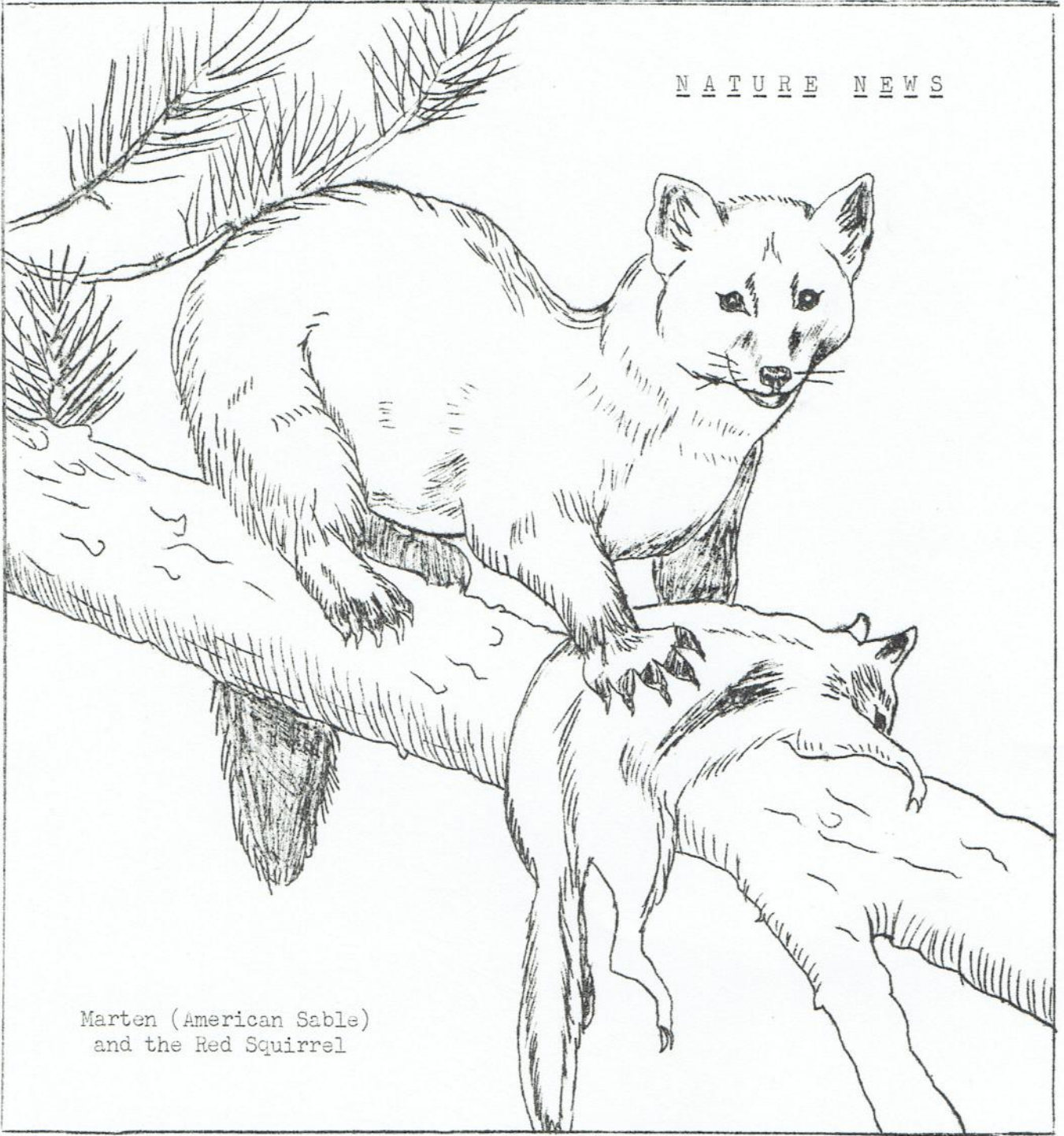


N A T U R E N E W S



Marten (American Sable)
and the Red Squirrel

ISSUED BY
THE NATURAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
OF
THE NEW BRUNSWICK MUSEUM
SAINT JOHN, N. B.

NATURE NEWS

Vol. XII

January - February 1961

Number 1

FOREWORD

The Christmas Bird Count originated by the National Audubon Society over sixty years ago is the most exciting event of the year among bird students across the continent.

We welcome a fine well-organized count from St. Andrews for the first time and one from Sackville after a lapse of a year. We received counts from seven areas in each of which several persons participated and reports from many other persons who made individual observations during the count period. At Saint John David Christie provided increased coverage by contacting by telephone eighteen persons who maintain feeding stations.

More than one hundred interested persons contributed to the records published here. This demonstrates the steadily growing interest in New Brunswick wildlife. Some observers, however, still do not understand my need for accurate dates and numbers seen to record data scientifically.

Our Winter Bird List which was started in February 1957 with reports of 48 species and an average of about three records for each has increased to 85 species for this winter and reports for some species have been so numerous that only a few can be included. Many correspondents have felt that birds were scarce and the extreme cold of January no doubt killed many and forced more to seek warmer areas but more species have been reported than ever before.

W.A. Squires, Curator

#####

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saint John, N.E. Dec. 26, 1960; 6.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.; overcast; temp. 22°-42°F; wind S 0-20 mph; 3 in. of snow; 8 observers in 7 parties (18 at feeders). Total mileage 102 (30 on foot, 72 by car).
Black Duck, 251; Common Goldeneye, 14; Bufflehead, 1; Common Merganser, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Gray Partridge, 3; Glaucous Gull, 1; Iceland Gull, 4; Great Black-backed Gull, 527; Herring Gull, 2812; Black-headed Gull, 1; Rock Dove, 75; Hairy Woodpecker, 9; Downy Woodpecker, 23; Gray Jay, 3; Blue Jay, 28; Common Raven, 71; Common Crow, 157; Black-capped Chickadee, 188; Boreal Chickadee, 8; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown Creeper, 2; Robin, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 28; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 1041; House Sparrow, 452; Slate-coloured Junco, 6; Tree Sparrow, 25; Chipping Sparrow, 4; White-throated Sparrow, 3; Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 4; Snow Bunting, 60. Total species 34; about 5811 individuals. Seen during count period Common Loon, Red-breasted Merganser, Rough-legged Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Snowy Owl, Evening Grosbeak. Mrs. G.G. Anglin, Mrs. C.H. Brock, Fred Brock, Mrs. C.H. Cameron, David Christie (Compiler), Miss Florence Christie, Miss Lilian.

Christie, Mrs. E.F. Coffin, Roy Forrester, Miss J.A. Gillies, Mrs. A.R. Goucher, Mrs. H.M. Hamm, Miss Grace Hayes, Miss Lois Hayes, Miss Jane Hazen, Mrs. W.G. Henderson, Mrs. A. Lee-White, Miss Mabelle MacCoubrey, Stuart MacFarlane, Mrs. W.R. Mathers, Mrs. A.R. Marr, Mrs. J.E. McKinney, Miss Barbara Miles, Mrs. I.L. Sear, Mrs. W.J. Simon, Mrs. W.L. Smith, Murray Watters.

Fredericton, N.B. Dec. 26, 1960; 8.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.; overcast, snowing, clearing in afternoon; temp. 30° - 33°; wind 0-5 mph; 6-8 in. snow; 18 observers in seven parties (4 at feeders). Total mileage 155 (15 on foot, 140 by car).

