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a newsletter of New Brunswick natural history

Here, at last, is our June-July number. The September issue should not be far behind.

Many readers may note the absence of D. Kermodé Parr's name amongst these and future reports. Mr. Parr, ill since spring, passed away early in October. His "Mixed Cargo" column in the Fredericton newspaper did much to draw New Brunswickers' attention to the many interesting aspects of nature about them. Another contributor of information to the New Brunswick Naturalist, Eldon Fletcher died suddenly about the same time. He was very active as a member of the executive of the Saint John Naturalists' Club.

MAMMALS

The only unusual mammal reported is the rare Silver-haired Bat. Jim Wilson passed on the observation of Mrs. McIntyre of Hampton who captured and released a large bat in her home June 21. It was black in colour with a 12 inch wingspread and she identified it as this species from the illustrations in A Field Guide to the Mammals. There are few records of it in New Brunswick.

Alan Madden has sent in notes on the relative abundance of Restigouche County mammals. We will share a few that should be of interest. He reports that many adult White-tailed Deer have been seen this year but very few fawns compared to most years. Moose seem to be on the increase. Varying (Snowshoe) Hare are abundant in the Benjamin River area and common elsewhere. In one locality this summer he counted 60 of them in a half hour at dusk. Porcupines are uncommon. He has seen only one in the last year and a half. This is a far cry from their abundance in southern areas of the province. The important difference is the presence of Fishers, the only regular predator of Porcupines, aside from man. The Fisher is "not uncommon" there now but is rare in central parts of the province and virtually non-existent in the south. A few years ago the Fish & Wildlife Branch released some in Albert County in hopes of providing some control of Porcupines. In Restigouche County, a hundred Porcupine carcasses were found in an abandoned camp where they had been dragged by Fishers! Another rare mammal in southern areas, the Marten, is reported by Madden as more common than the Fisher in Restigouche County. The Lynx is still reported from time to time, but is rare, whereas the Bobcat is common as it is in much of the province. Raccoons are uncommon there, but Striped Skunks are common to abundant in the Campbellton - Dalhousie area.

BIRDS

Father Jean-Paul Lebel has reported many "firsts" for northern New Brunswick and a recent one is the first nesting of Pied-billed Grebes. At Eel River Crossing, he noted nest construction beginning May 7. Two eggs were in the nest May 21 and an adult was always on it each time he checked from May 23 to June 9. June 20 he observed three young just outside the nest with one of the parents. The birds apparently had trouble with changing water levels that sometimes threatened to flood the nest, which is somewhat surprising since they normally have a floating nest that would rise with the water. Perhaps the vegetation to which it was

attached, prevented it from moving. Later, on August 8-9 there were 7 young with 2 adults. As these young were estimated to be only 2 to 3 weeks old there must have been a second nesting or another pair.

The summer produced some interesting records of pelagic birds, especially shearwaters, in the Bay of Fundy but we will save them till the next issue to treat them in conjunction with the August and September reports.

The first northern N.B. Green Heron records were in May at Eel River Crossing. Now, several more have been reported. One wonders whether Green Herons are especially common this year or whether it is just a coincidence that observers noticed them in a number of northern areas. They were seen again at Eel River Crossing, 1 on June 8 and 2 July 29 (Lebel). Fred Tribe (vide Watters) saw one about the middle of July at Andover while Stephen Homer and Richard Poulin, during a Canadian Wildlife Service survey by canoe on the upper Saint John River, saw 2 between Clair and Prime July 20 and 4 between Salmon River and Beechwood July 22. At Red Head Marsh, always a good area, Wilson saw 5 of these small herons July 1. Other southern N.B. reports came from St. Andrews, Grand Bay, Memramcook Lake, between Keswick and Fredericton, and between Jemseg and Cak Point.

Murray Watters saw his first Common Egret flying down the Tobique at Arthurette July 20 and Mrs. Carl Small reports that there were eventually two Snowy Egrets at White Head Island during the spring. They were seen till May 22. Hilaire Chiesson discovered a new Black-crowned Night Heron colony at Inkerman, Gloucester County. On June 4 he estimated that there were about 200 nests. Of five examined, some contained 5 eggs, others 5 young. Very likely this is the present location of the colony of about 100 birds that J.W. Banks reported near Tracadie in 1889.

In Fundy National Park, a Brant was caught by visitors at Herring Cove July 17 (vide Mary Majka). The bird, apparently flightless because of moult, was later released at Waterside Marsh.

