



N.B. Naturalist

vol. 4, nos. 5-6, October & December, 1973

Being much behind publishing schedule, the contents of the October and December issues are here combined in one large number. Much of the material details the activities of the annual meeting weekend in early September.

ANNUAL MEETING, 1973

The federation's first annual meeting September 8-9, at Odell Park, Fredericton, was surprisingly successful. 82 persons (53 from outside the Fredericton area) registered for the event and several more dropped in to participate in one or more of the activities.

Workshops

Saturday morning's activities commenced with a choice of two two-hour workshop sessions. Mary Majka led an enthusiastic group on a short walk through the woods in search of mushrooms. A good variety of species was discovered and many questions about identification, edibility and cooking were answered. A nice display of several species was set up in the Odell Park Centre. However, the mushroom highlight of the day was a large cluster of the bright orange Jack-o-lantern Mushroom Clitocybe illudens, spotted by Hal Hinds on a lawn of a nearby residential area.

Meanwhile, Stan Gorham, with the aid of museum specimens and live captives, was conducting a workshop on New Brunswick reptiles and amphibians. It was very popular with the youngsters, yet strangely attracted relatively few women members. Either you like live snakes or you don't! It was a great opportunity to examine closely and to learn to recognize the less common frogs and the secretive salamanders of our province, and to learn many interesting facts about them and their better known relatives.

In the afternoon, following the business meeting, there was another choice of workshops. Fall wildflowers, led by David Christie, included a talk on the plant families, especially the Compositae, that are important in autumn, as well as a walk through the lower portion of the park, which introduced the participants to many plant species of the forest edge.

Eric Tull's workshop on seabirds, illustrated with colour slides, dealt with the main groups of Canadian Atlantic seabirds and included special hints on recognition of birds expected to be found on the trip to Deer Island.

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Editorial Committee: David Christie, Mary Majka, Peter Pearce
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Business Meeting

Following the opening welcome from Darrell Kitchen of the host Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club and a brief outline on the history of Odell Park by Nettie Moore and Marguerite McNair, the meeting turned to the business of minutes and reports. The president's report and those of five committees are summarized elsewhere in this issue.

The treasurer, Eric Tull, noted income since the founding meeting of \$794.10 and expenditures of \$221.10 for a balance of \$573.00. (A detailed annual statement will be included in volume 5, number 1 of the N.B. Naturalist.)

Jim Wilson of Hammond River was appointed auditor of the federation's accounts for 1973.

Mary Majka reported that the Nominating Committee (herself, Theresa Pearce and John Bethell) had nominated David Christie as president, Eric Tull as treasurer and Freeman Patterson as a director-at-large. As there had been no other nominations from the membership they were declared elected by acclamation.

Ian McLaren of Halifax, newly-elected president of the Canadian Nature Federation, brought greetings from the national organization.

In a special tribute, Dr. W. Austin Squires was elected to life membership in the federation, in recognition of his many years of work promoting interest in the natural history of New Brunswick.

Peter deMarsh asked what the federation was planning to do about the Tweeddale Commission on Forest Resources and about the management and protection of salt marshes. It was noted that the Moncton Naturalists' Club had submitted a brief to the Tweeddale Commission in 1971 and that we would certainly be interested in the Commission's findings.

With respect to salt marshes, four members of the federation's board had participated in the Maritime Coastal Zone Seminar at Sackville in May 1973. The president agreed to set up a committee concerned with coastal resources, particularly tidal marshlands.

Suggestions were made that the federation sponsor a display of nature art and/or photography at its 2nd annual meeting and that it create a publicity committee. Those ideas will be investigated by the board.

At the conclusion of the meeting a hearty motion of thanks was extended to Beverley Schneider and Theresa Pearce, the local committee responsible for the success of the meeting. - D.C.

President's Report to the First Annual Meeting

Since our founding meeting in Sussex last November 18, not quite ten months have passed. That period has been one of feeling its way for your board of directors. The progress of the federation has been uneven, dependent upon the pressure of other duties at home and at work.

I would like to introduce the board to you. Besides myself, the executive includes the vice-president, Beverley Schneider, the secretary Henrik Deichmann and the treasurer Eric Tull. The directors present here are Darrell Kitchen, representing the Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club* and John Bethell of the new group on the Miramichi. Absent today are Hilaire Chiasson, a director-at-large from Lamèque, Cecil Johnston of the Saint John Naturalists' Club and Hinrich Harries of the Chignecto club. Allan Smith of Sackville was a director-at-large until the Chignecto group federated.

*(Peter Pearce held that position initially), Mary Majka of the Moncton Naturalists' Club.

One of our main tasks has been to publicize the federation and to build its membership. The press, particularly CHSJ-TV and CBC radio, has given good coverage to our activities, so that anyone interested in nature in New Brunswick has had a chance to hear about the federation, although many may have missed it. At the moment we have almost 400 members, gained mainly from a mailing to nearly a thousand potentially interested persons.

To me, the most pleasing occurrence during the year was the formation of the Chignecto and Miramichi Naturalists' Clubs. I believe the federation's founding had much to do with encouraging people in the Sackville-Amherst area to band together and start their club. Al Smith led the local movement and Eric Tull, Mary Majka and I were pleased to be able to attend their founding meeting. The federation played a more active role in the Miramichi area where, with local assistance from John Bethell, we sponsored a meeting in Newcastle to explain the federation's aims and activities. A few weeks later, the people who had gathered then decided to start their own club. We had hopes of sponsoring meetings in other regions too, but they have not yet come to fruition. If you would like to have a meeting in your locality please contact us.

We intend to organize a few field trips in regions where there are not local clubs and also to schedule special trips. This summer there were two trips in the northern part of the province -- a half day of birdwatching at Eel River Bar led by Jean-Paul Lebel and a weekend of activities on the upper Tobique, based from Wilma and Bill Miller's at Nictau. In the south, there was a crossing of the Bay of Fundy to see pelagic birds. Unfortunately, it was a flop due to poor weather. Something to look forward to, is a marine biology weekend scheduled for Passamaquoddy Bay in October.

In the field of conservation action, I should point out that it is our policy to give support to the Conservation Council of New Brunswick on general matters and to take separate action primarily in matters of particular interest to naturalists. This year we gave support to the Saint John Naturalists' Club in its efforts to ensure recognition in Saint John's comprehensive community plan of the importance of the Red Head and Saints' Rest marshes as natural areas. We congratulated the Canadian Wildlife Service on its efforts to curb illegal spring shooting of waterfowl along the province's eastern coastline and we encouraged it to develop educational programs aimed at changing the attitudes of the people towards spring hunting there. In the matter of education, we commended the C.B.C. for the two fine television series "The Nature of Things" and "To the Wild Land." These are programs to watch for during the 1973-74 season.

Land use practices on Gilbert Island in the Saint John River have been of concern. The island supports some old stands of floodplain hardwoods -- possibly the finest examples in the province. It is also an important area for fiddleheads and for nesting ducks. We are concerned about the effects of overgrazing on the vegetation and also by the tree-cutting which commenced there last winter. We would not like to see much of the forest cleared away and we have contacted the province to get details on the lumbering and to advise them of our concerns. The island, most of which is community pasture land and the rest a migratory bird sanctuary, is owned by the province.

