



N.B. NATURALIST

vol. 4, no. 4, August 1973

Being behind publishing schedule, we are able to announce that the federation's first annual meeting held September 8-9 was a great success, apparently thoroughly enjoyed by the 80 to 100 participants. Detailed information on that meeting, including reports of officers and committees, will be featured in our October issue.

A change in our title page design this month incorporates the federation symbol chosen from among 44 designs submitted by members. More details on that in October.

This issue covers news from the summer months and includes also articles contributed by three student members of the federation, Donald McAlpine and David Ekstrom of Saint John and Michael Rigby of Hartland. In that respect we wish to encourage other members, both young and old, to share their interests with their fellow naturalists by sending reports or essays for inclusion in future issues.

Editorial Committee.

TWO NEW FEDERATED CLUBS

Meeting in Loggieville August 4, the Board of Directors were pleased to be able to approve two new federated clubs, the Chignecto Naturalists' Club and the Miramichi Naturalists' Club, both formed earlier this year. Hinrich Harries of Sackville and John Bethell of Newcastle are the Representative Directors on the N.B.F.N. board representing, respectively, the Chignecto and Miramichi groups. At the same meeting Darrell Kitchen was welcomed as new Representative Director from the Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club, replacing Peter Pearce.

OUR BACKYARD MIMIC - THE STARLING

Michael D. Rigby

We sometimes tend to overlook wonders of nature. Perhaps, for no other reason than that some birds occur very commonly we are inclined not to notice their talents. Thus, I feel it is with the starling, which I am beginning to think is equal to the mockingbird in terms of vocal capability.

Just for the sake of interest I started keeping a list of different imitations uttered by starlings and which I recognized. To date I have noted 26 species of birds as having been imitated.

The most commonly recognized call copied is that of the killdeer. That call is included in most of the starling's serenades. Many other imitations are common only periodically. They include excellent duplications of the "songs" of the pine grosbeak, wood pewee, alder flycatcher, yellow-shafted flicker and the chickadee's "sweet weather." As the season progresses, the starling adds other species' songs to its repertoire but strangely enough a number of those songs are

first used before the new migrants arrive. That group includes the catbird, ruby-crowned kinglet, phoebe, greater yellowlegs, crested flycatcher, Swainson's thrush, yellow-bellied sapsucker, belted kingfisher and nighthawk.

The starling picks up the calls of other species after they arrive in the spring. I have found that the best imitations under that heading have been of the tree swallow, herring gull and purple finch, with the redwing, grackle, cowbird, robin, rusty blackbird, redpoll, blue jay and crow rounding out the list.

Although the starling does not have a melodious song of its own, it contributes to the spring chorus with beautiful renditions borrowed from other talented songsters. As the year lengthens, so does the number of its imitations.

Resume: L'Etourneau imite souvent le chant d'autres oiseaux et, a cet egard, ses talents d'imitateur valent peut-etre ceux du Moquer polyglotte. Des 26 especes qu'il imite, le Pluvier kildir est celui que l'Etourneau imite le plus frequemment. Au cours du printemps, au fur et a mesure que reviennent les oiseaux migrateurs, l'Etourneau enrichit son repertoire en imitant les nouveaux-venus. - Guy Cloutier.

RED PHASE RED-BACKED SALAMANDER

David Ekstrom

On May 27, 1973 the lower corner of Loch Lomond, Saint John County, about 1 1/2 miles into the woods off the main road, I searched for anything interesting in the way of wildlife. At that site it was quite mossy and damp with rotted fallen trees which is good for finding salamanders, especially the Red-backed. It was there that I found the rare red phase of the Red-backed Salamander.

The red phase is a bright orange colour except for under the tail which is dark or with dark spots. That colour phase is not at all common in New Brunswick and, as far as I know, has been taken in one other locality in the province. With careful searching, the red phase may be found to be more common.

The red phase, like the ordinary "red-backs" is found in damp (but not wet) areas. In captivity it ate white worms and small insects.

