



Well behind schedule again, as it seems we usually are for the spring number, we have decided to change the nominal months of publication. This number covering reports from late March through May is labelled "June" rather than May as the corresponding numbers were in preceding volumes. The next number (August) will report observations of June and July. Send your information in as soon as possible. Material from August and September should be submitted by the first week of October, for that month's issue.

This spring was a backward one, April averaging 4 to 5 degrees below normal mean temperature. Coupled with this, repeated snowfalls caused hardship for migrant birds during the first half of the month. The amount of snow on the ground in northern N.B. is suggested by the following comments. On April 2 there was "over 4 feet of snow" at Lockstead Settlement, near Blackville (Norman Stewart) while on April 20 there was "still 3 to 4 feet of snow in the open in Restigouche County" (Alan Madden).

May was near normal, temperature wise, but was somewhat cool early. We were missed by what could have been a very significant weather event, the storm of May 10 which left up to a foot of snow in some parts of Nova Scotia. The cool weather retarded greatly the normal spring development of vegetation, but returning migrant birds appeared at about the usual times.

The spring runoff was delayed. Freshet levels on the Saint John River floodplain were high and remained so during most of May.

MAMMALS

Few mammal notes have been received. One young bull Moose became a nuisance on the Trans-Canada Highway at Sheffield where, like many other creatures in the Sheffield-Jemseg area, it was forced out to the highway, the only ground above water during the freshet. On May 9 it had to be tranquillized and removed to higher ground by Fish & Wildlife staff (*vide* Henrik Deichmann). Two days later a cow Moose was hanging around the same general area (Deichmann).

Mrs. Carl Small reports that a pair of Otters spent late March and early April catching eels in Northern Pond on White Head Island, the first ones to appear there for years. The Otter reportedly reached the Grand Manan Archipelago, on its own, a decade or two ago. Several other animals are found there only because they have been transported by man.

Three reports of Short-tailed Weasels from Albert County refer to the change from winter to summer pelage. One at Pine Glen March 25 and one at Baltimore April 7 appeared entirely white (except for normal black tail tip) while another on Caledonia Mountain April 29 was mostly brown (David Christie and the Majkas).

BIRDS

The arrival of spring migrant songbirds which began in March with such early species as Crows, Starlings and Horned Larks continued with scattered returns of black-birds, sparrows and Robins during the last few days of the month. The big influx of these species in southern N.B. did not come until Easter Sunday, April 2, when large numbers were reported from such areas as Machias Seal Island, White Head, Saint John, Sussex, Cambridge, Albert, Memramcook and Sackville, while smaller numbers occurred at Riverview, Fredericton, Woodstock and Hartland. The following day the numbers increased and reports came from additional localities. Arrivals of these birds in snowy northern N.B. appears, from the few reports we have, to have been about two weeks later.

Red-throated Loons arrived Apr. 10 at Dalhousie, where there was a large flock of 200+ on the 28th (Jean-Paul Lebel). Three pairs of Pied-billed Grebes appeared at Eel River Bar where they were found nesting last year (Lebel).

The earliest Gannet reported was one at Shippegan Island April 6 (Hilaire Chiasson). On May 25 about 200 of these spectacular white and black birds were fishing in the Dalhousie-Charlo area (Lebel). The latest Great Cormorant was at Dalhousie May 9 (Lebel) while the earliest Double-crested Cormorants (several) reached Saint John Apr. 8 (Cecil Johnston, Eric Tull & Tim Davis). On the Baie de Chaleur 3 were seen at Atholville Apr. 11 (Madden). This species seemed to be particularly common inland on the Saint John River during April. A large flock was seen at the mouth of the Nashwaak River at Fredericton for several days (various observers), 107 were at Burton April 23 (Deichmann) and 7 were seen at Woodstock Apr. 18 (Donald Kimball). There were reports of 25 to 75 at several places in the lower valley.

The earliest Great Blue Heron was reported Mar. 29 at White Head (Small) but it was not seen widely till about April 8 on which date Hilaire Chiasson recorded it at Shippegan Island. A Green Heron was seen in the Lepreau area early in May (Ross Anderson). Later, singles were seen at Saint John on the 23rd (Jan Dexter), at Saint John West May 24 (Sandy Smith) and at Eel River Crossing May 26 (Lebel). The only Little Blue Heron reported was one at the traditional Little Dipper Harbour site Apr. 29 (Dorothy Marshall).

