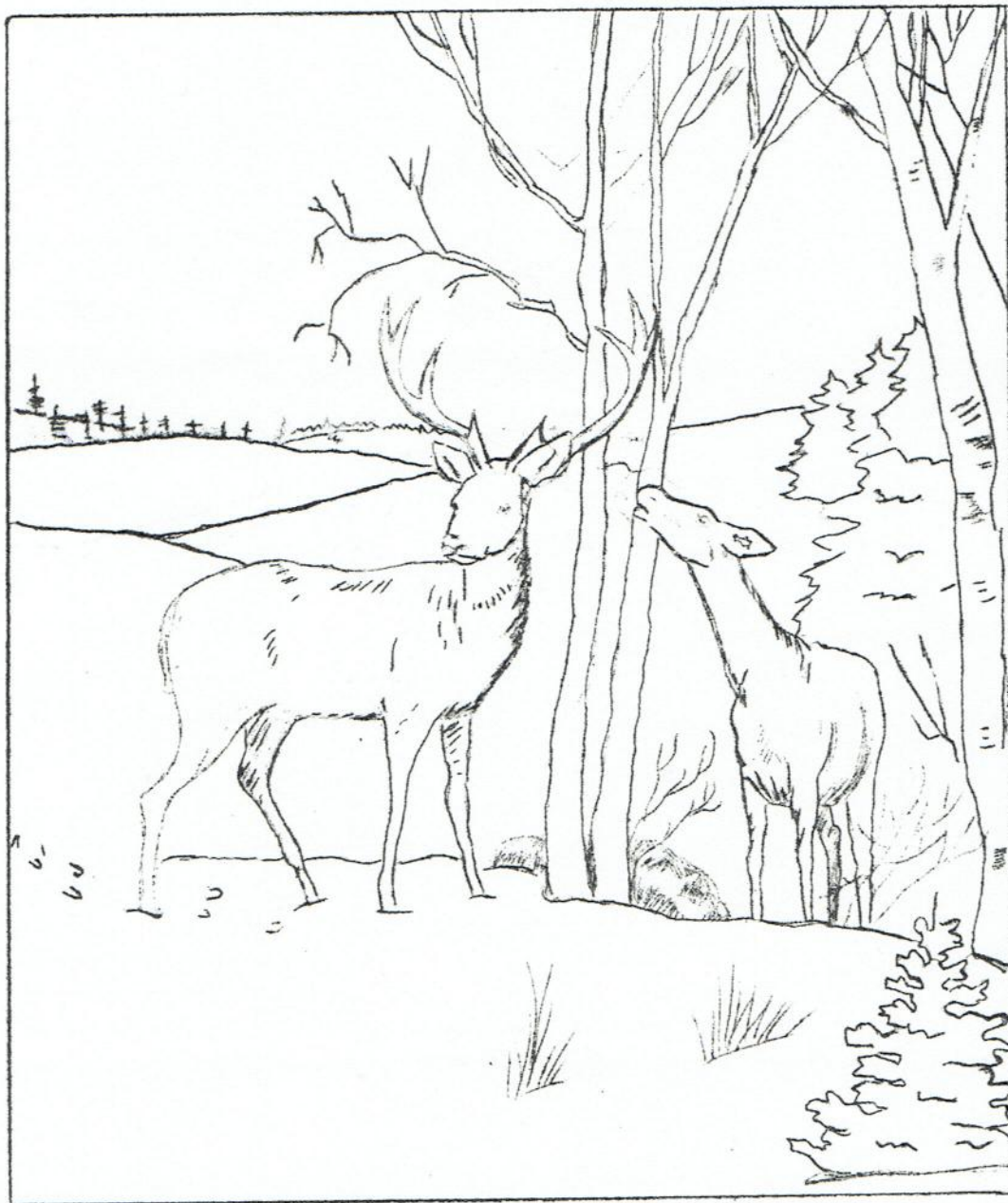


NATURE NEWS



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NATURE NEWS

Vol. XI

January-February 1960

Number 1

F O R E W O R D

When I wrote the first number of this bulletin in February 1950 I had little thought that it would be continued uninterrupted for ten years but herewith is the start of the eleventh volume.

The purpose of Nature News as suggested at that time "first to bring together valuable phenological data and other information about any and all branches of natural science, and second to coordinate this information and pass it on to those who may be interested, and at the same time to put it on record so that it may be available to students and research workers in the future" has been amply justified. Nature News has been quoted many times in both scientific articles and in the press.

I am very much indebted to all those who have contributed notes on their observations of birds, animals, flowers, etc. throughout the Province during these ten years.

The number of persons taking part in Christmas bird counts was greater than ever before but these were still restricted to the southern third of the Province.

Christmas Counts which were taken on one particular day during the count period according to the form provided and in which more than one person took part are given here in full. These and all other reports are incorporated in the winter bird record which follows.

Congratulations to the newly formed Field-Naturalists' Club in Fredericton. Such a group should be able to make a great contribution in all fields of natural science.

W.A. Squires, Curator

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saint John, N.B. Dec. 29, 1959; 7.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.; snowed seven inches; temp. 20° to 30°F; wind 0-20 mph; 0-7 inches of snow; 8 observers in 8 parties (3 at feeders). Total mileage 40 (21 on foot, 19 by car). Common Loon, 1; Black Duck, 102; Common Goldeneye, 151; Common Merganser, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Gray Partridge, 21; Great Black-backed Gull, 233+; Herring Gull, 121+; Rock Dove, 73; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 15; Blue Jay, 3; Common Raven, 52; Common Crow, 137; Black-capped Chickadee, 72; Boreal Chickadee, 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 14; Brown Creeper, 3; Robin, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 17; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 161+; House Sparrow, 195+; Eastern Meadowlark, 8; Common Grackle, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 35; Evening Grosbeak, 3; Common Redpoll, 41+; Slate-coloured Junco, 35; Tree Sparrow, 31; White-throated Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 3; Snow Bunting, 15. Total species 33, about 2653 individuals. Seen during the count period, Red-breasted Merganser, Bald Eagle, Snowy Owl, Pine Siskin, Chipping Sparrow. Mrs. C.H. Cameron, David Christie, Miss Jane Hazen, Stuart MacFarlane, Mrs. J.E. McKinney, Mrs. A.R. Marr, W.A. Squires (compiler), Murray Watters.

Fredericton, N.B. Dec. 26, 1959; 8.45 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.; snowing early, later bright sun; temp. 10° to 25°F; wind 0-10 mph; 6 inches of snow; 16 observers in 7 parties. Total mileage 116½ (17½ on foot, 99 by car).

Common Goldeneye, 4; Common Merganser, 6; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Rock Dove, 53; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Blue Jay, 43; Common Raven, 2; Common Crow, 17; Black-capped Chickadee, 63; Boreal Chickadee, 6; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; Starling, 255; House Sparrow, 440; Common Grackle, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 33; Purple Finch, 1; Common Redpoll, 25; Pine Siskin, 5; American Goldfinch, 3; Slate-coloured Junco, 11; Tree Sparrow, 25; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 1; Snow Bunting, 3. Total species 30, about 1018 individuals. Seen during the count period Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Pileated Woodpecker. N.R. Brown, Mrs. N.R. Brown, Andrew Dean, G. Eagles, E.M. Hagmeier, Mrs. E.M. Hagmeier, Miss Jane McNeill, Miss Marguerite McNair, Miss Nettie Moore, Peter Pearce, Richard Savage, Robert Squires, W.A. Squires, Mrs. W.A. Squires, Wm. Tait, I.W. Varty, (Fredericton Field-Naturalists' Club).

