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N. B. FEDERATION OF NATURALISTS / FEDERATION DES NATURALISTES DU N.-B.
277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N. B., Canada E2K 1E5 Tel. 693-1196

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- develop an understanding interest in nature among amateur naturalists
- serve as a means of communication and cooperation among nature-oriented groups and individuals
- 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.

Memberships - Subscriptions

Mail to J. G. Wilson, Neck Road, RR 4, Rothesay, N.B. E0G 2W0. Annual fees: \$2 (individual or family), \$1 (students to age 18), \$2 (library subscriptions).

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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.



It is appropriate to remind readers that federation membership fees are due for 1977. You can tell whether your dues are paid by checking the address label on this issue. A "7" or "67" beside your name means you have paid whereas a "6" indicates your membership has expired. Renew now to avoid missing any activities or publications.

A WINTER DAY IN FUNDY PARK

David F. Smith

A phone call to Fundy Park Headquarters taken by Barry Spencer on Thursday, March 10 assured me that there was still sufficient snow in the highlands of the Park for cross-country skiing. I had been concerned, because of the early thaw, that skiing was over for this season. Assured that we could count on another trip, there was little to do but to pray for a fine day on Saturday. Nor were we disappointed - promise of a bright mild day greeted us as we prepared a lunch and stowed skis and poles in our wagon.

The drive up was uneventful with only crows and starlings to add interest to a landscape just shrugging off the last traces of winter's snowy deposits. At the Park entrance a list of cross-country guided tours (now outdated) and a map that had survived the earlier storms greeted us. Snowmobilers busily unloading trucks and trailers readied their machines preparing to start out from the Wolfe Lake area. We drove along on a virtually deserted road to the Caribou Plain parking lot as this was indeed the heart of the highlands - in fact we were within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the 1200ft. elevation marker, the Park's high point.

Beyond the parking lot the drifts were deep enough to require skis or snowshoes, so we had adequate snow cover. We quickly donned skis, slung binoculars, camera and lunch and pushed off along the marked trail. Almost immediately we came across Ruffed Grouse feathers - enough to know that some predator had not gone hungry recently.

Despite the mild weather and the resulting softening of the snow we made our way beyond the normal summer self-guiding trail and approached the beaver pond from the northwest corner. The stark grey trunks of trees killed many years ago by rising waters contrasted with the snow that still blanketed the area, and there was an eerie stillness only broken by the swish of the skis as we strided through the granular snow to the other side.

We cast about for signs of trail markers, but settled on snowshoe tracks that appeared to go in the general direction of the Plains. Cutting through a stand of mature trees we notice wood chips on the ground, obviously recently deposited. The hole immediately above, only 15-20 inches from the ground and rectangular in shape, was made by our largest woodpecker, the Pileated. This bird described as a rare resident is not too readily seen, although rather widely distributed throughout New Brunswick and one of the special "finds" for those birders keeping lists. This naturally prompted pictures, despite the relatively deep shade cast by the adjacent spruces.

Onward we trek after passing a small lake which shows signs of breakup. A little farther on a large spruce that appears to be a victim of last year's Ground Hog Day gale provides a convenient bench for our lunch stop. Due to snow depth we elect to leave our skis on, as we found that in some softer areas the skis broke through, so we dispense of poles and gloves while we turn our attention to a hot thermos and sandwiches.

I'm sure its not smell that attracts the Whiskey-Jack or more correctly Grey Jay that wasn't in evidence while we were on the trail but sensed that there was something edible the moment we sat down. Two birds flew down and perched within a

Cover drawing: Mallards by Brian Dalzell.

few feet, calling softly and eyeing our lunch. As soon as bits of crust were proffered, the bolder of the two landed at our feet to retrieve our offerings; in fact we discovered that the same bird got all our scraps, despite our attempts to share with the second bird. Two new birds pass high overhead, and announce themselves as Ravens - otherwise the forest is quiet except for the slow drip of melting snow at the end of our seat.

Time to strike out again, now without gloves, as the temperature is above the freezing mark and the sun is high. A trail marker in the form of a bit of yellow and blue plastic has once again guided us in the general direction, and we cross the large open bog area that would be impassable in a few short months. Strangely enough, the snow is unbroken by tracks of any kind, and the feeling of being quite alone is very noticeable. We skirt the bog area looking for a trail that will take us farther on. Finding none we circle back, crossing the little bridge between Big and Little Caribou Lakes.

Still following the colourful plastic streamers, some high overhead, others circling tree trunks, we pass through tree-lined aisles where there is no evidence of anyone having passed recently. We suddenly burst into an open area and are treated to more evidence of Pileated activity. This particular tree was very productive judging from the size of the holes. The camera is unlimbered again.

A short distance beyond and we are at the edge of the beaver pond where summer campers normally stand and children crane to see if the beavers which created this pond can be sighted. No beavers, of course, but we do see deep holes in the snow made by a moose that has been spending considerable time under the large spruces just a few yards further on.

