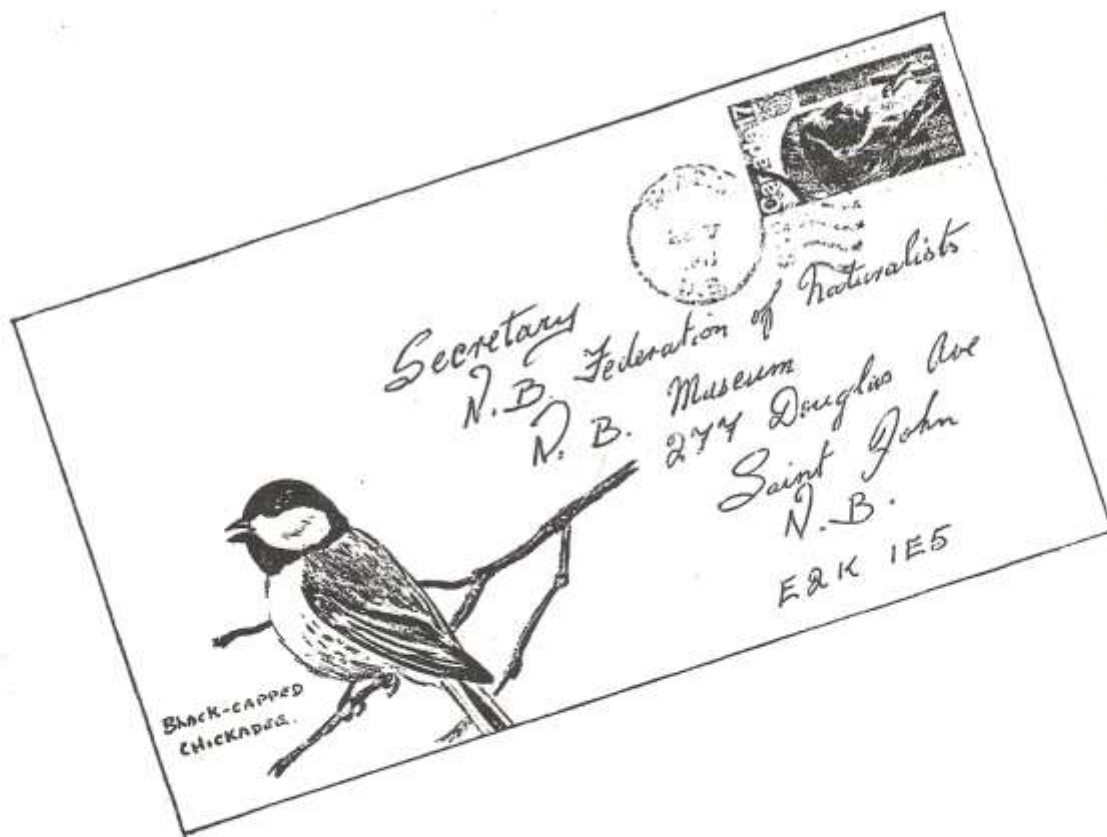




N.B. Naturalist

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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. (506) 693-1196

The federation was formed in 1972 in order to

- 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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P.O. Box 1590, Sackville

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Editorial committee: Mary Majka,
Barry King, David Christie

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 David F. Smith, 149 Douglas Ave., Saint John, N.B. E2K 1E5. Annual fees: \$5 (individual or family), \$3 (students to age 18), \$5 (libraries).

Correspondence

Re the N.B. Naturalist to editorial committee, N.B. Naturalist, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B. E2K 1E5. Articles and reports are always welcome.

Re federation policies and programs to Mary Majka, RR 2, Albert, N.B. E0A 1A0

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members:

I am happy to announce that we have finally chosen a bird for New Brunswick. The Black-capped Chickadee won the election hands, or should I say wings, down, leading the other contenders by a wide margin.

I was glad to see that so many interested people (over 2,000) took time to send their votes. Some wrote interesting comments and remarks about their favourite bird. Quite a few schools participated and the children acquainted themselves well with the candidates before voting. A few people had other birds in mind than the four we proposed and gave us their opinions.

All in all it was a stimulating and enjoyable activity, not unlike a political campaign. Luckily the contestants did not know about the election and will still be performing as usual in our town, forests and fields. We include some of the more interesting comments and letters in this issue.

We thank all those who took part in the voting. For those who did not, shame on you for not exercising your democratic right as a naturalist!

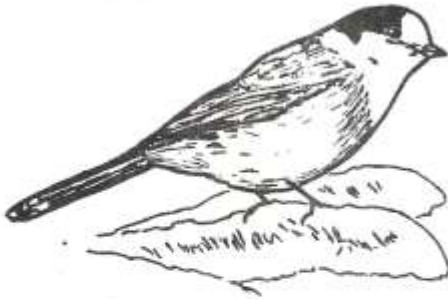
And the Winner is...

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

(Known generally as chickadee). This small, tame acrobat is distinctly patterned with a combination of black cap and bib with white cheeks, gray back and buffy sides. A very common year-round resident throughout the province. In summer found mainly in forests but other times of the year almost anywhere there are trees, including city areas. Calls "chickadee, dee, dee" at all times of the year and has a sweet whistled spring song, "Fee-beee".



Runners up...



GRAY JAY (Canada Jay)

(Widely known as "gorby" or "moosebird") A large, fluffy, gray bird of the cool northern woods, larger than a Robin with a black patch across the back of the head and a white forehead. Common year-round resident of New Brunswick. A very tame bird, well-known to woodsmen. It frequently visits campsites and picnic grounds to pick up scraps. It is not much of a songster but has a varied repertoire of harsh chattering, soft whistles, and chuckles.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

(Commonly known as "Canada Bird", "Sam [or Tom] Peabody") A gray-breasted sparrow with a white throat patch and a yellow spot between the eye and the bill, black and white head stripes. Abundant summer resident and migrant throughout the province in open woods, cutovers and forest edge; rare in winter, when found mainly near the Bay of Fundy. Although one of the most numerous summer birds in N.B. this species is not well-known by sight by many residents of the province who are more apt to be familiar with its loud whistled song from which it has been given the popular name "Sweet, sweet Canada, Canada", "Poor Sam Peabody", "Petit Frederic".



AMERICAN ROBIN

(Known generally as Robin). A very familiar bird, often seen hunting worms on lawns, recognized by its dark gray back and brick red breast. Abundant summer resident and migrant throughout the province, usually very rare in winter and at that season mainly seen in the southern part of the province. A loud singer with a cheery varied whistled song.



In order to become officially recognized together with our provincial flag and flower, the chickadee will have to be approved by the Legislature. Regarding that matter we have been in touch with the Office of the Premier.

On the opposite page are the results of the voting broken down by county.

	<i>Chickadee</i>	<i>American Robin</i>	<i>Grey Jay</i>	<i>White throated Sparrow</i>	
CHARLOTTE	27	2	9	1	39
SAINT JOHN	141	22	40	21	224
KINGS	127	16	33	16	192
QUEENS	26	19	20	2	67
SUNBURY	24	1	4	1	30
YORK	381	192	74	159	806
CARLETON	21	7	6	4	38
ALBERT	7	0	9	12	28
WESTMORLAND	95	64	56	33	248
KENT	4	1	3	2	10
NORTHUMBERLAND	34	23	14	15	86
VICTORIA	36	15	170	10	231
MADAWASKA	2	1	2	1	6
RESTIGOUCHE	4	7	3	1	15
GLOUCESTER	39	108	37	4	188
UNKNOWN	22	2	4	2	30
TOTAL	990	480	484	284	



1980-81 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

David Christie

Because of the cold weather and deep snow of late November and December one might have expected a low variety of species on this winter's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) yet just as many were reported as in mild weather last year, namely 105. A lot of species were present in good numbers this year. The heavy snow cover probably helped to increase the totals by encouraging many, especially ground-feeding species, to concentrate in good feeding areas where they were easily found.

The number of counts was down to 24, partly because of the cold weather. The first and last weekends of the CBC period were especially bitter. Thirteen areas reported temperatures of -20°C or colder. The table below compares the effort and results of the 1976 through 1980 counts with those of 1973, a very open winter which produced the greatest numbers and variety.

	<u>1973-74</u>	<u>1976-77</u>	<u>1977-78</u>	<u>1978-79</u>	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>
No. of counts	27	28	27	26	25	24
Participants	322	351	394	317	358	425
Party-hours	617	574	655	589	705	678
Feeder reports	102	136	136	114	144	188
Total birds	67,692	42,866	49,334	42,980	63,692	58,074
Species seen	116	105	96	100	105	105
Additional species during period	9	4	5	8	6	8

Particularly numerous this winter, especially on counts in southern New Brunswick, were birds of the fringillid family - the finches and sparrows. The numbers of White-throated Sparrows and Juncos were very good and of Tree, Song and Fox Sparrows above average, while there were a few records of Field, Chipping and White-crowned Sparrows, species unusual in New Brunswick during winter. Snow Buntings were very numerous and their occasional companions, Lapland Longspur and Horned Lark, were also recorded in above average numbers.

Among the finches it was a good year for Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin. To me the influx of Redpolls seemed to peak early so that fewer were present at the end than at the beginning of December. Purple Finches were numerous at Plaster Rock but scarce elsewhere. The count of Red Crossbills, although small, was the largest since 1975.

