

Robins were seen digging out larvae of June beetles (*Phyllophaga* sp.) on 1 May 1974 (DW). The fall records included large groups totalling about 200 during 3-5 November 1968 and up to 100 during 16-20 October 1975. The 2 in Table III between 31 July and 6 August 1968 were in juvenile plumage, but otherwise Robins did not appear until 28 August 1969 at the earliest. There were unseasonable appearances of single birds on 20 February 1967, 29 January 1968, and 24 February 1969. Individuals wintered in 1968-1969 (until 8 February) and in 1976-1977 (until late March). They generally appeared somewhat earlier in spring at the turn of the century (Table IV), but only 1 unseasonably early bird, on 1 March 1907, was reported. Two males on 2 April 1971 (DW) and 1 on 3 April 1972 (JB) were believed to be *T. m. nigriceps*, but others at this season were believed to be *T. m. migratorius*.

Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius*

A male stayed briefly around West Light on 29 October 1968, where it was well studied by CB and NB. A bird said to be like a robin with a breast band was reported by residents of the island at the Meteorological Station in October 1971, and must surely have been this species. There is an earlier sight record from the province (Tufts 1973) and it has been photographed subsequently on the mainland.

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* (P; NMC)

This thrush, which had been a regular Nova Scotian vagrant, has nested recently in the province. During 1967-1979, it has been occasional in spring and rare in fall (Table III), with additional sightings of 1 on 31 May 1965 and 2 on 19 May 1966.

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus* (P)

A few occurred every year in spring and in some falls (Table III). Generally it was later in spring than it is on the mainland, but the earliest bird, on 28 March 1968, is a provincial early record. One that appeared on 29 June 1977 (not in Table III) was between seasons. A bird on 11-12 February 1968 may have been attempting to winter in the region. Except for a single record of Veeries, this was the only *Catharus* thrush listed by the Bouteilliers (Table IV); possibly they overlooked others.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* (P; AMNH)

This was the most common and regular *Catharus* (Table III), with peak spring counts of 5-20 individuals during 7 years of 1967-1979 between 23 May and 10 June. Individuals on 14 November 1967, 17 November 1968, 9 November 1969, and 10 November 1973 seem to imply a pattern of late movement in the region. However, none was a match for a bird that appeared at a feeder on 14-16 January 1969, where it was closely studied by CB and NB.

Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* (P)

Although less common than the preceding species, the bird was regular (Table III), with peak counts of 3-5 during 7 years of 1967-1979, between 26 May and 11 June. Individuals on 27-29 April 1969 (CB) and on 29-30 April 1977 (AR) were both earlier than any other provincial records, and a bird on 4 July 1978 was between seasons (none in Table III). As with the Swainson's Thrush, there was a small number of very late fall appearances: up to 4 on 6-18 November 1975, 2 on 13-15 November 1977, and 2 on 2-6 November 1979, all later than other provincial records.

Veery *Catharus fuscescens* (P)

This was the least frequent of the *Catharus* thrushes (Table III), with peaks of at most 3 birds during 3 years of 1967-1979, between 27 May and 10 June. Richard Bouteillier listed "numbers" on 22 October 1908 which, if correct, would be a provincial late record.

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*

The only records of this species, now rare in the province, were of 2 on 23 May 1965 and individuals on 2 September 1963, 13 May 1968, 7 June 1969, and 1 June 1970. The spring records are late for this species.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (P)

The only records are of individuals in female plumage on 26 May 1975 on dunes near East Light (DWF, IM et al.), and during 18-24 June 1977 near West Light (photo, HR et al.). There are no other spring records for the province.

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa* (AMNH)

This species, abundant but only partially migratory on the mainland, was rare on the island (Table III), the only substantial count being 11 on 2 May 1974. The only recent fall migrant was 1 on 19 August 1966. However, the Bouteilliers reported it quite regularly (Table IV), thrice as "numerous" or "in no."

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula* (P; AMNH)

This migratory kinglet was regular in spring and fall (Table III), with peak counts of 5-30 during 7 years of 1967-1979, between 29 April and 26 May. The only comparable peaks in fall were 25 on 16-17 October 1975 and 10 on 6 September 1979. Curiously, the Bouteilliers listed it only twice, although they also reported unspecified kinglets on 3 occasions.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* (P; AMNH, NSMS)

The bird was probably even more regular than suggested in Table III, as it was "at home" away from buildings. Birds often stayed well into June, and in 1975 much flight song was given, although none stayed beyond 21 June. However, birds on 3 August 1965 and 6 August 1969 (both CB) were perhaps suspiciously early for migrants. It was regularly reported by the Bouteilliers (Table IV).

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Extraordinary spring and early summer sightings by CB of 2 on 21 May 1964, 3 on 16 June 1966, and 1 on 29 June 1968 are almost unique for the region. Two on 3 November 1968, becoming 20 by 9 November, presaged a major invasion of the species in the province that winter.

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* (P; AMNH)

This species is regular and common, especially in fall migration (Table III). Eight adults on 2 July 1967 were unseasonable. The earliest immature birds were on 15 August 1978. Flocks of 15-55 occurred during 7 years of 1967-1979 between 6 August and 5 November. The only winter records were 4 on 20 December 1968 and 1 on 8 February 1974. The Bouteilliers found it to be regular in fall (Table IV).

Northern Shrike *Lanius excubitor* (P; SMS)

There have been only 6 recent sightings: single birds during 16-20 October and on 28 October 1969, 1 early on 22 September 1971 (careful study, DW), 2 late on 7-9 May 1976 (AR, K. Thompson), 1 on 1 October 1976, and 1 on 20 October 1978. Another bird was found dead in late February 1974. The specimen taken 8 December 1900 was slightly later than others in Table III. Piers (MS) states: "also another shrike he feels pretty sure".

