

NATURE NEWS



BUTTERFLIES

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FOREWORD

Those who took part in Christmas Bird Counts in New Brunswick this winter found more species of birds than ever before. 105 persons took part in actual counts on one of the days named for this purpose and populations were checked throughout the southern and southeastern counties and at Woodstock and Bathurst. 79 kinds of birds were reported in the census and observers continued to send in reports during the winter season until 105 species were recorded. This is more than twice the number reported four years ago and 20 more than last year.

The great number of people who now put out food for the birds have attracted many species to areas where they can be easily identified and have made it possible for many birds to survive and be counted that would otherwise have died earlier in the fall.

Every year these counts increase our knowledge of the winter bird distribution in the province but we still need many more reports from the northern areas.

We are very grateful to all who have participated and only regret that space limits the reports we can print. Some reports did not include specific dates and numbers and could not be included in this type of list.

W.A. Squires, Curator.

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Fredericton, N.B. Dec. 26, 1961; 8.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.; clear and sunny; temp. 19°-26°F; wind NW, 25-30 mph; 12-18 in. snow; 16 observers in 6 parties. Total mileage 124 (17 on foot, 107 by car).

Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 2; Rock Dove, 37; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 1; Blue Jay, 18; Common Raven, 44; Common Crow, 31; Black-capped Chickadee, 29; Boreal Chickadee, 13; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 8; Starling, 2556; House Sparrow, 2677; Redwinged Blackbird, 5; Evening Grosbeak, 7; Purple Finch, 1; Pine Grosbeak, 96; Common Redpoll, 3; Pine Siskin, 14; Slate-coloured Junco, 5; Tree Sparrow, 6; Song Sparrow, 2; Snow Bunting, 100. Total species 25, about 4659 individuals. Seen during the count period, Snowy Owl, Robin, Common Grackle. Mr. & Mrs. N. Rae Brown, Mr. & Mrs. A. Dean, G. Eagles, B. Ellis, Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Moore, Miss Nettie Moore, Miss B. Pugh, Mr. C. Sanders, Mr. R. Squires, Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Squires, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. F. Take.

St. Andrews, N.B. Dec. 30, 1961; 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.; clear, clouding over p.m.; temp. 18°-28°F; wind N, 8-10 mph; ground snow; 11 observers. Total mileage 75 (15 on foot, 60 by car).

Horned Grebe, 3; Great Cormorant, 3; Black Duck, 169; Greater Scaup, 26; Common Goldeneye, 25; Bufflehead, 83; Oldsquaw, 1; White-winged Scoter, 15; Surf Scoter,

108; Common Scoter, 150; Hooded Merganser, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 18; Bald Eagle, 2; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Glaucous Gull, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 98; Herring Gull, 550; Rock Dove, 29; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 2; Blue Jay, 16; Common Raven, 4; Common Crow, 137; Black-capped Chickadee, 37; Boreal Chickadee, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 8; Brown Creeper, 2; Robin, 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 95; House Sparrow, 110; Common Grackle, 3; Evening Grosbeak, 20; Pine Grosbeak, 16; Common Redpoll, 75; Pine Siskin, 8; American Goldfinch, 2; Slate-coloured Junco, 2; Tree Sparrow, 5. Total species 42, about 1,849 individuals. Mrs. H.B. Bartlett, Dr. Neil Bourne, Mrs. J.H. Cunningham, Miss Isobel Jamieson, Miss Willa MacCoubrey, Miss Georgie Mears, Dr. J.C. Medcof, Mrs. F.T. Nutter, Dr. J.E. Rigby, R.L. Saunders, David Walker.

Moncton, N.B. Dec. 30, 1961; 8.00 a.m. to 4.40 p.m.; clear a.m. cloudy, snow, p.m.; temp. 22°-25°F; wind W-SW, 10-15 mph; snow 12 in.; 21 observers in 5 parties (10 at feeders). Total milage 198 (30 on foot, 168 by car). Black Duck, 15; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Gray Partridge, 13; Glaucous Gull, 26; Iceland Gull, 14; Great Black-backed Gull, 414; Herring Gull, 1199; Ring-billed Gull, 34; Rock Dove, 140; Snowy Owl, 1; Short-eared Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Horned Lark, 16; Gray Jay, 2; Blue Jay, 56; Common Raven, 60; Common Crow, 12; Black-capped Chickadee, 83; Boreal Chickadee, 34; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Brown Creeper, 1; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 15; Starling, 721; House Sparrow, 701; Evening Grosbeak, 153; Purple Finch, 7; Pine Grosbeak, 88; Common Redpoll, 322; Pine Siskin, 2; Slate-coloured Junco, 7; Tree Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 6; Snow Bunting, 35. Total species 37, about 4203 individuals. Dr. & Mrs. C.R. Baxter, Fred Bone, Mrs. Owen Branscombe, Peter Candido, Dr. C.E. Doyle, Dr. A.J. Erskine, Dr. & Mrs. J.A. Fownes, Roy E. Hunter, V. LeBlanc, Alan Madden, Dr. & Mrs. M. Majka, W.E. Sears, Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Sharp, Mrs. Olaf Thompson, S.D. Whitman, R. Whitman, Erwin Williams.

Sackville, N.B. Dec. 26, 1961; 7.45 a.m. to 4.50 p.m.; overcast, clearing p.m.; temp. 20°-25°F; wind W, 15 mph; snow 12 in.; 11 observers in 3 parties, (3 at feeders). Total milage 137 (33 on foot, 104 by car). Merganser sp.?, 5; Goshawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 2; Ring-necked Pheasant, 13; Great Black-backed Gull, 76; Herring Gull, 257; Rock Dove, 20; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 1; Blue Jay, 6; Common Raven, 18; Common Crow, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 9; Boreal Chickadee, 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 229; House Sparrow, 270; Brown-headed Cowbird, 5; Evening Grosbeak, 6; Pine Grosbeak, 69; Common Redpoll, 24; Slate-coloured Junco, 98; Lapland Longspur, 1; Snow Bunting, 153. Total species 25, about 1280 individuals. Seen during count period White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Mockingbird, Robin, Red-winged Blackbird. L. Carbyn, T. Cheng, Dr. & Mrs. A.J. Erskine, A. Flemming, J.P. Kelsall, Mr. & Mrs. D. McPhail, A. Rebuck, Dr. W.B. Stallworthy, M. Trueman.

Cape Tormentine, N.B. Dec. 22, 1961; 7.30 a.m. to 4.40 p.m.; clear, overcast p.m.; temp. 20°-30°F; wind W, SW, 5-10 mph; snow 3 in.; 4 observers in 2 parties. Total milage 131 (17 on foot, 114 by car). Black Duck, 12; Common Goldeneye, 5; Bufflehead, 3; Oldsquaw, 54; Common Eider, 15; Common Merganser, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Goshawk ?, 1; Glaucous Gull, 23; Iceland Gull, 104; Great Black-backed Gull, 85; Herring Gull, 194; Ring-billed Gull, 2; Rock Dove, 15; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 22; Common Raven, 90; Common

Crow, 7; Black-capped Chickadee, 30; Boreal Chickadee, 9; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 49; Myrtle Warbler, 1; House Sparrow, 172; Evening Grosbeak, 2; Pine Grosbeak, 33; Common Redpoll, 138; Slate-coloured Junco, 19; Tree Sparrow, 4. Total species 30, about 1095 individuals. Fred Bone, A.J. Erskine, Roy E. Hunter, Alan Madden.

Bathurst, N.B. Dec. 26, 1961; 8.15 a.m. to 3.45 p.m.; cloudy; temp. 20°F; wind NW, 20-35 mph; snow 12 in.; 2 observers in one party. Total mileage 90 by car. (The first winter count ever reported from northeast New Brunswick). Common Goldeneye, 78; Oldsquaw, 4; Red-breasted Merganser, 6; Glaucous Gull, 1; Iceland Gull, 7; Great Black-backed Gull, 20; Herring Gull, 60; Rock Dove, 58; Blue Jay, 8; Common Raven, 54; Common Crow, 26; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Starling, 59; House Sparrow, 150; Pine Grosbeak, 8; Common Redpoll, 15; American Goldfinch, 7. Total species 17, about 562 individuals. Seen during count period Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl. Peter Pearce, Miss Theresa Thibodeau.

