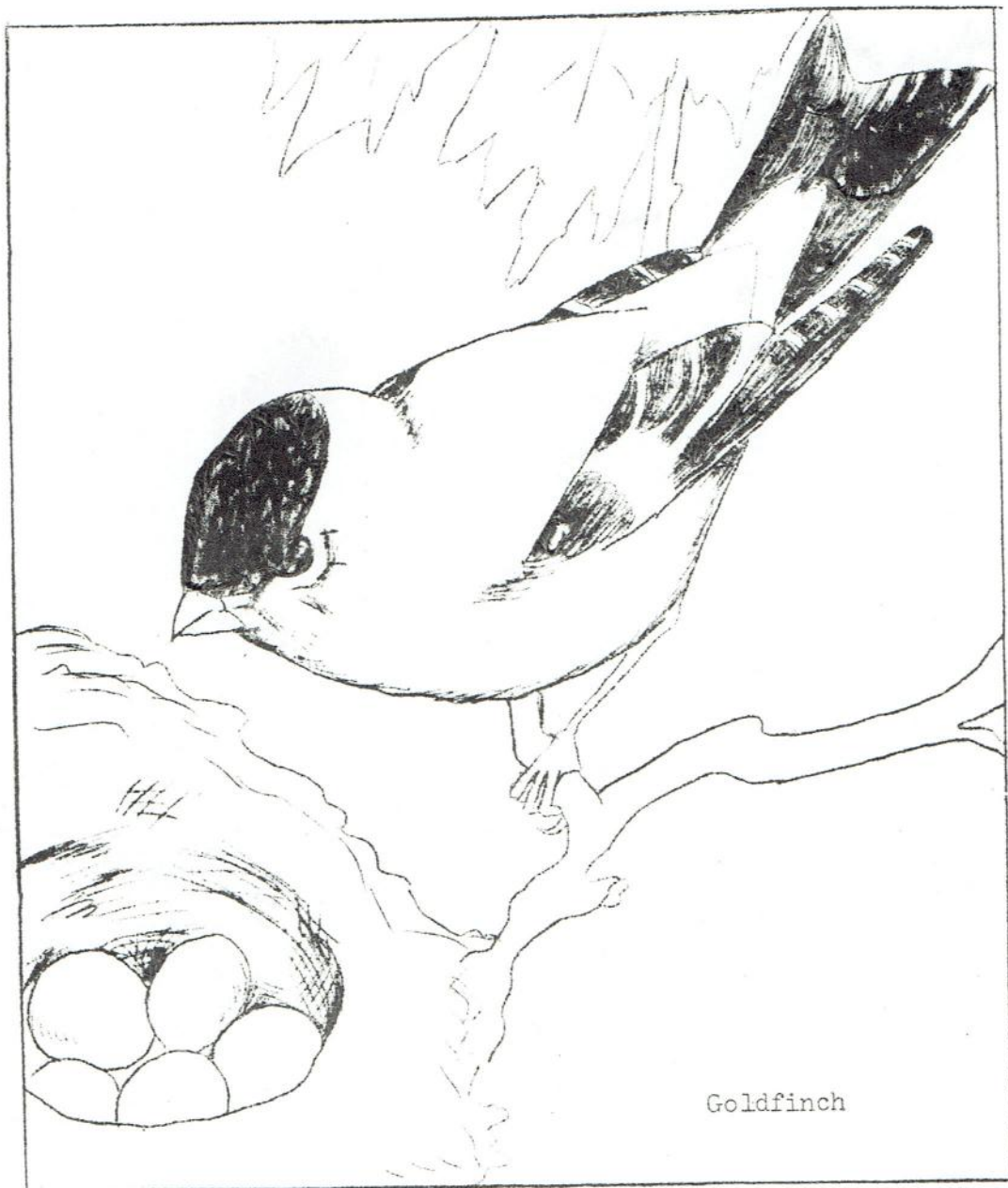


NATURE NEWS



Goldfinch

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NATURE NEWS

Vol. IX

January - February 1958

Number 1

FOREWORD

As was done last year this number will be restricted to records of the birds reported in the province from the first of December to the middle of February.

The circular requesting Christmas Bird Count reports brought in several more returns than last year. I hope that it made many more people look for birds at this season.

I shall give a little information about local weather at this season for the benefit of those readers who live outside of this Province and for those who may consult this record in future years. This has been one of the mildest winters on record with temperatures above 50°F in December and January and no below zero in the south of the Province. No snow stayed on the ground over much of the Province until well into January and rivers were open. Last year during the same period some of the lowest temperatures ever recorded occurred.

Christmas Counts in which more than one observer participated are recorded separately. Others are included in the general list.

W. A. Squires, Curator.

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saint John, N.B. Dec. 30, 1957; 7:30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.; clear in morning becoming hazy; temp. 30°-40°; ground bare; wind N.W. 10-20 mph; 8 observers in 6 parties; Total mileage 65½ (21½ on foot, 44 by car).

Common Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 1; Black Duck, 16; Common Goldeneye, 35; Goshawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Glaucous Gull, 2; Iceland Gull, 3; Great Black-backed Gull, 1950+; Herring Gull, 9661+; Domestic Pigeon, 103; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Blue Jay, 5; Common Raven, 21; Common Crow, 217; Black-capped Chickadee, 59; Boreal (Brown-capped) Chickadee, 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 1; Robin, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Starling, 425+; Nashville Warbler, 1; House (English) Sparrow, 395+; Eastern Meadowlark, 1; Common Grackle, 20; Evening Grosbeak, 2; Pine Grosbeak, 13; Common Redpoll, 20; Pine Siskin, 2; Slate-coloured Junco, 35; Tree Sparrow, 31; White-throated Sparrow, 1. Total species 34; about 13052 individuals. David Christie, Mrs. C.S. Christie, Miss Jane Hazen, Donald MacDougall, Stuart MacFarlane, Mrs. Ashley J. Smith, W. Austin Squires, Murray Watters.

Moncton - Riverview - Berrys Mills. Dec. 29, 30, 1957 & Jan. 1, 1958. temp. 32°-40°; ground bare; 5 observers in 3 parties. Total hours 16; total mileage 82 (12 on foot, 70 by car).

Black Duck, 115; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 120+; Herring Gull, 719+; Rock Dove (Street Pigeon), 27; Blue Jay, 14; Common Raven, 6; Common Crow, 111; Black-capped Chickadee, 22; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Starling, 276; House (English) Sparrow, 295; Pine Grosbeak, 18; Common Redpoll, 102; White-winged Crossbill, 4; Slate-coloured Junco, 45; Tree Sparrow, 8. Total species 18, total individuals about 1885. Fred Bone, Miss Della Layton, Wayne Sears, R.J. Whitman and S.D. Whitman.

