



THE NATURAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

OF

THE NEW BRUNSWICK MUSEUM

SAINT JOHN, N.B.

NATURE NEWS

(Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa,
and for payment in Cash).

Vol. XIX No. 1 Saint John, N. B. March 1968

FOREWORD

This number will be made up as it has since 1957 of a list of birds reported in the province between December 1st and February 15th. This will probably be the last time that winter birds will be reported in this way. When this was initiated many species were reported during this period which were not found in the Christmas Counts. The latter, with increased interest, have become more and more successful until this year only seventeen species have been added to the ninety-five reported at Christmas. This year 112 species were recorded, the same as in 1966 and 1967.

In future only the additional species and any unusual incursions will be reported in this number and it will be possible to include other winter events in the nature field.

W.A. SQUIRES, CURATOR.

WINTER BIRD LIST (December 1st, 1967 - February 15th, 1968)

(It doesn't seem quite right to find mockingbirds, yellow-breasted chats, and cardinals in New Brunswick in winter and some of the others recorded are almost as exotic).

Common Loon Christmas Count - Lepreau 3.

Jan. 27 Pt. Lepreau 2 P. Pearce

Red-throated Loon Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 1, Fundy Park 1, St. Martins 1.

Red-necked Grebe Christmas Count - St. Andrews 1, Lepreau 21.

Horned Grebe Christmas Count - St. Andrews 5, Lepreau 5, Saint John (Hardings Point) 1.

Jan. 27 Pt. Lepreau 3 P. Pearce

Great Cormorant Christmas Count - Lepreau 1, Saint John 2.

Dec. 15 Grand Manan 20 P. Pearce

Black-crowned Night Heron

Jan. 3 Saint John 1 Mr. R. Ryder

Canada Goose

Dec. 18 Minto 25 M. Vienneau

Mallard Christmas Count - St. Andrews 2, Fundy Park 1, Saint John 3.

Jan. 9 Pt. Lepreau 1 D. Christie

Black Duck Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 39, Sackville 17, St.

Andrews 26, Grand Falls 126, Lepreau 23, Fundy Park 41, St. Martins 42, Saint John 315, Albert 38.

Jan. 27 St. Andrews 65

Feb. 10 St. Martins 50

P. Pearce

Mrs. F. Bradshaw

<u>Pintail</u>	Christmas Count - Saint John 1.		
Dec. 14	Ross Id., Grand Manan	2	P. Pearce
<u>Green-winged Teal</u>	Christmas Count - Sackville 1 (crippled)		
Dec. 23	Kent Island	5	Carl Small
<u>Greater Scaup</u>	Christmas Count - St. Andrews 43, Saint John (Westfield) 1.		
<u>Common Goldeneye</u>	Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 3, Sackville 16, Grand Falls 36, Shippegan Island 31, Lepreau 49, Jemseg 2, Fundy Park 5, St. Martins 3, Saint John 130, Albert 2.		
Dec. 1	Fredericton	16	P. Pearce
Dec. 2	Shippegan Island	5	Hilaire Chiasson
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	Christmas Count - Lepreau 1, St. Martins 2, Saint John (Westfield) 1.		
<u>Bufflehead</u>	Christmas Count - St. Andrews 31, Lepreau 31, Saint John 12.		
Dec. 1	Fredericton	1	P. Pearce
Dec. 15	Grand Manan	13	P. Pearce
<u>Oldsquaw</u>	Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 130, St. Andrews 1, Shippegan Island 8, Lepreau 6.		
Jan. 20	Dipper Harbour	19	P. Pearce
<u>Harlequin Duck</u>			
Jan. 9	Pt. Lepreau	1	D. Christie
<u>Common Eider</u>	Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 22, St. Andrews 70, Shippegan Id., 14, Lepreau 44, Fundy Park 5, Albert 1.		
Jan. 21	Shippegan Island	16	Hilaire Chiasson
Jan. 27	St. Andrews	150	P. Pearce
<u>King Eider</u>	Christmas Count - St. Andrews 2.		
<u>White-winged Scoter</u>	Christmas Count - St. Andrews 19, Saint John 2.		
Dec. 14	Jacquet River	sev.	Fr. Jean-Paul Lebel
Jan. 27	St. Andrews	50	P. Pearce
<u>Surf Scoter</u>	Christmas Count - St. Andrews 165, St. Martins 4.		
Jan. 27	St. Andrews	150	P. Pearce
<u>Common Scoter</u>	Christmas Count - St. Andrews 10, Lepreau 2, Fundy Park 6.		
Jan. 27	Pt. Lepreau	13	P. Pearce
Jan. 28	St. Martins	1	Mrs. F. Bradshaw
<u>Hooded Merganser</u>	Christmas Count - Lepreau 1.		
<u>Common Merganser</u>	Christmas Count - Sackville 8, Grand Falls 27, Saint John 12.		
Jan. 4	Aroostook	10	P. Horncastle
Feb. 2	Alma	1	D. Christie
<u>Red-breasted Merganser</u>	Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 5, Lepreau 5.		
Dec. 2	Shippegan Island	5	Hilaire Chiasson
Dec. 14	Jacquet River	sev.	Fr. Jean-Paul Lebel
Dec. 14	Grand Manan	20	P. Pearce
<u>Goshawk</u>	Christmas Count - Lepreau 2, Moncton 1, Fundy Park 3.		
Feb. 3	Hopewell Hill	1	F. Alward
Feb. 10 & 12	Caledonia Mountain	1	D. Christie
<u>Sharp-shinned Hawk</u>	Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 1, Fredericton 1, St. Martins 1, Saint John 1, Albert 1.		
Dec. 20	Lincoln	1	P. Pearce
<u>Cooper's Hawk</u>			
Jan. 20	Riverview Heights	1	D.W. Whitman
<u>Red-tailed Hawk</u>	Christmas Count - Sackville 1, Fundy Park 1, St. Martins 1, Albert 1.		
Dec. 9	St. Martins	1	Mrs. F. Bradshaw
Jan. 10	Shediac	1	Dr. M. Hajka
Jan. 27	Maces Bay	1	P. Pearce

<u>Rough-legged Hawk</u>	Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 4, Sackville 34, Woodstock 2, Moncton 2, Albert 10.		
Dec. 14	Grand Manan	4	P. Pearce
Feb. 15	Shepody Marsh	3	F. Alward
<u>Bald Eagle</u>	Christmas Count - Saint John 1.		
Dec. 14	White Head Island	1	Mr. & Mrs. C. Small
Dec. 30	Florenceville	1	P. Horncastle
Jan. 15	Black's Harbour	2	Lloyd Foster
Jan. 17	McKinley Ferry	1	H. Deichmann
Jan. 20	Pt. Lepreau	1	P. Pearce
<u>Marsh Hawk</u>	Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 1.		
<u>Gyr Falcon</u> (white)			
Jan.	Oromocto	1	fide P. Pearce
<u>Pigeon Hawk</u>	Christmas Count - Moncton 1.		
<u>Sparrow Hawk</u>	Christmas Count - Woodstock 1, Albert 2.		
<u>Ruffed Grouse</u>	Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 1, Sackville 1, St. Andrews 3, Lepreau 2, Moncton 5, Fundy Park 1, St. Martins 5, Saint John 1, Albert 1.		
Dec. 13	Grand Manan	1	P. Pearce
<u>Ring-necked Pheasant</u>	Christmas Count - Sackville 10, Fredericton 14, Moncton 9, Albert 1.		
Jan. 13	Salisbury	1	D. Christie
<u>Gray Partridge</u>			
Jan. 5	Red Head	6	W.P. MacMurray
<u>Virginia Rail</u>			
Dec. 10	Saint John	1	Donald Daley
<u>American Coot</u>			
Dec. 29	Musquash	1	Robert Washburn
<u>Purple Sandpiper</u>	Christmas Count - St. Andrews 30, Lepreau 150, St. Martins 300.		
Dec. 13	Grand Manan	7	P. Pearce
Feb. 10	St. Martins	150	Mrs. F. Bradshaw
<u>Glaucous Gull</u>	Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 6, Lepreau 1, Moncton 2, Fundy Park 2, Saint John 3, Albert 3.		
Dec. 3	Fredericton	1	P. Pearce
<u>Iceland Gull</u>	Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 113, Lepreau 39, Moncton 4, Fundy Park 12, Saint John 8, Albert 16.		
Dec. 10	Shippegan Island	60	Hilaire Chiasson
Jan. 27	St. Andrews	1	P. Pearce
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>	Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 55, Sackville 47, St. Andrews 72, Shippegan Island 57, Lepreau 36, Moncton 90, Fundy Park 8, Saint John 819, Albert 10.		
Dec. 3	Fredericton	1	P. Pearce
Feb. 13	Shippegan Island	1	Hilaire Chiasson
<u>Herring Gull</u>	Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 154, Sackville 161, St. Andrews 668, Shippegan Island 19, Lepreau 437, Fredericton 2, Moncton 550, Fundy Park 89, St. Martins 12, Saint John 2688, Albert 49.		
<u>Ring-billed Gull</u>	Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 4, Saint John 6.		
<u>Black-headed Gull</u>	Christmas Count - Saint John 3.		
<u>Black-legged Kittiwake</u>	Christmas Count - Lepreau 4.		
Dec. 16	Grand Manan	300	P. Pearce
<u>Razorbill</u>			
Dec. 16	Grand Manan	30	P. Pearce
Jan. 20	Pt. Lepreau	1	P. Pearce
<u>Dovekie</u>			
Dec.	Saint John	1	fide S.W. Gorham

Black Guillemot Christmas Count - Shippegan Island 13, Lepreau 1.
 Dec. 11 Grand Manan 1 P. Pearce
 Dec. 14 Jacquet River sev. Fr. Jean-Paul Lebel

Rock Dove In all urban areas usually living wild.

Mourning Dove Christmas Count - Moncton 2.
 Dec. 6 Hoyt 1 Mrs. J.R. Smith

Great Horned Owl Christmas Count - Moncton 2.