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (P)

The Starling is a regular resident, nesting in outbuildings and ruins, and recently even in stacked pipes on the beach near the severe, unstable west tip of the island. Perhaps significantly, neither Elliot (1956) nor Erskine (1953) listed the Starling after their respective visits in 1948 and 1952-1953. Birds reappeared on the island in late March or early April, after reported absences in late winter (as in 1967, 1968, 1972), or were seen sporadically or continuously through winter in some years. Sometimes there were large mortalities; of 40 estimated present in January 1979, 25 were found dead in February (AR). It is possible that some wintering birds are immigrant, as CB noted gaps between departure of post-breeding flocks in August 1967 and 1968 and the appearance of more in October of those years. Numbers sometimes reached 200 in late summer and autumn. Estimates of the adult population in May or June were 40 in 1967, 45 in 1972, 40 in 1973, 35 in 1974, 40 (including a flock of 18 nonbreeders) in 1975, 40 (including 22 nonbreeders) in 1977, and only 6 in 1979 after the big winter die-off. The first young were fledged in 9 years of 1967-1979 between 4 and 24 June (median 10 June).

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* (P)

The only record of this vagrant, increasingly noted in the province in recent years, was an adult on 15 November 1977, creeping in wet grass near West Light (IM).

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*

Three individuals of this vagrant have been seen, on the unusual date of 26 June 1964, and on 14 September and 2 October 1967 (all CB).

Solitary Vireo *Vireo solitarius*

The species is inexplicably scarce on the island, with individuals recorded on 6 July 1965 and in 6 subsequent years (Table III).

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (P; AMNH)

This vireo is quite regular, especially in spring (Table III). One on 9 July 1975 (not in Table III) was between seasons. The specimen in the Dwight collection was taken on 8 October 1902, later than any recent birds.

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus* (P)

A few individuals of this species, rare in the province, have occurred between 1967 and 1979 (Table III).

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*

Individuals have occurred on 22 June 1964, 31 May 1966 (both CB), 12-13 June 1967 (D. & J. Cunn), 4-6 June (CB) and 13 June 1969 (JB), and 12 November 1977 (IM), the last a latest record for the province. Most records of this vagrant in the province are for fall.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* (P; NMC)

The species is regular and common, spring and fall (Table III). Two earlier birds were discovered recently dead in late April 1977. Daily counts of 5-10 birds were made during 6 years of 1967-1979 between 23 May and 7 June. Larger counts of 10-20 occurred during 4 autumns, between 30 August and 30 September. The Bouteilliers noted it only in fall (Table IV).

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* (P; NMC)

The species has been a rather regular vagrant in fall (Table III). An exceptionally early bird (along with an Ovenbird and a Wilson's Warbler) appeared on 18 April 1971 (JB, WS; not in Table III). Another on 4 July 1965 was between seasons. The record given in Tufts (1973) is misdated and misattributed: the date

given is for the next species. James Bouteillier reported "several" on 7 September 1903, close to the present median dates (cf. Table III). A marginal note on the MS by Piers states "Not before in N.S. App. Mr. Bouteillier not sure of this"; this may be gratuitous in view of the bird's distinctness.

Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorus* (AMNH, NMC)

The specimen in the Dwight collection was a male taken on 3 October 1903, but not reported in the literature. Dwight (1903) did not mention it, which is surprising, since he included several birds that must have been sent to him at the same time, including a "Baltimore Oriole" taken on 4 October 1902. The specimen appears to be a first Canadian record (cf. Saunders 1908). One on 12 October 1967 (CB, NB.) was a second Nova Scotian record, a number having been seen since in the province. A desiccated corpse, some weeks dead, was found on 7 June 1978.

Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora pinus*

An early individual of this vagrant appeared on 14 April 1975, along with an equally unexpected Yellow Warbler (AR). Most of the few provincial records are for late summer or fall.

Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina* (P)

The species was regular, generally in ones and twos. Spring counts of 5 on 2 June 1968, 8 on 10 June 1974 and 6 on 24 May 1977 were exceptional, as were 5 on 13 September 1977, 10 on 28 August and 8 September 1978, and 15 on 6 September 1979. A bird on 4 July 1969 was between seasons (not in Table III).

Orange-crowned Warbler *Vermivora celata* (P)

Individuals of this uncommon Nova Scotian transient have been reported on 6 June 1964 (CB), on 18 May (CB) and during 14-18 June 1967 (D. & J. Gunn); on 28 September (2 individuals), 31 October, and 10 November 1967 (all CB); on 1 June 1969 (CB), between 31 May and 11 June 1974; on 26-30 May, 4 June, and 22 June 1975 (DWF et al.).

Nashville Warbler *Vermivora ruficapilla* (P)

This species, although common on the mainland, was scarce on the island (Table III).

Northern Parula Warbler *Parula americana* (P)

This species was regular in spring, but decidedly rare in fall (Table III). Spring occurrences were always in ones and twos, except for a count of 20 on 7 June 1968.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* (P)

Yellow Warblers occurred in both spring and fall in some numbers (Table III). One on 14 April 1975 (AR) was exceptionally early (not in Table III). In spring they generally occurred in ones and twos, but there were exceptional counts of 8 on 9 June 1969, 10 on 25 May 1971, and 8 on 10 June 1974. In fall, there were 8 on 8 August 1971, 25 on 8 September 1978, and 15 on 27 August 1979. The Bouteilliers reported them a bit later in spring (Table IV).

Magnolia Warbler *Dendroica magnolia* (P;AMNH)

The bird occurred regularly in spring and fall (Table III); the earliest seen, a male on 7 May 1968, is a provincial early record. There were peak counts of 5-15 during 8 springs of 1967-1979, between 3 and 15 June; maximal fall counts were 5 on 12 September 1972 and 10 during 10-18 September 1973.

