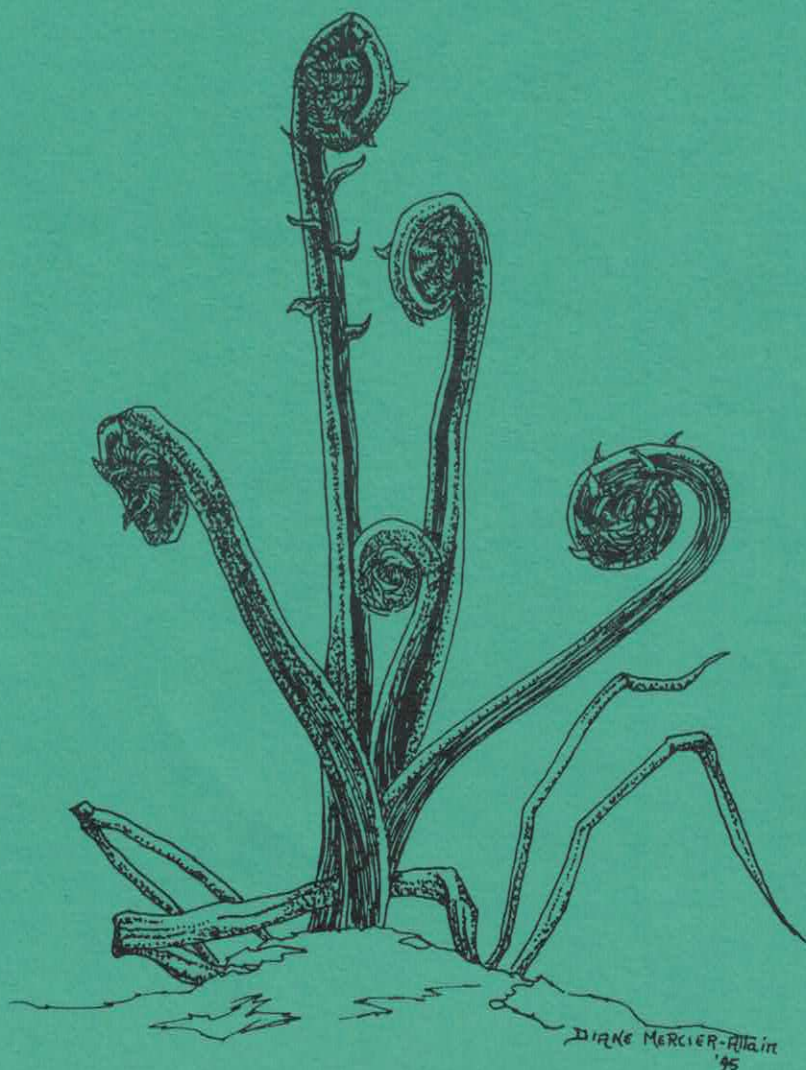




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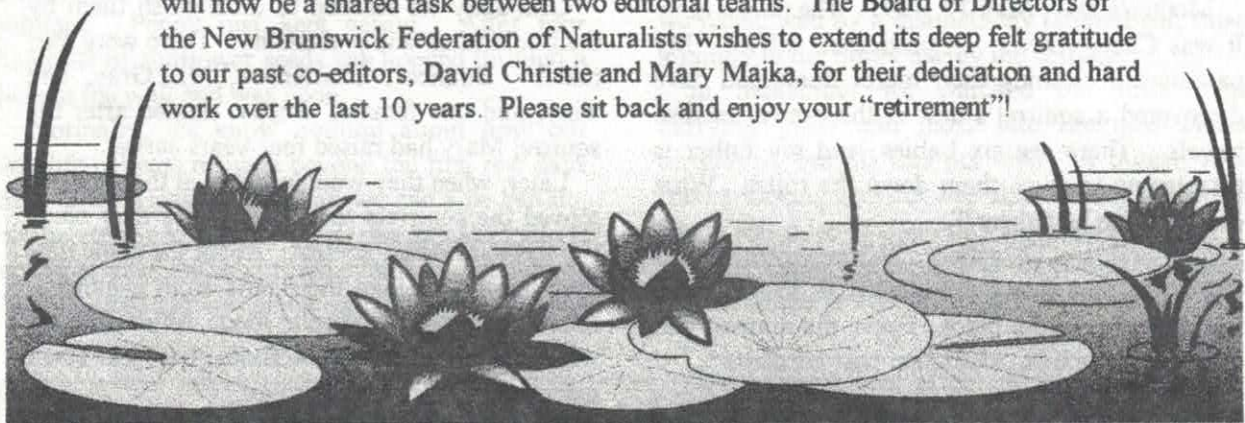
# ***N.B. Naturalist***

## ***Le Naturaliste du N.-B.***



## N.B. NATURALIST HAS A NEW LOOK!

In order to alleviate the work load, the publishing and editing of the N.B. Naturalist will now be a shared task between two editorial teams. The Board of Directors of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists wishes to extend its deep felt gratitude to our past co-editors, David Christie and Mary Majka, for their dedication and hard work over the last 10 years. Please sit back and enjoy your "retirement"!



### A TRIBUTE TO ORLAND BROWN

Gart Bishop

It is with great sadness we inform members that Orland Brown passed away on New Year's day, 1995.

Orland was an enthusiastic naturalist who was full of ideas and whose motivation and energy were "infectious". Orland was a life member of the Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society, a member of the Saint John Naturalists' Club and a former Director of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists.

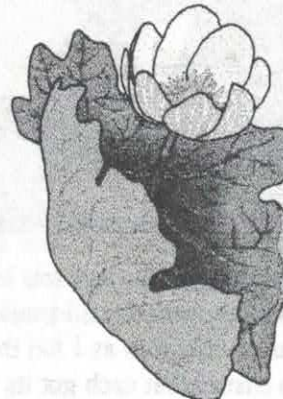
After a lifetime of outdoor occupations as a lumberman and fisherman, Orland spent his retirement years observing and expanding his knowledge of New Brunswick's varied natural history. His keen interest was well diversified, though principally focused on birds and plants. From tidal zones to swamps, from turtles to coyotes, he was always interested in discovering and learning. He and his wife Thelma spent their vacations camping out in their van as they explored the backroads of New Brunswick.

Perhaps it will be Orland's willingness to share and his ability to inspire that will be missed most of all. Until his health failed due to ALS in the last couple of years, he was always eager and willing to head out with anyone on an excursion to explore some facet of New Brunswick's natural history. He was an able teacher, with time and patience for those who came to him.

One of his favourite locations, that many people are indebted to him for sharing, is the "Turtle Pond" at Jemseg, where without fail, on a summer's day, one can find up to 15 Eastern Painted Turtles basking themselves on embankments or on various soggy logs. On one occasion, Orland found eight turtles on one log, where they were stacked like dinner plates in a drying rack.

Another site, located in the outskirts of Sussex, is respectfully known as "Orland's Walk" and is soon to be "officially marked" as such with a commemorative sign. While a short walk in this area is interesting at any time of year, the spring display of wildflowers, including a large patch of Wild Leek, is particularly inspiring.

Orland was a valuable resource person, as well as a kind and thoughtful man, and will be sadly missed by many as a companion, friend and mentor.



## MOTHER'S DAY!

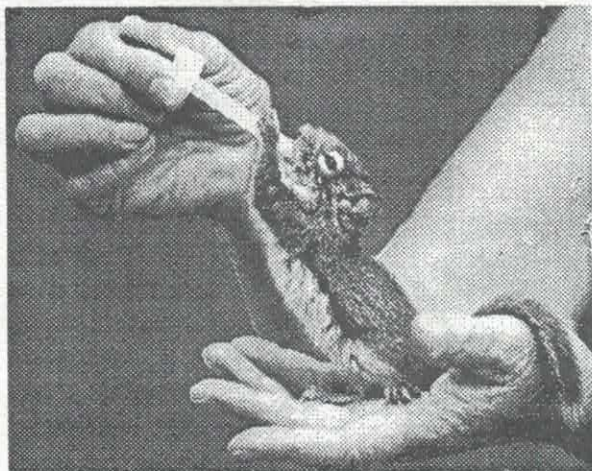
David Christie

Mother's Day, May 12, 1991. The phone rang. It was Cheryl Davis. "I need some advice. My parents are cleaning their motor home and have discovered a squirrel's nest in the drawer of dish towels. There are six babies, and my father is threatening to flush them down the toilet. What can we do to help them?"

"No problem," I replied. "Whenever her nest is discovered, the first thing a squirrel does is move the young to a safer place. Leave the drawer open and she'll take them to another nest outdoors."

One hour later, it was Cheryl again. "It didn't work right. The mother came and took one baby, but she put it in the wall. We can hear it moving around in the insulation. My parents don't want to have a bunch of dead squirrels in the wall when they move the motor home next week. Would you be willing to look after them if I can't find anyone in Moncton?"

Thus it was that two hours later I became foster mother to five baby squirrels. Thankfully they were past the difficult stage, wearing a full coat of hair and with eyes just about to open. They were almost 3 weeks old. "Past the difficult stage" means that it wasn't hard to get them to eat, and that they weren't likely to die, if I was careful — mixing the proper milk formula fresh each day, warming it, and feeding them with an eye dropper every two hours (except at night).



For almost two weeks the squirrels lived in their nest of towels in one carton, and I transferred them one by one to another carton as I fed them. It was the only way to ensure that each got its share.

Gradually we learned to distinguish them by their coloration and personality. There were four males: Bouncer, Chatterbox, Mr. Gray, and Tiny, and one female: Peppy, named after the squirrel Mary had raised four years earlier.

Later, when they wouldn't stay in the carton, I moved the squirrels to a cage where they could run to their hearts' content. About the same time they learned to take their milk from a hamster tube and started to eat solid food. Although there were periods of intense activity they still spent many hours asleep in their nest.

That move freed us for most of the day. Each morning the squirrels were let loose in Mary's bedroom, while we cleaned out their cage and supplied it with fresh milk (or later water), sections of orange, sunflower seeds, nuts, spruce twigs and bark to chew on, and a flowerpot of soil to use as a bathroom.

All the while, the little rascals ran, climbed, leaped, and chased up, down, over, under, and round and round *everything* in the room. (I wonder if trees are ticklish like I am.) After a half hour of frenzied activity, all the tasks were completed and the squirrels were returned to the confinement of their cage.

To introduce them to the wild, we decided to move the cage to the woodshed at our cottage and after a couple of days to open it up and let the squirrels come and go or stay as they wished.

They were 8 weeks old when we gave them their freedom. That day all five of them ventured out of the woodshed but came back again to the familiar cage. Soon they moved their sleeping site to a bag of rags on a shelf. For over a month they went in and out of the shed. They lost their baby hair for shorter brighter summer coats and gradually became more wary. They were all doing well.

July 24 was the first day we didn't see the squirrels in the shed. The time seemed to have come for them to disperse and find their own territories, but there was one last visit.

On July 30, when I went for a hammer, a squirrel appeared and readily climbed onto my hand when I offered it sunflower seeds. It was Peppy, but she had a tick on one ear. Mary quickly brought some equipment to help.

Although the squirrel was nervous, I rubbed alcohol onto the tick and grasped it with forceps. When she felt the resistance, the little squirrel pulled hard to the side and the tick let go. I was jubilant. Peppy just kept eating. After four handfuls of sunflower seeds she hopped through a hole in the wall and was gone.

Normally, we know nothing about how our wildlife patients manage beyond the first few days after their release. Although we can't be certain, we like to think that the very tame female squirrel at our cottage the next three summers was Peppy. Never before did we have a squirrel that would run

in through the open door to check the fruit basket on the kitchen counter, or come right up to us to accept food from our hands.

Early last summer, this confiding squirrel, which we recognized by a distinctively tattered ear, raised a family in the birdhouse by the cottage.

In September we watched our little friend carrying grass and moss into the next closest birdhouse, but all was not well. A bigger, more robust-looking squirrel was also visiting that house. There was a lot of chattering and chasing.

Will "Peppy" still be there to share our summer at the cottage in 1995?

## BUTTERNUT IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Dr. Judy Loo

Butternut (*Juglans cinerea* L.) is a tree with a history in New Brunswick. Moses Perley wrote in 1847 that butternut was abundant on the rich alluvial banks of the St. John River, and was also found on uplands with deep rich soil. He claimed that butternut frequently attained a height of 80 feet and a diameter of six to eight feet. He went on to describe the variety of uses for the wood, which was highly in demand in the mid 1800s, and he urged farmers to plant butternut trees for nuts and wood as well as for the beauty of the tree.

The question today is, does butternut have a future? It seems likely that the combination of heavy demand for butternut wood by furniture makers and for butternut habitat by farmers, explains why more recent descriptions of the species claim that the tree has scattered occurrence and small size in New Brunswick. Now there is an additional threat in the form of a highly virulent fungus, *Sirococcus clavigignenti-juglandacearum*, which is rapidly killing butternut throughout much of its range.

This fungus was first described as a new species

in 1979, although it is now recognized that the disease had been present for at least two decades before that. During the last 15 years, butternut has declined dramatically in most of the U.S. states that fall within its range. Even where many trees still

survive, the incidence of disease is high, and the infected trees will soon die. A recent survey in Vermont showed 94% of that state's trees to be infected. The disease has been moving north at a rapid rate and was reported in Maine in 1993. The good news for New Brunswick is that it has not yet been found here.

Another piece of hopeful news is that there appear to be trees that are resistant to the

disease. Researchers in Minnesota are busy propagating such trees. They are grafting shoots collected from disease-free trees, whose neighbouring trees are infected, onto uninfected seedlings produced in a nursery. These grafted seedlings will be watched carefully for signs of the disease in years to come, with the hope that progeny from truly resistant trees will replace some of the losses.



**BE AWARE\*:****FIDDLEHEAD (OSTRICH FERN) TOXICITY**

James Goltz



The fiddlehead, crosier, or *tête-de-violon*, enjoyed by so many persons in the Maritime Provinces and the northeastern United States, is actually the unfurled frond or leaf of the Ostrich Fern. Fiddleheads are truly a part of our natural and culinary heritage, having been a regular component of the diet of New Brunswickers since at least the late 1700s and an important spring vegetable for aboriginal people in eastern North America for considerably longer. In recent years, other geographic areas have begun to share our appreciation for this delicious spring "green", and the consumer market continues to expand.

