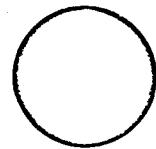


Barry
103.40
CWS-AR
1978
[10]

The Atlantic Migratory Birds Technical Committee
Fourth Meeting

April 28 - 29, 1976⁷
Canadian Wildlife Service - Atlantic Region
Sackville, New Brunswick



- Present:
- J. Baird (New Brunswick delegate)
 - R. Dibblee (Prince Edward Island delegate)
 - A. Lock (Canadian Wildlife Service delegate)
 - F. Payne (Nova Scotia delegate)
 - W. Skinner (Newfoundland delegate)
 - W. Whitman
 - G. Cooch
 - S. Wendt
 - B. Johnson
 - R. Hounsell
 - D. Paul
 - B. Hughson
 - J. Dobell

4.1 Approval of third meeting's minutes

The minutes of the third meeting were approved as prepared.

4.2 Snipe and protected shorebird harvest in eastern Canada

Three possible solutions to the protected shorebird harvest were suggested: (1) prohibit hunting within 440 yards of tidal water; (2) close season on snipe hunting; and, (3) make no changes in the present regulations. The first two alternatives were rejected on the basis that they were unenforceable and unacceptable to the management of the resource, respectively. The third alternative was accepted with the provision that additional data would be collected to (1) identify zones of illegal kill, and, (2) further evaluate the magnitude of the illegal kill of protected shorebirds. A pamphlet on the identification of shorebirds, particularly snipe,

Environment Canada
Library
1st Floor, Queen Square
Alderney Drive
Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 2N6

was proposed for distribution. It was emphasized that the problem was not of biological importance and the fact that some protected shorebirds could safely be harvested without damage to populations was recognized. Tony Lock will prepare a position paper on shorebirds.

4.3 State of Maine proposed zoning change for Blue-winged Teal

Some concern was expressed by R. Dibblee that a special season for Blue-winged Teal in the Flyway would liberalize the kill of American Green-winged Teal at a time when American Green-winged Teal numbers are declining. F.G. Cooch assured the Committee that Canada will voice opposition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with regard to the special teal season in Maine.

4.4 Harvest results

New Brunswick voiced the opinion that the estimated kill of geese was high for that province and that the estimate of the number of active hunters was inaccurate. F.G. Cooch recognized the problem but could offer no apparent solution.

4.5 Brant survey

The United States and Canada will have closed seasons on Atlantic Brant this year. The James Bay - Ungava Treaty area will also be closed.

It is estimated that 50,000 Brant starved on the wintering grounds this past winter and that approximately 60,000 will be heading north. It is presently predicated on the basis of satellite photographs that this will be a poor production year in the north.

Surveys will be undertaken at selected northern breeding sites. During the week of May 16 there will be a co-ordinated Brant survey in eastern Canada covering known habitat in James Bay, southern Québec, and the Maritime Provinces.

4.6 Program Plans: 1977

The following program plans were outlined for 1977:

Canadian Wildlife Service - Atlantic Region

A.R. Lock. Surveys Biologist - Maritimes

Dr. Lock will complete the computerized storage of aerial survey data for the Maritimes by early summer. He will then undertake an analysis of those data. Dr. Lock will continue his work with the A.M.B.T.C. and is charged with the responsibility of examining and documenting provincial problems and information needs. His project also covers the Region's banding program and participation in the species harvest composition survey.

Surveys Biologist - Newfoundland

That planned position has not been filled due to limiting of CWS-AR man-years by senior management of the Environmental Management Service.

J.V. Dobell. Woodcock and Snipe surveys

Mr. Dobell will again co-ordinate the Woodcock singing ground survey as well as the Woodcock and Snipe wing survey program. He is identifying and analysing habitat changes that have occurred on the

70 Woodcock=singing-ground-routes-in New-Brunswick,==The-Canadian- Wildlife Service and the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources will co-host the 6th American Woodcock Symposium on October 4 to 6, 1977.