Common Goldeneye, 3; Goshawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 13; Rock Dove, 569; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 10; Blue Jay, 84; Common Raven, 20; Common Crow, 29; Black-capped Chickadee, 50; Boreal Chickadee, 5; Brown Creeper, 1; Robin, 3; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 335; House Sparrow, 1800; Common Grackle, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 25; Purple Finch, 1; Pine Siskin, 5; American Goldfinch, 14; Tree Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 3; Snow Bunting, 7. Total species 28; about 2995 individuals. Seen during count period Red-breasted Nuthatch; Mockingbird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Slate-coloured Junco, White-throated Sparrow. Mrs. R.E. Balch, Mr. and Mrs. N. Rae Brown, Miss E. Currie, A.A. Dean, G. Eagles, B. Ellis, Dr. and Mrs. E. Hagmeier, A. Mackay, Miss M. McNair, Mrs. W.R.D. McNeill, E. Maher, Mr. and Mrs. M.B. Moore, Miss N. Moore, Mrs. Richardson, C. Sanders, R. Savage, R. Squires, W.A. Squires, W. Varty.

Moncton-Shediac. Dec. 31, 1960; 7.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.; fine, temp. 35°; wind 10 mph; 3 observers. Total mileage 115 (5 on foot, 110 by car). Common Goldeneye, 7; Oldsquaw, 6; Common Eider, 292; Common Merganser, 3; Red-breasted Merganser, 4; Great Black-backed Gull, 282; Herring Gull, 350; Ring-billed Gull, 4; Rock Dove, 82; Blue Jay, 10; Common Raven, 56; Common Crow, 6; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Starling, 1056; House Sparrow, 318; Evening Grosbeak, 33; Common Redpoll, 6. Total species 18; about 2518 individuals. Seen during count period Ring-necked Pheasant, Glaucous Gull, Hairy Woodpecker, Robin, Tree Sparrow. Fred Bone, Douglas Whitman, Richard Whitman.

St. Andrews, N.B. Dec. 27, 1960; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; clear and sunny; temp. 27° - 10°; wind N.W. 25 mph; Ground bare. 11 observers. Total mileage 55 (on foot 10, by car 45).

Common Loon, 1; Red-necked Grebe, 1; Great Cormorant, 11; Canada Goose, 1; Black Duck, 234; Greater Scaup, 4; Common Goldeneye, 7; Bufflehead, 46; Common Eider, 30; White-winged Scoter, 38; Surf Scoter, 20; Red-breasted Merganser, 36; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Purple Sandpiper, 50; Great Black-backed Gull, 102; Herring Gull, 425; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Gray Jay, 3; Blue Jay, 7; Common Raven, 2; Common Crow, 53; Black-capped Chickadee, 56; Boreal Chickadee, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Robin, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Starling, 77; House Sparrow, 78; Slate-coloured Junco, 3; Tree Sparrow, 1; Song-Sparrow, 1. Total species 32; about 1203 individuals. Neil Bourne, Miss F. Howe, M.H.A. Keenleyside, Miss G. Mears, J.C. Medcof, Mrs. F.T. Nutter, Mrs. L. Richardson, J.E. Rigby, Mrs. R.F. Rigby, R.L. Saunders, J.B. Sprague.

Sackville, N.B. Dec. 24, 1960; 7.15 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.; clear and sunny; temp. 11° - 20°; wind W 5-10 mph; Ground 1 in. of snow; 5 observers. Total mileage 94 (on foot 27, by car 67).

Rough-legged Hawk, 3; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 2; Great Black-backed Gull, 9; Herring Gull, 105; Rock Dove, 22; Horned Lark, 1; Blue Jay, 1; Common Raven, 18; Common Crow, 10; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; Boreal Chickadee, 37; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Starling, 115; House Sparrow, 168; Common Grackle, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 4; Snow Bunting, 60. Total species 19; about 592 individuals. C.O. Bartlett, Dr. and Mrs. A.J. Erskine, Mr. and Mrs. D. McPhail.

Lepreau, N.B. Dec. 29, 1960; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; overcast, snow in late p.m.; temp. 4° - 32°; wind S. S.W. 0-12 mph; ground bare; 2 observers; one party. Total mileage 93 (on foot 3, by car 90).

Common Loon, 6; Horned Grebe, 46; Great Cormorant, 17; Black Duck, 5; Common Goldeneye, 69; Bufflehead, 8; Oldsquaw, 14; Common Eider, 1; White-winged Scoter, 2; Hooded Merganser, 1; Common Merganser, 6; Red-breasted Merganser, 7; ducks (sp.), 200; Bald Eagle, 1; Purple Sandpiper, 85; Great Black-backed Gull, 473; Herring Gull, 1236; Black-legged Kittiwake, 34; Razorbill, 57; Thick-billed Murre, 10; Alcids (sp.), 100; Rock Dove, 12; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 2; Common Raven, 4; Common Crow, 22; Black-capped Chickadee, 16; Robin, 1; Starling, 73; House Sparrow, 1. Total species 29; about 2511 individuals. Mrs. C.H. Christie, David Christie.

Woodstock, N.B. Dec. 30, 1960. 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.; light cloud; temp. 30°; calm; 8 in. of snow; three observers. Total mileage 2 1/2 on foot. Black Duck, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 3; Common Raven, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; House Sparrow, 17; Evening Grosbeak, 15. Total species 9; about 47 individuals. Mrs. Marjorie A.E. Gray, Robert Simpson, Ronald Simpson.

WINTER BIRD LIST (December 1st, 1960 - February 15th, 1961)
(Reports in addition to the Christmas Counts recorded above)

Common Loon

Dec. 3	Pt. Lepreau	several	P. Pearce
Feb. 11	Pt. Lepreau	3	P. Pearce

Red-necked Grebe

Dec. 3	Chance Harbour	1	D. Christie
Jan. 22	Mispec	1	D. Christie
Feb. 11	Dipper Harbour	12	D. Christie

Horned Grebe

Dec. 4	Kingshurst	4	D. Christie
Dec-Jan	Baie Verte	24	Miss A. Goodwin
Jan. 22	Mispec	8	D. Christie
Feb. 11	Chance Harbour	25	"

Great Cormorant

Dec. 3	Lepreau	2	P. Pearce, D. Christie
Feb. 11	Lepreau	2	P. Pearce

<u>Canada Goose</u>			
Dec. 26 & 27	St. Martins	1	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
<u>Black Duck</u>			
Dec. 3	Burton	2	D. Christie
Jan. 22	Saint John	50	"
Feb. 7	Bocabec	20	A.J. Erskine
<u>Greater Scaup</u>			
Dec. 27	St. Andrews	4	Christmas Count
<u>Lesser Scaup</u>			
Dec. 3	Kingshurst	1	D. Christie
<u>Common Goldeneye</u>			
Dec. 1	Fredericton	29	"
3-11	Rothsay	150	"
10	Lepreau	sev.	P. Pearce
26	Fredericton	3	N.R. Brown
Jan. 15	Sand Pt., Kings Co.	121	D. Christie
<u>Bufflehead</u>			
Dec. 3	Dipper Harbour	10	P. Pearce
Jan. 3	Saint John	50	D. Christie
19	Black's Harbour	3	A.J. Erskine
Feb. 11	Chance Harbour	2	D. Christie
<u>Oldsquaw</u>			
Dec. 3	Dipper Harbour	6	P. Pearce, D. Christie
Jan. 14	Cape Tormentine	35	A.J. Erskine
Feb. 11	Lepreau	9	P. Pearce
12	Pennfield	sev.	Mrs. M.C. Morehouse
<u>Common Eider</u>			
Dec. 3	Lepreau	1	P. Pearce
Jan. 19	Mace's Bay	78	A.J. Erskine
Feb. 7	Pennfield	30	Mrs. M.C. Morehouse
<u>White-winged Scoter</u>			
Dec. 3	Lepreau	3	P. Pearce, D. Christie
Feb. 11	Dipper Harbour	2	D. Christie
<u>Surf Scoter</u>			
Dec. 27	St. Andrews	20	Christmas Count
<u>Hooded Merganser</u>			
Dec. 3 & 29	Lepreau	1	D. Christie
<u>Common Merganser</u>			
Dec. 4	Perry Pt.	1	"
Jan. 22	Fredericton	22	P. Pearce
<u>Red-breasted Merganser</u>			
Dec. 29	New River Beach	6	D. Christie
Jan. 6	Saint John	11	"
<u>Goshawk</u>			
Dec. 30	Nasonworth, York Co.	1	W.A. Squires
Jan. 11	Fredericton	1	A. Dean
<u>Sharp-shinned Hawk</u>			
Jan. 2	Marysville	1	N.R. Brown
16	St. Martins	1	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

