

HILLSBOROUGH COUNT

December 27, 1980. 37 species,
 4028 individuals. Total party
 miles 217.5 (5.5 walking, 4
 snowshoeing, 4 skiing, 204 driving).
 Toatal party hours 34.25 (4.75
 walking, 3 snowshoeing, 2.5
 skiing, 19 driving, 5 stationary).
 Participants: Lenore Andrews,
 Roger Andrews, Liz Baglole, Anna
 Cairns, David K. Cairns, David
 I. Cairns, Winifred Cairns,
 Rosemary Curley, Dirk de Graaf,
 Danny Johnston, Winston Johnston,
 Norah Longworth, Karen Lowther,
 Clare Martin, Kathy Martin,
 David Smith. (16 observers in
 6 parties).

Canada Goose	3
Mallard	4
Black Duck	901
Common Goldeneye	137
Black Scoter	50
Common Merganser	276
Red-breasted Merganser	11
Rough-legged Hawk	7
Gray Partridge	59
Iceland Gull	1
Great Black-backed Gull	111
Herring Gull	288
Rock Dove	66
Mourning Dove	2
Hairy Woodpecker	3
Downy Woodpecker	2
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker	1
Horned lark	28
Blue Jay	88
Common Raven	15
Common Crow	434
Black-capped Chickadee	69
Boreal Chickadee	7
White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Brown Creeper	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4
Bohemian Waxwing	23
Starling	398
House Sparrow	300
Common Grackle	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	4
Evening Grosbeak	21
Pine Grosbeak	1
Pine Siskin	13
Dark-eyed Junco	11
Tree Sparrow	2

Snow Bunting

216

4028

Compiler, Winifred Cairns
 60 Newland Cres.
 Charlottetown,
 P.E.I.

BACK TO THE WET

Although life on this planet began
 in water, most of the development
 of higher forms of animal life has
 occurred on land. But the return of
 reptiles, mammals, and birds to an
 aquatic lifestyle has been an oft-
 repeated theme in evolutionary
 history, and to see examples of
 this trend we need look no farther
 than our own local wildlife.

If we can imagine a chain of
 stepping stones from the dry
 land to a completely aquatic
 existence, the first step
 would perhaps be the mink.
 Mink belong to the weasel family,
 and like other members of this
 family, they are quite at home
 on land. By denning in hollow
 logs, and feeding on voles and
 other land rodents, a mink
 would never have to go near
 water. But most mink spend a
 great deal of time in or near
 water, wriggling their lithe
 bodies into muskrat houses in
 order to devour the inhabit-
 ants, or pursuing fish with
 their rapid undulating swim.

One step ahead of the mink in
 the road toward a completely
 aquatic life is the beaver.
 Beavers can move easily on land,
 but, throughout much of their
 range, a beaver stepping out
 of his pond must be ever wary
 of wolves or coyotes against