



24 (1) Spring / printemps 1997

N. B. Naturalist

Le Naturaliste du N.-B.



WHO IS IN CHARGE HERE?

A Message From The President - Frank Longstaff

Every now and again, those of us who live in New Brunswick have to stop and ask ourselves, "Who is in charge here? The provincial government? Or the Irvings?"

Consider the issue of endangered spaces. For a number of years, the World Wildlife Fund and provincial conservation groups, including the NBFN, have mounted a campaign to encourage provincial governments to protect in perpetuity representative examples of the natural landscape. We called for about 12% of provincial land to be set aside in reserves of significant size with an example of every type of geographic system being represented. The idea originally came from a United Nations initiative -- the Brundtland Report -- and it was endorsed by Canada and all the provinces, including New Brunswick.

Then, presumably because of pressure from the forest industry, the provincial government backed away from its commitment. Natural Resources Minister, Alan Graham, said New Brunswick, which has set aside only about 1.2% of its land base, would not be creating new protected areas because that would take too much wood out of production. Besides, he said, the province already protected plenty of land in set-backs, deer yards, stream buffers and the like. The public relations fallout was cruel. Conservationists pointed out that the whole idea of protecting endangered spaces was to protect them in perpetuity in their natural state. Development was incompatible with protection. But what Mr. Graham protected one year, he could cut down the next. The World Wildlife Fund, in its annual review, gave New Brunswick a failing grade and we became a pariah province in the eyes of conservationists.

This criticism clearly rankled and so when a change in policy was brewing last February, civil servants in the Department of Natural Resources were enthusiastic. When Jim Goltz and I attended a government meeting in which a new wildlife council was announced, the

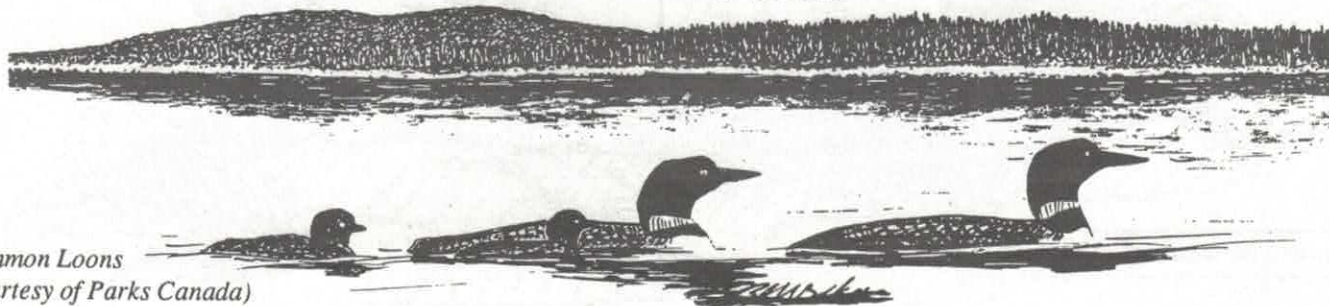
buzz was that big changes in endangered spaces policy was on the way. The proof was that a meeting had just been concluded between Minister Graham and J. D. Irving in which the new policy was worked out. A week or so later, the announcement came. Dr. Louis LaPierre of the Université de Moncton had been commissioned to research and recommend the creation of a number of new, large protected areas. Some would be brand new; others would be enlargements of existing ecological reserves.

So far, so good. But when Dr. LaPierre was interviewed by the Telegraph Journal, he was reported to have said that loggers and miners might still be allowed to cut trees and mine peat and minerals in future protected areas. "You can protect an ecosystem and still use it" Dr. LaPierre said.

When you look closely, then, Dr. LaPierre's approach is no different than Minister Graham's. Both put industrial development of the forest before the protection of a small but representative amount of the natural landscape. And when you look closely, both represent the views, not of the people of New Brunswick, 85% of whom favour protecting representative areas, but of the Irvings and the other forestry companies.

We shouldn't be surprised at this. The genesis of the new policy was a meeting between the Minister and J. D. Irving. For his part, Dr. LaPierre is closely associated with the Irvings through his extensive work with the Fundy Model Forest, an organization dominated by Irving Interests.


Conservationists won't be fooled by this slight of hand. I have written to the Minister on behalf of the Federation to express our concern. Unless Dr. LaPierre undergoes a profound conversion in his ideas on the compatibility of preservation and industrial exploitation of wildlands, New Brunswick will once again have the pariah's pride of place at the bottom of the World Wildlife Fund's scorecard. Who's in charge? Mr. Irving, of course.




Common Loons
(courtesy of Parks Canada)

TO A DANDELION

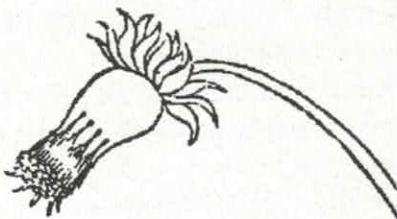
Stewart's Quarterly, Vol. 4, No. 1; Saint John, 1870



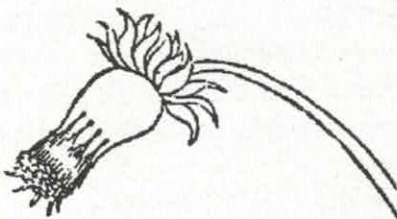
O sweet yellow flower, harbinger of spring,
Fondly I love thee, and wilt bring
To thy mossy bed a gallant crew
Of visitors, ere falls on thee, the dew.



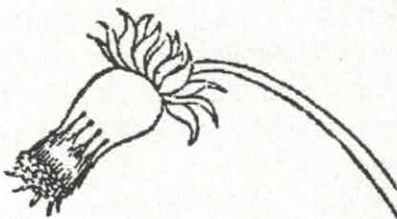
Glorious precursor of a season's course,
'Tis sweet to gaze on thee, and see the source
That gave thee birth, and noxious scent
Which fills the air through every vent.



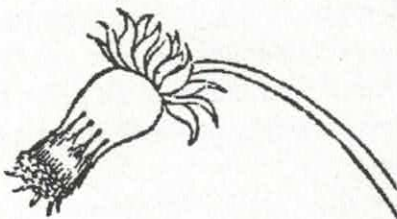
On the roadside, in the square and on the hill,
Down by the river, and rippling rill,
Close by the fountain where seals repose,
Are among the places this flower grows.



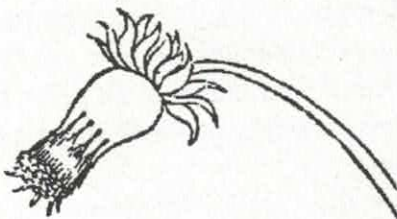
The bullfrog croaks in the stagnant lake,
And his mellow notes o'er the stillness break;
But his dulcet strains are nought to me,
Compared to thy sweet melody.



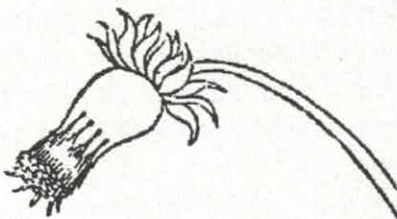
Floral beauty! well do I know thy use,
Most excellent greens do thy leaves produce,
Fit for a king, aye, a monarch great,
Good for the Crown, the Church and the State.



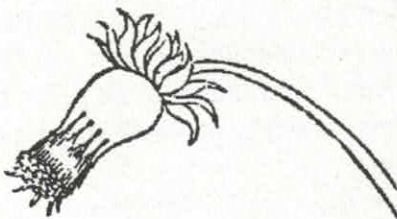
Thou bright, golden flower, whose leaves of green
Most strongly resemble the stalk and bean,
Which, in ancient days, did produce a vine
Strong and great as the lofty pine,



On which did climb the slayer John,
Who slew the giants while sitting upon
Its lofty branches and spreading boughs,
Which sometimes fell and killed the cows.



But back to the subject whence we came,
We find the Dandelion now fostered and tame,
No longer wild does it live in the glen,
But safe in the gardens of husbandmen.



On some occasions this flower's brought out
From its resting place by some lumbering lout,
And withered and dying is thrown on the walk,
Leaving naught behind but a worn-out stalk.

Reprinted from the Saint John
Naturalists' Club *Bulletin* of June 1988

SPRING ON THE RESTIGOUCHE

Ann Lavoie, Restigouche Naturalists' Club

Spring is always a welcome season, an awakening of nature after a long spell of winter. As the patches of remaining snow disappear, and often before, many telltale signs are evident of a new season approaching. One sure early indicator is the increased sound and activity of the crows and ravens that fill the sky with their various court-ship displays and raucous calls. We thrill to the sight and sound of returning birds and note the arrival of each species. We gratefully acknowledge the budding of the earlier trees and shrubs, and look for the first Coltsfoot. Each habitat has its own introduction to spring and the area around the Tide Head Islands is one of my very favourites.

This is a truly unique area and a spectacular place in the spring. Within an area of several miles lies a patchwork of islands of various sizes and shapes. The Restigouche River winds down to the Chaleur Bay among these islands and, more often than not, they are partially or entirely flooded each spring. This results in a very fertile soil, which in turn bears a vast assortment of unique plants in high concentrations. Years ago, I had the good fortune to spend a couple of summers on one particular island and was amazed at the variety and lushness of the site. These islands are like no other place.

During the height of the fiddlehead season, one will be surrounded by blankets of Painted Trilliums, Red Trilliums, and even some "white."* There will be large continuous patches of Bloodroot, Trout Lily, Spring Cress, Marsh Marigold and those delightful pockets of Dutchman's Breeches that I so admire. Many's the time I've dined on various wild edibles like Stinging Nettle shoots, Trout Lily, Lamb's Quarters, Green Amaranth and Cattail shoots. When the Ostrich Ferns completely unfold, some are well over six feet

high. Overhead, huge old Balsam Poplars are bursting their scented buds, releasing an unforgettable odour. Stately White Elms are also welcoming another spring, as are the birches, alders, willows and other woody species.

In and around the bogans, wild animals such as toads and frogs, Muskrats, Mink, Beaver, Raccoons and mice become more active, and in the trees, the Downy Woodpeckers, Belted Kingfishers and Red-winged Blackbirds go about their business of nesting and family raising. In the main river channels, the salmon are making their way upstream, fresh from the sea, strong and determined, while on the surface, ducks and other waterfowl forage around.

It is truly a wondrous place, not 'managed' by man, but in its natural state. Hopefully, it will remain this way for years to come.

***Editor's note.** Mention of white trilliums always piques the interest of New Brunswick's botanists who are on the lookout for Large-flowered White Trillium *Trillium grandiflorum* (Ontario's provincial flower). The Large-flowered White Trillium has not been confirmed to occur naturally in New Brunswick, but it has rarely been found in Nova Scotia and Maine. Red Trilliums sometimes appear in a white-flowered form and Nodding Trilliums have white petals. These "white" trilliums of the Restigouche bear further investigation.



Illustration by Suzanne Cormier

THE GREAT SNOWY OWL INVASION OF 1964/'65

Peter Pearce

It was a great time for Snowy Owl watchers in New Brunswick. But it was not such a good time for these ghostly visitors from the north as a major incursion took place in the fall and early winter of 1964-'65. By early November it became evident that an unusual event was unfolding. Interest prompted me to make a number of enquiries and to attempt to track the movements of the birds as reports of observations came to hand. I sent about 40 questionnaires to New Brunswick Forest Service ranger districts throughout the province, and contacted taxidermists and naturalists' organizations. I became indebted to many for the provision of information and helpful leads.

The distribution of Snowy Owl reports is shown by county in Table 1. By comparing dates and localities of sightings - and shootings - as well as plumage descriptions when available, I concluded that the total of 76 reports probably represented at least 47 individual birds. Sightings usually were of single birds but in eight instances two were seen together in the same locality at the same time. About three-quarters of the birds were noted in coastal regions of the province, particularly in Gloucester, Westmorland, Saint John and Charlotte counties. The geographic spread of places where owls were observed superimposed neatly on a provincial map of settled land. Apparent concentrations of sightings near Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John may have been a function of the presence of naturalists' organizations in those centres and

consequently of a relatively better information-gathering potential. Only five questionnaires were returned by forest rangers but "nil returns" were not specifically requested.

The first Snowy Owl report was from Scotch Lake in early October. That was two weeks earlier than the next observations. About three-quarters of the birds were noted in November and December. By late January, when there was still one on Grand Manan Island, it seems that many of the birds which had not died from one cause or another had departed from the province. Some may have attempted to overwinter in the province. I concluded my investigation in mid-February.

One owl was found dead. The stomachs of two others examined were found to be empty. In an unlikely accident,

one was killed by an aircraft. It seems probable that many of the owls were in a highly stressed condition. Regrettably, 19 (this was

erroneously cited as 50 in W. A. Squires 1976 second edition of *The Birds of*

New Brunswick) birds were shot, in clear contravention of the then New Brunswick Game Act.

That represented two-fifths of the Snowy Owls I estimated to have turned up in the province. Some, but ap-

parently not all, of those birds were later mounted.

The great incursion of Snowy Owls into New Brunswick in 1964-'65 has not been matched since. It is hoped that, today, with a more enlightened public attitude to raptor conservation, the birds would fare much better.

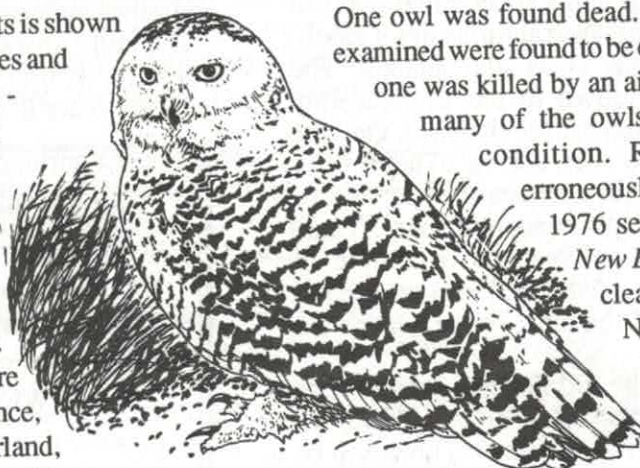


Table 1. Summary Of Snowy Owl Reports In New Brunswick, October-January 1964-'65

County	Number of reports	Probable number of birds	Comments
Gloucester	18	10	6 shot
Victoria	2	2	1 shot
Northumberland	2	1
Carleton	5	5	5 shot
York	4	3
Kent	4	2
Charlotte	7	4	1 shot
Sunbury	4	3	1 shot
Queens	3	3	1 shot
Kings	1	1
Saint John	9	3	1 found dead
Westmorland	17	10	3 shot, 1 accidentally killed
No reports from Madawaska, Restigouche and Albert counties.			
TOTAL	76	47	19 shot

THE GRAND LAKE MARSHES

Dawn Bremner

On a calm evening in early August last year we stole a few hours and went for a paddle around the edge of the Grand Lake marshes. It was a quiet peaceful evening with barely a hint of a breeze so the water was looking-glass calm. In fact, when we first came to the shore, the words that popped into my head were "He leadeth me beside the still waters; He restoreth my soul," and surely it must be good for one's soul to observe, feel and absorb the natural wonders spread out before us along the lakeshore.

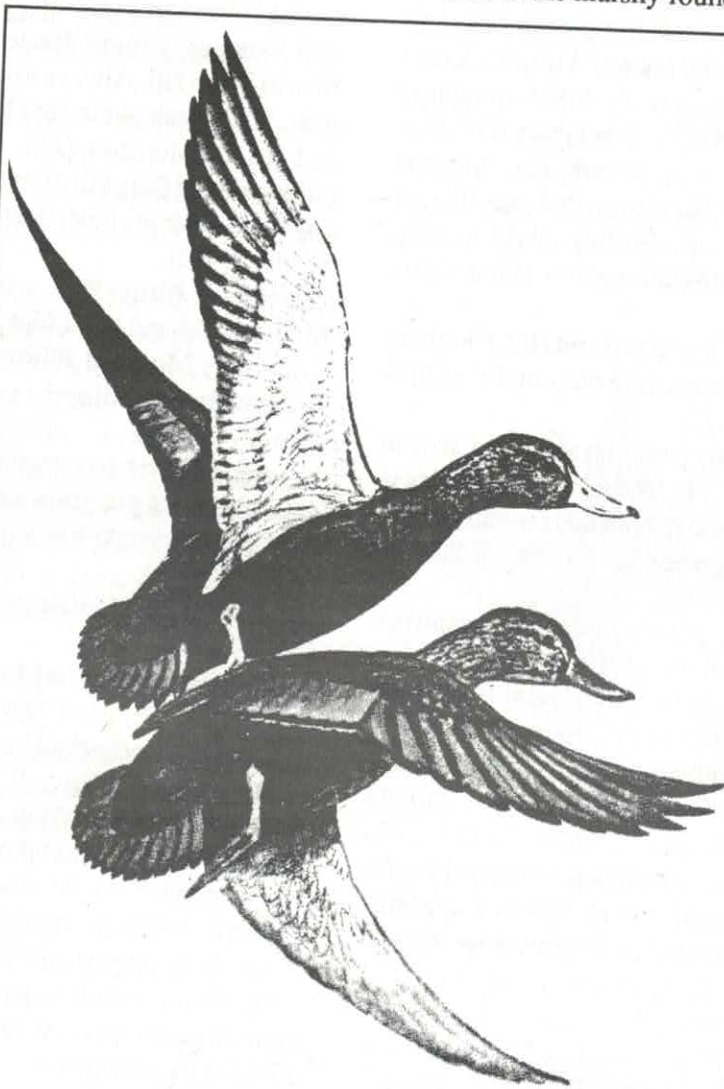
Before we even untie the canoe, we spot three sentinel herons — two on the edges of the marsh and one patrolling Long Pond. Then, in the first cove we come to, a teal with a brood of ducklings scoots into the reeds. In this cove there are clumps of yellow pondlilies and masses of pickerelweed. In slightly deeper water fish are jumping, taking mosquitoes and mayflies from the surface, and a few swallows are skimming, taking their share of flying insects.

It's a tranquil evening, just right for drifting and dipping a lazy paddle, but as we round the corner near the mud flats the peace is broken by the raucous squawks of a congregation of Herring Gulls that are feeding there. They are not amused by our presence and with much grumbling take off for another favourite haunt farther up the lake.

Now we beach the canoe on a sand band, and swim in the deep cool water. Then we wander along the shallows toward the point that separates the river from the lake. One landmark here is interesting — there have always been shallows near this shore and sixty or so years ago a heavily-laden vessel ran hard aground. It proved impossible to pull her off the mud band so a decision was made to lighten the load. Several bags of cement were taken off, got wet in the process, and were abandoned in a pile on the shore. They're still there, a pile of hard dried cement paste blocks retaining the shape of the bags they were shipped in.

In the more distant past, natives used this place for a summer camp. Some people have found stone implements

and shards of pottery in the vicinity although this isn't a common occurrence. But in the evening stillness we imagine people walking here a thousand years before us, when they like us might have disturbed a pair of Black Ducks in the marshy round pond.



Black Ducks courtesy of Ducks Unlimited

By the time we've meandered back to the canoe the sun is quite low in the sky and we pull on shirts against the cooler air. Now we go further down the river to a place where a few white and pink waterlilies grow. There are none in evidence this evening — maybe it's a little early or maybe the changing water levels have upset their normal cycle. They aren't common plants in this area and I'll be disappointed if they're gone. But we'll check again in a couple of weeks and go slightly further into Trout Creek another time.

Now the sun is dipping below the horizon as we begin a leisurely paddle back along the far edge of the marsh. We go silently and watch and listen. The mosquitoes are thick and we're grateful we thought to use repellent. A big fish — an eel maybe? — jumps close by and startles us. Then as we go on quietly we hear it,

the reason for this whole canoe trip. Tentatively at first — a single *cleek cleek* sound — then, after a long pause, another. Then an obvious answer from deep in the marsh. The Yellow Rails have begun their evening ritual. They are very shy birds (I have never seen one, although once I did glimpse a Sora here) but their voices, sounding like pebbles bumping together, tell me they are there. We try to identify and count the individual voices. It's an impossible task. However, there do seem to be enough calls arising from different parts of the marsh for us to say that the colony of Yellow Rails is back again this year.

BUTTERFLY AND MOTH ROUNDUP, 1996

Report and drawings by Jim Edsall

The spring and summer of 1996 were not the wonderful butterfly producing seasons that New Brunswick experienced the previous two years. A wet and cold May, June and July resulted in rather low butterfly populations, and population crashes of some common species added to a fairly poor butterfly year. However, diligent searching produced some interesting reports of some of our less well known species.

The **Tiger Swallowtail** was probably the most noticed species once again. It was found in good numbers from May 30 (Moncton, ST) until July 23 (Fundy Park, JE). Numbers were well down from the large flights of 1994 and '95.

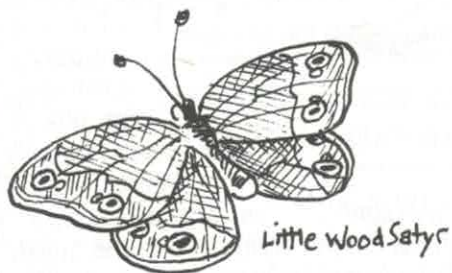
The **Black Swallowtail** was reported July 29 at Caron Pt. in Bathurst (ST, JE) and Aug. 3 at Wilkins Field in Fredericton (DG).

The **Monarch Butterfly** was found at Burnt Hill, Charlotte Co. on July 12 (ST, JE), and several were on Grand Manan in mid to late September (m. obs.).

The **Pearly Eye** was unusually common at Hall's Creek in Moncton from June 29 (MNC) to late July. This species is odd in that it will fly at dusk and dawn and is usually found in thick woods. It was also present at Mohannes Stream, Charlotte Co. on July 12, (ST, JE).

The **Eyed Brown** was found to be common in marshes and wet areas in Charlotte Co. on July 12, (ST, JE).

The **Little Wood Satyr** was known in New Brunswick from only two specimens prior to 1993. At that time of few colonies were found in the southwestern part of the province. In 1996 it was found to be relatively common in Charlotte Co. Specific reports include Beaver Dam, June 18 (ST), Mohannes Stream, Oak Hill, and Moore's Mills, July 12, (ST, JE). This species is obviously invading New Brunswick in much the same way that its relative the **Inornate Ringlet** did in the late 1970's.



The **Inornate Ringlet** was very common in suitable locations throughout the province from June 12, Turtle Creek, (JE) to July 23, Fundy Park, (JE).

The **Maritime Ringlet** was flying on the salt marshes at Bathurst on July 29, (ST, JE).

The **Jutta Arctic**, an unusual species of cold sphagnum bogs, is rarely reported. They were common at

Kouchibouguac National Park on June 15, (ST). Single individuals were noted at Shediac River on June 17, (ST) and at New Scotland on June 28, (JE).

Wood Nymphs were very common in most areas from July 22 until September 20, (Grand Manan, MNC).

The **Common Sulphur** did not live up to its name and was found only in moderate numbers especially on Grand Manan in the fall. Always a candidate for last butterfly of the year, late reports were for Oct. 11 & 27 at North Head, (BD) and Oct. 24, Moncton, (JE).

Pink-edged Sulphurs were seen in moderate numbers this year ranging from June 28 at Canaan, (JE) to July 22 at New Scotland, (JE).

Cabbage Butterflies were reported early, (May 2, Moncton, JE) and late (Sept 20, Grand Manan, MNC).

The only **Mustard White** reports were second generation individuals at Shediac River, July 28, (ST) and Bathurst on July 29, (ST, JE).

All three of the greater fritillaries, **Great Spangled**, **Atlantis**, and **Aphrodite** were present at Canaan on July 22, (JE). The scarcer **Aphrodite** was also present at Hall's Creek on July 22, (JE).

A **Lesser Purple Fritillary** was found near Allardville on July 29, (ST).

The **Silver-bordered Fritillary** was present at Salisbury on June 22, (JE) and Canaan on June 28, (JE).

Harris' Checkerspot was abundant in suitable locations from June 22, Salisbury, (JE) until July 29, Allardville, (ST, JE). A larva was found at Hall's Creek, Moncton on June 22 and a pupa was discovered there on July 29 (MNC).

The much rarer **Silvery Checkerspot** was discovered at Pabineau Falls on June 17, (ST).

Pearl Crescents were found in good numbers everywhere.

