

ISLAND NATURALIST

NATURE PEI CELEBRATED ITS 51st ANNIVERSARY IN 2021

ISSUE # 238

JAN - MAR 2021

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

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- *Environmental Calendar*



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

Meetings are normally 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. To renew on line, please go to www.naturepei.ca

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

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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 Newsletter Editor, Nature PEI (NHSPEI), P.O. Box 2346, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 8C1 or via E-mail to NaturePEI@mail.com The **next deadline** for articles, sightings, or other newsletter information is *June 10, 2021*... Please send all your nature sightings, stories and reports to Donna Martin. She can be reached at martindonna6@gmail.com or 902-436-4063.

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Nature PEI gratefully acknowledges support from the Department of Education and Life Long Learning 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 and these funds are used to further the Society's work.

Cover Illustration: Pileated Woodpeckers: Spring is in the air. From extirpated to uncommon sightings to breeding success. Keep your eyes open for this iconic keystone species! Photos by: Donna Martin, Strathgartney, PEI, Summer 2020

President's Report, Nature PEI, 2020

2020 was, in many respects, an unusual year.

First I heartily thank the members for renewing memberships. Members continue to attend meetings and supply sightings and news items to the Island Naturalist. Pre-pandemic, you participated in fundraising. Some extra-dedicated members have collected and pinned insects for a fly project in collaboration with John Klymko of the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre.

Next I will thank our hard-working Executive who served on your behalf, including outgoing Vice-President David Morrow and outgoing Field Trip Director Barbara Dylla. In Dan McAskill's last year as Newsletter Editor (1990-2020 inclusive), he added an extra issue of Island Naturalist with a history of the society for the past 30 years. It left no question unanswered. For 31 years, Dan has made an extraordinary contribution to our society as newsletter Editor.

In mid-March we followed COVID-19 rules and shut down our winter and spring meetings. Luckily we had already enjoyed a January AGM featuring Australian birds, Members Night in February, and a presentation by Michael van den Heuvel in March. But we weren't shut out completely. It seemed we had more time to read the newspaper and muse about possible environmental catastrophes in the offing, and we had more time to write letters to government Ministers.

We started by attending the pre-Budget consultations of the Minister of Finance in January where Ian Scott made a strong case for a museum with a natural history curator. Minister Darlene Compton and others in the room were impressed by Ian's impassioned plea. A Guardian opinion piece followed. We wrote requesting a meeting with Hon. Brad Trivers, Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change. We learned shortly afterward that he had been replaced by Hon. Natalie Jameson. Immediately we sent a letter to her asking for amendments to the Environmental Protection Act regarding vehicles use on coastal and estuarine shores for striped bass fishing. We next extended our correspondence with this Minister with a non-controversial notification that we had conducted an on-line vote for a lichen emblem and that the Frayed Ramalina (*Ramalina roesleri*) was the winner. Later we reminded the Minister to put the lichen on the legislative agenda and shortly after, we mailed a handsome poster of proposed lichen emblems of Canada to her. In May we wrote to the Minister's Technical Advisory Committee on natural areas, opposing the de-designation of a portion of Royalty Oaks Natural Area to enable road-widening. Our opinion piece in the Guardian gained some sympathy but the destruction proceeded as planned. We were co-signatories on a letter to the Federal Minister of Fisheries in 2019, expressing our concern that floating oyster cages might be so densely distributed as to shade out eel grass, an ecosystem builder, and that frequent oyster-tending might also disturb migratory birds in Important Bird Areas. In March 2020, we received a reply from DFO Minister Bernadette Jordan which pretty much dismissed our concerns.

We continued to share our opinions with Minister Jameson. We supported the request of the PEI Watershed Alliance that water withdrawal permits for irrigation be conditional on healthy water levels in streams. Lastly we requested a meeting with her to discuss protection of Species at Risk.

We also wrote to Premier Dennis King expressing concern that liberalizing ATV access to roads and public lands has environmental consequences.

A proposed East Point wind farm was of concern because it involved the destruction of over 34 acres of woodland, including some older stands, as well as being adjacent to a pre-defined bird migration area. We submitted a lengthy review of the environmental assessment document to the provincial environment folks, spoke at a public meeting hosted by the Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings, and wrote a letter to the Eastern Graphic to support the Municipality in rejecting a permit to PEI Energy Corporation to proceed. We recommend that future wind energy turbine clusters be placed in areas where there is little wildlife, such as open farmlands.

Being a critic is relatively easy. Actually doing something good requires considerable effort. To find out more about wild species on PEI, we continued in our efforts to produce an Online Flora for PEI, led by Dan McAskill. Other partners were PEI Forests, Fish and Wildlife, PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation, PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund, and Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre. Two more winters of work are needed to complete it. While work on moths, flower flies and biting flies is ongoing by society members, we were also successful in sponsoring an autumn mushroom workshop with Alfredo Justo of the NB Museum. He also spoke at our evening meeting in October, and people began

buying mushroom books. Climate change affecting wildlife was our topic for the November meeting and John Klymko spoke on flower flies and biting flies at our December meeting. We thank Ian Scott for arranging real time online viewing of the speakers and their presentations, a new venture in COVID-19 times.

Led by Gerald MacDougall, we made some nominations of individuals to various agencies that give out awards. Thus PEIMHF awarded Caleb Harding as a Young Naturalist and former President David Seeler with a Natural Heritage Activity Award. We also wrote a letter urging the Island Nature Trust to present Jeanne Maki with the Hon J. Angus MacLean Natural Area Award.

Connie Gaudet is now a representative to the PEI Forested Landscape Priority Place program, which attempts to sustain forests for species at risk. Lindsey Burke has agreed to replace Gerald MacDougall on the Board of Island Nature Trust.

Just for fun we had a fall colours walk in October. For fun and science, we continued Christmas bird counts with submission of results to Birds Canada. Thanks to all who participated in society events and contributed information and photos to newsletters and websites.



This concludes my report, thanks for listening.

Appreciation Award: Extraordinary contribution

At the annual AGM on Jan 5, 2021, Dan McAskill was presented with an appreciation award by President Rosemary Curley for his 31 years serving as the Newsletter editor for Nature PEI's publication "The Island Naturalist".

Award of Honor: Nature PEI

A big congratulations to Nature PEI, which received the Award of Honour from the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation at its annual awards ceremony held on Feb 19, 2021. This is the top recognition awarded by the museum. Nature PEI works to protect natural history and educate the public. Pictured receiving the award is Rosemary Curley, President of Nature PEI.



Nature PEI Award Recipient Dan McAskill with Nature PEI President, Rosemary Curley
Photo by Diane Griffin

New Newsletter Editor:

For the interim, Donna Martin is taking over as the new newsletter editor for Nature PEI, as we continue to search for a candidate. If you have any interest, please reach out to any of us on the Executive Committee. She can be reached at 902-436 4063 or martindonna6@gmail.com to report all your nature sightings. We would also like to say thanks to Brittany Cole who has graciously volunteered to help with the newsletter.

President Rosemary Curley accepting Award of Honour from PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation
Photo by: Diane Griffin



Leopard Crab Photo by: Bob Harding

Atlantic Leopard Crab (*Ovalipes ocellatus*) on PEI

by Robert W. Harding

The Atlantic Leopard Crab (*Ovalipes ocellatus*), named for the striking purple, leopard-like spots on its shell, is part of our Island sand beach fauna; its presence here was reported in scientific literature from as early as 1890. Other common names include Lady Crab, Leopard Crab, Calico Crab and Ocellated Crab. Atlantic Leopard Crabs are mostly found along the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to Georgia, with two disjunct populations in Canada: the inner Bay of Fundy and the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. The southern Gulf of St. Lawrence population ranges from Miscou Island, New Brunswick through the Northumberland Strait to Cheticamp, Nova Scotia.

The carapace of a full-grown Atlantic Leopard Crab reaches 9 cm in width. This small crab can be identified by the five sharp spines on each side of its carapace, similar to the invasive European Green Crab (*Carcinus maenas*), but the Atlantic Leopard Crab's spines are also covered by those striking purple spots. Their rear legs are adapted into paddles to help them swim, they are considered excellent swimmers, and they have very sharp, powerful

whitish pinchers with purple-spotted tips and jagged teeth. These crabs are mostly predators of molluscs, especially Atlantic Surf Clams or Bar Clams (*Spisula solidissima*). Atlantic Leopard Crabs spend most of their time buried in the sand with only their eyestalks protruding. They are considered very aggressive, so they should obviously be approached with a great deal of respect!

On October 26, 2020 I found the molted shell of an Atlantic Leopard Crab washed up in the wrack line at a beach near Augustine Cove, Prince County. It was the first time I had ever seen this species, even though I have explored many beaches along the Northumberland Strait. I posted the observation to iNaturalist.ca, and noticed there were only three other PEI records on the site – all in Prince County, with one dating back to 2007. Their carapace is thinner compared to other crabs, so their molted shells likely disintegrate fairly quickly. Perhaps that is why they are rarely seen; a closer look at the crab shells washed up on our beaches may result in more records.

Any PEI observations of this species should be posted to iNaturalist.ca, or a photo with date and location forwarded to the Editor of [Island Naturalist](#). These records can then become part of the body of knowledge on this interesting species – citizen science at its finest!

Causes of Mortality in Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)(1991-2016)

Mathieu A, Parmiley EJ, McBurney S, Robertson C, Van Doninck H, Daoust PY. (2020). Causes of mortality in Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in the Canadian Maritime Provinces, 1991-2016. *Canadian Wildlife Biology and Management*, 9(2), 159-173.



