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N. B. Naturalist

Le Naturaliste du N.-B.





New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists

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

La Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick

The Federation is a non-profit organization formed in 1972 to encourage an understanding of nature and the environment, and to focus concern for the natural heritage of New Brunswick.

La fédération est une organisation sans but lucratif formée en 1972 pour encourager une meilleure connaissance de l'environnement naturel, et pour éveiller le souci pour le patrimoine naturel du Nouveau-Brunswick.

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

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.

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In This Issue / Dans ce numéro

A Warbler from the West.....	47
Ballad of the Tormentine Count.....	48
Anti-pigeon Feeder.....	49
Le sommeil des oiseaux.....	50
Brief Encounter on a Cliff Top.....	51
Pacific Loon at Miscou Island.....	52
Profile: N.B. Protected Natural Areas Coalition.....	53
Reviews: Guide to some Hornworts, Liverworts and Mosses of Eastern Canada; Guide to Watching Whales in Canada; Whale Sighting Guide.....	54
Federation Founded 20 Years Ago.....	55
Nature News: September-November 1992.....	56
News Briefs: Bird Line, S.E. Nature Line, Maine Naturalist, Salkeld Islands, Colonial Waterbird Catalogue.....	47-53

On the Cover / Sur la couverture

Great Cormorant / Grand Cormoran by / par J.-R. Gallien.

Our Volunteers / Nos volontaires

Articles: Bruce Bagnell (Gardner Creek), Donald Doucet (Campbellton), Tony Erskine (Sackville), Don Gibson (Fredericton), Jim Goltz, Peter Pearce, Stéphan Reeb (Moncton), Jamie Steele (St. Andrews), Stuart Tingley (Shediac Bridge);

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Next deadline: Feb. 15 / Date limite prochaine: le 15 fév.

A Warbler from the West

Don Gibson

It is mid afternoon September 24, 1992, our sixth straight day of birding on Grand Manan, but unlike the previous days, Muriel Smith, David Myles and I seem to be drawing a blank. Despite visiting many of the good spots all of our sightings are very ordinary. Out of desperation we end up back at the scene of one of our best finds, the Dark Harbour Road, which had produced a Blue-winged Warbler, a "lifer" for us all.

By imitating their call, we attract a few chickadees along with some kinglets and warblers. Black-throated Greens and Yellow-rumps are the prevalent warblers and we start to think where we may go next, but a little black and white bird lurking in the bushes is about to change all that.

It is a bit strange that although the main object is to find rare birds, when one appears we are often caught off guard. The first thing I notice about this warbler in black and white plumage is that it has a solid black cap, so I immediately eliminate the Black-and-white Warbler. I wish that I could say that I correctly identified the bird but unfortunately that is not so. Muriel and David are nearby and my next words are, "Do you want to see a Blackpoll Warbler in breeding plumage?" Apparently they don't.

I turn and walk away to look elsewhere, but a couple of things bother me: first, I don't recall seeing a Blackpoll in black and white plumage any other time this week and, secondly, the face pattern didn't seem right.

"David, let me see your *National Geographic* field guide." I was right, the face pattern was wrong; the Blackpoll has a white cheek and this bird had a black cheek. Two pages back, however, there is an illustration of a bird that meets all the criteria. In a somewhat meek voice I mumble, "I think that I just saw this bird." It is not a great feeling when you realize that you have just walked away from New Brunswick's first Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Despite my efforts this bird seems determined to go into the record book. We easily relocate it and begin viewing it with a different mind set. One field guide says the yellow spot in front of the eye is hard to see but diagnostic. On this bird the spot is an obvious brilliant yellow. After taking a few photographs we began to observe other details. What at first appeared to be black is instead a beautiful slaty gray on this female bird. We set out to share our good fortune with others.

Brian Dalzell isn't at home so we call Jim Edsall so that he can put the news on the bird line. Jim tells us that Stu Tingley and members of the Moncton club are due to arrive the next day, thus reducing their chances of seeing it. We can think of no one else to tell, so we head for the Whistle and spend an hour or so along the power line. As we return up the hill toward the lighthouse, we see a familiar vehicle, Stu

Tingley's van. Behind the lighthouse, at the edge of the cliff, the group is scanning the water as we walk up. Before they see us we announce our presence, "Don't waste your time here. Come on, we will show you a good bird." Stu recognizes immediately that we are not kidding. Unfortunately, they are due at the Shorecrest Lodge in ten minutes. We devise a plan where David



Photo: Don Gibson

goes with the group in search of the bird and I go to the Shorecrest to explain that dinner will have to be delayed. After a brief search the bird is relocated and most of those present get a decent look. Some of the group get the word late and drive up just in time to see the bird fly away.

The week previous to this discovery I was visiting Grand Manan with my mother and an aunt from Vancouver. It has been suggested that my aunt brought this bird with her and released it at a location known to me. That is preposterous! Besides, it was a Townsend's Warbler and she let it go on White Head Island.

382-DUCK: The Bird Line Migrates

Effective August 1993, the N.B. Bird Information Line moves from Fredericton to Moncton. To hear taped information on New Brunswick bird observations and to leave messages dial:

382-3825 (382-DUCK)

384-NEWS: Southeast Nature Line

Beginning in summer 1993, the Moncton Naturalists' Club will provide a frequently updated recorded message, featuring news on nature in southeastern N.B. Dial:

384-6397 (384-NEWS)

Some poor souls amongst our readership are dedicated to the annual winter ritual known as the Christmas Bird Count. Year after year the same ol' diehards, with new faces frequently joining in, set out on an often cold and harsh winter day to spy upon their local bird population. Participants in this apparent foolhardiness may have an easier time relating to the following ballad than the more sensible individuals who instead choose to remain indoors on that day and nestle up to a warm fire with an interesting book. However, it is hoped that all will enjoy the reflective prose on the on-going history of this event in the Cape Tormentine area. — CG

The Ballad of the Tormentine Count

© A.J. Erskine¹

They called the headland Tormentine, a bleak forbidding name
For ferry dock to Isle of Spud—its only certain fame.
The summer folk from all around its cottages enjoy,
But outside lobster time the locals find no sure employ.

The winter blast its fields sweeps clear, the ice groans on the shore;
The cottage woodlots fill with snow, and tourists come no more.
The ferry traffic races past, without a sideways glance,
But treasures unimagined lurk there, birders to entrance?



When Tony, leaving ferry wharf, a
"white-winged gull" espied—
A visitor from arctic climes, this
bird he claimed with pride.
He knew that Christmas Bird Counts
prize such rarities a-wing,
And, if he found a score or more, a
record he might swing.

In nineteen-hundred-sixty-one the count proposal 'rose,
But Sackville folk declined to count the birds there lest they froze.
Persistent, Tony drove to Moncton, there to make a trade
Of his help on that count for theirs where he now needed aid.

The trip paid off. One hundred Iceland Gulls were in the line
That followed ferries 'cross the Strait to dock at Tormentine;
"A Continental Record Count!" said Tony with delight,
As birders met in restaurant to tally up that night.

The species count was thirty, then a goodly number for
Our first try at a circle without feeders set to draw
In wand'ring rarities to swell the list. And we espied
Another bird of note; we thought just luck it hadn't died.

A Myrtle Warbler, 'midst the fruits of waxy myrtle shrub
Beside the windbreak spruces, finding shelter there and grub.
In recent lists we've had to call them Yellow-rumps, but still
They turn up yearly round the Cape, detected with a thrill.

The final highlight of that first count came from raucous sounds
Within a lonely woodlot deep with snow, thus out of bounds.
'Twas Ravens, not a doubt, as eight or ten were wheeling by,
But when we hammered on the car the black birds filled the sky.

Not less than ninety Ravens rose from out the leafless wood,
A sight whose like we'd never seen, and only twice more could
Repeat on later counts before a house sprang up nearby.
The corvids moved away, and later counts were not as high.

Another Christmas came and went, and Iceland Gulls flew by

In greater numbers than before, another "record high"
The third year gave us more again, but let-down followed pride;
The gulls at Louisbourg eclipsed ours, so our "record" died

Without appearing in the books. A later bird count day
Found seven hundred seventy of these gulls around Glace Bay,
A total four times more than ever Tormentine could boast
With only one small ferry port upon our ice-bound coast.

The Moncton crew gave up on us. The next two years we had
To do the count with only two afield. The first was sad,
With dreary sky and meagre list of twenty species found.
The next year cheered us up again, with sun and much bare ground

And open sea; conditions then for birds were really fine.
Thus many species not yet seen on counts at Tormentine
Enlarged our total; Mourning Dove and Meadowlark were there,
And Purple "rockpipers" upon the jetty near the pier.

Around this time construction came to peaceful Tormentine,
Where summer trips to Isle of Spud had featured waits in line
Of several hours ere ferry space allowed a crossing. So,
A dreamer planned another way those many years ago.