Blackbirds were relatively conspicuous, including a good number of Cowbirds and Rusties, an average number of Grackles and the most Red-wings ever recorded on our counts.

Another seed-eater, the Mourning Dove, was also numerous, even more being counted than last year. Like Pheasants, 134 of which (a provincial record) were recorded at Sackville, the doves have probably benefitted from the past two winters of little snow. This year will be more difficult for both species.

A large incursion of Bohemian Waxwings was noted, including a record 253 at Fredericton. Since 1963 there have been successively larger major flights at two to five year intervals with small incursions in the intervening years. Few other eaters of fleshy fruits pass the winter here. Robins were in low numbers this year and there was the normal complement of a couple of Mockingbirds. Yellow-rumped Warblers were down to normal numbers, following the record concentration associated with a bumper crop of bayberries at Cape Tormentine a year ago.

Among the smallest forest birds Black-capped Chickadee was found in somewhat above average numbers but the Boreal, both nuthatches and Brown Creeper were in rather low numbers. The Golden-crowned Kinglet count was about average this year. Woodpeckers, however, were up with Hairy, Downy and Black-backed Three-toed all at high levels and, unexpectedly, three Flickers. The numbers of Crows, Ravens and Blue Jays were about normal for recent years but Gray Jays were rather low.

Hawks were prominent in the count reports. Goshawk, Sharp-shinned and especially Red-tailed (the most recorded since 1971) were numerous. Bald Eagles maintained a level near that of the better recent years but Rough-legged Hawks were rather low. A Peregrine Falcon, our second CBC record, was seen at Sackville and an unidentified falcon at Fredericton may also have been that species.

Few counts make a special effort to find owls (especially in the temperatures we had this year) but those that do may get good numbers as with Great Horned Owls at Cambridge-Narrows and Barred Owls at St. Andrews. Mildly unusual were the two Long-eared Owls (and a third in count period). Few Northern Shrikes were found this year.

Cardinals continued their presence in the province, ten being found in four areas; surprisingly there were also six Rufous-sided Towhees. Very unexpected southern species were a Carolina Wren at Fredericton, the first reported in New Brunswick since three during the winter of 1974-75, and four Pine Warblers attending feeders at Moncton and Grand Manan.

Among waterbirds, considerably fewer Black Ducks and Surf Scoters were found than normally. Common Loons which seem to alternate higher and lower years were low this year. The majority of aquatic species were found in near average numbers but a lot of Oldsquaws, White-winged Scoters and Kittiwakes were seen and Common Eider and Iceland Gull were somewhat more common than usually.

The increased effort at Grand Manan this winter produced a record 68 species, surpassing the 64 found at Saint John in both 1972 and 1973. Many other counts produced species totals at or near the highest levels for their area.

New Brunswick Christmas Bird Counts - Dec. 20, 1980 to Jan. 4, 1981

Most of the data is listed in the five page table. Sky, ground and water conditions and names of observers are presented separately. Counts are arranged from south to north, first coastal locations, then inland ones.

Grand Manan Channel (GMCh) 6th year

Overcast, light drizzle. Sea running at 0.7 to 1 m.
Brian Dalzell (compiler), Henrik Deichmann.

Grand Manan Island (GM) 10th year

Clear in a.m., clouding over in p.m. 2 cm fresh snow on 10-25 cm crusted snow cover; freshwater completely frozen, salt water open.
Vernon Bagley, Elwood Bannister, Molly Barrett, Peter Cronk, Brian Dalzell (compiler), Hank Deichmann, Lincoln Harvey, Merle and Margaret Lambert, Verna MacKenzie, Geraldine Nelson, Mildred Russell, Carl, Ellis and Nancy Small, Mildred Small, Alma Tatton, Forrest Wilcox, Flora Zwicker.

Eastport-Campobello (E-C) 14th year

Clear, sea smoke. Freshwater frozen; salt water partly frozen.
Sid Bahrt, Norm Famous, Barbara and Alan Kirschenstein, Nellie Ross, Ed Sawyer, William Townsend (compiler).

St. Andrews (StA) 20th year

Sunny, 30 cm snow cover; freshwater frozen, more ice on salt water than previous years.
Steve Adamowicz, Mrs. Hollis Bartlett, Mike Dadswell, Mrs. Donald Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Longmaid, Daryl Linton (compiler), Mrs. Donald McLeese, George Miller, Dr. and Mrs. Bev Scott, Steven Smith, David Walker, Walter Williamson, Dr. and Mrs. Zitko.

Pennfield (PENN) 18th year

Overcast, light rain; dense fog mid p.m.; ground snow covered.
Maurice Brown, Mrs. Douglas Eldridge, Mrs. Kathleen McLeod, Mr. and Mrs. L.P. Morehouse, Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Morehouse (compiler), E.A. Nason.

Lepreau (LEP) 18th year

Drizzle, rain, fog, clearing. Ground frozen, 15-20 cm snow cover; salt water open, freshwater frozen.
Brian Dalzell, Henrik Deichmann (compiler).

Saint John (SJ) 24th year

Snowflurries early a.m., becoming clear. 25 cm fresh snow on 25 cm old snow cover; almost all freshwater frozen, salt water open.
Mike Bamford, Charles Belyea, Fred Brock, David Christie (compiler), Florence Christie, Shirley Colquette, Bud Crandall, Marjorie Duffy, Dick Filliter, Miss Greta Fowler, Mrs. H.M. Galbraith, Renie Gorham, Stan Gorham, Grace Hayes, Gayl Hipperson, Joyce Golden, Joan Goucher, Cecil Johnston, Mrs. A. Lambert, Isobel LeBlanc, Vivian MacDonald, Kim Mann, Oda McCarlie, William McCarlie, Doreen McIntosh, Maisie Melvin, Mrs. Wyn Miller, Bob Parke, Eleanor Parke, Don Patterson, Margaret Patterson,

Joan Pearce, Ron Pearce, Tom Page, Allen Sellars, Joan Sellars, Marion Sherwood, David Smith, Evan Smith, Molly Smith, Reg Smith, Alison Sollows, Mrs. Neil Sparks, Helen Stockford, Lawson Stockford, Jim Wilson, Stan Winslow.

Fundy National Park (FNP) 16th year

Clear, ground frozen, 18-45 cm snow cover, freshwater frozen, salt water open.

Gina Alderson, Lucille Blacquire, Yves Bosse, David Christie, Vincent Crowston, Brian Dalzell, Henrik Deichmann (compiler), Joanne Deichmann, Andrew Forsythe, Andree Galbraith, Paul Galbraith, Doris Hatt, Gerald Janes, Mark Majka, Janet McGinity, Alan Nicol, Barbara Sinclair, George Sinclair, Sedgewick Sinclair, Duane West.

Riverside-Albert (R-A) 12th year

Partly cloudy. 5 cm fresh snow over 30-40 cm crusted snow; almost all fresh water frozen, considerable floating ice on sea.

Mrs. Carl Beaman, David Christie (co-compiler), Stephen Clayden, Henrik Deichmann, Andrew Forsythe, Sue Fullerton, Mark Majka, Mary Majka (co-compiler), Mike Majka, Mrs. Don Milburn, Kay Mills, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn White, Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Williamson.

Sackville (SACK) 21st year

Sunny, 30 cm of light powdery snow cover, fresh water frozen except outlet of Morice Lake and Front Lake; salt water heavily clogged with ice flows.

Peter Barkhouse, Paul Bogaard, Ian Cameron, Tony Erskine, Mike Ferguson, Hinrich Harries, Peter Hicklin, Randy Hicks, Ron Hounsell, Bob Lamberton, Colin MacKinnon, Bill Prescott, Al Smith (compiler), Ralph Stopps, Stuart Tingley.

Moncton (MTON) 20th year

Clear, 8-45 cm of snow cover; fresh water mostly frozen, tidal waters open.

Mr. & Mrs. Hamilton Baird, Brenda Burzinski, Doreen Carter, Dave Christie, Albert Cormier, Brian Dalzell (compiler), Richard Debow, Mary Fownes, Ford Keith, Ed Kervin, Louise Lapierre, Fred Lloyd, Mike Majka, Gordon Mosher, Winston Prince, Mr. & Mrs. F.B. Proude, W.J. Quartermain, Francis Richard, Maurice Richard, Sandra Ross, Mary Seely, Barbara Swinamer, Ken & Audrey Thomson, Gerry White.

Cape Tormentine (CT) 20th year

Sunny, 25-30 cm fresh powdery snow - wind swept and drifted in open areas; fresh water frozen and salt water heavily clogged with ice flows with only small open leads.

Peter Barkhouse, Paul Bogaard, Sandy Burnett, Tony Erskine, Peter Hicklin, Carrie Hicklin, Etta Hudgins, Don Kimball, Bob Lamberton, Al Smith (compiler), Marc Spence, Ralph Stopps, Stuart Tingley.

Kouchibouguac National Park (KNP) 11th year

Mostly clear, 7.5 to 35.0 cm snow cover.

Sophie Bastien, Maurice Daigle, Robert LeBlanc (compiler), Marielle Morais, Pierrette Robichaud, Michel Savoie, Harold Sock.

Newcastle-Chatham (MIR) 9th year

Clear except for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour light snow 8.00-8.30 a.m. Virtually no open water; 30 cm snow cover.