Port Elgin Dec. 28, 1957. 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.; overcast, light snow and drizzle in morning; temp. 30°-35°; ground unfrozen, 1 inch wet snow; wind N.W. 5-15 mph. Four observers in two parties. Total party hours 28 (14 on foot, 14 by car); Total mileage 85 (20 on foot, 65 by car).

Common Goldeneye, 32; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Herring Gull, 28; Blue Jay, 26; Common Raven, 2; Common Crow, 11; Black-capped Chickadee, 6; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 302; House Sparrow, 140; Common Redpoll, 4; Savannah Sparrow, 1; Tree Sparrow, 5; Snow Bunting, 90. Total species 15, total individuals about 660. C.O. Bartlett, compiler, Albert Fleming, Edward Lowe, Donald McPhail.

WINTER BIRD LIST (December 1st, 1957 - February 20, 1958)

Among the species reported here the most unusual records are for the Mockingbird, Catbird, Myrtle Warbler, Nashville Warbler and Cardinal. At least the Catbird and the two Warblers can be explained as individuals that failed to migrate at the proper time and survived to mid-winter due to the mild weather. We would like to think that the Mockingbird and Cardinal presage a population increase in the northeast for these famous species.

Common Loon

Dec. 30	Rothesay	1	D. Christie
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Horned Grebe

Dec. 2-31	Kennebecasis Bay	3	D. Christie
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Little Blue Heron

Dec. 5	Salmon River, St.J. County	1	J.N. Bradshaw
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Black Duck

Dec.	St. Andrews	Many	A.H. Leim
Dec. 21	Saint John	2	D. Christie
Dec. 30	Saint John	16	W.A. Squires
Dec. 30	Bloomfield	4	Mrs. L.S. Hoyt
Jan. 1	Moncton	115	W. Sears & F. Bone
Feb. 16	Saint John	8	W.A. Squires

Common Goldeneye

Dec.	St. Andrews	Many	A.H. Leim
Dec.	Kennebecasis Bay	sev.	D. Christie
Dec. 28	Port Elgin	32	Christmas Count
Dec. 30	Saint John	35	W.A. Squires
Feb. 20	Saint John	102	W.A. Squires

<u>Red-breasted Merganser</u>			
Dec. 28	Port Elgin	1	Christmas Count
<u>Goshawk</u>			
Dec. 30	Rothesay	1	D. MacDougall
<u>Bald Eagle</u>			
Dec. 31	St. Stephen	1	N.E. MacDonald
<u>Ruffed Grouse</u>			
Dec. 14	Perry Pt.	1	D. Christie
Dec. 29	Riverview	1	S.D. Whitman
Dec. 30	Rothesay	1	D. MacDougall
Dec. 30	Bloomfield	2	Mrs. L.S. Hoyt
<u>Ring-necked Pheasant</u>			
Dec.	Hartland	3	Miss M. Arnand
Dec. 28	Port Elgin	1	Christmas Count
Dec. 30	Moncton	1	Miss D. Layton
Jan.	Salisbury	sev.	Miss Alice Foster
<u>Gray (Hungarian) Partridge</u>			
Feb. 2-10	East Saint John	8	Miss M. MacCoubrey
<u>Glaucous Gull</u>			
Dec. 30	Saint John	2	W.A. Squires
<u>Iceland Gull</u>			
Dec. 30	Saint John	3	W.A. Squires
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>			
Dec. 30	Saint John	1750 est.	W.A. Squires
Dec. 30	Lancaster	200 est.	M. Watters
Jan. 1	Moncton	120	W. Sears & F. Bone
Dec.-Feb.	Kennebecasis Bay	sev.	D. Christie
<u>Herring Gull</u>			
Dec.-Feb.	Saint John-Rothesay	Many	D. Christie
Dec.	St. Andrews	Many	A.H. Leim
Dec. 28	Port Elgin	28	Christmas Count
Dec. 29	Riverview	3	S.D. Whitman
Dec. 30	Saint John	7650 est.	W.A. Squires
Dec. 30	Lancaster	2000 est.	M. Watters
Dec. 30	Moncton	216	Miss D. Layton
Jan. 1	Moncton	500 est.	W. Sears & F. Bone
<u>Dovekie</u>			
Dec. 12	St. Andrews	1	W.A. Squires
Jan. 9	Westfield	1	W.A. Squires
Jan.	Newcastle	1 (dead)	(in press)
<u>Rock Dove (Street Pigeon)</u>			
Dec.-Feb.	Saint John, Rothesay, Moncton, Boundary Creek, Fredericton, Salisbury, Hampton Station.		

<u>Saw-whet Owl</u>			
Feb. 6	Lancaster	1 (dead)	G.B. MacBeath
Feb. 11	Musquash	1 (dead)	F. MacLeod
<u>Pileated Woodpecker</u>			
Dec. 30	Bloomfield	1	Mrs. L.S. Hoyt
<u>Hairy Woodpecker</u>			
Dec. 30	Lancaster	1	M. Watters
Dec. 30	Bloomfield	1	Mrs. L.S. Hoyt
Dec. 30	Rothsay	1	D. Christie
Jan. (daily)	Hampton Station	sev.	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow
<u>Downy Woodpecker</u>			
Dec.-Jan.	Hampton Station	2	Miss Vivien M. Fowler
Dec. 30	Hampton Station	1	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow
Dec. 30	Rothsay	1	D. Christie
<u>Gray (Canada) Jay</u>			
Dec.	Jacksonville	3	Miss M. Arnand
Dec.	St. Andrews	2	A.H. Leim
Dec.-Jan.	Lancaster	sev.	Mrs. W.L. Smith
<u>Blue Jay</u>			
Dec.	Hampton Station	7	Mrs. G. Humphrey
Dec. 21	East Saint John	1	Miss M. MacCoubrey
Dec. 28	Port Elgin	26	Christmas Count
Dec. 29	Riverview	6	S.D. Whitman
Dec. 30	Bloomfield	17	Mrs. L.S. Hoyt
Dec. 31	St. Stephen	5	N.E. MacDonald
Jan.	Fredericton	sev.	R.B. Malloy
Jan.-Feb.	St. Martins	sev.	Ray Harper
Feb. 16	Fredericton	4	W.A. Squires
<u>Common Raven</u>			
Dec.-Feb.	Saint John, Lancaster, East Saint John, Rothsay, Moncton, Riverview, Port Elgin, Plaster Rock, Chipman, Geary.		
<u>Common Crow</u>			
Dec.-Feb.	Saint John, Lancaster, Rothsay, Salisbury, Moncton, Port Elgin, Hampton Station, St. Andrews, Blissville, Jacksonville.		
<u>Black-capped Chickadee</u>			
Dec.-Feb.	Lancaster, Rothsay, Hampton Station, Moncton, Riverview, Port Elgin, Bloomfield, Salisbury, St. Andrews, Jacksonville, Hartland.		
<u>Boreal (Brown-capped) Chickadee</u>			
Dec. 30	Rothsay	6	D. MacDougall
Dec. 30	Bloomfield	11	Mrs. L.S. Hoyt
Jan. 5	Renforth	2	D. Christie
<u>White-breasted Nuthatch</u>			
Dec.-Jan.	Hampton Station	3	Mrs. G. Humphrey Miss Vivien Fowler