Bald Eagle Photo By: Donna Martin

From the abstract: This article summarizes the results of necropsy findings on 420 bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) from the 3 Canadian Maritime provinces over a 26-yr period. It shows that, as in other regions of North America, anthropogenic factors dominate the diagnosed causes of mortality in this species, representing close to 50% of the cases. These factors included vehicular collision (n=57; 14%), electrocution (n=47; 11%), poisoning (n=38; 9%), snares and other trapping devices (n=35; 8%), gunshot (n=20; 5%), and other (n=5; 1%). At least some cases of trauma of unknown cause (n=79; 19%) and some unknown causes of death (n=53; 13%) may have also involved anthropogenic factors. As in several other regions of North America, lead continued to be the most common source of poisoning in this species. Other causes of mortality identified, such as conspecific fights

(n=11; 3%) and drowning / hypothermia (n=4; 1%), are natural challenges faced by these birds. Although bald eagles are not considered a species at risk in Canada, results of this study indicate that human-related causes of death are an ongoing issue in the Maritime region as elsewhere. Therefore, mitigating measures aimed at their reduction, for example those in relation to lead-based ammunition and fishing tackle, pesticide use and trapping, should continue to be implemented and expanded. The full article can be found here.... <https://cwbm.ca/causes-of-mortality-in-bald-eagles-haliaeetus-leucocephalus-in-the-canadian-maritime-provinces-1991-2016/>

New Status Assessments for PEI Birds

By: Rosemary Curley

Two avian migrants that frequent PEI waters were designated Threatened during the November 2020 meeting of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

The Lesser Yellowlegs, a shorebird with 80% of its breeding range in Canada's boreal region, winters mostly in South America. COSEWIC notes that it has experienced substantial declines, most recently estimated at 25% over 12 years based on the Breeding Bird Survey, and greater than 50% over 10 years based on International Shorebird Surveys. Declines are expected to continue. Loss of wetland and intertidal habitat used during migration and in winter, and hunting for sport and subsistence, are likely the most significant threats. Additionally, emerging threats from climate change include increased risk of drought in breeding areas, coastal flooding, and greater severity of hurricanes during fall migration. This wading bird is commonly seen in PEI coastal waters and marshes in late summer and early autumn, but fewer migrate through this area in spring.



Lesser Yellowlegs

Photo By: Rosemary Curley

The Leach's Storm-Petrel is found around the North Pacific Ocean, and nests in underground burrows in over 80 colonies in Atlantic Canada and Quebec. Its numbers in this region are huge, over 5 million adults, but the population has been reduced by 54% over the last 44 years, and it is now declining at faster rates. According to COSEWIC "Some Québec colonies have been lost in recent years and expanding Atlantic Puffin colonies are displacing this species from preferred nesting habitat at several large colonies. Low adult survival related to higher predation rates by gulls appears to be a key factor in the observed declines.... Additional threats include changes in the food web of the northwest Atlantic, as well as offshore oil and gas production and attraction to human sources of light which cause collisions and stranding of young birds."

The Field Checklist of Birds for PEI shows the Leach's Storm-Petrel as uncommon in summer and autumn. It is most often spotted along the north shore, associated with stormy weather. During the period 1991-2013, seven of twenty observations dating from June 7th to November 12th were from East Point, as recorded in the Island Naturalist. Fishermen at sea routinely see petrels in summer, but with distant observations it may be difficult to distinguish Leach's Storm-Petrels from Wilson's Petrels. Dwaine Oakley notes "Any petrel reported prior to and up to the end of May is assumed to be a Leach's since Wilson's breed around the Antarctic during this time."

On the good news front, Canada Warblers have increased by 46 % since 2012 and are no longer considered threatened but remain of Special Concern. Our Red Knots are still Endangered.

Sources: "COSEWIC wildlife species assessments November 2020" and consultations with excellent birder, Dwaine Oakley, and Dan McAskill, former editor of the Island Naturalist

We may well remember 2020-2021 for more than the Covid-19 pandemic. Between the rare birds, the irruptive birds and the northerly movement of birds on PEI, I think 2020-2021, will also be a year remembered for the birds.

Let's start off by adding two new species to PEI's provincial birding records. A Franklin's gull was first reported in the Borden area on July 27, 2020 by Donna Martin. A gull never reported in PEI before, this rarity stuck around most of the summer and into early fall, with the last sighting reported on September 13, 2020. Our second mega rarity was reported by a visiting

birder in the North Cape area; Grant Millroy found and photographed a rock wren, a bird way out of its normal westerly range. This bird struck around with the last sighting being February 19, 2021. It certainly allowed most of, if not all, our PEI birders a chance for great views and to photograph this rare visitor.



Rock Wren By: Donna Martin



Evening Grosbeak By: Shirley Gallant

Next came the irruptive species. Large numbers of common redpolls, evening grosbeaks, pine siskins, bohemian waxwings, and pine grosbeaks honored us with their presence. These birds are nomadic and continually move around looking for food. We saw some large numbers irrupt then continue on their way in search of food sources. Some species we saw in numbers not seen in 20 or more years. Evening grosbeaks showed up at some people's feeders, giving some great looks at this beautiful mostly yellow, brown, and white finch. Some lucky people got an opportunity to see species they had not seen before, while others enjoyed birds they had not seen in years. Both Common and Hoary Redpolls were reported from both east and west.

These birds tend to feed on weed seeds and only approach feeders once weed seeds become harder to find.

Pine Siskins were seen in large numbers early on in November and December with the majority of these finches continuing on their way in their search for new food sources.



Pine Siskin Photo by: Vanessa Bonnyman



Northern Cardinal

Photo By: Dale Murchinson

Then came the cream of the crop. Northern cardinals, both male and female, have shown up here on PEI in numbers never seen before. To birders, having a northern cardinal visit your feeder is like winning a birding lottery. Because PEI sits on the very northerly edge of its breeding range, it is not unusual to get a few reports yearly of cardinals visiting people's feeders. However, this year's northerly movements have given us numbers never recorded here.

Northern Cardinals are attracted to bird feeders, but they are rather skittish birds. Because of their brightly colored plumages, they need cover and thick shrubbery to hide in for safety reasons; their bright colors increase the risks to predation. This may well be the year we record nesting cardinals in our province. Fingers crossed!

Winter Wildlife Signs

By Kate MacQuarrie



Hare Browse

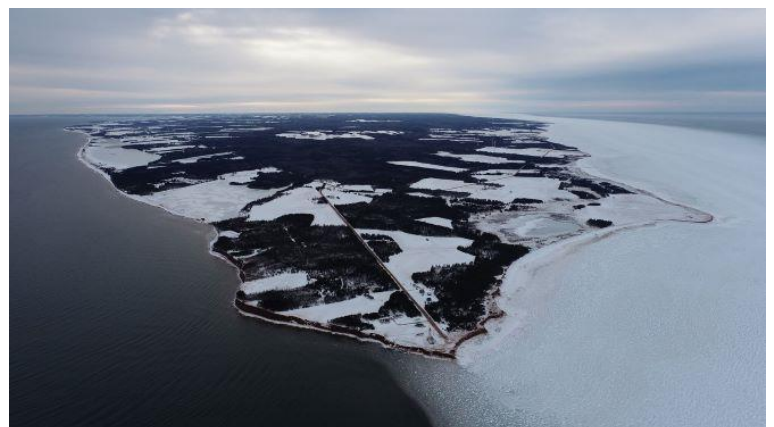
Photo By: Kate MacQuarrie

Some wildlife signs are subtle. Others, not so much! Here's a dramatic example of Snowshoe Hare sign. In winter, hares feed on buds, twigs and bark. Apple trees like this one are especially tasty and vulnerable to browse. The height of the browse corresponds to the past height of the snow.

All those black dots under the tree are hare scat (💩). On the far left you can see where the end of a twig has been clipped on a diagonal, which is characteristic of hares. The diagnosis here is certain: ma'am, you've got hares!

Souris & Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation (A Drone Photo)

An Interesting perspective. East Point, Prince Edward Island. A bit of Ice in the Gulf of St. Lawrence verses the Northumberland Strait.
Feb 26, 2021



East Point Photo by: Luke Chasson

Owl Observation Tips for Birders and Photographers

For many bird lovers in Canada, seeing our first Snowy Owl or Northern Saw-whet Owl is a cherished memory. These powerful chance encounters can even spark an interest in birds and nature that lasts a lifetime! We benefit from these experiences, but if we're not mindful, the impact on the owls can be negative one.

In Canada, the late fall and winter seasons are prime time to see many owl species that move south from northern forests and the Arctic, as part of an annual migration or because of a lack of food in their traditional summering range. Locations such as coastal green spaces in cities or forested areas can attract owl species, depending on food availability and other factors.



Snowy Owl Photo By: Donna Martin

It is during these times that several owl species are sometimes subjected to harmful or even deadly disturbance by people who come to add to their bird list, take photos, or simply have a look at the owl. Constant disturbance uses up valuable energy during the cold winter months and may prevent birds from hunting properly, both of which can be lethal. And some species that roost communally, like the Long-eared Owl, are very sensitive to any disturbances during the winter months. When the presence of people drives them from their roost, these surprisingly dainty owls are made more vulnerable to predators than they would be otherwise, and they suffer the fatal consequences.

