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NATURE NEWS

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Number 1

FOREWORD

As has been done for several years this number records the birds reported to us as seen in the Province between December 1st and February 15th.

The circular sent out with our December number requesting counts at this season brought in a considerable number of reports. However, these were restricted to the southern third of the Province. I would even be glad to know if Starlings, Sparrows and Pigeons winter in our northern towns and a report of the complete absence of birds would be news.

For the benefit of those readers who reside outside of this Province or who may consult this record in later years a few notes on the weather are included. December and January this winter have been the coldest for many years with over a foot of snow and this has resulted in a considerable reduction in both the number of species and individual birds seen. Herring Gulls, for example were apparently reduced to about one-quarter of the previous year and none of the summer birds normally feeding on insects seem to have survived.

Christmas Counts in which more than one person participated are recorded separately, others are included in the general count.

W.A. Squires, Curator

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saint John, N.B. Dec. 27, 1958; 7.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.; clear and sunny; temp. -5° to 15° ; 6 to 12 in. of snow; wind almost calm; 13 observers in 6 parties. Total mileage 54 (14 on foot, 40 by car).

Common Loon, 1; Black Duck, 26; Common Goldeneye, 144; Red-breasted Merganser, 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Gray (Hungarian) Partridge, 13; Great Black-backed Gull, 221; Herring Gull, 2091; Rock Dove (Street Pigeon), 72; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 10; Blue Jay, 2; Common Raven, 57; Common Crow, 243; Black-capped Chickadee, 53; Boreal Chickadee, 3; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5; Starling, 166; House (English) Sparrow, 98; American Goldfinch, 2; Slate-coloured Junco, 6; Tree Sparrow, 10; Snow Bunting, 12. Total species 23; about 3079 individuals. Seen during count period, Robins, White-winged Crossbill, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Mrs. C.H. Brock, David Christie, Mrs. C.S. Christie, Miss F. Christie, Miss L. Christie, G. Eagles, Roy E. Forrester, Miss Jane Hazen, Eric Lawrence, Mrs. Eric Lawrence, R. Squires, W.A. Squires (compiler), Murray Watters.

Fredericton, N.B. Dec. 26, 1958; 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.; clear and sunny; temp. -5° to 10°; 12 to 15 in. of snow; wind N.W. 5-10 mph; 5 observers in 3 parties. Total mileage 20 1/2 (1 1/2 on foot, 19 by car).
Common Goldeneye, 7; Rock Dove (Street Pigeon), 120; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 10; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Starling, 83; House (English) Sparrow, 91; Evening Grosbeak, 1; Tree Sparrow, 2; Snow Bunting, 9. G. Eagles, D. MacDougall, Miss Grace Smith, R. Squires, W.A. Squires (compiler).

Port Elgin, N.B. Dec. 29, 1958; 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.; overcast; temp. 35°; 12-18 inches snow; calm; 4 observers. Total mileage 40 (on foot 10, car 30).

Oldsquaw, 3; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Blue Jay, 11; Common Raven, 61; Common Crow, 36; Black-capped Chickadee, 10; Starling, 88; House Sparrow, 54; Slate-coloured Junco, 3; Tree Sparrow, 107; Snow Bunting, 20. C.O. Bartlett (compiler), Albert Flemming, Francis Remdas, Stephen Seepersad.

Moncton, N.B. (Riverview Heights to Shediac and Point-du-Chene). Dec. 27, 1958; 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.; sunny; temp. 5° to 25°; 15 inches snow; wind west 15 mph; 4 observers. Total mileage 82 (on foot 5, car 77).
Great Black-backed Gull, 38; Herring Gull, 410; Rock Dove (Street Pigeon), 78; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 12; Common Raven, 176; Black-capped Chickadee, 6; Boreal Chickadee, 2; Starling, 162; House Sparrow, 216; Evening Grosbeak, 4; Common Redpoll, 12; Slate-coloured Junco, 11. Fred Bone, Roger McGregor, Richard Whitman (compiler), S.D. Whitman.

WINTER BIRD LIST (December 1st, 1958 - February 15th, 1959).

Common Loon

Dec. 27 Lancaster 1 Miss Jane Hazen

Canada Goose

Dec. 5 St. Martins 1 Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Black Duck

Dec. 27 Lancaster 4 Murray Watters
Dec. 27 Saint John 22 W.A. Squires
Dec. 29 St. Stephen 4 H.E. MacDonald
Dec-Jan St. Martins sev. Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Common Goldeneye

Dec. 26 Fredericton 7 W.A. Squires
Dec. 27 Lancaster 14 Miss Jane Hazen
Dec. 27 Saint John 130 W.A. Squires
Dec. 31 Bloomfield 7 Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
Dec.-Feb. St. Martins sev. Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Jan. 23 Saint Jehn 58 W.A. Squires

Bufflehead

Jan. 28 Saint John 7 W.A. Squires

<u>Oldsquaw</u>				
Dec. 29	Port Elgin	3		C.O. Bartlett
Jan.-Feb.	St. Martins	3		Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
<u>Common Merganser</u>				
Jan. 3	Sussex	2		H. Deichmann
Jan. 18	Saint John	5		W.A. Squires
<u>Red-breasted Merganser</u>				
Dec. 5	St. Martins	1		Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec. 27	Saint John	2		W.A. Squires
Dec. 27	Lancaster	3		Murray Watters
<u>Goshawk</u>				
Dec. 12	Fredericton	1		G. Baker
<u>Sharp-shinned Hawk</u>				
Dec. 27	Kingshurst	1		David Christie
Dec. 27	Lancaster	1		Murray Watters
Jan. 13	St. Martins	1		Kaare Smith
<u>Rough-legged Hawk</u>				
Dec. 29	Sackville	5		C.O. Bartlett
<u>Bald Eagle</u>				
Dec. 23 & 31	Bloomfield	1		Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
Dec. 31	Mill Settlement	1		David Christie
Jan. 1	Apohaqui	1		W.E. Sears
Jan. 2	Woodstock	2		Mrs. A.B. Connell
Jan. 4	Bloomfield	1		Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
Jan.-Feb.	St. Martins	1		Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Feb. 6	Woodstock	1		Mrs. Marjorie Gray
<u>Spruce Grouse</u>				
Dec. 29	Chipman	5		Mrs. J.A. Shirley
Dec. 31	Bloomfield	2		Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
<u>Ruffed Grouse</u>				
Dec. 14	Fredericton	sev.		M. McNair
Dec. 27	Kingshurst	1		David Christie
Dec. 29	Port Elgin	1		C.O. Bartlett
Dec. 30	Holderville	1		John H. Kimball
Jan. 1	Mill Settlement	1		Perley McCracken
Jan. 1	Head of Millstream	2		Fred Bone
<u>Ring-necked Pheasant</u>				
Dec. 27	Salisbury	3		Miss Mary Foster
<u>Gray (Hungarian) Partridge</u>				
Dec. 27	Lancaster	13		Murray Watters
Dec.-Jan.	St. Martins	5		Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

