

# Record Spring bird distribution

BY ROSEMARY CURLEY

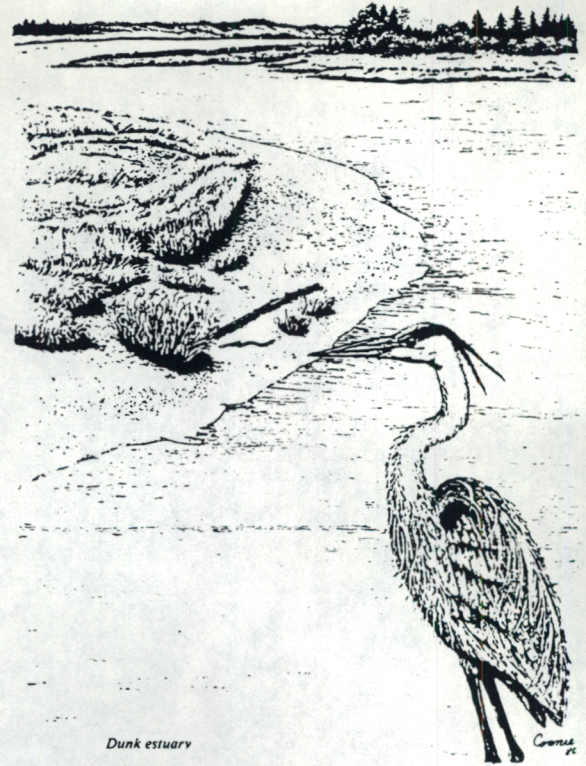
The Francis Bain Birdathon was established in the mid-1970's to record spring bird distribution. Participants select an area of choice and spend as much time as they wish to chalk up a species tally.

Initially the event was used as a fundraiser and more recently the counts can be incorporated into the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas project (MBBA). The Birdathon is always held on the last Saturday of May and this year May 30th was the big day.

Sunny skies prevailed through most of the day as 13 birders plus 20+ students of Geoff Hogan's non-credit bird class at UPEI explored areas radiating from Souris, Miscouche, Charlottetown and Valleyfield. The evening tally revealed that only 79 species were reported, but some interesting finds were recorded, including a mink at Harmony Junction.

Here now is the bird list:

Great cormorant	Downy woodpecker
Double-crested cormorant	Eastern kingbird
Great blue heron	Least flycatcher
American bittern	Tree swallow
Mallard	Barn swallow
American black duck	Blue jay
Green-winged teal	Northern raven
Blue-winged teal	American crow
American wigeon	Black-capped chickadee
Ring-necked duck	Red-breasted nuthatch
Common merganser	Gray catbird
Red-breasted merganser	American robin
Northern harrier	Hermit thrush
Kildeer	Swainson's thrush
Black-bellied plover	Ruby-crowned kinglet
Common snipe	European starling
Spotted sandpiper	Red-eyed vireo
Willet	Black and white warbler
Greater yellowlegs	Northern parula warbler
Lesser yellowlegs	Yellow warbler
Greater black-backed gull	Magnolia warbler
Herring gull	Cape May warbler
Ring-billed gull	Yellow-rumped warbler
Common tern	Black-throated blue warbler
Rock dove	Black-throated green warbler
Ruby-throated hummingbird	Blackburnian warbler
Belted kingfisher	Bay-breasted warbler
Northern flicker	Ovenbird
Yellow-bellied sapsucker	Mourning warbler
Hairy woodpecker	Common yellowthroat



Dunk estuary

Curley '76