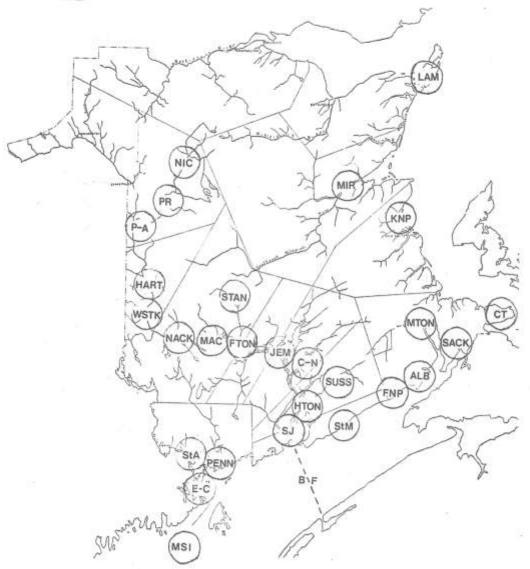


N.B. Naturalist

8(1) February 1977



Christmas Bird Counts 1976-77

1976-77 Christmas Bird Counts David Christie

Although 28 Christmas Bird Counts were conducted in New Brunswick, this report will deal with only 27, since the results of a Bay of Fundy count on board the "Princess of Acadia" are not available at this time. That count will be reported later. Fewer people took part and they spent less time afield than in the last three years, as can be seen in the accompanying table.

	1972-3	1973-4	1974-5	1975-6	1976-7	
Number of Counts	27	27	27	27	27	(28)
Total Participants	289	322	384	374	351	
Total party-hours	521	617	660	610	572	
Total feeder reports	102	102	113	130	136	
Total birds	39,463	67,692	49,688	59,115	42,795	
Total species	103	113	103	106	105	
Additional species	8	9	6	5	4	
in period		6				

The total number of species recorded, 105, was average when compared with the past five years and none was new to the record of Christmas Counts in New Brunswick (155 species, plus 8 others in count period).

Overall highlights of 1976-77 were the large numbers of sparrows and of Evening Grosbeaks. A lack of snow during November and early December may have favoured sparrows and other ground feeders. That was ended in southern New Brunswick by a major snow storm on the 17th, the day before the count period began. Numerous lingering summer birds disappeared during cold snaps in the first and second weeks of December, although a few at feeders survived to be counted.

Among waterbirds there was little unusual. A late Great Blue Heron was especially unusual at Fredericton. Three Brant at Eastport-Campobello were unusual there (although numerous at White Head Island this winter). If planned counts at Grand Manan and Lepreau had taken place we might have had more details about Thick-billed Murres which may have been blown in along our shore. A record 64 were seen at Eastport-Campobello, one at St. Andrews and one - a great surprise - in a ferry crossing on the Kennebecasis River at Hammond River-Hampton. Although it didn't count on the list, another thick-bill, quite recently eaten by a predator, was found at Riverside-Albert. Some diving ducks, Common Goldeneye, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter and Red-breasted Merganser, were apparently scercer than usual.

Most hawks were reported in about average numbers, but Goshawks were seen in only two areas. Sackville had the only substantial number of Rough-leggs as well as 4 Marsh Hawks and a provincial record of 4 Short-eared Owls. The Tantramar Marsh is excellent habitat for all three species. Only two Bald Eagles were counted this year, a disappointment after the pleasing 19 in 1975. Three Merlins (Pigeon Hawks), one Am. Kestrol (Sparrow Hawk) and much more unusual, two Red-shouldered Hawks, were reported. The only other owls were Great Horned, there being not even a mention during count period of Snowy, Barred or Saw-whet.

Ruffed Grouse continue in high numbers for the third year while Spruce Grouse remain typically scarce, at least in the places we count birds. Pheasants, of localized distribution, were found more numerously than in the past three years, but a bit bolow the long-term average.