Most reference books indicate that fiddleheads are safe to eat either raw or cooked. However, several outbreaks of food poisoning associated with eating raw or lightly cooked (sauteed, par-boiled or microwaved) fiddleheads occurred in western Canada and New York State in 1994. The affected persons experienced diarrhea, nausea, abdominal cramps, vomiting and/or headache, usually within a few hours after consuming fiddleheads. In most of the 64 persons who were affected, the symptoms had abated within 30 hours after their onset. The majority of individuals who became ill had eaten fiddleheads in restaurants, but a few had purchased them at local markets and prepared them at home. Since the publication of these outbreaks, other anecdotal retrospective reports of fiddlehead food poisoning have surfaced. (With some embarrassment, I must report that one of my dinner guests once became sick shortly after eating stir-fried fiddleheads. Two other guests were not affected.)

Although the specific cause of illness in these disease outbreaks could not be determined, epidemiologic studies determined fiddleheads to be the source of the problem. Given the short incubation period between eating fiddleheads and becoming sick, it was hypothesized that the fiddleheads must have contained an unidentified toxic substance. In all cases, the fiddleheads had been collected from sites located some distance from any development or

industry, there had been no pesticide spraying in the areas, and storage and handling could not be faulted. Laboratory testing failed to reveal any significant bacteria, bacterial toxins, pesticides or other chemicals that might have caused the illness. It is interesting to note that rats and mice remained healthy after being fed raw and cooked fiddleheads from the same sources.

The reports of fiddlehead food poisoning have led to the recommendation that fiddleheads be thoroughly cooked before eating. Medical experts suggest that "thorough cooking" means boiling or steaming for at least 10 minutes. Preventing illness among your family members and friends is worth the slight increase in nutrient loss and the soggy texture that occur with longer cooking times. Incidentally, the unfortunate dinner guest to whom I made reference above has since found that she can eat well-cooked fiddleheads with abandon, but consistently becomes ill if the fiddleheads have not been well-cooked! My fiddlehead ice cream, fiddlehead quiche and curried fiddlehead soup have caused her no digestive upset.

Since the ingestion of some fern species, e.g. bracken fern, has been linked with certain types of cancer, persons who gather fiddleheads should be certain that they are harvesting the correct species. Inexperienced "fiddleheaders" should accompany seasoned veterans.

On a final note, we must take care that, in our zealous harvesting adventures, we refrain from taking more than a few fiddleheads from each plant so that our bountiful natural resource will be sustainable. The fiddlehead is a delicious and nutritious sign of spring and a New Brunswick tradition worth preserving (in both senses of the word!).

**Reference:** Morgan, P., et al. 1994. *Ostrich Fern Poisoning - Western Canada and New York, 1994*. Canada Communicable Disease Report 20 (18): 160-162.

\*This is the first of a series of articles that are intended to inform naturalists of possible health hazards associated with outdoor activities. Future topics will include Lyme disease, rabies and hantavirus. It is hoped that increased awareness will help ensure that we can fully enjoy our naturalist activities.

## UN OISEAU À EN COUPER LE SOUFFLE

Gérard Benoit

Le 05 août 1993 restera gravé à tout jamais dans ma mémoire. J'arrivais du travail. Mon épouse Denise et moi nous nous préparions pour les vacances. Pendant que nous étions à table pour le souper, nous regardions les oiseaux se gaver de graines aux mangeoires situées à l'arrière de la maison. Tout à coup, un oiseau attira notre attention. Il se nourrissait en compagnie de quelques **Tourterelles tristes** et **Carouges à épaulettes**. Il était de la même taille que les carouges mais paraissait un peu plus svelte. Un peu nerveux, il allait se percher sur la clôture non-loin des mangeoires.

Je pris mes jumelles, l'observa quelques instants et je vis par son comportement étrange que cet oiseau n'était pas comme les autres. L'oiseau était noir avec des reflets violacés et ressemblait au **Quiscale de Brewer** mais ses yeux étaient foncés. Sans hésiter, je pris mon appareil photo, pris la voiture et alla me stationner à l'arrière de la maison tout près des mangeoires. L'oiseau, attiré par les graines, ne tardait pas à revenir se nourrir tout près de la voiture me permettant de prendre quelques clichés.

Hilaire Chiasson n'étant pas dans la région à ce moment, je ne savais pas qui contacter pour en savoir un peu plus sur ce visiteur inusité. J'ai téléphoné à Jacques Guignard, un observateur de la région, pour qu'il vienne jeter un coup d'oeil le lendemain et nous sommes partis pour un voyage d'une semaine. Durant le voyage, cet oiseau hantait mes pensées, car je savais bien que ce n'était pas un oiseau commun et que je n'avais pas réussi à l'identifier avec mes guides d'oiseaux personnels. Rendu dans la région de Fundy, je me suis arrêté à une cabine téléphonique et m'empressa de téléphoner à David Christie pour lui parler de l'oiseau en question. Je me souviens lui avoir demandé s'il était possible que le Quiscale de Brewer ait les yeux foncés. Nous sommes, par la suite, allés terminer notre voyage sur l'île du Prince Édouard.

Quand nous sommes revenus à la maison l'oiseau était reparti. J'avais hâte de voir les photos que j'avais prises avant notre départ. Quand je les ai reçues, je n'étais pas plus avancé, impossible d'identifier l'oiseau en question.

J'ai envoyé les photos à Stuart Tingley, un expert

en ornithologie, qui les montra à Jon L. Dunn co-auteur du livre de National Geographic Society "Les oiseaux de l'Amérique du Nord" et du guide de Peterson "Field Guide to Warblers". Il est considéré comme un des meilleurs observateurs d'oiseaux en Amérique du Nord. Monsieur Tingley montra par la suite les photos à Will Russell de Tucson, Arizona. Ils arrivèrent tous à la conclusion que c'était un **Vacher luisant (Shiny Cowbird)**.



Stuart Tingley a écrit dans la brochure "Les possibilités ornithologiques du Nouveau-Brunswick" et je cite: «Personne ne le connaissait avant 1985 quand quelques vagabonds apparurent en Floride après avoir envahi les Antilles. Cet oiseau s'est répandu comme l'éclair, tout comme le **Héron garde-boeuf**. Il est arrivé depuis 50 ans et on le retrouve dans au moins 10 États incluant une photographie sur Monhegan Island au Maine au mois de septembre 1991. La plupart des ornithologues le considère comme indésirable, car il parasite les autres espèces d'oiseaux tout comme le Vacher à tête brune. Cette espèce semble être en train de s'installer dans les régions tempérées de l'Amérique du Nord et c'est juste une question de temps pour qu'on le voit au Nouveau-Brunswick».

Un jour Stuart Tingley est venu dans la Péninsule acadienne et m'a annoncé que j'avais ajouté une nouvelle espèce pour la province et le plus surprenant que c'était aussi une nouvelle espèce pour le Canada. Je tiens à remercier Stuart Tingley pour son aide précieuse car, sans lui, cette observation aurait continué à hanter mes pensées pour longtemps.

## BIRD LORE

Ann Lavoie

As we observe the day to day antics of our feathered friends, few of us take the time to marvel at how remarkable birds truly are.

It is thought that birds evolved from reptiles, a type of singing lizard if you will, wrapped in stretched out scales called feathers. Since the hollow bones of birds disintegrate relatively rapidly, fossilized models were scarce. However, several superb specimens were preserved in slate, providing scientists with a fairly accurate idea of avian evolution.

Migration is a way of life for most birds and they undertake their relatively short or extended trips in the spring and fall. Birds use a variety of methods in order to get where they are going, whether it be down south or back to a preferred nesting area. Their navigational aids include wind direction, stars, sun, earth's magnetic field and odours.

Most birds are well adapted to flight and long distance travel. To keep themselves as light as possible, many species have hollow bones and all lack teeth. For much of the year, their reproductive organs are tiny, becoming enlarged only during the breeding season. Birds have a respiratory system that is much more efficient than ours, a powerful heart and muscles designed for sustained flight. A superb example of a long distance traveller is the **Chimney Swift**, a relatively common species that clocks more than 2,000,000 kilometres of air travel during its 10 to 12 years of life.

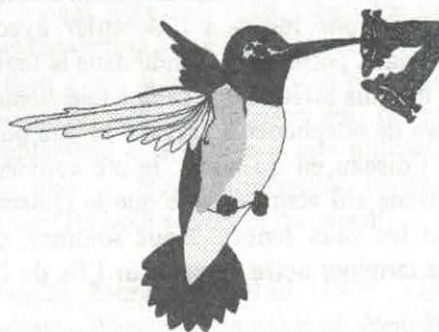
Birds usually fly at an altitude below 500 feet, except during migration, at which time the long distance migrants will start out at about 5,000 feet and work their way up to 20,000 feet. The most impressive altitude record was that of a flock of **Whooper Swans** which were recorded over Ireland at an altitude of 29,000 feet!

Birds generally cruise at speeds in the 20 to 30 mph range, but during a chase they will go faster. A duck, for example, can fly 60 mph or faster, while a swooping **Peregrine Falcon** can reach speeds of up to 200 mph. This incredible falcon can spot a pigeon at a distance of eight kilometres

and has the most extensive world-wide range of any bird.

Who could fail to be impressed by another endangered bird of prey, the **Bald Eagle**? This species has a wingspread of between 7 and 8 feet and is one of our most dedicated homemakers. Monogamous birds, a pair of eagles will build a massive and strong nest that will be used for year after year and can last 30 to 40 years. The dimensions of this nest are quite impressive; up to 3 metres (10 feet) in diameter and 3.5 metres in height. Some nests can weigh as much as two tons. Immature Bald Eagles lack the characteristic white head and tail of adult birds, but attain their adult plumage within 3 to 4 years.

The **Bald Eagle** has a life span of about 21 years. For comparison, the longevity of some common New Brunswick birds is as follows: **Great Blue Heron**, 23 years; **Canada Goose**, 23 years; **Osprey**, 21 years; **Red-tailed Hawk**, 21 years; **Great Horned Owl**, 17 years; **Blue Jay**, 16 years; **Hairy Woodpecker**, 15 years; **Red-winged Blackbird**, 15 years; **American Crow**, 14 years; **American Robin**, 13 years; various sparrows, 11-13 years; **Black-capped Chickadee**, 12 years; **American Kestrel**, 11 years; **Dark-eyed Junco**, 10 years; and **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, 9 years.



These and other interesting facts on birds can be found in *The Birder's Handbook*, a must for every bird-watching enthusiast. Greater knowledge about the traits of our native birds will no doubt inspire others to appreciate them as much as we do.

## A SEA OF CHANGE IN WHALE RESEARCH

David D. Platt

**"Gulf of Maine researchers look outward -- and inward -- for answers to new questions"**

Unless things in the Gulf of Maine get even livelier this summer, we will all remember the warm months of 1993 as the Time of the Whales. A boatload of camera-toting tourists off Portsmouth, New Hampshire, got a good look at a **blue whale**, an animal so large and rare -- it was the second sighting of the season, only the sixth in 13 years -- that the event was front page news.

Two hundred miles to the northeast, frisky **humpback whales** feeding near inshore fish weirs kept residents of Grand Manan, New Brunswick, awake at night. A dead **sperm whale** turned up in the vicinity of Mount Desert Rock, Maine.



Researchers at Allied Whale, an arm of the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, reported sightings of 41 individual **humpback whales** in their study area -- a doubling of the population in the area since 1991. In Penobscot Bay, a **True's beaked whale** stranded and died at Curtis Island off Camden. The presence of the species anywhere is highly unusual.

Whale numbers all over the northern Gulf of Maine were up in 1993, probably because of the food supply. Stocks of herring, a species favored by whales, have been building for many years. They got high enough in the Gulf last summer to depress the price humans were willing to pay for them, and whales -- heedless of the market price -- showed up in larger numbers than usual to fill their bellies.

Scott Kraus of the New England Aquarium agrees that whale sightings in the northern Gulf were more common last summer than they had been in previous

years. But he downplays the significance of the increase, pointing out that sightings on Stellwagen Bank at the Gulf's southern end were lower, and that scientists increasingly view the Gulf of Maine as one destination in whales' far-ranging migrations. In other words, more whales may have been attracted to the Gulf of Maine because of the food available, but we shouldn't assume we're doing something right or that the whales will be sticking around.

### THE LARGER WORLD

Kraus's thoughts about the summer of '93 reflect a new way of looking at whales. After 20 years of photo-identifying individual animals that visit their study areas, learning about the behavior of individuals and cataloguing their reproduction and yearly returns, he and other researchers have begun to look at the much larger world these animals inhabit. They have found, for example, that the present population of **right whales** in the North Atlantic may trace its lineage back to as few as three individual females that survived the depredations of 19th century commercial whaling.

They have learned that there are two distinct populations of right whales in the Atlantic -- north and south -- and that they have been separate for almost a million years. Not surprisingly, the scientists have found evidence of inbreeding in the North Atlantic population -- a discovery with serious implications for the species' long-term health and survival.

The shift from whale identification and local census-taking, to topics such as genetics, migrations, and physiology is related to developments in technology, such as satellites and DNA discoveries, over the past 20 years. The end of the Cold War made the U.S. Navy's once-secret underwater-listening methods available to researchers, making possible a "passive tracking" project to track **blue**, **finback**, and **minke whales** as they move about the Atlantic. The same technologies have made it possible to study whales from great distances by listening to them. It's even possible to observe the changes a whale's body undergoes when it dives hundreds of feet.

