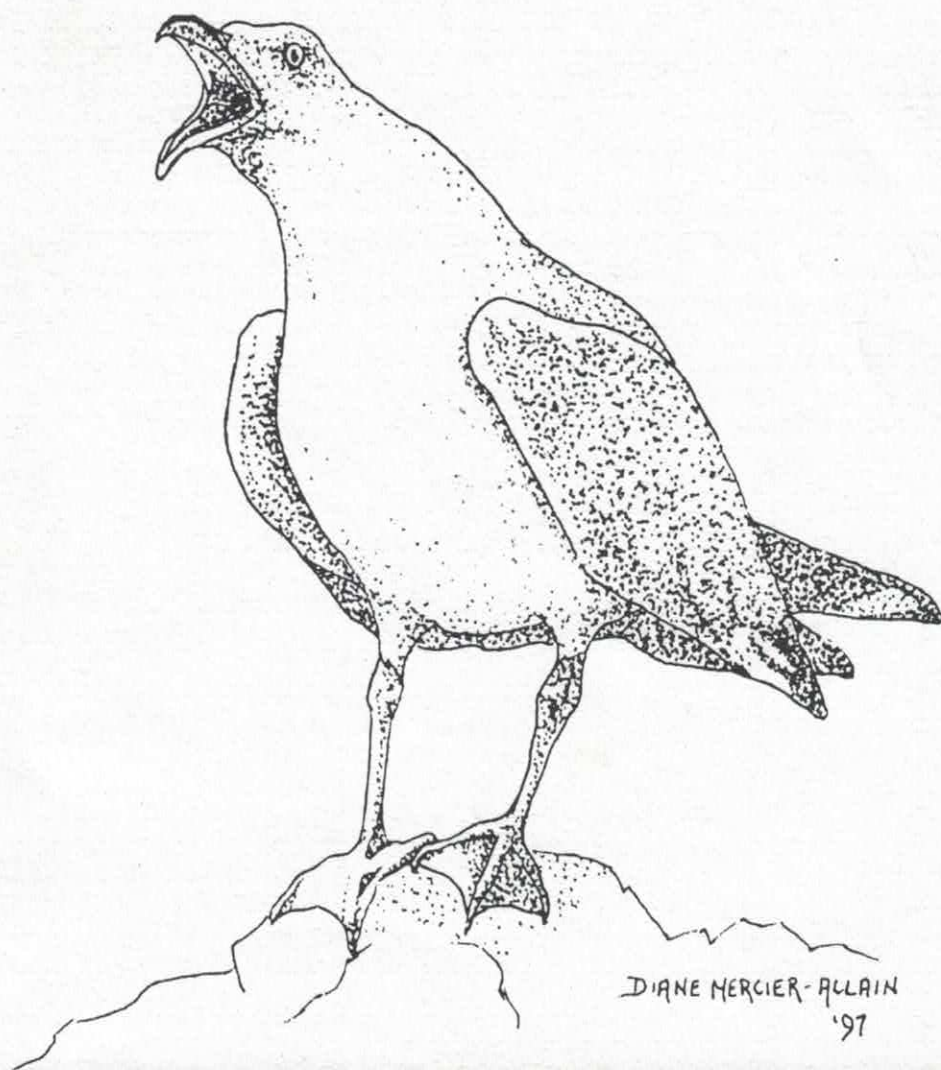


25 (1) Spring / printemps 1998

N. B. Naturalist

Le Naturaliste du N.-B.





N. B. Federation of Naturalists Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B.

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

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

La Fédération est une organisation sans buts lucratifs formée en 1972 pour encourager une meilleure compréhension de l'environnement naturel, et pour éveiller le souci pour le patrimoine naturel du Nouveau-Brunswick.

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FEDERATED CLUBS / CLUBS FÉDÉRÉS

Chignecto Naturalists' Club, Box 1590, Sackville, NB E0A 3C0; 536-0454; meets Sackville Public Library, 7:30 pm, 1st Thur., Sept.-June.

Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne, C.P. 421, Lamèque NB E0B 1V0; 779-8304; réunions alternant entre Caraquet, Shippagan et Tracadie, 1er mercredi, sept. à juin; *Le Gobe-mouche* mensuel.

Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée, a/s Musée du Madawaska, 195 boul. Hébert, Edmundston NB E3V 2S8; 737-5282 (Bert Lavoie); réunions à 19h30, 2ième mercredi, sept. à juin, Musée du Madawaska; *Le Jaseur* bimestriel.

Club l'Envolée Chaleur, Boîte 20, Site 9, RR#1, Robertville, NB E0B 2K0; 783-0080 ou 783-4336; réunions à 19h, 1er lundi, sept. à juin, salle d'activités (au sous-sol) de la Bibliothèque de Beresford.

Club les Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est, a/s Oscar Duguay, 207 ch Chartersville, Dieppe NB E1A 1K3; 532-2873 (La ligne buse); réunions alternant entre Dieppe et Shédiac, 1er lundi de chaque mois; excursions 3ième samedi ou dimanche; *La plume verte*.

Ford Alward Naturalist Association, c/o Grant Milroy, RR #5, Hartland, NB E0J 1N0; 375-6371; meets Florenceville Town Hall, 7:00 pm, 1st Tues., Sept.-June; meetings advertised in local newspapers.

Fredericton Nature Club, Box 772, Stn A, Fredericton, NB E3B 5B4; 450-6365; meets Odell Park Lodge, 7:00 pm, 2nd Wed., Sept.-May; monthly *Newsletter*.

Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society, P.O. Box 1565, Sussex, NB E0E 1P0; meets St. Paul's United Church Hall, 7:30 pm, 4th Mon., Sept.-June; quarterly newsletter.

Moncton Naturalists' Club, Box 28036, Highfield Square P.O., Moncton, NB E1C 9N4; 857-4271 or 384-5212 or 384-6397 (information line); meets Church of the Nazarene, 21 Fieldcrest Drive, 7 pm, 2nd Wed., Sept.-June; monthly newsletter.

Restigouche Naturalists' Club, c/o Campbellton Library, P.O. Box 130, Campbellton, NB E3N 3G1; 684-3258; meets Campbellton Centennial Library, 7 pm, 1st Monday.

Saint John Naturalists' Club, 277 Douglas Ave., Saint John, NB E2K 1E5; meets N.B. Museum at Market Square, 7:30 pm, 2nd Wed., Sept.-May, elsewhere in June; monthly *Bulletin*.

Association des Naturaliste de la Baie de Bouctouche, RR#2, Boîte 9, Bouctouche, NB E0A 1G0; 743-9192; réunions au Eco-centre Irving, La Dune de Bouctouche, les 1er jeudi de chaque mois.

Ornitho Restigouche Club, 6 Van Horne Cr., Campbellton, NB E3N 3K3; 753-7261.

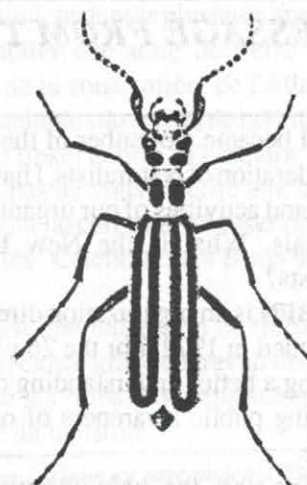
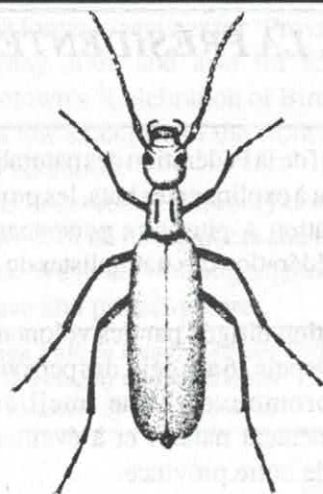
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Please submit articles for the next issue by June 1, 1998.

Veuillez soumettre les articles à l'intention du prochain numéro avant le 1er juin, 1998.



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Sincere thanks to our many volunteers who contributed to this publication. /

Merci beaucoup à tous les bénévoles dévoués qui ont contribué à cette publication.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT UN MESSAGE DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

Rose-Alma Mallet

Since I became a member of the Board of Directors of the N. B. Federation of Naturalists, I have had to explain the goals, projects and activities of our organization to many groups and individuals. What is the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists?

The NBFN is an organization directed by volunteers since it was founded in 1972. For the 26 years, volunteers have been promoting a better understanding of the natural environment and raising public awareness of our natural heritage in this province.

From the start, the main objectives of the Federation have been to foster educational projects, to disseminate information about New Brunswick's natural history, and to promote the protection of flora, fauna, and habitats; all the while representing members and naturalists' groups on those issues pertaining to nature and the environment.

The Board meets every other month; its members are: a president (chair), a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, the past president, a representative from each of the member groups (clubs), and three advisors (members at large). Between meetings the Internet allows for a response to urgent questions. Your requests, comments, and concerns can be brought before the Board by your group's representative.

Habitat protection has become a major concern in the last few years. Associations and individuals call on the Federation to help save natural habitats in their own areas. A few such examples are attempts to save Cocagne Island, the Lambert Bog, and others. The NBFN, by itself, does not have the necessary resources to protect endangered habitats. We do this work in collaboration with local organizations.

Several members serve as Federation representatives with other organizations; Fundy Model Forest, Future Forest Alliance, New Brunswick Environmental Network, New Brunswick Natural Protected Areas Campaign, Eco-Cocagne, and Petitcodiac 2000. Several government agencies and the Canadian Nature Federation consult with the NBFN on issues related to nature and the environment.

Year after year the Federation has worked to develop long-term projects; volunteers publish four issues of the "N. B. Naturalist/ Le Naturaliste du N.-B." and "NatureNB Web Pages" on the Internet are continually updated (they keep us informed about the NBFN, nature study courses, conservation conferences, and also include announcements about nature outings). The NBFN invites you to visit these pages at:

< <http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/maryspt/Nature-NB.html> >

Projects such as the interpretation centre at Marys Point and the Piper Project have been on-going for several years. The Piper Project has just released a series of 13 booklets describing the ecosystems of the Atlantic coastal zone. A new check-list of N. B. birds is in the works. (continued on page 3)

Depuis mon arrivée à l'exécutif de la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick j'ai eu à expliquer les buts, les projets et les activités de la Fédération à plusieurs personnes et groupes. Qu'est ce qu'est la Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B.?

La FNNB est une organisation dirigée par des volontaires depuis sa fondation en 1972. Depuis 26 ans déjà, des personnes bénévoles oeuvrent à promouvoir une meilleure compréhension de l'environnement naturel et à éveiller le souci du patrimoine naturel de notre province.

Dès sa fondation, la Fédération s'est donnée comme objectifs de parrainer des projets éducatifs, de diffuser de l'information concernant l'histoire naturelle du N.-B., d'encourager la protection de la flore, de la faune, des habitats et de représenter les membres et les clubs de naturalistes dans les dossiers relatifs à l'environnement et la nature.

L'exécutif, composé de la présidente, de la vice-présidente, de la secrétaire, du trésorier, du président sortant, des représentants de chaque club fédéré et trois conseillers, se rencontrent à tous les deux mois. Entre temps, l'internet permet de répondre aux questions urgentes. Toutes vos demandes, vos commentaires et vos inquiétudes peuvent être acheminés à l'exécutif par votre représentant de club.

Depuis quelques années, la protection des habitats est devenue une préoccupation importante. Des gens et des associations font appel à la Fédération afin de les aider à sauvegarder des habitats naturels dans leur région. On peut citer en exemple la sauvegarde de l'île de Cocagne, de la tourbière Lambert et autres. La FNNB, toute seule, n'a pas les ressources nécessaires pour défendre ces habitats menacés. Elles travaillent en collaboration avec les organisations locales.

Différents membres de la Fédération siègent sur plusieurs comités dont La forêt modèle Fundy, L'alliance pour la forêt future, Le réseau environnemental du N.-B., La coalition du N.-B. des espaces protégés, Eco-Cocagne et Petitcodiac 2000. Diverses agences gouvernementales et la Fédération canadienne des naturalistes consultent la FNNB sur sujets traitant de l'environnement et de la nature.

Depuis 26 ans, la Fédération a oeuvré à l'élaboration de plusieurs projets. Des volontaires publient quatre numéros par année de la revue "N. B. Naturalist/ Le Naturaliste du N.-B." Des pages web, "Les pages Nature NB," sont continuellement mises à jour. Elles nous renseignent sur la FNNB et des liens concernant l'étude, et la conservation, de la nature ainsi que l'annonce des activités de loisirs en pleine nature. La Fédération vous invite à consulter ces pages à l'adresse suivante:

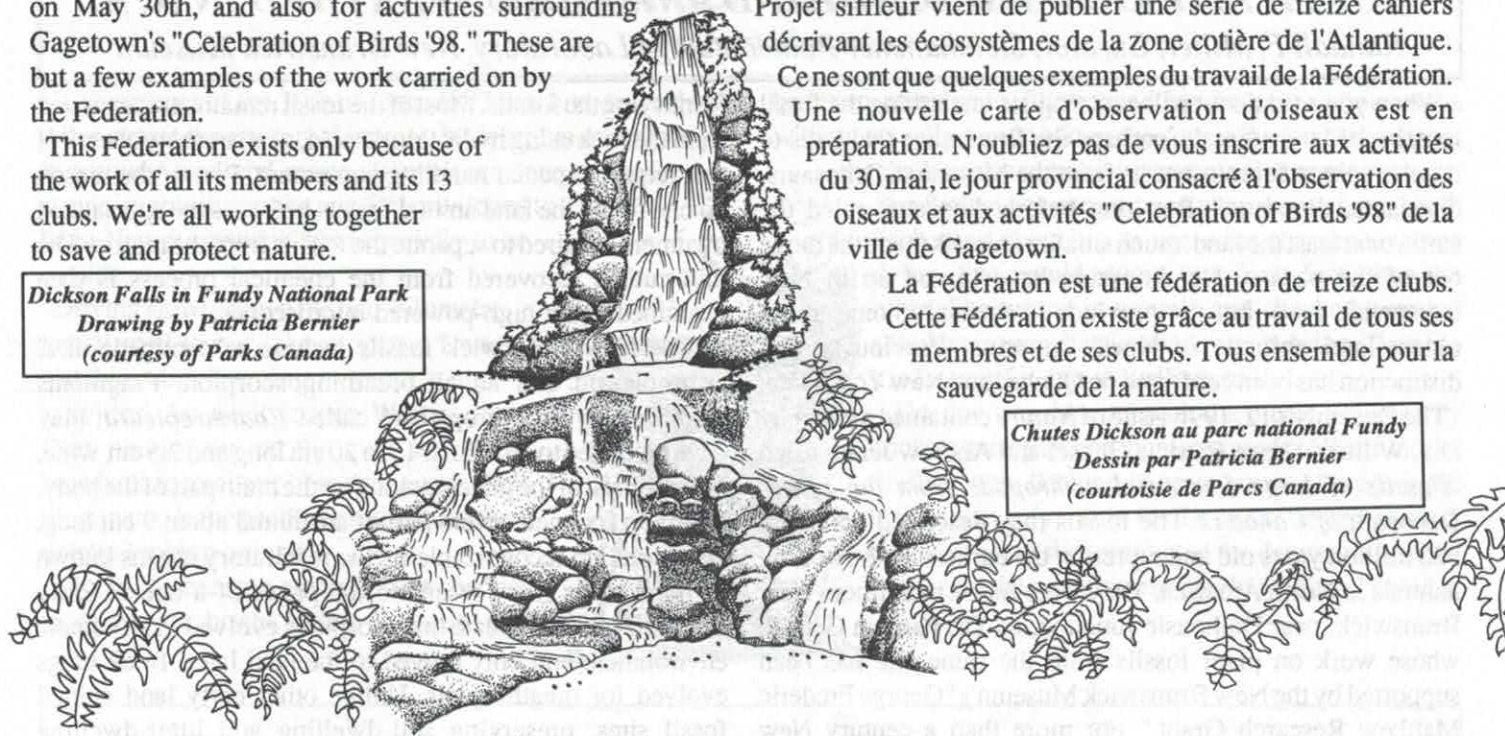
< <http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/maryspt/FNNB.html> >

Des projets comme le Centre d'interprétation à Marys Point et le Projet siffleur de la (continué à la page 3)

Don't forget to register for "Provincial Birdwatching Day" on May 30th, and also for activities surrounding Gagetown's "Celebration of Birds '98." These are but a few examples of the work carried on by the Federation.

This Federation exists only because of the work of all its members and its 13 clubs. We're all working together to save and protect nature.

*Dickson Falls in Fundy National Park
Drawing by Patricia Bernier
(courtesy of Parks Canada)*



Péninsule acadienne se continuent depuis plusieurs années. Le Projet siffleur vient de publier une série de treize cahiers décrivant les écosystèmes de la zone côtière de l'Atlantique. Ce ne sont que quelques exemples du travail de la Fédération. Une nouvelle carte d'observation d'oiseaux est en préparation. N'oubliez pas de vous inscrire aux activités du 30 mai, le jour provincial consacré à l'observation des oiseaux et aux activités "Celebration of Birds '98" de la ville de Gagetown.

La Fédération est une fédération de treize clubs. Cette Fédération existe grâce au travail de tous ses membres et de ses clubs. Tous ensemble pour la sauvegarde de la nature.

*Chutes Dickson au parc national Fundy
Dessin par Patricia Bernier
(courtoisie de Parcs Canada)*

U. N. B. SOCIOLOGY STUDENT REQUESTS HELP FOR RESEARCH PROJECT ON OLDER ADULTS WHO BIRDWATCH

c/o UNB Sociology Department
P. O. Box 4400
Fredericton, N. B.
E3B 5A3
February 27, 1998

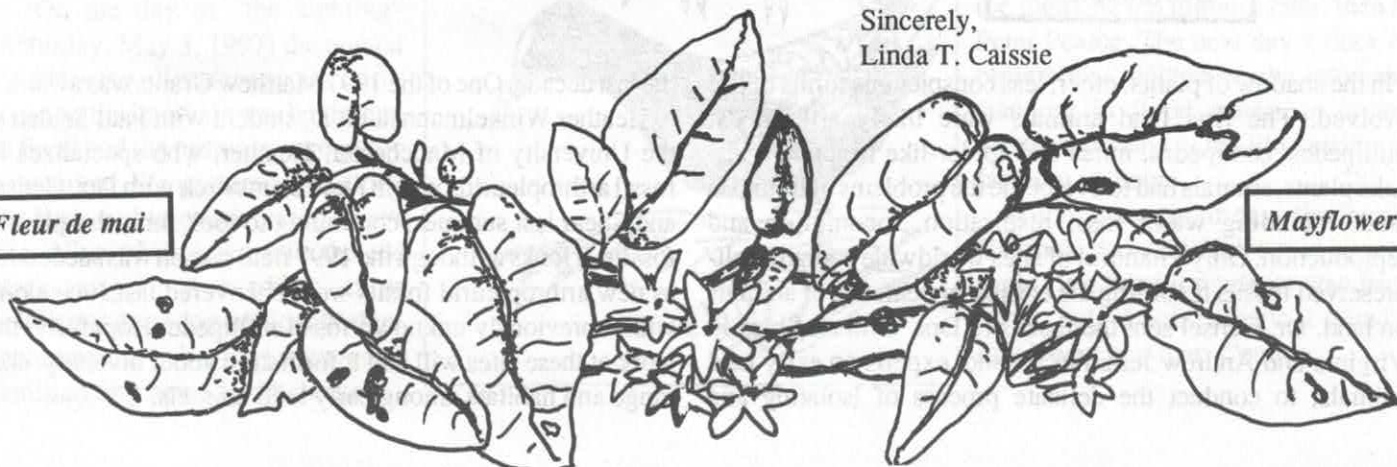
Hello. My name is Linda Thérèse Caissie. I am a graduate student enrolled in the Masters program in the Department of Sociology at the University of New Brunswick. I will be conducting research on older adults who birdwatch. I am seeking permission to send you, by regular mail or by e-mail, a description of my research intent. I may be reached at the above address, at this e-mail address k28z@unb.ca or leave a message at (506) 454-8070 (call collect) or at (506) 453-4849.