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Dec. 30	Bloomfield	1	Mrs. L.S. Hoyt
Dec. 30	Lancaster	3	M. Watters
Jan. 1	Moncton	1	W. Sears & F. Bone

Brown Creeper

Dec. 30	Coldbrook	1	D. Christie
Dec.-Jan.	Hampton Station	1	Miss V. Fowler
Feb. 7	Rothsay	1	D. Christie

Winter Wren

Dec. 8	St. Martins	1	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
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Mockingbird

Dec. 8	Riverview	1	S.D. Whitman
Dec. 15	"	1	S.D. Whitman
Dec. 20	"	1	Fred Bone
Dec. 29	"	1	Roger MacGregor

Catbird

Dec-Feb.	Lancaster	1	Mrs. W.L. Smith
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Robin

Dec.	St. Andrews	2	A.H. Leim
Dec.5-Feb.14	Kingshurst	1	D. Christie
Dec. 30	Lancaster	1	Miss J. Hazen & Mrs. A. Smith
Dec. & Jan.	Belmont	1	Mrs. D.B. Crosby & S. MacFarlane
Jan. 11	Fredericton	sev.	R.B. Malloy
Feb. 4 & 5	St. Martins	1	Ray Harper
Feb. 12	Saint John	3	A.E. Bailey

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Dec. 30	Rothsay	3	D. MacDougall
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Cedar Waxwing

Jan.	Fredericton	1	Miss M. McNair
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Northern Shrike

Dec. 28	Port Elgin	1	Christmas Count
Jan. 12	Fredericton	1	M. Moore
Feb. 19	Lancaster	1	M. Watters

Starling

Dec.-Feb.	Saint John, Rothsay, Salisbury, Moncton, Riverview, Port Elgin, St. Andrews, St. Stephen, Jacksonville.		
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Nashville Warbler

Dec. 1-Feb. 10	Kingshurst (at feeder)	1	D. Christie
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Myrtle Warbler

Jan. 7	Rothsay	1 (died)	Mrs. C.H. Brock
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House (English) Sparrow

Dec.-Feb. Saint John, Moncton, Fredericton, St. Stephen, Bloomfield, Salisbury, Port Elgin, Hampton Station, Jacksonville, Hartland.

Meadowlark

Dec. 1-9	St. Martins	8	Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw
Dec. 30	Lancaster	1	M. Watters
Feb. 11	Lancaster	2	M. Watters

Rusty Blackbird

Dec. 30	Hampton Station	5	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow
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Common Grackle

Dec. 21	Riverview	1	S.D. Whitman
Dec. 25	Moncton	1	S.D. Whitman
Dec. 27-31	Moncton	1	Fred Bone
Dec. 30	Lancaster	20	M. Watters
Jan. 20	Fredericton	1	M. Moore

Brown-headed Cowbird

Dec.	St. Stephen	sev.	N.E. MacDonald
Dec. 24	Hampton Station	1 (male)	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow
Feb. 4	St. Martins	6	Ray Harper
Feb. 7	Lancaster	sev.	M. Watters

Cardinal

Jan. 23	Fredericton	1 (female)	M. Moore
Feb. 2	Fredericton	1 (female)	Miss M. McNair

Evening Grosbeak

Dec. 18	Kingshurst	10	D. Christie
Dec. 20	Fredericton	sev.	Mrs. B.B. Barnes
Dec. 30	Hampton Station	1	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow
Dec. 31	St. Stephen	2	N.E. MacDonald
Jan.	Hampton Station	9	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow
Feb. 10	Kingshurst	7	D. Christie
Feb. (daily)	Salisbury	sev.	Miss Alice Foster

Pine Grosbeak

Dec. 14	Riverview	sev.	S.D. Whitman
Dec. 22	Hampton Station	5	Mrs. A.T. Leatherbarrow
Dec. 30	Belmont	6	S. MacFarlane
Dec. 30	Bloomfield	5	Mrs. L.S. Hoyt
Dec. 30	Moncton	15	Miss D. Layton
Dec.	St. Andrews	sev.	A.H. Leim
Feb. 5	Rothsay	20	D. Christie

Common Redpoll

Dec. 19	Kingshurst	6	D. Christie
Dec. 28	Port Elgin	4	Christmas Count
Dec. 29	Riverview	13	S.D. Whitman
Dec. 30	Lancaster	20	M. Watters
Jan. 1	Moncton	89	W. Sears & F. Bone

Common Redpoll (cont'd)

Jan. 5	Kingshurst	40	D. Christie
Jan. 12	Moncton	30	Miss D. Layton
Jan. 26	Nashwaaksis	25	W.A. Squires

Pine Siskin

Dec. 30	Rothesay	2	D. MacDougall
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White-winged Crossbill

Dec. 29	Riverview	4	S.D. Whitman
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Savannah Sparrow

Dec. 28	Port Elgin	1	Christmas Count
Dec. 30	Lancaster	4	M. Watters

Slate-coloured Junco

Dec. 9	Kingshurst	1	D. Christie
Dec. 30	Moncton	45	Miss D. Layton
Dec.-Feb.	Lancaster	50 plus	Mrs. Ashley Smith
Jan.-Feb.	St. Martins	sev.	Ray Harper

Tree Sparrow

Dec. 17	Kingshurst	3	D. Christie
Dec. 28	Port Elgin	5	Christmas Count
Dec. 29	Riverview	3	S.D. Whitman
Dec. 30	Moncton	5	Miss D. Layton
Dec.-Feb.	Lancaster	sev.	M. Watters

White-throated Sparrow

Dec.-Feb.	Kingshurst	1	D. Christie
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Fox Sparrow

Dec. 1	Kingshurst	1	D. Christie
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Snow Bunting

Dec. 28	Port Elgin	100	Christmas Count
Jan. 14	East Saint John	sev.	Miss M. MacCoubrey

Please note new names which have been approved by the  
American Ornithologists Union.

