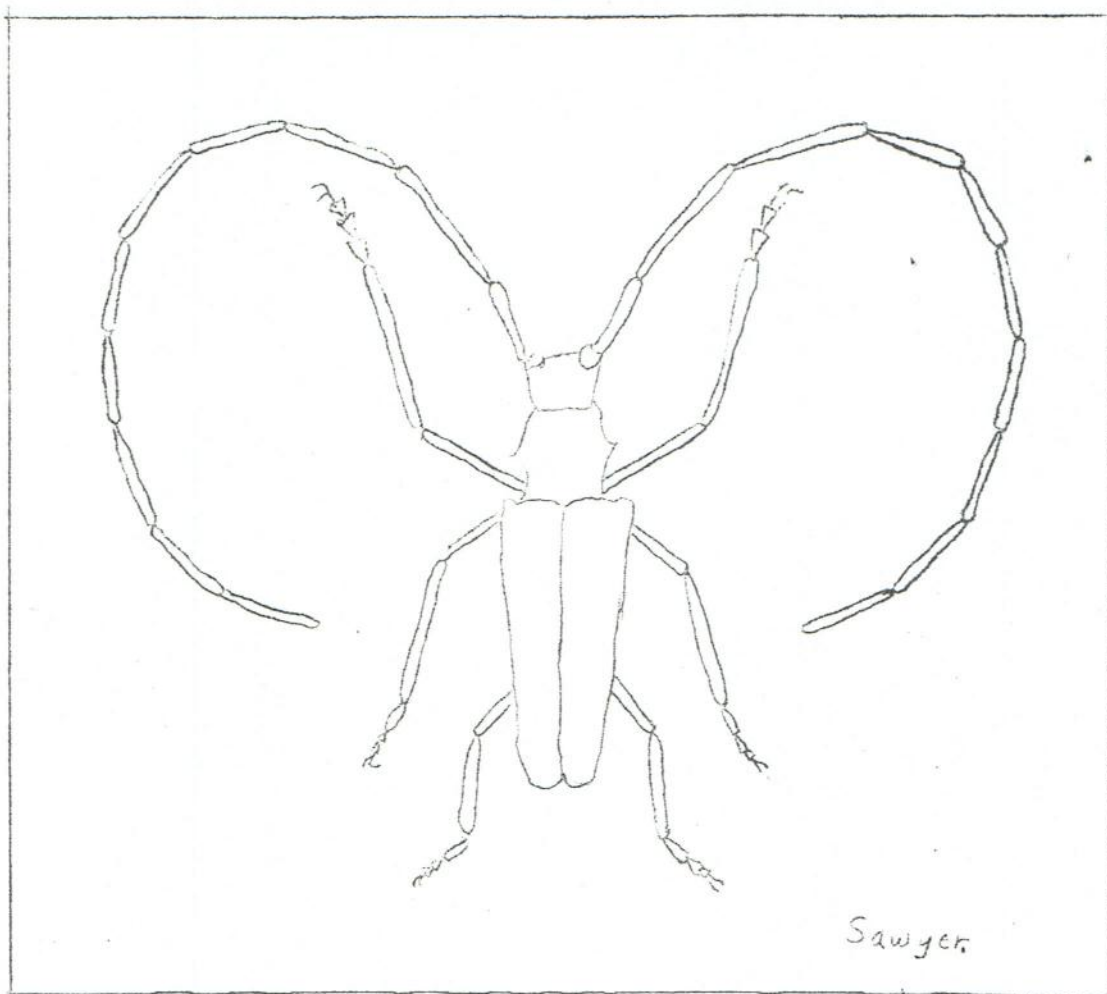


NATURE NEWS



Issued by  
The Natural Science Department  
of  
The New Brunswick Museum  
Saint John, N. B.

## FOREWORD

The winter season sees an ebb in the forms of life that can be reported on, but the birds and animals to be seen at this time are more conspicuous and easily studied.