Your time and assistance regarding this matter is greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you. Again, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Linda T. Caissie

Fleur de mai

Mayflower



NORTH AMERICA'S OLDEST LAND ANIMALS UNEARTHED IN N. B.

Randall F. Miller, Curator, Steinhammer Palaeontology Laboratory, New Brunswick Museum

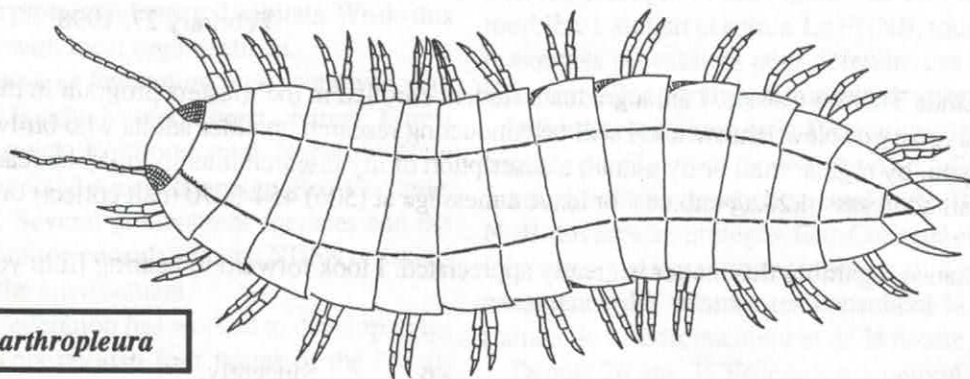
When you read about palaeontologists unearthing the fossil remains of land animals, perhaps the first image that pops to mind are those famous beasts from the Mesozoic. Dinosaurs, dinosaurs, dinosaurs! But long before dinosaurs ruled the earth, or at least the land, much smaller animals made the move out of the oceans. No dinosaurs have turned up in New Brunswick (yet), but the province is currently home to the oldest land animals in North America. Previously that distinction has been conferred on Quebec and New York State.

The December 12, 1996 issue of *Nature* contained a paper by Drs. William Shear, Patricia Gensel and Andrew Jeram titled "Fossils of large terrestrial arthropods from the Lower Devonian of Canada." The fossils they described are about 380 million years old and represent the earliest land-dwelling animals in North America. They were found in northern New Brunswick, near Dalhousie Junction, by Dr. Patricia Gensel, whose work on plant fossils from the same site has been supported by the New Brunswick Museum's "George Frederic Matthew Research Grant." For more than a century New Brunswick has been an important place for the study of Devonian plants. Geologist Sir William Dawson, a native Nova Scotian who became the Principal of McGill College in Montreal, described the first plant fossils from here in the mid-1800's. Much of what we know about early land plants is based on fossils from northern New Brunswick. Some of the plant specimens found by Dr. Gensel are on display in Our Changing Earth, the museum's geology gallery at Market Square in Saint John.

identifying the fossils. Most of the fossil remains are separated from the rock using hydrofluoric acid, a rather nasty chemical that requires special handling equipment. Part of the reason no one found the land animal fossils before is the specialized treatment required to separate the fossils from the matrix. The thin cuticle recovered from the chemical process is then examined under high-powered microscopes.

The New Brunswick fossils include a "centipede-like" arthropleurid and an air-breathing scorpion. Fragments identified as an arthropleurid called *Eoarthroleura*, may have belonged to an animal 15 to 20 cm long and 2.5 cm wide. They consist of the plates making up the main part of the body. Scorpion fragments were part of an animal about 9 cm long. Scorpions are recognizable by the respiratory organs known as book lungs (they resemble the pages of a book). Early scorpion fossils indicate that scorpions evolved in an aquatic environment and only moved to the land later. Book lungs evolved for breathing air. Unlike other early land animal fossil sites, preserving soil-dwelling and litter-dwelling arthropods up to 1 cm long, these new fossils from New Brunswick suggest that large arthropods were also a significant part of the land fauna.

It is hard to imagine that 390 million years ago, the rocks we now know as New Brunswick were formed south of the equator. As these new discoveries show, we have a fascinating fossil record to explore. Research by New Brunswick Museum staff and co-operation with other scientists has paid off over



Eoarthroleura

In the shadow of plants, other, less conspicuous forms of life evolved. The first land animals were likely arthropods; millipedes, centipedes, mites and spider-like trigonotarbid. Like plants, animals had to overcome the problems of living on land, including water loss, respiration, locomotion and reproduction. Only a handful of sites worldwide contain well-preserved fossils recording the earliest appearance of animals on land. Dr. Gensel sent the fossils to Drs. William Shear in Virginia and Andrew Jeram in Ireland, experts on early land animals, to conduct the delicate process of isolating and

the last decade. One of the 1997 Matthew Grants was awarded to Heather Winkelmann, a Ph.D. student with Paul Selden at the University of Manchester. Heather, who specializes in fossil arthropleurids was in New Brunswick with Drs. Gensel and Shear last summer, continuing to look for arthropleurid fossils. It looks as though the 1997 field season was successful as new arthropleurid fossils were uncovered last June along with a previously unknown fossil millipede. Hopefully, the work at these sites will add information about diversity, size range and habitats among early land animals.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DANCE

Beverley Schneider

The evening of the 30th of June, 1997 was hot, dry and still. After sunset the nocturnal insects, birds and mammals began to actively feed and move about. It was one of those special nights that make one feel privileged to be in New Brunswick and especially to be outside.

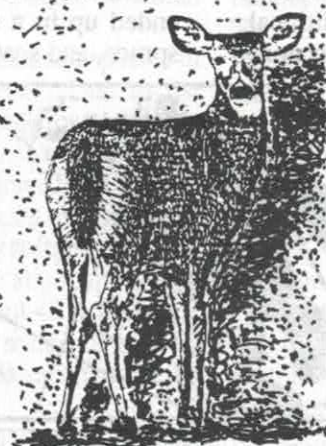
Driving slowly down the two-kilometre gravel road to our lake property, I was watching and listening to nature's night activities. An adult female White-tailed Deer jumped out on the road and stood broadside to us about 10 metres away. Well illuminated in the headlights, she stood there quietly looking around.

Soon she became aware of her shadow made by the bright lights. Curious, she

began to investigate. She moved her body in various ways without actually moving from the spot and soon realized that the shadow was somehow connected to her movements.

She flicked her ears, moved a leg, her tail, her head; each time checking to see what the shadow was doing. She would stomp one front foot, then the other. She turned in a circle and checked over her shoulder to see what the shadow was doing. Then she tried to sniff it and to walk up to it.

The doe was dancing with the music provided by crickets and other non-human sounds. All around the fireflies were flashing in great bursts of green light. It was heavenly! This idyllic scene lasted about 5 minutes before she terminated the dance and hopped into the ditch to continue her night feeding. I loved it.



A PURPLE GALLINULE COMES TO JEMSEG

Nancy MacDonald

In the weeks leading up to our sighting of a Purple Gallinule, Jemseg had been a busy spot. Our calendar recorded some of the activity:

April 13 - snow storm
 April 16 - pair of purple finches in the lilac tree
 April 17 - river open between Fredericton and Sheffield
 April 20 - pair of phoebes
 April 22 - 5 pairs of oldsquaw off Gagetown Island
 April 23 - river rising
 April 25 - a turtle in the creek (still some ice there)
 April 26 - tree swallows in the field
 April 28 - robin's nest under house's eave nearly complete
 April 29 - snow (cold and miserable), river up
 April 30 - beautiful day, myrtle and palm warblers here

On the day of "the sighting" (Saturday, May 3, 1997) the annual freshet was well underway, the Ferry Road on the intervale was beginning to flood and the pastures were partly submerged. We ventured out to look for birds and to check on the river's rise. Nine of us piled into the old stationwagon; five adults, three children and one dog (all keen birders, including the Lab who'd spent years familiarizing herself with ducks).

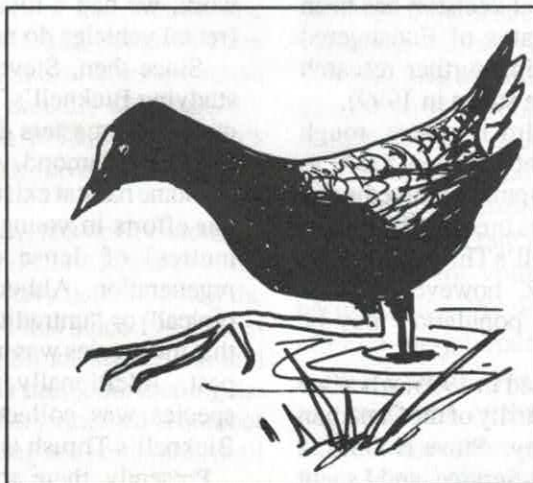
We drove slowly along the intervale road, pencils and papers in hands, making lists of the day's sightings. This is a yearly ritual for us, a "flood watch" weekend with friends that also includes identifying as many species of birds as possible.

From my spot in the back of the car I was watching the flotsam on the flooded meadow. There were many Red-winged Blackbirds about, and a variety of ducks, but suddenly I became aware of a curious bird moving about on the flotsam near the alders at the edge of the road. It took no notice of us but seemed intent on searching out food for itself.

All faces were immediately pressed against the windows of the car and pages began turning in our field guides. In a few moments we collectively identified the stranger as an adult Purple Gallinule.

News of our sighting quickly spread - first to Jim Goltz, whom we passed on the intervale ten minutes later, then to Peter Pearce. The next day a flock of birders was sighted on the intervale, standing in flood waters in dreary weather, peering at the little visitor so far from its home.

Within a couple of days the Purple Gallinule had vanished, not to be seen again. We hope it made its way back home, but, if not, perhaps it found a safe haven in Albert County.



IN SEARCH OF A MYSTERY BIRD, THE BICKNELL'S THRUSH

Erin Nixon

Clear cutting has attracted many critics, and is often blamed for reducing biological diversity. However, one potentially threatened species may be benefiting from this practice. Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) occurs largely in such stands in New Brunswick, as opposed to the traditional, montane habitat of stunted spruce/fir forests that it occupies in the United States.

In Canada, the Bicknell's Thrush was largely unknown and unrecognized until 1995, when it was designated a separate species from the Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*). Now, researchers are rushing to gather information on this "new" species.

The Bicknell's Thrush is not an easy bird to study. It is secretive, it sings infrequently, often not responding to taped playbacks of its vocalizations, and it chooses to breed in inaccessible, high elevation habitats, building almost-impossible-to-locate nests in nearly impenetrable thickets of spruce and fir. What George Wallace noted in his classic 1939 study remains true today. Describing the species as "wary, cautious, and exceedingly alert," Wallace calls the bird "one of the shyest, rarest, and least known of North American land birds."

Recent work suggests that the Bicknell's Thrush is a rare and possibly threatened species across its range. In New York and New England, the Bicknell's Thrush is ranked the number one conservation priority among Neotropical migrant birds. It is also a candidate for protection under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. In Canada, where this species breeds mainly in small, high elevation pockets of habitat in southern Quebec, the highlands of New Brunswick, and Cape Breton Island, it is one of our rarest songbirds. In 1997, the Canadian Wildlife Service identified the Bicknell's Thrush as one of its highest priority species for monitoring, research and conservation. Efforts have been made to gain a protective status of "threatened" for the species, but a formal decision has been withheld by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) pending further research (there are plans to reapply for protective status in 1999).

Although population data on the bird is scarce, rough estimates place the global population at between 5,000 to 10,000 pairs, with 30% to 40% of the population breeding in Canada. According to the 1992 Maritimes breeding bird atlas, N.B. is home to about 700 pairs of Bicknell's Thrush. Looking at results from 3 years of field work, however, we are beginning to think that the provincial population may be closer to 1,000 pairs.

Our work with Bicknell's Thrush started in 1995, when we collaborated with Dan Busby and Nev Garrity of the Canadian Wildlife Service on a distribution survey. Steve Holmes, a research scientist at the Canadian Forest Service, and I spent the winter preparing for the survey, listening to tapes of songs

and calls and reading all the literature we could find. We set out from Ontario early, and arrived in the highlands on May 30. Snow was still on the ground. Being unfamiliar with the highlands, Steve, his technician Kerrie, and I had ended up in a large clearing fringed with young birch, spruce, and scattered elderberry; what we thought to be a

very unlikely location to spot a Bicknell's Thrush. The view beyond the clearing was unpromising. The nearby ridges had all been clearcut within the last ten years or so, and were covered with small patches of 1 1/2 to 3 metres tall planted spruce and fir mixed in with pockets of natural regeneration.

Still, we had brought a tape of Bicknell's Thrush songs and calls, and decided to try a playback.

Within about 30 seconds, we had a response. A bird began calling from almost directly in front of us, matching our tape call-by-call for the next 10 minutes. He was so well concealed in the dense underbrush that, despite the three pairs of binoculars trained on his location, we never did see him. During the rest of evening, we had more than 7 birds respond to our playbacks from the surrounding ridges. Birds were still singing when we left, long after sunset.

Over the next month, our five-member field crew logged thousands of kilometers of road travel, stopping periodically to do playbacks in promising locations. Armed with our topographical maps, we scoured as many high peaks as time and washed-out logging roads would permit. In some roadless areas, we took to foot, hiking such promising mountains as Mts. Carleton, Sagamook, Sugarloaf and Connacher. Although Bicknell's Thrush is described as a "mist- and height-loving bird," we also did playbacks in the valleys between, as sitings have been made at lower elevations in Canada. In the end, after hundreds of hours of work, we had a total of 64 birds and about 12 flat tires (rental vehicles do not take well to logging roads).

Since then, Steve and I have turned our attention to studying Bicknell's Thrush habitat. For me, this includes pursuing a masters degree at the University of N.B. under Dr. Tony Diamond. As very little of the species' traditional montane habitat exists in N.B., we have been concentrating our efforts in young stands (ranging mainly from 2 to 5 metres) of dense coniferous, deciduous and mixed regeneration. Although this habitat is referred to as "non-typical" or "untraditional" in the literature, it is possible that the species was merely overlooked in these areas in the past. Additionally, much of the past information on the species was collected from the United States, where Bicknell's Thrush is not found in regeneration.

Presently, there appears to be an abundance of suitable regeneration in the province for Bicknell's Thrush. While



Breeding range of Bicknell's Thrush shown in black.

there is no long-term population data (or, in fact, any population data) to help us reach conclusions as to how the species is faring, we are finding relatively large populations on our sites. Last year, five of the six peaks we censused had populations that we estimated at close to 100 pairs or more. These populations are still much smaller than those found on Vermont's Mt. Mansfield (estimated at 250 pairs) and Maine's Mt. Katahdin (up to 500 pairs), but they do indicate that New Brunswick is home to a significant proportion of the Canadian Bicknell's Thrush population.

The presence of a rare and potentially threatened species in such habitat could be a cause for concern. Due to the transitional nature of regeneration, it is suitable for Bicknell's Thrush for only a limited period of time. Looking at the canopy heights of the forests in which we have been finding birds, we estimate that the species uses forests of roughly 10 to 20 years of age. These areas, then, are suitable for only about 10 years. And, while such habitat is abundant now, a shortfall has been predicted to occur in about 40 to 60 years. Also, as Bicknell's Thrush uses habitat created largely by forestry activities, a conservation strategy based on protected areas would be largely ineffective.

On the positive side, however, forestry practices that favour the creation of suitable habitat for Bicknell's Thrush appear to be compatible with industry economics. We still need to look at the impact of certain activities such as thinning, but the often contentious practice of clear cutting seems to be of definite benefit to this bird. We have also received positive feedback from forestry companies such as Repap New Brunswick Inc., a pulp and paper company operating in the highlands. Repap has helped fund our work for the last two years and is interested in recommendations on how to maintain adequate areas of suitable habitat for this species. Furthermore, "non-typical" habitat in Canada is far less affected by acid precipitation than the montane forests in the northeastern United States. Valuable areas of stunted spruce-fir forests in the U.S. are also succumbing to resort development.

We are slowly learning more about the Bicknell's Thrush. During censuses last year, we found birds right down the sides of peaks and into the surrounding valleys. Elevations were still high, however, with most birds detected above 550 m and only a few straying below 500 m. In Quebec, where upwards of 50% of the Canadian population may breed, researchers have just completed the first year of a distribution and population study. Interestingly, they found the birds more often in their "traditional" haunts (high elevation spruce-fir forests) than in the "nontraditional" habitats where we are detecting birds in N.B. In Cape Breton, the subject of a CWS distribution survey, Bicknell's Thrush have been found in both types of habitat.

The most in-depth research, however, has been conducted in the U.S., where Kent McFarland and Chris Rimmer of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science have been studying the species' distribution and population status since 1992. Last year, while monitoring nests from a blind, McFarland and Rimmer recorded two males at a single nest, both feeding the chicks. This helping behaviour was also witnessed at another nest. Cooperative breeding is rare among songbirds and, until now, unconfirmed among thrushes.

While these new findings are exciting, they also illustrate

how much remains to be learned about this species. We think one of the most important questions facing Canadian populations of Bicknell's Thrush is the value of regeneration. In particular, we need to look at the species' reproductive success in these habitats. A few records exist of nests found in "non-typical" habitat, but we have yet to document a single case of this species successfully reproducing in regeneration. Such information is essential if we are to ensure that this habitat is not just a reproductive "sink" for the Bicknell's Thrush (i.e. an area where reproduction is insufficient to balance local mortality rates). Numerous factors can be at work to limit population size. For example, nest predation varies with habitat structure, and is responsible for more than 50% of all nest losses in passerines. It is a possible factor in the disappearance of Nova Scotia's Seal Island population of Bicknell's Thrush (blamed on abundant numbers of crows, ravens, cats and introduced squirrels), and is also a serious problem in the U.S.A. due to thriving Red Squirrel populations.

In order to take a closer look at Bicknell's Thrush reproduction in regeneration, we are going to have to find and monitor nests. Unfortunately, this is no easy matter. Chris Rimmer and Kent McFarland have searched intensively for nests since 1992 with the help of an extensive volunteer network, and have found a total of 40 nests. Wallace's famous study was based on 15 nests. Jim Wilson, who has years of nest-searching experience under his belt, spent two days searching for nests with us last summer. Methodically searching every tree within an area frequented by three singing males, he was able to locate a single nest. Unfortunately, the Bicknell's Thrush also appears to be very sensitive to disturbance. Still, a study looking at the nesting success of Bicknell's Thrush in regeneration may be critical to the species' long-term survival in this province.

This spring, Steve and I are planning to start such a project in the highlands. We're hoping to locate nests using two methods: systematic searching of suitable habitat, and outfitting mist-netted birds with radio transmitters. Since experience has shown us that females respond much less aggressively to playbacks than males, and are more difficult to draw into the nets, we will use radio-telemetry to locate the core territories of radio-tagged males. The area will then be systematically searched to locate the actual nest site. Once the nests are found, they will be monitored using video-cameras, a method Steve used quite successfully a few years ago in describing Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) nesting behaviour. This will give us some insight into nesting behaviours such as incubation and brooding, nest attentiveness, and differential contributions by males and females at the nest. We will also be looking at habitat characteristics of the nest sites.