The afternoon is passing - the light has taken on a warm glow as contrasted with the bright glare of early morning. We must press on, as we have a 77 mile drive back home. We swish down the final quarter mile to the car, having seen our summer hiking area in a different mood and season and finding it as quiet and remote and yet not unfriendly. It has lots to tell us in all seasons - all you have to do is stop and look.

CATTAILS FOR GOURMETS

Tom Moffatt

With spring now well advanced, I am beginning preparations for wild food collecting again, and that means cattails particularly. Everyone knows cattails, although some may call them bullrushes, those plants with the brown pom-poms growing in marshes and wet places over much of North America.

My particular spot is along the Glebe Road, near St. Andrews, and in another few weeks this marsh will be covered with young, succulent, green cattail shoots poking through the mud and accumulated fabric of brown, year-old cattail stems. The young shoots are well worth collecting, even if they require one to wear rubber boots. They have a fresh, cucumber-like taste when they first come up, and collecting a dinner-size platter is a simple process taking a few minutes.

Start by grasping the green tops, then pull very gently but firmly and the cattail should break off near the base. Then break off the fibrous tops and save only the delectable part near the bottom. Try some raw, but take a bagful home, wash them under the tap, and serve them as a green alone, in a salad with lettuce, or steamed for a few minutes and topped with a cream cheese sauce. Absolutely delicious.

If this starts you on cattails, then consider some of the other dishes possible through the summer. Those stems will be too fibrous to eat by late June, but in mid-

July you might try "cattails on the cob". The green, corn cob-like flowers of the cattails are excellent when boiled for ten minutes, then served with butter, salt and possibly pepper. Enough cattail cobs for a dozen can easily be collected in a quarter hour.

Cattail pollen pancakes are the next possibility, around the end of July or early August. There is so much pollen on a plant that one gentle tap will send a yellow cloud drifting across the marsh! When collecting the fine powder, the trick is to place a paper bag over the flower head, then bend the stem downwards and tap the bag lightly a few times. Half a bag of pollen can be gathered inside a few minutes, enough pollen to make a small family's breakfast. Back at home mix the pollen with an equal amount of regular flour, and cook in the normal way. Serve with butter and syrup.

Eating cattails is not a new idea. Many Indian tribes regularly dug the thick roots up in winter, either drying and grinding them into a flour, or eating them boiled. Cattail roots are still an excellent survival food, containing useable energy stored as starch, but I personally consider the roots completely unappetizing. Not only are they fibrous, but also sticky and mucilaginous, with a musty taste.

Cattail shoots, cobs and pollen are a perfect target for the gourmet hunter, and with a freezer, a complete meal of cattails is possible - a challenge for any wild plant hunter.

MISSAQUASH MARSH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Stuart Tingley

The Missaquash Marsh spans the inter-provincial boundary between the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It is located within the Isthmus of Chignecto and is part of an extensive marsh area at the head of the Bay of Fundy.

The marsh encompasses an area of approximately 6,300 acres, 80 percent of which lies on the Nova Scotia side of the boundary. The main body of the marsh was purchased by the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forest in 1964-65 and later extended westward in 1971-72. The upper regions of the area contain extensive bog lands and some 35 small, shallow lakes and ponds. Through the efforts of Ducks Unlimited (Canada) a system of dykes and water control structures has impounded approximately 1,000 acres of prime wetland habitat on the western side of the area.

The historical development of the Missaquash Marsh is similar to many other sections of marshland in this region of the Bay of Fundy.

Sections of the Missaquash Marsh were reclaimed by the Acadian French who first established in the area in 1672. In order to reclaim the salt marsh for agriculture, they had to first shut out the sea, then allow the salt to leach out of the land and provide for removal of fresh water draining in from the upland. The Acadians used dykes with sluice gates to shut out the sea, and also to allow for fresh water drainage from the land. Sections of the marsh were farmed in this manner up until 1755, when the Acadians were expelled by the English. English settlers took over the vacant lands around 1760, and portions of those marshlands are being farmed to this day.

The tidal movement up the Missaquash River was stopped by an aboideau structure around 1830. Land above the aboideau, completely protected from tidal influence, was successfully farmed for 30 years. In 1861, the aboideau was removed to allow the tide to flow freely up the marsh and over the agricultural land, thereby replenishing mineral nutrients from new alluvial deposits. It was also hoped that unproductive land in the upper regions of the marsh could be flooded by spring tides and thus, reclaim it from the ensuing bog communities. The attempt failed because

the volume of fresh water flowing from the bog prevented the tides from reaching the upper unproductive areas.

Thirty years later (1894), the Missaquash Marsh Company was formed with the purpose of reclaiming extensive areas in the upper Missaquash. According to levels taken by the Company a three foot difference in elevation existed between the surface of the marsh at Round Lake, ten miles up the marsh, and the marsh at the mouth of the Missaquash. The average spring tide is four feet above the surface of the land at the mouth of the river. It was, therefore, thought that a large canal that tapped all of the upper lakes would allow the tide to run unrestricted up through the marsh. Lake basins would become filled with alluvial deposits and thus, reclaimed as agricultural grassland. Such a canal could be later used as a main drainage ditch for the removal of fresh water.

In May, 1896, a steam dredge was purchased, placed on a wooden scow and work commenced in July. A one-mile section of the river was first straightened and enlarged. A straight canal, 36 feet wide and 15 feet deep, with grade of two feet to the mile was then started. The original plan was to cut the canal up the centre of the marsh, then across the bog to Round Lake. Canal cutting proceeded all summer, fall and well into winter, with an average advance of 200 feet per 24 hour period. When dredging finally ceased, the canal extended five miles from its terminus at the Missaquash River, up the centre of the marsh to the foot of Hackmatack Lake.

Three major lakes had been tapped, Dicky, Patton and Hackmatack. It is likely that some tidal influence was felt in all three lakes, but the scheme was relatively unsuccessful, probably because of the seaward flow of fresh water from the bog. The large canal with its many small, adjacent ditches did, however, provide an extensive drainage pattern. Agricultural grassland and pasture land was extended as far up as Dicky and Weatherhead Lakes. Farming was active on the newly drained area for over 35 years. Declining hay prices and poorly drained soil caused farmers to abandon the upper areas. However, sections of the lower marsh were, and still are used extensively for agriculture.

The Missaquash River was once again silted near its mouth in the late 1950s, and it is unlikely that the marsh above will ever again be under the influence of the sea.

Today the wetlands of the Missaquash are a naturalist's paradise. Two species, Northern Shoveler and American Coot breed annually but are very rare elsewhere in the Province of Nova Scotia. Over 100 broods of the following waterfowl species are produced on the marsh each summer: Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, American Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Pintail, American Wigeon, and Northern Shoveler. Its diversity of vegetation and fauna cannot be found elsewhere in Nova Scotia.

NATURE NEWS David Christie

The winter of 1976-77 was colder than normal on the average; there were no periods of extreme cold or lengthy thaws either, until the second week of March when unusually high temperatures brought the usual late March migrants back one to two weeks early. Snowfall amounts ranged from average to heavy, Charlo reporting the greatest snowfall in Canada during December, 187 cm.

Birds

The Christmas Bird Counts (C.B.C.) always provide about 95% of the winter's bird data, so that the best impression of the abundance of each species can be gained by consulting the summary and table of count results in the February issue. This report will deal with extra data on some of the scarcer species, with the few winter movements that were noticed, and with the beginnings of spring migration as seen in the first half of March.

A late Pied-billed Grebe Dec. 8 at Tide Head, Restigouche County. (Alan Madden) is our first December record north of Fredericton. A Great Blue Heron also lingered into December in Restigouche County, being seen at Christopher Brook on the 4th (Madden).

On the C.B.C. Great Cormorants were only recorded in the lower Bay of Fundy, but one was off Alma Dec. 10-12 (Henrik Deichmann) and one at Carron Point, Bathurst, Dec. 23 (fide Gilles Godin).

Some 100 to 110 Brant were at White Head Island, where they have been known to winter, on Dec. 20 and 29 (Nancy & Carl Small). Twelve Brant at Macos Bay Feb. 16 and 15 there Feb. 20 (Evan Smith & Cecil Johnston) could have been either early spring migrants or wintering birds. Only 9 Canada Geese were seen on the C.B.C.'s probably because most had moved south during cold spells in the first part of December. Among flocks seen passing south at that time were 84 over Sackville Dec. 6 (Mary Majka) and 70 at Fundy Park HQ Dec. 13 (Norman Wentzell). Canadas began moving on the first warm days of March being reported at Lower Jemseg March 3 (Niven Thorne), Oak Point (Don Lane & Mrs. Leslie Brundage), Saint John West (Johnston) and Coles Island (8, Michael Burzynski) March 10 and Jemseg March 13 (50, Nettie Moore, Theresa & Christopher Pearce). By the 14th, 200 were at Oak Point (Stanley Gorham).

In the open water below Mactaquac Dam there were 25 to 40 Black Ducks, two dozen Common Goldeneyes and about 140 Common Mergansers through most of the winter (Cliff Jones). 30 Barrow's Goldeneye at Dalhousie Nov. 27 were an ordinary occurrence there (Madden). One Green-winged Teal was feeding in an open brook near Albert Jan. 22 (Christie & Mary Majka). Two at Saints' Rest Marsh, Saint John West, on March 11 (Johnston) may have been the same ones seen on the C.B.C., or they may have been returning migrants.

One Bald Eagle regularly, sometimes two, was seen throughout the winter around open water in the Mactaquac-Kingsclear area (Jones et al). Additional Merlins were at Mary's Point Dec. 6 and Jan. 6 (Christie & Majkas) and Albert Dec. 16 ("Mike" Majka) and a Marsh Hawk at Mary's Point Dec. 15 (Christie & Majkas). An Am. Kestrel had returned to Apohaqui March 15 (Christie & Mary Majka).