Slightly more than average numbers of Rock Doves (pigeons) were counted and for the second year, there was a high number of Mourning Doves, occurring in the milder areas along the Bay of Fundy.

Only a single Pilested Woodpecker was reported, as compared to 9 and 11 in the

last two years. Hairy Woodpeckers continued high for the third year, while the smaller Downy was found in average numbers. Lamoque Island takes the honours for three-toed Woodpeckers, having 2 of the 5 Black-backs and one of the 2 Northerns seen on this winter's counts. A Common Flicker lingered at Cape Tormentine.

Gray Jays were in low numbers, at least in southern N.B., yet a record 52 were found on the Nictau-Riley Brook count. Blue Jay numbers were about average for recent years and Common Ravens were also present in average numbers. On the other hand, Common Crows were in significantly higher numbers than during the past five years (9 eastern and inland counts had their highest number ever) although at just about the average level of 1963-70.

All the small, insectivorous forest birds were scarcer than usual. Black-capped Chickedees were a bit below average numbers but Boreal Chickedees were very low. Both Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, as well as Brown Creepers and Golden-crowned Kinglets were scarce, except in a few areas.

Am. Robins lingered in good numbers and there was even a Hermit Thrush at Sackville. A Nockingbird was found on the Moncton count and a Brown Thrasher during count period at Pennfield. Small numbers of Bohemian Naxwings generally began appearing just at the end of the year, although Newcastle-Chatham had 20 on the 19th.

Average numbers of Northern Shrikes were present. Starlings and House Sparrows were less abundant than usual. A new record for Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers was again established - Can you imagine 44?! - at Cape Tormentine. Our hardiest warbler also was found at Cambridge-Narrows and Fundy Park.

Brown-headed Cowbirds were found in average numbers, but moderately high numbers of Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds, and Common Grackles were seen. There were also Eastern Meadowlarks on two counts.

Cardinals - single birds on three counts - were recorded for the fourth year in a row. Two Dickcillels were attending bird feeders and there were Rufous-sided Towhees on five different counts, more than ever before.

Evening Grosbeaks were found in the highest ever numbers on New Brunswick counts, almost twice as many as in 1968, the best previous year. 26 counts recorded them and they visited Machias Seal Island, the 27th, during count period. Purple Finches, usually scarce in early winter, were seen on most counts and their numbers were greater than in any year since 1964. Woodstock had a record 176. Pine Grosbeaks were widely distributed in moderate numbers.

The remainder of the finches were in small numbers; Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins (except at Hartland and on the Tobique Valley counts) and Am. Goldfinches were moderately scarce. Crossbills, especially the Red, were rare. (To learn where all the White-winged Crossbills and Redpolls were, read Stuart Tingley's note later in this issue on the count at St. Anthony, Nfld.)

Sparrows are unusually common this winter and the counts show it nicely. White-throated and Song Sparrows were each almost twice as common as in the best previous year. A record 25 Songs were at Moncton and, had the naturalists' club not changed the date for the Saint John count, there would probably have been a record of 100+ White-throats there. Tree Sparrows and Fox Sparrows were as common as they have been previously. Dark-eyed Juncos were in moderate numbers, particularly in Albert County where they outnumbered the Tree Sparrows. In addition, Savannah, Chipping, White-crowned and Swamp Sparrows were reported on the counts.

The open country birds were also common. Horned Larks were in as high numbers as last year, and Sackville set provincial records for Lapland Longspurs, 87, and Snow Buntings, 2886: The other counts in eastern New Brunswick also had good numbers of Snow Buntings.

NEW BELIEVICK CHRISIMAS FIRE COUNTS! DEC. 18, 1976 - JAM. 2, 1977

Boy of Fundy (BF)

On board the "Princess of Acadia". To be reported later,

Machine Seal Island (MRI)

Clear; ground bars. Bathy Bussell, Malcolm Bussell, William Townsend (non-participant compiler.

Eastport-Campobello (E-C)

Clear; O.5 on. snow cover. Sidney Behrt, William Townsend (compiler).

