ISLAND NATURALIST

Nature PEI

ISSUE # 210 **JAN. - MAR. 2014**

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

Meetings are held of the first Tuesday of the month (except July, August, and September) at 7:30 p.m. at **Beaconsfield, the Carriage House, corner of West and Kent Street in Charlottetown**. Each meeting commences with a brief business meeting followed by a nutrition break and our 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.

2014 Executive:

President .....Ian Scott, Charlottetown 892-5796 scotts@pei.sympatico.ca
Vice-President .....Vacant .....
Past President ....Diane Griffin, Stratford 569-2343 dianegriffin@eastlink.ca
Secretary .....Bonnie McOrmond, Charlottetown 628-6994 bcmcormond@eastlink.ca
Treasurer .....Don Jardine, Winsloe South 368-2549 dejardine@eastlink.ca
Director- Program & Publicity ..... Rosemary Curley, Stratford 569-1209 rcurleypei@eastlink.ca
Director - Field Trips .....Ron Arvidson, South Melville 658-2566 arvidson@pei.sympatico.ca
Newsletter Editor.....Dan McAskill, Donagh 569-4351 jdmcaskill@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, pictures, 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, Nature PEI (NHSPEI), 368 Brazel Road, Donagh, P.E.I. C1B 0T9 or via E-mail to jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca The ***next deadline*** for articles, sightings, or other newsletter information is *May 5, 2014.*

Illustrations/Pictures: The Society extends a special thanks to Fiep de Bie, Pierre-Yves Daoust, Greg Feetham, Mary McDougall and Don McLelland 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

Nature PEI gratefully acknowledges support from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development which enables distribution of newsletters to schools and libraries desiring it. The 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:

This immature Bald Eagle was one of three photographed on February 21, 2014 at Donaldston by Don McLelland. The eagles, two immature and one mature, were feeding on a raccoon in an open field and had already eaten much of it. Bald Eagles take four years before they reach the adult stage. The female Bald Eagle is larger than the male and, once they form a pair bond, they mate for life. On PEI, Bald Eagles are already touching up their nests through the addition of nesting material. While this species has made a spectacular recovery since the 1960's when there was only one eagle left on the Island, a number or dead or weak eagles have been examined by the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at AVC have been found in poor condition because of the ingestion of lead pellets. Lead poisoning has been a problem for a number of species. Lead shot was banned for waterfowl hunting a number of years ago.

2013 SOCIETY'S PRESIDENTS' REPORT: by Ian Scott

My special thanks to the Nature PEI's Executive Council and the members of Nature PEI (Natural History Society of PEI) for their participation and support of natural history in Prince Edward Island during 2013. Commencing in January, this year's volunteer Board was led by Ian Scott (President), Diane Griffin (Past-President), Barb MacDonald (Secretary), Don Jardine (Treasurer), Ron Arvidson (Field Trips Director), Rosemary Curley (Programs & Publicity Director), and Dan McAskill (Editor of the Island Naturalist). Randy Dibblee became the Society's representative on the General Council of the Island Nature Trust in February. In November, Julie Vasseur joined the Executive Council as Vice-President.

The Society expanded its relationship with the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation by moving its meetings from The Farm Centre to the Carriage House, Beaconsfield in January. Ian Scott led this initiative as well as the preparatory work for a "Birds of PEI" exhibition and an anthology of natural history articles from the *Island Magazine*. In April, the Society hosted a booth at the 2013 Earth Week Celebration. In addition, the Society's logo was placed in the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas II which is to be launched in 2014. Ian represented the Society at the Land Use Task Force Consultation on May 2nd and Ian and Diane subsequently met with the Task Force for a detailed discussion on land use issues. The Executive researched, prepared and submitted the Society's recommendations in response to the publication *Planning for a Sustainable Future: A Time for Questions* in June. Representatives of the Society met with the PEI Agriculture and Forestry Minister George Webster to discuss Canadian Wildlife Service's proposed expansion of hunting seasons and bag limits as well as participation in the Minister's Breakfast Meeting with conservation groups. Two natural history and education project submissions in conjunction with the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation for the PEI 2014 Fund grants were submitted but were unsuccessful. Representatives of the Society subsequently met with Dr. David Keenlyside and Boyde Beck to discuss the proposed anthology of natural history articles from the Island Magazine. The Executive discussed the costs and methodology for production then made a written offer to the Museum to assist with the project. Barbara MacDonald and Ian Scott discussed the "Birds of PEI" project with Paula Kenny and David Keenlyside of the Museum with the goal of producing an exhibit at the Eptek Art and Cultural Centre. Due to limitations on volunteer time, little progress was made on the initiative with UPEI to scan the old issues of the Island Naturalist so that they are more readily accessible. In September, the Executive held a brainstorming session to look at ways to enhance the Society. In autumn, Nature PEI and the PEI Women's Institute Mount Buchanan - Point Prim WI District developed the Feeding our Birds Award which was judged in November and awarded in December. The Society wrote to UPEI's President Abd-El-Aziz To express concern over the need for a revised charter for the Institute of Island Studies. In early December, representatives of the Society's Executive met with Greg Shaw, the Project Manager for Parks Canada for a proposed Robinson Island Project, to the proposed road removal and multi-use trail creation project, including beginner mountain biking technical features, and to provide recommendations to address birding, science and mobility access concerns. In late December, the Society submitted a letter to the editor of The Guardian supporting the need for a museum of natural history.

The Society held nine Executive Council meetings and two special planning meetings during the year. Efforts to recruit new Executive Council members to address changes in the Executive were successful. Ian Scott, Barbara MacDonald and Diane Griffin served on the Membership Drive Committee. A revised draft Society brochure prepared by Barb MacDonald and is under consideration. Don Jardine prepared and submitted the Charitable Income Tax Return for the Society. Rosemary Curley and Don Jardine coordinated the periodic draw prizes which fund the PEI Science Fair natural history prizes. Diane Griffin and Ian Scott judged the natural history entries for the PEI Science Fair at UPEI and there were winners at two of the three category levels. John Klymko of the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre led the fourth 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 featuring Barb Trainor and Diane Griffin's "Wildlife and Its Management in Tanzania"; Karin Samis' "Only Bad People Plant Non-native Species in their Gardens"; Ron Arvidson's "Hooked on Birding"; Susan and John Whitaker's "Canadians, Cacti and Chachalacas"; Dr. Don McAlpine's "The Decline and Fall of Bats in Eastern Canada"; Ron Arvidson's "Birding through the Seasons"; Jackie Waddell's "New Developments in Piping Plover Management - Risks and Benefits"; and Gerald MacDougall's "PEI Offshore Islands, Values and Benefits"; and Dr. Maria Sylva's "The PEI Urban Fox Project: Coexisting with Foxes". In addition to the audio-visual presentations, the Ron Arvidson organized seven field trips: Jan. 17 (Coffee, Crows, and Chat), Apr. 28 (The Marsh, Early Arrivals), May 11 (Looking for Species at Risk, Desable), May 19 (Explore Strathgartney), Jun. 21 (Explore North Cape), Oct. 27th (The Joggins Fossil Cliffs); and Nov. 17 (Charlottetown and area waterfowl hot spots). These presentations were usually publicized in The Buzz, Guardian Community Notice columns, CBC radio and released on the Society's e-news list and Birding on PEI Face book page.

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 2013 bird list, and winter bird lists. The Birdlist Service (UPEI Birdlist Server 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. In addition, Ron Arvidson and Sharon Clark expanded the Birding on PEI Face book page which has attracted new people to PEI's birding community and assisted with the collection of bird records. Thanks to the records of sighting contributors, the Island's 2013 bird list reached 244 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. As well, Dan reviewed the Island's Great Backyard Bird Count reports. For the first time since the circle was created, the PEI National Park CBC was postponed three times because of storms and extreme weather forecasts. Diane and Kevin Griffin hosted the potluck for the Hillsborough CBC but the multiple cancellations of the PEI National Park CBC led to the cancellation of the pot luck for this count. Ron Arvidson led Society participation in the "Big Birding Week" event coordinated by Parks Canada.

During the year, the Society made a contribution of $180 to the PEI Science Fair natural history prizes and a donation of $200 to the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation. Rosemary Curley coordinated the E-mail distribution of Society notices about upcoming Natural History Society events. The Society's website, NaturePEI.ca, continued as did its Face book page. The work on designation of section editors was not completed.

Thanks to the many Society members and others who contributed their wildlife observations and stories for the Society's *Island Naturalist*, four issues were released (#'s 206 - 2009). Carolyn Cockram, Greg Feetham, Carolyn Fields, Donna Giberson, William Hartford, Michael Haynes, Don Jardine, Father Frank Jay, Liz MacKay, Allie McLennan, Doug Murray, Nicole Murtagh, Dwaine Oakley, Kailum Rogers, and Glenn Saunders contributed photographs, illustrations and/or drawings and Ron Arvidson, Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists, Bird Studies Canada, Sharon Clark, Rosemary Curley, Fiep de Bie, Shirley Gallant, Diane Griffin, Dan Kennedy, Kathleen MacAuley, Barb MacDonald, Carolyn MacDonald, Chris MacDonald, Gerald MacDonald, Gene MacDonald, Ian Manning, Paul & Arlene McGuigan, Doug Murray, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Dwaine Oakley, Kim Riehl, Ian Scott, David & Elaine Seeler, Scott Sinclair, Jack Sorenson, Liz Townsend, University of Alberta Biology, 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 David Seeler, Dwaine Oakley, and Dan McAskill served as the Society's lead team for the 14th annual Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic. This effort was assisted with the Trust's Team Dodo (Jackie Waddell, Fiep de Bie, Shirley Gallant, and Julie-Lynn Zahavich) and Ron Arvidson's team which included Ron, Bonnie McOrmand, Ian Manning, Ian Scott, Kathleen MacAuley and Sharon Clark. The Island Nature Trust's Barb McDonald handled coordinated their hosting efforts for Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic. The donors and sponsors contributing to this project provided $3,021 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, Faire Isle Ford and DCD Auto Electric provided the Birding Classic's corporate sponsorships. (See Island Naturalist Issue 209 article)

Thanks to donors' generosity in maintaining memberships and contributing prizes, the Society's financial position again remained healthy. An anonymous person provided a cash donation to the Society. Evelyn Martin, Bill Bowerbank, Ian Scott, Dutch Thompson and others contributed birding and related books, nest boxes and other items for the raffle prizes that raised $437.75 towards the Nature PEI's PEI Science Fair prizes. A 22X Bushnell Telescope and Monopod contributed by an anonymous donor was raffled off and this raised $442.25. The Society's revenues were $2,145.26 while expenses were $1,370.99. The Society completed the year with assets of $9,145.26 with most of this reserved for book publishing and project funds.