Laverne Rabatich writes that the Merlin (Pigeon Hawk) reported on the Plaster Rock C.B.C. was actually a Peregrine Falcon, not seen after the count until mid-February when it reappeared. She says there is "no mistaking the face mask, slate-coloured back and barred breast. It is huge, almost the size of a raven."

Another Peregrine was reportedly at Keswick Ridge (Leona Keenan). The most unusual bird of prey report is of an Osprey, harried by a gull, sailing over the Saint John West sewage lagoon on rainy Jan. 25 (Cecil Johnston).

First migrant Killdeer was at Fredericton golf course March 10 (Jean Noble). At Dipper Harbour Feb. 20 Cecil Johnston and Evan Smith were surprised to flush a phalarope from the water near the wharf. As it flew off it called repeatedly in a manner leading them to believe it was a Red Phalarope, the calls of which are described as resembling those of a turnstone. A phalarope in New Brunswick in winter is almost unprecedented, the only previous sighting being of one reported as a Northern Phalarope near Mispec on Jan. 4, 1964 (Deichmann). The Red Phalarope is the more likely at this season, there being 2 records off Long Island, N.Y. and curiously five records in Lake Ontario, N.Y.

One or two Great Black-backed Gulls were seen all winter in the Mactaquac-Currie's Mountain area (various observers). A large flock of Herring Gulls were inland at Lincoln March 12 (Donald Kimball). A Bonaparte's Gull was seen at Whitehead Island Dec. 26 (Small).

An abundantly oiled and partly eaten Common Murre was found dead at Miscou Harbour by Hilaire Chiasson Dec. 29. The same day Hilaire was brought another one

that had been found alive six miles inland in northeastern Gloucester County. A Dovekie, blown inland, again about six miles, was found alive at Torryburn Dec. 2 (Mrs. Brigden).

Some of December's Mourning Doves didn't survive until C.B.C. time. Two mid-winter reports, both on January 18, showed two still at Red Head (Mrs. W.A. Allen) and one at Musquash Head (Mr. Patterson). A possible early migrant was at Springhill, Fredericton, on March 12 (Chris Adam).

The winter passed with few additional owl reports and no Snowy Owls at all. A Saw-whet Owl was seen twice at Nashwaaksis (fide Nettie Moore) and another Saw-whet stunned itself by flying against Doris and Cecil Johnston's front window at Saint John West Jan. 28. Great Horned Owls began hooting late in February at Lower St. Marys, York Co. (fide N. Moore).

A Belted Kingfisher, apparently overwintering, was seen at St. Martins Feb. 20 (Ted Sears). In addition to the C.B.C. record, there was a Common Flicker at Cambridge Dec. 9 (Joyce & Niven Thorne). Although only one Pileated Woodpecker was seen on the C.B.C.s, the species seems no scarcer than usual based on reports from six locations in Fundy Park (Deichmann, Barry Spencer, Norman Wentzell, Tracy Black, Jim McLaughlin and Sedgwick Sinclair), at Caledonia Mountain (Mary Majka), near Stanley (Jones), Crabbe Mountain (fide N. Moore), near 40 Mile Brook, Northumberland Co. (3 on March 30, Gilles Godin) and at Odell Park (Harold Hatheway) and Golf Club Road in Fredericton where one, sometimes 2, was coming daily to suet at the Nobles' bird feeder. A Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was at Douglas March 6 (Marc Schneider).

A mid-winter flock (5) of Horned Larks was at Sussex Jan. 21 (Christie & Mary Majka). Spring migrants were reported at Cambridge-Narrows March 4 (1, Mrs. John Perry), Keswick Ridge (half dozen, Leona Keenan) and Upper Gagetown (half dozen, Melvin Moore) on March 10, at Sisson Ridge, Victoria County, March 11 (Erwin Landauer) and Somerville, Carleton County March 13 (Kimball).

Laverne Rabatich reports having the "most ever" Blue Jays at her home in Plaster Rock this winter - up to 42 at once. Common Ravens were digging through the snow at Mary's Point Jan. 30 in apparent efforts to catch Meadow Voles (Christie). I don't know when the first migrant Crows appeared but one on Caledonia Mountain March 8 (Mary Majka) was apparently the first there.

A scarcity of Red-breasted Nuthatches along the Fundy coast was not noted at Fredericton, where they were present in "usual numbers" (N. Moore), and at Plaster Rock where there were "lots" (Rabatich). White-breasted Nuthatches in areas where they were not on C.B.C.s were 2 daily at Nackawic from early January (Ford Alward) and 1 daily at Caledonia Mountain from Jan. 18 (Majkas).

Am. Robins gradually declined in numbers during January but there were still at least 5 in and near Shediac at the first of February (Léo Martin). First migrants were three at Hammond River Mar. 15 (Jim Wilson).