St. Andrews (St.A.)

Fine and surmy; ground andw covered where drifted, considerable ice on by-roads, fresharts frozen.

Mrs. Stove Adamowicz, Mrs. Hellis Earliett, Mny Bartlett, Mrs. Lawrence Bartlett, Mrs. Denald Johnson, Mrs. & Mrs. Kenneth Languaid, Mrs. Cooll Lowery, Morman Mais, Ton Moffatt, H. Wills MacCoubrey (compiler), Mrs. Donald McLesso, Mrs. Fred Mutter, Richard Saunders, Mrs. Beverley Scott, Mrs. & Mrs. David Malker, Mrs. V. Zibas.

Fernfield (Fern.)

Surry, not such snow, ebb & low tide. M.C. Morehouse, Mrs. M.C. Morehouse (compiler), Mr. & Mrs. E.A. Bern. Krs. H. Russell.

Smint John (SJ)

Clear, 60 cm. fresh snow, fresheater frozen, saltwater open. David Christie, Florence Christie, Joyce Go Iden, Bare Gorham, Stealey Gorbam (compiler), Kit Grabam, Cacil Johnston, Doris Johnston, Dan Malpine, Gordon Bedstone, Marion Ropers, Mary Ross, Dr. & Mrs. Allan Sellare, Marion Sherwood, David Smith, Evan Smith, Milie Widdershoven, Bady Widdershoven,

St. Marting (St.M.)

ever.most, with summy intervals, lakes and pends fresen, rivers and brooks open; ground fresen, key. J.E. Bradshaw, here J.E. Bradshaw,

Fruity Matienal Park (FRP)

clear, 63 cm. from snow inland, 23 cm. at coast, lakes frozen; birch seed crop fair to go od, conifers powr. terrias and wood seeds fair at coast, poor on highlands. Tracy Black, Bert Bucksran, Les Gray, Morns Gray Gran King, Marry Majks, Choryl Clean, George Sinclair, Sedgewick Sinclair, Barry Spencer (compiler), Marguarite Valotaire Spanner, Brian Townsend, Norman Wentzell.

Elwaride-Albert (ALB)

Composet, a few summy periods in ps; ratches of snow and ice in the open; 25 cm. crusted snow in woods; most fresheater frozen. Broads Burgenski, Michael Burgenski, Tony Burgenski, David Christie, Chris Majos (compiler). Mark Majon, Mary Majos, Michael Majon, Susan Burdy, Bussell Filt, Brian Townsend.

Sankwille (Sack)

Clour and partly runny early a.m. later cloudy. 20-25 cm. new snow, heavily drifted in places and blown clear in expend arise; frish water neetly frozen, salt water filled with ice flows; abundant weed and grass seeds swellable in fields and expend dyke faces; come crop fair.. Peter Parkhouse, Gordon Purms, Trever Goward, Hinrich Burries, Hen Henrall, Rob Lamberton, Tony Lock, Al Smith (compiler), Falph Stopps, Stuart Tingley.

Monoton (MIXII)

Clear, until 3 m; 50 cm, mow cover; streams open. Mr. & Mrs. Hamilton Baird, Roger Blooquiere, Mrs. A. Burrynski, Mrs. R.E. Carter, David Christie, Albert Cornier, Den Cornier, Yves Cornier, Rrian Dalsell, Dn. & Mrs. J.A. Dobson, Davyl Deurette, Mrs. Mrs. Hope, Louis Lapierre, Fred Lloyd, Paul Lloyd, Dr. & Mrs. M. Majka, Mrs. Peggy McKinley, Minston Prince, Mr. & Mrs. F.B. Proude, Mr. & Mrs. Ball Quartermain, Mrs. Berbara Swimmer, Brian Townsend, Doug Whitman (compiler).