<u>Sharp-shinned Hawk</u> (cont'd).			
Jan. 15-25	Riverview	1	Fred Bone
Feb. 15	Saint John	1	G.A. Hilyard
<u>Rough-legged Hawk</u>			
Dec. 24	Kingshurst	1	D. Christie
Jan. 14	Sackville	1	A.J. Erskine
<u>Bald Eagle</u>			
Dec. 28	Harding's Pt.	2	John H. Kimball
Jan. 7	Mace's Bay	1	Murray Watters
Jan. 28	Lepreau	1	P. Pearce
Feb. 15	Nerepis	4	G.B. MacBeath
Jan-Feb	St. Martins	sev.	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
<u>Pigeon Hawk</u>			
Dec. 21	Sackville	1	A.J. Erskine
Jan. 5	Moncton	1	R.J. Whitman
Feb. 7	Fredericton	1	D. Christie
<u>Sparrow Hawk</u>			
Dec. 1-18	Fredericton	1	D. Christie
26	Black's Harbour	1	Peter Small
<u>Spruce Grouse</u>			
Dec. 26	Black's Harbour	1	Peter Small
<u>Ruffed Grouse</u>			
Resident throughout - Reports Sackville, Fredericton, St. Andrews, Norton, Hampton, Head of Millstream.			
<u>Ring-necked Pheasant</u>			
Jan.	Baie Verte	sev.	Miss A. Goodwin
Jan. 14	Upper Pointe de Bute	1	A.J. Erskine
<u>Gray Partridge</u>			
Jan. 9	Buctouche	18	Mrs. J. Trigg
<u>American Woodcock</u>			
Jan. 22	Golden Grove (Saint John)	1	W.A. Squires
<u>Purple Sandpiper</u>			
Dec. 3	Lepreau	250	P. Pearce
Feb. 11	Mace's Bay	11	P. Pearce
<u>Glaucous Gull</u>			
Jan. 14	Cape Tormentine	5	A.J. Erskine
<u>Iceland Gull</u>			
Jan. 14	Cape Tormentine	40	A.J. Erskine
Feb. 11	Saint John	20	D. Christie
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>			
Dec. 1	Fredericton	1	D. Christie
<u>Herring Gull</u>			
Dec. 1	Fredericton	11	D. Christie
<u>Ring-billed Gull</u>			
Dec. 31	Shediac	4	Christmas Count
<u>Black-headed Gull</u>			
Jan. 28	Saint John	2	D. Christie

Black-legged Kittiwake

Dec. 10	Lepreau	3	P. Pearce
Jan. 28	Lepreau	sev.	"

Razor-bill

Dec. 3	Lepreau	3	P. Pearce
Jan. 28	Lepreau	500+	"

Thick-billed Murre

Dec. 3	Lepreau	3	D. Christie
Jan. 28	Lepreau	3	P. Pearce

Black Guillemot

Feb. 11	Lepreau	1	P. Pearce
---------	---------	---	-----------

Rock Dove

Fredericton, Saint John, Lancaster, St. Andrews, Lepreau, Sackville, Moncton, Shediac, Pocologan, Head of Millstream, etc.

Snowy Owl

Dec-Feb	Saint John-Lancaster	40-50 individual reports	
Jan. 14	Sackville	1	A.J. Erskine
Jan. 16	Frye's Island	1	Harry Walton
Feb. 6	Lancaster	1	Mrs. V.B. Watters

Short-eared Owl

Dec. 18	Sackville	1	A.J. Erskine
Jan. 7	Mace's Bay	1	Murray Watters

Saw-whet Owl

Jan.	Lancaster	1	Mrs. Wm. Hazen
------	-----------	---	----------------

Yellow-shafted Flicker

Dec. 3	Dipper Harbour	1	P. Pearce
--------	----------------	---	-----------

Pileated Woodpecker

Dec. 26	Fredericton	1	N.R. Brown
---------	-------------	---	------------

Hairy Woodpecker

Dec-Jan (daily)	Fredericton	1	W.A. Squires
Dec-Jan (daily)	South Tweedside	1	Mrs. C. Cleghorn
Jan. 24	Hampton	1	P. Pearce
Feb. 6	Norton	1	Mrs. Leonard Hoyt

Downy Woodpecker

Dec. 1	Fredericton	4	D. Christie
Jan-Feb	Pennfield	3	Mrs. M.C. Morehouse

Horned Lark

Dec. 18	Sackville	6	A.J. Erskine
Jan. 22	Sackville	2	"

Gray Jay

Dec-Jan	South Tweedside	12	Mrs. C. Cleghorn
Dec. 3	Gagetown	1	D. Christie
Dec. 24	Head of Millstream	1	Fred Bone
Dec. 26	Nasonworth	4	W.A. Squires
Dec. 31	Norton	1	Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
Jan. 2	Pennfield	1	Mrs. M.C. Morehouse
Feb. 13	Waterford, Kings Co.	2	P. Pearce

Blue Jay

Saint John, Lancaster, St. Andrews, Pennfield, Gagetown, Fredericton, South Tweedside, Woodstock, Harding's Point, Norton, Moncton, Shediac, Buctouche, Sackville.

Common Raven

Dec. 29	Lepreau	4	D. Christie
Feb. 10	Jacksonville	1	Miss May Armand

Common Crow

Dec. 29	Lepreau	22	D. Christie
Feb. 10	Jacksonville	2	Miss May Armand

Black-capped Chickadee

Fredericton, Rothesay, Chamcook, Buctouche, Newcastle, Saint John, Sackville, St. Andrews, Lepreau, Woodstock, Moncton, Norton, St. Martins, Riverview, Pennfield, Head of Millstream, Musquash, South Tweedside, Harding's Pt.

Boreal Chickadee

Dec-Jan	South Tweedside	5	Mrs. C. Cleghorn
Feb. 4	Fredericton	6	P. Pearce

White-breasted Nuthatch

Dec-Feb	Fredericton	2	W.A. Squires
Dec. 6	Sackville	1	A.J. Erskine
11	Norton	1	Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
26	Black's Harbour	1	Peter Small
Jan. 6	Moncton	1	R.J. Whitman
15	Riverview	1	Fred Bone.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Dec-Jan	South Tweedside	2	Mrs. C. Cleghorn
Dec. 24	Sackville	1	A.J. Erskine
Dec. 27	Fredericton	1	W.A. Squires

Brown Creeper

Dec. 10	Rothesay	1	D. Christie
Jan-Feb	Pennfield	1	Mrs. M.C. Morehouse

Mockingbird

Dec-Jan	Fredericton	1	Bruce Wright et al
---------	-------------	---	--------------------

Robin

Dec. 10	Dipper Harbour	1	P. Pearce
10	Kingshurst	2	D. Christie
11	Norton	1	Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
11	Lorneville	1	D. Christie
12	Moncton	1	G.E. Smith
14	Moncton	1	R.J. Whitman
Dec-Jan	Chamcook	1	Miss Muriel Grimmer
Jan. 1-3	Moncton	1	R.J. Whitman
5	Saint John	2	Mrs. A.P. Gregory
7	Lancaster	1	Murray Watters
17	St. Stephen	1	H.E. MacDonald
28-29	Fredericton Junction	1	S.H. McCracken

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Dec-Jan	St. Martins	1	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec. 24	Head of Millstream	2	Fred Bone

Golden-crowned Kinglet (cont'd).