So how can we still appreciate these amazing birds without causing harm? Here are some guidelines for observing and photographing owls:

- Watch or photograph quietly and from a distance.
- Do not disturb roosting owls.
- Move on after a few minutes. If the bird looks towards you, or its behaviour otherwise seems to change in response to your presence, then you should move farther away.
- Do not bait owls. The owls can become habituated to being fed by people. This disrupts their natural hunting behaviours and draws them to the roadside, which can lead to collisions with vehicles.
- Audio playback should not be used to attract owls.
- Don't use spotlights or flash photography, and do not trim foliage or cut down trees to get a better view of the bird.
- If the owl flies away, do not follow it and do not go off trail to pursue it.
- To avoid drawing a crowd, use discretion when it comes to sharing information about your observation. If you submit it to eBird, review the [guidelines for sensitive species](#). We recommend that you do not mention the specific location of the owl when telling your story.

We thank all of you who show your appreciation for these beautiful and sensitive birds by giving them space when you encounter them. Preventing disturbance to owls is an important way to help their populations survive and thrive in the wild.

This article was co-written by a team of Birds Canada staff: Ellen Jakubowski, Jody Allair, Kathy Jones, Ruth Friendship-Keller, and Yousif Attia.

Are there Bobcats on PEI?

By Kate MacQuarrie

There's been some recent social media traffic about Bobcats on PEI, so I thought it would be timely to talk about cat tracks. But first: are there Bobcats on PEI? Yes. Although not common, they've been reported from all three counties, and their presence has been confirmed. They are not considered native, having been introduced in the early 1970s. Lynx (a different species) were once present on PEI, but are no longer here. I recommend the well-researched book "Mammals of Prince Edward Island and Adjacent Marine Waters" (2019) for anyone wanting more detail.

Cat tracks can be both the easiest and the hardest of tracks to identify. The lack of nail marks can be useful, but is not definitive. On some surfaces, cat tracks will show nails. I don't have a photo of a Bobcat track, so I've used a domestic cat track to show the key features: round track, C-shaped palm pad with lobes at the base; not possible to draw an X though the track without hitting a pad; overall track is asymmetrical. I've added in my previously-posted interpretation of a domestic dog track for comparison.

Bobcat would be very similar, but larger: 1.5-2.5 inches, compared to usually less than 1.5 inches for a housecat. Cats will also use the same tracks both coming and going, which can result in some interesting tracks!



The Biodiversity Heritage Library

The [Biodiversity Heritage Library \(BHL\)](#) improves research methodology by collaboratively making biodiversity literature openly available to the world as part of a global biodiversity community.

Over 250,000 nature images are now freely available in the [BHL Flickr!](#)

Since 2011, we've been making many of the illustrations from BHL's collection available via Flickr. Last year, with many of our partners working virtually, we focused on projects to improve our digital collections remotely. This provided a unique opportunity to substantially grow our Flickr collection by over 90,000 new images—a nearly 200% increase in images uploaded compared to 2019.

Flickr also provides an opportunity for the public to help enhance the metadata for these images through crowdsourcing by adding tags for species, artists, and more.

Combatting Invasive Species

By Rosemary Curley

The increasingly rapid spread of non-native species worldwide is a concern that touches PEI, as some of these arrivals can become invasive and out-compete native species. To limit such effects, the PEI Invasive Species Council (PEIISC) has been active this winter in promoting two umbrella programs of its national counterpart, the Canadian Council on Invasive Species. “Clean Drain Dry” is a campaign directed at preventing arrival of new species such as the highly invasive zebra mussel which can survive months of drying while attached to a boat. “Don’t Let it Loose” advises against intentional release of non-native fish such as Koi and Goldfish, and aquarium plants like Canada Waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*). These plants currently clog Kellys Pond at Pondsides Park in Stratford and Knox’s Pond near Montague, and precautions should be taken to prevent further spread. Appropriate cleaning of watercraft is key to preventing spread of aquatic invasive species. PEIISC has posted many such messages on social media and has received cooperation from watershed groups and the PEI Watershed Alliance to do likewise. Signs are being posted at selected locations across PEI in March 2020. This program received monetary support from DFO, the Province of PEI and the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund. For more information on invasive species go to peiinvasives.com or Clean,Drain,Dry.

Side by side comparison of Hoary and Common Redpolls

By Dwaine Oakley



With Common redpoll numbers rising at the backyard feeders in recent days I was pleasantly surprised to find a nice Hoary redpoll in the mix today. It was also nice of the birds to pose for some side-by-side comparison shots showing off the identifying features of both species. Two common redpoll are on the left, and Hoary redpoll on the right. Note the Hoaries overall “frosty” appearance, lightly streaked flanks, relatively unmarked white rump, unmarked undertail coverts, and diminutive bill. It has been an exceptional winter for these northern finches, and it will not be too much longer before they leave us to head back to their breeding territories.

Common and Hoary redpolls Photos By: Dwaine Oakley

Dead Man's Pond in Victoria Park supports native amphibians, insects and plants. Native amphibians that can be found include the northern green frog and the blue-spotted salamander. However, harmful invasive species are more easily spotted in this rare and valuable pond.

Did you know there are no native freshwater turtles in PEI? Yet, two painted turtles were found in Dead Man's Pond, which were removed. Turtles feed on amphibians, eggs, insects and plants. The turtles were likely unwanted pets dumped in the pond by a well-meaning but misinformed pet owner. Koi and Goldfish have also been released in Dead Man's Pond. These fish can grow quite large and reduce amphibian and insect populations, as they have great appetites.

The water lily in Dead Man's Pond is also invasive. They established themselves more than 15 years ago and now cover a lot more of the pond than when they first appeared. Decaying organic matter because of dying lilies reduces the water's oxygen levels. This has likely caused the number of frog and salamander eggs to be reduced. It is not uncommon to see people removing amphibian eggs from the pond. Moving, handling and releasing wildlife or their eggs can reduce native populations and spread harmful diseases to wild species. For example, the chytrid fungus is prevalent in aquarium frog and salamander populations. This deadly skin disease can wipe out entire native amphibian communities. The best way to protect native amphibians is to prevent the import of the disease by keeping the pond in its natural state.

What do the invasive species mentioned have in common? They were all introduced by people! That is why the City of Charlottetown, PEI Invasive Species Council and PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund are teaming up to educate the public on invasive species, their impacts and the best ways to prevent new invaders. Keep your eyes peeled for a new sign to come to Dead Man's Pond! Ponds are rare ecosystems in PEI, especially in urban areas. Help protect ponds by preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species that can outcompete and spread disease to our special native species.

By: Nova Scotia Species at Risk

Should you be walking past a pond this spring and see what looks to be a blackbird or grackle foraging at the water's edge, flipping up leaves with dramatic flair in search of hidden insects, ripping up submerged aquatic vegetation, spare a moment for a careful look: it could be one of the continent's most beleaguered songbirds, our endangered rusty blackbird.

Your best chance of spotting a rusty blackbird is in spring and summer in and around bogs, beaver ponds, and wet boreal forest, whereabout they make their nests in dense shrubs and trees, sometimes directly over the water.

The rusty blackbird has undergone one of the most dramatic declines of any North American songbird species, with an estimated average drop in numbers of 4.4% annually from 1966 to 2014 or a total population loss of 89% over that period. The beaver-hunting frenzy of past centuries, which led to a vast reduction in beaver ponds, may have started the trend. Today,

loss of wet woodland and bog habitat through clearcutting, draining, and conversion to urban and agricultural lands is spurring the decline; so too the targeted poisoning of mixed blackbird flocks on agricultural lands in the rusty blackbird's southern range. Additionally, as with other wetland-foraging songbirds, rusty blackbirds of the Maritimes and New England have been shown to have blood mercury levels 3x that of their Alaskan counterparts; the upshot of our being downwind of major North American industrial centres and their associated emissions, which may be contributing to the species' demise in our region. More on that here:

http://rustyblackbird.org/.../Edmonds_etal2010Condor112... and here: <http://www.epa.gov/inter.../mercury-emissions-global-context>

As much as 85% of the remaining global rusty blackbird population is thought to breed in Canada.

Rusty blackbird conservation status in Atlantic Canada: ENDANGERED

Please report any sightings to your local bird societies, e-bird, I-naturalist ect. So researchers can continue to study the drivers that are causing these rapid declines.



Rusty Blackbird Photo By: Roberta Palmer



East Point Bird Count Photo by: Dan McAskill

Audubon Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) have been conducted for 121 consecutive years in North America. Birds Canada (formerly Bird Studies Canada) has been the Canadian partner in the CBCs since the 101st count (2000-1). This year the weather forecasts were good and all four counts went ahead as scheduled, allowing the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island, AKA Nature PEI, to conduct the Hillsborough CBC for the 50th consecutive year. Nature PEI has hosted the PEI National Park CBCs 49 times, with storms causing cancellations in 1975. The Montague count celebrated its 37th anniversary this year, and the East Point count marked its 18th, with one year missed for severe weather. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic caused significant changes. Birds Canada provided a COVID-19 protocol which advised that it was up to the coordinators to decide. After discussion with Nature PEI's Executive Council, it was decided that the CBCs would be

offered. There was resounding support and teams were easily recruited to conduct the counts. To the disappointment of most counters, the lunch time potluck at Dalvay, the afternoon gathering at Copper Bottom Brewery, and the evening potluck at Diane and Kevin Griffin's had to be cancelled because of the COVID-19 restrictions. Most zone teams had a convoy of cars involved in the count this year, rather than one car full of participants.

