



The current number of the New Brunswick Naturalist deals with general nature observations during October and November, but the next one will be devoted entirely to this year's Christmas Bird Counts. Other reports from the winter months should be sent by March 15 for preparation of the March issue.

Parlez-vous français? Ce serait possible de publier une édition française du New Brunswick Naturalist, s'il y avait assez d'abonnés francophones pour valoir la peine. Peut-être que quarante serait suffisants. Maintenant, nous en avons deux cents dont seulement huit sont francophones. Pourriez-vous suggérer des connaissances qui seraient des abonnés en perspectives à une édition française?

MAMMALS

Rudy Stoeck reports seeing a Water Shrew in the U.N.B. Woodlot, Fredericton, in October. This species is apparently widespread but quite rare here. A large, gray shrew, it is distinguished from our other large shrew, the Short-tailed, by its very long tail.

Peter Pearce, who was on Grand Manan Oct. 2-9, reports that he and Ken Edwards saw a "large bat, that appeared to have light yellowish 'wing patches'" at Castalia. This must have been a Hoary Bat, the only New Brunswick species with conspicuous markings. It has a broad, yellowish-white band on the lower side of each forearm, as well as a throat patch of the same colour. This is the fourth provincial record.

Kermode Parr received a call in November commenting on the absence of Gray Squirrels in a garden at Fredericton where they were usually seen regularly. He felt too that he had been seeing fewer this fall, about one a week. Perhaps this is just a local phenomenon but it is also possible that the species has declined after a peak in its population cycle. Reports last winter in areas where the species does not occur normally (Rothesay and Sackville) may have been indications of dispersal due to a high population level then.

Mouse numbers in Albert County are continuing high. On Oct. 6, at Matthews Head, in Fundy Park, about 50 Meadow Voles were seen and many others heard, as they scurried away in the grass (David Christie and Dr. & Mrs. H. Majka). Mice were also abundant in brushy woods at Gondola Point where two Saw-whet Owls were seen Nov. 19-28 (Wilson).

Wayne Pearce found a small Blackfish (Pilot Whale) stranded on the beach at Red Head Oct. 27. It was only 9½ ft. long, adult length being about 14 to 28 feet. The skull was taken for the Museum's collection. This seems to be the farthest up the Bay that this species has ever been found.

BIRDS

Inland reports of Red-throated Loons were 1 on Mamramcook Lake (Reid McManus) and 1 on the McLaughlin Road Reservoir, Moncton (Doug Whitman), both on Nov. 15. Several coastal reports suggest that Nov. 8-20 may have been the peak of this species' migration.

There have been reports of birds seen on four crossings of the Grand Manan Channel, namely Oct. 2 & 9 by Peter Pearce and Oct. 14 & 16 by Willa MacCoubrey and Nettie Moore. The more or less pelagic species reported were Greater Shearwater (60 on the 2nd, 40 on the 9th, 15-20 on the 14th), Sooty Shearwater (3 on the 2nd, 1 on the 9th), Gannet (1 on the 9th, 8 on the 14th & 16th), Red Phalarope (100 on the 2nd, 200 on the 9th), Northern Phalarope (several on the 2nd & 9th), Black-legged Kittiwake (20 on the 2nd, 50 on the 9th, 3 on the 16th). Pearce also saw 400 Red Phalaropes, 100 Northerns and 500 Kittiwakes off Northern Head, G.M. Oct. 8. Dr. C. E. Huntington saw a jaeger: (unidentified species) in the Channel Oct. 16 (*vide* Moore).

Miss Moore and Miss MacCoubrey also reported 2 Cory's Shearwaters on Oct. 14, on the basis of the blended head pattern and absence of white rump patch, features mentioned by the field guides. However, recent information indicates that those two points alone are not sufficient to distinguish Cory's and Greater Shearwaters and that the large, yellowish bill, pure white lower belly, and manner of flight are better field marks. No New Brunswick observations have been based on the latter characteristics.

