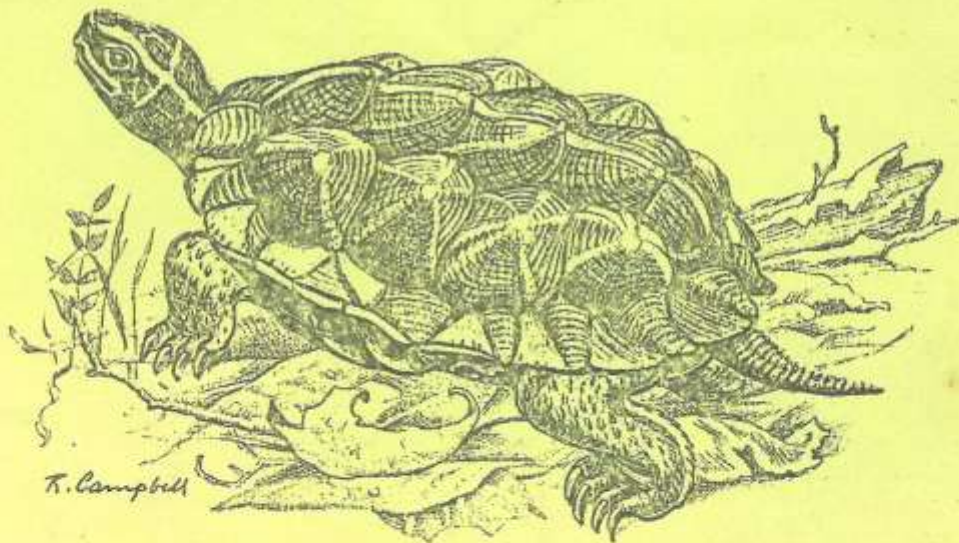




N.B. Naturalist

8(3) June 1977



Wood Turtle

N. B. FEDERATION OF NATURALISTS / FEDERATION DES NATURALISTES DU N.-B.

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NEW BRUNSWICK NATURALIST ISSN 0047-9551

Five numbers a year.

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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.

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CANOE CAPERS!

K.H. Deichmann

A love of canoes, canoeing, our New Brunswick rivers and a hope that those still free may remain so, has been my main motivation in putting together this article.

Canoeing will give you access to places and to experiences you could probably not have any other way. Canoes can be dangerous but aren't usually so, if treated with judgement and respect. Paddling (or poling) a canoe is exercise, and portaging has been known to be a remarkable appetite builder!

The trips mentioned herein cover waters that are (or were when last seen by the author) quite unspoiled, but some (which shall remain anonymous) haven't fared so well under the hand of man. If you know of a desecrated stream or bank, you and your family, friends or club may like to do a cleanup as a project. Get all possible publicity; with luck your good works may be infectious!

K.H.D.

Surprising a middling black bear on the bank of the Upsalquitch somewhere above the Nine Mile is just one of my prime memories of canoeing three dozen or so of our New Brunswick rivers.

I became involved in this work as part of a wide-ranging survey by the New Brunswick Department of Tourism. By the time I'd completed this project in 1971, a remark of my father many years before, "that New Brunswick is one of the best watered areas for its size anywhere in the world", gained real meaning to me.

We have, in our small province, at least 1500 miles of flowing water suitable for canoeing, waters which range from placid to quite white, depending on your choice. There's plenty of options for length too - from mini-trips to the full length of the Saint John River, from where it rises in northeastern Maine to the Bay of Fundy, for a maximum of about 410 miles (720 km).

Even if your only stroke is a "J", you'll be able to test many a stretch of water without repeating. If you have mastered the fine art of poling, or don't scoff at lining or wading (sometimes called "frogging") it's doubtful if you could really exhaust all the possibilities right here in New Brunswick. Poling upstream is a lot of hard work, downstream it becomes a test of balance and judgement; to pole (or drop) downstream the craft must be loaded front heavy so as to swing like a pendulum, so it may be placed cheek to cheek next large boulders where the deepest water flows.

I don't class myself as a poler, in spite of the fact my usual companion on canoe trips in the early '70's was Ranger Henry Louder, a most durable master of the art. Nimrods might take heart from the comment the great New Brunswick naturalist Dr. W.F. Ganong inspired, about 1900, from an Indian observing his attempts at poling - "paddle pretty good, don't pole worth a darn!"

Unlike paddles, poles are a find-your-own item; a spindly dry spruce is best (if green it will dry out and check). In very swift runs the faster sinking hardwood pole may be superior. For a paddle, a wide blade has the advantage of more power when required, with little extra weight. Paddle length is a personal choice, a long shaft is best if you plan to stand, to "read the water."