The new research focus is a natural outgrowth of

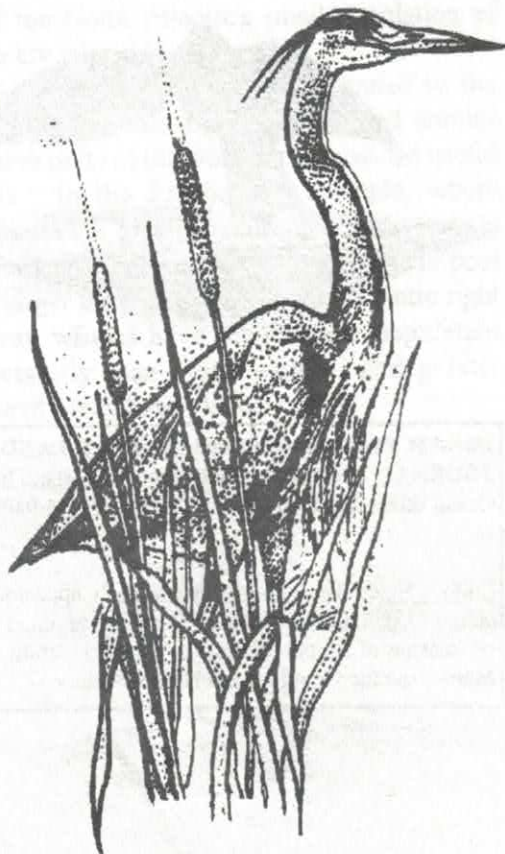
## FIVE NEW ECOLOGICAL RESERVES FOR NEW BRUNSWICK

James Goltz

On March 1, 1995, the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy announced to the Legislative Assembly that he had designated five new ecological reserves, in an effort to work toward a "national network of protected lands" and "to protect the natural heritage of New Brunswick for future generations". Details pertaining to the new ecological reserves are as follows:

"...The Freeze Lakes Ecological Reserve consists of 330 hectares (815 acres). Located in Northumberland County just north of the Christmas Mountains, this is an evenly-aged old growth of balsam fir. Its dense forest canopy allows little undergrowth other than mosses. This reserve contains two lakes; the western lake is surrounded by freshwater marsh; the eastern has rocky shoreline.

The Mount Elizabeth Ecological Reserve contains almost 93 hectares (230 acres) of open black spruce forest on its rocky slopes and 625-metre high mountain top. Untouched by forest fire for many years, its growth is older than that on some surrounding peaks.



The third ecological reserve .... contains 108 hectares (266 acres) of Tabusintac Blacklands on Tabusintac Bay. This open forest of black spruce and jack pine is a nesting area for our endangered osprey and for Great blue herons. Rhodora and sheep laurel form a dense cover over its dark organic soil, so typical of east coast salt marsh and peat bogs.

The fourth reserve .... contains slightly more than 76 hectares (187 acres) of the Wilson Brook Gypsum Cliffs in Albert County. A habitat for rare arctic plants, this reserve has unique caves where hundreds of bats hibernate each winter. As its name implies, the area consists of gypsum cliffs and rocky slopes topped by a plateau of balsam fir and yellow birch. This substantial reserve of limestone topography is rare in New Brunswick.

Our fifth new ecological reserve .... is the St. Croix River Islands. Commonly called the Grassy Islands, this reserve contains just short of five hectares (12 acres) of eastern hemlock forest, grassland and freshwater marshes. Because they are on the boundary of both northern and southern ranges, these islands host a wide variety of bird species."

New Brunswick now has a total of 13 ecological reserves, 10 of which have been proclaimed or designated within the past year. The latest five ecological reserves were designated under the *Crown Lands and Forests Act*, not the *Ecological Reserves Act*. It is ironic that new ecological reserves can no longer be declared and proclaimed under the *Ecological Reserves Act* because the province has disbanded the Environmental Council, a body crucial for the implementation of some aspects of the act. The act requires that candidate ecological reserves must be approved by the council before proclamation can occur. Until the *Ecological Reserves Act* is amended, the Minister has assured us that the *Crown Lands and Forests Act* will give the same level of protection to new "ecological reserves" as would be afforded by the *Ecological Reserves Act* itself.

Congratulations to Hon. Alan Graham, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, and his Department staff, for helping to protect and preserve New Brunswick's natural heritage. Naturalists in New Brunswick are especially pleased that the Wilson Brook gypsum area, long recognized for its natural history value, finally has the protection it deserves.

## EXCURSION MONT CARLETON

Réjeanne Francoeur

Ma soeur, ma famille et moi-même décidons de partir à la découverte du Parc Provincial Mont Carleton. Eh bien, nous voilà tous les sept en route pour la fin de semaine. Nous avons loué un chalet au Centre Plein Air du Vieux Moulin près de Saint-Quentin; pour s'y rendre, en partant de Campbellton, empruntant la route 17.

Nous sommes arrivés au chalet vers 20 hrs vendredi soir et sommes couchés tôt pour notre excursion du lendemain matin. Après un bon déjeuner, vers 6 hr le matin nous voilà en route pour le Mont Carleton. La route 17 nous rend jusqu'à Saint-Quentin et là on emprunte la 180 jusqu'au Parc. Vous avez aussi accès au Parc par la route 385 de Plaster Rock.

Les premiers sentiers étaient utilisés par des chariots. Des routes ont ouvert l'accès à l'admiration des visiteurs. Le Parc est ouvert au public depuis 1969 et maintenant est ouvert à l'année longue. Voici quelques conseils qui peuvent vous être utiles: Avant d'entreprendre votre excursion, inscrivez vous à l'entrée principale ou au bureau du Parc, leur donnant l'heure prévue de votre retour et le nombre de personnes qui entreprennent l'excursion. Dès votre retour, présentez vous à nouveau au bureau. Une autre chose importante est d'être en assez bonne forme physique, d'être bien chaussé, d'avoir un bon sac à dos (contenant trousse de premiers soins, nourriture, bas et vêtements de rechange, insecticide, etc.) et n'oubliez pas que tout ce que vous apportez, vous le rapportez. Ne polluez surtout pas les sentiers.

Pour tous les amateurs de la nature, le Parc du Mont Carleton est sûrement l'endroit rêvé. Il nous offre un paysage varié de lacs, de rivières, de

montagnes, et de forêts dans un cadre sauvage et paisible. Nous voilà donc prêt pour notre randonnée. À partir du Centre d'Accueil des visiteurs, nous nous sommes rendus en voiture jusqu'au terrain de stationnement. Il y a deux sentiers, à l'est (4.4 km, 1 1/2 hrs) et à l'ouest (5.2 km, 2 hrs) qui partent du terrain de stationnement. Les deux sentiers sont faciles à faire, sauf dans les endroits rocaillieux où c'est plus difficile.

Notre groupe s'est dirigé vers le sentier de l'est. Il longe un ancien chemin peuplé d'épinettes et d'un mélange de sapins et merisiers. À 2,8 km, le sentier tourne à gauche où il devient rocaillieux. Ce chemin permettait anciennement d'amener les provisions jusqu'à la cabane du garde-chasse. Près de la cabane vous êtes enfin au sommet. Vous pouvez suivre un sentier jusqu'à la tour à incendies, de 1923 à 1968, la tour était utilisée du 15 mai au mois d'octobre.

Enfin on est rendu au plus haut sommet des Provinces Maritimes. À 820 mètres d'altitude le vent est froid, faut dire que notre visite se fait à la mi-septembre, mais le spectacle est merveilleux. On a l'impression d'être au sommet du monde. C'est le temps de photographier ces lacs et montagnes qui nous entourent: au nord on voit le Mont Sagamook et le Mont Head, à l'est les lacs Nipisiguit, au sud-ouest le lac Sisson et les montagnes Serpentine, et le Mont Bailey au nord-ouest.

Après avoir contemplé ce magnifique paysage, nous avons dîné à l'abri du vent cachés entre les grosses roches. Nous avons trouvés des canneberges et des bleuets pour dessert. On est redescendu lentement et, regardant en arrière, on ne pouvait croire que nous avions "grimpé jusque là".

Il y a un numéro sans frais si vous décidez de vous y aventurer: c'est le 1-800-561-0123. Bonne randonnée!

### Errata — David Christie

Apologies to George Greer for mixing up part of his article on the Trans-Canada Highway in our December 1994 issue. The first sentence of the last paragraph on page 36 should have read: The provincial government's white paper on highway development states "a major consideration in the location of arterial highways in the vicinity of urban centres is to ensure that they would not be used by a significant amount of local traffic." My intention was to delete the nearly identical clause from the fourth sentence of the following paragraph (p. 37) which should have ended at *local traffic*.

On page 48, the correct telephone number for Studio on the Marsh is 506-882-2917.

In the same issue, there are some errors in "Nature News." Page

41: the Eurasian Wigeon at Négua PP was June 7-8, the 2 Harlequin Ducks at Miscou LH July 23. Page 42: observer of the Black Vulture at Miscou was Gary Broussard, the female Ruff was at Pte-à-Bouveau July 7-16, the 4 Buff-breasted Sandpipers Aug. 20 at Pte-à-Bouveau. Page 43: the 2 Little Gulls Aug. 26 were at Caraque SL.

Going farther back, the following corrections apply to the December 1993 issue. Page 28: observers of the Black Vulture at Kouchibouguac were Larry & Marianne Neily. Page 30: Stilt Sandpipers at Pte-à-Bouveau should have been 2 adults and only on July 31. Page 31: delete report of Black-headed Gull at Pte-à-Bouveau. Page 34: delete report of Grasshopper Sparrow at Tabusintac.

Most of these errors were introduced when the reports were relayed orally, but I personally was responsible for the extra Stilt Sandpipers and Grasshopper Sparrow, which were actually seen in 1992, not 1993.

## 1994-95 Christmas Bird Count

David Christie

Slightly fewer Christmas Bird Counts (44) were conducted in New Brunswick this winter. The Bathurst count returned after a year's absence, but Machias Seal Island and Salisbury were not done. Because of generally good weather, coverage in the field was quite intensive (party-hours up 10% to 1608), while feeder reports (446) declined somewhat.

A mild late autumn combined with excellent supplies of food led to the counting of 147,059 birds, the second highest we've had (174,538 in 1991-92), and a record 127 species (125 in 1993-94) plus 7 additional species during count period.

Six species not previously noted on New Brunswick counts were reported: **Black-bellied Plover** at Lepreau, **Little Gull** at Eastport-Campobello, **Mew Gull** (European subspecies) at Saint John, **Blue Grosbeak** (!) at Mactaquac, and **Vesper** and **Harris' sparrows** at Fundy National Park. In addition **Black Vulture** (Caraquet) and **Eastern Bluebird** (Hillsborough) were new during count period.

Other rarities were a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** and **Varied Thrush** at Miramichi City, **American Pipit** at Thomaston Corner, and a "**Spotted**" **Rufous-sided Towhee** from the west at Stanley (the Cambridge-Narrows bird was a normal easterner).

The most noteworthy factor affecting birds was the seed and berry supply. The spruce cone crop was heavy over virtually the whole province. Birches also bore heavily, in some areas at least. The supply of mountain-ash fruits was phenomenal. This was true all along the coast (except at Grand Manan, where it seems migrants already may have stripped the trees in fall) and wherever mountain-ash is numerous inland.

The abundance of spruce and birch seeds was reflected by the numbers of **White-winged Crossbill**, **Pine Siskin** (mainly from Cambridge-Narrows to Kedgwick), **Purple Finch**, **Am. Goldfinch**, **Black-capped Chickadee**, **Boreal Chickadee** (in the north), **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Am. Tree Sparrow**, and **Dark-eyed Junco**. **Red Crossbill** was widespread but uncommon. **Evening Grosbeak** was below average, but substantial numbers were seen in most of the Saint John valley and several northern areas. On the other hand, **Pine Grosbeak** and **Common Redpoll** were very scarce. Presumably food supplies allowed

them to stay close to their more northern breeding grounds.

Attracted by the mountain-ash crop were high numbers of **Northern Flicker**, **American Robin**, **Cedar Waxwing**, and **European Starling**. The mountain-ashes also bore heavily across most of Canada and thus we had the lowest number of **Bohemian Waxwing** in years, the birds having largely stayed on their western breeding range.

Among northern raptors, **Rough-legged Hawk**, **Snowy Owl**, and **Northern Hawk Owl**, were poorly represented, but there were two **Gyrfalcons** (Miscou, Restigouche). An increase of **Northern Shrike** was noted towards the end of the count period.

The mild fall and minimum of ice was responsible for lingering **Double-crested Cormorant**, **Northern Gannet** and other waterbirds in the north, as well as larger numbers of **Black Duck** (especially on the mid and upper Bay of Fundy) and **Ring-billed Gull** than normal. Surprisingly, though, most **Canada Geese** seem to have passed south before the counts and there were relatively few **Common Eider** on the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Woodpeckers are generally doing well, with record numbers of **Pileated Woodpecker**, above average counts of **Downy** and **Hairy**, and **Black-backed** back up to average numbers.

Four other species especially numerous this winter were **Ruffed Grouse**, **Rock Dove** (continuing a recent trend), **American Crow** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet**. **House Sparrow** stayed at low ebb. Two compilers had the following comments: "absolutely no House Sparrows reported anywhere (Dalhousie—Mike Lushington) and "Where have they gone? Not one could be found" (Miramichi City—Harry Walker). Check the tables to see where else they weren't found.

As for the species currently expanding their population in New Brunswick, there were record numbers of **Mallard** and **House Finch** (concentrated in the south but including several in the north) and further increases of **Mourning Dove**. **Northern Cardinal** dropped to slightly less than half last year's record numbers but still was well above average. It was found mainly in southwestern and south-central areas.

*Results of some northern coastal areas and the inland counts are presented in the tables on pages xx-xx. Abbreviations and footnotes to the tables appear on page xx.*

#### Bathurst (Bst) 12th year

Dec. 31, 08:00-17:00. Clear & windy; temp.  $-8^{\circ}$  to  $-16^{\circ}$  C; wind NW, 40 km/h. 40 cm snow cover; fresh water frozen.  
Bill Allen, Silvana Bosca, David Dow, Mary Gauthier, Ron Gauthier (compiler), Charlie McAleenan, Eldon McLean, Nora McLean, Doris O'Neill, Stewart Wells.

#### Dalhousie (Dal) 10th year

Jan. 2, 09:00-16:00. Overcast, light to moderate snow throughout day; temp.  $-6^{\circ}$  C; wind E-NE, 0-10 km/h. Ground snow-covered; fresh water 100% frozen, salt water 50-75% frozen.  
David Flynn, Curtis Heppell, Ann Lavoie, Carla Lushington, Henry Lushington, Mike Lushington (compiler).

#### Restigouche (Rst) 5th year

Dec. 18, 08:30-16:30. Overcast, snow beginning at 13:00; temp.  $-8^{\circ}$  to  $-5^{\circ}$  C; calm. Snow cover 45 cm; rivers and Chaleur Bay mostly frozen, brooks open.

Artie Ahier, Mike Arseneault, Ruth Bulmer, Jean Casey, Emily Clavette, Exie Delaney, Philip Dow, Irene Doyle, Carole Dubé, Doug Firlotte, David Flynn, Anne Francoeur, Jean Gallant, Margaret Gallant, Paula Gallie, Greg Guidry, Sandra Gulliver, Tom Gulliver, Lyman Hetherington, Flora Kelly, Mathieu Landry, Ann Lavoie (compiler), Jen Lavoie, Mike Lushington, Alan Madden, Annette Madden, Don Mann, Stuart McCrae, Jean Miles, Marina Mills, Shirley Sharpe, Max Sutherland, Gladie Swan, Sandra Thompson, Marina Tonner, Forrest White, Keith White, Denyse Zyveniuik.

