

Atlantic Provinces & St. Pierre et Miquelon



Brian Dalzell

Fundy Bird Observatory

62 Bancroft Point Road

Grand Manan, New Brunswick, E5G 3C9

(dalzell@nbnet.nb.ca)

Except for the traditional snowbelt areas of Newfoundland, Labrador, and northern New Brunswick, most of the Region experienced a somewhat tepid winter. Despite sporadic snowfalls that left up to a meter of snow over the southern part of the Region, near-drought conditions prevailed, and the (melted) total of precipitation for the period was generally less than 10 cm. Temperatures were normal or slightly above until late January, when a 10-day period of normal cold set in. February felt more like March, with very few storm events.

With the creation of the Prince Edward Island Birders listerv in 2004, Internet coverage of the four Atlantic provinces is now complete. Tallies were kept in each province, showing that approximately 40% of the birds on each cumulative list can be expected in any particular winter. Nova Scotia reported 192 species (BMy), New Brunswick 172 (SIT), Newfoundland 145 (Todd Boland), and Prince Edward Island 123 (DS).

Abbreviations: A.P. (Avalon Pen., NF), C.B.I. (Cape Breton I., NS), C.S.I. (Cape Sable I., NS), C.W.S. (Canadian Wildlife Service), G.M.I. (Grand Manan I., NB), H.R.M. (Halifax Regional Municipality), NF (insular Newfoundland), PEI (Prince Edward I.), SPM (St. Pierre et Miquelon, France).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A Pacific Loon at St. Brides, NF 18 Dec represented only the 2nd record for the province (Paul Linegar, Jytte Selno). Five

single Pied-billed Grebes were reported on salt water in Nova Scotia between 1 Dec and 5 Jan. Horned Grebes seem to have arrived en masse in Nova Scotia in early Dec, with 200 at The Hawk, C.S.I. 1 Dec (MN) and 300 along the w. side of the Aspatogan Pen., H.R.M. 3 Dec (Don MacNeil). The highest counts of Red-necked Grebe were 124 at C.S.I. 18 Dec (C.B.C.), 145 on the G.M.I., NB C.B.C. 4 Jan, and 68 off Cape Miquelon, SPM 2 Feb (RE). Where else but Nova Scotia could Northern Gannet become road kill? A close examination of 13 bird carcasses found on the Canso Causeway, *Guysborough/Inverness*, NS turned up at least 3 on 7 Dec (Peter Hope).

The only American Bittern reported was found on the Sackville, NB C.B.C. 18 Dec. An exhausted Great Blue Heron was captured in St. Pierre, SPM 24 Dec, fed for a few days, and released (Patrick Boez). Single Great Egrets were found at G.M.I. 3 Dec (Jackie Foote), Eel Brook, *Yarmouth*, NS 5 Dec (MN), and C.S.I. 18 Dec (MN), and 2 were at Eel Brook 11 Dec, with one still there 28 Dec (Paul Gould). A Snowy Egret at Belvedere Pond, Charlottetown, PEI 4–16 Dec was most unusual and provided a first winter record for the province (DO, DS). An ad. Little Blue Heron was present at the Port Clyde Golf Course, *Shelburne*, NS 4–12 Dec (Sandy Hiltz, MN).

Three Pink-footed Geese in Pictou Harbour, NS 13 Feb+ (Ken McKenna et al.) were the first documented for the province and drew birders from as far afield as Ontario and New York. The same three birds were present 9–28 Jan at nearby Cumberland, *Queens*, PEI but misidentified as Greater White-fronted Geese until re-examination of photographs taken during their stay (DO). Spring migrant Brant built up quickly late in the period at C.S.I., with an estimated 3000 on 28 Feb (MN). Gadwall inexplicably favor Prince Edward Island in winter over other parts of the Region, with a high of about 30 at Mayfield, *Queens* (Beth Hoar). Up to 40 Northern Pintails were present at Hardings Creek, near Clinton, *Queens*, PEI in Feb (LH). The main landfalls for Eurasian Wigeon in the Region appear to be St. John's, NF and Glace Bay, C.B.I., with a high of 8 reported wintering in the former (BMT) and 11 at Beacon St. Dam in the latter 5 Dec (CM, AM), where there were also 76 American Wigeons. Another good count of American Wigeon was 75 at Pier 9, Halifax harbor 6 Dec (Darrell Adams). The only Canvasback to come to light was a drake at Courtney Bay, Saint John, NB on 6 Feb+ (GB). Ring-necked Ducks are quite rare in winter in New Brunswick, but there were 3 at Saint John 18 Feb (Tracey Dean). Seven male and 2 female Tufted Ducks wintered in St. John's (BMT), while single Tufted Duck × Greater

