



25(4) Winter / Hiver 1998-1999

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







## N. B. Federation of Naturalists

## Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B.

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

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

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

### FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS / CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE LA FÉDÉRATION

**Past president / Ancien président:** Frank Longstaff, RR #1, Hampton, NB E0G 1Z0; tel. 832-9087

**President / Président:** Rose-Alma Mallet, RR #1 Site, Boîte 22, Shediac, NB E0A 3G0; tel. 532-3482

**Vice-president / Vice-président:** Evin O'Donnell, 1321 Route 101 Hwy., Nasonworth, NB E3C 2C7

**Secretary / Secrétaire:** Kathy Popma, P.O. Box 658, Sackville, NB E0A 3C0; tel. 536-3052

**Treasurer / Trésorier:** Jim Brown, P.O. Box 5214, Sussex, NB E4E 5L3; tel. 433-4666

**Membership Secretary / Secrétaire de la société:** Jean Wilson, 2 Neck Rd, Quispamsis, NB E2G 1L3; tel. 847-4506

**Directors-at-large / Membres généraux:** Pat Émond, C.P. 162, Kedwick, NB E0K 1C0; Kevin O'Donnell, RR # 10, Fredericton NB E3B 6H6; Anne Bardou, P.O. Box 63, Alma, NB E0A 1B0

**Representative directors / Membres représentatifs:** Gart Bishop (Kennebecasis), Paul Bogaard (Chignecto), Pierrette Mercier (Madawaska), Roland Chiasson (Péninsule acadienne), Kevin Tutt (Fredericton), Mike Lushington (Restigouche), Bernadette Leblanc (Les amis de la nature), Vivian Beale (Moncton), Kenneth MacIntosh (Saint John), Elizabeth McIntosh (Ford Alward).

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

### Editorial Committee / Comité de rédaction

Editorial Production Teams/Équipes d'éditeurs en chef: Rob Walker/Gart Bishop & Alison McArthur/Kenneth MacIntosh/Don Gibson  
Support Editors/Autres éditeurs: Hilaire Chiasson et Rose-Aline Chiasson (articles français), David Christie, Irene Doyle (compiler/compilatrice), Mary Majka, Steve Reid, Don Vail (photo editor).

### FEDERATED CLUBS / CLUBS FÉDÉRÉS

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

**Chignecto Naturalists' Club**, c/o CWS, Box 6227, Sackville, NB E0A3C0; 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 alternants entre Caraquet, Shippagan et Tracadie, 1er mercredi, sept. à juin; *Le Gobe-mouche* mensuel.

**Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska**, a/s Musée du Madawaska, 195 boul. Hébert, Edmundston NB E3V 2S8; 735-5613 (dom.) (Gerard 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, sale d'activités (au sous-sol) de la Bibliothèque de Beresford.

**Club Les ami(e)s de la nature**, 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, Station A, Fredericton, NB E3B 5B4; 455-0569; meets Odell Park Lodge, at Odell Park, 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, 7:30pm 2nd Wed., Sept.-May, elsewhere in June; monthly *Bulletin*.

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

Published quarterly by the N.B. Federation of Naturalists, c/o New Brunswick Museum, 277 Douglas Ave., Saint John, NB E2K 1E5. Canadian Publication Mail Product Sales Agreement No. 487716. Return postage guaranteed. Please send notice of change of address to the **Membership Secretary**. Subscription rates (renewable before Jan 1st): in NB - \$15; other countries \$20; single issues of NB Naturalist - \$4 plus postage.

*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; tel. (506) 753-7261, colector@nbnet.nb.ca** Ask for details of computer compatibility. Advertising rates available on request.

Cette publication trimestrielle est éditée par la Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B., a/s Le Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick, 277 ave. Douglas, Saint John, NB E2K 1E5. Port de retour garanti. Tout changement d'adresse devrait être envoyé au **Secrétaire de la société**. Les tarifs de réabonnement pour *Le Naturaliste N.-B.* avant le 1 janvier. Abonnement régulier au Nouveau-Brunswick, un an 15\$; autres pays, un an 20\$; un numéro du *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.* 4\$ l'exemplaire plus les frais postaux.

On peut lire dans *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.* des rapports touchant l'histoire naturelle du Nouveau-Brunswick. Les articles seront acceptés en français ou en anglais pour être reproduits dans la langue d'origine. Les opinions exprimées sont celles de leurs auteurs. **veuillez faire parvenir toutes les articles pour Le Naturaliste du N.-B. à: Irene Doyle, 6 Van Horne Cr., Campbellton, NB E3N 3K3; tel. (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/NBFN.html>



## In This Issue / Dans ce numéro

Cover: Cedar Waxwing painting by Gunnar Brehm

A Message From The President / Un Message De La Présidente	100
Federal Endangered Species Act	101
Rare Sightings	102
Environmental Education Exchange Fair	103
Environmental Education Exchange Fair	104
A La Découverte des Libellules!	105
Wildlife Ministers Abandon Scientists	106
Writings From our Past	106
Old-Time Winters in New Brunswick	107
Important Bird Areas	108
Common Cat-tails	110
The Margaret Doyle Lookout	111
Bird Count Anyone?	112
Reunion de la Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B.	113
Reunion of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists	114
L'Île Miscou, un Paradis à Découvrir!	115
Miscou the Northern Hot Spot!	115
Surfing the Internet	116
Ode to the Birdcount	118
Ma Forest	118
Les Plaisirs de l'ornithologie au Nouveau-Brunswick	119
Matapedia's Hooded Oriole	121
Nature News: September-November 1998	123
Botany Quiz	128

**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 March 1, 1999**

**S. v. p., soumettez les articles à l'intention du prochain numéro avant le 1<sup>er</sup> mars, 1999.**

**to / à: Irene Doyle, 6 Van Horne Cres.**

**Campbellton NB E3N 3K3**

**(506) 753-7261**

**colector@nbnet.nb.ca.**



## UN MESSAGE DE LA PRÉSIDENTE - A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Rose-Alma Mallet*

Amies de la nature bienvenues à la première édition 1999 de la revue N.B.Naturalist/Le naturalistes du N.-B. Que nous nous réserve cette année 1999?

Cette nouvelle année débuta sur un ton optimiste avec l'annonce de l'obtention de fonds afin de développer un projet de sites importants pour les oiseaux dans les Maritimes. La Fédération canadienne des naturalistes avec le concours des fédérations provinciales a décroché des sommes importantes d'argent afin d'employer une personne à la coordination du projet. Le projet "Sites importants pour les oiseaux" est parrainé par la Fédération canadienne des naturalistes en collaboration avec Birdlife International. Ce projet consiste à nommer certains sites importants pour les oiseaux et à les protéger. En plus, ce projet va faire connaître les aires de migration et les lieux de nidification des oiseaux de notre province sur la scène provinciale, nationale et internationale. Les sites ont été inventoriés en 1997. Ce projet va valoriser les trois fédérations de naturalistes des Maritimes.

Une autre excellente nouvelle fut le lancement officiel du projet "Une stratégie de zones protégées pour le N.-B." En 199, le ministère des Ressources naturelles et de l'Energie mandatait le Dr. Louis Lapierre d'élaborer une stratégie afin de protéger des espaces dans la province. Le rapport du Dr. Lapierre propose la protection de douze sites. Les sites sont viables, mais une petite faille au projet, le document ne mentionne pas de corridors naturels entre les diverses zones protégées. Dans l'ensemble, le projet est louable et vaut la peine que nous faisons un effort pour obtenir la protection des douze zones citées dans l'étude scientifique du Dr. Lapierre. Les compagnies forestières sont contre le projet. C'est à nous de faire connaître à nos politiciens que la protection de notre patrimoine nous tient à cœur.

Je remercie tous les membres de la Fédération qui ont si généreusement répondu à l'appel d'exprimer leurs opinions au comité de consultation publique ou par écrit aux membres de la législature provinciale.

Welcome to the first 1999 edition of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists Newsletter, the N.B. NATURALIST/ LE NATURALISTE DU N.-B.

The year started with the positive announcement that the Maritimes Important Bird Areas project received funding. The Important Bird Areas (IBA) program is a major conservation initiative of Birdlife International, which is based in U.K. The IBA program goal is to identify and protect a network of important bird sites necessary to ensure the long term viability of naturally occurring bird populations. The program works with four main site categories: i) sites holding threatened species; ii) sites holding endemic species; iii) sites holding species restricted to a biome; and iv) sites holding significant numbers of birds when breeding or migrating.

Sites in the Maritimes were identified and designated as potential IBA sites at a workshop in September 1997 in Sackville. A program director for the Maritimes IBA will be appointed by the Canadian Federation of Naturalists with the input of the three provincial naturalist federations of the Maritimes. The project will raise awareness for conservation and promote our federations worldwide.

Also of importance was the New Brunswick government's announcement of the public consultation schedules for the protected areas project. Dr. Louis Lapierre and his team of experts pulled together an excellent report. THE NEW BRUNSWICK PROTECTED AREAS STRATEGY proposed twelve candidate sites to be set aside and that they be protected from commercial development such as logging, mining, road building, and hydro-electric development. Each of these sites are large enough to help ensure that natural processes can continue to thrive. The forest industries have opposed the project from the first day when the public meetings were announced and mounted a very vocal opposition to the project. They are using scare tactics to intimidate those people who depend on the forest or wood products to provide their livelihood.

Thanks to all members of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists who generously responded to the invitation to express their opinion publicly on protected areas for the province. We were fortunate to have Jim Goltz speaking on behalf of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists at the first public meeting held in Fredericton.



## WILL THE FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REALLY PROTECT WILDLIFE AT RISK?

Marc Johnston, Canadian Nature Federation

Will the soon-to-be released federal endangered species act protect all of Canada's species at risk of extinction, or merely those found on federal lands and waters? Will the legislation only protect the nesting tree of endangered bird species, or will it protect the habitat that is so critical to the survival of endangered fauna? Will the act ensure that independent scientists are responsible for deciding what species are at risk of extinction, or will that decision be placed in the hands of politicians? The federal government must consider these questions as they begin drafting endangered species legislation.

The federal Minister of the Environment, Christine Stewart, will be tabling species-at-risk legislation in the coming weeks. While the Liberals introduced the Canada Endangered Species Protection Act (Bill C-65) during their last term in office, the bill died on the Order Paper with the federal election call in April 1997. Bill C-65 was too weak to protect and recover Canada's 307 species which are at risk of extinction, and did little to engage Canadians in their role as stewards of the land. Stakeholders agree that similar legislation must not be reintroduced into Parliament.

Recognizing the failure of bill C-65, representatives of the conservation community (Canadian Nature Federation, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club of Canada) and industry (Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, Mining Association of Canada, and the National Agriculture Environment Committee) have collectively developed a thoughtful and balanced framework tailored to the unique complexities of endangered species conservation in Canada. Their proposed preventative approach goes a long way to addressing the many concerns that resource users, landowners, and conservationists had with bill C-65, and is receiving broad support across the country.

Despite these efforts, opposition to effective legislation continues to be voiced by some provinces, territories, and federal government departments. And while it remains to be seen what the makeup of the legislation will be, discussion documents released by the federal government suggest that the act will do little to protect the majority of Canada's species-at-risk, and even less to protect their habitat.

### What You Can Do!

Canadians need to send a loud and clear message to the federal government that they will except nothing less than effective legislation. Choose from the federal cabinet members below and/or write to your MP. Send copies of your letter to cabinet ministers that are located within your province, to the Minister of the Environment, and to the Prime Minister.

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister  
The Honourable Christine Stewart, Minister of the Environment

The Honourable David Anderson, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

The Honourable Lyle Vanclief, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

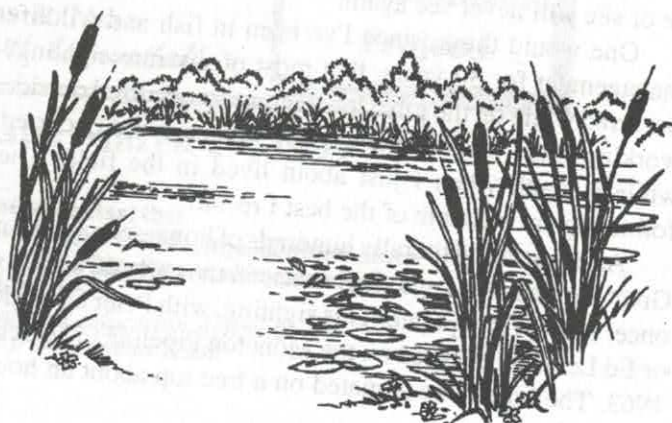
The Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Natural Resources

The Honourable Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage

Address for all: House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

### What to Say ?

To truly protect Canada's species at risk, federal endangered species legislation should:





**Apply to the full extent of federal jurisdiction** – The federal law should provide a safety net for Canada's species at risk while respecting provincial competence to protect and recover species under provincial jurisdiction.

**Protect species' habitat** – Habitat loss is the number one cause of endangerment, threatening over 80% of Canada's species at risk. A law that does not protect critical habitat will not protect species.

**List species based on scientific criteria** – Listing decisions must be made by an independent, scientific body, and the federal legislation must adopt this list.

**Encourage, not discourage, all Canadians to protect species and their habitats** – The cost of preventing species extinction should be shared, not borne by a small group of landowners, resource users, workers and communities.

**Be supported by adequate funding, stewardship incentives, and fair tax treatment** – These measures are essential to set the right fiscal framework for activities aimed at protecting and recovering species and their habitats.

## RARE SIGHTINGS

*Allan Madden, Restigouche Naturalists' Club*



This article is not about rare species or of species seen on unusual dates. Instead it relates to behavior we seldom get a chance to observe, such as some politicians using more than 3% of their brains.

After tallying countless hours in the natural world, one is certain to experience sooner or later, just by chance and probably for only a few seconds, a rare glimpse of animal behavior that he or she will never see again.

One would think, since I've been in fish and wildlife management for 30 years, that most of my rare sightings occurred while on the job. However, most occurred outside working hours. Several memorable sightings also occurred while a youth when I just about lived in the field. The following are a couple of the best I recall.

After spending literally hundreds of hours searching for Great Horned Owls and their nests, in the early 60's, I only once, saw owls copulate. This sighting, with Peter Candido or Ed Leblanc, occurred on the Moncton Pipeline in March, 1963. The horned owls mated on a tree top about an hour after dark.