2014 SOCIETY EXECUTIVE ELECTED:

The Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island held its Annual General Meeting on January 7th, 2014. Diane Griffin, Ian Scott and Barb MacDonald served on the Nomination Committee. Ian and Diane presented the Nomination Committee's recommendations for each position and the following individuals were elected by acclimation: Ian Scott as President; Julie Vasseur as Vice-President; Don Jardine as Treasurer; Bonnie McOrmond as Secretary; Rosemary Curley and Ron Arvidson as Directors; and Dan McAskill as Newsletter Editor. Unfortunately, due to heavy work loads, Julie Vasseur resigned as Vice-President in mid-January. Thus, the Executive will be recruiting a new Vice-President.

On behalf of the Society's membership, Ian Scott thanked Barb MacDonald for her service as Vice President in 2012, Secretary in 2013 and the many additional initiatives she took on during this period.

TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP:

Unless you have a multi-year membership, January is normally the time to renew your membership. If you have not already done so, please take a moment to renew. Renewal information can be found on page 2. Thanks!

SOCIETY NEWS:

The Society's General Council tasked Ian Scott, Diane Griffin, Julie Vasseur and Dan McAskill to prepare briefing materials to further discussions on the creation of a natural history museum on PEI. The Subcommittee completed this tasking in conjunction with suggestions from the other members of the General Council. On January 15th, Ian Scott, Julie Vasseur and Dan McAskill met with Premier Robert Ghiz to discuss opportunities for the furtherance of a PEI Museum of Nature on PEI.

The province's push for the sale of the certain provincially owned golf courses has caused a number of public discussions regarding the Crowbush Golf Course. One of the developers pursuing the acquisition of this golf course is advocating the redevelopment of the course into a "links" style of golf course expanding the course into the land lying just west of the current golf course. The ownership of some of the public land which was designated as a Natural Area and lying close to the golf course was contested. The property lines were modified in the settlement process and this land has been subsequently acquired by the golf course developers. As there are concerns over both the endangered Piping Plover and the sensitivity of portions of this land, the Society in conjunction with the Island Nature Trust wrote to Hon. Robert Henderson to express our concerns over these public lands adjacent to the Crowbush Golf Links.

Nature PEI has initiated planning for multi-organizational PEI Wildlife Workshop with the purpose of becoming a more effective voice for wildlife and the environment. This is being planned for spring. In addition, the Society is pursuing the development of a rare bird display and a book featuring the Island Magazine nature articles series in conjunction with the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation.

The Society has made application for Wildlife Conservation Fund support to help with further research on the lichens of PEI.

The Society's raffle of the 22X Bushnell Telescope was held at Nature PEI's December meeting with a public drawing. Ian Scott ended up as the proud winner of the telescope. Thanks to the generosity of the anonymous donor and those who purchased tickets $442.25 was raised for the Society projects.

Correction: *Re Island Naturalist/Nature PEI Newsletter Issue #209, Oct - Dec 2013: The photos for the Feeding our Birds Award were inadvertently reversed. The left photo of a house-style feeder with the cut off buoy for water (photo by Liz Townsend) was at the home of Ernie and Joan Dollar who were recognized for the most innovative design to attract a large variety of birds . The right photo of multiple feeders viewed from the yard to the Point Prim road (photo by Diane Griffin) was at the home of Lowell and Evelyn Large who were recognized for the most visible variety of feeders from the road to attract enthusiastic birders.*

CAUSE OF GREY SEAL DIE-OFF IDENTIFIED: by Pierre-Yves Daoust

In March 2012, we reported a mortality event of young grey seals off the coast of Nova Scotia that members of the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC), Atlantic region, and marine mammal biologists with Fisheries and Oceans Canada investigated. At the time, this mortality was attributed to severe acute liver damage caused by a protozoan parasite, although the exact identity of this parasite was not determined. Through close collaboration between members of the CWHC, Atlantic region and British Columbia, and Dr. Michael Grigg and his graduate student, Katie Haman, at the National Institutes of Health, this parasite has now been identified as Sarcocystis, possibly a new species designated Sarcocystis pinnipedi. (See: http://news.sciencemag.org/biology/2014/02/melting-arctic-ice-releases-deadly-seal-parasite) The life history of this new parasite seems far more complicated than was anticipated and may involve the participation of ringed seals, an Arctic species, as reservoir of this parasite. The link between ringed seals and grey seals in the emergence of this apparently new disease is still obscure and will undoubtedly be the subject of extensive investigation.

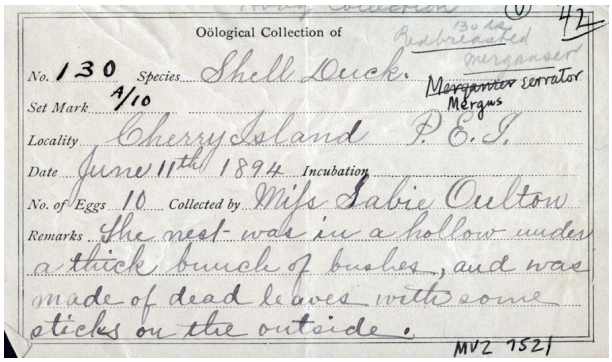
Grey seal on Nova Scotia Island
Photo by Pierre-Yves Daoust 2012

NATURAL HISTORY AWARD CONVEYED:

The PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation hosts an annual awards reception during Heritage Week in February to celebrate our heritage and those who contribute to its conservation. In 2009, the Foundation created a new award for excellence in the area of natural heritage for an individual who has made a significant volunteer contribution to the preservation or promotion of the natural heritage of Prince Edward Island. The Society congratulates Ron Arvidson as the Museum's 2014 winner of the Natural Heritage Activity Award. Besides his service on the Society's General Council and field trip program director, Ron has had a long involvement with nature conservation on PEI through citizen science initiatives like the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts and the Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic Fund Raiser. He has been active with watershed management education, organized and lead birding trips and worked on other conservation initiatives. He led special field trips on the Strathgartney Provincial Park and nearly lands to show the beauty and importance of the Bonshaw Hills while the dispute over the highway was underway. In addition, he was a pioneer in social media and agreed to take over and expand the Birding of PEI Facebook page which has attracted over 600 followers, led to the documentation of some rare birds on PEI and improved general knowledge of a variety of birds.

SEARCH FOR NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS FROM PEI:

The Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation, together with the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island, is developing a new inventory of science specimens collected on PEI. Since there has never been a natural science museum on the Island, natural science specimens collected in PEI are spread geographically across institutions throughout Canada and the United States. A survey of Prince Edward Island science specimens was undertaken in the fall of 1982, but now 30 years later, we wish to update this inventory and make our report widely available to the scientific community and the public.


Oölogical Collection of

No. 130 Species Shell Duck. Merganser serrator Mergus

Set Mark 7/10

Locality Cherry Island P. E. I.

Date June 11th 1894 Incubation

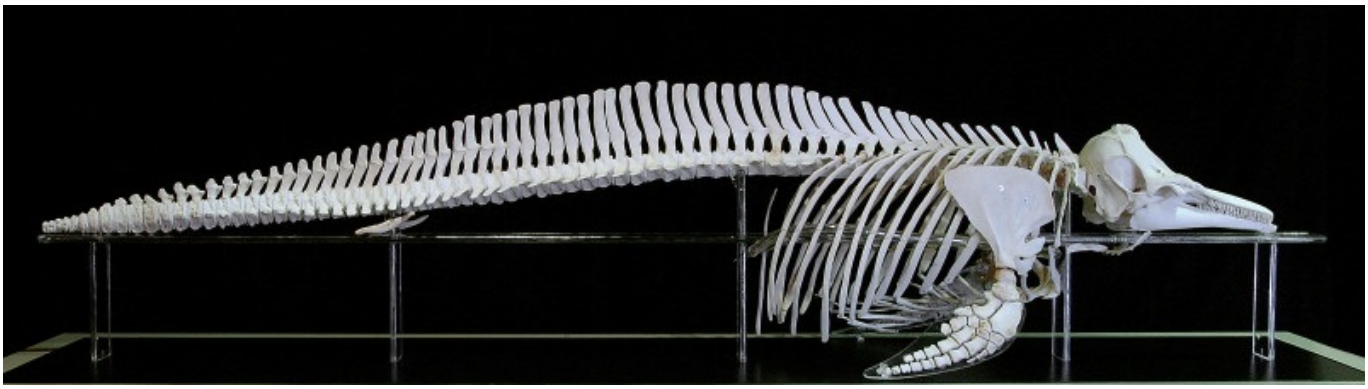
No. of Eggs 10 Collected by Miss Sabie Oulton

Remarks The nest was in a hollow under a thick bunch of bushes, and was made of dead leaves with some sticks on the outside.

