

male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the feeder. Three species of grosbeaks in one week definitely raised my spirits. Also, the presence of ten Purple Finches (four raspberry red), goldfinches and Pine Siskins has been delighting the eye and the ear. Many mornings I have awakened to the songs of Purple Finches. Better than an alarm clock!

Postscript:

Just got a call from Len and Cora Plourd - neighbours that I had let know about the Blue Grosbeak being in the area. Cora reported two Blue Grosbeaks to me.

NEWS FROM ABOUT:

compiled by J. Dan McAskill

Society members were deeply saddened to hear of the sudden death of Jean Ouellette, a long time supporter of the Society and a keen observer of wildlife during his years at the P.E.I. National Park. Jean took the initiative and for a number of years was the moving force behind the pot luck lunches at the old Dalvay Shelter at the P.E.I. National Park Christmas Bird Count. He joined with Society observers to celebrate his love of wildlife on such outings as the owl prowls, amphibian hunts, illustrated lectures, and other events. Jean joined with the Society and Fish and Wildlife Division to help implement amphibian surveys in the early 1990s. We will miss this fellow lover of wild things and places!

The Island Nature Trust's Annual Dinner and Auction yielded a profit of \$15,000 this year. The funds will be used to continue its land acquisition and conservation projects. Their work, combined with the work of the Government of Prince Edward Island and various donors led to the Island achieving a B+ grade in the World Wildlife Fund's Endangered Spaces Report Card (adapted from Island Nature Trust Update #52).

The Quebec Labrador Foundation's QLF 2000 has received pledges and contributions of \$1.6 million up to the end of February, 1997. This campaign is designed to increase their cornerstone endowment fund from \$3 to \$6 million. The QLF began its work in 1961 and for the past 35 years has been a conservation force in various coastal communities of Eastern Canada and the northeastern United States. They have expanded their programs to the international scale and the future looks bright. Should you wish more information on QLF 2000, contact their Montreal office at 514-395-6020.

ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:

compiled by J. Dan McAskill

Heavy rains on March 16 dropped the level of snow deposited in late February and early March snowstorms. On March 19th, Bays and rivers were still largely frozen over and fields were more snow covered than they have been most of the winter (JDM).

Flying Squirrel at feeder at Red Head on Mar. 23 (MK). Foxes reported at Argyle Shore and St. Andrews in Apr. (B&RH, BC). One seal in water at Bayside on Nov. 16 (LP). Four seals pulled out on ice on Hillsborough River on upriver side of bridge in Charlottetown in Mar. (JDM). Spring peepers started singing in Stanhope on May 2 (F&JC) and in Mt. Albion on May 4 (HJ).

Good weather and clear skies allowed members to peer skyward for a good look at the comet Hale-Bopp in mid-March. A major snow storm whipped its force across the Island on April 1st and 2nd, finally blowing itself out on the 3rd. The opening of the trout fishing season seen most ponds and rivers coated in thick ice. The lateness of the spring was rather emphatically punctuated by the appearance of the first flying June Bugs on June 2 (JDM).

BIRDS: Common Loon - 7 at Mill River on May 25 (RBe); 4 fishing off shore at Savage Harbour on June 21 (JDM); Northern Gannet - 25+ at West Cape on May 16 (FRC); Cormorants - 2 at Hillsborough bridge on Apr. 6 (SN); Great Blue Heron - 1 in West Royalty on Mar. 28 (LT), 1 at Argyle Shore on Apr. 4 (DH, LY), 1 at Rocky Pt. on Apr. 4 (SN), 2 at Mt. Albion on Apr. 5 (SN), 15 to 20 at Rustico Island on Apr. 6 (LT, PA), 1