

a low clacking sound. It later died; Rita Offer found 2 at Sherbrooke and 1 died while the other was in poor condition; Garth Willis of St. Eleonors found 1 but it died the next day; 1 found by Colleen Wedge on the Tyne Valley Road ate some hamburger when offered; Candy Gallant of Summerside fed one salt water fish food; Doris Stevens found one in Northport and June Hamill brought her another (these both died before they could be released); 1 found in Clinton lasted 2 days; 1 found in a cattle trough while cattle fed from the trough was released at Hillsborough River Bridge on Feb. 3 (Floyd Jay & Wade MacKinnon); 1 found at Freeland and fed crab meat; 1 found by Jackie Biggar in Tyne Valley was released the evening of Feb. 2; 1 found on Tyne Valley road was fed hamburger and was still alive Feb. 3;

d) On Feb. 3rd: 1 appeared at a Sleepy Hollow feeder, ate suet and sunflower seed shells and flew away but 1 was seen in the adjacent woods the next day (Billy Matthews); 1 was seen at Borden (Scott Makepeace); 1 arrived at the Sherwood Motel and later died (Joan MacKinnon); 1 was seen at Birch Hill (Doris & Allan MacKendrick); 1 was found in a yard in Bonshaw by Peter Miller, it died 2 days later; the Fish and Wildlife received calls on 2 in Covehead, 1 in York, some on North River Road, 1 at Morell Rear (Hubert Pierlot), and 2 in Hunter River; 1 was seen in Georgetown; and 1 was seen in Hazelbrook (Meg Mesenger);

d) On Feb. 4th: 1 was observed by Morley Pinsent at South Granville at 10:25 a.m.; Bernadette MacDonald saw 1 in Charlottetown; Micheal Ellis observed one at West Point; Fred Connolly observed 1 at Stanhope; and Victor MacLeod saw 1 on the Cardross Road;

e) On Feb. 5th: 1 Dovekie was found out of the wind under a car in Cornwall. It flew about 10 feet and seemed to be hurt (Wendell Sentner); 1 was seen at South Rustico but later died (Arthur Arsenault); 1 very lively Dovekie was found at French River but it wouldn't drink water (Leona Bernard); 1 was seen on the road at Howlan (John Hicks); 2 were on the Bayview Road between Cavendish and Stanley Bridge (Herbert Simpson); 1 was seen at Grand Tracadie and Rod MacKinnon tried to feed it but it flew away; Helen MacPhail saw 1 at Clyde River; Paula Foley saw another at North Cape; and John Stockton viewed one at Gladstone; Leona Bernard found 1 at French River; John Hicks found another at Howlan;

f) On Feb. 6th: Mrs. Floyd MacKinnon and her husband found a Dovekie on the side of the road at Belmont; and

g) 1 was seen at Bedeque by Valerie Curtis and Kevin MacKinnon saw another at Wilmot - no date;

h) Stan Vass reported 6 to 8 at Hillsborough River Bridge preceding the storm and 15 on Jan. 31.

References:

Arthur Cleveland Bent. 1986. Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns.

Dover Publications Inc.

Robie W. Tufts. 1986. The Birds of Nova Scotia. Nimbus Publishing Ltd. and Nova Scotia Museum.

OBEDIENT CROWS

by Dan McAskill

One never knows what one will see in the wilds of Charlottetown. At dusk on November 8th I left the Bird's Eye Nature Store to return to my vehicle when the sounds of hundreds of crows passing overhead drew my attention. Viewed between the two walls of stone, the sky seemed filled with crows, all obediently following the one way arrows on Kent Street though a wee bit above street level. Now I've been told some real tall stories about how smart crows are, but ... really?