

ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:

compiled by Dan McAskill

WEATHER: Record high temperatures may be contributing to some of the unusually late sightings reported by members these past two months. On December 18th, the thermometer hit a balmy 11°C.

INSECTS: Cinnabar moths in West Royalty on Jun. 7, 10, 17, & Jul. 7. Great spangled fritillary on Jun. 19, saltmarsh caterpillar at East Royalty on Jun. 27, dreamy dusky wing at Appin Road and Royalty Junction on Jun. 24 & American Copper in Charlottetown on Jun. 28 (EC). Worst summer yet for earwigs at one Sherwood site (DW).

MAMMALS: several seals hauled up on float at Hillsborough Bridge (MBH). Red fox in yard at Rocky Point on Oct. 12 and large raccoon on Oct. 11 (LD).

AMPHIBIANS: 2 Garter snakes in Rocky Point yard on Oct. 2 (+19°C), 1 on Oct. 6, 2 road killed garter snakes on Oct. 8.

BIRDS: Common Loon - 1 offshore at Monticello on Oct. 21 (GM), 1 at Rustico Island on Nov. 2 (RP); Red-throated Loon - 15 passing by East Point between 1130 and 1200 on Nov. 3 (BD); Horned Grebe - 3 at Rustico Bay on Oct. 16 (RC), 25 at Rustico Inner Bay on Nov. 2 (BD); Pied-billed Grebe - 2 at Long Pond on Oct. 16 (RC), 1 at Long Pond on Nov. 2 (RP); Northern Gannet - 100 plunging into surf at East Point on Nov. 3 (BD); Cormorants - 155 at Charlottetown in Oct. (AS); Great Blue Heron - 1 at Fullerton's Marsh on Nov. 26 (BH), 1 at Morell River on Dec. 13 (JDM), 1 at Souris on Dec. 15 (GM); Canada Geese - 6 at Conway Sandhills on Aug 15 (FRC), 400 at Rustico Inner Bay & 600 at Tracadie Harbour on Nov. 2 (BD), 1,000+ at Noroboro and 3,000+ at Spring Valley feeding in potato fields on Nov. 10 (LY, JDM), 150 to 200 at Souris Causeway on Dec. 18 (GM); Snow Geese - 2 at Graham's Pond on Oct. 3 (VMac&GJ); Mallard - 20 at Long Pond on Oct. 24 (MR, AC, GS), 5 at Black Pond on Nov. 3 (BD); American Black Duck - 80 at Long Pond on Oct. 24 (MR, AC, GS), 160 at Rustico Inner Bay on Nov. 2 (BD), 100 at Black Pond on Nov. 3 (BD); Gadwell - 4 at Black Pond on Nov. 3 (BD); Green-winged Teal - 3 ♂s and 2 immatures or females at Long Pond on Nov. 2 (RP), 50 at Desable Marsh on Nov. 11 (BB, JDM); Eurasian Widgeon - 1 at Long Pond on Oct. 24 (MR, AC, & GS); American Wigeon - 4 at Long Pond on Oct. 24 (MR, AC, GS), ♂ at Long Pond on Nov. 2 (RP), 130 at Black Pond on Nov. 3 (BD); Northern Shoveler - pair at Long Pond on Nov. 2 (RP); Ring-necked Duck - 4 at Long Pond on Oct. 24 (MR, AC, GS), 10 to 15 ♂s at Long Pond on Nov. 2 & 40 on Nov. 11 (RP), 75 at Black Pond on Nov. 3 (BD); Greater Scaup - 15 on Oct 24 at Long Pond (MR, AC, GS), 2 ♂s at Long Pond on Nov. 2 (RP), 175 on Nov. 2 at Long Pond (BD); Lesser Scaup - 20 ♂s at Long Pond on Nov. 2 (RP) plus unidentified scaup females and immatures; Common Goldeneye - 12 at Long Pond on Oct. 24 (MR, AC, GS), 25 ♂s at Hillsborough Bridge on Dec. 5 (JDM); Harlequin Duck - 3 seen on Wildlife Biology class outing at East Point on Nov. 1 (MB); Common Eider - 250 in tide rips off East Point between 1130 and 1200 on Nov. 3 (BD) Bufflehead - 4 at Long Pond on Oct. 24 (MR, AC, GS), 1 ♂ & 2 ♀ at Long Pond on Nov. 2 (RP); Oldsquaw - 55 at Rustico Inner Bay on Nov. 2 (BD), 100 passing by East Point between 1130 and 1200 on Nov. 3 (BD); White-winged Scoter - 8 at East Point on Nov. 3 (BD); Black Scoter - 10 at East Point on Nov. 3 (BD); Ruddy Duck - 6 at Clark's Pond on Sept. 28 (GMA&SE), 1 winter immature at Long Pond on Oct 24 ((MR, AC, GS), Nov. 2 & Nov. 11 (RP), 2 at Black Pond on Nov. 3 (BD), 2 ♂s at Souris West on Nov. 8 (DT); Hooded Merganser - 11 at Clark's Pond in Cavendish on Nov. 9 (GMA&SE), 4 at John Archie's Pond on Oct. 16 (RC), 2 at Long Pond on Oct. 24 (MR, AC, GS), 3 ♀ at Long Pond on Nov. 2 and 1 ♂ & 2 ♀ on Nov. 11 (RP), 5 at Black Pond on Nov. 3 (BD); Red-breasted Merganser - 4 at Long Pond on Oct. 24 (MR, AC, GS), 250 just outside the surf line at Covehead Harbour on Nov. 2 (BD); Northern Goshawk - 1 at East Point on Nov. 3 (BD); Sharp-shinned Hawk - 3 fledglings at Strathcona on Jul. 30 (BCu); Red-tailed Hawk - 1 at Sherwood on Aug. 20 (DW), 1 at Black Horse Corner on Nov. 11 (JDM); Broad-winged Hawk - 1 on Aug. 31 at Basin Head (DB), 1 at Alexandra on Oct. 29 (ASt) Rough-legged Hawk - 1 intermediate morph at East Point on Nov. 3 (BD); 1 dark phase and 1 light phase at Black Horse Corner on Nov. 11 (JDM), 1 north of airport on Dec. 21 (RT); Bald Eagle - 4 matures circling high on Sept. 13 at Rocky Point, 1 took large fish or eel of Rocky Point beach on Sept. 15th after the hurricane (LD), 1 immature at Riverton on Oct. 12 & 19 (BH), 2 at Brackley on Nov. 11 (RP); Northern Harrier - ♂ at South Granville on Oct. 15 and Westmoreland on Oct. 18 (RT), ♀ at Lower Darnley on Oct. 30 (RT), ♂ at Rustico Inner Bay on Nov. 2 (BD), immature & ♀ at Rustico Island Causeway on Nov. 17 (BH); Osprey - 1 at Brookfield on Oct. 18 (RT); Ruffed