A causeway to the Isle of Spud, with bridge and tunnel where
The ships must pass along the Strait, no line-ups needed here.
It wasn't called a "fixed link" then; its impacts on the sea
And fishermen got scarce a thought—must build, immediately!

They threw a ramp for road and rail across the marsh to reach
The islands of Cape Jourmain beside Ann's Acres beach,
Where roadway lacked since former dykes were breached by
winter seas,
And lighthouse marked the narrows where the waters first did freeze.

Before construction rockfill passed the islands' outer shore,
A federal election came. The Isle of Spud sent four
PC MPs to sit in Parliament among the Grits
That ruled the House. The latter, judging causeway was "the pits".

Won't squander public gold upon ungrateful bulloteers—
So causeway work abruptly stopped, for more than twenty years!
The bird count people worried not, but used the roadway for
Good access to the rocky cape and marsh and sandy shore.

¹ Copyright retained by the author, P.O. Box 1327, Sackville, N.B. EDA 3C0. Written for the 30th anniversary of the Cape Tormentine Christmas Bird Count.

Cape Jourmain became the key to counts at Tormentine,
The place where all found birding was particularly fine.
With Tony gone Al exercised compiler's
right to pick
His territory where the list would make all
others sick.

The island causeway had a gate, and birders didn't
like
To plod the two-mile length on foot. At first, they
tried a bike.

But snowy road made wheeling poor; the next year needed ski,
And later on came snowmobile, at first a novelty.

Al won't forget the day the snow machine refused to start
Upon the isle of Jourmain. He never once lost heart,
But foot-slogged out to get a tow, the survey once complete,
And homeward late to fireside feast where others warm their feet.

The Christmas counts bring more than filling lists with special
birds..

On bitter days at Tormentine, the weather rates bad words.
When counting gulls along the dock, we shivered as we hid
From tempest, wond'ring if we looked as blue as others did.

Another day, the lack of heat in ancient "boogie-car"
Cut short a pre-dawn owling trip, sent Hinrich home to thaw.
Frustration came from Snowy Owls; all teams—**except his own**—
While passing through saw one or both that perched in Peter's
zone!



Some other owls were highlights of the counts on which they
came.

The Hawk Owl found at Murray Road sat on a roof, so tame.
The local ninnrod queried Stu if he would like it, dead,
But Stu preferred to see it live! They left it perched instead.

The shores were piled with squids one fall, from die-off
near the strand.

In numbers such that canneries were
shipping to Japan.

Though squalling gull flocks worked a
month on cleaning up the beach,
Enough remained for census day high counts of gulls to
reach.

One year the ice and snow came late to cover field and cove,
Where migrant geese stop off to feed on stubble treasure-trove.
The bird count caught the exodus when winter came to stay,
And thirteen hundred bonkers flew across the Cape that day.

Thus, year by year our count's been made in sunshine and in
snow.

The cumulative bird lists more than hundred species show.
We came to count the special gulls unknown at Sackville then.
The trip's become traditional, with twenty years plus ten.

The fixed link to the Isle of Spud, the "bridge to Oz", or worse -
Some other names that can't be made to fit this little verse.
Like other projects grand, this needs to show that it won't slay
Our stocks of birds. Our count's become the local E.I.A.²

Anti-Pigeon Feeder

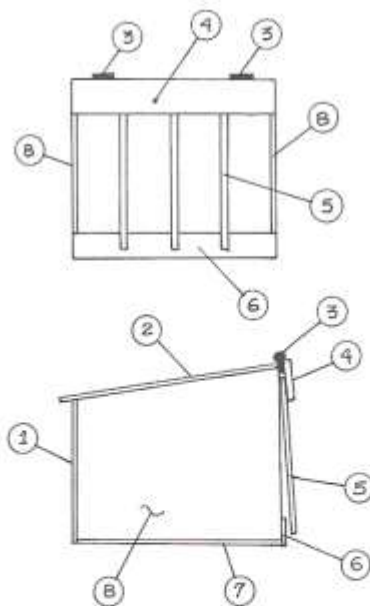
J. Donald Doucet

To attract smaller birds without feeding the hordes of
pigeons in his neighbourhood, Donald Doucet of the
Restigouche Naturalists' Club uses a feeder with a
hinged, barred front. To help others coping with this
problem he has contributed the plan for his feeder. —
Ed.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| ① Back wall | 10" wide x 7 1/4" high |
| ② Roof | 10" wide x 11" long |
| ③ Hinges | two 1 1/2" wide hinges |
| ④ Hinge bar | 2 1/2" wide x 10" long |
| ⑤ Gate bars | 3/8" x 7/16" x 8 3/4" long
(2 1/2" apart, centre to centre) |
| ⑥ Seed guard | 1 1/2" wide x 3/16" thick x
10" long |
| ⑦ Bottom | 10" wide x 10" long |
| ⑧ Side wall | 10" wide x 7" and 8 1/2" high |

Material for sides, wall, roof and bottom can be 1/2" or
5/8" plywood.

To avoid splitting the gate bars, drill two holes in each
bar prior to nailing to the hinge bar using 1" shingle
nails (wide head) for extra support.



² An E.I.A. is an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Le sommeil des oiseaux

Stéphan Reeb

Une des raisons pour laquelle les oiseaux sont si populaires auprès des amateurs de la nature est qu'ils sont, tout comme nous, diurnes. On peut facilement les observer parce qu'ils sont actifs en même temps que nous. Le seul comportement qu'on ne peut pas facilement observer est le sommeil, puisque le sommeil de la plupart des oiseaux prend place la nuit et que nous sommes nous-mêmes endormis à ce moment.

Mais la curiosité est le propre de l'être humain et quelques personnes ont, dans le passé, sacrifié leur propre sommeil afin de pouvoir étudier celui des oiseaux. Ces chercheurs se sont penchés sur de simples questions: Quand les oiseaux dorment-ils? Où le font-ils? Et leur sommeil est-il, tout comme le nôtre, caractérisé par un relâchement musculaire général, une diminution du conscient, et la présence de rêves?

Avouons tout d'abord que même si la plupart des oiseaux dorment la nuit, il y a des exceptions. Les hiboux et certains canards comme l'Eider à duvet, la Sarcelle à ailes vertes et le Canard pilet dorment principalement pendant le jour. D'autres espèces, comme le Goéland argenté et le Canard noir, dorment aussi bien le jour que la nuit. Finalement, il arrive aussi que certains dormeurs nocturnes fassent la sieste en plein milieu de la journée, lorsqu'il fait trop chaud pour bien accomplir quoi que ce soit d'autre. Pour le naturaliste, il s'agit sans doute du moment le plus pratique pour observer le sommeil. L'oiseau adopte alors une position typique: les plumes sont plus ou moins ébouriffées, la tête est affaissée entre les épaules ou retournée vers l'arrière (le bec est alors enfoui sous les plumes de l'épaule), et les yeux sont fermés.

On pourrait penser qu'il n'y a rien de plus ennuyant que d'observer un oiseau qui dort, mais attention! Ce comportement est plus complexe qu'on pourrait le penser. Ainsi, regardez bien les yeux: à intervalles réguliers, allant de quelques secondes à quelques minutes, les yeux s'ouvrent pour un court moment. Il semble que l'oiseau cesse de dormir pour un instant, et qu'il parcourt alors des yeux son environnement pour s'assurer qu'aucun prédateur ne s'approche. Des observations sur les Canards colverts ont montré qu'ils ouvrent les yeux plus souvent lorsqu'ils dorment dans des endroits plus exposés aux prédateurs. On sait aussi que ce sont surtout les espèces qui dorment le jour dans des endroits ouverts qui adoptent ce type de sommeil intermittent.

Parfois, ces espèces n'ouvrent qu'un seul oeil à la fois. À l'aide d'électrodes en contact avec le crâne, on a mesuré que seule la moitié du cerveau qui contrôle l'oeil ouvert est éveillée (l'autre moitié, celle qui contrôle l'oeil fermé, dort!) Non seulement ces oiseaux ne dorment-ils que d'un oeil, on peut vraiment dire qu'ils ne dorment qu'à moitié. Ce type de demi-sommeil, dit hémisphérique, n'est pas présent chez les mammifères (à l'exception de certains cétacés).

L'utilisation d'électrodes a aussi permis aux chercheurs de vérifier que, tout comme nous, les oiseaux sont capables de rêver. Du moins durant de courts épisodes, leurs yeux, bien que fermés, commencent à bouger, et les ondes électriques émanant de leur cerveau sont semblables à celles qu'on enregistre lors de l'éveil. Ces critères sont les mêmes que ceux qui définissent le rêve chez les mammifères.

