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LE NATURALISTE DU N.-B.



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Cover Illustration

Barrow's Goldeneye.
Pen and ink drawing by
Don Kimball, Sackville, N.B.

Illustration de la couverture

Garrot de Barrow.
Dessin à la plume par
Don Kimball, Sackville, N.-B.

From the Editor

With Volume 13, Number 1, N. B. Naturalist enters its second year of joint NBFN - N. B. Museum sponsorship and, as the song goes, there've been some changes made.

In response to requests from francophone members, Peter Pearce has been appointed French Editor. Our policy is to print in the official language received, and Peter will be actively soliciting manuscripts from the French community. Meanwhile, let me do a bit of soliciting of my own, and remind you that articles en anglais would be nice to get too!

A new production arrangement with the Museum has lessened the institution's financial contribution to the magazine. Printing costs are now borne entirely by the Federation, with a commitment from the Museum to pre-purchase at cost 350 copies of each issue for distribution to its membership. The Museum continues to significantly support N.B. Naturalist by providing typing and editorial services.

The success of this arrangement is dependent upon the economics we can make in printing, and upon the response to our efforts to increase membership. David Christie has made a personal pledge to more than double Federation strength. Our target is 400 members - that's every one of you renewing your membership, plus getting a friend-and-a-bit each to sign up.

With four solid issues in '83 behind us, let's pull together to meet the challenge of successfully producing N.B. Naturalist through '84. And '85. And '86 ...

1983 BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

Limited copies of N.B. Naturalist Volume 12, Numbers 2, 3, and 4 are available for the newsstand plus mailing price of \$1.50 each.

Order through Dave Smith, NBFN Treasurer,
149 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B. E2K 1E5

From the President

Dear Friends:

The appointment of the Black-capped Chickadee as our provincial bird came none too soon as we are now celebrating the Bicentennial of New Brunswick. The question arises, how should we, as a federation, celebrate that event? A few projects are already on the drawing board but I would like you to think about it and send me your suggestions.

Obviously the venture should have something to do with our environment, with emphasis on nature. Perhaps we can do something that would generate interest in our organization and win us new members. (We are always looking for new people!)

Or perhaps it should be a project that would benefit young people, children, or the handicapped. Perhaps we should think in terms of the future. I have a pet project that I think would last for many years and make our province more beautiful. How about getting many kilograms of lupine seeds and planting them along our highways? We could have a lupine weekend and all go out to do it. Or perhaps we could all agree to put one nesting box up, appropriately marked, 'for the bicentennial brood'.

In the past I have tried to encourage individual clubs to host a weekend field trip for members of the Federation. An event of that kind took place two years ago when the Miramichi Naturalists' Club invited us to explore the Sevogle River gorge. Wilma Miller and her clan have done it many times, graciously and with great success, in downtown Nictau, where you can become a member of the Order of the Tobique. The Majka clan also receives members of the Federation on an annual basis at Mary's Point. How about some other brave clubs or individuals? I am sure that the fun of hosting a lively bunch of naturalists far outweighs the inconvenience or time spent on a few preparations.

Ford Alward, president of the Valley Naturalists, has just written asking for assistance in assembling a collection of slides for his club, giving us the idea that perhaps we should have such a collection to circulate among all the clubs. What he would like to put together, as a start, is a slide show of 50 common, year-round species of birds. He feels that such a collection would be especially helpful for beginners. The bird books confuse and discourage some people because of all the pictures of birds that do not occur

in New Brunswick. If you have taken pictures of birds and have some that are good, that you wouldn't mind having duplicated, please send them to Ford Alward (P.O. Box 95, Florenceville, N.B., E0J 1K0) with your name and address.

Winding up the business of our Sackville conference, we were pleasantly surprised to find that not only did we not run into the red but we actually made money, which will be split 50-50 with the Canadian Nature Federation. That is a useful present for our Federation, a nice reward for our efforts in addition to the good name we earned.

As you all know, one of the highlights of the conference was the proclamation of the Chickadee's new status. I would like to end this message with words from Lt. Governor George Stanley who thanked the Federation for its work and agreed with P.A. Taverner (author of the first Birds of Canada) that he had never seen "a discouraged chickadee". Don't get discouraged. We have survived half of a long winter and you can already hear the spring song of our provincial bird. Two were singing near my home on the first of February.

Mary Majka



*There once was a conference in Sackville,
With nary a moment of slack-to-fill
The field trips were great,
And the speakers first rate,
But alas, I can't pronounce Kouchibouquac still!*

*May we thank our kind hosts with intensity,
Whose efforts revealed great propensity.
What with owls on their prowls,
And Grande Anse in our pants,
We enjoyed it with utmost immensity.*

[1983 CNF Conference Limerick Contest]



FROM RUSSIA (WITH LOVE)

Jim Wilson

Grand Manan has long been recognized as a good spot to watch birds. Audubon visited the Island in 1833, and thousands of interested people - provincial natives and visitors alike - have flocked there ever since.

Although the Archipelago hosts many interesting seabirds during the breeding season, it is during the migration period in spring and fall that many of this Province's most unusual winged transients also visit the Islands. They come from several directions and from various distances and often settle on these coastal bits of land to rest and feed before continuing on their way.

And so it was that Cecil Johnston and I set sail for the Island the morning of September 30th, on a three-day birding safari. It was our first trip to Grand Manan at that time of the year.

After checking in at the Shorecrest Lodge at North Head, we spent the afternoon and early evening birding at Castalia Marsh at high tide, and at North Head. There was nothing too unusual, although we did pick up a Pine Warbler at the Swallowtail Light and a Stilt Sandpiper at the marsh.

The next morning dawned beautifully sunny. High tide was shortly after 7:00 a.m., and we arrived at Castalia Marsh at about 8:00 o'clock. I decided to do some birding for warblers and songbirds along the fringe of an alder thicket near the entrance to the marsh. Cecil proceeded on out the road to the dunes near the centre of the marsh to watch for ducks and shorebirds.

I was standing quietly, trying unsuccessfully to make a House Finch out of an immature Purple Finch feeding on the roadway in front of me. Suddenly, I noticed a songbird perched on top of a dead alder, about 30 metres away. I put my binoculars on it, and knew immediately that I was looking at a bird I had never seen before. I thought at first that it might be a Wheatear, from its size and shape, but the coloration seemed a bit wrong. Also, it was perched on a bush - rather uncharacteristic for a Wheatear, which is essentially a ground-perching bird. I noted the following points:

1. Appeared to have a dark crown.

2. Had a prominent lightish horizontal line running over the bill, back over eyes, fading out toward rear of head.
3. Appeared to have a darkish horizontal line running from base of bill to eye.
4. Bill dark (both mandibles), similar to large warbler.
5. Breast and underparts a warm buffy-brown (tawny), absolutely no streaking. Throat lighter than rest of underparts.
6. Constantly flicked its tail up and down vigorously.
7. Appeared 5 to 6 inches in length, rather plump.

It sat for several moments, rather tamely, then darted out, captured an insect, and returned to its original perch. This time it turned sideways and away from me, allowing a view of its back coloration. At this point, I was sure that as soon as the bird moved again I would see the characteristic black and white tail pattern of a Wheatear. However, when it did move, I was amazed to note the following points:

1. There was no white in the tail. Instead, the lower 2/3 was black, and the upper 1/3 of the tail and the entire rump were a beautiful rusty-chestnut!
2. The crown was dark brown, not black.
3. The nape of the neck was a slightly lighter shade of brown than the back and wings, and definitely lighter than the crown. Almost a 'shadow'.
4. The back, nape, and wings were all noticeably darker than the underparts.
5. There was a trace of a faint whitish-buff wingbar.

Now a rush of real excitement swept over me! I knew that we really had something here - but what? It was obviously not a North American species, so I didn't bother to fumble through the two field guides I had with me. I decided to study its every movement carefully, as this might eventually help in an accurate identification. I knew that we would have to get photographs, and yet the bird was so tame and unconcerned about me that I felt it best to continue my study a bit longer.

After about five minutes, during which the bird caught

several more insects, I started to run out the road toward where Cecil was standing, approximately 3/4 kilometer away. I really don't remember much about the trip out - I was too excited, but I know I did it in record time, and was ready to collapse by the time I got within shouting distance of Cecil. The look on my face must have told it all, however. I hadn't begun to gasp more than something like "Strange bird - never saw it before! - camera - bring it - come on!", than Cec burst into action. In one fluid motion, he swung his tripod with mounted Questar scope and camera into the trunk, leaped into the front seat, pulled the car into drive and roared into a 180 degree power turn which sent up clouds of dust, sand, and shorebirds from the nearby mudflats. The return journey across the dunes was accomplished in a matter of seconds, with me trying vainly to shut the door on my side, and get into an upright sitting position. I was too short of breath to offer more than a few excited gestures and some babbled comments, but Cecil somehow interpreted these and very calmly slowed to a stop 100 meters short of the target, so as not to alarm our quarry.

We located the bird, still perched in the same area, and managed to approach to within 40 meters. However, just as Cecil was setting up his tripod, it took off! It flew past us, paused momentarily on the tip of some grass before it continued on its way, and passed out of sight over the dunes. Rather than alarm it further with the car, we walked out, and spent a fruitless half hour searching the entire area. We were beside ourselves! We just couldn't believe this turn of bad luck. It was the most agonizing 30 minutes that you could imagine!

We decided to return to the original area, with the hope that the bird had decided to do likewise. This time it was Cecil who saved the day (and probably our sanity). After about 5 minutes of painstaking search, during which time I was in the car, busily making notes, he excitedly motioned me over to look through the Questar. There was our bird, big as life in the lens, but a mere speck to the naked eye, perched on a shrub about 100 meters away. Cecil had already decided that his life's mission would be to get a photograph, should the bird reappear, and he now put all effort and concentration to that end.

Fortunately, the bird soon flew closer, and - very coolly - Cecil snapped two pictures of the back of the bird at a distance of about 30 meters. He got one more of it in a side view position, a bit further away.

The bird appeared very nervous and agitated at this stage. It was obviously wary of us, and did not catch insects.

In addition to flicking its tail, it flicked its wings frequently, revealing the chestnut rump and tail as Cecil snapped the first two shots.

After perhaps two minutes, during which time it shifted position several times, the bird took to the air. It rose quickly above the alders and flew off, gaining altitude. We watched it constantly, for about a minute and a half, as it continued to gain height and head south down the Island. It faded from sight. What a helpless feeling! But at least we had photographs - if they turned out.

For the remainder of our stay, we combed the Island for this mysterious visitor in vain. The directness of its departure left us both with the impression that it probably left the Island shortly afterward. We both agreed it would be useless to spread the Rare Bird Alert unless we could relocate the bird.

We returned home with a strange mixture of emotions: deep excitement in knowing we had found a super rarity, but mixed with a twinge of conservatism - just in case we were somehow wrong, and it wasn't really that big a find. And we were swept by overwhelming feelings of helplessness and frustration at not being able to pin down a new bird with such unique characteristics. Was it South American? European? Asian? We had a copy of Birds of Britain and Europe, which included birds of North Africa and the Middle East. Red-Tailed Wheatear and Red-Rumped Wheatear seemed close, but they were North African species and didn't seem to match our bird exactly. Only time (and, hopefully, photographs) would tell.

As soon as we got home, we telephoned David Christie, Stuart Tingley, and Peter Pearce and gave them a thumbnail sketch of what we had seen. All three were initially taken aback by this striking combination of field marks, and each promised to go through their foreign bird guides. However, Stu Tingley also informed us that he would be leaving for a birding trip to the Scilly Isle off the British Coast at the end of the next week, and he very kindly offered to take our slides with him. He expected to see several top British bird authorities there, and surely they would be able to help pin it down. Perfect! A splendid opportunity! But the big question remained - how good were Cecil's photographs?