R.G.B. Brown. Seabird research

Dr. Brown will continue his work on pelagic distributions of seabirds and the co-relation of those data with oceanographic features. Dr. Brown will also continue his work on seabirds in the mouth of the Bay of Fundy (New Brunswick and Nova Scotia), and the importance (or lack of importance) of the edges of the continental shelf to wintering Dovekie. He will have observers on cruises to the Labrador Sea and Arctic this summer, and will participate in a survey off Peru in the October - December period. Dr. Brown will also be summarizing his data on Senegal seabirds and his work in Lancaster Sound and northern Baffin Bay.

D.N. Nettleship. Seabird research

Dr. Nettleship will continue his multi-species study on the reproductive ecology of seabirds breeding at Prince Leopold Island; detailed investigation of *Larus* gulls on Great Island, Newfoundland; studies of population size and dynamics of alcids and Leach's Storm Petrel at Great Island; and monitoring of Common Murre and Gannet at Funk Island.

P. Barkhouse, ~~Habitat assessment~~

Under the direction of Mr. Barkhouse, R. Milton will continue his work on rails at the Tintamarre National Wildlife Area, and a student caretaker will be stationed at the Machias Seal Island Sanctuary.

The Nest Records Scheme will continue under this project.

Mr. Barkhouse plans to contract an investigation on the effect of goose grazing of eelgrass at Port Joli.

Land acquisition will proceed at Portobello and Shepody, New Brunswick; Port Joli and Boot Island, Nova Scotia; and Iles de la Madeleine, Quebec. Estimated acquisition expenditures in 1977-78 is \$350,000.00. No new acquisition will be initiated this fiscal year. Ownership of the Cape Jourmain site has been transferred from the Department of Public Works to the CWS. Some additional land purchase will be required to complete that site.

W.R. Whitman. Habitat management

Dr. Whitman will continue his work in monitoring and correlating water quality, invertebrate populations, and vegetation succession on impoundments established for waterfowl production. He will also be directing his investigation of female Black Duck behaviour and brood movements, as well as initiating the mapping of flora and habitat types of the Tintamarre NWA.

Dr. Whitman will be on secondment to the Canadian Industrial Development Association during the summers of 1977 and 1978, and for brief intervening periods.

~~P. Hicklin - Ecological assessment - Maritimes~~

Mr. Hicklin is presently filling the position temporarily vacated by W.B. Hughson.

Starting in May, Mr. Hicklin will continue his study of shorebirds and their habitat in the Upper Bay of Fundy.

B.C. Johnson. Ecological assessment - Newfoundland

Mr. Johnson will continue his liaison role with the public, government agencies, and industry in Newfoundland. He will undertake a preliminary investigation of water quality and invertebrates in ponds in the interior of insular Newfoundland, and inspect the Churchill Falls Reservoir sites as well as proposed hydro developments at Hinds Lake and Cat Arm. Mr. Johnson also plans to analyse Black Duck and American Green-winged Teal recovery data for Newfoundland - Labrador.

W.D. Paul, L. Knoll. Regulations and Enforcement

Mr. Paul has been appointed Head, Regulations and Enforcement for the Atlantic Region of the CWS.

Mr. Knoll is the Regulations and Enforcement Co-ordinator for Nova Scotia. A Co-ordinator for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island should be hired in the near future.

New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources

New Brunswick and the CWS will co-host the 6th American Woodcock Symposium this fall.

~~The Department of Natural Resources will assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service~~ waterfowl banding project on the lower Saint John River, and have let a contract for the monitoring of songbirds in forest spray zones.

Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forests

The Conservation Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forests has undertaken: an Osprey management program in co-operation with the Nova Scotia Power Corporation to provide nesting platforms and discourage the use of power poles; an eagle survey this past winter which tallied about 145 wintering eagles; an island wildlife area program (includes Scatari Island, Pearl Island, and a 23 island unit in Halifax County estimated to include about 45 per cent of Nova Scotia's nesting eider population - those eider islands will be inventoried over the next two years); a wetlands inventory as part of the Shubenacadie - Stewiacke watershed assessment (project started by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment); an investigation of the elevations of salt marsh vegetation communities in the Upper Bay of Fundy which will be expanded to include the North Shore, and they are also discussing the possibility of creating marshes in conjunction with tertiary sewage treatment ponds with municipal planners.

