

BIRDFINDING IN CANADA

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Record Keeping

We thank several readers who have updated us following our November '83 issue in which we requested help in revising Provincial list totals. New data was received for Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. So, most recent data on hand show the following totals:

British Columbia	418	Saskatchewan	338	New Brunswick	340
Yukon Territory	210	Manitoba	330	Nova Scotia	389
Northwest Territories	240	Ontario	427	Prince Edward Island	360
Alberta	340	Quebec	360	Newfoundland	290

We do not have an updated total relating to Canada. This is difficult to peg as there is no central, official source publishing such data. Also, additions are occurring frequently with wide-ranging degrees of documentation. We'd guess the figure of 570 is close.

ATPAT numbers continue to be a popular phase of records among many birders. The term is an acronym denoting "All Territories and Provinces Added Together." Figures below, therefore, reflect totals of birders' Provincial and Territories' life lists. The concept provides one more incentive for coast to coast birding.

Here are the latest 24 top figures:

Eric Tull, Westmount, Que.	2669	Dan Brunton, Ottawa, Ont.	1548
Bruce Mactavish, St. John's, Nfld.	2021	David Stirling, Victoria, B.C.	1441
Hue MacKenzie, Burnaby, B.C.	1873	Roger Taylor, Ottawa, Ont.	1357
Roger Burrows, Pouch Cove, Nfld.	1847	Stan Shadick, Saskatoon, Sask.	1348
Jo Ann MacKenzie, Burnaby, B.C.	1843	Blake Maybank, Rocky Harbour, Nfld.	1277
Dave Mark, Tonawanda, N.Y.	1806	Chris Adam, Regina, Sask.	1191
Alex Gray, Mississauga, Ont.	1753	Doug Kragh, Vancouver, B.C.	1180
Mike Bentley, Inuvik, N.W.T.	1749	Bill Crins, Mississauga, Ont.	1163
Gerry Bennett, Woodbridge, Ont.	1675	Bob McDonald, Halifax, N.S.	1159
Roger Foxall, Ottawa, Ont.	1667	Richard Cannings, Vancouver, B.C.	1136
Angus MacLean, Alma, N.B.	1597	Bill Clark, Ottawa, Ont.	923
Luc Fazio, Mississauga, Ont.	1563	Sheldon McGregor, Ajax, Ont.	912

Some thoughtful suggestions were received about segmenting certain provinces' lists. Several provinces have such vast north-south dimensions that their boreal northlands are distinctly different than their southernmost habitats. British Columbia and Ontario are two extreme examples. There are others. When we consider that our largest province - Quebec - has an area greater than France, Spain, Italy and Portugal added together, it does seem that some ornithological splitting may have merit. And, we suppose that, looking ahead, Northwest Territory lists will require splitting into at least Mackenzie, Keewatin & Franklin (maybe Deneland) in fact, some of those reporting do that now. Alan Wormington has done some work on defining north and south portions of Ontario, south being, roughly, below a line from North Bay to Rainy River (not quite that simple) and, to start a round of thinking in this regard, he has filed a life list of 282 species for northern Ontario (his total Ontario is 378). Any others? If there's enough interest in this, we'll get into it more deeply later.

Our latest questionnaire called for National Park results. This brought in some appropriate answers and we hope it will catch on so that more birders will (a) make more frequent use of these locations and (b) report, not just numbers, but narrative data we can pass along. Anyone for Kluane, Nahanni or Auyittuq?

Life lists reported for Point Pelee were:

Alan Wormington	312	Gerry Bennett	268
Norm Chesterfield	307	Ron Scovell	256
Bill Smith	276	Jo Ann MacKenzie	254
John Keenleyside	269	Bill Crins	247

Life numbers for some of the other National Parks included:

Pacific Rim - David Stirling	164	Prince Albert - Blake Maybank	181
Banff - Dan Brunton	161	St. Lawrence Islands - Gerry Bennett	110
Jasper - Ken Walker	136	Prince Edward Island - Angus MacLean	195
Wood Buffalo - Ken Walker	83	Gros Morne - Blake Maybank	140
Riding Mountain - Angus MacLean	219	Fundy - David Christie	199
" " - Rob Walker	210	" - Brian Dalzell	164

These figures at least give us a start in what could prove to be an interesting facet of birding statistics.