Bohemian Waxwings appeared in several areas early in January with flocks of up to 12 at Moncton (various observers) and up to 40 at Fredericton (various observers), and also reports at Marys Point (1, feeding on wild rose hips Jan. 25, Christie), Gagetown (N. Moore), Burton (40 on Mar. 7, Inch), Sisson Ridge (10 on Feb. 7, Landauer) and Sussex (2 flocks of 50 each, March 6-7, Gladys Bickford).

Donnie Kimball reported a Northern Shrike in hot pursuit of 7 Horned Larks at Somerville March 13. "After scattering the larks the shrike settled down on an apple twig for a moment and made a rush at 3 Starlings perched in the top of another nearby tree. I held my breath as the shrike came within inches of nabbing one of them. In a panic they finally scattered leaving the shrike confused and alone in mid air.

After being unsuccessful at securing its meal the shrike flew out of sight and the Starlings settled quietly back to their perches." Willa MacCoubrey suspects her neighbourhood Sharp-shinned Hawk as having been responsible for the disappearance of the Yellow-rumped Warbler that was regularly visiting her feeder at St. Andrews until Jan. 19. She also thinks a hawk got the Rufous-sided Towhee that had been seen on the St. Andrews C.B.C. but which disappeared in the first week of January. The Yellow-rumped Warbler recorded on the Cambridge-Narrows count disappeared from Hazen Pugsley's feeder during February. Another yellow-rump was at Mary Fowmes' window feeder at Stoney Creek into January. Additional Red-winged Blackbirds of interest were 2 at Nackawic Jan. 3-8 (Alward).

A Rusty Blackbird came to Enid Inch's feeder at Cambridge Dec. 6 and Jan. 7 and 8. Especially interesting at Evan Smith's feeder at Martinon were two Northern Orioles, one an obvious Baltimore but the other apparently of the Bullock's subspecies (Present Nov. 20-21). Photos taken by Evan and by Cecil Johnston are good evidence for the occurrence of that western oriole in New Brunswick. The Baltimore remained at the feeder until mid-December.

Migrant blackbird reports include the followings: Starlings: 1 at Caledonia Mountain March 5 (Mike Majka); Eastern Meadowlark: 1 at Hammond River Mar. 11 (Jean Wilson); Red-winged Blackbirds: several at Saint John West Mar. 10 (Johnston), 21 at Hammond River (Wilsons) and 20 at Riverside (Christie & Mary Majka) March 12, some at Sisson Ridge (Landauer) and 24 at Gagetown (N. Moore, Theresa & Christopher Pearce) March 13; several at Moncton Mar. 14 (Doreen Carter); Common Grackle: several at Saint John West (Johnston) and 1 at Moncton (Mike Majka) Mar. 10, 1 at Cambridge (Inch) and some at Gagetown (N. Moore & Peaces) Mar. 13, 6 at Moncton Mar. 14 (Carter), flock at South Bay March 15 (Dot Laskey); Brown-headed Cowbird: a few at Sussex Mar. 11 (Dorothy Fetherstonhaugh), 2 at Hammond River Mar. 12 (Wilsons), some at Gagetown March 13 (N. Moore & Peaces).

A flight of Evening Grosbeaks was noted Dec. 16 in southern Albert County when flocks were seen at five places in the Riverside-Albert area (Christie & Majkas). The excellent numbers noted on the C.B.C.s continued through the winter with little change reported. The grosbeaks were accompanied at most feeders by Purple Finches which arrived in significant numbers in the southernmost part of the province Jan. 5-7, being reported then at Mary's Point (Mary Majka), Hillsborough (Brian Townsend), Moncton (Carter), Hampton (Mildred Logie), Cambridge-Narrows ("showed up at many feeders" - Inch) and Saint John West (40 at feeder, Reg Smith).

Miss Dorothy Fetherstonhaugh was thrilled by these species when at Sussex she went out to fill her feeder on March 5. More than 30 birds were waiting and a Purple Finch flew down and sat on her hand. After a careful inspection the bird, fully at ease, began to eat from her palm. During 4 hours time Miss Fetherstonhaugh counted 50 landings by Evening Grosbeaks and six by Purple Finches to feed from her hand. That was surely an unforgettable experience.

There were two more Cardinals in addition to the three on the C.B.C.'s. A female seen for a few days in the Pennfield area in early December (fide Mrs. M.C. Morehouse) disappeared and was replaced by the male seen on the count there. At Saint John West a male was seen briefly on Dec. 6 (Mrs. Neil Sparks).

Am. Goldfinches, Pine Siskins and Common Redpolls were little reported during January and February, but there were "lots" of White-winged Crossbills at Sisson Ridge till the end of February (Landauer).