Caps Tormentine (CT)

Clear, 20-25 on, noft, new snow, exposed areas blown fairly clear and considerable drifting, fresh water frozen, salt water largely frozen with open loads from Dape Tormentine to Montah Point; generally thin snow cover on open exposed fields efforded good foeding by ground foreging species, good come coop on spruce trees, expecially white spruce along the coast. Poter Barkhouse, Trevor Goward, Hinrich Harries, RonHausell, Eleanor Magos, Al Smith (compiler), Steart Tingley, Ralph Stopps.

Kouchibougusc Matiemal Park (KNP)

Clear, 28-63 cm. snow cover; salt water partly from and fresheater frozen. Jean-Day Chevarie, Reger Paigh, Paul Cormain, Denis Goden, Joselyne Goguen (compiler), Pierrette Goguen, Stephen Enceles, Carnel Levesque, Lee Martin, David Robichaud, MacWilliam Savoy.

Newcestle-Chathau (MIR)

A few coattered clouds; all ground and water frozen, 38 cm. of snow. Margaret Adems, Ourl Anderson, Barbara Archibald, MarilynBoston, Edith Boudreau, Mrs. Robert Branafield, Bill Compbell, Einny Charles, Mice Coster, Mrs. Grahae Crocker, Phyllis Crowe, Thomas Flynn, Vernon Goodfellov, Andrew Grieve, Phyllis Jardine, John Kesting, Don LeHeup, Basen. - m. Lobson, Irene Loggie, Samh Lounsbury, Nora McKenzie, Anna Rodgurs, Thomasa Ross, Members of St. Michaels Convent, Jack Scott, Eathy Scott, Mrs. Gordon Stoeves, Daren Sutherland, Doug Underhill, Beverly Van Book, Mrs. Jac Van Lesuwen, Harry Walker, (compiler), Ian Walker, Lyle Walker, Ton Walker. Margaret Wheaton.

Ile Lamequet et Shippegan (LAM)

Summy, ground covered with 38 cm. snow. Water frozen at the northern side of the island, Hilaire Chiasson (compiler), Mne Ross-Aline Chiasson.

Sussex (Suss)

Sursy, ground frozen with 13 cm snow, water frozen. Thomas Anderson (compiler), Gladys Heinford , Iswid Christie, Farriet Folkins, Isabell Foulger, Beryla Gerham, Gladys Steeves, Brian Townsend.

Humod River - Hungton (RIVON)

clear and sunny, 15-30 cm. snow cover, ground covered, almost all water frozen. H. Blacquiere, D. Christie, P. Claks, L. Darling, R. Darling, D. Dygeman, Mrs. P. Kelbaugh, Mrs. W. MacAndrews, D. Maklpine, Mrs. G. Sayre, T. Sayre, Brian Townsend, Mrs. M. Widdershoven, B. Widdershoven, C.E. Wilson, Mrs. J. Wilson.

Cambridge-Mattews (C-N)

Summy, 5 cm. snow on ground; lakes fromen, brocks open. Anna Bolyes, Mrs. Harold Felyes, Mrs. Harry Belye D.G. Carpenter, Mrs. Lawrence Carpenter, Mrs. Bruce Chase, James Connell, Mrs. Vernon Cornell, Knid Inch (compiler), Mrs. Willam McCommuchie, Mrs. Arthur Ferry, Mrs. John Ferry, Mrs. Hagon Fugskey, Mrs. R.G. Robinson, Mrs. Ernest Syphor, Mrs. Niven Thomas, Mrs. A.H. Walker, Mrs. Frank E. Webb, Miss E. Worden.