There were a number of reports of Double-crested Cormorants on Nov. 11 (Deer Island, Cocagne, & Riordan). Later were 1 at Pt. Lepreau Nov. 26 (Dr. Majka) and 3 at Dalhousie Nov. 30 (Jean-Paul Label). Last ones inland were 2 at Grand Pt., Grand Lake, Oct. 29 (Moore) and 1 at Lower Jemseg Oct. 31 (Parr).

Late reports of Great Blue Herons were Nov. 10 at Little Dipper Harbour (1, Ed Spencer), Nov. 13 at Bathurst (3, Pearce), Nov. 15 at Moncton (2, Whitman), Nov. 16 at Eel River Bar (Label). Still later and possibly ones that will linger into early winter were 2 at Cape Enrage Nov. 22 (Majkas *et al.*), 1 at Pt. Lepreau Nov. 26 (Majkas *et al.*), and 1 at Little Lepreau Nov. 29 (Jim Wilson). A Green Heron was seen at Castalia Oct. 5 (Pearce).

Eight very tame Mallards in the river at Fredericton apparently had escaped from captivity in Odell Park. Seen from Oct. 10 till at least Nov. 29 (Pearce & Parr), they would accept handouts from passersby. Other Mallards reported were wild, at least in behaviour, though their numbers are partly the result of escapes and stocking. Some concentrations of waterfowl were 800 Canada Geese and 1500 Black Ducks at Bathurst Nov. 9-13 (Pearce), up to 80 Greater Scaup at Dalhousie until at least Nov. 30 (Label), 100 Common Goldeneyes at Fredericton Nov. 28 (Parr), 400-500 Oldsquaw at Bathurst Nov. 9 (Pearce), 200 White-winged Scoters at Letote Nov. 11 & 27 (Christie *et al.*), 17 Hooded Mergansers at Eel River Bar Nov. 10 (Pearce) and 33 Red-breasted Mergansers at Cocagne Nov. 11 (Whitman). A flock of 200 Common Eider, all adult males, were seen flying from Northumberland Strait towards the Bay of Fundy, near Dorchester Oct. 2 (Christie and Majkas). A flock of about 150 ducks, too far away to be identified, several minutes earlier at Lakeburn may also have been eider.

Four Blue-winged Teal at Hammond River Oct. 24 (Wilson) were the latest of that species. Oldsquaw arrived in Restigouche County Oct. 16 (Label) and the first Bufflehead were Oct. 11 at Eel River Bar where this species is "very rare" (Label).

Three of the rarer species of ducks were reported as follows, Barrow's Goldeneye: 4 on Oct. 24, 6 on Nov. 14 and 3 Nov. 15 at Fredericton (Pearce, Parr); Harlequin Duck: 2 males on Nov. 22 and a different male Nov. 29 at Pt. Lepreau (Wilson & Cecil Johnston); Ruddy Duck: 6 to 7 to 3 at Castalia Oct. 7-15 (Pearce, MacCoubrey & Moore), at Saint John West Oct. 12 - Nov. 1, with 20 on Oct. 25 (Johnston & Wilson), and also seen at Fredericton in October (*vide* Parr) but we don't have the details.

Peter Pearce observed a migration of hawks at Southwest Head, G.M., on Oct. 7. He reports several each of Goshawk, Pigeon Hawk and Sparrow Hawk, 15 Sharp-shins, and 3 of the rare Cooper's Hawk. Rough-legged Hawks arrived at the end of October, the first report of 1 at Memramcook Oct. 31 (McManus), being followed by 3 on the Tentramar Marshes (Al Smith) and 3 on the Shepody Marshes (Christie & Majkas) the next day, and by 1 at Salisbury Nov. 3 (Ford Alward). It may be a good winter for them.