There is practically nothing to report on the flight of Snowy Owls from the Arctic which has attained great numbers elsewhere in Canada. I have had reports indicating only two in this district this winter.

The next number covering March and early April should include the first reports of spring flowers. Last year we reported Coltsfoot on March 19th. There will have to be a great change in the next few weeks if it is to be as early this year.

The response to our circular on Museum membership was most gratifying. This kind of support as well as numerous letters of appreciation and reports for publication goes far toward convincing us that circulation of these bulletins is justified.

W.A. Squires, Curator.

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Mr. Christopher Packard of the Portland Natural History Society, Portland, Maine, has informed me that an animal killed at Cherryfield, Washington County, Maine (near Bar Harbour) was sent to the Smithsonian Institution in the flesh where it was identified as a Timber Wolf. This is the first definite identification of a Timber Wolf in Maine or the Maritime Provinces in nearly a century and may necessitate a reevaluation of the occasional reports of doglike animals in this province.

Since the introduction of the various breeds of shepherd and police dogs numerous cross-bred individuals have gone wild and been found destroying game. Some of these are superficially so similar to the Timber Wolf that identification is very difficult. Mr. Bruce Wright of Fredericton informs me that he examined one such individual shot in York County in November 1949, and that he was fully satisfied that it was a dog and not a wolf, only after he had made measurements on the skull.

The Timber Wolf used to be common in this province and apparently there was a bounty on it continuously from 1792 to 1903 although according to W.F. Ganong, the last time the bounty was collected, was for three animals killed in 1862. Some of our older readers may be interested to know that the story "The Skater and the Wolves" which so chilled their blood in the school reader of their youth, was based on an incident in York County, New Brunswick, about 1840.

W.F. Ganong stated that a few wolves probably persisted around the caribou herds on the Salmon River barrens in Queens County until 1900. Two were reported in the same region all winter in 1911, and two a few miles away in York County in 1914. These latter are only sight reports and with animals as with birds, we often cannot be sure unless the body is identified by an expert.

Since 1940 there have been an increasing number of reports of "wolves" seen, "wolf tracks", and two or three animals killed, but as reported above, the only skull examined by an expert was identified as dog.



Anyone who hears reports of wolves or wolf-like animals will be performing a useful service if they will report it to Mr. Bruce Wright at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, or to the Museum, and if such an animal is killed, make sure that at least the skull is saved.

Evening Grosbeaks are apparently quite widespread in the province this winter. In addition to the reports given in the last issue we have had reports of five at Canterbury, January 29th, (Miss Mary H. Foster), 20 to 40 at Hampton, January 25th-28th (Miss Vivien Fowler), at least one male at Ingleside, Kings County, February 4, (Mrs. J.E. McKinney), and a flock at Fredericton, January 26th, (Mrs. May Lister).

Other winter birds appear to be quite common in some localities. At Saint John we take the gulls - Herring and Black-backed - for granted. There are always immense flocks of these here throughout the winter. I have not yet noted any of the northern gulls which usually appear here in winter, but some years they do not appear here until March as though they missed us going south and appeared in the Bay of Fundy on the way north.

Mrs. J.E. McKinney reports a number of Brown Creepers among the birds at her feeding station at Ingleside. I have always considered this species as scarce in comparison with Chickadees and Nuthatches. Pine Grosbeaks also appeared at Ingleside February 1st.

I had a most informative letter from Mr. Bruce DuPlessis of Keswick, York County. Referring to our notes on Killdeers he said that he found no less than seven pairs nesting last summer.

He also reported feeding a flock of as many as 1500 Redpolls last winter and putting out apple seeds for Grosbeaks.

