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This issue of the N.B. Naturalist brings you five articles, of varying length, a review of W.A. Squires' most recent book and news of the winter's observations of nature and of the activities of various naturalists' groups. Rothesay high school student Alan Heward reports his observations of the development of salamander larvae. Henrik Deichmann, secretary of the federation, discusses the possibility of changing the names of some birds which now have inappropriate ones. That's a subject likely to promote heated debate! Rose-Aline Chiasson, a teacher from Lamèque, provides our first French language contribution, a report on the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker . Doug Whitman, field secretary of the Moncton club, tells of a mink on a fishing expedition and Peter Pearce, a founder of the Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club, outlines the development and activities of that club, the oldest in the province.

Thanks to the cooperation of Father Jean-Paul Lebel, we have, in French, highlights of the seasons "Nature News", as well as a translation of the salamander article. It is not our intention to have translation of entire articles but we will try to include resumés as regularly as possible. That will depend entirely on the number of volunteers willing to prepare them in French. If you would be willing to do so, please let us know. We have enough people to prepare English summaries of French articles.

We hope you enjoy this number of the N.B. Naturalist and that you will be encouraged to take pen in hand and share your own experiences and ideas, as have the contributors this month.

Editorial Committee.

ABOUT THE FEDERATION

The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, founded last November, has an organizational framework but its character and programs are not yet well-defined. At such an early stage, each member can contribute greatly to its development.

The federation consists of individual members and federated clubs. As of April 7, there were 248 members (some of them families of more than one person) and three federated clubs, the Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club, Moncton Naturalists' Club and Saint John Naturalists' Club. Other groups interested in joining are invited to write for information.

A board of directors guides the activities of the federation. The members elect a four-man executive and each club appoints a representative director. An additional two directors are elected by members who do not belong to a federated club.

The present board of directors is composed of active naturalists from several parts of the province. David Christie of Saint John is president, Beverley Schneider of Douglas is vice-president, Henrik Deichmann of Fredericton is secretary and Eric Tull, from Moncton, is treasurer. Directors-at-large are Hilaire

Chisson of Lamèque and Allan Smith of Sackville. Representing the federated clubs are Peter Pearce (Fredericton), Mary Majka (Moncton) and Cecil Johnston (Saint John).

This newsletter, meetings and field trips will constitute the main program of the federation in 1973. To have a meeting or trip organized for your area, write to the federation, c/o N.B. Museum, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John. To become a member send your name, address and dues ($ 2 per individual or family; $ 1 per student to age 18) to Eric Tull, NBFN treasurer, Biology Dept., University of Moncton, Moncton.

THE WEIRD WAYS OF SALAMANDER LARVAE

Alan Heward

To say that salamander larvae are not ordinary would be a gross understatement. Why, not only is their behaviour eccentric, but their very appearance suggests the unusual. For six months (April to September, 1970) I studied salamander larvae and so feel qualified to make such sweeping statements about their appearance and behaviour.

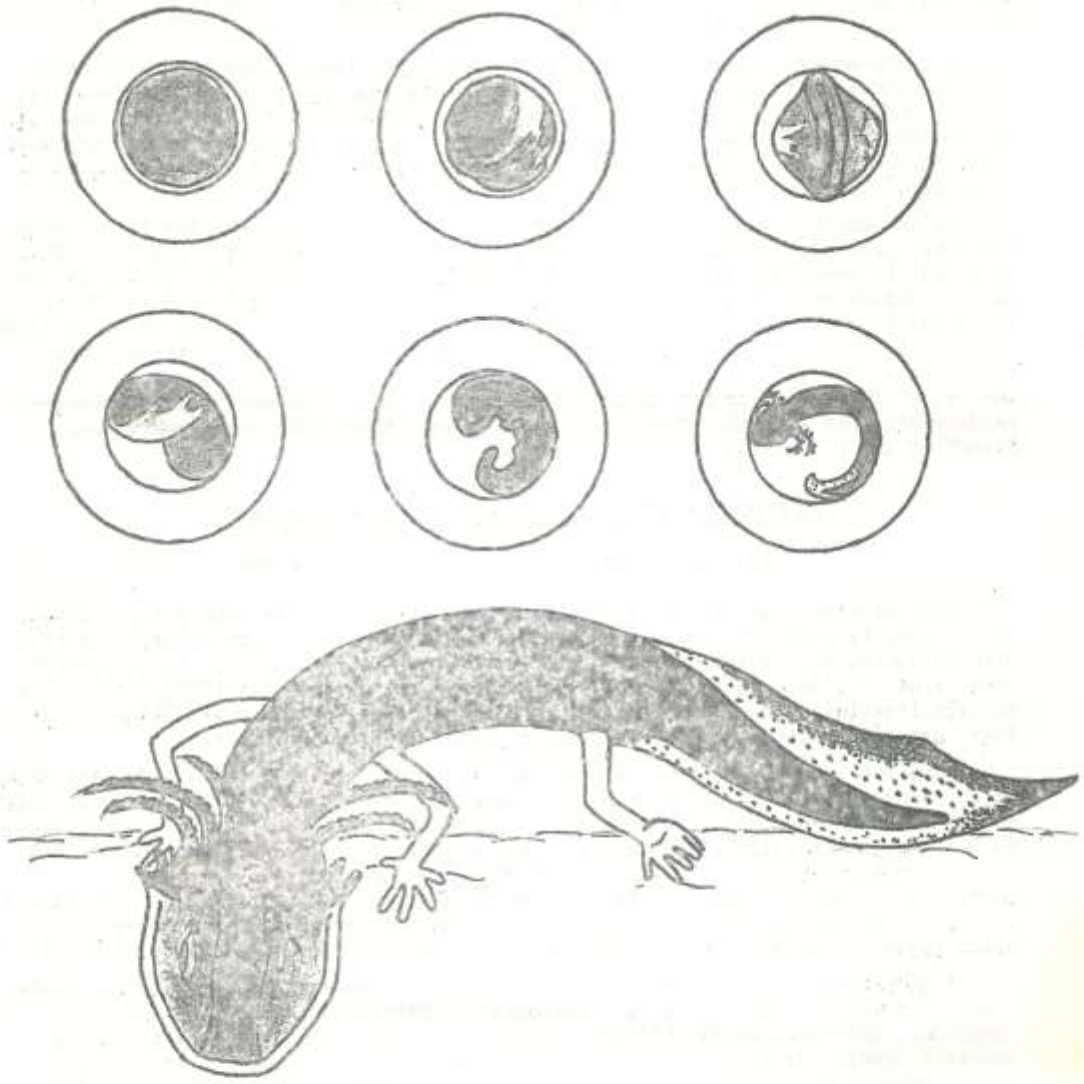
During the early spring, salamander eggs can be found in abundance in almost any ditch or fresh-water pond. When you are gathering the eggs, you will notice that each larva is contained within a tiny, round capsule of jelly inside the formless egg mass. If the eggs are placed in a spacious container and left in a cool, shady corner of your basement, they will do well indeed. In fact, if the room temperature stays just above 60 degrees, the eggs should hatch within a week.

Upon hatching from the egg mass, the larvae spend the first 24 hours feeding on the eggs, in much the same way as do the tadpoles of frogs and toads. Salamander larvae, however, appear to bite on the eggs, rather than suck on them as do the tadpoles of other amphibians. When frogs and toads are in the larval stage, they start off with sucking mouth parts which then give way to tiny, horny beaks equipped with fan-like strainers. The horny beak and strainers later fall off and the mouth widens, after the nearly mature tadpole has sprouted its legs. Not so with salamander larvae; their mouths appear widened and fully developed the minute they hatch from the egg.