A cold snap on Dec. 15th froze most clay roads and nominal amounts of snow in early to mid-December, followed by warm conditions, meant that many of the clay roads were accessible, except where a snow drift hampered road access. There was no coastal ice and very little in the bays. The warm weather continued through most of the month and Charlottetown set a new temperature record of 13.1° C on December 25th.

The East Point CBC was held on December 19th. The first birders arrived at East Point at 7:15 am but there were no owlers out this year. As COVID-19 rules were relaxed on Dec. 18th, the birders could stand on the south side of the restaurant/gift shop for shelter from the stiff northerly breeze. After birding East Point, five teams formed to cover their assigned zones via car. Seventeen field counters and 9 feeder watchers participated.

The PEI National Park CBC was held on December 20th with a starting temperature of -1° C. The bays were open but most fresh water ponds were freezing over. Melanie McCarthy conducted owl playbacks at four sites and picked up two owl species. Sixteen field counters and three feeder watchers participated in the count.

The Montague CBC was held on December 26th. Travelling conditions were very good, with many of the clay roads accessible and fields largely open. The Montague and Valleyfield Rivers were also open. Seventeen field counters and 7 feeder watchers participated. Two adjacent teams birded portions of the Town of Montague zone.

The Hillsborough CBC on December 27th opened with sunny conditions, and there was only a skim of snow present in some fields. The check of the starling roost at the Hillsborough Bridge was conducted from the Friendly Pharmacy as the Hillsborough Bridge pull-off was blocked by the construction of the Stratford-Charlottetown bike lane. Over 1,000 birds were seen leaving the underside of the bridge. Dwaine Oakley and Nicole Murtagh did some early morning birding using high power scopes and picked up quite a variety of sea ducks, a Razorbill, and both species of loons. Four field counters whose bird feeders were located within the count circle, and two others feeder watchers, submitted their sightings for their feeders.

This year's count coordinators were Dwaine Oakley for the East Point CBC, Scott Sinclair for the Montague count, and Dan McAskill for the P.E.I. National Park and Hillsborough CBCs.

There were very few mountain ash or viburnum berries but a good crop of rose hips, highbush cranberry, and Eastern Larch cones across all four zones. Some of the bird highlights included: 6 Red-necked Grebe in Tracadie Bay and 1 at Wrightman's Point, a large number of Northern Gannet and Long-tailed Duck at East Point, 1 Osprey at Greek River, 1 Northern Shrike at Baltic and 1 in Blooming Point, 1 Rough-legged Hawk at Basin Head, a pair of Ring-necked Pheasant at Baltic, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers at Priest Pond, 1 Brown Creeper at Oyster Bed Bridge, 1 Horned Lark at Crooked Creek, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch at Oyster Bed Bridge and 1 at Montague, 1 Pine Warbler and 1 Yellow-rumped Warbler at Brackley Beach bayberry bushes, a Clay-coloured Sparrow at Reeves Estates, a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Bethel, and 1 Northern Cardinal at Montague.

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

OBSERVATIONS **NUMBERS OBSERVED**

Species	East Point Dec. 19, 2020	National Park Dec. 20, 2020	Montague Dec. 26, 2020	Hillsborough Dec. 27, 2020	Total Four Counts
Canada Geese	221	2,483	1878	5055	9637
Gadwall	9	26			35
American Wigeon		15	7	18	40
Mallard	8	95	132	177	412
American Black Duck	140	1,383	521	871	2915
Northern Pintail		23			23
Green-winged Teal		9		3	12
Ring-necked Duck					
Greater Scaup	93	900		20	1013
Common Eider	512	8	1	4	525
Harlequin Duck	2				2
Surf Scoter	1				1
White-winged Scoter	14	18		5	37
Black Scoter	61	42		15	118
Long-tailed Duck	8,044	7	126	27	8204
Bufflehead	7				7
Common Goldeneye	116	59	102	17	2944
Barrow's Goldeneye	4	3	26	2	35
Common Merganser	7	6	212	5	230
Red-breasted Merganser	257	16	37	105	415
Gray Partridge		7			7
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	CW			2
Ruffed Grouse		1	1	1	3
Red-necked Grebe		7	1		8
Rock Pigeon	46	154	125	194	519
Mourning Dove	67	103	52	64	286
Razorbill	119			1	120
Black Guillemot	15				15
Black-legged Kittiwake	24				24
Bonaparte's Gull	25	4	4		33
Ring-billed Gull	11	61	75	41	188
Herring Gull	122	199	427	164	912
Iceland Gull	102	23	4	19	148
Glaucous Gull		1			1
Great Black-backed Gull	50	37	14	16	117
UID Gulls				60	60
Red-throated Loon	9	2		3	14
Common Loon	5	2	1	1	9
Northern Gannet	49				49
Double-crested Cormorant	5		2	10	17
Great Cormorant	31				31
Osprey			1		1
Bald Eagle	11	12	33	36	92
Adults	2	8	20	26	56
Immature		3	11	9	23
Unknown	9	1	2	1	13
Northern Harrier	1				1
Sharp-shinned Hawk			2	1	3
Red-tailed Hawk	5	11	1	24	41
Rough-legged Hawk	1			2	3
UID Hawk				1	1
Great Horned Owl		1			1
Snowy Owl		CW			CW
Barred Owl		1		CW	1
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	4	1	8
Downy Woodpecker	2	10	5	9	26
Hairy Woodpecker	2	4	4	6	16

Northern Flicker		1		1	2
Pileated Woodpecker	2				2
Merlin	1	CW		CW	1
Northern Shrike	1	1		CW	2
Blue Jay	223	315	161	233	932
American Crow	264	562	410	913	2149
Common Raven	19	9	72	37	137
Horned Lark		4		12	16
Black-capped Chickadee	142	313	207	191	853
Boreal Chickadee	2	3	2		7
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	10	12	11	38
White-breasted Nuthatch		1	1	1	3
Brown Creeper		1	2	1	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			16	2	18
Golden-crowned Kinglet	20	11	5	5	41
American Robin	1	12		CW	13
European Starling	235	1,642	679	3,387	5943
Bohemian Waxwing		1	195		196
House Sparrow		3		10	13
Evening Grosbeak	CW	27	8	5	40
Pine Grosbeak	1			8	9
White-winged Crossbill	2	1			3
Common Redpoll	245	351	10	7	613
Pine Siskin		1	52		53
American Goldfinch	9	128	159	117	413
UID Finch				9	9
Snow Bunting	50	193	50	17	310
American Tree Sparrow	1	3		3	7
Clay-coloured Sparrow				1	1
Dark-eyed Junco	11	72	47	84	214
White-throated Sparrow		1	1	CW	2
Song Sparrow	CW	9		2	11
Yellow-headed Blackbird				1	1
Common Grackle			2	3	5
Brown-headed Cowbird				36	36
Yellow-rumped Warbler		1			1
Pine Warbler		1			1
Northern Cardinal			1		1
Total Birds	11,436	9,411	5,890	12,075	38810
Total Species	58	64	50	57	88
Add Count Week Species	2	2		5	1
Participants:					
Field	17	16	17	17	67
Count Parties	1 to 6	6 to 7	8	6 to 7	
Feeders	9	4	7	7	27
Mammals:					
Red Squirrel	4	19	6	15	44
Red Fox	4	7	2	2	15
Snowshoe Hare	1	1		3	5
Seal spp				45	46
Grey Seal	2				2
Harbour Seal			4	1	7
Roaming Dogs			3		3
Roaming House Cats	1	4	2	9	16
Details:					
Walked: Km	12.0	13	21.8	9.1	43.9
Hours	6.83	6	8.5	2.25	16.75
Driven: Km	367.0	540	591.2	356.6	1487.8
Hours	13.95	32.75	35.5	27.55	95.8
Earliest Start	7:00	7:10	7:45	7:18	7:00
Latest Ending	16:45	16:00	15:45	16:11	16:45
Total Party Hours	20.78	38.75	44	31.57	135.1
Owling Hours	0	1.75	0	0	1.75
Owling Kilometers	0	50.5	0	0	50.5

Number of Feeder Reports	9	3	6	6	24
Feeder Hours	30.5	13	10	9.33	
Snow Cover - aver. cm.	2	2	very little	<1	
Snow cover range	0.2 to 5	80		0 to 15	
Salt Water Bays - % frozen	5	5	0	0	
Fresh Water - % frozen	95	75	10	5	
Weather:					
Bright Sunshine (hrs.)		5		4.3	
Precipitation	1	nil	nil	0	
Cloud %	100	25		15	
Temperature C.	-1 to 0	-2 to 0	7	-2 to 1	
Aver. Wind Speed km/hr.		10.8	40	19	
Wind speed range km/hr.	11 to 25	7 to 15	40 to 70	8 to 45	
Prevail. wind direction	N	SW - S	SE	w - wsw	

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

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

Thanks to the many participants, namely: Jim Aquilani; Barbara Bailey; Hélène Blanchet; Vanessa Bonnyman; Thomas Bruce; Don Cheverie; Fred Cheverie; Sharon Clark; Ray Cooke, Michelle Cottreau; Rosemary Curley; Wanda Curley; Fiep de Bie; Lois Doan; Victoria Doan; Sheila Eastman; Annette Fay; Larry & Isobel Fitzpatrick; Tyler Flanagan; Chris and Blair Fraser; Kate Gordon; Diane Griffin; Doyle & Sharon Hachey, Spencer Haakman; Eileen Higginbotham; Ben Hoteling; John Klymko, Derek Lowe; Jill MacCormack; Lucas MacCormack; Gerald MacDonald; Margaret MacDonald; Brett MacKinnon; Doris MacPhee; Clare Martin; Donna Martin; Kathy Martin; Dan McAskill; Melanie Emily Pringle-Shepard; Shawn Ramsey; Ruth Richman; Gary Schneider; Andrea Simpson; Scott Sinclair; Sterling Schnatz; Curtis Sorrey; Ella Stewart; Diane Taylor-Stewart; Bruce Thomas; Linda Thomas; and Trudy White. These counts would not be possible without their participation.

ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:

PLANTS: An unusual sighting of blooming Pussy Willow (*Salix caprea*) at China Point, Jan 23, 2021 (DRM) (JDM). Cone crops are low this winter, so some of our irruptive finches continued to move on in search of food sources. Also berry crops have been mostly stripped and berries are almost non- existent now.

INSECTS: Cluster Flies, indoors, active on warn days at Corraville (BC) Winter Crane Fly at Corraville, Jan 25, 2021 (BC) Long-horned beetle in Firewood, Jan 2021 (JHa)

AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES:

MAMMALS:

Coyote at McGill Ave, Ch'town, Jan 23, 2021 (SC) Brown Rat, Stratford, Jan 25, 2021 (Anonymous) 1 Muskrat, 3 Red Squirrel, 2 Red Fox, 2 outdoor cats Jan 23, 2021, China Point, Earnscliff (DRM, JDM) I Harbour Seal, Feb 14, 2021, Murray Harbour (DRM, JDM) Flying Squirrel at Rotary Park, S'side Feb 23, 2021 (AF) Coyote tracks, Feb 6, 2021 Melburn (BC) Red Fox tracks at Corraville, Feb 6, 2021, (BC) 1 Striped Skunk at Corraville, Mar 7-10, 2021 (BC) 1 Coyote Feb 7, 2021 Milburn (BC) 1 Red Fox Feb 7, 2021 Melburn, (BC) 1 Coyote Jan 13, 2021, Iona, (JM) Grey Seal Pup in Beach Point, March 4, 2021, (DMur) Red Fox melanistic at Malpeque, March 3, 2021, (DRM) 1 River Otter at Charlottetown Harbour



Striped Skunk

Photo by: Barry Cottam



Grey Seal Pup By Dale Murchison



Red Fox...Melanistic By Donna Martin

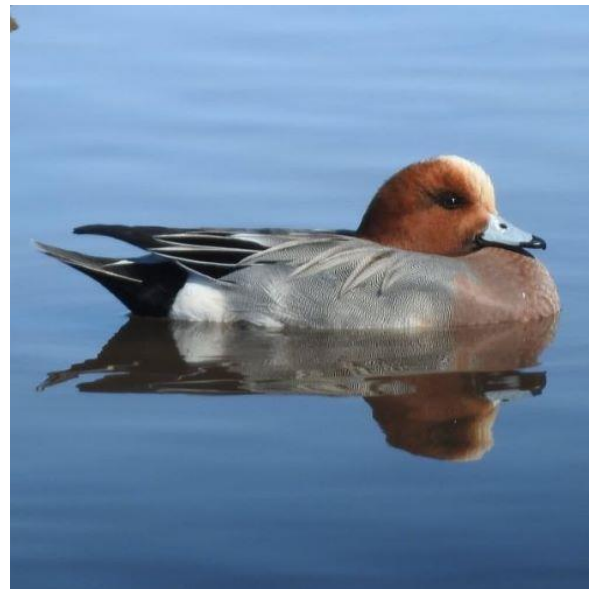


Snow Goose (Blue morph) Photo by: Dale Murchison

BIRDS: This checklist order has been adjusted to conform with the November 2020 American Ornithological Society's Checklist of Northern and Middle American Birds.

Snow Goose 1 In Montague, Feb 13, (MAM) Feb 14(DMur) Mar 8, 2021(DMur) - ; **Pink-footed Goose** - ; **Brant** - ; **Cackling Goose** -2 at Vernon Bridge, Feb 10, 2021 (TB) ; **Canada Geese**- 34 at Crown point, Jan 22, 2021, (MAM) 491 at Vernon River, Feb 10, 2021(TB) 400 in Vernon bridge, 365 Murray River, 350 Guernsey Cove, 3000 Flat River, Feb 14, 2021, (JDM, DRM) ; **Wood Duck** - ; **Gadwall** -11 at Clermont Feb 18, 2021 (DRM)2 at Oysterbed Bridge, Jan 24, 2021(DO) 17 at Cavendish, Mar7, 2021 (BAM); **Blue-winged Teal** - ; **Northern**

Shoveler - Northern Shoveler 1 at Wright's



Eurasian Widgeon Photo By: Ron Arvidson

Creek, Feb 14, 2021 (FRC) (DFG) (JMa) 1 at Clermont, Feb 18, 2021 (DRM)1 at Cambridge, Mar8, 2021, (GR)- ; **Eurasian Wigeon** - 1 at Ellen's Creek Feb 9, 2021, (DRM)1 at Ellen's Creek, Mar 6, 2021 (BM) 1 at Hermitage Creek, March 10, 2021 (RA); **American Wigeon**-15 at Montague River, Jan 23, 2021,(JDM) DRM) 5 at Vernon Bridge, Feb 14, 2021 (JDM, DRM) - ; **Mallard** -167 at Vernon Bridge, Feb 10, 2021 (TB) 150 at Wright's Creek, Feb 14, 2021 (FRC)(DFG)(JMa)100 At Vernon Bridge, Jan 23, 2021 (DRM) JDM)150 Murray River, Jan 23, 2021, (DRM) (JDM)15 at Pondsides, 100 Vernon River,100 Murray River Feb 14, 2021(JDM, DRM) 18 at Clermont Feb 18, 2021(DRM) 42 at Cavendish, March 7, 2021 (BAM) ; **American Black Duck** -428 at Vernon Bridge, Feb 10, 2021, (TB) 100 at Wright's Creek, Feb 14, 2021, (FRC) (DFG) (JMA)80 Vernon River, Jan 23, 2021, (DRM) JDM) 450 McInnis Point, Jan 23, 2021, (JDM)(DRM) 80 Montague River, Jan 23, 2021,(DRM) (JDM) 100 Murray River, Jan 23, 2021, (DRM) (JDM)50 at Seal River,1050 Vernon Bridge, 100 Murray River(DRM, JDM) 15 at Clermont, Feb 18, 2021 (DRM) 168 at Cavendish, Mar 7, 2021 (BAM); **Northern Pintail** -2 at Vernon Bridge, Feb 10, 2021, (TB) 2 at Clermont, Mar 3, 2021(DRM)- ; **Green-winged Teal** - 1 at Vernon Bridge, Feb 10, 2021(TB) 6 at Pondsides Park, Jan 23, 2021(DRM) JDM) 3at Murray Harbour, 1 Murray River, Feb 14, 2021 (JDM, DRM) ; **Redhead** - 1 Drake at Oysterbed Bridge Jan 9, 2021 (MAM) Jan10, 2021, (DRM) (VB) 1 (F) at Oysterbed Bridge Jan 24, 2021(DO)1 at Clermont Feb 18, Mar 3, 2021 (DRM) ; **Ring-necked Duck** - ; **Greater Scaup** -250 at Cavendish, Mar 7, 2021 (BAM) ; **Lesser Scaup** -7 at Oysterbed Bridge, Jan 24, 2021(DO)4 at Oysterbed Bridge, Mar 6, 2021, (MAM)2 at Cascumpec Bridge, Jan 24, 2021 (DO) ; **Common Eider** -2 at Crown Point, Jan 22, 2021 (MAM)75 at East Point, Jan 1, 2021, (SCS)100 at East Point Mar 8, 2021 (RP); **Harlequin Duck** -3 at East Point, Feb 21, 2021, (MAM)0 ; **Surf Scoter** - ; **White-winged Scoter** -4 at Red Point, Feb 21, 2021 (MAM) ; **Black Scoter** -22 at

East Point, Jan 1, 2021(SCS) 50 at East Point, Mar 8, 2021(RP); **Long-tailed Duck**- 5 at East Point, Jan 1, 2021, 9SCS)39 Murray Harbor, Beach Point, Feb 14, 2021(JDM, DRM) 1 at North Lake, Mar 1, 2021 (DO)1 at east point, Mar 8, 2021 (RP) ; **Bufflehead** – 4 at Hyde’s Pond, Jan 1, 2021,(MAM) (VB) 6 at Souris, Jan 13, 2021 (DRM) (RP)2 at



Brown Thrasher Photo By: Dwaine Oakley

Souris March 10, 2021 (GR); **Common Goldeneye** -20 at Vernon Bridge, Jan 29, 2021 (KMacC) (LM) 21 at Vernon bridge, Feb 10, 2021 (TB) 50 at McInnis Point, Jan 23, 2021(DRM) (JDM)67 at Murray Harbor, Beach Point, Vernon Bridge, Feb 14, 2021 (DRM) JDM) 55 at Cavendish, Mar 7, 2021 (BAM) 5 at East Point, Mar 8, 2021 (RP) ; **Barrow’s Goldeneye** – 15 at Vernon Bridge, Feb 10, 2021 (TB) 14 at McInnis Point, Jan 23, 2021 (DRM) (JDM) 70 at Cascumpec Bridge, Jan 24, 2021 (DO)40 at Oysterbed Bridge, Jan 24, 2021(DO) 8 at Vernon Bridge, Jan 29, 2021 (KMacC)(LM) 5 at Vernon River, Feb 14, 2021 (DRM) (JDM); **Hooded Merganser** – 1 at Oysterbed Bridge, Jan 24, 2021 (DO) 1 at Hyde Park, Feb 3, 2021, (CM); **Common Merganser** – 4 at Vernon Bridge, Jan 29, 2021 (KMacC)(LM)7 at Vernon Bridge, Feb 10, 2021 (TB) 90 Murray River, Jan 23, 2021, (DRM)(JDM)140 at Murray Harbor, Feb 14, 2021, (DRM) JDM) 29 at Cavendish, Mar 7,