The **White Admiral**, so common in the province two years ago, suffered a great population crash and was almost completely absent.

The **Viceroy** was found only sporadically this year. One was at Grand Falls, Charlotte Co. on July 12, (ST, JE). Another was at Hall's Creek on July 28, (JE).

The first butterfly of the year award (no cash value) went to Don Gibson who found a rare **Compton's Tortoiseshell** in a shed on Golf Club Rd. in Fredericton on April 1st.

Mourning Cloaks were low in number with two at Fredericton on April 22, (DG) and Whitehead Is., Oct 1, (DG).

Milbert's Tortoiseshell was reported only once, at Whitehead Is. on Oct 1, (DG).

The **Grey Comma** was found in Moncton on July 18 and Aug. 18, (JE).

Don Gibson also gets the award for the last reported butterfly (sorry Don, no cash value) with an **Eastern Comma**, (**Hop Merchant**) on a mild Nov.17 at Hyla Park in Fredericton. A more seasonable **Eastern Comma** was at Moncton on Aug.18, (JE).

A **Green Comma** and a **Hoary Comma** were found in Allardville on July 29, (ST,JE).

A **Question Mark** was present on Grand Manan on Sept.20 (MNC).

Red Admirals were very scarce with only two reports, Grand Manan, Sept.28 (BD) and Whitehead Is., Oct. 1, (DG).

Neither of the two **Painted Lady** species was reported this year.

Very rare in New Brunswick, the **Gray Hairstreak** was found at Allardville on June 3, (ST,JE) and at Pabineau Falls on June17, (ST).

More common, but always a good find was the **Striped Hairstreak**. Three were present in a Moncton garden on July 16,17, (JE). One was at Hall's Creek on July 22, (JE) and another was found at Allardville on July 29, (ST,JE).

All six of New Brunswick's **Elfin** species were found at Allardville on June 4, with approximately 70 **Bog Elfin**s, 50 **Eastern Pine Elfin**s, 10 **Western Pine Elfin**s, 5 **Brown Elfin**s, 3 **Hoary Elfin**s and 1 **Henry's Elfin**, (ST,JE). This may be the only place on earth where these six species occur together. **Eastern Pine** and **Bog Elfin**s were also reported at Lake Utopia on June 9, (ST).

Bog Coppers were common on a roadside bog near Lepreau on July 11,(ST,JE).

A single **Salt-marsh Copper** was on the marsh at Caron Pt. in Bathurst on July 29,(ST). They could not be located at Cap Bimet where they were found in 1993.

American Coppers were common on Grand Manan in September, (m.obs.)

A **Western Tailed Blue** was at Bathurst on June17, (ST).

The **Northern Blue** was found at Spruce Lake and Lepreau on July 11, (ST,JE).

Silvery Blues were common from late May to July12 with an unusual second brood specimen on July 29 at Allardville, July29, (ST,JE).

Spring Azure was common in May and June. Some lepidopterists now believe there are two additional species, **Summer Azure** and **Cherry Gall Azure** found in New Brunswick. These species are mainly separated on the basis of flight times and food plants. A nice female **Cherry Gall Azure** was at Hall's Creek in Moncton on June 30, (JE), and a **Summer Azure** was seen at Spruce Lake on July 18,(JE).

Moving on to the skipper family, the **Northern Cloudy Wing** was found in Bathurst on June17,(ST).

Dreamy Dusky Wings are one of our earliest and most common skipper species. They occasionally fly quite late as one at Allardville on July 29 attests, (JE).

Arctic Skippers were common as well. A relatively late

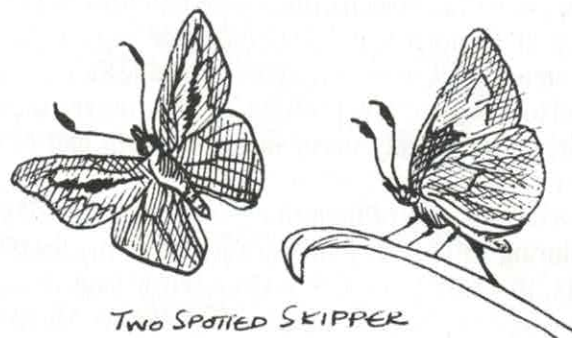
male was attempting to mate with a **European Skipper** on July 23,(Moncton,JE) in the absence of a female of the same species.

Least Skippers are restricted to marshy areas in New Brunswick. They were found commonly in Charlotte county on July12, (ST,JE).

The **European Skipper**, introduced into New Brunswick in the 1970's is one of July's most common species. A very late one was still flying on Aug.13, at Hall's Creek in Moncton, (JE).

A rare second generation **Peck's Skipper** was at Moncton on Sept.15, (JE).

The **Two Spotted Skipper** was first discovered in New Brunswick in 1978. It is a marsh species and was previously known only from the Fredericton area. Two new colonies were found this summer in Charlotte Co., at Second Falls on July 11, and at Moore's Mills on July 12, (ST,JE).



An uncommon species, the **Pepper and Salt Skipper**, was at Shediac River, June 11, (ST), Moncton, June 12, (JE) Canaan, June 22&28, (ST,JE).

The **Roadside Skipper** is restricted mainly to the southwestern part of New Brunswick, being found at Lake Utopia, June 9, (ST), Grand Falls and Loon Bay, Charlotte Co., July12, (ST,JE). Away from its normal range a single specimen was at Hall's Creek, Moncton on June 12, (JE) and up to 30 were at Canaan on June 22&28, (ST,JE).

An Irving gas station in Pennfield proved to be a fabulous spot to look for moths. In June as many as 5 **Luna Moths** were seen on the side of the building (JW), and on July 11/12 more than forty moth species could be seen on the eastern side of the building including 1 **Luna Moth**, 7 **Polyphemus Moths**, 1 **Cecropia Moth**, several sphinx moth species and dozens of dagger moths, cutworm moths and prominent moths, (ST,JE). In late September a stop here produced many underwing moths and some unusual fall cutworm species.

(OBSERVERS: BD Brian Dalzell, JE Jim Edsall, DG Don Gibson ST Stuart Tingley, JW Jim Wilson, MNC Moncton Naturalists Club).

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL BUTTERFLY WATCHING

James P. Goltz

If you love colorful winged creatures but shudder at the thought of getting up at the crack of dawn, perhaps you should consider becoming a butterfly watcher. This article is designed to help butterfly fans have greater success in finding their quarry.

Just as for other types of flora and fauna, the key to successful butterfly watching lies in knowing geographic ranges, life cycles, habitats and behaviours, along with having a bit of luck. Thanks to *A Preliminary Atlas of the Butterflies of New Brunswick* (available from the New Brunswick Museum bookshop) by Tony Thomas, it's easy to know what species have been found in the province and where they have been found. Some species such as the **Canadian Tiger Swallowtail**, **Spring Azure**, and **Great Spangled Fritillary** are common throughout much of the province, while others such as the **Short-tailed Swallowtail**, **Salt-marsh Copper** and **Northern Blue** only occur in coastal areas. Some species such as **Roadside Skipper**, are confined to southern New Brunswick, while others, such as **Greenish Blue**, mainly occur in the northern half of the province.

For many species of butterflies, the adults can only be found during a three- or four-week period of the year. For example, the elfins and **Early Hairstreak** tend to occur mainly from mid-May to mid-June, while the **Maritime Ringlet** is usually restricted to late July and early August. The reason for this limited seasonality for some species is that their adults don't live more than two or three weeks and only produce one brood per year. However, the species of butterflies that overwinter as adults have more than one generation per year or are migratory; species such as **Hop Merchant**, **Black Swallowtail**, and **Monarch** are often found throughout much of the butterfly season (i.e., mainly late March through early November).

Many butterfly species have a fairly restricted preferred habitat where the main food plant of their larval stage grows. **Early Hairstreak** mainly occurs in hardwood stands dominated by **American Beech**. **Dorcas Copper** is found in wetlands where **Shrubby Cinquefoil** abounds. **Jutta Arctic** dwells in **Black Spruce** bogs. **Maritime Ringlet** can only be found in salt marshes, and **Clouded Sulphur** prefers fields, meadows, roadsides and other open spaces. Some species, such as the **White Admiral**, **Mourning Cloak** and **Northern Pearl Crescent**, are much less fastidious. Places where several different habitats come together, or trails or old roads that go through a variety of habitats often yield the greatest assortment of butterflies.

Butterflies like to feed on nectar, and drink or extract necessary nutrients from puddles and mud patches. We have

even observed them feeding on feces and dead animals! The odds of finding butterflies can be improved by checking out patches of flowering plants, as well as paths or little-used dirt roads. Blooms of **Wild Plum**, **Pin Cherry**, **Lilac**, **Labrador Tea**, **Joe-Pye-Weed**, **Cow Vetch**, blueberry, hawkweed, clover, blackberry, thistle, milkweed, asters and goldenrods are popular sources of nectar for butterflies. I've often thought that we should plant our roadsides with early-flowering shrubs to provide food for butterfly species that emerge in April and May. Butterflies are certainly attracted to gardens that contain nectar-bearing flowers. The wearers of brightly-colored clothing have been known to be appealing to butterflies that no doubt expect to be rewarded with nectar.

Butterflies generally prefer warm or hot sunny days, and tend to be most active and numerous during the hottest part of the day (i.e., usually between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.).

Butterflies (and biting flies) tend to congregate on the tops of hills, especially at sites where there are meadows with plants in flower.

Butterflies are most often detected by their flight or bright colours, but some species such as the **Bog Elfin** are well camouflaged and sit still. The best way to find this species is to gently tap **Black Spruce** branches so that the vibrations stimulate the elfins to briefly take flight before relocating themselves on or near the site of origin.

Some butterflies, especially the skippers, are very aggressive and territorial and will attack butterflies many times their size. In the tropics, butterflies can be attracted by butterfly-shaped and -sized bits of brown, blue or orange ribbon or cloth pinned on a hat or shirt. It's hard to know if this is because of territorial aggression or because they are looking for a mate. I've not yet tried this trick on our native New Brunswick butterflies but it may be worthwhile.

At the appropriate times of year, migratory butterflies such as the **Monarch** and **Painted Lady** can often be found in substantial numbers along valleys, coastal headlands and shores, sharing the same flyways used by migratory birds.

So the next time you see a group of gaudily clad persons enjoying a picnic lunch in a flower-covered meadow at the top of a scenic lookout on a sunny summer's day, you'll have to ask them if they are merely out for a social event or if they are butterfly watchers.

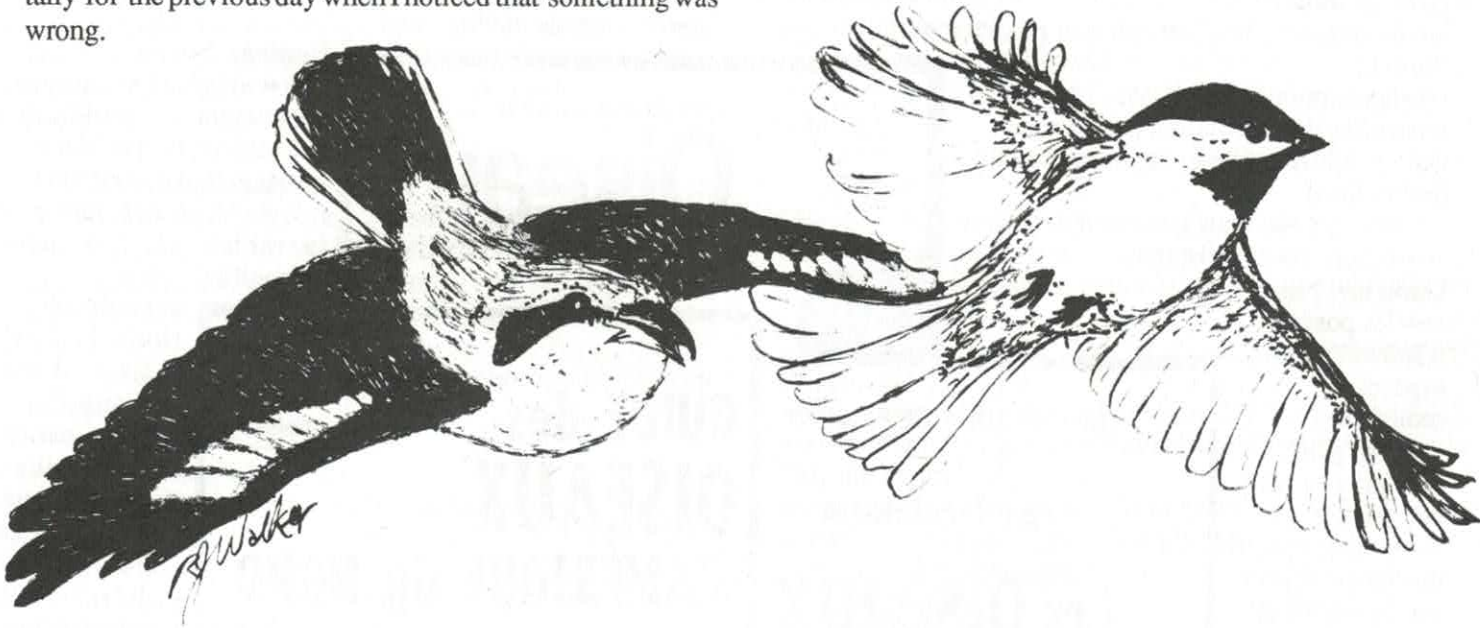
The author wishes to thank Tony Thomas for taking him on many butterfly finding missions and for teaching him how to find and identify butterflies.

THE DAY THE SHRIKE MET THE CHICKADEE

Pierre Duguay

That day when the Northern Shrike met one of my Black-capped Chickadees is a day that this predator will not soon forget. On the morning of January 26th of last year, I was enjoying a cup of coffee while watching the bird activity in my yard. It was a beautiful morning, the sun was shining and a good variety of birds were visiting the feeders. The redpolls were back in overwhelming numbers after a two-year absence. The view from my patio door lets me see pretty well everything that is going on in my backyard. From my kitchen table I can observe the birds coming to and from the feeders. That particular day was mild so I decided to open my patio door just an inch in order to hear the birds from inside the house. With my Project Feeder Watch data forms in hand I was filling out the count tally for the previous day when I noticed that something was wrong.

At first it seemed as though the shrike was too strong a competitor for the chickadee, but what the shrike and myself didn't know was that the chickadee had a few tricks hidden under his primaries. When the chickadee felt as though he was going to end up as a meal, he headed right for my house with the shrike in hot pursuit. He flew directly toward the patio door at full speed. Within inches of the door the chickadee pulled a 90 degree turn. The shrike collided beakfirst with the window. What a bang! At first I thought that he had broken the window. After a quick scan of the door I realized that the only thing broken was that poor shrike's confidence.



In an instant, the beautiful bird sounds that filled my yard turned into all-out panic. It may seem funny but it was as though every bird was yelling, "Watch out, head for cover". I immediately sprang up from my chair to investigate. It didn't take long to find out what was the cause of all the commotion; all I had to do was look at my feeders. These are situated on a dead tree that I placed in my backyard. On the very top of that tree was an adult Northern Shrike. The shrike sat there looking rather hungry, no doubt hoping for a quick snack of an unsuspecting bird. Most of the birds had already evacuated the premises but a few brave Black-capped Chickadees didn't seem to mind being stared at by a bigger critter with a possibly empty stomach. The shrike waited patiently for one of the chickadees to come within range. After a few minutes it happened; the shrike "locked onto" its target and began the chase. It was the fierce hunter versus the agile little acrobat. Who would win?

He lay there on my patio facefirst in the snow with his tail feathers up in the air. Being a bird lover - and that goes for all birds - I immediately went outside to try to help the bewildered fellow. Boy, did he ever look confused! Just imagine yourself running flat out and suddenly banging into a brick wall. Ouch, that's gotta hurt. I stood there giving the shrike a standing eight count while the birds went back to the feeders to get a quick snack. It was as if the sounds of "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" had changed to "chick-a-ha-ha-ha."

After about twenty minutes the shrike finally came to his senses and began building enough energy to fly away. When I finally released him, he made a bee-line for the woods and didn't even look back. I never saw another shrike in my yard that winter. I'm sure he alerted his friends not to go near that big white house. It is said that for animals it's a matter of the survival of the fittest; in this case it was definitely the survival of the wittiest.

REVUE DE GUIDES D'IDENTIFICATION D'OISEAUX

Eric Martin, Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska

Voici une revue des cinq guides d'identification d'oiseaux les plus aptes à être retrouvés dans les librairies. Bien que tous ces guides soient fortement recommandés, cette revue vous aidera peut-être à choisir le ou les guides qui vous conviendront le mieux. Les guides 1, 2 et 3 sont aussi disponibles en anglais.

1. Guide d'Identification des Oiseaux de l'Amérique du Nord par la National Geographic Society. Éditions Marcel Broquet. L'achat de ce guide en vaut la peine ne serait-ce que pour l'excellente qualité des illustrations. C'est un guide très complet, couvrant toute l'Amérique du Nord.

Pour:

-introduction complète;
-le format «descriptions à gauche / images à droite» facilite l'utilisation;
-les sous-espèces, juvéniles et phases sont tous illustrés;
-descriptions complètes;
-cartes de distribution petites mais claires, informatives et adjacentes aux descriptions;
-les noms scientifiques sont indiqués;
-reliure assez résistante.

Contre:

-les poses différentes des espèces semblables peuvent gêner quelque peu les comparaisons;
 -la description de chaque espèce est regroupée en un paragraphe (on doit le lire en entier afin de trouver un brin d'information spécifique);
 -les noms anglais sont indiqués mais seulement dans un index à part;
 -couverture moyennement fragile;
 -c'est un guide relativement gros et il est assez difficile de le mettre en poche.
- 29,95\$

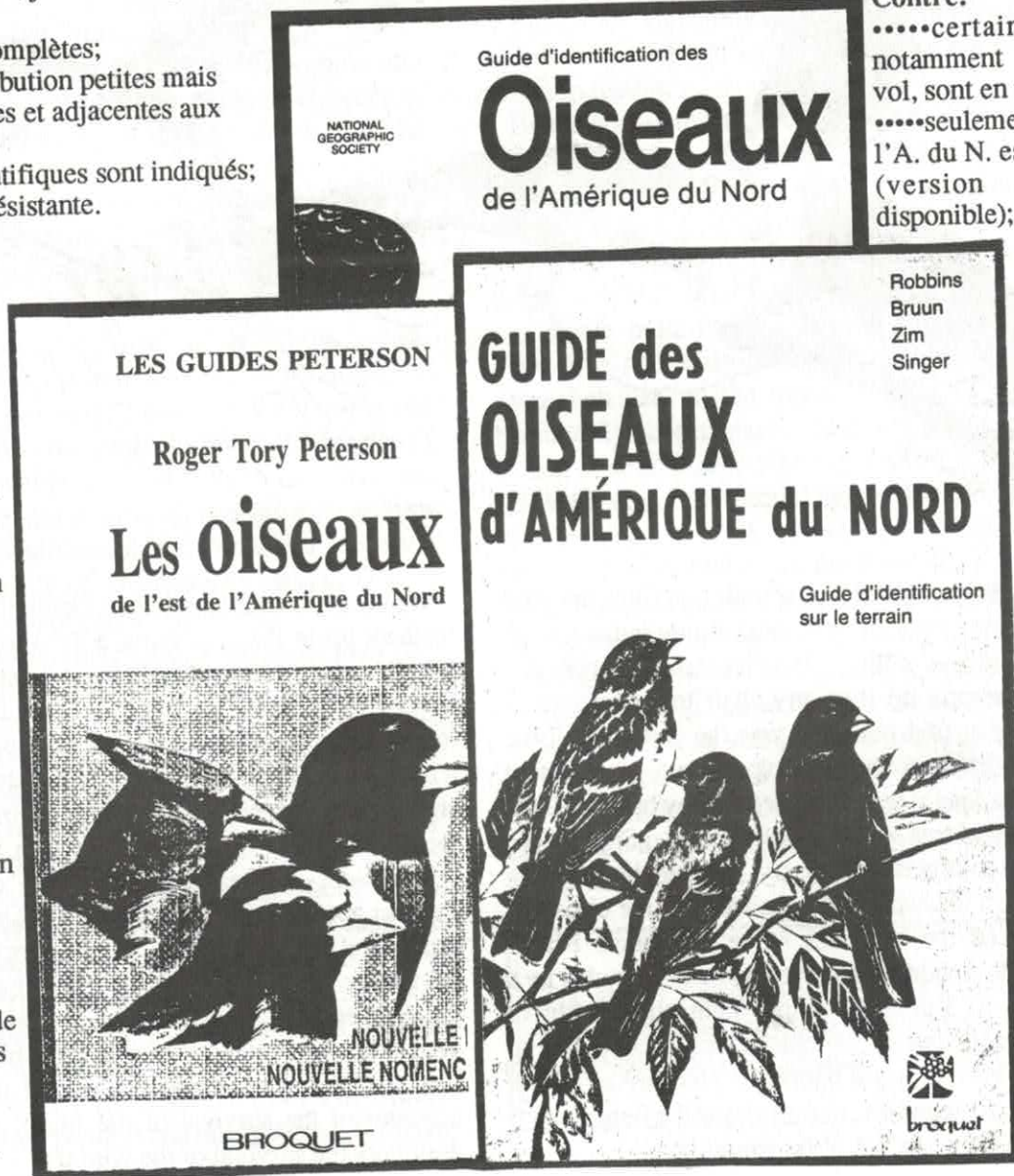
2. Les Oiseaux de l'Est de l'Amérique du Nord par Roger Tory Peterson. Éditions Marcel Broquet. Beaucoup d'ornithologistes le considèrent comme le standard des guides d'identification.

Pour:

-le «système Peterson», où les traits caractéristiques de chaque espèce sont indiqués à l'aide de flèches, est très apprécié;
-introduction courte mais complète;
-bonne section sur comment identifier les oiseaux;
-format «descriptions à gauche / images à droite»;
-excellente qualité des illustrations;
-les espèces apparentées sont illustrées dans des positions semblables afin de faciliter les comparaisons;
-les noms anglais et scientifiques sont indiqués;
-couverture et reliure très résistantes;
-format de poche.

Contre:

-certaines images, notamment les profils de vol, sont en noir et blanc;
 -seulement l'est de l'A. du N. est documenté (version de l'ouest disponible);
 -descriptions brèves, mais bien catégorisées;
 -les cartes de distribution, quoique informatives et faciles à interpréter, sont situées dans une section à part à fin du livre (un défaut acceptable, puisque cela leur permet d'être plus grandes).
- 24,95\$



3. Guide des Oiseaux de l'Amérique du Nord par C.S. Robbins, B. Bruun, H.S. Zim et A. Singer. Éditions Marcel Broquet. Reconnu comme un guide pour débutants, il est néanmoins recommandé pour les observateurs d'oiseaux avancés, car certaines informations ne peuvent être retrouvées ailleurs.

Pour:

-très bonne table des matières;
-bonne introduction;
-inclut le sonagramme de certaines espèces (utile pour ceux et celles qui savent comment les interpréter);
-présentation semblable à celle des guides National Geographic et Peterson;
-les cartes de distribution offrent de l'information utile sur les périodes de migration;
-les noms anglais et scientifiques sont indiqués;
-couvre toute l'A. du N.;
-couverture et reliure résistantes;
-format de poche.

Contre:

-la qualité de certaines illustrations est plutôt moyenne;
-les cartes de distribution, bien qu'elles sont adjacentes aux descriptions, sont petites, et le contraste des couleurs est parfois faible (défaut d'impression, sans doute).

24,95\$

4. National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds, Eastern Region par J. Bull et J. Farrand Jr. Éditions Alfred A. Knopf. Ce guide utilise des photographies au lieu d'illustrations. Ceci fait en sorte que c'est un guide d'identification pratiquement indispensable.

Pour:

-les couleurs et la clarté des photographies sont exceptionnelles;
-introduction élaborée;
-descriptions complètes;
-les oiseaux d'apparence similaire sont regroupés ensembles;
-inclut aussi les femelles;
-les passereaux sont regroupés d'après leur couleur dominante (utile pour les débutants);
-contient beaucoup d'information intéressante sur les familles et les espèces (c'est le guide le plus complet à cet égard);
-les noms scientifiques sont indiqués;
-inclut un glossaire de termes ornithologiques;
-couverture en vinyle.