Cape May Warbler *Dendroica tigrina* (P)

This species was scarce during most springs, but sporadically common in fall

(Table III). There were, for example, large counts of 20-60 during 7 years since 1969 between 27 August and 19 September. A bird appearing on 2 July 1968 was between seasons.

Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens* (P)

This was the least common of the warblers that nest in Nova Scotia (Table III). A male on 4 July 1969 was between seasons (not in Table III). The Bouteilliers recorded only 3 birds (Table IV).

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata* (P; AMNH, NMC)

As might be expected, this species was among the most regular and abundant landbird migrants (Table III). Peak counts of 15-100 were made during 7 springs of 1967-1979 between 1 May and 1 June. Unlike other less common warblers it seldom lingered in numbers past mid-June. Counts of 30-300 were made during 11 falls of 1967-1979 between 15 August and 16 November. Birds appeared routinely in December and apparent winter arrivals were: up to 5 between 24 December 1969 and 1 January 1970, 1 on 24 January 1972, 6 during 7-20 February 1974, and up to 14 wintered in 1978-1979. An oddly plumaged male with white and yellow upper flanks and a white chest and nape was photographed on 18 May 1977 (IM). An adult male of the western "Audubon's Warbler" (*D. c. auduboni*, or *D. c. memorabilis*) was closely observed among "Myrtle Warblers" on 4 May 1967 (CB, NB). This was a first record for Atlantic Canada.

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens*

There were 2 sight records of this western vagrant, not previously reported east of Ontario in Canada, although known in coastal New England. Both were males seen by CB and NB, the first in shrubs near West Light on 9 May 1966, and the second closely observed on a windowsill feeder on 1 May 1967. There are 2 subsequent fall records from Nova Scotia.

Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi* (P)

A female was closely studied on 9-10 June 1973 (JB, DWF, IM) for a first record from Atlantic Canada. There are no subsequent records from the province.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens* (P; AMNH)

The bird was regular in spring, less so in fall (Table III). Up to 4-5 were counted during 4 springs of 1967-1979, between 29 May and 4 June. At most 1-2 occurred per day in fall, except for a count of 9 on 12 September 1972. The male on 4 May 1971 is the earliest spring record from the province.

Hermit Warbler *Dendroica occidentalis* (P)

Among the most unusual vagrants was a female Hermit Warbler on 26-27 May 1975 (DWF, EHM, IM) and another female on 4 June (DWF), identifiably different on photographs (Fig 14). These birds, from the western mountains of the United States, were the first to be confirmed from Canada (sight records in British Columbia), although known earlier from New England.

Cerulean Warbler *Dendroica cerulea*

An adult male observed outside a window at 2 m on 6 June 1968 (CB, NB) was the first documented from the province (see Tufts 1973 for possibly earlier sightings). Another less-than-full-plumaged male was seen on 20 May 1972 (JB, DW).

Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca* (P)

Although quite regular, the bird was uncommon (Table III), the largest count being 4 on 10 June 1974. The male on 10 May 1967 is the earliest on record from the province.

Yellow-throated Warbler *Dendroica dominica* (P)

There have been occurrences of individuals in recent years, all near West Light or the Meteorological Station. One seen briefly at close range on 7 June 1968 (CB) was a first for the province, and another photographed that summer on 22 August (D. Higgins) was a first authenticated record. Others were seen by AR on 25 October 1974, 12 September 1975, 26-28 September 1976 (2 birds), and during 20-25 September 1977 (2 birds).

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica* (P)

The species is quite uncommon on the island (Table III), and was not reported by the Bouteilliers.

Bay-breasted Warbler *Dendroica castanea* (P)

The species was quite common in spring, rarely lingering in June, and returning in some numbers in fall (Table III). Two birds on 7-8 May 1969 are the earliest on record from the province. Although 25 were estimated to be present on 7 June 1968, there were otherwise never more than 5 per day in spring. Counts of 5-24 birds were made during 5 falls of 1967-1979, between 28 August and 16 September. It is noteworthy that the Bouteilliers never reported this species or the Cape May Warbler, both responsive to outbreaks of spruce budworm.

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* (P; AMNH, NMC)

This, next to the Yellow-rumped Warbler, is the most regular and common warbler on the island (Table III). Peak counts of 10-90 occurred in 11 years during 1967-1979 between 24 May and 12 June. An adult male on 14 July 1968 was early (not in Table III). Counts of 13-120 birds were made in 6 years between 5 September and 16 October. About 50 were killed by collision with West Light on the night of 5-6 October 1964, and 16 met the same fate on 15-16 October 1969. A bird on 13-15 December 1968 was late (not in Table III), and an individual frequented a feeder between 1 January and 4 February 1969, where it was closely studied by CB and NB; it was a first winter record for the province. All the Bouteilliers' records are for spring (Table IV), and it is probable that they did not correctly identify autumn blackpolls (see under Pine Warbler). A mysterious bird listed as "Black-bellied Warbler" on 26 May 1904 by Bouteillier (1905) is in fact "Black polled Warbler" on the original list.

Pine Warbler *Dendroica pinus*

Nine individuals of this vagrant have been reported in recent years: 1 on 27 May 1964 (CB), 2 during 2-10 June 1967 (CB, NB, J. Gunn), 1 on 10 October and another on 2-6 November 1967 (both CB), 1 on 15 November 1968 (IM), 1 on 7 September 1970 (WS), 1 on 10 September 1974 (B. Mactavish), and an early adult male on 12-14 August 1978 (HR). The quite frequent reports by the Bouteilliers of this species must be viewed skeptically, as they failed to report autumn blackpolls. Furthermore, James Bouteillier reported a Pine Warbler, and no Blackpoll Warbler, on 3 June 1902, and there is a female specimen of the latter species in the Dwight collection from this date.

Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor* (P)

Prairie Warblers are now among the most regular vagrants to the province since the first reported sighting of a bird on Cape Breton Island in September 1964. The second was on Sable Island on 2 August 1965 (CB, NB), still the earliest fall migrant recorded in the province. They have since occurred every year except 1966, 1967, and 1976 (Table III), always as fall migrants.

Palm Warbler *Dendroica palmarum* (P; AMNH)

The bird has been regular in small numbers in spring, with somewhat more in fall (Table III). The largest count in spring was 10 on 22 May 1972. Counts of 10-20 occurred during 3 falls of 1967-1979, between 16 October and 5 November. Two birds appeared on 28 December 1969 and 1 remained until 9 January 1970 (not in Table III). Oddly, the Bouteilliers listed the species only for fall (Table IV), although there is a spring male of *D. p. hypochrysea* in the Dwight collection.

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus* (P)

The species was regular in ones and twos (5 on 30 May 1975 were exceptional), and not so frequent in fall (Table III). One on 18 April 1971 (with early Prothonotary and Wilson's Warblers) was later found dead, and another on 27 April 1977, joined by another on 29 April, are all earlier than any other provincial records (none in Table III). One on 16 July 1976 was unseasonable in summer (not in Table III).

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* (P; AMNH)

The bird was regular in spring and fall (Table III). There were peak counts of 5-32 birds during 8 springs of 1967-1979 between 19 May and 6 June. In fall, peaks of 4-20 birds were noted during 5 years of 1967-1979 between 24 August and 12 September. The Bouteilliers listed it only once in spring and twice in fall migration.

Louisiana Waterthrush *Seiurus motacilla* (P)

One closely studied on the rather unusual date of 2 July 1966 (CB, NB) was a first for Nova Scotia. Subsequently 7 have been reported: 1 on 3-4 August and another between 21 August and 2 September 1969 (both CB, NB), 2 during 6-10 August 1970 (JB, WS, DW; Fig 15), 1 on 27 May 1971 (DW), 1 on 18-20 May 1977 (IM, HR), and 1 on 8 September 1978 (IM). The bird has been reported elsewhere in the province since 1969.

Kentucky Warbler *Oporornis formosus* (P; AMNH)

The immature bird collected on 1 September 1902 (Dwight 1903) was a first from the province. Males on 1-4 June and 22-23 June 1976 (both AR) and a female on 2 September 1978 (IM) are among the few recent reports from the province.

Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis* (P)

Reports of a dead bird on 6 October 1901 (Bouteillier 1901) and of a bird sighted on 15 September 1907 (Bouteillier 1908b) have been questioned (Godfrey 1966; Tufts 1973); the Bouteilliers reported no Mourning Warblers. A male was closely observed on 10 September 1974 (B. Mactavish) and a female was photographed, for a first authenticated provincial record, on the extraordinary date of 12 June 1975 (DWF). An immature bird was well-studied during 9-13 September 1978 (IM).

Mourning Warbler *Oporornis philadelphia* (P)

Small numbers appeared with remarkable regularity in early June, but the species was rare in fall (Table III). Only twice did more than 2 occur at a time: 6 on 10 June 1974 and 3 on 7-8 June 1975. Earlier records of a bird on 17 May and 2 on 28 May 1965 were exceptional.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* (P; AMNH)

Yellowthroats were regular in spring, generally in ones and twos (Table III). Counts of 5-8 birds were made during 6 springs of 1967-1979, between 22 May and 7 June. It was uncommon in fall, a count of 6 on 16 October 1975 being the only occasion when more than 1-2 birds were seen.

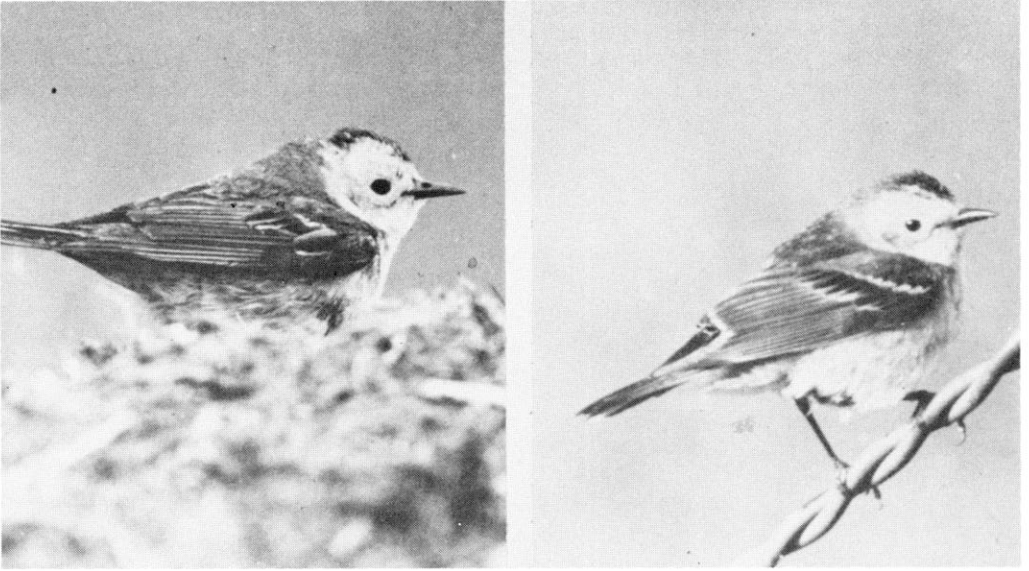


Fig 14 Photographs confirmed what was suspected in the field—that female Hermit Warblers on 2 dates in spring 1973 were different individuals, the first in eastern Canada of this species from the Coast Range of the western United States. (Photos: left, 26 May, right, 4 June 1973, D.W. Finch.)



Fig 15 A representative vagrant warbler from the eastern United States, a Louisiana Waterthrush, was captured in an outbuilding for a first authenticated provincial record. (Photo: 9 August 1970, J. Burton.)

