

N.B. Naturalist

Vol. 5, Nos. 4-6, January 1975

Herewith a catch-up issue, bringing you material received over a period of several months. The publication of volume 6 will be more regular. Articles and news items are now being sought; please participate. We want items that will range from about one quarter of a page to two pages in length, in either English or French.

In the past, we have had articles on Mount Carleton Provincial Park and the Tintamarre National Wildlife Area and now are hoping to commence a series on other major sanctuaries, wildlife management areas, and provincial and municipal parks. Do you have a favorite area you would like to write about? Drop us a note.

The early part of the year is the time to renew your federation membership. A "5" beside your name and address on this issue signifies that you have already renewed for 1975. If not, the treasurer will be glad to receive your dues.

Editorial Committee

SOME GENERAL TRENDS IN BIRD POPULATIONS OVER A 25 YEAR PERIOD AT SUMMERVILLE, N.B.

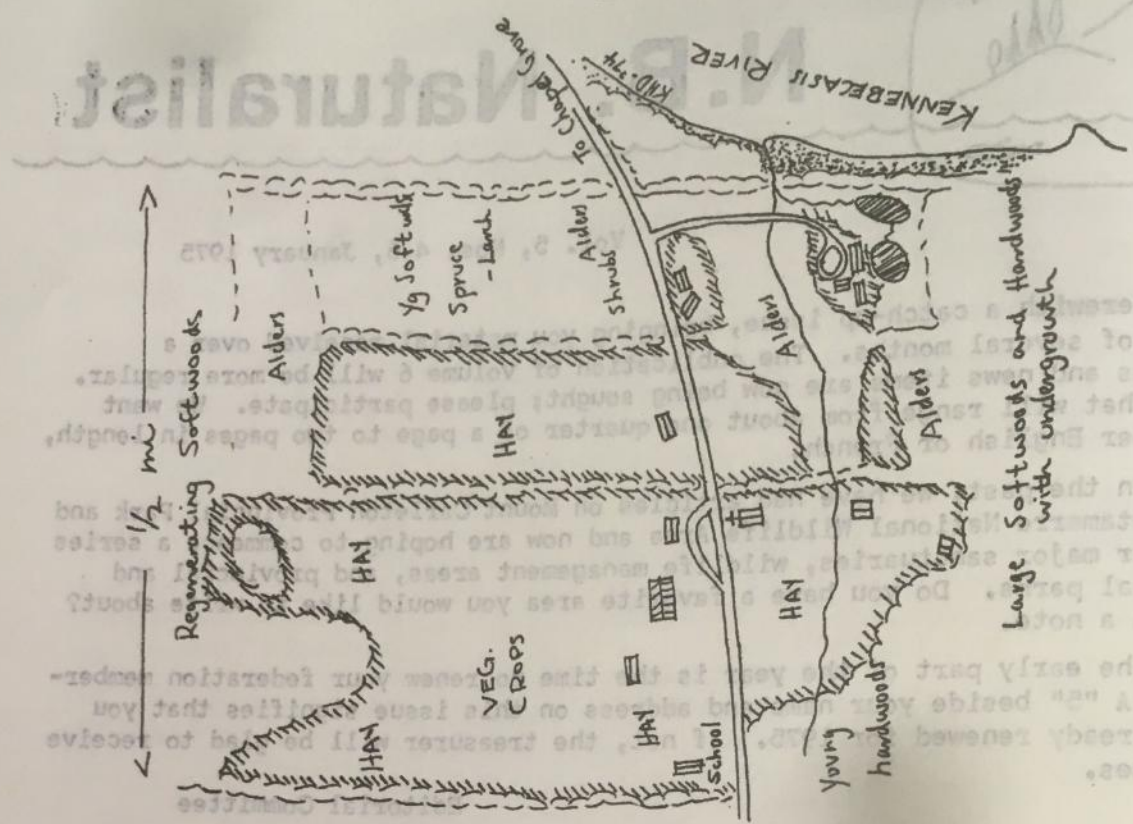
K. Henrik Deichmann

This account focuses on part (about 160 acres) of the community of Summerville on the Kingston Peninsula, Kings County, N.B. Admittedly, the remarks are highly subjective. Fairly detailed records were kept on a daily basis from 1947 through 1949. More casual observations were made in the early 1970s; however, as the observer was quite experienced by that time, they are no doubt more critical. Perhaps the most significant factor is the fact that the same observer was present at both the beginning and the end of the period.