Mr. Payne will continue waterfowl investigations at Martinique. Initially that area was defined as approximately a 500 square mile block. The study area will be cut to about half that size and production measured by 4 kilometer square units. Brood, pre- and post-season banding will be

~~continued in an attempt to get information on turnover and estimate the~~
importance of the pre-season population relative to the wintering population. The Martinique population will be monitored during the pre-season and hunting season by ground surveys and bi-weekly helicopter surveys. Nova Scotia will co-operate in the Woodcock singing ground survey.

Prince Edward Island Fish and Wildlife Branch

The P.E.I. Fish and Wildlife Branch will continue their annual breeding pair and brood survey at 22 selected sites. They will be banding local Black Ducks this summer and continue banding wintering Black Ducks in co-operation with the Atlantic Flyway Council program. Last winter, 677 Black Ducks were banded.

Three or four sites will be developed in co-operation with Ducks Unlimited (Canada) this summer.

Mr. Dibblee is investigating the effectiveness of Amitrol-T in controlling cat-tail. Areas sprayed last year will be appraised this spring.

Wood Duck nesting boxes will be placed in appropriate locations as part of the waterfowl management activity. P.E.I. will also co-operate with the Woodcock singing ground survey.

Mr. Dibblee reported that P.E.I. will: continue to develop a wetland survey for the Island; undertake the periodic goose and mid-winter waterfowl surveys; host the annual fall meeting of the C.S.E.B.; continue sponsorship of the Black Duck movement research, and will sponsor research on cormorants.

Mr. Dibblee reported that E. Hickey marked 127 local Black Ducks last summer and about 120 during the winter.

Newfoundland Wildlife Division---

Mr. Skinner reported that eider breeding islands are being catalogued between Burgeo and St. Anthony, and the Province is considering the establishment of a Canada Goose population in the lower Grand Codroy.

Excerpts of discussions and decisions regarding program plans.

Mr. Hughson, in response to Mr. Payne's request, agreed to have Mr. Hicklin identify mudflat transect sites at which elevation readings could be taken.

Dr. Cooch. Winter banding in the Maritimes will not contribute to United States information needs. The United States quota is basically designed to assess problems in that country. It is important that we know what birds filter through eastern Canada and whether we should harvest birds that filter through or over-winter.

Mr. Payne. The winter population is important to Nova Scotia. Pre-season birds are also over-wintering birds according to Nova Scotia results. The only way to relieve pressure is to shoot when the most birds are present.

Dr. Cooch. The CWS will send out five wing envelopes rather than ten this coming season. Efforts will be concentrated on Newfoundland but we really don't know how to penetrate that Province. We presently get

Less than 500 wings from Newfoundland and those are concentrated from the Churchill Falls, Happy Valley, Port aux Basque and St. John's areas.

Dr. Cooch. (Response to question from J. Baird). The Canadian Wildlife Federation will not tie their future magazines to United States material.

A United States hunter opinion survey is being written. Canada had a pilot hunter opinion survey but that has not been completed. Most questionnaires have been edited and the data ^{are} ~~is~~ about to be worked up.

4.7 Computerized aerial survey data

Dr. Lock reviewed the computerized aerial survey plan and informed the delegates that they could expect printouts of the data by this summer.

Once the data ^{are} ~~is~~ ready, Dr. Lock will begin to analyse ^{them} ~~it~~ and will respond to information requests by the provinces.

4.8 Black Duck position paper

The delegates decided to omit the harvest figure of 128,000 as they believed they could not validate it. They also decided that A. Lock would re-edit the paper in consultation with the other delegates but that the remaining contents would be essentially unchanged.

4.9 Future position papers

It was agreed that the following persons would draft outlines for position papers:

R. Dibblee	-	American Green-winged Teal
J. Baird	-	Mallard
J. Baird	-	Wood Duck
A. Lock	-	Scaup
W. Skinner	-	Goldeneye
J. Dobell	-	Woodcock

4.10 ~~Other business~~

Mr. Barrow's paper on airboat operation was distributed to the delegates.

A letter from Dr. Armand Boudreault was read by A. Lock. Dr. Boudreault requested the co-operation of ornithologists in providing cloacal swabs for his study of the role of birds in influenza ecology.

Prepared by:

W.B. Hughson
W.R. Whitman

