

"That's right, the fifth and final season of the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas has come and -- for all intents and purposes -- gone. Its kaput, finis, all done, over with, a fait accompli. However you look at it, the data collection phase of the most ambitious (and only) project ever conceived to map the bird distribution of this region is history." The next task to face is the conversion of the 150,000 plus pieces of breeding information into the book The Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces, due out in time for Christmas of 1991. Brian Datzell of the Bird Atlas has sent out a special request for any last observations you might have on the rarer species. You simply drop him a note at the Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6 with the bird's name, the sighting (e.g. an oriole's nest was seen in an elm tree), the place, and approximate time. (MBBA Newsletter, No. 22)

The five year pollution abatement plan, the St. Lawrence Action Plan, which was signed in 1988 has resulted in a 30% reduction in liquid toxic waste discharge by the 50 chief polluters of the St. Lawrence River. (Environment Canada Joint News Release, PR-HQ-090-52)

The first Great North York Tree Hunt yielded 159 nominations for 59 species for the biggest trees in North York, Ontario. The giants included a 117 foot high basswood, an 85 foot high black locust, and a 95 foot high black walnut. (from Botany Report, Toronto Field Naturalist # 414, October 1990).

"Scarborough Council, at its June 4th, 1990 meeting voted that "buffer zones adjacent to valleylands and watercourses will be negotiated on a site-by-site basis... using 30 meters along all ravines as a targeted goal, but not as a statutory requirement". Excerpted from the Toronto Field Naturalist # 414, October 1990.

Ducks Unlimited Canada was awarded an Environmental Achievement Award by the Rt. Hon. Ramon John Hnatyshyn for its long-standing efforts at preserving wetlands in Canada (DU Canada Conservator, Vol. 11, No. 2, 1990). DU's involvement in Prince Edward Island started in 1971 with the construction of the water control structures at Johnston's River and Forest Hill. In the last 19 years they have constructed 94 dams on 76 projects and improved some 6,000 acres of wetlands. Island sportsmen have contributed over \$300,000 of the nearly \$3,000,000 invested in these structures and improvements for waterfowl (1990 Charlottetown Committee Ducks Unlimited Canada Dinner Program).

Mr. Ken Pivnick of the Agriculture Research Station in Saskatoon collected the first confirmed record of the Common Sooty Wing (Pholisora catullus) in Saskatchewan. This is the 32nd skipper to be found in the province and it was found near the proposed National Grasslands Park. Its larvae feed on pigweeds. (from The Blue Jay, June 1990 (Sask. NHS newsletter)).

In the June 1990 issue of the Blue Jay, C. Stuart Houston provided a very favorable review of the publication Newfoundland Birds: Exploitation, Study, Conservation by William A. Montivecchi and Leslie M. Tuck. 1987. Publication 21, Nuttall Ornithological Club, Cambridge, Mass. 273 pages (\$10.50 U.S.).

Starting in 1990, the Canadian Wildlife Service will establish non-toxic shot hunting zones in areas where lead poisoning of ducks has been found to be a problem. Three zones were created in 1990, 2 in southern British Columbia and one in southwestern Ontario. (from CWS release, fall 1990)

The tents of the fall webworm were again prevalent in hardwoods along many roadsides and hedgerows across the Island. Larch bark beetles caused some mortality of larch in western Prince Edward Island and yellowheaded spruce sawfly severely defoliated some black spruce on the Smith Road.