

ISLAND NATURALIST

ISSUE # 225

JAN. - MAR., 2018

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

- *President's Report*
- *Nature PEI News;*
- *Flower Flies on PEI;*
- *2017 PEI Bird Report;*
- *Factors causing Migratory Songbird Decline;*
- *News from About;*
- *Large Fallout of Birds NS;*
- *Bear Notes from our Past;*
- *Christmas Bird Counts 2017-2018;*
- *Meadowlark Rep't Revisited;*
- *Weather Events;*
- *Great sighting reports: Pink-footed Goose; Brant; Common Teal; Lesser Scaup; Harlequin Duck; Sharp-tailed Grouse; Cattle Egret; Turkey Vulture; Northern Harrier; Sanderling; Purple Sandpiper; Black-headed Gull; Lesser Black-backed Gull; Glaucous Gull; Snowy Owl; Red-bellied Woodpecker; American Three-toed Woodpecker; Pileated Woodpecker; White-breasted Nuthatch; Hermit Thrush; Northern Mockingbird; and Northern Cardinal.*
- *Environmental Calendar*



Pink-footed Goose on left of each image. Nicole Murtagh's phone image through her binoculars on left and Dale Murchison's image through long lens and camera.



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

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month from October to June at 7:30 p.m. at **Beaconsfield's 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.

2018 Executive:

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NEWSLETTERS are normally published quarterly and are available in Acrobat Reader colour format via E-mail or in black & white hard copy delivered by mail. Hard copies are printed on recycled paper. Articles, notes, reports, drawings, bird sightings, plant records, 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 nature 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 10th, 2018*.

Illustrations/Pictures: Our thanks to Vanessa Bonnyman, Ross Bernard, Bill Bowerbank, CWF, Greg Feetham, Kevin Griffin, Bob Harding, Lois Kilburn; Kathleen MacAulay, Lucas MacCormack, Brett MacKinnon, Sandra & Claude McCardle, Donna Martin, Dan McAskill, Dale Murchison, Doug Murray, Nicole Murtagh, and Dwaine Oakley for using of their photos.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NaturePEI>

Nature PEI gratefully acknowledges support from the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture which enables distribution of newsletters to schools and libraries desiring it. The Society has representation on the board of the Island Nature Trust. The Society is a registered charity and a non-profit organization (Part 2, PEI 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:

On Feb. 9th at lunch time, Nicole Murtagh discovered a very rare visitor to our Island, a Pink-footed Goose. She did not have her camera with her but she took images of it through her binoculars using her cell phone camera. She discussed the sighting with Dwaine Oakley who reviewed the pictures and confirmed her ID. She reported it on the PEI Bird Listserver and placed these images on the Birding on PEI Facebook site so others could try for it.

Nature PEI: the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island (edited slightly for the *Island Naturalist*)

It is good to see many members and guests here tonight and to be back in our newest “old home”, the Carriage House. Thanks to the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation for use of this facility.

We kicked off 2017 by doing something we had not done before -- hosting the first ever PEI Christmas Bird Count for Kids, a cooperative effort between the Stratford and Area Watershed Improvement Group, the Town of Stratford and Nature PEI. It was ably led by Luke Peters with help from Lucas MacCormack, and our colouring book “Island Wings” was distributed to participants. We sent most of the remainder of these to the Department of Education for use in kindergarten classes. This year our CBC4Kids was postponed and will run on Saturday January 13th.

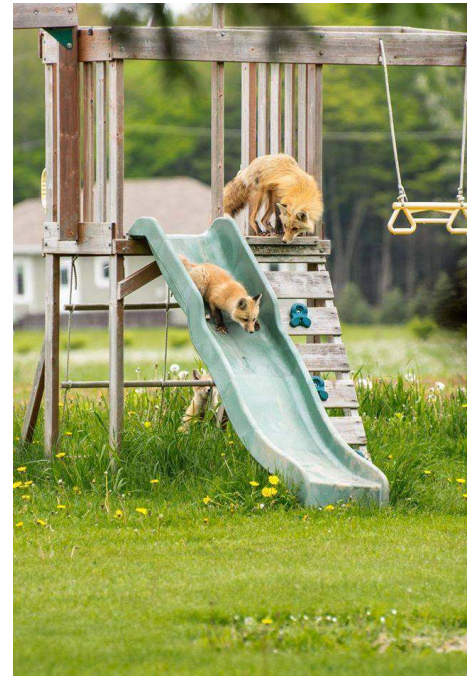
In 2017 we had a great slate of speakers at our monthly meetings, not forgetting our member’s night where you took centre stage with your poetry, photography, and stories behind the pictures. Thanks to Sean Landsman’s photography, Emma Perry on tardigrades, Travis James on Atlantic halibut, Kami Harris on ticks, and Diane Griffin, Dan McAskill and me on Arizona birding. In the fall, we continued with Jordi Segers on bats, David Cairns on Gulf seabirds and Sean Blaney on the PEI flora. By way of additional entertainment, we sponsored a Facebook photography contest. We were especially amused by the photo of a fox pup going down a children’s slide with the vixen looking on.

Again in 2017, we continued our supplications to government to build us a museum that can house natural history collections, and to that end we met in January with Premier Wade MacLauchlan and the responsible Minister, Doug Currie. We had an engaging dialogue with lots of “back and forth” during the meeting but were promised nothing and so far that is what we have to live with. The capital budget for 2018 does not mention “museum”. On a more optimistic note, at the urging of Nature PEI following the resignation of Diane Griffin from the Board of the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation, a replacement was appointed. Judi Allen, who has since accepted the presidency of Island Nature Trust, is now a museum board member who carries the torch for natural history programming.

In 2017, we also took part in consultations on culture and energy and a brief climate change workshop. We responded to the draft Water Act. We donated to a book on the Geology of PEI and began collecting funding for a book on the Mammals of PEI. Over 2017, we consulted with other conservation groups to gain support for a new Conservation Strategy for PEI. This fall, Nature PEI, the Prince Edward Island Invasive Species Council, and Island Nature Trust issued a request to the Minister of Community Lands and Environment to discuss this in a meeting. Such a meeting has been scheduled.

Many of our activities are repeated and still greatly appreciated each year, (hey, I am repeating this paragraph from last year’s report) for example, donations to Island Nature Trust; the donation of prizes for the provincial Science Fair and judging of the natural history entries (thanks to Gerald MacDougall and Connie Gaudet); the carrying out of our Bird Counts, Christmas, Bain and Bennett; and the preparation of the *Island Naturalist*. Thanks to all the members who contributed stories, photos and sightings to the newsletter and to Dan McAskill for making each issue such a “good read”. Again, we salute our Birding on PEI Facebook and Nature PEI web page managers, Sharon Clark, Ron Arvidson and Ian Scott, and David Seeler who invented and maintains the e-mail PEI birding list service.

Under housekeeping, at last, Margaret Mallett’s slide collection has been digitized through the kind efforts of Gerald MacDougall. Gerald also successfully solicited a telescope from Canadian Tire Corporation which he raffled off as a fund raiser for the society. Meanwhile, Ian Scott undertook many small changes to our web site to make it more friendly to use and provide more content. There are now 12 years of back issues of *Island Naturalist*



Vanessa Bonnyman’s Nature PEI Facebook People’s Choice Award image

available and 35 natural history articles from the *Island Magazine*. You can donate online directly by clicking just one button at Naturepei.ca. Ian also came up with “*Advancing Citizen Science Since 1969*” for a tag line for the bottom of our letters. Along the same lines, the description to Science Fair projects that we award prizes for now says “a project that is related to any wildlife species (snails to whales) and/or plants and/or wildlife habitats.” The Nature PEI Awards committee led by Gerald MacDougall recently submitted nominations to the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation. If you know of anyone who should be nominated for any type of environmental award, please let us know.

This year we undertook the collection of a group of pollinator insects known as flower flies for John Klymko of the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre, and we also collected terrestrial molluscs, i.e. snails and slugs. We discovered that these groups are far less popular with the public than are spiders and we collected far fewer of them. However, we were able to roll these activities into a BioBlitz and received support from both the Canadian Wildlife Federation (via Canada 150 funding) and the Prince Edward Island Wildlife Conservation Fund in the process. Overall we made considerable progress in finding 33 new species of flower flies, providing more comprehensive information on snails and slugs and in greatly expanding the species list for the Trout River Natural Area in Carleton. And, we learned how to run a Bioblitz. By the way, we now have submitted a PEI spider paper for publication to a journal, the *Canadian Field Naturalist*.



Our 50th Anniversary is in 2019, and we'll task a committee to begin detailed planning. Activities mentioned so far include a history for our last 25 years, community school programs, a birding course, a salute to medicinal plants and a weekend of nature entertainment, perhaps including a bioblitz. Suggestions are welcomed.

Thank you to all of you who keep this society going by renewing your membership (106 in 2017), supporting our in-house raffles, and taking part in events. February is Members Night. You're invited to show your photography and talk about nature. Thanks also to outgoing executive members Don Jardine and Luke Peters and all others who served in 2017.

NATURE PEI NEWS:

The members of the Executive Council have had a busy few months since the last *Island Naturalist* was released. Some of its activities included:

- Recruiting directors and holding the Society's Annual General Meeting. Francine Desmeules was elected as our new Treasurer and Kathleen MacNearney was elected as our new Director of Field Programs (see inner cover for the complete list);
- Finding speakers for its winter and spring speakers program;
- Completion of the Wildlife Conservation Fund grant report on flower flies and terrestrial slugs and snails;
- Continuance of discussions with the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation on the Museum's nature mandate with the Dr. David Keenlyside, its Executive Director. and representation at the Museum's Annual General Meeting;
- Submission of award nominations for the 2018 PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation's Heritage Awards;
- Continuing discussions on the Society's 50th anniversary celebration in 2019;
- Research and development of letters to two federal ministers respecting necessary improvements on right whale conservation programs in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and a letter to the PEI Humane Society to express Nature PEI's concern over the potential collateral impact on birds by the PEI Humane Society's creation of a "working cat adoption" program;
- Planning for the 2nd Christmas Bird Counts for Kids and the Society's ongoing coordination of the long-standing Christmas Bird Counts;
- Provision of administrative support for a book on the mammals of PEI;
- Attending a PEI National Park Feb. 5, 2018 consultation workshop on heritage presentation within the park; and
- Donation of \$200 for the natural history awards at the 2018 PEI Science Fair and \$100 towards the Nature Conservancy of Canada's 2017-18 Blooming Point land acquisition project.