Another phase of the Red-backed Salamander is known as the "lead-back". Its back is quite dark, unlike the normal "red-back." I have found "lead-backs" on the hill below the New Brunswick Museum.

Resume: La Salamandre cendree est normalement noire avec une rayure d'un brun rougeatre sur le dos. L'animal connait aussi deux autres phases ou sa couleur change: la phase dite rouge ou il est presque entierement rouge orange et une autre ou il est entierement noir. Le 27 mai David Ekstrom trouvait pres de Loch Lomond une salamandre de la phase rouge, la plus rare des trois. - Guy Cloutier.

THE RED-EARED TURTLE AND ITS CARE IN CAPTIVITY

Donald McAlpine

Although not native to New Brunswick the Red-eared Turtle Pseudemys scripta is a common "novelty" in many homes in the province. The Red-eared Turtle is that small green turtle with the broad red stripe behind the eye, so common in five and dime and pet stores across the country. It is unfortunate, to say the least, that most of these turtles are doomed, due to human ignorance and unintentional cruelty on the part of both the pet industry and the pet owner. Quite a number of these turtles are bought and given to children too young to realize the responsibility of properly caring for a turtle. Ninety-eight cents doesn't seem to reflect the true worth of a creature's life and perhaps that is why the life of these turtles is not taken too seriously.

Most of the turtles are collected on so-called "turtle farms" in the southeastern and south central United States. Those farms are no more than natural egg-laying areas that some enterprising men have decided to exploit. The areas are carefully kept clear of the hatchling turtles' natural predators. As soon as the eggs hatch and the young turtles emerge they are collected and distributed to various parts of the United States and Canada.

Many of the turtles, by the time they reach retail outlets, are in such poor health that little can be done to help them. Most will suffer the slow death of starvation in some animal lovers' home. It is unfortunate that no free literature on basic turtle care is provided with each sale. As far as I know the only turtle food sold in this area is dried insects which have little, if any, nutritional value.

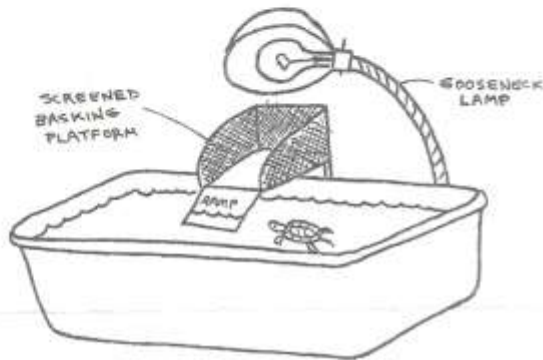


Figure: A good home for small turtles.

most kinds of meat and fish and also like dog or cat food. Some individuals like a bit of lettuce to nibble on between meals too. With hatchling turtles I mix lots of bone meal and cod liver oil with the food at each feeding, but as the turtles get older (one or two years) once a week is enough. Turtles just purchased will more than likely have soft shell, a disease caused by a dietary deficiency. In those cases the bone meal is very important in hardening the shell, which may take from three to nine months.

I keep five turtles (none larger than three inches though most are much smaller) in a plastic basin approximately 20 x 14 x 6 inches with about 5 inches of water. Even hatchling turtles seem to enjoy deep water and although they may just paddle about the surface at first, in a week or so they will be scooting about the bottom. The small plastic bowls complete with plastic palm tree are not adequate even for one turtle. Turtles need a place to get out of the water and get completely dry if they want. A small wooden platform easily put together with scrap wood will provide this (see diagram). A goose neck lamp fitted with a 100 watt bulb will give them something to bask under, which they enjoy. I leave the light on 12 hours a day. Sometimes in an effort to get near the warm bulb the turtles will climb up on top of each other. The screen over the back of the platform prevents them from getting out over the back. Extending the sides over the base also helps prevent escape. The more cautious turtles will hide under the ramp.

Proper care, however, is not difficult to provide and with it turtles should survive for years. I have kept Red-ears successfully for the past four years and have four of them at the present time.