You may have heard people speak of the "Balance of Nature" and claim that killing off one kind of creature or introducing another will "destroy the balance of nature." When we really stop to think about it, is there or has there ever been such a thing as a balance in nature? On the contrary there is a continuous "struggle for existence" to use another trite phrase. Just consider our coniferous forests today. The great increase in the numbers of spruce budworms has certainly put everything well out of balance and the only natural check aside from parasites or disease would appear to be for the budworm to run out of food when the trees die. Dr. R.L. Morris who has been in charge of the budworm research laboratory at Green River for six or seven years informs me that the increase in budworms during that period has been followed by a great increase in the numbers and species of small insectivorous birds observed, especially warblers. When the budworms again decrease in numbers so will the birds. There is no balance. Incidentally, I recorded greater numbers of warblers in 1917 and 1919 than in any other years and budworms were numerous at that time.

This coming spring will probably see balsam firs and to a much lesser extent spruce infested with spruce budworms throughout most of southern New Brunswick so that if you live in this area you should see many more warblers and other small birds.

It has even been suggested that there may be a relation between the increased breeding of the Evening Grosbeak in the east and the Spruce Budworm. The diet of young Evening Grosbeaks should be studied here.



NATURE NEWS

Vol. V.

March - April 1954

Number 2.

FOREWORD

After a mild February, March was a rough month with considerable snow and during the last week unusual cold which persisted into April. As a consequence the spring birds have been delayed as well as the early flowers. Last year the first blossom of a wild plant, the Coltsfoot, was brought in on March 19th. This year none was seen until April 22nd.

Our next number should be prepared early in June and I would welcome observations and records of wildflowers and reports on bird migration and nesting records.

W.A. Squires, Curator.

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Although small flocks of Robins were reported at Westfield and Brown's Flat on March 14th (S.W. Gorham), very few were seen until April 3rd or 4th. Large flocks of Grackles also appeared April 3rd which is nearly a week later than average.

Three years ago (1951), I noted the regular occurrence of Canada Geese in the lower Saint John valley in early spring. That year they were reported March 15th. This year a few appeared at Grassy Island near Oak Point at the end of February. However, a large flock was seen at Belmont as late as April (Crosby). (April 22nd.)

The Crows began moving inland in flocks and pairs, early in March which is just about the usual time for them.

A flock of sixteen Double-crested Cormorants which I saw at Saint John on April 14th is not the earliest record for the province but they were fully one week earlier than any I had seen before. Our other Cormorant, the European, is found in the Bay of Fundy in winter.

Bald Eagles are not unexpected here in winter or early spring. All such are presumed to be the northern subspecies which breeds here usually in April or early May. The Southern Bald Eagle comes north after an early breeding season in Florida and is found here in summer. One reported at Woodman's Point about March 14th (Gorham) and probably the same one reported at Westfield about April 4th (Brown), recalls that a report was published in this bulletin of one seen at Land's End opposite Westfield on March 1st, 1951, preying on Golden-eye Ducks.

I was rather disappointed in the lack of reaction to my suggestion that the Timber Wolf may still occur in this province. I have received as yet neither skulls, nor pelts or even reports of doglike animals. However, I believe there was a recent press report that game wardens were trying to kill dogs that had been slaughtering deer in one area but no doubt these were known dogs of the neighbourhood. Apparently no one became alarmed at the thought of Timber Wolves running wild here like they did when it was suggested that there were Panthers in the Province.



The great herd of deer, estimated at 600, reported in Charlotte County near Camp Utopia early in March received so much attention in the press that most of the readers of this Bulletin are familiar with it, but I cannot leave the subject without a few comments. First, that large gatherings of deer are normal in March and April although this one was considerably larger than those usually reported. Second, that in my opinion this herd was brought together by the abundance of food on the blueberry barrens which were uncovered at that time. Third, that these barrens are so extensive that six hundred deer would not be crowded at all although the subsequent heavy fall of snow may have caused some of them to go hungry due to a shortage of browse before the herd broke up. One other observation which I saw in print suggesting that the operations at Camp Gagetown might have caused a great migration of deer is quite unrealistic as present operations there affect a comparatively small area and with lumbering at a minimum and most of the inhabitants gone, the deer must have had most of the camp area to themselves this past winter. However, they might be well advised to move out in the next year or two.