Greater Scaup spent the summer at Dalhousie (Lebel). Nine (males) were seen June 25, and 15 (only 2 or 3 females) July 21. At Kouchibouguac Beach there were 4 males on July 3 (Christie & Chris Majka). All three species of scoters were also reported during the summer along the coast. Included were 44 Common Scoters seen at Macas Bay July 11 by Davis Finch, Dennis Abbott and Marc Bouchard. Common Eiders nest or spend the summer at most places along the coast. 1000 were in the Macas Bay - Welch Cove area July 11-12 (Finch et al.) and 300, mostly males gathered to moult, at Waterside June 29 (Dr. M.F. Majka). A surprising inland report (we have few such records on file) is of 2 at Florenceville July 9 (Homer & Eulin).

A Cooper's Hawk was reported May 18 at Mountain Brook, Restigouche County (Madden). At the same locality 3 Red-shouldered Hawks were seen June 16 (Lebel). Other Red-shoulders were 2 at Hammond River June 20 and 1 at Milledgeville, Saint John, July 3 (both by Wilson). A Rough-legged Hawk, a winter species occasionally seen in summer here, was noted June 22 at Harvey, Albert County (Christie, Majka & David Galinat).

An Am. Coot, seldom if ever reported in northern N.B., was seen on a beaver pond at Dawsonville June 4 (Maddens) and 8th (Christie).

Semipalmated Plovers nested on the gravelly beach at Waterside again this year, apparently 2 pairs. Dr. Majka saw 3 to 4 adults and a running, flightless young on June 27 and 29. The Piping Plover is a nesting species of sand beaches along Northumberland Strait and the Gulf of St. Lawrence wherever there isn't too much human disturbance. On the main sandbar in Kouchibouguac National Park, Canadian Wildlife Service staff saw 7 adults and found a nest with eggs June 22 (vide Peter Pearce). Another nest was found there July 3 (Mary Majka et al.) when 5 adults and a running young were also seen.

This year the Upland Plovers have been found to breed at Salisbury as we suspected. No nest was found but young birds seen prove that there must have been at least two nests. On June 19, a downy young two or three days old was found (Eric Tull & Christie) and on the 22nd a young bird already able to fly poorly was seen (Mary Majka & Galinat). On the 19th there were at least 18 "adult" birds but the flocking and unwary behaviour of 6 of them suggested they were not nesting. Possibly they were year old birds not yet ready to breed. David Finch felt that 18 was a conservative estimate of the number there July 10. These records represent the first proven breeding of Upland Plovers in the Maritimes. Observers wishing to see the birds next year should check the fields at the junction of routes 2 and 112 near Salisbury.

There was the customary very brief period between the end of spring shorebird migration and the appearance of the first southbound migrants. Only the period June 17 to July 7 is devoid of records of transient species. Some individuals perhaps spend the summer here, never reaching their northern breeding grounds. The two Knots at a tern colony near St-Louis Cape June 16 (*vide* Pearce) may have been in this category. A Willet June 13 at Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John West (Cecil Johnston) was not seen later, but we do not know about the one at Cormierville June 20 (Dr. & Mrs. Dennis Willcox). It might have been a nesting bird. A surprising flock of 2000 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Mary's Point, Albert Co., June 13 (Christie, Mary & Chris Majka, Valorie Somochuk) was accompanied by a Western Sandpiper in easily identifiable breeding plumage, the first spring record for the province and the most satisfactory record to date. All other reports of it here have been in fall when identification is difficult. A second Wilson's Phalarope this spring was a female at Saints Rest Marsh June 10 (Johnston).

A lingering, immature Glaucous Gull was at Cape Enrage June 22 (Galinat & Mary Majka) and another was seen on the Saint John Breeding Bird Survey route June 11 (Christie). Ring-billed Gulls were seen in many coastal areas and in the Kennebecasis and Upper Saint John valleys. Most of them would be non-breeding individuals, but as this species has been nesting at Bathurst for a few years, observers should keep watch for new colonies elsewhere. Two Laughing Gulls were seen fairly regularly passing over Machias Seal Island during July (Susan Merrill & Jack Russell). The island is the only place in N.B. that this southern gull has ever nested. The first northern New Brunswick record of Laughing Gull occurred June 24 when an adult was seen at Eel River Bar (Lebel). A week earlier, on the 17th, an adult and an immature Little Gull were there (Lebel), only the second definite record we have on file for the province. Both of these species were seen with Bonaparte's Gulls, the common black-headed species in New Brunswick. 65 Bonaparte's were there June 7 (Christie) and a few remained throughout the summer (Lebel).