Contre:

-les illustrations des profils de vol sont petites, en noir et blanc, et non regroupées ensembles;
-les mâles et les femelles sont souvent sur des pages différentes;
-pas de noms français;
-ce guide est divisé en deux sections (photos et descriptions), ce qui peut devenir fatigant, à la longue;
-les cartes de distribution (adjacentes aux descriptions) sont claires mais petites et rudimentaires;
-couvre seulement l'est de l'A. du N. (version de l'ouest disponible);

-les pages de la 2^e section (descriptions) sont très minces et se déchirent facilement;
-la reliure est assez mince et on doit faire attention de ne pas trop la forcer en ouvrant le livre;
-guide moyennement épais; peut entrer dans de grandes poches, mais il est déconseillé d'emmener ce guide sur le terrain.

26,00\$

5. An Audubon Handbook, Eastern Birds par J. Farrand Jr. Éditions McGraw Hill. Un autre guide photographique, par un des auteurs du guide précédent. Toutefois, ce guide est assez différent pour mériter sérieuse considération.

Pour:

-la plupart des espèces sont représentées par plus d'une photo;
-photos et descriptions sur une page (une espèce par page);
-bonne section de profils de vol (photos);
-descriptions complètes et bien catégorisées;
-dans certains cas, femelles et juvéniles sont présentés (sur la même page);
-les noms scientifiques sont indiqués;
-couverture en vinyle.

Contre:

-au lieu de cartes, de courts textes décrivent les aires de distribution;
-quelques espèces rares ne sont pas documentées;
-pas de noms français;
-certaines espèces ne sont ni classées, ni ordonnées de façon particulière;
-les introductions aux familles d'oiseaux sont regroupées au tout début du livre;
-couvre l'est de l'A. du N. (version de l'ouest disponible);
-la reliure est très mince et se brise facilement si on écarte trop les pages;
-un peu trop grand pour les poches; il s'agit d'un livre de référence plutôt qu'un guide de terrain;
-disponibilité limitée.

25,95\$

On peut se procurer ces guides d'identification dans la plupart de librairies locales ou en s'adressant aux maisons d'éditions.

Éditions Broquet, Inc. C.P. 310, LaPrairie, Qc, Canada, J5R 3Y3. tél.: (514) 659-4819

Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 201 East 50th Street, New York, NY, U.S.A., 10022. tél: 1-800-733-3000

McGraw Hill, Inc., 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY, U.S.A., 10020

HYLA PARK NATURE PRESERVE AND THE GRAY TREEFROG

Don Vail, Nature Trust of New Brunswick



(Photo: Don Vail)

beneath the traffic noise and the metallic crash of heavy machinery working in the scrapyard next door. We exchange grins through a cloud of mosquitoes. They're singing our song! We have come to see one of the rarest sights in the Maritime Provinces -- an isolated colony of *Hyla versicolor* -- the Gray Treefrog.

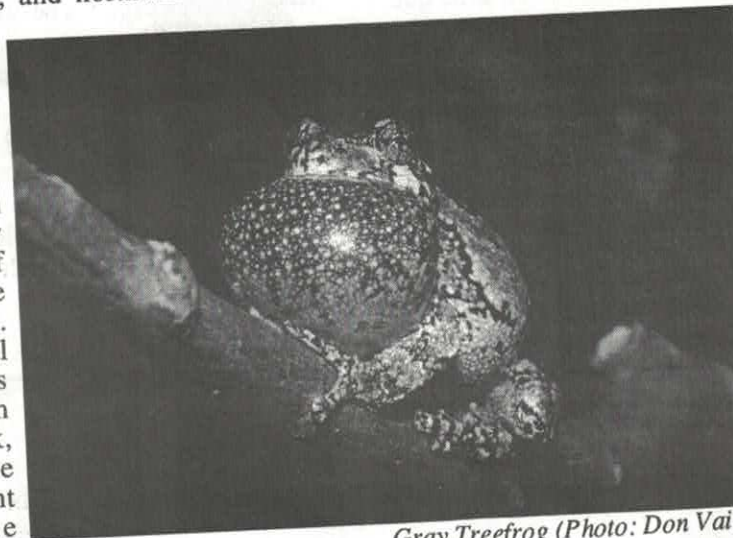
The treefrog family, known as *Hylidae* includes some 635 species worldwide, six of which occur in Canada. Of these, only the Gray Treefrog and Spring Peeper make their home in New Brunswick. Ranging south to Texas and Florida, and northward to southern Ontario, southern Quebec, and northern Maine, the Gray Treefrog is fairly common throughout most of its territory, but up until a few years ago, the small pond system located in Fredericton was the only place in the Province of New Brunswick where these frogs were known to exist. At least a dozen additional localities for this species are now known from western New Brunswick, but Hyla Park Nature Preserve at Barker's Point still represents the northeasternmost edge of the Gray Treefrog's range.

Gray Treefrogs are rather secretive beasts, appearing in appreciable numbers only during the breeding season, which lasts from April to early July, depending on the latitude. The rest of the summer they are content to remain hidden in the protective foliage, sometimes venturing high in trees to catch insects and spiders -- much needed fuel to see them through the harsh Maritime winter. They come equipped with sticky toe-pads which allow them to cling to branches, bark, leaves and even the smooth sides of a glass aquarium. They also have the ability to change color, depending on

conditions such as temperature or degree of activity, and thus may vary from green to pale gray, often perfectly matching their surroundings. This adaptation serves as excellent camouflage when resting on the side of a tree.

The frogs themselves are fairly large as treefrogs go, reaching a length of 4 to 5 cm, and rather warty critters, a feature that has earned them the name "tree toad" (the common beneath-the-front-porch variety of toads are really frogs of the genus *Bufo*). They sport an irregular star-shaped mark on their backs, and a light colored square beneath each eye. The underside of the hindquarters is washed with yellow, concealed when the frog is sitting, but then, suddenly flashing brightly when it jumps. This blink of yellow is believed to be a protective adaptation, meant to confuse a hungry predator.

Darkness envelopes us, and a light mist starts to fall. Teresa and I switch on our headlamps and begin to explore the area. The Gray Treefrogs are calling all around us -- a slow burbly trill that lasts about one second, repeated over and over. We can also hear the banjo-like twang of the Green Frog, as well as the low rum-rum-rum of an adult Bullfrog. Somewhere in the distance sounds the constant, high-pitched trilling of the American Toad. This place is obviously amphibian heaven!



Gray Treefrog (Photo: Don Vail)

seemingly oblivious to the light and my floundering, sits *Hyla versicolor*, the object of our search.

He hesitates for the briefest of moments, then cuts loose. The vocal sac underneath his chin bulges comically, and his whole body vibrates from the force of his call. He is so absorbed in the serious business of his love song, that he completely ignores the flash from my camera. We study him, marveling at his toe-pads, and the way he perches so securely on the wet, slick surface of a leaf. Finally the attacking hordes of mosquitoes become too much, and we retreat back up the trail toward the safety of the truck, wet, itchy, and elated.

We orient ourselves to the nearest Gray Treefrog song, fan out, and begin to zero in on him. Teresa approaches from one side, and I from the other, and soon we are able to locate the bush that he is calling from. Finally after a few minutes of squinting into the leaves, Teresa exclaims, "There he is!" I grimly squash a few more mosquitoes, and begin to work my way toward her. She is standing on a small slope shining her light into the foliage. I follow her

THE SPRING PEEPER GETS A NEW NAME

Rob Walker

The call of the male Spring Peeper is known and loved by New Brunswickers as a sure sign that warm spring days are not far off. Although known to European settlers from the early 17th century on, this little amphibian was not officially recognized by science until 1838 when it was given the name *Hyla crucifer* by a German visitor to North America, Prince Maximilian of Wied-Neuwied. He explored the Missouri River valley from 1832 to 1834, collecting thousands of natural history specimens along the way (the Spring Peeper's range includes the lower part of that river). Prince Maximilian was a superb naturalist and his *Travels in the Interior of North America* is a masterpiece. We have him to thank for the delightful title *crucifer*, "the cross-bearer," an obvious reference to the X-mark (more often than not an imperfect one) on this species' back.

After 159 years the familiar name *Hyla crucifer* has changed, thanks to the efforts of molecular biologists. The frontier of human knowledge is advancing very rapidly in the area of molecular biology, most of all in the identification of individual genes and their functions. One of the most interesting aspects of molecular biology for naturalists is that it allows scientists, working with mitochondrial or nuclear DNA, to reconstruct the phylogeny (evolutionary history) of a group of species. DNA analysis often reveals relationships that are obscured by convergent evolution. We think of adhesive toe-discs as characteristic of the treefrog family *Hylidae* but, in fact, this anatomical

feature is found in at least five other families of tropical and temperate-zone frogs including the dart-poison frogs of South and Central America (*Dendrobatidae*), the glass frogs of Central America (*Centrolenidae*), the flying frogs of Malaysia (*Rhacophoridae*) and the answering frogs of Southeast Asia (*Microhylidae*); obviously adhesive toe-discs are an example of convergent evolution in tree-dwelling frogs.

I was listening to the CBC's *Radio Noon* show on February 14, 1997 when the interviewer introduced Andrew Hebda of the Nova Scotia Museum. Mr. Hebda

explained that our familiar Spring Peeper has attracted the attention of molecular biologists and, surprise!, its not a *Hyla*. The closest match to Spring Peeper DNA is that of the chorus frogs of the genus *Pseudacris* (pronounced sue-day-chris). Being for the most part inhabitants of meadows, marshes and fens, chorus frogs usually have very small toe-discs. Counting the

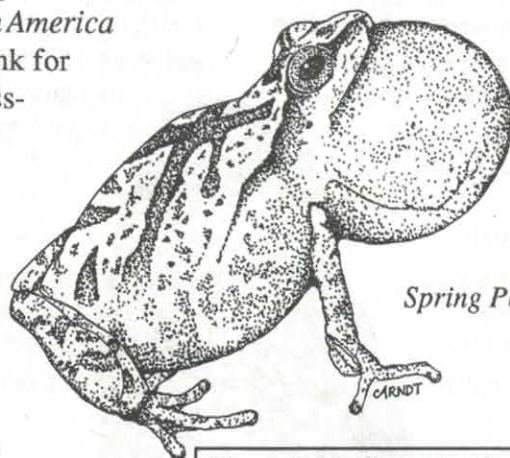


Illustration by Janice Arndt

Spring Peeper among them, there are eight species of *Pseudacris*; all of them North American. They are tremendously abundant in the prairie provinces where their chorus of trilling calls announces the arrival of spring.

You can say that you saw it here first; *Pseudacris crucifer* is the Spring Peeper's new scientific name.

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PROTECTED AREAS AND THE BOTTOM LINE

The Canadian Council on Ecological Areas is a national, non-profit group that supports the development of a comprehensive system of ecological areas across Canada. Its 16th General Meeting - *Protected Areas and the Bottom Line* - takes place on September 15 to 17, 1997 in Fredericton, New Brunswick. This event is open to anyone with an interest in protected areas, biological conservation, private and public land stewardship and integrated

resource management. For further information, please contact: C.C.E.A. 97 Conference, Natural Resources and Energy, P. O. Box 6000, Fredericton, N. B. E3B 5H1.

Tel: (506) 453-2730. Fax: (506) 453-6630.

E-mail: ccea97@gov.nb.ca

[Http://www.gov.nb.ca/dnre/ccea.htm](http://www.gov.nb.ca/dnre/ccea.htm)

PEOPLE AND THEIR PASSION FOR AND AGAINST PREDATORS

Mike Lushington

The Gyrfalcon had killed about an hour previously. The duck (probably a Barrow's Goldeneye) was almost certainly dead from the gyr's blow before it hit the ice. The falcon had fed and was now resting on its favorite high promontory on the Bon Ami Rocks, alternately preening, napping and surveying its domaine.

Immediately below its perch more than a hundred goldeneyes and black ducks resumed the business of feeding themselves before nightfall and the rising tide shut off food sources until the next day. To an observer, such as myself, they seemed as oblivious to the gyr as the gyr was to them - while the corpse (or what was left of it) rested on the ice not more than thirty metres away.

How cold and indifferent these birds were to their fallen comrade. How could they possibly resume such a mundane pursuit as eating so soon after tragedy had stricken one of them? And how could the gyr sit there so casually (or, one might almost say, so blatantly) after committing such a horrid crime?

As supposedly civilized North Americans, we have come a long way from the laws of tooth and fang. We feed our birds (and we do think of them as our birds) in exchange for the privilege of their company and we are mildly offended when they fly off in some alarm, should we approach too closely to replenish the feeders. We

sign petitions, write letters and join naturalists' clubs so that our voices can be added to those of like-minded souls in demanding protection for wildlife and wildlife habitat. Word of the presence of a Snowy Owl or of a Gyrfalcon in the area electrifies us and we count it a significant day afield should we be fortunate enough to spot such a magnificent creature.

And yet we persist in being horrified when the creatures of nature, those creatures we are so rightly determined to help and protect, continue acting in accordance with their own nature. It is

as though we expect to enter into some sort of pact with raptors - we will fight for their continued survival if they will agree to change their eating habits.

It is in this vein I remember a conversation, a couple of years ago, with a newly converted devotee to bird feeding. For some weeks she had been thrilled with the flocks of sparrows, blackbirds, starlings, finches and other small birds

which had been taking advantage of her largess, but on this morning she was distraught. A Sharp-shinned Hawk (surely the most villainous of them all?) had discovered the attraction and, it seemed, had decided that it had gone to heaven. As we spoke, it was happily devouring a starling right on her front porch. Her husband, in the meantime, was rummaging about in the attic to find his old shotgun to put an end to such dastardly happenings. Her question to me was a simple one - should they shoot the hawk or merely try to scare it off. I don't think that she was completely satisfied with my response, that hawks are protected (I did not mention that starlings, on the other hand, are considered in New Brunswick to be pests and, therefore, do not have any protected status at all), that there are over 400,000 starlings in the province and less than 8,000 sharpies, and that she really should try to marvel at the beauty of this remarkable little predator.

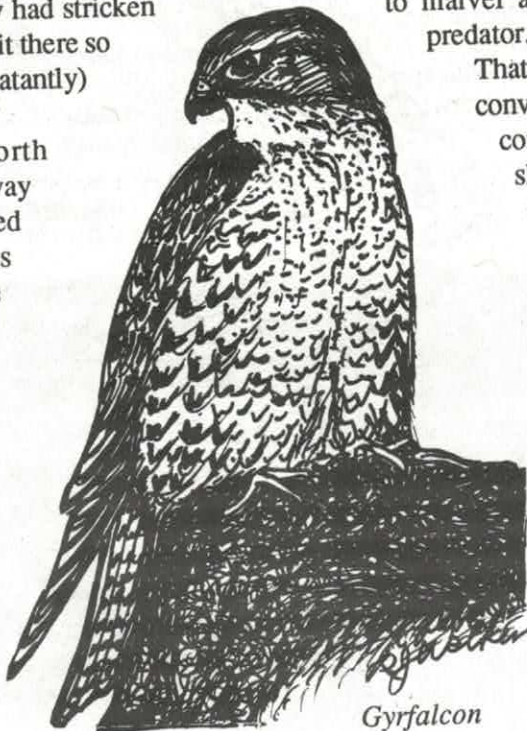
That incident came back to me in the spate of conversation this winter on the nature line concerning the dietary habits of Sharp-shinned Hawks and of Northern Shrikes. Overwhelmingly, the tone was of dismay; how could nature persist in being so ... well, natural ... when we are all trying so hard to be nice to one another and to all of the little creatures around us?

The problem is our line of thinking which argues that nature has been created for our use and our benefit. This is the thinking which promotes clearcutting, endless roadbuilding and stripmining at one extreme, and then switches to the assumption that wild creatures should, somehow, be sensitive to our sensibilities and either change their nasty habits or, at the very least, hide them from our view. By all means, we seem to say, I want to

see that shrike but, please, not while it is killing one of my finches.

To my mind, nature is beautiful - in all of its manifestations. But that is a judgement which I make. Nature simply IS. We may see it as raw or violent, as gentle and peaceful, or in any of the myriad human emotions, but it understands none of these. Nor should it. In the world that I love the hawk kills and the ducks accept that it must. There are no tears, there is no recrimination, there is only some sense that that is the way of life.

Give me the wisdom to accept it - and the soul to marvel at it.



Gyrfalcon

A BIRDER'S WISH LIST

Don Gibson

I now realize that in my eagerness to find rare birds in the province, I have missed some of the simple pleasures of birding along the way. In an effort to correct this situation I have created the following list, which consists of species that I have seen previously in the province, but with some interesting aspect of their life history not yet enjoyed by me. It is presented in standard AOU check-list order (not in my order of preference).

1. To see and hear Leach's Storm-Petrels returning to their burrows. How these small birds find Kent Island each night is beyond me, and how they find a small hole in the ground with their chick hidden inside is indeed mind-boggling.

2. To see a Turkey Vulture soaring. The first Turkey Vulture that I ever saw was feeding on scraps in a dooryard. The second Turkey Vulture that I saw was feeding on scraps in a dooryard. What is wrong with this picture? What do Turkey Vultures do best?

3. To see a Ruffed Grouse drumming. Even before I became an avid birder, I recognized this sound. Many times, usually when fishing for brook trout, a "drummer" would seem close at hand, but I have never had the good fortune to witness this vigorous display ritual.

4. To see a Pomarine Jaeger forcing a victim to regurgitate its catch. Sure we have all seen this from a distance of one kilometre or more. But I want to be close enough to actually see some saliva. Obviously, a Parasitic Jaeger would be an acceptable substitute.

5. To find the nest of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Finding nests is not one of my strengths, so how am I going to find one of the smallest? If somebody finds one, remember, I am not too proud to receive help.

6. To see a Red-headed Woodpecker with a "red head". Whoever named the Red-bellied Woodpecker had an overactive imagination. However, at the other end of the scale is the very aptly named adult Red-headed Woodpecker. Oh, how I wish I could see one!

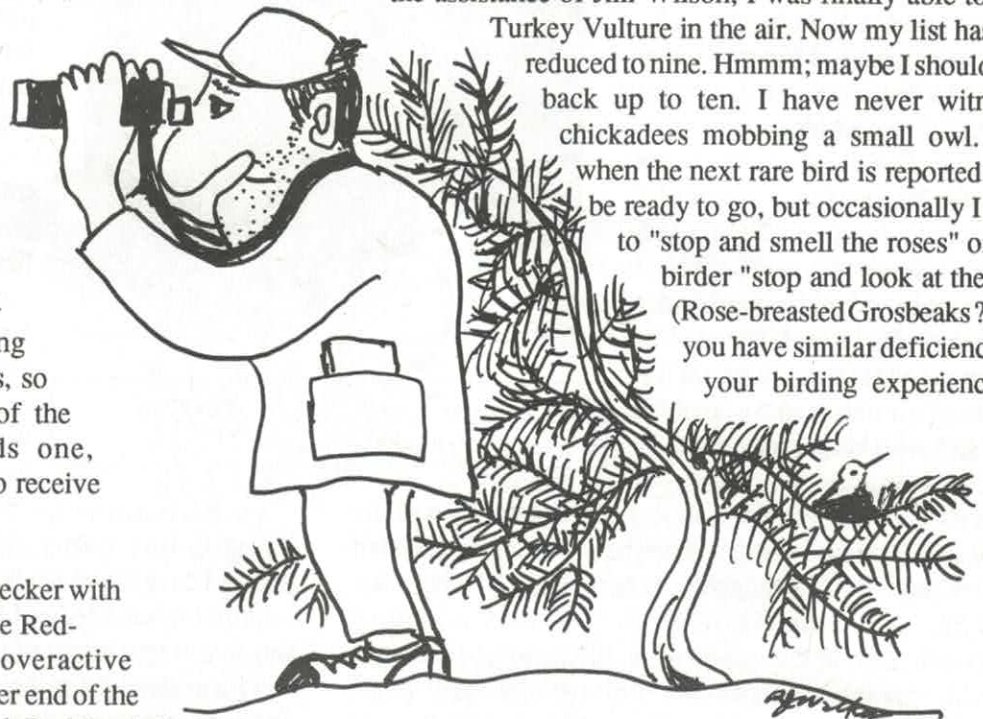
7. To find the impaled prey of a Northern Shrike. Why would someone want to see this, you ask? Well, it is perfectly natural and some gruesome things take place in the world of nature. Since the shrike does not have access to a pantry it must resort to other methods.

8. To hear a Field Sparrow singing. Try this on for size! Shortly after moving to N.B. from Southern Ontario, Jim Goltz found a singing Field Sparrow at Pokiok. Yes, Pokiok; where the Gibson homestead used to stand and where my ancestors had lived for over seventy years. The nerve Upper Canadians coming here and finding such things right under our noses.

9. To find the egg of a Brown-headed Cowbird in a nest. Parasitism is not exactly a nice word, nor is it easy to spell (I had to look it up in the dictionary). I have often seen a host bird feeding a young cowbird, but never a cowbird egg in a nest.

10. To find the nest of a White-winged Crossbill in winter. I know what the books say, but I will have to see this before I will really believe it. Probably this is the toughest challenge on my list.

During this past summer Turkey Vultures could almost be found on command in the Hammond River area and with the assistance of Jim Wilson, I was finally able to see a Turkey Vulture in the air. Now my list has been reduced to nine. Hmmm; maybe I should put it back up to ten. I have never witnessed chickadees mobbing a small owl. Sure, when the next rare bird is reported I will be ready to go, but occasionally I plan to "stop and smell the roses" or as a birder "stop and look at the roses (Rose-breasted Grosbeaks?)". Do you have similar deficiencies in your birding experiences?



THE LITTLE ARROWS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD OF BIRDING

Mary Majka

A few weeks ago I received a surprise invitation to write an article about Roger Tory Peterson for a Polish ornithological magazine, *Orlik*. The fame of Roger Tory Peterson has spread all the way to Poland but little is known there about his life. I was a bit apprehensive since, aside from a few letters, I haven't been writing regularly in Polish for many years.

My task then was to do a bit of research. Watching a video I saw a picture of baby Roger with his mother, who came from "an eastern European country" the narrator said. What country? I wanted to know. I decided to post a question on the Internet. Within hours I had the answer.

Peterson's mother came from Poland! Not only that, she was born very close to my birthplace. She was a descendant of an ancient Slavic clan, the Wends, who gave rise to the Polish nation.. Those were people of exceptional qualities, with strong traditions and customs and a Slavic language that is different from Polish, somewhat like Gaelic in Britain, still spoken in enclaves today. Although at times living outside the Polish border in Germany, the Wends clung to their Wendish culture and stubbornly remained loyal to Poland.

Henrietta Bader was born in a small village outside the large industrial city of Wroclaw (Breslau). Her father was an innkeeper, as well as a bridge contractor. When Henrietta was four years old her family emigrated to the U.S.A. A delicate and sickly child, she was not expected to survive her childhood, but in the new country her health improved and she grew up to be a beautiful woman. Her strong features, olive complexion and long black hair, that swept to the knees, when not gathered in a bun on her head, must have made a great impression on Charles Gustav Peterson who asked for her hand in marriage. He himself was an immigrant. He was born in the vicinity of Karlstadt in Sweden and emigrated with his parents in 1873 as a child of two.

Not only was Henrietta beautiful, she reportedly was the brightest of her family and, before she married, she attended teachers' college and taught in a school in Orleans, New York. She survived all her siblings, three sisters and one brother, and died at the age of 97 in 1976.

Did Roger inherit his talents from his obviously gifted mother? We don't know for sure. One thing is known: his mother was very supportive and understanding of the young

boy's fascination with nature. Later on, she supported him, when he chose to study art. His father, much older and more practical, was often critical and did not share his views. It appears that Roger was never close to him.

While still in Jamestown, where he was born and grew up, Roger was known in the neighbourhood and in school as somewhat of an oddball, collecting insects, dead birds, spending his time mostly alone, who knows where, chasing butterflies and birds. His schoolmates took to calling him "Professor Nuts Peterson" but they respected his knowledge and dedication. He had a few chums. Their "bible" was Ernest Thompson Seton's *Two Little Savages* and they imagined themselves living in the wilderness and sharing its secrets.

Then, birds took over his life. It happened in seventh grade, where a young teacher, Miss Blanche Hornbeck, planted a seed not only for Roger's entire future but through him for millions of people all over the world. She started a junior Audubon club and throughout that particular school year, the children learned a lot about birds. Miss Hornbeck left the school but Roger's fascination never waned.

