

## BIRDS OF THE SUNRISE VALLEY, CAPE BRETON ISLAND

compiled by Fritz McEvoy

(Species total = 189)

This checklist covers a circle of app. 8 km, centered on the junction of Bay St. Lawrence Road & North Side Road, in the community of Cape North, Cape Breton. It includes all of the Sunrise Valley (Site A4 in the Victoria County chapter of “Birding Sites of Nova Scotia”), Aspy Bay (Site A3), and Cape North Mountain (Site A2).

### Checklist Legend

<b>Abn=Abundance</b>	<b>Stat = Status</b>	<b>B=Breeds?</b>	<b>YD=Yard list</b>	<b>pic=photo</b>
VC = Very common	YR = year-round resident	Y = yes	Y = yes	V = video
C = Common	WR = Winter Resident	N = no	N = no	S = still photo
Unc = Uncommon	SR = Summer Resident	? =unknown		V/S = video/ still photo
R = Rare	SM = Spring Migrant			n = none
VR = Very Rare	FM = Fall Migrant			
	WM = Winter Migrant			
	A = accidental			

√	Species	Abn	Stat	B	YD	Pic	Notes
	Red-throated Loon	Unc	WR	N	N	N	Sometimes Seen in Fall & Winter at Cabot Beach
	Common Loon	C	YR	Y	N	N	Seen at Cabot Beach Most Seasons
	Northern Gannet	Unc	SM/ FM	N	N	N	Migrant Flocks Seen from Beaches in Spring
	Double-crested Cormorant	VC	SR	Y	N	N	Breeds in North Harbour
	American Bittern	R	SR?	?	Y	N	Seen in Hayfield in Front of My House
	Great Blue Heron	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Great Egret	VR	A	N	N	V	One Sighting near Mouth of North Aspy River
	Little Blue Heron	VR	A	N	N	S	One Sighting near North Aspy River
	Glossy Ibis	VR	A	N	N	V/S	Four Seen in South Harbour in 2004
	Turkey Vulture	VR	A	N	Y	N	Rarely Seen
	Canada Goose	C	SM/F M	?	Y	V	Common Summer Resident
	Wood Duck	R	SM/F M	?	N	N	Uncommon Spring Migrant
	Green-winged Teal	Unc	SR?	?	N	N	Regular Spring Visitor
	American Black Duck	VC	YR	Y	N	V/S	Common Year Round Resident
	Mallard	VC	SR	?	N	N	Seen Mostly in Spring and Summer
	Northern Pintail	Unc	SM/ FM	?	N	N	Occasionally Seen in Spring
	Blue-winged Teal	R	SM	?	N	N	Rare Spring Migrant
	American Wigeon	R	SR	?	N	N	Occasional Seen in Spring and Summer
	Ring-necked Duck	R	R	?	N	N	Rarely Seen in the Valley
	Common Eider	R	WR	N	N	N	Seen off Cabot Landing in Winter
	Long-tailed Duck	R	WR	N	N	N	Seen off Cabot Landing in Winter
	Black Scoter	Unc	WR	N	N	N	Often Seen Offshore in Spring and Fall, occasionally in summer
	Surf Scoter	C	WR	N	N	N	Often Seen Offshore in Spring and Fall, occasionally in summer
	White-winged Scoter	C	WR	N	N	N	Often Seen Offshore in Spring and Fall, occasionally in summer
	Common Goldeneye	C	WR	?	N	N	Common Winter Resident
	Hooded Merganser	R	SM	?	N	N	Seen Rarely
	Common Merganser	C	YR	?	Y	N	Year Round Resident
	Red-breasted Merganser	C	YR	?	N	N	Year Round Resident
	Osprey	Unc	SR	Y	N	N	Summer Resident, Breeds
	Bald Eagle	C	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Year Round Resident, Breeds