I feed my turtles three times a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday). Turtles can easily survive for a week or two without food without any apparent ill effects. If you go on a trip for a week or so and provide enough water to compensate for evaporation, your turtle will be quite happy until you come back. This applies, of course, to turtles well fed beforehand and in good health. Like most aquatic turtles, Red-ears swallow under water. I usually give my turtles raw liver but once in a while, I give them something else just for a change. They will accept

Résumé: Les petites tortues vertes que l'on vend dans les boutiques du Nouveau-Brunswick sont des Pseudemys scripta, originaires du sud des Etats-Unis où on les prend sur les lieux mêmes que se fait la ponte des oeufs. Un grand nombre de tortues sont dans un tel état au moment où on les achète qu'il n'est guère possible de les sauver. La nourriture faite d'insectes desséchés en vente dans les boutiques est très pauvre, sa valeur nutritive étant presque nulle. Un mélange de foie, d'huile de foie de morue et d'engrais d'os broyés (pour assurer une carapace dure) constitue un bon repas. On peut y suppléer en ajoutant d'autres viandes (cruës), du poisson, de la laitue et des insectes récemment attrapés. On devrait nourrir la tortue au moins trois fois la semaine même si l'animal, lorsqu'il est en parfait état, peut, se passer de nourriture deux semaines durant sans en souffrir. Pseudemys scripta, si on lui donne l'attention nécessaire, vit plusieurs années. On recommande de l'installer dans un aquarium où elle pourra nager et plonger à sa guise. Une plate-forme où elle peut quitter l'eau est aussi essentielle. Une lampe de table suffira pour lui assurer un bain de chaleur.
- Guy Cloutier.

NATURE NEWS

David Christie

This summer was warm and humid in New Brunswick. June and July both averaged from 2° (Saint John) to 5° (Charlo) warmer than usual. Warm temperatures produced much thunderstorm activity, sometimes with locally heavy precipitation, as in parts of Victoria County July 8 and in Carleton County July 4, when 2 inches of rain fell in a half hour. Total rainfall varied from somewhat lighter than normal in the north to heavy near the Bay of Fundy, where in July Saint John had almost twice the average amount. Fog was very frequent in the Bay of Fundy.

Mammals

Many readers may be unaware that Harbour Seals, locally known as "sea dogs" are quite common in the lower reaches of the Saint John and Kennebecasis Rivers. In the deep water areas they are seen regularly. Inid Inch reports that a wounded young was captured, treated and released in Washademoak Lake July 7. It was the first seen there for some time.

Birds

The first reported shearwaters were 2 Greaters near Machias Seal Island June 19 (C. Wood, in The Guillemot) and 1 Sooty and 1 Mary in the same area June 22 (Davis Finch, Dennis Abbott et al.). 6 Wilson's Petrels were also seen there June 19 (Wood). Wilson's Petrels are most often seen only in small numbers in mid-Bay of Fundy but Eric Mills, crossing on the Saint John to Digby Ferry July 15 called them "abundant", the first few being seen just beyond Partridge Island in Saint John Harbour. One of those petrels, away from its normal ocean haunts, was seen at close range from a small boat inland near Kennebecasis Island on July 28 (Don McAlpine).

Many years ago before the lighthouse was established there, Gannets used to nest on Gannet Rock, near Grand Manan. They have not nested in New Brunswick since, but both last summer and this, a lone Gannet claimed a territory amongst the gull colony on Kent Island (Chuck Huntington). One hopes that that pioneering may eventually result in breeding again in the Grand Manan area. A feeding flock of about 225 Gannets was observed at Little Gully, Kouchibouguac Park, July 13 (Eric Tull et al.)

Great Blue Herons began to increase in Kouchibouguac Park as nesting concluded during July. On the 18th, 61 were counted at Little Gully (Tull et al.). Blake Maher reports that the Great Blues at Bathurst shifted their roosting area this summer. Black-crowned Night Herons seem to be establishing themselves at Saint John where there is no known colony. Up to as many as six were seen regularly in Marble Cove during June, July and August (David Ekstrom et al.) A Green Heron, rather rare, was found at Somerville, near Hartland, July 15 (Donald Kimball).

