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N.B. Naturalist

Le Naturaliste du N.-B.





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

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

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

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

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FEDERATED CLUBS / CLUBS FÉDÉRÉS

Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Buctouche, 255 Irving Boul., Buctouche, NB E4S-3K5; 743-2217 ou 743-8485; courriel / e-mail: annb@yahoo.com, Site web: www.geocities.com/annbouch Réunions 2ième jeudi du mois à l'eco-centre Irving, la dune de Buctouche (septembre à juin) avec sorties chaque mois. Journal: "Pattes de Mouches".

Celebration of Birds Nature Club, c/o Bonnie Hamilton, 118 Tilley Road, Gagetown, NB E5M 1H7, (488-1888), email bonniehb@nb.sympatico.ca 3rd Wednesday, January to April.

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

Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne, C.P. 2041, St. Simon NB E8P 1L8; courriel: cpna@francophone.net site web: <http://www.francophone.net/cpna>; réunions alternants entre Caraquet, Shippagan et Tracadie, 1er mercredi, sept. à juin; *Le Gobe-mouche* mensuel.

Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée, a/s Musée historique du Madawaska, 195 boul. Hébert, Edmundston NB E3V 2S8; J. Denys Bourque; réunions à 19h30, 2ième mercredi, sept. à juin, Musée du Madawaska; *Le Jaseur* bimestriel.

Club Les Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est, a/s Gilles Bourque, C.P. 4204, Dieppe, NB E1A 6E8, ligne d'information: 532-buse. Réunions 1er mercredi du mois, alternant entre Dieppe et Shédiac, sorties le 3ième samedi ou dimanche du mois; journal: *La plume verte*.

Ford Alward Naturalist Association, c/o Elizabeth McIntosh, 560 Kenneth Road, Glassville, E7L 1B3; 246-5572; meets Florenceville Town Hall, 7:00 pm, 1st Tues., Sept.-June; meetings advertised in local newspapers.

Fredericton Nature Club, Box 772, Stn A, Fredericton, NB E3B 5B4; 457-1720; meets Odell Park Lodge, 7:00 pm, 2nd Wed., Sept.-May; monthly newsletter.

Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society, c/o Ms H. Folkins, 827 Main St., Sussex, NB E4E 2N1; meets St. Paul's United Church Hall, 7:30 pm, 4th Mon., Sept.-June; quarterly newsletter.

Moncton Naturalists' Club, Box 28036, Highfield Square P.O., Moncton, NB E1C 9N4; 384-6937 (information line); meets Church of the Nazarene, 21 Fieldcrest Drive, 7 pm, 2nd Mon., Sept.-June; monthly newsletter.

Restigouche Naturalists' Club, c/o Campbellton Library, Box 130, Campbellton, NB E3N 3G9; 684-3258; meets Campbellton Centennial Library, 7 pm, 1st Monday

Saint John Naturalists' Club, P.O. Box 2071, Saint John, NB E2L 3J5; meets N.B. Museum at Market Square, 7:30 pm, 2nd Mon., Sept.-May, elsewhere in June; monthly newsletter.

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N.B.Naturalist carries articles and reports pertaining to the natural history of New Brunswick. Articles are invited in either English or French, and will be printed in the language in which they are received. The opinions expressed are those of the authors. **Please send all submissions for the N.B. Naturalist to: Gart Bishop, 16 Pitt St., Sussex, NB, E4E 1J1; tel. (506)-433-4994, gartali@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 du N.-B.*, avant le 1 janvier. Abonnement régulier au Nouveau-Brunswick, un an 15\$; autres pays, un an 20\$; un numéro de *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.*, 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 tous vos articles pour le Naturaliste du N.-B. à: Gart Bishop, 16 Pitt St., Sussex, NB, E4E 1J1; tel. (506)-433-4994, gartali@nbnet.nb.ca.** Demandez les détails de compatibilité d'ordinateur. Tarifs publicitaires disponibles sur demande.

Visit the NBFN web page:

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

Rendez visité à la page web de la FNNB:

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

President's Message – Mot de la Présidente

Mike LeBlanc

We sure are lucky to live in such a beautiful province with such great natural wonders and discoveries. We have people from all over the world who come to New Brunswick to see our birds, mammals, insects, plants and scenery and much more. Sometimes we don't realise all the treasures we have here.

