



# N.B. Naturalist

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- promote ecologically sound policies and programs of resource management
- foster public awareness of the relationships between man and nature.

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Advice to Contributors

Preferred articles are those from one-half to two pages in length, having relevance to the natural history of New Brunswick. Authors of potentially longer articles are invited to contact the editors. Drawings and cover illustrations should be in black ink and in the same size and proportions they would occupy in the N.B. Naturalist. Observations for "Nature News" should be submitted promptly after March 15, May 31, August 15 and November 15, or more frequently.

Aux Naturalistes Francophones

Nous avons besoin d'articles en français, aussi de volontaires qui voudraient écrire des résumés en français des articles en anglais.

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Re the N.B. Naturalist to D. S. Christie, 277 Douglas Ave., Saint John, N.B. E2K 1E5. Articles and reports are always welcome.

Re federation policies, programs, and Newsletter information to K.H. Deichmann, P.O. Box 73, Alma, N.B. E0A 1B0.

CAPE JOURIMAIN MARSH COMPLEX

Stuart Tingley

The Cape Jourimain salt marsh complex, encompassing approximately 725 acres of brackish and salt marsh, is located on the Northumberland Strait in southeastern New Brunswick, about two miles northwest of the Canadian National ferry terminal at Cape Tormentine. The area may be reached by turning left off Route 16 at Cape Tormentine and proceeding straight for approximately one and one-half miles. At the village of Bayfield turn right onto Route 955, and proceed for about one mile. Just before entering an overpass make a left turn onto a dirt road which swings around under the overpass and extends out to the coast. That is the original roadbed laid for the now abandoned causeway which was to join the Provinces of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. The laying down of the roadbed has affected the marshes in a favourable manner, unlike most similar activities by man. The productivity of the marshes has increased manifold and with that increase has come an increase in use of the area by many forms of wildlife, especially waterfowl and shorebirds.

The marshes are of two main types, the salt marsh located to the southeast of the causeway and the brackish marshes located to the northwest of the causeway. The brackish marshes have been isolated from the sea by the formation of a long sand dune, and the construction of the roadbed, as shown on the diagram of the area. Occasionally, however, the high tides do infiltrate the marshes which prevents the area from becoming totally fresh. The salt marshes have not been altered appreciably by the roadbed, though the rate of siltation may have increased. In the centre of the marshes is Trenholm Island, dividing each type of marsh into two areas. Trenholm Island is covered by a second growth conifer forest while Jourimain Island, bordering the sea, also features areas of regenerating fields. Both of those islands are attractive to songbirds during migration, an excellent resting area, before continuing up the eastern coast of the province or making the flight over to P.E.I.

The dominant species of aquatic vegetation in the brackish marsh is the pondweed, Potamogeton pectinatus. Near the southwest corner of those marshes where the sea occasionally invades creating a more saline condition, the dominant vegetation consists of widgeon-grass (Ruppia maritima), seagrass (Zostera marina), and red fescue (Festuca rubra). The salt marshes are covered wholly with cord-grass, Spartina alterniflora with a scattering of S. patens.

The shoreline along the Northumberland Strait is a shell collector's paradise and the Cape Jourimain area is no exception. Even the marshes themselves harbour at least 20 different species of molluscs, as was shown during an extensive macro-invertebrate study done during the spring, summer and fall of 1973. The same study showed a marked increase in invertebrate numbers around late July which interestingly corresponds with the arrival of thousands of southward bound shorebirds, the major attraction to most naturalists. An annotated list of the 28 species of shorebirds which have been recorded there follows. It should be noted that observations in that area have been conducted only since 1972 when the area was "discovered". Therefore, the seasonal status of most species on the marshes is nearly impossible to assess accurately with such a small amount of available information.

SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER - fairly common during spring and common during late summer and fall.

KILLDEER - fairly common from late March until October or November. Groups of 10 to 20 birds are common during the autumn. Several pairs probably breed in the area.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER - a few birds were seen during autumns of 1972 and 1973.

- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - common during spring from early May until well into June. Common to abundant during late summer and fall.
- RUDDY TURNSTONE - a few are seen in late summer, probably rare in spring.
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK - probably fairly common resident although no records are available. Alder swalls near entrance to marsh look like excellent habitat.
- COMMON SHIPE - common resident, can commonly be heard winnowing over the marshes throughout spring and summer.
- WHIMBREL - one spring record (1973). Fairly common during late summer.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER - fairly common summer resident, probably arrives near mid-May.
- SCOLITARY SANDPIPER - probably rare spring and autumn transient.
- WILLET - fairly common summer resident. At least six pairs were present during the summer of 1972 and numbers are probably increasing. Three nests were found on the marshes during 1973. Seen to have left by late August.
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS - common spring and fall transient. First ones arrive near mid-April as many as 120 were seen during spring 1974. That species is absent only briefly during the summer.
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS - rare spring and common fall transient. First fall migrants arrive early in July. No late date available.
- RED KNOT - fairly common fall transient from mid-July on. The latest recorded date is November 18, 1973 when five were present.
- PURPLE SANDPIPER - only one record, a single bird present on November 18, 1973 although others undoubtedly occur.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER - fairly common fall transient from early August on. No late date recorded.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - one spring record but common fall transient after early August. Largest number recorded was 300 on August 17, 1972.
- LEAST SANDPIPER - common spring and common to abundant fall transient. High spring counts in late May 1974 were around 450. Absent only briefly during late June. No late date available.
- CUNLIN - Few records are available although it may occur regularly in autumn. One was believed to have remained all summer in 1972.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - Although no spring records are available it probably occurs occasionally at this season. Abundant fall transient, with numbers building up as early as late June and early July. A late date is of one on October 14, 1972.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - three were found in breeding plumage on August 16-17, 1972 and three more were present on October 14 of that year.
- STILT SANDPIPER - one was present on August 17, 1972 and there were three to six present during August 11 to 18, 1973.
- SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER - fairly common in spring after mid-May. Abundant during fall migration. They are absent only briefly between spring and fall migration.
- HUDSONIAN GODWIT - fairly common fall transient. High counts were 78 on August 16, 1972 and 60 on August 18, 1973.
- RUFF - two males and a reeve were observed during the period July 1 - 20, 1972. The only record in 1973 was of a dark male on June 14.
- SANDPELING - rare spring migrant, fairly common in fall. A late date is on November 18, 1973 when 10 were present.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE - one bird was present on August 17, 1972 and four were there on August 12, 1973. Another was seen on September 21, 1973.

NORTHERN PHALAROPE - the only record available is of about 20 present during mid-September, 1973.

During the autumn large numbers of waterfowl concentrate on those marshes in preparation for migration. In late September, 1972 approximately 3,000 waterfowl were using the marshes, 75 percent of which were Blue-winged Teal. In 1973 the maximum number noted was 1,600, again about 75 percent Blue-winged Teal. In both of those years Northern Shovelers bred at Cape Jourimain, at least two broods produced in 1973. A few Gadwall were seen on a couple of occasions during 1973.

Other interesting bird observations from the Cape Jourimain marshes during 1972 and 1973 include Green Heron, Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, and Louisiana Heron.

Obviously, Cape Jourimain is a naturalists' paradise and should be protected from development and over-use as a recreational area. Measures to that effect are fortunately now being considered and perhaps someday the marshes will become a National Wildlife Area.

#### Additional Records of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds Trapped on Burdocks

Donald F. McAlpine

A recent note concerning the burdock as a threat to small birds (Humphreys 1975) has prompted me to publish the following records.