Jenseg (JHM)

Clear sky; snow cover 20-35 cm. We open water except 2 small areas. Christopher Adam, Hillian Baird, Dr. Gerald Cleyden, Lucy Dydr, Malvin B. Moce, Nettie Mocre (compiler), Robert Power, Mrs. Ann Sheppard, Dr. Owen Washburn,

Fredericton (FTCN)

Mostly cloudy, some smoothurries. Heavy water and ice conditions over 60 cm. of snow; river 30 % open.
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Adam, Mr. Walter Adams, John Bener, W. Bauer, Mrs. H. Blenis, Dr. R. Chalmers, Dr. G.
Clayden, Stephen Clayden, Mrs. C.E.J. Cragg, Dr. D. Fowler, Kevin Fowler, Miss Ellen Gregg, Mrs. J. Griffiths,
Mr. B. Hagerman, Harold Hathasay, Mrs. J. Bayward, Clifford Jones, Nettie Moore, Albert Morsis, Miss M.
McMair, David Boble, Jean Noble, Prof. V.S. Cliver, Mrs. J. Foterson, M. Sargeant, Dr. Beverley Schneider
(compiler), Prof. Marck Schneider, Mr. & Mrs. Hick Shepphard, Dr. & Mrs. A. Squires, R. Stock, R. Stock Jr.,
Mrs. Mildred Todd, Dorothy Warty, Dr. M. Warty, Kenneth Washburn, Osen Mashburn, Sheila Washburn, Susan Washburn,
M. Wetmore, Romnic Wilson.

Mactaquae (MAC)

Clear, turning cloudy, 40 cm. snow; clear charmels below can. Stephen Bartlett, Linda Dodge, Jeff Garmon, Cliff Jones, Mrs. Koeran, Bruce Martin, Ed Pelger (compiler).

Stanley (STAN)

Shifting from alcud and snowflurries to scattered clouds and sun. Ground frozen, 15-30 cm. snow (crust un der) finitianapan few open water bales. H. Hathessy (compiler), Reg Hayes.

Mackewic (NACK)

Socring, 20 cm. fresh snow and 15 cm. of hard, frozen snow. Ford Alward (compiler), Jean Alward, Mark Alward, Evelyn Corey, Sharon Corey, Claire Cronkhite, Dorothy Flowelling, David Givan, Riel Givan, Bob Squires, Fr., Robert Squires, Sr., Lalu Stairs, Mollie Trail.

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Rufous-sided Towhee				_		_				-	11	10															Ξ		40
Savannah Sparrow										_ '	-	[1]																	~
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Lapland Longspur						'n			301	7									- 27			-							9,0

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Weeders(obs./renrts)		Š	Ä,	_£			-	-4		. =	a 6-			22	e e	1 4	1			1 4			, ,		t m		100		781/300
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Hours on foot/heat(w)	91		_		1 54	10	199	6	10 2	284	35	154	14	4-	27	7	0	34	10	21	*	1	24	70		m	7 49	- Sec	265 4
Hours by car		1	200	75	2	F.	'n	.91	76	No.	23 19	型	-ini Dry	N			6 21	76	19 3	THE STATE	*	10	75	E.	-	3	only.	×	3017
Total party-miles		2	127 2	25	30 %	100 m	3	\$3 452		\$25 3	10	1,864.19	Part .	1/12 1	7 701	70 3	TANK 7		\$ 150 074	如	Me 3	58	33	2005	Tin.	2	2	35	7 699 8
Wiles on foot/boat(w)	5		-		-	星	1	35	12 3	394 3	37 1	15 \$ 5	-154	30	3	15	0		75	35	00	74	60/	S of	The.	2	6 11	6	315 4
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Wind speed (km/hr)	\$		770	Tal.	de la	0.0	15	14.		12	なる	L'a'Z	2 2	24.0	10/4	194				25.00	DA	16.3	30	3	22	500	100	かな	79-0
Number prev. counts	3 0			4	ba.	6	91	=	-	17	. 11	5	\u	7	4		*	30	1.	30	*				4n	1	3	· In	1

* seen furing count period

highest count a provincial record

(no. underlined) count high

(no. boxed) count first

d 1 mithatch sp., 8 finch sp.
f lhawk sp. (Marsh?)
g 10 finch sp.
w by boat
x no details submitted, or details
not entirely convincing

y including 3 hours by snowmobile a including 15% miles by snowmobile

⁽Above two designetions for areas counted four or more years.)