Since the NBFN / FNNB was created in 1972 the organisation was mostly purely volunteer based. 2001 being the year of the volunteer, I personally would like to thank on behalf of the NBFN all the people who have worked in the past and present for the NBFN or other naturalist based organisations or groups. Thank you!

Since September, the NBFN has a new program coordinator who was hired to do some work for us. Her name is Marieka Arnold. She is from the Knowlesville, NB area and has a background in education and environmental studies. Her main duties for the next few months will be to finish the endangered species education kit, but she will also be co-ordinating things for the NBFN. It was mentioned at the last board meeting that the Species at Risk Education Kit project would occupy 75% of her time while the other 25% will be spent on other business. She is located in Fredericton at the Nature Conservatory of Canada offices where space was generously offered by them. She can be contacted directly:

Phone: 506-459-4209

Email: nbfn@nb.aibn.com

I don't want to announce as of yet what is in the works but there are interesting things that will hopefully get realised next summer.

I am very happy to have her helping us out. She has great ideas and is doing great work. Welcome aboard Marieka.

Well we got our first snow of the season and soon the Christmas Bird Count season will have come and gone and spring will be almost here. I hope that you will all come and visit the Kent county area for the next AGM, which will be held by l'Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche in the spring.

Nous sommes très chanceux de vivre dans une si belle province avec tant de belles et intéressantes choses à découvrir. Dans le Nouveau-Brunswick nous avons des visiteurs de partout sur la planète qui viens visiter découvrir ces choses que se soit des oiseaux, insectes, mammifères ou autres ou juste pour admirer la splendeur naturelle. Parfois on oublie peut-être de ces trésors qui nous entourent.

Depuis que la FNNB / NBFN à été crée en 1972, l'organisation en gros était uniquement à base de bénévoles. 2001 étant l'année internationale des bénévoles, j'aimerais au nom de la Fédération remercié tous ceux qui ont travaillé dans le passé ou le présent pour la FNNB ou toutes autre organisation de naturalistes dans la province. Merci !

Depuis septembre la FNNB a une nouvelle coordinatrice de programmes qui à été embauché pour faire du travail pour nous. Son nom est Marieka Arnold. Elle est originaire de Knowlesville et elle a de l'expérience en éducation et l'environnement. Ses fonctions principales sera de terminer le travail sur la trousse d'éducation des espèces en péril pour le N.-B., qui va compter 75% de son temps et l'autre 25% ira pour diverses fonctions de la Fédération. Elle est située à Fredericton au bureau de la Conservation de la nature Canada qui nous a été généreusement offert par eux. Marieka peut être contacter directement :

Courrier électronique : nbfn@nb.aibn.com

Téléphone 506-459-4209

Si vous avez des questions pour elle, n'hésitez pas. Je ne veux pas divulguer tout de suite les détails mais, il y a des planifications pour un projet très intéressant pour l'été prochain.

Je suis très content de l'avoir dans notre organisation, elle à plein d'idées et travail très bien. Bienvenu à bord Marieka.

En fin de semaine nous avons eu notre première neige de la saison et les recensements d'oiseaux de Noël s'en viennent à grands pas et nous verrons que le printemps sera presque à nos portes. Je souhaite de vous voir durant l'AGA 2001 qui sera organiser par l'Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche.

Coming Soon!

Coming next issue: Results of the New Brunswick Nocturnal Owl Survey

Becky Whittam of Bird Studies Canada reports that data entry is complete for the New Brunswick Nocturnal Owl Survey. Seventy-seven routes were run and 290 owls of seven species were detected. The most common species detected were Barred and Northern Saw-whet owl. A full report on results will

be printed in the next issue of the NB Naturalist. Look for it! Bird Studies Canada wishes to thank all the volunteers who took part in the survey this year, along with the NB Environmental Trust Fund, the NB Wildlife Trust Fund, the PE Wildlife Conservation Fund, the Canadian Wildlife Service, Fundy National Park and BSC's Baillie Fund for financial and/or logistical support.

DDT and Dead Children – The argument against

J. Denys Bourque

Although I consider myself a dedicated environmentalist, I like to see myself as being in favour of environmentally friendly behaviour rather than opposed to this or "contra" that. This may well be an exception to the rule.

Some time ago, a piece was posted to NatureNB favouring the limited use of DDT to combat malaria in those countries where it is still endemic. The following can be seen as the argument against. It is published here with only minor changes in advance of a new propaganda onslaught by the DDT cartel.