Sparrows that began migrating in the warm days of mid-March were Dark-eyed Juncos: lots at Saint John West (Johnstons) and 2 at Hammond River (Wilsons) March 12, lots at Maces Bay (Johnston & Smith) and 35 at South Bay (Laskey) Mar. 13; Fox Sparrows: 1 migrant and one winterer (?) at Marys Point (3 total Mar. 12, Christie) and 1 at Saint John West (Janice Dexter) March 11, 12 at South Bay Mar. 13 (Laskey), 2 at Saint John

West March 14 (Maizie Melvin). Song Sparrows: 3 migrants, 4 winterers at Marys Point (at least 14 migrants the following day, Christie) and 1 singing at Saint John (Ken Baxter) Mar. 11, 10 to 12 at Hammond River (Wilsons) Mar. 12, "fields full of them" at Macos Bay and Deer Island Mar. 13 (Johnston & Smith), and 1 at Somerville (Kimball) and 1 at Fredericton (N. Moore) March 14, also 1 at Gagetown Mar. 12 (Inch).

Other Vertebrates

There is little to report on mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fishes this winter. Dorothy Fetherstonhaugh notes that 2 or 3 Striped Skunks were active in Sussex in the second week of March and Hazen Pugsley watched 5 Otters along the shore of Washadenook Lake Dec. 29.

Hilaire Chiasson writes that Gadus ogac, the Greenland Cod, is regularly taken in seines near Lunenburg Island during the winter. A fisherman told him of catching 18, ranging in length from 9 to 25 inches, on Jan. 7, and the next day a specimen was brought to Hilaire. Greenland Cod are very similar to the larger, commercially important Atlantic Cod, but are a bit differently proportioned and lacking the spots and light stripe on the tail. Greenland Cod occur from the arctic south to Cape Breton, whereas the Atlantic Cod is found south to North Carolina.

Two mammal reports from last fall are interesting enough to report now. A Coyote, another of several taken in New Brunswick in recent years, was trapped at Seven Mile Lake on November 16 by Joe March, and late in September a White-sided Dolphin was caught by a Shippegan trawler in the Gulf Of St. Lawrence, somewhere north of the Magdalen Islands. Hilaire Chiasson obtained the specimen for the New Brunswick Museum and the National Museum of Natural Sciences, where it is now preserved.

And one invertebrate report of note: The March worm spell stimulated a Mourning Cloak butterfly to come out of hibernation in Mrs. Janie Briggs' porch on the 11th. I believe she lives in the Cambridge area.

NEW BRUNSWICK DIVISION, COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

During the past year, under the leadership of its new executive director Dana Silk, CPAC New Brunswick has come to the forefront of New Brunswick's citizen organizations. The association has been active in promoting public participation in government planning, especially as it relates to Fredericton's municipal plan and the new Fredericton bridge proposal. A number of excellent public conferences have been sponsored, one on urban sprawl held in Woodstock, one on pulp mill pollution and another, just recently, on the protection of heritage buildings, both in Saint John. Coming up on May 12-13 will be the "Technology for People" conference to be held in Fredericton, where speakers will discuss the philosophy and application in the Maritimes of alternate technologies in agriculture, fishing, forestry, housing, energy, transportation, etc. For information, write CPAC New Brunswick, Box 6501, Saint John, N.B. E2L 4R9.

The association is also carrying out a short-term project on energy conservation and has sponsored an insulation clinic in Saint John.

To keep informed on all these matters, in New Brunswick and elsewhere, join the Community Planning Association of Canada by sending \$ 10 to CPAC, 425 Gloucester St., Ottawa, Ont. K1R 5E9. You'll receive N.B. Planning News and the national Review.
-- DSC.

ALTERNATE ENERGY ASSOCIATION

A new organization in the Moncton area got under way Feb. 15 and March 3. The Alternate Energy Association is concerning itself with energy conservation and alternate life styles. Contact Allyson Young, 26 Point Park Dr., Riverview, N.B. E1B 1C5.

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Breeding Bird Survey

Each year in June thousands of observers across the continent, rise well before dawn to take part in the Breeding Bird Survey organized by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service. This massive survey is designed to determine long-term and short-term changes in wild bird populations, particularly of songbirds. The 1977 surveys will be awaited with great interest to determine the effects of the severe weather in the eastern United States during the winter.

Starting a half hour before sunrise each observer counts the birds he or she sees and hears at 50 sampling points along a 24½-mile route. The route is surveyed in the same manner on one morning each year.

Observers able to identify most common birds by their songs and willing to get up early enough to see the sun rise (once) in June are needed to help with the survey. If you are interested write to the coordinator for the Maritimes, David Christie, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B. E2K 1E5.

New Brunswick routes which require observers are Lac Baker (Mad.Co.), Belmoral (Rest.Co.) and Minto (Sunb-Qu.Cos.). Helpers and apprentice observers would be useful in all parts of the province.

Maritimes Nest Records Scheme

The Maritimes Nest Records Scheme is a program, coordinated by the Canadian Wildlife Service, which relies on volunteers who report their observations of bird nests. Filed at the CWS office in Sackville, the data is available for reference by government biologists or anyone else interested in studying nesting biology, breeding success and distribution.

