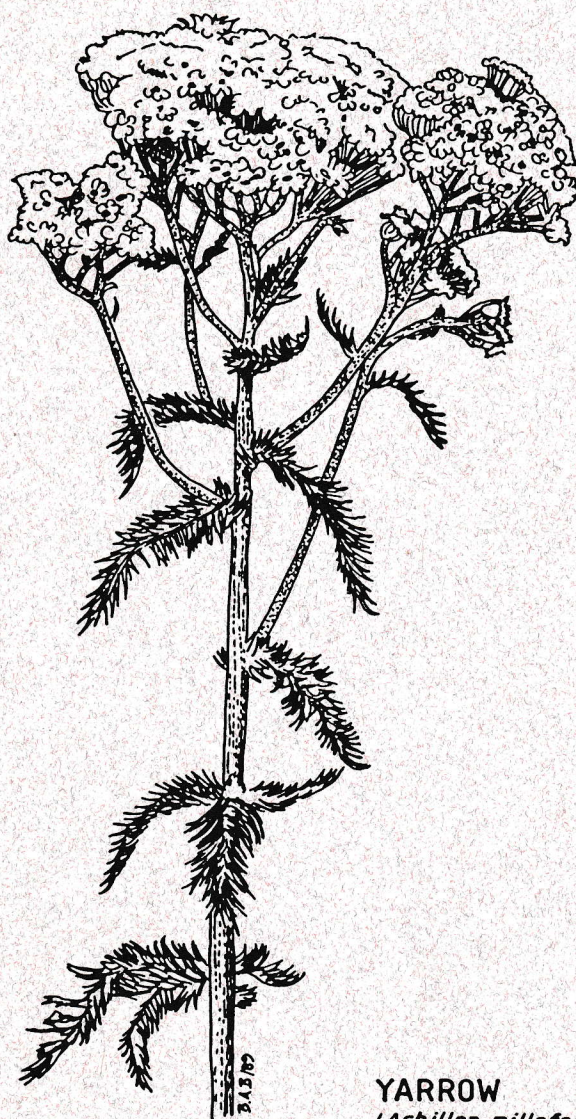


18 (3) November / novembre 1991

# ***N. B. Naturalist***

## ***Le Naturaliste du N.-B.***



**YARROW**  
*(Achillea millefolium)*



The federation is a non-profit organization formed in 1972 to encourage an understanding of nature and the environment, and to focus concern for the natural heritage of New Brunswick.

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Chaque membre recevra la revue *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.* Veuillez faire votre chèque à l'ordre de La Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B. et postez-le à: Cecil Johnston, 29 avenue Coronation, West Saint John, N.B. E2M 3Y9. [À l'extérieur du Canada, ajoutez 5\$.]

La fédération est une organisation sans buts lucratifs formée en 1972 pour encourager une meilleure compréhension de l'environnement naturel, et pour éveiller le souci pour le patrimoine naturel du Nouveau-Brunswick.

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Ford Alward Naturalist Association, c/o Ronald Fournier, RR # 1, Glassville, NB. E0J 1L0; 246-5572; meets Wicklow Agricultural Centre, 7:30 pm, 2nd Mon., Oct.-June; semi-annual newsletter.

Fredericton Nature Club, Box 772, Station A, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5B4; 459-8685 or 454-2117; meets N.B. Craft School, 7:30 pm, 1st Wed., Sept-May; monthly *Newsletter*.

Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society, P.O. Box 12, Sussex, N.B. E0E 1P0; 433-1801 or 433-6473; meets St. Paul's United Church Hall, 8 pm, 4th Mon., Sept-May.

Moncton Naturalists' Club, P.O. Box 4327, Dieppe, N.B. E1A 6E9; 857-4271 or 384-5212; meets Moncton Public Library, 7 pm, 2nd Wed., Sept-May; monthly newsletter.

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Sunbury Shores Arts and Nature Centre, Inc., Box 100, St. Andrews, N.B. E0G 2X0; 529-3386; workshops, exhibits, semi-annual *Sunbury Notes*.

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**Le Naturaliste du N.-B.**

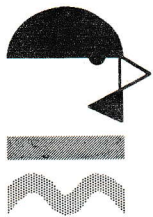
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## From the President

Dear fellow naturalists,

It has been over six months since I was elected to the post of president of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists (NBFN). As with any new position, it takes a while to familiarize oneself with the mechanics and intricacies of the work. I feel very fortunate in this regard to have the support and guidance of Peter Pearce, our past president, as well as the help of the other executive members and directors. It was very nice to meet many Federation members at the 1991 annual meeting on Grand Manan. I'm sure that all those in attendance will agree that the meeting was a resounding success.

Since taking office in June, the new Board of Directors has met twice. At our September 21 meeting it was agreed that our organization needs to have an effective committee structure in order to best carry out its activities and meet its objectives. At this meeting the following committees were proposed and the major goal or mandate of each committee was roughly defined as follows:

- Editorial Committee—to assume responsibility for regular publication of the *N.B. Naturalist / Le Naturaliste du N.-B.*
- Environmental Committee—to deal in a proactive and reactive manner with issues that have an impact on the New Brunswick environment.
- Publicity Committee—to establish a higher profile for the NBFN and to promote the organization's membership.
- Ways and Means Committee—to seek human and financial resources for the more effective operation of the NBFN.

It is hoped that the establishment of an effective committee structure will help to enrich and strengthen the Federation, distribute the workload and enable the Federation to better achieve its mandate. The effectiveness of our organization in serving and representing our members and federated clubs is dependent upon member participation. We need your help to establish and implement this proposed committee structure. If you are interested in participating in one of these committees, would you please contact your club representative, or other member of the Board. All committee members must be paid-up members of the Federation and each volunteer will be able to help in some way. Each committee will contain at least one Board member, but this person does not necessarily have to chair the committee.

Since June, two new faces have joined the Board. We are very fortunate that Jim Brown has become Representative Director for the Moncton Naturalists' Club and Dr. Richard Elliott the New Brunswick representative on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Nature Federation. Dave Smith, our former CNF director from New Brunswick, had completed his term

of office. We greatly appreciate the good work he has done on our behalf for the past few years.

Some of the important issues that we have recently been addressing include the threat of rockweed harvesting on the Fundy coast, the management of coyotes in New Brunswick and the proposed Fundy Trail. We are actively participating in the World Wildlife Fund's Endangered Spaces Campaign and have agreed to support the Fundy Wilderness Coalition.

Given the current financial climate in this province, a number of naturalists have concerns that environmental concessions may be made for short term economic gain. We have been told that provincial and federal politicians receive very little mail from persons who advocate conservation and love nature. Unless politicians are constantly reminded that nature is important to us, there is a good chance that our natural areas will continue to be destroyed at an alarming rate. The voices of concerned naturalists **can** have an impact on political decisions. Although we try to speak on your behalf, many voices are more effective than one. We hope that our members will become more vocal regarding our concerns and priorities. Apparently letters are very effective in this regard. We shall try to keep you informed as important issues arise and will encourage you to lend your support by contacting appropriate persons in power to help ensure that the things which we value are preserved.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable and successful 1992.

Jim Goltz

## From the Editors

As usual, our magazine is behind schedule but, as you will see when you start reading, this can be an advantage. The "Nature News" report comes to you when winter storms are raging but you can read about spring arrivals and summer records! It's almost like taking a southern vacation!

We hope that you are looking forward to that time again—when watching nature or having friendly encounters with "old Bruin" can be done without heavy, long underwear and binoculars that feel like a chunk of ice.

Hopefully, sleepy groundhogs will not see their shadows, and we'll soon have another warm spring.

Mary and David



### Cover Illustration / Illustration de la couverture

Yarrow by Bruce Bagnell /  
Achillée millefeuille par Bruce Bagnell



## La Grive litorne au Nouveau-Brunswick

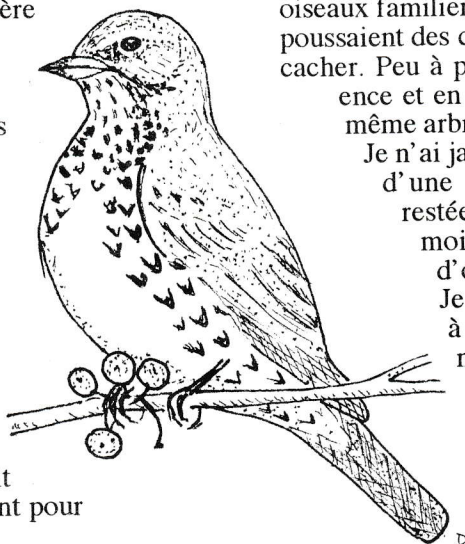
Édithe S. Robichaud

C'est le 23 janvier 1991, en avant-midi, que j'ai aperçu la Grive litorne pour la première fois à ma mangeoire.

Du 23 janvier au 22 avril, elle s'est absentée quelques jours, particulièrement par temps doux. Sa plus longue absence fut du 6 au 11 avril.

Pendant son séjour à Caraquet, elle s'est nourrie exclusivement de Sorbier d'Amérique excepté pour quelques bleuets à l'occasion. Lorsque le sorbier était en grappe, elle apportait le tout dans un arbre où elle tenait la grappe entre ses pattes pour avaler les fruits. Quand les fruits étaient séparés, elle en gobait jusqu'à une dizaine avant de repartir à toute vitesse. Puis elle allait se percher dans un arbre probablement pour laisser dégeler et digérer son repas.

Par jours de grand froid, elle venait se ravitailler toutes les 15 minutes environ, de la barre du jour au coucher du soleil. Les jours plus doux, elle venait moins fréquemment, ayant besoin de moins d'énergie.



À son arrivée, elle semait la panique chez nos oiseaux familiers. Les Pics chevelus en particulier, poussaient des cris d'alarme à sa vue, et allaient se cacher. Peu à peu, ils se sont habitués à sa présence et en étaient venus à se percher dans le même arbre qu'elle.

Je n'ai jamais réussi à m'approcher à moins d'une trentaine de pieds d'elle, étant restée assez farouche. Elle s'est néanmoins laissée observer par une foule d'ornithologues enchantés.

Je n'ai remarqué aucun changement à son plumage au cours de ces trois mois.

C'est le 22 avril qu'elle a été aperçue à Caraquet pour la dernière fois. Elle est sans doute repartie vers le nord-est.

Cette année encore, j'ai fait ma réserve de Sorbier d'Amérique, et j'en mes régulièrement dans mon plateau-mangeoire. On ne sais jamais...

## La nichée d'Arthur-William

### Le Gros-bec errant

Arthur-William Landry



Il y a une dizaine d'années, les Gros-becs errants étaient encore très rares au nord-est du Nouveau-Brunswick. Un jour, au cours d'une promenade, je rencontraï un ami et en plein milieu de notre conversation, nous avons aperçu un vol de ces oiseaux. Un passant s'arrêta et nous demanda qu'est-ce que nous étions en train d'épier si attentivement. Lorsque nous lui avons pointé les nouveaux venus, «Ah,» dit-il, «des petits gibiers» et il continua sa route sans plus tarder.

Il me semble que prendre possession d'un pays, ce n'est pas seulement y habiter, mais c'est aussi en devenir amoureux, le connaître par coeur, l'inventorier et apprendre à le nommer dans toute sa diversité. J'ai apprécié pleinement la grande beauté poétique de la strophe qui, dans *Canadian Boat Song*, contient le vers suivant : «Yet still the blood is strong, the heart is Highland». Pourtant, il ne faudrait pas que nous soyons de perpétuels immigrants, jetant un regard distrait sur un paysage nouveau et pleurant l'ancien, tout en regrettant que la barque de Cartier n'ait pas navigué vers le sud.

Dernièrement, on voit le Gros-bec errant assez fréquemment en groupes de 10 ou 20. Le mâle est relativement gros. On remarque son énorme bec de forme conique, sa calotte noire, son front et son corps

jaunes. Ses ailes sont noires, mais contiennent de grandes taches blanches tandis que sa queue est courte et noire.

Le nid consiste en une structure fragile de brindilles et de racines auxquelles viennent quelquefois s'ajouter du lichen. La femelle, dont les parties supérieures sont grises, y pond trois ou quatre oeufs verts tachetés de brun.

Ce gros-bec aime bien les graines de l'érable négondo (appelé ici érable de France) et il a un faible pour les fruits gelés ou séchés sur les vignes ou dans les arbres. Il prend plaisir à extraire les graines des pommes qui n'ont pas été cueillies et se nourrit aussi des bourgeons de quelques arbres.

Ce matin (11 novembre), j'ai distribué ici et là le contenu entier d'une noix de coco que j'avais évidée pour en faire une mangeoire. J'ai dû ensuite m'absenter et à mon retour il n'en restait plus rien. Cet après-midi vingt-six Gros-becs errants s'affairent à dérober les graines de tournesol que je viens de leur offrir.

Le va-et-vient du Gros-bec errant est très irrégulier de sorte qu'on peut le perdre de vue pendant plusieurs semaines en tout temps de l'année. C'est toujours à l'improviste qu'il revient aux mangeoires et il est toujours le bienvenu.

(Reproduit de la revue *Ven'd'est*, décembre 1986, p. 9.)



# The Discovery of Curly-grass Fern in New Brunswick

Jim Goltz

The Curly-grass Fern (*Schizaea pusilla*), like the Moonwort and Adder's-tongue Fern, is a much sought after botanical treasure of nearly legendary proportion, but diminutive size. It is aptly named for its sterile leaves or fronds that truly resemble small curled blades of grass. Where this fern is abundant, it can sometimes form a grass-like turf. Totally un-grasslike are its fertile fronds that are somewhat reminiscent of miniature tooth brushes. The entire plant typically stands between 5 and 10 centimetres in height!

On the evening of 31 July 1991, Cecil Johnston, Dave McCurdy and I got together to look for interesting plants in the Chance Harbour area, with Cecil acting as guide. Cecil generously shared with us a number of his favourite botanical haunts, before taking us to the "powerline bog," the last stop of the evening. While looking at a small colony of Green Adder's-mouth Orchids (*Malaxis unifolia*), we spied a plant of Screw-stem (*Bartonia paniculata* ssp. *iodandra*). Faithful readers of the *N.B. Naturalist* will no doubt remember that this species of screw-stem is very rare in New Brunswick and had only been reported from two locations (see Vol. 14, No. 4, 1985). Needless to say, we were elated at our discovery and were fortunate to find at least 20 other plants of this species.

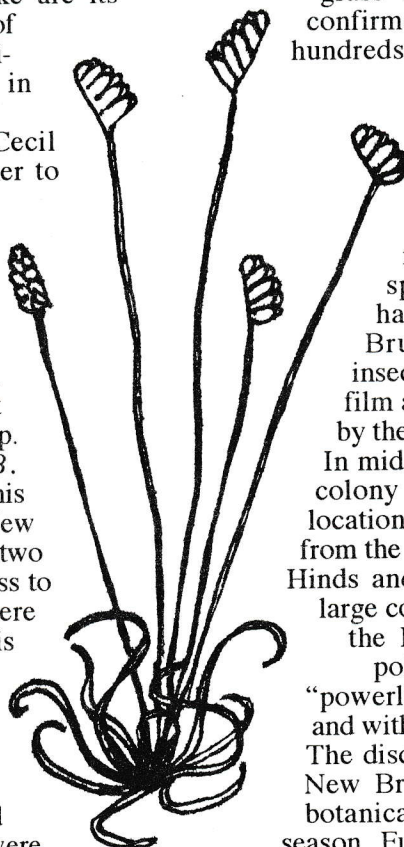
As Cecil had promised, we also saw four other species of orchids, Rose Pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*), Grass-pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*), Club-spur Orchid (*Platanthera clavellata*) and Arethusa (*Arethusa bulbosa*). Few of these were in bloom, but rare indeed is the bog which harbours all three dainty pink orchids. As twilight fell, we marvelled at other botanical treasures such as Horned Bladderworts (*Utricularia cornuta*), Round-

leaved Sundews (*Drosera rotundifolia*) and Yellow-eyed Grass (*Xyris montana*), while snacking on delicious blueberries that abounded on the fringes of the bog.

Just as we were about to leave the bog, we saw the silhouette of what looked like a Curly-grass Fern. More careful inspection confirmed our suspicions and revealed hundreds more. The Curly-grass Ferns were growing in black peat in small wet depressions that looked like moose footprints. Some were also found on sedge hummocks and in shallow peaty soil overlying low rocks. We had discovered a species which to our knowledge had never been found in New Brunswick! Cecil braved biting insects to document the discovery on film and then we were forced to retreat by the gathering darkness.

In mid August, Cecil and Dave found a colony of Curly-grass Fern at another location in the same bog, roughly 1 km from the first site. On 25 August 1991, Hal Hinds and George Flanders discovered a large colony of this fern in the vicinity of the Little Salmon River gorge, at a point roughly 95 km ENE of the "powerline bog," but in similar habitat and with similar companion plants.

The discovery of the Curly-grass Fern in New Brunswick certainly is one of the botanical highlights of the 1991 field season. Further investigation of open bogs near the Fundy coast may reveal that this species is more generally distributed than these few discoveries indicate. Compulsive bog-trotters should watch for it in areas where there is little competition from bog shrubs.



## Conservation Council Honoured

The work of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick received international recognition when it was added to the United Nations' Global 500 Role of Honour for outstanding environmental achievements. The Certificate of Honour was accepted by Dana Silk, a former president of the Council, at a ceremony in Stockholm on World Environment Day, June 5, 1991.

Dr. Mostafa Tolba, executive director of the U.N. Environment Programme, said that environmental defenders do not seek rewards but their achievements richly deserve to be recognized. He hoped their exam-

ples would inspire many others to "join the global coalition dedicated to protecting the environment."

For the last 22 years, the council has been working to advance conservation and environmental concerns in this province and has gained a great deal of respect for its well-researched advocacy and education programs. "We are honoured to be recognized internationally..." said Janice Harvey, current president of the Council, "Our accomplishments... would not have been possible without the concerted support of our members and donors across the province."

For more information contact CCNB, 180 St. John Street, Fredericton E3B 4A9.



## In Quest of the Yellow Rail

David McCurdy

The Audubon Handbook, *Eastern Birds*, calls the Yellow Rail "one of the most difficult birds to see in North America." At 1:30 a.m., July 20, 1991, friends and I watched it wing its way across the night sky, immersed in a bath of spotlights. But let's go back to the beginning of this adventure.

On July 17, I had received a phone call from Jim Wilson informing me that Yellow Rails had been seen at Grand Lake. He, Cecil and Doris Johnston, and Peter Wilshaw were planning an expedition. David Myles and Don Gibson from Fredericton had seen the rails and offered to guide us. Now for the clincher: the trip would require canoeing across an open stretch of lake and a night-time trek across a swamp infested with mosquitoes and other insects. Well, how could I refuse an offer like that!

We met our leaders at McGowans Corner at 6 p.m. Owen Washburn from Fredericton also joined us and we set off toward the lake. At the designated location we unloaded the canoes and prepared for the voyage.

As I looked out across the lake, I became a little concerned; I had only a 14.5-foot canoe with a moderate freeboard, and the wind was blowing briskly. However, I knew that Peter—seated forward—would get most of the water, as we would be taking the waves broadside on the bow. So, undaunted, the three canoes made their way across the lake. On the other side, a Black Tern took flight—a new bird for my list.

Disembarking from the canoes, we gazed upon miles of low unbroken marshland. Sitting around and swapping stories (and lies) about past birding expeditions, we heard the *click, click* of a Yellow Rail in the grassland beyond. Since it was still daylight, we knew it would be foolhardy to try to find it; so we waited for darkness. At least we knew they were still there!

Two does and two fawns came out into the marsh to graze. The subdued light of the setting sun struck their silken bodies, turning them golden brown, a truly enchanting sight.

The span between sunset and darkness seemed to linger forever as we anxiously anticipated nightfall. But as darkness crept in, the swamp came alive with a high pitched buzz. Mosquitoes! Everyone reached for their favourite weapon, and the buzz of mosquitoes was drowned out by the *siss!!* of insect repellent being liberally applied from head to foot.

Prepared for the quest, as it was dark, we set out in single file across the marsh. With each step you could hear the gurgling of water being pressed out of the spongy sod beneath our feet.

In some places this was replaced by splashing as we waded through ankle deep water. It's an eerie feeling walking through a swamp at night; you can't see where your feet are going, but only hear what they are going through. Periodically we would stop and strike two rocks together (a cheap bird call) to simulate the clicking of the rail. This was followed by a 10-minute wait for a response, then on again.

After performing this procedure for about 45 minutes with no success, we decided to return to the canoes. There we heard the clicking of a rail across a small pond from us. We boarded the canoes and paddled across. After what seemed like a 1-km walk across another bog, we finally got to within 50 feet of the clicking sound.

By that time Dave Myles, utilizing the recording capabilities of his parabolic "bionic ear", had captured the call of the Yellow Rail on tape. Armed with this new tool, he managed to bring the rail to within 10 feet, when suddenly it took flight over Cecil's head! This procedure was repeated several times with similar results. It was frustrating knowing the bird was so close but not being able to see it, even with strong flashlights, due to the dense vegetation.

Finally the bird took flight in front of us, and we were able to capture it in the beams of our flashlights as it flew away. A few minutes later, we were once again fortunate to spotlight our elusive prey, this time for a good clear view, including its white wing patches, as it crossed our path. Eureka!! At last we had accomplished what we set out to see. As we congratulated each other we could hear the calls of about five other Yellow Rails in the distance.

When we turned to go back, we realized that we had wandered across the marsh helter-skelter and the trail leading in was lost. After some debate, we trudged off in the direction of general consensus and in a few minutes picked up our trail. Nearly back to our canoes, Doris suddenly disappeared into a sink hole. Immediately four gentlemen jumped in to save the damsel in distress. After retrieving Doris, we reloaded the canoes and set off across the lake.

What a beautiful night it was! The moon had set earlier and the Milky Way stretched high overhead. The wind had dropped and the lake was a mirror reflection of the stars above. The return trip seemed all too short.

Arriving back at Jim Wilson's home at 3:15 a.m., Jim and I decided to go for a dip in his swimming pool. As we floated around in the pool looking up at the stars, we agreed that it was a perfect ending to a fabulous night.





## Things That Go Woof In The Night

Harold Hatheway

The Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) plays a considerable role in Maritime mythology. Primarily a vegetarian and, in a natural state, a shy and rarely seen animal, the Black Bear is far too often pictured as a killer of sheep and deer, and a threat to humans - especially children!

None of this is borne out by the facts. Bruin, if hungry, will take sizable mammals, wild or domestic, but by and large contents himself with berries, eggs, ants and larvae, small game (woodchuck, frogs etc.), honey and bee grubs.

Given the slightest chance, the Black Bear will avoid humans like the plague. Obviously a female will defend her young—just like a human—but even then will only attack if there seems no alternative. Reports of attacks on humans are 99% hogwash.

Unfortunately, when provided with a convenient source of garbage in rural dumps (current closings will bring changes), the Black Bear becomes readily visible and, more seriously, accustomed to humans. This, combined with human ignorance, can result in extremely dangerous confrontations—but of our making, not the bears.

All of which is simply background to my recent encounter with a Black Bear, one which strongly supports this animal's non-aggressive character.

On a weekend last September I went to my camp on an unspoiled section of Oromocto Lake. After supper I strolled down the shore to visit friends, staying until well after dark on one of those nights when you literally could not see a hand in front of your face.

I had forgotten a flashlight but was confident I could feel my way along the gravel road through the woods. Once I had the hang of it I trotted happily along in the warm darkness, pleased at my ability to stay on track.

Within a few metres of my camp, from the total darkness and silence directly in front of me, came a firm "Woof". I stopped dead. While I had never heard anything quite like that before there was no question in my mind—it was a "bear noise", and that was that.

There was a period of silence, probably about ten seconds, although it seemed much longer at the time. I don't recall any breathing sounds—mine or otherwise—certainly there was no growling, or clicking of teeth, and I felt no sense of danger - just relief that I hadn't walked blindly into my unsuspected fellow prowler.

A second "Woof" didn't help matters much. Without wanting to anthropomorphize I can only say that where the first noise seemed a simple warning, a "Hey, watch where you're going" sort of thing, the second appeared a bit querulous, a "What are you going to do now?" kind of noise.

Being totally unsure of the correct answer to the question I continued to stand in silence—a silence



broken first by the rumbling of my stomach—then by similar, but more impressive, sounds from my new acquaintance. My impulse to say "I beg your pardon", while perhaps socially correct, seemed inappropriate.

Suddenly there was a third "Woof" and, before I could indulge in any fanciful interpretation, a sound of feet on gravel and then that of a large body crashing through the bushes beside the road.

After a discreet pause I walked briskly to the camp, lit the Aladdin lamp, boiled the kettle and meditated over a cup of tea.

While I had been fully aware that I was close to a large animal, almost certainly a bear, at no time had I felt threatened. I was convinced that the first "Woof" was a deliberate, neutral warning, given when the bear realized I was about to walk right into him. (Had I done so he might well have defended himself—giving rise to another wonderful myth about "vicious" bears!)

What the bear thought is idle speculation. The hard facts are that it was the bear who initiated the original warning which prevented an accidental contact; who did not attack me (in which it would almost certainly have been successful)—in fact showed no aggressive intentions whatsoever; and when I unwittingly raised the ante by doing nothing, it was the bear who discreetly departed.

A careful check next morning yielded no evidence to my limited tracking skills—the gravel was bone dry and hard, but the next day my neighbour saw a very large, fat, glossy Black Bear busily stuffing himself on wild raspberries and cheerfully ignoring human noises from the nearby camp.

I have no intention of forcing a confrontation with my furry neighbour, particularly if "he" turns out to be a mother next spring, but at the same time I am completely satisfied that—given a modicum of common sense and respect for the ultimate "first inhabitants"—I have nothing to fear from the Black Bear.

This is the first article we have received on a computer diskette, thus saving us the work of retyping it. Thanks Harold.



## Book Reviews

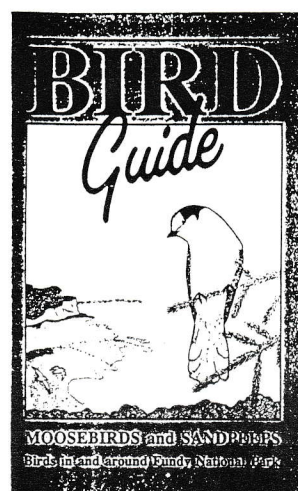
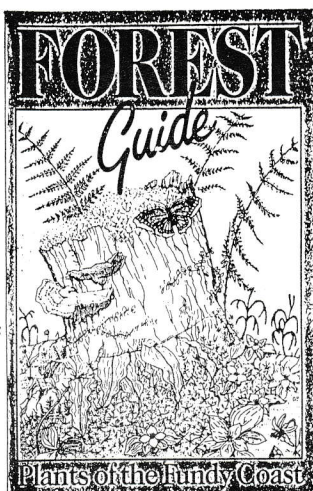
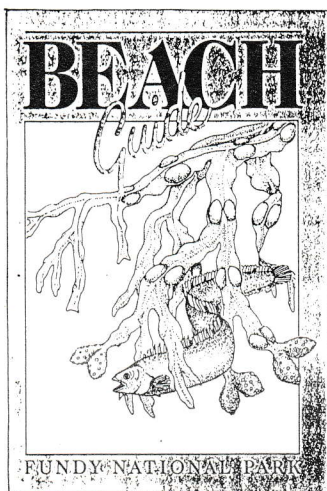
The three natural history guidebooks reviewed here are publications of the Fundy Guild, a non-profit association established to "promote enjoyment of the natural and human history of Fundy National Park and surrounding area." The Guild has also produced a map of hiking trails in the park, colouring posters, a children's activity book and a lavishly illustrated magazine-style publication entitled *Fundy, Bay of the Giant Tides* (reviewed, *N.B. Nat.* 14 (2): 81; 1985). The natural history guides sell for \$3.95 each + GST + \$2 postage on orders up to \$20. They may be ordered from: the Fundy Guild, P.O. Box 150, Alma, New Brunswick E0A 1B0.

All three guides are also available in French language editions: *Guide de la plage, parc national Fundy*; *Flore forestière de la côte de Fundy*; *Des pies et des pipines, les oiseaux du parc national Fundy et des environs*. — SC

**Fundy National Park Beach Guide.** By Michael Burzynski and Robert Walker, illustrations by Odette Barr. 1987. 25 [unnumbered] pages.

*Reviewed by Stephen Clayden*

This is an excellent little guide in every way. It is well written and illustrated, clearly organized and printed and contains just enough information to entice, but not overwhelm, the beginning beach explorer. The booklet is divided into several sections. First comes a description of the four main beaches in the park, including brief comments on some special features of each. This is followed by an explanation of the distinctive vertical zonation of marine plants and animals to be found between low and high tide marks. The core of the guide is a series of 52 excellent line drawings of species arranged by habitat—from mudflat to rocky tidal pool. Each illustration is accompanied by a summary of the feeding habits or life history of the organism concerned. The last page and inside back cover provide a checklist of species and suggested further reading. Like its companion publications, the interest and usefulness of this guide will be found to extend well beyond the confines of Fundy National Park.



**Forest Plants of the Fundy Coast.** By Michael Burzynski and Alison Haworth, illustrations by Odette Barr. 1988. 37 p.

*Reviewed by Gart Bishop*

This forest guide is not a replacement for your field guide to trees. Its purpose is to give a quick, informal overview of the different forest environments which make up the Bay of Fundy coastline.

The guide begins with a brief description of the Acadian Forest Region, the Bay of Fundy climate and the various uses which have been made of the forest. It goes on to divide the Fundy coast into five main environments: softwood forest, hardwood forest, mixed forest, old field and bog. Each environment has a one-page sketch showing characteristic plants, and a page of text describing interesting features. The guide concludes with a more detailed look at many of the common trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, clubmosses, mosses and lichens which are a part of the forest.

The authors show that a forest is more than just big trees, and that in every environment, if you wish to look closer, there is more to see than just the obvious. This guide is aimed principally at those who are exploring the forest for the first time or visiting from elsewhere. Users who take the guide into the field should have no difficulty in identifying the defined environments, or in finding the described plants. It is written in "user-friendly" language—upbeat and non-technical. The sketches are interesting and clear.

This guide has awakened in me, once again, an awareness of the incredible diversity of our natural world and my desire to explore it.

**Moosebirds and Sandpeeps: Birds in and around Fundy National Park.** By David Christie, illustrations by the author. 1991. 34 p.

*Reviewed by Jim Wilson*

When a naturalist first visits a new locality, there is an eagerness to get a quick measure of the variety of life to be found there. All too often, little good information is available.



The upper Bay of Fundy is a marvellous area blessed with extraordinary tidal action, broad coastal marshes and steep hillsides clothed with coniferous and deciduous forests. All life is affected twice daily by the comings and goings of the great tides. The configuration of the Bay acts as a funnel for many thousands of migrating birds each year.

In 34 pages of easy reading, David Christie introduces these features which influence the birds in Fundy Park and the upper bay region at all seasons.

This book is nicely illustrated with drawings and maps and provides detailed seasonal information on over two dozen of the more abundant species. These include the hardy Gray Jay (moosebird), superbly adapted to year round residence in the park, the magnificent Peregrine Falcon, eight brilliantly coloured wood warblers, which fill the woodlands with song and colour for two months, and the marvellous story of the thousands of shorebirds (sandpeeps) which pour out of vast arctic breeding grounds in summer to fuel up on teeming mud life in the upper bay before begin-

ning their spectacular non-stop 4300 kilometre flight to South America.

The book outlines 16 birding hotspots with concise directions and an overview of expected species. These are conveniently marked on a 2-page map inside the front cover. Definitive bar graphs are provided for the 248 species one might expect to find in the region. These provide information on relative abundance and season of occurrence along with a legend indicating preferred habitat and special features of some individual species. Also included is a list of 43 additional rare and accidental birds discovered in recent years. This is particularly exciting for serious birders seeking to add new species to their lists and leaves no doubt one can expect almost anything, particularly in late summer and autumn.

*Moosebirds and Sandpeeps: Birds in and around Fundy National Park* is concise, thorough, informative and inexpensive. It is required reading for any naturalist visiting the upper Bay of Fundy.

## Nature News

### Spring-Summer 1991

David Christie

Spring was atypically warm and dry for New Brunswick, a pleasant season for people, with migrant birds arriving from a few to several days earlier than usual, and earlier than average development of the vegetation. The benign summer that followed should have allowed insectivorous birds to further recover their numbers from the losses caused by the cold, wet spring of 1990. An early start to the 1991 nesting season was indicated by the observation of fledged young **Black-capped Chickadees** at Grand Manan May 3 and of well-fledged **Mourning Doves** at Moncton May 20 (BED). Egg-laying of the chickadees must have commenced at the very beginning of April or in late March.

#### Birds\*

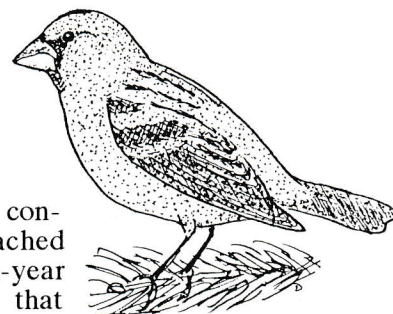
Two storm systems caused much of the bird-watching excitement during this period: a spring influx of Indigo Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks in April and a late summer visit by southern terns, two of them first records for the province.

A coastal storm system Apr. 21-22 was apparently responsible for carrying a big flight of Indigo Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks over the ocean and depositing them in the Maritimes well to the north of where they should have been. Nova Scotia received

the bulk of the flight but considerable numbers reached New Brunswick. First-year male Indigo Buntings that have brown wing bars—and in that way resemble Blue Grosbeaks—can lead to misidentifications, but our province benefited from at least six **Blue Grosbeaks**: a 1st-year male at Bancroft Pt. Apr. 24-May 6 (BED), a male at Mactaquac from Apr. 27 to about May 5 (Mike Quinn *et al.*), an adult male at Mary's Pt. May 2-6 (DSC *et al.*), a young male at Sussex May 7-9 (photographed, John Candy), a male at Halls Creek, Moncton, May 9 (Don Cormier *et al.*) and a female at Dieppe May 17-18 (Gloria Dobson *et al.*).

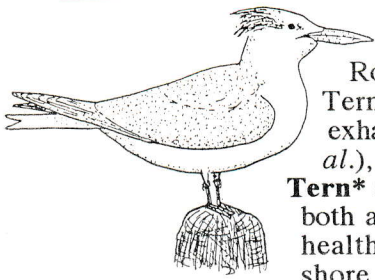
**Indigo Buntings** were more numerous and more widely reported. The Bird Information Line received 31 reports Apr. 23 to May 30 (JE) and I heard of buntings in 22 localities in southern New Brunswick, half of which probably weren't reported to the bird line. Individuals in the north were at Rang St-Georges Apr. 27 (Audard Godin) and Dalhousie May 2-3 (Ken Rainsborough). The drab females mostly escaped notice but a few were reported, including two at one feeder in Sussex Apr. 24 (Pauline Thibodeau). Altogether, hundreds of Indigo Buntings must have reached the province.

The passage of Hurricane Bob, which brushed North Carolina while passing up the Atlantic and then headed inland across the Gulf of Maine Aug. 20, carried with it a number of southern seabirds, a few of which reached Grand Manan. These included the first



\* A lot of observations here were relayed by word of mouth, a method which is particularly prone to mix-ups in dates, places, numbers, etc. If you notice any errors please drop me a line so the record can be set straight in the files at the New Brunswick





provincial records of Royal Tern and Sandwich Tern. First discovered was an exhausted **Royal Tern** (JGW *et al.*), followed by a **Sandwich Tern\*** (SIT, Yves Cormier, PAP), both at Ingalls Head Aug. 20. A healthy Royal frequented the shore at Castalia Aug. 20-22

(JGW *et al.*), one was seen around the lobster pounds at The Thoroughfare Aug. 22-23 (v.o.), and one at North Head Aug. 22 (R. Ken Edwards). There was also a rumour that someone had seen a Royal Tern at Long Eddy Pt. (*fide* BED). There was only one other report of a Sandwich Tern, near Seal Cove Aug. 21 (Jack Finne).

Other rare terns brought in by the hurricane were a **Gull-billed Tern** at Castalia Aug. 20 (R.K. Edwards), a juvenile **Roseate Tern** at Long Pond Beach Aug. 21 (R.K. Edwards), a **Forster's Tern** at Castalia Aug. 21 and two on the 22nd (v.o.). Along with the normal presence of Common and Arctic Terns in the area, it produced an exciting few days of birdwatching at Grand Manan. One Forster's Tern reappeared at the marsh Aug. 27 (450-DUCK) and another young Roseate had been seen at Machias Seal Island on August 16 (BED).

Away from Grand Manan, the appearance of **Red-necked Phalaropes** at the sewage lagoons in Sackville (2, CE) and Tracadie (9, RD) on Aug. 20 was thought to be related to passage of the tropical storm.

More **Manx Shearwaters** than previously reported at one time in this province were around Machias Seal Island in August: 300 on the 9th, 600 on the 12th, 150 on the 14th (BED). This species was also reported with the more common Greater and Sooty Shearwaters seen from the Grand Manan ferry in August (450-DUCK). A **Leach's Storm-Petrel**, gone astray from the sea, was seen at First Eel Lake, York Co., June 3 (PK).

A **Brown Pelican**, attracted to fishing boats off White Head Island, G.M., on May 12, was well described to Brian Dalzell by Ellis Small. The only previous reports of this species in New Brunswick were of one near Machias Seal Island in summer several years ago. Interestingly, a Brown Pelican was seen at Cape Cod the same day (*Am. Birds* 45:415).

1991 was a bumper year for **Least Bitterns**, only a few of which were reported during the 5 years of field work for the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas. Between May 30 and July 27 this species was found at Musquash Marsh (JGW), Mistake Interval near Evandale (SM), Anagance Marsh (SIT), Daley Creek Marsh at Mary's Point (RJW *et al.*), and Red Head Marsh, Saint John (JGW).

Individual **Great Egrets** made brief appearances in early May: Saints Rest Marsh at Saint John May 4-

6 (CLJ, JE), Waterside May 5 (BC, RE *et al.*), and Tynemouth Creek, near Gardner Creek, May 6 (JGW). One spent much of the summer around Grande-Digue on Shediac Bay, from at least June 7 till the end of July (DSC, Yves Cormier *et al.*) and there was another at Portobello Stream, near Maugerville, July 9 (PAP, PK, JE). **Snowy Egrets**, reported from mid April till May 26, were a bit more numerous: from 1 to 2 at various locations on Grand Manan (BED *et al.*), 1 at Musquash (450-DUCK), up to 3 at Saints Rest (v.o.), 1 at Waterside (BC *et al.*), 1 at Daniels Marsh, near Riverside-Albert (David Clark & Anne Bardou), and 1 at Cap Bimet (Nelson Poirier).

An immature-plumaged **Little Blue Heron** showed up in early April, at Dieppe (Charles Allain, Elaine Landry). There was also an immature at Waterside Aug. 4 (BC, RE) and at Grand Manan Aug. 25-30 (*fide* BED). Reports of **Tricolored Heron** at four locations may have involved only 2 birds. The earliest was a subadult bird seen irregularly at Waterside May 10-23 (v.o.). An adult at Castalia May 14 (BED) flew off towards Saint John and may have been responsible for the reports at Red Head Marsh May 17 (JGW) and Saints Rest May 20 to June 1 (450-DUCK).

The first of a few **Cattle Egrets** was seen at McGowans Corner and Sheffield Apr. 28-29 (PAP *et al.*). Two were at Saints Rest May 16-17 (CLJ & Aldei Robichaud) and one that stopped for a short while at New Horton, Albert Co., May 19 moved on to nearby Harvey where it was seen May 19-25 (v.o.). One was far to the northeast at Lamèque on May 6 (Sr. Agathe Chiasson). An immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was an exciting find at Machias Seal Island Aug. 15-23 (BED).

**Snow Geese** were reported at several locations, in flocks of up to 12 birds, between Mar. 28 and Apr. 30: St-Basile, Val-Comeau, Saints Rest Marsh, Burts Corner, Lower Jemseg, and Mouth of Keswick near Mactaquac (450-Duck).

Among the numerous **Green-winged Teal** along the Saint John River someone picked out an individual of the **Eurasian** race at McGowans Corner in early May (450-DUCK, May 8 tape) and there was a male at Saints Rest May 12 (Henrik Deichmann). **Northern Shovelers** were widely reported during the spring. In the northeast, where they have only recently begun to breed, two broods of young were seen at Bas-Caraquet July 19 (RD). Pairs of **Gadwall**, a western species relatively recently established in this province, were frequently reported during April and May, including as many as 14 at Waterside (SIT). During the summer Robert Doiron found them "fairly common" on the Acadian Peninsula, where he reported that at least three pairs nested at the Tracadie sewage lagoon. Two **Eurasian Wigeon** were reported in spring, at Lower Jemseg near the end of April (450-DUCK, Apr. 26 tape) and at Cape Jourimain, near Bayfield, Apr. 28-30 (SIT). Another lingered at Grassy Island, near Oak Point, July 5 (Pk).

A male **Redhead** at Tracadie May 8 (RD) was the first record for the Acadian Peninsula. One on the

\* Both the Royal Tern and the Sandwich Tern seen at Ingalls Head were banded; another Royal Tern found dead in Maine had been banded in North Carolina in June (*Guillemot*).



river at Fredericton attracted attention for several days from Aug. 22 (DG et al.) **Lesser Scaup** seem to be increasing in New Brunswick, perhaps because of the establishment of small sewage lagoons which they often frequent. Reports between Mar. 28 and May 24 came from several locations between Cap-des-Caissie and Cape Jourimain, Lower Jemseg, Red Head Marsh, Long Pond, G.M., Caraquet (all by SIT), Mouth of Keswick (450-DUCK), Waterside (BC, RE), Mary's Pt. (DSC), and White Head Island (Angus MacLean). At the Cap Brulé sewage lagoon, where there were 25 on Apr. 30, a pair were still present June 15 and a male July 27 (SIT).

A **Harlequin Duck** appeared in Courtenay Bay at Saint John Apr. 6 (JGW) and the following day there were 3 at Val-Comeau in the north-east (RD). A number of male **King Eiders** were present at Val-Comeau, 2 to 3 from Mar. 28 to Apr. 7, one Apr. 17-19, and one May 22 (RD). Another lingered into early June at St. Andrews (*fide* Tracey Dean).

There were numerous reports of **Hooded Mergansers**, including the earliest at Fredericton (450-DUCK) and Sheila (Rosita Lanteigne & MD) Mar. 30 and at Grand Manan Apr. 1 (HD). Four pairs were at Eel River Bar, near Dalhousie, in mid May (Mike Lushington). Brian Dalzell wonders whether 4 fully fledged young Hoodies that he saw with a female at White Head Island Aug. 4 weren't raised in the Grand Manan group, where he doesn't know of any definite breeding records. There were more reports of spring and summer Ruddy Ducks than in recent years: a male at Tracadie sewage lagoon May 10-17 (RD), one to two males at the Sackville Waterfowl Park from May 20 to July 25 (CE et al.), two males and perhaps a pair at Musquash for at least 2 weeks from June 8 (450-DUCK), and a moulting male at Mary's Pt. July 21 (Dave McCurdy).

The growing population of **Turkey Vultures** in New England is spilling over into southern New Brunswick more frequently. The earliest was at Little Ridge, near St. Stephen, Mar. 29 (BED) and 3 were at New Canaan Apr. 26 (SM), while singles were reported during April and May at Deep Cove, G.M. (Don Baldwin), St. George (450-DUCK), Riverside-Albert (Anne Bardou), Mary's Point (DSC), and Taymouth (Peter DeMarsh). Later, one was at Musquash June 21 (CLJ, Jim Goltz). One at Grande-Anse May 5 (Arthur-William Landry) was the only report from northern New Brunswick.

A first state record for Maine would have been a new species for New Brunswick too, had it been seen here: an adult **Mississippi Kite** "heading NE toward the Canadian border" at Lubec May 25 (E. & S. Neilsen, *Am. Birds* 45:416). Some birder should have been at the south end of Campobello!

There were two spring reports of **Red-shouldered Hawk**, one before Apr. 10 at Berryton, near Turtle Creek (Marcel Cantin), and one at McNallys, near Kingsclear, Apr. 10 (David Lounsbury, 450-DUCK). A fall migrant was at Waterside Sept. 1 (David Clark). The upper Tobique valley's **Golden Eagle** was reported for about the sixth summer, at Mount Carleton

Provincial Park July 16 (SB) and Nictau July 23 (Wilma & Bill Miller). Earlier, a migrant adult was noted at Rexton Apr. 29 (Linda Hartlen, *fide* Harry Walker).

Five pairs of **Peregrine Falcons** were known to be nesting along the Bay of Fundy from Grand Manan to Albert County (v.o.). Farther north, one was at Inkerman Apr. 28 (Gérard Benoit), one at Baie-du-Petit-Pokemouche, near Le Goulet, May 12 (RD), one at Tabusintac May 22 (RD), and one chasing pigeons at Campbellton in mid July (Alan Madden). A Peregrine at Harvey, Albert Co., had an exotic luncheon menu after catching an escaped pet Cockatiel July 19 (Lars & Michelle Larsen). A couple of late **Gyrfalcons** were a gray bird at Mary's Pt. Apr. 2 (Mike Majka) and a dark one at Castalia Apr. 8-17 (BED).

For a couple of years American duck-banding crews working on the Grand Lake Meadows, near Jemseg, have reported calls thought to be made by Yellow Rails. On the night of July 15-16 Peter Pearce, Jim Edsall and Pat Kehoe went in search of these birds; they saw four and heard about 10 **Yellow Rails**. Smaller numbers were observed by others later in the week (see p. 44). The amount of apparently suitable habitat around the south end of Grand Lake suggests there might be a breeding population of 50 or more pairs. This elusive rail is no longer found at Midgic, near Sackville, which for many years was the only presumed breeding area in New Brunswick.

The earliest **Common Moorhen** was an unusual bird in northern New Brunswick at Pt. La Nim May 17 & 20 (Mike Lushington et al.). Others were reported at Musquash May 30 (JGW) and Red Head Marsh in July (Ron Weir). An **American Coot** was at Musquash May 30 (JGW), but the best place to see them is at the Sackville Waterfowl Park, where at least two pairs nested. Ten or more coots of various ages could readily be seen during a walk around the boardwalk in early August. The year's only report of **Sandhill Cranes** was of 4 migrating birds calling high over Fundy National Park Apr. 22 (Lorie Collingwood, *fide* RJW).

One of the best birds was a stray from Europe, a **Lapwing** near the Nova Scotia border. It was first described at Aulac May 5 by Stu Tingley's nephew, Kirby Cadman, who didn't know what it was, then at Pt. de Bute before May 25 (Ted Pulford) and again there May 25-27 (Don Colpitts). From the 28th until Aug. 18 the bird was seen by many observers from near and far, most often in a drained waterfowl impoundment on the Missaguash Marsh at Pt. de Bute. A male, it was claiming a territory from which it tried to drive Killdeers away. As the season progressed it became more difficult to locate. Occasionally it flew across the border over Nova Scotia, allowing listers to count it for both provinces.



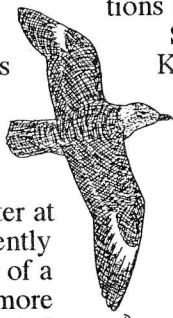


**Lesser Golden-Plovers**, scarce in spring, were seen at Castalia May 12-17 (2, BED) and at Maisonnnette May 23 (MD). A bird suspected to be a **Greater Golden-Plover** flew off before it could be carefully studied at Waterside May 18 (BC, RE). A **Wilson's Plover** reported at Mary's Pt. Aug. 14-15 (Russell Betts & Darlene Brewster) could not be confirmed by more experienced observers as a first provincial record.

An **American Avocet** shot\* by a scoter hunter at Le Goulet May 4 (*fide* Donald Cormier) is apparently only the second spring record in New Brunswick of a western species which has been found here a bit more often in fall. Individual **Marbled Godwits** were noted at Cape Jourimain Aug. 1 (SIT) and at Saints Rest for several days from Aug. 25 (Jack Finne *et al.*).

The only **Western Sandpiper** reported was at Kouchibouguac Nat'l Park July 26 (Denis Doucet). A good number of **Baird's Sandpipers** were reported: Ingalls Head, G.M., Aug. 4 (BED), Mary's Pt. Aug. 15 (Rae Brown & Lee Marsh), Pt. Lepreau Aug. 20 (2, 450-DUCK), Machias Seal Island Aug. 20-23 (BED), Saints Rest (2, 450-DUCK, Aug. 25 tape), and Castalia Aug. 27-29 (BED). A **Curlew Sandpiper** at Long Pond Beach, G.M., Aug. 25 (Dwayne Sabine) was one of the most unusual shorebirds. **Stilt Sandpipers** were seen at Inkerman July 26-27 (RD), Cape Jourimain July 28 and Aug. 1 (1 & 3, respectively, SIT), Miscou Island Aug. 19 (RD & Donald St-Pierre), and Castalia Aug. 22 (PAP *et al.*), and **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Machias Seal Island Aug. 21 (BED) and Waterside Sept. 1 (David Clark). A female **Ruff**, i.e. a reeve, at Le Goulet May 24 (SIT, Yves Cormier) was a first report for the Acadian Peninsula. An juvenile **Long-billed Dowitcher** was relatively early at Sackville Waterfowl Park Aug. 16 (CE).

In addition to birds along Northumberland Strait and at Grand Manan **Willet** was reported at Maisonnnette May 18 (MD). **Upland Sandpipers** in spring included early birds at Petit-Paquetville Apr. 8 (RR) and Grand Manan Apr. 23 (BED). They were reported at Fredericton (Dwayne Sabine), Salisbury (SIT), and Shediac Bridge (SIT) during May and Ste-Marie-de-Kent in June (SIT). Reports indicate that the **Wilson's Phalarope** continues to increase as a breeding species in the province. In spring a pair were reported at Central Greenwich, near Oak Pt., May 10 (Henrik Deichmann), 10 at St-Louis-de-Kent sewage lagoon May 10 (Denis Doucet) and 11 there May 22 (SIT), 6 at Sackville sewage lagoon May 11 (Connie Colpitts), and at Caraquet May 11 (Rosita Lanteigne). On the nesting grounds, 6 were at Grassy Island, near Oak Pt., and 6 at Hog Island, near Queenstown, July 2 (PAP, PK & Andrew McInnes). At Inkerman there were 2 females in breeding plumage June 25 and 2 dull-plumaged birds July 29 and Aug. 5 (RD). Later, there were reports at the Sackville Waterfowl Park July 25 (5, including 3 juveniles, SIT) and Aug. 22-27 (2, CE).



A **Long-tailed Jaeger** seen from the Grand Manan ferry June 9 (BED) is a very rare species in this province, there being only two previous observations and two specimens on record. A **South Polar Skua**, northeast of Gannet Rock, Aug. 17 (R. Ken Edwards) becomes the first documented record of the species in New Brunswick.

All previous reports of skuas (both South Polar and Great), which are very rare here, have been inadequately described, if at all.

An adult **Little Gull** was seen at Deer Island Pt. Aug. 11 (SIT) and 2 similar birds at the Tracadie sewage lagoon from Aug. 20 into September (RD). This species was also seen at Cape Tormentine Sept. 1 (SM) and Shippagan Sept. 2 (SIT). Two **Common Black-headed Gulls** were at Castalia Mar. 28 (BED) and an immature had already appeared at Letete Aug. 4 (DG). Adult **Sabine's Gulls** seen off White Head Island Aug. 26 and Sept. 12 were probably different individuals (SIT).

**Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported occasionally: at Maugerville May 3-12 (adult, JE *et al.*), Cap Brulé June 15 and Robichaud Aug. 1 (possibly the same adult, SIT), Machias Seal Island Aug. 24 and 27 (1st-year bird, then 2nd-year bird, BED). A summering **Glaucous Gull** was at Miscou Island July 13 (PAP). Less unusual than the terns in August were some **Caspian Terns** in spring, about a dozen at Waterside Apr. 27 (BC, RE) and, on May 5, one there (DSC) and one at Courtenay Bay, Saint John (DG).

A **Dovekie**, dead a few weeks, was found on the beach at Baie-du-Petit-Pokemouche in the second week of July (Maryse Bourgeois & Paryse Landry). The numerous sightings of **Common Murres**, including young, in the Grand Manan Channel during August (v.o.) makes one wonders about the report there of a Dovekie in breeding plumage (450-DUCK, Aug. 25 tape). It is conceivable that a partly-grown young murre, not seen well, could be mistaken for a Dovekie. Reporting that a two-thirds grown murre was seen off the Whistle July 26 by Don Baldwin, Brian Dalzell speculates that this species might have begun to nest somewhere on the cliffs at the northern end of Grand Manan.

A rare vagrant was a **White-winged Dove** at Harvey June 28-29 (RJW *et al.*) and July 2 (Chris Antle). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Fredericton May 20 (Jeremy Forster) was almost unprecedented in spring. More normal was one at Machias Seal Island Aug. 23 (BED), the first of a substantial fall flight. A male **Red-bellied Woodpecker** visited feeders at Fundy National Park May 22-29 (Anne Bardou *et al.*).

Surprising was a report of a **Hawk Owl**, harassed by gulls, about a mile off Cape Tormentine May 12 (Jean Ouellette). One would usually expect only a migrant to be flying over the strait, but migrants should have moved north by the middle of April. **Boreal Owls** continue to be found in the north-east during breeding season; one was reported at Paulin Road, on Lamèque Island, Apr. 7 (Hilaire Chiasson *et al.*).

\* There is a traditional, but illegal, spring hunt for waterfowl along the North Shore. — Ed.



That **Willow Flycatcher** was less often reported in 1991 than during the previous three years is probably due more to the fact that observers are becoming used to its presence as a rare breeder in southern N.B. and to the completion of bird atlas field work than to a decline of this generally expanding species. Two pairs were at Fredericton North July 14 (DG) and the species was still present there in the second week of August (450-DUCK). Another was reported at Lower Prince William July 25 (Dave Myles).

One of the most unusual bird occurrences of this period was a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**—the second ever reported in New Brunswick—at Kent Island about June 14-18 (Nathaniel Wheelwright *et al.*). Another long-tailed flycatcher was also seen, a **Scissor-tailed** at Fredericton Airport May 9 (Sabine). Much less unusual but in an area where the species has seldom been found, was a **Great Crested Flycatcher** seen several times during 3 weeks beginning May 27 at Sackville (CE).

The breeding swallows that had declined greatly during cold, wet weather in the spring of 1990 increased in 1991. Yet in some areas they were still in reduced numbers. At Mary's Pt. that was the case with both **Tree** and **Barn Swallows** (DSC), and at Coles Island no **Purple Martins** returned to Harold Vail's normally flourishing colony (*vide* Richard DeBow). The first martin arrived at Charlie McEwen's at Irishtown, near Moncton, on Apr. 30. Our rarest breeding swallow, the **Rough-winged**, was reported at Bancroft Pt., G.M., May 29 (BED), Browns Flat June 16 (SM), Seal Cove July 14 (Weir), and far more unusually at Lamèque Aug. 9 (Benoit).

A **Carolina Wren** at Don Gibson's in Fredericton Apr. 5 must have wintered somewhere nearby; perhaps it was the one that had been at Muriel Smith's during the winter. Another Carolina was reported at St. Andrews Aug. 23 (Dean). A **Marsh Wren** colony of about 10 birds was found at Tower Goose Lake at Midgic, near Middle Sackville, July 5 (Yves Cormier).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**, a rare visitor each spring and fall, are increasingly reported: in spring at Fundy Nat'l Park May 11 (2, RJW *et al.*), Bancroft Pt. May 13 (BED), Mary's Pt. May 14 (DSC), Barachois May 16 (SIT), Caraquet May 15 (MD), and Southwest Head, G.M., May 25 (JGW), and in fall at Machias Seal Island (BED) and Tracadie (RD) Aug. 23, North Head Aug. 26-27 (SIT, HD), and White Head Island Aug. 28 (SIT).

Numerous **Eastern Bluebirds** were reported. Those in the north were a pair on the Miramichi Apr. 2 (Harry Walker), 1 at Rivière-à-la-Truite, near Tracadie, May 8 (Jean-Yves Paulin), 2 males at Balmoral May 17 (Mike Lushington), and a pair nesting at Nictau May 17 (Wilma Miller). A westerner very rare here, a **Townsend's Solitaire** at North Head May 14 (Bob Cotsworth), had probably wintered somewhere in the east and was heading home.

**Mockingbirds** were numerous in southern areas and were also reported at Lamèque May 26 (Émile

Ferron). **Brown Thrashers** were apparently scarce, Durham Bridge (450-duck, May 17 tape), Shippagan May 12 (Florent Larocque), and North Head May 25 (SIT) being the only reports at hand.

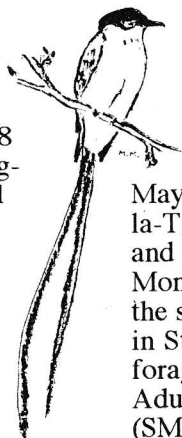
Late reports of last winter's large flight of **Bohemian Waxwings** were of about 55 at Balmoral in the second week of April (Carla Lushington), 30 at Dennis Beach, near Waterside, Apr. 10 (Angus MacLean), and 6 at Pte-du-Chêne Apr. 27 (SIT). A **Warbling Vireo** at Bancroft Pt., G.M., May 8 was considered unusual there (BED). To the northeast one was at Caraquet May 24 (MD). In much of the province, this species is no longer noteworthy,

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Caraquet May 19 (MD), a **Connecticut Warbler** at Rivière-à-la-Truite, near Tracadie, May 15 (Yolande Paulin), and a **Prairie Warbler** in Alma White's yard at Moncton May 20 were the unusual warbler reports of the spring. Pine Warblers were back at a breeding site in St. Stephen Apr. 23 (3 singing, BED) and one was foraging on a beach at St. Andrews Apr. 27 (Clark). Adults with young were seen at Marysville in July (SM).

Fall brings more warbler strays. An adult **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Upper Cape Aug. 3 was well documented by visiting birders Russ Naylor and Ed Hagen, as was a duller immature at Sackville Aug. 28 (CE). Observation of an immature female—a difficult-to-identify plumage—**Cerulean Warbler** at the Anchorage Park, G.M., Aug. 29 was thoroughly described by visitor Jim Mountjoy. Equally rare was a **Golden-winged Warbler** at Fredericton Aug. 14 (Shirley Sloat, 450-DUCK). More than the usual very few **Prairie Warblers** were seen at Grand Manan in late summer: Machias Seal Island Aug. 13 and 24 (1 and 4, respectively, BED), Bancroft Pt. Aug. 25 (HD), Thoroughfare, Aug. 28 (HD), and Deep Cove (450-DUCK, Aug. 28 tape). **Yellow-breasted Chats** began to appear in mid-August: at Machias Seal Island Aug. 15 & 17 (2 on latter date, BED), St. Andrews Aug. 23 (Tracey Dean), and Thoroughfare, G.M. (HD), and Fredericton (Margery Acheson) Aug. 24.

A first year male **Summer Tanager** was at Deep Cove, G.M., May 25 (Don Baldwin). A normal number of **Scarlet Tanagers** were reported.

**Rufous-sided Towhees** were reported at Hillsborough in early May (call to CBC Moncton) and The Whistle, G.M., May 19 (SIT & Connie Colpitts). A **Lark Sparrow** visited Machias Seal Island Aug. 23-24 (BED). The **Clay-coloured Sparrow** that spent the summer of 1990 at Grande-Digue was singing in the same field from June 7 (DSC & Mary Majka) till at least July 29 (450-DUCK). Another was seen at Aldouane, near Richibucto, July 20/25 (Denis Doucet). The first **Savannah Sparrow** of the spring was a bird of the "Ipswich" race at Castalia Apr. 10 (BED). A juvenile **Seaside Sparrow** was at Machias Seal Island Aug. 22-24 (BED). A **White-crowned Sparrow** singing at Hopewell Hill July 3 (DSC & Mary Majka) should have been on breeding grounds much farther north. This species had been more





numerous than usual in eastern New Brunswick during spring migration.

The earliest **Eastern Meadowlarks** were seen in the northeast where they are rare: at Wishart Pt. Mar. 29-31 (Roland & Bernise Robichaud) and at Pigeon Hill the same weekend (2, *fide* Hilaire Chiasson). An adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** made a brief stay in Alma June 8 (Fred & Doris Hatt *et al.*).

Outside the small populations in southern cities, **House Finches** were found at Village Blanchard, near Caraquet, Apr. 5-6 (2, Jean-Raymond Gallien), Fundy National Park Apr. 17 & 21 (RJW), Alma Apr. 19 (a different orangeish male, Doreen Rossiter), and Grand Manan May 12-26 (1's and 2's totalling 7, *fide* BED).

Space permits mention of only a few of the arrival records reported for various species. A weather system near the end of March must have carried a few birds to our province on exceptionally early dates, for instance an **American Pipit** at Grand Manan (BED), a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Saints Rest Marsh (CLJ) and a **Barn Swallow** at Tracadie (MD & Rosita Lanteigne) all on Mar. 29, and **Spotted Sandpiper** at Landry Office, near Maltampec, Apr. 1 (Roland & Rachel Robichaud). A **Blue-winged Teal** at Castalia Mar. 29 (BED) was also rather early. The discovery of 2 **Purple Sandpipers** (normally a bird of rocky seashore) along the riverbank at Edmundston in early April (Georgette Thibodeau) may have been related to the same pattern.

Quite early were **Tree Swallow** at Castalia Apr. 3 (Gloria Hobbs), a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Sackville Apr. 7 (Roland Chiasson), 2 **Palm Warblers** at Grand Manan Apr. 8 (BED), a **Chipping Sparrow** at Lower Coverdale Apr. 8 (Diane Allain), **White-crowned Sparrow** at Petit-Paquetville Apr. 8 (RR), and **Common Yellowthroat** at Cape Jourimain Apr. 29 (SIT). Two **Eastern Wood-Pewees** on the Whitetail Trail at Fundy Nat'l Park were particularly early May 4 (Angus MacLean).

Selected arrivals reported of some widespread species were: **Great Blue Heron** Shediack Bridge Mar. 21 (SIT), Mary's Pt. Mar. 27 (DSC), Bancroft Pt. (HD) and Inkerman (Gérard Benoit) Mar. 29; **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** Westfield May 9 (Jocelyn Steeves), Grand Manan May 11 (BED), several southern N.B. localities May 12-14, Oakland, near Florenceville, May 16 (A&DC) and Paquetville May 17 (RR); **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** Castalia Apr. 10 (BED), Alma Apr. 20 (MacLean), Petit-Paquetville Apr. 25 (RR), and St-Hilaire Apr. 28 (SB); **Gray Catbird** Rang St-Georges May 14 (MD), Mary's Pt. May 15 (DSC), and Oakland May 17 (A&DC); **Cedar Waxwing** Oakland May 24 (A&DC), Fundy Nat'l Park May 25 (RJW), New Horton, near Riverside-Albert, May 25 (Connie & Pearl Colpitts), Tracadie May 30 (RD), and St-Hilaire June 6 (SB); **Red-eyed Vireo** Oakland May 18 (A&DC), St-Simon May 21 (MD); **Chestnut-sided Warbler** Fundy Nat'l Park May 12 (BC, RE), Oakland May 14 (A&DC), Val-Doucet May 15 (RR); **Black-throated Blue Warbler** Dobson Trail, Albert Co., May 11 (HD), Oakland (A&DC), Stony Creek (Mary Fownes), and Hacheyville (RD), all on May 14; **Rose-breasted**

**Grosbeak** Alma Apr. 30 (Eric Olsen), Oakland (A&DC) and Paquetville (RR) May 12, Westfield May 13 (Jocelyn Steeves); **Song Sparrow** Grand Manan Mar. 22 (BED), Harvey and Mary's Pt. Mar. 23 (DSC *et al.*), Saint John West Mar. 25 (CLJ), Petite-Lamèque Mar. 28 (Jacques & Jocelyne Guignard), St-Hilaire Apr. 5 (SB); **Bobolink** Harvey May 11 (RJW), Burnsville May 13 (MD), Oakland May 14 (A&DC), St-Hilaire May 15 (SB).

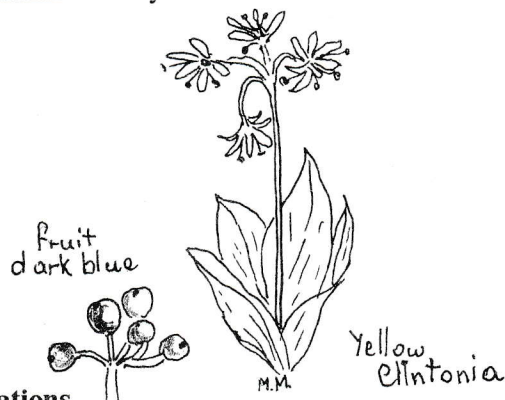
### Reptiles & Amphibians

Seven **Garter Snakes**, 2 large, 5 smaller, were active at a rock den along the Marven Lake Trail in Fundy National Park Apr. 24 (John Brownlie). So early in the season, this observation indicates that the rocks were a hibernation site.

Very few people reported the initiation of amphibian breeding season. Two **Spotted Salamanders** and 13 **Blue-spotted Salamanders** were active at Fredericton Apr. 24, when many **Wood Frogs** and **Spring Peepers** were calling (Jim Goltz & Tony Thomas). At Mary's Point the first Peeper was heard Apr. 18, Wood Frogs Apr. 22, and **American Toads** May 6, and at Riverside-Albert a **Leopard Frog** was calling Apr. 25 (DSC). Lots of peepers were calling at St. Andrews and Saint John on the weekend of Apr. 27-28 (Clark).

### Wildflowers

Jim Goltz provides the only reports on spring wildflowers. At Fredericton he found **Coltsfoot** Apr. 25, **Bloodroot** Apr. 27, **Dandelion** and **Mayflower** Apr. 28, **Trout Lily** Apr. 29, **white violets** May 3, and **Red Trillium** May 5.



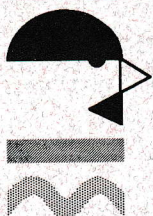
### Abbreviations

450-DUCK N.B. Bird Information Line

MNC Moncton Naturalists' Club

A&DC	Ansel & David Campbell	JGW	Jim Wilson
BC	Barbara Curlew	MD	Marcel David
BED	Brian Dalzell	PAP	Peter Pearce
CE	Chris Ellington	PK	Pat Kehoe
CLJ	Cecil Johnston	RD	Robert Doiron
DG	Don Gibson	RE	Rick Elliott
DSC	David Christie	RJW	Rob Walker
<i>et al.</i>	and others	RR	Roland Robichaud
<i>fide</i>	according to	SB	Simon Bouchard
G.M.	Grand Manan	SM	Scott Makepeace
HD	Halton Dalzell	SIT	Stu Tingley
JE	Jim Edsall	v.o.	various observers





## Federation News

### Presentation on Coyotes

On October 10, Federation president Jim Goltz presented a position paper on coyotes to the provincial government's Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee, which is considering how to manage coyotes in New Brunswick. The committee has received numerous presentations representing a great range of viewpoints. Here is the main portion of the Federation's position paper:

The coyote is a recent arrival in our province, having gradually expanded its range from areas farther west in response to changes caused by people, including the opening up of eastern forests for settlement, agriculture and forestry, and the extermination of the timber wolf, the ecological role of which the coyote is now largely fulfilling. Just as the call of the loon is evocative of wilderness, so too the howl of coyotes adds an additional dimension to the appreciation of our environment.

General attitudes toward the natural world tend to be slanted toward the utilization or manipulation of nature for the benefit of people rather than for the benefit of other living beings. We perceive the diversity of species in our province as desirable. Coyotes, bobcats, bears and other carnivores are as important to us as are moose, deer or grouse. We ask, is it more beneficial in nature's terms when a man gets a deer for recreational purposes or a coyote for survival purposes? Our carnivores do kill animals such as deer but they also take enormous numbers of rodents. And a good number of deer are also killed by dogs each year.

The Federation would prefer to see the government institute a carefully considered predator management plan focussed on problem areas, rather than blanket measures such as the imposition of a bounty. Bounties are an inefficient use of government money because they encourage the killing of a species everywhere, not just where there are problems. With respect to coyotes in particular, reducing the population stimulates them to produce larger numbers of young on which more bounties can be paid, benefiting mainly the bounty hunters.

A better use of funds would be to assist sheep farmers to create safe enclosures and otherwise protect their flocks, and to compensate farmers who are taking adequate protective measures for their proven losses to coyotes. Programs might also be instituted to remove animals that threaten significant deer yards known to suffer high losses to coyotes. As naturalists we see this as the only sensible solution to a problem that has been blown out of proportion by some individuals and the media.

In summary, the Federation believes that New Brunswickers should accept the coyote as part of the natural diversity of our province and learn to live with it by instituting a scientifically-based management plan, not by putting a price on its head.

## ENDANGERED



Two years ago, World Wildlife Fund Canada embarked on a 10-year national campaign, entitled *Endangered Spaces*, to ensure protection of a network of Canadian wilderness areas by the year 2000.

"Currently only 2.6% of the country has been protected as true wilderness free from resource extraction, whereas the Brundtland Commission [on Environment and Development] has set a target of at least 12%" said Monte Hummel, president of WWF Canada. "Human activity is quickly chipping away at the remaining wild places that once made up so much of the Canadian landscape. Unless we act now to save them, we will have lost the opportunity to do so by the year 2000."

The mission statement of the campaign, *The Canadian Wilderness Charter*, enunciates key wilderness values and the action necessary to secure them. More than 225 conservation organizations (including N.B. Federation of Naturalists, Nature Trust of N.B., Conservation Council of N.B.) and 350,000 individual Canadians have endorsed the Charter to date.

#### Action steps from The Canadian Wilderness Charter:

- that... Canadians commit themselves to a national effort to establish at least one representative protected area in each of the natural regions of Canada by the year 2000,
- that the total area thereby protected comprise at least 12% of the lands and waters of Canada...
- that public and private agencies at [all levels] rigorously monitor progress toward meeting these goals in Canada and ensure that they are fully achieved, and
- that federal, provincial and territorial government conservation agencies on behalf of all Canadians develop action plans... for achieving these goals by the year 2000.

In addition, WWF joined with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and Key Porter Books in the publication of *Endangered Spaces: The Future for Canada's Wilderness*, which includes contributions from 21 leading conservationists and 40 nature photographers. The book was presented to every one of over 1000 federal, provincial and territorial legislators, accompanied by maps and detailed information on what needs to be done in their jurisdictions.

An accomplishment of important symbolic value was the unanimous adoption, on June 17, 1991, by the House of Commons of the following motion:

"That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of preserving and protecting in its natural state at least 12 per cent of Canada by working co-operatively with the provincial and territorial governments and assisting them to complete the protected area networks by the year 2000."



The Federal Government has committed itself to completing the terrestrial component of our National Parks system—one park in each of the natural regions of Canada—by the year 2000, and its 6-year *Green Plan* supports the campaign goal of protecting at least 12% of Canada's lands and waters.

Since the *Endangered Spaces* campaign began there have been numerous promises, considerable study and identification of potential sites but relatively few new natural areas have actually received protection. The campaign's report on progress from May 1, 1990 to May 1, 1991 shows additional areas protected mainly in Quebec, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, but no significant change in the proportion of land protected in any jurisdiction.

Looking at New Brunswick, the report cites the new allotment from the Environmental Trust Fund of \$140,000 for the ecological reserves program as the most encouraging news\*. It suggests the following as action needed in this province: amend the Endangered Species Act to strengthen habitat preservation; develop a natural regions map for New Brunswick; cabinet approval for a representative parks system and representation criteria; develop incentives for private stewardship of natural areas; and create a public advisory committee on natural areas.

The *Endangered Spaces* campaign came to New Brunswick in October. A presentation in Fredericton by Arlin Hackman, director of the campaign, was fol-

lowed by a strategy session on reaching practical goals with respect to protecting endangered spaces in New Brunswick. This resulted in formation of a committee to facilitate protection of an adequate representation of the natural regions of New Brunswick. Campaign co-chairpersons are Rob Rainer and NBFN president Jim Goltz. A number of other federation members have been active on the committee.

What can you do? Sign the Canadian Wilderness Charter, if you haven't already done so. Write to your M.P. and M.L.A. asking them to press their respective governments to complete representative networks of protected natural areas. Be a "wilderness crusader" and become involved in raising funds and public awareness for the *Endangered Spaces* campaign. Become active locally and help save an endangered space. Give the *Endangered Spaces* book as a gift. And be optimistic. Don't just think about the things you can't do. **Do what you can.**

For more information and copies of the charter write World Wildlife Fund, 90 Eglinton Ave. E., Suite 504, Toronto, Ont. M4P 2Z7.

\* In this regard, on November 23 the Federation wrote to the new Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, Alan Graham, re-affirming our support for the establishment of ecological reserves and welcoming the appointment of two new staff for the ecological reserves program.

## Publication of Bird Atlas Delayed

When the five years of field work of the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas project was completed in 1990, it was hoped that the published atlas would be available in the fall of 1991. From last fall through spring a tremendous amount of work was done processing and checking thousands of records, producing draft maps, and preparing and polishing the final draft of the manuscript. Everything went according to schedule, except for reaching an agreement with a commercial publisher to produce the book. The Atlas is now expected to be available in April 1992.

## Watching Whales...without harassment

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans recently issued an attractive 3-fold brochure entitled "Watching Whales without harassment." It lists activities to avoid when watching whales and recommends minimum distances of approach depending on the whale's behaviour and on the number of boats present. Special guide-lines are given to ensure conservation of endangered and rare species. It includes drawings of 8 species frequently seen in eastern Canada. Available from Fisheries and Oceans offices, Box 5030, Moncton, N.B. E1C 9B6, and Box 550, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2S7. (Aussi disponible en français.)

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