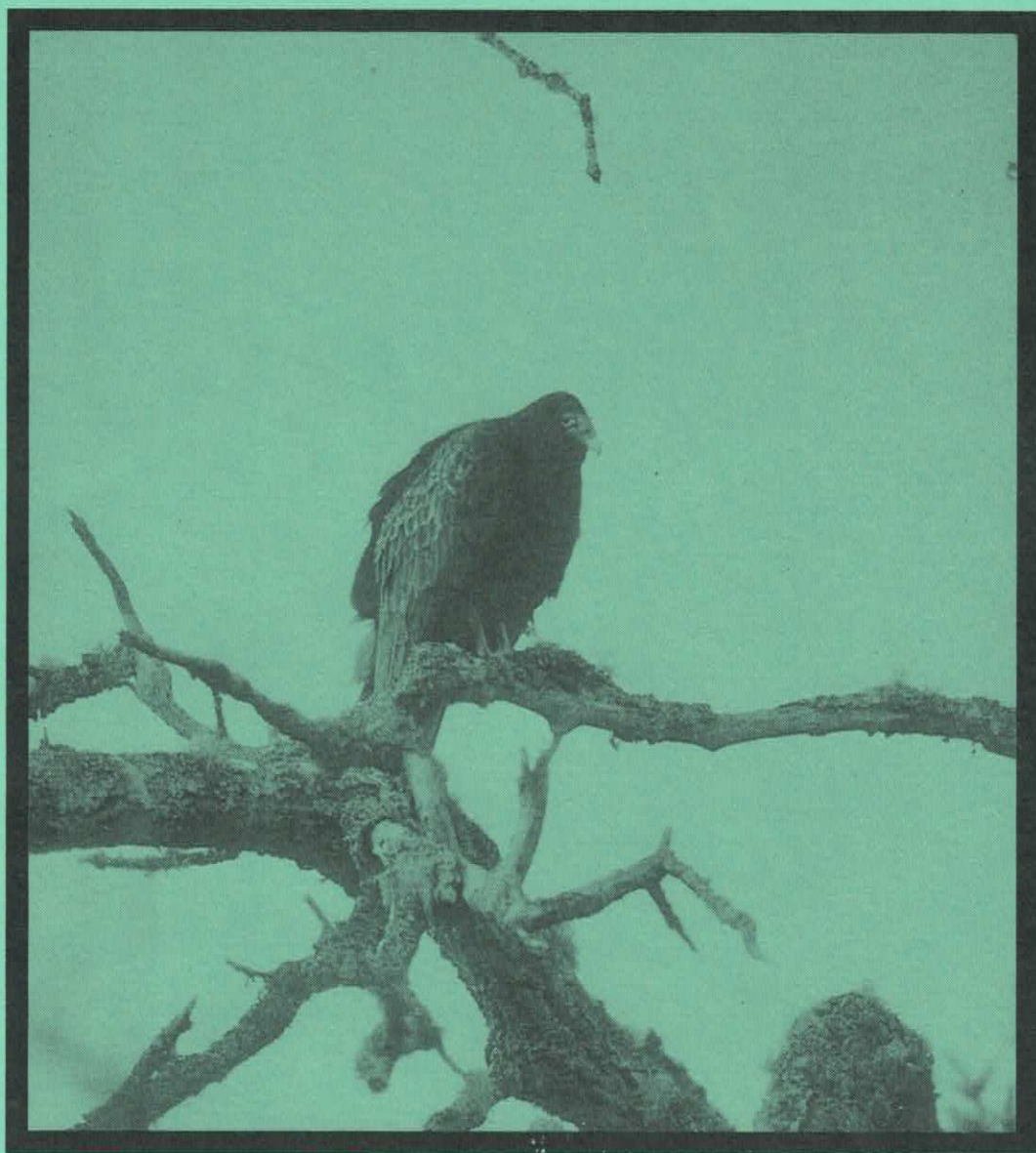




25 (3) *Autumn / Automne 1998*

***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. Canada E2K 1E5

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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**Treasurer / Trésorier:** Jim Brown, P.O. Box 1307, Sussex, NB E0E 1P0; tel. 433-4666

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**Directors-at-large / Membres généraux:** Pat Émond, C.P. 162, Kedgwick, NB E0K 1C0; Al Smith, 256 Main St., Sackville, NB, E4L-3H5.

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**CFN Director / Conseiller de FCN:** Frank Longstaff, RR #1, Hampton, NB E0G 1Z0; tel. 832-9087

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### FEDERATED CLUBS / CLUBS FÉDÉRÉS

**Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Buctouche, RR#2, Boîte 9, Bouctouche, NB E0A-1G0; 743-9192; courriel / e-mail: mesange@nb.sympatico.ca.** Réunions les 1er jeudi de chaque mois (janvier à décembre) à l'Eco-centre Irving, la dune de Bouctouche. Sorties les 3e fin de semaine. Journal: "Pattes de Mouches".

**Chignecto Naturalists' Club, c/o CWS, box 6227, Sackville, NB E0A 3C0; 536-0454; meets Sackville Public Library, 7:30 pm, 1st Thur., Sept.-June.**

**Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne, C.P. 421, Lamèque NB E0B 1V0; 344-2286 ou 395-5023; réunions 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.**

**Club Les Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est, a/s Mike LeBlanc, RR#2, Boîte 2328, Ste Anne de Kent NB E0A 2V0; réunions alternant entre Dieppe et Shédiac, 1er lundi de chaque mois; excursions 3ième samedi ou dimanche; La plume verte.**

**Ford Alward Naturalist Association, c/o Elizabeth McIntosh, 560 Kenneth Road, Glassville, E7L 1B3; 246-5572; 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, c/o Ms H. Folkins, 827 Main St., Sussex, NB E4E 2N1; 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.**

**Ornitho Restigouche Club, 6 Van horne Cr., Campbellton, NB E3N 3K3; 753-7261.**

**Restigouche Naturalists' Club, Box 130, c/o Campbellton Library, 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.**

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

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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, 6 Van Horne Cr., Campbellton, NB E3N 3K3, (506) 753-7261, colector@nbnet.nb.ca.** Ask for details of computer compatibility. Advertising rates available on request.

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On peut lire dans *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.* des rapports touchant l'histoire naturelle du Nouveau-Brunswick. Les articles seront acceptés en français ou en anglais pour être reproduits dans la langue d'origine. Les opinions exprimées sont celles de leurs auteurs. **Veuillez faire parvenir tous vos articles pour le Naturaliste du N.-B. à: Irene Doyle, 6 Van Horne Cr., Campbellton, NB E3N 3K3, (506) 753-7261, colector@nbnet.nb.ca.** Demandez les détails de compatibilité d'ordinateur. Tarifs publicitaires disponibles sur demande.

Visit the NBFN web page:

<http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/maryspt/NBFN.html>

Rendez visité à la page web de la FNNB:

<http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/maryspt/FNNB.html>

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Cover Photograph of a Turkey Vulture by Jim Wilson

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**Important Dates:** New Brunswick Bird Day: May 8, 1999

NBFN AGM: June 4 – 6, 1999

**Dates Importantes:**

Journée des oiseaux du Nouveau-Brunswick: 8 mai, 1999

AGA de la FNN-B: 4 – 6 juin, 1999

Sincere thanks to our many volunteers who contributed to this publication.  
 Merci beaucoup à tous les bénévoles dévoués qui ont contribué à cette publication.

Please submit articles for the next issue by **January 1, 1999**  
 Veuillez soumettre les articles à l'intention du prochain numéro avant le **1 janvier, 1999**

Forest Ass.  
 Plomat

## Un message de la Présidente – A Message from the President

*Rose-Alma Mallet*

Merci à tous les volontaires

La FÉDÉRATION des Naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick possède un personnel très dévoué. Un personnel qui depuis 1972 travaille activement à promouvoir l'histoire naturelle et la préservation de la nature dans la province. Il est difficile de calculer le nombre d'heures



qui ont été consacrées à toutes les tâches qu'exige le fonctionnement d'une organisation telle que la FÉDÉRATION des Naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick. Il ne serait pas exagéré d'avancer que quelques millions d'heures de travail ont été passées : en réunions d'exécutif, à l'élaboration de projets, aux demandes de fond, à siéger à divers comités gouvernementaux, à organiser des comités de protection des habitats naturels et des espèces en danger de disparition. Toutes ces heures de labeurs ont été données gratuitement. Depuis vingt-six ans, du comité exécutif de la FNNB aux comités exécutifs de chaque club, aux personnes qui siègent sur les divers comités, aux conférenciers et guides d'excursion et l'équipe de la revue N.B. NATURALIST / LE NATURALISTE DU N.-B., sont tous des volontaires. Les gens sont très compréhensifs et acceptent gentiment d'aider l'exécutif du bureau de direction. Il ne faut pas oublier que ces bénévoles travaillent à plein temps à un autre emploi, celui-là rémunéré.

Il est facile de travailler au sein de la FÉDÉRATION des Naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick, les gens sont si généreux et les heures ne sont pas comptées lorsqu'il s'agit de faire du bénévolat.

Many thanks to all the volunteers

The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists has a very devoted staff, a staff which has been working hard since 1972 to promote natural history and nature conservation in the province. It is difficult to calculate the number of hours that have been dedicated to all the tasks required for the operation of an organization like

the NBFN. It would not be an exaggeration to suggest that a few million hours have been spent in meetings of the executive, project planning and preparation, applications for funding, participating on several government committees, setting-up committees for the protection of natural habitats and endangered species. All these hours of labour were given free of charge. For the last 26 years, the people working on the Executive Committee of the NBFN or on the executive of each club, those participating in various committees, the many speakers, the numerous guides on nature walks, as well as the team working on the N.B. Naturalist / Le Naturaliste du N.-B., have all been volunteers. People are very understanding and agree readily to help out the Executive Committee. We should not forget that these volunteers also work at full-time paid jobs.

It is easy to work within the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists; people are so generous and they don't keep track of the hours when it comes to volunteer work.

Reminder: please check the address label for your current NBFN membership status.

Un rappel: SVP vérifier l'étiquette d'adresse du dernier magazine Le Naturaliste que vous avez reçu à savoir si vous êtes à date avec votre adhésion.



## Activités du CNPA

Marcel David

Voici la liste des activités du Club de naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne pour l'année 1998-1999. Vous êtes invité(e) à venir nous rencontrer!

### ACTIVITÉS 1998-1999

dimanche 1er novembre

Sujet: Visite du sentier écologique de Lamèque et observation d'oiseaux à l'île Miscou

Rendez-vous: 09h, aréna de Lamèque

Responsable: Michel Chiasson (344-7662)

### RECENSEMENTS D'OISEAUX

samedi 19 décembre

Secteur: île Miscou

Rendez-vous: 08h, école Sr Saint-Alexandre de Lamèque

Responsable: Rose-Aline Chiasson (344-2286)

dimanche 20 décembre

Secteur: Caraquet

Rendez-vous: 08h, École des Pêches de Caraquet

Responsable: Marcel David (727-4455)

samedi 26 décembre

Secteur: Tracadie-Sheila

Rendez-vous: 08h, église de Tracadie

Responsable: Gertrude St-Pierre (395-5580)

dimanche 27 décembre

Secteur: Lamèque

Rendez-vous: 08h, école Sr Saint-Alexandre de Lamèque

Responsable: Hilaire Chiasson (344-2286)

samedi 02 janvier

Secteur: Paquetville

Rendez-vous: Centre des loisirs de Paquetville

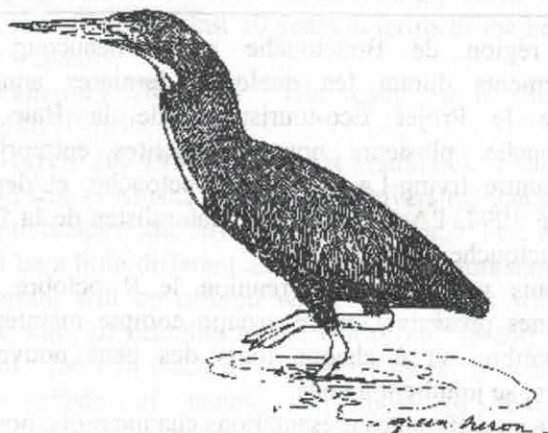
Responsable: Roland Robichaud (764-3073)

dimanche 10 janvier

Sujet: Quiz ornithologique

Rendez-vous: 13h, Bibliothèque publique de Bas-Caraquet

Responsable: Marcel David (727-4455)



Green Heron

samedi 20 février

Sujet: Rallye d'observation

Rendez-vous: 13h, église de Paquetville

Responsables: Bernise Robichaud & Roland Robichaud (764-3073)

Fin mars / début avril

Sujet: Dégustation de produits de l'érable

Rendez-vous: 13h, église de Paquetville

Responsables: Bernise Robichaud & Roland Robichaud (764-3073)

dimanche 25 avril

Sujet: Observation d'oiseaux de Tracadie-Sheila à Tabusintac

Rendez-vous: 13h, Centre de développement de l'enfance de Tracadie-Sheila

Responsable: Roland Chiasson (779-8304)

samedi 1er mai

Sujet: Visite aux nichoirs d'hirondelle et de merle-bleu

Rendez-vous: 09h, sentier écologique de Tabusintac (en face de la Légion)

Responsable: Roland Chiasson (779-8304)

samedi 22 mai

Sujet: Sortie aux parulines

Rendez-vous: 08h, place St-Pierre de Caraquet

Responsable: Victorin Godin (727-4120)

## Activités du ANBB

*Mike LeBlanc*

La région de Bouctouche a vu beaucoup de changements durant les quelques dernières années, comme le Projet Éco-touristique de la Baie de Bouctouche, plusieurs nouvelles petites entreprises, l'Éco-centre Irving-La dune de Bouctouche, et depuis octobre 1997, l'Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche (ANBB).

Depuis notre première réunion le 9 octobre (16 personnes présentes), notre groupe compte maintenant 36 membres et à chaque mois des gens nouveaux viennent se joindre à nous.

Il y a eu différentes présentations chaque mois: nourrir les oiseaux, plantes indigènes, le pluvier siffleur, les parulines, les fossiles, les papillons, et hier soir (6 août), les libellules et les demoiselles.

Nous avons eu des sorties de groupe telles: une soirée aux hiboux, une promenade au parc de la sauvagine, et l'observation dans la région de Bouctouche.

Nous avons participé au (notre deuxième) recensement annuel de Noël des oiseaux pour la région de Bouctouche. Dix-neuf observateurs ont compté 53 espèces. Formidable!

L'île de Cocagne est un dossier qui nous tient beaucoup à coeur. Malgré qu'elle abrite une des dernières héronnières de la région et des plantes rares, cette île fragile du comté de Kent risque d'être développée avec un terrain de golf, des chalets et hôtels...

L'Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche désire remercier la Club d'ornithologie de Madawaska pour une copie de leur Constitution qui nous aidera certainement à créer la nôtre.

We would also like to thank the Saint John Naturalists' Club for a copy of their Constitution which will help us in creating one of our own.

Un grand merci à la Fédération des Naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick de nous avoir accueilli dans la famille.

En juillet, l'ANBB a produit son premier journal et prévoit en faire 3 ou 4 par année.

Avec toutes ces choses positives, nous pouvons dire que l'Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche est en bonne santé.

## Activités du Club Les Ami(e)s de la Nature du Sud-est

*Léona Cormier*

Le club Les ami(e)s de la Nature du Sud-est compte près d'une centaine de membres. Le club a une réunion éducative le deuxième lundi de chaque mois sauf les mois d'été. Les sujets traités au cours de l'année 1998 furent: les colibris; voyage en Antarctique; comment attirer les oiseaux dans sa cour; les îles Galapagos; les côtes de Terre-Neuve et de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon; le pluvier siffleur; l'astronomie; les hiboux; le déblocage du ruisseau Friel de Cap-Pelé; les vergers et la pomiculture; les libellules et les demoiselles.

Le club organise également une sortie à chaque mois. Au cours de l'année écoulée nos excursions nous ont amené: à Johnsons Mills voir les bécasseaux; à Sackville au Parc de la Sauvagine; au Parc LeBlanc de Memramcook; au littoral de Pointe-du-Chêne jusqu'au quai de Robichaud; à une tournée des mangeoires; à une randonnée dans le sentier Dobson; à un tour dans le comté d'Albert lors des migrations printanières; à l'observation des libellules, des demoiselles et des papillons le long du chemin Leménager; à une sortie aux parulines. Nous avons en plus fait le recensement des oiseaux d'hiver de la région de Shédiac-Cocagne où les participant(e)s ont recensé 6308 oiseaux répartis en 54 espèces. Certain(e)s de nos membres ont fait le nettoyage d'une section du sentier Dobson et monté un kiosque au Salon des Loisirs de la ville de Dieppe.

Depuis quelques années le club LES AMI(E)S DE LA NATURE s'occupe d'une quarantaine de nichoirs pour les merlebleus de l'Est.



## Moncton Naturalist Club Engagements

It's going to be an exciting year for Speakers at the Moncton Naturalist Club this season...the Program Committee, after a few rough spots, has buckled down to work. An attempt has been made to cover most of the topics which come up for discussion and which most of the members enjoy. It is hoped all will find something to interest them, and maybe something new which will be food for thought too. Following is a summary of the presentations for the upcoming year. Our meetings start at 7 pm at the Church of the Nazarene and all visitors are welcome...come early and make sure you get a good seat! (Due to weather and other factors beyond control some changes may occur at the last moment...check the Nature Line (384-6937) for last minute updates.)

**November 11, 1998.** Robert Hughes, Air Quality Specialist with the provincial Department of the Environment. Rob's title is "Climate Change...Will New Brunswick Get Warmer or Colder?". This question is not as easy to answer as it looks. Using temperature and precipitation data Rob will describe global warming in a local context. Trends of the last 20,000 years and the weird weather of 1998 will be explored. The effects of climate change on wildlife and ourselves will be examined and Rob will try and make a few predictions and suggestions about the future.

**December 9, 1998.** Dr. David Mossman, Professor of Geology at Mt. Allison University. David's title is "Tracks and Trails in Geologic Times". He will describe his recent involvement with discoveries of new amphibian and dinosaur fossil tracks near Parrsboro N.S. Since his work on the oil shales in Albert County David has been excited about the fossil treasures in our area and his enthusiasm for his topic is very apparent when he speaks. The rocks that surround us and the traces they hold of the movement of ancient organisms will be his focus.

**January 13, 1999.** Al Hanson, Biologist, Canadian Wildlife Service. Keeping track of the birds, fish and plants in New Brunswick's wetlands is Al's responsibility. In his talk he will describe his work in collecting information on the success (or failure) of broods of ringnecks, teal and other species of "dabbling ducks" that over the years have been produced by places such as the Sackville Waterfowl Park, John Lusby Marsh, and the Peticodiac River. At 5 AM on most spring and summer mornings Al can be found with clipboard and boots beside almost any marsh in the area

keeping tabs on the creatures there...he'll tell us what he has found over the last 10 years in terms of the health of our wetlands.

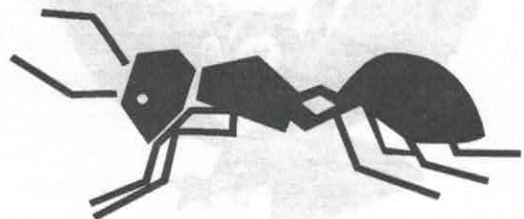
**February 10, 1999.** Get ready for it...Members' Night!!!!!!!!!!!!

**March 10, 1999.** Dr. Janet Hammock, Pianist and Professor of Music, Mt. Allison University. Jan's title is "Soundscapes...the Art of Deep Listening." This evening will be a little different as an interactive/workshop-type program will be offered where participants will learn new ways of listening to the world both in and around them. Jan will teach us how to be more "in tune" with the sounds of nature, and how to focus our consciousness to more fully appreciate them. She will gently stretch our minds and our ability to truly listen.

**April 14, 1999.** Kevin Craig, Wildlife Biologist, Department of Lands and Forests. Kevin's title is "Bears and Other Things...Hazards of Being a Naturalist". With the field season quickly arriving, more of us will be spending more time in the woods and other places that offer risks as well as pleasures. Kevin will tell us how to co-exist peacefully with the bears, skunks and other critters we meet. As the animals awake from winter hibernation and sleeps, how does their natural behaviour put us at risk? These and other things we should definitely know about in order to keep enjoying the outdoor life safely will be the theme.

**May 12, 1999.** Sandy Burnett, Author and Raconteur. On the occasion of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Canadian Wildlife Service Sandy will talk to us about the men and women in this organization who have performed their research duties largely unsung in distant corners of our country. We will be well entertained by his light-hearted accounts of the various escapades he has unearthed about the biologists and their projects. The anecdotes prove our pride in the CWS is well-placed. (Sandy's book "On the Brink...Endangered Species in Canada" is a volume many of us have on our bookshelves.)

**June 9, 1998.** To be Announced



**Fredericton Nature Club Report***Hal Dalzell*

The past year was successful for the Fredericton Nature Club (FNC). Membership levelled off at approximately one hundred individuals. Meetings were well attended, with an average of thirty per month. Monthly field trip attendance ranged from twelve to twenty-five people.

The club moved its regular monthly meetings to Odell Park Lodge. This has been a very good place to hold our meetings, as it is easily accessible, more open and has a pleasant atmosphere.

Guest speakers included: NB Trails Coalition, Brian Dalzell (Grand Manan Bird Observatory), Dan Busby (Bicknell's Thrush), Kim Mawhinney (Common Eiders), Roberta Clowater (Endangered Spaces), Bill Hooper (Fish Habitat), Gerry Redmond (Grouse), and Jim Wilson (Birding the Northwest Passage).

Plans for the upcoming year include the presentation of a new constitution to club members, a the appointment of a new President, and continuing efforts to educate the Fredericton community in the appreciation of their natural heritage.

**Ford Alward Naturalists Association Report***Elizabeth McIntosh*

The Ford Alward Naturalists Association holds regular meetings with presentations from September to May. We have outings sporadically. Some outings in 1997-98 focussed on birding and mushrooming, and Shea Lake natural history. We are learning, sharing and having fun.

**Restigouche Naturalist Club Report***Patricia McGorlick*

In May of 1997, members participated in a Naturalist Display at the Atholville Mall.

The President spoke on behalf of the club to teachers and school groups, guided a field trip for parents and school children, accompanied a Girl Guide Company on a nature hike and archeological study, and addressed the Dalhousie Rotary Club on the importance of habitat conservation.

Club members contributed to the Salmon Spawning Operation at the Charlo Fish Hatchery, and represented the club at the Promotion Plus venture.

Among many field trip destinations were the Aboriginal Heritage Garden, and the Matapedia Lookout.

Speakers included: Mike Plourde (Mushrooms), three foresters from Avenor Paper Company (Clear-cutting vs. Select Cutting), Alan MacNeish (Heron Island), Gary Archibald (Tourism and Trails of the Restigouche/Chaleur area), and Suzanne Bailey (International Trails and the Restigouche Heritage River).

**Coming Soon: Charlotte County Naturalists?***Kenneth MacIntosh*

A small but enthusiastic group met early in October at the Sunbury Shores Museum in St. Andrew's, where we enjoyed a presentation by Tracey Dean of the Huntsman Marine Science Center. Hats off to Grant Milroy, who arranged the meeting with typical enthusiasm and style, and to Tom Moffatt for hosting the events. We will meet again November 2 to enjoy a presentation by Jim Wilson, and plan to continue meeting the first Monday of each month, 7 pm at Sunbury Shores, Main Street, St. Andrew's.

**Moncton Naturalist Club Report***Vivian Beale*

The 1997/1998 season saw many accomplishments, celebrations, and achievements within the Moncton Naturalist Club.

In February, the club celebrated its 36th Anniversary, with a deliciously wonderful potluck, and an uproarious heart warming roast of Nelson Poirier. It was an evening of good food, stories, pictures, memories and insights.

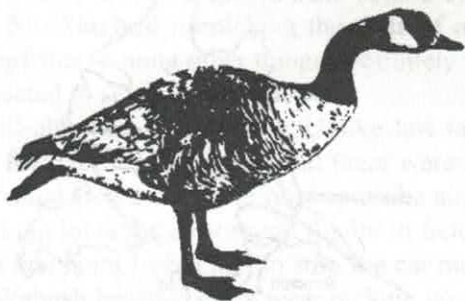
The MNC Education committee gives talks about birds to schools, seniors and youth organizations. This year a record 44 presentations were given. It is hoped that this number will increase in the coming years.

In December, the Moncton Naturalist Club participated in the frenzied annual Christmas Bird Count. It was a great success.

This year there were a total of 21 field trips. The challenge was to co-ordinate the field trips with the monthly presentations at the meetings. This was met with much success. The variation of the trips was as wide as the number given. Subject matter ranged from the usual bird field trips, to mushrooms, plants and star gazing.

Thanks to the Bailey Fund's generous grant, the Moncton Naturalist Club is planning to build a bird observatory. Construction will begin this fall at Cape Enrage. The structure will allow the observation of migrating birds, while protected from the weather.

Other projects that the Moncton Naturalists have been involved with are: the annual clean up of a section of the Dobson trail in May, and cleaning 1 1/2 km of beach area at Johnson's Mills (Dorchester Cape) this past June.

**Saint John Naturalists Club Report***Ken MacIntosh*

The Saint John Naturalists had another busy year with many interesting speakers, activities and trips.

Field trips included birding at Mary's Point, St. Martin's, Grand Manan, Black's Harbour, Jemseg and Gagetown Island. An unusual nocturnal outing took us to Hammond River Park to listen for 'creatures of the night', and a fall whale-watching trip was well attended and enjoyed.

Speakers for the year included the following: Jim Edsall spoke on Rare and Unusual Butterflies and Moths of NB, Stuart Tingley spoke on Dragonflies and Damselflies, Stephen Turner of UNB spoke on Darwin and Natural History, Gerry Redmond introduced and commented on a video about Grouse, club member Jim Wilson presented 'A Naturalist's Year in New Brunswick', Jim Goltz spoke on Rare and Endangered New Brunswick plants, Jack Terhune of UNBSJ presented 'A Summer in Antarctica', and Peter Fleming described his adventures on the Appalachian Trail.

The club remained very active monitoring seaduck migration at Point Lepreau, and members were instrumental in conducting Christmas Bird Counts in Hampton, Saint John, Lepreau and Black's Harbour. Club members played a leading role in Gagetown Celebration of Birds activities as well, and conducted tours of key birding areas in Saint John as part of the New Brunswick Bird Day activities.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in June at New River Beach. This meeting marked the end of Willa Mavis' term as President. Among the accomplishments of her term, Willa successfully guided us through the adoption of a constitution and the incorporation of our club.

As a final item of business for 1998, we were introduced to Eileen Pike in her new role as incoming club President.

## A New Brunswicker's Bird's-eye View of Birding in Western Labrador

Cheryl Davis

In June 1997 we were transferred from Riverview, N.B. to Wabush Labrador -sight unseen. Two years ago I had no idea where Wabush was, let alone the thought of someday living here. To drive to the iron ore mining towns of Labrador City and Wabush from Moncton just point the car north and drive 2 days. When I was asked to write something for the N.B. Naturalist I decided to look at some of the birding highlights over the last year and a half that were somewhat different from my birding experiences in N.B.

During my growing up years I did most of my birding at the family cottage on the Belleisle Bay, located off of the St. John River. In the early 80's I joined the Moncton Naturalists Club and soon jumped into club activities with both feet. The kindred birding spirit and abundant knowledge of nature by these people was wonderful and I was reluctant to leave these good friends behind.

When we lived in N.B. spring was my favourite birding season and I anxiously awaited the arrival of the warblers and other song birds. Nothing compared with the wonderful sound of the first Red-winged Blackbird in the marshes or to hear the long beautiful song of the Winter Wren echoing through the woods around the cottage.

In the few months leading up to the move I couldn't help but wonder what birds I would find in Labrador, if any. Well...I need not have worried. The day the moving van arrived in front of our new home in Wabush one of the first things that I heard in the distance was the song of the Fox Sparrow. Later in the day I had spotted Tree Swallows flying over head and a glimpse of Mourning Doves passing by. "This", I thought to myself, "isn't going to be so bad after all".

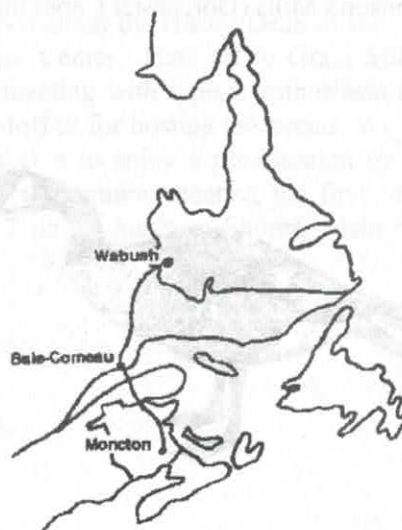
I soon had my feeders out and then waited for the birds to find them. To be honest, the summer and fall of 1997 was somewhat uneventful in my yard. I did have several Juncos, Fox Sparrows and White-crowned Sparrows visit on a regular basis which were wonderful new birds to have compared to my feeders in N.B. The fall of 1997 was longer and warmer than most falls in Labrador West. Snow didn't arrive for good until November, but the majority of birds had left in early October and the woods were very quiet except for the arrival of flocks and flocks of Common Redpolls later in the month. Food was obviously abundant in the woods and they completely ignored my feeders.

Then in early January 1998 a couple of Common Redpolls finally found the feeders and from that point on bird life exploded in our yard. By the end of March I had several hundred Redpolls visiting daily and they had been joined by a dozen Pine Grosbeaks and a few Hoary Redpolls. I was in my glory!

On the morning of March 31, still with several feet of snow on the ground, a flash of white and black wings went by our back window. Without even looking I knew what had found us - the Snow Buntings. Before I knew it their numbers grew as well.

On Easter Sunday morning while returning home from church, a sight that I will never forget greeted us. The power lines behind our house and our neighbours' homes were completely filled with Snow Buntings. That Easter week numbers peaked and we were feeding several hundred Redpolls and at least 400 Snow Buntings.

During this week we weren't the only yard to host such abundant bird life. A drive through both towns revealed where the bird lovers lived and where feeders could be found. Flocks of Snow Buntings and Redpolls - 50, 100, 150 or more birds could be seen sitting on clothes lines or hydro wires giving the bird lovers homes away. Bare ground was also becoming visible, a patch here and a patch there became magnets drawing small flocks of 50-100 Redpolls. I'm not sure what they were pecking at: grit or food.



By the end of April I realized that over a 6 week period we had gone through a 45 lb bag of black oil sunflower every 10-14 days.

Even though May 3rd was a very cool drizzly Sunday, the "spring birding bug" bit hard. It must have been caused by the "first glimpses" of a Kingfisher and a hawk that I saw earlier in the day en route to church. Either way, I ended up piling our two small boys into the family station wagon and driving around the available snow free roads in the two communities looking for more spring arrivals. That afternoon produced the first sightings of Green-winged Teal, Common Merganser, Northern Pintail, Killdeer and Robins. I'm sure that most of these birds had just come into the area that day. As I was about to quit for the day, I decided to take one last trip down the end of our street for one last look. In between the first trip down two hours earlier and the second trip, a flock of about 100 Lapland Longspurs had arrived. They were lined up, sitting in the rain on the hydro lines behind a house. This flocked stayed around for about a week in this general area. Eventually several of the birds found their way to our backyard to feed.

Spring migration also brought a few rarities. There aren't many places in North America where a Cowbird could be seen and considered to be rare, but my yard is one of them. I also had another bird which was an exceptionally "white" Hoary Redpoll. I do not believe that it was an albino but a rather a Hoary Redpoll subspecies which is slightly larger than the ones we normally see in N.B. This subspecies is called C.h. *hornemanni* and "breeds on the Canadian Arctic islands and in Greenland", according to the National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America. The bird was so white and large that at first I thought he was a Snow Bunting until he turned around and I saw the rosy red cap and the cranberry blush on his breast. He was truly a handsome bird and a prince among Hoary Redpolls.

I was also surprised one mid-June morning to see sitting on top of one of the many spruce trees behind our house a Northern Mockingbird mimicking the calls of an Osprey and a Kingfisher, among other things. Definitely not a bird that I expected to see in Labrador!

This fall also had its surprises. Unlike last fall when I saw very few Horned Larks, this fall there were hundreds. They appeared first around the runway at the airport, then in the parking lot at the airport and finally in fields of both towns. At one point I even had to stop the car on the main street in Wabush because some were picking up grit in the middle of the road.

Early fall also brought in larger numbers of Juncos, White-crowned Sparrows and American Tree Sparrows,

many more than I remember seeing last year. They seemed to be everywhere before they decided to leave for southern climates in early-October.

We have no idea how long we will be living in Labrador. Yes, someday we hope to return to N.B., but until then we will enjoy this unique gift of experiencing life in the north and take whatever comes our way. I'm hoping of course for more rare bird sightings such as a Smith's Longspur. I would be just as thrilled to see a native Boreal Owl, Willow Ptarmigan or Golden Eagle.

My wish list for seeing the following mammals (from a safe distance, of course) includes: wolf, bear and caribou.

My Labrador bird sightings to date include: Common Loon, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Common Merganser, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Herring Gull, Common Tern, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Osprey, Ruffed Grouse, Spruce Grouse, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Alder Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Gray Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Boreal Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Northern Shrike, Northern Mockingbird, American Pipit, Bohemian Waxwing, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Savannah Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Rusty Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, Pine Siskin, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll.

So, if you ever have the desire to visit Western Labrador and experience the sight of a vast mountainous wilderness with its many connecting lakes, the tall skinny Black Spruce, or the eskers left over from the ice age, be sure to look me up and I will be pleased to show you my little corner of the world, which is a joy and a challenge to explore. Just don't forget to bring your insect repellent if you decide to visit during the warmer months or a warm coat for the other seasons.

For a little peak at Wabush check out our web site at:  
<http://www.cancom.net/~nuthatch/wwwwabush.html> -

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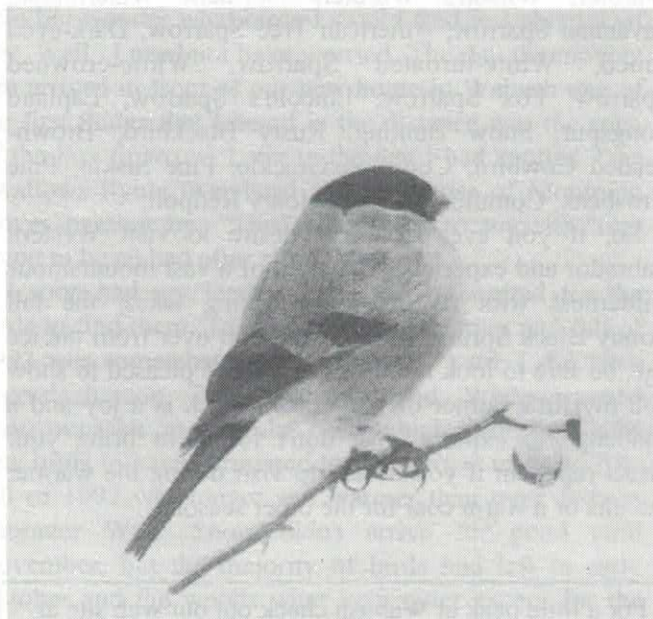
## A New Brunswicker's View of Birding in Europe

Mike Lushington

I would hardly pretend, after a short two weeks visit, to be an expert on the birds of Europe, or even of the small part of the continent that we visited, but I did enjoy the chance to do a bit of birding in a new area and thought to share some of my impressions with you.

My wife, Carla, her parents and I flew to Prague in the Czech Republic and after a couple of days in that delightful city, took a river boat on the Elbe (the Labe in Slovak) through westernmost Czech Republic and through what had been east Germany to the city of Wittenburg. From there we drove to the south-western part of Germany to a small village in Saarbrücken and, finally, to Frankfurt and the flight back home.

During the trip, my birding was limited to two types of ecosystem, those surrounding the river itself and in the parks of the towns and cities we visited when we were not on the water or occupied in doing other, more typically touristy things. I was limited further by having only a bird guide in Dutch (purchased on a previous trip to Europe some years ago), no scope, and no one to point out hot spots or even to help with the occasional tricky identification. Still I managed to puzzle out fifty-three species - and I enjoyed the whole challenge thoroughly.



*Bullfinch*  
Gunnar Brehm

Here then, with no pretence to any kind of authority, were some of the more striking impressions with which I am left, a few days after returning home.

We saw more Mallards on this trip than any other bird; indeed, I venture to speculate that we saw as many mallards as all other individual birds combined! They were everywhere where there was a bit of water, in twos and threes; in tens and twentys; and in hundreds. At a conservative guess we must have seen 15 000 of them on the Elbe, and we were only on the water for two to four hours a day, maybe fifteen hours in all. Otherwise, ducks were scarce; I identified one male Widgeon and saw, without specific identification, two or three smaller, teal sized ducks.

Wild Mute Swans are most impressive birds, especially when a dozen of them fly out of the early morning fog directly over you, at a height of twenty feet or so. The first ones I saw were in Prague and, without thinking too deeply on the subject, I assumed that they were city park birds; it was only after I saw them flying (and checked my guide) that I realized that they were wild birds, a realization confirmed a couple of days later when we came across occasional small family groups in the countryside.

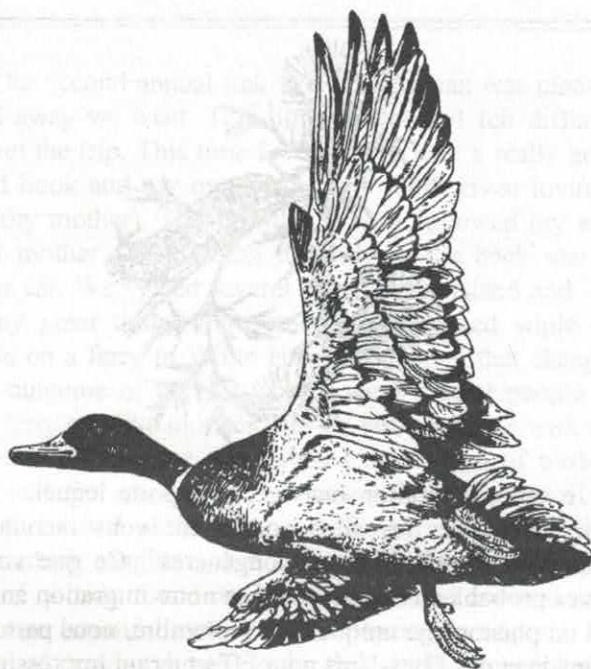
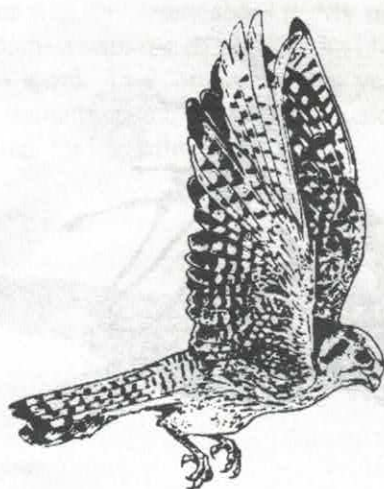
One morning, while I was on deck (where I spent most of my time when the boat was moving) I saw nearly 400 wild geese, flying in formation and chanting together. They were dark birds and I immediately thought of graylag geese, but, from what I could puzzle from the guide (my Dutch is practically non-existent) I gradually came to the very tentative conclusion that they were Bean Geese - I simply could not get a close enough look at them to determine further; but the range maps in the guide suggested that was my best guess.

All the while we moved down the river I saw hawks - more hawks than I might have guessed possible, given that, in North America, we tend to think of them as wilderness birds. Yet, there they were, on fence posts, on hydro lines, on the river banks - everywhere - and in two's and four's at a time. By far the most numerous was the Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) which, despite its name, is one of the buteo, or broad-winged hawks; rarer, but still quite common, was the Kite (*Milvus milvus*), a bird of about the same size as the buzzard, but with the beautiful long forked tail that we associate with the type.

And then there were Kestrels, Hobbys and, yes, Peregrines – falcons all, and in good numbers. The Kestrel is considerably larger than our bird, but otherwise similar, particularly in its hovering tactics over fields. Peregrines and Hobbys were most easily found in and around cathedral and castle superstructures, particularly the high steeples of the magnificent old churches.

It was in puzzling out the Hobby identification that I came most completely to grief in my attempts to translate from Dutch to English. I had studied several of the birds as carefully as I could without benefit of my trusty scope and was trying to ascertain, to my own satisfaction, that the bird I was considering was not a Merlin (unlikely) or a Peregrine. In part, this is what I came up with (and I am copying here from my notes): "as big as a dove, in flight like a peregrine" - so far, so good, "length-wise stripes with rust through the trousers subjoined sharply on a bevel just above the beard..." By this point, both Carla and I had dissolved into imbecilic laughter and I abandoned my attempts at any further translations that night. (The next time I travel to Europe, I think that I will invest in an English or French guide!)

Otherwise, I was reminded, time and again, of the good habit of having studied our own birds as carefully as I had, because, even though the birds I was seeing were new to me, very often I was able to place them into family or group quite quickly - a very positive aid to identification: tits look like chickadees, the Blackbird, despite its coloration, acts so much like our robin that it was no trouble to realize that it was in the genus *Turdus*; woodpeckers are woodpeckers and even the bizarre Jay (so strikingly different at first) sounds and acts enough like a Blue Jay to help that identification.



But it was in studying, closely and at great leisure, two species of gull that I derived the greatest satisfaction, I guess because of my fascination with this group of birds. I only saw two species the whole trip: Black-headed, and Little Gull, but both, of course, have some similarities with Bonaparte's Gulls, and both can show up anywhere in our area. Watching them for half an hour or more at a time over a week has given me a sense of what they might look like in a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls, should and when the occasion arises.

It was a good trip, for many reasons. The birding was peripheral but such an enjoyable diversion. I realized, yet again, what an added dimension to my life it has afforded, particularly on a nasty cold day on the river; all but two other of the 180 passengers were huddled below deck trying to keep warm; three of us (two of whom spoke only German and I, who do not) were having the times of our lives on top, binoculars in one hand (the other in a pocket to keep warm) pointing out and gesticulating at the flocks of geese, or at the most recent hawk - or at those endless mallards trying to surf on the wake wave of the boat.

## Je me présente...Je m'appelle

Rosita Lanteigne



Je suis un papillon mais pas n'importe lequel. Je me suis laissé tirer les ailes pour venir vous raconter ma migration et celle de mes congénères. Ce que vous ne savez probablement pas, c'est que notre migration annuelle est un phénomène unique. En septembre, nous partons du Canada et des États-Unis pour effectuer un impressionnant périple de plus de 4 000 km vers le Mexique. Il y a d'autres insectes qui effectuent des migrations comme le Papillon ocellé du Canada (*Junonia coenia*) et le criquet d'Afrique mais aucun ne voyage en si grand nombre et aussi loin que nous. Je vous en apprends une bonne, hein!!!

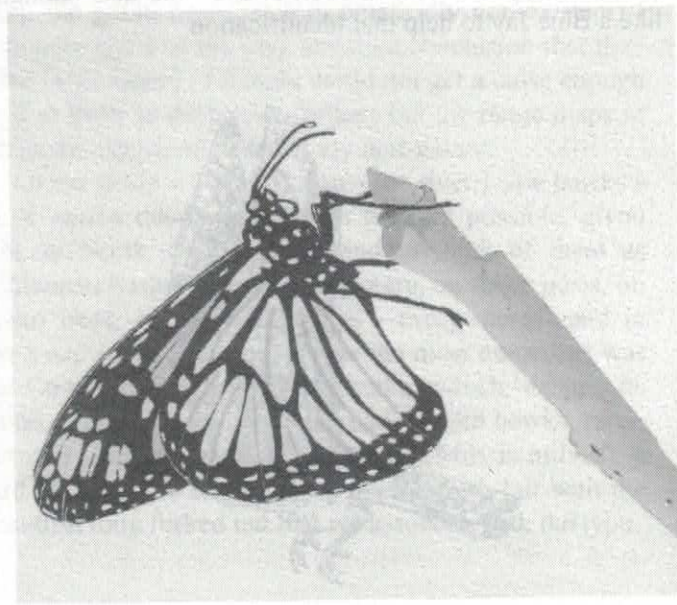
Seule notre dernière génération effectue le voyage. En été, nous vivons dans le nord des États-Unis et au Canada où nous butinons, nous nous accouplons et mourront rapidement. Le destin de ceux qui émergent de leur cocon à la fin de la saison est différente. Alertés par les jours qui raccourcissent et les nuits fraîches, ils retardent leur maturation sexuelle et se gavent de nectar, emmagasinent le plus d'énergie possible pour la migration. Leur voyage dure deux mois, ils survolent lacs et montagnes, traversent déserts et grandes villes, avant d'atteindre les forêts du Mexique.

Actuellement, on sait de nous que l'on emprunte trois routes migratoires. Ceux qui vivent à l'ouest des Rocheuses mettent le cap sur la Californie. Ceux de l'Atlantique, croit-on, traversent les États de la Caroline et de la Floride pour se rendre à Cuba et dans la Péninsule du Yucatan mais aucune colonie n'y a été découverte à ce jour. Enfin, moi et mes congénères qui vivent à l'est des Rocheuses et autour des Grands Lacs, nous descendons jusqu'au Mexique pour rejoindre nos quartiers d'hiver dans la Sierra Chicua. Notre destination au Mexique est restée longtemps inconnue. Le Dr. Fred Urquhart, zoologiste de

l'Université de Toronto, nous a cherchés pendant 40 ans. Dans les années 30, il apposait sur des milliers d'entre nous des étiquettes demandant de les renvoyer au Musée de zoologie, situé à Toronto, afin de tenter de déterminer notre couloir migratoire et de trouver notre habitat hivernal. Il l'a découvert en 1975. Aujourd'hui encore, on continue de nous étiqueter car tous les mystères de notre migration ne sont pas encore élucidés.

En 1986, le gouvernement mexicain a jugé nécessaire de nous préserver. Il a créé cinq aires protégées, un domaine de 16 110 hectares baptisé "Reserva especial de la biosfera Mariposa monarca". Le survie de notre espèce nécessite l'agrandissement des zones protégées sinon, croit-on, notre migration pourrait cesser d'ici 20 ans. Imaginez, on est pas beaucoup. Une de nos colonies est estimée à 10 millions d'individus par hectare. Cette année, on nous estime à 170 millions au Mexique, seulement. La plupart du temps, on se tient dans les arbres. Agglutinés ailes contre ailes, on se protège mutuellement du froid, tapissant des pans entiers de forêts. On peut former des grappes assez lourdes pour briser les ramures des arbres. Disposés en grappes au bout des branches, nous explosons en cascades. Le bruit soyeux de nos ailes rappelle le bruissement de feuilles agitées par le vent. Par endroits, nos essaims sont si denses que l'on ne distingue plus le ciel.

J'espère qu'un jour, vous aurez la chance de me voir. Je suis très beau.



## Soaring Alone

Johanne McInnis

A few years back I would have seriously given someone a second look complete with frown if they had said I was a birder. The nerve!!!! But since both my mother and aunt are naturalists, it was bound to suck me in and transform me as well. The three of us do an annual trek to Grand Manan island on Victoria Day weekend. Now mind you we've only done two so far, but on both occasions I've had a few memorable experiences.

My first excursion was a little scary. We crossed during a storm which means you have to choose between staying inside and possibly spending some time clutching the great white telephone or stay on deck and get soaked to the bone. We chose to stay outside. Once we got to the island we found warm refuge at one of the many nice cottages there. Early to bed and early to rise. Early!!! Nobody warned me that I had to get up so early to see birds. Why can't they sleep in like the rest of us? I tagged along with the groups and wrote down everything I saw. By the end of the first day my head was aching and when I closed my eyes I saw birds, birds, birds!

Another experience marked me for life as my initiation to birding. It was hilarious to say the least and those who were there certainly got a good laugh. Picture six adults standing in a dark field on a cold May evening waiting to see some owls (or so I thought), but when they shone the light on it, it was a Woodcock. I, of course not knowing anything about birds at that point thought it was the ugliest owl I had ever seen. You live you learn!? I came away from that first birding experience, exhilarated but tired, and thankful I was going home but sad that I hadn't seen more. I went out a few more times to look at some rarities that blew our way, but that's about it. My mother was living in Quispamsis with me so I always had her there as my guide, so to speak. In February of this year she moved back to her hometown and I was left to fend for myself. I didn't do much birding after that.



Our second annual trek to Grand Manan was planned and away we went. This time, however, I felt different about the trip. This time I was armed with a really good bird book and my own binoculars (both given lovingly by my mother). The first day there I followed my aunt and mother while sitting dutifully in the back seat of their car. We visited several spots on the island and saw many great things but something happened while we were on a ferry to White Head, something that changed the outcome of my trip. There were several people on the ferry and like most birders we were standing with our binoculars scanning the waters for any sign of birds. I stopped for a moment and walked to the back of the ferry. I stood alone staring at the shrinking shoreline. Something caught my eye so I quickly lifted my binoculars. I quickly found the blurry object and zoomed in to see two beautiful mature eagles dancing in mid air. My heart skipped a beat. Could they really be eagles? I started to doubt my novice birding abilities. I put my binoculars down for a moment and glanced around for my mother but she was nowhere to be seen. I looked through the binoculars again and watched them as they soared gracefully. Suddenly I heard a man's voice beside me say: "See anything worth sharing?" Taken somewhat aback I immediately blurted out that I was looking at eagles. He raised his binoculars and I watched as a smile came across his face. He confirmed what I had seen. An eagle isn't a rare bird by any means and I can't explain the feeling that washed over me at that very second, but somehow it was a coming of age so to speak. When we came back to the main island I suddenly decided to go out on my own and explore the island a little. The fact that I'm 31 years old meant nothing to my loving mother as she demanded: "What do you mean you're going alone? Where are you going? How are you going to get there? When will you be back? How will we know where you are?"

"I'm going alone. I'll be walking or hitching rides. I'll be back by supper and I'm going to the lighthouse at the other end of the island", were my answers, or something to that effect. Once she and I were both satisfied that I was old enough and that I knew what I was doing, I grabbed my walking boots, my binoculars, my backpack and lots of water. I waved goodbye as they dropped me on the main road. I stood there for a few moments pondering my decision then started walking in the opposite direction they had drove off in. I walked along the

peaceful roads, sat at the water's edge as sea gulls and sandpipers voiced their opinions and I roamed through the hiking paths like a gypsy with no cares. I discovered parts of the island, spoke to the people, listened to their stories, heard the wind speak to my soul, felt the kindness that only nature can touch your heart with, identified a few birds along the way and I did it all alone.

By the end of my six hour excursion, I was tired, my feet were sore and I had to throw out my wool socks, (Never hike in wool socks and hiking boots!?) but I was

elated. I left Grand Manan with a new sense of being. When I got on the ferry I walked around with my binoculars like all the other birders but this time I didn't hang on to my mother's coat tails. I was able to approach other birders and felt at ease talking the lingo. Now, I won't profess to being a full time birder just yet, but I do get out more often to walk through the woods and along the shores. I am looking forward to going to Grand Manan once more with my aunt and mom but most of all I look forward to soaring alone.

### Christmas Bird Count Calendar Recensement de Noël

The following information regarding 1998-99 Christmas Bird Counts was provided by NatureNB list subscribers. Please contact area co-ordinators for details and possible rescheduling.

Les renseignements ci-dessous concernant le recensement de Noël 1998-99 au Nouveau-Brunswick ont été soumis par des membres du groupe de discussion NatureNB. Veuillez contacter les personnes-ressources nommées pour tout détail concernant leurs cercles respectifs et tout changement au programme.

Amherst	Dec 21, 1998	Neville Garrity	364-5030 (w)	nev.garrity@ec.gc.ca
Black's Harbour	Dec 20, 1998	Ken MacIntosh	456-1904	coopers@nbnet.nb.ca
Boucouché	Dec 20, 1998	Mike LeBlanc	743-9192	mesange@nb.sympatico.ca
Cape Tormentine	Dec 18, 1998	Allan Smith	364-5042	
Dalhousie	Jan 3, 1999	Mike Lushington	684-5688	mhlca@nbnet.nb.ca
Edmundston	Dec 19, 1998	Gilles Roussel	735-2035	jdbourq@nbnet.nb.ca
Fredericton	Dec 20, 1998	Don Gibson	454-3261(h)	gibsondg@nbnet.nb.ca
Fundy National Park	Dec 18, 1998	Anne Bardou	887-6000 (w)	anne_bardou@pch.gc.ca
Grand Manan	Jan 3, 1999	Brian Dalzell	662-8650	dalzell@nbnet.nb.ca
Hammond River-Hampton	Jan 2, 1999	Jim Wilson	847-4506	jgw@nbnet.nb.ca
Lepreau	Dec 19, 1998	David McCurdy	849-2082(h)	
Moncton	Dec 19, 1998	Jackie Decoste	372-9801	
Restigouche [Campbellton]	Dec 20, 1998	Mike Lushington	753-5941	mhlca@nbnet.nb.ca
Riverside-Albert	Jan 1, 1999	David Christie	882-2100	maryspt@nbnet.nb.ca
Sackville	Dec 19, 1998	Peter Hicklin	364-5042	pete.hicklin@ec.gc.ca
Saint John	Dec 28, 1998	David Smith	652-2872	
Shediac	Jan 3, 1998	Norm Belliveau	855-9435	
St. Martins	Dec 28, 1998	Nancy & Ted Sears	1-800-563-8639	

see also / voir aussi: <http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/maryspt/CBC/CBCcompilers.html>

**Best wishes for a safe and successful count!**  
**Plein de succès et de plaisir lors de votre comptage!**

## Finding the First Turkey Vulture Nest in Atlantic Canada

*Ian Cameron and Jim Wilson*

The sequence of events that led to the discovery of the first documented Turkey Vulture's nest in Atlantic Canada started in June of 1996 when one of us (IC) was hiking through some hilly and rugged country in Southern New Brunswick. As the trail wound round the flanks of some rather impressive rock faces, a Turkey Vulture appeared and circled around close enough that the red head could be clearly seen, showing it to be a mature bird. After a few minutes, the vulture soared away into the distance, but it reappeared and circled around several times in the course of the next hour or so.

This behaviour was characteristic of how a Turkey Vulture reacts when it has a nest nearby, and the possibility of this was heightened by the appropriateness of the terrain. In particular, the rock faces were surrounded by great tilted slabs of fallen rock, which were honeycombed with quite large hollows that would have made attractive nesting sites, sheltered from the north by the cliffs above. Two other factors that added to the suitability of the location were its remoteness and the south-easterly exposure of the boulder-field, which would allow the rocks to warm up early in the day, generating the thermals which the birds need to facilitate soaring.

From May through August 1997, monthly visits were made to the general area of the suspected nesting site. No attempt was made to search it in detail and the visits were kept short in order to minimize disturbance to the birds. On the first visit, the hill was covered in morning mist, and a single vulture was perched broodingly on a dead tree, contributing to the sombre aspect of the landscape. On all occasions, one or more vultures appeared and circled around silently at no great distance.

In September 1997, we made our first joint visit to the area, with the intention of searching for the actual nesting site. As we approached, we found no less than three vultures perched in trees or flying around the rock face. One was stretching its wings and apparently warming up in the sun (this was around 10 a.m.). Two of the birds were dark-headed immatures and the third appeared to have a small admixture of red on the mostly dark head, suggesting that it might have been a one-year-old. Based on their appearance and tame behaviour, we thought it likely that the other two were newly-fledged young. We clambered around on the cliffs and the boulder field, hoping to see evidence of nesting, but we were unable to find a nesting site. We were

interested, however, to find traces of greyish down, which might have been scraped off the young birds, on the rocks at the bottom of the face, which formed a natural sun-trap. Vulture's nests, incidentally, are often discovered by smell rather than sight, since they tend to get distinctly odoriferous late in the season owing to spillage of the food which the adults regurgitate for the young. We did notice a rank smell near an old tree somewhat to the east of the rock face, but found no trace of a nest. The smell was very localized, so we concluded that the tree might have been a feeding spot, some distance from the nest.

On this visit, we had concentrated mainly on the cliffs and the upper reaches of the boulder field. On a subsequent visit a week or so later, Jim decided to make a detailed search of the many cavities in the lower boulder field. In one of these, he and Jean found what appeared to be vulture flight feathers. In conjunction with the down and the appearance and behaviour of the two young birds, we were encouraged in the belief that we had in fact discovered a nesting site, but we still did not have conclusive evidence of breeding.

On 9 May 1998, accompanied by our wives Jean and Heather, we visited the area again. There was no sign of vulture activity until we reached the boulder-field. As luck would have it, the very first cave we looked into contained a vulture, which hopped rapidly out of sight along a passage that disappeared into the rocks. The cave also had an upper entrance, and on looking into this we were able to see a vulture sitting on its eggs. The bird was beautifully concealed, until it left the eggs and shot out of the front entrance, leaving the two eggs exposed to view. There was no nest as such; the eggs, which were handsomely speckled with brown blotches on a whitish background, were simply lying on some withered leaves. Jim took a few photographs of the nest and eggs before we left the vicinity, which we did as rapidly as possible. We were pleased to see that the bird which had flown off, plus another which had appeared from somewhere, were perched in a tree close to the nest, presumably prepared to re-occupy it when we had gone.

This year again, we stayed away from the site during the summer, but all four of us returned on 5 September, hoping to see the year's young. We were encouraged, as soon as we arrived, by the sight of an immature Turkey Vulture flying around in the area of the nest. Shortly after, Jean spotted the two fledglings sunning themselves



*Turkey Vulture Eggs*  
Jim Wilson

at the top of a cliff overlooking the nesting site. They seemed tame and quite unperturbed by our presence, occasionally stretching their impressively wide wings to catch the sun. We decided not to go to the actual nesting site, so as not to disturb the young birds. As we left, a mature vulture, almost certainly one of the parents, arrived and flew back and forth keeping a wary eye on us. It was a great thrill to see the young birds and to know that they had survived the perils of infancy to get to this stage of their development.

Our long search for a nest confirmed the prevailing wisdom that Turkey Vulture nests are very difficult to find. Not only are the nests themselves very well concealed, but the parents are very wary and take great precautions when entering or leaving the area. Given the marked increase in the numbers of Turkey Vulture which are being seen in the Province, however, we are hopeful that it will not be too long before further nesting sites are discovered.

## Thoughts on Turkey Vulture Nest Sites

*Jim Wilson and Ian Cameron*

Turkey Vultures' nests are reputed to be one of the most difficult of birds' nests to find. Although conspicuous, the birds are wary, very secretive, and capable of nesting in a wide range of habitats. How does one go about finding the nest of a Turkey Vulture? Perhaps the best way to answer that is to look at it from the vulture's perspective.

Turkey Vultures are just beginning to invade the Maritimes. In order to become regular breeders, they must choose a nest site that offers the maximum chance for success. Several things influence their choice.

First, our Turkey Vultures are migratory. Most leave New Brunswick by late September or early October. The first migrants return in late March or early April. This means they have a maximum of six months to select an appropriate nest site and raise a family. For most species, this would present no problem. Turkey Vultures however, have a relatively long breeding cycle.

Published references vary, but incubation can take up to 40 days, and an additional 80 days may be needed to fledge the young. This totals 120 days, or four months. Therefore, in order for them to arrive in April, select a nest site, incubate eggs and fledge young successfully, they must choose a site that is snow-free and warm enough for them to begin immediately upon arrival. After fledging, some time is also required to prepare for migration before they depart by the end of September.

So their timeframe is actually tight.

Vultures are large and conspicuous, but also passive and easily disrupted. To ensure a reasonable degree of breeding success it is essential that they find a site that is predator-free and isolated from human disturbance. It must be readily accessible from the air, and be available year after year. Not an easy task for a large bird that is attempting to settle into new northern territory.

We were surprised to learn that vultures breed only every second year. Author Wayne Grady, in "Vulture Nature's Ghastly Gourmet" indicates this, but offers no reason as to why. It may have evolved to enable the parents to thoroughly teach the young about food location during the intervening year. In any case, it makes the need for a dependable nest location even more critical.

Vultures do not build an actual nest – surprising for such a large bird. They lay their two eggs in natural cavities such as large hollow trees or logs, in caves or cavities under rocks, or any other situation that affords a dark undisturbed place that they can occupy for a four-month period. In southern Quebec, a number of the first nests discovered were in the attics of sugar camps – locations that were left undisturbed all summer. In southwestern Manitoba one of the first nests was in the top floor of an abandoned farmhouse on the open prairie. Access was through an open window.

They can commute long distances, if necessary. This means they can choose nesting locations far from human disturbance. However, in obtaining food they benefit from human activity, and here in southern New Brunswick they are seen most often near human habitation. Much of their day is spent soaring over farms with livestock, near slaughterhouses, along highways with frequent roadkills, or near any location that promises meals for scavengers. They feed their young by regurgitation, and undoubtedly there is a practical limit to the distance they are prepared to travel from nest to foraging areas and back again.

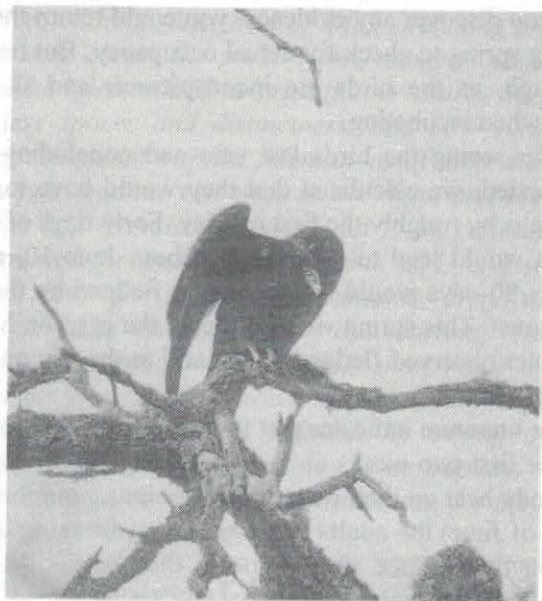
Given the above, there are some conclusions we can draw from the discovery of the first nest near Saint John. As the species is only just establishing itself, it seems probable that only prime locations will be chosen first. And given that it was occupied in two consecutive years by what must have been two different pairs, the site we found must be one that has many of the characteristics the birds prefer.

The nest site is at the base of a thirty-foot rock face on a remote hill, which few people are likely to visit during the nesting season. The nest cavity is situated under a pile of large boulders, ranging in size from that of a refrigerator to a car. The exposure is southeast – catching the early morning sun in spring, and thawing out early. It is well drained, and the floor of the nest cave is littered with old leaves – perfect for laying and incubating eggs. It is connected to other caves by numerous passages under the rocks.

Porcupines occupy the entire boulder field. Their droppings are everywhere, and they have fed heavily on the deciduous trees in the area. Their presence must certainly be a deterrent to predators. It would be very unlikely that a fox, coyote, raccoon or bobcat would spend much time exploring those cavities. It may also be that the smell of the porcupines may help mask the scent of the birds.

The boulder field is extensive enough to provide a myriad of passages and escape routes to enable a pair of young vultures to avoid detection if danger were to appear. When an adult visits to regurgitate a meal, the large stones provide a safe perch to study the area and later make contact with the young. As the vultures near fledging, the rocks provide a ready perch on which to exercise their wings and make practice jumps in preparation for the initial flight.

This past May when we approached the cavity where the incubating bird was crouched there was absolutely no indication of vulture activity in the area. We saw no second bird perched nearby, detected no odor, saw no tell-



*Turkey Vulture*  
Jim Wilson

tale feathers or droppings. The adult sat very closely, and only when we were right at the entrance to the cavity did it decide to leave. Had we not known of the presence of the birds the previous summer, we would never have discovered the occupied nest. The winter snows had erased all evidence from the previous year.

So – how to find a vulture's nest? If you observe consistent vulture presence in your area from early spring onward, observe the movements of the birds carefully. You may notice a pattern of arrivals or departures that could direct you toward a nest site.

In the absence of such a pattern or in conjunction with it, consider the topography and consider remote locations that have:

- a. A rock face oriented south or southeast.
- b. An accumulation of large boulders at the base of the cliff.
- c. Cavities among the rocks at least one-half cubic meter in volume.
- d. Leaf or other soft debris present in the cavities.
- e. Porcupines occupying the site.
- f. Vultures in the immediate area.

To avoid disrupting the birds, it would be advisable to study the site from a distance, watching for signs of vultures perched or soaring nearby. If it looks promising, avoid a direct inspection until the month of October – well after the birds have left. Look for evidence of breeding such as fine white down (shed by the young) on the rocks, or large feathers or droppings in a cavity. There may also be some residual odor from spilled food, although we didn't detect any at our nest.

If you discover any evidence, you could return the following spring to check for actual occupancy. But be very thorough, as the birds are inconspicuous and sit very close when incubating.

After seeing the birds last year and concluding they had nested, we calculated that they would have to have laid eggs by roughly the first of May. Forty days of incubation would lead to hatching by about June 10, and a further 80 days would see the young fledged by the end of August. This spring we discovered the eggs on May 9 and later observed fledged young still at the site on September 5.

The literature indicates that the adults brood the chicks for the first two weeks until they are capable of sustaining body heat on their own. At that point (about the final week of June) the adults begin extensive foraging during the daytime. Once this happens, discovery of a nest would be much more difficult as the young would likely retreat deeper into the recesses of the rocks, and the adults would be absent much of the time.

One final observation. Such sites are scarce and are worthy of ongoing preservation. Unlike Ospreys, Bald Eagles, or other raptors, Turkey Vultures cannot relocate easily and build another nest if disturbed. However, if preserved, good vulture nest sites have the potential to produce young for decades, and ensure the continued presence of this fascinating bird.

Preservation of prime nest sites begins with the knowledge that they are there. We would be very interested to hear of any breeding evidence that you may discover, as would the Maritime Nest Records Scheme that is maintained by the Canadian Wildlife Service in Sackville, N.B. As naturalists, we have a responsibility to be aware of the importance of such things and to take steps to ensure their continued availability.

There are few large birds that can invade new territory and compete successfully with the many other residents. Vultures survive and prosper by relying on their high intelligence, keen eyes, and incredible sense of smell and they deserve our respect and attention.

## Winter Surprise on the Upsalquitch

Rod O'Connell

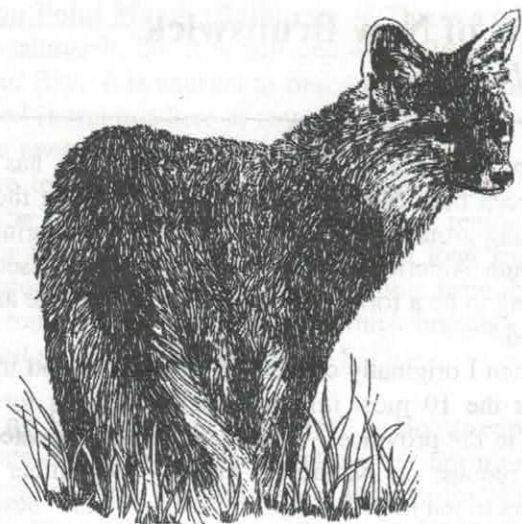
Eldie had first noticed the Red Fox (*Vulpes fulva*) on the opposite side of the lake while I was in the woods looking at an opening in the forest created by a blow-down of Balsam Firs. "Rod, there is a fox on the opposite side of the lake". As I stepped onto the ice, I trained my field glasses to the east side of the lake to see a Red fox following the edge of the lake, probably looking for his lunch. It was a blustery scene as the snow squall created horizontal lines magnified by the binoculars with the fox darting in and out along the edge of the lake. Suddenly the fox entered the forest and we lost sight of it.

The mid-morning sun was shining through shifting clouds that reflected the reds and blues of the spectrum and played hide and seek with us. Because it was the end of December, the sun was not much higher than the surrounding range of mountains, yet the temperature was very bearable. When the sun poked through the clouds, the glare hindered our vision toward the south-east, but it made a wonderful winter scene as it flashed on the snow-covered surface of the lake.

We forgot about the fox, and concentrated our snooping efforts to the west side, looking toward the forest. We had our ears tuned to the possible sounds of birds, since our mission was a December bird count on the South-east Upsalquitch area. With this in mind, we proceeded to the south end of the lake and returned by

hugging the east edge of the lake. We were finally rewarded with the sighting of one male and two female Pine Grosbeaks as they flew from one heavily cone-laden tree to another. The male posed for a period of time atop a tall spruce tree, as if to say, "Take a good look at me now, for soon I will be on my way".

No sooner had we made the bird sightings, Eldie again drew my attention to the fox. This time it was on the same side of the lake and the viewing was better since the fox was north of us. We adjusted our field glasses to get a better view. To our astonishment, we were looking at a fox with a Snowshoe Hare (*Lepus americanus*) in its mouth. "Eldie, it looks like it has only part of a rabbit with two legs dangling". We watched this golden Red Fox as it headed across the lake. The winter fur and the big bushy tail made it look bigger than it really was. While it seemed to be heading in one main direction, the path was more of a serpentine pattern. The fox made frequent stops to look around the lake. At each stop, it would change gait, sometimes into a loping gait and at other times in a walking gait. It did not seem to be in a hurry, even when we whistled after it to see its reaction. It did not change its patterns, only maybe a brief moment as it perked its ears to catch the whistling sound. It had one purpose in mind, to bring its catch to the other side of the lake.



On the other side of the lake, it stopped under a clump of over-hanging cedar trees. To our amazement, it dropped its catch, then proceeded north along the edge of the lake. Curious, we started across the lake to observe its catch. While crossing the lake, we studied the tracks. While in a walking gait, the fox left a straight line of dainty footprints, almost evenly spaced. In the loping gait, the pattern changed to one footprint, followed by two prints close together (similar to the pattern of a Martin or Fisher), and the fourth print similar to the first. In each case, it had a drag line now and then, probably created by the dangling rabbit's feet.

As we reached the west side of the lake, the fox was nowhere to be seen, but the hind part of a Snowshoe Hare lay on the ice just below the shade of the over-hanging cedar trees. Just north of the clump of trees, a small spring fed the lake, and kept the lake open at that spot. The fox may have gone for a drink of water, or simply led us away from its catch, to return later by utilizing the forest as a cover.

We did not have the time, or did not want to take the time to study the situation any longer. Ron's lunch was locked in my truck and it was time to meet the rest of the crew at the "Kettle Hole" for lunch.

Now, if we had been retired (like some plan to do in March!!!), and time had been our main asset, we could have made it a day of just observing the tracks on the edge of the lake. The early morning snow flurry had made a clean slate of the lake, thus making it possible to observe all new happenings.

Since we did not take the time, I must quote from Thoreau, who not only took the time, but wrote in detail his observations of nature. On January 30, 1841, Henry Thoreau wrote in his journal:

*Here is the distinct trail of a fox stretching a quarter of a mile across the pond. Now I am curious to know what had determined its graceful curvatures, its greater or less spaces and distinctness, and how surely they were coincident with the fluctuations of some mind, why they now lead me two steps to the right, and then three to the left. If these things are not to be called up and accounted for in the Lamb's Book of Life, I shall set them down for careless accountants. Here was one expression of the divine mind this morning. The pond was his journal, and last night's snow made a tabula rasa for him. I know which way a mind wended this morning, what horizon it faced, by setting of these tracks; whether it moved slowly or rapidly, by the greater or less intervals and distinctness, for the swiftest step leaves yet a lasting trace.*

### **Profiles of NB Ecosystems: Coastal Cliffs and Headlands**

*Hal Hinds*

Jutting into the Bay of Fundy, headlands share many characteristics of coastal islands. They tend to lose their landward flora and fauna the further they extend into the Bay. Headlands are unprotected narrow tips of land which extend into a body of water. They are usually high points above the surf with rocky bases and are subject to the brunt of wind and storm wave action.

A kind of reverse ecological succession takes place at the tip of headlands in the Bay of Fundy. As the action of wind and waves cuts into the headland, it slowly crumbles and erodes and cuts back landward. This brings the vegetation in contact with increased salt spray and it eventually dies. Forest trees and shrubs are killed and this creates more light and decreased competition for other more salt tolerant species which prefer more sunlight. In this way the zone of forest is slowly, continually being forced landward as the open headland vegetation expands in a narrow band around the tip.

Here, many of the plants are low shrubs adapted to strong winds and to some extent to salt spray. Their low profile tends to protect them from too much salt spray. The aspect is heath-like with many of the species adapted to the peaty soils created on the headlands due to the cool, foggy climate which slows decomposition allowing more organic matter to accumulate each year than decays. Black Crowberry, Low Sweet Blueberry, Mountain Cranberry, the tiny Rand's Eyebright, Red Fescue, Wavy-hair Grass, Harebell, White-topped and New York Asters, Downey Goldenrod and Silverrod are some plants characteristic of the open headlands.

## Little known Shorebird Hotspots of New Brunswick

Brian Dalzell

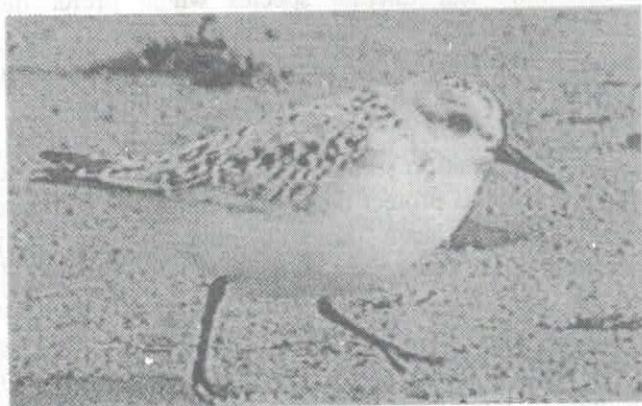
For many of us who enjoy the pursuit of wild birds, an extended birding trip away from home is usually the exception rather than the rule. For the better part of the birding year, we generally pursue our avocation close to home, usually within a few kilometers, and oft times less than that.

One advantage of this approach is that you get to know the micro-habitat in your neighborhood quite well over the course of a few years. In effect, you become the local expert, knowing where and when certain species of birds can consistently be found from year to year.

One class of birds particularly well-suited to this kind of local approach is the shorebirds (or waders if you're from Europe). With the possible exception of waterfowl, there are few classes of birds in the world that depend so heavily on localized and specialized habitat as do shorebirds.

The great weakness of this approach is that such migratory stopover sites are limited, and thus easily destroyed by man. An example would be saltmarshes. In just over 200 years, we have easily managed to destroy more than 90 per cent of the original saltmarsh in New Brunswick.

On the other side of the coin, the over-dependence of shorebirds on micro-habitat has made it relatively easy to identify important sites worthy of special protection. The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) is the most obvious example of this approach.



David Christie photo

A broad "necklace" of such shorebird sites has gradually been built over the past 20 years, linking the arctic breeding grounds in North America with wintering areas in South America. Trying to do that for passerines is proving to be a formidable task, due to the huge areas involved.

When I originally conceived this story, I had intended to list the 10 most important stopover sites for shorebirds in the province. With that in mind, I posted an e-mail request on NatureNB in early September asking readers to tell me what they thought were the "best" sites.

However, things didn't quite work out. I only received few replies, far less than hoped for -- far too few to produce a meaningful list of important sites. So, this article is about places to look for shorebirds in New Brunswick that have generally been overlooked in the past.

From the sites that were nominated by my respondents I have chosen eleven which I believe deserve more attention and further investigation from birders. I've not ranked them according to which ones I think are best, but simply from north to south. The nearest large community to each site is included in parentheses after the site name.

**Baker Brook (Edmundston)** — Inland sites generally receive much smaller numbers of shorebirds than coastal sites, but the variety can be almost as good. J. Denys Bourque advises that the mouth of the Baker Brook River is as good a spot for shorebirds as can be found in northwestern New Brunswick, especially Baker Brook Island. The island is opposite the Baker Brook Church on Route 120, but the best viewpoint is about 100m past the church. A telescope is needed. One of the largest spring flocks of Short-billed Dowitchers (200) found in the province occurred here on May 21, 1996.

**Marais de la rue Godin (Beresford)** — Has a pretty good number and variety of shorebirds. "As good as possible in the Chaleur region", according to Luc DeRoche. Luc advises the area is a bit smelly and hard to walk in at low tide, but what saltmarsh isn't? The interior of the marsh is dryer and comprised of peat so it's easier to walk in. It is very accessible (from Godin Street) and walking along the shoreline will also provide good opportunities for shorebird viewing.

**Carron Point Marsh (Bathurst)** — This is a relatively small saltmarsh, but it is still one of the largest left on Chaleur Bay. It is unusual to find more than a couple of hundred shorebirds here at any one time, but the variety can be rewarding. The dryer parts of the marsh are attractive to Pectoral Sandpipers, Whimbrel and Willet, the latter species being rare in the Chaleur region. It is seldom frequented by people and has a long shoreline with good walking. The area is accessible from the road to Carron Point in East Bathurst, which branches off to your left as you travel up Route 134.

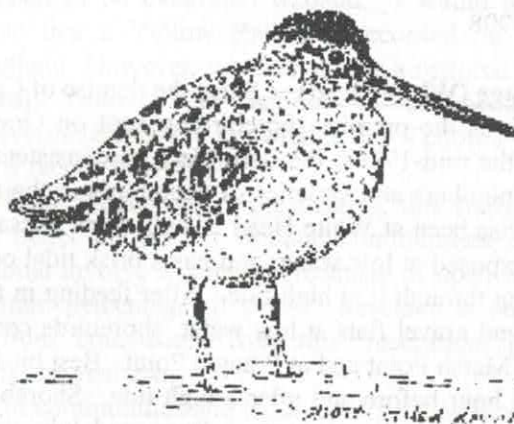
**Dune de Maisonnnette (Caraquet)** — Boasts expansive mudflats as well as an interior saltmarsh. For more than 20 years, the only known nesting locality for Willet in the province north of Kouchibouguac National Park. "The number of species at Maisonnnette is hard to match and the number of individuals respectable", says Marcel David. A 10 minute walk is all that is needed to get to the thick of the action most of the time, except when clam diggers have dispersed the shorebirds. The mud is actually quite sandy, which makes walking fairly easy. Accessible off Route 11 by driving to the end of the road in Maisonnnette, where Routes 320 and 303 converge.

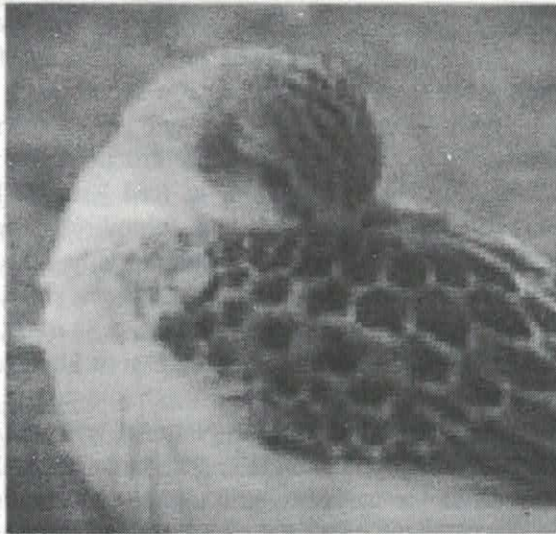
**Malbaie Nord (Miscou Island)** — Also known as MacGregors Mal Bay on some maps, the area has an untapped potential for shorebird surprises due to its strategic location at the northeast tip of the province. The only "negative" drawback is a 30-minute walk down the beach from the lighthouse at Miscou Point (Birch Point on some maps). The best time to go is on a rising tide when shorebirds are forced out of the expansive peat flats. Shorebird surveys here in the 1970s and 80s by Peter DeMarsh revealed numbers and species on a par with the best shorebirds sites in the south of the province.

**Buctouche Dune (Buctouche)** — I debated with myself about putting in this site because it is so inaccessible, but it does fit the definition of a little-known shorebird site of great importance in New Brunswick. Recent surveys by Denis Doucette and others have turned up mind-boggling numbers of shorebirds hitherto unsuspected in the province. How about 1000+ Ruddy Turnstones this past July, more than four times the previous known high for N.B.? It can take more than four hours to walk to the end of the dune and back (20km+), probably one reason shorebirds find it appealing! Who knows, Denis (533-7858) might like company on his regular hikes out to the tip of the dune and back.

**Cap Bimet (Shediac)** — The area around the Paturel Fish Plant is a favorite gathering spot for birders from Moncton and Shediac, and also for shorebirds. On August 26/98, Rose-Alma Mallet and Léona Cormier found an "exciting" variety of shorebird here (15 species), including Hudsonian Godwit, Red Knot, White-rumped Sandpiper, Sanderling and Whimbrel. Dunlin was added the following week. Shorebirds begin to arrive in the first week of August and there are still some to be found at the end of October. Access is off Route 15 between Cap Brûlé and Barachois, east of Shediac.

**Cape Jourimain (Bayside)** — A National Wildlife Area with large brackish ponds on the north, and saltmarsh on the south side of a causeway built to Cape Jourimain Island in the 1970s. Now that the road to P.E.I. passes directly through the area, it is more accessible than ever, but birding from the side of a busy highway can be less than satisfying. Particularly impressive are the numbers and variety of shorebirds to be found in spring, a season characterized by rapid migration on the part of all birds. There is talk of a major eco-tourism development here, but that is apparently still in the future.





David Christie photo

**Waterfowl Park (Sackville)** — Well known to naturalists in the southeast of the province, this 50-acre jewel of a marsh was created specifically for waterfowl in the late 1980s. To date, no other community in the Maritimes has had the vision to emulate what the eco-aware citizens of Sackville have accomplished. The waterfowl park is a huge asset to the community, not only to waterfowl and nature lovers, but to other birds and animals as well. Access is superb, with an extensive boardwalk system throughout the marsh. There is no better spot in the province to study large flocks of Pectoral Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitchers and many other species of shorebirds. Expect the unexpected, such as a Ruff found here in the spring of 1998.

**Cow Passage (White Head)** — Since the demise of Castalia Marsh as the premier shorebirding spot on Grand Manan in the mid-1980s, the only place to consistently find good numbers and varieties of shorebirds in the archipelago has been at White Head Island. Cow Passage is totally exposed at low water, and has a brisk tidal current running through it at high tide. After feeding in the rich mud and gravel flats at low water, shorebirds come to roost at Marsh Point and at Prangle Point. Best birded in the first hour before and after a high tide. Shorebird activity is more or less constant from mid-July until early November, although there can be times when falcons disperse the roosting birds. Consistently good numbers of Least Sandpiper, Red Knot, Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone and Semipalmated Plover can be expected.

**Upper Duck Pond (Campobello)** — Recently moved to

St. Stephen from the Hartland area, Grant Milroy quickly discovered this to be one of the best shorebird areas in Passamaquoddy Bay. The attraction here is a huge area of mud and sand flats exposed at low water, and generally known as the Lubec Flats. Although most of the area is on the U.S. side of the international boundary, significant numbers of shorebirds use the Canadian side, and these can best be viewed from Cranberry Point in Roosevelt Campobello International Park. As an indication of the potential of the area, at South Lubec Bar on September 20/98 (just 3 km south across Lubec Channel) more than 1,600 shorebirds of 12 species were counted, including: 800 Semipalmated Sandpiper, 350 Black-bellied Plover, 200 Semipalmated Plover, 50 White-rumped Sandpiper, 50 Sanderling and 20 Dunlin. To get there, turn right about 400m past the FDR International Memorial Bridge.

Well, that should keep you busy the next time you're away from home and looking for a good place to test your powers of shorebird identification. A good idea would be to take along "New Brunswick Maps" available from the N.B. Geographic Information Corporation. Also, be sure to share with others what you have found, either by posting a report on NatureNB, or by sending it to myself at P.O. Box 145, Castalia, N.B. E0G 1L0. And good shorebirding!



## The Prince Edward Island Wetland 'Restoration' Project: An Overview

Cameron Stevens

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan in PEI has concentrated on securing, restoring, and enhancing wetlands for waterfowl in the agricultural landscape. Since 1991, under the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture, eighty small wetlands totalling 110 acres have been restored--by the excavation of accumulated silt and organic debris.

The PEI provincial government and the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture have recognized siltation, resulting from erosion, as the most serious threat to the longevity and wildlife productivity of Prince Edward Island (PEI) wetlands. Excavation of the accumulated silt and debris and the consequent creation of open water may be a solution for declining breeding waterfowl. Albeit the term erosion is often used when characterizing abiotic factors in an agricultural and coastal area such as PEI, it is not the most serious threat to wetlands. Based on observations made in my first field season on PEI, as a masters student at UNB with the Atlantic Cooperative Wildlife Ecology Research Network, and under the supervision of Dr. Tony Diamond, I can suggest that agriculture rather than erosion plays more of a role in the declining quality and quantity of PEI wetlands. More often than not, potato and cereal fields are plowed and planted to the edge of a creek or wetland. During spring or during periods of heavy rain, soil, fertilizer, and pesticides are then moved into basin wetlands, rivers and finally the ocean. This past summer after a weekend of heavy rain, a PEI river, one that was even part of a local government watershed restoration project, lost most its young trout population. A PEI fisheries biologist concluded that agriculture was the problem. Fertilizer, or nutrient run-off from nearby potato fields often accumulate in basin wetlands. Eutrophication--nutrient enrichment of a body of water--stimulates cattail and other plant growth, as well as a heavy growth of algae. Consequently, oxygen levels in the water decline, open water in a wetland basin disappears and the former wetland basin becomes a terrestrial community.

From a conservationist's perspective, there are two important points to be made involving this project. First of all, the government has recognized a declining state of provincial wetlands, and an indirect agricultural cause to declining local wetlands, i.e. erosion. Secondly, the small marsh restoration project, which has been coupled with a soil conservation program, involves an agreement/contract between landowner and government that

protects wetlands and adjacent uplands from any further development, drainage, and to some extent agricultural practices for up to 20 years.

The purpose of my study is to assess the wildlife benefits and costs derived from the small wetland restoration in PEI. Waterfowl is not the only focus of this assessment, as various other aspects of a wetland community are being monitored, such as amphibians (Green Frogs, Leopard Frogs, Spring Peepers, Wood Frogs, and American Toads), songbirds (Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Swamp Sparrow, etc.), and rails (Yellow Rail, Sora, and Virginia Rail). Some initial conclusions can already be made from this past field season. The excavated wetlands are being well used by breeding waterfowl and more importantly, waterfowl broods (American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, and Gadwall). Similar species of passerines are found on both excavated and natural wetlands, but the structure of the bird communities may differ. Surprisingly, not one Wilson's Warbler, or Marsh or Sedge Wren was recorded on any of the sites. Rails, particularly the Sora, are also found on both excavated and natural wetlands and appear to exist in higher numbers on excavated wetlands. The fact that Soras are found in restored wetlands more often than natural wetlands may be a sample bias, or it may be that they prefer the fragmented design of an excavated wetland. I would also like to note that a Yellow Rail was recorded on a restored wetland. However, whether or not a restored wetland is ideal Yellow Rail habitat is unknown, so far. Nevertheless, to my knowledge this Yellow Rail was the first record for PEI.

From an ecologist's perspective, this study may help us better understand wetland communities. Does Sora habitat involve a certain percentage of open water and a certain percentage of cattail? Research is ongoing and definite conclusions from this "resoration" project are still one year away.

In communities and landscapes such as found on PEI, where agriculture and farming play a major role in the economy, local wildlife, wildlife habitat, and habitat conservation are often of secondary importance. Wetland restoration may be one short term solution for the protection of waterfowl and amphibians. A long term solution would involve a change in agricultural practices.

## Botany Quiz: Can You Identify This Plant?

Gart Bishop

What Is It? See if you can guess the identity of the following native shrub. The answer will appear in the next issue of the N.B. Naturalist/Le Naturaliste du N.-B. The plant in question this time is usually shrub size, occasionally reaching 3-4 m in height. Scattered primarily in the south west corner of the province, it is rarely found elsewhere. New Brunswick is the most northern extension of its range, which extends west to the Great Lakes, then south almost to the Gulf of Mexico. Found in dry to damp deciduous woods, often having fairly rich soils, it is quite capable of living in the shade, as I once found it growing in great abundance under a mature stand of Red Oak. It commonly spreads through suckers, and often has a crooked multi-branching stem. It has many traditional medicinal uses as well as being sought as a curiosity plant.

One of its unusual features is its flowering period from mid September until mid October or later. At this time when the goldenrods and asters are looking pretty ragged, the small clusters of fragrant yellow blooms of this shrub are in their prime. Even after the long narrow petals fall, the small yellow/green capsules from the previous year remain open, giving the shrub the appearance of being in flower throughout the whole winter.

On warm, fall days, this plant attracts almost any species of insect still moving. It is not dependent on insects, which may not be present so late in the season, for the flowers can also self-pollinate effectively. While the fall flowers are unusual, the remaining reproductive cycle is also different. Once the flowers are pollinated, the plant takes a break, delaying the fertilization of the ovary until the spring.

The fruit develops over the spring and early summer, maturing by September into one or two hard shiny black seeds about the size of a rice grain. As the capsule dries in late autumn (often around the time of flowering), it splits across the top, and the seeds explode out of the seed capsule to a distance of 10 m, (commonly 5 m) with an audible snap. The seeds are a favorite food of partridge, deer, beaver and black bear.

The leaves are simple, alternate and have a strongly wavy margin. The base of the leaf is slightly heart-shaped and unequal. The tip of the leaf is slightly blunt and sometimes roughened with small brown hairs. The twigs are very flexible and this has been used to advantage by those 'witching' or divining for water. The

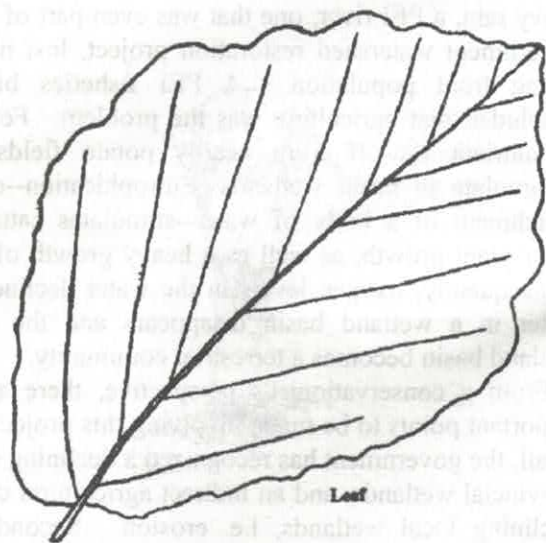
wood has also been used for making long bows and arrows.

Various species of aphids make use of this plant by causing galls in either flower buds or in the leaves.

Its medicinal attributes are legendary if not mystical. Native uses range from using the seeds as sacred beads in medicine ceremonies to use of the leaves and bark to treat wounds and bleeding. Various preparations have been used to treat tumors and inflammations, especially of the eye.

Extracts were used to treat diarrhea. It is still a popular ingredient in many medicinal ointments used to treat varicose veins, inflammation of the gums, skin lotions, aftershaves, mouth washes, skin cosmetics, ointments to treat sunburn, chapping, insect stings and bites.

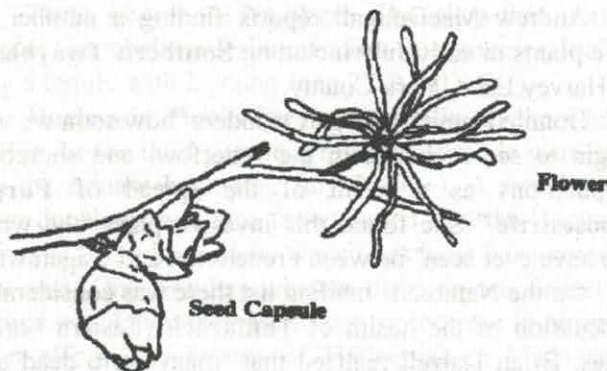
Scientific studies have indicated that its effectiveness in treating varicose veins apparently comes from the high percentage of tannin in leaves and bark. While many benefits have been attributed to extracts derived from this plant, some do contain various toxic chemicals which can be dangerous if used without care. When this shrub's twigs are boiled, the aroma is reputed to being an aphrodisiac. I wonder just how dangerous inhaling such fumes might be?



While cultivated in Europe, the majority of the harvest of this plant comes from the eastern United States, with Connecticut being a principal supplier.

[The following were the principal sources for this article: The CBA Bulletin, Aug 1998, by E Small, P.M. Catling; Medicinal and other Uses of North American Plants (1979) by C.Erichsen-Brown; Wild Shrubs and Vines (1981) by D. Stokes;]

The plant described in the Botany Quiz from last issue [Vol 25 (2)] was Joe-Pye Weed, *Eupatoire maculée* (*Eupatorium maculatum*)



Illustrations by C. Newhall

## Nature News: June-August, 1998

David Christie

The unusually warm spring gave way to a cooler, damper June but mostly hot dry weather later in the summer. On the whole it was a very productive season for the natural world. Plants produced heavy crops of seed and birds nested successfully, in some cases producing one more brood than normal.

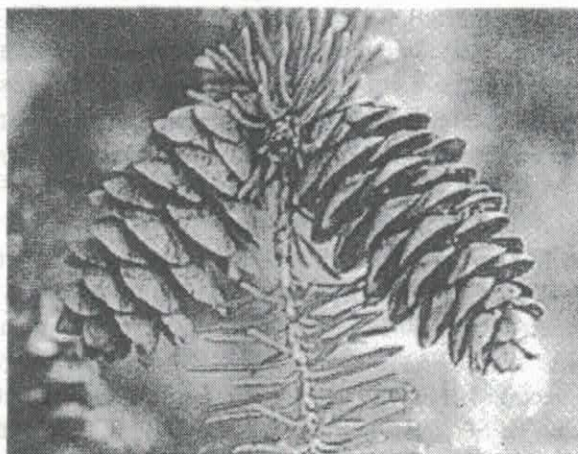
As usual, however, there were variations from place to place. Although **Tree Swallows** nested productively at the upper end of the Bay of Fundy (DSC), at Grand Manan a prolonged period of fog and rain during June caused the loss of most of the young in Brian Dalzell's many nest boxes at Bancroft Point. The adult swallows apparently were unable to obtain enough insects to feed the young.

Blaming it on a warm, moist summer in the Dalhousie area, Mike Lushington complained in mid August about the "worst outbreak of **blackflies**... at this time of year in thirty years, worse... than in many springs." By contrast, in dry Albert County, Ajo Wissink commented, "This is probably the... best year for us humans since we moved here in 1979, just a few weeks [of blackflies] in May and the beginning of June and almost nothing since"

### Plants, Insects, Fishes and Amphibians

Heavy seed production by many trees and shrubs may have been triggered by the severe drought a year earlier, since the formation of flower buds for many species is initiated a year in advance. At any rate, many ob-

servers, virtually throughout the province, commented on the heavy cone crop produced by the **spruces** and **Balsam Fir**. This will have a major influence on the numbers and behaviour of forest birds and small mammals during the fall and winter, even into next summer. Also fruiting heavily and widely were **mountain-ashes**. Reports of highly productive **American Elm** at Sackville (KP), **Hop-Hornbeam** at Scotch Settlement, N of Moncton ("thousands of the hop-like seed packets covering the trees"—NP), **Beech** at FNP (Mary Majka) and **Apple** in Albert County (DSC) may represent fruiting success at more than just a single place.



David Christie photo

Andrew MacDougall reports finding a number of rare plants in early July including **Southern Twayblade** at Harvey Lake, York County.

Bonnie Hamilton Bogart wonders "how soon we will begin to see a change in the waterfowl and shorebird populations as a result of the spread of **Purple Loosestrife**." She found this invasive plant "the worst we have ever seen" between Fredericton and Gagetown.

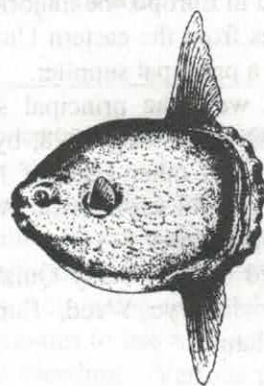
On the NatureNB mailing list there was considerable discussion of the health of **Tamarack** (Eastern Larch) trees. Brian Dalzell realized that "many were dead and dying" on Grand Manan, where he estimated upwards of 20% of the trees affected. This problem was also noted elsewhere in southern New Brunswick (EP, RAM, NS). Bruce Matson reported that one of the more common insects causing mortality in the Maritimes is the Eastern Larch Beetle (*Dendroctonus simplex*): "These small dark brown beetles and their larvae tunnel through the inner bark of the main bole of the trees, effectively cutting off the circulation of sap through the tree." He added "most stands of tamarack that I see with significant mortality are semi-mature to mature and growing on abandoned pastures or fields. These essentially human induced forest communities on old agricultural ground seem to lack ecosystem components that provide tamarack with much greater longevity in their natural environments."

A new plant species for Fundy National Park, the introduced **Helleborine Orchid**, was found in hardwoods along the Caribou Plain Trail July 13 ("3 plants in flower bud"—RJW+).

The earliness of the season was indicated by the "my first handful of" **Wild Strawberries** in the Campbellton area June 14 (MGD), by the first **firefly** at Taylor Village, near Memramcook, June 6 and an abundance of them there June 13 (RA). Many, also early, were flashing at Summerville, near Bayswater, June 18 (KHD). Also, **Fireweed** was already blooming at Hillsborough June 29 (RJW).

Huge **Basking Sharks** occur regularly in the outer Bay of Fundy but this summer were reported to be abundant (*fide* RJW). Three were seen on a pelagic trip off Grand Manan Aug. 5 (RJW+).

A fish of particular note was an **Ocean Sunfish** that became stranded in Middle River, Bathurst, Aug. 24. The metre-long, 50-kilogram fish was released in more suitable marine habitat at Caron Pt. (*Northern Light*). This peculiarly shaped warm-water fish apparently enters the Gulf of St. Lawrence fairly frequently. In fact, Philip Cox, in his 1896 *Catalogue of the Marine and Freshwater Fishes of New Brunswick* mentions it as having been found in Bathurst Harbour.



*Ocean Sunfish*

In late June, Stu Tingley "was struck by how common **Gray Treefrogs** are throughout southwestern Charlotte County. Their very distinctive vocalizations were heard at many sites, mainly singles but a particularly large chorus was heard on Route 745 near Oak Hill." Charlotte County is at the edge of the main range of this species with the colony at Hyla Park, Fredericton, an outlier to the northeast.

### Birds

Highlights of this season were the first New Brunswick report of Violet-green Swallow and an abundance of White-winged Crossbills.

More than the usual number of **Red-throated Loons** may have already returned to the Bay of Fundy in August; reports then included one off Blacks Harbour Aug. 3 (TB+), up to 14 at Campobello Island prior to Aug. 13 (PL) and 10+ along the Fundy Trail Parkway in mid August (MJC). **Red-necked Grebe** also began appearing in August with the earliest at Haggerty's Cove, New River Beach, Aug. 6 (KM) and Cap Bimet, near Shediac, c. Aug. 23 (2—RL); possible **Horned Grebes** were at St. Andrews Aug. 21 (2—GMi).

A probable **Northern Fulmar**, especially rare here in mid summer, was viewed at a considerable distance among a feeding frenzy of shearwaters and gulls at the Bulkhead Rip, GM, July 8 (RJW+). From late June on, numerous **Greater** and **Sooty Shearwaters** were seen in the waters around Grand Manan. A couple of the biggest concentrations reported were 1500 Greaters becalmed on a glassy sea southwest of The Wolves Aug. 4 (RJW) and a gathering near the ledges SE of White Head Island Aug. 15 that was variously estimated at from 1000+ (DSC) to 5000 (JGW) Greaters, from 100+ (DSC) to 800 (JGW) Sooties, and from 200+ (DSC) to 1500

(JGW) **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**. Estimating total numbers of seabirds passing, circling around, and following a chumming boat is difficult. The **Manx Shearwater** was even scarcer than usual in that area, being seen only occasionally from the Sea Watch boat tours (Peter Wilcox). One birding group was particularly fortunate to see one in the Grand Manan Channel and 2 on a whale watching trip Aug. 3 and 4 (TB+). The observation of 2 **Sooty** and 2 **Manx shearwaters** flying E/SE past Miscou Lighthouse July 28 (SIT) was surprising for that part of the province.

Four **Northern Gannets** fishing 150 yards off shore July 20 (Frank & Dianne Kelly) is the first record known for the Irving Nature Park, Saint John. One was seen in mid August from the Fundy Trail Parkway (MJC). Farther out in the bay they are regular.

Post-breeding dispersal brought at least a couple of **Great Egrets** to the province. One at Waterside July 31 to Aug. 7 (Rick Elliott & Barbara Curlew) may have moved on to join the one that had been seen sporadically all summer at Daniels Marsh and Mary's Point (v.o.). Beginning Aug. 9 two were frequently seen there. One at Saints Rest Marsh Aug. 6 (NN) may also have accounted for a report from Grand Bay (NBBIL, Aug. 19).

An adult **Little Blue Heron** spent June 14 to 22 at the Caraquet sewage lagoon (RLA, Benoit Hébert+) and an immature was "stalking mummichogs" at Castalia Marsh July 31 (BED). A **Tricolored Heron** was seen at Grand Manan c. June 16 (Ken Edwards, *fide* PAP) and one was flying "towards the St. John River and New Brunswick" at Fort Kent, Maine, Aug. 11 (GT).

A very early **Snow Goose** was at Buctouche Dune Aug. 30 (v.o.). The approximately 2000 problem **Canada Geese** from Ontario that were released in eastern New Brunswick last year resulted in widespread breeding (at least in the southeast) this summer. In addition, groups of presumably younger non-breeders were being seen. In central New Brunswick, where introductions were made several years earlier, goslings were nearly the size of their parents at Cumberland Bay in the second week of July, and Nelson Poirier reported that most of the geese "are wary of humans." A month earlier, however, Alain Clavette was quite surprised to see people feeding bread to the geese at Calhoun Marsh, near Riverside-Albert, and a pair nested conspicuously by the RCMP office at Fredericton (5 goslings June 8—Jane Tarn). Canada Geese are also now numerous in Charlotte County where there were 150 in a pasture near St. Stephen Aug. 21 (GMi). Those particular birds may be associated with releases at nearby Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge in Maine.

There were more **Northern Shovelers** than normal in the Campbellton-Dalhousie area this summer, including a family with 2 young June 27 (MGD, RC).

**Harlequin Ducks** bred successfully on the Charlo River for the third year in a row; two broods were seen on the estuary beginning July 5 (JC+). A female with four ducklings was also found July 12 on the Benjamin River (ML), where adults sometimes have been noted in the past. One wonders whether these reports reflect an actual population increase or just an increase in observation effort. The reports of Harlequins in Madawaska County in late spring of some recent years suggest that observers there should check the lower parts of their small rivers during July for possible Harlequin families.

A **King Eider** was still lingering at Miscou Island June 10 (PD). Individual summer **Oldsquaws** were found on the Dalhousie sewage lagoon c. June 8-18 (MGD+), on Lake Petitediac, Moncton, July 17 ("quite shabby breeding plumage"—Al Hanson), and Beaver Harbour Aug. 17 (breeding plumage—KM). A **Ruddy Duck** stayed at the St-Joseph sewage lagoon, Memramcook, through June 1 (RA) and this species was also seen at Tracadie-Sheila June 3 (Nicole Benoit, Donald Benoit).

I was surprised by Luc DeRoche's observation June 2 at Bathurst of a female **Common Goldeneye** that approached a brood of ten young and attempted to peck at the head of one of the small black and white ducklings. Naturally, its mother responded aggressively. This behaviour continued for more than 20 minutes. I've heard of female goldeneyes defending their feeding territories against other females or of taking charge of another's young but not of actually attacking the young. Fighting females were also reported June 21 at the Atholville s.l. (MGD, ID).

**Turkey Vultures** were again prominent in their Hammond River centre of abundance. Eleven to 12 at Nauwigewauk flew off towards the Kingston Peninsula on the evenings of June 1-2 (Brad Stevenson); 7 adults were feeding on a cow carcass at Hammond River June 19 (JGW). Some other reports from presumed breeding areas came from Welsford June 6 (4—JGW, JnW); Waweig June 19 (2—MJ); and Graham Corner June 23 (3; "a local resident told me that they are a common sight in that area"—SIT). The following were more likely wanderers: in the South Branch area, Kent Co., in early June (2—*fide* MLeB); in Quebec side but flying towards N.B., near Campbellton Aug. 1 (*fide* RC); and Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska Aug. 30 (2—GT).

Moncton's unusually successful **Bald Eagle** nest near the Salisbury Road apparently again produced 3 eaglets this year (v.o.). Unfortunately, its site is threatened with increased disturbance because of nearby residential development.

The re-established population of **Peregrine Falcons** breeding along the Bay of Fundy continues to do well. Although the Harbour Bridge site was abandoned because of bridge maintenance work, falcons nested elsewhere in the Saint John area as revealed by frequent observations of a family at Saints Rest Marsh in late July and early August (v.o.). Three peregrines at the Fundy Trail Parkway, east of St. Martins, in mid August (MJC) suggests an additional nesting pair in that area, although some birds from the Alma nest might have moved that far by then.

Brian Dalzell was surprised (painfully!) to discover that a **Ring-necked Pheasant** he flushed on White Head Island Aug. 24 had apparently "torn open a hornets' nest and was after the young hornets still developing [inside]". A cooperative male **Spruce Grouse** delighted Kent County observers at St-Maurice during June (MLEB+). Others were reported sitting just off the pavement of the Plaster Rock-Renous Highway June 20 (JT) and at Campobello Island in early August (Maine Audubon Bird Alert).

Quite a number of people are apparently raising and releasing **Wild Turkeys** and **Northern Bobwhite** in New Brunswick these days. Turkeys have frequently been sighted on Deer Island the last two to three years and this summer a family group of 13 was reported near Fairhaven Aug. 3 (TB+). One was seen along a road at Rollingdam June 3 (MJ) and another near Rockport at the end of May. In the last case, Paul Bogaard discovered that people "who live nearby let 'wild turkeys' range free during summer but have a 'roundup' later to retrieve their turkeys." This summer there was a rash of Bobwhite reports at several locations in Albert County, from Mary's Point north to Dawson Settlement, near Hillsborough (fide DSC & DB). In the past there have been reports from several other parts of southern N.B.

A **Virginia Rail**, escorting 2 "sooty black balls of fluff", was seen frequently at the Sackville Waterfowl Park in the first half of August (KP+). A pair returned to the location where they had bred at Atholville last year (v.o.). An **American Coot** summered at Bells Marsh, Moncton (RL+), one at Eel River from June 5 to July 16 (JC) may have visited the Dalhousie s.l. June 6 & 9 (ML+), while one appeared later at the sewage lagoon at Saints Rest Marsh Aug. 16 (LD, RG, RL).

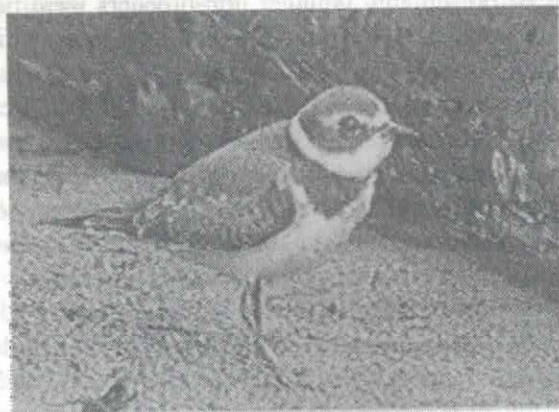
A **Sandhill Crane** reported at Lower Millstream, near Berwick, July 15 (John Candy) had apparently been

seen there by local residents since late June (fide RL). It was seen regularly through the weekend of July 18-19 (v.o.).

There is barely a break between the end of the northward and beginning of the southward migrations of shorebirds. A **Whimbrel** at Maisonneuve June 10 (PD) was probably a late spring migrant and **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Sackville Waterfowl Park June 25 (KP) the first of the fall. But which way were the **White-rumped Sandpipers** at Bancroft Point (BED) and Fredericton North (PAP) going on June 18? I suspect it was north since the first of this high Arctic breeder typically don't return to our beaches till mid to late July.

Peak numbers reported for some shorebirds this summer were: 500 **Black-bellied Plovers**, 500 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 1000 **Ruddy Turnstones**, 1000 **Sanderlings**, 1000 **White-rumped Sandpipers**, and 200 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Buctouche Dune Aug. 31 (DD); 850 **Semipalmated Plovers** at Mary's Point Aug. 28 (DSC); 49 **Greater Yellowlegs** at Atholville s.l. July 28 (MGD, ID); 25 **Whimbrel** at White Head Island Aug. 7 (TB+); 39 **Hudsonian Godwits** at Maisonneuve Dune July 25 (MD); 160,000 to 180,000 mostly **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Johnsons Mills Aug. 10 (AC); 41 **Red Knots** at Pokesudie Island July 26 (MD, RL).

A shorebird that had red legs was reported among a group of yellowlegs at Kouchibouguac Nat'l Park Aug. 28 (fide Tony Erskine). Similar in size and behaviour to the yellowlegs, it may have been one of the **redshanks** (Eurasian species) but Ruff is also a possibility. A cooperative female **Ruff**, known as a "Reeve," with "quite bright orange legs" associated with yellowlegs at the Sackville Waterfowl Park from the weekend of July 11-12 to the following weekend (Ruth Miller+).



David Christie photo

During the Breeding Bird Atlas project of 1986-90 a few breeding **Solitary Sandpipers** were discovered in New Brunswick. Since then, observers have not been visiting wet bogs and fens as often, but his dragonfly investigations are now drawing Stuart Tingley to such habitats where, along the Plaster Rock-Renous Highway, in northern York County, he encountered a "very territorial Solitary scolding constantly from treetops" June 25.

An **Upland Sandpiper** at Charlo Airport July 6-8 (Dave Flynn+) may be the first record for Restigouche County and 3 at Wilsons Pt. Aug. 1 (MGD, ID, S&TG) only the second for Miscou Island. Seven at Pennfield July 31 (KM) were expectable at the airstrip there. The only **Wilson's Phalarope** I've heard about was at an impoundment by the Cormier Cove Road near Memramcook Aug. 8 (AC+).

A vagrant **Marbled Godwit** stayed at Maissonnette Dune from Aug. 29 well into September (MD+). Some **Western Sandpipers** were found, at Long Pond Beach, GM Aug. 5 (2-TB+), at White Head Island Aug. 7 (TB+), and at Johnsons Mills Aug. 7 (1 banded—Nev Garrity+). **Baird's Sandpipers** were reported at Anchorage Park, GM Aug. 5 (2-TB+), White Head Island Aug. 7 (2-TB+), Irving Nature Park Aug. 27 (3-JT), and Buctouche Dune Aug. 31 (3-DD).

Four **Pomarine Jaegers** flew by the Buctouche Dune Aug. 23 (DD).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** concentrate each summer in Chaleur Bay and Passamaquoddy Bay, for example, 700 at Youghall Beach July 11 ("only about 10% adults"—PD), several hundred at the Tetagouche estuary, Bathurst, July 12 (PD), and 2200 at Deer Island Pt. Aug. 12 (KM). These are good areas to watch for rarer gulls. A **Little Gull** was with Bonaparte's at the mouth of Jacques River July 6 (RG), one at Beresford July 20 (adult—PD), and one at Deer Island Pt. Aug. 19 (adult beginning moult—KM); a **Black-headed Gull** at Youghall Beach July 20 (PD); **Laughing Gull** at Maissonnette Dune July 12-25 (MD) and Deer Island Pt. Aug. 12 (adult—KM). Others of this species were seen at Maces Bay Aug. 1 (adult—KM) and Buctouche Dune Aug. 23 & 31 (2-1, "2nd year plumage"—DD).

Several people commented on late summer aerial feeding frenzies of gulls, sometimes mixed with Starlings. At Mary's Point I've found these birds to be feeding on brown ants, the winged males and females of which swarm at this time of year. On Aug. 27 I saw ants emerging from the ground and watched about 120 **Ring-billed Gulls** snatching them from the air over the sand dunes and marshes. Others reported this behaviour by Ring-billed and **Bonaparte's** gulls at Pt. La Nim and

Eel River Bar Aug. 15 (ML) and Buctouche Dune c. Aug. 30 (DD), by Bonaparte's and **European Starlings** between Shediac and Cap Bimet Aug. 28 ("huge flock, dashing wildly around, well overhead"—JT), and by many Starlings and some Nighthawks and Ring Billed Gulls at St. Stephen Aug. 28 (GMi).

A surprising number of **Arctic Terns** were reported among the numerous **Common Terns** in Chaleur Bay, for instance, about 20 at Miscou Lighthouse July 28, "several carrying fish. There must be a substantial number breeding locally with the much more numerous Commons" (SIT), 5 at Pokesudie Island Aug. 8 (RLa), and 3 at Eel River Bar Aug. 23 (ML+). This may indicate increased breeding activity there since the bird atlas project of a decade ago.

The usual **Black Terns** were noted breeding in floodplain marshes along the Saint John and its tributaries in central N.B. After the breeding season some show up at the coast, such as 6 flying by Robichaud Aug. 2 (NB) and a juvenile at Deer Island Pt. Aug. 19 (JGW, JnW, KM).

Of the rare terns, two **Roseates** were seen at the Machias Seal Island breeding site Aug. 5 (TB+) and one from the Grand Manan ferry Aug. 3 (TB+). Three **Caspian Tern** were seen along the Upper Cape shore on the July 18-19 weekend (NB, Gisèle Belliveau). A **Forster's Tern** flying along Great Lake near Jemseg June 10 (FH) could not be relocated for confirmation.

Observations around Grand Manan suggest that the **Common Murre** breeding population is growing. In the Grand Manan Channel 6 were seen June 9 (JGW, JnW) and 12 on Aug. 16 (incl. 2 immatures, each with a parent—v.o.). Some were seen from the Swallowtail on the July 4-5 weekend (RL) and 4 off White Head Island July 8 (incl. 2 "bridled" morph—RJW+). One or more **Thick-billed Murres** summered in the Quoddy region, singles being reported at Deer Island July 26 (winter plumage—SIT) and on at least 3 dates prior to Aug. 13 at Campobello Island (PL+).



Perhaps the same vagrant **White-winged Dove** that had been at Inkerman till June 1 (Edith Robichaud) visited a feeder in Tracadie-Sheila July 16-19 (Nicole Benoit, Jollande St-Pierre).

A family of **Long-eared Owls** puzzled and frustrated observers in the Taylor Village area near Memramcook from late June (AC, RL, RA+). From the variety of calls heard they were suspected as being Long-eared from the beginning but it took numerous outings before the identification became positive. At first 2 or 3 owls were heard but in mid August they became more vocal and there were at least 7 calling Aug. 13 (RA). Late on Aug. 25 a **Great Horned Owl** was found perched in the same tree where Long-eareds had been seen earlier. After that the Long-eareds stopped calling or left the area. A fledgling **Short-eared Owl**, quite fluffy looking but able to fly short distances was seen at June 7 Babbitts Meadows, near Upper Gagetown, June 7 (Laurel Bernard); four short-ears at Hillsborough c. July 19 were believed to be 2 adults and 2 juveniles (RL).

**Common Nighthawks** have apparently never bred at Grand Manan so one at Bancroft Point June 21 (BED) was recognizable as a late migrant. The same day, at the other end of the province, Margaret Gallant Doyle heard her "first of the year" at Atholville. Nighthawk migration is often conspicuous during August, when "many" were noted at New Scotland bog, N of Lutes Mountain, Aug. 4 (RL), 35 at Bathurst Aug. 6 (MGD, ID), 100 at St. Stephen Aug. 21 (GMI); and on Aug. 25: 35 and 20-30 in different parts of Fredericton (Halton Dalzell, WM, LC), 20 near Oromocto (JGW), and dozens at Tetagouche Nord et along route 11 near Bathurst (LD).

A **Whip-poor-will** beyond the usual breeding area was calling on a wooded hilltop at Edmundston Aug. 7 (Gisèle Thibodeau, Pauline Morneault, Denys Bourque). One had been calling there on June 20, 1997.

Substantial **Chimney Swift** roosts have been known for years in large chimneys at Fredericton and Sussex. On June 6 about 100 swifts were found entering the chimney at St. Bernard's Church in downtown Moncton (Jim Brown). 38 were still congregating there July 8 (Jennifer Day-Elgee & Cheryl Davis).

A **Willow Flycatcher** was at Wilkins Field, Fredericton North, June 1 (PAP) and by late June at least 3 or 4 were calling in that area. They have been found breeding there in recent years, and this year a nest was found after being knocked down by a bulldozer (*vide* Jim Edsall).

A **Western Kingbird** that was seen briefly at Miscou harbour May 30 (Gertrude St-Pierre, Donalda Benoit, Michel Chiasson) was supported by an appearance

in Maine and one in Nova Scotia at about the same time. A stray **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was catching grasshoppers and other insects along Route 1 near Lepreau July 18-19 (John Haselmayer+).

Kathy Popma reports that there were only a couple of **Purple Martins** at the once thriving colony next to the Sackville Waterfowl Park. At the beginning of July, 8 pairs were seen at McEwen's Airfield, Irishtown (RL), also down from former numbers there. The cool, wet springs in 1996 and 1997 could be the cause. How are the Saint John valley colonies doing?

On June 7, Brian Dalzell's attention was drawn to a strange swallow near his house at Bancroft Point. "Somewhat smaller than a Tree Swallow, with white rump patches, dusky sides of the throat, and a distinctive 'chip-chip' call" the green-backed, white-bellied swallow was identified as a second-year **Violet-green Swallow**, the first report of that western species in New Brunswick. The bird stayed around for about 3 hours that afternoon but was not seen thereafter.

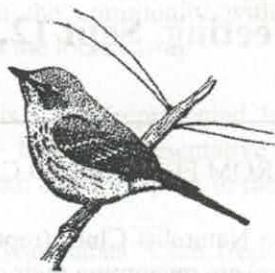
The **N. Rough-winged Swallows** found nesting at Fredericton Junction in late May were seen until at least July 11 (RL). Sightings June 6 suggested there could be 2 pairs in the area (JGW, JnW).

A **House Wren** was reported on Campobello Island Aug. 2 (TB+). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Mary's Point was especially unusual on the mid-summer date of June 28 (DSC). A fall wanderer was seen at Caraquet Aug. 29 (MD, RL).

There were widely scattered reports of **Eastern Bluebirds** during June. Roger Guitard knew of at least 5 pairs in Chaleur region this summer, including ones with nestlings at Pointe-Verte and Belledune July 15. Nine bluebirds (mostly immatures) were feeding on spiders on the steeple of a St. Martin's church Aug. 22 (MJC).

Two parties hiked to Mount Carleton in search of **Bicknell's Thrush** and had brief encounters with the species July 2 and 3 (Chris Adam, PD & Stuart Wells). A **Hermit Thrush** nest with 2 eggs was found at Little Magaguadavic Lake Aug. 15 (Dave Myles); this very late nesting may have been re-nesting following earlier failures.

**Northern Mockingbirds** are sparsely distributed in settled areas of the province. A particularly prominent pair nested this summer in downtown Fredericton, where fledged young were noted July 30 (WM). In the north, a pair was nesting in Campbellton (MGD+). A **Brown Thrasher** was singing long and loud in an old field growing up in spruce and alder at Riley Brook June 8 (Roger Jenkins).



A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported at Fredericton Aug. 5 (Shirley Sloat) and in the northeast a **Warbling Vireo** at Pointe-Verte June 9 (RG).

There were three reports of **Yellow-throated Warbler** during August: at Mactaquac Aug. 3 (Bev & Marc Schneider), Port Elgin the weekend of Aug. 7-9 (MGD, ID), and a male seen well at the Anchorage Park, GM, Aug. 19 (Bob & Wendy McDonald, Bertrand Hamel). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was reported at Escuminac in mid July (S&TG) and the first **Yellow-breasted Chat** of the fall was noted at Whale Cove Pond, GM, Aug. 19 (PMo).

**Scarlet Tanagers** are relatively scarce in southeastern N.B. so a male found June 2 and 18 off Negro Brook Rd., near Penobsquis 1 (KM & Chris Kusch) and another S of Elgin June 21 (DSC) are of interest.

Over the years **Northern Cardinals** have been very sparse in the Buctouche area but there was one near Ste-Anne-de-Kent July 8 (MLeB). An **Indigo Bunting** visited a feeder at Lakeville, Carleton Co., June 9 (Rose Lanto).

An immature **Lark Sparrow** was "tame and approachable" at Southern Head light station, GM, Aug. 16-17 (WM; PMo).

A young male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was coming to a feeder at Seal Cove from August 29 into September; (Francis Bainbridge+). An unusual singing **Orchard Oriole**, a young male, was found at Hampton (JGW, JnW).

A massive **White-winged Crossbill** invasion began in June. In the southeast they were reported June 10-13 at Mary's Point (DSC), near Sussex (FH), at Fundy National Park (KM), and Shediac Island 20 (Moncton Nat. Club). By late June, Stu Tingley was "struck by how common they are across the province right now. They are in full song and clearly preparing to nest at many sites. Particularly common in the northwest." At Grand Manan "the number of territorial birds" was "increasing exponentially" at the beginning of July "although I have yet to see evidence of nest-building" (BED). In the Northumberland County woods they were "singing loudly, presumably nesting" c. July 6 (NP).

All these crossbills were taking advantage of the excellent crop of spruce cones, but they were not everywhere. "Despite a good cone crop in the spruces and firs, we are not seeing anything of the crossbill invasion," commented Mike Lushington from the Dalhousie area in mid August. At that time, 1000+ were estimated along the Fundy Trail Parkway (MJC). At St. Martins they were seen picking in seaweed at the high-water line (Dennis Seeley), presumably in search of salt and grit just as they are often seen doing on dirt roads.

**Red Crossbills** were also prominent this summer. During June small numbers were visiting bird feeders at Alma (RJW, Doreen Rossiter), Rosevale (Ajo Wis-sink), and Memramcook (AC). For most of July a pair of adults attended a feeder at Spruce Lake, Saint John, re-appearing Aug. 17 with 3 young (Ngair Nelson). But there were more of them in the forest with the White-wings, at least in the south. At Summerville "flocks of up to 30, many on spruce heavily laden with cones" were seen June 18-25 (Hank Deichmann), and 35 in 3 flocks, "headed NE up the bay" at Grand Manan July 3 (BED)

## Mammals

Nancy Sears reports interesting behaviour of a **Little Brown Bat** at St. Martin's. Bats spend the day under shingles on their house but on a hot afternoon in the third week of August one was observed leaving its roost, taking a cool float with wings outstretched on a wheelbarrow full of water and then returning to the house.

Roger LeBlanc was excited to get a good look at a **Canada Lynx** on a road near the New Scotland bog the weekend of Aug. 8-9: "The color, the size, everything was different from a Bobcat" (a species which I had great looks at last winter in Edgett Landing).

## Abbreviations

AC Alain Clavette; BED Brian Dalzell; DB Dwayne Biggar; DD Denis Doucet; DSC David Christie; EP Eileen Pike; FH Falk Hüttmann; FNP Fundy Nat'l Park; GM Grand Manan; GMi Grant Milroy; GT Georgette Thibodeau; ID Irene Doyle; JC Jim Clifford; JGW Jim Wilson; JnW Jean Wilson; JT John Tanner; KHD Henrik Deichmann; KM Ken MacIntosh; KP Kathy Popma; LC Linda Cais-sie; LD Luc DeRoche; MGD Margaret Gallant Doyle; MJ Marianne Janowicz; MJC Merv Cormier; MLeB Mike LeBlanc; NB Norm Belliveau; NBBIL N.B. Bird Info Line; NN Ngair Nelson; NP Nelson Poirier; NS Nancy Sears; PAP Peter Pearce; PD Pierre Duguay; PL Paul Lehman; PMo Paul Mortimer; RA Ron Arsenaault; RAM Rose-Alma Mallet; RC Raymond Chiasson; RG Roger Guitard; RJW Rob Walker; RL Roger LeBlanc; RLa Rosita Lanteigne; S&TG Sandra & Tom Gulliver; SIT Stu Tingley; s.l. sewage la-goön; TB Tom Bartlett; v.o. various observers; WM Bill Mountain.

## Minutes of the NBFN Board of Directors Meeting, Sept 12, 1998

### Kathy Popma

Present: Pres. R-A. Mallet, V.P. K. O'Donnell, Treas. J. Brown, Sec. K. Popma, Past Pres. F. Longstaff; Dir at Lge A. Smith, Club Reps: Kevin Dutt (Fred.), Roland Chaisson, (C.N.A.P.), Paul Bogaard, (Chig.), Elizabeth McIntosh (Ford-Alw.), Gart Bishop (Kenn.), Pierette Mercier, (Mad.), Vivian Beale, (Mct.), Ken MacIntosh. (SJ), Mike Lushington, (Rest.), Irene Doyle

#### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The President welcomed the directors and new people introduced themselves.

#### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The President presented the agenda and agreed to add items of Other Business.

#### 3. MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING

These had been previously circulated. Copies were given to new Directors. It was moved by K. Popma and seconded by F. Longstaff (who had compiled them) that the minutes be adopted.

Carried

#### 4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Paul B. commented on the conjoint CNF/NBFN AGM held in Sackville in August. There were 130 registrants with up to 200 people present in all. He underscored the contributions of the Canadian Wildlife Service personnel to the event. Financial results were not yet available and will be discussed at a later date when all accounts are in. Any deficit is to be shared 3 ways between the CNF, the NBFN and the local host, the Chignecto Naturalists' Club. Frank L. commended the organizers on the job they did. Kathy P. mentioned that in future conjoint events something should be done to give both AGMs enough time to meet before they join together as she felt the NBFN AGM was rushed. Motions to be presented should be submitted in advance so members could react appropriately. Rose-Alma would thank the CWS for their help.

action requested R-A Mallet

#### 5. TREASURER'S REPORT

previous balance	\$5895.77
debits	1065.00
current balance	<u>\$4810.04</u> (approx.)

#### 6. REPORTS FROM FEDERATED CLUBS

6.1. Fredericton Naturalist Club (represented by Kevin Nutt) reports they are revamping their constitution. They had a speaker whose topic was meteorology.

6.2. C.N.P.A. (Acadian Pen.) (represented by Roland Chaisson) reports that they are planning for the NBFN ABM next year.

6.3. Chignecto Naturalists' Club (represented by Paul Bogaard) reports that they had their traditional Members' Night at their recent September meeting.

6.4. Moncton Naturalists' Club (represented by Vivian Beale and Kathy Popma) reports their President Mike Antle would like to have a copy of the Agenda of the NBFN Board of Directors' Meeting beforehand so they could send their responses to the issues to the meeting with their representative. Discussion ensued about how best to communicate between clubs and the directors which seems to be an ongoing and widespread problem. The time lag means the minutes are not very useful to the clubs. The agenda could be put on the NBFN Website and accessed by each club. Rose-Alma will do this 2 weeks in advance of our next meeting. Reps were asked to inform their clubs of this, but not all clubs will meet during that period.

action requested R-A Mallet

6.5. Restigouche Naturalists' Club (represented by Mike Lushington) reports they are also redoing their constitution. They are also involved in 4 local Endangered Spaces and will be active in responding to the Lapierre report. They are heavily involved in educational aspects of natural issues.

6.6. Madawaska Club (represented by Pierette Mercier) reports they received a grant for a student to do data bank research on bird studies in conjunction with a Quebec project. She will provide more details on this in the future.

6.7. Ford-Alward Club (represented by Elizabeth McIntosh) reports they are a small but busy group who recently had a speaker on shark-tagging. They are doing

outreach work in the community with workshops on birdfeeders etc. at the local Co-op.

6.8. Kennebecais Club (represented by Gart Bishop) reports that they had a representative from the New Brunswick Museum come to speak to them.

6.9. Saint John Naturalists' Club (represented by Ken MacIntosh) reports they had Jim Wilson speak on his trip to the North West Passage, they went on a trip to Grand Manan, they had a botanical trip, and that they have been discussing the issue of liability. This was discussed in general by the directors. The costs were stated to be about \$400-500 for lawyers' fees and about \$500 for the insurance premium. This topic will be added to a future agenda where NBFN will consider becoming an umbrella group for the clubs to defray costs.

action requested R-A Mallet

## 7. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

As this agenda item was missed earlier it was slipped in at this point. Jean Wilson was not present so Rose-Alma gave the report. Due to the fact that many members of the NBFN did not renew their memberships after our arrangement with the CNF was discontinued, we are short \$3300 in revenues. Discussion took place regarding how to remind members to rejoin. A list of members who had not renewed was circulated and club representatives were asked to check it and speak to those involved. The secretary was asked to contact David Christie to ask if a request for members could be added to the NBFN Website. This was to include an application form which they could print off and send with their cheques to Jean. She was also asked to mention it on the Moncton Nature Line. Fees are \$15 to renew.

action requested K. Popma

### NEW BRUNSWICK FEDERATION OF NATURALISTS

#### HELP BUILD A STRONGER VOICE FOR NATURE

#### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership fee for the current year and for 1999 is \$15 annually in Canada and \$20 in other countries. Fees should be directed to the membership secretary, Jean E. Wilson, 2 Neck Road, Quispamsis, N.B., E2G-1L3

.....Renewal

.....New Member

Name.....

Address.....

Postal Code.....

Telephone.....e-mail.....

Federated Club.....

#### GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Recipient Name.....

Address.....

Postal Code.....

Donor Name.....

Address.....

Postal Code.....

A note will be sent announcing your gift and welcoming the new member to the Federation.

**Thank you for your support!**

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

This agenda item was missed earlier and inserted at this point. Rose Alma reported this summer she had received a number of requests from travellers to suggest good birding sites. Discussion ensued about how best to provide tourists and others with a comprehensive list of them such as getting the Dept. of Tourism to republish the Birding N.B. Map, and compiling information from all the clubs into one booklet like other places such as the Magdalen Islands and Nova Scotia have done. This would be quite a task. Pierrette offered to do some research into how to apply for a grant to do this.

action requested P. Mercier

## 9. NB BIRD LISTS / ANNOTATED BIRDS OF N.B.

9.1 The newly published New Brunswick Bird Lists were distributed and it was decided each club would receive some and be invoiced at the cost of \$1 for each copy. The directors appreciated an anonymous donation of \$300 from a Moncton source to help cover the costs of these. 3000 have been printed at a cost of \$862. More can be ordered from Rose-Alma.

9.2 There is still a problem for Rose-Alma to get our mail. She will ask the N.B. Museum to send it to her and we will pay costs.

action requested R-A. Mallet

# LA FEDERATION DES NATURALISTES DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

TOUS ENSEMBLE POUR LA SAUGARDE DE LA NATURE

## Formulaire de Membre

La cotisation pour l'année 1998 et l'année 1999 est annuellement de \$15 au Canada et \$20 pour les autres pays. La cotisation doit être envoyée à la préposée aux abonnements: Jean E. Wilson, 2 Neck Road, Quispamsis, N.B., E2G-1L3

.....Réabonnement

.....Nouvelle Abonnement

Nom.....

Adresse.....

.....Code postale.....

Téléphone.....Courrier électronique

Club fédéré.....

## Abonnement Cadeau

Nom de receveur.....

Adresse.....

.....Code postale.....

Nom de donneur.....

Adresse.....

.....Code postale.....

Une note de bienvenue et de souhait sera envoyée au nom ci-haut mentionné en votre nom et celui de la Fédération.

Merci pour votre appui!

9.3 The research has now been completed for the Annotated Birds of New Brunswick and the list has been made. More funds are now needed to publish it as the N.B. Museum has not been able to. Jim Brown reminded the directors our GIC is coming due shortly and might be used for this. Volunteers will still be used to translate it. It was decided we need more information and Rose-Alma will ask Jim Wilson from the Bird Records Committee to join us at our next meeting to discuss this further. A suggestion that good birding areas be added to this list was made. Frank suggested the Wildlife Fund be approached.

action requested R-A Mallet

#### 10. NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is late but Gart explained he cannot reach Rob Walker who was responsible for it. He hopes to have it out by mid-October. Ken MacIntosh is doing the November issue. Gart is doing the January issue and by then hopes to be back on schedule. Don Gibson is a possibility for 1999. Club reps were asked by Rose-Alma to encourage submissions from members and also other interested sources. An editorial handbook is in the making. Discussion took place as to whether all submissions had to be originals, which is the current policy. However, items in club newsletters pertaining to upcoming field trips and speakers may be published by the Naturalist. Mike mentioned the personal touch is best when dealing with potential contributors.

#### 11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rose-Alma reported she attended the conjoint CNF/NBFN AGM in Sackville in August, but was disappointed there was so little interest and support from New Brunswick members. She heard that some thought summer was too hot for meetings. Discussion took place about the upcoming AGM on the Acadian Peninsula regarding sites, fees and accommodation. Paul mentioned a resource book exists which contains summaries of past AGMs which might be useful.

#### 12. CHARITABLE STATUS

Kevin Tutt's offer to conduct the audit was gratefully received by all. Frank reported that a proper financial statement was required and that there were upcoming legal changes in the works to the definition of "charitable status". Education may be a necessary main activity.

#### 13. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

13.1 Canadian Endangered Species Campaign: The Province of New Brunswick and one other are the only provinces not to co-operate with the Federal Government's campaign. Rose-Alma will participate in a conference call with CNF on this.

action requested RA Mallet

13.2 NB Protected areas news release: Discussion ensued about recently released LaPierre report which seems to lack teeth. Meeting places for public forums were to be brought to clubs' attention. (An announcement was made recently that there would be no meetings until Spring.)

#### 14. SHARING RESPONSIBILITIES

Mike volunteered to help with Endangered Species Committee. Pierrette or Mike will help with New Brunswick Bird Day. Gart will help with Model Forests. Al Smith will help with Wetlands and Oceans, as well as Marine Protected Areas. Jim Brown will look into the cost-effectiveness of possibly accepting commercial sponsors of the newsletter such as bird seed companies.

Action requested Jim and others

#### 15 OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Treasurer's Concern: A somewhat lengthy discussion occurred regarding bookkeeping practices, in particular those relating to the Piping Plover Project. The Treasurer felt grant funds should appear first in the NBFN treasury, as sponsor, then to be allocated to the appropriate project, instead of going directly to the project. He announced it was inaccurate that the books of the NBFN had been audited as stated in relation to the granting of funds to the Piping Plover Project. Our name appears on the cheque, but we have no record of receipt of these funds the way it is done now. A committee was struck to review and/or format policy on this consisting of Roland Chaisson, Kevin Tutt and Jim Brown and they will report back next meeting on their findings.

Action requested Roland, Kevin and Jim

## 15.2 FUNDY MODEL FOREST

Gart reports he has a video and CD available on request regarding the forest project.

16. Next meeting will be Saturday november 7, 11 am at the Bailey building, UNB in Fredericton

## 17 ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted, K. Popma, Secretary

PS The Directors would like to express their thanks to Kevin Tutt for skipping out and thoughtfully photocopying and stapling all the lists of members for the meeting, and Vivian Beale for the yummy muffins.

# CODE DE CONDUITE DU NATURALISTE

Principe de base: La Fédération des Naturaliste du Nouveau-Brunswick reconnaît que toute vie sauvage (incluant les plantes et les animaux) a une valeur intrinsèque et doit pouvoir coexister avec nous et prospérer. Il est notre devoir d'agir comme intendant et veiller sur le bien-être de toute vie sauvage et de ses habitats.

## 1) Développer votre respect et votre compréhension de la nature ainsi que celui des autres:

- Acquérir des connaissances augmente notre appréciation de la nature et aide à minimiser l'impact de l'humain sur la nature.
- Renseignez-vous au sujet de la vie sauvage et de ses habitats, surtout les espèces en danger, menacées ou rare et les facteurs qui les rendent plus vulnérable.
- Partagez vos connaissances et respect pour la nature avec les autres.
- Si vous trouvez une plante, un animal ou un fossile qui pourrait être rare, avisez votre expert local, musée ou université.
- Lorsque possible, offrez votre aide pour des études scientifiques de population de la vie sauvage.

## 2) Toujours placez le bien-être de la vie sauvage avant votre désir de l'observer:

- Déplacez-vous lentement pour permettre la faune de s'accoutumer à la présence humaine.
- Votre visite devrait être la plus courte et la plus silencieuse possible.
- Gardez vos distances, surtout des nids, des tanières et des colonies, pour minimiser les dérangements et éviter les expositions au danger.
- Évitez d'entraîner de façon répétée ou de courir après les oiseaux et autres animaux; ne jamais séparer les jeunes des parents.

- Utilisez les aides sonores et autres méthodes semblables pour attirer les oiseaux avec modération et jamais dans les régions très peuplées d'oiseaux.
- Remplacez les pierres et souches déplacées en cherchant pour des reptiles, amphibiens et invertébrés terrestres et aquatiques.
- Si vous devez manipuler les reptiles, amphibiens et invertébrés, retournez les soigneusement dans leur habitat. Si possible, les observez sans les toucher.
- Ne jamais manipuler les oiseaux ou mammifères sauf en cas d'urgences.
- Laissez les plantes sauvages dans leur habitat naturel et ne pas les cueillir ou déterrer sauf si elles vont être détruites par le développement.
- Laissez les fossiles sur le site sauf s'ils sont nombreux et/ou vont être endommagés par l'érosion.

## 3) Toujours préserver l'intégrité des sites naturels et écosystèmes:

- Ne jamais dérangez l'habitat des plantes ou des animaux en danger, rare, peu commun ou menacé, particulièrement lors des cycles ou saisons de reproduction.
- Lorsque possible, demeurez sur les chemins ou sentier pour éviter de piétiner et ainsi réduire le dérangement à la vie sauvage et son habitat.
- Rapportez tout les rebuts même si ce n'est pas les vôtres.
- Seulement vous pouvez prévenir les feux de forêt.
- Évitez de supporter le commerce en plantes ou animaux obtenus de la nature.

**4) Toujours respecter les droits d'autrui:**

- a) Soyez courtois envers les autres.
- b) Comportez-vous de façon à rehausser l'image des naturalistes partout.
- c) Respectez la vie privée et la propriété des autres en obéissant les enseignes "Entrée interdite" et demandez la permission au propriétaire avant d'entrée sur une propriété privée.
- d) Obéissez toutes règlements et lois gouvernant l'usage publique de sites naturels.

**5) Lorsque en groupe, chacun des individus doit assumer ses responsabilités:**

- a) Essayez de diminuer les dérangements et problèmes qui se multiplient lorsque plusieurs personnes se déplacent sur les sites.
- b) Les actions individuelles doivent être dans l'intérêt du groupe mais aussi et principalement dans l'intérêt de la nature.
- c) La conduite du groupe doit refléter une sensibilité et un respect de la nature.

**6) Comme dirigeant d'un groupe:**

- a) Vous devez assumer la responsabilité pour le groupe.
- b) Vous devez informer le groupe de règlements ou conduite spéciaux applicable au site ou à l'habitat visité.
- c) Vous devez vous assurez que le groupe est limité à un nombre qui ne menacera pas l'environnement et le plaisir de chacun.
- d) Vous devez éduquer les autres à respecter et apprécier la faune et flore et leurs habitats par vos paroles et actions.

Editor's note – Sincere thanks to the many individuals who assisted with my premier performance as a contributor to the publication of this magazine. Special thanks to Rose-Alma for promoting speedy delivery of articles, to Gert for mentoring, to Anne, Irene and Denys for help with translations, to Sandra for patience and proofreading assistance, to Don for digitized vulture photos, and to the many contributors, all of whom forwarded material and answered queries promptly. – KM

Reminder: please check the address label for your current NBFN membership status.  
Un rappel: SVP vérifier l'étiquette d'adresse du dernier magazine Le Naturaliste que vous avez reçu à savoir si vous êtes à date avec votre adhésion.



*David Christie photo*

N.B. Naturalist/  
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