Lepreau, N.B. Dec. 28, 1961; 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.; overcast, showers; temp. 41°-50°F; wind ESE, 15-20 mph; ground partly covered with snow; 5 observers in 3 parties. Total mileage 138 (2 on foot, 136 by car). Common Loon, 2; Red-throated Loon, 1; Red-necked Grebe, 2; Horned Grebe, 5; Great Cormorant, 8; Great Blue Heron, 1; Black Duck, 5; Common Goldeneye, 38; Bufflehead, 14; Oldsquaw, 11; Common Eider, 140; Common Merganser, 21; Red-breasted Merganser, 9; ducks (sp?) 19; Bald Eagle, 1; Purple Sandpiper, 60; Great Black-backed Gull, 42; Herring Gull, 280; Black-legged Kittiwake, 25; Rock Dove, 15; Hawk-Owl, 1; Gray Jay, 8; Common Raven, 4; Common Crow, 58; Black-capped Chickadee, 15; Boreal Chickadee, 14; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 13; Starling, 76; House Sparrow, 5; Blackbird (sp?) 1; Pine Grosbeak, 2; Pine Siskin, 26; American Goldfinch, 39; Slate-coloured Junco, 1; Snow Bunting, 150. Total species 34, about 1114 individuals. David Christie, A.A. Dean, Miss Jane Hazen, Peter Pearce, W.A. Squires.

Saint John, N.B. Dec. 30, 1961; 7.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.; sunny, snow late p.m.; temp. 17°-35°F; wind W, 5-12 mph; 0-4 in. snow; 6 observers in 6 parties, 16 at feeders. Total mileage 107 (25 on foot, 82 by car). Great Cormorant, 3; Great Blue Heron, 1; Black Duck, 257; Canvasback, 2; Greater Scaup, 1; Common Goldeneye, 460; Bufflehead, 21; Common Merganser, 20; Red-breasted Merganser, 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 4; Bald Eagle, 3; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Hawk (sp?), 1; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Gray Partridge, 5; Glaucous Gull, 4; Iceland Gull, 3; Great Black-backed Gull, 669; Herring Gull, 4158; Ring-billed Gull, 10; Black-headed Gull, 1; Rock Dove, 448; Short-eared Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 11; Downy Woodpecker, 36; Horned Lark, 1; Gray Jay, 1; Blue Jay, 30; Common Raven, 31; Common Crow, 96; Black-capped Chickadee, 215; Boreal Chickadee, 26; White-breasted Nuthatch, 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 22; Brown Creeper, 4; Winter Wren, 1; Robin, 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 8; Starling, 1151; House Sparrow, 555; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Common Grackle, 3; Brown-headed Cowbird, 7; Evening Grosbeak, 38; Pine Grosbeak, 63; Common Redpoll, 19; Pine Siskin, 96; American Goldfinch, 113; Finch (sp?), 50; Slate-coloured Junco, 47; Tree Sparrow, 24; White-throated Sparrow, 10; Song Sparrow, 4; Snow Bunting, 35. Total species 52, about 8775 individuals. Seen during count period Mallard, Goshawk, Mourning Dove, Mockingbird, Northern Shrike, Fox Sparrow, Mrs. G.G. Anglin, Fred Brock, Mrs. C.H. Cameron, David Christie, Miss Lilian Christie, Roy Forrester, Miss J.A. Gillies, Mrs. A.R. Goucher, Mrs. H.M. Hamm, Miss Jane Hazen, William Hazen, Mrs. W.G. Henderson, Mrs. A. Lee-White, Miss Mabelle MacCoubrey,

Mrs. W.R. Mathers, Mrs. A.R. Marr, Miss Barbara Miles, Mrs. J.L. Sear, Mrs. W.J. Simon, Mrs. W.L. Smith, W.A. Squires, Murray Watters, Mrs. V.B. Watters.

Woodstock, N.B. Dec. 26, 29, 30, 1961. Three parties made counts on different days within an area which would be included in a 15-mile circle. As probably little of the same area was covered twice these have been combined here. Total mileage 20 (11 on foot, 9 by car).

Black Duck, 41; Barrow's Goldeneye, 2; Common Merganser, 2; Rock Dove, 84; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Blue Jay, 23; Common Raven, 5; Common Crow, 11; Black-capped Chickadee, 36; Boreal Chickadee, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Robin, 1; Starling, 204; House Sparrow, 148; Pine Grosbeak, 20; Redpoll, 80; Slate-coloured Junco, 7; Tree Sparrow, 5; Song Sparrow, 5; Snow Bunting, 10. Total species 21, about 899 individuals. Miss May Armand, Mrs. Marjorie A.E. Gray, Mrs. Jean M. Hale, R.W. Hale, Robert Simpson, Ronald Simpson.

Bloomfield, Kings County, N.B. Dec. 31, 1961; 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.; sunny; temp. 30°F; wind W, 5 mph; ground bare, snow in woods; 3 observers in one party. Total mileage 10 (1 on foot, 9 by car).

Ruffed Grouse, 2; Blue Jay, 17; Common Raven, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Mockingbird, 1; Starling, 3; House Sparrow, 20; Pine Grosbeak, 5. Total species 9, about 60 individuals. Mr. & Mrs. Leonard S. Hoyt, Miss Patricia Ann Smith.

Kierstead Mountain, Kings County, N.B. Jan. 1, 1962; 7.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.; cloudy; temp. 20°F; wind W, 20 mph; snow 4 in.; 2 observers in one party. Total mileage 128 (3 on foot, 120 by car).

Ruffed Grouse, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 4; Blue Jay, 7; Common Raven, 4; Common Crow, 7; Black-capped Chickadee, 6; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 35; House Sparrow, 74; Pine Grosbeak, 50; Common Redpoll, 15; Slate-coloured Junco, 1; Tree Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Total species 15, about 209 individuals. Fred Bone, Wayne E. Sears.

Pennfield, N.B. Dec. 30, 1961; 1.00 to 3.45 p.m. sunny; snow flurries; temp. 29°F; wind SW; 2 observers in one party. Total mileage 15 by car.

Oldsquaw, 4; Common Eider, 15; Spruce Grouse, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 8; Herring Gull, 109; Ring-billed Gull, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 3; Blue Jay, 3; Common Crow, 122; Black-capped Chickadee, 8; Boreal Chickadee, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 7; House Sparrow, 2; Pine Siskin, 5; Slate-coloured Junco, 2; Tree Sparrow, 6. Total species 17, about 302 individuals. Mr. & Mrs. M.C. Morehouse.

WINTER BIRD LIST (December 1st, 1961 - February 15th, 1962)

Common Loon

Christmas Count - Pt. Lepreau 2		
Jan. 27	Pt. Lepreau	9 D. Christie

Red-throated Loon

Christmas Count - Lepreau 1		
Jan. 28	Mispec	1 D. Christie

Red-necked Grebe

Christmas Count - Lepreau 2		
Jan. 11	St. Andrews	4 Dr. Neil Bourne
Feb. 13	Dipper Harbour	4 W.A. Squires

Horned Grebe

Christmas Count - Lepreau 5, St. Andrews 3
Dec. 2 Kingshurst 4 David Christie

Great Cormorant

Christmas Count - Saint John 3, St. Andrews 3, Lepreau 8

Great Blue Heron

Christmas Count - Saint John 1, Lepreau 1

Canada Goose

Dec. 16 Portage Vale 2 large flocks Harold Middleton

Brant

Jan. 8 & 9 Kent Island 20 Theodore Green

Mallard

Dec. 22 & Saint John 1 D. Christie
Jan. 13

Black Duck

Christmas Count - Saint John 257, Lepreau 5, St. Andrews 169, Moncton
15, Cape Tormentine 12, Woodstock, 41
Dec. 15 Fredericton 1 D. Christie
Jan. 1 Point du Chene 1 Dr. M. Majka
Jan. 21 St. Martins 28 Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Canvasback

Christmas Count - Saint John 2 W.A. Squires

Greater Scaup

Christmas Count - Saint John 1, St. Andrews 26

Lesser Scaup

Feb. 10 St. Andrews 17 Dr. Neil Bourne

Common Goldeneye

Christmas Count - Saint John 460, St. Andrews 25, Cape Tormentine 5,
Bathurst 78, Lepreau 38
Dec. 13 Fredericton 24 D. Christie
Jan. 28 Kingsclear 20 P. Pearce
Jan. 28 Woodstock 21 "
Feb. 10 Bathurst 3 "

Barrow's Goldeneye

Christmas Count - Woodstock 2
Feb. 10 Bathurst 6 P. Pearce
Feb. 13 Chance Harbour 1 W.A. Squires