Wood and canvas canoes which simulate the originals in birch bark fashioned by the Indians, are not as durable as those of fiberglass and aluminum, but they do

Cover drawing: Wood Turtle by Rosamond Campbell, reproduced from The Reptiles and Amphibians of New Brunswick by S.W. Gorham, courtesy New Brunswick Museum.

seem more responsive and are quieter, an advantage in observing wildlife. Twenty-five miles above Plaster Rock, at Nictau on the Tobique, the Miller family still handcraft canoes, adding them in canvas or fiberglass. At Oromocto, the Chestnut Canoe Company produces canoes and a variety of boats.

To our Maliseet and Micmac Indians, the canoe was the major mode of travel. Their water routes and portages criss-crossed New Brunswick, cutting the Province up grid fashion. The Micmacs have a legend concerning the development of their style of canoe -

"Loon tried to build a suitable canoe but it was too big and heavy. Partridge's canoe came out too round and it sank! Partridge kept trying and finally succeeded in building a very fine canoe. Thus, Partridge won the contest, and that's why today you hear the Loon's mournful cry of failure and Partridge's loud, proud drumming."

Now for a few notions about canoeing and camping. Prepare your canoe before the trip, sanding and patching if necessary. If canvas covered, don't paint the whole hull, just the spots that need it. A quart of paint will add weight (of about a quart of paint) to your next portage! Allow yourself extra time to make the trip planned; this will permit exploring side bogs and stops on islands, vignettes that make the whole effort a quality experience. Individually package sleeping bags in plastic bags. Your camera should be tied in a stout plastic bag to the thwart. These precautions are wise in case of a sudden shower, shipping some water when shooting a rapid or coming through a wave. If swamping seems a possibility, either you should be ashore or portaging. It's awkward to paddle with old-style life preservers on, yet they, or the lightweight replacements should be worn in bad stretches, even if you're a strong swimmer.

In picking a one-night camping spot one should bear in mind enough exposure to keep insects busy at something besides feeding and an aspect which will allow first light to dry the tent and wake you up so travel might commence during the choice early morning hours. And finally, go light, especially if portaging.

Now settle into your seat, grip your paddle and let's look at a passel of paddle tours -

1. Kedgwick, Restigouche County - A clear cold water river of such clarity that you can see quartz stones on the bottom through a depth of 8-10 feet (2-3m). From Gin Creek to the mouth it's 46 miles (3-4 days). Access over pulp company roads. I've been told a major tributary, the Belle Kedgwick, is deep enough for paddling in early summer.

2. Pokemouche, Gloucester County - This is a winding waterway with humic acid-stained water. It may be necessary to pull over beaver dams in the upper reaches. The beaver ponds provide good trout fishing. Length above tide water = 15 miles (24 Km).

3. Cains, Northumberland County - It was called "Welamooktook" in Micmac, meaning a "handsome river", therefore good to travel on. During the summer the best place is to come in from Boiestown and take out at Blackville, involving 31 miles (50 Km) on the Cains and almost 5 miles (8 Km) on the Miramichi. The Cains, like most rivers in the sandstone country of eastern New Brunswick, has "tea-colored" water. Stands of jack pine, spruce and aspen clothe its banks. Salmon come up in the Fall. Abandoned fields provide good camping. It's said on the Miramichi that a drizzle and an east wind will raise the Cains a foot!

4. Richibucto, Kent County - This is a short route of 25 miles (40 Km) but is of interest as it was an important link by portage for the Indians and early travellers to the Salmon River, thence Grand Lake and the Saint John system. Most of the river is tidal. Smith's Corner is a good place to start.

5. Long Marsh Creek, Albert County - This short, 6 mile (9.6 Km), completely tidal waterway, that has cut its way deep into the salt marshes, provides a special challenge. By careful timing you can go both up and down with the tide. A good area for ducks, waders and shorebirds. You'll find it between Waterside and Cape Enrage.

6. La Cote-Palfrey Lakes, York County - Start at Second Eel Lake, portage to Third Eel Lake (3/4 mile / 1.2 Km) and then to La Cote (1 mile / 1.6 Km) and then down Palfrey Brook. This is a strenuous trip because of the amount of wading and you'll probably have it all to yourself. Lots of fiddleheads grow along Palfrey Brook and when you reach Spednik Lake there's a good chance to see Ospreys and eagles. There's a Common Tern colony on a granite outcrop in Second Eel Lake. This route is 16 miles (26 Km) long but will easily take 3-4 days to cover.

7. Saggonoc Lake, York County - This is a most pleasant trip involving a series of deadwaters connected by short, well cleared-out portages. Total length one way to Kilburn Lake is 10 miles (16 Km). The upper portion, a channel skirted by flora-rich bogs, is the land of the moose and the loon.

8. Portobello Creek, Sunbury County - In spite of its proximity to Fredericton, this small intricate waterway gives a mood of wilderness and is often very productive for wildlife sightings: otter, moose, deer and a great variety of waterfowl. Reach it from the Church Road in Lower Hargerville. About 6 miles (9.8 Km) is possible in the upper section.