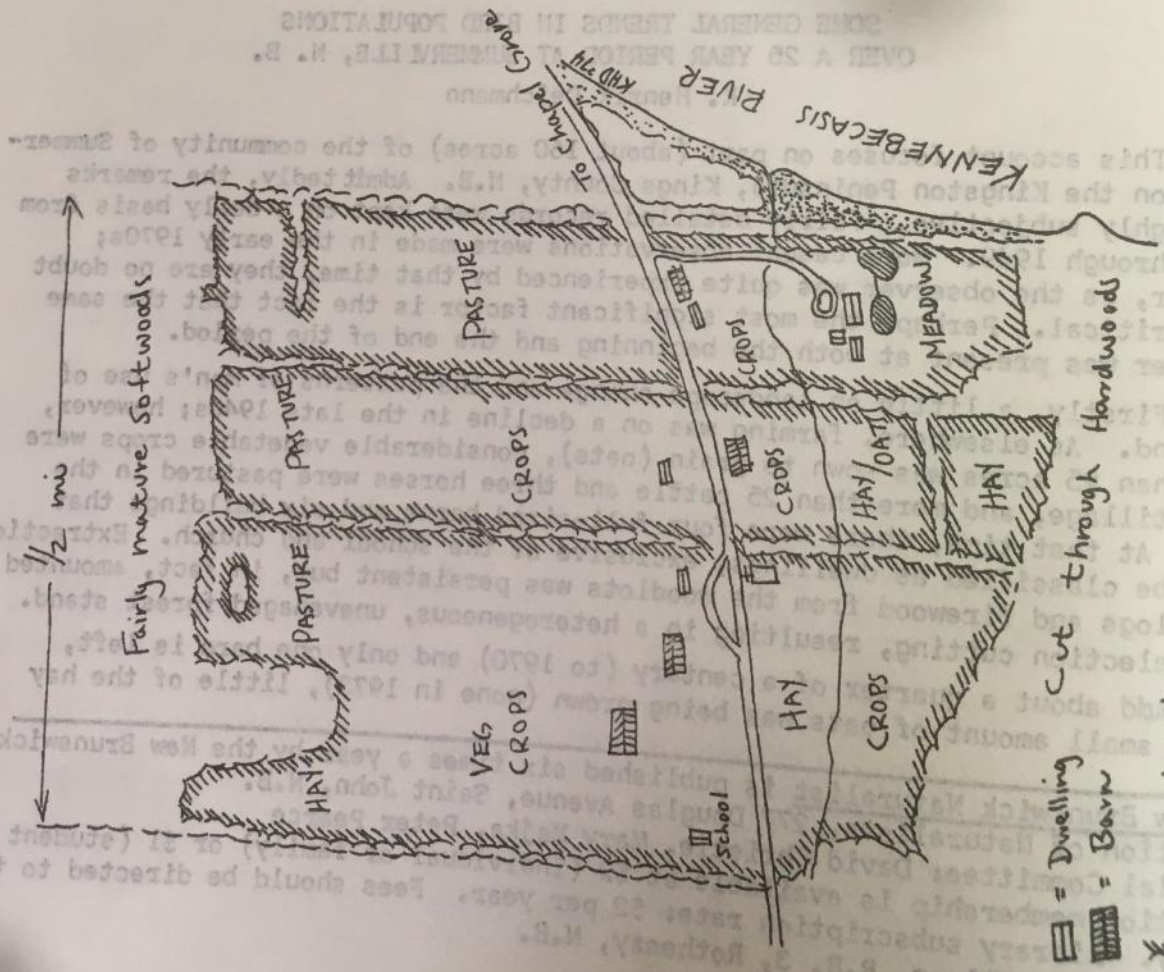
Firstly, a little on landscape change and the patterns of man's use of the land. As elsewhere, farming was on a decline in the late 1940s; however, more than 25 acres was sown to grain (oats), considerable vegetable crops were under tillage, and more than 25 cattle and three horses were pastured in the area. At that time, there were four full-sized barns and six buildings that would be classified as dwellings, exclusive of the school and church. Extraction of sawlogs and firewood from the woodlots was persistent but, in fact, amounted to a selection cutting, resulting in a heterogeneous, unevenaged forest stand.

Add about a quarter of a century (to 1970) and only one barn is left, only a small amount of oats was being grown (none in 1973), little of the hay

The New Brunswick Naturalist is published six times a year by the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B.
Editorial Committee: David Christie, Mary Majka, Peter Pearce
Federation membership is available at \$2 (individual or family) or \$1 (student to age 18). Library subscription rate: \$2 per year. Fees should be directed to the treasurer, Jim Wilson, R.R. 3, Rothesay, N.B.



1973-74



1948-1949

A portion of Summerville, Kingston Peninsula, N.B.

Table 1 SOME GENERAL BIRD POPULATION TRENDS OVER A 25 YEAR PERIOD

SPECIES	1948-49		1973	
	MIGRANT	BREEDS	MIGRANT	BREEDS
Tree Swallow	Common	Common (8 prs. 1949)	?	Rare (1 pr. 1973)
Barn Swallow	Common	Common	?	Rare (1 pr. in 1973)
Cliff Swallow	Common	Common (24 prs. 1949)	?	Absent
Common Raven	Uncommon	No Record	Common	Probably nearby
Common Crow	Very Common	Common	Common	Rare
Am. Robin	Very common	Common	Common	Quite common
Common Yellowthroat	Common	Very common	Common	Common
Bobolink	Uncommon	Common	?	Absent
Red-winged Blackbird	Uncommon	Absent	Common	Bred in 1972
Rusty Blackbird	Common	Bred once	Uncommon	Absent
Common Grackle	Common	No record	Common	Nearby
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Common	No record	Common	Suspected
Evening Grosbeak	Rare (one record)	No record	Common	No record
Savannah Sparrow	Common	Common	?	Rare
Dark-eyed Junco	Very common	Common	Very common	Common
Chipping Sparrow	Common	Common	Uncommon	Rare
Swamp Sparrow	Common	Common	?	Uncommon
Song Sparrow	Common	Common	?	Rare

forage was being harvested, only small vegetable gardens were being planted and no cows were resident in the area. By 1973 four new dwellings had been added. Alders and young spruces had recaptured about one quarter of the former open space. Harvesting of the nearby forest consisted of patch clear-cutting so that the former unevenaged nature of the tree community had begun to diminish. Disappearance of fields resulted in a decrease in edge and an associated decline in habitat interspersation.