During August of 1973 at Saint John an immature hummingbird Archilochus colubris was discovered trapped on the partially open flowerhead of a burdock Arctium minus. The area was a sparsely wooded hillside dominated by Mountain Ash Sorbus americana and Yellow Birch Betula alleghaniensis. The bird was alive and it was its high pitched call that attracted my attention. Two adult hummingbirds, a male and a female, probably the parents, and one other immature were observed nearby. Although the adults showed little sign of distress over the trapped bird they frequently alighted in the lower branches of trees nearby. The young hummingbird was trapped by the feathers of its lower belly and the primaries of the left wing. It may have been feeding at an adjacent flowerhead and became inadvertently snarled. It appeared unhurt and was removed with some difficulty with a pair of forceps and released.

Another incident of the same nature was encountered during 1974. On 18 August Stewart Cochrane discovered the body of a recently deceased immature male Ruby-throat entangled on a burdock blossom at Browns Flat, Kings County. The bird was trapped by the feathers of the neck and upper breast and it appeared as if it too may have become caught while feeding at an adjacent flowerhead. Although spoiled, the skin was prepared and placed in the collection of the New Brunswick Museum (Bird 3716).

There appear to be few published records of the burdock as a threat to the Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Bowditch (1906) mentions the remains of a Ruby-throat trapped on a burdock brought to him and Bent (1940) mentions a live male hummingbird discovered trapped by its stomach feathers on the flowerhead of a pasture thistle during the month of June.

Whether in search of nectar or insects, hummingbirds appear to be most commonly attracted to plants when in flower. Thus, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have been recorded trapped on burdocks and thistles during the summer months while these plants are in blossom. Small insect and seed eating birds appear to be more commonly trapped later in the season when mature burdock heads can become a source of seeds and as Needham (1909) discovered, insect larvae.

It is interesting to note that small birds are not the only victims of the burdock. Walley, Southern and Zar (1969) record a Big Brown Bat Antrozous fuscus trapped on a burdock and cite references to records of a similar nature for a variety of other bat species.

Readers who have made any observations of the burdock as a threat to animal life are urged to send details to the Natural Science Department of the New Brunswick Museum. I would be particularly interested in any observations of small mammals trapped on burdocks. This note gives an indication of the detail worth recording. Of course, no literature search is necessary.

I would like to thank two reviewers for the Canadian Field-Naturalist who made valuable comments on an earlier draft of this note.

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#### Record of Birds Killed at C.N. Terminal Building, Moncton, 1965-75

S.D. Whitman

The CN Terminal Building is eight stories high, was opened in 1963 and is one of the few buildings in Moncton more than three stories high. As I work in the building, I soon noticed there were birds dead at the front entrance each migration season, and began keeping records in August 1965. During the following ten-year period, a total of 107 birds of 31 species was counted. This would not be all birds killed but might be eighty percent. Although the CN Terminal Building is a relatively low structure, the bird-kill there is a reflection of the thousands of birds killed in North America each year by the many tall buildings, T.V. towers, etc.

As would be expected, in spring most birds are found on the south side of the building and in fall, on the north side, but this is not always the case, and is frequently reversed, as well, of course, as some being found on east or west sides.

I believe the birds are carried against the building by strong winds, rather than being "hypnotized" by the lights. (The building is not brightly lit after work-hours). The small body-size of the great majority of victims support this view. Larger, stronger flying species seldom are involved. One day in August when a strong wind was blowing, I left the building at noon and found a warbler stunned which had obviously just been dashed against the building, even though a bright sunny day. Small birds apparently have much less flight-control in gales. Some of the things I found interesting:-

Black-capped Chickadees found from first week of September to second week of November, but none in the spring season.

Warblers found in every month from May through summer to November.

A White-throated Sparrow, adult male, on July 2, 1970 heading north or south.

A Dickcissel, young male, on Oct. 28, 1966 - the only one I have ever seen.

Birds Killed at C.R. Terminal Building, Moncton, August 1965, to June 1975.