If you are interested in seeing the Bicknell's Thrush, and working with a rare and possibly threatened species, we will be looking for volunteers this June/July to help with our nesting study. We will cover all field expenses, and will also offer on-the-job training in nest searching, mist netting, and radio telemetry. We are looking for people who can commit to a minimum of three days in the field. If you would like further information on this study, or on the Bicknell's Thrush, Steve and I can be contacted by email at sholmes@nrcan.gc.ca or erin.nixon1@sympatico.ca, or by phone at (705) 949-9017.

OH HENRY

Pierre Duquay, le Club L'Envolée Chaleur

NOTEZ, S. V. P.: On a tiré cet article d'un numéro récent de L'Acadie Nouvelle.

Il y a gens qui disent que le courage ne se mesure pas par la taille d'un individu. Comme vous allez le constater, ces paroles ne s'appliquent pas seulement aux humains! Je vous présente l'histoire d'un petit oiseau pas comme les autres. Ce petit oiseau était muni d'un grand courage et d'un goût pour vivre qui ne pouvaient être mesurés sur aucune échelle. Je vous présente ainsi l'histoire de Henry.

Henry était une Petite Nyctale qui réussit à attirer l'attention de plusieurs gens des quatre coins de la province. Le tout a débuté vers les 23h30 mercredi le 25 septembre dernier alors que Nathalie Hawkins de Caraquet conduisait son automobile dans les environs de Pokemouche. C'est là que Nathalie a observé un petit oiseau avec des grands yeux jaune posé en plein milieu de la route tout près de la ligne jaune. C'est alors que Nathalie s'est arrêtée, question de voir de plus près de quoi il s'agissait. C'est à ce moment qu'elle a réalisé la possibilité que le petit oiseau était blessé. Elle a alors trouvé une boîte pour transporter l'oiseau chez elle. Une fois chez elle l'oiseau a été placé dans une cage avec de l'eau et de la nourriture.

Le lendemain Nathalie m'a contacté pour savoir qu'est-ce qui pouvait être fait pour en venir en aide à ce petit oiseau. Je lui est dit qu'il y avait des gens dans la province qui pouvait venir en aide à son oiseau et je lui est promis que son oiseau recevrait les meilleurs soins qu'on pouvait lui offrir.

C'est alors que je suis parti en direction de Caraquet avec Luc DeRoche pour récupérer l'oiseau, pour le transporter à Petit-Rocher, pour l'examiner enfin de déterminer si qu'il était blessé. Rendus chez Nathalie nous avons identifié l'oiseau comme étant une Petite Nyctale adulte. J'ai ensuite demandé à Nathalie de lui donner un nom car c'est la coutume que les oiseaux sont donnés un nom lorsqu'ils sont en réhabilitation. Elle l'a donc prénommé Henry.

Une fois rendue chez moi j'ai appelé mon ami Jim Goltz de Fredericton. Jim est un vétérinaire avec l'expérience dans la réhabilitation des oiseaux blessés. Jim nous a guidé par téléphone alors qu'on fait un examen de l'oiseau pour tenter d'établir s'il était en effet blessé. Henry avait en effet l'aile de droite descendu un peu plus que celle de gauche. Jim nous a indiqué à ce moment qu'il était préférable de s'assurer que Henry puisse manger. Il a aussi suggéré que l'on fasse examiner notre petit ami par un vétérinaire.

C'est alors que Luc est aller acheter des petites souris pour donner à Henry. En donnant la première souris à Henry il s'est mis à le manger. C'était de la très bonne nouvelle. Pour s'assurer que Henry ne manquait pas de la nourriture, Jim s'est alors entrepris à nous envoyer des souris par courrier en

provenance du laboratoire de l'Université du N.-B. à Fredericton.

Samedi le 27 j'ai apporté Henry au vétérinaire à Bathurst. Le vétérinaire a déterminé qu'Henry était blessé à l'aile droite mais il ne pouvait préciser la gravité de la blessure sans effectuer des radiographies. Deux jours plus tard, les radiographies ont démontré qu'Henry avait l'aile de droite cassée. Le vétérinaire nous a dit qu'il n'était pas confortable avec l'idée de l'opérer. C'est alors que Jim est venu chercher Henry pour lui donner les soins qu'il avait sérieusement besoin. Jim a entrepris les démarches pour que Henry se fasse opéré par le Docteur Geoff Hampton de Fredericton. Ce dernier est un des meilleurs vétérinaires dans la province pour entreprendre une chirurgie aussi délicate.

Vendredi le 3 octobre Henry a été opéré pour tenter de lui réparé l'aile. La chirurgie s'est avérée délicate alors que le Docteur a placé des petites visses d'acier à travers l'os cassé. Malgré le fait que l'opération c'était bien déroulé le sort à Henry allait être décidé dans les jours à venir. Malgré que Henry était trop faible pour se tenir debout il a quand même réussi à se nourrir le soir après l'opération. Dans les jours qui ont suivi, Henry prenait de plus en plus de force et semblait bien se rétablir de son opération. Mais voilà que quelques jours plus tard on nous a annoncé que l'aile s'était cassé une nouvelle fois.

C'était à ce moment que nous avons réalisé que le sort à Henry semblait tourné au pire. En effet, mercredi le 15 octobre (presque deux semaines après son opération) Henry est décédé. Un examen n'a pu déterminer la cause exacte de sa mort. Le fait qu'il mangeait nous indiquait qu'il semblait d'être en bonne forme. Le vétérinaire a conclu que la gravité de sa blessure était beaucoup trop importante pour son petit système. Henry nous a tous frappés par son courage et sa détermination. Malgré que son aile était cassée il se glonflait les plumes pour se faire plus gros lorsqu'on l'approchait. J'espérais qu'un jour qu'on nous aurions été en mesure de relâcher Henry dans la nature mais mon rêve s'est éteint en même temps que Henry. Tout ce qui me reste sont des souvenirs de ce beau petit oiseau qui seront toujours gravés dans ma mémoire.

Au N.-B. il y un endroit où la faune de notre province peut recevoir les soins nécessaires tels que ceux que nous avons prodigués à Henry. Le centre de réhabilitation "Maritime Atlantic Wildlife" (téléphoner 1-506-364-1902) situé près de Sackville est la seule espoir pour plusieurs animaux sauvages qui sont blessés.

J'aimerais de remercier les gens suivants qui pris le temps de venir à l'aide de Henry: Nathalie Hawkins, Luc DeRoche, Le Club L'Envolée Chaleur, Dept. des Ressources Naturel de Bathurst, Gilles Godin, Jim Goltz, Dr. Larder, Dr. Geoff Hampton, Université du Nouveau-Brunswick campus de Fredericton.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 1997 - '98

David Christie

A record 48 Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) were conducted in New Brunswick this winter. The new area, Old Proprietor Shoals, is a pelagic transect off the east side of Grand Manan. This summary deals with only 47 counts, the results from the Hartland area were not received.

Observers experienced better than average weather for the counts. Overall, there was considerably less precipitation than usual, temperatures were a bit warmer and winds a bit weaker than normal. Because of an earlier start to winter weather, however, the snow cover was almost as deep as the deepest of the previous decade and ice was quite extensive.

On the count days 141,945 birds of 125 species were tallied, normal totals for recent years. An additional 15 species were observed during the count period, boosting the total for the entire 1997/98 count to 140, one more than the previous year's record. **Black Vulture** (Lamèque) and **Orange-crowned Warbler** (Moncton, Shédiac) were found for the first time on count day in New Brunswick and **Clapper Rail** (Miscou) and **Summer Tanager** (Moncton) were new for the count period list. All of these, especially the tanager, should have been somewhere farther south.

There was a massive southward movement of finches this winter. In New Brunswick it brought us an abundance of the northern species that were exceedingly scarce a year earlier but left relatively few of the ones that nest commonly here. **Pine Grosbeaks** were practically throughout, and in the southern parts of the province were more numerous (including a provincial record of 544 at Hammond River-Hampton) than in any CBC since 1968. In the north their numbers were similar to those of the 1985 CBC but they were rather uncommon in the northeast. **Common Redpolls**, common except along the Fundy coast, were accompanied by a very few **Hoary Redpolls**. Most other finches were found here in well below average numbers, the bulk of them having moved south to the U. S. A.

House Finches continue numerous in southern N. B. cities and towns and are establishing themselves on the Miramichi. It's likely that some of the **Purple Finches** reported at Moncton and Saint John were actually House Finches. Observers should exercise care in identifying these two finches in urban and suburban habitats.

This winter there was also a big flight of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** southward into the United States. Very few were left in northern N. B., but a substantial number remained in the south. **White-breasted Nuthatch** was quite numerous throughout. **Black-capped Chickadees** continue to be very numerous. **Boreal Chickadees** were somewhat above average in northern N. B., but lower in the south. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** stayed low for the third year.

Downy and **Hairy Woodpeckers** have been doing very well on recent CBCs and this year was no exception. **Black-backed**

Woodpecker, recently very scarce, shows signs of a slight increase. **Pileated Woodpeckers** were above average in the north, near average in the south.

A moderate amount of mountain-ash fruits and a bumper crop of apples attracted fruit-eating birds to southern areas; a lot of **Bohemian Waxwings**, a moderate number of **Robins**, and several **Flickers**. **Cedar Waxwings** were seen primarily at Saint John. Only **Bohemian Waxwings** were well represented in the north.

A year ago I suggested that the low numbers of **Am. Tree Sparrows** might be because they had not concentrated at feeders due to the small amount of snow in the early part of the winter of 1996/97. This winter we had lots of snow but they were even less numerous. It seems that they may be at a low point in their population cycle. Our other common wintering sparrow, the **Dark-eyed Junco**, was found in above average numbers in southern N. B. and about average in the north this year. There were fewer than normal **Snow Buntings**. Few blackbirds were seen with the conspicuous exception of 38 **Rusty Blackbirds**.

The deeper snow may have pushed **Pheasants** closer to town and resulted in quite high counts in southeastern N. B. **Ruffed Grouse** numbers are dropping, especially in the north.

Goshawks seem to be at or near a peak this winter, 8 years after the last one. **Northern Harriers** dropped greatly, no doubt due to the early snow cover. Snow cover may have caused **Barred Owls** to hunt more in the open and to be seen more frequently than usual on these CBCs. There were few **Snowy Owls** and only one **Hawk Owl**.

This winter, Shédiac beat out Cape Tormentine for the highest count of **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. A surprising 13 areas mentioned that warbler species in their reports, at least during the count period. There were also reports of **Pine**, **Palm**, and **Orange-crowned Warblers**, not typical birds of a snowy New Brunswick winter.

The numbers of **Common Loons**, **Horned Grebes**, and **Great Cormorants** were high in their lower Bay of Fundy wintering area.

Following a couple of years' drop, **Mallards** are again gaining in numbers compared to **Black Ducks**. In addition to the usual large concentration (880) at Moncton, where they are coming more and more frequently to bird feeders, there was a substantial number, 350, at Mactaquac. Elsewhere their numbers are growing slowly.

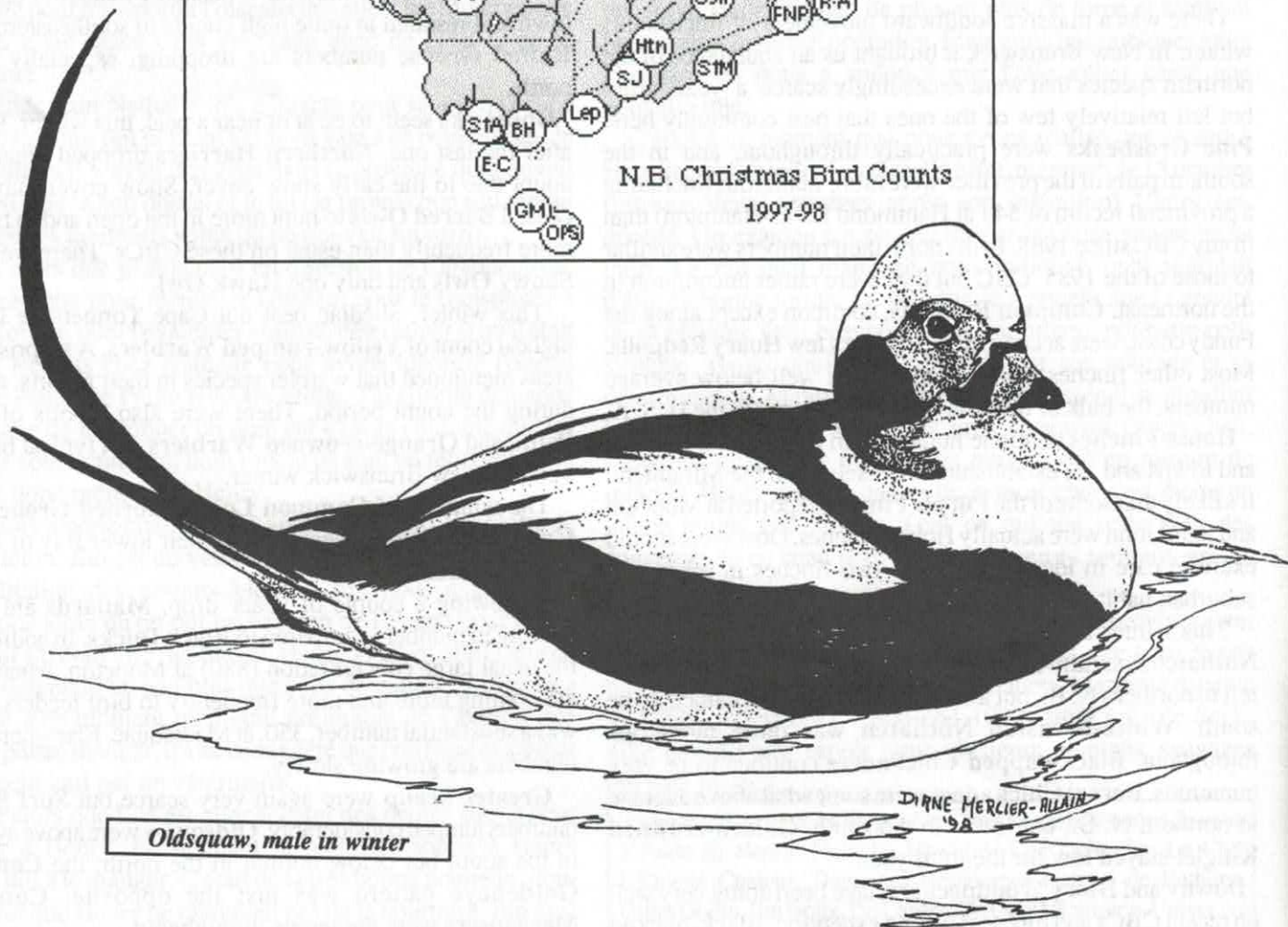
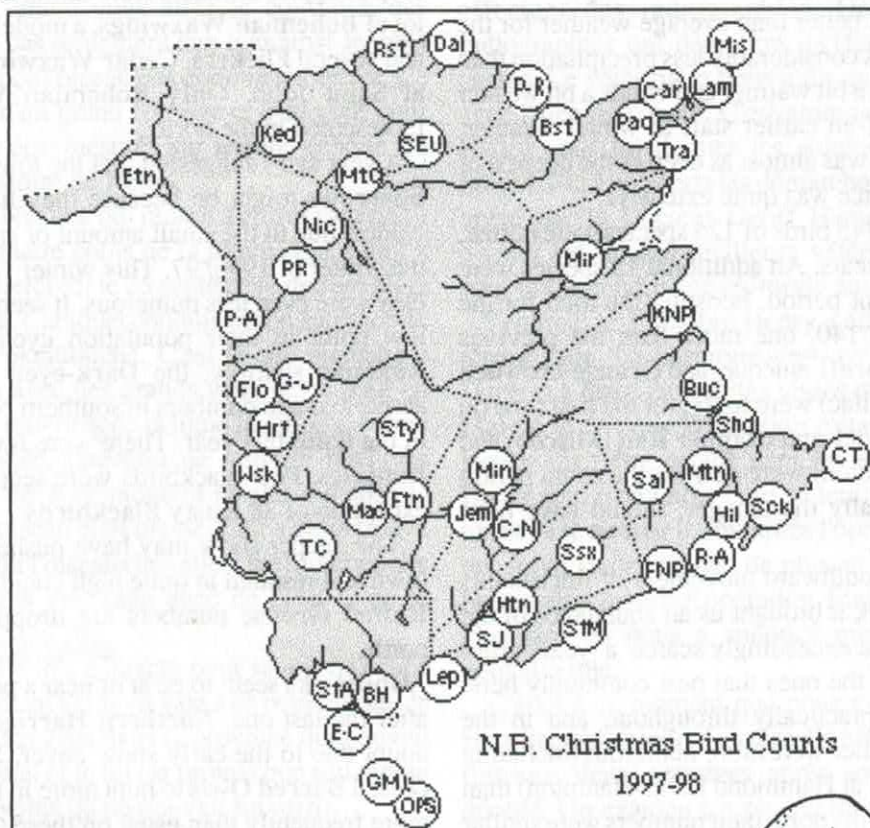
Greater Scaup were again very scarce but **Surf Scoter** numbers jumped considerably. **Oldsquaw** were above average in the south but below normal in the north; the **Common Goldeneye** pattern was just the opposite. **Common Mergansers** were numerous throughout.

CHRISTMAS COUNT(cont'd. from p. 9)

Glaucous and Iceland Gull numbers were low in the north; for the former species, it was for the third consecutive year, due at least partly to the replacement of local dumps by regional solid-waste management sites. **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were few (13) in the Eastport-Campobello area this year but in normal numbers around Grand Manan. Other gulls were about average.

The new pelagic count in the alcid feeding area off Grand Manan produced new provincial CBC records of 7500 **Razorbills** and 750 **Common Murres**, substantially more than what had been seen previously from land. **Black Guillemots** were low in the north.

The + and - ratings beside the provincial totals on the accompanying tables will allow you to check how the numbers of other regularly occurring species compare to normal.



Oldsquaw, male in winter

1997-98 CBC	Mir	Dal	Rst	Sal	Ssx	Htn	C-N	Jem	Min	Ftn	Mac	TC	Sty	Wsk	Flo	G-J	P-A	PR	Nic	Etn	Ked	MIC	SEU	Paq
Great Cormorant							*													1				
D-cr. Cormorant							*																	
Great Blue Heron																								
Snow Goose		5								68	*													
Canada Goose																								
Green-wing Teal																								
Am Black Duck	108	8		*	194	22																		
Mallard	12	13		10	36	2				226	118								*	9				
Oldsquaw	*									50	350								*					
Com Goldeneye	200							*		82	205													
Barrow Goldeneye	170									1														
Hood Merganser										30	114													
Com. Merganser	9	3			4	26																		
Red-br Merganser	2																							
Bald Eagle	1	*		1	*	4	1	1		6	8		5	1	1				*	1				
Northern Harrier					*					2	*		*	2										
Sharp-shin Hawk				*	1		*	2			*													
Northern Goshawk				*	2	*		1			*													
Red-tailed Hawk					3	*		1	1	1			*								1			1
Rough-leg Hawk								8			1													
American Kestrel																			*					
Merlin										*														
Gyr Falcon #	2	*																						
Ring-nk Pheasant	1			15	7																			
Ruffed Grouse	4	3	6	12	4	1	1	12		8	2	1	1	1	2	2	2							
Ring-billed Gull				*		2				3										1	*	3	1	
Herring Gull	2	1	11	*	11	219	1			53	7			18										
Iceland Gull	5			*		16																		
Glaucous Gull		*		*		2																		
Grt Blk-bk Gull	22	*	3	1	1	167		5		324	42			9										
Rock Dove	206	72	212	281	405	186	68	166	97	988	111	17	55	658	295	22	103	256	10	132	41			56
Mourning Dove	63	28	*	55	312	319	321	135	16	272	38	12	44	63	220	26	3	49	1	*				37
Great Horned Owl				2	2			*					1					*						
Snowy Owl		*			*																			
Barred Owl	33	1	23	14	14	26	*	32	14	1	23	16	8	15	32	31	11	8	16	10	9	5	16	*
Downy Woodpkr																								
Hairy Woodpkr	30	1	28	17	13	15	28	24	5	26	26	5	26	29	26	14	14	21	9	15	7	7		13
3-toed Woodpkr																		1						
Blk-bk Woodpkr															*					1	1	1	3	
Northern Flicker	1																							
Pileated Wdpkr	4		1	*	1	4	6	3		3	4	1	1	1	1	*	*	5	3		1	3	1	1
Gray Jay	16		2	1	4	11	15	3	3	11	3	5	6	3	*	2		8	37	2	23	7	18	
Blue Jay	82	16	98	125	139	134	276	180	7	85	111	35	91	128	276	76	59	60	63	74	39	2		85
American Crow	59	21	12	131	205	354	87	32	18	283	56	3	25	81	64	11	23	9	2	131	16			6
Common Raven	31	19	118	190	72	57	38	67	20	209	46	20	171	41	29	6	8	21	28	50	148	6		29
Blk-cap Chickad.	404	104	367	409	275	470	532	363	77	880	400	201	274	316	195	72	134	182	143	328	151	37	20	219
Boreal Chickadee																								
Red-br Nuthatch	17	1	4	18	8	13	55	62	2	47	18	8	16	21	2	2	*	6	5	5	37	4	1	6
Wh-br Nuthatch					*																			
Brown Creeper	3		5	2		1	11	6		18	3	2	2	7	3	6	*	2	8	1	1			1
Golden-cr Kinglet																								
Ruby-cr Kinglet			3	7	15	11		11		36	12	9	26	1	1	1	*		2		1			

1997-98 CBC	OPS	GM	E-C	StA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Hil	Mtn	Sck	CT	Shd	Buc	KNP	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	P-R	Total
Red-thr Loon		8	3	26	13	69	1	1	2	1				1									2	9 ± 149 ++ *
Pied-bill Grebe		*					6																	
Horned Grebe		3	36	42	60		2	6																184 ++ 248 + *
Red-neck Grebe		147	10	6	15	70																		
Northern Fulmar	*	*																						
Northern Gannet	10	20																						30 + 368 + 15 + *
Great Cormorant	50	72	196		50		1																	
D-cr Cormorant		*	2	10	1					*														* - * *
Grt Blue Heron										*														
Blk-cr Nt-Heron										*														
Snow Goose																								
Brant		68																						68 ± 198 ± 8
Canada Goose		1								*														
Green-wing Teal																								
Am Black Duck		375	324	897	243	163	6	2	30															4029 + 1501 ++ 1
Mallard		3	10	16	12	3	47	9	14	141	200	17	3	7	31	105			3					
Northern Pintail				1						3	881		23			4								
Gadwall							1																	1
Americ Wigeon																								1
Canvasback							1																	1
Tufted Duck																								1
Greater Scaup																								41 -
Common Eider	100	455	244	868	962	287	20	2																3213 ±
Harlequin Duck																								11 +
Oldsquaw		5					7																	2498 ±
Black Scoter		230	315	70	210	60																		44 ±
Surf Scoter		44	19	17	26	18			1															126 +
Wh-wing Scoter		68		67	2	86	4	2																231 ±
Com Goldeneye		28	127	13	3	81	152	20	18	8														1480 ±
Barrow Goldeneye																								
Bufflehead		45	163	78	64	43	93	11	4															208 ±
Hood Merganser #		20					2																	501 ±
Com Merganser #																								28 +
Red-br Merganser		141	81	22	56	9	31	3	6	43	31													855 ++
Black Vulture																								518 ±
Turkey Vulture							*																	2
Bald Eagle		6	38	5	68	2	2	1	*	1	1	3	2	6		*	2					1		169 + 2 -
Northern Harrier							1			1														22 + 20 + 40 +
Sharp-shin Hawk		*					2	*	2			2	2		4	1	1		*					26 -
N. Goshawk #							2	1		2	4	1	2		2	2	1							2
Red-tailed Hawk		2		3	1		*		1	2	5	1	8	8	1	2								40 +
Rough-leg Hawk		*	1		*		1			1	2		6	7					1					26 -
Americ Kestrel										*		2							1					2
Merlin							1										1		1					4
Peregrine Falcon		1					1	1				*								1				3
Gyr Falcon							1			3	74	94	193	7	20									4 + 444 +
Ring-nk Pheasant		2																						
Spruce Grouse		*	2							4	1	21	16	13	4		2							6 ±
Ruffed Grouse				2			2	1	9													4		153 ±
Clapper Rail									*											*				*
American Coot																								*

1997-98 CBC	OPS	GM	E-C	StA	BH	Lep	SJ	SIM	FNP	R-A	Hil	Mln	Sck	C'I	Shd	Buc	KNP	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	P-R	Total	
Purple Sandpiper	350	12		20	25		9	54																470 +	
Common Snipe	1	*					*																	1 *	
Black-head Gull	6	7		5	3		3																	24 -	
Bonaparte's Gull	55	10	2	8			53	3	3	3	3	12	23	8									37	230 ±	
Ring-billed Gull	2231	2030	672	1198	53	10	32	2	54	19	59	32	319	448	461	55	6			22	4	9	51	49	17619 ±
Herring Gull	40	3775	4083	96	4	179	1						27	29	59	19	25			122	19	42	16	16	792 -
Iceland Gull	16	14										3	1	1	3	2			5	1		9	1	1	32 -
Les Blk-bk Gull				2			1					3	1	1	3										
Glaucous Gull	650	540	1844	214	304	102	180	2		8	19	1356	28	154	384	782	32	85		339	13	63	770	186	8629 +
Grt Blk-bk Gull	250	1400	13	2	9		*												*						1674 -
B-leg Kittiwake																								*	
Ivory Gull																								*	
Dovekie	50	*																						50 (+)	
Common Murre #	750	4																						754 (+)	
Thick-bill Murre	10	*	1																					11	
Razorbill #	7500	225	30	*	133																		*	7888 (+)	
Black Guillemot	100	21	54	15	4															42	33			269 ±	
Atlantic Puffin	2	*																						2	
Rock Dove	102	110	12	29	110	4	372	24	1	19	59	1169	455	207	619	162	84	164	102			48	131	193	8499 +
Mourning Dove	157	142	4	56	115	4	281	90	40	37	155	479	196	85	188	95	72	144	157	4	48	44	5	4608 ++	
Grt Horned Owl										*		*	1			1			*					8 ±	
Snowy Owl													1											4 ±	
North Hawk Owl										*	2			1	*									1	
Barred Owl								1								3	1							11 +	
N Saw-whet Owl									*															1	
Downy Woodpkr	*	5	12	3	3		33	1	21	9	25	60	16	20	23	4	8	8	3	1	6	4	5	654 +	
Hairy Woodpkr	*	4	7	3	1		29	3	14	12	20	52	13	8	20	9	5	9	5	5	5	8	6	637 +	
3-toed Woodpkr										2					1	1	2							1 -	
Blk-bk Woodpkr									1				5	6	2									12 ±	
Northern Flicker									2	*	4	3	3	4	3	*					*	2	*	18 ++	
Pileated Woodpkr	4	12	3	1	*		2		2				2	3	14				4					72 +	
Horned Lark										6	12	16	19	11	2	2	9				4	1	1	41 +	
Gray Jay							*	*	10															278 -	
Blue Jay	18	48	58	12	4		119	27	31	37	110	216	162	116	180	111	64	45	80	10	23	41	15	3768 ±	
American Crow	166	183	165	144	165		272	94	42	77	153	390	314	127	606	167	45	23	199	23	57	155	53	5249 +	
Common Raven	65	23	28	29	26		8	13	21	34	25	144	89	33	77	124	20	6	53	7	31	1	6	2289 -	
Blk-cap Chickadee	121	171	161	86	66		361	75	104	322	459	938	499	343	722	252	161	131	165	61	214	105	64	12134 +	
Boreal Chickadee	*	3			9		*	3	11	22	8	3	13	5		7	1	5	45	13	12	4	3	248 -	
Red-br Nuthatch	15		12	3			7	10	22	40	54	60	33	17	27	7	18	1	4			1		660 ±	
Wh-br Nuthatch	1	1					6	*	3	1	2	5			2	1								105 +	
Brown Creeper				2	1		4				3	8												34 -	
Winter Wren	*	5	22	6	5		11	7	12	11	2	15	38	27	5	6	12					*		316 -	
Gold-cr Kinglet																								1	
Ruby-cr Kinglet																								1 *	
Hermit Thrush																								*	
American Robin	1	3	1	5			55	*	23	6	1	15	49	5	241	25	1					1		486 +	
N. Mockingbird							1				1	2												4 -	
Bohem Waxwing							224	150	32	16		140	86	22	166	52		5		47		33	*	2223 +	
Cedar Waxwing							215																	249 +	
Northern Shrike	1	1	*				1		1	2	3		544	529	761	2	2	2	3	2	2	*	2	38 -	
European Starling	210	1137	275	299	47		1711	130	27	170	777	956				289	159	134	433	83	165	175	158	16749 +	
Or-cr. Warbler												1				1								2	

1997-98 CBC	OPS	GM	E-C	Sta	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Hil	Mtn	Sck	CT	Shd	Buc	KNP	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	P-R	Total
Yel-rump Warbler							1	2			1	2	*	6	17	*			*	1				31 ±
Pine Warbler							*	*	1			*		1	1									3
Palm Warbler												*												*
Sum. Tanager												*												*
North Cardinal	7			4			2	1				*												33 ±
Dickcissel												4												*
Eastern Towhee												*												2
Am Tree Sparrow	18		1	22	29	2	82	20	10	62	28	87	65	30	14	23	11	1			3			1020 --
Chipping Sparrow											2	2												4
Field Sparrow							3																	5
Savannah Sparrow							1																	4
N's Sharp-sh Spar.							1																	1
Fox Sparrow							1	1				*												2
Song Sparrow	8		6	2	2		8	2	1	5	1	3	4	5	1	1			1		1	3		83 +
Swamp Sparrow												2												2
Wh-thr Sparrow	3			2	2		10	3	*	6	1		6		1									49 -
Wh-crn Sparrow																								*
Dark-eyed Junco																								1113 +
Lapland Longspur	10		12	4	16	6	82	43	26	29	114	83	100	23	81	2	19		9					38 ±
Snow Bunting	*		2				11	18		270	100	32	238	39	44	25	73	58	219	1047	148	233	62	4759 -
Red-w Blackbird										1									*					3 -
Rusty Blackbird	6						2		*	14	1	2	10	1	1									38 ++
Common Grackle	5		2	*	3					1	1	2	1	2				1	2					37 ±
Bm-hd Cowbird	1																							21 -
Baltimore Oriole																								1
Pine Grosbeak	166			54	30	35	214	5	52	26	281	379	201	106	191	111	16	5	5	3	3	31	18	4792 ++
Purple Finch				3			42 j			2		38 j	1											139 --
House Finch #				4	1		30			1		238			64	*								375 ++
Red Crossbill													4		*									42 ±
Wh-w Crossbill							14	1	18	30	5	24	14	2	2	7	12		10	3	3			218 --
Com. Redpoll	8		8				57	1	47	108	128	1031	76	267	323	182	173	379	564	256	342	361	20	7583 +
Hoary Redpoll												1							1					5 +
Pine Siskin				6			84	9				11	5			70								357 -
Amer Goldfinch	10		12	26			89	5	25	5	57	78	27	56	34	18	53							1320 -
Evening Grosbk				44			139				43	171	20	16	96	20	38	15	18		132	146	38	2846 --
House Sparrow			54	4			89			34	29	120	151	68	72	9	6	6	15		60	56	21	1393 --
Unidentified							3 a					300 d				1 e								314
TOTAL BIRDS	9512	8934	9897	5605	5265	2373	7497	1001	707	1778	3052	11029	4143	3899	6308	3486	1279	1482	2744	1803	1463	2478	1158	141,945
TOTAL SPECIES	12	54	61	49	49	46	76	46	40	49	49	58	52	58	54	48	41	29	36	31	23	36	36	125
+ spp. in period	1	15		2	5		8 c	5	5	7		7	1		3	4	1	1	7	1	1	2	4	15
Hrs on foot		7.5	2.8	3	3.5	3	28.3	11.8	44	29.8	19.8	54	42.1	40.5	16	10	8.5	3.3	10	21	19.3	14.8	3	645
Hrs by car		22	29.5	14	13.5	15.3	29	17.5	7.3	14	34.3	80.2	28.5	28	37	18	22.5	27.7	38	9	20.8	15.8	11	1029
Hrs otherwise	5		0.5 b		1 b				2 s		[5 o]		2.5 s											11
TOTAL HOURS	5	29.5	32.8	17	18	18.3	57.3	29.3	53.3	43.8	54	134	73.1	68.5	53	28	31	31	48	30	40	30.5	14	1685
Km on foot		16	3.6	6	4	7	45	17.3	76	49.2	36.5	68.5	72	51.5	26	14	16	15.5	30	51.5	45	12	7	1281
Km by car		250	447	180	214	229	306	221	87	245	426	912	486	541	454	323	249	381	439	182	338	234	218	14,507
Km otherwise	20		4 b		8 b				1			13 s												45
TOTAL KM	20	266	454	186	226	236	351	238	163	294	463	981	571	592	480	337	265	396	469	233	383	246	225	15,832
No. of observers	3	7	9	7	5	10	19	11	23	11	19	54	25	22	27	14	14	6	12	9	10	10	6	627
No. of parties	1	4	4-6	4	3	3	11	3	?	6-8	8	18	7-14	5-10	7	4	7	4	6	4	5	6	3	293
Feeder reports			1	8			24	2	4	1	4	20			1	3	6	1	5					358

CHRISTMAS COUNT(cont'd. from p. 15)

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

Miramichi (Mir) 26th year

Dec. 27, 08:00–16:30. Mostly cloudy temp. -7° to 0°C ; wind light. 25 cm of snow cover; all water frozen.

Margaret Adams, William Arnoldus, Jeep Bosma, Edith Boudreau, Eileen Bransfield, Phyllis Crowe, Florence Currie, Barbara Digdon, Wally Doucette, Tom Greathouse, Fred Green Jr., Linda Hartlen, Lionel Hébert, Bill Hogan, Walter Holland, Delbert Johnston, John Keating, Connie Kukulski, Richard Landry, Robert Lisk, Margaret MacKinnon, David MacLeod, Heinz Majershafer, Lem McDonald, Georgia McLean, Walter O'Toole, Irma Power, Mary Rawlinson, Joe Richard, Lionel Richard, Mary Ripley, Donat Robichaud, Eldon Rogers, Art Ronan, Theresa Ross, Delta Steeves, Hayward Sturgeon, Jack Ullock, Doug Underhill, Harry Walker (compiler), Stewart Walker, Winnie Walker, Parker Wheaton, Bun Worrell.

Dalhousie (Dal) 13th year

Jan. 4, 08:00–17:00. Clear; temp. -6° to -8°C ; wind NW, 40–80 km/h. 100% snow-cover; small bodies of water frozen, bay 50% covered with moving ice.

Jason Clifford, Jim Clifford, Ray Clifford, Margaret Gallant Doyle, Roger Essiembre, Ron Essiembre, Bob Gillis, Sandra Gulliver, Tom Gulliver, Ann Lavoie, Mike Lushington (compiler), Don Mann, Patricia McGorlick, Shirley Sharpe, Andy Watson, Denise Zyveniuik.

Restigouche (Rst) 8th year

Dec. 21, 09:00–16:00. Mostly sunny; temp. -15° to -12°C ; wind NW, gusting to 20 km/h. Snow cover ?; Restigouche River mostly frozen with open channels, bay 50% frozen.

Wallace Best, Ruth Bulmer, Jean Casey, Emily Clavette, Pierre D'Amours, Exie Delaney, Margaret Gallant Doyle, Carole Dubé, Doug Firlotte, Jean Gallant, Bob Gillis, Greg Guidry, Jim Katan, Flora Kelly, Ann Lavoie (compiler), Ben Legacé, Mike Lushington, Alan MacNeish, Alan, Annette & Julie Madden, Don & Isabel Mann, Pat McGorlick, Jean Miles, Marina Mills, Roger Noel, Shirley Sharpe, Gladdie Swan, Sandra Thompson, Andy Watson, Foryst White, Denise Zyveniuik.

Salisbury (Sal) 6th year

Jan. 2, 08:30–16:30. Overcast with flurries, heavy at times in a.m., mainly sunny in p.m.; temp. -11° to -4°C ; wind SW, very light. ground snow-covered, hard-packed; rivers partly open in rapids.

Chris & Mike Antle, Brian Coates, Connie Colpitts (compiler), Pearl Colpitts, Jackie & Lloyd Decoste, Pat Fox, Eileen Fulford, Shirley Hunt, Julie McCallum, Heather Silliker, Ron Steeves.

Sussex (Ssx) 25th year

Jan. 3, 08:00–16:45. Cloudy to sunny; temp. -8° to $+8^{\circ}\text{C}$; wind NW, light. Ground icy; running water open, still water frozen.

Tom & Laura Anderson, John & Wilma Arisz, Flo Arnold, Gart Bishop, Jim Brown, Marven Bradstreet, Darren Byers, Theresa Campbell, Anne Candy, John Candy, Sonja & Andy Carhart, Bertha & Alton Chown, Gordon & Pearl Delong, Anthea Doyle, Raymond Green, Vesta Howley, Nancy Joyce, Pauline & Lou MacAfee, Mike Martin, Paul Martin, Vera Martin, Carole McFarlane, Beth McFarlane, Barry McPhee (compiler), Dorothy McVey, Anne Moffett, Hudson Murphy, Elizabeth O'Donnell,

Marilyn Powell, Peter & Beth Powning, Lois & Gunnar Ravn, Wendy Rogers, Betty Sharpe, Pauline Thibodeau, Carol Smith, Marilyn Thorne, Colby Yeomans.

Hammond River–Hampton (Htn) 25th year

Jan. 4, 06:30–17:00. Overcast; temp. -8° to -5°C ; wind NW, 0–5 km/h. Snow cover 20 cm; fresh water frozen except small areas on major rivers.

Beth Allaby Bob Barton, Todd Beach, Bill Brittain, Don Campbell, David Christie, Paul Clark, Bruce Coles, Barbara Crossley, John Darling, Phyllis Darling, Sylvia Davidson, Jean Dykeman, Mary Ellis, Ross Ellis, Jim Evans, Linda Ewart, Allen Gorham, Janet Gorham, Evelyn Hazlett, Kathy Hazlett, Carol Henderson, Lowell Henderson, Jean Isaacs, Denise Johnston, Peggy Kelbaugh, Nancy Ketchum, Bruce Loughery, Mary Loughery, Win MacAndrew, Jean MacDonald, Tina MacIntosh, Bill Mackay, Shirley Mactavish, Harvey McLeod, Bill Nowlan, Juliette Nowlan, Eileen Pike, Roy Pike, Linda Reid, Alexandra Warner, Janet Whitehead, Matthew Wilshaw, Peter Wilshaw, Brian Wilson, Gretchen Wilson, Jean Wilson, Jean Wilson (sr.), Jim Wilson (compiler), Phil Withers.

Cambridge-Narrows (C-N) 28th year

Jan. 2, 08:45–16:15. Cloudy, clearing in mid-a.m.; temp. -11° to -7°C ; wind W, 20 km/h. 45-cm snow cover; lakes frozen, brooks open.

Ford & Jean Alward, Bill & Jean Bell, John & Shirley Brown, Betty & Winston Carpenter, Jean & Merle Carpenter, Marie Carpenter, Pauline Chase, Thora Connell, Winnie Crouch, Mary Fanjoy, Iris Ferris, Wayne Friars, Imogene Gilchrist, Hanna Handajo, Margaret Hicks, Enid Inch (compiler), Rhoda Inch, Faye Jeffrey, Debora Kantor, Gladys Kierstead, Dot McConnachie, Elva McConnachie, Pauline McConnachie, Faye & Owen McCormack, Herbert McGarrity, Mildred Moss, Alyce Parks, Audrey Perry, Nellie Perry, Doug & Eleanor Phillips, Phyllis Pyett, April & Joyce Robinson, Robert Ryder, Catherine Sleep, Ethel Sleep, Leon Stilwell, Joyce Thorne, Forrest & Lottie Wiggins.

Jemseg (Jem) 35th year

Dec. 27, 08:00–17:00. 60% cloud cover in morning, overcast by noon; temp. -7° to 0°C ; calm to SW, 5–10 km/h. 70–100 cm snow cover; water frozen except Jemseg River & ferry crossing. Marie Carpenter, Rod Currie, Don Gibson, Jim Goltz, Enid Inch, Rhoda Inch, Andrew MacDougall, Don MacDougall, David Myles, Shirley Sloat, Owen Washburn (compiler), Ron Wilson, Max Wolfe, Willi Wolfe.

Minto (Min) 10th year

Dec. 26, 08:30–16:00. Cloudy a.m., wet snow flurries in p.m.; temp. 0° to $+3^{\circ}\text{C}$; calm. Snow cover 60 cm; water frozen. Aaron Bailey, Loris Boucher, Lionel Girouard (compiler), Lionel Lapointe, William Mountain, Vincent Poirier.

Fredericton (Ftn) 42nd year

Dec. 21, 07:30–17:00. Clear; temp. -16° to -10°C ; wind NW, 20–30 km/h. Ground snow-covered; ponds frozen, St. John River mainly frozen but with significant open areas.

Diane Allain, Moira Campbell, Linda Caissie, Eric Carr, Mike Casey, Gerry Clayden, Leta Clayden, Jane Corey, Christine Cornell, Merlene Crawford, Stanley Crawford, Rod Currie, Halton Dalzell, Tony Diamond, Andy Didyk, Lucy Dyer, Joanne Fellows, Don Gibson (compiler), Margaret Gibson,

Angelique Gloss, James Goltz, Heidi Grein, Alice Harriot, Gisele LeBlanc, Morris Lemire, David Lounsbury, Sara Lounsbury, Cathy MacLaggan, Milda Markauskas, Brian McEwing, Jack McKay, Barry Monson, Janet Morton, William Mountain, Mary Murray, David Myles, Murray Neilson, Paul Nicholson, Jean Noble, Jim Noble, Liese O'Hara, Margie Olive, Peter Pearce, Theresa Pearce, Dwayne Sabine, Mary Sabine, Bill Seabrook, Jane Seabrook, Bev Schneider, Marc Schneider, Shirley Sloat, Jane Tarn, Richard Tarn, Tony Thomas, Kevin Tutt, Leon Vietinghoff.

Mactaquac (Mac) 18th year

Jan. 1, 07:45-16:15. Sunny; temp. -15° to -22°C ; wind NW, 10-15 km/h. Frozen and snow-covered.

Ruth Buchanan, Barbara Clayden, Gerry Clayden, Stephen Clayden, Don Gibson, Jim Goltz, Leona Keenan, David Lounsbury, Andrew MacDougall, David Myles (compiler), Shirley Sloat, Chris Turnbull.

Thomaston Corner (TC) 5th year

Dec. 26, 08:00-17:00. Overcast, some patches of fog; temp. $+5^{\circ}$ to $+8^{\circ}\text{C}$; wind E, 3 km/h. Ground ?; rivers partially open, lakes frozen.

Ruth Buchanan, Andrew MacDougall (compiler), Lois MacDougall, Don MacDougall.

Stanley (Sty) 23rd year

Dec. 28, 07:50-16:55. Cloudy a.m., sunny p.m.; temp. -10° to -6°C ; wind NW, 30 km/h. Snow cover 100 cm, trees snow-covered; water 85% frozen.

Katherine Bavis, Donna Belliveau, Ruth Buchanan, Dena Corey, Thelma Fairly, Gisèle Gaudet, Jim Goltz, Sue Grattan, Harold Hatheway, Connie & Roger Ince, Andrew MacDougall, Hazel Millet, Ruth Munn, David Myles, Margie Pacey, Dawn Parker, Uda & Oro Ross, Julie Singleton (compiler), James Walde, Robert Whitney.

Woodstock (Wsk) 34th year

Dec. 27, 09:00-17:00. Clear; temp. -8°C ; calm. Ground snow-covered; no open water.

Blair Avery, Leona Avery (compiler), Rev. T.S. Bellis, Jane Bernard, Earle Blackie, Mrs. Harold Bonnell, Earle Briggs, Duff Campbell, Mrs. Paul Clark, Gerald Demmings, Gerald Donovan, Mrs. Blair Findlater, Mrs. Melvin Fogarty, Mrs. David Fry, R.C. Gibson, Sterling Grant, Verna Grant, Eric & Jane Hadley, Matthew Hadley, Malcolm Hall, Ronald Hawkins, Jack Lavender, Mrs. Charles MacDonald, Edwin Marsh, Charles Matthews, Don McArthur, Allie McBride, Herb McBride, Walter Neal, Mrs. Roger Olmstead, Wayne Pelkey, Alma Speer, Mrs. Donald St. John, John Williams, Gordon Wort, Mrs. James Yerxa.

Florenceville (Flo) 18th year

Dec. 26, ? a.m. to ? p.m. Sky ?; temp. -1°C ; very calm. 60 cm snow cover; St. John River open in sections.

Donald Bell, Mrs. Raymond Brennan, Elmer Briggs, Annie Campbell, Mrs. Larry Dow, Harry Ebbett, Mrs. Janet Green, David Hatt, Aubrey Lamont, Henry LeBlanc, Mrs. John Lockhart, Helen Lovely (compiler), Les McIntosh, Lorna Maddox, Roy Mulherin, Dean Prior, Lawrence Sweet, Deana Wasson.

Glassville-Juniper (G-J) 15th year

Dec. 23, 08:00-16:00. Overcast; temp. -5° to -10°C ; wind NW, 5 km/h. Snow cover 60 cm; water 99% frozen.

Edith Buxton, Charles Crabbe, Nan Curto, Phyllis Field, Bobbie Gascoigne, Myrtle Hemphill, Marge Martinson, Elsie McIntosh, Sally McIntosh (compiler), Peter Puleston, Marion Spence, Marjorie Spence.

Perth-Andover (P-A) 29th year

Jan. 1, 09:00-16:00. Sun & cloud; temp. -28° to -10°C ; wind W, 0-5 km/h. Snow cover 60 cm; rivers open only in fast water.

Ellsworth DeMerchant, Nancy Finnemore, Glen Furge, Judy Hansen, Richard Jamer, Roy Leach, Henry Manzer, Judy McNally, Mary Jane Savoy, Margaret Wallace, Murray Watters (compiler).

Plaster Rock (PR) 26th year

Jan. 1, 09:00-17:00. Sunny; temp. -22° to -18°C ; little wind. Deep fluffy snow cover; a few parts of river open.

Emmie Aiton, Daphne Anderson, Kathy Beaulieu, Yvon Beaulieu, Gwen Clyde, Kate Finnemore, Juanita Harrison, Irene Hollins, Erwin Landauer, Bessie & Peter MacDonald, Laverne Rabatich (compiler), Melissa Skinner, Colin Turner.

Nictau-Riley Brook (Nic) 25th year

Jan. 2, 08:00-16:00. Mostly sunny; temp. -15° to -6°C ; wind NW, 3 km/h. 54 cm snow cover, bushes & trees laden with snow; water frozen except for channels.

Juanita Black, Gail Hatheway, Glen Howard, Roger Jenkins (compiler), Leroy Johnson, Erwin Landauer, Jeff Landauer, Rose MacCullum, Diane McAskill, Leola McDougall, Bill Miller, Wilma Miller, Joan Nevers, Joe Yacovino.

Edmundston (Etn) 11ième année

Le 20 déc., 08:00-14:00. Ciel ensoleillé, dégagé; temp. -12° à -17°C ; vent NO, 20 km/h. 50 cm de neige au sol; rivières à 90% glacées.

Daniel Bouchard, Enoil Bouchard, Pierrette Bouchard, J. Denys Bourque, Julie Bourque, Lise Caron, Claudette Chiasson, Benoit Clavette, Andrina Côté, Joceline Courbron, Nadia Cyr, Ginette Émond, Pat Émond, Réjeanne Émond, Robert Émond, Marie-Anne Gauvin, Françoise Grondin, Frédéric Harvey, Louise-Anne Lajoie, Rolande Lamarche, James Landry, Colette Lavoie, Florida Lavoie, Marie-Josée Leclerc, Pierrette Mercier, Marc Poitras, Ginette Richard, Gilles D. Roussel, Gisèle Thibodeau, Adeline Verret, Gérard Verret (compilateur). Club d'ornithologie de Madawaska.

Kedgwick (Ked) 8ième année

Le 28 déc., 08:00-17:00. Ciel dégagé et ensoleillé; temp. -17° à -9°C ; vent NO, 5 km/h. 30 cm de neige; lacs et rivières 90% gelés.

Mariette April, Lise Caron, Suzanne Castonguay, Alain Clavette, Arthur Desjardins, Cécile Desjardins, Irene Doyle, Margaret Gallant Doyle, Ginette Émond, Guido Émond, Marcel Émond, Pat Émond (compilateur), Roger LeBlanc, Diane Paré, André Potvin, Wilfred "Ti-Will" Roy, France Thériault.



Golden-crowned Kinglet

CHRISTMAS COUNT(cont'd. from p. 17)**Mount Carleton Provincial Park (MtC)** 20th year

Dec. 23, 08:00-16:00. Clear a.m., clouded over p.m.; temp. -27° to -7°C; wind N, 4-5 km/h. Snow cover 30 cm; water mostly frozen, except for spring holes.

Chris Kusch, Roger Jenkins (compiler), Marie-Josée LaForest, Erwin Landauer.

Southeast Upsalquitch (SEU) 16th year

Dec. 27, 9:00-16:00. Clear, then overcast; temp. -5° to -10° C; wind NW, 5-10 km/h. Snow cover 60 cm; river iced up.

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

Paquetville (Paq) 10ième année

Le 28 déc., 08:00-16:00. Nuageux (beaucoup de soleil); 30 cm de neige au sol; temp. -10° à -5°C; vent NO, 0-15 km/h.

Hilaire Chiasson, Michel Chiasson, Marcel David, Audard Godin, Jude Larocque, Jean-Maurice Losier, Roland Robichaud (compilateur), Bruno St-Pierre, Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre.

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

Old Proprietor Shoals (OPS) 1st year

Dec. 20, 09:00-12:00. Mostly cloudy; temp. +2°C; wind NW, 15-20 km/h. Swells 1-2 m. [Pelagic transect east of Grand Manan]

Brian Dalzell (compiler), Falk Hüttman, Ken MacIntosh.

Grand Manan (GM) 27th year

Jan. 4, 7:00-7:00. Mostly cloudy; temp. +7.7° to -1.7°C; wind WSW, 10-25 to WNW, 15-30 km/h. No snow cover; fresh water mostly frozen, salt open.

Brian Dalzell (compiler), Rodger & Elaine Maker, Peter Pearce, Peter & Carmen Roberts, Andrew Sharkey.

Eastport-Campobello (E-C) 31st year

Dec. 26, 07:15-16:30 EST. Cloudy with some fog till 10 a.m., light to heavy rain till 3 p.m., then partly clearing; temp. +1 to +3°C; wind S-SE in a.m., W-NW in p.m., 2-16 km/h. Snow cover 0-10 cm; most fresh water frozen.

Sid Bahrt, Ralph Eldridge, Norman Famous, Fred Hartman, Ellen Johnson, Maurice Mills (compiler), Fred Stocking, Marion Stocking, Bill Townsend.

St. Andrews (StA) 37th year

Dec. 20, 09:00-16:00. Clear; temp. -2° to -7°C; wind light. No cm snow cover; 15-20 cm snow cover, ponds frozen, streams open, very little shore ice, salt water open.

Nikki Benjamin, Mindy Brown, Carlotta Cummings Tracey Dean (compiler), Lad Dunfield, Brenda Fullerton, Peggy & David James, Kim Mawhinney, Ursina Meier, Ray and Dick Peterson, Lee & Lonny Ryall, Millie and Bev Scott, Tom Smith, Marlene & Dick Wilbur.

Blacks Harbour (BH) 35th year

Dec. 23, 08:15-17:00. Partly cloudy, becoming overcast; temp. -9° to -5°C; wind S, 30 km/h. 7 cm snow cover; still water frozen, running water partly open.

Brian Dalzell, Halton Dalzell, Gordon Eldridge III, Ralph Eldridge, Ken MacIntosh (compiler).

Lepreau (Lep) 34th year

Jan. 4, 08:43-15:00. 20% cloud cover; temp. +7° to -4°C; wind SSW, 15 km/h. Partial snow cover; fresh water?, bay open.

Sandra Cooper, Merv Cormier, Ken MacIntosh, David McCurdy (compiler), Mark Phinney, Eileen Pike, Roy Pike, Janet Whitehead, Jim Wilson, Phil Withers.

Saint John (SJ) 41st year

Dec. 27, 08:00-17:00. Hazy sun a.m., light overcast & local light rain showers in p.m.; temp. -1° to +4°C; calm. Snow cover 8-10 cm; river open, skim ice in coves.

Mike Bamford, Ethel & Roly Bosence, Ian Cameron, Robert Carson, David Christie, Greta & Ken Clark, Merv Cormier, Hank & Kirsten Deichmann, Jim & Betty Evans, Jeannie Finn-Allen, Allen Gorham, Janet Gorham, Kit & Margaret Graham, Charlotte Hutchinson, Cecil Johnston, John King, Melanie Koteff, Ross & Willa Mavis, Don McAlpine, Fenning McAlpine, Doreen McIntosh, Brenda McKnight, Paul Mortimer, Ngaire Nelson, Rick Peacock, Joan Pearce, Elizabeth Prescott, Aldie Robichaud, Jane Roma, Marion Sherwood, David Smith (compiler), Evan Smith, Ian Stead, Ed Walters, Jim Wilson, Frank & Mitzi Withers.

St. Martins (StM) 17th year

Dec. 28, 07:00-17:00. Clear with blowing snow; temp. -4° to -10°C; wind NNW, 10-40 km/h. 15-20 cm snow cover, some open areas; fresh water partly open, no sea ice.

Merv Cormier, Glen Ellis, Shirley Hunter, Dianne Kelly, Frank Kelly, Ed LeBlanc, Jane LeBlanc, Nelson Poirier, Chris Sears, Nancy Sears, Ted Sears (compiler), Dennis Seeley, Rob Walker.

Fundy National Park (FNP) 33rd year

Dec. 19, ? am-? pm. Cloudy, light snow in p.m.; temp. -5° to 0°C; calm a.m., wind very light p.m. Hard snow cover; lakes frozen, brooks partly open.

Lisa Babinaeu, Anne Bardou (compiler), Monique Bannister, Betty Betts, Jim Blewett, John Brownlie, Shirley Butland, David Christie, Jackie & Lloyd Decoste, Oscar Duguay, Doris Hatt, Anna Holdaway, Shirley Hunt, Mike Majka, Beulah Michelin, Juliette Pellerin, Eric Rossiter, Doreen Rossiter, Marla Rossiter, George Sinclair, Brian & Karen Townsend, John Underwood, Gail & Rob Walker, Jane Watts.

Riverside-Albert (R-A) 29th year

Jan. 1, 07:00-17:40. Clear, moderate sea smoke in a.m.; temp. -20° to -10°C; wind NW, 5-25 km/h. 0-50 cm snow cover; freshwater frozen except fast-flowing; sea open with very few ice cakes, some slush near shore.

Bill Allanach, David Christie (compiler), Barbara Curlew, Brian Dalzell, Jim Edsall, Rick Elliott, Mary Majka, Mike Majka, Beulah Michelin, Juliette Pellerin, Krista Stewart, Stuart Tingley, Rob Walker.

Hillsborough-Memramcook (Hil) 7th year

Jan. 3, 08:00-17:00. Overcast a.m., partly cloudy p.m.; temp. +1° to +5°C; wind S-SW, 3-15 km/h. Snow cover 0-40 cm; lakes and ponds frozen, rivers and brooks frozen except fast-flowing, tidal waters with scattered masses of shifting ice.

Ron Arsenaault, Dwayne Biggar, Gilles Bourque, Alain Clave (co-compiler), Barbara Curlew, Jackie & Lloyd Decoste, Oscar Duguay, Rick Elliott, Mary Groothuis, Ruth Hawkes, Susan Hoar, Shirley Hunt, Jean Inglis, Roger LeBlanc, Therese McCallum, Freda Murphy, Nelson Poirier, Karen Tingley, Rob Walker, Rob Walker (co-compiler).

Moncton (Mtn) 36th year

Dec. 21, 08:00-17:00. Clear; temp. -12° to -8°C ; wind W, 10-19 km/h. Snow cover to 30 cm; freshwater frozen except where fast-flowing.

Chris & Mike Antle, Anne Arsenault, Caroline Arsenault, Marg Bartlett, Brian Beaman, Gisèle Belliveau, Normand Belliveau, Rae Bourgeois, Gilles Bourque, Meghan Brodie, Mary Lou Bungay, Malcolm Campbell, Marc Chiasson, David Christie, Donald Cormier, Bob Cotsworth, Ted Currie, Brian Dalzell, Richard DeBow, Jackie & Lloyd Decoste (compilers), Richard Doucet, Oscar Duguay, Jennifer Elgee, Marg Fanjoy, Mary Fownes, Pat Fox, Elsie Gallant, Derek & Madeleine Gemmell, Susan Hoar, Charles Howell, Shirley Hunt, Jean Inglis, Ford Keith, Connie King, Dulcise Knee, Oscar LeBlanc, Roger LeBlanc, Gwen MacKenzie, John MacKenzie, Cheryl MacLaggan, Alice MacQuarrie, Rose-Alma Mallet, Edwin Melanson, Jenny Murray, Wayne & Win Murray, David Owen, Ron Pellerin, Nelson Poirier, Kathy Popma, Mike Rae, Shirley Robinson, Stan Robinson, Edgar Savoie, Bill Scott, Dwight Staubi, John Tanner, Mary Tanner, Dennison Tate, Peter Thompson, Ruth Thompson, Stuart Tingley, Rob Walker, Alma & Don White, Vivian White, Doug Whitman, Phyllis Whitman, Don Williams, Renata Williams, Bill Wood.

Sackville (Sck) 38th year

Dec. 20, 07:45-17:00. Clear; temp. -10° to -5°C ; wind 0-15 km/h. 3-60 cm of hard-packed snow cover; little open water.

Ron Arsenault, Peter Austin-Smith, Paul Bogaard, Maryse Bourgeois, Mark Bowes, Sue Bowes, Sandy Burnett, Tony & Janet Erskine, George Finney, Neville & Janice Garrity, Gay Hansen, Hinrich Harries, Peter Hicklin (compiler), Ron Hounsell, Doug Hounsell, Andrew Macfarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Ruth Miller, Bill Murphy, Adam Powell, Al Smith, Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer, Bill Wood.

Cape Tormentine (CT) 36th year

Dec. 19, 07:45-16:30. Mostly cloudy with sunny intervals; temp. -8° to -3°C ; wind SW, 5-8 km/h, increasing to 8-10 in p.m. 10-25 cm snow cover; fresh water frozen, salt water partly open with extensive areas of slush ice along NE coastline.

Diane Amirault, Paul Bogaard, Mark & Sue Bowes, Andrew Boyne, Sandy Burnett, Neil Burgess, Adam Campbell, Tony Erskine, Ross Galbraith, Nev Garrity, Peter Hicklin Ron Hounsell, Jason Hudson, Donna Johnson, Megan MacCullough, Andrew Macfarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Bill Murphy, Kathy Popma, Jonathan Richard, Al Smith (compiler).

Shédiac (Shd) 10ième année

Le 27 déc., 08:00-16:00. Soleil a.m., nuages p.m.; temp. -3° to $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$; vent O, 15 km/h. Neige au sol 35 cm; rivières gélées, détroit ouvert.

Caroline Arsenault, Gisèle & Norm Belliveau, Gilles Bourque, Raymonde Chartier, Donald Cormier (compilateur), Léona Cormier, Elise Daigle, Denis Doucet, Richard Doucet, Louise Duguay, Oscar Duguay, Roberta Duguay, Bernadette LeBlanc, Mike LeBlanc, Angela Léger, Fred Léger, Rose-Alma Mallet, Onide Maurice, Daniel Melanson, Janice Melanson, Juliette Pellerin, Francis Richard, Edgar Savoie., Tobi Stewart, Denise Thériault, Stu Tingley, Mary White (Les Ami(e)s de la Nature).

Bouctouche (Buc) 2ième année

Le 20 déc., 08:45-16:15. Clair et ensoleillé; temp. -12° to -5°C ; vent NO, 5-10 km/h. Neige au sol 10-15 cm; rivières et baie gélées, détroit ouvert.

Normand Belliveau, Bill Boucher, Nicole Comeau, Léona Cormier, Denis Doucet, Maria Gauvin, Patricia Goldberg, Anna LeBlanc, Bernadette LeBlanc, Mike LeBlanc (compilateur), Michael LeBlanc, Rose-Alma Mallet, Gilles Martin, Janice Melanson, Dean Nowlan, Lorette Smith, Tobi Stewart, Stu Tingley.

Kouchibouguac National Park (KNP) 27th year

Jan. 3, 08:00-22:00. Partly clear, partly cloudy; temp. $+2^{\circ}$ to $+5^{\circ}\text{C}$; wind NW, 5 km/h. ? cm snow cover; fresh water frozen except a few riverbank springs, salt water ?

Vincent Bordage, Maryse Bourgeois, Ernest Comeau, Alvin Cormier, Clarence Daigle, Jeannette Daigle, Nicole Daigle, Nora Daigle, Léophane LeBlanc, Mike LeBlanc, Rose-Alma Mallet, Dean Nowlan, Gilles P. Robichaud, Lucille Robichaud, Pierre A. Robichaud, Pierrette Robichaud, Mike Savoie, Victor Savoie, Barry Spencer (compiler), Christine Spencer, Marguerite Spencer, Tobi Stewart, Arnold Vautour.

Tracadie-Sheila (Tra) 11ième année

Le 26 déc., 08:00-16:00. Nuageux; temp. -2° à $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$; vent N, 5 km/h. Terre enneigée; eau: beaucoup de glace.

Hilaire Chiasson, Michel Chiasson, Rodrigue Landry, Jude Larocque, Jolande St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre (compilateur).

Ile Lamèque (Lam) 25ième année

Le 27 déc., 08:00-16:00. Ciel clair; temp. -5° à -2°C ; vent NO, 10 km/h. Conditions sur terre 15 cm de neige; l'eau gelé à 75%.

Denis Chiasson, Égide Chiasson, Hilaire Chiasson (compilateur), Jacques Chiasson, Michel Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Lucille DeGrâce, Émile Ferron, Jacques Guignard, Jocelyne Guignard, Benoit Hébert, Benoit Lanteigne, Rosita Lanteigne, Jude Larocque, Marie-Reine Noël, Anicet Paulin, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Ile Miscou (Mis) 11ième année

Le 20 déc., 08:30-16:15. Clair; temp. -8° à -10°C ; vent NO, 20 km/h. Sur terre 1-4 cm de neige; eau gelé à 50%.

Hilaire Chiasson (compilateur), Michel Chiasson, Marcel David, Jacques Guignard, Benoit Lanteigne, Rosita Lanteigne, Jude Larocque, Anicet Paulin, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Caraquet (Car) 13ième année

Le 21 déc., 08:00-16:00. Nuageux avec éclaircies; temp. -12° to -8°C ; vent NO, 30-50 km/h. 20 cm de neige au sol; zones côtières gélées à 50%.

Hilaire Chiasson, Michel Chiasson, Marcel David (compilateur), Benoit Hébert, Guy Hébert, Benoit Lanteigne, Rosita Lanteigne, Jude Larocque, Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Bathurst (Bst) 15th year

Le 3 jan., 08:00-17:00. Cloudy with light flurries amounting to less than 5 cm; temp. -4° to 0°C ; calm. 15 cm snow cover; Bathurst Harbour 95% frozen, bay 100% open.

Micheline Boucher, Luc DeRoche, Pierre Duguay (non-participating compilateur), Mary Gauthier, Ron Gauthier, Denise Guitard, François Hachey, Réjeanne LeBreton, Charlie McAleenan, Stuart Wells, Norman Young.

Petit-Rocher (P-R) 3ième année

Le 27 déc., 8:00-16:00. Ciel dégagé; temp. -4° to 0°C ; vent ? 8 cm de neige au sol; la baie complètement ouverte.

Luc DeRoche, Annick Duguay, Pierre Duguay (compilateur), Roger Guitard, Marc Landry, Nola Lepage.

NATURE NEWS: NOVEMBER 1997-FEBRUARY 1998

David Christie

Winter weather arrived early in southern N.B. with continuous snow cover in most areas from Nov. 27. Initially the north was somewhat less wintry but by Christmas everywhere except the Charlotte County coast was well snow-covered.

The principal weather event of the winter was the ice storm of Jan. 7-9. Prolonged freezing rain severely damaged many trees in a band from St. Stephen eastward to Hampton, with decreasing damage as far as Alma. A heavy crust up to 10-cm thick of ice glaze and ice pellets formed on the snow through a more extensive area. That made life very difficult for ground-feeding birds and for raptors that feed on mice and shrews. In areas with a heavy crust deer were able to travel widely but elsewhere a lesser crust may have been difficult for them.

After the storm it was noted that the buds were swelling on many damaged trees at Saint John just like it was early May (PMo).

Birds

About 60 **Northern Fulmars** followed a lobster boat off Grand Manan in the second week of December (PW) and late **Greater Shearwaters** were seen among gulls feeding on small herring SE of White Head Nov. 29 (5-BED, KM) and Dec. 10 (*fide* BED).

The **Double-crested Cormorant** on the CBC at Edmundston was unprecedented, so late that far inland. In addition to the CBC records in the lower Bay of Fundy, singles were still at Mactaquac dam Dec. 7 (DGG) and Petit-Shippagan Dec. 9 (3—SIT).

Extremely few **Great Blue Herons** remained into early winter this year, there being only 2 CBC count period reports. There were also individuals at Dalhousie Dec. 7 (ML, AWa), Castalia Dec. 4&6 (LM), Jemseg Dec. 5 (LTC), and perhaps the same bird at Gagetown Island Jan. 16 (Ian Stewart). The first half of November is often a time when **Cattle Egrets** appear in New Brunswick. This season there was one at Saint John West Nov. 9 (Allen & Janet Gorham+). A healthy-looking juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was late at Alma Dec. 4-5 (SIT, Oscar LeBlanc+) and Waterside Dec. 20 (Louise Duguay, Daniel Melanson).

The **Whooper Swan**, presumably an escaped captive, that spent last summer and fall at Grand Manan was still present at Grand Harbour Jan. 1-10 (PAP). Very few **Snow Geese** were reported. One was feeding with Canada Geese in grain & potato fields W of Woodstock at the beginning of November (*fide* DLM); an immature accompanied Canadas in the Dalhousie area Nov. 9 (ML). **Canada Goose** numbers in Bathurst reached 1000+ at Caron Pt. Nov. 4 and 2000+ in the Tetagouche River estuary Nov. 7 (LD). A collared goose first

spotted at Caron Pt. Sep. 25 and still present Nov. 12 was the longest-staying one that Pierre Duguay has noticed there. 200+ at Eel River Bar in early December migrated leaving 5 attempting to winter; the last was found dead Feb. 15 (ML+). A flock of 60+ remained into January on open water above Fredericton (BJS).

Beyond the CBC period, 36 **Am. Black Ducks** and 3 **Mallards** were frequenting the Campbellton s.l. Feb. 15 (Bob Gillis). There were also 2 Mallards at Eel River Bar Jan. 25 (ML, AWa). A male **Northern Pintail** was at Marsh Creek, Saint John, Dec. 5 (SIT) and a female at Waterside Jan. 31 to Feb. 27 (Barbara Cuirlew, Rick Elliott+). Wintering **Gadwall** were at Saint John Dec. 5 to Feb. 28 (1 or 2—v.o.) and St. Martins Jan. 11+ (Ted Sears).

A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was seen at Cape Jourimair Nov. 16 (Chignecto Naturalists' Club). A "rather faded" male **Canvasback** was at the Lancaster sewage lagoon, Saint John Nov. 4 (I&HC) and a cooperative female overwintered in Courtenay Bay, Saint John, Dec. 27+ (v.o.). A male **Tufted Duck** wintered for the third year in the river at Saint John Dec. 27+ (v.o.). Two ducks with "light heads and backs, sides tinged rusty, eyes dark and bills steel-blue with a black tip" were tentatively identified as female **Redheads** at Upper Woodstock Nov. 20 (Wally Hale).

Hundreds of **Greater Scaup** congregated during late fall in the Dalhousie area where there were 400-500 Nov. 2. A few **Lesser Scaup** comprised 1-2% of the scaup then (ML+). There were also some Lessers on the Lancasters s.l., Saint John Nov. 2 (SJNC) and 8 in the Petitcodiac at Upper Coverdale Nov. 8 (SIT). A **Bufflehead** at the Beresford s.l. Nov. 16 considered to be a first confirmation for the Bathurst area (PD).

In the Shediac area Nov. 7 "many flocks of **Common Eider** were on the move, totaling at least 2000 at mid-day many circling and circling before heading inland toward the Bay of Fundy or continuing east along the coast" (SIT). Two hundred were seen on a trip from Bathurst to Lamèque Jan. 16 (PD), considerably more than all the CBCs in that area had found. A flock of 110 flying N overland near Shediac were following a typical spring migration route from the Bay of Fundy on the surprisingly early date of Feb. 4 (DSC, EMN). The Nov. 7 eider concentration included a male **King Eider** off the Shediac marina (SIT). Another male King was accompanied by 3 small female eiders (almost certainly King Eiders but not positively identifiable in flight) at St. Andrews Feb. 7 (SM, Dwayne Sabine). A third male passed Pt. Lepreau Feb. 28 (KM, Sandra Cooper). A female **Harlequin Duck** was at Cap Bimet, near Shediac about Nov. 2 (SIT), and a male at Bon Ami Rocks, Dalhousie, Nov. 30 (ML+). A survey of important Harlequin wintering area at The Wolves, S

Blacks Harbour, found 25 on Feb. 11 (Andrew MacDougall), and 9 were at Pt. Lepreau Feb. 18 (Merv Cormier).

Sea ducks that turned up inland during fall migration included **Oldsquaw** at Edmundston Nov. 5 (GV) and Hartland Nov. 12 (2—GMI) and **Surf Scoter** at Lac Baker Nov. 9 (5—Gilles Roussel). Much exceeding the CBC results were 52 **Black Scoters** and 250 **Surf Scoters** at Red Point, GM, Jan. 19 (FH), as were 790 **Oldsquaw** that flew NE past East Quoddy Head, Campobello I., in 40 minutes Feb. 4 (KM).

Numerous **Hooded Mergansers** were reported during November, including 29 at Eight Mile Lake, W of Kedgwick River, Nov. 1 (MGD), 12+ at Caron Pt. Nov. 4 (LD), 2 at Edmundston Nov. 5 (GV), and 9 just above Grafton Nov. 12 (GMI). Two late ones were at Belledune Dec. 28 (LD). Concentrations of **Common Mergansers** were 120 at Mactaquac Nov. 20 (PAP) and 160+ at Pt La Nim Dec. 17 (Jim & Jason Clifford).

There were still 13 **Ruddy Ducks** at Cap Brûlé s.l., near Shediac, Nov. 4 (SIT), up to 9 at Long Pond, GM, at the beginning of the month (BED) and an exceptional number at the Lancaster s.l., Saint John: 40 on Nov. 4 (I&HC) and 30 on Nov. 15 (EP).

Two **Black Vultures** hung around a Lamèque farm from August until the CBC on Dec. 27 (*fide* HC), amazingly establishing the third winter record in Gloucester County over the past 7 years. They sometimes weren't seen for a week or even ten days. For a while in the summer 3 were present (Émile Ferron). A **Turkey Vulture** was flying low near Bayswater Dec. 31 (Hank Deichmann) and one appeared at Douglas Feb. 21 (DGG).

The increasing population of **Bald Eagles** provides more and more chances to observe them hunting and feeding. Reports this winter include ripping up a Great Black-backed Gull at Bathurst (LD); carrying a live rabbit, while pursued by 2 other eagles, at Grand Manan (*fide* LM); 4 scuffling over food on the ice at Queenstown (Ruth & Doug McKinney); hovering over, diving at and eventually capturing a duck at Barachois (NP); and catching a Black Duck asleep on the ice at Douglas (BJS).

An adult **Cooper's Hawk** that wintered at Fredericton was seen pursuing and capturing pigeons (DGG). An immature **Northern Goshawk** tried valiantly to capture one of 5 large Gray Squirrels at Cumberland Bay Jan. 7, "once even circling a tree all the way down to get within just inches of its quarry" (NP). An adult **Red-shouldered Hawk** wintered for the

second year at Shemogue Nov. 16+ (v.o.). A **Red-tailed Hawk** was coming to feed at a beaver carcass near Sackville, Jan. 4-6 (Nev & Janice Garrity). A largely white, partial albino Red-tail at Blacks Harbour Feb. 8+ proved to be quite an identification challenge (KM+).

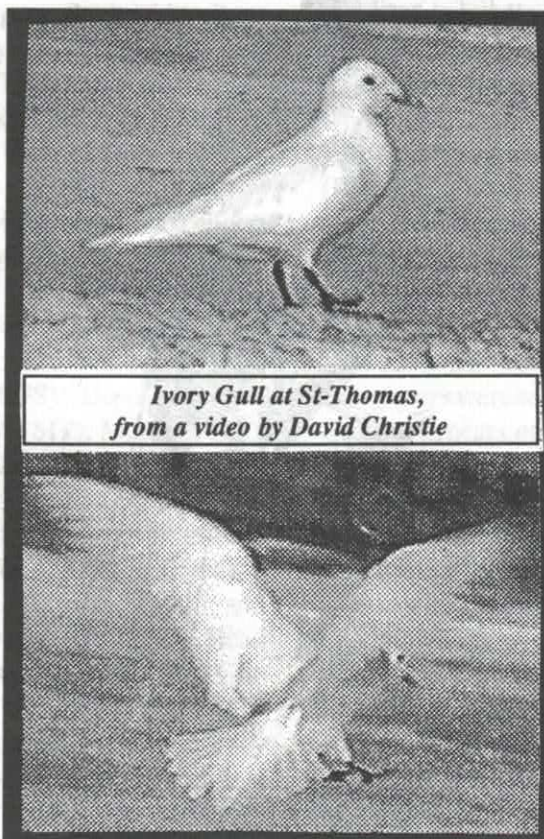
A very dark **Gyr Falcon** was hunting the Mary's Pt marsh Nov. 7 (DSC, EMM) and a gray bird was seen at Saints Rest Beach, Saint John, Nov. 8 (*fide* JGW). One was reported at Grand Manan Island in early or mid December (Jim Leslie) and two (one dark, one gray) again wintered in the Dalhousie area Dec. 28+ (v.o.). CBC reports came as well from Campbellton, Miscou, Moncton and Saint John.

A very unusual vagrant was a weakened **Clapper Rail** picked up on Miscou Island Dec. 26. A first for the Acadian Peninsula, it died two days later (HC). During November the stray **Purple Gallinule** that had appeared in Fundy Park in October sometimes foraged on lawns and into the trees well away from the pond. It did reasonably well until Nov. 13 (RJW+) when it was captured just before freezeup. Two late **American Coots** were pushing their luck in winter weather. One

foraged in a narrow strip of open water in a stream at St-Édouard-de-Kent Dec. 8-12 (Tobi Stewart, MLeB+) while another wandered around the community of Alma eating grass around the foundations of houses Jan. 2-6 (RJW+). There was also a coot at East Saint John Feb. 28 (Christine Cornell & Kevin Tutt), probably the first February report in this province. Had it overwintered? Returned early?

The shorebird highlight of the season was a **Marbled Godwit** with 2 **Hudsonian Godwits** at Spences Beach, near Murray Corner, Nov. 1-4 (RL, AC, RG+). A **Common Snipe** at Sugarloaf Park, Campbellton, Nov. 22 (MGD+) seemed surprisingly late for northern N.B. but a far greater surprise was the report from a security guard that the 2 snipe at the park Apr. 10 had spent the whole winter there! (*fide* MGD) Another was seen on the Grand Manan CBC.

Waste from the smelt fishery attracted the best gulls of the season, an adult **Ivory Gull** at Pigeon Hill Dec. 29-Jan. 1 (HC, RAC+) and another seen by many at St-Thomas from Feb. 1 (Gilles Bourque) to March 7 (*fide* MLeB). Hundreds of **Great Black-backed** and **Herring Gulls**, several **Glaucous Gulls** and a few **Iceland Gulls** were usually present there as well. Up to 500 Great Black-back could be counted at Bathurst Harbour in mid January (LD), and schools of small herring attracted about 3000 Herring and



*Ivory Gull at St-Thomas,
from a video by David Christie*

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

800 Great Black-backed Gulls SE of White Head Island Nov. 29 (BED, KM).

Little Gulls remained in the Beresford area till Nov. 16 (PD). **Black-headed Gulls** were seen at Beresford marsh Nov. 8 (PD), Lamèque Dec. 9 (1st-winter—SIT), Castalia Dec. 31 (PAP), Blacks Harbour Jan. 11 (PAP) & Feb. 10 (7—KM), and in mid January at Saints Rest Marsh (NB Bird Info Line). There were still 100 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Beresford marsh Nov. 9 (LD), 12 at Lamèque Dec. 9 (SIT) and 1000 at Deer Island Pt. Dec. 9 (KM), but only a few remained in the lower Bay of Fundy at CBC time. A probable **Mew Gull** was seen Feb. 1 at Lancaster s.l. (DLM, Chris Sears, Jim Goltz), where one has wintered in the past. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at Spences Beach, E of Murray Corner, Nov. 1 (RL, AC, RG); Upper Coverdale c. Nov. 8 (SIT); Marsh Creek, Saint John, Nov. 26 (first-year—JGW); Moncton Nov. 13 to Dec. 9 (JE) and Jan. 31 (BED, RG); also on the Sackville CBC.

About 20 **Dovekies** were seen from the Grand Manan ferry Nov. 8 (SJNC) Falk Hüttmann reported 40,000+ alcids in the area of Old Proprietor Shoals, SE of GM, Jan. 23, approximately 30% **Common Murres**, 65% **Razorbills** and 5% **Dovekies**. A later visit found many **Common Murres** but few **Razorbills**. Several **Thick-billed Murres** were seen from Pt. Lepreau Jan. 25 (Moncton Naturalists' Club) and at Maces Bay Feb. 18-22 (4-3—v.o.), Grand Manan Feb. 20/21 (3—KM), and East Quoddy Head, Campobello Feb. 23 (KM). **Atlantic Puffin** were noted in the Grand Manan Channel Nov. 8 (SJNC); near Bull Rock, GM, Dec. 18 (PWi), and in the Old Proprietor Shoal area Dec. 19 (3—FH) and Jan. 23 (20—FH).

Young were noticed in a **Rock Dove** nest on a building at Minto c. Jan. 4-6 (fide Lionel Girouard). Mid-winter nesting has been reported in the past within urban areas but Minto seems a more unusual place for it.

A **Northern Hawk Owl** wintered at Lac Frye, Miscou Island, Dec. 5+ (v.o.). More **Barred Owls** than usual were reported on the CBCs and throughout the winter. Their conspicuousness may have been due to heavy snow cover forcing them more into the open to feed. A **Long-eared Owl** calling on the outskirts of Sackville for three nights before the storm of Nov. 27 (Sue Purdy) was the only report

during this period. The early snow probably pushed **Short-eared Owls** farther south. The only reports after November were a probable one flying over Courtenay Bay, Saint John, Dec. 4 (KM) and one near Shediac Jan. 22 (RAM).

No **Belted Kingfishers** were seen on the CBCs but earlier there were observations at Deadmans Harbour, near Blacks Harbour, Dec. 7 (KM) and at Fairhaven Dec. 14 (RAM, JGW SIT). The Maine Birdline of Dec. 30 mentioned an immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** on Campobello Island. A **Northern Flicker**, seen much more frequently than usual on the CBCs was found at Madran, near Petit-Rocher, c. Jan. 19 (Jean Roy) and some continued into February at Shediac, Memramcook, Sackville and Alma.

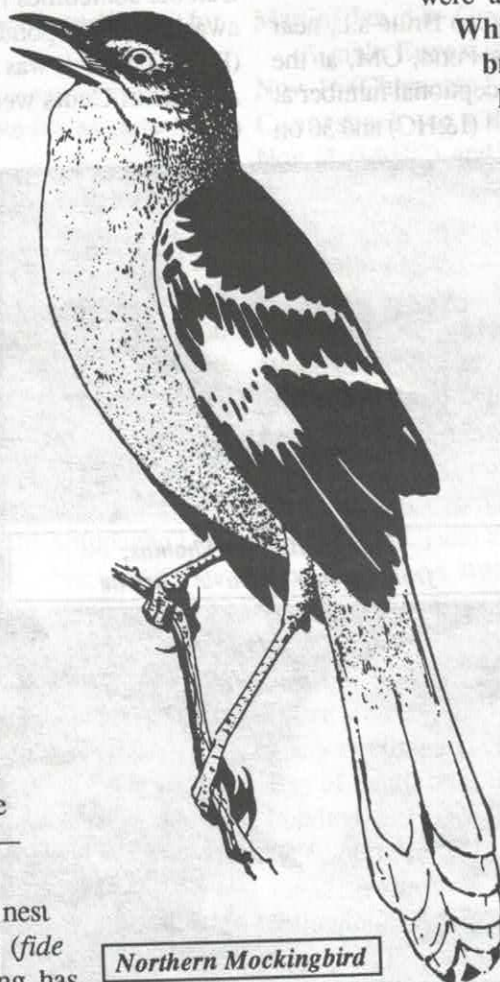
People have tamed **Black-capped Chickadees** to eat from their hands at Sugarloaf Park. Margaret Gallant Doyle says that "many fly to meet you" there. There were also at least one **Boreal Chickadee**, a **White-breasted Nuthatch** and a few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** that would come to hand this winter.

A **Carolina Wren** was wintering at a feeder at Martinon, Saint John, through at least early February (Marilyn Williams+). The latest **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was seen near Cadmans Corner, near Murray Corner, Nov. 7 (SIT). The latest **American Pipit** was reported at Greens Pt. lighthouse Dec. 9 (KM).

A **Townsend's Solitaire** was feeding on rose hips near Frye Lake, Miscou, Jan. 11-20 (v.o.) and may have been around later. Jackie & Lloyd Decoste had thrush eating various fruits at their feeders in Salisbury from Nov. 23 into the first week of December. They believe it was **Veery**, not a **Hermit Thrush** which is more expectable in winter. Lloyd described the bird which had a bad leg but flew strongly, as "dark brown, even coloured above, light below, with a buffy area on the upper breast; its spots were not very distinct".

lingering **Hermit Thrush** was feeding on apples at Hillsborough Jan. 16-Feb. (RJW+).

A **Northern Mockingbird** that passed the whole winter at feeders at Edgetts Landing, near Hillsborough (DB+) was one of few reported this winter. A **Brown Thrasher** was seen in late December and early January at Midgic near Sackville (Dave and Laurie McCumber).



Northern Mockingbird

Bohemian Waxwings were noted widely. Some good-sized flocks were 200+ at Campbellton in the first week of November (*fide* MGD), 250+ at Edmundston Nov. 16 (Robert Émond) and 150+ at the Nigadoo-Beresford line Nov. 20 (LD), but the really huge numbers were seen Dec. 1, about 2000 at Grande-Digue (Denis Doucet), and 800 there, as well as 5 other flocks of 150 to 300 each in the Caissie Cape and Shediac areas (SIT). There were also 300-400 at Fredericton Dec. 17 (Hugh Haswell) and about 250 at Grand Manan in the second week of January (*fide* FH).

An exceedingly rare vagrant from the west was an adult female **Black-throated Gray Warbler** found dead at Central Hampstead Nov. 28 (Ann Slipp, *fide* SM). The specimen will be deposited in the New Brunswick Museum.

An unprecedented number of late **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported. At Moncton Nov. 7-14 (JE) one regularly visited a birch tree, apparently to feed on aphids (JE). Another was pecking at frozen apples at Saint John Nov. 28 to Dec. 17 (Joan Pearce, JGW), as was one at Moncton that Brian Dalzell nicknamed "AJ" because of its liking for drops of fermented apple juice. Amazingly, that bird survived from Dec. 21 to at least Feb. 22 (v.o.), when a flock of Starlings knocked the remaining apples to the ground. Another was seen in an apple tree at Cocagne Dec. 27 (SIT). The relatively bright yellow on all these birds and their lack of a very grayish head led to speculation that they might be birds of the subspecies from western North America.

AJ shared its favorite apple tree at Moncton with a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** from Dec. 11 through February and a **Palm Warbler** Dec. 24 to c. Jan. 10 (v.o.). Yellow-rumps were seen in considerably more CBC areas than usual, including Lamèque and Miscou Island in the north. Other late warblers were a **Nashville** at Saint John Nov. 17 (DFS); December **Pine Warblers** at Lords Cove (RAM, JGW, SIT), Moncton (JE), Shediac (CBC), Cape Tormentine (CBC) and Bains Corner, near St. Martins (Shirley Hunter+) and one that overwintered at a feeder in Riverside-Albert (Ethel Butland); an **Ovenbird** killed at a window at Cross Creek Nov. 23 (Beth Toron); a **Hooded Warbler** at Mary's Pt. Nov. 13 (Mike Majka); and **Yellow-breasted Chats** at Alma Nov. 6 (RJW), North Head Nov. 8 (NP, Moira Campbell, Charles Graves) and Sackville Dec. 5 (Dan Busby+).

An astonishingly late **Summer Tanager** (or should I say winter tanager) visited feeders and apple trees (!) at Riverview Dec. 8-24 (Charles Doyle+). Also very late was a female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at a Taymouth feeder on the weekend of Nov. 22-23 (Margie Pacey). A female **Blue Grosbeak** at Anchorage Park, GM, Nov. 4 was not the one banded there earlier in fall (Calvin Brennan). Latest **Indigo Bunting** was at Saint John Nov. 10 (DFS).

The number of **Northern Cardinals** was average. Most noteworthy was a male coming to a feeder at St-Martin-de-Restigouche from early December to at least Jan. 15 (Murielle April). Pat Émond reports it as the third record in the Kedgwick

area during the past 5 winters.

A **Dickcissel** coming to a feeder at Tracadie-Sheila from the beginning of November into the CBC (Gertrude St-Pierre) was the only one this winter. A male **Eastern Towhee** wintered at Milledgeville, Saint John (Robert Carson+), another was seen off and on at Riverview from Nov. 20 into late January (Shirley Hunt, David Owen+). Also reported were one at Norton in the first week of November (Susan MacFarlane) and a male at Moncton Jan. 15 (AWh).

It was quite a remarkable winter for **Field Sparrows**. On the heels of November reports at Mactaquac Fish Hatchery (DGG), Saint John (DFS) and Alma (to Dec. 5—*fide* RJW), two settled in at the Birdwatchers' shop at Edgetts Landing for the whole winter (DB+), and singles were at a St-Sauveur feeder through much of December (Conrad Lantaigne+), at a Memramcook feeder till the end of January (YL) and on the Cape Tormentine and Jemseg CBCs.

There was a flurry of **Fox Sparrow** reports at southern N.B. feeders after the snow in late November but one at Janet Whitehead's in Saint John seems the only one that stayed till late January. In addition to 2 on the Moncton CBC, a **Swamp Sparrow** was reported at Cadmans Corner Dec. 1 (SIT). Aside from one on the Miscou CBC, a **White-throated Sparrow** in the Dalhousie area in late January (KR) was unique for this winter in far northern N.B. An adult **White-crowned Sparrow** at Fredericton Dec. 6-22 and perhaps beyond (Shirley Sloat) was the only winter report. An "**Oregon Junco**" was reported for the last half of February at Hampton (Donna and Joe Monahan, *fide* JGW). In addition to the few CBC reports, **Lapland Longspurs** were seen at Baie-du-Petit-Pokemouche (SIT), Greens Pt., near Letite (KM), Charlo (MGD), and Barachois (NP). In early January a handicapped **Snow Bunting** was visiting feeders at Charlo (Donald MacLean, *fide* KR). The poor bird had no legs or feet, but "apparently gets around, on the snow by using his wings as paddles." It was said to "a bit awkward but otherwise doing fine."

A stray **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was at Cape Spear, near Cape Tormentine Nov. 19 & 20 (David and Edith Robinson+). **Rusty Blackbirds** were unusually numerous on the CBCs. Fourteen of them survived the winter at a feeder at Riverside-Albert (v.o.). For a while one at Lamèque in late December and early January (v.o.) was suspected of being a Brewer's Blackbird but detailed study and its response to a tape recording settled the question. Four of an earlier much larger flock were still coming to a feeder at Buctouche in the last week of January (Raymonde Savoie). Most lingering **Baltimore Orioles** disappeared in late November but there was still one around a Fairhaven feeder Dec. 14 (RAM, JGW, SIT) and one on the Sackville CBC.

There was a very large flight of **Pine Grosbeaks** in late fall and early winter. They were numerous and widespread

NATURE NEWS(cont'd. from p. 23)

during November but had declined considerably in northern N.B. by late December and in the south by the end of January. They appeared more often at feeders than in most winters. Here's a very small sampling of reports: 25 feeding on white ash seeds at Grand Manan Nov. 15 (BED), feeding on the buds of silver maple at Fredericton in mid Nov. (Hal Hinds), 12+ at Petit-Rocher Dec. 7 ("usually they don't come to feeder this early in winter"—LD), 9 feeding on crabapples at Westcock near Sackville, in the first week of December (Paul Bogaard), 70 at Hammond River Dec. 9 (ID), 25-30 in spruces at Spruce Lake, Saint John, Dec. 30 (Ngair Nelson), 30+ taking sunflower seeds at Five Points, near Salisbury, Jan. 10+ (BCo), and 40 feeding in apple trees and consuming spruce buds at Hillsborough Jan. 16 (RJW).

There was also a major flight of **Common Redpolls**. Unlike the grosbeaks redpolls remained abundant throughout the winter. Except along the immediate Fundy coast many feeders hosted large numbers of redpolls. With so many around, a few **Hoary Redpolls** were reported among them: Dalhousie Nov. 18 (2—ML); Pt. La Nim Jan. 3 (ML); St-Sauveur Jan. 23 (Jean-Maurice Losier); Moncton Jan. 29+ and 3 as of Feb. 22 (RL); Moncton Feb. 17-18 (AWh); Martinon Jan. 31 (probable—ID, MGD); Salisbury c. Jan. 27 (Connie & Pearl Colpitts); Memramcook c. Jan. 27-31 (YL); Riverview Feb. 3 (John Tanner); Salisbury Feb. 5 (L&JD); Fredericton Feb. 6 (2—Mae Bartlett) and Feb. 15 (Bill Mountain, Linda Caissie); Barachois Feb. 11 (NP); New Maryland Feb. 15 (2—Leon Vietinghoff); Edmundston Feb. 15 (2—Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska), Feb. 24 (2—Andrina Dubé, Nicole Rossignol), and Feb. 25 (1—Colette Lavoie); near Salisbury Feb. 21 (BCo); Robertville in February (2—PD); and Campbellton Feb. 22 (MGD).

At the beginning of February dead and weakened **Common Redpolls** began to be noted in southern N.B. Nelson Poirier made a special effort to determine the cause of these problems and in most cases infection by *Salmonella* bacteria was found. Although the main investigation was at Moncton, apparent salmonellosis was reported from widely separated parts of the province. While one Moncton feeder was reporting 4-5 dead redpolls a day during February and several had that number in a month or two, other people saw no signs of the problem. It seemed that there may have been some flocks that were infected and others not. To my knowledge no instances were found of salmonellosis in other species. Conscientious cleaning of feeders and removal of any buildup of droppings

and waste food was urged to limit spread of the disease.

The eye disease that is commonly affecting **House Finches** farther south is now being noted in New Brunswick. At the end of November four of about 30 birds at a Saint John feeder had one eye swollen and closed (DFS). Please report instances of eye problems in this species.

Moderate numbers of **White-winged Crossbills** were on the move throughout the province during November and early December; a few even came to niger seed or black sunflower seeds at feeders, such as at Campbellton (4—Margot Richard), Edmundston (2—Adeline Verret, GV), Harrington Cove, GM (5—BED), Riverview (sev.—Mike Antle), Memramcook (AC) and Saint John (4—PMo). They were scarce

later in winter but a flock of 18 settled in at one Moncton feeder for the month of January (AC).



White-winged Crossbill, female

Mammals

The hunting activities of **Red Foxes** attracted considerable attention along the river in the Moncton area during December and January (v.o.).

During a boat trip to the Murr Ledges, S of Grand Manan, a **Gray Seal** pup likely 3-4 weeks old was seen with 2 adults. Four more adults and 65 **Harbour Seals** were seen nearby (BED). Unidentified seals were reported at Campbellton Nov. 16 (MGD), Petit-Rocher Dec. 9 and Bathurst Harbour Dec. 12 (LD). 150 **Atlantic White-sided Dolphins** were seen off Grand Manan Nov. 20 (PW).

Abbreviations

AC Alain Clavette; AWa Andy Watson; AWh Alma White; BCo Brian Coates; BED Brian Dalzell; BJS Beverley Schneider; CBC Christmas Bird Count; DB Dwayne Biggar; DFS David Smith; DGG Don Gibson; EMM Mary Majka; DLM David Myles; DSC David Christie; EP Eileen Pike; FH Falk Hüttmann; GM Grand Manan; GMi Grant Milroy; GV Gérard Verret; HC Hilaire Chiasson; I&HC Ian & Heather Cameron; ID Irene Doyle; JGW Jim Wilson; KM Ken MacIntosh; KR Ken Reinsborough; L&JD Lloyd & Jackie Decoste; LD Luc DeRoche; LM Laurie Murison; LTC Linda Caissie; MGD Margaret Gallant Doyle; ML Mike Lushington; MLeB Mike LeBlanc; NP Nelson Poirier; PAP Peter Pearce; PD Pierre Duguay; PMo Paul Mortimer; PWi Peter Wilcox; RAC Rose-Aline Chiasson; RAM Rose-Alma Mallet; RG Roger Guitard; RJW Rob Walker; RL Roger LeBlanc; SIT Stu Tingley; SJNC Saint John Naturalists' Club; s.l. sewage lagoon; SM Scott Makepeace; v.o. various observers; YL Yolande LeBlanc.

NORTHERN FINCHES OVERWINTER IN THE SOUTH

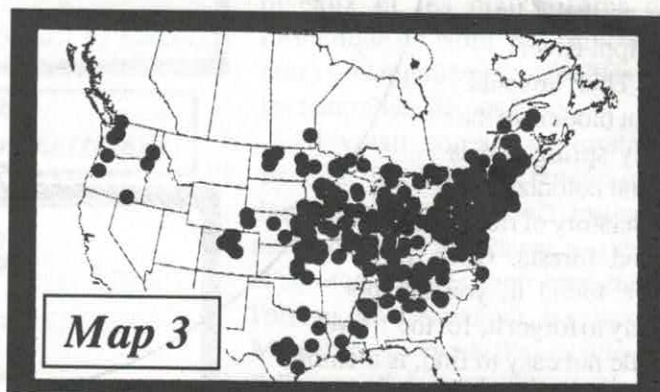
Rob Walker

As you read in David Christie's *Christmas Bird Count* and *Nature News* articles of this issue of *N. B. Naturalist/ Le Naturaliste du N.-B.*, the species collectively known as "winter finches" (Pine Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak) to a large extent, during this past winter, vacated Canada for more southern latitudes. Thanks to the *Birdscope* newsletter published by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology we are able to get an idea of the extent of this invasion, which the editor termed "possibly in record numbers." Certainly record numbers of people reported their winter finch sightings to the Lab of Ornithology through BirdSource, an innovative World Wide Web database for bird information. Data submitted to BirdSource are instantly accessible to Lab ornithologists, allowing them to monitor geographic trends in bird populations as they happen. The e-mail address is as follows:

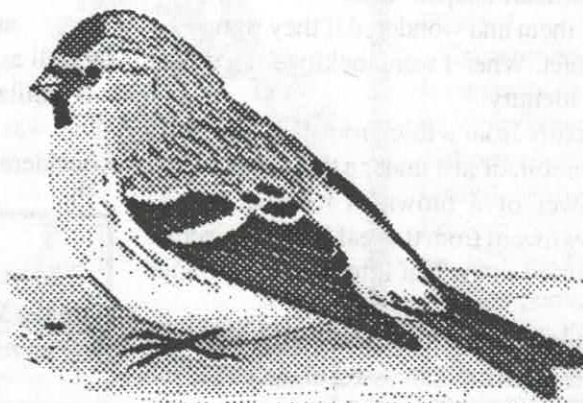
<http://birdsource.cornell.edu>

Quoting from the winter 1998 issue of *Birdscope* (page 3) Lab director John Fitzpatrick says, "BirdSource reports are providing an up-to-the-minute look at what may well turn out to be a historic superflight winter finch invasion. Never before have we been able to track winter bird movements on a scale this large and dynamic. Common Redpolls first appeared in the lower 48 states this year in early September. With White-winged Crossbills now in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kansas; with Hoary Redpolls in Iowa; and with Pine Grosbeaks already in New Jersey, this could be a record year."

As part of this article on BirdSource, three maps were published of the early phases of the 1997-98 winter finch invasion. Map 1 represents all reports prior to October 31/97. Map 2 represents all reports prior to November 15/97. Map 3 represents all reports prior to December 15/97.



Hoary Redpoll, male



BOTANY QUIZ: CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS PLANT?

Gart Bishop, Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society

What is it? See if you can guess the identity of the following native wildflower. The answer will appear in the next issue of *N. B. Naturalist/ Le Naturaliste du N.-B.*

The plant in question is a wildflower that is locally common in the Saint John River valley above Fredericton (especially Carleton and Victoria Counties) and scattered in rich valleys and flood plains of the Restigouche River. While not occurring east of New Brunswick (in neither Nova Scotia or Newfoundland) this plant can be found west of New Brunswick as far as the Mississippi River.

This unusual plant blooms in the early spring and is found colonizing the understory of rich hardwood forests. Once you have found it, you are not likely to forget it, for the flower while not easy to find, is memorable. First you must look for the large (8-20 cm), hairy leaves with heart-shaped bases. I once found a patch of them and wondered if they were the leaves of a giant violet. When I went looking for a flower I discovered their true identity.

The leaves grow in pairs from a thick rootstalk (rhizome) which lays on top of the soil, or just under a thin cover of leaf litter. A solitary flower of a brownish red hue can be discovered, curling downward from the leaf junctions, sometimes being actually buried in the leaf litter. What a strange place for a flower!

This flower attracts early spring flies that come out of the ground looking for the thawing carcasses of winter-killed animals. The flies are probably drawn to the carrion-colored

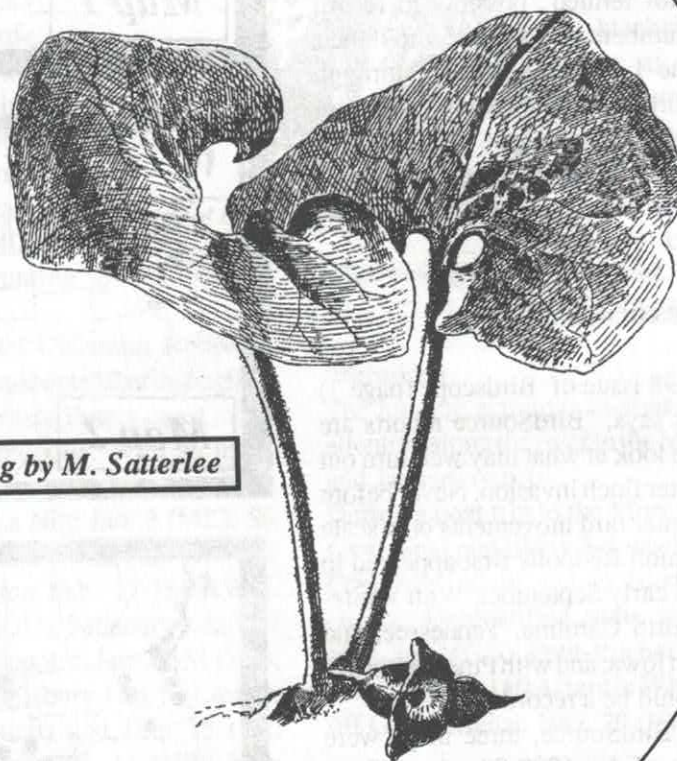
flower, and to the pollen, much of which they eat but some of which they transfer to other blossoms. The cup shaped, three parted flowers also offer selected insects shelter from chilly spring nights.

The female part of the flower develops first, then withers away and is replaced by twelve pollen laden stamens; a sequence which helps to ensure cross-pollination. The surface of its large seeds have oily portions which are actively collected and subsequently dispersed by ants.

The spicy fragrance of the elongate rhizome is responsible for the name of this plant. While not related to a cultivated tropical namesake, this root can be dried and ground up to be used as a substitute. Alternatively, once cut into short pieces, the roots can be boiled until tender and then cooked in a rich sugar-syrup and canned for later consumption. Amongst early settlers, one of its medicinal uses was as an arminative (something that removes flatulence), as well as to relieve stomach and intestinal cramps.

A similar species grows in many parts of Europe and at one time was cultivated in England where it was considered a remedy for headaches and deafness.

Drawing by M. Satterlee



The native tree species described in the Botany Quiz in the Winter [24 (4)] issue, was the American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)

OISEAUX DE L'AMERIQUE D'AUDUBON

Donald Cormier, Les ami(e)s de la nature du sud-est

La province du Nouveau-Brunswick possède une des séries de quatre volumes des Oiseaux de l'Amérique d'Audubon. Cet oeuvre du grand naturaliste américain est d'une valeur inestimable pas sa beauté at sa rareté.

Pourquoi notre série est-elle si importante? Des 200 copies de la série imprimées, il n'y en a que cinq au Canada. Une série est à la Bibliothèque nationale à Ottawa, une à l'Université de Toronto, une à l'Université Laval et une à l'Université McGill, au Québec, et la nôtre est à l'Assemblée législative, à Fredericton. Des quelques unes qui sont complètes, nous avons probablement la meilleure. Elle est reliée en cuir avec dorure et elle aurait appartenu au duc d'Orléans, Philippe, roi de la France. Cette collection aurait été achetée pour la somme de 800\$, à New York en 1951.

Qui est Audubon? Jean-Jacques Audubon (1785-1851), naturaliste autodidacte, a réalisé un des objectifs de sa vie en dessinant les 489 espèces d'oiseaux connus en Amérique sur 435 planches de grand format (75 cm par 100 cm). N'ayant pu trouver de l'aide de riches américains pour publier son oeuvre, Audubon eut recours à une équipe d'artistes de l'Angleterre. Ceux-ci ont gravé, à la main, tous ses dessins sur des plaques de cuivre et ils ont publié 200 copies de la série de quatre volumes. Les dessins ont été peints à l'aquarelle.

Audubon est l'un des naturalistes le mieux connu aux États-Unis et au Canada. Son nom se perpétue d'une génération à l'autre par la Société nationale Audubon, fondée en 1905. Cette société de concert avec le Fish and Wildlife Service du gouvernement américain fait la promotion de la vie animale, de l'habitat, des plantes, des eaux et des sols aux États-Unis. Cette société publie de nombreux livres et guides de la nature.

Jean-Jacques Audubon est né en Haïte. Son père, officier On tourne une page à tous les trois mois.

dans la marine française, possédait des terres de ce côté-ci de l'Atlantique. Sa mère, une créole, est décédée peu de temps après sa naissance. Alors que le bambin avait trois ans, son père est venu le chercher pour l'amener à Nantes, France, où il reçut son éducation. Lorsqu'il eut ses 18 ans, son père l'envoya aux États-Unis sur les terres familiales avec l'espoir qu'il deviendrait un riche financier.

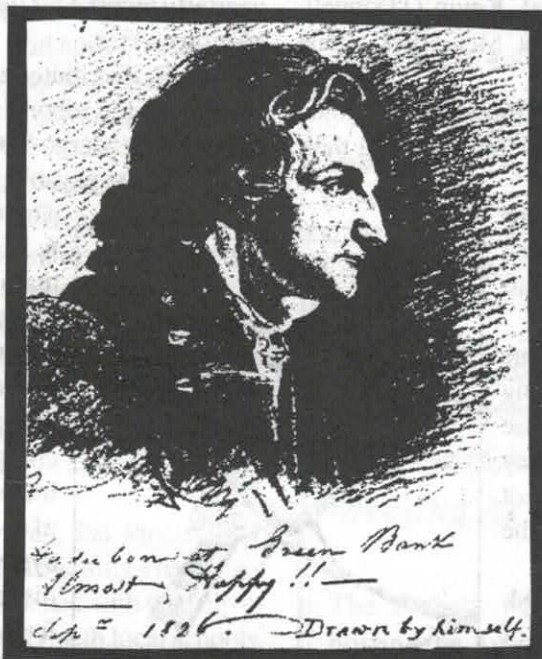
Le jeune Jean-Jacques n'était pas un homme des affaires. Pendant près d'une vingtaine d'années, il essaya, en vain, différents commerces. Ses sorties fréquentes et prolongées dans les forêts, dans les marais, près des lacs et des cours d'eau ne favorisaient pas ses entreprises financières. Alors pour survivre, il donna des cours de dessin, de peinture, de français, d'escrime, de danse et il offrit ses services comme portraitiste. Son épouse, Lucy Bakewell, était enseignante.

Très jeune, ce naturaliste se fixa comme objectif d'étudier, de noter les comportements et de dessiner les oiseaux et les mammifères de l'Amérique du Nord. Ses cahiers de notes sont régulièrement fouillés par les naturalistes de nos jours.

Il vivait comme explorateur. Pendant ses longues randonnées dans la nature, il était toujours accompagné de son cheval, son chien et son fusil. Après avoir bien étudié l'oiseau qui l'intéressait, il l'abattait. Muni d'un système de fils métalliques, il disposait l'oiseau dans la position la plus naturelle possible avant de le dessiner.

Ces tournées l'ont amené dans tous les secteurs de l'est de l'Amérique. En 1832, après avoir passé quelques jours d'observation sur les îles de l'archipel Grand-Manan, il se rendit à Fredericton où il dessina la planche no. 180, les Tarins des pins.

Vous pouvez voir ces volumes à l'entrée de l'Assemblée législative dans un meuble spécial vitré avec température et humidité contrôlées.



J. J. Audubon:
un portrait de soi-même (1826)



Les Tarins des pins d'Audubon

THE NBFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF OCTOBER 4, 1997

Katherine Popma, Secretary

The Board of Directors of the NBFN has decided they would like to have the minutes of our quarterly meetings published in the N. B. Naturalist/ Le Naturaliste du N.-B. K. Popma

Present: Pres. Rose-Alma Mallet, V. P. Eileen Pike, Sec. Kathy Popma, Memb. Sec. Jean Wilson, Treas. Jim Brown, Past Pres. Frank Longstaff, Vivian Beal, Kevin O'Donnell, Pierrette Mercier, Margo Shepperd, Pat McGorlick, Irene Doyle, Pat Edmond, Gart Bishop.

1. Welcome and Introductions: The new President welcomed everyone and all introduced themselves and described their affiliations.

2. Adoption of Agenda: Six more items were added to the agenda. Frank L. moved it be adopted as amended, seconded by Gart B. Motion carried.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Due to the fact the minutes of the April meeting had not been received by everyone because of mailing difficulties, it was agreed they would be circulated again with the current ones and both sets would be received at the next meeting.

4. President's Report: 4.1 Rose-Alma M. reported she had met the new Minister of the Environment, Christine Stewart, at the Environment Network meeting where a number of issues were identified, such as the Wildlife Act, the Clean Air Act, and the move to save the forests. No actions were taken or decisions made.

4.2 Rose-Alma M. was approached by the group trying to prevent development of Cocagne Island. They would like the NBFN to support their efforts to try and obtain funding for archeological survey services. Margo S. suggested the Nature Conservancy be approached. Kevin O. suggested the Dept. of Municipalities might be able to obtain legal access to the private site under construction to conduct a survey.

4.3 Rose-Alma M. attended the conference on Important Bird Areas. Out of the 24 sites on the New Brunswick list, 24 on the Nova Scotia list, and 4 or 5 on the P. E. I. list, 6 were chosen, 2 of which are in New Brunswick: Marys Point (shorebirds) and Tabisintac (Piping Plovers).

4.4 Rose-Alma M. signed over funding on behalf of the NBFN to Roland Chiasson for "Project Piper."

5. Treasurer's Report: 5.1 Before this report was considered, Jean W. explained she moved funds that she had been holding (for reasons explained later) out of the Membership Fee Fund on the advice of the auditor.

5.2 Eileen P. moved that the Treasurer present a budget to the Board for approval for the coming year. Seconded by Gart B. Discussion followed. It was explained that in the past there was general approval of expenditures and specific expenditures were voted on. Jean W. said that fees for membership should be decided and then the magazine's expenses considered. Jim B. was told a revenue sheet should be attached to each quarterly report. Our fiscal year is from one AGM to the next. Motion carried.

5.3 Jim B. distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report. The balance of the report is \$5400.44. He moved its adoption, seconded by Margo S. Gart B. said that something should be said about the payables not mentioned and that the financial situation was not clear. Motion carried.

6. Membership Secretary's Report: The majority of the meeting was spent on this topic. Jean described her ongoing frustrations with the arrangements between the NBFN and the CNF over memberships and the two magazines. The history is complicated by a number of problems including major errors in mailing lists, lack of communication, incompatible computer systems, errors in the data bases, ill will, disagreement regarding the collection of fees, duplication of payments and mailings, etc. Meetings have been set up to iron out the problems to no avail. The major benefit is the increase in membership to the NBFN from 275 to over 400. It is felt many members only wanted the magazine and



not necessarily membership in the CNF. Kevin O. felt we should give it one more try, but Pierrette M. felt many members were upset. Margo S. felt a letter could be sent out explaining the situation. Vivian B. said it all depended on how important an increased membership was to us. Pat M. felt the \$33 being charged by the CNF without our knowledge was too steep and unfair. Frank L. said the memorandum of agreement we had with the CNF said we would review it in one year's time. Gart B. said if the CNF will not process our requests for changes in the mailing lists we should get out of the agreement. Margo S. moved "In view of the problems with the CNF, and recognizing some of the benefits, the NBFN extricate itself at the end of 1997 from its agreement with the CNF and communicate individually with each NBFN member regarding the developments with CNF." Seconded by Pat E. More discussion followed. Frank L. declared a conflict of interest as he is also on the Board of Directors of the CNF. He said he was disappointed the project hadn't worked out and

Kevin O. said he would draft a letter to him. Gart reported that editors Jim Goltz and Diane Allain were resigning, and that Ken McIntosh volunteered to be a new one. However, one more editor is needed. Clubs will be approached to find someone. Gart explained the time consuming process of going after articles and artwork. Discussions took place as to how stream-lining could take place. More information is needed about province-wide events such as N. B. Birding Day. Clubs are supposed to each submit 4 articles per season but this hasn't always worked.

8. Reports From Clubs

8.1 Moncton Naturalists Club (rep. Vivian Beal): The club wants to know who to contact regarding having a booth at the AGM of the CNF in August. Frank L. will help with this. The club wants a video on Marys Point. They want to know how to proceed with incorporation, and how it would affect third party liability on club field trips. They wondered if all the clubs should go together on this. Frank L. said the NBFN was not liable, as they did not hold their own field trips (these are under the auspices of the individual clubs). Rose-Alma M. felt the NBFN could not decide what clubs should do.

8.2 Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska (rep. Pierrette Mercier): They have had several excellent field trips in the Edmunston area.

8.3 Fredericton Nature Club (rep. Margo Shepperd): Halton Dalzell is the new President. Excellent speakers at their meetings.

8.4 Restigouche Naturalists' Club (rep. Pat McGorlick): Club membership has increased. They are getting a new logo. An observation lookout has been established with the help of Ducks Unlimited. The club works closely with local schools. There were 12 field trips this past summer. The club nominated an "Important Bird Area." They are monitoring the Harlequin Ducks at Charlo. A request was made for a copy of *Flora of New Brunswick* by Hal Hines.

8.5 Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society (reps. Gart Bishop and Jim Brown): Excellent speakers at meetings. Field trips well attended (28 went on a whale-watching trip).

8.6 Saint John Naturalists' Club (reps. Jean Wilson, Kevin O'Donnell and Eileen Pike): The Point Lepreau Observatory is up and running for fall migration. Excellent speakers at the meetings. Ross Galbraith, the Enforcement Officer with CWS, asked for volunteers to go out with the RCMP to observe hunters and their use of lead or steel shot.

8.7 Club les ami(e)s de la nature du Sud-est (rep. Rose-Alma Mallet): Frank L. suggested a letter of thanks be sent to them (and the MNC) for their help with the 1997 AGM (done).

9. Other Business: **9.1 Canadian Nature Federation Meeting.** Rose-Alma Mallet reported this will be held November 9 and 10, 1997. Expenses, except for half of the air-fare, will be paid. Eileen wondered if we had enough money to cover this. Frank L. guaranteed that CNF would cover it if NBFN didn't. Eileen moved that the Treasurer cover the cost of the air fare for Rose-

Alma, subject to the availability of funds. Seconded by Jim B. Motion carried.

9.2 Cocagne Island Update. Rose-Alma will write a letter of support for the project to save the island from the proposed development. Discussion followed. The provincial government is gearing up to promote tourism through the construction of elite golf courses. The public should be warned. Eileen P. moved the President write a letter to all of New Brunswick's newspapers outlining the position of the Board. Seconded by Frank L. Motion carried.

9.3 Hal Hines' Report. Rose-Alma M. will try to get the French and English common names of the plants from Jim Goltz.

9.4 Status of Incorporation. Frank L. indicated that the NBFN is incorporated, but does not have charitable status. He will work on it.

9.5 New Club. Rose-Alma M. reported that a request for membership in the Federation has been received from Club L'Envolée Chaleur. There was no formal application process and the President was asked to write and welcome them.

10. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Saturday, December 6, 1997 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting's venue was discussed.

11. Meeting Adjourned: Adjournment took place at 2:00 p.m.

Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists Meeting At Antigonish, June 5-7, '98

The Eastern Mainland Field Naturalists will be hosting the Annual General Meeting of the FNSN in Antigonish on June 5 to 7, 1997. New Brunswick naturalists are invited to attend.

The theme for the weekend of activities, including speakers and field trips, is:

Shorelines -Living On The Edge.

If you wish to receive further information and/or registration forms, please contact Frank Randall at:

1109 Summerside Road
Bayfield, Nova Scotia B0H 1A0

Telephone: (902) 386-2235

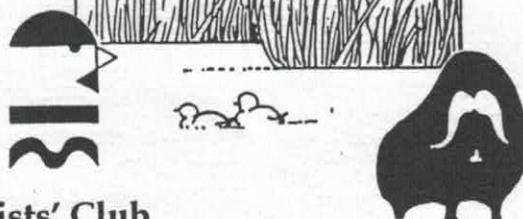
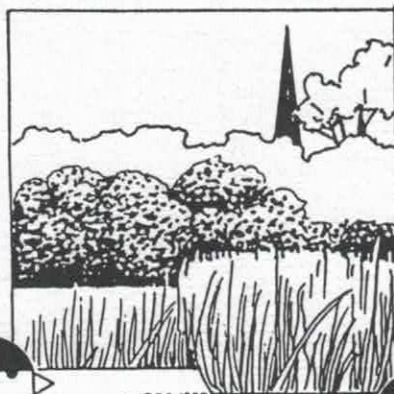
frandall@auracom.com



The Annual General Meeting of The Canadian Nature Federation & The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists

Field Trips To:

- Cape Jourimain and Confederation Bridge to PEI
- Dorchester Cape
- Tantramar Marshes
- Amherst Pt. Bird Sanc.
- Joggins Fossil Cliffs
- Mary's Point
- Memramcook Valley
- Bouctouche Dunes

Lobster Dinner**Hosted by****The Chignecto Naturalists' Club****Symposia On:**

- Important Bird Areas
- Marine Protected Areas
- Creating a Waterfowl Park
- National Parks Update
- Protecting Mary's Point
- Wildlife Rehabilitation
- A Birder's year in N.B.

Pre- & Post- Conference Trips

- Puffins
- Pelagics
- Whalewatching
- Bird Banding

August 6-9, 1998, Sackville, New Brunswick on the Campus of Mount Allison University

Set aside August 6 to 9, 1998 for the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists' Annual General Meeting. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the Canadian Nature Federation's AGM, so it promises to be better than ever. Participants will be coming from all across the country. This will be our chance to show everyone else what a fascinating province this is for naturalists.

The conference will be hosted by the Chignecto Naturalists' Club and held at Mt. Allison University. The meeting is timed to coincide with the massive migration of shorebirds.

The conference will be longer than what we normally schedule. We will have workshops and seminars on Thursday and Friday, while Saturday and Sunday are set aside for field trips throughout the Tantramar area. Of course, there will be a banquet speaker and local entertainment.

For more information write to: CNF/ NBFN/ AGM, Box 500, Hampton, NB E0G 1Z0. Tel.: 1-800-267-4088. The e-mail address is <http://www3.nbnet.nb.ca/maryspt.CNF>

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