Moncton-Shediac, N.B. Jan. 1, 1960; 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.; clear and sunny; temp. 20°F; wind N.; 12 inches of snow; 4 observers in one party. Total mileage 96 (11 on foot, 85 by car).

Black Duck, 98; Common Goldeneye, 37; Common Merganser, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 375; Herring Gull, 790; Rock Dove, 48; Gray Jay, 3; Blue Jay, 9; Common Raven, 128; Common Crow, 87; Black-capped Chickadee, 11; Boreal Chickadee, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 373; House Sparrow, 396; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2; Evening Grosbeak, 57; Common Redpoll, 32; White-winged Crossbill, 4; Slate-coloured Junco, 5; Song Sparrow, 1; Snow Bunting, 127. Total species, 24, about 2590 individuals. Seen during the count period, Canada Goose, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker. Fred Bone (compiler), Wayne Sears, R. Whitman, S.D. Whitman.

Norton, N.B. Dec. 27, 1959; 10.00 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Clear and sunny; temp. 28°F; wind 5 mph; 2 observers in one party. Total mileage 3 (2 on foot, 1 by car). Rock Dove, 14; Blue Jay, 3; Common Raven, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Starling, 1; House Sparrow, 27; Evening Grosbeak, 13; Pine Grosbeak, 3; Pine Siskin, 9; Slate-coloured Junco, 7; Tree Sparrow, 1; Snow Bunting, 20. Total species 13, 105 individuals. Seen during count period, Robin. Joan E. Hoyt, Leonard S. Hoyt.

St. Andrews, N.B. Dec. 27th & 29th, 1959.

(This is an irregular report as the two persons taking part reported for different days and estimates of the numbers of several species were not made. Where their areas overlapped none of the same species were reported and they got as far apart as Deer Island and Bayside. If a proper count were made another year with all those who are interested in birds taking part this would probably be the most productive area in the Province).

Great Blue Heron, 1; Black Duck, 2; Bufflehead, many; Oldsquaw, 17; White-winged Scoter, several; Purple Sandpiper, 47; Great Black-backed Gull, many; Herring Gull, many; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Gray Jay, 2; Blue Jay, 5; Common Crow, several; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Robin, 4; House Sparrow, 24; Evening Grosbeak, 2; Slate-coloured Junco, 4; Tree Sparrow, 4; White-throated Sparrow, 3. Total species, 20. John Rigby, Mrs. F. Foster Rigby.

Woodstock, N.B. Dec. 28, 1959; 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; clear; temp. 20°F; 3 observers in one party. Total mileage 4 on foot.
 Ring-necked Pheasant, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 9; Common Raven, 1;
 Black-capped Chickadee, 4; Starling, 1; House Sparrow, 19; Snow Bunting, 7.
 Total species, 8, about 48 individuals. Mrs. Marjorie Gray (compiler), Robert Simpson, Ronald Simpson.

WINTER BIRD LIST (December 1st, 1959 - February 15th, 1960).

Common Loon

Dec. 2-18	Kennebecasis Bay	1-2	D. Christie
Dec. 29	Lancaster	1	M. Watters

Horned Grebe

Dec. 2-18	Kennebecasis Bay	2	D. Christie
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Great Blue Heron

Dec. 27	Deer Island	1	J. Rigby
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Canada Goose

Dec. 23	Fredericton	sev.	D. Quele
Jan. 2	McAdam	11	G.W. Sangster
Jan. 2	St. Martins	1	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Snow Goose

Dec. 23	Fredericton	sev.	D. Quele
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Black Duck

Dec. 27	Deer Island	7	J. Rigby
Dec. 29	St. Andrews	sev.	Mrs. R.F. Rigby
Dec. 29	Lancaster	100	M. Watters
Dec-Jan	St. Stephen	2	H.E. MacDonald
Jan. 1	Moncton	98	Christmas Count
Jan. 2	St. Martins	7	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Jan. 3	St. George	7	P. Pearce
Jan-Feb	Saint John	150	D. Christie

Pintail

Jan. 10	St. Martins	2	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
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Wood Duck

Jan. 13-19	Lancaster	1	Miss Jane Hazen
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Common Goldeneye

Dec. 2-24	Kennebecasis Bay	13	D. Christie
Dec. 19	Perry Pt.	250	D. Christie
Dec. 26	Fredericton	4	Christmas Count
Dec. 29	Lancaster	25	M. Watters
Dec. 29	Lancaster	9	Miss Jane Hazen
Dec. 29	Saint John	117	W.A. Squires
Jan. 1	Moncton	37	Christmas Count
Jan. 2	St. Martins	2	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Bufflehead

Dec. 27	Deer Island	many	J. Rigby
Jan. 3	St. George	3	P. Pearce

Oldsquaw

Dec. 27	Deer Island	17	J. Rigby
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White-winged Scoter

Dec. 27	Deer Island	sev.	J. Rigby
Dec. 29	St. Andrews	sev.	Mrs. R.F. Rigby

Common Merganser

Dec. 23	Kennebecasis Bay	1	D. Christie
Dec. 26	Fredericton	6	Christmas Count
Dec. 29	Saint John	2	W.A. Squires
Jan. 1	Moncton	1	Christmas Count

Red-breasted Merganser

Dec. 2	Kennebecasis Bay	1	D. Christie
Dec. 26	Fredericton	1	Christmas Count
Dec. 28	Lancaster	1	M. Watters

Goshawk

Jan. 1	Fredericton	1	N.R. Brown
Feb. 13	Lepreau	1	Mr. Sutton

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Dec. 26	Fredericton	2	Christmas Count
Jan. 3	Renforth	1	Mrs. Harold Harm

Bald Eagle

Dec. 28	Lancaster	1	M. Watters
Dec. 31	Fredericton	1	A.R.A. Taylor
Dec-Jan	St. Stephen	4	H.E. MacDonald

Gyr Falcon

Dec. 18	Chatham	1	P. Pearce
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Sparrow Hawk

Dec. 23	Fredericton	1	B.S. Wright
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Spruce Grouse

Jan. 3	St. George	1	P. Pearce
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Ruffed Grouse

Dec. 18-29	Rothsay	2	D. Christie
Dec. 26	Fredericton	1	Christmas Count
Dec. 26	Head of Millstream	1	F. Bone
Dec. 26	Perry Pt.	1	D. Christie
Dec. 29	Lancaster	1	M. Watters

Ring-necked Pheasant

Dec. 24	Woodstock	1	Miss M. Arnand
Dec. 26	Fredericton	1	Christmas Count
Dec. 28	Woodstock	5	Mrs. M. Gray
Dec-Jan	Perth	5-9	Tom Baird
Jan. 3	Lincoln	1	W.A. Squires
Feb. 1	Jacksonville	3	Miss M. Arnand
Feb. 6	Fredericton	5	Peter Pearce

Gray Partridge

Dec. 29	Lancaster	21	M. Watters
Jan. 19	Lancaster	5	R. Yuill

Purple Sandpiper

Dec. 27	St. Andrews	47	J. Rigby
Jan. 10	St. Martins	25	Mrs. F.N. Bradshaw

Glaucous Gull

Feb. 3 Saint John 1 D. Christie

Iceland Gull

Jan. 20 & Saint John 4-15 D. Christie
Feb. 13

Great Black-backed Gull

Dec. 5-29 Kennebecasis Bay 2 D. Christie
Dec. 29 Saint John 210 W.A. Squires
Dec. 29 Lancaster 20 M. Watters
Dec. 29 St. Andrews many Mrs. R.F. Rigby
Dec. 30 Belmont 4 S. MacFarlane
Jan. 1 Moncton 375 Christmas Count

Herring Gull

Dec. 2-20 Kennebecasis Bay 3-10 D. Christie
Dec. 6 Fredericton 6 R. Savage
Dec. 27 Deer Island many J. Rigby
Dec. 29 Saint John 1050 W.A. Squires
Dec. 29 Lancaster 150 M. Watters
Dec. 29 St. Andrews many Mrs. R.F. Rigby
Dec. 30 Belmont 12 S. MacFarlane
Jan. 1 Moncton 790 Christmas Count

Black-headed Gull

Jan. 20 Saint John 1 D. Christie
Feb. 6 Saint John 2 D. Christie
Feb. 13 Saint John 3 D. Christie

Rock Dove

Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John, Lancaster, Jacksonville, Norton, Head
of Millstream, etc.