#### Sussex (Ssx) 22nd year

Dec. 17, 08:45-16:30. Cloudy with light snow in some areas in am, changing to sunny with some clouds in pm; temp.  $-12^{\circ}$  to  $-4^{\circ}$  C; wind ?.

Ground frozen with a light snow cover; running water open with edges frozen, still water frozen.  
Tom & Laura Anderson, John & Wilma Arisz, Everett & Flo Arnold, Gert Bishop, Jim Brown, Orland & Thelma Brown, Darren Byers, Anne Candy, John Candy (compiler), Barb Chestnut, Alton & Bertha Chown, Donald Delong & family, Gordon & Pearl Delong, Anthea Doyle, Vesta & Larry Howley, Judy Hutton, Rodger Kaye, Anne Landry, Pauline & Lou MacAfee, Ron & Marion MacAfee, Gerald MacKenzie, Paul Martin, Beth McFarlane, Peggy McKenna, Barry McPhee, Jim McQueen, Dorothy McVey, Hudson Murphy, Doug & Donna Northrup, Elizabeth O'Donnell, Marilyn Powell, Peter & Beth Powning, Jim Proctor, Lois & Gunnar Ravn, Hubert & Evelyn Robinson, Marnie Robinson, Carol & Jack Smith, Tom & Freda Snowdon, Pauline Thibodeau, Eldon & Marie Thorne, Nancy Waters, Ruth Willis, Colby Yeomans.

#### Hammond River-Hampton (Htn) 22nd year

Dec. 27, 07:00-16:30. Clear; temp.  $-12^{\circ}$  to  $-1^{\circ}$  C; wind NW, 0-5 km/h. Snow cover 12 cm; most water & ground frozen.

Ron Arseneault, Bob Barton, Todd Beach, David Christie, Margaret Churchill, Paul Clark, Bruce Coles, Chad Coles, Henry Darling, John Darling, Phyllis Darling, Allen Gorham, Janet Gorham, Karen Gorham, Peggy Harding, Jean Isaacs, Denise Johnston, Peggy Kelbaugh, Nancy Ketchum, Mary Majka, Win MacAndrew, David McCurdy, Iris McCurdy, Brenda McKnight, Harvey McLeod, David Smith, Ian Stead, Angela Wilshaw, Peter Wilshaw, Brian Wilson, Gretchen Wilson, Jean Wilson (sr.), Jean Wilson (jr.), Jim Wilson (compiler), Kay Withers, Phil Withers.

#### Cambridge-Narrows (C-N) 25th year

Dec. 31, 08:45-16:45. Clear; temp.  $-12^{\circ}$  to  $-6^{\circ}$  C; wind NW, 5-20 km/h. Light snow cover; lakes frozen.

Ford Alward, Emily & Fred Barton, Marion Belyea, Betty & Winston Carpenter, Lawrence Carpenter, Marie Carpenter, Bruce Chase, Lorraine Cochrane, Thora Connell, Ben Fanjoy, Imogene Gilchrist, Sandra Hamilton, Hanna Handajo, Margaret Hicks, Alan Howes, Enid Inch (compiler), Rhoda Inch, Debora Kantor, Dot McConnachie, Elva McConnachie, Mildred Moss, Charles Northrup, Audrey Perry, Art & Nellie Perry, Dorothy Reece, Joyce Robinson, Robert Ryder, Catherine Sleep, Ethel Sleep, Joyce Thorne, Niven Thorne, Walter Thorne.

#### Jemseg (Jem) 32nd year

Dec. 31, 08:00-16:00. Partly cloudy a.m., clear p.m.; temp.  $-12^{\circ}$  to  $-3^{\circ}$  C; wind NW, 0-20 km/h. Snow cover, stubble showing; most water frozen, a few open patches.

Mike Casey, Rod Currie, Don Gibson, Lionel Girouard, Jim Goltz, Andrew MacDougall, Cathy MacKenzie, David Myles, Marven Palmer, Robert Palmer, Brian Richardson, Shirley Sloat, Owen Washburn (compiler).

#### Minto (Min) 7th year

Dec. 26, 08:00-17:00. Clear; temp.  $-16^{\circ}$  to  $12^{\circ}$  C; wind W, 5 km/h. Snow cover 7.5 cm; water frozen.

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

#### Fredericton (Ftn) 39th year

Dec. 18, 07:30-17:00. Overcast, snow in p.m. (5-10 cm); temp.  $-2^{\circ}$  to  $+2^{\circ}$  C; calm. Snow cover 10 cm; river open.

Chris Adam, Diane Allain, Moira Campbell, Eric Carr, Mike Casey, Gerry Clayden, Susan Clayden, Maureen Clements, Cheryl Cougle, Jim Cougle, Merlene Crawford, Stanley Crawford, Rod Currie, Hal Dalzell, Tony Diamond, Lucy Dyer, Jo-Anne Fellows, Jim Feltmate, Katie FitzRandolph, Graham Forbes, Don Gibson (compiler), Margaret Gibson, Lionel Girouard, Angelique Gloss, Jim Goltz, Charlie Graves, Harold Hatheway, Tony Little, David Lounsbury, Sara Lounsbury, Cathy MacLaggan, Susan Martin, Brian McEwing, Barry Monson, David Myles, Murray Neilson, Paul Nicholson, Jean Noble, Jim Noble, Liese O'Hara, Margie Olive, Peter Pearce, Lionel Richard, Dwayne Sabine, Bev Schneider, Marc Schneider, Mary Schousboe, Bill Seabrook, Jane Seabrook, Amanda Shaw, Darcy Shaw, Shirley Sloat, Muriel Smith, Jane Tarn, Richard Tarn, Glenda Turner, Leon Vietinghoff, Owen Washburn, Ron Wilson.

#### Mactaquac (Mac) 15th year

Jan. 1, 07:15-17:25. Overcast, snow in late pm; temp.  $-2^{\circ}$  to  $-4^{\circ}$  C; calm to very light wind. Snow cover 25-30 cm; frozen streams and marshes.

Barbara Clayden, Gerry Clayden, Stephen Clayden, Susan Clayden, Don Gibson, Jim Goltz, Ed Keenan, Leona Keenan, David Myles (compiler), Peter Pearce, Shirley Sloat.

#### Thomaston Corner (TC) 2nd year

Dec. 28, 08:00-17:00. Cloudy with occasional flurries or showers; temp.  $-4^{\circ}$  to  $0^{\circ}$  C; wind W-SW, 15 km/h. Snow cover 1-8 cm; large lakes (Oromocto & Magaguadavic) partially open.

Andrew MacDougall (compiler), Donald MacDougall, Andrew Richardson, Michael Surette.

#### Stanley (Sty) 20th year

Dec. 17, 08:00-17:00. Overcast; temp.  $-10^{\circ}$  to  $-4^{\circ}$  C; calm. Snow cover 30 cm; water open.

Gerald Bavis, Lorna & Peter Belyea, Dena Corey, Peter Demarsh, Gordon Dunphy, Thelma Fairley, Gisele Gaudet, Jim Goltz, Sue Grattan, Harold Hatheway, Rita LeBlanc-Hughes, Peter Hughes, Connie & Roger Ince, Andrew MacDougall, John MacRae, Ruth Munn, Irvine Munn, David Myles, Margie Pacey, Dawn Parker, Uda Ross, Julie Singleton (compiler), Muriel Smith, Marg Sparks, Sharon Suttie, Robert Whitney.

#### Woodstock (Wsk) 31st year

Dec. 27, 08:00-17:00. Clear; temp.  $-9^{\circ}$  C; wind nil. Ground snow-covered; water frozen.

Sheldon Anderson, Blair Avery, Leona Avery (compiler), Louis Beatty, Rev. T.S. Bellis, Jane Bernard, Earle Blackie, Mrs. Harold Bonnell, Earle Briggs, Duff Campbell, Moira Campbell, Mrs. Paul Clark, Gerald Demmings, Gerald Donovan, Mrs. Blair Findlater, Mrs. Melvin Fogarty, Mrs. David Fry, R.C. Gibson, Ruth B. Godwin, Verna Grant, Charles Graves, Adam Hadley, Eric & Jane Hadley, Matthew Hadley, Malcolm Hall, Harold Harley, Ronald Hawkins, Ken Homer, Jack Lavender, Mrs. Charles MacDonald, Edwin Marsh, Walter Neal, Mrs. Roger Olmstead, Alex Patterson, Debra Price, Alma Speer, Karen Speer, Marten Speer, Robert John & Donna Speer, Arthur Spies, David Stone, W. A. Stone, John Williams, Gordon Wort, Mrs. James Yerxa.

#### Hartland (Hrt) 23rd year

Dec. 26, 08:00-17:00. Sun, cloudy with strong winds; temp.  $-3^{\circ}$  C; wind NW, 40 km/h. Bare ground visible; little open water.

Bud Belyea, Ross Belyea, Pearl Boyd, Florence Britton, Arthur Bryant, Hubert Bryant, Marta Bryant, Fred Burnett, Dell Buxton, Anna Canam, Diane Clark (compiler), Winnifred Clark, Mary Craig, Dorothy ..., Everett Culberson, Marie Davis, Violet Davis, Doug DeMerchant, Vera DeWitt, Walter Downey, Anna Fogarty, Winfred Glass, Billy Goodine, Paul Green, Mary Hallett, Shirley Hauth, Gordon Havens, Eugene Hay, Clarence Hendry, Neil Hill, Pat Hill, Jane Hovey, Nancy Hunter, ... Johnston, Mrs. Lorne Jones, Gary Kinney, Winnifred Lawrence, Lee McKenzie, Harry McLean, Grant Milroy, Jim Morrison, Harold Nevers, Vera Orser, Charles & Lori Prosser, Blanche Rideout, Elta Rideout, Archie Shaw, Jeannie Shaw, Marsha Shaw, Marjorie Smith, Glenna Stephenson, Lorna Stokes, Gladys Tracy, Lloyd Trecartin, Ted Wallace, Winona ....

#### Florenceville (Flo) 14th year

Dec. 26, 08:00-17:00. Clear; temp.  $-15^{\circ}$  to  $-10^{\circ}$  C; wind NW, 30 km/h. Snow cover ?; water ?.

Ann Brennan, Ansel Campbell, David Campbell, Harry & Anna Ebbett, Jeannette Greene, Holland Kearney, Aubrey Lamont, Helen Lovely (compiler), Alice Lockhart, Eleanor Mackell, Lorna Maddox, Les & Kay

McIntosh, Ray Mulherin, Janet Oakes, Marjorie Papineau, Dean Prior, Lawrence Sweet, Helen Wyman.

#### Glassville-Juniper (G-J) 12th year

Dec. 27, 8:00-17:00. Sunny, partial clouds; temp.  $-3^{\circ}$  to  $+3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; calm. Snow cover 15 cm; brooks with small open patches.

Flo Anderson, Mary Anderson, Jack Archibald, Edith Buxton, Trudie Cox, Wendell Crabbe, Wanda DeLong, Ronnie Derrah, Ron Fournier, Carrie Gascoigne, Lindsay Giberson, Marge Martinson, Carol Ann McBrine, Claude McBrine, Agnes McIntosh, Elsie McIntosh, Darlene McIntosh, Jessie McIntosh, Sally McIntosh (compiler), Janet Pearson, Marion Pearson, Peter Puleston, Marge Spence, Jessie Welsh, Marion Spence, Jessie Welsh.

#### Perth-Andover (P-A) 26th year

Dec. 27, 08:00-16:30. Cloudy with sunny periods; temp.  $-15^{\circ}$  to  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind N, 0-5 km/h. Snow cover 20 cm; more open water than normal.

Ellsworth DeMerchant, Judy Hanson, Roy Leach, Henry Manzer, Margaret McLaughlin, Judy McNally, Gail Pickett, Mary Jane Savoy, Frederick W. Tribe, Margaret Wallace, Murray Waters (compiler).

#### Plaster Rock (PR) 23rd year

Dec. 28, 09:00-17:00. Low clouds, no sun, occasional snow flakes; temp.  $-16^{\circ}$  to  $-12^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; very little wind. Fields snow-covered; some open water on the Tobique River.

Emmie Reed Aiton, Daphne & John Anderson, Yvon Beaulieu, Doris Crawford, Kate & Bob Finnamore, Irene Hollins, Bessie & Peter MacDonald, Helen & Dusty Rabatich, Laverne Rabatich (compiler), Melissa Skinner.

#### Nictau-Riley Brook (Nic) 22nd year

Jan. 2, 09:00-17:00. Cloudy with snow flurries; temp.  $-6^{\circ}$  to  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NW, 5 km/h. Snow cover 30 cm; More water open than usual.

Juanita Black, Roger Jenkins (compiler), Wesley Jenkins, Leroy Johnson, Rose McCullum, Blanchard McDougall, Diana McAskill, Bill Miller, Jr., Joan Nevers.

#### Edmundston (Etn) 8ième année

Le 17 déc., 08:00-16:00. Nuageux avec faible averse de neiges; temp.  $-9^{\circ}$  à  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; vent SE, 7 km/h. Terre recouverte de neige; eaux glacées.

Daniel Bouchard, Pierrette Bouchard, Simon Bouchard, J. Denys Bourque, Monique Caron, Yvon Caron, Benoit Clavette, Denise H. Cyr, Lucie Émond, Ginette Émond, Pat Émond, Robert Émond, Luc Fournier, Marie-Anne Gauvin, Louise-Anne Lajoie, Bert Lavoie, Colette Lavoie, Florida Lavoie, Madeleine Lavoie (compilatrice), Marie-Josée Leclerc, Vicky Lentz, Rollande Martin, Pierrette Mercier, Danielle Nadeau, Anne-Marie Ouellette, Gérald Pelletier, Gilles D. Roussel, Francine Bérubé St-Amand, Jamie Savoie, Michael Savoie, Lévio Thériault, Georgette Thibodeau, Gisèle Thibodeau, Martin Thibodeau, Gérard Verret (Club d'ornithologie de Madawaska).

#### Kedgwick (Ked) 5ième année

Le 27 déc., 08:00-15:30. Nuageux; temp.  $-8^{\circ}$  à  $-6^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; vent nil. 40 cm de neige; lacs 100% gelés, rivières 90% gelées.

