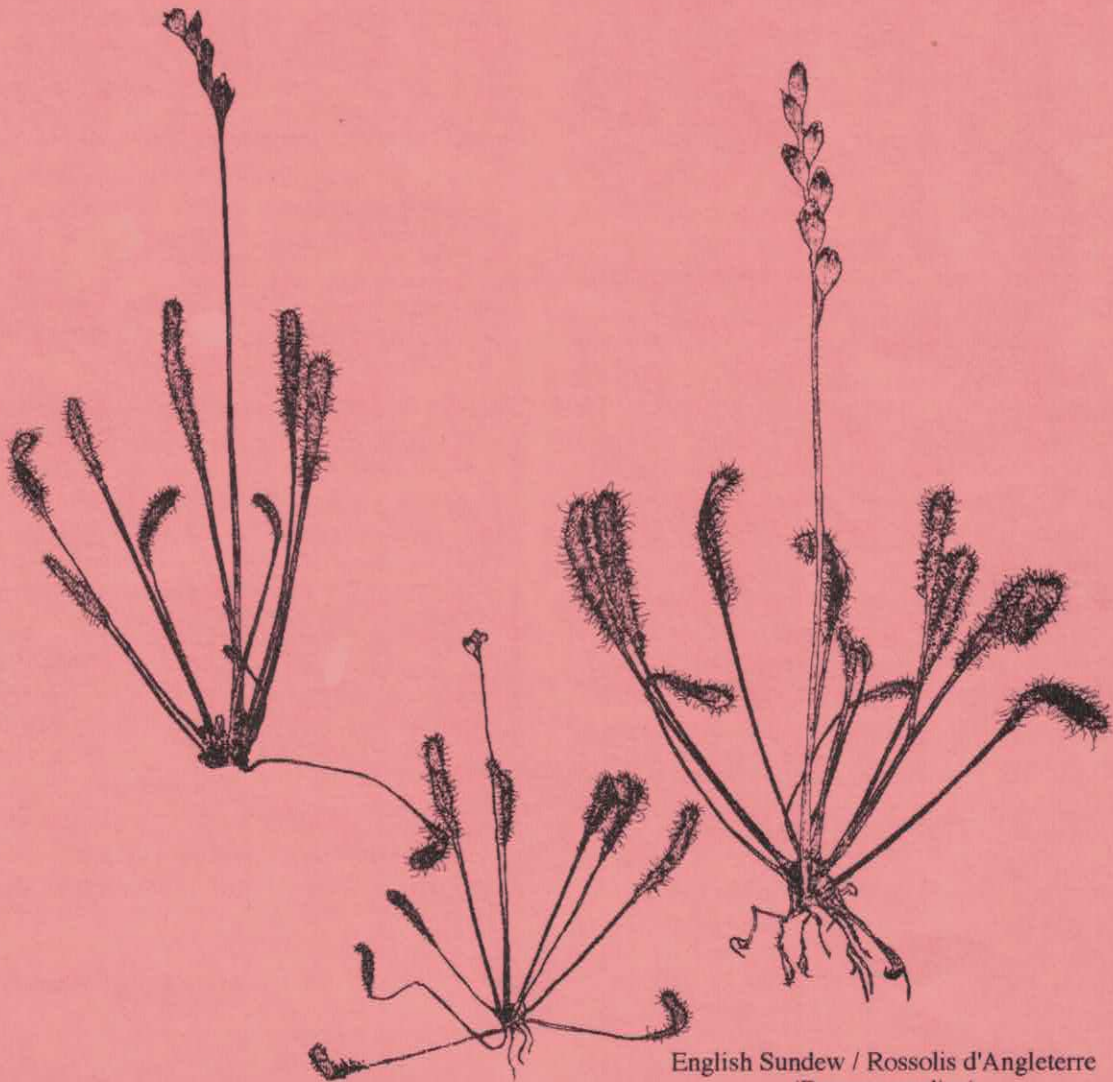


23 (3) September / Septembre 1996

N.B. Naturalist

Le Naturaliste du N.-B.



English Sundew / Rossolis d'Angleterre
(*Drosera anglica*)

Nuisance Wildlife: The New Policy

A Message from the President Comments - Frank Longstaff



Sadly, New Brunswick is a province where environmental concerns have been given low priority by the provincial government. As a result, in recent months we have had the Trans-Canada Highway routed across one of the most significant and sensitive wetlands in the province, the Grand Lake Meadows: the World Wildlife Fund has rated New Brunswick last among the provinces in making steps toward protecting in perpetuity, significant and representative parts of our landscape, and enforcement of our often commendable environmental legislation is virtually non-existent. The governing Liberals, now in their third term, have ruled without effective opposition since the Hatfield collapse of 1987. The rump of Conservative (not a 'progressive' among them on conservation matters) that forms Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, appears to be even less environmentally conscious than the governing party.

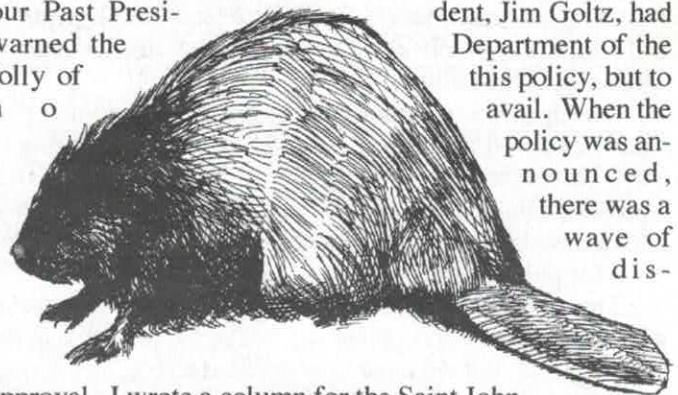
That's why it is a triumph that the NBFN and other New Brunswick environmental groups have been successful in getting the government to back away from its disastrous Nuisance Wildlife Policy. On June 1, 1996, the Department of Natural Resources and Energy inaugurated a new policy whereby DNRE staff no longer would assist landowner in dealing with wild animals that were causing problems around the home or farm. The Department's rationale was that they simply couldn't afford to provide the service any longer. In these tight times for governments, that may be understandable, but the alternative suggested by DNRE was so appallingly wrong that there was an immediate outcry from many corners of the province.

The new policy encouraged landowners to handle all such problems themselves and gave them a free hand to deal with any creature (with the exception of endangered species and large game - bear, deer and moose) in any way the landowner saw fit. It wasn't the intention of the Department to give landowners such sweeping powers, but that was what was said on the carelessly prepared publicity material given out by the government. In addition, Ranger Offices provided landowners with lists of private wildlife control officers available to assist them in disposing of nuisance wildlife. However, the Department made no attempt to evaluate these private contractors with the result that unqualified and inappropriate people were recommended

to people in need of help. Finally, the new policy encouraged action that clearly was an offence under the existing *Fish and Wildlife Act*. The Minister had not had the Act amended by the Legislature. Thus we had the outrageous situation of a Minister encouraging the public to break a law he was duty bound to uphold.

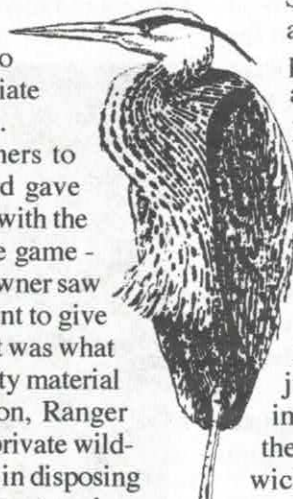
Many within the our Past President warned the folly of n o

civil service, including dent, Jim Goltz, had Department of the this policy, but to avail. When the policy was announced, there was a wave of dis-



approval. I wrote a column for the Saint John Globe and the theme was picked up by Don Cayo of the *Telegraph Journal* who wrote both a front page article and an editorial. The New Brunswick Environmental Network put out a press release decrying the policy endorsed by 28 public interest groups across the province. In the face of this opposition, the government backed down. Jim and I, along with Ron Hounsell, a consultant recently retired from the Canadian Wildlife Service, were invited to a meeting with the Minister. Following the meeting, a group, with representatives from the Environmental Network, the Humane Society, the Trappers Association as well as ourselves and government reps was convened to revamp the policy. As this magazine goes to press, the meetings are ongoing but it appears we are making significant progress in revising the Act and the policy to place the emphasis on conservation and the protection of wildlife.

This is an indication of what can be done by the Federation and others when we act quickly and decisively and when we can show the government that we represent a significant portion of the population. That is why our attempt to increase membership in conjunction with the Canadian Nature Federation is so important. The NBFN is doing good work but it needs the support of all nature enthusiasts across New Brunswick. This copy of the *NB Naturalist* is going on a complimentary basis to many who sympathise with our goals, but have not become members. Please do not hesitate any longer. Join us today.



New Brunswick Bird Records Committee: 1995 Report

David Christie

This is the second annual report of the New Brunswick Bird Records Committee. The committee works 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.

Members of the committee in 1995 were James G. Wilson (chairman), David S. Christie (secretary), Brian E. Dalzell, Robert Doiron, Stuart I. Tingley and Donald F. McAlpine (non-voting).

During 1995, we continued to gather and review past records, as well as current ones. At the annual meeting in early November, we reaffirmed our plans to establish a computer database file of New Brunswick bird records and initiated plans to prepare an annotated list of New Brunswick birds for publication.

Through 1995, formal votes were conducted for species with two or fewer acceptable records in the province in the past 50 years, but we have now decided to conduct formal votes until five records are accepted. If a species has been accepted only on the basis of sight records we also vote on the first record supported by tangible evidence. Submissions beyond five records are 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 formal acceptance by the committee.

A total of 21 records were reviewed by the committee in 1995. Of these, 19 (90%) were accepted and 2 were not. Another 33 submissions were received and filed without formal review. Supplementary evidence was received for three previously accepted records. Seven new species were added to the New Brunswick list and one species was removed from the list. An additional species is added to the provincial list because of taxonomic changes.

We wish to thank all observers who submitted documentation of their observations. 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.

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).

The format of this report is the same as for 1994 (*N.B. Nat.* 22:38-42). 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.

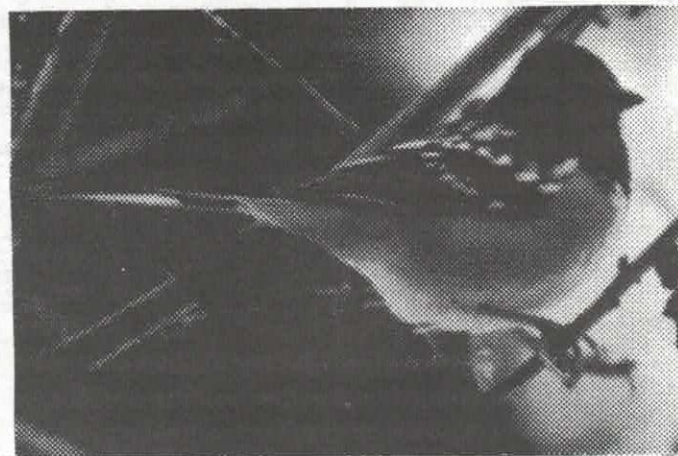
Every effort has been made to verify dates, locations and observers' names. We welcome corrections or updates to make the records more exact. Where dates or other details in original reports differ from those quoted in other sources, we have used the information which seems most accurate from our documentation.

Taxonomic Changes

A number of taxonomic changes were accepted in the 40th Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union's Check-list of North American Birds (*Auk*, July 1995).

These included the splitting of Gray-cheeked Thrush into two species, **Gray-cheeked Thrush** *Catharus minimus*, which breeds across much of boreal Canada, and **Bicknell's Thrush** *C. bicknelli*, which breeds in Appalachian areas, including New Brunswick. The frequency of the redefined Gray-cheeked Thrush as a migrant in New Brunswick is not clear, but two museum specimens (Grand Manan, 26 May 1908; Fundy National Park, 28 Sept. 1976) have been reported. It is difficult to separate these new species in the field during migration. This change adds an additional species to the provincial list.

Also split were: Rufous-sided Towhee into **Eastern Towhee** *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (eastern breeder and a



Spotted Towhee, Taymouth NB,
15 December 1994
(Photo: Margaret Pacey)

rare visitor to this province) and **Spotted Towhee** *P. maculatus* (western breeder; the first New Brunswick record is accepted in this report); Sharp-tailed Sparrow into **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow** *Ammodramus caudatus* (breeder on Atlantic coast north to southern Maine; unknown in New Brunswick but a possible vagrant during migration) and **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** *A. nelsoni* (breeder in New Brunswick and other northern areas); and Northern Oriole into **Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula* (breeder in the east, including New Brunswick) and **Bullock's Oriole** *I. bullocki* (western breeder and vagrant in the east; the committee is studying New Brunswick reports of Bullock's Oriole to see if any can be accepted).

Species Deleted From Provincial List

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Cory's Shearwater had been included on the 1985 New Brunswick checklist on the basis of an oral description and the promise of a written report. No documentation was subsequently received, so the committee voted unanimously to delete Cory's Shearwater from the list of species accepted in this province.

Accepted Records

Ross' Goose *Anser rossii*

1995 — one adult, 1-4 June, Harvey Bank, *Albert (Lars & Michelle Larsen, David Christie, Mary & Mike Majka, Jim Edsall)* — photos on file; partial specimen in N.B. Museum

First record for the province. This unfortunate goose was killed by a Bald Eagle on June 4. Its appearance in New Brunswick fits a pattern of increasing frequency along the mid Atlantic coast of the U.S.A. and in Quebec; the population of Ross' Geese that nests on Hudson Bay has been increasing for 40 years. The date was unexpectedly late but within the period when movement is still taking place in northern Ontario. Nothing in its condition or behaviour suggested that it had escaped from captivity.

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

1987-88 — one female, sporadically 30 December 1987 to at least 11 February 1988, Aulac, *Westmorland (George Finney, Stuart Tingley, David Christie, Jim Wilson)*; the same bird also between 22 December 1987 and mid March 1988 at nearby Minudie, N.S. (*Paul Bogaard, Al Smith, Eric Mills, Stuart Tingley, David Christie, Cecil Johnston, Ray Schwartz*) — photos on file.

First record for the province. This vagrant from Europe, only the second record for Canada, was discovered at Aulac by Stuart Tingley on 18 January. It was later realized that other people had observed but not recognized it in December. It was ultimately seen by many observers in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The committee would like to obtain information on any New Brunswick observations later than 11 February.

Mew Gull *Larus canus canus*

1994-95 — one adult, 12 December 1994 to late March 1995, Saints Rest, Saint John West, *Saint John (Jim Wilson, David Christie)* — photo on file.

This bird, the first photographically documented record of the European subspecies ("Common Gull") in New Brunswick, was probably the same one that was seen at this location 2-22 April 1994. There is one other previous sight record of the European race and a specimen of the less expectable western North American subspecies.

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus*

1986 — one male, 3-7 November, Cambridge-Narrows, *Queens (Doris and Shelton Appleby, Joyce Thorne, David Christie)* — photos on file.

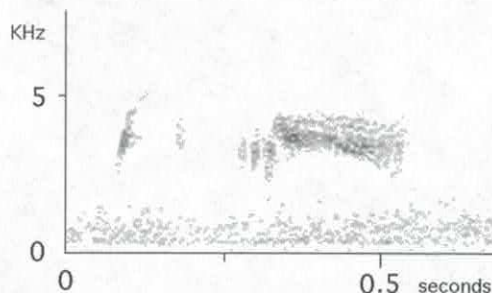
1987 — one male, 18 November to 29 December, Sackville, *Westmorland (George Finney, David Christie, Stuart Tingley)*.

First accepted records. Although dozens of this species have been seen in New Brunswick during the past decade, none had been officially accepted on the provincial list. These two were the first to be documented and seen by multiple observers.

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*

1990 — one, 7 June, Hall's Creek Marsh, Moncton, *Westmorland (Stuart Tingley)* — audio tape on file.

There have been numerous reports of this expanding species in New Brunswick since the first observation in 1980, including one record of breeding. This record is the first for which an audio recording of the characteristic calls has been placed on file.



Willow Flycatcher, Audio spectrogram, Moncton, 7 June 1990
(Recording: Stu Tingley. The continuous low frequency sound is background traffic noise.)

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya*

1994 — one immature, 15 September, Battle Beach, White Head Island, *Charlotte (Stuart Tingley and a WINGS tour group)* — photo on file.

This is the second accepted record of this western vagrant in New Brunswick. Two previous reports were also during September.

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher *Myiodynastes luteiventris*

1990 — one immature, 14-15 October, Waterside, Albert (Barbara Curlew, Rick Elliott, David Christie, Cecil Johnston) — photos on file.

First provincial record, and the second for Canada. Barbara Curlew identified this vagrant flycatcher from southwestern North America and spread the word in time for it to be seen by more than 20 other observers.

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*

1994 — one, 22 September, Mary's Point, Albert (David Christie, Mike Majka, David Clark, Jim Edsall) - tape of calls on file

First provincial record. Although its presence was noted for only two and a half hours, efficient communication and fortunate timing allowed 8 observers to see this wren. Its skulking behaviour did not allow obtaining recognizable photos.

Orange-crowned Warbler *Vermivora celata*

1994 — one, 15 October, Dock Road, North Head, Grand Manan Island, Charlotte (Stuart Tingley, Ron Steeves) — photo on file.

1994 — two, 24 Oct., Mary's Point, Albert (David Christie, Mary Majka) — video tape on file

1995 — one, 23 May, Miscou Plains, Miscou Island, Gloucester (Robert Doiron) — photos on file

First photographically documented records for N.B. There have been increasingly numerous sight records in this province during the past 20 years, principally in autumn.



Orange-crowned Warbler
Miscou Island, 23 May 1995
(Photo: Robert Doiron)

These three were all submitted for the same voting.

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens*

1995 — one, probably immature female, 27 October,

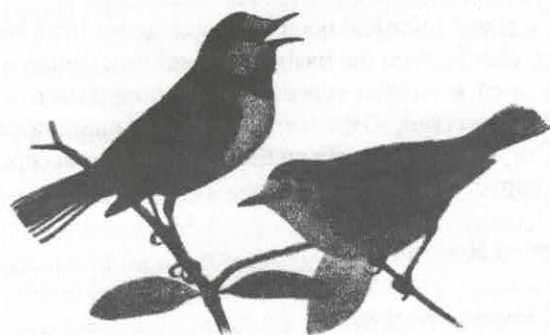
McLaren Pond, Fundy National Park, Albert (Stuart Tingley, David Christie) — photos and video on file

Second record for the province. As for the previous one, at Grand Manan in September 1992, this bird was well photographed and seen by several observers.

Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorus*

1993 — one, 9 September, Swallowtail Road, North Head, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Stuart Tingley, Jim Bangma, Helen Carlson, Niroo Patel)

First record of this species accepted by the committee. Worm-eating Warbler had been previously accepted on the New Brunswick bird list (1985) on the basis of a sight record at Kent Island in September 1980.



Hooded Warbler
(Drawing: Louis G. Fuertes)

Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina*

1994 — one male, 15 October, Matthews Head, Fundy National Park, Albert (Denis Doucet, Théo Arsenault, David Christie) — photo on file

First photographically documented record. Denis Doucet got a recognizable photo of this southern warbler and with Théo Arsenault showed it to about ten other observers. This species was first accepted on the New Brunswick list based on an observation of a singing male in summer 1945. The few more recent reports were also sight records by one or two observers.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*

1994-95 — one male, 15 December 1994 to 18 April 1995, Taymouth, York (Margaret Pacey) — photo on file

First record for the province. This bird, which visited Margaret Pacey's feeder all winter, was accepted by the committee as a record of one of the western subspecies of Rufous-sided Towhee. The A.O.U. subsequently recognized those races as a separate species.

Le Conte's Sparrow *Ammodramus leconteii*

1995 — one, 20 May, Pettes Cove, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Jim Wilson) — photo on file

First record for the province. Jim Wilson managed to get an excellent photo of this secretive sparrow and to show it to numerous other observers later in the day.



Le Conte's Sparrow
Grand Manan, 20 May 1995
(Photo: Jim Wilson)

Harris' Sparrow *Zonotrichia querula*

1994 — one immature, 20 December, near Caledonia Highlands Inn, Fundy National Park, *Albert* (David Christie, Pat Latimer Martin).

Second accepted record. Despite much searching, this western sparrow could not be relocated. The previous record was on Lamèque Island in November 1993.

"Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* — *oreganus* group of subspecies

1995 — one, 6 February to early April, Gondola Point, *Kings* (Mr. & Mrs. Percy Williams, Ron Arsenault) — photos on file.

First accepted record. There have been several New Brunswick reports of the western races that were formerly known as Oregon Junco, but this was the first for which photos were submitted.

Records Not Accepted

Identification accepted, natural origin unlikely

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

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

1995 — two adults, 14 May to 3 June, Waterside, *Albert* (Dorothy Hoar, Barb Curlew, Rick Elliott, David Christie) — photos on file

It is especially difficult to be certain of the origin of waterfowl, many of which are kept captive outside their

normal range. Escapees are thought to have been responsible for the occurrence of as many as six Whooper Swans in the northeastern United States during 1993-95. They were quite tame and some remained during the summer. Because of the disappearance of two of those swans from Massachusetts a week to a week and a half prior to the discovery at Waterside, the committee believes that these birds were more likely escaped captives than vagrants from Iceland. Three Whooper Swans seen on the Gaspé and in Labrador in August 1994 may also have escaped, although those in Labrador were extremely wary.

Identification uncertain

For the records noted below, the documentation 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.

Henslow's Sparrow *Ammodramus henslowii*

1994 — 5 June, two, Caraquet sewage lagoon, *Gloucester*.

This sparrow is a fairly difficult species to identify and requires a much more detailed observation than the submitted documentation indicates.

Records Not Formally Reviewed

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

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica*

29 Sept. 1992, Miscou Lighthouse, Miscou Island, *Gloucester* (Stuart Tingley)

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

5 Sept. 1995, Red Head Marsh, Saint John, *Saint John* (Chris Hawketts)

9 Sept. 1995, Hampton, *Kings* (Barry McPhee)

13 Sept. 1995, Mary's Point, *Albert* (Mieczyslaw Majka)

2 Oct. 1995, Westfield, *Kings* (Allen Gorham)

Canada Goose (small race) *Branta canadensis hutchinsii*

26 May 1995, Cap Bimet, *Westmorland* (Stuart Tingley)

South Polar Skua *Catharacta maccormicki*

5 Aug. 1984, from M.V. "Bluenose", near South Grand Manan Bank (Mark Oberle)

Mew Gull *Larus canus canus*

2-22 April 1994, Saints Rest, Saint John West, *Saint John* (David Christie)

Great Gray Owl *Strix nebulosa*

27 Dec. 1994, near Anagance, *Kings* (Peter Serwylo)

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*

20-22 July 1994, Hanford Brook, *Saint John* (Debra King)

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* (an African species)

11 July 1994, Pigeon Hill, Lamèque Island, Gloucester
(Hilaire Chiasson)

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

4 Oct. 1995, Little Shippagan, Gloucester (Stuart Tingley)

Virginia's Warbler *Vermivora virginiae*

14 Oct. 1995, Southwest Head, Grand Manan Island, Charlotte (Stuart Tingley)

Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorus*

20 June 1995, Roosevelt Campobello Park, Campobello Island, Charlotte (Clemens Titzack)

Louisiana Waterthrush *Seiurus motacilla*

3 July 1990, near Welsford, Queens (Ron Weir)

Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina*

29 May 1995, Caraquet, Gloucester (Benoît Hébert)

Wilson's Warbler (western race) *Wilsonia pusilla chryseola?*

6 Nov. 1995, Alma, Albert (Stuart Tingley)

Documentation was also received from John Candy, David Christie, Denise Cyr, Colette Lavoie, Rose-Alma Mallet, David McCurdy, Pierrette Mercier, David Myles, Shirley Sloat, Allan Smith, Danielle Thibodeau, Stuart

Tingley and Gérard Verret of the following species for which there are already five or more accepted records in the province: **Little Blue Heron** (Kings), **Eurasian Wigeon** (Madawaska), **Redhead** (Madawaska), **Lesser Scaup** (winter, Albert, Saint John), **Black-bellied Plover** (winter, Charlotte), **Forster's Tern** (Madawaska), **Black-billed Cuckoo** (late, Albert), **Yellow Warbler** (late, Albert), **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** (Madawaska), **Pine Warbler** (Kings), **Northern Cardinal** (Madawaska), **Blue Grosbeak** (winter, York), **Clay-colored Sparrow** (winter, Westmorland), **Summer Tanager** (Westmorland), and **Orchard Oriole** (York).

Cecil Johnston, Jim Wilson and Jim Edsall provided additional evidence in support of previously accepted records of **Fieldfare**, **Royal Tern** and **Western Meadowlark**.

The author thanks 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

On Deck

Darren Byers

On a beautiful summer evening, a friend and I decided to go kayaking and so took our boats to Evandale on the lower Saint John River where we put in at the ferry landing.

With our paddles dipping into the calm water, we quickly left the shore behind us. When I spotted something swimming ahead of me, my curiosity prompted me to find out what it was.

I was about a quarter mile from shore when I caught up with the mysterious swimmer. Wonders of wonders, it turned out to be a squirrel!

Having never considered squirrels to have a great affection for water, I became quite worried for his survival. Unsure of the best reaction, I took my paddle and scooped the little fellow up onto the back of my boat. Unfortunately, he didn't seem to appreciate my concern and he jumped back into the water.

I wasn't sure he'd make it across, and so I valiantly decided to try again - this time scooping the squirrel onto the front of the boat. He must have decided that this was much better (who likes to sit in back?), for he stayed on

while I started paddling towards land.

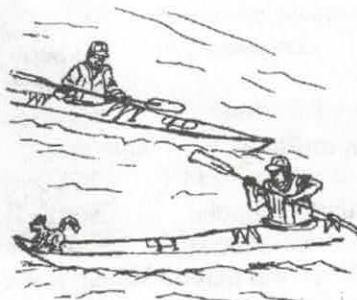
Perhaps he was curious, perhaps just restless, but after a minute or two he scampered up the deck toward the cockpit - where, incidentally, I happened to be sitting. He jumped into my lap and scooted down my leg before he took a break to rest on my foot.

I continued to paddle, now a bit nervously. Just what was he up to? Was I likely to have a nip taken from my big toe? In the midst of pondering this, he decided to come back topside. I concluded (gratefully) that he was a friendly sort.

Content, he chose to remain perched like a hood ornament on the front of the boat until we were 30 feet from shore. At this point he decided he was close enough.

He jumped into the water and swam the rest of the way to land under his own steam.

I am still puzzled when I think of that squirrel being so far from land, and I can't help but wonder if I took him in the right direction.



Sketch: Darren Byers

À la découverte de plantes rares

Hilaire Chiasson

Il arrive souvent pour les naturalistes de courir les oiseaux rares. Récemment, dans le Sud de la province, la Chouette lapone fit déplacer quelques centaines de personnes venues pour essayer de voir ce visiteur rare de l'Ouest du pays.

Dans le domaine de la botanique, cette curiosité pour les plantes rares est un peu semblable, sauf que très peu d'individus se déplacent pour collectionner ou marquer une nouvelle plante comme une plume à son chapeau.

Historiquement parlant, il semble que la recherche en botanique sur le terrain n'est plus de nos jours ce qu'elle a déjà été au 19^e siècle. Dans ce temps-là plusieurs botanistes parcouraient le pays à cheval et plus tard en train voyageur à la recherche de nouvelles plantes dans un territoire pour la plupart du temps inexploré. Plusieurs bons livres sur la botanique tirent leur origine de cette époque. La motivation était tellement grande, que quelques grandes collections de plantes aux États-Unis comptent jusqu'à six millions de spécimens.

Pour l'ensemble de notre territoire, nous pouvons dire que les plantes ont pratiquement toutes été recensées. Il est rare en cette fin du 20^e siècle qu'on puisse dire qu'on ajoute une nouvelle plante à la liste des plantes du Nouveau-Brunswick.

Plantes rares

Qu'est-ce qu'une plante rare? C'est une plante qui ne présente qu'une faible population sur un territoire donné. Soit qu'elle est limitée à une aire réduite ou bien qu'elle soit dispersée dans une vaste région. Des quelques dix-sept cents (1700) plantes vasculaires qui se trouvent au Nouveau-Brunswick, deux cents sept (207) d'entre elles sont reconnues comme étant des plantes rares.

En 1975, dans le cadre du programme des plantes rares et menacées du Musée national des sciences naturelles on a entrepris de dresser une liste des plantes rares de chaque province du Canada. Pour le Nouveau-Brunswick, c'est à Hal Hinds du département de biologie de l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick, que l'on confia la tâche de dresser la liste des plantes rares. Le Musée national des sciences naturelles publia "Les plantes vasculaires rares du Nouveau-Brunswick" en 1983. Cette brochure porte aussi le nom de la collection "Syllogeus No:50",.

Recherches locales

C'est en l'année de la fondation du Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne soit à l'automne

1986 que nous nous étions fixés comme but de recueillir en collection ou constituer un herbier de toutes les plantes vasculaires de la Péninsule acadienne. Ayant actuellement plus de sept cents (700) plantes différentes, il nous est arrivé au long du parcours de mettre la main ou de découvrir quelques plantes rares.

Tout récemment, durant l'été 1995, nous avons eu la chance de trouver trois plantes rares assez exceptionnelles. Nous les nommons surtout par leur nom latin comme étant: la Draba incana, le Carex glareosa et la Catabrosa aquatica.

A. Draba incana L.

C'est une petite plante d'environ 10 à 15 cm de hauteur, aux pétales blancs et appartenant à la famille des Brassicacées. C'est la même famille que celle du navet sauvage. Le Syllogeus no: 50 mentionne : "que cette plante fut trouvée sur l'Île Miscou et qu'elle n'a pas été vue sur le terrain depuis 1913. (Blake)." Nous avons trouvé cette plante à Grande Anse sur le haut de la falaise près du rivage au début du mois de juillet 1995. Il y a là une colonie comprenant une centaine d'individus.

B. Carex glareosa Wahl.

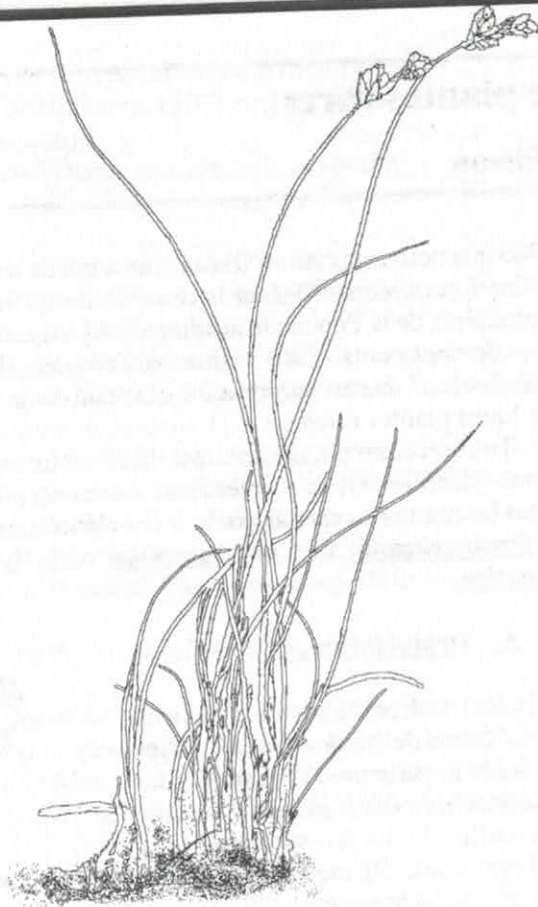
Cette plante qui porte le nom de carex est toute petite. Elle mesure à peine 10 cm de hauteur. Elle appartient à la famille des Cypéracées. C'est une grande famille qui comprend des plantes aux feuilles coupantes qui tapissent nos marais salants. Le Syllogeus No:50 nous apprend encore que cette plante n'avait qu'un site connu au Nouveau-Brunswick soit Dalhousie. Nous avons trouvé cette plante à l'estuaire de la rivière Pokemouche à Inkerman. Étant une plante de marais saumâtres, c'est le même habitat où l'on a découvert la présence du Râle Jaune. Comme pour la majeure partie des carex, cette petite plante peu apparente, est surtout visible durant le mois de juin et le début juillet.

C. Catabrosa aquatica (L) Beauv.

Nous avons aussi trouvé la Catabrosa aquatique. Elle appartient à la famille des Poacées. C'est la famille du

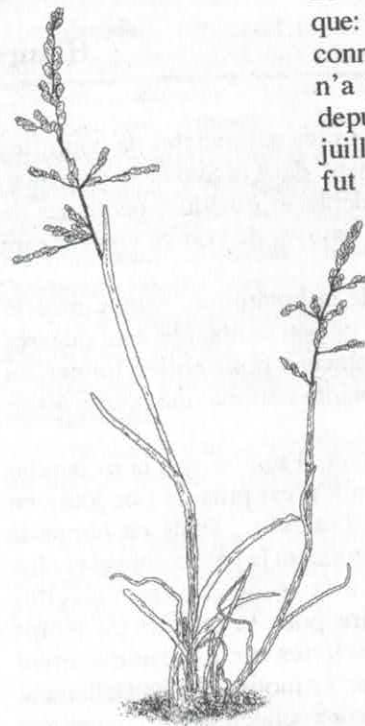


Draba incana
(Sketch: G. Bishop)



Carex glareosa
(Sketch: G. Bishop)

blé et de nos herbes à gazon. Cette fois-ci c'est le manuel "Flora of New Brunswick" de Hal Hinds qui dit que: "La *Catabrosa* est seulement connue à Dalhousie et qu'elle n'a pas été vue sur le terrain depuis 1922". (Page 52). le 05 juillet 1995, une petite colonie fut trouvée dans la région du phare sur l'île Miscou. Cette plante de 10 à 20 cm de hauteur pousse dans un habitat tout à fait spécial où un léger courant d'eau douce rencontre un sable imprégné d'eau de mer.



Catabrosa aquatica
(Sketch by G. Bishop)

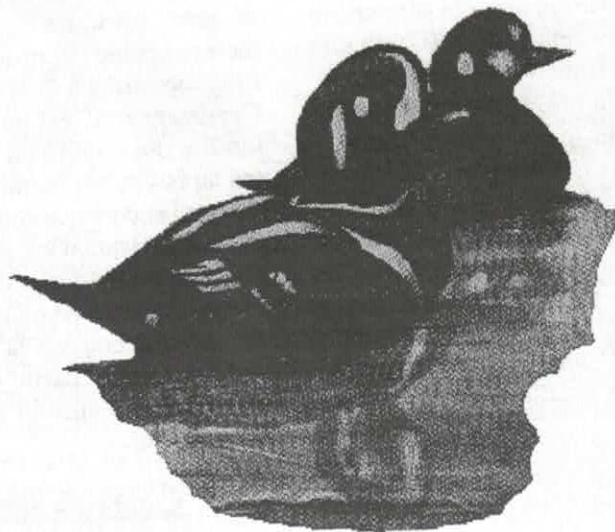
Un spécimen de chacune de ces trois plantes rares fut envoyé à l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick pour qu'elles s'ajoutent aux plantes de l'herbier "Connell Memorial" dont le professeur Hal Hinds a la garde.

New Brunswick's Own Harlequin Ducks

Mike Lushington

Periodic sightings, usually in May, of Harlequin Ducks in the Benjamin River in eastern Restigouche County and in the Nepisiquit, near Bathurst, have led to speculation that sooner or later one might find evidence that these birds were actually nesting somewhere in northern New Brunswick, perhaps as a spin-off from the small established population of the Gaspé Peninsula.

Until this summer this speculation was purely theoretical as no hard evidence



Harlequin Ducks
(Painting: Louis A. Fuertes)

existed that the birds were breeding in the area. The Maritime Bird Breeding Atlas reflected that status. I was aware of all of this, and of the fact that Harlequins are on the endangered species lists for Eastern North America.

When Jim Clifford, my neighbour in Pt. la Nim and a fellow member of the Restigouche Naturalists, Club contacted me in late July about a tentative identification of a family of

these ducks in the Charlo River, I was to say the least, intrigued.

Now I have gone on my fair share of wild duck (so to speak) chases over the years. Some of them have turned out very positively while more, (many more) have deserved that particular designation. Never have things turned out as well as they did on this occasion. On July 24th, less than a day after I received Jim's tip, my wife and I headed for the river, aided by a very specific description of a site with which I was familiar. We no sooner drove over a little bridge and parked the truck, and even before I had gotten out my binoculars, when we saw them, less than fifty feet away, swimming in a little run of fast, fresh water as it emptied out onto the mud flats of the Charlo River Estuary. There were six of them, a female and five ducklings about two-thirds the size of the adult.

Immediately a dilemma presented itself. These birds were not in some remote hard to access location. They were on the contrary, right along side of a reasonably heavily frequented road in a prime fishing spot and beach location. I discussed the situation with my wife, with Jim and a couple of other members of the local club and with David Christie and Mary Maijka,

before coming to the conclusion that it was best simply not to draw too much attention to them, at least while the young were still vulnerable.

As it was, I have heard several recent accounts of fishermen fishing for sea trout while the birds splashed around in the run well within casting range. On each of the occasions that I checked them out subsequently, they were very near to the road, once within fifteen feet of where I parked.

Somehow they seem to have managed very well for themselves since then and when I saw them last in mid August, the young had attained adult size and alternate plumage, and were flying. When we went to check them out a week later they had left, hopefully for a successful winter of foraging and growing at sea and to return to Charlo next year.

The proceeding was included in the Nature Observer of the Restigouche Naturalists

Birding Northern Ireland

Blake Maybank



Northern Ireland has not ranked high on most people's list of desired vacation spots; it's time for that to change. Despite the media's violent portrayal of the country during the recent "troubles", Northern Ireland has always been a safe destination for travellers. It remains so, notwithstanding the current rocky peace talks.

In August 1995 Martine and I travelled to Northern Ireland to spend two weeks birding and hiking, and arrived near the end of their worst heat wave in centuries. Although the weather was unexpected, we were otherwise well prepared with advance material supplied by the Northern Ireland tourist board, as well as information we down-loaded from the World Wide Web on the Internet. This material included an excellent pamphlet on birding in Northern Ireland, and to supplement this we had the RSPB bird guides for Belfast and the rest of the province.

Flying to Belfast was easy, as there are direct flights from Toronto and Montreal; if you must travel via London, there are numerous daily flights between London and Belfast. Internal travel is best done by rental car (bus coverage is comprehensive, albeit slow), and, being Europe, rental cars are roughly twice the price of North America, as are gas prices. Costs for accommodations and meals however, are slightly less than what you would pay in Canada, making Northern Ireland a very affordable vacation. Two couples in one vehicle would be an ideal and cost-effective way to explore.

What of the country's birding appeal? Northern Ireland (as well as the Republic of Ireland) has no endemic species, and is therefore unlikely to attract the world lister, but there are advantages to birding here: year-round opportunities; many well-established and interesting birding sites; no crowds (unlike England); diverse birding spectacles; no foreign languages; and you can enjoy a fresh pint of stout at day's end.

For our visit we concentrated on the Belfast area, and the north and east coasts. Although we were too late in the year to enjoy the breeding season, shorebird migration was well under-way, and we enjoyed studying



species that are seldom, if ever, encountered on this side of the Atlantic, such as Common Redshank and Eurasian Curlew. The unusual drought conditions provided more than the usual amount of shorebird habitat, so waders were in evidence both at inland sites as well as coastal estuaries.

Lough Neagh, the largest body of freshwater in the United Kingdom, was a key stop. The Lough hosts hundreds of thousands of waterfowl in winter, although in late August smaller numbers were present. All the same, we enjoyed a good variety of ducks from the blinds (hides) provided at Oxford Island, a national nature reserve. None of the species was new for me, but it was fun sorting through thousands of Tufted Ducks, Common Pochard, and Greater Scaup. Two Ruddy Ducks were new for my Western Palearctic List.

The original native forests in Ireland are long gone (there are no resident species of either nuthatch or woodpecker!), but the modern clumps of forest and brush that remain are still worth checking. At Oxford Island a nice system of trails links the different hides and the interpretive centre; along them I found my life Willow and Sedge.

Belfast highlights included leisurely studies of Gray Wagtails and Long-tailed Tits along the Lagan Valley, and a huge roost of shorebirds and gulls at the Belfast Harbour Ponds (soon to have RSPB hides). At the latter site there were hundreds of Eurasian Oystercatchers, and the rarest bird of our trip, a Ring-billed Gull (already on the local bird-line, of course). The coast of County Down provided a variety of habitats, from the mud-flats at Dunbrum to a sea-watch at St. John's Point. New species for me here included Spotted Flycatcher, Eurasian Linnet, European Shag, and Meadow Pipit.

One unforgettable incident occurred in front of a hide at the mouth of the Bann River, when an adult Peregrine Falcon blind-sided an unsuspecting Black-tailed Godwit. The falcon then fed at leisure on the mud where the Godwit had been foraging just moments earlier.

The highlight of the trip was unquestionably the coast of County Antrim, the "north" of Northern Ireland. The spectacular cliffs hosted countless Northern Fulmar, which filled the air as we drove along. Here I found my life Rock Pipit, and saw six of the possible seven corvids (European Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Eurasian Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion (Hooded) Crow, and Raven), missing only Red-billed Chough.

No trip to this area would be complete without a visit to the Giant's Causeway. The geology of this famous spot was almost

diverting enough to make us forget about birds. Instead, we combined both interests by exploring Carrick-a-rede (not far to the east of the Causeway), a sea-bird colony on a sea-stack, accessible by a sturdy (but frail-looking) rope bridge.

One species I had hoped to see on the trip was Corncrake, but these are now extirpated from Northern Ireland, unfortunate victims of modern farming practices. To have a chance to see this species, it is now necessary to visit isolated islands off the coast of County Donegal, to the west of Northern Ireland, in the Republic of Ireland.

Despite this one miss, we were thoroughly satisfied with our visit to this unheralded corner of Europe. For an affordable, uncrowded, safe, and rewarding introduction to European birding, you can do no better than Northern Ireland.

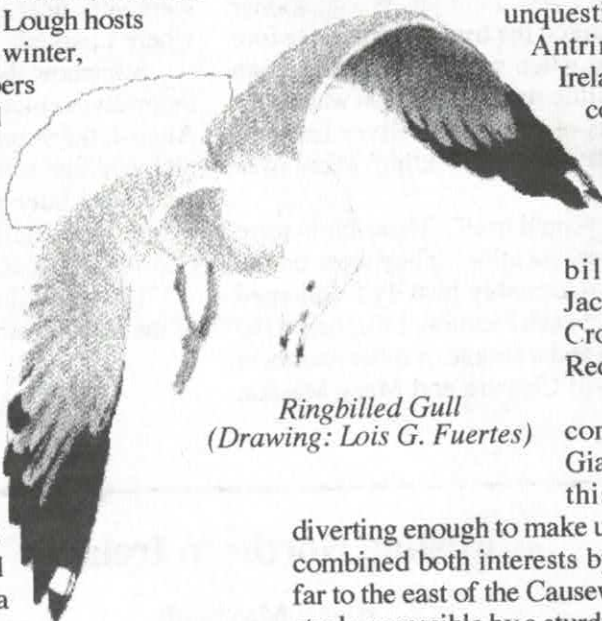
Campground Companions: Rare Plants At Your Tent Flap

James Goltz

Plants and other wildlife only occur where they find suitable habitat. In order to encounter the greatest diversity of plants, botanists recognize that it is necessary to explore a wide diversity of habitats including bogs, swamps, shores, saltmarshes, forests and roadsides. Botanists throughout eastern North America have only recently begun to focus on a previously overlooked habitat — the campground.

In New Brunswick, at least four provincially rare plant species, all of which are European imports, are known

almost exclusively from campgrounds. These are: **Whitlow-grass** (*Erophila verna*, formerly *Draba verna*), **Spring Speedwell** (*Veronica verna*), **Upright Forget-me-not** (*Myosotis stricta*) and a species that I'll call 'Five-stamened Mouse-ear Chickweed' (*Cerastium semidecandrum*), for want of a better common name. Don't waste your time rushing to Newcomb's or Peterson's wildflower guides to see what the latter three species look like, but both guides do have good illustrations of Whitlow-grass. All four species



Ring-billed Gull
(Drawing: Lois G. Fuertes)

are short in stature, seldom exceeding 10 cm. in height, thrive in open disturbed sand or gravel, bloom early in the year and often form very dense colonies where they occur. They can best be found before the campgrounds are overrun with the summer camping crowd, after which they are usually mowed or trampled beyond recognition until they reappear the following spring.

Whitlow-grass is a small white-flowered mustard that blooms between late April and mid May. From a distance, large patches of this plant may resemble small patches of snow. Like typical mustards, it has four petals, but the petals are deeply cleft. The leaves all occur in a whorl at the base of the plant, and the fruit are broad, flat, point upward and are reminiscent of tiny snow peas.



Whitlow-grass
(*Erophila verna*)

Spring Speedwell, like other speedwells, has four petals and two long stamens that point outward from the centre of the flower. As in most other speedwells, the top petal is much larger than the two lateral petals, which in turn are visibly larger than the



Spring Speedwell
(*Veronica verna*)

lowest petal. Characteristics that identify the Spring Speedwell are deep blue petals, a heart-shaped glandular-hairy fruit, a short style of about 0.5 mm., and some of the leaves being deeply divided so that they appear somewhat like fingers on a hand. It blooms in late May and early June.

The **Upright Forget-me-not** has very tiny blue flowers ranging between 1 and 2 mm. in width, bears flowers nearly to the base of the plant, and has each flower on a stalk that is much shorter than the flower. It begins to bloom in late May and may bloom well into July.



Upright Forget-me-not
Myosotis stricta

The '**Five-stamened Mouse-ear Chickweed**' is a species that had not been recorded by Hal Hinds in his *Flora of New Brunswick*. It closely resembles the more common Mouse-ear Chickweed, but usually has 5 instead of 10 stamens (hence the scientific name *semidecandrum*), very shallowly-notched petals (seldom notched deeper than 0.6 mm.), sepals ranging between 3.5 and 4.5 mm. in length, seeds up to 0.5 mm. in length, and lower floral bracts with conspicuous thin, chaffy and non-green margins that are 1 to 1.5 mm. long. There is no way to avoid these technical characteristics if you want to correctly identify this species. It blooms from mid May to late June. Serious botanists



Five-stamened Mouse-ear
Chickweed
(*Cerastium semidecandrum*)

should be on the watch for *Cerastium pumilum*, a similar species of chickweed that has not yet been found in New Brunswick, but has been found in Nova Scotia campgrounds.

Where do you go to find these rare and interesting little floral treasures? Hal Hinds, New Brunswick's premier botanist and pioneer of campground botany, first found most of these species at the Point Wolfe River Campground in Fundy National Park in 1982. More recent field work has turned up one or more of these species at *Les Jardins de la République* near Edmundston, at Mactaquac Provincial Park near Fredericton, at Lakeville Provincial Park near White's Cove, at Jellystone Park near Woodstock, and at Sugarloaf Provincial Park near Campbellton.

Campground botany is appealing for a number of reasons. Since campgrounds in New Brunswick have received little attention from botanists, there is a very good chance of finding a new species for the province while you are preparing or eating a meal, or looking through the screen mesh of your tent, as blackflies and mosquitoes converge on the other side. You won't have to worry about getting lost but you likely will attract the curiosity of nearby campers who may wonder why you are crawling around on your hands and knees with your nose only inches from the ground.

Many thanks to Hal Hinds, Mike Oldham and Marian Zinck for opening my eyes to the possibilities of campground botany, and to my field companions Chris Antle, Gart Bishop, Shirley Hunt, James Walde and all other naturalists who have patiently assisted me in the search for interesting and diminutive campground plants.

Backyard Magic

Sandra Thompson



We should consider composting an option in cutting down on our wastes that we put out each week for the garbage pick up. Up to 30% of the garbage we throw out each week can go in the compost pile.

Composters turn organic waste material into a valuable resource - rewarding your composting efforts with an abundant supply of nutrient rich chemical free humus for a beautiful and healthy garden, lawn or house plants.

Most of us have had a compost pile in our past. Our grandparents generation knew the value of composting their yard and garden wastes. I can remember when I was a child and visited my grandparents, one of my chores was to empty the pail of vegetable and fruit peelings in the compost pile. Giving back some of the nourishment they took from the earth made good common sense and it still does!

Where we live will help us determine what type of compost container we should use. If you live in the country a compost pile heaped out in the open in a corner by your garden would be sufficient - but if you live in the city your neighbours might appreciate a covered composter. There are many options - drums, bins which can be made of almost anything, or wooden boxes. One of the simplest structures

is a circle of snow fencing or wire mesh supported by posts or stakes. If you wish a composter with a professional look, they can be purchased for as little as twenty dollars. The brave at heart might like to try a worm composter. These little boxes can be kept under the kitchen sink.

You can compost virtually anything organic (unless it contains toxic materials). Kitchen wastes, fruit and vegetable peelings, egg shells, tea bags, coffee grounds, stale bread, spoiled potatoes, old yogurt, leaves, plants, weeds that don't contain mature seeds, grass clippings, wood ashes, virtually any leftovers or food past its prime should go into the pile. Avoid meat, however, as it composes slowly and has a bad odour and may attract a few of our friends in nature. Human hair contains 30 times as much organic nitrogen as manure does, so consider taking cut hair from the local barber shop and putting it in your compost pile.

Keep the compost pile moist - like a squeezed out sponge. Aerate the pile by mixing it whenever you add new material. Compost should be turned at least every two weeks. Although composting is a year - round process, decomposition will be slower during the winter months. Composting time varies according to climatic conditions. The process can take one to six months, depending on the temperature and the material added to the pile. For successful results, you can use the simple rule that compost needs to be about half "brown" and half "green" by weight.

Environmentally conscious people everywhere are discovering composting as a rewarding way of beautifying their property while reducing pressures on overtaxed landfill sites.



Who Loves a Garden

Louise Seymour Jones



Who loves a garden
Finds within his soul
Life's whole;
He hears the anthem of the soil
While ingrates toil;
And sees beyond his little sphere
The waving fronds of heaven clear.



Recipes For The Birds

Irene Doyle

RECOMMENDED BIRDSEED MIX

Many birdseed mixes are available commercially but if you decide to make your own, this recipe should appeal to a wide variety of birds.

SUNFLOWER SEEDS (unhulled oil type)	50%
MILLET (white proso)	35%
CRACKED CORN (fine or medium)	15%

PREPARING SUET



Sketch: E. Cosgrove

Beef suet is preferred above other kinds and can be purchased cheaply from the butcher.

Be sure to ask for "short" suet or kidney suet rather than "stringy" suet, and make sure that it is fresh, firm and white. If you plan on melting it down, ask your butcher to grind it for you. Or you can grind it yourself with a kitchen grinder.

Heat the ground suet in a double boiler, or in a small saucepan placed inside a larger pan of boiling water, until it has been rendered to a liquid state. Allow hot suet to cool and thicken before adding seeds;

otherwise they will float to the top.

A wide variety of seeds, fruits and other bird treats can be stirred into the thickening suet before pouring it into forms or packing it into bird feeders.

An alternate procedure is to heat the ground suet as described above, then allow it to cool and solidify. Remove the solidified fat that has risen to the surface and let it drain. This purified fat can be stored in the refrigerator, or reheated and made into suet-seed cakes immediately. Purified and reheated suet makes harder cakes when cooled a second time, and will last much longer outdoors. This is an essential procedure when offering suet in the spring and summer.

Commercial suet-seed cakes are widely available, and most have the advantage of being highly refined and very hard, retarding spoilage. They also fit neatly into commercial suet feeders. Many birds prefer the softer homemade mixtures however and the special treats you add to them.



Sketch: E. Cosgrove

HIGH-PROTEIN SUET MIX FOR INSECT-EATING BIRDS

- 4 1/2 cups ground fresh suet
- 3/4 cup dried and finely ground bakery goods (whole or cracked wheat bread and crackers are best.)
- 1/2 cup hulled, raw, and unsalted sunflower seed
- 1/4 cup millet (white proso is best)
- 1/4 cup dried and chopped berries (currants, raisins or dried wild berries)
- 3/4 cup dried and finely ground meat (optional)
- 1. Melt suet in a saucepan
- 2. Mix together the rest of the ingredients in a large mixing bowl
- 3. Allow suet to cool until slightly thickened, then add it to the mixture in the bowl. Mix well.
- 4. Pour or pack into forms or suet feeders, smear onto tree trunks or overhanging limbs and branches, or pack into pine cones.

SUET TIDBIT CAKES

- 1/2 pound fresh ground suet
- 1/8 cup canary seed
- 1/8 cup chopped peanuts
- 1/4 cup raisins or currants
- 1/8 cup cooked oatmeal
- 1/8 cup cooked rice
- 1/4 cup sunflower seeds
- 1/4 cup fine cracked corn

- 1. Melt suet in a saucepan
- 2. Mix together the rest of the ingredients in a large mixing bowl
- 3. Allow melted suet to cool until it starts to thicken, then add dry mix and stir until evenly distributed
- 4. Pour into pie pan or form, or pack into suet feeders



Many variations are possible with this mixture. Other ingredients worth including are millet or other birdseed, cornmeal, cooked noodles or spaghetti, chopped berries and dried fruits of all kinds. You can experiment to see which proportions your birds like best.



Sketch:
E. Cosgrove

SOFT PEANUT BUTTER MIX

Relished by a wide variety of birds, this mix is great for packing into feeders or smearing on tree trunks.

- 1 cup freshly ground suet
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 3 cups yellow cornmeal
- 1/2 cup enriched white or whole wheat flour

1. Melt suet in saucepan
2. Add peanut butter, stirring until melted and well blended
3. In a separate bowl, mix together the last two ingredients
4. After suet-peanut butter blend has cooled and started to thicken, add dry mixture and blend into dough, it is now ready to serve.

HARD PEANUT BUTTER MIX

This mixture will last longer out of doors than will the soft mixture.

- 2 cups suet
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 2 cups yellow cornmeal
- 2 cups fine cracked corn

1. Melt the suet, allow it to cool thoroughly and reheat it.
2. Add peanut butter, stirring until melted and well blended
3. Add dry ingredients to liquid and blend well
4. Pour into forms or suet feeders and cool until hardened.

Song To My Love (A poet writes in the language of wild flowers)

Laurence McKinney

The Vipers Bugloss beckons me
Across the flowery lea,
And a glorious stretch of blue Cow Vetch,
(Where the Skunk Cabbage used to be.)
Where the Devil's Paint Brush nestles,
And the Harebells sadly peal,
I'll send to my love an armful of
Hardback and False Solomon's Seal.

CHORUS

*My Sneezeweed, my Chickweed, JoePye Weed,
My Milkweed, My Ragweed (Achoo!!),
My Fireweed, Ironweed, Jewelweed,
(Say you'll be my cruel little Jewelweed)
Each flower reminds me of you.*

The Dutchman's Breeches call to me
The Corn Cockle guides my way,
And I'll seek me a bed of Turtlehead
Where the Corpse Plant holds its sway.
Where the Toadflax sports with the Goat's Rue
And the bees round the Cow Lilies hum,
My spirits feed on Rattlesnake Weed,
As I wait for my love to come,

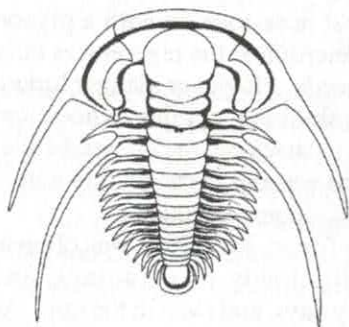
CHORUS

*My Moneywort, Liverwort, Soapwort,
My Stitchwort, My Toothwort, my child,
My Spiderwort, Mitrewort, Motherwort,
(My dear little, queer little Motherwort)
The flowers are driving me wild.*

NBFN AGM June 1996

Ian Cameron

The Saint John Naturalists' Club had the pleasure of hosting the Annual General Meeting of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists over the weekend of 7-9 June 1996. The activities were centred on the Saint John campus of UNB. The business meeting on Friday evening, was preceded by a social and an interesting exhibition to which a number of local organizations contributed. The banquet was held on Saturday evening and was followed by an excellent talk by Cecil Johnston, entitled "The Nature of Saint John" and illustrated by some of Cecil's justly celebrated collection of nature slides.



Trilobite
Sketch: H.B. Whittington

The Saturday program offered a variety of field trips, from Early Bird Walks to van trips going to five sites of natural history interest in Saint John. Ismail Patel gave a geological tour to inspect 500+ million year old rocks and fossils dating back to the Cambrian period. Tim

Fletcher showed participants round the extensive collections at the "old" New Brunswick Museum on Douglas Avenue. Jim Wilson was at the Harbour Bridge to show off the peregrine family, which performed admirably (as Jim had assured us they would), the young screaming for food and the parents bringing in starlings and pigeons as requested. Stephen Clayden led a tour of Rockwood Park, with particular attention to the Yellow Lady's Slippers which are such a beautiful feature of that area.

The fifth site visited was the Irving Nature Park, where everyone basked in the sun and consumed a picnic lunch, being entertained by a lecture on the park while by Kelly Honeyman and a prize draw conducted by Linda Caron.

On Sunday the program was extended with three longer field trips. The first, Birding in Charlotte County, was divided into two groups lead by Jim Wilson and Stu Tingley respectively. Several interesting species were sighted, including: Snowy Egret, Short-Billed Dowitcher, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Pied-billed Grebe, Brown Thrasher, Vesper Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, Turkey Vulture and Eastern Bluebird. A bonus



was an astonishing assortment of moths of various species clambering all over the Irving service station at Pennfield.

David Christie led a trip to explore the intertidal zone at Maces Bay. Following the receding tide, the group came across a good variety of algae and marine invertebrates, including Periwinkles, Rock Barnacles, Limpets, Green Crabs, Rock Crabs, Seastars, Sea cucumber, Seaslugs, Chitons, Tube Worms, Flatworms and Sand Shrimp. An abundance of Sea-lettuce and Eelgrass demonstrated why Brant congregate at Maces kBay each spring.

Molly Smith, who was to have been the co-leader, with Cecil Johnston, on the "Botany of Southern New Brunswick" field trip, was unfortunately incapacitated with a broken wrist, so Cecil brought in some heavy artillery in the form of Jim Goltz and Stephen Clayden to assist him. The expeditions to the Chance Harbour bog and the Hammond River bank area gave the out-of town visitors the opportunity to observe some of the local flora. The former site yielded Dragon's-mouth *Arethusa* (*Arethusa bulbosa*) in bloom and one very small specimen of Green Adder's-mouth (*Malaxis unifolia*). Many other flowers were identified and one extremely rare species of fern, Curly Grass Fern (*Schizaea pusilla*). The Hammond River bank gave the group the opportunity to practice their mountaineering skills. The flowers found included Small Yellow Lady's Slipper



Sketch: W.J. Holland

(*Cypripedium calceolus* var. *parviflorum*), Bird's-eye Primrose (*Primula mistassinica*) and a few specimens of One-flowered Cancer-root (*Orobancha uniflora*).

The weather collaborated splendidly over the weekend, with the exception of Friday evening, when the Whip-poor-will walk was rained out. Fortunately, Dave McCurdy laid on a replacement walk on the following evening, which was crowned with success.

All in all, the weekend was a most stimulating occasion, and numerous expressions of appreciation from the participants, indicated that they had enjoyed the experience. Thanks are due to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make the event such a success!



Yellow Lady's
Slipper
Drawing:
M. Satterlee

Goodbye Mr Chips

James (Jim) Katan



Photo: B.A. Parker

sleek, colourful little fellow, with bright stripes on both sides. After watching it forage around the yard for a few minutes, we lost sight of it. Anxious to see the perky little creature again, we filled a frisbee with bird seed and waited.... and waited. Maybe it had just been passing through on its way to a better feeding ground.

Over the next few days a variety of birds discovered our improvised feeder on the ground: chipping sparrows, purple finches and chickadees. Then, after more than a week, our patience was rewarded when we saw the chipmunk cautiously grab a seed out of the frisbee, checking nervously in all directions for danger. Day by day, the chipmunk was seen more frequently as it sat by the feeder, quickly chewing the husk off sunflower seeds and stuffing his cheeks with the tasty kernels. From a sleek stream-lined little ball of fur, he quickly changed appearance as his cheeks bulged like a bullfrog in song until it looked as if it had a bad case of the mumps. When its face looked ready to burst at the seams, Mr. Chips, as we named him, scurried along the top of our wood retaining wall, constantly stopping to check for danger

While looking out our kitchen window one Sunday afternoon in early August, my wife, Helen and I noticed a chipmunk in our backyard. We live right in Campbellton, but there are lots of trees and a wooded area by the neighbours' yards. It was a

before descending a set of steps to climb back up a more distant wall and run beside our neighbour's garage. It finally disappeared somewhere in a hilly area of bushes some 50 meters from where it had begun its mad dash to safety with its treasure.

Over the next several weeks Mr. Chips became a regular visitor, stuffing his cheek pouches each time to outrageous proportions, then dashing away to his secret storage den. In only a few minutes, it would return, sleek and hungry. Each day Mr. Chips became less fearful of us and we were able to sit at our picnic table only 3 metres away from the tray of his favourite treats. Chickadees, finches and sparrows did not intimidate the cheeky little chipmunk, and soon it would even go almost nose-to-nose with a pigeon three times its size, once it determined the pigeon was only interested in other kinds of seeds. However, danger lurked in the nearby bushes as a skulking neighbourhood cat prowled the backyard, ready to snack on one fat, seed-filled chipmunk, but our son, David was out there quickly with a broom to chase away the unwelcome intruder.

Not just a fair weather friend, Mr. Chips was often at the feeding station on dull, cloudy or cold days, and occasionally on damp, drizzly days, and even in the rain. As the days grew shorter and darkness came earlier, there seemed to be an increased urgency to his "squirreling" away a sufficient stock of winter food. After not appearing for several days, one mid-October day, Mr. Chips put in a final appearance, cheeks filled to overflowing, he made a final dash for the safety and security of his own winter residence complete with a fully-stocked pantry.

Somewhere, deep underground, now rests a chipmunk with a winter stock of several pounds of shelled sunflower seeds, probably enough to last through a prolonged, severe winter. We miss him, and will anxiously await his return in the spring as winter finally loosens its icy grip on our area, and a new mild season arrives, full of promise once again.

Seeing Red

from a friend of Rob Walker

Using nectar with red dye in it may be harmful to hummingbirds. According to a note in the Valley Harrier, the newsletter of the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society, research at the San Diego Zoo showed that hummingbirds feeding on nectar with red dye produced deformed young or laid eggs that did not hatch. It is the colour of the feeder, not the colour of the nectar, which attracts the humming birds, and the dyed nectar is unnecessary.

The information in the newsletter was extracted from an article in the February 25, 1990 edition of the Day Newspaper of the New London, Connecticut. If the information is correct, it raises interesting questions about the decades-long decline of the ruby-throated hummingbirds and the explosive growth of hummingbird feeding.

Piper Project Update

Roland Chiasson



The Piper Project/Projet siffleur is a bilingual, non-profit group. Our name is taken from "piper", a nickname for the Piping Plover and "siffleur", part of the French name, "Pluvier Siffleur". The project, fully supported by the Federation, was started in 1988 on the Acadian Peninsula with the goal to protect coastal ecosystems, especially Piping Plover habitat. We are mainly a conservation/education group that believes that the limited Piping Plover population is a warning sign that our coastal ecosystems are in trouble. We are also working on "A Guide to the Coastal Zone of Atlantic Canada".

Our thanks to the Federation and especially to Mary Mika and David Christie, who gave us the initial "kick" and frequent bouts of encouragement that made this project possible.

Conservation/Education Endeavours

Funding has been generously provided by the Endangered Species Recovery Fund (World Wildlife Fund - Canada and Environment Canada). General Motors of Canada (Oshawa headquarters) has provided us with a luxury van to cruise the Acadian Peninsula. Unfortunately, our major funding from the Environmental Trust Fund, to hire coastal guardians, did not come through. Last summer, we hired 13 students to patrol plover nesting sites. Much of the work this year is lobbying and education.

We are seeking some level of protective status for the Piping Plover on private lands, perhaps in the form of stewardship. We are continuing to explore several ideas on how to stop the vehicle onslaught on beaches and salt marshes. You can help protect plover habitat by writing to the Minister of Natural Resources and ask that certain beaches, already identified, be recognized as a priority for the survival of this species. Requests made to the RCMP, paid by the province to enforce the Trespass Act, to stop vehicle traffic on beaches can be made. We suggested that they organize educational workshops in coastal communities throughout N. B. and charge the worst offenders. When a vehicle or a beach stroller goes into a well marked plover area, there are laws to consider other than the Trespass act. The Migratory Bird Convention Act and new New Brunswick Endangered Species Act may also be useful.

This year was the second Piping Plover International

Census, the last one being in 1991. Preliminary results from Eastern Canada are not encouraging. In 1995, we recorded 89 fledglings, our highest number to date. The total number of individuals dropped from 123 to 110 in 1996. Where did those young birds go? Are there problems on the wintering grounds or during migration that we don't know about? There is much speculation on what is really going on, but no one really knows.

Acadian Peninsula Piping Plover Census Results

Year	Total Individuals
1987	130
1988	140 - 148
1989	106 - 109
1990	110 - 112
1991	148
1992	102
1993	117
1994	105
1995	123
1996	110

A Guide to the Coastal Zone of Atlantic Canada

This guide is unique in that it is specifically designed for Eastern Canada. Corvus Consultants Inc. were contracted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Piper Project/Projet siffleur became involved in 1995 to work on the reviewing process. Funds were raised from the Environmental Partner's Fund and Wildlife Habitat Canada to cover the costs of sending drafts to people throughout the Atlantic provinces, the printing of the modules and to conduct workshops. We are presently applying to the Environmental Trust Fund for the additional funds needed to do these workshops.

The guide covers 11 different ecosystems in our coastal zone. An introductory module contains descriptions and an activity module contains 46 activities and experiments that can be done with various age groups. Everything from single to multi-celled organisms are described in detail.

Of the thirteen modules, seven English and three French were printed in March, 1996. The rest of the modules should be finished by March, 1997. We hope to be able to undertake some workshops in the fall to introduce groups, individuals, organizations and teachers to this guide. It will go a long way to help us understand and to conserve our coastal zone.

For more information on these projects, please feel free to contact us at:

Piper Project/Projet siffleur
C/O Roland D. Chaisson & Sabine B. Dietz
Box 115, RR # 2
Tabusintac, N. B.
E0C 2A0

Telephone and fax-modem: 506-779-8304 (Please call before faxing)

e-mail: Corvus@nbnet.nb.ca

The Piper Project/Projet siffleur (version 1996) in co-operation with:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Club de naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne, Endangered Species Recovery Fund, New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, General Motors of Canada.



Le Maintien D'une Haute richesse De L'avifaune Dans Les Développements Urbains

Eric G. Martin

Centre Universitaire de Moncton, Moncton, Nouveau-Brunswick, E1A 3E9, CANADA

Résumé.—Il y a longtemps qu'on sait que certaines espèces d'oiseaux se sont fort bien acclimatées à l'urbanisation. Il y en a même qui ont su prendre avantage de ce phénomène (moineaux, pigeons, goélands, corneilles...). Cependant, le bonheur d'une espèce se fait parfois aux dépens d'une autre, car certaines espèces ne s'habitueront jamais aux dérangements causés par l'expansion urbaine, à moins qu'on trouve des moyens pour en faire autrement. Ce texte est un résumé de cinq recherches sur l'interaction entre les milieux urbains et les espèces d'oiseaux qu'on y retrouve. Parmi ces articles on retrouve des suggestions sur des méthodes d'aménagement des terres urbaines afin de maximiser la richesse en espèces. Par exemple, les résultats de ces recherches démontrent qu'avec un aménagement approprié des parcs et des parcelles boisées, on arrive souvent à attirer des espèces qu'on ne retrouve normalement que dans des habitats sauvages et/ou isolés.

L'expansion urbaine, nécessaire pour accommoder une population humaine en croissante, a pour effet de réduire l'aire des territoires naturels, et d'accélérer le processus de la fragmentation. Un territoire plus petit aura une diversité d'habitat limitée et accommodera un nombre moindre d'individus (Knaapen et al. 1991). De plus, un terrain

fragmenté aura tendance à isoler les populations locales d'oiseaux, diminuant ainsi la probabilité d'interaction. Les populations locales peuvent aussi diminuer, souvent jusqu'au point de causer des extinctions locales (Knaapen et al. 1991). Cette sensibilité à la fragmentation dépend surtout si l'espèce peut s'adapter face à ce genre de perturbation.

En Amérique du Nord, l'urbanisation n'a pas nuit à toutes les espèces d'oiseaux. Les pigeons, goélands, corneilles, quiscals, étourneaux et moineaux (ces deux dernières espèces introduites du vieux monde) sont des espèces qui se sont parfaitement adaptées au milieu de l'homme, souvent au point qu'elles deviennent des pestes dans certaines communautés (Meffe & Carroll 1994).



Heureusement que dans les banlieues des grandes villes, où se trouvent généralement des parcelles d'habitat boisées et des parcs, la richesse en espèces d'oiseaux est plus élevée. Ceci, avec le fait que beaucoup de gens placent des mangeoires à l'année longue, fait en sorte que plusieurs espèces normalement indigènes aux habitats sauvages deviennent plus ou moins urbanisées. Certaines espèces ont

étendu leur aire de répartition de cette façon; le gros-bec errant en est un exemple, car au avant le 20^e siècle, cet oiseau ne se retrouvait seulement qu'à l'ouest des grandes prairies (Bull & Farrand 1994). D'autres espèces, comme les mésanges, le geai bleu, les chardonnerets et le merle d'Amérique sont familiers de tous dans les banlieues. Ce que les environnementalistes veulent faire est d'instaurer ce genre de richesse en plein milieu des grandes villes, afin d'augmenter la biodiversité dans les milieux urbains, et d'enrichir ce milieu avec ces animaux charismatiques que sont les oiseaux.

Les cinq articles que j'ai choisis font allusion aux oiseaux et à l'urbanisme, et comment ceux-ci peuvent co-exister avec un peu d'effort et de planification. Je résumerai chaque article en ressortant la nature précise de l'étude, la méthodologie, les résultats (en gros) et les suggestions de l'auteur. Je discuterai ensuite des diverses façons qu'on peut s'y prendre pour aménager les terrains urbains de l'Amérique du Nord. Ceci afin d'attirer un maximum d'espèces d'oiseaux, dans l'espérance d'augmenter la probabilité de survie de celles-ci, et pour satisfaire le goût des observateurs d'oiseaux partout.

Revue d'articles

Tilghman (1987), fait allusion aux « îlots » de forêt qu'on retrouve souvent dans les grandes villes, et au fait que certains de ces îlots ont une plus grande richesse aviaire que dans certaines banlieues. L'étude a été effectuée à Springfield, dans le Massachusetts.

L'hypothèse principale était qu'une grande parcelle boisée aurait une richesse supérieure à une parcelle plus petite. Les sites d'études consistaient de parcs, terrains scolaires boisés et de quelques terrains privés. Les sites choisis n'étaient pas entretenus, mais ils étaient cependant utilisés par le public pour la marche, la bicyclette, le motocross, etc. On a ensuite fait le recensement des oiseaux présents pendant les périodes de reproduction, trois fois par an, sur une période de deux ans.

On a retrouvé en moyenne 32,5 espèces d'oiseaux par parcelle boisée. On a même retrouvé plusieurs espèces insectivores ordinairement retrouvées dans des milieux ruraux (grand pic, coulicous, tyrans, viréos et tangara écarlate). Via une analyse de régression, on a trouvé que l'étendue de la parcelle était de loin le plus important facteur affectant le nombre d'espèces observées



Petite buse
Illustration: L.A. Fuertes

(aire plus grande _ plus grand nombre d'espèces). On a aussi trouvé que les parcelles adjacentes à de grands édifices comptaient moins d'espèces.

Autres résultats intéressants : les parcelles qui contenaient plus de pins et de sapins avaient tendance à attirer plus d'espèces. Certaines espèces (grimpereaux, petite buse, certaines parulines) n'étaient jamais observées dans les parcelles de moins de 5 ha d'étendue. D'autres (merle d'Amérique, moqueur polyglotte et moineau domestique) préféraient les petites parcelles. Finalement, certaines espèces comme le carouge à épaulettes se retrouvaient surtout là où il y avait un cours d'eau à proximité.

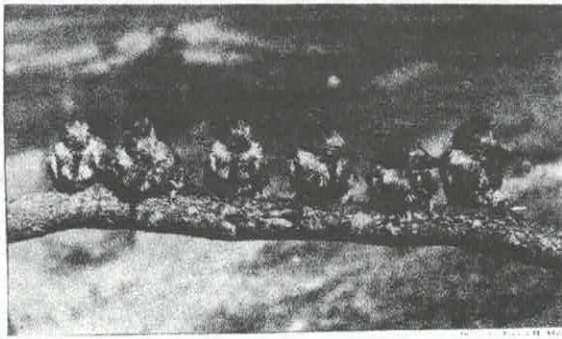
Tilghman recommande que : (1) les parcelles boisées doivent avoir une superficie d'au moins 25 ha pour attirer une plus grande variété d'espèces; (2) une strate arbustive (petits arbustes) doit être présente et maintenue; (3) la densité d'édifices adjacents aux parcelles doit demeurer à un minimum et (4) lorsqu'on aménage une terre pour la récréation publique, un réseau de quelques sentiers larges est préférable à beaucoup de petits sentiers étroits.

L'article de Carla Ciero a pour buts d'évaluer les différentes structures et compositions (en espèces) des populations d'oiseaux en milieu urbain, d'étudier les relations complexes entre oiseaux et habitats, et d'utiliser ces données afin de faire de meilleures recommandations pour améliorer les habitats urbains (qui pourraient éventuellement servir comme refuges).

La recherche, effectuée près des étangs d'un parc de San-Francisco, est basée sur les faits que : (1) la diversité de l'avifaune urbaine dépend grandement de la structure de l'habitat, de la quantité et la qualité de nourriture disponible et de l'intensité des perturbations humaines; (2) l'urbanisation excessif diminue la richesse de l'avifaune et (3) certaines espèces (pigeons, moineaux, étourneaux, quiscalas) sont dominants dans les zones d'urbanisation extrême, tandis que d'autres, surtout les nicheurs d'arbustes, éprouvaient une diminution dans leurs nombres. On voulait aussi déterminer si la forme, la taille et la diversité d'habitat d'une parcelle étaient tous des facteurs déterminants pour que celle-ci soit considérée comme un refuge aviaire idéal.

Les sites d'études consistaient de cinq lacs et étangs, entourés d'habitats aussi variés que possible (lisières, habitats de transition, plages, etc.). Tous les sites étaient entretenus régulièrement afin de conserver une apparence esthétique agréable. On a ensuite recensé les oiseaux, en regroupant les espèces aquatiques, transitionnelles et terrestres.

On a trouvé que les populations de pigeons étaient plus élevées là où la circulation de personnes était plus intense (nourriture gratuite). Certaines espèces, notamment les martins-pêcheurs, se tenaient là où les branches d'arbres passaient au-dessus de l'eau. Les bruants semblaient préférer les lisières d'arbustes de densité variable (dépendant de l'espèce). Pour certains (tourterelles, colibris, sittelles et mainates), les préférences d'habitat semblaient moins bien définies; on les retrouvait un peu partout.



Jeunes Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique
Photo: J.H. Miller

La conclusion principale de cette étude est la suivante : la richesse et l'abondance en espèces d'oiseaux dépendent de plusieurs facteurs d'importance égale, notamment l'aire de la parcelle, le montant de lisière, la présence de végétation naturelle (sauvage), le nombre d'arbustes, le nombre et la densité d'arbres matures, la densité et la proximité des bâtiments, la présence de cours d'eau et la disponibilité d'arbres morts encore debout. Aussi, l'influence des dérangements humains dépendait de la disponibilité d'un couvert végétal dense (cachettes).

Les résultats de cette étude ont donné lieu à plusieurs recommandations. Les étangs, ou lacs, devraient être d'une étendue d'au moins 1 ha et être situés aussi loin que possible des lieux perturbés. La berge de ces étendues d'eau devrait être de forme irrégulière, afin d'en augmenter l'étendue, et variée autant que possible (régions arbustives, arbres, plages). Des branches au-dessus de l'eau et des pieux devraient être fournies afin d'attirer les hirondelles et les martins-pêcheurs. La présence d'îlots est désirable puisqu'ils procurent un mini-refuge temporaire contre les prédateurs; ils augmentent aussi la surface utile de la berge. La flore environnante devrait être aussi variée que possible, en termes d'espèces et de stades de succession. Les arbres morts, surtout ceux près de l'eau, ne devraient pas être abattus, à moins que ceux-ci posent un danger aux utilisateurs du site.

L'article de Craig W. Johnson (1987) est un aperçu sur l'intérêt croissant du public Américain face à la présence de la faune sauvage en milieux urbains. Les pratiques architecturales courantes provoquent souvent le déplacement de certaines espèces d'oiseaux. La structure de la végétation urbaine par exemple, est axée sur la simplicité et l'esthétique plutôt que sur le support d'une haute richesse d'espèces.

Il est clair que l'intérêt du public face à la faune, notamment les oiseaux, a augmenté significativement au cours des dernières années. Beaucoup de personnes désirent observer le plus d'espèces possible sans avoir besoin de se déplacer sur de grandes distances. Puisqu'il est possible d'attirer un grand nombre d'espèces via la disponibilité d'habitat idéal, certains cherchent à aménager les parcelles existantes et/ou créer des parcelles qui seront attrayantes pour le plus d'espèces possible.

Les parcelles boisées typiques d'un parc urbain consistent d'arbres de hauteur modérée et constante (de même âge),

sans fruits ni fleurs. Ces arbres sont souvent d'espèces exotiques plutôt que domestiques. Bref, un genre d'habitat très homogène et peu apte d'attirer une haute variété d'espèces d'oiseaux.

On propose, en plus de changer les pratiques d'aménagement des parcelles boisées, de réhabiliter certains sites (mines de gravier, vieux dépotoirs, etc.) afin qu'ils puissent aussi servir comme habitats idéaux pour toute vie sauvage (chevreuils, castors, oiseaux aquatiques). On offre aussi comme suggestion la transplantation d'une haute diversité d'arbres et d'arbustes sur les parcelles dénudées.

Des problèmes peuvent survenir cependant. Certains citoyens pourraient protester l'apparence plus ou moins mal entretenue de telles parcelles. On pourrait aussi avoir de la difficulté à contrôler la prolifération de certaines espèces « pestes ». Aussi, certains citoyens ne seraient peut-être pas prêts à contribuer au coût parfois élevé qui découlent de tels programmes d'aménagement.

L'article de Eric G. Bolen (1991) fait allusion aux analogues d'habitat qui existent entre le milieu naturel et le milieu urbain, et des façon dont certaines espèces (pas seulement les oiseaux) prennent avantage de ceci. L'acquisition de connaissance dans ce domaine pourrait déterminer la manière dont on planifie les structures urbaines dans le futur.

Le concept est assez simple. Une espèce qui niche normalement sur les falaises escarpées, comme le faucon pèlerin, se trouvera aussi à l'aise sur les rebords de gratte-ciel, un analogue urbain d'une falaise. Les toits plats de grande surface peuvent procurer un endroit pour nicher pour certaines espèces comme les engoulevents, les sternes, et une vingtaine d'autres espèces, surtout marines. Une autre exemple classique est le martinet ramoneur qui niche dans les cheminées de maisons (analogue d'arbres creux). Certains bassins constituent un habitat favorable aux oiseaux aquatiques, notamment le colvert. Et que dire des nichoirs d'oiseaux érigées pour attirer les oiseaux nichant dans les cavités (mésanges, troglodytes, hirondelles, canard branchu, pics, etc.).

Trop souvent cependant, les structures urbaines peuvent être fatales aux oiseaux. Plusieurs périssent lorsqu'ils entrent en collision avec des fenêtres hautement réfléchives et des antennes de radio ou de télévision. Certains gros rapaces qui nichent sur des tours de lignes de transmission s'électrocutent à l'envol (balbuzards, pygargues). Durant ces dernières années, par le biais d'une planification urbaine qui tient compte des activités des oiseaux, on a réduit sensiblement le nombre de ces incidents mortels.

Le dernier article, par Richard M. DeGraaf, est une étude effectuée pendant l'hiver, sur la relation entre la structure d'habitat et les structures des groupes d'oiseaux en quête de nourriture. On voulait savoir s'il y avait une corrélation entre les espèces d'oiseaux qui se nourrissent au sol et la densité de la couverture arborescente, la superficie des pelouses et la distance de la forêt. On voulait aussi

confirmer l'existence d'un genre d'habitat urbain préféré chez les oiseaux insectivores non-migrateurs lorsque ceux-ci cherchaient de la nourriture.

Pendant l'hiver, les endroits urbains ont habituellement beaucoup d'individus, mais peu d'espèces. De plus, les espèces qui nichent au sol et dans des cavités sont généralement absentes. Seules les espèces granivores et omnivores semblent bien se porter en milieu urbain. Les banlieues ont le potentiel de supporter un plus grand nombre d'espèces non-migratrices, surtout lorsque la nourriture naturelle se fait plus rare.

Les sites d'études, tous des banlieues de la ville d'Amherst, Massachusetts, étaient groupés en trois types : (1) **GP**; grandes pelouses, grands arbres et arbustes matures; (2) **BP**; très grandes pelouses, très peu ou pas de grands arbres, arbres et arbustes jeunes; (3) **AS**; semblable à **BP**, mais avec beaucoup plus d'arbres à différents stades de succession (âges variés). On a ensuite recensé, à chaque mois de janvier, pendant cinq années successives, le nombre d'espèces et d'individus présents dans chaque site.

Bien que les espèces qui habitaient chaque type de banlieue n'étaient pas toujours les mêmes, la *richesse* en espèces demeurait plus ou moins constante partout. Les espèces omnivores et granivores dominaient dans **GP** et **BP**. Le plus haut pourcentage d'oiseaux insectivores se retrouvait dans **AS**, mais celui-ci atteignait seulement 14% de la population totale.

L'hiver, la composition de l'avifaune dans les banlieues varie dépendant si les types d'habitats disponibles diffèrent significativement des habitats naturels. On a noté que les insectivores qui cherchent dans l'écorce étaient plus nombreux l'hiver que pendant la période de reproduction (printemps-été). Dans certains cas, les granivores étaient jusqu'à cinq fois plus nombreux, surtout si la banlieue était établie sur des terres anciennement agricoles (plus aptes à retrouver plantes à graines comme le chardon ou le millet). Les populations d'espèces omnivores ne semblaient pas être affectées par le milieu urbain, ni le nombre ou les espèces d'arbres présents. Seuls les insectivores qui ne migrent pas semblent limités dans leur choix d'habitat dans les banlieues. On pourrait améliorer cette situation en conservant mieux les parcelles d'arbres matures.

Discussion

Les articles cités dans cette revue démontrent qu'il est possible d'attirer un grand nombre d'espèces d'oiseaux dans nos villes et banlieues, avec un peu d'aménagement et de créativité. Certains sites, ou refuges, existent depuis longtemps, mais la façon dont ils sont entretenus s'avère souvent défavorable aux oiseaux. Un exemple typique : clubs de golf qui sont maintenus en condition parfaite *pour le golf* via les pesticides et herbicides (Chepesiuk 1993).

Pour aménager convenablement les sites urbains, en plus des suggestions offertes dans les articles revus dans ce texte, il devient parfois nécessaire de connaître les préférences

de végétation (espèces d'arbres, type d'habitat, densité d'arbres, stades de succession) des espèces d'oiseaux qu'on veut attirer. Bien que certaines espèces soient très flexibles à cet égard, plusieurs ne le sont pas.

Il existe une grande variabilité dans les préférences pour les différents stades de succession (arbres de différents âges et de différentes hauteurs). Certaines espèces, comme les juncos et les bruants à gorge blanche, montrent une forte préférence pour les amas d'arbustes denses et les endroits ouverts. Le grand pic, le roitelet à couronne dorée, la paruline à croupion jaune, la paruline tigrée, la paruline à poitrine baie et la paruline à gorge orangée, entre autres, préfèrent les forêts matures. D'autres espèces de bruants et de parulines sont plus flexibles à l'égard des différents stades de succession (Titterton et al. 1979).

La préférence pour les espèces d'arbres est aussi un facteur important pour l'attraction de certains oiseaux. Certaines espèces (mésange à tête brune, roitelets, chardonneret des pins, paruline à croupion jaune, roselin pourpre et le grive solitaire) sont étroitement liées aux forêts de conifères (Smith 1980). Parmi d'autres préférences documentées (Schneck 1991) on retrouve : gazons et terrains ouverts



Faucon pèlerin
Illustration: L.A. Fuertes

(merle d'Amérique, hirondelles, pic flamboyant, étourneaux, ictéridés); arbres morts ou matures (pics, ictéridés, faisan de chasse, bruant chanteur); arbustes, fleurs (colibris, bruant chanteur, juncos, bruant à gorge blanche); bouleaux (chardonnerets, ictéridés); conifères (pics, chardonnerets, mésanges, geai bleu, tourterelle triste, bruant familier, roselins, sittelles, faisan de chasse, bruant chanteur); arbres fruitiers, merisier (pics, merles, grives, moqueurs, pigeons, tourterelles, geai bleu, geai du Canada, jaseurs). D'autres espèces d'arbres, comme le frêne, le chêne, le cèdre, l'orme et le hêtre, intéressent aussi certaines des espèces énumérées ci-dessus, mais peuvent être négligées car le nombre d'espèces qu'ils attirent est plutôt limitée.

Certaines terres urbaines comme les terrains de golf, les parcs publics et les grands cimetières offrent d'excellents habitats pour une grande variété d'oiseaux. Il suffirait que l'on maintienne une structure d'habitat variée pour conserver cette richesse, et qu'on aménage les sites urbains « pauvres » de la même façon.

Littérature Citée

Bolen, E. G., 1991. Analogs : a Concept for the Research and Management of Urban Wildlife. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 20 : 285-289.

Bull, J. & J. Farrand Jr., 1994. National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds, Eastern Region, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New-York, NY.

Chepesiuk, R., 1993. The Greening of America. Wildlife Conservation. The Wildlife Conservation Society. Bronx, NY, pp. 54-59, 81.

Ciero, C., 1988. Avian Structure in a Large Urban Park : Controls of Local Richness and Diversity. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 17 : 221-240.

DeGraff, R. M., 1991. Winter Foraging Guild Structure and Habitat Associations in Suburban Bird Communities. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 21 : 173-180.

Johnson, C. W., 1987. Planning for Avian Wildlife in Urbanizing Areas in American Desert/Mountain Valley Environments. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 16 : 245-

252.

Knaapen, J. P., M. Scheffer & B. Harms., 1991. Estimating Habitat Isolation in Landscape Planning. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 23 : 1-16.

Meffe, G. K. & C. R. Carroll., 1994. Principles of Conservation Biology, Sinauer Associates, Inc., Sunderland, MA.

Schneck, M., 1991. The Bird Feeder Guide; How to Attract and Identify Birds in Your Garden, Quintet Publishing Ltd., London, England.

Smith, R. L., 1980. Ecology and Field Biology, Harper & Row, New-York, NY.

Tilghman, N. G., 1987. Characteristics of Urban Woodlands Affecting Breeding Bird Diversity and Abundance. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 14 : 481-495.

Titterton, R. W., H. S. Crawford & B. N. Burgason., 1979. Songbird Response to Commercial Clear-Cutting in Maine Spruce-fir Forests. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 43(3) : 602-609.

Les Colibris Eric Martin

Il est relativement facile d'attirer les colibris chez soi, même si l'on demeure en milieu urbain. Le minimum requis est qu'on ait des fleurs ou arbustes fruitiers à proximité de la maison. Les fleurs à grande corolle rouge ou jaune sont particulièrement attrayantes pour eux.

Cependant, le moyen le plus efficace pour attirer les colibris est simplement d'installer une mangeoire pour colibris remplie d'une solution sucrée. Celles fabriquées par **YULE-HYDE ASSOCIATES LTD.** sont particulièrement bien conçues (on peut s'en procurer chez Quincaillerie PRO). Les mangeoires avec perchoirs sont préférables ; les colibris pourront se reposer pendant qu'ils s'abreuvent, et ils y demeureront plus longtemps. On peut aussi se servir d'abreuvoirs pour hamsters, mais celles-ci ont tendance à couler et peuvent causer un problème d'insectes (fourmis, abeilles, guêpes...).

On peut installer les mangeoires aussi près que l'on veut de la maison, même dans un porche, ou sur une fenêtre. Si on désire en installer plus d'une, on doit s'assurer qu'elles ne soient pas situées sur le même champ de vision. Si deux mangeoires sont visibles en même temps, un colibri dominant (souvent une femelle)

fera la garde de ces deux mangeoires, limitant ainsi l'accès aux autres colibris plus passifs. En isolant les mangeoires les unes des autres on évite quelque peu ce problème. Si on installe une mangeoire près d'une fenêtre, il faut éviter de placer des objets rouges à proximité de cette fenêtre, du côté intérieur de la maison. Ceci a pour effet d'empêcher l'oiseau de se heurter contre la vitre s'il décidait de se précipiter vers cet objet.

La meilleure solution sucrée que l'on puisse offrir aux colibris est du sucre de table *blanc* dissout dans de l'eau pure, préférablement de l'eau distillée. Une solution d'une part de sucre à quatre parts d'eau (20%) se rapproche de la concentration de sucre dans le nectar naturel. Une solution d'une part de sucre à trois parts d'eau (25%), *le maximum recommandé*, garantira une meilleure clientèle et augmentera la résistance des colibris face aux nuits fraîches (j'ai déjà observé un mâle se nourrir d'une telle solution, à 5h30 du matin, et ce lorsque la température était seulement 6° C! Il est demeuré en place pendant 35 minutes).

On prépare la solution en mélangeant le sucre et l'eau dans un chaudron, que l'on chauffe au feu doux. Une fois le sucre dissout, on chauffe la solution au feu moyen pendant

deux minutes ; cela détruit les bactéries qui pourraient s'y retrouver. On conserve ensuite cette réserve de nectar en la transvasant dans un contenant propre et en la réfrigérant.

Aussi souvent que possible, les mangeoires doivent être bien nettoyées à l'eau chaude et au savon de vaisselle, et la vieille solution doit être jetée et remplacée. Une fois tous les trois jours suffit (tous les deux jours si la mangeoire est exposée au soleil pour la majeure partie de la journée). Tout cela pour éviter que la solution fermente et que la moisissure apparaisse.

AVERTISSEMENT : On doit à tout prix éviter d'expérimenter avec des «recettes de maison» lorsqu'on prépare du nectar. Certaines personnes, qui ne savent pas mieux, y ajoutent des ingrédients comme du miel, du Kool-Aid, de la mélasse, de la cassonade, du Nutra-Sweet, du colorant, du jus de fruits, etc. Toutes ces substances n'ont aucune valeur nutritive pour les colibris.

Le Kool-Aid et les colorants alimentaires contiennent des produits chimiques qui causent des tumeurs sur la langue et le bec de l'animal, ce qui finit par le tuer. Le rouge présent sur les mangeoires commerciales est suffisant pour attirer les colibris ; l'addition de colorants n'est ni nécessaire, ni recommandée.

Des solutions contenant du miel (de trèfle ou d'abeilles) causent éventuellement la mort chez les colibris qui s'en nourrissent. On croit que le miel est un milieu propice pour la croissance d'un type de moisissure mortelle pour l'oiseau.

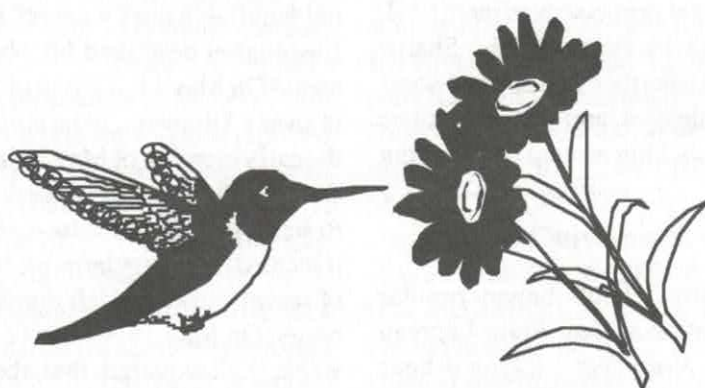
Les jus de fruits naturels peuvent paraître désirables pour les colibris parce qu'ils contiennent des vitamines et des minéraux. Cependant, les colibris tirent ces nutriments des insectes et petites araignées dont ils sont friands. Les jus de fruits ne sont simplement pas une nourriture naturelle pour eux, sans compter qu'un jus se gâte plus vite au soleil que l'eau sucrée.

Certains croient, par erreur, que le sucre *en excès* est néfaste pour les colibris, comme il l'est pour nous. Ils nourrissent donc leurs colibris avec une solution au Nutra-Sweet. Puisque le Nutra-Sweet goûte si sucré, et qu'il ne contient pas de sucrose, le carburant nécessaire pour la survie des colibris, ceux-ci peuvent mourir de faim dans l'espace d'une quinzaine de minutes.

Donc S.V.P., s'en tenir au sucre blanc seulement!

Un mot sur les préparations commerciales de nectar. Celles-ci tentent de simuler le nectar qu'on retrouve à l'état naturel. Ceci demeure plus une question de commercialisation plutôt qu'une promesse d'une formulation optimale. Les colibris ont besoin de sucre, c'est tout. Ces préparations contiennent souvent des colorants alimentaires, sans compter qu'elles sont assez coûteuses.

Finalement, les colibris reviennent dans notre région vers la fin avril/début mai et y demeurent jusqu'au début septembre. On doit enlever les mangeoires à ce temps pour éviter de retarder leur migration vers le sud.



A marvelous bird is a hummer
 I wait for their visits each summer
 The incredible feat, the speed their wings beat
 With a guitar, they'd be quite a strummer

Nature News: April-June 1996

David Christie

The spring and early summer were generally wet and cool, but interspersed were some very nice days. The fine days encouraged migration while the wet ones were difficult for the small insectivorous birds but led to some exciting birdwatching. Migration came in bursts, with some nice concentrations of migrants and a generous supply of southern visitors reported.

Upcoming "Nature News" columns will cover July through September and October through December. Try to send your reports by early in October and early in January. My address is RR 2, Albert, N.B. E0A 1A0 (e-mail: maryspt@nbnet.nb.ca; TalkMail: 882-2100).

Mammals

On May 3, Anne Bardou was admiring the butterfly-like flight of a **Little Brown Bat** catching insects as they emerged at the surface of McLaren Pond, FNP, when a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** "quietly flew straight towards it, picked it off the air and carried it away."

Several **Harbour Porpoise** followed fish up the Petitcodiac River to just below the Riverview causeway at high tide Apr. 13 (Brian Coates). On May 7, a small cetacean in the Shepody River at Harvey surprisingly had the taller, more hooked dorsal fin of a **dolphin** (John Inman, DSC, EMM), but the next day, a typical porpoise was there (AB, DJC). On the weekend of Apr. 13-14, Pat and Shirley Sharpe and Bob Gillis, were told that fishermen had spotted some **Beluga Whales** in the Dalhousie area, and with binoculars they were able to see them "frolicking around quite far out from shore" (*fide* ID).

Birds

The Saint John Naturalists' Club began regular monitoring of waterbird migration at their Point Lepreau Bird Observatory this spring. Volunteers, taking 4-hour shifts, provided impressive (but not complete) coverage. The resulting totals bring clarifying perspective to our earlier more general impressions of northbound migration along the Bay of Fundy. The main movement occurred between April 11 and May 4 with totals exceeding 35,000 **Black Scoters**, 14,000 **Surf Scoters**, 10,000 **Common Eiders** and 3,000 **Red-throated Loons** in that period (*fide* Iris McCurdy). Apr. 17 (IC, HCa) with 2893 Red-throated Loons and Apr. 18 (BED) with 4983 Common Eiders, 16,567 Black Scoters and 4030 Surf Scoters saw the peak passage. It will be interesting to see the full results of this ambitious monitoring project.

Farther up the bay, more sporadic migration watches were conducted at Waterside, Cape Enrage and New Horton Ridge. Some large totals were produced: 1246 **Red-throated Loons** in 5.5 hours Apr. 28-29 (SIT, OL); **Common Eiders**, 3325 Apr. 2 (SIT), 2805 Apr. 12 (SIT, RJW), and 9520 Apr. 13 (SIT, RAM, RJW, GW); **Black Scoters**, 10,500 Apr. 18 (RJW); **Surf Scoters**, 1500 Apr. 18 (RJW) and 3000+ Apr. 28 (SIT).

Other interesting observations of the Fundy waterfowl passage were of 3000 unidentified scoters in a half hour at Mispic Apr. 20 (EP); 1000+ **Black Scoters** and perhaps 100 **Surf Scoters** at nearby Cape Spencer the same day (JGW, JnW); the flight overhead of thousands of unseen Black Scoters at Mary's Pt. during a half hour after dark Apr. 22 ("their calls were continuous for one 15-minute period"-DSC); 700-800 **Common Eiders**, some following the Petitcodiac, others the Memramcook River, in an hour at Fort Folly Point, near Dorchester, Apr. 14 (Kathy & Harold Popma), and a flock of 200-250 Black Scoters passing over Scoudouc Apr. 24 and another the next day (NB). A flight line up the Memramcook valley to Shediac Bay passes right over Scoudouc.

In the north, scoters have been known for years to congregate in the Restigouche estuary. More than 1000 unidentifiable ones were off Dalhousie Apr. 20 (ID). Mike Lushington described his observations in the Pt. La Nim area: "On May 11, a group of 5000+ appeared, at a distance of over a kilometer, to be almost entirely **Black Scoters**. In the early morning of May 13 in between snow squalls, flocks were heading generally northwest from the river [probably to staging areas on the lower St. Lawrence] and by evening it seemed that a very large percentage of the scoter population of recent weeks had left during the night and early morning hours. On May 15, the first calm, still morning in nearly a week, I discovered that the Black Scoters which had disappeared from view for a couple of days, are still around [or had been replaced by others?]. The water, principally in the main channel, was seething with them, from Pt. La Nim to well past Dalhousie Junction. The main raft was well over a kilometer in length and must have had in excess of 5000 birds. Dates for the large concentrations here were April 18 to May 20."

A remnant 300-400 scoters (>90% Blacks, a few Surfs), possibly immatures, remained on the Restigouche into June and were joined after mid month by a group of 100 male **Greater Scaup** "returning from their rather limited parenting duties" (ML).

June 28, about 30 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were seen 1-2 miles off Martin Head (TLS), which is 10 km west of Fundy Park and farther up the bay than we usually expect this species. The following day, both **Wilson's** and **Leach's Storm-Petrels** were seen during a round-trip on the Saint John-Digby ferry (Falk Huettmann, GF).

A surprising number of **Northern Gannets** migrated up the Bay of Fundy in mid April: 62 full-plumaged adults at Cape Enrage Apr. 16 (RJW) and about 25 at Mary's Pt. (DSC) the next day, when a further 100+ were sitting about at Cape Enrage (RJW). In Northumberland Strait, where they are often common, several hundred were streaming past the Caissie Cape Wharf Apr. 21 (DD, NB) and "huge numbers" in the Barachois-Robichaud area May 2 (NP). "There must [have been] a good smelt run" in the Restigouche for nearly a thousand Gannets—from the Bonaventure Island colony—were "dive-bombing the river" at Pt. La Nim May 26 (ML) and between 500 and 1000 were at the bridge in Campbellton early that morning (CR).



Least Bittern
Photo: E.G. Tabor

An elusive **Least Bittern** was calling regularly in the evening at Daley Creek Marsh, Mary's Point, May 27-June 1 (SIT+), another in the Germantown Marsh, near Riverside-Albert, June 7 (SIT,

RAM). A migrant **Green Heron** paused at Mary's Point May 7 (DSC & Majkas). This rare breeder was also reported at Whale Cove, GM, May 20 (JGW), Eel Lake, GM, May 23 (*fide* BED), St-Basile May 25 (Daniel Bouchard, BC, GLT, Monique Plourde), Summerville May 30 (KHD) and Cap Brûlé, near Shédiac, June 3-6+ (Julie Pellerin).

Southern herons, single birds unless noted, that overshot their nesting range were numerous. **Great Egret** was reported in several locations: Chance Harbour Apr. 13-21 & May 6 (v.o.), Jemseg May 5 (NBBIL), Musquash Marsh May 10 (AC, Kelley Nelson), Courtenay Bay, Saint John, May 7 (NBBIL), Castalia Marsh May 11-17 (v.o.) and June 24 into July (BED), Cape Jourimain May 21-June 6 (CA, Mike Crowell), Mary's Point June 23 (DSC) and near Hopewell Cape June 24 (Richard Faulkner); **Snowy Egret** at Castalia Marsh April 24-30 (Rod Gardner, BED) and May 20-23 (v.o.), Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John, Apr. 25-May 8 (CLJ+; 2, perhaps 3, there May 4—RAM, EP), 2 at Chance Harbour May 4-6 (EP, RAM+), Shédiac May 15 (MNC line) and Shédiac Island in late June (*fide* AC), Waterside Marsh May

27-June 4 (Barb Curlew, Rick Elliott+), Musquash Marsh June 9 (SIT+); **Little Blue Heron** at Dipper Harbour Apr 25 (immature—Ian Stead+) and Machias Seal I. June 3 (*fide* KA); **Tricolored Heron** at Castalia May 18-19 (JGW+), 2 at Red Head Marsh, Saint John, May 21 (KHD), and Cocagne in mid June (Denise Roy). The lone **Cattle Egret** was at New Horton, south of Riverside-Albert, June 8 (DSC).

An unidentified **swan** flew south overhead at Rexton Apr. 17 (Hugh Thompson). There were a few **Snow Goose** observations: Sackville Apr. 2 (NG), Buctouche Apr. 14 (SIT/DD), near Sugar Island, above Fredericton, Apr. 20 (DGG), about 20 over Darlings Lake, west of Hampton, Apr. 22 (WCA), 5 at Dundee Apr. 28-May 5 (MGD, ID, JCI, ML), adult and 3 immatures at St-Basile Apr. 28 (Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska). Far inland, 10 to 15 **Brant** were at Baker Brook May 21 (DCy). Normal numbers were seen at favoured coastal locations.

A pair of **Northern Shovelers** in the Dalhousie sewage lagoon May 16 (ML) were the first in that area in several years. **Gadwall** were widely reported in southern N.B. including 9 at Saints Rest lagoon Apr. 11 (SIT) and 7 at Sackville WP June 30 (Sandy Burnett).

The usual few **Eurasian** males were identified among numerous **Green-Winged Teal**: near McGowans Corner Apr 13 (PAP), perhaps the same bird at Sheffield Apr. 23 (CA), Chance Harbour Apr 21 (JGW+), and Lincoln May 7 (PAP). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was seen between Jemseg and McGowans Corner Apr. 27 (*fide* RJW) and one at Lincoln May 4 (DGG). A male that stayed from Apr. 28 till at least June 15 (v.o.) was noted first at Dundee and then at Eel River Bar. On May 12, it was thought there might be a pair (ID, MGD) there, but because of the similarity of female American and Eurasian Wigeon it's difficult to be sure. The same applies to the two pair reported at Charlo Apr 29 (A&SN).

A pair of **Canvasbacks** were among a flock of scoters at Waterside Apr. 6 (SIT) and a male at Eel River Apr. 27 (Pat McGorlick). A pair of **Redhead** were on the river at Fredericton Apr. 6 (DGG) to at least 17 (CA). Two were also noted at Inkerman Apr. 15 (Guy Hébert). Two male **Ruddy Ducks** were noted at Bell's Marsh, Moncton, the weekend of May 18-20+ (v.o.).

The prohibition on hunting **Harlequin Ducks** may be having beneficial effects. Three at Dipper Harbour lingered from March till at least Apr. 20 (v.o.). At Saint John one was seen at Anthony's Cove Apr. 18 (CLJ) and Courtenay Bay Apr. 24 (KHD). There were 3 pairs courting at Cape Spencer Apr. 20 (JGW, JnW). The peak at Machias Seal I. was five on May 3 (*fide* KA). On Grand Manan there was a female at Deep Cove, May 18-19 (v.o.).

Sea ducks in Madawaska included 2 **Oldsquaws** on the

Madawaska River, at Boucher Office, Edmundston, Apr. 21 (Louis et Bernadette Morin), a pair of **Common Eiders** and 2 pairs of **Black Scoters** there Apr. 23 (Donna Dumont, D&MP), an eider at Edmundston marina May 18 (BC & RFC), 3 **Surf Scoters** at Lac Baker May 20 (DCy), and a pair of **White-winged Scoters** at Lac Baker May 23 (DCy).

A number of **King Eiders**, all males I believe, were noted by careful watchers of passing eider flocks: Cape Enrage Apr 5 (SIT), Pt. Lepreau Apr. 11 (SIT), Waterside Apr 13 (3—SIT, RAM) and Apr. 19 (RJW, GW), Cocagne area Apr. 21 (DD, NB). One was seen on the Acadian Peninsula Apr. 14 (*fide* ID).

There was a real flood of **Turkey Vulture** reports across the southern part of the province. The March 27 bird mentioned last time was followed by one over Hillsborough Mar. 31 (Dale Gaskin). Apr. 20 was a big day with 8 together near Quispamsis (CLJ, Ethel & Rowly Bosence) and 6 over the marsh at Cape Enrage (Pearl and Connie Colpitts, RS). One roosted in a tree just outside Janet and Tony Ratliffe's sunroom at Durham Bridge April 22 (Margaret Pacey) and up to 2 were seen in that area over the next few days (NBBIL). Other April reports came from Saint John airport (NBBIL), Brookville (WCA+), Penobsquis (RJW, GW), just west of Hampton (RGA), near Westfield (SS), Coates Mills (RGA), Maugerville (SS), near Oak Point (3—SJNC+), Jemseg (RJW, GW), near Waterborough (NP, Pat Poirier), Hammond River (PhW), Quispamsis (RGA), and Lutes Mountain (Mike Rae). Reports continued through May and into June, when birds were seen at Saint John (IC, HCa), Pennfield (SIT+), Hammond River, the Kingston Peninsula (ID+) and at Ben Lomond June 24, when a vulture circled quite close over Ian Cameron and hung around for about an hour, "going away into the distance but always coming back to monitor my progress." This suggests possible nesting in that area.

Rare hawks were represented by **Cooper's Hawks** at Edmundston Apr. 11 (GV, Adeline Verret), St-Léonard Apr. 28 (Augustine Chenard, Andrina Dubé), Chamcook Lake May 14 (JR), and a pair that returned to nest at Pokiok in May (*fide* JE). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported at Lower Jemseg Apr. 21 (SS), near St-Joseph-de-Madawaska (D&MP) Apr. 28, Shediac River area June 11 (pair—SIT), Dalhousie area mid June ("twice in two weeks"—ML), and Lutes Mountain area by June 22 (NBBIL).

A single gray **Gyr Falcon** was seen at Deep Cove, GM, on Monday, April 15 (*fide* BED).

A **Yellow Rail** was calling at Red Head Marsh, an unusual location, May 19 (KHD). On their breeding grounds at Grand Lake Meadows these rails were not found at the usual site in June, probably because of high water levels, but were calling in a different section (GF).

Virginia Rails, uncommon but locally distributed across

the province, created excitement for some of our observers. At Atholville's ball field marsh one was found May 7, a pair were attempting to mate May 10 (MGD, ID, Raymond Chiasson and CR), and they continued to be seen into June. A pair were also seen very well at Grays Brook Marsh, Hillsborough, May 22+ (Kathy Faulkner+). In Carleton County by June 15, both **Soras** and **Virginia Rails** had been found at Williamstown, Williamstown Lake near Bloomfield, and at Avondale, all to the west of Hartland (GMi). A **Common Moorhen** was at Long Pond, GM, May 29 & June 1 (SIT), 2 at Bell Street Marsh, Moncton, June 2+ (SIT+) and one at Gray Brook Marsh June 7 (SIT, RAM).

An **American Oystercatcher**, a species which makes brief, almost annual appearances in the Grand Manan area, was at Machias Seal I. June 1 (KA). A male **Ruff** on the Grand Lake Meadows June 18 (GF, Pat Kehoe) was the next most unusual shorebird.

The number of **Piping Plovers** in northeastern N.B. (Miscou Island to Néguaç) in early June was down to 105 compared to 123 last year and to 148 in 1991 (*fide* Roland Chiasson) but about the same as in 1992 and 1994. Because of the intensive program of protection and resultant good reproductive success during 1995, one hoped for an increase but there must have been increased mortality during migration and/or winter. Although it's discouraging, the protection program deserves to be continued for a longer time.

Lesser Yellowlegs, normally very scarce in spring, were seen more frequently this year. I received reports from a dozen locations between Apr. 27 and June 9. These included 6 at Woodward's Cove, GM, May 11 (BED). An unusual spring **Whimbrel** was at St. Andrews May 21 (Tom Parsons). These and the occurrence of 200 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Baker Brook, May 21 (Gilberte Cyr, Pierrette Mercier, DCy+) and 20 at Atholville the same day (MGD) were likely related to weather conditions. Their migration is mainly farther to the west.

Eleven **Solitary Sandpipers** together at Eel Lake on May 20 (AC) was a noteworthy concentration of that species. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was unusual at Lac Baker May 28 (DCy, GC). Three **Dunlin** were reported in late April, at Waterside Apr. 27 (SIT), Eel River Bar Apr. 28 (MGD) and Charlo Apr 30 (A&SN). I received reports of 17 **Wilson's Phalaropes** at 7 locations in southern N.B. Apr. 27-May 11.

May 22 in the UNB woodlot, Fredericton, Janice Arndt flushed an **American Woodcock**, which gave a distraction display before flying off. Searching, she spotted a fairly large **Garter Snake** (perhaps 18 inches) poised above the four eggs in the woodcock nest. "Although some snakes can do amazing things with their jaws," she wondered, "would this individual actually be a threat to eggs the size of a woodcock's?" I suspect it would.

An adult **Laughing Gull** around the northern end of Grand Manan ferry May 21-24 (PAP+) and up to three at Machias Seal I. May 28 (*fide* KA) were expectable. More unusual were those at Caraquet May 24 (Rosita Lanteigne), Tide Head May 26/27 (Allan Madden) and Parlee Beach June 2 (JE). **Bonaparte's Gulls** were noteworthy at Lac Baker May 22 (2—DCy) and May 26 (10—Dennis Cyr, GC), as were a 3rd-summer **Iceland Gull** and a 2nd-summer **Glaucous Gull** at St-Basile May 1 (JDB, GV).

An adult **Lesser-Black Backed Gull** was at Lincoln Apr. 27 (DGG) and McGowans Corner May 7 (JGW), while the regular one was reported behind Cy's Restaurant in Moncton in mid May (NBBIL). A much more difficult to identify first-summer bird was at Cap Bimet, east of Shediac, June 3 (SIT).

An adult **Black-Legged Kittiwake** at Cape Enrage Apr. 2 (SIT) was unusual so far up the Bay of Fundy. About 220 kittiwakes and 40 nests were counted during a May visit to the nesting colony at The Wolves (Pat Kehoe, *fide* PAP).

The usual few **Caspian Terns** were reported: 2 at Point Lepreau (JnW, Suzanne Rousseau, KHD, JD) and 3 at the Sackville Waterfowl Park (v.o.) on May 2, and 4 at Waterside May 12 (v.o.). In mid and late June up to 4 **Roseate Terns** were being seen at Machias Seal I., where they have nested in recent years (v.o.). A very unusual **Forster's Tern** was reported at Caron Brook May 21 (DCy) and 28 (VL).

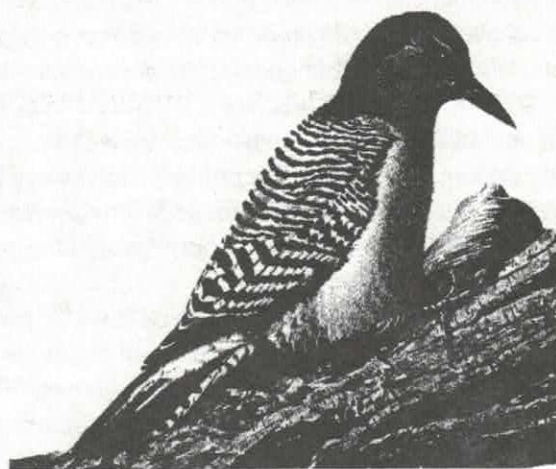
An out-of-season **Thick-billed Murre** was seen during a trip from Grand Manan to Machias Seal I. during about June 20 (Bill Mountain).

The earliest **Black-billed Cuckoos** were at GM May 22 (AC), Lower St. Marys May 25 (2—FNC), and Lower Prince William May 26 (David Myles).

A couple of **Snowy Owls** were seen in April, one in the first week at Dalhousie, another in the last week at Pte-Alexandre, Lamèque (*fide* ID). A **Short-Eared Owl** was regular at Atholville May 2-14 (ID+) and one was at Edmundston Apr. 27 (GLT).

Everyone tends to wait impatiently for the return of the **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**. Some of this year's earliest reports were Saints Rest, Saint John, May 11 (JE); Hammond River (JnW), Alma (RJW+), Edgetts Landing, near Hillsborough (Tania Smith), May 13, Campbellton May 14 (Flora Kelly), Riverview May 15 (Wendy J. Sullivan), St. Andrews May 16 (JR), Rosevale, near Caledonia Mountain, May 17 (Ajo Wissink), Edmundston (GLT, BC, Roger Levesque) and Dalhousie (JCI) May 21.

Apparently three separate **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** survived the winter in the Moncton-Riverview area. Moncton's male returned Apr. 18 to the feeder it had frequented during the winter (MNC Info Line). In Riverview I have spring reports only from the Gunningsville section of town, at three feeders Apr. 17 through May 15 (Shirley



Red-bellied Woodpecker
Drawing: L.A. Fuertes

Childs, Joyce Weir and Wendy Sullivan).

Willow Flycatchers were singing at North Head May 22 (JGW), Dieppe, June 8+ (BED+), Sheffield June 9+ (PAP, HAD+), Cap Brûlé in the second week of June (MNC line), and south of Elgin June 22 (DSC). **Great Crested Flycatchers** returned to Jan Dewitt's Purple Martin house in Moncton where they had nested for a number of years until the female was accidentally killed a couple of years ago (MNC Info Line).

There has been much discussion this summer about the decline of swallows, particularly Barn and Cliff Swallows. Depending on when it occurs, wet cool weather may weaken or kill adults or prevent them from catching sufficient food for their young. The weather we've had this spring and summer has been difficult for them. Some large concentrations of migrants were noticed early in the season, for example: 1000 Tree Swallows at the Sussex sewage lagoon May 1 (JCa), 2000 on the lagoon in Atholville May 19 (MGD).

Tree Swallows were back at Bancroft Pt., GM (2—BED) and Kingsclear (20—DGG) Apr. 19; Woodstock (PPa), Jemseg to McGowans Corner (Sharon Northrop), St. Martins (50—JGW), the Kingston Peninsula (several—IC, HCa) and throughout the Moncton area (MNC Info Line) Apr 20; Mispic (Brenda McKnight), Riverside-Albert (DJC) and St-Jacques (JDB) Apr. 22. Allen Gorham had a **Barn Swallow** near his home on the Kingston Peninsula Apr. 26. A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was among swallows at Hillsborough sewage lagoon May 3 (AC). One to two, perhaps as many as 4, were at Point Wolfe, FNP, June 2-7 (v.o.) and one was flying over Moncton's west end June 9 (BED).

1995's production of young **Blue Jays** produced quite a heavy migration along the Fundy coast in May. At Mary's

Point movement began May 15 (14—EMM) and on the 19th flocks of about 55 and 70 passed while a dozen occupied the feeder (DSC). At Grand-Digue, Jason Fougere was surprised to see so many Blue Jays that weekend. May 23 Stu Tingley commented "They are everywhere in Albert County and are clearly undergoing a major migration." At the Cape Enrage Road he noticed a flock of 40 Blue Jays moving east and in Alma a flock of about 100!! going west. One reached Machias Seal I. May 16 (*fide* BED).

Similarly, migration of **White-breasted Nuthatches**, probably year-old birds, could be detected along the Fundy coast in late April, particularly at Grand Manan, where at least 10 individuals appeared at feeders beginning Apr 22 (*fide* BED).

One of Shirley Sloat's **House Wrens** was back at Fredericton May 15, but in early June only a female was in residence. One was singing along the Swallowtail Road at North Head May 22 (JGW), another between Deep Cove and Seal Cove June 1 (SIT). A very cooperative **Sedge Wren**—a real rarity in recent years—was discovered at Dieppe June 1 and remained most of the summer. A **Marsh Wren** was found at the Bell Street Marsh, Moncton, Apr. 21 (AC) and later two were noted there. Others were at Germantown Marsh May 19+ (v.o.), Eel River Crossing May 26 (ID+), and Williamstown Lake near Bloomfield, Carleton Co. by June 15 (GMI).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was less numerous than in recent springs. The earliest, at St. Martins May 13 (TLS) was followed by singles at Summerville May 19 (KHD, JD), near Riverside-Albert May 23 (DJC), and McLaren Pond, FNP, May 27 & June 2 (SIT, RJW+).

A male **Northern Wheatear** was reported on the Atholville Boom Road, Atholville, May 18 (Ben Lagacé, Sandra & Tom Gulliver).

Eastern Bluebird numbers seem reduced this year at least in the Moncton area. The earliest reported was at Riverside-Albert Apr. 6 (SIT). In Madawaska, one was seen at Edmundston May 14 (GLT).

The wintering **Townsend's Solitaire** at Hammond River was last definitely seen April 15 (Herringtons, *fide* JGW).

Among nocturnal migration activity at Moncton, Brian Dalzell noted **Gray-cheeked Thrush** calls May 21 and June 9. These and the report of 2 Gray-cheeked Thrushes in the Campbellton-Dalhousie area May 25 (RNC) all probably refer to the "old" Gray-cheeked Thrush that includes the "new" northern Gray-cheeks and the Bicknell's Thrush which are now designated as separate species. We have quite a difficult identification problem here, because Gray-cheeks from Newfoundland are very similar to Bicknell's Thrush in appearance. Singing birds and the cool gray-brown Gray-cheeks found from northern Quebec westwards are evidently the only safe calls. **Bicknell's Thrush** was

reported at Matthews Head, FNP, June 2 (*fide* AB), on the Fundy coast east of Big Salmon River June 11 (DSC) and at Mt. Carleton in the third week of June (NP).

Brown Thrashers were at Machias Seal I. April 21-25 (2-1—RE), St-Basile May 10 (Georgette Thibodeau), Mollins Road, Salisbury, May 26 (2—RS+), Pennfield June 1 & 9 (4—JGW+), Swallowtail Road, May 22 (JGW), Canaan June 7 (PAP, DGG).

Several songbirds appeared very early at Machias Seal I.: **Gray Catbird** and **Ovenbird** April 21 (RE), **Black-and-white warbler** and **Common Yellowthroat** Apr. 22, (RE).

A nice flock of 60 **Am. Pipits** were at Allardville May 24 (KHD). At Grand Manan the peak was 13 at Castalia May 19 (*fide* BED).

A singing male **Golden-winged Warbler** was found at North Head May 20-21 (RAM+), another at Eel Brook, GM, May 30 (SIT). Much more unusual were individuals at St-Basile May 25 (Louise-Anne Lajoie) and Verret, west of Edmundston, May 28 (VL). A female **Prairie Warbler** frequented the Bear's Den Road, near Southern Head, GM, May 17-19 (v.o.). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was seen and heard at Blacks Harbour May 22 (DSC).

Observations suggest an increasing number of **Pine Warblers** breeding in southern N.B. The earliest was singing at Fredericton Apr 22 (DGG). Peter Pearce heard 3 at Douglas about that date and later found singles in four other Fredericton locales. A pair plus a male were at Upper Brockway and another singing male at Tracy May 26 (SIT, JGW). One appeared on Machias Seal I. June 1 (KA). Beyond the southwestern breeding stronghold, two males were singing in a white pine stand about 10 km south of Petitcodiac May 17 (BED) and one at Edmundston May 26 (BC, RFC).

It was one of the best springs in years for seeing **Scarlet Tanagers** in this province, but it wasn't necessarily good for the tanagers, some of which were obviously weakened and visiting feeders in order to survive. The earliest-ever on GM was an adult male near Seal Cove (Marc-André Villard) and probably the same one at Deep Cove (*fide* BED) Apr. 21. One was at Cap de Cocagne May 11 (Alfred Goguen); one at Headquarters campground, FNP, May 13, later found dead (AB); female at Cape Jourimain May 15 (CA); female at Seal Cove May 17 (MNC); two singles near Shediac May 17 (JF); one at Grand-Digue May 19 into June. At least 7 were reported to Rob Walker at bird feeders in coastal Albert County May 21-22; several were taking mixed bird seed, others orange slices. In the north, one was at St-Hilaire May 21 (Gérard & Margo Lee) and one at Mont. Blanchette, Edmundston, May 31 (BC). A young male in Atholville May 27 was quite a sensation because of its mixture of red, orange and yellow body plumage (MGD, Sandra & Tom Gulliver, ID). There were 3 reports on the Miramichi May

26-27 (Tom Greathouse).

Following last fall's large flight, **Northern Cardinals** were reported in many areas. There is a good chance of successful nesting in several parts of the province.

Three



Blue Grosbeaks
Drawing: L.A. Fuertes

early **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were visiting feeders: near Riverside-Albert Apr. 12+ (DJC, AB), at Edgetts Landing Apr 19+ and at Bancroft Point Apr. 24 (BED).

Several **Blue Grosbeaks** appeared: at North Head April 17 (*fide* BED), Lamèque Apr. 28-29 (HCh), Weldon, near Hillsborough, May 6-7 (Dwayne Biggar, Tania Smith+), Gilberts Corner, near Shediac, May 8-9 (+, Elsie Gallant), Pettes Cove, North Head, May 13 (*fide* HAD), Castalia May 17-23 (v.o.), a male and female at Hammond River in the last week of May (PhW+). Irene Doyle and Eileen Pike felt there may also have been females at Lamèque and Gilberts Corner.

A large flight of **Indigo Buntings**, almost all adult males (the females being much less conspicuous and likely not as numerous among the early migrants) was recorded, the two earliest at Grand Manan Apr. 17 (*fide* BED). Brian had reports of 25 males at Grand Manan. Elsewhere in April, singles appeared at feeders at Lords Cove Apr. 23-24 (Audrey Cline), near Gilberts Corner about Apr. 23-25 (MNC Info Line) and Apohaqui Apr. 28-29 (Ramona Graves). There were numerous observations across southern N.B. beginning May 9. Reports in the north came from Darlington, near Dalhousie, May 12-18+ (Ken Reinsborough+), Charlo the May 18-20 weekend (*fide* ML), St-Hilaire May 21 (imm. male—Daniel Bouchard), Val Lambert May 28 (VL, Pauline Morneau) and Baker Brook in May (Madame Gérard Lee). In Carleton County one was regular at Mrs. Foster's feeder in Bannock, east of Hartland, for some time before May 15 (PPa).

Amazingly, three **Painted Buntings**, adult males of

course, were seen at Salem, near Hillsborough June 2-5 (Linda Hayward, Marven & Gerine Lloy+), St. Martins June 10-15 (Mrs. Henderson, TLS+), and Haut-Lamèque about June 30 through at least July 4 (Mathieu Aubut, HCh).

Eastern Towhees were at Machias Seal I. May 19 (KA), Salisbury May 24 (RS), Irving Nature Park, Saint John, May 25 (Frank Longstaff+), South St. Norbert June 23 (singing—SIT), and Scott Road near Salisbury weekend of June 22-23 (JE). Sparrow rarities were a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Alma May 30-31 (RJW) and a **Lark Sparrow** at Mary's Point May 27 (DSC, Majkas+). The only definite **Field Sparrow** was at Machias Seal I. on Apr. 28 (*fide* KA) plus a probable at Grande-Digue during June (JF).

Suzanne Rousseau's overwintering **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Lower Coverdale, south of Riverview, stayed till about the first week of May but then reportedly reappeared May 15.

A good flight of **White-crowned Sparrows** began Apr. 26 when 2 appeared at Moulin-Morneault (D&MP) and really picked up in numbers May 10. Generally, as is normal, they were more numerous to the northwest, where each feeder had several, as opposed to just one or two at most feeders in the southeast. On the Restigouche Irene Doyle mentioned "at least 45-50 of them in some short bushes singing away" over the May long weekend. As many as 25 were found on Machias Seal I. after the fallout of May 11 when cold, wet conditions grounded a lot of migrants flying over the Gulf of Maine (*fide* BED). Much larger numbers were seen then across the bay at Brier Island, N.S.

What really showed up in unusual numbers at Grand Manan and on the mainland this spring were **Baltimore Orioles**, at least 250 of which were tallied at GM on the May long weekend (*fide* BED). "Mary Green counted as many as 22 orioles at one time in her yard at Seal Cove during the invasion, and eventually, anyone who attempted to cater to them had at least 5-10 birds grace their feeders" (BED). Sugar solution and sections of oranges nourished the birds through periods of inclement weather. Some of the orioles appeared early: Apr. 19 at Machias Seal I. (RE), Apr. 22 at North Head (*fide* BED), but May 12-13 was when they became numerous in many places. In the north, orioles appeared in Margot Richard's Campbellton-area yard May 14 and at Edmundston May 15 (4 on the 20th—Bert & Colette Lavoie).

A few **Orchard Orioles** were also seen: immature male at Seal Cove May 18-19 (v.o.), female and imm. male at North Head May 20-22 (v.o.), and Brian Dalzell mentions a minimum of 6 first-year birds on the island during May 19-23; adult female at Mary's Pt. May 26-June 1 (DSC, Majkas+), and adult male at Riverside-Albert c. May 26-30 (and possibly a female May 26-27—Rhoda Crandall+).

During April and May there was a rash of reports of **Red**

Crossbills coming to bird feeders in southeastern N.B. It is assumed that they had from an area where the cone crop had been exhausted. Some feeders had only a few, but Dwight Staubi, Moncton, often had 12-15 at his feeders from Apr. 19 into June, and a maximum 25 on May 11, while David Owen had 20 at Riverview June 2.

Common Redpolls lingered late at feeders this spring, till the last week of April at several Moncton area feeders (MNC Info Line), to May 3 at Grande-Digue (the last one—JF) and May 13 at Campbellton (4—MGD).

Full details are not available concerning a **Hooded warbler** reported by Ben Lagacé at Atholville May 18 or a **Boat-tailed Grackle** at Claude Richard's feeder in the Campbellton area May 26.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Cheryl Davis had the rather rare experience of encountering in quick succession two turtles along a road at Kars, near Evandale, June 8. The first was a **Painted Turtle**, the second a **Snapping Turtle**.

Wood Frogs calling daily throughout GM by Apr. 14 (BED) began calling at Mary's Point Apr 20 (DSC), at Gondola Point Apr 21 (RGA) and at Summerville Apr 24 (KHD). **Spring Peepers** chimed in Apr. 21 near Riverside-Albert (AB, DJC), Apr. 22 near Sackville (NG) and at Mary's Pt. (just one, several the following day)—DSC) and Apr. 27 at Summerville (KHD). The "snoring" call of a **Leopard Frog** was heard Apr. 29 at Gray's Brook Marsh in Hillsborough (SIT, OL) and **Am. Toad** at Sackville May 1 (DSC).

An amphibian prowl to two ponds on the White-tail Trail, FNP, the evening of May 11 sampled amphibian migration at its very best. Using lights and care about where they stepped, the participants observed many **Spotted Salamanders** moving through the woods towards the ponds, mating, and laying eggs. **Wood Frog** egg masses were near hatching. A few **American Toads** were noted, but very few

calling. There were lots of **Spring Peepers** and they also saw at least one **Red-spotted Newt** (RJW).

Errata

In the February-March 1996 "Nature News" the Long-eared Owl report (23:57) should be deleted. The woolly bear caterpillar Mar. 29 (23:59) was at Long Pond Beach, not Castalia.

Abbreviations

+ and following days *or* and other observers, A&SN André & Suzanne Nadeau, AB Anne Bardou, AC Alain Clavette, BC Benoît Clavette, BED Brian Dalzell, CA Chris Adam, CLJ Cecil Johnston, CR Claude Richard, D&MP Don & Monique Plourde, DCy Denise Cyr, DD Denis Doucet, DJC David Clark, DGG Don Gibson, DSC David Christie, EMM Mary Majka, EP Eileen Pike, FNC Fredericton Nature Club, FNP Fundy Nat'l Park, GC Gilberte Cyr, GF Graham Forbes, GM Grand Manan, GLT Gisèle Thibodeau, GMi Grant Milroy, GV Gérard Verret, GW Gail Walker, HAD Halton Dalzell, HCa Heather Cameron, HCh Hilaire Chiasson, IC Ian Cameron, ID, Irene Doyle, JCa John Candy, JD Joanne Deichmann, JCI Jim Clifford, JDB J. Denys Bourque, JE Jim Edsall, JF Jason Fougère, JGW Jim Wilson, JnW Jean Wilson, JR Jim Rising, JT John Tanner, KA Krista Amey, KHD Hank Deichmann, KP Kathy Popma, ML Mike Lushington, MNC Moncton Naturalists' Club, MGD Margaret Gallant-Doyle, , NB Norm Belliveau, NBBIL N.B. Bird Information Line, NG Nev Garrity, NP Nelson Poirier, OL Oscar LeBlanc, PAP Peter Pearce, PPa Peter Papoulidis, PhW Phil Withers, RAM Rose-Alma Mallet, RFC Rita Clavette, RGA Ron Arsenault, RJW Rob Walker, RS Ron Steeves, SIT Stuart Tingley, SJNC Saint John Naturalists' Club, SS Shirley Sloat, TLS Tewd Sears, VL Vicky Lentz, v.o. various observers, WCA Wanda Cummings Arsenault.

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 :