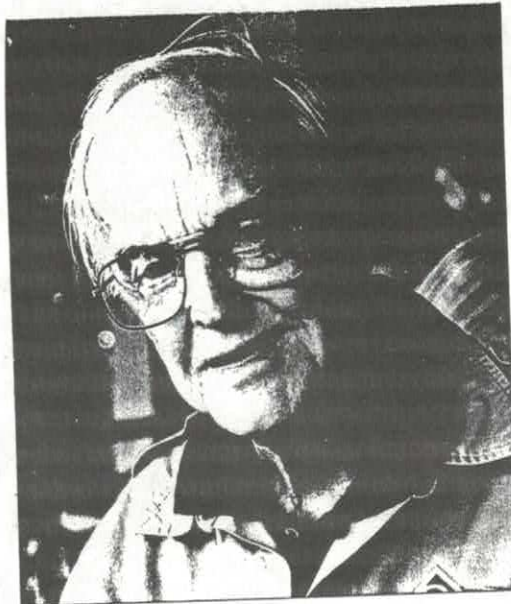
In art, too, Seton's book played a role. Yan, the hero of the book, found some dusty old bird mounts and tried to sketch them because he wanted to remember the markings. So did young Roger. Little arrows in appropriate places helped him know what to look for in the field. Thus, the idea was born for a future bird guide and a new way of looking at nature.

I started by searching for some information on Roger Tory Peterson and ended by reading a book and a half dozen articles and searching other books for his paintings. As a result, I have learned a lot about the life of this great man.

But what made it really exciting were the connections I found. My studies at the Audubon center in

Connecticut and attendance at the Audubon Camp of Maine all led to Roger Tory Peterson. I found out that he knew people I have known, whom I befriended, who helped me to acquire the knowledge I have. And to top it all, his mother was a countrywoman of mine.

I was thankful to have been asked to write this Polish article. It was easy, it was fun and led me to some great discoveries.



Roger Tory Peterson 1908-1996
(Photo: Arthur Morris)

SUSSEX'S FAMOUS FIELDFARE; A FEW THINGS ABOUT "THE BIRD"

John Candy, Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society

On February 21 this year David and Judy Hughes sighted, identified and reported a Fieldfare on the lawn of their home at 30 Broadview Avenue in Sussex. The sighting of this European thrush, very rare on this continent, produced a chain reaction that rippled across North American cyberspace and telephone lines. Here are a few of the things that happened.

As soon as this observation was reported on the New Brunswick Bird Information Line, the Moncton Naturalists' Club Rare Bird Alert and the NatureNB discussion group on "the net," birders started to arrive in Sussex or to telephone for more information. These calls came from all over New Brunswick, from Ontario and from the U.S. This was New Brunswick's second documented sighting of a Fieldfare, the first being at Caraquet from January 23 to April 22, 1991.

Some of the birders I had the pleasure of taking to the area included Shirley Sloat, Peter Pearce, Jim Goltz and Don Gibson from Fredericton. Shirley had called the night before and I had given her instructions on how to find our house. At 8:00 a.m. the next morning they arrived and we drove to the hillside cemetery just north of the elementary school on Main Street. I told them how honoured I was to be with four such knowledgeable birders. I also told myself, "John, keep your mouth closed and your ears open and you will learn a wealth of information this morning." Before we found "the bird," Shirley's 300th for New Brunswick I might add, we saw a Merlin, two Northern Flickers, ten House Finches and a Pileated Woodpecker, plus common species such as crows and starlings. "The bird" was travelling and feeding with a flock of 50 or more American Robins. The trick was to find the robins; then, usually, you had no problem spotting "the bird." For food there was an excellent supply of mountain-ash berries, most of them on the ground.

Merv Cormier, a well known photographer, arrived at our house one morning to get instructions on where to find "the bird." I told him that it had been missing for a couple of days, and as I had another commitment, all that

I could do was tell him where he might see it. After only 20 minutes he was back to report that he had seen and photographed "the bird." I mistakenly told someone that Merv Griffin had been up here to see "the bird." This person realized that there had been numerous Americans in the area and asked if Merv Griffin was a birder. I replied, "You want to believe he is!" That's when I noticed my mistake and corrected it.

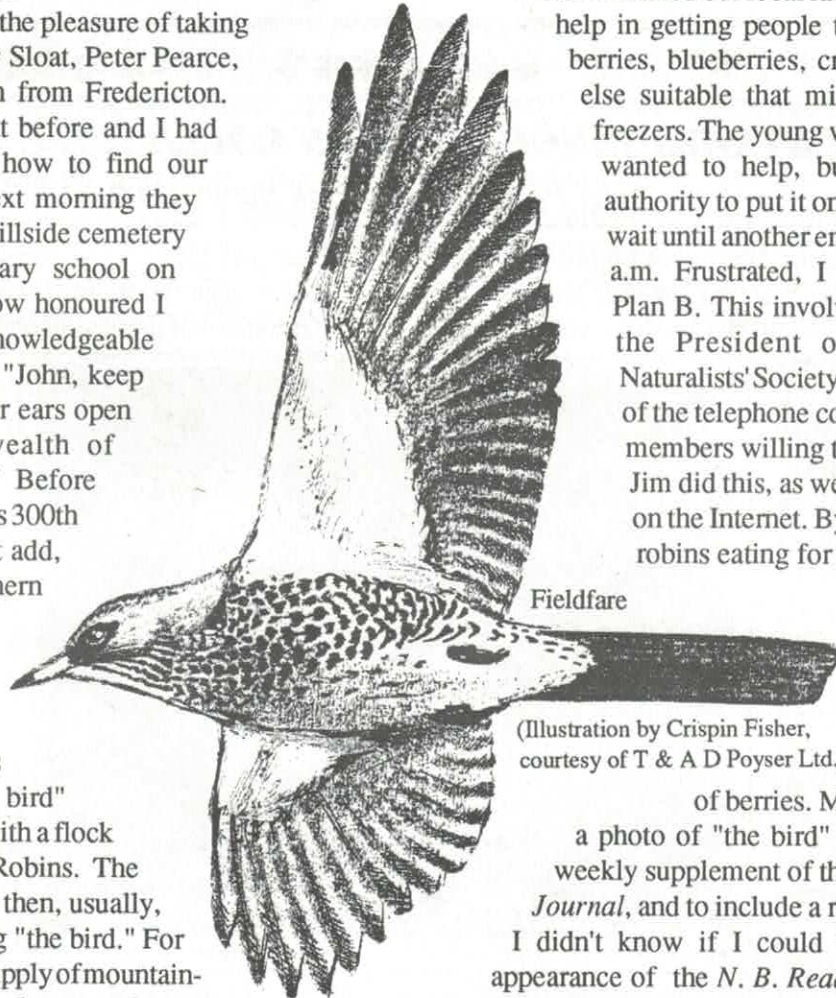
Everything was going great until we received a heavy snow fall on March 6; this storm covered most of the berries. The robins then split up into groups of five or six, making it much harder to find the Fieldfare. With so little food for the robins and other birds, I sensed that we had a natural emergency on our hands.

Early on the Saturday morning following the storm I called our local radio station to solicit their help in getting people to donate mountain-ash berries, blueberries, cranberries and anything else suitable that might be stored away in freezers. The young woman there told me she wanted to help, but she didn't have the authority to put it on the air. I would have to wait until another employee arrived at 10:00 a.m. Frustrated, I immediately turned to Plan B. This involved calling Jim Brown, the President of our Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society, to request the activation of the telephone committee in a search for members willing to donate frozen berries. Jim did this, as well as putting the request on the Internet. By this means we kept the robins eating for several more days.

At this point a large flock of Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings arrived in Sussex to feed on the limited supply

of berries. My next idea was to send a photo of "the bird" to the *N. B. Reader*, a weekly supplement of the *Saint John Telegraph Journal*, and to include a request for more berries.

I didn't know if I could wait for the Saturday appearance of the *N. B. Reader* (sometimes it takes two weeks to get an item published) so I marked **URGENT** on the envelope in red ink. A day later I received a call from Charles Enman of the *Telegraph Journal*. I told him about "the bird" and the need for berries. The next morning it was front page news.



Fieldfare

(Illustration by Crispin Fisher, courtesy of T & A D Poyser Ltd.)

FAMOUS FIELDFARE (cont'd. from p. 17)

I was preparing to leave the house around 6:30 a.m. to guide two couples from New York to see "the bird" when the telephone rang. It was the CBC in Fredericton asking if I would take part in a three station hook-up to talk about "the bird." The on-air conversation started with one morning show host asking the other two if they had seen the picture of the Fieldfare on the front page of that morning's paper. I then talked about "the bird" and the need for more berries.

The response was almost unbelievable. My wife Anne was kept very busy on the telephone each morning while I was out placing berries at selected spots. We hope that we saved a few robins by doing this and we would like to thank all those who donated berries. I would also like to thank Kathleen Alexander of Renforth, N. B., the lady who cares for injured birds, for her note attached to a donation of berries; "Thank

you on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves."

Here are some of the points of origin of birders who came to Sussex; all parts of N. B., Ontario, New Jersey, New York, Florida, Maine, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Connecticut. Phone calls, some individuals calling two or three times, were received from such diverse points as Oklahoma, California, Colorado, Arizona and Oregon. As "the bird" was missing when these inquiries came in, I suggested that these distant callers put their trip on hold. Some of them gave me their telephone number and asked me to call collect if "the bird" reappeared. Unfortunately, at the time of writing in late March, it has not.

One couple from New York gave me their card. It was similar to that of the former TV character Paladin in that it read,

"You have rare bird, we will travel."

Editor's Note: After not being observed for three weeks, the Fieldfare was relocated in Sussex on March 28 by John Candy.

AN EXTRAVAGANCE OF AVIAN COLLECTIVE NOUNS

Peter Pearce, Fredericton Nature Club

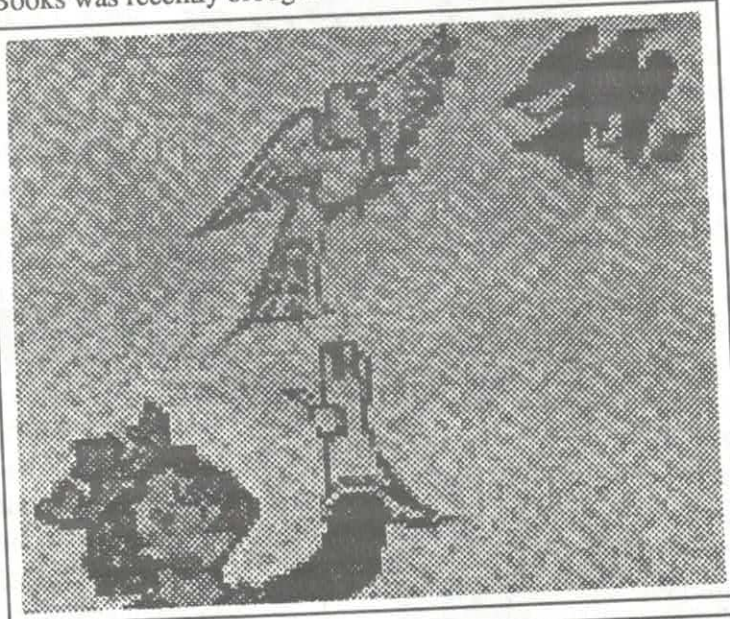
"An Exhaltation of Larks," by James Lipton, is certainly an entertaining read. A copy of the expanded second edition published in 1977 by Penquin Books was recently brought to my attention. It provides a collection of old and new terms of venery, described on the back cover of the book as "...those imaginative collective nouns that evolved in the Middle ages when the sophisticated art of hunting demanded an equally sophisticated vocabulary." The author presents about 300 examples, venery being expanded to apply to all manner of human activity. About 40 established and suggested terms are given for birds, some of which, I am sure, will be familiar. An exaltation of larks is my favourite but the following also strike my fancy; a gulp of cormorants, a parliament of owls, a scold of jays, a murder of crows, an unkindness of ravens, a murmuration of starlings and a charm of finches.

I submit herewith, for the reader's consideration, some of my own suggestions for the collective names of birds; a submergence of grebes, an obscurity of bitterns, a wedge of

wigeon, a dash of falcons, an explosion of grouse, a synchrony of sandpipers, a distraction of killdeer, a clamour of yellowlegs, a whirl of phalaropes, an elegance of terns, an incessancy of whip-poor-wills, a relief of pewees, an aggression of kingbirds, a swoop of swallows, a confidence of chickadees, an inversion of nuthatches, a helix of creepers, a symphony of thrushes, a whisper of waxwings, a confusion of warblers, an impudence of cowbirds, a crunch of grosbeaks and a curia of cardinals.

Perchance, if this article

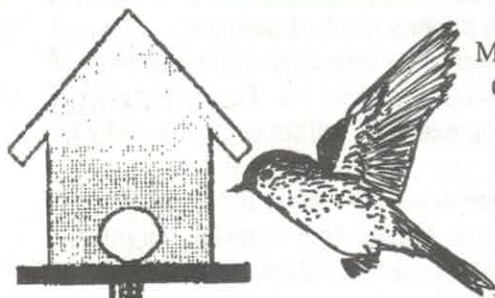
is noted by a sufficiently wide nodding of naturalists, alternative or further verbal inventions of collective names of birds may be forthcoming.



*A noble falconer from The Art of Hunting with Birds
by Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II*

CABANES D'OISEAUX POUR LE MERLE-BLEU DE L'EST

Edgar F. Savoie, Club les ami(e)s de la nature



Après avoir visité Myrtle Beach en Caroline du Sud en 1993, pendant une période de vacances de golf, je me suis rendu compte que plusieurs terrains de golf de cette région fraternisaient avec les oiseaux: canards, hirondelles et Merles-bleus de l'est. On apercevait ici et là des cabanes éparpillées un peu partout et toutes occupées par des Merles-bleus de l'est et quelques Hirondelles bicolores. On observait que ces cabanes étaient placées à moins de deux mètres de terre si bien que l'on voyait facilement à l'intérieur. Comme ces maisons étaient basses, les côtés ou même les toits de celles-ci avaient été ouverts ou enlevés par les curieux. Ces oiseaux préfèrent des habitats près de la terre. Ils aiment aussi les insectes que l'on trouve plus facilement sur les terrains plats ce qu'offrent les parcours de golf fraîchement tondus.

À mon retour à Moncton, j'ai communiqué avec le pro et propriétaire de club de golf Country Meadows, Monsieur Doug Sullivan, pour savoir s'il était intéressé à un tel projet. Non seulement il était intéressé, il a même suggéré qu'on pourrait se servir d'un poteau et d'une cabane d'oiseau de chaque côté des parcours pour délimiter les "fairways" de plus de 150 verges et ainsi indiquer les distances des verts. Puisque quatre des 18 trous n'étaient que des "par 3," nous avions seulement besoin de 28 cabanes et poteaux pour notre projet.

À la réunion suivante du club des naturalistes, *Les Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est du N.-B.*, je leur ai proposé ce projet qui fut accepté. Le club débourse donc les coûts des matériaux nécessaires. Avec l'aide de membres volontaires, nous avons construit et numéroté nos 28 cabanes. Nous avons utilisé les plans de maison de Merles-bleus publiés dans le *Canadian Living Magazine* de mai 1993 (pages 93, 94).

Une fois la gelée sortie de la terre, au printemps, les administrateurs du club de golf ont mesuré les

distances exactes entre les poteaux et certains membres du club de golf ont creusé les trous nécessaires pour faire l'installation.

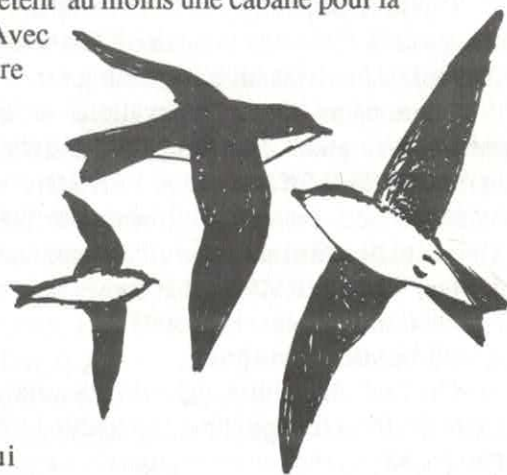
Nous avons par la suite sollicité nos membres pour qu'ils achètent au moins une cabane pour la somme de 5\$. Avec l'aide de notre présidente d'alors et d'un ami avocat, nous avons obtenu un certificat d'acte de transfert approprié qui confirmait légalement

un numéro de cabane et de poteau à son propriétaire un trou spécifique sur le terrain. Ceci ajouta de l'originalité à notre projet.

Au début du mois de mai, lors d'une excursion, les maisons ont été installées aux endroits désignés. La première année, soit en 1994 nous n'avons eu aucun Merle-bleu de l'est dans nos cabanes. Par contre, 32% des cabanes ont été occupées par des Hirondelles bicolores. La deuxième année, nous avons eu deux paires de Merles-bleus comme locataires et 57% de nos cabanes étaient occupées. En 1996, on avait encore deux paires de Merles-bleus et 90% de nos cabanes étaient occupées. Nous espérons augmenter le rapport Merles-bleus/Hirondelles bicolores. On considère 90% d'occupation presque un maximum, étant donné l'emplacement des cabanes sur le terrain de golf. Certaines sont accidentellement frappées par des balles.

Une fois les oiseaux partis, nous recueillons les statistiques, exécutons les réparations et voyons au nettoyage pour remettre les cabanes en bon état pour la prochaine saison.

Les membres du club de golf Country Meadows sont très fiers de notre initiative qui leur permet de jouer une partie de golf tout en appréciant les beautés de la nature dans un environnement idéal.



NATURE NEWS: OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1996

David Christie

In many places you'll read of occurrences indicative of the very mild late fall and early winter.

Insects

On Oct. 2 Brian Dalzell observed **Saltmarsh Caterpillars** being rolled across the highway at Castalia by strong winds. One out of four was hit by a passing car.

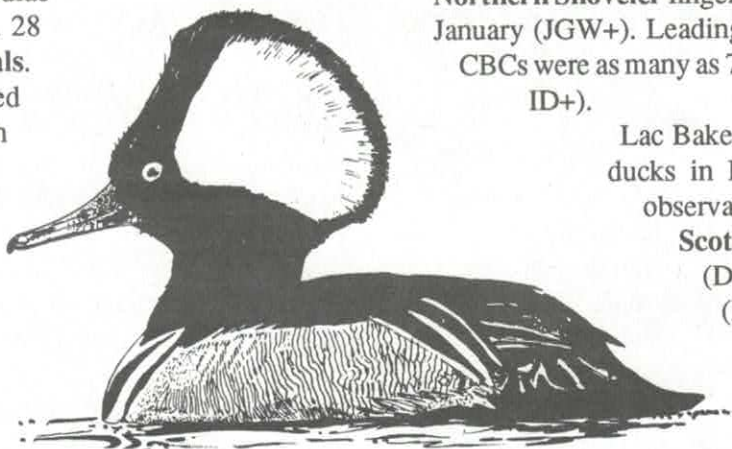
There were three observations of **unknown green caterpillars**, about 2 cm long, crawling about on the ground in the first week of December. Nev Garrity found one near Sackville Dec. 1 and the following day three caught by the Mountain Bluebird at Robertville Dec. 2 and 4 (SIT), and one at Mary's Point (EMM). That shows how mild it was!

Amphibians & Mammals

On Dec. 18 with a light drizzle, and the temperature about 6°, Brian Dalzell heard something strange at Bancroft Point, GM: "It took a few seconds for my brain to overcome the slight shock of hearing **Wood Frogs** chuckling at the edge of the forest near my house. There were at least half a dozen as near as I could tell."

On Oct. 19 a **Canada Lynx** crossing a clearing at dawn in the Summerville area of Kings Co. was a special treat because it is so rare (KHD). A mature **Black Bear**, seen during the Mount Carleton CBC Dec. 20, was "a surprise so late in the season." (GMi)

A highlight of the Shediak Christmas Bird Count Dec. 28 was the number of **Gray Seals**. Noted were "several hauled out on the ice off the north end of Shediak Island, at least ten on the ice edge at Cap de Cocagne, one hauled out on a sandy beach at Caissie Cape, several in the water there, and one on the ice right beside the wharf and bridge at Shediak Bridge." (SIT).



Hooded Merganser, adult male

Birds

The unusual fall abundance of **Sooty Shearwaters** continued into November and culminated with a record late bird between Machias Seal Island and the Murre Ledges on Dec. 6 or 7; a late **Greater Shearwater** was in the same area a day later (Peter Wilcox, *fide* BED). 725 Greaters and 75 Sooties had been seen from The Whistle on Grand Manan Nov. 9 (BED). Both these species were apparently still found between Saint John and Digby Nov. 3, when there were many

Northern Fulmar in the bay (Falk Hüttmann).

A **Great Cormorant** was inland at Mactaquac Nov. 23 (DGG). The unusual number of **Double-crested Cormorants** lingering into early winter is illustrated by the CBC results.

A late **Green Heron** was at Saints Rest Oct. 20 (EP, RP). We get most of our **Glossy Ibis** in spring but this fall one appeared at Bayside, near St. Andrews Nov. 2-3 (Tracey Dean).

An immature **Snow Goose** in a field at Caron Point, Bathurst, Sep. 29+ (*fide* PD) was replaced by 2 adults Oct 4 (PD). On Oct. 7 there were 5 adults at Arthurette (DSC, EMM). An immature was with Canada Geese along the St. John River in Simonds Oct. 16 (GMi). Six were at Eel River Bar Oct. 20 (ID) and a blue phase immature was at Edmundston Oct. 26 (ED, CL). A hybrid between **Canada Goose** and **Greater White-fronted Goose** was on the Shepody River at Harvey Sep. 29 to Oct. 2 (Lars and Michelle Larsen+). Pierre Duguay advises that this rare hybrid has been noticed occasionally at Bathurst.

An adult male **Green-winged Teal** of the **Eurasian** race accompanying "regular" Green-wings at Courtenay Bay, Saint John, Dec. 14-28 (JGW+) is apparently our first winter record, but not surprising. Two **Eurasian Wigeon** were seen Oct. 20, one at Saints Rest, Saint John (EP), the other at Cape Jourimain, near Bayfield (AdeN). A female **Northern Shoveler** lingered at Courtenay Bay Dec. 27 into January (JGW+). Leading up to the two **Gadwall** on the CBCs were as many as 7 at Eel River Bar Dec. 4-7 (SIT+, ID+).

Lac Baker seems to be the spot for diving ducks in Madawaska County. This fall's observations included 2 **White-winged Scoters** and 3 **Surf Scoters** Oct. 13 (DC+), 50 **Black Scoters** Oct. 26 (DC, CL), 4 **Oldsquaw** Oct. 27 (DC, GC, DD), and 4 **Lesser Scaup** Oct. 26 (CL).

Two male and 3 female **Harlequin Ducks** were at Pt.

Lepreau Nov. 23 (DFS, Paul Mortimer). Two remained there through December. Interesting during the migration watch at Pt Lepreau Oct. 1 was that 60% of 621 **Common Eider** and a small number of **scoters** passed the point swimming strongly and apparently purposefully westward down the Bay, well out from shore and against the rising tide (JGW, Phil Withers).

Numerous reports of **Hooded Mergansers** included 25 at Eel River Bar (ML+) and 30+ at Shemogue (AdeN) Oct 20, and 12 at Hartland Nov. 9 (GMi).

A gathering of 3000+ **Red-breasted Mergansers** filled Shediac Bay Nov. 10 (RAM). **Ruddy Ducks** made a good showing including 3 at Cape Jourmain Oct. 20 (Aden), between 4 and 11 at Saints Rest Oct. 20-Nov. 9 (EP+), 5 at Long Pond, GM, Oct. 26-28 (JGW+), 6 at Dorchester SL Nov. 9 (SH+) and one at Lower Coverdale till at least Nov. 11 (RJW).

At least one of 2 **Turkey Vultures** moving SW at Golden Grove, near Saint John, Oct. 8 was a dark-headed juvenile (RJW); an adult circled over Clifton, near Moss Glen, Nov. 9 (KHD).