¹² somebirds sp., 1 duck sp., 4 gulls sp., 5 diving ducks sp., and 21 soughirds sp. a hawk sp.

Woodstook (WKTK)

Cloudy, light snow with sunny periods. Ho open water, 50 cm. snow on ground. Mrs. Hair Avery, Mrs. Clinton Chris, Mrs. G.F. Clarke, Miss Buby Carke, A.H. Connell, Gerald Demnings, Mrs. Hens Epstein, Christopher Flewelling, Mrs. Welson Flewelling, Mrs. David Fry, Mrs. Marjoie Gray, Mrs. Keith Helmuth, Miss Earen Hins, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth C. Homer, Stephen Homer, Murray Hubbard, Mrs. W.M. Jones, Demnie Kimball, Mrs. Charles MacDorald, Mrs. Demald, Mixon, Dr. G.A. Ginstead, Eric Bendall, Michael Rigby, R.J. & Donna Speer, Robert Speer (compiler), Mrs. Robert Speer, Mrs. C.H. (Bud) Stewart, Mrs. Cooll Stewart, Mrs. Donald Stewart, Mrs. Charles Webb.

Hartland (HART)

Cloudy to a snowstarm; water frozen, except for small open spots along stream; snow-covernd, 3-5 cm. in fields to 60cm. in forest. Bud Belyen, Domald Kimball, Eve Letson, Lily Rigby, Michael Rigby (compiler).

Perth-Andover (P-A)

Clear them flurries and cloudy, river ice covered except rapids. Mrs. Ceorge Faird, E.R. Demominant, F.W. Tribe, M.E. Watters (compiler).

Plaster Book (FB)

Mostly summy; river freezn, icy roads, 50 cm. crusty mos. Mrs. Wendell Crawford, Erwin Landsmer, Marion Landsmer, Mrs. Stephen Babatich (compiler), Mrs. Telbert Reed, Mrs. Jack Beynolds, Mrs. Barold Scinner.

Micteu-Biley Brook (NIC)

Clear, clouding over, light snow. 50 cm. snow Tobique River frozen with open stretches of water. Mr. & Mrs. Alex Fraser, Mrs. Lorne Dianond, Mr. & Mrs. Relph Howard, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Kinnsy, Mrs. Archie Encelton, Erwin & Marion Landauer, Mr. & Mrs. John McCarty, Wilna Miller (compiler), Rady and Elizabeth Richter, Blake and Margaret Sutherland.

Food for Young Birds

Vera Hutt of Saint John has had considerable success in raising nestlings brought to her by neighbourhood children. She takes hard-boiled egg, arrowroot biscuit, and dried greens and fruit, moistens it, and mashes it all together.

Newfoundland - Winter Paradise for Birders

Stuart Tingley

I made an incredible 10-day trip to Newfoundland with Davis Finch and Peter Vickery. We did Christmas Counts at Gros Norne, St. Anthony and L'Anse-aux-Neadows. Gros Morne had a record high of 37 species, highlights being 2 Northern Shrikes and ptarmigan numbers about 30 in total including the first Rock Ptarmigan (5) on an eastern North American C.B.C. thanks to Peter Hope who climbed Gros Morne.

St. Anthony tied its old record of 33 species but numbers of individuals exceeded the previous three-years combined. It was the most impressive count I'd ever been on - just incredible finch numbers for such a bleak, forbidding environment. We set 4 new North American all-time highs for Glaucous Gulls (290), White-winged Crossbill (4184), Common Redpoll (3885), and Pine Grosbeak (1847). There was an unbelievable crop of mountain ash bergies as well as an overwhylming cone-crop.

At L'Anse-aux-Neadows we were on Cloud 9 with an afternoon flight of Ivory Gulls, a total of 10 seen by the four observers. 30+ had been seen the previous day by local hunters. All in all it was probably my best birding trip ever.