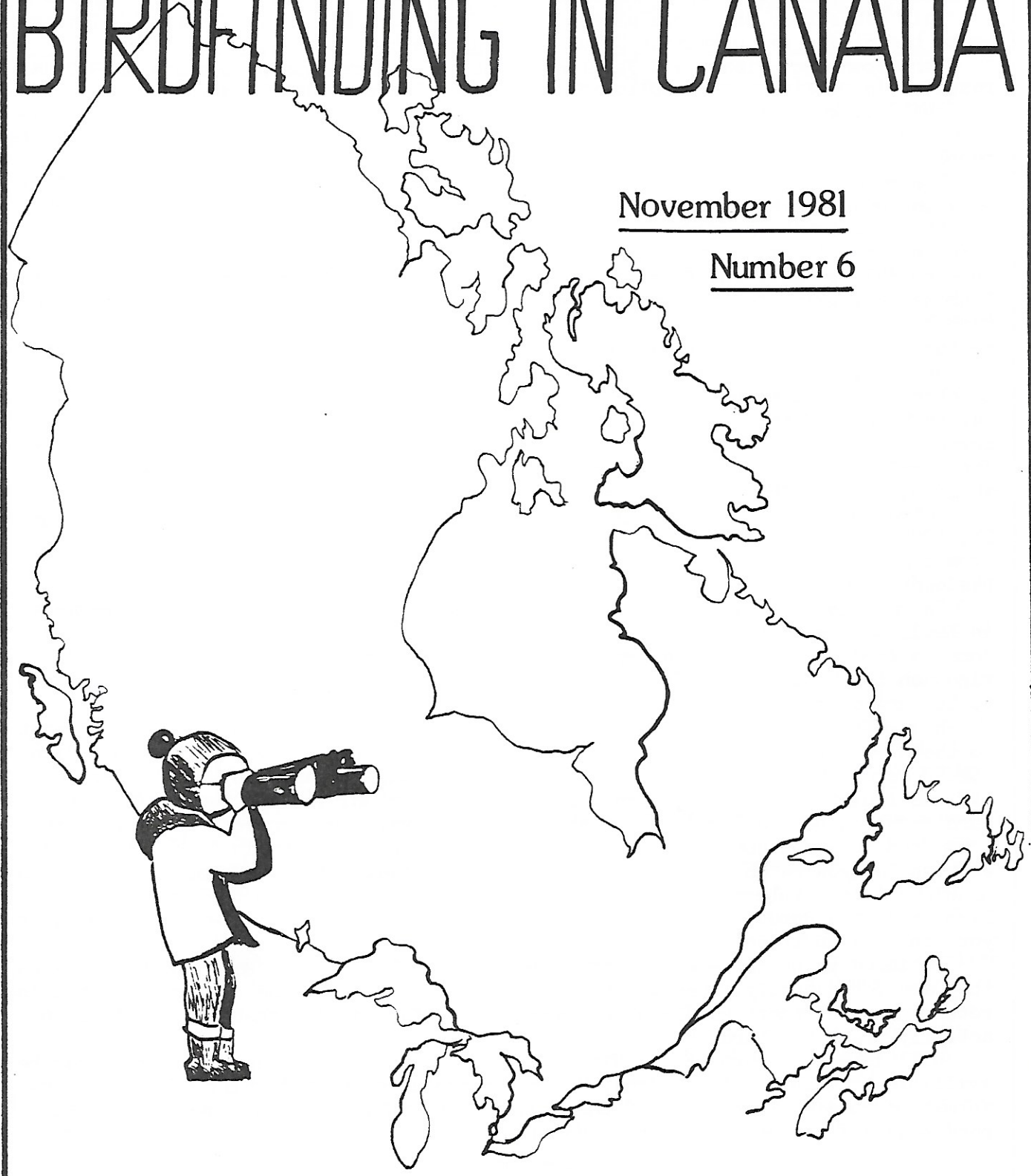


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BIRDFINDING IN CANADA

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STATISTICAE CANADENSIS

With this issue of BIRDFINDING IN CANADA, individual subscribers will receive a questionnaire that relates to both personal birding statistics and selection of most-wanted species.

Completion of this form, in total or in part, is, of course, a matter of personal decisions and preferences. Some birders scoff at the statistical side of birding. Lots of others (including ourselves) find it adds one more facet of enjoyment to the sport of birdfinding.

So far, so good. No problem.

Where our dilemma as editor does arise is when someone who has filed reports previously, now elects to skip this time. We now have to guess if:

- (a) Previous numbers remain unchanged and should be re-used.
- (b) A simple bit of procrastination is involved and the ballot will arrive in due course but too late for action.
- (c) The birder prefers, from now on, to opt out of the numbers game and assumes that we will intuitively sense that intention.

To solve this quandary, here's what we intend to do.