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* (P; NMC)

The first island record was on 25 August 1963, the next on 20 August 1965, and the bird has been routine in fall since 1966, although never as early as these first 2 reports (Table III).

Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina* (P; UM)

The first island record of this vagrant was 1 on June 1964, and 2 were seen on 23 May 1966. It has been quite frequent since (Table III). Three birds on 2 July 1967 (CB, NB) were unseasonable (not in Table III).

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla* (P; AMNH)

The bird was regular in spring, often arriving late, and somewhat less common in fall (Table III). Counts of 5-11 birds were made during 7 years of 1967-1979, between 23 May and 14 June. A bird on 18 April 1971 (JB, WS) was exceptionally early (not in Table III). Counts of 4-10 birds were made only during 3 years in fall, between 13 August and 22 September.

Canada Warbler *Wilsonia canadensis* (P; AMNH)

Next to the Mourning Warbler, this was the latest of the regular warblers in spring (Table III). It was generally in ones and twos, with counts of 6-20 birds during 4 years of 1967-1979, between 28 May and 10 June. A count of 25 on 16 June 1964 was exceptional. One on 2 July 1967 was unseasonable (not in Table III).

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* (P; NSMS)

Although not among the most abundant, this was among the most regular and conspicuous warblers, and often lingered on the island (Table III). It peaked late in spring, with counts of 5-17 birds during 7 years of 1967-1979, between 31 May and 15 June. A bird on 3 May 1975 (not in Table III) ties the earliest provincial record. One on 3 July 1971 (not in Table III) was between seasons. There were peak counts of 8-40 birds during 9 years of 1967-1979, between 5 September and 20 October.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (P)

The Bouteilliers listed first seasonal sightings quite regularly (Table IV) and Bouteillier (1905) noted that 2 birds had overwintered. Dates of appearance do not coincide with supply boats (Nova Scotia Archives). Richard Bouteillier (Piers MS) thought that they first appeared 2-3 winters prior to 1901. Evidently they did not nest until much later. Elliot (1956) learned from old residents that sparrows had nested "at least since 1930". Estimates of about 60 birds around West Light in early June 1967 and about 60 around the Meteorological Station on 28 December 1969 match quite well the estimates of about 150 in the 2 localities in September and November 1970 (JB). With the elimination of chickens from the island in late 1970, food for House Sparrows was curtailed, and they died off and perhaps to some extent emigrated. Transient birds have occurred since: a female on 24 October 1971 (DW), 2 on 9 May 1975 (AR), 2 between 24 April and 4 May 1977 (AR), and 5 on 20 October 1978 (IM). These records resemble those from the turn of the century, and seem to reveal the sparrow as a partial, but seasonally normal migrant, and still capable of colonizing across a considerable water barrier. The species is unlikely, however, to recolonize the island in the absence of grain-fed livestock.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (P)

Bobolinks were regular in spring (Table III), the males often singing around ponds near West Light for several days. Generally they occurred in ones and

twos, but there were counts of 6-11 birds during 5 years of 1967-1979, between 23 May and 5 June. A male on 28 April 1964 was very early. They were less regular in fall, perhaps because they frequented the dunes then. During censuses of Ipswich Sparrows on high dunes in early September (Table V), counts of 37-115 birds were made, implying as many as ca. 1700 on the island.

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* (AMNH)

There are only 4 recent records of this species, which is uncommon in Nova Scotia: on 28 September 1970, 20 September 1971, 5 March 1977 (eating bread at West Light; AR), and on 5 January 1979 (AR). A specimen was taken on 6 May 1901.

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (P)

A bird on 5 October 1901 (Bouteillier 1901) was a first record for the province, and another was seen next year on 16 September by James Bouteillier. A photograph of a female (not on file NMC) on 12 October 1967 (CB) was accepted by Tufts (1973) as a first authenticated record. A female between 8-17 May 1970 (AL, WS et al.) was a first spring record for the province. There have been birds subsequently every year since 1973 except 1976 (Table III).

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* (P; SMS)

The species was regular but scarce in spring, generally later than on the mainland (Table III). A male appeared on 26 June 1971 and sang around ponds near West Light until 4 July; another was seen on 5 July 1977 (neither in Table III). Large daily counts of 20-120 birds were made during 1967-1979 between 3 October and 18 November, but only ones and twos have occurred in more recent falls.

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* (P; ROM)

A young male taken by Saunders (1902) on 15 May 1901 was one of the earlier records from Nova Scotia. Thirteen individuals of this now regular vagrant have occurred in recent years, beginning with a female on 31 May and an adult male on 5 June 1965 (both CB, NB), and during most years since (Table III). The late spring and late fall birds (Table III) are the latest on record for the province for their respective seasons. Bouteillier (1901) listed a bird on 28 September 1901, and James Bouteillier reported them "in no." on 4 October 1902. However, the latter record, at least, is questionable, since Dwight (1903) obtained a specimen of a Northern Oriole from this date (not in AMNH or SMS).

Northern Oriole *Icterus galbula* (P; NSMS)

The bird was relatively scarce in spring, but regular and common in fall (Table III). A bird on 25 July 1971 was considered to be unusually early (not in Table III). Large counts of 12-35 birds were made during 8 years of 1967-1971, between 1 September and 5 October. Probably most autumn birds come from outside the province, where they nest sparingly. They often attempt to winter in the province; the latest bird died on 18 December 1967.

Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus* (P; AMNH)

The species was regular in spring, but the bulk of the individuals (Table III) were in flocks of ca. 100 on 12 April and 17 May 1968. Such flocks were more regular in fall, when groups of 35-100 occurred during 4 years between 1 October and 24 November. A male appearing briefly on 4 January and another on 23 January 1969 had probably been wintering in the region, but 2 males on 7-10 March 1967 and another on 9 March 1968 (not in Table III) may have been early immigrants. The Bouteilliers reported it twice in September, but more often listed unidentified blackbirds.

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus*

A glossy male, with purplish head, quite distinct from male Rusty Blackbirds at this season, appeared on 30 November 1969 (CB, NB). It was apparently injured at first, but soon recovered and came to a feeder regularly until late March 1970, when it was also seen by AL. The species has been seen occasionally elsewhere in the province during recent years.

Boat-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus major*

A male, much larger than the Common Grackles present during the period, and with a huge, keeled tail and distinct iridescence pattern, was seen around West Light during 7-10 May 1968 (CB, NB). This was a first Canadian record, subsequent sightings having come from Cape Breton Island and Cape Sable Island, Nova Scotia.

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula* (P)

Except for 33 on 23 April 1967 (and a like group on 22 April 1964), this grackle was uncommon in spring and even more so in fall (Table III). Two on 28 December 1968 and 6 on 12 January 1974 had probably wandered from the nearby mainland, where they attempt to winter.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* (P)

The cowbird is one of the island's most regular and common passerine visitors (Table III). Counts of 10-15 (sometimes single flocks) were made during 5 springs of 1967-1979, between 4 April and 4 May, and during 6 falls, between 3 August and 6 December. A fledged young was being fed by an Ipswich Sparrow on 3 July 1963. In 1968 a male and 2 female Cowbirds parasitized at least 3 nests of Ipswich Sparrows (Stobo & McLaren 1975). Fledglings were seen on 6 July and 3 independent young were noted in early August of that year. There is no indication that a female on 11 July 1971, 2 males on 5-6 July 1977, and a male on 7 July 1979 (none in Table III) had bred locally. Six birds appearing on 16 December 1968 stayed until 4 February 1969, and 10 on 28 December 1969 remained in dwindling numbers until 13 February 1970. Five between 22 February and 3 March 1969, 1 remaining until 15 March, were unseasonable wanderers (none in Table III). The Bouteilliers noted none of this rather recent invader of the province.

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea* (P; ROM)

This tanager, a routine vagrant to the province, was occasional on the island (Table III). There was a notable count of 9 widely scattered birds on the island on 12 September 1972. A male on 6-7 December 1969 (CB) was abnormally late (not in Table III).

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* (P; NMC)

Adult males on 29 August 1964 and 25 August 1967 (both CB, NB) and a female or young bird on 13 September 1972 (IM et al.) are the only recent records. (The specimen is a subadult male found by AR on 6 May 1980, beyond the period otherwise covered in these accounts.)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (P; NMC)

This regular visitor occurred annually in spring and most falls (Table III). It was often early on the island, in comparison with usual arrival dates on the mainland. The largest daily counts were 5 on 17 May 1969 and 4 during 16-20 October 1968.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

An adult male was closely observed by AR near West Light on 18-19 September 1978. There have been about 5 sightings and a photographic record in the province.

Blue Grosbeak *Guiraca caerulea*

A female on 28 April (JB, WS) and 2 males on 5 May 1971 (WS) were part of that season's larger-than-usual flight of this species to the province. An immature bird was seen on 1 September 1978 (ELM).

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*

A bright adult male perched on a wire near West Light was well observed on 31 July 1965 (CB). An all-green finch, the size and shape of an Indigo Bunting, was reported by E. Androschuk in early September 1969. Previous Canadian records have been categorized as probable "escapes" by James et al. (1976).

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* (P; NMC, SMS)

This regular vagrant to the province occurred in most springs and occasionally in fall (Table III). A specimen in the Dwight collection taken on 18 April 1898 was earlier than any recent birds (cf. Table III).

Dickcissel *Spiza americana* (AMNH, NMC)

The first record from the province was a specimen from 12 September 1902 (Dwight 1903). In recent years it has been irregular on the island (Table III), but occurred in some numbers at times: e.g. 5 on 5 October 1967, 12 on 22 October, and 8 on 13 November 1969. Records of a female between 28 June and 1 July 1968 and a male on 24 June 1970 are later than any of the few spring records for the province. Late-fall birds on Table III frequented feeders. Two males appeared on 20-21 February 1970.

Evening Grosbeak *Hesperiphona vespertina* (P; NMC)

This species was recorded most years during migration seasons (Table III). Generally it appeared as individuals or small groups; exceptions were flocks of 65 on 4 November 1968 and 120 on 20 October 1978. About 24 birds appeared periodically at feeders in the winter of 1968-1969, when there were large flights of this and other winter finches across the continent. Otherwise only about 7 individuals were reported during 3 winters of 1967-1979.

Purple Finch *Carpodacus purpureus* (P)

The species was a regular and common spring and fall migrant (Table III). The only winter report was of a bird in female plumage on 8 January 1970.

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* (P; AMNH, SMS)

The species occurred occasionally during migration seasons (Table III), and only once (a bird on 9-14 January 1979) as a winter visitor. "Several" seen by James Bouteillier on 21 November 1903 were later than any fall migrants in Table III.

Hoary Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

A single bird was briefly but closely observed on the unusual date of 18 May 1977 (IM, HR).

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* (P; NMC, SMS)

Redpolls were irregular (Table III); only 2 substantial flocks have been reported, of 45 on 29 April 1964 and 30 on 24 April 1969. The only recent winter sightings were of 3 between 2 January and 20 February 1969, and 6 during 1-15 March 1978. Bouteillier (1905; 1908b) listed 2 winter occurrences. Most unexpected was their occurrence in summer 1968: 3 on 6 July and a single bird or birds between 12 July and 3 August (CB, IM).

Pine Siskin *Carduelis pinus* (P; AMNH, NMC)

Siskins were regular in spring, often lingering through June (Table III). Four birds appeared unseasonably during 6-12 July 1968 and 1 on 6 July 1978 (not in Table III). They were regular after mid-July, however, and unusually large flocks (total ca. 50) appeared on 19 July 1968 and in diminishing numbers until early August. Interestingly, the Bouteilliers noted it twice in early July (not in Table IV). The only winter records were 2 between 23 February and 7 March and 1 or 2 in late March 1969.