Margaret Adams, Sybil Anderson, Jane Arsenault, Bill Boucher, Edith Boudreau, Roy Bourke, Mrs. Robert Bransfield, Monica Charnley, Timothy Clark, Des Cousens, Graham Crocker, Phyllis Crowe, Carole Dickson, Thomas Flynn, Vernon Goodfellow, Don Hoddinott, Phyllis Jardine, Florent Lannan, Mrs. Hazel Lobban, Lemuel McDonald, Theresa Ross, Jack Shea, Mrs. Gordon Steeves, Mrs. Jack Van Leeuwen, Harry Walker (compiler), Ian Walker, Lyle Walker, Winnie Walker, Rick Wedge, Margaret Wheaton.

Hammond River-Hampton (HTON) 9th year

Clear; 30-40 cm snow cover. All fresh water frozen.

Bob Barton, Richard Blacquiére, David Christie, David Clark, Paul Clark, Lewis Darling, Roland Darling, Hendrick Deichmann, Jo-Anne Deichmann, Jean Isaacs, Russell Jamieson, Peggy Kelbaugh, Ruth Kemp, Doug MacAndrews, Winnifred MacAndrews, Mary Majka, Mike Majka, Howard Mann, Kim Mann, Geoffrey Sayre, Millie Widdershoven, Charles Wilson, Jim Wilson (compiler), Patricia Wilson.

Cambridge-Narrows (C-N) 11th year

Cloudy, light rain and fog in p.m. 25 cm light snow cover; lakes frozen, brooks mostly frozen.

Mrs. Sheldon Appleby, Mrs. Harold Belyea, Mrs. Lawrence Carpenter, Mrs. Kenneth Carpenter, Mrs. Bruce Chase, Mr. James Connell, Mrs. Vernon Connell, Michelle Farris, Enid Inch (compiler), Douglas Jackson, Mrs. William McConnachie, Mrs. Arthur Perry, Mrs. John Perry, Mr. & Mrs. Hazen Pugsley, Mrs. Niven Thorne, Noel Thorne, Mrs. Andrew Turnbull, Carl Urquhart, Mrs. Augustus Walker.

Jemseg (JEM) 18th year

Clear. Most surface water frozen; snow cover extensive.

Mrs. Hannah Chase, Peter deMarsh, Mrs. Cecil Denton, Nev Garrity (Non-participating compiler).

Fredericton (FTON) 25th year

Clear. No precipitation, but ice crystals at 4.00 p.m. 22 cm snow cover. Most water surface frozen, open leads near islands.

John Bennett, Willard Benson, Dan Busby, Gerry Clayden, Susan Clayden, Jim Coles, Sarah Colwell, Malcolm Craig, Lucy Dyer, Charles Edgecombe, Eric Emery, Donald Fowler, Ross Fowler, Cathy Fynn, Neville Garrity, Franklin Gilmore, Heide Grein, Harold Hatheway, Leona Keenan, Donald Kimball, Darrell Kitchen, Nancy Lutes, David MacRae, Melvin Moore, Albert Morais, Susan Miller, Jean Noble, Jim Noble, Stephen Oliver, Marven Palmer, Robert Palmer, Peter Pearce (compiler), Gerald Redmond, Bear Rhinelander, Tony Rhinelander, Beverley Schneider, Marc Schneider, Debbie Sharpe, Al Sosiak, Rudy Stocck, Jane Tarn, Donald Townsend, Bill Varty, Dorothy Varty.

Woodstock (WSTK) 17th year

Clear, becoming overcast. 30-50 cm snow cover; very little open water.

Mrs. Blair Avery, Mrs. Clinton Clarke, Mrs. G.F. Clarke, Mark Connell, Mrs. Gerald Demmings, Mrs. Lucy Dyer, Mrs. Nelson Flewelling, Mrs. David Fry, Mrs. Marjorie Gray, Eric and Jane Hadley (compilers), Mrs. Keith

Helmuth, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Homer, Stephen Homer, Murray Hubbard, Lucy Jarvis and Carmalita Thompson, Donnie Kimball, Mrs. Charles MacDonald, Gwen MacKinnon, Mrs. Donald Nixon, Dr. & Mrs. G.A. Olmstead, Eric Randall, Mr. & Mrs. R.E. Sexsmith, Robert & Alma Speer, Mrs. Cecil Stewart, Mrs. Charles Webb, Helen Weld.

Perth-Andover (P-A) 12 year

Flurries and overcast; 18" snow cover; open water at rapids only.
Mrs. George Baird, F.W. Tribe, M. Watters (compiler), Mrs. Lee White.

Plaster Rock (PR) 9th year

Some sunshine and periods of snowfall, some blowing snow. Open water at Plaster Rock only.

Mrs. Daphne Anderson, Mrs. Sally Davidson, Miss Diane Rabatich, Mrs. Laverne Rabatich (compiler), Mrs. Emmie Reed, Mrs. Laura Reynolds, Mrs. Geneva Tomlinson.

Mt. Carleton Park (MtC) 4th year

Clear; fast running water open; 30 cm snow cover.
Ed Higgins, Erwin Landauer (compiler), Jeff Landauer, Rudi Richter.

Hartland (HART)

Clear with some cloud cover. Open water above Florenceville due to fluctuations at Beechwood Dam. Ground snow cover, 10-15 cm in wind-swept fields to 40-50 cm in woods.

Bud Belyea, Florence Britton, Jeff Horn, Lori-Ann Horn, Donald G. Kimball, Mr. & Mrs. C.A. Rigby, Michael D. Rigby (compiler).

Sussex (SUSS) 8th year

Clear; light snow cover; water frozen with open patches.
Tom Anderson (compiler), Eleanor Arnold, Gladys Ruitenburg, Margaret Broomhead, Harriet Folkins, Mrs. Tom Harrison, Erma Macaulay, Mrs. John Nicholson, Evelyn Robinson, Mika Ruitenburg, Gladys Steeves, Mrs. F.G. Thompson.

Abbreviations & footnotes to the table.

#	Highest count a provincial record
##	First time on New Brunswick CBCs
<u>6</u>	(Number underlined) high for the area
<u>1</u>	(Number boxed) first for the area
a	all by boat
b	1 party-hour & 8 party-km by boat
c	3 party-hours & 20 party-km by snowmobile
d	$\frac{1}{2}$ party-hour & 4 party-km by snowmobile
x	no substantiating details received
z	GNCh - 78 large alcids
	PENN - 1 Rough-legged Hawk (?), 1 small gull
	SJ - 4 small hawks, 3 woodpeckers, 1 shrike (?), 21 sparrows, 1 bird sp.
	FNP - 2 eider sp.
	R-A - 120 gulls (probably mostly Iceland)
	SACK - 20 finches, 1 sparrow
	MTON - 1 Mallard x Black Duck hybrid
	CT - 243 ducks, 30 gulls, 9 finches, 1 sparrow
	HTON - 1 <u>Buteo</u>
	FTON - 50 ducks, 1 falcon, 2 hawks, 1 woodpecker, 25 finches, 13 bird sp.
	WSTK - 1 hawk, 1 falcon (owl sp. during count period)
	HART - 1 finch sp.



1980-81 Christmas Counts

1980-81 Christmas Counts																								
	G M	G M	E- C	S- A	P- N	E- P	S- P	F- P	R- A	S- A	M- T	C- K	M- R	S- S	H- S	C- N	T- M	E- N	W- K	P- A	P- R	M- G	Total	N K T
Common Loon		3	9	*	1	4			2														17	
Red-throated Loon			5	3		3																	11	
Red-necked Grebe		11	21	*	1	9																	43	
Horned Grebe		13	33	65	1	12	1																127	
Great Cormorant		1																					1	
Great Blue Heron		11																					1	
Blk-cr. Night Heron ##		8						13		55			1										77	
Canada Goose		113																					113	
Brant #		27	*	*		4	2	1	34	8	1												79	
Mallard #		130	8	174	6	3	151	24	100	4	143	9	1			2							755	
Am. Black Duck																							1	
American Wigeon																							1	
Ring-necked Duck																							1	
Greater Scaup		8	64			1	1																74	
Common Goldeneye		95	134	24	3	33	103	17	6	2	2	22	6			1							535	
Barrow's Goldeneye		66	265	73		35	23																462	
Bufflehead		144	951	8	199	1																	1536	
Oldsquaw		3	127	263	90	8	58		2														1466	
Common Elder		5	183	59		1																	249	
White-winged Scoter			*	20																			21	
Surf Scoter		1	8	5																			14	
Black Scoter																							2	
Hooded Merganser																							331	
Common Merganser		129	41	*		7	7		7	20	52	43	8										227	
Red-breasted Merganser																							13	
Northern Goshawk																							1	