Snowy Owl Christmas Count - Sackville 4.
 Dec. 2 Jacquet River 1 Fr. Jean-Paul Lebel
 Jan. 9 Acamac 1 John Alliston
 Jan. 14 Pokiok 1 W. Calvert

Hawk-Owl
 Dec. Woodstock 1 Stephen Homer

Barred Owl
 Jan. 12 Saint John 1 Carle Smith

Saw-whet Owl
 Jan. 11 Albert 1 Sue Fullerton

Belted Kingfisher
 Dec. 13 Grand Manan 1 P. Pearce

Pileated Woodpecker Christmas Count - Fredericton 1.
 Jan. 27 Geary 1 P. Pearce

Hairy Woodpecker Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 2, Sackville 3, St. Andrews 5, Grand Falls 4, Woodstock 2, Fredericton 10, Jemseg 2, Moncton 8, Fundy Park 5, Saint John 15, Dorchester 2.

Downy Woodpecker Christmas Count - Sackville 6, St. Andrews 3, Grand Falls 1, Woodstock 7, Fredericton 19, Jemseg 2, Moncton 6, Fundy Park 10, St. Martins 1, Saint John 17, Dorchester 2.
 Dec. 1 Jacquet River 1 Fr. Jean-Paul Lebel

Horned Lark Christmas Count - Sackville 14.
 Dec. 2 Jacquet River sev. Fr. Jean-Paul Lebel
 Dec. 3 Shepody Marsh 7 Ford Alward
 Dec. 15 Grand Manan 15 P. Pearce
 Jan. 13 Sussex 2 D. Christie

Gray Jay Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 1, Sackville 3, St. Andrews 9, Grand Falls 22, Woodstock 1, Lepreau 2, Fredericton 12, Jemseg 1, Moncton 3, Fundy Park 17, St. Martins 1, Saint John 3, Albert 8.

Blue Jay Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 22, Sackville 43, St. Andrews 25, Grand Falls 103, Woodstock 40, Shippegan Island 25, Lepreau 2, Fredericton 113, Jemseg 64, Moncton 62, Fundy Park 5, St. Martins 1, Saint John 51, Dorchester 6, Pennfield 4, Albert 22.

Common Raven Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 48, Sackville 101, St. Andrews 2, Grand Falls 9, Woodstock 22, Shippegan Island 10, Lepreau 17, Fredericton 105, Jemseg 7, Moncton 147, Fundy Park 19, St. Martins 13, Saint John 99, Albert 25.

Common Crow Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 32, Sackville 23, St. Andrews 92, Grand Falls 35, Woodstock 38, Shippegan Island 17, Lepreau 52, Fredericton 133, Jemseg 9, Moncton 28, Fundy Park 5, St. Martins 14, Saint John 126, Dorchester 5, Pennfield 2, Albert 21.
 Feb. 13 Shippegan Island 7 Hilaire Chiasson

Black-capped Chickadee Reported abundant in nearly all areas.

Boreal Chickadee Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 26, Sackville 62, St. Andrews 5, Grand Falls 17, Lepreau 3, Fredericton 19, Jemseg 7, Moncton 30, Fundy Park 32, St. Martins 4, Saint John 15, Albert 26.

White-breasted Nuthatch Christmas Count - Sackville 3, St. Andrews 1, Woodstock 10, Fredericton 12, Jemseg 1, Saint John 1.

Red-breasted Nuthatch Christmas Count - Sackville 1, St. Andrews 8,
Grand Falls 5, Lepreau 1, Fredericton 22, Jemseg 1, Moncton 9, Fundy
Park 4, St. Martins 7, Albert 5.

Brown Creeper Christmas Count - Lepreau 1, Jemseg 2, Moncton 2, Fundy
Park 3, Saint John 3, Albert 1.

Jan. 9 Fredericton 1 D.K. Parr

Winter Wren

Dec. Saint John 1 Christmas Count

Dec. 15 Grand Manan 1 P. Pearce

Mockingbird

Dec. Sackville 1 Christmas Count

Brown Thrasher Christmas Count - Dorchester 1.

Robin Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 4, Sackville 2, St. Andrews 10,
Lepreau 3, Jemseg 3, Moncton 1, Fundy Park 1, St. Martins 3, Saint John
13, Pennfield 1, Albert 6.

Dec. Fredericton 1 Christmas Count

Dec. 6 & 22 Hopewell Hill 2 Ford Alward

Dec. 13 Grand Manan 1 P. Pearce

Varied Thrush

Jan. 6 Sackville 1 Dr. A.J. Erskine

Hermit Thrush Christmas Count - Moncton 1, Saint John 2, Pennfield 1.

Swainson's Thrush Christmas Count - St. Martins 1.

Golden-crowned Kinglet Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 5, Sackville 1,
Lepreau 2, Fredericton 12, Moncton 10, Fundy Park 2, St. Martins 2,
Saint John 7, Albert 3.

Dec. 13 Grand Manan 2 P. Pearce

Ruby-crowned Kinglet Christmas Count - Saint John 1.

Dec. St. Andrews 1 Christmas Count

Bohemian Waxwing

Feb. 15 Fredericton 1 Miss D. Sleep

Feb. 15 Marysville 1 Mrs. B.E. Folland

Northern Shrike Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 1, Sackville 1, Jemseg 1,
Moncton 1, St. Martins 1, Albert 1.

Dec. Fundy Park 1 D. Christie

Jan. 9 Pt. Lepreau 1 D. Christie

Jan. 13 Haugerville 1 D.K. Parr

Starling In all settled areas - numerous.

Myrtle Warbler Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 1.

Dec. 22 Morna 1 Mrs. V.B. Watters

Yellow-breasted Chat

Dec. 1 & 2 Albert 1 Miss Sue Fullerton

House Sparrow Common in all settled areas.

Red-winged Blackbird Christmas Count - Saint John 4.

Dec. 1-31 Fredericton 1 P. Pearce

Dec. 31 Albert 2 Ford Alward

Jan. 18 Alma 1 D. Christie

Baltimore Oriole Christmas Count - St. Andrews 1, Saint John 2, Albert 1.

Dec. 27 Woodstock 1 Mr. Charles Webb

Rusty Blackbird

Dec. 31-Jan. 9 Albert 2 Ford Alward

Common Grackle Christmas Count - Sackville 3, Woodstock 1, Lepreau 2,
Fredericton 4, Moncton 3, Fundy Park 5, Saint John 5, Dorchester 4,
Pennfield 4, Albert 2.

Dec. 15 Grand Manan 1 P. Pearce

Feb. 13 Albert 1 F. Alward

Brown-headed Cowbird Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 1, Sackville 2,
St. Andrews 100, Woodstock 2, Lepreau 13, Fredericton 4, Jemseg 6,
Moncton 2, Saint John 183, Albert 62.
Dec. 11 Grand Manan 3 P. Pearce
Jan. 19 Albert 5 Ford Alward

Cardinal Christmas Count - Fredericton 1.
Jan. 3 Fredericton (still there) 1 P. Pearce

Dickcissel Christmas Count - Saint John 2.
Dec. 4-11 Fredericton 1 Miss Nettie Moore

Evening Grosbeak Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 3, Sackville 11,
St. Andrews 1, Fredericton 31, Moncton 104, Fundy Park 1, St. Martins 7,
Saint John 37, Albert 2.
Dec. Grand Falls -
Dec. 14 Jacquet River sev. Fr. Jean-Paul Lebel

Purple Finch Christmas Count - Sackville 3, Grand Falls 10, Fredericton 1,
Moncton 1, St. Martins 6, Saint John 4.

Pine Grosbeak Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 16, Sackville 2, St.
Andrews 4, Fredericton 9, Jemseg 1, Moncton 13, Fundy Park 9, St. Martins
5, Saint John 14, Dorchester 1, Albert 2.
Dec. 6 Crooked Creek 8 Ford Alward
Dec. 15 Grand Manan 1 P. Pearce
Jan. 20 St. Martins 8 Mrs. F. Bradshaw

Common Redpoll Christmas Count - Moncton 4, Saint John 12.
Dec. Jemseg - P. Pearce

Pine Siskin Christmas Count - Lepreau 1, Moncton 4, Saint John 8, Albert 2.

American Goldfinch Christmas Count - St. Andrews 1, Lepreau 6, St. Martins
8, Saint John 11.
Dec. Grand Falls sev. Christmas Count
Dec. 14 Grand Manan 1 P. Pearce

White-winged Crossbill Christmas Count - Moncton 1, St. Martins 3, Saint
John 6.
Dec. 14 Grand Manan sev. P. Pearce

Rufous-sided Towhee
Dec. 10 & 11 Woodstock 1 Miss Bertha Warnock &
Mrs. Helen Boyles

Savannah Sparrow Christmas Count - Saint John 1, Albert 1.

Slate-coloured Junco Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 1, Sackville 6,
Grand Falls 15, Lepreau 9, Fredericton 28, Jemseg 6, Moncton 10, Fundy Park 9,
St. Martins 41, Saint John 175, Dorchester 5, Pennfield 6, Albert 41.

Tree Sparrow Christmas Count - Cape Tormentine 1, Sackville 4, St. Andrews
9, Grand Falls 30, Lepreau 25, Fredericton 8, Jemseg 2, Moncton 12, Fundy
Park 5, St. Martins 20, Saint John 146, Pennfield 2, Albert 15.
Dec. 4 Fredericton 2 W.A. Squires

White-crowned Sparrow Christmas Count - Saint John 1.
Jan. 3 Saint John 1 Mrs. V.B. Watters

White-throated Sparrow Christmas Count - Sackville 3, Fredericton 4, Moncton
3, Fundy Park 1, St. Martins 2, Saint John 9, Pennfield 1, Albert 4.
Dec. 4 Fredericton 1 W.A. Squires
Dec. Woodstock - Christmas Count
Feb. 14 Fredericton 1 P. Pearce

Fox Sparrow Christmas Count - Sackville 1, St. Andrews 1, Lepreau 1,
Fredericton 1, Fundy Park 1, St. Martins 1, Saint John 7.

Dec. 20 Fredericton 1 P. Pearce

Swamp Sparrow Christmas Count - Lepreau 1.

Song Sparrow Christmas Count - Sackville 1, St. Andrews 1, Lepreau 3,
Fredericton 2, Moncton 7, Fundy Park 1, Saint John 13, Albert 6.