Mourning Dove

Jan-Feb Lancaster 1 M. Watters

Snowy Owl

Dec-30 Saint John 1 Press Report

Hawk-Owl

Dec-Jan Norton 1 Mrs. L. Hoyt
Jan. 1 Perth 1 Tom Baird

Saw-whet Owl

Feb. 2 Saint John 1 W.A. Squires

Belted Kingfisher

Dec. 1 St. George 1 P. Pearce

Pileated Woodpecker

Dec. 27 Fredericton 1 E.M. Hagmeier
Feb. 16 Quaco 1 Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Hairy Woodpecker

Dec. 26 Fredericton 6 Christmas Count
Dec. 26 Head of Millstream 1 Fred Bone
Dec. 28 Woodstock 2 Mrs. M. Gray
Dec-Jan St. Stephen 2 H.E. MacDonald
Dec-Jan Riverview Heights sev. Fred Bone
Dec-Feb Rothesay-Kingshurst 1 D. Christie
Dec-Feb Hampton Station sev. Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow
Dec-Feb Fredericton 1-2 W.A. Squires

Downy Woodpecker

Dec. 26	Fredericton	3	Christmas Count
Dec. 26	Head of Millstream	1	Fred Bone
Dec. 29	Saint John	2	Mrs. A.R. Marr
Dec. 29	Bayside	2	Mrs. R.F. Rigby
Dec. 29	Lancaster	2	M. Watters
Dec. 30	Belmont	2	S. MacFarlane
Dec-Feb	Rothsay-Kingshurst	4	D. Christie
Dec-Jan	Riverview Heights	sev.	Fred Bone
Dec-Feb	Fredericton	2	W.A. Squires
Dec-Feb	Hampton Station	sev.	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow

Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker

Jan. 2	McAdam	1	G.W. Sangster
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Gray Jay

Dec. 26	Head of Millstream	3	Fred Bone
Dec. 29	Bayside	2	Mrs. R.F. Rigby
Dec. 30	Belmont	1	S. MacFarlane
Jan. 1	Moncton	3	Christmas Count
Jan. 2	McAdam	2	G.W. Sangster
Jan. 14	Rothsay	sev.	Mrs. A.S. Kirkland
Jan. 8 & 30	Fredericton	1	A. Dean

Blue Jay

Dec. 3	Riverview Heights	10	Fred Bone
Dec. 15-30	Jacksonville	1-3	Miss M. Armand
Dec. 26	Head of Millstream	6	Fred Bone
Dec. 26	Fredericton	43	Christmas Count
Dec. 27	Norton	3	Mrs. L. Hoyt
Dec. 28	Woodstock	9	Mrs. M. Gray
Dec. 29	Bayside	5	Mrs. R.F. Rigby
Dec. 29	Ingleside	2	Mrs. J.E. McKinney
Dec. 30	Belmont	1	S. MacFarlane
Dec-Jan	St. Stephen	6	H.E. MacDonald
Dec-Feb	Rothsay	1-2	D. Christie
Dec-Feb	Fredericton	4-8	W.A. Squires
Jan.	St. Martins	sev.	K. Smith & R. Harper
Jan. 1	Moncton	9	Christmas Count
Jan. 17	Hampton Station	9	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow

Common Raven

Dec. 26	Fredericton	2	Christmas Count
Dec. 26	Head of Millstream	7	Fred Bone
Dec. 27	Norton	1	Mrs. L. Hoyt
Dec. 28	Woodstock	1	Mrs. M. Gray
Dec. 29	Ingleside	2	Mrs. C.H. Cameron
Dec. 29	Lancaster	125	M. Watters
Dec-Jan	St. Stephen	2	H.E. MacDonald
Dec-Feb	Kennebecasis Bay	1-3	D. Christie
Jan. 1	Moncton	128	Christmas Count

Common Crow

Dec. 1	Welsford	4	D. Christie
Dec. 15-20	Jacksonville	2-3	Miss M. Armand
Dec. 26	Fredericton	19	Christmas Count

Common Crow (cont'd)

Dec. 29	Lancaster	6	Miss Jane Hazen
Dec. 29	Bayside	sev.	Mrs. R.F. Rigby
Dec. 29	Lancaster	125	M. Watters
Dec. 30	Belmont	2	S. MacFarlane
Dec-Jan	St. Stephen	6	H.E. MacDonald
Jan. 1	Moncton	87	Christmas Count
Jan. 2	McAdam	2	G.W. Sangster
Jan-Feb	Hampton Station	1-2	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow

Black-capped Chickadee

Saint John, Fredericton, Moncton, Jacksonville, McAdam, Rothesay, Lancaster, Millstream, Norton, Bayside, Woodstock, Hampton Station.

Boreal Chickadee

Dec. 26	Fredericton	6	Christmas Count
Dec. 26	Head of Millstream	32	Fred Bone
Dec. 29	Rothesay	7	David Christie
Jan. 1	Moncton	2	Christmas Count

White-breasted Nuthatch

Dec. 26	Fredericton	4	Christmas Count
Dec. 27	St. Andrews	1	J. Rigby
Jan. 14	Saint John	1	Mrs. A.R. Marr
Jan. 17	St. Martins	2	R. Harper
Dec-Feb	Hampton Station	1	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Dec. 26	Fredericton	1	Christmas Count
Dec. 27	Norton	1	Mrs. L. Hoyt
Dec. 29	Lancaster	10	M. Watters
Dec. 30	Belmont	2	S. MacFarlane
Dec-Feb	Rothesay-Kingshurst	1	David Christie
Jan. 1	Moncton	2	Christmas Count
Jan. 11	Fredericton	1	Miss M. McNair

Brown Creeper

Dec. 26	Fredericton	1	Christmas Count
Dec-Feb	Rothesay-Kingshurst	1-3	D. Christie
Jan. 1	Moncton	1	Christmas Count

Mockingbird

Dec.	St. Martins	1	K. Smith
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Brown Thrasher

Jan. 17-Feb. 2	Lancaster	1	M. Watters Mrs. V.B. Watters W.A. Squires
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Robin

Dec. 1	Riverview Heights	1	Fred Bone
Dec-Jan	St. Stephen	1	H.E. MacDonald
Dec. 4-29	Rothesay-Kingshurst	1	D. Christie
Dec. 22	Springhill	1	Mrs. Mary Clarkson
Dec. 23	Norton	1	Mrs. L. Hoyt
Dec. 29	Ingleside	1	Mrs. C.H. Cameron
Dec. 29	Bayside	4	Mrs. R.F. Rigby

Robin (cont'd)

Jan. 3	Renforth	2	Mrs. H. Hamm
Jan. 8	Rothsay	6	D. Christie
Jan. 10	Fredericton	1	E.M. Hagneier
Jan. 31	Fredericton	1	Mrs. R.C. Clark

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Dec. 26	Head of Millstream	1	Fred Bone
Dec-Jan	Rothsay	4-17	D. Christie
Jan. 1	Moncton	1	Christmas Count
Jan. 23	Fredericton	sev.	P. Pearce

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Dec. 5 & 29	Rothsay	1	D. Christie
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Northern Shrike

Jan. 28	Minto	1	P. Pearce
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Starling

Saint John, Rothsay, Fredericton, Belmont, Lancaster, St. Stephen, Moncton, Millstream, Norton, Woodstock, Hampton Station.