A **Cooper's Hawk** was included in a small flight of Sharp-shins at White Head Island Oct. 27 (PAP+). An adult **Red-shouldered Hawk** discovered at Shemogue Dec. 22 (Andrew MacFarlane) remained into January.

An early **Gyr Falcon** passed Cap-de-Cocagne Oct 11 (JE). Dec. 14, a dark bird, likely one that has wintered at Dalhousie the last couple of years, was seen at Inch Arran Pt. (ML). A gray-phase was at Moncton Dec. 24 (Denis Doucet) and individuals were found on CBCs at Miscou and Grand Manan.

A bird reported as a "duck that couldn't fly" at McLaren Pond, FNP, Oct. 19 turned out to be an immature **Purple Gallinule** when picked up by Sedgewick Sinclair and Allan Nicol. It was likely there the previous day when Stu Tingley had heard strange calls there but failed to locate the bird that was making them. The emaciated bird is being cared for by Mary Majka for the winter.

An immature **Sandhill Crane** was very cooperative at Welch Cove, near Maces Bay, putting in a long stay from at least Oct. 18 to Nov. 3 (CLJ+).

A nice flock of about 50 **Killdeer** flew down to the river near Hartland Oct 20 (GMI). A late one was at Ross Island, GM, Dec. 14 (*fide* BED). About 24 **Purple Sandpipers** frequented rocks at Dalhousie Dec. 1-4 (ML+). At Johnson Mills a flock of about 105 of them included 39 late **Dunlin** and 6 **Sanderling** Dec. 15-16 (KP+).

A juvenile **Long-billed Dowitcher** (along with a **Short-billed**) was at Castalia Oct. 8 (JGW, SIT). Three dowitchers at the Sackville Waterfowl Park Oct. 11 were believed to be **Long-billed** (KP); only one of 5 dowitchers there Oct. 20 (MNC) could be identified as a **Long-billed** (the remainder being noted as "dowitcher sp.").

The numbers of gulls in Head Harbour Passage was large

this fall and early winter. On Nov. 1 Norman Famous estimated 25,000 **Bonaparte's**, 15,000 **Herring**, 5,000 **Great Black-backed**, 3,500 **Black-legged Kittiwake**, 55 **Iceland**, 10 **Glaucous** and 8 **Black-headed** passing Head Harbour Light in 1.5 hours. A **Little Gull** was spotted among 15,000 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Campobello Island in the week before Nov. 26 (Me. Bird Line) and another in the Grand Manan Channel Dec. 15 (*fide* BED).

Ten other reports of **Black-headed Gulls** through Dec. 15 came mostly from Charlotte County and Shediac, but there was also one near Buctouche on the weekend of Nov. 2-3 (Mike LeBlanc) and an adult at Lamèque Oct. 26 (RAC). Saint John's adult **Mew Gull** (European race) was noted back at the Saints Rest SL Dec. 12 (SIT). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** noted Nov 28 behind Cy's Restaurant in Moncton was returning for the 8th or 9th year in a row (NBBIL).

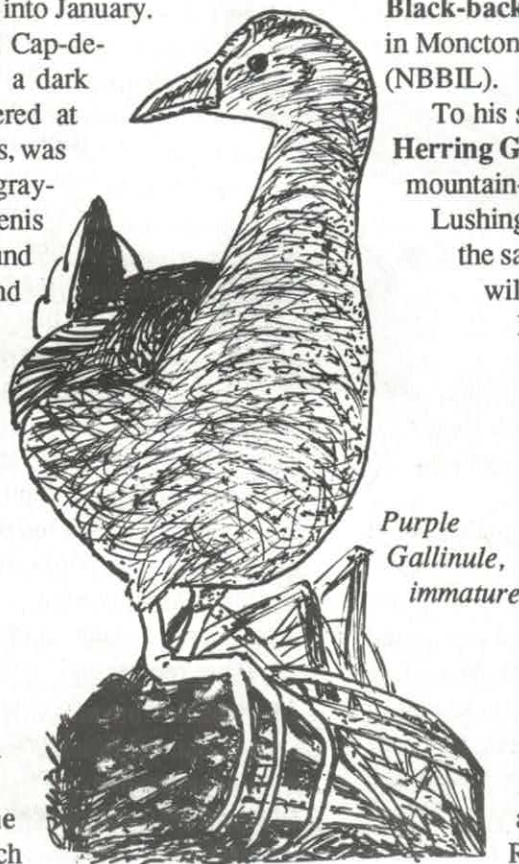
To his surprise, Luc DeRoche noticed four immature **Herring Gulls** trying to perch and keep their balance in a mountain-ash tree while eating the berries Oct. 12. Mike Lushington frequently saw **Ring-billed Gulls** doing the same thing. As Luc remarked, "People say gulls will eat anything they can get hold of." Luc's in the Bathurst area, Mike at Dalhousie.

There was a feeding frenzy of 3000± **Razorbills** in the Grand Manan Channel Dec. 1 (Alain Clavette, Roger LeBlanc). **Atlantic Puffin** was seen from the Digby Ferry Dec. 4 (*fide* BED). A **Dovekie** blown onto land at Saint John Dec. 2 was released safely back at sea (Charles Graves).

Peter Pearce was so surprised by a slim white owl that flew over him on White Head Island Oct. 26 that he at first didn't realize it likely was a **Barn Owl**. It could not be relocated. A moderate number of **Snowy Owls** began appearing in late October, the first being at Pointe-Canot on Lamèque Island Oct 25 (*fide* RAC). A **Northern Hawk Owl** was noted at Miscou Island Nov. 2 (RAC), another near Port Elgin Dec. 23+ (Ken McKenna+).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen at St. George Oct. 20 (Allen Gorham), White Head Island Oct. 27 (DSC+), and Campobello during the last week of October (Dan Anthony). **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were at North Head Oct. 25 (PAP, TP), Memramcook Nov. 5 (Annette-Louise Brison), St. Stephen Nov. 14 (Gail Smith), and Fairvale in late November (Gillian and Bill Gentleman).

One wonders what species a rather yellowish **Empidonax flycatcher** at North Head Nov. 16 (SJNC) was; these fellows are extremely difficult to identify when not uttering distinctive calls. Not at all difficult was a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Pointe-Alexandre, Lamèque, Oct. 25 (HC+).



NATURE NEWS (cont'd. from p. 21)

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers seemed less numerous than in recent years: Mary's Pt. Oct. 16 (DSC), North Head Oct. 25 and 27 (SIT+), and New Horton, near Riverside-Albert, Oct. 27 (Alain Clavette).

Rosita and Benoit Lanteigne found New Brunswick's first **Mountain Bluebird** behind their home in Caraquet Nov. 15. Named *Azuré*, it was seen by many observers through Nov. 25. Amazingly, the same bird (recognized by a bill deformity) was found Dec. 1 at Robertville by Pierre Diguay. It remained there till at least Dec. 4.

A **Brown Thrasher** was at Southwest Head, GM, Oct. 10 (JGW, SIT) and one at feeder at Cambridge-Narrows from Dec. 15 into January (John & June Straight+).

Several observers are convinced that a shrike a Beresford Dec. 26-29 (MGD, ID, PD, LD) was a **Loggerhead Shrike**, an extremely rare species in New Brunswick in recent years and not expected to be here in winter.

At Grand Manan, there were reports of 2 **Orange-crowned Warblers** at The Anchorage Oct. 5 (*fide* SIT), one or two at North Head Oct. 25-27 (JGW, SIT) and one at Harrington Cove Oct. 26 (DSC).

There were three surprising early winter records of **Black-throated Blue Warblers** at feeders, at Upper Napan, Miramichi, just before Christmas (*fide* Tom Greathouse), Moncton Dec. 27 to Jan. 3 (Alma White), and one found dead at Kingsclear Jan. 1 (*fide* DLM). A few **Pine Warblers** were seen at Grand Manan during October. At the end of November this species began to appear at feeders. At least 7 were feeder visitors in southern N.B. during December. Single **Yellow-breasted Chats** were seen at Alma Nov. 2 (RJW, DR+), McLaren Pond, FNP Nov. 23 (RJW), and found dead at Mary's Point Nov. 6 (DSC). One was discovered at a Gondola Pt. feeder Dec. 27 (Merv Cormier).

There was not a marked influx of Northern **Cardinals** this fall, but survivors and offspring were reported at numerous locations in southern N.B.

A small number of **Indigo Buntings** were about in October, and a laggard female was at a Saint John feeder Nov. 24/25-28 (DFS). An Indigo Bunting present for three days finally crossed paths with a mist net Oct. 13 and now wears a numbered aluminum tag as a souvenir of his visit to Southwest Head.

At least 6 **Dickcissels** were seen at feeders in Alma during Oct. 16 through Nov. 5 (RJW+) and several at Grand Manan (v.o.). To the north there was one at Lamèque Nov. 2-16 (GB) and one at Charlo Dec. 4-8 (SIT+).

Most **Eastern Towhee** reports came during October from Grand Manan, where two lingered till almost Christmas at North Head (*fide* BED). Elsewhere they were seen Mary's Pt. Oct. 12-13 (DSC+), Sackville Oct. 31 to Nov. (Margaret Bunker) and Glassville Dec. 12+ (Rona McBrine+).

The declining **Vesper Sparrow** was noted at Southwest Head, GM, Oct. 12 and 31 (BED), and St-Basile Oct. 17 (GLT, GV). A **Lark Sparrow** was at Grand-Digue Oct. (DD+), another at Pokiok Oct. 29 (DLM).

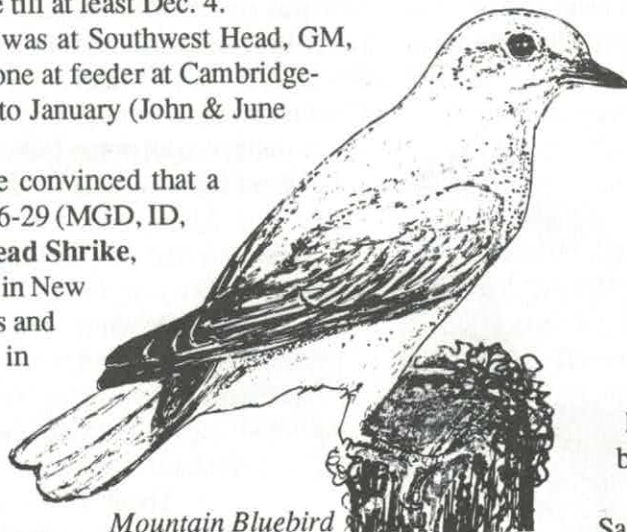
Grasshopper Sparrow that appeared Grande-Anse about Nov. 29 was present till at least Dec. 15 (Rodrigue Landry+). No less than 7 **Field Sparrows** were tallied at Grand Manan Oct. 25-27 (*fide* BED), including four at Southwest Head, one at White Head and two at North Head. One was at Bathurst Oct. 1 (PD, Al Foster). An immature **Harris' Sparrow** at the feeder of Celia and Mike Adams in Gondola Point was identified by Jim Wilson Dec. 28, but had already been present for several days before that date.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found at Saint-Anselme Oct. 3 (Lionel Gionet), New Maryland Nov. 11 and 13 (Vern Ireton, PAP) and for several days during November at Upper Napan, Miramichi (Tom Greathouse). Several **Baltimore Orioles** were prominent at feeders in November but one at North Head Nov. 16 (SJC) was thought possibly to be a **Bullock's** (photos and descriptions will be studied). The latest surviving Baltimore Oriole was at Janie Briggs' at Gagetown till Jan. 2.

Four reports that could not be confirmed were of **Arctic Loon** (probably meaning **Pacific Loon**) at Pt. Lepreau Oct. 27 (Roger Burrows), a **Great Gray Owl** at Hopewell Cape Dec. 29 (Pat and Debbie Carr), and an adult male **Black-headed Grosbeak** in St-Sauveur Nov. 13 (*fide* PL).

Abbreviations

+ means "and other observers" or "and following days;" Aden Les Ami(e)s de la nature; BED, Brian Dalzell; CL, Colette Lavoie; CLJ, Cecil Johnston; DC, Denise Cyr; DD, Denis Doucet; DFS, David Smith; DGG, Don Gibson; DLM, David Myles; DR, Doreen Rossiter; DSC, David Christie; ED, Eric Daigle; EMM, Mary Majka; EP, Eileen Pike; FLE, Francine Levesque; FNP, Fundy Nat'l Park; GLT, Gisèle Thibodeau; GM, Grand Manan; GMi, Grant Milroy; GV, Gérard Verret; Irene Doyle; JGW, Jim Wilson; JL, Jocelyn Levesque; KHD, Henrik Deichmann; KP, Kathy Popma; LD, Luc DeRoche; MGD, Margaret Gallant Doyle; ML, Mike Lusdhington; MN Moncton Nat. Club; PAP, Peter Pearce; PD, Pierre Duguay; RAC, Rose-Aline Chiasson; RJW, Rob Walker, SH, Shir Hunt; SIT, Stu Tingley; SJNC, Saint John Nat. Club; SL, sewage lagoon; TP, Theresa Pearce.



Mountain Bluebird

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 1996 - '97

David Christie

A record 47 Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) were conducted in New Brunswick this winter. These include a completely new count at Bouctouche and a reincarnated one at Petit-Rocher, an area previously surveyed in 1965. The results for Kouchibouguac National Park were received too late for inclusion in the tables (this count is included as Appendix 1).

It's impressive that so many counts are conducted in our small province, and that so many have continued for decades. More than half of them have been carried out for more than 20 years and almost 80% for ten or more years. The many faithful compilers and participants deserve a pat on the back for building an important record of our early winter bird life.

The 226,449 birds of 131 species (including the Kouchibouguac count) reported on count day exceeded previous highs of 174,538 in 1991-92 and 127 species in 1994-95. The large number of individuals was mainly due to a concentration of gulls that included more than 65,000 **Black-legged Kittiwakes** at Eastport-Campobello. There must have been a great abundance of food there. The mild December weather with unusually little ice and snow led to increased numbers of most waterbirds this season and also permitted a number of stragglers to survive into early winter, including count period records of **Northern Shoveler**, **Orange-crowned Warbler** and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** (three of them!). It was the first time these three species had been reported in New Brunswick during the CBC season.

Other warm-weather stragglers included a scattering of **Great Blue Herons** and **Double-crested Cormorants** north to the Bay of Chaleur, **Wood Duck**, **American Wigeon**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Ruddy Duck**, **Belted Kingfisher**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, and **Baltimore Oriole**. The **Broad-winged Hawks** reported were seen only briefly, but the **Loggerhead Shrike** at Petit-Rocher was studied by several people. Winter reports of both these species are always the cause of great debate.

The greatest rarities for New Brunswick were **Tufted Duck** (at Grand Manan — the first N.B. CBC record — and during count period at Saint John), **Mew Gull** (Grand Manan and Saint John), and for the third year in a row **Harris' Sparrow** (Hammond River-Hampton).

Exceptions to the general abundance of water birds was the relative scarcity of **Greater Scaup**, **Surf** and **White-winged Scoters**, and **Bonaparte's** and **Glaucous Gulls**.

The **Mallard** total for these counts was 25% of the number of **Black Ducks**. Through hybridization, the growing Mallard population poses a definite threat to the survival of our local Black Ducks, but many of the Blacks observed in

New Brunswick in winter come from northern areas beyond the present breeding range of the Mallard.

Because of the snow-free fields, this was a high CBC season for **Northern Harrier**. **Northern Goshawk** numbers were above average, **Rough-legged Hawks** below average, other hawks around normal levels. A good showing of 11 **Snowy Owls** appeared at coastal locations from Bathurst to Shediac.

Growth of the **Mourning Dove** population continues in northern N.B. but seems to be leveling off in the south. **Rock Doves** remain at high levels but in the south decreased from the previous year.

Ruffed Grouse numbers continue at a high level everywhere. **Ring-necked Pheasants**, though having been introduced to additional areas, seem to be down in numbers.

Following several years of increasing numbers, **Downy** and **Hairy Woodpecker** numbers dropped a bit this year but were still numerous.

Among songbirds the widespread abundance of **American Goldfinches** was a highlight of this year's counts. In fact, their numbers were the highest in 35 years. They were most numerous in southern inland areas but were common almost everywhere. **Evening Grosbeaks**, in below average numbers overall, were most prominent along the Saint John valley from Cambridge-Narrows to the Tobique and at Miramichi and Bathurst.

An abundance of **Pine Siskins** and **White-winged Crossbills** at Kedgwick, one of the few places reporting a large cone crop, and in some other areas balanced a scarcity in most districts. The bulk of **Purple Finches** are usually seen near the western edge of the province, and this year, Kedgwick and the upper Saint John valley accounted for 76% of the total.

Pine Grosbeak and **Common Redpoll** were very low, even being exceeded in total numbers by that newcomer, the **House Finch**, which continues to be numerous in the three southern cities. The former two are undoubtedly doing fine in some other part of the country.

Of our two common wintering sparrows, **Am. Tree Sparrow** numbers were below average perhaps because they hadn't yet concentrated in flocks at feeders. **Juncos** were in above average numbers in northern N.B., close to average in the south. As typical of an open winter, **Snow Buntings** were concentrated in the north.

Cardinal numbers dropped after the high a year ago but only to the level that followed the 1993 influx.

Black-capped Chickadees dropped noticeably in numbers for the first time in a decade, but they still remain well above the recent average. **Boreal Chickadees** increased to above the average level for recent years. The **Red-breasted**

CHRISTMAS COUNT (cont'd. from p. 23)

Nuthatch was generally quite numerous, but **White-breasted** dipped to below average numbers.

Brown Creepers increased to be above average and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** stayed low.

American Crow numbers were particularly high this year, partly because of the open conditions but there has been an increasing trend for this species. **Common Ravens** declined but jays were about average.

Mountain-ash fruits were more plentiful in northern N.B. than in the south and this was reflected in the numbers of fruit-eating birds. With the exception of more than 100 robins at Fredericton, **American Robins**, **Bohemian Waxwings** and **Cedar Waxwings** were more numerous north than south. Cedars somewhat outnumbered Bohemians (normally our main winter waxwing), indicative of the fact that many of the latter stayed closer to their western breeding grounds. Higher than usual **Starling** numbers and a good showing of **Northern Flickers** were likely also related to the mountain-ash berries.

The **House Sparrow** has experienced a long-term decline but our CBC data suggests that there hasn't been much change in the past five years.

The + and - ratings beside the provincial totals on the accompanying tables will allow you to check how the numbers of other birds compare to normal. Because so many species were recorded this winter I had to relegate a few of the count period records to an abbreviated listing just before the species totals on the first two pages of tables. It's getting to the point that I will have to reconsider the best way of presenting the count results in future.

An explanation of abbreviations and footnotes to the tables:

Species in boldface: 1st time reported on N.B. counts

Number in boldface: a local record high count

Number in italics: no details submitted or details not fully convincing

* recorded during count period

highest number a provincial record

a 12 alcids sp.

b 3 Black Duck x Mallard hybrids

BG Black Guillemot

BTBW Black-throated. Blue Warbler

c including 1 Eurasian subspecies

CW in count week, but outside count period

d 1 Black Duck x Mallard hybrid

e 3 sandpipers (prob. Purple)

f 5 finch sp., 1 gull sp.

g 3 scoters sp.

Gad Gadwall

Gyr Gyr Falcon

h incl. some obvious hybrids
i 45 ducks (Blacks/Mallards/hybrids)
j 1 woodpecker sp., 20 finch sp.
k 1 waxwing sp.
m 1 Accipiter sp. (prob. Sharp-shin)
n 22 sparrow sp., 2 grosbeak sp.
NP in Northern Pintail
p 35 kinglet sp.
++ much above average numbers
+ above average numbers
± near average numbers
- below average numbers
-- much below average numbers

Results of the Dalhousie, Restigouche and inland counts are presented in the first two pages of tables.

Dalhousie (Dal) 12th year

Dec. 28, 09:00–16:00. Clear a.m., to overcast with light snow in p.m.; –7° to –4°C; dead calm. 90% snow-cover, little depth; fresh water frozen and river with slush ice, not fast. 11 obs. in 5 parties, 2 feeder reports; hr, 23 (11.5 foot, 11.5 car); pty-km, 129 (24 foot, 105 car).
James Clifford, Jason Clifford, Bob Gillis, Ann Lavoie, Mike Lush (compiler), Don Mann, Patricia McGorlick, Michel Plourde, Shirley S. Andy Watson.

Restigouche (Rst) 7th year

Dec. 21, 09:00–17:00. Clear; temp. –12° to –5°C; wind NW, to 30 km/h. Snow cover 3 cm; waterways mostly open, freezing over. 12 obs. in 8 parties, 18 feeder reports; pty-hr, 40.5 (27 foot, 13.5 car); pty-km, 297 (50 foot, 18 car).
Wallace Best, Ruth Bulmer, Raymond Chiasson, Emily Clavette, D'Amours, Irene Doyle, Margaret Gallant Doyle, Carole Dubé, Gilles Doug Firlotte, Jean Gallant, Pam Godbout, Greg Guidry, Jim Katan Kelly, Susan Kennedy, Mathieu Landry, Ann Lavoie (compiler), Lushington, Jean MacDonald, Don & Isabel Mann, Ann Melville Miles, Marina Mils, Claude Richard, Shirley Sharpe, Gladdie Swan Watson, Foryst White, Denise Zyveniuk.

Salisbury (Sal) 5th year

Dec. 27, 08:00–16:30. Moderate snowfall, heavy at times in a.m., sun; cloudy periods after 1130; temp. –7° to –2°C; wind NW, 5–10 km/h. 6 fresh snow-cover; rivers and streams open with slush, ponds frozen. in 6 parties; pty-hr, 37.5 (4.5 foot, 33 car); pty-km, 548 (13 foot, 53 car).
Connie Colpitts (compiler), Pearl Colpitts, Jackie & Lloyd Decoste, F. Susan Hoar, Shirley Hunt, Julie McCallum, Heather Silliker, Judy Sta Steeves, John Tanner, Stu Tingley.

Sussex (Ssx) 24th year

Dec. 21, 07:45–16:45. Clear; temp. –2° to –7°C; wind NW, 15 km/h. ground; water ways high and running fast, still water frozen. 17 parties, 25 feeder reports; pty-hr, 124? (23? foot, 101? car); pty-km, 582 car).
Laura & Tom Anderson, John & Wilma Arisz, Flo Arnold, Gert Bish Brown, Thelma Brown, Darren Byers, Anne & John Candy, Barb C Alton & Bertha Chown, Donald Delong, Gordon & Pearl Delong, Doyle, Pat Horton, Larry & Vesta Howley, Judy Hutton, Anne & Landry, Marion MacAfee, Lou & Pauline MacAfee, Beth McFarlane McKenna, Barry McPhee (compiler), Jim McQueen, Dorothy McVe Moffett, Hudson Murphy, Elizabeth O'Donnell, Marilyn Powell, Peter Powning, Gunnar & Lois Ravn, Evelyn & Hubert Robinson, Thibodeau, Marilyn Thorne, Nancy Watters, Colby Yeomans.