	G M Ch	G M	E- C A	S E N	P E N	L E P	S F N	R- A C	A T O	C T P	M- R P	S U S	H T O	C- E M	E T O	W S T	P A R	M P C	Total	H A R
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	1	1			4	1	1	2	1			2	1	*				17	*
Cooper's Hawk x																				*
Red-tailed Hawk	3	1	1	*		2	3	4	1	3			1	2	2	1			25	1
Rough-legged Hawk	3	6	3	2		2	1	2	*	4				*	1	*			27	
Bald Eagle	3	6	3	2		2	1	2	*					*	1	*			18	
Golden Eagle x																			1	
Peregrine Falcon																			1	
American Kestrel																			*	
Spruce Grouse																			*	
Ruffed Grouse	1	1	1			3	10	6	6	2	3		2	2	2				49	1
Ring-necked Pheasant #																9			172	1
Common Snipe																			*	
Purple Sandpiper	83	70	24			85		32											354	
Glaucous Gull		1				4		*	2	4									12	
Iceland Gull	4	2	12			65		66	69	121	2								332	
Great Black-backed Gull	21	174	596	273	36	115	95	3	154	268	278	31	26		2				1984	
Herring Gull	43	132	559	241	687	475	455	12	58	167	339	239	82	56	*				11,107	
Ring-billed Gull			52							5									57	
Black-headed Gull		1																	1	
Bonaparte's Gull			10																10	
Black-legged Kittiwake	197	2125	1944																4251	
Common Tern ##																			1	
Razorbill	206	2	28																246	
Thick-billed Murre	34	6	1																41	
Dovekie			9																9	
Black Guillemot	3	13	7																23	

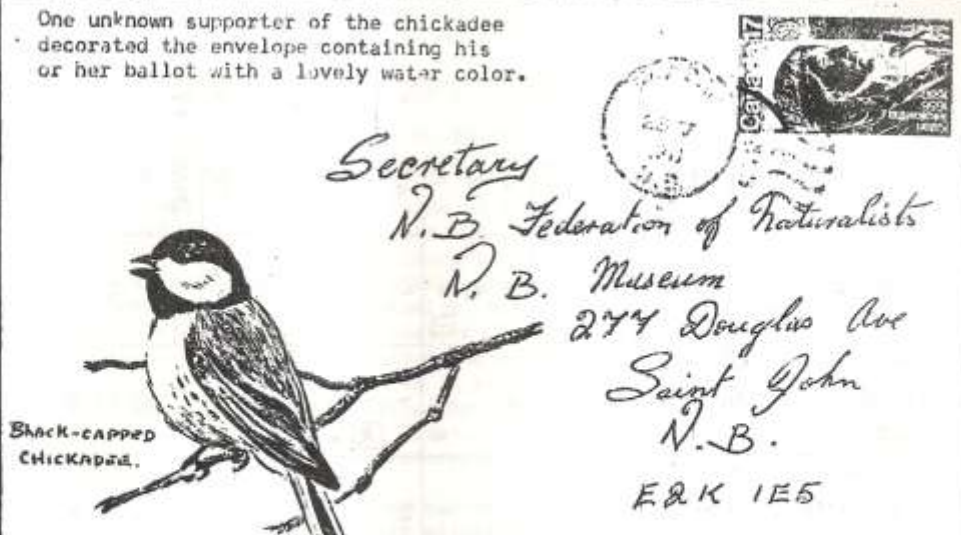
	G M C	G M C	E C A	S E N	P E P	L S N	R A C	M A C	M T C	K N P	M I R	S H T	C E M	T F O	W S T	R P A	M T C	Total	59
Rock Dove		41	18 30 50	4	230	1	259 583	136	103	500	97 7	5	16	1	1	1	46	3149	
Mourning Dove #		41	79 46 9	11	48	1	2	2	3	103	500	97 7	5	16	1	1	46	257	
Great Horned Owl #						*	*											6	
Snowy Owl																		1	
Barred Owl #		3																4	
Long-eared Owl		3																2	
Short-eared Owl																		*	
Saw-whet Owl																		1	
Common Flicker																		3	
Pileated Woodpecker																		9	
Hairy Woodpecker		1	3 13 1			*												160	
Downy Woodpecker		2	3 6 1			16 12	9 9 5	8	7	6 4 10	2 27 12	6 8 1	25					25	
Blk-bk. 3-toed Wdpr.		11				23 23	16 10 6	6	10	5 8 11	2 26 17	4 5 2	2					27	
Horned Lark																		52	
Gray Jay		1																68	
Blue Jay		47	23 40 7	*	93 23	56 150 97	92 13 126	66 60 102	10 227 140	58 37 8	1455							13	
Northern Raven #		98	53 12 3	6	27 61	50 128 227	100 9 68	32 114 68	12 107 55	47 12 3	1304							30	
American Crow		109	158 97 42	52 132 19	16 118 57	56 3 2	61 19 14	1 117 40	11 13		1127							51	
Black-capped Chickadee		144	71 58 43	2 183 91	87 251 68	122 5 74	71 145 142	38 342 136	24 123 55		2245							91	
Boreal Chickadee		11	19	*	3 24	15 36 2	48 2 6											10	
White-br. Nuthatch		2	8 7	1	7 1	3	*	3	1									37	
Red-breasted Nuthatch		1			2	*	1											11	
Brown Creeper																		1	
Carolina Wren		*	11				*		*									2	
Northern Mockingbird							*		*									1	
Brown Thrasher																		1	

1
800

[illegible]

	G	G	S	P	L	F	R	S	M	C	K	M	S	H	C	J	F	W	P	M	Total		
	M	M	E	E	S	N	A	A	A	T	N	R	S	T	N	M	T	L	A	E	A		
	Ch	Ch	C	C	J	P	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		
American Robin	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	2	7	1	1	3	1	34	9	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	6			1	15	30	8	18	10	26	1	7	4	4	7	7				150		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet x														*							*		
Bohemian Waxwing #	3	1	*	*	26		12	*	44			22		2	*	253	48		13		498	43	
Northern Shrike	227	148	54	35	1	1	1	2	1	1	1			1		1	1				14		
European Starling					48	35	11	176	422	358	150	*	147	110	115	56	1	324	40	60	17	36	
Yellow-rumped Warbler											15					*	*				15		
Pine Warbler	11									3											4		
House Sparrow	53	34	57	6	413	15	214	659	241	279	63	594	185	197	110	48	642	183	60	307	4436	30	
Red-winged Blackbird	5		2	2	7	2	6	2	2	3			2	2			3		2		61		
Rusty Blackbird #	1		14		1	1													4		21		
Common Grackle	27		8	8	1	3	4	8			1		3	1		2	1		11	4	72		
Brown-headed Cowbird	26	28	28	35	164	11	1	17	14	5			67	67			1			1	490	1	
Northern Cardinal #	3		*		6												1			1	10		
Dickcissel					*																*		
Evening Grosbeak	59	1	46	*	120	30	5	54	211	2	*	78	47	24	64	*	288	137	19	31	1221	84	
Purple Finch			*		5				3				6	*	*		1		68		83		
Pine Grosbeak	43	9	3		73	32	64	43	9	76	14	18	17	92	32	3	122	23	8	17	739	10	
Common Redpoll	9	121	*		2	3	131	211	171	60	178	38	74	41	140	30	446	64	250	11	2010	67	
Hoary Redpoll ##																	3				*		
Pine Siskin #	61	51	*		9	30	35	22	37							2	177		19		454	2	
American Goldfinch	15	7	31	2	80	2	14	17	13				6	41		*	40		3		276		
Red Crossbill	13				8	3															24		
White-winged Crossbill					13		7														22	4	
Rufous-sided Towhee	11		1		2																6		
Northern Junco	44	27	24	4	2	133	23	55	58	23	22	16	4	24	56	8	3	23	23	2	5	584	2

SELECTED NOTES FROM THE PROVINCIAL BIRD CAMPAIGN:



With my vote for the chick-a-dee, I'm enclosing a little poem I wrote:

CHICK- A- DEE- DEE- DEE

Is there anything so active
As a cheerful chick-a-dee?
From dawn to dusk throughout the year
He's entertaining me.

When winter winds are gusty,
He has himself a spree,
Bobbing up and down for fun
In our old willow tree.

Moving quicker than a squirrel,
Keeping busy as a bee,
He's locked out all unhappiness
And thrown away the key!

- by Laverne Rabatich

and from Sylvia Hamm:

"I see the chickadee as a tiny bundle of energy and cheer, a symbol of faith and hope. That is something we in N.B. need so much of in this troubled time. He is neither aggressive nor cowardly. No matter how cold or dreary the day, he can bring a smile with his happy song and determination to exist in spite of the odds.

He is friendly and can even be encouraged to feed while sitting on a human hand. I know because I have had this lovely experience. In fact, I have had one wait patiently on my palm while I open a sunflower seed with my teeth and then pass it to him.

The black-capped chickadee is an optimistic example for us all."

WILD PLANTS OF THE UPPER ST. JOHN RIVER

George M. Stirrett

Along both banks and on the islands of the Upper St. John River between the confluence of the St. John and St. Francis Rivers eastward to about Edmundston and Madawaska, there is a unique assemblage of rare and interesting wild plants which should be afforded international recognition and protection. In New Brunswick, the area lies in Madawaska County, while in Maine it is in Aroostook County. Here, the international boundary between Canada and the United States follows the middle line of the river. A similar group of plants is not found in Maine, except for a short distance up the St. John River to about Dickey. Nor can one be found elsewhere in New Brunswick. Fortunately, the best and most interesting area for the plants is the international section of the river as defined above.

Among the wild plants found here several are extremely rare, others are usually found in a more northern situation and are growing at the southern limit of growth, others still are found over a larger area in both Maine and New Brunswick but still add greatly to the uniqueness of this part of the St. John River valley.