9. North Branch South West Miramichi River, Victoria and Carleton Counties - Start at what is locally known as the Birch Rind Bridge and take out about 16 miles (26 Km) downstream at the Juniper Airstrip. Initially the river moves along quickly and basically all that is necessary is to steer and (if in summer) enjoy the territorial songs of the passerines in the conifers. Further down meanders appear; the trip ends just beyond a huge level section called the "alderground", which in season is tops for trout fishing. A pole could be handy on the first half of the trip.

10. Little Tobique (Nictau Branch), Restigouche and Victoria Counties - Start at the Goose Pond below Nictau Lake. The first few miles are quite narrow and may require ducking under cedar "sweepers" and negotiating short but easy rapids. (All may be run on the paddle). The mid-section is made up of the most extraordinary meanders through alder beds. Side angles and bogans are often occupied by deer standing up to their bellies eating aquatic plants. The landscape is diverse and friendly, a most interesting trip. Below Big Cedar, driftwood logs from old drives and uprooted cedar trees may make the going a bit frustrating. Also sharp undercut turns may flip a canoe in high water (as a companion and I once did). Past this portion the course straightens and the 600 - 700 foot hills move close to the river. Then there's the excitement of meeting a number of major tributaries: the Sisson, the Mamrokel and Campbell (Serpentine) all join at the "Forks" to form the main Tobique River. Total mileage from the lake to the village of Nictau is about 25 miles (40 Km).

To pick up a logging stroke, sing "Alouette", it was a stock item of the voyageurs! Returning homeward after a full day this quote from Bliss Carman may have a special meaning -

Canoe Song

Safely, Softly falls the night,
Along the darkening meadow
Stroke by stroke my paddle goes deep,
My dark canoe is gliding
Westward to a world of light".

To get a quick overall view of canoeing in our Province, secure the Canoe Trip Pamphlet from the New Brunswick Department of Tourism. Then you should buy the New Brunswick Map Book, as published by the Department of National Resources, useful for locating secondary and logging company roads.

If you select a particular trip, topographic maps and even air photographs will be helpful.

There are several books on canoeing techniques which you could obtain from your local library or a well-stocked bookstore.

For really enjoyable reading, and a number of vicarious trips, look into Dr. W.F. Ganong's reports on the physiography of the various rivers as published by the National History Society of New Brunswick and still available (most numbers) from the New Brunswick Museum, for \$4.00 each. Most major rivers are covered. Also, Dr. Esther Clarke Wright's book, The Saint John River and Its Tributaries, provides excellent background information.

PADDLE MAKING

Richard Faulkner

What better way to prepare for the up-coming canoeing season than to make your own paddle. The cost of making one is minimal if you already possess some hand tools. Apart from a hand plane, spoke shave and rasp, the only other things necessary are some varnish (polyurethane), sandpaper (medium and fine) and lastly, some wood.

For a strong and durable paddle, you should select hardwood preferably yellow birch, white oak, rock maple or black cherry. Softwood paddles of pine or spruce are much lighter but less durable than those of hardwood.

The plank, from which the paddle will be made, should be cut 6" to 8" longer than the desired paddle length and from 1½" to 2" thick. This allows for the inevitable checking and warping that takes place during the curing of the plank. It is recommended that the plank air-dry in a shed 4 to 8 months.

Step 1: If available, run the plank through a commercial planer and take down to 1 1/8".

Step 2: Trace the desired paddle design onto the plank.

Step 3: Cut out on a band saw, leaving ¼" to 1/8" margin all around the trace. (Fig. 1).

Step 4: Draw a mid-line along both edges of the paddle. Make additional lines on the edge of the paddle to guide trimming down of the blade. (Fig. 2)

Step 5: With a hand plane, take the paddle blade down to its desired shape.

Step 6: Using the spoke shave, plane the handle down, making it as round as possible.

Step 7: Mark off the grip and carefully begin the work with the spoke shave and rasp. Take down to the sanding stage. (Fig. 3)

Step 8: Complete work on the throat of the paddle (where blade and shaft meet) and continue trimming off the margins with the spoke shave.

Step 9: Finish the paddle with a good sanding and three or four coats of varnish.

VOILÀ!!!

Your own masterpiece; a paddle to be cherished and talked about on many a canoe trip.

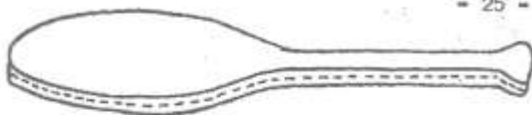
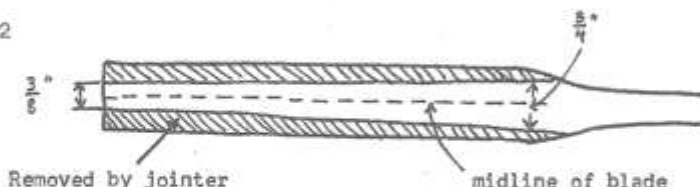


Fig. 1 Cutout paddle showing edge guideline



Fig. 3 Markings for trimming grip.