Hélène Cimon, René Cimon, Arthur Desjardins, Cécile Desjardins, Aline Émond, Ginette Émond, Pat Émond (compilateur), René Gauvin, Robert Larouche, Marie-Reine Simon, Roland Simon., Francine St-Amand, Georgette Thibodeau, Gisèle Thibodeau.

#### Mount Carleton Provincial Park (MtC) 17th year

Dec. 28, 09:00-15:30. Cloudy with snow (7-8 cm); temp.  $-6^{\circ}$  to  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NW, 5-10 km/h. Snow cover 30 cm; running water open.

Roger Jenkins (compiler), Chris Kusch, Terry Kusch

#### Southeast Upsalquitch (SEU) 13th year

Dec. 28, 09:30-15:30. Overcast with snow; temp.  $-5^{\circ}$  to  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NW, 5 km/h. Snow cover 30-45 cm; river frozen.

Alfred Arseneau, Ron Gauthier (compiler), Garry Goodwin, Charlie McAleenan, Rod O'Connell, Stewart Wells.

#### Paquetville (Paq) 7ième année

Le 27 déc., 08:00-16:00. Nuageux, 2-3 cm de neige le matin; temp.  $-7^{\circ}$  à  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; vent O, 0 km/h. 20 cm de neige sur le sol.

Hilaire Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Marcel David, Benoît Hébert, Guy Hébert, Claire Landry, Jude Larocque, Corinne Mallet, Roland Robichaud (compilateur), Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre.

#### Miramichi (Mir) 23rd year

Dec. 28, 08:00-17:00. Overcast, snowing much of the time; temp.  $-3^{\circ}$  to  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind ? light. Snow cover 25 cm; all water frozen.

Mrs. William Arnoldus, Margaret Benn, Jeep Bosma, Eileen Bransfield, Monica Charnley, Winston Churchill, Florence Currie, Barbara Digdon, Vernon Goodfellow, Father Grattan, Tom Greathouse, Linda Hartlen, Bill Hogan, Ida Holland, Bud Jardine, John Keating, Susan Keating, Margaret MacKinnon, Les Matchett, Lem McDonald, Madeleine Morrisette, Sandy

Mullin, Dave Pickard, Frank Power, Mary Rawlinson, Mary Ripley, Alice Ronan, Theresa Ross, Bob Steele, Delta Steeves, Jack Ullock, Frank Van Raak, Harry Walker (compiler), Lyle Walker, Winnie Walker, Parker Wheaton, Theresa Zunich.

### Results of the following coastal counts are in the tables on pages xx-xx.

#### Grand Manan (GM) 24th year

Jan. 1, 08:00-17:00. Light snow a.m., light snow and rain p.m.; temp.  $-1^{\circ}$  to  $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NE, 30 km/h. 2 cm of fresh snow cover; still water frozen, moving water open.

Jim Brown, Moira Campbell, Brian Dalzell (compiler), Charles Graves, Gloria Hobbs, Stephanie Hobbs, Audrey Ingalls, Betty Leighton, Rodger & Elaine Maker, Peter & Carmen Roberts, Andrew Sharkey, Kay Tatton, Allison Thomas.

#### Eastport-Campobello (E-C) 28th year

Dec. 26, 06:45-16:15 EST. Clear; temp.  $-4^{\circ}$  to  $+1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NW, 25-50 km/h. Ground bare, some ice on roads; standing fresh water frozen, moving water partly open.

Ann Bacon, Sid Bahrt, Moira Campbell, Leroy Carter, Virginia Carter, Charles Duncan, Ralph Eldridge, Norman Famous, Charles Graves, Ellen Johnson, Laurie Larson, Sally Lennon, Maury Mills (compiler), Bob Myers, Ann Simmons, Fred Stocking, Marion Stocking, William Townsend.

#### St. Andrews (StA) 34th year

Dec. 17, ? am-? pm. Overcast, low threatening clouds; temp.  $-6^{\circ}$  to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NE, light. Several cm of old snow cover, bare patches under the trees; standing fresh water frozen, sea open with shore ice in protected coves.

Mindy Brown, Dale Chambers, Carlotta Cummings, Brian Cummings, Tracey Dean (compiler), Brenda Fullerton, Charles Graves, Margo Mais, Frances & Don McLeese, Ursula Meier, Ray and Dick Peterson, Lee & Lonny Ryall, Peggy Saunders, Millie and Bev Scott, Tom Smith, Dave Stevens, Willa Walker, Gwyneth Wilbur, Marlene and Dick Wilbur, Marion Wilder.

#### Blacks Harbour (BH) 32nd year

Jan. 1, 8:30-17:00. Solid overcast with steady heavy snow; temp.  $-2^{\circ}$  to  $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NE, 0-30 km/h. Snow cover 5 cm; moving fresh water open, still frozen; salt water open, some coves clogged with snow.

Ralph Eldridge (compiler).

#### Lepreau (Lep) 31st year

Dec. 17, 08:35-15:49. Overcast; temp.  $-6^{\circ}$  to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind WNW, 10 km/h. Slightly frozen ground with light snow cover; fresh water ?, sea calm.

Lloyd Foster, David McCurdy (compiler), Paul Mortimer, Jim Wilson.

#### Saint John (SJ) 38th year

Dec. 31, 08:00-17:00. Hazy sun, clear by noon; temp.  $-12^{\circ}$  to  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NW, 5-48 km/h. Slightly frozen ground with little snow cover; most water open.

Kathleen Alexander, Terri Anderson, Dave Baldwin, Mike Bamford, Ethel & Roly Bosence, Helen Brown, Ian Cameron, Moira Campbell, David Christie, Greta & Ken Clark, Stephen Clark, Stephen Clayden, Shirley Colquette, Jeanne Finn-Allen, Allen Gorham, Janet Gorham, Karen Gorham, Kit & Margaret Graham, Rory Grant, Charles Graves, Juliette Hickman, Charlotte Hutchinson, Cecil Johnston, Denise Johnston, Sally Kilpatrick, Ross & Willa Mavis, Don McAlpine, David McCurdy, Doreen McIntosh, Brenda McKnight, Ngairie Nelson, Joan & Ron Pearce, Rick Peacock, Dorothy Peterson, Judy Schell, Sue & Ted Shedd, David Smith (compiler), Don Smith, Evan Smith, Ian Stead, Susan Trites, Edward Walters, Graham & Sandy Webb, Peter Wilshaw, Jim Wilson, Frank & Mitzi Withers.

#### St. Martins (StM) 14th year

Dec. 31, 7:30-17:00. Clear; temp.  $-11^{\circ}$  to  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind WNW, 20-30 km/h. Little snow cover along the coast; some fresh water open.

Denis Doucet, Jane LeBlanc, Frank Kelly, Dianne Kelly, Ted Sears (compiler), Keith Steeves.

#### Fundy National Park (FNP) 30th year

Dec. 20, 8:00-4:45. Clear; temp.  $-10^{\circ}$  to  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NW, 10-30 km/h. Snow cover 25-40 cm; Freshwater frozen except on fast-flowing brooks, sea ice 0%.

Anne Bardou, John Brownlie, David Christie, Alain Clavette, Carole Daigle, Édouard Daigle, Jackie DeCoste, Lloyd DeCoste, Gisela Downey, Elaine Eagles, Stephen Flemming, Doris Hatt, Mary Majka, Mike Majka, Patricia Martin, Beulah Michelin, Doreen Rossiter, George Sinclair, Brian Townsend, Karen Townsend, Gail Walker, Rob Walker (compiler), Jane Watts.

**Riverside-Albert (R-A) 26th year**

Jan. 1, 07:30-17:10. Heavy cloud cover, light to moderate snow beginning at 14:30; temp.  $-6^{\circ}$  to  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind W, 0-10 km/h. 5-15 cm of crusted snow topped with 8 cm of fresh snow by end of day; freshwater frozen; sea open, beaches covered with slush.

David Christie (compiler), David Clark, Barbara Curlew, Denis Doucet, Rick Elliott, Lars Larsen, Michelle Larsen, Mary Majka, Mike Majka, Pat Martin, Suzanne Poussart, Yves Poussart, Ron Steeves, Stuart Tingley, Rob Walker.

**Hillsborough (Hil) 4th year**

Dec. 29, 08:00-16:50. Overcast, rain in a.m., rain, sleet and snow in p.m.; temp.  $-4^{\circ}$  to  $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind SE to N, 9-52 km/h. Snow cover 20-40 cm; freshwater frozen except fast-flowing streams, sea and tidal waters open. Barbara Curlew, Jackie Decoste, Lloyd Decoste, Rick Elliott, Len Hawkes, Shirley Hunt, Gail Walker, Rob Walker (compiler).

**Moncton (Mtn) 33rd year**

Dec. 18, 06:00-16:45. Overcast with a few scattered sunny breaks; temp.  $-7^{\circ}$  to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NE, 0-10 km/h. Ground largely covered with 8-16 cm of snow; freshwater frozen except for fast streams, salt water largely open. Chris Antle, Anne Arsenault, Théo Arsenault, Marg Bartlett, Normand Belliveau, David Christie, Alain Clavette, Brian Coates, Donald Cormier, Bob Cotsworth, Richard DeBow, Lloyd Decoste, Denis Doucet, Gerald Doucet, Oscar Duguay, Jim Edsall, Mary Fownes, Pat Fox, Derek & Madeleine Gemmell, Allan Gregoire, Susan Hoar, Charles Howell, Shirley Hunt, Ford Keith, Connie King, Dulcie Knee, Oscar LeBlanc, Ron Leger, John Loch, Gwen MacKenzie, John MacKenzie, Cheryl MacLaggan, Rose-Alma Mallet, Gerald Mazerolle, Daniel Mazerolle, Alice McQuarrie, Edwin Melanson, Wayne & Win Murray, Sharon Northorp, Ron Pellerin, Nelson Poirier, Harold Popma, Kathy Popma, Mike Rae, Allan Raegele, Stan Robinson, Shirley Robinson, Edgar Savoie, Bill Scott, Heather Silliker, Dwight Staube, Wendy Sullivan, John Tanner (compiler), Mary Tanner, Ruth Thompson, Rob Walker, Alma White, Don White, Vivian White, Doug Whitman, Phyllis Whitman, Jerry Wigmore, Enid Wigmore, Roy Wilks, Steve Wilmot, Bill Wood.

**Sackville (Sck) 35th year**

Dec. 21, 07:40-16:45. Mild clear day; temp.  $-5^{\circ}$  to  $+3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind SW, 0-20 km/h. 40 cm fresh snow cover; little open water (0-10% open). Paul Bogaard, Dan Busby, Don Colpitts, Richard Elliott, Tony & Janet Erskine, George Finney, Neville Garrity, Al Hansen, Peter Hicklin (compiler), Edward Hicklin, Andrew Hicks, Ron Hounsell, Robert Lyon, Colin MacKinnon, Kathy Popma, Al Smith, John Wilson.

**Cape Tormentine (CT) 33rd year**

Dec. 20, 07:45-16:45. Sunny with cloudy breaks; temp.  $-8^{\circ}$  to  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NW, 5-15 km/h. 30-40 cm of fresh snow cover; fresh water mostly frozen, salt water mostly open with extensive areas of slush along NE coastline. Paul Bogaard, Neil Burgess, Dan Busby, Tony Erskine, Ross Galbraith, Nev Garrity, Peter Hicklin, Randy Hicks, Ron Hounsell, Robert Lyon, Colin MacKinnon, Bill Murphy, Al Smith (compiler).

**Shédiac (Shd) 7ième année**

Le 26 déc., 09:00-16:00. Beau, soleil; temp.  $-4^{\circ}$  to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; vent NO, 0-20 km/h. Neige au sol 30 cm; l'eau ? Théo Arsenault, Louis Babineau, Lee Bateman, Normand Belliveau, Angela Bourgeois, Donald Cormier (compilateur), Charles Doucet, Denis Doucet, Oscar Duguay, Rose-Alma Mallet, Léo Martin, Onide Maurice, Edgar Savoie, Stuart Tingley (Les Ami(e)s de la Nature).

**Kouchibouguac National Park (KNP) 25th year**

Dec. 21, 08:30-16:15. Cloudy; temp.  $-3^{\circ}$  to  $-6^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NW, 8 km/h. Snow cover 20 cm; still water frozen, moving water partly open. Gilles Daigle, Gregory Daigle, Mathieu Dumont, Noël Fontaine, Jean Guy Gaudet, Jean-Marie Mazerolle, Marc Mazerolle, Benoit Richard (compiler), Pierrette Robichaud, Victor Savoie, Arnold Vautour, Marc-André Villard.

**Tracadie (Tra) 8ième année**

Le 26 déc., 08:00-16:00. Neige et glace; temp.  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; vent NE, 30 km/h. Denise Benoit, Hilaire Chiasson, Roland Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Marcel David, Désanges Doiron, Robert Doiron, Ernest Ferguson (compilateur), Fleur-Ange Haché, Benoit Hébert, Guy Hébert, Benoit Lanteigne, Rosita Lanteigne, Jude Larocque, Corrine Mallais, Jean-Yves Paulin, Marie Paulin, Yolande Paulin, Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre.

