

RECENT NEWFOUNDLAND BIRD RECORDS

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ALTHOUGH Peters and Burleigh (1951) embodied the results of 304 field days from 1937 to 1947 and an exhaustive search of the literature in *The birds of Newfoundland*, it was inevitable that additional field work would change the known status of many species in that island, and that extralimital species, especially from Europe, would continue to appear. This paper includes notes on 51 bird species, three of them recently introduced to the island. Of 37 recorded for the first time, four are new records for continental North America.

In my capacity as ornithologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service, I have traveled widely in Newfoundland since 1950; also a number of persons have provided me with carefully documented accounts of the birds of their areas. Space does not permit me to name all the many contributors who have reported birds to me or donated specimens, but outstanding are Melvin McNeill, St. Anthony; Henrik Deichmann, Badger; Mrs. H. J. Reid, Ramea; Harold Horwood and James Inder, St. John's. W. Earl Godfrey kindly reviewed an early draft of this manuscript.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis ibis*).—An immature came aboard the trawler *Blue Foam* on the Newfoundland Grand Banks 31 October 1952, and later died. It was presented to the National Museum of Canada and was the second specimen for North America (Godfrey, 1954; Peterson, 1954), although the species is now believed to have arrived in Florida somewhat earlier. I have examined an adult shot at St. Anthony 27 October 1964, and mounted by Robert Best.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta garzetta*).—An adult female was shot at Flatrock, Conception Bay, 8 May 1954 by Robert Emerson. This specimen was also presented to the National Museum of Canada. It is the only record for Canada (Godfrey, 1956) and the first for the New World (Palmer, 1962).

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus*).—A group of six was observed at La Manche on the south shore of the Avalon Peninsula 25 April 1956 by Stuart Peters. For the next several days I examined them closely and was satisfied that they were this species. I saw seven Glossy Ibises in flight near Torbay 24 May 1958. I have a specimen that was shot at Cappahayden on the Avalon Peninsula 10 October 1958 by John Power. He shot it in error for a Black Duck and does not recall other birds of this kind in the locality at that time.

White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*).—An adult was closely observed and photographed while it was in the company of a flock of semidomesticated Canada Geese at Clarenville 10 April 1951. The head and wings of an immature K. Marshall shot at St. Bride's on the Avalon Peninsula 10 October 1952 have been deposited in the National Museum of Canada. Two others were shot 20 October 1952 from a group of six at St. Shott's and an immature 16 October 1959 at Cape Broyle, both on the Avalon south shore. Godfrey (1966) considers most White-fronts that occur in this region are probably from the Greenland population (*A. a. flavirostris*).

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*).—The only published record of the Mallard for this region is a dubious one by Reeks (1869). An adult male shot at

Swift Current, Placentia Bay by L. Singleton 3 October 1952 has been deposited in the National Museum of Canada. I have seen this species in winter in Newfoundland in association with Black Ducks. I saw four at Cappahayden 16 January 1951, six at Cape Broyle 28 December 1953, and one near St. John's 28 March 1958. A Mallard banded as an immature at Long Island, New York 16 August 1951 was shot at Port de Grave 1 January 1958.

Common Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*).—A female banded at Peterborough, Northants, England, 9 November 1952 was shot at Barr'd Islands, Fogo district 5 December 1952. It was with a group of six other Teal.

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*).—Peters and Burleigh (1951) described the Blue-winged Teal as an uncommon summer resident in Newfoundland and their records indicated that it possibly breeds in southwestern Newfoundland. Blue-winged Teal now breed in the Codroy Valley, where I have found nests or broods of downy young each year since 1961. I found a brood of downy young in the Upper Humber in 1964 which shows that its breeding range in southwestern Newfoundland may be fairly large. One banded at Grand Codroy 30 August 1948 was shot in Puerto Rico 15 December 1948. Another, banded at Delta Marsh, Manitoba 14 August 1952, was killed by striking utility wires at Ochre Pit Cove, Conception Bay 14 October 1952.

Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*).—A. C. Wornell shot two females and a male, all immatures, near St. John's 5 October 1957. One specimen was preserved. These are the only known records.