Dec. 13 Grand Manan 1 P. Pearce

Lapland Longspur Christmas Count - Sackville 1.

Snow Bunting Christmas Count - Sackville 344, Grand Falls 19, Shippegan
Island 250, Moncton 22, Fundy Park 1, Saint John 12, Albert 82.

Dec. 13 Grand Manan 3 P. Pearce

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Fox Sparrow Christmas Count - Sackville 1, St. Andrews 1, Lepreau 1,
 Fredericton 1, Fundy Park 1, St. Martins 1, Saint John 7,
 Dec. 29
 Fox Sparrow Christmas Count - Lepreau 1,
 Fox Sparrow Christmas Count - Sackville 1, St. Andrews 1, Lepreau 2,
 Fredericton 2, Inverness 7, Fundy Park 1, Saint John 12, Albert 6,
 Dec. 18
 Fox Sparrow Christmas Count - Sackville 1,
 Fox Sparrow Christmas Count - Sackville 2-4, Grand Falls 12, Shippegan
 Island 22, Inverness 22, Fundy Park 1, Saint John 12, Albert 22,
 Dec. 13

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Vol. XIX No. 2

Saint John, N.B.

May 1968

FOREWORD

After the late spring last year it was a pleasure to have the snow go early in the south of the province and to have temperatures into the fifties and sixties at Easter.

Not nearly as many people send in observations for Nature News as did a few years ago but some have contributed faithfully nearly every month. Among new correspondents we have been very pleased to receive notes on birds from Brother Clarence LeBreton of Bathurst. We are very anxious to get more information about the animals, birds and wildflowers of the north and east of the Province as we can spend so little time there ourselves.

Whether we are able to use information received in Nature News at the time or not it is all recorded in the extensive files of such reports that we maintain and will be very useful from time to time in the future.

W.A. Squires, Curator

Mrs. Marjorie Gray reported Pussy Willows at Woodstock on March 1st. Although a few are almost always open even in December March 1st is an early spring date. I don't know whether we should say that the Pussy Willows have blossomed when the white pussy shows or not. Perhaps they are only in full bloom when the ripe yellow pollen shows all over the pussy. I did not see this this year until April 20th.

On the morning of April 10th I had a phone call telling me that Skunk Cabbages were in bloom in a very accessible location about fifteen miles east of Saint John. I drove out myself to see it and sure enough there were many plants in bloom throughout a great growth of alders. These Skunk Cabbages must have been in bloom more than a week, perhaps as early as April 1st. The earliest I had ever seen it before was May 3rd but it is so rare here that I seldom see it at all. I have read that in Ontario and New England it comes up through the snow and ice and now I can really believe that it does.

Have you seen the early flowers on the alders and poplars or do you even think of these catkins as blossoms? They surely are. In the alders the catkins, technically called aments, are male and female the former producing the pollen and the latter the seeds. The male catkins are very small and reddish purple in colour.

It seemed to me that skunks were abroad at times all winter this year even though we might expect the prolonged cold to make them sleep sounder.

One was killed on the road near my house early in March and I saw others in February. Actually young skunks sleep the longest, adult females usually sleep a few weeks, but adult males may roam most of the winter. Dr. Carl Medcof reports a significant increase in the number of skunks in the St. Andrews area after a period of several years during which they were scarce.

Differing from the skunk the groundhog or woodchuck does not sleep through the winter but truly hibernates with a drop in temperature and almost complete cessation of breathing and circulation. It goes into its den early, perhaps the end of September, but emerges while there is still snow on the ground. Robert Squires saw one in the Upper Tobique valley on March 31st while there were still great banks of snow.

Canada Geese have been moving up the Bay of Fundy steadily since the middle of March. There seems to be a belief, amounting almost to a superstition both in the Riverside-Albert area of Albert County and in the lower St. John valley that the geese should arrive on St. Patrick's Day. This year David Christie advises me that the first geese were seen on the Shepody River Marsh on March 17th but they were not reported in the lower St. John valley until the 20th. On March 25th 1414 geese were at Harvey and the next day Mrs. Majka estimated the flock at 3000. On April 20th I saw a dozen geese at Chance Harbour so the migration was still in progress and they may be seen well into May. Geese as well as several species of ducks have been trying out the new lake above the Mactaquac Dam.

There have been several interesting reports of the Killdeer which seems to be one of the earliest of the migrating plovers. David Christie reported one at Alma March 30th and the very next day Brother LeBreton found one at Bathurst. I saw one at Sheffield early in April.

Brother LeBreton reported four Common Mergansers at Bathurst on March 30th and these had increased to twenty by April 7th. He reported Black Ducks first on April 7th, six Canada Geese the same day, and ten Common Goldeneyes on April 8th. He also reported 20 Double-crested Cormorants on the early date of April 4th. April 8th seems to be the earliest date I have for this species in the south of the province but Brother Lebel reported them at Jacquet River a few springs ago on April 3rd. Observers on the Bay of Fundy should watch the cormorants more carefully another year to see when the Common Cormorant, the winter species here, leaves and the Double-crested summer species arrives.

In April and early May it seems natural for us to think of salamanders, newts, frogs, toads, and tree toads. This is the season when quite a few species emerge from hibernation and migrate to ditches and pools to breed. Every country boy is familiar with frogs' eggs, but none of them could tell the difference between the eggs of frogs, toads, and salamanders when found in the same pool.

We are always trying to find out more about these creatures, and this year we have learned a lot about the time they start breeding in different places.

Dusky Salamanders and the occasional Yellow Spotted Salamander were found in spring water or under rocks along spring brooks at the end of March, but it was April 15th before Stanley Gorham heard many Wood Frogs

or found that an appreciable number of salamanders had migrated to the ditches to breed. A few days later he found 75 Spotted Salamanders in one ditch. Ten days later breeding was nearly done.

On the night of April 23rd I visited Stanley in York County and examined pools along the road to Napadogan only to find that not a single amphibian had emerged. In some places there were still great banks of snow. The altitude was part of the reason for the slower emergence of the frogs and salamanders as both spring peepers and wood frogs were singing along the Nashwaak at Taymouth that night. Away from the valley I did not find any salamanders that night more than a mile north of Fredericton. There two pools were alive with Yellow Spotted Salamanders. South of Fredericton at the same time all the early amphibians were active. Spring Peepers, Wood Frogs, Spotted Salamanders, Jefferson's Salamanders, and one Newt being found. It may be as late as June before the amphibians start breeding in the high lands in the north of the province.

The largest class of animal life, the insects, usually seems to get the least attention in this bulletin. Most people can put a name to only a few of the many thousands of species of insects which surround them. I shall mention a few that have come to my attention recently or which we should expect to see in the next few days.

On April 22nd a bottle containing hundreds of small nearly black insects was brought to the museum. These had been swarming outside the house for a month and getting in around the windows. I put them under a microscope and confirmed my suspicions that they were snow-fleas. These are not related to fleas but belong to the most primitive order of insects. They spring by means of a special lever located on the underside of the abdomen. Related insects for this reason are called springtails. True fleas have muscular legs for jumping. Incidentally the snow-fleas are harmless and while they are in the woods the year round are usually seen as great black masses on the snow in March.

The first butterfly I saw this year was a Mourning Cloak about April 15th. This may hibernate as an adult butterfly. Another generation is in flight about the end of June. The Compton Tortoiseshell Butterfly hibernates and occasionally emerges on warm days in midwinter.

The Spring Azure is a rare but conspicuous little butterfly which may be encountered on a walk in the country in May.

I have seen unidentified moths that looked like cutworm moths flying in the car lights at night and have noted a few water beetles in the spring pools while looking for salamanders but as the weather becomes warmer a great host of insects, mostly unknown to us except for their family, will emerge from whatever form they spent the winter in.

Have you ever brought cocoons of the great silkworm moths into the house and watched the moths emerge? Watch the bushes along the fence rows in fall or early winter and sooner or later you may see a cocoon of a Cecropia or Polyphemus Moth. If this is taken into a warm house the moth may emerge as early as February. We had a Polyphemus cocoon this past winter and a Cecropia the winter before.

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ditches in 1900. A few days later he found 75 Spotted Salamanders in one
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On the night of April 23rd I visited Stanley in York County
and examined pools along the road to Wapahogan early to find that not a single
amphibian had emerged. In some places there were still great banks of snow.
The stream was part of the reason for the slow emergence of the frogs
and salamanders as they spring potholes and wood frogs were singing along the
road at Teymouth that night. Away from the valley I did not find any
salamanders that night more than a mile north of Fredericton. There two
pools were alive with Yellow Spotted Salamanders. South of Fredericton
at the same time all the early amphibians were active. Spring Peepers,
Wood Frogs, Spotted Salamanders, Jefferson's Salamanders, and one West
being found. It may be as late as June before the amphibians start breed-
ing in the high lands in the north of the province.

The largest class of animal life, the insects, usually seems to
get the latest attention in this bulletin. Most people can get a name to only
a few of the many thousands of species of insects which surround them. I
shall mention a few that have come to my attention recently or which we should
expect to see in the next few days.

On April 22nd a bottle containing hundreds of small nearly black
insects was brought to the museum. These had been swimming outside the house
for a month and getting in around the windows. I put them under a microscope
and identified my suspicions that they were snow-flies. These are not related
to flies but belong to the most primitive order of insects. They are found by
means of a special larva located on the underside of the abdomen. Related
insects for this reason are called springtails. True flies are called
long for jumping. Occasionally the snow-flies are seen as well as the
and in the woods the year round are usually seen as well as the
the snow in March.

Nature News

Natural Science Dept.

New Brunswick Museum

Saint John, N.B.

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The first butterfly I saw in the
April 1900. The way it came as a
is in flight about the end of March. The common Tortoiseshell butterfly
hibernates and occasionally emerges on warm days in winter.

The Spring Hawk is a rare but conspicuous little butterfly which
may be encountered on a walk in the country in May.

I have seen unidentified moths that looked like common moths
flying in the car lights at night and have noted a few water beetles in the
spring pools while looking for salamanders but as the weather becomes warmer
a great host of insects, mostly unknown to me except for their family, will
emerge from wherever they spent the winter in.

