

sometimes forming a solid mass of bodies across the stream. Spawning itself generally occurs under the cover of darkness and, when possible, many of the fish drop downstream to deeper waters during daylight. Spawning is a dangerous period for the smelt as many are taken by men and other predators during this time. The eggs are deposited in enormous quantities - from 7,000 to 60,000 per female, depending upon her size - and adhere to whatever surface they contact. The adults that survive spawning then return to salt water. Water temperature determines the length of time it takes the eggs to hatch and, once hatched, the fry drift downstream with the current to the estuary. By September the fry may be 2 inches in length. Most smelt mature by the time they reach 2 to 3 years of age but only rarely live to be as old as 6 years.

References:

- Leim, A.H. and W.B. Scott. 1966. Fishes of the Atlantic Coast of Canada. Fisheries Res. Board of Can. Bull. no. 155. Ottawa. 485 p.
Scott, W.B. and E.J. Crossman. 1973. Freshwater Fishes of Canada. Fisheries Res. Board of Can. Bull. no. 184. Ottawa. 966 p.

BIRD REPORT

- Great Blue Heron - 1 in Vernon on Nov. 15 (JW).
Canada Goose - 65 in Kensington on Nov. 4 (AS).
Mallard - 4 off Queen Elizabeth Dr. in Ch'town on Dec. 30 (AD).
Black Duck - 500 off Queen Elizabeth Dr. in Ch'town on Dec. 30 (AD).
Barrow's Goldeneye - 30 m at West River Causeway on Dec. 27 (AD).
Oldsquaw - 23 at Big Pond in Clearsprings on Nov. 28 (GM).
Goshawk - 1 in Covehead on Dec. 29 (MW,CW).
Bald Eagle - 1 at West River Causeway on Dec. 27 (GGH et al.).
Ruffed Grouse - 1 in Milltown Cross on Nov. 28 and 1 in St. Mary's Road on Dec. 9 and Jan. 4 (WEC).
Gray Partridge - 15 in Ebenezer on Dec. 8 (RM).
Snowy Owl - 1 in the Brackley Beach area in late Dec. and early Jan. (DK and others).
Belted Kingfisher - 1 on Nov. 11 and 1 f on Jan. 3 at Knox's Dam in Head of Montague (JW).
Gray Jay - 1 at Cardross on Dec. 21 (SW).
Robin - 1 in Montague on Nov. 15 (PW,VW).
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 2 in Winsloe North in early Dec. (GP).
Common Grackle - 2 in Montague on Dec. 16 (SW).
Rufous-sided Towhee - 1 in East Royalty Dec. 15 to early Jan. (CW,MW).
Song Sparrow - 1 at Poole's Corner on Nov. 11 (JW).
Grey Seal - 1 at Big Pond in Clearsprings on Nov. 28 (GM).