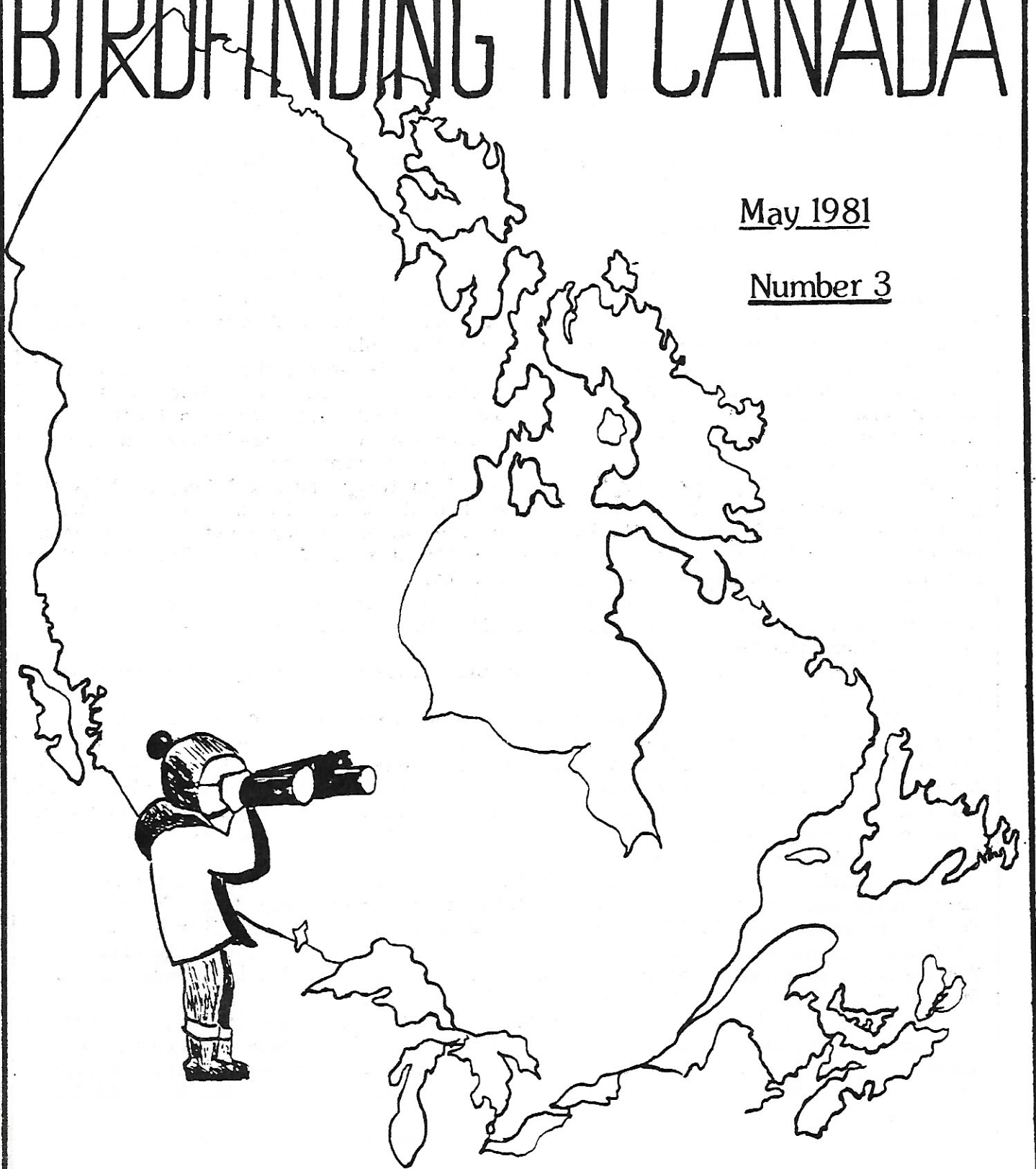


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BIRDFINDING IN CANADA

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STATISTICAE CANADENSIS

In our two previous issues, we reviewed birders' individual life lists. These included figures for Canada and all provinces and territories.