After the tiny larvae have been clinging rigidly to the egg mass for a few minutes, they suddenly fall stiffly to the bottom, apparently exhausted. After lying there absolutely motionless for a few minutes, they wriggle in a swift, zig-zag fashion up toward the eggs to continue feeding. After a while, the whole thing happens all over again. However, each time the larvae fall to the bottom, they stay there for a shorter while than previously and each time they swim back up to the eggs, they cling there longer than before. That suggests that they are gaining strength.

About a day after the larvae have hatched, they discontinue using the eggs as food. Instead, they eat the tips of each other's tails! Incredible as it may seem, these weird creatures will continue that practice unless they are separated from each other and put into individual containers along with soft pond mud or sand, a variety of pond plants (which serve as food) and plenty of clean water. Too much algae in the water will kill the larvae, especially when the larvae are less than three weeks old. On the other hand, frogs and toads in the tadpole stage thrive in water that contains algae. In fact, algae are the staple items of their diet.

When the larvae are one week old they have grown from about half an inch long to approximately three-quarters of an inch in length. Their front limbs have become visible, but their back limbs won't appear until at least four days after the appearance of the front ones. Again, salamander larvae are unlike frog and toad tadpoles which develop their back limbs first, before they sprout their front legs.



Figures. Stages in the development of the embryo in salamander eggs and a larva after the l·gs have appeared. All drawings much enlarged.

When the larvae have ended their first week of life, the water level in each container should be lowered to one inch. Air may otherwise become trapped inside their tiny chests and the larvae will appear at the surface of the water, with their heads pointed upward and their bodies at a slight angle. As their undersides are transparent the bubble of air can be seen inside. If those problems occur and the water level is not lowered, the larvae will weaken and die in a few days. It is

advisable to place part of a lily pad or a smoothly sanded wooden float in the water for the larvae to climb out on.

The two-week-old larvae have grown to be an inch long. They are quite hardy and less inclined to die. Their reflexes are also sharper and they will dart away swiftly and suddenly the instant anything disturbs them. When three weeks old, although they have not grown any longer their heads and bodies have widened considerably. They have also changed colour, from a speckled gray to either solid black or tan-brown, depending on the species.

At two months of age, the larvae are almost one and three-quarter inches long. They will then stop breathing by means of gills and start using their lungs. Then they will be ready for life on land. The first sign of change to watch for is the gradual shrinking of the feathery gills. Next, their finned tails will begin to taper off to about one-eighth of an inch in thickness. Before the change from larva to adult is complete, the water in the containers should be lowered to one quarter of an inch. After that, small chips of wood can be used to slant the containers so that some of the sand or mud on the bottom is exposed. That way, the young salamanders will have enough water on one side to keep their skin moist and enough "land" on the other side to crawl around on.

LE COMPORTEMENT BIZARRE DES LARVES DE SALAMANDRES

par Alan Heward, traduisé par Jean-Paul Lebel

Si quelqu'un vous disait que les larves de salamandres ne sont pas des larves ordinaires, il faudrait conclure à une grande modestie de sa part. Car, il faut bien l'avouer, non seulement leur comportement est-il bizarre, mais leur apparence même tient de l'insolite. Pendant six mois (d'avril à septembre 1970), j'ai suivi de près l'évolution des larves de salamandres et c'est fort de cette étude que j'ose faire ces déclarations quant à leur apparence et leur comportement.

C'est de bonne heure le printemps que l'on peut trouver des oeufs de salamandres en abondance, si l'on se donne la peine de regarder dans presque n'importe quel fossé ou mare d'eau douce. Si vous examinez ces oeufs de près, vous verrez que chacune de ces petites capsules gélatineuses rondes dans la masse d'oeufs abrite une larve de salamandre. Placez les oeufs dans un récipient spacieux que vous porterez ensuite à un endroit sombre et frais de votre cave, et vous aurez là les conditions les plus propices pour leur éclosion. Si vous maintenez la température de la pièce juste au-dessus de 60° F, les oeufs devraient éclore en-dedans d'une semaine.

Immédiatement après leur éclosion, les larves se nourrissent à même les oeufs pendant 24 heures, comme le font d'ailleurs les têtards de grenouilles et de crapauds. Mais avec cette différence, cependant, que les larves de salamandres semblent mordre sur les oeufs plutôt que de sucer comme le font les larves des autres batraciens. A l'état larvaire, les parties buccales des crapauds et des grenouilles sont adaptées à la succion pour commencer, et ce n'est que peu à peu que des petits becs cornés équipés de filtres à forme d'évantail les supplanteront. A la longue, même ces nouvelles parties disparaîtront. La bouche s'ouvrira plus large après que le têtard, presque mature maintenant, se sera muni des ses membres postérieurs et antérieurs. Ce n'est pas du tout le cas chez nos salamandres. Leur bouche est déja bien ouverte et entièrement développée dès qu'elles quittent l'oeuf.

Après s'être cramponnées à la masse d'oeufs pendant quelques minutes, les larves minuscules tombent soudainement au fond du récipient, apparement épuisées. Elles restent là parfaitement immobiles pendant quelques minutes. Mais tout à coup, elles s'agitent frénétiquement et se dirigent en zigzaguant vers la masse d'oeufs où elles commencent à manger. Quelques instants plus tard, elles retombent au fond et le phénomène se répète. Mais chaque fois qu'elles se retrouvent au fond

du récipient, elles y restent moins longtemps, et lorsqu'elles reviennent à la masse d'oeufs, elles s'y nourrissent plus longtemps. C'est une claire indication que les larves sont en train de prendre des forces.

Environ une journée après leur éclosion, les larves délaissent les oeufs qui les nourrissaient. Elles s'acharnent alors à se manger la queue les unes des autres! Et, incroyable comme cela puisse paraître, elles continueront de le faire à moins qu'on ne les sépare les unes des autres et qu'on les place dans des récipients individuels. On aura soin de recouvrir le fond d'une couche de boue molle ou de sable, et on y disposera quelques plantes de marécages afin qu'elles s'en nourrissent. On s'assurera ensuite que le récipient soit rempli d'eau bien propre. L'eau sale pourrait contenir des algues qui tueraient presque certainement les larves, surtout si elles n'ont pas encore trois semaines. Pourtant les têtards de grenouilles et de crapauds pullulent dans ce genre d'eau. C'est que les algues sont leur principale source de nourriture.

Nos larves ont maintenant une semaine et elles ont grandi d'un quart de pouce. Elles mesurent environ trois-quarts de pouce. On distingue déjà les membres antérieurs. Les pattes arrière n'apparaîtront que quatre jours plus tard. Ici encore elles faussent compagnie aux têtards de crapauds et de grenouilles dont les membres postérieurs sont les premier à apparaître.

Après cette première semaine, il faut abaisser le niveau de l'eau de chaque récipient à un seul pouce. C'est pour éviter que la formation d'une bulle d'air dans la poitrine les oblige à flotter à la surface de l'eau la tête en l'air et le corps obliquant quelque peu. Cette bulle d'air est parfaitement visible, puisque les larves ont les parties ventrales transparentes. Si ce problème se présentait parce que vous n'aviez pas diminué le niveau de l'eau, il faudrait agir immédiatement. Sinon les larves faibliraient et mourraient en peu de jours. On conseille de placer une partie d'une feuille de nénuphar ou un petit "radeau" en bois bien poli à la surface de l'eau pour permettre aux larves de se hisser dessus.