The next few days passed slowly while two expectant fathers sweated over the birth of their baby - or rather - their triplets.

When the slides finally arrived, we were elated to find that two of them - the one of the side view, and one of the rear of the bird - turned out very well, although just a trifle overexposed. The third photo was blurred due to bird movement, but we were very encouraged by the two different views of the bird that we did have.

Stuart telephoned just before his departure to England. In excited tones, he announced that he had examined the slides, and was virtually certain that the identity of this perplexing passerine was that of a Stonechat (Saxicola torquata). But even more interesting was the news that it had the features of a Siberian race of this species, either S.t. maura, or S.t. stejnegeri. He briefly related that there are 24 distinct races (subspecies) of this Old World thrush, which range from the British Isles east to Eastern Siberia. He was sure there was no previous confirmed record for North America for any Stonechat, let alone one from Siberia! He based his identification on an excellent article by Iain S. Robertson, which had appeared in Frontiers of Bird Identification, a British publication dealing with difficult species, which was entitled "Identification and European status of eastern Stonechats". Stuart concluded by saying he was sure enough that he would "stake his reputation on it".

Well, Stu's reputation is well-preserved, and entirely intact. His opinion was confirmed by several of Britain's top field experts on the Scilly Isle, and subsequently by Iain S. Robertson himself, who examined the slides which we sent to him later by mail. The record has been further confirmed by Dr. W. Earl Godfrey, Curator Emeritus of Ornithology at the National Museum in Ottawa, and author of The Birds of Canada. In the near future, Stonechat should officially make its appearance on the Canadian Checklist. In addition, copies of the slides and related material have recently been requested by the Checklist Committee of the American Birding Association. These have been sent on, and we are confident that our sighting will establish the species on the North American Checklist.

Many questions remain, not the least of which is how the bird may have arrived in the Bay of Fundy. We hope to analyze North American weather patterns for the month of September with an eye for any unusual conditions which could have brought this stray eastward, across the Bering Strait and on across the Continent, or perhaps westward, across the North Atlantic. It is interesting that during the Christmas period, a Siberian Rubythroat, a related species, was picked up dead not far from Toronto. This bird has been reported previously in Alaska, but never elsewhere on the North American Continent.

In the meantime, good birding. And we'll see you on Grand Manan next fall!

2 Neck Road,
Quispamsis, N.B., E0G 2W0

ANNOUNCING A VERY UNIQUE BICENTENNIAL PROJECT OFFERING
FROM MOLLY LAMB BOBAK AND THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL
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A limited edition collector's plate (numbered out of 1500) is available from the Conservation Council of New Brunswick. The plate features Molly Lamb Bobak's rendering of Furbish's Lousewort, an endangered plant of this province. The full-colour reproduction is the focal point of a 9" Japanese porcelain plate.

This special Bicentennial edition is the first in a series of six. Subsequent plates will be issued for the Christmas season for the next five years. Each will feature a different endangered or rare species of the province, represented by a New Brunswick artist.

Proceeds from the sale of this plate will support the ongoing activities of the Conservation Council, a non-profit, volunteer-based environmental organization, established in 1969.

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Rare New Brunswick Plants

THE PRAIRIE WHITE FRINGED ORCHID IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Hal Hinds

New Brunswick is rich in orchid species. We are fortunate to have forty-two different kinds in the Province. Eight species are considered rare (see Hinds, 1983), and of these, four (Goodyera pubescens, Listera australis, Platanthera flava var. herbiola, Malaxis brachypoda) are known only from one site. Three rare orchid sites are presently in existing parks, and therefore presumably protected. These are Listera australis in Kouchibouguac National Park, Platanthera orbiculata var. macrophylla in Odell Municipal Park, Fredericton, and P. leucophaea in Mactaquac Provincial Park. The latter, The Prairie White Fringed Orchid, has recently been the focus of considerable attention.

The existence of Platanthera leucophaea in New Brunswick was first published in Bernard Boivin's Enumeration des plants du Canada in 1967. At the herbarium of the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa (DAO) I finally tracked down the specimen upon which the Boivin citation was made. It was collected on August 1, 1956 in Stoneridge, York County, N.B. I have been unable to rediscover the site.

I found P. leucophaea growing in Mactaquac Provincial Park in wet, open, grassy meadowland. There were about 20 plants in bloom on 13 July, 1981. They occurred in openings among White Spruce (Picea glauca) and White Cedar (Thuja occidentalis) with Bebb's Willow (Salix bebbiana) also growing nearby.

When I first collected P. leucophaea I thought it was P. lacera, the Ragged Fringed Orchid or possibly a hybrid with another orchid. The differences between these two species are outlined in the key below.

The habitat of P. leucophaea in the prairie states is open sedge or grassy meadows, shores and slopes. The soil is generally nutrient rich and near neutral in pH, but the plant also occurs occasionally in boggy habitats with lower pH. In the Mactaquac site the soil is probably circumneutral, judging from the plant associates in the area, and probably also quite fertile. The area appears to have been used for pasture until the park took over in the 1960's.

P. leucophaea is a species primarily of tallgrass

prairie in the Missouri and upper Mississippi River valleys. It ranges from eastern North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma east to southern Ontario, south to Louisiana, Illinois and Ohio with outliers in Wyoming, Arkansas, Maine and New Brunswick. The New Brunswick populations are the most easterly of the species, and for this reason they are of interest to botanists studying the ecology of this rare plant.

P. leucophaea is considered rare in Ontario, Maine and Pennsylvania. It is possibly extirpated in New York and Ohio; endangered in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin; threatened in Michigan.

In some areas where this orchid occurs botanists believe that fire has an important effect on its survival. Fires, especially spring fires, help eliminate competing woody vegetation, help the soil absorb the warmth of the sun, and release mineral nutrients for the plants. For this reason, certain preserves for P. leucophaea and other rare species use fire and/or mowing as a management tool to assure the continuance of the open prairie-like habitat.

At the Mactaquac site, which is slowly growing up to spruce and cedar, some similar management plan will be necessary in order to keep the area in permanent meadowland.

This orchid, like various others, has the curious habit of 'deciding' not to come up when environmental conditions are not suited to its needs. Thus in 1983, I was unable to find any of the plants at Mactaquac in bloom, and could not be sure the orchid foliage that was present was this species.

Also during the summer of 1983 I discovered bright flagging tape dissecting the habitat of the orchids at Mactaquac and became alarmed that some disruptive development was slated for the site. I had previously sent a letter to the Park Superintendant alerting him to the presence of P. leucophaea in the park. When I inquired about the flagging tape, I was told that the area was to be part of a new golf driving-range! Further calls to the park development branch convinced me that the orchid information was now in the right hands, and that steps would be taken to insure the preservation of this unique part of our provincial natural heritage.



KEY TO SEPARATE RAGGED FRINGED ORCHID (*Platanthera lacera*) FROM
THE WHITE FRINGED ORCHID (*P. leucophaea*)

1a. Sepals (6)6.5-9(10) mm long; lateral petals broadly obovate, erose or denticulate at apex; spur 2-4 cm long; flowers creamy-white.

... *P. leucophaea* (Nutt.) Lindl.

1b. Sepals 3.5-5(6) mm long; lateral petals linear-oblong or lanceolate, + entire at apex; spur 1-1.7 cm long; flowers yellowish-green.

... *P. lacera* (Michx.) G. Don



Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*): Habit X1; flower X2.

Nature News

AUTUMN 1983

David S. Christie

Smugly, I felt that I had made the switch from English measurements to the metric system without confusion, until I received the last issue of the N.B. Naturalist where I had mentioned Northeast Bank as being 35 miles south of Grand Manan (p. 163). In fact, it is only 35 km. Years of everyday use somehow prompted me to write "miles" even though I had measured the distance in kilometres!

New Brunswick enjoyed a very mild fall this year. At Mary's Point, Albert County, the first frost did not come until October 16-17, the latest in my ten years' experience here. Subsequent occurrences of freezing temperatures were sporadic, so late-blooming flowers were able to persist well into the fall.

Mammals

In previous issues, I have neglected mentioning the abundance of Striped Skunk this year. David Folster devoted part of one of his "Neighbourly News" broadcasts to skunk reports gleaned from the weekly newspapers. There were widespread complaints of skunks digging holes in lawns and of unpleasant encounters of skunks with family pets. I saw more dead skunks along the road in southern New Brunswick than I have for at least a decade and frequently smelled evidence of their presence near home so I avoided making trips to the compost pile after dark. On a moonless night in 1982, as I dumped a container of waste, there was a slight rustle near my feet and the distinctive odour of skunk. Beating a hasty retreat to the house, I considered myself lucky to have been only slightly perfumed on the legs.

Another mammal that appears to be near a high point of its population cycle, is the Porcupine. In spring, an evening drive from Alma to Harvey would usually produce several sightings and trees with bark removed are becoming more and more conspicuous throughout Albert County. Porcupines were extremely common in early summer at Portobello National Wildlife Area, Sunbury County (Tony Fagan & Orlie Akerly).

The first Gray Squirrels to be reported in the Alma

area appeared in early November when one was seen in Alma and another in Fundy National Park (fide Walker). In New Brunswick this squirrel is found mainly in the southern and central Saint John valley but the young disperse in search of new habitat during the fall, when in the past they have been reported as far away as Bathurst and Sackville. One at Tobique Narrows May 10, 1983, was of considerable interest to Erwin Landauer.

I don't have full details of the occurrence, but apparently two buck White-tailed Deer were found alive with their antlers locked together near Salisbury in late November.

In the Bay of Fundy there were lots of large whales during the fall, as on Sept. 15 when Norman Famous saw 10 Right Whales and about 50 Fin Whales off Grand Manan (reported in The Guillemot) and Oct. 9 when about 15 Humpback Whales were feeding off the Swallowtail, GM. Only 10 were still there when Mike Majka and I arrived. On the 8th we had seen 2 Humpbacks cavorting near the Grand Manan ferry, as well as a Fin Whale and a probable Minke Whale.

Birds

What do you do when you see a completely unfamiliar bird? Cecil Johnston and Jim Wilson were faced with that problem at Castalia Oct. 1, when they discovered a small bird that was not in their field guides. To their credit, in the short time available before the bird disappeared, they made detailed notes on its size, coloration and behaviour, and got three photographs which have provided the first confirmed North American record of a Stonechat, a small thrush occurring across Eurasia from Atlantic to Pacific. Jim and Cecil tell the full story of this, the bird highlight of the year and of their lives, in this issue.

Two other species potentially new to New Brunswick were reported during the fall but neither could be confirmed. October 19 Leona Keenan identified a Sharp-tailed Grouse at Keswick Ridge. The main feature she was aware of was a short tail with some white and a projecting central point - features which rule out a normally patterned hen pheasant. Despite a thorough search of the area by Peter Pearce and Dan Busby the bird could not be relocated. Very rarely there may be an irruptive movement south and east from the Sharptail's northern range but the closest reports to New Brunswick are old records from Quebec City and the Saguenay River (Godfrey 1966; The Birds of Canada).