It would be oversimplification to assume that only internal changes were responsible for the bird population trends discussed here. Obviously, shifts in the larger area, the Province and region, had an influence; for example, late in the period, the Evening Grosbeak became a common bird.

Swallows: Tree Swallows which once occupied every available bird house and tree cavity did not take more than two of the 20 boxes erected in 1971 (only one known pair bred in 1973). Barn Swallows declined sharply in numbers also.

Corvids: In the late '40s, large flocks of migrant crows were seen with high frequency every spring; such movements have not been witnessed to such degree recently. Ravens appear to have increased in numbers over the years.

Icterids: Formerly Bobolinks bred commonly in the moist meadows; none were seen in the summers of the early '70s. In 1972, an active Red-wing nest was located, the first ever to be found in the study area; the last Rusty Blackbird nest had been found about 24 years previously, Rusties now being found only as migrants. Grackles, although not confirmed as breeders, seem to be somewhat more common than in the past.

Fringillids: A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in song in the early summer of 1973 indicates possible nesting for this species. The dramatic general increase in Evening Grosbeak

numbers was noted locally. Both the Savannah and Song Sparrows have declined in numbers.

Besides the population shifts outlined in Table 1, species formerly uncommonly met with, are rarer still: raptors, waterfowl, bluebirds (6 were counted in and near the study area in the spring of 1948). The small parcel of land described and discussed is very small when compared to the expanse of the Province. However, the writer believes the trends in land husbandry and the related changes in the avifauna to be a reflection of what is taking place on a larger scale. Having an intimate knowledge of a small area, it was tempting to draw a chronological comparison.

KILLDEER NEIGHBOURS

Enid Inch

In 1972, a pair of Killdeer nested in the pasture just across the road from my house. I didn't find the eggs, but on June 19th saw four very young birds running about being watched by their parents. I saw them again on the 21st, but not during several following days of wet weather. On the 26th only one was left. Whatever had happened to the other three made the parents feel it was unsafe at night in the pasture, for every evening, until the young one was able to fly on July 10th, they brought it across the road into an orchard, and took it back in the morning. Sometimes there was considerable traffic and the birds' crossing was quite a performance. One parent would cross the road and call the young one, while the other stayed behind to watch. If it heard a car coming, it would fly to the middle of the road, stand there till the car was quite close, then dive toward whichever ditch the young one was in to drive it to safety. I was almost a nervous wreck before that bird learned to fly!

ECOLOGICAL RESERVES IN THE MARITIMES

"Ecological Reserves in the Maritimes" (P.M. Taschereau, editor, 1974) is the terminal report of the Region 7 Scientific Advisory Panel, Conservation of Terrestrial Communities Subcommittee of the Canadian Committee for the International Biological Program [whew!], more conveniently known as IBPCT. Following field work during 1969-72, 110 areas are recommended for protected status as ecological reserves, as summarized in the following table -

Ecosystem	N.S.	N.B.	P.E.I.	Total
Number of Reserves (area in acres)				
Forest	35 (27097)	14 (6011)	7 (1053)	56 (34161)
Salt Marshes	3 (2026)	2 (1790)	-	5 (3816)
Fresh water*	9 (3182)	5 (18082)	1 (480)	15 (21744)
Sand dunes-beaches	5 (950)	1 (345)	5 (6082)	11 (7377)
Bird nesting sites	8 (283)	2 (84)	1 (240)	11 (607)
Other sites**	9 (15633)	3 (211)	-	12 (15844)
	69 (49171)	27 (26523)	14 (7855)	110 (83549)

* bogs, swamps, marshes, lake margins

** barrens, arctic-alpine, intervales, talus slopes, rare plant sites

The report urges the provincial governments to take immediate steps to protect those sites which are located on crown land, to adopt a legal mechanism such as an "Ecological Reserves Act" to establish and maintain reserves, to commence acquisition of privately owned sites, using federal and private financial assistance when necessary, and to continue the work of locating additional sites. - D.C.

NEW BRUNSWICK'S 1974 ECOLOGICAL RESERVE SURVEY

The New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources employed two students (D. Jones and R. Roy) during the past summer to continue the IBP's ecological reserve survey work. Twenty-four additional proposed ecological reserves were documented, for a total of 5504 acres. The majority were forest stands but also included were a bog, a seashore, a heron colony, and three island sites. - D.C.

ROCK AGES

At one time it was thought that all the granitic rocks of New Brunswick had formed during the Devonian period of geological time. Potassium-argon dating confirms the current theory of a variety of ages. Wanless, Stevens, Lachance and Delabio (Geol. Surv. Can., Paper 73-2) report the following determinations: granite at Milford, Saint John, 479 \pm 20 million years (early Ordovician); gneissic granite near Barracks Brook, South Sevogre River, 424 \pm 17 m.y. (late Ordovician); granodiorite near Oak Bay, 393 \pm 16 m.y. (Silurian); biotite quartz monzonite, near McKiel Brook, Southwest Miramichi, 359 \pm 14 m.y. (Devonian); and pegmatite near Biggar Brook, Napadogan-Juniper Highway, 364 \pm 18 m.y. (Devonian).