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NATURE NEWS

Vol. IX

March - April 1958

Number 11

F O R E W O R D

The ice has gone out of the rivers and streams, the grass is turning green, the first wildflowers have been reported, the salamanders have left their winter abode and the frogs and toads have started to sing or, in fewer words, it is Spring.

W.A. Squires, Curator.

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The first report of a wildflower was as usual for Coltsfoot which a little girl in Lancaster, Joanell McInnis, found in bloom on March 27th. This is early but more than a week late of the record.

The next flower to be reported was Hepatica about April 13th. Daphne grows in a few places in southern New Brunswick, sometimes cultivated and sometimes as an escape. Mrs. M.E. McKinney found both in bloom at Ingleside, the Hepatica April 13th and the Daphne April 20th.

A Spotted Salamander found near Saint John on April 21st was a rare "lizard" to the party reporting it. It is, of course, one of our commonest salamanders.

A big adult seal and a small white young one seen on floating ice in the Kennebecasis River on April 5th when Greenland seals were being hunted in the Gulf of St. Lawrence off the northeast shore of New Brunswick sounded like a couple of Greenland seals which had come around Nova Scotia. They may, however, have been only one of our local Harbour Seals and its new-born young.

The birds are returning from the south gradually. The most unusual thing about this migration has been the large numbers reported for some species. The Common Crow was perhaps the first to return in numbers. Since a few Crows remained all winter it is hard to assign a date to the influx but by the third week of March there were Crows everywhere in southern New Brunswick.

Common Grackles always appear in large flocks but this year the flocks are even larger and many have appeared in the Saint John urban area where they are seldom seen. They were reported at St. Martins March 21st. Other early reports are for March 30th when they appeared at Belmont and Fredericton.

Fox Sparrows were reported at St. Martins by Mrs. J.N. Bradshaw March 21st and at Belmont March 31st by Mrs. D.B. Crosby and large numbers of them at Ingleside by Mrs. McKinney April 3rd. Many other reports indicated that the Fox Sparrows made quite a stay in the Saint John area this year.

The behaviour of the Robins was somewhat unusual. Many more than usual stayed all winter near the Bay of Fundy as was reported in our last number. The first flocks in migration appeared in the Saint John area March 29th and 30th but they may have foreseen several impending snowstorms as it was more than a week later when they appeared at Fredericton.

Reports of Canada Geese have been very scanty, only March 16th at St. Martins and March 30th at Belmont in fact. They usually return to the lower St. John valley in late February or early March and probably did so again this year.

A Phoebe was noted at Ingleside April 6th (Mrs. McKinney).

The Double-crested Cormorants returned by April 18th and I saw four in Maugerville on the 20th.

There have been several unusual reports of birds this year which must be recorded. Perhaps the most unusual was the appearance of a female Baltimore Oriole in Mr. Donald McPhail's yard at Sackville on January 2nd. It appeared almost daily until February 14th when having survived several severe storms it appeared in bad shape and was caught and taken in-doors to wait for spring.

A Mockingbird appeared in Fredericton on March 2nd and was spotted by Mr. Melvin Moore and Mr. Kermod Parr. There is a steadily growing list of Mockingbird reports for the Province.

The female Cardinal reported at Fredericton in our last number was photographed by Miss Marguerite McNair on February 14th.

Mr. C.O. Bartlett saw a Short-eared Owl on the Tantramar Marshes near Sackville on February 19th. This is the first winter record for the species in New Brunswick but there are a few for Maine.

Dr. MacPherson saw a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at East Saint John on April 8th, more than five weeks earlier than normal. This may have been an air stream borne bird as it is about due in Florida from South America at this date.

Mr. Ray Harper reported a flock of twenty Redwinged Blackbirds as seen daily for three weeks in March at St. Martins and Mrs. Bradshaw also reported them there March 21st earlier than the earliest previous date recorded.

I have mentioned several times that the American Ornithologists' Union has adopted new official common names for many species of birds. In the past different subspecies of the same bird have had very different common names in different parts of the continent. Again the same species of bird in Europe and America have in many cases had very different names. The common names now adopted apply to species only. The use of special common names for subspecies has been discontinued which is especially desirable as in many cases it takes an expert with the bird in his hand to decide the subspecies.

The following are the name changes of most concern to New Brunswick birders and these should be used in anything written about our birds in the future. I would advise that you annotate your bird book accordingly.

There have been numerous other changes such as removing or introducing hyphens, slight changes in spelling, etc.

<u>Old Name</u>	<u>New Name</u>
Holboell's Grebe	Red-necked Grebe
European Cormorant	Great Cormorant
American Egret	Common Egret
Baldpate	American Widgeon
American Goldeneye	Common Goldeneye
Northern Eider	Common Eider
American Eider	Common Eider
American Scoter	Common Scoter
American Merganser	Common Merganser
Duck Hawk	Peregrine Falcon
European or Hungarian Partridge	Gray Partridge
Wilson's Snipe	Common Snipe
Hudsonian Curlew	Whimbrell
Red-backed Sandpiper	Dunlin
Eastern Dowitcher	Short-billed Dowitcher
Atlantic Kittiwake	Black-legged Kittiwake
Razor-billed Auk	Razorbill
Atlantic Murre	Common Murre
Atlantic Puffin	Common Puffin
Richardson's Owl	Boreal Owl
Brunnich's Murre	Thick-billed Murre
Eastern Nighthawk	Common Nighthawk
Northern Flicker	Yellow-shafted Flicker
Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker	Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker
American Three-toed Woodpecker	Northern Three-toed Woodpecker
Northern Crested Flycatcher	Great Crested Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher	Traill's Flycatcher
Canada Jay	Gray Jay
American Raven	Common Raven
Eastern Crow	Common Crow
Acadian Chickadee	Boreal Chickadee
Olive-backed Thrush	Swainson's Thrush
American Pipit	Water Pipit
Migrant Shrike	Loggerhead Shrike
Blue-headed Vireo	Solitary Vireo
English Sparrow	House Sparrow
Bronzed Grackle	Common Grackle
Eastern Cowbird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Eastern Goldfinch	American Goldfinch
Red-eyed Towhee	Rufous-sided Towhee

NATURE NEWS

Vol. IX

May - June 1958

Number 3

F O R E W O R D

The season came along fast in April and early May especially in the central and northern sections of the Province. Temperatures in the seventies were experienced at Edmundston and Plaster Rock several times before April 15th and this coupled with heavy snow on the ground produced the worst floods in the St. John valley in more than twenty years. At this time vegetation in the upper valley was ahead of Saint John 150 miles farther south.

Bird migration has taken place at about the normal times.