American Goldfinch *Carduelis tristis* (P; AMNH).

Goldfinches were generally scarce in spring and fall. An extraordinary exception was a flight of many flocks, estimated by DW as 2000 on the whole island, on 24 October 1971 (not in Table III); only 15 were seen next day. An individual observed between 27 June and 14 July 1968 and a pair on 5 July 1969 were unseasonable (not in Table III).

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

This species was quite rare. Two were present between 23 June and 3 July 1964, 3 on 16 August 1966, 3 between 27 June and 19 July and 4 between 15 October and 4 November 1968, 5 on 5 July and 5 during 7-26 August 1969, 7 on 21 September 1971, and 1 on 14-16 August 1975.

White-winged Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* (P)

The bird was rare in spring and scarce in fall (Table III). Like the Red Crossbill, it appeared most often in summer: 3 on 11 July 1965, 1 on 8 July 1968, 5 on 14 July 1969, 1 during 3-9 July 1976, 3 on 7 July 1977, and 3 during 3-12 July 1978 (none on Table III). These records, along with the late June and early August records (Table III) reflect a seasonal movement of the species separate from sightings otherwise only in November-December.

Green-tailed Towhee *Pipilo chlorurus* (P)

A bird on 10-12 June 1974 was the third Nova Scotian record of this vagrant (DWF; Fig 16), the second having been photographed 3 weeks earlier on Seal Island, Yarmouth Co.

Rufous-sided Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (P)

Individuals of this regular vagrant to the province occurred on 5 June 1964, 6 October 1966, and regularly during 1967-1979 (Table III). An exception to the usual occurrence of single birds were 4 on 16 May 1971 and about 20 during 6-12 October 1974.

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* (AMNH, NMC, NSMS, ROM, SMS, UM)

The Ipswich Sparrow (*P. s. princeps*; Fig 17) is of course the breeding race of this species, and has been extensively studied by Dwight (1896), Elliot (1968), and by my students and myself (see Recent Research on Birds). Between 1150 and 3300 adults have returned each year since 1967, producing late-summer populations of 3500-14000. Up to a few hundred sometimes attempt to winter. Migrants of the smaller, darker race(s) occurred in small numbers in spring and fall (Table III). One was seen on 20 January 1972 (JB). A few, mostly males, have been found mated to Ipswich Sparrows on the island. A specimen of 1 of these is of the expected race, *P. s. savanna* (Dr. W.E. Godfrey, in litt.). One banded offspring of a ♂Savannah X ♀Ipswich mating returned to the island in 1978 when 1 year old (H. Ross, in verb.).



Fig 16 The province's third (and the island's only) Green-tailed Towhee, a vagrant from the southwestern United States, was found at the Meteorological Station. (Photo: 10 June 1974, D.W. Finch.)



Fig 17 The island's most famous avian inhabitant is the Ipswich Sparrow, a large, pale race of the Savannah Sparrow. (Photo: early April 1971, I. McLaren.)

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum* (NMC)

Fragments of a bird in autumn plumage (Dr. W.E. Godfrey, in litt.) were found in spring 1972, and individuals were seen on 23 October 1973 and 20 October 1978 (both IM). The bird is a regular autumn vagrant in the province.

Henslow's Sparrow *Ammodramus henslowii*

Records of "several" on 18 May 1905 and 16 May 1906 (Bouteillier 1906; 1908a) should perhaps not be rejected entirely, in view of the island's reputation. There have been 2 recent autumn sightings elsewhere in the province.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow *Ammospiza caudacuta*

Two were seen on 9 September 1964 and single birds on 29 November 1970 and 3 June 1974. The 1964 birds were noted by CB as having brown, white-streaked backs and well-streaked breasts; the possibility of southern or inland races is suggested.

Seaside Sparrow *Ammospiza maritima*

One seen around ponds near West Light on 10 May 1970 (DW) was the first spring record of this occasional fall-winter stray to the province.

Vesper Sparrow *Poocetes gramineus* (SMS)

There have been only 4 recent reports. A number occurred on 4 May 1964 and an individual on 14-20 May 1972. Up to 50 birds during 7-14 October 1967 (CB) occurred during the season when the species is regular in coastal Nova Scotia, but not in such numbers. One was seen on 17 October 1975. The Bouteilliers reported it on occasion (Table IV), "in no." on 27 April 1903, and as late as 25 December 1903 (not in Table IV).

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (P; AMNH)

The first provincial record of this vagrant from the midwest was from Sable Island (Dwight 1903), a specimen labelled 4 September 1902, possibly the same bird listed by James Bouteillier for 6 September. "Several" were listed for 10 October 1902. In recent years there have been 1 on 3 August 1965, 1 on 29 August and another on 16 September 1969, 1 on 24 September 1970, 1 on 29 August 1977, and 1 on 8 September 1978, all from the usual season. A bird on 18 May 1970 (DW) was a first spring record from the province.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* (P; AMNH)

Most spring occurrences (Table III) were of 1 or a few individuals, but flocks of 10-30 occurred during 7 years of 1967-1979, between 2 April and 14 May. Larger counts of 20-50 were made during 6 falls, between 14 October and 1 December. About 20 appeared on 20 February 1967, 3 on 10 February 1968, 2 in early January 1969, and 1 on 30 January 1978 (none in Table III). The species was listed every year by the Bouteilliers, with first spring arrivals quite similar to those in recent years (Table IV). One on 28 June 1902 was later than any in recent years. Their fall arrivals were later than in 1967-1979. A dark-hooded male "Oregon Junco" was reported by residents of the Meteorological Station several times during the winter of 1972-1973, and another was seen on 29 September 1975 (AR). Another on 16-17 October 1975 (IM) was apparently of the "pink-sided" *mearnsi* race.