A large Common Tern colony near St-Louis Cape, in Kouchibouguac National Park, was surveyed by C.N.S. staff June 16 (*vide* Pearce & Rick Whitman). 1419 nests were counted. The large Arctic Tern colony at Machias Seal Island was under study this summer to determine the effects of the many visitors to the island on nesting success. Students Susan Merrill and Roger Meservy were working for the Canadian Nature Federation under the supervision of Don Baldwin. Their report is not yet available. A Caspian Tern was seen at Kouchibouguac Beach July 3 (Christie & C. Majka). Perhaps it was the same bird at Calendar Beach July 25 (Andy Dean). A Black Tern at Eel River Bar June 7 (Lebel) is the first report from that area of the province. In the lower Saint John valley the species seems to be flourishing. Jim Wilson estimated 50 pairs at the Big Timber Lake colony near Jemseg June 27. Enid Inch found a nest June 20 on Hog Island near the mouth of Washademoak Lake. Another colony was located on the Portobello Stream marshes, near Sheffield, and amongst them the White-winged Black Tern, seen earlier in the spring, was rediscovered and seen July 8-10 (Pearce *et al.*). The bird which was beginning its moult into winter plumage did not appear to be nesting. It is a European species.

At Machias Seal Island Common Murres have been seen from time to time during summer in recent years. There is no indication that they are nesting but it is something to be watched for. A few Murres were there fairly regularly this summer according to Jack Russell. Two reports that we have are of 2 seen July 16 (Saint John Naturalists' Club) and 4 July 22 (Bill Townsend). One of the birds on the 16th was of the "ringed" colour phase.

The seldom reported and undoubtedly rare Screech Owl was found this summer. Bill Townsend saw a red colour phase bird at Holt's Point, Charlotte County, July 1. Rick Whitman and others saw a Snowy Owl at Kouchibouguac Beach June 22. The bird was being mobbed by Common Terns in the area. Peter Pearce reports that an injured bird had been released in P.E.I. a few weeks previously. This may or may not have been that bird.

We are printing the species totals for this year's Breeding Bird Survey routes in New Brunswick. These are the surveys, organized by the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Canadian Wildlife Service, which began a half hour before sunrise in June. Each 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile long route has 50 sampling points, at each of which birds are recorded during a 3-minute period. One cannot compare one species with another, for the likelihood of recording such loud-sunged birds as Robin or White-throated Sparrow is much greater than for the quieter species such as the warblers which may well be considerably more common. Also, because the surveys are conducted along automobile roads they sample high proportions of open and settled areas and the species found in these habitats. What the B.B.S. does do is allow comparison from year to year over wide areas, so as to reveal general increases or declines of a single species.

The B.B.S. results presented here will at least provide readers with an indication of what songbird species are found generally and commonly throughout the province in near-road habitats. It suggests the distribution of some species found commonly in only part of the province, e.g. Catbird, Wood Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, Pine Grosbeak. The surveys do not sample well most non-songbird species, such as ducks or hawks, so one should not try to draw conclusions regarding these species. Routes surveyed during 1971 were 01 Green River, 02 Lac-Baker, 05 Grand Falls, 07 Kedgwick River, 09 Nepisiguit River, 10 Balmoral, 13 Escuminac, 14 Paquetville, 17 Plaster Rock, 18 Cloverdale, 22 Minto, 25 Blackville, 26 Red Bank, 29 Richibucto, 30 Fontaine, 31 Jolicoeur, 32 Albert, 33 Oak Hill, 34 McAdam, 38 Pennfield Ridge, 39 Saint John, 41 Hampton, 42 Penobscuis, and 44 Washademoak. The data was provided by the following early-rising observers: Alward, Marion Bolyea, Chiesson, Christie, Dean, Henrik Deichmann, Homer, Label, Darrell Kitchen, Madden, Dr. Majka, Dr. Jack Rigby, Al Smith, Tull, Watters, Rick Whitman & Wilson, most of whom had others as assistants.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were reportedly seen more often this summer than in recent years at Fundy National Park (fide John MacFarlane). Probably the mortality of considerable amounts of Balsam Fir due to the last few years of Spruce Budworm attack has provided excellent feeding for them. Besides the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker seen on the Plaster Rock B.B.S. (Watters), a male was reported at Louis Lake, in north-central Northumberland County, June 12 (Wilson).

Alan Madden noted an Eastern Phoebe at the N.B. Forest Service's Kedgwick River Cache June 2. The species is not normally recorded in our highland areas, though a pair has nested under a bridge over the Nepisiguit River, near Forty Mile Brook, for the last three years (Christie). Both Irish's and Least Flycatchers were in normal numbers on the B.B.S. this year, after having been recorded in low numbers in 1970.

A Rough-winged Swallow was seen near Hampton June 3 (Galinat) and another was at Greenwich Hill, Kings Co., in July (Stan Gorham). Swallows begin to flock early, soon after the first young are on the wing. Jim Wilson estimated about 1000 in a mixed flock (Tree, Bank, Barn & Cliff) on wires at Hammond River July 21. Walter Sharpe's Purple Martin colony, the largest in the province, at Island View, York Co., had 95 pairs this summer.

BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS - NEW BRUNSWICK, 1971

Route Number:	01	02	05	07	09	10	13	14	17	18	22	25	26	29	30	31	32	33	34	38	39	41	42	44	Tot. '70		
Common Loon	1				1		1							2	4	1					1	1				12 11	
D.-c. Cormorant						1		300														19	10			330 316	
Grb. Blue Heron			1			1	9												2		2	1				16 21	
Am. Bittern	1				5		1	1			1	2			1	1				3	5	2	6	1		30 15	
Canada Goose																										2 0	
Black Duck	2	1					3		2								1									27 21	
Blue-w. Teal																							1			1 1	
Am. Widgeon																							1			1 2	
Wood Duck		1																			1					2 0	
Ring-neck Duck	7															1										8 2	
Com. Merganser					1	6																	1			8 5	
Cosbeak							1									1							1			3 1	
Sh-shin. Hawk							1										1									2 1	
Red-tail Hawk											1															1 1	
Brd-wing Hawk																				1						1 2	
Marsh Hawk							2										2									4 1	
Coproy						1								2	1											4 3	
Sparrow Hawk				1					1							1		1	1				2	1		8 4	
Ruffed Grouse																				1						1 2	
B.-c. Phoeasant										3																6 7	
Som. mill sp.							1									1										2 1	
Scarip. Plover									1								1									1 0	
Meadowlark	2	8				12	2	7		10	9	1	2	3		4					3	3	1	1	1	69 67	
Am. Woodcock																1						1					2 2
Common Snipe	1				1	3	5	1	7	3	2		8		7	8	1		1	2		5	23	2		80 78	
Spotted Sandp.					1		1	1							1	1						2	2			9 14	
Grtr. Yellowlegs							1																			1 1	
Semipal. Sandp.																										1 1	
Claycock Gull																						35				35 0	
Grt. Black-bl. G.						1	2	4													1	20	7		11	46 24	
Herring Gull					34	48	25						1	1	7		1		1	10	154	9		4	295 279		
Ring-bill Gull																						2				2 0	
Common Tern							4							8									3	1		16 23	
Rock Dove	1						4	2	2	7												46		1		63 87	
Mourning Dove	1				1																	1	2			5 4	
Blk-b. Cuckoo							5			1	1	1	1	8										1	1	19 13	
Grt. Horned Owl																								1		1 1	
Com. Nighthawk											3	4	1						2	1						12 9	
Chimney Swift	1				4	14	1		3	2	5	12	2	2					2		2	6	8		1	65 47	
Hummingbird				2	1	1					2		1			1								3	4	15 17	
E. Kingfisher					2		2		1						2								2	3		12 26	
Y.-s. Flicker		3	1	2	2	1	1		21	5	6	3	3	3	5	1	5		3	3	2	5	7		11	82 84	
Y.-b. Sapsucker	26	11	6	11	31	6		3	9	11	15	35	13	22	2	2	6	17	75	10		2	39	30		382 263	
Hairy Wdger.						1		6			2						4		1	1						15 17	
Dowry Wdger.						1		1	1										1			1		1	1		7 13
Hairy/Dowry	1				1		1				2		2	3	1								4	4		19 27	
No. 3-toed Wdger									1																		1 0
E. Kingbird							1		3	3	1	3	1	2						2	1		4	6		29 17	
G. Crested Flyc.											1											1					2 3
E. Phoebe						1			15	4		1							2	2	1					29 15	
Yel-belly Flyc.	14	3			13	16		2		3	4	2		2	2			1			12	3	6	3		86 73	
Trill's Flyc.	24	2			4	17	40	23	4	16	15	8	18	10	28	6	1	9	8	19	34	31	31			349 287	
Least Flycatch.	7	7	5	5	9	13	9		5	9	14	29	10	7	11	3	3	21	12	2		3	2	14		199 125	
Empidonax sp.																	2										3 2
H. Wood Pewee	2	1	4		2		3	13	2	4	5	2	1	2		2	3	2	2	2	2	4	7	3		66 41	
Olive-s. Flyc.	4	4			15	14	2	1		1		2	3	2		3		1	2	2	2	3	4			65 47	

