

Dec 22/74

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - SAINT JOHN

Preliminary results (gathered from five field parties) give a total of 56 species for the Saint John Christmas Bird Count, suggesting a good year but not a record. It is likely that 3 or more additional species will turn up when all the reports are in from ~~partisans~~ observing bird feeders. At least that many were known to have been regular in the area during the previous week. (e.g. Mourning Dove, Gray Jay, Cardinal).

Final totals for Saint John in the last five years were:

1969 - 49 species,	9539 individual birds	(a rainy day)
1970 - 54	7577	
1971 - 60	8751	
1972 - 64	8312	
1973 - 64	9392	

As usual, Herring Gull is likely to be the most commonly recorded bird at some 3000+, with Starling second at 2000+ individuals.

### New Bird for N.B.

Highlight of the 1974 count is a Carolina Wren observed at Westfield by Jim Wilson, Evan Smith and Paul Clark, the first time that species has been found on a New Brunswick Xmas Bird Count. In fact, it is only the second Carolina Wren ever found in the province. It was discovered by Donald McAlpine on Christmas Day. The first Carolina Wren for the province was discovered by Willa Mae Conbrey and Mrs. Don McLeese.

at St. Andrews in mid-November this year. It may still be around that area.

The Carolina Wren is a <sup>short-tailed</sup> tiny bird,  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " to 6" long (relative)  
large as far as wrens go) It has reddish-brown upperparts,  
pale buff underparts and a conspicuous white "eye-brow"  
line running above the eye. It is a resident species from  
Nebraska to Massachusetts and south to Texas and Florida.  
In Canada it occurs regularly only in southernmost  
Ontario but has been seen north to Ottawa and  
southwestern Québec. The two birds in N.B. this  
winter are believed to be the first recorded in the  
Maritimes.

Recently Carolina Wrens have been increasing at the northern  
edge of their range, perhaps because the increasing  
number of feeding stations allows a greater survival  
of wrens through the hardest winters. Then, because  
of population pressures, some may wander north  
as our two birds have.

Carolina Wrens are accomplished songsters with a loud, rich  
whistled song often described as "tea-kettle, tea-kettle,  
tea-kettle"

### Other Birds of Note

2 Snowy Owls in the harbour area - This winter is one of those years when lemming numbers decrease greatly in the arctic and the Snowy Owls invade southern Canada and the U.S. in search of food.

1 Canada Goose at Saints Rest Marsh - A late bird probably pausing on the way south.

- 2 Bald Eagles at Westfield - Recent observations suggest that eagles may be recovering slightly from the great decline as a result of DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbon contamination. However, they are still very much on the endangered list.
- 1 Pheasant - Not normally found in the Saint John area. First time on the local bird count.  
Perhaps an escape from someone's gamebird pens.
- 1 Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker on Kingston Peninsula. A scarce woodpecker here, the first time on a local count.
- 5 Robins - Yes, folks, a few do spend the winter in N.B., concentrating around fruit-bearing trees and spring-fed swamps.
- 1 Swamp Sparrow at Hazen Creek Marsh - Lingering from summer. Normally go south.

### Count Methods

Each count area picks ~~adapte~~ for their one-day count during the period Dec 14-31. For Saint John Dec. 28

Within a 15-mile diameter circle, a number of parties cover portions of the circle. This year 5 field parties here, but usually more (9 last year) Illness has cut our observer force this year. In addition, <sup>other</sup> people keep track of birds visiting their bird feeders

The results are added to give totals for the area. In some species, such as the ducks, and gulls, we get a good idea of the actual number present. For most birds, relating the number seen to the amount of hours spent watching ~~realistical~~ fluctuations, <sup>but</sup> it is impossible to find anywhere near all of those present

# Saint John

~~GC~~ 1

CG2 1

M 8

$$BD \ 365, 108 = 473$$

$$CGE \ 132, 28, 44 = 204$$

BGE 2

$$B2 \ 26, 8 = 34$$

O3 1

CE 3

WWS 3, 1, 4 = 8

SSG 6

BS3 7

CM 7, 1, 4 = 12

RBM 2, 46 = 48

~~BSH~~ 1, 1 = 2

RLH 5

BE 2

RO 2, 1, 4, 3 = 10

RNP (1)

PS2 50

GG 4, 2 = 6

IG 42, 5 = 47

GGBG 312, 2, 47, 18, 1 = 380

HG 868, 4, 1835, 4, 4, 6, 3, 223, 8 = 2955, 5

RBGZ 7

BHG 1

~~RD~~ 193, 9, 2, 10, 4, 6, 59, 30, 1 = 338, 8, 10, 10

MD 1, 6

HW 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1 = 12, 4, 2, 1

DW 1, 4, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 2, 1 = 20, 1, 2, 2, 1

