

NOTES ON BIRDS OF NORTHERN NEWFOUNDLAND
AND LABRADOR

BY EVARTS G. LOOMIS

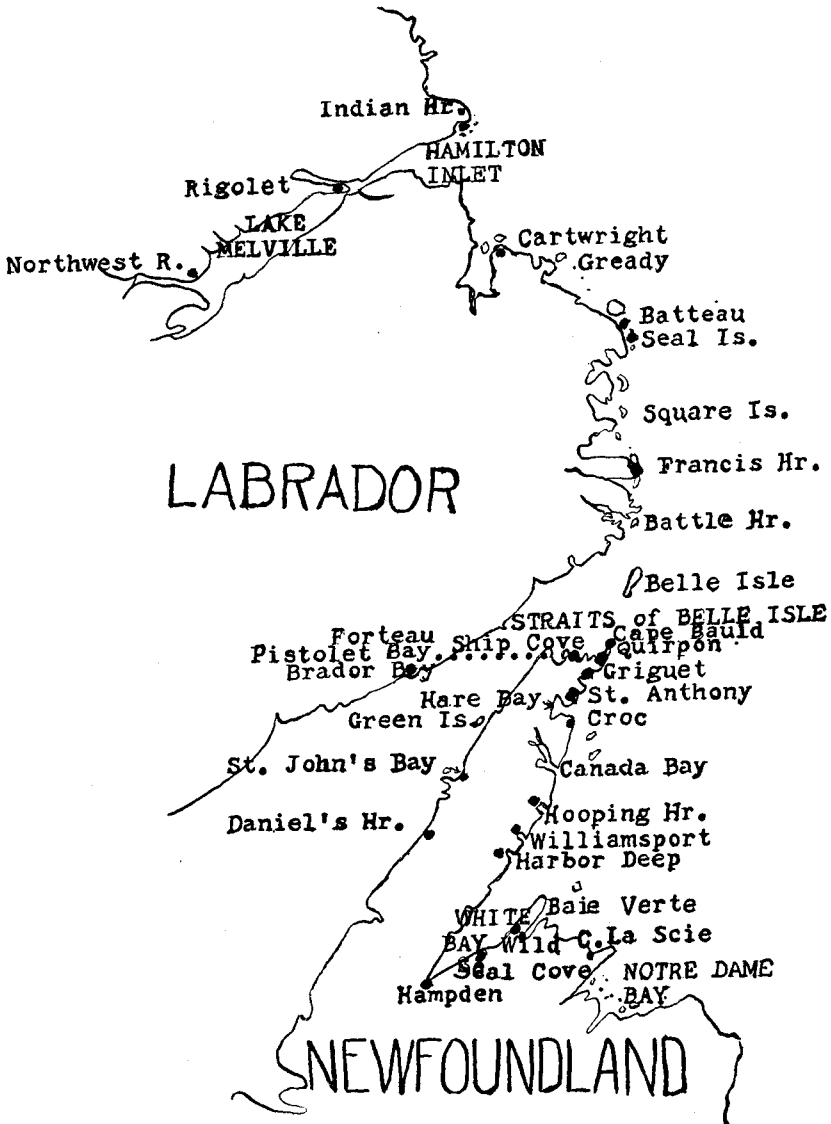
THESE notes on the birds of northern Newfoundland and casual observations from Labrador were made during a five-year sojourn in these parts while engaged in medical work for the Grenfell Mission. The periods from June, 1936 to February, 1937, from June, 1939 to August, 1941, and from June, 1942 to June, 1944, were spent at St. Anthony near the northern tip of the island and twenty miles south of the Straits of Belle Isle. The notes from Labrador were made during a six-weeks stay at Indian Harbor in the summer of 1935 and also on two subsequent trips on board the mission medical yacht, going as far as Cartwright in 1936 and Northwest River in 1940.