Dec. 27	Fredericton	3	A. Dean
Feb. 8	Pennfield	sev.	Mrs. M.C. Morehouse

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Dec. 26	Rothsay	1	Mrs. G.G. Anglin
---------	---------	---	------------------

Water Pipit

Dec. 3	Lepreau	1	P. Pearce
--------	---------	---	-----------

Bohemian Waxwing

Jan. 17	St. Martins	1	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
---------	-------------	---	--------------------

Northern Shrike

Dec. 25	Pennfield	1	Mrs. M.C. Morehouse
Dec. 26	Fredericton	1	I.W. Varty, A. Dean

Starling

Fredericton, Saint John, St. Andrews, Sackville, Moncton, Lepreau, Shediac, Gagetown, Buctouche, Fredericton Junction, Harding's Point, Head of Millstream, etc.

House Sparrow

Fredericton, Saint John, St. Andrews, Sackville, Moncton, Woodstock, Lepreau, Buctouche, Shediac, Head of Millstream, etc.

Meadowlark

Jan. 7	Lancaster	1	Murray Watters
--------	-----------	---	----------------

Red-winged Blackbird

Dec-Jan (daily)	St. Martins	1	Ray Harper
Jan. 4	Riverview	1	R.J. Whitman

Common Grackle

Dec. 24	Sackville	1	A.J. Erskine
Jan. 6	St. Martins	1	Ray Harper
Jan. 21	Fredericton	1	P. Pearce

Brown-headed Cowbird

Dec 24	Pennfield	1	Mrs. M.C. Morehouse
Jan.	Lancaster	1	Murray Watters
Jan. 1	East Saint John	1	Mrs. Marjorie Duffy
Jan-Feb	St. Martins	sev.	Kaare Smith
Feb. 2	Hampton	1	P. Pearce

Evening Grosbeak

Dec. 27	Fredericton	40	W.A. Squires
Jan.	Riverview	25	Fred Bone
Jan. 6	St. Martins	20	Ray Harper
Feb. 11	Jacksonville	12	Miss May Arnand
Feb. 15	Pennfield	1	Mrs. M.C. Morehouse

Purple Finch

Jan. 16	Fredericton	17	D. Christie
Feb. 4	Fredericton	25	P. Pearce

Pine Grosbeak

Jan. 14	Fredericton	17	P. Pearce
15	Bayswater	20	D. Christie

Common Redpoll

Jan. 4	Belmont	sev.	Mrs. D.B. Crosby
--------	---------	------	------------------

<u>Pine Siskin</u>			
Dec. 28	Norton	flock	Mrs. Leonard Hoyt
Jan. 6	St. Martins	sev.	Ray Harper
<u>American Goldfinch</u>			
Dec. 5-13	Fredericton	8	D. Christie
Feb. 4	Fredericton	sev.	P. Pearce
<u>Red Crossbill</u>			
Dec. 30	Fairvale	sev.	J.H. Barnett
<u>White-winged Crossbill</u>			
Dec. 24	Head of Millstream	1	Fred Bone
30	Fairvale	1	J.H. Barnett
Jan. 14	Fredericton	25	P. Pearce
<u>Slate-coloured Junco</u>			
Dec-Jan	South Tweedside	1	Mrs. C. Cleghorn
Dec. 29	Pennfield	1	Mrs. M.C. Morehouse
Jan. 2	Sackville	2	A.J. Erskine
29	Baie Verte	1	Miss A. Goodwin
Jan-Feb	Newcastle	2	Miss Louise Manny
<u>Tree Sparrow</u>			
Dec-Jan	St. Martins	sev.	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec. 15	Pennfield	6	Mrs. M.C. Morehouse
21	Fredericton	60	D. Christie
Jan. 2	Sackville	2	A.J. Erskine
Jan. 2-6	Moncton	sev.	R.J. Whitman
4	Belmont	sev.	Mrs. D.B. Crosby
21	Sheffield	35	P. Pearce
29	Baie Verte	1	Miss A. Goodwin
<u>Chipping Sparrow</u>			
Dec. 26	Saint John	4	Christmas Count
<u>White-throated Sparrow</u>			
Dec. 26	Saint John	3	Christmas Count
27	Fredericton	1	"
<u>Fox Sparrow</u>			
Dec. 26-Jan.	Lancaster	1	Miss Jane Hazen
Jan.	Chamcook	1	Miss M. Grimmer
Jan-Feb	St. Martins	1	Keare Smith
<u>Song Sparrow</u>			
Dec. 3	Lepreau	1	D. Christie
Jan. 6	Fairvale	1	J.H. Barnett
<u>Lapland Longspur</u>			
Jan. 20	Jemseg	10	P. Pearce
<u>Snow Bunting</u>			
Dec. 3	Upper Gagetown	1	D. Christie
18	Sackville	34	A.J. Erskine
Feb.	Woodstock	25	Miss May Armand
Feb. 10 & 13	Nerepis	500	W.A. Squires

Anyone interested in collecting data on birds' nests for a Nest Records Scheme in the Maritimes is invited to contact - Dr. A.J. Erskine, Canadian Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 180, Sackville, N.B.

NATURE NEWS

Vol. XII

March - April 1961

Number 2

FOREWORD

This number will be devoted in large part to spring bird migration.

The reports sent in by cooperating observers have been particularly numerous during March and April and we are most grateful. It is not possible in this limited space to even mention all the species reported but all records will be filed for future reference.

Interest in birds and nature generally seems to be contagious. Since the organization of the Fredericton Field-Naturalists' Club a year and a half ago the number of persons in that area making reports of real scientific worth has increased many fold and we are getting a much better insight into the bird life of the central Saint John valley than was ever before possible.

W.A. Squires, Curator

#####

The first wildflower of spring was as usual the coltsfoot (Tussilago farfara). Mr. Archie Burt reported it in bloom at Saint John on March 22nd. March 19th, 1953 is the earliest date I have but Marjorie A.E. Gray reported dandelions in bloom at Woodstock April 24th.

Nature News has been published so long now that we can look back a number of seasons and make comparisons. For example, Red Trillium, Dog Tooth Violet, and Blue Violet were all in bloom at Fredericton in April 1951. It will be well into May before any of these are found this year.

There are many plant and animal forms which, brought indoors in the fall, will develop out of season. Miss Muriel Grimmer of Chamcook collected an interesting looking caterpillar last August and before long it formed a chrysalis. It was undisturbed all winter and on April 20th or 21st a beautiful Black Swallowtail butterfly, Papilio polyxenes asterius emerged nearly two months out of season.

It is not often that one more or less accidentally rears a butterfly in this way. It is much more likely to happen with the large moths - Cecropia, Polyphemus, and Luna whose cocoons when present are conspicuous on bushes in the fall and winter and may be brought indoors to emerge in February or March.

People in southern New Brunswick have probably had a better opportunity to see many species of migrating birds this spring than has been the case for many years. Apparently the birds knew about the heavy snow in the north and east of the province and stayed around the Bay of Fundy and lower Saint John valley where the ground was bare.

Large flocks of Robins were reported at St. Martins March 28 (Harper), Lancaster March 29 (Watters) and Sackville March 31 (Erskine). Flocks of Common Grackles, Song Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, Cowbirds, Juncos were reported by the same observers on March 29 and 31. Christie reported the first large flock of Red-winged Blackbirds at Fredericton Junction (80) on March 31. H.E. MacDonald of St. Stephen reported the first Robin there April 1st, Cowbirds and Juncos April 5th and Red-winged Blackbirds and Song Sparrows April 8.

Mrs. Marjorie Gray did not report Robins at Woodstock until April 7 and they had not ventured to the Chatham area by the 21st.

The Fox Sparrows which nest north of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and in Newfoundland usually pass through the Saint John area so quickly that there are very few reports of them. This year arriving at the end of March they were still abundant a month later. Mrs. Bradshaw reported 50 at St. Martins April 5th and on April 12th counted 108 with other small flocks in the immediate neighborhood.