The presence of this assemblage of rare and unique plants has been known since the Maine botanist, George Goodale, explored the area and collected plants there in 1861. The New Brunswick botanist, George U. Hay of Saint John, visited the area in 1879 and later wrote about the plants in his paper on "The Botany of the Upper St. John River," in the Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick 1883.

Because the plant assemblage is so important and very unusual we should record the names of some of the more outstanding plants of the area. Both the scientific name and the common one are given. The scientific name is essential so that botanists and others from anywhere in the world will understand and know exactly what plant we are discussing: 1) Pedicularis furbishiae, Furbish's lousewort. This plant, as we all now know, has been declared an endangered species in both United States and Canada and in New Brunswick. Unfortunately, the lousewort occurs only on the American side of the river in the area under discussion. 2) Carex josselynii, Josselyn's Sedge. This plant is known only from this area. It grows nowhere else in the world. It is more rare even than Furbish's lousewort. It has not been found on the American side in recent years. Fortunately, Hal Hinde found specimens on the Canadian side in 1979. 3) Astragalus blakei, Blake's milk vetch. This is a very rare plant that has not been collected since 1939. Further search may find it again. 4) Astragalus alpinus var. brunetianus, Alpine milk vetch. A rare northern plant frequently found in the area. 5) Tanacetum huronense var. johannense, Huron tansy. 6) Castilleja septentrionalis, Northern painted cup. 7) Anemone multifida, cut-leaved anemone. 8) Oxytropis johannensis, Field oxytropis. 9) Primula misstassinica, Canadian primrose. 10) Juncus alpinus, Alpine rush. 11) Hedysarum alpinum, sweet broom. 12) Parnassia glauca, Blue-green grass - of - Parnassus. 13) Tofieldia glutinosa, False asphodel. 14) Lobelia kalmii, Brook lobelia. 15) Arnica mollis, Hairy arnica. 16) Allium schoenoprasum, Wild chives.

Numbers six to sixteen are all northern plants and are rare and of sporadic distribution in our area.

Now that we know about this important plant assemblage, we must take steps to preserve it and the habitat of each individual plant it contains. In doing this, we will be at the same time keeping the St. John River valley in such a beautiful and natural state that it can always be called the "Rhine of North America."

There are several possible ways in which the wild plants and the river valley can be preserved. The one that appeals to me is to create an International Wildflower Park.

It is known that the New Brunswick government authorities are willing and anxious to make protective reserves of various kinds. They need help and guidance in identifying the most significant areas of our natural heritage. The unique assemblage of rare and interesting wild plants of the Upper St. John River valley should certainly be a candidate for inclusion into some adequate protective preserve.

(Reprinted, with permission, from the author's column "Notes on Natural History, No. 97, April 9, 1981, in The Cataract Weekly.)

BIRDATHON

Thanks to the enthusiastic birders among us and their many supporters, the Saint John Naturalists' Club's first birdathon was an unqualified success! In spite of a thoroughly miserable, foggy wet weekend (May 30-31), 15 birders identified 137 species of birds. Top honours went to Jim Wilson who, birding from 7:30 a.m. Saturday through 7:30 a.m. Sunday, beginning in St. Andrews, doing the coast to Saint John, listening for owls at night and then being out at 5 a.m. in the Bloomfield area, counted an incredible 110 species! Not many of us can compete in that league, and best birder in the minors, arbitrarily defined as the person who came closest to 40 species, was Ruth Kemp with 40. Congratulations to you both!

On the monetary side of things, we raised over \$2000 in contributions from sponsors and straight donations. Cecil Johnston was top fund raiser, singlehandedly (well, with a little help from his sponsors) bringing in over \$700. Congratulations from the bottom of our money-hungry little hearts to you, too, Cecil! The funds are to be turned over to the New Brunswick Museum's Natural Science Department for the establishment of a slide library of the flora and fauna of New Brunswick.

(by Gayl Hipperson, from Saint John Naturalists' Club Bulletin, June 1981.)





MARITIMES SHOREBIRD SURVEYS

Spring counts are being organized as part of the Maritime Shorebird Survey this year. Fall counts have been made since 1974. If you have opportunity for a few visits to an area frequented by shorebirds in either spring or fall migration, your assistance would be appreciated by the Canadian Wildlife Service. Participants should try to make counts about once every ten days between late April and early June or once every two weeks from mid July to late October, but lesser efforts are also useful.

The area chosen need not be a coastal one; certain shorebirds are quite common inland and coverage there may shed light on aspects of migration missed by coastal observers. To obtain forms and further information write David Christie, R.R.#2, Albert, N.B. EOA 1A0 or Guy Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 1725 Woodward Drive, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0E7.

Red Knot Project:

To determine migration patterns, Red Knots in Argentina are being marked with a bright yellow-orange dye and coloured leg bands or flags. Please keep a special watch for Knots this year and report the location and date of each sighting along with the number of birds in red plumage, the number in grey plumage and the number, if any (Report "Zero" if you're sure there are none), of colour-marked birds and the colours and locations of bands (e.g. left leg: yellow over metal on tarsus, none above tarsus; right leg: unknown).

GRAY TREEFROG

AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

IN NEW BRUNSWICK



Mary Majka

Soon a small frog will be calling in an abandoned gravel pit on the outskirts of Fredericton. The problem is that this area is the only place in New Brunswick where this particular frog is present.

The Gray Treefrog Hyla versicolor, bigger than a Spring Peeper, has a mottled gray back and a whitish belly. His large eyes and big, smiling mouth make him look almost handsome. The long toes are equipped with suction cups to help the frog cling to branches where it spends most of its time hunting for insects. The under surface of the hind legs is a bright yellow orange.

There is a theory that the Gray Treefrog is a remnant of a much larger population that once existed in our province. Cooler temperatures now prevent those amphibians from inhabiting all but the warmest of our area. Fredericton, with its hot summer, is a suitable place. Although scientists do not rule out the possibility that Hyla versicolor might be found in a few other places in this province, to date all attempts at finding such a place have failed.

The small isolated population, separated by about 100 km from its brothers in Maine, presents a problem in finding the non-calling females and the egg-laying areas. This species has been known to exist in the Fredericton area since the turn of the century.

The isolated population is of special interest to scientists (as indeed any isolated population is). It may develop its own characteristics. Francis Cook, herpetologist at the National Museum, stated that the colony should be protected and D. Stewart included the New Brunswick population of Hyla versicolor in his book on Canadian endangered species.

The abandoned gravel pit recently was proposed as a site for the Fredericton garbage dump. Fortunately an alternate location was chosen. The fact remains that the existence of this amphibian in New Brunswick is in jeopardy, and steps must be taken to secure its protection.

The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists has sent letters to the Minister of Natural Resources and to the City Council of Fredericton

regarding the Gray Treefrog. The Minister's reply was encouraging; the matter was referred to the Environmental Council which will study the problem this spring possibly even getting out to hear and hopefully see the Treefrog in the field. It is hoped that in the future a small ecological reserve will be created to ensure the survival of this frog. Perhaps too a study will be undertaken to learn more precisely what habitats are important for it.

ENDANGERED PLANTS AND ANIMALS

David Christie

"Our rare and endangered plants and animals, what hope for their survival?" was the subject of a joint conference of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick and the N.B. Federation of Naturalists, held in Fredericton October 3.

Overharvesting, habitat destruction, environmental contaminants and/or competition with more adaptable species were noted as the causes of decline of various species. Currently, five animals (cougar, Canada lynx, bald eagle, osprey, peregrine falcon) and one plant (Furbish's lousewort) are designated as endangered under the protection of New Brunswick's Endangered Species Act.

Conference speakers suggested that the Osprey now could safely be removed from the endangered list but that a few other animals and several plants seem sufficiently threatened to deserve that status. Our fragmentary knowledge of the abundance and distribution of certain species, particularly the smaller plants and the invertebrates, was noted by both Hal Hinds of UNB and David Christie of the N.B. Museum, speaking, respectively, on plants and on animals. Donald McAlpine of the museum talked about the Gray Treefrog, which, in New Brunswick is known only in the Fredericton area where its continued existence is threatened by development. It is one of numerous species rare here but quite common elsewhere in eastern North America and which present a problem in determining how significant are their isolated populations in this province.

Lee Sochasky of the International Atlantic Salmon Foundation asserted that current salmon management concentrates too much on maximizing numbers caught annually--"how many can we harvest and still have fish left to reproduce"--and that certain stocks are becoming rare. We should instead emphasize programs of improving and increasing habitat in our rivers and then, considering each stock separately, base harvests on how many should be left to make optimum use of the available habitat. To achieve such management requires abandonment of tradition and establishment of a goal acceptable to all interests--native people, anglers, etc.--not an easy task but well worth pursuing.

Seven ecological reserves have been established in the province. Their role in protecting rare species was discussed by John Henderson, chairman of the Environmental Council of N.B. The reserves can provide protection for a critical habitat but they are subject to environmental influences from outside the boundaries and mobile organisms may spend

only part of their life cycle within the area. Existing reserves were established to preserve good examples of habitats but one is in the selection process to include a colony of the endangered plant Furbish's lousewort.