As reported in other years, herds of deer were again seen along the Canadian Pacific Railway between Welsford and Fredericton Junction during March and April. Another large herd was reported near Anagance on April 22nd. In spite of heavy hunting pressure the deer population in many parts of the Province is apparently near the saturation point.

On March 27th a Green Frog was found in a ditch at Brown's Flat that was surrounded by snow (Gorham). It quite probably spent the winter there. Frogs submerge themselves or even burrow into the muck at the bottom of a stream or pond and spend the winter in a state of suspended animation without breathing, but personally I do not know nearly enough about their hibernation habits and would welcome reports from any observers.

I have never referred to garden flowers before, but a report that both crocuses and snowdrops were in bloom at St. Andrews on February 28th (A.H. Leim) should be mentioned. Some of our more northerly readers may decide to stop at St. Andrews instead of going to Florida next winter.

Evening Grosbeaks were reported from many localities early in the season but I have neither seen any, nor received any reports since the first of March. However, writing March 1st, Mrs. Marjorie Gray reported many of them in Woodstock while Mr. Dunfield of Portage Vale, Kings County, on the same date stated that he had "never noticed Evening Grosbeaks so scarce."

Pileated Woodpeckers are found here throughout the year, but are always scarce enough to be considered news. One was seen at Woodstock, March 1st, (Mrs. Marjorie Gray) and two at Brown's Flat, March 14th (Gorham).

Newspaper editors sometimes report Pussy Willows sent to them by their readers as evidence of a mild winter or early spring, but actually it doesn't take much warmth to induce these flower buds to burst. Bunches were collected along the Tobique River on February 21st and 28th (Gillett) and they were found in bloom at Jacksonville, Carleton County, at various times from November to March 30th (Arnand).



NATURE NEWS

Vol.V.

May - June 1954

Number 3

FOREWORD

The cold, cloudy and rainy weather mentioned in our last bulletin for April, persisted through May and into June. This was almost disastrous for market gardeners and farmers who had crops to put in the ground, but while it slowed bird migration to a certain extent, most of the spring flowers bloomed near the average dates.

Reports from subscribers have been scarce, but a really amazing array of flowering plants was assembled for the June 14th meeting of the Adult Nature Group.

W.A. Squires, Curator.

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Our 1954 cover picturing the Moccasin Flower or Pink Lady's Slipper is particularly appropriate for this number. I found this flower in full bloom in great numbers on June 13th in York County. It is apparently very rare in the vicinity of Saint John. As we go around the Province it becomes very apparent that some plants which we consider common in one community may be rarities in the next county. Yellow Lady's Slippers for example are very common in parts of Carleton and Victoria Counties and also, I am told, in Gloucester and Northumberland Counties, but are apparently scarce in the southern counties and seldom found at all in most districts in York, Sunbury, and Queens Counties. All plants have soil preferences and this orchid prefers an alkaline soil and does not occur where the soil is definitely acid.

There were probably greater botanical investigations made in New Brunswick between 1875 and 1910 than at any other period. Rev. James Fowler, J. Vroom, and G.U. Hay were the best known of the local botanists and Fernald from the Gray Herbarium also paid two visits to New Brunswick during this period, so it is surprising to find any large native plants which they overlooked.

The Skunk Cabbage is one such plant which was nearly overlooked. There is only one old record of it, a specimen in the Museum herbarium collected in Charlotte County by Vroom in 1880. I have always been on the lookout for this plant, and for a time mistook False Hellebore for it. This spring, however, C.H. Magee of Fairvale informed me that it was common near the Hammond River on Highway No.1 and brought me several plants to support his statement. Perhaps some other readers know of its occurrence in other localities.

The Skunk Cabbage belongs to the same family as the Jack-in-the-Pulpit and the Calla. If you crush or breath the leaf, the odor makes identification unmistakable.