Canada Geese have also been much more conspicuous than usual. They may be increasing or else we and other observers have been much more active this year. A few of the reports which have come to our attention will indicate the abundance of this magnificent bird. There were reports of occasional geese along the Bay of Fundy shore at Christmas and throughout the winter. On March 19th a telephone call reported two (one dead) at MacLaren's Beach in Lancaster; March 27th a flock of 6 was reported in flight at Red Head; March 28th Ray Harper saw a flock at St. Martins; March 29th a flock was reported over Saint John, and another at Sackville by A.J. Erskine; April 2nd D. Christie counted 67 in the Kennebecasis at Perry's Point; April 4th Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw counted about 100 on their marsh at St. Martins and this flock had increased to over 400 by the 8th; on April 18th Neil Bourne and L.M. Dickie counted 35 at St. Andrews; April 19th I saw about 20 at Chance Harbour; April 23rd I counted 40 on an island about ten miles above Fredericton; and on April 30 I saw flocks of several hundreds at numerous places from Hampstead to Brown's Flat suggesting several thousands in the area.

This has also been a good year for Killdeer. This plover was found by early bird students to be very uncommon and very few of our records date before 1946. This spring I have personally seen Killdeer in Saint John, Fredericton, Maugerville, Sheffield, Upper Gagetown and Chance Harbour. There have also been numerous reports from other

observers the earliest of which was one seen on the University of New Brunswick campus at Fredericton by D. Christie March 29th.

The gulls move inland as soon as there is the least bit of open water along the rivers. Mrs. Gray reported Herring Gulls at Woodstock on April 17th when the ice still sealed the river 125 miles farther downstream.

Winter birds apparently left for the north a little later than usual. Mrs. Watters reported a large flock of Snow Buntings in Lancaster March 27th; John H. Kimball who fed Snow Buntings regularly at Harding's Point from January 10th reported the last on April 2nd; and D. Christie saw two at Kingshurst April 8th. All of these are late dates for southern New Brunswick.

One or more Snowy Owls remained in the Saint John-Lancaster area throughout the winter and early spring and were reported regularly until April 9th.

Mrs. J.E. McKinney reported a Mourning Cloak butterfly in flight at Ingleside on April 23rd.

A special note should be written on the Brown-headed Cowbirds. In my "Birds of New Brunswick" 1952, I reported that, while one observer had reported a flock of 30 in 1946, the largest flock I had ever seen was seven. This emphasizes how great the change in the numbers of this bird has been. Cowbirds have wintered in the province in flocks numbering hundreds of individuals for several winters but in 1960-61 only scattered individuals remained during the winter. At the end of March they appeared in great numbers. At first, as usual, the flocks were all males and later the females joined them. C. Bartlett saw the first females at Sackville April 10th. On April 15th on an 80-mile drive in the central St. John valley I saw flocks of hundreds of cowbirds every few miles by the roadside.

On April 30th a specimen of a Cattle Egret was handed to me by Mr. Melvin Moore of Fredericton. I do not yet have all the information about the specimen but it was shot by a farm boy in Charlotte County out of a flock of 20. This is probably the second or third record for Canada and the first for New Brunswick of this species which was first recorded in North America in Florida in 1948.

The Cattle Egret is the only Old World bird which has crossed to the Americas of its own initiative and become established here. It is native to Africa and Asia and breeds in southern Spain and Portugal. It has been spreading in other directions as well, reaching Australia in the same year it reached North America. It is thought to have reached South America about 1930.

NATURE NEWS

Vol. XII

May - June 1961

Number 3

FOREWORD

It is slightly amusing to hear people refer to any season as "unusual". Spring may seem to be earlier or later and winter colder or warmer than we think it should be. Actually any differences are not nearly as great as people with short memories seem to think and again what appears to be a late spring along the Bay of Fundy may be much earlier a hundred and fifty miles inland. A "normal" season has wide limits of variation in temperature and precipitation. This spring has appeared to most people to be colder and wetter than usually and the torrential and devastating rain of May 27th tended to emphasize this. It is, however, interesting to note that most of the blooming dates recorded for flowers are within two or three days, sometimes earlier and sometimes later than other recent years.

We have had a great many interesting bird reports but some of these have been crowded out by the necessity of reporting on flowers at this season.

W.A. Squires, Curator

#####

Of great interest was a plant which arrived in the mail recently accompanied by a letter from Mrs. H.J. Carson of Havelock but apparently collected in Restigouche County. This proved to be Dwarf or Bird's-eye Primrose (*Primula mistassinica*), a very pretty little flower four to six inches tall. The colour was lilac and the school children in the area where it was common were calling it Forget-me-not. It may also be white or pink. This is a northern plant much commoner in northern Quebec and Labrador and reaching its southern limit in New Brunswick and Maine but it should be found rarely over much of the Province.

Reports on the first blooming of other wildflowers have been rather scarce. Mrs. Marjorie Gray of Woodstock has been a most faithful correspondent and has given us several reports for that area. She reported Trailing Arbutus (Mayflower) May 1st, Adder's Tongue (Dog-toothed Violet) May 3rd, Bloodroot and Red Trillium May 10th, Red Maple May 11th, Wild Strawberry May 12th, Blue Violet May 13th, Yellow Violet, White Violet, Anemone, and Wild Ginger May 21st. Mrs. J.E. McKinney reported Hepatica May 4th, White Violet May 12th and Blue Violet May 13th at Ingleside near Saint John. I saw Bloodroot in full bloom at Fredericton May 7th.

Mr. David Christie reported the following near Rothesay. Bell-wort May 17th, Goldthread May 18th, Bluets May 24th, Rose Twisted Stalk May 25th, Hobblebush (Moosewood) May 26th, Red Baneberry May 27th, and near Blissville Painted Trillium May 21st, Dwarf Primrose and Jack-in-the-Pulpit May 26th, Nodding Trillium May 28th, Rhodora May 29th, Starflower and Clintonia June 3rd, False Lily-of-the-Valley and Bunchberry June 4th.

I found Pink Lady's Slipper in bloom at Fredericton on June 7th, quite an early date, and the Yellow Lady's Slipper was in full bloom at Ingleside on June 19th.

I was much interested in the following note from Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw of St. Martins because of both the birds and flowers involved.

"Sunday (May 28) there were large numbers - well, for hummingbirds large numbers - of hummingbirds drinking nectar from Spring Beauties out on our cliffs. The Spring Beauties are just massed there as far as eye can see, and as we walked along, at any time we could see half a dozen birds."

There were some highlights to spring bird migration as it continued through May. With members of the Fredericton Field-Naturalists' Club working from Keswick to the Jemseg and my own work in that area and in the lower valley a clearer picture of the migrating waterfowl in the St. John River valley is developing and numerous rarities are showing up. Early in May the great flocks of Common Goldeneyes, and Greater and Lesser Scaup which had been so abundant at the mouth of the Nerepis River at Westfield moved on northward and were replaced for a short time by thousands of Surf Scoters and Common Scoters. Some of the Scaup were still in the river at Hampstead on May 11th.

American Widgeons seem to be increasing as spring migrants. On May 6th there were eight at Sheffield and P. Pearce and A. Dean saw several more at Lower Jemseg.

Also on May 6th there was one European Widgeon at Sheffield and another at Lower Jemseg. Only one previous record was definitely known to me - a specimen in the Moses Collection at Grand Manan taken in November 1927. On the same day there were a pair of Redheads at Sheffield. These western ducks are extremely rare here most records being for the fall and early winter although one pair were found breeding near Sheffield in July 1944. There were Wood Ducks and a few Mallards, perhaps survivors of those liberated a year or two ago, in the central Saint John valley in May.

The Pintail formerly seldom seen in the valley in spring was present in many places in considerable numbers.

This has been a spring of very abundant Warblers. The members of the Fredericton Field-Naturalists' Club found nearly every warbler ever reported in New Brunswick as anything but an accidental. Such comparatively scarce species as Canada, Tennessee, Wilson's, Blackburnian, Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers were frequently seen and the Black-throated Blue was common. Mr. John H. Kimball saw two birds at Holderville, Kings County, on June 16th which he identified as Hooded Warblers. There is only one previous record for the Hooded in the Province also a sight record for July 1945 when one was seen by two competent American ornithologists. There are no specimens collected here.

Last year in spring migration only one Scarlet Tanager was reported although a number were reported in 1959. This spring Mrs. D.B. Crosby reported one at Belmont near Saint John May 20th, Mr. Roy Carrick saw another at St. Martins May 23rd then on the weekend of May 27th - 28th there must have been a considerable incursion as individual birds and small flocks were reported from many places in the Saint John area, at Fredericton, Penniac, Maugerville, Woodstock and even in northeastern New Brunswick.

The Brown Thrasher formerly a very rare visitor has been almost common this spring. Mrs. Fred Nutter reported one at St. Andrews May 10th; Mrs. Bradshaw had one at St. Martins May 16th & 17th; P. Pearce saw one at Fredericton in May and two at Grand Manan June 9th and Mrs. V.B. Watters recorded one at Lancaster June 19th. This for a species which has been recorded on an average of less than once a year in recent years.

I had as usual several reports of Indigo Buntings in the Saint John area. I was able to photograph one at the East Saint John Hospital found by Miss Maybelle MacCoubrey on May 11th. One on the University of New Brunswick campus May 26th-28th seen by a number of observers is the first definite record for central New Brunswick since 1902 although a bird reported in 1955 at Barker's Point was probably the same species.

A letter from H.E. MacDonald of St. Stephen confirms everything I have read to the discredit of the House Wren. After the wrens had punctured the eggs in two tree swallows' nests and rolled them out and continued to make life miserable for the swallows he regretfully took down the special nesting box he had erected for the wrens and concludes,

"This A.M. (May 31) the swallows are back and probably will start all over again. I suppose there is a possibility of the wrens trying to pre-empt one of the houses. I hope not. We have always wanted wrens, but no more."

P. Pearce and C. Sanders reported a Black-bellied Plover at St. Andrews June 8th and on Grand Manan June 9th, also 20 Brant at Outer Wood Island on June 9th. P. Pearce saw a male Barrow's Goldeneye at Lower St. Marys near Fredericton on May 17th and several succeeding days, once with the female. As this species is not recorded definitely as breeding south of the Labrador peninsula this apparently mated pair is of special interest. About 20 Black Terns which he reported at Sheffield June 3rd must be nearly the largest flock ever seen in the Province. There is a small breeding colony in that area.

Mr. Pearce also spent some time near Bathurst in the middle of June and the list of birds he found there that we would have expected to be north of the Province at this date emphasizes the lack of well-informed bird students in that area. He found Ruddy Turnstones and Dowitchers there on June 16th and Bonaparte Gulls, American Knots and Pectoral Sandpipers until June 17th. Probably most surprising were 24 Canada Geese on June 13th and 2 on June 16th. As Canada Geese bred on Miscou Island not far from Bathurst until about 1905 we cannot help wondering about the status of these birds.

NATURE NEWS

Vol. XII

July - August 1961

Number 4

FOREWORD

Only when you know intimately each wildflower, bird and animal that you meet by the way can you enjoy to the full the wonderful outdoor living that is possible in New Brunswick during our too short summer season.

Many people accept the challenge and try to learn the names of at least every common plant and animal that they see. Many people bring their identification problem to the Museum at this season.

There is one common plant in New Brunswick that everyone should know and that too few people do know --- Poison Ivy. I visited several camps this summer where the campers, happy in their ignorance, were surrounded by it and according to statistics 70 - 85 per cent of them would be susceptible to the poison.

One of my most pleasant tasks in this field was identifying Baked-Apple Berry for an internationally known writer of books on plants, articles in Life, etc., who had found this plant in bloom at Musquash before passing through Saint John on his way to Greenland.

I wish to congratulate Mr. D. Kermode Parr on "The Holiday Book" which he has edited for the University Press of New Brunswick. The sections on the birds and mammals of the Atlantic Provinces should be useful for anyone interested in nature. The list of mammals is the first issued for this region which is easily available.

W.A. Squires, Curator

#

Have you been watching the succession of summer flowers by the wayside as they follow one another in orderly fashion? It is a fascinating study. Some flowers put in a brief appearance while others remain in bloom for weeks. Most widespread and colorful as July was ushered in were the Yellow and Orange Hawkweeds often known as King Devil and Devil's Paintbrush. By mid-month these were succeeded by the much taller Canada Hawkweed, which itself had gone to seed by the end of the first week of August. The Evening Primrose was very abundant, clothing long stretches of roadside in yellow. Almost ready to bloom at Westfield on June 24th it bloomed throughout July and August.

Yellow mats of bloom beyond the edge of the pavement attracted attention in many parts of the province during the last three weeks of July and in early August. Close inspection showed this to be Low Yellow or Hop Clover. Much less conspicuous but also found beyond the edge of the pavement often adjacent to the Hop Clover were great stretches of Rabbit's Foot Clover with its gray furry flower heads.

There were a few Harebells by the roadside as early as July 2nd but they were blooming in greatest profusion on July 6th along No. 2 Highway between Gagetown and Oromocto. Late blooms of this species persisted into August.

It is always a special delight to see the first wild lily of the season, the Canada Lily. The first I saw was in the parish of Kars in Kings County on July 20th. Within the next week they were in bloom throughout central New Brunswick. One of the best displays I saw was in a meadow by the side of the road in central Lincoln between Fredericton and Oromocto. The Tawny Day Lily coming into bloom at about the same time is a fairly recent escape from old flower gardens.

The first Black-eyed Susan, which we consider a key mid-summer flower, was seen in Kingsclear on July 12th and by the end of the month they were to be found throughout central New Brunswick. To find the Goldenrod in bloom as I did this year on July 22nd is almost as surprising as finding that it is natural for the so-called Fall Dandelion to start blooming in June. To many people the Goldenrod is a harbinger of fall and yet if carefully observed it will be found that all of our more than twenty species of goldenrod have almost entirely gone to seed by early September.

Other conspicuous roadside flowers during this period include Ox-eye Daisy, Fireweed, Vetch, Fringed Loosestrife, Bristly Sarsaparilla, Wild Iris, Joe-pye-weed, Purple Loosestrife, Viper's Bugloss and many others.

Did you ever give any thought to the origin of the common plants you know? How many of them are native American plants and how many have come from Europe or Asia?

All kinds of men in North America even the Indians are descendants of immigrants from Eurasia or Africa; several birds like the Starling and English Sparrow have come to North America comparatively recently and many others since the last ice age; the House Mouse and the Brown Rat are mammals which have spread around the world; but plants which have come in from abroad are not so well known.

There are plants which are found practically unchanged in the subarctic and north temperate regions around the world but for the most part the original plants in our area were different from those the European settlers knew. They brought in garden flowers and some went wild, they brought in seed grains which included weed seeds, they used dry hay for packing, ships dumped earth ballast, plants from around the world took root and those that could prospered and the operation continues today.

How different our summer roadsides would look without these immigrants. Of the plants named above fifty percent have come from Europe or Asia - the Yellow and Orange Hawkweed, all the Clovers, the Harebell, Day Lilies, Ox-eye Daisy, Vetch and Viper's Bugloss.

Automobiles and especially truck transports afford a new and very rapid means by which plants and especially pernicious weeds can be spread to new areas across North America. What appears to be an example of this may be seen along Highway Route 2 between Fredericton and Saint John. Viper's Bugloss also known as Blueweed and Blue Devil, a very bad weed in Ontario and elsewhere, has appeared along this road on the Martinon bypass and at several points in Camp Gagetown during the last two or three years and is spreading rapidly. Although it has been found rarely in the province in the past it has not been identified in these areas and it seems very possible that army vehicles or transport trucks have brought the seeds in mud from Quebec or Ontario.