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila nearctica*).—A nest of 11 eggs was found near a large Ring-billed Gull colony on Browsey Island on the Avalon Peninsula 11 June 1952. The nest was well hidden in a prostrate mat of black spruce. Since then about 10 nests or broods of downy young have been found in this region. Specimens have been collected to determine the subspecies. In an area of some 40 square miles in this locality, the Greater Scaup is the most abundant breeding duck. It is not known to breed elsewhere in Newfoundland, but small numbers are recorded in winter in many localities.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*).—An adult male James Strong shot at Little Bay Islands, Notre Dame Bay, 9 March 1956 is now in the National Museum of Canada. I have reliable records of five other observations in Newfoundland, all in early spring or winter in association with the Common Goldeneye.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*).—The first record is a specimen taken near Renew's in the fall of 1905 (Peters and Burleigh, 1951). I have another specimen Melvin McNeill collected at St. Anthony 11 October 1956.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*).—Peters and Burleigh (1951) included the Golden Eagle on the Newfoundland list on the strength of a specimen without data in the St. John's Museum, which was later destroyed by fire. An adult female, killed by striking high tension wires at St. John's 31 January 1951, is now in the National Museum of Canada. Single birds are reported occasionally in concentrations of Bald Eagles at the Burgeo fish plant in winter.

Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius sparverius*).—Peters and Burleigh (1951) list it as hypothetical. We have found it the most plentiful and widely distributed falcon in Newfoundland. Especially abundant in the central and southwestern parts of the island, it also breeds on the Avalon Peninsula. Extreme dates at St. John's are 25 March 1962 and 4 December 1965. Concentrations of as many as 10 birds have been recorded in late September and early October.

Spruce Grouse (*Canachites canadensis canadensis*).—Spruce Grouse from Northwest

River, Labrador were introduced in 1964 as follows: 48 to Butterport Park, 39 to Grand Lake, and 39 to Little Gander Lake.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*).—This species was first introduced into Newfoundland in 1956 and is doing so well that a restricted open season is contemplated for 1968. The introductions were as follows:

Year	Origin of stock	No. of birds	Locality of release
1956	Wisconsin	40	Cormack
1956	Wisconsin	38	Badger
1958	Wisconsin	28	Clarenceville
1958	Wisconsin	29	South Branch
1959	Wisconsin	34	Badger
1961	Nova Scotia	30	Salmonier
1962	Nova Scotia	42	Salmonier
1962	Nova Scotia	39	Butterpot Park
1962	Maine	18	Barrachois Park
1963	Maine	42	Salmonier
1963	Maine	29	Mollyguaajack
1964	Maine	11	Mollyguaajack
1964	Maine	39	Milltown
1964	Maine	50	Gander Lake
1965	Maine	27	Corner Brook
1966	Maine	28	Hawkes Bay
1966	Maine	15	Corner Brook

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*).—A few pairs were released at St. John's in the late 1950's. A few still survive, nesting on the fringes of farmlands within 10 miles of the city.

Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola limicola*).—At least three pairs have nested regularly in the Codroy Valley since 1956, where I have found their nests or young each year. I have also received specimens from St. Anthony, Placentia, Trepassey and Deadman's Bay as late as 28 December 1964.

Sora (*Porzana carolina*).—Formerly considered casual on the basis of two September specimens (Peters and Burleigh, 1951). A specimen in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard was collected at Deer Pond, Newfoundland 26 July 1894. I found a nest of 16 eggs in the Codroy Valley 26 June 1956. I have caught immature birds in snipe traps each summer since in the same area. It is possibly fairly widely distributed in the summer in suitable localities. I have seen or heard Soras during the summer at Stephenville, the Upper Humber, Salmonier, and at Dunn's Pond.