Scaup hybrids were found at New Harbour, *Guysborough*, NS 2 Jan (Fulton Lavender, Clarence Stevens) and at West River, *Pictou*, NS 15 Feb (IAM, EMi, BMy).

The high count of Greater Scaup came, as usual, from Pictou Harbour, NS, with 4744 on the C.B.C. 1 Jan. Reports from apparently new wintering areas include 72 in a salt pond at Miquelon, SPM in only their 3rd winter there (RE) and 42 on the Dalhousie, NB C.B.C. 2 Jan. The high count of Lesser Scaup was 48 around a sewer outfall in Dartmouth harbor, NS 16 Jan (EMi). King Eider is rarely found off the e. coast of New Brunswick in winter, so a drake at Cape Tormentine 9 Jan–2 Feb was notable (Norman Belliveau). A King Eider × Common Eider hybrid off St. Andrews, NB 29 Jan (GB) was apparently returning for its 3rd winter. Common Eiders numbered about 4000 sw. of St. Pierre, SPM in Jan and Feb, the largest count reported (RE). Harlequin Duck fortunes continue to improve in the Region. Surveys for the species by the C.W.S. found 115 around Digby Neck, NS 9 Feb and 100 in Shad Bay, H.R.M. 18 Feb. Another really good concentration of 179 was found on the Cape St. Marys, NF C.B.C. 18 Dec. White-winged Scoter is not known to winter in large numbers in the Region, so 600 off the Isthmus of Miquelon, SPM 2 Feb (Frédéric Disnard) was a notable tally. Numbers of Long-tailed Duck seemed to be generally depressed, perhaps because of terribly backward weather in the High Arctic in summer 2004. A total of 416 Bufflehead on the St. Andrews, NB C.B.C. 18 Dec was by far the largest Regional gathering. A drake Common Goldeneye × Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid was a good find at Cardigan Bridge, PEI 12 Jan (DO). The highest total reported of Hooded Mergansers was 122 on the Lunenburg, NS C.B.C. 2 Jan; Common Mergansers were most common in Pictou Harbour, NS, with 1337 tallied on the C.B.C. there 1 Jan. Good concentrations of Red-breasted Merganser—325 and 811—were found on the G.M.I., NB C.B.C. 4 Jan and at Pictou Harbour on the C.B.C. 1 Jan, respectively.

VULTURES THROUGH TERNS

A Black Vulture was present at an undisclosed location in the H.R.M. 6–9 Dec (*fide* BMy), while another was in the vicinity of Canning, *Kings*, NS 28 Jan–26 Feb (Richard Stern et al.). High counts of Turkey Vulture in Nova Scotia were 14 on the Brier Island C.B.C. 14 Dec and 8 at Chebogue, *Yarmouth* 10 Jan (MN), the latter attracted by a homeowner who puts seal carcasses out every winter especially for them. Eight were still at Brier I. 13 Jan (June Swift). Cooper's Hawk

can no longer be considered unusual in winter in New Brunswick, owing to its increasing numbers. One at St. Leonard, *Madawaska* (RLP) was back for its 3rd winter, with other singles found during C.B.C.s in mid-to late Dec at St. Stephen, Kouchibouguac N.P., Fredericton, and Edmundston. Other singles were at Campbellton 12 Feb (Margaret Doyle) and Memramcook 26 Feb (Jules Cormier).

An imm. dark-morph Gyrfalcon wintered in St. John's, NF (as did one last winter), and there were sightings of 3 others on the A.P.