1996-97 CBC	Dal	Rst	Sal	Ssx	Htn	C-N	Jem	Min	Ftn	Mac	TC	Sty	Wsk	Hrt	Flo	G-J	P-A	PR	Nic	Em	Ked	MtC	SEU	Paq
Red-thr Loon	1				1		4		1	1														
Common Loon	2								*	*							1							
D-cr Cormorant																								
Great Blue Heron	90			1	*	*			*	*														
Canada Goose	102 h	63	4	273	9	*		61	46	20		3			4				3					
Am Black Duck	5		*	29					1	40														
Mallard																								
Americ Wigeon																								
Ring-neck Duck					1																			
Greater Scaup					18																			
Lesser Scaup					1																			
Black Scoter				1																				
Com Goldeneye	90	1			77		38	239	200				15	8		5			11					
Barrow Goldeneye	215				1								1						2					
Hooded Merganser																								
Com Merganser	15	1			26		2	45	143				1	*		8			2					
Bald Eagle	*	1		1	3	*	*	4	3				6	*	4		4		1			1		
Northern Harrier					*							*				1								
Sharp-shin Hawk		1		1	1	2																		
Cooper's Hawk																								
Northern Goshawk					1				1				1									1		
Broad-w Hawk																								
Red-tailed Hawk		4		5	1	1	3	1	*				3											
Rough-leg Hawk		1		1			11			*		1												
Ring-nk Pheasant		27		14	1	2							30	2										
Spruce Grouse																								
Ruffed Grouse	4	9	6	4	1	10	4	*	9	10	3	5	4	3		2	4	*	4	10	5	1	4	
Ring-billed Gull	12		*						2															
Herring Gull	74	7	37		165		1	1	300	11			179	*	37		*			251				
Iceland Gull	16		1		8			2																
Glaucous Gull	*		1		2																			
Grt Blk-bk Gull	9	18	3	7	50				400	21			465	*						299			1	
Rock Dove	27	227	195	587	114	68	197	34	987	140	24	23	781	168	343	33	89	114		165	44			
Mourning Dove	16		74	153	205	221	195	1	316	64	15	26	101	237	176	29	33	41	4	21			59	
Grt Horned Owl				2					*						1				1					
Belted Kingfisher																								
Downy Woodpkr	6	10	10	24	13	29	11	3	36	18	1	14	45	56	31	7	7	11	13	6	2	1	*	
Hairy Woodpkr	3	7	14	26	10	26	18	4	31	14	3	18	27	52	20	9	10	11	17	12	3		17	
3-toed Woodpkr																	1		1		1		*	
Blk-bk Woodpkr																			2		1		1	
Northern Flicker																								
Pileated Woodpkr		1	*	2	3	5	8		8	4	1	7	2	2	1	1	2		1	2	1		*	
Horned Lark																								
Gray Jay	3	1	*	10	6	12	7	*	16	3	5	9	13	10	5	15	4	4	29	*	7	1	10	
Blue Jay	29	110	107	95	68	234	151	6	186	138	24	173	191	292	137	201	58	68	65	109	41		22	
American Crow	74	40	189	370	262	86	70	4	422	85	8	36	193	293	89	17	137	36	4	186			11	
Common Raven	13	86	255	44	56	26	30	5	130	51	21	44	64	64	67	26	62	39	129	158	16	*	20	
Blk-cap Chickadee	90	436	400	350	689	481	389	53	1043	381	222	356	378	525	341	198	144	76	141	274	150	15	19	
Boreal Chickadee	1	4	2	14	4	*			2	1	2	3				4	1		14	4	30	8	1	

	Dal	Rst	Sal	Sxx	Htn	C-N	Jem	Min	Ftn	Mac	TC	Sty	Wsk	Hrt	Flo	G-J	P-A	PR	Nic	En	Ked	MtC	SEU	Paq
1996-97 CBC																								
Red-br Nuthatch	14	30	8	49	45	31	10	2	94	25	13	89	10	13	15	24	21	8	31	24	29		1	1
Wh-br Nuthatch		6		2		1	*		7				13	5	2			2	2	4		1	1	1
Brown Creeper			1	1	4	*			10	1		3							3					1
Gold-cr Kinglet			2		7	*			48	4	17	45	2		12	9	*	6						2
American Robin	12	24	1	5	3		3		107	5		6												*
No Mockingbird		*		1			1		1			10		8	16			26		40				
Bohem Waxwing					7				76		*	*	8	*	32		*	*		62		1	1	1
Cedar Waxwing	130	61			2	2			3	1				1			*	*		1	1		1	1
Northern Shrike	1	*	4	1	1								312	266	159	206	305	114	21	256	30			70
European Starling	227	444	1699	1083	435	306	716	16	1649	177	76	283												1
Yel-rump Warbler				1																				
Pine Warbler																								
Yellow-br Chat		2		3	7			2	6	1		1	1	5	2		1	1						
Northern Cardinal		*																						
Dickcissel	1	*																						4
Eastern Towhee	*	*	59	39	17	119	187	12	47	55	30	50	45	160	36	43	17		1		5			
Am Tree Sparrow										1														
Chipping Sparrow				2			1		4	1				1	5									
Fox Sparrow					8																			
Song Sparrow						3																		
Swamp Sparrow				4	5	1	1		1	3		1		2			2	4						
Wh-thr Sparrow		*																						
Harris' Sparrow					1																			
Dark-eyed Junco	*	9	18	242	89	17	20		56	64	10	88	9	52	47	49	22	1	16	13	21			
Snow Bunting	12	30	1458	166	2	62	145	*			1	122	37	205	316	250	*			68	15	2	*	480
Red-w Blackbird									*															
Rusty Blackbird				1																				
Common Grackle	2		2				1					1	1		12			2		1				
Brown-hd Cowbird				3			1								1									
Baltimore Oriole				1	1																			
Pine Grosbeak	*	5		3	3	*	3	9	32	8		7	7	2	9	40	24	27	16	16	43		7	
Purple Finch									25															
House Finch				11						6		4		*	12	3		11	12	49	310		78	
Red Crossbill										4		146				6			4	31		53		
Wh-w Crossbill	*	18	15				8		49	4														
Common Redpoll							2			*														
Pine Siskin		7					2	*	32	79		12	2	58	69	22	46	51	28	46	327		*	
Amer Goldfinch #	64	278	356	376	705	899	313	26	770	1118	220	248	761	591	485	178	140	133	61	425	22	92	*	89
Evening Grosbk	27	19	366	107	115	281	223	*	190	206	98	249	350	573	166	243	119	305	120	20	105			116
House Sparrow	21	36	166	112	2	15	80		159	89		32	74	283	57	73	25	12		45	23			
Unidentified	45 i						1 k			1 m					24 n				35 p					
other CP species	Gad,BG	Gyr	NPin							BTBW														
TOTAL BIRDS	1453	1991	5487	4231	3281	2992	2866	169	7660	3205	794	2117	4148	4022	2762	1690	1287	1110	794	2666	1309	254	64	1263
TOTAL SPECIES	34	31	34	46	52	28	36	14	50	42	20	35	36	32	39	27	27	27	28	38	25	12	9	22
+ Spp. in period	7	6	4	0	3	5	3	5	3	4	0	2	0	6	0	0	5	2	1	2	0	0	7	1
TOTAL HOURS	23	40.5	37.5	65.7	42.75	21	40	7	140	36	20	28.5	16.5	14.25	?	8	8	10	13	64	18	14	20	32
TOTAL KM	129	297	548	628?	470	272	358	64	924	483	140	268	239	239	61	95	135	143	92	597	82	135	73	347
Feeder reports	2	18		25	26	29			43	9		10	36	61	32	22	13	3	8	11	1	1		

1996-97 CBC	GM	E-C	Sta	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNp	R-A	Hil	Mfn	Sck	CT	Shd	Buc	Mir	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	P-R	NB total
Spruce Grouse												1	2					1					5
Ruffed Grouse		*	1	3	1	1.5	3	30	2	1	22	5	7	3	*		1			3	2	1	202 +
Sanderling	26																					26	
Purple Sandpiper	8		45	21	25		25						7									131 --	
Dunlin	1																					1	
Bonaparte's Gull		28		5		5																38 -	
Mew Gull	1					1																2	
Ring-billed Gull		42	12	7	6	216	5	13	7			1	27	57	1				1	57	19	489 +	
Herring Gull #	5500	14531	886	850	1169	2538	68	56	218	196	554	271	326	852	58	5	53	35	26	8	63	16	29342 +
Iceland Gull	10	226		10	43	122	2	1	35		31	16	41	61	3		218	86	337	137	9	1	1416 ±
Less. Blk-bk Gull		1																				1	
Glaucous Gull		11																				26	
Grt Blk-bk Gull #	650	2932	135	263	58	374	15	3	27	81	670	463	73	242	165			176	157	122	1245	117	9535 +
B-leg Kittiwake #	2600	65637		500	5																		68742 ++
Dovekie	25																					25 -	
Thick-bill Murre	950																					950 +	
Razorbill #	2100	50		2	6																	2158 ++	
Black Guillemot	12	134		125	7		1										1	16	199	9	3		507 +
Rock Dove	1	264	17	75	1	864	18	2	*	61	785	296	168	627	63		192	67	77	126	114	8493 +	
Mourning Dove	178	44	93	9	35	186	56	26	33	144	396	97	16	324	21		83	263	6	70	93	23	4212 ++
Grt Horned Owl				1		1		1			1	CW		*				1				9 ±	
Snowy Owl						*								1	1		2		6		1		11 +
North Hawk Owl									1	1	1		*									*	
Barred Owl													CW		*							3 -	
Great Gray Owl				1				1		2	*											*	
Short-eared Owl																						4	
Belted Kingfisher																						1	
Red-hd Woodpkr	1																					1	
Downy Woodpkr	3	6	4	4		35	6	9	3	17	25	12	1	24	1	27	9	8	8	10	1	578 +	
Hairy Woodpkr	3	3	4	3		18	*	4	*	16	29	5	3	8	1	23	10	6	1	22	10	5	526 +
3-toed Woodpkr				1											1							4 ±	
Blk-bk Woodpkr				1				*				1	CW	1		2						6 -	
Northern Flicker												1										9 +	
Pileated Woodpkr			2	1		10	1		*		2	1		4		2				2		76 +	
Horned Lark		6				1						1										31 ±	
Gray Jay		3	2	8	2	5	8	6	2	11	7	4	2	3		19	4	3	23	2	1	305 ±	
Blue Jay	23	34	27	4	1	98	10	16	24	97	150	102	49	117	25	151	39	48	2	44	46	41	3697 ±
American Crow	150	221	120	110	132	362	210	28	47	99	336	316	235	501	28	18	48	164	8	61	58	31	5895 ++
Common Raven	75	16	32	50	15	31	41	24	18	55	113	162	18	45	17	59	50	68	17	32		16	2360 --
Blk-cap Chickadee	190	119	237	95	22	528	121	112	142	356	844	443	144	599	78	423	244	247	58	310	105	105	12953 +
Boreal Chickadee		2		2		10	12	54	14	5	3	19	19	2	2		24	65	21	34	1		393 +
Red-br Nuthatch	28	9	9	6	3	23	19	21	4	12	25	11	3	13	3	30	7		3	2	1		819 +
Wh-br Nuthatch				3	*					1	1			2			*						52 -
Brown Creeper	3	1	*			1	2	3	1	*	5	5		1		1	1	1					50 +
Winter Wren	*																					*	
Gold-cr Kinglet		1	11	6	3	18	16	7	6	2	12	40	17	6		1	6	8		9			295 -
American Robin	3		19	2	2	2	2	2	2		10	5		8		24	1		7	12	28		320 +
No Mockingbird		*		2							1			*									7 -

1996-97 CBC	GM	E-C	StA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Hil	Mtn	Sek	CT	Shd	Buc	Mir	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	P-R	NB total
Bohem Waxwing				2							*	*		3			31	1		210	25		374
Cedar Waxwing				6							*	*		16			25		10				433
Northern Shrike	1		1		1	2	1		2	3	1	2	1	3	*		1	5	2			2	47
Loggerhd Shrike																							1
European Starling	520	446	154	117	30	2462	141	21	136	362	1451	306	416	1290	37	709	166	401	17	563	593	207	19395
Orange-cr Warb	*																						*
B-t Blue Warb.											*	*				*							*
Yel-rump Warbler				1							*	1	12	2			1	1					19
Pine Warbler											*		1										3
C Yellowthroat	1			1																			2
Yellow-br Chat				1		6					*												1
Northern Cardinal	15		1								*												55
Dickcissel																							4
Eastern Towhee											1			2									1
Am Tree Sparrow	78	6	25	2	9	67	8		87	62	58	37	1	42	5	27	14	9		10	4		1477
Chipping Sparrow									1														5
Savannah Spar #		1				10																	11
Fox Sparrow																							2
Song Sparrow	21	6	8	8		13	5	1	2	1	1	CW		2									88
Swamp Sparrow						1					1												5
Wh-thr Sparrow	2	4	2			6	2		1	*											1		42
Harris' Sparrow																							1
Dark-eyed Junco	55	15	18	17	2	123	15	14	50	39	35	40		15	1	47	*	*		6			1335
Lapland Longspur							4				5							2					13
Snow Bunting																							±
Red-w Blackbird		12	2	38	4	1				58	245	48	240	41	165				460	227	229	126	6221
Rusty Blackbird #		16				2			*			6											4
Common Grackle	3			4			*		5		*						*					4	23
Bn-hd Cowbird	1											3											37
Baltimore Oriole	*																						10
Pine Grosbeak		11		15							*			*				*	3				131
Purple Finch			2								4	1				7							415
House Finch											72			9		2							234
Red Crossbill																							11
Wh-w Crossbill	35					115			2		1	1			5			5	3	1			822
Common Redpoll				9														*	3				153
Pine Siskin	5	8	*	8			1	20	3			3									5	1	881
Amer Goldfinch	220	67	106	6	3	377	57	17	212	141	429	135	34	305	89	528	258	98	5	331	144	19	11931
Evening Grosbk		1	20	4		56	19		*	53	77	1		48	*	257	22	6	5	36	171	71	4845
House Sparrow	5	41	3	82					68	44	203	122	7	101		1	22	47		120			2170
Unidentified		12 a		3 b			1 d		3 e		6 f		3 g										155
TOTAL BIRDS	15444	87223	4523	3974	2332	9973	1124	534	1903	2002	7472	3207	2938	7650	970	2952	2034	2974	1995	2771	3182	1069	225861
TOTAL SPECIES	64	61	47	70	41	63	45	31	46	33	51	49	42	58	33	32	29	42	30	33	36	33	130
+ Spp. in period	3	4	3	0	2	8	6	1	6	2	11	4	5	6	6	4	2	6	1	0	0	0	6
TOTAL HOURS	28	26.3	15	19	24	80.5	25.7	70.3	30.8	32.7	129	73.8	50	48	8	40	48	48	46.5	40	30.3	18	1661.3
TOTAL KM	270	352	205	308	296	627	225	416	202	359	1160	453	379	491	128	255	381	530	244	366	292	338	14467
Feeder reports			10	1		15	3	2	2	1	16					38	1	3			5	5	452
No. of observers	10	11	6	3	9	33	11	25	10	10	48	21	22	27	3	10	12	14	12	13	13	5	626

CHRISTMAS COUNT (cont'd. from p. 24)**Hammond River-Hampton (Htn) 24th year**

Dec. 29, 07:00-17:00. Overcast and foggy, with intermittent drizzle in p.m., visibility often only 100-300 m; temp. +5° to +7°C; wind SE, 0-5 km/h. Snow cover 1-2 cm, ground thawing; fresh water partly frozen, some running water. 23 obs. in 8 parties, 26 feeder reports; pty-hr, 42.75 (7.75 foot, 35 car); pty-km, 470 (13 foot, 457 car).

Ron Arsenault, Bob Barton, Todd Beach, Don Campbell, David Christie, Margaret Churchill, Bruce Coles, Chad Coles, Merv Cormier, Henry Darling, John Darling, Phyllis Darling, Jennifer Day-Elgee, Ann Dykeman, Linda Ewart, D. Galbrith, G. Galbraith, Allen Gorham, Janet Gorham, Karen Gorham, Peggy Harding, Evelyn Hazlett, Kathy Hazlett, Carol Henderson, Lowell Henderson, Jean Isaacs, Denise Johnston, Peggy Kelbaugh, Joe Kennedy, Mary Loughery, Win MacAndrew, Jean MacDonald, Tina MacIntosh, Mary Majka, David McCurdy, Gina McLeod, Harvey McLeod, Sharon Nason, Bill Nowlan, Juliette Nowlan, Alice O'Neil, Harry O'Neil, Linda Reid, Geoff Sayre, Matthew Wilshaw, Peter Wilshaw, Brian Wilson, Gretchen Wilson, Jean Wilson, Jean Wilson (sr.), Jim Wilson (compiler), Kay Withers, Phil Withers.

Cambridge-Narrows (C-N) 27th year

Jan. 3, 08:00-16:15. Cloudy, intermittent light snow; temp. -11° to -5°C; wind NW, 5 km/h. Light snow cover; lakes frozen. 13 obs. in 7 parties, 29 feeder reports; pty-hr, 21 (5 foot, 16 car); pty-km, 272 (11 foot, 261 car). Ford & Jean Alward, Emily & Fred Barton, Marion Belyea, John & Shirley Brown, Anthony Carpenter, Jean Carpenter, Betty & Winston Carpenter, Lawrence Carpenter, Marie Carpenter, Bruce & Pauline Chase, Jessica Chase, Thora Connell, Iris Ferris, Imogene Gilchrist, Grace Hetherington, Margaret Hicks, Enid Inch (compiler), Rhoda Inch, David & Debora Kantor, Ivan Kantor, Krista Kennedy, Gladys Keirstead, Dot McConnachie, Elva McConnachie, Faye McCormack, Herbert McGarrity, Lorne & Mildred Moss, Alyce Parks, Audrey Perry, Nellie Perry, Doug & Eleanor Phillips, Phyllis Pyett, Dorothy Reece, Holly Reece, Joyce Robinson, Robert & Betty Ryder, Arnold & Ethel Sleep, Catherine Sleep, Leon Stilwell, Joyce & Niven Thorne, Walter Thorne, Forrest & Lottie Wiggins.

Jemseg (Jem) 34th year

Dec. 22, 08:30-16:30. Sunny a.m., cloudy bright p.m.; temp. -10° to +8°C; wind W, 1-2 km/h. Ground bare; water frozen. 14 obs. in 8 parties; pty-hr, 40 (17 foot, 23 car); pty-km, 358 (39 foot, 319 car). Marie Carpenter, Rod Currie, Derek Dunnett, Don Gibson, Lionel Girouard, Enid Inch, Milda Markauskas, William Mountain, Marven Palmer, Robert Palmer, Joyce Robinson, Shirley Sloat, Owen Washburn (compiler), Max Wolfe.

Minto (Min) 9th year

Dec. 26, 08:30-17:00. Overcast, snow flurries; temp. 0° to +4°C; wind SE, 3 km/h. Snow cover 23 cm; water frozen. 5 obs. in 3 parties; pty-hr, 7 (3 foot, 4 car); pty-km, 64 (3 foot, 61 car). Aaron Bailey, Loris Boucher, Lionel Girouard (compiler), Lionel Lapointe, Vincent Poirier.

Fredericton (Ftn) 41st year

Dec. 22, 07:30-17:00. High clouds; temp. -6° to +2°C; wind light. Ground slightly frozen, bare; St. John River open. 56 obs. in 27 parties, 43 feeder reports; pty-hr, 140 (84 foot, 56 car); pty-km, 924 (153 foot, 771 car).

Diane Allain, Cliff Beck, Moira Campbell, Linda Caissie, Eric Carr, Mike Casey, Gerry Clayden, Leta Clayden, Barb Cowan, Merlene Crawford, Stanley Crawford, Rod Currie, Halton Dalzell, Andy Didyk, Derek Dunnett, Lucy Dyer, Jo Anne Fellows, Jim Feltmate, Frances Ferguson, Don Gibson (compiler), Margaret Gibson, Angela Gloss, Jim Goltz, Charlie Graves, Gisèle LeBlanc, David Lounsbury, Kathy Lounsbury, Sara Lounsbury, Pauline MacKenzie, Cathy MacLaggan, Milda Markauskas, Brian McEwing, Barry Monson, William Mountain, David

Myles, Murray Neilson, Paul Nicholson, Liese O'Hara, Margie Olive, Peter Pearce, Sue Plummer, Dwayne Sabine, Mary Sabine, Bev Schneider, Marc Schneider, Bill Seabrook, Jane Seabrook, Larry Shaw, Shirley Sloat,

Mactaquac (Mac) 17th year

Jan. 1, 07:30-17:30. Clear; temp. -20° to -10°C; wind NW, 40-60 km/h. Frozen ground, snow cover ?; some fast in brooks open. 14 obs. in 6 parties, 9 feeder reports; pty-hr, 36 (5.5 foot, 30.5 car); pty-km, 483 (10 foot, 473 car).

Barbara Clayden, Gerry Clayden, Stephen Clayden, Susan Clayden, Don Gibson, Jim Goltz, Leona Keenan, David Lounsbury, Sara Lounsbury, David Myles (compiler), Peter Pearce, Theresa Pearce, Shirley Sloat, Chris Turnbull.

Thomaston Corner (TC) 4th year

Dec. 29, 08:00-18:00. Thick fog, very low visibility; temp. +5° to +8°C; wind E, 3 km/h. Ground ?; rivers open, lakes semi-open. 4 obs. in 2 parties; pty-hr, 20 (4 foot, 16 car); pty-km, 140 (5 foot, 135 car). Ruth Buchanan, Andrew MacDougall (compiler), Lois MacDougall, Don MacDougall.

Stanley (Sty) 22nd year

Dec. 28, 08:00-17:00. weather ? Snow cover 2-4 cm; most water open. 10 obs. in 4 parties, 10 feeder reports; pty-hr, 28.5 (16 foot, 12.5 car); pty-km, 268 (15 foot, 253 car).

Katherine Bavis, Ruth Buchanan, Jean Dougherty, Thelma Fairley, Gisèle Gaudet, Mishiko Gehrig, Jim Goltz, Jaunita Good, Nancy Hayes, Connie & Roger Ince, Andrew MacDougall, John MacRae, Hazel Millet, Ruth Munn, David Myles, Margie Pacey, Uda Ross, Julie Singleton (compiler), Robert Whitney.

Woodstock (Wsk) 33rd year

Dec. 27, 09:00-17:00. Clear; temp. -15°C; calm. Light snow-cover; some open water. 13 obs. in 5 parties, 36 feeder reports; pty-hr, 16.5 (4.5 foot, 12 car); pty-km, 239 (11 foot, 228 car).

Blair Avery, Leona Avery (compiler), Gary Beatty, 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 Hadley, Jane Hadley, Matthew Hadley, Malcolm Hall, Larry Harley, Ronald Hawkins, Ken Homer, Wallace Jones, Jack Lavender, Mrs. Charles MacDonald, Walter Neal, Mrs. Roger Olmstead, Wayne Pelkey, Debra Price, Alma Speer, Karen Speer, Marten Speer, Robert Speer, John Speer, Donna Speer, Arthur Spires, Alex Whiteway, John Williams, Harry Wilson, Gordon Wort, Mrs. James Yerxa.

Hartland (Hrt) 25th year

Dec. 26, 08:00-16:30. 20% cloud cover; temp. -5 to -12°C; wind NW, 2-3 km/h. Bare ground; open water. 11 obs. in 8 parties, 61 feeder reports; pty-hr, 14.25 (4.5 foot, 9.75 car); pty-km, 238.5 (8 foot, 230.5 car).

Ross Belyea, Pearl Boyd, Elsie Briggs, Florence Britton, Arthur Bryant, Hubert Bryant, Marta Bryant, Fred Burnett, Dell Buxton, Jean Carmichael, Diane Clark (compiler), Mary Craig, Everett Culberson, Dorothy Davis, Marie Davis, Violet Davis, Doug DeMerchant, Jesse DeMerchant, Cindy Derskin, Vera DeWitt, Walter Downey, Russell Fisher, Anna Fogarty, Dorothy Ginson, Winfred Glass, Billy Goodine, Paul Green, Clark Greer, Larry Guerrier, Gordon Hallett, Mary Hallett, Shirley Hauth, Eugene Hay, Donald Hayes, Gordon Havens, Neil Hill, Pat Hill, Jane Hovey, Nancy Hunter, Lorne Jones, John Kirkland Jr., Winnifred Lawrence, Winona Lindsay, Lori MacDougall, Betty Markey, Leona McCarthy, Andrew McCartney, Lee McKenzie, Harry McLean, Kay Morrison, Marjorie Morrison, Grant Milroy, Harold Nevers, Charles Prosser, Lori Prosser, Elta Rideout, Denis Rosevear, Archie Shaw, Jeannie Shaw, Jack Smith, Marjorie Smith, Glenna Stephenson, Lorna Stokes, Clayton Swim, Gladys Tracy, Lloyd Trecartin, Sarah Upton, Ted Wallace.

Florenceville (Flo) 17th year

Dec. 26, ? a.m. to ? p.m. Sky ?; temp. +7°C; wind W, 10 km/h. Skiff of snow; St. John River open. 5 obs. in 3 parties, 32 feeder reports; pty-hr, ? (? foot, ? car); pty-km, ? (? foot, 61 car).