New Brunswick's Endangered Species Act was compared to that of Ontario and some other jurisdictions by UNB's Hajo Versteeg who found ours was weak in omitting protection for the habitat of endangered animals and not providing provision for designation of threatened species, ones that are likely to become endangered if factors causing them to be vulnerable are not soon reversed. He also found that the penalties provided by the act while substantial for an individual would be little deterrent for a corporation which found its programs in conflict with the survival of an endangered species.

Key speaker of the conference was Hon. J.W. Bird, Minister of Natural Resources. His department is prepared to provide protection for endangered species through the Endangered Species Act and Ecological Reserves Act but its principal goal is preventive management, to avoid species becoming so rare that they are endangered. Mr. Bird cited the department's record in managing the deer herd, now at high levels, and its program to stop the decline of salmon.

During questioning the minister indicated his willingness to make changes in the list of endangered species and invited input from conference participants and other experts. Following the meeting, a committee was formed to take up the minister's invitation and establish an avenue of communication with the department. Information is now being gathered to support the removal of the Osprey from the list of endangered species, and addition of Maritime Ringlet, a butterfly known only from the Bathurst area. Members wishing to contribute further ideas should contact the committee on preservation of endangered species and habitats, c/o Mary Majka, RR#2, Albert, N.B.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK NATURALIST

Dear members:

We regret that our publication schedule got completely "off the track". The postal strike prevented the June issue from being sent to you. Then, Barry King found that other demands on his time were too heavy for him to continue as editor. So we have had to reorganize and, with a group like ours, composed of very busy volunteers communicating long distance, it's not always easy to get things working smoothly. Next number we will be starting with a new, expanded editorial committee and will endeavour to produce quality material on a regular schedule.

This issue, put together in stages, combines portions of the June issue, as originally printed, with information from summer and fall. We hope that even late news can be interesting and that you will enjoy it never-the-less. Our apologies for the delay.

Cheers,

Mary Majka

NATURE NEWS

David Christie

The most interesting natural history outing in recent months was Hal Hinds' and Erwin Landauer's canoe trip down the Restigouche, retracing the 1896 journey of G.U. Hay and W.F. Ganong (Hay's report on the flora is in Bull. Nat. Hist. Soc. N.B. No. XIV, pp 12-35). Hal and Erwin travelled about a month earlier (June 30-July 4) in the season to have better water conditions and their purpose was to search for many of the rare plants found along the Restigouche in 1896. Among the species which are hardly known elsewhere in New Brunswick, if at all, are such plants as Northern Painted Cup Castilleja septentrionalis, the insectivorous Butterwort Pinguicula vulgaris, and Robert's Oak Fern Dryopteris robertiana. Hal and Erwin found those and more, upon which they will likely report at some time in the future.

Erwin also kept a checklist of the birds they saw each day, 56 to 65 species daily for a total of 95. The typical riverside birds seen on four or five days were: Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Spotted Sandpiper, Hummingbird, Kingfisher, Flicker, Sapsucker, Kingbird, Least Flycatcher, Pewee, Tree, Bank and Barn Swallows, Blue Jay, Raven, Black-capped and Boreal Chickadees, Winter Wren, Robin, Wood and Swainson's Thrushes, Veery, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Solitary and Red-eyed Vireos, Black-and-White, Nashville, Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Cape May, Yellow-rumped, Mourning and Canada Warblers, Ovenbird, N. Waterthrush, Redstart, Red-winged Blackbird, Grackle, Rose-breasted and Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Goldfinch, Junco, White-throated, Fox and Song Sparrows.

On July 7, volunteers and staff from the New Brunswick Museum's herbarium made an outing to the "salt pond" on Jim and Win Thompson's farm at Plumvesseop, just east of Sussex, to examine the salt-resistant plants growing there. In 1897, W.F. Ganong collected a dozen species of seashore plants at those salt springs (Bull. Nat. Hist. Soc. N.B. No. XVI, pp 50-51). I haven't compared the plants we found with those on Ganong's list, but Sapphire or Glasswort Salicornia europaea is still the most abundant species. It and other seaside plants have survived in the salty soil there since a post-glacial time when the sea extended into the Kennebecasis valley. As the land slowly rose, seashore plants disappeared except in those few places where there are natural salt springs.

In the last issue I mentioned the early flowers of Skunk Cabbage at Hammond River on March 12. Coltsfoot blossoms must have appeared soon after that in favoured locations at Saint John but I didn't learn of them. In Albert County, Coltsfoot was beginning to bloom March 30 on a south facing bank at Hopewell Hill. Soon after the snow disappeared at Mary's Point Bird's eye Speedwell Veronica persica brightened our vegetable garden with its tiny, brilliant blue flowers April 5, the same day that Brian Dalsell observed about a dozen Dandelions blooming along a south-facing wall in Moncton. Brian reported a number of other early flowers, including three of the violets: several Northern Blue Violets at Woodward's Cove May 1, lots of Northern White Violet at Moncton May 5, and two flowers of Marsh Blue Violet there May 14.

Mammals

Last issue, mention was made of a Chipsunk active in mid February. A more normal date for them to be out of their hibernation quarters was March 31 when Léo Martin saw one at Shédiac, the earliest he had ever seen.

One or more albino Gray Squirrels are surviving in Fredericton. Rudy Stocak saw a white squirrel with pink eyes at the Ranger School September 16 and one downtown about a mile away, October 11.

Mary Majka enjoyed an encounter with a Red Fox at Mary's Point August 1. While driving a couple of hours after dark, she stopped to watch the young fox at the edge of the road when the fearless animal walked up and began catching moths attracted by the car's headlights.

Birds

Main avian highlights of recent months were several House Finches, a Willow Flycatcher, a Black Vulture and a White Pelican.

The House Finch is a western species of which some illegally kept individuals were released in the New York City area in the 1940's. The finches slowly established themselves in the suburbs there and then began to spread to the north, south and west. The first House Finch in New Brunswick was reported in 1978 and there were three reports in 1980.

Last summer a male began to visit Tom Page's bird feeder in Saint John about June 18 and was joined by another on June 24. There were four males by July 2 and possibly a couple of females on July 15 but that was not confirmed. The males continued to enjoy the sunflower seeds until the feeder was taken down about the end of July and one reappeared in mid November. Since the birds were so regular several other observers were able to add them to their life list. It seems possible that House Finches may have bred in Saint John. Others were reported to be in Milledgeville but I don't have the details. There were, however, a male singing in Riverview July 21 (D.C. & Majkas) and one at Moncton August 31 (Dalzell).

Willow Flycatcher may be a strange name to many readers. If so, check your bird guide for Traill's Flycatcher and make a note that it is now recognized as two species. Birds with the "wee-be-o" song are called Alder Flycatcher Empidonax alnorum and the "fitz-bew" birds are Willow Flycatcher E. traillii. Currently the Willow Flycatcher is expanding its distribution northeastwardly into the main range of the Alder Flycatcher. I noticed a Willow Flycatcher singing at Mary's Point July 2. The first reported in New Brunswick, it was heard and seen by half a dozen observers that day. It may have remained in the area longer but no one could be sure as a bird suspected to be the Willow was never heard singing.

The Black Vulture was also discovered on July 2, at nearby New Horton Marsh (Stuart Tingley, Peter Barkhouse, Kevin Cash). It settled down near a pig farm on the Midway Road through July 8 and was seen by several people, including Canada's top lister, Norman Chesterfield, who was able to claim the vulture as his 472nd Canadian bird. Unfortunately, not everyone who searched was as fortunate. A Black Vulture was also seen near Shédiac in late June (Brian Dalzell).

New Brunswick's first White Pelican in many years was found August 5 at Mal Baie Nord on Miscou Island by Peter Hicklin and seen by several other people until at least August 14 (Jean-Paul Lebel). Perhaps it was the same one that turned up near Wallace, N.S. later in the month.

There have been scattered reports of vagrant herons and allies: an adult Little Blue Heron at Fox Creek, Westmorland County, in mid August (Louis Lapierre); a Cattle Egret at Gagetown, June 21 (John R. Fraser), another at Castalia about September 21 (Reg Balch) and one near Buctouche for several weeks up to at least November 11 (Léopold Allain, vide Tingley); a Great Egret at Mary's Point July 16 (Mary Majka, Philip Anson et al.), October 18 and 21 (D.C. et al.) and about 9 km away at Hamilton Creek October 24 (Lu Colpitts); a Snowy Egret at Saint John West August 20 (Cecil Johnston); a Glossy Ibis at Chance Harbour for about a week from April 12 (Betty and Tom McAlpine et al.), one at Hammond River April 12 (Jim Wilson), one at Saint John April 27 (Mike Bamford) and two at Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John West, May 12-17 (Johnston). Our rarest nesting heron, the Least Bittern, was seen and/or heard at Red Head Marsh July 6 (Ron Weir) and the Germantown impoundments of Shepody National Wildlife Area from June 25 to July 25 (Barkhouse et al.).

A bit of confusion surrounded Snow Goose reports in the Darlings Lake area, Kings Co., because flying domestic geese sometimes joined Canada Geese feeding in the marsh there. There also was a large white goose of apparently domestic origin, with Canadas, at Harvey, Albert Co., April 11 (DC et al.) White Snow Geese reported were 1 at Gagetown Mar. 13 (Enid Inch), 4 at Hammond River Mar. 16 (John Darling), 1 there Mar. 20 (Mrs John Mills), 2 at Darlings Lake Mar. 21 (Wilson) and 1 at Gondola Point (Kim Mann) and 3 at Black River, St. John Co., (George McLeod) on April 9. There were individuals of the dark colour form (formerly called Blue Goose) at Saints Rest Apr. 20 (Johnston) and Browns Flat Oct. 10 (Renie Gorham).