Fig. 2



ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF NEW BRUNSWICK EARTHWORMS

John W. Reynolds and David S. Christie

Introduction

In a previous report, Reynolds (1976) presented a preliminary checklist and distribution for the terrestrial Oligochaeta in New Brunswick. The most comprehensive study of the earthworms of Canada has just appeared (Reynolds, 1977). From both of these reports, there were 13 species of earthworms (Annelida, Clitellata, Oligochaeta: Lumbricidae) recorded from New Brunswick.

New Records and Collections

During the past year the authors have received and/or collected more than 35 new habitat samples. There was one new provincial record among these collections - Eisenia foetida (Savigny, 1826) or the Manure Worm (Ver du fumier) from Charlotte and York Counties, and three new county records - Aporrectodea longa and Lumbricus terrestris from Albert County and Eisenia rosea from Sunbury County.

This brings the provincial checklist of earthworms to 14 exotic species and no endemics.

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank Don McAlpine, Chris and Mary Majka and Kristin Reynolds for providing specimens of earthworms from New Brunswick which contributed to these new distributional records.

Résumé

Récemment nous avons reçu plus de 35 échantillons de vers de terre (Lumbricidae) du Nouveau-Brunswick qui effectuent le catalogue provincial à 14 exotiques lombrics européens.

References

- Reynolds, J.W. 1976. A preliminary checklist and distribution of the earthworms of New Brunswick. N.B. Nat. 7(2): 16-17.
 Reynolds, J.W. 1977. The earthworms (Lumbricidae and Sparganophilidae) of Ontario. Life Sci. Misc. Publ., Roy. Ont. Mus., pp. x + 141.

REVIEW: THINKING DOLPHINS, TALKING WHALES

By Frank D. Robson 1976. A.H. and A.W. Reed Ltd. Wellington and Sydney. (North American distributors: Tuttle Co., Inc., Rutland, Vermont, 05701). 199 pp. black and white photographs, figs. \$13.50.

This book has an attractive dust jacket; the binding and paper appear to be of good quality. The front and back endpapers usefully depict silhouettes of the species of baleen, toothed and beaked whales and also the dolphins found in New Zealand waters. Of the twenty-three chapters in the book, the majority deal with dolphins and whales and one treats seals and sea lions as well.

The book is written in a way that will make it of great interest both to the layman and the scientist. It should be pointed out that practically all facts are based on Mr. Robson's own observations and his close association with dolphins and whales. Many new observations and unknown traits of dolphins and whales are ably presented. When Mr. Robson observed actions of whales and dolphins which he was unable to adequately explain, he modestly asks the question "why"?

The text is pleasingly written and can perhaps be summed up by the title of chapter five - "You've got to think Dolphin". Throughout the text, Mr. Robson stresses the plight of the dolphins and whales, our misunderstanding and mistreatment of these intelligent mammals, reasons for their mass strandings and how these at times can be prevented, and the effects of pollution on whales and dolphins.

Mr. Robson was born in New Zealand and practically all his observations on whales and dolphins have been in New Zealand waters. He has contributed much information to the Museum of Natural History in Amsterdam for which he received a gold medal from the Netherlands government in 1974.

Mr. Robson's Thinking Dolphins, Talking Whales is a major contribution. It contains much information hitherto unpublished. I highly recommend the book, not only to those specially interested in dolphins and whales, but also to the general reader.

Through this book we can learn much about ourselves.

Stanley W. Gorham

NATURE NEWS

David Christie

Following unusually mild weather in the first half of March things got back to more normal cold and snow later in the month and early in April. The latter month averaged only slightly cooler than usual. Temperatures were very cool during the first half of May, but very warm in the second half. Total precipitation ranged from near normal to somewhat less than usual, depending on location.

The most noteworthy events and records were an unusual mild spell April 21-22 when temperatures reached the mid-20s in central and southern N.B. and Charlo had an April record of 19.2°, a 20 cm snowfall in south eastern N.B. May 10-11 (Moncton's 23 cm a record for May), a heat wave May 22-25 which gave Chatham a new May record of 35.3° (the highest May 1977 temp. in Canada), and a May record of 276 hours of bright sunshine at Saint John Airport.

Mammals

An Arctic Shrew was caught by a cat near Kingston in April (Tina and Tracey Gorham) and another trapped in May at Simpson's Field on the Southeast Upsalquitch (Don McAlpine). Although apparently found fairly commonly by the mammal survey of Kouchibouguac National Park it has been seldom collected by the museum staff. We

have found the Masked, Short-tailed, and Smoky to be the most numerous shrews.

Don McAlpine spotted an Eastern Pipistrelle among about 70 Myotis bats at Underground Lake, Albert County, May 5 giving us our third provincial record. The first two, also found by Don, our only active speleobiologist, were at Kitts Cave, Kings County and Green Head, St. John County. Marjorie Gray reports bats at Woodstock Apr. 23, no doubt brought out by the warm spell.

A black, melanistic Red Fox was seen about mid-March in the UNB Woodlot, Fredericton by Arlene Stocck. Chris Majka reported a Woodchuck out of hibernation at Hopewell Hill April 11.

Birds

After a cold night refroze a large portion of the Long Reach Stan Gorham saw 14 Common Loons at Westfield on the morning of April 12. On May 7 a flock of 13 flew northeast over Mary's Point, Albert County (DC).

The report of a Manx Shearwater at Machias Seal Island on the extremely early date of March 1 (Kathryn Russell, in Guillemot) is most unusual. Gannets were around Machias Seal on the early date of March 21 (Russell). About 15 Double-crested Cormorants were back at Manawagonish Island, off Saint John, March 31 (Cecil Johnston) and one was at Fredericton in the first week of April (Peter Pearce & Melvin Moore).

One of the delights of birdwatching is discovering one of the more exotic southern herons which wander north during spring. This year we had a Little Blue Heron in immature plumage at Mary's Point May 12 (Mary Majka); a Cattle Egret at Lower Sheffield May 22 (Pearces) and another at Mirral, Queens County, May 8 (Owen Washburn family); a Great Egret at Cape Jourimain, Westmorland County, April 23 (Stuart Tingley and Bruce Mactavish) and another at Musquash May 25 and June 1 (Nettie Moore, Wills MacCoubrey and Mrs. Charles Brown); several Snowy Egrets as in other recent springs: 1 at Chance Harbour from the last week of April to May 6 (David Baird, Barbara Bell et al) and 3 there May 16 (Phyllis Mullin), 2 at Baie Verte Apr. 23 (Tingley & Mactavish), 1 at Mary's Point May 3 (Mary Majka), from one to three at Saint John West May 21-25 (Johnston), 1 at Great Pond, Grand Manan, May 5-7 (Brian Dalzell) and 2 at nearby Long Pond May 15 (Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club - FFNC); most unusual of the southern herons was a Louisiana at Chance Harbour May 23 (Mullin et al). Only one Glossy Ibis was reported, at Lower Sheffield Apr. 24 (Nick Sheppard).

Although Brant reportedly suffered losses on the wintering grounds Cecil Johnston found good numbers at Maces Bay, estimating about 1000 on April 24 and May 29 and 2000 on May 15. Snow Goose reports, all white birds, were of one at Harvey, Albert County, March 30 (Mary Majka), 2 at Lower Jemseg, May 2 & 8 (N. Moore & Johnston) and 7 at Colwell's Wharf (Queens Co.?) May 5 (Bob Hay).

Two pair of Gadwall were at Cape Jourimain May 8 (Tingley) and a pair at Hammond River May 9-14 (Wilson). It was a good spring for Redheads: one to two pairs were in the McGowan Corner-Jemseg area Apr. 23-May 9 (various observers), an unprecedented 6 pairs at Cape Jourimain May 8 (Tingley) and one bird at Long Pond, G.M. May 15 (FFNC). A male King Eider was at Pt. Lepreau Apr. 24 (Johnston). Lesser Scaup show a preference for sewage ponds where there were 2 at Red Head and 8 at Saint John West on May 16 (Wilson). The numbers of Shovelers reported were more than usual, including 12 at Saint John West May 19 (Johnston) and up to 11 in a single visit to the Jemseg area (Pearce & M.B. Moore). A pair of Oldsquaws well away from their coastal haunts were at Tobique Dam May 20 (Erwin Landauer).

A Cooper's Hawk was reported at Alma Mar. 27 (Deichmann). Another at Campbell Island Apr. 16 (Peter Vickery et al) was part of a migratory flight that

included 42 Sharp-shinned Hawks (83% adults), 3 Marsh Hawks, and 6 or 7 Ospreys. A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen at Willow Grove, St. John Co. May 27 (Ted Sears). A Swainson's Hawk stayed at Moosehorn Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Maine, from at least Apr. 24 to May 5. Although it closely approached the international boundary it was not definitely seen entering New Brunswick where it would have been the first provincial record of that western species.

An adult Golden Eagle at Mary's Point March 20 (DC + Mary Majka) may have been the one seen a few miles away last November. Various people reported Bald Eagles in their usual haunts about Deer Island, Westfield, Jemseg and Fredericton. Stephen Homer was surprised to see at least fifteen Ospreys while canoeing along the Meduxnekeag between Belleville and Woodstock in early May. He did not notice any major fish run that would have attracted such a number.

A white Gyr Falcon, always an exciting find, was at Salem, Albert County, April 28 ("Mike" Majka). More pleasing were the five Peregrine reports, more than in recent spring seasons: 2 immatures at Keswick Ridge Apr. 10 (Bev & Marc Schneider), 1 there Apr. 20 (Keenan), an adult at Caledonia Mountain Apr. 24 (Mary Majka), 1 at Petersville May 6 (Jan Dexter), and 1 at Harvey, Albert Co. May 7 (Mike Majka). Am. Kestrel arrivals were reported March 17 at Gagetown (Enid Inch), Mar. 31 at Bloomfield (Wilson), and Apr. 2 at Keswick Ridge (Keenan). On April 11, several were reported in the Fredericton area (sev. obs.) and on the 23rd 55 were seen in the Chignecto Isthmus region (Tingley & Mactavish). First Merlin was at Fredericton Apr. 5 (Mary Pugh).

A Common Gallinule at Mary's Point May 5 (Mary Majka) was unusual, especially since it was on salt water; the high spring tide that day probably flooded it out of the upper marsh edges. Shorebird highlight of the spring was a moulting male Ruff at McGowan Corner May 2, 3 and 7 by the Pearces, Nettie Moore and others. Lesser Yellowlegs, scarce in spring, were 1 at Jemseg May 3 (DC, McAlpine & Gayl Hipperson) and 2 at Bloomfield May 8 (Wilson). Shorebird arrivals included an early Black-bellied Plover at Chance Harbour and another at Saint John West Apr. 22 (Cliff Jones), a Ruddy Turnstone at Castalia May 14 (FRNC), an Am. Woodcock at Fundy Park HQ March 15 (Barry Spencer), one at Rothesay Mar. 18 (Fred Brock) and another at Deep Cove, G.M., Mar. 26 (Elmer Wilcox), a Common Snipe at Barker's Pt., Apr. 6 (Jean Allen) and one unknown at Gagetown Apr. 12 (Inch), an early Solitary Sandpiper at Martinon Apr. 20 (Evan Smith), an early Greater Yellowlegs at Browns Flat Apr. 10 (Gorham), a Pectoral Sandpiper and a Dunlin at Cape Jourimain Apr. 23 (Tingley & Mactavish). Between 10 and 20 Dunlin were at Maces Bay May 29 (Johnston).

The gull of the season was seen by Peter Vickery in Saint John Harbour May 20 - an adult New Gull flying around the stern of the "Princess of Acadia." Efforts by local birders to relocate the bird were unsuccessful so probably it soon left the area. Lingering winter gulls included a Glaucous at McGowan Corner May 3 (Adam), one at Dalhousie May 20 or 21 (Jean-Paul Lebel), 2 Icelands at Mary's Point May 21 (DC) and another at Pt. Escuminac May 29 (Tim Davis).

The earliest Puffins appeared at Machias Seal Island April 12 and by the 26th about 600 were present, while 100 Razorbills arrived there Apr. 13 (Russells, in Guillemot). On May 15 the Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club trip to Grand Manan was interested in about 20 Black Guillemots bobbing about beneath the high cliffs where they breed at Southwest Head.

In addition to the March 12 record mentioned last issue, Mourning Doves appeared at Debec (Homer) and Saint John (DC) on March 22 and at Fairvale Har. 24 (Charles Byers). A probable Screech Owl was calling at Mary's Point Apr. 23 and 24 (DC). A female Great Horned Owl was apparently incubating on her nest high in a tree near Kingston Apr. 17 (Wilson) and a young was visible in the nest May 8 (Evan Smith).

An unusually early (a record in fact) Common Nighthawk was seen at Saint John West on April 3 (Dexter). Another April nighthawk was at Castalia Apr. 20 (Dalzell). More usual appearances began May 22 at Woodstock (Gray). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Red Rock, near Stanley, on May 7 (Harold Hatheway) was a week to ten days ahead of most of its kind.

An Eastern Phoebe was at Martinon, St. John Co., on March 25 (E. Smith) but most observers didn't report them till Apr. 16-18. Tree Swallows appeared at Seal Cove Apr. 13 (fide Wilcox), at Saint John Apr. 14 (Wilson) and in several areas Apr. 17-19. An early Barn Swallow was at Machias Seal Apr. 17 (Russell), another at Colpitts Settlement, Albert Co. Apr. 27 (Mary Majka). First Purple Martin appeared at Hammond River Apr. 23 (C.K. Wilson).

Thirteen Mockingbirds were reported May 15 to June 5, at Woodward's Cove (FFNC), Moncton (Doreen Carter), Saint John (3 areas - DC, Johnston, Ken Baxter), Macas Bay (Johnston), Gunningville (Mrs. L. Rice), Dalhousie (Lebel), Lake Utopia (Stanley Tatton), Macas Bay (Johnston), Gunningville (Mrs. L. Rice) and Nauwigewauk (Martin Thomas). Six Brown Thrashers Apr. 20 to May 20 were distributed from Machias Seal Island to Mary's Point and inland to Debec and Keswick Ridge. The only Eastern Bluebirds were one at Douglas, Fredericton, May 14 (B. Schneider) and a pair investigating a bird house at Lower Coverdale May 19-20 (Jack Fraser). Two Wood Thrushes on the Miremichi were at Porter's Cove May 20-June 6 (Davis).

Two large movements of Robins were reported. Dozens appeared at Gagetown (Inch) and hundreds at Jemseg (Niven Thorne) on March 31 and there was "a big influx overnight" at Hammond River where close to 1000 were in one field Apr. 14 (Wilson). Winter Wrens and Ruby-crowned Kinglets seemed scarce this spring, perhaps having suffered from the severe winter weather in the eastern U.S.A. An early Ruby-crown was apparently seen in Fredericton during the week of April 10 (B. Schneider, Jean Noble). The only Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reported this spring is our first northern N.B. record, one at Miscou Island May 23 (Lebel).

The last three Bohemian Waxwing reports of the winter were of 20 at Debec Mar. 23 (Homer), 71 at Fredericton Apr. 14 (H. Bartlett) and 1 at Moncton Apr. 18 (Carter). Cedar Waxwings appeared May 21 at Fredericton (Varty), May 22 at Mary's Point (DC) and May 23 at Hammond River (Wilson).

The only unusual warbler report comes from Evan Smith who identified a Connecticut Warbler at Tracy May 17. He reports that it had a complete eye-ring and full gray hood that was lighter on the throat. Probably because of cool weather warblers did not arrive back early, the first reported being Black-and-White at Mary's Point May 10 (Diane Griffin), Tennessee May 19 at Moncton (David Currie) and Crooked Bridge Brook, Northumberland Co. (Dalzell), Nashville at Fredericton May 13 (Pearce, N. Moore), Parrish at Grand Manan May 14 (FFNC), Yellow at Grand Manan (FFNC), Douglas (M. Schneider) and Mary's Point May 14 ("Mike" Majka), Magnolia at Hammond River May 18 (Wilson), Cape May at Big Hole Brook May 19 (Davis), Black-throated Blue at Crooked Bridge Brook May 18 (Dalzell), Yellow-rumped at Martinon Apr. 20 (E. Smith), Black-throated Green at Grand Manan May 14 (FFNC), Blackburnian at Grand Manan May 14 (FFNC), Chestnut-sided at Moncton May 19 (Currie), Bay-breasted at Crooked Bridge Brook May 20 (Dalzell), Blackpoll at Hammond River (Wilson) and Mary's Pt. (DC) May 23, Palm at Machias Seal Island Apr. 17 (Russell), Ovenbird at Turtle Creek May 17 (Currie), N. Waterthrush at Albert Mines May 5 (DC), Mourning at Murrell Lake May 23 (Davis), Yellowthroat at Hammond River May 18 (Wilson), Wilson's at Moncton May 19 (Currie), Canada at Hammond River May 21 (Wilson) and Am. Redstart at North Head May 15 (FFNC). Several of those were probably back a few days earlier but unreported.

An early Bobolink was at Penobscus May 9 (Currie); they were noticed in eight other areas May 13-18. Baltimore Orioles were reported in seven areas May 15-18.

and in four others through the 23rd. The number of Scarlet Tanagers was about average, the first being a young male at Hoyt May 11 (Mike Snow) and one at Keswick Ridge May 16 (Keenan).

The overwintering male Cardinal at Belmont in the Saint John area was seen up until the weekend of April 9-10 (Mrs. E.F. McIntosh). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared May 17 at Hammond River (Wilson), Keswick Ridge (Keenan) and Lower St. Mary's (N. Moore). Three male Indigo Buntings probably were caught up by a high level jet stream and swept north to Saint John where they appeared at three feeders (Florence Christie, Joan Sellers and Sharon Peacock) on the unlikely date of April 6, not quite a record since a similar bird had appeared at Long Reach on April 4, 1970 (Mrs. R.J. Collins). Interestingly one also appeared at Lower West Pubnico, N.S. but reported on April 5 (N.S. Bird Society).

However, the oddest finch of our spring was the bird that puzzled Cecil and Doris Johnston when it appeared at their feeder March 31. Just frustrated by using their North American bird books, they consulted a borrowed European guide, to identify it as a European Greenfinch. The bird made a brief return on April 3 when Cecil was able to snap three photos to confirm its identity. The question whether it was an escape from an aviary, a hitch hiker on a trans-Atlantic ship or a natural vagrant is impossible to answer but the third choice seems least likely. (Perhaps the Johnstons should be awarded the Order of Chignecto Rose for having seen such an odd bird). One wonders whether the occurrence during April of European Goldfinches at two localities in Maine could be related.

A signal for New Brunswickers to watch their finches carefully was the occurrence of a House Finch on Apr. 26 (Bill Townsend) at Sorrento, Maine, only 60 miles west of Grand Manan. That western finch recently established and spreading in the eastern U.S. is a certainty to appear here within a few years, perhaps even in 1977. Our native look-alike, the Purple Finch remained common at feeders through April and May, being particularly numerous in the Saint John, Gagetown, Cambridge and Upper Woodstock areas.