They also report the age of basalt (289 \pm 13 m.y.) from Curries Mountain, the conspicuous hill about 5 miles upriver from Fredericton. Thus that volcanic plug apparently formed during the Mississippian period. - D.C.

DECREASE OF WARBLERS

Breeding Bird Surveys conducted in the Maritimes last June revealed decreases of some common insectivorous birds possibly attributed to the prolonged and severe cold weather of late May.

Barn Swallow (-26%), Yellow Warbler (-21%), Magnolia Warbler (-25%) and Common Yellowthroat (-15%) all showed declines that were statistically significant. Least Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, and Nashville, Black-throated Green and Chestnut-sided Warblers also decreased considerably but the changes, while perhaps real, could not be proved statistically. On the other hand, the relatively hardy Winter Wren (+65%) and the late-arriving Red-eyed Vireo (+37%) and Alder Flycatcher (+49%) increased significantly from 1973 numbers, and Ovenbird had a near significant increase (+19%).

Significant changes of other species were Common Snipe (+69%), Bobolink (+24%) and Common Grackle (-21%). It should be pointed out that changes in survey results do not always indicate actual population fluctuations. Most of the surveys are conducted during mid-June and a shift in timing of the breeding season can influence the conspicuousness of birds and thus the numbers recorded. Interpretation of survey results is fraught with such difficulties. - David Christie (using unpublished data kindly supplied by A.J. Erskine).

NEW BIRD CHECKLISTS

"Birds of St. Andrews" prepared by Willa MacCoubrey and Tom Moffatt - 212 species of the St. Andrews peninsula and their abundance in each of the four seasons. Available from Sunbury Shores Arts and Nature Centre, Box 100, St. Andrews, N.B.

"Checklist of Birds, Nova Scotia - New Brunswick Border Region" prepared by the Canadian Wildlife Service, Sackville office - 234 species and the seasons in which they are found. Available from the C.W.S., Box 1590, Sackville, N.B.

Other checklists that may be of interest to members: "Checklist of Birds, Fundy National Park" (Fundy National Park, Alma, N.B.); "Field Checklist, New Brunswick Birds" (2/5¢, 12/25¢, N.B. Museum, Saint John); "Feuille d'Observations, Les Oiseaux du Nouveau-Brunswick" (2/5¢, 12/25¢, Musée du N.-B., Saint-Jean, N.-B.); "Field Checklist of Birds, P.E.I. 1974" (P.E.I. Dept. of Environment and Tourism, Box 2000, Charlottetown); "Nova Scotia Checklist" (20/\$1.00, N.S. Bird Society, N.S. Museum, Halifax); and "The Maine Audubon Checklist" (1/7¢, 50/\$2.50), Maine Audubon Society, 57 Baxter Blvd., Portland, Me. 04101.

NATURE NEWS

David Christie

Mammals

A Cougar (Panther) report comes to us from Gary Thorne who saw one crouched at the edge of the road near Welsford on October 7. In the car lights the animal appeared large, low, and tan-coloured, with a long tail and cat-like head. Alan Madden reports that in the first week of November at Little River, Madawaska County, Lucien Rossignol snared two very large Bobcats weighing 51 lb. and 55 lb. A Coyote was reported near Heath Steele Mines, Northumberland County in spring or early summer (Don LeHeup and Ernie Hamilton, *fide* Lyle Walker) and another near St. Martins (Ted Sears).

An Otter was found drowned in a lobster trap at Grand Manan June 13 (St. Croix Courier, via The Guillemot). Otters reached Grand Manan in this century, apparently by swimming, ^{the} seven or more mile sea crossing. A Short-tailed Weasel was discovered to be responsible for the dwindling number (from 12 to 6) of eggs in a Ruffed Grouse nest at Hammond River during the summer (Jim Wilson, David and Paul Clark).

A Red Bat, scarce here, was seen flying about a sewage pond near Long Pond, Grand Manan, Oct. 1 (Christie & Majkas). It was possibly pausing during southward migration.

Birds

Al Smith reports another notable concentration of Common Loons at Baie Verte, 70 there on June 22. Those would be non-breeding birds. 60 Red-throated Loons were at Cape Tormentine Oct. 26 (Stu Tingley). An out-of-habitat Gannet with many gulls on the mud-flats at Woodward's Cove, Grand Manan Oct. 3 (Christie & Dr. Majka) was rather surprising. After being watched for a minute or so, the bird, alert and wary, demonstrated it could fly well by easily taking off, circling once and heading out to sea. The pair that attempted to nest at Kent Island were unsuccessful (P. Pearce).

During the summer Rudy Stoeck found two Great Blue Heron colonies inland at Oromocto Lake and Williamstown Lake. Another heronry, east of Cumberland Bay, was threatened by lumbering but thanks to action by several NBFN members (Gordon Rattray, Beverley Schneider *et al*) and the provincial Fish and Wildlife Branch it was saved. Otherwise, the nest trees would have been felled with the young in them. A pair of Green Herons nested at Upper Woodstock (Stephen Homer). In late July two young were noted in a tree, while the adults flew around calling (Mr. & Mrs. Ken Homer). Another Green Heron was observed late in July at Douglas (Marc Schneider).