In May, 1962, I was attacked, while 13m (41ft) above the ground in an elm, by an adult Horned Owl. This occurred

when I got within 2m of the nest, located at the end of a dead horizontal limb. I had climbed to and photographed the nest and its 3 eggs on a previous occasion. This time I noted that one of the adults had flown to a tree 100m behind me, but didn't know that I was in danger, for I didn't realize that one of the eggs had just hatched.

The attack consisted of a very strong blow to the back of my neck, the force of which I assume would be about 120 foot pounds (4lb.x30mph). The tree trunk must have been just about girdled by my sudden death grip. I had not heard any sound of wings before, during or after the strike. Luckily for me its talons must have been clenched when it hit. I peered through a fork in the trunk and was further frightened as the owl's mate joined in the attack. It glided directly to me and just before it got to the fork it thrust its feet forward, talons open. I ducked and it zipped through the fork where my head had been. I was afraid for my life because the trunk was branchless up to that height and branches could have given me something to hang onto with one hand if I had to fight off a bird with my other hand, especially if it sunk its talons into me.

Luckily, the birds subsequently only circled me, snapping their beaks. A half hour later, with jelly-like legs, I descended to the ground, thankful that I was still 6 ft.2 and not the 2 ft.6, I would have been after a fall.

Incidentally, 20 years later, the 6 in spikes I had pounded into the trunk to access the nest were still intact; 35 years later, not even the tree stood. In hindsight, I must be the Moncton Naturalist Club's first Tree Hugger.



**NEW BRUNSWICK ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK**  
*Education Action Group*

*Second Annual*  
**Environmental Education  
Exchange Fair**

**Saturday, April 24th, 1999**  
**10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Bessborough Elementary School,  
93 Bessborough Ave., Moncton, N.B.**

Looking for new education materials? Eager to show off new projects, techniques or green ideas? This is your big chance to find what you have been looking for. The Environmental Education Exchange Fair is coming to Moncton along with many people like you.

Come and celebrate Earth Day! Building on the success of last year's Fair, this year holds great promise. The Fair location, Bessborough Elementary School in Moncton, is a recognized Earth School under the Seeds program. The goal of the Fair is to promote the exchange of environmental education materials among people from across the province of New Brunswick.



*Promote Environmental Education!*

*See the work of  
other Schools &  
Educators*

Display Booths  
Educational Materials & Packages  
Brochures, Slides,  
Lesson Plans & More  
*Refreshments will be available*

**Show Your  
Latest  
Environmental  
Project!**

**Registration Due Date: March 29, 1999**

For more information contact the:  
New Brunswick Environmental Network (506) 433-6101, [nben@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:nben@nbnet.nb.ca)  
Website: <http://www.web.net/~nben> Ezine: <http://www.elements.nb.ca>

**SPONSORED BY:**

*New Brunswick Environmental Network Education Action Group  
with funding assistance from Canada Trust.*



**RÉSEAU ENVIRONNEMENTAL DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK**  
*Groupe d'action en éducation*

**Deuxieme Foire Annuelle  
D'Echanges en Relative à  
L'Environnement**

**Samedi, le 24 avril, 1999  
10h00 à 15h00**

**L'école Bessborough Elementary,  
93 Bessborough Ave., Moncton, N.B.**

Êtes-vous à la recherche de nouveaux matériaux didactiques à ce sujet ? Almeriez-vous montrer vos nouveaux projets, vos nouvelles techniques ou idées écologiques ? Voici l'occasion idéale de faire tout ça. La Deuxième foire annuelle d'échanges en relative à l'environnement s'en vient à Moncton, où se rassembleront beaucoup de gens comme vous.

Venez célébrer le Jour de la Terre ! Suite à la réussite de la Foire de l'an dernier, ça promet. La Foire aura lieu à l'école Bessborough Elementary, à Moncton : cette école a reçu la désignation de " Earth School " sous l'égide du programme "Seeds". Le but de la foire est de promouvoir les échanges de matériaux en relative à l'environnement entre les gens de la province du Nouveau-Brunswick.



*Promouvoir l'éducation environnementale!*

*Jetez un coup d'oeil  
sur le travail effectué  
par d'autres écoles et  
d'autres enseignant.e.s*

**Kiosques**  
Matériel et troussees didactiques  
Brochures, diapositives  
Plans de leçon et plus encore  
*Des consommations seront disponibles*

**Montrez  
votre plus  
récent projet en  
environnement!**

**Date Limite: le 29 mars, 1999 (pour inscription)**

Réseau environnemental du Nouveau-Brunswick  
167 Creek Road, Walker Settlement, NB E4E 4L7  
Tél: (506) 433-6101 Fax: (506) 433-6111 Courriel: [nben@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:nben@nbnet.nb.ca)  
<http://www.web.net/~nben> Ezine: <http://www.elements.nb.ca>

Parrainée par:

Le Groupe d'action en éducation environnementale du Réseau environnemental  
du Nouveau-Brunswick, avec l'aide financière du Canada Trust.



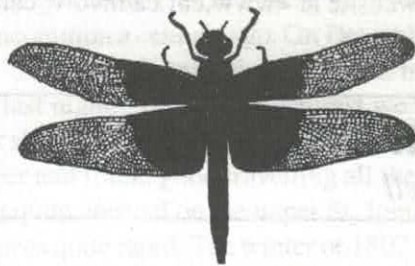
## A LA DÉCOUVERTE DES LIBELLULES!

*Denis Doucet, L'association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche*

*Note: Article originally appeared in the July issue of L'association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche's local monthly newsletter "Pattes de Mouches".*

Les libellules et leurs proches cousines, les demoiselles sont des insectes fascinants. J'aimerais vous en parler un peu, car je pense qu'en les connaissant un peu mieux, vous serez de mon avis. En plus, d'être un groupe d'insectes très jolis et incroyablement divers, les libellules et les demoiselles jouent un rôle très important dans la nature. Tout récemment, j'ai appris à quel point elles sont importantes et comment elles sont mêmes bénéfiques envers les humains.

Lorsque j'étais jeune, j'avais très peur des libellules et des demoiselles, car ma grand-mère me disait qu'elles pouvaient nous entrer dans les oreilles ou nous piquer et nous mordre ou nous faire mal. On les appelait aussi, à tort, des "cigales" ou peut-être un peu moins à tort des "hélicoptères". C'est malheureusement un mythe qui est très commun, même de nos jours. A cause de ces mythes, les libellules et les demoiselles ont beaucoup été persécutées et beaucoup de gens en ont très peur. Laissez-moi vous raconter la "vraie" histoire au sujet des libellules et des demoiselles.



*Une libellule  
dessin par A..B. Comstock*

Common Green Darner *Anax junius*

Les libellules et les demoiselles font partie d'un groupe d'insectes qu'on appelle ODONATES. Ce mot qui provient du latin signifie "qui possède des dents". Ce mot décrit assez bien ces insectes qui ont des mâchoires puissantes afin de pouvoir croquer leur nourriture préférée, qui est: des insectes de moindre taille comme des moustiques, des mouches noires, des phryganes et des éphémères. Nos libellules et nos demoiselles font partie d'un très ancien groupe d'animaux qui sont sur la terre depuis au moins trois cent millions d'années. On a trouvé à Joggins, en Nouvelle-Écosse, un

fossile de libellule qui date d'environ 295 millions d'années et on peut le voir au musée géologique de Fundy à Parrsboro, pas très loin d'Amherst. Ce qu'il y a de plus remarquable à propos de ce spécimen c'est peut-être sa taille. Il mesurait plus de 50 centimètres de longueur et ses ailes avaient une envergure de quelques 80 centimètres. Il était énorme !!! De nos jours, les plus grosses libellules mesurent 10-12 centimètres et se retrouvent dans les forêts tropicales. C'est quand même gros, mais beaucoup moins que dans le passé. On retrouve plus de 5000 espèces de libellules sur notre planète aujourd'hui, et on en découvre quelques nouvelles espèces presque à chaque année.

La plus grosse libellule qui vit de nos jours au Nouveau-Brunswick, *Hagenius brevistylus*, qu'on appelle en anglais "Dragonhunter" parce qu'elle chasse surtout d'autres libellules, mesure 7,1 à 8,5 centimètres. En revanche, la plus petite, *Nannothemis bella* (en anglais Effin Skimmer), mesure 1,8 à 2,0 centimètres (la taille d'une mouche !). Plus de 125 espèces distinctes de libellules ont été retrouvées au Nouveau-Brunswick jusqu'à date, et le chiffre pourrait augmenter jusqu'à 150 ou plus. Chaque jour ces insectes mangent des milliers de tonnes de maringouins, de mouches noires et d'autres insectes nuisibles aux humains.

On retrouve des libellules de toutes les couleurs de l'arc-en-ciel. Il y en a des jaunes, des oranges, des rouges, des vertes, des bleues, des violettes, des brunes, des noires, des brunes et jaunes, des vertes et des brunes, des bleues et des vertes, etc.etc... Les combinaisons sont presque infinies et toutes sont incroyablement belles !

La prochaine fois que vous sortez en nature lors d'une belle journée chaude ce printemps ou cet été, gardez l'oeil ouvert pour ces merveilleux insectes. Vous resterez assurément émerveillé devant ces insectes si fantastiques.

La prochaine fois, je tâcherai de vous dire la différence entre une libellule et une demoiselle, mais si vous êtes curieux, je vous invite à faire la recherche et d'essayer de trouver la réponse vous-même.



*Une demoiselle  
dessin par A..B.  
Comstock*



## WILDLIFE MINISTERS ABANDON SCIENTISTS IN LISTING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

*Marc Johnson (Canadian Nature Federation)*

Scientists and conservationists are worried that Canada's long-standing process for listing endangered species is being undermined. For 20 years, a committee of independent scientists, conservationists, and representatives of the provincial and federal governments have been meeting annually to update Canada's national list of species at risk of extinction. However through recent political influence by Canada's federal and provincial wildlife ministers, the committee's impartiality is in danger of being sacrificed.

The Committee on the Status of Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has developed a well-earned reputation for being a highly credible, impartial organization. Key to the Committee's success has been its composition, which includes a number of independent scientists, representatives of the conservation community (the Canadian Nature Federation, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, and the World Wildlife Fund), and federal, provincial, and territorial scientists. This diverse and balanced composition of interests and expertise has resulted in an effective, impartial process for designating species at risk. That is until now.

At a meeting of Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial wildlife ministers in September, the ministers decided to disrupt COSEWIC's delicate balance by removing voting

rights from the independent scientists. This fundamental change to the structure of the Committee provides the government representatives with the two-thirds voting majority required to designate the status of a species. By dismantling a long-established impartial process and allowing for political influence, the ministers risk destroying the credibility of the COSEWIC.

Independent scientists are the backbone of COSEWIC, co-ordinating the overall development of the status reports for an ever-increasing number of wildlife species. They devote an incredible amount of volunteer time to this vital task; and without them the Committee could not operate effectively. Although both scientists and conservationists have clearly indicated their opposition to the new structure of COSEWIC, the wildlife ministers have not yet shown any willingness to revisit the matter. And as the next COSEWIC meeting approaches, the fate of the Committee remains to be seen.

Please write your wildlife minister and let him/her know how you feel about this very important matter. For a list of wildlife ministers addresses, visit the Canadian Nature Federation website at <[www.cnf.ca/involv\\_camp.html](http://www.cnf.ca/involv_camp.html)>.

## WRITINGS FROM OUR PAST

*Selected by Bruce Bagnell*

To highlight selected articles appearing in the Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick [NHSNB] brings a delightful opportunity to understand more of our province's natural history from one of its heydeys of natural science. I was fortunate while employed at the New Brunswick Museum [NBM] to have time (while on coffee breaks!) to sift through the extensive 30 or more volumes published by the NHSNB over its duration. The society was inaugurated on January 20, 1862 at a meeting of the Mechanics Institute (a forerunner to the NBM) in Saint John and continued publishing articles on our province's natural history until 1914, while the activity of the society continued into the 1930's. The society was composed of some of the giants of natural history of the time, including now famous names such as Fowler, Ganong, Matthew and Hay, many with reputations known far afield for their expertise in the fields of Botany, Zoology and Geology. The breadth of knowledge

of these scientists and amateurs is more than humbling, and we owe a great debt to them for documenting in detail knowledge of our province's natural history.

I have selected as a first article a small article appearing in Bulletin no. XXIV, Volume V, Part IV in 1906. I found it timely considering this winter's unusual weather, and with climate change on everyone's minds at these times, it gives us food for thought about our present views on global warming. The range of topics in the NHSNB bulletins is impressive from language to archaeology, weather reports, tides, mountains, birds, amphibians, geography, rivers, you name it. All of it extremely interesting and rewarding to read. David Myles will be selecting other articles with a historical perspective for future editions of the Naturalist and I'm sure you will all enjoy the information published from them.



## Old-Time Winters in New Brunswick

*The following article is from a paper appearing in the Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick read by G.F. Mathew to the Natural History Society of New Brunswick members on February 6th, 1906.*

The idea which commonly prevails that our winters are milder than they were in the days of our grandfathers seems to have little foundation. The fact that the present winter has proved an uncommonly mild one is more than offset by the fact that last winter was the most severe of any in the memory of those now living. It is not unlikely that there has been any material change in the climate of St. John since its discovery by Champlain.

James Simonds, who may be considered as the pioneer of English settlers at St. John, writes of some of the winters of his day. Under date March 6, 1769, he says: "Have had but little snow this winter, but few days that the ground has been covered." Again on Feb. 18, 1771, he writes: "There has not been one day's sledding this winter, and the season is so far advanced there cannot be much more than enough to get the hay from the marsh."

Extracts from the diary of Rev. Frederick Dibblee, the first rector of Woodstock, N.B. also show that mild winters were not uncommon a century ago. On December 25, 1803, he writes: "A fine Christmas, there is not an inch of snow. Ice closed last night." By way of contrast we find that the next winter sleighs had been to Fredericton prior to the 22nd of December and found good travelling all the way, which was a thing quite unusual on the upper St. John, the current being in places quite rapid. The winter of 1807 was remarkable for mildness. Mr. Dibblee writes on the 8th of January: "River open, only five cold days to date, we never had such weather." This was followed a few days later by a snowfall of 18 inches, but on February 19 he writes: "After amazing heavy rains the ice ran today, nothing but a little ice left on the roads and scarce any snow in the woods."

Coming down to more recent times we have evidence of mild winters. A worthy resident of Lower Norton, Kings County, Azer Hoyt, writes in his diary on the 10th February, 1824 "a violent storm, with heavy gale of wind for 36 hours, broke up the river, sweeping away bridges, stacks of hay, timber and fences." A few days later he writes, under date February 16th: "River opens; carrying off hay from the marsh in my boat." On December 25th, 1829, Mr. Hoyt writes: "A green Christmas, very warm, grass quite green." The ferry at Hampton was in use a good part of the winter. The next winter was even milder. The last of December the

river (Kennebecasis) remained open, with warm weather, and on January 1st, 1831, a warm rain brought the river up over its banks. On March 20 Mr. Hoyt writes: "No frost in the ground, warm all February and March."

The winter of 1839-40 was remarkable for its mildness. About the end of December the Woodstock Times says: "The weather continues highly favorable, and the ground is still bare. The river flows as free as Arno's tide." There was a green Christmas. The winter of 1847-8 was also unusually mild. The St. John river closed about the 20th November, but warm weather and heavy rains caused the ice to run out about the 10th of December. This gave opportunity for Lady Colebrooke to make her famous winter trip from St. John to Fredericton in the Carleton Ferryboat, which bore her name - the "Lady Colebrooke." The boat left St. John on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 14th of December, and arrived at Fredericton early the next day. On her return trip she brought a number of students from the university to spend their Christmas vacation, among them Dr. W.P. Dole, who wrote a very interesting account of the trip for the St. John Globe under the date 5th February, 1889.

N.B. - As bearing on the question of seasonal changes and the condition of the weather in New Brunswick, attention is directed to the "Notes" of the director of the St. John Observatory for the past year which will be found at the end of this Bulletin, and also to Dr. G.U. Hay's notes on the Weather and Plants on a previous page.





## IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS CONSERVATION PLANNING IN THE MARITIMES

*Christie Chute and Steve Wilcox (Canadian Nature Federation)*

As many of you know, the **Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program** is an international bird conservation initiative of BirdLife International. BirdLife operates as a worldwide partnership with one — or in Canada's case two — lead organizations in each country. The Canadian Nature Federation (CNF) and Bird Studies Canada (BSC) are the BirdLife partners in Canada. Put simply, the goal of the program is to identify areas that are extremely important to birds so they can be conserved.

Over the past two years, the focus of the IBA program in the Maritime provinces has been on site identification. In 1997, the CNF and BSC, the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists (NBFN), the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists (FNSN), and the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island (NHSPEI) co-hosted the Maritimes IBA workshop in Sackville, New Brunswick. At the conclusion of that workshop, 111 potential IBAs had been proposed (see accompanying map). During 1998, the main focus was the compilation of data for each of these sites so they could be evaluated using internationally agreed-upon criteria. Special thanks to Dr. A.J. Erskine for compiling much of this information on a volunteer basis.

When you look at the map of potential sites, a number of patterns emerge: the most striking is the preponderance of coastal sites, not only throughout the Maritimes, but especially along New Brunswick's Acadian Peninsula. This is not to imply that inland sites are "Unimportant Bird Areas." Indeed, the majority of the world's Bicknell's Thrush population nests at high elevations in the Cape Breton and New Brunswick Highlands. But the location of these potential sites along the coastline does reflect where the bulk of information has been collected. And it also shows the location of sites for those species which are most amenable to site-based conservation (i.e. species that concentrate in small areas).

A close analysis of the potential sites has revealed many astonishing facts. Although most people prob-

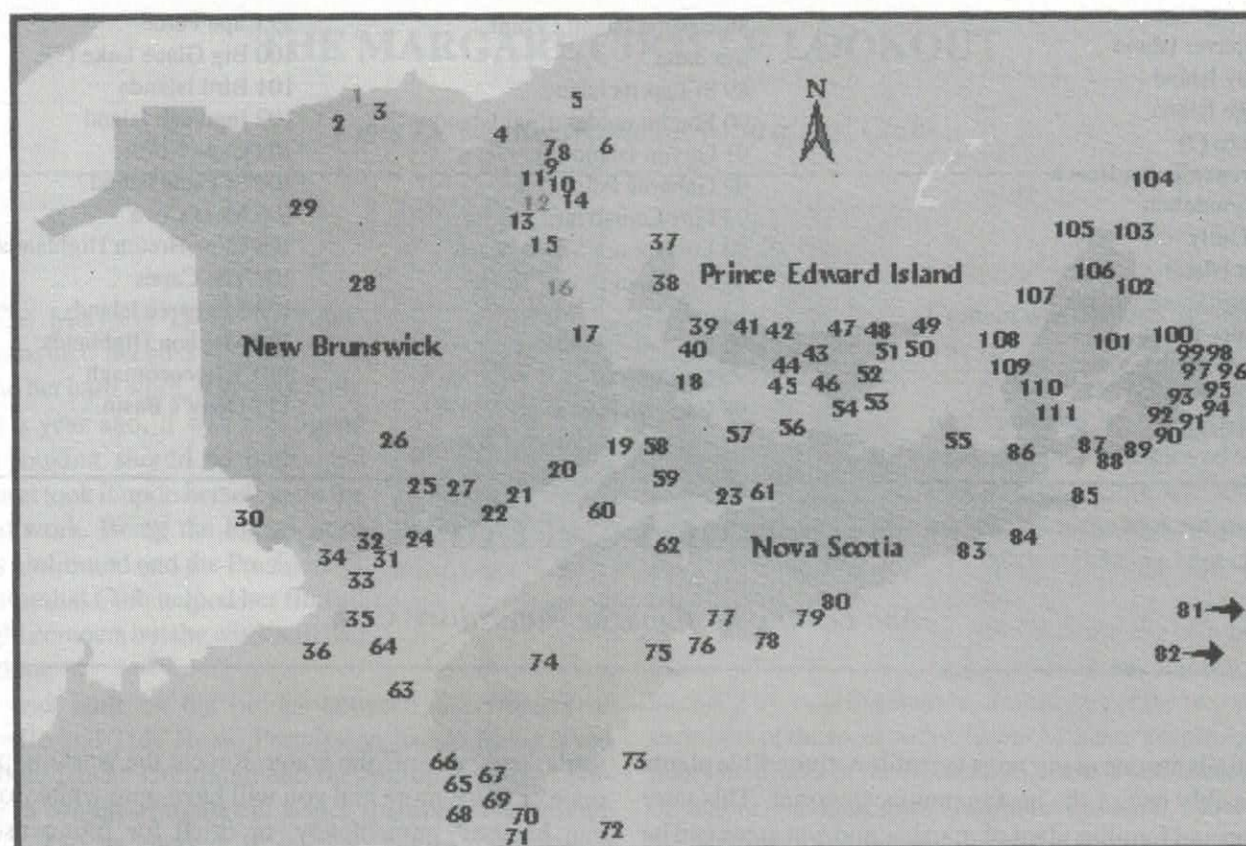
ably don't know it, almost 70 percent of the North American Great Cormorant population nests in colonies on Cape Breton Island. As well, the beaches in the Maritimes support over one-fifth of the Canadian population of the globally threatened Piping Plover, and more than half the world's estimated population of Semipalmated Sandpipers feed and rest on the Bay of Fundy mudflats.

While we continue to evaluate the proposed IBAs, this is only the first step in the process. Ultimately, our role is to ensure the long-term conservation of these sites by supporting existing initiatives and implementing new ones — and this is where our regional IBA partners play a key role. Thanks to the generous support of the federal government's Millennium Partnership Program and the North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation, the CNF and BSC will be teaming up with the NBFN, FNSN, and the NHSPEI to further develop the IBA program in the Maritimes.

Over the next few months, an IBA community conservation planner will be hired in cooperation with our partner organizations in the Maritimes. The IBA planner will work with local stakeholders (including landowners, naturalists, hunters, government agencies and municipalities, aboriginal groups, scientists) to produce conservation plans for at least 16 priority IBAs throughout the region over the next two years.

So keep your eyes and ears open, and get involved. Check our official IBA website <[www.ibacanada.com](http://www.ibacanada.com)> to locate the IBA nearest you. To learn how you can get involved in this exciting initiative, please contact: Christie Chute, IBA Outreach Coordinator, Canadian Nature Federation, 1 Nicholas St., Suite 606, Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7, (ph) 613-562-8208 ext. 245, (fax) 613-562-3371, (e-mail) [iba@cnf.ca](mailto:iba@cnf.ca).





# 1 Restigouche River Estuary

- 2 Charlo River
- 3 Heron Island
- 4 Pokeshaw Island
- 5 Miscou Island
- 6 Miscou Island
- 7 Plover Ground
- 8 Pointe aux Rats
- 9 Pokemouche
- 10 Pointe - a - Bouleau
- 11 Tracadie Dune
- 12 Tabusintac Lagoon
- 13 Nequac
- 14 Acadia Peninsula offshore
- 15 Portage Island
- 16 Kouchibouguac National Park
- 17 Buctouche Bar
- 18 Cape Tormentine
- 19 Shepody Bay
- 20 Fundy National Park
- 21 Big Salmon River
- 22 Quaco
- 23 Saints Rest Marsh and Beach
- 24 Manawagonish Island
- 25 Lower St John River
- 26 Grand Lake Marshes / Portobell
- 27 Hampton Marsh

- 28 Kennedy Lakes Conservation Area
- 29 Mount Carleton Provincial Park
- 30 St. Croix River
- 31 Point Lepreau
- 32 Maces Bay
- 33 The Wolves
- 34 Quoddy Region
- 35 Grand Manan Island complex
- 36 Machias Seal Island
- 37 North Cape
- 38 Cascumpec Bay/Albion Harbour
- 39 Malpeque Bay (including Hog Island)
- 40 Bedeque Bay
- 41 Cape Tryon
- 42 Prince Edward Island National Park
- 43 Hillsborough River
- 44 Glenfinnie Island
- 45 St. Peters Island
- 46 Orwell Bay
- 47 Greenwich Point to Savage Harbour
- 48 Townshend Woodlot
- 49 East Point

- 50 Mackinnon Point
- 51 Chepstow
- 52 Durrell Point
- 53 High Bank (east)
- 54 Wood Island West
- 55 Antigonish Harbour
- 56 Amet Island
- 57 Wallace Bay
- 58 Upper Cumberland Basin
- 59 Chignecto Highlands/Cobequid Mtns
- 60 Spencers Island / Cape d'Or
- 61 Cobequid Bay
- 62 Minas Basin
- 63 Brier Island (including Peter's Island)
- 64 Mouth of Bay of Fundy
- 65 Tusket Island
- 66 Yarmouth Salt Marshes
- 67 The Brothers
- 68 Mud Island
- 69 Bon Portage Island
- 70 Cape Sable
- 71 S.Shore Eider Moulting Area
- 72 Brown's Bank
- 73 Southern Shore
- 74 Kejimikujik/Tobeatic



75 Westhaver Island	88 Basque Island / Point Michaud	99 Cape Perce
76 Grassy Island	89 St Esprits Island	100 Big Glace Lake (?)
77 Wedge Island	90 Forchu unidentified Island	101 Bird Islands
78 Sambro (?)	91 Guyon Island (?)	102 Ingonish Island
79 Lawrence Town Beach	92 Gabarus Point	103 Cape North
80 Musquodoboit	93 Fort Louisbourg	104 St Pauls Island
81 The Gully	94 Louisbourg Shore - east	105 Meat Cove
82 Sable Island	95 Chameau Rock / Rocky Island	106 Cape Breton Highlands
83 Eastern Shore Islands	96 Scatarie Island	107 The Capes
84 Country Island	97 Morien Bar	108 Margaree Island
85 Canso	98 Cape Morien	109 Maybou Highlands
86 Straits of Canso		110 Whycocomagh
87 Red Island		111 Deny's Basin

## COMMON CATTAILS

*Ann Lavoie, Restigouche Naturalists' Club*

Cattails are one of our most versatile native edible plants and possibly one of the best in many categories. This very common and familiar plant of marshes and wet areas can be utilized at every season.

In early spring the young shoots can be peeled to reveal a tender white core which can be eaten raw or cooked like asparagus (boiled 15 minutes). The young spring stalks, up to 2-3 feet (60-90 cm) can be gathered and prepared in much the same way.

In late spring the green immature flower spikes can be collected just before they erupt from their papery sheaths of leaves and boiled for a few minutes. Served with butter and eaten like corn on the cob, they make a tasty wild vegetable.

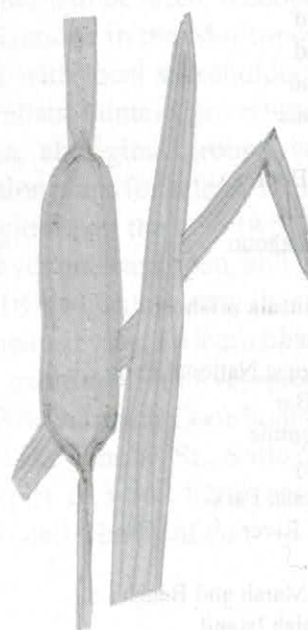
In early summer, the male flower spikes produce a heavy coat of bright yellow pollen. Large amounts of this pollen can be gathered by shaking the heads into an open bag. After it is sifted through a strainer, the pollen makes an excellent protein-rich flour when mixed half and half with wheat flour.

In late summer, small horn-shaped sprouts form at the tip of the long rootstocks, and remain through winter. These can be added to salads, or boiled for 10 minutes and served with butter.

In late fall or winter, or earliest spring, the shallowly buried rootstocks become well filled with starch. To produce a good quality white flour, wash the rootstocks thoroughly, peel off the outer covering to reveal the starchy core, and crush the core in a pail of cold water, separating the starch from the fibers. Remove the fibers, allow the starch to

settle, and pour off the water. Repeat the washing process once or twice more and you will have pure white flour that can be used immediately, or dried for future use. The rootstalks can also be boiled in salted water and eaten like potatoes.

Excerpts are from Peterson's Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants



*Cat-tails*

*Drawing by Anne LaVoie*



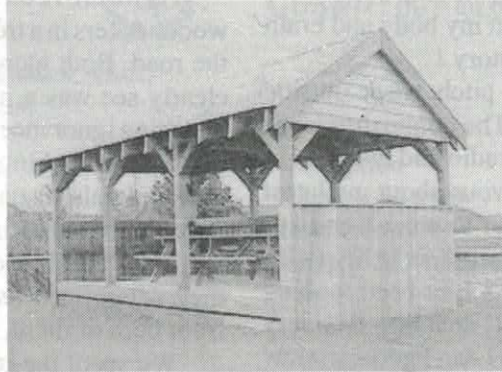
## THE MARGARET DOYLE LOOKOUT

*Irene Doyle, Restigouche Naturalists' Club*

"The Margaret Doyle Lookout" was so named because it is thanks to her, and her hard work, that it got built. About a year ago, it was mentioned that a lookout should be built and Margaret took it upon herself to do the ground work. Being the President of Ducks Unlimited and the President of the Naturalist Club helped her find all the right contacts but the work still had to be done.

It was built on the border between the villages of Atholville and Tide Head. Permission had to be received from both Ducks Unlimited and the Multiple Trails Committee of which Margaret is also a member. The village councils had to approve it as well. Getting everyone's approval was not easy, but Margaret managed to get everyone online.

The wood to build the sides was donated by Belanger Lumber of Atholville. The labor was donated by the Village of Tide Head and the Multiple Trail workers. Ducks Unlimited got shingles and some wood donated to them by local merchants and the rest of the wood came from the Trails Committee. A few loads of crushed rocks to put around it was donated by High Country. The



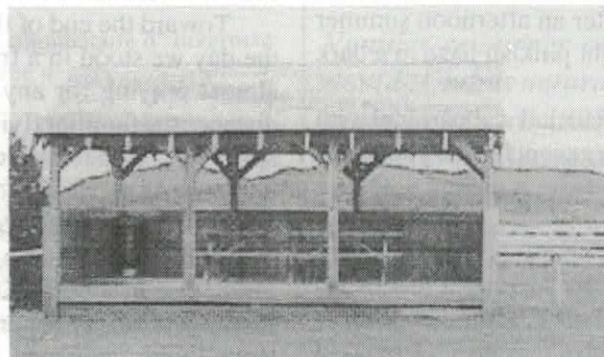
*photo by Irene Doyle*

Cement was donated by Beton Provincial.

A few weeks after it was built it was found to be too close to the road, so it had to be moved some 20 feet. A picnic table was also built and placed in the lookout and a nice garbage can is being kept clean on the site.

June 6th was the official opening of the lookout, and it was well attended by local dignitaries; the mayors of the two villages, members of the local councils, our Minister's representative, many members of the Naturalists, friends and family. Some of the bravest naturalists, Margaret included, cycled down the Multiple trail from Robinsonville (about a 3 1/2 to 4 hour ride or 25 miles) to the Lookout, making it a few minutes late for the official opening time.

So a big thanks to all who worked on this lookout, especially to Margaret Doyle, for without her effort, the lookout would not stand so high above our marsh. Thanks to those who donated their time and efforts and materials; all are much appreciated and will be used by birders and other visitors.



*photo by Irene Doyle*

## WHERE THE MOUNTAINS MEET THE SEA - CNF-AGM

A joint Conference of Canadian Nature Federation and the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists will take place May 13/16, 1999 at Qualicum Beach, Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Activities include seminars/field

trips on birding, wildlife, conservation and much more.

For further information contact John & Lois at (250) 752-8689 or [johnmac@macn.bc.ca](mailto:johnmac@macn.bc.ca)



## BIRD COUNT ANYONE?

*Johanne McInnis, Saint John Naturalists' Club*

The darkness of the cold night was my only companion as I searched for my way. The bongo drums that sounded in the distance kept the adrenaline level in my body and brain to a fever high pitch. Oops!! Wrong story!

This much I swear is true: It is pitch black outside because it's only 6:15 in the morning. The bongo drums are remnant of some tunes playing on the radio and the adrenaline is also real as I am extremely nervous about my latest venture. I'm driving to Blacks Harbour to meet Ken-two-trucks (a.k.a. Ken MacIntosh) and a few others to help with their Christmas Bird Count. For weeks I've been looking forward to, and in some ways as well, dreading this very moment. Am I going to have fun at this? Am I going to slow the group down because of my lack of experience at this? Are they going to think I'm stupid? What if? What if?!

So with my heart still in my throat and my lack of self confidence trailing me like a shadow, I pulled into the Irving station and waited. I had chosen to park a little ways back as to not get in the way of paying customers. What I hadn't realized was the direction I had parked, facing east. Facing east, you are thinking? Yes, facing east. In the direction the sun was about to come up. The horizon slowly lightened with the coming of daybreak. The colors were more spectacular than those of a rainbow after an afternoon summer shower. The skies went from a light pinkish haze to a dark colored magenta. Breath taking!

I decided to venture out of my car and walk around with my binoculars. I saw no sign of life except for the young gas attendant staring at me curiously from a distance. (Not a birder, I guess?)

Ken soon arrived so I packed up my gear and jumped into his trusty vehicle. We began by scoping a few of his "usual" spots and immediately saw a handful of tree sparrows. Ken, being the great teacher he is, was quick to point out the distinctive marks on the chest and a few more facts for me to memorize. Wow! From the start I had a new bird for my list! Talk about exciting.

We drove to St. George, switched vehicles and drove around with a very informative character whose name escapes me now. Sorry! He knew the area quite well so we joined up with him to do some birding. One of our first spots netted us a beautiful young immature eagle and no word of lie or exaggeration when I say that we walked up on the beach and stood no more than 30 feet from the perched bird. Again, Ken was there to take me under his wing, (sorry about the pun!) and point out the color of the beak, how the plumage was different and other aspects that explained roughly what age this majestic being was. The eagle finally grew bored of us and flew to another perch in the near distance. We stayed on the shore line and spied a few

common loons and some old squaws as well.

As we drove on to another area Ken spotted two pileated woodpeckers in a tree so we stopped and admired them from the road. Both men immediately agreed the one we could clearly see was a male and of course in my infinite bird-watching ignorance, I didn't have a clue how they could tell that by just looking at it. Please be reminded that the only other animals I usually encounter are my dog and cats which only require the lifting of the tail to figure it out! So assuming they didn't look under his tail I had the courage to ask how they determined its sex and quickly with a few chuckles from both of them, got my answer.

We spent the rest of the morning watching the frozen shorelines and braving the cold when we took a quick ferry ride over to Campobello. Nothing unusual popped up and the birds we did get to see were quickly noted by the secretary. Somehow I was bestowed this job! We headed back to St. George to drop off the gentleman and picked up another for the afternoon shift, whose name escapes me, again!? The three of us trekked to a few places and apart from a handful of robins that flew overhead we saw nothing else for the rest of the day. We were getting so desperate that even a chickadee would have brought cheers of utter joy.

Toward the end of the afternoon in the cold stillness of the day we stood in a frozen and snowbound campground almost praying for any birds to show their beaks. In the distance the familiar flying pattern of a pileated woodpecker appeared. "Is that a male or female Johanne?" Ken quickly quizzed me as we all followed it with our binoculars. "A male" I proudly answered as I lowered them.

The sun setting, the day done, we dropped off the other birder and headed to Ken's. We were greeted warmly by Ken's better half, Sandra, and a few other birders who had helped with the count. Brian Dalzell was there and I was introduced to his younger brother, whose name escapes me. (I can tell that I was nervous that day because usually I'm really good with names and faces, I swear!) We compared notes, scarfed down some great tasting pizza and laughed for a couple of hours. I also was very privileged to view some fabulous paintings from the younger Dalzell; again I apologize for not remembering any names.

Around 8:00 p.m., I was courteously dropped off at my car back at the Irving station and in the dark of night with the bongo drums blaring out of my radio, I drove home to fall happily in my bed, having survived and fared quite well for my first bird count expedition. One of the joys of being a new birder is that I called my mother and bragged, I mean shared, how I picked up 6 new birds for my list, he he he!

Bird count anyone?



# **VENEZ VISITER NOTRE NATURE**

## **PÉNINSULAIRE**

### **RÉUNION DE LA FÉDÉRATION DES**

### **NATURALISTES DU N.-B.**



#### **Horaires Possibles (N.B. : D'autres détails à venir.)**

*Veuillez indiquer votre choix en la soulignant*

#### **Vendredi le 4 Juin**

19H00 - 22H00

Inscription

Rencontre sociale

Expositions

Tirages des prix

#### **Samedi le 5 juin**

7H à 8H - Inscription (dernière chance)

6H à 7H Randonnée pour les lèves tôt (Lamèque)

**8H à 12H00 recensement de Miscou**

8H30 à 15H30 visite guidée de la Péninsule acadienne

8H00 à 12H00 sorti botanique

12H00 à 13H00 dîner (École L'Étoile du nord, Miscou)

14H00 à 16H00 marche guidée des habitats côtiers

(Tracadie-Sheila)

14H00 à 16H00 marche guidée dans une forêt mûre (Losier Settlement)

18H00 à 19H30 Banquet (Centre communautaire d' Inkerman)

19H30 - 19H50 - pause de loisir, marche dehors

19H50 - 21H00 Assemblée annuelle

#### **Dimanche le 6 juin**

6H30 à 7H30 - Randonnée pour les lèves tôt (Tracadie-Sheila)

9H00 à 12H00 - visite guidée de l'Île Miscou

9H00 à 12H00 - visite guidée de la côte de Tracadie jusqu'à Tabusintac

9H00 à 12H00 - visite guidée par des protecteurs côtiers du Projet siffleur

**HÔTE :** Le Club de naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne

**OÙ :** Hôtel de ville de Lamèque

**QUAND :** du 4 au 6 juin 1999

Nombre de  
personnes

Inscription		
Avant le 30 avril	25 \$	
Inscription		
après le 30 avril	35 \$	
enfant *	0 \$	
Dîner samedi	12 \$ adultes	
	10 \$ enfants *	
Banquet	25 \$ homard	
	18 \$ boeuf	
	10 \$ enfants *	
Fourgonnette	15 \$	
(Visite guidée samedi 8H30 à 15H30)		

**Veuillez retourner cette feuille et votre chèque au nom du Club de naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne avant le 30 avril 1998**

**A/S de Mme Gertrude St. Pierre**

**3783 rue principale,  
Tracadie-Sheila, N.B.**

**E1X 1E3.**

**Pour plus information téléphonez au 506-395-5580  
ou [corvus@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:corvus@nbnet.nb.ca)**

## **INSCRIPTION**

Nom : \_\_\_\_\_ Nom (Deuxième personne) : \_\_\_\_\_

Nom des enfants \* : \_\_\_\_\_

Adresse : \_\_\_\_\_ Ville : \_\_\_\_\_ Code postal : \_\_\_\_\_

Membre de quel Club : \_\_\_\_\_ Téléphone : \_\_\_\_\_

\* moins de 10 ans



**COME AND VISIT OUR PENINSULAR NATURE****FOR THE ANNUAL REUNION OF THE****NEW BRUNSWICK FEDERATION****OF NATURALISTS****Tentative Schedule** (More details will follow)

*Please underline activities which you wish to participate*

**Friday the 4th of June 1999**

7:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

Registration  
Social Gathering  
Exhibits  
Prizes

**Saturday the 5th of June**

7:00 A.M. to 8:00 A.M. Late Chance For Registering  
6:00 A.M. to 7:00 A.M. Early Bird Walk (Lamèque)  
8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Miscou Bird Count  
8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Guided Tour of the Acadian Peninsula  
8:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Guided Plant Walk  
12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. Lunch  
2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Guided Walk along the Tracadie Bay  
2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Guided Walk through a mature forest  
6:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. Banquet  
7:30 P.M. to 7:50 P.M. Health break, short walk outside  
7:50 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Annual General Assembly

**Sunday the 6th of June**

6:00 A.M. to 7:00 A.M. Early Bird Walk (Tracadie-Sheila)  
9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Guided Tour of Miscou Island  
9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Guided Tour of the Tracadie Coastline south  
9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Guided Tour of the Piper Project in action

**HOST:** Le Club de naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne

**Where:** Lamèque Town Hall

**When:** the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1999

Number  
of People

**Registration before**

**April 30** \$ 25

**After April 30** \$ 35

**Children \*** \$ 0

**Saturday dinner**

\$ 12 adult

\$ 10 children \*

**Banquet**

\$ 25 Lobster

\$ 18 Beef

\$ 10 children \*

**Saturday Van**

\$ 15

(Guided Tour Sat 8:30-3:30)

*Please send this sheet and your cheque to the  
Club de naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne  
before April 30, 1998*

*Care of Madame Gertrude St. Pierre*

*3783 rue principale*

*Tracadie-Sheila, N.B.*

*E1X 1E3*

*For further information 506-395-5580 or  
corvus@nbnet.nb.ca*

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Second Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Names of the children\* : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_ Town : \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code : \_\_\_\_\_

Member of what Club : \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone : \_\_\_\_\_

\*younger than 10 years



## L'ILE MISCOU, UN PARADIS À DÉCOUVRIR !

*Pierre Duguay, Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne*

Afin d'apprendre à se connaître un peu plus, tous les Naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick sont cordialement invités à une rencontre d'observations à l'Île Miscou le 5 juin. Depuis maintenant 3 ans, les amateurs d'oiseaux du N.B. se donnent rendez-vous à l'Île Miscou pour LE COMPTE DU PRINTEMPS DE L'ÎLE MISCOU. Ce compte est ouvert à toute personne désirant faire de l'observation. Cette année le Compte de l'Île Miscou sera tenu en conjonction avec la rencontre annuelle de la Fédération des Naturalistes du N.B. Nous encourageons les membres de la fédération de former des équipes de leurs amis afin qu'ils puissent venir nous rencontrer dans le nord de notre belle province pour une belle journée d'observations.

Une équipe pourrait comporter de 2-6 individus. Une personne de chaque équipe devrait se porter volontiers à être compilateur, ce dernier aurait préférentiellement accès au courrier électronique. De cette façon, les résultats se rendront à moi dans les 48 heures suivant le compte et, espérons-le, seront affichés peu de temps ensuite, sur NatureNB. Il n'y a aucun frais pour ce compte ! Chaque équipe doit s'enregistrer auprès de moi avant le 29 mai prochain afin que chacun se

voit octroyer une zone et que je puisse leur faire parvenir des instructions additionnelles via la poste.

Dans le but de garder cet événement à la fois intéressant et simple, chaque équipe doit accepter de passer au moins quatre heures dans leur zone le matin du compte. Tous se rencontreront par la suite pour le dîner à un endroit qui vous sera divulgué plus tard. Après le dîner, les gens se rendront N'IMPORTE OU en autant qu'il tient compte de ce qu'ils voient.

Cette journée devrait être une excellente opportunité pour les amateurs d'oiseaux de la Fédération de se rencontrer afin d'en connaître plus sur cette région intéressante du nord-est. Il faut noter que le compte est un recensement d'oiseaux et non une visite guidée de l'Île Miscou. Alors si que vous êtes prêt à découvrir le monde aviaire de Miscou venez nous rejoindre pour une journée qui sera certainement intéressante.

Au plaisir de se voir !

Pierre Duguay

dpierre@nbnet.nb.ca



## MISCOU, THE NORTHERN HOT SPOT!

*Pierre Duguay, Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne*

It all began 3 years ago. In the interest of getting to know each other better, all subscribers to NatureNB were cordially invited to meet for a day of birding and fraternizing at Miscou Island on May 24th 1997 during N.B. Bird Day. The event was tentatively known as the MISCOU SPRING BIRD COUNT. This year after two successful counts the Miscou Spring Bird Count returns on June 5th and is open to all birders, not just subscribers to NatureNB. This year the count is held in conjunction with the N.B. Federation of Naturalists annual meeting which is to be held in the Acadian peninsula. Federation members are urged to put together a team of friends and join us here in the north of our great province for a wonderful day of birding.

A team can be anywhere from 2-6 people. One member of the team must volunteer to be the recorder, preferably someone with e-mail access. This way the results can be sent to me within 48 hours of the end of the count, and hopefully posted on NatureNB a short time later. There will be no fees

for this count! All teams must register with me before May

29th so each can be assigned a zone, and I can send out further instructions via snail-mail.

In the interest of keeping this fun and simple, each team must agree to spend at least four hours in their zone during the morning. Everyone will then meet at noon for lunch, at a location to be announced, where we will compare notes, share any rare sightings, and generally get to know one another. After lunch teams can go ANYWHERE in the count circle (the same as for the Miscou CBC) they want, but they still have to keep notes of what they find.

This should be a great opportunity for federation members to get to meet and learn more about the birds of this most interesting part of the northeast. See you there!

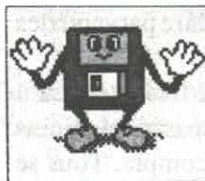
Pierre Duguay

dpierre@nbnet.nb.ca



## SURFING THE INTERNET

*Irene Doyle, Restigouche Naturalists' Club*



The Internet can be the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow for some people who likes to "surf". Or it can be a nightmare for those with little time or patience who click and don't read first. For you newbies on the internet, please remember to always copy down the address (URL) of a web

page EXACTLY as it is. Most servers (where the pages are sitting waiting for you to view them) don't accept the address if you don't have the CAPITAL letters or the low cap letters in the proper place.

Here are some internet and computer terms you may come across now and then :

**BANNERS** - While "surfing" the internet be careful when you see a page opening and it may say "click here" for "something". Those are advertisement banners placed on pages by companies trying to lure you into buying their products. Always read carefully before clicking

**BROWSER** - Can be either be Netscape or Internet Explorer which are the two best to use. They are the program you do your "surfing" with.

**CACHE** - A sub-directory which is created by your browser, and kept in its directory. If you have your browser set to keep a "cache", it will copy every page, every picture, that you visit on the net as you are browsing. Just remember if you do choose to keep a "cache" log of your visits and forget to delete them later, anyone who uses the computer after you can see exactly where you've been and what you looked at. Not convenient at work for some employees.. Same thing goes for when you go to START/DOCUMENTS.

**DOWN (LOADING)** - Information being transferred from the web page to your computer by your browser, your modem and your hard drive. **UPLOADING** is same thing but in reverse, you upload to the server.

**FLOPPY DISK** - Are the small diskettes you can put information on, insert them in the slots on your computer case (box) and retrieve the information or copy it to your Hard drive.

**FTP** - File Transfer Protocol, the protocol you use to transfer files to your web page server, or to another person. There are many good programs to do this. I find CuteFTP or WS\_Ftp are the best..

**HARD DRIVE** - A piece of "hardware" in your computer case where all your information is recorded, ... your programs are copied to it, and all that you write or input to your computer goes to it.

**HARDWARE** - Equipment which can be installed inside the case (box) of your computer where your Hard drive is

**HTML** - Hyper Text Mark-up Language, language which is used to build web pages, very easy to learn.

**HTTP** - what you need to put in front of most of the URLs to get to a web page (<http://url...>)

**JAVA** - or JavaScript, another form of language used to build web pages, but a lot more complicated and most Java slows down web pages terribly.

**LINKS** - A line usually underlined or in blue which takes you to an other page when clicked on .

**SCANS** - Pictures which have been scanned and copied onto a disk, the JPG format is the smallest and best to save your pictures in. TIFF and BMP are huge in size and take time to send through email and can't be placed on a web page as your browser will only recognise the JPG and GIF formats.

**SOFTWARE** - Programs which can be installed on your Hard Drive

**TEMPORARY INTERNET FILES** - Another directory in Windows which keeps a copy of all the sites and pictures visited by the users when using Internet Explorer as a browser.

**URL** -The address where your web page is located the one you place in your "location" on your browser.

As you are "surfing", it is wise to always use caution when "downloading" anything from the net. Always read carefully before clicking on the next site or link. Never accept files from someone you don't know. Never use your

credit card number, real name, real address unless you know it is safe. If you are at work using the computers, watch those cookies and caches.



For those of you who have the opportunity to use the net, you may want to give the following web pages a look.

### SAFE SURFING!

Margaret's Gallery at: <http://members.tripod.com/~gallantm>  
Where you will find all the pictures by Margaret Gallant Doyle took of the Hooded Oriole and many many more or her bird pictures.

A bilingual page: Irene's Nature page at: <http://members.tripod.com/~colector> Where you will find Irene Doyle's (Campbellton) favorite nature pictures, some nature links, some pictures of the Margaret Doyle lookout, a bit of history on our marshes, and a lot more to come as this page is under construction.

Kennebecasis Naturalist Society Sussex, NB at:

<http://tuweb.ucis.dal.ca/~web1003/kns/index.html>

Passion d'Oiseaux de Laval Roy a French birding page at:

<http://pages.infinit.net/lavalroy>

A good page on Butterflies at:

<http://mgfx.com/butterfly>

A bilingual page: NatureNB's webpage with all sorts of good information about NB Nature at:

<http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/maryspt/Nature-NB.html>

A bilingual page: Nature Information Lines in N.B at:

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

For those of you who like to see the Earth from a satellite this is the site for you at:

<http://www.fourmilab.ch/earthview/satellite.html>

Atmospheric phenomena, Sun Pillars, Sun Dogs, Clouds, Thunderbolts, Nature pictures at:

<http://www.rap.ucar.edu/staff/gthompsn/photo.html>

For those of you who have a few minutes to Fight Spam (unsolicited junk mail) at: <http://spam.abuse.net/>

Birdwatching in Northern Ireland at: <http://www.interknowledge.com/northern-ireland/ukibrd01.htm>

Altavista now has a translation page. It is not the best for very long articles but it can come in handy at for some of you who are looking for a word translation or a phrase even: <http://babelfish.altavista.com/cgi-bin/translate?>

For short or long range weather wherever you are at:

<http://www.theweathernetwork.com/cancom/can>

A cyber trip to the Biodome in Montreal can be fun at:

[http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/biodome/acc\\_b.htm](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/biodome/acc_b.htm)

One of the best Canadian pages, Canadian news, sports, entertainment, lotto numbers, business world, and even a Canadian online explorer at:

<http://www.canoe.ca/Canoe/home.html>

Barrows' Goldeneye tracking project at: [http://www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/sauvagine/html/satellite\\_bg.html](http://www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/sauvagine/html/satellite_bg.html)

Create and send online Cyber Card to send to your friends at: <http://www.pacprod.com/card.htm?>

Birdnet: Specially for our Editors some bird clipart at: <http://www.interaktv.com/BIRDNET/CARt.html#w>

COOKIES = Not the chocolate chip ones ( Cookies are a text file which is placed on your computer's hard drive when you visit web pages. They contain information about your computer, about the pages itself, etc.. some are good cookies some are bad cookies. For more information on them visit this site.

<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cfl-cbgl/liaison/1997/97-6/9706-3e.htm>

SECURITY = Netscape has put out an excellent site on surfing securely and a visit here wouldn't hurt anyone who uses the internet.

<http://home.netscape.com/products/security/index.html>

TUCOWS = An internet site, world wide, safest place on the internet to get some software from. Just put in your browser's location <http://tucows.com> and follow instructions

Canadian Telephone directory online at:

<http://www.canada411.sympatico.ca/>

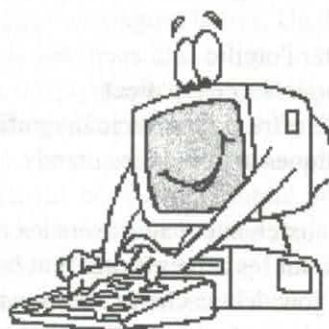
The Telegraph Journal's home page online at:

<http://www.telegraphjournal.com/>

Atlantic Television online at: <http://www.atv.ca>

Restigouche Naturalists' Club's very own web page at the following URL to the Internet page. Copy exactly as shown with the ~ and the Capital letters or it will not work. <http://members.tripod.com/~RestNatClub>

Also anyone who is using MIRC and would like to chat on my BIRDING\_IN\_NB channel I am always there at night but I don't have to be there for others to use the channel. I have registered it and it is there waiting for you anytime. Just go to DALNET (irc.dal.net) and /join #Birding\_in\_NB .... See you there or find one another there !





## ODE TO THE BIRDCOUNT

*Maria & Lisa Gauvin and Bernadette & Michael LeBlanc*  
*Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Buctouche*

T'was the day of the bird count  
 Leaving the house  
 Not a creature was stirring  
 Not even a grouse

The pinecones were hung  
 On the treetops with care  
 Not a bird to be seen  
 It's really not fair

So after a rest  
 And a nice little bite  
 We took to the road  
 To work up a new appetite

So lo and behold  
 We thought we'd see nothing  
 Then all of a sudden  
 We saw 20 snowbunting.

The morning was boring  
 Was such a long day  
 When suddenly Lisa yelled :  
 Hey! Look! It's a blue jay!

We were getting discouraged  
 It was really a pain  
 The birds wouldn't answer  
 We were 'pishing' in vain.

Jumped out of the car  
 To go for a walk  
 Took all of our power  
 Just not to talk.

We turned back t'ward the car  
 It was time to go  
 We looked up in the air  
 Wow, it's a crow!

It wasn't yet three  
 But very close there of  
 When in front of us...  
 We spotted a dove

Renewing our faith  
 Of seeing a grouse,  
 It woke us back up  
 Before reaching the house

So we took the Brown's road  
 The last leg of our ride  
 Trying awfully hard  
 To swallow our pride

So we're now back home  
 With no grouse in sight  
 We must still say  
 Our day was a delight

So we shed a few layers  
 Head to Gilles' with our snack  
 Hoping to God  
 Everyone made it back

It was long...it was cold  
 But we did it despite  
 So Merry Christmas birdcount to all  
 And to all a good night.

## MA FORET

*Réjeanne Francoeur*

Aujourd'hui tout bouge  
 Ma forêt vibre de vie  
 L'oeil attentif dans la Nature  
 Partout tout change

Il faut prêter l'oreille  
 Le martin-pêcheur est patient  
 La libellule offre un spectacle magnifique  
 Les moustiques attaquent les marais

Les ruisseaux chantent au travers les roches  
 La mousse sur les arbres morts sent bon  
 L'écureuil joue à la cachette avec ses noisettes  
 Le silence de ma forêt appelle le hibou

Le mystère enveloppe ma forêt  
 Qu'est-ce qui fait fleurir le quatre-temps?  
 Qui ordonne aux arbres de grandir?  
 Qu'est-ce qui donne le signal ?  
 Aux oiseaux que le temps est venu d'émigrer

Dans son silence ma forêt survit  
 Dans sa majesté ma forêt s'épanouit  
 Dans son mystère ma forêt grandit !!



## LES PLAISIRS DE L'ORNITHOLOGIE AU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

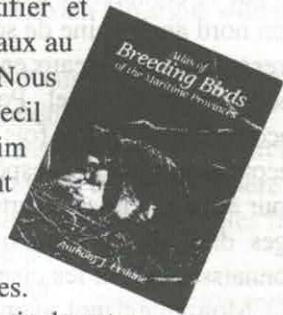
*Rose-Alma Mallet, Club Les ami(e)s de la nautre*

En 1995, Eileen Pike et moi avons décidé que c'était le temps de connaître toutes les espèces d'oiseaux habitant ou migrant dans la province. Il y avait belle lurette que nous admirions la nature. Depuis des années, nous occupions nos moments libres à promouvoir la protection de la nature et le recyclage. Au printemps 1994, au retour d'une excursion ornithologique à Grand Manan, nous avons décidé qu'il était temps que nous connaissions tous nos amis ailés: les oiseaux. Depuis un bon moment, nous interrogeons les ornithologues de la province, afin de connaître combien d'espèces d'oiseaux un individu peut observer dans un an au Nouveau-Brunswick?



Nous avons profité du congé de Noël afin de scruter toute la documentation concernant les oiseaux du Nouveau-Brunswick. Le guide **LES OISEAUX** de l'est de l'Amérique du Nord de Roger Tory Peterson et l'**ATLAS OF BREEDING BIRDS** of the Maritime Provinces d'Anthony J. Erskine

sont devenus nos livres de chevet cette année-là. Avec cette documentation et l'aide des experts en ornithologie de la province nous avons édifié un plan d'action: identifier et reconnaître 250 espèces d'oiseaux au Nouveau-Brunswick dans un an. Nous remercions David Christie, Cecil Johnston, Stuart Tingley et Jim Wilson qui ont si gentiment répondu à toutes nos questions et nous ont transmis leur amour de la nature. Ils sont nos idoles. Nous leur devons une grande partie de notre connaissance du monde des oiseaux.



Notre plan comprenait: se déplacer, chercher, et courir après les oiseaux selon les saisons dans toutes les différentes parties de la province. Nous avions peu de temps à perdre. Au matin du premier de l'an nous étions, jumelles et télescope en main à scruter les oiseaux de la Baie de Fundy, de la rue Hanover, sur la Baie de Courtenay à St-Jean, jusqu'à Grand Manan. L'eau de la Baie de Fundy ne gèle pas pendant l'hiver et on peut voir des canards de très près dépendant des marées. Nous nous sommes promenées dans cette région toutes les fins de semaines. L'observation de très

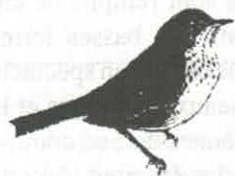
près d'un eider à tête grise, après sept voyages à St-Andrew, fut probablement l'heure la plus spectaculaire de l'hiver. On ne peut pas jeter aux oubliettes notre voyage à Dalhousie. Les gerfauts étaient au rendez-vous sur le rocher Bon Ami. Mais dans tous nos excitements, nous avons oublié de faire le plein d'essence. J'ai dû marcher marcher et faire de l'auto-stop. Quelle aventure!

Il y a certains oiseaux que l'on aperçoit qu'en hiver, comme les bruants des neiges, les jaseurs boréaux, les sizerins, les bécasseaux violets, les harfangs des neiges et plusieurs autres espèces. Ce sont les habitués du Grand Nord canadien qui, lorsque la nourriture devient rare, migrent plus au sud de leur territoire. Si les vents sont favorables, des oiseaux de l'Ouest du Canada et des Etats-Unis ou des oiseaux du Groenland et de la Sibérie se retrouvent dans nos régions. Une grive littorale s'est retrouvée comme cela à Sussex. Des gens sont venus de tous les coins de l'Amérique du Nord pour l'observer. A notre surprise durant l'hiver de 1995 nous en avons identifié plus de 100 espèces d'oiseaux. C'est un chiffre assez conservateur. L'hiver dernier un total de 152 espèces d'oiseaux ont été vues par les ornithologues amateurs. Les mangeoires sont des endroits privilégiés pour observer les oiseaux durant l'hiver.

Le printemps est la saison la plus excitante, les migrateurs nous arrivent du sud. Tout le paysage reverdit, tout bourdonne d'activité. C'est la période idéale pour observer les canards. Tous les étangs de Canards illimités et les lagunes des systèmes d'épurations des eaux usées sont remplis de canards et de phalaropes de Wilson. Les basses terres inondées de la vallée du Saint-Jean nous offrent un spectacle d'une grande variété de canards, d'oiseaux de rivages et la possibilité de découvrir des espèces venues du Sud comme des gallinules pourprées, des ibis et des égrettes. A cette période, à Jemseg, le long de la route qui mène au traversier de Gagetown, vous pouvez aussi y observer des tortues. Ah oui! N'oubliez pas vos longues bottes. Un dimanche matin accompagnée de quelques ami(e)s, je me précipite vers Jemseg, la ligne téléphonique des oiseaux rares du Nouveau-Brunswick a annoncé la présence d'une gallinule pourprée. Arrivés sur place, la crue des eaux à couvert la route, et dans notre empressement nous avons oublié de nous informer auprès des résidents de la profondeur de l'eau. Nous voilà, les bottes remplies d'eau très froide. Un ami a crampé sur place, nous avons eu de la difficulté à le remettre sur pied.



A la vue de ce magnifique oiseau, toutes nos misères s'envolèrent. Au mois d'avril, Stuart Tingley découvre un "Hot Spot" pour observer la migration des oiseaux de proies. La nouvelle découverte, New Horton, que les observateurs d'oiseaux surnomment "Hawks Mountain" nous attire à tous les jours. Les oiseaux de proies survolent les crêtes des valons du New Horton Ridges. Que de journées, nous avons passées clouées au sol près de l'église de New Horton à observer des petites taches dans le firmament. Mais, que de plaisirs de voir ces petites taches se métamorphoser dans nos télescopes en: buses, aigles, et urubus. Dire que j'ai manqué le passage de l'aigle royal. Mon amie et moi de manquons pas les voyages organisés. Dès le mois de janvier, nous réservons notre place à bord du Sea Watch afin de naviguer vers Machias Seal Island et d'y débarquer. Il n'y que douze personnes par jour qui peuvent fouler le sol de ce sanctuaire d'oiseaux. D'une petite cache, nous admirons de très près les macareux moines, les petits pingoins, les quillemons marmettes et bien d'autres oiseaux pélagiques. On a eu la chance de voir à deux reprises des sternes de Dougall. Ensuite, il y a le traditionnel voyage ornithologique à Grand Manan organisé par Stuart Tingley la grande fin de semaine de mai. Tous les amoureux de l'ornithologie célèbrent la fête de la reine à l'île de Grand Manan. L'auberge, le Shorecrest ne serait plus le même sans nous. Les nouveaux venus se rappelleront des séances d'initiations tout en rêvant au printemps suivant.



la grive Bicknell

L'été est une saison plutôt calme: les oiseaux sont affairés à nourrir leur famille. Eileen et moi, avons découvert un autre endroit enchanteur: Le Parc du Mont Carleton. Les oiseaux nous égaient de leur chant de l'aurore au coucher du soleil. Ce sont les grives qui nous accueillent au réveil et ce sont ces mêmes oiseaux qui nous accompagnent au camp après une longue journée dans la nature. Il faut gripper haut, au sommet du Mont Sagamook, pour observer la grive Bicknell qui niche en hauteur dans le Parc du Mont Carleton. La grive de Bicknell est unique à la région des Appalaches. Nous devons partager le parc et les monts avec des nuées de mouches noires et de maringouins. Cette visite au centre du Nouveau-Brunswick est devenue pour nous un pèlerinage annuel. Le retour est toujours prolongé par un petit détour du côté d'Edmunston. Le tangara écarlate niche dans les forêts de cette région. Le temps de changer de valises et nous voilà en excursion pélagique dans la baie de Fundy. C'est la tradition de partir à chaque mois d'août en mer avec Jim Wilson. C'est un voyage idéal pour admirer les océanites, les labbes, les phalaropes et bien d'autres espèces. Nous avons eu la chance

de voir un fulmar boréal et un grand labbe.

A la fin de l'été et à l'automne, beaucoup d'oiseaux de rivage migrent par les routes du Nouveau-Brunswick. Les bécasseaux sont abondant à Mary's Point et au Cap de Dorchester. Il est facile de trouver jusqu'à 15 espèces d'oiseaux de rivage sur certaines plages et marais de la province. Nos meilleurs sites sont: Cap Bimet, dans la région de Shédiac, Malbaie Nord à île de Miscou, la dune de Bouctouche, le marais de St-Rest à Saint-Jean et le Cap Jourimain. Durant cette période, les ornithologues sont à la recherche d'espèces plus rares comme les bécasseaux de Baird, d'Alaska, à échasses, ou roussâtre. L'eau à la ceinture, les jumelles et télescope au dessus de la tête, Eileen et moi, avons traversé une lagune pour nous rendre à une dune dans la région de Tracadie-Sheila où se trouvait un combattant varié (un oiseau de rivage). Au retour de notre périple, le combattant se tenait près de la voiture. Notre plaisir était de voir une espèce nouvelle et de l'étudier sous tous ses angles. Les bécasseaux sandreling sont les derniers à quitter nos plages et cela en novembre alors que les bécasseaux violets reviennent passer l'hiver avec nous. On peut voir les bécasseaux violets le long de la Baie de Fundy, plus spécialement à Green Point près de Letete et à Waterside.

Puis décembre est à notre porte. Dans tous les coins de la province, les clubs de naturalistes organisent des recensements d'oiseaux d'hiver. Agréables sorties sociales du temps des fêtes où tous s'amuse tout en inventoriant notre patrimoine naturel. Le premier recensement de Noël fut organisé à New York le 25 décembre 1900. Scotch Lake dans le comté de York représentait le Nouveau-Brunswick lors de ce compte. Ce compte d'oiseaux remplaçait la tradition nord américaine de sortir dehors le jour de Noël et de tirer sur tous les oiseaux en vue. Cette année marquera le 99<sup>e</sup> recensement de Noël. Pour nous, le cycle d'observation recommence. Cette fois-ci nous sommes outillées à reconnaître toutes les espèces d'oiseaux, nous en profitons pour étudier leur comportement. Nous planifions des voyages dans d'autres provinces afin de perfectionner nos connaissances sur les oiseaux.

Mon amie et moi, avons enregistré 276 espèces d'oiseaux dans la province en 1995 et le même nombre l'année suivante. Sans qu'on le sache, nous avons battu tous les records d'observation d'oiseaux dans la province: nous avons dépassé notre objectif. Maintenant, nous pouvons facilement reconnaître toutes les espèces d'oiseaux de la province. Pour nous, il est très important de connaître notre patrimoine naturel. Si nous voulons protéger notre patrimoine naturel, il est nécessaire de le connaître. Aujourd'hui, je peux encore rester debout des heures entières à observer la beauté d'une mésange.



## MATAPEDIA'S HOODED ORIOLE

*Irene Doyle, Restigouche Naturalists' Club*

During the week of Nov. 20 th to the 25th as the north shore was experiencing a quiet birding lull, a phone call was placed to Margaret Doyle from Raymond Chiasson. He said, "Christianne Pitre, of Matapedia just called and she says there's an oriole there that doesn't look like the ones they are used to seeing. She says it looks like a 'Hooded Oriole', is that possible?"

Some birders might have skeptically said, 'Yeah right!' thinking that perhaps Christianne Pitre is a new birder and that she may have made a mistake. Then we heard rumors of 5 or 6 Orioles being in the same tree which got almost everyone wondering. Now we were the ones saying, 'Yeah right!'

Margaret posted a question to the Nature NB discussion forum asking about the possibilities of a Hooded Oriole being in Matapedia, P.Q. Some of the birders throughout New Brunswick might have thought, "Oh my ! Margaret has gone off the deep end!" She got a few responses telling her to "wake up" and that she was dreaming, so Margaret set aside the thought of THAT possibility.

But a second call, Wednesday Nov. 25th, from Raymond Chiasson to Margaret made us more curious, if nothing else. Margaret informed me that Bob Gillis wanted me to go with him to Matapedia in the morning to see if we could find that Oriole and identify it. Humm... who am I to argue with that, so I called Bob.

On Thursday Nov. 26 th at 8:30 am sharp Bob was at my door. Good man, I thought, right on time.

After a 15-20 minute drive we arrived at the church in Matapedia, just across the street from the house where the bird was supposed to be. Already three or four ladies from Matapedia were present ... and so was the bird! The telescope flew out of its case and was quickly set up.

"What do you think Irene?" said Bob.

"Gheeee, sure LOOKS like a Hooded Oriole to me Bob,," was my first response after looking at this gorgeous little orange and black ball of a bird. Still not really believing what I had seen, I listened as Bob wisely said, "Let's look at all the details, let's not miss anything!"

"Well, the head is orange, the wings are black with two wing bars, one is wider than the other."

"Let's get the beak which is not going to be easy with this bird moving around so much."

"Long black tail, with some white spots on the tips ... long black tail ... hey! It has horizontal stripes on the back too."

"Yeah, like little feathers and the rest of the body is orangy to yellow."

"And the bill is a silvery colour, oh ! and it's curved at the tip."

"And the head is a darker orange than the rest of the body."

I think at this point the ladies from Matapedia were talking to us saying something in the background, but Oriole fever had set in and it seemed to be affecting our hearing. Our eyes were not big enough either.

Out came the field guides, we looked at one another... humm...

"I'm gonna phone Raymond," said Bob and out came one of those marvelous inventions, a cellular phone. While the call was being made to Raymond Chiasson at the Regional Hospital (where both Margaret and Raymond work), I was busy with Margaret's video camera, getting proof of our find.

Margaret managed to get away from work on her lunch hour and scooted up to Matapedia (I'm glad no policemen were around). She quickly found the bird and was even able to take some pictures of the new celebrity. After work she took the film to the nearest one-hour developer and then brought the printed photos to me to scan.

I scanned, scaled, cropped to quickly construct a simple one page web site highlighted with Margaret's pictures. Now, where could I place the web page. Humm.... Margaret had an NBN account and they offered web space so I went there, uploaded the pictures and the page to the NBN server and ... Voila! Margaret's web page was born. (It was later moved to Tripod where it could have more room. It can be seen at: <http://members.tripod.com/~gallantm>).



*Hooded Oriole*  
photo by Margaret Doyle



Margaret posted a message on Nature NB to the rest of New Brunswick telling everyone that the pictures of the Hooded Oriole that were now on the "net" for individual viewing. I'm sure a few mouths fell open, but only one breathless message came from David Christie with congratulations on finding such a gorgeous bird.

The following Saturday turned out to be a really nice day, a bit windy but with no snow, no rain and bare pavement. The little church yard in Matapedia had never seen so much traffic in one day I'm sure. Margaret and I spent the day there meeting birders mostly from Quebec, Montreal, Matane, Gaspé, Mont Joli, Rimouski, Longueuil, and the Acadian Peninsula. Two people from Bathurst were there early in the morning before we arrived. Between 9:30 am and 3:30 PM, about 75 people managed to visit the bird.

The next morning, with the nice weather continuing, we went back to the little churchyard and the bird was still there! Again the little yard was full of

cars. Some people had driven all night from Montreal to get here, more had come from the Gaspé area. Folks were coming from all over Quebec. We heard of one car that came from Dieppe, but we did not recognize the people's names. A man from Moncton whom we'd never met before, arrived Humm ... another 70 to 80 people visit that day

Since that day, people have come from as far as Toronto to visit this rare little orange ball of feathers. Local people have built a shelter for it out of a foam cooler with a blue light

bulb to keep him warm. Food ... a concoction of orange juice crushed bananas, egg yoke, honey, exotic bird food and a bit of peanut butter is being brought to the bird twice a day.

It is almost unbelievable that such a little creature of nature could cause so many people to travel the hundreds of miles necessary to see him. Equally wonderful are the people who are willing to go out of their way to assist the bird's survival during the cold Northshore winter.



*Hooded Oriole*  
photo by Margaret Doyle

## CELEBRATE NB BIRD DAY AT YOUR LOCAL LAGOON

In addition to other NB Bird Day events on the eighth of May, the NBFN will organize a survey of wildlife at sewage lagoons throughout the province. Contact Pierre Duguay (dpierre@nbnet.nb.ca) or Ken MacIntosh (coopers@nbnet.nb.ca) or stay tuned to your local nature club for details of our plans.



## NATURE NEWS: SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1998

*David Christie, Moncton Naturalists' Club*

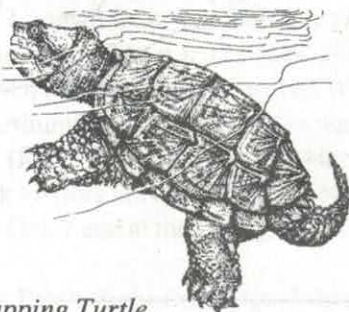
It was a very mild fall but with some significant bouts of wet or windy weather, one of which brought the highlight of the season, an unprecedentedly large movement of **Snow Geese** during the first week of October.

Many people complained about a lack of birds in settled areas, especially at feeders. Because of abundant natural food, seed- and fruit-eaters tended to be widely distributed rather than concentrated. In the forests of the Upsalquitch watershed, **White-winged Crossbills** were found as abundant as ever seen and "the ground beneath spruces absolutely littered with cone husks and debris" (JC). In many areas along the Bay of Fundy the mountain-ashes were stripped of fruits by Robins and other migrants, but despite some noteworthy concentrations at the end of October in Restigouche County, and feeding by Herring and Ring-billed gulls and Crows (ML), much of extreme northern New Brunswick entered the winter with huge amounts of fruits remaining on the trees.

### Fishes and Reptiles

**Basking Sharks** were evidently common in the Bay of Fundy, as 15-20 were seen during a whale-watching trip out of North Head Sep. 12 (PAP).

Grant Milroy, having moved to St. Stephen, heard reports that four big **Snapping Turtles** had been seen laying eggs beside Dennis Stream in Moores Mills at the end of June. "In one case 50 eggs were counted as they were laid and buried. Checking the site on Sep. 5, he was lucky enough to arrive just as "a baby turtle poked its tiny head out of the nest and headed down through the gravel and rocks to the stream's edge."



*Snapping Turtle*

*drawing from Dover Publications*

### Birds

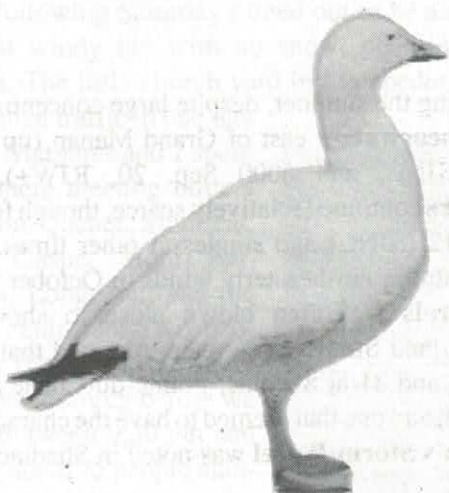
As during the summer, despite large concentrations of **Greater Shearwaters** east of Grand Manan (up to 4000 Sep. 12, SJNC, and 6000 Sep. 20, RJW+), **Manx Shearwaters** continued relatively scarce, though four were seen Sep. 12 (SJNC) and singles at other times. During periods of strong northeasterly winds in October **Leach's Storm-Petrels** are often blown close to shore along Northumberland Strait. A few were reported that way on Oct. 12, 17 and 31 at Shediac, Pointe-du-Chêne and Cap Bimet (v.o.), and one that seemed to have the characteristics of a **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** was noted in Shediac Oct. 17 (FD).

Commenting on the beginning of heavy **Double-crested Cormorant** migration at Grand Manan Oct. 5, Brian Dalzell noted, "I've kept detailed notes here since 1991, and a pattern seems to be emerging. No flock has passed over before 10:30 a.m. in the morning. Average flock size is about 100 birds in the first week of October, and 250 during the second. I think the fact they don't arrive here until almost noon in most cases indicates their point of origin must be P.E.I. or the Northumberland Strait. The first flock I noticed this morning went over at 11:23 a.m. at about 60 km/h. If they left at first light (0700), they could conceivably cover about 270 km in a little over four hours. Backtracking, this could easily put their point of origin in Shediac Bay or even Bedeque Bay on P.E.I." I haven't kept detailed records on the time of their passage, but the bulk of the cormorants we see flying down the bay at Mary's Point pass between about 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. so Brian's theory that the Grand Manan birds probably have started from Northumberland Strait in the morning is likely true.

A number of southern herons were quite cooperative, the highlight being an immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** that frequented Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John, Aug. 31 to Sep. 15 (v.o.). Often it fed, fearlessly, close to the Irving Nature Park's marsh boardwalk. The two long-staying **Great Egrets** at Mary's Point were seen regularly until Oct. 2 (DSC, Mary Majka) and one remained till Oct. 7 (Michelle Larsen). Another at Marsh Creek, Saint John, Sep. 8-9 presumably moved over to Saints Rest, where it was seen Sep. 12-23 (v.o.). Similarly, a **Snowy Egret** relocated from White Head Island Sep. 8 (RJW) to Castalia



Sep. 12-22 (v.o.). An immature **Little Blue Heron** seen along the Restigouche Sep. 1 (MGD+) moved downriver 28 km to Campbellton, where it entertained birders Sep. 7-17 (v.o.). A similar bird frequented Saints Rest Marsh, Sep. 14-18 (AR+).



*Snow Geese*  
drawing by David Christie

**Snow Geese** breeding in the eastern Arctic migrate to a major staging area on the St. Lawrence estuary and then cross western New England to winter along the U.S. coast from Delaware Bay to North Carolina. Their numbers increase rapidly in Quebec in early October. Usually only small numbers reach New Brunswick, but this year for a couple of days strong northwesterly winds swept many migrating geese well east of their normal migration route, past the St. Lawrence and into our province. (Unusual numbers were also reported in Nova Scotia and Rhode Island.)

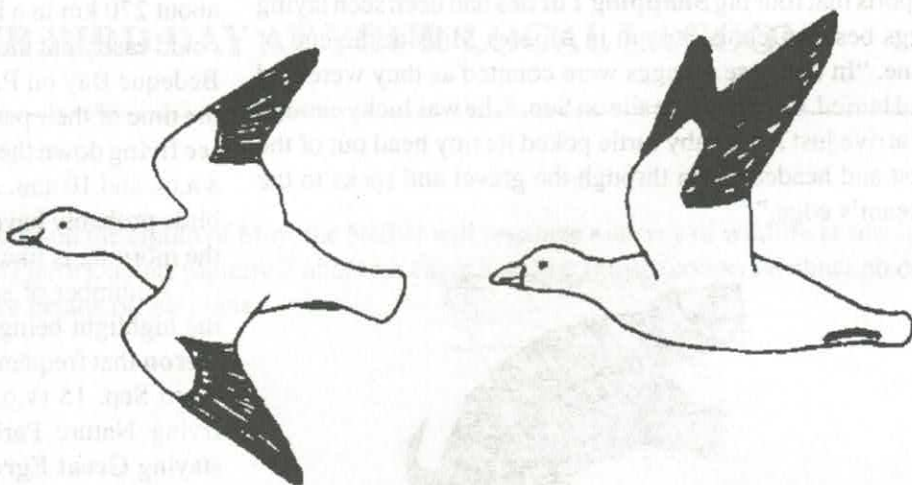
A lone Snow Goose that hung around Saints Rest Marsh Sep. 18-Oct. 2 (JWh+), another on the Cap Brûlé Marsh, near Shediac, Oct. 1-24 (Julie Pellerin+), and a couple that appeared at Bathurst Oct. 1 (RG) were typical fall reports for New Brunswick, but what happened Oct. 3-4 was remarkable.

On the morning of October 3, John McRae and Richard Mercier each reported about a thousand Snow Geese

in the Restigouche estuary off Atholville. While one of them was watching, the birds lifted off and headed NW over the Gaspé mountains towards the St. Lawrence River (*fide* Alan Madden). To the west that day, 45 flew over St-Jacques heading south, but shortly after returned northwards (JDB). Meanwhile numerous flocks were noted along the Fundy coast from Saint John west. Most of them were passing quite high overhead, so others could easily have been overlooked.

At Saints Rest Marsh, 3 groups totalling about 70 birds passed westward in early morning (FK) and flocks of 9 and 20 arrived in the marsh later in the day (*fide* JWh). Noted at Blacks Harbour were 35 over Pea Point and another flock that was heard only (KM), while at St. Andrews 37 were seen heading towards Maine (TD). At Grand Manan, Brian Dalzell gathered six reports of Snow Geese seen during the day (v.o.) and estimated "200-250 birds involved in all the sightings." Fourteen of them stopped in Castalia Marsh for a couple of hours but the rest just kept on going. Two blue-phase birds were in one of the flocks and "at least two of the birds that landed at Castalia Marsh were 'Blue Goose' intergrades, with a dark band across the breast."

The following day, Oct. 4, 25+ flocks totalling an amazing 1500 Snow Geese were seen at Grand Manan (v.o.) and it was felt that more would have been recorded had there been a continuous watch for them (BED). Twenty were on the Saint's Rest Marsh (JWh), and four flocks totalling 200+ were seen in the St. Andrews-Bayside area, generally heading S to SW though one group went the opposite way, NW up the St. Croix (DFS). One of the flocks contained a blue-phase bird (TD).



*Snow Geese*  
drawing by David Christie



Snow Geese were less reported inland that weekend, but about 20 went over CFB Gagetown Oct. 3 (*fide* Bill Mountain), and the next day 110 geese, probably Snows, were seen in the distance near Mactaquac (DGG) and 200 at Lac Baker, before they were scared off by a jet-ski (Denise Cyr). The Lac Baker flock included one **Barnacle Goose**, a bird which most likely originated from captivity though it may have been living with wild geese for some time. Along the St. Lawrence, one or two a year are reported among migrant geese.

After that, the passage of Snow Geese dwindled greatly. On Oct. 5, only a flock of 25 (PAP) and a single (BED) were noticed passing through the Grand Manan area, but about 150 were feeding with Canadas in a field at Arthurette (Bill Miller). On Oct. 7, 300 to 350, the only large group noted in eastern N.B., were seen off Pointe-du-Chêne wharf (FD, JT).

Several were at Saints Rest Oct. 11-13 (Frank Kelly), one at Castalia Oct. 14 (PAP), one on the Restigouche at Pt. La Nim in the last week of October (*fide* MGD) and one to two at Coverdale Nov. 22-24 (Bob Cotsworth+), and 300+ at Arthurette in late November (Laverne Rabatich).

Though regular along the coast and in the lower Saint John valley two **Gadwall** were unusual in the Edmundston area Sep. 30-Oct. 1 (Gisèle Thibodeau, JDB). A noteworthy concentration of 30 **Northern Shovelers** was seen on the Memramcook sewage lagoon Sep. 14 (Ron Arsenault). Male **Eurasian Wigeon** were noted at Saints Rest Oct. 26 (KM) and Cape Jourimain, near Bayfield, Nov. 2 (Ken McKenna).

A male **Redhead** spent Oct. 7 at the mouth of the Nashwaak River at Fredericton (PAP, DGG), another at the Salisbury sewage lagoon Nov. 9-11 (Ron Steeves+), and a female **Canvasback** at Fredericton Oct. 26 (PAP). A pair of **Tufted Ducks** seemed to have made a short stay at Dalhousie Oct. 18-19 (Irene Doyle, MGD+), but they or another pair re-appeared there Nov. 20 (ML+). The male remained into December.

Again, a pleasing number of **Harlequin Ducks** were reported. At Pt. Lepreau from 2 to as many as 8 were seen during Oct. 13 to Nov. 22 (v.o.). 32 (22 bright males) were counted at "Harlequin headquarters" at The Wolves c. Nov. 9 (FH). On Northumberland Strait there was one at Cap Bimet Oct. 18 (RL). Two less definite Harlequins were reported by park visitors at Nictau Lake in Mount Carleton Provincial Park Oct. 7 and at the Fundy Trail Parkway Nov. 7.

The **Ruddy Duck** flight from Oct. 3 through Nov. 28 was smaller than a year earlier but still substantial. The larger groups were 15 at Calhoun Marsh, near Riverside-

Albert, Nov. 12 (RJW) and at Long Pond, GM, Nov. 15 (PAP), 9 at Memramcook s.l. Oct. 31 (RL, RG) and 8 at Bon Ami Rocks, Dalhousie, Nov. 14 (LD, RG). Other reports came from Saint John, Moncton, Fredericton, Cape Jourimain, and Salisbury (v.o.).

Eel River Bar attracted up to 100 **Hooded Mergansers** Oct. 11 and Nov. 8 (ML, AWa). Other nice concentrations of this species included 45 in a river near Shemogue Nov. 2 (MLB) and 40 at Katy's Cove, St. Andrews, Oct. 18 (GMi).

Beyond their area of regular occurrence from Charlotte County to Hampton, a couple of **Turkey Vultures** showed up in the southeast, where rangers saw an adult at a road kill at Pacific Junction, near Moncton, in mid September (MNC line) and another was soaring over St-Joseph Sep. 25 (AC). An adult **Golden Eagle**, probably in migration, passed westward at Mactaquac Oct. 25 (DSC).

An exciting find at Castalia was a **Clapper Rail** flushed twice from the upper edges of the marsh Sep. 16 (DGG, SIT+). Most of our few records of this rare and secretive vagrant have been birds picked up dead or in a weakened state. A bird seen briefly at Dalhousie Oct. 9 fit well the description of an immature **Purple Gallinule** (JC) but unfortunately could not be relocated. McLaren Pond at Fundy National Park had to settle for **American Coots** instead of a gallinule this fall, one immature Oct. 5-27 and another Nov. 17-22 (RJW+). From 17 to 19 coots were counted at the Saints Rest s.l. during Nov. 17-22 (v.o.) and a few were seen at several other sewage lagoons and impounded marshes.

One wonders whether the **Sandhill Crane** reported on Sep. 19 in a farmer's field at New Canaan (NBBIL) was the one that spent the early summer about 40 km S of there at Lower Millstream. Two were reported flying over St. Andrews Sep. 28 (LDu).

Two large concentrations of **Killdeer** were found, about 100 on the beach at Tide Head Sep. 10 (Denise Zyveniuk) and 55 at Moncton Airport Sep. 17 (BED). Good numbers of **Red Knots** occurred at Maisonnnette, 200 on Oct. 24 and 108 on Nov. 7 (MD).

The **Marbled Godwit** that appeared at Maisonnnette Dune Aug. 29 remained through Sep. 14 (MD+). An adult **Ruff** at Mal Bay North on Miscou Island Nov. 8 (MD) must be our latest record of that rarity.

A juvenile **Western Sandpiper** was at the Maisonnnette dune Sep. 19-26 (RL+) and a possible one at Saints Rest Sep. 8 (DGG, SS). **Baird's Sandpipers** were noted at Bouctouche Dune Sep. 2 (MLB), Mal Bay South, Miscou I., Sep. 5 (MD), Jones Lake, Moncton, Sep. 9 (3—SIT), Maisonnnette Sep. 20-26 (MD+), and rather late ones at Kouchibouguac National Park before Oct. 12 (GB), and Bayfield Oct. 21 (JT, FD).



Probably the greatest number of **Stilt Sandpipers** ever found at once in New Brunswick was 16 at the Rockland DU Marsh, near Dorchester, Sep. 14 (Val Bourque, AC). There were still 10 there Sep. 17 (BED) and they declined to only one Sep. 24 (MNC). Several others contributed to a good flight of this species: at Saints Rest Sep. 2-7 (1-2—AR+), Mal Bay North, Miscou I., Sep. 5 (5—MD), Jones Lake, Moncton Sep. 9-12 (SIT+), and Castalia Marsh Sep. 13-22 (v.o.). Two juvenile **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were found at the prime season, at Mal Bay North, Miscou I., Sep. 12 (MD) and at Castalia Marsh Sep. 17-18 (NBBIL).

As summer wanes, the abundant Short-billed Dowitcher declines and a few juvenile **Long-billed Dowitchers** visit our province. One was reported with Short-bills at Atholville on the weekend of Sep. 5-6 (SG) and others at Rockland Marsh, near Dorchester, Sep. 17 (BED) and Castalia Marsh Sep. 19 (4—RJW+).

**Wilson's Phalarope** was reported only at Saints Rest Marsh this fall, one on Sep. 8 (DGG, SS) and 2 or 3 on Sep. 27 (unknown birder's report to the tourist bureau).

An unidentified **jaeger** was observed near Miscou



Wilson's Phalarope  
drawing from Dover Publications

Lighthouse Sep. 19 (MD); both **Pomarine**s and **Parasitics** were seen frequently in the Bay of Fundy in September and October. More interesting were repeated observations of a **Great Skua** from the Grand Manan ferry between Sep. 17 and Oct. 12 (v.o.). One was also seen from the Saint John to Digby ferry Oct. 7 (RL).

It's always worth checking the flocks of migrant Bonaparte's Gulls for individuals of some of the rarer small gulls. A **Laughing Gull** was seen at Eel River Bar Sep. 7 (*fide* MGD) and another from the White Head Island ferry Sep. 16 (JGW, Jean Wilson). A young **Little Gull** was off The Whistle, GM, Sep. 13; it and an adult were seen there for several following days (NBBIL). There were 2 immatures at

Shediac Oct. 12 (JE). An adult **Black-headed Gull** was in the Cap Bimet-Cap Brûlé area Oct. 12 and 18 (JE+) and one at Miscou Island Nov. 11 (RL).

A real rarity, a 2nd-winter **Mew Gull** off the Inch Arran Lighthouse, Dalhousie, Nov. 11 (ML, AWa), could not be relocated. **Lesser Black-Backed Gulls** were found at Deep Cove Beach in mid September (SIT+), Anse-Bleue Sep. 22 (ad.—PD), and at Moncton Nov. 24 (ad.—JE). Presumably the Moncton bird is the one that's been returning each fall for about a decade. This year a hotel is being constructed at the site where it often sat by the river and it has been seen with other gulls on a university athletics field.

It was an exceptional fall for sightings of the rare **Sabine's Gull**. An adult was seen from the Grand Manan ferry Sep. 10 (RJW) and a 1st-winter bird at Deer Island Pt. Sep. 11 (KM). Then, off The Whistle, GM, there was an adult Sep. 13-15 (JGW+) and a juvenile Sep. 15-16 and 20 (v.o.). An adult with more black on the head than The Whistle bird was seen from the ferry Sep. 15 (JE). Finally, a juvenile Sabine's gave views as close as 5 m at Murray Corner wharf Nov. 15-16 (RL+).

Several **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported on both White Head Island and Grand Manan Island from Sep. 14 through Oct. 3 (v.o.). Elsewhere, one was found dead (LDu) and another banded (TD) at St. Andrews, and individuals seen at Alma Sep. 24 and Oct. 15 (DR), and at Melvin Beach (Sep. 29—Ian & Heather Cameron) and Little Salmon River (Oct. 4—JGW+), both E of St. Martins. **Black Billed Cuckoos**, the normal cuckoo here during summer but very unusual in October, were reported at Big Salmon River Oct. 1 (MJC) and Deer Island Oct. 13 (Marianne Janowicz). One should be sure to check the identity carefully in autumn.

Subscribers to the NatureNB mailing list made it a point to report the latest **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** they knew of this fall. Adult males generally leave during August but one did visit a feeder in Riverview Sep. 7 (JT). Most people saw their last hummingbirds during the first two weeks of September (including 2 at Edmundston Sep. 13—Louise-Anne Lajoie), but a few remained later. In the north the last reported were at Campbellton Sep. 21 (Margot and Ulysse Richard) and Sep. 28 (a Mrs. Pitre, *fide* MGD). In the south the latest were at Sackville Sep. 25 (Kathy Popma), Hammond River Sep. 26 (Bill & Juliet Nowlan), Saint John Sep. 29 (JWh), Fredericton Sep. 30 (Margaret Gibson), and Alma Oct. 1 (DR).

Three **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** strayed north this fall, being seen at Fredericton Nov. 1 (Donald MacGregor), Bancroft Point, GM, Nov. 4 (BED), and Sainte-Cécile Nov. 8-19 (Rita Jones+). There were also a few **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, on the Kingston Peninsula Oct. 21-22 (imm.—Sally Jackson+), at Kennebecasis Park, near



Renforth, Oct. 22 into November (ad. & imm. — Kathleen Alexandor+), McLaren Pond, FNP, Oct. 25–Nov. 5 (2 imm. — (GB, RJW+), and Baie Verte Nov. 5 into December (imm. — Noreen Spence).

One of the most exciting birds of the fall was a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** from South America, at Shippagan from about Sep. 22 till Oct. 8 (Roselyne et André Larocque, Rose-Aline & Hilaire Chiasson+). Unfortunately the birding community learned of it on the next to last day of its stay. A couple of **Western Kingbirds** appeared in late fall, at Pt. la Nim Nov. 7 (Pat McGorlick) and Shippagan Nov. 11–14 (RLa+).

A **Carolina Wren** began visiting feeders at Crocker Hill, St. Stephen, in the last week of October (Gail and Steve Smith). A **House Wren** was at Grand Manan on the weekend of Oct. 2–4 (MNC) and **Marsh Wrens** at Castalia Oct. 3 (PAP), at McLaren Pond, FNP, Oct. 5–25 (RJW+), and Alma Oct. 22 (RJW).

A half dozen or more **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were reported along the Bay of Fundy between Sep. 5 and Oct. 4 and one was in the north at Lac Fry, Miscou, Sep. 29 (PD). A couple of rare vireos were noted at Grand Manan, a **Yellow-throated Vireo** at The Whistle Sep. 22 (RJW+) and a **White-eyed Vireo** at Bancroft Pt. Sep. 28 (adult — BED).

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at White Head Island Sep. 14–15 (NBBIL) and possible **Blue-winged Warblers** at Dalhousie in early September (JC) and Atholville about the same time (SG). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was coming to a niger seed feeder at Miramichi City from c. Nov. 15 into December (Eldon & Thelma Rogers, Tom Greathouse+).

**Orange-crowned Warblers** were seen at Atholville Sep. 12 (MGD+), Blacks Harbour Oct. 4 (KM), St. Andrews before Nov. 2 (Doreen and Amish Scott) and Bancroft Point, GM, Nov. 27 (BED). Four **Pine Warblers** were reported at Grand Manan Oct. 20 to Nov. 10 (BED, PAP), others at a Fredericton feeder from Nov. 23 (DGG) and at the end of the Cormier Cove Road, S of Memramcook, Nov. 28 (RL). A **Prairie Warbler** was reported on White Head Island Sep. 14 (NBBIL). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at McLaren Pond, FNP, Oct. 5 (RJW, Gail Walker) and Big Salmon River Nov. 8 (MJC).

Some late warblers of our regular species were a **Northern Parula** at a Saint John feeder Nov. 26–Dec. 2 (DFS), a **Black-and-white Warbler** at Moncton Nov. 2 (Janet MacMillan) and female **American Redstart** at Fredericton Nov. 4 (DGG) and Park HQ, FNP, Nov. 5–8 (Oscar LeBlanc+). A late female **Scarlet Tanager** was at Pt. Escuminac Oct. 25 (RL).

There were indications of a small dispersal of **Northern Cardinals** in southern N.B. during late October and early

November. At Fredericton, Bev. Schneider noted, "We finally had our first Cardinal (male) at our feeder. We've waited 30 years for this momentous event!!" In the north one was reported in the Campbellton area by Oct. 20 (Mrs. Gilbert Belanger, *fide* MGD).

**Indigo Buntings** were seen along the southern edge of the province and also at Miscou Oct. 9 (*fide* MGD). There must have been **Dickcissels** elsewhere but the only reports I received were of 6 birds seen at Alma and Fundy National Park between Sep. 7 and Nov. 22 (DR, RJW).

**Lark Buntings** have become less frequent vagrants here than they once were. One discovered along the beach at Castalia Marsh Sep. 19–20 (RJW+) seems to be the first in at least 15 years.

A female **Eastern Towhee** was in Tracadie-Sheila Oct. 13–

15 (Geraldine Thibodeau) and a male and female at Headquarters Campground, FNP, Oct. 21–22 (DGG, SS).

Four **Clay-colored Sparrows** were reported along the Bay of Fundy, at the Whistle, GM, Sep. 17 (NBBIL), Alma on Sep. 15–16 and Oct. 24 (DR, RJW), and Pt. Lepreau Oct. 24 (JGW). **Field Sparrows** were noted at Fredericton Sep. 29 (2 — PAP), White Head Oct. 4 (2 — PAP) and Alma Nov. 14–18 (RJW).

The young male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** coming to a feeder at Seal Cove was joined by a second in mid September (*fide* BED) Another was seen Nov. 7 at Saint John West (*fide* EP).

## Abbreviations

AC Alain Clavette; AR Aldei Robichaud; AWa Andy Watson; BED Brian Dalzell; DFS David Smith; DGG Don Gibson; DR Doreen Rossiter; DSC David Christie; DU Ducks Unlimited; EP Eileen Pike; FD Fred Dubé; FH Falk Hüttmann; FK Frank Kelly; FNP Fundy Nat'l Park; GB Gilles Bourque; GM Grand Manan; GMi Grant Milroy; JC Jim Clifford; JDB Denys Bourque; JE Jim Edsall; JGW Jim Wilson; JT John Tanner; JWh Janet Whitehead; KM Ken MacIntosh; LD Luc DeRoche; LDu Lad Dunfield; MD Marcel David; MGD Margaret Gallant Doyle; MJC Merv Cormier; ML Mike Lushington; MLeB Mike LeBlanc; MNC Moncton Naturalists' Club; NBBIL N.B. Bird Info Line; PAP Peter Pearce; PD Pierre Duguay; RG Roger Guitard; RJW Rob Walker; RL Roger LeBlanc; RLa Rosita Lanteigne; s.l. sewage lagoon; SG Sandra Gulliver; SJNC Saint John Naturalists' Club; SS Shirley Sloat; TD Tracey Dean; v.o. various observers.



Northern Cardinal  
(Dover Publications)

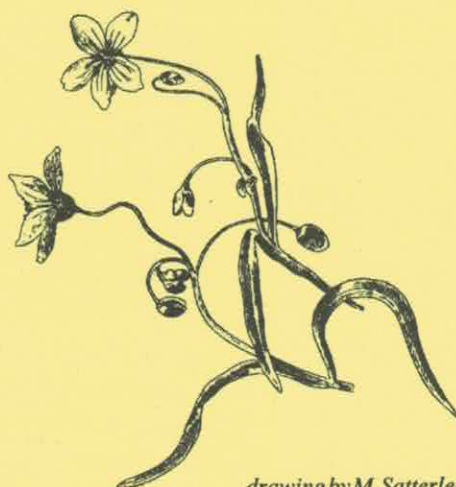


## BOTANY QUIZ: CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS PLANT?

*Gart Bishop, Kennebecasiss Naturalist's Society*

What is it? See if you can guess the identity of the following native wildflower. The answer will appear in the next issue of the N.B. Naturalist/Le Naturaliste du N.-B.

This plant enjoys a very short flowering season in the spring. The green parts of the plant quickly turning yellow after flowering, and once the seed is developed in a couple of weeks, this plant is no longer seen above ground. Yet when they are in bloom, the delicate white with pink veined flowers can form extensive carpets underneath Sugar Maples in rich fertile lands. As an added bonus the flowers are sweetly scented, attracting not only the human nose but many insects as well who are the chief pollinators. The fruit is a capsule that explosively ejects its seeds up to 60 cm.



*drawing by M. Satterlee*

The roundish, irregular roots are a challenge to uncover being deeply buried. They vary from 1-5 cm in diameter and can support several stems which rarely reach more than 20 cm high. The roots when boiled in salted water, are palatable and nutritious, having the flavor of chestnuts. The succulent, young plants with a single pair of leaves are a possible pot herb. Harvesting of the root or above ground plant should be only done in moderation where there are plenty of plants.

This species is found scattered throughout the province but is less common in the eastern lowlands. Found from Nova Scotia west to Minnesota and south to Georgia and Texas.

The wildflower described in the Botany Quiz from last issue [Vol 25 (3)] was Witch-hazel, *Café du diable* (*Hamamelis virginiana*).

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

277 Douglas Avenue

Saint John, NB E2K 1E5

Return Postage Guaranteed / Port de retour garanti

**Canadian Publications Mail Product  
Sales Agreement No. 487716**

**To / à :**