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N.B. Naturalist

Le Naturaliste du N.-B.



DIANE MERCIER-ALLAIN
1996



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

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

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

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

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

Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée, a/s Musée du Madawaska, 195 boul. Hébert, Edmundston NB E3V 2S8; 735-5613 (Gérard Verret); réunions à 19h30, 2ième mercredi, sept. à juin, Musée du Madawaska; *Le Jaseur* bimestriel.

Club Les amis de la nature, a/s Oscar Duguay, 207 ch. Chartersville, Dieppe NB E1A 1K3; réunions alternant entre Dieppe & Shediac, 1er lundi de chaque mois; excursions 3ième samedi ou dimanche; *La plume verte*.

Ford Alward Naturalist Association, c/o Grant Milroy, RR #5, Hartland, NB E0J 1N0; 375-6371; meets Florenceville Town Hall, 7:00 pm, 1st Tues., Sept.-June; meetings advertised in local newspapers.

Fredericton Nature Club, Box 772, Stn. A, Fredericton, NB E3B 5B4; 455-0569; meets N.B. College of Craft and Design, 7:30 pm, 1st Wed., Sept.-May; monthly *Newsletter*.

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

Moncton Naturalists' Club, Box 28036, Highfield Square P.O., Moncton, NB E1C 9N4; 857-4271 or 384-5212; meets Church of the Nazarene, 21 Fieldcrest Drive, 7 pm, 2nd Wed., Sept.-June; monthly newsletter.

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

Saint John Naturalists' Club, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, NB E2K 1E5; meets N.B. Museum at Market Square, 7:30 pm, 2nd Wed., Sept.-May, elsewhere in June; monthly *Bulletin*.

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

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

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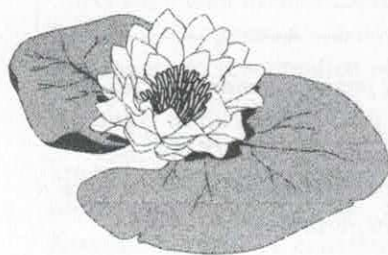
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Many thanks to our many kind Volunteers who contributed to this publication. / Merci beaucoup à tous les bénévoles dédiés qui ont contribué à cette publication.

Please submit articles for the next issue by February 1, 1997.
Veuillez soumettre les articles à l'intention du prochain numéro avant le 1er février 1997.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

A Message From the President — Frank Longstaff



Tight times are tough times for conservationists. All over Canada, governments which have the mandate to conserve and protect our natural heritage are

cutting budgets, cutting programmes and trying to evade the stewardship responsibility for wildlife and the land.

In New Brunswick, our provincial government, which should be creating more parks to meet its commitment to preserve significant natural areas, instead is privatizing them. The same thing is happening at our two national parks; Fundy and Kouchibouguac. Responsibility for injured, sick or 'nuisance' wildlife, with the exception of big game and endangered species, is also being turned over to the private sector. Ironically, the Department of Natural Resources and Energy is divesting itself of this responsibility at a time when a serious problem with rabies in the raccoon population is inexorably moving north from the eastern states. In a few years, from the initial outbreak in West Virginia, it already has reached well into New England and will cross into New Brunswick before the century is out.

Both levels of government also are rejigging the laws relating to environmental assessment. The feds want to turn over the mandate to the provinces. They call it 'harmonization', but it's really an abandonment of responsibility. Provinces like New Brunswick lack the resources and expertise to do an effective job and,

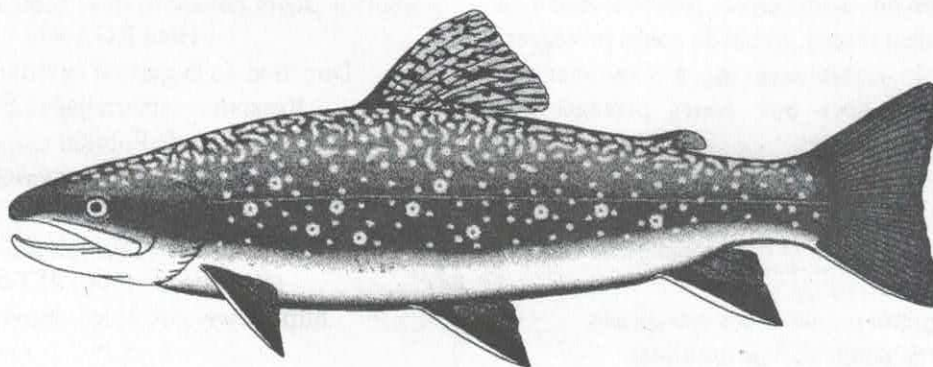
for projects where the province is the proponent, as with the Trans-Canada Highway and the Grand Lake Meadows, our government cannot be trusted to do a fair and disinterested assessment that puts environmental considerations first.

Rose-Alma Mallet, the NBFN vice president, and I recently took part in a full day workshop on ways to improve environmental assessment in New Brunswick. The participants, from environmental groups across New Brunswick, stressed the need for more stringent assessment with increased public involvement over a broadly based range of projects. A strong case was made for the need for intervenor funding to ensure a thorough and fair assessment is done. Representatives from the Department of the Environment clearly were concerned about the issues but could offer little encouragement because of budget cuts.

The tragedy of this is that government must be the agency of stewardship that protects wildlife and the land. It is the only institution in our society with the ability to consider what is best for the environment and it is the only institution with the power to protect. As naturalists, we must continue to remind governments of their responsibilities to take the large view.

* * * * *

On a cheerier note, I am told by Oscar Duguay of Les amies de la nature, our hosts for the 1997 Annual General Meeting, that plans are proceeding as they should for a grand celebration. The AGM will be held on the weekend of May 30, 31 and June 1 at the Université de Moncton. Please plan to attend.



À L'ATTENTION DE TOUS LES MEMBRES DE LA FÉDÉRATION

AVIS D'ASSEMBLÉE SPÉCIALE

RELATIVEMENT À LA MODIFICATION DES RÈGLEMENTS

Traduction par Arthur William Landry

Tel que stipulé dans les règlements de la Fédération (règlement 8.01), toute modification proposée aux règlements doit être signifiée aux membres au moins trente jours avant l'assemblée au cours de laquelle on doit en délibérer, que ce soit une assemblée spéciale des membres ou une assemblée générale annuelle. Conformément à ce règlement, nous tenons à vous aviser que nous considérerons l'opportunité d'effectuer les modifications qui suivent à nos règlements, lors d'une **assemblée spéciale des membres qui aura lieu à 11 h le samedi 19 avril 1997 au local «Commons Room» de l'édifice Loring Bailey (Biologie) du campus de l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick à Fredericton.** Nous invitons tous les membres de la Fédération à y assister. Les modifications aux règlements sont indiquées en caractères gras ci-dessous.

*Règlement 4.04: L'ancien Président, le Président, le Vice-Président, le Secrétaire, le Trésorier et le **Secrétaire de la société** seront les administrateurs de la Fédération.*

Règlement 5.05: Le Trésorier sera responsable des fonds et des avoirs de la Fédération, présentera aux membres un rapport annuel des revenus et des

dépenses, de l'actif et du passif et soumettra les livres et les pièces comptables à une vérification comptable annuelle à la fin de l'année fiscale. [Supprimer: Le Trésorier maintiendra ou fera maintenir une liste à jour des membres de la Fédération.]

Règlement 5.06: Le Secrétaire de la société aura la responsabilité de maintenir une liste à jour du nom et de l'adresse des membres de la Fédération.

Raison d'être des modifications aux règlements: Étant donné que le nombre de membres de la Fédération continue de s'accroître, il n'est pas raisonnable de s'attendre à ce que le Trésorier maintienne une liste exacte et à jour de nos membres, en plus de s'occuper des aspects financiers de la Fédération. Afin de répartir les tâches de façon plus équitable, le conseil de direction de la Fédération a approuvé en principe la nomination d'un Secrétaire de la société. La Fédération est très heureuse que Jean Wilson ait accepté d'agir comme Secrétaire de la société. Les modifications aux règlements ne feront que reconnaître de manière formelle la création du poste officiel de Secrétaire de la société, au sein du conseil de direction. De plus, ces modifications dégageront le Trésorier de la responsabilité de maintenir une liste des membres.

LES ZONES PROTÉGÉES — CONNAÎTRE LE COURANT

Conférence et réunion générale annuelles de 1997

Conseil canadien des aires écologiques (CCAÉ)

Fredericton (Nouveau-Brunswick) — du 15 au 17 septembre 1997

Le CCAÉ est un organisme national sans but lucratif qui cherche à appuyer l'établissement à l'échelle du pays d'un réseau global de zones protégées.

L'objectif de la conférence est à examiner les questions cruciales liées aux zones protégées, y compris les sujets suivants:

- le marché mondial
- la préservation des forêts et des biozones maritimes
- la gestion de l'écosystème
- les projets du grand public et des entreprises
- la conciliation de points de vue multiples

Pour renseignements veuillez contacter:

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Direction de la gestion environnementale

Ressources naturelles et Énergie

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télécopieur: (506) 453-6689

<http://www.gov.nb.ca/dnre/ccae.htm>

ATTENTION: ALL FEDERATION MEMBERS

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING TO AMEND BY-LAWS

As stipulated in the Federation's By-Laws (By-Law 8.01), any proposed amendments to our By-Laws must be brought to the attention of the membership at least thirty days prior to the Special Meeting of the membership or Annual General Meeting at which they are to be considered. In accordance with this By-Law, please be advised that the following By-Law amendments will be considered at a **Special Meeting of the membership that will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday April 19, 1997 in the Commons Room of the Loring Bailey (Biology) Building at the University of New Brunswick campus in Fredericton.** All Federation members are welcome to attend. The proposed By-Law changes appear in bold type below:

By-Law 4.04: The Officers of the Federation shall be the Past President, the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary.

By-Law 5.05: The Treasurer shall be responsible for the funds and assets of the Federation, shall present to the membership an annual statement of receipts and disbursements, of assets and liabilities, and

shall submit the books and vouchers of the Federation for annual audit at the end of the fiscal year. [Delete: The Treasurer shall keep, or cause to be kept, an up-to-date roll of members of the Federation.]

[new] By-Law 5.06: The Membership Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining an up-to-date list of the names and addresses of members of the Federation.

Rationale for By-Law Amendments: As the membership of the Federation continues to grow, it is unreasonable to expect the Treasurer to maintain an accurate up-to-date list of our members, as well as handle the financial matters of the Federation. To more fairly distribute the workload, the Federation's Executive approved in principle the designation of a Membership Secretary. At present, the Federation is most fortunate to have Jean Wilson carrying out the duties of Membership Secretary. The By-Law amendments will merely formalize the creation of an official Executive position called the Membership Secretary and remove from the Treasurer the responsibility of maintaining the membership roster.

PROTECTED AREAS AND THE BOTTOM LINE

1997 Conference and Annual General Meeting
Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA)
Fredericton, New Brunswick — September 15-17, 1997

The CCEA is a national, non-profit group that supports the development of a comprehensive and nation-wide system of protected areas.

The goal of the conference is to explore the bottom-line issues associated with protected areas, including topics such as:

- global marketplace issues
- forest and marine conservation
- ecosystem management
- public and corporate initiatives
- reconciling multiple values



For more information please contact:

AGM '97 Host
Forest Recreation & Heritage Branch
Natural Resources and Energy
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Phone: (506) 453-2383

Fax: (506) 453-6689

<http://www.gov.nb.ca/dnre/ccca.htm>



SEABIRDS! — A DAY TO REMEMBER

Jim Wilson, Saint John Naturalists' Club



Pelagic birding — birding for seabirds — is a specialty most birders are eager to do, but are often reluctant to first try on their own. The birds and the habitat are unfamiliar, and the quarry is often seen at quite a distance, often from a rocking boat. There is the cost of a boat trip, the commitment of time and planning, and for some, the spectre of seasickness.

The answer is an organized trip. A boat trip specifically planned for seabirding reduces the individual cost, provides some expertise in seabird identification, and concentrates many eyes so less is overlooked. And yes, you CAN get advice on dealing with seasickness.

With this in mind, I decided to organize a pelagic seabirding trip off Grand Manan in September 1994. (Jim Edsall says it took eight years of prodding for it to finally happen).

A boatload of hearty souls braved heavy swells, but got great looks at hundreds of **Greater** and **Sooty Shearwaters**, a few **Manx Shearwaters**, several **Pomarine Jaegers**, a **Northern Fulmar**, and distant views of a skua (species not determined).

Our appetite whetted, another group set sail again in September of last year. The day was sunny, the sea was calm, and a good variety of seabirds were seen, including **Manx Shearwater**, **Puffin**, **Common Murre**, and a huge flock of 3000-4000 **Greater** and **Sooty Shearwaters**.

This year (1996), I planned a third expedition, on September 21. One of the exciting aspects is the anticipation that you might see a new bird for the first time. There is also the very real possibility that this species might be a new one for New Brunswick, as we actually know relatively little about some of our seabird visitors. Because they wander so widely, are affected by tide and weather, and so little is known of the worldwide distribution of some species, there is a wide range of possibilities.

Expected were **Greater**, **Sooty**, and **Manx Shearwaters**, **Wilson's Storm-petrel**, **Pomarine** and **Parasitic Jaegers**, **Atlantic Puffin**, **Common Murre**, **Red-necked Phalarope**, **Arctic Tern**, and **Black-legged Kittiwake**. Less probable but much anticipated were

Northern Fulmar, **Leach's Storm-petrel**, and **Red Phalarope**. And we dreamed of rarities such as an albatross, **Cory's Shearwater**, **Audubon's Shearwater**, an unexpected **Storm-petrel**, **Long-tailed Jaeger**, **Great Skua**, **South Polar Skua**, **Sabine's Gull**, or another new gull or tern. (Cory's and Audubon's Shearwaters and South Polar Skua have yet to be identified in New Brunswick, but have been seen in adjacent waters).

Earlier this year, the N.B. Bird Records Committee had discussed the removal of **Great Skua** from the New Brunswick bird Checklist, because of a lack of documented evidence of its occurrence here. Despite a handful of possible sightings, no photographs or videos had ever been taken of this bird to justify its inclusion on the Checklist. The Committee had also made a formal decision to remove **Cory's Shearwater** from the check list, for the same reason.

We sailed from the wharf at Seal Cove shortly after 9 a.m. Our departure was delayed by a few minutes to allow a number of the party to search for a **Blue-winged Warbler**, discovered by Alain Clavette on his way to the dock. The warbler was a new bird for many and the 300th New Brunswick bird species for Angus MacLean. Our day was already off to a great start!

Our first shearwater appeared after nearly an hour on the water. A distant speck above the waves, it soared and dipped on characteristic stiff wings, showing light underparts and a darker back. "A **Greater Shearwater**" I thought to myself, and turned to look for something in another direction. However, a few seconds later I realized that Stu Tingley was still studying the shearwater very intently. "That bird could be a **Cory's Shearwater**!" Stu said, "but I can't see enough detail. It's 'towering' regularly (gliding high above the water, then banking down to the waves), and seems to be flapping its wings rather slowly — both are field marks of Cory's".

Unfortunately, the bird continued out of sight without getting closer, but the possibility of a **Cory's** in the area heightened our awareness, and we began to look closely at every shearwater — both in the air and on the water. This detailed examination of resting flocks was something we had not done on earlier trips, and soon produced an odd-looking bird amid a group of about a hundred resting **Greater** and **Sooties**. After several minutes of intense study, we concluded the bird

must be a leucistic **Sooty Shearwater**, with a typically dark body, but with a white head and neck.

Pelagic birding in the Bay of Fundy is most productive when one scans for distant flocks of feeding seabirds and then moves in for a detailed look. The upwellings created by huge tidal surges sweep large quantities of food near the surface and this attracts both birds and marine mammals. Above and below the surface, there are the hunters and the hunted.

We soon closed in on a large flock of gulls, shearwaters and Gannets concentrated into a tight area. They were engaged in a feeding frenzy, and we slowly edged the boat in for a closer look. We were amazed to find a tight ball of herring, about the size of a large car, right at the surface. Seabirds were scooping beakfuls of fish, and at first we were puzzled as to why the herring would act in this way and expose themselves to the danger above. However, as we drifted closer, we realized the school was being attacked from below by a group of approximately 30 **Harbour Porpoise**! The water in the vicinity was literally sparkling with loose scales.

Suddenly, a **Minke Whale** surfaced a hundred meters off the port side, and moments later a huge **Finback Whale** blew forty meters from us! During the next twenty minutes, the Finback circled closer, obviously aware of the herring, once close enough to dampen us with "whale breath". Spectacular!

During the next ninety minutes we had close looks at nearly 20 **Pomarine** and 1 **Parasitic Jaeger**, an estimated 4800 **Sooty**, 3200 **Greater** and 3 **Manx Shearwaters**, 300 **Gannets**, 150 **Black-legged Kittiwakes**, 2 **Red-necked Phalaropes**, and 1 **Northern Fulmar**. The Fulmar provided great looks as it circled close to the boat, drawn in to the feeding excitement. It was a new bird for many, and only a second encounter for several others.

During all of this, I can recall thinking "surely there **MUST** be a skua somewhere in the Bay — it would have to be attracted by all this activity". However, as time passed, that seemed less and less likely.

Captain Peter Wilcox had actually turned the boat for home, and was moving full steam ahead when Stuart Tingley shouted "skua flying on the right - going straight away!" With a rush of excitement, all hands focused binoculars on a large dark seabird with striking white wingpatches flying — yes, straight away from us. Hearts sank as we realized the skua would disappear very quickly, and there was no hope of us getting any closer. At this distance, it was impossible

to identify, and we would once again be left wondering what we had seen.

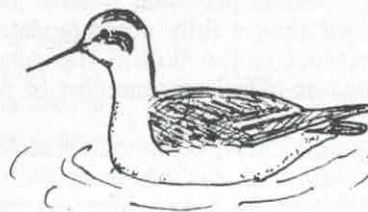
But then fate stepped in. The field guides tell us that skuas are large predatory seabirds that prey on other species. They attack their quarry and force it to disgorge recently-swallowed food. This individual must have read that description, and now decided it was time for lunch. It suddenly swooped and attacked a **Greater Shearwater**, forcing it to the surface, where the two birds struggled for several minutes.

As we closed in on the two birds, the skua attacked a second **Shearwater**, and this allowed us to approach to about one hundred meters. Eyes strained through binoculars for every detail of the bird's plumage, bill size, and other identifying features. Paul Mortimer's camera clicked, and David Christie's camcorder hummed. The skua finally lifted off and flew swiftly out of sight over the waves, leaving a boatload of elated birders to conclude they had just confirmed New Brunswick's first **Great Skua**!

The return voyage to Grand Manan was a triumphant one. The **Great Skua** was a new bird for practically everyone, and several had seen a number of new birds for the first time. Special congratulations went to Angus MacLean, who not only crossed the elusive "300 mark", but added several other birds to his NB list.

Looking ahead, I feel we should make two trips in 1997 — one in mid-August, and a second in mid-September. Doing so will double the number of people who can participate, and we should have a chance for a greater variety of species. An August trip should provide a greater opportunity to find **South Polar Skua** and **Cory's Shearwater**, seen occasionally in neighboring waters at that time. Also, large numbers of **Wilson's Storm-petrels** will still be present, a species we usually miss in September, as they migrate from the Bay after late August. A September trip would still offer the opportunity for those three, but should increase the likelihood of **Great Skua** and **Northern Fulmar**, which have a later pattern of occurrence.

I will publish details of these trips in an upcoming issue of *NB Naturalist*, for anyone interested in participating. I hope some who have not had exposure to this birding will be able to join us.



DES TROGLODYTES À BEC COURT À ST-ANSELME

Léona Cormier, Les ami(e)s de la nature



*Sedge Wren from painting by
L.A. Fuertes*

Le 2 juin 1996, vers les vingt heures, un nouvel oiseau est aperçu dans le marais, en face de l'église de Saint-Anselme. Un troglodyte! Mais, lequel? Le lendemain à la même heure, je m'y rends. Quelle joie! Quelle surprise! L'oiseau est au rendez-vous. Il se pose sur une quenouille, chante de toutes ses forces, se tourne, se retourne en montrant ainsi toutes les parties de son corps. Sa

petite taille, les fines rayures à peine visibles sur la tête, de petites rayures plus marquées sur le dos, côtés de la tête chamois, parties inférieures blanches, les flancs et les sous-caudales chamois indiquent bien qu'il s'agit d'un troglodyte à bec court. Son chant m'aide également à l'identifier.

Il descend de son "perchoir", remonte quelques instants plus tard puis redonne son concert. Il semble infatigable. Il continue ainsi jusqu'à la tombée du jour.

Jour après jour, matin, midi ou soir il est presque toujours au même endroit. Un beau jour, on le voit tenant des brins d'herbe dans son bec. Construit-il des faux nids? Est-il seul? A-t-il une partenaire? Toutes ces questions restent sans réponses pour l'instant. A

plusieurs reprises les gens pensent en avoir vu deux. Est-ce le même qui s'envole vers la gauche et qui revient immédiatement vers la droite? Certains jours il paraît légèrement plus foncé, d'autres jours légèrement plus pâle. Puis, un beau jour du mois de juillet, j'ai le bonheur de voir deux troglodytes à bec court sortir d'une même touffe d'herbe en même temps. Cela venait de confirmer ce que nous croyions depuis le début de juin. Il y avait donc deux troglodytes à bec court dans le marais.

Les jours passent, les semaines aussi. À compter de la mi-juillet, ces oiseaux se font un peu plus discrets, ils chantent moins souvent et moins longtemps. Sont-ils en train de nicher??? Impossible de le dire. Puis au matin du 7 août, je les appelle. Un seul troglodyte vient, ne fait qu'un cri puis disparaît dans l'herbe. Ce fut un dernier "adieu"! Par après ils sont introuvables. Ont-ils été victimes d'un oiseau de proie ou sont-ils partis vers le Sud? Mystère.

Le 16 octobre, je suis allée à l'endroit précis où j'avais vu les deux troglodytes. J'ai trouvé un nid, mais malheureusement c'était impossible de l'identifier parce qu'il avait été écrasé par un véhicule tout terrain. Je crois cependant qu'il s'agissait d'un faux nid.

Pour conclure, disons que nous avons eu beaucoup de chance puisque ces troglodytes sont restés tout l'été, qu'ils étaient bien visibles même à l'oeil nu, et qu'ils ne semblaient nullement perturbés par le va-et-vient des cyclistes et des piétons qui circulaient quotidiennement, dans le parc linéaire, à quelques mètres d'eux.



A FAR VOICE STILLED

Peter Pearce



Perla Wilcox was a Wood Islander. Like her future husband, Preston, she was born and grew up on that now-deserted island. She later moved across the water to the greater comfort and convenience of the charming fishing village of Seal Cove, on Grand Manan Island, overlooking the approaches to the Bay of Fundy. There she enjoyed a lifetime of quiet devotion to her family and to the local Wesleyan Church.

My acquaintance with the Wilcox family began in the early '60s with trips to Wood Island and Machias Seal Island. The relationship strengthened later through my fifteen-year association with Canadian Nature Tours to Grand Manan. That was at a time when the Wilcox's seabird- and whale-watching enterprise, Sea Watch Tours, was becoming firmly established. Despite perennial weather uncertainties, my plans were always fully accommodated thanks in no small measure to the skillful trip scheduling and ready willingness to help on the part of Mrs. Wilcox (as I came to know her).

Most visiting naturalists and others seeking a Grand Manan adventure at sea never actually met Mrs. Wilcox. Their contact with her was unfortunately

usually brief, tenuous and telephonic. But through her careful management of boat seat reservations she was an instrument in their introduction to, and continued enjoyment and better understanding of the pelagic ecology of the Bay of Fundy. For many, a day aboard the "Señorita" (and, later, the "Sea Watcher"), skippered by Preston Wilcox and latterly assisted by son Peter, is the most treasured memory of their visit to Grand Manan.

It seems that Mrs. Wilcox never took part in those excursions herself, preferring to remain at home, tending to the affairs of family and faith community, knitting warm socks and stringing lobster bait bags, and maintaining a vigil for her returning menfolk.

Perla Wilcox died, after a long illness, on 20 November 1996. The New Brunswick naturalist community and, I am certain, a host of out-of-province visitors who enjoyed the special experience of a Sea Watch tour, join me in expressing condolences to Preston Wilcox and his family — Peter and Kenda — on the passing of Mrs. Wilcox to her eternal reward.

DEAD TREES IN A FOREST — NATURE'S PRECIOUS RESOURCE

Ann Lavoie, Restigouche Naturalists' Club

Over the years we have been hearing the same monotonous tune about the uselessness of dead and dying trees. It appears that in our ever strengthening technological world and the accompanying reach for more money, we are pushing aside the basic fundamentals of nature and life.

Recycling, now a part of our everyday living and long overdue, is a process that has been going on in the forest since time began. In order to have this process in place, many factors are necessary and one of the primary ingredients needed is a leaf base along with dying and rotting trees.

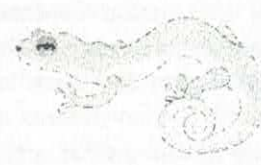
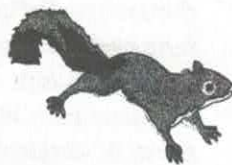
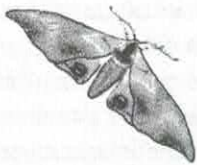
Most of the energy contained in bark, wood, leaves and roots of a tree is not transferred to animals while the plant is alive. Only when the leaves fall in autumn or the tree dies does the bulk of the energy begin to be tapped by animals called decomposers. These include tiny insects of many varieties, various beetles, moths, centipedes, worms, spiders, slugs, snails and ants as well as termites, sawflies and salamanders. These creatures are constantly active in breaking down the dead tissues of the forest litter and returning the components to the soil for use by plants. Fungi, microscopic bacteria and other invaders are also present and they all work together until the breakdown

is completed. These decomposers in turn provide a food source for many predatory birds and animals that are a part of the food chain.

Dead and dying trees also serve other purposes. Woodpeckers will peck their way through the bark in search of insects that are hidden in the layers of the tree. The hollow inner portion may provide a nesting area for a variety of songbirds and also serve as a perch or nesting area for birds of prey such as owls, hawks and bald eagles.

Standing or fallen dead trees may provide a nesting or denning site for a host of mammals including the pine marten, fox, fisher, mice, porcupine, squirrels, raccoons, bobcats and bears. Deer and moose will browse on Old Man's beard, a tree lichen present in old growth coniferous forests.

Everything in a forest is interdependent and to assume that dead trees have no value reflects the human preoccupation with economics. It should be considered that we are borrowing from nature's domain when we utilize the resources in order to enrich our own lives. Suffice to say that more should be put back or left untouched in return for the forest's generosity — common sense being the ruling factor.

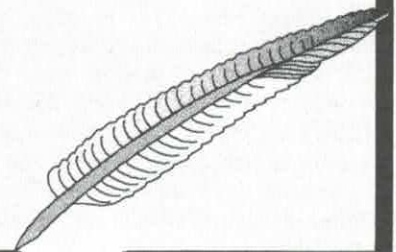


SCHEDULE THIS IN!

!!!! ATTENTION !!!! Rumour has it that the Annual General Meeting of the Federation will be held at the Université de Moncton from May 30 to June 1, 1997. Mark this on your calendar so that you'll be free to join our hosts, Le club Les Ami(e)s de la Nature, and share with them the wonders of nature in the vicinity of Shédiac and Moncton. Information on registration will be sent out in the spring.

FAÎTES VOS PLANS DÈS MAINTENANT!!!

Il paraît que l'assemblée générale annuelle de la Fédération aura lieu à l'Université de Moncton du 30 mai au 1 juin 1997. Nos hôtes, le club Les Ami(e)s de la Nature, désirent vous introduire aux merveilles de la nature dans la région de Shédiac et Moncton. De plus amples informations vous seront envoyées ce printemps.



LES CHATS — PRÉDATEURS D'OISEAUX

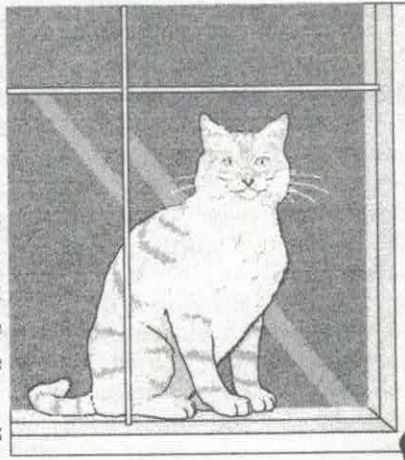
Eric Martin, le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska

Saviez-vous que le gros minet qui se drolote sur le divan compte parmi les plus grandes menaces auxquelles font face les oiseaux sauvages? Ceci est surtout vrai en ce qui concerne les oiseaux migrateurs, car d'année en année le nombre de certaines de ces espèces diminue et il semblerait que les chats contribuent de façon significative à cette diminution.

Nous savons tous que les chats aiment chasser les oiseaux. Mais beaucoup de personnes semblent sous-estimer l'impact qu'ils peuvent avoir sur les populations de certaines espèces. Certains croient même, par erreur, qu'en Amérique du Nord tout ceci fait parti de la relation naturelle prédateur-proie.

Ravisez-vous; **les chats ne sont pas des prédateurs naturels sur ce continent!** Au contraire, ils y ont été introduits au début de la colonisation. Les chats domestiques sont justement cela, domestiques, et leur présence dans la nature provoque un **sérieux** déséquilibre. Les oiseaux ont assez de quoi se soucier sans se faire chasser par ce prédateur introduit. Autre fait déconcertant, les chats chassent avant tout parce que leur instinct de chasseur est fort, et non parce qu'ils ont faim. Il faudrait donc faire en sorte qu'ils soient totalement exclus de la chaîne alimentaire sauvage.

Les chiffres sont assez navrants. On pense qu'il y a au moins 60 millions de chats domestiques en Amérique du Nord. Si l'on assume que chaque chat prend en moyenne un oiseau par année - supposition tout à fait prudente - cela voudrait dire que bon an mal an les chats causeraient la mort de 60 millions d'oiseaux! Des études récentes tendent à confirmer cette hypothèse. Au Wisconsin, état d'une superficie



comparable à l'étendue totale des provinces Maritimes, on estime qu'entre 20 et 150 millions d'oiseaux sont tués chaque année par des chats.

Toutes ces victimes des chats doivent être considérées comme des "pertes totales" sur le plan écologique. Pour mieux comprendre ce concept, imaginez donc quelle serait la situation si tous ces oiseaux auraient servi au contrôle d'insectes ou de nourriture aux éperviers, faucons et autres prédateurs *naturels* qui en ont besoin pour leur propre survie.

Le fait de dégriffer un chat et/ou de lui faire porter un collier de grelots aidera sûrement. Mais contrairement à ce que l'on peut croire, cela **n'empêchera pas** un chat de tuer un oiseau puisqu'il peut facilement le faire en lui brisant la nuque d'un coup de patte. Il faut aussi savoir que beaucoup d'oiseaux construisent leurs nids au sol ou dans des arbustes. Les chats même dégriffés peuvent facilement les y détruire, entraînant par le fait même la mort des oisillons. De même, les adultes sont très vulnérables lorsqu'ils couvent les oeufs. Une fois qu'ils ont quitté le nid, les immatures, tout comme les adultes, sont encore fort susceptibles d'être attrapés pendant qu'ils sommeillent. Et il est facile de s'imaginer ce qui arrive aux oisillons si un ou les deux parents viennent à disparaître. En tant qu'amis de la nature, on se doit de faire quelque chose pour corriger la situation.

En fait, tant qu'il sera permis aux chats d'errer librement dans le voisinage, la situation ne s'améliorera guère. Considérant qu'il est interdit de laisser errer les chiens, il pourrait en être de même pour les chats. Ceci serait surtout important pendant la saison de nidification, de la fin mai à la mi-juillet. D'ailleurs, bien des personnes gardent déjà leur chat préféré à l'intérieur en tout temps.

Il est tout à fait possible d'imposer une réglementation obligeant les propriétaires de chats à les garder en laisse sur leur terrain. Il convient donc de s'informer auprès de la SPCA et/ou de contacter son conseiller municipal en ce sens. Un règlement de la sorte serait hautement bénéfique à la nature, donc à tout un chacun. Les chats en bénéficieraient également puisqu'ils sont sujets à toutes sortes de dangers lorsque laissés libres: terrains malpropres, automobiles,

Note des éditeurs:

Discussions concernant les chats domestiques évoquent souvent de profondes émotions et les gens ont souvent des opinions contraires. Les naturalistes doivent trouver des solutions qui nous permettront de protéger notre faune, en même temps exprimer de la compassion pour nos amis les chats. Ces deux articles sur l'impact des chats domestiques sur la faune sont présentés en français et en anglais afin de s'assurer que chacun ait l'occasion de considérer ce problème. En lisant ces articles, veuillez demeurer objectif et considérer sérieusement vos responsabilités.

animaux sauvages, chiens, etc... Il y a même des gens qui n'hésitent pas à chasser brutalement de leur propriété tout chat étranger.

Ce sujet me tient fort à coeur car j'ai déjà eu l'occasion de voir un chat du voisinage avec un oiseau dans la gueule. Grièvement blessé, il souffrait sûrement car de toute évidence il était encore concient. J'ai poursuivi le chat afin de lui enlever l'oiseau et mettre un terme à ses souffrances, mais sans succès. En terminant, j'invite tous ceux qui ont des chats à songer sérieusement à ce qui précède.

Pour en savoir plus :

Migratory songbird conservation, Wash. D.C., USA, 20240.

Free roaming cats, American Backyard Bird Society, P. O. Box 10046, Rockville, MD 20849, É. U. A.

Cats: a heavy toll on songbirds, par Rich Stallcup. Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94924, É. U. A.

Is there a killer in your house?, par George Harrison, *National Wildlife Magazine*, octobre-novembre 1992.

SHOULD FREE-ROAMING CATS BE OUTLAWED?

Eric Martin, le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska

This is a question more conservationists should be asking themselves. For years, researchers have been looking for answers as to why many bird populations are steadily declining. They all agree that deforestation and habitat fragmentation, both in North and South America, are major causes for the decline. However, conservationists are realizing that cats may play a bigger role in the decline of bird populations than was once thought. The effects of predation by cats are particularly detrimental to our migratory birds, that must also contend with the ever-growing loss of habitat, both in their nesting and wintering ranges. The facts and arguments brought forward in this article support the notion that cats should not be allowed to roam free, for the sake of wild animals everywhere and for the sake of a cat's well-being. Much of the information cited herein was obtained from an article by Yvonne Sheppard, *Pet or Predator: The Choice is Up to You*, which appeared in the Spring 1995 issue of *Birds of the Wild* (Vol. 4, No. 1). Back issues are available by sending \$4.00 (shipping and taxes included) to **Birds of the Wild, P.O. Box 73, Markham, Ontario L3P 3J5**.

Many cat owners are either unaware, or indifferent to the fact that their sweet, loveable cat, once let out of the house to roam free, becomes a skillful predator, and a major menace to birds and other small animals (including voles, field mice, hares, weasels and even snakes).

We must confront this problem head on. First, it must be understood that cats that roam freely are in effect 'introduced' predators, competing directly with our native raptors and carnivores. Domestic cats are NOT part of the natural predator-prey equilibrium. In fact, cats disturb this fragile balance significantly.

Predator numbers are largely determined by prey numbers, which means cats may be indirectly responsible for the decline of many of our native predatory animals.

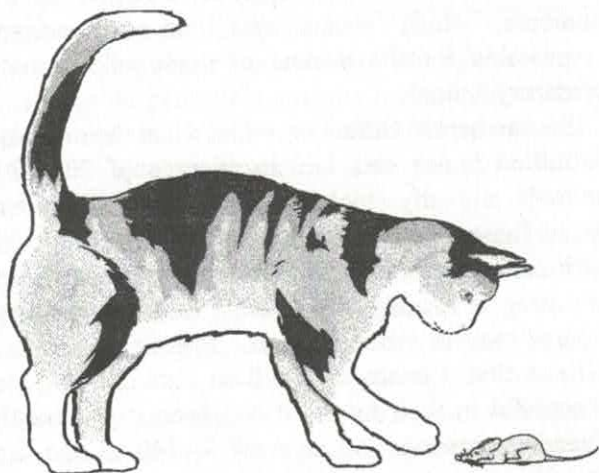
Researchers in Britain have found that their country's 5 million house cats kill an average of 70 million animals annually, including some 20 million birds (these figures were compiled from the number of kills each cat brought back to their owner's home). Since cats drag in roughly half of what they kill, the actual figures may be twice as high. There's no reason to believe that Canada's 5 million cats are any less successful in their hunt. It has been suggested that Canadian cats may kill as many as 140 million small animals each year, of which 25-35% are birds. Such number are considered high enough to adversely affect the delicate balance of nature. From an ecological standpoint, all these animals are total losses. They were all animals that could have fed our native predators or helped control the insect population, among other things. Now consider the fact that there are approximately 60 million house cats in the United States. Simple math will reveal that in North America, the number of animals killed yearly by wandering cats is quite staggering. On a smaller scale, the estimate kill quota for an urban cat is about 14 animals; a rural cat

Editors' Note:

Discussions pertaining to pet cats usually evoke a very strong emotional response and people's views on cats are often highly polarized. The challenge for naturalists is to collectively and individually come up with actions that will enable us to safeguard our wildlife AND treat our companion animals humanely. Articles on the impact of domestic cats on wildlife are presented in French and English to ensure that all readers have the opportunity to carefully consider this problem. When reading these articles, please keep an open mind and seriously consider your responsibilities.

will often kill twice that number. All of the above figures do not take into account animals that have 'only' been injured during a cat attack.

Some cat owners will argue that most of what a cat kills are harmful pests. While it's true that field mice and other small mammals can cause some damage to crops, there are usually enough predators in nature to keep rodent populations in check. Since 25-35% of cat kills are birds and few bird species are considered 'pests', the argument loses some of its validity. The only possible exceptions are blackbirds and crows. Blackbirds are hardly affected by cat predation, due to their aggressive behaviour, vigilance, adaptability and high reproductive success. As for crows, their size and intelligence renders them relatively immune to cat attacks.



Although most small birds are at risk of falling prey to cats, incubating parents and nestlings are particularly vulnerable. Ground nesters that tend to produce only one brood per year are also at high risk of having their numbers diminished. Birds that nest near farms may be especially vulnerable, due to the high prevalence of cats allowed to breed freely and roam freely on farms.

One major misconception is that if a cat is well fed then it won't be as inclined to hunt. It has been found, through neurological studies, that cats do not associate hunting with hunger. Thus, a well-fed cat will hunt just as often as a starving abandoned stray, and has the advantage of being in top physical condition. Belling a cat will not necessarily decrease its hunting success, as many animals do not associate the sound of a bell with imminent danger and since cats may learn to move in such a way as to minimize the sound of the bell. A cat that has been declawed may pose less of a threat to tree nesting birds, as its climbing ability may be hindered, but it will not affect its hunting success as

far as ground nesting species are concerned.

The problem of free-roaming cats is exacerbated by the fact that many have not been neutered, resulting in many stray and unwanted animals.

But what about the cat's welfare in all this? Research has shown that cats that regularly roam free only live an average of four years, while cats that remain within the safe confines of their owner's homes, yards and supervision may live up to 20 years or more. Major hazards to the longevity of free roaming cats include motor vehicles, wild predators, aggression from other pets or humans, transmissible diseases, and becoming lost.

Most localities have adopted laws that prohibit dog owners from letting their dogs roam free. I believe it's now time to impose similar restrictions on cats. Environmentally conscious people who have a certain amount of influence in their community should seriously consider putting forward a proposal similar to those in effect for dogs. Even ordinary nature lovers can get the ball rolling by speaking out to their local government representatives. Some localities, such as Saint John, already have such laws in the books. If this is the case, it's up to the public to make sure that these laws are observed and enforced. Finally, cat owners who have a soft spot for wild animals and for their cat's well-being should seriously consider not letting their cats roam free. It's all a matter of taking responsibility and doing what's right for the environment ... and cats.

For more information:

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- Canadian Society for Endangered Birds, P.O. Box 243, Markham, Ontario L3P 3J7
- Churcher, Peter and John Lawton. *Beware of Well-Fed Felines*. *Natural History* magazine, July 1989.
- City of Toronto, Department of Public Health (Animal Control Services), 1993 Annual Report.
- *Free Roaming Cats*. American Backyard Bird Society, P.O. Box 10046, Rockville, MD 20849, USA.
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- Jaroff, Leon. *Attack of the Killer Cats*. *Time* magazine, August 1989.
- Migratory Songbird Conservation, Washington, D.C. 20240, USA.
- Sheppard, Yvonne. *Pet or Predator: The Choice is Up to You*. *Birds of the Wild* magazine, Spring 1995.
- Stallcup, Rich. *Cats: A Heavy Toll on Songbirds*. Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, USA 94924.

THE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PET OWNER

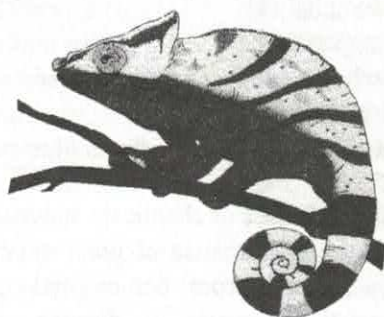
Jane Tarn, The Kindness Club*

Today, everyone is concerned about being 'environmentally friendly'. However, many things pet owners do when choosing and caring for their pets are not environmentally friendly.

Choosing Your Pet:

When choosing a pet, be environmentally friendly by selecting an animal or bird that was born or hatched in captivity (i.e., 'captive-bred').

Some mammals and many species of birds, frogs, snakes, chameleons, turtles, spiders and fish are captured in the wild in other countries and sold as exotic pets in North America. Many such creatures die or are injured during capture and transport. Of those that survive to be sold, an estimated 60% die within the first year of being kept as a pet. Even in North America, people capture frogs, turtles, snakes and other creatures to keep as pets.



As animals are taken from the wild for pets, native populations decline. Some species are becoming endangered because of the trade in wild creatures.

Many exotic pets are poisonous or carry diseases that are dangerous to people or other animals; if they escape or are released, they can cause problems for our native wildlife.

Ask questions before you buy a pet. If the seller is unable to verify that the pet was captive-bred, do not buy it or you may be supporting the deplorable trade in wild animals.

Caring For Your Pet:

If you are a dog or cat owner, you have a big responsibility to ensure your pet is environmentally friendly. A pet that causes problems often gets hurt or punished when the owner is really at fault.

Never let your pet roam outside unsupervised or out of your control, so that it will not be able to harass,

injure or kill wild creatures. To give your pet exercise, put it on a leash so that it can accompany you when you leave your property, or provide it with a large secure exercise enclosure in your backyard.

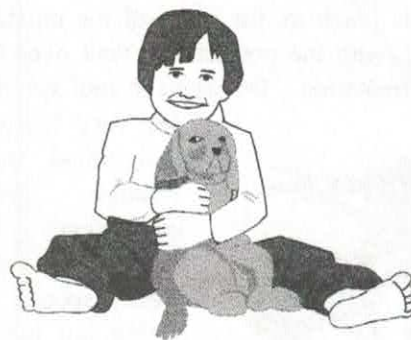
Stoop and scoop your pet's feces to keep the environment clean and help to control the spread of parasites and other diseases. Further control the transmission of diseases from your pet to wildlife by having a veterinarian give your pet an annual health check, vaccinations and deworming treatments.

Have your cat and dog spayed or neutered to help control pet overpopulation.

Never release into the wild a pet you can no longer keep or no longer wish to keep. This is cruel and not environmentally friendly. The animal could starve to death, kill other creatures in order to survive, spread diseases and parasites to wildlife, or cause other problems.

Summary:

Review how you are choosing and looking after your pets. Are you an environmentally friendly pet owner? If not, why not start today to reform your ways. **Please remember that your pets depend on you!** They will be environmentally friendly only if you take the time to ensure that they are! Responsible pet ownership means a major commitment to your pet, to wildlife and to society.



***The Kindness Club** is a non-profit charitable organization that focuses on humane and environmental education for children (who are the conscience of adults). For more information on this organization, please contact The Kindness Club, 65 Brunswick Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 1G5. Phone: (506) 459-3379; Fax: (506) 450-3703; E-mail: aa315@fan.nb.ca. Annual membership fees of \$6 for adults and \$3 for children includes an information packet, a membership pin and card, and four issues of their newsletter.

OUR NOVEMBER FLORA

Gart Bishop, Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society

We think of spring and summer as the time to find wildflowers in bloom, yet a considerable number of plants are still flowering in mid autumn, especially in disturbed habitats. Last year during the final week of October, Jim Goltz made a quick survey of plants blooming around Fredericton. He discovered 51 species. Forty-two (82%) of these were introduced species [see Nature News in *NB Naturalist* 22(4), December 1995].

This year, during a short outing around the town of Sussex on the 14 of November, I found 21 species in flower. Again a high percentage (85%) were introduced species. I was intrigued. Why is it that our native species do not persist as readily into the fall as Eurasian imports?

Many of these introduced species are commonly referred to as weeds, meaning those plants which don't fit in nicely with human society. In fact, to those in the plant growing business, weeds are barely given the right to exist, even though they inhabit a niche which is mostly of our making, namely that of disturbed soils. Jim suggested that after hundreds of years of adapting to agricultural disturbances in Europe, these plants survive so well wherever they are introduced because they have long flowering periods, and are usually prolific producers of seed. I read elsewhere that many weedy species often have a variety of forms, allowing them to grow under varied conditions. As well, often their seeds (such as for some of the mustards), are long-lived, with the potential to wait over five years before germination. Others have root systems which

are very hardy, or are invigorated and spread through continuous cultivation.

Why are not similar weedy species abundant within our native flora? We do have a few such plants, but perhaps because the open, disturbed habitat preferred by such plants is a relatively new feature of our North American landscape (within the last three hundred years), our

native species have not yet evolved sufficiently to capitalize on this ever-increasing, epidemic change.

In the introduction to a book on weeds (which covers most of the species listed below) put out by Agriculture Canada*, it is stated that though "...under certain circumstances, some benefits may be derived from weeds, ...these benefits should not be exaggerated." Poor weeds! This book gives a long list of the negative aspects of weeds such as: ...compete directly with crops for light, moisture and minerals,

... are responsible for use of chemicals and machines for weed control, ...are the cause of great expense when removing weed seed from commercial grains, ... harbour destructive insects or disease organisms, ...depreciate land values, ...poison livestock, taint dairy products, ... are unsightly in vacant lots or on lawns, ...cause hay fever, some produce dermatitis, ...create fire hazards.

Just what are the benefits which shouldn't be exaggerated? Luckily weedy species quickly cover open exposed soil, helping to stabilize erosion from wind and rain. On disturbed sites they initiate soil enrichment through organic build up and nutrient fixing. Some weeds (the goldenrods and asters), are an important source of nectar for honey production. Wildlife finds an important source of nutrition in weed seeds and humans can enjoy Lamb's Quarters and Dandelion, as well as other species, as refreshing sources of salad greens in early summer. Many of these so called pest plants add a welcome splash of colour to our countryside throughout the year. And lastly, without them, in late November we would have few if any flowers to look for.



Annual Bluegrass



Pineapple-weed

Often we hear of people who are searching and competing to find the first flower(s) of spring. I wonder what the *latest* date of flowering might be? Jim mentioned that he had seen Dandelion in bloom on the 27 of December a few years back. I wonder if anyone can beat that?

*Frankton, C. and G.A. Mulligan. 1974. *Weeds of Canada*. Department of Agriculture Canada Publication 948, Minister of Supply and Services Canada. 217 pp.

Illustrations for this article on our November flora were prepared by Gart Bishop by scanning actual plant specimens onto the computer.

The following is what I observed this year on November 14. A few additions seen by Jim Goltz in Fredericton are added to the end of the list.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	native/ introduced
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Stinking Chamomile	introduced
<i>Aster cordifolius</i>	Heart-leaved Aster	native
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse	introduced
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Lamb's Quarters	introduced
<i>Erysimum cheiranthoides</i>	Wormseed-Mustard	introduced
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Wild Madder	introduced
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Fall Dandelion	introduced
<i>Matricaria matricarioides</i>	Pineapple-weed	introduced
<i>Melilotus alba</i>	Tall White Sweet Clover	introduced
<i>Myosotis laxa</i>	Forget-me-not	native
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild parsnip	introduced
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Bluegrass	introduced
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Doorweed	introduced
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Tansy Ragwort	introduced
<i>Senecio viscosus</i>	Stinking Groundsel	introduced
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Spiny Sow Thistle	introduced
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Annual Sow-thistle	introduced
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Common Dandelion	introduced
<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>	Field Penny-Cress	introduced
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	introduced

Additional Species Seen by Jim Goltz

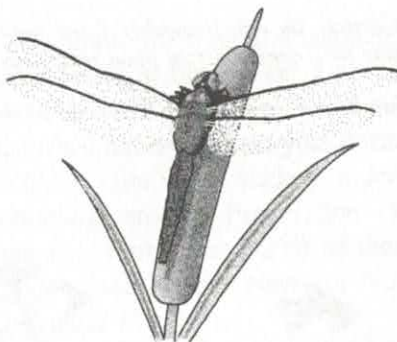
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	introduced
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Mouse-eared Chickweed	introduced
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen Anne's Lace	introduced



Shepherd's Purse

IL Y AVAIT UN MARAIS

Gisèle Thibodeau, le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska



Non loin d'un tout petit village se trouvait un marais entouré de roseaux, de carex et autres plantes paludéennes dont les longues tiges se balançaient au gré du vent. Sur la

surface lisse de cette nappe d'eau flottaient de jolis nénuphars jaunes et dans ce miroir limpide se reflétaient de majestueux mélèzes.

Des bruants et carouges édifiaient leur nid parmi les joncs et les quenouilles qui bordaient cet étang. Le feuillage dense de cette végétation aquatique offrait ainsi un abri sûr aux sarcelles et canetons.

Une multitude d'insectes pullulaient dans ce milieu naturel et les moucherolles, hirondelles et viréos y trouvaient une nourriture abondante pour leurs jeunes oisillons.

Lors de migrations automnales, diverses espèces de canards venaient faire escale sur les eaux tranquilles de ce petit marécage avant de continuer leur long voyage vers le sud.

Mais un jour arriva où cet endroit paisible dû céder la place à l'expansion urbaine. Le magnifique site fut asséché et enseveli sous des tonnes de terre. Les lis tout comme les callas et les iris disparurent. Les mélèzes, les thuyas et autres arbres indigènes tombèrent un à un et les oiseaux affolés s'enfuirent en abandonnant leur nid. Le chant des grives et des cigales se turent et les concerts des rainettes qui remplissaient les nuits chaudes d'été furent remplacés par le bruit incessant des camions lourds. Un habitat venait d'être détruit à tout jamais.

Il en est de même à l'échelle de notre planète alors que d'innombrables espèces animales et végétales disparaissent de jour en jour en raison de la destruction d'écosystèmes.

La situation est alarmante et nous nous devons de sauvegarder nos cours d'eau si petits soient-ils. Il est possible de préserver ces richesses aquatiques en les aménageant adéquatement. Réagissons maintenant car les générations futures n'auront peut-être accès à ces ressources naturelles que par des illustrations en couleurs sur les pages d'un livre.

Protégeons nos marais car il y va de l'avenir de notre Terre.

TAR AND FEATHERS

Scott Makepeace

On my travels around the back roads and highways of New Brunswick, I often encounter car-killed birds



Illustration by Jacqueline Badcock

and other animals. While travelling through Lower Jemseg on a hot day in early July, I swerved to avoid what I thought was a dead small brown bird. As I went by the bird, I noticed that it was actually standing up and not lying down. It made no attempt to avoid the truck and appeared to be

standing with its head held at an odd angle. I stopped the truck and backed up to the bird. I could see that it was a sparrow and that it was definitely alive, as I could see its head move. The bird made no attempt to get away as I got out of the truck and directly approached it. It was an adult Song Sparrow. I thought it must have been hit by a car or perhaps been caught in the draft of a passing vehicle. When I tried to pick the bird up, to my surprise I found that one of its feet was stuck in a small patch or pocket of wet tar in the chip-sealed road surface. It was difficult to get the bird unstuck without injuring the foot or leg but I did eventually free the bird. It still held its head at an odd angle but could perch easily. It was also panting heavily. I gave the bird some water, which it drank readily, and put it on a perch in the shade off the road. When I came back in about two hours, it was gone and was nowhere to be found.

NEW HERITAGE CENTRE PROPOSED FOR GREEN'S POINT

Maria-Ines Buzeta

The Green's Point Lightstation has always been an integral part of the community of Letete. It has a dramatic location with an incredible panoramic view and is easily accessible by foot or vehicle. This has made it popular for family walks, school picnics, photographs, and for watching eagles, sunsets and stars. Countless local residents and visitors, young and old alike, walk about the grounds enjoying the view.

Green's Point is well known and loved by naturalists for whom it is a regular side trip while on route to or from Deer Island. It is one of New Brunswick's most reliable places to spot Bald Eagles (often in good numbers) and some of our most dedicated birders have had their first encounters with King Eider and Dovekie here. Additional species of birds that have attracted naturalists to the vicinity of the point include Turkey Vulture, Black-headed Gull, Yellow-breasted Chat and Lapland Longspur. It's a good place for migrant songbirds in the spring or fall; Bonaparte's gulls in the fall; and Purple Sandpiper, scoters and other sea ducks in the winter and early spring. Jim Wilson advises that the point is worth checking for Little Gulls, other rare gulls and for migrating Monarch butterflies, especially in the fall.

~ The lightstation is now automated, leaving
~ the buildings unused, except for the light
~ tower itself. The future of the buildings and
public access to the grounds is yet to be decided.

The Green's Point Light Association Inc. is a non-profit, community group that wants to ensure that the community retains the property and its traditional uses. The Association has

developed a proposal for the use of the lighthouse residences as a Marine and Coastal Interpretive Center. This concept for an educational center is supported by members of local schools and by members of Eastern Charlotte Waterways Inc. This multidisciplinary center will be a community-managed business, and generate the necessary income to be self-sufficient. It is expected that part time or seasonal jobs will be created specifically for students.

The Green's Point Light Association Inc. will endeavour to develop the lightstation as an educational site for residents and visitors alike, while causing minimal disruption to its surroundings. The center will be available for all community members, including students, naturalists, and scientists. The center will use seminars, lectures, beach walks, displays, and a lab/aquarium facility to explore the following themes:

- Marine Ecology and Biology
- Environmental Studies
- History and Geography
- Fishing Industry
- Art and Music

Membership is open to individuals and groups interested in the preservation of the lighthouse, ensuring its public access, and the concept of a community-managed Coastal and Marine Interpretive Center. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10 or more.

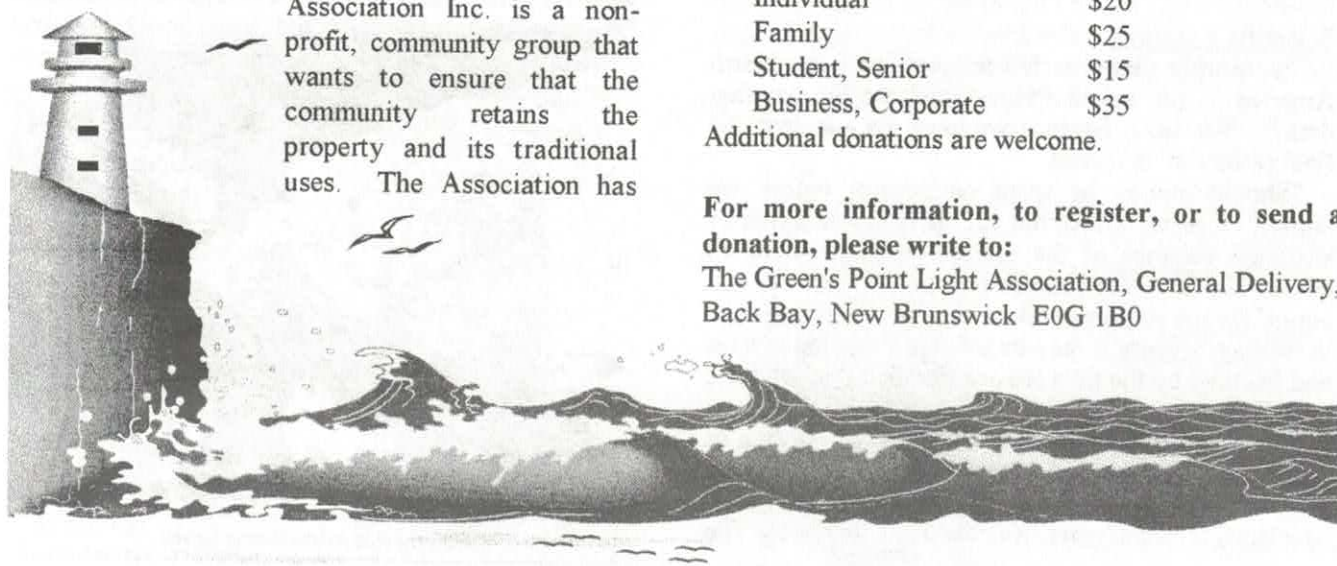
Fees:

Individual	\$20
Family	\$25
Student, Senior	\$15
Business, Corporate	\$35

Additional donations are welcome.

For more information, to register, or to send a donation, please write to:

The Green's Point Light Association, General Delivery,
Back Bay, New Brunswick E0G 1B0



BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Douglas C. Eidt, Fredericton Nature Club

At recent meetings of the Entomological Society of Canada and the Acadian Entomological Society of Canada (Fredericton, 7-9 October 1996), I listened to one of the most stimulating talks on biological control that I have ever heard. Jim Corrigan, University of Guelph, is concerned with the purple loosestrife problem, and with doing something about it. Jim is an enthusiastic researcher, whose talk, in the context of a symposium on biological control, consisted of a series of questions and answers. It was a poignant exposé of what goes through (or should go through) a researcher's head before contemplating meddling with the environment, whatever its state.

It is probably fair to assume that everybody knows what purple loosestrife is. Beautiful but aggressive, it is busy crowding out native vegetation and the creatures that depend on it. Because it is virtually impossible to eradicate it, the most obvious solution has been to try to control it by importing the agents that keep it under control in its native European and Asian habitat. To this end, two species of leaf beetle, *Galerucella pusilla* and *Galerucella californiensis*, have been released in many places in North America, including New Brunswick.

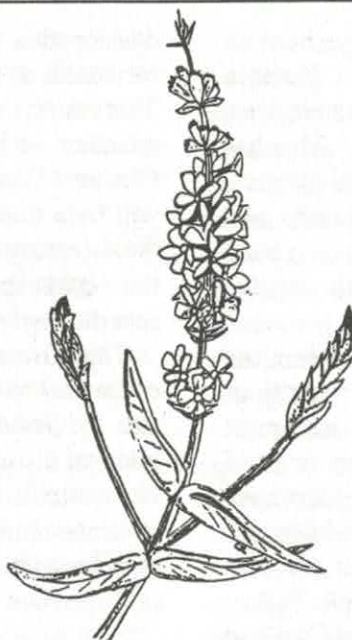
The following are Jim's questions, of which he gave me a copy, followed by my answers influenced by what I recall a month later.

Scientific Concerns

"Is purple loosestrife a problem in North America?", Jim asked. "How good are the existing data?" Not very, because we have not yet seen the final results of its spread.

"Should money be spent on control before we know?" Can we afford not to? It is not an either/or situation because of the disruption it threatens to cause. The threatened elimination of native plants and animals is too serious to take a chance. There are risks in waiting because it may be too late for some species and habitats by the time we are satisfied that we have enough data.

"Will the beetles feed on native plants?" Testing of candidate predators and parasites for any biocontrol program follows strict protocols that have been developed through years of collective experience. The



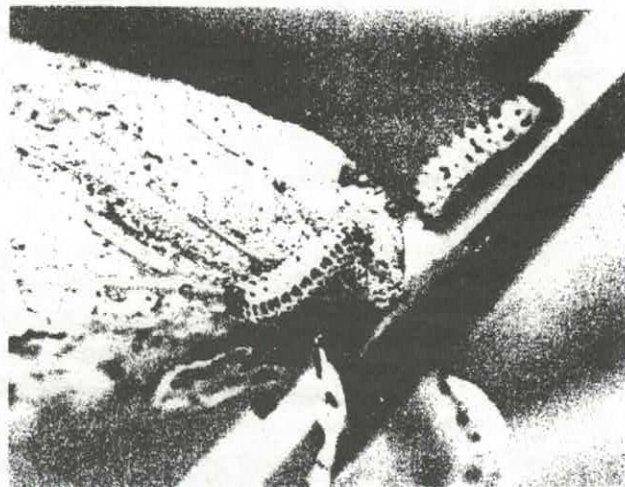
Purple Loosestrife

life histories of the candidates in their native habitats is studied in detail. Then they are reared in the laboratory and tested for feeding specificity against species that are closely related to the target host, less closely related species that occur in the same habitat as the target host, and species of economic importance. Specialized biocontrol agents rarely cause even minor problems, especially those with a single host. The risks posed by the biocontrol agents are expected to be trivial in comparison with the threat that purple loosestrife poses to North American ecosystems.

"Should we let nature take its course?" Perhaps biocontrol is just a "finger-in-the-dike" solution, and it is inevitable that purple loosestrife will take over North American marshlands regardless of what we do. If we only

slow the establishment of an alien species we allow more opportunity for other species to adapt, and change becomes less traumatic.

"Will the beetles work?" We won't know if we don't try. Natural biocontrol is never so simple as one species on another. When we investigate thoroughly we normally find that there are many predators and parasites which include members of vertebrate, invertebrate, bacterial, virus, and other groups. These agents also compete with one another, and even in well studied plants like balsam fir or potatoes we keep learning new things about the food chains they support. Is it reasonable then to import two beetles that may compete, and be less rather than more



Galerucella californiensis larvae

effective than one? I assume that whoever made the decision to try two had good reason. I do know that three other beetle species (weevils) have been released in North America against purple loosestrife. For biological reasons (difficult to rear, slow to propagate, and less promising than *Galerucella*) they have been shelved for the time being.

Environmental Concerns

"What will the beetles eat when the loosestrife is all gone?" Classical biocontrol cannot eradicate a pest! The reason is that any predator or parasite that eradicates its sole host eradicates itself as well. In fact, at a few release sites in Ontario where these leaf beetles have become well established, growth of loosestrife has been suppressed to the point where plants were stunted and seed was not produced. Under such circumstances plants are less aggressive and fewer plants produce fewer seeds. But neither species will be eliminated.

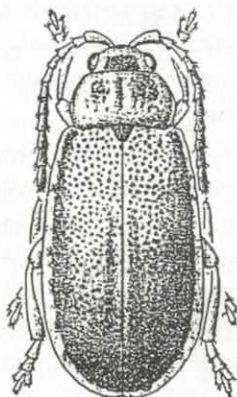
"Will the beetles become pests themselves?" We certainly hope not. This was the case with the cane toad in Australia, introduced to control an insect attacking sugar cane. It didn't eat the cane insect, but it displaced native amphibians and overran the place. There are precious few other such cases, and more are unlikely under modern protocols. The beetles have only one known food plant. To make sure, they have been offered, and have refused, North American plants considered remotely acceptable. The beetles have their habitat preferences and may not establish in all loosestrife habitats. Native predators with catholic tastes, birds, insects, rodents, will take a toll if the beetles become abundant. We know this from a wealth of observations of other species.

"Will native species evolve to eat purple loosestrife?" Probably, but are we prepared to wait? One of the first noxious weeds to follow Europeans to the Americas, the common dandelion, is still rampant.

"Aren't all wetlands transitional habitats? Why bother?" Good point, but what about the time scale? Without direct interference with heavy machinery, pollutants, or something like purple loosestrife, most would change little in a human lifetime.

Galerucella pusilla (Duftschmid)

- 148 adults released at Sheffield, 1993
- 100 adults released at Sheffield, 1994
- 150 adults released at Woodstock, 1994
- Establishment not yet determined.



"Why should we bring in yet another non-native species?" Why not? Most of the herbaceous plants we see in our yards are European in origin, including (despite its name) Kentucky blue grass, white clover, common plantain, and dandelion. Of 230 species discussed by Frankton and Mulligan (1987) in "Weeds of Canada" I counted only 28 natives, and of those, 5 had restricted distribution until human activity intervened. Same with woody plants, insects, and human diseases. Not to make excuses, but Canadian landscapes have been and are still being altered by humans, and introduction of predators of alien species is a valid attempt to ameliorate an inevitable process.

Different Viewpoints

In biological control of any pest, an animal or plant that threatens the environment or a legitimate human activity, there are two main interest groups: agricultural-forestry and environmental. Jim showed us this table in which he generalizes about which group has the greater strength among eight principal attributes. It shows how the groups complement each other, and suggests the advantages to be had through cooperation:

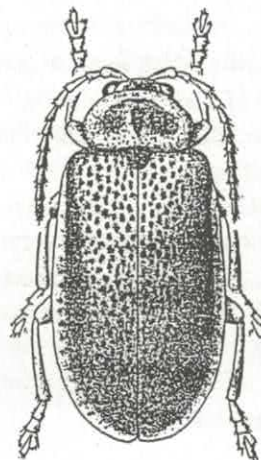
	<u>Agr./For.</u>	<u>Environ</u>
Experience with biocontrol	✓	-
Profit (=control) oriented	✓	-
Concern about side effects	-	✓
Respect for "scientific authority"	✓	-
Broad knowledge of environment	-	✓
Ability to get financial support	✓	-
Interest in alternative controls	-	✓
Volunteer involvement	-	✓

The purple loosestrife problem is still a problem no matter how we see it. (The public in general doesn't seem to care, or thinks it's pretty.) Nonetheless, naturalists, environmentalists, ecologists, and wildlife biologists agree on the threat that the "beautiful death" poses for our priceless wetlands.

I thank Jim Corrigan for reviewing this article and offering constructive suggestions.

Galerucella californiensis (L.)

- 700 adults released at Woodstock, 1994
- 200 adults released at Sheffield, 1994
- Establishment not yet determined.



NEW BRUNSWICK TOUGHENS ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Rod Cumberland, Department of Natural Resources and Energy



Piping Plover

In 1989 the Department of Natural Resources and Energy initiated the New Brunswick Committee on Endangered Species (NBCES). The NBCES brought together professional biologists, zoologists, botanists and naturalists, renowned in their fields of expertise, to redraft the outdated Endangered Species legislation of 1976. In addition, subcommittees were formed to assess the status of rare fauna and flora of the province.

As a result of their work, a new revised *Endangered Species Act* and accompanying regulations were proclaimed in April of 1996. Although not all anticipated changes and revisions were incorporated into the new legislation, the revisions do provide for increased protection to species at risk in the province, and allow for greater breadth in applying this protection.

Among the changes were:

1. A dramatic increase in the fine structure (previously, a maximum of \$5,000.00 for harming Endangered flora and/or fauna), with fines up to \$100,000.00 for first offenses. Repeat offenses can result in fines levied to the tune of \$250,000.00.



Eastern Cougar

2. In the new Act, not only are the species themselves protected, but also their habitat.

3. Several species were reclassified with respect to the size of their populations in surrounding jurisdictions, resulting in a newly protected category "regionally endangered". The previously protected Lynx and Bald Eagle were reclassified into this category and remain protected against illegal activity.



Harlequin Duck

4. There are special provisions that also bind the Crown.
5. The Osprey, due to various factors, is the success story behind New Brunswick's efforts over the past several years. Due to the resurgence of this population, the Osprey has been downlisted from Endangered to secure.
6. With the assessment of nearly 200 plants and animals over the last 6 years, new data suggested that the following additional species¹ required legal protection as endangered species:



Parker's Pipewort

Piping Plover
Maritime Ringlet Butterfly
Harlequin Duck
Leatherback Turtle
Prototype Quillwort
Southern Twayblade
Anticosti Aster
Pine Drops
Bathurst Aster
Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster
Parker's Pipewort

Now that these changes have been implemented, the NBCES has an expanded mandate to assist in drafting conservation plans that will address the recovery of species listed in regulation. It will also continue to provide the professional assessment of species at risk within the province. The committee and the Department will continue to seek ways to address the large number of plant and animal species that require a more practical approach to stewardship and conservation.

The Department of Natural Resources and Energy is restructuring to allow higher management priority to this and other ecological issues. A copy of the revised Act and accompanying regulations are available at the Queen's Printer, Centennial Building in downtown Fredericton.



Maritime Ringlet

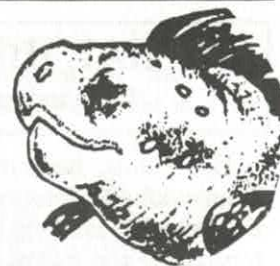


Furbish's Lousewort

All of us need to take steps to help protect and preserve species of endangered flora and fauna. Although many people tend to focus on industry and its impacts on the environment, their actions

are typically dictated by our own individual inability to conserve, recycle and live within our means. It is our activities and demands upon which industries are built. Somehow, habitat and species conservation have to play a much larger role when development issues are addressed. Ultimately our economy and living standards will be determined by how well we treat our natural environment.

Posters and additional information on New Brunswick's Endangered Species are available from the the Library, Department of Natural Resources and Energy, P.O. Box 6000, Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1.



Leatherback Turtle

¹ The Eastern Cougar, Lynx, Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, and Furbish's Lousewort were previously afforded protection, and continue to be protected by the Province's *Endangered Species Act*.

Illustrations for this article and the following article were kindly provided by the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy.

EXCURSION BOTANIQUE À LA PÉNINSULE

Hilaire Chiasson, le Club des naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne

Parmi les quelques chercheurs qui daignent visiter la Péninsule acadienne, on trouve quelques botanistes compétents et désireux de mieux faire connaître notre patrimoine floral.

Ce fut le 20 septembre dernier que nous recevions à Lamèque, la visite de trois botanistes de réputation internationale. Du Nouveau-Brunswick, nous avions Hal Hinds qui est l'auteur de "Flora of New Brunswick" et Jim Goltz qui a une grande expérience dans la recherche des plantes et qui publia plusieurs articles sur le sujet. Ces derniers étaient accompagnés de Mme Alison Dibble, une botaniste de l'État du Maine qui a fait de longues études dans le domaine de la flore et qui s'est spécialisée dans plusieurs groupes de plantes parmi les plus difficiles à identifier.

Arrivés la veille au soir, j'accompagnai nos trois botanistes en excursion samedi matin. La conversation tournait souvent autour d'une petite plante rare qui supposément avait déjà été trouvée sur l'Île Miscou mais qu'on ne peut plus retracer dans la province. Il s'agit de "*Aster laurentianus*", une aster du Golfe St-Laurent.



Aster laurentianus

En premier lieu, on orienta notre recherche sur quelques marais salins de l'Île Miscou. Cette aster est une habituée des grands espaces en bordure des zones inondables des marais saumâtre. Nous

avions déjà visité quelques sites sans succès, et étions au marais de l'Île aux trésors lorsque Hal, qui s'était éloigné un peu, revint avec dans ses mains, comme on tient une gerbe de blé, une plante de la même famille, la "*Distichlis spicata*". C'est une plante rare, une première pour la Péninsule acadienne.

L'équipe des chercheurs passa le lendemain à scruter les marais saumâtres de la Baie du Petit Pokemouche, d'Inkerman, de Val Comeau, de Rivière du Portage et de Tabusintac sans pouvoir mettre la main sur cette minuscule aster qui reste pour le moment introuvable. Mais Alison Dibble fit la découverte d'un deuxième site de l' "*Odontites verna*" à la Baie du Petit Pokemouche et Hal trouva "*Limosella australis*" à Val Comeau. Cette dernière plante est sans doute la plus petite que nous ayons en collection. Ses fleurs bleues pâles, presque blanches, ne mesurent qu'un millimètre de diamètre.

L'heure du retour étant arrivée, nous nous sommes séparés en souhaitant continuer notre recherche l'an prochain. De Hal, Jim et Alison, nous gardons le souvenir de votre tenacité, de vos méthodes de recherche, de votre courage sans oublier votre jovialité.

Les trois botanistes ci-haut mentionnés désirent souligner aux lecteurs que Hilaire est l'expert indisputé de la flore de la Péninsule acadienne. Ils veulent aussi exprimer leurs sincères remerciements à Rose-Aline et Hilaire de leur superbe hospitalité et amitié.

HAL HINDS WINS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AWARD

Revised article from *The Daily Gleaner*, Saturday, September 21, 1996, p. 48

Hal Hinds, honorary life member of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists and New Brunswick's leading authority on wild plants, has received a top award from one of Canada's leading conservation agencies, in recognition of his life's work.

Natural Resources and Energy Minister Alan Graham presented the 1996 Outstanding Achievement Award on behalf of the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas. The council represents federal, provincial and territorial governments, non-government organizations, and private industry as well as the research community and interested individuals. Its focus is on establishing a Canada-wide network of protected areas.

The award reads: "In grateful recognition of scientific leadership in documenting the flora of New Brunswick, his personal commitment to conservation activities in the Atlantic region and his dedication to raising public awareness about the importance of protected areas and biodiversity."

Responding to tributes from the minister and from the various scientists, environmentalists and government representatives in attendance, Hal said his work "has to do with hope." "If I weren't involved in the conservation movement, I would feel very badly", he said. "Although I can't give much money to many organizations, I can certainly give my time. That way, I feel like I'm doing something positive to support those things that are so important to me."

Making the presentation in Hal's garden, a collection of native and exotic plants uniquely landscaped over many years, Mr. Graham said: "This

is a fitting day, a fitting place, a fitting person for such an award. My knowledge is a lot richer because of what you have contributed and what we have shared."

Jim Goltz, past president of the Federation, said: "We are deeply grateful for all that you have done for New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada, particularly in the areas of habitat preservation, conservation biology, public education, community development and scientific knowledge of our natural history. You have helped to enrich the lives of many Atlantic Canadians, myself included, by generously sharing with us your wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm for nature."

Recognized as the one of the foremost naturalists and conservationists in the province, Hal chaired the Natural Areas Group of the Premier's 1990 Round Table Discussions on the Environment and the Economy. He has been a founder of, or participant in, many of New Brunswick's nature and conservation groups, such as the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, Nature Trust of New Brunswick, and Conservation Council of New Brunswick.

A teaching associate at the University of New Brunswick since 1973, Hal is curator of the university's Connell Memorial Herbarium, and author of several books and publications, including *The Flora of New Brunswick* and *The Rare Vascular Plants of New Brunswick*.



APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE

Frank Longstaff

In recent weeks, our past president, Jim Goltz, has been the recipient of not one, but two prestigious awards from environmental organizations in New Brunswick. That he should be so honoured comes as no surprise to those of us who know him well and who have worked with him over the years. We know he is knowledgeable, determined, unstinting and very effective in the work he does to conserve our natural heritage. We are delighted that others have discovered the same thing.

What is interesting is that the two groups who have honoured Jim, the Canadian Forestry Association of New Brunswick and the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, can almost always be counted upon to line up on opposite sides of an issue. Indeed, Jim's co-recipient for the forestry prize, Joe O'Neill of Repap

New Brunswick Inc., the pulp and paper giant, is busy suing the Conservation Council for alleged wrongs in connection with the Council's opposition to logging in the Christmas Mountains.

In awarding Jim their Order of Merit award, the Canadian Forestry Association of New Brunswick had this to say about him:

Jim has the all-too-rare ability to listen carefully to other views, to accept and utilize what new facts and information they present, to put forward his views in a firm, quiet and reasonable manner, and finally, with not the slightest departure from principle, to part friends ready for the next step forward.

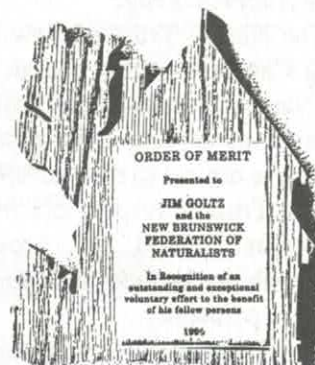
Over the past few years, as a leader in the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, Jim has

ensured that the environmental viewpoint has always been presented in a manner which gained respect and careful consideration. He has given endless hours to meetings, conferences and workshops, hours which could have been spent far more enjoyably in the field.

Naturalist Jim Goltz is respected by industry and government — even when he criticizes them strongly. He is an outstanding example of those who seek for ways to be positive rather than negative. He is a builder of bridges.

The Conservation Council has chosen Jim to be the recipient of the Milton F. Gregg Conservation Award, their premier award to someone who has made a major contribution to the preservation of the environment in New Brunswick. They recognize Jim as a friend and colleague who has supported many of their campaigns, and, like the foresters, they value him for his ethics and his sense of fair play as well as for his knowledge and leadership.

Both groups recognize that Jim has achieved this preeminence as the representative of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists and that it is the values of those who understand and treasure the natural world — our values — that he puts forward so effectively. Simply put, he is our champion, the one who takes our message into the political arena, and makes it heard. We are very proud of him.



"CELEBRATION OF BIRDS '97"

Bonnie Hamilton Bogart

The **Village of Gagetown** is hosting a progressive birding event, beginning early in the New Year and culminating in our "Celebration of Birds '97" exhibit at the historic Queens County Courthouse.

January, February, March: Information evenings — On selected Thursday evenings in January, February and March, *information evenings* will bring interested villagers and bird enthusiasts together for talks by knowledgeable resource people, videos, slide shows, etc. (contact Dawn Bremner: (506) 488-2295).

March 22, April 5, April 19, May 3, May 17 and May 31: Guided birding tours — Our heralds of spring are our ducks and geese, which begin their migration through the Lower St. John River Valley in mid-March to early April, and use the marshes as a major staging area for several weeks. Also returning

to their nesting areas are our many hawks, shorebirds, osprey, eagles, kestrels and warblers (contact: Bonnie Hamilton Bogart: (506) 488-1888).

May 31 and June 1: "Celebration of Birds '97" exhibit, continuing until after the July 1st weekend. This exhibit,

organized by the Queens County Historical Society, will showcase a variety of wild birds of the area. Not only will the birds of Queens County be featured, but examples of other New Brunswick birds are also welcome. Birdlife will be represented in many forms. A visual art exhibit by some of the area's best-known artists will be complemented by art works by area school children; a photography exhibit will feature work by some of the province's dedicated amateur and professional photographers; an exhibit of antique decoys of the Lower St. John River Valley will be complemented by works of some modern-day decoy carvers of the area; and a local taxidermy collection of birds will be on display (contact Dawn Bremner: (506) 488-2295).

The **Bird-Calling Contest** will provide people of all ages the chance to demonstrate their prowess in calling specific birds (contact Alexandra Francis: (506) 488-3164).

A **Build a Better Birdhouse Contest** will offer participants of all ages and skill levels an opportunity to display their skills in design, construction and creativity. The contest includes birdhouses, bird feeders and birdbaths (contact Fred Williams: (506) 488-2955).

Birdathons will give participants a chance to work in teams to come up with sightings of as many different species as possible (contact Bonnie Hamilton Bogart: (506) 488-1888).



HOP TO IT! – ADOPT-A-FROG

Jane Tarn, Nature Trust of New Brunswick

Why Adopt-A-Frog?

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick's Adopt-A-Frog Campaign offers you an opportunity to support the Nature Trust in protecting frogs and other wildlife through preserving their natural habitat. Natural habitat is critical to their survival.

The Trust is responsible for a number of Nature Preserves around the province. The Trust's responsibility includes managing and protecting those areas in perpetuity.

The Trust also is involved in public education and the identification of additional natural areas requiring protection.

In order to fulfill our management, education, and other responsibilities and commitments, the Trust needs substantial funding.

How you can help

You can help the Nature Trust by joining the Adopt-A-Frog campaign. For a \$20 donation, you (or a recipient of your choice) receive(s) an adoption certificate, a frog fridge magnet featuring a rare Gray Treefrog, an information brochure about the Gray Treefrog and Nature Trust newsletters for a year. (Children will also receive a few sheets of frog activities). An income tax receipt will be sent to you.

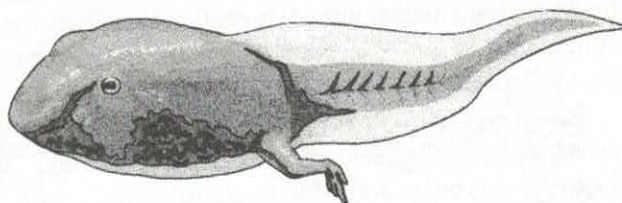
How to Adopt-A-Frog

Please send your donation of \$20 (by cheque or money order) for each adoption to:

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick,
P.O. Box 603, Station A,
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 5A6

NOTE: Please be sure to include the following information:

- Name and full mailing address of buyer (in order to receive tax receipt)
- Name and full mailing address of recipient (if you wish this to be a gift)
- Message you would like to have on the gift card
- Name to appear on the certificate
- Whether the gift is for a child or an adult



NEW BUTTERFLY ATLAS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK

Tony Thomas

An updated version of my limited-distribution N.B. Butterfly Atlas should be available to you by the time you read this article. The corrected proofs were returned to the printer on November 20, 1996 and final copies should be available by mid-December. Details on the publication are as follows:

Thomas, A.W. 1996. *A Preliminary Atlas of the Butterflies of New Brunswick*. Publications in Natural Science, No. 11. Published by the Natural Sciences Department, New Brunswick Museum, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, E2K 1E5.

I understand from Don McAlpine that this volume will be for sale at the New Brunswick Museum gift shop (currently located in Market Square, Saint John); phone: (506) 643-2350.

This atlas gives a checklist and distribution maps for the 77 species of butterflies that breed in New Brunswick. Brief notes on the flight periods and

larval food plants are given, along with references to text books containing more biological information. Apart from the 77 distribution maps, there are no illustrations. References to coloured figures in Peterson's *A Field Guide to Eastern Butterflies* (Opler and Malikul, 1992) are given for each New Brunswick species.

In anticipation of increased interest in "butterfly watching", I am including here a Checklist of New Brunswick Butterflies that I have found useful during the last 10 years. I encourage you to make copies of this list and take it with you on your outings in the coming years. Of course, please fill in your observations and send them to Don McAlpine at the New Brunswick Museum. Then maybe we will be able to publish a definitive atlas of New Brunswick butterflies.

CHECKLIST OF NEW BRUNSWICK BUTTERFLIES

Tony Thomas and Jim Edsall

Locality: _____ Date: _____
 Habitat: _____ Observer(s): _____
 UTM Grid Reference / Latitude and Longitude: _____

SKIPPERS:

- ☐ Silver-spotted (*vagrant*)
- ☐ Northern Cloudy Wing
- ☐ Juvenal's Dusky Wing**
- ☐ Dreamy Dusky Wing
- ☐ Arctic
- ☐ Least
- ☐ European
- ☐ Laurentian
- ☐ Indian
- ☐ Peck's [= Yellow Patch]
- ☐ Tawny-edged
- ☐ Long Dash
- ☐ Hobomok
- ☐ Two-spotted
- ☐ Dun
- ☐ Pepper and Salt
- ☐ Roadside

SWALLOWTAILS:

- ☐ Black
- ☐ Short-tailed
- ☐ Giant (*vagrant*)
- ☐ Canadian Tiger

WHITES:

- ☐ Mustard
- ☐ Cabbage Butterfly

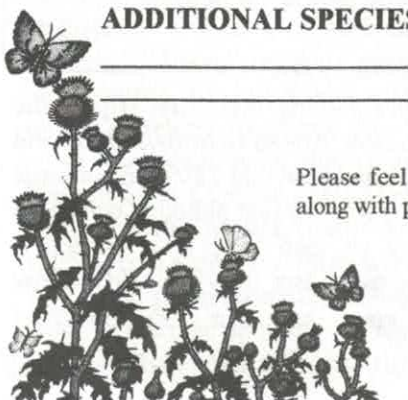
SULPHURS:

- ☐ Clouded [= Common]
- ☐ Alfalfa Butterfly [= Orange]
- ☐ Pink-edged
- ☐ Little (*vagrant*)

MILKWEEDS:

- ☐ Monarch

ADDITIONAL SPECIES:



HARVESTERS:

- ☐ Harvester

COPPERS:

- ☐ Salt-marsh
- ☐ American
- ☐ Bronze
- ☐ Bog
- ☐ Dorcas

HAIRSTREAKS:

- ☐ Acadian
- ☐ Banded
- ☐ Striped
- ☐ Early
- ☐ Gray

ELFINS:

- ☐ Brown
- ☐ Bog
- ☐ Henry's
- ☐ Hoary
- ☐ Eastern Pine
- ☐ Western Pine

BLUES:

- ☐ Northern
- ☐ Greenish [= *Saepiolus*]
- ☐ Western Tailed
- ☐ Spring Azure
- ☐ Cherry Gall Azure
- ☐ Summer Azure
- ☐ Silvery

FRITILLARIES:

- ☐ Variegated (*vagrant*)
- ☐ Great Spangled
- ☐ Aphrodite
- ☐ Atlantis
- ☐ Silver-bordered
- ☐ Meadow
- ☐ Titania [= Purple Lesser]

CHECKERSPOTS:

- ☐ Silvery
- ☐ Harris
- ☐ Baltimore

CRESCENTS:

- ☐ Northern Pearl

COMMAS & NYMPHS:

- ☐ Question Mark
- ☐ Hop Merchant [= Comma]
- ☐ Green Comma
- ☐ Hoary Comma
- ☐ Gray Comma
- ☐ Satyr Anglewing
- ☐ Compton Tortoise Shell
- ☐ Milbert's Tortoise Shell
- ☐ Mourning Cloak
- ☐ American Painted Lady
- ☐ Painted Lady
- ☐ Buckeye (*vagrant*)
- ☐ Red Admiral
- ☐ White Admiral
- ☐ Viceroy

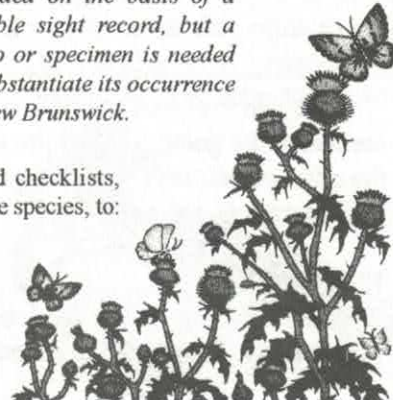
WOOD NYMPHS:

- ☐ Little Wood Satyr
- ☐ Northern Pearly Eye
- ☐ Eyed Brown
- ☐ Maritime Ringlet
- ☐ Inornate Ringlet
- ☐ Common Wood Nymph

ARCTICS:

- ☐ Jutta Arctic

** *Juvenal's Dusky Wing* is included on the basis of a reliable sight record, but a photo or specimen is needed to substantiate its occurrence in New Brunswick.



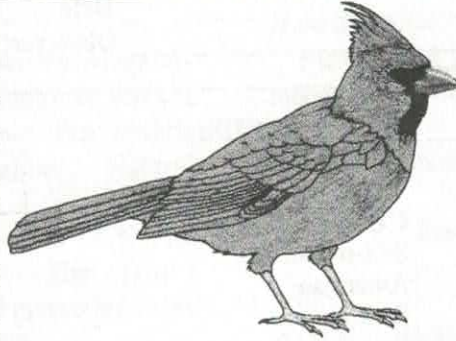
Please feel free to photocopy this checklist and send completed checklists, along with photographs or drawings documenting discoveries of rare species, to:

Dr. Don McAlpine
 New Brunswick Museum
 277 Douglas Avenue
 Saint John NB E2K 1E5

ENJOYING CARDINALS YEAR-ROUND

Don Gibson, Fredericton Nature Club

While sitting at my dining room table one October day in 1990, I noticed a reddish bird approaching my feeder. At first I thought it would be a male Purple Finch, a species that had visited my feeder many times in the past. But to my utter amazement and sheer joy, out hopped a male cardinal. Before I could regroup from this delightful shock, he was joined by his beautiful buffy-brown companion; the first female cardinal that I had ever seen. Since that time cardinals have visited my winter feeders on a regular basis.



witness "mate feeding"; an act where the male offers a seed to the female. I was pleasantly surprised how often this pair came to the feeder during the next few weeks, as the only food available was in a hanging tube-type feeder; not exactly what cardinals prefer. However, the female soon mastered it and eventually the male did too.

The next notable event occurred in early July, when I noticed both birds on the ground performing some exotic ritual. In fact, they looked as if they might be practicing the floor exercises for the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Closer inspection showed that they were "anting"; a procedure in which a bird will pick up ants and rub them directly onto its feathers, possibly to rid itself of feather mites.

Two years later, while sitting at the same location, I saw a female cardinal feeding on the ground with about a dozen sparrows when suddenly she picked up a seed and seemingly offered it to a sparrow. Binoculars revealed what the naked eye could not. Instead of a sparrow, she was feeding her recently fledged offspring. Despite the fact that it was now late September and this chick was obviously the product of a late brood, I was able to watch it progress into adulthood. Over the next few months it gradually acquired a red plumage, revealing the fact that it was male and no longer welcome in the neighbourhood. The adult male would vigorously chase it at every opportunity; creating brilliant red streaks across my backyard, especially beautiful against a snowy white background.

There were often noises that resembled the begging of young but as August slipped away, none had actually been seen. Finally on the 27th, one bird in juvenile plumage accompanied the male out into the open. After a few trips with its parents, it gained the confidence to dine alone. Shortly thereafter it disappeared; hopefully due to natural dispersal as opposed to being a victim of the house cats that patrol the area. Meanwhile, the adults were taking on a ghastly appearance, as they were in middle of their annual moult.

This past year I maintained a feeding station in the summer, for the first time, and added a few more entries to my "cardinal journals". The male began his courtship, with customary song, in late March and about three weeks later I was fortunate enough to

Chickadees are so lovable, jays so saucy and woodpeckers so innocent, but the trendy word that best describes cardinals is **awesome**. We should be grateful that this bird has expanded its range from the south. Seems strange that it is called a **Northern Cardinal**.

MISSING THE MARK

Don Gibson

Have you ever had one of those conversations that seemed to be going along quite well, when suddenly the other person says something that reveals that they are not even on the same page?

EXAMPLE:

While crossing on the ferry to Grand Manan one summer day, I happened to encounter a coworker and

his family who were making their first trip to the island. The subject soon turned to birdwatching and the wife said that she had read that 250 kinds of birds could be seen there. I told her that although one could not see that many on one trip, it is indeed a tremendous birding spot. But then she said, "**How many would you see in Fredericton; TWENTY?**"

BIRDING TOUR OF GAGETOWN ISLAND

Dawn Bremner

Author's Note: Gagetown Island in Queens County on the lower St. John River may be one of the best kept secrets in the birding world. Across the creek from the Village of Gagetown, it is readily accessible by canoe or motor boat, and has trails and boardwalks for easy walking into marshy areas. The lower portion of the Island is the Mount Ararat Wildlife Management Area which protects the habitat as well as the creatures living there. The trip described in this essay took place on **June 1, 1996** and I believe a total of sixty-six species were documented by birders like Peter Pearce and Enid Inch.

On Saturday I took a few hours and went birding. I'm not the keen bird person some of my friends are, although I do observe birds all year round and can identify most of the common ones. But I'm not into life lists or such like and only two or three times a year do I go, armed with binoculars, to look at birds. Last Saturday morning was one such time; I went out to Gagetown Island with a group from the Nature Club and Ducks Unlimited. By nine o'clock there were about twenty of us, rubber-booted and shiny with sun screen, waiting to go by boat across the creek, and up Mount Creek to the dock on the Island.

On the way over we saw the usual water and marsh denizens — alert **Osprey** cruising for fish, lordly **Great Black-backed Gulls** watching as we passed, a **Common Tern** on a buoy bobbing gently from our wake, and a first for some people on the trip, **Black Terns** patrolling the river's edge. Two **Great Blue Herons** were fishing in a small marsh; down river from us a lone cormorant dived, surfaced and dived again; a distant eagle appeared from the direction of Hart's Lake; and numerous swallows swooped to skim the calm surface of the water. A wonderful morning to be alive!

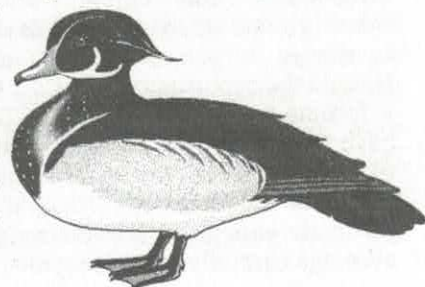
As we putted up Mount Creek we saw birds along the waterside — blackbirds, grackles, and here and there a sandpiper. A pair of **Black Ducks** flew, **Blue-winged Teal** swam into the reeds, and we heard, but didn't see, a **Pied-billed Grebe**. To me, this was amazing; some of the people on the trip were excellent at birdcalls and could imitate and explain them to us novices. Later on their pronouncements proved accurate too, for again and again tall trees yielded a bird to match the name and the song.

At the dock near the ruins of Mount House, **Bobolinks** in profusion crisscrossed the meadow, and higher on the Mount (really an esker composed of rubble from a glacier), birds were singing everywhere. And again people were remarking, "That sounds like a **Red-eyed Vireo** up there ... I hear a **Catbird** ... That's a **Least Flycatcher** off to the right."

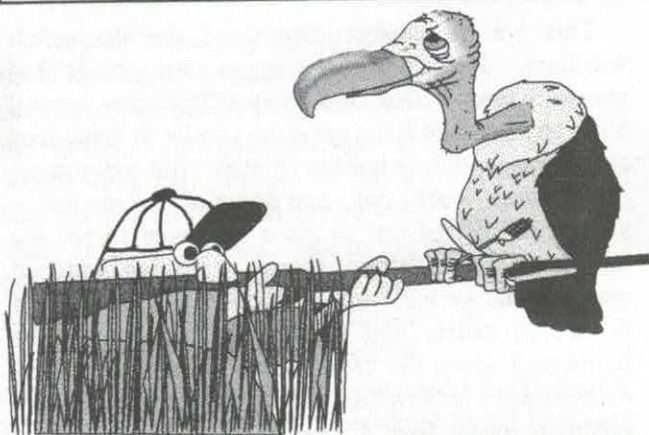
This was a perfect place and day to watch warblers. These are small insect-eating birds that generally feed in trees, and because they move around a lot, and because some are quite similar in behaviour and plumage, they're hard to identify. But today some of the trees — ash, oak, and some of the maples — aren't fully leafed out so it's a bit easier to see the warblers' small flitting shapes. So we watched warblers as we went up one side of the mount and down the other, and then wandered among the hardwoods along the creek ridge. I don't know how many species we saw altogether. Certainly there were common ones like **Canada Warblers**, **Yellow Warblers**, and **Yellowthroats**, and we were thrilled to see dozens of **Blackpoll Warblers** that the experts told us were not in their normal habitat and were a group still in migration.

Nor were warblers the only species we saw. There were kingbirds, finches, orioles, and something I'd never seen to know before, a **Northern Waterthrush**. We saw a snipe sitting on the very top of a dead tree, wood duck nesting boxes that gave every appearance of occupation, and were delighted to see a **Hairy Woodpecker** feeding young. Now we didn't actually see the young but we saw her going in and out a small hole in a hollow tree, and then while she was away for more grub we stood in thrilled silence and heard the peeping of the little ones. For me this was the highlight of the trip, these half-dozen people of all ages and sizes, standing motionless in leaf-dappled sunlight with expressions of joy and wonder on their faces.

The whole thing was great fun and I'd make an effort to go again. And like others, I came away with a renewed interest in feathered creatures. Advice from someone on the trip helped me identify the robin-sized orangy golden bird, that has been eating spiders from webs in the page wire fence, as a female **Baltimore Oriole**; although to be honest, what really convinced me was the male oriole that came to join her. And very early this morning when I went to put a mare and foal out to pasture I was delighted to see a congregation of **Cedar Waxwings** in the top of a **Black Locust** tree. I just wish I had more time to pursue this fascinating hobby.



Letter to the Editor

NB BIRDWATCHERS — A THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY?

Editors' Note: Every autumn, passionate debates and opinions on hunting are the regular focus of New Brunswick's media. Among New Brunswick's naturalists there is a wide spectrum of views and sentiments on hunting. This article was solicited by the editors following a playful discussion that occurred at a social event that brought together a diverse group of individuals, including hunters and environmentalists. Like all satires, the article's main objective is humour, but beneath the humour there is food for more serious thought.

Dear Editor:

I've simply reached the "end of my barrel" with those inconsiderate fanatics who call themselves birdwatchers. For several weeks each spring and fall these maniacs emerge from their artificial, man-made environments with bird tapes, books and binoculars in tow and tromp about in the pristine forests and fields of this province with one thought only on their minds to "bag" that trophy bird sighting for their life lists or to be the first one to call in to some local bird hotline with the sighting of a rare yellow-bellied, three legged, cross-billed sapsucker that just happened to remain still enough for one of these yoyo's to figure out how to focus their binoculars!

Give me a break from the onslaught of these "boobies" I'm a well trained and responsible hunter who has a mere 4 weeks each year to carefully stalk and harvest a white-tailed deer and maybe a few partridge for sustenance during the long cold New Brunswick winters. I put a lot of thorough preparation into my hunt each year days of pre-season scouting to locate my prey's travel patterns and behaviour hours carefully selecting and building a tree or ground stand a full day 'sighting in' my rifle to ensure its accuracy and a clean and swift kill (should the opportunity arise) then, I have to spend a fortune to purchase a licence (and it looks like I'll have to be a millionaire to afford the simple pleasure of hunting, once Rock's bird-brained gun registry fiasco is implemented) and if I'm skillful and fortunate enough to harvest a deer, I spend several evenings carefully processing then freezing the meat.

It's not enough that these cross-eyed nuthatches have all winter, spring and summer to bop around the hills and dales trying to determine the identity of some faint "tweet" that they heard in the woods now they want the fields and forests all to themselves and all year around! Surely, for the love of bluebirds, these birdwatchers can spare us hunters, who are just trying to put some venison on the table for ourselves and families, a few weeks in the fall to ply our trade?? With them traipsing all over the place, scaring the deer half to death as they go stumbling through the forests how's an honest hunter gonna have a chance??

And have you ever seen how these "turkeys" drive??? I swear, I've watched some of them weaving down the highways and byways with one hand on the wheel and the other holding the binoculars up to their eyes or gazing into their field guide while driving during autumn trying to spot a bird that matches a picture of a "Blue Tit" in spring plumage they are a menace to both man and beast when they are on the loose!! And the springtime is the worst after being cooped up next to their bird feeders all winter and watching nature shows on PBS I actually have to stay off the highways during spring migration for fear of my life from these feather-brained drivers!!

I think that it is high time that the government regulate these birders they should develop mandatory bird-watching education programs that include bird-watching ethics, safe binocular handling, a special federal driving course, and they should be required to wear neon green vests and hats so that the rest of society can spot them easily and take necessary diversionary action. Also we need to licence these "wood-pecker heads" and only allow a certain number of them into any one wildlife management zone at a time. I'd even go so far as to suggest that special bird-watching zones be established so that the rest of society could be protected from their rampages.

To be fair, I recognize that there are some ethical, careful and considerate birders throughout New Brunswick but the birding fraternity seems to be taking a turn for the worse. Anyone who is old enough to walk is allowed to enter into any nature shop and purchase a high-powered pair of binoculars and a glossy-pictured field guide without so much as an explanation about how to safely read and operate these dangerous devices. I do hope the birding fraternity moves forward quickly to establish a code of practice and ethics to weed out these dangerous "maniacs" in their midst. If not, then society will have to step in and bird-watching (as we know it) will go the way of the dodo!

Respectfully yours,

Rambo Redmondo (rarely successful venison hunter)
Keswick, NB

NATURE NEWS: JULY-SEPTEMBER 1996

David Christie

Preparation of my last "Nature News" column was a bit rushed; I didn't have time to check it adequately. When preparing these accounts I do have to be selective but last time, without wanting to, I managed to delete mention of the 3 or 4 **Glossy Ibises** seen during the spring. I also have to apologize to Ansel and David Campbell for not including any of the spring bird arrival dates they sent me from Carleton County. Be assured that these contributions are valued and will be incorporated into the bird record files at the New Brunswick Museum. I hope I have done better this time.

As for upcoming columns, please send October-December observations to me by January 15, and January-March observations by April 15. My address is RR 2, Albert, N.B. E0A 1A0 (e-mail: maryspt@nbnet.nb.ca; TalkMail: 882-2100).

Birds

Pied-billed Grebes were again noted breeding in Madawaska County this summer, 4 young being seen at St-Hilaire Aug. 16 (JDB, JB, GT, GV). An early returning **Horned Grebe**, still in about 75% breeding plumage, was at Pocologan Aug. 19 (MP, SM). On Sep. 15 one was at Cap Bimet, near Shediac, where there were also 20 **Red-necked Grebes** (SIT). The same day 2 **Red-necked Grebes** were seen in eastern Restigouche County (ML, AW).

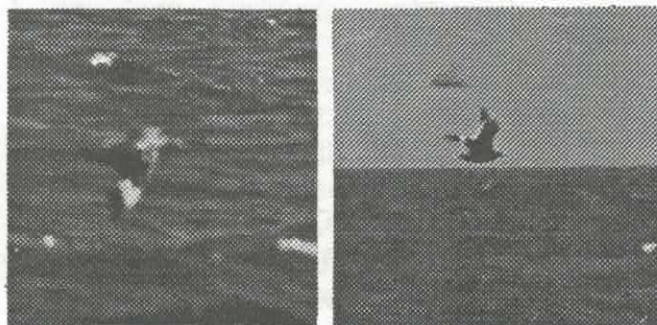
It was a productive summer for observing seabirds in the Bay of Fundy. Sightings from the "Princess of Acadia" between Saint John and Digby included "a good representation" of **Greater Shearwaters**, a few **Sooty Shearwaters** and a "good showing" of **Northern Gannets** (lots of subadults) July 21 (NP); about 100 **Greater**, 5 **Sooty**, and 2 **Manx Shearwaters**, an adult **Pomarine Jaeger**, and 2 **Atlantic Puffins** Aug. 24 (CD+); and large numbers of **Greater** and **Sooty Shearwaters** Aug. 31 (IC, HCa).

Surprisingly, at Grand Manan in early fall, **Sooty Shearwaters** sometimes outnumbered **Greater**s. Reports from boat trips southeast of the island included 750 **Greater**, 200 **Sooty** and 8 **Manx Shearwaters**, and hundreds of **Red-necked Phalaropes**, many high in the air, apparently migrating, Aug. 27 (SIT+); 1200 **Greater**, 400 **Sooty** and 3 **Manx**, and 4 **Pomarine Jaegers** Sep. 11 (SIT+); varying estimates of 1000 to 3000 **Greater**, 2000 to

5000 **Sooty** and 3 to 4 **Manx**, 12 to 19 **Pomarine Jaegers** and one **Parasitic Jaeger** Sep. 21 (v.o.). A **Northern Fulmar** was one of the highlights of the Sep. 21 trip. At least 1000 **Sooty Shearwaters** were feeding 1.5 km off Long Eddy Point, GM, Sep. 16 (*fide* BED).

Other jaegers included a **Pomarine** from the Grand Manan ferry Aug. 19 (MP, SM) and Sep. 30 (HC, Rose-Aline Chiasson), a **Parasitic** chasing a kittiwake near the White Horse, off Campobello, Aug. 9 (CD), five **Parasitics** (2 ad; 3 juv.) far offshore at Southwest Head Sep. 5 (BED), and two pursuing and capturing a warbler off Southern Head Beach on Sep. 17 (*fide* BED).

Skua reports built from one of indeterminate species from the "Princess of Acadia" July 21 (NP) through a probable **Great Skua** in the same area Aug. 31 (85% sure--IC, HCa) to a definite **Great Skua** near the Old Proprietor Shoal, off GM, Sep. 21. Twenty keen observers plus passable photos and video make that one the first really well-documented skua record in New Brunswick.



Great Skua off Grand Manan — September 21, 1996
Photo on left by Paul Mortimer, on right by David Christie

A **Leach's Storm-Petrel** was "remarkably far up Head Harbour Passage" near Campobello I. Aug. 9 (CD). Another was seen from the GM ferry near the Swallowtail Sep. 14 (JGW). Strong northeasterly winds in mid September brought numbers of these birds to the Shediac area where Stu Tingley estimated 300 passing Cap Bimet in 5.7 hours Sep. 15 and at least 100 at Shediac Sep. 19. That day "many were just a few feet off shore and two even flew over the hood of my car and acted as though they were thinking of landing in a field... I watched many birds closely as they slowly pattered along the shore and didn't see any appear to take anything from the

surface. One has to wonder how long these birds can go on battling the wind without feeding" (SIT).

Associated with the blow-in of storm-petrels was a **Red Phalarope** at Cap Bimet Sep. 15 & 19 (Alma White, JT) and a strikingly marked juvenile **Sabine's Gull** there Sep. 15-19 (SIT).

A few **Northern Gannets** were moving about the Kouchibouguac area in the first week of July; more and more began appearing there around July 20 (AC). One wonders whether the seven that flew low over Mary's Point beach on the extremely foggy morning of July 29 (DSC) had crossed over from Northumberland Strait or travelled up the Bay of Fundy.

An early concentration of 90 juvenile **Great Cormorants** were lounging on Black Rock, near White Head Island, Sep. 11 (*vide* BED). It was "marvelous" to watch 2500 **Double-crested Cormorants** feeding, and gulls trying to steal their catch, at the Reversing Falls, Saint John, July 21 (EP). Their numbers at Kouchibouguac Nat'l Park were approaching 1000 by August 3 (AC) and perhaps 1500 there Aug. 26 (André Cyr). Far inland, 32 were at Edmundston Aug. 15 (GV).

There were two unusual northeastern reports of the secretive **Least Bittern**: at Nicholas-Denys Aug. 8 (PD) and Bathurst Aug. 19 (Robert Capozzi). A **Green Heron** was seen a few times during the summer at the St-Basile s.l. (v.o.); one reported at the Cap Brûlé marsh, near Shediac, on the weekend of Sep. 7-8 (Ligne Buse) may have been the one seen there in June.

Several **Great Blue Herons** at the temporarily-drained Grays Brook Marsh, Hillsborough, Aug. 28 were having no trouble picking up eels in the remaining pools but "I saw one heron trying to swallow an eel that must have been about 18 inches long. It kept being frustrated by the fact that, whenever the eel was halfway down its throat, it wrapped itself round the heron's beak and resisted any further progress. At this point, the heron would spit it out and start again. Eventually it succeeded in swallowing it in a single massive gulp" (IC). Another **Great Blue** struck into a tidal pool at Whale Cove, GM, then staggered about, its head under water for almost half a minute. When it did come up, it held a sculpin-like fish at least 15 inches long and considerably stockier than the heron's head. After jabbing, turning and lifting the fish a few times, the heron gave up and flew off as the rising tide began to fill the pool (DSC & Majkas).

At Saints Rest Marsh Aug. 27, Cecil and Doris Johnston spotted what looked like a "**Wurdeemann's Heron**," a white-headed form of **Great Blue Heron** that is found in the Florida Keys. There's no way to ascertain whether or not it was that or a partly albino **Great Blue**.

Great Egrets were reported more frequently than usual. Two spent a month, Aug. 13 to at least Sep. 13, at Cap Brûlé, east of Shediac (Jean Inglis+). The others were brief appearances: Mary's Point July 10 (Keeley Sutherland, Alyssa Dubberke, Geri Powell), Doaktown Aug. 3 (Richard DeBow); and Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John, Aug. 17 (Ngairie Nelson) and Sep. 19 (AR). A **Tricolored Heron** was a rarity at Dieppe July 24-25 (Ron Léger, Lee Bateman). There were three reports of the rare **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons**: an immature at St. Martins Aug. 4 (MC), an adult in flight at Long Pond, GM, August 7 (Bruce McTavish), and an immature at the Anchorage Prov'l Park s.l., GM, Aug. 27 (RKFE & K.F. Edwards). A **Glossy Ibis**, probably lingering from spring, was at the Grand Lake Meadows, near Jemseg, July 11 (PAP, Pat Kehoe, Sue Bowes). Each evening Aug. 12-20, up to 12 **Black-crowned Night Herons** left a roost site at Westcock, near Sackville, and flew off towards the Ram Pasture Marsh to feed (Paul Bogaard).

Small numbers of **Canada Geese** were reported here and there throughout the summer including a small flock at Apohaqui Aug. 8 (DFS) and 4 at St-Hilaire Aug. 16 (JDB, JB, GT, GV). By Sep. 15 there were 750 along the eastern shore of Bathurst Harbour (LD). A **Snow Goose** was at Inkerman Sep. 27 (Jean-Guy Robichaud). An immature among **Canada Geese** at Carron Pt., Bathurst, Sep. 29-Oct. 1 (Al Foster, Charlie McAleenan) was followed by 2 adults there Oct. 4 (PD).

In late summer **Wood Ducks** build up in numbers at favoured locations. More than 70 were at the Dalhousie s.l. Aug. 25 (ML, AW) and several at St-Basile Sep. 16 (GT). Four **N. Shovelers** were at St-Basile s.l. July 29+ (Colette Lavoie, GLT, GV+) and some young at the Perth-Andover s.l. Aug. 30 (GMi). Large numbers of waterfowl staging on the lower Tantramar River, near Sackville, in September included an amazing 200+ **Gadwall** Sep. 1 (AJB). This duck is much scarcer in the northwest where there were 2 at St-Jacques Sep. 1+ (AV, GV+) and one at St-Basile Sep. 16 (GT). There has been a great increase in this species over the last 15 years.

At Daley Creek Marsh, Mary's Point, two **Ring-Necked Ducks** either laid eggs in one nest or combined their broods after hatching; one female was attending as many as 16 ducklings July 22-27 (DSC). There were 3 **Lesser Scaup** at Saints Rest s.l. Aug. 27 (JGW). Movement of large flocks of male **Common Eiders** was evident off Kouchibouguac and Robichaud in mid July (AC, NP).

The most significant waterfowl record of the year was a family of **Harlequin Ducks** on the Charlo River estuary from July 21 to about Aug. 14, when the 5 young were virtually indistinguishable from their mother (Jim Clifford+). There have been a few summer observations of adult Harlequins on north-central New Brunswick rivers, but this is the first known breeding in the province. A small population nests in the Gaspé. Elsewhere, a year-old male Harlequin was at Southwest Head, GM, from Aug. 7 to at least Sep. 3 (BED) and a female at Cap Bimet Sep. 13 (JT).

Non-breeding and/or post-breeding scoters were reported during late summer. Both **Black** and **Surf Scoters** were at Point Escuminac July 27 (AdeN); 100+ Surf and a dozen **White-winged Scoters** at Pocologan Aug. 19 (MP, SM); and about 75 Black, 20 Surf and 6 White-Winged Scoters at Pt. Lepreau Aug. 25 (JGW, DMcC, David Hussell). In mid September southbound migrants were returning to the Restigouche estuary where one Surf Scoter was seen Sep. 15 and there were 200 by Sep. 19 (ML).

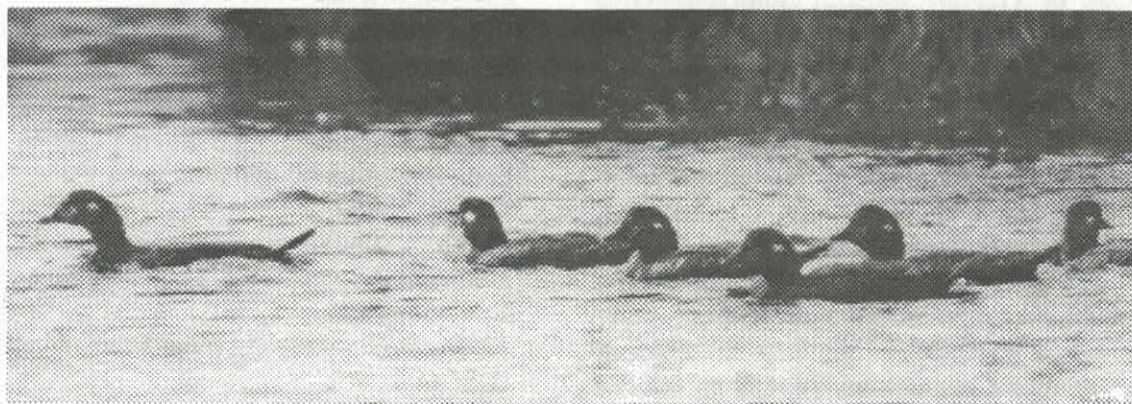
A nice group of **Hooded Mergansers**, 26 together, was seen from the Clair-Fontaine Trail, Kouchibouguac Nat'l Park, at the beginning of September (Paul Germain). About 80 **Common Mergansers**, apparently immatures, gathered on the river near Hartland Sep. 2 (GMi). There were three

reports of **Ruddy Ducks**: 2 males at Otter Lake, near Robertville, July 27 (PD), 2 on Bell Street Marsh, Moncton, Aug. 9 (JT) and one at the Sackville Waterfowl Park Sep. 1 (AJB).

Despite another year of numerous **Turkey Vultures** we still obtained no evidence of breeding in the province. Jim and Jean Wilson had frequent encounters with them near their home at Hammond River, Quispamsis, this summer. In July a local farmer reported 3 adults (with red heads) and 1 yearling bird (dark head) feeding on a calf carcass at one time, and his brother once saw 5 birds together. The Wilsons and others had frequent observations of one to two vultures July 11 to Sep. 28. On Sep. 8 Jim watched a vulture land on a dead spruce, "spread its wings to the morning sun and turn to face it, absorbing the heat. It seemed wary, but unafraid, and was approached by a rather aggressive raven that hopped close along a limb. The vulture spread its wings defiantly fending the raven off, but it came back twice. Finally, the vulture hopped awkwardly off the top of the stub and onto a branch on the opposite side of the spruce from the raven. Eventually the raven lost interest and flew off. After about an hour, the vulture also flew."

Elsewhere, a Turkey Vulture was at Miscou Island July 14 (immature — CR, RCh), one near Bonny River July 15 (SIT, JE), an adult at Southwest Head, GM, Aug. 3-4 (BED), and 2 at Bethel, near St. George, Aug. 9 (DFS).

The **Bald Eagle** nest by Salisbury Road, Moncton, was again successful. On June 30 the two eaglets were first seen hovering just above the nest and the next thing they were flying! (Leroy Dobson). Young were still in a nest by the Buctouche River about July 12 (Mike LeBlanc). Notable numbers reported



Female and full-grown young Harlequin Ducks in Charlo River — August 5, 1996
Photo by Jim Clifford

included 10 to 12 along the Shediac River in the first half of August (JF) and 13 (10 immatures) along the St John River just north of Hartland Sep. 8 (GMi).

Three or 4 **Northern Harriers** were "diving for mice behind a farmer's tractor" near Norton Aug. 12 (MC). At Riverview, Bob Childs saw an immature **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** with a Grackle in its talons and two robins chasing close behind. The hawk was only three or four feet from the ground. "It looked like he couldn't make any real speed or altitude because the grackle seemed as large as he was. At one point he turned to look at me, as if to say, 'Can you get rid of these robins?'"

The beginning of fall hawk migration was noted Aug. 11 at Southwest Head, GM; passing during 6 hours were 3 **Northern Harriers**, 9 **Broad-Winged Hawks**, an **American Kestrel**, and 2 **Merlin** (BED). Two **Cooper's Hawks** were seen there Sep. 7 (CW). Other possible Cooper's were one attacking crows at Saints Rest Aug. 22 (Allen Gorham, NP) and an immature in a group of dead trees on the Shepody marsh near Harvey Sep. 2 (AJB). An early **Rough-Legged Hawk** was reported Sep. 22 at Long Pond (SIT+).

Peregrine Falcons were seen frequently in pursuit of shorebirds along the Bay of Fundy. An adult and an immature spent a couple of weeks at Robichaud Aug. 20+ (Doug and Phyllis Whitman+). Reported from the northern end of the province were one at Atholville Sep. 14 (ID) and two, one catching dragonflies (more typical Merlin behaviour), at Lower Charlo Sep. 15 (AW, ML).

Two migrant **Sandhill Cranes** stopped Sep. 11-13 at Flatlands, near Tide Head (Tom Gray, *vide* ID). They were reported to have been in the same place for about a week the previous year.

The pair of **Virginia Rails** at Atholville nested successfully; on July 11 a chick was seen and others heard (MGD). An adult and immature were seen near Lakeville, Carleton Co., Sep. 16 (GMi, Joyce Milroy). A **Common Moorhen** apparently summered at the Perth-Andover s.l., being seen in June (Fred Tribe) and again Aug. 30 (GMi).

A report not received in time for my previous column was of a **White-rumped Sandpiper** at Glasier Lake, on the Madawaska panhandle, June 16 (RCO, Denise Cyr, Gilberte Cyr, Pierrette Mercier); it's the first record for that county, and an unusual between-seasons date.

Migrant shorebirds begin arriving from the north pretty early. The first reported were a few **Short-**

Billed Dowitchers at Baie Verte and the Sackville Waterfowl Park June 30 (KP), near Kouchibouguac National Park July 3 (20—AC), and at Saints Rest Marsh July 6 (CLJ). A flock of **Lesser Yellowlegs** was noted at Saints Rest July 5 (CLJ). Many yellowlegs use the Sackville Waterfowl Park as a roosting spot during high tide. Some days in late August there were as many as 400, mostly Lesser, but about 10-15% **Greater** (AJB).

Semipalmated Sandpipers had built up to 10,000 to 15,000 birds in the Johnson Mills-Dorchester Cape area by July 14 (KP). The roosts along that shore were not as reliable as usual this year, and frequently the larger flocks gathered on beaches farther south than normal. "Very large flocks" of small shorebirds were seen below Hopewell Cape the weekend of July 20-21 (Dwayne Biggar). At Mary's Point there were many birds feeding but few roosting until Aug. 4. The peak there was 100,000+ Aug. 6. Numbers remained high until passage of a cold front the night of Aug. 18-19 (DSC).

Some other shorebird peak numbers were 14 **Solitary Sandpipers** around Grand Manan Aug. 25 (SIT+), 30 **Willetts** at Robichaud July 28 (AC, Roger LeBlanc) and perhaps a dozen at Maisonnnette, the only traditional site for them in the northeast, July 13 (ML). A relatively late Willet was at White Head I., GM, Sep. 21 (RS).

Whimbrels, somewhat more numerous than usual around Grand Manan this summer, appeared to be feeding heavily on Saltmarsh Caterpillars at Castalia; one Whimbrel caught more than 10 caterpillars in 5 minutes Sep. 15 (BED). Small numbers of Whimbrel were reported at various other locations along the coast including White Head Island (12—SIT), Cape Enrage, Mary's Pt., Robichaud, Point Escuminac, Maisonnnette, and Carron Point.

The fall migration of **Killdeer**, less gregarious than most shorebirds, is not very obvious but a distinct movement was noted across the Tantramar Marshes and down the Cumberland Basin shore Aug. 2-5: more than a dozen individuals all flying in the same direction (AJB). Two, the first of the season, were heard at Southwest Head Aug. 6 (BED). Near Hartland, a group of 20 were seen Aug. 22, and 25 flew over Sep. 24 (GMi). About 50 Killdeer were feeding in the drained Grays Brook Marsh Aug. 28 (DSC).

The disappointing news on numbers of breeding **Piping Plovers** was covered by Roland Chiasson in the last issue (p. 77). In late summer, an adult and

chick were found at Pt. Escuminac July 27 (AdN) and a migrant at Campobello Island (behind Cranberry Head) Aug. 25 (EP, RAM).

John Tanner was very puzzled by a sandpiper with long red legs at Grays Brook Marsh, Hillsborough, Aug. 23. Before he could confidently identify it as a **Spotted Redshank** (a European stray, twice reported in Nova Scotia this summer) the bird had disappeared. Unfortunately, he didn't think to check the accidentals pictured in the back of the Peterson field guide that was by his side. (I'll forgive him — when he finds the next one!) Less extreme rarities here were an **American Avocet** at Saints Rest Marsh July 30 to Aug. 9 (AR+), a probable **Marbled Godwit** there Aug. 1 (JGW & Peter Wilshaw) and another (or the same?) Aug. 20 to Sep. 3 (AR+).

A juvenile **Western Sandpiper** was noted among thousands of sandpipers roosting at Mary's Point Aug. 15 & 17 (CD+). **Baird's Sandpipers** were much more frequent: at Castalia July 30 (BED) and Aug. 30 (SIT+); Cranberry Head, Campobello I. (2—EP, RAM), Eel River/Charlo (2—ML, AW) and Ross Island, GM (RKFE), all Aug. 25; Deep Cove, GM, Sep. 7 (CW); and Petit-Rocher (PD), Carron Pt. (PD) and Miscou Lighthouse (3—Hilaire Chiasson), all Sep. 8. The only **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was at Ross Island Aug. 25 (RKFE). There were 2 **Long-billed Dowitchers** at the Sackville Waterfowl Park Aug. 20 (RAM) and one at Grays Brook Marsh Sep. 7-8 (AC, SN).

3,000+ **Bonaparte's Gulls** feeding on the rising tide Aug. 25, then disappearing as the tide dropped, was typical for Deer Island Point; most were in winter plumage (EP, RAM). Inland, 6 were hunting insects over the river near Hartland Aug. 31 (GMi) and a summer-plumage adult was at Fredericton July 27 (DGG).

A number of **Little Gulls** were seen: Beresford Aug. 5 (PD), from the Grand Manan ferry near The Wolves Aug. 15 (Rohan van Twest), Cap Bimet Sep. 19 (second winter—SIT) and 25 (juvenile—JE) and a couple of reports from Grand Manan in late September (N.B. Bird Information Line). A second-winter **Lesser Black-Backed Gull** followed a boat off GM Sep. 11 (SIT+) and a first-summer bird was at The Whistle, GM, Sep. 20 (RS).

On the Tem Islands in Kouchibouguac Nat'l Park (*fide* AC) 4300 **Common Tern** nests were tallied, down from about 7000 pairs in the mid 1980s. (The extent of gull predation at the colony is being studied.

If anyone sees a Herring or Great Black-backed Gull with a red plastic band on the right leg, please contact Kouchibouguac National Park, tel. 876-2443.) Inland, 60 **Common Terns** were nesting on a small rock island in French Lake, near Sheffield, in the first week of July (NP). There were 700-800 terns, both **Common** and **Arctic** (roughly fifty/fifty in numbers) in two large flocks at Eel River Bar and the Charlo River estuary Aug. 25 (ML, AW). A **Caspian Tern** was in the Ste-Marie-de-Kent area in the second week of July (Oscar LeBlanc).

Tropical storms/hurricanes generally bypassed New Brunswick but associated winds may have been responsible for the appearance of some unusual terns. An adult **Least Tern** in Castalia Marsh July 16 (George Bryant+) immediately followed the passage of Bertha. A gull at the Irving Nature Park, Saint John, July 20 (*fide* EP) resembled a **Laughing Gull** in breeding plumage and may have been associated with the same storm. A second **Least Tern**, an immature, was at The Whistle, GM, for a couple of hours Aug. 19 (Andrew Sharkey) and New Brunswick's second record of **Sandwich Tern** was a bird at Pointe-du-Chêne and Cap Bimet Sep. 29 to Oct. 1 (Connie & Pearl Colpitts, Ron & Linda Steeves, SN+).

Black-Billed Cuckoos were less reported this summer than last, except in Jane Tarn's neighbourhood at Forest Hill, Fredericton. One was killed at a window there July 2, another seen attacking its reflection in a window, and a third observed feeding a young bird, also in the first week of July. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** on the Dark Harbour Road, GM, Sep. 19 (RS, AC) was the only one reported.

In late June **Common Nighthawks** seemed to follow Kathy Popma as she was driving along back roads in the Aboujagane area and she wondered if they weren't after the moths which were attracted to the car headlights. The usual late summer migration of nighthawks was reported near Lawrence Station Aug. 3 ("many"), Chipman Aug. 10 (60-80—WM), St. Andrews Aug. 14 (12) and 19 (15—DFS), Summerville, near Bayswater, Aug. 27 (10—Hank Deichmann), Grand Manan at the beginning of September ("small numbers each evening"—BED), and Rivière-Verte Sep. 6 (6—Gilberte Martin, Pauline Morneau). A late one was feeding at Saints Rest Marsh in strong north-west winds Sep. 26 (JGW). A **Whip-poor-will** at Butte d'Or, near St-Sauveur, July 7 was noteworthy in the northeast (*fide* HC).

An unusual nest site for **Chimney Swift** was found June 30 along the Salmon River above Gaspereau Forks: the nest with eggs was located under the eaves of a camp. "I never would have believed it was a swift, but we watched them coming and going" (WM).

Sep. 20, a large flight of **Northern Flickers** touched down at White Head Island (50) and Long Eddy Point (150—*fide* BED). A male **Pileated Woodpecker** near Ashburton Head that day (DMcC) was only the second record for Grand Manan. The first was in September 1989 (BED).

A **Willow Flycatcher** was calling near Shediac Bridge July 2 (SIT). The **Great Crested Flycatchers** in Jan Dewitt's martin house at Moncton nested successfully: the adults arrived May 21, started building two days later, and on July 10 three fledglings flew from the nest box.

Three **Western Kingbirds** were seen: at Edmundston Aug. 5 (EP), Maces Bay Sep. 6 (Ken McIntosh), and North Head Sep. 16 (JGW). The last was with two **Eastern Kingbirds**, a rarely seen combination!

Early summer's wet weather adversely affected the nesting success of swallows. In his 38 nest boxes at Grand Manan Brian Dalzell found that 73 of 181 young **Tree Swallows** were dead in late June, most (80%?) probably due to the adults not being able to provide sufficient food. Chris Kusch told Brian that he found about 66 dead young out of about 108 in his swallow boxes near Plaster Rock in late June. On the other hand, on July 13 Bill and Wilma Miller found 108 young just about ready to fledge from their 28 nest boxes at Nictau. Their boxes contained only about 15 dead. A later nesting schedule and generally warmer summer weather on the Tobique probably made the difference compared to Brian's experience at Grand Manan, but one would expect little difference from Plaster Rock.

Several people commented on the reduction in swallow numbers in recent years: **Tree**, **Cliff**, and **Barn** in the Turtle Creek area (Ajo Wissink), **Tree**, **Bank**, and **Barn** at Grande-Digue (JF) and all but **Bank Swallow** in eastern Restigouche County (ML). In one barn that did have a good number of **Barn Swallows** at Dalhousie, a late pair brought out four fledglings to be fed Sept. 12, a month or more after all other local swallows had finished nesting (*fide* ML). Also late were 2 **Barn Swallows** feeding 4 young scarcely out of the nest at Rivière-Verte Sep. 1 (GLT, Martin Thibodeau). Near Hartland, 8 **Purple**

Martins included some young "still wanting to be fed" Sep. 2 (GMi).

A **N. Rough-Winged Swallow** was seen along the Hammond River 3 km above French Village July 20 (JGW) and another at Castalia Marsh Aug. 4 (BED). A small migratory movement of young swallows of the four common species was noted at Grand Manan Sep. 20-21 (BED+).

A **House Wren** was at St-Joseph-de-Madawaska June 22-24 (RCo). The unusual and most cooperative **Sedge Wren** that Léona Cormier had discovered at St-Anselme continued to be seen and heard through at least Aug. 11 (v.o.).

A few **Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers** began appearing in late August: Stanley Beach, GM, Aug. 23+ (RKFE+), Grays Brook Marsh Sep. 7 (AC), White Head I. Sep. 22 (DJC, AB), and Swallowtail Road, GM, Sep. 20-21 (JGW+).

An immature **Northern Wheatear** was present at Castalia Marsh Sep. 18-19 (RS+). Successful **Eastern Bluebirds** included families near Florenceville (Dale McLean, *fide* GMi), Hillsborough (2 nests—Dale Gaskin), Riverside-Albert (Margo Morris), St-Louis-de-Kent (2 nests—AC), and St-Sauveur (LD). A **Bicknell's Thrush** was singing at Grand Manan on the evening of Aug. 3, near the same area where an agitated pair had been observed in late June (BED).

Northern Mockingbirds were very prominent in certain areas this summer. Jason Fougère knew of at least 8 at Grande-Digue and along the Shediac River Road in early July, and Shirley Childs spotted up to 5 on her neighbourhood walks in Riverview. July 21 she and Bob watched one singing from the top of a tall spruce; periodically it would fly up about 5 feet, then drop straight down to the same spot, as if it were falling. This is a common behaviour of territorial males. At Germantown, near Riverside-Albert, 2 noisy, aggressive adults were feeding 4 young Aug. 1+ (Gary Collins). At Dalhousie Pat McGorlick had a nesting pair with three babies July 9; the neighborhood cats and dogs learned to keep away because of the birds' dive-bombing attacks. One at Nashwaaksis, Fredericton, was singing a lot and dive-bombing the human residents of the area (*fide* Chris Adam). At Moncton



a Mocker that sang daily all summer from 7 p.m. till dawn was evidently a bachelor male (JE).

A **Brown Thrasher** at Campbellton July 1-2 (RCh, CR, Mathieu Landry+) was a real rarity there. A few appeared on Grand Manan in the fall: at Southern Head Beach (*fide* BED) and Castalia (Jim Brown) Sep. 20, and SW Head Sep. 27 (BED).

The usual large flight of **Cedar Waxwings**, about 50:50 young and adults, appeared on Grand Manan in late September and "proceeded to decimate the mountain-ash berry crop." Up to 250 were counted at North Head on Sep. 22, 150 of them on the grounds of the Marathon Inn. "If you've never heard the sound of 150 Cedar Waxwings passing berry pits all at once, you've missed something that sounds like gentle rain hitting the leaf canopy" (BED).

Among a variety of vireos on Grand Manan in September the rarest was a **Yellow-Throated Vireo** at Deep Cove Sep. 21 (*fide* BED).

An immature female **Cerulean Warbler** on White Head Island Sep. 15 (JGW, Jean Wilson, Iris McCurdy) was the most unusual warbler of the season. Other warbler rarities were **Blue-Winged**: a male at Seal Cove Sep. 20 (AC+) and a female at Castalia Sep. 21-22 (SIT+); **Prairie**: Grays Brook Marsh (AC) and Pointe-Alexandre, Lamèque (HC), Sep. 7, and at least four in the Grand Manan archipelago Sep. 12-16 (v.o.); **Connecticut Warbler** at North Head Sep. 7 (CW); **Hooded Warbler** at Deep Cove, GM, Sep. 23 (DSC); **Yellow-breasted Chat**: North Head Sep. 10 (BED) and 22 (EP+), Southwest Head Sep. 11 and 22 (BED), White Head I. Sep. 15 (JGW+).

Some of last winter's **Northern Cardinals** continued to be seen through the summer. A pair at Fredericton visited Don Gibson's feeder daily, and on July 3 he saw them "anting." A juvenile was with them Aug. 27+. By the beginning of October the young had still not learned to feed at a tube feeder as the adults did. Eileen Pike had a pair every morning and evening near her home in Saint John, and a pair successfully raised 2 young at Jacksontown, near Hartland (Dennis Rosevear, *fide* GMi). Singles were reported at a number of locations.

A male **Indigo Bunting** was singing at Springhill, Fredericton, July 9 (DGG) and another male visited feeders in Edmundston Aug. 11-26 (EM+). The male **Painted Bunting** that had appeared at Haut-Lamèque June 30 remained till July 6 (Mathieu Aubut). A few **Dickcissels** were noted: SW Head Aug. 19 (SIT) and Sep. 16 (BED), North Head last week of August (SIT+), Castalia Beach Sep. 21-22 (3-1—JGW+). An **Eastern Towhee** was singing at Castalia July 30 (*fide* BED).

At Castalia Marsh July 30, a plain-looking "sparrow" with a conspicuous black and white tail pattern was evidently a longspur (Paul Pratt, Elaine

Sinnott+), but defied positive identification. Ultimately captured in a mist net (BED+), it proved to be a female **Chestnut-Collared Longspur**, only the second confirmed record of that species for New Brunswick. The bird was last seen Aug. 5 (Tom Bartlett, Bruce Simpson).

Other scarce sparrows were a **Clay-colored** at Castalia Sep. 19 (adult—JGW), a **Field Sparrow** coming to a feeder at Grande-Digue in the first week of July (JF), **Lark Sparrows** at White Head Island Sep. 5 (imm.—Halton Dalzell), 20 (adult—JGW+) and 22 (probably imm.—DJC, AB), and North Head Sep. 22 (*fide* BED); and a **Seaside Sparrow** July 29 at Saints Rest (EP, RAM).

Bobolinks are common birds in New Brunswick hayfields but their nests are hard to find. Oscar LeBlanc was fortunate to discover one near Ste-Marie-de-Kent about July 14. The almost tunnel-like nest contained 3 young and was hidden under a clump of vetch in a field. A young male **Yellow-Headed Blackbird** was at Castalia Marsh Sep. 13-16 (SIT+).

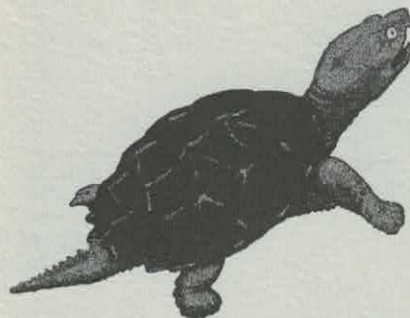
Brian Dalzell relocated his Grand Manan Bird Observatory migration monitoring program from Kent Island to Southwest Head this year. During August and September, Sep. 17 saw the biggest flight with 135 birds captured, the most common being **Red-eyed Vireo** (26), **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (24) and **Blackpoll Warbler** (20). Warblers and **Alder Flycatchers** dominated the August-September totals but on Sep. 27 **Black-capped Chickadees** (11) were most numerous. When time permitted, Brian kept track of the migrants passing high overhead. A significant movement of **White-winged Crossbills** passed over from NE to SW during the first half of August, the most birds being 350 on the morning of Aug. 11.

Other Animals

One of the wildlife spectacles of New Brunswick is the **Gray Seal** herd that gathers each summer at Kouchibouguac Nat'l Park. It reached peak numbers in mid July, when "sometimes up to 350 animals were lounging on a single sandbar, growling and howling impressively" (AC).

Peter Wilcox reports (*fide* SIT) that, for recent years, a record number of young **Right Whales** appeared, accompanying their mothers off Grand Manan. Does this mean an increase of this endangered population is under way, or could it just be a shift in where nursing mothers were feeding this year? Apparently, **Sei Whales** (unusual here) were also seen in the Grand Manan Basin in the last week of August. Peter also reported seeing large numbers of **Basking Sharks** offshore this summer.

Stu Tingley encountered several **Snapping Turtles** laying eggs in a sandy road embankment by Canoose Stream, near Oak Hill, during the evening June 29-30.

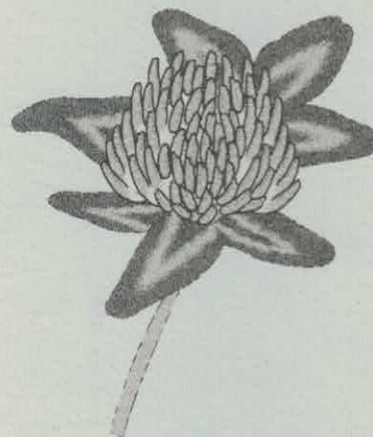


The southwestern corner of New Brunswick has our highest population of these turtles. A big snapper that was appearing in June and July on Highway 114, SW of Hopewell Cape,

where the species is not normally found, was found to have a hole drilled in the edge of its shell, indicating that people had kept it captive and likely moved it from its natural range (Pat Rossiter+). A mid-sized turtle with high carapace and distinct red marks behind the eyes seemed like a Bog Turtle to Mark Deichmann who saw it near Bayswater Aug. 11. That rare species is not naturally found closer than New York State, but someone may have transported it. The other species with prominent red on the side of the head, the Red-eared Turtle, is common in the pet trade but has a lower shell.

Flora

Brian Dalzell (Bancroft Pt., GM) and Ajo Wissink (Rosevale, near Turtle Creek) compared lists of the **common wildflowers** in the fields near their homes at the beginning of July and a month later in August. They each found a large quantity of flowers but only 10 to 12 common species. Of those, 60% to 70% were alien, non-native species. The two areas, one coastal, one inland, are 150 km apart, but they shared several of the most common species. Thus, in July Ox-eye Daisy, King Devil (may include more than one species), Red Clover, Orange Hawkweed, Stitchwort, and Common Buttercup were on both lists, and in August Evening Primrose, Cow or Tufted Vetch, Stitchwort and Ox-eye Daisy. Tall Meadow Rue appeared on the Rosevale list in July and at Grand Manan in August. These are among the most widespread summer flowers in New Brunswick.



Abbreviations

+ and following days or and other observers, AB Anne Bardou, AC Alain Clavette, AdeN Les Amis de la Nature, AJB Sandy Burnett, AR Aldei Robichaud, AV Adeline Verret, AW Andy Watson, BED Brian Dalzell, CD Charles Duncan, CLJ Cecil Johnston, CR Claude Richard, CW Chris Witt, DFS David Smith, DGG Don Gibson, DJC David Clark, DMCC David McCurdy, DSC David Christie, EP Eileen Pike, GLT Gisèle Thibodeau, GM Grand Manan, GMi Grant Milroy, GT Georgette Thibodeau, GV Gérard Verret, HC Hilaire Chiasson, HCa Heather Cameron, IC Ian Cameron, ID Irene Doyle, JB Julie Bourque, JDB Denys Bourque, JE Jim Edsall, JF Jason Fougere, JGW Jim Wilson, JT John Tanner, KP Kathy Popma, LD Luc DeRoche, MC Merv Cormier, MGD Margaret Gallant Doyle, ML Mike Lushington, MP Monique Plourde, NP Nelson Poirier, PD Pierre Duguay, RAM Rose-Alma Mallet, RCh Raymond Chiasson, RCo Rita Couturier, RKFE Kenneth Edwards, RS Ron Steeves, s.l. sewage lagoon, SIT Stuart Tingley, SM Scott Makepeace, SN Sharon Northorp, WM Bill Mountan, v.o. various observers.

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