Questionnaires on statistics are distributed every six months. Birders who have filed any time within the last seven months will always have their most recent figures published. For those who haven't reported in seven months (i.e. skipped twice in a row) it will be assumed that their interest is to opt out so their names will now be omitted.

This should be fair to all and eliminate a lot of guesswork.

ATPAT LISTING - LOOKS LIKE A WINNER!

In our September '81 issue, we introduced the idea of "ATPAT" listing - that is, aggregate totals of Provincial and Territories' life lists. The original idea was not ours. It was a variation on a theme composed by Eric Tull and Dave Mark.

Almost all our feedback on this idea has been positive and enthusiastic. Several birders have now filed their figures and others have updated their previous lists. We will, of course, have yet another revision when we receive the new questionnaires. But, at present, here is the latest look:

Eric Tull, Edmonton, Alta.	- 2545
Bruce Mactavish, Waverley, N.S.	- 1832
Hue MacKenzie, Ottawa, Ont.	- 1729
David Mark, Tonawanda, N.Y.	- 1729
Jo Ann Murray, Ottawa, Ont.	- 1656
Larry Neily, Kingston, N.S.	- 1618
Luke Fazio, Mississauga, Ont.	- 1553
Gerry Bennett, Woodbridge, Ont.	- 1552
Dan Brunton, Ottawa, Ont.	- 1402
Richard Poulin, Ottawa, Ont.	- 1392

Negative reaction to introducing ATPAT includes the observation that it is a gross anomaly giving equal weight to entities like Prince Edward Island and British Columbia and that it just isn't scientific. Well, that's the whole point. No phase of STATISTICAE CANADENSIS is intended to be scientific. It's the fun department of Birdfinding. And ATPAT is just another game. Any number can play!

SON OF ATPAT

Already, new applications of the ATPAT idea have been suggested, complete with appropriate acronyms. First came SYATPAT or Single Year, All etc.etc. To get some idea of what a challenging target would be, we went to the 1980 records when Davd Mark and Gerry Bennett birded the country coast-to-coast. This was reviewed in detail captioned "Mark's Remarkable Mark" in our March issue. In that year, Dave Mark had a SYATPAT score of 1156 made up of: Yukon - 38; N.W.T.- 28, B.C.- 258; Alberta - 96; Saskatchewan - 101; Manitoba - 201; Ontario - 250; Quebec - 48; Nova Scotia - 126; Newfoundland - 10, with no observing in New Brunswick or Prince Edward Island. Bennett had 1016 with observations in all 10 provinces but none in Yukon or N.W.T.

BYATPAT is a hash total of one's best year ever in each province and territory and Mark's figure for this is 1400. We await the Tulls and Mactavishes etc. for further data on this one.

In the upcoming January and March issues in '82, we'll publish new figures relative to World, North America, Canada, Provinces and Territories' life lists.

Please be sure to mail questionnaires promptly as there is a lot of work in compiling results. You can always make minor last minute adjustments by letter or 'phone.

Meanwhile, with a new year coming up, for those who are planning objectives and projects, this is a good time to review big year and big day landmarks.

In Canada, Mark's target of 417 stands as the one to beat. Four others have exceeded 350 - Bennett - 1980 - 402; Fazio - 1973 - 381; Mark Gawn - 376 - '79; Di Labio - 352 - 1977. Paul Pratt had 349 in '76 and Dan Brunton 334 in '79.

Province-wise, David Stirling's total in British Columbia in 1979 of 319 species stands not only as the highest for B.C. but for any province.

A high of 311 has been reached in Ontario (A.Wormington, L.Fazio) and Alan Wormington has exceeded 300 three times! Up to the end of 1980, eight birders had broken 275 in Ontario. At least one more can now be added as Dave Fidler of King City had 277 as of Oct.19th,1981.

We have no record of 300 being reached in any other provinces.Two impressive one-year lists for the Territories are 130 by Richard Cannings in Yukon in 1980 and 155 in the Northwest Territories by Al Wormington in 1973.

Now for some day-lists. On May 11,1979, Al Wormington totalled 184 species in Ontario. Paul Pratt and David McCorquodale had 180 each on May 15, 1980. Ron Ridout, Margaret Bain, Luke Fazio and Dan Brunton are others who have broken 150 in a day.

Richard Cannings' total of 152 in British Columbia on May 13/79 is our highest on file for that province and Bruce Di Labio's 135 on May 18, '74 is the most we've had reported from Quebec.

One category of big-day lists that begs inclusion in our records relates to dates other than May. All big days reported so far have been in that month. We know of some impressive daily totals in April, June and September. In fact, it's a relative thing and a list of 55 in February may well be as challenging as one of 100 in migration periods. If you have such numbers, they can be included in the "Comments" section of the questionnaire or on a separate sheet of paper.

(Continued.....on Page 14.)