<u>Purple Sandpiper</u>				
Dec.-Feb.	St. Martins	18		Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>				
Dec. 27	Saint John	140		W.A. Squires
Dec. 27	Lancaster	75		Murray Watters
Dec. 27	Lancaster	6		Miss Jane Hazen
Dec. 27	Moncton	38		Christmas Count
<u>Herring Gull</u>				
Dec.	Saint John-Rothesay	Many		David Christie
Dec.	Bayside	4		Mrs. Fred Nutter
Dec. 27	Saint John	1235		W.A. Squires
Dec. 27	Lancaster	700		Murray Watters
Dec. 27	Moncton	410		Christmas Count
Dec. 29	St. Stephen	Many		H.E. MacDonald
<u>Rock Dove (Street Pigeon)</u>				
Dec.-Feb.	Saint John, Rothesay, Fredericton, St. Stephen, Head of Millstream, Lancaster, Woodstock, Moncton.			
<u>Mourning Dove</u>				
Dec. 3	St. Martins	2		Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
<u>Great Horned Owl</u>				
Dec. 6	St. Martins	1		Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
<u>Hawk Owl</u>				
Jan.	Hampton Station	1		Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow
<u>Saw-Whet Owl</u>				
Jan. 10	Lancaster	1		Mrs. Wm. Hazen
<u>Pileated Woodpecker</u>				
Jan.	Mill Settlement	1		David Christie
<u>Hairy Woodpecker</u>				
Dec.	Bayside	2		Mrs. Fred Nutter
Dec. 4	St. Martins	sev.		Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec. 13	Kingshurst.	2		David Christie
Dec. 26	Fredericton	1		Miss Grace Smith
Dec. 27	Lancaster	1		Murray Watters
Dec. 27	Lancaster	1		Miss Jane Hazen
Dec. 30	Woodstock	2		Mrs. A.B. Connell
Dec. 31	Bloomfield	1		Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
Dec.-Feb.	Hampton Station	sev.		Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow
Jan. 1	Head of Millstream	1		Fred Bone
Jan. 1	Mill Settlement	1		David Christie
<u>Downy Woodpecker</u>				
Dec.	Bayside	2		Mrs. Fred Nutter
Dec. 4	St. Martins.	sev.		Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec. 8	Rothesay	1-3		David Christie
Dec. 26	Fredericton	1		Miss Grace Smith

Downy Woodpecker (cont'd)

Dec. 27	Lancaster	4	Murray Watters
Dec. 27	Lancaster	2	Miss Jane Hazen
Dec. 27	Moncton	1	Christmas Count
Dec. 30	Woodstock	1	Mrs. A.B. Connell
Dec.-Jan.	Riverview Heights	1	Fred Bone
Dec.-Feb.	Hampton Station	sev.	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow

Gray (Canada) Jay

Dec. 29	Chipman	2	Mrs. J.A. Shirley
Dec. 29	Port Elgin	11	C.O. Bartlett
Dec. 31	Bloomfield	2	Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
Dec.-Jan.	St. Martins	4	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec.-Jan.	Hampton Station	5-7	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow
Jan. 28	Buctouche	2	C.A. Foss

Blue Jay

Dec.	Bayside	3	Mrs. Fred Nutter
Dec.	Salisbury	1-2	Miss Mary Foster
Dec. 1	Kingshurst	2	David Christie
Dec. 24	Jacksonville	1	Miss M. Armand
Dec. 26	Fredericton	10	W.A. Squires
Dec. 27	Moncton	12	Christmas Count
Dec. 27	Rothsay	1	Mrs. C.H. Brock
Dec. 29	Chipman	2	Mrs. J.A. Shirley
Dec. 30	Woodstock	6	Mrs. A.B. Connell
Dec. 31	Bloomfield	9	Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
Dec. 31	Welsford-Bailey	7	David Christie
Dec.-Jan.	Riverview Heights	4	Fred Bone
Dec.-Feb.	St. Martins	8	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec.-Feb.	Holderville	3	John H. Kimball
Jan. 1	Head of Millstream	2	Fred Bone
Jan. 1-6	St. Martins	6	Ray Harper
Jan. 2	Woodstock	1	Miss May Armand

Common Raven

Dec.	Salisbury	2	Miss Mary & Alice Foster
Dec.	Holderville	1	John H. Kimball
Dec. 20 & 29	Kennebecasis Bay	1	David Christie
Dec. 27	Moncton	176	Christmas Count
Dec. 27	Lancaster	50	Murray Watters
Dec. 29	Chipman	2	Mrs. J.A. Shirley
Dec. 29	St. Stephen	2	H.E. MacDonald
Dec. 29	Port Elgin	61	C.O. Bartlett
Dec. 31	Bloomfield	2	Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
Dec.-Feb.	Holderville	1	John H. Kimball
Jan. 1	Head of Millstream	4	Fred Bone
Jan. 12	Oromocto	2	W.A. Squires
Jan.-Feb.	St. Martins	3	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Common Crow

Dec.	Kingshurst-Rothesay	1-4	David Christie
Dec.	Salisbury	2-6	Miss Alice & Mary Foster
Dec.	Bayside	18	Mrs. Fred Nutter
Dec. 27	Lancaster	64	Miss Jane Hazen
Dec. 27	Lancaster	175	Murray Watters
Dec. 27	Saint John	7	W.A. Squires
Dec. 29	Port Elgin	36	C.O. Bartlett
Dec. 29	Chipman	2	Mrs. J.A. Shirley
Dec. 29	St. Stephen	6	H.E. MacDonald
Dec. 31	Westfield-Bailey	4	David Christie
Dec. 31	Bloomfield	1	Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
Dec.-Jan.	St. Martins	sev.	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec.-Feb.	Hampton Station	1	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow
Jan.-Feb.	Woodstock	sev.	Mrs. Marjorie Gray
Feb. 3	Holderville	2	John H. Kimball