Numerous reports on birds and flowers have been received all of which add to the usefulness of this bulletin. Unfortunately a report from Chatham Head was the only one from the northeastern part of the Province.

W.A. Squires, Curator.

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This has been a spring of abundant warblers. Many of the species which are usually very scarce have been common enough for even the casual observer to identify. As happened thirty years ago the great increase in warblers has accompanied the infestation of the Spruce Budworm and they have been busy going over the branches and needles of Spruce and Balsam Fir searching first for the eggs and then the young larvae of the budworm. As this is an unusual year for warblers reports on them have been so numerous we shall report on them in detail.

The most outstanding nature event of the spring in southern New Brunswick was surely the numerous reports of Scarlet Tanagers. The following reports have been recorded and several more were received verbally. Individual males were seen unless otherwise noted.

SCARLET Tanager May 8 St. Martins Ray Harper; May 20 Glen Falls Mrs. Whittaker; Golden Grove Road several males and females Mrs. Hunter; May 21 St. Andrews A.H. Leim; Sandy Pt. St. John Mrs. Marr; May 23 Saint John Mrs. Bourne; Quinton Heights Mrs. Grover Keith; May 24 MacLaren's Beach, Mrs. Morrison; East Saint John male and female E.A. Whitebone; June 3 Chatham Head several Mrs. H.E. Sproul.

The Baltimore Oriole is on the increase in the Saint John valley and is also reported from St. Martins May 29th. In the Fredericton area it is seen and heard frequently.

Possibly or even probably correct identifications of two well known birds which are extremely scarce here have been received. Kermod Parr saw a Thrush in the Odell Park in Fredericton on May 24th. The

description and the song seem to fit the Wood Thrush. The most doubtful thing about the record is the suggestion that there were as many as two more in the neighbourhood.

On May 22nd Mrs. Kirkland reported two Cardinals at Rothesay and Ray Harper one at St. Martins June 2nd. One spent much of last winter in Fredericton so it is quite possible that more will be seen in the Province. In this case the descriptions made it certain that these were not Tanagers or Purple Finches.

Evening Grosbeaks which were scarce in the Province all winter returned in May in great numbers to breed. There were many in the Fredericton area for several weeks. I saw at least 100 there on May 22nd.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER - May 7 Norton Mrs. Joan Hoyt; May 13 St. Martins Mrs. F. Bradshaw; May 17 Fredericton Kermode Parr; May 18 St. Andrews Mrs. Fred Nutter; May 23 Rothesay David Christie.

TENNESSEE WARBLER - May 21 Rothesay D. Christie; May 24 Norton Mrs. Hoyt.

NASHVILLE WARBLER - May 12 Rothesay D. Christie; May 22 Norton Mrs. Hoyt.

PARULA WARBLER - May 13 St. Martins Mrs. Bradshaw; May 18 Sandy Pt. Saint John Mrs. C. Marr; May 21 Rothesay D. Christie.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER - May 7 Norton Mrs. Joan Hoyt; May 13 St. Martins Mrs. Bradshaw; May 17 Fredericton Kermode Parr; May 18 St. Andrews Mrs. Nutter; May 23 Rothesay D. Christie.

YELLOW WARBLER - May 17 Norton Mrs. Hoyt; May 18 Fredericton Kermode Parr; May 19 Tracy D. Christie; May 26 St. Andrews Mrs. Nutter.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - May 13 St. Martins Mrs. Bradshaw; May 21 Mill Settlement D. Christie; May 22 Norton Mrs. Hoyt.

CAPE MAY WARBLER - May 18 Durham W.A. Squires; May 20 Fredericton Kermode Parr; May 29 Plaster Rock Miss M. Foster.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - May 17 Fredericton Kermode Parr; May 19 Norton Mrs. Hoyt; May 27 Anderson's Brook, Kings Co., Mrs. Bradshaw.

MYRTLE WARBLER - May 1 St. Andrews Mrs. Fred Nutter; May 2 Rothesay D. Christie; May 12 Fredericton Kermode Parr; May 13 St. Martins Mrs. F. Bradshaw; May 15 Norton Mrs. Hoyt.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - May 13 St. Martins Mrs. Bradshaw; May 18 Sandy Pt. St. John Mrs. C. Marr; May 25 Norton Mrs. Hoyt.

BLACKEBURNIAN WARBLER - May 13 St. Martins Mrs. Bradshaw; May 18 Sandy Pt. St. John Mrs. C. Marr.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - May 18 Sandy Pt. St. John Mrs. C. Marr; May 21 Norton Mrs. Hoyt; May 21 Rothesay D. Christie.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER - May 27 Anderson's Brook, Kings Co., Mrs. Bradshaw; May 31 Mill Settlement D. Christie.

BLACK-POLL WARBLER - May 30 St. Martins Mrs. Bradshaw.

YELLOW PAID WARBLER - May 20 Fredericton Kermode Parr.

YELLOW-THROAT - May 18 Hoyt D. Christie; May 19 Norton Mrs. Hoyt; May 21 Plaster Rock Miss Foster; May 23 Rothesay D. Christie.

WILSON'S WARBLER - May 20 Norton Mrs. Hoyt.

CANADA WARBLER - May 18 Hoyt D. Christie; May 18 Sandy Pt. St. John Mrs. C. Marr; May 23 Rothesay D. Christie.

REDSTART - May 18 Hoyt D. Christie; May 22 Norton Mrs. Hoyt; May 23 Rothesay D. Christie; May 24 Fredericton Kermode Parr; June 6 St. Andrews Mrs. Nutter.

Some of our wildflowers were in bloom very early but others appeared at about the average date. Shadbush known locally as Bilberry or Indian Pear showed its first white petals in the Westfield area on May 2nd, one to three weeks earlier than recent years. I have not kept records of wildflowers the way I have for birds and actually unless one is constantly in the woods and fields a flower may be in bloom for several weeks before being seen. The dates given here are subject to these reservations.

- TRAILING ARBUTUS (MAYFLOWER) - May 17 Plaster Rock Miss Foster.  
DANDELION - April 15 Plaster Rock Miss Foster.  
SPRING BEAUTY - April 27 Ingleside Mrs. M.I. McKinney.  
WHITE VIOLET - May 2 Ingleside Mrs. McKinney; May 9 White's Bluff, Mrs. R.J. Collins.  
YELLOW VIOLET - May 18 Fredericton W.A. Squires; May 23 Jacksonville Miss M. Arnand.  
WHITE CAMPION - June 6 Sussex Miss M. Parlee.  
GOLDTHREAD - May 17 Hoyt D. Christie; June 2 Little River W.A. Squires  
ROSY TWISTED STALK - May 21 Rothesay D. Christie; May 27 Jacksonville Miss M. Arnand.  
GROUND IVY - May 21 Fredericton W.A. Squires; May 23 Rothesay D. Christie.  
RHODORA - May 21 Fredericton W.A. Squires; May 26 Rothesay D. Christie.  
BUNCHBERRY - May 26 Rothesay D. Christie; June 2 Little River W.A. Squires.  
CANADA MAYFLOWER - May 26 Rothesay D. Christie.  
YELLOW ROCKET - May 26 Rothesay D. Christie; June 3 Chatham pupils of St. Michael's Academy.  
CLINTONIA - May 29 Rothesay D. Christie.  
STARFLOWER - May 29 Rothesay D. Christie; June 2 Little River W.A. Squires.  
TALL BUTTERCUP - May 29 Rothesay D. Christie.  
WHITE BANEBERRY - May 29 Rothesay D. Christie.  
JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT - May 30 Rothesay D. Christie.  
BLUE VIOLET - May 3 Ingleside Mrs. McKinney; May 31 Hoyt D. Christie.  
TOOTHWORT - May 31 Hoyt D. Christie.  
YELLOW WOOD SORREL - May 31 Hoyt D. Christie.  
COLTSFOOT - April 16 Rothesay D. Christie.  
YELLOW LADY'S SLIPPER - June 1 Plaster Rock Miss M. Foster.  
PINK LADY'S SLIPPER - June 15 Fredericton W.A. Squires.  
DOG-TOOTHED VIOLET - May 2 Plaster Rock Miss Foster; May 2 Ingleside Mrs. McKinney.  
PAINTED TRILLIUM - May 25 Durham W.A. Squires.  
NODDING TRILLIUM - May 31 Hoyt D. Christie.  
PURPLE TRILLIUM - May 2 Plaster Rock Miss Foster; May 2 White's Bluff Mrs. R.J. Collins; May 7 Ingleside Mrs. McKinney; May 27 Jacksonville Miss M. Arnand.

NATURE NEWS

Vol. IX

July - August 1958

Number 4

F O R E W O R D

Everyone is excited over the first spring flowers and these are collected and studied intensely but by mid-summer there is such a surfeit of bloom that interest lags.

It is much the same with birds. By mid-summer many of them have shed their bright spring plumage and are unfamiliar in a new garb. At the same time much of their musical chorus has been stilled.

It is, however, in this infinite change that the keen student of nature finds the greatest challenge.

To emphasize this continual change I suggest that you try an experiment that I read of recently. Select your favorite scene and make a series of colour photographs of it at regular intervals throughout the year. The results should at least be of interest.

W.A. Squires, Curator

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The Great Willow Herb or Fireweed has been in blossom since the middle of July and the Joe-pye-weed followed not far behind. At the same time the Star Thistle or Black Knapweed began blooming abundantly by the roadside in the Kingston peninsula and elsewhere in southern New Brunswick. These flowers along with common thistle and a few others vary from rose to very deep purple in colour but as the summer progresses the yellows and oranges tend more and more to dominate the fields and roadside. The Evening Primrose and the Common Mullein are abundant but the most conspicuous of the yellows are the goldenrods and these appear in a steadily increasing profusion as the season advances. To a botanist these are Solidago canadensis, S. rugosa, S. bicolor and many others. We actually have about twenty different kinds of goldenrod, all yellow.

Another yellow flower which seems to thrive in the gravelly margin of our new highways is Fringed Loosestrife. It seems much more widespread this year. I have also noted great yellow banks of Tansy especially in Saint John, Kings, Queens and York counties. The yellow of the early hawkweed, King Devil, is gone but the tall Canada Hawkweed is in bloom as well as Goat's Beard, Fall Dandelion and Sow Thistle.

The outstanding event of our summer was a visit to Kent Island south of Grand Manan at the entrance to the Bay of Fundy. This island is of outstanding interest to the ornithologist, the botanist and even to the mineralogist. It belongs to Bowdoin College of Brunswick, Maine, which maintains it as a scientific station. Herring Gulls, probably as many as

100,000, breed on this island in such profusion that there is great danger of stepping on the eggs and young in season. It is also noted for the breeding colony of Common Eiders. Thirty years ago breeding Eiders were nearly extirpated in this region but with careful conservation they have recovered until there are now several thousand pairs.

Two other unusual species of sea birds breed here, the little penguin-like Black Guillemots and the Leach's Petrels. These Petrels live on the open ocean and usually only come to land to breed. They nest on several islands in the Grand Manan archipelago and the nesting is most peculiar. They burrow into the turf usually under the low branches of the spruce trees, hollow out a nesting site and deposit one egg. When they are not in their burrows incubating their eggs but are working on the burrows or feeding their young they are not seen around the islands in daylight but come in from the sea well after dark and leave before daylight.

Plants peculiar to the seashore are common on Kent Island and the growth due to the droppings of so many gulls is luxuriant. The most conspicuous as we landed on the island was Sea-coast Angelica, (Angelica lucida) a member of the Parsley Family. Interspersed with it was Beach Pea in colorful profusion and in front at the top of the stony beach were great sprawling clumps of Sea Lungwort (Mertensia maritima) with its blue-green foliage and blue and rosy red bell-like flowers. Sea Lavender (Limonium Nashii) was also found.

The continued increase of Evening Grosbeaks in the Province this summer calls for further comment. On July 11th I saw a flock of 6 or 8 at Ripples, Sunbury County, and on the 13th I saw this species at several places in York and Carleton counties - Millville, Clarkville, and Pokiok. These were usually mated pairs or several males together. I had hoped to hear from someone who had found them breeding in central or southern New Brunswick and on August 7th Mrs. Margery Acheson saw two adults feeding two young able to fly at Fredericton. About the same time several pairs were seen feeding young at Napadogan, York County.

In spite of the large summer population of Evening Grosbeaks in northern New Brunswick and increasing reports throughout the rest of the Province no report has come to me of anyone actually finding a nest. A quick check of the bird books at hand and of articles written about the Evening Grosbeaks suggests that very few if any nests of this eastern subspecies have ever been found. So if any one has found a nest or has other breeding records I would like to hear from them.

The numerous reports of Scarlet Tanagers which we had in the spring were brought sharply to mind when a young male which had been dead for a couple of days was found in front of the Museum here in Saint John on August 12th. In spite of the name this bird was bright yellow below and greenish yellow above with black feathers coming in the wings. This is the colour of the female as well as the young and the scarlet of the male changes to yellow in late summer. Most people only recognize the male of this species in his bright scarlet and black outfit and we have very few late summer and fall records.