Eurasian Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria altifrons*).—During the foggy night of 18 April 1961, Golden Plovers were heard circling St. John's. This was strange, as Golden Plovers were never reported previously in spring in Newfoundland. Small flocks, totalling several hundred in all, were reported from the Avalon Peninsula within the next several days. Harold Lawlor at Cappahayden obtained a male in fine breeding plumage which is now in the National Museum of Canada. Ralph S. Palmer and I saw a small flock of seven birds of this distinctive species at Stephenville Crossing 24 May 1963. Although this species occurs regularly in southern Greenland (Salomonson, 1950), these are the only records for continental North America.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*).—A female collected at Dunn's Pond, Placentia Bay, 20 May 1954, but first seen two days earlier, is the first record for continental North America. The specimen is now in the National Museum of Canada.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus canus*).—A Mew Gull banded at Devich'ya Luda in the White Sea and shot at Lock's Cove, Notre Dame Bay 19 April 1956 is the first record of the European race for North America.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*).—A 1958 hurricane (Helene) that originated in the West Indies and touched Cape Hatteras as it moved northeastward reached Burgeo 29 September and brought hundreds of these gulls with it. The birds were recorded in Newfoundland up to 15 October, none thereafter. Of the 25 specimens examined, 11 had been banded in New Jersey, Virginia, or North Carolina.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*).—The first record for Newfoundland was of two immature birds I saw at Bear Cove on the Avalon Peninsula 29 November 1955. A few have been recorded every winter since in the same general area and occasionally at St. John's. Extreme dates for this species in Newfoundland are 1 September 1957 and 16 April 1956.

Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus recognita*).—I studied a tern at close range at Fermeuse on the south shore of the Avalon Peninsula 6 September 1955, and again on the following day, which I was convinced was an immature Bridled Tern. Later, while examining a series in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, my notes confirmed that it was this species. I also learned that this was not the first record for Newfoundland, for an M.C.Z. specimen was collected at Custlett, Newfoundland by J. C. Cahoon 21 January 1891.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias nigra*).—Templeman (1945) mentions that fishermen occasionally see this species off Newfoundland. I observed an immature bird and an adult quite closely at Bear Cove on the Avalon Peninsula on 6 September 1955. The next day I saw an immature bird at Fermeuse. Harold Horwood and I closely observed an immature bird at Renew's 14 September 1956. I saw a single adult with some Common Terns at Bauline on the south shore 27 June 1967.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra nigra*).—Hurricane Helene in 1958, which brought the Laughing Gulls to Newfoundland, also brought a small number of Black Skimmers. Of five found dead, four were banded in North Carolina or Virginia.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus americanus*).—The first record for Newfoundland was 12 October 1954, when at least five birds, seemingly in a state of exhaustion, were seen in various parts of St. John's. One was captured but later died and was made into a specimen. Another exhausted bird was captured at St. John's 15 November 1955. One was found dead at St. John's 2 November 1961. Mrs. H. J. Reid reported a single bird at Ramea 31 October 1963, and on 8 November 1963 three birds were seen at St. John's and one found freshly dead. One was killed by a car at St. John's 10 November 1965 and another found freshly dead the following day. Mrs. H. J. Reid observed another single bird at Ramea 24 September 1965. It will be noted that apart from Mrs. Reid's late September record, most records for this species in Newfoundland are for late October or November. Its occurrence may be due to drift-migration. The species turns up with some regularity in Great Britain (Alexander and Fitter, 1955) and is an abundant visitor some autumns to Bermuda, where it appears "absolutely in thousands . . . the trees are full of them" (Bradlee *et al.*, 1931).

Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*).—The first specimen was an exhausted bird captured on the doorstep of my office at St. John's 11 October 1955. Harold Horwood observed a cuckoo in flight at Rantem 28 August 1957, and another in flight near St. John's 21 May 1958, which he was convinced were this species. One, first seen alive several days previously, was found dead at Harbour Breton 18 September 1958 by Clyde Burton. One was reported from Topsail 18 October 1959

by James Ewing. Mrs. Reid reported one from Ramea on 15 August 1965. One struck a window at Portugal Cove near St. John's 9 July 1965, and was cared for by Robert Stacey and released two days later. What was probably the same bird was last seen in that locality on 24 July. Mrs. Reid reported another single bird at Ramea 19 June 1966. Unlike the preceding species, the Black-billed Cuckoo occurs in spring and summer in Newfoundland. Possibly it may breed here.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba pratincola*).—An adult female was found freshly dead at St. Anthony 29 November 1957 by Melvin McNeill. The bird had a wing length of 332 mm, and other measurements are similarly far too large for either of the most likely Old World forms. This is the first record for Newfoundland, and the specimen is now in the National Museum of Canada.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*).—The first record for Newfoundland is a previously unpublished specimen in the M.C.Z. which J. C. Cahoon collected 7 August 1890 in Exploits Bay. All records since have been late autumn or early winter. A bird accurately answering the description of this species was observed closely for some time at Holyrood 30 November 1952 by Mrs. A. G. Gosling. On 31 October 1957 Harold Lawlor reported two from Cappahayden and sent me a specimen found freshly dead there 1 November. From 8 to 13 November 1957 individual birds were seen at St. John's by various persons. Henrik Deichmann recorded one from Trapper Lake in the interior of the island on 1 December 1961. I watched one at close range for some time near Cappahayden 14 November 1962.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis subis*).—Nearly every spring Purple Martins are reported in association with Tree Swallows when they first arrive. The earliest was a single bird Don Miller observed at Grand Falls 4 May 1958. There are no specimens and no breeding records.

