

**ANIMAL AND PLANT SIGHTINGS:**

Compiled by J. Dan McAskill

Dragonflies filled the air during a recent outing on August 10 near Howe Bay (CH). A 25 to 30 cm long smooth green snake and an 8 to 10 cm Red Eft were seen on the Confederation Trail in Cherry Hill on August 31st, a sunny warm day (SJ). Spring Peepers were calling from reed lined pond near Point Prim lighthouse on May 6 (DW).

Northern Gannet - numerous along north shore on certain days in August and September (JDM, DGS), 2 adults reported on shore preening within a few feet of children on Aug. 28 (J&GHo); Common Loon - 2 adults and 2 downy young at Deroche Pond on Aug. 15 (DG&JS); UID Loon - 7 offshore at Blooming Point on Aug. 14 (JS); Great Egret - 1 at Cavendish Farm on Jun. 9 (LH); Snow Goose - 1 at New Annan on Apr. 15 (LH), 1 at Brander's Pond on Sept. 29 (LH), 5 at Birch Hill Bay on Sept. 30 (HM); White-winged Scoter - at North Cape on Aug. 25 (J&GHo); Ruddy Duck - 4 at Indian River on Sept. 29; Hooded Merganser - ♂ & ♀ at Brander's Pond on Sept. 29 (LH); Turkey Vulture - reported on Apr. 24th at Pleasant Grove by Penny Sterling via Suzanne Barnes; Sharp-shinned Hawk - reported utilizing a chimney screen in Rice Point on Aug. 4 as return point after flights about yard (JHa); Bald Eagle - scattered sightings throughout the Island (FC, HG, BB, JDM, J&GHo); Northern Harrier - 1 hen Harrier circling low over red pine plantation on May 9 & May 19 (HG); Large UID Raptor - with 3 ft wingspan off Selkirk Road; Peregrine Falcon - 1 at East Pt on Sept. 14 (LH), 2 at North Cape on Oct. 5 (LH); Ruffed Grouse - several broods of 6 birds reported at Mt. Albion (HJ); Piping Plover - 4 at Cabot Park, including 2 immatures of almost parent size, on Jul. 31 (LH), 6 at Canavoy on July 6 (3 immatures)(ADM), 1 at Savage Harbour on Aug. 18 (BB, EM); Long-billed Curlew - 1 at Blooming Point on Jul. 17 (DG&JS); Upland Sandpiper - 1 in 1996 at Goose River hay field (TW via GM); Semi-palmated Sandpiper - 8 at South Lake on Oct. 5 standing on one leg and remaining on one leg when waves came in around them instead of moving at the edge like they normally do (RR); Lesser Golden Plover - 23 at Locke Shore Road on Aug. 12 (LH); Whimbrel - 20 reported in July at China Point (JH), 30 at Locke Shore Road on Jul. 24 (LH); Sanderling - 1 at Canavoy on Jul. 6 (ADM); Parasitic Jaeger - was seen in early August chasing gulls off shore at Greenwich (EB); Glaucous Gull - 1 at Summerside Harbour on Apr. 15 (LH); Bonaparte's Gull - flocks of up to 40 birds at Ellen's Creek and Hillsborough River (JDM); Little Gull - 1 at Cavendish Sandspit in summer (RC); Caspian Terns - everyday sightings in mid-Aug. (DGS), 2 off Savage Harbour several days in September (JDM); Northern Saw-whet Owl - 1 calling on Sept. 28 at Clyde Rd (BM); Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 1st female at French Village feeder on May 31st (HG), 1 at Crossroads on Sept. 16 (DMU); Pileated Woodpecker - 1 at Naufrage River in July (GM); Willow Flycatcher - 1 at Rocky Point on Jun. 12 (LD); Great-crested Flycatcher - 1 at Rocky Point on Jun. 19 (LD); Tree Swallow - 3 at French Village on May 3rd (HG); Barn Swallow - 8 nests in machine shed and 2 in pig barn at Cherry Valley (JH); Cliff Swallow - 1 drinking water from the wing at Victoria by the Sea (DW); Grey Jays - 1 at Elliotvale on May 10 (JH), 2 at Upton on Aug. 6 (FRC), 3 at Afton Road on Oct. 5 (JDM, RP, LT); Red-breasted Nuthatch - few sightings or audio records on outings this autumn (JDM, RC, RP, LT); Gray Catbird - 1 at Priest Pond on Oct. 5 (JDM, RP, LT); Winter Wren - 1 at upper end of Larkin's Pond on several occasions in July (GM); Cedar Waxwing - 2 in Desable in late Aug. (J&GHo), flocks feeding in larch in early Sept. (JDM); Yellow Warbler - 1 at East Point and 1 at North Lake on Oct. 5 (JDM, LT, RP); Yellow-rumped Warbler - several hundred at East Point in Sept. (CS); Bobolink - 1 at Mt. Buchanan on Jun. 1 (DW); Bullock's Oriole - in woods at French Village on Jun. 7 (HG); Common Grackle - tried to dislodge Tree Swallows at French Village but driven off by swallows (HG); Blue Grosbeak - 1 reported on the Island on Jun. 14th radio show (DW); Evening Grosbeak - present at Point Prim feeder on Jun. 24 (DW); Pine Siskin - attending seed feeder at Point Prim on Jun. 24 (DW), a dozen or more visited a Summerside feeder in late July (WB), feeding on niger seed at Desable in late Aug. (J&GHo).

**PLANTS:** Its been a great year for Boletus mushrooms, one the size of a football with no worms was found by C. Gallant (KC). A bed of Yellow Lady Slippers was photographed in the Naufrage River area (EM). KC reported that CP found a small hawkweed (*Hieracum virginicum*) in a blueberry field in August.