On Oct. 20-21 Mildred Carpan and Myrtle Beaman reported a female Boat-tailed Grackle on the ground near their bird feeder at Riverside-Albert. Mary Majka and I made two

unsuccessful trips to see it. A problem with this bird is that young female Boat-tailed and Great-tailed Grackles are virtually indistinguishable in the field and Mildred's and Myrtle's description could fit either one. (The Great-tailed Grackle has recently been recognized as a separate species and is mentioned only by field guides prepared since 1973.) Somewhat later in the fall a Boat-tailed Grackle (a different bird with a conspicuous yellow eye) was reported at a Nova Scotia feeder where it remained for a few weeks. Photographs taken of that bird will resolve the controversy about whether it was a Boat-tailed or a Great-tailed. Informed local opinion currently favours the Great-tailed hypothesis. Unfortunately the Riverside bird will have to remain just a 'large-tailed grackle'.

Norm Famous saw many Northern Fulmars and several hundred Greater Shearwaters off Grand Manan Oct. 2. The Fulmars had reached several hundred Oct. 11, and there were still some shearwaters present Oct. 25. A Great Skua was in the area Sept. 13. For those of us whose pelagic birding was confined to the Grand Manan ferry there were 150 Northern Gannets Sept. 30 and 125 Greater Shearwaters Oct. 2 (Wilson & Johnston), 250 Gannets and 3 Leach's Storm-Petrels Oct. 12 (DSC & Mike Majka), 130 Gannets, 2 Leach's Storm-Petrels and 8000+ Black-legged Kittiwakes Oct. 29 (Stephen Clayden), and 15 Fulmars, 125 Razorbills and 25 Dovekies Nov. 29 (BDD).

Only two stray herons were reported during the fall, an adult Great Egret at Waterside Oct. 19-22 (Jim Blewett, Walker et al.) and an immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Castalia Sept. 2-4 (Mildred Russell & BDD). Black-crowns there dwindled from about 20 in the first half of September to three Oct. 26 and finally one Nov. 23 (BDD).

The less common waterfowl reported were 4 Gadwall at Long Pond, GM, Sept. 18 (BDD), 3 Harlequin Ducks with scoters and scaup off Long Pond Nov. 7 (BDD), a male Barrow's Golden-eye at Fredericton Nov. 5 (Peter Pearce) and a female at Harvey, Albert County, Nov. 17 (DSC & Mary Majka), a Hooded Merganser and a Ruddy Duck at Meehan's Cove, Quispamsis, Sept. 11 (Wilson) and three Hoodies at Rothesay Nov. 15 (Clayden). The number of American Wigeon, estimated at 250, at Red Head Marsh, Saint John, Sept. 18 (NBFN trip) illustrates how well established here that species is now. The first breeding record in New Brunswick was in 1961.

No one conducted special hawk watches this fall but Rob Walker and Mary Majka noticed several hawks moving along the Albert County coast Sept. 9, including Sharpshins, Broadwings, Redtails, and American Kestrels. Migrants reported by

Ted Sears at St. Martins in the last week of September included several Broadwings, 4 early Roughlegs and many Merlins - the latter also the most numerous hawk at Grand Manan this fall (BDD). Bald Eagle reports included three at Maces Bay and one at Deer Island Oct. 22 (SJNC trip).

The Majkas and I obtained most of the Peregrine Falcon reports this fall: 4 different birds at Mary's Point during September, one at Saint John Sept. 30, 3 at Grand Manan Oct. 8-11, one at Mary's Point Oct. 25 and another there Nov. 28. The only other reports were of one at Campobello Island Sept. 25 (Famous) and one at Castalia Oct. 22 (BDD). Did other readers see any?

On Sept. 10 a few Saint John area birders were treated to a close-up view of a Virginia Rail when one was forced out of Saints Rest Marsh by high tides and took refuge in a small clump of vegetation on the beach where Jim Wilson was able to capture it. An immature was seen in the Fredericton Wildlife Management Area Sept. 14 (Dan Busby & Peter Pearce).

In the last issue, I mentioned a Willet at Kouchibouguac National Park as the first record for the park. An earlier report has now come in from Erwin Landauer who saw 3 Willetts in the park August 19, 1981. Another 1983 Willet there was seen by Gerry Bennett on August 10.

Rarest shorebird of the fall was a Marbled Godwit discovered by Jim Wilson at Red Head Marsh and seen on trips during the Federation's annual meeting Sept. 17-18. The godwit remained until at least Sept. 23. Other scarce shorebirds were seen at Castalia: a Baird's Sandpiper Sept. 11, 2 Buff-breasted Sandpipers Sept. 4, 11 and 24, one or two Stilt Sandpipers a number of times from Sept. 4 to Oct. 1 and one on the late date of Oct. 26 (BDD et al).

Several shorebirds remained later than usual this year; a Lesser Yellowlegs at Castalia Nov. 2 (BDD), a Spotted Sandpiper at Rothesay Nov. 9 and 16 (Clayden), 7 Upland Sandpipers at Lincoln Road, Fredericton, Nov. 12 (Jean Adams), 3 Whimbrels at Waterside Oct. 30 (Mike Majka), a Sanderling inland at Rothesay Nov. 9-20 (Clayden) and two Pectoral Sandpipers at Castalia Nov. 7 (BDD).

There was a large flight of Yellow-billed Cuckoos this fall with most birds being seen in the last week of September and the first two weeks of October. It's difficult to say how many were at Grand Manan, where Brian Dalzell saw one or more almost daily in September and October; reports at hand account for at least a dozen there, the latest at Woodward's Cove Nov. 13 (BDD). Other Yellow-bills were one at Drummond (Georgette Thibodeau & Gemma Ouellette), one at

Fredericton (Pearce & Busby), 2 at St. Martins (Sears), 2 at Saint John West (Bruce Bosence et al), 3 in the Alma-Fundy Park area (Angus MacLean & Walker) and one at Mary's Point (Walker et al). A few Black-billed Cuckoos were also seen: one at Fredericton Sept. 5 (Pearce), and at Bancroft Point, one Sept. 11, two Sept. 27 and one Oct. 7 (BDD). Another or one of the same was seen on Grand Manan Oct. 1 or 2 (Wilson & Johnston).

Unfortunately, the single Snowy Owl reported was shot by duck hunters at Castalia about the middle of November (fide BDD). In addition to the migrant Common Nighthawks mentioned in our last issue there were 100+ at Browns Flat Aug. 20 (Stan Gorham). The latest were two at Grand Harbour Sept. 20 (Dalzell).

Red-headed Woodpeckers this fall were immatures at Harvey, Albert County, Oct. 6 (DSC), The Whistle, GM Oct. 10 (DSC et al.), Westfield for three days in early October (Evan Smith) and Rothesay about the same time (reported at SJNC meeting), as well as an adult at Castalia during the third week of October (Merle Lambert). At Grand Manan Northern Flickers reached a peak of 150 on Sept. 19 (BDD), about the same time as one with a red rather than yellow flash in the wing was seen at Alma (Buzz Crowston). Gene exchange between the subspecies of flickers allows western characteristics to appear in eastern populations and vice versa. The farther from the zone of contact between subspecies the less apt you are to find a mixed type. This is the first New Brunswick report I have received of a flicker showing a western, 'red-shafted' characteristic.

Brian Dalzell had all the Western Kingbirds this fall: 2 at Castalia Sept. 19, 1 at Woodward's Cove Oct. 7, 1 at Deep Cove, GM, Oct. 23, and one at North Head Nov. 17. At Grand Manan Eastern Kingbirds declined from 12 on Sept. 5 to one on the 25th (Dalzell). There was no November influx of swallows, the last ones being a Barn Swallow at Bancroft Point, GM, Sept. 30 (BDD) and a Purple Martin at Woodward's Cove Oct. 8 (DSC).

A night-time roost of American Crows has formed on the U.N.B. campus, Fredericton, the last couple of fall seasons. Peter Pearce estimated about 2000 crows in the roost Oct. 16-21. The previous year there had been about half that number. Several people commented about the conspicuousness of Gray Jays during the fall, an indication that there was at least a moderate-sized dispersal from the breeding grounds. Black-capped Chickadees were migrating conspicuously during September and October, for instance a loose flock of about 100 in the woods at Red Head Marsh Sept. 18 (NBFN trip) and about 30 milling around near the

end of Deer Island Point Oct. 22 (SJNC trip).

A Carolina Wren at Fredericton Sept. 25 (Hal Hinds) is the 7th provincial record for that species. A (Long-billed) Marsh Wren was at Saints Rest Marsh Oct. 15 (Wilson) and the annual Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Mary's Point appeared Sept. 28 (DSC & Mike Majka). Eastern Bluebirds were seen at Penobsquis until Oct. 3 (DSC), one was at Fredericton Oct. 6 or 7 (Margaret Tooley) and there were 2 at New Maryland Oct. 13 (Pearce). A very late Gray Catbird was found at Bancroft Point Nov. 6 (BDD). Northern Mockingbirds were reported mainly in late October and early November (v.o.).

The earliest Bohemian Waxwing was a single bird at Fundy Park Headquarters Oct. 31 (Walker). Some late Cedar Waxwings were 5 at Rothesay Nov. 9 (Clayden) and one at Alma Nov. 16 (Doreen Rossiter).

Pine Warblers breed north into central Maine but appear in New Brunswick mainly as fall migrants. More than usual were reported this year, beginning in early October: one at North Head Oct. 5 (BDD), one at Harrington Cove, GM, Oct. 9 (DSC), a bright male at Mary's Point Oct. 19 (DSC), a duller bird at Harvey Oct. 23 (Walker), two at Saint John West Nov. 7 and from one to three there daily into December (Bill O'Brien), an apparent family group of three (an adult male, a probable adult female and an immature female) at Fundy Park Headquarters Nov. 9 (Walker & MacLean), 1 at Riverside-Albert Nov. 10 (DSC) and one in a different area of Saint John West Nov. 22-24 (Johnston).

Other rare warblers here were an immature Orange-Crowned at Long Pond Oct. 5 (BDD), a Prairie Warbler at Grand Manan Sept. 4 (BDD), one at Fredericton Sept. 12 (Busby) another or the same there Oct. 8 (Pearce), and a number of single Yellow-breasted Chats: Deep Cove Sept. 3 (BDD), The Whistle Oct. 11 & 22 (BDD et al.), Ingalls Head, GM, Oct. 11 (Mike Majka), Saint John West Oct. 15 (Wilson), Alma Oct. 17 (caught by cat, Rossiter), and Castalia Nov. 19-27 (BDD).

A selection of late records of vireos and warblers is: Warbling Vireo Sept. 9 (Pearce & Busby), Philadelphia Vireo Sept. 30 and Nashville Warbler Nov. 12 (Pearce), at Fredericton; Red-eyed Vireo Oct. 21 and Blackpoll Warbler Nov. 5 at Bancroft Point (BDD); American Redstart Oct. 24 and Mourning Warbler Sept. 27 at Mary's Point (DSC); and Common Yellowthroat at Rothesay Nov. 28 (Clayden).

Several Northern Cardinals were reported at locations in the Saint John area beginning in the last week of October

(v.o.). Others were seen at Lepreau (Louise Shonaman), Fredericton (Margaret Cameron), Springfield (fide Harriet Folkins), Alma (Mrs. Harry Eagles et al.), Riley Brook (Rudi & Elizabeth Richter) and Nictau (Wilma Miller).

Rarities among the buntings and blackbirds were a Blue Grosbeak at Southern Head, GM, Sept. 1 and an immature Yellow-headed Blackbird at Castalia from Sept. 4 until about the 8th (BDD). Few Dickcissels appeared this fall. An early one was at Mary's Point about the second week of August (DSC), one at North Head dump Oct 6 to Nov. 22 (v.o.) and one at Saint John West Oct. 11 (Denise Johnston). Rufous-sided Towhees were more numerous: one at Browns Flat Oct. 24 (Gorham), 5 in the City of Saint John Oct. 26 to Nov. 2 (v.o.), one at Cambridge Nov. 1-2 (Hazen & Lilian Pugsley) and one at Hardings Point, Kingston Peninsula, from about Oct. 31 to Nov. 4 (Mrs. Hanes).

Reporting an impressive migration of White-throated Sparrows at Fredericton about Sept. 20-26, Peter Pearce notes they were still common Oct. 4 when about 50 were at his feeder and 54 at Dorothy Sleep's. At Bancroft Point they peaked at 175 on Oct. 7 (BDD). White-crowned Sparrows, however, were scarce (Landauer et al.). The earliest was at Fredericton Sept. 24 (Pearce) and the latest at Alma Nov. 16 (Rossiter). Fox Sparrows also were not common but Enid Inch saw her first in several years at Gagetown Oct. 26.

All the winter finches except Red Crossbill were reported during November. With the exception of Evening Grosbeak no large flights seemed to be developing. However, it was nice to see a few Common Redpolls again, following their almost complete absence last winter.

Other Groups of Animals

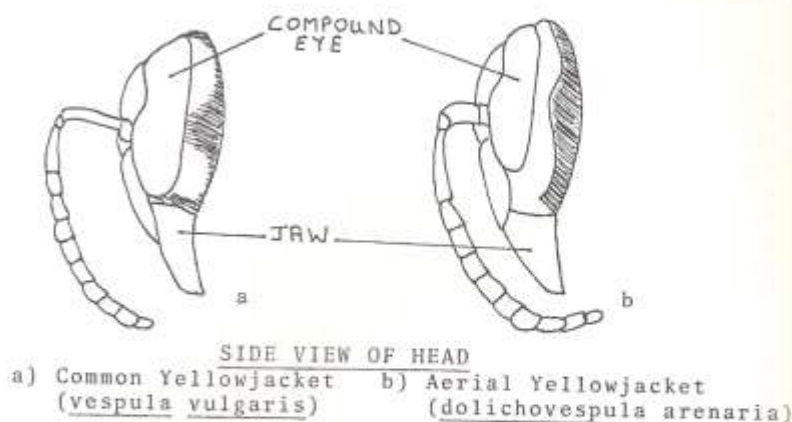
Aside from birds and mammals little was reported this fall. Brian Dalzell heard 3 or 4 Wood Frogs calling from the edge of the woods at Bancroft Point throughout November until he left Grand Manan on the 29th.

Stan Gorham sent a report on the number of wasp nests in his field at Browns Flat. It's usual to disturb from 8 to 12 nests when the hay is mowed, but in 1983, following a winter with very little snow, only one nest was found as opposed to 22 in 1982, "the year of the wasps". Heavy snow cover during the winter of 1981-82 had allowed high winter survival then.

Abbreviations Used: BDD, Brian Dalzell (used because he had so many interesting observations); DSC, David Christie; et al., and others; GM, Grand Manan; NBFN, N.B. Federation of Naturalists; SJNC, Saint John Naturalists' Club; v.o., various observers.

"Bugs!"

Tony Thomas



YELLOWJACKETS

Order: Hymenoptera Family: Vespidae

When one is referring to those few, large, social species which are only too willing to use their stings for defense, the American term "yellowjacket" is preferable to the European "wasp". Thus, although there are about 4,000 species of wasps in North America, a mere 18 of these are yellowjackets.

In New Brunswick, 1982 was the year of the yellowjacket. During the summer the colonies prospered so that by late summer the workers became pestiferous at picnic tables. Overwintering mortality was low resulting in queens being common in the early summer of 1983; however, nest establishment was low so that by mid-summer last year yellowjackets were scarce. Populations should stay low during 1984.

The life histories of all the New Brunswick species are similar. Newly produced, inseminated queens are the only members of the colony which survive the winter. Upon awakening in the spring, the queen feeds on nectar and any insect she is able to capture, and begins construction of a nest using weathered or decayed wood. An outer envelope and a comb with a few cells are made, into which the eggs are laid. The queen herself feeds the hatched larvae. With the emergence of the first workers, the queen remains within the nest laying eggs. Nest enlargement, foraging for prey and nectar, and the rearing of the young is now assumed by the workers. Toward the end of the summer the workers construct reproductive cells in which queens and males are produced. Males and queens

leave the nest and mate. With the onset of cold weather the colony dies, leaving the mated queens to overwinter and continue the cycle.

A mated queen stores viable sperm for a year, and she is able to control fertilization of eggs. Fertilized eggs give rise to females, either workers or queens; unfertilized eggs produce males. If a queen dies prematurely, the colony is certain of an early extinction. Workers, however, will lay unfertilized eggs which will produce males, and some of the eggs laid by the queen before her death will be reared as queens, ensuring the survival of the colony's genes. Yellowjackets do not store honey as do bees but are primarily carnivorous, generally feeding on insects, although they do also feed on sweet substances.

The most conspicuous yellowjacket nests in New Brunswick belong to members of the genus Dolichovespula. Of the 5 species found here, 4 make aerial nests whilst one species is parasitic in nests of one of the other species. The Baldfaced Hornet (Dolichovespula maculata) constructs large conspicuous nests in trees and shrubs. Such nests may contain 1,000 or more cells but probably contain a maximum of 300 workers at any one time. Workers of Baldfaced Hornets will scavenge for protein at picnic tables and at garbage but mostly forage only for live prey.

Another conspicuous aerial nester is the Aerial Yellowjacket (Dolichovespula arenaria). Nests are much smaller than those of the Baldfaced Hornet, but as they are commonly built under the eaves of houses, in sheds and garages, and even in bird nestboxes, they are readily seen. Aerial Yellowjacket workers do not usually scavenge for protein and are not serious picnic-table pests; however, in late summer they are attracted to sugar sources. Because nests are so readily built near homes, painful encounters with this species are frequent.

Most yellowjackets in New Brunswick belong to the genus Vespula. Members of this genus differ from those of Dolichovespula in that the large compound eyes extend downwards to almost touch the base of the jaws. In Dolichovespula the eyes are widely separated from the jaws. A major behavioural difference between these two groups is that Vespula nests are primarily subterranean although some species will build in hollow trees or between the walls of houses. Thus, although workers are commonly seen, nests are not conspicuous. Of the 8 species found in New Brunswick, two, the Common Yellowjacket (Vespula vulgaris) and the Eastern Yellowjacket (Vespula maculifrons) are notorious scavengers wherever food is available. The Eastern Yellowjacket is usually the most pestiferous species because of its selection of urban environments in.

which to build its underground nest.

As a group, the yellowjackets exhibit Mullerian mimicry. There has been a convergence in shape, pattern and warning colouration between the species, all of which are unpalatable, so that they are instantly recognizable by would-be predators. This also complicates identification of specimens to species by amateur taxonomists. Several flies gain advantage from predation by mimicking yellowjackets. This situation, where an edible mimic gains protection by resembling an unpalatable model, is termed Batesian mimicry.



CONSERVATIONISTS OPPOSE B.C. WOLF KILL

The Canadian Nature Federation, which speaks for 150,000 Canadian naturalists, has criticized British Columbia's wolf control "lottery" as "totally unacceptable". Gregg Sheehy, a spokesman for the Nature Federation, described the proposal as a "clear case of the government catering to the minority of the public which hunts."

The B.C. Environment Department program to reduce wolf numbers by 80 per cent in an area north of Fort St. John is in response to an apparent decline in numbers of elk, moose and caribou. The killing of wolves is intended to increase the amount of game available for local hunters. Funding for the program is being borne by the B.C. Wildlife Federation and other hunter groups through a lottery to raise the \$100,000 needed to shoot up to 400 wolves from helicopters. Fiscal restraint policies prevent the government itself from paying for wolf control.

The Nature Federation maintains that "the wolf is always seen as the villain," but many other factors may be involved in the decline of a moose or elk population, factors such as habitat loss, over-hunting or severe winter weather. "Wolf control should never be considered unless a prey population is truly endangered, and the program should always include a ban on hunting," said Sheehy. "In this case, populations are not endangered, and no hunting ban is proposed. The current scheme is particularly distasteful because the B.C. government will not adequately finance its wildlife research programs, to get at the heart of the problem, but will accept funds from a special interest group to artificially enhance game populations."

The Canadian Nature Federation is the national voice of Canada's naturalist movement. Its policy on wolf management has been developed in conjunction with Canadian wolf scientists. A complete copy of the wolf policy is available from the Nature Federation's Ottawa office.

POTENTIAL FOR NATIONAL MARINE PARK IN FUNDY ISLES AREA

(from Parkscan, Nov./Dec. 1983, newsletter of Parks Canada)

A pilot study carried out by the Province of New Brunswick and the Government of Canada has found there is potential for a national marine park in the West Isles area of the Bay of Fundy, near St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

Federal Environment Minister Charles Caccia and New Brunswick Tourism Minister Omer Léger recently announced that the two governments have agreed to carry out a more detailed feasibility study. This will include public consultation to determine whether a national marine park should be established.

"The West Isles area, which includes many inlets and islands to the east of Deer Island, could become Canada's first national marine park," said Mr. Léger. "Such a park would certainly be an additional tourist attraction as well as a benefit to the residents of New Brunswick."

Mr. Caccia said the pilot study has shown that the natural resources in the West Isles area are adequate for consideration as a possible national marine park. "The study has also been very valuable in helping to develop a draft policy* for the establishment of a national system of marine parks to protect significant examples of Canada's marine heritage," he added.

Mr. Léger said public consultation will be an important part of the feasibility study. It will consider such questions as resource management and visitor use of the area and the impact on the social and economic life of the West Isles area. The study is expected to begin shortly, followed by public consultations in 1984.

Requests for copies of the pilot study and questions about the pilot study and the future feasibility study should be directed to:

Scott Jennings
Tourism New Brunswick
Box 12345
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 5C3 (506) 453-2624

or

Bill Henwood
Parks Canada
10 Wellington St.
Hull, Quebec
K1A 1G2 (819) 994-2696

[* The draft policy on national marine parks is available for public review and comment from Parks Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1G2.]

Christmas Bird Counts

1983-84: A RECORD EFFORT

David S. Christie

Birdwatchers were out in force this winter. Thirty Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs), including one newly established in the Glassville-Juniper area, 601 participants, 810 party-hours and 304 feeder reports were all record numbers for New Brunswick, as was the total number of birds, 88,223 (43 per cent gulls). Participants travelled 7402 km on foot, by car, boat and, for the first time, by horse-drawn sleigh!

Mild weather leading up to the CBC period assisted survival of some lingering summer birds and contributed to a good variety overall (110 species, plus five additional during count period). Five areas tallied 50 or more species, including a remarkable inland count at Fredericton and a provincial record of 71 at Grand Manan. Five species had not previously been reported by New Brunswick CBCs:

- a Thayer's Gull, in first winter plumage, at East Quoddy Head, Campobello Island. Identification of the larger gulls outside their main range is a tricky business, complicated by occasional hybridization, but this bird, the second reported in New Brunswick, was leisurely studied under favorable conditions. More on the Thayer's Gull in future.

- 75 phalaropes on the waters of Friar Roads between Deer and Campobello Islands could not be approached closely enough to determine the species.

- an injured Lincoln's Sparrow, barely capable of flight, that had been surviving for 10 weeks at a bird feeder at Eastport-Campobello.

- a Tundra (Whistling) Swan during count period at Riverside-Albert.

- an American Bittern during count period at Riverside Albert.

On the whole, weather for the counts was average this year. Some observers were blessed with mild temperatures while others had to contend with strong, cold winds. Sackville was worst off with reduced visibility during five hours of continuous snow. Snow depths ranged from nil to moderate.