Route Number:	01	02	05	07	09	10	13	14	17	18	22	25	26	29	30	31	32	33	34	38	39	41	42	44	Tot.	'73		
Barned Lark			1			3		2		1																7	10	
Tree Swallow	44	12	4	6	3	19	85	13	21	7	14	18	7	9	34	35	11	9	30	12	17	26	11	11		454	330	
Bank Swallow		31	13		8	80	161	8	76	8	7		30	80	7	3	21			57	13	13	61			677	302	
Barn Swallow	10	26	15		4	41	36	8	89	41	28	11	21	7	24	31	24	20	9	31	19	17	39	24		575	555	
Cliff Swallow					30	3	1		4	8	9		2	1		8		11	10	12	20	21	19	2		159	121	
Purple Martin											17								4								27	39
Gray Jay	7			8	8				5	3			2			1	2	5	2	1	3		1	3	1		52	22
Blue Jay	1	7	8		7	53	2	4	7	5	6	13	4	12	1	1	2	5	5	19	4	7	16	7		192	154	
Common Raven	4	9	7	2	13	6	20	8	43	9	36	16	5	100	15	10	7	10	26	28	6	3	3	6		332	261	
Common Crow	8	69	36		38	25	27	11	43	3	20	16	28	42	23	28	12	10	22	38	20	25	26	20		587	553	
Blk.-c. Chickadee	1	1	1		7	3	1	2	9	3	2	3	3			3			12	14	5					5	75	65
Boreal Chickadee	4	1		5	4	2		1	2		2	1	7								2	1	6				38	36
White-b. Nuthatch			1						4										1								6	2
Rod.-br. Nuthatch	1		1	2	3	2			1	1			1										1				16	17
Brown Creeper					1																						1	1
House Wren																											2	1
Winter Wren	31	7	8	24	22	10	13	3	4	10	1	15	11		3	1	10	11	4	12	5	7	8			220	167	
Outbird		4			2		1		3	7	3	1	1	5		2	1	8		9	5	9	19	3		83	62	
Brown Thrasher																											1	0
Robin	49	86	62	19	44	76	63	54	94	103	85	59	70	98	85	32	60	43	59	72	72	79	105	37		1606	1562	
Wood Thrush		2								2	1	2				1			4	18			8				38	35
Hermit Thrush	5	5	3		9	1	18	2		5	8	12	3	13	18	9	12	20	2	17	7	8	5	7		199	174	
Swainson's Thr.	37	6	1	62	42	13	27	29	93	8	18	46	23	27	64	11	24	5	1	35	5	25	28	8		632	592	
Veery		54	18		3	12	5	6	58	16	15	18	14	10	16	2		9	31	8	5	5	21	31		367	334	
Gold-cr. Kinglet															3												3	5
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	12	10	5	17	44	9	13	4	63		6	17	16	23	24	3	14	4	8	19	2	9	13	1		347	253	
Cedar Waxwing		7		1	2	4			2	6	2	5	2	4					6	11	21	21	18	22	2	138	118	
Starling		67	75		1	125	69	89	49	66	106	22	86	25	49	67	67	17	24	52	75	49	76	25		1275	1282	
Solitary Vireo	3	1			1				1	2	4		1	1					1			3	1	1			22	20
Red-eyed Vireo	27	11	1	11	8	25	23	1	4	4	29	10	12	15	15	7	8	19	11	25	5	44	14	15		344	261	
Parula Vireo	2			14	1																						17	3
Warbling Vireo																					1						1	1
Blk & W. Warb.	1			1	1	2	2				2		6	2	1		15	12	5	2	13	2	5			72	48	
Conn. Warbler				11	40	1	12		3	3	4	51	28	3	21	1	26	1	5	3	1	12	5	1		232	131	
Nashville Warb.	5	22		17	20	15	21	9		1	8	15	7	13	25	1	2	8		24	11	10	16			250	221	
Parula Warbler	7	5		2	12				3	2	14	3	9	11	2	3	9	8	23	4	11	10				138	91	
Yellow Warbler	7		4	4	3	1	5	20	4	11		2	10	4	8	1		6	11	41	18	10	5			175	150	
Magnolia Warb.	24	13	1	7	58	7	4	9	11		3	33	22	17	2	9	18	4	5	23	19	30	29			352	208	
Cape May Warb.	1	1			6	2				2	17	5	4					1	1	4	1		8	2			55	43
Blk-t. Blue W.	1				1	1	1		1		4	1										5					14	10
Myrtle Warbler	11	1		4	20	2	2	2		2	12	1	1		1	9			11	6	3	9				97	95	
E-t. Green Warb.	25	2		20	8		1	10			3	2	4	1	1	6	8	6	16	7	10	11	6			147	120	
Blackburnian W.	4	1		5	1						4	4	2	1		4			4				1				31	15
Chestnut-s. W.	4	9			2	11		17		27	2	5	10	6	2		10	2	19	8	15	7	11			167	105	
Bay-br. Warbler	5	1	1	3	19					2	10	3	7	1		6			3	1	5	9					76	95
Blackpoll Warb.	19			19					1													1					40	26
Palm Warbler																					1						1	2
Ovenbird	17	7	13	6	25	5	21	13	60	12	36	51	25	22	17		4	22	26	14	5	3	10	18		422	397	
N. Waterthrush	3	5		21	10	2		2	2		9	1	1	1				2	7	5		9	4			84	82	
Mourning Warb.		4		2	4	1			1				2					4		1	2	5	3			25	33	
Yellowthroat	5	24	10	6	5	23	52	7	17	24	51	21	28	49	41	17	24	23	26	24	33	38	36	14		598	529	
Wilson's Warb.	1				2	1				3			6	5					1	5	7	3					34	12
Canada Warbler	15	12		1	7	3	1	2	27	4	4	15	4	9	3			2	9	19	5	15	3	1		161	110	
Am. Redstart	56	22	1	14	21	13	19	4	35	10	41	11	15	14	22	4	13	14	8	23	28	19	29	17		453	359	
House Sparrow		21	52		35	10	37	43	24	30	5	14	5	16	31	9		13	10	68	10	13	9			455	610	
Bobolink		12	5		13	17	16	78	27	2	2	1	11	25	24	18	3	17	8	16	17	52	17			381	312	
E. Meadowlark										1					1								1				3	0
Rod.-w. Blkbird	1	33	11	2	5	16	20	16	55	35	3	20	6	6	27	5	7	5	5	17	10	36	47	11		399	412	

