

## 2010 Spring Bird Count and Baillie Birdathon

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In spite of last year's record number of participants and consequently, dollars raised, the 2010 Bird Count totals are significantly reduced. In general; however, the enthusiasm of participants seems to be on the rise. Several groups have indicated that, while they did not register with a group name for 2010, they have given thought to participating in this form for 2011. So, for instance, we are seeing the raise of Sprague's Pipets, the Oriole Cookies and the Frey Catchers.

The total number of species seen was a respectable 158. Laphraoig Vultures walked away with the trophy again this year for most birds seen at 133. Closely behind them were Terry Sprague's group and the Dew Drops with 120 species each. Of note were the Harlequin Ducks in Point traverse harbour, which were seen by almost every birdathoner. Several groups also spotted an immature Bald Eagle. The unseasonable heat; however, meant a dearth of warblers. The warm weather also resulted in significant reduction of water in the ponds at Kayser crossroads and resulting small number of waterfowl at that location.

Several prizes were awarded at the AGM dinner: Youngest Birder – Gibson Cooke; Most enthusiastic First Time Birder - George Pearce; Most Money Raised – Terry Sprague. The Dew Drops were awarded special team hats in recognition of their continuing support of and participation in the Spring Bird Count. Draws were held for three prizes: Rosemary Smith won the PEC Festival Passes; Theresa Durning won The Bird Detective by our speaker Dr Bridget Stutchbury; Nick and Anne Chapman won Sparrows and Finches by Chris Early.

As of August 26, there were 25 registered participants for 2010 and \$11,824.75 raised.