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*).—Macgillivray (1965) has documented the Newfoundland records for this bird since Melvin McNeill first reported it from St. Anthony in the autumn of 1956. It was first recorded breeding at St. John's in 1964. Singing males and later immature birds have been recorded each summer since, although no other nest has been located. I saw a single bird at Black Duck (near Stephenville) 26 November 1965. Mockingbirds have been present at St. John's each winter since 1963, and one visited several feeders at Clarenville during the winter of 1966–67.

Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*).—I saw a pair at St. Andrews 22 June 1960 and suspected a nest in a very dense thicket, but could not locate it. Mrs. Reid observed single birds at Ramea on 30 October and 12 November 1959 and two birds 18 May 1964. Bryan Sage recorded three at Terra Nova National Park on 25 August 1966.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostroma rufum rufum*).—A specimen in my possession, found dead at Cappahayden 21 February 1962 by Harold Lawlor, is the only known record for Newfoundland.

Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*).—This distinctive bird was observed at close range near Badger for some time by Henrik Deichmann 24 May 1959.

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*).—Though recorded previously only from the single specimen that struck Cape Anguille Lighthouse 25 September 1946 (Peters and Burleigh, 1951), this species is a fairly widely distributed summer resident in Newfoundland. I have records of nests from Corner Brook, Springdale, Gander, Clarenville, Manuels, and Topsail.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*).—An unsexed bird of the year collected at St. Andrews 25 August 1959 by a National Museum party (Godfrey, 1960) is the only record.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica albilora*).—A large flight of this warbler arrived at St. John's 24 October 1953. Some idea of the numbers involved was obtained when 30 birds were counted in one tree 7 November as they fluttered around the eaves of a house, presumably after insects. One collected 11 November is referable to the western race according to W. Earl Godfrey.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*).—These birds are still known in Newfoundland from sight records only. In addition to the earlier sightings listed by Peters and Burleigh (1951: 406), Harold Horwood observed a male in excellent breeding plumage at close range on 24 July 1956 at Dildo South.

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*).—Also still known only from sight records. In addition to those by Cooke (1904) and Arnold (1912), Harold Horwood observed single males at South Branch 12 June 1958 and at Barrachois Pond 6 July 1964. A National Museum party saw a single male at Doyles on 22 June 1959 (Godfrey, *in litt.*). Mrs. Reid observed it at Ramea 15 June 1962, 8 June 1964, and 27 May 1966.