Où les oiseaux dorment-ils? La réponse varie beaucoup d'une espèce à l'autre. On peut toutefois se contenter de la règle générale suivante: la plupart des oiseaux dorment dans des endroits semblables à leur habitat de nidification. Ainsi, les oiseaux qui construisent leur nid dans un arbre (comme le Geai bleu, par exemple) dorment perchés dans un arbre, tandis que les oiseaux qui nichent dans des cavités (étourneaux, mésanges, pics, etc.) y passent aussi leurs nuits. Parmi les exceptions partielles à cette règle, on retrouve la Gelinotte huppée, qui dort souvent sous la neige en hiver, et plusieurs espèces d'oiseaux de mer qui peuvent dormir sur l'eau. Il existe aussi un mythe qui veut que le Martinet noir et l'Hirondelle de fenêtres, deux espèces européennes, puissent dormir en vol, mais cela n'a jamais été démontré avec certitude.

Un être humain dort habituellement pendant un nombre fixe d'heures à chaque nuit, mais tel n'est pas le cas chez les oiseaux. Chez la grande majorité des espèces étudiées à date, la quantité de sommeil est proportionnelle à la longueur de la nuit. J'ai moi-même déjà observé que les Moineaux domestiques, en nature tout comme en captivité, dorment plus longtemps en hiver, lorsque la nuit est longue, qu'en été. Mais il y a toutefois des limites: si la nuit est très longue, les oiseaux ne s'endorment pas tout de suite au coucher du soleil, mais attendent plutôt quelques heures avant de s'assoupir (dans l'interim, ils restent perchés immobiles, mais avec les yeux ouverts). À l'inverse, si la nuit est très courte ou inexistante (comme dans l'Arctique en été), la plupart des oiseaux dorment quand même pendant un minimum de 1-2 heures.

Tout comme dans le sommeil humain, il y a un relâchement général du tonus musculaire chez les oiseaux endormis. C'est pour cette raison que les oiseaux dorment avec la tête enfoncée entre les épaules ou retournée vers l'arrière avec le bec enfoui sous les plumes de l'épaule. De cette façon, la tête ne tombe pas vers l'avant, ce qui nuirait à l'équilibre de l'oiseau endormi. Enfourer le bec sous les plumes scapulaires permet aussi de le protéger du froid, et il n'est donc pas surprenant de remarquer que cette posture de sommeil est adoptée plus souvent et plus rapidement lorsque la température s'abaisse.

L'absence de tonus musculaire s'étend même jusqu'aux pattes: un oiseau endormi demeure perché non pas parce qu'il serre ses doigts autour de la branche avec ses muscles, mais plutôt parce qu'un tendon spécial joue le rôle de bande élastique et con-

tracte les doigts, sans dépense d'énergie, aussitôt que l'oiseau plie ses pattes pour s'asseoir sur la branche.

Somme toute (veuillez pardonner le jeu de mots), le sommeil des oiseaux semble être une activité qui, bien que peu remarquée, est digne d'intérêt. A tout le moins, il est réconfortant de constater que malgré la dure vie qu'ils mènent, les oiseaux ont quand même le temps de s'adonner à cette activité des plus satisfaisante.

Pour des renseignements plus techniques sur le sommeil des oiseaux, on peut consulter les articles suivants:

Amlaner, C.J., et N.J. Ball. 1983. A synthesis of sleep in wild birds. *Behaviour* 87: 85-119.

Amlaner, C.J., N.J. Ball, M.R. Opp, et J.P. Shaffery. 1985. Electrophysiological correlates of sleep behavior in birds. *Sleep Research* 14:3.

Ball, N.J., J.P. Shaffery, M.R. Opp, R.L. Carter, et C.J. Amlaner. 1985. Asynchronous eye-closure of birds. *Sleep Research* 14:87.

Goodman, I.J. 1974. The study of sleep in birds. Pp. 133-152 I.J. Goodman et M.W. Schein (éd.), *Birds, brain and behavior*. Academic Press, New York.

Lendrem, D.W. 1983. Sleeping and vigilance in birds. I. Field observations of the mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). *Animal Behaviour* 31: 532-538.

Reebs, S.G. 1986. Sleeping behavior of black-billed magpies under a wide range of temperatures. *The Condor* 88: 524-526.

Brief Encounter on a Cliff Top

Peter Pearce

The trail running north along the top of the cliff from the light station at Southwest Head on Grand Manan Island has over the years witnessed a number of intercepts between surprise birds and surprised bird watchers. Such was the case for me on October 20, 1992, when, although it was extraordinarily quiet, I dared hope for the unexpected. It actually happened in the woods where the trail widened at a wet area of grasses and clumps of sedges. A small bird—a sparrow, I thought—flushed from the ground just in front of me, flew into some shrubs on the cliff top nearby and disappeared. Gone for good, I suspected. However, the bird responded immediately to a couple of "pishes" by darting out to perch in a leafless, scrub yellow birch about 6 m from me.

It was one of those magic moments in a bird watcher's experience. Previously-entertained doubts about being able to identify certain Ammodramus sparrows evaporated instantly. Here was a bird that was all field marks. I realized I was in the presence of an adult Henslow's Sparrow. It was a species new to me and, knowing that it was a secretive bird not theretofore reported from New Brunswick, I decided to conduct myself accordingly: I froze. Then followed a three-minute "visit" with this little vagrant from afar. It seemed curious about me, but no more curious than I was about it. Viewing conditions were perfect.

Facing me was a small, "neckless" sparrow with a large, flat head, stout bill and a shortish, spiky tail. The head and nape were a yellowish olive-green, a colour surely unique among our sparrows. The head was prominently striped, the median line being pale to olive-green and the stripes on either side blackish. The back and scapulars had a pronounced scaly look, conveyed by the white margins of the rust and black feathers. One

of the most striking features about the bird was the sudden clearcut contrast between the back and the plain olive-green of the lower nape. The wings were brown. The breast, sides and flanks were buffy and conspicuously streaked. The chin and belly were white, the legs pink. The bird allowed me to study it so intimately that I also noted that the eye-ring was wider posteriorly than in front, that there were pale hairlines in the dark head stripes, that there were three dark lines on the face, and that the upper mandible was a pale horn colour whereas the lower one was pink or flesh-coloured.

The bird was beginning to be a little nervous, shifting about on its perch. And I needed a breath. Curiosity finally satisfied, the bird dropped down from its perch and flew low into the dim light under some trees where I observed it momentarily on the ground before it vanished once more, not to be seen again despite my diligent searching for nearly an hour. So after committing to paper all the details I had noticed about the bird's appearance I returned elated to my car where field guides confirmed my identification. It had been an encounter which will remain vivid in my memory for a long time. Had he been an American ornithologist rather than an English botanist, John Henslow might also have been well pleased.



New Journal: Maine Naturalist

The *Maine Naturalist*, a new periodical about the natural history of Maine and surrounding regions, will include original scientific reports, general interest articles, research summaries and special features. Subscriptions (US\$30 per year, US\$20 for students, plus US\$6 for Canadian addresses) should be sent to *Maine Naturalist*, Eagle Hill Wildlife Research Station, Box 99, Steuben, ME 04680.

Pacific Loon at Miscou Island

Stuart Tingley

When it comes to deciding where to go for the greatest possibility of adding a bird to my New Brunswick list, there used to be no competition. Without a second thought, Grand Manan Island was automatically the place to go, assuming I had enough time.

But then along came a keen band of birders and naturalists in the northeastern corner of the province, and our eyes were suddenly opened to the tremendous potential for vagrant birds on the Acadian Peninsula. Today, it's often a tough decision for me to choose between these two corners of the province. But with the Acadian Peninsula less than two hours away from my home in Shediac Bridge, it is winning out more and more often as my favoured birding destination. My three spring trips in 1992 were very productive, although my main target bird, the Boreal Owl, refused to make an appearance, vocal or visual. Maybe next year. Nonetheless, I still added two species to my provincial list, Sandhill Crane and Acadian Flycatcher. And this good fortune was to continue into the autumn...

Ron Steeves and I planned an all-day excursion to Miscou Island on September 29, to search for a Harlequin Duck and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper which had been reported there the previous weekend. We arrived at Miscou around midday. The female Harlequin Duck was quickly located swimming with eiders just off the lighthouse. As we scanned the area it soon became obvious that a major Red-throated Loon migration was taking place. There were dozens on the water and frequent small groups flying by to the east. A smaller number of Common Loons were also present. Virtually all the loons were still in full breeding plumage.

At one point I noticed a group of three loons approaching from the west and decided to study them more closely. I quickly found them in my Questar telescope and was shocked to see a Pacific Loon in full breeding plumage sandwiched between two breeding-plumaged Red-throated Loons. This was a sight I had seen frequently at Churchill, Manitoba, where mixed flocks of these loons are common in spring migration. I had to pinch myself to realize we were in New Brunswick!