In the past seventeen years the scheme has assembled over 19,000 cards with records of 178 species. Last year, 83 persons submitted a total of 1498 cards. Two people contributed over 200 records each, but most cooperators reported only one, two or three nests each. Why not report the nests you find? Write for nest record cards and a copy of the annual report to Allan D. Smith, Coordinator, Maritimes Nest Records Scheme, P.O. Box 1590, Sackville, N.B. E0A 3C0.

Maritimes Shorebird Survey 1977

The Canadian Wildlife Service again requests the assistance of volunteer participants for the Maritimes Shorebird Survey (MSS) scheme. The principal objective is to identify and document areas of importance to shorebirds in the Maritime Provinces, as well as to provide information on routes used by different species and the timing of their migrations. Information gathered will be essential in determining conservation measures for the birds and in assessing the ecological impact of the many developments presently threatening Maritime estuaries. The surveys will also provide important baseline information for monitoring future trends in shorebird populations.

The MSS scheme was started in 1974 and has already provided a great deal of very valuable information on shorebird distribution and migration. It is most important that this work is continued and extended in order to provide sound information from which population trends may be reliably monitored and the impact of proposed developments assessed. Information is currently being used in assessing the potential impact of the proposed Fundy Tidal Power project on shorebirds.

The Canadian Wildlife Service would like to hear from anyone who may be able to assist in the surveys in 1977. Potential participants may contact either the N.B. coordinator, David Christie, 277 Douglas Ave., Saint John or Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0E7.

Cave Information Wanted

Field studies on the caves of New Brunswick are currently underway. Approximately 15 caves are known in this province, all in St. John, Kings and Albert Counties. I would be grateful if any reader aware of cave locations through personal experience or rumor would send details to me. I am particularly interested in locating any possible caves in the Plaster Rock area. Send details to: Donald McAlpine, 144 Duke St., Saint John, N.B. E2L 1N6.

Phenology of Spring Flowers

To encourage a more active interest in plants we are again surveying the blooming dates of several common wildflowers. On the form attached, report your observations from a single locality only (within a 5-mile diameter circle). If you will be making observations more widely than that, please report on an additional piece of paper or write for more forms. In very hilly areas, please use separate forms if the altitude range of your observations is more than a bout 500 feet, for example "Alm. (coastal)" and "Alm. (above 500 ft.)". Additional forms can be also obtained for friends or students.

You will be able to report the exact dates for species you see every day or two. Others may be in a habitat or locality you can visit only at weekly intervals, such as at your camp or cottage. There, one may arrive on a Saturday, say May 14, to discover white violets in bloom where there had been none the preceding Sunday. In that case, you should record the blooming date as "between May 8-14 or "before May 14." For further information write Natural Science Dept. New Brunswick Museum, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B. E2L 1E5.

ERRATA & ADDENDA

in the December 1976 issue

- The pages are numbered wrongly; each number should be increased by one, thus "40" becomes "41", etc.
- top of p. 40 (corrected), the publication date: December 1976.
- p. 43, C.M. Building, paragraph 3, line 3: "majority of victims"
- p. 46, paragraph 3, line 6: "More usual Rough-leg"
- p. 46, par. 3, line 4: The *Cyrilloc* was seen by Dr. M. Majum.
- p. 46, par. 7, line 1: Actually it was two of four *Whimbrels* that had white rumps. The date *Con Desplanque* saw them was Sept. 25.
- p. 48, par. 4, line 4: *Leo Martin*
- p. 48, par. 5, lines 7-8: stripped the tree

in the February 1977 issue

- p. 2, par. 7, line 2: *Dichroscala*
- p. 3, St. Andrews: Mr. Steve Adamowicz, Mrs. Beverly Scott, Mrs. V. Zitoo
- p. 3, Saint John: *Rudi Widdershoven*
- p. 3, Cape Tormentine: weather was "clear on; partly cloudy pm"
- p. 4, Ile *Louisa* - *Shippagan*
- p. 4, *Hammond Silver-Hampton*: F. *Clark*; Add: "Jim Wilson (compiler)"
- p. 4, *Cambridge-Burrows*
- p. 4, *Jessop*: Add "Nick Sheppard"
- p. 4, *Fredericton*: *Mary Schneider*, Mr. & Mrs. *Nick Sheppard*.
- p. 4, *Stanley*: *H. Hathaway*.
- p. 6, *Red-shouldered Hawk*. There was not one at *Fredericton*. The bird should be deleted and entered as a *Red-tailed Hawk* on p. 5, with the totals changed accordingly. Also the reference on page 1 (par. 5, line 6) to two *Red-shouldered Hawks* should be changed to one.
- 10, *Bartland*: "along stream rapids; ground snow-covered"
- 10, *Perth-Andover*: "cloudy; 28cm snow-cover, ponds and river"

