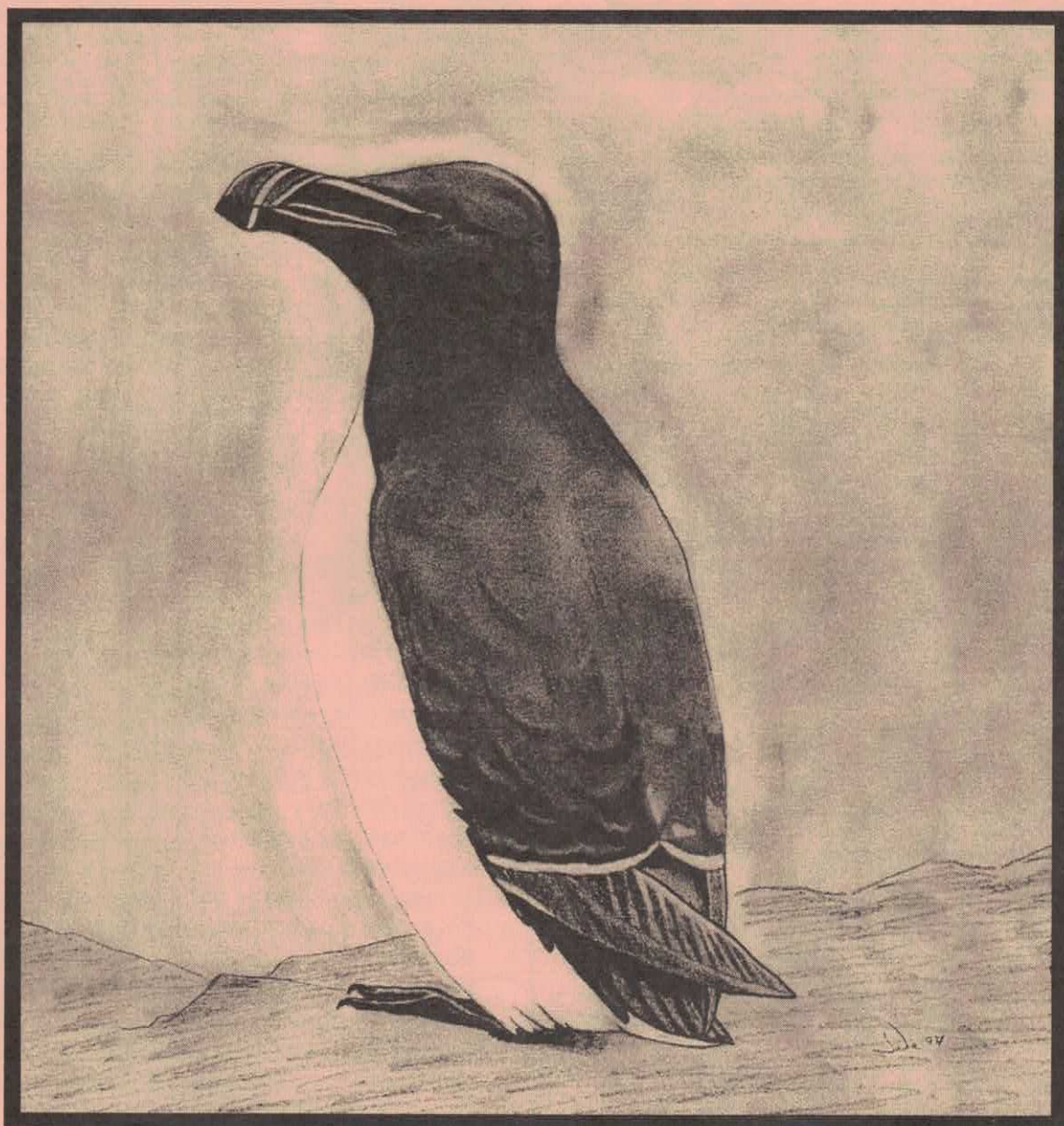




24 (4) Winter / Hiver 1997-1998

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





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

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

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

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

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

Club des Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est, a/s Oscar Duguay, 207 ch Chartersville, Dieppe NB E1A 1K3; réunions alternant entre Dieppe et Shediac, 1er lundi de chaque mois; excursions 3ième samedi ou dimanche; *La plume verte*.

Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne, C.P. 421, Lamèque NB E0B 1V0; 344-2286 ou 395-5023; réunions alternant entre Caraquet, Shippagan et 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 l'Envolée Chaleur, C.P. 674, Petit-Rocher, NB E0B 2E0; 783-4336 ou 783-0080; réunions à 19h, 1er lundi, sept. à juin, salle d'activités (au sous-sol) de la Bibliothèque de Beresford.

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 Odell Park Lodge, 7:00 pm, 2nd 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; 386-3306 or 384-6937 (information line); 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, 12 Woodward Crescent, Gondola Point, NB E2E 1N5, (506)849-6321.** Ask for details of computer compatibility. Advertising rates available on request.

Cette publication trimestrielle est éditée par la Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B., a/s Le Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick, 277 ave. Douglas, Saint John, NB E2K 1E5. Port de retour garanti. Tout changement d'adresse devrait être envoyé au **Secrétaire de la société**. Les tarifs de réabonnement pour *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.*, avant le 1 janvier. Abonnement régulier au Nouveau-Brunswick, un an 15\$; autres pays, un an 20\$; un numéro de *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.*, 45 l'exemplaire plus les frais postaux. On peut lire dans *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.* des rapports touchant l'histoire naturelle du Nouveau-Brunswick. Les articles seront acceptés en français ou en anglais pour être reproduits dans la langue d'origine. Les opinions exprimées sont celles de leurs auteurs. **Veuillez faire parvenir tous vos articles pour le Naturaliste du N.-B. à: Irene Doyle, 12 Woodward Crescent, Gondola Point, NB E2E 1N5, (506)849-6321.** Demandez les détails de compatibilité d'ordinateur. Tarifs publicitaires disponibles sur demande.

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Please submit articles for the next issue by **February 1, 1998**

Veuillez soumettre vos articles avant le **1 février 1998**

Thanks to our many kind Volunteers who contributed to this publication

Merci beaucoup à tous les bénévoles dédiés pour votre contribution

NBFN AND CNF DISCONTINUE JOINT MEMBERSHIP OFFER LA FIN DE L'ENTREPRISE EN PARTICIPATION

Rose-Alma Mallet and Jean Wilson -- NBFN Executive Members
Rose-Alma Mallet et Jean Wilson -- Membres Executifs du FNNB

For the last 18 months, the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists (NBFN) and the Canadian Nature Federation (CNF) have been conducting an experiment. We have offered membership in the two organizations for a single fee of \$25. This amount is substantially below the cost of the two memberships purchased separately. We had hoped that this would result in a large increase in the membership of our two organizations but, unfortunately, that has not happened. While there has been modest growth, it is not enough to justify continuing the offer.

There also were problems of process. Under the experiment, both magazines, *Nature Canada* and *N.B. Naturalist/Le Naturaliste du N.-B.*, were sent out from Ottawa, while joint fees were collected here in New Brunswick. It became apparent that the two organizations had very different approaches to the administration of their operations, dictated in large part by their different situations. CNF, with more than 25,000 members across the country, had a formal, step by step process and relied on a complicated computer system to control payment of fees and the mailing of magazines. At NBFN, with a few hundred members serviced by volunteers, we were used to a much more personalized approach to servicing the membership. Merging these two systems brought great difficulties that weren't anticipated and were never really overcome. When problems developed with the CNF computer system and resulted in incorrect information being sent out, double copies of the magazine being sent or, even worse, no copies being sent, we felt frustrated and were concerned that we were losing touch with our membership.

The end result is that for 1998, the two groups will revert to operating independently. Despite the difficulties, there remains immense good will between NBFN and CNF. We hope that all the joint members will retain their membership in both organizations. To renew with the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, please send your 1998 membership fee of \$15 (payable to New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists), along with your name, complete mailing address, telephone number and local club affiliation (if any) to:

Jean Wilson,
NBFN Membership Secretary,
2 Neck Road,
Quispamsis, NB
E2G 1L3

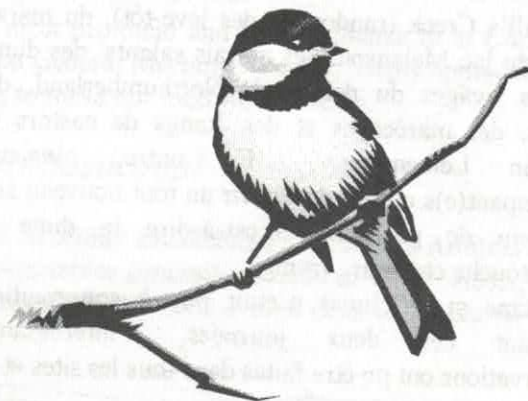
Depuis 18 mois, la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick (FNNB) et la Fédération canadienne des naturalistes ont fait l'expérience d'offrir une carte de membre commune. Nous avons offert l'abonnement aux deux revues pour la modique somme de \$25. Cette somme était au-dessous du coût requis pour l'abonnement des deux associations.

Nous souhaitons par ce fait d'augmenter largement le nombre de nos membres mais malheureusement ceci ne s'est pas matérialisé. Même si nos membres ont augmenté légèrement, ceci n'est pas suffisant pour justifier le projet. En plus, il y avait des problèmes de distribution.

Les deux fédérations, provinciale et fédérale, ont cessé d'offrir leur abonnement conjointement. Il est devenu apparent que les deux organismes ne fonctionnaient pas de la même façon. La Fédération canadienne des naturalistes desservait 25,000 membres à travers le Canada et utilise un système informatisé répondant à ce besoin, un système qui ne peut se plier aux exigences du petit nombre de membres venant du Nouveau-Brunswick. Alors certains membres recevaient 2 ou 3 revues, alors que d'autres n'en recevaient aucune. Et plus encore, le renouvellement des abonnements passait par Ottawa. Nous, la FNNB, sommes une organisation de volontaires qui désirons demeurer près de nos membres.

Pour faire votre cotisation 1998 dans la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick, veuillez envoyer un cheque de \$15 (payable à la Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B.), avec votre nom, adresse complète, numéro de téléphone, et affiliation de club local à:

Jean Wilson,
NBFN Membership Secretary,
2 Neck Road,
Quispamsis, NB
E2G 1L3



RAPPORT DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE DE 1997

Club des Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est

Au déla de 125 participant(e)s, membres de différents clubs de naturalistes de tous les coins de la province se sont rencontrés sur le campus de l'Université de Moncton, les 30, 31 mai et 1 juin 1997. C'était l'occasion pour eux d'assister à la 25^e assemblée générale annuelle de la Fédération des Naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick et de participer aux diverses activités entourant cet événement. L'événement fut organisé par les Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est en collaboration avec le *Moncton Naturalists' Club*.

Le tout a débuté le vendredi soir par une rencontre sociale et une exposition des plus intéressantes regroupant divers objets allant de collections d'insectes aux rapaces bien vivants en passant par des papillons, des sculptures, des photos et des écrits. On pourrait citer à titre d'exemple un harfang des neiges en récupération à la clinique *Maritime Atlantic Wildlife*.

Le reste de la soirée fut consacré à l'assemblée générale proprement dite au cours de laquelle la Fédération a voulu souligner son 25^e anniversaire de fondation en présentant des certificats de mérite aux membres fondateurs de l'organisme. David Christie fut honoré de façon particulière puisqu'il a été le tout premier président de la FNNB.

La remise des certificats fut suivie d'une présentation audio-visuelle intitulée "panorama des marais et des rivages". Ce panorama visait à la fois à donner un aperçu des marais et rivages de la région et à fournir à ceux et celles qui devaient participer aux excursions un avant-goût de ce qui leur était réservé.

Les journées de samedi et dimanche furent consacrées aux excursions dans différents sites de la région. Ces sorties ont amené les participant(e)s à observer la flore et la faune du sentier des parulines de Hall's Creek (randonnée des lève-tôt), du marais Bell, du lac Melanson, des marais salants, des dunes et des rivages du détroit de Northumberland, des forêts, des marécages et des étangs de castors du chemin Leménager. En outre, plusieurs participant(e)s ont pu découvrir un tout nouveau site, inconnu de plusieurs, c'est-à-dire la dune de Bouctouche et le parc Irving.

Même si le climat n'était pas à son meilleur pendant ces deux journées, d'intéressantes observations ont pu être faites dans tous les sites et les



Naturalistes sur les dunes
Photo par Elsie Gallant

participant(e)s ont pu profiter de l'expertise et de la disponibilité de guides qui feraient l'envie de plusieurs n'importe où au pays. Somme toute, les commentaires recueillis indiquent bien que les gens sont revenus très satisfaits de ces excursions.

La partie officielle de l'AGA s'est terminée avec le banquet du samedi soir où le conférencier invité était David Christie. Comme d'habitude, ce dernier a su intéresser vivement les convives. La Fédération a profité de cette tribune pour présenter à M. Christie une sculpture de la chouette lapone réalisée par Jim Edsall en guise d'appréciation pour tout ce qu'il a donné à la Fédération des Naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick depuis les 25 dernières années.



Jim Edsall (à gauche) présentant sa sculpture à David Christie
Photo par Elsie Gallant

1997 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Club des Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est

Over 125 participants from different Naturalists' Clubs throughout the province met on the campus of the Université de Moncton May 30, 31 and June 1, 1997 to attend the 25th Annual General Meeting of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists and the events surrounding the meeting. The meeting was organized by Les Ami(e)s de la Nature du Sud-Est with the collaboration of the Moncton Naturalists' Club.

The activities began on Friday evening with a social gathering and the viewing of many interesting artifacts and collections of insects, butterflies, sculptures, photos, writings and even live raptors, in this instance a Snowy Owl recuperating at the Maritime Atlantic Wildlife rehabilitation centre.



Field Outing at the 1997 NBFN Annual General Meeting
Photo by Elsie Gallant

The remainder of the evening was taken up by the business meeting, during which the Federation presented certificates to its founding members on the 25th anniversary of the Federation. Among the recipients was David Christie, the first president of the N.B. Federation of Naturalists.

After the business meeting the participants were invited to view a panorama of marshes and seashores. The panorama was designed to inform the participants about the marshes and seashores of South-East New Brunswick and to give to those intending to participate in the field trips a preview of what awaited them.

Saturday and Sunday field trips allowed the participants to observe the fauna and flora of the Hall's Creek warbler trail (early bird walk), Bell Marsh, Melanson Lake, the salt marshes, dunes and seashores of the Northumberland Strait, and the forests and beaver ponds of Lemenager Road. Several participants also discovered a new and interesting site, unknown to most - the Bouctouche Dune and Irving Park.

Even though the weather was not at its best, several interesting observations were made at all sites and the participants were able to enjoy the expertise and availability of guides equal to none.

The business part of the the General Meeting ended with Saturday night's banquet that featured David Christie as guest speaker. As usual, his presentation was most interesting and the Federation took this opportunity to present him with an honorary life membership and a sculpture of a Great Gray Owl (done by Jim Edsall) in appreciation for David's contribution to the Federation over the last 25 years.

The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists extends its most profound and sincere thanks to le *Club des Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est* for hosting our 1997 Annual General Meeting. We also deeply appreciate the kind assistance of the *Moncton Naturalists' Club* in helping to make our meeting a success.

Thank you! -- Merci beaucoup!

La Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick désire remercier sincèrement le *Club des Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est* d'avoir été de superbes hôtes pour notre Assemblée générale annuelle en 1997. Aussi, nous apprécions grandement le rôle important que le *Moncton Naturalists' Club* a joué dans le succès de cette assemblée.

NEW BRUNSWICK BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 1996 REPORT

David Christie

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

The committee's members and officers were unchanged in 1996: James G. Wilson (chairman), David S. Christie (secretary), Brian E. Dalzell, Robert Doiron, Stuart I. Tingley and Donald F. McAlpine (non-voting).

During 1996, we continued to gather and review past records, as well as current ones. At the end of the year, Brian Dalzell began work on an annotated list of New Brunswick birds, to be published eventually in both English and French versions.

The committee votes on reports of any species for which five New Brunswick records have not already been accepted. If a species has been accepted only on the basis of sight records, we also vote on the first record supported by tangible evidence. Submissions beyond five records are gratefully received and placed on file as valuable information for future study. Only records independently documented by two or more observers or supported by tangible evidence (photos, specimens, video/audio tapes, etc.) are eligible for formal acceptance.

Voting was completed on 26 records during 1996. Of these, 24 (92%) were accepted and 2 were not. There were inconclusive split votes on four additional records which will be reconsidered in a further round of voting. Another 24 submissions were received and filed without formal review. Three new species, Pacific Loon, Tufted Duck, and Common Chaffinch, were added to the New Brunswick list, and Harlequin Duck was added as a breeding species. The position on the list of Great Skua was solidified by the acceptance of a photographically documented record.

We thank all observers who submitted documentation of their observations. All these reports, whether accepted or not, are deposited in the Natural Sciences Division of the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John. The votes and remarks of committee members are attached to the reports, and

may be viewed on request to Don McAlpine at the museum.

Documentation forms are available from committee members and from the museum, or may be copied from a published version (*N.B. Nat.* 20:15-16, Dec. 1993) or from the World Wide Web (<http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/maryspt/NBBRC.html>).

The format of this report is the same as for previous years (*N.B. Nat.* 22:38-42 and 23:62-66). Information on sex and plumage is included, where it can be reliably ascertained. Place names in italics refer to counties in New Brunswick. For accepted records, all contributors who have provided written descriptions, photographs, videotapes or any other form of documentation have been credited. Persons who participated in the initial discovery and/or identification of a bird but did not provide documentation are also acknowledged; their names are listed in italics.

Every effort has been made to verify dates, locations and observers' names. We welcome corrections or updates to make the records more exact.

The Bird Records Committee report will soon be made available on the Web at <http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/maryspt/NBBRC1996.html>.

Accepted Records

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica*

1995 — one adult in breeding plumage, 26 August, SE of East Quoddy Head, Campobello Island, *Charlotte* (Peter Vickery, Charles Duncan, Barbara St. John Vickery, Ilze Balodis).

New species for New Brunswick. This bird was well described by very experienced observers. The extent of dark coloration onto the rear flanks was adequate indication that the bird was not the far-less-likely Arctic Loon.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*

1996 — one juvenile, 4 August, St. Martins, *Saint John* (Merv Cormier) — photos on file

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is one of several New Brunswick bird species for which there have been quite a number of reports but very few well-documented.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

1995 — one adult, 17 November and other dates, Salisbury, Westmorland (Julie MacCallum, Ron Steeves) and 18 November to 1 December, Coverdale, Albert (Stuart Tingley, David Christie)

Little documentation has been preserved about New Brunswick reports of this species. Although remaining too distant for photographs, during its extended stay along the Petitcodiac River this bird was seen by many observers and carefully described.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

1995 — one to two males, 14-20 October, Pte à Chaudron, Tracadie, Gloucester (Benoît Hébert, Marcel David, Jim Wilson) — photos on file

1996 — one adult male, 21 January to 9 March, Indiantown and Milford, Saint John, Saint John (Eileen Pike, Roy Pike, Rose-Alma Mallet, Cecil Johnston) — photo on file

New species for New Brunswick. The Tufted Duck population has expanded greatly in western Europe, and migrants, probably from Iceland, are beginning to winter in eastern North America. During 1995-96, the first ones were reported in New Brunswick. In addition to the well-documented males that were accepted, there were three females for which there is insufficient documentation to conduct a vote.

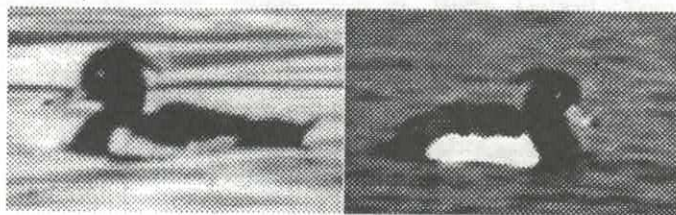
**Tufted Ducks**

Photo on left by Jim Wilson at Tracadie, Oct. 1995

Photo on right by Cecil Johnston at Saint John, Jan. 21, 1996

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*

1996 — female and 5 young, 21 July to c. 14 August, Charlo River estuary, Restigouche (Jim Clifford, Mike Lushington) — photos on file

First breeding record. Harlequin Ducks have been observed very rarely on rivers in northern New Brunswick during summer but there was no evidence of actual breeding until the discovery and careful observation of this family group.

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*

1996 — one, 21 September, near Old Proprietor

Shoal, off Grand Manan, Charlotte (Stuart Tingley, Alain Clavette, David Christie, Eileen Pike, Paul Mortimer, Jim Wilson et al.) — photos and video on file

First accepted record. Many of more than 25 previous skuas in New Brunswick were not seen well enough or described in sufficient detail to distinguish between Great Skua and South Polar Skua. Those that were have been unconfirmed single-observer reports. Observed by 22 observers, adequately described by four of them, photographed and videotaped, this 1996 occurrence finally gives the species an undisputed place on the provincial list.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

1996 — one in second-winter plumage, 29 September to 1 October, Point-du-Chêne and Cap Bimet, Westmorland (Connie Colpitts, Ron Steeves, Pearl Colpitts, Linda Steeves, Sharon Northorp, Stuart Tingley, Jim Wilson) — photos on file

Second accepted record. This tern possibly was carried north by Hurricane Hortense, which had come ashore in Nova Scotia on 14 September. New Brunswick's previous Sandwich Tern had been closely associated with passage of a hurricane in 1991.

Least Tern *Sterna antillarum*

1996 — one adult in breeding plumage, 16 July, Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan, Charlotte (George Bryant, Sandra Kaufman)

Second accepted record. This bird allowed reasonably close study by a birding tour group but didn't stay around. Although a great rarity in New Brunswick, it breeds as near as southwestern Maine.

Great Gray Owl *Strix nebulosa*

1996 — one, 30 January to 18 February, Hopewell Cape and Lower Cape, Albert (Andy Lesage, David Christie, Mike Majka, Merv Cormier) — photos and video on file

1996 — one, 9 March, Bushville, Miramichi City, Northumberland (Richard Landry, Tom Greathouse) — photos on file

First records to be photographically documented. Great Gray Owls are rather elusive in New Brunswick. Most that have been reported in the past 25 years were seen only once. A notable exception, the Albert County bird was seen by many observers.

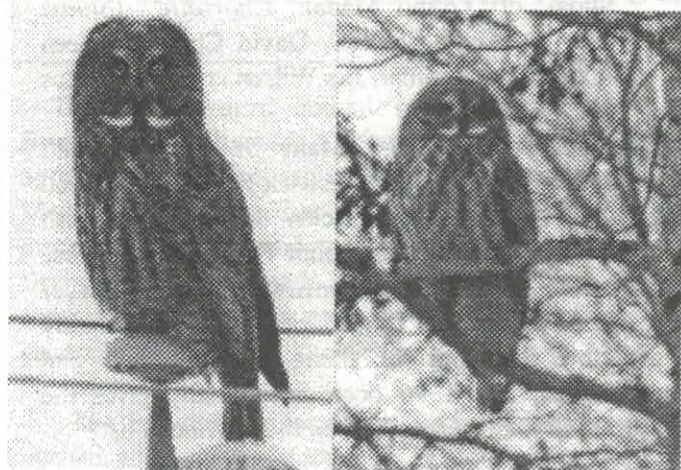
**Great Gray Owls**

Photo on left by Merv Cormier at Lower Cape, Feb. 11, 1996

Photo on right by Tom Greathouse at Bushville, Mar. 9, 1996

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya*

1995 — one, 23 September, Inkerman, Gloucester (André Robichaud, Benoît Hébert) — video on file

Third accepted record. The earlier reports of this western flycatcher were also during September.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

1995 — one immature, 13 October, Southwest Head, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Brian Dalzell, Stuart Tingley) — photos on file

There have been several reports in New Brunswick of this distinctive small thrush but very few have been documented. This is the first to be accepted by the committee.

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi*

1995-96 — one, 18 December to 4 January, Park Headquarters Area, Fundy National Park, Albert (David Christie, Joe Landry, Ivan Hicks) — photos on file

1996 — one immature, c. 7 January to 15 April, Hammond River, Quispamsis, Kings (Geraldine and Jim Herrington, Jim Wilson, Cecil Johnston). — photos on file

Despite the succession of dates, plumage differences indicate that these visitors from the western mountains were different individuals. There are two previous records that were documented by photos.

Cerulean Warbler *Dendroica cerulea*

1996 — one immature female, 15 September, White Head Island, Charlotte (Jim Wilson, Jean Wilson, Iris McCurdy)

This was a brief but adequately described observation. There are two previous records documented by photographs.

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*

1995 — one, 15 September, White Head Island, Charlotte (Jim Edsall, Jim Wilson, Jean Wilson)

1995 — one, 24 September, Inkerman, Gloucester (Donald St-Pierre, Benoît Hébert, Guy Hébert, Corinne Mallais) — video on file

Both these birds were in female or immature plumage. Of four earlier reports one was photographed.

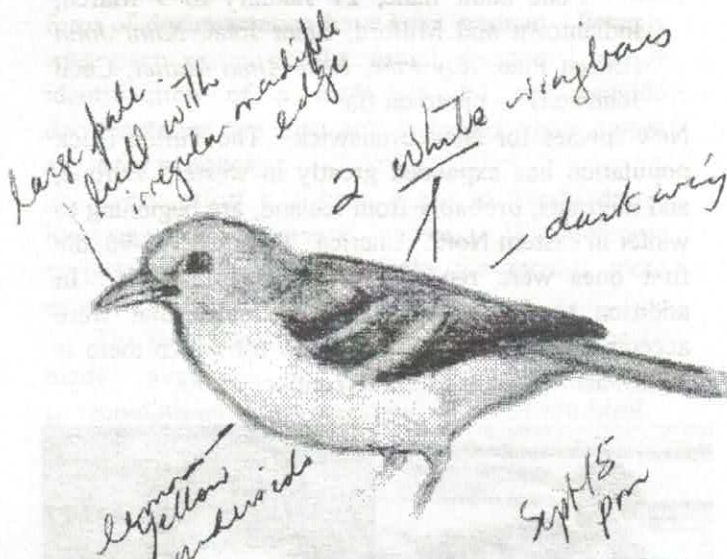


Illustration of Western Tanager by Jim Edsall

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

1978 — one, 10 October, Martinon, Saint John (Evan Smith) — photos on file

Because of the difficulty of separating Black-headed and Rose-breasted grosbeaks in most plumages, it was felt advisable to re-examine this older record, which had been previously accepted by an ad hoc checklist committee. Their decision is confirmed.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*

1995 — one male, 5-9 May, Lewisville area, Moncton, Westmorland (George Watling, Stuart

Tingley, Benoit Hébert) — photos and video on file

There have been a few previous reports, one of which was photographed. This is the first to be voted on by the committee.

Harris' Sparrow *Zonotrichia querula*

1995 — one immature, 23 November to 28 December, Glengrove Road, Moncton, Westmorland (Bob Cotsworth, David Christie, Jim Wilson) — photos and video on file

The third accepted record (in 3 years!), this bird was seen by almost 50 observers.

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

1994 — one adult male, 13 March to 1 April, Spruce Lake, Saint John, Saint John (Ngairé Nelson, Cecil Johnston) — photo on file

1995 — one adult male, 10 November, North Head, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Jim Wilson) — photos on file

Second and third accepted records. These males with very dark, clearcut hoods were indisputable.

Chestnut-collared Longspur *Calcarius ornatus*

1996 — one female in moult, 30 July to 4 August, Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Paul D. Pratt, Elaine Sinnott, Brian Dalzell, Tom Bartlett, Bruce Simpson) — photos on file

Second accepted record. Documentation of this difficult-to-identify moulting bird was facilitated by its capture, examination, and photography in the hand.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

1987 — one male, 29 March, Harvey Bank, Albert (Rob Walker, David Christie) — photo on file



Chaffinch

Photo by David Christie at Harvey Bank, Mar. 29, 1987

New species for New Brunswick. The real question concerning this European finch was whether it was of natural or captive origin. The pattern of North American records builds a good case for natural vagrancy.

Records Not Accepted

Identification uncertain

For the records noted below, the documentation supplied was insufficient to establish with certainty the identity of the species claimed. The Committee does not necessarily consider the identifications were in error. These reports may be resubmitted for further review if new supporting evidence comes to light.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

1995 — 13 August, Denton Point, Maquapit Lake, Queens.

Documentation of this bird was not quite detailed enough to eliminate all possibility of the bird being an immature Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Dark-eyed Junco (pink-sided race) *Junco hyemalis mearnsi*

1995 — 7 November, Saint John West, Saint John. — photo on file

The photo supplied does not exclude the possibility of an immature "Slate-colored" Junco with pinkish sides.

Records Not Formally Reviewed

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

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

16 November 1995, mouth of Turtle Creek, Coverdale, Albert (Stuart Tingley).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

23 August 1996, Gray Brook Marsh, Hillsborough, Albert (John Tanner).

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*

12 September 1987, off Grand Manan, Charlotte (Tony White).

Skua sp. *Catharacta* sp.

31 August 1996, from "Princess of Acadia", Saint John (Ian Cameron).

Least Tern *Sterna antillarum*

19 August 1996, Long Eddy Point, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Andrew Sharkey).

Hermit Warbler *Dendroica occidentalis*

21 May 1995, Pointe-Alexandre, Lamèque, Gloucester (Hilaire Chiasson).

Louisiana Waterthrush *Seiurus motacilla*

22 May 1996, Blacks Harbour, Charlotte (David Christie).

Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis*

7 September 1996, North Head, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Chris Witt).

Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina*

23 September 1996, Deep Cove, Grand Manan, Charlotte (David Christie).

Seaside Sparrow *Ammodramus maritimus*

21 September 1996, Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John, Saint John (Eileen Pike).

Documentation was also received from Chris Adam, J. Denys Bourque, David Christie, Donna Crossland, Don Gibson, Cecil Johnston, Bev & Marc Schneider, Allan D. Smith and Jim Wilson of the following species for which there are already five or more accepted records in the province: **Ruddy Duck** (winter, Albert-Westmorland, York), **Osprey** (winter, Queens/Sunbury), **Cooper's Hawk** (Kings), **Red-shouldered Hawk** (winter, Albert, Saint John, Westmorland), **American Coot** (Madawaska), **Red-bellied Woodpecker** (Saint John), **Northern Cardinal** (Kent, Madawaska), **Clay-colored Sparrow** (winter, Westmorland), **Yellow-headed Blackbird** (Charlotte), and **House Finch** (Madawaska).

The author thanks the other members of the committee for their comments and suggestions.

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

UN DRAME NATUREL / NATURE'S DRAMA

Rose-Alma Mallet -- Club des Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est

À Miscou, au début du mois de septembre, j'ai vu un spectacle hors de l'ordinaire. Un **busard St-Martin** se promenait le long du lac Frye. Je n'y porte pas beaucoup d'attention car je suis très occupée à observer une **mouette de Franklin** et une **mouette atricille**. Mais tout de même, je trouve cela un peu étrange que tous les goélands, les mouettes et les sternes se sont envolés lors de son passage. Mais voilà que le busard revient et là il attaque une mouette de Bonaparte au vol. Il l'attrape et descend sur le lac et tient la mouette sous l'eau quelques secondes. Le busard est dans une drôle de position: il tient ses ailes arquées et peut maintenir sa proie sous l'eau. Ce qui est difficile à notre oiseau de proie est de se tenir dans l'eau, le busard remonte sa proie à la surface et celle-ci s'échappe. Nous (Judes Larocque, Rosita et Benoit Lanteigne, et moi) sommes bouche bée devant ce spectacle. Le busard St-Martin part à la poursuite de la mouette de Bonaparte qui s'est envolée avec les autres mouettes et goélands et sternes. Il ne lâche pas. Il la revoit et l'attaque en plein vol. La mouette tombe à l'eau, elle est blessée, elle ne peut voler. Les autres mouettes volent près d'elle. Le busard lui est reparti dans une autre direction. Lorsque le calme revient et que la mouette de Bonaparte est seule, elle ne peut plus s'envoler, à ce moment le Busard

apparaît, il plonge sur la mouette et la tient sous l'eau quelques secondes et puis s'envole avec peine et misère avec sa proie et tombe sans lâcher sa proie dans l'eau peu profonde sur le bord du lac. Ensuite, il marche dans les grandes herbes et disparaît avec son repas. Le drame est terminé.

In early September at Frye Lake near the lighthouse on Miscou Island, I saw a **Northern Harrier** catch a **Bonaparte's Gull** in the air, and then carry the gull to and immerse it in the lake. The harrier adopted a strange position with its wings arched open above the water, presumably to keep them dry, while it held the gull under water. Then its prey escaped. The harrier pursued the Bonaparte's Gull as the gull began to fly around among hundreds of gulls and terns. Once again the harrier attacked the gull in the air, causing the gull to fall into the water. This time, however, the gull had an injured wing and couldn't fly away. Many Bonaparte's Gulls came and sat in the water near the injured gull, making lots of noise. After a while, the commotion died down and the Northern Harrier returned. It held the injured gull under the water for 3 to 5 minutes and then lifted off with his prey and disappeared in the tall grass.

PROFILES OF N.B. ECOSYSTEMS: THE BOG HEATH

Hal Hinds

Editors' Note: This is the first in a series of Hal's articles on New Brunswick's ecosystems.

Realm of **Black Spruce** and *Sphagnum* moss, the bog heath would probably be called a swamp by many people. However, a swamp generally is treed with deciduous trees which shade most of the area. Bogs may have some deciduous species but this is the ideal habitat for **Black Spruce** and **Larch** which are often stunted by the cool temperature, low nutrients and the **Dwarf Mistletoe**.

The mistletoe is mostly confined to the **Black Spruce**, where its presence can be detected some distance away by the yellowish-green appearance of the trees so infected. The mistletoe plants themselves are less than a centimeter tall with minute separate male and female flowers that bloom in April. These are true parasites which get their nutrients and much of their energy from the host tree by directly connecting with its water and food conducting tissues. They also often cause profusely branched 'witches brooms' to be produced on the **Black Spruces**.

Many bogs have some open water which is slowly being covered by floating mats of *Sphagnum* moss and the interlacing roots of various acid-loving shrubby plants of the heath family. This is why these areas are often soft and springy underfoot. You can often get the entire bog trembling by jumping up and down in one area. Waves of movement can be seen moving away from the disturbance.

Bogs often have extensive untreed areas of *Sphagnum* moss. Closer examination of these open areas reveal reddish rosettes of insect-consuming sundews, trailing tiny-leaved **Bog Cranberry** and various species of sedges, including the conspicuous cottongrass.

The bog connoisseur especially delights in finding the colourful and fascinating orchids that inhabit these special places. **Snake's-mouth**, **Grass-pink**, **Arethusa** and **White-fringed Rein Orchid** are some of the orchids commonly found in these northern bog heaths and they often occur in profuse combination. Orchids have developed a mutual relationship with certain fungi which help them absorb nutrients from the bog and without which they would not survive.

The **Pitcher-plant** is another typical denizen of acid bogs. These plants, with leaves modified to form

hollow tubes, trap and digest insects to augment their supply of essential nutrients. The yellow-flowered bladderwort traps minute animal life in its bladders for the same reason.

One of the rarest plants of the acid boglands is the **Curly-grass Fern**. The distribution of this northern wanderer from the coastal plain is centred in New Jersey. It is only a few inches tall with curly hair-like leaves and a little fist-shaped spore-bearing area on the end of a stalk. Look for the **Curly-grass Fern** on the edges of the wetter areas in the bog.

Other rare plants of the bog heaths of New Brunswick include the **Virginia Screwstem**, **Virginia Chain Fern**, "**Flowering**" Moss (*Splachnum*), and **Dwarf Birch**.

Bog heaths are also the preferred home of the tail-bobbing **Palm Warbler**, **Lincoln's Sparrow**, **Rusty Blackbird** and certain butterflies such as the **Bog Copper**, **Jutta Arctic** and **Bog Elfin**.

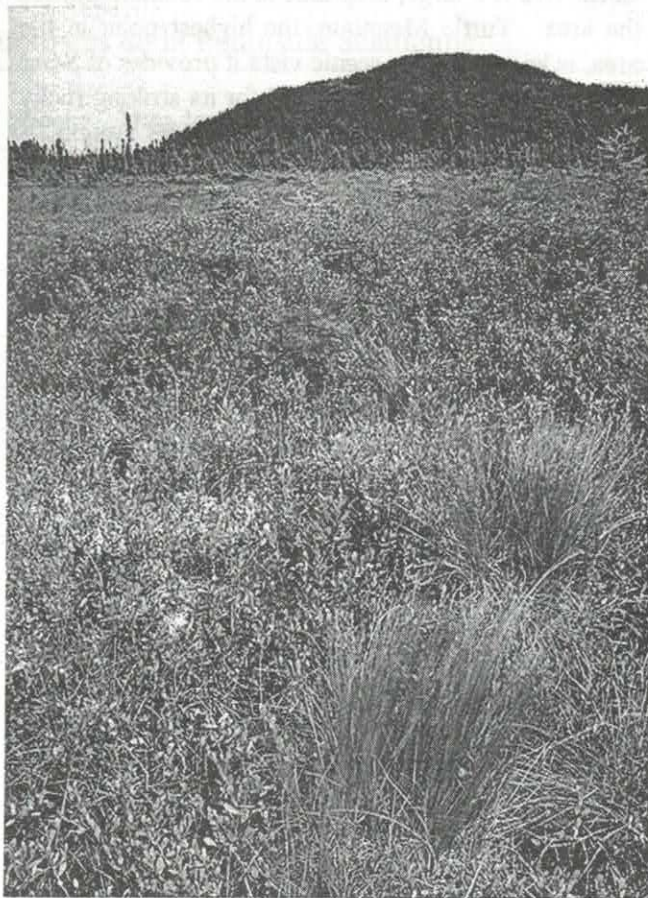


Photo of Bog Ecosystem at Shea Lake by Don Vail

LOCH ALVA WILDLAND: AN ENDANGERED SPACE

Roberta Clowater -- N.B. Protected Natural Areas Coalition

Just 25 kilometres northwest of Saint John, there is a wild and natural area that most New Brunswickers haven't even heard of. Its relatively remote and roadless nature has contributed to a rather unique situation -- few people know this wildland exists, and thus, few people know how threatened it is. Imagine a wilderness in southwestern New Brunswick that has been explored by only a few intrepid hikers, scientists, hunters, snowmobilers, skiers and anglers -- a naturally evolving ecosystem which shelters the drinking water supply for the city of Saint John. Now, imagine how quickly this little-known area will be degraded by current logging plans, which will see most of the forest in this area cut over the next twenty-five years.

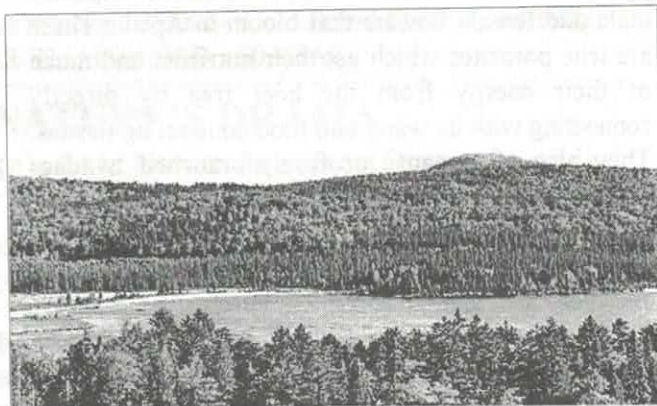
The Loch Alva Wildland is approximately 30,000 hectares in size and is characterized by many lakes, bogs, fens, marshes, and tamarack and cedar swamps, interspersed in a hilly to mountainous forested terrain. Loch Alva is a large, deep lake in the southern part of the area. Turtle Mountain, the highest point in the area, is known for the scenic vista it provides of Saint John and the Bay of Fundy, and for its striking rocky "bald" nature that is visible for many miles around.

Animals typical of the area include black bear, moose, bobcat, pine marten, bald eagles, osprey and various species of thrushes, warblers, woodpeckers and owls. The area is wild and remote enough to provide a haven for the endangered Canada lynx, as well as potential habitat for the eastern cougar.

Sherwood Lake, in the southwestern portion of the study area, is considered to be a biodiversity "hot spot" within the area. Highlights include a provincially rare inland sandspit habitat along the northern shoreline, bordered by a pure white pine stand (average age 50 years), a non-calcareous fen, and marshes to the north. Several rare plants have been found here, including the provincially rare Screw Stem (*Bartonia paniculata* - normally found in bogs in New Brunswick but here also located along the lakeshore), the regionally rare Beach-heather (*Hudsonia tomentosa* - normally found only along the coast in New Brunswick), the rare Bayonet Rush (*Juncus militaris*), and other rare sedges, grasses and wild orchids. The tea-coloured waters of Sherwood Lake are most inviting on a hot summer day. As Sherwood Lake is in the western part of the wildland,

access to this lake is increasing quickly, with logging roads coming in from the west, power lines from the east, and an ATV trail.

The Loch Alva Wildland has been considered for protection several times in the past, most notably in the late 1960s/early 1970s when it was proposed as one of two potential wilderness provincial parks (the other was Mt. Carleton Provincial Park, which was designated in 1969). At that time, the proposed wilderness was named after Turtle Mountain. "Turtle Mountain provincial park" was never established, apparently as a result of a political decision to choose only one area for wilderness designation (the protection of both was evidently out of the question, due to potential impact on the forestry industry in the province).



Sherwood Lake and Turtle Mountain by Roberta Clowater

As a result of a gap analysis done in the early 1990s by staff in the Department of Natural Resources and Energy, the area came to the fore again, this time as a potential candidate protected area to help represent the Continental Lowlands and Fundy Coastal ecoregions. It was internally called the Loch Alva Study Area. Although this gap analysis did not result in a protected areas strategy for the province, some of the study areas will likely be included in the protected areas strategy that is now under development. The New Brunswick Protected Natural Areas Coalition believes that the Loch Alva Wildland is an ideal candidate to help represent the ecoregions in southwestern New Brunswick, and should be immediately placed under interim protection.

The Loch Alva Wildland contains most of the Musquash River watershed, which supplies the

drinking water for Saint John. Part of this area was once the property of a private sportsmen's club and was known as Inglewood Manor. The New Brunswick Electric Power Commission expropriated the property around 1920 to build the Musquash hydro plant. This hydroelectric dam is located at the mouth of the east branch of the Musquash River. There are two hydro-electric corridors which transect the area.

The Loch Alva Wildland is located predominantly on Crown land, and is under forest license to J.D. Irving, Limited. Most of the area has only been subjected to limited logging in the distant past, and is currently unroaded, which is quite unusual for southern New Brunswick. A large forest fire burned over much of the area early this century. Logging roads have been built in the western portion of this area, and some blocks have been logged during the past twenty years or so. Cutting and road-building are planned to continue throughout this area in the future.

Calls for wilderness protection in the recent past have been met with resistance by the forestry industry and government in New Brunswick. One of the reasons given for this resistance, aside from wood supply issues, is that when forest companies have invested so much money in constructing logging roads, one could not possibly prevent them from harvesting the wood in areas to which the roads lead. We now have a timely opportunity to protect the part of the Loch Alva Wildland that remains unroaded, and to restore the western parts where logging has already occurred.

New Brunswick naturalists can help protect this area by urging their MLAs and cabinet ministers to take action. As this wildland has not been studied extensively for its biodiversity features, it would also be helpful if knowledgeable naturalists could do some surveys of the area's flora and fauna. This remote area will not remain remote for long, and now is the time to study its ecosystems and to work to have it permanently protected.

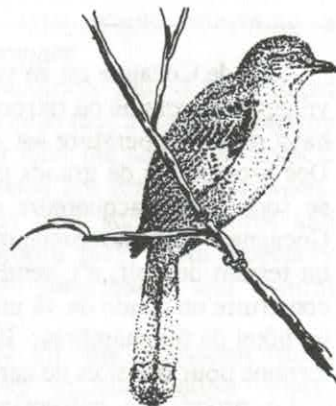
RENCONTRE

André Robichaud -- Le Club des naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne

Le printemps était installé dans notre coin de pays. Le temps était venu pour une certaine activité que nous aimions mon frère et moi ... la pêche. Les prévisions pour le lendemain sont bonnes, ce sera calme. Et oui, le lendemain matin à 3h30, c'est calme. Mais, il y a toujours un mais, la brume est présente et pas n'importe laquelle brume, une à ne pas voir le bout de son nez. Nous décidons d'aller préparer le bateau, peut-être au lever du jour, le tout s'éclaircira. Au détour de la grange, près du chemin qui mène à la rivière, quelque chose vient interrompre le bruit de nos bottes. On s'arrête net. On se regarde, je présume, car je ne vois le visage de mon frère. Nous bifurquons sans mot dire -- dans une certaine complicité, les paroles sont de trop -- vers l'endroit d'où venaient des sons et mélodies inhabituelles. Rendus près d'un Sorbier d'Amérique de 3m50, c'était là qu'était le chœur, et rien de banal. Des chants déjà entendus, certes, mais ensemble et à cette heure, minute! Nous restons ébahis par cette symphonie du Pluvier kildir, Merle d'Amérique, Hirondelle bicolore, Pic flamboyant et beaucoup d'autres et encore des sons mélodieux à 3 mètres de nous. Mon frère me dit: « Il faut voir quel oiseau fait ça! ». Il ne peut s'agir que d'un oiseau. Alors, il est allé chercher une lampe de

poche. Mais lorsque le faisceau de lumière était trop près du but, alors, silence, plus un son. Même avec la lumière, impossible de voir quelque chose à cause du feuillage. Pendant près d'une heure, nous avons eu droit à ce super concert sans voir le maestro.

Ce n'est qu'au lever du jour, à la lumière feutrée, -- comme dirait l'autre, de la lumière jaillit la lumière -- que l'on voit l'objet de tant d'émerveillement. Il faudra quand même attendre de vérifier dans notre guide d'identification pour confirmer qu'il s'agissait du Moqueur polyglotte. Le goût pour la connaissance de la gente ailée était là depuis longtemps (mais à 20 ans, d'autre genre de bipède active nos rêves). Ce fut ma première rencontre avec ce virtuose. J'en ai vu d'autres depuis, mais celui-là, fut le plus miraculeux. Comme dit mon frère, « cela fait vibrer les papilles sur le cœur ».



Moqueur polyglotte
Illustration by Jacqueline Badcock

COCAGNE: AN ISLAND, A BAY AND A COMMUNITY

Éco-Cocagne* and Rose-Alma Mallet

Cocagne is a land of plenty. The island is a unique get-away where people can swim in warm salt water, sunbathe on a sandy beach and enjoy nature. By blocking north-east winds, the island has created a unique biodiversity and microclimate for the bay and for Cocagne River.

Numerous bird species make their home in the bay area and on the island, where they can nest, live and feed, far from human disturbance. Cocagne Island supports a nesting colony of Great Blue Herons, as well as other avian residents, such as osprey, terns, swallows, Common Eiders, geese and Bald Eagles. The island is also home to other types of animal life, e.g., deer, foxes, hare and a number of species of rodents, to name but a few.

Cocagne Island is one of two unspoiled stretches of land remaining on the New Brunswick shore of the Northumberland Strait. The forest is mostly intact old growth with lots of Red Oak, and represents one of the province's very few remnants of original coastal forest. During a recent two-day botanical survey of the island, Harold Hinds found 246 vascular plant species, 22 of which are considered uncommon or rare in the province or in the Northumberland Strait coastal forest (a slightly edited version of Hinds' report is included in this issue of the *N.B. Naturalist*).

Cocagne Bay is well known for its abundant blueberries and strawberries, while the surrounding waters are rich in marine life such as clams and oysters. Commercial fisherman earn income from harvesting oysters, lobsters, mackerel, herring and smelts. The area has traditionally afforded local

community members the opportunity to enjoy lots of outdoor activities, including camping, swimming, clam digging, hiking, boating and cross-country skiing. Sounds idyllic, doesn't it?

Unfortunately, Cocagne Island is imminently threatened by an economic development project proposed by a company called Entreprises Maposa. The developers envision a golf course, 40 cottages, 48 condo units, a 60-room inn and 20 residential lots on Cocagne Island. Details of the project are not easy to understand, as the proposal is rather vague. To facilitate the development, Entreprises Maposa has asked the Department of the Environment to approve the construction of a bridge to the Island through a fragile bay and over a sand dune, as well as a road going through a marsh and close to the Great Blue Heron colony. With the proposed development will come the need for drinking water, garbage disposal, waste water disposal, use of pesticides and fertilizers, a road and a bridge, construction, landfill, etc. This will mean additional pollution to the bay and therefore more loss of habitat and wildlife.

What would we gain and what do we stand to lose if this proposal goes ahead? Furthermore, what price are we willing to pay for the development of Cocagne Island? This special place deserves better treatment and needs careful study before it is ruined forever. Once it is gone, we cannot get it back. Please voice your opinion now before it's too late.

*Eco-Cocagne's goal is to safeguard the natural resources of the Cocagne area and preserve the natural ecosystems of the island.

L'ÎLE DE COCAGNE -- UN ESPACE MENACÉ

Rose-Alma Mallet

L'île de Cocagne est en voie de devenir un centre de villégiature comme on retrouve un peu partout dans les pays où la température est clémente à l'année longue. Des promoteurs de grands projets, le groupe Maposa, se sont portés acquéreurs de la majorité de l'île de Cocagne. Ces entrepreneurs proposent d'y aménager un terrain de golf, d'y vendre 20 lots résidentiels, d'y construire un condo de 48 unités ainsi que 40 chalets et un hôtel de 60 chambres. En plus, le plan réserve des terrains pour des sites de camping.

Le projet des entreprises Maposa se chiffre à environ 25 millions dont 5 millions parviendraient des gouvernements fédéral et provincial. Cette information

me vient d'un feuillet distribué dans les boîtes aux lettres aux gens de Cocagne par les entreprises Maposa, le 3 septembre, 1997. Maposa indique aux habitants de Cocagne qu'il effectue ce grand développement pour le bénéfice de l'économie locale et demande l'appui de la population. D'après Maposa le projet va créer plusieurs emplois et l'entreprise Maposa cite 110 emplois après la construction du projet.

Mais lorsque l'on analyse la proposition faite au gouvernement provincial, on se perd dans les données de Maposa et le fil de l'histoire ne se rattache à rien de concret, il ne nous reste qu'à supposer, à imaginer ce que les entrepreneurs vont construire. Les

développeurs demandent au ministère de l'Environnement la permission de construire un pont sur une dune de sable, de construire une route dans un marais, et de construire une route près d'une importante colonie de grands hérons.

Tout ce développement va détruire l'écosystème de l'île de Cocagne car cette île n'est pas assez grande pour permettre un développement de cette ampleur. Un terrain de golf, des habitations, des automobiles et les humains vont affecter de façon permanente l'importante héronnière, le boisé de chênes rouges, les marais, les dunes de sable et la nourriture pour la sauvagine et les oiseaux de plage. En plus, le projet va nuire aux bancs d'huîtres et aux alevins de plusieurs espèces de poissons de la baie.

Un groupe de citoyens intéressé à la sauvegarde des ressources naturelles de la région, le groupe Éco-Cocagne, veut préserver l'écosystème de l'île. Le groupe est intéressé à voir un développement de sentiers naturels, et d'un centre de recherche et d'interprétation de la nature. Ce groupe désire un développement durable qui respecte l'écosystème fragile de cette île.

Le groupe Éco-Cocagne doute du nombre d'emplois que le projet de terrain de golf va créer sur l'île de Cocagne. Toutes les activités seront concentrées sur l'île alors l'économie locale n'en profitera peu. Les profits de ce grand développement seront restreints à un petit groupe. Alors que les développements de la dune de Bouctouche et de l'île de Shédiac profitent à l'économie locale. Ces deux attractions touristiques respectent l'écologie des lieux, tout en attirant les foules. Ce méga projet menace les bancs d'huîtres, une

aquiculture qui a déjà profité des subventions du gouvernement. Allons-nous dépenser d'autre argent des contribuables?

Un biologiste de réputation internationale, Michael Soulé, de passage dans la région a trouvé que ce projet de développement de l'île de Cocagne va détruire la richesse de cette île, la dernière perle du détroit de Northumberland. Ce biologiste s'inquiète fortement des effets sur l'écosystème de la grande quantité d'herbicides et d'insecticides requise au maintien des terrains de golf. Et un terrain de golf signé Audubon n'a rien à voir avec la société Audubon qui publie de la documentation sur la nature.

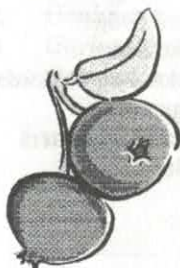
Andrew Bogen, biologiste à l'Université de Moncton s'inquiète des effets de la construction du pont sur les courants marins autour de l'île et des produits chimiques qui peuvent couler dans la baie. Une infime quantité de produits chimiques dans la baie va nuire aux oeufs des poissons qui s'y trouvent. Ce qui pourrait nuire à l'industrie de la pêche dans la région.

Harold Hinds, botaniste et ancien conservateur de l'herbier du Nouveau-Brunswick, a visité l'île à deux reprises. Il a découvert 246 espèces de plantes dont 22 espèces rares ou peu communes dans la province ou dans la forêt côtière du détroit de Northumberland. Hinds souligne qu'une forêt mature peu touchée par la civilisation comme la forêt de l'île de Cocagne se fait de plus en plus rare et par ce fait doit être protégée. L'île de Cocagne, petit paradis perdu, n'a pas la capacité naturelle de supporter un développement immobilier ou un terrain de golf. Le rapport du professeur Hinds est ci-inclus dans cette revue.

Faisons connaître nos opinions à nos élus.

VASCULAR PLANT FLORA OF COCAGNE ISLAND

Hal Hinds



Since the flora of Cocagne Island contains so many different species, new plants for the Northumberland Strait coastal forest, and some which are provincially rare, and the forest (especially of the southern half) is mostly intact and appears not to have been logged at all or for many years, I recommend that this forest be preserved from development which would jeopardize its integrity. Very few remnants, if any, of the original coastal forest remain today. This makes this area of special significance. The high biodiversity is especially significant. According to the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy, there

should be no net loss of wetland habitat function. The loss of this ecosystem type would constitute a considerable loss to the province.

If any ecotourism development should be initiated for the island, it should be such that it does not destroy the existing vegetation nor alter the natural ecological processes. Island ecosystems are fragile exosystems. Their geographic isolation from mainland fires and position at the brunt of storms make them especially vulnerable to both human disturbance and natural processes respectively.

Some suitable activities for this ecosystem which would not be disruptive include nature study, picnicking, hiking, swimming, shellfish gathering, and fossil viewing. Bicycling is also an option if sensitively

positioned and carefully maintained trails are constructed. Motorized vehicles can be both disruptive to wildlife and to the enjoyment of the island by those who value its natural tranquility. These should not be allowed on the island except for purposes of trail construction and waste removal where necessary.

The following list of vascular plants was made while spending two days (September 1 and 2, 1997) on Cocagne Island and visiting all ecosystems on both the north and south parts of the island. In total, 246 species of vascular plants were noted during the survey. Those species uncommon or rare in the province were collected and are housed at the UNB Connell Memorial Herbarium, Fredericton.

Abundance codes:

- r = rare in New Brunswick
 re = rare in eastern N.B.
 rn = rare in Northumberland Strait coastal forest
 u = uncommon in New Brunswick
 ue = uncommon in eastern N.B.
 f = first record for Northumberland Strait coastal forest

- 1 Rare on Cocagne Island; only one or two populations observed
- 2 Three or more populations observed on the island; mostly scattered
- 3 Uncommon on the island, but found occasionally throughout
- 4 Observed consistently throughout the island, but coverage may not be large
- 5 Commonly found throughout, often with considerable coverage

4	<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>	Striped Maple
4	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple
3	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple
4	<i>Achillea lanulosa</i>	Yarrow
2	<i>Actaea rubra</i>	Red Baneberry
4	<i>Agropyron repens</i>	Couch-grass
1	<i>Agropyron trachycaulum</i>	Slender Wheat Grass
3	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Fine Bent-grass
3	<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>	Redtop
f3	<i>Agrostis perennans</i>	Autumn Bent-grass
3	<i>Agrostis scabra</i>	Ticklegrass
2	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent-grass
ue1	<i>Alisma triviale</i>	Water-plantain
3	<i>Alnus incana</i>	Speckled Alder
3	<i>Alnus viridis</i>	Green Alder
4	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Common Ragweed
3	<i>Amelanchier bartramiana</i>	Mountain Juneberry
4	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Smooth Juneberry
4	<i>Amelanchier x wiegandii</i>	Wiegand's Shadbush
4	<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>	Beach Grass
2	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Pearly Everlasting
2	<i>Angelica lucida</i>	Sea-coast Angelica
2	<i>Apios americana</i>	Ground-nut

3	<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>	Spreading Dogbane
4	<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>	Smooth Sarsaparilla
rn1	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-Pulpit
3	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry
2	<i>Artemisia biennis</i>	Biennial Wormwood
3	<i>Artemisia stelleriana</i>	Beach Wormwood
3	<i>Aster acuminatus</i>	Whorled Woodland Aster
2	<i>Aster cordifolius</i>	Heart-leaved Aster
2	<i>Aster lateriflorus</i>	Calico Aster
3	<i>Aster macrophyllus</i>	Large-leaved Aster
2	<i>Aster novi-belgii</i>	New York Aster
3	<i>Aster umbellatus</i>	Flat-topped White Aster
3	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern
4	<i>Atriplex littoralis</i>	Shore Orach
3	<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	Prostrate Orach
2	<i>Atriplex subspicata</i>	Orach
4	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	White Birch
3	<i>Betula populifolia</i>	Gray Birch
3	<i>Bidens cernua</i>	Nodding Beggar-ticks
3	<i>Bidens frondosa</i>	Beggar-ticks
f1	<i>Botrychium dissectum</i>	Dissected Grapefern
3	<i>Brachyelytrum erectum</i>	Bearded Short-husk
3	<i>Bromus ciliatus</i>	Fringed Brome-grass
4	<i>Cakile edentula</i>	Sea-rocket
3	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge-bindweed
3	<i>Carex arctata</i>	Drooping Wood Sedge
3	<i>Carex brunnescens</i>	Brownish Sedge
2	<i>Carex canescens</i>	Hoary Sedge
3	<i>Carex communis</i>	Fibrous-rooted Sedge
1	<i>Carex crawfordii</i>	Crawford's Sedge
3	<i>Carex deflexa</i>	Northern Sedge
rn2	<i>Carex folliculata</i>	Long Sedge
2	<i>Carex hormathodes</i>	Marsh Straw Sedge
2	<i>Carex intumescens</i>	Bladder Sedge
3	<i>Carex lacustris</i>	Lake-bank Sedge
2	<i>Carex lucorum</i>	
2	<i>Carex mackenziei</i>	MacKenzie's Sedge
3	<i>Carex pallescens</i>	Pale Sedge
2	<i>Carex projecta</i>	Necklace Sedge
1	<i>Carex pseudocyperus</i>	Cyperus-like Sedge
3	<i>Carex scoparia</i>	Pointed Broom Sedge
3	<i>Carex silicea</i>	Sea-beach Sedge
2	<i>Carex stipata</i>	Awl-fruited Sedge
2	<i>Carex umbellata</i>	Umbel-like Sedge
2	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear Chickweed
2	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Lamb's-quarters
4	<i>Chenopodium macrocalycium</i>	Seaside Lamb's-quarters
r1	<i>Chenopodium rubrum</i>	Coast-blite



Coast-blite
*Chenopodium
 rubrum*

3	<i>Chimaphila umbellata</i>	Pipsissewa	2	<i>Geum canadense</i>	White Avens
2	<i>Cicuta maculata</i>	Spotted Cowbane	3	<i>Glaux maritima</i>	Sea-milkwort
2	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle	3	<i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i>	Low Cudweed
2	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull-thistle	1	<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	Common Oak Fern
3	<i>Clintonia borealis</i>	Clintonia	rel 1	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch-hazel
3	<i>Comandra umbellata</i>	Bastard-toadflax	3	<i>Heracleum lanatum</i>	Cow-parsnip
4	<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	Sweet-fern	3	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	Orange Hawkweed
3	<i>Coptis groenlandica</i>	Goldthread	2	<i>Hieracium canadense</i>	Canada Hawkweed
3	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	Bunchberry	3	<i>Hieracium florentinum</i>	Smooth Hawkweed
re2	<i>Cornus rugosa</i>	Round-leaved Dogwood	2	<i>Hierochloa odorata</i>	Sweet Grass
4	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	Beaked Hazel	2	<i>Honckenya peploides</i>	Seabeach-sandwort
3	<i>Crataegus chrysocarpa</i>	Fireberry Hawthorn	3	<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>	Squirrel-tail Grass
1	<i>Cuscuta gronovii</i>	Dodder	3	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry
f1	<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>	Moccasin Flower	3	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	Spotted Touch-me-not
3	<i>Danthonia spicata</i>	Poverty Oat-grass	2	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag
2	<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	Hay-scented Fern	3	<i>Juncus arcticus</i> var. <i>littoralis</i>	Baltic Rush
f2	<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	Wavy Hair Grass	1	<i>Juncus brevicaudatus</i>	Narrow-panicked Rush
f2	<i>Dichanthelium acuminatum</i> var. <i>implicatum</i>	Panic-grass	3	<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	Toad Rush
3	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Bush Honeysuckle	3	<i>Juncus gerardii</i>	Black Grass
3	<i>Diphysastrum complanatum</i>	Northern Running-pine	3	<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	Path Rush
2	<i>Diphysastrum digitatum</i>	Southern Running-pine	3	<i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>	Sheep Laurel
2	<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	Spinulose Woodfern	3	<i>Lactuca biennis</i>	Tall Blue Lettuce
2	<i>Dryopteris intermedia</i>	Glandular Woodfern	1	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce
3	<i>Eleocharis erythropoda</i>	Bald spike-rush	3	<i>Larix laricina</i>	Larch
4	<i>Elymus mollis</i>	Sea Lyme-grass	3	<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i>	Beach-pea
3	<i>Epifagus virginiana</i>	Beechdrops	2	<i>Lechea intermedia</i>	Pinweed
3	<i>Epigaea repens</i>	Trailing Arbutus	3	<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Fall Dandelion
2	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Fireweed	3	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Daisy
3	<i>Epilobium glandulosum</i>	Glandular Willow-herb	3	<i>Ligusticum scoticum</i>	Scotch Lovage
3	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	2	<i>Limonium nashii</i>	Sea-lavender
re2	<i>Erechtites hieracifolia</i>	Pilewort	3	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Toadflax
2	<i>Erigeron strigosus</i>	Daisy-fleabane	2	<i>Lobelia inflata</i>	Indian Tobacco
3	<i>Euphrasia nemorosa</i>	Eyebright	2	<i>Lonicera canadensis</i>	Fly-honeysuckle
3	<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	Grass-leaved Goldenrod	3	<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	Common Woodrush
4	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	Beech	1	<i>Lycopodium annotinum</i>	Bristly Club-moss
4	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	3	<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>	Common Club-moss
3	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Wild Strawberry	3	<i>Lycopodium dendroideum</i>	Prickly Tree Club-moss
2	<i>Galium tinctorium</i>	Clayton's Bedstraw	3	<i>Lycopus uniflorus</i>	Bugleweed
3	<i>Galium trifidum</i>	Dyer's Cleavers	1	<i>Lysimachia thyrsiflora</i>	Tufted Loosestrife
3	<i>Galium triflorum</i>	Sweet-scented Bedstraw	2	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	Canada Mayflower
4	<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Wintergreen	2	<i>Matricaria maritima</i>	Scentless Chamomile
4	<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>	Black Huckleberry	3	<i>Medeola virginiana</i>	Indian Cucumber-root
r1	<i>Geocaulon lividum</i>	Northern Comandra	3	<i>Melampyrum lineare</i>	Cow-wheat
			3	<i>Melilotus alba</i>	White Sweet Clover
			3	<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Partridgeberry
			3	<i>Moehringia lateriflora</i>	Grove-sandwort
			1	<i>Monotropa hypopithys</i>	Pinesap
			rel 1	<i>Monotropa uniflora</i>	Indian Pipe
			2	<i>Myrica gale</i>	Sweet Gale
			3	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	Bayberry
			2	<i>Nemopanthus mucronatus</i>	Mountain-holly
			3	<i>Oenothera parviflora</i>	Evening-primrose
			4	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern
			f3	<i>Oryzopsis asperifolia</i>	Mountain Rice-grass
			2	<i>Osmorhiza claytonii</i>	Sweet Cicely
			3	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon Fern
			3	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Ironwood
			3	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy
			3	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Giant Reed-grass

Northern Comandra
Geocaulon lividum



4	<i>Picea glauca</i>	White Spruce
4	<i>Picea rubens</i>	Red Spruce
2	<i>Pinus banksiana</i>	Jack Pine
2	<i>Plantago major</i>	Common Plantain
3	<i>Plantago maritima</i>	Seaside-plantain
3	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky Bluegrass
3	<i>Polygonum arenastrum</i>	Doorweed
u2	<i>Polygonum careyi</i>	Carey's Knotweed
3	<i>Polygonum convolvulus</i>	Black Bindweed
2	<i>Polygonum lapathifolium</i>	Willow-weed
f1	<i>Polygonum pensylvanicum</i>	Pinkweed
2	<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	Lady's-thumb
1	<i>Polygonum ramosissimum</i>	Bushy Knotweed
f1	<i>Polygonum scandens</i>	Climbing False Buckwheat
3	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	Large-toothed Aspen
3	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Trembling Aspen
3	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
2	<i>Potentilla norvegica</i>	Rough Cinquefoil
2	<i>Prenanthes altissima</i>	White Lettuce
3	<i>Prenanthes trifoliata</i>	Gall-of-the-Earth
2	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal
3	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	Pin Cherry
4	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Choke Cherry
3	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
2	<i>Pyrola americana</i>	Round-leaved Pyrola
3	<i>Pyrola elliptica</i>	Shinleaf
4	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak
3	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Common Buttercup
3	<i>Ranunculus cymbalaria</i>	Seaside Crowfoot
f2	<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn-sumac
2	<i>Ribes hirtellum</i>	Bristly Gooseberry
3	<i>Rosa virginiana</i>	Virginia Rose
3	<i>Rubus canadensis</i>	Smooth Blackberry
3	<i>Rubus hispidus</i>	Swamp Dewberry
3	<i>Rubus pubescens</i>	Dwarf Raspberry
4	<i>Rubus strigosus</i>	Red Raspberry
3	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep Sorrel
2	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock
	<i>Rumex longifolius</i>	Long-leaved Dock
3	<i>Rumex maritimus</i>	Golden Dock
1	<i>Rumex salicifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved Dock
3	<i>Salicornia europaea</i>	Glasswort
3	<i>Salix discolor</i>	Pussy Willow
3	<i>Salix humilis</i>	Prairie Willow
1	<i>Salsola kali</i>	Russian Thistle
2	<i>Sanicula marilandica</i>	Black Snakeroot
2	<i>Scirpus atrocinctus</i>	Black-girded Wool-rush
3	<i>Scirpus maritimus</i>	Salt-marsh Bulrush
1	<i>Scirpus pungens</i>	Three-square
3	<i>Senecio viscosus</i>	Sticky Groundsel
3	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Common Groundsel
1	<i>Sisyrinchium montanum</i>	Blue-eyed Grass
2	<i>Sium suave</i>	Water Parsnip
2	<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>	False Solomon's-seal
3	<i>Smilacina stellata</i>	Starry False Solomon's-seal
3	<i>Solidago bicolor</i>	Silverrod
f2	<i>Solidago juncea</i>	Early Goldenrod
4	<i>Solidago puberula</i>	Downy Goldenrod
1	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	Rough-stemmed Goldenrod

4	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	Seaside Goldenrod
4	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Field Sow-thistle
	ssp. <i>uliginosus</i>	
1	<i>Sorbus americana</i>	American Mountain-ash
3	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	Salt-water Cord-grass
4	<i>Spartina patens</i>	Salt-meadow Cord-grass
4	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Fresh-water Cord-grass
4	<i>Spergularia canadensis</i>	Sand-spurrey
3	<i>Spiraea latifolia</i>	Meadowsweet
3	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Steeplebush
3	<i>Stellaria longifolia</i>	Long-leaved Stitchwort
3	<i>Streptopus roseus</i>	Rose Twisted-stalk
4	<i>Suaeda maritima</i>	Sea-blite
2	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Common Dandelion
r1	<i>Teucrium canadense</i>	American Germander

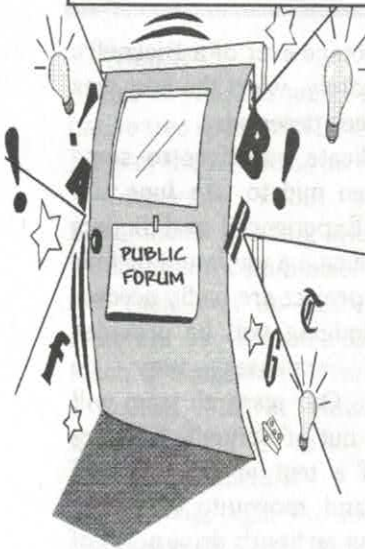


American Germander
Teucrium canadense

2	<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i>	New York Fern
2	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Marsh Fern
3	<i>Toxicodendron rydbergii</i>	Poison Ivy
1	<i>Triadenum fraseri</i>	Marsh St. John's Wort
3	<i>Trientalis borealis</i>	Starflower
3	<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Rabbit-foot Clover
3	<i>Trifolium aureum</i>	Yellow Clover
2	<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	Alsike Clover
2	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
1	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
4	<i>Triglochin maritima</i>	Seaside Arrow-grass
f1	<i>Trillium erectum</i>	Red Trillium
3	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Common Cat-tail
2	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Low Sweet Blueberry
3	<i>Vaccinium myrtilloides</i>	Velvet-leaf Blueberry
1	<i>Vaccinium oxycoccus</i>	Bog Cranberry
3	<i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>	Wild Raisin
3	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Cow Vetch
3	<i>Viola macloskeyi</i>	Northern White Violet
1	<i>Viola selkirkii</i>	Great-spurred Violet
3	<i>Viola septentrionalis</i>	Northern Blue Violet
3	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Cocklebur
4	<i>Zostera marina</i>	Eelgrass

PLANNING PUBLIC FORUMS ON WILDERNESS PROTECTION

Roberta Clowater -- N.B. Protected Natural Areas Coalition



Hello, naturalists' groups!

The provincial government is in the process of developing a protected areas strategy for New Brunswick. As you may know, the **NB Protected Natural Areas Coalition** has been working with **World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Canada** to advocate for a comprehensive protected areas system that will represent the full ecological

diversity of the lands and waters of our province. This would include more large protected wilderness areas, as well as a suite of small and medium sized protected areas. This goal has been endorsed by the **New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists** and most of the naturalists' groups in the province.

Many of the discussions around the new protected areas strategy have so far taken place without public input, although there is a possibility that government will undertake some form of public consultation next year. To help bring more citizens into the discussion, the Protected Natural Areas Coalition, with assistance from WWF Canada, wants to take this discussion "on the road", around New Brunswick.

We envision holding community forums in as many places as possible. This will provide an opportunity for people in the community to ask questions about the locations of potential candidate marine and terrestrial protected areas in their vicinity, what the protection options are, and what they can do to help protect the special wild areas near them. The community forums will also be an opportunity for the Coalition to learn about the importance of wildlife and natural areas to local people, and to educate the public about the importance of protected areas.

Although the provincial government is currently focussing on a land-based strategy, we are eager to also host community forums on coastal and marine protected areas. The mapping and science behind marine protected areas has some catching up to do, and we do not yet have a full slate of candidate areas

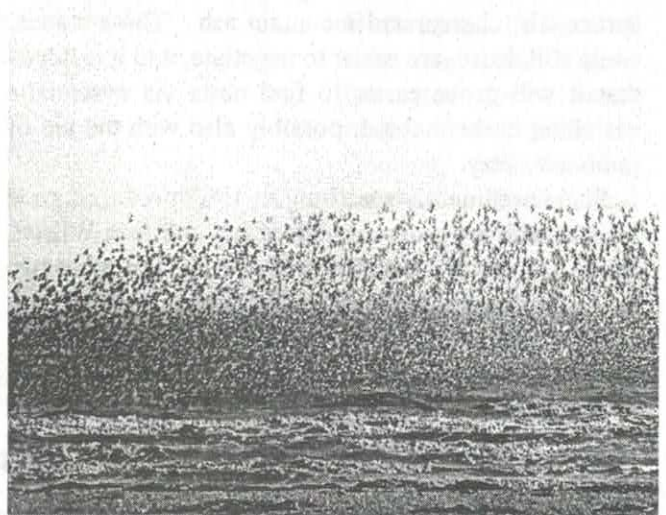
to represent the marine regions around New Brunswick. However, three RAMSAR sites in New Brunswick (i.e., Tabusintac Lagoon and Estuary, Mary's Point and Shepody Bay) are candidates requiring protective legal designation.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to allow all New Brunswickers to take part in this discussion. If government won't do it yet, the Protected Natural Areas Coalition wants to start things off.

These community forums don't have to be very time consuming. One might be the focus for your scheduled naturalists' meeting, or a separate meeting might be organized for an hour or two on a weekend or evening. You could help by finding or suggesting a good meeting place, and by helping to round up interested people to come to the forum (the Coalition will provide posters that could be posted in libraries, schools and other community buildings).

If your naturalists' group is interested in helping to set up a community forum on protected areas, please contact:

Roberta Clowater
Endangered Spaces Coordinator for New Brunswick
NB Protected Natural Areas Coalition
180 St. John Street
Fredericton, NB E3B 4A9
(506) 452-9902; fax (506) 458-1047
email: nbpnac@nbnet.nb.ca



Shorebirds at Mary's Point
Photo by Diane Mercier-Allain

HELP NEEDED TO FIND BICKNELL'S THRUSH NESTS

Erin Nixon

For the past two summers, the author (a graduate student at the University of New Brunswick) and Steve Holmes (of the Canadian Forest Service) have been busy conducting Bicknell's Thrush censuses and collecting vegetation data in the New Brunswick highlands. We're hoping to shed some light on Bicknell's Thrush habitat selection, as well as look at population densities and possible competition with Swainson's Thrush. In 1998, we're planning to begin collecting very badly needed nesting data.

Finding a nest of this species is extremely challenging. The only published nesting study to date is one done by Wallace in the 1930s in Vermont. The Vermont Institute of Natural Science has spent years looking for nests, with the help of a large volunteer network. Despite this, at one point they had a total of 8 nests to show for three years of work. Even now, after searching for 6-7 years, they have located just over 40 nests.

This thrush likes to nest in very dense habitat. In the United States, it's found in nearly impenetrable spruce-fir stands at very high elevations. In New Brunswick, we've been finding Bicknell's Thrush in 10 to 20-foot, mixed second-growth stands of birch, spruce, fir, cherry, and mountain ash. These stands, while still dense, are easier to negotiate, and it is hoped that it will prove easier to find nests via systematic searching in this habitat, possibly also with the aid of radio telemetry.

Some preliminary searching in 1997 produced good results, with the generous help of Jim and Jean Wilson. While Jean helped with the mist netting, Jim spent two days forcing his way through dense regeneration, searching every tree in the area. After two days of this pain-staking labour, he found a nest at shoulder height in a balsam fir. Our study team was very excited and

hoped to get the first video footage ever of a Bicknell's Thrush on its nest. Unfortunately, when the nest was checked a week later, it had been deserted.

In 1998, we hope to dedicate ourselves to some serious nest searching between mid to late June and mid July. Experienced nest finders who can dedicate a minimum of four days to the project are badly needed. Food and lodging will be provided and field expenses may be reimbursed. Our research team will be working out of Serpentine Lodge (not out of a tent in the midst of black fly and mosquito swarms), located about an hour's drive north of Plaster Rock.

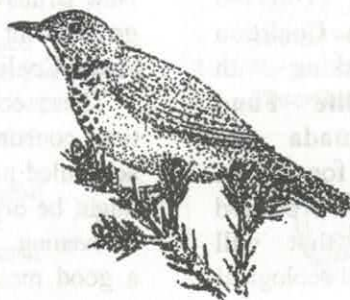
If you are interested in participating in this nesting study, please contact:

Erin Nixon, E-mail: erin.nixon1@sympatico.ca
or Steve Holmes, E-mail: sholmes@nrcan.gc.ca

Records of observations and/or nests of Bicknell's Thrush in New Brunswick would be greatly appreciated. Also, if you have done any telemetry work with thrushes or other avian species of a similar size, the researchers would love to hear about your experiences.

Editors' Note: The author kindly provided a few tips for New Brunswick naturalists who have yet to see a Bicknell's Thrush. Mounts Desbarres and Gray, which are both located southeast of Mt. Carleton, have populations of at least 100 pairs each. The birds are easiest to spot or hear closest to dawn or dusk, although they sing sporadically throughout the day during the first two to three weeks of June.

A timely and enticing article on Bicknell's Thrush, northeastern North America's only surviving endemic bird species, was published in the November 1997 issue of *Equinox* (No. 95, pages 56-65). The article, entitled *Phantom of Fog Forest*, focuses on research in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.



Bicknell's Thrush by Jacqueline Badcock

FOR SALE

Robert Bateman print "Hooded Merganser", framed on acid-free paper, with non-reflective glass. It shows a male Hooded Merganser in a dark setting. This print was donated to the Canadian Nature Federation in the early 1980s. It is #35 out of 300 and is signed by the artist. **Back issues of "American Birds" journal** between 1981 and 1994. Contact Chris Adam at cadam@nbnet.nb.ca or at 451-9813.

BOTANY QUIZ: CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS PLANT?

Gart Bishop -- Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society

What Is It?

See if you can guess the identity of the following native tree species. The answer will appear in the next issue of the *NB Naturalist*.

Commonly found on dry uplands or rich bottomlands growing with Sugar Maple and Yellow Birch, this medium-sized tree (height of up to 30 meters), is known to reach a diameter of over 1 meter, but in New Brunswick it is rarely over 50 centimeters.

The long, light brown cigar-shaped leaf buds are distinctive, making winter identification of this tree easy and accurate. The large leathery leaves have straight veins, each ending in a prominent tooth. The leaves can often be found clinging to the tree throughout the winter, becoming sun-bleached until they are almost white. Early settlers used the leaves as fillings for mattresses because they gave a springy texture that straw did not.

This tree has both male and female flowers on the same tree, and commonly suckers from the base of the trunk, especially from the stumps of recently harvested trees.

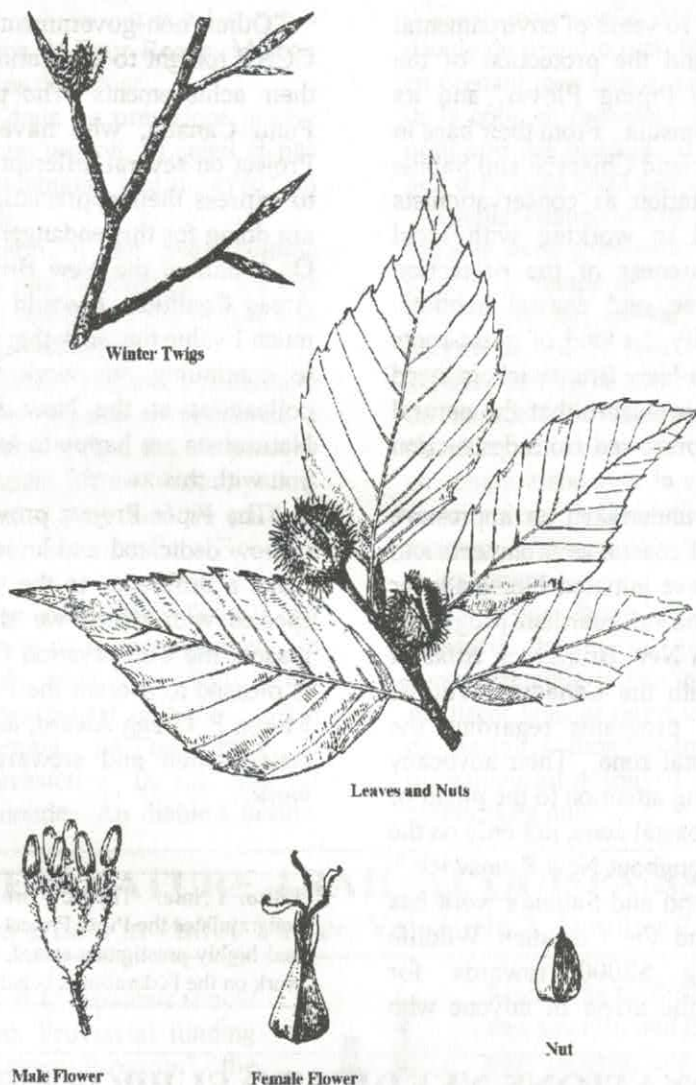
Two triangular nuts are enclosed in a small, prickly, four-valved bur. There is much competition for these prized nuts by Blue Jays, Ruffed Grouse, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Wood Ducks, Chipmunks, Flying and Red Squirrels, and Black Bears, not to forget foraging humans. Large caches of the tasty nuts are often collected and

then buried by rodents. Forests of this tree species were the preferred habitat of the Passenger Pigeon, with the nut the being part of the pigeon's staple fall diet. The nuts can be squeezed into a superior vegetable oil or roasted and then brewed to make a good coffee-like beverage.

While this tree can live to up to 300-400 years, many factors often prevent it reaching this age. Its roots tend to be shallow and easily damaged and killed by any surface disturbance. In our province finding healthy trees with thin, smooth gray bark is becoming increasingly difficult because a fungus (*Nectria coccinea*) has infected the bark through small openings caused by a small yellowish scale insect. This black warty fungus gives the bark a rough bumpy texture and weakens the tree, often causing the premature death of many trees. Historically, the wood of this tree has been harvested for a wide range of uses including flooring, tool handles, butcher's blocks and chair manufacturing. The wood bends easily with steaming and is capable of holding its new shape better than many other hardwoods. It

is also commonly burned for home heating.

Where this tree grows in pure stands, there is usually little ground vegetation, except for a small parasitic, leafless wild flower which has this tree's name as part of its name.



Illustrations by E.G. Bigelow

PIPER PROJECT HONOURED FOR CONSERVATION WORK

Roberta Clowater -- Conservation Council of New Brunswick

At a ceremony in Miramichi City on November 15, 1997, the Conservation Council of New Brunswick (CCNB) presented its Milton F. Gregg Award to the Piper Project. The following speech was made by Roberta Clowater during the award presentation:

"The Piper Project is a special initiative of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists. The Piper Project this year celebrates 10 years of environmental education and action around the protection of the endangered shorebird, the Piping Plover, and its habitats on the Acadian Peninsula. From their base in Tabusintac, co-directors Roland Chiasson and Sabine Dietz have gained a reputation as conservationists who are truly committed to working with local communities to raise awareness of the protection needs of the Piping Plover, and coastal habitats. Sabine and Roland personify the kind of grass-roots level of activism that we, as New Brunswickers, need to support and encourage, to ensure that the natural ecosystems around us are protected from destruction and degradation."

"The Piper Project has undertaken an impressive range of activities to protect coastal environments and the Piping Plover. They have initiated Piping Plover surveys, monitoring and coastal guardian programs, dune restoration projects, a New Brunswick Atlas of Piping Plover Beaches (with the Canadian Wildlife Service), and educational programs regarding the Piping Plover and the coastal zone. Their advocacy has been successful in calling attention to the plight of the Piping Plover and the coastal zone, not only on the Acadian Peninsula, but throughout New Brunswick."

"Recently, some of Roland and Sabine's work has led to Crime Stoppers and the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) offering \$2000 rewards for information that leads to the arrest of anyone who

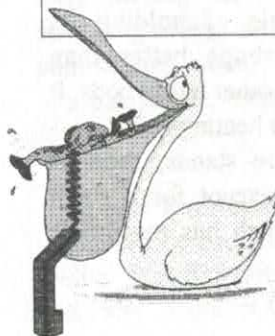
destroys coastal habitats, particularly the nests of the Piping Plover. While I know that Sabine and Roland would be the first to tell you that this initiative was a cooperative effort among CWS, the RCMP, and other parties, I believe that this would not have come about without the Piper Project's tenacious efforts to bring attention to this problem."

"Other non-government organizations join with CCNB tonight to congratulate Roland and Sabine on their achievements. The people at World Wildlife Fund Canada, who have worked with the Piper Project on several different occasions, have asked me to express their appreciation for the good work you are doing for this endangered species, and its habitat. On behalf of the New Brunswick Protected Natural Areas Coalition, I would like to let you know how much I value the work that you do, and I look forward to continuing our work together. As well, your colleagues at the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists are happy to know that we are honouring you with this award."

"The Piper Project provides an excellent example of how dedicated and knowledgeable individuals can make a difference to the way we all view the other species with which we share the world. For this reason, the Conservation Council of New Brunswick is pleased to present the Piper Project with the 1997 Milton F. Gregg Award, in recognition of the spirit of conservation and stewardship you bring to your work."

Editor's Note: The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists congratulates the Piper Project on receiving this much deserved and highly prestigious award, and for continuing its excellent work on the Federation's behalf.

DONATIONS NEEDED TO SUPPORT BIRD LINE



Monetary donations are much needed from individuals or naturalists' groups to support the NB Bird Information Line 382-3825 (DUC-DUCK) so it can continue to provide a vital service to New Brunswick's birders.

Please send your donation to:

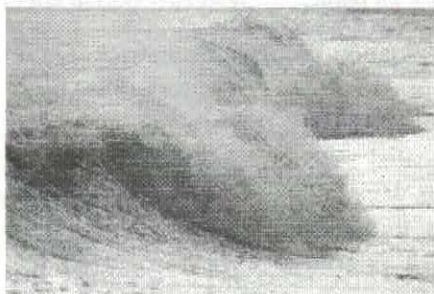
Don Gibson
50 Golf Club Rd.
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 5M4

or

Jim Edsall
59 Anne St.
Moncton, N.B.
E1C 4J4

MOMENT D'ÉVASION

Rosita Lanteigne -- Le Club des naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne



27 février
1997 ... Ça fait
trois fins de
semaine de suite
que j'attends
qu'il fasse beau,
pas trop froid,
pour m'évader
q u e l q u e s

heures, seule, dans la région de Four Roads, Miscou ou encore Val-Comeau, près de la mer.

Le 27 au soir, j'écoute donc les prévisions météo, et, enfin, bonne nouvelle, on prévoit du soleil et pas trop froid pour le lendemain matin avec un ennuagement en après-midi.

Debout tôt samedi matin, il fait beau comme annoncé. Depuis le temps que j'attends ça ... y a pas de ménage ou quoi que ce soit qui va me retenir à la maison. Besoin d'air, besoin d'évasion!

Je fais ma toilette, je déjeune, prépare le nécessaire pour faire de l'observation, répond au téléphone à 8h10 à mon mari parti dans le Sud depuis presque trois semaines. Il m'a appelé juste à temps, j'allais m'évader. Quelques minutes plus tard, je pars en voiture ... musique country, direction Four Roads et ensuite Val-Comeau.

Tout en conduisant, je pense que j'aurais pu demander à Corinne Mallais de m'accompagner. Je sais qu'elle aurait aimé cela, mais aujourd'hui, je me sens très égoïste, je ne veux penser qu'à moi ... être seule, prendre mon temps, ne pas faire la conversation. Besoin d'évasion ... de me faire un cadeau, la paix, loin du monde. Au diable Corinne,

ça sera pour une autre fois. Corinne, ne m'en veut pas, je sais que tu comprends. Même si tu ne veux pas comprendre, ça pas d'importance.

J'arrive à Four Roads. Enfin, la mer, il fait un beau soleil. Il y a quelques ouvertures d'eau très calme, des monticules de glace, une vue magnifique. Quelle merveille!

Avec mes jumelles, je scrute la mer. Il n'y a pas d'oiseau mais quelle importance, il fait si beau. Je décide de prendre mon télescope et de marcher tout en prenant mon temps, un bon bout de temps le long de la côte, en regardant de temps à autre sur la mer pour voir des oiseaux. Il y a seulement un **Garrot à oeil d'or** dans cette mer calme mêlée de glace.

Quelle chance d'être capable de voir ça, d'être capable de m'émerveiller devant tant de beauté, de prendre le temps de respirer l'air frais, de marcher sans se presser, relaxer. Il n'y a pas de mots pour décrire ce que je vois. Il faut être là, juste là et admirer ce que la nature nous offre et se permettre de l'apprécier de temps en temps, prendre le temps de s'arrêter, de la regarder. Quelle différence de tempo en comparaison avec la vie trépidante, stressante que nous vivons. Oui, c'est plaisant de s'offrir ce moment d'évasion. Ça vaut la peine d'avoir attendu si longtemps.

C'est pas facile d'exprimer ce que l'on peut ressentir devant un tel spectacle. C'est très personnel mais je sais que certaines personnes qui me lisent vont se retrouver là-dedans. En acceptant de partager mon moment d'évasion, vous allez probablement découvrir un côté de moi que vous ne connaissiez pas.

NEW NATURE TRAIL AT QUISPAMISIS

Modified from article in *Valley Viewer*, Vol. 6, No.2, October 21, 1997 edition

Mud Lake Nature Trail at Quispamsis is now open for the public. With Provincial funding under the "Rural Experience Program", the Town of Quispamsis established a 2 km self-guided walking trail through the bog, marsh and surrounding forest of Mud Lake during the summer of 1997. Located directly behind the Municipal Complex, visitors can park beside the Fire Station and be on the spacious observation deck in the midst of a beautiful wetland in 5 easy minutes. On 900 metres of sturdy boardwalk, you can stroll through the cattails over two feet of water out to the channel that flows from



Mud Lake to Ritchie Lake. The trail is wide and smooth, and the boardwalk is ramped for easy access, making this a very leisurely stroll. An interpretive brochure is available on-site at the town office. The well-crafted brochure provides insight into the varied ecosystems in the vicinity of Mud Lake, some of the plants and animals that occur there, and how the area has been changing since the last ice age. The new trail and accompanying brochure offer a great opportunity for naturalists to explore and learn more about one of New Brunswick's fascinating wetlands.

NOT SO HAPPY TRAILS

Kevin O'Donnell -- NBFN Director



At the September meeting of the Fredericton Nature Club, David Peterson, President of New Brunswick Trails Council Inc., denounced the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists (NBFN) for its withdrawal from the New Brunswick Trails Council Inc.'s Board of Directors. As a number of persons in attendance were surprised and confused, the NBFN Board of Directors feel an explanation of the circumstances surrounding this withdrawal is warranted.

Reports from a number of sources would suggest that Mr. Peterson's interpretation of events differs from our own. NBFN supported the creation of Sentier NB Trail, its incorporation into the Trans-Canada Trail and its connection to the Appalachian Trail. Although our preference was for the Appalachian trail model of a hiking trail, we felt the development of an expansive multi-use trail network was still worthy of support because it represented a great opportunity for naturalists to explore and for the public to gain a better appreciation of New Brunswick's natural history. The Task Force Report entitled "Leading to a Provincial Trail System for New Brunswick" made provisions for a wide variety of trail uses and developments (including snowmobiles). Therefore, it was critical that NBFN present a naturalists' perspective, help to identify natural areas along the trail, and ensure that certain trail uses would be confined to areas which could withstand increased activity and protect less resistant areas. NBFN was prepared to be an active and enthusiastic partner with the Trails Council and other members on its Board of Directors. It became apparent, however, that an equal and open partnership on the Trails Council's Board of Directors was not an option.

There were three main reasons for NBFN's withdrawal from New Brunswick Trails Council Inc.'s Board of Directors:

- 1) NBFN's participation on New Brunswick Trails Council Inc.'s Board of Directors has been sporadic at best because our representatives were not communicated with or kept informed about when meetings were taking place and, as a result, did not have the opportunity to attend Trails Council Board meetings. We recognized the importance of presenting naturalists' views but, despite repeated efforts, NBFN was rarely able to advise its membership about the development and progress of Sentier NB Trail as we had little information.
- 2) Arbitrary decisions by the Trails Council in any case effectively limited NBFN's voting privileges. Special Board membership categories were created by the Trails Council without prior notification and in violation in the Trails Council's by-laws. The result was that the newly created Executive Directors on the Trails Council Board possessed full voting privileges while NBFN's representative, designated as a Director-at-large, acquired limited voting privileges.
- 3) Despite NBFN's marginal role on the Trails Council's Board, we have been publicly proclaimed as supporters of the Trails Council's efforts along with other member Federations (All-terrain Vehicle Federation, the New Brunswick Federation of Snowmobile Clubs and the Federation of Agriculture). While we supported the trail in principle, we were involved in name only.

At its February 1997 meeting, NBFN's Board of Directors unanimously decided to ask New Brunswick Trails Council Inc. to address these concerns. Their response was less than inspiring and accused NBFN and our voluntary representatives of being difficult and prone to misinformation. The Trails Council's President also concluded that NBFN would be short-sighted if it did not accept the Trails Council's offer. The NBFN Board of Directors was uncomfortable with the role and the conditions of membership dictated by New Brunswick Trails Council Inc. As a result, our Board of Directors considered this response and, in April 1997, NBFN

unanimously decided to withdraw from New Brunswick Trails Council Inc.'s Board of Directors. This action was never intended as a lack of support for a trail system in New Brunswick. In fact, we strongly encourage naturalists and clubs throughout the Province to participate particularly with local trail sponsors.

Despite Mr. Peterson's statements, the development of the Provincial trail network (which will be completed at the end of 1998) has proceeded without any significant input from NBFN. The Trails Council

had not requested any input until its President suggested that members of the Fredericton Nature Club pressure NBFN to rejoin the Board. Under the present circumstances, our reputations as naturalists will be compromised if Sentier NB Trail is dominated by snowmobiles or other incompatible trail activities.

I hope that this will explain the rationale for NBFN's withdrawal from the Board of the Trails Council. The NBFN Board of Directors would be happy to receive your comments and address any further questions.

NOUVEAU SENTIER PÉDESTRE À EDMUNDSTON

Pierrette Mercier — Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska

Un nouveau sentier pédestre a été inauguré en début septembre. Le sentier, nommé LE SENTIER DU PROSPECTEUR, est de type linéaire, couvre une distance de presque 5,3 km et a un degré de difficulté facile avec quelques endroits modéré à difficile (i.e. section de la mine d'or). Le sentier est accessible à trois endroits: sur la rue du Pouvoir, au parc industriel d'Edmundston Nord, et sur la rue des Ormes. Je conseille de marcher le sentier à partir de la rue du Pouvoir vers la rue des Ormes.

Le sentier est un peu boueux au début mais des pierres ont été placées pour aider au passage à cet endroit; le reste du sentier est relativement sec. Au kilomètre 0,52, le sentier se sépare en deux: le sentier de l'érablière mesurant 0,36 km est très facile et le sentier de la mine d'or mesurant 1,36 km est plus abrupte. Un petit sentier de 150 m menant à la mine d'or est très accidenté et glissant lors de temps humide. Un vieux prospecteur croyait avoir trouvé de l'or à cet endroit et avait commencé une excavation. Il est douteux qu'il ait jamais trouvé de l'or mais je me souviens d'avoir trouvé du pyrite à cet endroit. Un peu plus bas, il y a une excellente vue de la ville d'Edmundston. Le sentier de la mine d'or rejoint le

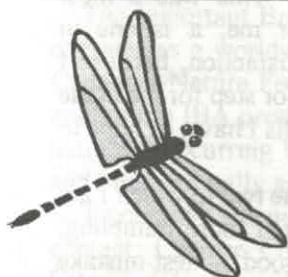
sentier de l'érablière et continue en direction nord-ouest. Cette section de sentier est facile avec une dénivellation légère. Au kilomètre 3,4, un sentier mène au parc industriel. Le sentier continue avec une ascension plus abrupte. Au kilomètre 4,7, le sentier rejoint un chemin de terre; tournez vers la droite et suivez ce chemin jusqu'au belvédère. Ici, on a une belle vue de la vallée. Le sentier continue un peu plus bas jusqu'à un chemin de terre qui rejoint la rue des Ormes à Edmundston Nord.

Le sentier est bien aménagé et marqueurs métalliques jaunes ou oranges indiquent le sentier. Il a été construit sur des terrains privés et financé par la ville d'Edmundston.

Pour s'y rendre, de la Trans Canadienne (direction ouest), prenez la sortie 18, tournez vers la droite sur le Boulevard Hébert, tournez à gauche sur la rue Carrier, tournez à droite sur la rue du Pouvoir, continuez pour 300 mètres. Le sentier, bien indiqué, se trouve du côté gauche.



N.B. BUTTERFLIES, DRAGONFLIES AND RARE BIRDS



Attention Internet Surfers! Stu Tingley's homepage is the best place to see photographic highlights of New Brunswick's flying fauna. Images of rare birds including Sandhill Crane, Cerulean Warbler, Golden-

winged Warbler, Mountain Bluebird, Varied Thrush, Painted Bunting, Ruff, and other exotica await your optical scanners. Legendary damsels and dragons abound, as does a kaleidoscope of butterflies. To access these and other images from near and far, visit <http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/tingley/>. Thanks, Stu, for sharing your pictorial memoirs.

BAFFLING BIRDS

Mike Lushington -- Restigouche Naturalists' Club



The old saying seems to be true: you learn from your mistakes. At least I believe it to be the case in my own development as a birder.

Within the past year I have been confronted with two very challenging birding puzzles. In

each instance I did as much homework as I could, thought out as many possibilities as presented themselves and cautiously offered an identification to the informed world of New Brunswick birders. In both instances I turned out to have been wrong, despite the care and the caution which I felt I exercised in coming to the decisions I had made.

Last December (as those of you who subscribe to the NatureNB hotline may remember) I stuck my neck out in identifying a possible **Thayer's Gull** in the area of the Inch Arran Lighthouse in Dalhousie. I had seen this perplexing gull several times under all sorts of conditions and in all sorts of company. Included with its daily companions were several **Kumlien's Iceland Gulls** which, among them, presented many of the bewildering plumage variations typical of that very volatile race of **Iceland Gulls**. To my mind, this bird pushed the plumage limits further than did any of the other specimens present ... in the direction which several resources indicated were typical of Thayer's.

Now I was aware that the call of a Thayer's would be controversial, but I had reached an impasse: whatever the bird would turn out to be I was not going to resolve by myself. (I should point out that in this whole question I had the consistent consultation of several good, hard-working local birders, all of whom, unfortunately suffered from the same lack of experience with this species. Had we been correct in our identification, they would have deserved much of the credit; as it was, I was the one who pushed to "go public" and so I take the responsibility for the miscue.)

When I put out the word I began to receive information, consultation and advice, all of which prompted and encouraged me to return to the bird for more study (at least it was a gull, and one that seemed quite content to stick around for nearly a month; imagine trying to do all of this with a warbler! Which, of course, is why so many birds do go unidentified).

Slowly, reluctantly I began to come to the conclusion that it was quite likely that my gull was a Kumlien's after all, albeit one that really did represent an extreme in plumage variation.



Thayer's Gull? Photo by Jim Clifford

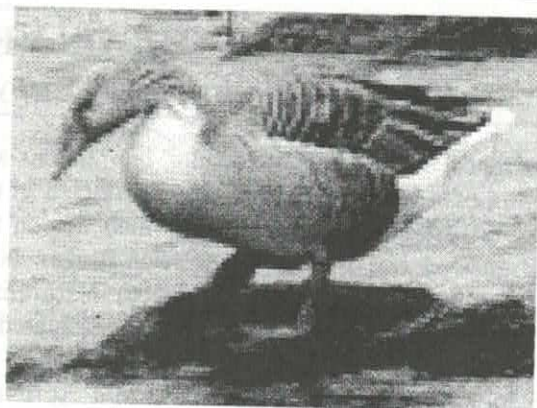
What did I learn from this particular lesson? I think, most importantly, it dawned on me that one has to be extremely careful and extremely knowledgeable when it comes to positive identification in some groups of birds, and that the gulls may well be in the forefront of those groups which cause such problems. The knowledge comes in two ways: I have since made it a point to read anything I can get hold of about gull identification, and to make notes for future reference; I have also spent as much time as I can in watching the common gulls as they fly, swim, feed, preen — in short, as they conduct their daily lives. In doing so, I believe that I am becoming better prepared for the next time an oddity comes my way. And, in the process I have discovered an increasing fascination with even the "gulls ordinaire".

If I might be permitted to generalize for a moment on this point, I have also realized just how important it is to take the time to study (and I mean, really look at, examine, observe) the regulars in our birding world, to the point where it begins to become automatic to "checklist" every bird I happen to see for points of identification, even if I know beyond a doubt that it is, for example, just another robin. This was a most rewarding learning experience for me; it is one in which I continue to take some satisfaction, because I realize that it has represented a major step for me in the conscious development of what skills I have, or hope to have.

My second mistake (that is, of the two to which I am owning up in this essay) was much more humbling, because it represents that kind of good, honest mistake which, nevertheless, I should not have made.

I refer to the call this past spring which resulted in a number of us from this part of the world declaring that we had found a **Greater White-fronted Goose** in with a flock of **Canadas** in the Charlo River Estuary. I saw the bird, I studied it, I studied the guides and, despite a couple of misgivings, I came to the same conclusion as did others who saw it. It was a young bird, we believed, and therefore did not have adult markings. It did suggest a juvenile, although I think that we all realized that we were "interpreting" the various guide descriptions. Besides, none of the other geese described in the guides, even under the "exotica", fit any better than did our call.

And what were my misgivings? I had two pictures in my mind as I pondered the bird in question: one of them was of an unquestioned White-fronted which had been shot in Bathurst Harbour some while back (and which is currently, in a stuffed fashion, occupying a shelf at the Daly Point Lodge) -- a slender, rather small goose with that look of all wild waterfowl, that of a supreme endurance athlete; the other, that of the bird in Charlo, was a slightly pot-bellied, gone-to-seed farmyard fowl. However, not being familiar with the species (and really wanting for it to be what we thought it was) I was all too prepared to tamper down my slight misgivings. And then, in July, I happened to be on a drive in the countryside and, there, in a farmyard, was an exact replica of our "greater white-front", an unmistakable **Greylag Goose**. And I believe that the consensus of the experts in the province is that that was what we had in Charlo. How it got there and what is its status as far as listing or other such records is concerned is unresolved.



Greylag Goose by Margaret Gallant Doyle

My lesson here is that one cannot simply "shoehorn" a bird into the nearest convenient identification, even if there is no better possibility in the literature. I found a **Ringed Turtle Dove** in a tree outside my house last fall; even if it had not immediately flown onto my outstretched arm, I would have known that it had to have been a domestic, or an escaped bird; I think that I should have been more aware, and accepting, of the possibilities in this case as well.

Once again, I think that it comes down to understanding just what is likely, what is possible, what are the alternatives and finally, that there just may be some truly unsolvable mysteries out there. And, as I update my lists, I remove my gaffs; there is a twinge of regret for the bird-that-might-have-been, but there is a far greater satisfaction from the lesson prompted by the experience, together with the realization that there are still lots of mistakes out there, just waiting to happen — and to instruct.

INPUT WANTED ON MARITIME IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS (IBA)

Christie Chute -- Canadian Nature Federation

On September 19-20, 1997, the Canadian Nature Federation, Bird Studies Canada, New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists, and the Natural History Society of PEI, co-hosted the Maritime Important Bird Areas (IBA) workshop held in Sackville, NB. The objectives of the workshop were to raise awareness of the IBA program and its goals; identify and delineate potential IBAs in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island; prioritize sites for conservation action; discuss threats to proposed sites; and discuss the development of partnerships for IBA identification and conservation. More than 26 people, representing all three Maritime provinces, participated in the two-day event. The enthusiastic group was successful in identifying a working list of over 110 potential IBAs for the region.

The Important Bird Areas Program is a major conservation initiative of BirdLife International (BL). BirdLife operates as a worldwide partnership with one or, in Canada's case, two lead organizations in each country. The Canadian Nature Federation (CNF) and Bird Studies Canada (BSC) are the BL partners in Canada. The overall goal of the IBA program is to identify and protect a network of sites necessary to ensure the long-term viability of naturally-occurring bird populations. Sites are identified under four main categories using a set of standardized and internationally agreed upon criteria.

To obtain a site nomination form and guidelines, or find out how you can participate in the IBA program, please contact: Christie Chute, IBA Outreach Coordinator, Canadian Nature Federation, 1 Nicholas St., Suite 606, Ottawa, ON; Phone: (613) 562 8208 Ext 245; Fax: (613) 562-3371; E-mail: iba@cnf.ca.

BIRDS VERSUS BRIDGE

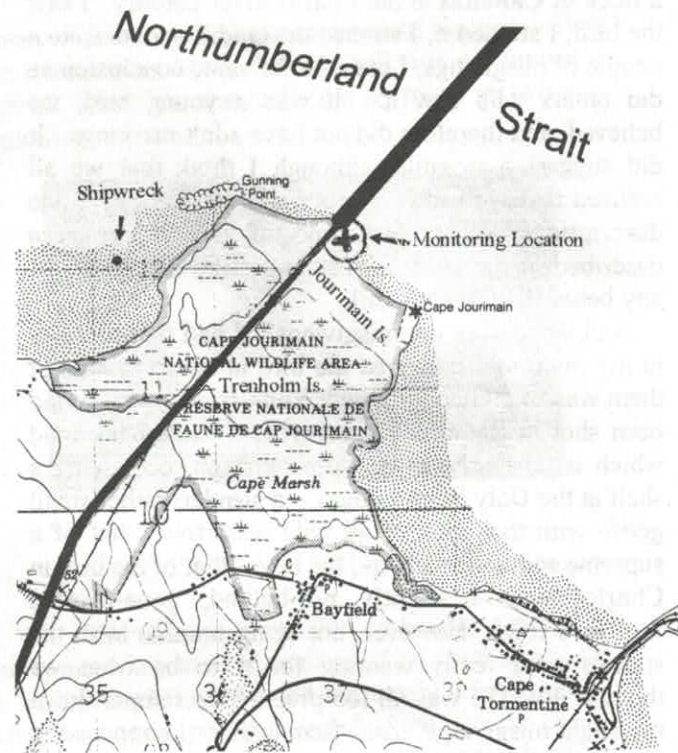
Text and Illustrations by Kathy Popma -- Chignecto Naturalists' Club

This report summarizes the results, impressions and highlights of a bird survey that was conducted in the spring of 1997 at Cape Jourmain, which lies on the New Brunswick end of the Confederation Bridge. Nine volunteers, mostly from the Chignecto Naturalists' Club and Moncton Naturalists' Club, participated in the survey and made 104.5 person-hours of observations on eleven days between mid April and early May.

A typical observation day would involve reaching the security gate, driving the access highway to the bridge while making observations along the way, arriving and setting up "camp" at the observation site, making note of birds present at the time of our arrival, doing our detailed observations and recording them, taking rest periods and heading back. We were advised to take regular breaks during our observation stints, but often didn't want to.

Money Point was a site well known to the Chignecto Naturalists before the Confederation Bridge was constructed. Now we were standing beside giant cement masses which formed the base of the bridge, surrounded by mud and small buildings, and looking out on a Northumberland Strait that was dominated by a massive structure measuring 70 metres high and stretching 14 km. across the water. On either side of us the land was as usual, with coves, woods, the lighthouse, Gunning Point and, in the distance, the ferry terminal. A railway container was placed in such a way that it blocked the wind right at the edge of the cliff so observations could be made outside in relative comfort, at least some of the time.

Our base was primitive, with no building to go into, and certainly no amenities like heat, chairs or windows (unlike the observation post at Point Lepreau). Fortunately we were able to sometimes take rest periods in our vehicle, which we were permitted to take on site but which had to be placed in one predetermined spot and left there. However, our post was in an excellent observation location at the narrowest spot on the Strait. Our vantage point was about ten feet above sea level and almost anything which flew by could be seen, provided conditions were good. Due to the long distance and our angle of observation, it was not possible to clearly view birds sitting on the water on the Prince Edward Island side of the channel. One advantage of this site was that the sun was always behind the observer at this time of the year, except in the early morning.



The starting time and length of observation stints varied, the earliest start being 9:15 and the latest quitting time 20:30. During the afternoon, when birds were least active, breaks were taken at the Cape Tormentine Ferry Terminal, enabling us to make observations of scoter activity in the Bayfield area. It appeared that birds were most active between 18:00 and 20:00, after which they (and the observers) settled down for the night.

The collection of survey data was affected by bird visibility and observer comfort, which in turn were related to weather conditions, tides, ice, construction activities (and noise), quality of available optical equipment, and birding skills of the observers.

Relative visibility was ascertained by how well the ferries could be seen and how well the shore of P.E.I. showed. On four of the days, visibility was excellent, and seven days were mostly sunny with a clear blue sky. Cloudy periods often facilitated observations since glare was reduced. It was surprising how badly distorted distant vision could be from temperature differences in air currents and this happened quite often. Snow, rain, fog and spray also had to be contended with. Snow only occurred on the first day of observation and it only rained on two observation

days. It was decided that it would be impractical to try to make observations on the days with heavy rain (thus the survey only took place on 11 days during an 18 day period).

On two days the wind was light, on six it was moderate and on three it was almost gale-force! Bird activity did not seem to be adversely affected by the wind, but windy times made observations very difficult since the wind almost always hit us head on, making eyes water and scopes wobble. Getting out of the wind made a great difference to the comfort of observers and hence the accuracy of observations. Migratory movement did not seem to be affected by the temperature.

Obviously, observations were greatly affected by wave conditions, which varied from glassy calm to two foot swells with spray from the waves hitting the edge of the ice pack. Whitecaps often obscured waterfowl that were located at any distance. Was it a coincidence that the day we saw the highest number of scoter on the water was the day that we had the best scope and the sea was flattest?

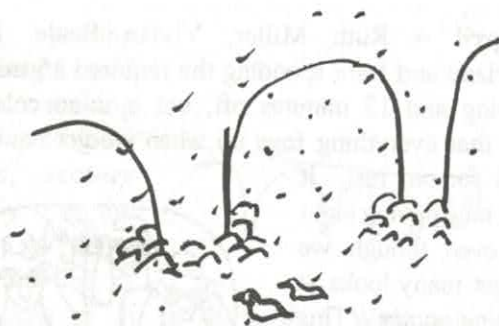
Ice conditions were a major factor affecting where birds were located and our ability to observe them. Birds tended to be concentrated in open leads. On several days, the wind and tide combined to push the ice right up against the shore, forcing the birds far out into the Strait so that we could not observe them on the water. The ice gradually disappeared over the eleven day period, and as it disappeared, the ducks dispersed. The most migratory activity occurred toward the latter part of the observation period, during ice-free conditions.

Construction activity often resulted in considerable noise from cement mixers, construction vehicles, helicopters, workers, etc., particularly in good weather when construction was most active. Sometimes it was quiet enough that bird song could be heard from the woods behind us or rarely from the open water. Whether the construction activity, noise and lights from the bridge influenced the bird movement is not known. Whether the traffic noise in future will influence migrating birds remains to be seen.

Available optical equipment varied from the most ordinary binoculars to the best of telescopes. The abilities of the observers varied from beginner to almost professional.

Daily highlights of survey experiences:

14 April -- I am on my own but am rewarded for coming out, in the vilest weather possible, by the

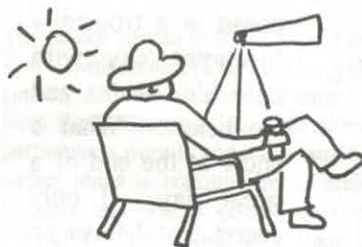


presence of a pair of **Harlequin Ducks** ... a life species for me. There is zero scoter movement.

15 April -- The only day I saw large quantities of **Canada Geese** in migration. They were all going along the Prince Edward Island side.

16 April -- My parents, Stan and Margaret Bunker, who are both in their eighties, joined me and it was good to see their sense of wonder still intact as they marvelled at both the bridge and the birds.

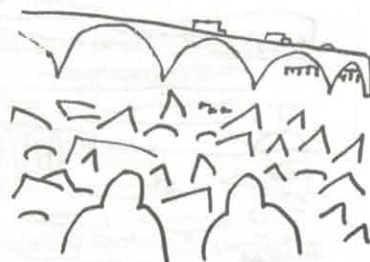
17 April -- Nelson Poirier and I enjoy the best day of the period, weather-wise anyway, sitting out in lawn



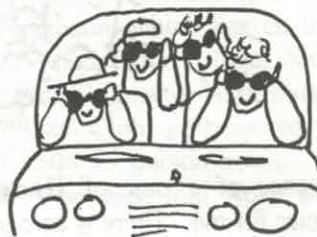
chairs in our shirtsleeves, drinking tea and watching scoters on a glassy sea through Nelson's new scope. This seemed to be the first day of real scoter migration ... they

were responding to the weather too! As an added highlight, we observe a crazy **Great Horned Owl** who thought it was an Osprey and had set up housekeeping on one of the Osprey nesting towers near the access road.

18 April -- Ruth Miller and I withstand almost gale force winds and whitecaps which make viewing, nevermind identification, of birds in flight difficult. We are given the gift of hearing scoter "coo", which is the closest description of their breeding calls. This was the only time in the whole two weeks that I heard them do this.

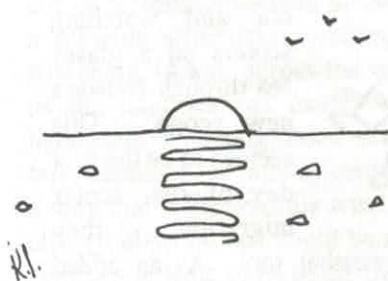


20 April -- Ruth Miller, Vivian Beale, Brian McFarlane and I are spending the required 15 minutes observing and 15 minutes off, but it is so cold and windy that everything fogs up when we get back into the car for our rest. It sure is nice having eight eyes, even though we don't get many looks at migrating scoter. This is the first day that **Northern Gannets** show up in any numbers, but it's a little hard to see them through the frosted car windshield. Most of the ducks are a long way out at the edge of the ice, which the wind has blown into shore. Intrepid birders all, we overcome our discouragement, are rewarded by improved conditions for the last hour and get some good data.

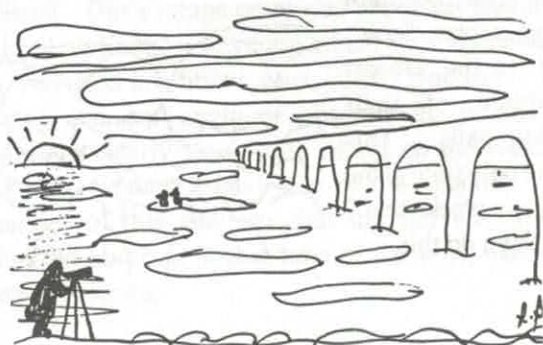


22 April -- On my own again, but I see lots of scoter follow the now familiar pattern of flying up very high, hesitating, flying to P.E.I., then going north over the bridge. There is the most fantastic huge pink full moon, as big as any harvest moon, rising over the

ocean in a tropically turquoise sky with pale blue water and ice below. What a show at the end of a great day. I only regret that I have no one to share it with. I stand amazed, with my mouth open ...



23 April -- Again only one observer but lots to observe so I am kept busy. The best thing that happened all day was when the sky in the west cleared a bit and the setting sun shone out from under a cloud bank. I almost laughed out loud as I looked up to catch a pair of **Double-crested Cormorants** sailing by, sitting on



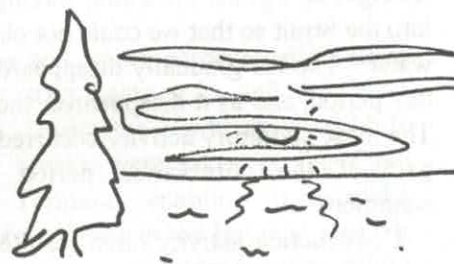
an ice pan while also enjoying the setting sun. They looked like a pair of honeymooners on a cruise, which I guess they were.

26 April -- Finally I get to spend the whole day at Cape Jourimain, joined by Norm Belliveau (who also sticks it out for the whole day) and Pauline Breau (who spends the morning with us). We have excellent conditions in the morning but they worsen in the afternoon. Nonetheless, our species count for the day is very high. When we get back from a lunch break at the ferry terminal, we can't find any of the 200 scoters that we had thought were only resting. We are afraid that they all decided to fly north while we were gone. We finally relocate them and discover that they had just dispersed and were now scattered over a much larger area. For the only time during the two week observation period, scoters are observed swimming under the bridge (we almost missed this!).

27 April -- I am unable to go, but Ruth, Brian and Vivian valiantly trudge out for another session. This time they get good conditions and the chance to see 300 gannets doing their thing. And five seals too!

1 May -- Although migration period is coming to a close, I go for one last shift and my father joins me. For the first time in all of the days I have been

here, the wind finally turns around to the south instead of blowing steadily into our faces from the north and northwest. There are new spring arrivals in the landbirds that are about, and we see our one and only loon. Fittingly, the last sunset is the best too.



Additional Highlights:

Ice reflections on calm days were gorgeous. At times the ice was in small iceberg shapes, in flat pan, and then small floes. At times it was bunched up and at other times spread out over the whole strait. On one memorable day the water was green in high winds. In spite of all the distractions of the new bridge, the ferries and the beautiful scenery, we did manage to observe the birds.

Gannets are worthy of special mention. It was almost impossible to keep track of them since they seemed to appear from nowhere and all of a sudden to disappear. At no time did I feel I was able to say they were moving in one particular direction, although I feel there was obviously a northerly flow, but at all times they were moving all ways. The gannets seldom were observed in actual diving/feeding activity, but this certainly did occur. At one point I was observing scoters through a flock of gannets. Immature gannets were only seen during the first few observation days. On the rest of the days, only adults were seen.



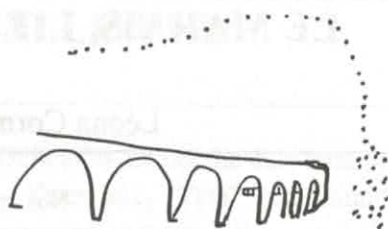
The female Great Horned Owl spent most of the two-week period sitting on her eggs. One night her mate flew down low across my car. The proximity of the owls' nest to the new highway and bridge raised fears and doubts as to the likelihood of this pair ever surviving to raise young once the bridge opened, or of the young owlets to survive their early flights.

Conclusions:

I did not see scoters migrate through the Northumberland Strait in the thousands that they do in the Bay of Fundy. The average scoter flock size at rest was 150 birds, while the largest resting flock consisted of 1500.

Scoters and some Double-crested Cormorants seemed to be bothered by the Confederation bridge, but gannets and gulls apparently were not.

After gaining much height and after making several (up to four) attempts, scoters would fly over the bridge. They usually did this in



small flocks of 20 to 40 birds. With only one exception, the scoter flocks gained height by circling a few times over the water south of the bridge, then flew east (toward P.E.I.) very high, much higher than necessary to clear the structure. They then crossed over the bridge and headed north along the far side of the Strait. Scoters sometimes did swim under the bridge.

The cormorants also flew over the bridge, but only after flying parallel to it until they almost reached P.E.I. Sometimes they avoided the bridge where it spanned water, preferring to reach shore before crossing.

Red-breasted mergansers flew over the bridge with ease most of the time and did not gain excessive height to do so. They crossed singly or in pairs most of the time.

The author wishes to thank all of the survey participants, as well as Ron Arseneault and Peter Hicklin who inspired her to conduct the survey, and the security personnel (Luger, Connie and Mark) from Strait Crossing Inc. who never failed to greet the survey participants warmly and made sure they were never hassled. The author plans to continue her migratory bird study in April and October and would greatly appreciate assistance from other naturalists, "no matter what their birding skills are". If you would like to help out, please contact Kathy Popma [Phone: (506) 536-3052].

Species of Birds Observed During Survey Period:

Red-throated Loon
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Cormorant (at ferry terminal)
Great Blue Heron
Canada Goose
Iceland Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Herring Gull
Northern Gannet
Harlequin Duck
Black Scoter
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter
Common Eider
Scaup sp.
Common Goldeneye
Red-breasted Merganser

Common Merganser
Oldsquaw (winter & summer plumage)
Black Duck
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Kestrel
Merlin
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Great Horned Owl
Short-eared Owl
Belted Kingfisher
Common Raven
American Crow
European Starling
Northern Flicker
American Robin

Yellow-rumped Warbler
Song Sparrow
Gray Catbird
Dark-eyed Junco
Tree Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Common Grackle

Additional Species Seen Only in Impoundments:

Mallard
American Wigeon
Gadwall

Total Bird Species Recorded on Land and Sea: 44

LE MARAIS, LIEU PRIVILÉGIÉ POUR CERTAINES ESPÈCES D'OISEAUX

Léona Cormier -- Le Club des Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est



Nos marais nous réservent souvent d'agréables surprises. L'été dernier, bien des gens ont pu observer des *troglydites à bec court* dans le marais de Dieppe, à quelques mètres seulement du sentier

pédestre. Bien entendu, ces oiseaux n'étaient pas les seuls "résidents" du marais, mais c'était une espèce rare pour notre région. Des *hérons*, des *faisans*, des *goglus*, des *bécassines des marais*, des *pluviers kildir*, des *carouges à épaulettes*, des *sarcelles*, des *canards*, etc., avaient élu domicile dans le marais, eux aussi.

Une autre espèce inusitée qui a visité le marais de Dieppe, l'été dernier, fut l'*aigrette tricolore*. Malheureusement, très peu de gens ont réussi à la voir. Elle était de passage et n'a été vue que pendant deux ou trois jours.

Mais cet été, une autre surprise nous attendait. Par un beau matin, Elise Daigle, se promenant à bicyclette, aperçut 5 ou 6 jeunes râles qui eux aussi avaient emprunté la piste. Elle s'arrêta et observa ces jeunes imprudents qui traversaient le sentier au bout de la rue des Copains.

Au cours de l'été, Elise, Jeannine Cormier et moi-même avons observé deux différentes espèces de râles dans le marais. Le *râle de Virginie* fut reconnu surtout à son bec, long et arqué. L'autre



espèce, c'était la *marouette de Caroline*. Elle fut reconnue surtout à son bec de poule, court et jaune. Aussi, sa petite queue courte et relevée laissait paraître des sous-caudales de couleur blanchâtre, sans rayures.

Au cours de l'été, pour vérifier si les râles étaient toujours dans le marais, il suffisait de ne pas faire de bruit, de ne pas bouger, de jeter un petit caillou par terre ou dans une flaque d'eau et d'attendre patiemment: une méthode fort simple et presque toujours efficace. Très souvent, ces petits curieux s'avançaient discrètement entre les quenouilles pour voir ce qui se passait. Après un regard furtif, ils retournaient d'où ils étaient venus. Ces oiseaux sont discrets mais curieux.

Ces râles ont été vus plusieurs fois cet été, la dernière étant le mardi, 16 septembre. Après avoir jeté mon petit caillou dans une mare d'eau, la marouette de Caroline est sortie de sa cachette et s'est montrée à trois différentes reprises. J'y suis retournée quelques fois la semaine suivante mais les râles étaient sans doute partis, car ces oiseaux émigrent au Sud dès les premières nuits fraîches.

Nous avons bien essayé de découvrir une troisième espèce de râle, soit la râle jaune, mais ce fut peine perdue. Peut-être l'été prochain, aurons-nous plus de chance??? En attendant, gardons l'oeil ouvert et essayons de protéger nos marais.



AWARD FOR TELEVISION PROGRAM ON MARY'S POINT

The 1996 CBC "Land and Sea" program that featured Mary's Point and Mary Majka, and was produced by Peter Hall, has won a prestigious American award called the Gabriel Award. The Gabriel Awards, initiated in 1965, are designed to honor works of excellence in broadcasting (programs, features, spots and stations) which serve viewers and listeners through the positive, creative treatment of concerns to humankind. The single most important criterion of a Gabriel



David Christie and Mary Majka
Well-known Residents of Mary's Point

winning program is its ability to uplift and nourish the human spirit. A Gabriel worthy program affirms the dignity of human beings; it recognizes and upholds universally recognized human values such as community, creativity, tolerance, justice, compassion and the dedication to excellence. The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists is proud that Mary and the special place that coincidentally bears her name are receiving the international attention they merit.

NEW BRUSWICK SPA FOR PURPLE GALLINULES

Mary Majka

It sounds almost like a fable but it's really a true story. It may never happen again in a hundred years.

There is small, picturesque McLaren Pond in Fundy National Park, where visitors like to walk, watch dragonflies darting to and fro, and listen to the birds. Little did they suspect last October that a very exotic bird was foraging on its shores or hiding in its cat-tails.

The appearance of a Purple Gallinule in New Brunswick is unusual but what is really sensational is that two of those birds landed in the same pond at about the same time in consecutive years. Both immature birds should have been in migration to Central or South America. Instead, caught in some unfavorable winds, they found McLaren Pond and adopted it as their temporary home. Temporary, because as everyone knows October in this province can be quite cold, and by November, below a gallinule's tolerable limits. It happened that on the same night (November 13-14) that we

captured "Puga," this year's gallinule, the temperature fell to -5°C , and the following night 5 cm of snow covered the ground. "Puga" was transported to our greenhouse at Mary's Point to spend the winter in company of "Lara," the previous year's arrival. The greenhouse provides a semi-tropical atmosphere for these birds, with bird-of-paradise flowers, geraniums, and huge begonia "trees".

Amongst this lush vegetation, a third Purple Gallinule has already lived for 11 years. "Timmy" landed in New Brunswick in a January snowstorm and, standing too long in the snow, froze one of his long legs which became gangrenous and had to be amputated by a veterinarian.

Luckily, "Lara" and "Puga" encountered no such traumatic experiences. "Lara," weak and unable to fly, was simply scooped up by the Fundy Park wardens. "Puga," intent on feeding, did not even realize that Rob Walker was going to place a dip net over him.

The three Purple Gallinules are not the only ones we have taken care of. Years ago, "Tina" and "Jamie" were caught in a winter snowstorm. We cared for those two birds for a few months but eventually transported them to Vancouver to a large aviary in Stanley Park Zoo. Previous to that we had tried to send Jamie to the Bahamas since he was in perfect shape. (Tina was maimed by having her toes frozen.) Alas, "Jamie" was not allowed to enter the Bahamas and the poor bird was flown back to Canada.

We are often asked why we do not try to relocate the birds into their proper habitat. It is not as simple as it sounds. There are many difficulties involved in handling and shipping wildlife, and birds especially. All countries, Canada included, are very wary of receiving animals from other places from which they might transmit diseases or parasites to native wildlife. Normally an animal has to be put



*Photograph of Puga
from David Christie's Homepage*

into a lengthy quarantine which might result, especially in the case of birds, in their succumbing to lack of proper care and food. Transportation in itself is always very traumatic and the chances of survival after release are limited, especially after a long time in captivity.

There are hundreds of thousands, maybe even millions, of Purple Gallinules in the wild. The existence of a few of those birds in New Brunswick really does not make any difference to the population but we feel that we have saved them from inevitable death and provided a comfortable environment to those unusual exotic visitors.

"Puga" has satisfactorily adjusted to the new surroundings, and is eating well and getting acquainted with the other inhabitants of the greenhouse. While the temperature dips well below freezing and snow swirls beyond the windows, the gallinules enjoy their winter vacation in the north.

NATURE NEWS: AUGUST-OCTOBER 1997

David Christie

The drought that began in July continued into mid fall in many parts of the province. It seemed especially severe at Grand Manan, where fresh water levels were very low. Some islanders wondered whether the dry conditions were responsible for widespread dieback of **Speckled Alder**. The drought could possibly contribute to attack by a disease organism.

Crops of wild berries were variable. **Mountain-ash**, resting after last year's bumper crop in northern N.B., had few fruits there, but produced heavily near the Bay of Fundy. Ajo Wissink suspected that weather was responsible for its berries ripening very early, by mid August, in central Albert County. On the other hand, that area had no more than 20% of the normal supply of **Choke Cherries**. In the north, at least in Restigouche County, a very plentiful source of berries this year was **Red-Osier Dogwood** (ML). Conifer seed crops seem small to non-existent across most of the province.

For the next "Nature News", please send November-January observations by February 5. My address is RR 2, Albert, N.B. E0A 1A0 (e-mail: maryspt@nbnet.nb.ca; TalkMail: 882-2100).

Insects

As occurred two years ago, in mid October there was a large flight of ladybird beetles, presumably the imported species *Harmonia axyridis* looking for hibernation sites. Bette Day noted hundreds of them all around her house on the Kingston Peninsula Oct. 19. They were also reported in Albert County (AWi) and at Fredericton (HD).



Stuart Tingley is stimulating a lot of interest in "damsels and dragons" in this province. Most noteworthy was Jim Edsall's Sep. 16 discovery of a **Quebec Emerald** *Somatochlora brevicincta* at the New Scotland Bog north of Moncton. Stu says that this dragonfly was previously known "only from a few almost-inaccessible bogs in the middle of Quebec." Another new species for the province was **Subarctic Darner** *Aeshna subarctica*, which Stu found to be common in two bogs near the Plaster Rock-Renous Highway Aug. 30 and later also at the New Scotland

Bog. That "incredibly beautiful" northern darner, "marked in pastel greens and blues", was expected to occur here but had been overlooked because of "its very late flight period" and restriction to bogs.

In his annual butterfly report, Jim Edsall will be covering the big summer flight of **Monarchs** this year. Breeding was reported in several areas where milkweed, its food plant, is common. Southbound migrants were seen into October. Butterflies were generally numerous this late summer and fall as opposed to their scarcity last spring.

Fishes, Reptiles

A **Leatherback Turtle**, unusual in the Bay of Fundy, was reported by a tuna fisherman Aug. 7. It was heading south at 44° 47' N, 66° 18' W. Two days earlier he had seen an **Ocean Sunfish** *Mola mola*. "Both species are more common in warmer waters which might indicate that a warm core eddy has broken off from the Gulf Stream and has made its way into the Bay" (LM).

Birds

An unusual saltwater breeding of **Common Loon** is indicated by the occurrence of 2 adults and 2 half-grown juveniles on Long Pond Bay at the beginning of August (BED). Brian Dalzell, who suggests that they probably "nested on an offshore island," says the last definite breeding record at Grand Manan was in the late 1890s at Great Pond, though there was an unconfirmed report of a family group at Nantucket Island in 1996.

Good news for loon lovers is that the female that lost her tongue (because of restricted blood flow) after becoming entangled in fishing line at Wolfe Lake, FNP, in 1995 is still doing fine and has raised two young this year. On Aug. 6 a team from Canadian Wildlife Service and FNP captured her and replaced her leg band (*vide* Heather Clay).

The early post-breeding return of **Red-necked Grebes** to our waters is shown by observations at Charlo about Aug. 10 (2—ML, AW); Long Pond Bay, GM, Aug. 18-19 (1-2—BED); Bell Street Marsh, Moncton, by Aug. 21 (2—SH); and St. Martins Sep. 1 (Ted Sears, Dennis Seely).

Large numbers of pelagic birds were found in the waters around Grand Manan but rather few between

Saint John and Digby, thus showing where most food was located. Some of the main concentrations reported near Grand Manan were:

Aug. 2 — 1000+ **Greater Shearwaters**, 175 **Sooty Shearwaters**, 12 **Manx Shearwaters**, 1500+ **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**, 100 **Northern Gannets**, and many **Common** and **Arctic Terns** during a pelagic trip out of Seal Cove (JGW+).

Aug. 20 — More than 7000 flying and resting **Greater Shearwaters**, 300 **Sooty Shearwaters**, "hundreds of thousands" of **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**, and several thousand **phalaropes**, mostly **Red-necked**. The latter two species were being pursued by 5 **Parasitic Jaegers** (FH).

Sep. 13 — From the Grand Manan ferry "thousands of **Greater Shearwaters** and large numbers of **Sooty Shearwaters**" (EP+).

Sep. 17 — Good numbers of **Greater Shearwaters** and equal numbers of **Sooty Shearwaters**. "The birds were moulting, so they were sitting on the water in larger flocks. Also seen were 4 **Manx Shearwaters** in fresh dark plumage." Good numbers of adult **Atlantic Puffins** were usually observed in groups of 3 (FH).

Oct. 18 — From the Grand Manan ferry, 15 **jaegers**, only 2 of which, 1 **Parasitic** and 1 **Pomarine**, could be identified (PAP).

There were 2 **Northern Fulmars** off Grand Manan Sep. 17 (FH), a few there Sep. 27 (MNC), 3 between Saint John and Digby Oct. 7 (FH), and one near The Wolves Oct. 27 (PAP). They generally are more numerous in late fall.

Strong east winds Aug. 24 brought **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** unusually close to shore, into Flags Cove, GM (RKFE). Past records suggest that two unidentified storm-petrels off Cape Jourimain Sep. 21 (RGA, KP) were more likely **Leach's** than **Wilson's**.

There were two reports of **Skua**, 2 km off Saint John Aug. 4 (FH, KM+) and from the Grand Manan ferry Oct. 22 ("probably a **Great Skua**"—JGW). Away from the Bay of Fundy there were 3 **Parasitic Jaegers** at Buctouche Bar Sep. 13 (Toby Stewart+) and 2 at Miscou Island Sep. 21 (RAC, MGD+).

A **Double-crested Cormorant** stayed till Sep. 17 on the upper Tobique at Tobique Forks (SR+). Along the coast this species is conspicuous in migration through much of September and October, for example, 550 flying SW past St. Andrews Sep. 11 (DFS), 3000 in about 20 flocks heading south well out over Head Harbour Passage Oct. 13 (JGW, JnW), and about 1800 headed towards Grand Manan well offshore from

Pt. Lepreau Oct. 14 (ID, JWh). A flock of 250+ passing St. Andrews Oct. 13 was felt to be all **Great Cormorants** (DFS). An immature **Great** at Eel River Bar Sep. 7-20 was unusual for that area (ML+).

Three people have related observations of **Great Blue Herons** dealing with large food items. About Aug. 30 in Charlo, Mike Lushington noticed one with "greatly distended throat and neck, which a few seconds later disgorged a rather large flounder. For the next twenty minutes, it picked up the fish, dropped it, pecked at it, pounded it around, and tried to swallow it. Finally, it opened wide, swallowed rather convulsively and the flounder disappeared." Jennifer Day-Elgee watched a heron catch a small eel and "move from shallow water to more solid-looking earth or mud, where it would drop the eel and quickly grab it up again, as if adjusting its grip on the slippery eel ... each time after it had adjusted its hold, it would stroll back to the water, dip the eel in it, just as if it was washing it off, and then it would go back to the earthy area. After repeating this performance 3 or 4 times over the course of 10 minutes, it eventually swallowed the eel. Luc DeRoche had a similar experience during the summer: "I saw [one] with a turbot. The heron would stab it and roll it around in its beak several times before dropping it. It would then quickly pick it up and clean it by submerging it in water, or at least that's what it looked like."

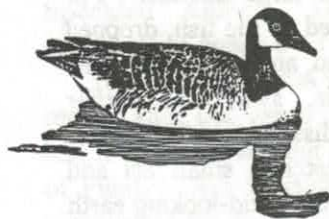
Five of the unprecedented 6 **Great Egrets** at St. Martins were still there on the Aug. 2-3 weekend (KP, Harold Popma) but they later may have moved to Saint John, where at Saints Rest Marsh there were as many as 5 between Aug. 3 and the Sep. 13-14 weekend (NN+). On the opposite side of the city, in a former quarry at Brookville there were 6 on Aug. 29 (ID), and one Sep. 1 and 13 (v.o.). A **Snowy Egret** at Saints Rest was seen until Aug. 3 (CLJ+).

Harry Wolverton's **Green Herons** apparently nested successfully near Centreville. Through much of the summer no more than one was seen at a time, but on Aug. 7, there were two together again, and on Aug. 14, an apparent juvenile was seen. By Aug. 20, they all had disappeared (*fide* GMi). There were several late summer records: at St-Jacques Aug. 3 (2—SR, Julie Bourque), St-Basile Aug. 19 (Pauline



Morneault), Edmundston Aug. 21 (CL, GLT), Kingsclear Sep. 1 (DGG), and Nictau Sep. 5 and 7 (SR, DL).

The **Whooper Swan** at Grand Manan continued to be seen frequently during the summer at Grand Harbour and in fall at Great Pond (PAP+). On Oct. 27 four unidentified swans flew over Woodstock (Wally & Phyllis Hale).



Northern New Brunswick gets lots of geese in fall. 100+ migrant **Canada Geese** arrived at Bathurst in the second week of September (PD) and there were up to 2000 in that area Oct. 18 (PD, MNC). At Atholville Sep. 28

there were over 1000 geese, perhaps a few thousand, in a long raft extending down the river (*fide* MGD). Other good areas for them are Tabusintac and Kouchibouguac.

Only a few **Snow Geese** were reported: Charlo River estuary Oct. 5 (ML, AW), Hartland area Oct. 7 (GMI), and Jacquet River Oct. 19-21 (2—MNC, LD).

At Grand Manan water levels were very low on Long Pond and Great Pond this fall, and ducks were numerous. During the last week of October these included: 75 **Canada Goose**, 90 **Green-winged Teal**, 100 **Am. Black Duck**, and 12 **Northern Pintail** (BED+). There were an impressive 100+ **Wood Ducks** in the Dalhousie sewage lagoon Sep. 6 (ML) and 28 in the lagoon at Silverwood, Fredericton, Sep. 27 (ChC).

Five young **Harlequin Ducks** in the Charlo River estuary were just about adult sized when last seen Aug. 23 (ML). There was a male at Pt. Lepreau Oct. 28 (ID, JWh). The first flocks of **Barrow's Goldeneyes** were present in the Dalhousie area Oct. 19 (Jim Clifford, AW+) and a single female at Cap Brûlé, near Shediac, Oct. 26 (MNC).

A strong flight of **Ruddy Ducks** included one at Dorchester Sep. 26 (JT), one at the mouth of Turtle Creek Sep. 28 (SIT), 2 to 9 at Great Pond, GM, Oct. 23-30 (v.o.), 2 at the Sackville WP Oct. 26 (MNC), 13 at Cap Brûlé s.l. Oct. 26 (MNC), and one at Saints Rest Oct. 26 (ID, Jwh).

Rare ducks were a moulting male **Eurasian Wigeon** at Long Pond, GM, Oct. 25-30 (PAP+), a moulting male **Redhead** at the Daley Creek Marsh, Mary's Pt., Oct. 13 (DSC), an immature male **Tufted Duck** at Cap Brûlé s.l. Oct. 26-28 (MNC), and a female **King Eider** at Eel River Bar Oct. 12 (RG, Raymond Chiasson).

A couple of stray **Black Vultures** were quite cooperative at Lamèque from about Aug. 12 through Sep. 14 (*fide* MD). The presence of two dark-headed immature **Turkey Vultures** Sep. 6 (Ian Cameron, JGW) near Saint John Airport where adults had been seen regularly through the summer suggests that this species is now nesting in the province. However, there was some wandering at that time. Vultures were reported near Canterbury Sep. 6 (4, two definitely immatures—Lucy Dyer), Riverview Sep. 6 (Harry Lord), Apohaqui Sep. 7 (Allen & Janet Gorham), and in the Port Elgin-Baie Verte area before Oct. 8 (NB).

Judging by reports from the Bathurst and Dalhousie areas this fall, **Bald Eagles** are probably increasing along Chaleur Bay. In the Hartland area Grant Milroy was treated to a gathering of 13 within sight of home on Aug. 15. "A mature one caught a fish and swam to a gravel bar with its gangling butterfly stroke. Almost immediately all the eagles in the area swooped in to see if there would be any tidbits left for them."

Northern Harriers sometimes set their sights on prey bigger than their usual fare of meadow voles. On Aug. 25 at Courtenay Bay, Saint John, one "swooped repeatedly on a group of twenty ducks (Am. Black and Am. Wigeon) until all were driven from the mud into the water where they were no longer of interest to the Marsh Hawk" (KM). About the beginning of October, a harrier successfully killed a Bonaparte's Gull on Miscou Island after a spectacular hunt (see detailed account on page 112 of this issue of the *N.B. Naturalist*)(RAM).

A **Cooper's Hawk** was reported on Grand Manan the weekend of Sep. 13-14 (ID, MGD) and another at White Head I. Oct. 11 (PAP).

There were four reports of **Golden Eagles**: Aug. 4 at Third Lake, n. Madawaska Co. (Don Plourde); Aug. 26 at Mark Hill, GM (ad.—PAP); Sep. 1 at Bayside, near St. Andrews (TD); and Oct. 20 at Fredericton (Jane and Bill Seabrook).

Escaped **Northern Bobwhites** that bred at Riverview this summer still had 3 surviving young about Aug. 22 (Jennifer Day-Elgee). **Wild Turkey** is another species that is released and sometimes nests. There was "a hen with 3 large wild born pullets" at Summerville, near Bayswater, Aug. 5 (Hank Deichmann). Another was seen at Fairhaven (Becky Vincent).

An off-course immature **Purple Gallinule** was discovered at McLaren Pond, FNP, from Oct. 11+ (RJW+), having appeared just a few days earlier than one was there in 1996. A **Common Moorhen** at Bell

Marsh, Moncton, Aug. 10+ (RL+) may have been there all summer. Another was noted at the Sackville WP about Sep. 7 (KP, AM). There was also an **Am. Coot** at Bell Marsh Aug. 10 (RL+) and others were at Saints Rest s.l. Oct. 4-13 (2-5—NN+).

Shorebirds were numerous at coastal locations, with maxima of 175,000 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** roosting at Dorchester Cape-Johnson Mills about July 31 (Peter Hicklin, Richard Elliott) and 200,000, perhaps mostly the same birds, at Hopewell Rocks Aug. 5 (Richard Faulkner). A few of the less common inland ones were **Semipalmated Plover**, **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** at St-Basile Aug. 18 (GT, GLT), **Pectoral Sandpiper** in the Hartland area Sep. 1 (GMi), **Willet** on the Kennebecasis River at Saint John Sep. 18-29 (EP+), 3 **Hudsonian Godwits** there Sep. 28-29 (ChC, MC), and **American Golden-Plover**, **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **White-rumped Sandpiper** near Kingsclear Oct. 26 (DGG).

Shorebird rarities were **Baird's Sandpiper** at Castalia Marsh Aug. 16 (BED) and Mary's Pt. Aug. 18 and Sep. 7-10 (DSC+); **Western Sandpiper** at Long Pond Beach, GM, Sep. 10 (PAP), Beresford Sep. 16 (PD) and Miscou Lighthouse Sep. 21 (RAC+); **Stilt Sandpiper** near Bayfield about Sep. 2 (2—RAM), at Miscou Island about Oct. 5 (2—RAM, RAC), and at Cormier Cove, near Saint-Joseph, Oct. 6 (AC); **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Sackville Waterfowl Park Aug. 12 (UMM), Mal Bay South, Miscou I., Sep. 6-7 (4—*fide* MD), and Beresford marsh Sep. 8 (3—PD); **Long-billed Dowitcher** at Sackville WP Aug. 12-16 (ad.—UMM) and probably a different bird at Sackville Industrial Park s.l. Aug. 16 (BMy); **Wilson's Phalarope** Sackville WP Aug. 15 (2—UMM) and Sep. 7 (3—KP, AM), Sackville Industrial Park s.l. Aug. 16 (3 imm.—UMM), and Beresford marsh Sep. 15 (2—PD).

There were three unconfirmed reports of **Little Stint**, a juvenile at Lamèque Aug. 5 (HC), adult at Petit-Lamèque Aug. 11 (HC), and 2 near Mary's Point Aug. 13 (FH).

There were several reports of rare gulls on Chaleur Bay. An adult **Laughing Gull** frequented Beresford Beach from Aug. 11 till near the end of the month (AC+) and 2 were reported there Aug. 16 (Roger Guitard). Another was seen at least Sep. 16-21 at Lac Frye, Miscou I. (v.o.) where the main attraction was an adult **Franklin's Gull** from Sep. 6 into the first week of October (v.o.). A **Black-headed Gull** was also there Sep. 6-21 (v.o.).

In Bathurst, at the mouth of the Tetagouche River where 3 **Little Gulls** had been found July 28 (AC), 2 were still present Aug. 5 (PD). Other reports in the area were from Beresford Aug. 23 (2—PD, LD, AC), and Youghall Beach Aug. 19 (AC+) and Oct. 18 (3—MNC). **Black-headed gulls** were noted at Beresford Aug. 23 (PD+) and Youghall Beach Oct. 18 (MNC).

In the south, **Black-headed Gull** was found at Cap Bimet Aug. 10 (LD+) and at Deer Island Pt. Oct. 13 (2—JGW, JnW) and **Little Gull** at Grand Manan Sep. 25 (juv.—NBBIL) and Deer Island Pt. Oct. 13 (ad.—JGW, JnW). There was also a suspected adult **Mew (Common) Gull** at Deer Island then.

Blake Maybank writes that it's hard to imagine that a juvenile **Lesser Black-backed Gull** photographed at Shediac Aug. 15 (UMM) "was fledged anywhere else but our side of the Atlantic (perhaps Labrador?)". This increasingly frequent European gull was also seen Oct. 6 at Whale Cove, GM (adult—Calvin Brennan+), and Spence Settlement, near Bayfield, Oct. 26 (RL).

Caspian Tern sightings came from Buctouche Bar Sep. 13 (MNC), Cape Jourimain Sep. 20-21 (1-3—KP, RGA) and the Port Elgin-Baie Verte area before Oct. 6 (NB). **Black Terns** at sea were noted off Grand Manan Aug. 1 (LM) and near The Wolves, Aug. 24 (RKFE).

An unusual summer **Dovekie** was off Machias Seal I. Aug. 5 (Maine Hotline). Ted Sears comments that over the last few years **Black Guillemots** have been occurring in ever increasing numbers in late summer at St. Martins.

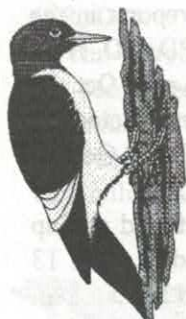
Yellow-Billed Cuckoos were found dead at Spruce Lake Sep. 27 (NN) and on White Head Island Oct. 4 (SIT, JGW), and seen alive at Southern Head Beach, GM, Oct. 3 (SIT, JGW) and the Long Pond banding station Oct. 1 and 5 (GMBO).

Common Nighthawk migration was conspicuous Aug. 23 at Bathurst East (plusieurs douzaines—LD, PD) and Aug. 29 between Fredericton and Woodstock (always 4-5 in front of us along the route—EP).

Some last sightings of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were Sep. 7 at Campbellton (MGD), Sep. 13 at Petit-Rocher (LD), Sep. 14 at Riley Brook (SR, DL), c. Sep. 15 at Barachois (NP), Sep. 20 at Buctouche (ML), Sept. 23 at Mary's Pt. (DSC), and Sept. 28 at Alma (DR).



A **Red-Headed Woodpecker**, reported at Flora Kelly's in Campbellton Sep. 1-7 (ad.—*fide* MGD), seems to be the only one this fall.



Western Kingbirds appeared in opposite corners of the province: at Miscou Centre Sep. 6 (*fide* MD) and on Grand Manan, at Castalia Sep. 26-Oct. 3 (v.o.), at Ragged Point Oct. 5 (possibly the same one—SIT, JGW), and White Head Island Oct. 4 (had been present two days—SIT, JGW).

About 1000 **Barn Swallows** flocked together along the Pt. Escuminac Road on the Aug. 2-4 weekend (BMo, Linda Caissie), and there was "an impressive assembly" of migrating Barn Swallows and **Bank Swallows** below Fort Beauséjour National Historic Park Aug. 16 (Bmy).

Many **Red-breasted Nuthatches** migrated out of the province in late summer and early fall, but **White-breasted Nuthatches** seem more numerous than usual. Several people commented about their regularity at feeders this fall.

A **Carolina Wren** was being seen in Fredericton in mid August (ChC, NBBIL). A **Marsh Wren** was banded at Long Pond Oct. 4 (BED).

A moderate number of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were reported: at least 3 at Grand Manan between Aug. 19 and Oct. 8 (BED+), Mary's Pt. Sep. 11 (DSC) and Oct. 10 (OL, BT), Alma in the first week of October (RJW) and Oct. 20-23 (DR, RJW), and Herring Cove, FNP, Oct. 10 (OL, BT).

Bernadette Francoeur and Réjeanne LeBreton found a nest of **Northern Mockingbirds** with at least 4 young in Petit-Rocher early in August. An earlier nest there had been abandoned for unknown reasons (*fide* LD). A **Brown Thrasher** was banded at Long Pond Oct. 19 (GMBO).

The GMBO captured single **White-Eyed Vireos** on Oct. 1 and 2. One was recaptured Oct. 4 & 7 (KM). Two immatures were seen: at Langmaid Cove, White Head Island, Oct. 4, and near Fisher's Pond, Woodward's Cove, Oct. 4-5 (SIT, JGW). Another unusual vireo was a **Yellow-throated** at Cap Brûlé Sep. 2-3 (RAM).

Stuart Tingley was surprised by the variety of warblers—17 species—at Grand Manan Oct. 3, more indeed than he had seen during several days in early September. With the exception of a **Prairie Warbler** all were species that nest in New Brunswick.

The two rarest warblers were a young male **Kentucky Warbler** banded at Long Pond Aug. 28-29

(GMBO) and a female **Prothonotary Warbler** at North Head Aug. 28 (Tony Beck+). A visiting birder reported a **Blue-winged Warbler** at Harvey, Albert Co., Aug. 16.

The passage of **Orange-crowned Warblers** was noted Oct. 1-16, at Mary's Pt. (DSC), Long Pond (3 banded—GMBO), and Harrington Cove, GM (DSC, MFM).

A **Prairie Warbler** was particularly unusual at St-Basile Aug. 19 (Gérard Verret, CL) but is a more normal visitor near the Bay of Fundy, for example at Grand Manan from Aug. 24 to Oct. 4 (6+ GMBO, SIT, JGW) and Mary's Pt. Sep. 1 (DSC). **Pine Warbler** reports were surprisingly few during this period: one on the breeding grounds at Fredericton Aug. 10 (BMo+) and one at a Barachois feeder about Sep. 24 (NP). At least 5 **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found on Grand Manan and White Head Island Oct. 4-16 (GMBO, SIT+, DSC) and one at St. Andrews Sep. 15 (TD).

Our relatively small population of **Scarlet Tanagers** escapes detection more readily in fall than in spring but 3 were reported near Mactaquac Dam Sep. 10 (DGG) and a female at Petit-Rocher on the Sep. 27-28 weekend (PD).

A female **Blue Grosbeak** was banded at Long Pond Sep. 22 (GMBO). Several reports of **Indigo Buntings** all came from the Bay of Fundy shore between the Sep. 13-14 weekend and Oct. 18. The peak was 3 at Doreen Rossiter's in Alma Oct. 7-8. **Dickcissels** were prominent in Alma from Aug. 10 to Oct. 25 (DR, RJW); of special interest was a singing male Oct. 16 (RJW). Several other Dickcissels were seen along the Fundy coast but there was also an inland report, of a female near Kingsclear Oct. 5 (DGG).

Eastern Towhees appeared at Millidgeville, Saint John, Oct. 1 (R. Carson, *fide* EP), near Pettes Cove in North Head Oct. 2 (NBBIL), and at Alma Oct. 9-10 (DR+).

Clay-colored Sparrows seemed more frequent than usual this fall. They were reported on Grand Manan at The Whistle Sep. 26 (MNC), Deep Cove and Woodward's Cove Oct. 3 (SIT, JGW) and Ox Head Oct. 8 (DSC, MFM), as well as at Alma Oct. 7-19 (DR, RJW) and Fredericton Oct. 17 (Shirley Sloat, DGG). **Field Sparrows** were at North Head Oct. 8 (AC) and about Oct. 22 (JGW), and at White Head Island Oct. 11 (PAP). A **Lark Sparrow** was at Castalia Marsh on the weekend of Sep. 13-14 (MGD, ID+) and a probable at UNBSJ in Saint John Oct. 3 (Paul Mortimer). An "**Ipswich**" **Savannah Sparrow**

was reported in the St. Martins marsh Oct. 19 (MC). Rarest sparrow was an adult **Harris's** seen for only an hour at Riverview Sep. 27 (JT).

A flock of about 1000 **Common Grackles** passed down the St. John River near Hartland Aug. 19 (GMi). A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** appeared at Denis Doucet's feeder in Grande-Digue Oct. 31.

Moderate numbers of **White-winged Crossbills** began moving along the Bay of Fundy beginning in late July. In August at Grand Manan there were up to 25 a day, often juveniles (BED). Their movement slackened in September but picked up again in October when there was a steady southward migration in the Bathurst area Oct. 18 (MNC) and flocks were passing continuously east along the Albert County coast Oct. 21 (SIT).

Arrival dates for some winter birds were: **Rough-legged Hawk** Sep. 30 at Waterside (DSC, EMM) and Oct. 7 at Williamstown (*fide* GMi); **Iceland Gull** Oct. 5 at Dalhousie (ML); **Northern Shrike** before Oct. 19 at Salisbury (Brian Coates), and Hall's Creek, Moncton (MNC Info Line); **Am. Tree Sparrow** Oct. 11 at Wilson Pt., Miscou (EP+) and Oct. 13 near Kingsclear (6—DGG); **Fox Sparrow** Oct. 7 at Harrington Cove, GM (DSC), Oct. 11 at Wilson Pt., Miscou (2—EP+), Oct. 17 at The Whistle, GM (PAP), Oct. 21 at Alma (SIT) and Oct. 22 at Fredericton (DGG); **Lapland Longspur** Oct. 11 at Miscou Lighthouse (EP+) and Oct. 19 at St. Martins (MC); **Snow Bunting** Oct. 11-12 weekend in the Kedgwick area (*fide* MGD), Oct. 19 in the Dalhousie area (several—MNC) and at St. Martins (MC); **Common Redpoll** Sep. 3 at Edmundston (Eric Martin), Oct. 9 in Fredericton (1 coming to feeder—ChC), Oct. 11 Wilson Point. (EP+), Oct. 12 in the Campbellton area (RG+), Oct. 13 Long Pond, GM (GMBO), and a steady southward migration on Oct. 18 in the Bathurst area (SIT). The early push of redpolls culminated in the banding of 110 at Long Pond Oct. 31 (GMBO).

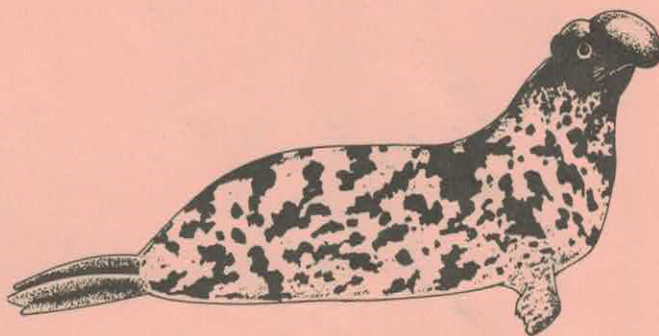
In addition to redpolls, **Pine Grosbeaks** were also noticeably on the move in late October. They should be numerous this winter. Watch for these seed eaters crushing or extracting the

seeds from fruits as opposed to robins and waxwings which consume small fruits whole and pass the seeds undigested.

Mammals

Laurie Murison reported that **Right Whales** were present in large numbers off Grand Manan in August with up to 75 seen per day by whale-watchers, while on most days 20-30 is usual. "Courtship groups were becoming more common and several mother/calf pairs seen daily" in mid August. On August 15 a pod of about 100 **White-Sided Dolphins** was seen (LM).

Rare was a male **Hooded Seal** off Great Duck Island Aug. 13 (LM). It was in the company of about

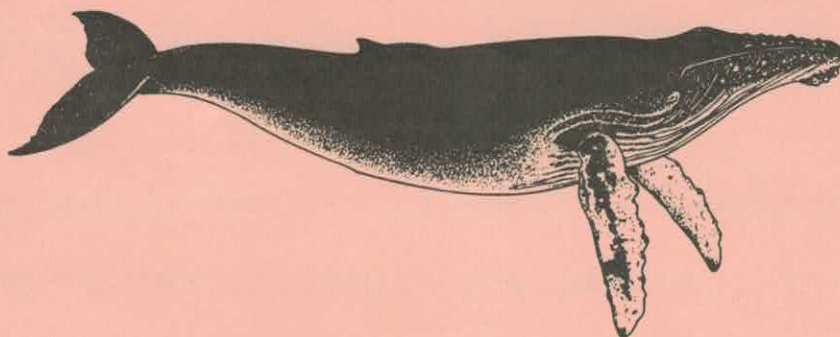


90 **Harbour Seals** and a couple of **Gray Seals**. Laurie advises that "a couple of Hooded seals have been seen for two previous summers around Grand Manan, although more frequently on the western side of the island."

One day in late August Ken Edwards was able to see 4 species of whale in less than half an hour from The Swallowtail. "Flat calm water, a setting sun and a good telescope made it possible to see breaching Right Whales at the western edge of the Grand Manan Basin. There were 6 breaches and many flukes in a 30 minute span. Also present, but much closer to shore, were **Fin**, **Minke** and a lonely **Humpback Whale**" (RKFE).

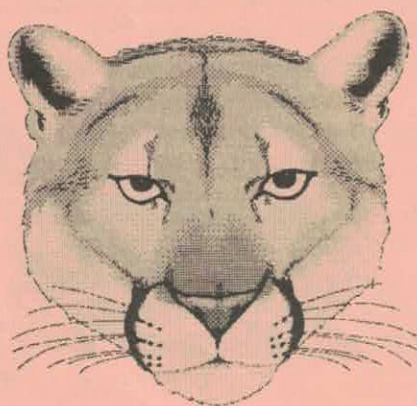
An albino **Gray Squirrel** is attracting attention near the cathedral in Fredericton. "It is completely white excepting its pink eyes, and is a bit smaller than normal gray squirrels" (Bmo).

On the Oct. 4-5 weekend Alain



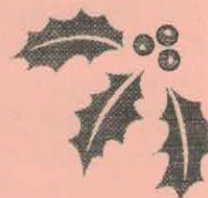
Clavette was fortunate to see a **Fisher** in pursuit of a **Snowshoe Hare** near Renous. Last spring, on May 21, Dave Myles saw one crossing the road but in a less likely place, along the road from Woodstock to the border crossing at Houlton. He described it as "three feet long (including tail), much chunkier and heavier than a Marten, with beautiful, thick dark body fur with lighter coloured fur around the head and neck area; the tail long, dark and very bushy."

Reporting a 2-or 3-second glimpse of a **Cougar** crossing a narrow road near Hopewell Hill Oct. 23, Nelson Tidd described it as "really big with a heavy 3-foot-long tail."



Abbreviations

+ means "and other observers" or "and following days";
 AC Alain Clavette; ad. adult; AM Andrew Macfarlane;
 AW Andy Watson; BED Brian Dalzell; BMo Bill Mountan;
 BMy Blake Maybank; BT Bev Taylor; CL Colette Lavoie;
 CLJ Cecil Johnston; DFS David Smith; DL Diane Labarre;
 DR Doreen Rossiter; DSC David Christie; EP Eileen Pike;
 FH Falk Hüttmann; FNP Fundy National Park; GLT Gisèle Thibodeau;
 GM Grand Manan; GMBO Grand Manan Bird Observatory;
 GMi Grant Milroy; GT Georgette Thibodeau; HC Hilaire Chiasson;
 ID Irene Doyle; imm. immature; JGW Jim Wilson; JnW Jean Wilson;
 JT John Tanner; JWh Janet Whitehead; juv. juvenile;
 KM Ken MacIntosh; KP Kathy Popma; LD Luc DeRoche;
 LM Laurie Murison; MC Merv Cormier; MD Marcel David;
 MFM Mike Majka; MGD Margaret Gallant Doyle; ML Mike Lushington;
 MNC Moncton Naturalists' Club; NB Norm Belliveau;
 NBBIL NB Bird Info Line; NN Ngair Nelson; NP Nelson Poirier;
 OL Oscar LeBlanc; PAP Peter Pearce; PD Pierre Duguay;
 RAC Rose-Aline Chiasson; RAM Rose-Alma Mallet; RG Bob Gillis;
 RGA Ron Arsenault; RJW Rob Walker; RKFE Ken Edwards;
 RL Roger LeBlanc; SH Shirley Hunt; s.l. sewage lagoon;
 SR Serge Rhéaume; TD Tracey Dean; UMM Wayne Peterson & Univ. of Maine at Machias;
 v.o. various observers; WP Waterfowl Park.



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