House Sparrow

Saint John, Rothsay, Fredericton, Lancaster, St. Stephen, Moncton; Millstream, Norton, Jacksonville, Woodstock, Hampton Station.

Meadowlark

Dec. 29	Lancaster	8	M. Watters
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Red-winged Blackbird

Jan. 18	Lancaster	1	M. Watters
Jan. 18-22	St. Martins	5	K. Smith

Common Grackle

Dec. 26	Fredericton	1	Christmas Count
Dec. 29	Belmont	1	S. MacFarlane
Dec-Jan	St. Stephen	2	H.E. MacDonald
Jan. 16	Westfield	5	W.A. Squires
Jan. 17	St. Martins	2	Ray Harper
Jan. 4-Feb.	Hampton Station	1-4	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow

Brown-headed Cowbird

Dec. 29	Lancaster	35	M. Watters
Dec. 31	Red Head	100	Mrs. J.L. Bromley
Jan. 1	Riverview Heights	2	Fred Bone
Jan. 4	Hampton Station	9	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow
Jan.	St. Martins	50-100	K. Smith & R. Harper
Feb. 10	Lincoln	3	M. Ogilvie

Evening Grosbeak

Dec. 3	Riverview Heights	12	Fred Bone
Dec. 26	Fredericton	33	Christmas Count
Dec. 27	Norton	13	Mrs. L. Hoyt
Dec. 27	St. Andrews	2	J. Rigby
Dec-Jan	St. Martins	sev.	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec-Jan	St. Stephen	40	H.E. MacDonald
Dec-Feb	Rothsay-Kingshurst	7-25	D. Christie
Jan. 1	Moncton	57	Christmas Count
Jan. 2	Belmont	1	S. MacFarlane

Evening Grosbeak (cont'd)

Jan. 2	Fredericton	flock	Miss G. Smith
Jan. 16	St. John	5	L.W. Bagnell Jr.
Jan-Feb	Fredericton	sev.	W.A. Squires
Jan. 17	Hampton Station	17	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow

Purple Finch

Dec. 26	Fredericton	1	Christmas Count
Dec-Feb	Rothsay-Kingshurst	3-12	D. Christie
Jan. 23-Feb.	Fredericton	11-20	W.A. Squires
Jan. 23-27	Lancaster	sev.	R. Yuill
Jan. 24	St. Martins	4	R. Harper
Jan. 24	Belmont	6	S. MacFarlane
Jan. 24	Saint John	3	Mrs. A.R. Marr

Pine Grosbeak

Dec. 26	Head of Millstream	1	Fred Bone
Dec. 27	Norton	3	Mrs. L. Hoyt
Dec-Feb	Rothsay-Kingshurst	1-60	D. Christie
Jan. 2	McAdam	3	G.W. Sangster
Jan. 17	Fredericton	sev.	N.R. Brown
Jan. 22	St. Martins	5	W.A. Squires
Jan. 24	Hampton	4	Mrs. J.D. MacLean
Feb. 5	Fredericton	15	W.A. Squires
Feb. 9	Marysville	1	D.R. Gibson
Feb. 8-10	Hampton Station	6	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow

(Hoary Redpoll - Some persons have reported this species present in Redpoll flocks but my experience with skins (see Birds of New Brunswick, p.122) convinces me that it is not safe for anyone unless an expert with Redpolls to attempt to identify this species in the field).

Common Redpoll

Dec. 26	Fredericton	25	Christmas Count
Dec. 29	Lancaster	10	M. Watters
Dec. 29	Lancaster	20	Miss Jane Hazen
Dec-Feb	Rothsay-Kingshurst	10-60	D. Christie
Jan.	Jacksonville	75	Miss M. Armand
Jan. 1	Moncton	32	Christmas Count
Jan. 19	St. Martins	sev.	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Pine Siskin

Dec. 3 & 11	Kingshurst	1	D. Christie
Dec. 26	Fredericton	5	Christmas Count
Dec. 27	Norton	9	Mrs. L. Hoyt
Dec. 30	Belmont	2	S. MacFarlane

American Goldfinch

Dec. 26	Fredericton	3	Christmas Count
Dec. 30	Belmont	6	S. MacFarlane

Red Crossbill

Dec. 9	Rothsay	8	D. Christie
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White-winged Crossbill

Dec. 20	Head of Millstream	4	Fred Bone
Jan. 1	Moncton	4	Christmas Count
Jan. 4	St. George	sev.	P. Pearce

Rufous-sided Towhee

Jan. 24 Lancaster 1 Mrs. W.L. Smith

Lark Bunting

Dec. St. Martins 1 Ray Harper

(A small black bird with large white patches on the wings came to feeder. Seems to be summer not winter plumage for this species).

Slate-coloured Junco

Dec. 26 Fredericton 11 Christmas Count
Dec. 27 Norton 7 Mrs. L. Hoyt
Dec. 27 St. Andrews 4 J. Rigby
Dec. 29 Lancaster 16 Miss Jane Hazen
Dec. 29 Lancaster 15 M. Watters
Dec. 30 Belmont 6 S. MacFarlane
Dec-Jan Rothesay-Kingshurst 2-7 D. Christie
Jan. 1 Moncton 5 Christmas Count
Jan. 3 Renforth 12 Mrs. H. Harm
Jan. 9 St. Martins 6 Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Jan-Feb Hampton Station 2 Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow

Tree Sparrow

Dec. 26 Fredericton 25 Christmas Count
Dec. 27 Norton 1 Mrs. L. Hoyt
Dec. 29 Lancaster 7 M. Watters
Dec. 29 Bayside 4 Mrs. R.F. Rigby
Dec-Feb Rothesay-Kingshurst 1-3 D. Christie
Jan. 9 St. Martins 6 Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Jan. 17 Hampton Station 1 Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow

Chipping Sparrow

Dec. 30 Belmont 12 S. MacFarlane
Jan-Feb Lancaster sev. M. Watters
Jan. 14 Fredericton 1 I.W. Varty
Jan. 24 Ingleside 1 Mrs. J.E. McKinney

White-throated Sparrow

Dec. 26 Fredericton 1 Christmas Count
Dec. 27 St. Andrews 3 J. Rigby
Dec. 30 Belmont 1 S. MacFarlane
Dec-Feb Kingshurst 1-2 D. Christie
Jan. 6-9 Norton 1 Mrs. L. Hoyt

Fox Sparrow

Jan. 19 St. Martins 1 Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Song Sparrow

Dec. 18 McAdam 1 J.W. Sangster
Dec. 26 Fredericton 1 Christmas Count
Dec. 29 Lancaster 2 M. Watters
Dec-Feb Rothesay-Kingshurst 1 D. Christie
Jan. 1 Moncton 1 Christmas Count
Jan. 22 Fredericton 1 Mrs. W.A. Squires

Snow Bunting

Dec. 26 Fredericton 3 Christmas Count
Dec. 27 Norton 20 Mrs. L. Hoyt
Dec. 28 Woodstock 7 Mrs. M. Gray
Dec. 29 Lancaster 15 M. Watters
Jan. 1 Moncton 127 Christmas Count
Jan. 19 St. Martins flock Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

NATURE NEWS

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Number 2

FOREWORD

Spring has officially arrived and although the season has appeared to be cooler than normal the snow has gradually melted away, the ice in the rivers and lakes first showed spaces of open water and finally, where it could, broke up and moved out with the flood waters. The St. John River ice moved freely at Fredericton on April 18th.