1975 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON

Canadian Wildlife Service Progress Note No. 71 (Feb. 1977) by F.G. Cooch and K.L. Newell estimates the retrieved kill of ducks in New Brunswick during the 1975 hunting season at 59,061, up slightly from the preceding 3 years and composed of 237 Common Mergansers, 324 Red-breasted Mergansers, 215 Hooded Mergansers, 681 Mallards, 22,880 Black Ducks, 1578 Am. Wigeon, 9345 Green-winged Teal, 6591 Blue-winged Teal, 822 Pintails, 1976 Wood Ducks, 382 Greater Scaup, 999 Lesser Scaup, 3693 Ring-necked Ducks, 5573 goldeneye, 2434 Bufflehead, 307 Oldsquaw, 144 Common Eider, 538 White-winged Scoters, 384 Surf Scoters. The estimated harvest of Canada Geese was 2989.



NEW BRUNSWICK FEDERATION OF NATURALISTS /
FEDERATION DES NATURALISTES DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

Notice of Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting of the federation will be held at the New Brunswick Museum, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, New Brunswick, at 8 pm on Wednesday, June 8, 1977, for the purpose of approving the following amendment to the constitution:

Section 9:01 - In the event that the Federation shall disband or otherwise be dissolved all of its assets remaining, after all debts have been paid, shall be transferred to recognized charitable organizations in Canada, having objectives similar to those of the Federation and as selected by the Board of Directors.

The Federation has applied to the Department of National Revenue for registration as a charitable organization. The underlined minor amendment to our constitution is necessary to meet government requirements. The Special General Meeting is being held in conjunction with the regular meeting of the Saint John Naturalists' Club. The proposed amendment shall become part of the constitution on approval by two-thirds majority of those voting. Fifteen members of the Federation form a quorum.

April 27, 1977

K. H. Deichmann
President

Looking Ahead

- May 12-14 "Technology for People" Conference, UNB, Fredericton. (See page 8).
May 14-16 Weekend on Grand Manan, FFNC. Hotel & meals \$36 est., transportation \$18 est. Contact Nick Sheppard, Apt. 614, 780 Montgomery St., Fredericton.
June 25-26 Gathering on the Tobique, NBFN. Details later.
July 30-31 Shorebird weekend at Mary's Point, NBFN. Details later.
August 24-26 Canadian Nature Federation annual meeting: "Nature & Change on the Canadian Plains". Write CNF, 46 Elgin Street, Ottawa K1P 5K6
August 26-28 NBFN Annual General Meeting, St. Andrews. Details later.
mid-September Weekend trip to Miscou Island, NBFN. Details later.

MEMBERSHIP DUES are payable for 1977. If the address label has a "7" or "67" to the right of your name you have already paid. If not, send your fees now.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To: James G. Wilson, treasurer, N.B. Federation of Naturalists
Black Road, RR # 4, Rothesay, N.B. E0G 2W0.

I enclose \$2 (individual, family or library) or \$1 (student to age 18) for membership.

Name:

Address:

WILDFLOWER BLOOMING DATES - SPRING 1975⁷

Locality: _____

(Observations reported should fall within a 5-mile diameter circle.)

Observer(s): _____

Address: _____

Species	Date of		* Slope	Notes
	Earliest Flower	10+ plants in bloom		
<u>Trees & Shrubs</u>				
Speckled Alder				Record when catkins release yellow pollen
Alnus rugosa				
Trembling Aspen/Poplar				
Populus tremuloides				Straight, hanging catkins
White Elm				
Ulmus americana				
Bilberry/Shadbush				The one with copper-coloured leaves
Amelanchier laevis				
Pin/Red Cherry				
Prunus pensylvanica				
Apple				
Pyrus malus				
Choke Cherry				
Prunus virginiana				
Rhodora				
Rhododendron canadense				
<u>Woodland Herbs</u>				
Dogtooth Violet				Also called Trout Lily
Erythronium americanum				
Red/Purple Trillium				
Trillium erectum				
White Violets				If able, please indicate which species you are reporting.
Viola incognita/V. pallens				
Blue/Purple Violet				
V. cucullata/V. septentrionalis				
Goldthread				
Coptis groenlandica				
Painted Trillium				
Trillium undulatum				
Canada Mayflower/				
Wild Lily-of-the-valley				Meianthemum canadense
Bunchberry				Report when petals of small central flowers open
Cornus canadensis				
Starflower				
Trientalis borealis				
<u>Open Country Herbs</u>				
Coltsfoot				Dandelion-like flower, but without green leaves
Tussilago farfara				
Dandelion				
Taraxacum officinale				
Strawberry				
Fragaria virginiana				
Yellow Rocket				
Barbarea vulgaris				
Tall Buttercup				
Ranunculus acris				
Oxeye Daisy				
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum				

* For slope, indicate:
 L = more or less level ground
 S = marked south-facing slope
 W = west
 N = north
 E = east, etc.