A l'âge de deux semaines les larves mesurent un pouce de long. Elles sont beaucoup plus fortes et moins susceptibles de mourir. Leurs réflexes s'aiguisent et elles s'enfuient à la moindre alerte. A trois semaines leur corps ne s'est pas allongé, mais il a grossi considérablement. Leur couleur est passée d'un gris moucheté à soit un noir uniforme ou encore à un brun pâle, selon l'espèce.

A deux mois elles mesurent un pouce et trois-quarts. D'un moment à l'autre elles cesseront de respirer au moyen des branchies pour se mettre a respirer l'air par les poumons. C'est alors qu'elles pourront commencer leur vie sur terre. Le premier indice d'un tel changement, c'est le rétrécissement graduel des branchies plumeuses. La queue ensuite se transforme. Elle s'amenuise jusqu'à n'avoir qu'un huitième de pouce d'épaisseur. Avant que ne soit complété le passage de l'état larvaire à celui d'adulte, on veillera à abaisser le niveau de l'eau à un quart de pouce seulement. Au moyen de petites plaquettes de bois, on penchera le récipient de manière à exposer un peu de la boue ou du sable du fond. De cette façon, les jeunes salamandres auront suffisamment d'eau d'un côté du récipient pour conserver l'humidité à leur peau et assez de "terre" de l'autre côté pour s'ébattre un peu.

LET'S RENAME THE WARBLERS!

K. H. Deichmann

Rational change is acceptable or at least worthy of consideration, but not change for the sake of change alone! For those of us who have become accustomed to traditional names, however inappropriate, leaving well enough alone is easier than switching to "new", more-specific appellations. That observation probably does not apply, however, to the growing body of inductees into the naturalist avocation and it is on behalf of that group that I appeal for shorter, more descriptive common names for some birds.

With very little hesitation, one could suggest rejection of a number of confusing or cumbersome names throughout the class Aves, but I chose the family Parulidae, the wood warblers, as that family is particularly afflicted by unfortunate choices in English or common names. What follows then is a discussion, perhaps academic, of some possible name changes. But before plunging into the exercise, let us quell the qualms of those who are fearful for some "old favourites." Take the name Yellow Warbler for example; it would be hard to improve, as would Black-and-white, Blackpoll, Bay-breasted and both the Black-throateds.

Habitat or habitat-related elements have influenced the choice of a few names such as Pine, Myrtle and, possibly, Magnolia Warbler. Influences of that kind are appropriate considerations in naming many species, especially those which are not very distinctive visually.

Shown below are some common warbler names (A.O.U., 1957) and some suggested alternatives:

A.O.U. name	Alternative names influenced by consideration of habitat preferences
Tennessee Warbler	"Swamp" / "Larch" Warbler
Nashville Warbler	"Birch" Warbler[1]
Parula Warbler	"Usnea" Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler	"Hemlock" Warbler[2]
Palm Warbler	"Bog" Warbler
Northern Waterthrush	"Northern Water Warbler"[3]
Wilson's Warbler	"Shrub" Warbler
Canada Warbler	"Ravine" / "Brook" Warbler

To reflect the relatively broad habitat preferences of certain species, some of the proposed new names are of necessity quite general ("Shrub Warbler" for Wilson's, for example). By coincidence the surname of that eighteenth century English patron of ornithologists, Mrs. Blackburn, also conjures up a visual description ("black" for the upperparts and "burn" for the flaming orange throat) of the bird named in her honour. Perhaps in that case the official name should be exempt from change.

Several writers (Forbush, 1929; Godfrey,1966) bemoan the title of "mourning" for Oporornis philadelphia, but no one has suggested any strong alternatives. A possibility might be "Black-aproned Warbler."

In conclusion, appropriate name changes would have to be thoroughly examined by as wide a group of naturalists as possible. When collective agreement was reached, the suggested name changes could then be submitted to the American Ornithologists' Union (ultimately responsible for both common and scientific names of all North American birds) for consideration by its committee on nomenclature.

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Forbush, Edward H., 1925-29. The Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States. Mass. Dept. of Agriculture.

Godfrey, W. Earl, 1966. The Birds of Canada. Queen's Printer, Ottawa.

1. George Thayer (1907), in Bent (1953).
2. loc. cit.
3. from Godfrey (1966).

LE PIC A DOS RAYE *
NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER

Rose-Aline Chiasson

Par un bel après-midi d'hiver, soit le 14 janvier 1973, nous sommes allés faire une promenade dans le bois. Soudain un oiseau vole à quelque pas de nous et se pose sur un tronc d'arbre. Un pic est à décortiquer un arbre mort à la recherche de sa nourriture. En l'observant à l'aide de jumelles, nous voyons parfaitement le dessus de sa tête jaune, une bande rayée blanche sur le dos; c'est le Pic à dos rayé.

En feuilletant le N B N, je remarquai que cet oiseau a été vu que quelques fois au Nouveau-Brunswick depuis 1960, soit le 2 janvier 1964 au CBC de St-Jean; le 3 décembre 1966 à Frédéricton par R. Roy; le 10 mars 1971 au Lac Upsalquitch par A. Madden; en juin 1971 à Plaster Rock par N. Watters; le 12 juin 1971 au Lac Louis par J. Wilson et le 27 décembre 1971 au CBC à St-Jean.

Autrefois appelé "American Three-toed Woodpecker", le Pic à dos rayé se distingue des autres par ses trois doigts et la tache jaune que le mâle a sur la tête. Dans le livre "Les Oiseaux du Canada" (p.283), W.E. Godfrey dit, "Il fait son nid dans un trou qu'il creuse dans un arbre sec ou vert, habituellement un conifère; il est généralement placé à peu de hauteur au-dessus du sol (2 à 20 pieds)."

On peut voir ce pic dans les régions boisées et dans les brûlis. A nous de chercher à déterminer s'il est nombreux au Nouveau-Brunswick.

HUNGRY MINK

Doug Whitman

While watching a quiet backwater of Turtle Creek on a January day, I observed a mink come down the stream and disappear under some thin ice projecting from the bank. He soon reappeared with a small fish in his mouth which he carried up onto the ice and laid there. Instead of eating the fish, he again dived under the ice and returned in less than a minute with another small fish which he placed beside the first. The mink continued fishing without interruption until he had ten fish laid out in a row, as at a banquet. Each time he landed, he shook himself like a dog. If the fish wriggled too much the mink bit it once, as a kind of coup-de-grâce. Finally, with his table laid, the mink dispatched the fish in very short order until only one remained. This one he left, perhaps because something alarmed him.

I admired the mink's fishing ability and also his self-control in not commencing to eat until his platter was full. As the fish appeared to be small chubs, which are common in such creeks, it did not seem that that fisherman would unduly deplete his "wildlife resource." In fact, it appears to stand up very well to natural use, as I have also seen mergansers and herons fishing that same stretch of water.

IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to announce the passing this winter of Frances Bradshaw of West Quoddy. Frances was well-known to many of New Brunswick's naturalists, through her regular contributions of information to Nature News and as the enthusiastic organizer of the St. Martins Christmas Bird Count. She will be missed by many who are interested in nature, especially those in the St.Martins area. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to her husband, Jim Bradshaw.

* See Northern Three-toed Woodpecker on page 28 of this issue.