Birds Number:	01	02	05	07	09	10	13	14	17	18	22	25	26	29	30	31	32	33	34	38	39	41	42	44	Tot	'70	
Baltimore Oriole									1											2		1			4	2	
Rusty Blackbird	1			1	1					1									1			2			8	10	
Com. Crow	4	45	46	3	4	44	20	21	55	61	11	19	50	50	20	16	15	3	7	16	11	25	32	8	536	822	
R.-h. Cowbird	1	21	2		21	15	17	37	15	12	16	30	25	8	1	8			6	7	14	10	52	2	320	304	
Scarlet Tanager									2										1						3	0	
Rose-b. Grosbeak	6	13	2		10	5	4	1	16	7	8	2	1	6	2						2	1	14	18	6	124	58
Indigo Bunting					1																				1	1	
Evening Grosbk.	73	10	7	20	116	44	5	1	83	134	48	28	16	1	17	1	170	61		29	2	36	54	15	1727	1400	
Purple Finch	61	14	4	19	36	18	2	4	16	9	14	21	17	13	3	1	22	20	7	9	22	8	9	4	353	269	
Pine Grosbeak	15			9	2	1			2		2														1	52	19
Pine Siskin	43			42	9	6			8						8		6									122	83
Am. Goldfinch	37	5		1	47	5	2	23	10	15	5	6	20	13	15	5	2	6	12	25	12	25	14		311	294	
White-crowns	22			7	1																1					31	29
Savannah Spar.	21	18			31	4	33	17	56	7	7	6	12	9	16	12			9	15	10	15	10		302	345	
Sharp-tail Sp.																						1			1	1	
Vesper Sparrow					3		1		8			1	3								1					17	14
S.-c. Junco	40	13	1	28	21	5	16	4	22	6	5	13	6	15	21	13	18	6	5	14	6	17	13	2	310	368	
Chipping Spar.	19	13	1	4	17	6	24	73	24	25	10	15	24	32	8	19	9	5	10	4	8	29	7		306	343	
White-thr. Sparrow	111	98	41	48	125	43	92	42	133	42	51	65	53	91	41	51	54	35	54	103	49	64	97	38	1719	1697	
Tree Sparrow	7			4	2																					13	5
Lincoln's Spar.	2			1						1			2	1	2					4	1		7			21	17
Swamp Sparrow				1	1	3			8				1		3				1	1	4	10	4	1		38	24
Song Sparrow	2	55	55	4	5	40	36	22	72	34	46	19	40	28	53	47	20	13	18	23	48	36	40	24		780	695
Sparrow sp.																1										1	0
Mead sp.	1	50																			1					32	65

Both Gray Jay and Common Raven were in greater numbers on the B.B.S. this year and there may well have been real increases. The large count, 53, of Blue Jays on the Baltimore B.B.S. June 17 included a couple of migrating flocks (Lobel). Red-breasted Nuthatch remains very scarce. The 1969 B.B.S. total was 43 compared to 17 and 16 last year and this. Golden-crowned Kinglets also continue to be scarce. Both species have been lower than usual on recent Christmas Bird Counts as well. No doubt these are cyclical lows which will very suddenly be replaced by high counts in a year or two.

Cecil Johnston heard a House Wren at Saint John West June 2 and another was in song daily behind the Museum in Saint John from June 3 to July 8 (Christie *et. al.*) but appeared to be without a mate. However, there was a pair at Epworth Park, near Grand Bay, where Mrs. C.H. McJunkin watched them move into a nest box July 23, just after the Tree Swallow young had flown from it. They built a nest but abandoned it by the 29th. Another rare wren here is the Long-billed Marsh Wren. Two of them were singing at Little Timber Lake June 27 (Wilson).

Southeastern New Brunswick had a monopoly on Mockingbird reports this summer. There was one singing near Salisbury June 7 (Tull & Tim Davis). Another, in the West End of Moncton June 25 - July 2 (Doug Whitman) reportedly had been around 2 weeks earlier. At the same time one was singing in the Sunny Bree district of that city June 27 (Fred Lloyd). South of the Petitcodiac (Did these birds move across the river?) one was at Riverview July 4 & 11 (Whitman) and one at Gunningsville July 11 (J. Meyer, *vide* Whitman). Further away, was one at Hebron, near Alma, June 22 (Mary Majka & Galinat).

Jim Wilson kept watch on 4 E. Bluebird nests this summer near New River Station. This area north of Pennfield currently appears to be one of the best in the province for this beleaguered species. Three of the nests were in bird boxes, the fourth in a rotten fence post.

A Loggerhead Shrike was seen June 22 at Colpitts Settlement, Albert Co. (Mary Majka & Galinat).

We have learned something of the true status of Warbling Vireos this summer. It has been known as an uncommon, but regular, summer resident in the Fredericton area, with a few also about Grand Lake. This summer Eric Tull found 1 in Moncton June 5. The next day two of them were in the same area (Christie & Mary Majka) and on the 7th one was heard in a different part of the city (Dr. Majka). We then learned that they had been heard regularly during 1969 and 1970 in the Sunny Brae area of Moncton (Paul Germain). Alert for its presence in unexpected areas, observers soon found them elsewhere: 1 at Newcastle June 12 (Christie & Mar. Majka), 1 at St. George June 16 (Christie & David Smith), 1 at Salisbury June 22 (Mary Majka & Galinat) and 1 twice during June at Crooked Creek, Albert County (Alward). Warbling Vireos are difficult birds to see due to their tree-top habitat and it appears that many of us may have overlooked their songs, mistaking them for the similar warble of the more common Purple Finch. Thus it appears that Warbling Vireos are fairly widely distributed in small numbers wherever suitable habitat occurs in southern N.B. Readers should be on the watch for them next year. They prefer tall shade trees in towns and along rivers.

A Pine Warbler, a rare species here, was seen May 28 at St. Andrews by Willa MacCoubrey. A subadult male Orchard Oriole was there the same day (MacCoubrey & Christie). Another male Orchard Oriole was at Memramcook June 3 (Reid McManus).

Common Grackles decreased noticeably on the B.B.S. this year. Of those routes surveyed by the same observer in 1970 and 1971, 11 routes showed decreases, 4 were approximately the same each year and only 3 had increases. B.B.S. figures in Nova Scotia showed a similar pattern. Reasons for the apparent decline are unknown.

Two male Indigo Buntings were at Nashveaksis July 1 (Beverley Schneider) and another was at the unlikely locality of Popple Depot on the Nepisiguit River B.B.S. June 12 (Christie). One was seen on that survey in 1966 also.

The distribution of Evening Grosbeaks, as revealed by the B.B.S. was much changed from last year. The big numbers in the Miramichi valley were down, for instance Blackville 684 to 28 and Red Bank 138 to 16, whereas Plaster Rock was up from 80 to 239 (Watters). The species seemed to have increased in the extreme south and the northwest and decreased in central areas, perhaps due to shifts in the abundance of Spruce Budworm. Pine Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills were common mainly in the northwestern corner of the province as shown by the B.B.S. Siskins were also fairly common in Fundy National Park where 23 were seen June 25 (Christie & Mary Majka). Pine Grosbeaks also nest in the 1000 foot hills of Albert County, where 3 or 4 were seen at Swamp Brook in Fundy Park July 9 (Tull) and 2 near Prosser Brook June 24 (Christie).

Fox Sparrows were discovered seven years ago in the hills of the northwestern part of the province where they have been found regularly since on the B.B.S. In June Father Label found this species at 6 places in Restigouche County including two at sea level, 1 at Eel River Bar and 1 at Eel River Crossing.

Rev. Ford Alward conducted a breeding bird census this year on a 24-acre plot at Crooked Creek, Albert County. On a census of this type the number of nesting pairs in the area is determined from observations made on several visits. As a result one can say that Bay-breasted Warblers were about 4 times as numerous as White-throated Sparrows. Comparing this with the Albert B.B.S. route, on which 9 times as many White-throats as Bay-breasts were recorded, illustrates well why one should not try to compare one species with another in the B.B.S. results. The Crooked Creek census was conducted in a forested area about half of which was mature mixed woods dominated by Sugar Maple, Yellow Birch, Red Spruce and Balsam Fir, and the other half younger woods (probably resulting from lumbering of the first type) of Balsam Fir and Red Spruce with only 25% hardwood species. The number of breeding pairs determined from 8 visits to the area during June were: Bay-breasted Warbler, 12; Black-throated Green Warbler, 11; Ovenbird, 11; Magnolia Warbler, 10; Swainson's Thrush, 8; Robin, 7; Blackburnian Warbler, 6; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 5; Purple Finch, 5; Nashville

Warbler, 4; Am. Redstart, 4; Slate-coloured Junco, 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Red-eyed Vireo, 3; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3; Boreal Chickadee, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 3; Tennessee Warbler, 3; Parula Warbler, 3; Hermit Thrush, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Blue Jay, 2; Winter Wren, 1; Solitary Vireo, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1; for a total of 123½ pairs (494 per 100 acres). This is a fairly heavy population, probably due to the abundance of Spruce Dudworm in the area. Other birds seen for which territories could not be determined or which were only visitors to the plot were Ruffed Grouse, Evening Grosbeak, Goshawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Raven, Crow, Warbling Vireo, Canada Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Pine Grosbeak.

AMPHIBIANS, FISHES & INVERTEBRATES

Chris Majka collected a Wood Frog at Southwest Head, July 11, the first record of the species on Grand Manan. Several common species of small mammals, amphibians and reptiles do not occur on the island, having been unable to cross the sea barrier from the mainland. Those that are found there are interesting due to the possibility of local subspeciation. The Deer Mice and Meadow Voles of Grand Manan have been described as subspecies differing slightly in size and coloration from those of nearby mainland areas. This Wood Frog showed unusual green shades on the undersides of the hind legs (Stan Garham) but Francis Cook of the National Museum believes the frog is within the normal variation of Maritime specimens. Nevertheless, it will be interesting to try and locate more Wood Frogs on Grand Manan for detailed study of their colour patterns.

Did you ever see an Eel on land? They are known to cross overland from one body of water to another during wet weather or on swampy ground. On June 21 one was discovered on a wood road through an alder swamp at Moncton (Christie). When approached, it slithered into a small puddle and burrowed in the mud.

On July 21 a colony of European Skippers was discovered near the West Saint John docks (Chris Majka et al.) This small butterfly was introduced accidentally to North America, early in this century, near London, Ontario, and has been slowly spreading since. To our knowledge it has been taken previously in New Brunswick only near Edmundston. The amount of railway traffic to the docks from areas further west suggests that the skippers probably became established at Saint John that way rather than by natural dispersal.

Henk Deichmann walked around the shore of Barlow Bluff on the Kingston Peninsula July 31. Among interesting things he saw were large numbers of dead barnacles. These would be the Little Ivory Barnacle (Balanus improvisus) the common species of brackish water, such as the lower Saint John and Kennebecasis Rivers. The reason for all of them being dead is unknown, but there may have been a sustained drop in water level.

OBITUARY

Marsh, Tidal - On or about July 9, north end of the Gummingsville Bridge, Moncton, at an age of several hundred years. Death due to suffocation by landfill, hereditary disease of the Marsh family. Leaves orphaned many shorebirds, one or two pairs of nesting Black Ducks and a Great Blue Heron, which will have to find support elsewhere. Donations in lieu of flowers to the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

SHORE IN CRITICAL CONDITION

Saint John. Environmental doctors report that the condition of one to two miles of tidal shoreline at nearby Red Head became critical during August. Condition of the area, a chronic sufferer of pollution cancer, has been declining gradually during the past 6 years. Despite recent surgery by a team of bulldozers and trucks it has failed to improve. Doctors now hope that massive injections of money may stop the attack of the crud virus to prevent spread of the cancer and give natural resistance a chance

to overcome the growth. Despite assurances that the disease is non-contagious, most animal life is avoiding visits due to the odour of the patient. The area was formerly a popular gathering spot for ducks, shorebirds, seals and primates. Among famous visitors have been ones from as far away as the Prairie Provinces, Siberia, Iceland and Argentina.

HAS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRED?

The following subscriptions to the N.B. Naturalist have expired. This issue will be the last received by: Mrs. M. W. Jones, Frère Clarence LeBreton, Mrs. A. J. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Craig Vosmus. If renewing, send one dollar to the New Brunswick Museum, Natural Science Dept.

RARE BIRD ALERT

For a number of years informal communication has existed between birdwatchers in N.B. for passing on word when an unusual bird appears. Interest has been expressed recently in having this procedure on a more formal basis so that no one who is interested is missed. Jim Wilson & David Christie have volunteered to work up some kind of system. Anyone who would like to be informed of rare birds while they are still about, send in your name, indicating whether you are interested in learning of birds only in your local area (say 20 miles away) or whether you would travel farther for especially unusual birds.

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