The question of Robins in blueberry fields gave rise to much discussion by board members. As everyone knows, in parts of the province large numbers of Robins

1. "The Nature of Things" is televised Mondays at 10 p.m. and "To the Wild Land" appears irregularly. Watch for it at 7.30 p.m. on Jan. 27, 7 p.m. Feb. 24 and 7 p.m. Mar. 31. Both programs are on CHSJ-TV and CKAN-TV.

were shot in commercial blueberry fields during the late summers of 1971 and 1972. We are very concerned about such large scale shooting of songbirds but at the same time we are sympathetic to the blueberry growers who may lose considerable portions of their crop to the birds. We would very much like to see alternate methods of bird control and we are concerned about why the Robin problem has developed in some places in recent years. Does it represent some man-induced ecological imbalance? We have been in touch with the federal minister of the environment and the provincial minister of agriculture, informing them of our views and urging a broad program of research on the problem.

In three other matters - Machias Seal Island, birds of prey and nature reserves - committees have been set up to spear-head the federation's efforts. Separate reports will be presented on their behalf.

Through the courtesy of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, and its executive director, Gerald McKeating, we had yesterday a leadership workshop for members of the board. Gerry gave us a lot of pointers on some of the programs and techniques that have been successful for the F.O.N. It was, I think, a very practical session and an inspiration. I want to pass on to you the stress that Gerry placed on the impact of individual members writing to their local representatives in parliament or the legislature. There is a lot you can do by backing the federation up with a letter to your member. We will attempt to provide you with sufficient information on the federation's positions.

Looking ahead to the next twelve months, I foresee that we will continue efforts to build our membership and that we will be planning more local meetings and field trips. You can assist greatly by encouraging your friends to join and by suggesting locations and/or subjects for meetings and trips. Conservation-wise, we will undoubtedly become involved with several new nature-oriented issues, as well as continuing our interest in most of the ones I have mentioned. In the educational field, we may be able to launch a junior program in cooperation with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. We have discussed that with Gerry McKeating and we should be able to make an agreement whereby we will distribute the Young Naturalist magazine here in New Brunswick.

In conclusion, I would like to ask each of you to keep us informed of your concerns and your thoughts about what the federation should be doing. The more member input there is, the more the federation will reflect your interests.

David Christie.

N.B.F.N. Symbol Contest

It was decided early in 1973 that the federation needed something to represent itself pictorially. This symbol had to be something we could use as a letterhead with potential for other uses such as a decal for automobiles or a crest for jackets. In January and February guidelines were circulated with encouragement for a large participation from the membership. An extensive search was made of existing symbols used by other natural history, bird, parks, wildlife, sportsman, animal, and trail groups to avoid duplication. A study was done to determine what mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, invertebrates and plants were typical or characteristic of New Brunswick. Forty-four entries were received. Judging was done by the Board of Directors. All entries, which were identified by number only, were considered carefully both as they stood or if altered somewhat. The winning design was done by our president. Runners-up were Mr. Ted Pulford of Sackville and Mr. J.P. Francis of Fredericton. The Board thanks all who participated so well in this undertaking.

Bev Schneider

Report of Committee on Birds of Prey

The Committee on Birds of Prey has had an active first year. During 1973, twelve capable gentlemen, scattered throughout the province, were recruited to form this delegation whose prime interest, briefly, is the well-being of hawks, owls and eagles in the province.

The objectives of the Committee, as such, are:

- (1) To educate the general public on the importance of birds of prey and their protection.
- (2) To pursue changes in legislation where and if necessary in order to further protect these birds and
- (3) to monitor the birds of prey in N.B. - numbers, production, migration, species, etc. - anything that would allow us to assess the current status of the various raptors in the province.

We have been fortunate in having the 1974 edition of the N.B. Summary of Game Laws reworded, in part, to include "hawks and owls" under protected species. Wildlife protection officers of each district are to be notified of the change by the Chief Game Warden of the province as well. Various members of the committee are presently engaged in producing a large poster for general distribution with the emphasis on protecting birds of prey. We are also exploring further the possibility of using film clips, newspaper articles and such for communicating with the general public. One committee member is presently concerned with the feasibility of producing a slide series on raptors in cooperation with the Conservation Council of New Brunswick. Such presentations could possibly be made available to interested gatherings in the form of slide shows and could also be used by various district wildlife and forestry personnel for use in their nature education programs. In addition to this all members monitor local raptor populations as best they can and submit their observations to the committee chairman.

All things considered, a good start towards protecting and increasing our knowledge of birds of prey in New Brunswick..

Rudy Stoczek, Chairman.

Note: Members of the federation are requested to relay their observations of hawks and owls, particularly Bald Eagle, Osprey and Peregrine Falcon, to the federation's bird of prey committee, / Rudy Stoczek, Box 518, Fredericton, or via the Natural Science Dept., N.B. Museum, 277 Douglas Ave., Saint John.

Report of Machias Seal Island Committee

A few years ago I had the pleasure of hosting Les Line, the editor of Audubon magazine. He had just returned from a photographic expedition to Machias Seal Island.¹ His concern and apprehension about the safety of the nesting birds there increased my own interest in the island and I began to seek a solution. A year ago, just before our federation was formally founded, a committee was formed and we presented a brief to Hon. Jack Davis on behalf of the federation.

Machias Seal Island, a unique piece of New Brunswick soil is fifteen acres or so of rock and peat inhabited by thousands of nesting birds (Arctic and Common Terns,

¹ See "The Sea has Wings", his recent book with Franklin Russell, for some of the results.

Common Puffin, Razorbill, Leach's Petrel). It is a light station operated by the Ministry of Transport and signs proclaim it also as a bird sanctuary of the Canadian Wildlife Service although we have been told that it may not legally meet the requirements for that status, since the land is controlled by Transport and not by the Wildlife Service. Each year, hundreds of persons visit Machias Seal Island and this number is increasing. Most of them are conscientious naturalists, but a few careless visitors can cause much damage. The Ministry of Transport has informed us that soon (1974? 1975?) the lighthouse will be operated completely automatically so that the keepers, who up to now have voluntarily looked after the welfare of the birds by protecting them from both visitors and marauding gulls, will be removed from the island. That is the threat to the birds future. A further complicating factor is the United States' recent assertion that the island is American, not Canadian, territory.

We want protection provided for the petrels, puffins, auks and terns of the island, and since there seemed little hope that any one authority would soon resolve the question, we proposed that the island be declared an "international bird sanctuary", not unlike Roosevelt Campobello International Park, to be administered by a board representing the N.O.T., the C.N.S., and the two naturalists' organizations most concerned, our federation and the Maine Audubon Society, which enthusiastically supported our ideas. We suggested raising the necessary finances from contributions of visitors to the island and of other interested parties.

Mr. Davis replied that he wished to maintain the integrity of the bird sanctuary on Machias Seal but that there might not be sufficient funds available. He did not comment on our specific proposal.

This past summer the C.N.S. had a student on the island studying the situation. That seems a promising sign of government interest, sparked perhaps by the efforts of the Canadian Nature Federation (which sponsored a student study in 1972) and ourselves.

