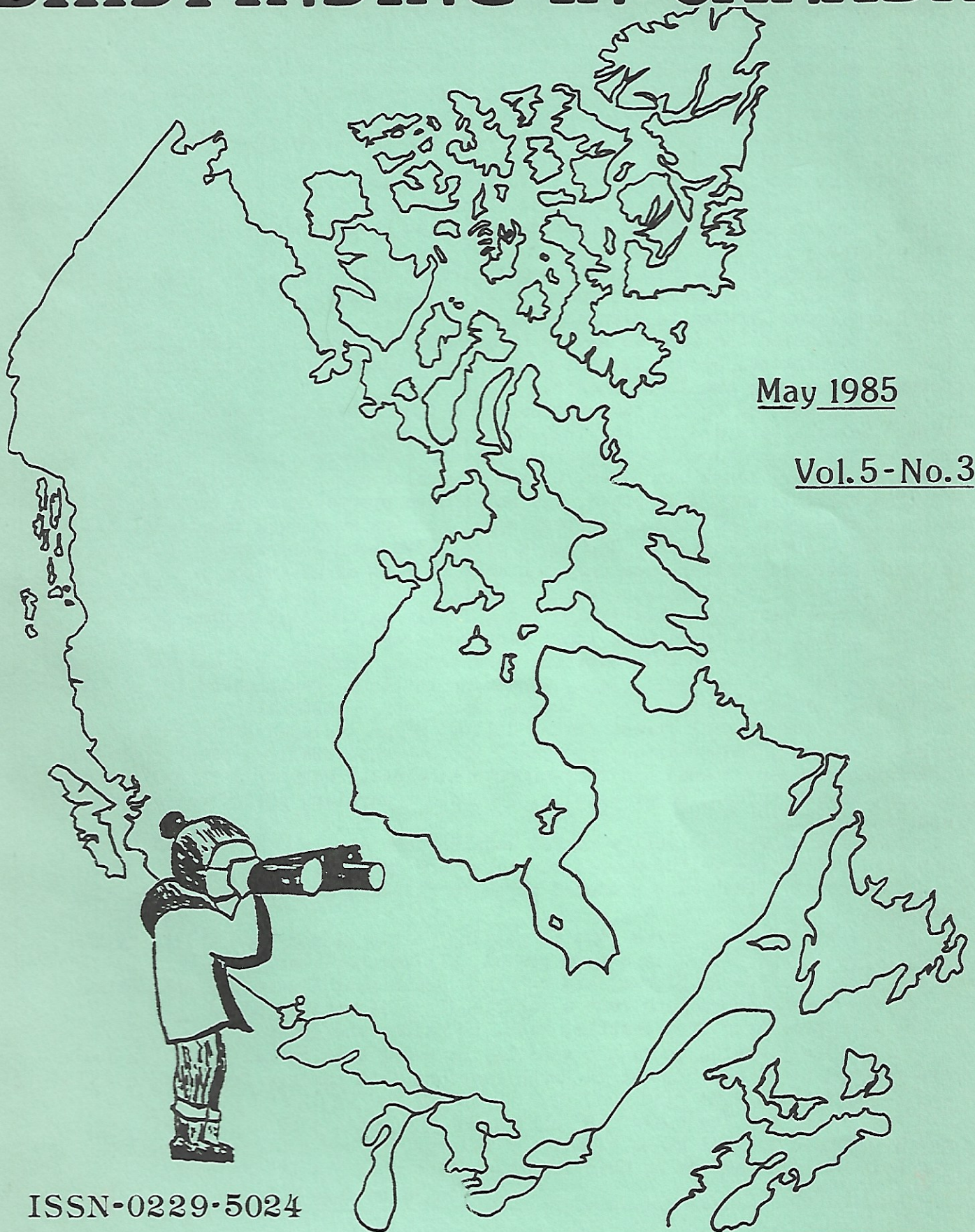


BIRDFINDING IN CANADA

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☆☆☆ Record Keeping ☆☆☆

Traditionally, our May and November issues are the ones in which we review miscellaneous types of personal records.

Let's start with ATPAT figures - "All Territories and Provinces Added Together" popular type of composite statistic reflecting country-wide coverage.

As of March 25th, 1985, 26 subscribers had reported scores of 1000 or more. These are, of course, life lists' totals.

Eric Tull, Westmount, Que.	2674	Rick Howie, Kamloops, B.C.	1463
Bruce Mactavish, St. John's, Nfld.	2034	David Stirling, Victoria, B.C.	1451
Alex Gray, Mississauga, Ont.	1918	Wayne Weber, Vancouver, B.C.	1383
Hue MacKenzie, Burnaby, B.C.	1912	Roger Taylor, Ottawa, Ont.	1359
Jo Ann MacKenzie, Burnaby, B.C.	1901	Stan Shadick, Saskatoon, Sask.	1357
Roger Burrows, St. John's, Nfld.	1872	Edge Pegg, Claremont, Ont.	1311
Dave Mark, Tonawanda, N.Y.	1828	Gordon Grief, Dugald, Man.	1219
Roger Foxall, Halifax, N.S.	1811	Bill Crins, Mississauga, Ont.	1201
Mike Bentley, Victoria, B.C.	1749	Chris Adam, Regina, Sask.	1191
Gerry Bennett, Woodbridge, Ont.	1692	Doug Kragh, Vancouver, B.C.	1180
Angus MacLean, Alma, N.B.	1668	Bob McDonald, Halifax, N.S.	1172
Blake Maybank, Rocky Harbour, Nfld.	1585	Richard Cannings, Vancouver, B.C.	1135
Luke Fazio, Mississauga, Ont.	1578	Bill Clark, Ottawa, Ont.	1077

Personal birding records, relating to numbers of species recorded, usually involve two dimensions - a location specifically defined, and a time period.

The record with the most elastic limits is obviously the life list - world, which means all species noted anywhere in the world in one's lifetime. From that extreme, records involve time frames such as a year, or a day, these two appearing to be the commonest. We've been asked to recognize decade lists. This obviously splits between decimal decades, such as the 1970's, '60's, etc. and rolling ten-year periods. At present, we have no plans to get into this. From a sort of "fun thing" to brighten up one's day, the "Big Minute" has surfaced recently with a modest amount of acceptance. We'll say one thing - it surely saves time! This is simply the amount of observing (number of species) one can cram into one full minute and mainly presents a challenge in the selection of the arena in which the game is going to be played. There is no finite end to the combinations of time-periods birders might apply.

Also, the selection of locations, for record purposes, is truly infinite. A sovereign state, a hemisphere, a province, a county, a prescribed area with a city's core as a starting point, a National Park, an island, one's own back yard -- birders could never run out of ideas on this one.

Our difficulties, when compiling these types of records, relate to selecting the ones we think are of most interest to readers, and then keeping them in some kind of perspective. For example, the number of birds that Joe Whatname has listed on his own property may be of utmost interest to Joe. But does anybody else care? (Actually, we do!) Lot lists do have certain points of interest especially relating to anecdotal sidelights and unlikely species. For example, Blake Maybank has willow ptarmigan on his Rocky Harbour, Nfld. lot list. Can you match that?

Another problem we have is judging meaningfulness of certain figures. For example, to know if a life list of 250 species for the Horner's Corners area is significant, we need to know what the total checklist for that part of the country really is. If you know it, please include this type of information when reporting local totals.

(Cont'd....on Page 26.)

Alan Wormington has suggested that when we report on a location, we always follow the name of the area with its total checklist number in parentheses. We endorse this suggestion. However, we have great problems keeping track of many totals, and even more in discovering many others. Therefore, may we turn that suggestion around, and ask that readers, when reporting a location list figure, include the area's checklist total, if it is known. Identification of the source authority would also be helpful.

We bemoan the fact that, so far, we haven't been able to develop an ongoing, reliable method of even keeping track of what the total Canada list is. In fact, it appears that: (a) no one knows, and (b) nobody intends to maintain such a statistic. For Canada, the provinces and territories, here are totals we have at present. If anyone can update us on any of these, it would be much appreciated. Please quote the authoritative source.

		Canada	565		
British Columbia	440	Ontario	430	Prince Edward Island	280
Alberta	340	Quebec	364	Newfoundland	322
Saskatchewan	339	New Brunswick	355	Yukon	232
Manitoba	334	Nova Scotia	372	Northwest Territories	281

Additions to the British Columbia list, of which we've just recently become aware, include confirmation of a Costa's hummingbird photographed at Nanaimo, July 1, 1984, and a black-throated blue warbler found (also photographed) by Linda Van Damme and Gary Davidson at Creston, Sept. 22, 1984.

We have several other topics to get into about location lists - one of them being the selection of boundaries where city or regional limits are concerned - but will have to save these for a future issue or we'll never get any numbers reviewed in this one.

So, let's go quickly to life lists for some of the National Parks.

POINT PELEE (345)

Alan Wormington	314	Scott Connop	264	Hue MacKenzie	245
Norm Chesterfield	307	Don Perks	260	Mike Austin	244
Wilf Botham	285	Ron Scovell	256	Hugh Currie	242
Bill Smith	270	Jo Ann MacKenzie	254	Bill Clark	238
John Keenleyside	269	Roger Burrows	250	Pete Read	237
Gerry Bennett	268	Bill Crins	248	Herb Elliott	233
Luke Fazio	268	Geoff Carpentier	246	Gerry Binsfeld	230

GROS MORNE

Blake Maybank	168
Rob Walker	147
Roger Burrows	143

FUNDY

David Christie	199
Brian Dalzell	167
Roger Burrows	154
Geoff Carpentier	142
Rob Walker	138

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Roger Burrows	195
Angus MacLean	195

RIDING MOUNTAIN

Angus MacLean	219
Rob Walker	210

KOUCHIBOUGUAC

Roger Burrows	205
Eric Tull	184

Auyuittuq National Park is one we watch with interest. Meaning "the land that never melts" Auyuittuq is on the coast of Baffin Island just north of the Arctic circle. According to Stephenson's "Canada's National Parks" there are 32 species on the checklist. Stan Shadick holds the record (on our books anyway) with a total of 9 species run up from July 19 to 25, 1979. However, we now have a runner-up. Doug McCallum was there for the first two weeks of August, 1983 and totalled 6 species!

Looking at more Arctic-based records, we find that Dick Cannings has a life list of 105 species in Canada, north of the Arctic circle. Eric Tull has 98 and an additional 14 outside Canada.

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