By early April the first of the migrant birds were back, the early butterflies were about, and even the first of our wildflowers were blooming in sheltered corners.

For the next number I shall be particularly interested in spring wildflowers - dates on which they are found and where some of the scarcer varieties occur.

W.A. Squires, Curator.

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There were several additions to our list of winter birds received after the last number of Nature News was printed.

Mr. Donald McPhail of Sackville reported a Rusty Blackbird at his feeding tray in January and February. He also saw a Bufflehead and two Red-breasted Mergansers at Baie Verte on January 2nd.

Miss Janet M. Curry of Andover had two western visitors on February 17th and again on the 28th - two Bohemian Waxwings. Very few of this species ever find their way so far to the east. White in the wings and rusty under tail coverts quickly distinguish them from the abundant Cedar Waxwings.

The greatest rarity of the winter season was a Varied Thrush which was in Stanley, York County, from mid-December until March 24th. This was reported to me by Mrs. Elsie Hickey. It was identified by Professor N. Rae Brown of the University of New Brunswick who collected it and prepared a study skin which will provide convincing proof for anyone in the future who chooses to doubt the record. This bird is native to the Rocky Mountain region and the last record for eastern Canada was for Quebec in 1890. One was reported seen in Massachusetts in 1958.

Miss Mabelle MacCoubrey reported a small flock of Mourning Doves on the grounds of the Saint John Tuberculosis Hospital in late November and early December. The greatest number seen at one time was eight. There were also 18 Gray (Hungarian) Partridges there at that time.

One swallow may not make a summer but the large flight of Tree Swallows which arrived in the south of the Province on April 16th must have had some advance information on the coming season. They reached the Fredericton area the next day.

We make an effort each year to get the earliest possible wildflower date. Nothing is earlier in those coastal areas where it occurs than the old world Coltsfoot Tussilago farfara. This year the first bloom was brought in to me on April 11th. The record date is March 19th. In 1959 it was reported March 31st and in 1958, March 27th.

We get reports of Pussywillows in bloom from time to time throughout the winter and spring. Any mild spell after November will cause some buds to burst and expose the "pussies". David Christie reported many out March 5th at Kingshurst. Mrs. Marjorie Gray found them at Woodstock April 4th but it was April 10th when I saw a whole bush covered with bloom at Petersville. It is also a question whether a willow is truly in bloom before the stamens and pistils appear. Staminate and pistillate flowers are borne on separate trees but I doubt if many people recognize the latter.

Even before this issue is in your hands you should have seen other wildflowers in bloom. Hepatica, Spring Beauty and Mayflower are among the earliest.

Spring migration has been in full swing for some time. The Crows increased in numbers and moved inland in March much as usual. There must have been many more Horned Larks in the Saint John valley this year. There were 10 reported at East Saint John on March 22nd and 25 at Rothesay on the 28th. Others were reported at Springfield, Maugerville and Keswick.

The evidence seems to indicate a great increase in the numbers of Cowbirds. During the winter several large flocks were reported to me in the Saint John - St. Martins areas. Before 1955 winter records were for casual individuals, now flocks with hundreds may be seen. There were a few individuals near Fredericton during the past winter but about the 2nd of April there was a great incursion. In one yard where food was put out an initial flock of 8 built up to over 100 in three days and finally to more than 200. At first there were very few females but finally these made up about one-third of the flock. Similar flocks were seen in many parts of Fredericton, Lincoln and Oromocto. Sometimes they were associated with Starlings and Grackles.

Mrs. Bradshaw at St. Martins reported Canada Geese as early as March 14th with large flights April 2nd. They also returned to the lower St. John valley as usual being reported in the press at Lower Jemseg.

I saw my first Rough-legged Hawk (light phase) at Petersville on March 2nd, two more at the same place on April 9th and one in Sheffield April 17th.

Another first for me was an American Widgeon (Baldpate) at Jemseg on April 17th. At the same place there was a considerable flock of Pintails, perhaps the first I have personally seen in the Province although unlike the Widgeon they are not uncommon here. Mated pairs seen there on April 24th acted as though they planned to nest in the area.

Dr. A.J. Erskine of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Sackville, reported a pair of Barrow's Goldeneyes on the St. John River in lower Maudslayi on April 14th. This suggests that we should give closer attention to the many Goldeneyes to be seen at this season.

It is doubtful if many residents of the Saint John - Lancaster area realize what a variety of birdlife may at times be found within the city boundaries. On April 12th not far from the Fairville Boulevard Murray Watters saw 27 Canada Geese, hundreds of Scaup, Teal, and Black Ducks, 12 Great Blue Herons, 1 Marsh Hawk and most unusual, 2 Shovellers. The Shoveller is a western duck but a few pairs have bred in New Brunswick in recent years.

Other reports of interest were Herring Gulls at Woodstock April 7th (Mrs. Gray); three Snow Geese at Salisbury April 11th (Miss Mary Foster); Yellow Palm Warblers at St. Andrews April 16th (Dr. Medcof); 12 Mourning Doves which I saw at Westfield April 22nd; one or two Mourning Doves at Fredericton recently (A. Dean); one Mourning Dove at Hartland April 9th (James H. Smith); 8 or 10 Sapsuckers and 2 Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers at Fredericton April 23rd.

Late dates for winter species of birds are of interest. Mrs. Bradshaw reported 2 Snow Buntings at St. Martins April 5th. This is one of the latest recent reports from the Bay of Fundy although there are a number of late April and even May records for northern New Brunswick.

Do you watch the blossoms come out on the trees and shrubs? Many of them bloom before their leaves unfold. The staminate catkins on the alder were shedding clouds of pollen at Fredericton on April 23rd while the bushes were standing in two feet of snow.

Insects and other primitive forms of life are about as soon as the longer days begin to warm up. I discussed snow-fleas in Nature News a year or two ago. They may be seen in March or April in such numbers that they blacken the snow. Other insects hibernate and emerge early. Mrs. J.E. McKinney of Ingleside reported both Compton Tortoiseshell and Mourning Cloak butterflies in flight in early April. Both of these hibernate as adult butterflies and lay their eggs in the spring. The Little Blue sometimes called Spring Azure is another early butterfly to watch for.

As the snow melts away we often find the old grass covered with cobwebs, evidence that spiders in some way have been active, perhaps even under the snow. The many runways of moles and mice that the spring thaw discloses also supply further evidence that all is not frozen and dead in the winter fields. Each creature is equipped in its own peculiar fashion to live through the cold winter season until with the returning sun the snow vanishes and all nature awakens to renewed life.

NATURE NEWS

Vol. XI

May - June 1960

Number 3

FOREWORD

What profit is there in knowing the names of every bird and flower, tree, rock and mineral? None to the average person if he is looking for a financial profit but to the person with an inquiring mind a great deal if he gets any satisfaction out of increased familiarity with his surroundings. When a person knows the birds and flowers and trees, insects and other animals he is always among old friends but if he does not know them it must be like being among strangers in a strange city.

We have had a multitude of flowers reported to us and have identified many more either in the field or for persons who have brought them in to the Museum.

W.A. Squires, Curator

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Although this number is planned to deal specially with wild-flowers the most significant event since our last bulletin was the discovery of a bird new to the Province.

On May 11th Miss Maybelle MacCoubrey discovered a European Goldfinch on the grounds of the Tuberculosis Hospital in East Saint John. It was seen several times on May 11th and 12th and studied also by Miss Marjorie Roxborough and others, being seen on the lawn at close range with 7x binoculars. I went to East Saint John several times but was unsuccessful in seeing it myself. This bird is so distinctively marked that it could scarcely be mistaken and this record is as good as any sight record can be. There have been several small colonies of these birds on Long Island, New York, for nearly 100 years but there is, as far as we know, only one previous record of them being seen in Canada - four at Toronto in May 1887.

No one travelling our New Brunswick highway could fail to see the profusion of somewhat dandelion-like yellow flowers by the wayside but how many know what they are?

First there are the misnamed Fall Dandelions which bloom from early June until the snow flies. Then there are the Hawkweeds. An expert botanist could probably identify ten or twelve species in the Province. There are several species with a whorl of leaves tight against the ground and a scape surmounted by one or more flowers arising from the centre. If there is only one yellow flower on the scape and the leaves are hairy you can call it Mouse-ear Hawkweed. If there is a cluster of yellow flowers it should be called Yellow Hawkweed or King Devil and if the cluster of flowers is reddish

orange call it Orange Hawkweed or Devil's Paint-Brush. This does not solve all the common names for the hawkweeds and does not agree with all the flower guides but it should help.

Common names and especially local or colloquial names of plants often lead to misunderstanding and confusion. This is especially true of the shrub which many people in this part of the Province call "Moosewood" and gather in winter or early spring to force in the house. What they are looking for is Viburnum alnifolium which goes by many English names such as Hobble-bush, Moose-bush, Moose-berry, Tangle-foot, Dogberry, Trip-toe, Witch-hobble, even Dogwood and in southern New Brunswick, but not in the botany books, Moosewood. In the botany books Acer pennsylvanicum, Striped Maple, is also called "Moosewood", as well as False Dogwood and Northern Maple.

Did you know that a pearl found in a freshwater mussel (commonly called clam) in a New Brunswick stream about eighty years ago sold for four hundred and fifty dollars and others from thirty to one hundred and fifty dollars. I have not heard of any being found in recent years but no doubt they are there but no one is looking for them or has the patience to wade the streams and open one to several thousand mussels for each pearl discovered. They are seldom if ever found in mussels found in lakes or quiet water but only in smaller fast-running streams.

I came across the following statement which should be of interest to everyone familiar with the Shadbush (Bilberry, Indian Pear or Service-berry). "Few wild fruits of such excellent quality as the Service-berries are less known to the modern American or Canadian". The Indians used this fruit in many ways but for our taste they are said to be best when made into puddings and pies or cooked first and then made into berry muffins. They should be ripe in the next week or two. Try them.

Our spring season was hastened along by a lot of hot dry weather in late April and early May so that some of our spring flowers were done blooming and faded before we went looking for them. For this reason I missed the Mayflower (Trailing Arbutus), Spring Beauty, Hepatica and Pink Lady's Slipper. June 26th is apparently a very early date also for Fireweed as "Flora of Nova Scotia" gives July 10th as a very early date for that Province.

Hepatica	April 26	Ingleside	Mrs. M. McKinney
Mayflower	April 30	Mill Sett. (Sudbury Co.)	D. Christie
Bloodroot	May 2	Fredericton	W.A. Squires
Dog-toothed Violet	May 2	Ingleside	Mrs. M. McKinney
White Violet	May 4	"	"
Blue Violet	May 5	"	"
Red Trillium	May 7	White's Bluff	Mrs. R.J. Collins
Shadbush	May 9	Petersville	W.A. Squires
Bluets	May 9	Kingshurst	D. Christie

Wild Lily of the Valley	May 10	Ingleside	Mrs. McKinney
Goldthread	May 11	Rothsay	D. Christie
Rhodora	May 13	Geary	W.A. Squires
Blue-eyed Grass	May 27	Rothsay	D. Christie
Clintonia	May 30	Petersville	W.A. Squires
Wild Blue Iris	June 3	East Saint John	W.A. Squires
Common Mustard	June 3	"	"
Canada Anemone	June 3	Kingshurst	D. Christie
Yellow Lady's Slipper	June 5	Ingleside	Mrs. McKinney
Showy Lady's Slipper	June 12	Ingleside	"
Orange Hawkweed	June 13	Kingshurst	D. Christie
Fireweed or Great	June 26	Petersville	W.A. Squires
Willow Herb			

I have referred before to the constant slaughter of small animals on our highways. I suspect that many of these animals are killed when they could be avoided but there will always be the plea that it would endanger the human lives in the cars concerned to do otherwise. However, I have driven upwards of 200,000 miles on our highways in the last fifteen years and have seen a great variety of wildlife on the road ranging in size from the moose, deer and bear down to the red-backed vole. The only deaths I have been responsible for in this time have been several frogs from a multitude migrating across the road in a heavy rain and several birds which flew into the front of the car.

One recent morning between Fredericton and Saint John I saw three dead foxes, one raccoon, one groundhog, too many porcupines to count, several rabbits (snowshoe hare), and one skunk. How many were knocked into the ditch or crawled into the woods to die I cannot estimate but it is a sad toll for one night and seventy miles.

This is not only a local problem but is at best continent wide, only the identity of the animals killed varying from zone to zone. On the prairie country it will be jack rabbits and pheasants and sharp-tailed grouse where these are common and in the south the opossum will be added to the list.

Although we are not saying much about birds in this number there are a few items to record. At Woodstock Mrs. Marjorie A.E. Gray saw the first Hummingbird on May 12th equalling my personal earliest record for the species. The only report of a Scarlet Tanager is one at Norton May 17th reported by Mrs. Joan E. Hoyt. Mr. H.E. MacDonald reported Tree Swallows at St. Stephen April 11th equalling the earliest we have on record and stated that he saw them on April 3rd, 1958, extremely early indeed. Of very special interest is a report from Mrs. A.R. Ayling of Moncton that a Snowy Owl spent the morning of May 15th in the Hub City. We seldom get any evidence such as this that the Snowy Owls which occasionally come south from the Arctic in the fall and winter ever return in the spring. On June 22nd Mrs. W.F. Munro wrote from McAdam that a Mockingbird had been in that community for some time.

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Vol. XI

July - August 1960

Number 4

FOREWORD

The gold is on the goldenrod, the first red blush is on the maple, the swallows are on the wires, and the early morning fogs are in the river valleys; there is a chill in the night air, in the midst of summer fall is at hand.

This bulletin as stated before is issued to gather together information about the various branches of natural science which might otherwise be lost, to place it on record, and to make it available to others. When we see items from it quoted in scientific publications or in the provincial press we feel that it is fulfilling this purpose. We were particularly pleased to see several items from our last number quoted in the press and invite an even freer use of this material.

W.A. Squires, Curator

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If you have ever been annoyed when you found one of our common slugs (perhaps snails to you), one to one and a half inches long, feeding on your favorite pansy plants how would you feel if you found one of these slimy creatures a full six inches long. Perhaps you will one of these days. Two years ago in September 1958 we reported a specimen of the Great Gray Slug (Limax maximus) from Europe which was found in a garden on Sandy Point Road in Saint John. During July 1960 we had several more reports. Two were found on local radishes in the Dominion Store. One which measured four inches was brought in to me, the other which was destroyed was much larger. On July 23rd another was reported in a garden at East Saint John. While I have identified these tentatively as the Great Gray Slug (Limax maximus) in habit they seem more like the Large Black Slug (Arion ater) as they feed voraciously on lettuce and radishes while the former is said to feed on almost anything except green plants.

Did you ever see a Goosefish, or Angler or Allmouth, as it is also called? This is such an odd-shaped fish that it is quite well-known even if not common along the shores of the Bay of Fundy, the Gulf of Maine, south to the Carolinas and even farther south. The most recent one reported in the Saint John area was stranded on the beach at Sandy Point on the Kennebecasis on July 27. It may have come up from the salt water in the bottom of the Kennebecasis at this point and died in the fresher surface water as it is not considered to be tolerant even to brackish water. This fish may reach a length of four feet. The head end is very large and it tapers rapidly to a slender tail. The whole front end of the body opens up in a huge mouth which may be nine inches wide and eight inches vertical. It has been known to attempt to swallow a fish as long as itself and one was caught with seven sea ducks in its stomach. One very large Goose-

fish was stranded on the mud flats back of the Museum several years ago and soon after it died the Herring Gulls were at work tearing it to pieces.

The Baltimore Oriole is gradually increasing in New Brunswick but is, of course, still a rare bird. An inquiry from Mrs. Josephine Witherell of Blissfield, Northumberland County, addressed to Mr. Kermode Parr in Fredericton and forwarded to me obviously refers to a Baltimore Oriole seen there on May 27th and 28th, the first I have had reported from the Miramichi valley. My records now place the Baltimore Oriole in summer in the Saint John valley north to Andover, in the Kennebecasis valley to Norton, in the Moncton area, at Buctouche and now Blissfield. It is also found in Charlotte County and there is a winter record for Sackville. Mrs. Mildred Barnes of Fredericton tells me about a well fledged young Baltimore Oriole found on the ground out of the nest too soon, evidence of successful breeding in that area. Additional reports would be welcome.

We have reported many times now on Evening Grosbeaks breeding in New Brunswick and again this summer there have been reports of adults feeding young which had left the nest, at Grand Lake in July by Miss Barbara White, at Nashwaak July 23rd by Mrs. Margery Acheson, at Hampton Station July 27th by Miss Vivien Fowler. At Fredericton on August 7th I was presented with a young Evening Grosbeak which had been caught by a cat. The Evening Grosbeaks continue to occur here in summer in great numbers. Large flocks were frequently seen in central New Brunswick except for a brief period when they were nesting. A traveller from Fredericton to Newcastle in June reported small flocks up to 20 or 30 individuals every few miles and Mr. P. Pearce deeper in the woods of Northumberland County in July reported both Evening and Pine Grosbeaks in numbers.

The Yellow-shafted Flicker must be unusually abundant in the vicinity of Salisbury this summer. Miss Mary Foster writes that as many as 25 young were congregated on her lawn at once on July 30th.

Have you seen any Bats this summer? Bats are quite common in New Brunswick but far less abundant in both individuals and species than in warmer parts of the world. If you have seen any Bats it is quite unlikely that you knew what species it was. It is quite common for people who know every bird they see or even hear to be quite ignorant of the kinds of bats they see. New Brunswick bats all belong to one family and all feed on insects. Elsewhere in the world are many bats that feed on fruit and vegetation and several that suck blood. Some tropical bats are delightfully grotesque in appearance.

Our commonest bat is the Little Brown Bat (Myotis lucifugus). Almost indistinguishable from it is the Long-eared or Keen's Bat (Myotis keenii). Both are about the same size, dark brown in colour, and weigh about one-fifth of an ounce. They may be distinguished in the hand as the ears of the former if bent forward do not extend beyond the nostrils while the longer ears of the latter always project beyond the nostrils.

These bats hibernate in cold weather often migrating to large caves. The next most common bat is probably the Red Bat. A schoolboy brought a skin to the Museum from Dipper Harbour in 1958 and reported a small colony there. It is large with a wing-spread of 13 inches and the fur is fox-red in colour. The Silver-haired Bat (Lasionycteris noctivagans), Big Brown Bat, (Eptesicus fuscus), and Hoary Bat (Lasiurus cinereus) are other larger species that have been identified here on a few occasions. The last named has a wing-spread of 16 inches. All of these larger species migrate much like birds. A great deal more careful study and collecting will be necessary before the number of species present and their distribution in the Province is known.

None of our bats have any predilection for getting in ladies' hair and would do no harm if they did. "Blind as a bat" is not completely blind. They can see well enough and are not dazzled by sunlight. They all spend about four-fifths of their lives hanging upside down.

In many areas of New Brunswick in spite of occasional light showers this has been a very dry summer and many of the upland summer wild flowers have withered away without any conspicuous exhibition of their potential loveliness. We must look to the swampy areas by the roadside for the best floral display in a dry season. Here if we are lucky will be found Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum Salicaria). Several years ago I found this flower for the first time by the side of the St. John River on the Oromocto Flats. On August 10th I saw it blooming in great abundance in a swamp by the roadside between Hampton Station and Hampton Village. This same plant or possibly a slightly improved horticultural variety has found its way into local flower gardens in the last two or three years purchased probably under the name "Lythrum".

Joe-pye-weed in bloom from the middle of July was very showy by the roadside August 10th-15th. In one place near Nerepis fully half an acre was covered with these rosy-purple flower heads. In wetter ditches or slowly running water Turtlehead may be found with its odd-shaped white or pinkish blossoms. David Christie found this plant in bloom at Kingshurst on July 26th. In deeper water the truly beautiful blue spikes of the Pickerel Weed may be found protruding above a blanket of leaves of the Cow Lily, Arrowhead, and water grasses. This flower was in bloom in the Salmon River at Chipman on August 10th but I am afraid that many of our nature enthusiasts miss the thrill of discovering this beautiful wild flower.

Mr. H.E. MacDonald of St. Stephen reports what he is satisfied is a second nesting of a pair of Tree Swallows. He took special note of the pair as the female had brighter plumage than the male. The pair were carrying nesting material first on April 20th. There were young in the nest June 8th and they left on the 22nd or 23rd. On June 25th the same pair were carrying new nesting material to the same bird house; on July 22nd they were carrying food and on August 6th the second brood left the nest. This is of special interest as most authorities report that only one brood is raised each year.

NATURE NEWS

Volume XI

September - October 1960

Number 5

FOREWORD

It has been a busy two months since I wrote the last number of the "News" early in August. I travelled west across New England and New York to Michigan and returned across Ontario and many new birds, plants and animals were observed with great satisfaction. Highlights were Cardinals and Wood Thrushes studied intimately on several occasions; a Common Egret at the western end of Lake Erie and Caspian Terns with numerous other water and shorebirds at the eastern end of Lake Ontario. It was a special delight to find Fox Squirrels (twice as big as Gray Squirrels) at least as common on the streets of Ann Arbor, Michigan, as Gray Squirrels are in Fredericton.

I must commend the activity of several members of the Fredericton Field-Naturalists' Club who have been very busy and have added quite a number of birds to the roll of species known to occur in central New Brunswick. With one or two such enthusiastic individuals successful societies could easily be organized among those whom I know to be interested in birds and nature in St. Andrews and Moncton.

W.A. Squires, Curator

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There was some apprehension, especially in the southern part of the Province that the unusually dry summer would have an adverse effect on the beauty of our autumn foliage. In fact some of the favorite views in the Kennebecasis valley were described to me as dull and lacking their usual brilliance. On the whole, however, there has been an extremely good show. Due to the drought the maples reached their brilliant peak perhaps two weeks earlier than usual but what really impressed me was the continued beauty of the autumn colours after the maple leaves had fallen. The gold on the Paper Birches and Common Poplars was surely twenty-four carat; the Bud Cherries, Viburnums, and Brambles were a fine dark red; and the carpet of Blueberry leaves the brightest red I have seen. As this is written the larch (tamarack) is changing from pale green to golden yellow and adding its share to the autumn parade of colours.

For many years there has been a prosperous breeding colony of gulls and cormorants on Manawagonish Island in the Bay of Fundy just to the west of the entrance to Saint John Harbour. Mr. Wm. O. Astle of Flushing, N.Y. has banded Herring Gulls here every summer for over twenty years and has had many interesting returns. In addition to the Herring Gulls there has been a large colony of Double-crested Cormorants and in more recent years a colony of Great Blue Herons. I heard a rumor several years ago that someone had been shooting cormorants around the island and this year in July Mr. Astle found many dead gulls and cormorants where someone had apparently been using them for target practice. The summer population of cormorants to be seen fishing in the lower Saint John valley has declined very noticeably in the last few years and it would be criminal if

this unique colony were broken up by such vandalism. In fact the gulls and herons are protected by law which provides heavy penalties with seizure of guns and in this case boats, and the shooting was done at a time when it is illegal for anyone to carry firearms so that both the federal and provincial law was broken.

Many people who put out food for the birds and who know every species that appears in their dooryard or on their lawn never venture out to the sandy beaches at the side of the sea, or lake or river. Here during spring migration and from early August until late fall may be seen a host of long-legged, long-beaked birds classed variously as sandpipers, plovers, curlews and godwits and collectively as shorebirds. This fall it has seemed to me that these birds have been more numerous than usual. Mr. D. Kermode Parr of Fredericton was on the beaches from Burnt Church to Shippegan from July 31 to August 10 at the start of the fall migration and reported Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Semipalmated Sandpiper. Later in August and in September Peter Pearce reported many of these and Dowitchers as well from Richibucto and Pt. Lepreau and along the Saint John river at Fredericton. S.D. Whitman of Moncton reported Semipalmated Plovers, Black-bellied Plovers, Greater Yellowlegs, Dowitchers and Semipalmated Sandpipers still at Point du Chene on October 2. I can even see some of these shorebirds from the museum windows with a powerful glass. Anyone who goes out of their way to get acquainted with these birds will have many new friends to watch for as they travel to and from the Arctic.

I can only select a few of special interest out of the many records of many species of birds that have come to me since early August.

A Rufous-sided Towhee was seen at St. Martins by Ray Harper October 6 & 7 and another at Pennfield October 14 by Mr. M.C. Morehouse.

The latest report for a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was one seen by Mrs. D.B. Crosby at Belmont September 18.

David Christie saw 27 Common Eiders at Pt. Lepreau August 27 and S.D. Whitman reported 300-400 at Point du Chene October 2.

One Water Pipit was identified at Portage Vale, Westmorland County, by Richard Whitman on September 5 and later in the month several persons saw a flock in Maugerville.

A Laughing Gull identified in the river at Fredericton on September 15 and 16 by A. Dean, D.K. Parr and others was the first record north-east of the Grand Manan area and may have been blown inland by hurricane Donna a few days earlier.

Several Ring-billed Gulls were seen at Fredericton with the Laughing Gull on September 15 and 16 and for a week or so afterwards. Nine were also seen at Point du Chene on October 2 by S.D. Whitman. This is the commonest Gull around the Great Lakes but is only occasionally seen in the Maritimes.

N A T U R E N E W S

Volume XI

November - December 1960

Number 6

F O R E W O R D

As during the past several winters we shall again carry out two major projects this winter in which our readers can render outstanding assistance. The first of these is the Christmas Bird Census - a count of all the birds that can be found within a circular area 15 miles in diameter between dawn and dusk on one day December 21 to January 2. If you cannot find anyone in your area to help you see how many species you can find yourself. Good groups of observers have been making Christmas Counts at Fredericton, Saint John and Moncton for several years. The second project is to compile a list of all birds observed in the Province from December 1st to February 15th. We listed 77 species in this period last winter and already have reports of five species not listed last year. The Christmas Counts and the winter list will both be published in the next number of the bulletin.

W.A. Squires, Curator

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Have you seen a Snowy Owl this fall? This large Arctic Owl usually moves south in great numbers in some parts of the continent every four or five years apparently correlated with a scarcity of small mammals in the north. In the last five or six years we have had only two or three reported in the Saint John area but since the first of November over twenty have been reported. There have also been Snowy Owls seen in considerable numbers in Maine since the end of October. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the Snowy Owls as well as a number of other owls and all hawks are now protected by law in Maine. It has taken man a long time to learn that all birds of prey are not necessarily bad. In New Brunswick none, not even the Bald Eagle, are protected as yet.

A trip to the Bay of Fundy coast can be quite rewarding to the naturalist, either amateur or professional, at any season of the year but perhaps especially so in winter. Mr. Peter Pearce has reported on birds seen at Pt. Lepreau and Dipper Harbour on December 3rd. - several Loons, two Great Cormorants, ten Buffleheads, several Oldsquaws, one female Common Eider, three White-winged Scoters, three Razor-bills (at least 100 Razor-bills or Murres out at sea), 200-300 Purple Sandpipers and also Herring and Black-backed Gulls. On land a Water Pipit and a belated Flicker were also noted. Most of these would be new birds for anyone who usually studies birds through the kitchen window.

Perhaps you are feeding birds this winter or perhaps you would like to start. If you start putting out food keep it up as long as birds are coming to you for food as many species that become dependent on you may starve if the food supply is cut off. Prolonged winter

storms are deadly to birds and food should be available especially at these times. You will have to replenish often unless you have a self-feeder - a hopper which lets seed down as fast as it is eaten.

Suet attracts downy and hairy woodpeckers, nuthatches and chickadees and will be eaten occasionally by several other species including sparrows and bluejays. Sunflower seeds are eaten by evening grosbeaks, purple finches, chickadees, nuthatches, etc. Millet seed which is available for cage birds is good for sparrows such as the tree sparrow. These are the basic foods but it is interesting to experiment with others such as raisins, bits of fruit, peanuts or peanut butter, doughnuts, etc. One suggestion that I would like to try some time says to take a short log, bore a number of large holes in it, fill these with a melted mixture of suet and seeds and hang it in a tree. Place your feeder near shrubbery to which birds can escape if shrikes or hawks also come looking for a meal and well above the ground out of the reach of cats and dogs.

The fifth Towhee reported in southern New Brunswick this fall was seen at Lancaster by Murray Watters October 25.

A Mockingbird was reported at St. Martins by Ray Harper on October 28. Bruce Wright saw one in Fredericton October 29 and 30 and two early in November.

Mrs. Fred Nutter saw a Mourning Dove at St. Andrews October 18 and Mr. D. Kermode Parr saw a Northern Shrike on the Oromocto Flats October 29.

Mr. Pearce saw a belated Robin at Dipper Harbour December 10 and Mr. G.E. Smith saw one at Moncton December 12.

Grebes are not reported by many observers. We have three species, the Pied-billed Grebe is a summer resident and the Red-necked Grebe and Horned Grebe are seen in the fall and spring and occasionally in winter on salt water. Pied-billed Grebes were seen until October 29 when Mr. Pearce saw one at Oromocto Flats. The earliest report for the Red-necked Grebe is for one at Fredericton October 23 seen by C. Sanders. David Christie saw one at Pt. Lepreau November 11. C. Sanders saw three Horned Grebes at Fredericton October 1 and David Christie reported 40 in Kennebecasis Bay November 12.

Snow Geese are only rarely reported in New Brunswick so that a flock of 20 seen at the mouth of the Portobello stream in Sunbury County by Dr. R.E. Balch on November 20 is an important record.

On November 12 I saw two Pileated Woodpeckers about seven miles apart at New Maryland and Nasonworth. Perhaps this large woodpecker is becoming slightly commoner. Let us hope that it continues to prosper and does not share the fate of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the south that looks so much like it.