Our first records of Peregrine Falcons, since March 1, are as follows: 1 at Hammond River Sep. 26 (Wilson), immature at Saint John West Oct. 1 (Johnston), 1 at Castalia Oct. 3-5 (Pearce) and an adult at Grand Point Oct. 6 (Moore). Three days after the completion of the last issue containing a summary of reports of the two other (most) endangered birds of prey, the Bald Eagle* and Osprey, we received from Henrik Deichmann a full list of his observations. In total, there were 5 more eagle reports, giving one new area and at least 2 more birds, and 15 more Osprey reports, giving 5 new areas and at least 5 more birds. Most interesting was an adult Bald Eagle seen at Nictor Lake on Aug. 5 by Bill Hooper, a provincial fishery biologist. Also that day he saw what may have been the same bird at Nepisiguit Lake. It is our first report from northern New Brunswick this year. Also interesting was an Osprey that was seen carrying a stick at Sheffield July 30 (Deichmann), a rather late date (?) for nest repair. An encouraging word comes from Murray Watters, at Porth-Andover, where he says there were more Ospreys than usual this fall. He also has seen more Sparrow Hawks.

Jim Wilson was highly successful in seeing rails at Hammond River in October. He reports a Virginia Rail on the 2nd and Soras on three days, including 4 on the 3rd. A Common Gallinule was at Long Pond, G.M., Oct. 5 (Pearce) and 15 (MacCoubrey & Moore).

A few more reports have come in of this year's good flight of Am. Golden Plover. There were 17 at Cocagne Aug. 29, 1 at Mary's Point Sep. 19, 1 at Lopreau Oct. 3 (all by Dr. & Mrs. Dennis Wilcox), 3 at Castalia Oct. 3-6, 1 there on the 7th (Pearce), and 5 at Red Head Oct. 12 (Johnston).

One Stilt Sandpiper was at Castalia Oct. 6 & 8 (Pearce). At Pt. Lopreau Oct. 25 Wilson and Johnston observed an Am. Woodcock fly in over the water from the direction of Grand Manan.

Many other reports of shorebirds have been received of which we shall list the latest for each species: Semipalmated Plover - Nov. 11, 1 at Newcastle & 3 at Lamouche (Pearce); Killdeer - Nov. 13, 1 at Dalhousie (Lobel); Black-bellied Plover - Nov. 13, at Eel River Bar (Lobel) and 2 at Bathurst (Pearce); Ruddy Turnstone - Nov. 16, 1 at Eel River Bar (Lobel); Am. Woodcock - Nov. 14, 1 at Musquash (Arthur Callaghan); Common Snipe - Nov. 29, 1 at Saint John West (Wilson); Whimbrel - Oct. 7, 1 at East Saint John (Johnston & Wilson); Spotted Sandpiper - Oct. 18, 3 at New Horton, Alb. Co. (Christie & Hajkas); Solitary Sandpiper - Oct. 11, 1 on Old Shepody Road, Kings Co. (Whitman); Greater Yellowlegs - Nov. 22, 1 at Daniel's Marsh, Alb. Co. (Hajkas et al.); Lesser Yellowlegs - Oct. 25 at Little Dipper Harbour (Johnston & Wilson); Knot - Oct. 7, 2 at Castalia (Pearce); Pectoral Sandpiper - Nov. 13, 7 at Newcastle (Pearce); White-rumped Sandpiper - Nov. 16, at Eel River Bar (Lobel); Least Sandpiper - Oct. 7, 1 at Long Pond, G.M. (Pearce); Dunlin - Nov. 23, 2 at Eel River Bar (Lobel); Short-billed Dowitcher - Oct. 18, 12 at Cocagne (Wilcoxes); Semipalmated Sandpiper - Nov. 11, 1 at Shippegan (Pearce); Sanderling - Nov. 21, 1 in Restigouche Co. (Lobel). The preponderance of November reports shows well the long-drawn-out nature of fall shorebird migration, which has its beginning before the middle of July.

