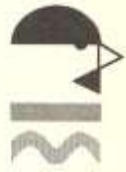


On the Edge of Disappearance
P. O. Box 1916, Sussex, N. B.
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N. B. Naturalist

Le Naturaliste du N.-B.





New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists / La Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick

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

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 compréhension de l'environnement naturel, et pour éveiller le souci pour le patrimoine naturel du Nouveau-Brunswick.

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In This Issue / Dans ce numéro

From the Editors.....	1
President's Report to the Annual Meeting.....	1
Eastern Cougar Sightings in the Maritimes.....	3
Maritime Ringlet Study.....	3
Delilah's Lasting Legacy [Right Whales].....	4
Le sentier de l'Écureuil roux.....	5
An Albatross!! Over Moncton?!!.....	6
Birds Overdue in New Brunswick.....	8
Honeworts and Hardwoods.....	12
New Brunswick Bird Records Committee.....	13
Documentation of Rare Birds—A History.....	14
New Brunswick Bird Documentation Form.....	15
Formulaire de documentation d'oiseaux.....	16
Christmas Mountains Threatened by Logging.....	17
Vanishing Wilderness.....	18
Remembering Keith Ingersoll.....	20
The Gleaners.....	21
From the Pages of the Journals: What's in a Name?.....	22
Reviews: Breeding Bird Atlas; Bird Sounds of Canada.....	24
Protected Areas: Pickerel Pond, Grand Lake Meadows, Tabusintac Lagoon, Kouchibouguac Nat'l Park.....	25
Nature News: December 1992 to November 1993.....	26
A Bunch of Grass.....	38
Christmas Bird Counts: 1992-93.....	39
The View from Mount Bailey.....	48
Federation News: Annual Meeting; interpretive centre.....	49
Club News: Bluebird Trails, Arbre de Noël pour la faune, Chickadee Club.....	51

From the Editors

Weary, with pounding hearts and aching backs, we have finally finished 1993. In this magazine you are holding four issues we have owed you for a long time. To get out of our perennial debt this seemed the only way. The effort has left us exhausted and wondering if it weren't time to call it quits.

We have been editors since 1985. Always happy to do it, usually behind schedule, and often having a guilty conscience, especially when we were busy doing a million other things instead of working on your magazine. It has been our baby though, weak and starving for money and time, but still a product of our love and interest in nature. It would be good if it became somebody else's charge. In other words, we are looking for a good foster home, so that we can cut back to just preparing our own articles.

Most federation members have quite broad interests in nature, but still a major portion of their time and energy is devoted to birds, and our contents reflect this. Publication of "Birds Overdue" had been postponed a number of times to avoid having too much on birds, but at last it appears in this issue.

Finally, we would like to thank our good neighbour and wildlife artist Lars Larsen for permission to use one of his cougar drawings on the cover. It was a study in preparation for painting a cougar for the N.B. Wildlife Federation, which has produced a limited edition print.

Mary and Dave

In This Issue / Dans ce numéro

(continued / continuée)

Awards: Hal Hinds.....	51
Geological Rambles in Albert County.....	52
Atlantic Coastal Action Program.....	53
News Briefs: 300 Club Grows, 7; Miscon Island Boardwalk, 14; Chickadee Notes, 50; Salt Marsh Posters, 50; Salt Marsh Leaflets, 53; Piping Plover Guardians, 53; Gibson Trail, 54; Quebec Breeding Bird Atlas, 54.	
Announcements: Maritimes Nest Records Scheme, 5; FeederWatch, 12; Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, 54	

On the Cover / Sur la couverture

Eastern Cougar / Cougar de l'est © Lars Larsen.

Our Volunteers / Nos volontaires

Articles: Stephen Clayden, Brian Dalzell (Castalia), Jim Goltz, the late Keith Ingersoll (Fredericton), Chris Majka (Halifax), David McCurdy (Quispamsis), Rudy Stoeck (Fredericton), Gisele Thibodeau (Edmundston), Stuart Tingley (Shediac Bridge), Jim Wilson (Quispamsis);

Illustrations: Gérard Bencii (Lamèque), Simon Bouchard (St-Hilaire), Robert Doiron (Tracadie), Lars Larsen (Harvey Bank), Stuart Tingley; and

Jacks-of-all-trades: David Christie and Mary Majka.

President's Report to the Annual General Meeting

Jim Goltz

The Annual General Meeting gives us the opportunity to look at ourselves and evaluate who we are, what we have accomplished and what we need to do in the future.

Naturalists are people who are interested in nature. The Federation is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1972. Our membership consists of individuals and naturalists' clubs. The Federation operates totally through the efforts of volunteers. The objectives of the Federation are as follows:

- 1) To foster the study and enjoyment of nature.
- 2) To serve as a forum for communication among naturalists.
- 3) To disseminate information concerning the natural history of New Brunswick.
- 4) To encourage protection of New Brunswick's natural heritage, including its flora, fauna and wildlife habitats, as well as outstanding features of landscapes.
- 5) To sponsor educational projects and nature camp scholarships.
- 6) To represent individuals and naturalists' clubs as a provincial voice on issues affecting nature and the environment.

We attempt to achieve these objectives through the Annual General Meeting, special field outings, regular Board meetings, our publication (the *N. B. Naturalist/Le Naturaliste du N.-B.*), representatives of the Federated Clubs, and special projects.

The AGM affords us an excellent opportunity to share our love and knowledge of nature, to cultivate friendships with interesting and colorful people, and to gather experiences and memories to treasure for a lifetime. In between Annual General Meetings, local clubs are encouraged to host field outings for the Federation. Although the Federation passed a resolution to try to hold two such outings each year, none took place during the past year.

Most of the business of the Federation, including action regarding environmental issues, takes place at meetings of the Board of Directors. There were three such meetings since the last AGM.

There were no nominations for scholarships this year and therefore none will be awarded. The scholarship fund was set up to encourage young people to pursue their interests in nature. Please submit information about eligible candidates so a scholarship can be awarded next year.

We rely on the club representatives to relay information about what is happening in local clubs and to keep the local club members informed about major issues and activities of the Federation. The dedication of your club representatives is greatly appreciated, especially so for those that must drive long distances to attend Board meetings. We encourage all clubs to continue to exchange information and newsletters

with all of the other naturalists' clubs in the Federation.

The Federation is especially proud of its excellent publication, the *N.B. Naturalist/Le Naturaliste du N.-B.* It has been said that this is the cement that helps bind the Federation together, and it certainly is the major forum for communication with the general membership. Many thanks to the editors and contributing authors. It is hoped that the *N. B. Naturalist/Le Naturaliste du N.-B.* will be produced with more regularity during the upcoming year.

The Federation also appreciates the good work of our volunteers on special projects, done on behalf of the Federation or with sponsorship by the Federation. Mary Majka and David Christie are continuing their interpretive program at Mary's Point and have helped the Conservation Council of New Brunswick develop informative posters on 10 of the province's salt marshes. Roland Chiasson and Sabine Dietz have once again obtained funding to conduct their educational and rehabilitation work on piping plovers and coastal habitats on the Acadian Peninsula. Peter Pearce capably represents the Federation at meetings of the Fundy Model Forest, in which the Federation is a partner. Michael Bamford is the Federation's liaison person in a collaborative effort with Don McAlpine and the New Brunswick Museum to produce informative notes on rare species of wildlife.

In addition to these highly successful projects, some highlights of the Federation's activities in the past year include participation in the New Brunswick Protected Natural Areas Coalition (formerly the New Brunswick Endangered Spaces Campaign), meetings with Valley Forest Products regarding their five-year plan, discussions with veterinarians and government officials about the possibility of establishing a raptor rehabilitation centre in the province, action on environmental issues, and participation in a project of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. In all of these activities, Federation representatives attempt to ensure that the values and perspectives of naturalists are expressed and considered.

The *Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces*, published in 1992, is an excellent example of what can be accomplished by coordinating and focusing the energy, time and expertise of naturalists in New Brunswick and the other Maritime Provinces. Naturalists in Prince Edward Island are now engaged in a project to map the distribution of amphibians in that province. It would be very worthwhile for the Federation to tackle similar projects. We need to continue to coordinate our efforts to learn more about the plants and animals in New Brunswick, especially the species that are rare, threatened, vulnerable or endangered. We also need to continue to identify critical natural areas, including key habitats for rare species. The Federation has made a commitment to produce a slide presentation on New Brunswick's critical natural areas.

In order to deal with our many challenges, we need to increase our membership, and get more people involved in local clubs and in Federation activities. It is of paramount importance that we try to encourage

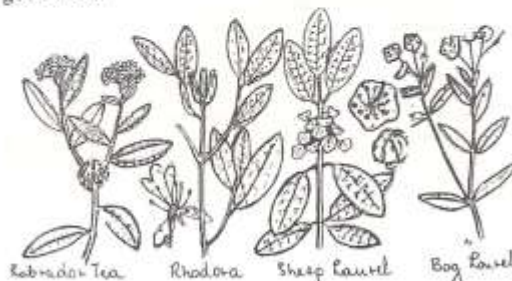
young people to join our naturalists' clubs and take an interest in nature and the environment. Ultimately, they will determine the destiny of New Brunswick's environment and wildlife inhabitants.

As individuals, groups and the Federation we need to become more motivated, mobilized and politicized to put pressure on government and other agencies to take greater action to protect our environment and the wildlife species that co-inhabit our province. Initially many of us just wanted to enjoy nature. To continue to enjoy it, we must ensure that the environment is healthy and that our concerns are taken into account in the political process. For example, at this point in time, we should focus our efforts on protecting natural areas in New Brunswick. Call or write to our politicians to tell them that protected areas are important to you. Not only should we look to the protection of local areas, but we should also support important national sites, such as the Tatshenshini, a wilderness area in northwestern British Columbia that is slated to become a giant copper mine.

The Federation needs to better coordinate its efforts with other environmental non-government organizations. Naturalists are encouraged to provide input on New Brunswick's environmentally significant areas to Roland Chiasson, who is working with the Nature Trust of New Brunswick to prepare a data bank of this information. The Federation could also work together with the Nature Trust to raise money to buy and protect land locally in New Brunswick.

With many environmental crises and issues requiring action on short notice, often during regular work time, the Board of Directors decided that the Federation needs to have a full-time staff person. It was agreed that the Federation ease into this arrangement through the Mennonite Central Committee of Canada's volunteer program. We will be applying for volunteer help for a two year period at a cost of up to \$10,000. Hopefully this will help the Federation establish a solid resource base, will help ease the workload from over-committed volunteers, and will help to ensure that the Federation is represented at meetings scheduled during work hours. There is no guarantee that our application will be successful or that we will find a suitable candidate. A concerted effort will be made to achieve charitable status, to facilitate the acquisition of funding for Federation activities.

Much good work is ongoing and much remains to be done. The Federation can only hope to achieve its objectives through the participation and good efforts of our members and Federated clubs. Keep up the good work!



Eastern Cougar Sightings in the Maritime Provinces

Rudy Stoeck

Sightings of the Eastern Cougar (*Felis concolor cougar*) continue to increase in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and there is finally solid evidence that this cat exists here in the wild state. There are no reports from Prince Edward Island. A review of 388 sight records showed an increase from 12 in 1977 to 55 in 1991.

Cougar reports came from virtually all counties in both provinces. Most sightings were made on or along roadways, often from moving or stationary vehicles, and with viewing times of a few seconds to several minutes. Over half of the animals were seen in forest habitat and one quarter in farmland.

Seventy percent of the observations were between July and October. The colours varied from very light tan or gray to dark brown and black. One third of the animals were described as brown, 22% were said to be black. Black cats were similarly distributed over the year as the non-black animals.

The animals appeared to be powerful, lean and graceful looking cats with long, muscular, rope-like, often black-tipped tails. Shoulder height, body length and tail length estimates were generally within size limits given in the literature. Most of the estimates were considerably greater than those reported for coyotes, fishers, bobcats, lynx and bears, animals



which might be confused for a cougar. Fourteen reports were of more than one animal together; seven of these were of adult cougars with one or two kittens. On ten occasions cougars were seen chasing deer and other animals; others were seen watching and stalking deer, horses, sheep and cattle.

Many apparently reliable observations, including those reported by knowledgeable outdoor people familiar with cats, suggest that there could be a small population of cougars in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Indeed, cougar forepaw hair was definitely identified by the Canadian Museum of Nature in a scat associated with cougar-like tracks measured and followed for some distance at Deersdale, York County, N.B., by Dept. of Natural Resources and Energy staff in November, 1992.

All this evidence is grounds for continued investigation.

On March 1 Natural Resources Minister Alan Graham announced discovery of "the first indisputable evidence of a cougar in New Brunswick in over 50 years." He said that New Brunswickers now will be encouraged to report observations. "The sightings will be taken much more seriously and followed up where possible." He wants biologists to monitor the population to see whether it has a future, although that is easier said than done.

— The Times-Transcript

Maritime Ringlet Study

The Maritime Ringlet butterfly (*Coenonympha tullia nipisiquit*¹) is threatened by the growth of Bathurst. Privately owned salt marsh along the Peters River in the western part of the city provides habitat for the largest population of this rare butterfly, which is known nowhere else but along Chaleur Bay. Two smaller colonies, at Carron Point and the Daly Point Reserve on the east side of Bathurst Harbour, are protected by the Department of Natural Resources. A fourth colony is found in a salt marsh on the Gaspé side of the bay.

Dr. Reggie Webster of Fredericton, who is conducting an ecological study² of the ringlet, is concerned about new home construction near Peters River. Without a management plan for the area, development could bring pollution, such as sewage, detergents and oil, any of which might wipe out the entire population of ringlets. The Peters River marsh is home to two other butterflies of limited distribution, the Salt Marsh Copper and the Short-tailed Swallowtail, as well as a variety of unusual plants.

The Maritime Ringlet was discovered in 1939 but little was known of its life history until Webster began his study in 1993. He found that the larvae feed on salt-

meadow cord-grass and the adults on sea-lavender nectar. They overwinter as 4-mm larvae which can endure very cold temperatures and lengthy periods of submersion during the highest tides.

Dr. Webster hopes that the ringlet will be given protection under the Endangered Species Act and that government funding will make it possible to expand the ringlet's range in the province by moving some to other similar marshes. (DSC—based on stories in *L'Acadie nouvelle* and *The Times-Transcript*, Oct. 29 & 31, 1993)



¹ Entomologists don't all agree on species/subspecies relationships within the ringlets; you may also see the Maritime Ringlet referred to as *C. inornata nipisiquit* or as *C. nipisiquit*. Since the late 1970s another ringlet *C. l. inornata* has spread across the province. It is smaller and more brightly coloured and flies earlier in the season (late June-mid July vs. early August) than the Maritime Ringlet.

² Funded by World Wildlife Fund (Canada) and the N.B. Dept. of Natural Resources and Energy.

Delilah's Lasting Legacy

Brian Dalzell

There are only six complete right whale skeletons in existence throughout the world and, thanks to the winds of fate and a high tide, the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John has the seventh. Known officially as right whale #1223, but dubbed "Delilah" by those who knew her best, she came ashore on Sept. 9, 1992, near Deep Cove on Grand Manan—causing more excitement than at any time since the arrival of the new ferry in 1990.

The story begins in 1981 when the two-year-old whale was first seen in the Great South Channel off Cape Cod. Readily identifiable by a unique pattern of callosities on her head, she was subsequently named Delilah by whale researchers because of a goblet-shaped white patch on her belly, in reference to the biblical epic of Samson and Delilah.

Between 1982 and 1989 she was seen in places as diverse as Browns Bank, Massachusetts Bay and the Straits of Florida. She was seen off Florida in February 1992 without a calf, but turned up in August in the Bay of Fundy with her first, presumably born there in January but overlooked. On Sept. 5, 1992, fishermen from White Head came upon three whales, one thrashing violently about on the surface, apparently in its death throes. This went on for some 35 minutes until the whale died, turning over on its right side in the water and closing its left eye.

Four days after her death and still on her right side, Delilah came ashore beside an old wharf near Deep Cove. Within hours, a steady stream of curious islanders arrived to examine what for most was the first whale they had ever seen out of water—or touched, if they so desired. After four days in the water and three on the beach, the odor of rendering blubber was noticeable half a mile downwind inside a car with the windows rolled up.

It took those three days to round up enough experts to start conducting an autopsy on the whale. Besides the great size, most onlookers (at least those brave enough to venture down to the beach to stand beside it) were impressed with the six-inch layer of blubber covered by a half inch of black skin surprisingly similar in texture to rubber.



Skin samples were taken and the baleen plates were removed from the mouth. At that point it was decided to bring the whale ashore where it could be more easily worked upon. At high tide on Sept. 12, Delilah was hauled off the beach and towed five miles to the Grand Manan Marine Service Centre where a marine travelift was waiting to hoist her out. A bonus to using the travelift was that it was equipped with a scale for weighing boats. Delilah tipped those scales at 59,600 pounds, quite probably the only right whale ever weighed with such accuracy.

More than 150 curious onlookers, cameras snapping and video cameras rolling, gathered to watch the operation. The string of cars behind the flatbed as it travelled to an old gravel pit looked for all the world like a funeral procession. At the pit a large trench was dug alongside the whale into which excess flesh and blubber were placed as the scientists removed the bones and cleaned them off.

Eventually, the bones were placed in a large bag fashioned from a fishing net and dropped into the ocean to be checked from time to time to see if they were clean. According to local cetacean specialist Laurie Murison, manager of the Grand Manan Whale and Seabird Research Station, a right whale is able to store up to 30 per cent of its oil in the bones, so it may take some time for all the oil to leach out.

In the meantime there is one less North Atlantic right whale in the Bay of Fundy. The death of Delilah left an orphan known simply as #2223. The survival of the 9-month old calf was a cause for concern among all those interested in the survival of those magnificent animals.

Fortunately, among photos taken of a group of 30 whales in the Grand Manan Basin on August 20, 1993, one was discovered to be of Delilah's baby! The identification was possible because of the work of New England Aquarium scientists Amy Knowlton and Scott Kraus, who have spent the past 14 years building a database of about 330 Right Whales. They range in age from several months to about 70 years, and the scientists were able to match a photograph of a young whale taken in August with 1992 photos of Delilah's calf.

The calf was estimated to be about nine months old when its mother died after being hit by a ship near Grand Manan. Researchers have found that Right Whales do not have a sophisticated social structure like some other whales. Indeed, the only social bond is that between mother and calf, which usually breaks up when the calf is about a year old.

It is highly unlikely another female would accept an orphan calf, and they have never been observed to do so, or even to "baby-sit" a calf other than their own. For this reason, there was practically no hope the calf would survive. What this incident has shown researchers then, is that Right Whale calves are capable of surviving on their own, even if prematurely.

separated from their mothers as young as nine months of age.

This represents another piece in the jigsaw of Right Whale biology, but there are still many mysteries, such as where they go during the winter. You wouldn't think 200 or so whales could hide if they wanted to, but they can, without even trying. This is probably why a remnant survives to this day, despite past efforts to kill them all. They were hunted to commercial extinction by 1750, and when they recovered in the 1800s, the slaughter was repeated.

If it were known where they wintered, perhaps more effort could be put into protecting them from ship traffic, an obvious impediment to recovery when so few still exist. Scientists have tried tracking them by firing a small harpoon with a radio transmitter attached into their thick blubber, but none have stayed put more than six weeks. If they had, satellites would now have revealed to us where they are going.

Even in death, Delilah's legacy continues to

deliver dividends to her kind. In the past year, about 40 shipping companies (about two-thirds of the eastern Canadian companies) have agreed to order their ships to slow down or avoid areas populated by Right Whales.

Another positive result of Delilah's death has been the creation of an "Adopt-a-whale" scheme. For \$35, you can join the Whale Adoption Program, for which you receive a certificate of adoption, a photograph of your Right Whale, fact sheet and composite drawing, as well as a newsletter for one year. If you're interested, contact East Coast Ecosystems, Box 36, Freeport, N.S. B0V 1B0.

A proposal for establishment of five whale conservation zones off the Eastern Seaboard, where ships would be required to slow to five knots, has also gained momentum. The zones are one element of a 150-year recovery program aimed at increasing the Right Whale population to 7,000 animals.

Le Sentier de l'Écureuil roux — The Red Squirrel Trail

Gisèle Thibodeau



Le Sentier de l'écureuil roux de la Forêt expérimentale de l'École de sciences forestières de l'Université de Moncton (CUSLM) situé dans la région de Sainte-Anne, est un endroit tout à fait exceptionnel. J'ai eu le plaisir de le parcourir et il m'a enchanté. Ce sentier mène dans des peuplements de conifères, de trembles et d'érables. Le sol y est garni de mousses, sphaignes et champignons et on peut voir sur des troncs d'arbres ou sur des épinettes les trous et marques de divers pics bois. En bordure du chemin se balancent de grandes fougères où se mêlent parfois le cornouiller du Canada et la clintonie boréale. Peut-être entendrez-vous lors d'une randonnée le tambourinage d'une gélinotte huppée, le cri d'un geai bleu ou bien y verrez-vous l'écureuil roux. Je l'ai surpris à maintes reprises alors qu'il était assis sur une vieille souche à déguster le fruit d'un conifère et même à vagabonder dans le sous-bois et à grimper dans les sapins. Quelques espèces d'oiseaux y ont été observés durant les dernières semaines de septembre dont: Geai du Canada, Mésange à tête noire, Mésange à tête brune, Sittelle à poitrine rousse, Roitelet à couronne dorée et Grive à joues grises. Selon le brochure d'interprétation de la nature (disponible à l'arche du départ du sentier), il serait possible de pouvoir y observer une quarantaine d'espèces d'oiseaux au



cours de l'année. (*Le Jaseur*, vol. 3, no. 4, sept. 1992)

French and English versions are available of an excellent nature trail booklet for the Red Squirrel Trail, situated on the Université de Moncton's 830-ha experimental forest near Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska. The 3.1-km loop (2.5-km if the shortcut trail is used) is an interesting site to visit in the Edmundston-St-Leonard area. The Federation's 1994 annual meeting will provide a good chance to get to know it. Also in the experimental forest is the Black Bear Trail (*Sentier de l'Ours noir*).

Maritime Nest Records Scheme

Since 1960, volunteers have submitted more than 41,000 cards to this repository of data on birds breeding in the three Maritime Provinces. This information on 200 species of birds is available for consultation by anyone studying breeding biology.

Your assistance is wanted. To monitor the reproductive success of our birds, it is important to acquire data each year. Information on even the most common species is of value. To receive nest record cards and instruction for contributors, or to consult the scheme's files, contact: A. J. Erskine, MNRS coordinator, Canadian Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1590, Sackville, N.B. E0A 3C0. (tel. 506-364-5044)

An Albatross!! Over Moncton?!

Stuart Tingley



"It's a !@#%&* albatross!!! It's a !@#%&* albatross!!!!" I kept repeating over and over to Rose-Alma as we stood dumbfounded beside my car in the middle of the traffic circle by Champlain Place mall in Moncton. Circling round and round over our heads was what was certainly the most shocking bird I had seen in 22 years of birdwatching: an adult Yellow-nosed Albatross!

It was 6:30 on the evening of May 24 and we had just returned from a long weekend of birding on Grand Manan with the Moncton Naturalists' Club. I had just dropped a van load of folks at their cars and returned the rental van. Rose-Alma Mallet was hitching a ride home with me. As we drove through the traffic circle I could think only of getting home and relaxing after a somewhat tiring weekend and a long day of driving. Still, I guess, a birder's eyes never stop searching...

It's all a bit hazy but I can remember looking up and seeing a large bird that just didn't look right. There are almost always a few gulls soaring around in that area but this bird didn't fit the gull pattern. I remember thinking rather casually that it looked like an albatross. Rose-Alma had also noticed the bird and made a comment about "the funny bill on that gull." As I left the circle and entered the four-lane for Shediac I took another glimpse up and suddenly the absurdity of it all sank in. There, a hundred feet above the car, and flying parallel to us was a bird that had the classic shape and flight of an albatross and here we were in Moncton, New Brunswick, 20 miles from the ocean and thousands of miles from the Southern Hemisphere!

As I pulled the car over and jumped out I still couldn't believe what I had seen. I really think a flying cow would have been easier for my brain to cope with! As I jumped out I remember thinking to myself that maybe the bird was just going to be a gannet, though that in itself would be remarkable so far from the ocean. We quickly relocated the bird which had continued past us a

couple of hundred feet. Much to our delight it circled back toward us. There was no denying

it any longer—this was a LARGE bird with very long, narrow, straight wings; white below; dark across the wings and back; a dark tail; gray wash over the head; and a huge, dark albatross-shaped bill. Ready or not, brain, *this is an albatross.*

The bird continued to soar around in big circles on flat motionless wings for several minutes. I was out of control and running around like a chicken with its head cut off, trying to decide whether to study it with binoculars, try to find it in my Questar telescope, photograph it or just panic and try to stop the traffic for such a momentous occasion. After a few minutes of not really accomplishing any of the above, we decided to go to the other side of the traffic circle as the bird had moved off toward the Georges Dumont Hospital. We backed into the circle again and tore off toward the Botsford Street exit when we noticed the albatross was heading back toward the circle once again. We pulled over once more and I finally had the good sense to get my camera out of the trunk. Fortunately I had my 100-300 mm zoom lens mounted on the camera so I was ready when the bird came closer and started to circle us again.

Being a bit more relaxed by now (only shaking moderately) I studied the bird in more detail through binoculars and the camera viewfinder. Occasionally, a Herring Gull would dive-bomb the albatross and give us a good size comparison. The albatross appeared to have about a 50-75% larger wingspan and a much larger body. I was well aware that the only species of albatrosses ever recorded on the east coast of North

America were Yellow-nosed and Black-browed. I had seen thousands of Black-browed Albatrosses just six months earlier in the Antarctic and was familiar with the field marks of Yellow-nosed as well. This bird was clearly the latter, based on its white underwings with a narrow, well-defined black border on the leading edge and very thin black border on the trailing edge. Twice I noticed the distinctive pale upper ridge on the otherwise dark bill, distinctive of Yellow-nosed. This pale ridge was surprisingly difficult to



Yellow-nosed Albatross at Moncton and Dieppe, May 24, 1993 (Photos: Stuart Tingley).

see, disappearing when viewed against the bright sky but making the bill appear thinner than it actually was.

Other features noted in the field and on the photographs were pinkish feet and a gray wash over the head, paler on the face near the base of the bill. This gray wash on the head, according to the literature, is indicative of the race of Yellow-nosed Albatross which breeds in the South Atlantic Ocean on Gough Island and the Tristan da Cunha group of islands (where most of the world's Greater shearwaters breed). Of course this is the expected race, rather than the white-headed Indian Ocean form.

Eventually, the albatross drifted away and headed out across the Petitcodiac River and over the large salt marsh behind Cy's Seafood Restaurant. At this point we decided it was time to relocate again. After a few minutes of waiting for traffic lights, making an illegal U-turn, etc., we finally arrived at Cy's parking lot and, lo and behold, the albatross was nowhere to be seen. We scanned in all directions but could find nothing. I rushed into the restaurant to use the pay phone to put the bird on the local bird alert. My conversation with Doug Whitman went something like this:

"Hi, Doug, it's Stuart Tingley. I've just seen a Yellow-nosed Albatross flying around the traffic circle at Champlain place."

"Yes, Stuart, very interesting. Hold on a minute while I get a pen and you can tell me all about it..." ("Phyllis! It's Stu Tingley and I think he's finally flipped.")

Along with several other birders who responded to the bird alert we searched the area until dark but found nothing.

There seems to be about 20 reports of Yellow-nosed Albatross for North America, all from the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic coast and about 10 of these have been confirmed by photos or specimens. This inland sighting is actually not without precedent. A female Yellow-nosed Albatross was found grounded near East Fryeburg, Maine, around July 20, 1934, and died a few days later. East Fryeburg is about 40 miles inland from Portland, near the New Hampshire border. The species has also been found in New

Brunswick. Ernest Joy, a Grand Manan fisherman and naturalist, collected an adult Yellow-nosed Albatross somewhere near Machias Seal Island on August 1, 1913, and presented the specimen to his good friend and prominent naturalist Allan Moses. Moses used that specimen as leverage to gain passage on a scientific expedition to Africa which indirectly led to the creation of a bird sanctuary off Grand Manan! This story is well told in Keith Ingersoll's book *Wings over the Sea (The Story of Allan Moses)*, published by Goose Lane Editions.

Another amazing record of this species in the region comes from Seal Island, off Clark's Harbour, N.S., where Ian McLaren and Fulton Lavender of Halifax saw and photographed one as it flew by them low over the beach and circled inland before heading back out to sea, on May 25, 1989. Other reports of this species have come from Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Quebec (lower St. Lawrence River!), and Newfoundland.

Why Moncton? Actually, if you think about it, it may not be as absurd as you think. A lost albatross following the U.S. Atlantic coast would eventually end up in the Bay of Fundy, and if it continued to follow the bay it could easily end up in the Petitcodiac River. Perhaps exploring for an escape route the bird continued up the river hoping it would lead to another body of water. (Okay, I admit this sounds a bit far-fetched. Got any better ideas? There weren't any storms or strong winds at the time to explain it.) Whatever led the bird up the river to Moncton apparently led it again to the same area almost 4 weeks later. There was a convincing sight report of the albatross soaring around the Petitcodiac River a few miles above Moncton for 45 minutes on June 20! Perhaps the albatross settled in for a summer of cruising up and down the bay, searching in vain for another albatross or a way back home (or just wanting to tantalize all the local birders!).

This sighting adds real meaning to the frequently used saying by birders that "just about anything can show up just about anywhere". Maybe even a flying cow...

300 Club Grows

On a February Saturday afternoon, Jim Edsall and David Myles returned from an outing to find Jim's home brimming with birders who had organized a pot-luck supper to welcome the two as members of The 300 Club of New Brunswick. That's the informal group of people who have observed 300 species of birds in the Province of New Brunswick. Jim's 300th was the American Avocet at Riverview in October 1992. Dave reached the magic number with the Ash-throated Flycatcher at Alma a month later. The fortunate twosome were presented with 300 Club certificates and cut their 300th bird-day cakes, each decorated with a picture of the appropriate species and created by Mary Majka.



Jim Edsall and Dave Myles with their 300 Club certificates. (Photo:DSC).

The following is condensed from a paper prepared by "superbirder" Stuart Tingley in January 1992. The full length version is available from the author at General Delivery, Shediac Bridge, N.B. E0A 3H0 for \$3 to cover the cost of copying and postage. Since this was written, some of the species mentioned have been found in the province. These are noted in square brackets. —Ed.