Another March egret (cf. the Snowy and Cattle Egrets reported last issue) was a Common Egret at Machias Seal Island Mar. 18 (Jock Russell). Further Snowy Egrets were one at Daniel's Marsh, Albert County May 3-7 (Ford Alward, Majkas et al) and at Saint John West, 1 May 18 (Jim Wilson) and 2 on the 19th (Johnston). Individual Black-crowned Night Herons were widely reported, beginning with 1 at White Head Mar. 28 (Small). Other reports came from Saint John West (Doris Johnston & Dexter), Shippegan Island (Chiasson), Sussex & Harvey (Christie, Majkas & Tull) and Cambridge (Marion Belyea).

Glossy Ibis made a good showing for the second year in a row. 1971's invasion of this southern species had been unprecedented. This year's reports are from not as many areas but the number of birds is slightly more. First reports were on May 2 when 3 were seen at Jemseg (Harold Ferguson et al) and a big group of 11 at Craigville, near Newcastle (John Bethell, Carl Perry, Kevin Vickers & Harry Walker). There may have been even more at Craigville earlier (vide Bethell). On the 6th, six were at Jemseg (Enid Inch et al) where one or two continued to be seen at intervals at least till early in June (vide Peter Pearce). 4 were seen on the Fredericton golf course early in the month (vide Ferguson), while later 1 was at Eel River Bar May 18 (Lebel). At Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John West, they increased from 1 to 5, May 16-28 (Johnstons et al).

Canada Geese which arrived in mid-March were still to be seen in small numbers late in May. On the marshes along Shopody Bay and Cumberland Basin the many geese already present got into trouble in early April when repeated snowstorms and cold weather kept the ground covered with snow, preventing them from feeding. They normally

can survive such conditions but with continuing bad weather they weakened until they were reluctant to take flight when approached. A feeding program was organized Apr. 9-11 by wildlife personnel with assistance from the Moncton Naturalists' Club, Moncton Fish and Game Association and many interested persons who donated grain or money for its purchase. The crisis soon passed, diminished by high spring tides which cleared the undyked marshes and by somewhat improved weather. Afterwards, the remains of a few geese which fell victim to predators or starvation were found. An additional problem faced by the geese during this period of stress was harassment by snowmobiles which were able to travel on the snow-covered marshes, repeatedly forcing the flocks into flight.

An entirely white (except for dark bill and feet) albino Canada Goose was at Harvey (Alb. Co.) Apr. 22 (Majkas & Christie). The usual reports of Brant were received from the Fundy Coast, and 8 were seen inland at Lower Cambridge May 7 (Belyea & Enid Inch).

The most unusual report of the spring was of a Barnacle Goose seen with a few Canadas near McGowan Corner May 10 (Nottie Moore & the Jack Robinsons). This Eurasian species has never been reported in New Brunswick before, although there are records for several areas of eastern North America. The problem is knowing whether the bird is a wild one that has wandered from its normal range or is just an escape from a zoo or wildlife park. In this particular case we do not know. Another goose seen about the same time just across the border into Nova Scotia, at the John Lusby Marsh, must certainly have escaped for it was a Swan Goose, a native of Mongolia and China, not at all apt to wander here. Also it is known that flying Swan Geese are kept at Shubenacadie Wildlife Park. On the other hand, that goose was extremely wary, more so than the Canadas it was with; escapees are usually rather tame.

Snow Geese were less frequent this spring than last. Four individuals of the white phase were seen. They were at Harvey Apr. 30-May 1 (Christie & Majkas), Hopewell Cape (Mary Majka) and Eel River Bar (Lebel) on May 1, and at Lower Cambridge May 6-7 (Inch & Belyea). The blue colour phase (Blue Goose in most bird books; see Birds of Canada by Godfrey for up-to-date information on its status) which is much less frequently recorded this far east was also seen. One was at Waterside Apr. 23 and 30 (Moncton Naturalists' Club = M.N.C.) and one at Saint John West May 6 (Johnstons & Dexter).

