

BIRD REPORT

Reports of unusual bird visitors have been scarce so far this winter. However, where open salt water is to be found near good feeding sites, wintering flocks of ducks are regularly observed.

A flock of some 30 Canada Geese has been reported at Wheatley River during January (Ralph Mathecon).

An adult Bald Eagle was seen at Vernon Bridge on January 11 (WEC).

A Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed in Montague on January 15 (WEC).

A covey of thirteen Gray Partridge was seen at Kinross Jan. 6 (Lorna MacLeod).

An estimated 60 to 70 Iceland Gulls were accompanying the ferry across Northumberland Strait between Borden and Cape Tormentine on Jan. 3 (Geoff Hogan). Seventy were seen on Jan. 11 in the Charlottetown Harbour area (WEC). The half dozen Icelands which frequented the Charlottetown Mc onald's last winter have been reduced to a maximum of four this year. They also seem to have extended their regular scavenging territory to include Burger King.

A Belted Kingfisher has been regularly observed at Knox' Dam on the South Montague Road from Christmas until at least Jan. 9 (John Wright and Richard Knox).

Three Robins were spotted near the shore at Cable Head on Jan. 3 by George and Cathy Knox. Another was seen Jan. 15 at Upper Montague by Peter Wright.

A male and female Downy Woodpecker, a dozen Common Starlings, 6 Brown-headed Cowbirds, 30-40 Evening Grosbeaks, and 20 American Goldfinches and 1 Song Sparrow are among regular visitors to feeders in the North River Road area of Charlottetown (Geoff Hogan).

Wintering flocks of ducks can be regularly seen in the following locations in the approximate numbers indicated.

Lower Montague--18 Common Goldeneye (Jan. 11, WEC).

Orwell Cove--1 Mallard, 400 Black Duck, 10 Common Merganser (Jan. 11, WEC).

Vernon Bridge--6 Common Goldeneye, 17 Common Merganser (Jan. 11, WEC).

Hillsborough Bridge--Charlottetown Harbour area--300 Black Duck, 250 Common Merganser, 100 Common Goldeneye (Jan. 11, WEC).

North River Causeway--200 Black Duck, 100 Common Goldeneye, 50 Common Merganser (Jan. 12, WEC).

Seal River (Vernon)--70 Black Duck (Jan. 18, WEC).