Now, how about some statistics on big days, location lists -- and a few more interesting years' lists?

David Stirling's total of 319 species in British Columbia stands as a record for one year, one province. Deserving mention are two other fine years in B.C. -- achieved by Dave Mark - 267 in 1978 - and by Richard Cannings - 261 in 1980.

Two far-north yearly lists that are truly remarkable are:

N.W.Territories - Alan Wormington 1973 - 155
Yukon Territory - Richard Cannings 1974 - 130

The following will probably not stand as records but are the highest reported so far:

Saskatchewan - Guy Wapple - 1979 - 220
Nova Scotia - Larry Neily 1974 - 187

An interesting year's list for a small area is Don Perks' total of 253 in '69 totally within the Toronto area (30-mile radius of Bloor St. & Avenue Rd.)

We expect the next round of reporting will turn up several figures that will challenge or surpass some of the above totals.

The "Big Day" department is another area where we need reports from more observers and more provinces.

In B.C., Richard Cannings listed 153 on May 13/79. Then, exactly a year later, he had 147 but this was probably the more noteworthy figure of the two because it was accomplished totally inland in the Okanagan Valley.

In Ontario, Alan Wormington's high of 184 species on May 11/79 is a provincial record. The next year, on May 15th, Alan, Paul Pratt and David McCorquodale spent the day together as a group and each of the three ended up with 180 species.

Ontario one-day totals over 150 of which we're aware are:

Alan Wormington	- May 11/79 - 184
David McCorquodale	- May 15/80 - 180
Paul Pratt	- May 15/80 - 180
Luke Fazio	- May 21/74 - 165
Dan Brunton	- May 18/74 - 156
Ron Ridout	- May 14/79 - 152
Margaret Bain	- May 15/77 - 151

The only other province for which we have high daily totals is Quebec where Bruce Di Labio leads with 135 on May 19/74.

It is noted that all the above daily feats occurred in May. Should we have yet another category? Perhaps big day numbers for the second six months of the year would be an interesting addition. We also intend to get into "Winter Lists" in due course. And -- here's another one. What are the earliest and latest dates in any year on which anyone has listed 100 species or more?

continued on Page 15.

An Unusual Snowy Egret Narrative

Robert Hart, a geologist whose activities involve frequent visits to the Queen Charlotte Islands, has posted us on a story about a snowy egret which typifies the kind of coincidence that is always happening to observant birders. It is doubly interesting because it documents a sighting of a snowy egret in the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Here's his story: "On a visit to my project last fall, I took a few hours off from work on Sept. 25th and drove to Massett on the northern end of Graham Island. My objective was to visit a swamp which I had heard was a stopping place for migrating waterfowl. There were water birds aplenty but, in addition, a lone snowy egret was seen from about 150 feet.

On February 28, 1981, on the P.W.A. flight from Vancouver to Sandspit, I sat with a man and his wife from Tasu on the west coast of Moresby Island. Without knowing of my interests in birds they told me of a surprising event on a horribly stormy day in November, 1980. Their 10-year old son brought home a very wet, cold bird which they identified from their bird books as a snowy egret! They realized it was a rarity but were sure of their identification. The bird died shortly after they took it into their home."

Massett is approximately at the 54th parallel of latitude. It seems unlikely there are any more northerly records of this stragglng southerner.

Does anyone know of any other Queen Charlotte records for a snowy egret?

Statisticae cont'd from Page 14.

Now for some location lists - lifetime.

For Point Pelee, we're aware of at least three life lists of 250 or more. There are likely more.

Alan Wormington	-	296
Paul Pratt	-	276
Gerry Bennett	-	256

For Rondeau Provincial Park, Ont., Paul Pratt has observed a total of 280 species.

David Stirling has a life list of 283 for Vancouver Island.

With this issue, subscribers will receive a form on which to report updated information. One category has been added - "North America" which, for bird reporting purposes is intended to mean all of Canada plus continental U.S.A. (include Alaska but not Hawaii) but not Mexico or Central America.

Please mail these not later than May.20/81.

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