Peter Pearce of the Fredericton Field-Naturalists' Club has had an opportunity this summer to do some field work on birds in Gloucester County. His complete records are not available at present but among the more unexpected reports are a flock of 24 Canada Geese near Bathurst on June 13 and continual sightings of Bonaparte's Gulls from June to August, sometimes as many as forty at once. One would suspect this Gull of breeding in this region if the A.O.U. checklist did not so definitely limit its breeding range to the northwest of the continent. Quite common reports of the Ring-billed Gull during July also differ greatly from the status of the species in "Birds of New Brunswick".

Fall migration of shore birds was already in full swing in northeastern New Brunswick by the first of August. Mr. Pearce was particularly pleased to find a Red-backed Sandpiper on August 1st.

Even those people who confine their study of birds to their own back gardens should soon be aware that the fall migration is underway. The Robins, Song Sparrows, Yellow Warblers, etc. which nested in their shrubbery will disappear and be replaced by other species often in confusing juvenile or fall plumage. They may even see some of the hordes of migrants winging their way southward. It is a surprising fact that the great majority of small birds migrate at night - warblers, vireos, flycatchers, sparrows, etc. Others such as swallows, night-hawks and swifts which can feed while flying migrate by day.

On August 23 I saw hundreds of Nighthawks in migration flight at Lincoln in Sunbury County. They were circling catching insects but moving steadily westward. There were migrating swallows in the air at the same time but I had a better view of migrating swallows on August 27. While crossing the Princess Margaret Bridge at Fredericton just at dusk the air was full of migrating swallows but it was too dark to identify the species.

In some regions where great numbers of migrants pass a person with a telescope can even identify some of them at night as they pass in front of the disk of the moon. This should be possible along the shore of the Bay of Fundy and I would be most interested to learn of any success here or elsewhere in the province.

NATURE NEWS

Vol. XII

September - October 1961

Number 5

FOREWORD

If you are going to take part in a Christmas Bird Count in your community this year now is the time to start planning for it. Every year more people are taking part in this important project. The dates this winter are December 20th, 1961 to January 1st, 1962 inclusive. The count must be made in one calendar day within this period and should be restricted to a circular area 15 miles in diameter. Draw this on a road map. Cooperate with any others making a count in your area as the more who take part the more complete will be the count.

I can supply names of persons in many parts of the province who would be interested in assisting in a Christmas Count.

W.A. Squires, Curator

#

I have been asked if we ever find anything new in New Brunswick. Actually we are continually increasing our knowledge of both the animal and plant life of the province and there will always be much more to learn. With the cooperation of a number of both professional and amateur observers at least eight birds have been added to the provincial list in the last ten years. Very few discoveries are as newsworthy as finding the Gattle Egret in New Brunswick which was reported in our second number this year but all are important. It is in the botanical field, however, that we can expect to find many species which have not previously been reported in the province. It is easy to believe that no one but a professional botanist pays any attention to many of the insignificant and weedy looking plants but there are conspicuous plants which pass unrecorded.

In a house in Sackville on September 17th I saw a small type of Cattail which had been picked locally. This proved to be Narrow-leaved Cattail which had never been reported in New Brunswick. Major botanies give its range north to southern Maine but it has been found in several places in Nova Scotia.

The Cardinal Flower has only been reported from two or three places in southwestern New Brunswick. Now through the cooperation of W. Gordon Ross of Lancaster and Robert Ross of Woodstock we have found that it is common for several miles along the Eel River and have added specimens from this area to the museum herbarium. Interested persons throughout the province could do much to improve the coverage of the museum herbarium.

We have always been of the opinion that Ring-billed Gulls were uncommon in New Brunswick as we have until this fall seldom seen or had reports of more than 10 or 12 seen at once. So on September 18th I was pleased to identify two Ring-bills on a back road across the Tantramar Marshes. In Chatham on October 2nd I examined a flock of about 200 gulls

around a farmer ploughing a field and could hardly believe it when I found that every gull there was a Ring-billed Gull. The next day every gull on the Miramichi estuary also appeared to be the same species. Other gulls do occur as six weeks before D. Kermode Parr reported Black-backed, Herring, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls from Burnt Church a few miles away. The last chapter in this story was a visit to Lily Lake, in Rockwood Park, in Saint John City on October 11th. There were about 700 gulls there of which about 500 were Ring-bills. You soon note the smaller size, the shriller call, immatures with a black band on the tail, the fluttering dive and the greater amount of black on the underside of the wings when compared to the Herring Gull.

There have been many interesting reports from the fall bird migration. On September 7th I saw a Peregrine Falcon at Gardiner's Creek, St. John County. This is the first time I have seen this species in New Brunswick.

Mr. H.E. MacDonald reported a Yellow-headed Blackbird with a flock of common blackbirds at Peel in Carleton County. This is at least the fifth report since 1948 of this striking western species but as yet there is no specimen taken in this province in any collection.

Several Mourning Doves have been reported, one September 16 at Pennfield Ridge (Mrs. M.C. Morehouse), three at Pt. Lepreau October 21 (Miss Jane Hazen), two at Rothesay October 22 (D. Christie), five at Moncton in late September (Alan Madden).

Mrs. Morehouse also refers to the large flocks of robins, starlings and crows feeding on the blueberry barrens at Pennfield Ridge.

One Brown Thrasher was seen at Oromoco Flats September 25th (P. Pearce) and one at St. Martins October 21st (Mrs. Ray Harper).

There have been several Rufous-sided Towhees reported. There was one at Lakewood east of Saint John in late September or early October, one at the Oromocto Flats October 12th (P. Pearce) and three, two males and one female at Lancaster (Mrs. V.B. Watters), one male at Kingshurst October 21 & 23 (D. Christie).

Several Snow Buntings were seen by members of the Fredericton Field-Naturalists' Club at Pt. Lepreau, October 21st. This is extremely early but not the earliest date we have.

Another arrival from the north was a Snowy Owl seen at the Fredericton Airport on October 22nd (P. Pearce).

Western Kingbirds called in old books Arkansas Kingbirds almost regularly appear in New England in fall in small numbers and few of them get north to New Brunswick. Pearce saw one at Grand Harbour, Grand Manan on September 17th and Kaare Smith had one at St. Martins on October 29th.

One of the most interesting birds reported this fall is a Hudsonian Godwit seen by P. Pearce at Grand Manan daily September 18th-22nd. Many years ago this large shore bird was pronounced on the verge of extinction and there is something of a mystery about its migration in the east. It nests in the Arctic and spring migration is almost entirely confined to the Mississippi Flyway. The importance of Pearce's report may be judged when it is known that this is only the second recorded report for the province since 1881. A flock of 50 were seen on Portage Island in Miramichi Bay from July 27th to July 29th, 1951. This lack of reports is particularly strange as flocks of as many as 500 are sometimes seen in the Magdalen Islands. They apparently migrate over the sea to South America.

A Leach's Petrel was identified in the Saint John River at Fredericton on October 23 by at least four members of the Fredericton Field-Naturalists' Club. What was an oceanic bird like a petrel doing so far inland away from the sea? Actually this species has been found in central New Brunswick more than once before. This time there was no violent storm to drive it inland and it is possible that a few of the Gulf of St. Lawrence population may regularly cross New Brunswick in fall migration.

This has been an unusually warm fall in New Brunswick with only about two nights of frost before early November in most southerly areas. Some frost sensitive garden flowers continued to bloom at Fredericton in spite of two light falls of snow and spring and summer wildflowers have continued to bloom or started over again. At The Narrows, Queens County, Angus Robichaud found Red Clover, Yarrow, Dandelion, Devil's Paint-Brush, Purple Aster, a small white Aster and Wild Geranium in bloom November 4th. On the same date C. Edward Wheaton of Saint John found both Mayflowers (Trailing Arbutus) and Wild Strawberries blooming.