**Ile Lamèque (Lam) 22ième année**

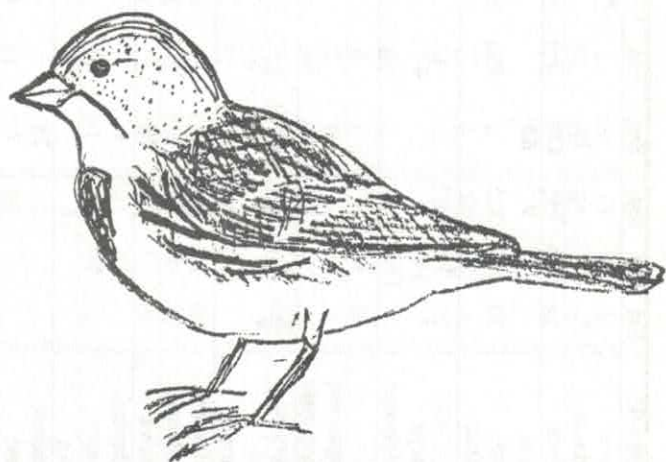
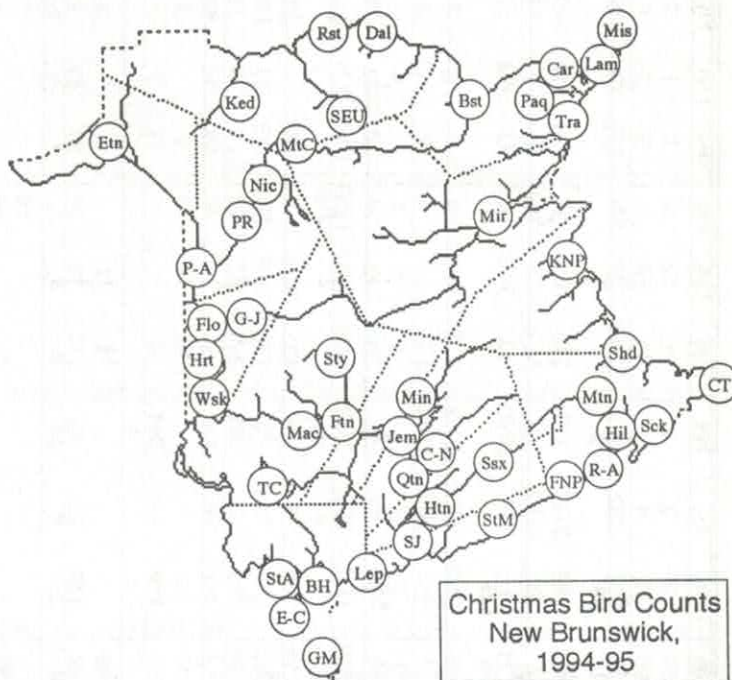
Le 22 déc., 08:00-16:30. Ciel clair; temp.  $-6^{\circ}$  à  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; vent SO, 20 km/h. 30 cm de neige; eau de mer gelée à 50%. Gérard Benoit, Égide Chiasson, Hilaire Chiasson (compilateur), Jacques Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Marcel David, Désanges Doiron, Émile Ferron, Jacques Guignard, Jocelyne Guignard, Stéphane Guignard, Benoit Hébert, Lucie Hébert, Jude Larocque, Anicet Paulin, Gertrude St-Pierre.

**Ile Miscou (Mis) 8ième année**

Le 17 déc., 08:30-16:00. Nuageux, temp.  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; vent nul. 30 cm de neige. Eau de mer couverte de glace 25%. Hilaire Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson (compilatrice), Marcel David, Jacques Guignard, Stéphane Guignard, Fleur-Ange Haché, Benoit Hébert, Claire Landry, Benoit Lanteigne, Rosita Lanteigne, Jude Larocque, Gertrude St-Pierre.

**Caraquet (Car) 10ième année**

Le 18 déc., 08:00-16:00. Ciel variable; temp.  $-4^{\circ}$  to  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; vent 0-10 km/h. 30 cm de neige au sol; eau gelée à 60%. Hilaire Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Marcel David (compilateur), Jacques Guignard, Stéphane Guignard, Fleur-Ange Haché, Benoit Hébert, Lucie Hébert, Benoit Lanteigne, Rosita Lanteigne, Jude Larocque, Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre.



Harris' Sparrow: Documentary Sketch  
by David Christie

CBCs: 1994-95																								
	Bst	Dal	Rst	Ssx	Htn	C-N	Jem	Min	Ftn	Mac	TC	Sty	Wsk	Hrt	Flo	G-J	P-A	PR	Nic	Etm	Ked	MtC	SEU	Paq
Snow Goose	*			14		*																		
Canada Goose		4	74	129	3				16	8		1		*	21		2			4				
Am Black Duck				53					2	90		2		2					4					
Mallard			9						1															
Greater Scaup																								
Harlequin Duck															1									
Oldsquaw		*							1															
Com Goldeneye	*	14			47				136	525					8				20					
Barrow's Goldeneye		110							1															
Bufflehead		1							*															
Hooded Merganser									4															
Common Merganser				9	32				133	55		2					1							
Red-br Merganser	20	2	*						2															
Bald Eagle	*	*		2	3	*	1		6	4	2	1	*	2	1			*	2				1	
Northern Harrier						*																		
Sharp-shin Hawk			*	1	5	*			3	2		1		3	1		*		1			1		
Northern Goshawk					1	1			1			1												
Red-tailed Hawk				10	3				1															
Rough-leg Hawk				1			3						1											
Merlin		*																						
Gyr Falcon			1																					
Ring-nk Pheasant				23		2			1				14	1		3								
Spruce Grouse				2		1		1						1										
Ruffed Grouse	2	3	1	31	9	14	9		8	2	*	14	8	8	3	3	5	6	8	6	2	*	2	
Ring-billed Gull		*	12	11	1																			
Herring Gull	11	6	54	56	144				150	3			9							2				
Iceland Gull		5	4		6															224				
Glaucous Gull		8	26						1															
Great Blk-bk Gull	34	90	165	19	107		4		700	50			88							249				
Blk-leg Kittiwake		*																						
Black Guillemot		*																						
Rock Dove	24	45	265	876	211	76	122	15	1424	226	32	27	528	175	159	38	125	68	113	26			2	
Mourning Dove	50	6		224	213	119	102		314	69	5	34	93	97	73	14	6	41	2	67			36	
Great Horned Owl				1	3		*	1	2	1	*	1		*										
No. Hawk Owl			*			*	3		1	2		1												
Barred Owl																								
N. Saw-whet Owl									1	1														
Downy Woodpkr	3	1	10	24	24	29	13	2	38	32	7	24	46	33	23	6	6	12	7	9	2	6	*	
Hairy Woodpkr	3	2		19	11	33	19	8	33	23	2	24	37	28	11	7	6	20	5	9	2	5	3	
3-toed Woodpkr									*															
Blk-bk Woodpkr									1		*	1				1		2		2		1	1	
North Flicker			1		2															1		4	2	
Pileated Woodpkr	*		3	4	4	4	2	*	12	11	4	6	4	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	
Horned Lark				*					15															
Gray Jay		2	1	11	10	16	13	6	14	14	25	8	18	10		9	14		20	2	6	12	18	
Blue Jay	9	14	66	184	113	143	55	10	173	120	45	146	147	192	129	163	44	76	60	95	22	4	1	
American Crow	40	23	39	257	259	157	80	8	243	66	15	53	340	140	53	69	57	20	10	180			51	
Common Raven	11	80	82	186	81	71	36	4	83	37	58	64	137	70	18	19	6	49	119	131	66	6	1	
Blk-cap Chickadee	73	62	250	458	658	403	386	48	817	389	178	345	391	286	151	151	87	102	94	237	94	66	38	
Boreal Chickadee	2	1		12	1		3		13	6	3	3				2	1	2	3	*	17	28	19	
Red-br Nuthatch	7	2	16	54	31	45	33	1	92	34	35	96	23	11	6	18	6	7	8	16	9	12	9	
Wh-br Nuthatch			2		2	6	1		6					5			2			2			28	

CBCs: 1994-95	Bst	Dal	Rst	Ssx	Htn	C-N	Jem	Min	Ftn	Mac	TC	Sty	Wsk	lrt	Flo	G-J	P-A	PR	Nic	Etn	Ked	MtC	SEU	Paq
Brown Creeper	7	2		1	29	27	14	1	1	8	52	14	29	5	6		15	2				3	*	17
Golden-cr Kinglet				2					86													7		
Ruby-cr Kinglet	77	9	34	14	1	1	1	1	3			7	1	1	1		2	*	2	*		15	*	
American Robin				1																				
No Mockingbird																								
American Pipit																								
Bohemian Waxwing	*					10																		
Cedar Waxwing						7																		
Northern Shrike		1		1	3	1	1	1	1	*				4			*		5	24	25	2		1
Loggerhead Shrike				1																				
European Starling	58	240	400	1008	660	355	437	44	1637	400	173	161	394	403	351	298	39	71	21	394	122			48
Yel-rump Warbler				2					*															
Pine Warbler	*			1																				
Northern Cardinal				3	3				6	1					*									
Blue Grosbeak										1														
Ruf-sided Towhee						1																		
A Tree Sparrow	*			301	64	123	216	6	55	164	24	34	29	205	42	6	2	10	24	5		*	2	
Chipping Sparrow				2						1														
Song Sparrow				1	6	*				3				3	1									
Swamp Sparrow									2															
Wh-thr Sparrow				1	1	1								1		1	10							
Dark-eyed Junco																								
Snow Bunting	71	3	16	164	37	58	17		60	23	22	44	22	12	47	5	16	18	22	219	82	1		286
Red-w Blackbird				77	*	187	121	64	1	6	60	157	301	271	187	138	53	36	22					
Common Grackle				*						1														
Bm-head Cowbird																								
Pine Grosbeak	5		16			7				3				*	20			3						
Purple Finch																								
House Finch				41	15	40	72		58	110	117	67	131	23	16	53	13	5	38	10	42	17		31
Red Crossbill				2					40				4	2				3						
Wh-w Crossbill	2	10	53	14	65	18	169		31	146	104	264	9			15	1	3	71	70	293	59	129	65
Common Redpoll				15	10		19		40	12			15	16	10	1		1						2
Pine Siskin	4			26	31	69	22		73	80	87	176	2		6	38	31	45	31	10	330	29	24	3
Amer Goldfinch	40	6	90	411	218	356	89	12	360	387	27	305	340	82	70	15	38	75	74	7	3			4
Evening Grosbeak	30	10	155	471	51	694	168		202	584	187	142	157	266	137	113	11	110	84	52	88	*	435	
House Sparrow				298	78	10	77		124	214	2	19	137	135		187	*	32		17	18			
Unidentified					1j							10k			4m									
TOTAL BIRDS	583	775	1984	5543	3262	3222	2341	232	7228	3971	1229	2273	3439	2494	1572	1382	554	877	625	2328	1289	251	263	1350
TOTAL SPECIES	23	29	34	51	45	35	33	17	53	43	25	37	31	33	31	26	27	35	21	32	24	18	15	25
Add. Spp. in Period	7	6	3	4	2	6	1	1	3	1	3		1	4	2		4	1					6	
Hrs on foot	19	15	28.5	?	9	6	19.5	4	71	6.5	10.5	11.17	7.25	11	4	6	2.5?	3	3	20	9	12	14	?
Hrs by car	1	3	28	?	38	17	25	9	63	24.5	13.5	27.5	9.75	15.5	4	6	6	8	5	41	16	2	1	?
Hrs otherwise																								
TOTAL HOURS	20	18	56.5	75	47	23	40	13	134	31	24	38.67	17	26.5	8	12	8.5	11	8	61	25	14	15	32
Km on foot	8	25	45	?	15	15	49	4	122	16	19.5	21	17.5	28	8.5	7	5	5.6	5	39	10	30	10	27
Km by car	20	150	277	?	637	344	360.5	134	681	386	215.5	372	219	308	31	198	145	96.8	65	536	180	28	30	302
Km otherwise																								
TOTAL KM	28	175	322	?	652	359	409.5	138	803	402	235	393	236.5	336	39.5	205	150	102.4	70	575	190	58	40	329
No. of observers	5	4	18	37	16	14	13	5	60	11	4	11	14	18	7	3	2	6	2	31	12	3	6	11
No. of parties	5	4	11	25	7	8	7	3	25	5	3	5	4	13	5	2	1	2	1	10	6	2	3	4
Feeder reports	5	1	20	20	19	19	2		66	20		11	33	63	10	22	9	4	7	4	2			

CBCs: 1994-95	GM	E-C	STA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Hil	Mtn	Sck	CT	Shd	KNP	Mir	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	NB Tot
Red-thr Loon		2		4		1	1	*	4										1		13
Common Loon	10	18	20	6	16	5	1						1						3		80
Horned Grebe	22	4	42		25	2	1														96
Red-necked Grebe	210	6	22	9	17														1		265
Northern Gannet	1				*														1		2
Great Cormorant	121	54	5	16	3														1		199
D-crest Cormorant	1	3		3					*			1									8
Great Blue Heron	1			*																	2
Snow Goose																					*
Brant	*																				*
Canada Goose	15			5					1		2		46				*				83
Am Black Duck	454	930	76	51	64	767	55	6	1057	231	103	1	2	1							4060
Mallard	31	10		2		26	16		10	3	1325	11									1596
Gadwall						2			1												3
Greater Scaup	5		55	*	4																65
Lesser Scaup																		1			1
Common Eider	920	116	1660	209	171	1							10	30			18	22	26		3183
Harlequin Duck	*																				1
Oldsquaw	145	134	102	282	16								247	89	2		408	4	258	392	2080
Black Scoter	16	2		27	27												3	3	40		88
Surf Scoter	58	3			24								2				1	1			88
Wh-wing Scoter	66	1	10	26	36												1	1	1		141
Com Goldeneye	100	65	20	18	92	250	23	9	12			5	27	103			30	15	2	10	1531
Barrow Goldeneye													23				7	3		2	146
Bufflehead	38	271	204	111	46	52	2						6								731
Hooded Merganser		7	5		7																23
Com Merganser		14		8	1	89	3		22		15	11		72							467
Red-br Merganser	183	76	9	2	39	39	*						19	1			2	1	45	22	462
Black Vulture																				*	*
Bald Eagle	3	42	1	51	1		*	2	*	2	2		1	*	3	*					133
Northern Harrier	*	2		1		*					3	1									7
Sharp-shin Hawk		2				1	*	1	*	3	3	5	4								26
Northern Goshawk	*		*				*		1			1	2								15
Red-shoulder Hawk									*												*
Red-tailed Hawk		2	1			1	1	2	*	1	1	1	1								25
Rough-leg Hawk	*			1		*		4	4	*		3	1								14
American Kestrel									1												1
Merlin #									*		3										3
Peregrine Falcon	1					1															2
Gyrfalcon																			1		2
Ring-nk Pheasant	24	1		2					5	15	72	113	2			1		1			279
Spruce Grouse		4		*																	-
Ruffed Grouse	*	3		4		5	4	6	10	6	9	6	2	2	2	4	4				10
Blk-bel Plover					1																211
Killdeer					1																1
Sanderling	14																				14
Purple Sandpiper	150	45		27	250		87		20								*				579
Common Snipe #	2					1															3
Little Gull		1																			1
Com Blk-hd Gull		1																			1
Bonaparte's Gull		124	74	22	3	1															224
Mew Gull						1															1

