## BIRDFINDING IN CANADA May 1985 Vol. 5 - No. 3 ISSN-0229-5024

## ☆ ☆ 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 Grieef, Dugald, Man.	1219
Roger Foxall, Halifax, N.S.	1841	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.	11,72
Blake Maybank, Rocky Harbour, Nfld.	1585	Richard Cannings, Vancouver, B.C	.1135
Luke Fazio, Mississauga, Ont.	1578	Bill Clark, Ottawa, Ont.	1077

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 Manaimo, 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.

				1	
		POINT PELEE (34	5)		
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		FUNDY		PRINCE EDWARD	ISLAND
Blake Maybank	168	David Christie	199	Roger Burrows	195
Rob Walker	147	Brian Dalzell	167	Angus MacLean	195
Roger Burrows	143	Roger Burrows	154		
		Geoff Carpentier	142	RIDING MOUNT	AIN
KOUCH IBOUGUA	C	Rob Walker	138	Angus MacLean	219
Roger Burrows	205			Rob Walker	210
Eric Tull	184				

Auguittuq National Park is one we watch with interest. Meaning "the land that never melts" Auguittuq 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. Fric Tull has 98 and an additional 14 outside Canada. (Cont'd...on Page 27.)

## RECORD KEE PING .... (Cont'd from Page 26.)

Here are numbers for some urban areas, regions, etc.

Victoria Area		Calgary Area		Ottawa/Hull A:	rea
David Stirling	283		263		300
Ray Williams	257	Andrew Slater	254	Hue MacKenzie	293
Jack Williams	218			Roger Taylor	
Wayne Weber	207	Hamilton Area		Jo Ann MacKenzie	282
		Alan Wormington	307	Frank Bell	269
Vancouver Island		John Miles	295		269
David Stirling		Kevin McLaughlin	288	Gordon Pringle	234
Ray Williams		Bill Crins	273		
	223			Presqu'lle Point	t.Ont.
Jack Williams	218	Toronto Area		Geoff Carpentier	
		Don Perks	339	John Thomson	249
Vancouver Area		Gerry Bennett	311	Martin Parker	220
Brian Kautesk	332	Harry Kerr	309	Gerry Bennett	216
Wayne Weber	290	Margaret Bain	306	Ted McDonald	207
Mike Force	284	Eileen Kerr	303	Michael McEvoy	
Jack Williams	263	Alex Gray	299	Hue MacKenzie	201
Colin Butt	255	Luke Fazio	298		
Dale Jensen	251	John Keenleyside	297	Long Point, Ont.	
	245	Alan Wormington	293	Terrie Woodrow	238
	244	Edge Pegg	286	Jeff Skevington	232
Mike McGrenere			270	Roy Smith	232
Rick Howie	201		247		
				241	
		B.C Richard Cann	ings	256	
	11	- 11419 00111110		256	
Athabasca Region, Alta David Stirling 195					
Regina Birding Area - Chris Adam 247					
Saskatoon Birding Area - Stan Shadick 265					
Rondeau Provincial Park, Ont Allen Woodliffe 300					
Algonquin Prov. Park, Ont Ron Pittaway 202					
Grand Manan, N.B Brian Dalzell 271					
Oak Hammock Marsh, Man Gordon Grieef 216					
Brier Island, N.S Eric Mills 260					
7 7 11 11					т.

Enclosed with this issue is a new questionnaire for updating records. If you intend to fill in any, or all, of the form, please try to have it in our hands by May 25, 1985. Thank you.

We'll have more to say about miscellaneous types of records (big years,

etc.) in the next issue.

BIRDFINDING IN CANADA is published six times a year by G.Bennett, R.R.# 2, 10780 Pine Valley Drive, Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada. IAL 1A6.

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