Harlequin Ducks are rare but annual in Prince Edward Island in winter, where they frequent fast-flowing water (usually under bridges) at the mouths of rivers and streams. This approachable drake was present throughout the period at Cardigan Bridge (here 29 January 2005). Photograph by Dwaine Oakley.

(BMt). A gray morph on the Isthmus of Miquelon, SPM 22 Feb was a first for long-time resident Etcheberry and only the 4th record for the islands. Two were reported by reliable observers during the Saint John, NB C.B.C. 28 Dec. Single dark morphs were at Brier I., NS 13–19 Dec (EMi) and Bayview, *Queens*, PEI 15 Jan (DS, DO). Eight reports of Peregrine Falcon came from Nova Scotia, four from St. Pierre (RE), and a like number from New Brunswick. A Sora walking on a lawn at Renewes, NF 5–7 Jan provided the only Regional report of the species this season (BMt et al.).

A Northern Lapwing found freshly dead on the side of the road 11 Dec near Ship Cove, Great Northern Pen., NF was preserved (*fide* BMt). A carefully identified Semipalmated Plover was present at Crystal Crescent Beach, H.R.M. 1–15 Jan (HT, IAM). A Killdeer was in St. Pierre, SPM 22 Dec–11 Jan (TV et al.). A late Lesser Yellowlegs was at The Guzzle, C.S.I. 8–17 Dec (MN), and a Ruddy Turnstone on the Miscou I., NB C.B.C. 18 Dec was also tardy—but 5 at Tracadie Bay, *Queens*, PEI 16 Jan were even more so. The sheltered bay was still unfrozen, as was a narrow verge along the shore where they were feeding. Twenty Red Knots on the Miquelon C.B.C. 18 Dec provided the Regional high count. A Western

Sandpiper was reported at C.S.I. 31 Dec, along with 3 White-rumped Sandpipers 20 Dec–30 Jan (MN). A Purple Sandpiper in mostly ice-bound Charlottetown harbor, PEI 29 Dec (DO) was quite a novelty there. An imm. Long-billed Dowitcher at Conrad's Beach, H.R.M. 2–9 Jan (Joan Czapaly et al.) was carefully identified.

Black-headed Gulls were in good numbers, with the highest counts being 108 on the St. John's, NF C.B.C. 26 Dec, 148 on the Halifax–Dartmouth, NS C.B.C. 18 Dec, and 85 at nearby Three Fathom Harbour 9 Jan (IAM). A total of 30 found on the Eastport, Maine/Campobello I., NB C.B.C. 26 Dec frequented both sides of the international border and furnished a record number for New Brunswick at any season. A tally of 1014 Bonaparte's Gull on the same C.B.C. was typical of recent Dec counts in the Passamaquoddy Bay area. Another good early winter count was 1000+ at Ogden's Pond, *Antigonish*, NS 2 Dec (RLA). As birders become better informed, reports of Mew (Common) Gull have increased. Five were recorded in Newfoundland, four in Nova Scotia, one at St. Pierre, SPM 2–23 Jan (Pascal Asselin), one at Bathurst, NB 17 Dec (RG), and one at Charlottetown, PEI 31 Dec (DO). An ad. or near-ad. Glaucous-winged Gull in St. John's, NF 24 Feb–6 Mar (BMt et al.) provided a first record (or even report) for the Atlantic coast of North America; however, there are apparently single records from both Morocco and the Canary Islands. Iceland Gull was especially common in the lower Bay of Fundy during the winter, with a record 827 on the Blacks Harbour, NB C.B.C. 19 Dec. Thayer's Gull sightings are also on the rise. Documented reports included an imm. at Brier I., NS 14 Dec (EMi) and single ads. on the Halifax–Dartmouth C.B.C. 18 Dec; at Glace Bay, C.B.I. 14–15 Feb (CM, AM); at Lunenburg, NS 18 Feb (BF); and at Charlottetown, PEI 29 Dec+ (DO). An ad. Yellow-legged Gull returned to St. John's, NF for its 3rd consecutive winter 1 Jan–28 Feb (BMt). An imm. Ivory Gull was at St. Thomas, *Kent*, NB 22–28 Dec (LEC). Nova Scotia had 3, all imm.: a long-staying bird at Dartmouth 5 Jan–11 Feb (Bernard Burke et al.), another at Chebucto Head, H.R.M. 16 Jan (A. & H. Hunter), and the last at Chebogue Point, *Yarmouth* 6 Feb (Phil Taylor). None were reported from NF. This species bears watching in future, as breeding success in the High Arctic in recent years is said to have been unusually poor. The only tern reported during the period was an ad. Forster's Tern 4 Feb at Lockport, *Shelburne*, NS (Donna Crosby).