Birds Overdue in New Brunswick

Predictions for additions to the provincial bird list

Stuart Tingley

Whether we are willing to admit it or not, most serious birders (such as myself!) get their biggest thrills in birding from the discovery of a rare bird. This is not to say that we don't get excited by common birds as well. Certainly for me, at least, tremendous pleasure comes from seeing the first bright spring robin hopping around on the newly exposed grass, or hearing the familiar whistle of the White-throated Sparrow from deep within the woods, or the sight and sound of the wheeling flocks of sandpipers along the Fundy shores each autumn! But for most of us, nothing gets the adrenaline flowing and the body trembling in quite the same way as the discovery of a truly rare bird.

Perhaps the ultimate thrill for any serious birder is the discovery of a species never before recorded in the province. The purpose of this paper is to provide an educated guess as to the most probable new species which may be added to the New Brunswick list over the coming years and secondly to offer some advice as to how, when and where to find them. It is hoped that this will provide you with an increased awareness of the many exciting possibilities that await us here in New Brunswick. And through increased awareness can only come increased discoveries!

The most recent edition (1985) of the *Check-list of New Brunswick Birds* lists 363 species which have been "reliably identified" in the province. In addition, at least eight new species have been recorded in N.B. since the checklist publication: Eurasian Kestrel, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Fieldfare, and Common Chaffinch, bringing the total list of birds substantiated in New Brunswick to 371. This may seem like a lot of birds, and indeed it is. However, when we consider that our neighbouring province of Nova Scotia has over 400 species on their checklist then it becomes clear that we've got some work ahead of us in New Brunswick before we reach the "saturation point", a point at which there are few realistic possibilities for additions to the provincial list. In fact, with the increased interest in birding, it seems likely that we can look forward to adding, on average, one or two species a year for several decades to come.

What follows is a list of what I consider to be the 50 most likely additions to the New Brunswick bird list, based on their historical occurrence in the north-eastern North America, current trends in vagrancy patterns, and in some cases just a hunch. It's really little more than an educated guess, and in fact three of the last ten new species in New Brunswick (Eurasian Kestrel, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and Common

Chaffinch) would not have made my top 50 list! Just in case you discover the top 50 quickly and need something else to look for, you can get a longer version of this article in which I list an additional 125(!) possibilities. That should convince you of the tremendous variety of exciting discoveries that await us here in New Brunswick.

My predictions, in checklist order, are:

1. **PACIFIC / ARCTIC LOON.** Several well documented records from N.S. and Nfld., fall-spring. Most likely these are the Pacific Loon which breeds in Canada. Arctic Loon could possibly reach here from N. Europe. There have been a few reports in N.B. but nothing solid. For identification help, see Chapter 2 of *A Field Guide to Advanced Birding* by Kenn Kaufman (Peterson Field Guide Series #39). [Stu and Ron Steeves found a Pacific Loon at Miscou Island, Sep. 29, 1992.]

2. **EARED GREBE.** This western species has been reported from N.S., Quebec, and many times from N. New England and should appear here someday, probably in fall or early winter.

3. **WESTERN GREBE.** Being relatively abundant and a fairly long distance migrant, shows up occasionally in the northeast. There have been possible sightings in N.B. but nothing definite. To be looked for in bays and sheltered areas along the coasts.

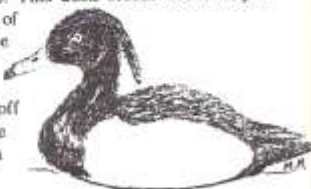
4. **WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD.** Some day a good hurricane should bring one to the Grand Manan area. Several have been seen in N.S. (10 records!). Sub-adults, without their long tail streamers could easily be mistaken for a tern by the unwary.

5. **BROWN PELICAN.** This species seems to be recovering well from recent declines and extending its range northward. N.S. has had more than its share of this species, most in May and June. There have been rumours of this species near Grand Manan Island in the last few years, but so far nothing concrete.

6. **MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD.** N.S. (7 records), Nfld., and Maine have records. Will occur someday, probably along the Fundy coast. Keep looking up!

7. **LITTLE EGRET.** Recent spring records of this European/African species in Quebec, Nfld., N.S., N.H. and Mass. Study "Snowy"-type egrets for the two distinctive quill-like head plumes present only in breeding plumage. Another good distinction most of the time is the colour of the bare skin between the eye and the bill: bright yellow in Snowy, dull yellow or grayish in Little.

8. **TUFTED DUCK.** Nfld. has had several and N.S. at least six over the past two years! This duck breeds abundantly in Iceland, probably the source of most of these records. To be looked for, especially in fall and winter. Immature females easily passed off as scaup in autumn before they develop any hint of a



crest and still have considerable amounts of white on the face. Best distinctions from scaup at that time are flat-topped head; sharper, straighter delineation of sides from back; and other subtle characters. Fortunately, by early winter most immature females lose most of the white on the face and begin to develop perceptible crests.

9. AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE. Has occurred once in N.S. and several times in New England. Most are in May and June. Hard to overlook one of these, perhaps the most beautiful bird of prey in North America.

10. SWAINSON'S HAWK. This large western hawk has been reported from N.S., as well as Maine, so we should get one someday. Most likely in October or November.

11. WILLOW PTARMIGAN. There have been rumours of this species in N.B. but no confirmed records. Breeds as close as c. Quebec and throughout Nfld. They are known for occasional winter irruptions which one day could bring one or more to the province, probably in the north of the province.

12. GREATER GOLDEN-PLOVER. Has occurred several times in Nfld. including several hundred(!) during April-May, 1988. Has also been found in N.S., Saint Pierre et Miquelon, and e. Quebec. Most likely in spring, in short-grass or ploughed fields, pastures, etc. Somewhat larger, more robust and larger billed than Am. Golden-Plover, and breeding-plumaged spring birds have more white along their sides and undertail coverts (see National Geographic field guide). Also, Greaters have flashy white wing linings visible in flight, unlike the gray wing linings of Am. Golden-Plover. Keep these differences in mind whenever you see a golden-plover, especially in spring. There was a tantalizing report of two golden-plovers in a pasture near Saint John in late April, 1988, the same year as the Newfoundland invasion!

13. WILSON'S PLOVER. N.S. has ten or so records and Maine has had several. Most likely somewhere on the Fundy coast, probably in spring. Like a big Semipalmated Plover with a much longer, thicker bill, pink legs, etc. Keep it in mind. Possibly one at Mary's Point in August 1991. Long overdue!

14. COMMON RINGED PLOVER. Very tricky to identify. Breeds in n.e. Canada, but most cross to Europe for the winter. Sharp birders in N.S. and Nfld. have managed to detect a few, usually associating with Semipalmated Plover which they closely resemble. Separation of these two species in the field is based on subtle differences. Their calls are quite different, but this requires experience with both species.

15. COMMON GREENSHANK. It may be a long time before one shows up here, but both N.S. and Nfld. have had this European species in the last 5 years. Shape and behaviour much like a Greater Yellowlegs, but note leg colour and large white wedge on the back like a dowitcher.

16. COMMON REDSHANK. This yellowlegs-like Eurasian shorebird breeds commonly as close as Iceland, is a long-distance migrant and seems a prime candidate as a vagrant to our shores. There has never been a substantiated record of this species in North America, and while Nfld. seems the most likely spot for one to show up, why not find one here first. The east coast of the province, especially the northeast, seems the most likely place. Has a spectacular, unmistakable wing pattern in flight.

17. SPOTTED REDSHANK. There'll be great excitement when one of these shows up. In breeding plumage this bird looks like a Greater Yellowlegs that's been dipped in black ink; in other plumages it can be easily recognized by its yellowlegs-like shape, long dark red legs, and in flight a dowitcher-like big white wedge on the back. It breeds from Scandinavia to e. Siberia. Has occurred in the last 20 years in Nfld., Mass., Conn. and R.I.

18. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT. Has occurred recently in Quebec, Saint Pierre et Miquelon, and Nfld., though not in N.S. Another European species to be looked for in late April and May, and again in late fall. Bright white wing linings will easily distinguish it from Hudsonian Godwit. Let's find one before N.S.!

19. BAR-TAILED GODWIT. Has been recorded in Nfld., St. Pierre et Miquelon (probably European birds), Maine and several times in Mass. (perhaps Alaskan birds). A N.S. sight record in May, 1991. Could occur in spring or fall, so familiarize yourself with this one and good luck.

20. RUFOUS-NECKED STINT. It's just a matter of time until someone turns up a Rufous-necked Stint with the thousands of Semipalmated Sandpipers in fall, as they've done several times in Mass. and Maine. A breeding-plumaged adult should be pretty easy to pick out, as most of the New England records have been. Keep Little Stint in mind, however, and don't be fooled by a "rufous-necked" Sanderling, as some embarrassed birders have been when they've just seen their first breeding plumaged Sanderling (see field guide). Breeds in eastern Siberia and Alaska.

21. SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER. Occurrences in Conn., Mass. and Ont. and recent sight records from Quebec and N.S. suggest that we may be honoured someday soon. Study your field guide so that you can separate this species from Pectoral Sandpiper (Chapter 11 of *Advanced Birding*). Most likely as a juvenile in September or October.

22. SOUTH POLAR SKUA. This and the Great Skua present an identification problem. Study your guides and get out to the waters off Grand Manan in summer and fall to find a South Polar. Sightings at other seasons may more likely be Great Skua. It seems that both species occur regularly off N.S. and Nfld.; South Polar is reported regularly in late summer and fall in the Gulf of Maine. Very important to make detailed notes of any skuas you see and have your camera ready! Still some confusion even among experts as to identification criteria. There have been rumours of this species off Grand Manan Island in recent years, but nothing definite.

23. CALIFORNIA GULL. There seems to be a trend for sightings of this western gull farther to the east, especially around the Great Lakes, but twice near Montreal and once in Mass.. Either this bird is expanding its range or, more likely, eastern birders are looking for it. [Lower Jemseg, May 1993. See p. xx.]

24. ROSS' GULL. This beautiful small gull nests primarily in n.e. Siberia and very rarely in Greenland and arctic Canada. North American sightings have increased in recent years and there is a very real possibility of this bird turning up in N.B. one day soon. Most likely in late fall or winter, perhaps in large concentrations of Bonaparte's Gulls in Passamaquoddy Bay area before their departure in late fall/early winter? On the other hand, I have a hunch that a keen birder from la Péninsule acadienne will find one in early winter in that corner of the province soon.

25. SOOTY TERN. One was reported at Machias Seal Island a couple of summers ago. N.S. has had at least five records, and it has been recorded in New England many times, usually after hurricanes. Hurricane Bob may have carried one right over NB in August 1991 to be picked up at Bonaventure Island.

26. RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD. This far western hummingbird has appeared several times in N.S. and New England. [Grand Manan, Aug. 1993. See p. 31.]

27. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER. Like most flycatchers in the genus *Empidonax*, this one's very difficult to identify by sight alone (Chapter 24 of *Advanced Birding*). It's been reported from N.S. and Maine, and breeds in w. Mass. Play your tapes and learn its song to increase your chances of finding one singing some June

day in the southern part of the province. After all, it is an ACADIAN Flycatcher! [Stu and others found one near Inkerman May 10, 1992.]

28. GRAY KINGBIRD. This summer resident of coastal Florida has occurred north to Mass., Ont., and N.S. and was once reported in N.B. It seems plausible that it will occur again, probably in late fall somewhere along the Bay of Fundy. Looks a bit like an Eastern Kingbird, but has a much bigger bill, forked tail (without white tip), pale gray above with a blackish mask, and a very pale yellowish wash over the lower underparts (pure white on Eastern Kingbird).

29. CAVE SWALLOW. This southern swallow has been seen a few times in N.S., and there's a fair chance of it showing up here as well. Look especially closely at any unseasonal Cliff Swallows, particularly in the spring. Check your field guides and keep this one in mind.

30. EURASIAN JACKDAW. This Old World species has turned up in Quebec, N.S., St. Pierre et Miquelon, etc. and even nested inside the walls of a prison in Pennsylvania. Their origin is a bit uncertain, but it seems a large flock landed on a ship off the coast of England and rode to the ships' destination somewhere on the St. Lawrence River. There are rumours that Quebec wildlife officers tried to destroy them, but it seems that many got away from the area and probably account for most of the recent North American sightings. Their numbers are probably dwindling so we may have missed our chance to add this to the provincial list, whatever its origin might be.

31. FISH CROW. Apparently nests as far north as Boston and has even attempted nesting in s. Maine. There are a few sight records for N.S., and it should be expected here sometime, probably in the s.w. coastal region. It would probably take a tape recording of its distinctive calls to confirm the species for the province. Keep your eyes and your ears open.

32. ROCK WREN. This western wren is somewhat migratory and has a habit of migrating in the wrong direction. While most of the eastern strays have appeared well to the south of N.B., records from Mass. and one from Seal Island, N.S. on Oct. 4, 1980 tell me that it could show up here. I have a hunch that we might find one on Grand Manan Island some day soon. Most eastern records have been from fall/winter. And they really do like rocky areas!

33. MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD. Yes, it's very possible! Mountain Bluebird has shown up several times in the east, including a sighting in October 1989 near Halifax, N.S. and one in St. Pierre et Miquelon in November 1986. Males are pretty easy to identify, but females will be a trickier. Study your guides and keep this species in mind when birding in October and November.

34. REDWING. Like our celebrated Fieldfare of the winter of 1991, this bird is a European thrush known for its occasional appearance on our side of the Atlantic. Has been seen several times recently in Nfld. and in Nov.-Dec./89 on Sable Island, N.S., and could certainly show up here someday too. Most likely to be mixed in with a flock of robins in late fall or early winter, or possibly in spring.

35. BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER. This warbler of the far west has shown up several times in New England and at least five times in N.S. Certainly to be expected here someday, most likely in the fall. [Found at Grand Manan Sep. 24, 1992.]

36. TOWNSEND'S WARBLER. Another far western warbler. Several records from New England, 3 for N.S. and 4 for Nfld. It's definitely time to get out there and find one in N.B. Most east coast records have been in late fall.

37. HERMIT WARBLER. This beautiful warbler is as western as they come, but it too is prone to wanderings which

have taken it to N.S. in spring (two birds) and Nfld. in November, as well as to Mass. and Quebec.

38. LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH. This species breeds as close as s.w. Maine, and has occurred about ten times in N.S. There was a reliable single observer sighting of a singing bird in southwestern N.B. during the summer of 1990 and it should be expected here again soon. Should occur occasionally on Grand Manan Island during migration. Learn how to distinguish it from the Northern Waterthrush. Concentrate on colour and shape of eye stripe, colour of underparts, and bill size.

39. GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE. This southwestern species is known for its occasional appearance in the east, including several records in New England, Ont., Quebec, and four records from N.S. Three of the N.S. records have been in spring, but it's just as likely to show up in the fall, or perhaps in early winter at a bird feeder.

40. BLACK-THROATED SPARROW. Another possibility from the southwest to keep in mind. It has occurred as close as Maine and St. Pierre et Miquelon. Perhaps most likely to appear at a bird feeder, but some of the eastern records have been of singing birds in early summer!

41. HENSLAW'S SPARROW. I know... all sparrows look the same. Of course they don't really, and once you accept this and learn to appreciate the finer points of sparrow identification, you'll be ready to look for this and the next sparrow (Chapter 32 of *Advanced Birding*). This species has bred within a few hundred km of N.B., and has been recorded twice in autumn in N.S. To be expected as a fall migrant in Sept. or Oct.; weedy fields on Grand Manan would be a logical place to search. [Sight record at Grand Manan, Oct. 20, 1992.]

42. LECONTE'S SPARROW. This species has also bred within a few hundred km of N.B. and has been recorded three times in October in N.S. Comments under Henslow's Sparrow apply to this species as well.

43. GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW. This west coast sparrow has appeared occasionally in the east, including records in Mass., Maine and two appearances in N.S. An adult should be pretty obvious but an autumn immature would require a close look. Keep this one in mind.

44. HARRIS' SPARROW. This beautiful sparrow nests from n.w. Ontario to the Yukon. It has occurred in Quebec (10+ records), Maine, and at least four times in N.S. Thus it's certainly overdue in N.B., probably as a fall vagrant or perhaps in early winter at a bird feeder. Our largest sparrow! [On Lamèque Island, Nov. 1993. See p. 34.]

45. SMITH'S LONGSPUR. This longspur, whose range is similar to the preceding species, has been reported twice in N.S. and has been well documented in Mass. and Quebec. One could show up here, perhaps mixed with Lapland Longspurs in autumn. Would certainly require a close and detailed look to be sure, but worth keeping in the back of your mind. Reported from Maisonneuve dune by the CNPA a few falls ago.

46. WESTERN MEADOWLARK. This western species has been reported many times in New England, and at least once in N.S. [Now, at least 5 winter records. See p. 35.]

47. GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE. This southwestern grackle was photographed in N.S. in November 1983, and a large grackle reported in N.B. at the same time was probably this species also. Could occur here again so be prepared. Study your guides to learn the differences from the following species.

48. BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE. This coastal southeastern grackle nests regularly as close as N.Y. and probably has occurred

in N.S. (though not confirmed). Should occur here someday, probably as a spring overshoot.

49. **SHINY COWBIRD.** Never heard of this one? Well almost nobody in North America had until 1985 when a few vagrants started appearing in Florida from their newly conquered range in the West Indies (having spread there from South America). This bird is spreading like wildfire and as of 1991 has appeared in almost 10 states including one photographed on Monhegan Island, Maine, in September 1991! [Laméque, Aug. 1993. See p. 35.]

50. **BRAMBLING** This Old World finch has appeared in many states and provinces across North America in recent years, including three in N.S. in the last eight years and a Quebec record in May 1991. Almost all records have been of birds which have turned up at bird feeders, so check your European field guide and keep a close eye on your feeder. Surprisingly, it seems that they arrive here from the Old World via Alaska!



How to look:

Look over the list, dig out your field guides and try to familiarize yourself with the birds discussed. Just being aware of some of these possibilities and keeping them in mind when you're out birding will greatly increase your chance of detecting them when and if you encounter them in the field.

Learn as much about them as you can: their field marks, habitat preferences, behaviour, migration routes and schedule. This way you'll be prepared for them when they come along, and you can actually come up with a search plan for some of these species to increase your chances of finding them.

Recently, experience told several seasoned New Brunswick birders to head for Grand Manan Island with the passage of Hurricane Bob in August, 1991. Those who acted quickly were rewarded with two New Brunswick firsts: Royal Tern and Sandwich Tern!

It's also important to be prepared to document your sightings of rarities. Learn to take detailed notes of the field marks, size, shape, behaviour, habits, etc. of rare or unfamiliar species when you see them. Few forms of documentation are better than a photograph. Get into the habit of carrying your camera (with a telephoto lens) with you everywhere. Call other birders so they too can share in the excitement of the discovery and help with the documentation. And of course report your findings right away to the New Brunswick Bird Information Line at 382-DUCK.

Where to look:

As anybody who has been birding for a few years knows, rare birds can show up just about anywhere. However, having said this, once you've got enough experience under your belt you soon realize that certain patterns emerge. There can be little doubt that more vagrant birds show up in or near coastal areas than inland. Coastlines act as both a natural barrier and a pathway for lost or migrating birds. Many dis-oriented birds find themselves blown out over the ocean during the night while they are migrating, and upon discovering this at first light they naturally head for the nearest coastline they see. Of the last eight

additions to the New Brunswick list as mentioned in the introduction, seven occurred within a very few kilometres of the sea. Whatever the reasons, there is little doubt that coastal areas are the place to be if you want to increase your chances of finding rare birds.

Looking at the Bay of Fundy coastline, no place has a better reputation for producing rare birds than the Grand Manan Archipelago. This part of the province seems to be best located for catching strays from both the south and the west. And any hurricane-borne seabirds are most likely to make their first landfall on Grand Manan (depending on the course of the hurricane, of course), though such birds are sometimes carried far inland also. In fact just about any area along the Bay of Fundy, particularly the many headlands such as Point Lepreau, Cape Enrage and Mary's Point are well situated to attract vagrant birds.

Looking east, the Gulf of St. Lawrence-Northumberland Strait coastline also is good for vagrant birds, and the newly formed Club des naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne has produced a number of keen birders who are opening our eyes to the great birding in the northeastern corner of the province.

I think this area has tremendous potential to add more species to the provincial bird list, both southern and western strays and particularly European vagrants. Many of the European vagrants turning up recently in Newfoundland in early spring and late fall/early winter also seem to be appearing along the shores of the St. Lawrence River and the Gaspé Peninsula. Places like Miscou Island are ideally situated to catch such wandering birds. Miscou abounds with ideal shorebird habitat which should be checked regularly in April and May, and again from October through freeze-up for vagrants from Europe. I encourage birders from all over the province to make an effort to visit the Acadian Peninsula. I believe your efforts will be rewarded!

In fact, most of the east coast of New Brunswick is under-birded. Point Escuminac looks like a great place to search for vagrant birds, but alas, it's somewhat remote from the main population centres where most of the birders are concentrated, and thus it is rarely visited. Kouchibouguac National Park definitely deserves more attention than it gets, and the Cape Tormentine/Cape Jourmain peninsula has proved its productivity to those who have birded it in the past.

So what about all the birders who live in central and western New Brunswick, far from the water? You can probably optimize your chances of finding vagrant birds by concentrating your efforts along rivers and lakes which act as natural barriers in much the same way as the seacoast. Certainly many rare birds have been found over the years along the Saint John and the Miramichi Rivers, among others.

When to look:

When to look for such birds is an interesting question. For most birders, our effort seems to be somewhat seasonal, reaching a peak during the height of spring migration in April and May, slowing down considerably during the summer months, then picking up somewhat for fall migration in September and

October, only to drop way off for the months of November through March except for a little flurry during Christmas Bird Count period. This cycle is easily understood, as the summer months are busy for most people, and the winter months are, well, too bloody cold! Unfortunately, I think we're missing out on some prime birding time by following this cycle. Key periods when we should make more effort are summer (June through August) and late fall and early winter (November through early January).

The early part of summer seems to be a good time for wandering seabirds from the south to show up, and August is perhaps the best month of the year to look for southern warblers on our offshore islands. Late fall and early winter would seem to be the best months to look for strays from the west and perhaps the occasional European vagrant. This is certainly the time of year that Newfoundland birders look forward to more than any other. In short, in my opinion, February would seem to be the only month when you might possibly be forgiven for taking your binoculars from around your neck!!

Finally, I'd like to encourage birders throughout the province to get into the habit of keeping notes, not just of rare species, but common ones as well. Collectively, we make up a large body of volunteers who spend thousands of hours in the field every year and we are in a position to collect a great deal of valuable data on our province's birdlife to help with the monitoring of population trends. Submit your sightings on a regular basis to publications such as the *New Brunswick Naturalist* and *American Birds*. Make the effort to get out more often, explore new areas, and don't get discouraged when you don't seem to be seeing much. It's important to be optimistic at all

times; once you let negative feelings get the better of you, you probably won't find anything. Think positive and you can be sure that sooner or later it'll pay off. New Brunswick's next new species may be just around the corner waiting to be discovered by you! I think you'll agree that we're all lucky to have discovered the greatest hobby in the world. Here's wishing you a lifetime of enjoyment.

My main references in the preparation of this paper have been:

- ABA Checklist: Birds of the Continental United States and Canada*. American Birding Association. Fourth Ed., 1990.
List of North American Birds by Anthony White. Bird Commander Inc., 1990.
Distributional Checklist of North American Birds by David DeSante and Peter Pyle. Artemissa Press, 1986.
The Birds of Canada by W. Earl Godfrey. National Museum of Natural Sciences. Revised edition, 1986.

Project FeederWatch

The continent-wide project that monitors bird feeders during the winter months (mid November to March) needs participants. Only 27 New Brunswickers took part during the 1992-93 season. Every two weeks FeederWatchers note the maximum number of birds of each species that come to their feeders during a two-day count and record them on computer-readable forms. There is a \$16 participation fee to offset the cost of forms, data processing and newsletters. To register or for more information, write Project FeederWatch, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. N0E 1M0.

Honeworts and Hardwoods

Stephen Clayden

Some of New Brunswick's native flora and fauna are known only from museum collections. In a few cases, like those of the Passenger Pigeon or Caribou, the global or local extinction of a species has riveted public attention. Other species, however, have disappeared un-noticed, their loss apparent only after-the-fact. There are at least fifteen species of flowering plants in this category in New Brunswick, among them an interesting member of the parsley family known as "honewort" or "wild chervil." Five collections of this species were made in the province between 1862 and 1914; of these, all but the last-collected specimen are in the herbarium of the New Brunswick Museum.

Honewort (*Cryptotaenia canadensis*) was found in rich hardwood forests on deep, alluvial soils in the middle of the Saint John River valley in Carleton and



Victoria counties, and also along the Kennebecasis River near Sussex. In these areas, the plant may have been quite frequent, but it disappeared along with its habitat—first from clearing of the intervale forests for agriculture, then from flooding of the bottom lands along the middle St. John and lower Tobique rivers by hydroelectric dams. The species has an extensive but shrinking geographical range in eastern North American hardwood forests. It is now gone from both Maine and New Brunswick, where it was formerly at the northeastern limit of its range.

(Reprinted from *Courier*, summer 1993; N.B. Museum and Association Museums N.B.)

New Brunswick Bird Records Committee

Jim Wilson

It's a beautiful spring morning, the 24th of May. You are birding at the Sackville Waterfowl Park. As you stroll along the boardwalk near a clump of willows at the edge of the marsh, you spot a warbler foraging among the emerging foliage. As you focus your binoculars, you see a bird that is unfamiliar. It's rather tame, and allows a close examination.

After studying the bird and referring to your field guide you exclaim "Why it's a Cerulean Warbler. I've never seen one before". Because of this, you know it could be unusual, and as you think about it, you can't recall any of your friends reporting one in New Brunswick either.

As you continue to observe it you take a look at your Check-list of New Brunswick Birds, to see what the status of Cerulean Warbler is in the Province. The Check-list shows it as "accidental (in not more than 3 of 50 years)". Now you exclaim "My God—It's a Cerulean Warbler! and it's here in New Brunswick!" Luckily, the warbler fails to comprehend what all the excitement is about, and continues to hop leisurely about in the willow.

Now you must share this with someone—anyone. You look around, and as unbelievable as it may seem, all the people who were here five minutes ago have vanished and you are totally alone! There is absolutely no one else to share this with, or to confirm your identification. What now?

You try to remain calm—rational, almost. Suddenly you remember your camera in the car. You sprint to the parking lot, relocate the bird, and take almost a dozen photos of the warbler in a variety of poses. Fortunately, it co-operates fully. Unfortunately, you cannot relocate it an hour later when several of your friends join you, hoping for a glimpse of the bird. It is never seen again.

This could happen to you, and I hope it does. Ever wonder how a new bird gets on the Check-list? How do we know there have only been Cerulean Warblers here in "not more than 3 of 50 years"?

Recently, New Brunswick has joined nearly forty other provinces and states in forming its own Bird Records Committee. This committee will operate under the sponsorship of the New Brunswick Museum and will assist it in assembling as complete documentation as possible on all first and second occurrences of birds in the province. "Documentation" can be information on the sighting in the form of photographs, video or audio tapes, specimens, banding records, or written or taped descriptions. This information will be reviewed by the committee and later placed in the museum for permanent storage and future scientific use.

From time to time the museum will update the check-list using the data assembled and reviewed by the Bird Records Committee. In addition to validating the documentation and archiving the records, the committee will publish at least minimal data on all

records reviewed, probably annually. It will also provide standards of observation and documentation to any interested observers who may spot rare birds in the Province in the future.

The by-laws of the committee provide for a turn-over of some members every few years to ensure other naturalists have an opportunity to contribute.

The group is presently comprised of David Christie, Brian Dalzell (secretary), Robert Doiron, Donald McAlpine, Stuart Tingley, and Jim Wilson (chairperson). All are volunteers except Donald, who represents the N.B. Museum.

The committee's first task is to review the current Check-list of New Brunswick Birds published in 1985 to see that documentation exists for all 363 species included. For a couple of species listed it is possible that the original data may not have been preserved. In such a case, the committee will have to vote whether to leave the species on the check-list or to delete it until a documented sighting occurs.

The second step is to review all new species reported since 1985 (e.g. Royal Tern, Fieldfare, etc.) and ensure documentation is available. To date, there are nearly twenty species in this category. Once there is adequate documentation available, a vote will be taken on each potential addition, and if agreed by a sufficient majority of the members, the bird will be officially added to the list.

The Bird Records Committee is developing an educational presentation and will be prepared to come and talk to local naturalist clubs on the importance of good documentation, how to record it, and to answer any questions about the role the Committee plays.

The Bird Records Committee is also looking for additional volunteers to assist with researching the status of some of the birds which have reached us recently (such as the origin of the European Goldfinches seen in winter 1992-93, or the Mute Swans in 1993). Are these birds "escapes", or is there a pattern of occurrences in the northeast which justifies an argument to treat them as wild additions to our Check-list?

If your club is interested in having a committee member come and give a presentation or if you as an individual would be interested in doing some research, please contact Jim Wilson at 2 Neck Road, Quispamsis, N. B. E2G 1L3; tel. 847-4506.



Documentation of Rare Birds—A History

David Christie

A hundred years ago, a stray bird many miles from its normal range had to be collected as a specimen in order to positively identify it and to document its unexpected occurrence. In the 1930s and 1940s that situation began to change.

Prism binoculars allowed people to see details of a bird at greater distances. Observers such as Ludlow Griscom developed identification techniques especially for use in the field, and Roger Tory Peterson's *Field Guides* disseminated these skills to large numbers of people. Still, through the 1960s most state and provincial bird books listed as "hypothetical" any species not substantiated by a specimen or a recognizable photograph (although few of the latter were obtained).

In the past 25 years, equipment improvements have made it much easier to obtain proof of rarities in the form of photographs and video and audio recordings. In fact, such evidence has almost completely replaced the collection of specimens as far as rare bird occurrences go. Safeguarded in a museum or similar institution, photos and recordings are not only evidence of a record, but may later provide information of which the original observers were unaware—just as happened with two specimens in the N.B. Museum that were recently re-identified as Western Meadowlarks, not Easterns.

However, you may have noticed that for at least 25 years, the "official" checklists of New Brunswick birds, as well as *The Birds of New Brunswick* (1976), have included some species for which there were neither specimens nor photographs and without calling them "hypothetical." These sight records were

accepted by consensus of a group of bird experts, in the case of the checklists, or by W. Austin Squires, author of the book. Their decisions were based on a variety of details, but principally on written reports that observers had placed on file at the New Brunswick Museum. Most of these reports were completed on a documentation or verification form that the museum began distributing in 1963.