2021 (BAM) ; **Red-breasted Merganser** –16 at Crown Point, Jan 22, 2021(MAM) 1 at Pinette, Jan 23, 2021, (JDM) (DRM) 2 at East Point, Mar 8, 2021 (RP) 12 at Souris, Mar 10, 2021 (GR) ; **Ruddy Duck** - ; **Gray Partridge**- 9 at Orwell Jan 5, 2021 (CR) 13 at Newton, Jan 5, 2021, (CR) 12 at Mount Buchanan, Jan 12, 2021,(DMur) 6 at Cherry Valley Jan 29, 2021 (KMacC0(LM)12 at Victoria Cross, Jan 30, 2021(DMur) 34 at Hamilton, Feb 18, 2021, (DRM) 22 at Fortune, Mar6, 2021 (DMur) 12 at Stanley Bridge, Mar 7, 2021 (JS) 12 at Cavendish, Mar 7, 2021, (BAM) ; **Ring-necked Pheasant** – 4 at Earnscliff, Jan 23, 2021 (DRM) JDM) 1 at Pamure Island, Mar 7, 2021 (FI) **Ruffed Grouse** – 3 at Crown Point, Jan 22, 2021 (MAM) ; **Sharp-tailed Grouse** - ; **Pied-billed Grebe** - ; **Horned Grebe** - ; **Red-necked Grebe** – 1 at East Point, Jan 1, 2021 (SCS) ; **Eared Grebe** - ; **Rock Pigeon** - 2 at Montague, Feb 13, 2021 (MAM) 8 at Vernon Bridge, Feb 10, 2021(TB) 37 at China Point, Feb 14, 2021 (DRM) (JDM) 10 At Tignish, Feb 14, 2021 (DG) ; **Mourning Dove** -5 at Westridge Cres, Ch’town, Jan 15, 2021 (KIM) 90 Earnscliff Jan 23, 2021, (DRM) (JDM) 50 at Belfast, Jan 23, 2021, (DRM) (JDM) 40 at Earnscliff 30 Woods Island, Feb 14, 2021 (DRM) (JDM)12 at Little York, Feb 12-15, 2021(ED) 14 at North Wiltshire, Feb 14, 2021 (AM) 20+ at Crapaud, Feb 21, 2021, (DD) 12 at Tignish, Feb 14, 2021 (DG)**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** - ; **Black-billed Cuckoo** - ; **Common Nighthawk** - ; **Chimney Swift** - ; **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** - ; **Virginia Rail** - ; **Sora** - ; **American Coot** - ; **Sandhill Crane** - ; **Black-bellied Plover** - ; **American Golden Plover** - ; **Semipalmated Plover** - ; **Piping Plover** - ; **Killdeer** - ; **Upland Sandpiper** - ; **Whimbrel** - ; **Hudsonian Godwit** - ; **Ruddy Turnstone** - ; **Red Knot** -4 at Souris, Jan 2, 2021 (DRM) 4 at Souris, Jan 15, 2021 (SCS) ; **Ruff** - ; **Stilt Sandpiper** - ; **Sanderling** – 4 at Bothwell, Mar 9, 2021 (HB); **Dunlin** - ; **Purple Sandpiper** - ; **Baird’s Sandpiper** - ; **Least Sandpiper** - ; **White-rumped Sandpiper** - ; **Pectoral Sandpiper** - ; **Semipalmated Sandpiper** - ; **Short-billed Dowitcher** - ; **Long-billed Sandpiper** - ; **American Woodcock** - ; **Wilson’s Snipe** - ; **Spotted Sandpiper** - ; **Solitary Sandpiper** - ; **Lesser Yellowlegs** - ; **Willet** - ; **Greater Yellowlegs** - ; **Wilson’s Phalarope** - ; **Red-necked Phalarope** - ; **Pomarine Jaeger** - ; **Parasitic Jaeger** - ; **Razorbill** – 1 at East Point, Mar 8, 2021, (RP) (DRM); **Black Guillemot** – 2 at East Point, Jan 1, 2021 (SCS)1 at Wood Islands, Feb 7, 2021 (DMur); **Black-legged Kittiwake** -2 at East Point, Feb 21, 2021(MAM) ; **Bonaparte's Gull** – 2 at Mount Stewart Jan 13, 2021 (JtR)1 at Murray River, Jan 23, 2021, (DRM) JDM); **Black-headed Gull** -1 at Summerside, Jan20, 2021 (SRa) ; **Little Gull** - ; **Ring-billed Gull** – 8



Pine Warblers Photo By: Kimberly Dawn

at East Point, Jan 1, 2021 (SCS)8 at Montague River, Jan 23, 2021, (DRM) (JDM)1 at Chapel Creek , Mar 6, 2021 (MAM); **Herring Gull** -2 at Crown Point, Jan 22, 2021 (MAM)2 at East Point, Jan 1, 2021 (SCS) 56 at Montague



Carolina Wren Photo by: Kathy Wadman

River, Jan 23,2021 (DRM) JDM)15 at Irwin Dr, Ch'town, Mar 10, 2021(DC&ES) ; **Iceland Gull** – 55 at East Point, Jan 1, 2021, (SCS) 24 at Murray River, Jan 23, 2021, (DRM) JDM) 50 at Tignish, Jan 24, 2021(DO) 1 at Irwin Dr. Ch'town Mar 10, 2021, (DC&ES) ; **Lesser Black-backed Gull** - ; **Glaucous Gull** -1 at Tignish, Jan 20, 2021, (VB) (MAM) 1 at Tignish, Jan 24, 2021 (DO)1 at Tignish Jan 25, 2021, (DRM) 1 at Irwin Dr, Ch'town Mar 10, 2021 (DC&ES); **Great Black-backed Gull** – 3 at East Point, Jan 1, 2021 (SCS)7 at Souris, Jan 13, 2021 (DRM)(RP) 2 at Stratford, Jan 23, 2021 (DRM) JDM) 2 Montague, Jan 23, 2021 (DRM) (JDM); **Caspian Tern** - ; **Common Tern** - ; **Arctic Tern** - ; **Red-throated Loon** – 1 at East Point, Feb 21, 2021 (MAM);

Common Loon – 2 at Pamuer Island, Feb 15, 2021 (DRM) ; **Great Shearwater** - ; **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** - ; **Leach's Storm-Petrel** - ; **Northern Gannet** – 1 at East Point, Jan 1, 2021, (SCS); **Double-crested Cormorant** -3 at East Point, Jan 1, 2021 (SCS) 8 at East Point, Jan 1, 2021 (SCS)1 at Wood Islands, Jan 23, 2021, (JDM) (DRM) ; **Great Cormorant** – 12 at East Point, Jan 1, 2021, (SCS)3 at Fortune, Mar 8, 2021 (DRM) (RP); **American White Pelican** - ; **American Bittern** - ; **Great Blue Heron** - ; **Great Egret** - ; **Black Vulture** - ; **Turkey Vulture** - ; **Osprey** – 1 at Cardross, Feb 9, 2021 (TR); **Bald Eagle** -1 at Alexandra, Jan 29, 2021(KMacC0 (LM)1 at Vernon Bridge, Feb 10, 2021 (TB) 1 at Pinette, 1 at Earnscliff, Jan 23, 2021, (DRM)(JDM) 1 at Hillsborough, Feb 4, 2021, (BC) 1 at Milburn, Feb 8, 2021, (BC) 1 at North Wiltshire, Feb 14, 2021 (AM)3 at Cavendish Mar 7, 2021 (BAM) 1 at Dromore, Mar 10, 2021 (TR)1 at Irwin Dr. Ch'town Mar 10, 2021 (DC&ES); **Northern Harrier** -1 at Stratford, Feb 19, 2021, (RP) 1 at Irwin Dr, Ch'town Mar 10, 2021 (DC&ES) ; **Sharp-shinned Hawk** -1 at Priest Pond, Feb 5, 2021, (IF) 1 at Shamrock Drive, Ch'town, Mar 7, 2021 (MAM) (VB)1 at Stratford, Mar 9, 2021 (TB) 1 at Irwin Dr, Ch'town, Mar 10, 2021 (DC&ES); **Cooper's Hawk** - ; **Northern Goshawk** –1 at St Charles Rd, Jan 3, 2021(JGM) 1 at Monticello, Feb 20, 2021 (JGM)1 at Rotary Park, S'side, Feb 26, 2021 (AF) 1 at Lot 52, Mar 8, 2021((JHa) ; **Broad-winged Hawk** - ; **Red-tailed Hawk** -1 at Crown Point, Jan 22, 2021 (MAM) 1 at Alexandra, Jan 29,

2021(KMacC)(LM) 4 at Earnscliff, Jan 29, 2021 (KMacC)(LM) 1 at Cherry Valley, Jan 29, 2021 (KMacC)(LM) 1 at Pownal, Jan 29, 2021(KMacC)(LM) 2 in Alexandra, 1 Earnscliff, 1 Mount Melick, Jan 23, 2021 (DRM) (JDM) 1 at St Charles, Jan 24, 2021 (JGM) 2 at Alexandra, 1 EarnsCliff, 1 Guernsey Cove, Feb 14, 2021 (DRM) (JDM) 1 at Cavendish, Mar 7, 2021 (BAM); **Rough-legged Hawk** -I at Summerville, Jan 5,2021, (RWH) 1 at Earnscliff, Mar 6, 2021, (TB) ; **Great Horned Owl** - ; **Snowy Owl** – 1 at University Avenue, Jan 2021, (CFH)1 at Orwell, Jan 17, 2021, (RG)1 at Souris , Mar 6, 2021 (MR) ; **Barred Owl** -1 at Lake Verde, Jan 3, 2021, (LT)1 At Rustico, Feb20, 2021, (JS) 1 at Murray Harbour, Feb 6, 2021 (DMi)1 at Rustico, Mar 4, 2021, (CC)1 at Stratford, Mar 6 2021 (BM)1 at Winter River trail, Mar 6, 2021 (KH) ; **Long-eared Owl** - ; **Short-eared Owl** - ; **Northern Saw-whet Owl** 1 at



Red Crossbill Graham Campbell

Ch'town, Mar 5, 2021,(DC)1 at Southwest Lot 16, Mar 9, 2021,(DRM) - ; **Belted Kingfisher** – 1 at Alexandra, 1 Montague River, Jan 21, 2021, (DRM) (JDM)1 at Malpeque, Jan 24, 2021(DO) 1 at Murray River, Feb 14, 2021 (DRM) (JDM)2 at Wright's Creek, Feb 14, 2021 (FRC) (DFG) (JMA); **Red-bellied Woodpecker** –1 at Montague, Feb 3, 2021(KD) 1 at Montague, Feb 13, 2021(MAM) ; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - ; **Downy Woodpecker** – 3 local (DRM) JDM) 2 at Little York, Feb 12-15, 2021, (ED); **Hairy Woodpecker** -1 at Crown point, Jan 22, 2021 (MAM) 1 at Little York, Feb 12-15, 2021, (ED) ; **American Three-toed Woodpecker** - ; **Black-backed Woodpecker** – 1 at Dalvay, Feb 5, 2021(VB1 at Mount Stewart, Mar 8, 2021, (MSa) ; **Northern Flicker** -1 at Cavendish, Jan 1, 2021 (DRM) 1 at Summerside, Jan 4, 2021, (DRM)1 at Earnscliff, Jan 23, 2021 (DRM) (JDM) 1 at Reeves Estate, Feb 14, 2021, (DRM) (JDM); **Pileated Woodpecker** –1 at St Charles Rd, Jan



Eastern Towhee

Photo By: Donna Martin

3, 2021 (JGM) 1 at Fullerton's Marsh, Jan 12, 2021 (FRC) (DFG)(JeM)3 at St Charles, Jan 24, 2021(JGM) 1 at Glenco, Feb 3, 2021 (KD)1 at North Wiltshire, Feb 14, 2021 (AM) 1 at Monticello, Feb 20, 2021(JGM) 1 at Strathgarney, Mar 3, 2021 (AF); **American Kestrel** -1 at Mount Albion, Jan 17, 2021, (BAM) 1 at Murray Harbour North, Mar 9, 2021 (DH); **Merlin** – 1 at Stratford Jan 3, 2021(MZ)1 at Miscouche, Feb 28, 2021 (JK); **Peregrine Falcon** -1 at Vernon Bridge, Feb 10, 2021 (TB) 1 at Vernon River, Jan 23, 2021, (DRM) (JDM) 1 at Vernon Bridge, Jan 29, 2021,(KMacC)(LM) 1 at Vernon River, Feb15, 2021, (FdB); **Olive-sided Flycatcher** - ; **Eastern Wood Pewee** - **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** - ; **Alder Flycatcher** - ; **Least Flycatcher** - ; **Eastern Phoebe** - ; **Great-Crested Flycatcher** - ; **Eastern Kingbird** - ; **Northern Shrike** -1 at Souris Jan 28, 2021(DRM)1 at Wood Islands, Feb 14, 2021, (JDM) DRM) 1 at Souris, Mar 8, 2021 (RP) (DRM) ; **Blue-headed Vireo** - ; **Philadelphia Vireo** - ; **Red-eyed Vireo** - ; **Gray Jay** – 1 at Souris, March 1, 2021, (DO) 2 at O'leary, Mar 8, 2021, (RM) ; **Blue Jay** -62 Jan 23, 2021(DRM)(JDM)25 at North Wiltshire, Feb 14, 2021 (AM); 10 at Little York, Feb 12-15, 2021(ED) 6 at Irwin Dr. Ch'town, Mar 10, 2021 (DC&ES); **American Crow** – 115 at Crown Point, Jan 22, 2021(MAM)2 at Westridge Cres, Jan 15, 2021, (KIM)245 Jan 23, 2021 (DRM) (JDM) 6 at Irwin Dr., Ch'town Mar 10, 2021 (DC&ES) ; **Common Raven** – 2 at Crown point, Jan 22, 2021 (MAM)2 at East Point, Jan 1, 2021, (SCS) 6 Jan 21, 2021, (DRM) (JDM) ; **Horned Lark** - 12 At Vernon Bridge, Feb 13, 2021 (JDM) 52 at Mount Herbert, Vernon Bridge, China Point, Feb 14, 2021, (DRM) (JDM) 9at Chelton, Feb 24, 2021 (DRM) 7 at Cavendish, Mar 7, 2021, (BAM) 1at Summerville Mar 2, 2021, (RWH) ; **Tree Swallow** - ; **Bank Swallow** - ; **Barn Swallow** - ; **Cliff Swallow** - ; **Black-capped Chickadee** –23 at Crown Point, Jan 22, 2021(MAM)5 at Westridge Cres, Jan 15, 2021(KIM) 19 Jan 23, 2021(DRM) (JDM) 4 at Montague, Feb 13, 2021, Feb 13, 2021 (MAM) ; **Boreal Chickadee** – 1 at Monticello, Feb 20, 2021(JGM) 3 at Chelton Feb 24, 2021(DRM) 1 at East Lake, Mar 7, 2021 (FdB) **Red-breasted Nuthatch** -1 at Glenco, Jan 2, 2021 (KD) 2 at Chelton, Feb 24, 2021 (DRM) ; **White-breasted Nuthatch** – 1 at S'side, Jan 4,2021 (DRM)2 at Brackley, Jan 10, 2021 (VB)2 at Glenco,Jan 12, 2021(KD)1 at Montague, Jan 24,2021(DMur) ; **Brown Creeper** –1 at Crown Point, Jan 22, 2021 (MAM) 2 at Chelton, Feb 24, 2021, (DRM) ; **Winter Wren** - ; **Carolina Wren**-; Summerside, Jan 28, March 5, 2021 (KW) (DRM) **Rock Wren**- 1 at North Cape, Jan 18, 2021, (DRM) 1 at North Cape, Jan 24, 2021 (DO)1 at North Cape, Feb 14, 2021(DO)1 at North Cape, Feb 20, 2021(TB); **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** - ; **Golden-crowned Kinglet** – 2 at Crown Point, Jan 22, 2021 (MAM)4 at Fullerton's Park, Jan 12, 2021 (FRC) (DFG) JeM)2 at Stratford, Jan 23, 2021 (DRM) (JDM)1 at Georgetown, Mar10, 2021,(SCS) ; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** - ; **Eastern Bluebird** - ; **Veery** - ; **Grey-checked Thrush** - ; **Townsend's Solitaire** - ; **Swainson's Thrush** - ; **Hermit Thrush** – 1 at Monticello, Feb 11, 2021 (JGM) ; **American Robin** – 30 at Rotary Park, S'side, Jan 23, 2021, (AF) 4 at Shamrock Dr, Chtown, Mar 7, 2021 (MAM) (VB); **Gray Catbird** - ; **Brown Thrasher** -1 at East Point, Feb 26, 2021(D&MF) ;1 at East Point Feb 27, 2021(DO) ; **Northern Mockingbird** – 1 at Riverside Drive, Ch'town, Mar 7, 2021. (MAM) (VB) 1 at Stratford, Mar 10, 2021 (JS) ; **European Starling** – 550 Jan 21, 2021 (DRM) JDM); **Bohemian Waxwing** – 40 at Fullerton's, Jan 10, 2021 (IGC); 15 at Cotton Park, Stratford, Jan 11, 2021(FRC)DFG); 200+ at Stratford, Jan 12, 2021(DRM); 60 at Reeves Estate, 35 at Hazelbrook, Feb 14, 2021, (DRM) JDM); 60 + at Crapaud, Feb 21, 2021(DD); 54 at Stratford, Feb 26, 2021(FRC); 28 at