THE FREDERICTON FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

P. A. Pearce

Since forest, stream, marsh, farm and orchard are all so close at hand, naturalists in Fredericton have unequaled opportunities to indulge their hobby (no pun intended). Many naturalists tend to want to share their enthusiasm with others, and so it was that the Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club (FFNC) came into being very early in 1960. Its major purpose was and is, in the words of the first president, to "bring together people with a common interest in the wild plants and animals around us ... to widen and quicken those interests and to compile written records from otherwise uncoordinated observations." With the recent founding of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists (NBFN), it may now be an appropriate time briefly to review one local nature club's history and present state.

Since the FFNC's formation regular meetings have been held, generally in an atmosphere of reserved informality, during the less clement months. Although bird watching has been a common denominator of member interest, the committee has constantly striven for a wide approach to the study of natural history. Speakers' topics have consequently ranged from fossils in New Brunswick to marine life in the Caribbean, from the flora of Odell Park to the lions of the Serengeti, and have invariably been excellently presented and well received. The ready availability of a broad spectrum of willing experts from the halls of academe and the establishments of government has been one of the club's great fortunes. Formal field excursions, particularly those oriented toward less sedentary subject matters, have not always been totally successful. Perhaps some members have sensed an incompatibility between the quiet field pursuit of their special interests and the slight regulation which organized activities must necessarily impose. A traditional outdoor activity has been the Christmas bird count, conducted by the club at Fredericton since 1960 and at Jemseg since 1962. Recently a third count has been initiated at Mactaquac, where construction of a hydroelectric dam has resulted in greater numbers of overwintering waterfowl than theretofore.

In its fourteen-year history the FFNC has produced a modest, unbroken series of annual reports which probably, for various reasons, will terminate with the 1972 edition. Recognizing a constitutionally-stated club objective, and reflecting the particular interests of the field secretaries, those reports have consisted essentially of a documentation of local avifaunal records, enlivened here and there by short essays. One feels that a useful contribution has been made to the knowledge of the seasonal occurrence, relative abundance and distribution of birds of the lower basin of the Saint John River.

Although nominal membership in the club has waxed and waned, the number of active participators has remained surprisingly constant. Some old hands have relocated — one former president later becoming president of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists — but new, welcome faces have constantly popped up. As with other associations with similar objectives, the club has attracted a variegated group of enthusiasts of diverse age, background and occupation. Despite that heterogeneity, one senses a conservativeness of attitude, a tangible expression of which may be the fact that the club has operated, in the financial sense, increasingly more "in the black."

The club lent its support to the establishment of a game management area within the city and promoted the development, as a centennial year project, of Odell Park in a manner which preserved its outstanding natural amenities. In recognition of the importance of fostering in young people an appreciation of the natural world,

summer nature rambles and winter film series have been conducted for children and suitable nature magazines have been placed in the children's section of the public library.

In terms, then, of its raison d'être the FFNC has remained a viable entity. Under the guidance of the current torchbearers, a continuance of that viability is assured. The 1973 officers are K.H. Deichmann (president), Dr. B.J. Schneider (vice-president), Mrs. J.P.A. Noble (secretary-treasurer), Mrs. J.B. Bell (correspondence secretary) and J.H. Ferguson (field secretary).

A role greater than that envisioned by the club's founders should perhaps be encouraged. In the last two years the FFNC became affiliated with the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, submitted a brief on the Provisional Master Plan for Fundy National Park, and became a federated club of the NBFN. Do those actions herald the adoption of a more activist stance in regard to the local, provincial and national environmental problems which concern us all? Time will tell how the club responds to the many challenges.

THE BOOK SHELF

A Naturalist in New Brunswick
by W. Austin Squires, 1972. The New Brunswick Museum, Saint John. 135 pp., illustrated in colour and black & white. Available from Museum at $ 4 postpaid.

"A Naturalist in N.B." by W.A. Squires fills a neglected part of our province's literature. Not that we have a great number of authors, but history, humour, fiction and travel have at least been subjects of books. So also there has been much purely scientific writing. Dr. Squires, curator emeritus of the N.B. Museum, himself is the author of such scientific publications as "The Birds of New Brunswick" and "The Mammals of New Brunswick." His new book, "A Naturalist in New Brunswick", although on a solid scientific base, is a narrative, light and entertaining. The stories of adventures in forests and bogs seem so familiar to us that, at times, we almost feel the chill of a spring evening and see the bittern fly into the setting sun while the peepers call ceaselessly in the swamps. That sense of personal involvement is felt throughout the book, since most of the journeys and investigations are described with much detail of places well-known to New Brunswickers.

It is a book for all ages. Nostalgic recollections of years gone by will be treasured by those who saw the province only lightly touched by development and mostly wild and unspoiled. For the young there are the adventures of Bob Squires, a lad in his teens, who in company with his father lives the life of a naturalist-explorer, a dream of many a boy interested in the outdoors. To all those who have wondered about the natural world of our province and to those who come here to find out about New Brunswick this book will be an entertaining guide and perhaps an inspiration. --- Mary Majka.

NATURE NEWS

David Christie

This account is based primarily on observations reported during the period December 1 to March 20. In most instances the Christmas Bird Counts have been ignored, since data from them were summarized in the February number.

After rather severe December weather (3° to 8° colder than average; about twice the average snowfall) normal winter weather prevailed for two months. During January and February the major weather stations reported near average temperatures and precipitation. There were a few pronounced thaws, such as that of January 19 which produced a record January maximum of 57° at Moncton Airport. The thaws kept snow depths from becoming very deep and created strong crusts in the woods. March

"came in like a lamb" this year and it remained lamb-like all month, characterized by long stretches of mild weather and very little snowfall. I haven't seen the figures, but it probably averaged at least as mild as December was cold. As a result, a number of migrant birds returned quite early.

Mammals

Where do black colour phase Gray Squirrels occur in the province? Rudy Stocek reports that he has seen "black squirrels" four times in Fredericton, including one Nov.30 and one Jan. 1. I have heard of black ones at Oak Point but never in Fredericton, despite the abundance there of both the squirrels and interested observers. Marjorie Gray writes that Gray Squirrels (the common, gray colour phase) were about her home in Woodstock this winter, after a few years' absence. Several miles to the north, Donald Kimball saw one at Somerville Feb.17. We would be interested in hearing more about Gray Squirrels in areas where they are scarce and about the black colour phase anywhere.

Henrik Deichmann reports two Chipmunks active above ground on a sunny slope at Doak, York County, Mar.11. This very early emergence no doubt is the result of the mild March weather. Margaret Patterson had Flying Squirrels coming to her bird feeder in early December. Anyone who has large trees near his home may have these common, but seldom seen, squirrels visiting his feeding station at night. Take a flashlight and look for them a few times!

On Dec.23, Hank Deichmann saw a Porcupine feeding in an elm at Lower Sheffield, an area he estimated was from 4½ to 5 miles from the nearest softwood trees. Is that unusual? From my own experience, I can't say; the many times I've seen them in hardwood areas softwoods were never far away, but it is hard to be far from softwoods in the province. Snowshoe Hares seem at low ebb in Albert County. On a two-mile walk in Fundy Park Mar. 3, Mary Majka didn't see a single track; on Caledonia Mountain they are almost as scarce.

A Long-tailed Weasel was found dead on a road, Feb. 6, near Peltoma Lake, Sunbury County (Jim Dryden). As the rarer of our two weasel species, it will be put to good use in an exhibit at the museum.