- Mary Najka

Report of Natural Areas Committee

I am afraid I have no activities to report towards the establishment of natural areas or nature preserves. The International Biological Program has done some survey work to identify areas that should be protected in New Brunswick. There remains a need for additional areas to be surveyed as well as encouragement of the provincial government to establish means of protecting them. As an example of what might be done, refer to the article in the January-March 1972 issue of Nature Canada, on British Columbia's Ecological Reserves Act. In addition we can work with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. If you are interested in the committee or have areas to suggest, please get in touch. - David Christie

Report of Editorial Committee

The New Brunswick Naturalist, formerly published by the natural science department of the N.B. Museum, has become the federation's newsletter and three numbers have been issued (a fourth is in the preparation stages). The contents have been expanded to include natural history articles, and club and federation news, as well as the traditional "nature news." We have had one French language article, the translation of an English article into French, and French summaries of a few others. We would advise you to take special note of the bulletin board section, since the details of forthcoming activities may be publicized there but not in any other way. In conclusion every member is invited to contribute articles and news in either language. - D.S. Christie

Keynote Speaker - Gerry McKeating

On the evening of the annual meeting, Gerald McKeating, executive director of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, spoke about the arctic, illustrating his talk

with excellent slides taken during his visits to the North. He began with some comments about the importance of naturalists doing more than just enjoying and studying nature. We have a responsibility to speak out in defence of the natural world. In many places it is fast disappearing so that without naturalists' action there may be little left to enjoy. - D.C.

Gilbert Island Field Trip - Sept. 9, 1973

In connection with the federation's 1st Annual Meeting, a field trip to Gilbert Island in the Saint John River was led by Hinrich Harries and Henrik Deichmann. The participants reached the island via motorboat and canoe.

Once there, we were given a briefing on recent studies of wildlife use of the island by Peter Barkhouse, a post-graduate student at Acadia University. Dr. Harries pointed out some interesting facts about the plant ecology as related to timber cutting, cattle grazing, and floods. We were also fortunate to have along two mushroom enthusiasts in the persons of Mary Majka and Hal Hinds.

Particularly notable about Gilbert Island is the variety of hardwood trees which it is possible to encounter over a relatively small area. They include very large silver maple, yellow birch, beech, basswood, butternut, and elm. It is estimated that about 40% of the elm is affected by Dutch elm disease.

Many herbaceous plants, but particularly the forbs, have suffered from the effects of heavy grazing by cattle. The once luxuriant stands of fiddleheads, now survive only in tracts protected from the bovine boasts by driftwood and logging slash. As a result of the logging which was carried out last winter, large patches of knotweed (Polygonum spp.) have become established.

Obviously a bit of a renegade in such a setting was the pumpkin plant which had developed one large Jack-o-lantern, plus several smaller editions. One would guess the seed travelled across the river on the flood, certainly a clear case of how plants travel.

Many of the dominant plants on the island are more or less unpalatable to the cattle, for instance, hedge nettle, hemp nettle and stinging nettle, common and swamp milkweed and Bidens (or beggar's-ticks). We also found skullcap, a couple of species of asters, Viola cucullata, V. renifolia, at least one species of buttercup, catbrier (Smilax), and several Jack-in-the-pulpit which had developed some fine red fruits.

No description of the vegetation would be complete without mention of the sloughs. In fall, they are luxuriant with aquatics - pickerelweed, two species of arrowhead, water lilies, Sparganium, buckbean and many more.

One of the most interesting things in connection with the vegetation was the way in which many tree seedlings and herbs had got started in bark crevices on tree trunks. Perhaps the most outstanding, in this regard, was the vigorous clump of jewelweed growing on a horizontal limb some ten feet above the ground. It would appear that the high freshet and rather rainy summer permitted such strange new niches to be pioneered.

The party also had the opportunity to examine some small fenced enclosures used to shelter vegetation from the cattle.

Amongst the higher animals, many of the participants were pleased to locate prime specimens of the Spotted and Blue-spotted Salamanders, as well as a red eft which was changing to the adult newt stage of its life. Leopard frogs of many sizes were encountered virtually everywhere.

Birds were not too obvious. Shortly after landing, a few warblers were seen in the tree tops. In one of the sloughs, a moulting drake Wood Duck and several Black Ducks were encountered. On the return leg of the walk, we saw a Hairy Wood-

pecker and heard a nuthatch (White-breasted?) and Peter Pearce witnessed a movement of about 200 White-throats proceeding along the long axis of the island.

Earlier, we heard from Peter Barkhouse how individual moose and deer had spent varying amounts of time on the island during the past summer. We found muskrat holes, raccoon dens and squirrel feeding sites, but indisputedly the mammal highlight was a mature porcupine feeding twenty feet up in a hardwood.¹ This was the first report of that species on the island, according to Peter Barkhouse.

In all 20 people joined the trip. Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Inch of London, Ontario, were the furthest from home.

- K.H. Doichmann, with some memory assistance from Mary Majka.

Deer Island Field Trip - Sept. 9, 1973

About 35 people rose early enough to be able to catch the 7 a.m. or the 8 a.m. ferry to Deer Island. It was a beautiful sunny day for a trip, though quite cool on the water so early. As usual, the crossing through the islands between Letete and Lambertville offered excellent views of a dozen or so Black Guillemots, both adults and immatures.

We gathered at Deer Island Point to watch the throngs of gulls and phalaropes feeding on the rips of the rising tide. The birds were there by the thousands, though only small numbers came really close to our viewing point. The majority drifted back and forth, this way and that, somewhere midway between Indian Island, Campobello and Eastport.

Most abundant of the gulls were the Herring, Bonaparte's and Great Black-backed. A few Ring-billed Gulls and Kittiwakes were among them, as well as the trip highlights, a Little Gull, which flew past at close range, and a Black-backed Gull which was observed for some time at a distance. Both these European gulls were winter-plumaged adults, lacking the dark hoods of summer. Close to a thousand Common Terns added much to the noise of the congregation, while quietly twittering groups of Northern Phalaropes moved back and forth, but seldom came close. At one point in early afternoon at least 4000 phalaropes were feeding in the channel along the side of Indian Island.

On a tour of the island during our visit, a beach at Lambert Cove was discovered to be littered with many stranded jollyfish. Almost all of them were the rather small white sea jelly *Aurelia auritus*, but there were also a couple of a larger purple species.

Participants left on at least three different ferry trips. Those of us in the main group were delighted to see six different Osprey on our return crossing. From Letete, most of the group dispersed to travel separately to their widely scattered destinations. - David Christie

IN MEMORIAM

Recently (October) passed away was Roy E. Hunter, a founding member of the Moncton Naturalists' Club, and of the Southeastern N.B. Purple Martin and Bird Society. Purple Martins and photography were his special interests. Until health problems slowed him down in the last few years, Roy travelled extensively, investigating martin colonies in the province. A report on his project, "Purple Martin Survey in N.B." was published in 1967.

Representative Director to C.N.F.

At its August meeting, the federation's board appointed David F. Smith of Saint John as our new representative on the Canadian Nature Federation board.

1. Alan Madden had observed a Porcupine there during the summer of 1966. - D.C.

At the F.F.N.C.: Mount Carleton Provincial Park

In December, Mr. Conrad Leroux of the New Brunswick Department of Tourism spoke to the Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club about the proposed Mount Carleton Provincial Park. The presentation covered name and merits of the firm preparing the conceptual plan, park location, park objectives, design principles, resource inventory, physical features, natural inventory including plants, mammals and birds, scenic analysis, ecosystems, park zoning, roads and vehicular traffic, extra-vehicular traffic, housing and recreation. A lengthy discussion followed centering around the fact that no ecological impact study was done prior to the report, the effect of the park on wildlife, effect of snowmobiles on deer wintering yards, hunting, water pollution from housing area, water run-off from large cleared area at golf course and ski slope, forest harvesting methods, private enterprise within the park, the cost of the project and profit potential, possible effects of the two mining claims still held on land within park boundaries, and what would happen if certain species of wildlife became over-abundant within the park. - B.J. Schneider

N.B.F.N. Brief on the Development of Mount Carleton Provincial Park

At a meeting in Bathurst December 8, Eric Tull presented the federation's brief on the conceptual plan for the development of Mount Carleton Provincial Park. Main points of the 5-page brief were:

- supported Tourism's plan to develop a proper system of provincial parks.
- urged prompt action on the creation of wild river parks.
- urged assessment of the ecological impact of park developments.
- suggested reservation of an adjacent area, equal in size to the park, to be managed as a primitive area.
- questioned the continuation of lumbering in the park.
- endorsed the proposed nature school and interpretive program.