Additional reports of spring Snowy Egrets included the earliest of the year, one freshly dead at Hay Island about Mar. 25 (Huntington), as well as one soon near Jemseg in the last week of May (Sandy McAllister). At least 3 of the 4 that were at Saint John West remained until the first week of June (Cecil Johnston). One Snowy was seen at Cape Jourmain, near Bayfield, June 22 (Andy MacInnis). The Great (Common) Egret at White Head Island was seen until June 10 (Nancy Saall). June Cattle Egrets were individuals at Hammond River on the 5th (Jim Wilson) and at Jemseg on the 10th (Peter Pearce).

A few lingering Canada Geese were spotted in June: 1 was at Callander Beach, Kouchibouguac Park, June 5 (Tull); 8 at Douglas June 13 (Beverley Schneider); 1 at Bathurst June 15 (Blake Maher) and 8 there a few days later (Robert Maher). A white phase Snow Goose, with a few Canadas, was on the Missaguash, on the N.E.-N.S. border June 20 (Bruce Turner, fidg Finch). A few Brent were still moving late, such as on June 4 when 1 was seen at Grand Menan (Charles Dorchester) and 19 at Callander Beach (Tull et. al.).

Two western species of ducks occurred during the summer on the sewage lagoon at Saint John West. At least two Lesser Scaup were there (Christie), the female being seen July 10 (Finch & Abbott). Three pairs of Ruddy Ducks stayed from June 10 (Johnston) throughout the summer (various observers). One wondered what they were doing here. There was no indication of nesting. A male Ruddy was seen near Newcastle June 10 (Harry & Ian Walker, Tull).

The most interesting hawk sighting was of 2 Red-shouldered Hawks seen, while 2 Broad-wings were also in view, at Bayfield June 19 (Finch, MacInnis & Bob Lambertson). Such eastern New Brunswick records of Red-shoulders are very rare. A summering Rough-legged Hawk was at Ste-Anne-de-Kent June 15 (Tull). Several active Osnrey nests were reported in various areas of the province, including one on a platform erected by Blake Maher at Bathurst, near the site of a 1972 nest tree that had been felled during lumbering.

Davis Finch discovered a Yellow Rail at Midgic June 20. From then till July 11 he and other observers discovered at least three of that tiny, secretive rail in the general area between Midgic and Jolicure. Two of the birds were observed in the marsh east of Route 940 for a few hundred yards north of the first (proceeding north from Sackville) railway crossing - more specifically by the 4th and the 13th utility poles north of the railway. The third was observed south of the dikes near Pauchy Pond in the national wildlife area. The birds did not begin calling regularly until 11 pm but when they did, they responded well to tape recordings of their calls, on one occasion even alighting on Davis' shoulder!

A word of caution concerning Yellow Rails - Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds and the first edition of the Field Guide to Bird Songs recordings both give a call rendered as "ki ki ki ki ki krooch" as belonging to the Yellow Rail, when it is in fact one of the calls of the more common Virginia Rail. Only the calls resembling stones tapped together should be identified as Yellow Rails. In that respect, I had to disappoint Eric Inch who told me of hearing several Yellow Rails in the Gagetown and Jemseg area this summer. In actual fact they were Virginias. Even the publications of experts can be mis-leading!

Spring shorebird migration extended well into mid-June and fall migration began in the first week of July, which is typical. Most of that data will be kept until next number. Lesser Yellowlegs, scarce in spring, were seen at Jemseg June 10 (Pearce) and Cape Jourmain June 14 (MacInnis). A black male Ruff, the highlight of 1972's shorebirds, was again spotted at Cape Jourmain but only once, on June 14 (MacInnis). Very unusual too were 6 Long-billed Dowitchers, in high breeding plumage with 1000+ Short-bills at Castalls Marsh July 8 (Kenneth Edwards). The number of Short-bills is noteworthy alone, not to mention the early sighting of the western Long-bill. A Wilson's Phalarope was noted at Cape Jourmain June 1 & 14 (MacInnis).