Many wild animals will come about houses, if undisturbed. Laverne Rabatich, at Plaster Rock, writes that she watched a Red Fox for about an hour while it ate scraps she had put out for the birds. It returned "for seconds" that night, as the snow was marked with many fresh tracks the following day. On Caledonia Mountain, a fox has been coming regularly to the Majkas' feeder while the dogs are asleep at night, but on Feb.26 it spent a nervous ten minutes, in the early morning sun, digging out bread that the jays had dropped.

Alan Hadden reports that a Canada Lynx was killed at Benjamin River, Restigouche Co., Mar.14. Lynx are protected in the province because of their rarity. At one time they occurred throughout mainland New Brunswick and were fairly common, but in the last 70 years or so the more southern Bobcat has increased at their expense. In the south, Lynx seem virtually absent, and in the northern counties they are very rare. Cape Breton Island used to be their last stronghold in the Maritimes, but recent reports indicate that Bobcats have reached the island via the Canso Causeway and that Lynx are now on the wane there. Donald Kimball had a good look at a Bobcat, as it sharpened its claws on a tree, at Cloverdale Feb.10.

In response to our note on a Gray Seal in the December issue, Al Smith has supplied the following report: "I observed gray seals and harbour seals (usually only single animals) during the summer in Baie Verte (from my cottage at Bayside). However, during the smelt 'run' of early October, between five and ten gray seals frequented the coast in front of my cottage and on October 22, a dead gray seal (young) was on the beach... The seal was branded S2, which I have been told is a young seal from Sable Island, branded as a pup in January 1972. About a week later I heard a report of a similar animal, on Shediac Island, which was branded G2 — apparently a young gray seal pup from Georges Bay, N.S."

Birds

In response to the mild weather of early March several species which normally return late in March put in appearances a week or more ahead of time. Blackbirds, in particular, were conspicuous, yet even at month's end there had been no large "wave" of migrants following which the birds seem to be everywhere. The general scarcity of snow allowed new arrivals to spread out over much more habitat than they usually do. Probably the same factor led to complaints from some observers that songbirds were scarce in late winter. Conditions just were not concentrating them and forcing them into residential areas for handouts.

In the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) summary I neglected to point out the lingering Pied-billed Grebe seen at Harding Point, in the Saint John area, Dec.26 (Deichmann) and the Hooded Merganser on the Cape Tormentine count. There were no other reports of either one this winter. A Great Cormorant at Fundy Park Headquarters Dec. 4 (John MacFarlane) was one of very few ever reported in the park.

Canada Geese are still moving south during December. This winter they mostly had past through early, before Christmas. January and February reports were of 5 at Saint John Jan.13 (Gerald Howland), 50 passing over Moncton Jan.23 (fide Dr. M.F. Majka) and one very tame bird near Browns Flat Jan.28 to Feb. 5 (fide Stan Gorham). The latter bird eventually went right into the house of people who were feeding it, and it was turned over to the Department of Natural Resources for safe lodging at a game farm.

The male Mallard seen on the Moncton CBC spent the winter on open water below Turtle Creek dam where it was seen by Doug Whitman Jan.20 and Feb.25. Seven other Mallards wintered in Centennial Park, Moncton (Mary Majka), where the park staff put out grain for them. Being very tame, they offered excellent photographic opportunities, but about Mar.28 the flock separated and only one pair can now be seen around the usual place by the bridge over the creek.

Because of little open water at Dalhousie, the duck situation was quite different from the past two winters. Father Jean-Paul Lebel reports that Black Ducks, absent since late December, re-appeared Mar. 7. Common Goldeneye were "very rare" with only 3 to 4 in January, none in February and 7 in early March. His only Barrow's Goldeneye, since New Year's, were 6 on Jan. 7 and 2 on Jan.16. Red-breasted Mergansers were most common, with 100 on Jan.24 and 50 on Feb. 8. Common Mergansers reached a maximum of 12 there during the period Feb. 8 to Mar.16. Blake Maher reports that that species was the only duck to be seen at Bathurst this winter.

The hawk picture remained much the same as that recorded by the CBCs. Sharp-shinned Hawks appeared mainly in residential areas, "terrorizing my bird feeder" as Doug Whitman put it, when referring to his Sharpie at Riverview. Jan Dexter watched an immature dispatch a Cowbird at Saint John West Dec.18 and Elizabeth Mott saw a Starling being captured in early March at her Dalhousie feeder. It is natural to complain about these small hawks' repeated visits to bird feeders, but we should realize that by putting out food we are creating unnatural concentrations of songbirds, increasing their chance of survival through feeding but at the same time exposing them to predators, such as birds of prey and household pets. Although it is difficult to forgive a bird of prey if it captures one of our more prized visitors (as a Northern Shrike did to one of Cecil Johnston's White-throated Sparrows this winter), we should consider ourselves lucky to have observed the predator at such close range, for the hawk, owl or shrike is also a prize. A Cooper's Hawk, much rarer than the Sharp-shinned here, visited Caledonia Mountain Feb.25 and March 1 (Eric Tull, Majkas & Christie) and was the bird of the season there.

A good number of Bald Eagle reports were received during the winter, mostly from Charlotte County and the lower Saint John valley, but there were also single adults at Fundy Park Feb.25 (Bruce Bradbury), Somerville Jan.21-30 (Kimball) and Dalhousie Mar.19 (Lebel). John Bethell was told that two eagles apparently spent the winter around Baie du Vin Island. A Peregrine Falcon was seen at Westfield Dec. 2(Johnston).

It was a fairly exceptional season for Gyrfalcons. At Dalhousie a white phase bird was seen Dec.21 and a dark one at intervals from Dec.22 to Mar.16 (Lebel). What may have been the same gray, or intermediate, phase Gyrfalcon seen on the CBC, at Saint John West (Jim Wilson & Johnston), was in the central part of Saint John Feb. 6 (Christie) and 21 (Wilson) and March 23 (David Clark). Another gray one was seen at Somerville Mar.16 (Kimball). There had been three reports last fall. A few Sparrow Hawks were about, one throughout the winter at Saint John (Bob Dunbrack & Christie), one at Musquash and one at Cummings Cove, Deer Island, Jan.14 (Wilson & Clark) and 1 at Nauwigewauk, Kings Co., Mar. 5 (Christie). A bird near Harvey, Albert Co., March 15 & 18 (Majkas) was probably a migrant.

Doug Whitman reports that both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were present in reduced numbers at Moncton this winter. That seems also to have been the case at Cape Tormentine where there were no reports of more than 50 Icelands. No gulls at all were present at Dalhousie between mid-January and the first week of March (Lebel).

The only Common Murre reported was one at Letete Jan.14 (Wilson & Clark). A Thick-billed Murre, unusual in the upper bay, was found dead at Fundy Park Jan.27 (Bradbury). Was it the same bird that was at Cape Enrage last November? One Mourning Dove survived at Saint John West, spending most of the winter at Dot Laskey's South Bay feeder. It was probably the same bird that was at Gerry Spencer's Mar. 4.

