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N. B. Naturalist

Le Naturaliste du N.-B.



New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists
277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B. E2K 1E5 Canada

La Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick
277, avenue Douglas, Saint John, N.-B. E2K 1E5 Canada

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 focus concern for the natural heritage of New Brunswick.

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Mail to: Cecil Johnston, 29 Coronation Avenue, West Saint John, N.B. E2M 3Y9. [Outside Canada, add C\$5.]

Chaque membre recevra la revue *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.* Veuillez faire votre chèque à l'ordre de La Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B. et postez-le à: Cecil Johnston, 29 avenue Coronation, West Saint John, N.B. E2M 3Y9. [À l'extérieur du Canada, ajoutez \$5.]

La fédération est une organisation sans buts lucratifs 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 l'environnement naturel, et pour éveiller le souci pour le patrimoine naturel du Nouveau-Brunswick.

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Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule Acadienne, C.P. 421, Lamèque (N.-B.) E0B 1V0; 344-2286 ou 395-5023; réunions alternantes entre Caraquet, Shippagan et Tracadie, 1er mercredi, sept. à juin; *Le Gobe-mouche* mensuel.

Club des ornithologues du Madawaska, a/s Danielle Nadeau, RR 4, Edmundston (N.-B.) E3V 3V7; 739-7085; réunions à 19 h, 2ième lundi, sept. à mai, Centre communautaire de Boucher; bulletin *C.O.M.*

Fredericton Nature Club, Box 772, Station A, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5B4; 459-8685 or 454-2117; meets N.B. Craft School, 7:30 pm, 1st Wed., Sept.-May; monthly *Newsletter*.

Grand Lake Naturalists' Club, c/o Lionel Girouard, RR 1, Minto, N.B. E0E 1J0.

Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society, P.O. Box 12, Sussex, N.B. E0E 1P0; 433-1801 or 433-6473; meets St. Paul's United Church Hall, 8 pm, 4th Mon., Sept.-May.

Miramichi Naturalists' Club, 276 Heath Court, Newcastle, NB. E1V 2Y5.

Moncton Naturalists' Club, P.O. Box 4327, Dieppe, NB. E1A 6E9; 857-4271 or 384-5212; meets Moncton Museum, 7 pm, 2nd Wed., Sept.-May; monthly newsletter.

Nepisquit Naturalists' Club, P.O. Box 385, Bathurst, N.B. E2A 3Z3

Saint John Naturalists' Club, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B. E2K 1E5; meets N.B. Museum, 2nd Wed., Sept.-May, elsewhere in June; monthly *Bulletin*.

Valley Naturalists, Box 95, Florenceville, NB. E0J 1K0; 375-6887 or 392-6485; meets Wicklow Agricultural Centre, 7:30 pm, 2nd Mon., Oct.-June; semi-annual newsletter.

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Schoodic Chapter, Maine Audubon Society, c/o Sid Bahrt, Pembroke, ME 04666; meets Sunrise Apts., Calais, 7 pm, 3rd Tues., except Dec; bimonthly *Schoodic*.

Sunbury Shores Arts and Nature Centre, Inc., Box 100, St. Andrews, N.B. E0G 2X0; 529-3386; workshops, exhibits, semi-annual *Sunbury Notes*.



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Le Naturaliste du N.-B.

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On peut lire dans *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.* des rapports touchant l'histoire naturelle du Nouveau-Brunswick. Les articles seront acceptés dans français ou anglais pour être reproduits dans la langue d'origine seulement. Les opinions exprimées sont celles de leurs auteurs. Prière d'envoyer vos articles aux directeurs (voir «Comité de rédaction» au-dessus). Tarifs publicitaires disponibles sur demande.

NEW BRUNSWICK FEDERATION OF NATURALISTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Fredericton, June 8 - 10

"The Lower Saint John River and its Valley"

Dear Friend:

We would like to invite you to join us in Fredericton on June 8-10 (Friday to Sunday) for the 1990 Annual General Meeting of our federation. The theme of the weekend will be "The Lower Saint John River and its Valley".

We will start off the weekend on Friday night with a symposium featuring lectures on geology, flora, fauna, fisheries, human settlement, and environmental conservation. There will also be displays, refreshments, and a book table.

On Saturday morning we plan to explore Odell Park, a remnant of old-growth forest within the city limits. Later on we will leave for a major field trip upriver, visiting sites such as Curry Mountain (possibly an extinct volcano), Sugar Island at the junction of the Keswick River, and the riverside cliffs at Keswick Ridge.

Several canoes will be available on Saturday for a paddle through the Portobello Creek marshes, an area rich in waterfowl.

A buffet dinner will be held on Saturday evening, giving everyone a chance to renew old friendships and to make new ones. The day's activities will conclude with the business meeting.

On Sunday we shall head downriver and explore the estuarine portion of the river. Some parties will travel on foot and by car while others will travel by boat.

(continued)



SUPPLEMENT
NB NATURALIST
MARCH 1990

We have booked a twenty-passenger houseboat for Sunday and are planning two leisurely nature cruises through the back channels and 'thoroughfares' of Grand Lake, Jemseg River and Washademoak Lake. Capacity on the boat is limited and preregistration is therefore highly recommended. Both cruises will leave from Gagetown.

A preschool childrens' program, including visits to a fish hatchery and to a wildlife park (Woolastook Park), is in preparation.

All indoor activities, including the Friday evening symposium and the Saturday evening dinner and business meeting, will be held in the cafeteria of the Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre on the outskirts of Fredericton at the intersection of Regent St. and the Trans Canada Highway. Lodging is available within walking distance at the Fredericton Inn (455-1430).

Additional information may be obtained from Jim Goltz (459-8685 evenings). Detailed programs and supplementary information will be mailed to pre-registrants and to all federated clubs.

We are looking forward to seeing you in June in Fredericton.

the Fredericton Nature Club

P.S. Please help us by preregistering using the form below. Make your cheques payable to the club. Our address is: Fredericton Nature Club, P.O. Box 772, Station A, Fredericton, N.B., E3B 5B4.

PREREGISTRATION FORM

I(we) plan to attend.

Name(s)_____ Number of persons_____

Address(incl. postal code)_____

Registration fee (\$5.00 per person)_____

Saturday Dinner and two box lunches (\$20.00 per person)_____

Sunday Nature Cruise (\$15.00 per person)_____

Total amount enclosed (please do not send cash)_____

Childrens' Programme (no charge) yes / no

Saturday Canoe Trip on Portobello Creek (no charge) yes / no

From the President

Since I last reported to you your board of directors has met twice. A considerable amount of business is conducted at such meetings and news from federated clubs is given. Many of them are thriving. I would especially like to congratulate Le Club des ornithologues du Madawaska for the initiatives it has undertaken.

Our treasurer, Cecil Johnston, has been working diligently to gather past members back into the fold—successfully so, thanks to the positive response of the many who just needed a gentle reminder of dues due. But we are a still a small organization. If we are to be able to adequately address the many vital environmental issues that affect our interests, we must grow to represent a larger section of the community. Why not pledge to bring in a new member in 1990?

There has been some evidence that we do not enjoy a very high profile. We are trying to do something about it. A display panel is being developed, an attractive lapel pin has been produced and our letterhead has been adapted for use on T-shirts. If you are interested in obtaining either item contact your local club or write to the Federation.

Recently, we have agreed to be a sponsor of a book tentatively entitled "Wild Lands Forever," which will be about the province's natural areas and wildlife heritage, and we have made a financial contribution to help the Nature Conservancy of Canada purchase a site in Victoria County where the endangered Furbish lousewort occurs. Application has been made for a Challenge '90 grant to again hire students as warden-interpreters at Mary's Point in Shepody National Wildlife Area. Finally, the federation will be entering into a contract with the Canadian Parks Service for a study of the reproduction of Sharp-shinned Hawks in Fundy National Park.

From January to mid-March, I received and wrote about twenty letters on behalf of the Federation. Two recently sent might be of particular interest. One was a request to the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy to update and reprint the pamphlet: *Endangered Species in New Brunswick*. There has been steady demand for it, especially from school children. The other concerned the killing of raptors in our province, particularly during the fall hunting season. A request for a public education campaign on raptor conservation, and government assistance for raptor rehabilitation was made. Mr. Green's response was encouraging.

The federation receives a number of invitations to present briefs on environmental issues, but it is not possible for us to respond to them all. Nelson Poirier has been developing a federation stance on game ranching. Regarding the provincial parks master plan, Hal Hinds and I had discussions with parks officials; there are indications that the planning may accommodate some of our views—for example, that the parks system better reflect the different bio-geographical regions of the province. On behalf of the Canadian Wildlife Service and the federation I made a presentation at the federal public hearings on tanker safety and marine spills.

Finally, David Christie has prepared a draft statement to be submitted to the Round Table Task Force on Sustainable Development. We would like more of our members to become involved in those activities. Right now the burden falls on only a few people.

David Christie and Mary Majka continue to provide yeoman service in the production of the *N.B. Naturalist* / *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.*, vital to the existence of the NBFN. Any suggestions for changes so that it may even better serve the interests of members will be earnestly considered.

The Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas project is now in its final year of field work. As many will appreciate it is by far the most ambitious undertaking ever tackled by amateur naturalists in the region. A lot of you have made valuable contributions. It is still not too late to come aboard. Let us know if you want to become involved.

The Fredericton Nature Club has extended a kind invitation to the federation to hold its annual meeting in the capital city this year. It will be on the weekend of 8-10 June. A fine program, full of interest, has been developed by Dusan Soudek and his planning committee. Registration forms are enclosed with this magazine. Plan to attend. Mark the dates on your calendar now!

Winter is finally slackening its grip on the landscape and as this message is penned, mid-March, crows are again carrying nesting material into an eum outside my office window and the first migrant geese and blackbirds are appearing along the Bay of Fundy. I wish you happy days afield. See you in June!

Peter Pearce

From the Editors

Oops! Inadvertently we printed a version of our last issue that didn't have all our editing changes in it, and we left out the caption for the salamander picture: "Tremblay's Salamander or Blue-spotted? Only the blue genes can tell." Sorry about that! We had also wanted to say that Chris Gauthier, author of "Salmon Fishing on the Nepisiguit" is a young naturalist from Bathurst, who is learning about nature in many ways, including as an enthusiastic fisherman.

We are not doing too badly as far as keeping on schedule goes. We hope that you will enjoy this issue and consider sending material to help us put out the next one late this spring.