Among ducks we will give only the most interesting reports. Very rare here, but increasing as it is elsewhere in the east, the Godwits was reported twice, a female at Otnalog, near Hampstead, May 14 (Stan Gorham) and a male at Eel River Bar May 25-26 (Lebel). At Eel River Bar there were up to 14 Am. Widgeon this spring, vs. 5 last year (Lebel). A Shoveler, seldom reported in northern N.B. was there May 25 (Lebel). Two male and 1 female Canvasbacks were at Oak Point Apr. 22 (Gorham). Greater Scaup were reported in flocks up to 500. The rarer Lesser Scaup was seen at Somerville, Carleton Co., Apr. 23 (8 - Kimball), at Saint John West May 6-19 (2 males - Johnston, Wilson et al) and in Saint John Harbour May 12 (3 - Christie & Tull). Father Lebel reports few Oldsquaws at Dalhousie this spring. There were no reports of large numbers elsewhere. Two Hooded Mergansers were seen April 6 (John MacFarlane) in Fundy National Park where they seldom occur.

A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen May 28 in the U.N.B. Woodlot, Fredericton (Andy Dean), an area where they have been seen annually for several years. The Broad-winged Hawk migration seemed quite extended from the first individuals, Apr. 23 in the lower Saint John valley (David Clark) and Apr. 24 at Coles Island (Christie & Majkas) to late in May when 5 at New River Station on the 21st (Dexter) and 3 at St. George the 25th (Christie) were obviously still migrating. Other April reports included 1 at Fundy Park Apr. 27 (MacFarlane), 2 at Torryburn (St.J.Co.) Apr. 29 (Clark) and singles at Somerville (Kimball) and Moncton (Tull & Davis) on the 30th. Rough-legged

Hawks were seen till May 17 when a light colour phase bird was at Charlo (Lebel).

The rare Golden Eagle was seen Apr. 22 at New River Beach by Ross Anderson. This bird, in adult plumage or nearly so, is the second report this year.

A rather good showing of Osprey began Apr. 23, when 3 were reported near Hammond River (Clark), 3 at Sheffield and 1 at Westfield (Deichmann), and 1 at Water-side (Reid McManus). Two Peregrine Falcons were seen, an adult at Harvey Apr. 30 (Majkas & Christie) and an immature at New Horton the following day (Mary Majka). April 29 was a good day for Sparrow Hawk migration in the Kennebecasis Valley; David Clark saw 15 at Torryburn and later 13 between Nauwigewauk and Bloomfield. The same day one was observed at Germantown (Christie & Majkas) with a dead Saw-whet Owl. The falcon, a female, had great difficulty carrying the owl and could manage only short flights of about 30 feet before it had to land. They normally do not take such large prey and it is possible that the owl may have been previously injured, or dead, before being picked up by the Sparrow Hawk.

The rare, secretive and seldom reported Yellow Rail was heard giving its "tik-tik, tik-tik-tik, ---" call at Midgic, near Sackville on May 27 (Don MacDougall). Years ago they were known to be fairly common there but the colony has apparently dwindled due to drainage programs in the area. The earliest Sora was reported May 17 at Moncton (Tull).

Woodcock attracted much attention during April. The earliest arrivals were reported in our last number. Many arrived as usual in the first week of April but found feeding conditions poor with much frozen, snow-covered ground. In the Saint John area there were many reports of Woodcock in trouble or in unusual places from about April 3 to 20. The situation must have been similar elsewhere. In Saint John they were seen walking along city streets, but especially they concentrated around buildings where they probed in the unfrozen, bare ground within a foot or so of the foundations. At the height of migration there were some 20 to 40 on the grounds of East Saint John Hospital (Pat McAvity).

A Black-necked Stilt at Heron Island May 27 (fide Lebel) is the first provincial report since 1880. This unmistakably marked bird was seen at close range, in flight and at rest, by novice birdwatchers George Patton, Georges Barriault and Jerry Miller who were able to compare it directly with the picture in Peterson's Field Guide. It was a most unexpected occurrence.