A few Snowy Owls were reported: 1 at Moncton (J. Burns & K. Christie, fide Whitman), 1 at Saint John (Joan Pearce et al.), 1 at Sunpoke Lake, near Oromocto (Robin Hanson, fide Deichmann) and 3 at various times in the Aulac area (Stuart Tingley). One Hawk Owl, few of which have been reported in the last few years, was at Hartland Mar.17 (Kimball). As noted concerning the CBCs, Barred Owls were seen much more frequently than usual in winter. Seven count areas reported them either on count day or during count period. Since Christmas more have been seen, with reports from Sagwa, Kings Co. (Lyle Parker), Saint John (Mar Macaulay & Mrs. Hughes), Petersville, Queens Co. (W.A. Squires), Saint John West (Mr. & Mrs. William Hazen), Rothesay (Fred Long) and Somerville (Kimball). Some of them were seen in urban or suburban yards, others during the day in trees beside well-travelled highways. We don't know whether there has been an influx from some other region or whether perhaps a shortage of food in their forest habitat has forced them into open and populated areas where they are much more apt to be seen than usually. (A late report from Doug Whitman tells of a trapper in the Moncton area who had two Barred Owls and a Goshawk captured in his traps set for fur-bearers.)

A Belted Kingfisher inland at Parkindale, Albert Co., Jan.29 (Christie) seemed very out of place in that snowy, hill country but there have been a couple of previous reports of kingfishers in winter along the small, swift streams characteristic of that region.

In addition to the unusual report of a Red-headed Woodpecker, an adult, at West Musquash on the Lepreau CBC, an immature of the species appeared at a bird feeder at Lawrence Station Dec. 7 or 8 and was still visiting it late in January (Mrs. Ames, fide Willa MacCoubrey). Only four reports of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were received. A male spent several days in early December at Chance Harbour (Ed Spencer), one was seen on the Cape Tormentine CBC, another at Moncton Dec.29 (Donald Cormier) and a fourth, a female, was stripping bark from dead elms on Gilbert Island, Sunbury County, Jan.27 (Deichmann). When Dutch elm disease began to kill many elms in southern Ontario, both species of three-toed woodpeckers were noted much more frequently there, being attracted by the many insects in the dead trees. The much rarer Northern Three-toed was seen twice, at Shippagan Island Jan.14 (Hilaire & Rose-AlineChiasson) and at Clifton Royal, Kings Co., Feb.15 (Donald McAlpine).

Three flycatchers, obviously not catching flies at that season, were noted in December, the E. Phoebe discovered on the Fredericton CBC, a Western Kingbird at Fundy Park Headquarters Dec. 4 (MacFarlane) and a Great Crested Flycatcher at Sackville Dec. 2 (Hinrich Harries). The last was found dead the next day, following a night during which the temperature dropped to zero.

Blue Jays continued to be very common. One observation of note was made by Stan Gorham who saw over 100 while driving from Campbellton to St. Leonard Mar. 7. Ravens were"very common all winter" at Dalhousie (Lebel). A White-breasted Nuthatch at Bathurst Dec.27 (Mahem) was the only one reported from northeastern N.B.

Beside the Mockingbird at Lower Coverdale throughout December (Russell Coates, fide Whitman), three were reported in the Saint John area, at Westfield Dec. 2 (Johnston), East Riverside till Dec.20 (fide Mary Ross) and Saint John West about Jan. 1 (Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Beatteay). A Brown Thrasher, visiting a feeder at South Bay, St. John Co., disappeared about the middle of January (Mrs. C. Lee), while the bird at Wilma Miller's feeder in Nicteau disappeared late that month when the temperature dropped as low as 45° below. A third thrasher was seen briefly in late February at Riverview by Mrs. J.J. Cassidy).

Bohemian Waxwings, a few of which were seen in several areas in December were not much reported later in winter. 13 were at Riverview Feb.11 (Art Dobson) and 11 at Hactaquac Mar. 3 (Peter Taylor). Northern Shrikes, of which there was the largest flight since 1965-66, declined somewhat in mid-winter but again became very conspicuous during northward migration in March. Reid McManus reported an early Loggerhead Shrike at Memramcook Mar.15.

We have often wondered about the fate of the Myrtle Warblers that are found almost annually in December in a woodlot at Cape Tormentine. We now know that they can indeed survive, apparently subsisting entirely on natural foods. Stuart Tingley, Gordon Burns and Ian Cameron visited there March 3 and saw two of them. On the 4th and 10th one Myrtle was seen by the same observers and Al Smith and Paul Bogaard. Stuart hopes to learn next winter whether the birds are surviving on bayberries as they do in winter on the south shore of Nova Scotia.

Three E. Meadowlarks were seen at Grand Manan Dec.29 (Wayne Guptill). A Rusty Blackbird visited the Majkas' feeder on Caledonia Mountain from Jan.13 throughout the winter. A second one that appeared Jan.31 was not seen after Feb.24 the day, coincidentally or not, that the Cooper's Hawk was first seen there. While the two came to the feeder each day, they spent most of the time in the forest where they apparently were able to obtain some food, despite the deep snow at 1200 feet. At Saint John West a flock of 70 Brown-headed Cowbirds was seen Feb. 4 (Johnstons), indicating good survival till that date.

Finches remained in much the same numbers as reported on the CBCs, with no late winter influxes observed. Am. Goldfinches did appear in small numbers at feeders in southern N.B. during February, particularly about Feb.10-13. Pine Grosbeaks decreased in numbers during January and were scarce for the remainder of the season. Dot Leskey's Rufous-sided Towhee (one of 2 on the Saint John CBC) disappeared following a late January storm. A female was seen Dec. 8-10 at Torryburn, St. John Co. (Clark).

So many spring migrants were seen before March 20 that we can present only a list of some of them. As usual, such species as Horned Larks, Canada Geese, Crows and Starlings were noticed first, but soon after there were reports of species usually first expected between the 20th and the end of the month.

Canada Goose: about Mar. 1, heard near Oak Point (fide Lloyd Beyea); Mar. 6, heard at Riverside-Albert (Mary Harmer & Bill MacFarlane); Mar.13, 8 at Saint John West (Doris Johnston); Mar.15, 118 at Oak Pt.(Christie) and 30 at Albert (Mary Majka); Mar.18, "large flock" at Woodstock (Gray) and 140 at Jemseg (P.Pearce).

Greater Scaup: 30 at Oak Point on Mar.15 (Christie).

Pintail: Mar. 3, 1 at Saint John (Wilson).

Am. Widgeon: Mar.17, 1 at Lower Jemseg (Nettie Moore).

Common Eider, migrating flocks at Memramcook: Mar.11, 100 and Mar.15, 200 (McManus).

Surf Scoter: migrant flock: Mar.16, 100+ flying NE at Moncton (Whitman).

Killdeer: Mar.13, 1 at Memramcook (McManus); Mar.18, 1 at Saint John West (Johnston) and 1 at Fredericton (Taylor).

Am. Woodcock: Mar.15, 1 at Riverside (Dr.Majka & Mark Majka).

Horned Lark: Mar. 6, 4 at Somerville (Kimball) and 10 at Grande-Anse (Gorham); Mar. 7, 32 at Somerville and 1 at Waterville (Kimball). Other early reports were Mar. 9 at Albert (Mary Majka), Mar.10 at Whites Bluff, Kings Co.(Gorham), Mar.13 at Fundy Park (Bradbury) and Moncton (P. Pearce), and Mar.14 at Nemramcook(McManus).

Common Crow: migrants about Mar. 7 in the south and by the 13th at Dalhousie(Lebel).

Robin: Mar.13, migrants at White Head, Grand Manan (Nancy Small); Mar.15, 1 at Saint John (J. Pearce); Mar.18, 2 at Saint John West (Johnstons); Mar.19, 30+ at Alma (Bradbury).