- with reservations, approved hunting in the park.
- urged special zoning protection of Pine Point and Big Brook.
- recommended restriction of snowmobile use to carefully selected trails.
- recommended restriction of all other all-terrain vehicles to the road system.

Some other groups (Conservational Council of N.B., Miramichi District Labour Council, National and Provincial Parks Association, and the Northeastern Tourist Association) presented similar views at the meeting. Members who would like a copy of our brief should write the federation office. If interested in a copy of the conceptual plan for the park send \$3 to Tourism New Brunswick, Fredericton, - D.C.

More on Gilbert Island

Support for our concern about the management of Gilbert Island (see president's report, p. 59) has come from the Atlantic chapter of the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists. At their annual meeting in early December the following resolution was adopted and forwarded to the two government departments involved - Concerning landuse practices on Gilbert Island, Saint John River, N.B. whereas the N.B. Dept. of Agriculture administers Gilbert Island as a community pasture, and whereas much of the grassland on the island is in a deteriorated condition which is attributable to overstocking and overgrazing in the absence of active range management, and whereas cattle are forced to make extensive use of the woodlands

on the island and browsing has effectively eliminated tree regeneration and greatly reduced the status of the fiddlehead fern, and whereas during the winter of 1972-73 the Dept. of Agriculture sanctioned the cutting of mature hardwood trees over approximately 30 acres of the island, and whereas the mature floodplain hardwood forest on Gilbert's Island is a type unique to the Saint John River valley and Atlantic Canada, and whereas the Gilbert Island forest-wetland ecosystem supports a large and diversified wildlife population whose habitat has been seriously threatened by overgrazing and tree removal, therefore be it resolved that the Atlantic chapter, C.S.E.B., recommends that the Dept. of Agriculture critically examine landuse practices on Gilbert Island and solicit the assistance of the N.B. Dept. of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Division, and members of the International Biological Program - CT section (Ecological resources identification) to develop a management plan for the continued use of the pasture without further deterioration of that unique ecosystem.

NATURE PROGRAM, CAMP TAWASI¹

Marc Spence

During the summer I was involved in a "pilot" nature project at Camp Tawasi. I was asked to manage the use of 20 acres of woodland and act as resource person. My primary goal was to spark an interest toward nature in as many young people as I could, using the woods, farm and beach area for walks, exploration and other activities. I didn't want to develop the area to any but a minor extent, leaving things in their natural state. I emphasized a program along the line of the scout program - survival and living on the land in harmony with it. The campers' response was enthusiastic. Each individual discovered a special something within the program that he or she enjoyed, whether it was a nature walk, building a salt water aquarium or sleeping under the stars in the woods which, incidentally became a camp highlight - even the mosquitoes co-operated. There is great truth in the old saying "All good things must come to an end." And so I awoke one morning to find myself faced with the prospect of leaving camp and getting ready for school.

At the federation's annual meeting I discussed this type of nature education project with a number of people. Most expressed great interest in what I was trying to accomplish. So, I am writing to ask anyone interested in my project to drop me a note (at Port Elgin, R.R. #3), expressing your views or ideas. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

(Note:- Marc's work as well as the idea of incorporating nature study into camping were first developed and enthusiastically supported by Mrs. Helen Bateman - M.N.)

CHIGNECTO ROSE

She finally got fed up! Standing all summer in somebody's front yard on one leg and being abused by dogs, and sometimes even little boys, was just too much! And besides, it was getting cold!

She took off and rejoiced in the splendid view below. The Memramcook River, muddy and full of delicious morsels, and then, the famous Dorchester Penitentiary! A symbol of freedom and defiance, she glided over the palisaded fortress and settled below in a sewage lagoon. Nonchalantly parading in front of the prison guards' homes, she was quickly spotted by the longing eyes of those who wished they too could fly, as well as by those who make sure jailbirds stay caged.

The alarm was sounded! Birdwatchers, binoculars, telescopes, cameras, and telephoto lenses went into action. A rare bird alert was in effect! Her shapely legs

¹ near Shemogue, Westmorland County

and gracious body awakened the interest of Al Smith. Overnight, he made her famous by deciding that her proper place was Miami Beach, where she could compete for a queen's title among the local beauties.

Her nightly hangout behind the jailhouse was discovered and five bold members of the Chignecto Naturalists' Club, armed with flashlights and net, silently approached in a little boat. Miss Rose was captured, gagged and bound. Her blood tested, she was ready for the trip. But alas, Canadian imports - save oil and electricity - are not welcome south of the border.

The rest is history now - the Kloud Kennel, the goodbyes from representatives of New Brunswick's naturalist clubs, the Air Canada "sun flight". At this writing, Chignecto Rose, the famous flamingo, strolls in the warm sunshine of the Bahamas Islands! - Mary Majka



The Flamingo's Story: Chignecto Rose, as she/he was dubbed by the Chignecto Naturalists' Club, was discovered by the birdwatching community on November 9 when Al Smith was called about her by a Dorchester resident. Within a few days she was seen by many naturalists, usually at her favorite spot, the sewage lagoon pond, or out in the marsh at the edge of the river. A wary bird, she took flight readily when approached. Although magnificent in flight, she seemed very out of place when standing on the ice of the occasionally frozen pond. It was first believed she had appeared about November 5, but she was probably present from Oct. 24. On Nov. 15 she was captured and on the 17th was flown south to a game farm at Freeport, Bahamas.

The origin of Chignecto Rose is unknown. The odds seem against her having come naturally from the nearest Flamingo range, in the Bahamas, but perhaps some coastal storm could have brought her. The nearest sources of captive Flamingos are zoos in Quebec and southern New England. - D.C.

BOOK REVIEW

Recently advertized (Time vol. 102, No. 23) as "one of the most beautiful, authoritative and practical volumes ever published about the bird population of the Atlantic Provinces" is the following book:

Birds of the Atlantic Provinces

By David A. Hancock and James Woodford; General Publishing Company Ltd., Don Mills, Ont., 1973. 68pp., illus. in colour and B & W. Price: \$5.95

That this book should be titled "Birds of the Atlantic Provinces" is a farce - it doesn't come close to giving an accurate impression of the region's birdlife and is peppered with errors. The volume is one of a series (the others cover Ontario-Quebec, the Prairie Provinces, and British Columbia), by David Hancock and James Woodford. Each book in the series is identical for the first 52 pages, with the remaining 16 pages being devoted to the particular region denoted by the title.

The portion of the book which is common to all four volumes presents information on birds generally (distribution, flight, nests, migration, etc.), about bird groups (most, but not all, the orders of Canadian birds), and about birdwatching (including

photography and sound recording). The main defect of this part of the text is its brevity for the range of topics covered. Some statements give false impressions, such as the one dealing with cuckoos laying their eggs in other birds' nests. While true for the European bird, our Canadian cuckoos normally build their own nest and raise their own young.

Essentially, the book is a collection of bird photographs (50 in colour and 100+ in black and white). The works of several different photographers, presumably including the authors, they are generally good - some, in fact, are excellent. However, some of the black and white ones lack sufficient contrast. The layout is uninspired and the mixing of black and white and colour photos on the same page detracts from the book's general appearance, as well as reducing the impact of the black and white pictures. Two photos seem to be incorrectly identified - the Sanderlings are Surf-birds and the Orange-crowned Warbler looks much like a dull Yellowthroat.

The fourth part of the book, "Birding in the Atlantic Provinces" does not represent well our birdlife and contains many errors. Did you know that "the greatest feature influencing life in the Atlantic Provinces is ... The Grand Banks"?, that "through poor forestry and agriculture practices, much of the forest cover has been reduced to treeless heather bogs"?, that "the great shallows of the Bay of Fundy" are the feeding places of Golden Plover?; that each province's meadows of crowberries attract millions of shorebirds?; that Clapper Rails are found in the Tantramar Marsh, N.B.?; that Dovekies nest at Witless Bay, Nfld? Those are just some of the surprising statements.

Many things that should have been mentioned have not been, for instance the abundance and variety of warblers in Maritime forests, the Rock and Willow Ptarmigan of Newfoundland, the exciting array of stray migrants about the headlands and islands of Nova Scotia, the great flocks of shearwaters and phalaropes that occur off some areas of the coast.

The authors mention the site of a Nova Scotian eyrie of the endangered Peregrine Falcon. Considering the possibility of disturbance by falconers, such sites should not be publicized. In this case, it probably matters little since the species has not been found breeding in the Maritimes for years.

A map of the Atlantic Provinces includes Quebec's Magdalens, Anticosti and Gaspé which is reasonable since their bird fauna relates closely to the remainder of the region. However, the only mention of those areas in the text is a sentence under the heading of New Brunswick stating that "the most famous seabird areas are the shores of Gaspé, Bonaventure I., and the Bay of Fundy Islands." The map indicates the life zones of the region as arctic, boreal and Alleghenian, but the authors do not define what they mean by each one, and the way the zones are mapped does not coincide with any version I've seen previously.

The book's most useless piece of information is the listing of the weather conditions on twenty-five 1972 Christmas Bird Counts.

"A Checklist of Birds of the Atlantic Provinces" concludes the book. It is a disaster! At least 20 species occurring annually in the region are omitted, e.g. Black-bellied Plover, Red Phalarope, Hairy Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Wood Thrush, and Prairie Warbler. Several other species of infrequent occurrence are also omitted, including no less than six species of storm-blown terns, all of which are mentioned in Godfrey's "Birds of Canada", the taxonomy and nomenclature of which the authors say they have followed. Other equally rare species such as White-tailed Tropic-bird and Chuck-will's-widow have been included, as have Red-shafted Flicker, Snowy Plover, Louisiana Waterthrush and Western Meadowlark which to my knowledge have not been found here. There are also the listings "Brant (incl. Black Brant)", "Red-tailed Hawk (incl. Harlan's Hawk)", and "White-fronted Goose (incl. Blue Goose)".

Neither the Black Brant or Harlan's Hawk subspecies occurs in the region and the third statement should have been "Snow Goose (incl. Blue Goose)". Beware of these check-lists in separate form. The book tells us that they are available from Hancock House Publishers in card form at 15 for \$2.00. They also offer three other Canadian regional lists and 21 American lists.

In summary, it is a pity that this book was ever published. The idea was good, but a great deal more thought and research should have been put into it. - D. Christie

NATURE NEWS

David Christie

The fall period was not distinguished by any great aberrations from normal weather patterns. On the whole it averaged a bit cooler and drier than usual. October and November had high sunshine totals, and there was little snowfall. In fact, by the end of November none of the main weather stations in southern N.B. had recorded a total of as much as 4 inches of snow.

Mammals

A Red Bat, found dead at Saint John Sept. 27 (*vide* David Ekstrom), is one of our uncommon species. Earlier, one was found at Martinon, St. John Co., on August 26 (Mrs. Roland Magleave). A large dark bat seen catching insects at Wolfe Lake, in Fundy Park, Oct. 8 (Henrik Deichmann) was probably a Big Brown Bat, a solitary species apt to be in migration at that time.

A black colour phase Gray Squirrel was seen regularly at Hammond River during August (Mr. Scott). On the edge of its range, a normal gray-coloured one was seen at Moncton July 16 (L. Halfpenny, *vide* Doug Whitman).

Alan Madden writes about observing Beavers in the Restigouche River at Tide Head August 30. He saw "10 individual beavers whose dwellings are in the estuary where the tide fluctuates 2 to 4 feet; water depth is 5 to 8 feet." At the same time (at dusk), he observed dozens of Little Brown Bats feeding on insects over the water. Alan also reports, belatedly, that he examined an albino Porcupine that had been shot at Selwood, Restigouche County in June 1972.

An Eastern Panther (or Cougar), surely the most exciting mammal of New Brunswick, was observed for about ten minutes on Sept. 2 near Westfield, by Gerald Spencer and some friends. Several miles to the west Cougar tracks were seen in mid-September on the West Musquash River by Mr. & Mrs. J.M. LeBlanc.

The sparring that takes place between male White-tailed Deer during the "rutting season" seldom results in death except in instances when the antlers of two bucks become locked together. However, a large buck, found Nov. 6 at Chignecto Campground in Fundy Park, may have died from the goring of another deer. One antler was broken off, near its base, and the body was mangled.

At the scene, holes in the humus appeared to have been pierced by hoofs and possibly anglers, while tree bark bore the scars of antler points. Was the very large buck, with a 16-point rack, that was seen in the area the victor of the battle? (Henrik Deichmann, *et al*).

Birds

Lots of birds are on the move during the months from August through November. Often the calls of migrants can be heard at night as they forge southward. Ron Weir kept notes of calls heard at Belleisle Bay Aug. 17-21 from dusk till 11 p.m. (till 12:15 on the 17th). His results were: Aug. 17, 75 songbirds; Aug. 18, total of 20-30; Aug. 19, total of 6; Aug. 20, 40 per hour (3 Veeries identified); Aug. 21, none heard, brisk wind blowing. The birds appeared to be moving southwest, parallel to the shore of the Bay.

Greater Shearwaters were present in the Bay of Fundy all during October. 150 were seen from the Grand Manan ferry Oct. 13 (Pearces & Nettie Moore) and 95 from the "Princess of Acadia" Oct. 30 (Jim Wilson). Only two reports of Nanx Shearwaters were received: 2 between Grand Manan and Machias Seal Island Aug. 14 (R. Kenneth Edwards) and 1 off Ashburton Head, G.M. Sept. 12 (Christie et al). A Leach's Petrel, perhaps two, was seen close to shore at Kelly Beach, Kouchibouguac Park on Oct. 9, following a storm (Eric Tull).

Large numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were present offshore and in the lagoons of Kouchibouguac Park from mid-August till the end of September. Eric Tull saw about 1000 there on Sept. 20. One was seen on Wolfe Lake, Fundy Park, Oct. 4 (Deichmann). Inland records are normally on our larger rivers, not on small, isolated lakes. The latest Double-crests at Dalhousie were reported Nov. 15 (Lebel).

An immature Little Blue Heron at Oak Bay Sept. 23-24 (Peter Taylor) and a Cattle Egret at Fundy Park Headquarters Nov. 1 (Deichmann & John Bonser) were the only unusual herons reported. An immature Glossy Ibis seen at Castalia Aug. 27 by the Edwards family is apparently the first of that species ever seen in the province during late summer or fall. What probably was the same bird had been seen briefly in flight about two weeks earlier at North Head by Mary Edwards.

The first Canada Geese were seen during the week of September 9 at Balmoral, Restigouche County (fide Lebel). At Kouchibouguac Park they arrived around Sept. 20 (fide Tull) and at Grand Manan on Oct. 5 (Mary Hajka et al). About 1500 were in Kouchibouguac's Lagoon Oct. 29 (Tull). One of three immature, white phase Snow Geese was shot at the mouth of Turtle Creek on Oct. 23 (Henry Cormier fide Whitman).

Nancy Small saw an odd-looking duck dash across the road in front of her car on a rainy night (Sept. 22) at White Head, G.M. From its long neck and legs and coloration, she believes it was a Fulvous Tree Duck, a subtropical species famous for its distant wanderings in recent years. During the fall of 1961, several turned up in New Brunswick. However, her recent sighting must remain somewhat questionable because of the difficult conditions in which it was observed.

The first Gadwall specimen to be preserved in New Brunswick is now in the museum's collections. A female, it was shot by a hunter at Queenstown Oct. 20 and contributed by Richard Cain. Gadwalls are rapidly increasing in the east and were found nesting in Prince Edward Island this summer so watch for more of them here. Two males were seen at Saint John West Sept. 23 (Cecil Johnston) and 2 females or immatures at Castalia Oct. 4 and 7 (Christie & Hajkas).

A number of Redhead ducks passed the fall at Eel River Bar. Two males and two females were seen there Sept. 24 and 3 males and 2 females on Nov. 2, with various sightings between those dates. Two were shot by hunters on the St. John River, one at Little Musquash Island Oct. 2 (fide Cain) and 1 at Queenstown (fide Brian Cogle). The 6 Ruddy Ducks that summered at Saint John West were present throughout August and as many as 14 were there Oct. 28 (David Clark et al). Sightings were made also at Eel River Bar (2, Oct. 24-27, Lebel) and Castalia (3-5-1, Oct. 14-25, Pearces & Moore; Willa MacCoubrey). Others were reported shot by hunters near Memramcook (fide Reid McManus).

"Sea ducks", inland on the small lakes of Fundy Park were 3 Bufflehead (1st record for park) on Tracey Lake Oct. 31 and a male Oldsquaw Oct. 24, a White-winged Scoter Oct. 11, and 2 Surf Scoters Sept. 25, all on Wolfe Lake (Deichmann). Six Oldsquaw, normally a winter duck, were seen at Cape Jourimain, near Cape Formentine, on a Chignecto Naturalists' Club (=C.N.C.) field trip Aug. 18. Another out-of-season Oldsquaw report was of 2 near Tabusintac in June (Pearce).

It has been 49 years since a Black Vulture was reported in the province but this fall two were seen. One, at Trout Brook, about 12 miles northwest of Newcastle on Aug. 7 & 8 (Harry Walker, Don LeHeup & Adam Taylor) was feeding on a dead Raccoon. On Nov. 17, on Deer Island, warden Albert Cormick found an injured Black Vulture which now is being kept in the provincial game farm, at Magnetic Hill (fide Pearce).

Of 3 Cooper's Hawk reports, the observations of Peter Pearce at Annidale, Queens County are most interesting. The presence of an adult and 2 immatures there regularly Aug. 15-21 suggests possible nesting of that rare hawk in the area. The other Cooper's were singles at Eel River Bar Sept. 24 (Lebel) and Fundy Park H.Q. Oct. 24 (Deichmann).

The first of a good number of Rough-legged Hawks in Westmorland County was one at Paunchy Pond Oct. 8 (R. Jennings & P. Berkhouse). Marsh Hawks were "very abundant" on the Tantramar Marsh Oct. 10-25 (fide A.I. Smith). At least five Peregrine Falcons were seen: 1 at Annidale Sept. 4 & 7 (Pearce), 1 at Westfield Sept. 22 (Johnston), an immature Oct. 6 and an adult Oct. 7 at The Whistle, G.M. (Christie & Majkas), and 1-2 at Southwest Head Oct. 6-19 (Majkas, Pearce et al).

Jim Wilson saw 2 Gray Partridge at East Saint John Aug. 7, the first report from there in 6-7 years. It had been suspected that the species had completely died out in the Saint John area.

The first Sandhill Crane ever reported in New Brunswick was watched by Cecil Johnston as, heading into a strong wind, it flew west along the coast at Pt. Lepreau Oct. 7. So surprised was he to see it, that he forgot about having his camera and telephone lens and thus missed getting a picture. There are a couple of records for Prince Edward Island and at least a half dozen in Maine. In our part of the country the occasional crane seen in fall is probably a migrant from nesting grounds in the eastern or central arctic. Mostly, they migrate west of Hudson Bay.

An immature Purple Gallinule at White Birch Road, near Midgie, Westmorland County on Oct. 23 (Stuart Tingley & Richard Blacquiore) is an unusual record. Of a number of An. Coot reports, the most noteworthy was a flock of 25 at Ferry Point, Kings Co., Oct. 28 (Wilson).

Most An. Golden Plover were reported in very small groups but there were from 30 to 40 at Eel River Crossing in late September (Lebel) and 40 at Moncton Airport Oct. 23 (Dr. H. Majkas). 60 Hudsonian Godwit at Cape Jourimain Aug. 18 (C.N.C.) was the largest flock reported. A late godwit was at Sackville Nov. 11-12 (Christie et al). Also late were 5 Knot at Cape Jourimain Nov. 18 (C.N.C.) and a Spotted Sandpiper at Morice Lake, near Sackville, Oct. 27 (Tingley & Blacquiore).

The Willet, about 25 of which were still at Cape Jourimain, a breeding area, on Aug. 11 (Davis Finch) was reported elsewhere only at Saint John West where one was seen Aug. 17 (Weir). The report of one at Eel River Bar, earlier in the summer on June 12 (Lebel) is the first record from the Bay of Chaleur. The Purple Sandpiper, a shorebird of rocky coasts, is seldom seen along the North Shore because of the lack of suitable habitat. When there, they are most apt to be seen at rock breakwaters. This fall one was at Dalhousie Oct. 23 and 5 there Nov. 1 (Lebel), 1 at Buctouche Bar Oct. 28 (McManus & Tingley), and 1 in the Cape Tormentine area Nov. 18 (C.N.C.)

Among our more or less rare shorebirds the following were reported: Baird's Sandpiper - 2 at Saint John West Aug. 17 (Weir), 2 at St. Andrews Sept. 5 (MacCoubrey), 1 at Castalia Sept. 11-12 (Moore, MacCoubrey et al) and Oct. 4 (Majkas & Christie), and 1 at North Head Oct. 4 (Christie & Majkas); Curlew Sandpiper - the first since 1895, except for a possible record in 1966 - 1 at Castalia Aug. 27 (R.K.F. Edwards) and 1 at Eel River Bar Oct. 15-30, with 2 on the 18th (Lebel); Silt Sandpiper: 3-4

at Saint John West Aug. 14 & 17 (Christie & Weir), 3-6 at Cape Jourimain Aug. 11-18 (Finch et al) and 1-2 at Castalia Oct. 7-19 (Majkas, Pearce et al); Western Sandpiper: 2 and perhaps 4, at Saint John West Sept. 8 (Davis Finch); Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1 at Saint John West Aug. 11-12 (Johnstons) and 1-2 at Castalia Aug. 25-Sept. 12 (Edwards, Finch et al); Wilson's Phalarope: 1 at Castalia Aug. 27 (Edwards), 1 at Saint John West Aug. 10 (Finch), 3 there Aug. 22 (Weir), and 4 at Cape Jourimain Aug. 12 (Finches, Harries) and 1 there Sept. 21 (Tingley).

On Aug. 9, Northern Phalaropes off Deer Island Point were estimated at 30,000 (Finch), a good number, but on Aug. 28 Bill Townsend considered there might be between 500,000 and 1,000,000 in the waters off Eastport. No one has made such a large estimate before.

It was not a good season for Jaegers, the only ones reported being a Parasitic near Deer Island Aug. 25 (MacCoubrey) and a Pomarine seen from the "Princess of Acadia" Oct. 30 (Wilson). There were two reports of the much rarer Great Skua, perhaps the same bird each time. The first was seen at Beals Eddy, Grand Manan on Aug. 2 by Kenneth Edwards and the second by the Edwards family on a boat trip from Grand Manan to Machias Seal Island Aug. 31.

The large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls in Passamaquoddy Bay (12,000 at Deer Island Point Aug. 9 - Finch) included some other species such as an adult Black-headed Gull Sept. 9 (N.B.F.N.) and 3 or 4 Little Gulls Aug. 9 (Finch). Little Gulls were also reported from the Bay of Chaleur, where an immature was at Bel River Bar and Dalhousie Sept. 27-30 and an adult at Dalhousie Oct. 5 (Lebel), as well as 2 adults at Mal Bay South, Miscou Island Oct. 21 (Peter deMarsh). That was the first report from northeastern N.B. The other rare gulls seen were a Laughing Gull about 2 miles off Southwest Head, G.H. Aug. 31 (R.K.F. Edwards) and 2 winter-plumaged adult Sabine's Gulls in the Grand Manan Channel Oct. 26 (MacCoubrey). Father Lebel reports 1-2 Kittiwake at Bel River Bar Aug. 5 & 14 as the first ones for his area.

Three Caspian Terns at Macos Bay Aug. 11 (Don McAlpine) were the only ones reported. It should be noted here that the observer of the 250 or so Arctic Terns at Kouchibouguac Park June 23 was Angus MacLean, not Sandy McLain, as previously reported (vol. 4, p. 54). Hundreds of Arctics were seen along with many more Common Terns near Deer Island Aug. 25 (MacCoubrey).

A most interesting report from Grand Manan is of an adult Common Murre seen in company with a young murre about half grown, at The Whistle Aug. 22 (R.F.K. Edwards). Although each summer there are Common Murres at Machias Seal Island and perhaps at the Murr Ledges, that sighting at The Whistle is the first evidence to indicate breeding in the Grand Manan area. A Dovekie, which should have been much farther north at the time, was at Beals Eddy, G.H. Aug. 4 (R.K.F. and Mary Edwards).

A number of Red-headed Woodpeckers appeared. One spent most of September at The Whistle (Finch et al) and an immature was at Cambridge Sept. 19 (Enid Inch). During October there were reports of 2 at West Saint John (Ron Graham), 1 at Golden Grove, St. John Co. (Clarence Adams) and 1 at North Head and 1 at Grand Harbour (Pearces & Moore). There was also one at Caledonia Mountain Nov. 22-23 (Majkas et al).

A late Eastern Kingbird was seen at Fredericton Sept. 28 (Taylor) while single Western Kingbirds were at Castalia Sept. 11-12 (Moore, et al) and at St. Andrews Nov. 4-6 (MacCoubrey). A Great-Crested Flycatcher was at Grand Manan in the last week of October (MacCoubrey).

A great concentration of 1000+ Horned Larks were feeding on newly-sown lawns at Bel River Bar from Sept. 20 through early October (Lebel). Another large group, 300-400, was at Mal Bay South, Miscou Island Oct. 21 (deMarsh). Two large concen-

trations of Purple Martins were seen, "hundreds" near Grand Lake in August (vide Gordon Ratray), and 570 at Fredericton Sept. 8 (Christie, Mary Majka & Jan Dexter). Also on the 8th, 244 were seen at Upper Gagetown (Stan Gorham). Three Rough-winged Swallows were feeding high above Mohannis Stream near Milltown Aug. 17 (Christie & Gorham). Three very late Barn Swallows were 1 at St. Martins Nov. 3 (Ted Sears), 1 at Cape Tormentine Nov. 4 (Tingley) and 1 at Martin Head, St. John Co., Nov. 17 (Deichmann).

Two House Wrens were reported: 1 at Douglas Oct. 3 (Bev Schneider) and 1 at North Head Oct. 13 (Pearces & Moore). A Long-billed Marsh Wren at Southwest Head, G.H. Oct. 17 & 19 (Pearces & Moore) was still there in the last week of the month (MacCoubrey). One to two Short-billed Marsh Wrens were singing at Paunchy Pond until Aug. 27 (Tingley).

Nine Hockingbirds seen in October and November were all near the coast except one at Somerville Oct. 7 (Donald Kimball). On the other hand, only two Brown Thrashers were reported, both at Grand Manan. Omitted by mistake in last issue, was a pair of thrashers seen in the week of June 14 at Connors, Madawaska Co. (David Smith).

Two Gray-checked Thrushes were reported, based on close examination, 1 at Douglas Oct. 1 (Schneider) and 1 at Saint John West Oct. 7 (Johnston). As well, calls of that species were heard as they migrated overhead at Saint John Sept. 12 (Christie). Most apparently pass over without stopping in southern N.B. Twenty-two E. Bluebirds was reported in eight localities from Stanley to Salisbury and south.

A Loggerhead Shrike was at Castalia Sept. 12 (Pearce, et al). The earliest Northern Shrike was seen at Grand Harbour Oct. 17 (Pearce) but there were not many reports of it.

The most unusual warbler was the Orange-crowned, a species that breeds in small numbers directly north of here in Quebec but which migrates almost entirely to the west. One was spotted at St. Andrews Sept. 28 (MacCoubrey) and a probable one was at Southwest Head, G.H. Oct. 19 (Pearces). The Pearces also had a Pine Warbler at the Swallowtail Oct. 16 and two Yellow-breasted Chats - 1 at The Whistle Oct. 16 and 1 at Southwest Head Oct. 17 & 19. A third chat was at Machias Seal Island Aug. 31 (Edwards). Two Yellowthroats were still at Eel River Bar Oct. 24 (Lebel), a late date for that far north. A late Black and white Warbler was seen at Moncton about Nov. 19 (Tull).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Machias Seal Island Aug. 31 (Edwards) is one of only a very few reports of it in the province. Two tanagers at the Swallowtail, G.H. in the last week of October (MacCoubrey) may have been Western Tanagers but the possibility of immature Scarlet Tanagers which sometimes have quite conspicuous wing-bars, cannot be ruled out.

One of the songbird highlights of the season was the influx of Cardinals. We have had an average of no more than one every couple of years recently, so the number this fall is extraordinary. All were seen relatively near the Bay of Fundy - male at Saint John West Nov. 5 (Bill & Hazel Hazen), female at St. Andrews Nov. 11 (MacCoubrey, who had seen one there also on July 25), female at Saint John Nov. 13 (Margaret Patterson), male at East Riverside Nov. 16 (Joyce Golden), female at White Head Nov. 18 (Smalls), 1 at Belmont Nov. 19 (Stuart MacFarlane), male at Memramcook Nov. 26 (McManus), and pair at Grand Bay in late November (Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hamilton). As well, in late November or early December, there were 2 at North Head and one on Campobello Island (vide Pearce). We have heard that this influx of Cardinals also affected Nova Scotia and eastern Maine.

A late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Lepreau Nov. 18 (Johnston). Three Indigo Buntings were reported at Grand Manan during October and there was one at St. Andrews

Oct. 7 and (another ?) Nov. 7-12 (MacCoubrey). We are now able to mention four more places (in addition to the nine mentioned in the last issue) where Indigo Buntings were seen during June and July, namely Loggieville (Walker), Kouchibouguac Park (Paul Prevett), 6½ miles west of Fredericton (Rev. Chas. Long) and Fundy Park (Long). A Blue Grosbeak was seen at the Swallowtail Oct. 16 (Pearces and Moore). At least 15 Dickcissels were seen at 12 localities in southern N.B. Two Rufous-sided Towhees were noted, 1 at Moncton Oct. 22 (Joan Cormier) and 1 at Fredericton Nov. 15 (R.I. Kavanagh).

Although few Common Redpolls have been seen, there were two very early reports, 3 at Gagetown Sept. 30 (Inch) and 2 at The Whistle Oct. 7 (Christie). The next ones were seen during the last week of October in Albert and Restigouche Counties. Pine Siskins were conspicuous, in flocks of up to 50 birds, at Sackville July 30-Aug. 6 (Hinrich Harries) and they again became common there in the first week of October (Tingley). There were quite a lot of Red Crossbills in the Fredericton area in late October and early November. Two specific reports were 100 in Odell Park Oct. 28 (Taylor) and 20 at Royal Road Nov. 9 (Schneider).

An Ipswich Sparrow (now considered a subspecies of Savannah Sparrow) was in the beach grasses at Castalia Oct. 15 (Pearces & Moore). A Grasshopper Sparrow began an extended stay at the Pearces' feeder in Fredericton on Nov. 25. Two Seaside Sparrows, an adult and a juvenile, at Machias Seal Island Aug. 31 (Edwards) is the sixth provincial record. A Lark Sparrow was at Fundy Park H.Q. Sept. 10-11 (Bradbury & Deichmann) and another was observed at Grand Manan in the last week of October (MacCoubrey). Another unusual sparrow, and the most important, is the Clay-coloured Sparrow, an adult of which was discovered near the ferry wharf at North Head Sept. 12 (Pearce, Christie, Moore, MacCoubrey & Finch) and, surprisingly, an immature at the very same place Oct. 4 (Christie & Majkas). Both individuals were associating with Chipping Sparrows. The observation of an adult by five experienced observers is good enough to add the species to the provincial list. There had been only one previous report, a singing adult at Newcastle last spring.

Eight Field Sparrows included 6 at Grand Manan during the last week of October (MacCoubrey). Five early Lapland Longspurs were with the Horned Larks at Bel River Bar Sept. 23-29 and there was also a Snow Bunting there on Sept. 20 and Oct. 2 (Lebel). At least 600 Snow Buntings were seen at Buctouche Bar Oct. 28 (Tingley & McManus). Even earlier longspurs were 2 at Castalia Sept. 12 (Finch).

Reptiles, Amphibians and Fishes

An interesting experience was had by Mary Majka and myself when, following a heavy rain storm on the evening of Sept. 6, we found many amphibians crossing the highway between Lord's Cove and Fairhaven, on Deer Island. Investigating, we discovered a couple of Green Frogs, hundreds of Pickered Frogs, an Am. Toad, hundreds of Red efts (the land-dwelling stage of the Red-spotted Nert), dozens of Red-spotted Salamanders, a Red-backed Salamander and a Garter Snake. It was the first we knew that salamanders occurred on Deer Island.

Alan Madden reports that he first observed young-of-the-year Alouves (Gaspereau) migrating down the Restigouche River on Aug. 30 "when thousands could be seen breaking the surface." He adds that they "will continue to descend the lower Restigouche River through October when sea-run brookies (Brook Trout) ascend the river and feed heavily on them." He also reports a sea-run Brown Trout that was caught by Mrs. Peter Webb at Robinsonville on the Upsalquitch in June 1972. Alan guesses that its origin probably was one of the Newfoundland or Nova Scotian sea-run Brown Trout rivers.

Invertebrates & Flora

Judging by comments heard around Saint John, it was a great summer for fleas on cat and dogs, though neither the pet-owners nor the pets considered it "great."

A heavy, but brief, migration of Monarch butterflies was recorded along the Bay of Fundy. Nancy Small called it "very heavy" at White Head Sept. 12-14 and there were hundreds on Grand Manan, particularly around Long Pond, and quite a few over the Grand Manan Channel Sept. 12 (Christie, Pearce et al). On Sept. 13 "hundreds" were observed at New Horton, Albert Co. (Mary Majka) and on the 14th they were conspicuously in movement, passing southwest along Douglas Avenue, in Saint John (Gayl Hipperson).

A number of our spring flowers may bloom again in fall, especially in disturbed areas, such as mown fields. An example of such is the Bunchberry, of which Marjorie Gray found over 20 blooms at Woodstock Sept. 6. Its normal and productive time of bloom is during late May and June. A really late blooming plant was the Red Clover found at Petitcodiac Dec. 1 (Mrs. R.E. Carter) sporting three flowers, two of them deep pink and sweet-scented and the third half brown as though frost-bitten. In part their late occurrence had been permitted by a sheltering cover of fallen leaves.

BULLETIN BOARD

Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club

Meetings: 8 p.m., Room 309, Forestry & Geology Bldg., U.N.B.
March 14: topic to be announced

Saint John Naturalists' Club

Meetings: 8 p.m. King George VI Hall, N.B. Museum
March 13: Dr. Alan Gordon - "Coming Apart at the Seams" (volcanoes, Iceland)

Moncton Naturalists' Club

Meetings: 8 p.m., Room D102, Science Bldg., Université de Moncton
Feb. 27: Mary Majka - Maritime Islands and Shores

Chignecto Naturalists' Club

Check with Con Desplanque, Amherst, or Hinrich Harries, Sackville, for details of time and place.

Mar. 2 (all day) - winter hike, animal tracks and birds

Mar. 7 (evening) - Eric Tull et al. Birds of Kouchibouguac Park; 8 p.m. Flemington Bldg.

Mar. 10 (all day) - Field trip, Cape Tormentine ferry - sea birds and seals

Miramichi Naturalists' Club

For details of activities check with John Bethell, Newcastle

Beach Patrol

Tony Lock, Environmental Protection Service, P.O. Box 2406, Halifax, N.S., is anxious to obtain volunteers who would be willing to walk a one-mile stretch of beach at about monthly intervals checking for dead sea birds. If you (or yourself and friends) are interested in participating in the project please write him for details. Similar work in Great Britain has obtained valuable information on sea-bird mortality.

Shorebird Survey in the Maritimes

Dr. R.I.G. Morrison of the Canadian Wildlife Service would like to hear from members who would be interested in participating in a survey of migrant shorebirds. For information please write Dr. Morrison at the C.W.S. Eastern Region office, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa K1A 0H3.