Bufflehead

Christmas Count - Saint John 21, St. Andrews 83, Cape Tormentine 3,
Lepreau 14

Oldsquaw

Christmas Count - Lepreau 11, St. Andrews 1, Cape Tormentine 54,
Bathurst 4, Pennfield 4
Jan. 1 Point du Chene 6 Dr. M. Majka

Common Eider

Christmas Count - Lepreau 140, Cape Tormentine 15, Pennfield 15
Jan. 11 St. Andrews 4 Dr. Neil Bourne

White-winged Scoter

Christmas Count - St. Andrews 15
Dec. 10 Cape Tormentine 2 Dr. A.J. Erskine

Surf Scoter

Christmas Count - St. Andrews 108

Common Scoter

Christmas Count - St. Andrews 150

Hooded Merganser

Christmas Count - St. Andrews 1

Common Merganser

Christmas Count - Saint John 20, Lepreau 21, Cape Tormentine 1,
Woodstock 2

Jan. 1	Point du Chene	40	Dr. M. Majka
Dec. 16	Fredericton	4	P. Pearce
Feb. 10	Bathurst	5	"

Red-breasted Merganser

Christmas Count - Saint John 9, Lepreau 9, St. Andrews 18, Cape
Tormentine 1, Bathurst 6

Goshawk

Christmas Count	Sackville 1, Cape Tormentine 1	
Jan. 1	Brookville, St. John Co. 1	D. Christie
Feb. 4	Moncton 2	A. Madden

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Christmas Count	Saint John 4, Fredericton 1, Moncton 1	
Dec. 22 & 27	Lancaster 1	Mrs. V.B. Watters
Dec. 30	South Tweedside 1	Mrs. Ruth Cleghorn
Jan. 5	St. Martins 1	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Feb. 3	Burton 1	P. Pearce

Red-tailed Hawk

Jan. 19	St. Andrews 1	David Walker
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Rough-legged Hawk

Christmas Count - Sackville 2

Bald Eagle

Christmas Count	Saint John 3, Lepreau 1, St. Andrews 2	
Jan. 10	St. Stephen 1	H.E. MacDonald
Jan. 11	Bayside 1	Mrs. Fred Nutter
Jan. 20	Jemseg 2	P. Pearce
Jan. 28	Kingsclear 1	"
Feb. 4	St. Martins 1	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Pigeon Hawk

Christmas Count	Saint John 1, St. Andrews 1	
Jan. 18 & 26	Fredericton 1	B. Wright

Sparrow Hawk

Dec. 9	Sheffield 1	D.K. Parr
Jan. 20	Maugerville 1	P. Pearce

Spruce Grouse

Dec. 30	Pennfield 1	Mrs. M.C. Morehouse
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Ruffed Grouse

Christmas Count	Saint John 4, Moncton 1, Bloomfield 2, Kierstead Mountain 1	
Dec. 25	Lancaster 12	Mrs. V.B. Watters
Dec. 30	South Tweedside 2	Mrs. Ruth Cleghorn
Jan. 13	Fredericton 2	P. Pearce

Ring-necked Pheasant

Christmas Count - Fredericton 2, Sackville 13

Gray Partridge

Christmas Count - Saint John 5, Moncton 13

Greater Yellowlegs

Feb. 19 Moncton 1 A. Madden

Purple Sandpiper

Christmas Count - Lepreau 60

Jan. 11 St. Andrews 1 Dr. Neil Bourne

Feb. 25 St. Martins 40 Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Glaucous Gull

Christmas Count - Saint John 4, St. Andrews 1, Moncton 26, Cape
Tormentine 23, Bathurst 1

Feb. 11 Newcastle 1 P. Pearce

Iceland Gull

Christmas Count - Saint John 3, Moncton 14, Cape Tormentine 104,
Bathurst 7

Feb. 11 Newcastle 3 P. Pearce

Great Black-backed Gull

Christmas Count - Saint John 669, Lepreau 42, St. Andrews 98,
Moncton 414, Sackville 76, Cape Tormentine 85,
Bathurst 20, Pennfield 8

Dec. 15 Fredericton 1 D. Christie

Feb. 11 Newcastle 15 P. Pearce

Herring Gull

Christmas Count - Saint John 4158, Lepreau 280, St. Andrews 550,
Moncton 1199, Sackville 257, Cape Tormentine 194,
Bathurst 60, Pennfield 109

Dec. 14 Fredericton 2 P. Pearce

Feb. 11 Newcastle 15 "

Ring-billed Gull

Christmas Count - Saint John 10, Moncton 34, Cape Tormentine 2,
Pennfield 4

Black-headed Gull

Christmas Count - Saint John 1

Feb. 3 Saint John 1 D. Christie

Black-legged Kittiwake

Christmas Count - Lepreau 25

Jan. 11 St. Andrews 200 Dr. Neil Bourne

Jan. 27 Lepreau 100 D. Christie & J. Hazen

Razorbill

Jan. 27 Lepreau 300 " "

Thick-billed Murre

Jan. 27 Lepreau 1 " "

Black Guillemot

Jan. 11 St. Andrews 1 Dr. Neil Bourne

Rock Dove

Christmas Count - Saint John 448, Lepreau 15, Fredericton 37,
St. Andrews 29, Moncton 140, Sackville 20, Cape
Tormentine 15, Bathurst 58, Woodstock 84

Mourning Dove

Dec. 3	Saint John	3	D. Christie
Dec. 21 & Jan. 4	St. Martins	1	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Great Horned Owl

Feb. 5	Moncton	1	A. Madden
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Hawk-Owl

Christmas Count - Lepreau 1			
Dec. 12	St. Andrews	1	H.E. MacDonald

Snowy Owl

Christmas Count - Moncton 1			
Dec. 24	Bathurst	1	P. Pearce
Jan. 27	Moncton	1	E. Williams
Jan. 28	Upper Sackville	1	Dr. A.J. Erskine
Feb. 26	East Saint John	1	Miss Mabelle MacCoubrey

Barred Owl

Jan. 5	St. Martins	1	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
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Long-eared Owl

Jan. 27	Moncton	1	Erwin Williams
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Short-eared Owl

Christmas Count - Moncton 1			
Dec. 24	Bathurst	1	P. Pearce
Jan. 27 & 31	Lancaster	2	Mrs. V.B. Watters

Belted Kingfisher

Christmas Count - St. Andrews 1			
Dec. 18	Cape Tormentine	1	Dr. & Mrs. M. Majka

Pileated Woodpecker

Dec. 10	Mill Settlement	1	D. Christie
Dec. 20	Bayside	1	Mrs. Fred Nutter
Jan. 1	Kierstead Mountain	1	F. Bone & W. Sears
Feb. 5	Fredericton	1	D. Christie
Feb. 9	St. Andrews	1	Dr. J.C. Hart

Hairy Woodpecker

Christmas Count - Saint John 10, Fredericton 1, St. Andrews 4, Moncton 5, Sackville 1, Woodstock 3			
Dec. 22	McAdam	3	Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Sangster
Dec. 26	St. Stephen	1	H.E. MacDonald
Dec. 30	South Tweedside	1	Mrs. Ruth Cleghorn

Downy Woodpecker

Christmas Count - Saint John 34, Fredericton 1, St. Andrews 1, Moncton 7, Cape Tormentine 2, Woodstock 5, Pennfield 1			
Dec. 26	St. Stephen	1	H.E. MacDonald
Dec. 28	Buctouche	1	Mrs. J. Trigg

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker

Jan. 20	Fredericton	1	D. Christie
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Horned Lark

Christmas Count - Saint John 1, Moncton 16			
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Gray Jay

Christmas Count - Saint John 1, Lepreau 8, Fredericton 1, St. Andrews 2, Moncton 2, Sackville 1, Kierstead Mountain 4, Pennfield 2			
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Gray Jay (cont'd)

Dec. 30	South Tweedside	4	Mrs. Ruth Cleghorn
Jan. 4	St. Martins	2	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Jan. 9	Hardings Point	6	Mrs. Lorne Flewelling
Feb. 11	Bathurst	1	P. Pearce

Blue Jay

Christmas Count - Saint John 25, Fredericton 18, St. Andrews 16, Moncton 56, Sackville 6, Cape Tormentine 22, Bathurst 8, Woodstock 23, Kierstead Mountain 7, Bloomfield 17, Pennfield 3

Dec. 22	McAdam	1	Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Sangster
Dec. 26	St. Stephen	4	H.E. MacDonald
Dec. 30	South Tweedside	7	Mrs. Ruth Cleghorn
Jan. 1	Hampton Station	5	Mrs. Guy Humphrey