Although spring is generally not a good time for seeing a variety of shore-birds, the observations of Peter Pearce and Stephen Homer at Castalia May 20 illustrate that a lot can be found in a favoured locality. They saw 15 Black-bellied Plovers, 4 Ruddy Turnstones, 10 Greater Yellowlegs, 4 Knots (seldom seen in spring), 80 Purple Sandpipers, 100 Least Sandpipers, 7 Short-billed Dowitchers, several Semipalmated Sandpipers and 2 Sanderlings. Other interesting shorebird reports were of a large group of 36 Common Snipe at Saint John Apr. 27 (Christie), 1 Upland Plover at Maugerville May 11-12 (Christie, Moore et al), 7 Willetts at Saint John West May 19 (Johnston) and 3 at Little Lepreau May 21 (Willis MacCoubrey), 2 Lesser Yellowlegs at Saint John Apr. 24 and 3 Dunlin there Apr. 23-24 (Deichmann).

A late Glaucous Gull was seen May 27 in Kouchibouguac National Park (M.N.C.). In the Hartland area gulls returned as follows: 2 Great Black-backs and 3 Herrings on April 2 and 2 Ring-bills Apr. 23 (Kimball). Two Laughing Gulls were seen May 25-29 at Machias Seal Island (Russell), where they have occasionally nested. The terns (Arctic and/or Common) returned about that island May 12 and first landed May 14, while Puffins were seen April 6 and landed in the nesting areas 20 days later (Russell). Three to four Caspian Terns were in the Saint John area May 6-10 (Christie et al).

The latest of the winter's Snowy Owls was at St. Quentin in mid-April (vide Madden). Single Long-eared Owls, apparently migrants, were seen in different parts of Saint John West Apr. 8 (Johnston & Mrs. E.J. Crem) and Apr. 21 (Christie & Muriel Wheaton). Whip-poor-wills were heard in Jacquet River May 21 (Label). Chimney Swifts were reported back May 11 at Fredericton (Dean) and May 12 at Woodstock (Kimball), while the first noted Ruby-throated Hummingbird was May 16 at Saint John (David Smith).

Yellow-shafted Flickers were a bit late with no reports before Apr. 11 when 3 were seen at Woodstock (Marjorie Gray). Their numbers peaked as usual at the end of April, about the time that the first Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported: 3 at Fredericton Apr. 29 (Dean) and 1 at Somerville Apr. 30 (Kimball).

First reported Flycatchers were single Eastern Kingbirds on May 14 at Cambridge (Inch) and Somerville (Kimball), a Great Crested at Somerville May 18 (Kimball), an E. Phoebe between Cambridge and Norton Apr. 23 (Clark), a Yellow-bellied at Saint John West May 28 (D. Johnston), a Traill's at Somerville May 27 (Kimball) and at Miscou Island the following day (Chiasson), a Least at Somerville May 14 and an E. Wood Pewee there May 27 (Kimball), and single Olive-sideds at Fredericton (Dean) and Fundy Park (Johnston) May 28.

Horned Larks which returned early in March were conspicuous during late March and early April along highways where they congregated on the plowed shoulder, most fields being deeply covered by snow. The first Tree Swallows were reported Apr. 18 at Fundy Park (MacFarlane) and April 19 at Memramcook (2 - McManus). Several observers noted a few Apr. 23 but good numbers were not reported till the 30th when first arrivals were also seen at Machias Seal Island (Russell), Somerville (Kimball) and Shippagan Island (Chiasson). That day, Apr. 30, produced the first Barn Swallows - 1 at Somerville (Kimball) and 5 at Harvey, Alb. Co. (Christie & Majkas). Two Rough-winged Swallows were observed: 1 at Westfield May 13 (Saint John Nat. Club) and 1 at Mill Settlement, near Hoyt, May 20 (Christie & Majkas). It was observed once last year at each of these localities.

We seldom have reports of Gray Jay migration in spring but last fall there was a particularly heavy movement along the coast and two reports may be related to the northward return of those birds. One was seen at White Head in mid-April (vide Small). The species only has occurred as a vagrant in the Grand Manan archipelago. A loose flock of 12 were observed flying eastward at Saint John West May 18 (Dexter), a seemingly late date since many of this species are well into their nesting activities by that time.

Hilaire Chiasson reports a Brown Creeper at Shippagan Island May 19, the first time he has noted it there. Single Winter Wrens were noted back Apr. 29 at Fredericton (Dean) and Apr. 30 at Somerville (Kimball).