Half of the compilers reported on the abundance of seeds and small mammals in their areas. The main foods generally available were moderate to large crops of berries and other fleshy fruits, of weed and grass seeds, and to a lesser extent, of birch seed. Locally abundant were cedar seeds at Woodstock and Perth-Andover, maple seeds at Florenceville, ash at Stanley, Snowshoe Hares at Woodstock and Plaster Rock, and small rodents at Sackville and Cape Tormentine. Spruce and fir cones were generally scarce with only Jemseg and Plaster Rock reporting even a moderate crop.

Several species of waterbirds were more numerous than usual. Very good numbers of Great Black-backed Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwakes were found, and Herring Gulls were above average. Also in good numbers were Great Cormorant (of which a few were blown inland at Saint John, Hampton and Fredericton), Thick-billed Murre and Black Guillemot, while Black Duck, Canada Goose and Purple Sandpiper were above normal. Buffleheads were scarce at only 157 birds compared to the usual 350 to 500.

Mouse-eating hawks were numerous where voles were common. There was an unprecedented number of Northern Harriers, a record count of Redtailed Hawks, and above average numbers of Roughlegs. Other birds of prey were at normal levels.

Last winter's lack of snow enabled more Ring-necked Pheasants and Mourning Doves to survive, reproduce and be counted in record numbers this winter. Two remaining species found in especially high numbers were those erratic wanderers, the Bohemian Waxwing and Evening Grosbeak. An average number of American Goldfinches was recorded but the rest of the finches were in relatively small numbers.

No doubt because of the lack of spruce and fir seeds, Red-breasted Nuthatches were especially scarce. Other species that were found in below average numbers were Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Blue Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Northern Shrike, European Starling, House Sparrow, Horned Lark and Snow Bunting. Lapland Longspurs were missed for the second year in a row. There were some local exceptions to the general situation, such as the abundance of Golden-crowned Kinglets at Newcastle - Chatham and of Snow Buntings at Florenceville.

Finally, it can be noted that a few Pine Warblers and one Rufous-sided Towhee which wandered north during the fall remained until the Christmas season. Also lingering were Osprey, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Oriole and Loggerhead Shrike.

I must confess to being skeptical of winter reports

of Loggerheads. The Northern is the only shrike expected here in this season. The species look similar, however, and it can sometimes be easy for an inexperienced observer to misidentify a Northern as a Loggerhead. Nevertheless, Loggerhead Shrikes can very rarely be found north in winter and in this case details of the observers' description would rule out a Northern.

ABBREVIATIONS AND FOOTNOTES TO THE TABLES

- * seen during count period
- # high count a provincial record
- ## first time on N.B. counts
- 20 (number underlined) count high
- 1 (number boxed) count first
- a no details submitted or details not fully convincing
- b by boat
- c incl. 2.5 hours and 26 km by boat
- d plus an extra subspecies, the "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco
- e incl. 2 hours and 16 km by horse-drawn sleigh
- f 37 large alcid sp.
- g 1 Mallard x Black Duck hybrid, 550 large alcid sp.
- h 2 cormorant sp., 1 hawk sp., 6 alcid sp. (probably Razorbills)
- i 1 Mallard x Black Duck hybrid, 1 blackbird sp. (Red-wing/Rusty)
- j 2 ducks sp., 1 hawk sp., 105 gulls sp.,
- k 2 woodpeckers sp., 1 sparrow sp., 8 songbirds sp.
- m 147 ducks sp., 1 woodpecker sp., 1 warbler sp., 25 songbirds sp.
- n 1 sparrow sp.
- o 2 woodpeckers sp.
- p 3 scaup sp., 129 ducks sp., 1 woodpecker sp., 13 finches sp.
- q 1 hawk sp., 1 woodpecker sp., 1 sparrow sp., 2 birds sp.
- weather conditions are expressed in International Weather Symbols

NORTH AMERICAN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The Christmas Bird Count was conceived in 1900 by Frank M. Chapman, editor of Bird-Lore magazine, and is published by the National Audubon Society, which sets the rules and designates the period during which counts are to be conducted each year.

Now, over 1400 North American counts, including several from New Brunswick, are published by the Audubon Society in the July issue of American Birds. That continent-wide summary and list of results cost \$10 (U.S.) and a full year's subscription (six issues) is \$21 (U.S.) from American Birds, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

NEW BRUNSWICK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - 17 Dec. 1983 to 2 Jan. 1984

Grand Manan Channel (GMC) 8th year
Mostly cloudy. 1.8 to 2.4 m swell.

Brian Dalzell (compiler), Edgar Spalding, Stuart Tingley.

Grand Manan Island (GM) 13th year
Mostly clear in morning and afternoon, a few clouds moving in by evening. Snow from a previous storm remained mostly in protected lees and ditches; most streams partly open but ponds and lakes frozen.

Vernon Bagley, Brian Dalzell (compiler), Virginia Greene, Margaret & Merle Lambert, Herbert Macaulay, Verna Mackenzie, Elaine & Roger Maker, Geraldine Nelson, Carl & Nancy Small, Edgar Spalding, Stuart Tingley.

Eastport-Campobello (E-C) 17th year
Clear. All fresh and some salt water frozen.

Sid Bahrt, Charlie Duncan, Norm Famous, Steve Hendershot, Butch Huntley, Ellen Johnson, Zack Klyver, Laurie Larson, Hubert Ross, Nellie Ross, William Townsend (compiler), Bob von Rutz.

St. Andrews (StA) 23rd year
Sunny. 30 cm snow cover; more ice in river than normally.

Steven Adamowicz, Mrs Hollis Bartlett, Michael Dadswell, Lola Hull, Mrs Donald Johnson, Mrs Wilfred Langmaid, Leslie Linkletter, Daryl Linton (compiler), Mrs Francis McLeese, Doreen Scott, Richard Smith, David Walker, Jim Watkins, Walter Williamson, Vladimir Zitko.

Pennfield (PENN) 21st year
Overcast. Ground snow-covered.

Ralph Eldridge, Zetta Eldridge, Lena Morehouse (compiler), Mendell Morehouse, Ellis Nason.

Lepreau (LEP) 21st year
Sky clear. About 50 cm of snow, but much bare ground.

Stephen Clayden, Donald McAlpine (compiler). Count period: Louise Shonaman.

Saint John (SJ) 27th year
Morning cloudy with snow flurries, becoming clear in afternoon. 15-50 cm drifted snow; almost all freshwater frozen.

Mike Bamford, Barbara Burke, Greta Clark, Ken Clark, Stephen Clayden, David Christie (compiler), Nicholas Critchlow, Dick Filliter, Cecil Johnston, Mrs Leslie Kelly, Mrs K. Kirkland, Ron Knorr, Jean Lambert, Isabel LeBlanc, Vivian MacDonald, Don McAlpine, Bill O'Brien, Tom Page, Joan Pearce, Ron Pearce, Marion Sherwood, David Smith, Molly Smith, Reg Smith, Helen Stockford, Jim Wilson.

Fundy National Park (FNP) 19th year
Morning mostly clear with dense sea smoke, afternoon mostly clear with light sea smoke. 5-15 cm snow cover; freshwater frozen, salt water open.

Jean Beaumont, Marjorie Bowron, Michael Burzynski, Freda Butland, David Christie, Vincent Crowston, Brian Dalzell, Elaine Eagles, Doris Hatt, Thelma Keirstead, Angus MacLean, Stella MacLean, Denise MacLean, Mary Majka, Anne Marceau, Allan Nicol, Bonnie Nicol, Lee Saunders, Frank Sinclair, Marie Sinclair, Sedgewick Sinclair, Kevin Underhill, Rob Walker (compiler), Stephen Woodley.

Riverside-Albert (R-A) 15th year

Clear, becoming partly cloudy. Ground mostly bare in the open with patches of snow or ice, 2-15 cm snow cover in woods; almost all freshwater frozen, some ice near shore on the sea.

Myrtle Beaman, Mildred Carpan, David Christie (co-compiler), Josie Dubberke, Sawny Dubberke, Sue Fullerton, Shannon Inman, Angus MacLean, Stella MacLean, Mary Majka (co-compiler), Mieczyslaw Majka, Mrs Don Milburn, Kay Mills, Allan Nicol, Bonnie Nicol, Doug White, Susan White.

Sackville (SACK) 24th year

Overcast with nearly continuous light snow from 0800 to 1300 hours reducing visibility to less than 400 m at times, cloudy in p.m. Ground covered with 5-10 cm of fresh snow; freshwater frozen except running streams, salt water open.

Peter Barkhouse, Brian Dalzell, Steve Daniel, Tony Erskine, Gay Hansen, Alan Hanson, Hinrich Harries, Peter Hicklin, Randy Hicks, Ron Hounsell, Etta Hudgins, Reid McManus, Bruce McWhirter, Harold Popma, Al Smith (compiler), Stu Tingley, Susan Williams.

Moncton (MTON) 23rd year

Mostly clear with a few scattered clouds. Ground covered with just a trace of snow; fresh water partly open, no ice in tidal waters.

Brenda Burzynski, David Christie, Don & Yves Cormier, Brian Dalzell (compiler), Mary Fownes, Ford & Joan Keith, Louis Lapierre, Fred Lloyd, Mieczyslaw Majka, Gordon Mosher, Nelson Poirier, Winston Prince, F.B. Proude, Bill Quartermain, Allan Raegele, Francis Richard, Maurice Richard, Barbara Swinamer, Robert Walker, Barbara Wheeler, Alma & Don White, Geraldine Wright, John Wright.

Cape Tormentine (CT) 23rd year

Sunny in morning, clouding over by noon. No snow cover; fresh water partially frozen, salt water ice free.

Sandy Burnett, Brian Dalzell, Steve Daniel, Tony Erskine, Peter Hicklin, Ralph Stopps, Al Smith (compiler), Stu Tingley, Rob Walker.

Kouchibouguac National Park (KNP) 14th year

Clear. Ground covered with 5 cm snow; freshwater frozen, salt water open.

Yves Bossé, Harry Collins, Edouard Daigle, Gérald Daigle, Noël Fontaine (compiler), Carmel Lévesque, Pierrette Robichaud, Michel Savoie, Arnold Vautour.

Newcastle-Chatham (MIR) 12th year

Clear, becoming cloudy. Most water frozen; much of ground bare, thin patches of icy snow.

Margaret Adams, Jane Arsenault, Sybil Anderson, Barbara Archibald, Jeep Bosma, Mrs Robert Bransfield, Monica Charnley, Timothy Clark, Graham Crocker, Phyllis Crowe, Vernon Goodfellow, Don Hoddinot, Arnold Isaacson, Bruce Ferguson, Bud Jardine, John Keating, Hazen Lobban, Sara Lounsbury, Denis Mazerolle, Donna McDonald, Theresa Ross, Mrs Gordon Steeves, David Tracy, Elayne Walker, Bruce Walker, Harry Walker (compiler), Stewart Walker, Winnie Walker, Margaret Wheaton, Bert Woulds.

Ile Lamèque (LAM) 12th year

Partiellement clair. Gelé du côté nord de l'île, côté sud eau libre.

Hilaire Chiasson (compilateur), Rose-Aline Chiasson.

Sussex (SUSS) 11th year

Clear and mild. No snow; water partly frozen.

Thomas Anderson (compiler), Mrs Everett Arnold, Lawrence Arnold, Margaret Broomhead, Joan Cunningham, Harriet Folkins, Elizabeth Hutchins, Irma Macaulay, Gerald & Helen MacKenzie, Hazel McLellan, Evelyn Robinson, Tine Upham, Jean Welton.