CBCs: 1994-95	GM	E-C	SA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNp	R-A	Hil	Mtn	Sk	C1	Shd	RNP	Mir	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	NB Tot
Ring-billed Gull		39		18	53	39	2	4	84		22		14		7						308
Herring Gull	4750	3056	780	722	814	1783	99	14	219	11	1254	63	284	483	128	10	132	11	10	107	15387
Iceland Gull	10	5		53	2	228	2	*	50	7	84	23	138	16	4		187	382	41	289	1536
Lesser Blk-bk Gull	1	2		2		1	1		2		1		2	3		2	7	13	17	16	104
Glaucous Gull	485	767	116	112	113	321	33	*	24	4	1454	47	176	1016	137	36	662	403	10	780	8202
Great Blk-bk Gull	1200	2936		128	4		10	30	83	44	587	*	55	121	26	28	76	57	4	96	7486
Dovekie	10			*	1								*								3560
Common Murre				1	1																10
Thick-bill Murre	*											1									2
Razorbill	260	41			12						*		1				4	9	168	29	313
Black Guillemot	43	36	1	12	4																307
Rock Dove	6	140	35	82	469		1		18	5	1102	228	117	231	48	199	21	38		169	7486
Mourning Dove #	125	31	140	15	6	300	10	30	83	44	587	*	55	121	26	28	76	57	4	96	3560
Great Horned Owl						1							*								10
Snowy Owl	1											1									2
No. Hawk Owl									*												*
Barred Owl					1						*	1									8
Short-eared Owl	2							*	1												2
N Saw-whet Owl									*												4
Red-bellied Wdpkr									*							1					1
Downy Woodpkr	5	4	8	2	1	34	1	8	13	1	53	10	4	5	6	20	7	2		5	555
Hairy Woodpkr	5	2	6	1	13		2	5	4	3	65	9	6	4	1	28	2	2	*	27	508
3-toed Woodpkr	*						*		*	*	1		1	2							2
Blk-bk Woodpkr									*												17
Northn Flicker #		4				6	*	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	*	2	2			1	22
Pileated Woodpkr		1	3	*		1		2	2	2	9	3	1								97
Horned Lark	5					*			2	8			3					*			33
Gray Jay		8		8	3	7	5	4	9	4	6	15	2	3	1	*	3			29	336
Blue Jay	48	8	35	5	2	55	1	12	25	29	228	84	40	26	7	39	21	33	3	53	2816
American Crow	135	458	156	152	341	339	161	40	175	30	333	223	116	249	9	21	73	101	30	113	5384
Common Raven	205	43	15	22	7	27	4	22	71	20	109	178	22	47	13	29	93	39	20	51	2487
Blk-cap Chickadee	167	184	231	68	29	611	42	101	187	197	952	430	245	30	105	195	205	194	72	287	10524
Boreal Chickadee	*	6	2		8	2	7	9	34	2	2	41	2	2	3		13	50	30	23	361
Red-br Nuthatch #	10	7	25	*	3	20	2	16	34	21	149	40	20	19	11	16	6	34	10	26	1093
Wh-br Nuthatch											1										33
Brown Creeper			1			1		2	3	3	3	1	1								28
Golden-cr Kinglet	38	22	16		3	12	13	37	84	17	114	72	46	34	19		24	6	6	12	906
Ruby-cr Kinglet						3									/						7
East Bluebird										*											*
American Robin	3	94		38	554	47	144	12	23		16	265	1	106		8		53	9	9	1550
Varied Thrush																*					*
No Mockingbird	3	2				3							1	1							12
American Pipit																					1
Bohem Waxwing		11		6											32	3		*	26	67	192
Cedar Waxwing #	3	297	*	33	95	29	*	1	25	*	12	1	3	1						1	527
Northern Shrike		5		2	3				7		5						2				46
Loggerhead Shrike																					1
Europn Starling #	370	611	165	1250	34	14521	81	46	157	325	2585	1181	204	530	4	584	209	548	109	470	31698
Yel-rump Warbler	4					*				1	*		4	3			1	*			14
Pine Warbler	1						1				*										4
Palm Warbler	1																				1

CBCs: 1994-95	GM	E-C	StA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Hil	Mtn	Sck	CT	Shd	KNP	Mir	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	NB Tot
Northern Cardinal	8	*	3			2															26
<b>Blue Grosbeak</b>																					1
Dickcissel								1													1
Ruf-sided Towhee																					2
A Tree Sparrow																					2330
Chipping Sparrow																					4
<b>Vesper Sparrow</b>																					1
Savannah Sparrow																					2
Song Sparrow																					77
Swamp Sparrow																					2
Wh-thr Sparrow																					57
<b>Harris' Sparrow</b>																					1
Dark-eyed Junco																					1269
Lapland Longspur																					5
Snow Bunting																					6457
Red-w Blackbird #																					22
East Meadowlark																					3
Rusty Blackbird																					4
Common Grackle																					35
Barn-hd Cowbird																					88
Pine Grosbeak																					457
Purple Finch																					1102
House Finch #																					330
Red Crossbill																					37
Wh-w Crossbill																					2828
Common Redpoll																					371
Pine Siskin																					1256
Amer Goldfinch																					5136
Evening Grosbeak																					5879
House Sparrow																					2200
Unidentified																					218
<b>TOTAL BIRDS</b>	10917	11071	4298	3654	2946	21256	818	787	3630	1380	12538	5899	2363	3528	883	2044	2576	2589	1361	4331	147936
<b>TOTAL SPECIES</b>	66	71	44	48	46	62	34	42	53	37	49	50	57	42	31	29	31	44	36	37	127
Add. spp. in period	10	1	3	10	1	4	10	6	10	4	5	1	1	3	1	4	3	8	1	2	7
Hrs on foot	20	6.8	2	1	1	26.5	2	27.92	29.5	7.25	67	37	24.5	?	27.8	14	17.5	21.75	20.75	19.08	662.77
Hrs by car	21.5	43.5	12.5	7	12	43	10	11.75	14	13.33	65	39	30	?	5.25	22	27	32.75	19.25	12.92	805.5
Hrs otherwise	2b	0.5b		0.5b			8	39.6	42.4	15	120	47.5	32	13	50.5	24	27	31.5	33	35	1122.6
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	43.5	50.8	14.5	8.5	13	69.5	12	39.67	43.5	20.58	132	78.5	55.5	28	33.05	36	44.5	54.5	40	32	1607.77
Km on foot	16	11	2	2	2	39	8	39.6	42.4	15	120	47.5	32	13	50.5	24	27	31.5	33	35	1122.6
Km by car	270	603	198.5	118	136	538	44	145.4	226.1	180.4	982	530	387	282	96	281	422	345.5	121	313.6	11935.3
Km otherwise	318	618	200.5	126	138	577	52	185	268.5	195.4	1102	586.5	429	295	146.5	305	449	377	154	348.6	13118.9
<b>TOTAL KM</b>	11	15	4	1	4	26	6	16	15	7	50	18	13	14	11	9	18	16	12	14	593
No. of observers	5-8	7	3	1	2	14	2	9	9	3	18	6-12	5-9	4	9	5	6	6	6	4	298
No. of parties	4	2	16			25	1	6		1	19				3	28	2	2			446
Feeder reports																					

++ much above average numbers  
+ above average numbers  
- near average numbers  
-- below average numbers  
- much below average numbers

g 9 waxwing sp.  
h 110 scoter sp., 13 finch sp.  
i 1 hawk sp.  
j 1 woodpecker sp.  
k 10 finch sp.  
m 4 gull sp.  
n a "Spotted Towhee"

# highest number a provincial record high count  
a by snowmobile  
b by boat  
c 3 alcid sp., 1 woodpecker sp., 9 crossbill sp.  
d 2 cormorant sp., 1 Mallard x Black Duck hybrid  
e 2 finch sp.  
f 2 waxwing sp., 50 finch sp.

**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

## WINTER WONDER: A HAVEN FOR BARROW'S GOLDENEYE

Mike Lushington

Northern New Brunswick, the land of "mist and snow" and "wondrous cold", may seem best suited for sightings of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's magical albatross, but, although I have yet to sight such a rarity, it is not altogether a bad place for those who wish to add a winter visitor to their provincial bird lists. Indeed, the water around Dalhousie's Inch Arran Lighthouse Park may well be the best place in the entire Maritimes to spot **Barrow's Goldeneyes**.

For several years now, I have been able to observe well over a hundred of these beautiful northern/western cousins of the Common Goldeneye during the annual Christmas Bird Count, and one year there were well over two hundred. In fact, during the 1994-1995 Christmas Bird Count, I tallied 110 on the count day. Then, a couple of days later, on a gorgeous, absolutely still sunny day, I spotted them wherever I looked and estimated that there may well have been a thousand on the whole expanse of still-open water.

What is the attraction? The glib answer is the warm water effluence from the nearby thermal generating station, but the station only opens a relatively small patch of water. Rip tides around Inch Arran Point and along the lee side of the Bon Ami Rocks account for considerably more open water and it is in these constantly shifting patches of water that the birds congregate en masse. Why this occurs in the Dalhousie area and not elsewhere in the Bay of Chaleur is entirely another question. I won't even venture a guess.

But congregate they do, and, in the process, offer what I would venture is perhaps the only

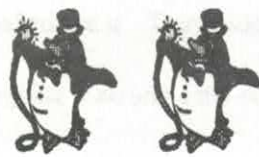
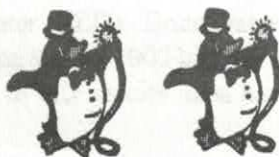
one hundred percent chance to see this species in New Brunswick. Even more appealing, one does not have to leave the warmth of the car to do so.

To me, one of the beautiful birding spectacles of the winter happens on a hard cold, brilliant sunshiny day at the Inch Arran. Vast expanses of pristine snow-covered ice, the Gaspé hills and the lower reaches of the Restigouche River provide the background. Against this scenery is a race of intensely blue water -- with goldeneyes, the males in tuxedo blacks and whites, the females in softer browns and greys, bobbing and diving, sometimes only metres from shore.

For some reason, when the two species of goldeneyes are present, the Barrow's seem to occupy the foreground. This may be because they are always in larger numbers, but they seem to push the Commons to the side and, usually, off into the deeper water. As well, perhaps because they are year round residents, the **Common Goldeneyes** never appear in the large numbers that the Barrow's do: two or three is about usual.

Although I consider the **Barrow's Goldeneye** to be the star attraction of the Dalhousie winter water birding scene, this same open water always attracts small numbers of **Black Ducks**, **Red-breasted** and **Common Mergansers**, the occasional **Bufflehead**, **Iceland** and **Herring Gulls**, and the usual assortment of ravens. Once in a while, an eagle or two overwinters as well, more or less to oversee the whole scene.

I never tire of the sight of birds in the winter waters. They affirm the tenacity of life and, somehow, make everything in an otherwise bleak environment a little more cheerful.



## CHRISTMAS MOUNTAINS

Irene Doyle

We were up with the sun  
To board our small bus  
For the Christmas Mountains  
There were twenty of us.

Through mud, fog and ruts  
'Twas a rough rocky road  
En route to the woods  
To the tree "mother-lode".

Naturalists to your rescue  
We'll see what can be done  
To save your pristine nature  
Virgin mountains, here we come.

Along comes the chief forester  
Expounding in his glory  
Brainwashing and programming:  
Promote the company story.

Their talk is of "regrowth",  
"Select cutting" and "buffers"  
Their practice: clear-cutting  
That fast fills the coffers.

We're shown their machines  
How they work, how trees fall  
Doing work of ten men  
In no time at all.

Next down to the falls  
Where few humans have been  
What a breath-taking sight  
This country we live in!

But how long will it last  
Just how long will it take  
For them to acknowledge  
They've made one more mistake.

They've made many mistakes  
Those were all in the past  
Now they have all the answers  
To make sure our forests last.

Though large tracts be depleted  
Save for buffers here and there  
Our woods will soon regenerate  
With management and care.

When jobs and old growth are all gone  
Woods workers will proclaim  
Such a rapid rate of harvest  
The land could not sustain.

"On Dasher, on Dancer,  
On Prancer and Vixen,  
On Comet, on Cupid,  
On Donner and Blitzen"

To the top of these mountains  
To the top of them all  
Cut away, cut away  
Cut away at them all.



## Nature News: Winter 1994-95

David Christie

This column will supplement what was revealed by the Christmas Bird Counts. Reports from March through May should be received by mid June. (RR 2, Albert, NB E0A 1A0; maryspt@nbnet.nb.ca; tel. 506-882-2100.)

The weather was on the mild side this winter, but snowfall was heavy in northern N.B. An ice storm that affected a broad band from southeastern N.B. towards Fredericton on Jan. 21 caused much damage to trees and must have been locally detrimental to woodland birds. At higher elevations the ice remained heavy on the trees into February. At Fundy National Park, Rob Walker reported high mortality of **Ruffed Grouse** in late January and February due to birds coming out to forage along the highway margins and being killed by vehicles.

A late **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Great Pond, GM, Dec. 1 (PAP). A **Great Blue Heron** at The Thoroughfare until at least Jan. 29 was the latest record ever for Grand Manan (BED). Both were indicative of mild weather, which also encouraged **Greater Shearwaters** to stay longer than usual; there were 25 around the Murr Ledges Dec. 5 and a single bird there Dec. 17 (PW). A **Northern Fulmar** was seen near shore at Grand Manan Jan. 17 (PW).

In addition to the **Northern Gannets** recorded by the CBCs, there were 2 juveniles at Cap Bimet, near Barachois, Dec. 3 (SIT), and strong southerly winds brought six adults to Long Eddy Point, GM, Jan. 15 (BED). One of 5 immature **Great Cormorants** at Cape Tormentine Dec. 4 was a partial albino with pure white underparts, whitish back, darker wings, and sharply demarcated Western-Grebe-like head and neck pattern (SIT). An adult **Double-crested Cormorant** was at Harrington Cove, GM, on Jan. 19 (BED).

A single **Snow Goose** was reported at Seal Cove and Grand Harbour Dec. 2 & 3 (Jack Russell, Jackie Foote). Thirty (29 white morph and 1 blue), with 67 **Canadas**, were flying over the Tantramar Marsh Dec. 13 (Kathy Popma). Surprisingly, 120 **Brant** appeared at Castalia Marsh on Jan. 23, about a month earlier than usual. At least 1000 were at White Head Feb. 8 (only 4 there Jan. 1), by far the largest number ever seen here in winter (BED). Brian Dalzell feels that the only possible source for 1000 birds in early February is to the south, so this species must have moved north

a month early this year. A **Canada Goose** was at Edmundston Dec. 14 (Pierrette Mercier).