A Mockingbird was seen May 23 at Miscou Island by Chiasson who believes it was the same bird that he saw the following day at Pt. Alexandre, on Shippagan Island. Another mocker was observed May 30 at Lewisville (H.C. Risteen). Brown Thrashers were noted more often: 1 at Petitcodiac about May 1 until the 14th (Mrs. R.E. Carter & Mrs. G. Prosser), 1 at Torryburn May 9 (Clark), 1 in the Lepreau area in early May (Anderson) and 4 birds in three different areas of Saint John West May 11-30 (Johnstons & Dexter).

Though a few appeared in March, arrivals of Robins were reported from many areas of southern N.B. on April 2. In northern N.B. the first reports came Apr. 15 at Caraquet (Chiasson) and Apr. 18 at Edmundston (Madden). The weather was hard for many of the first arrivals and at Sackville Chris Majka found several dead Robins in the first week of April. Wood Thrushes were noted in the usual areas, the earliest being 1 at Cambridge May 17 (Inch), Early Hermit Thrushes were singles at Memramcook Apr. 20 (McManus) and New Horton, Alb. Co. Apr. 23 (M.N.C.). On the 29th 3 were at

Fredericton (Dean), on the 30th 6 at Harvey (Christie & Majkas) and on May 1, 27 at Salem, Alb. Co. (Mary Majka). A Veery appeared May 16 at Somerville (Kimball) and 5 Swainson's Thrushes were at Mill Settlement May 22 (Christie & Majkas). Gray-cheeked Thrushes, which should migrate through (perhaps mainly over) New Brunswick, usually escape notice but Jan Dexter saw at least one and probably two birds in the Milford area of Saint John West May 23.

Five E. Bluebirds were reported, all late in the spring: a male at New River Station May 21 (Dexter), 1 at Westfield May 24-25 (Mrs. K.N. Melvin), a male at Mirral May 31 (Deichmann) and 2 at Woodstock June 1 (Gray). Years ago the first Bluebirds were usually recorded in late March or early April.

A Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher was seen at Herring Cove in Fundy Park May 19 (fide MacFarlane). Ruby-crowned Kinglets reappeared the last week of April with 1 at Oak Pt. Apr. 27 (Christie), 5 at Fredericton Apr. 29 (Dean) and 1 at Somerville Apr. 30 (Kimball). In northern N.B. the first report was on May 9 at Shippegan Island (Chiasson). The last of the winter's Bohemian Waxwings were 50 at College Bridge Apr. 2 (fide McManus).

The last Northern Shrikes were reported on Apr. 26: 1 at Somerville (Kimball) and 1 at Lower Jemseg (Inch). The only Loggerhead Shrike was 1 at Somerville Apr. 16 (Kimball). A Warbling Vireo was at Saint John West May 22 (Dexter).

Warblers tend to arrive on weekends, or so reports would suggest, because observers spend a lot of time afield then. Provincially, however, 12 of the 22 regularly occurring species were seen first on weekdays. Large numbers of most species were reported on the Victoria Day weekend May 20-22. First reports, usually of one or two individuals, were as follows: Black-and-White: May 8 at Saint John (Christie); Tennessee: May 19 at Fredericton (Dean); Nashville and Parula: May 13 at Fredericton (Dean); Yellow: May 15 at Somerville (Kimball); Magnolia: May 20 at Mill Settlement (Christie & Majkas); Cape May: May 16 at Albert (Alward) and Somerville (Kimball); Black-throated Blue: May 17 at Somerville (Kimball); Myrtle: Apr. 25 at Fundy Park (MacFarlane); Black-throated Green: May 15 at Somerville (Kimball); Blackburnian: May 15 at Saint John (Florence Christie); Chestnut-sided: May 14 at Mill Settlement (Tull & Christie); Bay-breasted: May 20 at Chance Harbour (Dexter); Blackpoll: May 13 at Saint John West (Tull, Smith & Johnston) - a very early one, the next May 23 at Nactaquac (Deichmann); Palm: Apr. 29 at Baltimore (Mary Majka); Ovenbird: May 14 at Mill Settlement (Tull & Christie); N. Waterthrush: May 13 at Fredericton (Dean); Mourning: June 4 at Baltimore (Christie & Majka); Yellowthroat and Wilson's: May 16 at Albert (Alward); Canada: May 23 at Nactaquac (Deichmann); Am. Redstart: May 19 at Somerville (Kimball). Several of these species probably were present a few days earlier than reported. Redstarts were particularly common in St. Andrews May 26, with an estimated 80 being seen (MacCoubrey & Christie).