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*).—The occurrence of this bird in Newfoundland during the winter of 1951-52, when two specimens were found dead, has been described (Tuck, 1952*b*). Single Yellow-breasted Chats were recorded at St. John's during the winter of 1952-53 and again 3 November 1953. One was found freshly dead at St. John's 24 December 1964.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*).—S. Peters collected a singing male at Cape Broyle 9 June 1956 (Peters and Hewitt, 1958). Melvin McNeill recorded a singing male at St. Anthony 28 May 1963. I captured an immature bird in a mist net at Codroy 4 October 1964.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*).—I saw single males at Stephenville 18 June 1955 and at Harry's River 19 June 1955. I found two small colonies of about twelve birds in cattail marshes in the Codroy Valley in 1956. Four nests were found, two in *Typha*, one in a clump of grasses, and another in a clump of *Myrica*. It has bred in the Codroy Valley ever since. Two birds over-wintered at St. John's in February 1958. Melvin McNeill recorded a singing male at St. Anthony 28 May 1963. Mrs. Reid recorded it at Ramea 10 May 1962, 20 April 1963, 18 May 1964, 14 August 1965, and 12 May 1966.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*).—Known previously from Newfoundland by two birds that came aboard ships off the coast (Peters and Burleigh, 1951), a single bird wintered at St. John's in 1956-57. One was killed by a cat at Ramea 6 October 1962 and the remains identified by W. Earl Godfrey. Mrs. Reid recorded it from Ramea 24 May, 26 May, 31 August, 17 September, and 29 September in 1964, and on 21 September and 23 September (as many as five birds) in 1965. A bird first seen at St. John's 5 December 1965 was found dead 14 December.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*).—The first record for Newfoundland is a single bird Melvin McNeill reported from St. Anthony 26 May 1955. An influx of Cowbirds came into Newfoundland in 1957. The first record that year was a male captured alive at Ramea 21 April that had been banded 25 March 1957 at the Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown, Rhode Island. McNeill recorded six birds at St. Anthony on 10 May, and eight or nine 2 June. That summer Cowbirds were recorded from the Codroy Valley, Deer Lake, and Clarendville. Since then Cowbirds have been recorded every summer in widely separated localities. Mrs. Reid has considerable migration data on this species for Ramea; it arrives there during the third week in April, although birds still come through in late May. The first immatures are recorded in early August and birds may be seen at Ramea as late as mid-November. An adult

male banded at Cheesequake, New Jersey, 22 March 1964 was recovered near Corner Brook 23 May 1964.

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*).—The first Newfoundland record was a male collected at Ferryland 17 April 1953. Another male found dead at Colinet Island, Placentia Bay, 14 May 1956 and sent to me for identification appeared to have been dead for several weeks. A male appeared on Funk Island, 40 miles off the northeast coast, 11 July 1956 after strong westerly winds. It remained there for three days feeding on insects and taking shelter at night in puffin burrows. It left on the next westerly gale.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*).—One bird was observed and another found recently dead at Terra Nova on 3 November 1951 (Tuck, 1952*a*). Melvin McNeill recorded one at St. Anthony from 2 to 5 November 1956. I saw several at Codroy in late September 1961 and captured an immature in a mist net there 24 September. Harold Horwood saw a small flock at Raymond's Point, Bay D'Espoir 14 September 1961. Mrs. Reid recorded single birds at Ramea on 23 October 1960 and 20 October 1964.

Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*).—Previously known from Newfoundland by a single bird taken at St. John's 13 December 1945 (Peters and Burleigh, 1951), Evening Grosbeaks have wintered regularly in Newfoundland, sometimes in large numbers, since 1951. Our highest count was 314 birds on one avenue in St. John's 15 December 1951. In Newfoundland it feeds mainly on *Symphoricarpos*, *Sorbus*, and *Crataegus*. It comes readily to sunflower seeds at feeders and has been recorded not only at St. John's but also at Deer Lake, Stephenville, Corner Brook, Grand Falls, and Clarenville. One bird recovered at Grand Falls 23 January 1964 was banded in Maine 3 March 1963. Another, banded by W. Threlfall at St. John's 2 February 1966, was recovered in New Brunswick on 27 May 1966. Extreme dates are 18 August 1966 and 10 May 1959.

American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis tristis*).—Previously known from Newfoundland by two specimens (Peters and Burleigh, 1951), it bred at O'Regans, Codroy Valley, in 1956 and again in 1958 where I saw fledglings and caught immature birds in mist nets. My earliest date is a male at St. John's 18 April 1958. Small flocks were recorded at St. John's during July and August in 1965 and again (about 20 birds) 17 December 1965. Mrs. Reid recorded single birds at Ramea 22 September 1965 and 9 June 1966.

Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*).—A single bird came to Harvey Sheppard's feeder at Corner Brook in late December 1961 and was seen nearly every day for a month thereafter. S. W. Christian reported a male at his feeder at Grand Falls from 27 October to 7 November 1964.

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*).—Melvin McNeill recorded these birds at St. Anthony as early as 9 April 1962, but peak migration in that locality seems to be the second week in May. Mrs. Reid reported birds at Ramea 18 April 1963 and 20 April 1966. Migrants have arrived at St. Anthony as early as 30 August 1960 and have remained at Ramea as late as 13 November 1963. Few observations have been recorded except from those two localities.

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