I would like to hear of localities where Bullfrogs are found. Be sure first that you know what a Bullfrog is. I found out recently to my surprise that some people thought the term just meant Mr. Frog similar to Bull Moose. Probably they thought the female would be a Cow Frog. On the contrary, of course, the Bullfrog is our largest species of frog and irrespective of whether they are lady or gentleman frogs, they are all Bullfrogs.

This species used to be very common in central and southern New Brunswick, but since the introduction of the Pickerel some eighty years ago, it has disappeared from most waters accessible to the latter.

I find it common in several small lakes a few miles from Saint John. It is hard to convince anyone not familiar with its bull-like bellow that this tremendous roar can come from a frog.

Baltimore Orioles usually quite rare here, now seem to be on the increase. I have had quite a number of reports this spring from the Saint John area which almost undoubtedly referred to this species and I have seen and heard it many times in the Fredericton area. "Numbers of them" have also been seen at Hampton (Fowler).

I have had numerous reports of an Indigo Bunting which spent several weeks at King Square, Saint John, first appearing before April 28th. It became very tame and fed with the English Sparrows almost under the viewers' feet. This is of special interest as the normal date of arrival in southern New York state is the second week of May. A Massachusetts ornithologist, Aaron M. Bagg, has given considerable study to the early records of this Bunting and several other species of birds along this northeastern coast. I do not think I am disclosing any scientific secrets if I make brief mention of his theory. He claims that these records are due to a "rapid transit" tropical air flow, originating in the West Indies and sweeping up the Atlantic coast in a few hours, which occurs about April 18th every year. Corroborating evidence is the fact that the first Indigo Buntings seen in 1954 in Florida, in Massachusetts, and in southeastern Nova Scotia all were seen on the same day - April 18th. The only Indigo Bunting records for Newfoundland are for April 18th and 19th some years ago.

A few weeks ago I was speaking to the boys and girls in a rural regional high school and afterwards a boy of about fourteen in ragged overalls came up to tell me about the flowers he had seen some days before. He hadn't known what they were, but after seeing my Kodachromes he thought they were Hepaticas. He was so enthused that he just had to talk about it. He seemed to me to be one of that rare type of pupil which every teacher should be on the lookout for and encourage. They are the source material from which our natural scientists - botanists, geologists, biologists, etc. can be developed if they are given an opportunity and plenty of encouragement.



F O R E W O R D

This is the season for summer outings, fishing and picnics when many urban dwellers make their only close contact with nature. Just how enjoyable this contact is depends on how well they know nature when they meet her.

W.A. Squires, Curator.



How many people have suffered the torments inflicted by Poison Ivy when it could easily have been avoided if they had only been able to recognize the plant? It is really fortunate that this is the only common plant in New Brunswick that can raise a rash and blisters on the skin of susceptible individuals even if they walk past it without touching it.

In this Province, Poison Ivy is usually an upright shrubby plant but throughout its range its form varies greatly. In some places it grows like a vine along fences and on trees clinging with aerial roots - hence the name "ivy."

There have been many descriptions of this plant but the following should identify it. The leaf has a long stalk before dividing into three leaflets. The leaflets are bright green above, duller below, the edge is entire, shape ovate, pointed, often with two or three large teeth. The blossoms are small greenish-white, and the berries are also greenish-white, clustered at the base of the leaf-stalks where they join the main stem.

I have seen my first living Snapping Turtle. This reptile is very scarce here so it was surprising to find two pictured in the press within a week (June 15th-22nd). One was found in the St. John river near Fredericton and the other at Minto. This is our largest reptile. Rarely a Garter Snake or a Black Snake reaches a greater length but no other New Brunswick reptile approaches it in bulk. It measures three to four feet in length and weighs from fifteen to forty pounds. The shell does not cover nearly as much of the body as is the case with the more familiar Wood Tortoise.

In reply to my inquiry about Bullfrogs, Miss Willa MacCoubrey of St. Andrews reports seeing and hearing them in several places in Charlotte County. I now know of places in Saint John, Sunbury, Charlotte and possibly York County where these big frogs occur.