This fall we have, as usual in this latitude, been charmed by the brilliant show of fall colours on trees and shrubs but we must not let the brilliant scarlet of the red maple, staghorn sumach and blueberry, the ruddy gold of the rock maple, the yellow of the paper birch and even the late gold of the tamarack make us think that we have monopoly on fall colours. Although the areas of the world where fall colours are brilliant are very limited, in eastern North America they are found south almost to the Gulf of Mexico and west across the Mississippi. The red and rock maples are found throughout the southern part of this area and many southern trees add to the colour. Sweet gum is as scarlet as our red maple, the dogwoods, tupelo, dwarf and poison sumach are almost brilliant red, catalpa, hickory, sycamore and tulip trees to name but a few add to the yellow. Perhaps part of the charm of the autumn colours in this province is the constant contrast against a dark green background of fir and spruce. South of New England most areas are at least ninety-five percent deciduous with restricted areas of pine, red cedar and cypress and the fall colours almost completely blanket the hills.

NATURE NEWS

Vol. XII

November-December 1961

Number 6

F O R E W O R D

It is important to be able to compare one year with another whether it is in business, in our personal achievements, or, as in the present instance, in the realm of nature. Christmas bird counts or censuses are taken in the same area year after year and soon are found to reflect two things, changes in bird populations and changes, usually increases, in the numbers of interested observers participating.

The count in the Saint John area will be in charge of Mr. David Christie on December 30th again this year and in Fredericton the Field-Naturalists' Club will undertake the count on December 26th. In other areas note that the count should be made on one day between December 20th and January 1st within a circular area fifteen miles in diameter and try to get as many people as possible who are interested in or feed birds in your area to participate.

Another project which we started in 1957 is a provincial list of birds seen between December 1st and February 15th. We solicit the cooperation of everyone who can identify birds. In 1957 we found 48 species of birds. Each year the number is greater but the 85 species seen last winter will be hard to beat.

W.A. Squires, Curator

#####

This should be called the Fulvous Tree Duck number as nothing more exciting to a naturalist has happened in New Brunswick for a long while than the discovery of these southern ducks so far from their proper range.

This is one of the most extraordinary records of a bird wandering away from its natural range and has been verified through the cooperation of a number of interested hunters and another species of duck has been added to the list of New Brunswick birds.

On November 21st when Mr. Donald Cameron of Evandale was hunting he saw a flight of six unfamiliar ducks. He fired at them and was unexpectedly successful shooting five. No one who saw these birds when he brought them in could identify them. With long necks and long legs they looked more like geese than ducks. One which was plucked proved too emaciated to eat. On November 26th Mr. Walter Gow saw them and took one home to Saint John to see if it could be identified. He gave it to Mr. J.W. Baker, president of the local branch of the Fish and Game Protective Association, and he brought it to the New Brunswick Museum where I recognized it as a Fulvous Tree Duck.

The nearest breeding ground for this duck is coastal Louisiana and Texas where it is found sparingly. It also breeds in central and southern California and all across Northern Mexico. The nearest previous report to

New Brunswick was one at Ocean City, Maryland, June to September 1961. One collected at Alberni, British Columbia, September 29th, 1905 appears to be the only previous record for Canada.

Getting in touch with Mr. Cameron I learned that he still had two specimens which he gladly donated to science and all of these and another which his brother had taken to Fredericton were made into scientific study skins.

It was later learned that this flock of wandering Fulvous Tree Ducks had apparently stopped first at Grand Manan. A flock of twenty-one ducks identified as this species landed on a pond at Middle Dam on Seal Cove Brook in the centre of Grand Manan Island in an exhausted condition on November 4th. Nine or ten were seen at Seal Cove Meadow about a mile south on November 11th and one at Big Pond half a mile west on November 12th. It would seem probable that the six at Evandale on November 21st were a remnant of the same flock as surely no more than one flock of this species of ducks would make the mistake of heading for Canada instead of southern Mexico in November.

How many strange birds do hunters shoot and then either pluck and eat or throw away without a naturalist ever getting a look at them? In this case we have had a wonderful example of interested persons all along the line doing their part so that several specimens of this most unusual bird have been preserved.

The mild fall has encouraged a number of other ducks to stay later than usual. On December 1st Donald Cameron reported 12 to 15 Blue-winged Teals and one Wood Duck near Evandale and there were still Canada Geese in the same area on that date.

The Western Kingbird reported at St. Martins October 29th was still there November 22nd when it was seen by Mr. & Mrs. James N. Bradshaw. Another, or could it be the same, was reported at Torryburn near Saint John November 23rd to 26th.

The occasional Mockingbird continues to appear in New Brunswick summer and winter. Last winter it was in Fredericton. The latest report is for St. Andrews Dec. 2nd and 9th.

We do not expect to see Baltimore Orioles in the winter time. In fact an early September report is a late date for this species. Very rarely one remains later, probably as the result of an injury. Mrs. Ray Harper reported such a one at St. Martins November 21st and Mrs. V.B. Watters had one in immature plumage at her feeding station in Lancaster on December 6th.

From time to time we get reports of Field Sparrows (usually single individuals) being seen in the Province. This species undoubtedly breeds northeast of central Maine the farthest north given in the A.O.U. Checklist and more information on its occurrence will be welcome. Identification of this sparrow can be tricky until you get well acquainted with it. It is very similar to a Chipping Sparrow with a rusty crown and immaculate gray

breast. In breeding plumage the Field has a pinkish bill and the Chipping a black bill. In fall and winter plumage some Chipping Sparrows may have a pale-coloured bill and then the absence of black and white stripes on the side and back of the head will help. The latest report comes from Fredericton where several members of the Field-Naturalists' Club have found a Field Sparrow with a flock of Tree Sparrows. It was seen often, sometimes at almost point blank range, from November 22nd to December 9th.

As this publication is being regarded more and more as a source of scientific records on birdlife in this region it is important not to include records about which there can be any reasonable doubt. I am sure all correspondents will agree with this and understand why some unusual reports are not included. If you see anything very unusual get as many more people as possible to see it especially someone with plenty of experience identifying birds. For example, a sight report by a single person of a bird not already on the provincial list should never be published. If the bird is distinctively marked and several persons see it and it has been recorded in a neighbouring province or state publication of the record as "hypothetical" is in order. To place the species firmly on the provincial list it should be identified in the hand alive or dead or in a photograph by a competent ornithologist. I personally saw a bird in Saint John several years ago which I was personally satisfied I had identified correctly but it was a western species which had then only four published records for eastern North America. As I could neither photograph it nor collect the specimen I did not even preserve a report on it in my notebook.

Almost in this class is the report from Alan Madden of Moncton that he saw four Cardinals near there on November 13, 1961. However, his description sounds accurate and we have had at least two previous reports of Cardinals in New Brunswick (Fredericton and Westfield) supported by photographs and Cardinals are apparently increasing slowly in the north-east. There is still the possibility of someone who has never seen a Cardinal misidentifying some other red birds - Tanagers, Purple Finches or Pine Grosbeaks.

This looks like another Snowy Owl year. We have had several reports from both Saint John and Fredericton and would appreciate more so that we can get some idea of the numbers coming south through New Brunswick.

There have also been great numbers of Pine Grosbeaks. I saw eight males in their full bloom rosy plumage on December 3rd at Fredericton. I doubt if I ever saw that many adult males at once before.

Members of the Fredericton Field-Naturalists' Club found a Glaucous Gull there on November 6th and saw it off and on at least to November 23rd. They recorded at least two Iceland Gulls in the river there on November 20th and into December. A Kittiwake seen there November 26th was most unusual so far from the sea. These are the type of records which can only be accumulated by intensive field study and are needed throughout the Province.