Tree Sparrow *Spizella arborea* (P)

The species was scarce in spring and fall (Table III), and was not seen in winter. Three on 18 April 1966 were as early as the earliest in recent years.

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina* (P; SMS)

The species was scarce in spring and fall (Table III), and never occurred out of season.

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla*

James Bouteillier's listing of "several" on 4 October 1902 is the earliest reference to this vagrant in the province. In recent years 9 individuals have been reported: on 21 August 1964, 2 June 1966, during 15-28 May 1966, on 24 and 29 May 1970, on 2 and 16 May 1971, 14 October 1971, and 5 September 1978.

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys* (P; AMNH)

The species is quite regular on the island, even in spring, when it is scarce on the mainland (Tables III, IV). One immature bird appeared in November 1968 and came to a feeder until 7 March 1969 (not in Table III); this was the first winter record from the province. An individual of the western race *gambelii* was observed on 25-28 May 1969 (CB et al.) and photographed in early June by D. Higgins, to confirm it adequately as this race (W.E. Godfrey, in litt.). The only other provincial *gambelii* have been seen in fall.

Golden-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia atricapilla*

An adult bird was closely observed near West Light on 9 October 1967 (CB, NB) for a first provincial record. There has been a subsequent photographic record from the mainland.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* (P; AMNH, NMC)

This species was regular and common, but generally arrived later in spring than it does on the mainland (Table III). Counts of 20-90 birds occurred during 8 springs of 1967-1979, between 27 April and 31 May. Counts of 10-100 occurred in fall between 12 September and 1 November. One bird between 25 January and 6 February 1969 was an evident winter arrival, and another on 13 March 1973 was too early for a normal migrant (not in Table III). It was reported thrice by the Bouteilliers, on arrival dates comparable with recent ones (Table IV).

Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca* (P)

Fox Sparrows were regular and at times common in spring and fall (Table III). Counts of 35-60 were made during 3 springs of 1967-1979, between 2 and 19 April. Counts of 15-50 were made in 3 falls, between 26 October and 5 November. The Bouteilliers reported it frequently, and at similar times of year (Table IV).

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni* (P; AMNH)

The bird was regular in spring, less so in fall (Table III). Counts of 5-21 birds were made during 3 springs of 1967-1979, between 26 May and 10 June. A bird during 16-26 June 1971 was injured (not in Table III). One of the 2 specimens in the Dwight collection is labelled 30 June 1894, later than any recent ones.

Swamp Sparrow *Melospiza georgiana* (P; AMNH)

The species was regular in spring, less so in fall (Table III), generally appearing later in spring than it does on the mainland. Counts of 5-13 birds were made during 5 springs of 1967-1979, between 18 May and 2 June. The only such counts in autumn were 10 on 24 October 1973 and 15 on 16 October 1975.

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia* (P; NMC, SMS)

The species was regular in small numbers in spring, and infrequent in fall (Table III). Only once did more than 8 occur: a flight of ca. 100 on 4 April 1971. They were listed only once at the turn of the century, as "numerous" on 20 March 1904, earlier than recent records. In 1977 a pair nested in the deep grass inside a fence of a house at the Meteorological Station. A nest with 4 eggs was found on 31 May; 4 fledged young were seen on 10 July, and a fledgling on 4 August was clearly from a second brood (HR et al.).

Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus* (P; AMNH)

The bird was reported infrequently in spring and irregularly in fall (Table III), perhaps because observations were seldom made on dunes remote from buildings. The only large counts were up to 150 during 3-5 November 1968 and ca. 20 on 17 October 1975. The only winter sightings were of individuals on 7 January 1964, 18 February 1966, 9 February 1969, and of 4 on 21 January 1972.

Chestnut-collared Longspur *Calcarius ornatus*

A rather wary bird in female plumage on 9 June 1977 had all field marks of this prairie species (HR). Oddly, the species has occurred several times in late spring in Atlantic Canada.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* (P; AMNH)

At times abundant on the island, it often lingered into May (Table III). Large counts were made by people ranging widely on the island in fall (e.g. 150 on 3-5 November 1968, 800 on 19 November 1970, 100 on 5 November 1973). Winter sightings (not in Table III) totalled some 1000 on the island in mid-February 1971, 200 on 20 January 1972, 60 in January 1976, and 50 through winter of 1978-1979. There were substantial gaps in sightings prior to the March birds in Table III, which are therefore taken as migrants. The Bouteilliers reported it regularly (Table IV), and James Bouteillier listed an unusual bird on 24 July 1902, which appears as a male specimen in the Dwight collection.

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ERRATA

- p. 2 Résumé français (l'auteur ne l'a vu pas avant publication).
Par. 2, dernière ligne: remplacez "d'espèces" par "des individus".
Par. 4, lignes 3-4: éliminez "sur l'île".
Par. 5, dernière ligne: éliminez "là où se trouvait le lac".
- p. 24 Vagrants. Line 11, "west" should be "east".
- p. 30 Account of species. Line 1, "325" should be "324".
- Table III Following dates or numbers should be:
Spotted Sandpiper, SPRING MIGRATION, First Seen, median - 23 May
Ruby-crowned Kinglet, FALL MIGRATION, Number of years - 11
Water Pipit, SPRING MIGRATION, Last Seen, median - 8 June
Cedar Waxwing, SPRING MIGRATION, Last Seen, latest - 29 June
Red-winged Blackbird, SPRING MIGRATION, Last Seen, latest - 24 June
Brown-headed Cowbird, SPRING MIGRATION, First Seen, median - 11 Apr.
Swamp Sparrow, FALL MIGRATION, First Seen, median - 14 Sept.
- Table IV Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Add "p" to Authentication column.