√	Species	Abn	Stat	B	YD	Pic	Notes
	Northern Harrier	Unc	SR	Y	Y	N	Seen in Summer over Fields Around House
	Sharp-shinned Hawk	C	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Often Seen Around Feeders
	Northern Goshawk	R	YR	Y	Y	V/S	One Sighting
	Red-tailed Hawk	C	YR	Y	Y	S	Year Round Resident Breeds
	American Kestrel	Unc	SR	Y	Y	N	Regular Summer Visitor
	Merlin	R	SR	Y	Y	N	Summer Resident, Breeds
	Peregrine Falcon	VR	A	N	N	N	Seen Only Once
	Spruce Grouse	Unc	YR	Y	N	V/S	Seen on Highland Barrens
	Ruffed Grouse	C	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Year Round Resident
	Sora	VR	A	N	N	N	One Sighting
	American Golden-Plover	Unc	SM/ FM	N	N	N	
	Black-bellied Plover	C	SM/ FM	N	N	V/S	Common Spring and Fall Migrant
	Semipalmated Plover	C	SM/ FM	N	N	V/S	Common Spring and Fall Migrant
	Piping Plover	R	SR	Y	N	V/S	Breeds Most Years on Local Beach
	Killdeer	R	SM	?	N	N	Occasionally Seen in Migration
	Greater Yellowlegs	C	SM/ FM	?	N	V	Common Spring & Fall, Breeds in Highlands
	Lesser Yellowlegs	Unc	SM/ FM	?	N	N	Occasionally Seen with Greater Yellowlegs
	Solitary Sandpiper	Unc	FM	N	N	V/S	Seen in Local Ponds in Late Summer and Early Fall
	Willet	C	SR	Y	N	V	Breeds at South Harbour Beach
	Spotted Sandpiper	C	SR	Y	N	N	Breeds along North Aspy River and on Beaches
	Whimbrel	R	SM/ FM	N	N	N	Occasional Seen on Local Beaches
	Ruddy Turnstone	Unc	SM/ FM	N	N	V	Uncommon Spring and Fall Migrant
	Red Knot	Unc	SM/ FM	N	N	N	Uncommon Spring and Fall Migrant
	Sanderling	C	SM/ FM	N	N	V/S	Common Spring and Fall Migrant
	Semipalmated Sandpiper	C	SM/ FM	N	N	V/S	Common Spring and Fall Migrant
	Least Sandpiper	C	SM/ FM	N	N	V/S	Common Spring and Fall Migrant
	White-rumped Sandpiper	Unc	SM/ FM	N	N	V/S	Uncommon Spring & Fall Migrant

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	Pectoral Sandpiper	Unc	SM/ FM	N	N	V/S	Seen in Migration on Beaches
	Purple Sandpiper	Unc	WR	N	N	N	Seen on Occasion on Local Beaches
	Dunlin	Unc	SM/ FM	N	N	V/S	Seen on Beaches in Migration
	Short-billed Dowitcher	Unc	SM/ FM	N	N	V/S	Seen on Beaches in Migration
	Wilson's Snipe	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Regular Summer Breeder
	American Woodcock	C	SR	Y	Y	N	Regular Summer Breeder
	Bonaparte's Gull	C	YR	N	N	V/S	Seen in Most Seasons in Local Harbours
	Ring-billed Gull	VC	YR	N	Y	N	Common Gull at Beaches
	Herring Gull	VC	YR	Y	Y	N	Common Gull at Beaches,
	Iceland Gull	Unc	WR	N	N	V/S	Regular Winter Visitor
	Great Black-backed Gull	VC	VC	Y	Y	V/S	Common Gull at Beaches
	Black-legged Kittiwake	R	R	N	Y	N	One Sighting Overhead at My House
	Caspian Tern	VR	A	N	N	V/S	Two Sightings on Cabot Beach
	Common Tern	C	SR	Y	N	V/S	Seen Often in Summer at Beaches
	Arctic Tern	C	SR	Y	N	N	Seen Often in Summer at Beaches
	Dovekie	R	WR	N	N	N	Seen Most Winter at Cabot Beach
	Black Guillemot	Unc	SR	Y	N	N	Occasionally Seen in Local Harbours
	Rock Pigeon	Unc	YR	N	Y	N	Seen at Feeders on Occasion
	White-winged Dove	VR	A	N	Y	S	One Sighting at My House
	Mourning Dove	VC	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Feeder Bird
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	VR	A	N	N	V/S	One Fall Sighting
	Barred Owl	C	YR	Y	N	N	Seen on Occasion in Valley
	Boreal Owl	VR	YR?	Y	N	V/S	Breeds on Cape North Mountain
	Northern Saw-whet Owl	R	YR	Y	N	N	Breeds in the Valley
	Chimney Swift	R	SR?	?	Y	N	Occasionally Seen in Summer
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	VC	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Feeder Bird
	Belted Kingfisher	VC	YR	Y	Y	N	Seen along Local Rivers and Bays
	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	R	SR	?	Y	V/S	Occasional Summer Visitor
	Downy Woodpecker	VC	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Feeder Bird
	Hairy Woodpecker	VC	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Feeder Bird
	Northern Flicker	VC	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Resident
	Pileated Woodpecker	C	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Seen and Heard Regularly
	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Unc	SR?	?	Y	N	Occasionally Seen in Summer
	Eastern Wood-Pewee	R	?	?	N	N	Occasional Spring Visitor
	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Unc	SR	Y	N	N	Seen Migrating to Highland Areas