MVZ 7521

1894 Record Card from Cherry Island, PEI

This project is an initial step in the possible development of a Provincial Natural History Museum. Are there natural history specimens (mounted birds, mammals, insects, butterflies, shells, fossils and rocks), including fossil finds from Prince Edward Island present in your collection? And if you are not sure what the specimen or species is, we can try to help you identify it or take pictures and send it off to experts in the field. The goal is to gather information, not specimens, but we are happy to receive specimens if you or others no longer wish a natural history specimen collection. We would greatly appreciate any data on PEI specimens you have. Thank you!



White-sided Dolphin Skeleton
Photo by Fiep de Bie 2014

The Museum's website has some great pictures of some of what has been found to date at http://www.peimuseum.com/index.php3?number=1050810&lang=E

For further information, contact: Fiep de Bie, Project Manager Telephone: (902) 368-6605
Email: sfdebie@gov.pe.ca

BIRD NEST FOUND ON GROUND IN WINTER: By Rosemary Curley

On Sunday February 23, four eggs were lying on the pavement in the direct path of people entering a church in York, and thus they came to a poor ending. The eggs were a mottled gray and described as "bigger than a robin egg".

Very very few birds lay eggs in winter but the Horned Lark is one that can lay in February and March, and it does lay its eggs on the ground. Its most common clutch size is four eggs and the eggs are only 21.6 mm x 15 mm verses the 28.1 x 20 mm for a robin.

According to Peterson's *Field Guide to the Nests*, many early Horned Lark clutches are destroyed by heavy snows and freezing weather. In this case, the eggs were destroyed by people.

THEY WILL BE MISSED:

The natural history conservation movement in the Maritimes is quite small and virtually all the groups operate on a volunteer basis. The dedicated individuals who commit their time and resources are thus essential for many of the natural history conservation efforts throughout our region. In this issue of the Island Naturalist, we wish to acknowledge two such individuals whose stalwart conservation work has improved our lives.

Meike Keunecke loved plants and animals. She was an impassioned advocate for conservation and, as a French Immersion teacher, conveyed her love for nature and inspired her students to become involved in its conservation through planting trees and shrubs and learning about nature. She established a nature club at the Montague school and brought in speakers to learn more about nature. On her family's land, she erected Tree Swallow nest boxes and bat boxes. She was participated in Piping Plover censuses and served as a Piping Plover Guardian. Seeing the decline of Bobolink populations, she researched protection measures for Bobolink habitat and advocated their use at events such as the Hillsborough River Bald Eagle Festival or with farmers owning land being used by Bobolinks for nexting. She was a frequent contributor of bird records in the Island Naturalist as well as a contributor for the Maritime Breeding Birds Atlas, natural areas acquisition, and other initiatives.

Mary Majka was a leader in many ways but most knew her best for her work on the Mary's Point Shorebird Reserve and her contributions to the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists (now Nature NB) and Nature Canada. Mary moved to New Brunswick in 1961. Shortly thereafter, she and her husband Mike were amongst those who lead the establishment of the Moncton Naturalists Club. After the shooting death of a Bald Eagle in 1962, she led the formation of a team that presented briefs that eventually caused the creation of laws to protect all birds of prey in New Brunswick. Through the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, she led an initiative to address destruction of osprey nesting habitat. She later became engaged with conservation efforts for shorebirds and other species and habitats urging protection of ecological reserves and in certain instances causing their acquisition and protection. She was at the forefront of youth education and hosted the CKCW-TV program "Have You Seen" from 1967 to 1974 which enticed young people to become involved with the power and complexity of the natural world. Amongst her many achievements, she: organized and taught nature workshops for teachers; helped develop the Canadian Nature Federation (Now Nature Canada), the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, the Fundy Hiking Trail Association Inc., the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, Nature Trust of New Brunswick, and nature reserves; fought surface water pollution issues; led built heritage campaigns; fostered shorebird conservation and interpretation programs at Mary's Point; and much more (see her biography *Sanctuary* by Deborah Carr; Women Social Activists of Atlantic Canada website).

We miss their presence and their energy for nature conservation! Our hearts go out to their family members and friends.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 2013-14: Results compiled by Scott Sinclair, Dwaine Oakley & Dan McAskill

For the 43rd consecutive year, the Natural History Society Nature PEI conducted the Hillsborough Christmas Bird Count. Audubon Christmas Bird Counts have been conducted for 114 consecutive years in North America and the Canadian partner is Bird Studies Canada. Storms meant the cancellation of the 1975 P.E.I. National Park CBC so it celebrated its 42nd anniversary this year. For a while this season, a second cancellation was a strong possibility. Despite three cancellations of the PEI National Park CBC for severe weather or very bad weather forecasts, the count was finally held on December 28th thanks to the perseverance of the counters who were able to attend and those who were recruited to assist. The Montague Christmas count celebrated its 30th anniversary this year and was held on December 29th. The East Point count which was held on December 14th marked its 12th anniversary with one year missed for severe weather.

Snow and ice covered bays and large portions of estuaries dominated the landscape this year. Heavy snow flurries and poor driving conditions in Northeastern PEI cut the East Point CBC to only ½ of the day. By

Christmas, there was ½ metre deep snow covering much of the Island. Travelling conditions were poor for the East Point count but reasonable to good for the PEI National Park, Hillsborough, and Montague CBCs. Snow conditions meant most unplowed roads were inaccessible by automobiles this year.

Dwaine Oakley coordinated the East Point Christmas Bird Count with the birders assembling in strong winds and coastal snow flurries at East Point at 7:30 AM. Eight birders braved the travelling conditions.

Barb MacDonald of Parks Canada booked the potluck venue for the P.E.I. National Park in the Dalvay Administration Headquarters Lunch Room three times (December 15th, 20th and 21st) but each time storms or storm forecasts stopped the event. When this count was finally held on December 28th, for a number of reasons we opted for no lunch time pot luck this year. As they have done for a number of years, Diane and Kevin Griffin hosted a sumptuous Hillsborough CBC pot-luck and the participants shared their sightings after the feast. Dwaine Oakley coordinated the East Point Count while Scott Sinclair organized the Montague count and Dan McAskill coordinated the P.E.I. National Park and Hillsborough CBCs.

There was a great white spruce cone crop this year and a good crop of mountain ash and a fair crop of winter berries. As was the case the last two years, field counters again reported low numbers of woodland birds and sparrows. Finch diversity and numbers were both low although there were good numbers of American Goldfinch. The most unusual sightings were: the high numbers of Gray Partridge and Ring-necked Pheasant, a single Great Blue Heron on the PEI National Park Count, a Peregrine Falcon and a Yellow-rumped Warbler on the East Point count; a Glaucous Gull and 8 Lapland Longspur on the Hillsborough count, and 7 Bufflehead on the Montague count. Between the four counts, 69 species were reported on the designated count day. Since a Snowy Owl was seen within the three days before and after the designated count day, it was added to the Hillsborough CBC count results as a count week species.

As usual, the standardized system of bird numbers, birders, travel, and weather data was collected so that the data was comparable to that from other CBCs in North America and the other count zones. This year's Island CBC summaries are provided below.

OBSERVATIONS **NUMBERS OBSERVED**

Species	East Point	National Park	Hillsborough	Montague	Total
	Dec. 14, 2013	Dec. 28, 2013	Dec. 26, 2013	Dec. 29, 2013	Dec. 14 - Dec. 29
Canada Geese		0	29	350	379
American Wigeon		1		27	28
American Black Duck	7	301	316	387	1004
Mallard		56	37	27	162
Northern Pintail		2	2		4
Green-winged Teal		2	11		13
Greater Scaup		206			206
Common Eider	55		2		57
Harlequin Duck				1	1
White-winged Scoter			1		1
Black Scoter	150		1		151
Long-tailed Duck	7	37	6	216	266
Bufflehead				7	7
Common Goldeneye	13	198	168	260	639
Barrow's Goldeneye		19	4	10	33
Common Merganser	15	27	66	186	294
Red-breasted Merganser			27	30	57
UID diving duck			3		3
Gray Partridge	17	45	37	33	132
Ring-necked Pheasant		2	20	7	29
Ruffed Grouse			1	6	7
Double-crested Cormorant				1	1
Great Cormorant				2	2
Great Blue Heron		1			1
Bald Eagle		10	18	42	70
Adults		7	16		45
Immature		3	2		10
Unknown		0	0		15
Northern Harrier			3		3
Sharp-shinned Hawk		2	2	1	5
Northern Goshawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	1	2	8	2	13
Rough-legged Hawk		1	2		3
UID Buteo		1			1
UID Alcid	1				1
Black Guillemot				1	1
Ring-billed Gull	10	9			19
Herring Gull	34	128	165	331	658
Iceland Gull	25	4	20	2	51
Glaucous Gull			1		1

Great Black-backed Gull	13	6	64	59		142
Rock Pigeon (Dove)		76	128	106		310
Mourning Dove	6	58	100	108		266
Great Horned Owl		CW	1			1
Snowy Owl			CW			CW
Belted Kingfisher		CW	1	3		4
Downy Woodpecker		6	19	8		33
Hairy Woodpecker		3	4	7		14
Northern Flicker			4			4
Peregrine Falcon	**1**					**1**
Northern Shrike	1		2			3
Blue Jay	15	298	274	408		995
American Crow	76	1,040	788	432		2336
Common Raven	6	80	25	57		168
Horned Lark			6			6
Black-capped Chickadee	5	90	139	174		408
Boreal Chickadee		7	1			8
Red-breasted Nuthatch		3	12	7		22
Brown Creeper			1			1
Golden-crowned Kinglet		6	8	83		97
American Robin	55	72	26	219		372
European Starling	22	580	2,112	887		3601
Bohemian Waxwing		3	25			28
Lapland Longspur			8			8
Snow Bunting	85	242	106	56		489
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1					1
American Tree Sparrow	4	4	14	5		27
Song Sparrow		3	4	6		13
White-throated Sparrow			2	5		7
Dark-eyed Junco	11	177	133	198		519
UID sparrow	1					1
Red-winged Blackbird		2				2
Brown-headed Cowbird			2	41		43
Purple Finch		3	6	7		16
White-winged Crossbill	6					6
American Goldfinch		100	188	341		629
UID Finch	6					6
House Sparrow		9	41	3		53
Total Birds	**649**	**3,922**	**5,237**	**5,151**		**14958**
Total Species	**27**	**43**	**56**	**46**		**69**
Add Count Week Species	**0**	**2**	**1**	**0**		**1**
Participants: Field	8	12	18	14		52
Feeders	0	2	4	5		11
Mammals:						
Red Squirrel	1	8	15	7		31
Red Fox		3	8			11
Coyote			1			1
Muskrat		6				6
Snowshoe Hare	1		23			24
Mink			1			1
Harbour Seal				2		2
Grey Seal				7		7
Roaming House Cats		1	4			5
Walked: Km	1.0	2	9.1	13.6		
Hours	0.5	0.92	4.83	12.5		
Driven: Km	125.3	435.2	353.6	369.2		
Hours	6.5	23.98	31.15	21		
Earliest Start	715	7.23	7.15			
Latest Ending	12.00	5	5			
Total Party Hours	7.75	24.9	39.98	33.5		
Owling Hours		0	0	0		
Owling Kilometres		0	0	0		
Number of Feeder Reports	0	2	4	5		
Feeder Hours	0	10	6.5	10		
Snow Cover - aver. cm.	10 to 20	60 to 120	45 to 80	80 to 150		
Salt Water Bays - % frozen	95	95	85	75		
Fresh Water - % frozen	100	95	97	65		
Weather:						
Bright Sunshine (hrs)	0	3.5	3	0		
Precipitation	heavy snow flurries	flurries in PM	flurries in late PM	2 cm		
Cloud %	75 to 100	0 to 100	10 to 100	100		
Temperature C.	-13	-2 to -12	-15 to -6.5	-5 to -8		
Aver. Wind Speed km/hr	30	15.6	16.3	0 to 15		
Prevail. wind direction	W	SW to SSW	SW to SSE			

where CW = species seen during the count week (three days before and after count day)

For registered counts, the entire data base is accessible on line through www.audubon.org and click your way to the results under birds and science.

Thanks to the many participants, namely: Jim Aquilani; Jiselle Bakker; Vanessa Bonnyman; Bill Bowerbank; Carla Brechin; Sharon Clark; Ray Cooke; Jim Crombie; Rosemary Curley; Wanda Curley; Fiep de Bie; Lois Doan; Heather Fenton; Chris & Blair Fraser; Diane Griffin; Gary Griffin; Marlene Guignion; Ben Hoteling; Virginia Jackson; Derek Lowe; Gerald MacDonald; Margaret MacDonald; Tina MacKenzie; Jeff MacLeod; Jeanne Maki; Clare Martin, Evelyn Martin; Kathy Martin, Dan McAskill; Arlene & Paul McGuigan; Bonnie McOrmand; Nicole Murtagh; Dot Neilson; Audrey Oakley, Dwaine Oakley; Thomas Oakley; Janice Owen; Ruth Richman; Kailum Rogers; Gary Schneider; David Seeler; Serge Serviant; Scott Sinclair; John Stewart; Liz Townsend; Rosalind Waters; Jean Watts; Jeff Watts; and John and Susan Whitaker. These counts would not be possible without their participation.

WEATHER EVENTS:

71+ mm of rain at Harrington on Dec. 4th with high winds (70+ km/hr) followed by wet snow and high winds causing multiple power failures (JDM). Early freeze up of estuaries this year with Hillsborough River 90% froze over and Covehead and Stanhope Bays 95% froze over by Dec. 12 (JDM). Snow storms started in earnest with storms of 20+ cm each on Dec. 15, 21-2, 27, and Jan. 1. There were cold temperatures throughout this period and there was 100% snow cover in fields and woodlands with depths of 50 to 120 cm of snow. There was a brief thaw on Jan. 7-8 with 5 to 10 mm of rain and temperatures up to 8° C before the temperature returned to -12 to -18° C and wind chills in the -20s° C. There was a major thaw on Jan. 11-12 with temperatures up to 8° C, significant rain (20+ mm) and wind. By the end of day 2, field centers between Donagh and Charlottetown were 50% bare and, by Jan. 15th, many fields were 90% bare of snow although woodlands were mostly snow covered (JDM). A blizzard occurred with gusts to 80 km/hr on Jan. 22 dropping 37 cm of snow in Charlottetown and 23 in NE PEI. This was promptly followed by an overnight rain and overnight warm period on Jan. 25-26 that eliminated much of this snow (JDM). Early February brought another 20 cm of snow in a few snowfalls. On Feb. 9, offshore waters at East Point were mostly frozen over with open water leads far out (KMacA) and the Northumberland Strait was mostly froze over between Wood Islands and Murray Harbour with some open leads near shore (JDM). Open water was present off East Point but heavy ice with open water leads off Monticello to East Lake on Feb. 15 (JDM). Snow storms on Feb. 16th, 19th and 20th dropped another 50 cm on snow in Donagh leaving ~75 cm of snow in woods clearings (JDM). Winds hit 116 km/hr at East Point and reported as 140 km/hr on Confederation Bridge on Feb. 19 (JDM). A very light rain reduced drifting but cold ensued again and was followed by light snow flurries and wind. Most fields were covered in snow in late February and early March.

ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS: Compiled by J. Dan McAskill

MAMMALS: 2 flying squirrels at Watervale on Dec. 29 (AC) & 2 at Rocky Point feeders on Dec. 30 (LD). Red fox carrying a hen Ring-necked Pheasant at Bunbury on Jan. 2 (JDM). Lots of reports of foxes being seen in both urban and rural areas across the province with a few reports of mating behaviour in mid to late February (DFG, EC, IS, DSt, SCa, WFB, EM, JDM). Eastern coyote at Vernon on Dec. 15 (DaMu). Harp Seal on shore at Panmure Island on Dec. 10 (DaMu). A raccoons was again active at the feeders on Jan. again on Jan. 12 (JDM). 1 racoon foraging at feeders sometimes in the daytime mid Feb. (DMu). The smell of striped skunk was again present at Bunbury on Jan. 18th and an Eastern chipmunk reappeared in Donagh on Jan. 19th after a warm period (JDM). Skunks were again active at Lot 16 on Mar. 5 (RAr), Charlottetown (SCa), and Johnston's River (JDM) on Mar. 5. Two rats at feeders in Egmont Bay on Feb. 1 (WGH). Gray seals on ice at Hillsborough River Bridge on Feb. 1 (DaMu) and 1 swimming at Murray Harbour on Feb. 9 (JDM).

BIRDS: **Canada Geese** - 1,000+ during loop from Charlottetown to Cavendish to Tracadie Bay return on Dec. 1 (DE&CS), 100 in open water at Bridgetown on Dec. 14 (JDM), 1 Canada Goose at Argyle Shore (DCu) and 75 at Murray River (KG), 12+ amidst standing corn at Newtown Road and 3 on river at Donagh on Feb. 9 (JDM), ~1,000 at Orwell on Feb. 21 (EM, WFB), 100 at Souris River on Feb. 23 (WFB, EM, JDM); **Gadwall** - seen in early Dec. (GW), 1 at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 1 (JDM) & pair on Mar. 1 (WFB, JDM), 2 at Midgell on Feb. 9 (KMacA), 12 at Souris River on Feb. 23 (WFB, EM, JDM); **Eurasian Wigeon** - 1 at unspecified location on PEI on Dec. 1 (GW), 2 drakes at Belvedere Pond in Charlottetown on Jan. 19 (SGC), Jan. 20 with a female wigeon (GW) later confirmed to be Eurasian on Jan. 26 (DO), drake and hen at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 23 (DO, NM, BMack); **American Wigeon** - at Ellen's Creek on Dec. 1 & 8 mostly males displaying on Feb. 9 (SGC), 27 on Montague River on Dec. 29 (DCS, JDM); **American Black Duck** - ~500 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Dec. 19 (JDM),

200 at Lot 16 just past Grand River on Jan. 12 (FdB), 75 at Belvedere Pond on Feb. 1 (JDM), 120 at Cumberland field on Feb. 7 (WFB, JDM), >100 flying and feeding in standing corn at Newtown Road, 16 at Little Sands corner stubble field, and 30 at Murray River on Feb. 9 (JDM), 50 at Ellen's Creek, 30 at Midgell River Confederation Trail crossing, 12 at Souris River, and 3 at Basin Head (WFB, EM, JDM), 4 at Hyde Creek pond on Feb. 24 (JDM); **Mallard** - 200 at Lot 16 just past Grand River on Jan. 12 (FdB), 125 (85% males) at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 1 (JDM) & 50 on Feb. 23 (EM, WFB, JDM), >20 amidst standing corn at Newtown Road and 14 at Murray River on Feb. 9 (JDM), 50 at Pisquid River WMA on Feb. 23 (WFM, EM, JDM), 17 at Hyde Creek pond on Feb. 24 (JDM); **Northern Shoveler** - 1 at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 1 (G&SF); **Northern Pintail** - 1 during loop from Charlottetown to Cavendish to Tracadie Bay return on Dec. 1 (DE&CS), 20 off Dalvay & 8 off Stanhope on Dec. 31 (JDM), 4 at New Annan settling ponds on Jan. 1 (G&SF), 1 at Mill River on Jan. 12 (FdB), 3 males at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 1 (JDM), pair at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 9 (SGC); **Green-winged Teal** - seen in early Dec. (GW), 3 at Black River in Brackley Beach on Dec. 31 (JDM), 3 at Stratford Lagoons on Jan. 1 (JDM), 4 at Belvedere Pond on Jan. 21 (JDM), 19 at Lake Verde on Feb. 9 (JDM), 2 males at Hyde Creek pond on Feb. 24 (JDM); **Greater Scaup** - 100+ during loop from Charlottetown to Cavendish to Tracadie Bay return on Dec. 1 (DE&CS), 75 at Brackley Entrance Marsh cove on Dec. 8 (JDM), ~700 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Dec. 19 & ~600 on Dec. 31 (JDM), ~500 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 23 (DO, NM, BMack); **Common Eider** - 100 to 150 plus birds further out at East Point on Jan. 1 (SCS), ~60 visible far out in open water lead amidst heavy ice cover on Feb. 9 (KMacA), 45 at East Point on Feb. 15 (JDM); **Harlequin Duck** - 1 at Panmure Island on Dec. 29 (RR), immature male at North River Causeway in late Feb. (DO, WCT); **White-winged Scoter** - 3 off PEINP on Dec. 1 (DC&ES), 10 off Cavendish on Jan. 25 (G&SF); **Black Scoter** - 2 off Point Prim on Dec. 1 (SCS, GS), 250 to 300 at East Point on Jan. 1 (SCS), ~20 visible far out in open water lead amidst heavy ice cover on Feb. 9 (KMacA), 20 at East Point on Feb. 15 (JDM); **Long-tailed Duck** - 4 off PEINP on Dec. 1 (DC&ES), 38 during SE PEI bird trip on Dec. 18 (JA), 30 to 40 at East Point on Jan. 1 (SCS), ~30 visible far out in open water lead amidst heavy ice cover on Feb. 9 (KMacA), 14 at East Point on Feb. 15 (JDM); **Bufflehead** - 7 at Cardigan River on Dec. 29 (SCS, GS), 3 at Souris West on Jan. 19 (CG), 1 at Covehead on Feb. 9 (KMacA), 2 pair at Souris causeway on Feb. 15 (JDM); **Common Goldeneye** - 2 during loop from Charlottetown to Cavendish to Tracadie Bay return on Dec. 1 (DE&CS), ~700 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Dec. 19 & ~200 on Dec. 31 (JDM), scattered goldeneye at East Point on Jan. 1 (SCS), ~60 at Lot 16 just past Grand River on Jan. 12 (FdB), 5 to 15 most days at Fullerton's Marsh bridge in Jan. to early Mar. (JDM), 50 at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 1 (JDM), ~50 visible far out in open water lead amidst heavy ice cover on Feb. 9 (KMacA), 22 at Murray River some doing head bob displays on Feb. 9 (JDM), 20 at Souris causeway on Feb. 15 (JDM), 4 at Hyde Creek pond on Feb. 24 (JDM); **Barrow's Goldeneye** - seen in early Dec. (GW), 1 at Lot 16 just past Grand River on Jan. 12 (FdB), 2 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Dec. 31 (JDM), at least 65 with 2:1 ratio males to females at West River Causeway on Feb. 7 (JDM), 1 male at Murray River on Feb. 9 (JDM), 3 immature males at North River on Feb, 23 (DO, NM, BMack), 20 at Rusticoville causeway on Feb. 23 (DO, NM, ??); **Hooded Merganser** - 1 on Dec. 3 (GW), 1 at Ferry Road Jan 11 (KMacA), 1 female at Hyde Creek pond on Feb. 24 (JDM); **Common Merganser** - ~300 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Dec. 19 & 25 on Dec. 31 (JDM), 15 at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 1 (JDM), 35 (90% males) at Murray River on Feb. 9 (JDM), 2 at Hyde Creek pond on Feb. 24 (JDM); **Red-breasted Merganser** - seen in early Dec. (GW), 60 during SE PEI bird trip on Dec. 1 (JA), 20 to 30 at East Point on Jan. 1 (SCS), 1 male at Cymbria on Feb. 7 (WFB, EM), 5 visible far out in open water lead amidst heavy ice cover on Feb. 9 (KMacA), 1 at East Point on Feb. 15 (JDM); **Gray Partridge** - three coveys at West Covehead with one numbering 16 birds (DCk), large number of reports this year during heavy snow period from Dec. 15 to early Jan., 12 at Grandview on Dec. 19 (KC), 22 at Summerville from Dec. 20 to Jan. 11 (RWH), 7 at Suffolk on Dec. 23 (SG), 10 at Crapaud feeders on Dec. 26 (DD), 8 at Monaghan Road on Dec. 29 (DCS, JDM), 9 at Earnscliffe, 3 at Lake Verde, 2 at Point Prim, & 1 at Donagh on Jan. 1 (JDM), 16 at Argyle Shore on Jan. 4 and 11 still present until early Mar. (LY), 6 at Stratford on Jan. 4 & 5 (FRC), 2 coveys of huns at St. Margaret's on Jan. 8 (JGM), 8 at Greenfield on Jan. 15 (JCa), 11 at Cymbria on Feb. 7 (WFB, EM), 5 at St. Eleanor's on Feb. 19 (G&SF), 8 at Clearview Estates on Feb. 18 (DMu), 19 seen on regular basis at Summerville from Feb. 15 to Mar. 6 (RWH); **Ring-necked Pheasant** - 1 at Pisquid River marsh edge on Dec. 10 (JDM), female at Johnston's River on Dec. 21 (JDM), 1 at Harrington on Dec. 21 (VB), 1 male at Stratford feeder on Dec. 25 (FRC), 15+ daily at feeding station at Mermaid in Jan. (WJM), 2 males and female at Greenfield on Jan. 15 (JCa), male at Fullerton's Marsh on Jan. 16 (JDM), 5 males and 1 female at Donagh grain field on Jan. 31 (JDM), 2 females and male at Pownal on Feb. 7 (WFB, JDM), 2 males seen on regular basis roadside at Millvale and along Trans-Canada Highway at Mt. Albion-Pownal from Feb. 15 to Mar. 6 (RWH); **Ruffed Grouse** - 1 at Monticello on Dec. 3 to Dec. 10 (JGM), 1 budding in Crapaud on Dec. 3 (EMi), 1 at Beach Point feeders on Dec. 8 (JA), 1 at Vernon River on Jan. 1 (JDM), 2 eating berries on burning bush at Monticello on Jan. 8 (JGM); **Sharp-tailed Grouse** - 2 at Naufrage on Jan. 15 (CG); **Red-throated Loon** - 1 at Pinnette Harbour on Dec. 1 (SCS, GS); **Northern Gannet** - 1 during Murray Harbour - Guernsey Cove bird trip on Dec. 18 (JA); **Double-crested Cormorant** - 4 during loop from

Charlottetown to Cavendish to Tracadie Bay return on Dec. 1 (DE&CS); **Great Cormorant** - 3 during Murray Harbour - Guernsey Cove bird trip on Dec. 18 (JA), 7 on ice cake at East Point on Feb. 15 (JDM); **Great Blue Heron** - 1 at Murray Harbour on Dec. 21 (JA), 1 flying over Aptos Lane in Stratford on Jan. 16 (JG via JW); **Black Vulture** - 1 at Dingwell's Mills IWMC site on Nov. 27 to Dec. 11 (WD, KC) & photographed on Dec. 3 (G&SF), reported at Stanchel on Feb. 18 (WP), photographed on Feb. 20 by (DO) & Feb. 21 (G&SF) but disappeared on Feb. 22 then reappeared on Mar. 1 (WP) and Mar. 2 (DO, HM, BMacK); **Bald Eagle** - 2 being chased by crows at River Ridge Estates in Charlottetown on Dec. 21 (W&SF), 7 with 2 adults at Greenwich peninsula on Jan 18 (KMacA), several feeding on a raccoon at Donaldston on Feb. 21 (DmcL), 2 seen on a fairly regular basis at Summerville from Feb. 15 to Mar. 6 (RWH); **Northern Harrier** - 1 at Brackley Beach on Dec. 9 (SGC), 1 at Wood Islands on Dec. 13 (GS), 1 during SE PEI bird trip on Dec. 1 & 2 on Dec. 10 (JA), 1 at Egmont Bay on Feb. 1 (WGH); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 1 at south end Malpeque Bay on Dec. 9 (GW), at Monticello on Dec. 3 to Dec. 10 (JGM), 1 photographed eating starling at River Estates in Charlottetown on Dec. 19 (EM), 1 at Beach Point on Dec. 25 & 26 (JA), 1 took starling at Tea Hill on Jan. 19 (FdB), 1 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 25 (G&SF), 1 at Summerville on Feb. 27 (RWH), 1 at Stanley Bridge on Feb. 23 (DO, NM, BMacK); **Northern Goshawk** - 1 at Wood Islands on Dec. 1 & 13 (SCS, GS), 1 at Monticello on Dec. 3 to Dec. 10 & 1 on Jan. 8 (JGM), 1 at Hermanville on Feb. 9 (KMacA); **Red-tailed Hawk** - 1 at Wood Islands and 1 at Point Prim on Dec. 1 (SCS, GS), 1 at Cavendish on Dec. 3 (G&SF), 1 dark phase at Johnston's River on Dec. 10 (JDM), 1 at Winsloe on Dec. 20 (JDM), 2 during return trip from Montague to Stanhope to Rustico Island on Dec. 11 (DaMu), 1 at Wood Islands on Dec. 12 (GS), 1 during Murray Harbour on Dec. 17 & 1 on Dec. 25 (JA), seen feasting on dead snowshoe hare behind the roadside snow plough bank at Rocky Point on Jan. 6 (LD), 2 at Greenwich peninsula on Jan 18 (KMacA), 1 at Monticello on Jan. 22 (JGM), 1 light phase at Donagh on Jan. 25 (JDM), 1 at Wood Islands on Feb. 9 (JDM), 1 at East Point and 1 at Naufrage on Feb. 9 (KMacA), 4 at Earnscliffe Peninsula in late Feb. (DO, WCT), 2 at Inkerman Road on Feb. 23 (DO, NM, BMacK), 1 at West Royalty on Mar. 5 (FRC); **Rough-legged Hawk** - at Wood Island's feeders on Dec. 5 (GS), 1 at Fullerton's Creek in Mount Herbert on Dec. 10 (JDM), 1 at Wood Islands on Dec. 12 (GS), 1 at Earnscliffe on Dec. 29 (DCS, JDM), 1 at Summerville on Jan. 6-7 (RWH), 1 light phase at Greenwich peninsula on Jan 18 (KMacA), 1 at Little Sands on Feb. 9 (JDM); **Golden Eagle** - 1 at Borden on Dec. 20 (JR); **Bonaparte's Gull** - 1 during loop from Charlottetown to Cavendish to Tracadie Bay return on Dec. 1 (DE&CS), ~100 feeding at Brackley Entrance Marsh cove on Dec. 8 (JDM), 1 at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 1 (G&SF); **Black-headed Gull** - 1 at Souris lagoons on Jan. 12 (SCS); **Ring-billed Gull** - 13 during SE PEI bird trip on Dec. 18 (JA); **Herring Gull** - 240 during Murray Harbour - Guernsey Cove bird trip on Dec. 18 (JA); **Iceland Gull** - 15 at Souris lagoons on Jan. 12 (SCS); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** - 1 at end of Gulf Shore Parkway in North Rustico on Jan. 14 (GF, LH); **Glaucous Gull** - see CBC report, 1 adult at Souris lagoons on Jan. 12 (SCS), 1 immature at Oyster Bed Bridge on Feb. 4 (SCS), 1 at South Lake on Feb. 9 (KMacA); **Great Black-backed Gull** - 38 during Murray Harbour - Guernsey Cove bird trip on Dec. 18 (JA); **Mourning Dove** - 8 at Cornwall feeders on Dec. 1 (GMcC), 12 at South Winsloe feeders on Dec. 2 (DEJ), at Fernwood feeders on Dec. 3 (GMcC), 7 in Monticello on Jan. 11 & 10 0n Feb. 20 (JGM), ~40 at Summerville from Dec. 20 to Mar. 6 (RWH), 4 at Cape Egmont feeders on Jan. 12 (WGH), 17 to 19 at Crapaud feeders in mid-Feb. (DD); **Rock Pigeon** - 16 at South Winsloe feeders on Dec. 3 (DEJ), 40+ at Charlottetown feed mill & 25 at dairy farm at South Rustico on Dec. 3 (JDM), 20 at Summerville from Dec. 20 to Mar. 6 (RWH), 23 at Cape Egmont feeders on Jan. 12 (WGH), 11 at Monticello on Feb. 20 (JGM); **Great Horned Owl** - 1 calling periodically at Stanhope in mid to late Dec. (BH), 1 at Central Lot 16 on Jan. 16 (G&SF); **Snowy Owl** - 1 at Robinson's Island Causeway on Dec. 2 (RH, G&SF), 1 at Sherwood ~Dec. 4 (DGM), 1 at Charlottetown Red Shores Race Track on Dec. 9 (ElB), 1 at Charlottetown on Dec. 10 (CEG), 1 at Earnscliffe on Dec. 13 (JH), 1 at Bunbury on Dec. 17 (BMacK), 1 at China Point and 1 at Orwell on Dec. 13 (DaMu), 1 at Meadowbank on Dec. 28 (AA), 2 reported at North Rustico in mid-Dec. (DCk), 1 at Murray Harbour on Dec. 19 & Dec. 22 (JA), 1 at Pownal on ~Dec. 21 (HJ), 1 at Guernsey Cove in late Dec. (JA), 1 at China Point and Orwell on Jan. 1 (GW via DO), 1 at Kingsboro on Jan. 7 (CS via DO), SMcB of AVC advised that a number of Snowy Owls had been assessed and found in starving condition, 1 at Dalvay on Jan. 15 (RH), 1 at North Rustico breakwater on Feb. 4 (SCS); **Barred Owl** - 1 at Selkirk on Dec. 7 (GS), 1 calling at North Granville on Jan. 20 (RH); **Northern Saw-whet Owl** - none reported during winter period; **Belted Kingfisher** - at Brackley Beach Entrance to PEINP on Dec. 2 (RH, G&SF), 1 at Oyster Bed

Black Vulture at Stanchel on Feb. 21, 2014
Photo by Greg Feetham ©

Bridge on Dec. 3 (RH), male at Watervale feeder on Dec. 2 (AC), 1 on Dec. 4 (GW), 1 along Black River at Brackley Beach on Dec. 31 (JDM), 1 at Basin Head on Feb. 9 (KMacA), 1 at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 9 (SGC) 1 on wires over stream at Warren Grove on Feb. 23 (JDM), female at North Granville, a male at Rose Valley and 2 others seen on Feb. 23 (DO, NM, BMacK); **Woodpeckers** - drumming at Tea Hill (FdB) and Donagh (JDM) week of Feb. 20th; **Downy Woodpecker** - male & female at Donagh suet feeder on Dec. 1 (JDM), male at Watervale feeders on Dec. 2 (AC), at Cornwall on Dec. 3 (SN), male and female at Horne Cross Road feeders on Dec. 3, Dec. 22 & on Jan. 1 (VB), 2 at Wood Island's feeders on Dec. 5 (GS), male at Crapaud feeder on Dec. 9 (DD), 1 at Hartsville feeders on Dec. 24 (JWa), 1 in Monticello on Jan. 11 (JGM), 4 at Cape Egmont feeders on Jan. 12 (WGH), 2 at Tea Hill feeders on Jan. 19 (FdB), male & female at St. Eleanor's on Feb. 19 (G&SF), 1 seen on regular basis at Summerville from Feb. 15 to Mar. 6 (RWH); **Hairy Woodpecker** - at Horne Cross Road feeders on Dec. 3 (VB), at Cornwall on Dec. 3 (SN), female at Watervale on Dec. 5 (AC), male at Crapaud feeder on Dec. 9 (DD), female 1 at Hornes Creek Road in Harrington on Dec. 22 & Jan. 1 (VB), 1 at Hartsville feeders on Dec. 24 (JWa), 1 at Summerville on Jan. 9-10 (RWH), 2 in Monticello on Jan. 11 (JGM), 3 at Cape Egmont feeders on Jan. 12 (WGH), 2 at Tea Hill feeders on Jan. 19 (FdB), female at St. Eleanor's on Feb. 19 (G&SF), 2 seen on regular basis at Summerville from Feb. 15 to Mar. 6 (RWH); **Black-backed Woodpecker** - 1 on Woodlands Trail area in Dalvay on Jan. 27 (RH), female at Reeds and Rushes trail at Dalvay on Feb. 27 (NM, BMacK); **American Black-backed Woodpecker** - 1 at Cavendish campground on Jan. 13 (RH); **Northern Flicker** - 1 during loop from Charlottetown to Cavendish to Tracadie Bay return on Dec. 1 (DE&CS), 1 at Stratford feeders on Dec. 1 (A&PM), 1 at St. Eleanor's yard on Dec. 1 & periodically to Feb. 19 (G&SF), 2 at River Ridge Estates in East Royalty feeders on Dec. 3 (W&SF), 1 at Watervale on Dec. 5 (AC), 1 at window feeder at Riverview Estates in Dec. & Jan. (WFB, EM), 1 at Murray Harbour feeders on Dec. 8 (JA), 1 at Stratford feeder on Dec. 22 (JC), 2 in Monticello on Jan. 11 (JGM), 2 at Greenwich peninsula on Jan 18 (KMacA), male at Tea Hill feeders from mid Dec. to Jan. 19 (FdB), 1 at Linkletter on Feb. 1 (G&SF), 1 at Rocky Point on Feb. 7 (JDM), 2 at North Lake on Feb. 9 (KMacA), at Clearview Estates on Feb. 18 (DMu), 1 at Monticello on Feb. 20 (JGM); **Pileated Woodpecker** - 2 at Hermitage Road in Monticello on Jan. 11 & male on Jan. 14 & 1 on Feb. 26 (JGM); **Merlin** - 1 during SE PEI bird trip on Dec. 1 (JA), 1 took a Mourning Dove at Cape Egmont feeders on Jan. 21 (WGH); **Gyrfalcon** - 1 at East Point on Feb. 15 (JDM); **Peregrine Falcon** - 1 at East Point on Jan. 1 (SCS), 1 at Peake's Road on Jan. 24 (LM via FRC); **Northern Shrike** - 1 at Cymbria on Dec. 3 (G&SF), 1 at Cornwall on Dec. 23 (GW), 1 at Egmont Bay on Dec. 23 (WFB), 1 at Monticello on Jan. 8 (JGM), 1 at Goose River and 1 near St. Peter's on Jan. 16 (JGM), 1 pursuing birds at South Melville on Jan. 24 (RA), 1 at Wood Islands on Jan. 28 (GS), 1 photographed perched above Kildare feeders on Jan. 24 (MP via RG); **Gray Jay** - 1 at New Zealand Road on Jan. 12 (Ray & Kathy), 2 at Monticello on Feb. 20 (JGM), 1 at Rustico Island on Feb. 23 (DO, NM, BMacK); **Blue Jay** - ~30 at Summerville from Dec. 20 to Mar. 6 (RWH), 17 at Cape Egmont feeders on Jan. 12 (WGH), too many to count at Greenfield on Jan. 15 (JCa), >50 at Egmont Bay on Feb. 1 (WGH); **American Crow** - ~500 heading towards Victoria Park roost on Jan. 10 (JDM), crow calling "hello" at River Ridge Estates in Charlottetown on Feb. 1 (W&SF), 175 in cornfield at Newtown Road on Feb. 9 (JDM), ~100 seen during 210 km road trip Donagh to Souris return on Feb. 23 (WFB, EM, JDM); **Common Raven** - 2 doing aerial display and vocalizing at Charlottetown on Feb. 18 (JDM), 100+ with 2 or 3 at a time doing swooping displays to others in air, on ground or in tree tops at Stanchel-Rose Valley on Feb. 22 (WP, JDM), carrying branches at Mt. Buchanan on Feb. 21 (WFB, EM); **Horned Lark** - 7 at Earnscliffe - China Point on Jan. 1 (FdB), 3 roadside at China Point and 32 roadside at Cumberland on Feb. 7 (WFB, JDM), 2 at White Sands on Feb, 9 (JDM); **Black-capped Chickadee** - relatively common at most feeder report sites (Crapaud, Cornwall, Charlottetown, Watervale, Donagh, etc.), few & far between at Stanhope feeder this winter (JCo), 20 at Egmont Bay on Feb. 1 (WGH), 5 to 8 most days at Donagh feeders from Dec. To early Mar. (JDM); **Boreal Chickadee** - 1 at Dingwell's Mills on Dec. 5 (SCS), 3 at Monticello on Dec. 3 to Dec. 10 (JGM), flock at Greenwich peninsula on Jan 18 (KMacA),; **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 at Watervale feeders on Dec. 1 (AC), 1 at Cornwall on Dec. 3, 23, 25 & periodically in Jan. (SN), 1 at Tea Hill on Jan. 19 (FdB), 6 responded to mobbing calls at Robinson's Island on Jan. 25 (G&SF), very few seen at Donagh feeders this winter (JDM); **White-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 at Cornwall on Dec. 3 & 25 & few times a day in Jan. (SN); **Brown Creeper** - 1 at Watervale on Dec. 3 & in Jan. (AC), 1 at Argyle Shore in early Mar. (UID); **Golden-crowned Kinglet** - 1 at Watervale feeders on Dec. 1 (AC), 4 at Monticello on Dec. 3 to Dec. 10 (JGM), at Watervale in Jan. (AC); **American Robin** - 37 during SE PEI bird trip on Dec. 1 & 12 on Dec. 17 (JA), 1 at Green Gables in Cavendish on Dec. 3 (RH), 2 at Monticello on Dec. 3 to Dec. 10 & 1 on Feb. 20 (JGM), 1 at Hornes Creek Road in Harrington on Dec. 22 & 2 on Jan. 1 (VB), at Green Bay on Dec. 24 (JW), 9 at Murray Habour on Dec. 21 (JA), 2,000 to 3,000 circling overhead at East Point on Jan. 1 (SCS), 1 at Lakeside on Jan. 8 (ADM), 1 daily feeding in carb apple tree at Bunbury on Jan. 8 (DT), many flocks of 12 to 50 roadside between Dromore and Roseneath on Jan. 7 (LS, LC), 75 to 100 roadside at Bear River on Jan. 8 (JGM), many roadside in Greenfield on Jan. 9 (JCa), 100s on Jan. 12 (Ray & Kathy), 1 at Souris and 6 at North Lake on Feb. 9 (KMacA), over 100 roadside and on snow banks at Point Prim and at Brush Road at Pinette on Feb. 21 (EM, WFB), 1 at Stratford on Feb. 20 & Feb. 24 (A&PM); **European Starling** - 20 at Summerville from Dec. 20 to Jan. 11 (RWH); hundreds going to Hillsborough Bridge roost in Dec. & Jan. (JDM), ~1,000 at Earnscliffe on Feb. 1 (JDM);

Bohemian Waxwing - 12 to 15 at Pinette on Dec. 1 (SCS, GS), 25 at Monticello on Dec. 3 to Dec. 10 & 11 & 1 eating Mountain Ash berries on Feb. 20 (JGM), 20+ at Wood Islands on Dec. 12 (GS), 10 at East Point Lighthouse Road on Feb. 9 (KmacA), 20 seen daily at Summerville from Feb. 15 to Mar. 6 (RWH); **Cedar Waxwing** - 1 during loop from Charlottetown to Cavendish to Tracadie Bay return on Dec. 1 (DE&CS), 28 at Beach Point on Dec. 8 (JA), 38 during Murray Harbour - Guernsey Cove bird trip on Dec. 18 & 41 at Murray Harbour on Dec. 21 (JA), 150 in trees at Cape Egmont on Jan. 12 (WGH), ~50 at Egmont Bay on Feb. 1 (WGH), 15 at Brackley on Feb. 9 (KMacA), 6 at Stratford Canada Holly bush on Feb. 24 (A&PM); **Lapland Longspur** - 8 at China Point on Jan. 8 (G&SF); **Snow Bunting** - 1 at Stratford on Dec. 3 (JC), 50 at Monticello on Dec. 3 to Dec. 10 (JGM), ~100 at Coleville Road on Dec. 24 (JW), 2 at Crapaud feeders on Dec. 27 (DD), at Earnscliffe - China Point on Jan. 1 (FdB), 10 eating roadside at St. Margaret's on Jan. 8 (JGM), 200 to 300 at Summerville from Dec. 20 to Jan. 11 (RWH), 19 at Cape Egmont on Jan. 12 (WGH), 120 at St. Andrews and ~300 at St. Peters and Greenwich on Feb. 23 (WFB, EM, JDM), 50 seen on regular basis at Summerville from Feb. 15 to Mar. 6 (RWH); **Common Yellowthroat** - 1 at Confederation Trail between Allen Street and Belvedere Avenue on Dec. 10 (KMacA); **Yellow-rumped Warbler** - 1 during loop from Charlottetown to Cavendish to Tracadie Bay return on Dec. 1 (DE&CS), 1 with a flock of Boreal Chickadees at Greenwich peninsula on Jan 18 (KMacA), 1 at North Lake on Feb. 9 (KMacA); **American Tree Sparrow** - 2 at Dalvay on Dec. 2 (LT), 2 at Monticello on Dec. 3 to Dec. 10 & 3 on Jan. 22 & 2 on Feb. 20 (JGM), 1 to 3 at Murray Harbour in late Dec. (JA), 1 to 3 daily at Donagh feeders in Dec. then very sporadically to early Mar. (JDM), 1 at Watervale on Feb. 2 (AC), 1 at Cherry Valley on Feb. 7 (WFB, JDM), 1 at Little Sands on Feb. 9 (JDM), 2 at Rustico Island on Feb. 23 (DO, NM, BMacK); **Song Sparrow** - 1 at Fernwood feeders on Dec. 3 (GMcC), 1 at Cornwall feeders on Dec. 19 (SN), 1 at Crapaud feeders on Dec. 22 (DD), 2 at Argyle Shore feeders on Jan. 23 (JDM, LY), 1 singing at Tea Hill on Mar. 1 (FdB); **White-throated Sparrrow** - 1 at Brudenell on Dec. 20 (DMacN), 1 to 4 at Murray Harbour from Dec. 19 to Dec. 30 (JA), 1 at Wood Islands on Jan. 8 (G&SF), 2 at Little Sands on Feb. 9 (JDM); **Dark-eyed Junco** - first at Donagh feeders in over a month on Dec. 9 then 5 to 8 most days until early March (JDM), at Horne Cross Road feeders on Dec. 3 (VB), 4 at Monticello on Dec. 3 to Dec. 10 & 6 on Jan. 22 (JGM), 13 at Summerville from Dec. 20 to Mar 6 (RWH), 20 at Friston Road on Dec, 23 (SG), 23 to 30 daily at Murray Harbour in late Dec. 21 (JA), 4 at South Melville on Jan. 24 (RA), 10 at Monticello on Feb. 20 (JGM), chirping their song singing at Tea Hill on Mar. 1 (FdB); **Northern Cardinal** - male at River Ridge Estates in East Royalty feeders on Dec. 3 (via W&SF, JW), male at Argyle Shore feeders on Dec. 20 & female on Jan. 2-3 (LY); **Indigo Bunting** - 1 at St. Eleanor's on Feb. 19 (G&SF) **Red-winged Blackbird** - 1 at Wood Islands on Dec. 1 (SCS, GS), 1 at Beach Point on Dec. 19 (JA), 1 at Argyle Shore feeders on Dec. 23 (JDM, LY), 1 during SE PEI field trip on Dec. 27 (JA), 2 at Cape Egmont on Jan. 2 (G&SF, LH); **Rusty Blackbird** - 1 photographed at High Bank on Dec. 25 (CP), 1 at Murray Harbour on Dec. 26 (JA); **Common Grackle** - 3 at Wood Islands on Dec. 1 (SCS, GS), 1 at Stratford feeder on Dec. 22 (JC), 2 at Rocky Point feeders on Dec. 30 (LD), 1 at Murray Harbour on Dec. 27 (JA), 2 at Mount Buchanan on Jan. 1 (JDM), 3 at Crapaud feeders on Feb. 15 (DD), 1 seen on semi-regular basis at Summerville from Feb. 15 to Mar. 6 (RWH); **Brown-headed Cowbird** - 45 at Wood Islands on Dec. 1 (SCS, GS) & 71 on Dec. 3 (GS), 1 at Point Prim on Jan. 1 (JDM), 17 at Murray Harbour on Dec. 25 (JA), 1 at Mount Buchanan on Jan. 1; **Purple Finch** - 1 female at Wood Island's feeder on Dec. 3 (GS), 4 at Watervale feeders on Dec. 9 (AC), 1 at Cornwall on Dec. 25 (SN), 1 at Summerville on Jan. 3-6 (RWH), male & female at Watervale on Jan. 24 (AC), male & female at Robinson's Island on Jan. 25 (G&SF), pair at Clearview Estates on Feb. 18 (DMu), few at Tea Hill on Mar. 1 (FdB); **Common Redpoll** - no reports this winter; **Pine Siskin** - 1 at Black Pond on Feb. 9 (KMacA); **American Goldfinch** - ~20 at Cornwall feeders on Dec. 1 (GMcC), 2 pair at River Ridge Estates in Charlottetown on Dec. 18 (W&SF), 120 during SE PEI bird trip on Dec. 18 (JA), 30 at Summerville from Dec. 20 to Jan. 11 (RWH), 36 at Crapaud feeders on Jan. 19 (DD), 15 at Monticello on Jan. 22 (JGM), 24 at Horne Cross Road in mid-Feb. feeders (VB), 1 melanistic individual with a flock at Annandale on Feb. 16 (JM, MM), lots after each snowfall at Clearview Estates on Feb. 18 (DMu); **Evening Grosbeak** - 1 at Newtown Cross feeders late Jan. To at least Feb. 7 (LHa via FRC); **House Sparrow** - 8 during loop from Charlottetown to Cavendish to Tracadie Bay return on Dec. 1 (DE&CS), 12 at Cherry Valley on Feb. 7 (WFB, JDM).

Melanistic American Goldfinch at Annandale Photo by Mary McDougall

Editor's Note: Older reports - Canvasback photographed at Cardigan River on Jan. 28, 2103 (DaMu).
Thanks to the following contributors who provided records for this listing, namely; 1 **Bicknell'S Thrush** heard at Cavendish Campground on Aug. 14 (MB);

Thanks to the following contributors who provided records for this listing, namely: AA - Anne Arvidson; JA - Jim Aquilani; RA - Ron Arvidson; RAr - Ron Arsenault; ElB - Elmo Beagan; MB - Melanie Ball; VB - Vanessa Bonnyman; WFB - Bill

Bowerbank; AC - Alma Currie; BCo - Brenda Cobb; DCk - Danny Clark; DCu - Debbie Currie; EC- Elwood Coakes; FRC - Rosemary Curley; JC - Jim Crombie; JCa - Janet Cairns; JCo - Janet Connolly; KC - Kevin Curley; LC - Lawrence Campbell; RC- Ray Cooke; SCa - Scott Campbell; SGC - Sharon Clark; FdB - Fiep de Bie; DD - Daphne Davey; LD - Lois Doan; WD - Wanda Downe; G&SF - Greg & Sandra Feethan; W&SF - Warren & Sherron Foulkes; CG - Carolyn Gallant; CEG - Chuck Gallison; GG - Gary Griffin; JG - Janet Gaudet; KG - Kevin Griffin; RG - Rosemary Gallinger; SG - Shirley Gallant; BH - Ben Hoteling; RWH - Bob Harding; WGH - Bill Hartford; JH - John Hayden; L&JH - Les & Joan Homans; LHa - Lenie Hakkers; RH - Rick Hawkins; DEJ - Don Jardine; HJ - Hanna Jones; ADM - Allie McLennan; A&PM - Arlene & Paul McGuigan; BCM - Bonnie McOrmond; BMacK - Brett MacKinnon; DGM - Gerald MacDougall; DMcL - Don McLellan; DMacN - Dave MacNearney; DMo - Denise Motard; DaMu - Dale Murchison; DMu - Doug Murray; EM - Evelyn Martin; EMi -Edgar Miller; GMcC - Gail McCourt; JDM - Dan McAskill; JGM - Gerald MacDonald; JM - Jennifer MacDougall; KMacA - Kathleen MacAulay; LM - Lorne Myers; MM - Mary McDougall; NM - Nicole Murtagh; SMcB - Scott McBurney; WJM - Wade MacKinnon; SN - Sharon Neil; DO - Dwaine Oakley; CP - Caroline Palmer; MP - Marie Pitre; SP - Shirley Prowse; WP - Wade Peconi; JR - John Read Jr.; RR - Ruth Richman; CS - Curtis Sorrey; DC&ES - David & Elaine Seeler; DSt - Don Steeves; GS - Gary Schneider; IS - Ian Scott; LS - Liz Statts; SS - Serge Serviant; SCS - Scott Sinclair; DT - Dutch Thompson; LT - Linda Thomas; UID - observation received at Nature PEI meeting; AW - Anne Wootton; GW - Geoff Wood; JW - Jackie Waddell; JWa - Jean Watts; WCT - Wildlife Conservation Technology Class; LY - Lorne Yeo.

ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR:

Note: All Society presentations and field trips are open to the public.
Society meetings start at 7:30 PM at Beaconsfield, the Carriage House, corner of West and Kent Street, Charlottetown. YN = young naturalists encouraged to attend or participate

March 19th - Dead Stuff. A Confederation Centre Public Library Nature Series presentation by Jackie Waddell on the importance of dead stuff in wildlife habitat. From wildlife snags to leaf litter, the dead and decaying provides homes, food and cover for animals and plants. 7:00 PM at the Library.

Apr. 1st - Measuring Human Inputs to Island Estuaries. Mike van den Heuvel of UPEI will be Nature PEI's (Natural History Society) feature speaker. The Society's meeting starts at 7:30 PM at Beaconsfield, the Carriage House, corner of West and Kent, Charlottetown. YN

April 9th - Bio-diversity on a small scale. Ron Arvidson and Shirley Gallant will present slides of landscapes in miniature. Come to Confederation Centre Public Library to hear about these micro-environments and to see some really spectacular photographs.

Apr. 25th - Island Nature Trust Annual Dinner and Auctions. This gala fund raising dinner will be held at the Top of the Park at Red Shores in Charlottetown this year. Tickets are $50 and are available from the Trust at 892-7513 or at the Nature PEI's April meeting. The reception starts at 6 pm.

May 6th - Shy and Showy Wildflowers, and How to Find Them - Kate MacQuarrie will be Nature PEI's (Natural History Society) feature speaker. The Society's meeting starts at 7:30 PM at Beaconsfield, the Carriage House, corner of West and Kent Street. YN

May 10th - Planting Day for the Trust's Fernwood property for the Confederation Forest. Come on out and plant a few trees at the Nature Trust property at Fernwood known as "Windswept". Tall cliffs, peaceful meadow - a fun and full-day event. The Macphail Woods Ecological Project has PEI 2014 funds to plant two 10-acre forests called the Confederation Forests. Everyone is welcome. Look for more details on the Trust's website and Facebook page or call us at the end of April at 892-7513.

May 31st - Nature PEI's Bain Bird Count. Members are encouraged to form teams and participate in the Society's spring bird count. Please contact Dan McAskill at 569-4351 or by E-mail at jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca

June 3rd - Best Conservation Officer Stories Ever. Gerald MacDougall will be Nature PEI's (Natural History Society) feature speaker. The Society's meeting starts at 7:30 PM at Beaconsfield, the Carriage House, corner of West and Kent, Charlottetown. YN

Jun. 15th - Hillsborough River Bald Eagle Festival - Featuring Bald Eagle viewing sites, birding, lady slipper walks, children's activities, taxidermy display, historical interpretation and much more. The event will be headquartered at the Hillsborough River Eco-Centre on Main Street.

Jun. - Oct. - Maritimes Butterfly Atlas - This is 5th year and last year of the Maritimes Butterfly Atlas, an effort to collect much needed information on the species present, their population levels and distribution in the Maritimes. Your photographs of butterflies or collection of specimens can help reveal much needs critical information for butterflies across the Island and allow you to increase your knowledge on their identification. For more information, please contact Rosemary Curley (368-4707) or John Klymko at (506-364-2660) or the www.accdc.com/butterflyatlas/about.html This website provides collection information and includes colour pictures highlighting the identification of the various species in the region.

Weekly Minimum Shorebird Numbers Observed in the PEINP During 2013

152 Excursions from 19th April to 30th November, 2013

© 2013 David Seeler

Species	April			May				June				July					August				September					October				November		
	15 29	22		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12 26	19		2 30	9	16	23		7 28	14	21		5	12	19
BBPL	1	2	9	34	50	50	20	6	3			2			5	63	42	108	177	87	68	45	36	23	28	25	58	9	5	3		
AMGP																		1	1			75	30			1						
PIPL																																
SEPL							2	6							35	149	464	503	488	139	254	157	126	38	22	4	8					
GRYE	3	7	7	26	27	12	8	4	2	1		11	28	44	52	152	96	67	112	54	123	115	31	44	59	23	21	8	5	1		
WILL			2	8	5	6	6	4	6	6	12	17	17	12	9	8	1	3					1									
LEYE				5	5						3	18	91	55	57	65	83	77	86	46	19	44	22	6	11	2	1	1				
WHIM														1				1	1	1			4									
HUGO																		2						2	1	1	1	1				
RUTU							1								3	7	22	8	11	10	9	4		3	2	3	1		1			
REKN							1	1								2	4	11	3	8	4	12	27	54		8	1					
SAND																	1	6	22	1	3	1	3	2	2							
SESA						6	8						26	98	165	183	428	434	539	256	308	664	382	393	212	189	102	24	82		1	
LESA				16	117	55	11	6						16	310	250	68	400	293	90	91	67	3	38	6							
WRSA																6	23	19	19	13	8	43	26	5	14	8	7	3				
BASA																		2	1	5	3	2										
PESA															3		8					1	1				2	2				
DUNL						3	2	1									1			1		4	188	410	277	325	239	121	139	63	90	6
SBDO						4	1					98	36	94	147	167	165	156	62	36	41	75	21	4								
LBDO																						2	1									
STSA															1								1									
CUSA																						1		1								