SA Not all owl invasions are pleasant. A Great Horned Owl at Labrador City, Labrador tried to carry off a tiny dog being walked at dusk on a leash 21 Dec (*fide* Gordon Parsons), but the owner was able to rescue the dog. Another attack, around 5–6 Feb, is best described by GP: "This past weekend in Goose Bay (Labrador), Barry Compton was attacked by a Great Horned Owl. He was at a cabin at night and went out to take a leak, when something hit him hard on the head and knocked him off balance; recovering, he saw it was an owl. He reached up and felt blood, so he knew he had been cut. He got up and went back inside where he told his brother. They came out and Barry went to the tree to show where he had been attacked—when he got hit in the face again, with the owl this time digging the talons in quite deeply. Barry hit the ground and got the owl under his shoulder and dispatched it. At the hospital, he received seven stitches for three deep talon cuts in his ear, jawline, and head." The victim was apparently a conservation officer—and likely wearing a fur hat (but this could not be confirmed).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A White-winged Dove at Pointe-Verte, Gloucester, NB 4–30 Dec (RG) gradually weakened and died on the last date; another was at nearby Lamèque, NB 23 Dec–9 Jan (Jude Larocque).

It was said to be a "poorish" year for Snowy Owl in Newfoundland (BMT) but not so bad in the Maritime provinces otherwise. Multiple sightings included 3 at Cape Light, C.S.I. 16 Dec (JN); 5 on the Miscou I., NB C.B.C. 18 Dec; 3 at St. Pierre, SPM 9 Jan (TV); and 4 at C.S.I. in late Feb (MN). One picked up dead at Ebenezer, PEI 10 Dec had starved (*fide* EMa). All reports of Northern Hawk Owl came from New Brunswick, mostly in the north (about 10); the southernmost was reported at Lower Jemseg, Queens 24 Feb (Pierre Champigny). One Long-eared Owl was found roosting by day in the middle of Saint John, NB in early Jan (*fide* JGW), while 2 were present at Lower Canard, Kings, NS 21 Feb (BF). Good concentrations of Short-eared Owl were 5 at Cape Light, C.S.I. 18 Dec (MN); 4 at Grand Pré, Kings, NS 2 Jan (BF); 2 at Mahoneys Beach, Antigonish, NS 10 Jan (*fide* RLA); and a roost of 11 at Grand Pré 13 Feb (BF). Boreal Owls began to call on territory at Lamèque, NB 22 Feb (Rose-Aline Chiasson). Despite an immense invasion in Québec, only one Great Gray Owl turned up: at Point la Nim, near Dalhousie, NB 31 Jan–3 Mar (Mike Lushington).

Red-bellied Woodpeckers invaded the Region in unprecedented numbers beginning mid-Oct and appeared to be still arriving in Dec. The minimum number of individuals reported reliably in each province is as follows: 61 in Nova Scotia (*fide* IAM), 69 in New Brunswick (*fide* JGW), 15 in Prince Edward Island (*fide* DS), and 2 in Newfoundland (*fide* BMT), the latter only the province's 3rd and 4th records (at Corner Brook and Clarendville). Most were concentrated in mainland Nova Scotia and the s. half of New Brunswick, with lesser but significant numbers in C.B.I. and n. New Brunswick. Red-headed Woodpecker also had a good flight, but it paled in comparison to the Red-bellieds, with ca. 10 each in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and 5 on Prince Edward Island. Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were

at Masons Beach, Lunenburg, NS 4 Jan (JH) and at Hantsport, NS 23–28 Feb (Marion Fulton). An Eastern Phoebe was found at Starrs Point, Kings, NS 18 Dec on the Wolfville C.B.C., while a Say's Phoebe was present on the Mactaquac, York, NB C.B.C. 1 Jan (Bev Schneider).