E. Bluebird: Mar. 16,,1 at Alma (Jean Beaumont).

Starling: Movements began early in March but are difficult to detect; Mar. 7, 10 at Somerville (Kimball); Mar.11, 500 at Harvey, Albert Co.(Léo Martin).

Red-winged Blackbird: Mar.11, 5 at Saint John West (Spencer); Mar.13, migrants at White Head (Small) and 11 at Somerville (Kimball); Mar.14, 27 at Fundy Park (Bradbury); Mar.15, 9 at Oak Pt.(Christie); Mar.16, 3 at Riverview (Whitman).

Common Grackle: A few were seen in several areas Mar.11-15; flocks of 20 or more were at Woodstock Mar.14 (Gray), at Saint John West Mar.15 (Christie), at Chartersville Mar.16 (Marguerite Hope) and at Riverside Mar.17 (Majkas & Christie).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Very few early; only possible migrants were 3 at Chartersville Mar.10 (Hope) and a small flock at Woodstock Mar.14 (Gray).

Slate-coloured Junco: Mar.19, 150+ at Fundy Park (Bradbury).

Invertebrates & Flora

Winter being the season of hibernation and dormancy for many forms of life, there is little to report on invertebrate animals and plants. Snow fleas, those "curious" insects of the order Collembola which are not fleas at all, normally attract attention in late winter but there have been few reports. Many of them were seen on at the snow at Little Dipper Harbour during the Lepreau CBC. Mary Majka reports that in Centennial Park, Moncton, they began to appear on the snow about mid-February and then about the middle of March they [illegible] up to tree trunks, especially birches, and decreased on the snow.

March 19 marked the beginning of ant season on Caledonia Mountain, for it was on that date that the first of many black ants invaded the Majkas' home. Extending our dates slightly allows us to include the first Coltsfoot blossom found at Saint John East on March 25 (fide Shirley Colquette).

LES FAITS SAILLANTS DES OBSERVATIONS DE L'HIVER

Si la température des mois de janvier et de février a été normale, il n'en a pas été ainsi pour le mois de mars qui a été très doux. Il n'est donc pas surprenant d'apprendre que certaines espèces animales ont donné des signes de vie plus tôt qu'à l'ordinaire. Les Bernaches canadiennes, les Merles, les Mainates et les Carouges à épaulettes ont commencé leurs migrations très tôt. On nous apprend par ailleurs que des Tamias rayés ("petits suisses") du comté de York s'agitaient déjà fébrilement à la date très précoce du 11 mars. Un Lynx du Canada, espèce devenue rare au Nouveau-Brunswick, a été tué à Benjamin River au mois de mars, également.

Des Igles à tête blanche ont été observés à plusieurs reprises. L'automne dernier l'on vous faisait part de la visite de trois Gerfauts. Eh bien, durant la période hivernale, c'est bien quatre qui viendront réveiller l'intérêt de certains observateurs reconnaissents. Les Chouettes rayées n'ont pas voulu inaperçues elles non plus, puisqu'on les a signalées dans pas moins de 13 localités! Quelques espèces nous ont quittés comme à regret. Un Tyran de l'ouest et un Moucherolle huppé étaient de ce nombre. On les a vus jusque dans la première semaine de décembre, ce qui est tard. Il y a eu abondance de Geais bleus et de Corbeaux et l'on a constaté un bon passage de Pie-grièches boréales. Enfin, après avoir observé les Fauvettes à croupion jaune du Cap Tourmentin au mois de décembre depuis plusieurs années, on est en mesure d'affirmer qu'elles peuvent subsister tout l'hiver ne dépendant, semble-t-il, que des seules nourritures fournies par la nature. — J-P. Lebel.

NBFN SYMBOL

We are looking for a symbol to represent the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists — something for letterheads, the title page of the N. B. Naturalist, automobile stickers or whatever other emblems might be produced. Any good ideas will be considered and might be adopted, but the following guidelines are suggested:

Object: to create a symbol (realistic or stylistic) to represent the NBFN, an organization of persons interested in one or more aspects of New Brunswick nature, such as plants, birds, animals, fishes, invertebrates, land, sea, etc.
Size: up to 10 cm. in any direction
Shape and Colour: open
Complexity and Reproducibility: must be simple and easily reproducible on paper, fabric.
Originality: must differ from the symbols of other natural history, conservation, wildlife and ornithological organizations and similar groups.

We need many ideas. Send yours to Beverley Scheider, RR # 4, Fredericton, or to any federation director. Modest prizes will be awarded to the best entries. Deadline for submissions is May 31. Please participate!

TWO NEW CLUBS FORMED

Chignecto Naturalists' Club - About 30 interested persons from the Sackville—Amherst area met at Mount Allison University March 1 and formed the Chignecto club, to serve the isthmus area. The meeting, organized by NBFN director Allan Smith, was primarily involved with the mechanics of setting up the club but also featured a nature film on predation. At their second meeting on April 5, when a program on Purple Martin colonies was held, the club executive was elected. The officers are Paul Bogaard (president), Ron Hounsell (vice-president) and Lee Calkins (secretary-treasurer). There are also four field secretaries responsible for the club's observations of plants, birds, mammals and seashore life. 50 people attended that meeting!

Miramichi Naturalists' Club - The federation sponsored a meeting in Newcastle March 25, with John Bothell acting as organizer. NBFN president David Christie spoke about the federation, its activities and the interests of its members. Two nature films were also shown to the 35 or so people in attendance. Some had come from as far away as Blackville and Bathurst. On April 12 these people met again and formed a club to serve the area about the mouth of the Miramichi, including the towns of Chatham and Newcastle. The club executive is John Bothell (president), Harry Walker (vice-president), Ken Sweeney (secretary) and John Keating (treasurer).

NBFN COMMITTEES

Two committees were set up by the directors at their April 7 meeting — one on birds of prey and one on nature reserves. The bird of prey committee, headed by Rudy Stocek, Box 518, Fredericton, will gather information on the status of hawks and owls in the province, will investigate improvement of protective laws and will carry out an educational program to improve public understanding of the role of predators in nature. Rudy is anxious to hear from anyone with a special interest in birds of prey. He also wants information on shootings, trapping, disturbance of nests or similar problems.

The nature reserves committee, to be chaired by David Christie, 277 Douglas Ave., Saint John, will investigate means of establishing reserves of representative habitats in the province. The International Biological Program has recommended 28 New Brunswick areas (7 forests, 2 salt marshes, 3 freshwater marshes, 2 bogs, 1 sand dune system, 2 rare plant sites and 2 bird colonies) that should become ecological reserves.

BULLETIN BOARD

MEETINGS

Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club - 8 pm, Forestry Building, U.N.B., Fredericton
May 10: "The Morgan Arboretum" - Marguerite McNair

Moncton Naturalists' Club - 8 pm, Room D102, Science Building, Universite de Moncton, Moncton.
Apr.25: "Insect Galls" - Carmel Levesque

Saint John Naturalists' Club - 8 pm, N. B. Museum
May 9: "Eastern Panther" - Bruce S. Wright
Jun.13: "Nature Programs in the Girl Guide Movement" - Marion Sherwood.

Chignecto Naturalists' Club - 8 pm, Biology Building, Mount Allison University, Sackville. May 3 (topic?)