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Number 5

F O R E W O R D

The leaves having changed momentarily to brilliant hues of scarlet and gold, and duller yellows and browns are now drifting in the wind. Ice is forming overnight in the puddles and the first flakes of snow have filtered down. The woodchucks have retired for their winter sleep. Many of the smaller birds have long since departed and even the ducks and geese are on their way. Autumn has come and winter is not far behind.

Some of the reports on nature that come in to me are so good that starting with this number I shall include excerpts which are particularly timely and well-written.

W.A. Squires, Curator.

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One of the most surprising specimens that has been brought to me in many years was a large slug, four and one-half inches long which was found in a garden on Sandy Point Road, Saint John by a little girl Susan Manning. I had no idea that there was any slug that large in this Province. This has been identified as the Great Gray Slug, Limax maximus, a European species. It may have escaped from the greenhouses near where it was found as it feeds on insects not vegetation and is often introduced by greenhouse gardeners. In case you call slugs snails it should be pointed out that snails have shells while slugs do not but they are closely related.

I have also been interested to find a number of new stations for Impatiens glandulifera also called I. roylei a plant native to northern India which has escaped locally and is spreading. The names Jumping Jack and Policeman's Helmet given it in England seem quite inadequate. The plant resembling common Touch-me-not in structure will grow to eight feet high and it has a very pretty dark pink bloom. There is a large patch of it near the Museum and about the end of July it was reported as filling several back yards in the centre of Saint John. In late August I saw a rank growth of it near Barnesville 20 miles east of Saint John. More recently Mrs. James N. Bradshaw reported it at St. Martins, Morrell's Corner near Salmon River and at Rothesay.

Mrs. Bradshaw writes, "I planted a lot of it around my sun porch because it is a great attraction for bees, which I love. I was well rewarded. It grew right past the windows up to the eaves of the porch on the east side of my house. When the rising sun reached it in the morning, it was a gorgeous sight, on account of its capacity to hold dew on the leaves and blossoms - a mass of jewels twinkling and flashing. Then

we could sit on the porch and watch the activities of the bees a few inches from us, through the glass and marvel at the plant's capacity for manufacturing nectar. "

Miss Marguerite McNair of Fredericton who last February took the first photograph of a Cardinal ever taken in New Brunswick is a keen observer of birds and her reports are always of interest. The following is quoted from a letter of Miss McNair's written in the middle of September:-

" The bird activity in my "back forty", which is what I call the undeveloped acre of land around my home, has been very lively all summer. Just this week a pair of song sparrows put in an appearance at the back door and I quickly scattered bread crumbs around and in a couple of days they brought along their family - two immature ones. Also a pair of white-throated sparrows have been visiting the bread crumbs regularly - just Mr. and Mrs. A chick-a-dee was here on Monday afternoon, the 8th. Evening grosbeaks have been in the trees all summer in large flocks, as well as the cat-birds which are my favourites. The latter are so tame they come on the back steps for bread crumbs also, which I believe is unusual. For two weeks in the middle of July the whole field was lovely with the thistle birds - their delicate chirping like Chinese chimes. This morning I thought I saw the female cardinal - am still holding my breath. Also heard a lovely song similar to her spring song. There has been the usual number of humming-birds all summer. The olive-backed thrushes are here in numbers but I have never heard them chirp or sing. I noticed a pair of Wilson warblers this week also and I can always see the pine siskin on the row of pines at the back of the house. "

Mrs. J.E. McKinney of Ingleside was much intrigued by the activities of her Bluejay guests on Sunday October 19th. Her feeding trays were stocked with bread which the Bluejays carried off. They would take each piece out into the field, poke it down into the grass and then get a big leaf and lay it over the top of the bread to hide it. The wind almost immediately blew the leaves away and the little birds were able to find the bread and eat it.

How many kinds of ducks are there to be found in New Brunswick? The answer cannot be definite but thirty-one or thirty-two have been identified here. One of these, the Labrador Duck, is now extinct and three are European wanderers. All the rest can be seen in a special exhibition that has been set up in the Museum's Main Hall. If there are any hunters in your family who do not know the ducks they are shooting send them in to study this display.

NATURE NEWS

Vol. IX

November - December 1958

Number 6

F O R E W O R D

We are coming once again to that time of year when ornithologists and thousands of other people just interested in birds get busy throughout North America making Christmas bird counts. The National Audubon Society has published the results of Christmas bird counts for 58 years and last year had 565 to report. In Canada the Canadian Field Naturalist edited in Ottawa gives a national coverage but every local bulletin on nature does its share.

In our January-February number for the last two years we have included several of the more extensive counts reported to us and have also prepared a complete listing of all species reported to me between December 1st. and February 14th. Let us see if we can better the 57 species recorded last year. Write me giving dates and numbers for each species even if only those seen from your window.

Make up a group in your community and try a Christmas count any calendar day December 20th to January 1st.

W.A. Squires, Curator

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I have had a few observers reporting Grackles in winter in years past but I never saw one at this time myself until December 5th when I saw a lonesome individual at Fredericton with English Sparrows. It had been seen several times in the preceding fortnight.

Several species of birds which are at or beyond the normal limit of their range in New Brunswick continue to be reported.

Mrs. James N. Bradshaw reported a Yellow-breasted Chat found dead at St. Martins on October 14th and another caught by a cat on November 20th. These are the eleventh and twelfth reports of this large warbler for New Brunswick and the third reported by Mrs. Bradshaw who had another in November 1956.

Reports of the Rufous-sided (formerly Red-eyed) Towhee are nearly as scarce but are more widespread with records for many parts of the Province. Two birds which I was asked to identify recently would appear to be this species. A call from the Duck Cove area of Lancaster in October and from Mrs. Earle Logan of Westfield late in November both gave identical descriptions of birds nearly as large as robins with black heads and breasts, light underparts and red sides; surely male Rufous-sided Towhees. Later I found that one and perhaps two Towhees had been at Duck Cove as recently as the last week of November. A Towhee was also reported at Riverview on October 13th by S.D. Whitman and another at Kingshurst by David Christie on October 24th.

Nearly every year brings a few reports of Mourning Doves. Mr. Leigh Devoe saw a lone Mourning Dove at Riverside near Rothesay on September 29th, October 15th and November 4th.

Mr. Whitman reported a flock of 26 Mallards in the Petitcodiac River at the mouth of Turtle Creek on October 26th. This is the largest number of Mallards ever reported to me.

Another interesting report from Mrs. Bradshaw was the sighting of about 1000 Brant on October 6th. We get many reports of large flocks of Brant in spring migration but this is the first report I have had of such a large concentration in the fall. One of the highlights of my visit to Kent Island south of Grand Manan in July was recording several Brant, the first summer record for New Brunswick.