SWALLOWS THROUGH SPARROWS

A Tree Swallow at Machias Seal I., NB 13–14 Dec (Ralph Eldridge) was reported to be in good condition. Tufted Titmouse now occurs annually in w. New Brunswick, and breeding is anticipated soon. One was at Bear I., York, near Nackawick in early Dec (*fide* Don Gibson); one was at St. Andrews



Present at the same location as the Harlequin Duck on the previous page was this drake Barrow's Goldeneye × Common Goldeneye hybrid (here 29 January 2005, right), a first record of this combination for the province returning here for its third winter.

Photograph by Dwaine Oakley.

14–26 Dec (Nancy Perry); and another was at Grand Bay, Kings 8 Jan+ (Jim & Betty Evans). Red-breasted Nuthatch occurred in above-average numbers in New Brunswick (DSC), while 10 on the Miquelon C.B.C. 18 Dec was described as a record high for the count. White-breasted Nuthatch was well reported in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Single Carolina Wrens popped up 3 Dec at St. Leonard, NB (Marcelle Godbout) and Sackville, NB 17 Dec–28 Feb (Kathy Popma). The only Marsh Wrens were singles found at Wolfville, NS 4–18 Dec (AMC) and on the Amherst, NS C.B.C. 20 Dec. Five Ruby-crowned Kinglets on the Brier I., NS C.B.C. 14 Dec was an unusually high number for one location, while one on the Petit-Rocher, Gloucester, NB C.B.C. 2 Jan was particularly far north. The only Blue-gray

Gnatcatcher reported was at Broad Cove, Lunenburg, NS until 7 Dec (Sylvia Fullerton). An Eastern Bluebird was a local novelty at Douglastown, Northumberland, NB 2 Dec (Nan Johnson).

Seven reports of Townsend's Solitaire from New Brunswick was without precedent: Petite Lamèque, Gloucester 16 Dec (Jacques Guignard); Caissie Cape, Kent 23 Dec (Roger LeBlanc); Scotchtown, Queens 30 Dec (Margie Pacey); Saint-Joseph-de-Madawaska 5 Feb (Eileen Pike, J. Denys Bourque); Lamèque, Gloucester 6 Feb (Gérard Benoit); Cocagne, Kent 11–12 Feb (LEC); and Bertrand, Gloucester 25 Feb–5 Mar (*fide* Rosita Lanteigne). Elsewhere in the Region, singles were found at Basin Head, PEI 18 Dec (VL); Sand Lake, C.B.I. 8–14 Feb (CM, AM); Baddeck Inlet, C.B.I. Jan–7 Mar (Jack & Eileen MacKillop); while one at St. John's, NF 2 Feb–Mar was the province's 5th (*fide* BMT). A Veery photographed near Liverpool, Queens, NS 28 Jan (Christopher Clark) was a first post-Dec record for the province. A Redwing at Kelligrews, NF 6 Jan (Dave Brown et al.) was probably the same one seen 5 km away 3–5 Feb at Topsail (Kim Whitfield) and the 8th

for Newfoundland. A Varied Thrush at New Glasgow, PEI 30 Jan (BH) was a provincial first; the only other report came from Long Pond, Conception Bay, NF 30 Jan+ (Graham Peddle), the 3rd for Newfoundland.

Bohemian Waxwing deviated from its pattern of previous winters by showing up first in n. New Brunswick, e.g., 950 at St. Leonard 25 Nov (RLP), 700 at Caraquet 17 Dec (SIT), and ca. 1000 at Buctouche 21 Jan (Stella

LeBlanc). By the end of the period, flocks of under 200 were being found in Prince Edward Island and se. New Brunswick, while Nova Scotia's flocks were usually 50 or fewer, excepting 150+ at Canso, NS 3 Jan (Ethan Hunter). In Newfoundland, where the species has usually shown up first in large numbers in recent winters, it was considered a "very light" flight (BMT). Cedar Waxwing was found in above-average numbers in n. New Brunswick during C.B.C.s (DSC), e.g., 98 at Lamèque 26 Dec, and outnumbered Bohemians in mainland Nova Scotia throughout the season, with a peak of 100+ at Wolfville 21–22 Feb (Judy Tufts).