Common Raven

Christmas Count - Saint John 31, Lepreau 4, Fredericton 44, St. Andrews 4, Moncton 60, Sackville 18, Cape Tormentine 90, Bathurst 54, Woodstock 5, Kierstead Mountain 4, Bloomfield 2

Dec. 22	McAdam	1	Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Sangster
Feb. 11	Newcastle	50	P. Pearce

Common Crow

Christmas Count - Saint John 92, Lepreau 58, Fredericton 31, St. Andrews 137, Moncton 12, Sackville 3, Cape Tormentine 7, Bathurst 26, Woodstock 11, Kierstead Mountain 7, Pennfield 122

Dec. 22	McAdam	2	Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Sangster
Dec. 26	St. Stephen	4	H.E. MacDonald
Dec. 30	South Tweedside	1	Mrs. Ruth Cleghorn
Jan. 14	St. Martins	5	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Black-capped Chickadee

Christmas Count - Saint John 209, Lepreau 15, Fredericton 29, St. Andrews 37, Moncton 83, Sackville 9, Cape Tormentine 30, Bathurst 1, Woodstock 36, Kierstead Mountain 6, Bloomfield 9, Pennfield 8

Dec.-Jan.	St. Martins		Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec. 22	McAdam	2	Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Sangster
Dec. 30	South Tweedside	9	Mrs. Ruth Cleghorn

Boreal Chickadee

Christmas Count - Saint John 25, Lepreau 14, Fredericton 13, St. Andrews 5, Moncton 34, Sackville 9, Cape Tormentine 9, Pennfield 2, Woodstock 1

Dec. 30	South Tweedside	3	Mrs. Ruth Cleghorn
Jan. 5	St. Martins	4	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Jan. 28	Millville	2	P. Pearce

White-breasted Nuthatch

Christmas Count - Saint John 6, Lepreau 1, Fredericton 1, St. Andrews 1, Moncton 1, Woodstock 6

Dec. 22	Sackville	1	Mrs. D. McPhail
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Red-breasted Nuthatch

Christmas Count - Saint John 22, Lepreau 13, St. Andrews 8, Moncton 7, Bloomfield 1, Pennfield 7

Red-breasted Nuthatch (cont'd)

Dec-Jan	St. Martins	2-3	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec. 21	Sackville	2	J.P. Kelsall
Dec. 30	South Tweedside	1	Mrs. Ruth Cleghorn

Brown Creeper

Christmas Count - Saint John 4, Fredericton 8, St. Andrews 2, Moncton 1

Winter Wren

Christmas Count - Saint John 1

Mockingbird

Dec. 2-Feb. 11	St. Andrews	1	Dr. Neil Bourne & Miss Willa MacCoubrey
Dec-Jan	Lancaster	1	Mrs. V.B. Watters
Dec-Jan	Bloomfield	1	Mrs. Leonard S. Hoyt
Nov-Feb	Sackville	1	J. Clark

Robin

Christmas Count - Saint John 3, St. Andrews 6, Moncton 1, Cape
Tormentine 1, Woodstock 1, Pennfield 1

Dec. 24	Sackville	1	D. MacPhail
Dec. 27	St. Martins	3	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Jan. 14	Maugerville	1	W.A. Squires
Jan. 25	Bayside	4	Mrs. Fred Nutter
Feb. 1	Fredericton	1	Miss Nettie Moore

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Christmas Count - Saint John 8, St. Andrews 1, Moncton 15, Sackville
1, Cape Tormentine 1

Bohemian Waxwing

Jan. 13, 14, 15	Maugerville	70 plus	P. Pearce et al
Jan. 20-Feb. 3	Fredericton	40 plus	Numerous observers
Feb. 6	East Riverside	18	Mrs. A.R. Abell
Feb. 10	Lancaster	20	Mrs. V.B. Watters
Feb. 8 & 10	Riverview, Albert Co.	13	S.D. Whitman & F. Bone
Feb. 22	Public Landing	12	Mrs. Geo. Elward

Cedar Waxwing

Jan. 28	Bethel, Charlotte Co.	2	Mrs. M.C. Morehouse
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Northern Shrike

Christmas Count - Sackville 1			
Dec. 27	Kingshurst	1	D. Christie
Jan. 14	Maugerville	1	D. Gibson
Jan. 15	Jemseg	1	N.R. Brown
Jan. 20	St. Andrews	1	Dr. Neil Bourne

Starling

Christmas Count - Saint John 1131, Lepreau 76, Fredericton 2556, St. Andrews
95, Moncton 721, Sackville 229, Cape Tormentine 49, Bathurst
59, Woodstock 204, Kierstead Mountain 35, Bloomfield 3

Myrtle Warbler

Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 1

Yellow-breasted Chat

Dec. 23	Lancaster	1 (dead)	T. Albert Linton
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House Sparrow

Christmas Count - Saint John 531, Lepreau 5, Fredericton 2671, St.
Andrews 110, Moncton 701, Sackville 270, Cape
Tormentine 172, Bathurst 150, Woodstock 148,

House Sparrow (cont'd)

Kierstead Mountain 74, Bloomfield 20, Hampton Station 75, Pennfield 2

Eastern Meadowlark

Feb. 3-25 St. Stephen 2 V.B. Poole

Red-winged Blackbird

Christmas Count - Fredericton 5

Dec-Jan	Sackville	1	Mrs. Godfrey
Jan. 1	Hampton Station	3	Mrs. Guy Humphrey
Jan. 7	Lancaster	1	Mrs. V.B. Watters
Jan. 14	Maugerville	1	D. Gibson

Baltimore Oriole

Christmas Count - Saint John 1

Common Grackle

Christmas Count - Saint John 3, St. Andrews 3

Dec. 19	Sackville	1	Dr. A.J. Erskine
Dec. 26	St. Stephen	1	H.E. MacDonald
Dec. 28	Lincoln	3	P. Pearce
Jan. 1	Moncton	1	A. Madden
Jan. 11	Marysville	1	D. Gibson

Brown-headed Cowbird

Christmas Count - Saint John 7, Sackville 5

Dec. 30	South Tweedside	2	Mrs. Ruth Cleghorn
Dec. 31	Buctouche	3	Mrs. J. Trigg
Dec-Jan	Petitcodiac	8	Rev. Ford Alward
Jan. 1	Hampton Station	1	Mrs. Guy Humphrey
Jan. 13	Moncton	2	Dr. M. Majka

Dickcissel

Dec. 1 St. Andrews 1 Miss Willa MacCoubrey

Evening Grosbeak

Christmas Count - Saint John 32, Fredericton 7, St. Andrews 20,
Moncton 153, Sackville 98, Cape Tormentine 2

Dec. 26	St. Stephen	40	H.E. MacDonald
Dec. 29	Buctouche	7	Mrs. J. Trigg
Dec. 30 & Jan. 5	St. Martins	5	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Jan. 1	Hampton Station	5	Mrs. Guy Humphrey
Jan. 19	Fairvale	flock	J.H. Barnett

Purple Finch

Christmas Count - Fredericton 1, Moncton 7

Pine Grosbeak

Christmas Count - Saint John 63, Lepreau 2, Fredericton 96, St. Andrews
16, Moncton 88, Sackville 69, Cape Tormentine 33,
Bathurst 8, Woodstock 20, Kierstead Mountain 50, Bloom-
field 5

Dec. 22	Adam	4	Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Sangster
Dec-Jan	St. Martins	3-8	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Common Redpoll

Christmas Count - Saint John 19, Fredericton 3, St. Andrews 75, Moncton 322,
Sackville 24, Cape Tormentine 138, Bathurst 15, Woodstock
80, Kierstead Mountain 15

Jan. 20	Lakeville Corner	200	P. Pearce
Jan. 25	St. Martins	200	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw

Pine Siskin

Christmas Count - Saint John 96, Lepreau 26, Fredericton 14, St.
Andrews 8, Moncton 2, Pennfield 5

American Goldfinch

Christmas Count - Saint John 113, Lepreau 39, St. Andrews 2, Bathurst 7
Jan. 6 Moncton 3 A. Madden

White-winged Crossbill

Feb. 3 St. Andrews 40 Dr. Neil Bourne

Rufous-sided Towhee

Dec. 21 Buctouche 1 Mrs. Trigg
Jan. 7 Marysville 1 Mrs. F. Jack

Slate-coloured Junco

Christmas Count - Saint John 39, Lepreau 1, Fredericton 5, St. Andrews 2, Moncton 7, Sackville 98, Cape Tormentine 19, Woodstock 7, Kierstead Mountain 1, Pennfield 2

Jan. 11-14 St. Martins 1 Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Jan-Feb Petitcodiac 2 Rev. Ford Alward