Have you ever brought cocoons of the great silk-moths into
the house and watched the moths emerge? Watch the bushes along the fence
rows in fall or early winter and soon or later you may see a cocoon of
a Geopelia or Polyphemus moth. If this is taken into a warm house the
moth may emerge as early as February. We had a Polyphemus cocoon this year
winter and a Geopelia the winter before.

NATURE NEWS

(Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa,
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Vol. XIX No. 3

Saint John, N. B.

July 1968

F O R E W O R D

The early spring forecast in our last number continued and during May and early June many wildflowers were at least two weeks ahead of 1967. Wood frogs and spring peepers which were not heard singing anywhere in the province in 1967 until the first week of May were heard in the lower Saint John valley this year in the first week of April.

These and many other signs of an early spring were very evident, but on the whole it was not so much that 1968 was early as that 1967 was such a late spring with the remains of snowdrifts still evident well into June.

I have had notes about nature observations and verbal reports from so many people that I can only make a general thank you. The highlights of these reports will be referred to here.

W.A. SQUIRES, CURATOR

I am surprised that so many people whom I have asked about it have never heard the old fable which I thought was known at least to every country boy, and accepted as gospel truth, that horsehairs put in water change into hairworms. Perhaps the story went out with the horses. Moreover very few people know what hairworms are either. Adult hairworms occur in some numbers in streams and lakes and Mr. Hugh Cunningham, a commercial fisherman in the Saint John River, brought several to the Museum recently. He said that he often found them on his nets.

The hairworms belong to the great group of animals known as roundworms and are closely related to the nematodes - a tremendously abundant group of tiny wormlike animals. The hairworms certainly look a lot like dark horsehair or fine wire. They are slightly larger in diameter than hair, one to two feet long or more, and have no noticeable heads. The life history of these creatures is even stranger than their appearance. A large number of eggs are laid and the tiny worms squirm over the bottom of the ponds, or streams where most of them must die. A few swallowed by aquatic insects and others wiggle out on the damp shore where they are eaten by grasshoppers and crickets. Instead of being digested they grow to full size as parasites in these creatures often killing the host. If the grasshoppers are near water when the adult worms emerge they find their way to it. Otherwise they will die. I remember once finding one loping its way over pansies in a flower bed in the early morning dew. How could such a haphazard life history ever develop in the first place?

Mr. Cunningham also helped us solve another problem or at least gave us a chance to satisfy ourselves that the answer he had discovered long ago was correct. The question was whether the gaspereau which come into our rivers form only one or at least two species. There have been references to the "blue-back" as a late-run gaspereau and as a separate species more southern in distribution it has been described from the American coast as Alosa aestivalis. The common gaspereau is Alosa pseudohardngus. At least a few blue-backs were thought to come into New Brunswick and Nova Scotia rivers to spawn, but no series of specimens collected here were in any scientific collection. Last fall Mr. Cunningham told us that he had several tons of blue-backs in cold storage which he had taken from the Saint John river or its lower tributaries. Mr. Gorham, our assistant curator, examined several of these and found that the peritoneum lining the abdomen was sooty black. That of the common gaspereau is pearl gray and this has until now been the only easily recognized difference between the two. This spring Mr. Cunningham brought in a series of fresh specimens of both types and the differences noted in the frozen specimens were easily confirmed.

We are now supplying both the Royal Ontario Museum and the National Museum with series of blue-backs from the Saint John River. It is by such small steps as this that the bulk of scientific information about our plant and animal life has been accumulated.

We continue to see plants that we have never seen before and to have plants brought to us that have not previously been in the Museum herbarium.

On May 31st Peter Pearce called to tell me that one of the crew working with him near Doaktown had found calypso, a small rosy pink orchid often called "fairy slipper." I had never seen this orchid growing although a couple of specimens had been sent in to me about twenty years ago. I went to Doaktown on June 2nd and found that there were several plants in bloom on a gently sloping slightly damp hillside in coniferous woods. About ten days later the same party found more calypsos near the Upper South Renous River and the Dungarvon River locally common in the latter area. Probably the only reason it was noted at Doaktown was its attractive colour. We found Hooker's Orchid with its yellowish green blossoms nearby, but it apparently had not been seen or else not recognized as an orchid.

The Saint John Naturalists' Club has a wildflower night in June each year. This year two plants were brought in which although to be expected in this area were not in the museum herbarium. Ragged Robin was found at the side of the road at South Bay by Mrs. Charles Laskey and Bugle, a species of *Ajuga* escaped from cultivation, was found at Pamdenac by Miss P. Hansen.

Other interesting extensions of ranges include wild ginger and wild plum near Southampton and Bicknell's cranesbill at Sunbury Shores, St. Andrews.

I was surprised to receive yellow lady's slippers brought to school by a pupil at Aroostook Junction on May 31st, an extremely early date emphasizing the early season and the rapidity of the advancing season in the Upper Saint John Valley in May and early June. A few days later I counted 339 in bloom, 75 without moving, in a secret place near Saint John.

There have been a number of birds reported that are of special significance. Dr. Rigby and Miss Willa MacCoubrey reported a cattle egret at St. Andrews June 13 which stayed there associating with cattle for several days.

Miss Nettie Moore found two glossy ibises in a marshy pond near Jemseg on May 19. These were seen later by several people from Fredericton. These ibises are now visiting New Brunswick nearly every spring. She saw the rare green heron at Jemseg May 15 and at the Chance Harbour Marsh on May 22 while Brother Leo Martin reported one at the Daniel Marsh in Albert County May 25. Miss Moore saw a Virginia Rail at Lower Jemseg on May 19 and heard at least three Wood Thrushes at Allandale, York County, on May 14. Wood thrushes are obviously on the increase in New Brunswick and a thrush survey planned for Albert County by members of the Moncton Naturalists' Club sounds interesting especially as David Christie reported eight wood thrushes in the Rosedale area of that county in May.

A flock of at least 20 common scoters which I saw at St. Andrews June 15 seems the latest ever recorded here for scoters and two snow geese which Mrs. Frances Bradshaw reported at the West Quaco Marsh, St. Martins at least from June 10 to 17 are equally late if they expect to breed in the north this year. David Christie and Dr. & Mrs. Majka reported seven piping plovers at Waterside April 21. This species breeds near Neguac but is seldom reported in the province. More sightings of willets are reported from New Brunswick each year. This large shorebird breeds in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia and this year one was at the Waterside Marsh in Albert County April 23 and May 10 and three at Pt. Lepreau May 21. It is also interesting to get a report of a Whip-poor-will. One was near Moncton May 10. It was probably heard as this bird is much oftener heard than seen. It is scarce and very local in occurrence in this province.

Two gull reports were of special interest. Miss Moore reported 17 Bonaparte's Gulls at Grand Lake May 15 and Glaucous Gulls were reported at Grand Manan May 18 and Saint John May 21 by David Christie. A male harlequin duck seen at Pt. Lepreau May 21 by David Christie is a late date but does not approach the June 15 date when a male was at Kent Island in 1956.

Brother F. Clarence LeBreton sent us most interesting lists of birds seen in Gloucester County in April and May. Outstanding records included one phoebe at Petit Rocher April 12, 5 ring-billed gulls and 50 brant in Bathurst Harbour May 4, 15 gannets at Miscou Island May 20, and 50 Brant near Bathurst May 25.

We would appreciate any information about turtles in the province. We have no information about them east of the Saint John valley or north of York County. It will need the cooperation of people throughout the province to determine the distribution of the three species found here. During my extensive travels around the province I have never found a turtle and saw only one or two which had been killed on the highway.

The wood turtle is our commonest species. It is rough and marked with concentric grooves. The painted turtle has a very smooth shell. It is rare and our present information limits its distribution to an area bounded by Welsford, Oromocto, Grand Lake and the lower Belleisle valley. Both of these species can withdraw their heads and tails and their shells are six to nine inches long. Then there is the snapping turtle found usually in lakes and ponds in York, Sunbury and Queens Counties. It reaches a large size, sometimes three feet overall length and cannot withdraw its head and tail.

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New Brunswick, N.J.

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Vol. XIX

Saint John, N. B.

September 1968

FOREWORD

The all too brief summer season has now drawn to a close. In most of New Brunswick it was an exceptionally warm and sunny summer with little rain, very pleasant for vacationers and outdoor living; but hard for many crops to properly mature.

Many people have reported or enquired about various wildflowers, birds and animals, some common, others rare or unusual. All such reports are very welcome and add to the fund of information which is so necessary as a background to any study of the flora and fauna of the province.

W.A. SQUIRES,

CURATOR.

My request for information about turtles contained in the May issue of Nature News got wide publicity and attracted much interest. It was copied in several daily and weekly newspapers and was referred to on radio and television. With such an assist we have had a goodly number of reports of turtles.

The number of turtle species in the province remains at three - Wood, Painted and Snapping. All reports confirm the Wood Turtle as our commonest species. We have had no reports north of Andover but there is a specimen in the Royal Ontario Museum taken at Baker Brook in Madawaska County. One specimen taken near Doaktown in July, a report of one near a camp on the Renous, and two collected near Doaktown by a museum party in 1967 are sufficient evidence that the Wood Turtle occurs in the Miramichi watershed.

Mr. Douglas Whitman sent me a most informative account of the occurrence of turtles in the Moncton area. He said in all the years he has observed birds and plants in the area he has not found a turtle but last June a Snapping Turtle was found in Jonathan Creek in Centennial Park at Moncton and as a result of the newspaper publicity eleven Wood Turtles were brought in to the keeper. One even came from Turtle Creek in nearby Albert County restoring faith in this old name. Another small Snapping Turtle was found near Magnetic Hill. This was a great extension of the known range of both of these turtles.

Chris Majka reported a Snapping Turtle found dead in a pond at Bartlett's Mills August 24th and A.A. Dean reported one at Bath, Carleton County earlier in the summer. A Snapping Turtle was also brought in to the Museum which was found near Hampton.

Since the Wood Turtle, although scarce, is the commonest and most widely distributed of our three species most of the turtles reported have been this species but, except for the reports noted, have all been confined to its known range in the province. The same may be said for the Painted Turtle. Its area of chief abundance is apparently the western end of Grand Lake but it has been found along the St. John and its tributaries in several places from Jemseg to Saint John and there is apparently a small colony near Bocabec in Charlotte County.