Two Nashville Warblers were at Tallahassee School, H.R.M. 5 Dec (AMc), one was at Rothesay, Saint John, NB 10 Dec (Paul Manysz), and one was at C.S.I. 17 Dec (JN). A

Northern Parula was at Bisset Lake, H.R.M. 18 Dec (Terry Paquet); another came to a feeder at Hampton, NB early Dec–5 Jan (Margaret Churchill). A Magnolia Warbler was found 10 Dec at Port Williams, Kings, NS (BF, AM). An Audubon's Warbler was discovered at Bear River, Digby, NS 31 Jan (Bob Buckland-Nicks). At isolated and enchanted Sable I., NS 40 Yellow-rumped Warblers were found wintering 20–23 Dec (Zoe Lucas). A Black-throated Green Warbler was at White Point Beach, Lunenburg, NS 18 Dec (JH). Three Yellow-throated Warblers came to light in Nova Scotia: an *albiflora* at Point Pleasant Park, H.R.M. 7 Dec (Andy Horn); one not identified to subspecies at Liverpool 10–14 Dec (*vide* JH); and a *dominica* 19 Dec at North Sydney, C.B.I. (Lynn MacLean).

The only other report was of one coming to a feeder at Renew, NF 11–24 Jan (*vide* BMT). Pine Warbler had an excellent fall flight into the Region, such that 4 could be found away from feeders at Black Pond, Kings, PEI 17 Dec (VL). A Blackpoll Warbler was reported at C.S.I. on the C.B.C. 18 Dec.

Eastern Towhee also had a good fall flight into the Region, with at least 10 found at feeders in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and perhaps 5 in Prince Edward Island. In Newfoundland, an "amazing" 4 singles at feeders on the n. A.P. was unusual; one per winter is the average (BMT). A Vesper Sparrow was at C.S.I. 9 Dec (MN), and another was at a Hebron, Yarmouth, NS feeder 12 Feb (June Graves). The only Lark Sparrow reported was at Canso 3 Dec (Tom Kavanaugh). Away from the s. shore of Nova Scotia, Ipswich Sparrows were found inland at Port Williams, Kings, NS 22 Jan (George Forsythe) and, most surprisingly, at Fredericton, NB 19 Dec on the C.B.C. A Seaside Sparrow was reported at C.S.I. 9 Dec (MN). Two separate Harris's Sparrows were reported at feeders within a few miles of each other in far n. New Brunswick: an imm. at Caraquet 12 Dec–21 Jan (Réjean Laforge) and an ad. at Shippagan 31 Jan–3 Apr (Lucille Degrâce). An ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow at St. George, NB 26 Dec–Apr was only the province's 2nd (Ralph Eldridge). Single Oregon Juncos were carefully identified males at Fredericton, NB 12 Dec+ (Ron Wilson) and Oyster Pond, H.R.M. 22 Jan+ (Lucas Berrigan). The largest flocks of Lapland Longspur in the Region are traditionally found in Prince Edward Island, such as 100+ at Sherbrooke, Prince 30 Jan (LH).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES

Imm. male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks faithful-

ly attended feeders at Lower Prince William, York, NB 13 Dec+ (Wayne Williams); at Sussex, NB Dec–22 Jan+ (David Hughes); and at Wolfville, NS 16 Dec+ (Bill Thexton). Northern Cardinal is consolidating its range well in parts of s. New Brunswick, such that 28 could be found on the Hammond River–Hampton C.B.C. 2 Jan. The only Indigo Bunting that came to light was an imm. male at Albert Bridge, C.B.I. 1–2 Jan (Susann Myers). In contrast to recent winters, some large flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds (mostly imms.) were found in Nova Scotia: 70 at Italy Cross, Lunenburg 30 Dec (JH); 40 at Centreville, Kings 18 Jan (*vide* Sherman Williams); and 100+ at Branch LaHave near Bridgewater 22 Jan (*vide* JH). Eastern Meadowlark was in