Shamrock Dr., Ch'town, Mar 7, 2021 (MAM) (VB); 200 at Irwin Dr., Ch'town, Mar 10, 2021 (DC&ES) ; **Cedar Waxwing** - ; **House Sparrow** – 15 Charlottetown, 12 Earnscliff, 1 Cherry Valley (DRM)(JDM); **American Pipit** - ; **Evening Grosbeak** -6 at Westridge Cres, Jan 15, 2021(KIM) 10 at North Wiltshire, Feb 14, 2021 (AM) 27 at Irwin Dr, Ch'town, Mar 10, 2021 (DC&ES); **Pine Grosbeak** – 2 at Crown Point, Jan 22, 2021(MAM) 1 at National Park, Feb 18, 2021, (SGC) 5 at Auburn, March 5, 2021 (RC); **Purple Finch**- 2 at Westridge Cres, Jan 15, 2021(KIM)2 at Glenco, Jan 13, 2021.(KD)2 at Ch'town Jan 15, 2021, (KMC) ; **Red Crossbill** -1 at Summerside, Feb 23-Mar 2-4, 2021, (GC)1 at Summerside, Mar 5, 2021, (RP) ; **White-winged Crossbill** – 2 at Waite Shore, Jan 22, 2021, (RP) ; **Common Redpoll** -30 at St Charles RD, Jan 3, 2021 (JGM)2 at Westridge cres, Jan 15, 2021(KIM)60 at St Charles, Jan 24, 2021(JGM) 150 at Steel Road, S'side, Feb 8, 2021 (RP)6 at Orwell, Feb 14, 2021(JDM)(DRM) 1 at Crapaud, March 8, 2021(DD) 3 at Cablehead, Mar 9, 2021, (TR) ; **Hoary Redpoll** – 2 at Steel Road, S'side , Feb 8, 2021, (RP)2 at Stratford, March 8, 2021, (DO); **Pine Siskin** -4 at Crapaud, Feb 21, 2021(DD)3 at Irwin Dr, Ch'town, Mar 10, 2021 (DC&ES) ; **American Goldfinch** -7 at Westridge Cres, Jan 15, 2021(KIM)6 Jan 23, 2021, (DRM) (JDM)2 at Montague, Feb 13, 2021(MAM) 2 at Little York, Feb 12-15, 2021(ED) 2 at Irwin Dr., Ch'town, Mar 10, 2021 (DC&ES) ; **Lapland Longspur** – 1 at Earnscliff, Feb 14, 2021, (DRM) (JDM) 1 at Summerville, Mar 1, 2021(RWH) ; **Snow Bunting** – 15+ at Sommerville, Jan 2021 (RWH) 6 at Wood Islands, Jan 23, 2021, (DRM) JDM)100+ at Earnscliff, Jan 31, 2021, (JtR) 16 at Chelton, Feb 24, 2021 (DRM) 200+ at Summerville, Feb 27, 2021 (RWH); **Spotted Towhee** - ; **Eastern Towhee** – 1 at Canoe Cove, Jan 4, 2021, (MB&JDS) 1 at Canoe Cove, Jan 12, 2021(DRM) 1 at Canoe Cove, Jan 30, 2021, (MAM) (VB) ; **American Tree Sparrow** – 1 at Rocky Point, Jan 5, 2021, (LD) 1 at Donagh, Jan 8, 2021, (CR) 4 at EarnsCliff; Jan 23, 2021(DRM) (JDM)3 at Earnscliff, 4 at Little York, Feb 12-15, 2021 (ED) Feb 14, 2021 (DRM) (JDM) **Chipping Sparrow** - ; **Clay-coloured Sparrow** -1 at Stratford, Feb 14, 20219(MAM) ; **Field Sparrow** - ; **Fox Sparrow** -1 at Stratford, Feb 22, 2021 (YB) ; **Dark-eyed Junco** -30 at EarnsCliff, Jan 23, 2021 (DRM) (JDM) 10 at North Wiltshire, Feb 14, 2021 (AM)10 at Little York, Feb 12-15, 2021(ED); 12 at Irwin Dr, Ch'town, Mar 10, 2021 (DC&ES); **White-crowned Warbler** – 1 at Cascumpec, Jan 10, 2021(JP)(1 at Barbara Weit Rd, S'side, Jan 30, 2021(DRM) ; **White-throated Sparrow** 1 at Rocky Point (LD) 1 at Reeves estate, Feb 14, 2021 (MAM) ; **Savannah Sparrow** – 1 at Cascumpec, Jan 10, 2021, (JP) 1 at Glenco, Feb 3, 2021 (KD); **Nelson's Sparrow** - ; **Song Sparrow**-4 at Earnscliff, Jan 23, 2021, (DRM) (JDM) 3 at Earnscliff, Feb 14, 2021 (DRM)(JDM); **Lincoln's Sparrow** - ; **Swamp Sparrow** - ; **Yellow-headed Blackbird** - ; **Bobolink** - ; **Red-winged Blackbird** **Rusty Blackbird** -1 at Clinton, Jan 29, 2021(SDi) ; **Common Grackle**- 3 at Little York, Feb 12-15, 2021 (ED); 5 at Wood Islands, Feb 14, 2021 (DRM)(JDM) - ; **Brown-headed Cowbird** -2 at Stratford, 1 at Mason Road, Feb 14, 2021, (DRM)(JDM) ; **Baltimore Oriole** – 1 at Westridge Cres, Jan 15, 2021(KIM) Jan 15, 2021 at Hillsborough, Jan 17, 2021 (VB) 1 at Hillsborough Park, Jan 19, 2021, (FdB) 1 at Hillsborough, Mar 6, 2021 (DAM) **Ovenbird** - ; **Northern Waterthrush** - ; **Black-and-white Warbler** - ; **Tennessee Warbler** - ; **Orange-crowned Warbler** - ; **Nashville Warbler** - ; **Connecticut 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** -2 at Glenco Jan 12, 2021(KD) 1 at Nine Mile Creek, Feb 3, 2021,(KHu) 1 at Irwin Dr, Ch'town Mar 10, 2021 (DC&ES); **Yellow-rumped Warbler** - ; **Prairie Warbler** - ; **Black-throated Green Warbler** - ; **Canada Warbler** - ; **Wilson's Warbler** - ; **Scarlet Tanager** - ; **Northern Cardinal** – 3 at N Bedeque, Jan 2, 2021, (JA) 2 at Oleary, Jan 2, 2021(SG)3 at Summerside, Jan 4, 2021, (DRM)2 at Montague, Jan 13, 2021(DRM) 1 at Nile Mile Creek, Feb 3, 2021(KHu) 1 at China Point Feb 27, 2021, (DMur) 1 at Montague, Feb 27, 2021(DMur) 2 at Stratford, Mar 5, 2021(TB) 3 at Southwest Lot 16, Mar 7, 2021(PGC); **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** - ; **Indigo Bunting**

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PEI Watershed Alliance

Have you seen any bats hanging around? If so - we'd like to hear from you.

PEI Fish and Wildlife: 902-368-4683

Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative BAT HOTLINE: 1-833-434-BATS (2287), toll-free

Please call these numbers to report any local bat sightings, receive guidance on managing bats in buildings, for assistance with any bat-related human health concerns, or for general bat information.

In Atlantic Canada bats are susceptible to a disease known as "white-nose syndrome" which has sent bat populations into a rapid decline in recent years. As of today, two local bat species are listed federally as endangered due to white-nose syndrome (the little brown myotis and the northern myotis). To learn more about white-nose syndrome you can visit:

www.princeedwardisland.ca/topic/fish-and-wildlife or www.cwhc-rcsf.ca

Bats are nocturnal and spend winter months in hibernation; because of this, bats can be quite challenging to monitor! Any sightings reported by the public are extremely beneficial to wildlife biologists and researchers as they can help locate maternity colonies, hibernation sites, and important bat habitat that may otherwise go undetected.

Thanks in advance

PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation AGM

Thursday April 8th, 7:00 pm

Due to Covid restrictions, our 2019-2020 annual general meeting was delayed, but it is now scheduled for Thursday, April 8th at 7:00 p.m. To protect the safety of all, the event will be held entirely online – a first for our Foundation. The annual general meeting will feature a short presentation about an upcoming exhibition on the life and art of Rev. William Stuart, an 19th century painter from Port Hill. The curators will offer a sneak peek at the exhibition and the

process of creating it. The exhibition will open to the public at Eptek Arts & Culture Centre this summer. To register for this online AGM, please click on the "register here" button below. If you want to read our 2019-2020 annual report before the meeting, you can find it online [here](#).

Go to the Museum's site to register. It's an [eventbrite.ca](#) process.

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. Young Naturalists are encouraged to attend and participate.

- **Note: To meet Covid-19 requirements, pre-register for Nature PEI's meetings does not start until two weeks before the presentations. Pre-registration is required by contacting Connie Gaudet (conniefairmont@gmail.com)**
- April 6 – **An Introduction to Identifying Gulls on PEI.** Donna Martin will be the guest speaker with a presentation on gull identification. Meeting starts at 7:30 pm at Beaconsfield, the Carriage house, corner of West and Kent Street, Charlottetown.
- May 4- **The Invention of Polar Bears and Spoiling of the Great Arctic Party** – David Cairns will be Nature Pei's guest speaker with his presentation on polar bears which evolved an eye-blink ago in geologic time. His presentation recounts what happened when they arrived in an unsuspecting and unprepared arctic setting. Society meetings start at 7:30 pm at Beaconsfield, the Carriage House, corner of West and Kent Street, Charlottetown. Pre-registration is needed. Contact:
- As a result of the continuous changing of the Covid-19 status on PEI, we have been a bit hesitant about booking spring field trips. Hopefully, things will settle down and we will try to get in one or two before the fall. Keep checking the Nature PEI website for news and updates.
- The Atlantic Canada Nocturnal Owl Survey will go this season with PEI owl surveys starting from mid-March to mid-April following provincial Covid-19 guidelines.

MacPhail Woods Ecological Forestry Project

- April 14- Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project..... Owl Prowl #1
- April 16- Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project..... Owl Prowl #2
- April 18- Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project..... Owl Prowl #3
- April 24- Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project..... Owl Prowl #4