

1 Hooded Merganser
 421 Common Merganser
 35 Red-breasted Merganser
 1 Bald Eagle
 1 Buteo sp.
 21 Gray Partridge
 1 Ruffed Grouse
 2 Ring-billed Gull
 527 Herring Gull
 1 Lesser Black-backed Gull
 1 Glaucous Gull
 254 Great Black-backed Gull
 175 Thick-billed Murre (hypothetical)

8 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 1 Brown Creeper
 13 Golden-crowned Kinglet
 2 American Robin
 1374 European Starling
 1 Song Sparrow
 1 Dark-eyed Junco
 1 Red-winged Blackbird
 22 Brown-headed Cowbird
 15 White-winged Crossbill
 25 Pine Siskin
 417 Evening Grosbeak
 371 House Sparrow

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BIRD SURVEYS FROM PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FERRIES

by David K. Cairns, Charlottetown

In the past number of years, the Canadian Wildlife Service has accumulated a great store of data on the distribution of seabirds in eastern Canadian waters. This information has greatly aided our understanding of seabird ecology because, if we know where birds are, we can begin to answer the deeper questions of why they choose these areas, and how they find them.

—Despite the wealth of marine life in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, our knowledge of seabird distribution patterns in the waters around Prince Edward Island has lagged behind that of open Atlantic waters off Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Accordingly, the Prince Edward Island Natural History Society has decided to launch its own program to fill this gap. For this purpose, the ferries linking the Island to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Magdalen Islands, provide convenient platforms. Society members and others are invited to use standardized forms to record birds they see from ferries, and to submit these to the Natural History Society. A copy of this form is printed in this Newsletter.

Because this project has been conceived as a scientific exercise, it is essential that sightings be made, and the forms be completed, exactly according to the instructions given on the reverse of the form. In particular, observations made while the vessel is steaming must be made during watches which are ten minutes long. This is to allow our data to be directly comparable to those collected by the Canadian Wildlife Service.

For additional information and forms, please contact Winnie Cairns or Geoff Hogan at the next meeting of the Society.