Miss MacCoubrey has been one of the most faithful supporters of Nature News and supplied many records which were incorporated in my book "Birds of New Brunswick" so I was sorry to hear that she had moved from the province.



There is a great profusion of roadside flowers in bloom at this season. How many of them do you know?

Miss May Armand mentions Blue-eyed Grass in bloom at Jacksonville June 14th. It was also in bloom at Fredericton and Saint John on this date. Evening Primrose, Tall Buttercup, and Yellow and Orange Hawkweed were also reported at Jacksonville June 16th and have been conspicuous by the roadside everywhere since that date.

An examination was made of the roadside on the Trans-Canada Highway in Sunbury and Queens Counties on July 18th. Most conspicuous was the Common Elder (Sambucus canadensis) which blooms here from about July 15th into August and later has purplish-black berries. It should be distinguished from the Red-berried Elder (S. pubens) which blooms June 1st-20th. Our native Canada Lily was just coming into bloom, the inconspicuous buds being far more numerous than the red-orange blossoms. The only other lily seen by the roadside is the Orange Day-Lily which occasionally escapes from cultivation.

Milkweed seems to be getting much commoner in the lower Saint John valley. It does not yet compare in abundance to its occurrence in Ontario and New England, but twelve years ago when it was considered as a source of a substitute for Kapoh to use in life-preservers, a survey proved it much scarcer here than it is now. The purplish blossoms and rank foliage of the Common Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca) is very conspicuous but on July 18th I was also able to identify Swamp Milkweed (A. incarnata) which has much smaller leaves and seed pods. On this date the Joe-Pye-Weed which has somewhat similar purplish blossoms was not in bloom and the full extent of the Milkweed was easy to determine.

Evening Primrose, Tall Meadow Rue, Butter-and-Eggs, Mullein, Yarrow, and Purple Vetch were very conspicuous and in many places the garden variety of Bluebells has escaped to the roadside and become well established.

Have you ever really looked at the Yellow Pond Lilies? They bloom throughout July and August. There are three species which the author of "Flora of Nova Scotia" distinguishes as Small Pond Lily, Yellow Pond Lily and Cow Lily.

The larger Sweet-scented Water Lily is usually white but there is a rarer variation with pinkish petals. I saw several of these on a recent trip to New England.

While we are studying summer water plants we must be on the lookout for the Wild Calla commonly called Water Arum and the Arrowheads of which we have at least three species. Probably the most colorful of these water plants however is the Pickerel Weed.



NATURE NEWS

Vol. V.

September-October

Number 5

FOREWORD

This bulletin can only achieve its chief purpose of making available information about the seasonal occurrence of birds, animals, flowers, etc. throughout New Brunswick if readers in various parts of the province will supply information from time to time.

I have not been able to include as much of the reports sent in by some readers as I would like to because the information is of a general nature or else particular dates and places have not been given.

It is a source of satisfaction to find "Nature News" being recognized by research workers and quoted as an authority in various ornithological periodicals.

W.A. Squires, Curator.



Since we are once more in the midst of the hunting season some historical notes on game management should be in order.

The first legislature of New Brunswick in 1786 passed an Act for the preservation of the moose but it lapsed four years later, no attempt having been made to implement it.

In 1877 hunting of moose, deer and caribou was prohibited from January 1st. to August 1st., and from 1888 to 1890 there was a closed season on both moose and deer. In 1890 a bag limit of one Moose, two Caribou and six deer was set and the hunting season was limited to September 1st. to January 15th. All these regulations probably made quite a difference to the hide hunters who took the skins and left the carcasses to rot. However, hunting licenses were not required of residents until 1897 and even then with few game wardens and no provincial police, control must have depended largely on an honour system which usually seems to operate very poorly where hunters are concerned.

I have no information about the protection or lack of protection of game birds in New Brunswick prior to the Migratory Birds Convention Act of 1917 but I presume there was very little protection as many species of shore-birds and ducks were nearly extirpated by indiscriminate shooting at all seasons of the year. It is hard now to realize that there was great opposition when it was proposed to stop spring shooting.