Locations along the St. John River such as Westfield, Oak Point and Jemseg are well known for their spring concentrations of ducks. Further upstream numbers are smaller. One of the best locations in Carleton County is apparently at Stickney. Donnie Kimball reports that a good variety of species can be seen there over a period of time. On April 5 two Surf Scoters, a Barrow's Goldeneye and 52 Common Goldeneyes were there (Erwin Landauer). A late Shoveler was at Saints Rest November 15 (Johnston). On July 1 a male Ruddy Duck was at Germantown (Barkhouse) in habitat suitable for breeding.

Hawk migration was heavy along the Bay of Fundy on April 30. At Bancroft Point Brian Dalzell counted 28 per hour moving north along the shore of Grand Manan Island while at Mary's Point I saw 25 per hour. Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned Hawks were numerous at both places while Ospreys were common only at Mary's Point, Kestrels and Merlins at Bancroft Point.

There were two reports of the rare Cooper's Hawk, an adult on the headwaters of the Little Salmon River May 20 (Dalzell) and one at Cape Enrage August 24 (Ken Meyer & Frances Lane). Red-shouldered Hawks reported, all adults, were at Mary's Point April 10 (Mary Majka & D.C.), Kouchibouguac National Park in August (Tingley) and Hampton August 15 (Bruce Bosence). Occasionally a wintering Rough-legged Hawk lingers in the Maritimes but it was exceptional to have at least 3 spending last summer on the Shepody dykelands between Albert and Harvey (various observers). Perhaps it was because of the current large population of meadow voles in Albert County.

It has been a good year for Gyrfalcons. In addition to those mentioned in the March issue, one was at Upper Sackville March 10 (Tingley), two (intermediate plumage) at Mary's Point March 23 (D.C. & Mary Majka), a white one at Saint John March 28 & 31 (Gayl Hipperson, Johnston) and an unusual summer bird, a gray one, at Pointe du Chene June 1 (Dalsell). In the fall, a dark brown Gyrfalcons was just outside the province, in Nova Scotia at the mouth of the Missaguash River November 25 (Tingley). Peregrine Falcon migrants seem to be increasing slowly. Spring birds were at Hopewell Hill (Mike Majka), Mary's Point (D.C.), Wood Point, Westmorland County (Tingley) and Gondola Point (Howard & Kim Mann). In fall, Mary Majka was privileged to see four herself, at Dark Harbour and the Whistle on Grand Manan Island and at New Horton and Gowland Mountain in Albert County.

These days Spruce Grouse are scarce in southern N.B. so Ron Weir was fortunate to see a female with four young near Kingston July 2. A Yellow Rail, back in the Midgie area in late May and early June was much sought by participants at the Wilson Ornithological Society meeting in Sackville, not always successfully (Tingley). A Common Gallinule brood at Germantown about the first week of August (Barkhouse) was, I believe, the first definite record of breeding in New Brunswick. Nesting has been suspected at Red Head Marsh a number of times since 1960.

Another interesting find by Peter Barkhouse was a brood of Piping Plovers at Waterside marsh about the first of July, apparently the first breeding record for the Bay of Fundy shore. The more usual Semipalmated Plovers are still breeding there and last summer were found also at Goose Creek, St. John County (4 young, Dalsell). Besides birds at the Salisbury breeding colony, single Upland Sandpipers were reported at Wood Point in late May (Hicklin), Ste. Marie in June (Donald Cormier) and Hopewell Hill about the end of June (Tingley).

The throngs of shorebirds that pass through the Maritimes each fall attract much attention from bird watchers, even more so now because there are colour-marked birds to watch for. For the last few years we've had birds with yellow to orange underparts marked by the Canadian Wildlife Service on the southern shore of James Bay. 1981 brought us also bright pink birds from eastern Maine and red, blue, green and lime green birds from Grande Anse on Shepody Bay. If you saw any of those birds be sure to report your sightings to the Canadian Wildlife Service's Bird-banding Office, Ottawa. The objectives of these marking studies are to determine how long individual birds remain in a given feeding area and what are their principal migration routes and stopping places.

The southward migration begins early. Already on July 6 450 Short-billed Dowitchers, 10 Lesser and 2 Greater Yellowlegs, 100 Least Sandpipers and a Semipalmated Plover were at Sainte Rest (Weir). The peak of Semipalmated Sandpipers on Mary's Point Beach was 120,000 birds July 31 (D.C.). As well as the coloured shore birds previously mentioned a fair number of blackened birds were seen in southeastern New Brunswick, probably victims of a small oil spill near Amherst, N.S.

The rare shorebirds reported were a Hair's Sandpiper at Mary's Point September 25 (D.C.), a Curlew Sandpiper at Wood Point May 25 or 26 (Tingley) and one at Mary's Point July 26 (several observers), single Western Sandpipers at Mary's Point August 16, September 9-10 and 25 (D.C. at al) and at Castalia September 27 (D.C.), a Long-billed Dowitcher (with Short-billed) at Sainte

Rest September 18 (Johnston), a Stilt Sandpiper at Mary's Point July 24 (Mary Majka) and another August 25 (D.C.), a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Saints Rest August 28 (Helen & Spencer Inches), a Marbled Godwit at Mary's Point September 11 and October 16-23 (D.C. & Majkas), a Ruff at Campobello Island September 21 (Norman Famous) and a number of Wilson's Phalaropes, one at Cape Jourimain May 10 (Tingley & Bruce Mactavish), one at Saints Rest May 18 (Johnston), 2 pairs at Paunchy Pond, Tintamarre National Wildlife Area in late May (Tingley), 1 at Miscou Island August 13 (Lebel) and 2 to 1 at Waterside September 8-16 (Tingley et al).

The food resources of Head Harbour Passage attract large numbers of gulls in late summer and fall. A Saint John Naturalists Club field trip reported thousands of Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls and a Black-headed Gull there October 17 while on the 23rd Norm Famous estimated 10,000 Herring, 2000 Great Black-backed, 1500 Ring-billed, 3000 Bonaparte's and 45,000 Kittiwakes. In late August he had seen up to 15,000 Bonaparte's. Kittiwake numbers were larger than usual during the fall for, in addition to the record count in Head Harbour Passage, there apparently were about 100,000 in the Grand Manan Channel in mid November (fide Famous).

Rarer gulls and terns included a second year Laughing Gull at Miscou Harbour August 8 (Mike Majka et al--his 300th N.B. species), 2 adult Black-headed Gulls at Kouchibouguac Park in August (Tingley), 5 Caspian Terns at Point Lepreau April 25 (observer?) and one at Mary's Point April 30 (D.C.).

A remarkable number of Barn Swallows were seen in November, 2 at Jolicure Nov. 4 (Tingley), 1 at Glenwood Nov. 8 (Charles Belyea), 1 at Browns Flat Nov. 9 (Stan & Renie Gorham), from 14 to 7 at Mary's Point and Harvey Nov. 7-28 (Mike Majka et al.), from 4 to 1 at Waterside Nov. 12-19 (Rob Walker et al), about 15 at Bayfield in mid November (fide Tingley) and 1 at Bancroft Point Nov. 22 (Dalsell). Having seen none since their normal departure in mid September, I was of the opinion that some weather system had carried these swallows to the Maritimes in early November. However, Brian Dalsell did see some on the Harvey marsh during October, 14 on the 1st and 21 on the 26th. Also late were a Cliff Swallow at Albert Oct. 1 (Dalsell) another at Hammond River Nov. 1 (Wilson) and a Common Nighthawk at St. Andrews Oct. 8 (Dalsell).

Mockingbirds attracted much attention in the Saint John area during the summer with reports by several observers at Rockwood Park, Island View Heights, Champlain Heights, Westmoreland Heights and in Rothesay. On the other hand, last winter's Cardinals were little, if at all, noticed during the summer. They began to appear at feeders again in late fall, such as a male at Milledgeville October 29 (Mrs. Harrington), 1 at Fredericton November 8 (Stocek) and 1 at Rothesay in early November (Alice Strover).

Eastern Bluebirds remain very rare. Spring migrants were seen at Harvey, Salem (Mary Majka & D.C.) and New Horton (George Sinclair) in Albert County. A pair in Alma May 24 (Henrik Deichmann et al) apparently settled down to nest as a family group was there late in July (Gordon Pringle). In fall migration were at Model Farm, Kings County, October 13 (Wilson).

We learned a bit more about the distribution of Warbling Vireos this summer. Stuart Tingley observed a pair with a nest at St. Leonard in June and Erwin Landauer and Hal Hinds found one on the lower Restigouche between McAndrews Island and Matapédia July 4. Previous records, aside from one at Newcastle have been mostly Fredericton and Moncton south.

