

WATERFOWL OBSERVATIONS IN NORTHEASTERN  
NEW BRUNSWICK - 1951 Anon.

*GP Boyer or summer student?*

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WATERFOWL OBSERVATIONS IN NORTH-EASTERN NEW  
BRUNSWICK, 1951

The following waterfowl observations were made in conjunction with American merganser studies on the lower Miramichi River system during the period July 10 to August 8, 1951. The attached tracing can be used in conjunction with Sheet No. 21 NE Campbellton-Moncton, 8 miles to the inch, to obtain the exact location of the various areas studied.

Areas 1 to 4 inclusive are typical fast water streams with gravel bottoms. The first two are in heavily wooded country while the latter although wooded are close to cultivation. These streams have numerous small backwaters locally known as bogans leading off from them. Aquatic vegetation in these bogans consists mainly of Nuphar, Sagittaria, Equisetum, Potamogeton epihydrus (?) and one of the clasping leaf varieties of Potamogeton. Some Potamogeton and Vallisneria was found in the faster moving portions of the streams. Two varieties of fresh water clams were found in good numbers in the streams. These have not yet been identified.

Areas 5 to 8 inclusive are the larger portions of the two branches of the Miramichi from their point of union to a point 20 miles above in the case of the Nor'west and 16 miles above in the case of the Sou'west miramichi. Much of these areas is in tidal waters and there are a good number of small isolated marshes interspersed with high banks and gravel. The mouth of the Barnaby River on the Sou'west Miramichi contains the largest of these marshes.

Area #1.- Dungarvon River

- (a) From Fall Brook to Lower Narrows - 15 miles - July 10 & 11  
(b) From Lower Narrows to Sullivan fence - 32 miles - July 14

Area #2.- Bartibogue River

From point seven miles out new Fraser lumber road to Egan's Pool, near mouth, - 30 miles - July 18

Area #3.- Barnaby River -

From Buckley's Bridge to mouth - 12 miles - July 21

Area #4.- Black River

From highway bridge to bridge at head of tide - 6 miles - July 22

Area #5.- Nor'west Miramichi River

- (a) Between McKay Brook and R. R. Bridge - 5 miles<sup>1</sup> - July 4  
(b) Between McKay Brook and Redbank - 22 miles<sup>1</sup> - August 3  
(c) Between Redbank and Scott's Rapids - 12 miles<sup>1</sup> - August 6

Area #6.- Sou'west Miramichi River

Between Beaubierre's Island and Quarryville Bridge - 32 miles<sup>1</sup> - August 8.

N.B. miles<sup>1</sup> - shore line distance including both banks and intervening water. Other distances include miles of stream only, the streams in this latter case being narrow enough to see both banks at once.

Area Number	Date	Distance Miles	Adult Adult	Black Duck Broods	Wood Duck Adult Broods	American Golden-eye Adult Broods	American Merganser Adult Broods	Total Ducks				
1(a)	July 10, 11	15	-	-	-	-	1	8				
1(b)	14	32	-	-	-	-	6	63				
2	18	30	4	-	1	-	-	10				
3	21	12	3, 1 mat fem	4 (II)	-	-	-	11				
4	22	6	5	-	-	-	-	5				
Total D		95	12, 1	" "	4 (II)	1	-	1	6 (II)	7	29 (I), 27 (II), 2 (III)	97
Total No. of Broods					1 - (II)	-	2 - (II)	5 - (I), 3 - (II), 1 - (III)				
Ave No per Brood					4 (II)	-	3 (II)	5.8 (I), 9 (II), 2 (III)				

The above four areas consist of streams from 20 to 50 yards wide, swift running with gravelly bottoms. These streams contain numerous marshy "bogans" or ~~backwaters~~ backwaters.

N.B. Golden-eye broods 1 - no maternal female present

5(a)	Aug. 4	5	22	-	-	6	-	-	28	
5(b)	" 3	22	50	-	-	78	1,1,2,5(III)	10	8(I),9(III)	175
5(c)	" 6	12	7	3(III)	-	3	-	2	4(II)	118
6	2 8	32	38	-	2	2	-	20	10,5(I),1(II)	88
Total		71	117	3(III)	2	96	9(III)	32	23(I),5(II),	309
Total No. of Broods				1-(III)	-		4-(III)		9(III)	
Total No. of Broods				1-(III)	-		4-(III)		3-(I),2-(II),1-(III)	
Ave.No.per Brood				3(III)	-		2.25(III)		7.7(I),2.5(II),9(III)	

Areas 5(a) and 6 (for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  way up were tidal, 5(b) and the rest of 6 were somewhat affected by the tide. Area 5(c) was not affected by tide.

Adult (flying) birds of all species were in small groups of from one or two to as many as nine. It seemed as if in some cases, at least, these groups were composed of flying broods.