I was very much surprised and delighted to have a specimen of a Clapper Rail sent in to me from Waterside Marsh, Albert County, where it had been found dead October 4th by E.G. Saunders. This is the third Clapper Rail found in New Brunswick, all in the last three years. This one was very fat and weighed 12 1/2 ounces. It should also be noted that Rails and Coots are protected in the Maritimes but are game in Quebec and Ontario.



I also saw a Mourning Dove that was found dead at Saint John about Oct. 12th. This bird seems to be showing up much oftener in this province than formerly. It is also a game bird in much of the United States.

A clipping sent me from New York by W.W. Turnbull was of interest for several reasons. It reported that 123 birds of twenty-eight species and four bats were killed against the Empire State Building in the early morning of October 6th. (Warblers, sparrows, vireos, nuthatches, kinglets, catbirds and whippoorwills were included). One was a red-breasted nuthatch satisfying me that this bird which may be seen here winter and summer actually joins the fall migration at times. The bats' radar evidently failed them. It is surprising, perhaps, to find bats migrating at great heights the same as birds do and being killed when atmospheric conditions forced them down to 1000 ft. or so. Other high buildings, power lines, etc. all took their toll the same night. It may seem hard to believe but it seems probable that less than 50 of the birds migrating south in the fall survive to breed the following year.

Bird-life in the fall woods in York and Sunbury Counties seemed to be unusually abundant on October 9th. Most noticeable were large numbers of Canada Jays. One wonders if Jays are increasing in numbers as Bluejays were conspicuous along most provincial roads all summer.

A prize specimen was brought in from the Saint John High School Biology Class. It was a male Yellow-billed Cuckoo which had been found injured and subsequently died on October 14th. Mr. S.D. Whitman reports another near Moncton, October 19th. I have had two or three reports in other years of this species in this province from persons who should know it but this is the very first time that I have identified one. The Black-billed Cuckoo is much commoner here.

Mrs. McKinney of Ingleside describes a Green Frog which has become quite tame. It likes to have its back scratched and will climb out of the water and sit in her hand. I also heard of a tame Bullfrog at Frog-Hollow, a fishing camp on a little lake east of Saint John belonging to Cyril Driscoll.

Mrs. McKinney also calls our attention to the great abundance of Indian Pipes this past summer. These plants being saprophytes apparently have prospered in the rainy season. In fact many types of vegetation have grown much better than usual. The most striking exception are the many trees, especially Red Maples, which being close to the river have stood in water all summer and began turning red in August. Another season of such high water would probably kill them.

A very interesting note from Miss Arnand, Jacksonville in New Brunswick's potato belt, "Potato beetle rare". The note refers to early summer. How successful science can be.

Miss Arnand also called our attention to Island Park, Woodstock, which is of particular interest to botanists because of its wealth of Poison Ivy and American Basswood. I had ample opportunity to study the vegetation of Island Park during a prolonged stay there in 1942. Red and White Baneberries and Butternut are both abundant there.



FOREWORD

This is almost entirely your number as reports from you readers since our last number went out have been sufficient to fill our allotted space. Several persons have been heard from for the first time. In fact we had letters or calls from several not on the mailing list for Nature News and are glad to send them this number.

If you are keeping back copies of Nature News and hope to have it bound some day we have a limited quantity of back numbers which we shall be glad to send out as long as the supply lasts.

Those in the local area are reminded of the next meeting of the Nature Study Group at the Museum December 13th at 8.30 P.M.

W.A. Squires, Curator.

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Our report of Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Saint John and Moncton published in the last number has brought reports of these birds in other parts of the Province.