A selection of reports of some of the rarer songbirds follows:
 a Western Kingbird at Albert Sept. 16 (Tingley) and 1 at St. Andrews Oct. 31-
 Nov. 1 (Daryl Linton), a very late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher "catching moths"
 at Sackville Nov. 22 (Bob Lambertson), a Loggerhead Shrike at Macs Bay Apr.
 12 (Johnston et al.), a singing male Pine Warbler at Oak Bay Provincial
 Park June 19 (Weir), another at Jolicore July 29 and a two at White Head
 Aug. 15 (Dalsell), a Prairie Warbler immature at Hopewell Hill Oct. 1 (Dalsell),
 a Yellow-breasted Chat at Great Pond, G.M., Sept. 27 (DG), 2 Indigo Buntings
 at Kennebecasis Park May 14 (Frances Creelman), 1 at Westfield May 16 (Kit
 Graham), 1 at Cape Enrage June 7 (W.O.S. field trip), 1 at Gondola Point
 June 9 (Janet Boyle) and 2 at Dark Harbour Sept. 27 (Mary Majka), a Dickcissel
 at Albert Aug. 20 (DG) and 1 at Saint John Nov. 4 (David Smith), and a male
Rufous-sided Towhee at Mary's Point Apr. 11-18 (Majkas et al.)

Finally, a selection of spring arrivals some of them particularly early:
 a Double-crested Cormorant at Saint John March 29 (Hipperson); single Great
Blue Heron at Mary's Point March 28 (D.C.), Red Head (Hipperson) and Waterside
 (Karen Townsend) March 30, and Nelson-Miramichi April 2 (Fred Lloyd) as
 well as 4 flying over Moncton March 31 (Ruth Rogers); 6 Black Ducks February 23
 and a Blue-winged Teal April 1 at Gagetown (Enid Inch); a N. Harrier (Marsh
 Hawk) at Cambridge March 3 (Mrs. Victor Robinson); a very early Osprey at
 Jemseg March 3 (Joyce & Niven Thorne) and another at Kouchibouguac Park
 March 29 (fide Albert Crossman); single Common Snipe at Hammond River April 5
 (Wilson), St-Maurice April 10 (Raymonde Savoie) and Moncton April 11 (Dalsell);
 a Greater Yellowlegs at Chance Harbour April 12 (Hipperson); an unusual
 spring Lesser Yellowlegs at Macs Bay April 25 (Wilson); 2 Mourning Doves
 (first since Christmas) at Alma March 16 (Doris Hatt); 5 Chimney Swifts at
 Moncton May 6 (Dalsell) and 1 at Norton May 7 (Jan Dexter); a Ruby-throated
Hummingbird at Saint John West May 9 (Molly Smith); 3 Flickers at Alma April 4
 (Deichmann); an M. Phoebe at Mouth of Keswick April 4 (Dan Breen et al);
 1 at Shediac April 9 (fide Léo Martin) and 1 at St-Maurice April 10 (Savoie);
 a Least Flycatcher at Browns Flat April 27 (S. Gorham); 10 Tree Swallows at
 Hampstead April 4 (Johnston); a Hermit Thrush at Saint John April 12 (Hipperson)
 and 1 at Moncton April 13 (Dalsell); a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Black's Harbour
 April 29 (Dalsell); 3 Cape May Warblers at Coverdale May 10 (Dalsell); a
Myrtle Warbler at Fundy National Park April 12 (Deichmann); a Black-throated
Green Warbler at Bancroft Point May 1 (Dalsell); a Chestnut-sided Warbler at
 Gagetown May 10 (Johnston); a Savannah Sparrow at Westfield April 5 (Evan
 Smith); and single Song Sparrows at Alma (Hatt) and Kennebecasis Park (Lorraine
 Shonaman) March 15 and Moncton March 17 (Dalsell)

Amphibians, Insects

The annual emergence of amphibians was earlier than usual in 1981.
 Unfortunately, I only have my own observations to quote. Driving from
 Moncton to Mary's Point on the mild, rainy late evening of April 9, Mary
 Majka and I saw many amphibians crossing the road between Hopewell Cape
 and Riverside, none between Moncton and the Cape. We saw probably between
 1000 and 2000 Spring Peepers on the road and at least 2 Spotted Salamanders.
 The next morning Wood Frogs were calling at Mary's Point and there were
 close to 20 egg masses in a small pond we checked. The first peeper was
 calling there April 13.

On a similar evening, April 29, we encountered hundreds of amphibians
 on the highway between Minto and Cumberland Bay. They were mostly Am. Toads,
 but there were also ranid frogs, likely Leopard Frogs, which we did not
 positively identify, and a lot of earthworms.

Many people commented on the abundance of butterflies during the summer, especially of Tiger Swallowtails and Red Admirals. At Saint John West Molly Smith had clouds of the admirals rising from the thyme planted on either side of the steps, every time she opened her back door. Species that hibernate as adults were on the wing early in spring, such as several Mourning Cloaks at Saint John Apr. 3 (Hipperson) and both it and Compton Tortoise Shell at Westfield the next day (Johnston).

Less pleasing were the swarms of Forest Tent Caterpillars which "infested" the Saint John valley from Fredericton to Grand Falls. Over large areas, their preferred food trees were stripped bare of leaves in June but leafed out again in July. When the larvae had finished eating, pupated and emerged as moths, people in many other parts of the province soon became aware of the current abundance of this insect. On July 7, "with hundreds of the drab brown moths clinging to windows and buildings or lying dead on the sidewalks" at Saint John, the museum was deluged with phone calls about the insect invasion (Hipperson). The following day a heavy thunder shower knocked thousands of them from trees to the sidewalks in Moncton (DC). It is time for the tent caterpillar population to collapse in the upper Saint John valley but these observations suggest that residents of more southern areas will soon become familiar with the sight of leafless poplars, willows and birches in mid summer.

Several Salt Marsh Coppers Epidemia dorcas dospassosi were flying at Mal Bay North on Miscou Island Aug. 8 (DC et al.). That butterfly was discovered at Bathurst in 1939 and until recently was known only from a 10 km stretch of salt marshes in that area. However, in 1979 Tony Thomas found it also at Hay Island and Wishart Point in Northumberland County, Village-des-Poirier on Caraquet Bay, and at St-Siméon and Penouille on the Gaspé Peninsula (Journal Lepidopterists' Society 34: 315; 1980). Naturalists should be on the watch for this rather purplish copper in salt marshes elsewhere in northeastern New Brunswick.



MAMMAL
PHOTOS
WANTED

The N.B. Museum will be publishing a new book on New Brunswick mammals by Tim Dilworth, Stan Gorham and myself. We hope to illustrate most species. If you have B&W or colour prints or transparencies that might be suitable, drop me a note and I will supply further information. David Christie, Natural Science Dept., New Brunswick Museum, 277 Douglas Ave., Saint John, N.B.

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NEW CLUBS FORM

The federation is pleased to have been contacted by two groups interested in forming new naturalists' clubs. Vincent Poirier, Lionel Girouard and other people interested in nature in the Minto -- Chipman area got together last spring to form the Grand Lake Naturalists' Society. They alternate meetings between the two towns and are looking forward to many interesting activities. Contact the club c/o Lionel Girouard, RR 1, Minto, N.B. B0E 1J0.

The other club, serving mainly the northwestern corner of Carleton County, is forming with its base in Florenceville, through the efforts of Rev. Ford Alward who recently moved to that area. Contact Ford Alward, P.O. Box 95, Florenceville, N.B. E0V 1K0.

In both instances Mary Majka went to introduce people to the activities of other clubs and the federation and advise the new organizations. The federation wishes both groups the best of luck and will shortly invite them to join the ranks of federated clubs with representation on the federation's board of directors.

In the past year the president has visited all the clubs but one to discuss federation programs and she also spoke to the Schoodic Chapter of the Maine Audubon Society at Calais. That group includes members from both sides of the border.

News of People

Former president Hank Deichmann who is currently Provincial Director for New Brunswick of the Canadian Nature Federation, moved from the province during the summer to take up duties as Resource Management Adviser at Terra Nova National Park in Newfoundland. Members will also miss Joanne Deichmann and her Barnacle Book Shop which had the best selection of nature and outdoor titles in New Brunswick. Replacing Hank as chief interpreter at Fundy Park is Rob Walker, who comes to us from Gros Morne Nat'l Park, Nfld.

Keep an eye on the horizon for very tall birders. Our former treasurer, Eric Tull, over 2 m tall, has moved eastward to Ottawa to become senior researcher with the Beaufort Sea Research Coalition, a group formed to represent conservation organizations during the environmental assessment of oil developments in the Beaufort Sea. Eric had been working as an environmental consultant at Edmonton, since he left New Brunswick seven years ago.

In October federal Environment Minister John Roberts presented the Heaslip Awards for environmental stewardship at a dinner in Fredericton during Environment Week. One of eight Canadians thus honoured was our president, Mary Majka, cited for two decades of accomplishment in environmental education. Another distinction she recently achieved was membership in the 300 Bird Club of New Brunswick, the informal group of birdwatchers who have observed 300 or more species of birds in this province.

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FREE PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Canadian Wildlife Service has a great wealth of information available free from their offices in Fredericton and Sackville on a variety of subjects. There is a series "Hinterlands Who's Who" and another on "Where we live". There are also check lists of birds from such places in N.B. as: Cape Jourimain, Machias Seal, Tintamarre. Recently one can also pick up leaflets on Endangered and Threatened Canadian Wildlife.

Write to: P.O. Box 1590, Sackville, N.B., E0A 3C0