Species	Month:					Month:					Tot															
	Feb:	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.																		
Sparrow	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	1															
Hairy Woodpecker					1						1															
Blk-csb. Chickadee									1	1	2															
norreal Chickadee		1							1	2	3															
Oatbird				1							1															
Ac. Robin											1															
Hermit Thrush											1															
Swainson's Thrush											1															
Ruby-cr. Kinglet											1															
Black-b-white Warb.				2							2															
N. Parula Warbler		1		1							2															
Yellow Warbler											1															
Verdolla Warbler					1						1															
Ply-thr. Blue Warb.			1								1															
Yellow-rumped Warb.											1															
Ply-thr. Green Warb.											1															
Blackburnian Warb.											1															
Chimney-sided W.											1															
Ray-breasted Warb.											1															
Ovenbird				1							1															
N. Yellowthroat					1						1															
Canada Warbler			4		1						5															
Am. Redstart		1		1	1						3															
Warbler sp.		2	4	1	1						8															
Scarlet Tanager											1															
Rose-br. Grosbeak											1															
Dickcissel											1															
Evening Grosbeak											1															
Lesser Sparrow											1															
Dark-eyed Junco											1															
Chipping Sparrow											1															
Red-throated Spar.											1															
31 species: totals:	5	0	14	8	4	1	2	4	3	1	1	4	10	5	4	3	1	3	7	4	7	2	7	5	2	107

NATURE NEWS  
David Christie

The number of reports reaching me this fall has been rather small, partly due to my leave of absence from the museum and partly, no doubt, to the fact that publication has been behind schedule in recent months so that observers are not motivated to send reports in promptly.

Mammals

One of the most intriguing and frustrating recent sightings of Cougar (Eastern Panther) occurred at Bayside, near St. Andrews, on September 4. In the early morning hours of that day John and Frances Romer were awakened by a loud, rasping yowl. Around 9 a.m. they went out to investigate for signs of the night intruder and saw a large, long-tailed cat, scared by their dogs, climb a tree at the end of their property. They went back to their house to alert other people but before they returned it had vanished. What a chance it would have been to get a photograph of this rare animal.

At Mary's Point, a Short-tailed Weasel living in an old rock foundation showed no sign of changing to its white winter coat as late as November 11, whereas another weasel, thought to be a Long-tailed, was beautifully white November 18 (Majka & Christie). Snowshoe Hares there were changing colours November 8-29; the earliest entirely white one being seen on the 28th. Alan Hadden reports that hares have increased markedly in numbers in Restigouche County for the third year in a row. The last peak before the population crashed was about 1967.

Possibly because of the "rabbit" population is also increasing in Albert County, Red Foxes are being seen more frequently. At Mary's Point, Mary Majka was pleased to discover a family occupying a den that had been abandoned a few years ago because of heavy trapping pressure. In early summer, she also watched two young playing outside a den under an old barn on the Shepody Marsh.

The Northern Bog Lemming captured at Mount Vixen, Northumberland County on September 6 (Don McAlpine et al) was nature highlight of the N.B.F.N. three day hike in that area. Two kinds of bog lemmings occur in the province. The Southern species is found locally in all major mainland sections but the Northern is very rare, having been found in just a few northern New Brunswick locations. Bog Lemmings are like small Meadow Voles with very short tails. The two species are so similar in colour and size that one must examine their teeth to reliably separate them.

A Harpy Bat, in poor condition, was found at Robinsonville, Restigouche County, on November 18 (Hadden). The temperature was 0°C and it would not fly. Taken in, it did not eat and died on the 24th. Normally, that large species migrates south during late August and September.

Birds

During fall a veritable flood of migrants moves southwards, most of them unseen passers in the night sky. In clear weather some can be seen with a telescope as they pass the bright surface of the moon. In fog or drizzle the calls of many may be heard as they fly low overhead. At Saint John on the night of September 2-3 I heard very many so at 12.30 am I went outdoors and counted: 56 call notes in 30 seconds, probably mostly warblers but also including Swainson's Thrush. At 11.15 pm on September 15 there were 66 call notes in a minute, mostly warblers, but also a few Swainson's and Grey-checked Thrushes. At Mary's Point where there is no disturbing city noises, there are also few lights to attract the birds low. There, at 11.20 pm on Sept. 17 I heard 36 calls in a minute, and at 10.20 pm on Sept. 18 23 calls in a minute. On the latter day, there had been more calls, perhaps one per second, 3/4 hours earlier when the fog had been thicker.