Here are some more location lists:

<u>Vancouver Area</u>		<u>Okanagan Valley</u>		<u>Toronto Area</u>	
Brian Kautesk	325	Richard Cannings	253	Don Perks	336
Mike Force	276	Mary Collins	246	Gerry Bennett	310
Jack Williams	259	David Stirling	208	Harry Kerr	309
Colin Butt	249			Margaret Bain	305
Richard Cannings	243	<u>Saskatoon Area</u>		Eileen Kerr	303
		Stan Shadick	263	John Keenleyside	297
<u>Victoria</u>		<u>Calgary Area</u>		<u>Ottawa Area</u>	
David Stirling	281	Andrew Slater	245	Roger Foxall	300
Ray Williams	254			Hue MacKenzie	293
Jack Williams	216			Roger Taylor	289
<u>Vancouver Island</u>		<u>Hamilton Area</u>		Jo Ann MacKenzie	282
David Stirling	288	Alan Wormington	307	Frank Bell	269
Ray Williams	259	Kevin McLaughlin	285	Bill Clark	268
		Bill Crins	273		

Some very interesting "unique" numbers came to the surface. Richard Cannings has recorded 104 species north of the Arctic Circle. Can anyone match that? And, also from the high north, is the fact that Alan Wormington's life list of 155 species in the Northwest Territories was compiled all in one year.

Chris Siddle has recorded 229 species in B.C.'s Peace River District (see Page 5 for boundaries); George Scott has had 284 species along the Oshawa, Ont. lakefront; Alan Wormington has noted 216 species at Moosonee (James Bay) Ont.; Brian Dalzell reports a total of 247 in the Grand Manan Archipelago, N.B.; Blake Maybank reports 121 from Churchill, Man.; Alvaro Jaramillo has 145 on Toronto's Leslie St. Spit; for Rainy River District, Ont., Atikokan's Dave Elder has found 240 of the checklist's 270 species; Martin Parker's total for Ontario's Grey-Bruce Counties is 248; Jim Richards has 273 in Durham Region, Ont.

Some other individuals' activities: Barry Cheriére of Hamilton, Ont. has photographed 83% of the species on his life list. Eric Tull has observed 44 sp. in all 12 provinces and territories. From Dec. 6 to 9th, 1983, Norm Chesterfield added four species to his Canada list - greenshank, northern lapwing, rustic bunting and great-tailed grackle - and 3 of these (not the lapwing) were new birds for Canada - found by others, shown to Norm.

More location lists: Allen Woodliffe's total for Rondeau Prov. Park, Ont. is 296 species... Geoff Carpentier has run up 263 within Peterborough's limits... The following are David Stirling's counts for various points - Miracle Beach Prov. Park, B.C. 158; Mount Robson Prov. Park, B.C. 119; Athabasca, Alta. area 195..... Stan Shadick has 263 of the 314 species on Saskatoon's checklist.

(Cont'd on Page 19.)

Presqu'île Prov. Park in Ont. receives a lot of birding attention. Reports from there include: Geoff Carpentier - 243; John Thomson - 241; Martin Parker - 220; Gerry Bennett - 216; Jim Richards - 192 and Michael McEvoy - 189.

Possibly in future we could work on some exact definitions of areas. Terrie Woodrow points out, for example, suppose you're visiting an area in a strange part of the country (e.g. Oak Hammock, Presqu'île, etc.) - are the accepted limits the obvious boundaries of the area? Or does the "birding area" extend beyond? In the case of Point Pelee figures on Page 18, these take in territory north of the Park Gates to No. 3 Highway from Leamington to Wheatley. So far as we know, all other National Park figures relate to official boundaries.

We're running out of space so will have to omit "big year - big day" data - except to say that we have a new one-year provincial record. As of Nov. 17, 1983, Mike Force had observed 330 species in British Columbia with hopes of adding yet a few more items by year's end.

With this issue is a blank questionnaire for updating personal figures. If you intend to complete it, we'd appreciate having it in our hands by May 25, 1984 so we can reflect fresh numbers starting with our July issue. Thank you!

POINT PELEE - (Cont'd from Page 13.)

At the farthest point, there is an elevated lookout from which you can look at some of the ponds (shown on Page 4's map) and, depending on your skills, and whether or not you brought a 'scope with you, identify some of the waterfowl.

In the last hour or so of daylight, we now drive to the Black Willow turnoff and drive down the west road about halfway to the end (you'll likely see birders already on site) where, at a small parking lot, we'll stop and listen for chuck-will's-widows and whatever other night sounds are to be heard.

This completes our rather strenuous and eventful day. Remember - we must leave the Park by 10 P.M. The day has been an interesting one indeed. But it is not one to be repeated day after day for two weeks. We can't handle a 17-hour agenda each day. But, adapting today's schedule to fit whatever lies ahead is a pleasant task.

O.K. We have a good picture now of May birding at Point Pelee. What of other times of the year? And, what about other areas within a short drive of Pelee?

Good questions. We'll handle these in the next few issues. And, don't forget we still have to go back to Aylmer and complete our approach to Pelee which was circumvented through lack of space.

We'll cover all these items in the next few issues of BIRDFINDING IN CANADA.
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Answers to Trivialities: The 12 States that are totally north of Point Pelee's tip are Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Alaska. The other 13 are California, Nevada, Wyoming, Utah, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

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