Now, as Jim Wilson describes in the preceding article, review of New Brunswick bird records has been formalized and will be carried out by a standing committee on a regular basis instead of just when a publication is being produced. The Bird Records Committee has revised the New Brunswick documentation form. It is reproduced on pages xx and xx for readers to photocopy in case they don't have an actual form to use. It's important to fill in these forms as soon as possible after a sighting. Even if (hopefully) good photographs were taken, the forms provide important additional details and should not be neglected.

Although the committee will be examining in detail only the first and second provincial records of a species, it is also valuable to fill out and place on file a documentation form for other records that are considered very unusual—the fifth provincial record, the second breeding record, the first record for the upper St. John valley, the first record in 25 years, etc.

So, when you make your next big discovery, don't forget to make notes in the field, get a picture if possible, call your friends to share your good fortune, and send documentation to the New Brunswick Bird Records Committee.



N.B.'s 2nd or 3rd Garganey, Val-Comeau, May 21, 1990 (Photo: Robert Dairon and Gérard Benoit)

Miscou Island Boardwalk —Le sentier tourbière

A boardwalk through the bog near Lac Chenière on Miscou Island was opened in September. It was developed by Miscou's tourism committee and Project Piper with financial support from the Environmental Trust Fund of New Brunswick and the Environmental Partners Fund.

A walk around the trail takes about 20 minutes. Interpretive signs conceived by artist Jean-Raymond Gallien are placed at points of interest. They were donated by the Department of Natural Resources and Energy.

Tourism committee president Andrée Frigault said that their main objective is conservation. They wanted to make the site accessible so that people can enjoy the special plants and animals of the bog. The committee intends to develop more natural attractions on the island. She said that people like the island for its tranquillity and nature, that's why they come.

Roland Chiasson of Project Piper, the conservation program focussed on Piping Plovers and coastal habitats, said that the bog at Lac Chenière is one of the best examples on the Acadian Peninsula.

BIRD DOCUMENTATION FORM— NEW BRUNSWICK

(for use with rarities, birds very much out of season, and exceptional numbers)

SPECIES:

OBSERVER(S): _____ DATE: _____ TIME: _____

LOCALITY: COUNTY:

NUMBER: PLUMAGE:

FIELD CONDITIONS. Duration of observation: Distance from bird(s):

Weather: Was sun: overhead, behind you, to one side, in your eyes.

behind clouds? (circle one) Was your vision obstructed?.....If yes, explain.....

Behaviour: Was a song or call note heard?

Habitat:

AIDS. Optical equipment: Was bird photographed or recorded?

Books examined while bird was in view.....

Books consulted later:

EXPERIENCE WITH SPECIES. At the time were you aware that this was an unusual record for N.B.?.....

Have you previously seen this bird in N.B.? Elsewhere? If yes, where?

How many of this species have you previously seen? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6-10 10+ (circle)

On how many days have you previously seen this species? 0 1 2 3 4 5 5+ (circle)

Do you consider yourself a beginning, intermediate, or experienced birdwatcher?

DATE FORM COMPLETED: NAME:

Address:

DETAILED ACCOUNT OF OBSERVATION (Describe characteristics of size, shape, coloration, markings, calls, songs, behaviour, etc. observed in the field, including points used for differentiation from similar species. Include sketches or photographs, if available):

(Continue on reverse, if necessary)

Return to N.B. Bird Records Committee, c/o Brian Dalzell, P.O. Box 145, Castalla, Grand Manan, N.B. E0G 1L0

Formulaire de documentation d'oiseaux — Nouveau-Brunswick
(pour espèces rares, très hors de saison ou en nombre exceptionnel)

ESPÈCE¹:

OBSERVATEUR(S): DATE: HEURE:

LOCALITÉ: CONTE:

NOMBRE..... PLUMAGE.....

CONDITIONS SUR LE TERRAIN. Durée d'observation: Distance de l'oiseau:

Temps: Soleil: au-dessus, derrière vous, sur le côté, dans les yeux,

derrière les nuages (encerclez le bon). Votre vision était-elle obstruée? Si oui, expliquez:

Comportement (arrêté, au vol, etc.):

Avez-vous entendu un chant?..... ou un cri?..... Habitat:

AIDE: aide(s) optique(s)..... Est-ce que l'oiseau fut photographié ou enregistré?

Livre(s) examiné(s) lorsque l'oiseau était en vue:

Livre(s) consulté(s) après:

EXPÉRIENCE: Au moment de l'observation, saviez-vous que ceci représentait une mention inusitée pour le N.-B.?

Aviez-vous déjà vu cette espèce au N.-B. Ailleurs? Si oui, où?

Combien de cette espèce avez-vous déjà vu? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6-10 10+ (encerclez).

Combien de fois (jours) avez-vous déjà vu cette espèce? 0 1 2 3 4 5 5+ (encermez)

Vous considérez-vous comme étant un observateur débutant, intermédiaire, ou avec expérience?

J'ai rempli ce formulaire le NOM:

Adresse:

DÉTAILS DE DESCRIPTION ET CARACTÉRISTIQUES OBSERVÉES (Décrire les caractéristiques de taille, forme, coloration, marques, cris, chants, comportement, etc. observées sur le terrain, incluant les critères utilisés pour différencier d'une espèce semblable. Inclure croquis ou photographie(s), si disponible):

(Continuez au verso, si nécessaire.)

Retournez au Comité des mentions d'oiseaux du N.-B., a/s Brian Dalzell, C.P. 145, Castalia, N.B. E0G 1L0

Christmas Mountains Threatened by Logging

Jim Goltz

The Christmas Mountains are located in north-central New Brunswick, just south of Mount Carleton Provincial Park, in an area identified as the central highlands of the province. A good map of this area appears on page 33 of the Geographic Information Corporation's new book of *New Brunswick Maps*¹. In the mid 1960's a cartographer who was inspired by Christmas carols named these mountains for St. Nicholas and each of his reindeer.

In late April, 1993, Miramichi Pulp and Paper Inc. put a full page advertisement in the *Miramichi Leader* to announce to the public their plans to cut an area they identified as the Big South Forest, an area including the Christmas Mountains. The ad stated that the softwood forest in this area was "overmature" and was "starting to fall down mostly due to the combined effects of old age, the infestation of Hemlock Looper and Spruce Budworm, and wind storms". The ad further stated that Miramichi woods people have been salvaging the "overmature" patches that have been "collapsing" and would otherwise be a "fire trap", and that all clear cut areas grow back very quickly with a new forest that is "young, healthy, beautiful and green and almost 100% natural". The public was apprised that larger than normal clear cuts should be expected for the next 5 to 10 years and that clear-cutting was the only feasible option. "Wildlife considerations" were briefly addressed, the article focusing mainly on how poor the area was for deer and barely mentioning other wildlife species.

The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists was asked to address this issue. Unfortunately, our members knew very little about the area, so we set about to try to learn more before deciding how to respond. Miramichi Pulp and Paper Inc. kindly took a small group of naturalists into the Big South forest in late May, touring an area to the east of the Christmas Mountains. As public attention was drawn to the Christmas Mountains over the past summer and fall, many naturalists and environmentalists from throughout the province have made a special effort to visit the area. Many of us were alarmed by the amount of cutting that had already taken place, and that efforts to minimize the environmental impact of cutting had not always been made. Ironically, the new logging roads that are facilitating the demise of the area's forests have also made it possible for us to explore regions that were formerly inaccessible.

On September 16, 1993, representatives of 10 environmental groups (including the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists), as well as a few concerned individuals, met with the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy to request a 15-year moratori-



um on logging and road building in the Christmas Mountains area. In addition to the "mountains" whose names refer to Christmas lore, the proposed moratorium would include the area encompassing the Graham Plains and Gover Mountain. The moratorium was requested to provide adequate time for naturalists and scientists to conduct a complete assessment of the area's ecology, natural history and wilderness potential, so that specific areas worthy of protection could be identified. The Minister has not yet replied to our request.

Available data indicate that this area needs to be protected and studied in greater detail for the following reasons:

1. The Christmas Mountains area constitutes what may well be the largest unbroken, relatively unfragmented tract of forested land in the province. This quality is rapidly being destroyed by logging and road construction. Until recently, it appears that much of the area had never been logged, although it has been subjected to natural disturbances. The preservation of a large tract of unfragmented forest may help to guarantee the survival of those plant and animal species that cannot tolerate major habitat disturbances.

2. Within this area, there exists what is possibly the province's longest remaining intact contact line or transition zone between two very different forest types. An old-growth black spruce forest growing on a very boulder-strewn substrate in the southwestern part of the area abruptly gives way to an old-growth balsam fir forest growing on a thick deposit of loam.

3. The Christmas Mountains area gives rise to headwater streams of three river systems, namely the Miramichi, the Tobique and the Nipisiquit. Extensive clearcutting may well have dramatic effects on natural water cycles, water quality, and the animal and plant species that inhabit these waterways.

4. A few hours of exploration by Hal Hinds and other botanists this past summer yielded at least three taxa of rare plants, including the Maine sedge (*Carex x mainensis*), a hybrid previously undocumented in New Brunswick. If such a rich yield of rare species was found in such a short time, what would a more detailed exploration reveal? Lynx, an endangered species in New Brunswick, have also been observed in the area.

5. The area is well recognized for its natural heritage value. The 1974 Tweedale Commission Report and the 1990 Provincial Parks and Heritage Sites Master Plan both recommended that the area be

¹ Available for \$29.95 from the NBGIC, P.O. Box 5001, 179 Charlotte Street, Saint John, NB E2L 4Y9, or from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy.

protected for its wilderness values. The Tweeddale Commission Report stated that the area was unique in bearing little or no evidence of human disturbance, while the Parks Master Plan proposed that a central wilderness area incorporating the Christmas Mountains and Mount Carleton Park should be set aside to serve as "the foremost example of the Province's environmental character". The latter report also recommended that the Appalachian Trail be extended from Mount Katahdin into this wilderness area. In 1902, the government of New Brunswick actually passed a bill, setting aside 900 square miles of wilderness (including the Christmas Mountains area), but implementation of this legislation was blocked by timber interests. Alison Dibble, a renowned botanist and authority on the rare plants of Maine, visited the Christmas Mountains area in 1993 and subsequently wrote to the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy that the area may well be of international significance.

6. A preliminary assessment of the unlogged portions of the Christmas Mountains has revealed that the area is virtually devoid of weedy or alien species of plants.

The Christmas Mountains controversy has also helped to highlight a number of important issues and problems. Currently, there is no mechanism for the public to become involved in the management of public lands. Ironically, public involvement is a mandatory component in the protection of natural areas, but not in determining where logging can take place. The onus to prove the worth of areas for their non-harvestable resources always seems to fall on the shoulders of naturalists and environmentalists, and we often are unable to perform adequate assessments within the allowable time frame. Because the government has committed insufficient human and financial resources to assessing crown lands for non-consump-



tive values, and because the value of harvestable resources is well known, these other natural values are considered to be less important. Further, large industries and government seem to have greater clout with the media and often downplay the concerns of environmentalists.

All available evidence indicates that the Christmas Mountains area should be thoroughly studied to see what portions should be preserved for their wilderness qualities, their representativeness, their biodiversity, the rare species they contain, or for other values. These values are already being destroyed by active cutting and road building. If we do not protect this beautiful and unique area, we stand to lose an irreplaceable part of our natural heritage. What will be the long term costs of this loss to our environment, our economy, our wildlife, and to current and future generations of New Brunswick residents? Please write the Minister of Natural Resources and the Premier to let them know that our natural heritage is important to you, and asking that immediate action be taken to protect the Christmas Mountains.

Vanishing Wilderness¹

David Christie

On the morning of September 4 [1976], Harry and Ian Walker, Don McAlpine and I stepped off a lumber road and pushed our way into what looked like an impenetrable growth of spruce and fir. We were off to repeat the hike that Ian and his brother Lyle had made a year earlier from the Miramichi watershed to the Tobique. Ian had promised to lead this particular hike as an event for members of the naturalists' federation.

Once through the initial tangle of blowdowns and bulldozed debris created by the opening of the road, we found easy walking among trees spaced far enough apart to offer few problems to a hiker with a full pack. Viewed from behind, we resembled brightly coloured versions of astronauts with yellow, red and blue life support systems strapped high on our backs. With Ian

taking the compass bearings, the rest of us had only to follow along, enjoying nature and the beautiful weather.

In the woods we were impressed by the great crop of mountain ash berries, many of which had been knocked to the ground by wind. Birds were not very common, though the lisping notes of Golden-crowned Kinglets could be heard almost anytime we paused quietly, and several Purple Finches drifted through the woods feeding on the berries.

Our first rest stop was at an old beaver pond and bog drained by a tiny alder-lined brook. From there

¹ A personal experience in the Christmas Mountain area, reprinted from: *N.B. Naturalist*, 7 (3-4): 29-31, 1976.

we crossed a ridge to another pond and thence to Logan Lake, a narrow, two-mile long lake nestled in the mountains. A beautiful sandy beach at the east end contrasts sharply with huge granite boulders that line the shore and dot the shallows near the outlet to the west.

As we lunched on the sand, admiring the spectacular view, a Broad-winged Hawk soared out from the slopes of Mount Wheeler and two loons began to call farther down the lake. It was potentially a marvelous wilderness experience, but marred by a well-equipped camp just to our left at the end of the beach. The owners must come and go by amphibious plane. Later, we spotted another camp situated on a point about a mile away.

After lunch we hiked along the south side of Logan Lake to its outlet. The farther west we went the more granite boulders there were and the rougher the ground was. Lush green mosses covered the boulders, in some places hiding holes down which one's foot would disappear if he was unfortunate enough to step there. We could have spent many hours studying the mushrooms in those woods, if we had had the time and reference books. Few, if any, of the mushrooms were of the favourite edible kinds. Most probably belonged to the difficult genus *Cortinarius*, many species of which are common in the fall.

Having paused only momentarily to watch three Ruffed Grouse and, at another point, two Spruce Grouse, we were glad to rest on a large flat boulder at the lake's outlet. There we watched a Great Blue Heron fly up from the shore to balance precariously on the spindly top of a large spruce. I was surprised to discover a flourishing clump of Coltsfoot at the water's edge. Had seeds of that introduced plant blown many miles on the wind or had they hitchhiked to that remote lake on someone's clothing or on the float of a plane?

We took time to explore a short distance down the brook through which the waters of Logan Lake tumble on their way to the Little Southwest Miramichi. In its upper stretch the brook produces a surprising roar as it drops over one small falls after another. Along it and by the lake, I took note of the few flowers that were still blooming at that elevation. Only Wood Aster and Large-leaved Aster were still vigorously in full bloom. Large-leaved Goldenrod and Lion's-paw were looking frowzy, with only a few of their blossoms still fresh. A single Joe-Pye-weed plant sported a few bright flowers. Earlier in the day we had also noted blooms of Bog Aster, New York Aster and, rather late I thought, a small orchid, one of the rattlesnake-plains.

From Logan Lake we followed the compass again to Hough Lake and made camp beside a tiny spring-fed brook flowing into the lake. Close by, a female Black-backed Woodpecker was searching the trunks of spruce trees, several of which had rips in their bark probably caused by bears during early spring feeding. After supper Harry discovered a pair of Moose on the opposite shore. A kingfisher and an Osprey were fishing over the lake as the sun began to set. There,

the only sign of civilization was an occasional jet passing high overhead.

The following day our destination was a small pond on the slopes of Mount Vixen. That pond, serene and remote, had been dubbed "Walden" by Lyle and Ian when they reached it the year before. But before leaving, we had to pick up our mouse traps. Donald had packed along 40 of them to do some small mammal trapping in that elevated northern part of the province. He also brought a beam balance to weigh each mammal caught. No wonder his pack weighed 47 pounds! Each evening we set the traps near our campsite and collected them the following morning. At Hough Lake we captured five Red-backed Voles (mice) and a Masked Shrew, a typical catch, since Red-backs are the most common small mammal in most wooded areas. However, we were especially pleased that two of them were almost black, rather than red, on the back. That melanistic (dark-pigmented) colour form is scarce in the southern part of the province.

To reach "Walden" we decided to travel along the slope of Wilkinson Mountain where the forest was mature. Although we were constantly on a side-hill and encountered one rough, bouldery area, the walking was easier than it would have been in the heavy brush that Ian and Lyle had travelled through on the mountain top in 1975. We stopped for lunch by a brook flowing down from Mount Vixen. Birds were very few in that area and the weather began to threaten. Ian made an attempt at fishing and we looked under numerous logs and rocks in an unsuccessful search for Red-backed Salamanders, noting also that apparently no earthworms were found there, miles from the nearest settlement. Donald did see another Spruce Grouse and two Winter Wrens scolded from some underbrush.

To get to "Walden" at 2100 feet elevation we followed the brook upstream onto the mountain. Before reaching the pond, we had entered the low cloud cover which we experienced alternately as fog, in dense woods, and as Scotch mist, in more open areas where the thick growth of ferns and our legs and feet became soaking wet. En route we discovered some interesting mushrooms—the translucent jelly-like *Pseudohydnum gelatinosum* which bears many teeth on its under surface, the shaggy Boar's-head Fungus, a small



Logan Lake and Thunder Mountain Sept. 1976 (photo: DSC).

group of chanterelles which we gathered for a meal, and the distinctive faded violet *Cortinarius albocinctus*.

Although "Walden Pond" is only about 50 yards wide we often could not see the other side through the fog. We scouted around the lake for the best tenting spot. Shortly after, Ian and Don each discovered an immature salamander—one a [Yellow-]Spotted, the other a Blue-spotted. A year before Lyle had seen a young Blue-spotted in almost the very same spot.

Fortunately, we had arrived early and so had the tents up, the mouse traps set, and were just finishing supper when the rain began. We went to sleep very early and were well rested long before dawn. As I lay awake, waiting for daylight, some disturbance alarmed the forest birds and I was pleased to hear the distinctive call of a Gray-cheeked Thrush, a scarce species which probably nests on those foggy heights.

We arose to showery weather but, excited at having captured a bog lemming among the usual Red-backs and well-fortified with eggs scrambled with chanterelles, we were in good spirits for the six miles downhill to Vandine Brook and the Serpentine Road. In the area from "Walden" to Vandine Brook White-winged Crossbills and Red-breasted Nuthatches proved to be numerous. In company with the White-throated Sparrows we were pleased to find a few raspberries still fresh on the canes. Mushroom wise, the many boletes we saw all were the very bitter *Tylopilus felleus*. Many blown-down fir trees bore white ear-like mushrooms, possibly *Pleurotus porrigens*.

Vandine Brook is five to ten feet wide and flows swiftly through spruce forest, beneath which the mossy ground was brightly decorated by red clusters of Bunchberries and an impressive number of the blue fruits of *Clintonia*. We crossed the brook twice, once at an old log-driving dam, in order to be on the side

which offered best hiking. Golden-crowned Kinglets, Boreal Chickadees and juncos were the most numerous birds. A Black Duck flew by and a few warblers, impossible to identify, flitted high in the treetops. The farther down the brook we travelled the more wildflowers we saw. Wood Aster was joined by Large-leaved Goldenrod, then Purple-stemmed Aster, Pearly Everlasting, Yarrow, and Lance-leaved Goldenrod. At one place four or five pink blossoms of Twinflower surprised us, that plant blooming normally in June and July.

We hiked along so quickly, without stopping to rest, that we arrived at Serpentine Road two hours earlier than Erwin Landauer was supposed to meet us there. Harry's pedometer recorded that we had hiked 16½ miles. Having lunched, we were enjoying a sunny interval when along marched a contingent of welcoming naturalists. Half a mile down the road where a bridge had washed out we found even more people—most of the federation's members from Victoria County were there!—a fire, wieners roasting, tea steeping, and a royal welcome. Wilma Miller, as "Mayor of Nictau," presented us with membership in the Order of Tobique, for having gone to so much trouble to get there!

It was a surprising conclusion to a fascinating trip, one to remember for many years. Looking back, one thought dominates, just how threatened are the remaining wilderness areas of New Brunswick. Forestry roads push closer and closer to each other—roads that don't appear on the provincial highway map, but never-the-less are often bigger than many numbered highways. If an adequate wilderness is to remain, the time to act to protect it is soon, the sooner the better.

Remembering Keith Ingersoll

Mary Majka

How do you write about a friend you admired for many years? Keith Ingersoll, an honorary life member of the Federation who passed away in December, is missed by many. His kind and friendly face and gentle manner were the hallmark of a man whose life was devoted to his community and country.

It was the picturesque island of Grand Manan which this eminent but modest man called home. There, his work as an educator and historian left a lasting memorial, a beautiful and interesting museum. Of special interest to naturalists is the valuable Allan Moses collection of Grand Manan birds, which found a lasting, safe home in that museum. It was there that I first met Keith. With great pride he guided us around the museum, which included besides birds, geological, marine archaeological and historical collections. The broad interest of this energetic school principal for everything pertaining to the island shone through. Over the years his accomplishments became greater in scope and his influence reached farther afield.

From Grand Manan, he was called to head the History Department at the New Brunswick Museum and later became the museum's director, and then Director of Museums for the province's Historical Resources Administration. Keith was a prodigious writer, preparing many articles (one included in this issue, p. 21) and a number of books, the most recent of special interest to naturalists; *Wings over the Sea—the Story of Allan Moses* was published two years before his death.

Many honours were bestowed upon this prominent islander. Alas, he did not live to receive the Order of Canada, which was about to be bestowed on him.

For us, whose lives his work and charming personality have touched and enriched, there is only one thing to do—visit Grand Manan and, looking at the setting sun and the distant blinking lighthouses, think how lucky we were to have known Keith Ingersoll.

The Gleaners

L. K. Ingersoll

A couple of friends left here on August 31 to spend the winter in the south. How far they will travel is a good question, but it may be a direct flight to the Carolinas where some ancestral ties might add to the desire to escape a New Brunswick winter.

There is nothing strange or newsworthy about the urge to move to a warmer climate for several months, except that my friends are a pair of Mourning Doves. The experts tell us they have a very short life span, so it may have been my friends' great grandparents who found our backyard when we moved in seventeen years ago.

We have two kinds of feeders. One is a three-tiered silo attached to the clothesline, especially for the smaller species. The other is a feeding station mounted on a metal pipe six feet from the ground and, in theory, squirrel-proof. To protect it from rain and snow, it is covered with a bungalow-style roof with open sides.

I had little time to spend on birds in the early days. Yet I did notice the doves were not impressed at all with the feeders; only twice in fifteen years have I seen a Mourning Dove actually in the bungalow. The second time happened this year, and I noticed the bird even seemed puzzled as to why it had actually landed inside the feeder. They are much more interested in food that has dropped to the ground.

Other birds, such as grackles use the feeders extensively. In the process, they haul out waves of cracked corn and other goodies that without the doves would be wasted.

In the past season, with more time on my hands, I have watched, listened, made notes and read as much as I could find about Mourning Doves. I now believe they are highly unusual birds; at least unique among the species that come to our back yard. About twelve inches in length, they are dainty creatures, smaller than the common pigeon (Rock Dove).

Most birds sing to establish a territory and nesting site or to attract a mate. My special friends' "coo-ah, cooo, cooo, cooo," while doleful is still pleasing to the ear. The cooing is left to the male. He does quite a lot of it while the nest is being built, or repaired, and then while his mate is laying the usual two eggs. Aside from that, the pair seems to share everything, even incubation and feeding the young. An ideal couple, so it seems.

The expression "pigeon's milk" has been around for a long time, normally used in a derisive tone for something of not much importance. Actually, it is one of the many wonders of nature. This thick milky substance is secreted by special cells in the crop; both male and female are able to produce it. It is fed to the young for the first few days of their lives, and eventually food partly digested by the adults is added.

For chicks that are born helpless, there is amazing growth since they fledge in an average of two weeks.

They are then taken on training flights to special feeding places, or so it appeared in our back yard when, for two or three days there were four of them busy with their gleanings.

Then, only the adults returned; at least no more was seen of the young ones. Two or three broods a season are not uncommon.

Their efficient life styles may be the reason for maintaining impressive flocks. Birds, Readers Digest, 1976, indicate there are 255 species of pigeons throughout the world, except in polar regions. Kit and George Harrison, in *America's Favorite Backyard Birds*, 1983, suggest that Mourning Doves are the most prolific of them all, with an estimated North American population of over 500,000,000.

There is little that can be added to the literature except for two points learned through close observation. In many parts of America, Mourning Doves are called "birds of the morning", not strange at all since most birds enjoy the early part of the day for feeding and singing. Based on my two friends, they might just as easily be called, "birds of the evening." Without fail, the pair came to my backyard every evening, silently and just as the shades of night were being drawn. It was the best time for them; the other species had scattered the bird food in their search for sunflower seeds, and it was the time for the gleaners to feed unmolested.

It seems a shame to have named them Mourning Doves, for their "song" alone. They seem to truly enjoy each other's company. Their plumage is beautiful, soft grays and light brown, the male with a bit more depth to the brown, often softly mottled, and a bit larger than his mate. When they flush, the white tail patterns are uniform and lovely, their wings making a whistling sound in the take-off, though when coming into feed their arrival is so silent as to be almost unnoticed.

In spite of all that, I may have discovered why the males are mourners. One morning the male had spent quite a long time in the back yard alone, even returning in the afternoon. Suddenly, his mate flew in—evidently, or supposedly having been brooding the eggs. She alighted a foot or two away from him and, so fast it was difficult to follow, attacked the erring mate. For a moment or two they were involved in a real hassle, though she was the dominant one! Suddenly again, it was over and the two flew off together, the double whistle of their wings apparently the only harmony they enjoyed that day.

Later that moonlit night, when I had opened the window before going to bed off in the distance I heard it, "coo-ah, cooo, cooo, cooo." And it sounded a bit sadder than usual. Anyway, I hope they have a good winter.



From The Pages of the Journals

What's In a Name? — Taxonomy, Systematics and Type Specimens

Christopher Majka

Some person proposes a general meeting of British ornithologists... for the purpose of determining the English nomenclature of our native birds; but such a meeting, were it to take place, would disperse without accomplishing the object in view, unless indeed its members were placed on Bass Rock, and interdicted fire and food until they had settled all their differences, and sworn perpetual friendship. Even then, some malicious Celt, capable of subsisting a month on dulse and tangles, with an occasional raw limpet or mussel, might hold out until, rather than be starved, the philosophers should leave the birds to him to do with them as he pleased.

—William MacGillivray, *A History of British Birds* (1837)

Branta canadensis (Linnæus): *Anas canadensis* Linnæus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 123; based on *Anser canadensis* Catesby, Carolina, vol. 1, p. 92. (in Canada = City of Quebec.)

Recognize any of these peculiar hieroglyphics? Do you tear your hair when you read passages like this in a book of ornithology? Is it all Greek to you? Latin is actually closer to the mark. The short passage above details the systematic and nomenclatural history of one of our better-known birds—the Canada Goose. This issue's column is devoted to dispelling some of the mystery of nomenclature—the art and science of giving names to living creatures—and its relationship to their classification.

As an exercise, let's return to the intrepid goose. Decoded, the above paragraph says that the species *Branta canadensis* was officially described by the great Swedish taxonomist and creator of the binomial system of nomenclature, Karl von Linné (called Linnæus, in Roman fashion). The brackets around his name indicate that the genus to which Linnæus ascribed this species has subsequently been renamed or redescribed. Indeed looking further we see that Linnæus originally placed the Canada Goose in the

genus *Anas*, now used exclusively for certain species of dabbling ducks (*Anas rubripes*, for example is the Black Duck). The name *Branta*, by the way, was first employed by Scopoli in 1769 in his book *Historico-Naturalis*. He re-examined the phylogenetic relationship

of geese and placed the Brant, the Canada Goose and others in the genus *Branta* (as distinct from other genera of geese such as *Anser* and *Chen*). By convention such scientific names are written in *italic* type-face.

Although there is no requirement for scientific names to actually mean anything, in most cases they do have some significance. Thus the name *Branta* comes from the Old Norse *brandgas*, meaning 'burnt goose'—an allusion to the dark plumage of Brant and Barnacle Geese. *Canadensis*, of course, means 'of Canada', the name Canada in turn deriving from the Iroquois *kanata*, a village or community. *Anser* is Latin for goose; *Anas* is Latin for duck and *Chen* is the latinized form of *χην*, the Greek for goose! Are you still with me?

Continuing, we see that his original description appeared on page 123 in Volume 1 of the 10th edition of his monumental book *Systema Naturæ* published in 1758. This work is generally considered to be the foundation of modern classification. Linnæus championed the binomial (genus and species) approach to the naming of living creatures (the only exception being a trinomial used to designate a subspecies) as well as the approach of publishing an official description of a new species. This description is a kind of biological benchmark against which other individuals and species are measured, as well as an official notification to the world that this species has been recognized to exist. Oyez, oyez, oyez—a new creature has come to light!

Looking further we see that Linnæus, who lived in Uppsala, a Scandinavian town far from the normal range of the Canada Goose and never visited North America, based his description on an account published on page 92 of Volume 1 of *Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands* written by Mark Catesby who called the bird in question *Anser canadensis*¹. (Evidently Catesby's account did not qualify as a formal description). The bird which he described (the so-called 'type specimen') was obtained from 'Canada' and the equals sign indicates that the locale has been subsequently deemed to be Quebec City (the 'type location'). It was, in fact, W. E. Clyde Todd² who pointed out that in the time of Catesby Canada effectively meant the French settlements along the St. Lawrence River Valley of which Quebec City was the centre. So this terse little sentence, in English, Latin and numerals says a great deal about the taxonomic history of the Canada Goose and



Carlus Linnæus

¹ *Anser* is a perfectly good goose genus still much in use; for example, the Greater White-fronted Goose is *Anser albifrons*.

² Todd, W.E.C. 1938. Auk 55:661-662.

leaves many important clues which an avian sleuth can use to sniff out the history of the goose.

Nomenclature, in scientific circles, is an immensely important topic. There exists an International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature which publishes a Code which is the final word on names and naming. The current third edition is a 300-page tome which spells out, in the most minute degree imaginable, all the rules and regulations with regard to scientific names. It is beyond the scope of this article to go into all the nuances of this document.

Now, the process of naming of creatures is not always a smooth and amicable one. Taxonomists often differ on whether a certain form constitutes a species or not, what name to ascribe to it and what others it might be joined with to form a genus or family. There are 'splitters' who believe in giving separate designations to the most minute variants, and 'lumpers' whose inclination leads them to pool all manner of creatures into a single name. Even the strict rules of the Code of Zoological Nomenclature do not preclude heated and acrimonious disputes, as anyone who has followed the long-running controversy between the names *Brontosaurus* and *Apatosaurus* for one of our best-loved dinosaurs, will doubtless know.