Phillip Antworth, Donald Bell, Mrs. Raymond Brennan, Ansel Campbell, Marie Campbell, Opal Derrah, Mike Drost, Harry Ebbett, Mrs. Harry Ebbett, Marjorie Ebbett, Frank Gray, Raymond Green, Robert Green, David Hatt, Mae Heinz, Eldon Higgs, Mrs. Norman Hovey, Eleanor Kearney, Florence Knowlton, Henry LeBlanc, Mrs. John Lockhart, Helen Lovely (compiler), Aubrey Lamont, Lorna Maddox, Kent McAuley, Les McIntosh, Cindy Morris, Roy Mulherin, Dean Prior, Terry Smith, Jack Soucie, Richard Trafford, Sylvia Wishart, David Wolverton, Harry Wolverton, Jasper Wyman, Pappy Wyman.

Glassville-Juniper (G-J) 14th year

Jan. 5, 08:00-16:00. Cloudy with snow; temp. ?; wind ? Snow cover 7.5 cm; brooks 75% open. 2 obs. in 2 parties, 22 feeder reports; pty-hr, 8 (5 foot, 3 car); pty-km, 95 (6 foot, 89 car).

Gailen Allan, Flo Anderson, Jack Archibald, Mary Avery, Edith Buxton, Charles Crabbe, Wanda DeLong, Phyllis Field, Ron Fournier, Bobbie Gascoigne, Dorothy Laing, Marge Martinson, Naida McBrine, Ronald McBrine, Agnes McIntosh, Darlene McIntosh, Elsie McIntosh, Jessie McIntosh, Rita McIntosh, Sally McIntosh (compiler), Brenda Pearson, Marion Pearson, Peter Puleston, Marion Spence, Marjorie Spence.

Perth-Andover (P-A) 28th year

Jan. 3, 08:00-16:30. Overcast; temp. -10° to -5°C; calm. Snow cover 8-10 cm; rapids open, otherwise ice-covered. 2 obs. in 1 party, 13 feeder reports; pty-hr, 8 (1 foot, 7 car); pty-km, 135 (3 foot, 132 car).

Alexander Caldwell, Ellsworth DeMerchant, Barbara Fenwick, Nancy Finamore, Glen Furge, Judy Hanson, Richard Jamer, Roy Leach, Henry Manzer, Marg McLaughlin, Judy McNally, Mary Jane Savoy, Fred Tribe, Margaret Wallace, Murray Watters (compiler).

Plaster Rock (PR) 25th year

Jan. 2, 09:00-16:00. Overcast a.m., sunny breaks p.m.; temp. -22° to -18°C; wind N, light. Ground very icy, little snow cover; Streams frozen, river with packed ice. 6 obs. in 2 parties, 3 feeder reports; pty-hr, 10 (3 foot, 7 car); pty-km, 143 (15 foot, 128 car).

Daphne Anderson, Kathy Beaulieu, Yvon Beaulieu, Doris Crawford, Kate Finamore, Irene Hollins, Laverne Rabatich (compiler), Melissa Skinner, Colin Turner.

Nictau-Riley Brook (Nic) 24th year

Dec. 27, 08:30-16:30. Cloudy with sunny breaks; temp. -4° to -2°C; wind 3-5 km/h. 6-8 cm fresh snow cover; lot of open water. 3 obs. in 2 parties, 8 feeder reports; pty-hr, 13 (6 foot, 7 car); pty-km, 92 (7 foot, 85 car).

Juanita Black, Gail Hatheway, Roger Jenkins (compiler), Leroy Johnson, Rose MacCullum, Leola McDougall, Bill Miller, Wilma Miller, Joan Nevers, Betty Ross, Raymond Ross, Joe Yacovino.

Edmundston (Etn) 10ième année

Le 21 déc., 08:00-14:30. Ciel clair; temp. -16° à -8°C; vent O, 17 km/h. 30 cm neige au sol; rivières courantes par endroits. 30 observ. en 11 groupes. 11 postes d'alimentation; h. groupe, 64 (20 à pied, 44 en voiture); km groupe, 597 (35 à pied, 562 en voiture).

Francine Bérubé, Daniel Bouchard, Simon Bouchard, Julie Bourque, Gilberte Cyr, Phebe Cyr, Reginald Cyr, Donna Dumont, Chanel Dupuis, Pascale Dupuis, Sophie Dupuis, Ginette Émond, Pat Émond, Robert Émond, Marie-Anne Gauvin, Gerald Jalbert, Bert Lavoie, Colette Lavoie, Florida Lavoie, Madeleine Lavoie, Rita Lavoie, Marie-Josée Leclerc, Vicky Lentz, Francine Levesque, Jocelyn Levesque, Rolande Martin, Pierrette Mercier, Bernadette Morin, Louis Morin, Pauline Morneault, Jocelyne Perron, Monique Plourde, Don Plourde, Inuk Simard, Lévio Theriault, Georgette Thibodeau, Gisèle Thibodeau, Adeline Verret, Gérard Verret (compilateur). Club d'ornithologie de Madawaska.

Kedgwick (Ked) 7ième année

Le 28 déc., 08:30-22:00. Nuageux; temp. -12° à -3°C; vent nil. 12 cm de neige; lacs et rivières 50% gelés. 10 observ. en 5 groupes. 1 poste d'alimentation; h. groupe, 18 (12 à pied, 6 en voiture); km groupe, 82 (12 à pied, 70 en voiture).

Mariette April, André Arpin, Andrée Arpin, Suzanne Castonguay, Allain Clavette, Ginette Émond, Pat Émond (compilateur), Sylvie Girard, Roger LeBlanc, Marie-Reine Simon, Roland Simon.

Mount Carleton Provincial Park (MtC) 19th year

Dec. 20, 08:30-16:30. Cloudy and snowing (8-10 cm); temp. 0° to -1°C; wind W, 20-50 km/h. Snow cover 8-10 cm; a fair amount of open water. 5 obs. in 2 party, 1 feeder reports; pty-hr, 14 (10 foot, 4 car); pty-km, 135 (25 foot, 110 car).

John Delange, Ralph Everett, Chris Kusch, Roger Jenkins (compiler), Marie LaForest, Grant Milroy, Gerald Sisson.

Southeast Upsalquitch (SEU) 15th year

Dec. 27, 9:00-15:00. Clear with some clouds and light snow; temp. -5° to -10° C; wind NW, 5 km/h. Snow cover 10 cm; river open with good water flow. 13 obs. in 5 party; pty-hr, 20 (18 foot, 2 car); pty-km, 73 (12 foot, 61 car).

Luc Deroche, Pierre Duguay, Warrington Ellicott, Chris Gauthier, Ron Gauthier (compiler), Garry Goodwin, Charlie LeBlanc, Daniel LeBlanc, Edd LeBlanc, Lorena LeBlanc, Eldon McLean, Rod O'Connell, Jason Smith.

Paquetville (Paq) 9ième année

Le 29 déc., 08:00-16:00. Couvert, brume, forte pluie après 5 heures; 5 cm de neige au sol; temp. +3° à +4°C; vent 0 km/h. 6 observ. en 4 groupes; h. groupe, 32 (? à pied, ? en voiture); km groupe, 347 (23 à pied, 324 en voiture).

Hilaire Chiasson, Michel Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Marcel David, Jude Larocque, Roland Robichaud (compilateur).

Results of the following coastal counts are in the last 3 pages of the tables.

Grand Manan (GM) 26th year

Jan. 3, 08:00-17:00. Flurries a.m., clear p.m.; temp. -7° to -2.5°C; wind NNE, 15-25 km/h. 2 cm of fresh snow cover; fresh water mostly frozen. 10 obs. in 5 parties; pty-hr, 28 (5 foot, 5 boat, 18 car); pty-km, 270 (5 foot, 25 boat, 240 car).

Jim Brown, Brian Dalzell (compiler), Gloria Hobbs, Audrey Ingalls, Jim Leslie, Rodger & Elaine Maker, Peter & Carmen Roberts, Andrew Sharkey.

Eastport-Campobello (E-C) 30th year

Dec. 26, 07:20-16:20 EST. Clear a.m., partly cloudy p.m.; temp. ?; wind N-NW, 8-32 km/h. No snow cover; still fresh water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. 11 obs. in 5 parties; pty-hr, 26.25 (2 foot, 24.25 car); pty-km, 352 (3.2 foot, 348.8 car).

Sidney Bahrt, John Bates, Marion Bates, Moira Campbell, James Crotteau, Ralph Eldridge, Norman Famous, Ellen Johnson, Maurice Mills (compiler), Fred Stocking, Marion Stocking, William Townsend.

St. Andrews (StA) 36th year

Dec. 21, 08:00-16:30. Clear; temp. -5° to 0°C; wind W, 20-30 km/h, dropping. No cm snow cover; light ice cover on ponds, running fresh water open, soft shore ice on salt water. 6 obs. in 3 parties, 10 feeder reports; pty-hr, 15 (4 foot, 11 car); pty-km, 205 (5 foot, 200 car).

John Allen, Mindy Brown, Moira Campbell, Tracey Dean (compiler), Brenda Fullerton, Charles Graves, Falk Hüttmann, Dave James, Eloise Langmaid, Ursina Meier, Ray Peterson, Dick Peterson, Lee Ryall, Lonny Ryall, Millie Scott, Bev Scott, Tom Smith, Gwyneth Wilbur, Marlene Wilbur, Dick Wilbur, Marion Wilder, Dick Wilder.

Blacks Harbour (BH) 34th year

Dec. 21, 08:00-17:15. Sunny; temp. -7° to -2°C ; wind WNW, 40-25 km/h. No cm snow cover; still water partly frozen. 3 obs. in 2 parties, 1 feeder report; pty-hr, 19 (2.5 foot, 1.5 boat, 15 car); pty-km, 308 (4 foot, 16 boat, 288 car).

Sandra Cooper, Brian Dalzell, Ralph Eldridge, Ken MacIntosh (compiler).

Lepreau (Lep) 33rd year

Jan. 4, 09:15-16:30. Overcast a.m., sunny p.m.; temp. -8° to -52°C ; calm. Snow cover 2 cm; fresh water frozen. 9 obs. in 4 parties; pty-hr, 24 (6 foot, 18 car); pty-km, 296 (4 foot, 292 car).

Merv Cormier, Rose-Alma Mallet, David McCurdy (compiler), Eileen Pike, Roy Pike, David Smith, Stuart Tingley, Jim Wilson, Phil Withers.

Saint John (SJ) 40th year

Dec. 28, 08:00-17:00. Clear a.m., light clouds p.m.; temp. -8° to -2°C ; calm. Snow cover 5-8 cm; river open, skim ice in coves. 33 obs. in 15 parties, 15 feeder reports; pty-hr, 80.5 (45.5 foot, 35 car); pty-km, 627 (76.5 foot, 550.5 car).

Ron Arsenault, Mike Bamford, Debbie Beaudin, Ethel & Roly Bosence, Helen Brown, Ian Cameron, Moira Campbell, Robert Carson, David Christie, Barbara & Stephen Clayden, Merv Cormier, Hank Deichmann, Mark Deichmann, Jeanne Finn-Allen, Allen Gorham, Janet Gorham, Karen Gorham, Charles Graves, Liam Hughes, Charlotte Hutchinson, Cecil Johnston, Paulette Keeler, Olive Keith, Morgan Mavis, Ross & Willa Mavis, Don McAlpine, Fenning McAlpine, David McCurdy, Doreen McIntosh, Brenda McKnight, Paul Mortimer, Ngairie Nelson, Rick Peacock, Joan & Ron Pearce, Aldei Robichaud, Marion Sherwood, David Smith (compiler), Evan Smith, Ian Stead, Graham & Sandy Webb, Jim Wilson, Frank & Mitzi Withers.

St. Martins (StM) 16th year

Jan. 4, 06:30-17:00. Clear; temp. -5° to -1°C ; wind NW, 10 km/h. 6 cm snow cover; fresh water frozen to partly open, no sea ice. 11 obs. in 3 parties, 3 feeder reports; pty-hr, 25.7 (11 foot, 14.7 car); pty-km, 224.7 (23.2 foot, 201.5 car).

Mike Belliveau, Denis Doucet, Shirley Hunter, Dianne Kelly, Frank Kelly, Ed LeBlanc, Jane LeBlanc, Norman LeBlanc, Haddie Marks, Nancy Sears, Ted Sears (compiler), Dennis Seeley, Gail & Rob Walker.

Fundy National Park (FNP) 32nd year

Dec. 20, ? am-? pm. Sunny, little cloud; temp. $+8^{\circ}$ to -2°C ; wind SW a.m., NW p.m., up to 80 km/h. Ground bare; larger lakes 75% open, streams open, very high tide due to winds, 2-m waves. 25 obs. in 13 parties, 2 feeder reports; pty-hr, 70.25 (46.25 foot, 24 car); pty-km, 416.1 (97.1 foot, 319 car).

Théo Arsenault, Lisa Babineau, Anne Bardou (compiler), Madeleine Bardou-Clark, John Brownlie, Alain Caissie, David Christie, David Clark, Carole & Édouard Daigle, Jackie & Lloyd DeCoste, Gisela Downey, Oscar Duguay, Charles Edgett, Stephen Flemming, Shirley Hunt, Susan Hoar, Anna Holdaway, Yves Lanteigne, Mary & Mike Majka, Beulah Michelin, Margie Murphy, Doreen Rossiter, George Sinclair, Katherine Tingley, Brian Townsend, Rob Walker.

Riverside-Albert (R-A) 28th year

Jan. 1, 07:30-18:00. Clear; temp. -16° to -10°C ; wind NNW, 50-10 km/h. Ground bare, frozen; freshwater frozen except fast-flowing; sea open, ice on shore. 10 obs. in 5 parties, 2 feeder reports; pty-hr, 30.75 (13 foot, 17.75 car); pty-km, 202 (11 foot, 191 car).

David Christie (compiler), Yves Cormier, Barbara Curlew, Rick Elliot, Michaela Heinz, Mary & Mike Majka, Beulah Michelin, Margot Morris, Stuart Tingley, Agnes Trzcionka, Rob Walker.

Hillsborough (Hil) 6th year

Dec. 28, 08:00-16:30. Mostly clear a.m., overcast p.m.; temp. -7° to -2°C ; wind W, 0-5 km/h. Snow cover to 5 cm; lakes and ponds frozen, rivers and brooks open, tidal waters open with no ice. 10 obs. in 5 parties, 1 feeder

report; pty-hr, 32.7 (12.7 foot, 20 car); pty-km, 359 (25.5 foot, 333.5 car). Chris & Mike Antle, Barbara Curlew, Jackie & Lloyd DeCoste, Rick Elliot, Shirley Hunt, Freda Murphy, Margie Murphy, Gail Walker, Rob Walker (compiler).

Moncton (Mtn) 35th year

Dec. 21, 07:30-16:30. Mainly sunny with frequent cloudy periods; temp. -10° to -4°C ; wind W/NW, 15-50 km/h. Ground largely clear of snow; freshwater lightly ice-covered except for flowing streams, tidal water open. 48 obs. in 18 parties, 16 feeder reports; pty-hr, 129 (60 foot, 69 car); pty-km, 1160 (81 foot, 1079 car).

Chris & Mike Antle, Anne Arsenault, Théo Arsenault, Marg Bartlett, Brian Beaman, Normand Belliveau, Meghan Brodie, Glen Burgess, Malcolm Campbell, Marc Chiasson, David Christie, Donald Cormier, Mario Cormier, Ted Currie, Cheryl Davis, Richard DeBow, Jackie & Lloyd DeCoste, Oscar Duguay, Jim Edsall, Mary Fownes, Derek & Madeleine Gemmell, Susan Hoar, Charles Howell, Shirley Hunt, Jean Inglis, Ford Keith, Helen Kerr, Dulcise Kneé, Joe Landry, Oscar LeBlanc, Angela LeBlanc-Savoie, Gwen & John MacKenzie, Cheryl MacLaggan, Gary MacLean, Alice MacQuarrie, Mike Majka, Rose-Alma Mallet, Edwin Melanson, Wayne & Win Murray, David Owen, Ron Pellerin, Nelson Poirier, Kathy Popma, Mike Rae, Andrew Richardson, Stan Robinson, Shirley Robinson, Edgar Savoie, Bill Scott, Dwight Staubi, Wendy Sullivan, John Tanner (compiler), Mary Tanner, Ruth Thompson, Stuart Tingley, Norma Wade, Murray Wade, Rob Walker, Alma & Don White, Vivian White, Doug & Phyllis Whitman, Don Williams, Renata Williams, Bill Wood.

Sackville (Sck) 37th year

Dec. 21, 07:30-17:00. Clear; temp. -8° to -4°C ; wind NW, 10-30 km/h. Ground bare; most freshwater frozen. 21 obs. in 5-12 parties; pty-hr, 73.75 (46.5 foot, 27.25 car); pty-km, 452.5 (40.5 foot, 412 car).

Ron Arsenault, Paul Bogaard, Mark Bowes, Sandy Burnett, Dan Busby, Adam Campbell, Rhianna Edwards, Richard Elliot, George Finney, Neville Garrity, Gay Hansen, Inga Hansen, Hinrich Harries, Peter Hicklin (non-participant compiler), Ron Hounsell, Andrew Macfarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Bill Murphy, Harold Popma, Al Smith, Danielle Thibodeau.

Cape Tormentine (CT) 35th year

Dec. 20, 07:45-16:20. Mostly cloudy with light rain squalls in early a.m. and sunny breaks by 9 a.m.; temp. $+11^{\circ}$ to 0°C ; wind SW, 50-80 km/h, with gusts to 110 in am diminishing to 30-50 by late p.m. Ground bare; fresh water open, salt water open. 22 obs. in 5-10 parties; pty-hr, 50 (28.75 foot, 21.25 car); pty-km, 379.3 (45.7 foot, 333.6 car).

Diane Amirault, Doug Bliss, Paul Bogaard, Neil Burgess, Adam Campbell, Ross Galbraith, Mary Lou Galbraith, Nev Garrity, Hinrich Harries, Ron Hounsell, Jason Hudson, Donna Johnson, Helen Lines, Andrew Macfarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Bill Murphy, Josette Maillet, Kathy Popma, Sue Purdy, Steve Ridlington, Fernand Robichaud, Al Smith (compiler).

Shédiac (Shd) 9ième année

Le 28 déc., 08:30-15:30. Soleil et nuages; temp. -10° to -1°C ; vent O, 5 km/h. Neige au sol 7 cm; un peu de glace. 27 observ. en 7 groupes; h. groupe, 48 (13 à pied, 35 en voiture); km groupe, 491 (26 à pied, 465 en voiture).

Bertin Allain, Caroline Arsenault, Terry Arsenault, Théo Arsenault, Gisèle Belliveau, Normand Belliveau, Raymonde Chartier, Donald Cormier (compilateur), Jeannine Cormier, Léona Cormier, Yves Cormier, Elise Daigle, Denis Doucet, Oscar Duguay, Roberta Duguay, Lionel Gionet, Lise Gionet, Michaela Heinz, Mike LeBlanc, Rose-Alma Mallet, Léo Martin, Onide Maurice, Janice Melanson, Francis Richard, Edgar Savoie, Denise Thériault, Stuart Tingley. Les Ami(e)s de la Nature.

Boucoute (Buc) 1ier année

Le 1 jan., 08:00-16:00. Soleil avec quelques nuages passagères; temp. -19° to -15°C ; vent NO, 60 km/h. Neige au sol ? cm; glace ?, vagues fortes sur les plages. 3 observ. en 1 groupe; h. groupe, 8 (3 à pied, 5 en voiture);

Bouctouche (continuation)

km groupe, 128 (3 à pied, 125 en voiture).

Denis Doucet, Mike LeBlanc (compilateur), Janice Melanson.

Miramichi (Mir) 25th year

Dec. 28, 08:00-17:00. Broken cloud, becoming overcast; temp. -10° to -2°C; calm. 6 cm of snow cover; a few patches of open water. 10 obs. in 6 parties; pty-hr, 40 (15 foot, 25 car); pty-km, 255 (24 foot, 231 car).

William Arnoldus, Margaret Benn, Edith Boudreau, Jeep Bosma, Eileen Bransfield, Monica Charnley, Winston Churchill, Phyllis Crowe, Florence Currie, Gary Daigle, Barry Estey, Anne Gray, Tom Greathouse, Linda Hartlen, Walter Holland, Joan Houston, John Keating, Gene Kukulski, Robert Lisk, Randy MacDonald, Margaret MacKinnon, John Malinowski, Les Matchett, Lem McDonald, Georgina McLean, David McLead, David Merritt, Madeleine Morrisette, Sandy Mullin, Walter O'Toole, Frank Powers, Ed & Mary Rawlinson, Joe Richard, Mary Ripley, Eldon Rogers, Art Ronan, Theresa Ross, Delta Steeves, Michael Svarc, Doug Underhill, Bruce Walker, Harry Walker (compiler), Lyle Walker, Wilfred Walsh, Parker Wheaton, Bun Worrell.

Tracadie-Sheila (Tra) 10ième année

Le 26 déc., 08:00-16:00. Clair; temp. -12° à -6°C; vent N, ? km/h. Terre gelée; eau: très peu de glace. 12 observ. en 6 groupes. 1 poste d'alimentation; h. groupe, 48 (11.25 à pied, 36.75 en voiture); km groupe, 381 (47.2 à pied, 333.8 en voiture).

Hilaire Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Michel Chiasson, Marcel David, Émile Ferron, Guy Hébert, Jude Larocque, Benoit Lanteigne, Rosita Lanteigne, Corinne Mallais, Bruno St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre (compilatrice).

Ile Lamèque (Lam) 24ième année

Le 28 déc., 08:00-16:00. Ciel clair; temp. -10° à -6°C; vent NO, 0-10 km/h. Conditions sur terre ?; l'eau dégagé de glace à 80%. 14 observ. en 6 groupes, 3 postes d'alimentation; h. groupe, 48 (21.5 à pied, 26.5 en voiture); km groupe, 529.8 (48.5 à pied, 481.3 en voiture).

Denise Benoit, Gérard Benoit, Égide Chiasson, Hilaire Chiasson (compilateur), Michel Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Marcel David, Lucille DeGrâce, Émile Ferron, Réjean Ferron, Jacques Guignard, Stéphane Guignard, Benoit Hébert, Benoit Lanteigne, Rosita Lanteigne, Jude Larocque, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Ile Miscou (Mis) 10ième année

Le 21 déc., 08:30-16:30. Clair, nuageux en après-midi; temp. -9° à -6°C; vent NO, 44-65 km/h. 0 cm de neige; eau dégagé à 100%. 12 observ. en 5 groupes; h. groupe, 46.5 (18.5 à pied, 28 en voiture); km groupe, 244 (44 à pied, 200 en voiture).

Hilaire Chiasson, Michel Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson (compilatrice), Émile Ferron, Jacques Guignard, Benoit Hébert, Guy Hébert, Benoit Lanteigne, Rosita Lanteigne, Jude Larocque, Corinne Mallais, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Caraquet (Car) 12ième année

Le 22 déc., 08:00-16:00. Ciel variable; temp. -8° to -2°C; vent SO, 0-15 km/h. Aucune neige au sol; eau dégagée pour la majeure partie du secteur. 13 observ. en 5 groupes. h. groupe, 40 (23.1 à pied, 16.9 en voiture); km groupe, 366 (56 à pied, 310 en voiture).