David and Mary

Cover Illustration / Illustration de la Couverture

Dogtooth Violet or Trout Lily by Mary Majka /
Érythron d'Amérique par Mary Majka

L'histoire d'une Petite Nyctale surnommée «Gaspard»

Audard Godin



C'était lundi, le 15 mai 1989, je travaillais à couper du bois dans la région de Paquetville. J'avais coupé un peuplier d'environ 30 cm de diamètre, lorsque j'aperçus un trou de pic dedans. Dans ce trou, j'ai vu quelque chose bouger, j'ai pensé à des bébés pics, mais oh surprise, ces petits avaient des becs courts et crochus, c'était des bébés Nyctale. J'ai alors crié à mon compagnon de travail de venir voir. J'ai sorti les trois petits oisillons par le trou que j'avais fait en coupant l'arbre et j'ai trouvé 4 souris mortes parmi eux. J'ai nettoyé la saleté que j'avais fait avec ma scie mécanique, j'ai remis les oisillons et les souris dans l'arbre. J'ai relevé la bûche et l'ai fait tenir debout appuyée sur un autre arbre. J'ai dû placer les branches de sapin sur le dessus car il pleuvait ce jour-là. J'y suis retourné le soir avec Roland Robichaud et nous avons couvert le dessus de l'arbre avec des bardeaux de cèdre pour empêcher la pluie de mouiller les petits.

Quatre jours plus tard, soit le 19 mai, je suis retourné voir, le plus petit des oisillons était mort (ils étaient tous trois de différentes tailles). Onze jours après avoir coupé l'arbre, j'ai encore fait une visite et je n'ai trouvé qu'un seul survivant, soit le plus âgé des trois. Les souris et même les oisillons morts avaient été rongés jusqu'aux os. La mère n'étant pas revenue, l'oiseau s'était nourri des souris et des deux cadavres. J'ai alors décidé d'amener le survivant chez moi, mais il sentait tellement méchant que j'ai dû m'installer avec lui à l'arrière du camion pour faire le voyage.

Chez nous, je l'ai présenté à ma femme et à mes enfants et lui avons donné le nom de «Gaspard». Nous avons dû lui donner plusieurs bains afin d'enlever toute la saleté et cette senteur désagréable. Il a élu domicile

dans une boîte déposée dans notre garage. Au début, nous mettions des gants pour le prendre, mais il n'a jamais essayé de nous piquer avec son bec ou nous blesser avec ses griffes.

Le jour, on l'apportait dehors, c'était intéressant de le voir suivre un insecte des yeux. David, notre petit garçon de 6 ans, se promenait à bicyclette avec Gaspard sur son épaule, il avait l'air d'aimer cela. On l'apportait aussi à la maison, alors il se perchait sur le haut des portes, des portes d'armoires ou sur les rideaux. Quelques fois, il choisissait nos têtes comme perchoir. On l'a nourri de petits cubes de viande de bœuf, de foie et de viande hachée. On lui a aussi trouvé quelques souris qu'il a d'ailleurs dégustées. Dans notre garage, il se perchait toujours le plus haut possible car c'était plus sombre et guettait probablement les souris. On le laissait voler dehors et plusieurs fois, j'ai dû aller le chercher dans les arbres.

Gaspard a même assisté à une réunion du Club de naturalistes et il s'y est bien comporté. Il a fait le voyage en auto, perché sur le dossier du siège avant, car il n'a jamais été mis en cage.

Le garde forestier, Jean-Claude Hachey, lui a fait venir une bague de Frédéricion et l'a mise à la patte de Gaspard le 30 juin. Le numéro de la bague est le 624-83894. Le lendemain, je suis allé reconduire Gaspard à l'endroit où je l'avais trouvé. Il semblait avoir un bon instinct pour chercher sa nourriture et se cacher dans les conifères. Il était presque de taille normale et j'ai pensé qu'il était temps pour lui de partir à l'aventure.

Je n'encourage personne à apporter des oisillons chez eux, mais cette fois je n'avais pas le choix. Je peux vous dire que les semaines que nous avons passées, ma femme, mes enfants David, Monique et moi, seront inoubliables parce que nous l'adorions tous. Et lorsque nous l'avons laissé partir vers sa liberté, nous avions tous le cœur gros.

An Example of Play in Bald Eagles?

Rudy Stoeck

One October afternoon in 1988, an adult and 2 immature Bald Eagles were soaring above the high hills on the opposite side of the Saint John River from the Mactaquac Salmon Culture Station, in Kingsclear, N.B. One of the immatures seemed to be actively attempting to initiate some form of "play" with the other two. It flapped around, over and under each bird, making brief contact with them as they soared. The two soarers more or less passively ignored the young bird.

About 30 minutes later, after the 3 eagles had left, one immature flew to the same area carrying a large stick in both feet. It continued to soar with the stick to a considerable height for over 15 minutes. Another immature eagle appeared and attempted to grab the stick by flying beneath the soarer, turning upside down with

feet extended, and by flying above and approaching from the side. This was not a confrontation but appeared to be the actions of a "playful" bird. The soarer remained passive with only a limited response (of avoidance) and eventually left the area carrying the stick.

Are these examples of play in the Bald Eagle? It certainly looked that way.



Ghost Fishers In the Sea

J. A. (Sandy) Burnett¹

They're fishing again tonight. On Georges Bank they're fishing, and on the Grand Banks. Around the Gulf of St. Lawrence, too—off Neguac and Escuminac, Shippagan, Port-aux-Basques and Cape St. Mary's, and out among the Magdalen Islands. They're fishing tonight the way they've fished, night and day, for years. Rain or shine, winter or summer, the silver hake and cod, the mackerel, herring, and shad entangle themselves in the hazy gillnets. The lobsters and crabs pick their way on tip-toe into the silent traps. The catch is bountiful. But it never comes ashore. For this is the catch of the ghost fishers of the sea.

"Ghost nets" and "ghost traps" are terms applied to fishing gear lost at sea. The nets may have been torn adrift by the passage of vessels, or the traps separated from their marker buoys by the violence of storms. For the fisherman they are irretrievable, write-offs to be replaced as quickly as possible; but just because gear is lost does not mean that it no longer works.

Modern fishing gear is designed to catch fish. Whether a gillnet is lifted daily and emptied of its catch or not is immaterial to the net; so long as its mesh remains extended in the water, it will continue to capture unwary fish. If no one comes to empty derelict traps, their one-way doors do not refuse entry to crabs or lobsters. They stay open, and the decomposing bodies of previous victims provide a perpetually attractive supply of bait for more of the bottom-feeding scavengers.

The loss of nets and traps, of course, has gone on ever since some prehistoric inventor devised these basic components of fisheries technology. For centuries, however, they were made of natural materials, fibres and wood that would rot or be consumed by worms if not cared for. Their potential to continue "ghost fishing" was short-lived.

With the widespread introduction of plastics to the fishing industry in the past 25 years, all that has changed. Gillnets made of nylon or polypropylene fibre are stronger and easier to handle than the old-fashioned twine variety. Plastic lobster traps are immune to corrosion and, being collapsible, require less space in storage or on deck than wooden ones. Synthetic materials have brought economic benefits to fishermen. At the same time, their use has vastly increased the time that lost or discarded gear may continue to waste fish stocks and, incidentally, to entangle and drown other marine wildlife, such as seabirds, seals, and whales.

Although no one knows how much ghost gear is

adrift in Atlantic Canadian waters, studies in New England, where the fishery is very similar, may provide some indication of the scale of the problem. There, in 1985 alone, fishermen engaged in the groundfish gillnet fishery filed compensation claims with the U.S. government for the loss of 525 gillnets with an aggregate total length of 48 km. In 1984 and 1985, underwater surveys of prime fishing sites in the Gulf of Maine by a submersible research vessel discovered eleven lost gillnets in a mere 273 acres of sea-bottom. Approximately 2.5 million traps are used in the New England lobster fishery. It has been estimated that 20% of these are lost annually.

These allegedly fragmentary figures suggest that the quantity of ghost equipment may well equal or exceed that which is in active use. Though much of it may be damaged and inefficient, it is in place year-round

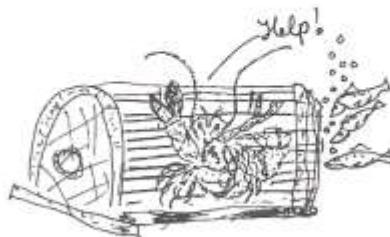
without regard for seasons or quotas. It represents serious and totally wasteful competition for fishermen, and is a constant hazard to non-commercial wildlife species.

What the ghost fishery amounts to is a specialized pollution problem. The challenge is to find workable solutions. Some conservationists propose stiff penalties against fishermen as a deterrent to loss of gear. Although some gear may be casually discarded by fishermen, such punitive measures are unlikely to be effective; neither ownership nor negligence is easy to prove in a court of law. Besides, there must be few fishermen today who fail to understand that ghost gear, whether

lost by accident or design, means lost income for years to come.

A more practical approach might be for fishermen and environmentalists to combine in urging equipment manufacturers to develop and use materials that will break down rapidly if left exposed to seawater for extended periods of time. According to one encouraging report, lobster traps with degradable hinges are already on the market.

Meanwhile, they're fishing again tonight, as they will for many years to come. The ghost fishers in the sea.



¹ One in a series of articles written by freelance writer and naturalist Sandy Burnett, under the sponsorship of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

What is It?

Notes on a Nest-like Structure on the Ground

Terry O'Donnell

During June 1989, Allen Hunter, an employee of Canadian Pacific Forest Products, discovered a bulky nest-like structure on the ground in a 10-to-15-year-old clearcut in the Trout Brook area of the Southwest Miramichi watershed. Residual hardwood trees stood among aspen, maple, birch, fir and spruce saplings. Much of the young growth, however, had been killed by a herbicide application in 1986. Surviving trees tended to be found in clumps surrounded by areas of dense raspberry growth.

The structure was located near the base of a Red Spruce sapling, about 100 m into the cutover from the nearest road. It was more or less circular in shape, measuring from 1.2 to 1.3 m across, with a central depression 50 cm in diameter and 25 cm deep.

A variety of materials had been used in its construction: twigs of various trees, the previous year's maple leaves, rectangular shreds of Trembling Aspen bark (5 to 8 cm across and up to 0.6 m long), Ground-pine, chunks of decaying wood, and Red Spruce and Balsam Fir boughs. Several of the boughs were still green and obviously fresh. Their jagged butt ends indicated they had been chewed from the tree.

No evidence of droppings, tracks or other animal sign was seen. Of interest, however, was a balsam fir seedling which had been bent over and built into the structure. Still living, it was about 1 m in height and 5 cm in diameter at its base.

On July 9, a month after my initial visit, I made a second trip to the site. A dead aspen lay across the

structure which, although undamaged, no longer appeared to be in use. This time a search revealed two spruce trees (about 10 cm in diameter at breast height), which were missing limbs and had obviously been a source of boughs used to construct the shelter.

Most of the branches had been removed at a height of 1 m from the ground; their jagged stubs resembled those in the nest. Furthermore, one of the spruce bore claw marks measuring 3 cm long and about the same distance apart.

As of this writing, a positive identification of the animal responsible for the structure has not been made. Based on the evidence at hand, such as the chewed spruce limbs, clawed spruce trunk and bent balsam fir seedling it seems likely that it was a mammal and not a bird which was involved. Banfield (1974: *The Mammals of Canada*) describes the Black Bear as constructing open shelters of spruce boughs and rotten wood in which to spend its winter dormancy period. However, the small size of the central depression and the fact that fresh boughs had been added in early June make the bear an unlikely candidate. A local guide who had apparently seen a similar structure indicated that he believed it to be the work of a Fisher. Various literature sources, such as the study of

Fisher and Marten conducted by DeVos (1952: *The ecology and management of Fisher and Marten in Ontario*. Ont. Dept. of Lands and Forests Tech. Bull.) in northern Ontario, do not rule out that possibility.

