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N. B. Naturalist
Le Naturaliste du N.-B.

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.

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In this issue / Dans ce numéro

JANUARY 27, 1996 IS THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS TO THE JAMES L. BAILLIE MEMORIAL FUND

Do you have plans for an individual or club project on birds that needs some extra funding? The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund may be able to help.

The Fund offers two types of grants: (1) for projects that involve research or education or that contribute to the preservation of Canadian birds; and (2) for a special 5-year program (1993-1997) to initiate and support migration monitoring stations (bird observatories) that monitor Canadian birds during their migration. The Fund supports projects that involve volunteers in education, research or data collection.

Support of graduate student research projects is not a priority. Individuals or organizations can apply. Grants range from $200 to $3,000 and average about $1,000. Next deadline for applications is 27 January 1996.

For more information and application forms write to: David J. T. Hussell, Secretary, James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, Canadian Centre for the Study and Preservation of Birds, P. O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0 (Tel.: 519-586-3531).

FREDERICTON NATURE CLUB RECEIVES A GRANT

Diane Allain

PLEASE NOTE: This article is courtesy of the *Fredericton Nature Club Newsletter*, September 1995.

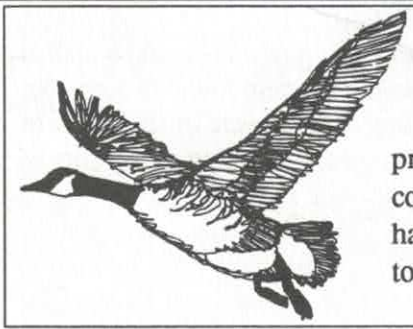
In January 1995, I sent in an application for a grant with the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund at Long Point Bird Observatory. I asked for funding to establish a public education kit on birds and birding.

In June, I received my answer. The Club is the proud recipient of an $800.00 grant! Along with some of the Club's funds, we have purchased a good quality slide projector to start. We will be obtaining slides from various photographers within our Club and if need be from other naturalists in the province. We will be purchasing birding videos and bird sound tapes and/or CDs. We will be laminating posters to preserve them for years to come.

This "kit" will be made available to members who are asked to make presentations to groups in and around the City, as well as for our educational needs within the Club. Videos and bird sound tapes/CDs will be made available to members who wish to use them for personal education, to be loaned out in a similar fashion to a library.

Should you wish to make suggestions as to other materials we have not thought of, but that would be a great asset to this kit, please feel free to contact me, Diane Allain, at 450-6365.

As last year, we are still interested in receiving the names of people who would like to volunteer to make presentations to groups such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. Now with the proper equipment and materials, it will make it that much easier to make the presentations. We already have a few names, the more we receive, the less often your services will be required. With the names we have so far, you may be asked once per month or two. Speaking from experience, these talks can be a lot of fun to do, especially with inquisitive children and a good supply of slides and posters.



DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1976, the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund has provided grants to over 200 research projects that contributed to the preservation of Canadian birds and their habitats. In 1995 alone, the Fund disbursed almost $48,000 to 26 projects across Canada.

BAY OF FUNDY MARINE LIFE - 1994 (PART 1)

Laurie Murison

PLEASE NOTE: This article is courtesy of the Grand Manan Nature Society. It appeared, in part, in Volume 3 (1994) of *The Razorbill*, their newsletter. Laurie Murison is the manager of the Grand Manan Whale & Seabird Research Station at North Head. She is also the chief naturalist for Ocean Search, operated by the Marathon Hotel. Most of the following observations were made from the D'Sonoqua, Ocean Search's schooner. Part 2 will appear in the December 1995 *N. B. Naturalist / Le Naturaliste du N.-B.*

A cold winter did not necessarily result in colder than normal water as was seen the previous winter. The hot, humid air found along the eastern seaboard during the summer, especially in July, led to a foggy summer on the water. From July to mid-September there were at least 40 days of fog or haze. Fog forms when humid, warm air moves over cooler water causing clouds to form just above the water surface. On shore the fog is less persistent when it is sunny and the warmed earth tends to "burn off" the fog. The warm air from the land moves over the water helping to push the fog away by early afternoon, however offshore fog may still be evident. Since fog forms when we have southerly winds, the southern part of the island tends to have fog forming first and leaving last, except with easterly winds which may hold the fog at North Head while clearing elsewhere. On cloudy days the chances of the fog lifting are reduced unless there is a shift in the wind to the west or north.

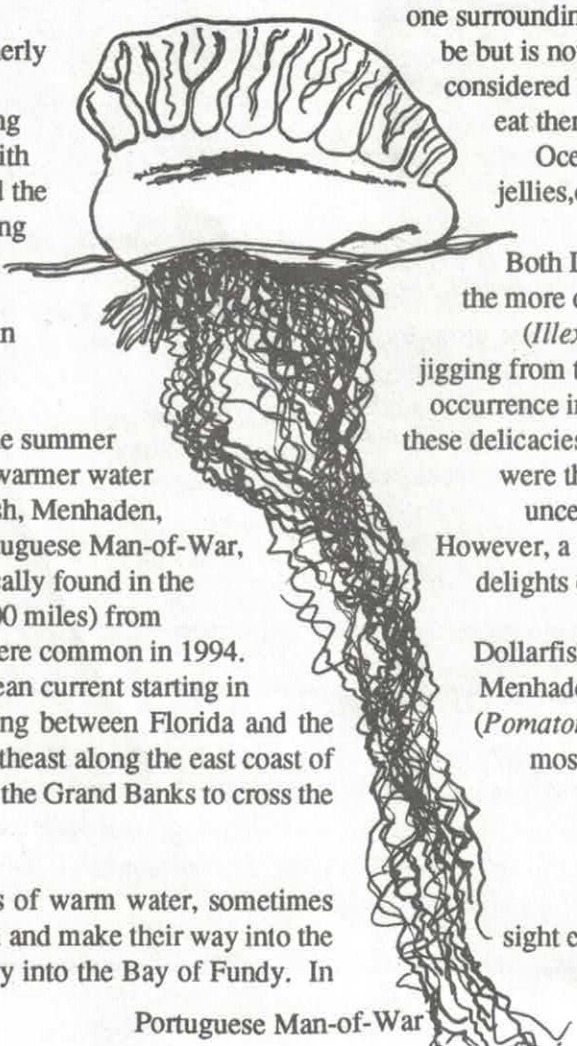
Despite the fog, however, the summer was characterized, in part, by warmer water creatures such as Ocean Sunfish, Menhaden, Bluefish, Purple Jellyfish, Portuguese Man-of-War, and Long-finned Squid. Typically found in the Gulf Stream, some 320 km (200 miles) from Grand Manan, these species were common in 1994. The Gulf Stream is a warm ocean current starting in the Gulf of Mexico and passing between Florida and the Bahamas. It makes its way northeast along the east coast of North America, veering east at the Grand Banks to cross the Atlantic to Europe.

Warm core eddies, pockets of warm water, sometimes break off from the Gulf Stream and make their way into the Gulf of Maine and occasionally into the Bay of Fundy. In these pockets are organisms accustomed to Gulf Stream temperatures and salinities, such as those observed last summer. Many are planktonic (but not necessarily microscopic), which means they are at the mercy of the currents. The float on the Portuguese Man-of-War (*Physalis physalis*), may reach 30 cm (1') across and the tentacles reach 12-15 m (40-50 feet) in length. The tentacles on two seen by the author were considerably shorter (4-5 m) but the floats were approaching the 30 cm length. Although the water was notably warmer, it was not warm enough to have many people venturing in to swim, and a good thing since encounters with Purple Jellyfish and Portuguese Man-of-War, would have been a painful, if not deadly, experience.

Some are predators of the planktonic species, such as the Ocean Sunfish (*Mola mola*), a large (over 1 m in length and over 150 kg in weight), unusually shaped fish, often seen lazing at the surface. This fish is flattened laterally with two large fins located on the back and belly, two smaller fins behind the gills and one surrounding the terminal end where a tail should be but is not. The mouth is small. Sunfish are not considered palatable, except by the Japanese who eat them raw or marinated. A slow swimmer, Ocean Sunfish usually eat jellyfish, comb jellies, crustaceans, molluscs and brittle stars.

Both Long-finned Squid (*Loligo pealei*) and the more common Short-finned or Boreal Squid (*Illex illecebrosus*), were so prevalent that jigging from the wharf in North Head was a regular occurrence in August, although not all who caught these delicacies appreciated their tastiness. Ink fights were the usual outcome with the squid being unceremoniously tossed back into the bay. However, a few of us partook in the finer culinary delights of fried, baked and steamed calamary.

Dollarfish or Butterfish (*Peprilus triacanthus*), Menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) and Bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*) were found in weirs but most herring catches were of small fish or sardines, prompting the closure of over-the-side sales of large herring to the Russians. Factory ships that have been a common sight each summer anchored off Great Duck Island, stayed only a couple of days.

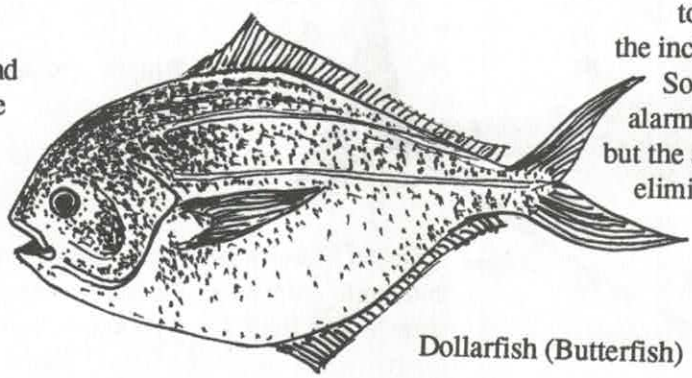


Portuguese Man-of-War

The Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) did not mind the small herring; tuna again plagued weir fishers (they were able to sell four of them). The quota was not filled but this was influenced by the loss of most weirs during the Labour Day storm. Only those weirs agreeing to certain conditions prior to the commencement of the fishing season are allowed to keep the tuna they catch under the quota system. Department of Fisheries and Oceans regulations require that any other tuna caught have to be released from the weirs alive, the cost of this being absorbed by the weir fishers. The mammal release seine available from the Grand Manan Whale & Seabird Research Station, built to help fishers sweep whales and porpoises from their weirs, was used in some cases to sweep out tuna.

Boats fishing for Bluefin Tuna frequently tied up at night to the wharf in North Head and the waters of the Bay were busy with tuna boats crisscrossing in search of the valuable fish and the air was filled with spotter planes. The most paid for any Bluefin Tuna in the Japanese market is $84,000 US, although most fish fetch considerably less, depending on the fat content (the greater the fat marbling in the muscle the higher the price) . The reduced 1993 tuna quota was filled, prompting requests for an increase in quota next year.

Tuna catches are closely monitored and experts can not agree on the status of Bluefin in the world's oceans. The numbers have declined as is the case with most fish stocks. Quotas have been reduced accordingly, but enumeration is difficult with such a mobile fish. Bluefin Tuna occur on both sides of the Atlantic and typically migrate north-south (Florida to Newfoundland and Canary Islands to Norway), but there are also records of tuna crossing the Atlantic (adults tagged off the Bahamas showed up 4 months later in Norway; juveniles tagged in New York Bight one summer were found in the Bay of Biscay the next year).



Dollarfish (Butterfish)

An observer program was again funded by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for the gill net fishery. Students were employed to monitor general fishing patterns, catches of fish and incidental catches of Harbour Porpoises in gill nets by Campobello, Grand Manan and Nova Scotian fishers. In addition, a research program was initiated by The Whale Research Group of Newfoundland (Dr. Jon Lien) to place acoustic alarms on gill nets. These alarms are supposed to alert porpoises to the presence of the nets and, perhaps, prevent them from becoming entangled. At the end of the summer it was realized that the alarms were not loud enough to overcome the ambient noise level in the Bay of Fundy and although there appeared to be a decrease in the number of porpoises caught, there were still incidental catches. With the continued decline in ground fish, fewer nets were set in 1994, particularly in the problem area for porpoises, north of Swallowtail. This also contributed to the reduced numbers of porpoises being killed.

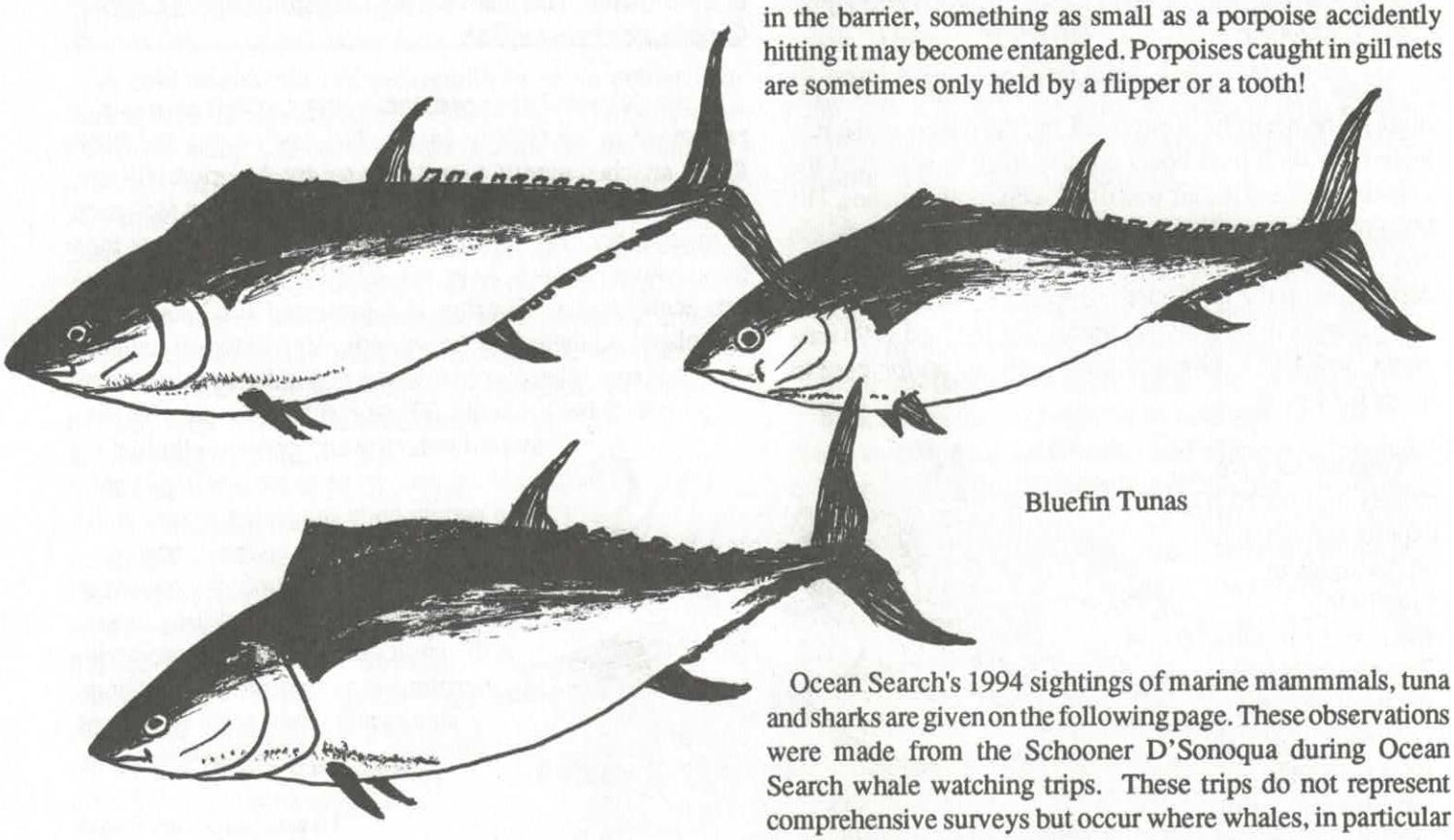
In the fall, another experiment using acoustic alarms was performed in the Gulf of Maine. Dr. Andy Read and Scott Kraus attached alarms to gill nets set by American fishers. Using a louder noise level, they found a significant reduction in the number of porpoises caught in nets with alarms than those without alarms. Also, fewer herring were caught in the nets with alarms. Herring is a preferred food source for porpoises and there may be a relationship between reduced numbers of herring in the nets and reduced numbers of porpoises being caught. These results are a positive step toward reducing and perhaps eliminating the incidental catches of porpoises in gill nets. Some people have suggested attaching the alarms to herring weirs to keep out porpoises but the alarm system would probably reduce or eliminate the catch of herring in the process. A different system has to be used with herring weirs if porpoises (and tuna, sharks and whales) are to be kept out of the weirs.

Fewer porpoises found themselves trapped in weirs in 1994 but the number of porpoises entrapped was also a function of the Labour Day storm which severely damaged many herring weirs. The Grand Manan Whale & Seabird Research Station crew and weir fishers removed 41 porpoises from 13 weirs from July to the end of August. Of this total, three porpoises were repeat visitors, having to be removed twice. Each porpoise removed from a weir receives a number tag and can be identified if seen again. A Minke Whale was also trapped and removed from a weir and at least 1 Bluefin Tuna. The mammal release seine was used to "sweep" the Minke Whale and also 6 porpoises. These porpoises did not receive number tags since they were not captured by hand but forced to swim out of the weir in the "sweeping" process.

FUNDY MARINE LIFE (cont'd. fron p. 67)

Of the porpoises released from herring weirs, three were outfitted with satellite transmitters which relayed their positions to two polar-orbiting NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency) satellites which receive and store data before relaying it to ARGOS ground stations located in Alaska, Virginia and France. The data are then processed and made available to users via modem or e-mail. An additional porpoise was fitted with a VHF transmitter which allowed the animal to be tracked by water or land-based receivers, a traditional method which has been used successfully with many terrestrial and marine species. The successful attachment and functioning of the three satellite tags were a "first" for such a small cetacean. No cetaceans this small have been tracked by satellite previous to 1994. Although the duration of the tracking was short (2, 6 and 21 days) new information on long distance movements was obtained. One porpoise swam from north of Grand Manan to Brier Island, Nova Scotia to Jeffrey's Ledge in the Gulf of Maine in less than a week. Not only is this a long distance but it also suggests that the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy porpoise population is one stock and therefore, any manaaement schemes have to be international in scope. Hopefully, with refinements in tag design and attachment, longer tracks can be obtained, perhaps enlightening us about the migratory patterns of these small mammals.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is experimenting with barriers fitted to the mouth of weirs to eliminate bycatches of tuna. The barrier is usually a metal frame with monofilament netting stretched across it. Unfortunately, barriers are often visible at night because of bioluminescence, which alerts herring to swim away rather than through the netting, reducing the potential catch. Bioluminescence occurs when certain microscopic organisms come into contact with the barrier (or anything else, as they are carried in water currents; the stronger the current, the more organisms hit the object and the greater the light source) and emit flashes of light. These barriers may also keep out other large fish, sharks and marine mammals. However, should the netting be slack in the barrier, something as small as a porpoise accidently hitting it may become entangled. Porpoises caught in gill nets are sometimes only held by a flipper or a tooth!



Bluefin Tunas

Ocean Search's 1994 sightings of marine mammmals, tuna and sharks are given on the following page. These observations were made from the Schooner D'Sonoqua during Ocean Search whale watching trips. These trips do not represent comprehensive surveys but occur where whales, in particular Right Whales, are most likely to be found and where weather conditions are best. Before Right Whales arrive, surveys are carried out southwest of White Head, unless it is foggy and then the area searched is from Great Duck Island to Long Eddy Point. Right Whales were first sighted in early July, although fishers were seeing them in late June. Most Right Whale sightings occur in the Grand Manan Basin. Because most surveys are offshore, Minke Whale sightings may not represent actual numbers. One is more likely to spot Minke Whales from the lookouts around the island or while boating close to shore. Sightings of seals on ledges are related to tide phases, although there is a trend to have more seals hauled out on ledges at low tide in July on Long Island, the Duck Islands and Ledges than later in the summer. This is probably related to when the weirs are built in this area; greater human activity around these islands and ledges means more disturbance to the seals.

OCEAN SEARCH SIGHTINGS: MARINE MAMMALS, FISH, SHARKS (July to September)

DATE	FIN	SEI	MINKE	HUMPB.	RIGHT	PORP.	W-S DOLP.	SEAL	TUNA	SHARK	PILOT WH.
06Jul	15+	-	-	-	-	14	-	177	1	-	-
08Jul	10+	-	-	-	4-6	21	-	60	-	-	-
12Jul	9	-	-	3	-	19	-	100+	-	-	-
13Jul	10+	-	2	1	-	40+	-	170+	-	-	-
14Jul	12	-	1-2	4	4	33+	-	10	1	-	-
15Jul	-	-	-	-	20-30	33+	-	7	-	1	-
17Jul	1	-	-	-	20+	21	-	-	-	1	-
18Jul	1	-	-	-	40+	26	-	4	-	2	-
20Jul	5	-	-	-	15+	9	-	-	-	-	-
27Jul	1	-	-	-	-	40	-	1	-	-	-
Fog conditions on July 27.											
28Jul	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	5	-	-	-
Fog conditions on July 28. Trip ended early because of weather.											
29Jul	4	-	1	2	-	18	-	20+	-	-	-
Fog conditions on July 29, 30 and 31 and on August 1 and 2.											
30Jul	-	-	-	-	35	30	50	-	1	-	-
31Jul	3	-	2	-	-	100+	-	-	-	-	-
01Aug	1	-	-	-	2	50+	-	1	-	-	-
02Aug	4	-	1	-	20+	22	-	-	-	-	-
06Aug	1	-	-	3	40+	7	29	-	2	-	-
07Aug	-	-	-	-	35-40	7	10	1	1	2	-
08Aug	1	-	-	2	40+	51	28	-	-	9	-
09Aug	-	-	-	3	35+	95	-	-	7	-	-
10Aug	-	-	-	1	5	60+	40+	-	1	-	-
11Aug	-	1	1	-	20+	60	10	-	-	-	-
12Aug	-	1	-	-	20+	3	100+	-	-	1	-
15Aug	-	-	-	-	25+	13	5	-	-	-	-
16Aug	1	-	-	-	25+	5	10	300+	-	-	-
17Aug	1	-	-	-	25+	5	-	-	-	-	-
Fog conditions on August 17 and 20.											
19Aug	-	-	-	-	25+	34	-	1	-	2	-
20Aug	-	-	-	2	25+	36	6	30+	-	1	-
22Aug	-	-	-	-	35-40	36	20	1	-	11	-
23Aug	-	-	2	2	20+	38	4	-	1	5	-
24Aug	1	-	-	2	30+	33	10	-	1	5	-
25Aug	-	1	-	1	25+	3	-	-	-	1	30
26Aug	-	-	-	-	20+	9	-	-	1	1	-
28Aug	1	-	-	1	3	35	-	250	-	3+	-
31Aug	3	-	-	1	25+	35+	27+	-	-	4	-
01Sept	4	-	-	3	20+	72+	-	1	1	1	-
03Sept	-	-	-	-	35+	3	-	3	-	3	-
04Sept	-	-	-	-	12+	2	-	-	-	1	-
08Sept	-	-	-	-	15+	11	-	-	-	1	-
09Sept	-	-	-	-	15+	49	20	1	-	1	Yes(Seawatch)
10Sept	-	-	-	1	10	26	-	29	-	2	-
13Sept	3	-	2	1	30+	21	-	2	1	5	-
14Sept	7	-	-	1	30+	57+	16	2	-	4	-
15Sept	-	2	-	-	30+	6	-	-	-	-	-

À QUOI SERVENT LES MILIEUX HUMIDES

Rose-Alma Mallet

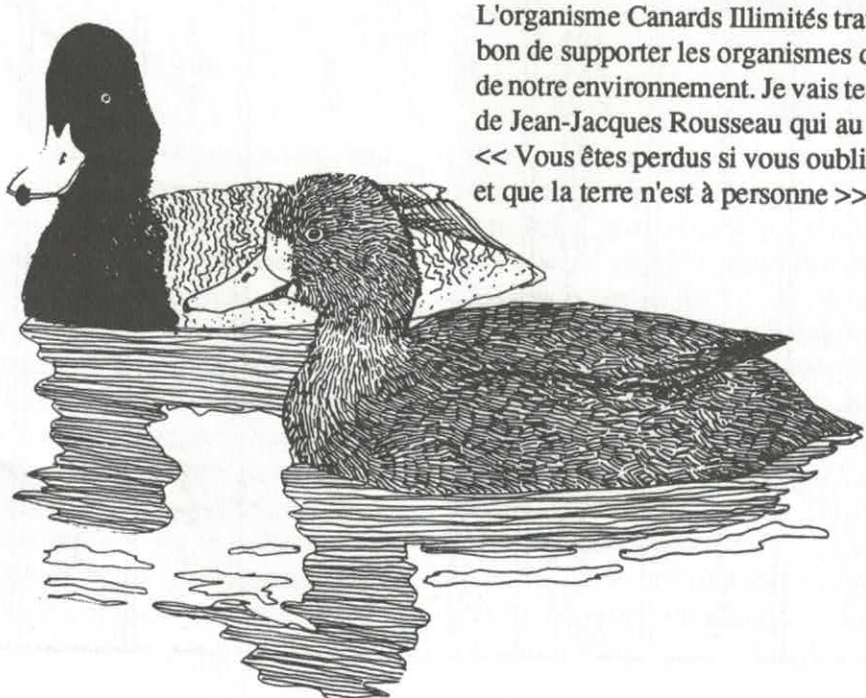
NOTEZ, S. V. P.: Article tiré de *LA PLUME VERTE*, volume 2, numéro 9; bulletin du Club les ami(e)s de la nature.

Un milieu humide est un espace plus ou moins grand de sol couvert d'eau peu profonde pendant une partie ou toute l'année. Il s'agit des étangs, des marais et marécages ainsi que des tourbières.

Économiquement, les industriels et les entrepreneurs nous diront que ces étendues de sols sont non rentables, disgracieux et impropres à la construction ou à l'agriculture. Donc il faut les remplir. À part la tourbière, le secteur économique de notre société trouve qu'il n'y a pas d'argent à faire avec ces milieux humides.

Les milieux humides sont les reins de notre environnement . Combien en terme d'argent vaut un rein? Inestimable! Le rôle des sols humides est de filtrer l'eau de nos lacs, nos rivières de la même façon que nos propres reins filtrent notre sang.

Ce système de purification des eaux se déroule sur plusieurs plans. La végétation retient les sédiments en suspension et clarifie l'eau. Certaines plantes, citons comme exemple les quenouilles, emmagasinent dans leurs racine les polluants comme le mercure, le phosphate et autres. Comme des éponges, les sols humide retiennent les eaux des pluies et des fontes des neiges et libèrent l'eau lentement au courant de l'été. Ils empêchent ainsi que nos puits artésiens se tarissent.



Et ces sols humides, que plusieurs croient inutiles, nous protègent des inondations. Nous avons de moins et moins de ces sols emmagasinant les excès d'eau.

Beaucoup d'espèces d'animaux et de plantes vivent dans les milieux humides. La disparition de leur habitat signifie la disparition de certaines espèces. La population d'espèces nuisibles augmente car leurs prédateurs ont disparu. La diminution du nombre d'oiseaux augmente la quantité d'insectes.

Chaque fois qu'un mileu humide disparaît, l'efficacité du rein diminue. Un rein malade empoisonne tout l'organisme. Avec la disparition des lieux humides, notre environnement ne pourra plus fournir l'eau potable, certaines régions connaîtront des sécheresses. Les conséquences peuvent être tragiques.

Dans la Prairie canadienne, les fermiers sont en train de creuser, de redonner à la nature ses sols humides, ses petits lacs que encombraient le va et vient de leurs tracteurs. Les fermiers de la Prairie font face à des sécheresses depuis 10 ans.

La pollution est une autre menace pour ce système humide. Ce sont des terrains vagues où on jette souvent cannettes et détritus.

Que faire? Il est bon de s'informer, de changer d'attitude face à ces terres humides, se faire entendre et en parler. L'organisme Canards Illimités travaille dans ce sens. Il serait bon de supporter les organismes qui oeuvrent à la protection de notre environnement. Je vais terminer en citant une pensée de Jean-Jacques Rousseau qui au 18e siècle disait déjà << Vous êtes perdus si vous oubliez que les fruits sont à tous et que la terre n'est à personne >>.

BE AWARE: GIARDIASIS ("BEAVER FEVER")

James Goltz

PLEASE NOTE: This account on Giardiasis focuses only on aspects likely to be relevant to naturalists, hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts. Many thanks to Dr. Kim Maillet of the Department of Health and Community Services for providing the N. B. statistics on Giardiasis.

After a long trek through the rugged New Brunswick wilderness, you chance upon a cold clear stream. You are very thirsty and the water looks pure and inviting. If you act upon your natural inpulse and take a drink, there is a very good chance that you will contract Giardiasis, known to many as "beaver fever."

The term "Giardiasis" means infection with a microscopic single-celled (protozoan) parasite called *Giardia*. This parasite is known to have two stages, namely the trophozoite and the cyst (see illustration). The trophozoite measures up to 21 x 15 x 4 µ (µ or micron = 1/1000 of a mm), moves about using four long oar-like structures called flagella, and usually lives in the upper part of the small intestine, where it often attaches itself to the intestinal surface by means of a sucking disc. The non-motile cyst measures up to 12 x 10µ and is passed in the feces, sometimes in huge numbers (e.g., two million or more per gram!). *Giardia* cysts can survive in cold water for up to three months.

Most people become infected with *Giardia* by drinking water that has been contaminated with feces containing cysts. The cysts hatch after being ingested, releasing trophozoites that are able to live and multiply in the intesttine.

Although a number of people with Giardiasis exhibit no symptoms and seem to be healthy, a high proportion of persons infected with this parasite develop clinical disease. Persons of all ages are susceptible. Symptoms vary from person to person and usually appear within one to four weeks after infection. Following infection, persons may initially experience intestinal 'uneasiness', nausea, loss of appetite, low-grade fever and chills. This may be followed by explosive watery diarrhea, flatulence (gas), marked intestinal gurgling, and abdominal pain or discomfort, particularly in the upper right aspect of the abdomen. The explosive diarrhea stage often lasts for three or four days, after which the infection may disappear spontaneously or may persist for years (if untreated). Chronically infected persons may have intermittent diarrhea, lassitude, headache, malabsorption, weight loss, muscle aches and loss of appetite.

Some unfortunate New Brunswickers with first hand experience of Giardiasis have informed me that, while infected and for a period of time thereafter, they experienced a severe and disconcerting loss of energy. Although it may often be difficult to diagnose, infection with *Giardia* can usually be easily cured with physician-prescribed medications.

It has been discovered that beavers and humans may both become infected with the same species or strain of *Giardia*. Beavers are thought to be instrumental in maintaining the cycle of parasitism in the wild, although it is suspected that (continued on page 72)

Beavers are an important *Giardia* host.

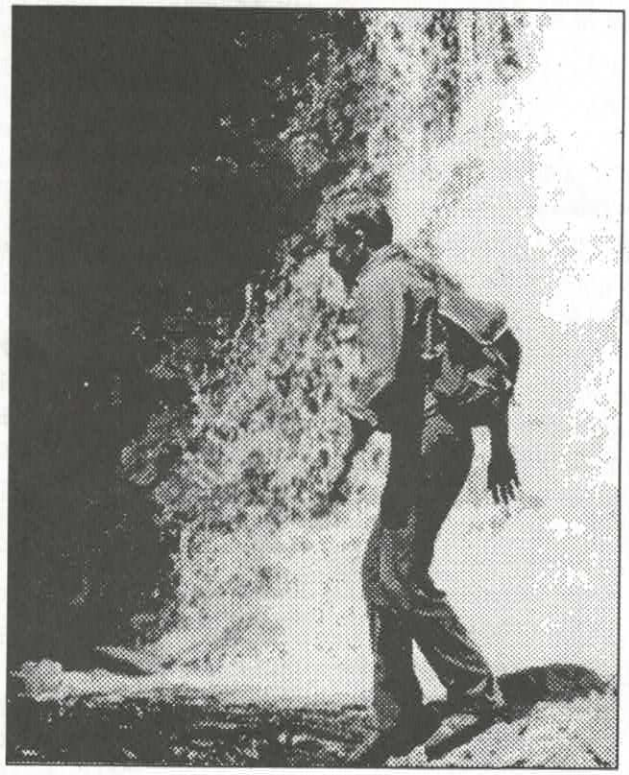
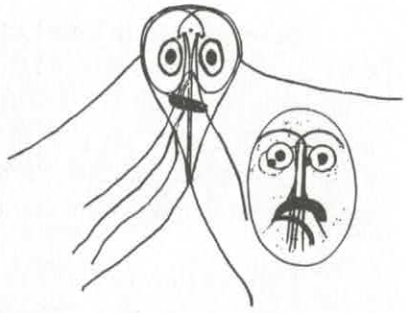


Photo: Parks Canada



Giardia trophozoite (left) and cyst (right).

BE AWARE: GIARDIASIS (cont'd. from p. 71)

they may originally become infected as a result of exposure to human feces containing *Giardia* cysts. It is believed that muskrats, domestic cats and dogs may also serve as sources of infection for humans. Parasitism with *Giardia* has been reported in many other mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish, but transmission from animals to humans seems to be limited to the fairly narrow range of species listed above. Humans can apparently transmit the parasite to beavers, dogs and non-human primates.

On average, 127 human cases of Giardiasis are reported in New Brunswick every year and most of these occur as a result of contaminated drinking water. Many more cases no doubt occur but remain undiagnosed since medical attention is not always sought. Naturalists, campers and hikers can best prevent Giardiasis by not drinking surface water while engaging in outdoor activities. If possible, it is best to have sufficient clean water on hand to meet your needs during nature outings. Alternatively, water can be rendered safe by boiling (at a full rolling boil) for at least one minute. Although boiling may be the most reliable way for outdoor enthusiasts to ensure that water is safe, treatment of water with household bleach (2 to 4 drops per litre of water) or 2% tincture of iodine (0.5 ml per litre of water) will also kill *Giardia* cysts, provided the treated water is allowed to sit for a minimum of one hour before it is consumed. If the water is very cold, is alkaline or contains a lot of sediment, it should be given a longer treatmnent time (overnight) since the activity of chemicals such as chlorine and iodine is hampered by such conditions.

For naturalists in New Brunswick or travelling abroad, please remember these facts about Giardiasis. *Giardia* occurs in our province and throughout the world, even in pristine mountain streams.

References:

Meyer, E. A.; and E. L. Jarroll. 1980. *Giardiasis.* American Journal of Epidemiology 3: 1-12.

Wolfe, M. S. 1992. Giardiasis. Clinical Microbiology Review 5: 93-100.

1995-96 Christmas Bird Count

The 1995-96 Christmas Bird Counts runs from Saturday December 16 to Tuesday, January 2, 1996. For further information, contact David Christie at 506-882-2100; RR#2, Albert, N.B. E0A 1A0.

*EPPUR, SI MUOVE!**

Arthur-William Landry

Au moment du petit déjeuner, pendant que je déguste mon oeuf à la coque, je voyage en un multiple déplacement à une vitesse vertigineuse dans un immense carrousel.

Notre galaxie, la Voie lactée, tourne sur elle-même de sorte qu'elle entraîne le soleil en une orbite de quelque deux cents millions d'années à 250 kilomètres par seconde. Mais la terre suit l'astre du jour et tourne autour de lui à 30 kilomètres par seconde, tandis que sa rotation sur elle-même me donne un élan supplémentaire de 465 mètres par seconde.

Dans sa rotation, la terre oscille, un peu comme une toupie qui va cesser de tourner. Donc, si la terre était transpercée du pôle Sud au pôle Nord par une très, très longue épingle à chapeau, la pointe de l'épingle décrirait sur la voûte céleste un énorme cercle et irait passer près de l'étoile Polaire une fois tous les 26 000 ans.

De plus, la lune en tournant autour de la terre crée des sinuosités dans l'orbite de notre planète. Un automobiliste qui conduirait ainsi sa voiture serait soupçonné d'être en état d'ébriété. N'oublions pas, non plus, que notre vaisseau spatial tremble trente mille fois par an. Vous vous demandez pourquoi je ne lâche pas mon coquetier?

On prête à Galilée des paroles qu'il n'a peut-être jamais prononcées. Cependant, il aurait bien eu raison de dire: «Et pourtant, elle bouge!»

*Latin pour << et pourtant,elle bouge >> / "but it does move," mots attribué à Galilée (1564 - 1642).

FORESTRY POLITICS: AN UPDATE ON THE CHRISTMAS MOUNTAINS*

James Goltz

PLEASE NOTE: The Friends of the Christmas Mountains have produced a beautiful poster on the Christmas Mountains. For information on how you can help their efforts to preserve the Christmas Mountains call (506) 536-0834.

Over the past few years, the Christmas Mountains, previously virtually unknown to most New Brunswickers, have been the forum for one of the most heated environmental debates in the recent history of our province. Unfortunately, media attention has focused on economics (i.e., jobs) versus the environment, whereas the real issue is short-term economic gain versus long-term economic survival (i.e., sustainability). This article is intended to bring readers of the N.B. Naturalist up to date on what has been happening.

In late January, 1994, in response to pressure from New Brunswickers concerned about environmental degradation of the Christmas Mountains, the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy held a press release to announce his Department's initiatives "to strengthen" the province's "ecological approach to forest management and to support the attainment of biodiversity objectives" in "the Upper Miramichi license" area. The following action plan was disclosed:

1. A wilderness area† of approximately 17,000 acres was to be established in the Kennedy Lakes region$^{\Delta}$ (an area recommended as a wilderness zone in a number of reports over the last twenty years).
2. A large area in the vicinity of Logan Lake (located to the south of the Christmas Mountains), "... identified as potentially one of the best examples of Upper Miramichi natural characteristics", was to be protected from timber harvesting for the next three years, to give the Department time to study the area before the next forest management planning process "to determine if there are any unique sites that need special designation". Studies were to begin immediately.
3. Two proposed ecological reserves, namely Freeze Lakes and Mount Elizabeth§, located to the east and north of the Christmas Mountains, were to be assessed and considered for designation.

Environmentalists were encouraged, disappointed and bewildered by these decisions. At long last, the provincial government was taking action to protect some significant natural areas of substantial size. However, environmentalists were excluded from the consultation, negotiation and decision-making process (although the Minister did meet with us an hour before the actual press release to inform us of his decisions), and none of the proposed actions actually addressed the Christmas Mountains proper.

Meanwhile, public support for a moratorium on cutting and road-building in the Christmas Mountains was growing daily and now included twenty-four environmental, naturalist and aboriginal groups. Never before had there been such solidarity on an environmental issue in New Brunswick! Much to everyone's distress, new satellite images revealed that fragmentation and clear-cutting in the Christmas Mountains seemed to be progressing at an accelerated rate. In satellite photos taken in the late 1980s, the Christmas Mountains area stood out as an oasis of green against a severely disturbed provincial landscape. It was agreed to write to the Minister, requesting that no road building or resource extraction of any type be allowed in the Logan Lake area during the three year period of study, environmentalists and knowledgeable scientists be allowed to participate in planning and conducting the study, and the study area be extended to include an additional 12,000 acres in the least disturbed northwestern part of the Christmas Mountains. The Minister replied that he would consider our requests and would get back to us once additional information became available.

In April, 1994, Christmas Mountains wilderness supporters held an information picket on the Legislative Assembly grounds. A letter writing campaign was organized to demonstrate to government officials the level of public support. Media coverage of the issue increased both at home and abroad, inspiring New Brunswickers and persons from other parts of Canada to visit the Christmas Mountains before the natural qualities of the area were destroyed, perhaps for all time.

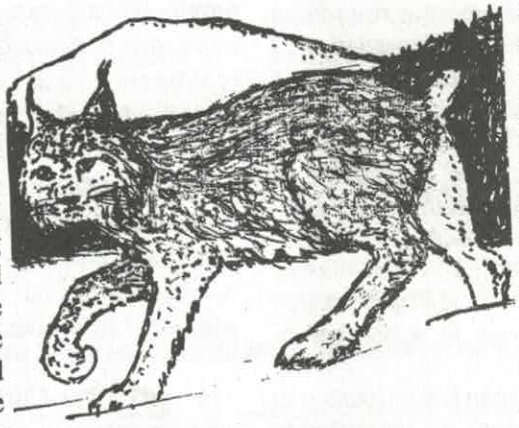
In November, 1994, about twenty representatives of a group called Friends of the Christmas Mountains, comprised mainly of university and secondary school students, set up a human blockade to try to stop logging in a portion of the Christmas Mountains. The group hoped to persuade the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy to declare a fifteen-year moratorium on logging and road building in the Logan Lake study area, to expand the study area to include an additional 12,000 acres in the northwestern part of the Christmas Mountains, and to create a clear-cut free zone between the study area and Mount Carleton Provincial Park. The government did not intervene to remove the blockade and

***For additional background information on the Christmas Mountains and the political controversy, please refer to two articles published in the *N. B. Naturalist* 20: 17-20.**

it was voluntarily discontinued by the participants after three days.

A few days earlier, gale force winds resulted in an extensive blow-down in the Christmas Mountains area. A massive wood "salvage" operation was mobilized and is still in progress, since fallen wood is apparently only of value for pulp if utilized within two years. A number of naturalists and foresters believe that the blow-down was most severe in areas adjacent to clear-cuts. Many environmentalists are disturbed by the fact that government and industry are trying to brainwash the public by using statements like "we have to clean up that mess" and "we must keep the fallen wood from going to waste". Blow-downs are a natural phenomenon, that in this case may have been exacerbated by suboptimal forestry practices, and the fallen trees provide habitat for many species of wildlife, as well as help to enrich the soil.

In December, 1994, Elizabeth Weir, leader of the provincial NDP party, tabled in the Legislative Assembly a petition signed by 3,000 people who support a moratorium on logging in the Christmas Mountains. The response from the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy was as follows: "A moratorium on all clearcutting and road building [in the Christmas Mountains] cannot be imposed without significantly decreasing employment in the sawmills and pulpmills of the Miramichi area. Because of the recent severe windstorm in the area, harvest plans have been modified and only blowdown wood will be harvested over the next two years." Later that month, the Minister issued in New Brunswick's major newspapers a public commentary entitled "Christmas Mountains Assume Almost Mythical Proportions". Environmentalists believe that this was designed to try to undermine public support for environmental concerns related to the Christmas Mountains area and to convince the public that the government has made the right decisions.



The Canada Lynx, very rare in New Brunswick, is an inhabitant of the Christmas Mountains.

In March, 1995, the Canadian Nature Federation sent a letter urging the Minister to protect the Christmas Mountains by acting on the recommendations of local environmentalists.

During a June 21, 1995, meeting with representatives and supporters of the Friends of the Christmas Mountains, the Minister of Natural Resources stated that the Logan Lake study area would be managed as mature conifer forest habitat and would "not be harvested for the next 20 to 25 years", providing "ample time to determine if there are any unique conditions in the area that require permanent designation." Apparently the salvage operations going on in the area to the north of the study area are taking place under "Guidelines of Salvage Operations" which all relevant parties have agreed to adhere to. The Friends of the Christmas Mountains have recently asked that a natural corridor between the Logan Lake study area and Mount Carleton Provincial Park be established and protected.

The Christmas Mountains will no doubt be one of the first of many high profile and significant environmental issues in New Brunswick. Naturalists and other environmentalists must keep well informed of proposed developments and resource extraction plans, so that we can help to make sure that such activities will have as little environmental impact as possible and so that our natural heritage is preserved and protected to the fullest extent possible. Unfortunately, short-term economic gain is still being given precedence over long-term sustainability. A more equitable balance between the economy and the environment must be achieved, with a view to the future.

†This is the first "wilderness area" ever designated in New Brunswick and hence its level of protection remains unclear. The Minister of Natural Resources and Energy has indicated that it will be protected at least to the level of a Provincial Park.

ΔNaturalists in New Brunswick had been working to have the Kennedy Lakes area protected for many years, and were very dismayed when the logging of large pine trees was permitted in this area a number of years ago.

§On March 1, 1995, an announcement was made that Freeze Lakes and Mount Elizabeth areas had been designated as ecological reserves (please see N.B. Naturalist 22 : 10) .

NATURE INFORMATION LINES

The following telephone numbers provide information taped messages concerning birds and other aspects of nature in New Brunswick. They don't cost you $3.99 a minute, but donations would be appreciated.

N. B. Bird Information Line 506-382-3825 (382-DUCK)
Moncton Naturalists' Club.....506-384-6397 (384-NEWS)
Les Ami(e)s de la Nature.....506-532-2873 (532-BUSE)

CHRISTMAS IN THE SUMMER

Gart Bishop

PLEASE NOTE: This article appeared in the January 1995 newsletter of the Kennebecasis Naturalists' Socirty.

The summer is 1994, and there is a political and environmental debate over a section of virgin New Brunswick forest known as the Christmas Mountains. I've been hired by the Department of Natural Resources to assist in a program designed to investigate areas the powers to be have decreed critical.

I've been classified as an Assistant Botanist, and teamed with a geologist and ecologist to assess the major forest types and hopefully determine whether they are unique to the province (that is to say, whether they contain any elements which are not found in similar forests eisewhere in the province). A tall task, yet one which excited me; a summer in the mountains to explore unmolested territory.

I quickly found that all mountains are not equal. Many of the Christmas Mountains seemed to be little more than a hill. As we drove into the area I felt as though I might be in amongst the hills and valleys of Sussex or Elgin (stripped of houses and many of the trees). The roads we drove were logging roads used continuously by a steady flow of heavily loaded trucks carrying out bits and pieces of the virgin forest. There was abundant evidence of new road construction. This was not the uninvaded wilderness I had imagined.

Virgin forest conjured up images of hugh trees two to three feet in diameter and soaring over a hundred feet into the sky. Underneath the impressive and almost impenetrable forest canopy the air would be richly damp and one could wander with ease amongst the giants , unhampered by underbrush and regen. The forest would be thick with mosses and a diverse flora of rare ferns and orchids. Unknown birds would surround me with music. This is not quite what we found.

We began by going up the north side of Mount Comet, encountering a predominatly fir forest, typical of the New Brunswick Highlands region in which the Christmas Mountains are found.

Leaving our truck at the mountain's base, we were swarmed by black flies. Entering the forest as we began our ascent, the trees were small (less than one foot in diameter), the walking hard, encumbered by a dense shrub layer of Mountain and Striped Maple, Beaked Hazelnut, Hobblebush and Raspberry. Dead fir criss-crossed and barricaded our way. It took two hours to cover the one kilometre to the top where the forest changes to a predominantly hardwood forest, a scraggly and open mixture of Yellow and White Birch.

I began to learn; the Christmas Mountains while being virgin forest, was not a homogeneous majestic stand of mature trees. This area had been ravaged by intense budworm infestation, leaving a majority of stands at less than 200 years old. Rare plants were not to be found, unless one looked in the nooks and crannies along small brooks, in ravines or at the edges of stands. I initially overlooked the real rarities of the area.

Throughout the summer we would leave the road's edge and walk all day, sometimes covering five kilometres or more. We would never encounter an old bush road or even the remnants of one. No old fence lines of barbed wire, snake or stone. No old field lines. No old house foundations. No collections of old glass bottles or rotted tin cans. No evidence of humans. None (except the remains of an old weather balloon)!

This absence of human presence is something one cannot find in southern New Brunswick, something rare and unique, something that once gone can never be replaced. I asked myself, what value is there in this? If we assume that we do not know all the answers, that current environmental assessments do not cover all the factors and parameters of living ecosystems, that all the delicate relationships between plants (especially the lower plants such as grasses, ferns, mosses and liverworts), fungi, insects and other animals are not known or fully understood; then are we not taking a great chance in removing and losing this potential reservoir of natural habitat?

Without a doubt by not harvesting the forest in the Christmas Mountans we have to remove tons of potential raw fibre from the ledgers of the pulp mills. True, the mature or overmature trees (especially fir) will rot and decay on the forest floor, feeding only thousands of species of unknown bacteria and fungi while being home to many lesser nongame animals. Is this valid? Justifiable? Necessary?

Perhaps we will have the privilege of being the last folks to be able to explore a part of New Brunswick that has not been interfered with by humans. Logging roads already dissect much of the Christmas Mountains and are continuing to be built. Short term economic gain has been given supreme right and privilege. Long term conservation and preservation is considered a waste and inconvenience...and that makes me sad.

AUTUMN FUNDY PELAGIC SEABIRDING TRIP

Rob Walker

Jim Wilson is always coming up with new places and new techniques for the finding of rare birds in New Brunswick. His finely-tuned skills in the areas of project management and birding have resulted in a steady stream of new species being added to the province's bird list. Also, Jim goes to great effort to share his finds with other birders. Always at his side in the planning and implementation of these projects is Jean Wilson.

In September 1994 Jim and Jean organized a birding trip to the region south of Grand Manan where the Bay of Fundy merges with the Gulf of Maine. On this pelagic excursion,the top bird on everyone's "want list" was the South Polar Skua, a seabird that nests on and around the Antarctic Continent and then traverses the Equator to winter as far north as Greenland in the Atlantic and Alaska in the Pacific. One skua was observed on this trip but it was too far away to identify as to species. The response was so positive in 1994 that this year Jim and Jean organized the second "Autumn Fundy Pelagic Seabirding Trip."

With a clear sky, warm breezes and minimal waves, 27 birders set out from Seal Cove at 1:45 p.m. on September 16. The group was split between the "Sea Watcher" captained by Peter Wilcox and the "Breezy Sea" with Preston Wilcox at the wheel. On a falling tide, the two boats charted a parallel course southward past Wood Island to the Murre Ledges. Sprinkled with sunning seals and crowned by a resting Peregrine Falcon, Long Ledge loomed high above the water as we chugged by at low tide. With a constant traffic of second- and third-year Northern Gannets passing by, we proceeded northeastward past Gannet Rock to the western edge of Grand Manan Basin. In the distance gannets arrowed downward into a swirling mass of shearwaters and gulls; a feeding frenzy!

An offering of herring chunks (the technique that seabirders call "chumming") brought these birds right up to the sides of the boats. The spectacle of 1600 mewing and bleeting, fearless Sooty and Greater Shearwaters as close as arm's reach was overwhelming; here were the mysterious riders of the ocean winds, visitors from misty south Atlantic nesting isles sojourning in our waters during their winter season. It was a feast for our eyes and ears, and an incredible "photo op."

The journey back to harbour included a swing around the sanctuary islands of Kent, Sheep and Hay where flocks of ducks and geese rose into the sky. In protected coves behind the Wood Islands, flotillas of Razorbills, Common Eiders and Surf Scoters were shadowed outlines between us and the setting sun. We pulled into the harbour at Seal Cove at 7:15 p.m. on the high tide, no seasickness victims anywhere in sight, having been on the water for 5 1/2 hours and having traversed approximately 65 km. No skuas this time, but hpoefully we'll be back in '96. "Thanks," Jim and Jean for all your efforts on behalf of the birders of New Brunswick (and on behalf of the science of ornithology in this province).

Listed below are the species and numbers of birds and mammals observed on the September 16, 1995 pelagic trip. This list was compiled from the field notes of Jim Wilson, Jim Edsall, Peter Pearce and Rob Walker.

****

Common Loon.....3 (1 ad., 2 imm.)
Greater Shearwater.....2500
Sooty Shearwater.....800
Manx Shearwater.....4
Northern Gannet (all non-breeding 2nd and 3rd year).....50
Great Cormorant.....2
Double-crested Cormorant.....80
Great Blue Heron.....1
Canada Goose (Sheep Island).....5
American Black Duck (Sheep Island).....120
Common Eider.....150
Surf Scoter.....15
Bald Eagle (Wood Island).....1(imm.)
Northern Harrier (Kent Island).....2
Merlin.....1
Peregrine Falcon (Long Ledge).....1
Black-bellied Plover.....6
Sanderling.....4
Red-necked Phalarope.....4
Pomarine Jaeger.....8
Parasitic Jaeger.....3
jaeger, sp.....3
Herring Gull.....500
Great Black-backed Gull.....200
Black-legged Kittiwake.....15
tern, sp.....6
Common Murre (e. of Gannet Rock).....2(1 ad., 1 chick)
Razorbill.....68
Black Guillemot.....5
Atlantic Puffin.....16
Harbour Seal.....160
Harbour Porpoise.....40
Fin Whale.....2
Minke Whale.....3

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LE MACAREUX MOINE

Michelle McGrath

NOTEZ, S. V. P.: On a tiré cet article d'un numéro recent de "*Nature Observer*," le bulletin du club des naturalistes de Restigouche. Michelle est une étudiante en grade 4 à l'école Samuel de Champlain à Saint Jean. Elle aimerais partager son projet avec nous. Michelle est la petite fille d'Irene Doyle de Campbellton (membre du comité de rédaction du *Naturaliste du N.-B.*).

Son apparence: Le Macareux moine à un gros bec. Durant l'été le bec est très coloré et aplati. Il à le dos noir et le ventre blanc. Son oeil est souligné par un cercle rouge. Ses pattes palmées sont la couleur rouge-orange et ont des grosses griffes. Durant l'hiver, toute son apparence change. Le bec perds beaucoup de ses couleurs et sa figure est plutôt grise. Les jeunes sont différents des adultes parce que leur bec est beaucoup moins spectaculaire. Après cinq années, le jeune Macareux moine atteint sa forme d'adulte.

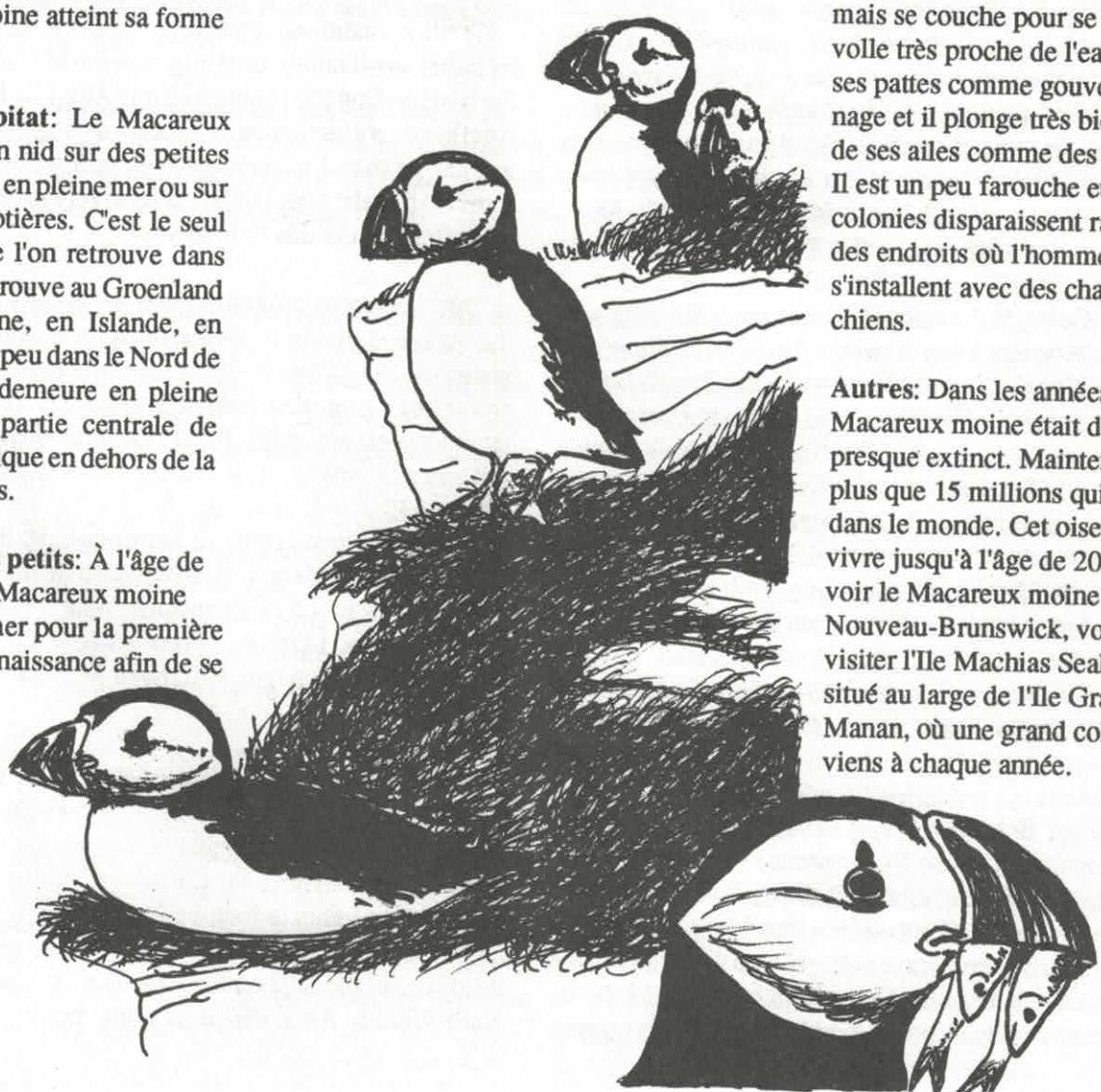
Son habitat: Le Macareux moine fait son nid sur des petites îles rocheuses en pleine mer ou sur les falaises cotières. C'est le seul macareux que l'on retrouve dans l'Est. On le retrouve au Groenland jusqu'au Maine, en Islande, en Norvège et un peu dans le Nord de la France. Il demeure en pleine mer dans la partie centrale de l'océan Atlantique en dehors de la saison des nids.

Son nid et ses petits: À l'âge de quatre ans, le Macareux moine revient de la mer pour la première fois depuis sa naissance afin de se reproduire. Les oiseaux reviennent par milliers de couples et fondent de très importantes colonies. Ils co-habitent très bien avec d'autres espèces d'oiseaux marins. Cet oiseau creuse son nid avec son bec et ses pattes griffées. Son terrier est 1 à 2 mètres de longeur et contient une ou deux chambres pour déposer les oeufs. Si la terre est trop dure pour être creusée, il utilise un vieux terrier de lapin. Seulement un oeuf est pondu et il pèse environ un dixième du poid de la femelle. L'oeuf est blanc avec quelques points lilas. Ils prennent leur tour pour couvrir l'oeuf pour 42 jours. Le petit reste dans le nid pour 40 jours et ses parents le nourir.

Sa nourriture: Le Macareux moine mange beaucoup de poissons et un peu de mollusques et de crustacés. Il peut transporter jusqu'à 12 petits poissons dans son terrier.

Ses particularités: Le Macareux moine se tient debout à la verticale mais se couche pour se reposer. Il volle très proche de l'eau et utilise ses pattes comme gouvernail. Il nage et il plonge très bien et se sert de ses ailes comme des nageoires. Il est un peu farouche et ses colonies disparaissent rapidement des endroits où l'homme s'installent avec des chats ou des chiens.

Autres: Dans les années 1800, le Macareux moine était devenu presque extinct. Maintenant il y a plus que 15 millions qui existe dans le monde. Cet oiseau peut vivre jusqu'à l'âge de 20 ans. Pour voir le Macareux moine au Nouveau-Brunswick, vous devrez visiter l'Ile Machias Seal qui est situé au large de l'Ile Grand Manan, où une grand colonie viens à chaque année.



NATURE NEWS - SUMMER 1995

David Christie

It was a dry, hot summer in most parts of New Brunswick, beneficial to wildlife at the northern edge of its range. On the other hand, life would have been more difficult for some plants and animals of normally wet habitats. The trend of global warming suggests that more often than not this will be the case in summers to come.

My apologies to Gérard Verret for incorrectly listing his name as Gérald in the last issue. If there are any errors in the following account please contact me in order to set the record straight. Reports from the autumn season should be submitted by the first week of December. My address is RR 2, Albert, N.B. E0A 1A0.

Flora

Hal Hinds continues his botanical exploration of the province. In a large bog complex at the southeast end of South Oromocto lake, in addition to the usual orchids, he found **Twig-rush** *Cladium mariscoides*, which is rare in N.B., and our first definite specimens of a mainly southern species of yellow-eyed grass, ***Xyris deformis*** *(X. caroliniana)*. Under large pines along a new trail in St. Stephen he discovered a southern type of panic-grass, ***Dichanthelium (Panicum) spretum*** , the first report for N.B. He also went to see two discoveries of Hilaire Chiasson's: a northern sedge ***Carex glariosa*** near Inkerman and ***Draba incana*** at Grande Anse. Both are rare and of very limited distribution in this province.

With Jim Goltz, Hal explored a large complex of boggy fens at Petit-Rocher. They saw hundreds of **Yellow** and **Showy Ladyslippers, Round-leaved Orchis, Broad-lipped Twayblade, Swamp Valerian**, and other plants of wet calcareous habitats. The rarest for New Brunswick were a sedge ***Carex lepidocarpa,*** known only from that area of the province, and a rush ***Juncus brachycephalus***. Unfortunately, this interesting habitat is threatened by development and drainage. Hal and Jim are investigating ways to protect it.
Gart Bishop found **Male Fern** on Lime Rocks Hill, south of Turtle Creek. This is only the second known location for New Brunswick., the previous location having been found by Hal Hinds in Restigouche County.

Mammals

A couple of **Belugas** (White Whales), strays from the declining population in the St. Lawrence estuary, attracted lots of attention in the northeast (RC, SD+). An apparent adult was in the gully at Val-Comeau Provincial Park June 22-23 and a smaller, grayer immature animal in the next gully to the north at Pte. à Bouleau from at least June 24 to July 12. Boats frequently crowded it causing it to hide, but when there were no boats around it could be seen closely. A young Beluga, possibly the same, was seen in a gully at Tabusintac Aug. 4-11. This whale occurs rarely in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence; the long duration of this one's presence seems very unusual.

A definite **Gray Seal** at Waterside Aug. 29 (SIT) was a scarce species for the upper Bay of Fundy.

Birds

Of special interest this late summer was the startup by Brian Dalzell of a migration monitoring project in the Grand Manan area. Employing standard methods used at numerous locations in North America, birds are captured by mist net, banded and released. Comparisons of the numbers of birds captured per net-hour and the proportions of young birds to adults can reveal trends in population size and reproductive success. I'll leave it to Brian to discuss this work in more detail in future.

Weather conditions were such that Kent Island was visited by rather small numbers of migrants during most of August, the best banding total being 82 birds Aug. 26. The number of **Northern Waterthrushes** banded during that month, 52, was larger than I expected. Keeping low, they are readily sampled by mist nets, but being relatively inconspicuous are less often seen at this time of year.

During August, migration was apparently heavier along the mainland Fundy coast than at Kent Island. Rob Walker visited Herring Cove in Fundy National Park for 3 to 4 hours on each of 9 August mornings. The last day, the 30th, was by far the busiest day, with almost 500 birds seen, including the following warblers: 120 **Nashville**, 106 **Black-throated Green**, 35 **Northern Parula**, 35 **Yellow-rumped**, 25 **Common Yellowthroat**, 12 **Tennessee**, 10 **Blackburnian**, 11 **American Redstart**, 10 **Black-and-white**, 9 **Mourning**, and a few each of 5 other species. Warblers were also very numerous Aug. 14 (incl. 30 **Tennessee** and 8 **Wilson's**), 18, 20, 21, and 28. The only **Northern Waterthrush** was seen Aug. 11.

In early August at Wolfe Lake, FNP, an unfortunate **Common Loon** became so entangled in fishing line that it couldn't feed. It was eventually captured at night and freed from its predicament by Canadian Wildlife Service staff using bright lights, a loon call recording, a net, and a fast, quiet boat (fide Heather Clay). A pair of loons nested for the third year in the impounded New Horton marsh at Shepody Nat'l Wildlife Area, where an adult carrying 2 chicks on its

back was seen July 15 (Norman Allen). An adult **Red-throated Loon** in breeding plumage at Alma Aug. 2-6 was surprising (RJW); summering birds are usually subadults.

During the bird atlas project, **Pied-billed Grebe** was only noted as a possible breeder in Madawaska County, but this summer an adult and 5 young were seen at lac de Vase at St-Basile July 28 (BCl), and there were reports of 3 to 4 immatures at Caron Brook July 13 (CL & Francine St-Amand) and Aug. 4 (JDB & GV).

Unusual in summer were 4 **Northern Fulmars** during a pelagic trip south of Grand Manan July 14 (Andrew Sharkey). 50 **Greater Shearwaters** and one **Sooty Shearwater** were seen from the Grand Manan ferry July 12, and by late summer there were reports of 750 Greaters, 60 Sooties and 3 **Manx** SE of Grand Manan Aug. 21 (SIT). Another Manx was seen off the Swallowtail that day (PAP).

An impressive congregation of 2,000 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** about two miles east of Kent Island on Aug. 26 (EP) was probably about the peak before numbers quickly declined. One was seen from a boat near Caraquet July 25 (RL & Benoit Lanteigne+) and a **Leach's Storm-Petrel** was blown close to shore at Shippagan Aug. 25 (HC, RAC).

One or two **Northern Gannets** were reported to Brian Dalzell as resting on White Horse Islet, GM, in June, but on July 11 there was no sign of them there (BED). Fifteen subadults were seen in the Grand Manan Channel July 12 (BED).

A **Least Bittern** with 2 young was reported at Charleston, SE of Centreville, June 22 (Vera Dewitt, fide GMi). Single **Great Egrets** were noted at Red Head Marsh, Saint John, June 19 (JGW), at Back Bay in the second week of August (Ralph Eldridge), and on Williamstown Lake at Lakeville, Carleton County, for 2 days in the "latter part of August" (Charlie Prosser, fide GMi). An immature **Little Blue Heron** was present at Baie Verte in the last week of August (NBBIL). **Green Heron** has proved to be regular in small numbers along the upper Saint John River. Reports this summer came from Edmundston July 11-12 (Bert Lavoie, CL) and St-Basile Aug. 11 (ad. & juv.—Gilberte Cyr & Pierrette Mercier) .

An adult **Ross' Goose** at Harvey Bank, near Mary's Point, June 1-3 (v.o.) was the first report for New Brunswick. The unfortunate stray was killed by a Bald Eagle June 4 (DSC). There were three reports of **Eurasian Wigeon**, a male at Cape Jourimain June 22-23 (CA), one at Inkerman July 4 (CNPA), and one at Halls Creek, Moncton, Aug. 8 (NBBIL). An adult male **Redhead** was present June 14-21 on the sewage lagoon in Saint John West (Ian Stead+) and one, possibly two, near Inkerman about July 4-6 (CNPA).

John Candy reports 11 broods of ducks of various species at the Sussex sewage lagoon during the second week of June. At Daley Creek Marsh a **Black Duck** successfully raised 13 young, seen frequently during July (DSC); usually their broods keep shrinking in size. A female **Gadwall** and young were reported at the Sackville Waterfowl Park during July. In Madawaska, breeding of **Northern Shovelers** was confirmed at St-Basile where a family group of 10 were seen Aug. 10 (GLT & MT) and 8 the next day (BCl). On July 22 a female-plumaged **Ruddy Duck** was at Bell Marsh, Moncton, (RJW), site of 1994's first definite nesting record in N.B.

There seemed to be more **Black Scoters** summering on the upper Bay of Fundy than usual. At Mary's Pt. numbers gradually declined from 100 on June 3 to 40-50 during July and August; there were also 40 at Melvin Beach, near St. Martins, June 13 and 28 at Johnson Mills Aug. 7 (DSC+). A **Surf Scoter** was at Saint John West SL in mid June (NBBIL); a moulting male **Lesser Scaup** there July 4 (JGW). 2 Lesser Scaup were at Mary's Point June 22 (Yves & Suzanne Poussart). Rarer in summer was a male **Bufflehead** at Sunpoke Lake, near Rusagonis, June 29 (JA).

A **Black Vulture** that flew over St. Martins June 11 (Ted Sears) was much rarer than the increasing **Turkey Vulture**, a population of which may be getting established on the Kingston Peninsula. In that area, 3 were soaring over Grassy Island, off Oak Point, June 22 (JA) and 6 were seen at the Hampton dump in July (Allen Gorham, fide JGW). In August up to 12 were reported at Long Reach (NBBIL), including 9 seen by Jim Brown Aug. 27. A man at a poultry slaughterhouse reported seeing some vultures with gray heads, but it wasn't clear to Cecil Johnston whether he was talking about young Turkey Vultures or Black Vultures. It's possible that there was breeding, for which we'll have to search diligently next year. Elsewhere in the province, a Turkey Vulture was at Cape Tormentine June 23 (CA).

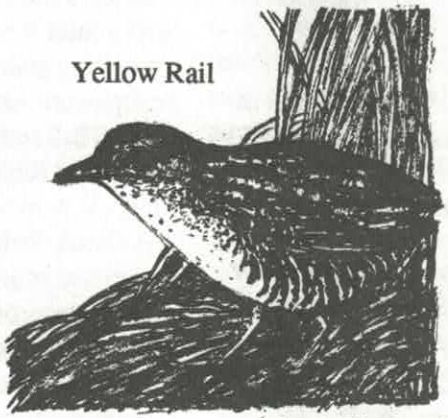
The **Bald Eagle** population is doing quite well. The pair that nests near the Petitcodiac west of Moncton successfully raised 3 young (Leroy Dobson+) this summer; two is more usual. Two young were about ready to fledge from a nest on Long Island, GM, June 26 (BED). A pair was reported nesting at Shepody Mountain, near Riverside-Albert (fide Vincent Duffy), the first in that area in many years. They are also suspected to have begun nesting at Glasier Lake, on the Madawaska panhandle, where there were a number of reports, including 7 on Aug. 19 (2 ad., 4 imm., 1 2nd-year—JDB).

A **Cooper's Hawk** nest found by Scott Makepeace near Pokiok may be only the second definite nest of this species found in N.B. On June 29 it contained 4 young; on July 17 the 4 young were "branched out" (PAP). An adult **Golden Eagle**, harassed by two hawks, was seen in the Christmas

NATURE NEWS (cont'd. from p. 79)

Mountains at Mt. Donder Aug. 19 (DLM). [Whoever changed the spelling of this name from Donner—German for thunder—which was in *The Night Before Christmas* that I grew up with?]

Peter Pearce reports that surveys conducted for the Dept. of Natural Resources and Energy indicated a "quite significant population of about 25 pairs" of **Yellow Rails** at the Grand Lake Meadows. He heard 12 calling in one area June 21 and 11 or 12 in a completely different area July 12. On the Tantramar, where no regular locations have been known in recent years, one was calling near the Goose Lake Road, Midgic, July 12 but not subsequently (SIT & Bev Chance), and one near Jolicure for several days from July 16 (SIT+). In a different part of the province, one was heard and seen at Inkerman for at least a couple of days from July 19 (RL+).



Yellow Rail

Two adult **Common Moorhens** were at Bell Marsh, Moncton, July 22 and an adult and chick July 29 (Dwight Scobey). This species also bred there in 1994.

There is good news from the Acadian Peninsula concerning the **Piping Plover**. Thanks to the protection and educational efforts of the Piper Project (Projet siffleur), they had excellent reproductive success, the best in several years (RC & SD).

An **Upland Sandpiper** was displaying June 14 at Richibucto June 14 (SIT). Nesting has been known near there in the past. As of July 10, Janice Arndt had seen up to 10 **Wilson's Phalaropes**, but found no nests at Grassy Island, near Oak Point. They are also breeding at Hog Island, at the mouth of the Washademoak. Two spring migrant **Greater Yellowlegs** were still at Caribou Plain, FNP, June 4 (BCu+), a **Ruddy Turnstone** and a **White-Rumped Sandpiper** at Jemseg the same day (PAP), and 5 **Black-bellied Plovers** at the Irving Nature Park, Saint John, June 14 (Charles Graves).

Returning fall migrant shorebirds included 4 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Castalia June 28 (BED); a **Greater Yellowlegs** and a **Least Sandpiper** at Castalia July 1 (BED); 10 Leasts and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at Mary's Pt. July 4 (DSC+); 25 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Cap Bimet, near Shediac, July 6 (SIT); a **Whimbrel** at Machias Seal Island July 7 (Jason Hudson); a **Solitary Sandpiper** at Mary's Pt. July 12 (DSC) and 5 at Eel Lake, GM, July 24-25 (PAP).

Semipalmated Sandpipers reached as many as 200,000 at Dorchester Cape-Johnson Mills between July 30 (Ron Steeves) and mid August (NBBIL). At Mary's Point there were abou 100,000 feeding on the mudflats Aug. 2, but roosting number did not peak at about 75,000 until Aug. 12-13 (DSC+). Th reduced numbers roosting at the point may be partly due t the frequency of Peregrine attacks early in the season. A Kent Island, 2000 Semipalms were present Aug. 1 (BED and 470 **Semipalmated Plovers** flew in from the SE on th evening of Aug. 8, but did not stop (BED). Related or not, th next day 400 were on the beach at Great Pond, GM (PAP)

A stray **American Oystercatcher** at Kent Island flew strongly out of sight towards Nova Scotia about Jun 25.(Corey Freeman). Individual **Baird's Sandpipers** wer at Castalia Aug. 13 & 24 (PAP), and the Thoroughfare, GM and Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John, both in the last week o August (NBBIL). Three adult **Stilt Sandpipers,** a fadin adult male **Ruff** and 3 adult **Long-billed Dowitchers** were feeding in a impoundment at Pt. de Bute Aug. 1 (Wayne Petersen & Inst. for Fiel Ornithology workshop participants). A possible Ruff was also at Maisonnett Aug. 5 (RNC). Three **Buff-breaste Sandpipers** were at Machias Seal I. Aug 2 (PAP) and one at Castalia Marsh Aug 25 (NBBIL). Another **Long-bille Dowitcher** was in the Sackville Waterfow Park in early August (NBBIL). An unusua inland **Hudsonian Godwit** was at Fredericton Aug. 2 (DG).

Off Campobello July 30, Charles Duncan reports 2 group "of maybe 20-30 each" **Red-necked Phalaropes** headin towards Deer Island, his first in that area in several years This is a far cry from the past, when hundreds of thousand to millions of these phalaropes concentrated in the channel between these two islands. The reason is thought to be tha their copepod food is not coming close enough to the surfac for them to feed. They have evidently shifted their feedin areas farther out in the bay. There were 1500 SE of Gran Manan Aug. 21 (SIT).

Parasitic Jaegers at Kent I. in late August (6 seen Aug 30) were almost always in pursuit of terns. A **Pomarin Jaeger** was there Aug. 28 (BED) and a subadult SE of Gran Manan Aug. 21 (SIT).

A subadult **Laughing Gull** was reported at White Hea Island about June 10 (Alan MacDonald), an adult at Ker Island about June 20 (Nat Wheelwright), and one at Uppe Cape July 15 (DLM). A **Common Black-headed Gull** wa in Head Harbour Passage, between Campobello and Dee Islands Aug. 5 (CDD). A couple of adult **Lesser Black**

backed Gulls were at Kent Island Aug. 30 (Falk Hüttman).

A new colony of **Ring-billed Gulls** was found on a small island in the Saint John River at Baker Brook. About 30 nests were seen June 30 and July 16 (v.o.). It's the first inland breeding location north of Grand Lake. The **Black-legged Kittiwake** colony at South Wolf Island is slowly increasing in size (AD). This species may be spreading to White Horse Island, 14 km W of The Wolves. About 50 there included one "standing on the edge of an apparently empty nest" (CDD). Some abundant, but unknown, food supply attracted about a thousand kittiwakes, almost all adults, to Kent Island for 3 days, Aug. 30 to Sept. 1, then they were gone (BED).

Two pairs of **Roseate Terns** were at Machias Seal Island June 22 (DD) and there was at least one occupied nest there in the first week of July (fide RM). Five **Black Terns** at Machias Seal about July 5 were unusual at that offshore location (RM), as was one in Head Harbour Passage Aug. 5 (CDD). Normal numbers of nesting Black Terns were found in the lower Saint John River marshes (JA). A **Caspian Tern** was at Cape Jourimain June 23 (CA).

A pair of **Common Murres** were at Machias Seal Island but no egg was seen this year (AD). An individual of this species was seen in the Grand Manan Channel July 12 (BED). In late June three nests of **Razorbill** were discovered among the kittiwake colony at South Wolf Island (AD), a new nesting location for that species, the third in the Bay of Fundy. A juvenile **Black Guillemot** was rescued by park staff when it became stranded in the Upper Salmon River estuary, FNP, Aug. 14 (Anne Bardou+). **Atlantic Puffins** may be prospecting at White Horse Island (CDD). Captain Butch Harris, of Eastport, said he has been seeing two there most of the summer, but didn't think they had a nest (fide CDD).

Migrating **Common Nighthawks** seem to be reported less frequently in recent years, but on the evening of Aug. 12 a flock of about 150 were feeding over a swampy area just west of Néguac and another 150 in flocks of 15 to 20 birds were seen between there and the entrance to Kouchibouguac National Park (EP, Roy Pike, Rose Alma Mallet). Peripheral **Whip-poor-wills** were calling at Newcastle June 3-4 (Sam Inch) and Lower Coverdale June 18 (Barbara Burns).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were more numerous than usual on both the Richibucto (SIT) and Penobsquis (DSC) Breeding Bird Surveys during June. There were 2 **Three-toed Woodpeckers** near lac à Poissons at St-Basile July 17 (BCl).

Willow Flycatcher is a scarce breeder in N.B. It was reported at Daley Creek Marsh June 4 (DSC), Moncton June 7 (Théo Arsenault), Nashwaaksis, Fredericton, June 7 and 9 (2—PAP), Atholville area June 10 (RNC), South Branch St. Nicholas, near Rexton, June 14 (SIT), Campobello Island June 22 (DEBL), and Sunpoke Lake June 22 (PAP). A late migrant **Great Crested Flycatcher** was heard at Bancroft Pt., GM, June 16 (BED).

Purple Martins are making a comeback to some houses in the Sussex area (JC). **Red Squirrels**, abundant following 1994's bumper cone crop, robbed two, and perhaps more, of my **Tree Swallow** nest boxes at Mary's Point; only one box of 14 fledged young. Wilma and Bill Miller had much better luck with their swallows. 23 of their 25 nest boxes at Nictau were occupied. Most contained 6 eggs, a few had 5 or 7. A total of 133 young hatched and most fledged. At Westfield 10 or 12 pairs were busy feeding young in late June (JS).

A family of 3 young white-plumaged **Common Ravens** were produced at Swan Creek, near Upper Gagetown this summer (EI). Following the reports of single white ravens near Bathurst in 1992 and in York County last year, one wonders if some factor is favouring a mutation that gives rise to these normally extremely rare albinistic ravens.

A **Carolina Wren** was singing at Fredericton Aug. 15-29 (Don Gibson). Shirley Sloat's nesting pair of **House Wrens** at Island View, Fredericton, were successful this year. After the 4 young left the nest box July 5, there was lots of activity until Aug. 7, then nothing. Another, apparently a lone male, was seen about 3 km away (SS). A pair spent a month stuffing a birdhouse after the male evicted the occupant Tree Swallows at Gagetown June 4; they did not produce any young (EI & PAP). Finally, a House Wren was singing at Hampton June 17 (JGW). The usual **Marsh Wrens** were reported at Red Head Marsh (JGW), Germantown, near Riverside-Albert (DSC), and Grand Lake Meadows (PAP). One singing at a Ducks Unlimited impoundment in Castalia June 20 (BED) was the first summer record for Grand Manan.

A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Mary's Point Aug. 26 and 28 (DSC+) was the only report this August. Perhaps they have become so regular that they are being ignored.

Eastern Bluebirds, still slowly increasing, were widely noted. Reports in Madawaska County included 3 pairs near St-Joseph and others at Edmundston, St-Jacques, and St-Basile (fide GLT). There was a pair nesting at Quirk Hill, outside Sussex (JC), a nest in June at White Head Island (fide Alan MacDonald) and 5 nests in the Scoudouc area (Norm Belliveau). A nest box at Westfield contained 5 eggs June 30 and 5 young July 9 (JS).

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Martin Head, W of FNP, June 3 (DD+) could have been either a Bicknell's or a northern Gray-cheeked. One singing near Matthews Head, FNP, in the first week of July (DD) was undoubtedly a Bicknell's.

NATURE NEWS (cont'd. from p. 81)

Dan Busby of the Canadian Wildlife Service has begun surveys of the breeding population of the Bicknell's Thrush in the Maritimes. It is a candidate for classification as a threatened species. David North from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science searched without success for Bicknell's Thrushes at Grand Manan (fide BED).

Denys Bourque had a **N. Mockingbird** nest in a small spruce in his yard at St-Jacques. The male appeared June 5 and was singing at night, the female June 6. There were downy nestlings June 27, but a cat caught 3 of them; the fourth fledged successfully. A pair were feeding young at Lower Cape, near Hopewell Cape, Aug. 5 (RJW); two weeks earlier there had been 4 eggs in the nest, probably their second of the season. **Brown Thrashers** were noted at Harvey Bank June 2 (DSC, JE), St-Basile SL June 16 (GLT+), and Eel Lake, GM, July 11 (Rod Gardner).

Late spring migrant **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported at Fredericton June 1 (PAP) and Foster Brook Trail, FNP, June 4 (Graham Forbes). There were 4 observations at Herring Cove in August, including 3 on the 18th (RJW).

Pine Warblers which nest in southwestern N.B., were singing and feeding young at Upper Brockway July 19 (JGW). **Prairie Warblers** are a regular fall visitor from their breeding range not far south of New Brunswick. At Kent Island Brian Dalzell saw 8 between Aug. 3 and 27, and banded 7 of them. There was also an immature at Machias Seal Island Aug. 5 (DEBL). Rarer was an adult **Blue-winged Warbler** at Herring Cove Aug. 27 (RJW). The report of two **Worm-eating Warblers** at the Roosevelt's cottage on Campobello Island June 20 (Clem Titsck) remains unconfirmed by other observers.

Perhaps in response to the growing hemlock looper population, **Tennessee** and **Cape May Warblers** are increasing noticeably in Albert County (DSC), but are still far less numerous than they were during the spruce budworm outbreak of the 1970s. More **Magnolia Warblers** than usual were found on the Richibucto BBS June 14 (SIT). **Cedar Waxwings** were reported to be in abundance this summer on the Restigouche (Irene Doyle).

Two **Scarlet Tanagers** were singing near St-Norbert June 14 (SIT). They have occasionally been found there before. A pair near St-Basile were observed from June 24 to July 26 (GV). A migrant was at Herring Cove Aug. 27 (RJW).

A **Black-headed Grosbeak**, believed to be a first fall male, at Maquapit Lake, near Scotchtown, Aug. 13 (Christine Antle+) is only the second reported in the province. A male **Painted Bunting** was reported just N of Hillsborough on June 12, but no one seems to recall who the observer was. any reader knows, please contact me. The alarmed behaviou of a pair of Indigo Buntings at Fredericton July 21 suggeste breeding (JA).

A moulting adult female **Dickcissel** visited Rob and Ga Walker's feeder in Alma Aug. 6-16 and an immature **Lar Sparrow** was there Aug. 26 to Sept. 12 (RJW). A first durin summer in this province was an **"Ipswich" Savannah Sparro** at Sandy Cove Beach, White Head Island, June 19 (Davi North (He was here from the VT Institute of Natural Histor looking for Bicknell's Thrush. Without any success I migl add). A **Seaside Sparrow** in salt marsh at Buctouche Aug. (Roger Tidman) could not be relocated.

A late migrant **White-crowned Sparrow** was at Alma Jun 9 (Don & Alma White).

A young male **Orchard Oriole** at Fredericton June 18 (SS was reminiscent of the 2 at Moncton in early summer 199 There was also an extremely unusual report from Balmor July 9 (RNC).

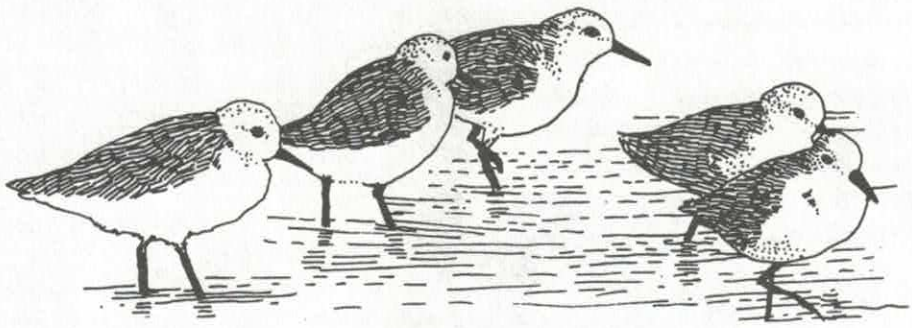
The last locally-raised **White-winged Crossbills** departe Grand Manan in late June. Over 30 in the third week of Jun were all juveniles (BED). They (and **Pine Siskins**) remaine prominent in Albert County all summer (e.g., 114 WWC's o the FNP Spring Bird Survey June 4—fide RJW), but flock were moving eastward at Mary's Point during late July an August. **Red Crossbills** showed a similar pattern but were les numerous. During August, White-winged Crossbill numbe were building up greatly in Newfoundland, where there's very heavy 1995 cone crop.

Abbreviations

AD	Tony Diamond
BCl	Benoit Clavette
BCu	Barbara Curlew
BED	Brian Dalzell
BL	Benoit Lanteigne
CA	Chris Adam
CDD	Charles Duncan
CL	Colette Lavoie
CNPA	Club des naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne
DLM	David Myles
DSC	David Christie
DD	Denis Doucet
DEBL	Downeast Bird Line
EI	Enid Inch
EP	Eileen Pike
FNP	Fundy National Park
GLT	Gisèle Thibodeau
GM	Grand Manan
GMi	Grant Milroy
GV	Gérard Verret

Abbreviations (cont'd.)

HC	Hilaire Chiasson
JA	Janice Arndt
JC	John Candy
JDB	Denys Bourque
JGW	Jim Wilson
JS	Jocelyn Steeves
NBBIL	NB Bird Information Line
PAP	Peter Pearce
RAC	Rose-Aline Chiasson
RC	Roland Chiasson
RJW	Rob Walker
RL	Rosita Lanteigne
RM	Rodger Maker
RNC	Restigouche Naturalists' Club
SD	Sabine Dietz
SIT	Stu Tingley
SL	sewage lagoon
SS	Shirley Sloat



300 CLUB CONTINUES TO GROW

Mary Majka

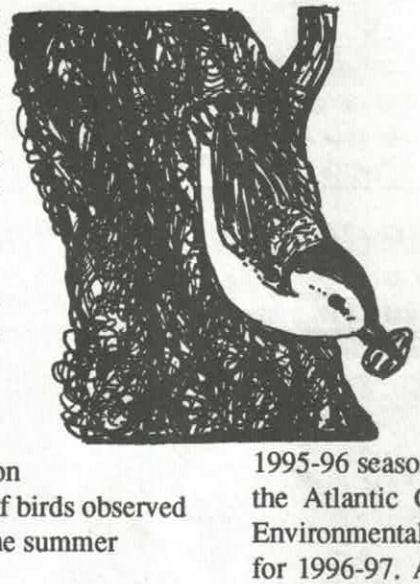
On a perfect sunny day in July, a 300 Club of N.B. celebration took place at Mary's Point. "The crowd is getting bigger," commented one participant, "and those birders are getting their 300th bird faster and faster." It's the result of better communication among naturalists in the province. Four lucky people got the cake and ate it too. All five new members got a certificate. In the picture above, on the left are Pearl Colpitts and Connie Colpitts; in the middle the cake, an "ornithological wonder" created by Mary Majka; and on the right Jean Wilson and Bob Cotsworth. Inset is David McCurdy who came for the happy occasion, but had to leave for work before time for the cake. In the meantime, two more birders have qualified, swelling the number of members to 21. John Tanner and Rose Alma Mallet can look forward to their own induction, sometime in the near future.

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH GOES TO SCHOOL

Audrey Heagy

PLEASE NOTE: This article is from issue No. 7 (August 1995) of the *Feeder Watch North* newsletter of the Canadian Centre for the Study and Preservation of Birds (Long Point Bird Observatory).

FeederWatchers know that one of the rewards of participating in Project Feederwatch is learning by doing. *Project Feederwatch Goes to School* is designed to encourage elementary and secondary school students to learn about bird biology, ecology and conservation by getting school classes and environmental clubs involved in Project Feederwatch. Furthermore, as participants in a long-term scientific research project, students gain firsthand experience with science in action.



Feederwatch-related activities can also be worked into many other parts of the curriculum. Potential activities include:

- studying the effect of weather on bird behaviour
- calculating the rate of food consumption
- graphing fluctuations in the numbers of birds observed
- researching where feeder birds go in the summer
- making bird masks
- writing short stories with bird themes.

In many cases, establishing a bird feeder makes students aware of the need to make school yards more "bird friendly" and leads to "green schools" projects such as wildlife habitat plantings. These hands-on activities stimulate students to take a personal interest in their natural surroundings and promote the development of a sense of stewardship for their environment.

Project Feederwatch Goes to School is just getting started in Canada. In 1994, funding was obtained from the Ontario Heritage Foundation (an agency of the Ontario Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Recreation) to prepare and distribute an educational kit to schools in Ontario. This kit included a covering letter, teacher's guide, registration brochure, and two large colour posters featuring near life-size pictures of Common Feeder Birds of Ontario. The artwork (by Larry McQueen) used on this poster was provided by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and is the same as that used for the eastern North American version of the Common Feeder Birds posters distributed to regular Feederwatch participant in 1994-95.

In September 1994, one education kit was distributed t each of the 4,674 schools in Ontario. The posters and teacher' guide generated considersable interest, To date, some 10 classes in Ontario (involving an estimated 3,000 students have signed up to participate in Project Feederwatch as a resul of this promotion. In addition to many positive phone calls an letters from teachers involved in the program, we have receive wonderful letters, poems, and pictures from students.

Schools anywhere in Canada ar encouraged to register for Projec Feederwatch. Although only the Ontari educational package is presently available information in the teacher's guide can b easily adapted for other regions.

An Atlantic Canada version of th education kit is currently being prepared Sample kits will be distributed to school in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Princ Edward Island and Newfoundland for th 1995-96 season. Funding for the printing and distribution o the Atlantic Canada kit is being provided by the Shel Environmental Fund. A Western Canada package is propose for 1996-97. At present, the *Project Feederwatch Goes t School* kit is available only in English. For more informatio on *Project Feederwatch Goes to School* contact:

Project Feederwatch: Education
Canadian Centre for the Study and Preservation of Bird
P. O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0
(Tel.: 519-586-3531, Fax: 519-586-3532).

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Also from *Feeder Watch North*, No. 7, is the following char showing the "top 10" species at the feeders of the 36 New Brunswick participants during the winter of 1994-95.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Species Name	*Pct. feeders visited*	*Mean # per feeder*	*Mean # where present*
Black-capped Chickadee	100.00	3.68	4.33
American Goldfinch	94.44	2.60	6.70
Dark-eyed Junco	94.44	0.96	3.59
Mourning Dove	86.11	2.02	6.10
Blue Jay	83.33	1.21	3.24
American Tree Sparrow	80.56	0.98	3.95
European Starling	75.00	1.00	7.17
Downy Woodpecker	72.22	0.35	1.27
Evening Grosbeak	63.89	0.95	10.19
Hairy Woodpecker	63.89	0.25	1.29

ÉTOURNEAU SANSONNET

Donald Cormier

NOTEZ, S. V. P.: Article tiré de *LA PLUME VERTE*, volume 2, numéro 9; bulletin du Club les ami(e)s de la nature.

Un peu plus d'une centaine d'années passées, une société américaine voulut introduire aux États-Unis toutes les espèces d'oiseaux mentionnés dans les écrits de Shakespeare. Or l'étourneau sansonnet était l'un d'eux. En 1890, une soixantaine d'étourneaux importés ont été relâchés à New York et l'année suivante encore une quarantaine pour s'assurer de leur survivance en Amérique. Quelle réussite et quelle déception!

La lune de miel des New-yorkais avec les étourneaux ne dura pas longtemps. Les Américains et plus tard les Canadiens ont vite constaté que ce fut une erreur d'importer cette peste comme le dit si bien le naturaliste, Pierre Morency: "ce fut l'une des plus graves erreurs humaines dans son action sur le fragile équilibre de la nature."

Pourquoi tout cet énervement pour un oiseau? C'est vrai, mais cinq an passés il y avait déjà au-delà de 200 millions d'étourneaux en Amérique du Nord.

Voici quelques comportements indésirables qui lui sont attribués:

- une voracité insatiables
- une agressivité dommageable envers les autres oiseaux
- une malpropreté aux lieux de rassemblements
- un bruits infernal où ont lieu les ressemblements de milliers d'étourneaux pendant leur migration

Étant donné que les étourneaux ne sont pas des oiseaux de la forêt, ils sont devenus des trouble-fêtes dans les milieux habités.

Voici quelques moyens que les Américains ont déployés pour se débarrasser de ces groupements d'étourneaux. Certains moyens sont simples, mais par compte, d'autres moyens laissent voir une nervosité:

- on a installé de longs filets entre les grands arbres
- on a mis des pièges sur les branches
- on a empoisonné la nourriture d'oiseaux avant de la répandre sur le sol près des lieux de rassemblements
- on a soufflé des nuages de fumée qui couvraient les gros arbres
- on a allumé de puissants phares pendant des nuits entières
- on a fait éclater des feux d'artifices
- on a tiré des coups de feus, tout ça en pensant que le bruit et la lumière inciteraient les étourneaux à se sauver
- on a reproduit et amplifié leur cri d'alarme dans l'espoir de ne plus les revoir

À Washington, dans les années 1930, la ville a embauché une quarantaine de personnes pour qu'elles secouent des boîtes de métal dans lesquelles il y avait des cailloux et ce pendant des nuits et des nuits. Les gens avaient alors une vraie raison de ne pas dormir.

À Providence, Rhode Island, on s'est servi de jets d'eau très puissants pour faire déguerpir les étourneaux. On a étendu de la colle sur les branches ou aux endroits fréquentés afin de les coller une fois pour toute. On a même installé des fils électriques découverts aux endroits les plus fréquentés par ces "indésirables." Toujours à Providence, la population est devenue tellement paniquée que les architectes ont demandé que les nouveaux édifices n'aient pas de corniches, d'allonges ou de recoins qui permettraient la nidification des étourneaux.

Dans les années 1960, un projet pour se débarrasser des étourneaux en Californie en a détruit neuf millions mais cela ne les a pas éliminés. Ceux qui restaient se multipliaient à un rythme plus accéléré puisqu'ils avaient plus d'espace et donc plus de nourriture. À peu près en même temps, plus près d'ici, à l'aéroport de Boston, un avion, au décollage, a aspiré un vol d'étourneaux et s'écrasa. Aucun survivant des 62 personnes à bord.

Vous vous rendez compte de toutes ces démarches qui ont été entreprises pour détruire ce qui semble être impossible à détruire. Lorsque le sentiment de impuissance s'installe dans un milieu, l'imagination peut vraiment pousser les gens à employer des moyens irraisonnés. Par exemple, à Englewood, New Jersey on a employé une solution drastique: eh oui, on a coupé tous les grands arbres.

Il ne faut pas terminer sans souligner au moins une bonne qualité de l'étourneau, il dévore des quantité importante d'insectes nuisibles.

Many thanks to all of the kind volunteers who contributed to this publication.

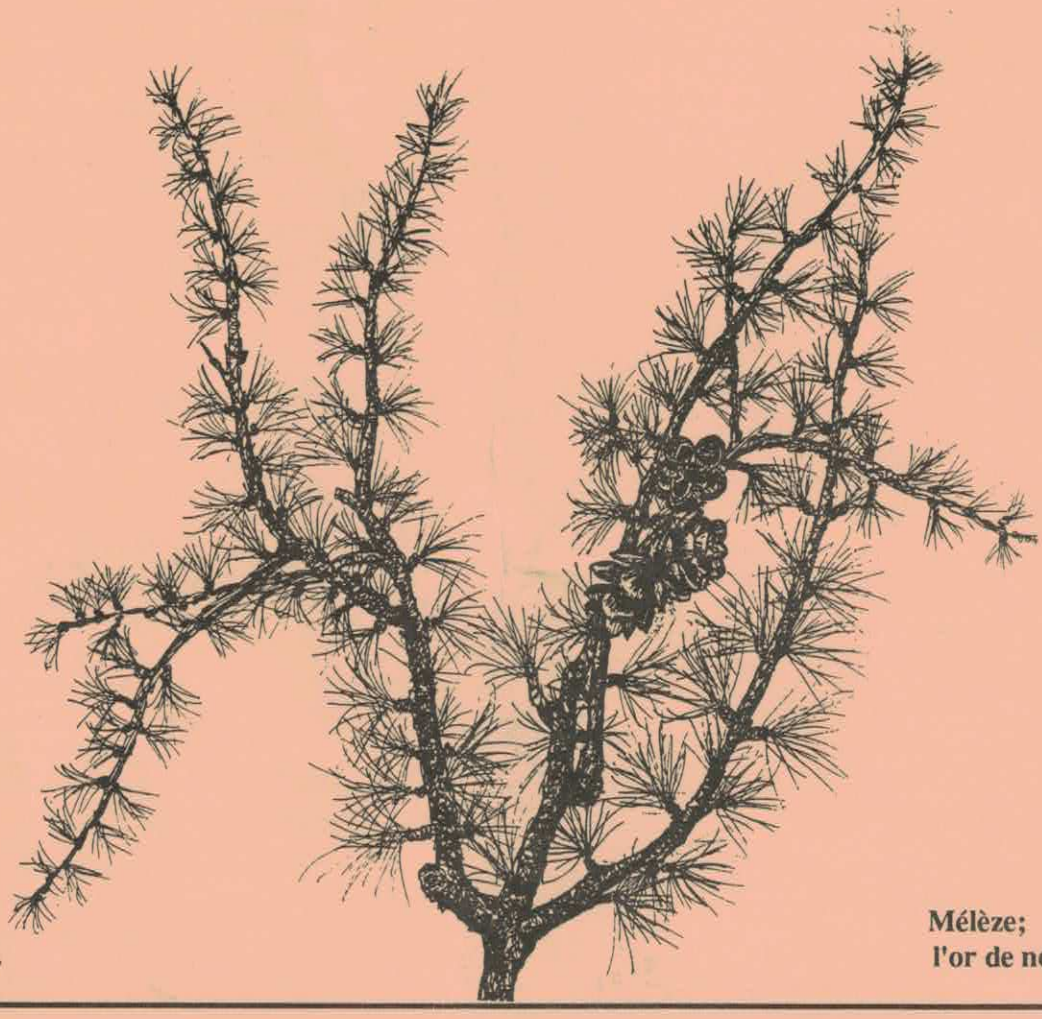
Front cover drawing by Rob Walker; back cover drawing by Peggy Woolsey.

Please submit articles for the next issue of *N. B. Naturalist* by November 30, 1995.

Merci beaucoup à tous les bénévoles dévoués qui ont contribué à cette publication.

Le dessin de la couverture a été exécuté par Rob Walker et celui de la couverture arrière par Peggy Woolsey.

S. v. p., soumettez les articles à l'intention du prochain numéro du *Naturaliste du N.-B.* avant le 30 novembre, 1995.



Tamarack;
November's gold.

Mélèze;
l'or de novembre.

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