- St. Martins - Mrs. Bradshaw reported considerable numbers of these birds during September and October.
- Fredericton - Melvin Moore saw one in late May; one October 8th, one October 18th. Mrs. Thexton saw one at Hanwell Road near Fredericton for several days last reported November 6th.
- Petitcodiac - Specimen sent to Mr. Moore October 18th.
- Marysville - Moore saw one in late May.
- Oromocto - Moore saw two in last week of June.
- St. George - Mrs. Helen Furneaux saw one in last week of October.
- St. Andrews - Mrs. Fred Nutter saw three October 10th remaining until the 21st.
- Richibucto - Mr. Burpee Jardine saw one November 2nd. It was either very tame or exhausted. (Perhaps starving)

The Bulletin of the Maine Audubon Society reports a host of records of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo for that state for September and October and gives the credit to the hurricanes of August 31st and September 18th which evidently caught this species in migration and blew them northward scattering them across southern New England, Maine and the Maritimes.

I am decidedly pleased that three of the New Brunswick records were supported by specimens. I cannot help having some doubt of anyone's sight identification of a Cuckoo unless they specify exactly why they call it a Yellow-billed or a Black-billed. If they call it a Yellow-billed and mention that only the lower mandible was yellow there cannot be any doubt and if they mention the rufous coloration on the wings it's better yet. Normally the Black-billed Cuckoo is far commoner in this Province. That everyone may understand I will explain why I often feel especially doubtful of identifications of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. When the bird collections at this Museum were arranged years ago under the direction of several of the best known bird students of the day all of the Cuckoos were labelled "Yellow-billed Cuckoo" and later it was found that they were all Black-billed Cuckoos. But there can be little doubt about the Cuckoos seen in September, October and November this year as the Black-billed had apparently migrated successfully earlier in the season.



When migration is interrupted it often happens that birds lose the migration urge and remain north until they starve or freeze. The November reports suggest this to be the case with the Yellow-billed Cuckoos. If anyone has later records we would like to hear from you.

Many other unusual records should probably be credited to the fall hurricanes. Two birds described to me as seen near Saint John in the middle of October were quite probably Mockingbirds, but of course an identification from a casual description must not be accepted as a record of the species.

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reported at Sand Brook near Saint John on October 31st is a very good sight record. It was seen by three persons, including Mr. and Mrs. W.S. Nelson, and the way it was reported could be adopted as a model. It follows in part:-

Size: nearly as large as a Blue Jay but with a very long tail which formed a very large V when flying and had the appearance of consisting of two large feathers.

Color: Head, neck, and back light gray: Breast and under-parts a pale gray or white. Flanks light pinkish-brown. Wings darker showing some white feathers."

Miss Janet Curry of Andover reports the Killdeer common there in summer now and also across the nearby international border in Maine where she heard and saw them at Caribou and Presque Isle. They have nested for three summers in a gravel pit near the Government Garage at Andover.

Mrs. Nutter reported one Black-throated Blue Warbler at St. Andrews on November 2nd and a Myrtle Warbler November 12th.

Mr. Irving H. Dunfield of Portage Vale, Kings County, reports a number of Gray Squirrels there and also near Sussex. This species seems to be increasing steadily at the limit of its range in this Province. I wouldn't be surprised to receive a report from the North Shore at any time.

Mr. Moore reported a large flock of Pine Grosbeaks at Fredericton October 31st and a flock of 15 - 20 were near the Museum in Saint John during the last two weeks of November. They have also been seen recently near Sussex.

Mr. Moore also reported two flocks of Evening Grosbeaks at Fredericton in October and a flock was reported to me at Saint John November 7th and 8th.

Our first report of Snowbirds was received from Richibucto when Mr. Jardine saw a flock on November 2nd.

On November 27th I had an experience which some of you undoubtedly have had several times but it was a first for me. Sitting down by a small pine in the woods, my son and I saw a Canada Jay approach. He threw out a bit of food and it approached fearlessly and picked it up. Soon it was joined by a second and for ten minutes or so they did everything but eat out of our hands to get bits of food, some of which they ate and some they stored in nearby trees. The Canada or Gray Jay is known by many names. Can you add to the following list - Whiskey Jack, Camp Robber, Meat Bird, Gorbie, Moose Bird.