Tree Sparrow

Christmas Count - Saint John 22, Fredericton 6, St. Andrews 5, Moncton 2, Cape Tormentine 4, Woodstock 5, Kierstead Mountain 2, Pennfield 6

Dec-Jan St. Martins 5-10 Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Feb. 12 Havelock 1 Rev. Ford Alward

Field Sparrow

Dec. 6-13 Fredericton 1 D. Christie
Jan. 7 Fredericton 1 Christie & Squires

White-crowned Sparrow

Feb. 3 Fredericton 2 Miss M. McNair

White-throated Sparrow

Christmas Count - Saint John 8, Kierstead Mountain 1

Jan-Feb Nashwaaksis sev. N.R. Brown
Feb. 11 Kingshurst 3 D. Christie

Fox Sparrow

Dec. 17 & 25 Kingshurst 1 D. Christie

Swamp Sparrow

Feb. 3 Fredericton 1 Miss M. McNair

Song Sparrow

Christmas Count - Saint John 4, Fredericton 2, Moncton 6, Woodstock 5
Jan. 19 Middle Sackville 1 Dr. A.J. Erskine

Lapland Longspur

Christmas Count - Sackville 1
Jan. 2 Moncton 4 A. Madden

Snow Bunting

Christmas Count - Saint John 35, Lepreau 150, Fredericton 100, Moncton 35, Sackville 153, Woodstock 10

Dec. 26 Buctouche 25 Mrs. J. Trigg
Dec. 28 Harcourt 4 Dr. M. Majka
Dec. 30 South Tweedside 3 Mrs. Ruth Cleghorn
Jan. 18 Hardings Point 36 Mrs. Lorne Flewelling
Jan. 28 Millville 75 P. Pearce

NATURE NEWS

Vol. XIII

~~Exposure~~
March - April 1962

Number 2

FOREWORD

It has been a matter of much satisfaction to note the steady increase in the number of people in the province seriously interested in nature, especially in birds and wildflowers.

The Fredericton Field-Naturalists' Club is now in its third year and little of interest in the neighborhood escapes its members. The Moncton Naturalists' Club organized this winter has announced that it will be responsible for a section of the Fundy Trail for hikers being laid out from Moncton to Fundy National Park.

It is time that Saint John had a similar organized group and I have been asked by several persons interested to announce that a meeting to consider the formation of such a club will be held at the museum on Wednesday evening May 9th at 7.30 o'clock. Anyone interested in nature will be welcome.

W.A. Squires, Curator.

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Do you know the location of any caves or old mine shafts in New Brunswick that have not been well-publicized. From the information we have caves seem to be very scarce in this province, Howe's Cave in Saint John city being about the only notable example known to us.

It is actually Dr. Stallworthy of the Department of Biology at Mount Allison University who has awakened our interest in caves. For several years he has been banding bats in a deserted mine near Dorchester and he is very anxious to find other roosting places to which the banded bats may have migrated and also to find other bats to band to continue the study. Any information will be welcome.

Have you heard the frogs' spring chorus yet? We have referred to this in this bulletin in other spring issues but we have new subscribers and anyway too little is known about the musical creatures which take part in this chorus. I heard the first frogs, probably green frogs, but not a chorus, in a swampy pool on the Oromocto Flats on April 7th.

How many people refer to the "frogs' spring chorus" as I have above when they have not been hearing frogs at all? They have not been far wrong, however, as what they have heard are toads which sing in a sweet trilling whistle, long sustained and continuing day and night during the breeding season. If there are any frogs present, usually green

frogs or leopard frogs, they will supply an intermittent bass. There may, however, be another batrachian present, a hyla or tree-toad, the spring peeper. These little tree-toads are, I am sure, unknown to most New Brunswick people who hear them in bushes and trees in summer and think they are birds. They are so small that one can sit comfortably on a twenty-five cent piece but in spring their shrill note can be heard for half a mile. One must see this performance to believe it. The throat of the tiny creature swells out in a vocal sac or bubble as large or larger than its body which remains distended all the time it is singing.

In New Brunswick we have one species of toad, two tree-toads and six frogs.

By the time you are reading this a number of our spring flowers will be in bloom but the first this spring as every spring in southern New Brunswick has been the coltsfoot. The first bloom reported at Saint John was on March 20th. The next wildflower I saw was bloodroot on April 23rd. Spring Beauty was reported in bloom at St. Martins by Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw on April 15th but hepatica, Mayflower and even skunk cabbage, where it may very rarely be found in this region, should be found by the first week of May.

How do you find an owl's nest? I have never found one except by accident but Mr. Alan Madden found a Great Horned Owl's nest by a method which others might wish to adopt. He went out into the woods near Moncton in the evening twice at the end of March to listen for it and on the second night was not only successful in hearing an owl but located the tree in which it had its nest. It was in a hollow limb on a large elm tree thirty feet from the ground. This was on March 30th. A few days later he managed to climb to the nest and found three eggs in it. There should be an excellent opportunity to study the development of these birds which will not fly until June.

Are there fewer robins than there used to be? To many people it seemed as though the early flight of spring robins which used to arrive in the last week of March or the first week of April was almost completely missing this year. By the middle of April they began to be quite common but the impression of much smaller numbers remained. We cannot examine this problem scientifically as there is no accurate information on numbers present in former years but everyone who had robins nesting in their shrubbery last year or the year before should know whether there are as many this year or not. Whenever the flower border or vegetable garden, shrubbery or shade trees here or in its winter range are sprayed or dusted with DDT or some of the other new insecticides there is potential danger to the robin. Earthworms feed on fallen leaves and store up the poison in their bodies. Robins eat the worms.

The members of the Fredericton Field-Naturalists' Club have had an exciting time identifying the migrating waterfowl in the St. John River. Early in April before the ice ran there were about 1000 Canada Geese at Lower Jemseg and the occasional pair of Common Goldeneye, Black Ducks and

even Wood Ducks and Ring-necked Ducks appeared between the ice and shore at Maugerville and Sheffield. After the ice ran out numbers of all species increased. Blue and Green-winged Teals, Hooded Mergansers, Pintails and American Widgeons appeared in Maugerville and Sheffield and also on the Oromocto Flats, a Pied-billed Grebe was seen early and on April 20th a Red-necked Grebe which had found its way in from the sea where some of them winter. A large number of Scaup congregated at the mouth of the Nerepis at Westfield in late March.

On March 30th, 3000 Canada Geese were reported at the mouth of the Shepody River in Albert County and on April 22nd there were nearly as many near Hampstead.

On April 27th I left Saint John about four o'clock planning to follow route two along the St. John River and see what waterfowl could be found.

At Westfield at the mouth of the Nerepis there were still two or three dozen Scaups and a few Common Goldeneyes. None of the Scaups seen here or later were close enough to certainly identify them as the Greater or Lesser species but both are to be found in the river at this season.

From Oak Point the islands towards the opposite side of the river were seen to be alive with waterfowl. There were several hundreds of Canada Geese and large numbers of Black Ducks on the islands and the water around them was full of ducks, mostly Scaups. There were more Scaup and Canada Geese around other islands as I proceeded upriver and a short distance above Hampstead a marshy area was covered for a mile by Canada Geese, two to three or four thousand, and again at Queenstown there was another large concentration of Geese and another immense flock of Scaup.

At Gagetown a Kingfisher flew over as I approached the ferry to Lower Jemseg and on the east side of the river I saw the first Common Loon in spring plumage. Along the Jemseg there were a few Scaups and Common Goldeneyes and one pair of the rare Barrow's Goldeneye but it was after I passed Jemseg to the marshes between Grand Lake and the St. John that I was surrounded by many species of waterfowl. I stopped the car and found the quacking of ducks and honking of geese a continuous chorus. It was too dark to see the Canada Geese out on the marshes by the lake but there must have been a great number there and several hundred were passing overhead. In addition to the ducks already mentioned there were Wood Ducks, Pintails and Green-winged Teals and a pair of Shovellers, the first of these western ducks which I had seen in New Brunswick.

Returning to the area the next afternoon I added Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, Common Merganser, American Widgeon and one European Widgeon to the list.

This central valley of the St. John must be almost without parallel in the province as a gathering place of spring waterfowl.

N A T U R E N E W S

Vol. XIII

May - June 1962

Number 3

F O R E W O R D

At the end of June as the northern hemisphere turns once again imperceptibly towards winter there seems to be a pause in nature's activities, a gathering of forces so that everything can be finished which must be completed before the shortening and cooling days bring an end to this all too short season.