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	Alder Flycatcher	VC	SR	Y	N	V/S	Common Local Breeder
	Least Flycatcher	C	SR	Y	N	N	Common Local Breeder
	Eastern Phoebe	R	?	?	N	V/S	Occasional Spring Visitor
	Eastern Kingbird	Unc	SR	?	Y	V/S	Seen Regularly in Summer
	Horned Lark	Unc	FM	N	N	V	Seen on Occasion in Late Fall
	Purple Martin	VR	A	N	Y	V/S	One Sighting at My House
	Tree Swallow	VC	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Bank Swallow	C	SR	Y	Y	N	Regular Summer Feeder
	Cliff Swallow	Unc	SR?	?	Y	V/S	Seen on Occasion in Summer
	Barn Swallow	VC	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Gray Jay	Unc	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Seen on Occasion
	Blue Jay	VC	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Most Common Feeder Visitor
	American Crow	VC	YR	Y	Y	N	Common Year Round Resident
	Common Raven	C	YR	Y	Y	N	Common Year Round Resident
	Black-capped Chickadee	VC	YR	Y	Y	S	Common Feeder Bird
	Boreal Chickadee	C	YR	Y	N	V/S	Often Seen in Spruce Forests
	Red-breasted Nuthatch	C	YR	Y	Y	S	Common Year Round Breeder
	White-breasted Nuthatch	Unc	WR ?	?	Y	V/r	Occasionally Seen in Winter
	Brown Creeper	Unc	YR	Y	N	N	Seen on Occasion
	Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	YR	Y	Y	S	Common Year Round Breeder
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	VR	A	N	N	N	One Sighting near Gray's Brook
	Eastern Bluebird	R	SR?	Y	Y	V/S	Breeding Pair in 2002 Fledged 3 Chicks
	Veery	Unc	SR	Y	N	N	Seen Most Summers near North Aspy River
	Swainson's Thrush	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Regular Summer Breeder
	Bicknell's Thrush	R	SR	Y	N	N	Seen on Cape North Mountain
	Hermit Thrush	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Regular Summer Breeder
	American Robin	VC	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Grey Catbird	R	?	?	N	N	Seen Rarely
	Northern Mockingbird	VR	A	N	Y	N	One Sighting in Front of My House
	American Pipit	Unc	FM	?	N	N	Sometimes Seen on Beaches mostly in Fall
	Bohemian Waxwing	Unc	WR ?	N	Y	N	Fall and Winter Visitor, Sporadic Most Years

√	Species	Abn	Stat	B	YD	Pic	Notes
	Cedar Waxwing	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Regular Summer Breeder
	Northern Shrike	Unc	WR	Y	Y	V/S	Occasionally Seen in Winter
	European Starling	C	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Regular Summer Breeder
	Blue-headed Vireo	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Yellow-throated Vireo	VR	A	N	N	V/S	One Sighting near North Aspy River
	Philadelphia Vireo	VR	A	N	N	S	One Sighting near My House
	Red-eyed Vireo	C	SR	Y	N	N	Regular Summer Breeder
	Tennessee Warbler	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Seen Most Seasons; Common Some Years
	Nashville Warbler	R	SR	Y	N	N	Rarely Seen in Valley
	Northern Parula	Unc	SR	Y	N	V/S	Regular Summer Breeder
	Yellow Warbler	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Unc	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Regular Summer Breeder
	Magnolia Warbler	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Cape May Warbler	Unc	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Seen Most Years
	Black-throated Blue Warbler	R	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Seen Occasionally
	Yellow-rumped Warbler	VC	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Most Common Warbler, Summer Breeder
	Black-throated Green Warbler	C	SR	Y	Y	S	Regular Summer Visitor
	Blackburnian Warbler	Unc	SR	Y	Y	S	Regular Summer Visitor
	Pine Warbler	R	FM	N	Y	V/N	Occasional Fall Stray
	Palm Warbler	C	SM	N	Y	V/S	Early Spring or Fall Migrant, Seen Most Years
	Bay-breasted Warbler	Unc	SR	Y	N	N	Regular Summer Breeder
	Blackpoll Warbler	Unc	SM	?	Y	V/S	Regular Spring Migrant, Seen Most Years
	Black & White Warbler	VC	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	American Redstart	VC	SR	Y	Y	S	Common Summer Breeder
	Ovenbird	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Northern Waterthrush	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Breeds along North Aspy River
	Mourning Warbler	C	SR	Y	N	V/S	Regular Summer Breeder
	Common Yellowthroat	C	SR	Y	N	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Wilson's Warbler	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Canada Warbler	R	SR?	?	N	N	Rarely Seen
	Scarlet Tanager	VR	A	N	Y	V/S	Seen Once Other Reported Sightings
	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Unc	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Blue Grosbeak	R	FM	N	Y	V/S	Seen Rarely Four Here Together in Fall of 2002
	Indigo Bunting	Unc	SM/ FM	N	Y	V/S	Seen Most Spring or Fall

√	Species	Abn	Stat	B	YD	Pic	Notes
	Dickcissel	R	FM	N	Y	V/S	Seen Most Falls
	American Tree Sparrow	Unc	FM	N	Y	V/S	Common Early Spring/late Fall Migrant
	Chipping Sparrow	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Visitor
	Lark Sparrow	R	A	N	Y	V/S	Occasional Spring or Fall Migrant
	Savannah Sparrow	VC	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Visitor
	“Ipswich’ Savannah Sparrow	R	A	N	Y	V/S	One Sighting
	Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow	Unc	SR	Y	N	V/S	Breeds along North Aspy River
	Fox Sparrow	Unc	SM/ FM	?	Y	V/S	Common Spring & Fall Migrant
	Song Sparrow	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Lincoln’s Sparrow	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Swamp Sparrow	Unc	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Regular Summer Breeder
	White-throated Sparrow	VC	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Spring, Summer Fall Bird
	White-crowned Sparrow	Unc	SM FM	?	Y	V/S	Seen at Feeders in Spring & Fall
	Dark-eyed Junco	VC	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Year Round Feeder Bird
	Lapland Longspur	R	FM	N	N	V/S	Seen Once at Cabot Landing Beach
	Snow Bunting	Unc	FM	N	Y	V/S	Can Be Seen in Late Fall at Cabot Landing Beach
	Bobolink	Unc	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Breeds in Hayfields near North Aspy River
	Red-winged Blackbird	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Rusty Blackbird	Unc	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Usually Seen in Spring & Fall
	Common Grackle	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Summer Breeder
	Brown-headed Cowbird	C	SR	Y	Y	V/S	Usually Seen with Grackles & Blackbirds
	Baltimore Oriole	Unc	SM FM	N	Y	V/S	Visits Feeders in Spring & Fall
	Pine Grosbeak	Unc	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Sporadically Seen on Bird Walks
	Purple Finch	VC	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Year Round Feeder Bird
	Red Crossbill	R	WM	?	N	N	Rare Winter Visitor
	White-winged Crossbill	Unc	WR	?	Y	V/S	Seen in Winters with Heavy Cone Crops
	Common Redpoll	Unc	WM	N	Y	V/S	Seen Most Winters in Various Numbers
	Pine Siskin	C	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Feeder Visitor
	American Goldfinch	VC	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Feeder Visitor
	Evening Grosbeak	C	YR	Y	Y	V/S	Common Feeder Visitor
	House Sparrow	Unc	?	?	Y	V/S	Occasional Feeder Visitor