Indian Harbor is a small rocky island at the entrance of Hamilton Inlet. The following birds were regularly seen there during the summer and were breeding there or on the neighboring islands: the Semipalmated Plover, the White-rumped Sandpiper, the Northern Horned Lark, the Northern Raven, the Pipit, the Savannah Sparrow and the White-crowned Sparrow. The short Labrador list includes only those records which were considered of interest in extending fall migration dates as recorded by Austin (AUSTIN, OLIVER L., JR. 'The Birds of Newfoundland Labrador,' Mem. Nuttall Ornith. Club, 1: 1-229, 1932) and one or two other items.

St. Anthony is one mile from the coast on a well-protected harbor. The terrain of the region is very barren and covered with snow from November to June. These northern harbors are blocked with ice flows making navigation impossible five months of the year. The trees, chiefly spruce, fir and birch, are stunted near the coast with good stands of timber inland and along the foot of the bays.

During the period of these records, note was made of all birds seen, giving special attention to migration dates. The land birds, always nearer at hand, could be observed much more closely than the water birds. Notes on the latter, which are by no means complete, were made during the course of medical trips by boat along the coast and also on shorter overland hikes. As it was impossible to leave the hospital for more than a few hours at a time, I was unable to get back into the marshy interior and make any notes on the breeding water birds.

Whenever the local name in use among the Newfoundland fishermen was known it has been included. The general remarks and dates without reference to place refer to the St. Anthony region. Except as



TEXT-FIGURE 1.—Sketch map of northern Newfoundland and southeastern Labrador.

noted, all records are sight observations. The number of birds seen at a particular time has sometimes been included in parentheses following the date of observation. Included in the list are the occasional records of: H. Peters, the Atlantic Flyway Biologist and T. Burleigh, his associate while in Newfoundland during the summer of 1943; Dr. E. Burge, a medical associate during the season of 1936 who, like myself, is an amateur ornithologist and former bird-bander; and S. Cooper, a local minister and naturalist who is thoroughly familiar with the waterfowl. The notes followed by an asterisk refer to information that I gained from local inhabitants while discussing the birds and their habits by their local names and reference to Fuertes's plates. The notes from St. John's Bay were given me by an extremely observant young lumberman and fisherman who was thoroughly familiar with the local bird life of the region.

NORTHERN NEWFOUNDLAND

1. *Gavia immer immer*, COMMON LOON ("Loo").—Common, breeding on interior ponds. Summer resident.
2. *Gavia stellata*, RED-THROATED LOON ("Whabby").—Common and breeding on interior ponds; June to September.*
3. *Puffinus griseus*, SOOTY SHEARWATER ("Hagdown").—Common migrant seen in all months from June to October, on stormy days, particularly just off the coast. Particularly common in the Straits of Belle Isle. Usually seen singly or in pairs and associating with the next species.
4. *Puffinus gravis*, GREATER SHEARWATER ("Hagdown").—Abundant in Straits of Belle Isle. Often seen in large flocks.
5. *Fulmarus glacialis glacialis*, ATLANTIC FULMAR ("Noddy").—Seen frequently in small flocks offshore during the summer and fall. St. Anthony, October 8, 1936; specimen collected.
6. *Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa*, LEACH'S PETREL ("Mother Carey's Chicken").—Abundant in Straits of Belle Isle during summer. St. Anthony, October 8, 1936; specimen collected. Harbor Deep, June 21, 1941.
7. *Morus bassana*, GANNET.—Fairly common off northeast coast. Not known to breed. Griguet, September 20, 1936; October 10, 1943; Hare Bay, September 13, 1943.
8. *Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*, DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT ("Shag").—Fairly common locally. Baie Verte, September 7, 1943 (six). Harbor Deep, September 12, 1943.
9. *Botaurus lentiginosus*, AMERICAN BITTERN.—Fairly common summer resident.
10. *Branta canadensis canadensis*, COMMON CANADA GOOSE.—Nesting commonly in Canada Bay region.*
11. *Anas rubripes*, BLACK DUCK.—Migrating in late fall. A few winter. Nests commonly in interior ponds near Ship Cove and Hare Bay.* Hare Bay, March 17 and 24, 1940; August 10, 1943.
12. *Anas carolinensis*, GREEN-WINGED TEAL ("Teal").—Nesting, Ship Cove and Hare Bay regions.* Hare Bay—eight specimens (Cooper).

