

Brown Thrasher, Dovekie, a Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, a Hermit Thrush, a Northern Mockingbird, and Red-winged Blackbirds. With the exception of the American Goldfinch and Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin, very few finches were present in any of the four count areas.

Parks Canada staff hosted the pot-luck held at lunch at the Dalvay Shelter during the P.E.I. National Park Count and an evening potluck was hosted at Diane and Kevin Griffin's home in Stratford after the Hillsborough Count.

The Montague count began calm with blue skies but as the morning passed the sky filled with clouds. Some snow was predicted for that evening and there did seem to be a quietness to the day that is often felt before a storm. When the Montague count was started, in the early 1980's, it was unusual to see a Bald Eagle. This year nine were sighted on the Montague count day. One Great Blue Heron was sighted, as were Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings. The most exciting sighting was the Northern Mockingbird that has been a visitor at a feeder in Montague most of the fall. It has not been seen since the extremely cold weather in mid-January.

Most Montague counters commented that the numbers were down this year, especially members of the sparrow and finch families including Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Song Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow. This is the second year in a row that these bird species seem to be down in numbers. Once again the actual number of species and birds sighted was not down. The most numerous species on the Montague count was the European Starling, which was the second most numerous in 2002 when 887 starlings were counted. The second most numerous was the Common Goldeneye at 654 and the third most numerous was the Common Redpoll with 604. All in all 60 species were recorded, compared to 51 for the 2002 count. 6,937 birds were counted this year compared to 6,458 birds in 2002. The number of teams out and the number of counters were down from the past couple of years. If the full complement was out, numbers would be even higher.

The reports for each area are provided below.

## OBSERVATIONS

## NUMBERS OBSERVED

	East Point	National Park	Hillsborough	Montague	Total
	Dec. 14, 2003	Dec. 21, 2003	Dec.27, 2003	Jan. 3, 2004	Dec. 21 - Jan. 3
Red-throated Loon	Recorded	1	1		2
Common Loon	Recorded				Recorded
Northern Gannet	Recorded	3			3
Double-crested Cormorant	Recorded		CW		CW
Great Cormorant	Recorded		4		4
Great Blue Heron	Recorded			1	1
Snow Goose		CW			CW
Canada Geese	Recorded	1,245	1,620	303	3,168
Gadwell	Recorded				Recorded
Eurasian Wigeon			1		1
American Black Duck	Recorded	872	2,023	444	3,339
Mallard		12	66	14	92
Northern Pintail		1		4	5
American Green-winged Teal		5	12		17
UID Duck				56	56
Greater Scaup	Recorded	304		1	305
Lesser Scaup	Recorded				Recorded
Common Eider		640			640
Surf Scoter	Recorded		4		4
White-winged Scoter	Recorded		3	1	4