What's worse, the real world does not always behave as simply as Linnaeus' scheme would have it. There are clines, and intergradations and superspecies all of which blur over the distinctions between 'species' that he sought so hard to establish and codify.

One aspect of this systematic approach, which I have already alluded to, is that of the 'type specimen.' The specimen on which the formal description is based is designated the 'holotype' (commonly abbreviated to 'type') and the place where it was collected is the 'type location.' These types are normally deposited in museums and their presence is made known so that other experts can examine and see for themselves exactly what so-and-so was talking about when he described species X. There are also paratypes, lectotypes and so on which we shan't concern ourselves with here. The holotypes are the benchmarks against which other individuals are measured and the localities where they came from have a certain importance as type locations.

Musing on this recently I became curious: "What taxa (species and subspecies) of birds," I wondered, "had been described from this part of the world?" A little research in the appropriate places turned up some answers.

Quebec has done very well with a dozen taxa including six species (designated by *):

- *Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis canadensis*) from Quebec City
- Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis interior*) from Hudson Bay, Quebec
- Spruce Grouse (*Canachites canadensis canace*) from Quebec City
- Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus togata*) from Quebec City
- *Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis canadensis*) from Quebec City
- Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis barbouri*) from Anticosti Island

- *Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus atricapillus*) from Quebec City
- Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia aestiva*) from Quebec City
- Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudatus alberta*) from East Main, on James Bay
- *Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina passerina*) from Quebec City
- *Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca iliaca*) from Quebec
- *Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni lincolni*) from Natashquan River

Nova Scotia and Maine are tied with three taxa each:

- *Northern Saw-Whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus acadicus*) from N.S.
- *Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) from Halifax
- Boreal Chickadee (*Parus hudsonicus littoralis*) from Yarmouth
- Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus richardsoni*) from Bangor
- Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus abieticola*) from Greenville
- Three-Toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus bacatus*) from Bangor

Prince Edward Island has sadly had no species or subspecies of birds described from its sandy shores. Newfoundland and Labrador excels with twenty-two taxa including four species! All of which brings me to a quiz for readers of the *New Brunswick Naturalist*: Which bird (there is only one!) has been described from a type locality in New Brunswick? [Answer, p. 25.] Perhaps true birding aficionados would want to see as many birds as they could in the localities from which they had been described—a whole new category of listing.

In closing, it is worth returning to ornithologist William MacGillivray, who even a century and a half ago had a sanguine view of the attempts to impose universally accepted schemes of names upon a living world.

In fact, no two ornithologists have ever used the same names for five hundred birds; nor could two be found who should employ the same nomenclature in describing even the birds of Britain. There is really no cause of regret in all this: were there no differences in politics, religion, and science, the world would probably be much worse than it is.— William MacGillivray. *A History of British Birds* (1837)



Anas canadensis
by Hans Larsen

Book Reviews

Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces.

By Anthony J. Erskine, cartography by Linda Payzant and Peter Payzant, drawings by Azor Vienneau, cover painting by Donald Curley. Nimbus Publishing Ltd. and Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, 1992. X + 270 pp. \$29.95.

Reviewed by Mary Majka

Most Maritime naturalists should already know about the release of a book which for many years will be a valuable source of information for birdwatchers, scientists and teachers.

The *Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces* is an attractive 270-page volume containing a tremendous amount of information: text, maps, graphs, statistical tables and figures. Crammed with invaluable information pertaining to the bird populations of the Maritimes, it is the result of a 5-year study of our birds, a project which involved over a thousand volunteers and a good number of professional people. From the beginning it was a labour of love for a few dedicated individuals, none more so than Tony Erskine, the author.

The more than 200 Maritime species each occupy a page, to which a drawing of the bird by artist Azor Vienneau adds visual interest. Text consists of a discussion of the habitat, nesting habits, abundance, and atlas results. A map depicts the breeding distribution of the species as revealed by coverage during the atlas project. A small inset map helps to give a better picture of a bird's general breeding distribution at a glance. Overlays of the major rivers and lakes, farmland, forest types, and elevations aid understanding the distribution shown on the maps.

How was the survey conducted? The entire area of the Maritimes was divided into 10 by 10 km squares. Atlas volunteers strived to visit their assigned squares at least twice in prime breeding season during the 5-year period. (In remote areas not all squares received that coverage; one in every four was the minimum objective.) Depending on the breeding evidence observed, each square on the map received a red dot: a large one if breeding was "confirmed", a medium dot for "probable" breeding, and a small dot for "possible." The map, a statement giving the estimated breeding population in the Maritimes, and bars showing the duration of each species' nesting period provide the reader with a great amount of information in an easily understandable form.

There is also a wealth of information pertaining to environmental factors that affect birds, historic changes in distribution and abundance, conservation problems and initiatives, and finally the detailed description of how this project was conducted and what it achieved.

To us, as naturalists, the achievements are beyond any doubt of tremendous scope and value to our explorations, study and enjoyment of birds.

Bird Sounds of Canada. By Monty Brigham, 1992. Holborne Distributing Co. Ltd. In 3 volumes (12 cassettes or 6 CDs). Available from the publisher, P.O. Box 309 S, Mount Albert, Ontario, L0G 1M0. \$34.95 per volume.

Reviewed by Christopher Majka

Monty Brigham's *Bird Sounds of Canada* is clearly a monumental undertaking. Designed as a companion to W. Earl Godfrey's *The Birds of Canada* (1986, National Museums of Canada) this three-volume series is done in the same colours as Godfrey's book and even has John A. Crosby's illustration of a flying Whooping Crane on the front cover. It is, moreover, cross-referenced to the page numbers of *The Birds of Canada* both in the text and on the recordings themselves.

The recording is a stupendous undertaking, treating 327 species of the 578 listed in Godfrey's book. With a few exceptions (Greater Shearwater, Anhinga, White Ibis, etc.) they are drawn from the 426 species which have been known to breed in Canada. Some common species are missing (e.g. Brant, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, most alcids), however, these are mostly non-passerine species with simple vocalizations which are of little use in field identification. There are some pleasant and surprising inclusions (e.g. Ross' Gull, Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers, Siberian Tit) of birds seldom represented in collections of recordings.

The quality of recordings is excellent throughout. For many complex species there are two to seven different vocalizations presented and in the accompanying documentation there are concise and useful descriptions of the songs as well as notes on background songs of other species. What these notes lack is the geographic locale where the recording was made. This can be useful information in relation to species which have distinct regional dialects. Occasionally I would have liked more detail (e.g. a single Northern Gannet calling in addition to the din of a colony) but by and large the recordings are sufficiently complete for the purposes of field identification (although Monty Brigham must have taken lessons in monotone inflection from Arthur A. Allen!). In general, songs are better represented than call notes.

Small quibbles: for recordings of this quality Holborne should have issued the cassette recordings on type II (CrO₂) or type IV (metal) tapes rather than on type I (normal). At a tiny increase in cost it adds considerably to the quality. The enclosed 32-page booklet contains duplicate information for the cassettes and CDs and is printed in tiny 6-pt. type that is a strain to read. A larger typeface would have improved readability. Cassette liners should also have the contents of each cassette printed on them.

Although they are slightly pricey, as comprehensive, excellent records I predict they will soon be in every ornithologist's and serious birder's collection—on both sides of the 49th parallel.

Protected Areas

Pickereel Pond Nature Preserve

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick recently acquired its fifth nature preserve, Pickereel Pond, a 78-hectare property on Maquapit Lake, Queens County. The land was purchased and donated to the Trust by area cottage owners.

Most of the preserve is covered with lowland forest but there is also a swamp, part of a keyhole lake, and a shingle spit on the lake shore. The forest is varied, including a spruce bog, stands of old cedar and hemlock, and younger zones of birch and poplar. The keyhole lake provides a good habitat for aquatic birds.

Pickereel Pond falls in an area of the province which enjoys high summer heat and a long growing season. The plants and animals close to the shore are representative of the complex found in the surrounding waterways of the Saint John River system but not widespread in other parts of New Brunswick. Among them are Bur Oak and Swamp Milkweed. The area is also home to four species of frogs.



New Ramsar Site: Tabusintac Lagoon

In June Hon. Alan Graham, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, announced designation of the Tabusintac lagoon and estuary as a wetland of international importance—a Ramsar site.

The area includes 4100 hectares which support a variety of waterfowl. "About 10 pairs of the endangered Piping Plovers nest on the Tabusintac beaches, and in the fall the waters are a major staging area for Black Ducks, Canada Geese, Oldsquaws, teal and wigeon," Graham said. Scoters, Common Eiders, Brant, scaup, Common Goldeneyes, Ospreys, Great Blue Herons, and mergansers are some of the other common species.

To help protect habitat and birds within the area community-based stewardship projects have been established under the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture program. The Province is working with the Canadian Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the Quebec Labrador Foundation to develop the Tabusintac project and a management plan for the river.

The upper portion of the estuary is to be closed to hunting to provide a safe haven for migratory waterfowl and establish a good viewing area for bird-watchers. "Hunters should benefit from the closure because an increased number of waterfowl will be available in the surrounding areas," the minister said.

Grand Lake Meadows

The Grand Lake Meadows Wetlands Project was dedicated at a ceremony in August. Under this project, initiated in 1989, more than 2700 hectares of wetlands have been secured. Long-term plans call for the inclusion of nearly 5000 hectares as a provincial wildlife management area. Cost of the project to date has been more than \$750,000, \$500,000 of it from American sources.

The Grand Lake Meadows, located at the southwestern end of Grand Lake, provide breeding habitat for Black Duck, Common Goldeneye, Wood Duck, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron, Yellow Rail, and Black Tern as well as providing spring and fall migration habitat for large numbers of waterfowl.

Natural Resources and Energy Minister Alan Graham thanked Ducks Unlimited, Wildlife Habitat Canada, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of New York and other American states, and the Canadian Wildlife Service for working with the Province to make the project a reality.

"With support from government and non-government organizations, New Brunswick has been able to initiate intensive wetlands conservation and preservation activities," Graham said. "We will continue to develop partnerships that will enhance our wetlands to provide important habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife species."

Kouchibouguac National Park Recognized

Kouchibouguac National Park, Prince Edward Island National Park, and Kejimikujik National Park have recently gained international recognition for Canadian Parks Service programs to protect Piping Plovers.

The three parks are among 13 sites that have been named to the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network's Piping Plover Registry, a program which recognizes the efforts of public and private landowners to protect populations of this threatened shorebird. The Parks Service has undertaken extensive measures to protect nesting plovers, including selective closing of nesting beaches, public education programs to help minimize disturbance of nesting plovers, monitoring of nesting success, and fencing some nests to protect them from predators.



The answer to the question on page 23 is *Acrida Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Ammodramus caudatus subviridis*, described from Hillsborough by Jonathan Dwight Jr. in 1887.

Nature News

December 1992 through November 1993

David Christie

The "winter storm of the century" which ravaged the eastern United States March 12-14 was just another snow storm by the time it reached New Brunswick, but it did carry with it a number of migrants a few weeks too early for this region. Our normal March and early April weather probably soon killed many of them. A protracted period of southerly winds in the third week of April also brought a number of early arrivals, most prominently Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings. A late snowstorm Apr. 27 was a blow to insectivorous birds that had already returned to New Brunswick, undoubtedly slowing the recovery of depressed Tree Swallow populations.

To save space, initials are being used for any observer names used twice. Unless otherwise noted all observations at Bancroft Pt., GM, were made by Brian Dalzell, at Gannet Rock and Machias Seal I. by Rodger Maker, at Mary's Pt. by myself, at Oakland near Stickney by Ansel and David Campbell, and at Tide Head by Alan Madden. Records for Harvey are from Albert County, not York County.

Mammals

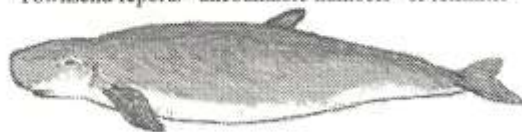
Two 1993 cases of **rabies** in New Brunswick were of the strain carried by **bats**, so Nelson Poirier advises caution whenever handling bats.

River Otters are not usually seen swimming far off shore, as one was near Machias Seal I. in November (JF) but, as Brian Dalzell notes, that's how they colonized Grand Manan.

83 Harbour Seals sunning themselves on rocks off the Irving Nature Park, Saint John, Jan. 16 was a large number for that time of year. There were already 15 up river at Ram I., near Bayswater, Apr. 12 (F&MW).

The first **Chipmunk** of the season at Bayswater was noted Apr. 16 (F&MW). A late suckling young **N. Flying Squirrel** was found on a lawn near Hopewell Hill Sep. 6 (Walter Osborne) and raised by Mary Majka.

A dead **Pygmy Sperm Whale** that washed up in Saint John Dec. 7 and was taken as a specimen by the New Brunswick Museum was the first confirmed record for the Bay of Fundy. Relatively little is known about this small whale with shark-like head but diminutive jaw. It occurs mainly in warm waters of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. A couple have also been found dead in winter in Nova Scotia. Bill Townsend reports "uncountable numbers" of **Atlantic**



Pygmy Sperm Whale

White-sided Dolphins and **Common Dolphins**, with from 5 to 50 in view during the entire crossing of the "Bluenose" ferry from Bar Harbour, Me. to Yarmouth, N.S., Aug. 14. Some of them would have been at the southern end of the Grand Manan Banks. White-sided Dolphins occur regularly in the outer Bay of Fundy but Common Dolphins normally are found much farther off shore.

The number of **Humpback Whales** off the Swallowtail, GM, was particularly high during August. They provided a great show for observers on land or boat. **Right Whales** were also unusually numerous in the Bay. The New England Aquarium identified 115 individuals, the highest number since surveys began in 1980. They arrived early, being first reported by fishermen in the last week of June and included individuals that would normally remain in the Roseway Basin off Nova Scotia, where a survey could find only two individuals in August. Even more exciting was the occurrence of **Sei Whales**, for which we previously had no confirmed records. These whales regularly visit the Roseway Basin but this year appeared with the Right Whales in the Grand Manan Basin (and off Brier I.). They feed on the copepods that Right Whales prefer. [This paragraph adapted from Laurie Murison's "Marine Waters Report" in *The Razorbill* 2: 25-28. Laurie manages the Grand Manan Whale & Seabird Research Station.]

A 30-ft. long adult **Minke Whale** was stranded at Pigeon Hill Oct. 27 and buried Nov. 6 (HC).

Birds

Highlights of this year were a **Yellow-nosed Albatross** at Moncton (see p. 6), a **California Gull** at Lower Jemseg, a **Rufous Hummingbird** at Grand Manan, **Worm-eating Warblers** at Grand Manan and Cape Jourimain, and a **Shiny Cowbird** and **Harris' Sparrow** on Lamèque Island. There were also **Mute Swans**, a **Monk Parakeet**, and one or more **European Goldfinches**, all of debatable origin.

Among pelagic species off Grand Manan, **Northern Fulmars** are expected usually in late fall and early winter, so 7 on May 13 between Southern Head and Machias Seal I. (PW) were somewhat surprising; these birds were moulting their flight feathers. It was again a good year for shearwaters, with peak numbers reported being 3000 **Greaters** and 200 **Sooties** SE of Grand Manan Sep. 6 (SIT). Early records south of Grand Manan were a **Manx** May 13 (PW) and a **Sooty** May 22 (HAD).

Like the Greater and Sooty Shearwaters, **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** come to our area during the Southern Hemisphere winter. Unusually large numbers were found off Grand Manan from June into September. The first were hundreds feeding in the tide rips and

fluttering around the light at Gannet Rock June 10. During Laurie Murison's whale-watching trips to the Grand Manan Basin (SE of GM) about a thousand a day were seen in early July, increasing to 10,000 July 24. There were still 1000 there Aug. 26 (SIT). Some of the petrels came closer to shore, 100 in Seal Cove Sound about June 17 (PW), 20 in the Grand Manan Channel June 27 (DG), 50 off the Swallowtail Aug. 9 and 1 seen from the Castalia ball field Aug. 7 (CB). The first of our local breeding species, the **Leach's Storm-Petrel**, appeared at Machias Seal I. Apr. 28.

An early **Northern Gannet** was reported in an unusual habitat, Courtenay Bay at Saint John, on Mar. 15 (*vide* JGW). By Mar. 28 this species had reached Val-Comeau in the northeast (RL). A **Great Cormorant** strayed from the sea to the open water of the Westfield ferry crossing Feb. 1 (AG). A noteworthy concentration was 100+, likely attracted by fish in a weir, at Dark Harbour, GM, Feb. 27 (BED, HAD). Brian Dalzell notes that this species "seems poised for breeding... as more 1st-year birds remain through the summer" at Grand Manan. Very late for the Acadian Peninsula was an immature **Double-crested Cormorant** at the Caraquet wharf Dec. 22 (RD).

Sightings of the **Least Bittern**, a very rare and local breeder, were reported between June 27 and Aug. 1 in waterfowl impoundments at Musquash (DLM; SIT), Germantown near Riverside-Albert (DLM), and Red Head Marsh in Saint John (JGW). **Great Blue Herons** lingering later than the CBCs were found at Lamèque Jan. 4 (JG) and at Cocagne Jan. 10 (MNC). During migration, on one day in mid April Ralph Eldridge saw 60, in small groups, flying into Passamaquoddy Bay past Greens Pt. light at Letete (*vide* CLJ). **Green Heron** reports included one in the northeast at Caraquet May 22 (MD) and a very late bird at Red Head Marsh Nov. 4 (JGW). Brian Dalzell notes in *The Razorbill* that **Black-crowned Night-Heron** "numbers are certainly down from a decade or more ago" at Grand Manan.

An early **Great Egret**, possibly carried north by the big March storm, ushered in a strong showing of southern herons. That bird, appearing weak and confused, was standing in the middle of a road near the Grand Harbour dump Mar. 21 (*vide* GH). Other Great Egrets reports came from Kouchibouguac Apr. 11+ (Don Cormier+), the Letang estuary near St. George the weekend of Apr. 24-25 (382-DUCK), Chance Harbour Apr. 30 to May 2 (CLJ), Waterside May 4 (RJW), Cap-Pelé May 5 (Steve Wilmot), Castalia May 7-10 (Mildred Russell), Pte-Alexandre, LI, June 28 (HC), and Cap-des-Éclipses Sep. 7 (Lloyd Decoste). Individual **Snowy Egrets** were at Grand Harbour Apr. 25 (RCO), Castalia Marsh Apr. 26 (AS), May 22 (JGW+) and from Aug. 27 to Sep. 20 (*v.o.*), Chance Harbour Apr. 30+ (CLJ), Saints Rest Marsh at Saint John about May 12-17 (382-DUCK), Waterside May 14-23 (RE+), and Baie-du-Petit-Pokemouche June 21 (Bernadette Hébert). **Little Blue Herons** were at

Alma May 14-16 (ad.—RJW+), Waterside May 19-20 (imm.—DSC+), Whale Cove, GM, May 25 (imm.—PAP+), Wishart Pt. May 30-31 (ad.—RD, RR), and Eel Lake, GM, Aug. 13 (imm.—AS). A single **Tricolored Heron** was at Waterside Marsh May 7-9 (Mike Rae+). A **Cattle Egret** at Seal Cove Apr. 19-27 (JF+) foraged as far away as the Anchorage Provincial Park. It was followed by singles at Stanley Apr. 26 (Jennifer Dunlap) and Corn Hill May 24 (MNC Newsletter), and by 4 at St. Andrews for a few days in late May or early June (Peter Fenety). In autumn, this species was seen at Inkerman Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 (Jean-Guy Robichaud) and at Grand Harbour Nov. 7 (*vide* BED). **Glossy Ibises** reported were 3 at Caraquet May 6-9 (Donald St-Pierre & RL) and 5-6 at Gagetown I. May 12 (*v.o.*).

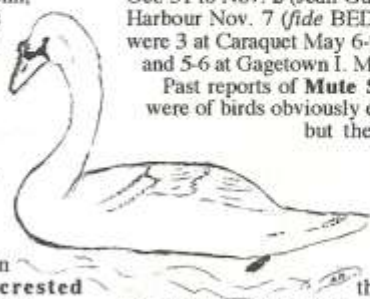
Past reports of **Mute Swans** in New Brunswick were of birds obviously escaped from local sources, but the ones found during 1993

seem to have come from outside the province. Whether these birds were escaped captives or had dispersed from the eastern United States

can not be proved, but the wild population in North America is expanding rapidly. A 1st-year male Mute Swan swam past Bancroft Pt. Apr. 25 (BED) and appeared the next day in Grand Harbour, where it remained for the rest of the year (*v.o.*). Local residents began feeding it bread. On July 17 a group of 5 swans appeared in Tracadie, spent the day feeding with domestic geese and ducks, and were easily approached. The following day, they were found at Mal Bay South, a remote area of Miscou I., where they would not allow a closer approach than 100 metres (RD). On August 13, the five were back at the same place in Tracadie and stayed for a week (*vide* RD). Three of the five had some brownish-gray feathers indicating younger birds about a year old.

The tame behaviour of these birds is not necessarily evidence of captive origin as many wild swans occur in populated areas and become accustomed to being fed by humans. On the other hand, Bill Townsend (*Guillemot* 22:26) reports that the Grand Manan bird and another at Newcastle, Me., June 3 might possibly be two young Mute Swans that were released at Freedom, Me., in 1992 and spent the winter in Belfast, Me.

Snow Geese were little reported in the spring, a flock over Berry Mills Road, Moncton, Mar. 18 (report at MNC meeting) and a very late one at Waterside Marsh June 1-2 (AIC+). There were more in fall: 80 at Miscou I. for one or two days about Oct. 9 (*vide* RD), 81 at the mouth of Turtle Creek, Coverdale, Oct. 9 decreasing to 1 on Nov. 6 (RPC+), 100 at Knightville Oct. 12 (MNC Newsletter), 5 at Cape Jourimain, near Bayfield, Oct. 22 (*vide* CA), 1 still there on or before Nov. 12 (382-DUCK), 9 over Woodwards Cove, GM, Oct. 26 (Theodore Huckins), and 1 at Grand Harbour Nov. 5-6 (BED).



After arriving off Castalia Marsh Feb. 24, **Brant** peaked at about 5000 there in late March and early April (BED). There were about 3000 at Grand Harbour Apr. 5 (RCO) and May 18 (SIT). Three flocks totalling 570 flew up the bay past Mary's Pt. in the early evening of April 15 (DSC & Majkas). The earliest ones in the northeast were at Val-Comeau Mar. 28 (RD) and one of the few that appear inland was at St-Basile Apr. 24 (GT). The largest numbers of **Canada Geese** reported were 1000 passing Waterside Mar. 28 (BC) and 3000 at Bathurst Oct. 30 (RD).

The CBC-period **Wood Duck** at Grand Manan was present at Whale Cove Dec. 13-25 (AS). The island's earliest **Green-winged Teal** came with Mallards to feed under Peter and Carmen Roberts' bird feeders (!) at Seal Cove Mar. 25-29. Two **N. Shovelers** in the northwest, where they are infrequently seen, were at Rivière-Verte Apr. 25 (GT). **Gadwall**, widely reported in coastal areas during the spring, included 8 at Saints Rest Marsh Apr. 24 (FNC), 4 at Cape Jourimain Apr. 25 (SIT), and 12 at the Tracadie sewage lagoon May 24 (SIT).

The only report that came my way of a **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** was of a male at Cape Jourimain Apr. 25 (SIT). The number of **Eurasian Wigeon** reports was more than ever before: Apr. 25 (SIT) and June 22 (CA) at Cape Jourimain, May 1+ at Cap-Brûlé sewage lagoon (NP+), May 14 at Gagetown I. (SIT), May 14 at Hay I., GM, (Nat Wheelwright), May 18 at Germantown (Diane Allain), May 31-June 1 at Carquet sewage lagoon (GL+), and July 3-4 at Wishart Pt. (RD).

The recent phenomenon of numerous **Lesser Scaup** at sewage lagoons and small numbers elsewhere continued. The spring and fall peaks at Tracadie were 60+ May 9 (SIT) and 190 Oct. 17 (RD). There were still 2 at Cap-Brûlé lagoon July 10 (SIT). **Greater Scaup** may be more or less numerous than Lessers at these sites, so care in identification is required.

Large numbers of migrating **Common Eiders** included 1500 at Waterside Mar. 28 (AB, DJC), 6000 at Val-Comeau Apr. 12 (RD), 5000 at Wilson Pt., Miscou, Apr. 28 (RD), and 1500 at Miscou LH Oct. 2 & 8 (RD). The best places to watch for the rare **King Eider** are among these large flocks of eiders. Most of the following were beautiful adult males: Val-Comeau Mar. 21 and Apr. 10-26 (as many as 6!—RD), St. Andrews Mar. 28 (TD), Waterside Mar. 28 (BC, AB, DJC), Wilson Pt., MI, Apr. 28 (RD), Miscou LH May 15 (subadult) and May 23 into mid June (adult—RD+), and finally Miscou LH Nov. 8 (SIT, RD). Closure of the hunting season for **Harlequin Ducks** the past couple of years may be having the desired positive effect on their declining numbers. A considerable number of spring migrants were noted: Fundy NP Mar. 28 (AB, DJC), The Wolves [a traditional wintering area] Mar. 28 (16—DS, Pat Kehoe), Saint John Apr. 4+ (Lee Bateman), Machias Seal I. Apr. 14-22 (3), Val-Comeau Apr. 30 (4—RD), and Miscou LH May 15 (pair—RD). In fall, 5 to 7 Harlequins were at Miscou LH from Aug. 29 to Oct.

24 (v.o.) and one at Pte-du-Chêne from Nov. 14 into December (John Tanner+).

Oldsquaws, a common winterer and migrant along the coast, are occasionally seen inland during migration. Reporting 40 during late April on the Windermere Motel Lake at Kedgwick, Pat Émond commented on the increasing numbers that have stopped there at that time of year: 8 in 1990, 12 in 1991, and 21 in 1992. Two pairs of Black Scoters migrating overland stopped at Kedgwick Apr. 26 (PE). Both **Black** and **Surf Scoters** summered on Long Pond Bay, GM. Two Blacks were there June 5 (Stewart Lamon) and 7 on July 20 (DB), 5 Surfs June 15 to July 20 (DB); there were also 3 Surfs at Long Eddy Pt., GM, July 5 (*vide* BED). Large numbers of Surf Scoters off Miscou LH during the fall increased from 1500 on Sep. 13 (SIT) to 8000 Oct. 2 (RD) and 10,000 Oct. 16 (SIT).

I suspect that **Barrow's Goldeneyes** were seen more often than they were reported. On Jan. 10, there were 14 wintering birds at the Cocagne River and a few off Cap-des-Caissie (MNC), a few more than during the Shediac CBC two weeks earlier. The only spring report at hand is from Robichaud Apr. 24 (2—SIT). In fall, birds were at Tracadie Oct. 22 (MNC), Cape Jourimain Nov. 5 (2—SIT) and Bathurst Nov. 11 (RD). Notable concentrations of **Hooded Mergansers** occurred at the Black River Bridge in Kouchibouguac NP Oct. 7-21 (35-90—SIT+) and at Bathurst Nov. 11 (50—RD). Sewage lagoons and waterfowl impoundments are the places to go to look for **Ruddy Ducks**. During 1993 they were reported at Sackville WP May 19 (SIT), Tracadie May 24 to Oct. 3 (up to 2 pairs—RD+), Daley Creek Marsh at Mary's Pt. Oct. 9, Cap-Brûlé Oct. 30 to about mid-November (2—SIT+), and Val-Comeau Nov. 14 (CNPA).

A **Black Vulture**, very rare here, was spotted at Kouchibouguac June 4 (Larry & Marion Neily). **Turkey Vultures** are becoming increasingly frequent during the warmer months and one wintered at Tweedside from Dec. 10 into February (Meredith & Reid Cleghon+). Other reports, all of single birds, came from Rang St-Georges Apr. 6 (Audard Godin), Red Head Marsh Apr. 19 (JGW), Dawson Settlement near Hillsborough Apr. 21 (MNC RBA), Harvey Apr. 21 (DR & Willis Rossiter), Hardings Pt. Apr. 22-23 (AG), Waterside Apr. 22 (MNC RBA), Bancroft Pt. May 2, Long Eddy Pt. May 8 or 9 (AS), Penobscis May 12 or 17 (DJC), Foster Brook, FNP, June 6 (JGW), Southern Head, GM, July 20 (*vide* PW), Pigeon Hill Oct. 9-16 (JG+), and Mary's Pt. Oct. 23.

Brian Dalzell and Don Baldwin both feel that **Ospreys** nesting at Grand Manan have dwindled from at least 5 pairs in 1990 to only 2 pairs in 1993. No reason is obvious. Elsewhere in the province, Ospreys seem to be flourishing. The salmon farming business is mainly responsible for the increase in **Bald Eagle** numbers around Passamaquoddy Bay, as reflected by CBC numbers at Pennfield and Eastport-Campobello and by the following: 50+ (mostly immatures) Jan. 24 (MNC), about 75 (almost all subadults) Feb. 20 (SIT)

and 22 on Oct. 30 (SJNC) in the Letete-Deer I. area. Stu Tingley was told by Clayton Richardson that the winter eagles are feeding on the waste put out by aquaculturists when they clean the fish. At Bradford Cove, GM, 7 eagles were attracted to feed on the remains of a washed-up **Fin Whale** Jan. 21 (P&CR). Other observations of feeding behaviour included the wing prints of an apparent eagle in the snow on either side of a **Snowshoe Hare** track that vanished over the edge of a cliff at Grand Manan Jan. 26 (Sharon Greenlaw), an eagle trying to catch a **Great Black-backed Gull** at Westfield Feb. 3 (AG), and another that plunged like an Osprey into the Restigouche at Atholville Apr. 22 and floated 100 metres downstream before taking flight—on its second attempt—to resume its search for food (GAM). As many as 11 **N. Harriers** could be seen on the Tantramar at the end of November (Kathy Popma).

The peak of fall **Sharp-shinned Hawk** migration is indicated by the report of 60+ during a day's birding on Grand Manan Sep. 19 (JGW). The rare **Cooper's Hawk** was reported Apr. 19 at Dwelley Pond, GM (DB), Apr. 28 at Fredericton (MA), July 3 at Tuadook Lake (nesting pair—DLM), and in mid November at Richmond Corner (1 hit by a car, specimen at NBM—*fide* Jim Goltz). Another hawk at the edge of its breeding range in New Brunswick, the **Red-shouldered** was found at Lower Jemseg Apr. 25 (DG, RJW), Whistle Road, GM, May 24 (2—AS), nearby Whale Cove May 25 (PAP), Belleville June 20 (2—DG), Hammond River, Quispamsis, in June (pair—JGW), Welsford July 13 (RDW), and Rollingdam July 15 (RDW). "Large numbers" of **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen in the Jemseg area in early March (382-DUCK); a very late one for Grand Manan was at Net Pt. May 6 (LM). Fall reports began with one at Pt. Escuminac Oct. 15 (RD, SIT). The wintering **Golden Eagle** at Shepody Mountain and Daniels Marsh, E of Riverside-Albert, was seen off and on from Dec. 16 through Feb. 28 (v.o.). Elsewhere reports came from Lower Jemseg May 13 (CLJ), Silverwood at Fredericton June 17 (Don Fowler), and Scotch Lake near Mactaquac Nov. 9 (BJS & Bill Miller, Sr.).

A mid winter **Merlin** was at Saint John Feb. 15 (David Smith). This small falcon is now a widespread breeder in the province. New nest sites in 1993 were at Park Headquarters, FNP (RJW), and Prangle Pt. on White Head I. (GW). Stu Tingley watched a Merlin "relentlessly pursue and finally capture a **Killdeer** when it became exhausted (?) and landed on the water" at Buctouche Apr. 23. It "managed to fly to the beach with the Killdeer and stood on the flapping bird until it was dead." That is quite big prey for a Merlin. On Aug. 29 I saw an immature lose a smaller **Semipalmated Plover** after having landed on Mary's Pt. beach with it for several seconds. When the Merlin took off with it, the plover struggled and managed to escape back to the flock. **Peregrine Falcons** fledged 3 young at Grand Manan in early July (DB) but one was found dead soon after (*fide* BED). The other known nests apparently also produced young. The **Gyr Falcon**

that has been wintering at Moncton was seen less frequently this December and January than in recent years. At the end of December, the city dump by the Petitcodiac River was replaced by a regional waste management site several km west of the city; as a result, suitable prey such as pigeons and starlings must be more widely dispersed. Other Gyrs reported were one at Bathurst in the first week of December (RG), one after **Rock Doves** on Queen Street, Fredericton, Apr. 7 (Andrew McInnis), a gray migrant at Mary's Pt. Apr. 11 (AIC), a white bird at Seal Cove Apr. 20 (EM), an out-of-season gray bird at Castalia Marsh June 16 (BED), and a gray bird missing part of its beak at Ste-Marie-St-Raphaël, LI, Oct. 15 (HC).

Two **Chukars**, of several that had escaped from a pheasant shooting preserve about 3 months previously, were seen but not officially counted during the Riverside-Albert CBC. During January, one of them settled in at Rob Walker's feeder at Harvey, but probably ended up as a meal for the local **Goshawk**. **Wild Turkeys**, released at Grand Manan in 1987, are no longer being reported there. Newly released in the spring were about a dozen **Northern Bobwhite** on White Head I. (*fide* BED). Our native upland gamebirds are the familiar Ruffed Grouse and the less frequently seen **Spruce Grouse**, which is never-the-less quite common in proper habitat. Dan Keppie of UNB, an expert on this species, reports that in New Brunswick "young jack pine stands may have 50-75 birds/100 ha, whereas there are usually no more than 5-10 birds/100 ha in spruce stands." On Mar. 20 Dan succeeded in showing two to participants of an FNC field trip in a jack pine plantation north of Gaspean Forks. Five were seen Oct. 17 along the Forks Stream Road near Canaan Forks (RS).

The Sackville WP is the place to go to see **Sorae** and **American Coots** well and even photograph them. The Sorae are less shy than in most marshes so that frequently they are seen close to the board walk. There are usually two or three pairs of nesting corms in the park. Other Am. Coots reported were at Ferry Pt. Apr. 10 (JGW), Upper Gagetown Ferry Apr. 18 (2—DS), and the Shippagan sewage lagoon May 22-23 (RD). One of a pair of **Common Moorhens** at Red Head Marsh July 6 "got very agitated when we played a moorhen tape" (SIT); another was at Daley Creek Marsh Sep. 3 & 10 (Pearl Colpitts+).

Brian Dalzell notes that more Am. **Golden-Plovers** than usual were seen at Grand Manan in the fall, the maximum being 10 at Castalia Marsh in late September (v.o.) and 10 at Cow Passage Sep. 25 (BED). Similar or greater numbers elsewhere were 9 at Robichaud Aug. 28 (SIT), 15 at Daley Creek Marsh Sep. 21 (DSC), and 35 at Sheffield Oct. 18. A **Semipalmated Plover** nest was found June 11 at Waterside (AIC), a site where this species has been known to nest occasionally since the early 1970s. The peak number at Mary's Pt. was 1500 on Aug. 25 at Castalia Marsh 250 on Aug. 14 (CS). A large number of **Killdeer** were 45 at Shippagan Sep. 11 (RD).

Most exciting shorebird of the year was an Am. **Oystercatcher** on the shore at Castalia Marsh May 26

(BED), almost exactly 7 years since the last New Brunswick report which was at the very same place. Another (or the same?) was seen by a tourist at Machias Seal I. about Aug. 3 (*vide* Angus MacLean).

Some people felt that both **yellowlegs** were less numerous than usual, and Robert Doiron suggested that high water levels on the Acadian Peninsula might have been responsible for the fact that the largest group of **Lessers** he saw was only about 250. At Castalia Marsh "only a handful" could be found in August versus flocks of up to 100 in the past (BED). However, there were about 200 Lessers at the Sackville WP Aug. 13-14 (DSC+). Concentrations of **Greater Yellowlegs** were 150 at Miscou I. Oct. 10-11 (RD), 125 at Cape Jourimain Sep. 28 (RD), and 40 at Grand Harbour Oct. 23 (BED). Carried by the big storm, a **Willet** arrived a month early at Pettes Cove, GM, Mar. 14 (Joan Barberis). The next seen at Grand Manan was not until Apr. 17 (BED). The Willet, which had been nesting at Grand Manan for several years, "is becoming a bird of the past, now that they have been driven from Castalia Marsh by the Peregrines" (BED). Presumably **Upland Sandpipers** were nesting at most of the localities where they have been found in the past decade, but all the reports I have are from other locations: Maisonneuve May 28 (MD), Midland near Norton July 16 (2—RDW), breeding at Moncton and Fredericton Airports (*vide* SIT), and Castalia Marsh Sep. 18 (P&CR).

No flocks of **Whimbrels** larger than 50 were reported but good numbers of **Hudsonian Godwits** were present on the Acadian Peninsula, where an impressive flock of 110 was counted at Maisonneuve PP Aug. 15 (RD). As many as 38 were seen at Robichaud Aug. 2 (SIT). On the Bay of Fundy 13 at Castalia Marsh Sep. 3 (AS) was the maximum.

One hundred **Ruddy Turnstones** and 250 **Red Knots** were at Lamèque Harbour Sep. 13 (SIT). Elsewhere knots were rather scarce. Winter **Sanderlings** have been found at Grand Manan a number of times in the past, but this year we have evidence that they actually stayed all winter. At Long Pond Beach there were 8 on Jan. 1 (P&CR), 16 on Feb. 26 (BED & PAP), and 15 on Mar. 13 (BED). The fall peak there was 300 on Sep. 16 (BED). A maximum of 100,000 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at Mary's Pt. Aug. 7, but usually there were 50,000 or fewer, partly because **Peregrines** and **Merlins** have been disrupting the traditional roosting behaviour. Numbers were more reliable at Dorchester Cape, where there were 250,000 Aug. 13 (RMCM). A decline of mud shrimp, the sandpipers' principal food, is suspected at both locations. Other peaks of small sandpipers at Mary's Pt. were 500 **Leasts** Sep. 4, 200 **White-rumped** Aug. 20, 250 **Sanderlings** frequently between Sep. 19 and Oct. 31, and 125 **Dunlin** (low) Nov. 11 (DSC). As many as 600 **Leasts** were at Marsh Pt. Pond on White Head I. Aug. 17 (CB), while at Castalia Marsh and Bancroft Pt. there were 200 **Leasts** Aug. 12 and 135 **Dunlin** Oct. 16. By far the largest number of **Dunlin** was 1500 at Mal Bay South on Miscou I. Oct. 17 (RD).

There were only two reports of **Western Sandpipers**, 2 early adults at Marsh Pt. Pond on White Head I. July 16 (GW) and a juvenile briefly at Mary's Pt. Sep. 5. Several **Baird's Sandpipers** (mainly, if not all, juveniles) were reported: Castalia Marsh Aug. 22 (AS), Mary's Pt. Aug. 29 (DSC), Néguaac PP Aug. 31-Sep. 1 (RD+), Pte-à-Bouveau near Tracadie Sep. 1 (SIT, RD+), Daley Creek Marsh Sep. 16 (DSC), Long Pond Beach Sep. 20-21 (1-2—DG; SIT), and Cape Tormentine Sep. 30 (2—CA). A single **Curlew Sandpiper**, a stray from Eurasia, was seen between Dorchester Cape and Johnson Mills Sep. 12 (*vide* RMCM). **Stilt Sandpipers** were reported July 31-Aug. 21 at Pte-à-Bouveau (up to 6 adults—RD), and Aug. 2 at the Sackville WP (4 adults—SIT). **Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were seen at Pte-à-Bouveau Aug. 30-Sep. 1 (up to 2—RD+), Wilson Pt. Sep. 3 (2—RD), Saints Rest Beach Sep. 4 (3—JGW), and 2 late ones at Sheffield Oct. 19 (JGW). A **Ruff** in black breeding plumage was at Wishart Pt. from at least May 30 to June 1 (v.o.). From 1 to 5 **Long-billed Dowitchers** were at the Sackville WP Aug. 13-29 (SIT+). **Wilson's Phalaropes** are increasing. There were spring reports at Lower Jemseg May 5 (MC), Jemseg May 9 (2—Janet & AG), St-Louis-de-Kent May 9+ (3-7—Barry Spencer+), Shemogue May 11 (3—SIT), Caraquet May 14 to June 1 (8—Edith Robichaud+), Tracadie May 15 (3—RR) and Cape Jourimain May 19 to June 22 (4-2—CA). Later, this species was seen at Inkerman July 31 (RD), Sackville WP Aug. 13-29 (up to 4—v.o.), and Moncton about the end of August (382-DUCK).

Some **Red-necked Phalaropes** were seen off Grand Manan in May, the most being 100+ near Outer Wood I. May 22 (PW). The numbers in fall were in the hundreds compared to the thousands to hundreds of thousands that used to be seen around Passamaquoddy Bay and Grand Manan. The number of **jaegers**, about evenly divided between Parasitic and Pomarine (*vide* BED), was fewer than in 1992. A **Parasitic** was also reported at Cape Jourimain Sep. 7 (Mike Crowell). An unidentified **skua** was seen E of Grand Manan Aug. 30 (LM) and Sep. 11 (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours).

Ten to a dozen very early **Laughing Gulls** at various Grand Manan locations were brought there by the "super-storm." Exhausted and extremely tame, they often were begging for food around fishing boats. Included were at least 6 at Machias Seal I. about Mar. 14 (*vide* RM), one at North Head Mar. 16 (LM), and others in Seal Cove Sound Mar. 21 and near Kent I. (Justin Ellis). A pair were present at Machias Seal I. during the summer (RB). In fall one was at The Whistle, GM, Sep. 19 (JGW+). This species is seldom seen beyond the Grand Manan islands, but there was one at St. Andrews June 14 (RD). The Tracadie sewage lagoon was the best place for **Little Gulls** with a 2nd-summer bird present May 16, a 1st-summer bird July 5 to Aug. 15, and as many



as 3 adults during Aug. 28 to Sep. 17 (RD+). Deer I. Pt., another good area for this species, was not checked as frequently, but a 2nd-summer bird was seen Aug. 2 (RD) and an adult between Aug. 8 and Sep. 4 (v.o.); also, there was one off Campobello I. Nov. 21 (Rich Eakin & Lyslie Brinker). At The Whistle there were an adult Sep. 12 (BED) and a juvenile Sep. 21-24 (SIT). A late **Common Black-headed Gull** was at Lamèque Dec. 13 (SIT). Spring reports were one frequenting a Burger King parking area at Dieppe Apr. 15+ (RJW+), an adult at Cap Brûlé Apr. 24-May 1 (SIT+), an adult at Pte-à-Bouleau May 1 (RD), and 1 at Inkerman May 3 (AR). Fall reports included single juveniles at four locations from Shediac to Robichaud between Sep. 14 and early October (v.o.), as well as a 1st-winter bird at Lamèque Oct. 8 (RD). Rarest of the black-headed gulls was an adult **Sabine's Gull** in winter plumage at Long Eddy Pt. Oct. 23 (BED).

That was easily eclipsed by New Brunswick's first report of a **California Gull**, an adult discovered and photographed at Lower Jemseg by Jim Wilson May 11 and seen by a few others that evening and the next morning. In recent years this western species has been found occasionally by alert observers in other parts of eastern North America. A few **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found: McGowans Corner Apr. 20 (PAP), Pte-à-Bouleau May 1 (ad.—RD), Castalia Marsh Aug. 24 (2nd winter—SIT), Seal Cove Oct. 4 (ad.—Roy Smith), White Head I. Oct. 6 (perhaps the same—DSC & Majkas), and for the 5th year behind Cy's Restaurant at Moncton from Oct. 26 through November (ad.—SIT+).

The passages between Deer and Campobello Islands and the State of Maine are an attractive feeding ground for gulls, for instance 5000+ **Bonaparte's** off Deer I. Pt. on Aug. 8 (RD) and 54,000 (which may be the most ever) in the Campobello-Lubec area Nov. 14, when there were also 16,500 **Herring**, 1000+ **Great Black-backed**, 5000+ **Black-legged Kittiwakes**, and 7 **Black-headed** (*Guillemot*). Pat Kehoe checked the recently discovered Kittiwake colony on South Wolf I. Aug. 11 and found that of 25 active nests, 19 produced at least 29 fledged young. The observation of 200 **Iceland Gulls** during a short visit to Saint John by an FNC field trip Jan. 16 illustrates how this species increases in the Bay of Fundy in mid winter. Only 113 were counted there in the CBC coverage that thoroughly covered a larger area about 3 weeks earlier. The first Iceland of the fall was Oct. 23 at Shippagan (MNC), where numbers increased to 1000 Nov. 28 (RD). A probable first-winter **Thayer's Gull** at Courtenay Bay Dec. 28 (DSC) could not be relocated. Thayer's is now believed to be a subspecies of Iceland Gull.

Caspian Terns were seen too often to mention them all. Spring reports between Apr. 27 and June 11 included a group of 5 at Red Head May 15 (DG) and 3, the only ones inland, at Hammond River May 1-2 (JGW). During Sep. 16 to Oct. 3, perhaps 15 Caspians frequented the shore between Shediac and Cape

Tormentine (382-DUCK). Singles were seen at Castalia Aug. 12 (CB) and Courtenay Bay Sep. 28 (JGW). When hurricane-borne **Royal Terns** arrived at Grand Manan in 1991, Brian Dalzell was not home to see them, but this year he connected with one at Bancroft Pt. June 17. Two **Roseate Terns** were among the tern colony at Machias Seal I. again this summer (RB).

Dovekie totals were low on the CBCs but 150 were close in shore at Deep Cove, GM, Dec. 24 (EM).

Since the breeding population of **White-winged Doves** has become established in southern Florida, it occurs virtually annually as a visitor to the Maritimes. This year one appeared briefly at a feeder in Grand Harbour June 2 (Henry Cossaboom). **Mourning Doves** are now found just about everywhere in the province except in forested areas, perhaps their next frontier will be occupying the interior via recent clear-cuts. Actually, Alan Madden reports that 1993 marked the first summer that this species was resident and seen daily at his home in Tide Head; only a few were seen along the lower Restigouche during the bird atlas project. Surprisingly, during the winter of 1992-93, Project FeederWatch recorded more **Mourning Doves** per feeder per week in New Brunswick than in Ontario, 3.0 versus 1.3. This may be largely due to small sample size in New Brunswick. With only 27 participants here, a couple of feeders with large numbers of doves can quickly boost the average.

A **Monk Parakeet** of questionable origin was associating with **Mourning Doves**, visiting bird feeders and feeding on Manitoba Maple seeds at Sussex from sometime in the fall until late January (JC+). This may have been the one seen the previous summer at Bloomfield Ridge, 22 km to the SW. **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reportedly quite common in connection with the outbreak of Forest Tent Caterpillars in the Fredericton area, but specific reports are lacking. Cuckoos appeared at Fredericton and Lower Jemseg prior to June 18 (382-DUCK). There were only 2 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** reports in the fall: Long Eddy Pt. Aug. 12 (AS) and Southern Head Oct. 15 (Elliot Shepherd).

A moderate number of **Sawey Owls** were reported from December through March and again in November. **N. Hawk Owls** were found at Pte. Capot, LI, Jan. 5 (Rose-Aline Chiasson), Berry Mills Road, Moncton Jan. 12 till late in the month (SIT+), and Chambers Sett. near Waterford Jan. 17 till at least Feb. 20 (DJC+). A **Boreal Owl** was reported at Hampton Mar. 13 (Harry McNamee). They were calling at two breeding locations on Miscou I. between Mar. 3 and Apr. 12 (RD+).

A **Rufous Hummingbird** August 4-8 at Southern Head Beach, GM, was a first for New Brunswick. Coming to a feeder at the Bear's Den Cottages, this beautiful adult male was identified and photographed by two sets of guests (Carmel Houtman, Wendy Rogers & Ron Harris). Word of its presence reached local birders only after it had departed.

Adding to those during the CBC, a **Belted Kingfisher** was at Cocagne Jan. 30 (Oscar Dupuy).

One at Germantown Mar. 5 (RE) had probably overwintered, as spring migrants did not appear until mid April.

The only **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at Lower Jemseg June 10 (*fide* DLM) and Ste-Marie-St-Raphaël Nov. 16-23 (imm. at feeder—JuF+). A number of **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** from the record flight of autumn 1992 survived into the winter at feeders. Five areas reported them during CBC period. One about 10 km W of Salisbury was still present in late January (RS+), two in the Cummings Cove-Deer I. Pt. area for most of the winter (*fide* SIT), and another at Saint John West into February (EB+). Not represented on the CBCs was a female at Petitcodiac Jan. 15 into February (Sharon Seely+).

It was not as good a year for vagrant flycatchers as 1992 had been. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** turned up in June at North Head as one did in 1992; this year's bird was seen from June 22 (Mary Hawkins) to June 29 (Ken & Mary Edwards). There was also the report of a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** in Riverview Sep. 1 (Ralph White). No **Western Kingbird** reports came my way, which is unusual. A rare breeder, the **Willow Flycatcher**, was heard calling at Bancroft Pt. June 9, Lower Prince William for several days from June 9 (DLM), Fredericton June 11+ (Blake Maybank+), Hazen Creek sewage lagoon, Saint John, June 18 (Hank Deichmann), North Head July 5 (*fide* John Shipley), and Red Head July 12 (RDW).

Carried north a month early by the big storm was a **Purple Martin** at Paquetville Mar. 14 (RR+). This female entered a bird house and was captured, but died a few days later. Only a few **N. Rough-winged Swallows**, which are at the edge of their breeding range and rather rare in New Brunswick, were reported: May 15 near Hopewell Cape (SIT), May 17 at Bancroft Pt., and July 11 at Maces Bay (2—RDW). 500 **Horned Larks** at Mal Bay South, MI, Oct. 17 (RD) is one of the biggest groups of this species that have been reported in the province.

The return migration of year-old **Blue Jays**, conspicuous mainly along the Bay of Fundy, was noted May 16-20 at Grand Manan (up to 7 at a feeder—*fide* BED), May 8-23 at Mary's Pt. (max. 30—DSC), and May 15 at Hopewell Cape where 75 passed northwards in 2 hours (SIT). At Moncton in early January, John Tanner watched what seems to have been an unusual fight between **Common Ravens**. The two birds lay on their sides on the ground, grappling with their feet. At least 3 Ravens, presumably non-breeding young birds, spent the month of April on Machias Seal I.

A considerable flight of **Black-capped Chickadees** was noted in October. Elevated numbers at Mary's Pt. Oct. 8-26, peaked at 50 on the 16th. Roving birder Stuart Tingley noted the following concentrations: 200 at Cape Jourimain Oct. 12, 100 at Pt. Escuminac Oct. 15, and 300, in flocks of 10-30 moving SW along the coast, at Alma Oct. 19. A flock of 25 **Boreal Chickadees** on Mar. 30 near our house at Mary's Pt. must have indicated a spring movement, as

no more than 4 were seen there during the several weeks preceding or following that date. More than 100 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at Long Eddy Pt. about May 1 (AS) and 10 at Brian Dalzell's feeders at Bancroft Pt. May 7 indicate a migratory flight. From June 12 to at least June 30 two of these energetic little birds inhabited tiny Gannet Rock, where they fed on abundant house flies in cracks of the lighthouse and a concrete retaining wall. Apparently they spent the night under the edge of some rotten clapboards. Somewhere **White-breasted Nuthatches** must have had a very good breeding season for there was a prominent dispersal to Maine and New Brunswick during the fall. At Grand Manan, where they do not breed, there were six reports during Sep. 21 to Oct. 19 (*fide* BED). "More than usual" were reported in the Saint John and Moncton areas during November (v.o.).

A **Carolina Wren** was fairly regular at Owen Washburn's feeder at Lower St. Mary's, Fredericton, beginning Nov. 7. A **House Wren** at Petite-Rivière-de-l'Île, LI, May 26-28 (Christian Haché+) was a first for the Acadian Peninsula. Less unusual were one back for the second year at Grand Harbour June 13 (BED) and another at Eel Brook, GM, Sep. 13 (DG). A **Sedge Wren**, a species infrequently reported here, was singing in a small meadow at Musquash July 11 (RDW). A **Marsh Wren** still singing at Germantown Marsh Sep. 27 (RD) may have been a bird that had been nesting there, but four later reports were migrants in non-breeding areas: Castalia Marsh Oct. 11 (DG, MC), Alma village Oct. 14 (SIT), Alma Beach, FNP, before Oct. 28 (Graham Forbes), and Mary's Pt. Nov. 7-29.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were on the move Sep. 29 when there were 142, most moving SW, at Mary's Pt. During fall migration at Grand Manan they outnumbered **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** 10 to 1 (BED). In addition to those on the CBCs, wintering Ruby-crowns visited feeders at Durham Bridge from Dec. 31 into February (2—Bill Gammon), and Westfield Jan. 18 (Jocelyn & Michael Steeves). There were 3 reports of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** in the spring and a dozen or more in the fall. The spring birds were at Cape Jourimain May 16 (2—SIT), Caraquet May 19 (Claude Ouellette), and Whistle Road May 26 (AS). In the fall, they were seen at 7 coastal locations between Aug. 27 and Oct. 17, including 4 at Miscou I. on both Sep. 1 and 13 (SIT, RD, RS).

Most **N. Wheatears** that breed in the eastern Canadian Arctic cross the Atlantic to Europe and spend the winter in Africa, but every year a few cause excitement in the birding world by appearing in southern Canada and the United States. One wonders whether these strays attempt to cross the greater width of the Atlantic at mid latitudes or stay on this side and end up in South America. If enough do survive without crossing the ocean

and then repeat their non-traditional migration, a New World wintering area might eventually be established



by part of the population. The autumn of 1993 was remarkable for the number of Wheatears seen in southern Canada, including three in New Brunswick: an adult at Castalia Aug. 31 (Denver Field Ornithologists), another at Cap-des-Caissie Sep. 4-11 (RPC+), and an immature at Harrington Cove, GM, Sep. 12-21 (DG+). **Eastern Bluebirds** were widely seen between at least Apr. 21 and Oct. 24. Bluebird nest-box trails are having some success in attracting this species, but most of the bluebirds reported are finding other nest sites. The description of a "bluebird" at Coles I. Dec. 26 (Fred Barton) caused some wondering whether it might have been a Mountain Bluebird but it could well have been a dull-plumaged Eastern, several of which wintered in western Nova Scotia. A large movement of **Hermit Thrushes** was noted in northeastern New Brunswick in mid October. On the 15th at Pt. Escuminac they were "recorded at every roadside stop; must have been hundreds present" and the following day at Miscou I. "they were amazingly common; several hundred seen, including several flying in from the north low over the water" (SIT, RD). **Brown Thrashers** were reported at Machias Seal I. Apr. 21, North Head May 18 (SIT), Durham Bridge June 11 (2-382-DUCK), the Lac Baker Breeding Bird Survey route June 21 (GT), Lamèque July 18 (Réjean Ferron), Southern Head Sep. 20 (RM), Alma Oct. 8 (DR), and Jack Tars Cove, GM, Oct. 9-13 (DB).

The 1992-93 **Bohemian Waxwing** season concluded with reports Apr. 26 at Springfield (JK) and Apr. 27 at Leech, near Tracadie (10-RD). A good showing of this species in October began with birds at Alma Oct. 8 (12-DR), Bancroft Pt. Oct. 9 (2), and Pt. Escuminac Oct. 11 (JGW). **Cedar Waxwings** that had evidently wintered in the north (see 1992-93 CBCs) were wandering in search of fruits in early spring, when this species was noted at Westfield Mar. 16 (10-JS), Fredericton Mar. 17 (2-BJS), North Head Mar. 23 (fide BED), Tide Head Apr. 1-4 (6), Rivière-à-la-Truite Apr. 6 (YP), and Pte-du-Chêne Apr. 20 (7-SIT). Normal returning migrants appeared in several areas May 25-28. A **Loggerhead Shrike**, extremely rare here in recent years, was reported at Pigeon Hill Apr. 18-19 (JG & JoG+) and another catching grasshoppers at Seal Cove Sep. 28-29 (P&CR).

Very rare vireos were a **White-eyed** at Mactaquac Aug. 5 (BJS) and two or three **Yellow-throated**, a juvenile on the Whistle Road Aug. 19 (AS), an adult at Stanley Beach, North Head, Sep. 17 (Peter Wilshaw), and the same or another at Swallowtail Road the next day (Ken McKenna). An exceptionally early **Red-eyed Vireo** at Marysville Apr. 19 (Scott Makepeace) may have been carried here by winds that brought Indigo Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks at that time. More normal arrivals were noted May 15 at Oakland and May 18 at Grand Manan (SIT).

Highlight of the rare warblers during the year were the second and third **Worm-eating Warblers** reported in New Brunswick. The first was seen at the Swallowtail Road, GM, Sep. 9 (SIT+), the second

briefly at Cape Jourimain Sep. 18 (Connie Gulpins). An unusual spring **Blue-winged Warbler** was reported at Melanson Sett. Rd., near St-Amand, May 23 (Ron Léger). In fall there were individuals at North Head Aug. 24 (SIT), The Whistle Aug. 27 and 31 and Sep. 8 (the same one each time)—a.o.s., Négusac PP Sep. 2 (RD+), and Cape Jourimain Sep. 18-19 (SIT+). A **Golden-winged Warbler** at the Tracadie sewage lagoon May 30 to June 1 (RD, RS+) was unique this year. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was extremely unusual in spring; at Machias Seal I. May 2, even in the fall they are rare, but this year more than usual were reported: Miscou LH Oct. 3 and 25 (RD), Inkerman Oct. 3 (RD), White Head I. Oct. 6 (DSC), Mary's Pt. Oct. 11 (DJC), Southern Head Beach Oct. 11 (DG), and Cape Jourimain Oct. 12 (SIT). Stu Tingley and others found two **Yellow-throated Warblers** during the fall: at Dock Road, Gt. Aug. 24 and at Cape Jourimain Sep. 18. A year ago I wrote that the **Prairie Warbler** is "becoming a regular migrant, rather than just a vagrant" and the trend continued. Brian Dalzell noted at least 14 reports of at least 15 Prairies on Grand Manan between Aug. 3 and Oct. 9. On the mainland I know of 6 reports of 7 birds, all in coastal locations and including one at Wilson Pt., MI, Oct. 16-18 (RD+) and another at Pt. Escuminac Oct. 21 (RD). This represents about a 50% increase from 1992, which itself had been considered an exceptional flight. A **Connecticut Warbler** was an exciting discovery at Fredericton Sep. 8 (FAP), as was a **Hooded Warbler** there May 19 (MA). **Yellow-breasted Chats** are very unusual here in spring and early summer; one was singing at Lower Prince William from May 24 until about mid June (JLM+) and another was at Gagetown July 12 (EB). In fall, there were reports of at least six at Grand Manan between Aug. 31 and Oct. 11 (fide BED), elsewhere 6 at coastal sites between Sep. 3 and Oct. 24, the last at Wilson Pt. (RD).

A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was still surviving at a Bathurst feeder about Feb. 8 (MxC) and another at Riverview about the same time (MNC Newsletter). This species was very prominent along the Gulf coast in mid October, with 300 seen at Pt. Escuminac Oct. 15 and 400-500 at Miscou I. Oct. 16 (SIT, RD). Winter **Pine Warblers** not seen on the CBCs were at Grand Harbour Dec. 3 (AS) and at Barachois in early January (NP). Three of these hardy warblers were surviving at feeders in Bathurst in the first week of February (MxC; RG & Mary Gauthier) and a male at Saint John West still appeared vigorously healthy Feb. 20 (EB+). Spring migrants were noted at Machias Seal I. Apr. 26 and Gannet Rock June 10 and this species was singing in June in nesting habitat at Currie Mountain, near Douglas (382-DUCK). Between Sep. 20 and Nov. 20, a total of 11 were reported at Grand Manan, Mary's Pt. and Cap-aux-Éclipses, fewer than in 1992.

An adult male **Summer Tanager** was found at White Head I. May 23 (DG, MxC). A very early **Scarlet Tanager** was at Cambridge Apr. 25 (fide EB). Normal migrants appeared May 16 at Lambers Cove

on Deer I. (AuC) and at Rang-St-Georges (Audard Godin). Brian Dalzell notes that only two observations of this species on Grand Manan during May reflects its decline due to deforestation in the tropics.



A male **N. Cardinal** missed by the CBCs was observed at Sussex during January and February (JC+). A male was at Mary's Pt. May 18 (EMM) and another was singing at Lower Prince William from about May 20 into June (DLM). From Oct. 24 through November, Cardinals invaded southern New Brunswick. Jim Edsall says that the Bird Information Line received about 100 reports extending north as far as Juniper, and Brian Dalzell felt 25 to be a conservative estimate of the number of Cardinals reported on Grand Manan. Similar flights in earlier years (including 1973, 1980, and 1989) involved fewer birds.

Four early **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, apparently carried north by the southerly flow of April, were seen Apr. 21 at Bancroft Pt., Apr. 22 at Machias Seal I., Apr. 29 at Landry Office (DSP), and May 1 at Alma (Mary Kane). More normal migrants appeared May 11-14 at several locations. Brian Dalzell complained that the numbers seen at Grand Manan "are way down from those of even 5 years ago," whereas in the Kedgwick area Pat Émond commented "a sharp increase this year; seen in every habitat and numerous phone calls from people observing one for the first time."

Eight **Blue Grosbeaks** carried to the province by the April weather were followed by about 5 more a month later. Most reported were males (the dull females attract less attention) and were visiting bird feeders: Apr. 18 Pont Landry near Tracadie (female—RD), Apr. 20+ at Epworth Park, Grand Bay (Deacons & CLJ), Apr. 23-25 Whistle Road (1-2—AS), Apr. 25-May 1 Tabusintac (RCh & Sabine Dietz), Apr. 26 Leech (YP), Apr. 30+ Hampton (fide JGW), May 15 Moncton (fide SIT), May 23 Grand Harbour (Hayward & Helen Ingalls), May 28 Whistle Road (AS), June 9 Quispamsis (fide JGW), and possibly at Riverview (fide SH). The three fall reports were almost simultaneous: Oct. 16-18 at Whistle Road (AS), Oct. 16 at Mary's Pt. and Oct. 17 at Gondola Pt. (Ron Arsenault). Numerous **Indigo Buntings** also arrived in the spring, beginning in mid April and reinforced in the second week of May. Brian Dalzell estimates about 25 (only 2 females) reported on Grand Manan; probably more than that were seen on the mainland. The early ones were at Woodstock about Apr. 14 (382-DUCK), Hillsborough Apr. 18-22 (Winston Dykeman), Machias Seal I. Apr. 19-22, and Grand Harbour Apr. 20 (Allison Daggett). A male at Julien Daigle's feeder at Tracadie May 7-9 was the only one I heard of in the north, but there probably were others. During summer a male was singing near Edmundston in late June (GT) and one was at Inkerman July 7-8 (AR). Fall migration of this species was noted mainly on Grand Manan (at least 30

birds—BED) peaking Oct. 9 (4 at Whistle Road dump—AS) and Oct. 10 (6 in one bush at North Head—DG). The latest were 2 at Deep Cove Nov. 8-14 (RM).

An unusual spring **Dickcissel** came to Lloyd Foster's feeder at South Bay, Saint John, May 11. The fall flight was rather small: Oct. 9 Quaco Head near St. Martins (JGW), Oct. 14 Alma (SIT) and Mary's Pt., Oct. 18 Jack Tars Cove (DB), and Oct. 23-26 Bancroft Pt. A **Rufous-sided Towhee** at Sussex Dec. 15 (PT) was probably the same one that was coming to open water in a ditch there from late January through February (JC+). A remarkable four towhees were at Machias Seal I. May 9; singles were seen or heard May 18 at The Whistle (SIT), May 27 at Lower Prince William (JE), and June 6 at Gannet Rock. A summer one was at Hampstead July 16 (RDW). The fall birds were at Deep Cove Oct. 11-12 (female) and Oct. 29 (male—RM), New Horton near Waterside Oct. 19 (RS, SIT), Saints Rest Oct. 23 (Aldei Robichaud), Pettes Cove Nov. 3 (Zelda Thomas), and Pte-Alexandre Nov. 7-9 (HC). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was singing at St-Simon July 1 (MD) at the same place where there was one in May-June 1989. Three juveniles were seen on Grand Manan, at The Whistle Oct. 6 (AS), North Head Oct. 10 (DG) and Bancroft Pt. Oct. 11. One **Field Sparrow** was at Waterside Apr. 25 (BC) and 3 or 4 others were seen between May 14 and 22 at Alma (Gail Dixon), North Head (v.o.), and Southern Head (JE). Summer birds were at Lutes Mountain June 20 (NBFN) and Musquash July 11 (RDW). Fall reports were of individuals at Long Pond, GM, Sep. 24 (DG), Pt. Escuminac Oct. 11 (JGW), and Alma Oct. 19 (SIT), plus a remarkable 6 at Tide Head Oct. 13. Three had appeared there about Oct. 10 and one remained until Oct. 31. The **Lark Sparrow** that attempted to winter at Hilaire and Rose-Aline Chiasson's feeder at Pte-Alexandre survived only until Dec. 29. In the fall just one was seen, at Alma Sep. 16 (DR). **Grasshopper Sparrows**, always very rare here, were reported June 8 at Gannet Rock, Oct. 10 at Tabusintac (RCh), and Oct. 11 at Pt. Escuminac (JGW). Sparrow of the year was the **Harris's** at Coteau Road, LI, Nov. 7-9 (Jude Larocque+). Seen by many observers and photographed, it is the first confirmed report for the province.

The mid October concentrations of sparrows included 500 **White-throated**, 100 **White-crowned** and 1200 **Juncos** at Miscou Oct. 10 (RD); 50 **Savannah**, 30 **Fox**, a few hundred **Swamp**, a few hundred **White-throated** and 25 **White-crowned** at Pt. Escuminac Oct. 15 (SIT); 75 **Savannah**, 250 **Fox**, 250 **Swamp**, 400 **White-throated**, 50 **White-crowned** at Miscou Oct. 16 (SIT, RD); 60 **Am. Tree** and 500-600 **Juncos** at Miscou Oct. 24 (RD). There were 75 **Lapland Longspurs** at Mal Bay South Oct. 17 and 29 and Nov. 6 (RD).

A **Chipping Sparrow** lingered at a Whistle Road feeder only till Dec. 13 (AS), but another survived into March at a feeder in Moncton (A&DW). An early winter **Savannah Sparrow** that didn't stay to be counted on the CBCs was at Harvey Dec. 10 (DSC).

and two of the pale **Ipswich** race seen on Mar. 7 (BED) may have wintered at Castalia Marsh; one of the Ipswich Sparrows was seen until late April. Two more Ipswich Sparrows stopped at Machias Seal I. on May 9, and fall migrants were at Castalia Marsh Oct. 5 (DSC) and 23 (3-BED). A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at Bancroft Pt. Mar. 3-7 may also have wintered locally; Brian Dalzell believes it was of the inland "Nelson's" race that breeds in the Prairie Provinces. Two winter **Fox Sparrows** that did not show up in the CBC reports were at Alma Dec. 5 (DR) and Mary's Pt. Jan. 29-31 (DSC & EMM). One came daily all winter to a feeder at Lamberts Cove, Deer I. (AUC). **Swamp Sparrows** increased at Brian Dalzell's feeder at Bancroft Pt. as winter lengthened and natural foods declined in abundance: the original one became 2 on Jan. 30, 3 on Feb. 24, and 5 on Mar. 14. A Swamp Sparrow was also seen in Sussex during February and early March (NP+). A flurry of **Lapland Longspur** reports in early March at Corn Hill (Jim Brown), Moncton (Steve & Imelda Wilmut), Barachois (NP), Fredericton (382-DUCK) and Harvey (SIT) suggests that northward migration was underway then.

A **Western Meadowlark** wintered at Gagetown from Dec. 11 until at least Mar. 18. First recognized Dec. 27 by Enid Inch when it uttered the characteristic "chuck" call-note of a Western, this bird was coming to seeds she was scattering in her driveway. During the late winter the bird was sometimes seen at a farm across the river at Lower Jemseg. It was studied closely by several observers and photographed. Between October and early April one should no longer assume that a meadowlark here is an Eastern. With this one at Gagetown, a bird giving the Western call on the Shepody Marsh Jan. 7, 1989, the one that wintered at Fredericton January-March 1992 and two specimens at the New Brunswick Museum that have been re-identified as Westerns, we are now sure of more Western Meadowlarks than Easterns in New Brunswick during the winter months.

Several **Orchard Orioles** overshot their migration destinations and arrived in New Brunswick. A first year male appeared at Westfield May 14 and stayed a couple of weeks (MS & JS+). At Grand Manan they were seen at Bancroft Pt. May 15, Eel Brook May 18 (3 in one tree—SIT), Swallowtail Road May 21 (JE), and North Head May 23 (JGW). Two **Northern Orioles** at a Sussex feeder in early December (GS) disappeared before the CBC. Another was feeding on apples at Harvey Dec. 4 (Krista Stewart). An immature male "**Bullock's Oriole**" was at a Saint John West feeder May 17 (CLJ), and a similar one 3.5 km away in north end Saint John the next day (DFS), an immature at Rosevale near Prosser Brook Nov. 12-14 (Ajo & Elizabeth Wissink) and one for a few days until Nov. 18 at Moncton (A&DW). Relatively few **Rusty Blackbirds** were found by the CBCs, but two of them successfully wintered at feeders at Seal Cove (P&CR) and Harvey (RJW). There was also one at Grande-Digue Feb. 14 (SIT) and 2 at Barachois in early December (NP). A **Common Grackle** at Tide Head Mar. 6 & 15 may have overwintered; no more were seen there till Apr. 8.

Don't look in your North American field guides for this one; *Molothrus bonariensis* is too recent an arrival. On August 5 Gérard and Denise Benoit were puzzled by a blackbird at their Lamèque feeder that resembled a male Brewer's Blackbird but had a dark eye. No one else was around to study it, so Gérard took three good photographs, from which it has been identified as a male **Shiny Cowbird**, a South American bird that has recently spread through the West Indies into the southeastern United States. The male is a small, slim black cowbird with violet and bluish iridescence and a slimmer beak. Females and immatures resemble Brown-headed Cowbird but are smaller and slimmer. There is considerable concern about what effect this bird, which lays its eggs in other species' nests, will have on songbird populations in North America.

A good movement of **Pine Grosbeaks** began with one at St. Andrews Oct. 19 (TD) and 2 at Miscou I. Oct. 24 (SIT). From then through November small groups were widely reported and there were 75 at Hardings Pt. Nov. 16 (AG). **Purple Finches** were prominent during October; a flock of 100+ at Whistle Road (AS) is the most ever reported on Grand Manan (BED). Away from their main urban locations, **House Finches** were at Seal Cove Dec. 7 (P&CR), Caraquet Dec. 23 (Victorin Godin) and Apr. 6 (BL), Springfield Mar. 29 (JK), Tracadie Apr. 12 (GSP), Bancroft Pt. Apr. 22-24 and Oct. 22-23, Tatons Corner, GM Aug. 22 (Bob Machover), The Bishop, GM, Sep. 18 (DG), Alma by Oct. 13 (MNC Newsletter), and Pettes Cove Oct. 23 (BED). Very few **Red Crossbills** were reported in most areas, but there were 25 at Fredericton Apr. 19 (BJS) and a movement through Grand Manan in June, when 60 were seen at Whistle Road June 15 (AS) and 32 at North Head June 22 (BED). **White-winged Crossbills**, which had been scarce on the CBCs were more numerous in late winter, when flocks of 30-70 were reported along the Bay of Fundy. The meagre 1992-93 flight (none seen in most areas) of **Common Redpolls** concluded with the late observation of 8 at Jack Tars Cove May 1 (DB). A big fall movement began with observations at Miscou I. Sep. 25 or 26 (GB), Tide Head Oct. 14, Mary's Pt. Oct. 15, and Grand Manan in late October (BED). There were 500 at Miscou Oct. 24 (SIT). A **Hoary Redpoll** with Commons at Mary's Pt. Nov. 16 was early compared to past records, but this may be because few autumn redpolls are seen closely enough to allow distinguishing a Hoary.

A **European Goldfinch** discovered Dec. 6 in Sussex (JC & Anne Candy, PT; GS) visited various feeders there until late in January. One spent Jan. 27 onwards at a S. Granville, P.E.I. feeder (Am. Birds). One at Baie Ste. Anne Mar. 28 (Louis Sibley) was followed by an appearance at Rexton Apr. 17 (HT), and Léger Brook near Cap-Pelé Apr. 20+ (Mr. & Mrs. M. Patten). It is impossible to know how many individuals were responsible for these records. It might even have been only one. This species had been reported twice previously in New Brunswick, both times in May. Since the Long I., N.Y., population disappeared in the late 1950s, North American reports

are always suspected of being escapees, because they have been a popular cage bird. The flourishing population on Bermuda deserves consideration as a possible source for some records.

A selection of spring arrivals: **American Bittern** Apr. 10 Lamèque (Émile Ferron); **Wood Duck** Mar. 16 Nauwigewauk (JGW); **N. Pintail** Mar. 27 Inkerman (BL & RL) and about the same time Val-Comeau and Saint John (382-DUCK); **Blue-winged Teal** Mar. 27 Castalia Marsh (AS), Mar. 28 Harvey (Lars & Michelle Larsen), Mar. 30 Jemseg (PAP); **Am. Wigeon** Mar. 28 Westfield (AG) and Harvey (Larsen); **Ring-necked Duck** Mar. 27 Westfield (Mitzi Withers), Mar. 28 Fundy NP (AB, DJC); **Greater Scaup** Apr. 1 Val-Comeau (MD), earlier in southern N.B.; **Lesser Scaup** Apr. 7 Val-Comeau (HC); Apr. 10 Petite-Lamèque (JG); **N. Harrier** Mar. 25 Lamèque (JG); **Bronze-winged Hawk** Apr. 12 Anagance (BED); **Am. Kestrel** Mar. 28 Bancroft Pt. & Ragged Pt., GM (BED); **Merlin** Apr. 15 Miscou I. (SG), Apr. 16 Bancroft Pt.; **Peregrine Falcon** Mar. 20 Cape Enrage (AB, DJC), Mar. 22 Saint John (pair—JGW); **Black-bellied Plover** Apr. 17 Castalia Marsh (BED); **Piping Plover** Apr. 27 Baie-du-Petit-Pokemouche (RD); **Killdeer** Mar. 27 Castalia Marsh (BED) and Inkerman (AR), Mar. 28 Oakland, Hardings Pt. (AG) and Fundy NP (AB & DJC), and about the same time Saint John, Jemseg and Lower Prince William (382-DUCK); **Greater Yellowlegs** Apr. 21 Inkerman (RL), Apr. 24 Shemogue (SIT), Apr. 25 Castalia Marsh (BED); **Solitary Sandpiper** May 16 Portobello Creek near Sheffield (BJS) and Caraquet (GL); **Spotted Sandpiper** May 6 Bancroft Pt. Marsh, May 8 Caraquet (MD); **Least Sandpiper** May 9 Castalia Marsh (BED), May 11 Cape Tormentine (RD); **Common Snipe** on or before Mar. 19 [carried by the storm?] Saint John (382-DUCK); Apr. 17 Castalia Marsh (BED), Apr. 19 Alderwood near Tracadie (RD); **Am. Woodcock** Mar. 28 Grand Harbour (RCO & Carolyn Cook) and Mary's Pt. (DJC, AB), Mar. 29 Fredericton (Ron Wilson); **Bonaparte's Gull** Apr. 24 between Cap Brûlé and Shemogue (SIT); **Ring-billed Gull** Mar. 21 Tracadie (RD); **Common Tern** May 12 Gagetown (SIT); **Arctic Tern** May 13 Machias Seal I. (PW); **Common Nighthawk** May 17 Bancroft Pt., May 31 Petite-Lamèque (JoG); **Chimney Swift** May 6 North Head (DB); **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** May 8 Eel Lake (AS), May 10 Alma (DR) and Gagetown (fide EI), May 12 Tracadie (HC), May 15 Oakland; **Belted Kingfisher** Apr. 18 Pigeon Hill (Daniel Guignard), Apr. 19 Bayswater (F&MW); **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Apr. 4 Hammond River (JGW), Apr. 10 Petit-Paquetville (RR); **N. Flicker** Apr. 14 Machias Seal I., Apr. 15 Miscou I. (SG); **Olive-sided Flycatcher** May 19 Penobsquis (RD), May 23 on Grand Manan (SIT); **Alder Flycatcher** May 18 Grand Manan (SIT), May 24 Oakland; **Least Flycatcher** May 9 Oakland, May 15 Landry Office near Pokemouche (JuF), May 17 Castalia (BED), May 20 Tide Head; **E. Phoebe** Apr. 12 Petit-Paquetville (RR), Apr. 19 Jack Tars Cove (DB), Apr. 21 Fredericton (BJS); **Great Crested Flycatcher** May 16 Oakland, May 20 Tide Head; **Eastern Kingbird** May 9 Eel

Lake (GMNS), May 12 Queenstown (DSC & EMM), May 16 Oakland; **Horned Lark** Mar. 6 Grande-Anse (Rodrigue Landry); **Tree Swallow** Apr. 9 Bancroft Pt. and Deep Cove (Maude Hunter), Apr. 17-21 many locations; **Bank Swallow** May 2 Grand Manan (fide BED), May 8 Caraquet (MD); **Cliff Swallow** Apr. 18 North Head (LM), May 3 Rivière-à-la-Truite, near Tracadie (Jean-Yves Paulin); **Barn Swallow** Apr. 17 Grand Harbour (GH), Apr. 18 Bancroft Pt., Apr. 25 Fundy NP (DR), May 2 Oakland and Six Roads (RD, RR); **Winter Wren** Apr. 21 Petit-Paquetville (RR), Apr. 23 Dickson Falls, FNP (RJW & Gail Walker); **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** Apr. 20 Fundy NP (DSC), Apr. 22 Fredericton (BJS), Apr. 23 Tabusintac (RCh); **Swainson's Thrush** May 16 Caraquet (MD), May 19 Portobello Creek (12—BJS); **Hermit Thrush** Apr. 14 Machias Seal I., Apr. 23 Caraquet (MD); **Am. Robin** Mar. 7-10 singles along the Albert County coast (v.o.), Mar. 12 Mechanic Sett (10-12—Beulah Michelin), Mar. 27 Castalia (BED) and Mary's Pt., Mar. 28 Saint John (Paul Mortimer), Mar. 29 Westfield (JS) and Hardings Pt. (AG), Apr. 4 Tide Head and Fredericton (BJS), Apr. 8 Oakland; **Gray Catbird** Apr. 27 (early) Beaver Harbour (Zetta Eldridge), May 14 Oakland, May 18 Paquetville (RR); **N. Mockingbird** May 1 Covedell near Tabusintac (RD) May 10 Ingalls Head, GM (fide BED); **Am. Pipit** May 2 Mary's Pt., May 8 Castalia (BED) and Maisonnelle (MD); **Solitary Vireo** May 3 Petitcodiac (RD), May 5 Oakland; **Warbling Vireo** May 10 Eel Lake (Anne & Bud Lorenzen), May 14 Lower Jemseg (6—SIT); **Philadelphia Vireo** May 18 Caraquet (MD); **Tennessee Warbler** May 16 Caraquet (RD), Oakland and Portobello Creek (BJS); **Nashville Warbler** May 6 Petitcodiac (RD), May 10 Oakland, May 14 Paquetville (RR); **N. Parula** May 9 Petitcodiac (RD) and Fredericton area (BJS), May 11 Oakland and Val-Doucet (BSP); **Yellow Warbler** May 7 Bancroft Pt., May 9 Caraquet (BL), May 14 Oakland; **Chestnut-sided Warbler** May 17 Oakland, May 18 Caraquet (MD), May 19 Anagance (RD); **Magnolia Warbler** May 14 Oakland and Petitcodiac (RD), May 16 Caraquet (RD); **Cape May Warbler** May 5 Village Blanchard near Caraquet (MD), May 9 Eel Lake (GMNS); **Black-throated Blue Warbler** May 8 Petitcodiac (RD), by May 12 Moncton area (SH), May 14 Oakland, May 16 Caraquet (RD); **Yellow-rumped Warbler** Apr. 18 Waterside (BC), Apr. 19 Bancroft Pt., Apr. 22 Westfield (JS), May 1 Oakland, May 2 Caraquet (MD); **Black-throated Green Warbler** May 8 Oakland and Cape Enrage (SIT), May 9 Petitcodiac (RD), May 15 Paquetville (RR); **Blackburnian Warbler** May 14 Oakland, May 16 Paquetville (RR), May 17 Petitcodiac (RD); **Palm Warbler** Apr. 18 Machias Seal I. (50+) and Bancroft Pt., Apr. 23 Tabusintac (RCh); **Blackpoll Warbler** May 17 Caraquet (MD) and Mary's Pt., May 19 Petitcodiac (RD); **Black-and-White Warbler** May 3 Grande-Anse (RT), May 6 Petitcodiac (RD); **Am. Redstart** May 10 Anagance (RD), May 14 Oakland, May 16 Caraquet (RD); **Ovenbird** May 14 Oakland & Petitcodiac (RD), May 16 Caraquet (RD); **N. Waterthrush** May 8

Anagance (RD) and Village Blanchard (MD); **Mourning Warbler** May 26 Long Pond (DSC), May 27 Petitcodiac (RD); **Common Yellowthroat** Apr. 27 Seal Cove (P&CR), May 16 Caraquet (RD) and Portobello Creek (BJS); **Wilson's Warbler** May 14 Oakland, May 16 Caraquet (RD), May 17 Mary's Pt.; **Canada Warbler** May 16 Paquetville (RR), May 18 Whistle Road (SIT); **Chipping Sparrow** Apr. 19 Tracadie (GSP), Apr. 22 Alma (DR), Apr. 24 Lincoln (JE) and Mary's Pt., Apr. 25 Oakland; **Vesper Sparrow** Apr. 25 Six Roads (RD); **Savannah Sparrow** Apr. 3 Alma (DR), Apr. 20 Tabusintac (RCh); **Fox Sparrow** Mar. 28 Bancroft Pt., Mar. 29 Park Headquarters, FNP (AB, DJC), Apr. 8 Tabusintac (RCh); **Song Sparrow** Mar. 28 Val-Comeau (RD) and Mary's Pt., Mar. 29 Westfield (JS) and Hardings Pt. (AG), Apr. 9 Oakland and Fredericton (BJS); **Lincoln's Sparrow** May 7 Petitcodiac (RD) and Village Blanchard (BSP); **White-throated Sparrow** Apr. 12 Oakland, Apr. 21 Westfield (JS), Apr. 22 Lamberts Cove (AuC) and Fundy NP (AB); **White-crowned Sparrow** May 3 Grande-Anse (RT), May 5 Oakland, May 9 Machias Seal I.; **Dark-eyed Junco** Mar. 27 Oakland, Mar. 28 Bayswater (F&MW); **Bobolink** May 9 Mary's Pt., Penobscis (RD) and Shippagan (BSP), May 10 Bancroft Pt., May 15 Oakland; **Red-winged Blackbird** Mar. 17 Alma (DR), Mar. 18 Gagetown (382-DUCK), Mar. 21 Pigeon Hill (JG & JoG), Mar. 29 Oakland; **Common Grackle** Mar. 24 Harvey (DSC), Mar. 28 Park Headquarters, FNP (Meredith Reeves), Mar. 29 Westfield (JS, AG) and Oakland; **Brown-headed Cowbird** Mar. 28 Mary's Pt.; **N. Oriole** May 1 Oakland, May 10 Fredericton (BJS), May 17 Lamèque (HC).

A selection of late dates: **Spotted Sandpiper** Oct. 17 Cape Enrage (3-DSC & EMM); **Common Snipe** Nov. 6 Castalia Marsh (BED); **Am. Woodcock** Nov. 8 Millers Pond, GM (RCO); **Common Tern** Nov. 5 Cape Jourmain (SIT, JE); **Common Nighthawk** Sep. 23 Bancroft Pt.; **Chimney Swift** Sep. 18 Long Eddy Pt. (JE); **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Oct. 30 Seal Cove (P&CR); **Eastern Wood-Pewee** Oct. 9 Eel Lake (AS); **Tree Swallow** Nov. 19 Bancroft Pt.; **Cliff Swallow** Oct. 8 Mary's Pt., Oct. 14 Tide Head; **Barn Swallow** Oct. 15 Pt. Escuminac (SIT), Nov. 14 Alma (RJW); **Gray Catbird** Nov. 11 North Head (BED); **Am. Pipit** Nov. 5 Cape Jourmain (SIT); **Philadelphia Vireo** Oct. 23 Miscou LH (RD); **Red-eyed Vireo** Oct. 16 Miscou LH (SIT), Oct. 19 Park Headquarters, FNP (SIT); **Nashville Warbler** Oct. 11 Cape Jourmain (SIT); **Yellow Warbler** Oct. 5 The Whistle (DSC); **Black-throated Blue Warbler** Sep. 16 Swallowtail Road (BED); **Black-throated Green Warbler** Oct. 13 Bancroft Pt., Oct. 16 Wilson Pt. (SIT); **Mourning Warbler** Oct. 15 Pt. Escuminac (RD, SIT); **Wilson's Warbler** Oct. 25 Mary's Pt.; **Vesper Sparrow** Oct. 25 Rosevale (DSC); **Savannah Sparrow** Nov. 11 Shepody Marsh (HAD).

A selection of late dates for winter birds: **Snowy Owl** Mar. 25 Moncton (Louis LaPere); Mar. 27 Pt. à l'Anse (RD); **Northern Shrike** Apr. 25 Inkerman (RD); **Am. Tree Sparrow** Apr. 23 Bancroft Pt., Apr. 24 Lincoln (JE).

A selection of fall arrivals: **Snowy Owl** Oct. 25 Val-Comeau (RD); **Am. Pipit** Sep. 12 Cap-des-Corbières (SIT), Sep. 16 Grand Manan (BED); **Northern Shrike** Oct. 10 Miscou LH (RD); **Am. Tree Sparrow** Oct. 10 Cocagne area (MNC); **White-crowned Sparrow** Sep. 25 Miscou I. (GB) and Eel Lake Road (RD+); **Lapland Longspur** Sep. 23 Saints Rest Marsh (SIT); **Snow Bunting** Sep. 30 Niquet (RD), Oct. 20 Bancroft Pt., Oct. 28 Hardings Pt. (AG).

Amphibians and others

Wood Frogs began calling Apr. 18 at Grand Harbour (RCO) and Bancroft Pt., Apr. 20 at Mary's Pt. (DSC), and Apr. 21 at Fredericton (BJS). **Spring Peepers**, which aren't found at Grand Manan, were singing at Fredericton Apr. 21 and Mary's Pt. Apr. 28. **Am. Toads** were trilling at Bancroft Pt. May 2. **Mink Frogs** were heard first at Tide Head May 3.

The spawning run of **Gaspereau** was 3 weeks late on the Miramichi River (see A. Luckett). The spawning run of **Rainbow Smelt** lasted very late in Restigouche County, where 25 were captured June 20 at a DNR counting fence on Christopher Brook (GAM). About a dozen of the giant **Ocean Seafile** were seen at the south end of the Grand Manan Banks Aug. 14 (WT). Five **Basking Sharks** were seen during the same crossing of the Shallow and as many as 10 (Sep. 8) during Ocean Search cruises to the Grand Manan Basin (LM). A **Thresher Shark** was seen there Sep. 7 (LM) and one tangled in a line and drowned there in late November (Don Brown).

Thanks to the Grand Manan Nature Society's **Razorbill** we have some reports of spring wildflowers. The following were noted at various places in the archipelago: **Coltsfoot** Apr. 21 (BED), **Sanicula** Apr. 30 (RM), **Wild Strawberry** Apr. 30 (EM), **N. Blue Violet** May 7 (EM), **white violets** and **Fly Honeyuckle** May 9 (GAMNS), **Shadblow** May 19, **Bunchberry** May 23, **Wild Sarsaparilla** May 24, **Goldthread** and **Rhodora** May 29, and **Lupine** June 4 (all by BED). Elsewhere, early blooms of **Coltsfoot** were noted along the Dalhousie bypass Apr. 27 (GAM) and white violets at Mary's Pt. May 14.

Large patches of the rare **Shoreweed Littorella americana** were found on the shore of Trout Lake near Juniper during an FNC field trip Sep. 15.

Abbreviations of Places:

FNP	Fundy NP	MI	Miramichi Island
GM	Grand Manan	NP	National Park
LH	Lighthouse	PP	Provincial Park
LI	Lamèque Island	WT	Waterfowl Park



Other Abbreviations:

382-DUCK	N.B. Bird Info Line	DJC	David Clark	JC	John Candy	RB	Russell Betts
+	and other observers (or)	DLM	David Myles	JE	Jim Edsall	RBA	Rare Bird Alert
+	and days following	DR	Doreen Rossiter	JF	Jackie Foote	RCh	Roland Chiasson
A&DC	Ansel & David Campbell	DS	Dwayne Sabine	JG	Jacques Guignard	RCO	Ricky Cook
A&DW	Alma & Don White	DSC	David Christie	JGW	Jim Wilson	RD	Robert Doiron
AB	Anne Bardou	DSP	Donald St-Pierre	JoG	Jocelyne Guignard	RE	Rick Elliott
AG	Allen Gorham	EB	Ethel Bosence	JK	John Kearney	RG	Ron Gauthier
AJC	Alain Clavette	EI	Enid Inch	JS	Jocelyn Steeves	RJW	Rob Walker
AR	André Robichaud	EM	Elaine Maker	JuF	Julien Ferron	RL	Rosita Lanteigne
AS	Andrew Sharkey	EMM	Mary Majka	LM	Laurie Murison	RM	Rodger Maker
AuC	Audrey Cline	F&MW	Frank & Mitzi Withers	MA	Margery Acheson	RMCM	Reid McManus
BC	Barbara Curlew	FNC	Fredericton Nature Club	MC	Moir Campbell	RPC	Bob Cotsworth
BED	Brian Dalzell	GAM	Alan Madden	MD	Marcel David	RR	Roland Robichaud
BJS	Bev Schneider	GB	Gérard Benoit	MNC	Moncton Naturalists' Club	RS	Ron Steeves
BL	Benoit Lanteigne	GH	Gloria Hobbs	MS	Michael Steeves	RT	Robert Thériault
BSP	Bruno St-Pierre	GL	Gaby LeBreton	MxS	Max Cater	SG	Stéphane Guignard
CA	Chris Adam	GMNS	Grand Manan Nature Society	NBFN	N.B. Federation of Naturalists	SH	Shirley Hunt
CB	Colin Bradshaw	GS	Gail Scovil	NP	Nelson Poirier	SIT	Stu Tingley
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	GSP	Gertrude St-Pierre	P&CR	Peter & Carmen Roberts	SJNC	Saint John Naturalists' Club
CLJ	Cecil Johnston	GT	Georgette Thibodeau	PAP	Peter Pearce	TD	Tracey Dean
CNPA	Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule Acadienne	GW	Gene Wilhelm	PE	Pat Emond	v.o.	various observers
DB	Don Baldwin	HAD	Halton Dalzell	PT	Pauline Thibodeau	WT	Bill Townsend
DG	Don Gibson	HC	Hilaire Chiasson	PW	Peter Wilcox	YP	Yolande Paulin
		HT	Hugh Thompson				

A Bunch of Grass

After the rain the ground is soft and fragrant. I am planting my garden. The distant foghorn is calling and the frogs in the pond are having a rehearsal. From the deep woods behind me a hermit thrush competes with the white-throats. It's a calm and foggy spring morning, which promises a busy, happy day.

I bend down to pull yet another weed and suddenly—I'm holding a treasure so precious that I have to sit down to examine it closely.

It is just a bunch of grass with roots that a moment ago ran deep into the ground. They still are clasping soil as if embracing the warm earth. The grass blades have tiny hairs on their edges and delicate deep green veins. The middle shoots bear bristly buds of future seed-bearing flowers.

I know I am holding all that matters in this world. The thrush is still calling from the woods, but my thoughts have lifted into the sky. Where else in this vast, unending universe could I find a bunch of grass like this?

M.M.

Christmas Bird Count

1992-93

David Christie

The total number of birds on 46 counts, including the first ever conducted at tiny Gannet Rock, was 118,434, down from the last two years but above the previous three years, when effort was somewhat less. Although most areas had fewer species than usual, the counts in Charlotte County and on the Acadian Peninsula had greater variety than normal, and the total number of species reported, 122, was two more than last year and just below the record 124 in 1990-91. Ten additional species were found during count period.

The origin of two of these species, **Monk Parakeet** and **European Goldfinch**, both found at Sussex, can be debated. Either one may have strayed here from a distant area or have escaped from captivity. A **Bobwhite** reported at Mactaquac seems too clearly an escape and is omitted from the species total above.

For the first time since 1984 the **Red-throated Loon** total (21) exceeded 10 birds. The salmon farming industry is apparently having a positive effect on the wintering population of **Double-crested Cormorants** and **Bald Eagles** in Charlotte County. There was also a **Double-crested Cormorant** at Mactaquac and a count period report at Caraquet.

The Acadian Peninsula had most of the **Oldsquaws**; there were below average numbers of them in the Bay of Fundy. The Cape Tormentine count gave a **Black Scoter** total larger than for the two other scoters, both of which were scarce this winter.

Three **Gyrfalcons** were more than our counts have previously had. The usual **Peregrine Falcon** was at Saint John. **Snowy Owl** numbers were below average in the south, average in the north.

Ring-necked Pheasant and **Ruffed Grouse** were both in above average numbers. The grouse seems near the top of its cycle in southern N.B. **Mourning Dove** increased again this year in eastern and northern areas.

A surprising number of **Belted Kingfishers** included reports from six areas, all in extreme southern N.B. A few **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** remained from the big fall flight: 2 at Eastport-Campobello, one at Salisbury and during count period at Grand Manan, Saint John and Sussex.

Black-capped Chickadees were in well above average numbers, the highest number per party-hour in the 33 years I've analyzed.

There were lots of **Bohemian Waxwings** in the north (88% of the total), where some areas reported good crops of mountain-ash fruits, but they were below average in the south. **Cedar Waxwing** was found in above average numbers, 75% of them in the north.

There were more **Yellow-rumped Warblers** than usual, 162 at Cape Tormentine and 16 at Shediac and there were count period birds in 2 additional areas. **Pine Warbler** was found at Moncton and during count period in 3 other areas. Both the **Palm Warbler** and the **Yellow-breasted Chat** on the Eastport-Campobello count were found in the Maine portion of the circle.

There was a decided drop in **Northern Cardinals** following two high years. A count period **Lark Sparrow** at Lamèque had appeared at a feeder in November.

A **Western Meadowlark** was found at Jemseg and meadowlarks not identified to species were seen during count period at Sussex and Riverside-Albert.

With the exception of **House Finches** (above average numbers, including a record 83 at Saint John and a count period report in the northeast at Caraquet) and **American Goldfinches** (above average, yet down from the last two winters), it was a low year for finches. This was particularly true of **Pine Grosbeak** (89% of which were in the north), **White-winged Crossbill**, **Common Redpoll**, and **Pine Siskin**.

Results of the inland counts and some northern coastal areas are presented in the tables on pages 40-41, the remainder on pages 42-44. Abbreviations and footnotes to the tables appear on page 44.

Salisbury (Sal) 2nd year

Dec. 28, 08:30-16:00. Heavy wet snow ending at 1100, cloudy with short sunny breaks the remainder of the day; temp. -17° to -1°C; wind SE, 0-11 km/h. Snow cover 15-20 cm; open stretches on rivers.

Chris Antle, Brian Coates, Connie Colpitts (compiler), Pearl Colpitts, Yves Cormier, Jackie & Lloyd Decoste, Pat Fox, Mary Lee Hawthorne, Shirley Hunt, Carol Lowerison, Rose-Alma Mallet, Heather Sillicker, Linda & Ron Steeves, John Tanner, Alma & Don White.

Sussex (Ssx) 20th year

Dec. 19, 08:00-16:00. Clear to partly sunny, clouding over; temp. -8° to -1°C; wind NW, light. Ground frozen, bare with snow patches; rivers open, brooks partly iced over, ponds with open spots.

Tom Anderson, Wilma & John Arisz, Florence Arnold, Gert Bishop, Orland Brown (asst.), Thelma Brown, Darren Byers, Fern & Bud Buchanan, Anne Candy, John Candy (compiler), Barb Chestnut, Alton & Bertha Chown, Don & Sharon Delong, Gordon & Pearl DeLong, Keith Green (asst.), Judy Hutton, Ross Keirstead, the Landry family, Pauline MacAfee, Ron & Marion MacAfee, Gerald & Helen MacKenzie, Beth McFarlane, Ian & Shirley McLean, Peggy McKenna, Barry McPhee, Anne Moffett, Dorothy McVey, Hudson Murphy, Dorothy Nelson, Doug Northrup, Helen Patterson, Marilyn Powell, Peter & Beth Powning, Jim Proctor, Elizabeth O'Donnell, Lois & Gunnar Raven, Hubert & Evelyn Robinson, Mireille Rogers, Carol Smith,

1992-93 CBC	Sal	Sex	Hin	Qtn	C-N	Jem	Min	Fin	Mae	Sky	Wsk	Hrt	Flo	G-J	P-A	PR	Nic	Ern	Ked	Mrc	SEU	Rat	Dal	Bst	Paq	Mir
Gold-cr Kinglet	9	10	3		10	5		28	8	2			1									2			6	
Ruby-cr Kinglet	1							1																		
American Robin	*	*	2		1			*	27	*		1	1		3	1							*	*	*	
N Mockingbird	2	1						*							*								1	1		
Bohem Waxwing	16				1-40		1															56	120	200		
Cedar Waxwing	13														18											
Northern Shrike	1	*			1	*			*				*	1								*				
Eur Starling	547	373	145	2	339	102	40	622	297	59	529	353	87	51	81	56	10	115	13			437	65	37		
Yel-rump Warbler	1						1															1	2			
Pine Warbler	*																					*				
N Cardinal							1	*																		
Rufous-s Towhee																										
A. Tree Sparrow	76	110	15	48	127	197	20	58	79	33	71	176	88	16	1	7	6					4		22		
Chipping Sparrow	5																									
Song Sparrow	1	5	1				2	1				1					*					*				
Wh-thr Sparrow	1	5				1	4					1	1	1		2	*		1			3	1	1		
Wh-crn Sparrow	1						*					1														
Dk-eyed Junco	47	185	53	8	18	25	9	50	23	24	44	27	*	3	3	3	6	7				30	10	26		
Lapland Longspur	*																									
Snow Bunting	56	88	7	62	238	238	14	46	322	9	50	236	237	400		20	62	*			3	25	25	100		
Red-w Blackbird																								*		
meadowlark sp.	*																									
W Meadowlark	*					1																				
Rusty Blackbird																										
Common Grackle	6		13	1	1	4	1	4	5		1	2	1	1		7	2						4			
Brn-hd Cowbird						9	*	3	14		4	4	24	2	1	30	123	10	22	9		59	*	*		
Pine Grosbeak	6																									
Purple Finch	8			1		1	1	26	1	3	6	13	5	4	6							20				
House Finch	6		*				2																			
Wh-w Crossbill													20			15								2		
Common Redpoll	5			22	1	18	1	1	1		8			4	43			2								
Pine Siskin	31						12	12	4	63	50		*	4	20	7	6	12	*		25	11				
Amur Goldfinch	329	299	162	47	251	139	61	204	139	144	97	193	172	29	6	25	10	294	50	8		65	27	74	119	
Eur Goldfinch	1				*																					
Evening Grosbk	468	421	74	22	576	96	48	533	698	384	566	745	138	228	32	163	93	141	15		103	1	42	58	244	
House Sparrow	82	185	27	23	77		67	78	44	125	257	18	43			34		25	30		35	100	19	26	44	
Unidentified			2 h																							
TOTAL BIRDS	2381	4193	1330	447	2579	1496	361	5170	3172	1512	2620	3341	1829	1149	832	747	426	1925	513	75	84	2220	1016	425	731	1984
TOTAL SPECIES	32	45	25	17	26	31	19	41	40	25	28	36	29	27	26	28	16	30	19	13	12	31	19	23	22	30
Add. spp. in per.	4	12	9	1	1	1	1	7	4	3	3	4	6	2	3	2	3	5	2	4	2	4	2	12	4	1
Hrs on foot	5.3	362	2.5	8	2	10	7	37	7	8.5	4	5	10	k	2	2	4	4	9	15	15	17	29.5	1	10	6
Hrs by car	39.8	24+	27	12	14.5	24	7	68	27	33.5	9	7.5	5	7	6	8.5	9	34	12	1	2	15.5	7	22.5	17	
Hrs otherwise							1 b																			
TOTAL HOURS	45	60+	29.5	20	16.5	34	20	106	34	42	13	12.5	15	9	8	12.5	13	43	27	16	19	45	8	10	28.5	29
Km on foot	17	7	2	4	2	20	7	74	14	18	11	15	18	k	6	3	4	8	16	17	32	15	35	7	10	20.5
Km by car	661	7	482	147	254	390	156	696	485	365	205	187	91	75	110	61	95	417	101	10	35	185	7	294.2	321	
Km otherwise							6 b																			
TOTAL KM	678	7	489	149	258	410	163	776	499	383	216	202	109	81	113	65	103	433	118	42	50	220	7	10	314.7	339
No. of observers	16	20	14	6	9	11	5	54	11	11	12	12	15	5	2	6	4	18	7	3	6	17	3	7	14	8
No. of parties	7	12	5	3	4	7	3	31	5	5	3	10	9	3	4	2	2	8	5	2	4	11	1	5	4	5
Leader reports	2	28	20	5	18		2	45	20	16	34	65	10	4	3	4	6	4	4	6	4	13	1	15	2	25

N. B. Naturalist / Le Naturaliste du N.-B.

December / décembre 1993

1992-93 CBC	GM	MSI	GR	GM	E.C.	SA	BH	Lep	SJ	INP	R-A	Hil	Mtn	Sck	CT	Skl	KNP	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	NB Tot
Red-tail Loon	1	2	1	9	5	3	3	18	22	3	1				2		*					21 +
Common Loon					16	13	12	18	22	3					2							90 +
Horned Grebe					10	16	20	8	13	2												69 +
Red-neck Grebe					80	10	18	17	102													227 +
Northern Gannet	4	*	*																			4
Northern Gannet	10	*	*		150	113	5	85											*			363 +
Grt Cormorant																						14
D-cr Cormorant																						3 +
Great Bl Heron																						2
Snow Goose #																						40 -
Brant					40	17	1	45			*				1		*					65 -
Canada Goose																						*
Wood Duck					580	736	125	125	18	299	3	138	43	3		4	2	1	6			2498 +
Am Black Duck					35	12	2	5		20		3	229	3								391 +
Mallard																						1
Northern Pintail																						76 -
Ring-neck Duck																						3504 +
Greater Scaup					4	2	30		2						38		1	49	16	178		2
Common Eider					225	82	20	6	79	345					9							4
King Eider					65	288	137	34	49	70												2923 -
Harlequin Duck	3				200	55	125	100	30	1					255	16	29	372	143	1511	4	60 +
Oldsquaw #	32	50													55		*					17 -
Black Scoter					5	3	7	6	*						8			*				77 -
Surf Scoter					33										4							1708 +
Wh-wing Scoter					225	82	20	6	79	345					214	46	18	2	12	11		25 +
Com Goldeneye					65	288	137	34	49	70												643 +
Barr Goldeneye																						15 +
Bufflehead					9																	361 -
Hood Merganser					25	8	3	37														734 +
Com Merganser	*	5			275	56	17	12	2	69					166	65	6	6	10	15		*
Red-br Merganser #					10	48		53	*	*								1				139 +
Osprey					1	1		3		2												7 +
Bald Eagle #					1	1																8 -
Northin Harrier					1	1				*		1										7 -
Sharp-sh Hawk																						17 +
N Goshawk					2	2				1	1	1										25 -
Red-tailed Hawk					2	2									7	4						*
Rough-leg Hawk																						
Golden Eagle																						
Am Kestrel																						1
Martin																						1
Peregrine Falcon																						3
Gyrfalcon					17	2		2														279 +
Rank Pheasant					*	12	2	9		6												3
Spruce Grouse																						216 +
Ruffed Grouse																						1
N Bobwhite #																						*
Sanderling																						237 -
Purple Sandpiper				75	25		120	8	9													1
Common Snipe				*																		6 +
Com Blk-hd Gull #																						326 +
Bonaparte's Gull																						197 +
Ring-billed Gull				2			99	6	3	30	8		33		9	1						

1992-93 CBC	GM	GR	MSI	GR	GM	E-C	SA	BH	Lep	SJ	PNP	R-A	Hil	Mtn	Seck	CJ	Stid	KNP	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	NB Tot
A Tree Sparrow	30					17	20				18	59	50	72	130	30	25	10	5	5	1	9	1815 ±
Chipping Sparrow																							5
Field Sparrow																							1
Lark Sparrow																							2
Fox Sparrow																							171 ±
Song Sparrow #																							6
Swamp Sparrow																							136 ±
Wh-thr Sparrow																							2
Wh-crn Sparrow																							1590 ±
DK-eyed Junco																							61
Lapland Longspur																							6493 ±
Snow Bunting																							9
Red-w Blackbird																							1
meadowlark sp.																							3
W Meadowlark																							77 ±
Rusty Blackbird																							31
Common Grackle																							3
Bm-hd Cowbird																							322 ±
Northern Oriole																							115 ±
Pine Grosbeak																							113 ±
Purple Finch																							7
House Finch #																							38 ±
Red Crossbill																							234 ±
Wh-w Crossbill																							314 ±
Common Redpoll																							4688 ±
Pine Siskin																							6903 ±
Amer Goldfinch																							2265 ±
Ear Goldfinch #																							133
Evening Grosbk																							118434
House Sparrow																							123
Unidentified	24 a	8324	286	228	250	14816	4232	4352	2292	7714	829	1788	1360	9051	5694	3174	2259	1175	1708	1938	2898	1488	131594
TOTAL BIRDS	11	12	11	56	73	73	42	61	39	59	37	43	32	43	50	52	34	37	37	40	34	26	104
TOTAL SPECIES	2	9	17	2	4	9	3	6	1	5	1	5	1	10	4	4	6	7	10	4	4	4	9
Add. spp. in per.																							6494
Hrs on foot																							8384
Hrs by car																							12.4
Hrs otherwise																							1519.4
TOTAL HOURS																							10434
Km on foot																							120114
Km by car																							104.6
Km otherwise																							131594
TOTAL KM																							555
No. of parties																							281
Feeder reports																							460

Abbreviations and Footnotes to the Tables:

Species name in boldface: 1st time on N.B. counts
 Number in boldface: a local record high count (for areas counted four or more times)
 Number in italics: no details submitted or details not fully convincing
 * recorded during count period
 # highest number a provincial record high count

± undoubtedly an escape
 origin debatable
 recorded during count period (Dec. 15-Jan. 3)
 24 birds sp.
 by boat
 possibly Pine Grosbeak
 1 owl sp.

c 2 shorebird sp. (probably not Purple Sandpiper); 86 gulls spp. (local and/or Herring) also seen but not counted; 2 Chukar (escapes)
 f 7 alcid sp.
 g 1 woodpecker sp., 1 finch sp.
 h bluebird sp.
 i including 1 Oregon Junco
 k including 3 hours, 9 km aking

m 10 finch sp.
 n by snowmobile
 v by all-terrain vehicle
 ++ much above average numbers
 + above average numbers
 - near average numbers
 -- below average numbers
 --- much below average numbers

Tom Snowdon, Gail Scovil, Pauline Thibodeau, Jim & Nancy Watters, Ruth & Ralph Willis, Colby Yeomans, King's Manor residents.

Hammond River-Hampton (Htn) 20th year

Dec. 27, 07:00-16:30. Overcast; temp. -19° to -14°C ; wind NW, 30 km/h. Snow cover 15 cm; water frozen.

Ron Arseneault, Bob Barton, Annie Blacquié, Don Campbell, David Christie, Chad Coles, Allan Crimmins, Helen Darling, Henry Darling, John Darling, Phyllis Darling, Paul Francis, Ray Francis, Valerie Francis, Billie Harvey, Kathy Hazlett, Carol Henderson, Lowell Henderson, Peggy Kelbaugh, Jamie Kelly, Bruce Loughery, Mary Loughery, Mary Majka, Lance McAdam, David McCurdy, Iris McCurdy, Brenda McKnight, Harvey McLeod, Gerry Mills, Mary Mills, Doris Mowry, Angela Wilshaw, Peter Wilshaw, Brian Wilson, Charlie Wilson, Jean Wilson (sr.), Jean Wilson (jr.), Jim Wilson (compiler).

Queenstown (Qtn) 2nd year

Jan. 2, 09:30-15:00. Snow; temp. -17° to -13°C ; wind NE, 30-35 km/h. Ground snow-covered; water ?.

Joan Harmon, Nancy Harmon, Donna Lacy, Irene Lewis, Ruth McKinney, Kay Mullin, Karl Piper, Louise Piper, Manfred Piper, Marjorie Roberts (compiler).

Cambridge-Narrows (C-N) 23rd year

Dec. 31, 08:40-16:00. Cloudy, light snow in p.m.; temp. -5° to -1°C ; wind E, 10 km/h. Snow cover 15 cm; lakes frozen, brooks open.

Ford & Jean Alward, Emily & Fred Barton, Lawrence Carpenter, Marie Carpenter, Bruce Chase, Lorraine Cochrane, Thora Connell, Benjamin Fanjoy, Joan Fanjoy, Iris Ferris, Amy Gilks, Alan Hicks, Margaret Hicks, Enid Inch (compiler), Rhoda Inch, Faye Jeffrey, Debora Kantor, Gladys Kierstead, Elva McConnachie, Herb McGarrity, Mildred Moss, Audrey Perry, Nellie Perry, Joyce Robinson, Betty Ryder, Jacquelyn Straight, Joyce Thorne, Niven Thorne.

Jemseg (Jem) 30th year

Dec. 27, 08:00-15:00. Clear; temp. -22° to -15°C ; wind NW, 20 km/h. Snow cover 10 cm; water frozen.

Chris Adam, Rod Currie, Don Gibson, Jim Goltz, David Myles, Marven Palmer, Robert Palmer, Muriel Smith, Rudy Stoeck, Owen Washburn (compiler), Ron Wilson.

Minto (Min) 5th year

Dec. 27, 08:00-16:00. Clear; temp. -10° to -2°C ; wind W, 5 km/h. Snow cover 10 cm; water frozen.

Ann Boucher, Loris Boucher, Lionel Girouard (compiler), Lionel LaPointe, Vincent Poirier.

Fredericton (Ftn) 37th year

Dec. 20, 08:00-17:00. Overcast, steady heavy rain in a.m., rapid clearing after 13:00; temp. 5° to 7°C ; wind SW to W, 15-20 km/h. Ground mostly bare, with ice patches and snow patches; river mostly open, ice along some of the shore.

Bill Acheson, Margery Acheson, Randy Adams, Leigh Bateman, Todd Beach, Moira Campbell, Barbara Carr, Eric Carr, Mike Casey, Gerry Clayden, Stephen Clayden, Maureen Clements, Rod Currie, Andy Didyk, Lucy Dyer, Jim Edsall, Leif Eklund, Katie FitzRandolph, Don Gibson, Margaret Gibson, Lionel Girouard, Angélique Gloss, Jim Goltz, Harold Hatheway, Allison Hubert, Morris Lemire, Tony Little, Judy Loo-Dinkins, David Lounsbury, Kathy Lounsbury, Sara Lounsbury, Sue Martin, David Myles, Murray Neilson, Paul Nicholson, Jean Noble, Jim Noble, Lise O'Hara, Margie Olive, Peter Pearce (compiler), Mark Phinney,

Lionel Richard, Dwayne Sabine, Bev Schneider, Marc Schneider, Bill Seabrook, Jane Seabrook, Shirley Sloat, Karen Smith, Muriel Smith, Jane Tarn, Leon Vietinghoff, Owen Washburn, Pam Whitly.

Mactaquac (Mac) 13th year

Jan. 1, 07:00-22:00. Clear, wind only in p.m.; temp. -4° to -6°C ; wind W-NW, 0-20 km/h. Snow cover 15 cm; water ?.

Moira Campbell, Gerry Clayden, Susan Clayden, Jim Edsall, Don Gibson, Leona Keenan, David L. Myles (compiler), Muriel Smith, Chris Turnbull, Pat Turnbull.

Stanley (Sty) 18th year

Jan. 2, 08:15-16:15. Clear; temp. -18°C ; wind 40-60 km/h. Snow cover 30 cm; water mostly frozen with some open patches.

Gerald Bavis, Michael Boucher, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Cameron, Peter DeMarsh, Jean Dougherty, Thelma Fairley, Gisele Gaudet, Jim Goltz, Juanita Good, Sue Gratton, Harold Hatheway, Rita Hughes, Roger & Connie Ince, Ruth Munn, Irvine Munn, Margie Pacey, Dawn Parker, Uda Ross, Julie Singleton (compiler), Marg Sparkes, Sharon Suttie, Dick Wall, Netta Wagner, Robert Whitney.

Woodstock (Wsk) 29th year

Dec. 27, 08:00-17:00. Clear; temp. -15°C ; wind light. Snow cover 5 cm; water frozen.

Sheldon Anderson, Blair Avery, Leona Avery (compiler), Louis Beatty, Rev. and Mrs. T.S. Bellis, Anna Marie Belyea, Jane Bernard, Mrs. Earl Blackie, Mrs. Harold Bonnell, Earle Briggs, Mrs. Paul Clark, Gerald Demmings, Mrs. Vernon Dewitt, Gerald Donovan, Jane Drake, Mrs. Blair Findlater, Mrs. Nelson Flewelling, Mrs. Melvin Fogarty, Mrs. David Fry, Ruth B. Godwin, Verna Grant, Adam Hadley, Eric & Jane Hadley, Matthew Hadley, Harold Harley, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Homer, Lewis Irving, Mrs. Charles MacDonald, Allison McBride, Herb McBride, Mrs. Peter Morin, Walter Neal, Mrs. Donald Nixon, Alex Patterson, Alma Speer, Karen Speer, Marten Speer, Robert John & Donna Speer, David Stone, W. A. Stone, Gordon Wort, Mrs. James Yerra.

Hartland (Hrt) 21st year

Dec. 28, 08:00-17:00. Sun and cloud; temp. -12° to -3°C ; wind NW. Little snow cover; open water.

Bud Belyea, Ross Belyea, Pearl Boyd, Elsie Briggs, Florence Britton, Arthur Bryant, Hubert Bryant, Marta Bryant, Fred Burnett, Dell Buxton, Carrie Campbell, Winston & Marie Campbell, Anna Canam, Diane Clark (compiler), Pauline Clark, Winnifred Clark, Mary Craig, Everett & Shirley Culbertson, Marie Davis, Violet Davis, Doug DeMerchant, Cindy Derskin, Vera DeWitt, Walter Downey, Jack Giberson, Dorothy Ginson, Winfred Glass, Billy Goodine, Paul Green, Clark Greer, Mary Hallett, Gordon Hallett, Shirley Hauth, Gordon Havens, Eugene Hay, Clarence Hill, Neil Hill, Jane Hovey, Bob Johnston, Lorne Jones, Joe Kerr, Gary Kinney, Joyce Moore, Winnifred Lawrence, Lloyd Miller, Lori MacDougall, Harry McLean, Jim Morrison, Harold Nevers, Freda Orser, Vera Orser, Donna Peterson, Charles & Lori Prosser, Earl Pratt, Blanche Rideout, Elta Rideout, Nancy Schulze, Archie Shaw, Jeannie Shaw, Marsha Shaw, Marjorie Smith, Glenna Stephenson, Belle Swim, Joe Taylor, Lloyd Trecartin, Ted Wallace, Lillian Warne.

Florenceville (Flo) 12th year

Dec. 26, 08:00-17:30. Partly cloudy; temp. -10° to -12°C ; wind NW, 25 km/h. Light snow cover; Saint John River open.

Elmer & Helen Briggs, Ansel Campbell, David Campbell, Marie

Campbell, Harry Ebbett, Jeannette Greene, Sandra & Dwight Greene, Holland Kearney, Franklin Kinney, Helen Lovely (compiler), Lorna Maddox, Bob and Wanda McIsaac, Marjorie Papineau, Dean Prior.

Glassville-Juniper (G-J) 10th year

Jan. 3, 7:00-7:00. Clear; temp. -22° to -7°C; calm. Snow cover 15 cm; total freeze-up.

Flo Anderson, Mary Anderson, Jack Archibald, Kate Branscomb, Edith Buxton, Wendell Crabbe, Wanda DeLong, Jim Deveau, Ron Fournier, Carrie Gascoigne, Marge Martinson, Carolann McBrine, Claude McBrine, Agnes McIntosh, Brian McIntosh, Elsie McIntosh, Jesse McIntosh, Sally McIntosh, Dennis Pearson, Marion Pearson, Peter Puleston (compiler), Jessie Welsh.

Perth-Andover (P-A) 24th year

Dec. 30, 08:00-16:00. Overcast; temp. -7° to -4°C; calm. Snow cover 16 cm; only fast moving water open. Ellsworth DeMerchant, Judy McNally, Dan Taylor, Fred Tribe, Murray Waters (compiler).

Plaster Rock (PR) 21st year

Dec. 30, 09:00-16:30. Overcast with occasional flurries; temp. -15° to -12°C; wind W, light. Snow cover 30 cm; Some open water on Tobique and a few streams.

Daphne and John Anderson, Yvon Bealieu, Gwen Clyde, Doris Crawford, Irene Hollins, Bessie and Peter MacDonald, Donnie & Gerald MacDonald, Laverne Rahatch (compiler), Melissa Skinner.

Nictau-Riley Brook (Nlc) 20th year

Jan. 3, 09:00-17:00. Clear; temp. -26° to -14°C; wind NE, 1-3 km/h. Snow cover 30 cm; river frozen with large channel open in middle of river, still water frozen.

Juanita Black, Frank Hatheway, Roger Jenkins (compiler), Wesley Jenkins, Clyde McAskill, Diane McAskill, Bill Miller Jr., Joan Nevers, Joe Yacovino.

Edmundston (Etn) 61ème année

Le 19 déc., 08:00-14:30. Ciel variable sans précipitation; temp. -13° à -8°C; vent SE, 11 km/h. Terre gelée recouverte de neige; Eau gelée excepté la rivière.

Basil Arseneault, Jeannine Bossé, Daniel Bouchard, Pierrette Bouchard, Simon Bouchard, Denise Boucher, Rita Couturier, Donald Cyr, Gilberte Cyr, Gaetane Demers, Cynthia Doiron, Marie-Anne Gauvin, Florida Lavoie, Madeleine Lavoie (compiler), Rollande Martin, Bernadette Morin, Louis Morin, Anne-Marie Ouellette, Steve Ouellette, Francine St-Amand, Luc Soucy, Georgette Thibodeau (Club d'ornithologie de Madawaska).

Kedgwick (Ked) 31ème année

Le 19 déc., 08:05-16:00. Ciel couvert; temp. -16° à -12°C; vent NO, 7 km/h. 5 cm de neige; lacs gelés, rivières gelées 90%.

Hélène Cimon, René Cimon, Arthur Desjardins, Robert Doucet, Ginette Émond, Pat Émond (compilateur), René Gauvin, Anne Jones, Aline Lévesque, Georges Lévesque, Roland Simon.

Mount Carleton Provincial Park (MtC) 15th year

Dec. 31, 08:00-16:00. Cloudy, heavy snow (ca. 14 cm) starting at 10:30; temp. -11° to -5°C; wind N, 3-5 km/h. Snow cover 22 cm; running water open.

Roger Jenkins (compiler), Wesley Jenkins, Chris Kusch.

Southeast Upsalquitch (SEU) 11th year

Dec. 30, 09:30-16:00. Snowing, then clearing; temp. -5° to

-10°C; wind NW, 5-10 km/h. 30-45 cm of powder snow; river frozen over.

Ron Gauthier (compiler), Greg Guidry, Ann Lavoie, Edd LeBlanc, Eldon McLean, Rod O'Connell.

Restigouche (Rst) 3rd year

Dec. 20, 10:00-16:30. Snowing steadily (15 cm) to 15:00, then clearing; temp. -2° to -5°C; calm. Snow cover 17 cm at end of day; rivers, lakes frozen, Chaleur Bay open from Campbellton east.

Michel Arseneault, Wallace Best, Suzanne Bourdages, Ruth Bulmer, Robbie Bursey, Jean Casey, Emily Clavette, Paul Coburn, William Couture, Alexina Delaney, Adrienne Diotte, Corine and Donald Doucet, Margaret Gallant Doyle, Carol Dubé, Margaree Ferguson, Douglas Firlotte, Irene Gallant, Jean Gallant, Michel Goudreau, Greg Guidry, Curtis Heppell, Jim Katan, Flora Kelly, Ann Lavoie (compiler), Alvina Lévesque, Mike Lushington, Allan MacNeish, Alan Madden, Julie Madden, Isabel Mann, Jean Miles, Monty Murray, Réjean Savoie, Shirley Sharpe, Rev. & Mrs. Vernon Smith, Gladys Swan, Sandra Thompson, Denyse Zyvenuk.

Dalhousie (Dal) 8th year

Jan. 1, 7:00-7:00. Clearing after snow of previous night, occasional snow squalls; temp. -5° to -8°C; wind NNW, 20-25 km/h. Ground snow-covered, heavy snow on trees; rivers completely frozen, heavy ice along bay shore, 50% open off Inch Arran Light. Curtis Heppell, Ann Lavoie, Carla Lushington, Mike Lushington (compiler).

Bathurst (Bst) 11th year

Jan. 2, 08:00-16:00. Clear; temp. -15° to -20°C; wind NW, 30 km/h. Snow cover 60 cm; most water frozen.

Bill Allain, André Cormier, Fred Cormier, Bert Demmings, Florence Erskine, Yvonne & Bob Fisher, Bernice Gammon, Mary Gauthier (compiler), Ron Gauthier, Bernice Henry, Barb & Clifford Huard, Charlie McAleenan, Don McGinn, Eldon & Norah McLean, Gail McMillan, Jim Meagher, Rod O'Connell, Harry & Lorraine Power.

Paquetville (Paq) 51ème année

Le 20 déc., 08:00-16:00. Neige, pluie et ensoleillé; temp. 0° à 4°C; vent SE, 10 km/h. 6 cm de neige sur le terrain.

Hilaire Chiasson, Patrick Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Marcel David, Désange Doiron, Robert Doiron, Eric Ferron, Audard Godin (compilateur), Christian Haché, Rodrigue Landry, Conrad Lantaigne, Jean-Maurice Losier, Chantal & Roland Robichaud, Gertrude & Jeannette St-Pierre.

Chatham-Newcastle (Mir) 21st year

Dec. 28, 08:00-16:30. Thin overcast, a very few flakes of snow at times; temp. -18° to -10°C; wind E, moderate. Snow cover 15 cm; practically all water frozen.

Margaret Adams, Mrs. William Arnoldus, Jeep Bosma, Eileen Bransfield, Monica Charnley, Winston Churchill, Phyllis Crowe, Barbara Digdon, Anne Goodfellow, Vernon Goodfellow, Tom Greathouse, Linda Hartlen, Ida Holland, John Keating, Gene Kukulski, Robert Lisk, Margaret MacKinnon, Les Matchett, Madeleine Morrisette, Sandy Mullin, Jean Patenaude, Mary Rawlinson, Art Ronan, Walter Ross, Delta Steeves, Jack Ullock, Bruce Walker, Elayne Walker, Harry Walker (compiler), Winnie Walker, Wilfred Walsh, Parker Wheaton, Theresa Zurich.

Results of the following coastal counts are in the tables on pages 42-44.

Grand Manan Channel (GMC) 16th year

Dec. 23, 13:35-15:05. Partly cloudy, good visibility; temp. -2°C; calm. Sea calm, less than 1 m.

Peter Pearce (compiler).

Machias Seal Island (MSI) 3rd year

Dec. 28, 10:00-15:00. Cloudy, visibility 19 km; temp. 1° to 3°C; wind SW, 50 km/h. No snow cover; sea open.

Brian Dalzell (non-participating compiler), Reg Smith.

Gannet Rock (GR) 1st year

Dec. 28, 08:00-16:00. Overcast, light flurries in a.m.; temp. 1° to 3°C; wind SSE 10-60 km/h. No snow cover, sea open.

Brian Dalzell (non-participating compiler), Rodger Maker, Chris Mills.

Grand Manan (GM) 22nd year

Dec. 28, 07:45-17:00. Overcast with intermittent flurries in a.m., cloudy p.m.; temp. 0° to +2°C; wind SSW, 10-50 km/h. Ground frozen, no snow cover; fresh water partly open, salt water open.

Peter & Marilyn Cronk, Brian Dalzell (compiler), Halton Dalzell, Wendy Dathan, Gloria Hobbs, Audrey Ingalls, Elaine Maker, Carmen Roberts, Andrew Sharkey, Marjorie Small.

Eastport-Campobello (E-C) 26th year

Dec. 26, 07:25-16:45 EST. Clear; temp. -7° to -4°C; wind NW, 64 km/h. Snow cover 0-4 cm; still water frozen, moving water partly frozen.

Audrey Cline, Lenna Cline, Linda Bosien, Ralph Eldridge, Norman Famous, Ellen Johnson, Laurie Larson, Maurice Mills Jr. (compiler), Joyce Morrell, Julie Sipes, Anne Spinney, Fred Stocking, Marion Stocking, Bill Townsend.

St. Andrews (StA) 32nd year

Dec. 20, 08:30-16:30. Driving rain a.m., slowly got lighter, stopped by about 3 pm, beautiful calm evening; temp. 0° to 5°C; wind SSE, strong. Snow cover little or none; some fresh water open, sea open with no ice on shore.

Mindy Brown, Carlotta Cummings, Janette Dean, Tracey Dean (compiler), Brenda Fullerton, Peggy and David James, Mrs. Johnson, Dorothy and Ken Langmaid, Frances and Don McLeese, Ray and Dick Peterson, Lee & Lonny Ryall, Peggy and Dick Saunders, Millie and Bev Scott, Tom Smith, Jamie Steele, Dave Stevens, Gwyneth Wilbur, Marion and Dick Wilder, Walter Williamson.

Blacks Harbour (BH) 30th year

Dec. 31, 07:30-17:00. Overcast, light snow and rain mixed all day; temp. -2° to 3°C; wind SSW, 30 km/h. Ground frozen, no snow cover; still water frozen, moving water partly open.

Brian Dalzell (compiler), Halton Dalzell, Ralph Eldridge, Zetta Eldridge, Janet & Joe Hunt, James Hunter, June & John Small, Merita Wormell.

Lepreau (Lep) 29th year

Jan. 3, 09:30-16:30. Clear; temp. -17° to -12°C; wind NW, 6 km/h. Crusty snow cover 10 cm; nearly all fresh water frozen.

Todd Beach, Mark Phinney (compiler), Dwayne Sabine.

Saint John (SJ) 36th year

Dec. 28, 08:00-17:00. Overcast with flurries to sunny breaks; temp. -6° to 2°C; wind S to W, 35 km/h. Ground frozen with light snow cover; fresh water ice?

Kathleen Alexandor, Ron Arseneault, Mike Bamford, Joanna

Billingsley, Ethel Bosence, Helen Brown, Ruth Brown, Ian Cameron, David Christie, Greta Clark, Ken Clark, Chad Coles, Shirley Colquette, H. Eichmann, Jennifer England, Michael England, Allen Gorham, Janet Gorham, Karen Gorham, Charles Graves, Juliette Hickman, Jack Holloway, Charlotte Hutchinson, Cecil Johnston, Denise Johnston, Doris Johnston, Isobel LeBlanc, Morgan Mavis, Ross Mavis, Willa Mavis, Donald McAlpine, Fenning McAlpine, Tom McAlpine, Doreen McIntosh, Maizie Melvin, John Morrison, Paul Mortimer, Gail Mummery, Ngairie Nelson, Joan Pearce, Ron Pearce, Dorothy Peterson, Elizabeth Prescott, Mrs. J. T. Sellers, Marion Sherwood, Peter Simone, David Smith (compiler), Don Smith, Evan Smith, Jan Thomas, Graham Webb, Sandy Webb, Isobel Willa, Peter Wilshaw, Jim Wilson, Frank Withers, Mitzi Withers.

Fundy National Park (FNP) 28th year

Dec. 18, 7:00-7:00. Overcast, with some rain or snow (on highlands); temp. 0° to 2°C; wind ? . Snow cover 20-30 cm; moving water and sea open, lakes frozen.

Anne Bardou (compiler), Jim Blewett, Elizabeth Burrows, Frank Burrows, David Christie, Barbara Curlew, Carole Daigle, Édouard Daigle, Gail Dixon, Elaine Eagles, Stephen Flemming, Doris Hatt, Anna Holdaway, Rod Lutes, Beulah Michelin, Paul Perkison, Mike Rae, Doreen Rossiter, George Sinclair, Sedgewick Sinclair, Marie Taylor, Brian Townsend, Karen Townsend, Rob Walker.

Riverside-Albert (R-A) 24th year

Jan. 2, 07:30-17:30. Mostly clear, some blowing snow in a.m.; temp. -19° to -15°C; wind WNW, 15-70 km/h. Snow cover 20-40 cm; freshwater frozen; sea open, heavy ice on beaches.

Chris Antle, David Christie (compiler), Barbara Curlew, Rick Elliott, Claudette Landry, Joel Landry, Mary Majka, Mike Majka, Krista Stewart, Rob Walker, Alma White, Don White.

Hillsborough (Hil) 2nd year

Dec. 28, 07:40-17:15. Heavy overcast with light snowfall (1 cm during the day); temp. -18° to -4°C; wind NW, 10 km/h. Snow cover 15-45 cm; fresh water frozen, sea 5% frozen.

Barbara Curlew, Gail Dixon, Rick Elliott, Claudette Landry, Joel Landry, Rob Walker (compiler).

Moncton (Mtn) 31st year

Dec. 20, 07:30-16:45. Overcast, continuous light to moderate rain from 9 am; temp. 2° to 7°C; wind S, 12-25 km/h. Snow cover mostly 10 cm; streams flowing.

Diane Allain, Chris Antle, Mike Antle, Dave Arnold, Elizabeth Belliveau, Georges Brun, Brenda Burzynski, David Christie, Brian Coates, Don Cormier, Bob Cotsworth, Mary Cotsworth, Mr. & Mrs. Ted Currie, Gilles Daigle, Halton Dalzell, Cheryl Davis, Richard DeBow, Jacqueline Decoste, Oscar Duguay, Dale Duplessis, Jim Fleming, Mary Fowles, Madeline Gemmell, Allan Gregoire, Susan Hoar, Charles Howell, Shirley Hunt, Ford Keith, Dulcie Kneel, Claudette Landry, Joel Landry, Oscar LeBlanc, Ron Léger, Beverly Legeré, John Loch, Cheryl MacLaggan, Janet and Peter McGuire, Gwen MacKenzie, John MacKenzie, Alice MacQuarrie, Mary Majka, Rose-Alma Mallet, Diane McNeil, Edwin Melanson, Gordon Mosher, Wayne and Win Murray, Ron Pellerin, Sheila Pickrell, Nelson Poirier, Kathy Popma, Winston Prince, Allan Raegele, Mike Rae, Bill Scott, Barbara Scott, Wayne Sears, Barbara Steeves, John Tanner, Mary Tanner, Rob Walker, Alma White, Don White, Doug Whitman (compiler), Phyllis Whitman, Jerry Wignore, Roy Wilks, Imelda Wilmot, Steve Wilmot, Bill Wood.

Sackville (Sck) 33rd year

Dec. 19, 07:40-16:45. Partly cloudy in am, cloudy in pm; temp. -9° to -3°C ; wind NW, 0-12 km/h. Snow cover 0-20 cm; still water frozen, moving water partly open, salt water ?

Paul Bogaard, Neil Burgess, Sandy Burnett, Dan Busby, Lee Calkins, Roger Calkins, Don Colpitts, Carol Currie, Chris Ellingwood, Richard Elliott, Tony Erskine, George Finney, Nev Garrity (compiler), Bruce Hawke, Ron Hounsell, Colin MacKinnon, Ruth Miller, Bill Murphy, Kathy Popma, Al Smith, John Wilson, Bill Wood.

Cape Tormentine (CT) 31st year

Dec. 17, 06:00-16:45. Cloudy with sunny breaks at mid-day; temp. 2° to 5°C ; wind SW, 0-8 km/h. Snow cover 0-15 cm; fresh water mostly frozen, salt water mostly open with slush in protected coves.

Diane Amirault, Paul Bogaard, Sandy Burnett, Roger & Lee Calkins, Richard Daury, Chris Ellingwood, Tony Erskine, Ross Galbraith, Nev Garrity, Ron Hounsell, Joel Landry, Ron Léger, Helen Lines, Colin MacKinnon, Bill Murphy, Harold Popma, Sue Purdy, Al Smith (compiler).

Shédiac (Shd) 5ème année

Le 27 déc., 08:30-16:30. Ciel clair; temp. -19° to -17°C ; vent O, 24 km/h. Neige au sol 20 cm; l'eau dormante gelée, l'eau coulant partiellement gelée.

Louis Babineau, Donald Cormier, Yves Cormier, Gilles Daigle, Donald Deschênes, Marion Deschênes, Oscar Duguay, Joel Landry, Bernard Léger, Rose-Alma Mallet, Léo Martin (compiler), Onide Maurice, Edgar Savoie, Paul Savoie, Roger Theriault. (Les Ami(e)s de la Nature).

Kouchibouguac National Park (KNP) 23rd year

Dec. 21, 08:30-16:00. Clear; temp. -12° to -4°C ; wind NW, 24-32 km/h. Snow cover, 10 cm; still water and moving water partly open.

Gilles Babin, Harry Collins, Jesse Collins, Neil Collins, Alvin Cormier, Bert Crossman, Gilles Daigle, Ursain Daigle, Gordon

Delaney, Monique Delaney, Jean Guy Gaudet, Tom Greathouse, Bill Martin, Benoît Richard (compiler), Fernand Robichaud, Gilles Robichaud, Pierrette Robichaud, Diane Sock, Harold Sock, Barry Spencer, Caroline Spencer, Isabelle Spencer, Christine Spencer, Marget Spencer, Eric Tremblay, Arnold Vautour, Harry Walker.

Tracadie (Tra) 7ième année

Le 26 déc., 08:00-16:00. Ciel couvert; temp. -12° to -8°C ; vent NO, 40-60 km/h. Enneigé; rivière gelée, mer ?

André Brideau, Hilaire Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Marcel David, Anita Doiron, Désanges Doiron, Léon Doiron, Robert Doiron, Guylaine Drolet, Ernest Ferguson (compilateur), Émile Ferron, Ginette Kervin, Jean-Yves Paulin, Marie Paulin, Yolande Paulin, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Ile Lamèque-Shippagan (Lam) 20ième année

Le 3 jan., 08:00-17:00. Ensoleillé; temp. -18° to -12°C ; vent N-O, 10-15 km/h. 60 cm de neige; eau de mer gelée à 75%.

Denise et Gérard Benoit, Sr. Agathe Chiasson, Égide Chiasson, Hilaire Chiasson (compilateur), Patrick Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Marcel David, Lucile DeGrâce, Émile Ferron, Eric et Réjean Ferron, Jacques et Stéphane Guignard, Jocelyne Guignard, Christian Haché, Yannick Haché, Bernadette Hébert, Dany Jones.

Ile Miscou (Mis) 6ième année

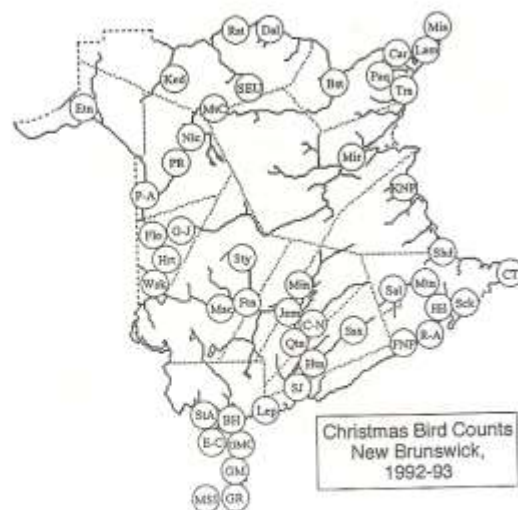
Le 19 déc., 08:30-16:00. Soleil et temps clair en fin de journée; temp. -10° to -5°C ; vent N-O, 0-10 km/h. Terre avec 5 cm de neige; 100% eau clair.

Denise et Gérard Benoit, Hilaire, Patrick et Roland Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson (compilatrice), Marcel David, Robert Doiron, Eric Ferron, Christian et Yannick Haché, Dany Jones, Rodrigue Landry, Robert Theriault.

Caraquet (Car) 8ième année

Le 27 déc., 08:30-16:00. Ciel variable; temp. -16° to -15°C ; vent N-O, 40-60 km/h. 15 cm de neige au sol; eau gelée 50%.

Hilaire Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Marcel David (compilateur), Claude Ouellette, Donald St-Pierre.



The View from Mount Bailey

"A panoramic view as far as the eye could see"

One side of the ridge fell off 150 feet and the other side plunged 300 feet. It felt like we were walking on a large knife edge with the trail only two feet wide in some spots. But the view could only be described as "awesome." Before us, 500 feet down, lay a green valley with a stream meandering through it. Across the valley... were small meadows and several beaver ponds. To the south, mountains dotted a panoramic view as far as the eye could see! We sat in awe for several minutes, soaking in the magic of the moment. This view is living proof that New Brunswick is justified in calling itself "the Picture Province." —David McCurdy, on the Mount Bailey Trail, Mount Carleton Provincial Park

[Saint John Naturalists Club Bulletin, Jan.-Feb. 1993.]

Federation News



"The Petitcodiac — An Endangered Space"

The Federation's 21st annual meeting weekend was held at Moncton June 18-20. Our hosts, the Moncton Naturalists' Club and Les ami(e)s de la nature organized a most enjoyable program featuring a keynote address by Gary Griffin on environmental problems that are degrading the natural systems of the Petitcodiac River. The main field trips led to remnant Acadian forest on Lutes Mountain, via Acadian and Micmac historical sites to Fort Folly at the confluence of the Petitcodiac and Memramcook rivers, to Melanson Settlement Lake bog, and to geological points of interest in Albert County (see p. 51). In addition, there was a hike on the Dobson Trail and early morning outings in Moncton: the Petitcodiac River footpath, Centennial Park, Halls Creek Marsh, and Bell Marsh.

1993 Annual General Meeting

The Federation By-laws were amended to increase the maximum number of directors-at-large from two to four, in order to allow more board representation from areas where there are no formal clubs.

For the period May 21, 1992, to June 18, 1993, Mike Bamford, our treasurer, reported income of \$3,849.33, expenditures of \$7,214.28. The expenses included about \$2000 for the 1992 annual meeting for which compensating receipts had been received in the previous reporting period. Other major expenses were N.B. Naturalist about \$2100, NBFN display about \$1100 and lapel pins \$740. Current balances were \$1895.15 in the general fund and \$723.67 in the scholarship fund. Jim Wilson was re-appointed as auditor.

Reports from the president (see p. 1) and committees were presented. Items not previously reported in our magazine follow.

Activities of the Environmental Committee included input to the Commission on Land Use and the Rural Environment, recommending that an environmental impact assessment be conducted of a proposed development of Second Eel Lake, supporting zero loss of salt marshes, supporting a study of the Maritime Ringlet (a rare butterfly), opposing industrial dumping at the Gray Treefrog site in Fredericton, protesting the killing of herons and a Great Horned Owl, attending public meetings on the proposed fixed link to Prince Edward Island, opposing a proposed landfill site near Musquash, considering of how to protect the natural values of Stillwater Brook near Kedgwick, and reviewing the Canadian Wildlife Service's regulations.

Ron Arsenault of Gondola Point is replacing Don McAlpine of Grand Bay as the federation's represen-

tative on the Dept. of Natural Resources and Energy's Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board.

The Membership and Publicity Committee reported production of a fresh supply of NBFN lapel pins, translation of the membership brochure into French, and a good deal of exposure of the Federation display panels at various places.

A Ways and Means Committee has been set up recently to organize fund-raising projects. It is led by Diane Allain of Moncton, assisted by Jim Brown of Knightville.

Jim Goltz, Rob Walker and Michael Bamford were re-elected as president, vice-president and treasurer, respectively, and Christine Antle of Riverview was elected as secretary, replacing Elizabeth McIntosh of Glassville.

Club representatives reported on the activities of eight local clubs.

Finally, certificates for exceptional contributions to the federation were presented to David Christie, Mary Majka, Elizabeth McIntosh and *in absentia* to Cecil Johnston and Peter Pearce. [From the minutes.]

Interpretive Centre at Mary's Point

For several years the Federation has been developing interpretive services at Mary's Point. From the start we had the blessing of the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), which in 1978 had acquired Mary's Point as part of Shepody National Wildlife Area in order to protect habitat for migrating shorebirds. Later, in 1987, the point was dedicated as part of a Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve. (It is also a Ramsar site: a wetland of international importance.)

Our first project was to establish a parking lot for visitors and a trail to the beach. Later, we hired student warden/interpreters. The idea of establishing an interpretive centre came as a result of increased visitation and a need to provide shelter for our summer staff. The students are local kids who live at home but needed an office and storage space at the point. CWS provided an old construction trailer for that purpose in 1991, but it needed repairs and improvements.

In 1992, we incorporated the trailer into an attractive small building which opened to the public that summer. The following winter a grant from New Brunswick's Environmental Trust Fund enabled preparation of exhibits for inside and outside the building. A small video area was equipped with help from the Environmental Partners Fund, which also enabled construction of an 800-foot salt-marsh boardwalk which affords a glimpse into salt marsh ecology without getting muddy feet. Signs and interpretive panels provide visitors with information about the shorebirds, local history and salt marshes.

In 1993, a 16 by 20-ft extension was added to the interpretive centre, providing more space for exhibits and a small office. Money from the Regional

Field Trips

Geological Rambles in Albert County

Arie Wissink

Albert County has a fascinating range of geological features ranging from ancient volcanic rocks to "flowerpot" sea stacks and recent Mastodon fossils. On November 7, the Moncton Naturalists' Club set out for an introduction to its oil, gas and gypsum deposits. The excursion was similar to one during the N.B. Federation of Naturalists' annual meeting, but a major difference, much appreciated, was the absence of mosquitoes. The time available did not permit us to visit Underground Lake (a lake in a gypsum cave), which during the summer months displays an interesting flora in its vicinity.

The top of Oil Hill was the site where most of the producing wells were located. Charles Allain filled us in on many interesting historical details, such as where the first oil well in New Brunswick was drilled (Dover) and how it had led to our own local oil and gas industry.

The source material for the hydrocarbons is thought to be organic matter that accumulated in fine grained sediments in a large lake during the Carboniferous. Later, these deposits became shales (hardened clays) and sandstones, while the organic matter changed into oil and gas by a chemical process that is still not entirely understood. Subsequently, the hydrocarbons migrated to the sandy layers and because the oil-bearing formation underlying Oil Hill is dipping to the south, the gas producing wells were located in the northern, higher, part of the field and the oil producing wells in the southern, lower, part. However, all this was shielded from view, as the oil-bearing Albert Formation is overlain at this point by almost horizontal Upper Carboniferous sandstones and conglomerates. All that we could see from the former oil-producing activity were numerous well heads, several oil storage tanks, a pump and a strange contraption, mounted on a wagon, with some plumbing connected to it. Some members, who probably know more about these things, suggested that it was a still.

The next stop was at one of the gypsum quarries between Hillsborough and Albert Mines. Gypsum (calcium sulphate) is one of the chemical sediments that precipitate when sea water (or water from salty inland lakes) is evaporated. This process starts when about 70% of the sea water has dried up. This is later than limestone (calcium carbonate) which generally precipitates right from the start, but much earlier than rock salt (sodium chloride) which precipitates when 90% of the water is gone. Potash (potassium chloride), which is mined near Sussex, forms when only 2% of the original volume is left.

The gypsum deposits are younger than the Albert Formation, but are also of Lower Carboniferous age. In this area gypsum was extracted both from surface

pits and underground workings, some of the latter being so shallow that "sinkholes" have formed in several places where the roof has collapsed. We found a few of these and from the edge of one of them we could see how the work underground had been carried out with the "room and pillar" method.

After this we visited the site near Albert Mines where albertite was mined over a period of about 20 years more than a century ago. Albertite is officially classified as an "asphaltic pyrobitumen," because it is infusible and insoluble, which distinguishes it from natural or native asphalt. When heated, albertite will give off gas and oil, but it will not melt. It is a solid, glassy, black bitumen that occurred in a vein cutting across Albert Formation oil shales. It was reported to be up to 6m thick, 400 m deep and close to a kilometre long. Access to the mine was through several adits (horizontal tunnels) and shafts (vertical) that have all collapsed.

We visited the dump at the west end of the vein, where we found some nice specimens of the black mineral and of its host rock, the oil shales. Several samples showed albertite filling up the cracks in oil shale and cutting across the bedding, proving that it was secondary and formed in the same way as a bed of coal.

Finally we paid a short visit to the gypsum quarry on the west side of the Albert Mines Road, north of Wilson Brook, where we looked for and found gypsum crystals (selenite) that we did not see at our first gypsum stop.



Atlantic Coastal Action Program



The Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) is a Green Plan initiative to improve the quality of coastal waters and estuaries. ACAP projects are organized at the community level by a regional committee, whose ultimate goal is to develop comprehensive environmental management plans that will help stakeholders manage coastal resources. Before developing the management plan, they must first assess the present quality of the coastal environment, set goals for future environmental quality, develop long-term objectives for use of the community watershed, and identify measures necessary to improve and sustain environmental quality.

There are five ACAP sites in New Brunswick:

Saint John. ACAP Saint John Inc. covers the area along the coast from Musquash Head to Cape Spencer and up river as far as Morrisdale and Gondola Point. There are seven working committees (fisheries, in-kind support, public information and education, special projects, technical advisory, land use planning, water quality monitoring) focussed on specific tasks to develop a comprehensive environmental management plan and associated activities. (Saint John Naturalists' Club volunteers are involved in water sampling at Saints Rest Marsh.) For information contact Frank Hogan, tel. (506) 652-2227.

St. Croix. The St. Croix Estuary Project Inc. is developing an environmental management plan for the St. Croix estuary and the coastal waters around the town of St. Andrews. Six task groups are at work: planning, public participation, education, environmental quality monitoring, estuary profile, and special projects. For more information contact Robert Rainer, tel. (506) 529-4868.

Madawaska (the only freshwater site in ACAP). La société d'aménagement de la rivière Madawaska et du lac Témiscouata has a public participation program to receive input on a basin management study being carried out by consultants. Two interesting initiatives are creation of a river association and development of a local environmental review and regulatory body. For more information contact Louis-Philippe Nault, tel. (506) 739-1992-4868.

Miramichi. The Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee which in 1992 completed a major report on the environmental quality of the Miramichi River will now focus its efforts on further developing solutions to ongoing problems and preparing a comprehensive environmental management plan. For more information contact Vernon Goodfellow, tel. (506) 622-7914.

Letang Estuary. Plans were being made to establish a committee during 1993. For more information contact Jim Ellsworth, tel. (902) 426-2131.

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) is involved with assessing present environmental quality at five ACAP sites.

One project to assess aquatic pollution and the accumulation of toxic contaminants in wildlife invol-

ves a study of nesting Tree Swallows. Nest boxes are placed close to water where deposition of toxic chemicals from local sources of pollution may occur. The swallows feed primarily on insects whose early life stages are aquatic and may pick up contaminants from bottom sediments. One egg will be collected from each nest and kept refrigerated for later analysis. The number of eggs and young in each nest box will be checked about every five days in order to evaluate breeding success. Volunteers have helped by monitoring Tree Swallow boxes at the ACAP sites and at Kouchibouguac National Park, a control site.

A second CWS study will monitor year-round habitat use over the long term. The survey will provide information on what species and how many of each are seen; exactly where the animals are observed; how long they use an area; and what they are doing. Long-term monitoring will provide an indication of changes in habitat use resulting from an increase in pollution or cleanup efforts associated with an ACAP management plan. The habitat surveys will also help identify which species may be most at risk from exposure to toxic contamination. Any naturalists interested in conducting periodic counts of bird species at a location within an ACAP site are encouraged to contact Neil Burgess or Kate Bredin at CWS, Box 1590, Sackville, N.B. E0A 3C0; tel. (506) 364-5044.

Piping Plover Guardians

Volunteers are helping protect Piping Plovers in Nova Scotia, P.E.I. and Albert County, N.B. Piping Plover Guardians post information signs and patrol beaches where the plovers nest. The project's aim is to inform the beach-using public of the threat they pose to an endangered species, to direct their activities to locations where they will not put the plovers at risk, and to monitor the birds' breeding success. The startup costs were funded by the Environmental Partners' Fund. For info contact Stephen Flemming at Fundy National Park, Alma, N.B. E0A 1B0; tel. 887-6000.

Salt Marsh Leaflet Published

Saltmarshes of the Maritimes treats the importance and characteristics of Maritime salt marshes and threats to their conservation. A number of typical plants and animals are described and illustrated. The 12-page leaflet is a joint project of the N.B. Dept. of Natural Resources and Energy, Wildlife Habitat Canada, and the P.E.I. Dept. of the Environment. Copies are available from the Wetlands and Coastal Habitat Program of DNRE, Box 6000, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5H1.

The Gibson Trail

Alexander "Boss" Gibson was one of New Brunswick's first industrialists, as evidenced by his construction of the Marysville Cotton Mill in 1885.

To serve the mill a railway line was constructed along the east bank of the Nashwaak River, which connected in Devon to the main line and the bridge crossing the Saint John River. Recent history has seen the decline of the railroad system and the abandonment of certain lines. Such was the case with the Marysville line in the 1980s.

The disappearance of the tracks gave opportunity for another use of this property and thus the Gibson Trail was born. A nice variety of habitat is experienced along the length of the trail. At the beginning is an urban environment with vegetable gardens and backyards blending into a floodplain pasture where a herd of Holsteins graze. Farther along the trail a pleasant hillside with many large deciduous trees and a slight mix of conifers is encountered.

In the near future the surface will be improved for use by the elderly and handicapped people. Benches will be provided at selected viewing points and a picnic site will be established. This beautiful trail has the potential to provide enjoyment for the citizens of Fredericton for many years.

[Fredericton Nature Club Newsletter, Nov. 1992.]

Canadian Lakes Loon Survey

The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey is seeking to answer concerns about the future of the Common Loon in Canada by recruiting volunteer loon watchers to monitor the effects of pollution, development and disturbance on loon nesting and chick survival. If you can visit a lake (whether or not it has loons) at least once each in June, July and August, the CLLS would like your help. To receive a survey kit complete with instructions send your name and address and the name and location of the lake(s) you wish to survey to: Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, Long Point Bird Observatory, Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. N0E 1M0; fax (519) 586-3532.

Events

Don't Miss it!—The Annual Meeting Weekend at Edmundston—June 10-12

The Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska welcomes Federation members for field trips, speakers, a banquet, camaraderie and the 22nd annual general meeting to be held at the Musée du Madawaska in Edmundston, June 10-12, 1994. Registration at the museum 7-9 p.m. on Friday and 8-10 a.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact the Club at 600 rue St-François, Edmundston E3V 1H3, or call 739-6660, 739-8711 or 739-7247.

19 juin, la sanctuaire d'oiseaux Amherst Point.

Excursion des Ami(e)s de la nature. Rose-Alma Mallet, 532-3482.

26 juin, Sortie aux plantes, Lamèque

Excursion du CNPA. Rendez-vous à 13 h 30 à la pharmacie de Lamèque.

2 juillet, Mont-Albert dans le parc de la Gaspésie.

Le but est l'escalade du mont. Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule Acadienne. Téléphoner Benoit Lantegne au 727-5116 ou Gérard Benoit au 344-7549.

4-7 Aug., "A Journey from Forest to Sea"

Canadian Nature Federation, 23rd annual conference, Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax. For more information contact Peter Payzant, Box 2, Waverley, N.S. B0N 2S0; tel. 902-861-1607 (before 10 pm).

Pre-Publication Offer: Québec Bird Atlas

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