FLOWER FLIES ON PEI:

By John Klymko



Flower fly at East
Lake May 2017
Dwayne Oakley
photo

Nature PEI ran a citizen science pollinator survey over the past summer. The project focussed on flower flies (family Syrphidae), a group that visits a wide range of wildflowers and includes many spectacular wasp and bee mimics. Volunteers collected 496 specimens and submitted 418 photos. 47 flower fly species were recorded, including 33 that had never been found on PEI before, as well as a wasp that hadn't been seen in the Maritimes before! The project nearly doubled the island's flower fly list, which now stands at 74 species. The Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre supported the project by identifying the specimens and photographs. (ACCDC Facebook site post Dec. 6, 2017 at 11:46 am)

2017 PEI BIRD REPORT:

By David and Elaine Seeler

It is hard to believe that 365 days have slipped by. It was a relatively good year for reports with 239 species being reported by PEI & visiting Birders. I wish to thank everyone who took the time to report their observations this year. I am encouraged by the increasing number who are now regularly using E-Bird.

May each of you & your families have a great 2018!

SPECIES Reported: 239

DUCKS, GEESE, & WATERFOWL

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

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

SHEARWATERS & PETRELS

Great Shearwater
Sooty Shearwater

STORM-PETRELS

Wilson's Storm-Petrel

BOOBIES & GANNETS

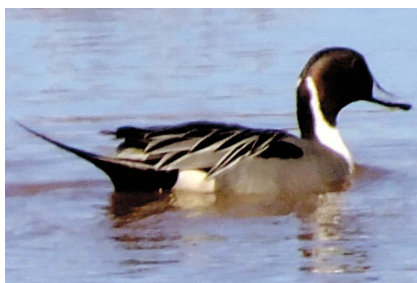
Northern Gannet

CORMORANTS & SHAGS

Great Cormorant
Double-crested Cormorant

PELICANS

American White Pelican



Northern Pintail at Pisquid River
Spring 2017
William Bowerbank photo

PHEASANTS, GROUSE, & ALLIES

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

LOONS

Red-throated Loon
Common Loon

GREBES

Pied-billed Grebe
Red-necked Grebe

Green-winged Teal
Redhead



American White Pelican
at Black Pond, Pleasant view
Nov. 24, 2017
Greg Feetham photo

HERONS, EGRETS, & BITTERNS

American Bittern
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Cattle Egret



Cattle Egret at Tignish 2017
Ross Bernard photo

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Turkey Vulture

OSPREY

Osprey

HAWKS, EAGLES, & KITES

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

RAILS, GALLINULES, & COOTS

Virginia Rail
Sora
American Coot

CRANES

Sandhill Crane



Ruff at Brackley Beach PEINP
May 20, 2017
Vanessa Bonnyman photo

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS

Black-bellied Plover
American Golden-Plover
Semipalmated Plover
Piping Plover
Killdeer

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES

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

SKUAS AND JAEGER

Pomarine Jaeger
Parasitic Jaeger

AUKS, MURRES, & PUFFINS

Dovekie
Common Murre
Thick-billed Murre
Razorbill
Black Guillemot
Atlantic Puffin

GULLS, TERNS, & SKIMMERS

Black-legged Kittiwake
Bonaparte's Gull
Black-headed Gull
Little Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Thayer's Gull
Iceland Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Glaucous Gull
Great Black-backed Gull

Caspian Tern
Common Tern
Arctic Tern

PIGEONS & DOVES

Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove

CUCKOOS

Black-billed Cuckoo

OWLS

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

NIGHTJARS & ALLIES

Common Nighthawk

HUMMINGBIRDS

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

KINGFISHERS

Belted Kingfisher

WOODPECKERS

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

FALCONS & CARACARAS

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, SHRIKE-BABLERS,

ERPORNIS

Blue-headed Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo

CROWS, JAYS, & MAGPIES

Gray Jay
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven

LARKS

Horned Lark

SWALLOWS

Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow

TITS, CHICKADEES, & TITMICE

Black-capped Chickadee
Boreal Chickadee

NUTHATCHES

Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch

TREE CREEPERS

Brown Creeper

WRENS

Winter Wren
Sedge Wren

KINGLETS

Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

THRUSHES AND ALLIES

Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Grey-cheeked Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Hermit Thrush
American Robin

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS

Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Northern Mockingbird

STARLINGS

European Starling

WAGTAILS & PIPITS

American Pipit

WAXWINGS

Bohemian Waxwing



Bohemian Waxwing April 2017
Dale Murchison Photo

Cedar Waxwing

LONGSPURS & SNOW BUNTINGS

Lapland Longspur
Snow Bunting

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Black-and-white Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Mourning Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
American Redstart
Cape May Warbler
Northern Parula
Magnolia Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler

Palm Warbler

Pine Warbler

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Black-throated Green Warbler

Canada Warbler

Wilson's Warbler

BUNTINGS & NEW WORLD

SPARROWS

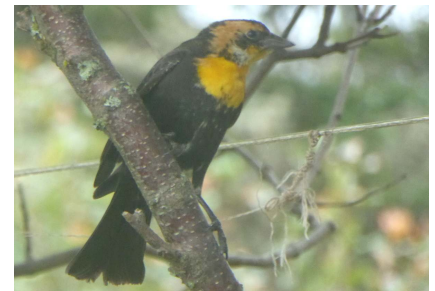
Nelson's Sparrow
American Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
White-crowned Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow

CARDINALS & ALLIES

Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting

TROUPIALS & ALLIES

Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Rusty Blackbird



Yellow-headed Blackbird
at Priest Pond
Lois Kilburn photo

Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Baltimore Oriole

FINCHES, EUPHONIAS, & ALLIES
Pine Grosbeak
Purple Finch
White-winged Crossbill
Common Redpoll

Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Evening Grosbeak

OLD WORLD SPARROWS
House Sparrow

FACTORS CAUSING MIGRATORY SONGBIRD DECLINE:

By Mary Burnett

What factors are causing the decline of our migratory song birds? What can we do to combat this trend? For some answers and a wealth of fascinating detail about the private lives of birds, check out two interesting books by Bridget Stutchbury, Professor of Biology at York University.

Silence of the Songbirds published in 2007

The Bird Detective published in 2010

The latter is available at PEI Public Libraries and maybe the former if enough of us request it be stocked.

NEWS FROM ABOUT:

Compiled by Dan McAskill

On January 26, 2018, the Nature Conservancy of Canada's publically announced the purchase and protection of a total of 57 hectares (141 acres) in Abrams Village, at the mouth of the Haldimand River. This new acquisition includes forest on both sides of the Haldimand River and borders a 20 ha (49 acre) salt marsh. The NCC asked individuals to contribute towards the additional \$35,000 required to complete the \$215,000 acquisition of 52 ha (128 acres) at Blooming Point which spans the outlets of Deroche Pond along the northeastern corner of Tracadie Bay. To donate phone 1-877-231-4400, locally at 902-892-3608, or make an online donation. Please note its for the Blooming Point Project. (Adapted from NCC's PEI Website on Feb 10th)

Another donation in support of the 2017 Neil Bennett Autumn Birding Classic fund raiser co-hosted by Nature PEI and The Island Nature Trust brought the total donations to \$4,466, the highest total since this project started. These funds support the ongoing land conservation work of the Island Nature Trust.

This past summer, the Island Nature Trust announced the acquisition of 4.9 ha (12 acres) of land adjacent to the Townsend Woods Natural area on the hardwood ridge along the Souris Line Road. This healthy mix of hardwoods and softwoods provides additional buffering to the old growth hardwood forest for which these lands were designated a natural area and, as they grow older, will become old growth forest. (Adapted from Island Nature Trust Quarterly, September 2017 Issue 138)

Congratulations to UPEI's Dr. Ed MacDonald (History) who was recognized as an Island Studies Teaching Fellow in December, 2017. This is in recognition of the work and dedication he brings to all things Island Studies. (Adapted from *Institute of Island Studies News* - Feb. 2018)

In 2017, the Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Atlas team conducted its first of five fieldwork seasons documenting the distribution and abundance of the province's breeding birds. Every atlas season has its surprises, and this was no exception! (Adapted from *Bird Study Canada News* Dec. 2017)

Congratulations go to the Blomidon Naturalist Society on completing the conversion and indexing of the various issues of the Newsletter from 1974 to 2017 to Acrobat Reader format and its subsequent placement on their website. This makes the information up to 2016 accessible to researchers and for members to 2017. (Adapted from Newsletter Archive by Larry Bogan in BNS Newsletter Vol. 44 # 3 Fall 2017)

Kudos go to Quebec-Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Centre for the Environment for its many decades of work and leadership in Biodiversity Conservation in the Atlantic Region, especially that of Dr. Kathleen Blanchard, QLF's Senior Program Consultant. Under her guidance hundreds of QLF Interns have had an opportunity to gain work hands-on experience in natural resource management, sustainable development, and fundamental methods of working in small coastal communities to advance community-based conservation. (Adapted from Beth Alling's November 2017 cover letter to *Compass: The Quarterly Newsletter* the Quebec-Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Centre for the Environment Fall 2017)

On June 28, 2017, Jim Edsell led 20 participants in the Blomidon Naturalist Society's 3rd Annual Moth

Night at the Kentville Ravine. They utilized a white flannel blanket suspended between two trees and illuminated by a UV battery powered light. They identified 44 species during the excursion. (Adapted from Ian Manning's "Moth Night" in BNS Newsletter Vol. 44 # 3 Fall 2017)

The PEI National Park released its "2017 Management Plan for Prince Edward Island National Park" in December 2017. The plan covers a 10 year period and is available on line. Parks Canada committed to reporting back to the public on an annual basis (December 14th, 2017 email from Karen Jans, Field Unit Superintendent, Parks Canada - PEI)

Utilizing images mostly collected by Dwaine Oakley, Dan McAskill provided a Birds of Prince Edward Island evening presentation as part of Nature PEI's outreach program at PEIMHF Eptek Centre on Jan. 2, 2018 to 25 people. This presentation occurred while the Summerside Bird Carving Display was being featured.

We are sad to announce the passing of Dr. Martin K. McNicholl, former General Manager and Executive Director of Long Point Bird Observatory. Read about his significant contributions to the ornithological and birding communities in a [tribute from the British Columbia Field Ornithologists](#) (BSC release Jan 2018)

LARGE FALLOUT OF BIRDS IN NOVA SCOTIA:

By Donna Martin

Donna prepared the following list of birds found in the Nova Scotia as the result of a fallout which started on October 23rd. As well, an Orange-crowned Warbler was reported on Dec. 16th as well as a Yellow-throated Warbler. A few spots in NB also had some of these species including Grand Manan. Please see the link below.

White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
American Redstart
Magnolia Warbler
Swainson's Thrush

Northern Parula
Scarlet Tanager
Summer Tanager
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Indigo Bunting
Blue Grosbeak
Blackburnian Warbler
Blue-winged Warbler
Golden-winged Warbler
Grey Catbird
Hooded Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Barn Swallow
Tree Swallow
Black-throated Blue Warbler

Eastern Wood-Pewee
Chimney Swift
Yellow-throated Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Black-and-White Warbler
Wood Thrush
Yellow-breasted Chat
Ovenbird
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Bay-breasted Warbler
Veery
Northern Waterthrush
Wilson's Warbler
Common Nighthawk



Black-throated Green Warbler
Donna Martin photo

<http://birdcast.info/forecast/migration-update-neotropical-transport-in-northeastern-north-america-26-30-october-2017/>

BEAR NOTES FROM OUR PAST:

Submitted by Ian Scott

Two articles from the *Islander* newspaper as noted in *Georgetown Lives* edited by Nathan H. Mair: “A fine large bear weighting 4 cwt. Was shot a few days since on the Georgetown Road, near Redmond's Tavern” (*Islander*, Feb. 17, 1843)

“Three Bears Killed: We learn that on Wednesday the 22nd ult., a number of young men from Georgetown headed by Mr. Smith, succeeded in killing a large bar and two cubs near Mr. Westaway's farm, Three Rivers” (*Islander*, Oct. 1, 1852)[from *Georgetown Lives* edited by Nathan H. Mair]

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 2017-18:

Results compiled by Scott Sinclair, Dwaine Oakley & Dan McAskill

Audubon Christmas Bird Counts have been conducted for 118 consecutive years in North America. Bird Studies Canada has been the Canadian partner in the CBCs since the 101st count (2000-1). This year the weather forecasts were tolerable to good and all four counts went ahead as scheduled. Thus, for the 47th consecutive year, the Natural History Society Nature PEI AKA Nature PEI conducted the Hillsborough Christmas Bird Count while the PEI National Park CBC celebrated its 46th as storms caused its cancellation in 1975. The Montague Christmas count celebrated its 34th anniversary this year and the East Point count marked its 15th anniversary with one year missed for severe weather.

Clay roads were frozen and there was only a light dusting of snow showing on fields for the counts although there was light snow cover on the East Point count. Thus road access travelling conditions were very good on the four count areas. Freezing conditions started early this year (14th December) and the bays were largely covered by ice as were still fresh water areas. The Gulf was open. In the Montague count area, there was more open water in the lower river estuaries adjacent to the Northumberland Strait

The East Point Christmas Bird Count was held on December 16th. The good weather conditions in the early hours of the day led Dwaine Oakley, Brett MacKinnon and Benjamin MacNeill to try for owl play backs and they picked up three species on the Tarantum Road leaving Stratford at 3 am. The first birders arrived at East Point before 7:30 am, the scheduled assembly time. Eight birders participated and birded the Point itself amidst a moderate northwest wind. Afterwards, three teams formed up and took to their zones. While checking for warblers at a bayberry patch at East Lake, Dwaine, Brett and Ben picked out a yellowish warbler that they quickly identified as an Orange-crowned Warbler. They telephoned Dan McAskill, Ray Cooke and Gerald MacDonald who were birding in another zone at Elmira to advise them of their discovery and assisted them in relocating the bird so that they too were able to see it.

The PEI National Park CBC was held on Sunday, December 17th. It was cold and windy with heavy surf along the north shore but it was open. Almost all of the bays and fresh water ponds were froze over except for causeway raceways, water channels with rapidly moving water, and some spring holes. Thirteen field counters and three feeders at two sites participated in the potluck hosted by Bob Harding of Parks Canada in the Dalvay Administration Headquarters Lunch Room. The food from the counters was both great and plentiful this year.



East Point CBC Participants Dec. 16, 2017
Dan McAskill photo



PEI National Park CBC Participants at Dalvay Dec. 17, 2017

During the team reports, Rosemary Curley, Clare Martin and Lucas MacCormack advised that they had seen pussy willows open at Union Road in zone 5 during the count! In the afternoon, a Snowy Owl was discovered by Bill Bowerbank and Dan McAskill and the information was posted to cell phones to allow a

number of the morning's participants to try for it.

The Hillsborough CBC on December 26th opened with strong wind and low temperatures. Due to severe wind storms the day before, air travel delays on the 25-6th so the dawn check of the starling roost at the Hillsborough Bridge was not conducted. However, about 1,000 were seen murmuring around the bridge near dusk. Dwaine Oakley and Brett MacKinnon started early and picked up some good woodland birds before the winds increased. Several field counters whose bird feeders were located within the count circle collected and submitted their observations at their feeders. Diane and Kevin Griffin hosted the evening potluck with four teams and nine people participating. The food and treats were wonderful.



Hillsborough CBC Potluck Participants at Diane & Kevin Griffin's
Kevin Griffin photo

The Montague CBC was held on December 30th. While a bit nippy temperature wise, there were very good birding conditions with light winds and excellent snow conditions for track identification. Nineteen field counters and five feeder watchers participated. This year, most of the field counters gathered at the newly opened Copper Bottom Brewing in Montague to discuss their findings and commiserate about the day's birding and life events.

Dwaine Oakley coordinated the East Point CBC, Scott Sinclair organized the Montague count and Dan McAskill coordinated the P.E.I. National Park and Hillsborough CBCs.

There was an excellent crop of mountain ash berries and white spruce cone crops across the Island this year. However, there was a poor crop of wild apple. As was the case the last five years, CBC field counters again reported low numbers of woodland birds and sparrows. Finch diversity and numbers were both very low although there were good numbers of American Goldfinch at certain feeders. As has been the case for quite a few years, there were many empty feeders.



Orange-crowned Warbler at East Lake during East Point CBC
Brett MacKinnon photo

The most unusual sightings were: 26 Harlequins at East Point, 4 Bufflehead at Basin Head, 7 Red-throated Loon, 4 Common Loon, 4 Northern Gannet, 1 Razorbill and 8 Black Guillemot at East Point, a Black Guillemot at Georgetown Harbour, a pair of Hooded Merganser at Montague River just below Knox's Dam, a Glaucous Gull and 3 Sanderling at Poverty Beach, a Pileated Woodpecker along Woodland Trails in PEI National Park and another along Rte 17A just north of Mink River Road, an Orange-crowned Warbler and 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers at East Lake, 2 Savannah Sparrows at Poverty Beach, and 1 Evening Grosbeak at Heatherdale.

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. 16, 2017	Dec. 17, 2017	Dec. 26 2017	Dec. 30, 2017	Four Counts
Canada Geese	120	576	2797	854	4347
Gadwall		10			10
American Wigeon		2		6	8
American Black Duck	118	700	406	588	1812
Mallard	5	39	79	70	193

Northern Pintail		4			4
Green-winged Teal			1	2	3
Greater Scaup	21	402	1	2	426
Lesser Scaup		1			1
Common Eider	100				100
Harlequin Duck	26				26
White-winged Scoter	4		CW		4
Black Scoter	26	CW		15	41
Long-tailed Duck	1001			151	1152
Bufflehead	2				2
Common Goldeneye	43	117	118	234	512
Barrow's Goldeneye		2	4	3	9
Hooded Merganser				1	1
Common Merganser	146	101	44	257	548
Red-breasted Merganser	59	1	7	62	129
UID Ducks		1			1
Gray Partridge				6	6
Ring-necked Pheasant			1		1
Ruffed Grouse				11	11
Common Loon	4				16
Red-throated Loon	16				4
Red-necked Grebe	3				3
Northern Gannet	30				30
Double-crested Cormorant	1			17	18
Great Cormorant	55		1	1	57
Turkey Vulture		1			1
Bald Eagle	7	39	20	38	107
Adults	6	31	3	9	49
Immature	1	5	0	4	42
Unknown	0	4		25	4
Northern Harrier		CW		2	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk			2	1	3
Northern Goshawk				CW	CW
Red-tailed Hawk	2	5	7	4	18
Rough-legged Hawk			3		3
UID Hawk		1			1
Sanderling				3	3
Razorbill	39				30
Black Guillemot	10				10
Bleack-legged Kittiwake	2				2
Bonaparte's Gull	43	1			44
Ring-billed Gull	2	7	1	8	18
Herring Gull	25	463	109	295	892
Iceland Gull	20	7	11	3	41
Glaucous Gull			1	1	2
Great Black-backed Gull	22	22	19	60	123
UID Gulls			20	20	40
Rock Pigeon (Dove)	14	40	320	180	554
Mourning Dove		26	89	122	237
Great Horned Owl	1				1
Snowy Owl		1			1
Barred Owl	3				3
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1				1
Belted Kingfisher			1		1
Downy Woodpecker	1	7	15	14	37
Hairy Woodpecker	2	2	11	3	18
Northern Flicker			2	3	5
Pileated Woodpecker		1	CW	1	2
Northern Shrike				1	1
Peregrine Falcon (prob)	1			1 probable	2
Blue Jay	27	104	177	224	532
American Crow	44	3664	1598	614	5920
Common Raven	8	75	42	35	160
Horned Lark				1	1

Black-capped Chickadee	31	94	220	325	670
Boreal Chickadee		1			1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	12	7	46	70
Brown Creeper			1	4	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6	4	5	43	58
American Robin	51	32	12	87	182
European Starling	355	511	2878	736	4480
Bohemian Waxwing	62				62
Cedar Waxwing	88		6	50	144
Lapland Longspur			45	2	47
Snow Bunting			1	200	201
Orange-crowned Warbler	1				1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2				2
American Tree Sparrow	2	1	4		7
Savannah Sparrow				2	2
Song Sparrow		3	6	1	10
White-throated Sparrow			1	5	6
Dark-eyed Junco	4	39	51	84	178
Common Grackle	1			5	6
Brown-headed Cowbird				69	69
American Goldfinch	20	159	199	204	582
Evening Grosbeak				1	1
House Sparrow		1	7	3	11
Total Birds	2682	7279	9354	5790	25106
Total Species	52	40	45	58	83
Add Count Week Species	0	1	2	1	1
Participants: Field	8	15	19	19	61
Count Parties	1 to 3	5	6	7	19 to 22
Feeders	0	3	4	5	8
Mammals:					
Red Squirrel	0	10	14	17	31
Red Fox	0	3	1	6	10
Coyote	0	howling	0	1	1
Grey Seal	1	0	0	0	1
Harbour Seal	0	0	0	40	40
Short-tailed Weasel	0	0	0	2	2
Mink	0	0	0	2	2
Snowshoe Hare	0	0	0	5	5
Roaming House Cats	0	1	9	3	13
Walked: Km	1.5	6.8	6.1	25	40.4
Hours	2.5	2.61	3.61	17	24.72
Driven: Km	174	388	391	459.7	1412.7
Hours	12	20.14	25.34	32.3	89.78
Earliest Start	4:15 am	7:10 am	8:00 am	7:30 am	
Latest Ending	1:45 pm	4:00 pm	4:30 pm	4:30 pm	
Total Party Hours	13.5	22.75	28.95	49.3	116.5
Owling Hours	2	0	0	0	
Owling Kilometres		0	0	0	
Number of Feeder Reports	0	3	4	5	12
Feeder Hours		11	4.5	12	39.25
Snow Cover - aver. cm.	0	0 to 2	0 to 2	2 to 4	
Salt Water Bays - % frozen	80	85	95	40 to 90	
Fresh Water - % frozen	90	95	95	98	
Weather:	Light snow PM	Snow flurries	sunshine	mostly sunny with flurries	
Bright Sunshine (hrs)	0	0	9	7	
Precipitation	Snow flurries PM	0	0	0	
Cloud %	100	100	10	0	
Temperature C.	-6 to -5	-11 to -8.6	-10 to -5	-11 to -9	
Aver. Wind Speed km/hr	27	16	30		
Wind speed range km/hr	12 to 33	12 to 45	28 to 45	10 to 20	
Prevail. wind direction	northwesterly	west	southwesterly	W	

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; Ron Arvidson; Jean Blanchard; Vanessa Bonnyman; Bill Bowerbank; Carla Brechin; Jenna Cahill; Sharon Clark; Rosemary Curley; Wanda Curley; Fiep de Bie; Lois Doan; Victoria Doan; Chris Fraser; Kate Gordon; Diane Griffin; Robert Harding; Doyle & Sharon Hachey; Elaine Higginbotham; Ben Hoteling; Derek Lowe; Lucas MacCormack; Gerald MacDonald; Margaret MacDonald; Brett MacKinnon; Jeff MacLeod; Benjamin MacNeill, Jeanne Maki; Clare Martin; Donna Martin, Dan McAskill; Arlene & Paul McGuigan; Janice McGuigan; Dale Murchison; Dwaine Oakley; Emily Pringle; Ruth Richman; Gary Schneider; Scott Sinclair; Ella Stewart; Liz Townsend; Rosalind Waters; and Jean Watts. These counts would not be possible without their participation.