Double-crested Cormorant were "numerous this fall" at Fundy Park and one appeared inland there at Wolfe Lake on October 19 (Deichmann). On the morning of October 3, five flocks totalling 370, flew southwest past Mary's Point and a late one was at Cape Barrage Nov. 22 (Christie & Mary Majka). An even later one, and further north, was at Dalhousie Nov. 27 (Hadden). A surprising 8 Great Blue Herons were at Eel River Bar, also on the late date of Nov. 27 (Hadden).

The first migrant Canada Geese reported were 10 at Cape Jourimain Sept. 12 (NBFN trip). A lovely adult blue phase Snow Goose lingered at Wolfe Lake from before October 31 until at least November 6 (Los Gray et al). Besides their regular Saint John location Ruddy Ducks, one each, were reported at Bathurst Oct. 22 (Peter deJarsh) and Long Pond, Grand Manan, Nov. 23 (Stuart Tingley).

31 Broadwinged Hawks migrating over the St. Croix River near Calais, Maine Sept. 29 (Ross in Guillemot) were one of few such flights reported in this area. A Rough-legged Hawk at Mary's Point Sept. 1 (Mike and Chris Majka) was so early that it probably had spent the summer nearby although a white phase Gyr Falcon hunting around Turtle Creek Reservoir Sept. 13 and 15 was also very early and that species has not been known to spend the summer in the Maritimes. More unusual Rough-leg arrivals were at Jolicure Oct. 13 (Tingley) and Fundy Park Oct. 27 (Deichmann).

Five Peregrine Falcons were reported: two, one an immature, at Mary's Point during Sept. 24 to Oct. 2 (Christie & Majkas), an immature at Hammond River Oct. 12 (Jim Wilson), an immature at Alma Oct. 27 (Deichmann) and an adult at Long Pond, G.M. Nov. 23 (Tingley). It is somewhat encouraging that three were young birds.

An adult Golden Eagle was at Riverside, Albert Co., Nov. 14 (Christie & Mark Majka), and possibly another a few miles to the east at Hamilton Creek Nov. 24 (Brian Townsend). A bird captured in a trap, nursed to health and released at Little Shemogue, Westmorland County, in late November or early December, was reported as a Golden Eagle to Stuart Tingley who is trying to obtain more details. The latest Osprey in Fundy Park was at Wolfe Lake Oct. 12 (Barry Spencer).

In September 1975 Davis Finch saw an albino, almost pure white, Black-bellied Plover at Grand Manan. This year he found it again, at Castalia September 15 and 17.

Three of a flock of Whimbrels on the Tantramar Marsh near Seckville in late September had white rump patches (Con Desplaque) marking them as birds of an Eurasian race, not previously reported in New Brunswick, although there is a Nova Scotia record. The North American birds have dark brown rumps. A few Willetts were still at Cape Jourimain Sept. 12 (NBFN trip).

The migration of Pectoral Sandpipers was reported as heavy in eastern Maine this fall (Guillemot) and the same situation seems to have occurred in New Brunswick. At Mary's Point Pectorals peaked at 50+ on October 5 (Christie); 45 were at Pointe-de-Bute Oct. 13 (Tingley). A Beird's Sandpiper, always scarce, was at Castalia Sept. 17 (Finch) and two Buff-breasted Sandpipers, the latter one quite late, were at Waterside Sept. 26 (Deichmann) and Mary's Point Oct. 20 (Christie). A Wilson's Phalarope was seen at Miscou Island Sept. 12 (deJarsh).

Iceland Gulls were reported very early off Eastport, Maine September 20 (Ross in Guillemot). The first normal arrival date was Oct. 22 at the Causeway at Moncton where the earliest Glaucous Gulls were seen Nov. 6 (Doug Whitman). Almost all of 1000+ Black-legged Kittiwakes seen from the Grand Manan ferry Nov. 22 were adults (Tingley). Most young birds apparently go farther south for the winter.