Among our nesting shorebirds, it's interesting to note that Eric Tull's surveys in Kouchibouguac Park revealed only about 11 Pairs of Piping Plovers along the 15-17 miles of sandy beaches in the park. The Upland Sandpipers (Plovers) returned again to the regular fields by the Trans-Canada Highway near Salisbury, where 6 were seen June 10 (Christie) and 5 on July 6 (Paul Germain). As well, a pair were observed, possibly nesting, at Middie June 8, 9 and 20 (Finch et al.) Andy MacInnis found at least three Willet nests at Cape Jourimain this summer.

Lingering Glaucous Gulls, normally seen in winter, were 1 at Saint John West June 3 (Johnston) and 1 at Escuminac June 12 (Tull). The adult Little Gull seen June 3 on the N.B.F.N. trip at Bel River Bar was together with an immature on the 23rd (Jean-Paul Lebel et al.) Arctic Terns, not common in the province, except at Nachias Seal Island, were reported as forming 25% of 1000+ terns seen at Little Gully June 23 (Sandy McLain, fide Tull). The following day Eric Tull only saw one among a much smaller number of terns there. Peter Pearce reports that a few pairs of Arctic terns were apparently nesting at Tabusintac during June. Two Caspian Terns were seen at Red Head Marsh, Saint John, on June 17 (Bob Dunbrack) and one was at Cape Jourimain July 24 (Stuart Tingley).

A dead Common Murre was found on Kouchibouguac Beach June 18 (Tull). That murre was noted again on the rocks at Nachias Seal Island this summer, 3 or 4 being seen June 23 (Finch et al.) The same day a Thick-billed Murre, in winter plumage, was seen about four miles from the island (Finch et al.) The latter should be much farther north in summer.

At least 2, and perhaps 4 or 5, pairs of Hourning Doves nested near Sand Cove Rd., Saint John West. Cecil Johnston saw them frequently, including 5 flying young July 15. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found dead on the highway at Lower Sheffield June 18 (Henrik Deichmann). Black-billed Cuckoos appeared quite rarely, being seen June 3 at Fredericton (Pearce) and Central Blissville (Christie), June 4 at Douglas (Schneider) and June 7 near Kouchibouguac (Tull). They were quite common in parts of eastern New Brunswick, such as in the Bayfield area where Davis Finch heard 8 on July 12. Mary Hajka spotted two flying young with an adult at Caledonia Mountain July 29.

An out-of-season Snowy Owl was at Jolicoeur June 20 (Turner, fide Finch). On the night of June 3, Eric Tull, Gordon Burns and Stuart Tingley counted 7 Saw-whet Owls at seven stops along Route 116 between Gaspereau Forks and Harcourt! Two birds at some stops made up for a couple of stops without any.

A most unusual sighting for the province was of a well-described Scissor-tailed Flycatcher identified at Pt. Lepreau June 10 by Mr. & Mrs. R. Harrison. Very few of that conspicuous species have been seen here. Two northern sightings of Purple Martins are of interest, 1 on the Chaplin Island Road, north of Newcastle June 9 (I. Walker) and 1 near Red Bank June 10 (Tull & Walkers). They used to nest in the Newcastle-Chatham area, but no active colonies are now known. The Rough-winged Swallows breeding at Hill Settlement were apparently feeding young in the nest June 3, when a second pair of adults was also seen (Christie). A mid-summer concentration of 5000+ Bank Swallows was observed at Richibucto July 23 (Tull et al.)

At least 6 Long-billed Marsh Wrens were seen and/or heard at Paunchy Lake in the Tintamarre National Wildlife Area July 11 (Finch). At the same place about 7 of the rarer Short-billed Marsh Wren were also found that day. The latter were primarily vocal during the hours of darkness whereas the Long-bills also sang frequently at dusk.