Black-capped Chickadee

Dec-Feb.	Rothesay, Welsford, Riverview Heights, Chipman, St. Martins, Bayside, Head of Millstream, Lancaster, Port Elgin, Woodstock, Bloomfield, Moncton.
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Boreal (Brown-capped) Chickadee

Dec. 27	Moncton	2	Christmas Count
Dec. 27	Rothesay	2	David Christie
Dec. 31	Bloomfield	5	Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
Dec. 31	Welsford-Bailey	10	David Christie
Jan. 1	Head of Millstream	1	Fred Bone

White-breasted Nuthatch

Dec. 25	Saint John	1	David Christie
Dec. 26	Fredericton	3	Miss Grace Smith
Dec. 29	St. Stephen	1	H.E. MacDonald

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Dec. 31	Mill Settlement	6	David Christie
Dec. 31	Bloomfield	1	Mrs. Leonard Hoyt

Brown Creeper

Dec. 2 & 4	St. Martins	2	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
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Winter Wren

Dec. 31 & Jan. 1	Mill Settlement	1	David Christie
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Robin

Dec. 2	St. Martins	2	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec. 2 & 4	Rothesay	2	David Christie
Dec. 11	Bloomfield	1	Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
Dec. 27	Lancaster	1	Miss Jane Hazen
Dec. 29	St. Stephen	1	H.E. MacDonald
Jan. 1-6	St. Martins	1	Ray Harper

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Dec. 6	St. Martins	2	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec. 26	Rothsay	2	Mrs. C.H. Brock
Dec-Feb.	Rothsay	6	David Christie
Jan. 1	Head of Millstream	3	Fred Bone

Northern Shrike

Dec.-Jan.	St. Martins	1	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
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Starling

Dec.-Jan.	Saint John, Fredericton, Rothsay, Jacksonville, Woodstock, Riverview Heights, Chipman, St. Stephen, Bayside, Salisbury, Head of Millstream, Lancaster, Port Elgin, Bloomfield, Moncton, Hampton.		
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House (English) Sparrow

Dec.-Jan.	Saint John, Fredericton, Rothsay, Jacksonville, Woodstock, Riverview Heights, Chipman, St. Stephen, Bayside, Salisbury, Head of Millstream, Lancaster, Port Elgin, Bloomfield, Moncton, Hampton.		
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Common Grackle

Dec. 5	Fredericton	1	W.A. Squires
Dec. 27-Feb.	Hampton Station	1	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow
Dec. 29	St. Stephen	1	H.E. MacDonald
Jan. 5	St. Martins	1	Ray Harper

Brown-headed Cowbird

Dec.-Feb.	Hampton Station	3-5	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow
Jan. 1-6	Riverview Heights	1	Fred Bone
Jan.-Feb.	St. Martins	50	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Evening Grosbeak

Dec. 26	Fredericton	1	W.A. Squires
Dec. 27	Point du Chene	4	Christmas Count
Dec. 29	St. Stephen	35	H.E. MacDonald
Dec. 30	Woodstock	1	Mrs. A.B. Connell
Dec. 31	Bloomfield	2	Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
Jan. 1-6	Riverview Heights	14	Fred Bone

Pine Grosbeak

Jan. 1	Mill Settlement	8	David Christie
Jan. 1	Head of Millstream	4	Fred Bone

Common Redpoll

Dec. 27	Moncton	12	Christmas Count
Dec. 29	Chipman	2	Mrs. J.A. Shirley
Dec. 30	Woodstock	1	Mrs. A.B. Connell

American Goldfinch

Dec. 27	Rothsay	2	David Christie
Jan. 1	Mill Settlement	11	"

White-winged Crossbill

Dec. 26	Rothesay	6	David Christie
Dec. 31	Mill Settlement	4	"

Rufous-sided Towhee

Dec. 13	Loch Lomond	2	Frank Barry
Jan. 16	Lancaster	1	Mrs. Ashley Smith

Savannah Sparrow

Dec.-Jan.	Belmont	1	S. MacFarlane
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Slate-coloured Junco

Dec.	Bayside	2	Mrs. Fred Nutter
Dec. 13	East Saint John	2	Roy Forrester
Dec. 25	Saint John	1	David Christie
Dec. 27	Shediac	11	Christmas Count
Dec. 27	Lancaster	6	Miss Jane Hazen
Dec. 29	Port Elgin	3	C.O. Bartlett
Dec.-Jan.	St. Martins	5	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec.-Jan.	Belmont	sev.	Stuart MacFarlane
Jan. 1-6	St. Martins	2	Ray Harper
Jan. 9	Hampton Station	1	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow

Tree Sparrow

Dec. 4	Kingshurst	1-4	David Christie
Dec. 26 & 27	Barker's Point	2	D. MacDougall
Dec. 27	Lancaster	7	Murray Watters
Dec. 29	Port Elgin	107	C.O. Bartlett
Dec. 31	Wirral	1	David Christie
Dec. 31	Mill Settlement	1	"
Dec.-Jan.	Riverview Heights	2-3	S.D. Whitman
Dec.-Jan.	St. Martins	19	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec. 24-Feb.	Hampton Station	2	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow

White-throated Sparrow

Dec. 3	Kingshurst	1	David Christie
Dec.-Jan.	Belmont	1	Stuart MacFarlane

Fox Sparrow

Jan. 1	St. Martins	1	Mrs. Ray Harper
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Song Sparrow

Dec. 25 & 28	Saint John	1	David Christie
Dec. 30	Woodstock	2	Mrs. A.B. Connell
Jan. 9	Belmont	1	Stuart MacFarlane

Snow Bunting

Dec.	Bayside	sev.	Mrs. Fred Nutter
Dec. 27	Barker's Point	9	D. MacDougall
Dec. 27	Lancaster	12	Murray Watters
Dec. 28	Jacksonville	75	Miss May Armond
Dec. 29	Port Elgin	20	C.O. Bartlett
Dec. 29	Chipman	sev.	Mrs. J.A. Shirley
Dec.-Jan.	St. Martins	25	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Jan. 5	Nerepis	1	W.A. Squires

NATURE NEWS

Vol. X

March - April 1959

Number 2

F O R E W O R D

The days get warmer although there is still frost at night; the snow melts, the little brooks become vocal, the country boy proclaims that "sap's running", the first summer birds appear - it is spring!

In spite of everyone's impatience for an early return of balmy weather and the general opinion that the season is slow and backward after a more severe winter than usual, spring has been about normal here.

This bulletin depends for its coverage of nature events on the reports received from readers. We thank those who report to us regularly. They are making a very fine contribution to our knowledge in this field in New Brunswick. A very special thank you to several new correspondents. To those who have seen what they consider commonplace events please report them anyway and let us judge if they can be used.

W.A. Squires, Curator.

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Did you see any Snow Fleas this year? Perhaps you have never seen Snow Fleas. These are very tiny primitive insects which appear in black patches of countless thousands on the snow in March.

Observers who usually record the first wildflowers apparently have not been on the job this spring. There has been only one report of Coltsfoot and this not from a recipient of Nature News. Miss Georgia Robertson saw it in bloom at Saint John March 31st. This is twelve days later than the all time early report for the district.

While Robins and Blackbirds were not seen in numbers in most parts of the Province until well into April, Mrs. Bradshaw reported a flock of more than 30 Robins at St. Martins March 20th, a large flock of Juncos March 21st and Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles on March 25th. Mr. Ray Harper also at St. Martins reported 10 or 11 Robins on March 26th, a large flock of Common Grackles the same day and Red-winged Blackbirds on the 27th.

Mrs. Marjorie Gray saw the first Robin at Woodstock on August 31st and 8 more on April 7th.

As the summer birds arrive the winter birds gradually leave. Bradshaw's flock of Snow Buntings increased to about 100 in March and then about the 23rd they all disappeared. Mrs. A.B. Williston reported the largest flock of Snow Buntings on the N.W. Miramichi in February that she had ever seen.

It was difficult in most places to be sure when the occasional Song Sparrow that had been in the Province all winter received reinforcements from the south but David Christie reported about 50 at Rothesay and Kingshurst on March 31st and on April 6th the song of the Song Sparrow could be heard almost continuously in the Saint John valley between Fredericton and Saint John.

It is only rarely that I receive reports of hawks. The most conspicuous and now one of the commonest in the south of the Province is the Sparrow Hawk. Until a few years ago I seldom saw this species but now it may be seen frequently on the posts and wires along the road. Mrs. Bradshaw's report of one at St. Martins March 28th is our earliest. I saw one at Welsford on the 30th. This colourful little falcon apparently escapes the attention of trigger-happy or ill-informed gunners.

Most Sharp-shinned Hawks go south in winter but an occasional one spends the winter here. One was reported at St. Martins and another at Rothesay during the past winter and reports for March 28th and 31st probably refer to these wintering hawks and not to spring migrants.

David Christie reported a light phase Rough-legged Hawk at Rothesay on March 26th. This species is a winter visitor to New Brunswick spending the summer in the far north. The Marsh Hawk on the other hand is a summer visitor here and April 8th when Mrs. Bradshaw saw one at St. Martins is our earliest record. I saw one at Petersville on April 18th. The male of this hawk is gray and the female dark brown and both can be identified by a large white patch at the base of the tail.

Other birds reported back from their winter sojourn in the south are Canada Geese March 17th at St. Martins, April 8th at Woodstock; Fox Sparrows March 21st at St. Martins, April 7th at Kingshurst; Rusty Blackbirds April 2nd at Rothesay, April 4th at St. Martins and April 5th at Fredericton; Woodcock at St. Martins March 31st and April 8th at Kingshurst; Great Blue Herons April 2nd at St. Martins and April 8th at Kingshurst; Yellow-shafted Flickers April 7th at St. Martins, April 15th at Rothesay, April 19th at Fredericton, April 20th at Woodstock and April 21st at Saint John; Belted Kingfishers April 15th at Rothesay.

Mrs. John Trigg reported Cowbirds in a flock with Grackles, Blackbirds and Starlings at Buctouche, April 13th. Although flocks of Cowbirds now winter in New Brunswick these could be spring migrants.

The Brant is one of the most spectacular birds in spring migration here. Brant gather in large numbers, often 3,000 to 5,000 first at Grand Manan, then Mace's Bay, Tabusintac and the Bay of Chaleur. They were at Mace's Bay with a few along the coast to the east from about March 20th to April 12th.

The ducks which winter along our coast are early reinforced by additional individuals and species. Scoters were still present at St. Martins on April 4th and Common Goldeneye at Westfield on April 16th. David Christie reported 47 Scaup at Perry Point on April 4th. There was also a flock of about 100 Scaup at Westfield on April 16th and 18th. Many of these appeared to be Lesser Scaup.

The lower Saint John River especially between Westfield and Hampstead is a favorite stopping place for migrant ducks. On April 19th there were many thousands of ducks in this area. The great majority were Greater Scaup waiting for spring to come in their northern breeding grounds. There were smaller flocks of Black Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks and Common Goldeneyes. A few pairs of both the Common Merganser and the Red-breasted Merganser were also seen.

Amphibians which have voices are more vocal in the spring - breeding time - than at any other season. The first time this spring chorus is heard is a thrill to be looked forward to every year. The most important voice in the chorus is not a frog but the Common Toad and solos are often supplied by the Tree Toad commonly called the Spring Peeper. The frogs supply the lower pitched background music.

There are three very common frogs in New Brunswick - the Green, Leopard and Wood Frogs. The Pickerel, Bull and Mink Frogs are much rarer. Most of the egg masses in roadside ditches belong to Green Frogs and in woodland pools to Wood Frogs. If eggs are found in chains instead of masses they belong to Toads.

The Toads are found in or near streams and ponds at this season. The Spring Peeper is also found in water in the spring but during the rest of the season it frequents trees and shrubs far from water and its ventrioquistic notes are usually mistaken for those of some bird.

The Common Tree Toad (Hyla versicolor) of the eastern United States has been found in New Brunswick but seems to be extremely rare. It has been found in two localities near Fredericton and near the Quebec border. It reaches a body length just over two inches and should be watched and listened for elsewhere. All tree toads can be identified by the suction disks at the end of their toes.

Salamanders will often be found in the same pools with the Frogs and Toads in the spring but as they are all essentially voiceless they do not take part in the spring chorus.

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Vol. X

May - June 1959

Number 3

F O R E W O R D

Spring in New Brunswick got off to an early warm start so that some of the flowers were in bloom at an early date. In some parts of the Province records for high temperatures were set in May. Then a reaction set in and late May and early June were unseasonably cold with night temperatures occasionally falling into the thirties.

Bird arrivals did not seem to be noticeably affected and arrival dates were generally average.

W.A. Squires, Curator

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Are warblers increasing in New Brunswick? "I would say definitely - yes". I feel sure that there has been a steady increase over the last six or eight years and that it can properly be associated with the increase and spread of the spruce budworm during this period.

Every species of warbler that has been recorded in the Province on anything more than an accidental basis has been reported to me by several observers this spring. Several observers were convinced that they had seen two or three other species which if they could have been collected and so identified would have been very interesting extralimital records.

A great deal could be written about the warblers as they have arrived this spring but I shall restrict the report to the earliest date for each species. All these records are for the southern half of the Province.

Black-and-White Warbler May 10, Tennessee Warbler May 17, Nashville Warbler May 10, Parula Warbler May 16, Yellow Warbler May 11, Magnolia Warbler May 16, Cape May Warbler May 17, Black-throated Blue Warbler May 18, Myrtle Warbler April 25, Black-throated Green Warbler May 10, Blackburnian Warbler May 12, Chestnut-sided Warbler May 13, Bay-breasted Warbler May 16, Blackpoll Warbler June 2, Pine Warbler May 16, Palm Warbler April 19, Ovenbird May 31, Northern Waterthrush May 23, Mourning Warbler May 28, Yellowthroat May 6, Wilson's Warbler May 10, Canada Warbler May 24, American Redstart May 19.

It is interesting to note that only in one case, the Tennessee Warbler, is the date earlier than the earliest recorded in "Birds of New Brunswick". Any information about the nesting of Warblers or other species of birds is always worth recording. The information should be accurate and as complete as possible including date or dates, number of eggs or young, position of nest in tree, shrub or on ground, height, kind of tree or shrub, etc.

The Evening Grosbeaks are back in overwhelming numbers to breed in New Brunswick. Mated pairs are reported almost throughout the Province but still no one has found a nest.

Probably the most outstanding record is the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher seen at St. Martins May 10th by Mrs. James N. Bradshaw. There is only one other New Brunswick record known to me - Campobello Island May 13, 1947.

It was also of special interest to receive spring reports of the Rufous-sided Towhee. It was seen at St. Martins by Mr. Ray Harper on May 9th and by Mrs. Bradshaw on June 9th.

A Mockingbird seen at Fundy Park by Henrik Deichmann on June 5th and Scarlet Tanagers seen at Tracy by Miss Exa Burtt and near Norton by Mrs. Leonard Hoyt are also outstanding records.

Do you keep a Nature Calendar and record the first dates on which you find the wild flowers? If you do you will find the following list made by David Christie along the Kennebecasis at Kingshurst, Rothesay and Perry's Point of special interest.

Trailing Arbutus (Mayflower) May 2, Wild Strawberry May 8, Anemone May 11, White Violet May 11, Bellwort May 11, Fly Honeysuckle May 12, Blueberry May 12, Daphne (escape) May 13, Dandelion May 13, Blue Violet May 14, Bluet May 14, Rose Twisted-stalk May 21, Forget-me-not May 24, Bird Cherry May 24, Dogtooth Violet May 24th, White Baneberry May 24, Goldthread May 24, Toothwort May 24, Hobblebush May 24, Starflower May 26, Rhodora May 27, Canada Mayflower (Wild Lily-of-the Valley) May 27, Wild Sarsaparilla May 27, Bunchberry May 27, Clintonia May 28, Ground Ivy May 28, Yellow Rocket May 29, Hawthorn May 29, Solomon's Seal May 30, Common Cinquefoil June 3, Tall Buttercup June 5, Blue-eyed Grass June 11.

Christie also recorded the following at Mill Settlement near Hoyt in Sunbury County: Shadbush May 16, Red Trillium May 18, Painted Trillium May 30, Nodding Trillium May 30, Jack-in-the-Pulpit May 30.

These are, of course, not the earliest dates on which these flowers were in bloom in the Province. I saw a number of them earlier myself and Mrs. Gray found Dogtooth Violet at Woodstock May 6 and Mrs. Bradshaw found Red (or Purple) Trillium past its prime at Walton Lake, King's County on May 12th, and Miss McNair Blue Violet April 29th at Fredericton.

Unfortunately some of the flower names used here may be unfamiliar to you while you know the plant under some other name. Students of birds now have the common or English names standardized so that usually the same name is recognized wherever the bird is found but botanists have not done anything of the kind and even within the Maritime Provinces and New England some well known wild flowers may have as many as twenty local names. Botanists are also in greater disagreement about many scientific or Latin names than students of other groups. The layman often has great difficulty selecting a name for a wildflower which is new to him.

I have never tried to keep dates of the start of the spring chorus of our amphibians but several of our contributors have. The results seem remarkably uniform for the area of the Province covered.

May 3rd at Coldbrook near Saint John (Christie) is the earliest; May 6 St. Martins (Mrs. Bradshaw); May 7 Rothesay (Christie); Jacksonville, Carleton County (Miss Arnand) and May 10 Woodstock (Mrs. Marjorie Gray) are the other dates.

The spring chorus is a mixture of the mating calls of the males of the common toad, the spring peeper (a tiny tree-toad), the green frog, the leopard frog and occasionally the wood frog and mink frog. These creatures are all cold-blooded and have a body temperature very near that of their surroundings. The toad and the spring peeper hibernate buried in the earth or under debris on land and the frogs under water, sometimes burying themselves in the muck at the bottom of a stream, pond or spring.

All of these and also most of the voiceless salamanders lay their eggs in water and even the terrestrial toads and tree toads must migrate to streams and ponds in the spring. Most species lay 2,000 to 4,000 eggs while the larger bullfrog may lay as many as 7,000 eggs. Development from the egg to the adult form may take just a few weeks as in the case of the Wood Frog or two years in the bullfrog.

What changes there have been are due to man's interference with nature. Here in the northeast of the continent man opened up the forest and birds of the savanna and prairie spread into the region. This trend is still continuing as the Meadowlark, Prairie Horned Lark and many others become steadily commoner. Man planted seeds from the Old World and his carelessness released a host of pernicious weeds - dandelion, hawk-weeds, ox-eye daisy, to name but a few - which are still spreading out of control. The House Mouse and the Norway Rat followed man across the ocean and have spread and multiplied across this new land carrying waste and destruction in their wake. Man intentionally introduced the English Sparrow and the Starling to North America and rejoiced when they bred successfully but instead of being an added control for insects they have caused and continue to cause untold losses to agriculture. Some of our streams teem with introduced fish. The introduced Pickerel and Bass have destroyed native species in many of our waterways while themselves becoming sought after sport fish.

Some other changes are of a more indirect character. The development of the high-speed motor car has led to a tremendous slaughter of animal and bird life on the highway. As a result the Raven is increasing and spreading inland to feed on the bodies thus scattered along the highways.

The first law of nature is that change is continuous but man has certainly caused the process to accelerate.

NATURE NEWS

Vol. X

July - August 1959

Number 4

F O R E W O R D

Every season is different, different naturally from the seasons which precede and follow it, but also different in many respects from the same season in preceding years. Some summers are hot and dry, others are cool with excessive rain, but most summers give us a great variety of weather. The summer season for 1959 in New Brunswick got an early start in May with hot dry weather, and some of the hottest May days on record. June saw a great change - unseasonable cold weather and nearly three times the normal rainfall. When later in June and July it became very hot inland the moist air drawing in from the Bay of Fundy brought much cold, foggy weather to the coastal area of southern New Brunswick.

The great variations in the seasons add spice to the study of nature. A great part of nature study is an investigation of the way in which the birds and animals, plants, and other forms of life react to the changes taking place around them.

W.A. Squires, Curator

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The cold wet period in June may have caused the death of many young birds in the nest in those species where the parents have to catch flying insects. We would be interested to hear of any such cases which have come to the attention of our readers. Swallows may have suffered particularly. I saw a row of Cliff Swallows' mud nests under an eave on a barn at Prince William Station, all with the bottoms gone, as if the mud gave way in the wet weather. Young also starve if the parents cannot get enough insects for them.

What do you see when you travel along our highways - just pretty scenery or is your eye educated to appreciate certain features?

The artist will unconsciously frame each succeeding view and appraise it for composition and colour balance. The geologist will recognize each rock and outcropping, every vein and mineral stain. The student of physical geography will note the contours of the hills and valleys, identify floodplains, meanders and oxbows, and watch for glacial moraines and other evidence of the Ice Age, as well as volcanic bombs, lava and ash from ancient volcanoes. The ornithologist will study the birds, and the botanist the plants. The naturalist will appreciate all these things by the roadside and assign to each its place, but the layman when travelling will only appreciate nature to the extent that his eye has been educated.

Let us for the moment, travel as casual students of plants and see what flowers there are by the roadside in the summer season. There

are so many wildflowers to be seen in July and August that it might help to separate them by colour.

Yellow is probably the commonest colour at this season and becomes commoner as the various species of goldenrod come into bloom. The low hawkweeds go to seed quite early in July but the taller species such as Canada Hawkweed are later and grow in profusion. Other yellows include Black-eyed Susans, Evening Primroses, and St. John's Wart. Great patches of Tansy are seen here and there and the Tawny Day Lily with a little red added to the yellow has escaped from gardens and is becoming common in many places.

The Common Mullein with its towering spike sometimes eight feet high, has yellow flowers also although they are not conspicuous.

Then again, more often in July than in August, an occasional grain field may be seen completely yellow with the bloom of Common Mustard growing from seeds dormant in the soil since the last time it was ploughed.

Flowers in which the colours might be described as various mixtures of red and blue giving rosy purples are also prominent. The commonest at this season is Fireweed, also called Great Willow-Herb, which grows in great clumps. There are several species most of which prefer damp soil. By the end of August the Fireweeds are spreading their seeds to be transported on the wind by floats of silky down.

Milkweed has large clusters of flowers of nearly the same colour as Fireweed. This plant is not as common in New Brunswick as it is farther west, but is found in many places especially by the roadside in the St. John valley. The Common Milkweed predominates but Swamp Milkweed is also found.

Also abundant in the roadside swamps and rosy-purple in bloom is the Joe-Pye-Weed, a lush-growing plant reaching heights of three to five feet.

Nor should we forget the Thistles. The Canada Thistle with its reddish purple blossom is the commonest, sometimes taking over neglected acres. It is one of our worst weeds but contributes its share of colour to the glorious roadside carpet.

Flower species which are truly blue are not very numerous at this season. The Blue Violet, Blue Flag (Iris) and Forget-me-nots are gone but the Blue Vetch makes up in abundance for all the scarcity of other blue species. This is a climbing plant of the Pea Family with a spike of many blue blossoms which turn purple with age. It is found in great clumps growing in the poor soil close to the right of way.

The Harebell is a slender delicate little plant with vivid blue bells. It is occasionally found by the roadside and in open woods but is not very common.

The European Bellflower has escaped from old gardens and is becoming increasingly common along the highways. The colour of this Bellflower is nearer violet than pure blue.

Two more brilliant blue flowers or weeds, depending on your point of view, are the Viper's Bugloss or Blue Devil and Chickory. These are very troublesome weeds in parts of Ontario and Quebec but are only seen occasionally in this province.

Blue-eyed Grass which actually has blue petals but a yellow eye is quite common in grassy fields.

White flowers are numerous but never impress us the same as the bright colours do. One, however, the Cow Parsnip, which is seen occasionally in the roadside swales is impressive for its size alone. It reaches a height of eight feet and the leaves six inches in width. The numerous large white flower clusters may be a foot in diameter.

At this season the late-flowering Common Elder (*Sambucus canadensis*) is very conspicuous in some areas with its numerous flat flower clusters.

Other white flowers include Meadowsweet, which is a wild species of *Spiraea*, the coarse weed Yarrow, which is very common in poor gravelly soil and the Ox-eye Daisy. The latter paints the fields and meadows white in June and early July but is found occasionally later in the season. Pearly Everlasting and some of its close relatives are also abundant and will persist until snow comes.

We have only indicated the abundance of plant life in bloom by the roadside in the summer season. The supply is almost infinite. We have not mentioned the clovers, especially the yellow and rabbit-foot varieties, which form colourful mats at the edge of the pavement; nor have we referred to the water plants in the wayside pools; nor to the many ferns, mosses and lichens. The person botanically inclined need never lack for subject matter at this season.

Two projects at summer youth camps that have come to my attention are worthy of emulation. The first is a Nature Trail set up at Camp Wegesegum, Chipman, through the active interest of Mr. A.R. Crookshank of Saint John. First opened in 1958 it is again available this year to help the campers identify trees, plants, and other objects of nature. I was delighted to be able to assist in the identification of plants along the Trail.

The second project was at the Y.M.C.A. Camp at Lake Magaguadavic. Here a small stream was dammed up at the side of the lake and several species of fish were liberated in the pool thus formed. The campers were able to examine at close range such fish as Yellow Perch, Silver Chub, Common Sucker and Brook Trout, and occasionally a thirty-inch Common Eel would come out of hiding under the bank and swim the length of the pool in the foot-deep water.

These and similar undertakings are very important in developing in the young and the not so young the "educated eyes" referred to above.

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September - October 1959

Number 5

F O R E W O R D

A note of thanks to all those who month by month continue to supply notes on the movements of the birds, the blooming of the flowers and the many other natural events which accompany the orderly procession of the seasons.

How short the summer season seems in this latitude. It was only yesterday that we were watching for spring migrants and already the first snow has fallen. Frost struck early in many parts of New Brunswick, the second week of September in some parts which in recent falls had escaped until October.

We should be watching now for early records of Snow Buntings, Redpolls, and Tree Sparrows. Along the shore the Glaucous, Iceland and even the Ivory Gulls may appear and if the hunting is poor enough in the north the Snowy Owl and the Gyrfalcon.

W.A. Squires, Curator

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The fall migration of birds has been under way for some weeks. In fact the first of the shorebirds from the Arctic reappear on our beaches in late July or early August.

Early in September greatly increased numbers of White-throated Sparrows and Juncos were noted by several observers at Fredericton and it was also noted that Robins were absent from some localities and numerous in others. Myrtle Warblers also gathered in such numbers as to outnumber all other warblers but did not seem to be as numerous as they were last year or the year before.

Perhaps some of our rarer birds are getting commoner or else the observers are getting keener. Until 1955 we had only one September report on record for the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. On September 11th, 1955 a flock of 10 or 12 were seen at Fredericton. This year several of them in both male and female or immature plumage were seen at Fredericton until September 20th by A. Dean, and D. Kermod Parr also saw two in another part of the city on the 20th. In addition D. Christie saw two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Kingshurst on September 15th.

Scarlet Tanagers which until a few years ago had not been reported in late summer or fall were seen at Riverview Heights, Albert County, September 14th, 1957 at both Saint John and Fredericton in August 1958. This year, several in both the scarlet and black plumage of the summer males and the olive green of the females, immatures, and fall and winter males were seen in Fredericton in September by Dean, the latest on September 20th. Christie also saw 1 to 3 at Kingshurst, Kings County, September 3rd to 15th.

The Black-billed Cuckoo was recorded at St. Andrews on September 26th and again on the 27th by Miss Georgie Mears. Both dates are much later than our previous last fall appearance of September 5th.

Mr. Parr has reported and also published in the Daily Gleaner an unusual incident involving several species of birds which he saw at Fredericton on September 19th and 20th. He found a small Red Oak which Sapsuckers had almost girdled with a series of holes in the bark about eight feet from the ground. While he watched, two Sapsuckers, two Hummingbirds, three Myrtle Warblers, one Blue-headed Vireo and one Cape May Warbler all visited the tree and seemed to get something from the holes. It was found that the fresh holes contained a sweet colourless sap which all of these birds were drinking. I examined the tree on September 20th and saw the Sapsuckers and the Hummingbirds feeding. There were also numerous Yellow-Jacket Wasps feeding on the sweet liquid.

There are numerous references in the literature to Hummingbirds and wasps coming to pits dug by Sapsuckers but none we have found refer to other species of birds such as those reported here.

Evening Grosbeaks are scarcely news in New Brunswick any more. They must be summer residents over most of the Province. Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw reports two flocks in August, one of about eight birds at Schoales Dam in Kings County and another of fifteen or twenty at Salmon River, Saint John County. There were males and females feeding young in both flocks. Evening Grosbeaks were reported at Loch Lomond all summer and also at Fredericton. The flocks at Fredericton increased greatly in early September and included many young birds. They continue to be very numerous throughout the northern half of the Province where they have been breeding now for twenty years. We do not yet have a report of a nest with eggs or young being found but perhaps this is not surprising as they usually nest in the inaccessible tops of tall trees.

Once again we have had the privilege of seeing Mother Nature spread her magic cloak of many colours over the New Brunswick countryside. The red and gold of Rock Maple, the brilliant reds of Red Maple and Sumac, the dull red of Pin Cherry, the yellow of Poplar and Tamarack, these and the colours assumed by a host of other trees and shrubs are accepted as commonplace by our people who do not realize that eastern North America is the only large area of the world where these brilliant colours are found. A small part of western Europe and of eastern China and Japan almost complete the colour map.

The colours depend on the pigments in the leaves. These are some of the same pigments that give the colours to flowers and fruits. Without pigments a leaf would appear white. During the summer there are several pigments in the leaf but the green chlorophyll is the most common and masks any other colours that are present.

Towards fall the production of chlorophyll slows down and stops. The chlorophyll in the leaf decomposes and the other colours present may be seen. The first of these are the xanthophylls which give yellow colours and

the carotenes which are yellowish-orange to red. These pigments also give their colour to goldenrods, oranges, lemons, tomatoes, etc. These yellows are the most common colours of autumn.

A third group of pigments, the anthocyanins which include erythrophyll, supply a great variety of hues from brilliant scarlet through reds and purples to the blues of flowers and fruits. The anthocyanins are not usually in the leaves during the summer but seem to increase as sugar increases in the cells. The increased light that penetrates the leaves as the chlorophyll fades also seems to have an effect. Cool temperatures but without freezing favours the conversion of starch to sugar and the acidity or alkalinity of the cell liquids also account for some of the exotic colours. When conditions are most favourable for these reactions the autumn colours are most brilliant.