Hammond River-Hampton (HTON) 11th year

Overcast with flurries in a.m., sunny with some cloud in p.m. Ground bare in patches; freshwater frozen.

Robert Barton, David Christie, Barbara Burke, Stephen Clayden, Chad Coles, Brian Dalzell, John Darling, Juliette Hickman, Mrs Freddie Holt, Mrs Hazen Inches, Jean Isaacs, Peggy Kelbaugh, Erwin Landauer, Marion Landauer, Isabel LeBlanc, Mary Majka, Stuart Mills, Mary Murdock, Doug MacAndrews, Win MacAndrews, Paul Perry, Mary Ross, Geoff Sayre, Jan Scarth, Molly Smith, Sandy Smith, Helen Stockford, Wasson Stockford, Millie Widdershoven, Charles Wilson, Jim Wilson (compiler).

Cambridge-Narrows (C-N) 14th year

Partly cloudy. 10 cm light snow cover on frozen ground; lakes and brooks frozen.

Doris Appleby, Anthony Carpenter, Dilys Carpenter, Lawrence Carpenter, Marie Carpenter, Talbert Carpenter, James Connell, Thora Connell, Joan Fanjoy, Enid Inch (compiler), Eileen Kincaide, Dot McConnachie, Elva McConnachie, Audrey Perry, Nellie Perry, Shelly Perry, Lillian Pugsley, April Robinson, Joyce Robinson, Martha Sypher, Joyce Thorne, Phyllis Thorne.

Jemseg (JEM) 21st year

Thin cloud cover. Dusting of snow on ground; St. John River frozen, open water by Route 102 at Swan Creek Lake.

Dan Busby, Gerry Clayden, Janice Garrity, Nev Garrity (compiler), Marven Palmer, Christopher Pearce, Peter Pearce, Rudy Stoczek, Judy Thomas, Peter Thomas, Max Wolfe, Willi Wolfe.

Fredericton (FTON) 28th year

Cloudy with sunny intervals. No snow on ground; much open water in upper part of St. John River in a.m. & p.m., light ice running in lower part of river p.m.

Field observers: Willard Benson, Dan Breen, Jean Brown, Rae Brown, Sandra Brown, Cathy Busby, Dan Busby, Eric Butterworth, Gerry Clayden, Stephen Clayden, Susan Clayden, Sarah Colwell, Jim Coles, Rod Currie, Lucy Dyer, Eric Emery, Jeremy Forster, Margaret Forster, Don Fowler, Ross Fowler, Janice Garrity, Neville Garrity, Don Gibson, Douglas Gibson, Lionel Girouard, Heidi Grein, Harold Hatheway, Harold Hinds, Allison Hubert, Nancy Lutes, Denis Law, Milda Markauskas, Jean Noble, Jim Noble, Albert Morais, Lise O'Hara, Stephen Oliver, Marven Palmer, Peter Pearce, Vincent Poirier, Bear Rhineland, Beverley Schneider, Marc Schneider, Rudy Stoczek, Sr., Rudy Stoczek, Jr., Jane Tarn, Owen Washburn, Susan Washburn.

Stanley (STAN) 9th year

Moderately cloudy, clearing in p.m. Ground frozen, 5-10 cm snow; river 10 to 30 per cent open.

Harold Hatheway (compiler).

Woodstock (WSTK) 20th year

Clear. 8 cm snow cover; rarely open patches of water.

Terry Andow, Mrs Blair Avery, Mrs Gerald Demmings, Mrs Nelson Flewelling, Mrs David Fry, Marjorie Gray, Eric & Jane Hadley, Doris Hagerman, Mr & Mrs Ken Homer, Murray Hubbard, Mrs W.M. Jones, Mrs Charles MacDonald, Mrs Donald Nixon, Mrs G.A. Olmstead, Mrs Ralph Sexsmith, Alma Speer, Donna Speer, Mrs Robert Speer, Robert John Speer (compiler), Dr & Mrs Rob Tremblay.

Hartland (HART) 13th year

Overcast in a.m., sunny periods in p.m. Light snow cover; open patches in river below H.J.F. Bridge, open water above.

Ford Alward, Bud Belyea, Florence Britton (compiler), Anne Canam, Diane Clark, Mrs Wilmot Clark, Clarence & Pat Hill, Jeff Horne, Lori-Anne Horne, Jane Hovey, Winnie Lawrence, Elsie McIntosh, Ralph Morgan, Hazel Palmer, Sheila Palmer, Malcolm & Gladys Tracy.

Florenceville (FLO) 3rd year

Light overcast in a.m., clear at noon, light snow by 4 p.m. 5 cm snow cover; river running high and wide open below dam, frozen above; streams largely open.

Henry & Eleanor Arnand, Ford Alward (compiler), Jean Alward, Albert Bell, Archie & Vivian Bishop, Jack & Jennie Burnham, Ansel & Marie Campbell, Jean Carmichael, John, Carolyn & Robert Corey, Vaughan Cogle, Mrs Mark Cox, Helen Crabbe, Theresa Davenport, Larry Dow, Claude & Els Ebbett, Frances Giberson, Violet Giberson, Mrs Charles Giberson, Walter Green, Dwight & Sandra Greene, Ron & Jeanette Greene, Gordon Hunter, Mrs Frank Kearney, Mrs John Lockhart, Lorna Maddox, Alex Matheson, Andrew & Christopher McCartney, Harold McGrath, Bob G. McIsaac, Melody McNair, Pearl McNair, David Olmstead, Derrah Otis, John Patterson, Tom & Jackie Petley, Dean Pryor, Lloyd Ripley, Peggy Smith, Jack Soucie, Larry Sweet, Charles & Joanne Upton, Fred Welch, Helen White, Brian & Donna Wortman, Kenneth Wortman.

Glassville-Juniper (G-J) 1st year

Partly sunny, high overcast. Ground frozen; running water partly to mostly open.

Mary Bromley, Ben Gray (compiler), Marge Martinson, Elsie McIntosh, Sally

McIntosh, Jane Mehrer, Mr & Mrs Gordon Spence, Anna Timell, Don Waters,
Mrs Lewis Welch.

Perth-Andover (P-A) 15th year
Cloudy to clear. 20 cm snow cover; water frozen except for rapids.
Fred Tribe, Murray Watters (compiler), Dr L. J. White.

Plaster Rock (PR) 12th year
Light haze with snow flurries and a few sunny breaks. 30 cm of crusty snow;
river frozen.
Charlotte & Enid Brayall, Doris Crawford, Marg Dandy, Kate Finnemore, Monica
Jay, Diane Rabatich, Laverne Rabatich (compiler), Emmie Reid, Laura Reynolds,
Melissa Skinner.

Nictau-Riley Brook (NIC) 11th year
Clear. 50 cm snow cover; Tobique River freezing in, open water with running
slush.
Alex Fraser, Roger Jenkins, Celia Knowlton, Erwin & Marion Landauer, Bill Miller,
Wilma Miller (compiler), Elizabeth & Rudi Richter, Ursula & Horst Schmidt,
Margaret & Blake Sutherland.

Mount Carleton Provincial Park (MtC) 6th year
Overcast with flurries. 50 cm snow cover; running water open.
Roger Jenkins, Ed Higgins, Erwin Landauer (compiler), Rudi Richter.

Southeast Upsalquitch (SEU) 2nd year
Clear sky. 30-60 cm snow cover with heavy crust; some stream sections open.
Christopher Gauthier, Ronald Gauthier, Gilles Godin (compiler), Charles
McAleenan, James Meagher.

*Dave Christie, in best birding fashion,
(To increase his list was his passion).
When flamingo was served
As a snack, he observed,
" If it's not an escape, count my ration!"*

[1983 CNF Conference Limerick Contest]



[illegible]

N. B. 1983-4

Christmas Bird Count

N. B. 1983-4	G M C	G E M C A	S P E N N I S H	L E D J	S T	F N P	R A K	S A V K	M C T	K N P	M L A W	S U S S	C N	D E M	E T O N	S T A N	N O T K	H A R T	F L O	P A R	N - C	M S	Total
Bald Eagle		7 5	2 3	1	1	* [1]	[1]	*	*	[1]			1 *	*	1	1	1	1	1				25
Northern Harrier ♀		1			1	1 *		12	1									1	1				17
Sharp-shinned Hawk		2 1	1		1			*	2			*						1	1	[1]			11
Northern Goshawk		1			1	1	1	1	1				1		1	1	1	1	1	*		1	10
Red-tailed Hawk ♀		3 3			1	1	1	4	1	12		*		1	1	2	2	1	1				37
Rough-legged Hawk		2 1	[1]					38	5				1	10	2	1	1	1	*				62
American Kestrel		[1]	[1]									1	1										4
Merlin		1																					1
Oyrfalcon								1															1
Ring-nk. Pheasant ♀		2	2 2			3 6	1	165 61	4 2	16					1	15	10	3	2				257
Ruffed Grouse		71 26	3	24	50							5	15	3	16	3	1			7	6		97
Purple Sandpiper																							424
phalarope sp.		[75]																					75
Com. Blk-hd. Gull						1																	1
Ring-billed Gull		3			19			*	61														83
Herring Gull	15 240	407 483 321			19	125 98	66 55 171	104 410 23	65 237						850	2							16072
Thayer's Gull		[1]													4								1
Iceland Gull	*	7 22			86	2 43	55 54	2 52				[1]			2								328
Glaucous Gull					5	1	3 1	3 5							2								71
Grt. Blk-bk. Gull	455 1620	52 146 56			184	1 7	47 56 157	38 43 240	19 99						200								5111
Blk-l. Kittiwake ♀	240 1800																						16,172
Dovekie	*	12 7																					19
Common Murres		6																					6
Thick-billed Murres		19 475	1																				495
Bazorbill		23 26 12		1																			62
Black Guillemot		47 103	8								5												163
Rock Dove		40	30 46		352	22 271	152 168			149		206 16	17	752			156 125 602	48 59	34				4220

N.E. 1983-4		G	G E-	S	P	S	F	R	S	M	C	K	M	L	S	H	C-	J	F	S	V	H	F	G	P	P	N	M	S		
Christmas Bird Count		M	M	C	A	N	E	P	A	A	C	T	K	N	A	S	T	E	T	A	S	T	A	J	A	R	C	E	T		
Mourning Dove	#	11	7	10	9	1	34	*	1	2	1	*	1	1	16	16	1	15	*	29	20	*	2	3	4	1	4	41			
Great Horned Owl							*																				*				
Snowy Owl																															
Barred Owl																															
Short-eared Owl																															
N. Saw-whet Owl																															
Belted Kingfisher																															
Downy Woodpecker		6	2	5	*	2	17	21	5	1	14	3	5	7	3	9	13	6	32	10	3	30	5	4	11	8	1	234			
Hairy Woodpecker		2	2	4	1	*	6	7	3	4	5	9	1	8	*	4	7	5	31	11	3	21	2	5	16	10	3	189			
(Northern)																															
Three-toed Woodpr.																															
Black-backed Woodpr.																															
(Three-toed) Wdpr.																															
(Yellow-shafted)																															
Northern Flicker																															
Pileated Woodpr.	#	1								1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*									2	2	1	10	
Horned Lark																															
Gray Jay																															
Blue Jay	#	10	29	36	9	*	60	27	39	4	2	11	17	18	*	3	14	8	27	103	24	278	13	36	83	63	4	3	1808		
American Crow		11	157	53	149	73	150	19	14	130	174	144	4	17	71	5	52	17	171	4	17	28	163	3	7	99	5	4	1824		
Common Raven	#	252	21	4	23	10	18	34	51	64	93	72	4	80	3	31	149	90	63	247	54	35	33	266	12	48	15	21	1891		
Blk.-c. Chickadee	#	100	91	66	35	10	218	54	48	69	211	216	43	108	*	47	194	211	157	478	7	136	63	312	26	18	89	21	11	8	3109
Boreal Chickadee		9	2	2	5		12	4	12	19	7	31	9	11	*	4	12	2	12		*	4	3	6			9	11	2	175	
Red-br. Nuthatch		1		1					2	1	2			1			1		1			2					6	1	1	12	
White-br. Nuthatch							4				4	1					1		10		3	1	2							38	
Brown Creeper		1		*			4		1		1						1		2								7			12	
Winter Wren		1																													
Golden-cr. Kinglet		8	2	2			2	12	5	13	14	9	6	31		21	5	6	2	20		4					2			164	
Ruby-cr. Kinglet																															
American Robin		3	1	2			1	2	4	4	7	3	*				1		9		*	*					*			37	
Northern Mockingbird		1					4			*	3								1		*	*					*			9	

N. B. 1983-4		G	G	S	P	L	S	F	S	K	M	L	S	H	C	J	F	S	W	F	G-P-P	N	M	S
Christmas Bird Count		M	M	C	C	A	N	E	E	P	A	T	C	P	R	M	N	N	S	T	R	A	R	E
		C	C	A	C	N	E	P	A	T	C	P	R	M	N	N	N	N	S	T	R	A	R	E
Bohemian Waxwing		2		*	*			*	2	*	*	42	1			*	181	8	16	18			284	
Cedar Waxwing		*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		3	*						*	*	
Northern Shrike																							11	
Loggerhead Shrike																							1	
European Starling (Myrtle)		340	190	66	43	72		40	171	681	922	349	81	420	30	155	151	54	39	714	16	49	3	127
Yel-rumped Warbler														*									658	
Pine Warbler																							81	
Northern Cardinal		2		1	*			2		1	*										1	*	8	
Rufous-sided Towhee				*	1																		1	
Am. Tree Sparrow		18	31	32	34	*		56	22	35	84	65	45	10	9	9	72	125	223	112	22	27	64	1100
Savannah Sparrow		1								*													1	
Fox Sparrow																							1	
Song Sparrow		2	2	4	3			2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								22	
Lincoln's Sparrow	#1																						1	
White-thr. Sparrow		4		7	2			21	6	2	1	2										2	61	
White-cr. Sparrow (Slate-colored)																							*	
Dark-eyed Junco		6	10	4	12			58	32	23	21	28	2	2	2	10	15	5	4	31	1	2	17	210
Snow Bunting		4																					1751	
Red-winged Blackbird		2						1	4	1	1	1											19	
Eastern Meadowlark		4																					4	
Rusty Blackbird								1															1	
Common Grackle		11		1	1			2	1	3	5			5		1	1	1	7			3	83	
Brown-headed Cowbird		46		6	3	*		4	1	17	15	60				30	12		34				232	
N. (Baltimore) Oriole																							1	
Pine Grosbeak		5		4	8			2		6	*	3		3		*	38	23	7	35	12	6	22	12
Purple Finch		3												2		*							32	331
																							9	26

N. B. 1983-4		G M C	G E C	S E A	S F P	S A K	K M P	S U S	H C N	J E M	P T N	W S T	F A L	G P P	N M S	Total
Christmas Bird Count																
Red Crossbill																2
White-w. Crossbill		12 27														43
Common Redpoll		55 11		55 17	50	27 22 382		48 *	44 15 20 2					14 19	6 71 75	744
Pine Siskin		16		25 24 2 16		13 113			10	16				20	4	301
American Goldfinch		21 8		33 21	51 *	5 30 4			10 56 9	2 55				3 1	2 1	348
Evening Grosbeak		140 66		215 14 41	305 30 80	117 432 126		12 244 *	46 421 96	113 767				201 144 596 21 7 138 22		4561
House Sparrow		121 44		45 4	165 66 232	873 645 130		2 410 *	26 69 242 358 827 25					114 523 474 87 41	147	6448
unidentified/hybrids		37 55		2 118	2 118	11 174		1	2 146	5 146						1056
Total birds		798 1150		5123 819	5123 819	2179 3373		441 1302	749 1797	570 187				1127 3657	147 405 904 635 121 27	88 223
Total species		8 71 53		43 43 27	52 38 45	40 43 57		21 29 17	23 36 30	21 50 9				23 26 42	17 18 23 21 13 7	110
Additional count		2 2 1		1 2 6	4 4 7	4 4		2 4 8	5 2 6	5 5				2 2 2	2 2 1	5
Period species		3 8 12		5 4 2	13 15 7	17 15 9		9 10 2	5 22 9	12 48 1				8 14 5	2 6 5 3 5	295
Field observers/		13 46 4		4 2 1	13 7 7	7 4 11 4 3		6 5 1	3 7 4	7 25 1				3 4 6 3 1 2	4 3 3	143-154
parties																36
Feeder observers/		6		10 3	13 9 10	11 9		20	10 9 12	12 12				5 1 5 4	8 1	304
reports		14 34 33		15 10 5	21 13 8 7	28 4 47		20 24 8	9 38 23	36 125 86				11 10 8	25 20 10	807
Tot. party-hours		14 2.5		9 2 1	17 4 7 1	58 24 31		23 9 1	5 13 5	16 73 1				8 4 1	14 18 17 1	405
Hours on foot		15 28		6 8 4	18 12 14	19 30 16		3 15 7	4 25 17	20 52 7				3 6 5	11 2 2 1	397
Hours by car		32 249 278		77 44 1685	407 284 284	564 504 352		100 440 165	110 406 304	346 700 189				77 120 77	725 95 135 1	7402
Total party-km		30 8		13 4 0.5	30 58 11	110 50 66		50 17 3	7 20 14	35 167 5				13 2 5	15 45 15	827
Km on foot																
Km by car		219 264		64 40 168	379 226 273	454 454 286		50 373 162	103 386 190	271 531 194				66 118 56	110 50 128	6501
Date (Dec. 17-Jan. 2)		29 30 26		26 28 1	27 21 31	19 18 17		22 17 27	29 2 28	2 18 27				28 26 2	30 27 18	(7-2)
Start & finish ASST		1345 145 930		830 720 920	740 900 720	745 730 735		800 900 800	800 700 800	745 745 810				800 815 845	830 900 840	0 700
Temp. range (°C)		2 -9 -9		-27 -12	-9 -22 -12	-12 -10 -4		-18 -3 -14	4 -9 -14	-17 -11 -10				-10 -22 -20	0 -8 -10 -14	-27
Wind direction		4 -3 -4		-13 -4	-1 -10 -3	-6 -7 4		-15 0 -17	7 -3 -1	-1 -8 -4				-15 -8 -10	0 -8 -10 -14	7
Wind speed (km/h)		NW NW W E SE		NW NW SW	SW NW SW	E NW NW		NW W NW	W NW W NW	SW W ?				NW S N	SW SE NW	
Snow depth (cm)		45 37		0 -5	5 -19 -0	5 -20 -0		8 -5 35	3 0 -0	0 -9 -0				0 -10	0 -10	0 -61
Weather, morning		- T ?		30 ✓ 50	15 -5 -0	5 -10 T		5 T ?	0 T 10	T 0 5				20 30	50 50	0 -60
Weather, aftern.		0 0 0		0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0		0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0				0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0

COASTAL ADJUNCT TO KEJIMKUJIK

(from Parkscan, Sept./Oct. 1983, newsletter of Parks Canada)

Parks Canada has welcomed the recommendations of an independent committee established by the Province of Nova Scotia which recommended that a 2210-hectare (5460-acre) site, known locally as the Wood's property, be turned over to Parks Canada for development as an adjunct to Kejimikujik National Park.



Within the existing Kejimikujik National Park boundary can be found examples of many of the significant natural resources that make up the Atlantic Coast Uplands Region. The one key exception is the South Atlantic Shore. As a relatively undisturbed coastal wilderness, this area is a rare and valuable resource where visitors could experience the coast in its natural state and learn about its natural environment.

Expropriated by the province in 1974, the property is a rugged barren area, fully exposed to the rigours of a coastal climate. Its beaches, affording ideal walking, beachcombing, and nature study opportunities, are also of interest for their value to wildlife. Cadden Beach supports one of the heaviest concentrations of breeding pairs of piping plovers in Nova Scotia, as well as colonies of arctic and common terns.

*There once was a sweet piping plover,
Who paraded the beach with her lover,
But all of her dreams
Were to end in her screams,
When the wheels of a jeep ran her over.*

*So stay clear of the rare piping plover,
Who nests on the beach without cover,
Don't walk where they lay
Or where baby chicks play
And don't ever run over their mother!*

(1983 CNF Conference Limerick Contest)



Book Reviews

Handbook of Canadian Mammals - No. 1, Marsupials and Insectivores.
By C.G. VanZyll de Jong. National Museum of Natural Sciences,
National Museums of Canada. 1983. 210 pp. \$19.95.

*Reviewed by T.G. Dilworth, Biology Department, University of
New Brunswick, Fredericton.*

This is the first volume of a seven-volume handbook, treating all Canadian mammals from opossums to whales in a greater depth than past books on Canadian mammals. It is designed as a basic reference for students, biologists and naturalists. The author's aim in this volume and future volumes is to provide an up-to-date summary of the systematics, distribution and life history of all free-living mammals other than man that occur in Canada, or that have occurred in the recent past.

The basic format is taxonomic, with sections describing orders, families, genera and species in their hierarchical sequence. A brief synoptic classification of mammals and a very brief summary of the composition of the Canadian mammal fauna precedes the main body of the text. The sections on orders, families and genera deal primarily with their morphology, systematics and worldwide distribution.

The major section, the Insectivores, is preceded by a comprehensive key which combines characteristics of skin and skull with good illustrations of the important characters used in the key. The key makes heavy use of technical terms, but the author provides an excellent glossary to aid in defining the terms used. In addition, there are two illustrations which show the major skeletal characters. By using shrew and mole skulls and skeletons for these illustrations, the author has made the use of the key very much easier.

There are good colour plates by Brenda Carter and numerous black and white drawings by C.H. Douglas and E. Van Ingen in this volume. Particularly helpful are the very large skull illustrations which are provided for each species. It would be useful, however, to have a scale to aid in determining the actual size of the skull shown in a full-page illustration.

The species accounts provide details on morphology (including measurements and weight), distribution, systematics and biology. The author has used information for these sections from Canadian studies whenever possible.

I feel that this first volume has gone far towards achieving the goal of the author for this series. It definitely contributes to a wider appreciation and understanding of the species covered and will surely stimulate further study of these mammals.

Recent Titles

OF INTEREST TO NEW BRUNSWICK NATURALISTS

Compiled by Donald McAlpine

- Burt, E. H. Jr. and W. Chow. 1983. "Facing In" is not general to all gulls nesting on cliffs. Canadian Field Naturalist 97:222-224 (Observations at Kent Island, N.B., suggest "facing in" to the cliff wall is one of the behavioural adoptions of the cliff-nesting kittiwake.)
- Campbell, A. and M.D. Eagles. 1983. Size at maturity and fecundity of rock crabs, Cancer irroratus, from the Bay of Fundy and Southwestern Nova Scotia. Fishery Bulletin 81:357-362.
- Daborn, G.H. and R.S. Gregory. 1983. Occurrence, distribution and feeding habits of juvenile lumpfish, Cyclopterus lumpus L. in the Bay of Fundy. Canadian Journal Zoology 61:797-801.
- Currie, K.L. 1984. A reconsideration of some geological relations near Saint John, New Brunswick. Current Research Part A, Geological Survey of Canada Paper 84-1A pp.193-201.
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Museum News



MONEY, MONEY, MONEY!