Do you have any ideas?



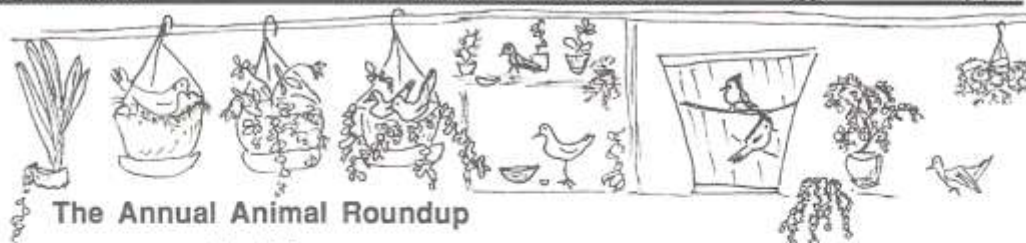
WANTED: Your Life-list for New Brunswick

Do you keep a New Brunswick life list of birds? Rose-Aline Chiasson has suggested that readers would be interested in knowing which 20 or 25 birdwatchers have the largest New Brunswick life lists. We can't supply the answer so we've asked her to compile the names for publication later in the year. Please write to Rose-Aline Chiasson, C.P. 421, Lamèque, N.B. E0B 1V0, telling her how many species of birds you have identified in this province, as of March 31, 1990. Please contact her by May 15.



Birdwatching Brochure Re-issued

Tourism New Brunswick reprinted its brochure *Birdwatching — New Brunswick Canada* last summer, incorporating various minor revisions compiled by Peter Pearce. The brochure will now be distributed along with an insert containing the names and phone numbers of federation members (from 20 areas of the province) who have volunteered to answer questions and give suggestions to birdwatchers visiting their areas.



The Annual Animal Roundup

Mary Majka

I thought you would like to hear once again about our collection of animals. Our greenhouse continues to be home for Timmy the one-legged Purple Gallinule (with us over three years), Sammy a Cedar Waxwing disabled for life with a crippled wing, and Guru a Ringed Turtle Dove whose torn crop has healed nicely. In addition, a whole parade of other creatures has passed through our doors and windows over the past year.

First there was Nikki, a Pine Siskin with a happy disposition. Although hit by a car he quickly recovered and was ready, as far as we were concerned, to have his freedom outdoors. But Nikki ignored the open window and our encouragement to leave, electing instead to stay in his greenhouse Eden. While his brothers and sisters survived through snowstorms, Nikki was singing his heart out, bobbing on pink geraniums, or swinging in blue lobelias. Only when the snow had melted and the days become balmy, did he finally take advantage of the open window to regain his voluntarily abandoned freedom.

Just about that time Guru made us unabashedly aware that it was time to start a family. The answer to his prayers came from a pet shop in the form of Swami, a young virgin ready to assume her duties as a reproductive machine. To make a long story short Guru and Swami quickly produced six clutches of eggs and six young, so we decided to curb this flow of doves. We thought hard-boiling their eggs would be a foolproof method of bird control. But nature has its own ways as we discovered too late. We tricked our doves twice, but then they tricked us by adding two good eggs to the hard-boiled clutch and surprising us with a pair of albino young (a result of the hard-boiled neighbours?) We gave up and they are again incubating. Anyone want a dove or two?

With the coming of the spring and summer nesting season there was the usual parade of fledglings most of which grew up quickly and flew the coop without so much as a thank-you.

Dollar, a Common Loon was brought to us because he couldn't fly. It turned out that this inexperienced young bird had foolishly landed on a small pool in a marsh and wasn't able to take off. After a day of observation and force-feeding we let him go on the river and Dollar was off to bigger and better things.

Mundee a Mourning Dove was not so lucky. She collided with a car which broke both of her wings. David volunteered to put her out of her misery but her gentle eyes were pleading for mercy. I begged Dave to give her a chance. Mundee will never fly again but she

marches contentedly around the greenhouse—quite a self-assured little personality.

The Great Horned Owl caught by a neighbour in his pheasant cage was a brief visitor—so brief we didn't even have time to give him a name. Two Double-crested Cormorants were also our chargees for short periods. One of them was unable to feed itself because of fish hooks in its throat and wing. We hope they made out okay after their treatment and release.

Our biggest challenge was a very badly injured beaver with a broken leg, concussion, injured eye and internal injuries. We found out later that this had been done by some people who wanted to discourage him from building a dam on their property. The vet gave the injured animal two injections, one of them a hefty dose of steroids. We promptly named the beaver Ben in honour of a well-known Canadian sprinter. The steroids worked wonders but it still took seven weeks and truckloads of young saplings for Ben to recover. We released him in an abandoned beaver pond where, after making some renovations to the old lodge, he happily settled for the winter.

We almost got an orphaned baby raccoon but, since we were leaving for a week-long bird-atlas trip, we persuaded the lady who brought him to take care of him herself, which she did very well. An unusual patient would have been a Gannet stranded a hundred miles from the sea but he went to the happy-fishing-ground before he could be brought to Mary's Point. In October another waxwing, this time a Bohemian, joined Sammy. Butch had a broken wing and injured leg and although recovered is now a cripple.

Our early winter arrival, a Rusty Blackbird, almost didn't make it. Rusty must have missed his cue and forgotten to fly south. He was found on his last legs on a very cold December morning but has made himself completely at home and settled for the winter with the rest of the crowd. Very soon now we will open the window and let him fly off into the wild again.

Also somewhere in the greenhouse is Greenie, a Green Snake who was found active in a cellar in the middle of winter. We let him slip away into the vegetation and haven't seen him since. We hope he is okay.

By the way, I have permission from the Canadian Wildlife Service and the provincial Department of Natural Resources to rehabilitate injured animals. The pleasure of taking care of all those creatures by far outweighs the time and work they require. We couldn't do without them!

La nichée d'Arthur-William



Le Grand Pic

Arthur-William Landry¹

J'ai cru voir revenir l'un de ces oiseaux préhistoriques, tellement sa silhouette et son vol sont différents de tout ce que je connaissais de la gent ailée. Il ressemble à s'y méprendre au Pic à bec ivoire qui, selon *Biosphère*, mai-avril 1987,

«s'accroche à la vie dans un coin perdu des forêts de Cuba...» Notre Grand Pic est de la taille d'une Corneille américaine et c'est probablement sa huppe écarlate si voyante qui attire tragiquement l'attention de quelques chasseurs sans conscience.

Tuer un si bel oiseau? Et on trouve des excuses. Il perce des trous dans les arbres. Crime qui exige évidemment la peine de mort. Si nous, les Blancs, avions découvert l'Amérique plus tôt, nous aurions débarrassé ce continent de tout ce qui est nuisible avec nos fusils... Quel beau monde nous aurions. Un si vaste Sahara.

Dans *Birds of the World*, je retrouve cette phrase à propos des pics: «Ces oiseaux qui détruisent les insectes sont d'un grand secours à l'homme.» Et dans *Birds of Canada* (P.A. Taverner, 1937), on peut lire que dans l'est (c'est ici, l'est), à cause d'une destruction gratuite, les Grands Pics, qui anciennement étaient

beaucoup plus nombreux, ne se retrouvent maintenant plus que dans les forêts boréales, plus tranquilles.

Il faudrait qu'on comprenne une fois pour toutes que lorsqu'un Grand Pic s'attaque à un arbre, c'est parce que celui-ci est déjà malade ou même moribond. Il agit comme un chirurgien et l'intervention qu'il pratique, c'est pour aller chercher de sa langue, démesurément longue, les larves qui sont la cause de la maladie. Allez examiner l'arbre, une fois qu'il aura fini son «traitement». Vous constaterez que votre épinette ou votre érable avait grandement besoin de ses soins lorsqu'il est venu. Ce n'est pas en tuant le médecin qu'on guérit le malade...

On lui a donné bien des noms à notre Grand Pic: Cock-of-the-wood, Logcock, Woodcock (qui est le nom d'un tout autre oiseau) et, en français, poule de bois, si je ne m'abuse.

En avril, en compagnie d'autres membres du Club des naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne, je me rendrai à Val-Doucet dans l'espoir de voir et d'entendre l'un de ces oiseaux si rares et si merveilleux. Et nous ne braquerons sur eux que des jumelles (celles qui aident à voir, pas celles qu'on aime voir) et des appareils photographiques.

[Remarque du rédacteur: L'augmentation de la population des Grands Pics dans cette province pendant les années 1980 semble dû pour la plupart, à la mort de beaucoup de grands arbres à cause de maladie et de l'attaque par des insectes.]

Book Review

An Odyssey in Time: The Dinosaurs of North America, by Dale A. Russell, 1989. University of Toronto Press / National Museum of Natural Sciences. 240 pp., illustrated. \$45 cloth.

Reviewed by Randall F. Miller²

In this book, as with his previous *A Vanished World: The Dinosaurs of Western Canada*, Dale Russell gives us a fascinating look at an intriguing part of earth history. In collaboration with artist Eleanor Kish and photographer Harry Foster, Russell goes beyond the story of fossil bones to immerse us in the world of the dinosaur. There is barely an illustration of dinosaur bones, but rather 15 wonderful original paintings and 111 other illustrations that breathe life into the dinosaurs and compare the ancient world with more familiar scenes from modern times. Mysterious dinosaurs from some primeval world become less distant, less foreign as Russell accurately compares them to living creatures and their environments. In addition, we learn about the other animals and plants that shared the dinosaur world, and about evolution and extinction.

The book begins by setting the stage for the appearance of dinosaurs and then takes the reader

through the geologic periods of the Mesozoic, an era of time extending from approximately 225 to 65 million years ago. At the end of the book Russell deals with extinction and with the evolutionary significance of dinosaurs. Dr. Russell is well known for his apparent flight-of-fancy concerning the question: "What if dinosaurs had not gone extinct?" The National Museum of Natural Sciences has circulated the ostrich-sized dinosaur *Troodon* along with its hypothetical large-brained descendant. In the last chapter, Russell explains the "thought experiment" that results in a humanoid dinosaur.

The book is well organized and very complete in its treatment of North American dinosaurs and as such will be a valuable reference tool for palaeontologists. On the other hand, it has the look and feel of a coffee table book because of its large size and beautifully reproduced illustrations. However, the accompanying text does not skimp on detail. Even so, Russell has done an admirable job in taking an enormous amount of information and producing a readable story, albeit one which is a little heavy going at times for the non-palaeontologist. Still, good things do not come easily and what the reader puts into understanding some unfamiliar concepts will be rewarded with a very complete and entertaining look at this exciting time in the history of life.



¹ Reproduit de la revue *Le Ven'd'est*, mai 1987.

² Dr. Miller is Assistant Curator of Geology and Head of the Natural Sciences Division at the New Brunswick Museum.