A beautiful Great Egret was seen at Great Pond, Grand Manan Oct. 1 and 3 (Peter & Theresa Pearce *et al*) and a Snowy Egret was noted on Oct. 1 at Loggieville (*fide* John Bethell), the farthest north it has been reported in the province. Willa MacCoubrey surprised what she believes was an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron, at St. Andrews Aug. 23. The bird flushed unexpectedly from a pool behind a steep bank. Three of our most secretive heron, the Least Bittern, were seen at Red Head Marsh July 7 (David Clark). They probably breed there regularly. Most of the spring visitation of Glossy Ibises had disappeared by the first week of June, but one was seen at Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John, on July 5 and 6 (Cecil Johnston) and one at MacDonald Road, near Sackville, August 11 (Gay Hansen, D. Boyle).

There seems to have been a good migration of Canada Geese during the fall. Rowena MacDonald reports that large flocks fed in the grain fields and corn stubble around Upper Woodstock. At nearby Lakeville Mr. & Mrs. Fred Peters saw three flocks, totalling 400 birds, fly over during a drive they made in the area. On Nov. 3, Léo Martin saw 400 between Moncton and Shediac and Stan Gorham watched 200 fly past Browns Flat. The latter birds may have been some of the 1000 that gathered on the river near Victoria Wharf that day (Dick Cochrane). An adult blue phase Snow Goose was at Hammond River Oct. 25-29 (Wilson et al).

A male "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal at Red Head Marsh July 5 was unusual. The few seen here are normally reported between late March and early May. By early July many male Green-winged Teal have already begun their eclipse moult but this bird still retained the black and white scapular stripe allowing it to be identified as the Eurasian subspecies. Not definitely a new breeding species for the province, but almost, is the Gadwall. On August 14, Stuart Tingley and Bill Barrow captured and banded two flightless juveniles on the Missaguash River, the interprovincial boundary. They could have been hatched on either the New Brunswick or the Nova Scotia side.

A female King Eider was seen at St. Andrews June 22, and the following day 16 White-winged Scoters at Point Lepreau (Pearce & Peter Taylor). Of six Ruddy Ducks summering on the sewage lagoon at Saint John West, four were still present Sept. 8; later, in fall migration, 12 were there Oct. 27 (Johnston). 10 Ruddies were at Darling's Island, Kings Co., Nov. 2 (Wilson). Peter Taylor found a flock of 8 Hooded Mergansers, Oct. 12-14 above the causeway at Oak Bay, the same place where he saw 7 on Sept. 23, 1972. Bear that in mind if you're looking for Hoodies.

Vultures have been noted again. A Turkey Vulture was flying above the Aulac River July 3 (Barrow) and another was reported at the Alma dump Oct. 6 (Jack Strayhorn, fide Henrik Deichmann). A Black Vulture report comes from St. Martins June 2 (Ted Sears).

The scarce Cooper's Hawk was well seen at Erbs Cove, Belleisle Bay, July 7 (Ron Weir). Several Bald Eagles were noted at Canoose Lake in July (Stocek). A dark Gyr-falcon was at Saint John West November 10 (Wilson). It is disappointing to have only three reports of Peregrine Falcons during the summer and fall: 1 at Fairfield Road, Sackville, June 29 (Ron Hounsell), 1, flushed from a Yellowbreasted Chat at Machias Seal Island Sept. 25 (Davis Finch, Will Ruseell et al) and 2 at Southwest Head, Grand Manan about Oct. 1 (Pearces).

The only Yellow Rail reported this year was one heard at the Tintamarre National Wildlife Area at 2:30 a.m. (Yellow Rail time!) June 29 (Finch and Noble Proctor). An immature Common Gallinule was at Great Pond, Grand Manan Sept. 30 (Christie & Majkas). An Am. Coot in northern N.B. was one at Eel River Crossing July 7-14 (Jean-Paul Lebel).

Outstanding shorebird observation of the fall is New Brunswick's first Long-billed Curlew report in this century. Nancy and Carl Small saw 3 at White Head, Grand Manan on August 11. They especially noted the distinctive cinnamon-coloured wing linings. The Pearces discovered a new colony of Upland Sandpipers at Steeves Mountain, Westmorland Co., June 30 - seven birds were seen there and 5 at the usual Salisbury location. Other Upland Sandpipers reported were a male in aerial display flight at South St. Nicholas, Kent Co., June 8 (Christie), one at Penobsquis June 16 (Christie & Dr. Majka) and one at Machias Seal Island Sept. 5 and 25 (Finch & Russell). An interesting late Willet was at Colpitts Settlement, Albert Co., Oct. 21 (Blair Stevens & Peter Hope). There's a good chance that such late birds are individuals of the western subspecies.

Faird's Sandpipers reported were 1 at St. Andrews Aug. 23 (MacCoubrey), 2 at Harvey, Albert Co., Sept. 21 and 26 (Majkas & Christie) and 2 at Saint John West Sept. 28 (Finch, Russell et al). Western Sandpipers, often difficult to be sure of, were reported at St. Andrews Aug. 23 (1, MacCoubrey) and at Saint John West Oct. 19 (1, Johnston), Nov. 9 (2, Johnston) and Nov. 10 (3, possibly 4, Wilson). Long-billed