The last of the migrant birds have returned from the south and are busy with their eggs and young or have passed to the northward, and it will be several weeks more before they are again on their way south; the spring flowers, well-known to many, have bloomed and faded to be succeeded by the less familiar and, to some, less attractive plants of summer.

The berries are green on the bushes, the fruit is forming on the trees, the hay is not quite ready for the mower, all nature is fresh and beautiful, nothing has started to fade - it is midsummer.

W.A. Squires, Curator.

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At the Museum we are making a thorough study of our herbarium of New Brunswick plants this summer. One thing we find is that most of the specimens were collected in Saint John, Kings and Kent counties with some from Restigouche. Others are poorly represented and the range of many plants cannot be properly determined from this source alone. Contributions to the herbarium from these neglected areas will be very welcome. Such plants should either be pressed and dried or enclosed in plastic with a wet paper towel for moisture. The date collected, name of collector and habitat, whether swamp or dry land, among hardwoods or softwoods or in open fields, should be given for each.

This has been an outstanding year in New Brunswick for warblers with some of the species which usually seem to be scarce present in unusual numbers. Tennessee Warblers were common and Cape May, Wilson's and Canada were seen frequently. I saw a pair of Mourning Warblers at Fredericton, the first I had seen in many years. The outstanding warbler report was a Cerulean Warbler seen at St. Andrews by Miss Willa MacCoubrey May 17th. This warbler has been recorded a few times in Maine but, except for one old and almost undoubtedly erroneous report, this is the first record for New Brunswick. Miss MacCoubrey had previously seen the species in Ontario and had an almost point-blank view of this specimen with binoculars. Miss MacCoubrey rather belatedly supplied us with the earliest 1962 record of the Bohemian Waxwing for the province, four at St. Andrews on January 8th.

The Red Head Marsh east of Saint John continues to amaze us with the profusion of species of waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, etc. which is to be found there. On May 23rd I identified 26 species in just over an hour. One of the interesting species found there regularly now is the American Widgeon formerly called Baldpate. This western duck has been seen there often since about 1956 and on May 8th I counted 47 of them. This duck is seen occasionally in other parts of southern New Brunswick and undoubtedly now breeds in the province as it does near Amherst in Nova Scotia but neither nest, eggs nor young have yet been reported to me.

Almost every trip to the Red Head Marsh rewards us with something new. Herons and Bitterns are often seen and a few years ago on two occasions a Common Egret, the bird almost exterminated for its plumes, was seen in the marsh. On June 3rd or 4th, 1962 a small white heron was reported there. This was probably a Cattle Egret as this species was recorded at several places in Maine, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario this spring and in New Brunswick at Grand Manan April 21st and Sheffield June 2nd. Common Gallinules were first seen at the marsh in September 1960 by Wm. Astle and David Christie and have also been seen in 1961 and 1962. This marsh bird is very rare this far north and has not yet been found breeding in New Brunswick. The American Coot also occurs in the marsh and on the nearby beach Christie found three Whimbrels (Hudsonian Curlews) on May 17th, 1962, our first spring record in many years.

This marsh should be preserved as a wildlife sanctuary. It is unique on this coast with long leads of deep water interspersed with cattails and rushes over nearly 250 acres. It is the sort of place that Nature Conservancy in the United States is buying up and saving for posterity. Here it will need a great deal of local interest to prevent this area from ultimately being destroyed.

We have received more late spring reports of shorebirds and sea ducks than usual and some of the records for migrants going north are much later than any we have had. Miss Willa MacCoubrey saw Black-bellied Plovers at St. Andrews until June 13th and Dowitchers to June 5th. At St. Martins Mrs. Bradshaw saw Red-throated Loons June 13, and both Common and White-winged Scoters June 16th. Peter Pearce saw a male European Widgeon at Shippegan June 23rd and hundreds of Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls at Dalhousie, Bathurst and Shippegan June 22nd to 24th. Two Willets seen near St. Martins by Mrs. Bradshaw June 3rd to 8th constitute one of the most important records of the season. This is a very rare shorebird here and there are no previous records earlier than mid-August.

We are learning more each year about the occurrence of Brant in New Brunswick waters. It now appears that it is not unusual to see at least a few at any season. A few years ago 30 were reported at Grand Manan on December 31st. This year there were 20 at Kent Island south of Grand Manan on January 8th and 9th. It is customary for large flocks

to congregate in the Grand Manan area by early March. This year Peter Pearce reported upwards of 8000 at Grand Manan May 20th and Elmer Wilcox writing from Seal Cove May 26th reported watching a large flock from his window feeding along the shore. In the north of the Province Brant were still to be seen at Dalhousie and Bathurst June 8-10. In 1958 I saw seven (probably non-breeders) at Kent Island on July 20th and normal migrants from the north reappear in the Province by late August. It is apparent that while most Brant migrate through New Brunswick spring and fall, stragglers may be seen any time.

Spring came slowly to New Brunswick and then in the third week of May with a few hot days everything developed in a hurry. Bird migration seemed quite normal but among plants we had such oddities as Shadbush, Bird Cherry and Canada Plum coming into bloom almost simultaneously instead of about 10 days apart.

Our earliest spring flowers were almost on schedule, Blue Violet at Fredericton April 29th (Christie) and at Woodstock May 6th (Mrs. Marjorie A.E. Gray) and May 13th at St. Martins (Mrs. Bradshaw); White Violets May 6th at Woodstock, May 13th at St. Martins and May 15th at Fredericton; Dog-toothed Violets or Adder's Tongue May 6th at Woodstock and May 10th at Fredericton are all common examples of these.

The Saint John Naturalists' Club held a wildflower study-night on June 13th. The members brought together a surprising total of 76 species in bloom. Even this number did not by any means exhaust the plants known to be in bloom at that time. Out of all these the only real rarity was the Lance-leaved Violet collected near Musquash by Mrs. V.B. Watters.

One cannot travel around New Brunswick very much without seeing some of our larger mammals. If it is a Moose on the highway we would rather not see it but otherwise they all add a touch of pleasure to an otherwise humdrum trip. I am sure that I have seen more Groundhogs (Woodchucks) and Porcupines this year than usual. At the mouth of Keswick on May 13th I was able to photograph a Groundhog at about fifteen feet before he plunged headlong into his burrow. A first for me was a young porcupine too small to climb the tree in which its mother had taken refuge. It was, however, well protected. Another first was a Woodland Jumping Mouse. This is usually a nocturnal animal and I was in the woods at sunset on June 21st when one went hopping by so fast it was almost a blur. I was able to distinguish the yellowish orange colour on its sides but could not see the white tip to the tail. I have seen a number of foxes recently, several snowshoe hares and at least one skunk but it is probably the deer by the roadside that give most travellers on our highways the greatest thrill. I am sure I reacted normally when I saw a doe of our White-tailed Deer feeding quietly at the side of the road near Nerepis on the morning of June 24th and occasionally lifting its head to watch the cars going by.

N A T U R E N E W S

Vol. XIII

July - August 1962

Number 4

F O R E W O R D

This bulletin depends in large part on notes and observations sent in by its readers. Only in this way can good coverage of the province at all seasons be maintained. Some observers have been very faithfully sending in records quite regularly for as much as eight or ten years.

It, of course, often happens that due to lack of space notes sent in are not published. This does not mean they are not used as all reports are filed for reference and bird records are entered in a master file in which I keep all information about New Brunswick birds that I can get together filed by species and county.

Any reports which are specially newsworthy should be in by the fifteenth of the month and all reports by the 25th. Often our best reports arrive too late. This happened with reports from Moncton for May and June.

W.A. Squires, Curator

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In the last number I mentioned the work being done on the Museum herbarium. This has been continued and some collecting has been done to extend the provincial coverage of the herbarium and to determine the distribution of specific plants within the province. Plants have been collected, pressed, dried, identified, mounted and added to the herbarium from every county except Madawaska and Albert.

Several plants have been found which, as far as we know, have never been collected in New Brunswick before. One of these, Quickweed, was collected by David Christie in a downtown parking lot in Moncton on August 20th and later was found by him at Fredericton Junction. In early September I found it growing out of the asphalt on Douglas Avenue, Saint John, about 200 yards from the Museum so it is probably well distributed in the province. In Maine it is known north to Bangor. It is native to Central and South America.

Many problems have developed and questions have arisen about plant distribution which demonstrate the importance of extending this work. For example, travelling through the counties bordering on the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Baie de Chaleur we did not see any Milkweed of which two species are common in the St. John valley. Black-eyed Susans appeared scarce in Kent County in late August and were not seen north of Newcastle on July 29th. This does not mean that these plants do not occur but if there they are much scarcer than farther west and south.