Only the second Golden-crowned Sparrow ever reported in New Brunswick, this obliging adult was first discovered coming to feeders in St. George on 26 December 2004 (here 8 January 2005), where it stayed through 4 May. Photograph by Alain Clavette.

short supply, with only one found in the Region, at a Mount Hebert, PEI feeder 20 Jan+ (Lloyd Evans). New Brunswick's 6th Western Meadowlark was a long-staying bird at a feeder near Neguac, Northumberland from early Dec into Apr (Alphonse Thibodeau, David MacLeod). The only Yellow-headed Blackbird was an imm. male 13 Jan near Cornwall, PEI (Charlene Felker).

Pine Grosbeak was found in above-average numbers on New Brunswick C.B.C.s in the n. of the province (DSC), such as 297 at Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska 16 Dec. Numbers increased in s. New Brunswick and n. Nova Scotia late in the period, with flocks of generally fewer than 10 birds reported. Numbers in Newfoundland were reported as "normal" (BMT), while Prince Edward Island had flocks of up to 50 birds. Purple Finch occurred throughout the Region in truly astonishing and perhaps unprecedented numbers, being described as "abundant" everywhere. It seems that most of them did not even bother to leave after the breeding season, due to excellent cone crops on both White Spruce and Red Spruce. To be sure, many came to feeders (100+ reported at some), but many more obviously did not. At the present e. edge of their breeding range in the Region, 18 House Finches were recorded

on the Buctouche, NB C.B.C. 28 Dec.

Red Crossbill was described as above average only in n. New Brunswick, with 22 on the Caraquet C.B.C. 19 Dec. White-winged Crossbill was "very abundant" in Newfoundland and started singing in late Feb, indicating nesting was imminent (BMT). Elsewhere they were simply very common to abundant, examples being 330 on the St. Paul, Kent, NB C.B.C. 2 Jan and 500+ at Dollar Lake P.P., H.R.M. 15 Dec (HT). Common Redpoll was common only in the n. reaches of New Brunswick and throughout Newfoundland, with a maximum of 577 found on the Edmundston, NB C.B.C. 18 Dec. It was late in the period before small numbers present there all winter began to increase in

se. New Brunswick and mainland Nova Scotia. Only a single Hoary Redpoll surfaced, on the aforementioned C.B.C. Pine Siskin was "abundant" in Newfoundland, in average numbers in n. New Brunswick, but below average in the south. Best total for Nova Scotia was 200+ at Dollar Lake P.P. 15 Dec (HT), but that was the exception, with generally only a few present at feeders. American Goldfinch was very common throughout the Region, even in Newfoundland, where they are relatively recent additions to the regular avifauna. Evening

Grosbeak, whose fortunes have been faltering of late, was described as "fairly common" in Newfoundland. In Nova Scotia, it was most common on C.B.I., where about 125 were found at North River Bridge 14–15 Jan (Bethsheila Kent). Three C.B.C.s in New Brunswick recorded in excess of 300, but numbers were still described as below average in the south and only average in the north (DSC).

Corrigendum: All references to Fish Crow in Nova Scotia in the previous winter season report should be deleted, due to insufficient sighting details.

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face): Gilles Belliveau, David Christie, Louis-Émile Cormier, Roger Etcheberry, Bernard Forsythe, Roger Guitard, James Hirtle, Beth Hoar, Les Homans, Roy Lapointe (RLP), Randy Lauff (RLA), Vernon Laux, Lance Laviolette, Blake Maybank (BMy), Angus MacLean, Ian A. McLaren, Eric Marcum (EMa), Bruce Mactavish (BMT), Eric Mills (EMi), Cathy Murrant, Alan Murrant, Murray Newell, Johnny Nickerson, Dwaine Oakley, David Seeler, Stuart Tingley, Hans Toom, Thierry Vogentstahl, James G. Wilson. ☺