The Natural Sciences Department has received two major grants from the Museum Assistance Programmes of the National Museums of Canada.

A \$30,900 Exhibitions Assistance grant will fund the planning and research phase of a new Natural History Gallery. This initial stage of gallery redevelopment will see detailed research leading to the production of a comprehensive gallery plan and preliminary exhibit text. Specimens and objects illustrating the natural history of the province will be selected and the exhibit design and gallery layout drafted. The grant will also allow travel by curatorial staff to assess the public galleries of museums across Canada and the United States. At the completion of the funded planning and research stage, we'll be out with hat in hand to raise money to actually build our dream gallery within the next couple of years!

The second allotment of \$36,100 is an Upgrading and Equipment grant. The funds will allow improvement in the natural sciences collections storage facilities through the purchase of additional scientific specimen cabinets. The \$36,100 sum made available through the Museum Assistance Programme is 50% of the total project cost; matching funds will be provided over the two year duration of the project by the New Brunswick Museum.

Both the Exhibits Assistance and the Storage Upgrading grants will result in tangible benefits to the museum public, as they enable us to better preserve and interpret our natural science collections.

SALT MARSH EXHIBIT

A travelling exhibit from the Nova Scotia Museum on salt marshes has met with critical acclaim during its two-month showing in Saint John. "The Salt Marsh: A Meeting of Land and Sea" illustrates the biology, history and economics of the salt marshes that form a narrow fringe along much of our maritime coastline. The Saint John Naturalists' Club took advantage of the exhibition to co-sponsor with the Museum a special evening lecture by Dr. Hinrich Harries of Sackville entitled "The Ecological History of the Chignecto Marshes".

Following its run in Saint John the exhibit will be at the Restigouche Gallery, Campbellton, until April 30.

COLLECTIONS SURVEY

The Natural Sciences Department is undertaking a survey of natural history collections in the province.

Coordinated by Donald McAlpine, the survey will identify existing assemblages of New Brunswick biological and geological material, as well as determine researchers who, in the course of their studies, may be collecting but not keeping specimens.

A survey questionnaire has been circulated to individuals and institutions throughout the province. The information obtained in the course of the survey will greatly help the Museum direct the course of its own collections growth. If you know of a private (or public) collection or collecting researcher of which we may not be aware, please contact Donald McAlpine, Natural Sciences Department.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The New Brunswick Museum has launched a series of publications designed to provide information on the natural history of New Brunswick.

"Publications in Natural Sciences" is conceived as a low-cost outlet for technical investigations by museum staff and other researchers. The first title in the series is Status and Conservation of Solution Caves in New Brunswick, by Donald F. McAlpine. The second title, Rare and Vulnerable Species in New Brunswick, is in press.

1975, 19, Vol. 1, 1975

Titles will appear at irregular intervals. Manuscripts are invited for consideration, and should be addressed to the Natural Sciences Department, New Brunswick Museum. Material submitted will be subjected to critical peer review.

Publications in this series are available from the Museum Sales Department.

PARTY, PARTY, PARTY!

Mark June 17 on your calendar for the NBM's Bicentennial Party and Grand Gallery Re-opening.

From 2 until 6:30 pm the Museum celebrates New Brunswick's 200th Birthday and its own 50th anniversary in the Douglas Avenue building. The party features the grand opening of three major exhibit galleries - "Treasures of the New Brunswick Museum", "The Great 19th Century Show", and "Foundations: The River Province".

Don't miss the fun. Activities and events for all! Free admission! Balloons for the kiddies! And -it had them picking their teeth in Ontario - the Super-spectacular Sunflower Seed Eating Contest! Be there!!



Announcement!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JUNE 8 - 10

This year, the Annual General Meeting of the NBFN will take place in Florenceville, June 8 - 10, hosted by the Valley Naturalists. A perfect place and a perfect time to enjoy an interesting and informative weekend, with field trips, guest speakers, and lots of fun.

Something to look forward to ... mark it on your calendar now and look for more details later.

N.B.F.N. TREASURER'S REPORT 1982-83



(FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)

CURRENT ACCOUNT

Cash on Hand, Opening Balance Oct. 23, 1982 \$ 490.32

<u>Receipts</u>	- Memberships	\$ 893.80	
	- Donations: N.B. Nat.	256.00	
	- Registrations: A.G.M.	295.00	
	- Book Sales	20.00	
	- Interest	<u>10.38</u>	
			1,475.18

<u>Disbursements</u>	- Postage	\$ 377.35	
	- Painting & Covers	152.96	
	- CNF Flyer	78.84	
	- Stationery	183.40	
	- Books (NBM)	30.00	
	- Flowers	21.60	
	- CNF Membership	25.00	
	- 1982 AGM	22.82	
	- Service Charges	<u>1.40</u>	
			893.37

Balance on Hand September 16, 1983 \$1,072.13

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Cash on Hand, Opening Balance Oct. 23, 1982 686.60

<u>Receipts</u>	- Donations	\$ 60.00	
	- Interest	<u>69.46</u>	
			129.46

Disbursements - Nil

Balance on Hand September 16, 1983 \$ 816.06

GROSS TOTAL \$1,888.19

Membership
Regular 162

NEW BRUNSWICK FEDERATION OF NATURALISTS

ANNUAL MEETING WEEKEND, FLORENCEVILLE, JUNE 8-10, 1984

Hosted by the Valley Naturalists

Location: Headquarters and meeting place for all events will be the N.B. Dept. of Agriculture Centre at Wicklow, by the Trans-Canada Highway, 5 km north of the bridge at Florenceville.

Friday evening, June 8

- 8 till 10 p.m. Registration for early arrivals and informal meeting with local members.
- 8:30 p.m. Thrushes; a local field trip to listen to the evening songs of five species of thrushes (6 if a Bluebird can be located)

Saturday, June 9

- 8:30 a.m. on Registration.
- 9:30 a.m. Oakland Mountain; a field trip to hardwood forest and cedar swamp, in search of nesting birds with Ansel Campbell. There will be alternate routes for the vigorous and the more sedentary participants. (A Pileated Woodpecker nest has been located in the area.)
- 1:30 p.m. Choice of field trips:
A. Carleton County Marshes (Williamstown Lake and Avondale Marsh)
B. Butternut and Maidenhair, the rich hardwood flora of the Meduxnekeag valley area.
- 6:30 p.m. Beans and fiddlehead supper.
- 8:00 p.m. Annual General Meeting of the N.B. Federation of Naturalists; Preview of 50 common birds slide program, a project of the Valley Naturalists; and more.

Sunday, June 10

- 7:00 a.m. Birds along the Saint John River in the Riverbank area, between Florenceville and Hartland. Led by Don Kimball.
- 9:00 a.m. For late risers! Exploration of the natural history around the small lakes of the Knoxford area.
- Afternoon There is the possibility of arranging a special outing to satisfy a particular interest not covered by other trips.

Local contacts: Ansel Campbell (392-5921), Ford Alward (392-6485).

Accommodation in the Florenceville area:

Beechwood Motel, Trans-Canada Highway at Beechwood Dam.	Tel. 278-3289
Cheerio Motor Court, Route 105, Florenceville	392-5578
Cloverleaf Cabins, Route 105, near Stickney	375-6757
Dutch Tent & Trailer Park, Trans-Canada, N of Florenceville	392-5320
Cloverleaf Trailer Park, Trans-Canada, near Stickney	375-6757

Call for Nominations

Nominations for the positions of President, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and director-at-large may be made by any member of the federation. Please send your nominations to the secretary, New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B. E2K 1E5 by June 5, 1984.

Annual Meeting Weekend June 8-10

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

No. of persons: _____ at \$5. each \$ _____ (includes Saturday supper).

Make cheques payable to Valley Naturalists and send to Ansel Campbell, RR 1, Stickney, N.B. E2J 1X0. Tel. 392-5921. (Any surplus funds will be directed towards the 50 common birds slide program project.)



NEW BRUNSWICK FEDERATION OF NATURALISTS

277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B., Canada E2K 1E5

LA FEDERATION DES NATURALISTES DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

277, avenue Douglas, Saint-Jean, N.-B., Canada E2K 1E5

Téléphone: (506) 693-1196

The federation is a non-profit organization formed in 1972 to facilitate communication among naturalists and nature-oriented clubs, to encourage an understanding of nature and the environment, and to safeguard the natural heritage of New Brunswick.

La fédération est une organisation sans but lucratif formée en 1972 pour faciliter la communication entre les naturalistes et entre les divers clubs axés sur l'étude de la nature, pour encourager une meilleure compréhension de la nature et de l'environnement naturel, et pour sauvegarder le patrimoine naturel du Nouveau-Brunswick.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION

Past president/Ancien président:	Harry Walker	276 Heath Court, Newcastle, E1V 2Y5
President/Président:	Mary Majka	RR 2, Mary's Point Road, Albert, E0A 1A0
Vice-president/Vice-président:	Gayl Hipperson	280 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, E2K 1E7
Secretary/Secrétaire:	Stephen Clayden	P.O. Box 160, Rothesay, E0G 2W0
Treasurer/Trésorier:	David Smith	149 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, E2K 1E5
Directors-at-large/ Membres généraux:	David Clark Wilma Miller	P.O. Box 232, St. Andrews, E0G 2X0 RR 1, Nictau, Plaster Rock, E0J 1W0
Representative directors/ Membres représentatifs:	David Christie Lionel Girouard Gay Hansen Harold Hatheway Erwin Landsuer Sara Lounsbury Gerald Mackenzie Donald McAlpine	(Moncton Naturalists' Club) (Grand Lake Naturalists' Club) (Chignecto Naturalists' Club) (Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club) (Valley Naturalists) (Miramichi Naturalists' Club) (Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society) (Saint John Naturalists' Club)

FEDERATED CLUBS/CLUBS FEDERES

Chignecto Naturalists' Club	P.O. Box 1590, Sackville, E0A 3C0
Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club	P.O. Box 542, Fredericton E3B 5A6
Grand Lake Naturalists' Club	c/o L. Girouard, RR 1, Minto, E0E 1J0
Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society	P.O. Box 1931, Sussex, E0E 1P0
Miramichi Naturalists' Club	276 Heath Court, Newcastle, E1V 2Y5
Moncton Naturalists' Club	42 Broadway Street, Moncton E1A 3Y2
Saint John Naturalists' Club	277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, E2K 1E5
Valley Naturalists	P.O. Box 95, Florenceville, E0J 1K0

MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Annual dues, 1984:	
Individual or family	\$10.00
Student (to age 18)	\$5.00
Sustaining	\$20.00

Membership privileges include subscription to N.B. Naturalist.

Please make cheques payable to:
N.B. Federation of Naturalists
Mail to: David F. Smith, Treasurer,
149 Douglas Avenue,
Saint John, N.B., Canada
E2K 1E5

COTISATIONS DE MEMBRES/TARIF D'ABONNEMENT

Cotisations annuelles, 1984:	
Individu ou famille	\$10.00
Etudiant jusqu'à 18 ans	\$5.00

Chaque membre recevra un abonnement à la revue Le Naturaliste du N.-B.

Veuillez faire votre chèque à l'ordre de
La Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B.
et postez à: David F. Smith, trésorier,
149 avenue Douglas
Saint-Jean, N.-B., Canada
E2K 1E5

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The New Brunswick Museum
Le Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick

