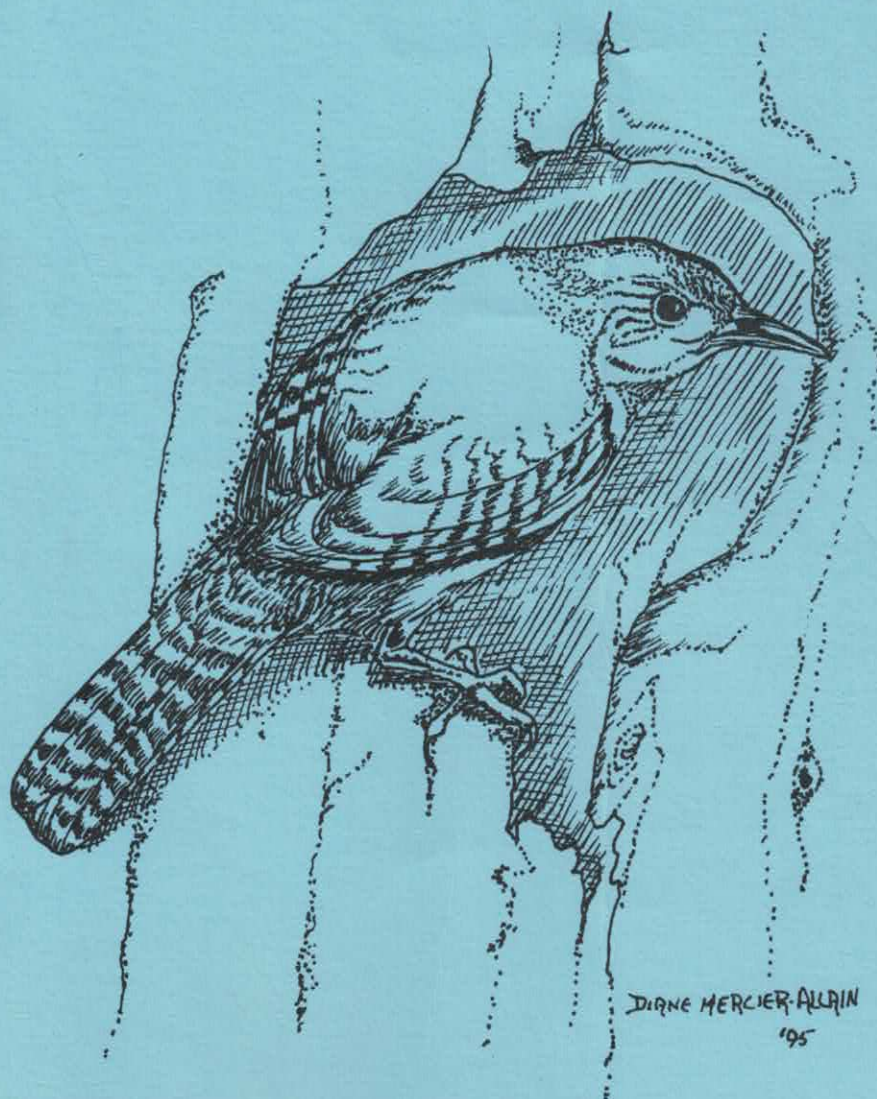


22 (2) June / juin 1995

N.B. Naturalist

Le Naturaliste du N.-B.



DIANE MERCIER-ALLAIN
'95



N. B. Federation of Naturalists / Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B.

277 avenue Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B. E2K 1E5 Canada

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.

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.

FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS /

CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE LA FÉDÉRATION

Past president / Ancien président: Jim Goltz, 126 Wilsey Road, Apt. 17, Fredericton, NB E3B 5J1; tel. 459-8685

President / Président: Frank Longstaff, RR #1, Hampton, NB E0G 1Z0; tel. 832-9087

Vice-president / Vice-président: Rob Walker, P.O. Box 126, Alma, NB E0A 1B0; tel. 882-2040

Secretary / Secrétaire: Gayle Greer, 15 Elmwood Court, Fredericton, NB E3B 2P6; tel. 454-4051

Treasurer / Trésorier: Mike Bamford, Apt. 4, 57 Orange St, Saint John E2L 1M2; tel. 642-6616

Directors-at-large / Membres généraux: Jim Brown, Box 1307, Sussex, NB E0E 1P0; Pat Émond, C.P. 162, Kedwick, NB E0K 1C0; Representative directors / Membres représentatifs: Gert Bishop (Kennebecasis), Paul Bogaard (Chignecto), Denys Bourque (Madawaska), Rose-Aline Chiasson (Péninsule acadienne), Gerald Clayden (Fredericton), Halton Dalzell (Grand Manan), Irene Doyle (Restigouche), Oscar Duguay (Les amis de la nature), Elsie Gallant (Moncton), David McCurdy (Saint John), Grant Milroy (Ford Alward).

CNF Director / Conseiller de FCN: Eric Tremblay, C.P. 172, St-Louis-de-Kent NB E0A 2Z0; tel. 876-4911

FEDERATED CLUBS / CLUBS FÉDÉRÉS

Chignecto Naturalists' Club, Box 1590, Sackville, NB E0A 3C0; 536-0454; meets Sackville Public Library, 7:30 pm, 1st Thur., Sept.-June.

Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne, C.P. 421, Lamèque NB E0B 1V0; 344-2286 ou 395-5023; réunions alternants entre Caraquet, Shippagan et Tracadie; 1er mercredi, sept. à juin; *Le Gobe-mouche* mensuel.

Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska, Musée du Madawaska, 195 boul. Hébert, Edmundston NB E3V 2S8; 735-7415 (dom.) ou 735-2073 (Francine Bérubé St-Amand); réunions à 20 h, 2ième mercredi, sept. à juin, Musée du Madawaska; *Le Jaseur* bimestriel.

Club Les amis(e)s de la nature, a/s Oscar Duguay, 204 ch Chartersville, Dieppe NB E1A 1K3; réunions alternant entre Dieppe et Shédiac, 1er lundi de chaque mois; excursions 3ième samedi ou dimanche; *La plume verte*.

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, NB E3B 5B4; 450-6365; meets N.B. Craft School, 7:30 pm, 1st Wed., Sept.-May; monthly *Newsletter*.

Grand Manan Nature Society, Box 145, Castalia, NB E0G 1L0; 662-8650.

Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society, P.O. Box 1565, Sussex, NB E0E 1P0; meets St. Paul's United Church Hall, 7:30 pm, 4th Mon., Sept.-June; quarterly newsletter.

Moncton Naturalists' Club, Box 28036, Highfield Square P.O., Moncton, NB E1C 9N4; 857-4271 or 384-5212; meets Moncton Public Library, 7 pm, 2nd Wed., Sept.-May; monthly newsletter.

Restigouche Naturalists' Club, Box 591, Campbellton, NB E3N 3G9; 789-0107 or 753-7261; meets Campbellton Centennial Library, 7 pm, 1st Monday

Saint John Naturalists' Club, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, NB E2K 1E5; meets N.B. Museum, 2nd Wed., Sept.-May, elsewhere in June; monthly *Bulletin*.

MEMBERSHIP RATES /

COTISATIONS DE MEMBRES

Individual or family / Individu ou famille C\$15

Student (to age 18) / Étudiant (jusqu'à l'âge de 18 ans) C\$5

Sustaining / Membre soutenant C\$20

[Outside Canada, add C\$5 / À l'extérieur du Canada, ajoutez 5\$]

Membership includes subscription to *N.B. Naturalist*. Please make cheques payable to N. B. Federation of Naturalists and mail to:

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:

N.B. Naturalist / Le Naturaliste du N.-B. ISSN 0047-9551

Published quarterly by the N.B. Federation of Naturalists, c/o New Brunswick Museum, 277 Douglas Ave., Saint John, NB E2K 1E5. Canadian Publication Mail Product Sales Agreement No. 487716. Return postage guaranteed. Please send notice of change of address to the treasurer. Subscription rates: in Canada C\$15; other countries C\$20; single issues C\$3 a copy, plus postage.

N.B. Naturalist carries articles and reports pertaining to the natural history of New Brunswick. Articles are invited in either English or French, and will be printed in the language in which they are received. The opinions expressed are those of the authors. Please send all submissions for the *N.B. Naturalist* to: Irene Doyle, P.O. Box 591, Campbellton, NB E3N 3G9, (506)789-0107. Ask for details of computer compatibility. Advertising rates available on request.

Cette publication trimestrielle est éditée par la Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B., a/s Le Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick, 277 ave. Douglas, Saint John, NB E2K 1E5. Port de retour garanti. Tout changement d'adresse devrait être envoyé au trésorier. Abonnements: au Canada 15\$; aux autres pays 20\$. On peut se procurer cette revue à 3\$ l'exemplaire plus les frais postaux.

On peut lire dans *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.* des rapports touchant l'histoire naturelle du Nouveau-Brunswick. Les articles seront acceptés en français ou en anglais pour être reproduits dans la langue d'origine. Les opinions exprimées sont celles de leurs auteurs. Veuillez faire parvenir toutes articles pour le *Naturaliste du N.-B.* à: Irene Doyle, C.P. 591, Campbellton, NB E3N 3G9, (506)789-0107. Demandez les détails de compatibilité d'ordinateur. Tarifs publicitaires disponibles sur demande.

Editorial Committee / Comité de rédaction

Editorial Production Teams/Équipes d'éditeurs en chef: Diane Allain/Jim Goltz; Rob Walker/Gert Bishop

Support Editors/Autres éditeurs: Bruce Bagnell, Hilaire Chiasson et Rose-Aline Chiasson (articles français), Stephen Clayden (book reviews/critiques littéraires), David Christie, Irene Doyle (compiler/compilatrice), Mary Majka, Stuart Tingley (photos), James Walde.

Distribution: Gert Bishop, Allison McArthur.

Distribution: Gert Bishop, Alison McArthur.

In This Issue / Dans ce numéro

| | |
|---|----|
| New Leadership for the Federation | 27 |
| Notes from the New President | 27 |
| Message from the "Outgoing" President | 28 |
| Errata — March 1995 Issue | 29 |
| 1995 Annual General Meeting Report | 30 |
| Baby Boom — House Wren Style | 32 |
| Une Merveille (une rencontre avec une hermine) | 33 |
| Comment Nourrir les Colibris | 33 |
| Sugar Maple: Something for Everyone | 34 |
| Entre-croisés | 35 |
| Nature Quiz: Do You Know the Birds? | 35 |
| Entre-croisés — Solution | 36 |
| Nature Quiz: Do You Know the Birds? — Answers | 36 |
| By the Bay (a new nature colouring book) | 37 |
| N.B. Bird Records Committee: 1994 Report | 38 |
| A County Checklist of the Mosses of N.B. | 42 |
| Chickadee Notes (rare & endangered species) | 43 |
| Protecting Outstanding Lakes and Rivers | 44 |
| Discovering Nature in N.B.'s "Deep South" | 46 |
| Le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska a son carnet! | 49 |
| A Stray Ross' Goose | 50 |
| Be Aware: Ticks and Lyme Disease | 54 |
| Nature News: Spring 1995 | 56 |
| A Resident Black Vulture in New Brunswick? | 62 |
| Beautiful but Deadly — Daphne | 63 |
| A Herpetofauna Census for N.B.? | 64 |

Many thanks to our many kind volunteers who contributed to this publication. / Merci beaucoup à tous les bénévoles dédiés qui ont contribué à cette publication.

Next deadline: September 1
Date limite prochaine: le 1 septembre

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR THE FEDERATION

The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists wishes to extend a hearty welcome to our new President, Frank Longstaff, and our new Secretary, Gayle Greer.

Frank, a lawyer practising at Hampton, New Brunswick, has a special interest and expertise in environmental law, and is most deserving of his reputation as an "eco-warrior" among his peers in the Canadian Bar Association. For the past few years, Frank has served on the Federation's Board of Directors as a **Director-at-large** and has kindly provided us with assistance in dealing with environmental issues. A few years ago, Frank and his wife Gillian Malins were largely responsible for organizing the Federation's highly successful Annual General Meeting on Grand Manan Island. Frank and Jill are best known to New Brunswick naturalists as former owners of the Shorecrest Lodge, and are still thought of as Grand Mananers and resource persons on the natural history of Grand Manan, even though they now live on the mainland. As naturalists, they are well known and well respected across Canada, having worked as coordinators of

the Canadian Nature Tours.

Gayle, a long time resident of Fredericton, served as Secretary of the Fredericton Nature Club for several years and is currently a member of the Grand Lake Meadows Action Committee and the Hyla Park Steering Committee. Gayle was instrumental in helping the Fredericton Nature Club to host the Federation's Annual General Meeting in the late 1980s. Gayle is deeply concerned about New Brunswick's wildlife and our environment, and is keenly interested in nature and social justice. For many years, Gayle has had an ongoing interest in educating young people about nature and in fostering a sense of responsibility to protect and preserve our natural heritage. She is currently serving as the Education Officer for the Fredericton Nature Club.

Many thanks and best wishes to **Peter Pearce (our Past President)** for dedicating to the Federation considerable amounts of time, hard work, guidance, knowledge and experience over the years, and to our retired secretary, **Diane Allain**.

NOTES FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

Frank Longstaff



I'm a New Brunswicker by choice. The main reason for that choice lies in New Brunswick's rich natural history.

I grew up in the City of Toronto where the predominant flora and fauna are maple leaves and blue jays. With few exceptions, the places to enjoy the wonders of the natural world are at least an hour's drive from Bloor and Yonge. But a decade ago, my wife, Jill Malins, and I moved from the city to the idyllic isolation of Grand Manan. Drawn by the abundance of birds, whales and wildflowers, we took over a country inn and made it a centre for nature lovers. Almost immediately, we received strong support and a warm welcome from the naturalist community of New Brunswick.

We stayed on Grand Manan for four years. Since then, we lived in a wooded corner of Saint John and on the river, upstream from Fredericton, before settling into our present home on the edge of the Hampton Marsh. Wherever we've lived, we've been able to be close to nature. Today, our home is within the town boundaries of Hampton, but from our window on the marsh we can watch herons and osprey fishing; muskrats, otter and beaver churning back and forth; and even an occasional moose, wandering from wooded islands in the marsh to the hardwood forest behind Frost Mountain. Jill's garden is aflutter with nesting

warblers, swallows and sparrows. I've seen almost 100 species of birds from within the confines of our domain.

This opportunity to live close to nature is something enjoyed by many, perhaps most New Brunswickers. Those who cannot find it at their doorstep need only wander a short distance to enjoy the pleasures of the countryside. For people like us, who delight in nature and take a stance that is both appreciative and protective towards the natural world, there is not a better place to be.

Members of the Federation join together as naturalists to enhance our ability to appreciate and protect. We learn from each other about the fascinating tapestry that makes up the world around us. We delight in doing things together. We also know there are times we must organize and fight for the things that are important to us so that New Brunswick will continue to be a place where naturalists choose to live.

Over the next two years, the term of my presidency, I hope the Federation can provide leadership in both these areas. We will try to provide more opportunities to get together and do the things we enjoy so much -- birding or botanizing, whalewatching or stargazing with like-minded friends. We also will do our best to make our voice heard by government and industry, to promote an environmental ethic in all aspects of provincial life. We'll need lots of help. I hope you all come along for the ride.

MESSAGE* FROM THE "OUTGOING" PRESIDENT

James Goltz

The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists is entering into a period of great change. After ten years of tremendous dedication and work by David Christie and Mary Majka, production of the *N.B. Naturalist*, considered by many to be "the cement the binds the Federation together", has passed into new hands. As my time as President is approaching its twilight, the Federation will face the sunrise under the direction of a new President. Diane Allain, the Federation's secretary, has given notice and the Federation will soon have a new Secretary as well. Along with the changes that are taking place in the Federation, many changes are also occurring in government, society and nature itself.

Although change is sometimes fraught with apprehension, we would be best to view change as an opportunity for renewal, development and growth. I believe that the Federation is a very important organization that has a great opportunity to provide leadership and direction during this period of change, as well as to help effect change in a manner that will benefit New Brunswickers, and the plants and animals that share our province. Some of the major functions and/or roles of the Federation are as follows:

1. The Federation continues to help add to **knowledge of the natural history of New Brunswick**. In this regard, we are carrying on the fine traditions of our predecessors, namely scientist-naturalists who have been making observations and gathering information since the mid 1800s. This information is important for its scientific merit, for its historic importance, and as

a basis for decision-making about what areas, plants and animals should be protected. In particular, the involvement of Federation members in generating the Christmas Bird Count data and the Breeding Bird Atlas and Survey data is especially noteworthy. Incidentally, the Federation has recently been asked by scientific researchers to help conduct a reptile and amphibian survey in New Brunswick.

2. The Federation is often called upon to **provide input, advice, direction and guidance regarding environmental issues**. We have established a reputation of being knowledgeable, rational and credible. Our approach tends to be cautious, low key and based on sound data and common sense.

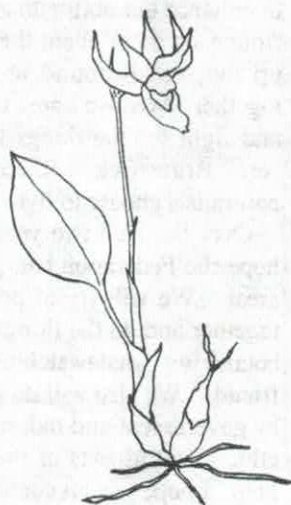
3. The Federation is renowned for its exemplary projects at **Mary's Point and on the Acadian Peninsula**. Mary Majka and David Christie are continuing their excellent work at Mary's Point, while renowned efforts on the Acadian Peninsula have been ongoing for over 7 years thanks to Sabine Dietz and Roland Chiasson. We are viewed and sought out as a reliable partner that will help achieve funding, as well as to endorse and/or contribute expertise for worthwhile environmental projects and programs.

4. Naturalists are recognized as having a **worthwhile and distinct point of view**. Researchers have recently shown an interest in exploring our perspectives, level of knowledge and attitudes in various areas including wildlife management and ethics.

When, four years ago, I agreed to accept the position of President, my decision was made with some apprehension. By nature, like most naturalists, I would much prefer to spend my time enjoying nature, well out of the public eye, rather than attending meetings, strategizing or politicking. However, my favourite haunts and their wildlife inhabitants keep vanishing. It became obvious to me, that if each of us doesn't act on behalf of nature, who will? Industry and politicians seem to truly believe that they are doing the right things. We must serve as stewards and nature advocates to try to ensure that the best decisions are being made and the wisest courses of action are being taken.

What exactly does the President do? According to the Federation's By-Laws, the President "shall direct the affairs of the Federation, within the guidelines

Calypso, the favourite native New Brunswick orchid of the "outgoing" president.
Line drawing by
Maureen Bourque.



established by the Board, and shall preside at meetings of the membership and of the Board." The presidency of this organization is a big responsibility that can easily consume whatever amount of time one is willing to devote to it. The President is often the first line of contact on environmental issues and other Federation business, including dealing with correspondence.

But presidency has its privileges. During my term as President, I have had a great opportunity for personal growth and to develop skills such as writing briefs, dealing with the public, dealing with media, and dealing with politicians and government officials. Most importantly, I have had the chance to meet with and work with many wonderful naturalists, virtually all of whom have been inspirational, full of ideas and possessed of a wide array of skills. The presidency is really a team effort: it would not be possible without the support of the Executive, Directors, Clubs, Members and other environmentalists. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the assistance and hard work of: Past President, **Peter Pearce**; Vice President, **Rob Walker**; Past and Current Secretaries, **Elizabeth McIntosh**, **Chris Antle** and **Diane Allain**; Past and Current Treasurers, **Cecil Johnston** and **Mike Bamford**; Environmental Issues Advisor, **Frank Longstaff**; Naturalist-Scientists, **Don McAlpine**, **Stephen Clayden**, **Hal Hinds** and **David Christie**; Past Editors of the New Brunswick Naturalist, **Mary Majka** and **David Christie**; Current Editors of the New Brunswick Naturalist (please see inside jacket); Correspondence Assistant, **Bruce Bagnell**; and those persons who have represented the Federation on various important committees, including the New Brunswick Trails Council, **Chris Antle**; N.B. Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board, **Ron Arsenault**; Fundy Model Forest, **Peter Pearce**; Grand Lake Meadows Action Committee, **Jim Brown**; and the Canadian Wildlife Service Display and Fixed Link Nature Centre, **Paul Bogaard**.

In the past year, we have attempted to focus on building the Federation, beginning with an effort to get production of the *N.B. Naturalist* back on schedule, to increase the number of Federated clubs and to work toward obtaining charitable status. So much more needs to be done. Priorities for the Federation, from my perspective, are as follows:

a) we need to continue to build the Federation by increasing membership (especially of young people), cultivating expertise, expanding our knowledge base and inspiring more people to get involved.

b) we need to make a concerted effort on public education, especially through knowledgeable naturalists who are willing to share information with the public. Hopefully, this will foster a greater sense of public pride in our natural heritage.

c) we need to gather public support for environmental protection, better management of our land and water, and wise use of our natural resources.

d) we need to be more successful in helping protect natural areas and their wildlife inhabitants (i.e. spaces and species) not just through current legislation, policies and other available mechanisms, but also by expediting changes to existing policies and legislation, and overcoming impediments.

e) we need to develop and promote a code of ethics for dealing with nature and wildlife, so that we can set a good example for others.

As President, my attention was largely directed toward environmental issues. This said, the new President will most likely have different visions and will help the Federation to chart a new course. That is what is exciting about change. When I retire from my presidency, I shall continue to serve as one of the Directors of the Federation (Past President), as an editor of the *N.B. Naturalist*, as chair of the Federation's Nominating Committee, and in whatever other capacity my assistance may be needed. No doubt, the Federation and I will not only weather the storm of change, we will continue to evolve together, along with you, to effectively protect, preserve and enjoy the natural heritage values that we cherish.

*This was delivered as the President's Report at the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, held at Sussex, on 27 May, 1995.

Errata - March 1995 issue

OOPS!...In the article on *Fiddlehead (Ostrich Fern) Toxicity* (page 4), the last sentence in the third paragraph should have read "It is interesting to note that rats and mice remained healthy after being fed raw and cooked fiddleheads from the same sources."

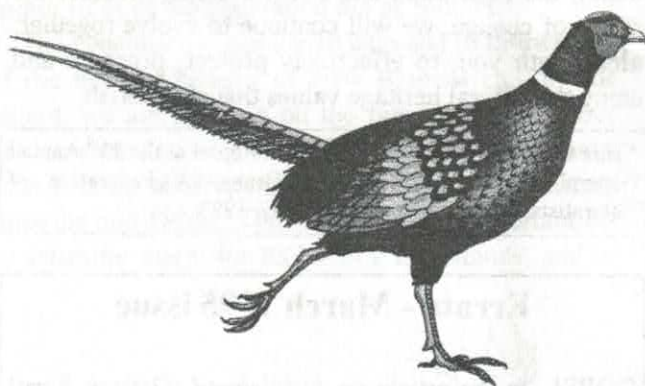
We unfortunately neglected to mention that many of the interesting facts in Ann Lavoie's article entitled *Bird Lore* (page 6), were gleaned from the following reference: *The Birder's Handbook* by P.R. Ehrlich, D.S. Dobkin and D. Wheye, a Fireside Book published by Simon & Schuster, 1988.

1995 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Gart Bishop and Alison McArthur

The Kennebecasis Naturalists hosted the 23rd NBFN Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Sussex on May 26, 27 and 28, 1995. Based out of the newly completed Community Centre, numerous events were offered which spotlighted some of the natural history of the area.

Friday evening began with a general get-together and a viewing of the many interesting and varied displays. It was capped by a short outing to "unveil" a plaque officially recognizing the Mercantile Building chimney as a haven for migrating **Chimney Swifts**, to view the swifts' on-mass roosting phenomenon and to launch a new brochure entitled *The Chimney Swifts of Sussex*. The birds performed beautifully. Two hundred and fifty or more swifts congregated prior to dusk, and then after some secret signal of their own, they all tumbled single file down the chimney. The mass of NBFN members staring skyward attracted the attention of some local inhabitants who, after inquiring as to why we were there, joined us in watching this inspiring spectacle. It is believed that this was the largest gathering of humans (about 50) on record to view the Sussex chimney swifts.



The early bird outings began at 6:30 on Saturday and Sunday mornings, after a quick coffee and a muffin. On the Duck Watch, **American Bitterns**, **Bobolinks**, **Northern Waterthrush** and **Ring-necked Pheasants** were some of the birds seen in addition to three species of ducks. At the Yeoman property, 44 species of birds were sighted, as well as over 28 species of wildflowers. On **Orland's Nature Trail**, officially dedicated on Saturday May 27, twenty species of birds were seen, highlighted by a prominent view of a **Northern Oriole**. After viewing the rich abundance of spring wildflowers (including **Wild**

Leek, **Dutchman's Breeches**, **Bloodroot** and **Nodding Trillium**), some of those returning to headquarters were lucky enough to catch a glimpse of an **Eastern Meadowlark** skimming the fields. Those departing from the back of the Timberland Motel saw 25 species of birds, including the **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Pileated Woodpecker**, **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** and **Black-throated Green Warbler**.

There were six main field trips running from mid morning to early afternoon. Participants on the Falls Brook outing were impressed with the natural splendour of the series of small, cascading waterfalls. There was a good opportunity to look down onto three young **Common Ravens** in a nest that was precariously nestled under a dripping, rock overhang. Some naturalists enthusiastically botanized the inaccessible, deep gorge with the aid of binoculars, managing to identify a population of **Roseroot**, which is uncommon this far inland. **Two-lined** and **Red-backed Salamanders** were found under rocks along the edge of the brook. On the walk out, members' steps were quickened by a deluge of hail, which turned into a rainy downpour.

On Saturday, precipitation was responsible for the early return of the van tour, which was engaged in a tractor-pulled hay wagon side-trip when the rain began. Prior to this, they had viewed the reconstruction of fish habitat in a small brook, and mineral, salt and freshwater springs. Ironically, the weather-protected van tour was the only event rained out!

The walk along the Kennebecasis River encountered 42 species of birds (e.g. **Savannah Sparrow**, **Bald Eagle**, **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, **Cliff Swallow**, and a **Black Duck** with 10 ducklings) and 33 species of wildflowers, as well as several species of butterflies, some frogs and a **Groundhog**.

The moss flora was explored by those walking up Cotter Hollow. At least forty species of mosses and liverworts were noted. Of particular note was *Cyrtomnium hymenophylloides*, a moss known from only three locations in the province. A **Scarlet Tanager** highlighted the bird sightings, while spring flowers added continuous distraction from the mosses.

The first stop of the geology tour was in Fundy National Park where, during visits to a series of



Michelle and Lars Larsen (left) presenting a gift from members of the Federation — Lars' limited edition print of Peregrine Falcons (entitled "Homecomers") — to outgoing President Jim Goltz.

outcrops, the complicated structural geology of the area was explained. Stops were made to view geological contacts, and search for fossils. Upon their return, participants seemed enthusiastic ... and wet!

The horse-drawn wagon tour of Dick McLeod's woodlot was pleasant and relaxing ... the horses did the work! Members were told of the 200 years of family history on the property and how management practices are continuing to change. Some of the projects seen included gravel pits being grassed over, clear cuts planted, bird houses erected and trees selectively harvested. The horses behaved well, even when stopped for 15 minutes to view male and female Scarlet Tanagers.

Besides the main walks, some members took advantage of tours through the Agricultural Museum and Royal Gardens (a commercial greenhouse).

On Saturday evening, most members gathered at the Timberland Motel to enjoy a smorgasbord of delicacies, including fiddleheads, salmon and roast beef, capped with raspberry cheesecake. Throughout the banquet, there were numerous draws for prizes ranging from flashlights to bird seed. Following the meal, wildlife artist Lars Larsen entertained everyone with anecdotes of various aspects of his life. A presentation and thank you were made to outgoing President Jim Goltz. A talk by Jane Tims on the New Brunswick classification of lakes and rivers preceded the business meeting, which concluded a long and busy day.

As Sunday afternoon drew to a close, members congregated to share with friends new and old, farewell handshakes and a few teary goodbyes. Parting was easier with promises to renew acquaintances during the 1996 AGM in Saint John.

The 1995 AGM Committee hopes that all members who attended found the weekend to be valuable, worthwhile and fun. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet similarly minded people from all over the province, and have the chance to learn a little about somebody else's corner of the world. The Kennebecasis Naturalists thank everyone for sharing ours.



Cyrtomnium hymenophylloides, a rare New Brunswick moss.
Illustration by Bruce Bagnell.

BABY BOOM — HOUSE WREN STYLE

Shirley Sloat



A fleeting glimpse of a house wren on Grand Manan prompted my interest in the wren family, so the next year, on July 14, 1994, it was a surprise to see and hear a male wren in our own yard in Fredericton. An even more pleasant surprise was to see the female as well.

Nest building soon started, but the wrens' favourite box was hanging in a very busy area and was soon abandoned. They stuffed other boxes usually used by swallows, but wouldn't return to their preferred nest box even after we had moved it to a more private location. Both wrens seemed content living in our yard, and the male sang constantly.

Unfortunately, we did not hear them again after July 26, 1994. Since wrens have a small territory of $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre, they had apparently moved on. I felt badly when they no longer sang.

This year, on May 11, a male wren appeared and started stuffing twigs into a newly erected nesting box. He stuffed a few other boxes as well, but he always came back to the new house. On May 24, when the female arrived, she seemed to like the same house and started lining the nest with spider egg cases and soft grass. Only the female lines the nest and she did a great job removing insects and spider webs from all of the windows around the house.

During all of this activity with the female, the male rarely stopped his bubbling warble of a song. After a few days, she seemed to settle into her new home, coming out in the early morning and late evening for exercise. Sometimes she came out and cleared off all insects from the outside of her house.

The male, meanwhile, often fed her while she sat on the nest, still sang some, and kept busy defending the area. For such a tiny bird, he was most aggressive with intruders, even with doves when they landed on the nest box.

On June 19, both adults started feeding the babies and the male's singing became louder than ever. They were very busy parents, and as the little brood matured, the adults fed them larger insects.

July 5 was a different day. The parents didn't feed as much, choosing instead to sit on a telephone wire

singing. Little heads began appearing at the entrance to get some food. Mother sat nearby and sang softly. Later in the day, they coaxed out one baby, then another, until all four had emerged. The youngsters were surprisingly good at flying and kept moving about through some low shrubs. As of mid-July, the whole family can still be heard in the trees as the parents fulfil their task of feeding their offspring for at least two weeks.

The entire cycle, from arrival until the babies fledged the nest, followed exactly Stokes Nature Guide on Bird Behaviour, Volume One. With any luck, the wrens may nest a second time in the same bird box so we can again observe and enjoy these tiny creatures, taking care not to disturb them.

Another wren, probably male, is 3 km away, still alone, and still stuffing nest boxes.

Another pair is now nesting in Gagetown.

Good Birding!

REFERENCE: Stokes, Donald and Lillian, 1989. *Stokes Nature Guide to Bird Behaviour*, Vol. 1; Little, Brown & Co., Toronto. 336 pp.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!!!

The *N.B. Naturalist* needs your help! Our Production Teams have found that good illustrations are hard to come by and much needed.

Original drawings, paintings, photographs or computer scanned images, etc., depicting any New Brunswick nature themes or subjects would be most welcomed for future publications.

Please send your contributions to **Irene Doyle** (address on inside cover). All original artwork will be duly and gratefully acknowledged and can be returned if requested. Your kind assistance is much appreciated.



UNE MERVEILLE

Marie-Anne Gauvin

La merveille des merveilles? Laquelle est la plus merveilleuse? Un bâtiment d'une architecture élégante, une peinture ou une sculpture, une rivière, un poème, une haute montagne ou un coucher de soleil? Tous sont des choses merveilleuses mais comment choisir? "Chacun à son goût."

Pour moi la merveille des merveilles c'est la faune, parce que les autres merveilles telles que celles mentionnées ci-haut sont des choses fixes. Elles sont toujours présentes et bien évidentes, et vous pouvez choisir l'heure où vous allez en jouir. Par contraste, la faune se tient souvent cachée, même si elle est présente. Il faut chercher pour la découvrir ou bien elle apparaît devant vous sans avertissement. À l'apparition d'une espèce sauvage, c'est toujours la belle surprise de voir cette vie mystérieuse et secrète que se dévoile au regard.

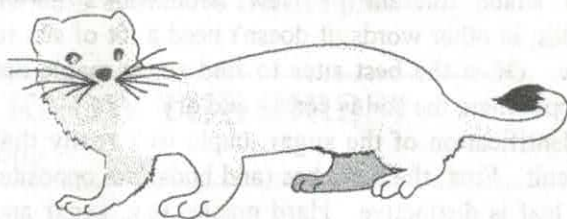
Depuis ma retraite en 1988, j'ai fait l'expérience de quelques merveilles fauniques. Permettez-moi de vous en raconter une:

Par un beau matin froid de novembre, j'étais allée me promener à travers les champs et les bois près de chez moi. En revenant, j'ai vu une petite souris morte sur le sentier. J'ai passé par dessus et aussitôt j'ai entendu un petit cri aigu. Mes oreilles m'ont fait tourner la tête et là, à côté du sentier, une très petite bête me regardait. Elle était plutôt longue, très mince, tellement petite, toute blanche avec le bout de la queue

noire, et bien visible puisqu'il n'y avait pas de neige.

Encore un ou deux petits cris et elle s'avança vers moi car je m'étais arrêtée toute incrédule. Son cri était comme un petit jappement parce qu'elle n'avait pas l'air d'être trop contente de me voir. Elle avançait tout près de mes pieds chaussés de bonnes bottes, puis elle reculait et revenait. Alors, j'ai un peu pensé qu'elle pouvait peut-être essayer de sauter sur moi. Je me suis mise à lui parler tout en m'éloignant lentement. "Comme tu es belle! Qu'est-ce que tu veux? Oh! ton lunch ... il est là." j'ai dit, en montrant du doigt la petite souris. Évidemment je l'avais surprise et elle avait laissé tomber sa proie. Ayant réussi à me faire éloigner, elle a couru vite pour ramasser la souris puis elle est disparue dans les buissons le long du ruisseau.

Rendue chez moi, j'ai fait une petite recherche et j'ai confirmé que c'était bel et bien une hermine que j'avais vue. Cette rencontre avec l'hermine est certes une grande merveille qui, probablement, ne se répétera jamais. Voilà pourquoi ces aventures "au naturel" sont si précieuses et si merveilleuses.



COMMENT NOURRIR LES COLIBRIS

Rosita Lanteigne



Quoi de plus beau qu'admirer le colibri à notre abreuvoir, lorsque nous avons la chance qu'il daigne nous visiter. Sa visite est facilitée s'il y a des fleurs rouges ou oranges en forme de trompette. Il adore le nectar sucré vital à son régime alimentaire. On peut l'attirer en installant un abreuvoir à nectar (eau sucrée).

Cette eau sucrée peut être achetée mais, encore mieux, on peut le préparer soi-même. Il s'agit de faire bouillir durant 2 à 3 minutes **quatre parties d'eau avec une partie de sucre blanc**. On laisse refroidir et on remplit les abreuvoirs au quart seulement. Le reste du liquide doit être réfrigéré. Le colorant rouge n'est absolument pas nécessaire étant donné que les

abreuvoirs pour colibris sont vendus avec les couleurs qui attirent les oiseaux-mouches.

Chose importante: L'entretien. Si votre abreuvoir est situé en plein soleil, changer l'eau sucrée sinon elle se transforme en alcool et est très néfaste pour sa santé, causant une cirrhose du foie et provoquant une mort certaine.

Lorsque vous changerez le nectar, vous en profiterez pour laver l'abreuvoir à l'aide d'une eau chaude mélangée avec un peu de vinaigre, soit 30 ml par litre d'eau. Bien rincer!

Amusez-vous bien en pensant au bien-être de vos colibris.

SUGAR MAPLE: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Paul Martin

When you mention sugar maple, most people think of syrup (and pancakes) in the late winter and early spring. To the syrup producer, it means long hours, headaches and the nagging question: how long will the season last? For me, it's a sugar maple forest with blackflies, birds, large mammals and small plants such as orchids and lilies, including trilliums. What comes to mind when you think of sugar maple -- the calls of the ovenbird or other warblers, or perhaps a glimpse of a moose or bear?

The botanical name for sugar maple, i.e. *Acer saccharum*, really makes sense. The generic name 'Acer' means sharp (no doubt referring to the sharply pointed leaves), while the species name 'saccharum' means sweet. The sugar maple certainly has sharply pointed leaves and a sweet tasting sap.

Sugar maple is native to eastern North America. In Canada, its distribution is limited to two basic forest regions, namely the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence region and the Acadian forest region. The sugar maple is the most shade tolerant of New Brunswick's native maples; in other words, it doesn't need a lot of sun to grow. Often the best sites to find sugar maple are hilltops where the soil is coarse and dry.

Identification of the sugar maple isn't really that difficult. First, the branches (and buds) are opposite. The leaf is distinctive. Hard maples (e.g. sugar and black maple¹) have rounded valleys separating their leaf lobes, whereas the soft maples (e.g. red, silver, Manitoba, striped and mountain maple) have sharp valleys. During the winter, the buds of sugar maple

are sharp and pointed, while the buds of the soft maples are large and rounded. The bark of a sugar maple is firm with ridges that curl outward horizontally (from side to side), not like that of the red maple which curls vertically (up and down).

Besides being important for its sap, sugar maple is also important for the various uses of its wood, e.g. in cabinet making, tool handles, veneer and furniture. The wood was apparently used for making rails before iron was introduced for railways. Historically, the tree was used by the native peoples for heat (as it is still used by many New Brunswickers today), while its ashes were used as a fertilizer. The settlers used its potash-rich ashes in making soap. The many uses of sugar maple by humans make it extremely valuable to us.

As pulp mills increase their demand for hardwood, and as the annual allowable cut of hardwood becomes more fully utilized, we must impress upon those involved in harvesting sugar maple to ensure that this harvest is sustainable. Areas that were naturally covered with hardwoods should not be replanted with conifers, but should be left to regenerate naturally or possibly even be replanted with hardwoods. We must not over-use this proud historical tree species so that it will continue to exist to support our natural hardwood ecosystems and our economy.

¹The **black maple**, a species of moist to wet sites, is not native to New Brunswick.

Red Maple



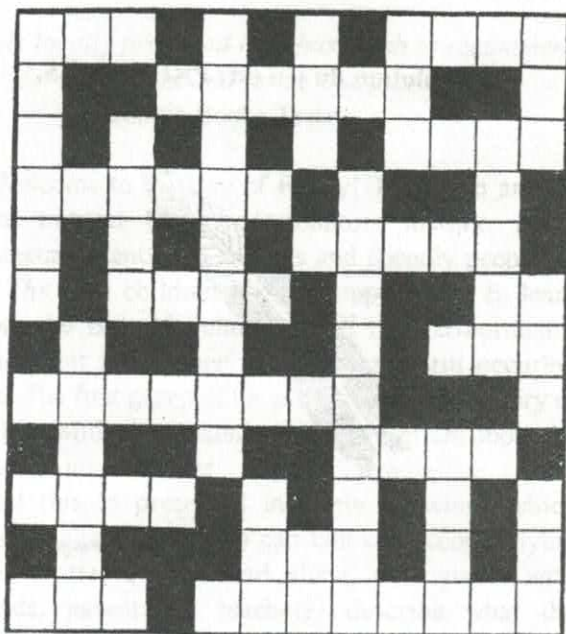
Sugar Maple



Photocopies of actual maple leaves (photo-reduced).

ENTRE-CROISÉS

Gisèle Thibodeau



Placer les mots dans la grille en commençant par ceux qui sont les plus longs. Un seul de ces mots n'entre pas dans la grille. C'est la solution de ce jeu.

Liste de mots:

| | | |
|-----|-------|-----------|
| os | bois | alaire |
| va | ciel | cornue |
| | cris | marche |
| air | nids | pluies |
| bec | soif | |
| est | tête | alouette |
| mai | tuer | plastron |
| ové | ailes | aigrettes |
| pré | essor | alaudidés |
| sec | | primaires |
| sol | | |
| son | | |
| vol | | |

Solution à la prochaine page...amusez-vous bien! Ne trichez pas!

NATURE QUIZ: DO YOU KNOW THE BIRDS?

Pearl DeLong

1. I never perch while gathering food.
2. I am an ill-used bird.
3. I am a monarch.
4. Girls use my name.
5. I am a letter of the alphabet.
6. I am often called Whiskey Jack.
7. I have a boy's name and form part of a chain.
8. I never build a nest.
9. I have red shoulders.
10. My nest looks like a hammock.
11. You see my rosy breast in winter.
12. I am named after a precious metal.
13. Babies have clothing named after me.
14. I got my name by singing in the evening.
15. I am often called Old Tom Peabody.
16. I am the bird with the heavy red bill and a crest.
17. I am Monarch of the fish.
18. I get my name by sucking sap.
19. I am named from my beautiful head.
20. I am often called Golden-winged Woodpecker.
21. I get my name from my home and speed.
22. I am a food and part of a girl's name.
23. I am sometimes mistaken for a Blackbird.
24. I came from Europe.
25. I am named after a tree and my wings.

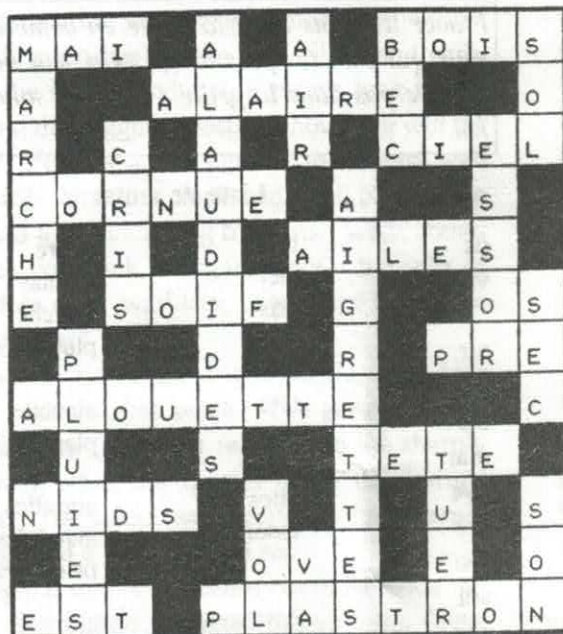


Reprinted from the March 1995 Kennebecasis Naturalist Society newsletter (No. 10).

Please see next page for answers ... no peeking!

ENTRE-CROISÉS — SOLUTION

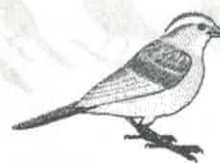
Gisèle Thibodeau

La solution du jeu est: **PRIMAIRES.****NATURE QUIZ: DO YOU KNOW THE BIRDS? — ANSWERS**

Pearl DeLong

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Hummingbird | 14. Vesper Sparrow |
| 2. Whip-poor-will | 15. White-throated Sparrow |
| 3. Kingbird | 16. Cardinal |
| 4. Phoebe | 17. Kingfisher |
| 5. Jay | 18. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker |
| 6. Gray Jay | 19. Red-headed Woodpecker |
| 7. Bobolink | 20. Yellow-shafted Flicker |
| 8. Cowbird | 21. Chimney Swift |
| 9. Red-winged Blackbird | 22. Magpie |
| 10. Northern Oriole | 23. European Starling |
| 11. Pine Grosbeak | 24. House Sparrow |
| 12. Goldfinch | 25. Cedar Waxwing |
| 13. Bunting (Snow) | |

Editor's note: There may be more than one correct answer to several of the quiz "challenges".



BY THE BAY:
A COLOURING BOOK ABOUT THE UPPER BAY OF FUNDY
 Sheilagh Hunt & Christopher Majka

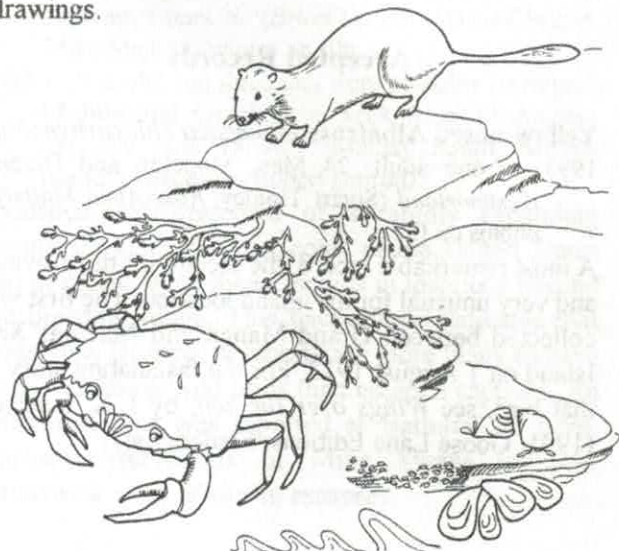
"This locally produced item has much to recommend it — for its content and for its thoroughness."

— Atlantic Books Today

Welcome to the Bay of Fundy! This is an area of great natural beauty, fascinating history, many interesting plants and animals and friendly people. In *By The Bay* children have an opportunity to learn about the Bay of Fundy and all the extraordinary things that have taken place and are still occurring here. The first group of ten pictures tells the history of the Bay while the remaining twenty-four are about the area's living creatures.

All this is presented in lively drawings which children ages six and up can colour. Accompanying short stories (to be read alone, or together with friends, parents or teachers) describe what the youngsters see in the illustrations. The text gives information on the animals and flowers so that they can be coloured correctly.

Our history begins in the Carboniferous Era, three hundred million years ago! We look at the time of the Glaciers and the mastodons that lived here. Then we turn our attention to the people — from the very earliest Natives 10,500 years ago through to the time of the Mi'kmaq. Acadian settlers then arrived on our shores — followed by pirates! Then the British and the Irish followed. Finally we look at the eras of stone quarrying and ship-building. All these events are presented in detailed and historically accurate drawings.



The second portion of the book highlights the natural history of the Bay of Fundy. Drawings of different natural communities are grouped according to habitat — Forest, Fields, Fresh Water Marsh, Salt Marsh, Small Ponds, Sand Dunes, Mud Flats, Rocky Shore and Ocean — to help convey the understanding that the natural environment is made up of different habitats, each with their own distinctive creatures. Drawings include:



- Winter in the Forest
- Ruffed Grouse love dust baths!
- Night in the Forest
- Farmland Birds
- Fall Butterflies
- The Wily Coyote
- Of Goosetonge & Samphire
- Great Blue Herons
- Of Sticklebacks and Mummichogs
- Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud ...
- Flotsam and Jetsam: What Washes Ashore
- Eider Down
- Shorebirds on the Bay of Fundy
- A Porpoise With a Purpose

The book includes a map of the Bay of Fundy, an Introduction, Table of Contents and a thorough Glossary.

By The Bay is a co-production of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists and Empty Mirrors Press.

The colouring book is available from:
New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists
 RR #2, Albert, N.B. E0A 1A0

The price of \$7.50 each (includes \$2.55 for postage & handling) can be remitted by cheque or money order. Foreign orders are payable in U.S. funds.

NEW BRUNSWICK BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 1994 REPORT

Brian Dalzell and David Christie

This is the first annual report of the New Brunswick Bird Records Committee. The Committee was formed in late 1992 to ensure that adequate information is preserved about unusual occurrences of birds in New Brunswick, to provide a process for formal acceptance of bird species to the provincial list, and generally to advance knowledge of birds in New Brunswick. The Committee operates under the sponsorship of the New Brunswick Museum.

During 1993-94, we adopted governing by-laws, revised the New Brunswick documentation form (in use by the museum since 1963), translated it to French, and began the task of gathering data and reviewing records. We are also discussing establishment of a computer database file of New Brunswick bird records. We have prepared newsletter articles to inform birders of the Committee's mandate and to encourage them to submit documentation. Documentation forms are available from Committee members and from the museum, or may be copied from published versions (*N.B. Nat.* 20:15-16, Dec. 1993).

Faced with a backlog of observations for species newly reported since publication of the 1985 New Brunswick checklist, a formal vote is being conducted only for species with two or fewer acceptable reports in the province in the past 50 years. Further submissions will be gratefully received and placed on file as valuable information for future study. Only records independently documented by two or more observers or supported by tangible evidence (photos, specimens, video/audio tapes, etc.) are eligible for acceptance by the Committee.

A total of 21 records were reviewed by the Committee in 1993 and 1994. Of these, 18 (86%) were accepted and 3 were not. Another 12 submissions were received and filed without formal review. Fifteen new species were added to the New Brunswick list. Documentation is still being gathered on many other records.

Members of the Committee in 1993-94 were James G. Wilson (chairman), Brian E. Dalzell (secretary), David S. Christie, Robert Doiron, Stuart I. Tingley and Donald F. McAlpine (non-voting). Meetings were

held in early November 1993 and again in early December 1994.

We wish to thank all the observers who took the time to document and submit their observations of birds. All these reports, whether accepted or not, are deposited in the Natural Sciences Division of the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John. The votes and remarks of Committee members are attached to the reports, and may be viewed on request to Don McAlpine at the museum.

The format of this report is based on the Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 1993 (*Ont. Birds*, 12: 41-58). For each record, information on sex and plumage is included, where it can be reliably ascertained. Place names in italics refer to counties in New Brunswick. For accepted records all contributors who have provided written descriptions, photographs, videotapes or any other form of documentation have been credited. Persons who participated in the initial discovery and/or identification of a bird but did not provide documentation are also acknowledged; their names are listed in italics.

Every effort has been made to verify dates, locations and observers' names, but our data may include some inaccuracies. We welcome corrections or updates to make the records more exact. Where dates or other details in original reports differ from those quoted in other sources (for example, the American Birds seasonal summaries), we have used the information which seems most accurate from our documentation.

Accepted Records

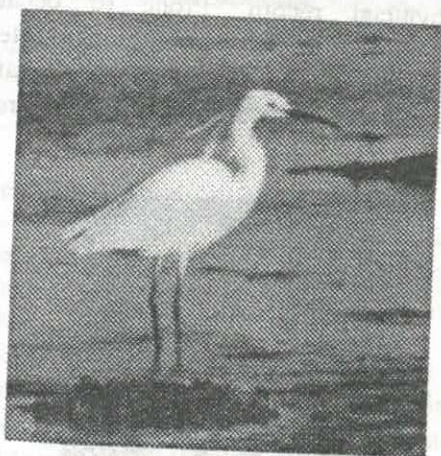
Yellow-nosed Albatross *Diomedea chlororhynchos*
1993 — one adult, 24 May, Moncton and Dieppe,
Westmorland (Stuart Tingley, Rose-Alma Mallet) -
photos on file.

A most remarkable record, the second for the province and very unusual for the inland location. The first was collected between Grand Manan and Machias Seal Island on 1 August 1913. For the fascinating story of that bird, see *Wings over the Sea*, by L.K. Ingersoll (1991, Goose Lane Editions, Fredericton).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

1994 — one adult, 27-29 May, Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John, Saint John (Ian Stead, Cecil Johnston, Doris Johnston, James Wilson) - photos on file.

First record for the province. This Old World heron had previously been recorded in Quebec, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Massachusetts, so was expected to occur here eventually. Credit for identification and confirmatory photographs goes to Cecil Johnston, who over the years, has investigated nearly all Snowy Egret reports from Saints Rest Marsh in the hope one might be this species.



Little Egret, Saints Rest Marsh, May 28, 1994
Photo: Cecil Johnston

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

1993-94 — one subadult, 25 April 1993, Bancroft Point, and 26 April 1993 to early May 1994, Grand Harbour, Charlotte (Brian Dalzell, David Christie, Mike Majka) - photos on file.

1993 — 2 adults and three that were probably immature, 17 July and for about a week from 13 August, Tracadie, and 18 July, Malbay South, Miscou Island, Gloucester (Robert Doiron).

Evidence was presented of a rapidly expanding population along the east coast of the United States and of recent Mute Swan records in locations beyond the breeding range. This background indicates that these New Brunswick reports are more likely to have been wandering wild birds than escaped captives. An additional bird was reported at Bathurst in 1994. Earlier observations of Mute Swans in New Brunswick were of known escapees.

California Gull *Larus californicus*

1993 — one adult, 11-12 May, Lower Jemseg, Queens (James Wilson, Stuart Tingley) - photos on file.

Another first for the province, and for Atlantic Canada at the time. A specimen has since been found at Sable Island, N.S. There are also a handful of previous records as far east as Quebec and Massachusetts. The bird was found foraging in a field with a flock of Ring-billed Gulls, suggesting birders should scrutinize such flocks more closely.

Royal Tern *Sterna maxima*

1991 — one adult, 20 August, Ingalls Head, Grand Manan, Charlotte (James Wilson, Stuart Tingley) - photos on file.

First record for the province. This was one of two or three birds found at Grand Manan in the wake of Hurricane Bob, which swept up the east coast, touching Cape Hatteras, where the terns were likely picked up, and dropping them in Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Evidence for their point of origin is provided by one found dead in Maine that had been banded in North Carolina.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

1991 — one juvenile, 20 August, Ingalls Head, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Peter Pearce, Stuart Tingley, Yves Cormier) - photo on file.

First record for the province. Another storm-blown waif brought up from the Carolinas by Hurricane Bob. One or two were also found at nearby Brier Island, N.S.

Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata*

1986 — one adult, 23-24 June, 6 and 14 August, Machias Seal Island, Charlotte (Eric Munssk, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Hilaire Chiasson)

First record for the province. Between 14 June and 12 August that summer, there were also reports of a single Sooty Tern at three locations on the coast of Maine, 60 to 170 km west of Machias Seal Island.

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*

1993 — one adult male, 4-8 August, Southern Head Beach, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Carolyn Boardman, Ron Harris, Wendy Harris) - photos on file.

First record for the province. This western visitor was attracted to a hummingbird feeder. Unfortunately, word of its presence did not surface until after it had departed.

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya*

1990 — one juvenile, 29 September, Miscou Plains, Miscou Island, Gloucester (Robert Doiron, Gérard and Denise Benoit, Rosita Lanteigne, Hilaire Chiasson) - photo on file.

First accepted record for the province. Although blurred by movement, the photo shows the broad wingbars of a young bird. There is a previous sighting by a single observer at Grand Manan on 25 September 1984.

Acadian Flycatcher *Empidonax virescens*

1992 — one adult, 10 May, Four Roads, Gloucester (Stuart Tingley, Connie Colpitts, Ron Steeves, members of the Club des naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne) - photos on file.

First accepted record for the province. The bird was induced by playing tapes to sing an Acadian Flycatcher song. The photos were viewed and confirmed by Jon Dunn. This flycatcher was initially seen from a speeding car, and 99 times out of 100, the observers would have continued. However, they had not been seeing many birds that day, and also happened to see where it landed, so went back to investigate. There are a couple of previous reports: one at Kent Island and one at Kouchibouguac National Park.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

1991 — 23 January to 22 April, Caraquet, Gloucester (Edith Robichaud, Claude Ouellette, Stuart Tingley) - photo on file.

A first record for the province, and no doubt one of the rarest birds to remain in New Brunswick for such a long period of time. Credit for tending to its needs goes to Edith Robichaud, who provided this European thrush with mountain-ash fruits and blueberries she had picked and stored for winter bird feeding.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*

1992 — one adult, 18 September, North Head, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Kenneth McKenna) - photo on file.

Although there have been perhaps as many as 20 records for this species in the province over the past decade, most from Grand Manan, this is the first record to be photographically documented.

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens*

1992 — one adult female, 24 September, Dark Harbour Road, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Don Gibson, David

Myles, Muriel Smith) - photo on file.

First provincial record. Although this is a surprising record, it was not totally unexpected, since it has been found no less than six times in nearby Nova Scotia. The photo clearly shows the yellow loreal spot in front of the eye. Initially passed off as a Blackpoll Warbler, but a second critical look identified it, pointing up the importance of checking your identifications.

Hermit Warbler *Dendroica occidentalis*

1994 — one adult male, 14-15 May, Gull Cove, White Head Island, Charlotte (Stuart Tingley) - photos on file.

First provincial record. Prone to occasional wandering, this beautiful warbler is as western as they come. Another amazing record, but again not totally unexpected, there being two previous records from Nova Scotia.

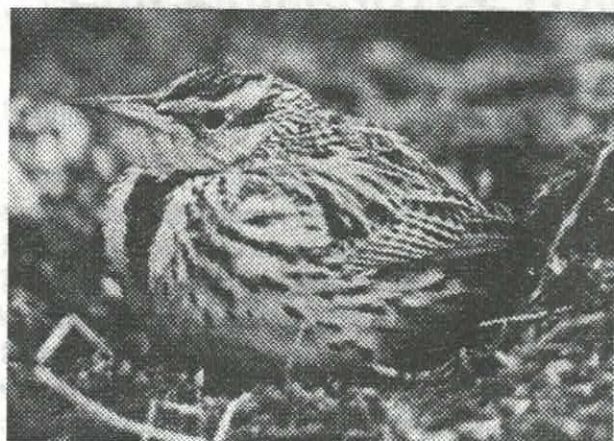


Hermit Warbler, White Head Island, May 14, 1994
Photo: Stuart Tingley

Harris' Sparrow *Zonotrichia querula*

1993 — possibly a year-old subadult, 7-9 November, Coteau Road, Lamèque Island, Gloucester (Jude Larocque, Cecil Johnston, David Christie) - photos on file.

First accepted record for the province. Found at a bird feeder, this beautiful large sparrow nests from northwestern Ontario to the Yukon, and makes occasional appearances in the east. It has previously occurred in Quebec (10+ records), Maine and at least four times in Nova Scotia. Two previous sight records in 1958 and 1969 were considered hypothetical (Squires, 1976, *The Birds of N.B.*).



Western Meadowlark, Fredericton, March 11, 1992
Photo: Jim Wilson

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta*

1992 — one adult, 2 January to 29 March, Agricultural Research Station, Fredericton, York (Peter Pearce, Jim Edsall, James Wilson, David Christie, Jim Goltz) - photos on file.

This western species has been reported many times in New England, and at least once in Nova Scotia. A tough one to identify visually, but vocalizations heard in late March clinched the identification. Subsequent examination of Eastern Meadowlark specimens in the N.B. Museum collection by Henri Ouellet of the National Museum of Natural Sciences revealed, appropriately, that two winter specimens (12 Dec. 1949 and 7 Jan. 1967, both from the Fredericton area) were "neglecta"!



Western Meadowlark, Fredericton, March 11, 1992
Photo: Jim Wilson

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

1993 — adult male, 5 August, Lamèque, Gloucester (Gérard Benoit, Denise Benoit) - photos on file.

First provincial record and the first for Canada! It was identified from the photos, which were confirmed by Jon Dunn and Will Russell. Almost no one in North America had heard of this species until 1985 when a few vagrants started appearing in Florida from their newly-conquered range in the West Indies. The nearest record is of one found on Monhegan Island, Maine, in September of 1991. This is more proof (if any were needed) that the Acadian Peninsula is easily New Brunswick's second best hotbed for rare bird sightings, right behind the Grand Manan archipelago.

Records Not Accepted

Identification accepted, origin questionable

Records in this category are those considered by the Committee to be almost certainly escaped birds or birds from introduced populations that are not fully established. However, as with all submissions, such records may be reviewed at any time, should new information arise suggesting a wild origin.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

1994 — two adults, 5-10 February, Gardner Creek, Saint John (Gerald Morin, Shane Blount, Ed Walter; history provided by James Wilson) - specimen in N.B. Museum.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

1992 — summer, one adult, Cambridge-Narrows, Queens (Ross Coates) - photos on file.

Identification uncertain

For the records noted below, the documentation (written description and/or photos) supplied was insufficient to establish with certainty the identity of the species claimed. The Committee does not necessarily consider the identification was an error. These reports may be resubmitted for further review if new supporting evidence comes to light.

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

1977 — one, 31 March and 3 April, Island View Heights, Saint John, Saint John.

Records Not Formally Reviewed

Documentation of the following observations was received but was insufficient for a formal vote by the committee:

American Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*
2 July 1994, Blanchard Settlement, Gloucester (Norbert Austin)

Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus*
17 Jan. 1989, Rivière à la truite, Gloucester (Yolande Thomas Paulin)

South Polar Skua *Skua maccormicki*
17 Aug. 1991, northeast of Gannet Rock, Charlotte (R. Ken F. Edwards)

Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri*
28 Dec. 1992, Courtenay Bay, Saint John, Saint John (David Christie)

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*
24 May 1988, Rang-Saint-Georges, near Paquetville, Gloucester (Audard Godin)

Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorus*
18 Sep. 1993, Cape Jourimain, Westmorland (Connie Colpitts)

Henslow's Sparrow *Ammodramus henslowii*

20 Oct. 1992, Southwest Head, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Peter Pearce)

Golden-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia atricapilla*

18 Oct. 1993, Saints Rest, Saint John, Saint John (Cecil Johnston)

Documentation was also received from Margaret Gallant, Irene Doyle, Gordon Pringle, Robert Doiron and Denise Cyr for the following species of which there are already two or more accepted records in the province: **Great Egret** (*Restigouche*), **Sandhill Crane** (*Albert*), **Golden-winged Warbler** (*Gloucester*), and **Prairie Warbler** (*Madawaska*).

The authors thank the other members of the committee for their comments and suggestions.

New Brunswick Bird Records Committee / Comité des mentions d'oiseaux, c/o David Christie, secretary, RR #2, Albert, N.B. E0A 1A0

PUBLICATION NEWS:

A COUNTY CHECKLIST OF THE MOSSES OF NEW BRUNSWICK

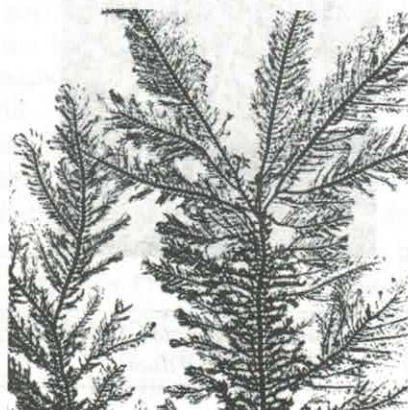
Bored with birding? Ready for a new challenge? You can develop expertise on mosses thanks to a new publication called *A County Checklist of the Mosses of New Brunswick* by Bruce Bagnell, New Brunswick's leading expert on the topic. The Checklist includes a current list of the species of mosses known to occur in New Brunswick and the counties where each has been found.

The publication's "Introduction" gives a brief overview of the history of moss study in the province from 1865 until present day and provides a reference list of major published reports on New Brunswick mosses. Appropriate references for help with identification of mosses are recommended.

Just as the checklist of New Brunswick birds has inspired birders, the moss checklist is intended "not only to update knowledge of the moss flora, but also to further interest and to encourage amateurs and professionals to continue searching for additional records and species." The chance of discovering a species unknown to a particular county or even to the province as a whole is better for mosses than birds. For people who relish trying to sort out the confusing fall warblers, why not see if you can distinguish the

province's 36 species of sphagnum from one another? Nature can provide a lifetime of challenges for the adventurous naturalist.

Bagnell, Bruce A. 1995. *A County Checklist of the Mosses of New Brunswick*. New Brunswick Museum Publications in Natural Science No. 10. (Available from the Natural Sciences Department, New Brunswick Museum, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, New Brunswick E2K 1E5.)



CHICKADEE NOTES: PUBLICATIONS ON OUR RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Ian Cameron

Anyone interested in nature in New Brunswick will welcome the appearance of Chickadee Notes, a series of brochures on the natural history of the Province. These were produced as a joint project of the New Brunswick Museum, the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, the Fish and Wildlife Branch of the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy, and the New Brunswick Advisory Committee on Endangered Species. The names of the authors will be familiar to most of us, either as members of naturalist clubs or as people who have favored naturalist clubs with interesting talks.

So far, twenty of the Notes have been produced, each dealing with some particular mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, insect or plant that can be found in the Province. The wide range includes creatures as diverse as the Maritime Ringlet butterfly and the Right Whale. Although written by experts on each topic, the Notes are designed to appeal to the non-specialist. For each mammal or bird, for example, the Note gives description, field marks, distribution and status. The Notes are illustrated with photographs showing the species in a New Brunswick context, or depicting the habitat of assemblages of species.

The series tends to concentrate on the rarer species, such as the Eastern Cougar, the Harlequin Duck and the Furbish's Lousewort (which the Note points out was originally known as Furbish's Wood-Betony, but was unfortunately renamed by someone with less sense of the PR value of an appealing name). Many of the species are on the endangered list, and the Notes explain the nature of the threat to each and point out the actions that must be taken to preserve them. They also suggest ways in which we, as members of the public, can help to support the fight to protect our natural heritage.

Copies of the Notes can be obtained, in both official languages, from the New Brunswick Museum, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B. E2K 1E5. I'd encourage all our members to read these informative and attractive publications. I've listed below the names of the ones that have been published to date -- I hope that many more will follow.

List of Chickadee Notes

1. Peregrine Falcon in New Brunswick
2. Bald Eagle in New Brunswick
3. Osprey in New Brunswick
4. Eastern Cougar in New Brunswick
5. Lynx in New Brunswick
6. Furbish's Lousewort in New Brunswick
7. Leatherback Turtle in New Brunswick
8. Gray Treefrog in New Brunswick
9. Harlequin Duck in New Brunswick
10. Piping Plover in New Brunswick
11. Wood Turtle in New Brunswick
12. Maritime Ringlet in New Brunswick
13. Right Whale in New Brunswick
14. Harbour Porpoise in New Brunswick
15. Loggerhead Shrike in New Brunswick
16. Rare Arctic Plants in Southeastern New Brunswick
17. Annual Coastal Asters in New Brunswick
18. Rare Plants of Rich Upland Hardwoods in New Brunswick
19. Pinedrops in New Brunswick
20. Rare Quillworts in New Brunswick



Piping Plover photo by: Gilles Daigle
Reprinted from Chickadee Note #10

This article was reprinted from the May-June 1995
Saint John Naturalists' Club Bulletin with the
kind permission of the author.

PROTECTING OUTSTANDING LAKES AND RIVERS: A RIVER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR NEW BRUNSWICK

Jane Tims

Naturalists love water. It's the stuff that fills your shoes after a tramp to see an *Arethusa* in bloom or the rain that drips into your eyes when you are trying to identify a Boreal Chickadee. It sings to you when you stop for your lunch by a stream. It beckons to you when life gets too busy and ridiculous. Most of us wish we too could have a Walden Pond or a Laughing Brook or a Group-of-Seven wilderness lake. Some of us have found one.

When it comes to lakes and rivers, we are very fortunate in New Brunswick. Our surface waters are so much a part of our landscape that they influence every aspect of our lives. Think of New Brunswick and the mental image almost always includes water.

New Brunswick is famous for its rich tapestry of rivers and lakes. The meandering Saint John, the scenic Restigouche, the mighty Miramichi these and other river systems have played major roles in the development of our province. They belong to our cultural heritage. They are habitat or sustenance for plants and animals. They provide water for drinking and a multitude of domestic uses. Most of our recreational activities take place on or near the water.

Many of New Brunswick's priceless lakes and rivers lie far from roads or human settlement. Some are clear deep lakes or sparkling streams that rush pure and cold. Others are shallow amber ponds or meandering rivers, each with a unique assemblage of plant and animal life. These river systems tend to be little known, and are travelled mainly by naturalists, anglers or canoeists. Their visitors have valued their pristine quality and have taken special care to leave them undisturbed.

Such rivers and lakes hold a special place in New Brunswick's natural heritage. And we have a responsibility to act as their stewards to safeguard their water quality for future generations.

Outstanding Lakes and Rivers

A new program under the Clean Water Act will soon provide an opportunity to recognize and protect some of these special, natural rivers and lakes. River classification will categorize lakes and rivers into several classes for management purposes. One of

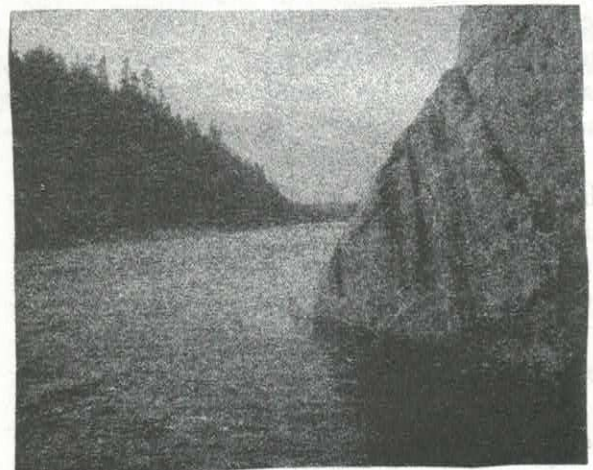
these classes would be called *Outstanding Lakes and Rivers*.

After the classification program is in place, lakes and rivers that meet special criteria can be nominated as Outstanding. A lake or river which is nominated as Outstanding would need to have the following characteristics:

- Its water quality, and its plant and animal life would be virtually unaltered from the natural state.
- It would be free of any discharge entering the water directly from municipal treatment ponds, industry, or other localized sources.
- It would be essentially free of any discharges entering the water indirectly from agricultural, forestry or residential activities.
- It would have a water quality that is unique, or representative of a typical type of New Brunswick lake or river.

Examples of potential candidates for the Outstanding Lakes and Rivers class are Clear Lake, Little Cranberry Lake, North Pole Stream and Big Forks Stream. You will know of others that would also fit the characteristics listed above.

The Outstanding designation could apply to lakes, to entire rivers, to headwaters or tributaries of rivers, or to streams and ponds associated with wetlands.

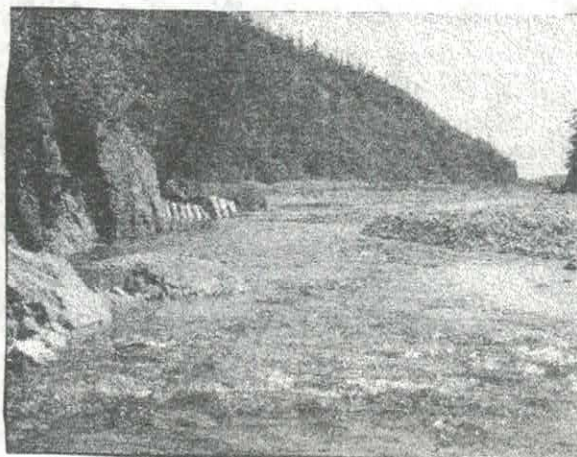


All photos in this article are courtesy of the New Brunswick Department of the Environment.

What Would An Outstanding Classification Mean?

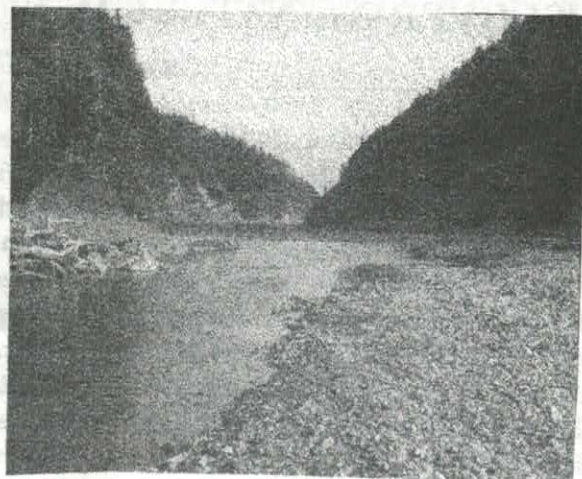
Lakes and rivers that are designated as Outstanding would be managed so that the natural quality of the water, and the plant and animal life are protected.

- Information and education meetings will be held with local watershed groups and other interested groups or individuals.
- Localized activities that do not disturb the river's natural water quality, or plant and animal life will be permitted. Activities that could alter the flow of the Outstanding river or lake, or that discharge into its waters, will not be allowed.
- People undertaking activities that may indirectly alter or impact a watercourse, such as agricultural, forestry or residential activities, will be encouraged to adapt their practises in order to reduce or eliminate impacts on watercourses. The government will provide educational materials and training to help with this process.



River Classification

The *Outstanding Lakes and Rivers* designation is the first phase of the River Classification program. Phase II of the program will take place over the next few years. All New Brunswick rivers and lakes will be categorized into one of five classes (e.g. the Outstanding Lakes and Rivers class). Each class will have specific management goals and standards for water quality related to use. Eventually, these water quality standards would include the use of aquatic insects such as mayfly as indicators of water quality.



The process of classifying lakes and rivers will also serve to gather information on water quality and land use. This will include information on aquatic life and other features that are unique, rare or important from a social, scientific, historical or ecological viewpoint. These features may be identified or discovered during the classification process. This information will be collected in a database called Special Aquatic Features. If up-stream or nearby development puts these features at potential risk, flagging them may help to prevent or mitigate negative impacts.

The River Classification program will provide a framework for the careful province-wide management of our water.

- It will provide a consistent approach to water quality management.
- It will ensure the sustainable use of our water resources.
- It will promote the active, public stewardship of our precious heritage of lakes and rivers. The program will encourage public participation in setting water quality goals for watersheds. Watershed groups will have a special role to play in this process.

If you would like more information on the River Classification Program, please call Jane Tims, or Peter McLaughlin at the Land and Water Planning Section of the New Brunswick Department of the Environment (506-457-4846). We would be very interested in hearing your ideas and thoughts on the program.

DISCOVERING NATURE IN NEW BRUNSWICK'S "DEEP SOUTH"

Irene Doyle

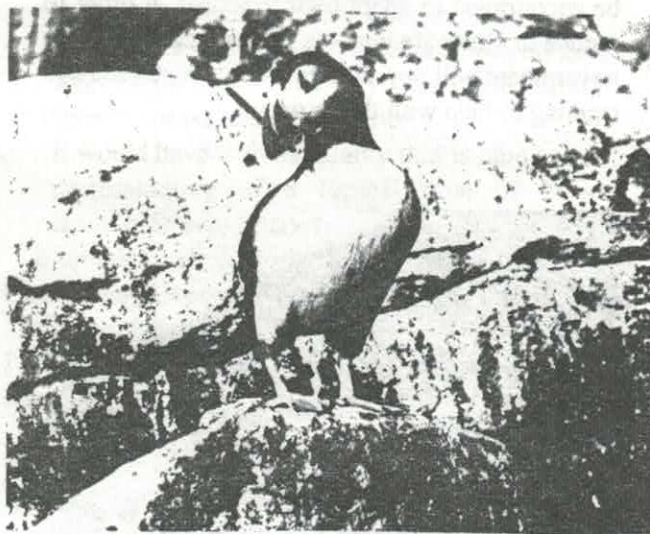
On Thursday August 11, 1994, at 8:30 a.m., I met Margaret Gallant-Doyle at the Saint John airport. We northerners, from Campbellton, were about to embark on an expedition to explore the southern part of our province. After stocking up with provisions at the beautiful City Market, we headed to the **New Brunswick Museum** (277 Douglas Ave.) where stuffed and mounted specimens of almost all birds found in New Brunswick can be seen. Birds are easier to identify once you've seen them that close.

Next we visited the **Irving Nature Park**. This is quite a lovely place, with mud flats and shorebirds galore (we saw both **Black-bellied** and **Lesser Golden Plover**), and woods full of songbirds. Waterfowl can choose between salt marsh, freshwater marsh and salt water bay habitats. Options for humans to experience nature are also varied. You can go around the road in a car or walk the many hiking trails that have been built throughout the park. Rest areas (benches, washrooms and picnic tables) are everywhere and there are look-out points at each turn. The park is not only very well organized, it's **FREE!**

We headed to Blacks Harbour to catch the ferry to Grand Manan Island, first stopping about 20 km. from Saint John to look at the **Musquash Ducks Unlimited Marshes**. At Blacks Harbour, we waited for the 3:30 p.m. ferry, but unfortunately were three cars short, so we had to wait two hours for the next ferry. A quick warning: be quite early for your ferry if you're planning a trip there.

We arrived at **Grand Manan Island** at roughly 7:15 p.m. Grand Manan is 16 miles long and has about 2800 year round residents. It's a fishing village island where it's like walking 30 years behind in time. We found it really relaxing and different, with beautiful scenery and quaint little houses -- none of those big modern houses that block the scenery on the mainland. By the time we pitched our tent at the Anchorage Camping Grounds near Seal Cove, it was close to 8:30 p.m. We drove down to **Castalia Marsh** and each gathered a bag full of scallop shells. We stopped to buy an alarm clock to make sure that we would not be late for our 7:00 a.m. boat trip to the famous Machias Seal Island. Once back at the campground, we finally had a very late lunch and tried to get some sleep. This was not easy since we were so excited and a little over-tired.

Next morning, the alarm rang at 5:45. We had a quick breakfast and headed down to the Seal Cove wharf to board the boat for **Machias Seal Island**. During the two hour boat crossing, we saw some **Wilson's Storm Petrels**, **Manx Shearwaters**, **Greater Shearwaters** and **Red-necked Phalaropes**. We also saw a few hundred **Grey Seals** and **Harbour Seals** lounging on Seal Island (of course), a big long rock located just off Machias Seal Island. On Machias Seal Island itself, there were about 200 or 300 **Atlantic Puffins**, many **Arctic Terns** and a dozen or so **Razorbills**. A few **Ruddy Turnstones** on the shore brought our trip tally of "life birds" to eight species.



All photos in this article by: Irene Doyle

Machias Seal Island is a small island that stands one mile long at low tide. It has one house and a lighthouse with two keepers who stay there 28 days at a time and then get 28 days off to go to their homes. At present, only two Grand Mananers have the right to give tours on Machias Seal Island. In addition, an older gentleman (said to be about 80) sails there every day. The Island is well protected by both Canadian and American Governments. It was disputed as to whether the Island belonged to the United States or Canada, as both countries claimed it. Finally they agreed to share it. In peak summer months when about 3000 birds are nesting on the Island, only 25 people (12 Canadians and 13 Americans, or vice-versa) are allowed to land on the Island each day.

In the four very nicely constructed blinds, Margaret and I got the treat of our lives, watching **Atlantic Puffins** from a distance of about 5 feet. We could hear them running above us, on top of the blinds, and could also hear the very loud roaring sound they were making -- somewhat like cows moaning or a chain-saw. We observed them for about 3/4 of an hour and then went to the outdoor platform near the lighthouse where the guide, Mr. Peter Wilcox from Sea Watch, gave us some information on the Island and its inhabitants. We were then free to walk around quietly on the boardwalk and where the grass had been mowed, all the while taking all kinds of pictures. Sadly, our time soon ran out and we left the Island via the little barge that took us back to our boat and then headed for Grand Manan (another two hour crossing -- Machias Seal Island is closer to Maine than New Brunswick).

We got back around 1:00 p.m. and just had time to grab a drink of milk and a slice of dry bread before getting back on the boat, this time headed in the opposite direction (toward Nova Scotia) on a whale watch tour. Margaret and I were on board with four people from Boston and 19 people who had flown in that day from England to Saint John in order to go on this tour. They have no whales in England, so this was a great treat for them, as well as for us. To get to where the whales were, we went out 22½ miles into the Bay of Fundy. During the two hours that it took to get to the best whale sighting area, 15 of the 19 United Kingdom participants were asleep, being fatigued from travelling and having taken Gravol to prevent motion sickness. (These people were part of a Club that organizes walking/hiking tours around the world. After the whale watch tour, they were headed for St. Martins and Fundy National Park before returning home.) Everyone got very quiet when we saw the fin of a shark.

Finally we sighted **Right Whales**. At first, from far away, there seemed to be only a few. Then Margaret and I got the second treat of our lives. One of the females gave some kind of call and males came from all over. There must have been ten or so at first, then maybe a few were rejected and left, leaving five or six whales to do their courting dance, or whatever. They were close to the surface of the water, swirling around and intermingling. You could see fins, tails, noses, bellies, backs, etc... We were perhaps 30 feet or less from them. **Atlantic White-sided Dolphins** were playfully jumping on all sides of the whales. It was quite an exciting and breath-taking sight. Our guides

told us that the waters in the area can be up to 600 feet deep and some whales come up from the bottom with mud on their heads.

It was kind of cold by the time 7:00 p.m. rolled along, but thankfully the captain provided us with hot coffee or tea, and blankets. On the way out, we had seen a **Bald Eagle** sitting on a little island. On the way back, it was still there. It looked like this was his island. We got back to shore by 8:00 p.m., after 13 hours on the water and only two slices of dry bread in my stomach. It was well worth the sacrifice. By the time we made it back to our tent and cooked another late supper, it was 10:00 p.m. Hot food never tasted so good and we both seemed to have a bottomless stomach.

We were supposed to watch a meteorite shower that night, but by 11:00 p.m. we were snoring. However, Margaret got up around 4:00 a.m. and woke me up. We went outside and saw four small meteorites within a few minutes. We laid down on the picnic table seats for a better vantage, watched for five minutes or so, saw a few more meteorites and then returned to bed (or should I say "bag").

At 7:30 or 8:00 the next morning, we were awake but in a fog. Really, the fog had rolled in and in some places we couldn't see anything beyond 20 feet. We had breakfast, packed up and tried hard to see some of the spots we hadn't yet visited, but it was next to impossible to see anything. The foghorn at one end of the Island nearly made us jump out of our skins and almost gave us a heart attack as it blew when most unexpected and each minute thereafter.

We bought a few souvenirs and caught the ferry to the mainland. Again they left three cars behind, but fortunately, we were not among them, having made it onto the boat. The ferry trip from the mainland to Grand Manan doesn't cost anything but don't spend all your money on the Island as you have to pay to get off. It cost \$24.60 for the car and \$8.60 for each person on board the car. (I wonder if all the Islanders were former mainlanders who spent all their money before they tried to get off?) The crossing was very dull since we couldn't see much in the fog.

On the mainland, it remained foggy, but the fog was not as thick. Off we went to Letete to catch the ferry to **Deer Island**. The ferry crossing takes 20 minutes and is free. Deer Island is about 5 miles long and there is a road that surrounds the Island, unlike Grand Manan where the main road is confined to one side of the island. Deer Island has a rather simple appearance,

with old houses and fishing ports. Everyone knows everyone, and anyone on the road or roadside waves as you go by. There are about 300 people who live on the Island year round. We saw a large bird that possibly was a **Bald Eagle**. In the early summer, there are apparently hundreds of eagles on the Island, but we were there at the wrong time of year.

We took the 45 minute ferry ride from Deer Island to **Campobello Island** (\$11.00 for the car and driver and \$2.00 for each passenger). It's a small flatbed ferry with little railings on each side. There is no wharf for the ferry at either end of the trip. Passengers and their vehicles are picked up from and deposited directly on shore. Although it was still foggy, the fog was not so thick that we couldn't see around. We got off the ferry, drove to the campground (about 5 minutes away), put up our tent, actually had supper before 9:00 p.m. (for the first time during the trip), and went for a walk on the beach. It was dark and foggy, but we felt close to nature, our feet sinking at least five or six inches into the beautiful sand as big waves crashed and rolled onto the nearby shore. It would have been nice to sit around a campfire, but unfortunately none were permitted that day. Instead, Margaret and I went into the kitchen facility of the park and proceeded to draw our first Atlantic Puffin. Then, with visions of puffins and whales dancing in our heads, we went to bed (bag).

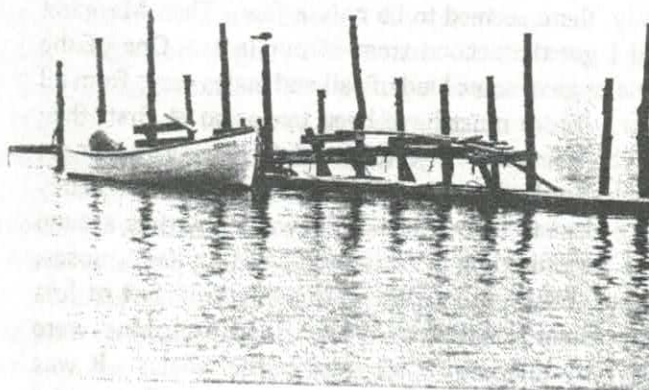
Next morning, after breakfast and a quick wash, we took off for Franklin D. Roosevelt's cottage, but not before a trip to Lubec, Maine, USA, to get some gas. There is not one gas station on the Island. Gas is only \$1.36 (U.S.) per gallon and, even with the American exchange, we paid only \$1.66 (Canadian) per gallon, compared to nearly \$3.00 in Canada. During our exploration of the Island, we may have missed one or two little nooks and crannies. From the tip of the Island we watched for whales and in the distance saw two **Finbacks**, as well as some **Harbour Porpoises** (*marsoins* in French). Roosevelt's cottage, with its sixteen bedrooms and six bathrooms, opened for visitors at 10:00 a.m. We saw a film about the history of the cottage and its famous inhabitants, and toured the cottage and its beautiful grounds, the latter well organized and with an abundance of flowers. Then we saw what was left to see of the island, picked some blueberries from the roadside, and walked the same beach we had been on the night before. We began to gather pretty rocks, stuffing them into our pockets since we had nothing else to put them in. The effects

of gravity and fifteen pounds of rocks in our pockets made getting up and walking somewhat challenging.

We then headed once again for Lubec, Maine, this time on our way to Calais and across to St. Stephen, home of the beloved Ganong Chocolates. From there we went to **St.-Andrews-By-The-Sea** with its shops, the famous Algonquin Hotel, a huge golf course, Passamaquoddy Bay and many old beautiful historic homes. By then the fog had lifted. We headed for Saint John, about 1½ hours away. When we reached St. George, the fog was back and the air was very cold -- like night and day compared to St. Andrews. We spent the night in Saint John with my daughter Johanne. The following day, after a few hours of picking blueberries (1½ gallons) with Johanne and my granddaughter Michelle, we were back on the road, this time headed for Mary's Point via Fundy National Park.

At Mary's Point, we found Mary Majka in her cottage. David Christie was on the beach and pointed out what birds were there, what to expect, etc... We were a little disappointed as there had been about 40,000 shorebirds there the day before, but when we got there it was very cold and windy and only about 3,000 birds could be found. Still, it was a very impressive sight. We left Mary's Point about 8:00 p.m., stopped in **Hopewell Cape** for a meal and arrived home in Campbellton around 1:30 a.m.

This is a trip we would recommend to anyone who has five or six days to spend visiting the marvellous beautiful "nooks and crooks" our picturesque province has to offer those who take the time to look at it with a naturalist's eye instead of taking it for granted and passing by without really seeing.



LE CLUB D'ORNITHOLOGIE DU MADAWASKA A SON CARNET !

Pierrette Mercier

Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée



LISTE D'IDENTIFICATION DES OISEAUX BIRD CHECKLIST

Depuis plusieurs années, le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska souhaitait avoir sa propre liste avifaunistique. Le 14 juin 1995, ce rêve se réalisa avec le lancement officiel de son carnet d'oiseaux du comté de Madawaska, Nouveau-Brunswick.

Le carnet de 40 pages, format poche, est dans les deux langues officielles de la province. Il

s'adresse autant aux débutants qu'aux ornithologues d'expérience. La page couverture fut conçue localement; on y reconnaît l'emblème aviaire du club, soit le *Jaseur d'Amérique*. Un mot de bienvenue invite le lecteur à découvrir notre belle région du Madawaska. Une brève section historique raconte l'origine du club et ses objectifs. Une page "*Le savoir-faire en nature*" rappelle que nous devons tous respecter l'environnement et les autres. Une carte sommaire localise les municipalités de la région et certains sites d'observation recommandés. Le carnet contient aussi une feuille détachable de rapport d'observation inhabituelle et un formulaire d'inscription au club.

La liste des oiseaux du Madawaska fut établie surtout à partir des listes individuelles tenues par les membres du club. C'est ainsi qu'on a pu estimer la fréquence des espèces et le meilleur temps de l'année pour observer les différents oiseaux de la région. D'autres sources ont aussi été consultées, entre autres, l'atlas des oiseaux nicheurs des Maritimes ainsi que les banques de données de baguage d'oiseaux migrateurs et de recensements d'oiseaux nicheurs, tenues par le Service canadien de la faune.

Les noms français sont ceux proposés par La Commission internationale des noms français des oiseaux (Devillers *et al.*, 1993), mais des synonymes répandus dans les ouvrages populaires sont également

notés, tout comme les noms anglais et scientifique. Le numéro de référence internationale attribué par la commission sus-mentionnée a pour but de faciliter la recherche à partir des index et de s'y retrouver dans les différents ouvrages portant sur les oiseaux. Pour chaque espèce, il est indiqué par un symbole représentant un nid si l'oiseau niche dans la région. Le tout est sous la forme d'un tableau.

Le carnet a pu être produit grâce à une subvention du ministère du Développement des ressources humaines du Canada. Plusieurs autres activités ont également été réalisées moyennant cet octroi: l'aménagement d'un centre de ressources; la naturalisation d'un *Jaseur d'Amérique* et d'un *Jaseur boréal*; un lot de nichoirs et de mangeoires; et une série d'ateliers portant sur l'ornithologie et l'éducation à l'environnement dans toutes les écoles primaires du comté. Plus de 600 élèves ont ainsi été sensibilisés à ces thèmes. Le projet créa 5 emplois temporaires d'une durée variant de 8 à 20 semaines.

Les intéressés peuvent se procurer un exemplaire du carnet aux endroits suivants: Le Musée historique du Madawaska, 165, boulevard Hébert, Edmundston, Nouveau-Brunswick; au centre d'information touristique, route transcanadienne et au Jardin botanique du Nouveau-Brunswick, tous deux à Saint-Jacques, comté de Madawaska.

Le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée tient à remercier tous ceux et celles qui ont contribué d'une manière ou d'une autre à ce beau projet. Il exprime ici sa reconnaissance au Club des naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne pour l'inspiration qu'il a su nous communiquer. Enfin, il convient de mentionner encore une fois le soutien financier accordé par le gouvernement du Canada, sans lequel le projet n'aurait pu se concrétiser.

Ouvrages mentionnés dans le texte

La Commission internationale des noms français des oiseaux. 1993. Noms français des oiseaux du monde. Les Éditions MultiMondes inc., Sainte-Foy (Québec), Canada, 452 p.

Erskine, A. J. 1992. Atlas of breeding birds of the Maritime Provinces. Nimbus, The Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, Nouvelle-Écosse, Canada, 270 p.

A STRAY ROSS' GOOSE

David Christie

Early on June 1, a neighbour of ours, wildlife artist Lars Larsen, phoned to say that just after dawn he and his wife Michelle had seen a Snow Goose land by his trout pond. However, it had later flown out into the salt marsh and disappeared. We talked about how unusual it was for a Snow Goose to be here later than the middle of May, but I recalled having seen such a straggler at Waterside Marsh on June 1, 1993.

At 11:15 Lars phoned again to say that the white goose was back. A few minutes later, we stopped on the road close to the Larsens' pond. We noted immediately that this bird was too small and stubby billed for a Snow Goose. In fact, it was a Ross' Goose, a species not previously reported in New Brunswick. After studying it briefly but adequately, we departed. I dropped Mary Majka at the Larsens' to tell them what a rarity they had and went home to get a camera.

Having phoned bird alerts in four areas of the province, I returned, photographed the bird, and made descriptive notes. By the end of the day, we had spent at least two hours studying the goose, and more than 20 other birders had come to add this bird to their New Brunswick list.

It was a typical white adult Ross' Goose, but had pronounced rusty staining on the face forward of the eye and was very slightly stained on the rest of the head. The primaries were full length and looked to be in good condition. It was not banded.

The Ross' Goose was alert, almost always lifting its head when a car passed or there was some noise in the area. However, it seemed tired, frequently squatting and sleeping with its beak buried in the back feathers. One or both of two Canada Geese, with which it associated, were almost always on the alert. The Ross' Goose grazed on fresh young grass, preened, and swam in the pond. About 5 p.m. while it was bathing, dipping its head and splashing its wings on the water, Rose-Alma Mallet reported that it had twice turned a somersault. Just after, Mary and I also saw it do that twice. It would put its head down and raise its rear like a dabbling duck, and then, with wings flapping, fall over on its back. Each time it would lie on its back with its wings beating for a couple of seconds before continuing into a normal belly-down position.

On June 2, the Ross' Goose was still present. It almost always kept close to the two Canada Geese,

following them into and out of the pond. However, early in the morning, Jim Edsall had seen it fly in a circle, and land to join the Canadas by the pond.

That evening, Lars & Michelle reported that the Canadas had flown off to the Daley Creek Marsh for the night and the Ross' Goose was very nervous without them. It went in and out of the trout pond and swam back and forth from side to side. At dawn on the third day, Lars could see that it was right in the middle of the pond. When the Canadas returned, the Ross' Goose once again associated closely with them. The day was rainy, but the Larsens reported that a few hundred cars stopped to watch the geese. The goose was still on the pond in mid evening.

Sunday morning, June 4, I set out at 6:30 a.m. to see if the Ross' Goose was still present. As I was passing Daley Creek I noticed a large adult Bald Eagle and two ravens sitting on one of the mud islands in the marsh. A check with my scope revealed that they were surrounded by a mass of white feathers. The eagle flew off and the two ravens immediately hopped to where it had been and began pecking at something. I assumed the worst, but hoped that the victim might have been a gull.

I drove on to the trout pond where, alas, there were no geese in sight, so I went home and got my canoe. When I launched it, the ravens flew away. On the island were the wings, one leg and many loose body feathers of the Ross' Goose. The bones had been picked clean. I collected the large parts and some loose feathers for the N.B. Museum.

After sharing the shocking news with the Larsens and the Majkas, and informing the bird alerts of the goose's demise, I washed and measured the specimens. The rather small size (wing chord 360 mm, tarsus 60 mm) suggests that the goose was more likely a female than a male.

The next step in the story of our late departed Ross' Goose will be study by the New Brunswick Bird Records Committee. Three of the five voting members of the Committee were out of the province (two of them seeing Ross' Geese at Churchill, Manitoba) and had no chance to see this goose alive. I wonder if their decisions will differ from those of us here at home.

There is no doubt as to the goose's identity, but being a waterfowl, the likelihood of an escaped captive

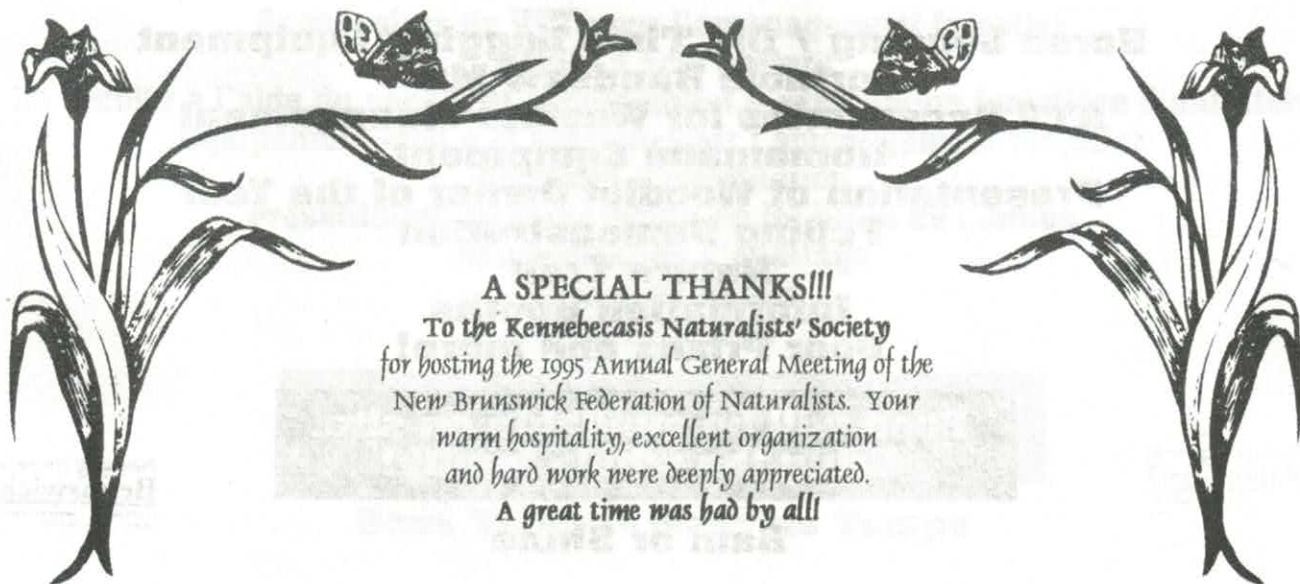
must be considered. Godfrey (*Birds of Canada*, 1986) quotes figures indicating an expanding population and Palmer (*Handbook of North American Birds*, Vol. 2, 1976) reports that the population that winters in coastal Louisiana and Texas increased greatly beginning in the 1960s, reflecting an increase in numbers breeding on western Hudson Bay. Also, recently Ross' Goose has been found almost annually in spring among Snow Geese along the St. Lawrence River in Quebec. June 1-3 is late for a Ross' Goose at this latitude, but peak arrival at some of its northern breeding colonies may not occur till early to mid June.

This story is a bit similar to that of a Ross' Gull that was killed by a Great Horned Owl at Port Weller, Ontario, last December, except that this predation happened three days after the rarity's discovery instead of only one. I hope that Jim Edsall didn't jinx this goose when he inadvertently called it Ross' Gull the second time he referred to it on the June 1 tape of the N.B. Bird Information Line. (He was no doubt thinking ahead to the next bird to be mentioned, a Franklin's Gull.)

The five of us who live on Mary's Point Road and are interested in birds are sad that the beautiful, nervous little goose met its end, but we're at least satisfied that this stray contributed to a noble predator, the eagle, which we think is nesting in our area for the first time in at least 30 years. Normally, we don't see adult Bald Eagles here much later than the first week of April, but this year a pair has been present all spring.



Ross' Goose and Canada Goose
Illustration by: David Christie



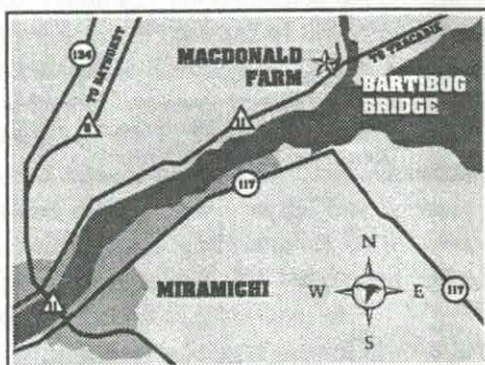
A SPECIAL THANKS!!!

To the Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society
for hosting the 1995 Annual General Meeting of the
New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists. Your
warm hospitality, excellent organization
and hard work were deeply appreciated.

A great time was had by all!

7th ANNUAL WOODLOT MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY

Theme: Integrating Forestry and Wildlife Management Activities



September 16, 1995

**At The MacDonald Farm
Demonstration Woodlot
Bartibog Bridge On Route 11
(12 km Northeast of the Chatham Bridge)
9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Horse Logging / Old Time Logging Equipment
Portable Bandsaw Mills
ATV Accessories for Woodlot Management
Homemade Equipment
Presentation of Woodlot Owner of the Year
Felling Demonstration
Nature Trail
Information Booths
Door Prizes and more!**

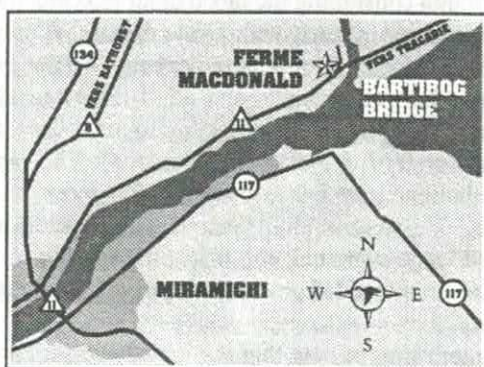
**Food will be available on site.
Bring the whole family!**

Rain or Shine



7e Journée champêtre D'AMENAGEMENT DU BOISE Annuelle

Intégration des activités d'aménagement forestière et de la faune



Le 16 Septembre, 1995

**À La Ferme MacDonald Boisé de
Démonstration
Bartibog Bridge - Route 11
(12 Km nord-est du Pont Chatham)
09:00h à 15:00h**

Accessoires de VTT pour l'aménagement forestier

Moulin à scie portatif

La récolte à l'aide du cheval et l'équipement d'exploitation forestière d'autrefois

Équipement «fait à la maison» pour l'aménagement forestier

Kiosques d'information

Présentation du propriétaire de lot boisé de 1 année

Démonstration d'abattage

Sentier de nature

Prix d'entrées

**Nourriture disponible sur le terrain.
Un événement pour toute la famille**

Beau Temps - Mauvais Temps



BE AWARE: TICKS AND LYME DISEASE

James Goltz



During periods of pleasant weather, many of us enjoy the opportunity to don our shorts and head into the woods or walk along an ocean beach, hoping for the ultimate nature adventure. I, on the other hand, being a sufferer of various allergies, being prone to sunburn and not enjoying the attention of biting insects, prefer to wear long pants, even on hot summer days. Perhaps this is why I have never had a close encounter with a tick in the wilds of New Brunswick, and have thus far been spared anxiety that I may have been exposed to Lyme disease.

Lyme disease is named after Lyme, Connecticut, where the problem was extensively investigated in the mid 1970s. It is now known that the disease has existed for over a hundred years, but its cause was not discovered until 1982. Lyme disease occurs throughout the world and is caused by a spiral-shaped bacterium or spirochete called *Borrelia burgdorferi* that is transmitted by the bites of certain species of ticks. The possibility of transmission by biting insects has not been excluded.

In eastern North America, the main tick vector is the **Black-legged Tick**, *Ixodes scapularis* (formerly called the **Northern Deer Tick**, *Ixodes dammini*). To date, this tick species has been found at least fifteen times in New Brunswick, on pets and humans, in a variety of geographic locations including Bathurst, Edmundston, Fredericton, Moncton, Oromocto, Perth-Andover, Saint John and St. Andrews. It is believed that these ticks likely hitchhiked to New Brunswick on migrating birds. It is not yet known if the tick can complete its life cycle in New Brunswick, nor is it known if any of the New Brunswick ticks have been infected with the Lyme spirochete.

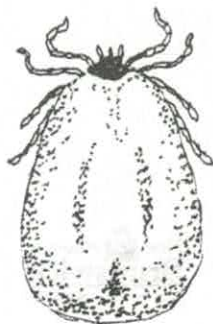
Understanding the life cycle of the Black-legged Tick is the key to understanding how Lyme disease is transmitted to humans. Ordinarily, it takes two years for the tick to complete its life cycle. At some time during the summer, tick larvae, after hatching from eggs deposited by the adult female tick in the spring, seek out a warm-blooded animal,

most often a **White-footed Mouse**¹, but any mammal or bird will do. The larvae partake of one blood meal (lasting for two days) before entering a resting stage for the winter. The following spring, the larvae moult and emerge as nymphs that also are out for blood, this time feeding for a period of three or four days, again with a preference for mice. The nymphs moult into adults at the end of the summer. The adults, like other stages of the tick are mainly free-living, occurring on low vegetation in grassy and wooded areas, from which they have ready access to persons or animals that happen to brush by. The adults are most attracted to **White-tailed Deer**, but will settle for other mammals, including humans. After yet another blood meal and mating, the adult female ticks overwinter and lay their eggs in the spring. The adult male ticks die soon after mating. Ticks tend to be most numerous in areas frequented by their main hosts. The blood meals are essential for the tick to complete its life cycle and lay eggs.

It is through consuming the blood of an infected animal that ticks become infected with Lyme disease. It appears that the White-footed Mouse is the primary carrier of the spirochete. Larvae, nymphs and adult ticks can all be infected and can pass on the infection to any mammal or bird that they feed on, including humans. The nymph stage is believed to be responsible for most human infections. To successfully transmit the infection to an uninfected large mammal, the tick must usually remain attached to or embedded on the susceptible host for about 24 hours.

It is interesting to note that the main wildlife hosts of Lyme disease almost never show any noticeable disease problems. Unfortunately, this is not the case in humans. Humans are probably the species most likely to become ill after exposure to Lyme disease, but dogs, horses, cattle and possibly cats may also get Lyme disease. However, recent research indicates that dogs often get infected but seldom get sick.

In humans, Lyme disease is recognized to have **three stages**. Symptoms of disease are inconsistent and may vary considerably from person to person. The **first stage**, appearing two to 30 days after the tick bite and lasting up to four weeks, is characterized by a distinctive red "bull's-eye rash" that begins as a small red spot at the site of the tick bite and radiates outward. The rash may become quite large, and most often occurs on the thigh, groin or armpit. The rash sometimes does not occur or is not detected because it is located at a site where it may be overlooked. A burning sensation may occur at the site of the rash, but there is usually no pain or itching. The rash may be accompanied by flu-like symptoms, such as



Drawings at top of page are life-size.

Drawings on left are enlarged approximately 300%.

Drawings by: Diane Mercier-Allain

may be accompanied by flu-like symptoms, such as fatigue, fever, chills, headache, muscle pains, joint pains and/or backache. Weeks to months later, during the **second stage**, the heart, muscles and nervous system may be affected, causing shifting muscle pain, palpitations, shortness of breath or dizziness. Arthritis, often affecting the knees, is typical of the **third phase** and occurs within several months to two years after exposure. Attacks of severe joint pain may last from a few days to a few weeks at a time and may shift from joint to joint. Involvement of the nervous system may occur at any stage of disease, resulting in excruciating headaches, neck pain, problems with short-term memory, mood swings, problems with concentration, overpowering fatigue, facial nerve paralysis or an exaggerated sensitivity of the skin to touch or temperature. This is a disease that no-one would want to catch.

The bad news is that anyone of any age or either gender can catch Lyme disease. Children and other people who spend a lot of time outdoors are at greater risk. The disease is variable and insidious, may be very difficult to diagnose, and often causes great frustration for affected persons and their health care providers. The good news is that Lyme disease can be prevented and with appropriate antibiotics can be cured at any stage of disease. Treatment is most effective in the early stages of the disease. In the later stages, treatments must often be administered for a long period of time.

To reduce your risk of contracting Lyme disease, protect yourself and your pets from exposure to ticks. Ensure that cats and dogs wear a tick collar. While out-of-doors wear shoes, socks, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and a hat, all preferably made of light-colored fabrics so that any tick passengers can be more easily seen. Keep your shirt tucked in and your socks pulled up over pant cuffs. Apply insect repellent (DEET) to exposed portions of your skin, as well as to shoes, socks and pant cuffs (caution: DEET may damage synthetic fabrics). Since ticks are readily carried indoors by pets and humans, after nature outings carefully inspect yourself and your pets for ticks, paying special attention to the groin, back, armpits and head. Showering and shampooing may help remove undetected ticks that haven't begun to feed.

Nymph and adult Black-legged Ticks have four pairs of legs (larvae have only three pairs) and are often very small, ranging in length from one or two millimetres to about a centimetre (please see illustration). When feeding, ticks become grey and greatly increase in size.

Should you find a tick embedded on your body, don't panic. Not all ticks are the species that may carry Lyme disease and not all Black-legged Ticks are infected. The tick should be removed as soon as possible. To remove the tick, grasp it as close to your skin as possible, using fine tweezers, and gently pull it straight out. Do not grasp the tick by its body as this may squeeze spirochetes from

the tick's digestive tract into your body. After removing the tick, place it in a clean container labelled with the date, body site from which the tick was removed and geographic area where you think you may have acquired it. Wash and apply antiseptic to tick bite wounds. Arrange to visit your physician, bringing the tick with you so that it can be identified. Ticks found on pets should also be removed using forceps, and should be taken to a veterinarian for identification. Ticks may be killed by putting them in 70% alcohol or they may kept alive in a tightly sealed container (they live longer in the fridge). Consult your physician if you develop a rash or flu-like symptoms, or if you suffer other symptoms that might be indicative of Lyme disease. Tick bites often are painless and go unnoticed.

To date, Lyme disease seems to be very rare in New Brunswick, but it is quite common in many eastern seaboard states, especially New York State. Since 1987, ten New Brunswickers are known to have become infected with Lyme disease. At least three of the affected individuals are believed to have been infected in New Brunswick. Both Lyme disease and the ticks that transmit it are becoming increasingly common. Please take care so you do not become one of our statistics. For more information on ticks and Lyme disease, please contact your public health office.

Many thanks to Dr. Kim Maillet, of the New Brunswick Department of Health and Community Services, for providing information on Lyme disease, including the New Brunswick statistics which are current as of 28 June,

References:

Balram, Dr. B.C. (editor). 1994. *Lyme Disease in New Brunswick*. New Brunswick Epidemiological Report 5 (No. 4): 9-14.

Boyle, R.H. 1988. *Beware the Bug's Bite*. Sports Illustrated, June 20, 1988 issue, pages 38-40.

Habicht, G.S.; G. Beck and J.L. Benach. 1987. *Lyme Disease*. Scientific American, July, 1987 issue, pages 78-83.

¹ The White-footed Mouse is not known to occur in New Brunswick, but its close relative, the Deer Mouse, is quite common in the province. The White-footed Mouse does occur in nearby Maine and is widespread in western Nova Scotia.



NATURE NEWS: SPRING 1995

David Christie

This edition of Nature News, almost entirely bird news, is being written under pressure with little time to check the results. Please forgive omissions and do inform me of any errors, so that the record can be set straight. Observations from June through August should be sent as early in September as possible (or you could send part earlier). The address is RR #2, Aibert, N.B. E0A 1A0, Internet: maryspt@nbnet.nb.ca

This spring featured generally good weather, although harsh wintry conditions returned on both April 5 and May 7. Returning migrants in early April should be hardy enough to cope with a couple of days of cold and snow, but early-arriving insectivorous birds would be more sensitive in May. The April storm did bring **American Robins** (eating fruits and cracked corn) and **Ring-billed Gulls** to bird feeders in Alma (RJW). The snow on May 7 accumulated to considerable depth (30-50 cm) in the north and on higher ground. There must have been bird mortality then, but I have not received any reports of it. **Tree Swallows** that had been busy investigating my nest boxes disappeared for 3 days, probably to seek aquatic insects emerging from ponds and marshes; a similar number appeared May 10, and I wondered whether they were just the old birds or included new arrivals.

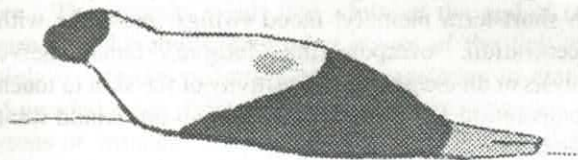
Northward migration had begun in a small way during February and slowly accelerated during March, until the 20th when large numbers of migrants, especially geese, robins, and blackbirds moved along the Fundy coast (v.o.) and smaller numbers appeared inland. After that, migration was noticeable most days, but the periods April 19-27, May 10-11 and May 19-22 stand out as being especially busy. A sampling of reported arrivals are listed at the end of this column.

Ethel Bosence reported the first **Coltsfoot** flowers at West Saint John Mar. 23.

At Mary's Point, the ice went out on ponds and fresh marshes Apr. 18-19, many **Wood Frogs** were calling Apr. 20 (I neglected to listen the previous day), and a few **Spring Peepers** Apr. 21 (DSC).

An adult **Harp Seal** lying on an ice cake off Waterside Mar. 14 (SIT) was a rarity. There are some vague references about this species occurring in the Bay of Fundy, but apparently only one other specific record. About the same time, a **Harbour Seal** was seen at Westcock Marsh, near Sackville (Kathy

Popma). Some days later a baby seal was reported on the beach at Alma (fide RJW). This is too early in the year for a Harbour Seal pup, so one wonders whether it was just a small immature animal or if the Harp Seal may have given birth in the Bay of Fundy.



*Harp Seal at Waterside
Illustration by: David Christie*

An adult **N. Gannet** in Chignecto Bay, where they are not normally found, flew east past Cape Enrage Apr. 8, but returned down the bay 15 minutes later (SIT). Some impressive concentrations of this spectacular bird were reported, namely 2000+ off Cap-des-Caissies and 1000+ off Robichaud Apr. 27 (SIT), 2000 heading up the Bay of Fundy off the Murr Ledges, GM, in 4 hours Apr. 28 (RM), and 1000+ after herring off Pte-du-Chêne May 8 (SIT+). The herring also attracted many gulls and 10 **Leach's Storm-Petrels** (TA, DD).

An adult **Brown Pelican** strayed north to Grand Manan Apr. 23, being reported at Seal Cove Sound (Wayne Green, Randy Griffin), and an hour later at Laborie Marsh (Ken Ingersoll, Gerry Flag).

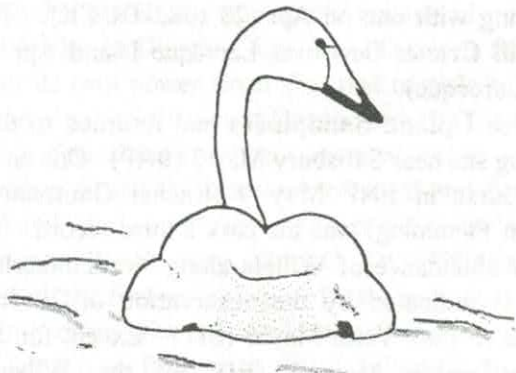
A **Least Bittern** flushed from dense vegetation by a small brook at Pettes Cove, GM, May 23 (DSC & Rick Elliott). A **Green Heron** was back at Edmundston May 13 (BL, CL); later in month there were 2 at St-Basile (v.o.), and a migrant stopped briefly at McLaren Pond, FNP, May 24 (AC+).

Individual **Snowy Egrets** were seen at Saints Rest Marsh in the third week of May, at the Bell Marsh, Moncton, May 17, and at White Head Island about May 20 (all 382-DUCK). Three were at Castalia Marsh May 23 & 25 (DSC, Majkas). An adult **Little Blue Heron** was at the Bell Marsh Apr. 20-23 (DD+), while a white bird with gray beginning to show was seen at the New Horton salt marsh, near Mary's Point, Apr. 25 (Lionel Gionet+), and a similar bird at Lower Kars, near Evandale, for a couple of days in early May.

John Candy photographed it there May 3. A single **Cattle Egret** was noted at Coverdale, May 27 (v.o.).

A few **Glossy Ibis** were discovered: 1 at Lower Jemseg on/before May 5 (382-DUCK); 3 at McGowans Corner from about May 10 (382-DUCK) to May 12 (PAP+); 1 at Rexton on/before May 23 (Bill Martin), and 1 at Buctouche from about May 22 through the end of the month (Barbara Douglas+).

In New Brunswick, swan identification used to be simple. We expected Tundra (Whistling) Swans to occur extremely rarely during migration and nothing else. Now, we have visitors from the expanding Mute Swan population to our south and this spring two **Whooper Swans**. We should also expect vagrant Trumpeter Swans which are being re-established in Ontario. Indeed, Gillian Malins believes the swans she saw near Hampton in June 1994 were Trumpeters. So, study your field guides and pay close attention to bill shape and color pattern whenever you see a swan.



Whooper Swan
Illustration by: David Christie

Two swans, reported as Tundras, flying over Pocologan on the morning of May 14 (Maxine Card) were evidently the pair of **Whooper Swans** that appeared at Waterside Marsh about noon hour that day (Dorothy Hoar). They stayed till May 21, and reappeared May 29 to June 3 (Barb Curlew+). These stately Eurasian swans were probably two that disappeared from Massachusetts in the first week of May. There had been three there May 2, but soon after only one (fide David Oliver). These birds apparently escaped captivity in the USA during the winter of 1992-93, since when there have been frequent reports in Massachusetts and New York. Unlike the birds in the states and at Waterside, 3 Whoopers in Quebec and Labrador last summer were very wary, but may have come from the same source.

Being close to the St. Lawrence, the Madawaska area is perhaps likely to get more **Snow Geese** than



elsewhere in the province. Several flocks flew over Edmundston Mar. 26 and Apr. 9 (MEC, YC). There were also an adult at Mary's Point Apr. 16 (DSC, EMM) and four at Keswick Flats about Apr. 16 (SS). A rarer **blue morph bird** remained at Courtenay Bay, Saint John, for several days from Apr. 8 (Jack Finne+). A small race **Canada Goose** with a funny yelping call was at Cap Bimet, near Barachois, May 26 (SIT).

As usual, a few Eurasian males were noted among our **Green-winged Teal**: Upper Salmon River, FNP, Mar. 12-16 (RAM, RJW+); Waterside Apr. 9 (DD); Bloomfield, Kings Co., ca. Apr. 16 (JGW); Gagetown ferry Apr. 20 (PAP); and Wishart Pt. May 17 (RD). A few more **Eurasian Wigeon** than normal were reported: single males at Cap-Brûlé, near Shediac, from Apr. 15 (AC) through at least May 11 (RS); Lower Jemseg (EI) and Waterside (382-DUCK) Apr. 23; St-Basile SL May 13-15 (GT, GLT, DT+); Saints Rest Marsh May 11 (SIT); and Pte-à-Bouveau, near Tracadie, May 31 (RD). A female (of uncertain species?) accompanied the male at St-Basile May 13 (GT).

Northern Shovelers, rather routine in southern New Brunswick, are more noteworthy in the northwest, where there was a pair at St-Jacques Apr. 24 (GD) and from one to 3 at St-Basile for several days from May 10 (RC, DT+). Among numerous reports of **Gadwall** in southern coastal areas were as many as 9 at Cap-Brûlé Apr. 27 (SIT). A pair were at Lower Jemseg May 1 & 3 (PAP, EI). A **Wood Duck** was particularly early at Saint John Mar. 11 (Ian Cameron, DG).

The most exciting ducks of the spring at St-Basile SL were **Redheads**, 3 males and a female, for a few days from May 21 (GV+). There was also a **Lesser Scaup** there May 10 (RC). The latter species was widely reported in southern N.B. from about Apr. 15 into May. A pair of **Ruddy Ducks** were at the Sussex SL Apr. 16 (Jim Brown) and one at Bell Marsh Apr. 23 (DD) and 26 (SIT). I neglected to mention last year that a pair of Ruddies had nested successfully at the Bell Marsh (NP+), the first definite record of breeding in New Brunswick.

The wintering male **King Eider** at St. Andrews was reported as late as Mar. 15 (382-DUCK). Migrants

were noted at Pt. Lepreau Apr. 23 (SJNC), Val-Comeau on/before Apr. 26 (382-DUCK), and Cap-des-Caissie Apr. 27 (SIT, AC, OL). CWS surveys found 21 **Harlequin Ducks** still at The Wolves Apr. 19 (fide Peter W. Hicklin). Elsewhere, there were 5 at Machias Seal I. Mar. 19-26 (AH), 4 at Gannet Rock, GM, Mar. 26 (fide BED), and 6 at Val-Comeau Apr. 23 (Roland Chiasson).

Three **Oldsquaws**, which are common along the coast, appeared inland at Edmundston Apr. 22 (BM, LM) and a **Common Eider** was there Apr. 18-19 (EA+). There were still 17 **Barrow's Goldeneyes** at the Cocagne wintering area Mar. 31 (SIT). Two were seen at Fredericton Mar. 23 (PAP).

The now-famous **Black Vulture** at St-Léolin continued to visit Jean Godin's bird feeder through most of March (Oscar Duguay+). A one-eyed bird, undoubtedly the same one, was seen at Wilson Point on Miscou Island in the last week of April (fide Rose-Aline Chiasson). **Turkey Vultures** again made a strong spring showing. There were more groups than usual: 3 at Little Beach east of St. Martins from April 10 (Ralph Henderson); 3 at Campobello Island Apr. 22 (Robert Newman); 6 at Hopewell Hill, near Riverside-Albert, Apr. 23 (DD+), 3 in the Fredericton area Apr. 25 (Dr. Reynolds), and 3 just east of Alma May 24 (AC). Despite the fact that there were two dead cows in a field at Hopewell Hill, the vultures there disappeared the following morning. Others included individuals at Beech Hill, GM, Apr. 15 (feeding on a raccoon carcass Elliott Shepherd), Bayside, near St. Andrews, Apr. 19 (DFS) and Newmarket, near Kingslear, in the last week of April (382-DUCK).

Bald Eagles are slowly increasing. On April 6 or 7, five (3 adults, 2 immatures) were reported as hanging around open water at Beaubears Island in the Miramichi estuary, where Harry Walker had never seen more than two at once. A pair is now nesting near the Petitcodiac west of Moncton (v.o.) and another is suspected of nesting near Riverside-Albert.

Stuart Tingley spent considerable time in early spring counting hawks and other migrants at New Horton, near Riverside-Albert. From a vantage point by the Baptist church a good view is afforded of an area within 4-5 km of the coast. On six days between Mar. 20 and Apr. 3, Stu counted a total of 402 **Red-tailed Hawks**, from 4.3 to 28.7 an hour. 122 were seen Mar. 20 and 133 Mar. 29. Seven other raptors tallied were much less numerous. Ten **Sharp-shinned Hawks** in 6 hours on March 29 were the next most

numerous. Non-raptors were often prominent, for instance 3442 **Canada Geese**, 1147 **Common Eiders**, and many flocks of **Am. Robins** and blackbirds on Mar. 20; 2085 eiders and many flocks of robins and blackbirds Mar. 22; several hundred gulls, including 200 **Ring-billed**, Mar. 29; 115 **Great Cormorants**, 675+ eiders, and several hundred robins Mar. 30; 71 **Great Cormorants** and 200+ robins Apr. 2. A few watches in mid April produced very low counts.

An adult **Red-shouldered Hawk** migrated past New Horton Mar. 20 (SIT) and others were at Mill Creek, Riverview, Apr. 9-10 (DD+) and Hampstead Apr. 16 (Scott Makepeace). What may be a subadult **Golden Eagle** (fide BED) was reported at White Head Island Apr. 21 (Verna LaFolley), in mid-May (Richard Brooks) and early June (Alan MacDonald).

A **Common Moorhen** was back at the Bell Marsh, where they nested last year, on/before May 1 (382-DUCK). A number of **Am. Coots** were seen there beginning with one on Apr. 23 (382-DUCK). Two **Sandhill Cranes** flew over Lamèque Island Apr. 22 (Jude Larocque).

Three **Upland Sandpipers** had returned to their breeding site near Salisbury May 3 (PAP). One on the golf course in FNP May 9 (Rachel Gautreau & Stephen Flemming) was the park's third record. The current abundance of **Willetts** along Northumberland Strait is indicated by the observation of 20 from Shediac to Baie Verte May 6 (SIT). Except for 3 at Lower Jemseg May 7 (EI), all the **Wilson's Phalaropes** reported were pairs on sewage lagoons: at Sussex on/before May 1 (382-DUCK), St-Louis-de-Kent May 15 (SIT, RS), Salisbury May 16 (RS, SIT), Caraquet May 22 (RD) and Tracadie May 23 (RD).

Sanderlings wintered successfully at Long Pond Beach, GM, where 13 were seen Mar. 17 (BED). A **White-rumped Sandpiper**, rare inland in spring, was at Fredericton May 25 (PAP). There were also 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** there that day.

Two beautiful male **Ruffs** drew much attention in central New Brunswick this spring. One was at Mouth of Keswick from Apr. 30 to May 12 (PAP+) and a blacker one at Jemseg from May 23 (382-DUCK) to 31 (PAP).

An adult **Franklin's Gull**, the first in a few years, was seen at the Bell Marsh May 26 (SIT) and in fields at nearby Coverdale May 27 through at least June 1 (v.o.). Six **Common Black-headed Gulls** were hanging around salmon pens at Greens Pt., near Letete, Mar. 4 (SIT); others were at Campobello

Island in mid March (382-DUCK), Waterside Apr. 3 (2 SIT), Saint John Mar. 26 (Chris Adam) and in the last week of April (382-DUCK), and Shippagan from May 22 into June (first-summer bird RD).

The **European Mew Gull** that wintered at Saints Rest SL, Saint John, was seen less frequently during late March (382-DUCK). Moncton's perennial **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was back on the river near Cy's Restaurant Mar. 3 (JE) and seen more or less regularly through mid April (382-DUCK). Another adult was among 400 gulls at Cap-des-Caissie May 8 (SIT).

The winter's **Ivory Gull** apparently remained at Seal Cove until at least Mar. 8 (fide BED). One wonders whether it was the same one that was reported by Mike Bamford at the Saint John West SL Mar. 11 (382-DUCK).

Caspian Terns, scarce but regular migrants along the coast, are less frequently seen inland where Bev Schneider found one, apparently exhausted, under a bird feeder at Douglas Apr. 21. The tern flew off under its own power when she tried to pick it up. A record group of 10 were at Quaco Apr. 30 (Ted Sears) and a few Caspians were seen at other coastal locations during the last week of April and first two weeks of May (v.o.). The report of a **Forster's Tern** at Caron Brook May 27 (RC, DC, GC) is very unusual, the first spring report for the province.

In keeping with the abundance of tent caterpillars in central New Brunswick, **Black-billed Cuckoo** was recorded quite early, being heard regularly at Gagetown from May 23 (EI) and found at Fredericton May 26 (PAP).

The wintering **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Gondola Pt. was seen into March (382-DUCK), and another was reported at Sackville May 22 (Margaret & Arthur Armstrong).

A **Willow Flycatcher** was noted at Sheffield May 31 (382-DUCK). There were three unusually early **Eastern Kingbirds**: at Bancroft Point Apr. 17-25 (HD+), St. Martins Apr. 17-19 (Lily Marks), and Alma Apr. 28 (RS, SIT). **N. Rough-winged Swallows** were found at Eel Lake, GM, May 10 (2 PAP), Penobsquis May 15-26 (1 JGW+), and St-Basile SL May 21 (2 DC, JDB).

A **House Wren** was at Fredericton May 14 (PAP), another was singing at White Head Island May 15 (RD, AC), and a pair returned to Island View, west of Fredericton (SS), where they attempted to nest last year.

A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Alma Apr. 27-29 (RJW, DR) was the earliest we've had. Individuals at St. Andrews May 8 (Caroline Scarth) and Mary's Pt. May 10 (DSC) were more typical. Later in May this species was reported at White Head Island (RD, AC), Bancroft Pt., GM (RD), Miscou Plains (RD), Caraquet (BH, RD), Pte-à-Bouveau, and FNP HQ (RJW).

A male **N. Wheatear**, a very rare spring occurrence, was at Whale Cove, GM, May 21-24 (PAP+). **Eastern Bluebirds** continue to do well. The first, a male, appeared in a yard in Alma during the snowstorm Apr. 5 (DR). From then till the end of May this species was widely reported.

Mockingbird reports included one in the northwest at St-Jacques May 21 (LD). A **Brown Thrasher** at Machias Seal I. Apr. 4-5 (AH) was particularly early. Others were reported at Anchorage PP, GM, May 11 (PAP) and St-Joseph-de-Madawaska May 21 (YC). An **American Pipit** was also early at Bancroft Pt. Apr. 8 (BED), the next not being seen there till Apr. 25.

An **Orange-crowned Warbler**, much rarer in spring than in fall, was photographed at Miscou Plains May 23 (RD). There was also a report without details from St-Jacques Apr. 29 (Donna Dumont). Also reported were a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at White Head Island on May 21 (fide JGW), a **Prairie Warbler** at North Head May 21 (Eileen Pike), and a **Hooded Warbler** at Caraquet May 29 (BH).

The only **Blue Grosbeak** was a female May 24 at Deep Cove, GM (DSC). There were rather normal numbers of **Indigo Buntings**, apparently none before mid-May. Among them were 3 at Hillsborough in the last week of the month (fide John Tanner).

A male **Painted Bunting**, the fourth provincial record, survived the May snow storm at George Watling's feeder in Moncton May 5-9 (v.o.), only to fall prey to a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**.

Yellow-rumped Warblers successfully wintered at Cap-de-Cocagne; 5 were seen there Mar. 31 (SIT). The **Northern Cardinal** that had been coming to feeders near St-Basile disappeared Apr. 11 (FLe, JL), but one was seen in Edmundston Apr. 27 (EM). There were numerous reports in southern N.B. Margie Pacey's wintering **Spotted Rufous-sided Towhee** remained at her feeder at Taymouth through Apr. 18. A sturdy **Chipping Sparrow** passed the winter at Grand Manan before making its first visit to Brian Dalzell's feeder on Mar. 14; it reappeared briefly Mar.

29. Similarly, a **Field Sparrow** at Alma Mar. 29 through Apr. 21 (RJW) is believed to be the one that had been seen there during January.



Le Conte's Sparrow
Illustration by:
David Christie

A first for the province was a **Le Conte's Sparrow** discovered by Jim Wilson in low shrubbery at Pettes Cove, GM, May 20. Later in the day, he got one photo and several other people also saw this shy sparrow. An **Ipswich Sparrow** was at Castalia Marsh Apr. 8 (BED) and Rob Walker had one among several **Savannahs** at his feeder in Alma Apr. 23-24.

A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, a great rarity in spring, was seen in a flock of other blackbirds at Sackville Apr. 6 (C. Cormier). There were three reports of **Orchard Oriole** at Grand Manan: Seal Cove May 16 (AC, RD), White Head Island May 20 (Jean Wilson), and North Head May 21 (382-DUCK). A male **Northern Oriole** at Saint John West May 19 appeared to be a cross between **Bullock's** and **Baltimore** (CLJ). A vagrant, young male **Summer Tanager** visited feeders at Shediac Bridge, May 12-14 (Norman Bourque, RAM+).

The following is a selection of reported early and late dates:

Great Blue Heron: Mar. 13 Machias Seal I. (AH); Mar. 7 Sussex (SIT); Mar. 28 Mary's Pt. (MFM); Mar. 29 Waterside (SIT); Apr. 1 Saint John (2--DFS); Apr. 9 Edmundston (PM, DC).

Canada Goose: Mar. 14 Waterside (4--SIT); Mar. 17 Saints Rest Marsh (5--CLJ); Mar. 18 Shedydy Marsh (200--Lars Larsen); Mar. 19 Jemseg (18--PAP), GM Channel (50--HD) and FNP/Alma

(RJW); Apr. 5 Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska (flock--FL). **Osprey**: Apr. 12 Jemseg (PAP); Apr. 16 North Head (BED); Apr. 18/19 FNP/Alma (RJW); Apr. 23 Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska (BC).

Am. Kestrel: Mar. 28 Lakeside, near Hampton, (DFS); Mar. 28 Peel (A&DC); Mar. 29 New Horton (2--SIT); Mar. 31 Edmundston (MEC, YC).

Killdeer: Mar. 17 Saint John West (2--CLJ); Mar. 19 FNP/Alma (RJW); Mar. 20 New Horton and Waterside (3) (SIT); Mar. 21 Mary's Pt. (3--DSC); Mar. 22 McGowans Corner (6--PAP); Mar. 23 Salisbury (3--RS); Mar. 25 Oakland, near Florenceville (A&DC); Mar. 31 Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska (GLT).

Am. Woodcock: Mar. 14 Whale Cove (2--Peter Cronk); Mar. 16 Deep Cove (Elaine Maker); Mar. 17 Machias Seal I. (AH) and Gannet Rock (2--RM); Mar. 20 Alma (RJW); Mar. 22 Hardings Pt. (RAG); Mar. 24 Fredericton (PAP).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 15 Musquash (Ronald O'Donnell); May 16 Hampstead (Ann Slipp); May 17 Westfield (W. Ellis) and Kingston (L. McAuley); May 18 Glassville (EMCI); May 19 Westfield (JS) and Saint John (Louise Merzetti); May 20 Gordonsville, near Bristol (Helen Lovely), Oakland (A&DC), Mary's Pt. (2--DSC), and Alma (Gail Walker).

Northern Flicker: Mar. 20 Bancroft Pt. (BED); Mar. 25 Mary's Pt. (DSC); Apr. 1 Anchorage PP (2--AS); Apr. 16 Whistle Road, GM, (15--BED); Apr. 18/19 FNP/Alma (hundreds--RJW); Apr. 21, Saint John West (2--CLJ); Apr. 23 Oakland (A&DC).

Tree Swallow: Apr. 13 Murr Ledges (RM); Apr. 14 Florenceville (4--DD). Apr. 15 Bancroft Pt. (10--BED); Apr. 16 Riverside-Albert (DSC) and near Chipman (Florence McRae); Apr. 18 Westfield (flock--JS); Apr. 19 Saint John (DFS) and Sussex Corner (6--Margaret Packman); Apr. 21 Fredericton (BJS) and Stickney (A&DC).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr. 16 Bancroft Point (BED); Apr. 19 Mary's Pt. (DSC) and Fairvale (Win MacAndrews); Apr. 23 Jemseg area (Fredericton Nature Club); May 4 Atholville (ID, MD); May 8 St-Jacques (DDu);

Am. Robin: Mar. 13 Machias Seal I. (3, 30 there Mar. 17--AH); Mar. 15 Clifton, near Moss Glen (4--Frank Withers), and Harvey Bank (a few--John Inman); Mar. 17 Gannet Rock (50--RM); Mar. 18 Bancroft Pt. (2--BED); Mar. 19 FNP/Alma (RJW); Mar. 20 Albert Co. coast (2000--SIT) and Oakland

(A&DC); Mar. 21 Fredericton area ("in numbers"--BJS); Mar. 25 Rivière-Verte (Gilles Nadeau) and St-Basile (2--GLT, MT); Apr. 7 Campbellton (ID).

Yellow Warbler: May 19 Saint John West (CLJ); May 20 Harvey (JG, DLM), Atholville (ID), and St-Basile (BC); May 22 Westfield (JS); May 28 Florenceville (A&DC).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Apr. 19 Bancroft Pt. (BED) and Alma (2--RJW); Apr. 22 Dieppe (DSC); Apr. 23 Mary's Pt. (4--DSC) and Saint John (DFS); Apr. 26 Westfield (2--JS); Apr. 30 Oakland (A&DC); May 7 Atholville (4--MD).

Palm Warbler: Apr. 15 Bancroft Pt. (BED); Apr. 19 Riverside-Albert (David Clark); Apr. 20 Mary's Pt. (2--Orville Kennie); Apr. 21 Fredericton (PAP); May 4 Atholville (ID, MD); May 9 Edmundston (VL).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Apr. 30 Ammon Rd., near Irishtown (SN); May 15 Grand Manan (at virtually every feeder--AC) and Beaverbrook, near Riverside-Albert (Millie Cail); May 16 Alma (2--PAP); May 17 Mary's Pt. (7 there May 20--EMM); May 18 Oakland (A&DC); May 19 Westfield (JS), St. Stephen (2--Joan Parks) and St-Basile (1--GL and 4--LAL).

Chipping Sparrow: Apr. 29 Deep Cove, GM (2--BED); Apr. 30 Oakland (A&DC) and Ammon Road Apr. 30 (SN); May 1 Mary's Pt. (8--DSC); May 2 Campbellton (Flora Couture) and Saint John West (CLJ).

Song Sparrow: Mar. 16 Bancroft Pt. (3--BED); Mar. 17 Gannet Rock (10--RM) and Long Pond Beach, GM (3--BED); Mar. 20 Machias Seal I. (40--AH), NP/Alma (numerous--RJW), and Albert Co. coast (several--SIT); Mar. 21 Bayswater (2--F&MW) and Hardings Pt. (RAG); Mar. 23 Salisbury (Ron Steeves). Mar. 27 Oakland (A&DC); Mar. 30 Fredericton area (BJS); Apr. 15 Sugarloaf PP, Campbellton (MD).

Red-winged Blackbird: Mar. 9 Gannet Rock (RM); Mar. 14 Jemseg (PAP); Mar. 15 Riverbank, near Florenceville, (A&DC); Mar. 17 Whistle Rd. (AS); Mar. 19 FNP/Alma (RJW); Mar. 20 Albert Co. coast (500--SIT), Oakland (A&DC), Bayswater (2--F&MW) and Norton (Hugh Cunningham); Mar. 21 Salisbury (RS); Mar. 23 Edmundston (5--Thérèse Thériault); Apr. 2 Campbellton (MD).

Common Grackle: Mar. 15 Mary's Point (5--MFM) and Harvey Bank (John Inman); about Mar. 15 Moncton (3--obs?); Mar. 18 Saint John West (CLJ); Mar. 19 FNP/Alma (RJW); Mar. 20 Albert Co. coast (1000+--SIT), Saint John (DFS), Edmundston (GLT),

and Bayswater (8--F&MW); Mar. 21 Norton (7--HCu); Mar. 22 Oakland (A&DC).

The following are late reports of some winter birds:

Rough-legged Hawk: Apr. 29 Edmundston (GV); **Iceland Gull:** May 26 Robichaud (SIT); **Glaucous Gull:** May 26 Robichaud (SIT); **Snowy Owl:** Mar. 20 Waterside (AC). **Bohemian Waxwing:** Mar. 28 Halls Creek (8--SIT); **Northern Shrike:** Apr. 12 Albert County (RJW); **Am. Tree Sparrow:** Apr. 14 Bancroft Pt. (2--BED); Apr. 18 Saint John (DFS); May 1 Alma (RJW); May 2 Mary's Pt. (2--DSC); **Snow Bunting:** May 15 Horseback Road, Green River watershed (5--DH).

Observers:

382-DUCK, N.B. Bird Information Line; A&DC, Ansel & David Campbell; AC, Alain Clavette; AH, Alan Huckins; AS, Andrew Sharkey; BC, Benoît Clavette; BED, Brian Dalzell; BH, Benoît Hébert; BJS, Bev Schneider; BL, Bert Lavoie; BM, Bernadette Morin; CL, Colette Lavoie; CLJ, Cecil Johnston; DC, Denise Cyr; DD, Denis Doucet; DDU, Donna Dumont; DFS, David Smith; DG, Don Gibson; DLM, David Myles; DR, Doreen Rossiter; DSC, David Christie; DT, Daniele Thibodeau; EA, Eileen Albert; EI, Enid Inch; EM, Eric Martin; EMM, Mary Majka; Emcl, Elsie McIntosh; F&MW, Frank & Mitzi Withers; FL, Florida Lavoie; FLe, Francine Levesque; FNP, Fundy Nat'l Park; GC, Gilberte Cyr; GD, Gaétane Demers; GL, Gilles Levesque; GLT, Gisèle Thibodeau; GM, Grand Manan; GT, Georgette Thibodeau; GV, Gérald Verret; HCu, Hugh Cunningham; HD, Halton Dalzell; ID, Irene Doyle; JDB, Denys Bourque; JE, Jim Edsall; JG, Jim Goltz; JGW, Jim Wilson; JL, Jocelyn Levesque; JS, Jocelyn Steeves; JT, John Tanner; LAL, Louise-Anne Lajoie; LD, Lucille Dionne; LM, Louis Morin; MD, Margaret Doyle; MEC, Monique Caron; MFM, Mike Majka; MT, Martin Thibodeau; NP, Nelson Poirier; OL, Oscar LeBlanc; PAP, Peter Pearce; PM, Pierrette Mercier; PP, Provincial Park; RAG, Allen Gorham; RAM, Rose-Alma Mallet; RC, Rita Couturier; RD, Robert Doiron; RM, Rodger Maker; RJW, Rob Walker; RS, Ron Steeves; SIT, Stu Tingley; SL - sewage lagoon; SN, Shatton Northorp; SS, Shirley Sloat; TA, Théo Arsenault; VL, Vicky Lentz; v.o., various observers; YC, Yves Caron.



A RESIDENT BLACK VULTURE IN NEW BRUNSWICK?

David L. Myles

"Some circumstantial evidence is very strong, as when you find a trout in the milk" — H.D. Thoreau.

February 4, 1995 — Early, on a very cold Saturday morning, Jim Goltz, Muriel Smith and I drove to the Caraquet area to see if we could catch a glimpse of a Black Vulture. Reports indicated that the vulture was visiting a bird feeder at the cabin of M. Jean Godin near Saint-Léolin.

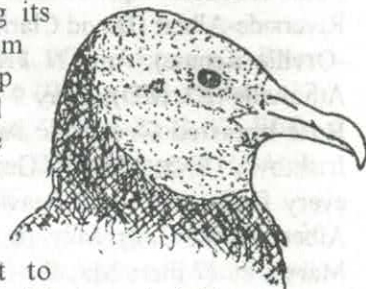
A Black Vulture had been spotted at the local dump in the fall and many people had seen it at that location. At the end of December, the dump was permanently closed and the bird was forced to seek food elsewhere... but where? M. Godin was feeding the regular birds that come around his camp but one day he noticed that he had a very large, strange looking, black bird at his feeder and he reported it to some local birders. They confirmed that it was the former resident of the dump.

About 9:00 a.m., under a clear sky, we started in the trail to the camp with our host leading the way. The cabin is situated on the edge of a small pond which was completely frozen and blanketed in deep snow. Jean soon had a fire crackling in the stove and warmed up a fresh supply of cut-up chunks of meat and suet to replenish the feeder. The feeder having been generously restocked, we made ourselves comfortable in front of a large window overlooking the pond and the feeder, eagerly awaiting the appearance of the vulture. While we waited, Jean told us that the bird usually appeared between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. and that it seemed to be blind in one eye. We waited. Shortly after 10:00 a.m. we were joined by Rose-Aline Chiasson and Fleur-Ange Haché from Lamèque. We waited. Another hour passed; then it was noon and doubt began to intrude. Would the vulture put in an appearance? Had it moved on? Had it succumbed because of the intense cold of the previous night?



At 12:10 Jim cried, "Here it comes!" After skimming over the tops of the low trees on the far side of the pond, the large black bird with white wing tips landed near the top of the largest spruce tree in the area. Turning its back to the sun, it opened its wings, cormorant fashion, to absorb the bright sun's

rays. Almost immediately, a number of ravens and crows began to harass the stranger, diving on it and making its life more difficult. After a few minutes, it flew down to the feeding area in front of the cabin and began gathering chunks of meat into its crop. For almost an hour we watched it feed. The vulture placed its feet on the food and pulled it apart, all the while keeping its good right eye in a position to watch for marauders from above. It walked in the manner of a domestic hen -- lifting its feet high and placing them deliberately. With crop bulging, the bird hopped onto the top rail of the fence and began turning round and round in a clockwise movement that always allowed it to watch for any intrusions. That good right eye was always on the outside of the circle being scribed. Finally, it flew to an adjacent tree and we departed with a confident feeling that the visitor was being well treated and would survive the coldest temperatures with the help of Jean Godin.



Flashback — February 1, 1989 — I heard that a Black Vulture had been seen at a farm near Jacksonville, Maine so I decided to take a drive and see if I could find it. I journeyed to the farm of Millard Cole on the Palmer Landing Road and there I saw my first Black Vulture sitting in a dead tree at the bottom of the field behind the barn. Mr. Cole told me that the bird had been there since October and was quite content to feed on the carcass of a dead horse and pass the nights in the woods or in the open end of the upper level of the barn. Many others saw the bird and Sid Bart of Pembroke, Maine took photographs. The bird remained at the farm until some time in April.

Flashback — September 24, 1989 — Sunday morning, Peter Pearce and I travelled to the Hillsborough area to see if we could locate a Black Vulture that had been frequenting a pig farm on the Salem road. The bird was reported after several days of high winds and heavy rain that had accompanied hurricane Hugo. We arrived at Hank Braam's

Reprinted, with kind permission of the author, from the Winter 1994-95 newsletter of Bird Information New Brunswick.

Illustrations by David Christie.

"Halstead Farm" about 9:00 a.m. and found the bird sitting on the ground behind the barn. When we approached, it retreated to a large dead elm tree about 100 metres away in the adjacent ravine. The vulture rewarded us with some excellent views via the spotting scope and we managed to take several photos with a telescopic lens. We noted that the bird had one bad eye; the left eye was almost closed and so the vulture placed himself so that he could keep his right eye on his most exposed side. After about 15 minutes, a group of crows began swooping down on the stranger and it was forced to retreat up the valley and out of view. The bird was not seen there after that day.

When I returned from Saint-Léolin, I checked my notes and photographs and I believe that this is the same bird that I saw in 1989! The evidence indicates that we have a northern resident Black Vulture. Check your Black Vulture photos — does the bird have only one eye?

Reports of Black Vulture:

July 26, 1987 Petite-Lamèque
 October 1988 to April 1989 Jacksonville, Maine
 (Millard Cole Farm)
 June 27, 1989 Nackawic area (Cecil Johnston)
 July 3 to 4, 1989 Cape Jourimain (Al Smith)
 September 23 to 25, 1989 Hillsborough (Halstead Farm)
 November 20 to December 4, 1992 Grand-Anse
 (Hilaire Chiasson)
 June 4, 1993 Kouchibouguac (Marianne Neily)
 July 21, 1994 Miscou Area (Gary Broussard)
 Summer 1994 to April 1995 Saint-Léolin area

Several Black Vulture sightings have been reported from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island during the same period.

BEAUTIFUL BUT DEADLY

Mary Majka

I'm not sure that we realize how fortunate we are, but in this province we encounter very few dangers in the out-of-doors. A naturalist can with only minor precautions travel our extensive woods and dales or plunge into rivers, lakes or the sea without fear of being attacked by vicious animals, stung by killer bees, or poisoned by toxic plants. There are a few exceptions, such as poison ivy and a few poisonous mushrooms.

One of the most beautiful and yet deadly plants to consume is a small deciduous shrub by the lovely name of *Daphne* (*Daphne mezereum*). Introduced as an ornamental, it has become naturalized in some localities. It sometimes grows in great profusion in thickets and hedgerows and at forest edges.

Up to one metre tall, *Daphne* blossoms profusely in the early spring, even before the leaves appear. The flowers are a lovely purple colour and have an exquisite fragrance. Even standing at a distance, one enjoys the perfume. Those attributes must have been the reason why this plant was treasured in early gardens.

However, its highly poisonous qualities were not seriously taken into account.

That is surprising because the toxicity of *Daphne* has been known for centuries, already having been described by the early Greeks. In the 18th and 19th centuries there are numerous accounts of people and animals being poisoned by the bark and the berries of this plant. Children, in particular, have often been its victims, since the small enticing berries are bright cherry red and delicious looking. We all should acquaint ourselves with *Daphne*.

A rule of thumb, especially for children, should be to admire the beauty of plants and berries but leave them alone unless we know they are harmless.

There are several other species of *Daphne* in the world, some with yellowish green flowers and bluish black fruits, but those don't seem to have gone wild on this continent.

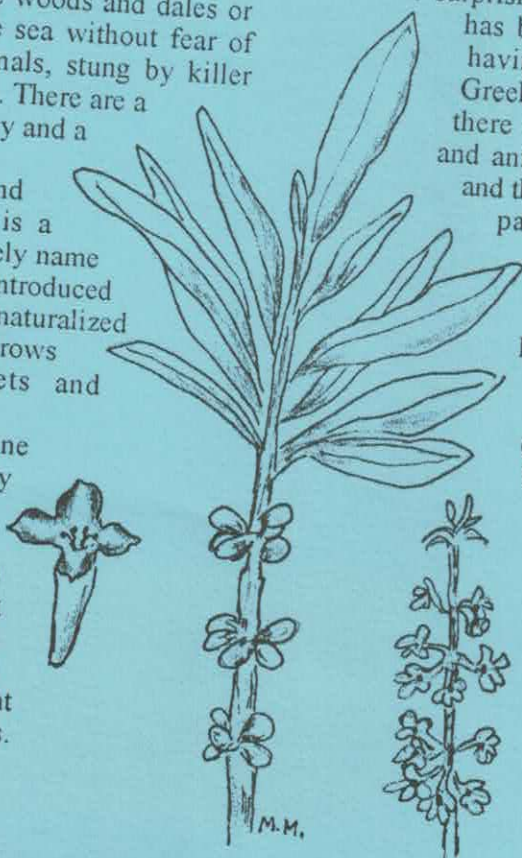


Illustration by Mary Majka

WANTED: PARTICIPANTS FOR A NEW BRUNSWICK HERPETOFAUNA CENSUS

A movement is afoot to try to organize and launch some sort of census for New Brunswick's herptiles (i.e. reptiles and amphibians). Similar projects are ongoing in our neighbouring provinces, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and research for an Ontario Herpetofaunal Atlas has been completed.

The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists has been approached by scientists at the University of New Brunswick and at the New Brunswick Museum to see what level of interest our members might have in a project of this nature. The details of such a project have not yet been worked out. Depending upon the level of interest and commitment, it could just be limited to singing amphibians (frogs and toads) in nearby areas, or it could be much more extensive in its geographic scope and number of species involved. The project would likely not start until at least the spring of 1996.

Naturalists throughout the Maritime Provinces were largely responsible for the great success of the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas Project. If motivated, we could certainly carry out a similar project on herptiles. This would not only give New Brunswick's naturalists a better chance to learn about our reptiles and amphibians, but it might help to cultivate a greater public appreciation for these under-valued, misunderstood and unfairly maligned creatures.

On a global basis, many species of amphibians have showed serious declines in their populations and ranges, to the point that they have become extirpated or possibly even extinct. Populations of most New Brunswick amphibians still seem to be remaining at a healthy level, but will this continue in the face of increasing human population, development, global warming, pollution and habitat loss? Only a comprehensive and scientific research project will really let us assess the New Brunswick situation. Our participation in this project would be crucial for it to succeed.

If interested in participating in a herpetofauna census, please contact: **Gayle Greer, 15 Elmwood Court, Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 2P6.**



Gray Tree Frog
Photo by:
Don Vail

N.B. Naturalist/
Le Naturaliste du N.-B.
277 Douglas Avenue
Saint John, NB E2K 1E5
Return Postage Guaranteed/Port de retour garanti

Canadian Publications Mail Product
Sales Agreement No. 487716

To/à:

