

there is a yearly upstream migration in the North Saskatchewan River in the spring and a corresponding downstream migration in the fall. It seems likely that the fish found near Edmonton spawn further downstream and then move into this region during the summer. This is of interest, as it is unusual for a fish species to continue what was initiated as a spawning migration for the express purpose of feeding.

Of 64 specimens in which the sex was determined it was found that the ratio of males to females was 51/13, which suggests that more males move upstream than do females.

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REED, E. B. 1962. Limnology and fisheries of the Saskatchewan River in Saskatchewan. Department of Natural Resources, Government of Saskatchewan, Fisheries Report No. 6. 48 pp.

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First Canadian Record of the Brackish Water Anthozoan *Nematostella vectensis* Stephenson

Nematostella vectensis is a small (10-20 mm) anthozoan that was discovered on the Isle of Wight, England, and first described in 1935 by Stephenson (British sea anemones, The Ray Society, London). Subsequently it was reported by Crowell (1946, Journal Washington Academy of Sciences 36(2): 57-60) from a brackish pond at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and more recently by Hand (1957, Journal Washington Academy of Sciences 46(12): 411-414) from a marsh pond in San Francisco Bay, California. In the intervening years it has been found in shallow brackish pools over

much of the British Isles and along the West Coast of North America from Southern California to Puget Sound (Cadet Hand, personal communication, November 1965). On October 14, 1965, this unusual anemone was discovered quite by accident in two brackish ponds on the shores of the Minas Basin near Canning, Kings County, Nova Scotia. This is the first Canadian report and apparently the second locality record for the Atlantic Seaboard of North America. (Sears Crowell, personal communication, December 1965).

The two small ponds from which specimens were collected are located in *Spartina* marshes that border the south side of the Canning River one mile east of the town of Canning. Associated with the tremendous local tidal range of nearly thirty feet are the steep sided gullies which deeply dissect and thoroughly drain most of these salt marshes. Brackish ponds are rather the exception in this habitat. Of the two ponds in question, one contained masses of *Cladophora* and *Chaetomorpha* algae and the other was dominated by the pondweed *Ruppia* sp. The anemone was found in mats of both plants as well as in the pond bottom ooze. *Nematostella vectensis* does not attach to firm substrata but rather lies buried with only a short portion of the body exposed with its whorl of sixteen transparent tentacles spread out. At the time of our local discovery, the authors were searching for marine gastropods and in disturbing the algae and the substratum many tiny white symmetrical "blobs" were noticed drifting in the water. Upon closer examination these objects appeared to be minute anemones. Fortunately the "Keys to the Marine Invertebrates of the Woods Hole Region" (R. I. Smith, Editor, 1964) was at hand and tentative identification to *Nematostella* was later confirmed from specimens sent to Dr. Cadet Hand.

It may well be that *Nematostella* occurs in other salt marshes of eastern

Canada and should be looked for. When expanded it has the appearance of a typical sea anemone and possesses 16 tentacles and 8 mesenteries, but it is nearly transparent and even in an aquarium it is inconspicuous. However, when disturbed it contracts and becomes a conspicuous squat, pale grey mass. Examination under a dissection microscope will reveal the presence of hundreds of nematosomes which are known only from this genus. (For illustrations of the anatomy the reader is referred to Crowell 1946). Each nematosome is a found mass (30 microns) of flagellated cells bearing nematocysts and can be found swimming about the enteron and out into the cavities of the tentacles. The function of these bodies has not been determined.

The authors successfully preserved specimens by allowing them to expand in a petri dish of seawater and then anaesthetizing by adding a generous amount of magnesium sulphate crystals. In three or four hours the anemones no longer responded to touch, and were then flooded with 5% neutral formalin. Our best expanded specimens were prepared by gently injecting the preservative into the enteron of the relaxed *Nematostella* by a fine hypodermic inserted through the pharynx. The result is a ballooned transparent specimen with eight well defined mesenteries.

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Mockingbirds in New Brunswick

RECENT notes on sightings of Mockingbirds, *Mimus polyglottos*, in Alberta and of breeding Mockingbirds in Newfoundland (Canadian Field-Naturalist 79(3): 208-209) have prompted me to submit these observations.

Over the last several years the Mockingbird has been reported more and more frequently in New Brunswick—usually in southern parts though it has been reported as far north as Fredericton. A total of four were reported in the 1965 New Brunswick Christmas Bird count (Nature News, New Brunswick Museum, January 1966) and my own records go back to 1961.

I had seen this species several years ago at Point Pelee, Ontario, and about Montreal, P.Q.; so I recognized it in 1961 at first sighting at St. Andrews, N.B., on December 2. This single bird remained here for the winter and was last seen about mid-May, 1962 by Dr. Neil Bourne, then on the staff of the Fisheries Research Board's Biological Station. In this interval I saw it myself eight to ten times as did a number of other people. It spent a good deal of time about the garden property of Dr. John Hart here in St. Andrews. It was noticed feeding on small rose hips and on frozen apples. In his note referred to above MacGillivray mentioned apples as a favourite item in the Mockingbird's diet.

It is not known whether our 1961-62 visitor fell victim to a cat or some other predator or simply went elsewhere.

In 1964 a single Mockingbird was seen at St. Andrews by Dr. Bourne, September 30. Another one was seen at St. John, October 17-18 and still another at Sackville, October 24-25 (Nature News, N.B. Museum, November 1964).

In 1965 I first saw a Mockingbird a few blocks from my home on November 10. It was eating small rose hips in a hedge. On November 14 two birds flew to the same hedge. Later one bird came at intervals to a small apple tree near my back



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