The only Rufous-sided Towhee reported was a male at Moncton May 13-17 (Carter). An early Savannah Sparrow was at Gagetown Apr. 3 when 25 Dark-eyed Juncos appeared there (Inch). Nettie Moore writes that Juncos were very abundant in the Fredericton area following the storm of April 8 and at the same time a huge flight was noted along the coast of Maine Apr. 9-10 (Townsend). On the other hand in Albert County they were not especially numerous at that time (DC). A Junco found dead at St. Martins (Arline Bradshaw) on March 21 had been banded near Cooshochocken, Pennsylvania last Dec. 19. The last two Tree Sparrows were seen Apr. 17 at Gagetown (Inch) and one stayed at Mary's Point till the 24th, the same day that the first Chipping Sparrow arrived there (DC). Mary's Pt. also had a Field Sparrow (May 6-8, DC & Majkas) another of which was at East Riverside Apr. 24-26 (Joyce Golden).

White-crowned Sparrows were quite numerous, the first being 2 at Hammond River (Wilson) and 1 at McGowan Corner (Bob Hay) on May 1. By the 9th Evan Smith had 20 at his feeder at Martinon. On the 15th 10 were in the Johnston's yard at Saint John West and on May 22-23 they were "abundant" on Miscou Island (Lebel). We had few reports of White-throat arrivals, perhaps because of the number of overwintering birds. April 20 and 21 were dates mentioned. Doreen Carter was interested to hear White-throats singing all night during May, after her neighbours had installed a "dusk till dawn" outdoor light, which in essence gives the birds a bright full moon every night of the month. No large numbers of Fox Sparrows were reported; one bird with an injured leg, but flying and feeding well, lingered at Mary's Point till May 17 (Mary Majka). Song Sparrows were little reported after the end of March. An early Swamp Sparrow was on Machias Seal Island Apr. 19 and Snow Buntings lingered there through the end of April (Russells).

Seldom a season goes by without a few reports of albino birds. The blackbird family is particularly often mentioned and this spring I was informed of an all white Common Grackle Apr. 24 at Saint John West (Bud Crandall) and of a white Cowbird during April at Mrs. M.W. Jones' feeder at Cummings Cove, Deer Island.

Reptiles and Amphibians

First snake reported was a Garter at Turtle Creek May 5 (Mark Majka, McAlpine & DC). The few amphibian reports we have come mostly from Stan Gorham who found 2 Spotted Salamanders in the breeding pools at Oak Pt. Apr. 16, 2 Wood Frogs calling there Apr. 17, 8 to 10 at Browns Flat the next day, and the first two Spring Peepers calling at the Flat Apr. 20. At Mary's Point 10 Peepers and 5 Wood Frogs were calling Apr. 23 and a very early Am. Toad was calling May 5 (DC).

Invertebrates

Some signs of spring from the insect world were a Green Comma butterfly (DC) and bees (Mary Majka) flying about at Shampers Bluff March 28, the annual invasion of the house by black ants at Caledonia Mountain Apr. 7 (Mary Majka), Mourning Cloak butterflies at Lower St. Marys and Mactaquac Apr. 17 (N. Moore) and the wonderful hum of Mosquitos at Woodstock Apr. 25 (Gray).

Flora

Reports on the blooming of spring flora have mostly come in so recently that I have not had time to summarize them. As a result they will be reported in the next issue. One observation of special note was made by Donald McAlpine on the Caribou Road (Upsalquitch River), Restigouche County on May 29th. On that day he was fortunate enough to discover the rare Fairy Slipper Orchid, Calypso bulbosa.

SHOREBIRD COLOUR-MARKING 1977: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

In 1977, the Canadian Wildlife Service will be continuing an extensive programme of banding and colour-marking shorebirds in James Bay, with the objective of defining migration routes used by shorebirds on their journeys between the Arctic breeding grounds and wintering areas.

Feather dyes and coloured leg bands will be used to mark the birds. If you see a marked shorebird, please record details of: species, place, date, colour-marks and, if possible, numbers of other shorebirds present. For colour-dyed birds, please record the colour and area of the bird that was dyed. For colour bands and standard metal leg bands please record which leg the bands were on, the colours involved, and the relative position of the bands if more than one was on a leg (e.g. right leg, blue over metal, etc.). A note should also be made whether the bands were below or above the "knee" of the bird.

Thank you very much for your assistance. All reports will be fully acknowledged and should be sent to: Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E7.

GIANT WHITE SHARK INFORMATION WANTED

The Huntsman Marine Laboratory in St. Andrews is seeking information about the 37 foot long white shark Carcharodon carcharias that was caught in a weir at White Head Island on June 1930. Because this is apparently the largest white shark on record, proof of its size is required. They have obtained one tooth from the shark but are anxious to have any additional information on this monstrous shark.