General

Apr.27-28: Provincial Conference, Man & Resources Program, Lord Beaverbrook Hotel, Fredericton
May 16-18: Coastal Zone Seminar, Mt. Allison University, Sackville. Sponsored by N.S. Resources Council. Problems of the Maritimes' beaches, dunes, marshes & estuaries. Watch news media for info on public session.

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WORKSHOPS

May 24-27: Outdoor education workshop for teachers, Sunbury Shores Arts & Nature Centre. Write SSANC, Box 100, St. Andrews, for info.

FIELD TRIPS

Apr.28: Amherst Pt., N.S. Info from Al Smith (CNC)
May 6: 2 pm, Tucker Park, Kennebecasis Dr., Saint John. General nature walk led by D.Christie(SJNC)
May 12: St.John River to Jemseg. Meet 9 am at N.B. Museum. All day trip. (SJNC)
May 20: 5 am or 8 am (your choice). Spring migration, Brier Island, N.S. Meet at ferry terminal, Brier I. Leader: Bob Emberton. Invitation extended to NBFN by Cape Breton Br., N.S. Bird Society.
May 26: Spring birds & flowers, Albert County. Meet either at 8:30 am at N.B. Museum or 11:30 am at Fundy Park HQ. (SJNC & M'ton NC).

All clubs are planning other trips but precise details not available. For info contact Cliff Jones of FFNC (363-2283), Mary Majka of M'ton NC (734-2559), Cecil Johnston of SJNC (672-3344), Allan Smith, of CNC (Queen's Rd, Sackville) or John Bothell of Mir.NC (330 George St., Newcastle).

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June 2-9: (Also July 7-14, Aug.11-18 & Sept. 1-8) Earth Skills Workshop, Maplevale Organic Farm, Cross Crk., York Co. Write for info.

BIRDWATCHERS NEEDED

The Breeding Bird Survey requires birders who are able to identify common birds by their songs and are willing to rise very early on one fine day in June. Survey routes are open in all areas of the province, especially Madawaska, Charlotte & Northumberland Counties. Write David Christie, N.B. Museum, Saint John for more info.

NEST RECORDS SCHEME

Put your observations of bird nests to use. The Maritimes Nest Records Scheme assembles the observations of birdwatchers and makes them available to anyone wishing to study the breeding biology of any species. The Robin nest in your yard can provide important information. Write N.B. Museum for cards for reporting.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Please send articles and observations (during the period Mar.20 to May 25) to the Federation, c/o N. B. Museum, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B., By MAY 31.

PLANNING AHEAD

The annual meeting of the Canadian Nature Federation will be held at Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S. from August 23-26. Lectures, discussions, field trips on the natural history of the Maritimes. An excellent opportunity for New Brunswickers to attend the meeting of our vibrant and growing national organization. If you have not joined yet, write C.N.F., 46 Elgin St., Ottawa K1P 5N6, or better still send $ 6 for regular membership.

The N. B. Federation of Naturalists has tentatively set the date and place for its first annual meeting, to be held at Fredericton on Saturday, September 8 with field trips the following day. Keynote speaker will be Gerry McKeating, executive director of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Canada's largest naturalists' organization. Plan to attend. More information in the Next issue.

New Brunswick Naturalist is published bi-monthly by the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B. (Editorial Committee: David Christie, Peter Pomroe, Mary Majka).

It is sent to members of the federation and to library subscribers. Memberships: $ 2 per individual or family, $ 1 for students to age 18. Library subscriptions: $ 2 per year. Fees should be sent to the treasurer, Eric Tull, Biology Dept., Universite de Moncton, Moncton, N.B.

FEDERATION FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, June 2 - Eel River Bar
The birds of Eel River Bar, Eel River Crossing and nearby points. Meeting time and place not finalized. Leaders: Jean-Paul Lebel, Paroisse St-Jean Bosco, Dalhousie, and Alan Madden, Tide Head. Restigouche members contact leaders for further information. Others write federation office, Saint John.

July 7-8 - Bald Peak weekend
Bill & Wilma Miller will host a gathering based at Nictau. Main attraction a foray up Bald Peak, one of the province's most spectacular mountains. Plant & animal life of the upper Tobique, canoeing, evening program, etc. Camping at Nictau.
Details in June issue; or write federation office.

NEW NAMES FOR SOME BIRDS

(Because the printing of this issue was unavoidably delayed for two weeks, we are able to add this extra page which is particularly pertinent because of Henrik Deichmann's article on bird names. As with any name changes, there is bound to be resistance and resentment concerning some of them, but A.O.U. recommendations generally prevail with time. Personally, I have mixed feelings about them and am not sure what practice I will follow initially with respect to the flickers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, orioles and juncos. -- D.S.C.)

A supplement to the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds has just been made public (Auk 90: 411-419). To conform with international usage and to reflect improved knowledge of species relationships, a number of name changes have been made. Most involve only scientific names, but several New Brunswick birds have been given new common names. Readers may wish to annotate their bird books as follows:

Old Name (A.O.U., 1957)	New Name (A.O.U., 1973)	Comments
Fulmar	Northern Fulmar	Distinction from Southern Hemisphere bird.
Leach's Petrel	Leach's Storm Petrel	Distinction from the large petrels, e.g. Pterodroma spp.
Wilson's Petrel	Wilson's Storm Petrel	Ditto.
Common Egret [1]	Great Egret	More meaningful name in wide use elsewhere.
Wood Ibis	Wood Stork	Actually is a stork.
Blue Goose	Snow Goose (dark phase)	Now known to be a colour phase, rather than a species.
Common Teal [2]	Green-winged Teal (Eurasian subspecies)	Same species as American green-wings.
Shoveler	Northern Shoveler	Distinction from other shovelers.
Common Scoter [3]	Black Scoter	More meaningful name, in wide use elsewhere.
Pigeon Hawk	Merlin	Conform with international use. Already in use here.
Sparrow Hawk	American Kestrel	Ditto.
Upland Plover	Upland Sandpiper	To reflect true relationships, i.e. not a plover.
Knot	Red Knot	Distinction from other knots.
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Common Flicker	"Yellow-shafted," "Red-shafted" and "Gilded" Flickers considered to be same species.
Traill's Flycatcher [4]	Alder Flycatcher	Our "wee-be-o" song type. The southern & western "fitz-bew" species to be called Willow Flycatcher.
Catbird	Gray Catbird	Distinction from other catbirds.
Parula Warbler	Northern Parula Warbler	As opposed to Tropical Parula (Olive-backed & Socorro).
Myrtle Warbler	Yellow-rumped Warbler	"Myrtle" and "Audubon's" as one species.
Yellowthroat	Common Yellowthroat	Distinction from other yellowthroats.
Baltimore Oriole	Northern Oriole	"Baltimore" and "Bullock's" as one species.
Ipswich Sparrow	Savannah Sparrow (Sable I. race)	Considered to be subspecies of Savannah Sparrow.
Slate-colored Junco	Dark-eyed Junco	"Slate-colored," "White-winged" and "Oregon" as one.

Readers interested in name changes of other North American birds can receive a list by writing to the N. B. Museum. We are still interested if anyone sees one of the distinctly marked western or European subspecies.

JOB OPENINGS

The New Brunswick Museum, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John has openings for three assistant curators, one each in the departments of art, Canadian history and natural science. College graduates or equivalent of training and experience. Write Director, New Brunswick Museum, for futher information.

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1. Known as American Egret before 1957 and in Peterson's Field Guide.
2. Formerly European Teal
3. Formerly American Scoter
4. Formerly Alder Flycatcher, and now back to it again!