The loon in question was about the same size as the Red-throated Loons which were flanking it (though Ron thought it was a bit larger). Most obvious was the distinctive white blocking on the back and wings (as on Common Loon), and a dark head and neck which was silvery gray on top becoming very pale, almost white on a large area of the nape. We followed the birds as they continued past us and down the coast a few hundred meters. Then, one at a time, they banked and landed at a considerable distance.

I cranked the Questar up to its highest power (80x) and had a very satisfactory look at the Pacific Loon on the water as it rested for a minute or so and

then stood up and flapped its wings. There was no doubt about the identification, because of the beautiful silvery gray head with a paler nape and dark throat, incredibly small dagger-shaped bill (not long and slender like the nearby Red-throateds), and big puffy head and rounded crown. Again, the distinctive white blocking on the back was very conspicuous, and the bird appeared to be in full breeding plumage. There was no trace of a white flank patch (also looked for in flight), and this along with the very pale nape and inconspicuous neck stripes would seem to rule out the unlikely chance of this bird being an Arctic Loon.

We decided to walk down the beach to try to get a closer look. After about 10 minutes we set up our scopes and started looking. Despite an extensive search by 4 observers (Roland and Bernise Robichaud had happened along by this time) we were not able to relocate the bird. This was not too surprising in light of the migration that was continuing, with birds alighting and taking off from the water continuously.

There have been a number of previous reports of "Arctic Loons" in New Brunswick, although few have contained any details of the sighting. This represents, to the best of my knowledge, the first report of this species in breeding plumage in the province.

When one considers the extensive overlap of the breeding ranges of Red-throated and Pacific Loons over much of northern Canada and their habits of mixing freely during migration, it would perhaps have been predictable that this species would be found in New Brunswick with migrating Red-throated Loons, large numbers of which pass through the province. A closer watch of loon migrations along the coasts in both spring and fall will undoubtedly turn up more sightings of this species in the near future.

Birds in non-breeding plumage are somewhat more difficult to identify and are much more likely to be overlooked. Nonetheless, experienced observers have found non-breeding-plumaged Pacific Loons in both Nova Scotia and in Maine and they should certainly be looked for among the sizable wintering loon populations in southwestern New Brunswick.

Salkeld Islands Given to Province

The Salkeld Islands in Maces Bay have been given to the Province by Saint John Terminals Ltd.

The two islands, 5.6 hectares and 2.4 hectares in size, are known locally as The Brothers. Bordered mainly by high cliffs and completely covered by grass and other low vegetation, they are nesting grounds for Double-crested Cormorant, Common Eider, and Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls. Many Black Ducks, as well as eider, Oldsquaw, Common Goldeneye and Great Cormorants winter about the islands. — NB Dept of Natural Resources and Energy.

Profiles:

The New Brunswick Protected Natural Areas Coalition

Jim Goltz

The New Brunswick Protected Natural Areas Coalition is a coordinating body of environmental non-government organizations and environmentalists working together to provide leadership, encouragement, cooperation and support toward efforts aimed at establishing legally protected natural areas in New Brunswick.

The Coalition has evolved from the New Brunswick Endangered Spaces Campaign, a group of organizations and individuals interested in helping ensure that representative areas in each of New Brunswick's natural regions receive legal protection by the year 2000. The N.B. Endangered Spaces Campaign was launched in 1991, as a provincial effort to expedite the national Endangered Spaces Campaign. The name change was brought about to reflect the focus on the protection of natural areas for a variety of different values and criteria, not just their representativeness. The name change was also effected to help dispel misconceptions that we were being directed and funded by World Wildlife Fund Canada (WWF). The Coalition is strongly supportive of the WWF's national Endangered Spaces Campaign, but operates quite independently and does not receive operational funds from it.

The most important functions of the New Brunswick Protected Natural Areas Coalition are:

1) To facilitate the exchange of information regarding initiatives to protect natural areas in New Brunswick, as well as issues and concerns pertaining to the protection of natural areas.

2) To coordinate activities to help maximize the impact of our collective and individual efforts to protect natural areas in New Brunswick and minimize unnecessary duplication of effort.

The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists is one of the major players in the Coalition and has helped provide leadership since the New Brunswick Endangered Spaces Campaign was launched. Major activities of the Coalition have included meetings with the provincial government to help define the respective roles of environmentalists and government in protecting natural areas, and the preparation of a document on what elements need to be addressed in the development of a protected natural areas strategy for New Brunswick.

In the upcoming year the Coalition hopes to begin a public education campaign on the need for protected natural areas in New Brunswick and what New Brunswickers can do to facilitate this process and help ensure that their concerns are addressed. A brochure on the New Brunswick Endangered Spaces Campaign is available upon request in both official languages by writing to the New Brunswick Protected Natural Areas Coalition, 180 St. John Street, Fredericton, N. B. E3B 4A9.

Persons interested in joining the Coalition would be most welcome. There is an annual membership fee of \$10 to assist with mailing costs and operational expenses. Members receive regular correspondence from the Coalition, including copies of the minutes of meetings.



Catalogue of Colonial Waterbirds

The Wetlands and Coastal Habitat Program of the Department of Natural Resources and Energy is seeking information on nesting sites of Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Black-crowned Night-Heron; Great Black-backed, Herring, and Ring-billed Gulls; Arctic and Common Terns. They are also interested in breeding sites of these uncommon wetland birds: Pied-billed Grebe, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Least Bittern, Black Tern, Willet, Virginia Rail, and Sora.

Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated, preferably location, estimated number of nests or pairs of each species, and the year last visited. Send it to Janice Arndt, Fish & Wildlife Branch, DNRE, Box 6000, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5H1.

Surprise!

What bird would you picture on a postage stamp dealing with the protection of nature in North America? Peregrine Falcon? Kirtland's Warbler? Equatorial Guinea chose our good friend, "El Stomino" *Sturnus vulgaris*. Maybe they meant protection from Starlings!



Book Reviews

Illustrated Guide to Some Hornworts, Liverworts and Mosses of Eastern Canada.

By Robert R. Ireland and Gilda Bellolio-Trucco, National Museum of Natural Sciences, *Syllogeus* 62, 1987. 205 pp., (Available from Canadian Museum of Nature, Direct Mail Section, P.O. Box 3443, Station D, Ottawa Ont. K1P 6P4; \$13.64 GST + shipping included.)

Reviewed by Bruce Bagnell

Few naturalists take more than a passing notice of the delicate beauty and diversity of our moss flora. This is partly due to the fact that there are so few introductory books available which allow the beginner to become familiar with the common bryophytes. This well prepared guide is an excellent opening into the minute and intricate world of a very successful group of plants.

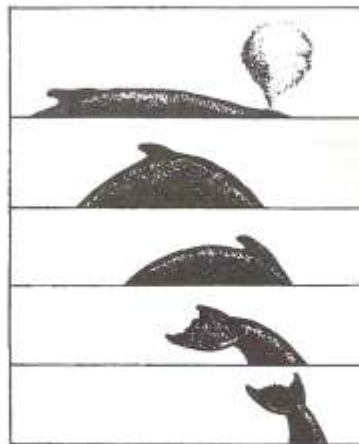
The opening three sections of the guide offer a general overview of the bryophytes, with brief and interesting discussions of the differences between hornworts, liverworts and mosses. The basic structure of the plants in each of these three divisions is well described and simply illustrated, giving the reader the necessary information on how to identify the important parts of the bryophytes in each division. It also elaborates on the life cycle, showing the characteristic path from spore to sporophyte.

The following three sections cover collecting and identifying specimens and end with a short list of reference books for those who wish to pursue their growing interest. Tips on field collecting (such as making paper packets to hold the specimens) and how to properly store and label collected material for reference collections are carefully presented and well illustrated.

The largest section of the guide is a combination of simple keys and illustrations, designed to enable the beginner, using mainly a small hand lens of 10 to 20 x magnification, to identify over 230 different bryophytes, representing nearly half of our New Brunswick flora. Although a few are included which you are not likely to come across, the majority can be found with careful searching and attention to proper habitat. Each species in the key is supplied with information on its preferred habitat and the substrate it may be found upon, and is linked to an illustration located after the key and text descriptions.

Finally, the guide ends with an excellent illustrated glossary of nearly 200 terms which help in understanding the minute parts and forms of bryophytes, and to make proper identification possible.

Bryophytes may be found from bog to mountain top and from field to forest. They may take a little patience to become familiar with, but the reward in discovering their varied forms and complex adaptations more than return the effort. This guide will make their introduction for the beginner much easier.



Humpback Whale diving sequence by Janet Biondi, from the Whale Sighting Guide.

Guide to Watching Whales in Canada.

By Mimi Breton, with illustrations by Jean Claude Campet, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, 1986. \$6.95.

Whale Sighting Guide. By Sharon Pittman with illustrations by Janet Biondi, Eastern National Park and Monument Association. \$1.00.