There is one serious hazard in determining the range of turtles even when specimens are collected. A high percentage of specimens show by holes or breaks in the shell that they have been held in captivity and escaped. We cannot be sure that these hatched anywhere near where they were found. They may have been carried perhaps hundreds of miles. One Painted Turtle brought in from Hampton several years ago proved to be the Midland Painted Turtle from Ontario.

From information collected by Elmer Wilcox, William McCarthy and Chris Majka the following are the amphibians and reptiles known to occur on the island of Grand Manan. Frogs - Leopard and Wood; Toads - Common Toad; Salamanders - None; Snakes - Red-bellied and Green; Turtles - None. I would expect to find at least one more snake - the Garter Snake, and the commonest tree-toad, the tiny Spring Peeper. Along our coast where salt water now intervenes but most certainly did not for several thousand years at the end of the last Ice Age it is a fascinating puzzle to account for the presence or absence of various animal forms on the off-shore islands.

We were collecting in northeastern New Brunswick from August 19th to 23rd and camped for three days about five miles from Upsalquitch Lake close to the upper falls in the Upsalquitch River. Here at an altitude of 850 feet the forest was mainly coniferous and the birds which feed on the seeds of conifers were numerous. There were White-winged Crossbills everywhere and flocks of Pine Siskins appeared from time to time. Pine Grosbeaks and Evening Grosbeaks were there but not in great numbers. Other birds were Boreal Chickadees, Nuthatches, and Ravens in addition to such ubiquitous species as Robins, Grackles and various Warblers and Sparrows. At the top of Mt. McCormick, 1855 feet, several pairs of Barn Swallows were still busy around the ranger's cabin on August 22nd and seemed to have young in a nest. Barn Swallows seem to stay later than all the other swallows and were the only species seen commonly on this trip.

There have been a number of unusual birds reported during the last two months. The most outstanding was a White-winged Black Tern found with a flock of about 100 Black Terns at Grand Point, Grand Lake, on July 27th by Peter Pearce and John Morgan. It was seen again on July 28th, 29th and 30th by at least five other observers. This is a bird of Eurasia and Africa which had never been recorded in Canada before and only two or three times in the United States. Mr. Morgan had seen this species previously in Britain and Libya. Mr. Morgan took photographs which if they are identifiable will be very important as a good photograph or a specimen is most desirable for such a rarity.

We can now remove the Gadwall from the hypothetical listing among New Brunswick birds. There have been several sight reports of

Gadwalls during the last ten years but none of them, as far as I know, were confirmed by specimens or photographs or seen by several observers. This western duck only strays rarely to the east and usually only single individuals are reported. This was the case on July 27th when, as reported by Jim Wilson, a duck banding crew from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service caught and banded an adult female on Portobello Creek in Sunbury County. One of the biologists was from the western United States where the Gadwall is common and had handled many of them. This was the first Gadwall taken by this crew in four years of banding in the province.

Not nearly as satisfactory but perhaps a good enough record to list it hypothetically for New Brunswick was the report of a White Ibis at the Saint John Airport July 1st. This bird was seen from the control tower by Mr. Pugsley and an assistant and studied for some time with the aid of Peterson's Field Guide. It was near one of the runways. The red curved bill, red legs, and black wing tips were noted. This southern bird was never recorded in New Brunswick before but two or three have been found in Nova Scotia.

Another bird not on the New Brunswick list, the Bobwhite, not only was seen but reared young in the province this summer. This was at Bartlett's Mills near St. Andrews. A pair were first seen there on a farm owned by Mr. James Little some time in June and until at least the end of July they were seen every day by Mrs. Little who also reported several young. These birds were seen by many people including Miss Willa MacCoubrey, Dr. Rigby, Miss May Bartlett, Brian Bartlett and myself and many photographs were taken as the birds were very tame. The range for this bird extends north into southern Maine so that this is possibly a natural extension of its range. However, since Bobwhites are occasionally reared in captivity and one found at Fredericton last winter proved to be an escape a search was made without success for anyone in the area who was rearing or had had Bobwhites. That is where this record stands today - maybe natural, maybe escaped.

When the book on New Brunswick birds was published in 1952 it was reported that breeding of the Long-billed Marsh Wren in the province was suspected but that no nest had been found. This was still the case until Jim Wilson found a nest at Kingston Lake, Kings County. On June 27th he found a characteristic "dummy" nest and the next day eight more "dummy" nests were found before the real nest with three eggs was discovered. The singing male was very evident near the nest. Two weeks later the nest was empty apparently robbed but both the male and female were in the area.

Is New Brunswick maintaining its reputation as a mecca for hayfever sufferers? The pollen of Common Ragweed is the chief cause of hayfever and the air is tested regularly across Canada for the incidence of this pollen. Several years ago I saw reports which showed that such counts were extremely low in New Brunswick when compared with other areas. I presume this work is continuing but no recent publicity about it has come to my attention. Ragweed, however, seems to be spreading rapidly in the south of the province. Between Westfield and Oromocto a few weeks ago it seemed as abundant as along Ontario and eastern United States roads. Last fall it was just as abundant between Hampton and Sussex but it does not seem to occur in the northeast of the province.

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Vol. XIX No. 5

Saint John, N.B.

November 1968

FOREWORD

This is the last number before the Christmas Bird Count which must take place any day December 20th to January 1st inclusive. Report forms will be sent to those who reported last year. If you plan a new count write to us for report forms.

Without frost or severe wind or rain in the central and southern areas the coloured leaves remained on the trees late and the colours intensified after a rather poor beginning.

The orange yellow of the needle-like leaves of the tamarack began to appear the second week of October but was not at its peak until the end of the month when nearly all other leaves had fallen.

W.A. SQUIRES, CURATOR

.....

In October last year Peter Pearce and I spent several days at Grand Manan and saw a great variety of bird rarities which I reported in Nature News. I had always understood that Grand Manan was an excellent place to see unusual birds, but I did not realize that it was that good.

This year Peter Pearce again spent the period October 4-10 in Grand Manan and once again his list of birds is fantastic for any place in New Brunswick. Rarities seen included at least four Red-headed Woodpeckers, two Western Kingbirds on each of two days, one Mockingbird, two Brown Thrashers, two Dickcissels and one Scarlet Tanager on October 9th, three days later than we saw one last year, and the latest record for the species in New Brunswick except for one found in Saint John on the unexplainably late date of December 1st, 1964.

There is always a chance of seeing unusual seabirds near Grand Manan or while crossing from the mainland. Besides Greater Shearwaters, Gannets and Parasitic Jaegers, Mr. Pearce saw a larger shearwater which could have been a Cory's Shearwater, a species common in the eastern Atlantic and recorded occasionally near the North American coast.

There were Peregrine Falcons at Grand Manan October 5 and 9. This bird is becoming very scarce, four Dowitchers seen were apparently the western long-billed species which has not been reported in the province in this century, also one Western Sandpiper, a species still to be added to our provincial list. Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at Castalia Marsh on three different days. There are only a few old reports for the presence of this western species in the province.

In contrast to these records such birds as Hudsonian Godwits, Whimbrels, and Golden Plovers were almost commonplace and then there were all the common species one would expect to find in southern New Brunswick at this season.

There have been several other bird reports of special interest. Mrs. V.B. Watters reported at least three Rufous-sided Towhees at Saint John on October 15th and succeeding days and Miss Enid Inch saw one at Gagetown Oct. 18th. Mr. Carle Smith found an immature Red-headed Woodpecker at Saint John on Oct. 22nd.

Miss Willa MacCoubrey of St. Andrews sent in a dead Yellow-breasted Chat on October 2nd. This bird had been caught by a cat on September 29th and although rescued it died three days later. This was made up into a scientific skin the first of this species in the museum collection.

Fall hurricanes sweeping up the western Atlantic often pick up birds along the Carolina or Virginia coasts and drop some of them along the shores of the Maritime Provinces or Newfoundland. Most of these rarities are seabirds such as Black Skimmers, Gull-billed and Least Terns, which are able to survive and straggle ashore to rest before returning south. Undoubtedly great numbers of land birds are carried to sea and drowned. A few years ago one fall hurricane which turned inland had apparently caught up a migration flight of Yellow-billed Cuckoos as, for the next month, reports of this cuckoo, usually extremely rare here, came in from many places inland in Maine and the Maritimes. After a hurricane in September 1944 fifty Black Skimmers were seen at Kent Island and they were around Grand Manan for the next three weeks.

With all this in mind Peter Pearce and I visited the shore of the Bay of Fundy at Maces Bay and Point Lepreau on October 22nd the morning after hurricane Gladys passed up the coast. If any southern seabirds were brought north they had not reached this part of the Bay of Fundy but other results of the hurricane were apparent. The whole point area between Maces Bay and Chance Harbour was alive with Robins which had taken shelter in the spruce woods. There were also many species of sparrows - Song, Swamp, Vesper, White-throat, Junco - which had also stopped in migration.

At the point, however, there were two species of considerable interest. First we found several Water Pipits - an uncommon species which breeds in the Arctic and passes through in spring and fall migration. This bird had eluded me until the fall of 1967 when I saw a flock at Grand Manan. Then while we were crouched in the partial shelter of a concrete wall on the extreme point of Point Lepreau with the strong chilly wind from the west lifting the spray high from the waves below us, a small white bird appeared flitting along the grassy top of the cliff. It was followed by five more, all were Snow Buntings, the earliest I had ever seen this winter bird from the north. However, it is reported to reach New Brunswick in September and this is no doubt correct as Dr. Erskine found a flock of 60 at Sackville October 4, 1964.

From the elevation of the point, 40 or 50 feet above the sea, we were able to look a long ways out across the bay. Grand Manan bulked large on the horizon and the Wolves were much nearer at hand. A few sea ducks were riding the waves, mostly common eiders, and others were flying along close to the water. One flock of oldsquaws went by, a single white-winged scoter and several small flocks of mergansers. A Common Loon or two were fishing and one Cormorant in juvenal plumage raised its long snake-like neck between dives.

One reader would like to have a review of the species of snakes to be found in New Brunswick similar to the discussion on turtles in the July number.