Mockingbirds were reported at several places: Saint John (Ekstrom et al.), Miscou Island (Hilaire & Rose-Aline Chiasson), Cape Spear (MacInnis), Plaster Rock (Réjean Laforge), near McGivney (Laforge), Cocagne (Tingley), near Andover (2 pairs, E.B. de-Merchant), Cap St-Louis (Tull et al.), Fontaine (Dr. H.F. Hajka), Point Sapin (Tull et al.), and St-Louis-de-Kent (Tull et al.) Brown Thrashers were less frequent: Cap St-Louis (2, Tull et al.), near Richibucto (2, Christie et al.), Claire Fontaine (Tull et al.), and Thorntown, near Codys (Deichmann).

Wood Thrushes are fairly common in some parts (southern and western) of the province. Three marginal reports are of 1 at Weyerton, on the Northwest Miramichi, June 16 (Christie & Dr. Majka), 1 at Nictau July 7-8 (NBFN trip), and 1 at St-Quentin early in July (Would whoever told me about that one please remind me of your identity. I found a slip of paper with the record marked on it, but no observer's name. Thanks.) An excellent spot to find Gray-cheeked Thrushes was discovered by Dr. Majka and myself June 16, that being the Upsalcutch TV tower road. The road in question runs north from the Nepisiguit valley road, near Devil's Elbow Brook, about 20 miles west of where Route 430 crosses the Nepisiguit River. It is one of few easily driven roads where one can find the species in New Brunswick. Descending from the tower back to the valley at dusk we heard and/or saw 17 Gray-cheeks. About 40 Swainsons and 10 Hermit Thrushes were recorded at the same time. On July 13, 16 Gray-cheeks were found on a similar descent (Finch & Abbott).

Eastern Bluebirds were reported in several districts including Miscou Island where 4 were seen May 27 (Chiassons), near St-Louis-de-Kent July 8 & 12 (Tull et al.), near Midgie June 7 (Finch) and at Parlee Brook, near Waterford, July 26 (Mrs. Wm. Bickford). However, at New River Station where Jim Wilson had been having success with bluebird houses the last two years, all the nestboxes were occupied by Tree Swallows.

A pair of Loggerhead Shrikes seen June 22 at Waterville, Carleton County (Finball) were the only report. Warbling Vireos this summer included 2 at Hillerton June 14 (Tull). An unusual Yellow-rumped Warbler at Browns Flat June 11 (Stan Gorham) showed a yellow throat and an excessive amount of white in the wing, thereby suggesting the western "Audubon's Warbler" group of subspecies which is not normally expected in this region. I do recall that Rold McMenus once mentioned having seen at Monroevook a bird which was very Audubon's-like. An Orchard Oriole, the only one reported last spring was at Deep Cove, Grand Haven, June 5 (Dorchestors).

Indigo Buntings were reported from at least nine places during the summer: Fredericton (Tull et al.), Red Bank (Tull & Walkers), near Petitcodiac (Doreen Carter), 6 miles west of Bleckville (Pearce), St. Andrews (Hills), Newbig (Hills), Lincoln (Christie & Dunbrack), Kingsclear (Cliff Jones) and Maple Green near Dalhousie (Tull & Christie). Most interesting of the sightings were Mrs. Carter's. From late in June through early July she five times saw not only the male but the female which was seen carrying food. Unfortunately, she was unable to locate the nest. All the other reports were of individual singing males. At least one Field Sparrow was back in the nesting locality at Fredericton June 3 (Pearce et al.) Others were reported at Kouchibouguac Park July 1 & 5 (Tull et al.) and at Saint John in mid-July (Dunbrack).

Invertebrates

A massive wreck of Spruce Budworm moths occurred off Grand Haven July 18-19. Many were seen on Machias Seal Island and floating on the sea between there and Cutler, Maine (Bill Townsend). Jutta Arctic, a northern butterfly previously known in the province from two localities in northern N.B. was discovered at Ingalls Head bog, Grand Haven, June 19 (Christie). At least three were observed and one of them captured. Painted Lady butterflies were extremely common in most areas during June. On the 18th some were even seen over the waters of the Grand Haven Channel (Christie); they may have been migrating. Nettle Moore reports an early Baltimore butterfly killed by a car between Keswick and Fredericton July 1.

FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY

The following notes were selected from the July and August mid-season reports of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey, Maritimes Forest Research Centre, Canadian Forestry Service, P.O. Box 4000, Fredericton (R.S. Forbes, Head).

Spruce Budworm: Larval populations were high in patches in contrast to the uniformly high populations of the last four years.

Winter Drying of red spruce foliage was severe in patches between Juniper and Bathurst,

along parts of the Fundy coast, near Penobscus, on Kierstead Mountain, and west of Fredericton. Many householders also reported winter drying on ornamental cedars.

Large Aspen Tortrix, common but rarely numerous in the Maritimes, caused severe defoliation of trembling aspen between Lac Unique and St. Jacques in Madawaska County.

Larch Sawfly: Defoliation was sometimes complete in tamarack stands in eastern Northumberland, northeastern Kent, eastern Gloucester, and central Queens Counties. Pockets of moderate to severe defoliation were common in eastern Kent and Westmorland Counties.

Lesser Maple Spanworm: The small white moths that were numerous throughout much of New Brunswick in July (after flights of spruce budworm adults) were of this species. Severe infestations of larvae, mainly on red maple, occurred in patches throughout much of central New Brunswick, especially from Grand Lake north through the Miramichi watershed and east towards the coast. Farther south and east, defoliation of maples was caused mainly by maple leaf roller.

1972 WATERFOWL SEASON

The Canadian Wildlife Service annually surveys by questionnaire a sampling of hunters who have purchased a Canada migratory game bird hunting permit. Some hunters are also sent special envelopes to submit the wings of ducks and the tails of geese they have shot. Estimates of the numbers of ducks shot are made from the two surveys.

In 1972, 11,336 permits were sold in New Brunswick, a rise of only 190 from 1971. In 1967, 7739 permits had been sold here. The estimates of birds killed and retrieved (according to hunter reports) in New Brunswick in 1972 were 51,109 ducks (excluding sea ducks), 3213 geese, 5667 sea ducks, 2000 Snipe and 10,229 Woodcock. Of the non-sea ducks, Black Ducks represented about 35%, goldeneye 21%, Green-winged Teal 16%, Blue-winged Teal 13%, other species 15%. (From "Report to Hunters on the Canada Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and Survey - 1972 Hunting Season" by F.G. Cooch, Canadian Wildlife Service, 1973.)

NEWS FROM THE C.N.F. - THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Canadian Nature Federation's annual meeting at Wolfville, N.S., August 23-26 was a well-attended combination of interesting speakers, meetings and field trips. The weather was excellent and the pelagic trips were especially exciting. Thirty New Brunswickers were in attendance.

Representing our province at the C.N.F. board meetings in Wolfville were Representative Director Mary Hajka and Provincial Director Eric Tull, who incidentally was elected secretary of the C.N.F. The new president is Dr. Ian McLaren of Halifax, well-known for his studies of the Ipswich Sparrow.

One of the most important points to arise at the annual business meeting was that the federation had an operating deficit of \$ 35,218. This arose especially because of the cost of producing Nature Canada as such a high quality magazine. It was published at a net loss of \$ 48,793. That was only reduced because of the profit from the federation's bookstore and the generosity of donors.

To help the federation through these times of financial difficulty and to establish itself as a strong and important voice for environmental quality, won't you consider giving your support? 1973 membership fees are regular \$6, sustaining \$10, active \$25, contributing \$100. Send your membership to Canadian Nature Federation, 46 Elgin Street, Ottawa K1P 5K6. Also consider ordering books through the C.N.F. bookstore. That helps too! D.S.C.

PARK NATURALIST POSITIONS: (May-Sept. 1974) For persons having completed one or more years at university, employment in national parks in the Atlantic Provinces. Application deadline Oct. 31, 1973. Salary \$685/month. Write Director, Atlantic Region, Parks Canada, Royal Bank Bldg, 5161 George St., Halifax, N.S. (Competition 73-H723).

New Brunswick Naturalist, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B. Six issues per year.