MEADOWLARK REPORT REVISITED:

By Kathleen MacAuley

I reported a meadowlark at East Lake in May, 2015 (<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S36454935>) that looked good for a Western Meadowlark [WEME]. At the time, I thought it was suggestive of Western Meadowlark but didn't have definitive characteristics, and I nor anyone local could that day say 100% it was a Western Meadowlark. With a lot more experience with both meadowlark species after living in Minnesota for two years, and on the advice of a couple of experienced birders, I revisited the sighting in September 2017 and forwarded my pictures to Tony Leukering, who also shared them with Steve Mlodinow.

My field notes from the original observation, made within a few days of the sighting:

“Flushed a meadowlark sp. from roadside; it flew across the road and down into the grass behind some shrubs. I was struck by there being a lot of white in the tail, but unfortunately did not know to observe details of tail markings. I approached where it had landed and it flushed again, this time landing in view on the shoulder of the road about 50 m away. I fired off a few quick photos and slowly advanced to 40m distance. In my binoculars it seemed a pale greyish colour overall, though again I have little meadowlark experience. I could not see any yellow in the malar. A car passed and the bird darted down a grassy side track; I took the opportunity to retrieve my scope. I set up about 30m from the bird and observed it at 30x for several minutes. I confirmed that there was no yellow in the malar and thought at the time that this clinched the ID. I digiscoped a few photos, though the harsh backlight was not ideal. Once the bird travelled around a corner in the track and stayed out of sight I packed up and left. I did not hear any vocalizations from the bird at any point.”

Note that at the time I did not realize that WEME often has only a small amount of yellow in the malar and was looking for a whitish vs all-yellow malar, hence “no yellow in the malar” even though a small amount of yellow can be seen there in my photos.

I asked several Maritime experts and also reached out to the Advanced Bird ID facebook group but no one found it convincing enough to make a call. I left it in eBird as WEME/EAME.

Fast forward to 2017, having spent 2 years in Minnesota I gained a much better working knowledge of both Western and Eastern Meadowlark (both commonly breed there). A couple of birders from Quebec saw my photos on eBird and suggested it was a WEME, leading me to revisit the record. It definitely looked more like a WEME, with its overall paleness and fine barring above without thick dark streaks along the feather shaft, and though the malar was not uniformly yellow, there is some yellow there. I reached out again, this time specifically to people I knew had expertise in meadowlark ID. Their comments after seeing the photos are below:

Tony Leukering: "I note the following additional WEME-supportive characters:

- the dull brown head stripes in late May
- the relatively dark cheek
- the bit of yellow in the rear of the malar

It's too bad that there is not a spread-tail shot. However, I certainly would not look twice at that bird in Colorado or here in panhandle OK. The one problem that should be considered by any review body is the possibility of a hybrid, which are probably not all that rare. If we ignore the weak showing of yellow in the malar (which is a highly variable feature in WEME, possibly sex-related), I don't really see any obvious signs of EAME in this bird's

plumage."

Steve Modinow: "I totally agree with your assessment, well nearly so. The over pallid and sandy color above supports WEME.

- The streaking on the side is heavy for WEME, and that is the only oddity about the bird
- But as we know, pretty much any bird looked closely enough at will show something "atypical."
- The pale malar with blob or yellow intrusion towards rear is very common in CO, and my impression is

that more westerly populations of WEME average more yellow on the malar than ones in CO and to east
But yes, this is a WEME (any kind of crisp tail shot would've been nice)"



Meadowlark picture collage taken at East Lake on May 28, 2015
Kathleen MacAulay photos

WEATHER EVENTS:

Heavy rain and 8° C temperatures marked Dec. 13th at Sherbrooke but Dec. 14th brought -8 to -11° C, high winds and wind chills in the -20° C range in Queens County. Ice formed quickly and, later in the week of Dec. 10th, 3 inches of ice were formed on Stanhope Bay by the golf course and the first smelt fishers were braving the ice cover. Temperatures in the -10 to -15° C on Dec. 25th to 28th combined with winds of 30+ km/hr allowed 4 inches of clear ice to form off Beach Grove in Charlottetown (LY). Skiff of snow on fields at end of Dec but Goose River had 20+ cm snow on Dec. 26 (DO). Ice cover on Hillsborough Bridge and Fullerton's Marsh almost 100%, only small area adjacent to bridge opening still open on Dec. 31 (JDM). Snowmobiles seen crossing ice below Vernon Bridge on Jan. 1 (JDM).

A weather bomb northeaster hit the Maritimes on Jan. 4-5 with first snow, then ice pellets, rain, storm surges, high winds (96 km/hr) and later ice ridging along the shore in some areas including Bell's Point (JDM, CBC Radio). The storm was accompanied with power losses in some areas of the Island.

Major January thaw underway with temperatures reaching 9° C in central PEI on Jan. 12 (JDM) shortly thereafter followed by 20 cm of snow and then a second thaw on Jan. 23-4 with a few record daily high temperatures on PEI and rain clearing most fields of snow (JDM). A third thaw occurred on Jan. 28 (JDM).

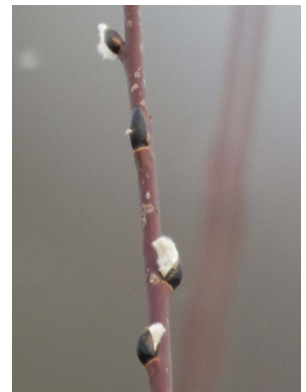
The recent thaws resulted in a heavy layer of sand on hundreds of square metres of ice at North River Causeway and Belvedere Pond by January 27 (JDM, WFB). In late January, 60 cm (20") ice on Stanhope Bay off golf and 30 cm (12") clear hard ice off Mermaid on the Hillsborough River (LY). On Feb. 7, the channel at the Hillsborough Bridge had expanded to reach the Government Wharf (JDM). A light cover of snow on most fields and bays and fresh still water areas still froze over on Feb. 15 (JDM).

ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:

Compiled by J. Dan McAskill

PLANTS:

Strawberry in flower in early Dec. (JLZ). **Pussy willows** open at Union Road on Dec. 17 (CMA, LM, FRC).



Pussy Willow Union Road
Dec. 17, 2017
Lucas MacCormack photo



Eastern Parson Spider
Dalvay Dec. 15 2017
Bob Harding photo

INSECTS & ARACHNIDS:

Bob Harding identified another **Western Conifer Seed Bug** specimen collected by Dan McAskill in Nov. 2017 making this the second Island record, both from Donagh. **Spiders** constructed webs on outside of house at Donagh on Jan. 13 (JDM).

MAMMALS:

Fresh tracks of **Raccoon** at Watervale on Dec. 28 (DO). **Mink** at Point Prim on Dec. 29 (ET, CB&JM). **Coyotes** howling at Summerville on Dec. 31 (RWH) and 2 crossing the ice at DeGros Marsh on Feb. 8 (JAL). **Striped Skunk** seen in Charlottetown on Jan. 7 (BC&LH). **Black Red Fox** at Argyle Shore on Jan. 16 (LY). **Melanistic Red Squirrel** at Roseneath on Feb. 7 (DMur). **Seals** on the ice at DeGros Marsh on Feb. 8 (JAL)



Red Fox pups at Clearview Estates 2017
Doug Murray Photo

FISH:

Very poor catches of smelts during ice fishing being noted this year on the Hillsborough at Mermaid and off Beach Grove (LY).

BIRDS: Pink-footed Goose - 1 photographed with Canada Geese at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 9 (NM, ID verified by DO) & on Feb. 10 (D&GM, DMa) & Feb. 11 (DMur, FdB, VB) & Feb. 12 (DO, D&GM, JDM, RA, BD) & Feb. 14 (BJ) (see cover); **Snow Goose** - 1 at Lower Freetown on Oct. 7 (DO); **Brant** - 20 reported flying at Indian River in last week of Nov. (BCa); **Canada Geese** - ~300 at Hunter River Mill Dam on Dec. 9 (JDM), 3,000+ at Vernon Bridge causeway on Jan. 1 (WFB, JDM) & ~4,000 to 5,000 on Jan. 3 &