13. *Clangula hyemalis*, OLD-SQUAW ("Houn").—Common winter visitor. Hare Bay, June 12, 1943.
14. *Histrionicus histrionicus*, EASTERN HARLEQUIN DUCK ("Lord and Lady").—Rare visitor.* Fairly common St. John's Bay.*
15. *Somateria mollissima*, EIDER ("Canvasback"; "Shore Duck").—Abundant in migration and winter. A few breed. St. Anthony, December 22, 1936; (*S. m. borealis*).
16. *Somateria spectabilis*, KING EIDER ("King Drake").—Rather common, January to May, arriving later than *S. mollissima*. Commonly associated with the heavy pack-ice of this season.*
17. *Melanitta fusca deglandi*, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER ("White-winged Diver").—Fairly common summer resident. Breeds Hare Bay.* St. Anthony, June 21, 1942.
18. *Mergus merganser americanus*, AMERICAN MERGANSER.—Harbor Deep, June 11, 1941 (breeding).
19. *Mergus serrator*, RED-BREASTED MERGANSER ("Shell Bird").—Common summer resident, breeding in Hare and Canada bays.*
20. *Accipiter cooperii*, COOPER'S HAWK.—St. Anthony, September 30, 1943.
21. *Buteo lagopus s. johannis*, AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.—St. Anthony, July 1, 1943.
22. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus washingtoniensis*, NORTHERN BALD EAGLE ("Grepe").—Uncommon resident. Hare Bay, April 30, 1941.
23. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*, OSPREY (also "Grepe").—Fairly common. Wild Cove, September 10, 1943. Canada Bay, June 7, 1942.
24. *Falco peregrinus anatum*, DUCK HAWK.—St. Anthony, October 14, 1939.
25. *Falco columbarius columbarius*, EASTERN PIGEON HAWK.—Much the commonest hawk of this region. Breeds abundantly along the east coast from St. Anthony to Hampden. Summer resident.
26. *Falco sparverius sparverius*, EASTERN SPARROW HAWK.—One record. Very careful identification at close range. St. Anthony, August 16, 1936.
27. *Lagopus lagopus alleni*, ALLEN'S PTARMIGAN.—Common permanent resident. Much sought for food.
28. *Lagopus mutus welchi*, WELCH'S PTARMIGAN.—St. Anthony, February 6, 1941. Seen on higher hills about St. John's Bay.*
29. *Rallus limicola limicola*, VIRGINIA RAIL.—One record. Careful identification at close range (Burge). St. Anthony, August 16, 1936.
30. *Charadrius hiaticula semipalmatus*, SEMIPALMATED PLOVER.—Common fall migrant. Probably breeds. St. Anthony, August 27–September 18. Hare Bay, July 10, 1943.
31. *Charadrius vociferus vociferus*, KILLDEER.—One record. Observed carefully at close range. First noted by its familiar call. St. Anthony, November 19, 1940.
32. *Squatarola squatarola*, BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.—Quirpon, August 17, 1936 (three).
33. *Capella delicata*, WILSON'S SNIFE.—Very abundant, breeding in the marshes about St. Anthony. St. Anthony, April 21–October 27. Mating call first heard, May 18.
34. *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*, HUDSONIAN CURLEW.—Fairly common locally in migration and undoubtedly breeding. Quirpon, July 24, 1936; September 10, 1940. Hare Bay, June, 1943 (Cooper).

35. *Actitis macularia*, SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—Common summer resident. St. Anthony, June 21–August 26.
36. *Totanus melanoleucus*, GREATER YELLOW-LEGS (“Anseres”).—Breeding in Hare Bay.* St. Anthony, common in migration; August–September. La Scie, September 5, 1943. Harbor Deep, September 8, 1943.
37. *Erolia fuscicollis*, WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.—Very abundant in migration. Frequently seen on pastureland in flocks. St. Anthony, October 11–November 22.
38. *Erolia minutilla*, LEAST SANDPIPER.—St. Anthony, August 27, 1939.
39. *Erolia alpina sakhalina*, RED-BACKED SANDPIPER.—St. Anthony, August 29, 1939. Observed in a group of shore birds. It was carefully studied at close range with respect to the shape of the bill and the size.
40. *Phalaropus fulicarius*, RED PHALAROPE.—Uncommon along this coast although possibly unidentified in fall plumage. Several careful identifications in fall have all been of the northern variety. Hare Bay, offshore about two miles, June 6, 1941 (twenty).
41. *Lobipes lobatus*, NORTHERN PHALAROPE (“Gale Bird”).—Abundant along coast in fall migration. St. Anthony, September–October. Straits of Belle Isle, September 29, 1940 (several flocks). Baie Verte, September 6, 1943.
42. *Larus hyperboreus*, GLAUCOUS GULL (“Slob Gull”).—Common in fall, winter and spring, especially when the drift (slob) ice is just offshore. Canada Bay, June 6, 1942. Cape Bauld, October 10, 1943.
43. *Larus marinus*, GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (“Saddleback”).—Common permanent resident.
44. *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*, HERRING GULL (“Blueie”).—Common in spring, summer and fall.
45. *Pagophila eburnea*, IVORY GULL (“Ice Partridge”).—This gull is associated with the coldest winter days and a pure white landscape. St. Anthony, December 1, 1940 (an unusually early date). Pistolet Bay, February 8, 1940.
46. *Rissa tridactyla tridactyla*, ATLANTIC KITTIWAKE (“Ticklelouse”).—Abundant fall migrant. Used for food when ducks are scarce. Attracted to the fishing boats by the fishermen’s calling “yitti, yitti . . .” St. Anthony, September–December. Less common in spring.
47. *Sterna hirundo hirundo*, COMMON TERN (“Steern”).—St. Anthony, common in migration; August 28–November 14. Breeding about Ship Cove and Green Island in the Straits of Belle Isle. (My records do not give the relative numbers of this species as compared with the Arctic Tern.)
48. *Alca torda*, RAZOR-BILLED AUK (“Tinker”).—Occasional visitor but rather uncommon off the northeastern coast.* More common in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
49. *Uria aalge aalge*, ATLANTIC MURRE (“Turr”).—Abundant in fall, winter and spring. Used extensively for food.
50. *Uria lomvia lomvia*, BRÜNNICH’S MURRE (“Murre”).—St. Anthony, December 11, 1942. Much less common than the preceding species.
51. *Plautus alle*, DOVEKIE (“Bullbird”).—Very common winter resident. Very tame, often swimming very close alongside the boats. St. Anthony, October 9 (earliest date). Straits of Belle Isle, September 29, 1940.
52. *Cepphus grylle grylle*, BLACK GUILLEMOT (“Sea Pigeon”).—Common permanent resident. Nesting commonly on most of the rocky islands of this region.
53. *Fratercula arctica arctica*, ATLANTIC PUFFIN.—Occasional off the northeast coast

- of Newfoundland. Much more common in the Straits of Belle Isle, particularly on the Labrador side.
54. *Bubo virginianus heterocnemis*, LABRADOR HORNED OWL.—Ship Cove, occasional.* St. John's Bay common.*
 55. *Nyctea scandiaca*, SNOWY OWL ("White Owl").—Frequent winter visitor. St. Anthony, January 17, 1936, February 2, 1936; February 11, 1936; January 1, 1943. Ship Cove, January 3, 1944 (two).
 56. *Asio flammeus flammeus*, SHORT-EARED OWL.—Quirpon, May 30, 1943 (Peters and Burleigh).
 57. *Megaceryle alcyon alcyon*, EASTERN BELTED KINGFISHER.—Harbor Deep, June 9, 1941. St. John's Bay, common.*
 58. *Colaptes auratus*, FLICKER.—Occasional visitor. St. Anthony, August 9, 1936; October 10, 1936; May 18, 1941. La Scie, September 4, 1943.
 59. *Sphyrapicus varius varius*, YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—One record. St. Anthony, August 2, 1936 (Burge).
 60. *Dryobates villosus terraenovae*, NEWFOUNDLAND WOODPECKER.—Hare Bay, January 7, 1937. St. John's Bay, common.*
 61. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*, NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER.—St. John's Bay, common.*
 62. *Otocoris alpestris*, HORNED LARK ("Mud Lark").—Fairly common visitor in migration but by no means as common as the Snow Bunting. It is not usually seen associated with the buntings as it is in the United States. Cape Bauld, October 10, 1943. St. Anthony, occasional in fall; records lacking.
 63. *Perisoreus canadensis nigricapillus*, LABRADOR JAY.—Abundant in wooded areas including Hare Bay, Canada Bay and Hooping Harbor.
 64. *Corvus corax principalis*, NORTHERN RAVEN ("Crow").—Common permanent resident.
 65. *Parus atricapillus atricapillus*, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE.—Common permanent resident.
 66. *Parus hudsonicus littoralis*, ACADIAN CHICKADEE.—Common permanent resident.
 67. *Sitta canadensis*, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH ("Upside-down Bird").—St. Anthony, August 3, 1939. Only record until 1943; October 15, 1943 to February 14, 1944, abundant. St. John's Bay, common.*
 68. *Troglodytes troglodytes hiemalis*, EASTERN WINTER WREN.—Common from Canada Bay, southward. St. Anthony, uncommon, May 8, 1944. Daniel's Harbor, March 1, 1936. Canada Bay, June 7, 1941. Williamsport, June 8, 1941.
 69. *Turdus migratorius nigrideus*, BLACK-BACKED ROBIN.—St. Anthony, common summer resident. April 15 to November 8.
 70. *Hylocichla guttata faxoni*, EASTERN HERMIT THRUSH.—Common summer resident. St. Anthony, April 24 to October 24.
 71. *Hylocichla minima aliciae*, GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH.—Common summer resident. St. Anthony, June 3 to late August.
 72. *Regulus satrapa satrapa*, EASTERN GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.—Rare. St. Anthony, October 17, 1940.
 73. *Regulus calendula calendula*, EASTERN RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.—Common summer resident. St. Anthony, May 3 to October 3.
 74. *Anthus spinoletta rubescens*, AMERICAN PIPIT.—Common in migration at St. Anthony, May 16 to June 27; August 27 to ?.
 75. *Lanius excubitor borealis*, NORTHERN SHRIKE.—Uncommon. St. Anthony, April 6-17, 1943 (seen each day in our yard). Hare Bay, February 1, 1936.

76. *Vireo olivaceus*, RED-EYED VIREO.—One record. St. Anthony, July 7–9, 1940. (This is a certain record as the bird was picked up by its song and then observed at close range.)
77. *Dendroica aestiva amnicola*, NEWFOUNDLAND YELLOW WARBLER ("Yellowhammer").—Fairly common summer resident. St. Anthony, June 5 (earliest date).
78. *Dendroica coronata coronata*, MYRTLE WARBLER.—Uncommon, St. Anthony, April 25, 1943. Canada Bay, June 7, 1941.
79. *Dendroica pensylvanica*, CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.—Canada Bay, June 7, 1941.
80. *Dendroica striata*, BLACK-POLL WARBLER.—Common summer resident. St. Anthony, June 7 to August 30.
81. *Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis*, NORTHERN WATER-THRUSH.—Common summer resident. St. Anthony, May 25 to September 7.
82. *Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*, WILSON'S WARBLER.—Common summer resident. St. Anthony, May 28 to September 4.
83. *Euphagus carolinus*, RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—St. Anthony, April 28 to May 6, 1941 (one bird seen daily).
84. *Pinicola enucleator leucura*, CANADIAN PINE GROSBEAK ("Mope").—Common permanent resident. In full song and mating in early April. One specimen taken on October 3, 1936, was, according to measurements, *P. e. leucura* rather than "*eschatosus*."
85. *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes*, HOARY REDPOLL.—Not uncommon in migrating flocks of redpolls. St. Anthony, October 18 to December 19, and probably later.
86. *Acanthis linaria linaria*, COMMON REDPOLL ("Sprucebird").—Common the year round, breeding here in large numbers. These birds gather into large flocks for migration during October and early November. Our winter redpolls wintering here are probably from farther north.
87. *Acanthis linaria rostrata*, GREATER REDPOLL.—Occasional in flocks of the preceding subspecies. St. Anthony, October 2, 1936; October 2, 1940; April 23, 1940.
88. *Loxia leucoptera leucoptera*, WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.—Seen here commonly in the winter of 1943–1944 but at no time before. St. Anthony, October 14 to February 10, 1944.
89. *Passerculus sandwichensis*, SAVANNAH SPARROW.—Common summer resident. St. Anthony, May 16 to October 11.
90. *Junco hyemalis hyemalis*, SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.—Fairly common in spring, summer and fall. Occasional winter straggler. Ship Cove, February 12, 1940.
91. *Spizella arborea arborea*, EASTERN TREE SPARROW.—Rather uncommon. St. Anthony, July 5, 1936; October 9, 1940 (banded).
92. *Spizella passerina passerina*, EASTERN CHIPPING SPARROW.—One record. St. Anthony, June 22, 1943 (Burleigh and Peters).
93. *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*, WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.—Common summer resident. St. Anthony, June 1 to October 5.
94. *Zonotrichia albicollis*, WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.—Common summer resident. St. Anthony, May 10 to October 5.
95. *Passerella iliaca iliaca*, EASTERN FOX SPARROW.—Commonest breeding landbird. St. Anthony, April 14 to October 27.
96. *Melospiza lincolni lincolni*, LINCOLN'S SPARROW.—Common summer resident. St. Anthony, June 1 to September 19.

97. *Melospiza georgiana*, SWAMP SPARROW.—Fairly common summer resident. St. Anthony, May 28 to September 19.
98. *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*, EASTERN SNOW BUNTING.—Common in migration. Occasional winter straggler. St. Anthony, March 27 to May 2; October 13 to November 11. Cape Bauld, October 10, 1943.

LABRADOR NOTES OF INTEREST

1. *Gavia stellata*, RED-THROATED LOON.—Rigolet, September 24, 1940 (specimen).
2. *Fulmarus glacialis glacialis*, ATLANTIC FULMAR.—Batteau, September 21, 1940.
3. *Histrionicus histrionicus histrionicus*, EASTERN HARLEQUIN DUCK.—Square Island, July, 1940. Stuffed bird recently killed offered to me for sale.
4. *Melanitta fusca deglandi*, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.—Rigolet, September 21, 1940 (fifty).
5. *Melanitta perspicillata*, SURF SCOTER.—Lake Melville, September 15, 1940; September 21, 1940 (2000).
6. *Mergus serrator*, RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.—Lake Melville, September 16, 1940 (adults with young).
7. *Arenaria interpres*, RUDDY TURNSTONE.—Greedy, August 23, 1936; Seal Islands, September 12, 1940; Batteau, September 21, 1940.
8. *Erolia fuscicollis*, WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.—Indian Harbor, abundant summer resident. July 22, 1935, adults seen with young birds (I can find no record of the bird's breeding in Labrador).
9. *Crocethia alba*, SANDERLING.—Brador Bay, September 23, 1936 (Burge).
10. *Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*, BARN SWALLOW.—Indian Harbor. One record, August 23, 1935.
11. *Loxia leucoptera leucoptera*, WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.—Indian Harbor, August 7, 1935.

Washington, D. C.

THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE GREAT BLACK-BACKED
GULL ON THE COAST OF MAINE¹

BY ALFRED O. GROSS

Plates 12-15

SINCE the beginning of the present century great changes have taken place in the populations of the sea birds inhabiting the Maine coast. The unprecedented increase brought about by protection and other contributing factors has involved serious competition among the birds, which is requiring many readjustments. For example, islands which 25 years ago were inhabited by thriving colonies of terns have since been completely taken over by Herring Gulls and today are now being encroached upon by the Black-backed Gulls.

Not only have these increases affected the interrelations of the birds

¹ Contribution no. 13, Bowdoin Scientific Station, Kent Island, Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick, Canada.