Dowitchers were one, in breeding plumage, with 3 Short-bills, at Saint John West July 14 (Johnston), and two at Castalia Sept. 29-30 (Pearce et al). Stilt Sandpipers were one at Cape Jourimain June 30 (NBFN-NSBS), 1 at Saint John West July 30 (Weir) and 7 at Castalia in the second week of August (Pearces). Single Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen at Miscou Island Aug. 5 (Lebel) and Machias Seal Island Sept. 6 (Finch & Russell). A Ruff was at Cape Jourimain June 30 (NBFN-NSBS). Single Wilson's Phalaropes were at Saint John West Aug. 4 (Wilson & Clark) and Sept. 8 (Johnston) and at Castalia in the second week of August (Pearce). An unusual inland Hudsonian Godwit was at Douglas, Fredericton mid Sept. (Schneiders et al). The most reported were three flocks, totalling 100, at Miscou Island Aug. 3 (Lebel). Northern Phalaropes at Deer Island were estimated at tens of thousands Aug. 19 (Andy Dean), 500,000 Aug. 21-22 (Finch), and 800 Sept. 6 (Finch).

Good numbers of Parasitic Jaegers were seen at The Whistle, Grand Manan from Sept. 28 to Oct. 3 (Christie et al). Single Pomarine Jaegers were at The Whistle Sept. 24 (Finch) and off Saint John Sept. 28 (Finch & Russell) when two probable Great Skuas were also seen.

Iceland Gulls lingered late at Moncton, about 100 still being there June 2 (Doug Whitman); one was at Grande Anse, Westmorland County, June 30 (Reid McManus). An unusual summer record of Black-headed Gulls is of two, perhaps three, at Miscou Island July 26 (Jack and Marion Steeves) when there were also 4 Little Gulls there. An adult Little Gull was at Miscou during Aug. 3-5 (Lebel), and an immature at Cape Jourimain June 30 (NBFN-NSBS) and July 13 (Nicholas Halmi). Little Gull observations at Deer Island Point include 3 or more Aug. 22 (Finch) and 2 Nov. 8 (Tingley & Bruce MacTavish). Rarer than those were two Franklin's Gulls, an adult at Dalhousie July 25 (Steeves) and an immature at Deer Island Point Sept. 6 and 23 (Finch et al).

The burning of much of the vegetation on Machias Seal Island in May adversely affected the Arctic Terns nesting there, according to Charles Dorchester. He writes that although many were nesting around the edges of the island, "the tremendous absence of terns in the central paths and the noise and harassment usually expected is amazing and disturbing." The federation has been in communication with the Canadian Wildlife Service regarding this problem. Two Caspian Terns were seen at Lorneville Aug. 4 (Clarks) and one at Saints Rest, Saint John West, the same day (Wilson). 11 Black Terns, adults and immatures, at the Tintamarre Nat'l Wildlife Area July 30 (Rick Blacquiere) are indicative of that species' well-established status in the border region now. At Machias Seal Island 24 Common Murres, several performing courtship activities, were noted on one rock June 10 (Christie & Gayl Hipperson) yet they apparently did not nest there. An immature Common Puffin picked up on the road at Middle Sackville Nov. 8 was released unharmed at the coast the next day (A. Smith). It was the first puffin record for south-eastern N.B.

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at The Swallowtail, Grand Manan, Aug. 17 (Pearce) was the only report. Black-billed Cuckoos were noted as "quite plentiful" in the Washademoak area during the summer (Enid Inch), and "present in fair numbers" in the N.B.-N.S. border region (Blacquiere et al).

The first of a flight of Snowy Owls were noted at Millidgeville, Saint John Oct. 31 (Audrey Morton); Grand Point, Grand Lake, Nov. 1 (Nettie Moore); Nov. 2 (Wilson) at Saint John, and Castalia Nov. 10 (Hipperson). An unlikely place for an owl, probably a Great Horned, was at sea halfway between Seal Cove and Machias Seal Island Sept. 25, when one was seen heading towards Grand Manan (Finch & Russell). An injured owl reported at East leased, the bird flew to a tree where it was attacked by several swallows. When re-seen flying away with the swallows hot in pursuit, diving at, but not hitting it. (Gorham & Pat Hansen).

Common Nighthawks, as usual, were conspicuous in migration during August and the first days of September. Later birds were one at Cambridge Sept. 14 (Inch) and a very late one at Dawson Sett., Albert Co., Oct. 11 (Dr. Majka). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest was a point of interest on the Wren Lake Nature Trail, Charlotte County in late June. The female was sitting on her nest about 20 feet high on a branch of beech (Doug Dawe). At Upper Woodstock a hummingbird was reported visiting flowers at night when bright outside lights were on (MacDonald). It is necessary to look carefully in such circumstances, since the behaviour of sphinx (hawk) moths can be very hummingbird-like. One hummer was still at Grand Harbour Oct. 3 (Majkas et al) and another, very late, was visiting windowbox flowers at Nackawic until Oct. 31 (fide Christie).

Two Red-Headed Woodpeckers were reported, an adult at Titusville, Kings Co., Sept. 5 (Wilson) and an immature at Martinon, St. John Co., Nov. 7 (Evan Smith). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker nest was found at Red Rapids, Victoria County, June 10 when the young were heard calling. On June 22, all was quiet at the nest (Joe Farquhar). In trees around the sloughs near McGowan Corner, at least six Black-backs were seen in 2 to 3 hours Nov. 7 but there were none in the same area Nov. 19 (Taylor). At Ile Lameque a female was found dead Nov. 10 (Hilaire & Rose-Aline Chiasson). A Northern Three-toed was seen at Gondola Point Nov. 30 (Wilson).