Most of these warblers were not seen by Chiasson in the Shippegan-Miscou area until May 20-28, with the Myrtle being the leader on May 14.

The first Bobolinks were seen on the May 13-14 weekend: on the 13th at Majerville (S.J.N.C.), and the following day at Red Head (Christie & Tull), Cambridge (Inch) and Somerville (Kimball). E. Meadowlarks seem to have been scarce. Only two April reports were received: 1 at Lockstead Settlement on the 2nd (Stewart) and 1 at Machias Seal Island on the 30th (Russell). Baltimore Orioles were seen frequently after May 16, when the first report came from Fredericton (Dean).

The earlier blackbirds appeared April 2-3 at most places in southern New Brunswick. Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds were often in large flocks, Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds in smaller groups, in the beginning at least. A few of some of these species were in advance of the main rush, for instance, a flock of Red-wings at St. Martins Mar. 27 (Eva Harper, fide Kaare Smith), "quite a number" of Grackles

at Albert Mar. 30 and several Cowbirds there Apr. 1 (Alward). From the north, we have only the reports of Hilaire Chiasson who noted Redwings Apr. 4 and Cowbirds Apr. 6 at Shippegan Island and Grackles not till the 15th at Grand Anse.

It was an unspectacular spring for Scarlet Tanagers, a mere 5 reports having been received for the period May 19-26. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, as usual much more numerous, appeared May 16-18 at Cambridge (Inch), Martinon (Mrs. Ward), Somerville (Kimball), Fredericton (Dean) and Saint John (David Smith). One was at Shippegan Island May 20 (Chiasson). Three reports of the scarce Indigo Bunting are at hand, all males: 1 found injured at Saint John May 5 (Clark), 1 near Chance Harbour May 7 (Johnston) and a subadult at Sandy Pt., Saint John, May 17-19 (Mr. & Mrs. Don Patterson).

The large numbers of Common Redpolls present in March dwindled quickly, as the spring migrants returned. A "good-sized flock" was at Upper Woodstock Apr. 3 (Rowena MacDonald); they were still present at East Riverside Apr. 6 (Joyce Golden); the last 2 were at a Saint John feeder Apr. 11 and 1 was at Saint John West the 18th (Christie), the same day that the last 8 or 9 were at Enid Inch's Cambridge feeder. Finally, a very tardy migrant was seen at Machias Seal May 7 (Russell).

Re the occurrence of Hoary Redpolls during the winter, the following comments were made by W. Earl Godfrey (ornithologist at the National Museum) after viewing pictures taken by David Christie at Saint John. "The slides document well the occurrence of the Hoary Redpoll in New Brunswick". Regarding the female present Mar. 9-26, he said one picture "clearly shows the coloration, fine streaking on sides and flanks, typical rump, and correct bill shape." A male bird seen Mar. 8-26 was "a Hoary also. It is much too pale and finely streaked for any race of flammeus (Common Redpoll)". Thus, at least 8 Hoary Redpolls were seen late this winter and photographs give the species a reasonably secure place on the New Brunswick list.

A Rufous-sided Towhee arrived at Machias Seal Island Apr. 29 (Russell), the same day that a male began a stay in a Saint John yard that lasted till May 13 (D. Smith). The wintering male at Sandy Point, Saint John, remained at the Patterson's until early in May.

The first reported Savannah Sparrow was at Moncton Apr. 21 (Mrs. Carter). Single birds were seen at Somerville Apr. 22 (Kimball) and at Oak Point (Deichmann), Harvey and Waterside (N.N.C.) on the 23rd. A few days later they were common, as on Apr. 26 when 20 were at Jaseg (Dean). The first Vesper Sparrow was at Riverside April 22 (Dr. Majka). An unusual spring Lark Sparrow was observed at Castalia May 20 (Pearce & Homer). This species normally is a very scarce migrant here only in fall.