Hilaire Chiasson, Michel Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Marcel David (compilateur), Jacques Guignard, Benoit Hébert, Guy Hébert, Benoit Lanteigne, Rosita Lanteigne, Jude Larocque, Corinne Mallais, Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Bathurst (Bst) 14th year

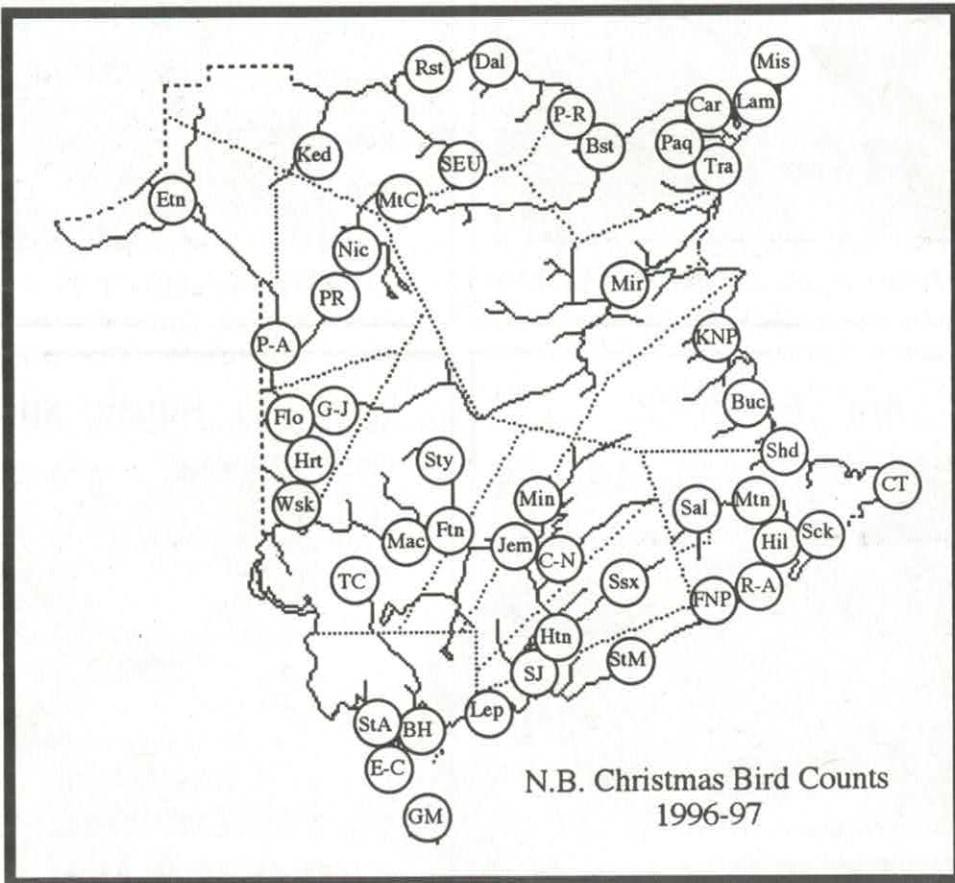
Le 29 déc., 08:00-17:00. Ciel nuageux; temp. -5° to 0°C; vent nil. 3 cm de neige au sol; l'eau semi-glacé. 13 observ. en 6 groupes; 5 postes d'alimentation. h. groupe, 30.25 (15.5 à pied, 14.75 en voiture); km groupe, 292 (18 à pied, 274 en voiture).

Pierre Duguay (compilateur), Bernadette Francoeur, Chris Gauthier, Mary Gauthier, Ron Gauthier, Denise Guitard, François Hachey, Marc Landry, Réjeanne LeBreton, André Lepine, Elisabeth Lepine, Eldon McLean, Nora McLean, Stewart Wells.

Petit-Rocher (P-R) 2ième année

Le 29 déc., 10:00-17:00. Ciel nuageux; temp. -5° to 0°C; vent nul. 3 cm de neige au sol; l'eau semi-glacé. 5 observ. en 4 groupes; 4 postes d'alimentations. h. groupe, 18 (3 à pied, 15 en voiture); km groupe, 338 (6 à pied, 332 en voiture).

Pierre Duguay (compilateur), Luc Deroche, Roger Guitard, Nola Lepage, Jean Roy.

N.B. Christmas Bird Counts
1996-97

CHRISTMAS COUNT (cont'd. from p. 33)**APPENDIX 1**

Kouchibouguac National Park (KNP) 26th year

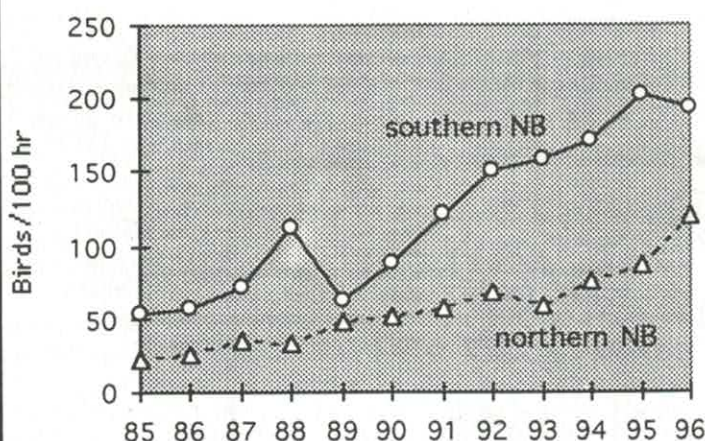
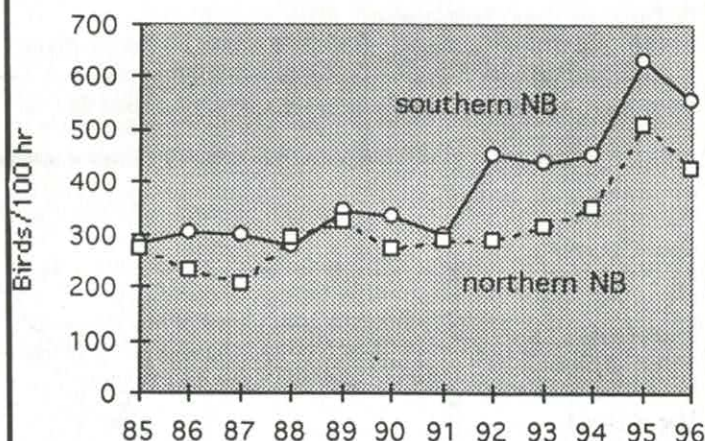
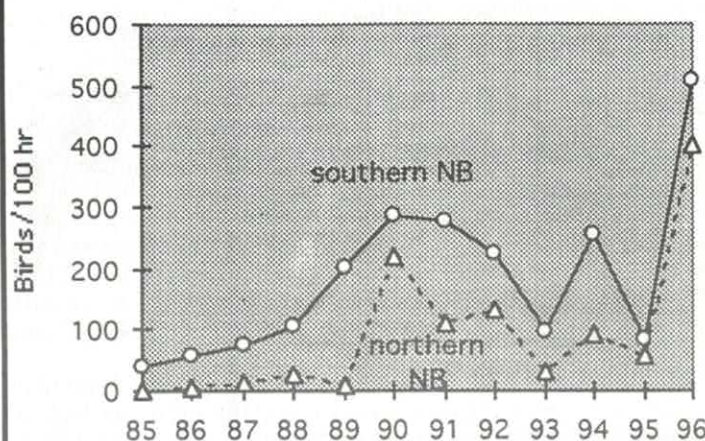
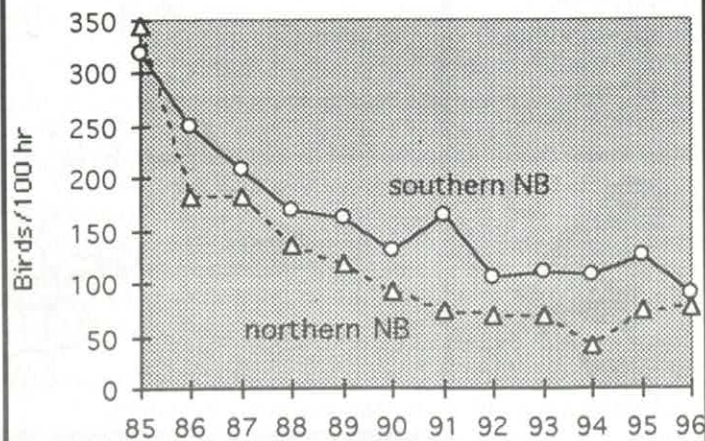
Jan. 3, 08:00–18:00. Overcast, light snow flurries at times; temp. -10° to -5°C ; wind N, 5–10 km/h. Snow cover?, fresh water frozen, sea?. 10 obs. in 5 parties, 2 feeder reports; pty-hr, 16 (12 foot, 4 car); pty-km, 51 (27 foot, 24 car).

Oldsquaw, 65; Com. Goldeneye, 1; Bald Eagle, *; Red-tailed Hawk, *; Merlin, *; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Bonaparte's Gull, 1; Herring Gull, 37; Great Black-backed Gull, 4; Rock Dove, 12; Mourning Dove, 18; Snowy Owl, *; N. Hawk Owl, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Gray Jay, 2; Blue Jay, 28; Am. Crow, 5; Com. Raven, 6; Black-capped Chickadee, 28; Boreal Chickadee, 3; Eur. Starling, 48; Am. Tree Sparrow, 8; Dark-eyed Junco, 9; Snow Bunting, 60; Am. Goldfinch, 217; Evening Grosbeak, 30. Total: 588 individuals of 23 species, plus 4 additional species during count period.

The names of the count participants were not included. Barry Spencer (compiler).

APPENDIX 2

Winter Population Trends During The Period Of 1985 - 1996 For Selected Species From The New Brunswick Christmas Bird Count Data.

Mourning Dove**Black-capped Chickadee****Am. Goldfinch****House Sparrow**

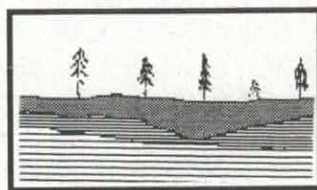
AN ANCIENT SWAMP

Gart Bishop, Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society

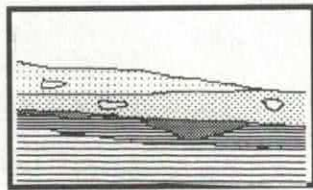
During construction for a new stretch of the twined Trans-Canada Highway just east of Sussex, an unusual occurrence was observed. Digging down through 30 feet of coarse gravel, the construction crew encountered cavities and empty spaces. Next they found an ancient swamp, as represented by stumps and logs, up to 8" in diameter, surrounded by black organic soil. This organic layer was about 15 feet thick.

Unfortunately, no pictures were taken and no one with a background in glacial geology investigated the site before it was filled in. The trees are reported to be cedar. A small

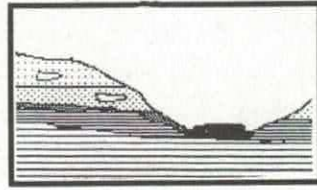
Our most recent glacial movement, occurring between 10,000 and 70,000 years ago, is called the Wisconsin Ice Age. Discoveries in New Brunswick of old vegetation (such as the ancient swamp) that predate the Wisconsin Ice Age are very rare with only three known sites known; (1) in a stratified gravel pit at Roachville (just west of Sussex) a layer of organic matter was found, (2) in a gravel pit along Hwy 114 close to the junction with the Trans-Canada Hwy and (3) in a gypsum sink hole in Hillsborough where the mastodon now on display at the NB Museum was



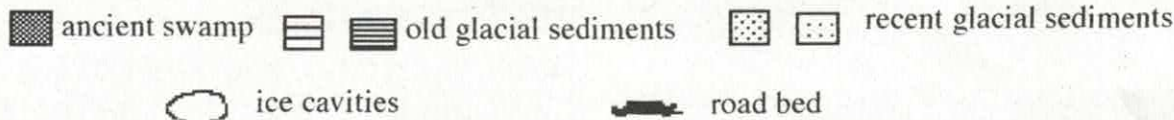
100,000 years ago



10,000 to 50,000 years ago



Present day



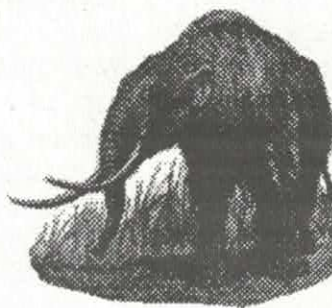
sample of the organic soil has been quickly looked at and been found to consist of twigs, leafy fragments, some seeds (perhaps from grasses and sedges) and a few species of mosses. Discovery of such a site is not common.

Here is my interpretation of what happened at this site. Although it may be difficult to imagine New Brunswick as being partially or totally covered by a thick layer of compacted snow and ice, our province is known to have been glaciated numerous times, most recently just 12,000 years ago.

The presence of the ancient swamp indicates that at some time, perhaps 100,000 years ago, the glaciers had retreated and the weather was warm enough for a coniferous swamp to develop. The coarse gravels which cover the ancient swamp tell us that the glaciers advanced again, scouring up much of the swamp and leaving only small isolated pockets of tree parts in an organic mud. Then as this last glacier disappeared, not less than 10,000 years ago, more glacial sediments were laid on top. The empty cavities are likely the result of blocks of ice being trapped and then buried within a flow of sediment coming off a retreating glacier.

found. These three sites have had vegetation dated at greater than 35,000 years ago. Al Seaman, with the Minerals and Energy Division of DNRE, suggests that this swamp (like the three known sites) could be 100,000 years old. That was the last interglacial period (other than the one we are now living in) with temperatures warm enough to allow the development of such vegetation as a cedar swamp. The gravels (glacial tills) which contained the cavities, and which overlie the swamp could date anywhere from 10,000 to 50,000 years ago.

I now delight in imagining what the ancient swamp that once existed in my neighborhood looked like. One such scene is of American Mastodon herds roaming the swampy lowlands and stream valleys of a time upon which the light of modern knowledge now shines a bit more brightly. That makes me feel proud.



American Mastodon *Mammot americanum*

The author thanks Al Seaman and Bruce Bagnell for their assistance in the preparation of this article.

COMING SOON, A NEW BOOK ON THE BIRDS OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Jim Wilson, N. B. Bird Records Committee

January, 1997

Greetings everyone! I'm writing on behalf of the members of the N. B. Bird Records Committee - David Christie, Brian Dalzell, Robert Doiron, Stuart Tingley and Don McAlpine - to inform you of an exciting project the committee is now undertaking. We hope to publish an entirely new reference work on the province's birds sometime in the next 12 to 18 months. The tentative title is: *New Brunswick Birds - An Annotated List*.

What is an annotated list you might ask? In this case it is a publication that will list all of the bird species that have ever been reliably identified in this province. Each species will have its own account, consisting of a few paragraphs outlining relative abundance, current status, geographic distribution and seasonal occurrence.

The last book on our provincial birds, *The Birds of New Brunswick* by Dr. W. Austin Squires (1976) is now long out of print, and many of our new generation of birders don't even have a copy. As a tribute to the thoroughness of Dr. Squires, then curator of the Natural Science Department at the N. B. Museum, the 1976 work is still a very valuable learning aid to those who wish to know more about New Brunswick's birds.

It would be our fondest hope to produce another book of that scope, but that is currently beyond the means of any of our committee members. So we have decided to do the next best thing and produce an annotated list, which we feel will benefit the current crop of provincial birders, be they amateur or professional. We also feel visiting birders will find such a work of great value.

The book will be published in both of New Brunswick's official languages, and the first step is to produce a manuscript this winter. It will hopefully be edited in the spring, translated into French and handed to a publisher. It will then be up to that publisher to put the book out at their earliest convenience. The purpose of this note is to inform you of our plans.

Committee member Brian Dalzell has offered to devote his full time to writing the manuscript during February and March. However, in order to do so, he has to give up any other potential income-producing opportunities during that time. We feel he has the knowledge and the talent to do an admirable job, and we want to pay him a modest amount for his time. We are first approaching selected natural history organizations in the province with this request. We will then undertake a general appeal to the New Brunswick naturalist community through available channels.

Once completed, Jim Wilson, David Christie and Stuart Tingley are prepared to review and edit the manuscript. This service will be provided at no additional cost. Discussions have taken place with N. B. Museum representatives about

funding to cover translation and publishing costs, which are expected to be substantial. An amount has been applied for in the Museum's 1997 budget. Other funding possibilities are also being explored. We don't see this phase as a major problem, as there is adequate time available to work on it.

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite individual support from anyone who feels that they would like to make a personal donation toward realizing our financial goal of \$500 from the private sector. All cheques should be made payable to the **New Brunswick Museum**, and marked "**Annotated Bird List**" in the memo section on the face of the cheque. Along with a brief explanatory note, they should be mailed to: Donald McAlpine, New Brunswick Museum, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N. B. E2K 1E5. He will put the funds in a special account. If production of the manuscript should not proceed, we will refund all contributions. Once the manuscript is complete, all donors will receive a charitable donation receipt. So this is your chance to support a much-needed and long-overdue reference work on a subject near and dear to the hearts of many of us, the birdlife of New Brunswick!

March 1997

First, a huge "THANK YOU" for your support! All of the N. B. Federation of Naturalists clubs have made a pledge or a contribution toward the preparation of the manuscript. Most don't have much in the way of financial resources, but all felt that the *Annotated List* is so important that they found a way to make a donation. Also, several individuals decided to contribute personally, even though no general appeal has been made. Collectively, the total pledged or contributed so far is \$2441. We had set a target of \$2000 for preparation of the manuscript, so the excess will be put toward later costs of the publication as the need arises.

Author Brian Dalzell is making great progress, and has completed over 300 of the 391 species that will be included. He has passed these draft accounts on to David Christie, and David plans to begin editing them during the next few weeks (including while on vacation in California - how's that for dedication). Rose-Alma Mallet has generously offered the services of herself and some colleagues to prepare a draft French translation, once the English version has been finalized. We really appreciate this kind offer; it will reduce or eliminate translation costs. Meanwhile, Donald McAlpine at the N. B. Museum is working on funding sources, within and outside the Museum's budget, for publishing costs.

That's a brief update on the state of things at the moment. Brian plans to complete the manuscript draft by the end of March. Editing will likely take to the end of April, and after that the translation to French will begin. We'll give you more updates as the project progresses. Thanks again!

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PRIVATE LIFE OF A BOBCAT

Dwayne Biggar

This year on February 15, at about 4:30 p.m., I was alerted to the presence of an intruder; our house cat runs from window to window whenever another cat enters our yard. As I went outside to chase yet another cat away from the birdfeeders, I realized that "Marble" had seen no ordinary feline. It was a bobcat.

The bobcat crouched at the edge of the woods eyeing a road-killed pheasant, apparently waiting for darkness. The next morning the pheasant was gone so I replaced it with a block of suet and some liver scraps. The liver disappeared that night and the suet showed signs of gnawing.

One week later the bobcat was observed sitting on a large trellis that had blown over. At first this cat's behaviour worried us; because of the disregard it showed towards human activity in the neighborhood we thought it might be sick. It stayed still for about 45 minutes until a squirrel poked its head out of a snow tunnel. The cat sprang to life, pouncing unsuccessfully at the squirrel. Then it reached into the hole up to its shoulder and felt around very much like a domestic kitten playing with a cardboard tube.

I continued to offer it food. The bobcat stayed in the area, frequently chasing squirrels. Soon I was able to approach very close (within 15 metres), leave my offering and back away without spooking the cat. One day I returned from town with a road-killed squirrel. The cat was resting on a

picnic table in the middle of the yard. I threw the squirrel between the table and the woods. Not until a gust of wind caused the tail to move did the cat take notice. Instantly it went into a stalking mode, crawling behind the trellis and then along a hedge. It crouched, wriggling its rear, and bounded into the open to "capture" the squirrel. He gave it a few shakes and then proudly carried it into the woods.

Over the next few weeks the bobcat was observed and photographed by many people. On sunny days it would sit on a pile of black seed hulls; on stormy days it crouched in the shelter of the upended trellis roof. To get close observations I would go out on the deck, call to get its attention and then throw a piece of meat into the yard. The bobcat would watch it land, wait until I went back inside and, only then, come forward to have a meal. On one occasion Oscar LeBlanc noticed that on returning to the woods the bobcat very carefully stepped in each track it had made on the way out; this accounted for some confusing tracks we had noticed.

The bobcat stayed around the yard for one month and at the end of March we still observed tracks on the trail that leads from our house down to the Petitcodiac River. I'd like to think that we helped this adolescent bobcat through a difficult period of its life. In exchange it gave me many hours of entertainment and my first look into the private life of an elusive wild feline.

LES COLLEMBOLLES - INSECTES LES PLUS RÉPANDUS

Léo J. Martin, Club les ami(e)s de la nature

Les collembolles (en anglais *springtails*) sont les insectes les plus répandus de toute la planète. On peut en compter jusqu'à 40,000 par mètre carré. On les trouve dans tous les continents, même jusqu'au pôle sud.

Leurs habitats sont multiples: sur le sol, dans le sol, sur l'eau, sur la neige et dans la neige. Lève des écorces d'arbres pourris, défaits de vieilles souches, remue des feuilles ou de l'humus sur le sol et tu pourras en découvrir.

Le temps de l'année? Cinquante-deux semaines par an. Le climat? De préférence, le temps doux. C'est pour cela que je profite du printemps pour vous les présenter. Mais il ne faudrait pas croire que c'est leur seule saison de présence et d'activité.

C'est quoi un collembolle? C'est un insecte aptère (c'est-à-dire un insecte sans ailes). Il a une tête portant deux antennes ayant chacune quatre sections. Il a autant que 8 yeux peu perfectionnés. Son abdomen est constitué de six segments et se termine par une queue qui n'en est pas une. Elle ressemble à un tube qui se divise au bout et lui donne la forme

d'un "Y." C'est plutôt une sorte de ressort tenu en place par un dispositif qui ressemble à une "épingle à couche" de l'ancien temps.

Quand il veut sauter, elle se détache et le ressort le propulse jusqu'à une distance égalant 20 fois sa longueur. Un collembolle mesure entre 1 mm et 5 mm. Il atterrit donc jusqu'à 10 cm du lieu de départ. Pour réaliser cet exploit, nous devrions pouvoir faire un saut de 16,5 à 17 m. Mets un sou sur la neige près d'un ou de plusieurs "puces de neige," observe l'un d'entre eux qui sauterait près de la pièce et compare la longueur de son saut au diamètre de celle-ci.

Les couleurs? Ils sont bruns, noirs ou même parfois bleu noir. Les espèces souterraines sont ordinairement plus petites que les autres. Elles détruisent les détritus et se font détruire par les araignées, les pseudoscorpions et les mille-pattes. C'est la loi de la nature, on mange et l'on se fait manger à son tour même si ce n'était que par les bactéries après que l'on est mort.

Bonne chasse aux puces qui ne sont pas des puces!



NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE IN NEW BRUNSWICK NOUVELLES DE ÇA ET LÀ AU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

Birdwatching Course In Fredericton

Fredericton was the site of a birdwatching course held last November 13, 20 and 27. The course was organized by the Fredericton Nature Club (special thanks to Dianne Allain) and taught by Don Gibson. It consisted of three two-hour sessions and one field trip on a Saturday. The level was geared toward beginners and course material focused on birds in general, birds in New Brunswick, feeders and birdwatching "hot spots" in and around Fredericton. Eight people attended the classes. Ducks Unlimited were gracious enough to offer a room in their new building on the north side of Fredericton as a venue for the gatherings. If anyone would be interested in attending a future course, Don Gibson may consider offering his services again. Don may be contacted in Fredericton at (506) 454-3261.

Bay of Fundy Boat Trips For Pelagic Birds

Dates: Saturday, August 2, 1997 - 7 a.m. to noon (24 people) and Friday, September 12, 1997 - 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. (22 people). Both trips leave from Seal Cove wharf, Grand Manan, on the *Seawatcher* with Cap't. Peter Wilcox.

Cost: \$40.00 plus tax = \$46.00 per person. If the trip lasts longer than five hours (by unanimous agreement), cost will be an additional \$5.00.

Wear warm clothing in layers, plus hat and windbreaker. Also, rainwear as the weather forecast dictates. Bring a lunch. Tea and coffee served on board. Take precautions for possible seasickness (no trip if the sea is too rough).

First come, first served. If you wish to participate, contact Jim Wilson at tel. (506) 847-4506 or fax: (506) 849-0234 or e-mail jgw@nbnet.nb.ca. These trips are a non-profit activity.

Nature Trust Of New Brunswick To Host Conservation Easement Workshop

Naturalists and landowners will be very interested in legislation the provincial government is currently studying concerning conservation easements. A conservation easement is a legally binding agreement between a landowner and a conservation organization, usually a land trust, which limits or restricts the amount of development that may take place on a property. Conservation easements have been in use in the US and other parts of Canada for many years. Many thousands of hectares of wildlife habitat and open space have been permanently protected using these instruments.

Persons interested in the concept of conservation

easements should attend an upcoming workshop sponsored by the Nature Trust of New Brunswick with funding from the World Wildlife Federation. The workshop will be held May 10, 1997 in Fredericton. Experts from Maine and Ontario will address the workshop, describing their experiences with conservation easements and offering guidance on how New Brunswick can achieve effective legislation. There will be much valuable information exchanged on land trusts, land protection and the effective use of conservation easements.

Contact the Nature Trust at (506) 457-2398 if you are interested in registering for the workshop.

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

277 Douglas Avenue
Saint John, NB E2K 1E5

Return Postage Guaranteed / Port de retour garanti

Canadian Publications Mail Product
Sales Agreement No. 487716

To / à: