



# N.B. Naturalist

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ALMA BEACH - FUNDY NATIONAL PARK  
FEB 2/76 AT 1400 HRS. FROM A PHOTO

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A PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE EARTHWORMS OF NEW BRUNSWICKJohn Warren Reynolds<sup>1</sup>Introduction

The presence of terrestrial oligochaetes (earthworms) in New Brunswick has received limited treatment in the scientific literature. Only three men have mentioned these animals in their reports (Ude, 1893; Gates, 1972 and 1974; and Langmaid, 1964). Two of these reports are of historical significance. Ude's report of his species in Grand Manan Island, only eight years after its description, was the first record of Aporrectodea longa in North America. Langmaid was the first to validly report Lumbricus festivus in North America. This author is the only other person to record Lumbricus festivus in North America and from surveys to date has been unable to locate this species in New Brunswick and the other Maritime Provinces.

Lumbricidae of New Brunswick and their Distribution

The following thirteen species are the Lumbricidae (Annelida, Clitellata, Oligochaeta) reported from New Brunswick to date. All these species are introduced European earthworms. The current scientific name, common names and New Brunswick distribution are given. The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of collection sites in which the species was obtained in a given county (if only one site yielded a species, the parentheses are omitted). The results of the survey to date have yielded 62 new county records and seven new provincial records.

1. Allelobophora chlorotica (Savigny, 1826) (new provincial record)  
Green worm; Ver vert  
Charlotte.
2. Aporrectodea longa (Ude, 1885)  
Black head worm; Ver à tête noire  
Charlotte (3), Queens, Saint John (3) and York.
3. Aporrectodea trapezoides (Dugès, 1828) (new provincial record)  
Southern worm; Ver méridional  
Saint John and York.
4. Aporrectodea tuberculata (Eisen, 1874)  
Canadian worm; Ver canadien  
Albert (3), Carleton (2), Charlotte (9), Gloucester (4), Kent (7), Kings (5), Madawaska (4), Northumberland (7), Queens (2), Restigouche (5), Saint John (11), Sunbury (4), Victoria (2), Westmorland (5) and York (22).
5. Aporrectodea turgida (Eisen, 1873)  
Pasture worm; Ver du pâturage  
Albert (2), Madawaska, Northumberland, Queens, Restigouche, Saint John, Victoria and Westmorland.
6. Dendrobaena octaedra (Savigny, 1826) (new provincial record)  
Octagonal-tail worm; Ver à queue octogonale  
Carleton, Gloucester, Sunbury (3) and York (8).
7. Dendrodriilus rubidus (Savigny, 1826) (new provincial record)  
European bark worm; Ver européen de l'écorce  
Charlotte (3), Kent, Northumberland, Restigouche, Saint John (2), Sunbury (2), Westmorland (2) and York (2).

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8. Eisenia rosea (Savigny, 1826)  
Pink soil worm; Ver rose du sol  
Albert, Kent, Kings, Restigouche (2), Saint John (4), Westmorland (2) and York (3).
9. Eisoniella tetraodra (Savigny, 1826) (new provincial record)  
Square-tail worm; Ver à queue carrée  
Carleton and Restigouche.
10. Lumbricus castaneus (Savigny, 1826) (new provincial record)  
Chestnut worm; Ver aiezan  
Carleton, Charlotte (3), Kings, Restigouche, Saint John (3), Westmorland (3) and York.
11. Lumbricus festivus (Savigny, 1826)  
Quebec worm; Ver québécois  
Victoria.
12. Lumbricus rubellus Hoffmeister, 1843 (new provincial record)  
Red marsh worm; Ver rouge du marécage  
Albert (2), Charlotte (7), Gloucester (2), Kent (5), Kings (2), Madawaska (3), Northumberland (3), Queens (2), Restigouche (5), Sunbury, Westmorland (2) and York (12).
13. Lumbricus terrestris Linnaeus, 1758 (new provincial record)  
Nightcrawler, Dew-worm; Ver nocturne rampant  
Carleton, Charlotte, Gloucester (2), Kent, Kings (2), Northumberland (2), Queens (2), Restigouche, Saint John (4), Sunbury, Victoria and York (6).

#### Discussion

There are three additional species which have been found in other eastern Canadian provinces and New England. These species - Eisenia foetida (Savigny, 1826), Octolasion cyaneum (Savigny, 1826) and Octolasion tyrtaceum (Savigny, 1826) - could be present in New Brunswick.

A key and the Atlantic distribution for the earthworms in New Brunswick can be found in Reynolds (1976a). For a detailed account on the biology, nomenclature, taxonomy and systematics for the species presented in this report consult Reynolds (1976b).

#### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the many people who provided me with specimens that they collected in various portions of the province: Canada Agriculture - K.K. Langmaid; Fredericton - D.G. Kayll, K.W. Reynolds, B.C. Shafer; National Museums Canada - E.L. Bousfield; New Brunswick Museum - D.S. Christie, S.W. Gorham, D. McAlpine; Nova Scotia Agricultural College - P.H. Bailey, L.J. Eaton; Saint John Naturalists' Club - A. Callaghan, H. Cunningham, I. LeBlanc, M. Majka, T. Page, L. Shonaman, R. Tanton; University of New Brunswick - D.L.A. Hebb, S. Homer, F.J. Hutcheson, R. Klapprat, M.H. Schneider, W.L. Staples.

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BIG DAY BIRDING - 1975

Andy Dean

As I sit in my garden writing this, a Downy Woodpecker calls intermittently, and I feel, somewhat derisively, for this is a species, so common, yet missed completely on our annual "Big Day."

Four-thirty A.M.! And I was waiting by the front door for the rest of the party to arrive. There were five of us taking part this year; Owen Washburn (and his car!), Peter Pearce, Peter Taylor, Cliff Jones and myself. The planned route was to take us from Fredericton through Lincoln to Burton, with a stop at Fredericton Airport where we would be sure to see Horned Larks (they are always there), over the Burton Bridge to Jemseg, back across the river and down the River Road to Westfield, Maces Bay and Lepreau, back to Saints' Rest Marsh, and round off the day in any area which we felt would produce those common species which we had somehow missed.

We had been talking about this trip since last year when we had achieved a total of 124 species for the second time (1969 was a good year too), and we felt sure that 130 species in one day was perfectly feasible, in fact, the combined total of the 1969 and 1974 counts was 144, and both lacked such common species as Hummingbird, Nighthawk and Brown Creeper, etc. However, we decided that if we could top our previous high total of 124, and come up with at least 125, we would be satisfied.

The season had been warmer than last year up to this date and warblers were back in good numbers - but against this, the river level had been fluctuating, so that waterfowl weren't in their usual abundance at Jemseg and we felt that we wouldn't do too well in that area. Anyway, it is all in the lap of the gods, and precisely at 4:30 a.m. everybody arrived and we headed for the U.N.B. woodlot.

At the woodlot by 4:40 a.m. we stepped from the car to the ringing trill of a Swamp Sparrow. We were off to a good start. It was quite dark, so for a while we were dependent on our ears alone but most of the sounds were distinctive enough to enable us to list quite confidently White-throated Sparrow; Veery; Tree Swallow; Robin; Northern Waterthrush; Woodcock; Snipe; Hermit Thrush; Swainson's Thrush; Spotted Sandpiper; Yellowthroat; Nighthawk, as if to confirm his presence he obligingly swept down with the distinctive 'Bronx Cheer' and appeared briefly overhead as a silhouette against a light patch of sky. It was number 13 on our list and the first bird we had seen and I realized it was light enough to see (just barely) the dial of my watch - 5 a.m.

Still too dark to identify anything by colour, we continued to record by sound. Tennessee Warbler; Slate-coloured Junco; Winter Wren; Sapsucker. The air was vibrating with thrushes' song. The woodlot seemed full to bursting with Hermits, Swainson's and Veery, and combined with the intense "peeping" of hundreds of frogs, it was difficult at times to pick out other songs but we gradually added Rose-breasted Grosbeak; Black-and-White Warbler; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Golden-crowned Kinglet and a Nuthatch (was it Red-breasted or White? - Nobody knew for sure - call it Nuthatch sp? at least). Rapidly they came now, Yellow-rumped Warbler; Magnolia Warbler; Boreal Chickadee; Crow; Raven; Purple Finch; Cowbird; and the distinctive drumming of a Ruffed Grouse; Least Flycatcher; Pine Siskin; Canada Warbler; Black-capped Chickadee; Redwing; Cape May Warbler; Flicker; Chipping Sparrow; it was light enough now to distinguish shapes, but not colours. A Pileated Woodpecker flew over, followed closely by two Black Ducks (one we hadn't expected in the thick of the U.N.B. woods!); Scarlet Tanager; Black-throated Green; Ovenbird. It was 6 a.m. The rising sun cleared the trees and the temperature characteristically fell a few degrees. Parula Warbler; Evening Grosbeak; Bay-breasted Warbler; Goldfinch; Catbird; Blackburnian Warbler; and our first identification by colour, a Redstart; Then a Solitary Vireo. Passing overhead a woodpecker flew with a whirring of wings, similar



in pitch to a snipe whinnying - Nobody had heard that before but it was a very dark woodpecker and we tentatively called it a Black-back, hoping to confirm it later. We were almost back to the car now and a high pitched trill gave us trouble. It was a song unfamiliar to all of us and somebody suggested a Worm-eating Warbler but an intense search failed to turn up the source, and we had to pass that one up. (We are still wondering though!).

Out of the woodlot and headed for Odell Park at 6:30 a.m. with a total of 52 species. A couple of brief stops on the way produced ten more, Song Sparrow; Starling; Yellow Warbler; Red-eyed Vireo; Baltimore Oriole; Killdeer; Grackle; Savannah Sparrow; and Wood Thrush and Hummingbird, two species we missed last year - things were looking good!

At the Odell we added Blue Jay; Rock Dove; House Sparrow; Kingbird and Brown Creeper and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - two more species we missed last year.

From the Odell Park we headed for the Hermitage, the burial ground beside the St. John River - the ground may be full of dead but the woods around were crammed with life this morning; many warblers and a vibrant male tanager. A Phoebe called from a nearby stream and Black-backed Gulls passed lazily overhead with Chimney Swifts careening, tumbling and twittering by.

We planned to leave the city by 9 a.m. and the half hour or so remaining was spent profitably at the Wetmore Farm at Lower St. Mary's where we were able to rouse a Great Horned Owl plus Bobolink; Barn Swallow; White-crowned Sparrow; and Bank Swallow - 76 species when we left Frederickton.

Now we headed for the Airport and Horned Larks, stopping at a sewage lagoon in Lincoln to add Solitary and Least Sandpipers; Chestnut-sided Warbler; Herring Gull and our third Phoebe of the day. As we turned into the Airport we noticed Cliff Swallows nesting under the eaves of a garage, and then we stepped out onto the tarmac of Frederickton Aviation to record the Horned Larks, but - nothing! Proof that it doesn't pay to get over-confident at this game. They just were not there, where they should have been, and we never saw one all day.

There were mackerel clouds in the sky, promise of a really fine day as we visited Oromocto Flats, Pintails and Common Goldeneye. A Double-crested Cormorant flew up river as we crossed the Burton Bridge at 10:15. Our total stood at 84 and we began to aim at a hundred by noon. In previous years the 100 had come at 2:30 or 3 p.m., so 100 by noon would put us in great shape for our 125 target for the day.

We were in choice country now, along the Sheffield-Jemseg stretch and we gradually racked up Blue-winged Teal; Mallard; Black Tern; Marsh Hawk; Common Tern and American Widgeon. Six Semi-palmated Plovers and two White-rumped Sandpipers near McGowans Corner were interestingly rare sightings in this area in the spring besides being two more towards the 100 by now. We recorded a Kingfisher at 11:10 (and our third Marsh Hawk); Greater Yellowlegs and Bittern - 11:25; Black-bellied Plover - 11:35; that was number 97, three more to go for that 100 and 25 minutes to do it, but we hit the doldrums about here and things slowed down; 11:45; 11:50; 11:55; - A large slough ahead looks good - 11:58; We stop the car and there they are! Ring-billed Gulls; Green-winged Teal; and an American Coot No. 100. (And a Coot's a pretty good find at any time).

Purple Martins and Nashville Warbler before we crossed the ferry at Lower Gaagetown, and now things began to fall apart; it was an hour before we added a Great Blue Heron and an hour and a half later, near Lepreau, when we recorded No. 104, a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks circling over the highway.

We were placing great faith in Haces Bay and Lepreau now, but added only nine more species, Red-breasted Merganser; Surf Scoter; American Scoter; Common Eider; Guillemot; Water Pipit; Common Loon. The rocks and surrounding underbrush at Point Lepreau were lively with warblers, flycatchers, etc., a phenomenon we've noticed before. They must be newly arrived migrants resting before they continue on inland. We added a Peewee there, and for the second year in a row, Meadowlarks. There were two together right at the point in the exact spot that we recorded one last year!

But it was 5 p.m. and our 'Big Day' was rapidly becoming a middle size day; our target of 125 getting farther away. We had added only thirteen species since that tremendous burst at noon and it was another hour before we saw an Osprey at 6 p.m.

Saints' Rest Marsh was quite a letdown. We Frederictonians had no idea that the marsh is now bisected by a four-lane highway and anyway we had seen most of the waders that were likely earlier in the day. So the marsh that we had hoped would give us the badly needed lift, in fact yielded no new species, and we headed up the Broad Road for home. A Hairy Woodpecker flew over, for 115 at 8:20 p.m., and at Geary we took a short detour to add Bluebirds which we were aware of as a possibility. The pair of them were at home in an orchard and added a bright touch to end the day.

No need denying, the total of 116 was a little disappointing, but we all agreed that it was yet another Great Big Day. We had seen nothing more exotic than the American Coot and the total was low but it's a satisfying, warm, human experience. A day spent with four companions, all quite expert, adds considerably to one's own knowledge and the joy and fun derived from a Big Day birding is something that needs to be experienced to be understood and really appreciated.

We are going again next year. We are planning it already - the target? 125, of course!

#### GROUNDHOG GALE - PART II \*

David Christie

Last issue we included three accounts of the effects on nature of the Groundhog Gale and had hoped to have write-ups in this issue from the hardest hit areas such as Grand Manan. Those are not available but I have heard of considerable coastal damage. Needless to say the bird observation blinds on Machias Seal Island were destroyed by the large waves which damaged even more substantial structures there. Unfortunately, pipes were broken on the island, allowing the contents of the fuel oil tanks to spill out onto the ground near the whistle house. Much of the oil collected in a large depression (old foundation hole) which use to provide an accumulation of freshwater attractive to the shore and marsh birds that stop there.

Ultimately, one of the most obvious effects of the storm was the damage to evergreen foliage. That became really apparent only when the trees began to transpire actively in warmer spring weather. Conspicuous bands of red trees appeared in exposed areas along the Bay of Fundy, particularly severe damage being reported at Chance Harbour, Pocologan and Campobello. At the coast, all evergreens were affected but White Pines and White Cedars turned red miles from the bay such as at Quispamsis, in the Saint John area. Minor effects could be seen even farther inland.

Henrik Deichmann reports from Fundy Park that the effects of salt spray were eventually noticeable even on hardwood species: "Apples didn't bloom as well as expected and then only on the northeast side of the crown. Yellow Birch trees often had a thin show of foliage possibly attributable to salt spray. White Birch was somewhat affected but maple didn't show any noticeable effect. Red Osier Dogwood was late in leafing out, and salt water brought in by the gale retarded the growth of cattails in Alma Beach Pond."

~~See~~ Cover drawing by K.H. Deichmann.



Although the major force of the gale was felt along the Bay of Fundy other parts of the province were not entirely spared its winds. From the Miramichi, Ian Walker writes, "The recent storm toppled numerous trees, yet I was still surprised by the havoc it created for some very large trees. An enormous White Pine near Lyttleton was practically limbed by the storm. The woodlots and fields near Newcastle were littered with needles and limbs from trees and it was not unusual to find trees over two feet in circumference snapped by the winds. I took particular note of a large Jack Pine which was ripped from its roots."

Ian continues, "The most amusing result brought to my attention was the peculiar behaviour of a pair of Red Squirrels stirred by the collapse of a large tree in which they had probably maintained a nest. As they hurried along that and nearby trees, they would turn towards it scolding. It took little imagination to translate their chatter to a verbal challenge directed at the cursed wind of a day earlier."

#### MORE ON TREE-SQUEAKS

In the N.B. Naturalist of December 1975 (Vol. 6, No. 2-6, p. 18) I reported on the continuing apparent scarcity of the Lesser Tree-squeak Noisindatria acadica, a mysterious nocturnal mammal of Maritime, Maine and Gaspé forests. The article, which was later reprinted in The Guillemot, prompted considerable comment, both verbal and written. Three people provided significant additional information which we are pleased to share with you here. - David Christie

⊙ "In a recent edition of your newsletter, I noticed a report on Tree Squeaks and found it interesting. We have a few in this section of Washington County. They are seldom seen, but when seen, or found dead on the ground, it has always been on the hardwood ridges. They cannot travel on the ground, only in trees, so when one is dislodged and falls to the ground, it will starve. I have had a few frozen ones brought in to me by the Indians and I have made specimens of them. I have only one left in my possession at home." - John M. Dudley.

⊙ "During the night field-work I did in New Brunswick for the CNS during the forest spray programs, I had the opportunity of observing and listening to the Lesser Tree-squeak. I would like to report that, contrary to D.C.'s statement, the female tree-squeak has an extensive repertoire of calls. Not only does she give the common "squeak" call and a fair imitation of the male "kree-ee-ee-cek", but also three variants on "skr-runk" (not to be confused with the call of a green frog in heat). I have also heard a female call "squee-kree-kree-ee" on discovering a particularly appetizing insect in a bark crevice." - Anne Rick.

⊙ "There was a full moon on the night of March 14, enabling a group of us to go owl-watching, in the woods back of Argyle Head, Yarmouth County. As you know, the storm of February 2 caused much tree damage in this region, mostly the uprooting of evergreens, but also actual cracking off of sizable trees. We were posted near one of these large splintered stumps, listening carefully to the usual small forest sounds, when we were startled to hear, close beside us, a prolonged Kree-ee-ee-cek. This was almost immediately echoed by a succession of similar calls in the near vicinity.

"C.R.K. Allen, who was nearest the stump, made out a small, shadowy form crouched in a crevice of the stump; but as he leaned forward it quickly disappeared. He described it to us as a roundish, squirrel-like creature (larger than a shrew but smaller than a squirrel), which showed up as gray or brown against the white heartwood of the freshly broken tree. Although his glimpse was momentary, he is convinced that he did indeed see the elusive Tree Squeak.

"We realize that we cannot properly claim the identification, but felt that we were justified in reporting it to you, in view of your recent article in which you mentioned the scarcity of Tree Squeaks in New Brunswick (also noted by William Town-



send in Guillemot, Vol. 5, No. 2, Jan-Feb 1976). The call was entirely characteristic of the male Lesser Tree Squeak (Noizindetria acadica), which by the way has a local name here, an old one probably derived from the Indian, the Ugolook.

"It is our belief that the storm destroyed the nesting-hole of this small nocturnal mammal, and in fact may have damaged many such nests. This may result in a further regrettable decrease in the population of this little-known but well authenticated creature."- P.R. Dobson.

9 An attempt at locating tree-squeaks in snowy Nictau on March 15, although unsuccessful, did provide the following unexpected information:-

"Unusual sighting of snow snakes\* along the snow banks. We saw three while listening for the tree-squeaks on the south ridge, just east of the main highway #385 north.

Weather: snow squalls at times heavy; visibility nil.

Winds: NW 32 mph with gusts to 70.

Snow depth: 48 inches x 2.54 cm = A LOT!!

Observers: Bill and Wilma Miller, Pleid-backed Shovellers."

#### NATURE NEWS

David Christie

An Eastern Pipistrelle discovered by Don McAlpine in Kitts Cave, near Hammondvale, Kings County on February 28 was the first one ever found in New Brunswick. The discovery was not entirely unexpected since several of that small bat have been found in caves in Nova Scotia. It is difficult to distinguish the pipistrelle from our two common species, Little Brown Bat and Keon's Long-eared Bat which are even harder to separate from each other.

Coyotes continue to be reported in various areas of the province. A recent sighting was made by A.C. Holman at the Canal, north of St. George, where he watched one lope past his house in the early morning of Feb. 24. Mr. Holman notes that he has seen coyotes in Alberta and is convinced that the animal he saw was one, rather than a dog or a fox. One apparently also was trapped in Kent County this winter (vide Ian Walker).

Reportedly, many people have heard and several seen an Eastern Panther near the St. Andrews municipal dump at Chamcook this winter. Carl Medcof has kindly relayed details of a sighting by Jamie Coughney who started what he described as a black panther at the dump Feb. 21. The animal bounded away in a zigzag course at a distance of about 50 yards. Mr. Coughney said the animal was about the size of a Labrador retriever, lank, glossy and jet-black in the bright afternoon light and that its long tail was clearly visible. Its shape and pattern of movement were "just like a great big cat."

The picture of winter birdlife captured by the Christmas Bird Counts pretty well applied for the rest of the winter with the usual declining numbers as food shortages and severe weather took their toll. Winter finches, in particular, declined quickly during January as they evidently moved out of the province to regions with more plentiful cone and seed crops.

Louis Lapierre found 8 Gray Partridge and a Snowy Owl in the Dover area Dec. 27, neither of which were seen on the Hancton Christmas Bird Count, so they can be added to the list of species present during the count period there. The introduced partridge apparently survives in very small numbers in only Saint John and Westmorland Counties.

\* - Seldom seen because of their excellent camouflage.

Two Canada Geese were at Curries Mountain, York County, on February 7 (Nettie Moore & Enid Inch). A few may pass the winter in the water that is kept open below Mactaquac dam. 80 returning migrants were reported at Harvey March 7 (Leo Martin). At Castalia on Grand Manan, wintering or returning Brant were seen by Brian Dalzell in late February, 50 on the 22nd and from 250 to 300 on the 24th. A late American Wigeon was shot at the mouth of the Digdequash River on January 3 (John Morcor).

Sharp-shinned Hawks appeared often around bird feeders. A Copper's Hawk was reported at Riverview Feb. 21-22 and March 6-7 (Doug Whitman). The difficulty of identification of this scarce species was again pointed out when photos of the one reported in the bird count period at Saint John were identified at the National Museum as a Sharp-shinned Hawk. An Accipiter at St. Andrews that captured a crow in January (*vide* Wille MacCoubrey) was more likely a Goshawk, individuals of which were noted at Lower Aboujagane Jan. 30 (Raymonde Belliveau) and Lower St. Marys, York County, March 4 (Leona Keenan).

In addition to the areas reporting Bald Eagles on the bird counts an adult was seen at Tide Head (Alan Madden) and two were reported to have wintered on Bay du Vin Island (*vide* Rudy Stocck). The only Marsh Hawk reported during the winter was one at Castalia Feb. 24 (Dalzell). A Gyr Falcon, gray colour form, was harrasing Ravens at New Hoston, Albert County, Jan. 11 (Christie & Mary Majka).

Early Killdeer were noted at Mary's Point, Albert County, on March 7 (Christie & Mary Majka) and Sackville March 10 (Stuart Tingley). Two Sanderlings at Castalia February 22 (Dalzell) were the first reported in New Brunswick in winter. A Common Snipe was seen at the Missiguash River at the Nova Scotia border Feb. 26 (Bruce Mactavish). Two Great Horned Owls began hooting at Lower St. Marys Feb. 6 (Keenan). Besides the scattered Snowy Owls in southern New Brunswick, including four to five on the Tantreash Marsh (Tingley), one was seen in Campbellton late in January and in February (*vide* Madden). A Hawk Owl was reported at Lower Aboujagane Dec. 14 (Belliveau).

Two Belted Kingfishers were seen this winter, one at Shediac Dec. 14 (David Curry) and one at South Branch, Kings County, Dec. 24 (Henrik Deichmann).

The only Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers reported were in the Newcastle area where Don LeMoup saw one in Niramichi Cemetery early in February and Harry Walker and Ian Ward saw one on Beaubears Island Mar.14.

A most unusual report, on which I don't have full details, is that a Barn Swallow spent all winter in a barn at Chipman (*vide* Heather Bunnor). How could such a bird survive?

One Horned Lark visited Erwin Landauer's feeder at Sisson Ridge Jan. 17-25. Returning migrants appeared late in February, such as 9 at Castalia Feb. 22 (Dalzell) and 7 at Fredericton Feb. 29 (Stocck), although the former may have been wintering birds.

A Hockingbird was visiting a feeder at Hillsborough during December (Mrs. Osman Steeves). Northern Robins were one in January at Sevogle (Mrs. James Kingston) and the last of the fall season at Lamdque Dec. 7 (Hilaire & Rose-Aline Chiasson). The Varied Thrush at Geoff Sayre's feeder in Rothesay, first seen on December 20, disappeared March 3 (*vide* Tingley). An unusual winter Water Pipit was feeding in the seaweed at Bancroft Point, Grand Manan, on Feb. 22 (Dalzell).

The good visitation of Bohemian Waxwings noted on the Christmas Bird Counts was evidenced also by the following reports, among others: 1 at Pointe Verte in



December (fide G. Godin), 50 at Rothesay before Christmas (Joyce Golden), 1 at Newcastle Jan. 15 (Ward), flocks of 12 or so at Fredericton till Jan.15 (Harold Hatheway, Melvin Moore), a flock at Sussex late in January (Gladys Bishop), 8 at Lower Coverdale, Albert Co., Feb. 8 (Winston Prince), 23 at Sackville Feb. 26 (Tingloy), and 30 at Pointe-du-Chene in the first week of March (Miss P. Martin).

In addition to the Dickcissels recorded by the Christmas Counts one of which was still at Saint John West Jan. 23 (Roy Smith), one was seen at Fredericton Dec. 18 (David & Joan Noble).

As noted earlier, winter finches declined quickly in numbers in January. Stuart Tingloy saw no Evening Grosbeaks at Sackville after Jan. 5 and Ian Ward reported only a few Pine Grosbeaks in the Miramichi area in January whereas they had been abundant during December. Common Redpolls also decreased after New Year's although a flock of 50 was at Nashwaaksis Jan. 20 (Mrs. C. Pugh). This last species, however, reappeared in numbers during March when large numbers were in the Sackville and Woodstock areas (Tingloy) and flocks of up to 150 were reported in various parts of the Saint John area (Cecil & Doris Johnston, Kit Graham, Jan Dexter).

A partial albino White-throated Sparrow (with white head and part of the back, and yellow lores) at Lamèque Nov. 12 to Dec. 6 (Chiassons) recalls "Whitey", the very similar bird that nested on Caledonia Mountain during 1972-74 but did not reappear in 1975.

Readers will notice that I have gone back to using observer's names, rather than their initials, to give credit for the sightings used. This is because a number of comments were received unfavourable to the practice used the last time.

#### SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE

Mary Hajka

A few years ago it would have been amusing to suggest that we drive on gas produced by garbage, supply our own paper bags in stores, or heat our homes with the help of the sun. But a few years from now even our rather sparsely populated province will experience progress in this direction.

Some people think that all this is a "lot of foolishness" and somehow expect that we will go on our merry way wasting and using up limited resources. Apart from the fact that we won't be able to do that there are many benefits from a simpler way of life, not only for us but for our surroundings.

Naturalists are looked upon as people with more concern and understanding of the environment and so we have a role to fulfill that, a few years ago, was not expected of us. With our actions, concerns and daily habits we must show that nature is here not only to be enjoyed but to be protected as well. In our homes, schools, and places of work we should take measures to save energy and control waste. Let our attitudes be known not only by feeding birds in winter, but by setting the thermostat lower, by separating garbage, by walking to the corner store, etc.

A number of good books is available free from Energy, Mines & Resources Canada, Ottawa, including "100 Ways to Save Energy & Money in the Home," "The Garbage Book" and "The Billpayer's Guide to Furnace Servicing".

The Canadian Nature Federation bookshop, 46 Elgin St., Ottawa, carries a variety of books of this kind, including "Direct Use of the Sun's Energy", and "The Complete Book of Heating with Wood."

For those who would like to start using alternate sources of energy, "New Low-cost Sources of Energy for the Home" (Garden Way Publishing, Charlotte, Vermont 05445) would be of great help and assistance. It too is available from C.M.F. bookstore.

More on this subject in the next issue.