Jan 10 (JDM, DMa) & 300 on Jan. 7 (FdB) & 1,000 on Jan. 21 (WFB, EM), 1,200 at Earnscliffe on Jan. 1 (FdB), 22 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 1 (DMa), 180 at Souris West on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS) & 78 on Feb. 6 (DMa), 52 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 2 (DMa, DEJ) & 17 on Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB), 350 at Cardigan Bridge, 25 at Bridgetown & 275 at Souris West on Jan. 10 (DMa, JDM), 750 at Murray River on Jan. 19 (SCS, FdB) & 452 on Jan. 25 (RG), ~2,000 browsing in Hay field at Vernon Bridge on Feb. 13 (WFB, JDM); **Gadwall** - 65 at Cymbria on Dec. 22 (DMa) & 5 to 11 on Jan. 9 (VB) & 4 on Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB) & 70 on Jan. 27 (JDM, WFB), 8 at Cavendish Farms Wetlands on Jan. 2 & 4 on Jan. 9 (DMa), 6 at Belvedere Pond on Jan. 7 (GW) & 50 on Jan. 19 (FdB) & 22 on Feb. 10 (JDM), 5 at Ellen's Creek, 12 at Belvedere Pond, & 11 at Wright's Creek on Jan. 28 (DEJ); **American Wigeon** - 3 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 1 (DMa) & 1 on ~Jan 2 (GW), 18 at Ellen's Creek mostly in pairs on Jan. 27 (JDM, WFB); **American Black Duck** - 25 in Borden lagoons on Dec. 9 (BH, JDM), 15 at Cymbria on Dec. 22 (DMa) & 70 on Jan. 11 (DEJ) & 9 on Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB), 180 at Vernon Bridge causeway on Jan. 1 (WFB, JDM) & 300 on Jan. 3 & 200 on Jan. 10 (JDM, DMa), 47 at Basin Head on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS), 16 at Cavendish Farms Wetlands on Jan. 2 (DMa), 65 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 11 (DEJ) & 68 Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB) & 42 on Jan. 21 (DMa) & 165 on Jan. 27 (WFB, JDM), 60 at Cardigan Bridge, 70 at Montague & 100 at Souris West on Jan. 10 (DMa, JDM), 65 at Belvedere Pond on Jan. 19 (FdB), 120 at Grand River Bridge on Jan. 19 & 120 on Jan. 26 (DEJ), 60 at Montague on Jan. 19 (SCS, FdB), 75 at Murray River (by MacLure's Dam) on Jan. 19 (SCS, FdB) & 56 on Jan. 25 (RG); **Mallard** - 18 at Cymbria (Chapel Creek) on Dec. 22 (DMa) & 3 on Jan. 1 (DEJ) & 58 on Jan. 11 (DEJ) & 70 to 120 on Jan. 9 (VB, DMa) & 5 on Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB) & 65 on Jan. 21 (DMa) & 310 on Jan. 27 (JDM, WFB), 20 at Montague River at Knox's Dam on Jan. 1 (WFB, JDM), 18 at Cavendish Farms Wetlands on Jan. 2 (DMa), 10 at Rusticoville on Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB), 10 at pond on Rte 6 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB), 12 at Murray River (by MacLure's Dam) on Jan. 19 (SCS, FdB) & 60 on Jan. 25 (RG), 65 at Wilmot on Jan. 20 (DMa), 36+ at Ellen's Creek on Jan. 27 (JDM, WFB); **Northern Pintail** - 13 at North Rustico Harbour on Dec. 11 (DMa), 7 at Cymbria on Jan. 9 (VB, DMa) & 1 on Jan. 11 (DEJ) & 2 on Jan. 21 (DMa) & 12 on Jan. 27 (WFB, JDM), male & female at Belvedere Pond on Jan. 19 (FdB), 1 at East Lake on Jan. 21 (SCS, FdB); **Green-winged Teal** - 2 at Stratford Lagoons on Jan. 1 (WFB, JDM), 1 at spring hole at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 27 (JDM, WFB), 4 at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 13 (RA); **Common Teal** - 1 male at Monaghan Road in Dec. (BD); **UID Sea Ducks** - ~6,000 far offshore flushed up by ferry at East Point on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS); **Greater Scaup** - 400 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Dec. 22 (DMa) & 66 on Jan. 1 (DEJ) & 70 on Jan. 1 (DMa) & 1,000 on Jan. 2 (JDM) & 54 on Jan. 9 (VB) & 460 on Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB) & 420 on Jan. 21 (DMa), & 800 on Jan. 27 (JDM, WFB) & 240 on Feb. 6 (DMa), 70 at Rusticoville on Jan. 14 & 31 on Feb. 6 (SCS, FdB); **Lesser Scaup** - 1 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 1 (DCS); **Common Eider** - off Orby Head on Dec. 15 (DMa), ~60 off Covehead Harbour on Dec. 22 (DMa), 1 at Basin Head & 15 at East Point on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS) & 1,500 concentrated by ice on Jan. 10 (DMa, JDM) & 6 on Jan. 21 (SCS, FdB) & 17 on Feb. 6 (DMa), 5 at North Cape on Jan. 7 (DMa); **Harlequin Duck** - 1 at Covehead Harbour Bridge on Dec. 7 (RWH) & on Dec. 11 (DMa), 23 at East Point on Jan. 21 (SCS, FdB) & 14 on Feb. 6 (DMa); **White-winged Scoter** - 4 in surf off Covehead Harbour on Dec 23 (SCS, FdB, GS), 63 off Point Prim lighthouse on Dec. 29 (CB&JM); **Black Scoter** - 1 in open water at Grand River bridge on Jan. 2 (DMa), 12 at East Point on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS) & 5 on Jan. 10 (DMa, JDM) & 55 on Jan. 21 (SCS, FdB) & 9 on Feb. 6 (DMa), 1 at Orby Head on Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB); **Long-tailed Duck** - 20 near Hillsborough Bridge on Dec. 4 (LM), 80 at East Point on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS) & 5,000 on Jan. 10 (JDM, DMa) & 140 on Jan. 21 (SCS, FdB) & 37 on Feb. 6 (DMa), 30 off Lower Montague on Jan. 3 (JDM, DMa), 25 at North Cape on Jan. 7 (DMa); **Bufflehead** - 10 at Dalvay on Dec. 7 (RWH), 16 at Souris West on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS) & 16 on Jan. 10 (DMa, JDM) & 5 on Feb. 6 (DMa), 1 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB); **Common Goldeneye** - 10 near Hillsborough Bridge on Dec. 4 (LM), 15 at Cymbria on Dec. 22 (DMa), 100 at Vernon Bridge causeway on Jan. 1 (WFB, JDM) & 80 on Jan. 7 (FdB), 120 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 1 (DEJ) & 65 on Dec. 22 & Jan. 1 (DMa) & 68 on Jan. 11 & 80 on Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB) & 5 on Jan. 21 (DMa) & 200 on Jan. 27 (JDM, WFB), 12 at Souris West & 15 at Basin Head & 30 at East Point on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS) & 50 on Jan. 10 (DMa, JDM), 67 at Grand River bridge on Jan. 2 & 85 on Jan. 7 (DMa) & 25 on Jan. 19 & 48 on Jan. 26 (DEJ), 28 at Cavendish Farms Wetlands on Jan. 2 (DMa), 40 at Montague on Jan. 10 (DMa, JDM) & 33 on Jan. 19 (SCS, FdB), 23 at Murray River on Jan. 10 (DMa, JDM) & 20 on Jan. 19 (SCS), 20 at North River Causeway on Jan. 27 (WFB, JDM), 18 at Rusticoville causeway & 5 at Bayview on Feb. 6 (DMa), 20 at West River causeway on Feb. 11 (FdB); **Barrow's Goldeneye** - 1 at Vernon Bridge causeway on Jan. 1 (WFB, JDM) & 4 on Jan. 3 (JDM, DMa) & 5 on Jan. 7 (FdB) & 3 males & 2 females on Feb. 13 (WFB, JDM), 2 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 1 (DEJ) & 70 on Dec. 22 & Jan. 1 (DMa) & 48 on Jan. 11 (DEJ) & 14 on Jan. 9 (VB) & 49 on Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB) & 29 on Jan 27 (WFB, JDM) & 13 on Feb. 6 (DMa), 5 at Cavendish Farms Wetlands on Jan. 2 (DMa), 1 at Basin Head on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS), 29 at Grand River bridge on Jan. 2 & 4 on Jan. 7 (DMa) & 5 on Jan. 19 & 8 on Jan. 26 (DEJ), 1 at Murray River on Jan. 10 (JDM, DMa) & 1 on Jan. 19 (SCS, DEJ) & 1 on Jan. 25 (RG), 15 at Foxley River on Jan. 19 (DEJ), 1 at Montague on



Common Goldeneye at Grand River
Jan 7, 2018
Donna Martin photo

Jan. 19 (SCS, FdB), 37 at Rusticoville causeway & 9 at Bayview on Feb. 6 (DMa), 20 at West River causeway on Feb. 11 (FdB); **Hooded Merganser** - 1 at river by Knox's Dam on Dec. 1 (DO, JCa, BAM, JDM), 15 at Dalvay on Dec. 8 (RWH), 2 at Cavendish Farms Wetlands on Jan. 2 (DMa), 1 female at Murray River Bridge crossing on Jan. 10 (DMa, JDM); **Common Merganser** - ~100 at Vernon Bridge causeway, 20 at Knox's Dam Bridge, & ~50 in small opening in Montague River at Montague on Jan. 1 (WFB, JDM), 45 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 1 (DEJ) & 18 on Jan. 1 (DMa) & 69 on Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB) & 55 on Jan. 27 (JDM, WFB), 17 at Grand River bridge on Jan. 2 & 15 on Jan. 7 (DMa) & 36 on Jan. 19 (DEJ), 200 at Murray River (by MacLure's Dam) on Jan. 10 (DMa, JDM) & 320 on Jan. 19 (SCS, FdB) & 182 on Jan. 25 (RG), 15 at Rusticoville causeway & 65 at Bayview & 25 at Red Bridge Wilmot River on Feb. 6 (DMa); **Red-breasted Merganser** - 7 at Souris West & 3 at East Point on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS) & 2 on Jan. 10 (JDM, DMa), 3 males at Lower Montague on Jan. 3 (JDM, DMa), 2 at Souris on Jan. 6 (RG), 3 at Murray River bridge on Jan. 10 (DMa, JDM), 3 at Murray River by wharf on Jan. 19 (SCS, FdB) & 5 on Jan. 25 (RG); **Gray Partridge** - 17 at Orby Head on Dec. 11 (DMa), 8 flying at New Argyle on ~Dec. 10 (LY), 8 in field at Southampton on Dec. 31 (JGM), 14 at Brackley Beach on Jan. 1 (DEJ), 12 at Summerville on Jan. 2 (RWH), 13 at Tea Hill on Jan. 22 (FdB), 12 at back of Glen Afton Golf Course on Jan. 24 (VD via LD), 9 at Cymbria on Jan. 29 (RG), 8 on Newton Road near Scales Pond on Feb. 13 (AD); **Ring-necked Pheasant** - 1 at Earnscliffe on Jan. 1 (FdB), 1 male at Summerville on Jan. 2 (RWH), 1 at Souris on Jan. 6 (RG), male at Basin Head on Jan. 6 (RG), 4 males & a female at Cherry Valley on Jan. 8 (BAM), 12+ at Mason Road on Jan. 9 (DFG, KGr), 4 males at New Zealand on Jan. 18 (JGM), 6 females and 3 males at Nine Mile Creek (back of Glen Afton Golf Course) on Jan. 24 (VD via LD), Kensington North Watershed Association released 8 females & 3 males near Indian River that were collected in Nova Scotia (JK); **Ruffed Grouse** - 1 occasionally at Rocky Point feeders from mid-Nov to mid-Dec. & 4 in tree at dusk on Feb. 3 (LD), 2 at Alexander in mid Dec. (D&AS), 1 at New Argyle ~Dec. 10 (LY), 1 roadside at Stanhope on Jan. 6 (BH), 1 at Mill River on Jan. 7 (DMa), 3 at Woodlands Trails PEINP Jan 8 (BH), 1 eating highbush cranberries at Appin Road on Jan. 16 (MRG), 1 at Murray River on Jan. 25 (RG), 1 along Summerside board walk on Feb. 6 (DMa); **Sharp-tailed Grouse** - 1 at Afton Road in early Dec. (DO); **Red-throated Loon** - 1 at East Point on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS); **Double-crested Cormorant** - 5 near Hillsborough Bridge on Dec. 4 (LM, JDM) & 6 on Dec. 16 (JDM); **Great Cormorant** - 1 at Orby Head on Dec. 15 (DMa) & 1 on Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB), 1 photographed at Cymbria on Jan. 15 (VB); **Cormorant UID** - 1 at East Point on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS); **American White Pelican** - 1 reported at Cape Jourimain on Dec. 4 (AK via DO); **Cattle Egret** - 1 at Tignish unknown date in 2017 (RB via MH, DO); **Turkey Vulture** - 1 at East Point on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS); **Bald Eagle** - immature at Stratford on Dec. 14 (AW), immature hunting at Victoria on Dec. 14 (JDM, LY), 1 at Summerville & 1 at Tryon on Jan. 3 (RWH), 4 at China Point/Earnscliffe on Jan. 10 (FdB); **Northern Harrier** - 1 photographed at Covehead Harbour on Dec. 18 (VB) & 1 on Dec 23 (SCS, FdB, GS, MSi, RW) & 1 at Dalvay on Jan. 10 (RWH), 1 at North Rustico on Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB), 1 at Meadowbank on Jan. 24 (LD); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 1 at Vernon Bridge on Dec. 22 (CB&JM), 1 crossed the bypass highway in Sherwood on Jan. 11 (JDM), 1 taking Blue Jays at Argyle Shore in Jan. (LY), 1 captured on video eating a live Blue Jay at Rocky Point on Jan. 14 (LD), 1 at South Melville on Jan. 24 (RA), 1 eating a starling at Stratford on Jan. 18 (MZ), 1 unsuccessful in taking a Blue Jay at Kilmuir on Feb. 4 (SW); **Northern Goshawk** - 1 at St. Charles along Confed Trail on Nov. 30 (JGM), 1 at Winden Road in Green Meadows on Dec. 23 (DO), 1 male hunting around flocks of starling off Green Gables Shore Drive on Jan. 7 (RG), 1 found injured at Cavendish - recovered at AVC and released on Jan. 24 (FFW), 1 flew though feeder area at Home Cross Road on Feb. 9 & Feb. 11 (VB); **Red-tailed Hawk** - 1 at Dunstaffnage on Nov. 19 (WFB, EM), 1 at Pondsides Park on Feb. 8 (LM), 1 at Victoria on Dec. 8 (BH, JDM), 1 at Clyde River on Dec. 20 (JDM), 2 at Brackley Beach in PEINP on Dec 23 (SCS, FdB, GS), 1 at Vernon Bridge on Dec. 22 (CB&JM), 1 along Trans-Canada at Pownal on Dec. 30 (DO, BAM, JCa, JDM) & 1 on Jan. 29 (RG) & on Feb. 13 (WFB, JDM), 1 at Kinkora on Jan. 1 & 2 (BSa), 1 at near Knox's Dam, 1 at Cherry Valley and 1 at Earnscliffe on Jan. 3 (JDM, DMa), 1 at West Royalty & 1 at Mermaid on Jan. 5 (JDM), 1 at Wellington on Jan. 7 (DMa), 1 at Point Prim on Jan. 7 (FdB), 1 at Knox's Dam on Jan. 9 (RG), 3 at China Point/Earnscliffe on Jan. 10 (FdB), 1 at Stratford on Jan. 15 (KMCK), 1 on Allen Street in Charlottetown on Jan. 16 (WFB, EM), 1 at Winsloe South on Jan. 20 (DEJ), 1 at Cymbria on Jan. 21 (DMa) & 1 on Jan. 29 (RG), 1 at Bonshaw on Jan. 24 (JDM), 1 at Tea Hill on Jan. 24 (FdB), 1 at Albany & 1 at New Haven on Jan. 26 (MB), 1 at Travellers Rest on Jan. 26 (DEJ), 1 at Donagh on Jan. 27 (JDM), 1 at Upton Farm on Jan. 27 (WFB, JDM), 1 at Summerside on Jan. 31 (DMa), 1 at Norboro on Feb. 7 (OB), 1 at Home Cross Road on Feb. 11 (VB), 1 at South Melville on Feb. 13 (RA); **Rough-legged Hawk** - 1 at McInnis Point on Dec. 20 (JH via BJH), 1 at Cherry Valley and 1 at Earnscliffe on Jan. 3 (JDM, DMa), at China Point/Earnscliffe on Jan. 10 (FdB), 1 perched in white spruce at South Melville on Feb. 7 (RA); **Sanderling** - ~20 at Doyle's Cove in PEI National Park on Dec.. 15 (SGC); **Purple Sandpiper** - 1 at North Cape on Jan. 7 (DMa), 1 at East Point on Jan. 10 (JDM, DMa) & 4 on Jan. 21 (SCS, FdB); **Bonaparte's Gull** - at Brackley Beach entrance marsh on Dec. 15 (DMa); **Black-headed Gull** - 1 at Brackley Beach marsh on Dec. 22 (DMa) & on Dec 23 (SCS, FdB,



Purple Sandpiper at North Cape
Jan. 7, 2018
Donna Martin photo

GS); **Ring-billed Gull** - 1 at Montague on Jan. 19 (SCS, FdB), 1 second winter flying at Brackley Beach entrance marsh on Feb. 5 (JDM); **Herring Gull** - 59 at West Royalty feeders on Dec. 31 (DCS), 200 on upstream side of Hillsborough Bridge on Jan. 25 (JDM), 22 at Grand River Bridge on Jan. 26 (DEJ); **Iceland Gull** - at Brackley Beach entrance marsh on Dec. 15 (DMa), 16 at Summerside West on Jan. 1 (DMa), 200 at East Point on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS), 3 at Stratford Lagoons on Jan. 3 (DMa, JDM), 8 at North Cape & 3 at Grand River Bridge on Jan. 7 (DMa), 30 at East Point & 9 at East Lake on Jan. 21 (SCS, FbB), 14 at Souris on Feb. 6 (DMa); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** - 1 at Grand River on Jan. 3 (BSa), 1 at Cavendish on Jan. 21 (DMa); **Glaucous Gull** - 1 at Grand River on Jan. 3 (BSa), 1 first winter at Cavendish Wetlands on Jan. 9 (DMa), 1 first winter and 1 second winter at Souris on Jan. 10 (DMa, JDM), 1 at Summerside on Jan. 19 (DMa) & 1 on Feb. 7 (OB via Ebird); **Great Black-backed Gull** - 3 at Summerside on Jan. 1 & 7 on Jan. 19 (DMa), 2 at East Point on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS) & 10 on Jan. 21 (SCS, FbB), 12 at North Cape & 7 at Grand River Bridge on Jan. 7 (DMa), 15 at Grand River Bridge on Jan. 19 & 40 on Jan. 26 (DEJ), 3 at Montague on Jan. 19 (SCS, FdB), 9 at Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 21 (DMa); **Black Guillemot** - 7 at East Point on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS) & 4 on Jan. 10 (DMa, JDM); **Rock Pigeon** - 22 at Winsloe South on Dec. 23 & 16 on Jan. 1 & 17 on Jan. 4 & 15 on Jan. 20 (DEJ), 30 at Kinkora on Jan. 2 (BSa), 30 at Argyle Shore on Jan. 24 (JDM); **Mourning Dove** - 1 to 2 at Donagh feeders in late Dec. 27 & 2 to 3 in Jan. (JDM), roost of 80 at Linkletter Beach in Dec-Jan and for past few years (DMa), 13 at Horne Cross Road feeders on Jan. 1 & 7 on Jan. 14 (VB), 32 at West Royalty feeders on Dec. 31 & 28 on Jan. 2 & 48 on Jan. 17 (DCS), 2 at Winsloe South on Jan. 4 & 9 on Jan. 20 (DEJ), 20 at South Melville on Jan. 10 (RA); **Snowy Owl** - 1 at Stratford in early Dec. (Via LM), 1 at Bedford in early Dec. (DMa), 1 at Covehead Harbour area PEINP Dec. 5 to 20 (KG, RWH) & 2 on Dec. 18 (VB), 1 at Wood Islands in early Dec. (Via GS), 1 in Monticello in mid-Dec. & 1 in Jan. (Neighbour report via JGM), 1 at Kildare Capes on Dec. 16 (KB), 1 to 2 at Covehead Harbour dunes on Dec. 17-8 (JDM, WFB, VB, SGC, KG, BAM, BMacN, DMur) & on Dec. 22 (DMa) & on Dec 23 (SCS, FdB, GS, MSi, RW) & Jan. 1 (D&GM), 1 at Stanhope Golf Course on Dec. 23 (PMcL), 1 at Covehead Harbour on Jan. 1 (DMa), 1 at Anglo Rustico on Jan. 15 (VB), 1 at Hillsborough Bridge pilings on Jan. 18 & 1 reported killed in the same area a few weeks before that (DO), 1 photographed at Summerside on Feb. 1 (FFW), 1 at Summerside on Feb. 7 (JAu); **Belted Kingfisher** - 1 at Pisquid River



Red-bellied Woodpecker at Canavoy
Nov. 30 2017 via Doug Murray

bridge on Dec. 5 (JDM), 1 on wires at Ellen's Creek on Dec. 22 (SGC), 1 at Wright's Pond on Dec. 23 (MBe via DMO), 1 at Cymbria on Jan. 14 (SCS, FdB), 1 at Murray River on Jan. 19 (SCS, FdB), 1 at Mount Herbert at Fullerton's Creek crossing on Feb. 10 (DO), 1 at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 12 (DO, RA), 1 at Summerside boardwalk on Feb. 12 (DMa); **Red-bellied Woodpecker** - 1 at Canavoy on Nov. 30 (via DMu), 1 at Belfast on Dec. 23 (MKacP) & on Dec. 24 (SCS); **Downy Woodpecker** - daily in Dec at Riverview Estate feeders (WFB, EM), male & female at Rocky Point feeder (LD), periodically at Donagh feeders in late Dec. & Jan. (JDM), 2 at Dalvay & 3 at Horne's Cross Road on Jan. 14 (VB); **Hairy Woodpecker** - 1 occasionally at Rocky Point feeders from mid-Nov to mid-Dec. & 1 female and 1 male by Jan. 24 (LD), 1 daily in Dec at Riverview Estate feeders (WFB, EM), 1 at Donagh feeders on Dec. 31 & 1 regularly in Jan. (JDM), 2 at Winsloe South on Jan. 1 (DEJ), 2 at Woodlands Trails PEINP Jan 8 (BH), 1 at Horne

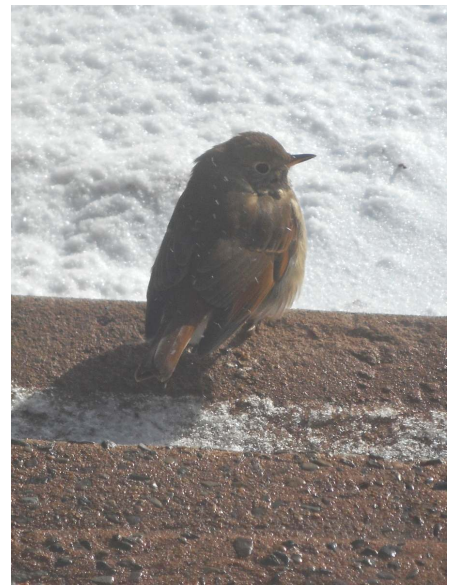
Cross Road feeders on Jan. 14 (VB); **American Three-Toed Woodpecker** - 1 documented with picture & video flaking bark off a larch at Friendship Rotary Park in Summerside on Jan. 17 (DMa) & 1 on Feb. 11 (BO); **Black-backed Woodpecker** - 1 scaling bark along Woodlands Trails in PEINP on Jan. 20 & 22 (BH); **Northern Flicker** - along Summerside Boardwalk on Dec. 12 (DMa), a male at Rocky Point feeders sporadically from mid-Nov to mid-Dec. (LD), 2 flying near Riverview Estates in Charlottetown on ~Dec. 15 (WFB), 2 at Brackley Beach on Dec 23 (SCS, FdB, GS), 1 at Tea Hill on Dec. 24 (DMo), 1 at Mount Stewart in Dec. 28 (DGr), 1 at Clearview Estates on Dec. 28 (DMu), 1 at West Royalty feeders on Dec. 26 (DCS), 1 at Winsloe South on Dec. 30 & on Jan. 4 (DEJ), 1 at Chelton on Jan. 1 (DMa), 2 at Dalvay & 1 at Horne's Cross Road on Jan. 14 (VB), 1 at Poverty Beach on Jan. 21 (SCS, FdB) 1 at Brackley Beach on Jan. 21 (PB), 1 at Charlottetown feeders on Jan. 30 (SGC), 2 at Reeve's Estates in early Feb. (DO), 1 at West Royalty on Feb. 9 (DCS); **Pileated Woodpecker** - 1 at Naufrage in early Dec. (W&SF), excavating sign at Brudenell in Dec. 3 (DMur), 1 at Monticello on Dec. 7 (JGM), fresh large wood chips on new snow at Stanhope trails on Dec. 17 (BH), 1 at Watervale on Dec. 23 (DO), 1 near North Lake on Jan. 2 (HM); **American Kestrel** - 1 seen 2 days at Cherry Valley in late Dec. (BAM); **Merlin** - chased off Peregrine at Cavendish on Oct. 6 (DO, WCT), 1 eating a Mourning Dove at Blooming Point on Dec. 8 (CC), 1 at Sherbrooke on Dec. 9 (JDM, LY), 1 flew through Reeves Estates feeder area on Jan. 1 (DO), 1 at Lower Montague and 1 at Orwell Corner on Jan. 3 (JDM, DMa), 1 at Ellen's Creek on Feb. 10 (DMa); **Peregrine Falcon** - 1 immature at Cavendish on Oct. 6 (DO, WCT), 1 photographed at Kelvin Grove a few days before Christmas (JMar via DMa), 1 along Millview Road on Feb. 9 (BAM, BMacN); **Northern Shrike** - 1 at Southampton on Dec. 18 (JDM), 1 immature at North Lake on Jan. 21 (SCS, FdB), 1 at Springvale on Feb. 7 (OB



Blue-headed Vireo at Summerside Dec. 16, 2017
Donna Martin photo

via Ebird), 1 at Home Cross Road on Feb. 11 (VB); **Blue-headed Vireo** - 1 photographed at Summerside Boardwalk on Dec. 16 (DMA); **Gray Jay** - 1 crossed the Selkirk Road on Nov. 30 (JGM); **Blue Jay** - 15 at Summerside boardwalk on Jan 1 (DMA), 18 at Home Cross Road feeders on Jan. 1 (VB), 2 picking paint off window & 4 taking cracked corn at Donagh feeders on Jan. 16 (JDM); **American Crow** - 1,000 at MacKenzie's corn field in Stratford on Jan. 1 (JDM, WFB), 1,000s going into Victoria Park roost in Jan. (JDM), 80 at East lake on Jan. 21 (SCS, FdB); **Common Raven** - small numbers doing aerial displays in Queens and Kings Counties usually in groups of 2 but sometimes several (JDM), 50+ at Stanchel in early Dec. (EC); **Horned Lark** - 12 at Cherry Valley on Jan. 8 (BAM); **Black-capped Chickadee** - 5 at Donagh feeders on Dec. 27 (JDM), 9 at Chelton on Jan. 1 & 2 on Jan. 2 & 14 on Feb. 9 (DMA), 11 at Kinkora on Jan. 2 (BSa), 22 at Summerside on Jan. 31 (DMA); **Boreal Chickadee** - 2 at Souris West on Dec. 29

(DO), 1 at Kinkora on Jan. 2 (BSa), 2 at Chelton on Jan. 2, 2 on Feb. 7 & 8 on Feb. 9 (DMA), 1 at County Line Road on Jan. 3 (JDM), 2 at Monticello on Jan. 18 (JGM); **Red-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 at Donagh feeders on Dec. 27 (JDM), 1 at Chelton on Jan. 1 (DMA), 1 at East Lake on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS); **White-breasted Nuthatch** - 1 at Clearview Estates on Jan. 7 (DMu); **Brown Creeper** - 1 at Rocky Point feeder area from mid-Nov. to mid-Dec. & daily in Jan. (LD), 1 at Kinkora on Jan. 2 (BSa), 1 at Woodlands Trails PEINP on Jan 8 (BH), 2 at Rocky Point on Jan. 27 (LD), 1 at Chelton on Feb. 9 (DMA), 1 at Home Cross Road on Feb. 11 (VB); **Golden-crowned Kinglet** - 5 at East Lake on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS), 8 at Kinkora on Jan. 2 (BSa), 2 foraging near the ground at Knox's Dam on Jan. 3 (JDM, DMA), 10 at Green Bay on Jan. 3 (BJ); **Hermit Thrush** - 1 photographed in a yew bush at Cherry Valley on Jan. 10 (S&CG via FdB & DO); **American Robin** - 1 at Tea Hill on ~Dec. 16 (DMo), ~150 at Brackley Beach PEINP entrance on Dec 23 (SCS, FdB, GS), 37 at Knox's Dam on Jan. 1 (WFB, JDM), 60 at East Lake & 9 at South Lake on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS), 20 at Georgetown Royalty on Jan. 6 (SCS), 6 at Donagh on Jan. 11 & 8 on Jan. 24 foraging on the ground during thaw (JDM), 4 at MacVane's Creek & 10 at Georgetown Royalty on Jan. 10 (DMA, JDM), 40 to 50 at Dromore on Jan. 12 (LS), 32 at Dalvay on Jan. 14 (VB), 30 at Community of East Point & 4 at East Lake on Jan. 21 (SCS, FdB), 35 at Brackley Beach and Oyster Bed Bridge on Jan. 21 (SCS, FdB), 60 at Hartsville on Jan. 24 (EC), 6 at Johnston's River and calling at Donagh on Feb. 10 (JDM); **Northern Mockingbird** - 1 at McKenna Road on Dec. 24 (CB&JM); **European Starling** - ~2,500 murmuring at Cornwall horse pasture on Dec. 10 (LY), ~200 feeding on a lawn in West Royalty on Dec. 11 (DD), 1,000s murmuring at Hillsborough Bridge in evenings in mid-Dec (JDM); **Bohemian Waxwing** - 55 at Buckskin Road on Dec. 23 (DO), 2 at Brackley Beach on Jan. 14 (VB); **Cedar Waxwing** - 24 at Earnscliffe on Jan. 1 (FdB), 40 at East Lake on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS), 58 at Brackley Beach on Jan. 14 (VB) & 20 on Jan. 21 (SCS, FdB), 45 at Community of East Point on Jan. 21 (SCS, FdB); **Lapland Longspur** - 2 at St. Charles on Jan. 10 (DMA, JDM), 23 at East lake on Jan. 21 (FdB, SCS); **Snow Bunting** - 600 at Campbell's Cove & 100 along Souris Line Road on Jan. 2 (SCS, GS), 38 in two groups at North Cape on Jan. 7 (DMA), 50+ at Priest Pond on Jan. 7 (IF), 31 at Brackley Point Road on Jan. 7 (RG), 70 at St. Charles & 12 at East Point on Jan. 10 (DMA, JDM), 110 at Foxley River on Jan. 19 (DEJ), 2 at Poverty Beach, 33 at East Point & 150 at East Lake on Jan. 21 (SCS, FdB), 30 at Chelton Beach on Feb. 12 (OB); **Eastern Towhee** - 1 at Montague on Jan. 1 (W&SS, D&GM) & Jan. 2 (DMur); **American Tree Sparrow** - 2 at Monticello on Dec. 29 (JGM), 5 first of season at Donagh feeders on Dec. 31 (JDM) & 7 on Jan. 1 & sporadically 1 to 7 in Jan. & Feb. Dependant on snow covered fields (JDM), 1 at Summerside boardwalk on Jan 1 & 2 on Feb. 12 (DMA), 3 at McInnis Point Road on Jan. 3 (JDM, DMA), 38 at MacDonald Road in Blooming Point on Jan. 7 (RG), 5 most days at Rocky Point feeders in Jan. (LD), 4 at Home Cross Road feeders on Jan. 14 (VB), 2 at Monticello on Jan. 18 (JGM); **Field Sparrow** - 1 at Charlottetown along Hermitage Creek woodland on Jan. 28 (BK); **Song Sparrow** - 1 along Summerside Boardwalk on Dec. 12 & 3 on Jan. 1 & Jan. 31 & 4 on Feb. 12 (DMA), 1 at Crapaud feeders on Dec. 22 & 2 on Dec. 25 (DD), 2 at West Royalty feeders on Dec. 26 & 1 on Dec. 31 (DCS), 1 at Winsloe South on Jan. 1 & Jan. 20 (DEJ), 2 at Chelton on Jan. 2 (DMA), 1 at West Royalty feeders on Jan. 2 & Jan. 17 (DCS), 3 at Earnscliffe on Jan. 3 & 2 on Feb. 13 (JDM, DMA), 1 at Rocky Point feeders on Jan. 24 (LD), 1 at Charlottetown feeders on Jan. 30 (SGC); **White-throated Sparrow** - 2 near Linkletter Beach Park on Jan. 2 (DMA), 1 at South Melville on Jan. 18 (RA); **White-crowned Sparrow** - 1



Hermit Thrush at Cherry Valley
Jan. 10, 2018
Sandra & Claude McCardle photo

near Linkletter Beach Park on Jan. 2 (DMa); **Dark-eyed Junco** - along Summerside Boardwalk on Dec. 12 (DMa), 2 at Crapaud feeders on Dec. 25 (DD), 4 at Donagh feeders on Dec. 28 & 6 to 8 daily in Jan. (JDM), 10 at Home Cross Road feeders on Jan. 1 (VB), 11 at Chelton on Jan. 1 (DMa), 5 at Winsloe South on Jan. 1 (DEJ), 9 most days at Rocky Point feeders in Jan. (LD), 4 at West Royalty feeders on Jan. 2 (DCS), at Monticello on Jan. 18 (JGM), 1 at Poverty Beach on Jan. 21 (SCS, FdB); **Scarlet Tanager** - 1 photographed at feeder in Port Hill on Dec. 4 (BR); **Northern Cardinal** - 1 at Orwell in early Dec. (SL), 1 male at Chelton Road feeders on Jan. 1 & 2 & Feb. 9 (DMa); **Indigo Bunting** - 1 at Stratford in Dec. 20 (MZ via RA); **Common Grackle** - 1 at Green Bay on Dec. 9 (JW); **Brown-headed Cowbird** - 7 at Kilmuir on Jan. 3 (JDM, DMa); **Pine Grosbeak** - 10 at Summerside Friendship Park on Jan. 21 (DO, EY, RCh, LH); **Purple Finch** - 2 males and a female at Donagh feeders and feeding on Mountain Ash on Jan. 18 (JDM), 1 at Alberton on Feb. 11 (CH-D); **White-winged Crossbill** - 2 at Chelton on Feb. 8 & 3 on Feb. 9 (DMa), singing at Watervale on Feb. 6, 8, & 10 (DO), 2 at Fox Meadows on Feb. 9 (LM); **Common Redpoll** - 1 at West Royalty on Feb. 9 (DCS); **Pine Siskin** - 4 at Winter Road off Gulf Shore Parkway on Jan. 7 (RG); **American Goldfinch** - along Summerside Boardwalk on Dec. 12 & 11 on Jan. 31 (DMa), 5 at Donagh feeders on Dec. 27 & periodically in Jan. (JDM), 10 at Tea Hill on Jan. 1 (FdB), 7 at Chelton on Jan. 2 (DMa), 15 at Kinkora on Jan. 2 (BSa), 8 at Winsloe South on Jan. 5 (DEJ), 42 at Summerside on Jan. 16 & 45 on Jan. 25 (DMa), 40 at Home Cross Road feeders on Jan. 14 (VB); **House Sparrow** - 10 at Earnscliffe on Jan. 3 (JDM, DMa), 28 at West Royalty feeders on Dec. 31 & 5 on Jan. 6 & 22 on Jan. 2 & Jan. 17 & 21 on Feb. 9 (DCS), 1 at Souris on Jan. 10 (DMa, JDM), 1 at South Rustico on Jan. 27 (JDM, WFB).



Eastern Towhee at Spud & Shirley Stewart's Feeders
Montague Jan. 2, 2018
Photo Dale Murchison

Additional data from Issue 224 re reports DC & WCT: **Red-necked Grebe** was on Oct. 6 at Cavendish; **American Pipit** at Lower Freetown on Oct. 7 (DO);

Older reports and corrections: 1 Northern Harrier at Alexander on Nov. 24 (DO); 4 **Black-legged Kittiwake** at East Point on Nov. 8 (DO, WCT); 3 **Gray Jay** at Dromore on Oct. 19 (DO);

American Birding Association Checklist Order: Extensive revisions due to inclusion of Hawaii. Also 4 vagrants were accepted by the Checklist Committee, namely: **Common Shelduck**, **Amethyst-throated Hummingbird**, **Pine Flycatcher**, and **Cuban Vireo**, as well as one added (**Cassia Crossbill**) and one subtracted (**Thayer's Gull**) based on AOS taxonomic decisions. This changes the total number species on the checklist to 1103.

Thanks to the following contributors who provided records for this listing, namely: JAl - Judi Allen; JAu - Jules Aucoin via BPEI; L&RA - Lenore & Roger Andrew; RA - Ron Arvidson; CB&JM - Clara Brechin & Jeff MacLeod; JBl - Jean Blanchard; KB - Kurt Buchs; MB - Mark Brennan; MBe - Matt Beardsley via DMO; OB - Olivier Barden; PB - Pam Betteridge; VB - Vanessa Bonnyman; WFB - Bill Bowerbank; BC&LH - Becca Sharp & Leah Houghton; BCa - Brendon Campbell; BCo - Brenda Cobb; CC - Cathy Corrigan; EC - Elwood Coakes; FRC - Rosemary Curley; JCa - Jenna Cahill; RC - Ray Cooke; SGC - Sharon Clark; BD - Billy Dockendorff; BPEI - Birding on PEI/Nature PEI Field Trip; AD - Amanda Damin via eBird Canada; BD - Billy Dockendorff; DD - Daphne Davey; FdB - Fiep de Bie; LD - Lois Doan; VD - Victoria Doan; G&SF - Greg & Sandra Feetham; IF - Isobel Fitzpatrick; W&SF - Warren & Sherron Foulkes; CGa - Connie Gaudet; DFG - Diane Griffin; KG - Kate Gordon; KGr - Kevin Griffin; MRG - Marlene Guignon; RG - Robbie Gallant; S&CG - Sandra & Claude Gallant; BH - Ben Hoteling; BeHo - Beth Hoar; BJH - Bonnie Hayden; CH-D - Carol Hillier-Deagle; JH - John Hayden; RWH - Robert Harding; LH - Leah Houghton; MH - Megan Harris; BJ - Bill Jamieson; DEJ - Don Jardine; AK - Andrew Kennedy; BK - Brendon Kelly; GK - Glen Kelly; JK - Johanna Kelly; SL - Steve Leath; A&PM - Arlene & Paul McGuigan; BAM - Brett MacKinnon; BMacN - Ben MacNeill; KMacP - Katie MacPhee; D&GM - Don & Glenda McLelland; DMA - Donna Martin; DMO - Denise Motard; DMu - Doug Murray; DMur - Dale Murchison; EM - Evelyn Martin; HM - Harry Meade via Nature Tracker; JDM - Dan McAskill; JGM - Gerald MacDonald (formerly listed as GM); JMa - Jeanne Maki; KMacA - Kathleen MacAulay; KMCK - Ken McKenna; LM - Lucas MacCormack; PMcL - Peter McLaine via BPEI; BO - Brennan Obermayer via eBird Canada; DO - Dwaine Oakley; SP - Shirley Prowse; BR - Brian Richard; JtR - John te Raa; ASm - Ardeth Smith; BSa - Bryan Sabourin; DC&ES - David & Elaine Seeler; DSa - Debbie Salter; GS - Gary Schneider; IS - Ian Scott; JDS - John D. Somers; LS - Liz Statts; MSi - Marion Sinclair; RS - Rebecca Sharp; SCS - Scott Sinclair; W&SS - Walter "Spud" & Shirley Stewart; ET - Elizabeth Townsend; AW - Anne Wootton; GW - Geoff Wood; JW - Jackie Waddell; JWa - Jean Watts; SW - Sid Watts; WCT - Wildlife Conservation

Technology Class; EY - Evan Young; LY - Lorne Yeo; FFW - Forests, Fish & Wildlife Division; JLZ - Julie-Lynn Zahavich; MZ - Mike Zbihlyj.

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

- Mar. 6 - Getting to Know the Herptiles of Prince Edward Island.** Dwaine Oakley will offer a presentation on the identification and natural history of PEI's amphibians and reptiles including vocalizations of our frogs and toad. This Nature PEI meeting starts at 7:30 pm at Beaconsfield, the Carriage House, corner of West and Kent Street, Charlottetown. YN
- Mar. 16 - PEI Invasive Species Council Workshop.** The Council will be holding its annual workshop at the Farm Centre in Charlottetown from 1 to 4 pm.
- Mar. 20 - Spring Equinox.** The first day of spring in the northern Hemisphere.
- Apr. 3 - Images of Nature: A Photo Presentation.** Lucas MacCormack, local youth photographer extraordinaire will present some of his photos of birds and other species he's observed on the Island. This Nature PEI meeting starts at 7:30 pm at Beaconsfield, the Carriage House, corner of West and Kent Street, Charlottetown. YN
- Apr. 8 to 14 - National Wildlife Week.** The theme is "Get Reacquainted with the "Awe".
- Apr. 13 - Donation Deadline for Island Nature Trust Dinner & Auction.** Last day for dropping off raffle and auction items for the Trust's Dinner & Auction. Please check with the Trust at 902-892-7513 or admin@islandnaturetrust.ca.
- April 20th - Island Nature Trust's 34th Annual Dinner & Auction.** The venue has changed to Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown with reception starting at 6 PM and meal at 7 PM. A beautiful buffet meal, raffles and auction will help to raise funds for the Trust's ongoing land conservation and acquisition program. The meal will be in Memorial Hall and the concourses and Studio A will host the raffle & auction item displays. Tickets are \$75. To arrange tickets, please contact the Trust at 902-892-7513 or admin@islandnaturetrust.ca.
- Apr. 22 - Earth Day.** This is our 48th Earth Day. The collective action theme is end plastic pollution.
- May 1 - Prehistoric PEI.** Will Beckett, Island Filmmaker and photographer, will be our guest speaker on prehistoric history of PEI. Will is currently developing a documentary on the prehistory of the Island which will hopefully be live-streamed by the end of March and placed on You Tube. This Nature PEI meeting starts at 7:30 pm at Beaconsfield, the Carriage House, corner of West and Kent Street, Charlottetown. YN
- May 12 - Nature PEI's Flower Fly Pinning Workshop.** This free workshop will help participants to learn how to pin, label and store flower flies and other insects. John Klymko will be our leader for this workshop and will give hands on instruction for pinning and collection. The workshop is at 1 to 4 pm, tentatively at the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Office at 183 Upton Road in Charlottetown.
- May 26 - Nature PEI's Bain Bird Count** - This is the Society's spring bird count which documents the movement of migrating birds to PEI. The counts can take place anywhere on the Island between midnight and midnight during this day. Birders are encouraged to form teams and participate in this event. For more information, please contact Dan McAskil at 902-569-4351 or by email at jdmcaskill@pei.sympatico.ca
- Jun. 5 - Musseling Through a Green Crab Invasion.** Paula Tummon-Flynn will share her local research on the Green Crab, a species on Fisheries and Oceans Canada's ten most **unwanted** list. This Nature PEI meeting starts at 7:30 pm at Beaconsfield, the Carriage House, corner of West and Kent Street, Charlottetown. YN
- Jun. 5 - World Environment Day.**