Christmas Bird Counts

1989-90

David Christie

The popularity of the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) continued at a high level in this its 90th year. In general, the amount of effort in New Brunswick was similar to that of the previous two years. A small decline in party-hours was compensated by an increase in feeder reports; no doubt weather conditions were responsible for these changes.

The 37 counts involving over a thousand participants, who reported 97,407 birds of 114 species (plus 9 more in count period) while travelling 10,500 km during 1200 party-hours and reporting from about 550 bird feeders, is a far cry from 1900 when New Brunswick's pioneer Christmas Census taker, W.H. Moore, found 9 species during a one-hour walk near his home on Christmas morning. Today's counts must last at least 6 (for our magazine) or 8 party-hours (for *American Birds*).

Winter came early to New Brunswick and without the usual alternating periods of cold and warm weather. With consistently cold weather and continuous snow cover from November 21, the overall variety on the Christmas Bird Counts was less than last year (114 species vs 117). Comparing counts on which there was similar effort in both years total individuals were down about 6% from the previous winter. The rather small cone crop this year also contributed to that reduction, as did snow, heavy sea smoke and freezing rain on some count days. (The Minto count was cancelled because of the weather Jan. 1.)

The accompanying table of CBC results indicates how the more regular species compared to normal. The status ratings for terrestrial species are based on comparisons of birds per party-hour, mostly over the past decade. For water birds I've based my ratings on total numbers reported.

A new species, not previously recorded by New Brunswick CBCs was the Lark Sparrow surviving from November at a Sackville feeder.

Shediac, a new count this year, includes a large area of open water on Northumberland Strait and the well-known Cocagne River wintering site for Barrow's Goldeneye. Its results are largely responsible for the higher than average numbers of Common Mergansers and Barrow's Goldeneyes and about half the surplus of Common Goldeneyes.

A successful campaign to discourage feeding ducks in Moncton parks was responsible for the 50% reduction in Mallards from 1988. Their numbers were, however, still well above average. Black Ducks were reduced by cold weather and ice on the upper Bay of Fundy and inland. Visibility problems probably contributed to the low numbers of Surf Scoters and Purple Sandpipers.

An abundance of herring at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy at the end of December (Brian Dalzell) undoubtedly encouraged the large numbers of Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls and Razorbills.

Black-capped Chickadees seem to be doing very well; on CBCs in the last 30 years, only 1974 had numbers per party-hour comparable to those during the last five years. This year was the highest of all. On the other hand, Evening Grosbeak numbers were low for the 1980s—many observers complained about their scarcity or absence at feeders—but would have been considered a good year in the '70s and exceptional in the '60s.

Mourning Dove numbers were again very high, though less so than on the 1987 CBCs; they appeared on a surprisingly high proportion of counts. The influx of Cardinals in late fall resulted in a record number of CBC reports—17 birds on 9 counts, plus count period records in two additional areas—although birds per party-hour were almost as high in 1973, 1975, and 1979-81. House Finches—31 on 5 counts—appeared for the third year on New Brunswick CBCs.

Ninety Years of Christmas Bird Counts

New Brunswick's first Christmas Bird Census was made by the late W.H. Moore at Scotch Lake, near Mactaquac, when he reported 36 birds of nine species during a one-hour walk near his home on Dec. 25, 1900. Quite a number of the first censuses were small efforts like Mr. Moore's. Big events can surely develop from very modest beginnings.

By way of comparison, Simon Bouchard reported a small count made Dec. 18, 1989, during a 3-hour walk at Saint-Hilaire (outside the Edmundston CBC circle) and 3 hours watching his feeder. The result: 50 birds of 10 species. Only 16 birds of four species were seen during the walk, partly because most of the birds in the area were busy at the feeder.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

(Dec. 16, 1989 – Jan. 3, 1990)

Abbreviations and Footnotes to the Tables

Species in boldface:	first time on N.B. counts
Number in boldface:	provincial record high count
Number in italics:	no details submitted or details not fully convincing
*	recorded during count period (Dec. 16-Jan. 3)
a	population greatly augmented by recent releases at pheasant hunting preserves
b	by ferry
c	by snowmobile
d	1 woodpecker sp.
e	4 woodpecker sp.
f	2 woodpecker sp., 1 corvid sp., 1 nuthatch sp., 13 sparrow sp., 25 small finch sp.
g	1 woodpecker sp., 19 finch sp.
h	15 gulls sp.
i	including owl sp. (Short-eared or Long-eared)
j	2 owl sp.
k	1 grouse sp. (possibly Spruce), 1 waxwing sp. (possibly Bohemian)
m	1 warbler sp.
+	above average numbers
±	about average numbers
-	below average numbers

Wilshaw, Peter Wilshaw, Charles Wilson, Jean Wilson, Jim Wilson (compiler).

Cambridge-Narrows (C-N) 20th year

Dec. 30; 0845-1700. Clear; temp. -33° to -12°C; wind W, 0-10 km/h. 60 cm snow cover; lakes and brooks frozen.

Doris Appleby, Marion Belyea, Anthony Carpenter, Lawrence Carpenter, Marie Carpenter, Talbert Carpenter, Marie

Chambers, Pauline Chase, Thera Connell, Benjamin Fanjoy, Joan Fanjoy, Imogene Gilchrist, Enid Inch (compiler), Rhoda Inch, Faye Jeffrey, Joshua Kantor, Dot McConnachie, Elva McConnachie, Audrey Perry, Nellie Perry, Hazen Pugsley, April Robinson, Joyce Robinson, Joyce Thorne, Niven Thorne.

Jemseg (Jem) 27th year

Dec. 30; 0745-1630. Clear; temp. -32° to -15°C; wind NW, 15 km/h. Fields snow covered; all water frozen. [cont. on p. 45]

1988-89	Sex	Htn	C-N	Jem	Fin	Mac	Stv	Wak	Htn	Flg	G-J	P-A	PR	Nic	Em	McC	SEU	Pou	Inland
Am. Tree Sparrow	65	88	145	160	155	88	21	58	163	226	26	7						3	1205
Chipping Sparrow					2					*									1
Fox Sparrow					1	*													11
Scott Sparrow		3		2	1			5							*				11
Swamp Sparrow																			1
Wh-thr Sparrow	12	1		*	2			3				1	2						21
Dark-eyed Junco	40	21	29	13	101	11		4	9	20	10	1	7						266
Lapland Longspur				9															9
Snow Bunting	613	*	332	191	187	151	169	535	271	612	328	23	486	126	133	14	336		4507
Red-w Blackbird				*	3	*		1									1		4
Rusty Blackbird					1														2
Common Grackle	1				15								1						19
Brn-hd Cowbird				*	1	1		7	18	97	1	4	2						13
Pine Grosbeak	11	35	12	5	107	7	6	19	18	*			57	11	6	1	8		404
Purple Finch	2				2	2													6
House Finch					12			2		2	*								12
Red Crossbill																			4
Wh-w Crossbill	2		*		56	1													50
Common Redpoll	12		147	183	291		32	8	7	29		*	15	18		182	8		917
Pine Siskin				1	2	39	7	21	2				2			10	*		97
Am. Goldfinch	92	115	72	21	384	56	22	33	14	9			98	47	112				820
Evening Grosbeak	165	85	48	79	935	202	15	450	401	393	42	59	2	37	32	64	11		3142
House Sparrow	206	19	23	208	499	20	25	122	313	89	56	2	37	32	64		72		1787
Unidentified				14	45														50
TOTAL BIRDS	3118	1463	1705	1641	7900	1568	705	2491	2604	3407	880	416	1208	564	748	107	219	1089	31833
TOTAL SPECIES	38	32	26	30	54	34	21	34	32	30	20	19	29	17	16	14	11	21	72
Add. Sp. in Per.	1	4	8	5	6	3	2	1	2	5	1	4	5	4	3	7	1		5
Hrs on foot	6	5.5	2	15.5	77	4.5	13	10	7	1.5	4	4	5	20	20	17	6	12.75	206.75
Hrs by car	30	19.5	16	29	69	2	13	10	7	6.5	4	6	10	5	24	1	3	27.25	282.25
Hrs otherwise																			0
TOTAL HOURS	36	25	18	44.5	146	6.5	13	15	8	8	8	10	15	25	44	18	9	40	489
Km on foot	12	8	3	37	137	4	10	10	1	4.5	6	3	12	14.5	30	45	5	16.5	348.5
Km by car	288	337	250	359	664	4	260	149	189	154	134	90	87	50	210	52	25	331	3633
Km otherwise																			0
TOTAL KM	300	345	253	396	801	8	260	159	190	158.5	140	93	99	64.5	240	97	30	347.5	3981.5
No. of observers	12	7	9	17	65	3	6	10	10	3	3	2	7	6	12	3	8	13	196
No. of parties	6	4	4	7	32	2	2	4	6	3	2	1	3	4	10	3	5		101
Feeder reports	15	16	16	2	164	24	15	41	56	35	10	4	3	7	5				413



	GM	E-C	StA	Pen	Lep	SJ	PNP	R-A	Seck	Min	CT	Shd	KNP	Mir	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	Contal	N.B. Tot.	Status
Coast 1980-90																						
Red-thr Loon	12	8	9	24	7	1	2					1								5	5	+
Common Loon	17	27	2	8	7	1														62	62	+
Herring Gull	125	5	5	7	7										*					137	137	+
Red-neck Grebe	120	38	2	30																190	190	+
Grt Cormorant				1																2	2	+
Great Bl Heron						*														*	*	+
Snow Goose	109																			109	109	+
Brant	48																			373	465	+
Canada Goose																				1	1	+
Wood Duck																				3	3	+
Green-wing Teal	1	452	56	74	40	299	16	73	6	63	1				*					1605	1647	+
Am Black Duck	525	4	1	9	1	8														217	219	+
Mallard	27																			2	2	+
Northern Pintail	1																			*	*	+
Ring-neck Duck																						+
Greater Scaup	85		34	9		5														159	159	+
Lesser Scaup						*														*	*	+
Common Eider	75	65	125	550	38															1006	1006	+
Harlequin Duck	2					1														3	3	+
Oldsquaw	80	542	16	195	18		11													2153	2153	+
Black Scoter				4																15	15	+
Surf Scoter																				37	37	+
Wh-wing Scoter	10	10	55	110																185	186	+
Com. Goldeneye	275	101	57	43	49	220	10	10	2											1269	1630	+
Barrow's Goldeneye																				33	33	+
Bufflehead	95	167	117	43	36	52														510	510	+
Hood Merganser																				1	1	+
Com Merganser	100	81	3	45	3	43														405	505	+
Red-br Merganser	3	2	1	21	2	*	1	4												496	496	+
Bald Eagle																				35	41	+
Northern Harrier	3			1																5	5	+
Sharp-shin Hawk	1																			13	17	+
Northern Goshawk																				7	11	+
Red-tailed Hawk	*	1	1	1	2															12	14	+
Rough-leg Hawk	5			2																33	35	+
Golden Eagle																				1	1	+
Merlin	2		*																	3	4	+
Peregrine Falcon																				1	1	+
Gyrfalcon																				*	*	+
R-nk Pheasant	*																			284	331	+
Spruce Grouse																				2	3	+
Ruffed Grouse																				46	119	+
W. Turkey (1987 incr.)	3																			3	3	+
Purple Sandpiper	110	15		9	29															148	148	+
Bonaparte's Gull																				15	15	+
Ring-billed Gull		17	2		1	2														30	30	+
Herring Gull	7500	2047	1690	950	264	666	47	50	157	2529										16273	16505	+
Icehard Gull	4	16		6		81	1	82	2	44										353	353	+