Single Western Kingbirds were noted at Deer Island Point Sept. 23 (Bill Davidson, Finch et al) and at Harvey, Albert Co., Sept. 27 (Christie). Great Crested Flycatchers in areas where they are not regularly seen were 2 at Littleton, Northumberland County, June 29 (Harry Walker) and one at Riverview in the second week of July (Charles Doyle).

A late Tree Swallow was at St. Martins Oct. 21 (fide Sears) and a Barn Swallow at St. Andrews Nov. 14 (MacCoubrey & Moore). Purple Martins "had good luck raising their families" in the Washademoak area according to Enid Inch. The latest birds at her Cambridge colony were Sept. 5, but she saw 15 at Gagetown Sept. 21 and Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Perry saw 100 at Lower Cambridge Sept. 28. By contrast, Ron Weir wrote that between Belleisle Bay and Hampton there were only 1 or 2 pairs at each of five colonies that usually have 10 to 15 pairs, the reduction obviously a result of the late May die-off.

A Gray Jay at Ile Lameque Nov. 2 was the first seen there by the Chiassons which was quite a surprise to me; one usually assumes that Gray Jays occur regularly in all our areas of coniferous forest except on Grand Manan which is relatively remote from the mainland. Both Black-capped Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches were numerous and conspicuous during the fall.

A pair of House Wrens were seen at Newcastle for several days in June (Walkers) and one at Westfield July 13 (Johnston). The Carolina Wren discovered at St. Andrews Nov. 8 and 12 (MacCoubrey & Mrs. Don McLeese) is a new species for New Brunswick. The northern edge of its normal range is Massachusetts. Long-billed Marsh Wrens (3 to 5) and Short-billed Marsh Wrens could again be found at Paunchy Pond, Tintamarre Nat'l Wildlife Area, during the summer (Tingley et al). Other Long-bills reported were one at Fundy Park May 20-30 (Deichmann et al), and one at Red Head Marsh July 7 (Clark) and 2 at Castalia Sept. 26 (Finch).

A pair of Mockingbirds apparently nested at Harvey, Albert Co.; one to two were there July 21 to Aug. 25 (Majkas & Christie) but Harvey resident George Bishop reports having seen four at once. Other mid-summer Mockers were one at Cape Jourmain July 3 (Ken Ross), a singing male at Sunny Brae, Moncton, all during June (Fred Lloyd) and 1, perhaps the same, at Lewisville July 28 (H.C. Risteen). Summer Brown Thrashers were at Riverside-Albert June 22 (Deichmann et al) and Fredericton July 21 (Pearce). Peter Pearce found a "rather extraordinary absence" of Robins on the commercial blueberry fields during the late summer, a marked contrast to their abundance during the previous three years. Peter wonders whether the abnormally cold weather in May may have

caused a high rate of nesting failure early in the season. The first definite Gray-cheeked Thrush nest found in New Brunswick was discovered by Jim Wilson and Paul Clark on the Devil's Elbow Brook Road, Nepisiguit River, June 29. It contained three eggs.

Davis Finch saw two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in September, one at Machias Seal Island on the 5th and one near the northern end of Deer Island on the 23rd. A Logger-head Shrike was seen near Salisbury Aug. 16 (Mary Majka) and a Bohemian Waxwing at Fundy Park Oct. 21 (Deichmann).

A Philadelphia Vireo, scarce in southern N.B. during summer and a single Pine Warbler, not known to breed here, were seen near Belleisle Bay, July 5 (Weir). Two unusual warblers at Machias Seal Island were a Prothonotary Aug. 15 (Kenneth Edwards) and a Blue-winged Sept. 5 (Finch et al). Prairie Warblers, as usual, were on the Fundy islands, 2 at Kent Island Aug. 20 (Bruce Boehler & Chuck Huntington), 2 at Machias Seal Sept. 5-6 and 1 there Sept. 25 (Finch et al). Willa MacCoubrey saw a bird at St. Andrews Sept. 11-13 which she believed was a male Connecticut Warbler. Eight Yellow-breasted Chats were reported from Sept. 5 to Oct. 2 at various coastal locations east to Jolicure. (Sept. 22, Gordon Burns).

A male Western Tanager near Deer Island Point Sept. 6 (Ben Feltner), is the second good sight record for the province. The only Cardinal reported appeared at a Rothersey feeder about Nov. 14 (Mrs. S.R. Jones). At St. Andrews, Willa MacCoubrey watched what were apparently Black-headed Grosbeaks, one on Aug. 24 and 31 and two from Sept. 1-6, accompanied by an immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Summer Indigo Buntings were a pair at Machias Seal Island June 8 (Dorchester et al), a male at Hopewell Cape June 22 (Deichmann et al) and a male at Rosevale, Albert County July 1-14 (Majkas). At least ten of them were seen at Grand Manan Sept. 30 to Oct. 2 (various observers) and two Blue Grosbeaks were seen there Sept. 27 (Finch, Russel et al).

A mere 6 or 7 Dickcissels were reported during the fall, a rather small number of that regular visitor. Rufous-sided Towhees were also rather infrequent, with only four reported. Two Seaside Sparrows were at Machias Seal Island Sept. 5, one still there Sept. 25 (Finch et al) and one, possibly 2, at Castalia Sept. 30 (Christie et al). Four Lark Sparrows were seen at Grand Manan Sept. 24 to Oct. 1 (var. obs.). Single Clay-coloured Sparrows, our 5th and 6th records in two years, were at The Swallowtail Sept. 24 and Machias Seal Island Sept. 25 (Finch, Russell et al).