Flocks of Mourning Doves were reported in several areas and the latest Black-billed Cuckoo was at the Whistle, G.M., Sept. 15 (Finch).

A dead Great Crested Flycatcher was found on Machias Seal Island Sept. 16 and a live one at North Head Sept. 18 (Finch).

Black-capped Chickadees and especially Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce in southern New Brunswick this fall but the nuthatch was fairly common further north, 16 being seen on the NBFN hike between Logan Lake, Northumberland County and Vandine Brook, Victoria Co., Sept. 4-6. In the same area White-winged Crossbills and Purple Finches were fairly common, while further west between Plaster Rock and Juniper, Erwin and Marion Landauer found "lots" of a variety of finches September 26. In southern N.B. there was a fair movement of Evening Grosbeaks during October and November. Numerous flocks were moving west at Fundy Park Oct. 27 (Deichmann). At Nictau, 1000 suddenly appeared in November. Common Redpolls were hardly noted at all and Pine Grosbeaks were small in number this fall.

At Fundy Park flocks of Rusty Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds were also moving west Oct. 27 and small flocks of migrant Dark-eyed (Slate-coloured) Juncos and White-throated Sparrows were present Oct. 27 and 28, many Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers on Oct. 12 and large numbers of Robins Oct. 11-18 (Deichmann). There was an unusually large flock of Eastern Meadowlark, 14, at Waterside Oct. 27 (Deichmann). One meadowlark was at Salmon Beach, Gloucester County, Nov. 14 (deMarsh).

Late records of some songbirds were as follows: Catbirds: 1 at Tide Head Nov. 14-28 (very late, Madden); Hermit Thrush: 1 at The Whistle, Grand Manan Nov. 24 (Tingley); Swinson's Thrush: 2 at Swamp Brook, Fundy Park Oct. 19 (Deichmann); Water Pipit: 11 at Mary's Point Nov. 28 (Christie); Red-eyed Vireo: 1 at Mary's Point Nov. 3 and 8 (Christie & Mary Majka); Cape May Warbler: 1 at Mary's Point till Nov. 7 (Majka & Christie); Blackpoll Warbler: 1 at Mary's Point Nov. 12 (Christie); Palm Warbler: 1 at Mary's Point till Nov. 25; Yellowthroat: 1 at Mary's Point till Nov. 26 (Christie & Mary Majka).

Arrivals of fall transients and winter residents were reported as follows: Bohemian Waxwing: 1 at Mary's Point Nov. 17 (Christie); Northern Shrike: 1 at Crooked Creek, Albert County, Oct. 19 chasing a grackle (Townsend & Christie); Common Redpoll: 1 at Mary's Point Nov. 11 (Christie); Tree Sparrow: 1 at Sisson Ridge Oct. 11 (Landauer); White-crowned Sparrow: 3 at Mary's Point Sept. 26 (Christie); White-crowns were "rare" on the Tobique, although 9 were at Sisson Ridge Oct. 9 (Landauer); Fox Sparrow: 2 at Mary's Point Oct. 29 (must have been earlier than this elsewhere, Christie & Mary Majka); Snow Bunting: 5 at 45 Road, Fundy Park Oct. 26 (Deichmann), 12 the next day at Alma Beach (Doris Hatt).

Highlight of the fall migration here and elsewhere was the occurrence of Wheatears, a small thrush which breeds in the eastern and western Arctic of North America, in Greenland, Europe and in Asia. However, the North American population migrate to the Old World, only the occasional vagrant showing up in southern Canada, or the U.S. In New Brunswick there was only one definite record (Indian Island, Aug. 25, 1879) of the Wheatear prior to 1976 although there were possible ones at Grand Manan in the 19th century and at Saint John a few years ago.

If Jim Nilson had not been late for the Digby ferry on September 13, we would not have known about the Wheatears at Saint John. To avoid traffic, Jim detoured onto the construction project that is the eastern end of the Saint John Throughway and, despite the rush he was in, was alert enough to recognize the small bird that flew in front of his car as a Wheatear. Jim caught the ferry and had enough time to call Cecil and Doris Johnston who found two Wheatears among the rock cuts and sparsely vegetated fill that must resemble the birds' northern nesting grounds. Other observers saw one bird there through Sept. 16.

On September 26, Erwin and Marion Landauer, exploring the lumber roads between Plaster Rock and Juniper, were surprised to discover a Wheatear in an old logyard at Summit, a siding on the railway. The New Brunswick records plus two in Maine and others elsewhere in the eastern U.S. add up to an unusual (probably unprecedented) invasion of this species.

Two E. Bluebirds were seen at Enniskillen, Queens Co., Sept. 15 (Mary Hajka et al) and 4 at East Collette, Northumberland Co., August 21 (Madden). Other 1976 records just received are 2 adults and 2 young at North Lake, York Co. in late summer (Alma Smith) and one near Chatham early in May (John Keating).

Two unusual warblers were a Hooded Warbler, the second provincial record, at Machias Seal Island Sept. 16 (Finch and Will Russell) and a Connecticut Warbler at Fredericton Sept. 9 (Peter Pearce).

Stuart Tingley was surprised to see two Fox Sparrows that had uniform chocolate brown upperparts lacking all traces of rusty. One was at Blacks Harbour November 22, the other at Grand Manan a few days later. He believes they were birds from the west where the darker coloration is typical. I don't recall having such birds in this province. Has anyone else?

Among the rare, yet regular, fall migrants were the following: Long-billed Marsh Wrens at Mary's Pt. Oct. 5 and 22 (Christie & Mary Hajka) and Hammond River Oct. 9 (Wilson); Mockingbirds at Harvey Oct. 30 and New Horton Sept. 13 (Christie), Fredericton Nov. 13 (Rudy Stoczek) and Shediac Nov. 22 (Les Martin); Blue-gray Gnat-catcher at Mary's Pt. Sept. 25 (Mike Hajka & Christie); Warbling Vireo singing at North Head Sept. 15-16 (Finch); a Pine Warbler at Mary's Point Nov. 3 and another one Nov. 4-5 (Christie & Mary Hajka); a Prairie Warbler at Deer Island Sept. 14 (Finch); Yellow-breasted Chats at Waterside Sept. 26 (freshly dead - Deichmann) and Mary's Pt. Sept. 26 (probable) and Nov. 17 and 28 (Christie); an Indigo Bunting at Mary's Point Sept. 30-Oct. 23 (Christie & Hajkas); 2 Dickcissels at Alma Oct. 31 (Hatt) and one at Mary's Point Oct. 4-23 (Christie & Hajkas); Blue Grosbeaks at Mary's Point Sept. 26 (Christie & Mike Hajka) and Fredericton Oct. 10-30 (Pearce); Field Sparrows at Mary's Point Oct. 17 and Nov. 7-12 (different bird - Christie & Mary Hajka); Grasshopper Sparrows 1 at Mary's Point Nov. 8 & 16 (Christie & Mary Hajka).

#### FLORA

Only poor to fair crops of conifer cones were reported this fall with the better crops being in the northern counties and on White Spruce along the Upper Bay of Fundy. The mountain ashes produced very heavy crops throughout. On Sept. 4-5 Willa MacCoubrey watched Grackles, Starlings, up to 20 Robins, Scarlet Tanagers, Swainson's Thrushes, one Veery, one Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finches, Song Sparrows, Cedar Waxwing and one White-throated Sparrow feeding on the berries in the mountain ash in her front yard at St. Andrews. Such congregations quickly stripped her trees whether they were of the Showy, American or European species. Besides at St. Andrews bumper crops were reported at Fundy Park (Deichmann), Saint John, Moncton and Albert (Christie) and in northwestern Northumberland County (NEFN hike). In Fundy Park Yellow Birches produced a heavy crop of seeds (Deichmann) and at Woodstock all three species of cherries and Butternut were bearing heavily (Marjorie Gray).