With this in mind I have looked up the records of the specimens of snakes in our collection and the records which we have received from all the major museums which have specimens collected in New Brunswick. It is immediately apparent that very little is really known about the distribution

of snakes here. One herpetologist dividing eastern North America into zones for the distribution of reptiles and amphibians classified part of the lower Saint John river valley in the counties of Kings, Queens and Sunbury as having a population similar to the area in Maine south of Bangor and indicated that we should not find many snakes or turtles outside of this area. Although most of the specimens collected to date are from this region enough have been found elsewhere to show that the problem is not that simple.

Four species of snakes have been collected in the province and the presence is suspected of one or two more which have not yet been collected here.

The Garter Snake is the commonest and largest of our snakes. Most mature specimens are between 18 and 26 inches in length but rarely giants occur. The largest I have measured was 41 inches and I have had reports of a few which may have reached five or even six feet. The Garter Snake is found farther north in Canada than any other species, several specimens having been collected in Quebec north of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. We have enough specimens from New Brunswick to indicate that it probably occurs throughout the province. There are two colour phases, one dark brown and the other almost golden.

The Smooth Green Snake is next in size - 14 to 20 inches with rare individuals to 26 inches. I used to meet this species once in a while when working in hayfields as a boy. All of the specimens in museum collections that we know of were collected in the lower Saint John valley between Fredericton and Saint John but one author reported it near Tabusintac in Northumberland County which seems to be as far north as it has been found in eastern North America.

The Ring-necked Snake is still smaller - 10 to 15 inches very rarely up to 22½ inches. This is a brown or dark gray snake with a yellow belly and a yellow band around the neck. With two exceptions all the specimens we know of have been collected in Sunbury, Kings, and Saint John counties. One has been found in Fundy Park in Albert County and one is reported in the literature as collected in either New Brunswick or Quebec near Campbellton.

Lastly the Red-bellied Snake is 8 to 10 inches, rarely up to 16 inches. This tiny snake is brown or gray above and plain red below. A specimen found near Newcastle by a National Museum party is the only record we know of outside of the lower Saint John valley and Grand Manan, but as it has been found farther north in Quebec and also in Prince Edward Island it should be found over much more of New Brunswick.

We have had enough reports to suggest at least a possibility that both the Northern Water Snake and the Black Racer occur very rarely in New Brunswick. These are large snakes up to five or six feet. Specimens are lacking and all reports may refer to large Garter Snakes. Garter Snakes often are found swimming and while the Water Snake is banded and blotched with yellow when young it may appear nearly all black when old. Only specimens will resolve this puzzle. Both the Water Snake and Black Racer are found as near as Bangor, Maine.

It is obvious that outside of the lower Saint John valley we know very little about the distribution and abundance of snakes in New Brunswick. Reports and specimens from other parts of the province would be appreciated. Small snakes will live for long periods in damp moss in bottles or plastic bags.

of snakes here. One herpetologist dividing Eastern North America into ranges for the distribution of reptiles and amphibians has placed the lower Saint John river valley in the count for the Kings, Queens and Carleton as having a population similar to the area in Maine south of Bangor and Houlton. That we should not find many snakes or turtles outside of this area. Although most of the specimens collected in this area from this region would have been found elsewhere to show that the problem is not that simple.

Four species of snakes have been collected in the province and the presence is suspected of one or two more which have not yet been collected here.

The Garter Snake is the commonest and largest of our snakes. Most mature specimens are between 18 and 20 inches in length but rarely giants occur. The largest I have measured was 41 inches and I have had reports of a few which may have reached five or even six feet. The Garter Snake is found farther north in Canada than any other species, several specimens having been collected in Quebec north of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. We have enough specimens from New Brunswick to indicate that it probably ranges throughout the province. There are two colour phases, one dark brown and the other almost golden.

The Eastern Green Snake is next in size - 18 to 20 inches with rare individuals to 25 inches. I used to see this snake once in a while when working in the fields as a boy. All of the specimens in our collection that we know of were collected in the lower Saint John valley between Fredericton and Saint John but one other reported as near Edmundston in Northumberland County which seems to be as far north as it has been found in Eastern North America.

The Ring-necked Snake is still smaller - 12 to 15 inches with rarely up to 22 inches. This is a brown or dark grey snake with a yellow belly and a yellow band around the neck. With one exception, all of the specimens we have had have been collected in Saint John and Carleton. One has been found in Fundy Park in Albert County and another in Miramichi. Literature is collected in either New Brunswick or in the other provinces. Lastly the Water Snake is 18 to 22 inches long. This is a very small snake with a grey body and a yellow belly. A specimen found near New Brunswick by a collector is the only record we know of outside of the lower Saint John valley and Grand Island. It has been found farther north in Quebec and also in Prince Edward Island. It should be found over much of New Brunswick.

We have had enough reports to suggest at least a possibility that both the Northern Water Snake and the Black River snake occur very rarely in New Brunswick. These are large snakes and live in the lower Saint John valley and all reports are from the lower Saint John valley. Garter Snakes are found swimming and while the Water Snake is found and collected with often and found swimming and while the Water Snake is found and collected with yellow when young it may grow nearly 27 inches long. Only specimens will resolve this matter. Both the Water Snake and Black River Snake are found near as Bangor, Maine.

It is obvious that outside of the lower Saint John valley we know very little about the distribution and abundance of snakes in New Brunswick. Reports and specimens from other parts of the province would be appreciated. Small snakes will live for long periods in damp moss in bottles or plastic bags.

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(Authorized as Second Class Mail
by the Post Office Department, Ottawa
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Vol. XIX - No. 6

Saint John, N.B.

January 1969

FOREWORD

This number completes the nineteenth year that Nature News has been written and distributed to those interested in nature in New Brunswick and this is the last time it will appear in this form or under this name.

With the changes in postal rates and regulations going into effect April 1st the cost of issuing three separate museum bulletins several times a year will become prohibitive and it has been decided to initiate a single three part bulletin to be issued quarterly. It is anticipated that the nature section will continue with much the same information as has been included in Nature News.

Copies of my talk on nature books over CBZ-CBD in December may be obtained from CBC radio in Fredericton.

W.A. SQUIRES, CHIEF CURATOR.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - NEW BRUNSWICK

Cape Tormentine - Dec. 22, 1968; 7.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.; cloudy; temp. 25°-28°; wind W, 0-8 mph; ground bare; 4 observers in two parties. Total party hours 17 (10½ on foot, 6½ by car). Total party miles 105 (13 on foot, 92 by car).

Black Duck, 17; Common Goldeneye, 335; Oldsquaw, 142; White-winged Scoter, 13; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 3; Hawk, sp.1; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Glaucous Gull, 10; Iceland Gull, 105; Great Black-backed Gull, 63; Herring Gull, 278; Ring-billed Gull, 3; Rock Dove, 12; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Gray Jay, 5; Blue Jay, 23; Common Raven, 28; Common Crow, 26; Black-capped Chickadee, 60; Boreal Chickadee, 26; Brown Creeper, 1; Robin, 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 1; House Sparrow, 177; Evening Grosbeak, 23; Pine Grosbeak, 93; Common Redpoll, 142; Pine Siskin, 22; American Goldfinch, 5; White-winged Crossbill, 32; Slate-coloured Junco, 18; Tree Sparrow, 1; Snow Bunting, 1. Total species 36, about 1,688 individuals. (Seen in count period, Myrtle Warbler). R. Anderson, R. Hounsell, Keith McAloney, Al Smith (compiler).

SACKVILLE - Dec. 23, 1968; 7.45 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.; cloudy; temp. 28°-30°; wind W, 0-5 mph; no snow; 6 observers in 4-5 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party hours 34½ (23½ on foot, 11 by car). Total party miles 130 (32 on foot, 98 by car).

Black Duck, 64; Green-winged Teal, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 2; Goshawk, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 4; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Ring-necked Pheasant, 2; Great Black-backed Gull, 42;

Herring Gull, 147; Dock Dove, 82; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 10; Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker, 2; Gray Jay, 8; Blue Jay, 30; Common Raven, 33; Common Crow, 16; Black-capped Chickadee, 68; Boreal Chickadee, 37; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 8; Bohemian Waxwing, 9; Cedar Waxwing, 1; Starling, 249; House Sparrow, 489; Red-winged Blackbird, 1; Common Grackle, 4; Evening Grosbeak, 53; Purple Finch, 2; Pine Grosbeak, 104; Common Redpoll, 328; Slate-coloured Junco, 21; Tree Sparrow, 24; Snow Bunting, 41. Total species 38, about 1896 individuals. (Seen in count period, Pigeon Hawk, Brown-headed Cowbird). Paul Dean, Hinrich Harries, Ron Hounsell, Reid McManus, Al Smith (compiler), Bill Whitman. Seven feeder reports.

ST. ANDREWS - Dec. 30, 1968; 8.15 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.; sunny; temp. 20° in a.m.; wind light; 4-5 in. snow; 5 observers in 3 parties, 12 at feeders. Total party hours 19 (1 on foot, 16 by car, 2 by boat). Total party miles 159 (2 on foot, 152 by car, 5 by boat).

Red-necked Grebe, 1; Black Duck, 80; Greater Scaup, 22; Common Golden-eye, 14; Bufflehead, 14; Oldsquaw, 3; Common Eider, 120; White-winged Scoter, 10; Surf Scoter, 4; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Purple Sandpiper, 85; Great Black-backed Gull, 210; Herring Gull, 420; Rock Dove, 52; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Gray Jay, 3; Blue Jay, 47; Common Raven, 3; Common Crow, 100; Black-capped Chickadee, 63; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Robin, 2; Bohemian Waxwing, 2; Starling, 161; House Sparrow, 240; Common Grackle, 5; Brown-headed Cowbird, 15; Evening Grosbeak, 29; Purple Finch, 1; Pine Grosbeak, 61; Common Redpoll, 127; American Goldfinch, 5; Slate-coloured Junco, 7; Tree Sparrow, 41; Song Sparrow, 10; Snow Bunting, 150. Total species 38, about 2123 individuals. (Seen in count period, Common Loon, Bald Eagle, Red-winged Blackbird). Mrs. Hollis Bartlett, Mrs. Martin Cummings, Miss J. Davis, Mrs. Donald Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Norman Mais, Miss Georgie Mears, Miss Grace Mears, Mrs. Fred Nutter, Miss H.W. MacCoubrey and Dr. J.E. Rigby (compiler), Mr. & Mrs. David Walker.