Two **Green-winged Teal** were at the Cap-Brûlé sewage lagoon, near Shediac, Dec. 4 (SIT). **Northern Pintail** was seen at the beginning and end of the winter: a male Dec. 4-5 at Shediac (Denis Doucet, SIT), a female there Dec. 13 (SIT), and a drake at the mouth of the Shepody River Feb. 26 (Lars Larsen). Additional to the CBC **Gadwalls** were 3 females at Waterside Dec. 14 (SIT, Oscar LeBlanc). There was a male **King Eider** in a flock of Commons circling Shediac Bay Dec. 5 (SIT) and the usual adult male was at St. Andrews during February (v.o.). A **Hooded Merganser** was at Shediac Dec. 5 (SIT) and one at Westfield Jan. 18 (Allen Gorham).

The winter maximum of **Harlequin Ducks** at The Wolves, their main New Brunswick wintering ground, was 29 on Jan. 9 (Peter Hicklin). (The number there increased to possibly as many as 53 when northward migration began in March.) Elsewhere, there were 4 at Machias Seal Island Jan. 15 (Jim Smith), 3 at Anthony's Cove, Saint John, Jan. 13 (Cecil Johnston), 7 there from Jan. 28 (MNC) through much of February (382-DUCK), and 12 at Pt. Lepreau Feb. 18 (FNC). We haven't had reports of such numbers at Saint John and Pt. Lepreau before. The bulk of the Atlantic coast population, currently classed by COSEWIC as endangered, winters in the area around Isle au Haut and other islands of Penobscot Bay, Maine.

In January the **Black Vulture** that had been hanging about the St-Léolin dump in Gloucester County all December began coming daily to Jean Godin's camp where Mr. Godin was feeding it. Imagine operating a vulture feeder! The bird was still there in March (v.o.).

A male **Northern Harrier** hunting along the river in Moncton Feb. 24 (RJW) may have been the bird seen there during the CBC. A large adult **Cooper's Hawk** was reported pursuing a flock of Robins at New Horton, near Riverside-Albert, Feb. 26 (Denis Doucet). A few days later, on Mar. 2, one caught a pigeon at John Tanner's in Riverview and, obligingly, was still in a tree feeding on the pigeon when Jim Edsall arrived to see it. They judged it to be an adult female.

The **Peregrine Falcons** seen on the Saint John (2

were there Dec. 4 JGW) and Grand Manan CBCs both apparently stayed all winter, the latter being seen again, harassing a **Bald Eagle**, at Dark Harbour Feb. 7 (BED). A Peregrine was also reported at Riverview Jan. 27 (David F. Smith). In addition to the two CBC Gyrfalcons a white bird was at Kedgwick Dec. 3 (Pat Émond), a gray bird at Ashburton Head, GM, on Feb. 1 (Andrew Sharkey), and a brownish one at the Moncton causeway Feb. 6 (J. Tanner, *fide* RJW).

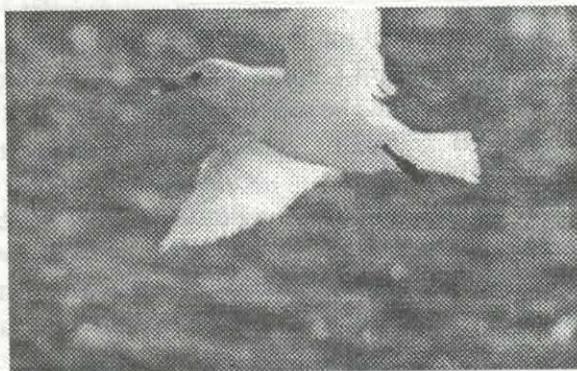
**Northern Bobwhite** are being raised increasingly commonly by game-bird fanciers, some of whom are releasing birds to the wild. During December a few were reported at Miramichi City (*fide* Harry Walker) and at Lower Coverdale, near Riverview (Al Fownes).

A really late **Killdeer** was along the outflow from Red Head Marsh, Saint John, on Jan. 28 (MNC). A dozen **Dunlin** with a flock of 200+ **Purple Sandpipers** at Machias Seal Island on Feb. 5 (Rodger Maker) was the most ever seen in N.B. in winter. The relatively open winter allowed at least three **Common Snipe** to winter along spring-fed drainage ditches at North Head; they were still present in early April (BED). At the Saint John West sewage lagoon there were two in early January (382-DUCK) and one on Jan. 14 (Karen Gorham+).

In addition to the single **Common Black-headed Gull** on the CBCs there were a 1st-winter bird at Bas-Cap-Pelé Dec. 4 (SIT), a similar one (the same?) at Shediac Dec. 5 (Denis Doucet, SIT), a nearly adult bird at Saint John West Jan. 20+ (Ron Arsenault, Charles Graves+) and another at St. Martins in early February (Ted Sears). A few **Bonaparte's Gulls** were still in Northumberland Strait at the beginning of the winter: 3 adults at Robichaud Dec. 4 (SIT) and 6 adults at Pte-du-Chêne Dec. 5 (SIT). On Dec. 12 at Saint John West sewage lagoon Jim Wilson found what was likely the same **European Mew Gull** that had been there in April 1994. It remained all winter. A late adult **Sabine's Gull** was reported at Long Eddy Point, GM, Dec. 3 (Allison Daggett, *fide* BED).

Causing even more excitement than the return of the **Mew Gull** was an adult **Ivory Gull** seen by many observers at Grand Manan, usually around salmon cages where it was fed ground herring pellets. It was first noticed Jan. 8 (Bob Fudge) at Seal Cove, where it remained until at least Feb. 3 (*fide* BED) and was at Machias Seal Island Feb. 4-5 (Rodger Maker). It apparently returned to Seal Cove in late February and stayed at least until Mar. 8, unbeknownst to Brian Dalzell, who thinks its initial appearance may have been associated with an influx of Black-legged

**Kittiwakes** and **Iceland Gulls** following strong southerly winds in early January.



Brian reports that 50 **Dovekies** around the Murr Ledges Dec. 5 (Peter Wilcox) ushered in a period of about two months during which the species was tolerably common just offshore in the Grand Manan Archipelago. Most birders travelling to GM in January saw a few, and 30 were seen from the ferry Feb. 11 (Barbara Haas). **Thick-billed Murres** were fairly common in the archipelago this winter, the most reported being 100 in the Grand Manan Channel Feb. 11 (Barbara Haas). Brian believes that about 10,000 **Razorbills** spent December and January around the island. On Jan. 18, most of 5000+ large alcids buzzing back and forth and landing off Southern Head Beach were believed to be **Razorbills** (David Christie+), as were 1000 in the Grand Manan Channel the same day (JGW+). They appear to have left altogether by the end of January.

A **Snowy Owl** remained all winter at the High Marsh Road, near Middle Sackville (382-DUCK). Others were reported at Ingalls Head, GM, in early January (Jim Brown), Saint John in mid January (382-DUCK), in the Green River watershed northeast of Edmundston Jan. 21 (Pierre Fournier), at Riverview from Jan. 27 through February (1-2 v.o.), and Ste-Marie-de-Kent (reported at Feb. 8 MNC meeting). The report of a **Great Gray Owl** seen along the Trans-Canada Highway, probably near Anagance, Dec. 27 (Peter Serwylo) provoked a lot of searching, but no one could relocate this rare winter visitor. **Short-eared Owls** were more numerous than for several years. In addition to the 2 on the CBCs, 4 or 5 were hunting the marsh at Riverview in January (v.o., 382-DUCK) and one was still there Mar. 2 (Leroy Dobson). These owls sometimes roosted during the day in pines in a residential area (*fide* RJW). An emaciated bird was found dead at Bannon, Carleton County, Jan. 17 (*fide* Jim Goltz). Another,

fortunately in much healthier condition, was at Pt. Lepreau Feb. 18 (FNC).

A **Belted Kingfisher** was seen in Sussex Jan. 6 (John Candy).

An immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** came to Ross and Mary Ellis' feeder at Gondola Pt. all winter (v.o.) and the **Red-bellied Woodpecker** at a feeder in Bushville, near Chatham Head, was still present in February (Frank & Irma Power, *vide* Harry Walker). One was reportedly heard at George Finney's in Sackville Dec. 5 (382-DUCK).

The unprecedented number of **Northern Flickers** that remained to feed on mountain-ash fruits included CBC reports even at the northern edge of the province. A mid-winter bird at Bancroft Point, GM, on Feb. 1 (BED) was apparently wandering in search of food. One remained at Alma till at least Feb. 2 (RJW) and there was still one at Mary's Point in early March (Mike Majka). Even at the end of February the mountain-ash crop was sustaining **American Robins**, at least along the Bay of Fundy. Two midwinter reports of inland Robins were of one at Edmundston Jan. 20 (Georgette Thibodeau) and 8 feeding on buckthorn fruits at Fredericton Jan. 31 (PAP). A **Varied Thrush** was noted sporadically at various locations in Miramichi City (*vide* Harry Walker and Tom Greathouse) on December 21 (Edith Boudreau), about 5 km farther west January 18 (Frank & Irma Power), and on at least a couple of other occasions.

An **American Pipit** was at Machias Seal Island on Dec. 6 (Jim Smith).

**Cedar Waxwings** continued to be present throughout the winter. These included 2-15 during Dec.-Jan. at St-Joseph-de-Madawaska (Denise Cyr), 20 during January at Edmundston (Vicky Lentz), 12 at Fredericton Jan. 9 (PAP), 20 at Gondola Pt. Jan. 14 (Ron Arseneault), 30 at Blacks Harbour Jan. 19 (SIT), and 64 at Alma Feb. 28 (Doreen Rossiter).

A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** overwintered at a suet feeder in Riverview (*vide* RJW) and a bright male **Pine Warbler** visited Jim Wilson's feeder at Hammond River, Quispamsis, off and on all winter. A **Palm Warbler** of the western race survived at least until Jan. 1 at North Head (Jim Brown).

Additional areas with **Northern Cardinal** were Doaktown (mid December through January Cathy Westgate) and Rang 5 at St-Basile (male during the last week of January (Francine & Jocelyn Levesque+)). The immature **Blue Grosbeak** discovered among House Sparrows at a dairy farm at Donnelly Settlement, near Kings Landing, Jan. 1

(David Myles & Jim Goltz) was apparently not seen after the ice storm of Jan. 21 (*vide* Jim Goltz).

A **Rufous-sided Towhee** at Margie Pacey's feeder in Taymouth was one of the western races, a spotted towhee, a first for N.B. It was present from Dec. 15 through most of January. At Cambridge-Narrows, a more typical eastern race bird visited feeders through December until Jan. 9 or 10 (Joyce & Niven Thorne).

A **Clay-coloured Sparrow**, the first reported in New Brunswick during winter, was noted at Allan Smith's feeder in Sackville, on Jan. 22, Feb. 3 and 21; likely it was visiting other feeders too. At Alma there were a **Field Sparrow** Jan. 12 & 31 (Gisela Downey; SIT), a **Vesper Sparrow** Dec. 11 to Jan. 3 (RJW+), and a **Savannah Sparrow** Jan. 15 to Feb. 17 (RJW).

Among the many **Dark-eyed Juncos** in the province was an **Oregon Junco** at Gondola Point during February (382-DUCK). In Madawaska County, where juncos were missed during the CBC, there was one at St-Jacques Dec. 7-9 (Rachel Clavette) and 6 about Jan. 15 at St-Joseph-de-Madawaska (Denise & Gilberte Cyr).

A **meadowlark** at Moncton in January (v.o.) could not be determined to species. **Northern Oriole** was not reported by the CBCs, but 2 were attending a feeder at Queenstown until the week before Christmas (*vide* Marjorie Roberts).

Peter Pearce hosted 55 **House Finches** Feb. 8, more than the total on the Fredericton CBC in December. In the north as many as 12 were at Harry Walker's feeder in Newcastle just prior to CBC period.

**White-winged Crossbill** nest building was noted on Dec. 18 at Bancroft Point, GM (BED). On Feb. 1 at the northern end of Grand Manan, Andrew Sharkey saw several flocks totalling 500+ birds apparently heading for the mainland. By late February, only a few pairs and small flocks could be found at Grand Manan. At Fundy Park, many were killed on the highway during the winter; the earliest vigorous singing at the park was in the last week of February (RJW).

**Abbreviations:** 382-DUCK, N.B. Bird Information Line; BED, Brian Dalzell; CBC, Christmas Bird Count; FNC, Fredericton Nature Club; GM, Grand Manan; JGW, Jim Wilson; MNC, Moncton Naturalists' Club; PAP, Peter Pearce; PW, Peter Wilcox; RJW, Rob Walker; SIT, Stuart Tingley; v.o., various observers.

## My Christmas Count Bonus

David Christie

Christmas Bird Counts are fun. First, there's the challenge of facing invigorating weather conditions (or the reward of unexpectedly mild weather), the satisfaction of sharing an outing with friends, the excitement of finding something a little special — a hawk or an owl, a Pileated Woodpecker, or a large flock of crossbills, and the anticipation of discovering something really unusual, like the Blue Grosbeak that Dave Myles and Jim Goltz found this winter during the Mactaquac count.

In some areas, the fun continues with an evening get-together where participants can share their stories, discoveries and complaints, and learn what everybody else has found.

For me, the enjoyment of the Christmas Count continues unabated for three weeks into January. Each day brings one or a few letters reporting the results from various areas of the province. I get to envision second-hand the conditions and birds on each count. Sometimes, among the observers' names I detect what I imagine are budding romances! When the results of more than 40 counts are finally presented altogether, some of those stories can easily be overlooked.



One report is especially anticipated: Leona Avery's Woodstock count. Leona has the habit of using old stamps. The envelope is generally as interesting as the report inside. This year, for instance, her letter bore eleven 4¢ stamps commemorating the 1951 royal visit by Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. Four years ago she used 3¢ stamps honouring the silver jubilee of George V, the coronation of George VI, and the 1939 royal visit, plus a selection of current buckets and flying squirrels to make up the required 40¢.

Where does she get the stamps? Leona says "You never know what you'll find when you are in the 'junk' business." When it's ready to sell, the junk becomes antiques!

I've been a stamp collector off and on since I was a kid, but I've given up collecting first-day covers. The ones bought over the counter are just too sterile, never intended for use. I'm now a specialist — in Leona's Christmas Bird Count envelopes!

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