.riversconference.ca](http://www.riversconference.ca)