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Coast 1989-90	GM	E.C.	Sta	Pen	Lev	SJ	FNP	R-A	Sck	Mfn	CT	Shd	KNP	Mir	Tru	Lam	Mus	Cur	Bat	Coastal	N.B. Tot.	Status
Glaucous Gull	1	2			4					1	2	5		1	3	4	7	6		36	37	+
Grn Bk-bk Gull	2500	656	39	180	105	149	1	12	370	1822	153	270	143	8	65	94	84	52		6703	7242	+
B-Jea Kittiwake	2800	1361			1															4162	4162	±
Dovekie				4																4	4	+
Common Murre	20																			20	20	+
Thick-bill Murre	*																			*	*	-
Razorbill	550	230			75															855	855	+
Black Guillemot	15	41	15					17	174	271	55	130	104	119	120	10	14	69	4	1832	4240	±
Rock Dove	230	105	95		2	237		16	36	71	3	24	29	22	34	10	25	32		636	1340	+
Mourning Dove	63	30	80	66	2	90	3		*							3				7	9	±
Grt Horned Owl				1	3															*	*	+
Snowy Owl	*																				1	-
North Hawk Owl										1				*						0	0	+
Barned Owl									1											1	2	-
Long-eared Owl																				1	1	-
Short-ear Owl	*	2																		2	2	-
N Saw-whet Owl	10																			10	10	+
Belted Kingfisher																				1	1	+
Downy Woodpkr	3	8	5		18	6		4	10	15	12	4	6	16	5	*	1	4	3	120	426	±
Hairy Woodpkr	3	7	2		14	6		3	10	23	9	3	8	10	5	1	1	1	3	109	433	±
3-toed Woodpkr				1															*	1	2	±
Blk-bk Woodpkr				1																2	10	-
North Flicker											1								1	2	3	-
Pileated Winkr				1	3		1	1	1	5	1	1		*					1	14	47	+
Horned Lark											3					1				4	21	±
Gray Jay				3		6	2	6	1	8	6	7	7	*				6		52	229	±
Blue Jay	22	10	36	18	9	68	19	45	115	196	69	37	34	61	47	40	18	25	32	901	3469	±
American Crow	145	106	101	310	72	253	25	47	223	268	103	120	11	18	39	110	3	70	6	2030	2685	+
Common Raven	100	12	6	95	31	43	24	23	147	113	97	67	28	89	37	59	24	155	6	1156	2184	+
Blk-cap Chickadee	35	29	136	70	35	419	163	103	372	423	364	240	98	217	104	60	27	131	36	3062	7685	+
Boreal Chickadee				2	2	1	14	7	19	2	19	4	5	4	9	21	6	25	11	151	221	-
Tufted Titmouse																				0	0	*
Red-bk Nuthatch	5	12	7		2	17	21	10	22	11	6	4	1	10	4	10	1	11	1	155	370	+
Wh-br Nuthatch				4		3	2		1	3										13	66	±
Brown Creeper					1	3	3	5	1	1	1	1		1						17	38	+
Gold-cr Kinglet	3	2	2	3	4	7	31	13	33	26	50	7	26		2		1			208	282	±
Ruby-cr Kinglet																				2	2	-
American Robin	2	2	2		4	2		1	*	*										13	20	+
No Mockingbird	*	1			1					1										3	3	-
Bohem Waxwing				20		9	2		30	77		5		21				*	1	165	783	±
Cedar Waxwing						*					8	1		*	*		1			*	24	-
Northern Shrike				1	1	1	1	1	4	2										21	25	±
European Starling	680	427	169	250	47	2647	15	126	531	1375	175	210	8	386	3	76	54	113	59	7351	10359	+
Yel-rump Warbler		1									25	5								31	31	-
Pink Warbler										*										0	0	*
Northern Cardinal					1	1	*	1	*	*										7	17	+
Dickcissel	5								2											2	2	-
Indef-aided Towhee																				0	0	-

Gerry Clayden, Susan Clayden, Rod Currie, Jim Edsall, Wayne Fullerton, Don Gibson, Jim Goltz, David Myles, Marven Palmer, Peter Pearce, Muriel Smith, Rudy Stoeck Jr., Rudy Stoeck Sr., Owen Washburn (compiler), Susan Washburn, Ron Wilson, Max Wolfe.

Fredericton (Ftn) 34th year

Dec. 16; 0730-1700. Overcast, fine snow began about 1 p.m., fairly heavy by 5 p.m.; temp. -20° to -7°C ; wind ENE, 0-29 km/h. 45 cm snow cover at start, 48 cm at finish; most water surfaces frozen.

Bill Acheson, Margery Acheson, Malcolm Banfield, Dan Baudette, Raymond Breaux, Ann Cafferty, Don Cafferty, Eric Carr, Gerald Clayden, Maureen Clements, Merlene Crawford, Stan Crawford, Rod Currie, Andy Didyk, Lucy Dyer, Jim Edsall, Jim Feltmate, Patrick Feltmate, Sarah Feltmate, George Flanders, Don Fowler, Don Gibson, Margaret Gibson, Angelique Gloss, Jim Goltz, Heidi Grein, Bob Hawkins, Hal Hinds, David Kristmannson, John Lavigne, David Lounsbury, Sara Lounsbury, Nancy Lutes, Cathy MacLaggan, Scott Makepeace, Milda Markauskas, Ruth McCashion, Brian McEwing, Julie McEwing, Michael McEwing, Albert Morais, David Myles, Paul Nicholson, Jean Noble, Jim Noble, Lisa O'Hara, Margie Olive, Peter Pearce (compiler), Theresa Pearce, Bob Phillips, Mark Phinney, Dwayne Sabine, Beverley Schneider, Marc Schneider, Shirley Sloan, Dusan Soudek, George Smith, Muriel Smith, Allan Spurrell, Janet Spurrell, Rudy Stoeck, Rudy Stoeck Jr., Tony Thomas, Leon Vietinghoff, Owen Washburn.

Macataqua (Mac) 10th year

Jan. 1; 0730-1700. Freezing rain and snow; temp. -2° to $+6^{\circ}\text{C}$; calm. Snow melting; water running in ditches and small streams.

David Myles (compiler), Peter Pearce, Ron Wilson.

Stanley (Sty) 15th year

Dec. 30; 0900-1630. Clear; temp. -38° to -20°C ; wind 7 90 cm snow cover; all water frozen.

Nancy Baird, Gerald Bavis, Donna & John Belliveau, Peter Belyea, Peter DeMarsh, Jean Dougherty, Thelma Fairly, Marion Grant, Marg Greenwell, Rita Hughes, Anne Lepack, Derek MacFarlane, Kathleen MacFarlane, Danny MacKeag, John MacRae, Giselle MacRae, Dawn Parker, Julie Singleton (compiler), Mrs. Bill Sparkes, Gregory Sparkes, Robert Whitney.

Woodstock (Wsk) 26th year

Dec. 26; 0900-1600. Clear; temp. -6°C ; no wind. Snow cover 75 cm; water frozen.

Sheldon Anderson, Leona Avery (compiler), Louis Beatty, Rev. & Mrs. T.S. Bellis, Mrs. Harold Bonnell, Earle Briggs, Dorothy Clark, Mrs. Paul Clark, Maureen Clements, Gerald Demmings, Mrs. Vernon DeWitt, Gerald Donovan, Mrs. Blair Findlater, Mrs. Nelson Flewelling, Mrs. Melvin Fogarty, Mrs. David Fry, Frank Glew, Ruth B. Godwin, Verna Grant, Adam Hadley, Eric Hadley, Matthew Hadley, Harold Harley, Ronald Hawkins, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Homer, Murray Hubbard, Lewis Irving, Mrs. Charles MacDonald, Oliver Monteith, Mrs. Peter Morin, Walter Neal, Mrs. Donald Nixon, G. A. Olmstead, Alex Patterson, Wayne Pelkey, Mrs. Garnet Price, Eric Randall, Mrs. Alma Speer, Karen & Martin Speer, Mr. & Mrs. Robert John Speer, David Stone, W.A. Stone, Mrs. M.J. Tanton, Mary Underhill, Harry Wilson, Gordon Wort, Mrs. James Yerxa.

Hartland (Hrt) 18th year

Dec. 30; 0800-1730. Sunny; temp. -32°C ; wind NW, light. Lots of snow on ground; very little open water.

Bud Belyea, Ross Belyea, Pearl Boyd, Clarice Boyer, Florence Britton, Marta Bryant, Allan Burlock, Fred Burnett, Debbie Bulmer, Dell Buxton, Arthur Bryant, Hubert Bryant, Anna Canam, Diane Clark (compiler), Winnifred Clark, Pauline Clark, John Glendenning, Mary Craig, Pat Crouse, Marie Davis, Dorothy Davison, Kirk Davis, Doug DeMerchant, Rod DeMerchant, Vera DeWitt, Cindy Derakin, Dorothy Ginson, Winfred Glass, Mary Hallett, Gordon Hallett, Eugene Hay, Gordon Havens, Clarence Hill, Clarence Hendry, Jane Hovey, Lorne Jones, Bob Jones, Margaret Kinney, Gary Kinney, Winnifred Lawrence, Mabel McLaughlin, Lori MacDougall, Harry McLean, Jim Morrison, Freeda Orser, Vera Orser, Sheila Palmer, Donna Peterson, Charles & Lori Prosser, Earl Pratt, Blanche Rideout, Elta Rideout, Marsha Shaw, Jeannie Shaw, Marjorie Smith, Glenna Stephenson, Edith Schulze, Gladys Tracy, Geraldine Wallace.

Florenceville (Flo) 9th year

Dec. 30; ? to ? Clear; temp. -30°C ; wind nil in a.m. 45 to 60 cm snow cover; all water frozen except fast rapids.

Ford Alward (co-compiler), Jean Alward, Eleanor Armand, Theresa Brennan, Elmer Briggs, Tom Burke, Ansel Campbell, David Campbell, Gerald DeLong, Robert Derrah, Larry Dow, Minnie Ebbett, Henry Giberson, Charles & Pat Greene, David & Betty Hatt, Clarence & Betty Hayward, Donald Hunter, Gordon Hunter, Eleanor Kearney, Holland Kearney, Franklin Kinney, Paul Leahy, John & Alice Lockhart, Helen Lovely, Lorna Maddox (co-compiler), Bob & Wanda McIsaac, Shirley Morris, Janice Oakes, John Patterson, Stewart Patterson, Darlene Smith, John Snowden, Larry Sweet, Margaret Trafford, Charles & Joanne Upton, Reg & Dianna Wasson, Fred Welch, Helen Wyman, Jasper Wyman.

Glassville-Juniper (G-J) 7th year

Jan. 2; 0900-1600. Clear in a.m., overcast with snow flurries in p.m.; temp. -7° to -2°C ; wind W, 5 km/h. 60 cm snow cover; brooks and lakes frozen.

Edith Buxton, Wanda DeLong, Beulah DeLong, Marjorie Martinson, Brian McIntosh, Elsie McIntosh, Jean McIntosh, Sally McIntosh (compiler), Ruth McIntosh, Roger & Nancy Price, Marian & Gordon Spence, Jesse Welch, Lewis Welch.

Perth-Andover (P-A) 21st year

Jan. 2; 0800-1600. Clear in a.m., becoming cloudy with snow flurries; temp. -14° to -5°C ; wind SW, 15 km/h. 50 cm snow cover; rapids open, other water frozen.

Henry Manzer, Mrs. George McLaughlin, Judy McNally, Mary Jean Stark, Frederick Tribe, Murray Walters (compiler).

Plaster Rock (PR) 18th year

Jan. 2; 0900-1700. Sunny in a.m., cloudy with snow flurries in p.m. 60 cm snow cover, icy roads; little open water except where water ran into ponds.

Yvon Beaulieu, Given Clyde, Doris Crawford, Kate Finnemore, Peggy Greer, Donald Hollins, Irene Hollins, Bessie MacDonald, Peter MacDonald, Laverne Rabatich (compiler), Melissa Skinner.

Nictau-Riley Brook (Nic) 17th year

Jan. 3; 0900-1600. Clear; temp. -23° to -7°C ; calm, 40 cm snow cover; river open in places at Nictau, frozen at Riley Brook.

Alex & Joan Fraser, Roger Jenkins & 2 daughters, LeRoy Johnson, Celia Knowlton, Rose McCallum, Bill Miller Sr., Wilma Miller (compiler), Elizabeth Richter, Rudi Richter, Ursula Schmidt, Margaret Sutherland.

Edmundston (Etn) 31ème année

Le 16 déc.; 0900-1600. Beau, tôt le matin; nuageux en matinée; neige abondante à partir de 13 h. Gelée; plus de 50 cm neige au sol.

Daniel Bouchard, Pierrette Bouchard, Simon Bouchard, Lise Caron (compilateur), Jacques Desmeules, Lise Desmeules, Adrien Émond, Judith LaForest, Madeleine Lavoie, Rita Lavoie, Anne-Marie Ouellette, Lou Page, Charlotte Pelletier, Louisette St-Onge, Georgette Thibodeau, Gisèle Thibodeau. (Club des ornithologues du Madawaska)

Mount Carleton Prov'l Park (MtC) 12th year

Dec. 18; 0800-1600. Overcast; temp. -11° to -7°C ; wind NW, 2 km/h. Running water open; snow depth?

Roger Jenkins, Erwin Landauer (compiler), Rudi Richter.

Southeast Upsalquitch (SEU) 8th year

Dec. 28; 1000-1400. Overcast, then clearing; temp. -6° to -12°C ; wind NW, light. 56 cm snow cover; little or no open water in river.

Bob Allard, Chris Gauthier, Ron Gauthier (compiler), Allan Gregoire, Jason Gregoire, Edd LeBlanc, Ivan LeBlanc, Charlie McAlennan.

Paquetville (Paq) 21ème année

Le 31 déc.; 0800-1600. Ensoleillé à 75 pour cent; temp. -22° à -6°C ; vent SE, 10 km/h. 70 cm de neige; pas d'eau.

Hilaire et Rose-Aline Chiasson, Donald Cormier, Marcel David, Désanges Doiron, Isabelle Doiron, Robert Doiron, Audard Godin (compilateur), Serge Godin, Rosita Lanteigne, Bernice et Roland Robichaud, Donald St-Pierre.

Grand Manan (GM) 19th year

Jan. 3; 0800-1700. Sunny; temp. 0.5° to 5.5°C ; wind SE, 20 km/h. 0-20 cm old snow; fresh water frozen; shore ice in Grand Harbour.

Vernon Bagley, Brian Dalzell (compiler), Halton Dalzell, Virginia Greene, Gloria Hobbs, Audrey Ingalls, Verna MacKenzie, Elaine Maker, Rodger Maker, Geraldine Nelson.

Eastport-Campobello (E-C) 23rd year

Dec. 26; 0830-1700. Snow in a.m., cloudy in p.m.; temp. -5° to -8°C ; wind SE, 8 km/h. Snow depth?; all fresh water frozen, some salt water frozen.

Sid Bahrt, Edna Bunting, Charles Duncan, Ellen Johnson, Zack Klyver, Laurie Larsen, Fred Stocking, Marion Stocking, William Townsend (compiler).

St. Andrews (StA) 29th year

Dec. 17; 0800-1600. Light snow becoming thick blowing snow in a.m., clearing and sunny by 2 p.m.; temp. -5°C ; wind N, 35-40 km/h. Ground snow-covered; fresh water frozen; low tide in a.m., rising tide and very rough in p.m.

Steve Adamovitch, Mindy Brown, Carlotta Cummings, Tracey Dean (compiler), Jean-Louis Deveau, Brenda Fullerton, Jim Gordon, Mrs. Johnson, Dorothy & Ken Langmaid, Daryl Linton, Jim McElman, Frances & Don McLeese, Bob Rangeley, Irene Ritch, Kathleen Robertson, Lonny & Lee Ryall, Bev & Millie Scott, Robin & Barbara South, Dave Stevens, Jim Stewart, Major David Walker, Marlene & Dick Wilbur, Marion & Dick Wilder, Walter Williamson.

Pennfield (Pen) 27th year

Dec. 28; 0745-1645. Flurries in a.m., partly sunny in p.m.; temp. -18° to -10°C ; wind NW, 20 km/h. 25 to 45 cm snow cover; fresh water frozen; sea open.

Brian Dalzell (compiler), Ralph Eldridge, Zetta Eldridge, Lena Morehouse.

Lepreau (Lep) 26th year

Dec. 29; 0730-1650. Cloudy with sunny periods, very heavy sea smoke all day; temp. -40° to -19°C ; wind NW, 20 km/h. 50 cm snow cover; all freshwater frozen.

Scott Gilliland, Kim Mawhinney, Mark Phinney (co-compiler), Donald McAlpine (co-compiler).

Saint John (SJ) 33rd year

Dec. 30; 0800-1700. Clear, dense sea smoke in a.m., dissipating in p.m.; temp. -34° to -11°C ; wind S, 11 km/h. 40 to 82 cm snow cover; river frozen above Bear's Head.

Mary Anderson, Mike Bamford, Helen Brown, Ruth Brown, Ian Cameron, David Christie, Ken Clark, Mrs. C. Coughlin, Jan Dexter, Allen Gorham, Janet Gorham, Kit Graham, Gordon Holloway, Jack Holloway, Charlotte Hutchinson, Susan Jack, Cecil Johnston, Don McAlpine, Doreen McIntosh, Gar Meltzer, Maizie Melvin, John Morrison, Paul Mortimer, Tom Page, Joan Pearce, Ron Pearce, Ernest Sawatsky, Allen Sellers, Marion Sherwood, Audrey Sparks, David Smith (compiler), Don Smith, Evan Smith, Reg Smith, Marlene Vaughan, Graham Webb, Sandy Webb, Jim Wilson, Frank Withers, Mitzi Withers.

Fundy National Park (FNP) 25th year

Dec. 19; 0745-1700. Cloudy all day; temp. -10° to -6°C ; wind NW, 19-0 km/h. Snow depth 30-100 cm; still water frozen, moving water partly open.

Anne Bardou, Jim Blewett, Marjorie Bowron, Max Bowron, David Christie, David Clark, Doreen Collingwood, Lorie Collingwood, Elaine Eagles, François Grainger, Doris Hatt, Anna Holdaway, Thelma Keirstead, Rod Lutes, Angus MacLean, Stella MacLean, Mary Majka, Beulah Michelin, Paul Perkison, Pamela Porter, Doreen Rossiter, Carla-Jane Silver, George Sinclair, Randy Thompson, Brian Townsend, Karen Townsend, Robert Walker (compiler).

Riverside-Albert (R-A) 21st year

Jan. 2; 0715-1700. Clear early a.m., gradually becoming cloudy by late p.m.; temp. -13° to -5°C ; wind NW, 5 km/h, swinging to SW, 50 km/h. 30-100 cm crusted snow cover in open, less in woods; virtually all freshwater frozen; sea open with slush and ice cakes in upper reaches; substantial amounts of ice on shore.

Chris Antle, Myrtle Beaman, Mildred Carpan, David Christie (co-compiler), David Clark, John Inman, Shirley Inman, Joel Landry, Oscar LeBlanc, Mary Majka (co-compiler), Jean Milburn, Mrs. Bob Terry, Stu Tingley, Rob Walker, Alma White, Don White.

Sackville (Sck) 30th year

Dec. 18; 0730-1700. Cloudy; temp. -10° to -6°C ; wind NW, to 30 km/h, falling to 5-10 km/h by p.m. Snow cover 40-60 cm; almost no open water.

Paul Bogaard, Sandy Burnett (compiler), Dan Busby, Lee Calkins, Roger Calkins, Connie Colpitts, Chris Ellingwood, Janet Erakine, Tony Erskine, David Fancy, George Finney, Nev Garrity, Gene Goodrich, Hinrich Harries, Stewart Harris, Bruce Hawke, Ron Hounsell, Colin MacKinnon, Ruth Miller, Bill Murphy, Harold Popma, Kathy Popma, Theo Popma, Al Smith, Stuart Tingley, John Wright.

Moncton (Mtn) 28th year

Dec. 17; 0800-1700. Overcast, with snow showers in the p.m.; temp. -8° to -3°C ; wind NW, to 50 km/h. About 30 cm snow cover; still water completely frozen, moving water partly frozen; ground frozen.

Diane Allain, Christine Antle, Mike Antle, David Arnold, Margaret Bartlett, Brenda Burzynski, David Christie, Albert Cormier, Don Cormier, Bob Cotsworth, Ted Currie, Halton A.

Dalzell (compiler), Halton R. Dalzell, Cheryl Davis, Richard DeBow, David Douglas, Jim Fleming, Madeline Gemmell, Peggy Hanson, Edwin Hughes, Ford Keith, Dulcie Knee, Joel Landry, Louis LaPierre, Louis LeBlanc, Ronald Leger, John Loch, Alice MacQuarrie, John Majewski, Mary Majka, Mieczyslaw Majka, Diane McNeil, Joan Melanson, Gordon Mosher, Mary Oliver, Ron Pellerin, Pat Poirier, Nelson Poirier, Winston Prince, Bill Quartermain, Allan Raegele, Francis Richard, Bill Scott, Barbara Steeves, Robert Walker, Alma White, Don White, Patricia White, Jerry Wigmore, Roy Wilks, Bill Wood, John Wright.

Cape Tormentine (CT) 28th year

Dec. 16; 0730-1545. Overcast, light snow commencing at 2:30 p.m., becoming heavy by 3:45 p.m.; temp. -14° to -9°C ; wind E, 0-8 km/h. 20-25 cm snow cover; fresh water frozen; salt water mostly frozen with open leads. Paul Bogaard, Sandy Burnett, Lee & Roger Calkins, Carol Currie, Chris Ellingwood, Tony Erskine, Neville Garrity, Hinrich Harries, Ron Hounsell, Joel Landry, Oscar LeBlanc, Colin MacKinnon, Bill Murphy, Sue Purdy, Fernand Robichaud, Al Smith (compiler), Ralph Stopps, Stuart Tingley.

Shédiac (Shd) 2nd year [1st one was in 1968]

Dec. 30, a cold day. 24 observers travelled about 500 km. Full details on conditions and count effort unavailable at press time. "Les Amis de la nature" and friends.

Kouchibouguac Nat'l Park (KNP) 20th year

Dec. 20; 0800-1600. Clear, becoming cloudy in mid-afternoon; temp. -8.5° to -21°C ; wind W, 3-7 km/h. Variable snow cover, 60 cm or more; fresh water frozen; open water offshore.

Anne Bardou, Maryse Bourgeois, David Clark, Harry Collins, Bert Crossman, Alvin Daigle, Carole Daigle, Edward Daigle, Nathalie Daigle, Nicole Daigle, Ursain Daigle, Gordon Delaney (compiler), Charles Doucet, Denis Doucet, Noël Fontaine, Tom Greathouse, Monique K. LeBlanc, Michel Leger, Dawn-Marie Martin, Lisa Richard, Pierrette Robichaud, Victor Savoie, Harold Sock, Barry Spencer, Arnold Vautour, Harry Walker, Rob Walker.

Chatham-Newcastle (Mir) 18th year

Dec. 27; 0800-1700. Overcast, becoming clear; temp. -11° to -17°C ; wind WNW, 11-39 km/h. 61 cm snow cover; all water frozen.

Margaret Adams, Sybil Anderson, Barbara Archibald, Mrs. William Arnoldus, Jeep Bosma, Mrs. Robert Bransfield, Monica Charnley, Phyllis Crowe, Vernon Goodfellow, Rev. Robert Grattan, Tom Greathouse, Linda Hartlen, Bill Hogan, Ida Holland, Phyllis Jardine, John Keating, Robert Lisk, Margaret MacKinnon, David MacLeod, Leslie Matchett, Lem McDonald, Georgia McLean, Mary Rawlinson, Theresa Ross, Jean Sinclair, Colin Somers, Denis Somers, Krystal Somers, Ruth Somers, Delta Steeves, Maxine Tozer, Jean Ullock, Doug Underhill, Bruce Walker, Harry Walker (compiler), Ian Walker, Winnie Walker, Wilfred Walsh, Parker Wheaton.

Tracadie (Tra) 4ième année

Le 23 déc.; 0800-1600. Clair; temp. -13° à -10°C ; vent NO, 30 km/h. Enneigée et glacée.

Alderic Benoit, Hilaire Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Donald Cormier, Marcel David, Désanges Doiron, Léandre Doiron, Robert Doiron, Guylaine Drolet, Ernest Ferguson (compiler), Rosita Lantaigne, Alde LeBreton, Jean-Yves Paulin, Marie Paulin, Yolande Paulin, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Ile Lamèque-Shippagan (Lam) 17ième année

Le 26 déc.; 0800-1600. Ciel couvert, précipitation de neige; temp. -10° à -2°C ; vent N-O, 0-5 km/h. Sol 70 cm de neige; mer gelée à 85%.

Denise Benoit, Gérard Benoit, Hilaire Chiasson (compiler), Rose-Aline Chiasson, Marcel David, Robert Doiron, Désanges Doiron, Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre, Émile Ferron, Rosita Lantaigne.

Ile Miscou (Mis) 3ième année

Le 16 déc.; 0830-1600. Ciel couvert, légère précipitation; temp. -7° à -3°C ; vent N-E, 15 km/h. Glace flottante sur 15% et 85% gelé autour de l'île.

Gérard et Denise Benoit, Hilaire Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson (compiler), Marcel David, Rosita Lantaigne.

Caraquet (Car) 5ième année

Le 30 déc.; 0800-1600. Ensoleillé avec passages nuageux; temp. -21° à -13°C ; vent N-O, 20-30 km/h. Terre recouverte de 70 cm de neige; eau gelée à 100%.

Denise Benoit, Gérard Benoit, Hilaire Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Donald Cormier, Marcel David (compiler), Désanges Doiron, Jean-Claude Doiron, Robert Doiron, Émile Ferron, Raymonde Friolet, Gérard Lantaigne, Rosita Lantaigne, Gabriel LeBreton, Jonathan LeBreton, Claude Ouellette, Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Bathurst (Bst) 8th year

Dec. 30; 0800-1600. Clear; temp. -15° to -10°C ; wind none. 60 cm snow cover; Bathurst Harbour frozen except for 100 m strip inside the points.

Bill Allen, Max & Andrew Carter, André Cormier, Chris Gauthier, Mary Gauthier (compiler), Ron Gauthier, Don & Irma McGinn, Gail MacMillan, Charlie McAleenan, Rod O'Connell, Doris O'Neill, Harry & Lorraine Power, Lyman Smith, Barbara & Clifford Huard.

1988 Florenceville Christmas Count.

Although we weren't able to include the Florenceville Christmas Count in the 1988 tabulation, we can now report that 11 field observers, travelling 222.5 party-miles in 18.5 party-hours, and 16 feeder observers recorded 1356 birds of 28 species on Boxing Day. Five additional species were seen during the count period. Most numerous were Rock Dove (261), Evening Grosbeak (193), and Black-capped Chickadee (160). A couple of Barrow's Goldeneyes were probably the most interesting species.

Nature News

Autumn 1989

David Christie

Before we get overpowered by the bird reports, it should be mentioned that an impressive 3-metre-long, 250-kg shark was pictured in the Sept. 26 issue of *Acadie Nouvelle*. Caught in a mackerel net 5 km off Petit-Rocher, it was almost certainly a *Porbeagle*, likely the most numerous mackerel shark in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

1989 appears to have been a good breeding year for **Gray Squirrels**, as indicated by a number of reports beyond their usual range in southeastern N.B., for example one in Moncton's old west end (Don & Alma White) and two during November in Riverside-Albert, where the first had appeared in September (Myrtle Beaman & Mildred Carpan).

Whales continue to be a great attraction for trips to the Grand Manan area. The 30 **Fin Whales**, 2 **Humpbacks**, 50 **Right Whales**, and 25 **White-sided Dolphins** seen on a trip from Lubec, Maine, to the Grand Manan Basin Oct. 24 (MAS) illustrate why.

Birds

A large flock of over 50 **Common Loons** surprised Harold Hatheway by coming in from the centre of the lake and following him as he walked along the shore of Oromocto Lake sometime in September. A similar number were seen off Cape Jourmain, near Cape Tormentine, Oct. 4 (David MacKinnon).

Hurricane Hugo's strong south winds Sept. 23 blew 30 **Greater**, 2 **Sooty**, and one **Manx Shearwater** to Southwest Head, G.M., (JGW *et al.*), where they wouldn't normally be seen from shore. In addition to Sooty and Greater Shearwaters, Northern Fulmar was found on the Oct. 24 trip to the Grand Manan Basin (MAS). A **Manx** was also seen from the Grand Manan ferry in mid-Sept. (R. W. Hildreth & Kirsten Nielsen).

Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen on a Sept. 19 trip to the Grand Manan Basin (MAS). A **Leach's Storm-Petrel** was picked up alive at the Green Point Lighthouse at Letete Oct. 9 and released the following day (Ralph Eldridge) and one was seen at Miscou Island Oct. 22 (Gérard & Denise Benoit).

A juvenile **Northern Gannet** found grounded at Plaster Rock (c. 160 km from the sea) Oct. 18 died a few days later (Roger Jenkins *et al.*), just before it was to be brought to us for rehabilitation. I think this is only the second inland record for the province. 156 Gannets were seen at Cape Jourmain Oct. 24 (D. MacKinnon). Two **Great Cormorants** inland, where this species is rather rare, were at Darlings Lake, near Hampton, Nov. 11 (Mark Phinney).

The **Great Egret** at Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John, was still present Sept. 16 (Stuart Tingley & Bruce Mactavish) and a **Snowy Egret** was reported at Red Head Marsh, Saint John, Sept. 14 (Alice O'Neill). Three **Cattle Egrets** were found: at St-Basile—the first report from northwestern N.B.—Oct. 25–Nov. 5 (Allan Gregoire and Georgette Thibodeau), Beaver Harbour Nov. 7–14 (Foster Eldridge & Cecil Johnston) and Lamèque Nov. 11 (Émile Ferron).

About 200 **Snow Geese** at Payson Lake, near Woodstock, Oct. 27 (*vide* Leona Keenan) is possibly the largest flock yet reported in N.B., a good follow-up to last spring's strong flight. Seven were also reported during a field trip from Saint John to Deer Island Oct. 29 (SJNC). Canada Geese were more numerous—2000—at Payson Lake in the last week of October (Blair & Leona Avery, *vide* Peter Pearce) and there were 550 Canadas at Coverdale Oct. 20 (Halton Dalzell).

A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was spotted in a group of 125 **American Wigeon** at Tabusintac Oct. 30 (CNPA). A single male **Canvasback** was at McGibbon Island, upriver from Fredericton, Nov. 15 (Dwayne Sabine). Scarce inland was a flock of 22 **Common Eider** at Gagetown Ferry Oct. 18 (Henrik Deichmann). A male **King Eider** (either a subadult or moulting adult) flew past Cape Jourmain Sept. 2 (Mary Majka).

A single **Black Vulture** visited a pig farm at Hillsborough Sept. 23–25 (Mrs Hank Braam *et al.*). A **Cooper's Hawk** was reported in Odell Park, Fredericton in late October or early November (Hal Hinds). **Peregrine Falcon** reports through mid-October came from near Cape Tormentine (Gordon Pringle), Fredericton (Peter Pearce), Southwest Head (3, possibly 4, on Sept. 30—FNC), Wood Island (FNC) and Bancroft Point (H. Dalzell) at Grand Manan, Mary's Point (DSC *et al.*) and Tracadie and Miscou (CNPA). A very early **Gyr Falcon**, a gray morph, was observed at Southwest Head, G.M. Sept. 30 (Pearce & FNC).

Seven **Sandhill Cranes** in flight at Douglas, near Fredericton, Oct. 11 (Jill Malins) is an unprecedented number here. The season fits in with the few previous fall records.

The more unusual shorebirds were a **Western Sandpiper** at Castalia Sept. 22 (JGW *et al.*), a **Curlew Sandpiper** on Grand Manan Sept. 16 (Jack Armstrong & Barbara Share), a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Saints Rest Sept. 16 (SIT & Mactavish), a **Long-billed Dowitcher** at Saints Rest Sept. 2 (JGW) and Oct. 3 (reported in *SJNC Bulletin*), and 5 at the Sackville Waterfowl Park for a few days from Oct. 7 (SIT *et al.*), and finally a **Wilson's Phalarope** at Caraquet Sept. 2 (Marcel David).

In addition to the more numerous **Parasitic Jaegers** a few **Pomarine Jaeger** were reported in September: on the Grand Manan Basin trip Sept. 19 (MAS), one off Southwest Head, G.M., Sept. 23–24 (JGW *et al.*), and one in the Grand Manan Channel Sept. 29 (FNC). **South Polar Skua**, a species not yet accepted on the New Brunswick list, is also mentioned as seen Sept. 19 (MAS); I don't have any more details yet.

A **Little Gull** was seen among the many **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Deer Island Oct. 29 (SJNC). November was the time to look for **Common Black-headed Gulls** on Northumberland Strait. There was one at Robichaud Nov. 14 (Bob Cotsworth), 2 at Cap Brulé Nov. 16–17 (SIT), and one at Cape Tormentine Nov. 30 (Oscar LeBlanc & SIT). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found at Lamèque Sept. 23 (Hilaire Chiasson) and one at Moncton from Oct. 21 till Nov. 19 (SIT *et al.*).

August's immature **Forster's Tern** at St. Andrews was followed by our first report away from the extreme southwest. One was seen at various places on Lamèque Island for a few days from Oct. 8 to 14 (Chiasson *et al.*). A few **Caspian Terns** were noted at Cape Jourmain: 1 on Sept. 24, 2 on Oct. 6, and 4 on Oct. 24 (D. MacKinnon).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Miscou Island Oct. 29 (CNPA) was the only one reported to me this fall.

An immature **Snowy Owl** at Lamèque Oct. 29 (CNPA) began a season of scarcity of this species. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** Oct. 5 at Coteau Road, Ile Lamèque (Marie-Reine Noël), is the first record known for the Acadian Peninsula (*fide* Chiasson).

The only **Western Kingbirds** that I know of were one at Hebron, near Alma, Sept. 14 and one at Mountville, near Hopewell Cape, Oct. 9 (DSC).

Scissor-tailed Flycatchers stole the show in New Brunswick this fall, not because they were so much rarer than any other species but because they stayed put long enough to be seen by lots of people. The first, a short-tailed adult, was found at Saint-Amateur, near Paquetville, Gloucester Co., Sept. 18-22 (Roland Robichaud), rediscovered a few days later and was last seen sometime during the week of Oct. 15-22 (*fide* H. Chiasson). A long-tailed bird appeared at Trout Brook, 20 km NW of Newcastle Oct. 23 (Harry & Jennie Miller) and was seen through the 25th. Trout Brook is 80 km SW of Saint-Amateur, and there's a slim possibility that bird grew its long outer tail feathers to full size in the one-month interval.

Late reports of three common swallows were a **Tree Swallow** at Miscou Island Oct. 23 (CNPA), 3 **Cliff Swallows** at Waterside Sept. 28 (DSC), and a **Barn Swallow** at Bancroft Pt., G.M. Nov. 12 (H. Dalzell).

A **Marsh Wren** was at Saints Rest Oct. 14 (SIT & LeBlanc) and a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at North Head Oct. 1 (FNC).

Two **Townsend's Solitaires**—very rare western visitors—put in brief appearances this fall: one eating berries at Rivière-à-la-Truite, near Tracadie, Oct. 27 (Jean-Yves Paulin), another feeding on barberries at East Riverside Nov. 4 (Ian Cameron).

A good flight of **Bohemian Waxwings** appeared fairly early: Oct. 8 at Miscou Island (CNPA) and Oct. 11 at Alma (Doreen Rossiter).

The rare warblers reported were a **Blue-winged Warbler** at The Whistle, G.M., Sept. 23 (American tour group, *fide* JGW); an **Orange-crowned Warbler** there, Sept. 22 (SIT *et al.*) and one at North Head Oct. 1 (FNC); a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Partridge Island, Saint John, Sept. 16 (JGW). Late records of more usual species included a **Cape May** at Moncton Nov. 18 (Joel Landry), a **Black-throated Blue** and a **Nashville** at Saint John in October (David Smith), a **Blackburnian** during a trip from Saint John to Deer Island Oct. 29 (SJNC), a **Pine** at Mary's Point till Nov. 24 (when it was apparently caught by a Sharp-shinned Hawk—DSC & Mary Majka), and a pale **Palm**, probably a western bird, there Nov. 22 (DSC).

A gorgeous adult male **Summer Tanager** discovered by John Loch in his Riverview yard Oct. 22 delighted observers through the 24th.

A good number of **Northern Cardinals** began appearing at feeders during November, including individuals at Sackville Nov. 2 (Nev Garrity), Alma in mid-November (Doris Hatt), Keswick Ridge Nov. 19 (Fred Kelly); Fredericton in late November (Glenda Turner), as well as at Sussex, Moncton and Renous (*fide* SIT).

A late, young male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** appeared at Peter Pearce's feeder in Fredericton Nov. 22 and survived till Dec. 2. A rusty-brown **Blue Grosbeak** at Evan Smith's at Martinon Oct. 22 was seen by several observers in the Saint John area. Evan now boasts of having hosted five "grosbeaks" at his feeder which has previously been visited by Evening, Pine, Rose-breasted and Black-headed—a western visitor. If I were you, Evan, I would consider counting Cardinal as a grosbeak too.

There was the usual scattering of **Indigo Buntings**, including one at Shippagan in October (Jean-Claude Doiron) and another at Sheila Fram's feeder in Springhill, near Fredericton, Oct. 28. The latest was at The Whistle Nov. 11 (Brian Dalzell). Dickcissel reports, ranging from Sept. 16 through November, came from Harvey (Rob Walker), North Head (SIT *et al.*), Shepody (DSC), St-Hilaire (Simon Bouchard), Tracadie (Mme Désanges Doiron), Mary's Point (Mary Majka), and Sackville (Ruth Miller, George Finney). Single **Rufous-sided Towhees** were seen Oct. 14 at Partridge Island (SIT) and Oct. 25 at Fredericton (Barbara Cowan) and Shippagan (CNPA).

An immature **Clay-coloured Sparrow** was a good find at Partridge Island, Saint John, Sept. 16 (JGW). A **Field Sparrow** began to visit Rob Walker's feeder in Harvey, Albert County, in late November. A **Lark Sparrow** was at Castalia Sept. 22 (Ontario birders, *fide* JGW) and one appeared at Dan Busby's feeder at Sackville beginning Nov. 27. That's our latest N.B. record. The **White-crowned Sparrow** migration route may have been somewhat more easterly than usual; at least people I've talked to in both the southeast and the northeast found this species more numerous than usual. We had 5 visiting our feeder at Mary's Point during Oct. 11-16.

Jim Wilson reports that some American visitors had seen a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Grand Manan about Sept. 14. There were two reports of **Brewer's Blackbird**, both called immature males: at Popple Depot, on the upper Nepisiguit River, Oct. 12 (Mark Elderkin) and at Keswick Ridge in October (Leona Keenan).

A couple of **Northern Orioles** were identified as the western subspecies, formerly known as **Bullock's Oriole**: an immature at Mary's Point Nov. 12-14 (Mike Majka *et al.*) and one later in the month at Penobsquis (JGW & Johnston).

The establishment of **House Finch** populations in our province continues slowly but steadily. There were up to 7 during October at Don and Alma White's feeder in Moncton, 6 at Peter Pearce's in Fredericton Oct. 15, up to 7 there in November, and as many as 4 at Harry Walker's in Newcastle Oct. 8-16.

DSC	David Christie	G.M.	Grand Manan
<i>et al.</i>	and others	JGW	Jim Wilson
<i>fide</i>	according to	SIT	Stuart Tingley
CNPA	Club des naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne		
FNC	Fredericton Nature Club		
MAS	Maine Audubon Society		
SJNC	Saint John Naturalists' Club		



1990 Annual Meeting in Fredericton, June 8-10

Don't forget! The Federation's annual meeting will be held in Fredericton June 8-10. Come and enjoy Odell Park, the river islands, canoeing, houseboat cruises—the lower Saint John Valley at its early summer best! Our hosts, the Fredericton Nature Club, have arranged a really interesting program.

A registration form is enclosed with this magazine, but if you've lost yours or need more information contact the Fredericton Nature Club, P.O. Box 772, Station A, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5B4, or telephone Jim Goltz at 459-8685 (evenings).

Lost Members

We have lost track of some members. Does anyone know the current address of Denise Wilson (formerly of Robinson St., Moncton) or Martin Arsenault (formerly of Donald Ave., Bathurst)?

New Bird Names

The 37th Supplement to the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* accepts several new species to the North American list, divides some species in two, and introduces name changes for others. Only a few New Brunswick birds are affected.

Our Water Pipit has been separated from most Old-World populations and is now to be known as American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*. The scientific names of Northern Gannet and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron once again become *Morus bassanus* and *Nyctanassa violacea*, and Common Barn-Owl and Northern Hawk-Owl are changed to Barn Owl and Northern Hawk Owl [without a hyphen].

Atlantic Waterfowl Celebration

The first annual "waterfowl celebration" in Sackville, Aug. 23-25, will feature tours of the waterfowl park and marshes, a wildlife art exhibit, carving display and competition, duck-calling contest, entertainment, children's activities, etc. Write AWC, Box 1078, Sackville, N.B., or telephone 536-4503.

Birdwatching at Jemseg Flats

Leona Keenan

Where the springtime river
floods the flats
at the ferry crossing
the wild geese gather
to rest a while
on their northern flight.

Down the way an osprey
dives
with a mighty splash,
flutters over with a
good sized fish
clutched in his claws.

Thousands of them
strut and gabble,
swim and graze,
imperious, impervious to
the one white snow
goose in their midst.

An eagle lands in
its nest of sticks at
the top of an elm,
while a rough-legged hawk
roosts on a branch
near the road's edge.

But it's that one snow goose that
fascinates me. When my husband
points to a rare jet fighter
zooming low and
circling over, I tell him:
"You watch your birds,
I'll watch mine."



Bird Atlas Enters Final Year

The Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas is down to the wire with only one breeding season left to gather information for the ambitious project. To make the distribution maps as complete as possible your help is desperately needed. The accompanying map shows the state of completion of the important priority and special squares. A lot of priority squares in eastern New Brunswick and a few elsewhere in the province have not been adequately covered yet. If you're willing to spend a day or two visiting one or more incomplete squares please contact Peter Pearce (452-3086 / 459-3691), David Christie (882-2100) or the nearest atlas regional coordinator.

If you can't travel to a distant square, volunteer to help fill in the blanks between the priority squares. Remember that breeding records from 1986 through 1989 are just as useful now as if you had reported them at the time. Share your knowledge of birds. Help make our Maritime atlas one we can really be proud of. DSC

