

Statistics for the Birds

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There is considerable interest in how bird populations are changing as a result of environmental changes. In Nova Scotia, we have citizen data available from a number of sources including two breeding bird atlases, ebird data, breeding bird surveys and Christmas counts. I will focus initially on what's been done with the Atlas data to assess abundance and change for many species. I will then look at the statistical issues involved in using ebird data to assess trends and indicate some possible approaches that could be used to answer important questions especially about species at risk in Nova Scotia. In preparing this talk I have benefitted from discussions and help from Phil Taylor at Acadia and Cindy Staicer at Dal.