BBTW 1

OGJ 2

BJ 3, 5, 11, 4, 3, 8, 1, 15, 1, 6, 3 = 60, 4, 15, 2, 5, 2

CR 23, 7, 6, 1, 69, 12 = 118, 1

CC 25, 6, 35, 1, 5, 4, 2, 4, 7, 2, 12, 4, 10, 3, 5, 32, 1 = 158, 2, 1, 2, 4

Bcc 7, 34, 2, 4, 10, 4, 4, 1, 12, 8, 4, 7, 10, 6, 2, 6, 6, 5, 8, 34 = 174, 4, 4, 6, 8, 28, 5

BC 4, 2, 1 = 7

WBN 2, 1, 1, 1 = 5, 1

RBN 6, 4, 2 = 12, 4

RC 1

- RBM 2, 46 = 48  
 SSH 1, 1 = 2  
 RLH 5  
 BE 2  
 RGS 2, 1, 4, 3 = 10  
 RNP (1)  
 PS2 30  
 GG 4, 2 = 6  
 IG 42, 5 = 47  
 GBBG 312, 2, 47, 18, 1 = 380  
 HG 868, 4, 1835, 4, 4, 6, 3, 223, 8 = 2955, 5  
 RBGZ 7  
 BHG 1  
~~RD~~ RD 193, 9, 2, 10, 4, 6, 59, 30, 1 = 338, 8, 10, 10  
 ○ MD 1, 6  
 HW 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1 = 12, 4, 2, 1  
 DW 1, 4, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 2, 1 = 20, 12, 2, 1  
 BBTW 1  
 ○ GJ ✗ 2  
 BJ 3, 5, 11, 4, 3, 8, 1, 15, 1, 6, 3 = 60, 4, 15, 2, 5, 2  
 CR 23, 7, 6, 1, 69, 12 = 118, 1  
 CC 25, 6, 35, 1, 5, 4, 2, 4, 7, 2, 12, 4, 10, 3, 5, 32, 1 = 158, 2, 12, 4  
 BCC 7, 34, 2, 4, 10, 4, 4, 1, 12, 8, 4, 7, 10, 6, 2, 6, 6, 5, 8, 34 = 174, 4, 4, 6, 8, 28, 5  
 BC 4, 2, 1 = 7  
 WBN 2, 1, 1, 1 = 5, 1  
 RBN 6, 4, 2 = 12, 4  
 BC2 1, 2 = 3  
 Car W. 1  
 AR 1, 2, 1, 2, 4 = 10  
 GCK 4, 4 = 8  
 NS 1  
 S 700, 324, 5, 25, 20, 10, 30, 40, 50, 2, 30, 10, 4, 50, 13, 10, 267, 289, 20 = 1942, 10, 20, 35, 8, 10, 10  
 HS 66, 5, 15, 3, 30, 24, 70, 50, 1, 20, 12, 5, 30, 12, 32, 10, 69, 217, 50 = 701, 12, 25, 4  
 ORNB 2, 3, 2 = 7  
 CG 6, 4, 1, 8, 1 = 20, 4  
 BHC 8, 6, 6, 1, 18 = 39, 9  
 ○ Card 1



## Miles

Foot (4, 4, 3,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 5, 4)

Car (59, 20, 43, 44, 80, 10)

20

## Horns

Foot (5  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 5,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , 5, 6) 24  $\frac{1}{2}$

Car (4, 1, 5, 3, 2) 15

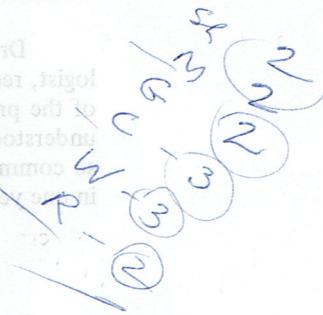
Need St & Remie all figures.

John, Son Jim Foot Miles & Horns.

Snow Goose

Pintail

Ruby-crowned Kinglet



Joan Sellers Bcc<sup>28</sup> S<sup>2</sup> TS<sup>2</sup> SCJ<sup>1</sup> RD<sup>0</sup>

10/24  
9/10  
9/4/2

J Wilson  
E Smith  
P Clark  
M & M Majka

D. Christie  
D. McAlpine  
Mrs B.W.G. Holt

Stan & Renie

Gordon & Tom

Marion Sherwood & Verica MacD

in May and June for several years we have been collecting  
of specie fossils from the O'Connor. A few of these were  
found probably in Dwyer Lake near Cedar Rapids  
in the 1930's. It seems appropriate that some  
of the specimens

from this in this area is definitely left behind by sand  
deposition - larger, coarser and coarser, water lillies, boulders, etc.  
but no signs of life from the pastures, which is a pity  
because these deposits are good opportunities for  
fossils. For example one of these may contain  
a lot of bones or shells. One area shows some  
evidence of ancient life, but the others do not.

Florence Christie