One of the most interesting developments concerns the distribution of the Purple Trillium. This plant is so common in the west of New Brunswick

that it never occurred to me that it did not occur throughout the province. Early this year I learned that it did not occur in Prince Edward Island or the nearby coastal area of New Brunswick. Prof. Fowler, our great botanist of the last century, who made extensive collections in Kent County did not find it there. Only further study and collecting can determine its exact distribution.

Collecting in Kent County August 21st and 22nd it proved most enlightening to find how some weeds had apparently increased in the ninety to 100 years since Fowler collected there. It would appear that such weeds as Burdock, Chamomile, Pineapple Weed and Sow Thistle have reached Kent in the intervening years. Others such as Common Mullein which in 1882 he reported very rare in the Province are now common.

In the last number I invited readers to contribute plant specimens to the herbarium. Only a few have done so but several of these were noteworthy. In July Miss Frances Howe of St. Andrews sent in a shrub for identification which proved to be Ninebark which had escaped from cultivation. She furnished a good specimen for the first collection in the herbarium. On August 23rd Christie found it alongside the road at Norton, Kings County. This shrub grows wild in southern Maine and escaped from cultivation northward.

Mrs. Florence Colpitts, now of Tabusintac, sent in another plant which has seldom been found in New Brunswick. It is Musk-flower (*Mimulus moschatus*) collected in Albert County. There is only one previous specimen in the Museum collected near Caraquet in Gloucester County.

I could almost write a book about my own experiences with birds this summer, not to mention many reports from other observers but I can only touch on a few of the highlights.

The Bald Eagle needs many friends and strict protection and even this may not save it. In the United States the National Audubon Society is very concerned and has been taking a census of Eagle nests to see how many young are being produced. I spent a day in July with Mr. Charles Brookfield who was taking the census in Maine. He travelled over Maine for nearly a month in June and July following up every lead and at the last report had found less than forty nests and of these only six had young in them. The great majority of Eagle nests reported to him turned out to be Osprey nests instead. This scarcity of young eagles augurs ill for the species. No such census has been taken in New Brunswick but I doubt if very many young eagles would be found here. The great majority of eagles formerly found here came north from Florida and Georgia after the breeding season but very few are now being produced in that area.

Among the unusual bird records which were missed by our last number are several reports of Willets. The only provincial records for this large long-legged shorebird previously were from the Grand Manan area. On May 6th Dr. Majka saw one at Moncton and June 3rd to 8th Mrs. Bradshaw saw two at St. Martins. Mr. D. Kermode Parr of Fredericton also reports what he con-

cluded was a Willet at Burnt Church on the Gulf of St. Lawrence in late July or early August. The Willet was almost extirpated by hunters before a closed season was imposed over 40 years ago but a small breeding population persisted in Nova Scotia from Halifax to Yarmouth and Digby so Bay of Fundy records are not unusual. Any occurrence on the Gulf of St. Lawrence shore must represent considerable wandering beyond its breeding range.

Dr. Majka also reported a Caspian Tern at Richibucto on June 14th. This is the first record for the species but one was found dead at nearby Buctouche in October 35 years ago. There is a small breeding colony north of the Gulf in Quebec.

My own most outstanding record was a Glaucous Gull in Shippegan Harbour on July 29th. This is normally a winter gull in New Brunswick with no previous records between May and November.

A great incursion of White-winged Crossbills has been developing since early summer. Peter Pearce working in the northern forest in Restigouche county found them very common in June and July, 200 in one locality. D. Christie reported smaller flocks near Hoyt in July. I found them near Fredericton in June and near MacAdam in August but not in large flocks. Other reports indicate a widespread incursion and everyone should watch for them during the fall.

The Gulf of St. Lawrence and Baie de Chaleur shores and beaches should be visited frequently by many more qualified bird students. Through the years only a few casual records have been preserved from this area which is an ideal place to see shorebirds and seabirds on their way to and from the Arctic. Peter Pearce has visited this area frequently in the last couple of years and has procured many interesting records. This year in July and August I travelled along this shore from Jacquet River to Shediac but was usually only able to spend minutes in promising areas where it was obvious that it would be profitable to spend hours or even days.

Pearce in both 1961 and 1962 has discovered large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls in the Bathurst-Shippegan area continually from May to September. They had been previously found in this area in August but these could be migrants from northwestern North America where they breed. However, counts such as 400 at Bathurst June 8th, 124 at Dalhousie June 22nd, 150 at Shippegan June 23rd and 162 at Shippegan July 7th command serious attention. On July 29th I found 20 at Lamèque and 15 at Shippegan. Such concentrations right through the breeding period lead one to query whether all can be nonbreeders. It is very unfortunate that so few observers have reported from this area during the last ten or twenty years that we know practically nothing about the numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls here in those years. We have no June or July reports on record until Pearce found them at Bathurst and Shippegan in 1961. There are occasional August and September records for the area for more than the last 75 years.

NATURE NEWS

Vol. XIII

September - October 1962

Number 5

FOREWORD

Of most outstanding interest to all those in New Brunswick who wish to know more about the wildflowers, birds and animals of the Province is the continued growth of the naturalists' clubs.

The Saint John Naturalists' Club after two preliminary meetings in the spring was formally organized in September. On September 15th a very successful field trip was held to the Red Head Marsh east of Saint John and was attended by representatives of the clubs at Fredericton and Moncton as well as Saint John. Another field trip to Mace's Bay, Point Lepreau and Chance and Dipper Harbours on October 20th was also attended by members of all three clubs.

Both of these field trips were most rewarding and produced birds never seen before by many of those present.

All this presages a much more active and increasing interest in nature study in this Province for the future.

W.A. Squires, Curator.

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On the first fine morning after our late October snowstorm I went into the woods ten minutes drive from Fredericton hoping to get motion pictures of Gray Jays. It was a perfect morning, scarcely a breath of wind, a cloudless sky, and a bright, bright sun. All nature seemed alive after the storm. Tree Sparrows were busy in the bushes by the roadside. As I went along a woodroad I heard the croaking of a raven, several Pine Siskins flew over, a Blue Jay shrilled in the distance and Red Squirrels chattered in several directions at once.

I crossed a sphagnum bog and saw in the snow that a moose had passed that way and several foxes had been abroad in the night. There were chickadees moving everywhere. On one occasion a Boreal Chickadee came down on a balsam bough within ten or fifteen feet of me and I was so lost in admiration of the glowing chestnut on its flanks that I forgot that I was carrying a camera until it was too late. A little farther on a Ruffed Grouse exploded into flight. If it survived another thirty-six hours it would be safe from honest hunters for another year.

At noon I made a small fire hoping that the smoke would attract the Gray Jays I wanted to photograph. They will often come to the smell of smoke and will take food from a person's hand. I had seen several there a few weeks before but none showed up this time.

A Blue Jay flew by and when I looked to the tree tops to see if it had alighted there I saw instead a rosy-red bird with dark wings with

conspicuous white bars - a White-winged Crossbill and realized that quite a number of the birds I had seen flying at a distance must have been this species.

One other bird made its presence known from time to time as the Red-breasted Nuthatch sounded its "ank, ank, ank" but it did not come close enough to be seen.

As I returned to the bog on the way out of the woods I heard a very loud croak of a Raven and one appeared in the sky at the tree tops ahead of me. It was so startled to see me so close that it almost turned a somersault in mid-air in its hurry to get under cover.

Just before I got back to the highway I found the real prize for the day - a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker. I was able to study it from a mere ten feet and had an excellent opportunity to photograph this rarer woodpecker.

Some small areas seem to have a special attraction for many species of birds. This is easy to understand if it is a swamp or a particular stretch of beach or even a special bit of forest for each of these habitats has its own particular groups of natural residents. To the south of Manawagonish Road in Lancaster is an area which does not fit any of these descriptions. It is a very steep hillside which must shelter birds from most prevailing winds and being warmed from the south must also furnish thermals, rising air currents, which make flying easier. In addition there is much excellent cover and many species of berry-bearing shrubs.

During the past several years Mrs. V.B. Watters has reported nearly every unusual bird seen in the Saint John area from this hillside. In late September and early October a Yellow-breasted Chat spent some time here and Mrs. Watters also saw a bird she identified as a Dickcissel. While trying to get a look at the Chat I watched a small flock of Mourning Doves flying westward along the escarpment at house-top level and a Gray Jay appeared, the first which had been recorded there. Mrs. Watters has seen Baltimore Orioles here off and on all fall as well as a Towhee and Mourning Doves. It was at this same place that Mrs. Watters showed me the first Brown Thrasher that I saw in New Brunswick two winters ago and a wintering Mourning Dove.