GRAND FALLS - Dec. 28, 1968; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; dull, intermittent snow; temp. 10°-12°; wind 1-4 mph; 2-3 ft. snow; 16 observers in 4 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 30½ (2 on foot, 28½ by car). Total party miles 286 (4 on foot, 282 by car).

Black Duck, 48; Common Goldeneye, 40; Common Merganser, 28; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Rock Dove, 15; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 9; Blue Jay, 164; Common Raven, 8; Common Crow, 43; Black-capped Chickadee, 86; Boreal Chickadee, 3; Robin, 1; Starling, 70; House Sparrow, 850; Common Grackle, 8; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2; Evening Grosbeak, 49; Purple Finch, 1; Pine Grosbeak, 30; Common Redpoll, 122; Pine Siskin, 3; White-winged Crossbill, 20; Slate-coloured Junco, 7. Total species 25, about 1612 individuals. (Seen during count period White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch). Mrs. May Bourgoin, Rodney Bourgoin, Mrs. Helen Boyles, Mrs. Margaret Chapman, Mrs. Joan Howell, Corp. John Howell, Mr. & Mrs. Guy Johnston, Frank Johnston, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Longmoore, Mrs. Noreen Mulherin, Mrs. Grace Stirrett, Dr. Geo. M. Stirrett (compiler), Wade Taylor, Mrs. Gertrude White.

LAMEQUE (SHIPPEGAN ISLAND) - Dec. 31, 1968; 1.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.; sunny; temp. 18°F; wind SW 0-5 mph; 8 in. snow. Total party hours 3½ (½ on foot, 3 by car). Total party miles 61 (1 on foot, 60 by car).

Oldsquaw, 17; Common Eider, 5; White-winged Scoter, 1; Iceland Gull, 10; Great Black-backed Gull, 51; Herring Gull, 12; Black Guillemot, 12; Common Raven, 2; Common Crow, 91; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; Starling, 2; House Sparrow, 57; Snow Bunting, 10. Total species 13, about 266 individuals. Hilaire Chiasson.

LEPREAU - Dec. 29, 1968; 8.15 a.m. to 5 p.m.; drizzle, snow, clearing; temp. 35°-27°; calm to W, 25 mph; 3 in. crusted snow; 6 observers in 1 party. Total party hours 8½ (6½ on foot, 2 by car). Total party miles 38 (4 on foot, 34 by car).

Common Loon, 7; Red-throated Loon, 1; Red-necked Grebe, 1; Horned Grebe, 22; Great Cormorant, 2; Black Duck, 97; Common Goldeneye, 66; Bufflehead, 34; Oldsquaw, 9; Common Eider, 100; White-winged Scoter, 1; Common Merganser, 29; Red-breasted Merganser, 18; Duck sp. 5; hawk sp. 1; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Purple Sandpiper, 33; Iceland Gull, 2; Great Black-backed Gull, 73; Herring Gull, 446; Black-legged Kittiwake, 60; Razorbill, 150; Rock Dove, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Gray Jay, 1; Common Raven, 6; Common Crow, 41; Black-capped Chickadee, 14; Boreal Chickadee, 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Starling, 8; House Sparrow, 17; Common Grackle, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 2; Pine Grosbeak, 37; Common Redpoll, 71; Pine Siskin, 1; American Goldfinch, 1; Slate-coloured Junco, 4; Tree Sparrow, 13; Song Sparrow, 1; Sparrow sp. 1; Snow Bunting, 2; bird sp. 2. Total species 43, about 1398 individuals. David Christie (compiler), H. Deichmann, C. Majka, Dr. & Mrs. M. Majka, Jim Wilson.

JEMSEG - Dec. 21, 1968; 7.50 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.; overcast; temp. 30°-34°; wind N, NE 3-16 mph; 2 in. snow; 8 observers in 5 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 23 (2 on foot, 21 by car). Total party miles 175 (6 on foot, 169 by car).

Black Duck, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 1; Common Goldeneye, 8; Common Merganser, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Herring Gull, 9; Rock Dove, 8; Hairy Woodpecker, 7; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Gray Jay, 6; Blue Jay, 69; Common Raven, 11; Common Crow, 17; Black-capped Chickadee, 52; Boreal Chickadee, 7; White-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown Creeper, 1; Robin, 1; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 85; House Sparrow, 370; Red-winged Blackbird, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 4; Evening Grosbeak, 1; Pine Grosbeak, 101; Common Redpoll, 1043; Pine Siskin, 23; Slate-coloured Junco, 28; Tree Sparrow, 44; Snow Bunting, 72; bird sp. 7. Total species 33, about 2001 individuals. (Seen in count period Golden-crowned Kinglet). Brian Fartlett, H. Deichmann, Melvin Moore, Miss Nettie Moore, Mr. D.K. Parr, Peter Pearce (compiler), Edmund Telfer, Leona Telfer.

FREDERICTON - Dec. 26, 1968; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; sunny; temp. -8° - 10°F; wind NW 20-35 mph; 0-1 ft. crusted snow; 29 observers in 13 parties, 18 at feeders. Total party hours 34 & 3/4 (10½ on foot, 24¼ by car). Total party miles 228 & 3/4 (19½ on foot, 209¼ by car).

Common Goldeneye, 12; Common Merganser, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 7; Ring-necked Pheasant, 10; Rock Dove, 199; Mourning Dove, 1; Yellow-billed Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 15; Downy Woodpecker, 23; Gray Jay, 6; Blue Jay, 155; Common Raven, 69; Common Crow, 82; Black-capped Chickadee, 124; Boreal Chickadee, 23; White-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 15; Brown Creeper, 1; Robin, 9; Starling, 2320; House Sparrow, 3403; Common Grackle, 7; Brown-headed Cowbird, 5; Evening Grosbeak, 78; Purple Finch, 2; Pine Grosbeak, 105; Common Redpoll, 754; Pine Siskin, 23; Red Cross-

bill, 12; Slate-coloured Junco, 31; Tree Sparrow, 42; Finch sp. 152; Bird sp. 11. Total species 31, about 7707 individuals. (Seen in count period Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, White-winged Scoter, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Horned Lark, Bohemian Waxwing, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Cardinal, Rufous-sided Towhee, Snow Bunting). D. Bartlett, W. Bouer, A. Dentley, Prof. & Mrs. N.R. Brown, G. Clayden, J. Clayden, A.A. Dean (compiler), A.G. Dean, L.M. Dean, H. Deichmann, D. Fowler, L. Girouard, D. Kristmanson, J. LeBlanc, D. Martin, M. Moore, N. Moore, A. Morais, R. Morais, J. Noble, D.K. Parr, P.A. Pearce, D. Shaw, Dr. & Mrs. W.A. Squires, A. Varty, I.W. Varty, R. Wilbur plus 18 at feeders.

MONCTON - Dec. 28, 1968; 8.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.; clear; 50°-14°F; wind 5-15 mph; ground bare; 16 observers in 8 parties, 5 at feeders. Total party hours 152 (43 on foot, 109 by car). Total party miles 290 (22 on foot, 268 by car).

Black Duck, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 2; Goshawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 5; Ring-necked Pheasant, 8; Glaucous Gull, 6; Iceland Gull, 32; Great Black-backed Gull, 105; Herring Gull, 850; Ring-billed Gull, 4; Rock Dove, 395; Great Horned Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 6; Blue Jay, 77; Common Raven, 151; Common Crow, 31; Black-capped Chickadee, 151; Boreal Chickadee, 26; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 3; Mockingbird, 1; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Bohemian Waxwing, 6; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 455; House Sparrow, 1119; Common Grackle, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 187; Purple Finch, 2; Pine Grosbeak, 117; Common Redpoll, 840; Pine Siskin, 2; American Goldfinch, 2; Slate-coloured Junco, 77; Tree Sparrow, 5; White-throated Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 1. Total species 42, about 4,386 individuals. (Seen in count period Horned Lark, Fox Sparrow, Snow Bunting). Rev. Ford Alward, F.W. Bone, Mr. Bone Sr., Mrs. Ross Brown, Annette Caissie, Peter Cook, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Cormier, Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Dobson, Mrs. Marguerite Hope, Fred Lloyd, Bill McCarthy, Alan Madden, Dr. & Mrs. M. Majka, Chris & Mark Majka, D. Whitman (compiler), Mrs. D. Whitman, Rich Whitman.

FUNDY NATIONAL PARK - Dec. 23, 1968; 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.; overcast, light snow; temp. 25°-32°F; wind SW, 0-10 mph; snow 1 to 6 inches, 4 observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 15 (11 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles 89½ (7½ on foot, 82 by car).

Red-throated Loon, 2; Black Duck, 44; Common Goldeneye, 5; Surf Scoter, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Iceland Gull, 2; Great Black-backed Gull, 3; Herring Gull, 21; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 4; Blue Jay, 5; Common Raven, 76; Common Crow, 6; Black-capped Chickadee, 51; Boreal Chickadee, 25; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 4; Brown Thrasher, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Northern Shrike, 3; Starling, 25; House Sparrow, 23; Common Grackle, 2; Brown-headed Cowbird, 6; Evening Grosbeak, 14; Pine Grosbeak, 172; Common Redpoll, 115; Slate-coloured Junco, 30; Tree Sparrow, 20; White-throated Sparrow, 2; Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 1; Snow Bunting, 10. Total species 35, about 632 individuals. Peter Candido, D. Christie (compiler), C. Majka, Mrs. M. Majka.

QUACO HEAD - ST. MARTINS - Dec. 31, 1968; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; clear; temp. 40°F; wind NW 10 mph; 2 in. crusted snow; 2 observers in two parties,

7 at feeders. Total party hours 6 (50 on foot, 1 by car). Total party miles $11\frac{1}{2}$ ($6\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, 5 by car).