Did you ever find a Toad buried in your garden in the late fall when you were belatedly taking up a plant to move it indoors or setting out some flower in preparation for spring? If so he looked quite stupid and sleepy as he tried to climb out of the hole and no wonder as he had not planned on moving until spring. If we investigate further it may surprise us to learn how widespread in nature is the practice of surviving the cold weather by existing in an unconscious inactive state. Uncounted numbers of species of invertebrate animals survive in this way. Insects may winter as egg, larva, pupa or adult. Think of the black flies and mosquitoes that survive the severe northern winters.

One of the fantastic folklore tales of the ancient Greeks explained bird migration by claiming that the birds seen flying out over the Mediterranean in the fall plunged into the sea and spent the winter in the mud at the bottom. This has, of course, been proved to be untrue but it was not quite as fantastic an idea as it sounded. In recent years it has been found that certain close relatives of our Nighthawk living in southwestern United States crawl into crevices under leaves and vegetation and hibernate in the colder weather.

It is usually with mammals that we use the term hibernation and we use it as a general term to cover all phases of prolonged inanimation which enable an animal to pass over a period of winter weather without eating. Aestivation is a complementary condition for surviving periods of drought and heat but it is unknown here.

Mammals such as the Black Bear, Skunk, and Raccoon hibernate in a deep sleep but with normal breathing, pulse and body temperature. They can be easily wakened. Others, for example, the Woodchuck and Jumping Mice enter a deeply unconscious state, breathing almost stops, pulse slows down until it is scarcely discernable, and body temperature drops almost to the freezing point. If warmed they become active and if cooled inactive again.

The most common Bat in New Brunswick, the Little Brown Bat, hibernates, others also hibernate or migrate. Flying squirrels and Chipmunks also sleep for prolonged periods during the cold weather but this is not the profound sleep of the Woodchuck.

NATURE NEWS

Vol. X

November - December 1959

No. 6

F O R E W O R D

December is the month throughout North America of the great Christmas bird census. Through this count more is learned every year about the distribution of birds in winter and some of the records obtained are truly amazing. Two years ago for example a Mockingbird was found in New Brunswick and several warblers.

This year the dates set by the Audubon Society are December 23rd to January 3rd inclusive. Make up a group in your community and make a bird count on any day in this period and let me have the results.

The newly formed Fredericton Field-Naturalists' Club is making a count on December 26th which seems to be a very suitable day.

In our January-February number we shall again include a complete listing of all birds reported between December 1st and February 14th. In both 1958 and 1959 fifty-seven species were reported. Help us increase the record this season.

W.A. Squires, Curator

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Do all skunks hibernate or does the occasional one run all winter? I saw a particularly large one dead on the highway at Oromocto December 8th. I believe someone reported a skunk killed on the road last February as well. We know that old males are active nearly all winter further south.

To see an occasional frog hopping across the pavement is not unusual but did you ever see what appeared to be a mass movement. Mrs. Vera Ayling of Moncton reported such a movement across the highway towards the river near Jemseg in late October. She did not specify the time of day but I would expect it to be after dark. Her report that "they looked like a moving mass of brown shrivelled leaves" indicates how numerous they were. I saw much the same thing on the new Oromocto by-pass north of the Oromocto River on November 6th. It was dark, raining heavily, and the wind was blowing. The road was covered with jumping frogs and crushed bodies as the traffic was heavy. This time they were moving away from the river. The movement should be in search of a place to hibernate at that season. The species involved was not determined in either case.

The most outstanding nature event in southern New Brunswick since our last bulletin was a most unusual blow-in of Dovekies. These little birds make some people think of penguins but they are really little auks as no penguins are found north of the equator. These birds breed in Greenland and some of the Arctic islands and spend the rest of their lives on the open ocean. Some winters very few of them come south and those that do normally stay well out in the Atlantic unless driven ashore by storms.

I have not had records of more than half a dozen driven up the Bay of Fundy in the last twenty years but a few are expected in the Grand Manan area every winter.

There was a very severe rain and wind storm on Sunday October 25th and the high winds from the southwest apparently picked up hundreds or even thousands of these birds out in the Gulf of Maine and strewed them across southern New Brunswick. The next day and for the next three weeks calls and reports of living and dead Dovekies poured into the Museum. Most of these were individual birds but fourteen were seen on the Kennebecasis River at Drury Cove and most surprising of all was the report of a field at Oak Bay, Charlotte County, covered with several hundreds on October 25th. This is so habitually a bird of the sea that it cannot take flight from land or a small puddle. It is to be hoped that these hundreds were able to walk back to the sea which would not be too far away there. On November 13th more were blown in, one being picked up alive on the pavement of Prince William Street, Saint John. The long-distance record was one found alive at Boiestown, more than 100 miles from the sea. Other reports were for MacAdam, Keswick Ridge, Hoyt and all along the Bay of Fundy from the Maine border to Hillsborough. Grand Manan had only a normal number of Dovekies at this time.

On November 30th Kaare Smith of St. Martins reported that a Mockingbird had been seen there every day from the 23rd.

Late records for 1959 for several birds are: Palm Warbler Oct. 23rd, Common Grackle November 12th, Fox Sparrow December 2nd, White-throated Sparrow December 3rd. All at Moncton and reported by Fred Bone. Myrtle Warbler October 22nd, Baltimore Oriole October 19th, Ruby-crowned Kinglet October 5th at St. Andrews reported by Mrs. Fred Nutter.

To anyone who has spent much time in the New Brunswick woods it is obvious that the Beaver is now quite a common animal in this Province. Not very many years ago it seemed headed for extinction in much of North America. This is one case in which protection has been very successful. In the woods in York and Sunbury in October and November I saw several beaver dams in woods where beaver could not be found in the 1930s and early 1940s. These were large dams with large well-built lodges in them. One lodge was standing in about five feet of water and had over three feet above water.

All observers should be on the watch for the rarer winter migrants from the north. A new bird to add to your life list is often found this time of year. To be looked for are Snowy Owls, Gyrfalcons, Hawk-Owls, Boreal Owls, Great Gray Owls, Northern Shrike, and near the sea Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, Ivory Gull, Common and Thick-billed Murre. These have all been seen in New Brunswick in past winters and some of them occur every year.