A Field Sparrow, singing at Darlington, Restigouche County, June 30 to July 13 (Lebel) is the first N.B. report north of the Miramichi. One was seen at Sackville Oct. 12 (Burns) and there were other fall reports from Albert and Saint John counties.

REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS AND FISHES

Did you ever see a "parade" of snakes? Harold Matheway watched seven Garter Snakes following each other in a field at Stanley November 10. They often hibernate in groups so perhaps they were moving to or from a hibernation site.

Two Green Frogs were active in a pond at Browns Flat on the very early date of March 7 (Stuart Cochrane). Wood Frogs began calling at Oak Pt. Apr. 17 (Stan Gorham) and Spring Peepers at Saint John West Apr. 21 (Chris Stubbs). A migration of Leonard Frogs was seen near Sackville about Apr. 23 (Chris Majka). A migration of Leonard at Oak Point Apr. 29 (Gorham). Seven Spotted Salamanders were in a ditch at Oak Pt. Apr. 23 (Gorham).

On the evening of Sept. 29, numerous amphibians were actually crossing the highway at North Head but the only species identified were Am. Toad and Wood Frog (Christie & Mary Majka), the two confirmed amphibians of Grand Manan.

Alan Madden caught an 11 1/2 inch, 8 ounce Brown Trout at Tide Head May 30. That appears to be the second record from northern N.B. Alan suggests that the fish may

have originated in one of the Newfoundland or Nova Scotia rivers which have sea-run Brown Trout.

A most unusual invasion of the Saint John River by many Menhaden, a deep-bodied, gaspereau-like marine fish. Commercial fishermen on the lower Saint John and Kennebecasis Rivers recall nothing like it before. Large catches were made. On August 8 Wendell McAllister also captured a Bluefish Pomatomus saltatrix, a predator often associated with Menhaden. That provided the first definite N.B. record of Bluefish; a species found primarily from Cape Cod to Argentina, straying to western Nova Scotia.

Another fish of note is an Ocean Sunfish Mola mola captured off Chance Harbour August 14. Found in tropical and temperate seas throughout the world, in eastern Canada it is reported fairly frequently in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, less often in the Bay of Fundy. One taken at Chance Harbour in August 1957 weighed 500 pounds. The 1974 specimen was obtained for the Nat'l Museum of Natural Sciences.

A N.B. Museum field party captured several Finescale Dace, perhaps New Brunswick's rarest minnow, in ponds at Barker's Pt., Fredericton on August 13.

FLORA

The blooming dates of wildflowers were several days later than usual because of 1974's backward spring weather. Our earliest flower, the Coltsfoot, primarily coastal in distribution, but appearing at an increasing number of inland locations, was discovered in bloom at Grand Manan April 2 (Elmer Wilcox) and at Saint John Apr. 6 (Don McAlpine). By contrast the Dandelion was reported blooming at Woodstock May 2 (Marjorie Gray) and East Saint John May 6 (Christie). Many Strawberry blossoms were seen in a very advanced location, the south-facing embankment of the Jemseg bridge, May 12 (Christie). At Woodstock Mrs. Gray did not note it till May 21 she found Dogtooth Violet, Spring Beauty, Bloodroot, and Red Trillium blooming on May 19th, probably later than they actually started, since the first two of those, as well as Dutchman's Breeches, were seen May 18 at 1200 feet elevation on Caledonia Mountain, an area which is phenologically later than Woodstock in spring. Bilberry, or Shadbush, Amelanchier laevis was reported in bloom at Turtle Creek May 20 (Christie) and Woodstock May 24 (Gray). Pin Cherry flowers were seen the same day at Woodstock (Gray) and May 29 at Oromocto (Christie).

At Upper Woodstock, Rowena MacDonald, saw five plants of Sweet Coltsfoot Petasites palmatus in bloom May 20. That native species is probably unfamiliar to most New Brunswickers but it occurs throughout the province. I have found it flowering mostly in northern New Brunswick, but during summer I often see its deeply cleft leaves (usually with seven lobes) in wet woods in the southern counties. Sweet Coltsfoot has a bracted stalk, 6 to 12 inches high, bearing several creamy white flower heads which bloom in May and early June, before the leaves appear.

The federation members who climbed Mount Carleton Aug. 17 were surprised to find Sheep Laurel in full bloom at the summit. Several plants had flower buds just opening. A quick check of the museum herbarium shows only two August specimens in bloom (8 others have fruits), Aug. 4 at Mount Carleton and August 5 at Memel, Albert County and both had only a few flowers. The dates of 14 herbarium specimens in full bloom range from June 10 to July 29.

Andy Dean, visiting the Grand Falls gorge Aug. 21, found a fruiting plant which puzzled him. It turned out to be False Asphodel Tofieldia glutinosa, a tiny plant of the lily family which is found on some of the calcareous shores of northern New Brunswick. With it, he noted Grass-of-Parnassus Parnassia glauca, another specialty of the Grand Falls gorge, a fascinating spot for the amateur botanist.

Mrs. Gray reports abundant crops of Strawberries, Blackberries and Raspberries at Woodstock during the summer, noting that she was still picking the latter two until late September.