The area around Deer Island, Campobello, and Eastport, Maine, is a great spot for concentrations of phalaropes, gulls and terns, at various times of year. We have some observations made at Deer Island Point on Oct. 25 (Johnston & Wilson), Nov. 8 (Johnstons), Nov. 11 (Christie, Hajkas & Eric Tull) and Nov. 27 (Hajkas & Christie). They are mainly of gulls, although a few unidentified terns were seen Oct. 25. Numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were 2000 Oct. 25, 300 Nov. 8, 20 Nov. 11 and 150+ Nov. 27. Black-legged Kittiwakes were 1 on Nov. 8, 2000 Nov. 11, and 500+ Nov. 27. On the 27th there were also 500+ Herring Gulls and 50+ Great Black-backs, the total number of gulls, many of which were too far away to be identified, being about 5000. Most interesting

* - Incidentally, the figures in the last issue for eagles during the breeding season should have been 7 reports, 6 areas and 7 birds, not 6, 5 and 6.

report is of an adult Little Gull, in winter plumage, on Oct. 25. Jim Wilson and Cecil Johnston saw it at close range, associating with the Bonaparte's. It is the first definite record for the province, although W.H. Moore (1928) stated that Alan Moses had seen this European species twice at Grand Manan. Another report, from Bill Townsend observing from the Eastport side, lists 3500 Kittiwakes and 300 Bonaparte's Gulls Nov. 26.

The first Iceland Gull reported was one in the Grand Manan Channel Oct. 16 (MacCoubrey & Moore) and the first Glaucous, one at Shippegan Nov. 11 (Pearce). Two adult Black-headed Gulls were seen at Fredericton Nov. 30 (Pearce). One there last year was our first record at an inland locality.

High winds the nights of Nov. 20-21 and 21-22 blew some Dovekies ashore. Two were seen on the McLaughlin Road reservoir at Moncton Nov. 21 (Moncton Naturalists' Club). One was at Dipper Harbour and another at Pt. Lepreau on the 22nd (Wilson & Johnston). One, stranded somewhere in Saint John that weekend was reported to the museum by an unknown caller. Another was apparently found near McAdam. On Nov. 27, 36 of these tiny alcid were seen at Deer Island Point (Majkas & Christie).

Amongst a few reports of Mourning Doves is a flock of 57 at Saint John West Oct. 23 (Johnston). It had diminished to 35 on Nov. 15 and to 15 on the 26th. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen at Little Lepreau Oct. 9 (Mary Ross & Joyce Golden). Late Belted Kingfishers were one at St. Andrews Nov. 12 (MacCoubrey) and one at Perth-Andover Nov. 15 (Watters).

At Northern Head, Grand Manan, on October 6, Peter Pearce noted many migrant landbirds. He reported 5 Mourning Doves, 5 Yellow-shafted Flickers, 1 Mockingbird, 1 Solitary Vireo, 1 Red-eyed Vireo, hundreds of Myrtle Warblers, 1 Chestnut-sided, 20 Palms, and hundreds of Chipping Sparrows. Northern Head, at "The Whistle", is a spot where landbirds often gather in fall. Sometimes many may be seen taking off northwards towards the mainland.

A larger number of Flickers were seen Oct. 13, when Miss Marion Bristol had 200 in her yard at North Head (fide Moore). An adult Red-headed Woodpecker was at St. Andrews Nov. 8-11 (MacCoubrey). One, the same?, was seen there Nov. 27 (Townsend & John Rigby). A late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at St. Martins Nov. 18 (Frances Bradshaw) and a Pileated Woodpecker was seen at Browns Flat the same day (Charles Bolyes).

Late swallows were a Barn at Apohaqui Oct. 2 (Christie) and a Tree at Castalia Oct. 4 (Pearce). The last flycatcher was an E. Phoebe at Southwest Head Oct. 7 (Pearce).

Following close on the heels of the Gray Jay at Machias Seal in August, we have a report from Peter Pearce of one at Grand Manan, on the road to "The Whistle" Oct. 6, a new species for the island.

Two Mockingbirds continued to be seen in Saint John West (Johnstons, Bruce Bosence). One appeared back at Riverview Oct. 6 (Whitman), the third year in a row one has been there. Others were one at Hopewell Hill, Albert Co., Nov. 2 (Alward) and one at Maces Bay Nov. 8 (Johnston). A pair of E. Bluebirds were seen at Dennis Beach, Albert Co., on Oct. 10 (Wilcoxes).

Migrant Water Pipits, during the peak of their movement in October were 15 at Castalia Oct. 3-8 (Pearce), 60 at New Horton Oct. 11 (Leo Martin), 7 at Red Head Oct. 12 (Johnston), 9 at Long Pond, G.M. Oct. 14-15 (Moore & MacCoubrey), and several at Perth-Andover Oct. 17-18 (Watters).

A rather early immature Northern Shrike was seen at Eel River Bar Oct. 11 (Lebel). The next ones were also single immatures, at Westfield Nov. 1 (Wilson) and Moncton Nov. 15 (Whitman).

The most interesting warbler report is of a Pine Warbler at Hopewell Rocks Nov.22 (Tim Davis, Tull, Christie & Majkas). This species is not often recorded in the province. Interestingly, it was a very yellow individual, evidently an adult male, whereas we expect most fall vagrants to be immature birds which tend to wander more widely than adults. Another fall wanderer was the Yellow-breasted Chat, one being seen at Matthews Head, Fundy Park, Oct. 6 (Dr. Majka) and another at Red Head Nov.25 (Jene Stewart). Also, John Dudley, of Calais, saw 5 chats on Grand Manan about Oct. 1 (vide Townsend).

A number of Myrtle Warblers were still about in November: 3 at Riverview Nov. 8 (Whitman), 4 at Shediac Nov.10 (Martin), 2 at Alma Nov.22 (Christie et al.) and 1 at Gondola Pt. Nov.28 (Wilson). Other November warblers were a Black-throated Green at Deer Island Pt. Nov.11 (Johnston), a Palm at Saint John West Nov. 1 (Johnston), and a Yellowthroat there Nov. 4 (Jan Dexter).

Murray Watters reports a huge flock of Common Grackles that roosted in a dense woodlot at Perth-Andover the night of Oct.21-22. Arriving home at 6:05 p.m., he noticed their noise and saw the birds "fold their wings several hundred feet in the air and spiral down to the woods." He writes further, "A string of grackles stretched out down the river as far as I could see.... You should have seen it! The din was terrific, a solid wall of noise! I could see a steady stream coming from the horizon. Across the river to the west, they were heading on a southerly course along the river, at a great height, and then the flock line would turn, about a mile down river and head back to the strip of woods where they were landing. There must have been several thousand in the flock. The flight ended at 6:20 but how long they were coming before I saw them I do not know." The next morning they were gone by 8:15.

There were 3 Dickcissels at Northern Head Oct. 7 (Pearce), 1 at Waterside Oct.10 (Wilcoxon), 1 at St. Andrews Oct. 22 & 25 (MacCoubrey), 1 at Saint John West Nov.10 (Dexter) and 1 at Albert from Nov.22 on (Alward). Only two Rufous-sided Towhees were reported as compared to 20 in October and November 1969. They were seen in different parts of Saint John West on Nov. 7 (Gerald Spencer) and Nov.12 (Joan McKay). The highlight among the fringillidae is a Lark Bunting discovered by Cecil Johnston at Saint John West Nov. 1. It was thought at first to have disappeared, but was rediscovered and seen by Johnston and others Nov. 15-27.

Twelve Common Redpolls were at Memramcook Nov. 1 (McManus & Whitman) and the first at Dalhousie was seen on the 14th (Lobel). Nothing yet suggests a big flight of them this year. Am. Goldfinches seemed more common in November. About 300 Evening Grosbeaks were seen at Caledonia Mountain Oct.11 (Chris Majka), migration time for them. The first Snow Bunting was found Oct.11 at Pt. Lepreau by Cecil Johnston. On Oct.27 he saw 50 at Saint John West and on the 30th Miss MacCoubrey had 30 at St. Andrews. The first Lapland Longspurs were 5 at Castalia Oct.15 (MacCoubrey & Moore).

INVERTEBRATES

The migration of Monarch butterflies mentioned in our last issue continued into October, as an unusually heavy flight for New Brunswick. John Holman writing from New River Beach Oct.13 says, "During the past two weeks, I must have seen at least a couple of dozen heading southwestward in short flights. While they may stop occasionally to feed or rest, they move on in a short time, always in the same direction." At Little Dipper Harbour, Gilbert Hoar reported several during the first two weeks of October. Also there, Ed Spencer noticed "great numbers", sometimes as many as 25 at once, mostly in late September and early October. During this same period we have reports elsewhere along the Bay of Fundy of 8 at St. Andrews Oct. 6 and, in Albert County, of 8 to 10 at Matthews Head and 1 at the mouth of the Upper Salmon River also on Oct. 6 (Christie & Majkas) and 4 at New Horton, 1 at Waterside and 2 at Fundy Park Oct.12 (C. Majka et al.) Mr. Spencer reports that he has noticed Monarch migration in other years but that there were more this fall than previously. Maine, too, had "an unusually fine flight... especially in coastal locations." (Maine Nature, Sep.1970).

At Matthews Head Oct. 6 six large dragonflies also appeared to be migrating (Christie), but they were too fast to be caught and identified. A few other butterflies were common in early October. At Matthews Head Oct. 6, were 50 Am. Painted Ladies, 30 Cabbage Butterflies, 20 Common Sulfurs, and 4 alfalfa Butterflies (Christie & Majka) while on the 12th there were 35 Alfalfas at New Horton and 5 at Waterside and 10 Am. Painted Ladies at New Horton and 1 at Waterside (C. Majka et al.). A late American Painted Lady was seen at Albert Nov. 1 (Christie & C. Majka) and a late, very worn, Atlantis Fritillary was captured at the mouth of the Upper Salmon River Oct. 6 (Christie).

A recent article in Maine Nature (Oct. 1970) by Bill Townsend reports a population explosion of Sea Urchins in eastern Maine, causing the destruction of many kelp beds in shallow waters. Apparently the increase began about 1952 when sea urchins in lobster traps were "fairly rare". This year, in Frenchman's Bay, Mr. Townsend found many traps containing 250 to 400 each. The same no doubt applies to some degree to Passamaquoddy Bay in New Brunswick. Certainly, sea urchins were extremely abundant at Deer Island Point Nov. 11 (Majka, Christie & Tull). At extreme low tide there, a fascinating variety of molluscs, echinoderms, worms and other marine life was found.

LATE NEWS

A number of reports were received a little too late for use in their normal place in this number, but a few of their highlights should be mentioned.

Firstly, among reports of Hildeire Chiasson is a Hawk Owl at Lamoque Nov. 10. Unfortunately the bird had been killed. It was not seen by Mr. Chiasson but was identified by some children from pictures shown them. A couple of feathers sent to the museum confirm their identification.

Alan Maddon reports what is apparently a new mammal species for New Brunswick: a White-backed Dolphin. He found one dead at Dickies Cove, Jacquet River, on July 23. Two days later he saw 2 live ones at the same place and on Sep. 24 he saw a dolphin, which may have been this species, at Bon Ami Rocks, Dalhousie. He has furnished an excellent photograph of the stranded individual. Generally, the whole group of whales and dolphins are very poorly known in New Brunswick waters, and much of the rest of the world too. An interesting bird reported by him is a Leach's Petrel that was found dead on the Restigouche River by John Nichol August 7. This little seabird must have been carried to land by a storm.

Mrs. L. A. Turnbull of Hardings Pt., Kings County, has suggested an area where she suspects that the Bald Eagles seen around Westfield have their nest. She also reports that her Siamese cat caught a Smooth Green Snake late in November.

Beverley Schneider reports a Northern Three-toed Woodpecker at Kingsley, York Co., on October 31.

WOODCOCK & DDT

Cancellation of the 1970 Woodcock hunting season, only a few days before it was to begin, was the result of a Canadian Wildlife Service study on DDT residues. The average level of DDT and its metabolites in total body fats, in New Brunswick, was 56 parts per million, with a range from 2 to 773 ppm. (National Health & Welfare allows a 7 ppm maximum level for human food.) These figures are a result of the spruce budworm control program which for years was using DDT. DDT residues attach to soil particles which are ingested by earthworms, the main food of the Woodcock. A small sample of Woodcock in Maine had an average of 5.82 and a range of 2.44 - 26.95 ppm, while a New Hampshire sample averaged 5.7 with a maximum of 24 ppm. All these figures are a cause for concern.