Reviewed by Jamie Steele

Mimi Breton's *Guide to Watching Whales in Canada* is an attractive 50-page publication which concisely presents a full range of general information about the whales found in Canadian waters. The bulk of the guide is devoted to descriptions of Canada's various whale species. These descriptions are grouped by families and include 17 species in 7 families. Two full pages are devoted to each species. One page presents a number of facts including both common and scientific names, species status (both in Canada and internationally), habitat, food, reproduction, surface behaviour, speed, some special notes and a distribution map. The second page presents a large-scale drawing and smaller sketches of the whale's diving sequence, from blow to submergence.

The first few pages document where specific whales may be seen off Canada's coasts, both from the shore and from boats, and are accompanied by a map. However, specific charters are not named. In addition, information is given regarding guidelines for whale watching.

The last page of the guide contains an observation record sheet. It can be copied so the watcher's observations can be noted. Addresses of a number of institutions are listed. However the list is incomplete.

The guide is general, yet provides enough information for the reader to become familiar with the field identification of those species found in Canadian waters. The major fault one may find is the book's dimensions. It measures approximately 20 cm by 17 cm and is not easily pocketed. Its survival in the field may be limited.

Another guide with a more regional focus has been produced by the Eastern National Park and Monument Association based in Eastham, Massachusetts. This single-sheet, double-sided document presents basic information on the eight most commonly seen whales from the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy region. It also includes the two most common seal species.

The layout of this guide is simple. Side one includes scaled diagrams of the toothed whales (including killer, pilot, white-sided dolphin and harbour porpoise) and the harbour and grey seals. Side two presents the region's baleen whales (minke, finback, humpback and right) including their respective diving sequences. Each diagram is accompanied by information about each species including scientific name, status, length and local food, and also their distinctive

markings, i.e. head, dorsal fin, tail (fluke) and body shape. In addition, a number of behavioral facts are noted and arrows are used to point out distinctive field marks.

A useful addition on this guide is the inclusion of telephone numbers to call if stranded animals are found. Unfortunately the organizations listed are all in Massachusetts. A short section under the heading "Scientific Research" is also somewhat misleading. It does not document any research, but presents the way in which some species are identified through photographs and encourages new observers to take their own photos and share these with scientists in the region.

Overall, this guide, like Mimi Breton's, provides the basic information needed to identify these incredible animals in the field. But again, even though it is a single sheet, the *Whale Sighting Guide* is somewhat cumbersome. Unfolded it is about 60 cm by 30 cm (folded 10 cm by 30 cm). It too might have problems withstanding extensive outdoor use.

Both guides provide references for further reading and additional information.

Federation Founded 20 Years Ago

Even great ideas often need a proper gestation period. Having started the Moncton Naturalists' Club in 1961, my husband Mike and I sometimes talked about the possibility of a provincial organization of naturalists. Dr. W. Austin Squires had similar ideas. In the New Brunswick Museum's 1965 annual report, he wrote, "We feel that this movement should be expanded either by the formation of similar clubs in several other localities or a provincial organization with which existing clubs could be affiliated and to which individuals could belong."

When a federation was proposed by the Moncton club in 1967, some people had fears that involvement might weaken the local clubs, but in December 1971, when the Canadian Nature Federation was looking for association with provincial naturalists' groups, the idea was more warmly received. A proposed constitution was drafted and sent to local clubs and known naturalists. At the founding meeting in Sussex on the 18th of November 1972, we officially became the N.B. Federation of Naturalists. In the two decades since, it has evolved into a respected provincial organization of which we can be proud. — Mary Majka

The Federation's first Board of Directors, Nov. 18, 1972. From left to right: Allan Smith, director-at-large; Mary Majka, Moncton Naturalists' Club; Peter Pearce, Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club; David Christie, president; Eric Tull, treasurer; and Beverley Schneider, vice-president. Missing from photo: Hilaire Chiasson, director-at-large; Henrik Deichmann, secretary; Cecil Johnston, Saint John Naturalists' Club. (Photo: Marc Majka).



Nature News

September-November 1992

David Christie

For birdwatchers it was a very exciting season: three new species for New Brunswick and the best observation yet of a fourth for which there are previous reports, observations of several other birds that are extremely rare here, an unprecedented flight of Red-bellied Woodpeckers, plus large numbers of several common migrants.

Birds

The **Pacific Loon** (p. 52) found by Stuart Tingley and Ron Steeves at Miscou L.H. Sep. 29 was not the first reported for N.B., but it is the first in breeding plumage seen by more than one person. Thus, it is our most convincing record by far.

Red-throated Loons were passing the point that day, 120+ being noted. A migratory concentration of 16 **Common Loons** were at Bayswater Oct. 26 (Frank Withers).

Concentrations of **Red-necked Grebes** were 50 in breeding plumage at Pt. Escuminac Oct. 12, 25 off Cap Bimet, near Barachois, Oct. 29, and 90 on Long Pond Bay, GM, Nov. 10 (all by SIT). The latest **Pied-billed Grebes** were individuals at Long Pond, GM, Nov. 8 (AS) and on salt water near Shediac Nov. 1-21 (SIT).

An early **N. Fulmar** was seen by an Ocean Search trip east of Grand Manan Sep. 3 (LM). About 20 at Little Shoal, near Machias Seal I., Nov. 26 (Peter Wilcox) were in the more normal late fall season. **Greater Shearwaters** were abundant in the Grand Manan area this fall with 8000+ reported SE of the island Sep. 14 (SIT), 1000 feeding on herring E of White Head I. Sep. 25 (RJW+), and 2500+ in the Grand Manan Channel Oct. 10 (DSC). 300 were farther up the bay, off Saint John Harbour Sep. 22 (BED). Ten, the last of the season, were S of Grand Manan Nov. 26 (Peter Wilcox). **Sooty Shearwaters**, always much less numerous than Greaters in fall, included 75 Sep. 14 (SIT) and 15 Sep. 25 (RJW+). The latest report of this species was of 1 at Machias Seal I. Oct. 21 (RM). **Manx Shearwaters** were seen off Grand Manan several times in September, including a peak of 75 on Sep. 11 (SIT). An **Audubon's Shearwater** was reported "about 18 miles east of Grand Manan" Sep. 13 (Alan Ryff; *Am. Birds* 47:55). Further details of this observation have not reached me yet. As far as I can recall, there have been no previous reports for the province.

More than 150 **N. Gannets** in Shediac Bay Oct. 4 were unusual in that location (SIT). The majority of 250+ seen off The Whistle, GM, Oct. 31 were adults (BED). Smaller numbers were seen frequently in both the Bay of Fundy and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The

majority of migrating **Double-crested Cormorants** passed from late September through mid October. Ten were far inland at Edmundston Sep. 24 (GT). A few lingered into November, for instance in the Tracadie-Val-Comeau area Nov. 8 (CNPA).

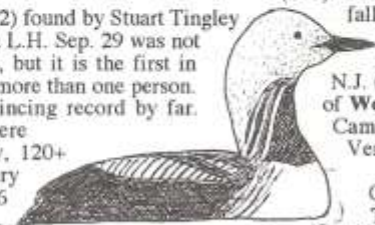
Several **Cattle Egrets** turned up in late fall, as they frequently do: 2 at Queenstown for a while after Oct. 22 (Enid Inch+); 1 at Anse-Bleue Oct. 23-26 (Rodrigue Landry+); perhaps the same at Bas-Caraquet Oct. 30 & Nov. 1 (Marcel David+); 1 at Browns Flat Oct. 31 (Scott Makepeace); and 1 at Wishart Pt., Oct. 31 to Nov. 7 (RD+).

The maximum number of **Canada Geese** reported was 2500 in the Kouchibouguac Lagoon Oct. 30 (SIT). Such concentrations are normal there in mid fall. A Canada wearing a numbered plastic neck-collar near Grand Harbour Oct. 3 had been banded Feb. 15 at Plainsboro, N.J. (*vide* BED). The highest numbers reported of **Wood Ducks** were 50 at Herring Cove PP, Campobello I., Sep. 3 (SIT) and 40 at Baie Verte Marsh Sep. 20 (SIT+), of **Gadwall** 12 at Sackville Waterfowl Park at the end of October (450-DUCK), of **Green-winged Teal** 300+ at Miscou L.H. Sep. 29 (SIT & RS), of **Am. Black Duck** 800+ at Kouchibouguac Lagoon Nov. 17 (SIT), of **Lesser Scaup** 38 to 40 at the Tracadie sewage lagoon Sep. 27-29 (RD, SIT), of **White-winged Scoter** 300 at Miscou L.H. Nov. 4 (SIT), and of **Hooded Merganser** 22 at Black River, KNP, Oct. 2 (SIT, RS, C&PC).

Among 250 **Am. Wigeon** at Black River bridge was an immature male **Eurasian Wigeon** on Oct. 2 (SIT, RS, C&PC) and ten days later both an adult and an immature (SIT). Another male was at Wishart Pt. Oct. 7-10 (Bruno St-Pierre+). A female **Canvasback** spent about 10 days at the Cap Brûlé sewage lagoon, near Shediac, from Oct. 29 (SIT). **Harlequin Ducks**, a declining species, were reported more often than usual: a female at Miscou L.H. Sep. 6 to Oct. 3 (RD+); a female in the Upper Salmon River estuary, FNP, Oct. 8 (RJW); up to 3 at Miscou Harbour ferry landing Oct. 30 to Nov. 21 (v.o.); a female at Shediac Bay Nov. 1 (SIT, OL, Alain Clavette); a young male at the Cap-des-Caissie wharf Nov. 9 (SIT); and 2 females at Southern Head Beach Nov. 11 (SIT, YC). The only **Ruddy Duck** was at Daley Creek Marsh, Mary's Pt., Oct. 28 & 31 (SIT+).

An immature **Turkey Vulture** was at Murray Corner Nov. 22 (RD & OL) and a **Golden Eagle** at Pt. Lepreau Oct. 20 (David McCurdy). A **Gyr Falcon** was seen briefly at Castalia Marsh Nov. 24 (BED).

Stuart Tingley (who else?) was fortunate enough to encounter a considerable migration of hawks Sep. 12. Driving from Saint John to Blacks Harbour and while waiting 2 hours for the ferry, he saw 40 **Ospreys**, 3 **N. Harriers**, 80 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 40 **Broad-winged Hawks**, a **Red-tailed Hawk**, about 100 **Am. Kestrels**, and 3 **Merlins**, all moving southwest. A normal late **Broad-wing** was at Southern Head, GM, Oct. 19 (PAP) and a very late one, an immature, at Miscou I. Nov. 12 (RD & OL). A goodly



number of **Peregrine Falcons** were reported on the Acadian Peninsula, perhaps 9 different birds between Sep. 26 and Nov. 8 (v.o.). Elsewhere in the province observers may have become blasé about this species for there were reports only at Mary's Pt. (DSC) and Saint John (DFS).

An adult **Bald Eagle** spent the early part of October at Machias Seal I., loafing on Gull Rock and harassing ducks and gulls (RM); perhaps the same bird had spent all night roosting on a clothes pole there Sep. 2 (Jim Smith). Apparently eagles only begin to visit the island after the nesting terns have left (*vide* BED). Ann Lavoie very much enjoyed watching two adults along the Restigouche River near the mouth of the Matapédia Nov. 8.

An immature **Common Moorhen** was at Machias Seal I. Oct. 13-17 (RM). Up to 5 **Am. Coots** frequented Daley Creek Marsh Oct. 8-Nov. 1 (DSC+), 2 were at the Sackville Waterfowl Park in late October (450-DUCK), 1 at Great Pond, GM, Nov. 10 (SIT), and, more unusually, 1 at partly frozen Val-Comeau marsh Nov. 8 (CNPA). Two **Sandhill Cranes** at Evangeline, near Inkerman, Sep. 21-23 (JGR) may have been the same ones seen on Miscou I. in May, since they were again very much different in size. Perhaps the same two were seen 15 km to the west at Thériault Office Sep. 11 (André Haché).

Brian Dalzell recommends airports as the best places to see certain shorebirds. During his airport surveys, peaks of **Lesser Golden-Plovers** were 13 at Saint John Sep. 25 and 20-30 at Moncton Sep. 8, of **Killdeer** 65 at Saint John Sep. 15 and 53 at Fredericton Sep. 10. Although there were no more than 10 **Whimbrel** at Saint John airport, staff there told Brian that more than 100 had been present in August 1991. There were 4 **Upland Sandpipers** at Fredericton Aug. 26 and 2 at Moncton Sep. 8, a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Fredericton Sep. 10, 5 at Saint John Sep. 11-15, 2 there Sep. 25, and finally 1 at Moncton Sep. 27.



A rare visitor was an **Am. Avocet** which fed along the Petitcodiac River at Riverview and Moncton Oct. 8-18 and Oct. 31 (John Tanner+). Several **Baird's Sandpipers**, all juveniles, were discovered: 2 or 3 at the Sackville sewage ponds in early September (*vide* MNC); 1 at Wilsons Pt. Sep. 12 (RD); 1 at Mary's Pt. Sep. 21 (DSC); 3 at Castalia Sep. 26 (RJW+); and perhaps 1 of the same at Bancroft Pt. Oct. 2 (BED). In addition to the airport birds mentioned above there was a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Mal Bay South, MI, Sep. 26-27 (RD+) and 1 at Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John, Sep. 28, when there was also a **Long-billed Dowitcher** (JE). Other Long-bills were at Castalia Marsh Oct. 14 (PAP) and Sackville Oct. 15 (8-JE). A very large flock of 500+ **Red Knots**, probably all juveniles, was at Lamèque Sep. 29 (SIT & RS).

The number of **Pomarine Jaegers** in the lower Bay of Fundy was considerably greater than in most years. There were several observations from the Grand Manan ferry, including 4 on Sep. 6 (SIT) and 2 as late as Oct. 13 (PAP). Sightings during boat trips E or S from Grand Manan included 4 each on Sep. 11 and 25 and 9 off White Head I. Sep. 14 (SIT+). Even from shore 5 were seen pursuing Bonaparte's Gulls off The Whistle Sep. 26 (SIT, RJW+). Elsewhere 3 were noted off White Horse Rock, near Deer I., Sep. 10 (Pat Kehoe) and about 10 off Saint John Harbour Sep. 22 (BED). **Parasitic Jaegers** seemed to be less numerous than the Pomarines, but were seen frequently. Observations from the GM ferry included 3 on Sep. 12 and 1 as late as Nov. 14 (SIT). Ten or 15 were seen 15 miles off Saint John Sep. 22 (BED), 1 flew S past Pt. Escuminac Oct. 12 (SIT), and 2 were chasing Bonaparte's Gulls off Greens Pt., near Letete, Oct. 25 (MNC).

There were three skua observations, all reported as **Great Skua**, which they may well have been. However, the occurrence of skuas in the Bay of Fundy is poorly understood. Many of our records were made before it was realized that South Polar Skuas also occur off Atlantic Canada. Even today, observation conditions at sea frequently make it difficult to confidently distinguish the two species. This season's skua reports were: 1 at the GM Basin Sep. 11 (LM); 1 seen chasing a Parasitic Jaeger (and another observation of possibly the same bird), 10-15 mi. off Saint John Sep. 22 (BED); and 1 from the GM ferry Oct. 17 (*vide* DLM).

A **Laughing Gull** at Machias Seal I. Sep. 23-28 (RM) was the only one of the season. A second-summer-plumaged **Little Gull** made a long stay at the Tracadie sewage lagoon Aug. 20 to Oct. 4 (RD+). The rest were all adults: Lamèque Sep. 29 (SIT & RS); The Whistle Oct. 9 (SIT); Deer I. Pt. Oct. 25 (MNC) and Nov. 1 (CA); 2 at Tracadie Sep. 25 (RD) and 1 there Sep. 29 (SIT+). Adult **Com. Black-headed Gulls** were at Tracadie sewage lagoon Sep. 25 to Oct. 2 (2-RD+), The Whistle Oct. 9 (SIT); Shippagan sewage lagoon Oct. 10 (RD); Deer I. Pt. Oct. 24 (JE), and Lamèque Nov. 13-14 (2-RD). An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen at The Whistle, GM, Sep. 3 (RD) and another was back for the fourth autumn along the Petitcodiac at Moncton from Sep. 22 to at least mid November (SIT+). An adult **Sabine's Gull** was photographed at The Whistle Oct. 9-10 (SIT+).

A small passage of **Caspian Terns** was represented by individuals off Seal Cove Sep. 17 (SIT+), at Cape Tormentine Sep. 18 (BED) and at Taylors I., Saint John, Sep. 20 (JGW). Visiting **Forster's Terns** were at Lamèque Oct. 18 (in 1st winter plumage—Jacques & Stéphane Guignard, RD) and around salmon cages at Wood I., GM, (Howard Streight) for 3 days in the last week of October. The latter bird was catching small pollock but losing many of them to thieving gulls.

As the many reports cited in this issue attest, The Whistle, the light station at the northern tip of Grand

Manan, is an excellent place for watching birds, both sea birds and migrating songbirds. The big island blocks passage of the rising tide which surges around the headland as a tide rip known as the Long Eddy. This turbulent current extending well out into the Grand Manan Channel often provides excellent feeding for seabirds. When the tide is rising it can provide views of pelagic birds and whales that are normally seen in numbers only far from land. For instance, 100 **Razorbills** per minute were passing The Whistle on the flood tide Nov. 24; the passage probably lasted an hour or more causing Brian Dalzell to estimate more than 5000 birds in the movement. During ebb tide, the Long Eddy runs westward from The Whistle but it is less powerful and usually not as attractive to birds.

At Machias Seal I. an unusually late **Atlantic Puffin** chick left its burrow for the sea on Sep. 1 (Jim Smith). Small numbers of puffins were seen on all the Ocean Search whale-watching trips in September (L.M.) and 80 were S of Grand Manan Sep. 25 (MNC).

The fall flight of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** was a meager one. Individuals, all at GM, were seen at White Head Sep. 2 (*vide* BED), Pat's Cove Sep. 15 (JE), Swallowtail Road Sep. 18 (SIT), and North Head Oct. 11 (AS).

An adult **Snowy Owl** at Wilsons Pt. MI, Sep. 27 and Oct. 15 (RD+) may have been one of the birds that summered on the Acadian Peninsula. A migrant at Machias Seal I. Oct. 23 was followed by another there (Jim Smith) and by birds at Mal Bay South, MI, (RD), Fredericton (Susan Bowes), and Fort Beauséjour (SIT, YC) during Nov. 3-8. Six were reported between Inkerman and Miscou on the weekend of Nov. 28-29 (*v.o.*). A **N. Hawk Owl** was at Miscou L.H. Oct. 10 (RD) and another was apparently seen somewhere along Route 126 in the first half of October (MNC Newsletter).

Red-bellied Woodpeckers staged an impressive movement into the Maritimes. There were more records in New Brunswick than in all previous years combined. The earliest, a female, at the Swallowtail, GM, Oct. 13 (PAP) was followed by 1 for weeks at a Saint John West feeder beginning Oct. 19 (Mr. & Mrs. Roland Bosence). Between the last week of October and the end of November there were 2 males and 2 females on the southern part of Deer I. (Linda & Bob Bosein+), 1 at Westfield (Ruth Brown), 1 at Sackville (George Finney+), 1 at Petitcodiac (Herb Holt), a male at North Head (BED+), a male at Riverside-Albert (Jean Milburn), 1 at Heritage Gardens, Saint John (C.L. Hastings), and at least 3 others in the Saint John area (450-DUCK), for a probable total of 15.

Flycatchers made headlines. An **Ash-throated**, from the southwestern USA or Mexico, discovered at Alma Nov. 14 (Barbara Curlew, Rick Elliott, RJW+) was the only the second record for the province. The first also occurred in mid-November. The Alma bird

managed to catch enough flies around buildings to survive through Dec. 1 and be seen by many observers. A late **Great Crested Flycatcher** at the Covedell Road, Tabusintac, Nov. 8-14 (RD+) was observed critically to eliminate the possibility of any similar species. Another was found at Seal Cove Nov. 8 (PCR). There was a good showing of **Western Kingbirds**: near Waterside, Sep. 12 (DJC), Southern Head Sep. 18 (Moir Campbell), Castalia Oct. 16-20 (PAP,AS,PCR), Waterside Oct. 17 (DR, Mike Majka), Hammond River Nov. 10-15 (Henry Darling, JGW+), and North Head Nov. 12 (AS). New Brunswick's third **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**, an adult male, was discovered at New Horton, near Riverside-Albert, by Donald Deschênes and Gilles Daigle Oct. 9 (*N.B. Nat.* 47:33). Staying put through Oct. 12—the entire Thanksgiving holiday weekend—it was a big drawing card for birders. It appeared to be the darker-backed South American race rather than a pale-backed Central American bird (SIT, DSC). With all these vagrant flycatcher about, one wishes it could have been possible to identify the late **Empidonax** at the Swallowtail Nov. 12 (SIT,YC) but that's a difficult group of birds!

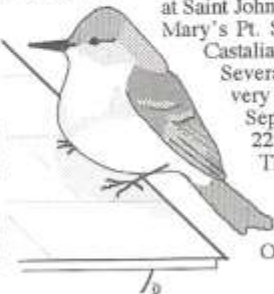
Brian Dalzell's airport surveys revealed more Horned Larks than we usually see in less extensive open areas. There were 50+ at Moncton Oct. 4, 50+ at Saint John Oct. 6, and 100+ at Fredericton Airport Oct. 6.

A heavy movement of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was noted on Grand Manan in mid September, with 100+ along the Swallowtail Road Sep. 14 (JE) and 50 around the island Sep. 17 (SIT). A single **Carolina Wren** was noted at Fredericton Oct. 27 (Jeremy Forster). In addition to two late August birds, the fall flight of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** included individuals at the Whistle Road dump, GM, Sep. 1 (BED), Southern Head Sep. 19 (DLM), Pt. Escuminac Oct. 2 (SIT,RS,C&PC), Miscou L.H. Oct. 3 (RD, Rosita & Benoit Lanteigne), Miscou Plains Oct. 17 (RD), and Taylors I., Saint John, Nov. 1 (CA).

A rarity from breeding grounds in northern Canada was a **N. Wheatear** at Inkerman Sep. 28-30 (JGR+). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported at Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska Sep. 12 (GT & Gisèle Thibodeau). More **Am. Robins** than usual were still present during November, for instance 150 at Harvey, Albert Co., Nov. 4 (DSC) and 35 heading NW at Bancroft Pt. and 75 feeding on abundant holly berries at Eel Lake Road, GM, Nov. 27 (BED). A very late **Gray Catbird** visited Mrs. Roland Bosence's feeder at Saint John West Nov. 6. A **Brown Thrasher** was at Mary's Pt. Sep. 15 (DSC & Mary Majka) and 2 at Castalia Marsh Sep. 19 (Ken McKenna).

Several observers commented that there were very few **Am. Pipits**. All reports were in mid September except for a late 1 at Alma Nov. 22 (SIT).

The **Bohemian Waxwing** flight was light. Following a report at Miscou I. Sep. 29 (SIT), there were 35-40 there (RD) and 27 at Harvey, Albert Co. (SIT), on Oct. 31.



More than 450 **Cedar Waxwings** were seen on Grand Manan Sep. 6 (SIT), a time when many normally gather to gorge themselves on fruits before departing. There were still 50 feeding on mountain-ash berries at North Head Oct. 26 (BED) and a single bird with robins at Eel Lake Road Nov. 27 (BED).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was a good find at The Whistle Oct. 13 (PAP). A surprising number of **Yellow-throated Vireos** were reported: near Southern Head Beach, GM, Sep. 6 (SIT+); at Stanley Beach (SIT), Hole-in-the-wall Trail (Chris & Alice Christenson), and Swallowtail Road (Ken McKenna & Calvin Brennan), all on Grand Manan Sep. 18; at Machias Seal Oct. 19 (RM), and finally at Deer I Pt. Oct. 24 (JE). A nice concentration of **Red-eyed Vireos** were 75+ at North Head Sep. 14 (JE).

The female **Black-throated Gray Warbler** seen along the Dark Harbour Road, GM, Sep. 24 (DG, DLM, Muriel Smith+) was a first for New Brunswick (see p. 47). Other warbler rarities were 3 **Blue-winged** on Grand Manan: a male at the Whistle Road dump Sep. 1 (BED), a female-plumaged bird at the Dock Road Sep. 9 (SIT+), and a male at the Dark Harbour Road Sep. 18&19 (SIT, DG+); 3 **Orange-crowned**: The Whistle Sep. 13 (CLJ), Pettes Cove, GM, Oct. 14 (PAP) and Fundy Nat'l Park Headquarters area Nov. 1 (DJC, AB); a **Yellow-throated**: White Head Sep. 21 (Muriel Smith, DG, DLM); and at least 4 **Yellow-breasted Chats**: Miscou L.H. Oct. 11 (RD); Southern Head Sep. 13 9450-DUCK, Oct. 15 (PAP) and 21 (BED); The Whistle Oct. 25 (AS); and Alma Nov. 19-22 (CA, Diane Allain+).

Pine Warblers have increased greatly in New Brunswick in recent years both as a breeder and a fall migrant. There were observations at Moncton (Alma White), Waterside (DJC, AB) and Mary's Pt. (DSC) in September and at Miscou L.H. (GB) and Castalia (BED) in October, but most reports came during November, when the birds often appeared at feeders: Alma (JE), Bayswater (2—Frank & Mitzi Withers), Saint John West (2—Bosence), Fredericton (DG), Swallowtail (SIT), Riverview (Tanner), Tracadie (RD & Désanges Doiron), and Petite-Rivière-de l'Île on Lamèque I. (v.o.). **Prairie Warblers** aren't breeding here yet (as far as we know) but they too are becoming a regular migrant rather than just a vagrant, as they were a decade ago. September observations were reported from The Whistle (RD), Mactaquac (Beverley Schneider), Marysville (450-DUCK), Miscou I. (RD), Southern Head (JGW), the Whistle Road, GM (JE), White Head I. (JE), North Head (2—SIT), and Mary's Pt. (SIT, DSC). The last seen was at Ashburton Head, GM, Oct. 4 (AS).

Two **Summer Tanagers** were found, a dead young male at Saint John Oct. 14 (*vide* CLJ) and a female at a feeder in Lamèque Oct. 28 to Nov. 12 (Réjean Ferron+).

Blue Grosbeaks were a female at The Whistle Sep. 5 (Barbara Hinds & Sylvia Fullerton) and (the same?) Sep. 18 (Ken McKenna); an adult male at Southern Head Sep. 13-17 (JE+); 1 at White Head I. Sep. 21 (DLM); 1 (probable female) at FNP

Headquarters area Oct. 8-10 (AB+); and 1 at Scott's Hill, near Hillsborough, Oct. 23 (Mary Fownes). **Indigo Buntings** were less numerous than in most recent autumns, with surprisingly few reported on Grand Manan. Elsewhere, there were at least 4 different individuals at an Alma feeder during Oct. 8-21 (DR). Two were reported on the Acadian Peninsula at Miscou L.H. Sep. 29 (SIT & RS) and Wilsons Pt. Oct. 17-18 (RD). Finally, a very late immature was at Dave Smith's feeder in Saint John from Nov. 28 to Dec. 4.

There was a good movement of **Dickcissels**, including two reports of small flocks, 6 at Machias Seal Oct. 13 (RM) and 7 at Mary's Pt. Oct. 14 (DSC). Six different birds came to a feeder at Alma between Oct. 13 and Nov. 12, including an adult male Oct. 20-26 (DR). The rest, all individuals, were seen between Sep. 11 and the end of November at The Whistle (SIT+), Moncton (Allan Gregoire), Harvey Bank, Albert Co. (RJW), Fredericton (JE), Tracadie (RD & Désanges Doiron), Fairvale (Win MacAndrew), and Cape Tormentine (SIT+). There was also a good showing of **Rufous-sided Towhees**, with 8 reports during Oct. 13-28: pair at Machias Seal (RM), male (DFS) and 1 (Frank Robinson) in different parts of Saint John, female at Baie-du-Petit-Pokemouche (Bernadette Hébert), male at Inkerman (JGR & RD), 1 at Fredericton (DG), male at Pettes Cove, GM (PAP), 1 at Coteau Road, Lamèque I. (Marie-Reine Noël), female at Waterside (Curlew & Elliott). A later female was at Saint John West Nov. 18 (Willa Mavis).

The sparrow of the fall was an adult **Henslow's Sparrow** at Southern Head Oct. 20 (PAP), the first of that species ever reported in New Brunswick (see p. 51). More normal, yet noteworthy, were **Field Sparrows** at North Head Sep. 23 (DLM), The Whistle Sep. 26 (MNC), Fundy Park HQ Oct. 8 (RJW), Miscou L.H. Oct. 10 (RD), Fredericton Oct. 20 (JE), Deer I. Nov. 1 (CA), Val-Comeau Nov. 8 (CNPA), and near Stanley Beach, GM, Nov. 12 (SIT, YC). A **Lark Sparrow** settled in at Hilaire & Rose-Aline Chiasson's feeder at Pt-Alexandre, Lamèque from Nov. 16 into December. Others were seen at White Head Sep. 8 (Barbara Hinds), Mary's Pt. Sep. 12 (DSC), Harvey Bank Oct. 24 (RJW), and at the Covedell Road, Tabusintac, Nov. 9-15 (Désanges Doiron, Gertrude St-Pierre+). "**Ipswich**" Sparrows showed up at Castalia, 1 on Oct. 25 and 2 Nov. 1 (AS & BED). Grasshopper Sparrows were at Wishart Pt. Oct. 10 (Roland Chiasson), Mary's Pt. Nov. 2 (CA & Clarence Stevens), and Alma Nov. 21-28 (RJW+). A very well-marked "**Pink-sided Junco**," one of the western races, was at Alma Oct. 15-17 (DR).

The first record of **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Fundy Nat'l Park was of a very tame young male that twice walked through the open doorway of a park building Nov. 16 (RJW+). An **Orchard Oriole**, rarer here in fall than in spring, was at the Whistle Road Sep. 14 (JE). At Grand Manan, 10 N. (**Baltimore**) **Orioles** at White Head (BED) and 8 at Eel Lake Road (Don Baldwin) on Sep. 2 (DB) and 40+ on the northern part of the island Sep. 14 (JE) indicate the main migration for this species, but a few were seen much

later. November birds were 1 at Petit-Paquetville Nov. 8-21 (Roland Robichaud), 2 at North Head Nov. 12 (SIT), 1 still there Nov. 22 (BED), and 1 attending a suet feeder at Woodward's Cove, GM, Nov. 27 (Verna MacKenzie). A female (perhaps 2) at Machias Seal I. in the second week of October appeared to be of the western "**Bullock's Oriole**" subspecies (RM).

House Finches are now regular winter and summer visitors at David Smith's feeder in Saint John but not during this October and November. Elsewhere in the city, however, there were 1 at Mrs. Roland Bosence's Nov. 6 and 2 at C.L. Hastings' Nov. 24, and there was a pair at Peter Pearce's in Fredericton in late October. These birds are seen less often in rural settings but there was an immature at Castalia Sep. 2 (BED).

Aside from **Am. Goldfinches**, which were abundant in southern New Brunswick (RJW+), finch numbers were below average in the fall of 1992. **Pine Grosbeaks** and **Common Redpolls** were particularly scarce. At Grand Manan, Brian Dalzell notes only 1 **Evening Grosbeak** seen all fall!

Concentrations of migrants in addition to those already mentioned included 50+ **Palm Warblers** along the Ashburton Trail, GM, Oct. 4 (AS), 50+ **Swamp Sparrows** on Miscou I. Sep. 29 (SIT+), and more than 1000 **Dark-eyed Juncos** between Pt. Sapin and Escuminac Oct. 6 (SIT,YC). Four days earlier, there had been lots of activity along the Pt. Escuminac Road: 30 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, 10+ **Hermit Thrushes**, 15 **Cedar Waxwings**, well over 250 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, 3+ **Lincoln's Sparrows**, 200 **White-throated Sparrows**, 150+ **White-crowned Sparrows**, and small numbers of several other migrants (SIT,RS,C&PC).

Late or early reports of about 55 species during fall 1992 can be obtained on request.

Mammals

Brian Dalzell saw what he thought was a **Big Brown Bat**, one of our rarer species of bats, feeding around street lights at Deep Cove, GM, Oct. 3.

There was an influx of **Gray Squirrels** into southeastern New Brunswick, probably as the result of

a productive breeding season. Several MNC members report appearances in Riverview and 1 was seen in Memramcook Sep. 20 (Mary O'Rourke).

River Otters are doing well at Grand Manan, where they mainly inhabit ponds and are often seen in the sea. November reports included 2 fishing in Great Pond (PAP), 3 at Castalia Marsh (LM) and 2 in the ocean at The Whistle (LM).

More than 150 **Atlantic White-sided Dolphin** were seen on an Ocean Search trip off GM Sep. 1 when there were also 100 **Harbour Porpoise** (LM). The GM Whale and Seabird Research Station tagged and released 35 porpoises during July to September (LM). Anyone seeing a porpoise with a yellow or red tag on its dorsal fin is asked to report it to the station, North Head, N.B. E0G 2M0. The distribution of **Fin Whales** extended into the GM Basin during September, as krill populations presumably increased there (LM). Normally that area is occupied principally by **Atlantic Right Whales**.

Abbreviations

450-DUCK	N.B. Bird	JE	Jim Edsall
	Information Line	JGR	Jean-Guy Robichaud
+	and other observers	JGW	Jim Wilson
AB	Anne Bardou	KNP	Kouchibouguac Nat'l Park
AS	Andrew Sharkey	L.H.	Lighthouse
BED	Brian Dalzell	LM	Laurie Murison
CA	Chris Antle	MI	Miscou Island
C&PC	Connie & Pearl Colpitts	MNC	Moncton Nat. Club
CLJ	Cecil Johnston	NWA	National Wildlife Area
CNPA	Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule Acadienne	OL	Oscar LeBlanc
DFS	David Smith	PAP	Peter Pearce
DG	Don Gibson	PCR	Peter & Carmen Roberts
DJC	David Clark	PP	Provincial Park
DLM	David Myles	RD	Robert Doiron
DR	Doreen Rossiter	RJW	Rob Walker
DSC	David Christie	RM	Rodger Maker
file	according to	RS	Ron Steeves
FNP	Fundy Nat'l Park	SIT	Stuart Tingley
GM	Grand Manan archipel.	v.o.	various observers
GT	Georgette Thibodeau		

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