There have been a number of other bird reports during the last two months outstanding enough to be recorded here. A flock of 17 Golden Plovers seen at the Red Head Marsh on the September 15th field trip was a species seen for the first time by many of those present. Nine of them were still there a month later.

Although Gannets breed in great numbers near Percé on the Gaspé coast they are seldom seen in New Brunswick. Alan Madden reported one at Richibucto Cape on September 23rd and some members of the field trip to Point Lepreau saw one there on October 20th. Many of them must migrate through the Bay of Fundy without coming close to land.

The earliest report for Sanderlings on their way south this year seems to be eight seen at Point du Chene on August 12th by Madden and Candido. Pectoral Sandpipers were reported at Sackville October 6th by Dr. Erskine and at Lancaster on October 21st by D. Christie. Two Purple Sandpipers which Alan Madden saw at Cocagne August 18th are the earliest noted in fall migration in ninety years. Further study on the Gulf of St. Lawrence shore may show that other shorebirds return from the north even earlier than we have records of them.

Madden also reported 5 Snow Buntings at Cocagne Bay on October 6th a week earlier than any date recorded for western New Brunswick although they have reached southern Maine in September a few times.

Christie also reported two Blue-winged Teal at Rothesay on October 21st, a very late date for this species. A Northern Shrike on the same date is an early arrival from the north.

Outstanding has been the numbers of Robins, flocks of hundreds or even thousands. On some stands of Mountain Ash they even outnumbered the Starlings.

Mr. J.L. Holman at New River Beach watched them migrating down the Bay of Fundy on October 22nd. Several hundreds passed in less than an hour mostly at an altitude of about 200 feet. This abundance contrasts strangely with the apparent scarcity of Robins reported in early spring migration.

For two carloads of observers on the Point Lepreau field trip October 20th was the discovery of a Red-throated Loon on the beach at Dipper Harbour. As it couldn't take flight from the beach it was possible to study this northern bird at very close range and to take many pictures of it before it was allowed to escape to the water and swim away.

The Red Head Marsh continued to supply many interesting records. On September 20th in a few minutes there I saw a Common Gallinule, a Sora, 12 Golden Plovers, 2 Pigeon Hawks and 200 Sanderlings. One of the Pigeon Hawks tried desperately but unsuccessfully to capture a Sanderling.

A month later on October 21st David Christie records at the Marsh one Red-throated Loon, one great Blue Heron, one Red-breasted Merganser, one American Coot, both Black-bellied and Golden Plovers and among the gulls 150 Ring-billed Gulls.

We don't give much thought to wildflowers after the goldenrods and asters have gone to seed but there are still a few in bloom. Butter-and-eggs will continue blossoming until covered with the snow, Fall Dandelion now deserves its name which seems so incongruous when it starts blooming in June and even the Common Dandelion displays a few belated flowers. Try and see what others you can find. They won't be beautiful but they are wildflowers none the less.

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FOREWORD

This is once more the season for the Christmas Bird Count and a report form is enclosed. This year counts will be made by thousands of groups all over North America in the period December 19th, 1962 to January 1st, 1963 inclusive.

The Naturalists' Clubs in Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John will as usual, we hope, be able to take part in five or six such counts. We also expect counts in which five to ten persons participate in St. Andrews and Sackville.

The counts made by small groups of one or two people are often just as important especially when made in an area of the province for which we know little of the winter bird life. Peter Pearce of Fredericton made a count at Bathurst last year and the results were of great interest as we had no previous Christmas report on the seabirds of that coast north of Shediac. We would like to hear from Campbellton-Dalhousie, Newcastle-Chatham, Edmundston, Grand Falls, Andover-Perth. If you know anyone within 15 miles of you who might cooperate invite them to make a count on the same day and combine the reports. Perhaps I can supply you with some names.

There are many species of birds wintering in New Brunswick. In Saint John in five Christmas Counts we have found 71 species and in the province from December 1, 1961 to February 15, 1962, 105 species were identified. About 20 more species should be found here normally in winter.

We are going to depart from our usual custom and devote most of this number to some of the outstanding exhibits in the Natural Science Gallery of the Museum.

W.A. Squires, Curator.

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MODEL DIORAMAS

We have recently purchased two one-tenth scale model dioramas. The first shows a family group of Moose, bull, cow and calf, near the shore of a small New Brunswick lake on a late September morning as the eastern horizon is glowing with the approaching sunrise and the distant hills are covered with a blue-gray haze. It is a strikingly beautiful background.

The second diorama shows a herd of Woodland Caribou crossing a sphagnum bog or "caribou barren" in the foreground, and being stalked by two Timber Wolves. Both species were common in New Brunswick a hundred years ago but have since been extirpated. The background of bog, water,

melting snow, and distant hills is a composite of several New Brunswick scenes but is so natural that anyone who knows the province is sure he knows the particular area illustrated.

Both of these dioramas were made for us by the Jonas Studios, Hudson, N.Y. The model animals are molded composition latex painted in natural colours. While life-size dioramas are very desirable where space is available these model dioramas enable many more exhibits in a smaller gallery. We hope to add another in the coming year and are thinking of one or more Mastodons in connection with a post-Pleistocene swamp such as our fossilized Mastodon from Hillsborough, Albert County, perished in.

THE HILLSBOROUGH MASTODON

Perhaps ten or twenty thousand years ago a large elephant-like mammal, an American Mastodon, wandered into a swamp hole near where the village of Hillsborough now stands in Albert County and perished. The swamp preserved the skeleton and gradually it all changed to stone except the tusks. In 1937 the late Captain Conrad Osman decided to have this swamp hole excavated to form an artificial lake on his estate and the workmen discovered odd shaped rocks which were recognized as fossils. These were excavated and removed to this Museum. They form the only near complete fossil skeleton of a mastodon in Atlantic Canada. Old writings indicate that the remains of several others were discovered in New Brunswick many years ago but were not identified as such and were later destroyed.

EXTINCT BIRDS

In our bird collection we have four mounted specimens of the Passenger Pigeon. This bird which formerly existed in countless millions was last reported in New Brunswick in 1898 and the last living individual in the world died in 1914 in captivity. Although this province was to the east of the main concentration of this bird writers of three hundred years ago reported great numbers of them here at that time.

We also have two of the extinct or practically extinct Eskimo Curlews. About fifteen years ago while examining specimens in the Boardman Collection I found these incorrectly identified as Hudsonian Curlews.

More recently I discovered among unidentified specimens two Carolina Parakeets. Although never known to have reached New Brunswick these small parrots were the only representatives of the group in eastern North America. As they attacked fruit they were relentlessly destroyed.

We quite probably have other extinct or near extinct foreign birds among our unidentified specimens. Others that we know are several specimens of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and one Whooping Crane.

ORRERY

Our first step into the field of space science was the purchase of a small orrery last year. This shows all the visible planets revolving around the sun. It is illuminated by "black light" and each member glows with an appropriate colour. Although of necessity small, each planet and the sun are of the proper size in comparison to each other and they move at a relative speed one minute equalling one year. The distances of the planets from the sun are less than proper proportion in order to get the whole into the confines of the case. This display seems to thrill some of our visitors who will sit in front of it as if mesmerized.

FLUORESCENT MINERAL DISPLAY

It has been found that the light reflected by some minerals when placed under ultraviolet or "black" light is very different from their appearance in natural light. Some of the reflected colours are very beautiful.

A display has been set up showing a variety of minerals which reflect several shades of red, blue, green and gold. Two wave lengths of ultraviolet light are used and some of the minerals display different colours for the different wave lengths. "Black Light" is used by prospectors to identify rare minerals and in separating valuable minerals from waste rock.

The most exciting recent nature report has been the discovery by Peter Pearce of at least eleven Rough-legged Hawks on the Jemseg marshes in Queens County. Our meagre records of this northern species do not previously include reports of more than two seen at one time. Eleven might indicate a flight year. This hawk has a light phase (brown and white) and a dark phase almost as black as a raven. Both phases and intermediates were seen December 1st to 7th. I visited the area on both December 2nd and 7th.

This is an entirely beneficial species of hawk living almost entirely on mice and other small mammals. This Jemseg area was alive with such small mammals concentrated by the rising waters of the river. Marsh Hawks and at least one Hawk-Owl were seen in the same general area.