Slate-colored Junco arrivals came in Apr. 2-3, though Mrs. Small saw some at White Head in the last few days of March. Largest numbers were reported at mid-month, when, on the 14th, C.H. Cameron reported "many" at Ingleside, Kings Co., and Dr. Majka saw 300 along the highway between Hillsborough and Gunningville. Tree Sparrows remained into May, being reported May 2 at Cambridge (Inch), May 8 at Shippegan Island (Chiasson) and May 11 at Hoyt (Christie). On the latter date many Chipping Sparrows were to be seen in Sunbury County and no doubt elsewhere as well. The earliest Chippies were Apr. 30, when 1 was at Woodstock (Gray) and 5 at Somerville (Kimball). Three Field Sparrows were reported, at Pt. Ierpeau May 7 (Johnston), at New River Sta. May 21 (Dexter) and at St. Andrews May 26 (Christie).

It seemed a very good spring for White-crowned Sparrows. Lebel termed them "quite abundant" at Bel River Bar. The first was at Machias Seal I. May 2 (Russell). At Cambridge, they peaked at 5 on May 14 (Inch), and 2 were still present May 27 at Kouchibouguac Park (N.N.C.). The presence of overwintering White-throated Sparrows confuses their arrival picture, but they appeared in several areas Apr. 28-30.

No doubt because of the late spring and great depth of snow, Fox Sparrows came to bird feeders in large numbers and delayed their departure until unusually late. At Albert, 1 appeared Mar. 28 and there were 3 on the 31st (Alward), 1 was at St. Martins Mar. 27 (the Keare Smiths) and 10 at New River Apr. 1 (John Holman), but the big influx, again, Apr. 2-3 at many points along the coast. Flocks of 200 to 300 were reported then, but it is likely that the peak of migration was later when, for instance, 150 were seen between Hopewell Cape and Albert (Tull et. al.) and "many" at Albert (Alward) on April 13, when 75 were at John Morrison's feeder at Lakewood Heights, St. John Co., on April 16, and when "lots were all over Saint John" on Apr. 21 (Christie). There were reports of as many as 7 birds at one locality as late as Apr. 30, and single birds were at Saint John till May 5 (Florence Christie) and Caledonia Mountain till the 7th (Dr. Majka). At Dalhousie and Eel River Bar they were still present May 26 (Lebel), though in the past a few have been found throughout the summer there. Fox Sparrows, in their spring migration, concentrate particularly along the Bay of Fundy, with few seen farther inland than Kings County. Two such birds were 1 at Cambridge Apr. 2-28 (Inch) and 1 at Upper Woodstock Apr. 3 (MacDonald). One bird found dead at Saint John Apr. 22 had been banded by C.L. Marston on April 8, near Harrington, Maine, about 100 miles down the coast from the "Port City" (fide Johnston).

Lincoln's Sparrows were first noted May 7 at Fredericton (2 - Pearce) and May 9 at East Riverside (1 - Golden). Song Sparrows appeared in much the same way as the other early songbirds, with 15 at New River (Holman) on April 1, just preceding the deluge of Apr. 2-3. Two late Lapland Longspurs were at Harvey Apr. 13 (Tull et. al.). In southern N.B., Snow Buntings were last seen Apr. 16-17, but in the north they were present till Apr. 27 at Shippegan Island (Chiasson) and into May in the Restigouche area, where Father Lebel saw 70 at Eel River Bar May 2, heard them twittering overhead at Dalhousie May 9, and saw a solitary straggler at Eel River Bar May 17.

Apologies to Peter Pearce and Stephen Homer, whose Snowy Egrot at Inner Wood Island, G.M., on May 21 was admitted in its proper place.

AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES & INSECTS

The spring emergence of amphibians for their breeding season was much delayed by the cold weather. In the Browns Flat - Oak Point area, Stan Gorham did not find Spotted and Blue-spotted Salamanders till Apr. 30, on which date there was still ice in part of the ditch in which they lay their eggs. He had the unusual experience of having them looking up at him through the ice! Hood Frogs, there, were out on May 7 and Spring Peepers on the 8th. In the early morning hours of May 14, the Gorhams witnessed the aftermath of a great nocturnal migration of Leopard Frogs. Along the Trans-Canada Highway, between Fredericton and Jemseg, an estimated 5 to 10 thousand dead frogs were seen, killed by cars overnight. A local resident, questioned about them, informed the Gorhams that such frog disasters occur once or twice each year, at times creating slippery driving conditions! At Browns Flat they heard Am. Toads calling for the first time on May 24, though they were heard May 20 at Hill Settlement (Christie). Gorham found Bull Frogs at Oak Point May 25. Their breeding season occurs later in the season when the water warms considerably.

An interesting reptile report comes from Henrik Deichmann who watched a large Snapping Turtle try to climb up a steep bank on Den Brook, near Grand Lake, May 22. He estimated its carapace as being 18 inches long, near the largest recorded size for this species.

Few correspondents mentioned insect life this spring. Perhaps it was too cold for much activity till mid-May. The first reported Mourning Cloak butterflies were singles on May 6 at Deer Island Point and on May 7 at Daniel's Marsh, Albert County (Christie & Majkas). At Woodstock one was seen May 20 by Marjorie Gray who reported June-bugs (beetles) out on May 27 there.

FLORA

Vegetation development was considerably delayed by the cool weather. At Saint John Coltsfoot was not in bloom till Apr. 19 (Christie), at the same place where it was found Apr. 6 in both 1970 and 1971. At Shippegan Island it did not appear in bloom till May 20 (Chiasson). Dandelion, the other early, yellow composite, was seen May 1 at Woodstock by Mrs. Gray who found it there Apr. 8 last year. Other reports of Dandelion flowers were May 12 at Fredericton (Dean) and May 14 at Saint John (Christie). Bilberries, or Shadbush (Amelanchier spp.), came into bloom, as usual, almost simultaneously in various inland areas of southern N.B. They were reported May 20 at Woodstock (Gray) and May 21 at Fredericton (Dean) and Mill Settlement (Christie). All these plants and others were a few days to a couple of weeks later than average dates.

NEW BOOK ON THE PANTHER

"The Eastern Panther, A Question of Survival" by Bruce S. Wright. Clark Irwin, Toronto 1972. 180 pp.; several photos; drawings by Robt. Hines; \$ 6.50.
--- A sequel to the out-of-print "Ghost of North America" by the same author, this book presents the story of the survival of the eastern panther, or cougar, in the northeast. The author concentrated especially on the N.B. data he has accumulated. Also included are details of the known and presumed life history and characteristics of this fascinating creature. An interesting chapter deals with "reading" tracks. The author concludes with a strong plea for specific legislation protecting this rare animal in the east. (Only N.H. and Florida have such laws.) This book is of interest to all outdoor-oriented New Brunswickers.

COLOURED SHOREBIRDS

Shorebirds will be banded in the Magdalen Islands this summer for study of their migration routes. The underparts will be dyed bright yellow and a yellow streamer attached to one leg. Please report the details of any sightings to Dr. Raymond McNeil, Centre de Recherches Écologiques de Montréal, 4101 Sherbrooke St. East, Montréal 406. (In 1971, 4 Semipalmated and 1 Least Sandpipers were seen at Mary's Point, N.B.)

DESIGN CONTEST

When we began publication, it was planned to spruce up the N.B. Naturalist's appearance with a printed, letterhead type design for its title page. It hasn't happened yet, so now everyone gets a chance to contribute his ideas for a one colour design. It could occupy the top of the page, as our current one does, or the top and the bottom, or two corners, or whatever strikes your fancy, but it should be more than 35 square inches of the 8 1/2 x 11 page. Somewhere, it should incorporate the words "N.B. Naturalist" or "New Brunswick Naturalist". Submit as many designs as you like. They need not be of reproduction quality. Deadline will be Nov. 12, 1972. We will be arranging a judging panel of about 3 persons. The award: a copy of W. A. Squires' "A Naturalist in New Brunswick", to be published by the museum this fall. Got an idea? Send it in!

FEUILLET D'OBSERVATIONS, LES OISEAUX DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

Cette édition française de "Field Check-list of New Brunswick Birds" se vend à deux pour 5¢, ou une douzaine pour 25¢, au Musée, 277 avenue Douglas, St-Jean, N.-B. Envoyez 6¢ de plus pour les frais postaux.

ERRATA

The Saw-whet Owl reported in Vol. 3, No. 2, as seen at the Acadia Forestry Station in March was actually at the Forest Biology Lab in Fredericton (Deichmann).