Miss Marguerite McNair of Fredericton writes us about her winter bird feeding campaign. If you have been thinking of starting a feeding station but have done nothing about it you might follow her example. Even before the first snow Downy Woodpeckers and Black-capped Chickadees arrived for suet, and Bluejays for any kind of a handout. On December 1st a White-breasted Nuthatch arrived and surprisingly fed on bread crumbs.

Among a number of bird records supplied by David Christie two are specially worthy of note. He saw 10 to 32 Horned Grebes in Kennebecasis daily during the latter part of October and the first two weeks of November! He also saw a Myrtle Warbler at Kingshurst on November 10th.

Evening Grosbeaks seem to be around in small numbers although I have not seen any since September! Miss McNair reported them feeding on Manitoba Maples at Fredericton in November and early December and they have been seen there by numerous observers. Mr. S.D. Whitman refers to the Evening Grosbeak as a year-round bird in the Moncton area now and states that Mr. Fred Bone reported a nest in Moncton this year. If a nest actually was found it is the first noted in the Province although this species is now obviously breeding throughout New Brunswick.

Another unusually late record is for a Baltimore Oriole seen by Mrs. Ray Harper at St. Martins late in October.

While we have concentrated mostly on birds in this number at least one correspondent, David Christie, has given us reports on late flowering plants. He reported Dandelions in bloom at Rothesay on November 27th, Creeping Buttercup November 28th, Yarrow November 21st and a White Aster November 19th. His latest report for Goldenrods was near Hoyt, Sunbury County, on October 31st and a Yellow Hawkweed at the same place on the same date. A Blue Aster and an Ox-eye Daisy were seen at Rothesay on October 28th.

All of these reports for birds and flowers have been from about the southern quarter of New Brunswick. It is very desirable to have more coverage for the northern counties and correspondents there are urged to send in information from their area.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - NEW BRUNSWICK

December 20, 1958-January 1, 1959

Area: \_\_\_\_\_; Date: \_\_\_\_\_;

Start: \_\_\_\_\_; Return: \_\_\_\_\_; Weather: \_\_\_\_\_;

Temp.: \_\_\_\_\_; Wind: \_\_\_\_\_; Ground: \_\_\_\_\_; Mileage: \_\_\_\_\_ (foot \_\_\_\_\_, Car \_\_\_\_\_);

No. Species: \_\_\_\_\_; No. Birds: \_\_\_\_\_; Compiler: \_\_\_\_\_.

- |                                 |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>Common Loon</u>              | <u>Bonaparte's Gull</u>         | <u>Bronzed Grackle</u>        |
| <u>Red-throated Loon</u>        | <u>Kittiwake</u>                | <u>Cowbird</u>                |
| <u>Holboell's Grebe</u>         | <u>Razor-billed Auk</u>         | <u>Evening Grosbeak</u>       |
| <u>Horned Grebe</u>             | <u>Brunnich's Murre</u>         | <u>Purple Finch</u>           |
| <u>European Cormorant</u>       | <u>Dovekie</u>                  | <u>Pine Grosbeak</u>          |
| <u>Great Blue Heron</u>         | <u>Black Guillemot</u>          | <u>Redpoll</u>                |
| <u>Blk. Crowned Night Heron</u> | <u>Atlantic Puffin</u>          | <u>Pine Siskin</u>            |
| <u>Canada Goose</u>             | <u>Domestic Pigeon</u>          | <u>Goldfinch</u>              |
| <u>Black Duck</u>               | <u>Mourning Dove</u>            | <u>Red Crossbill</u>          |
| <u>Pintail</u>                  | <u>Great Horned Owl</u>         | <u>White-winged Crossbill</u> |
| <u>Green-winged Teal</u>        | <u>Snowy Owl</u>                | <u>Slate-coloured Junco</u>   |
| <u>Wood Duck</u>                | <u>Hawk Owl</u>                 | <u>Tree Sparrow</u>           |
| <u>Scaup Duck</u>               | <u>Barred Owl</u>               | <u>Chipping Sparrow</u>       |
| <u>American Golden-eye</u>      | <u>Richardson's Owl</u>         | <u>Fox Sparrow</u>            |
| <u>Barrow's Golden-eye</u>      | <u>Saw-whet Owl</u>             | <u>Song Sparrow</u>           |
| <u>Bufflehead</u>               | <u>Belted Kingfisher</u>        | <u>Lapland Longspur</u>       |
| <u>Old-Squaw</u>                | <u>Pileated Woodpecker</u>      | <u>Snow Bunting</u>           |
| <u>Harlequin Duck</u>           | <u>Hairy Woodpecker</u>         |                               |
| <u>Northern Eider</u>           | <u>Downy Woodpecker</u>         |                               |
| <u>King Eider</u>               | <u>Arctic Three-toed Wdpkr.</u> |                               |
| <u>White-winged Scoter</u>      | <u>Am. Three-toed Wdpkr.</u>    |                               |
| <u>Surf Scoter</u>              | <u>Horned Lark</u>              |                               |
| <u>American Scoter</u>          | <u>Canada Jay</u>               |                               |
| <u>Hooded Merganser</u>         | <u>Blue Jay</u>                 |                               |
| <u>American Merganser</u>       | <u>Raven</u>                    |                               |
| <u>Red-breasted Merganser</u>   | <u>Crow</u>                     |                               |
| <u>Goshawk</u>                  | <u>Black-capped Chickadee</u>   |                               |
| <u>Sharp-shinned Hawk</u>       | <u>Brown-capped Chickadee</u>   |                               |
| <u>Rough-legged Hawk</u>        | <u>White-breasted Nuthatch</u>  |                               |
| <u>Bald Eagle</u>               | <u>Red-breasted Nuthatch</u>    |                               |
| <u>Gyrfalcon</u>                | <u>Brown Creeper</u>            |                               |
| <u>Spruce Grouse</u>            | <u>Robin</u>                    |                               |
| <u>Ruffed Grouse</u>            | <u>Golden crowned Kinglet</u>   |                               |
| <u>European Partridge</u>       | <u>Bohemian Waxwing</u>         |                               |
| <u>Ring-necked Pheasant</u>     | <u>Cedar Waxwing</u>            |                               |
| <u>Purple Sandpiper</u>         | <u>Northern Shrike</u>          |                               |
| <u>Glaucous Gull</u>            | <u>Starling</u>                 |                               |
| <u>Iceland Gull</u>             | <u>English Sparrow</u>          |                               |
| <u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>  | <u>Meadowlark</u>               |                               |
| <u>Herring Gull</u>             | <u>Rusty Blackbird</u>          |                               |