Red-necked Grebe, 1; Black Duck, 39; Common Goldeneye, 12; Barrow's Goldeneye, 6; Ducks sp. 2; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Purple Sandpiper, 100; Great Black-backed Gull, 3; Herring Gull, 100; Snowy Owl, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Gray Jay, 10; Blue Jay, 18; Common Raven, 21; Common Crow, 28; Black-capped Chickadee, 15; Boreal Chickadee, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Robin, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Northern Shrike, 2; House Sparrow, 33; Red-winged Blackbird, 4; Common Grackle, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 150; Evening Grosbeak, 77; Purple Finch, 8; Pine Grosbeak, 14; Common Redpoll, 42; Pine Siskin, 2; Slate-coloured Junco, 40; Tree Sparrow, 18; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 1; Snow Bunting, 30; Bird sp. 3. Total species 35, about 795 individuals. (Seen during count period Common Merganser, Hawk, sp.). Mr. & Mrs. James N. Bradshaw (compiler), Mrs. Gordon Bradshaw, Stuart Duncan, Mrs. Ray Harper, Mrs. Arthur Headley, Mrs. Joseph McLellan, Mrs. Kaare Smith, Mrs. N.C. Stoneham.

GRAND MANAN - Dec. 31, 1968; 7.40 a.m. to 5.10 p.m.; sunny becoming overcast; temp. 10° - 28° F; wind NW-S, 20-5 mph; $\frac{1}{2}$ in. snow; 1 observer, 1 at feeder. Total party hours $8\frac{1}{2}$ (2 on foot, $6\frac{1}{2}$ by car). Total party miles 70 (4 on foot, 66 by car).

Common Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 10; Great Cormorant, 33; Brant, 6; Black-Duck, 114; Common Goldeneye, 114; Dufflehead, 43; Oldsquaw, 19; Common Eider, 3; Red-breasted Merganser, 88; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Peregrine Falcon, 1; Iceland Gull, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 600; Herring Gull, 4900; Black-legged Kittiwake, 700; Razorbill, 400; Mourning Dove, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Horned Lark, 2; Blue Jay, 2; Common Raven, 61; Common Crow, 51; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Northern Shrike, 2; Starling, 67; House Sparrow, 30; Common Grackle, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 3; Evening Grosbeak, 49; Pine Grosbeak, 7; Common Redpoll, 29; American Goldfinch, 3; Slate-coloured Junco, 10; Tree Sparrow, 26; White-throated Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 11. Total species 42, about 7,431 individuals. (Seen during count period Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Teal sp., Scoter sp., Bald Eagle, Killdeer, Purple Sandpiper, Glaucous Gull, Murre sp., Black Guillemot, Rock Dove, Eastern Meadowlark). P.A. Pearce (compiler).

SAINT JOHN - Dec. 28, 1968; 7.15 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.; overcast, snow beginning at noon; temp. 8° - 13° ; wind NW, 0-8 mph; ground bare, becoming covered with 2 in. fresh snow; 16 observers in 11 parties, 21 feeder reports. Total party hours $46\frac{1}{2}$ (36 on foot, $10\frac{1}{2}$ by car). Total party miles 228 (27 on foot, 201 by car).

Great Cormorant, 7; Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 3; Black Duck, 232; Greater Scaup, 3; Common Goldeneye, 298; Barrow's Goldeneye, 2; Common Merganser, 19; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Glaucous Gull, 2; Iceland Gull, 13; Great Black-backed Gull, 326; Herring Gull, 2605; Ring-billed Gull, 4; Black-headed Gull, 2; Rock Dove, 159; Hairy Woodpecker, 10; Downy Woodpecker, 22; Horned Lark, 16; Gray Jay, 6; Blue Jay, 56; Common Raven, 34; Common Crow, 118; Black-capped Chickadee, 138; Boreal Chickadee, 24; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 11; Water Pipit, 1; Bohemian Waxwing, 1; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 599; Myrtle Warbler, 1; House Sparrow, 426; Common Grackle, 18; Brown-headed Cowbird, 39; Evening Grosbeak, 105;

Purple Finch, 3; Pine Grosbeak, 95; Common Redpoll, 246; Pine Siskin, 2; Am. Goldfinch, 5; Savannah Sparrow, 1; Slate-coloured Junco, 94; Tree Sparrow, 103; White-throated Sparrow, 9; Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 21; Lapland Longspur, 20. Total species 53, about 6015 individuals. (Seen in area during count period Common Loon, Brown Creeper, Yellow-breasted Chat, Red-winged Blackbird). Mrs. G.G. Anglin, Fred Brock, Miss Helen Brown, Mrs. C.H. Cameron, Mrs. S. Cathline, David Christie (compiler), Miss Florence Christie, Mrs. K.W. Clark, Miss Shirley Colquette, Mrs. R.A. Cowan, Mrs. E.J. Cram, Henrik Deichmann, Mrs. M.J. Duffy, Mr. Richard Dunbrack, Mr. & Mrs. Eldon Fletcher, W.C. Godard, Mr. & Mrs. Stan Gorham, Mrs. A.R. Goucher, Miss Frances Hayes, Miss Grace Hayes, Miss Jane Hazen, Mrs. W.A. Henry, Mrs. G.L. Hunter, Cecil Johnston, Mrs. Chas. Laskey, Peter MacKenzie, Roy Proctor, Mrs. Geo. Ramsay, Gordon Redstone, Mrs. H.G. Rogers, Miss Marion Sherwood, Mrs. W.J. Simon, Carle Smith, David Smith, Sandy Smith, Mrs. I. Tremwith, Jim Wilson.

WOODSTOCK - Dec. 31, 1968; 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.; clear; temp. 0°F; wind 0 mph; 18-24 in. snow; 6 observers in two parties, 9 at feeders. Total party hours $6\frac{1}{2}$ ($\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, 6 by car). Total party miles 88 (2 on foot, 86 by car).

Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 3; Rock Dove, 60; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Blue Jay, 100; Common Raven, 25; Common Crow, 24; Black-capped Chickadee, 46; White-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Bohemian Waxwing, 11; Starling, 36; House Sparrow, 372; Common Grackle, 3; Drown-headed Cowbird, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 33; Pine Grosbeak, 44; Common Redpoll, 292; Tree Sparrow, 9. Mrs. A.B. Connell, Mrs. Redmond Fry, Ken Homer, Stephen Homer, Murray Hubbard, Mrs. W.M. Jones, Mrs. Charles MacDonald, Mrs. H.W. Nason, Mrs. Alma Speer, Miss Jane Speer (compiler), Robert John Speer, Robert Speer, Mrs. C.E. Stewart, Mrs. T.M. Tanton, Mrs. Charles Webb.

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NATURE NEWS



BEARDED SEAL

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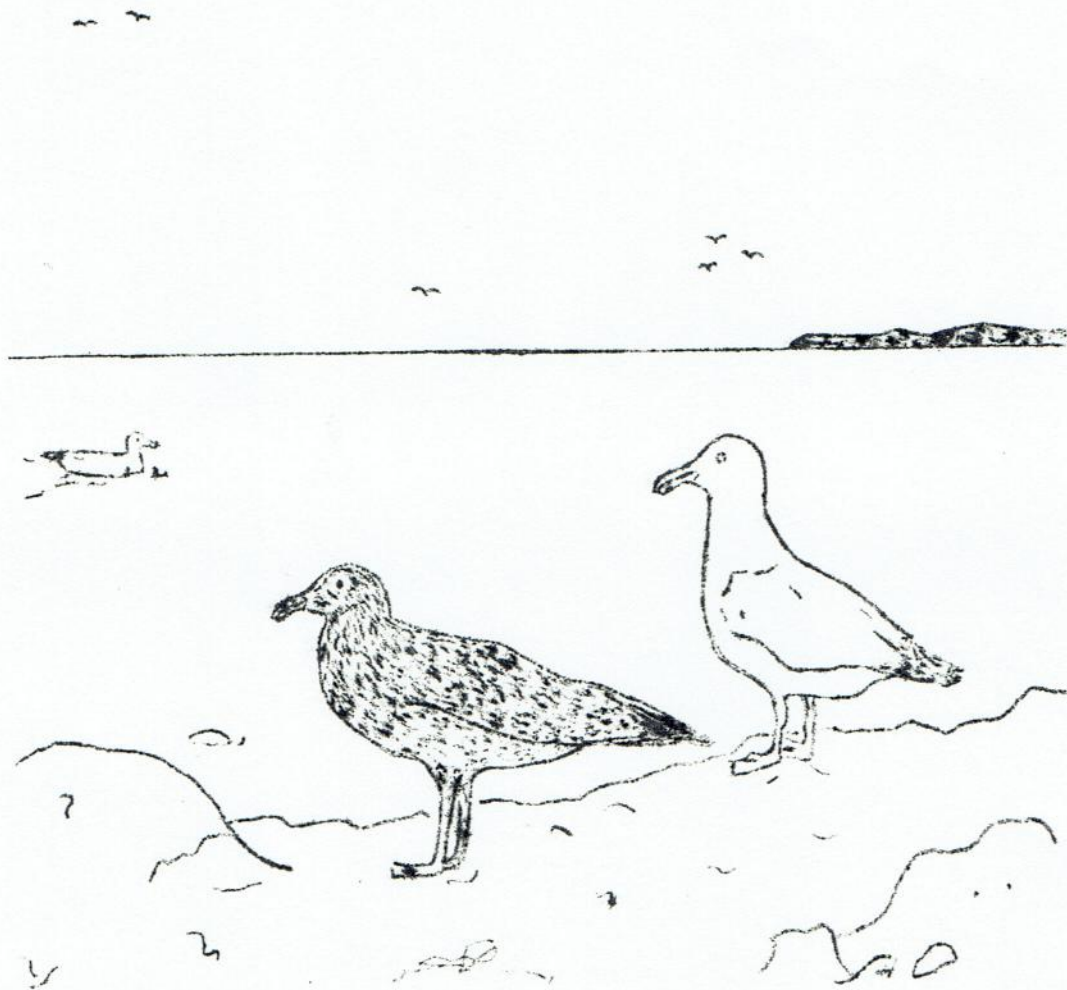
NATURE NEWS



Wild Morning Glory
or
Bindweed

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NATURE NEWS



NATURAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

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