I have lived and worked in malaria ridden countries since 1980 and have been stricken by it many times. Indeed it is a terrible illness. Regardless, a limited-use-of-DDT policy to combat malaria will simply NOT work because the disease will NOT be eradicated unless an "Agent-Orange" type approach is adopted. Even then, such an approach didn't work against the Spruce Budworm nor against... Vietnamese insurgents. If it were effective, malaria would already have been eradicated from the several countries that have been using this "most-politically-expedient-but-environmentally-disastrous" method.

A limited-use-of-DDT policy to combat malaria means only spraying DDT on "selected" areas. This is the very reason for which it doesn't work - like the budworm spraying programme. You can spray the inside of a school all you want, but in so doing you

will miss the mosquitoes breeding in the bromeliads in the tree where the children assemble during recreation. You can spray the inside of a house but in so doing you won't be touching the vectors reproducing in the grass or in the stagnant water in a discarded tin can or pop bottle behind the house or in open sewers.

Also, it has to be realised that even in tropical countries people travel from village to village, from bush camp to bush camp, etc... They go hunting and spend full nights to full weeks in the bush. So they get malaria when away from home or not at school and... bring it back home. Since not all mosquitoes have been killed, the illness strikes again and again... and again... and again... and again...

People indeed die from malaria. But in many cases it is because they react to it like we react to a cold; because they see malaria as being as natural as teething or as a woman having her period. Also - in many cases - parents want the sick child to grow strong; so they let the child fight off the illness whilst the curative dose costs only pennies; and only react when too late. Another child is most always possible.

In the tropics, you don't have to wait for hours in a hospital emergency ward to be positively diagnosed in order to obtain a prescription for the medicine. All you have to do is go to the corner pharmacy and buy it. I myself do not take malaria prophylaxis and carry both quinine and chloroquin with me all the time. If you

take the curative dose at the first signs of the illness, you are up and about the next day even if sick to want to die all night. If you are still ill after 18 hours, then it is not malaria but some other illness with the same symptoms.

There are effective alternate ways to prevent the disease. The most effective is sleeping under pyrethrin-impregnated net. Pyrethrin is a biological repellent made from the flowers of a daisy-like flower - *Pyrethrum*. Pyrethrin is an effective anti-malarial cure in certain cases. But the net costs money and must be re-impregnated every six months. So it is only theoretically effective, like limited-use-DDT, but no more expensive.

Well-thought-out classroom design allowing for air flow along the floor also keeps mosquitoes away. Keeping spider webs in the ceiling corners of classrooms and houses instead of removing them also helps. Burning incense in a closed bedroom before retiring is another way.

Considering the foregoing, it is strange that governments are willing to pay for spraying all the houses in the country but won't subsidise the more

effective and environmentally friendly nets. If the same amount were allocated to education, the development of a vaccine and these other alternatives as the pesticide-producers would like governments to spend on their poisonous products, malaria could be eradicated within five years. This is faster than for Small Pox and Polio.

There is another side to the issue, but it is just as controversial as abortion or the death penalty: though malaria strikes at random it has to be recognised that it is indeed an effective natural population control mechanism. There is nothing wrong with population growth per se, but consider for a moment the population of the Indian sub-continent doubling over the next 10 years... From this, one can easily conclude that combating malaria must go hand-in-hand with family planning programmes which in turn require the development of adequate old-age pension schemes and a full array of other social measures.

If still not convinced, try getting rid of dandelions on your front lawn without repeated applications of herbicide...

Botany Quiz

Gart Bishop

From October onward, botanical adventures shift from searching for plants in flower, to looking at the buds of shrubs and trees, and seeking for those few hardy plants which stay green throughout our long winter.

Of this last group, the Club-mosses are one of my favorite. These small spore-bearing plants with their green needlelike leaves, many of which might be mistaken for seedlings of our coniferous trees, have common names such as Ground Pine, Running Pine, Sitka Club-moss, Ground Cedar, Mountain Fir-moss and Prickly Tree Club-moss. Closely related to the ferns, and often referred to as being 'Fern Allies', they can be discovered at any time during the year, commonly growing in the dry understory of our forests or in open pastures, clearings and heathlands, and less commonly in boggy, shallow pond margins.

New Brunswick has four different genera covering a total of 15 species. The fossil remains of one genus of this group, *Lepidodendron* (which was a tree of more than 100 feet tall), is commonly found along the Fundy shore in the 300 million year old sedimentary rocks. Of the four living genera found here presently, those which are felt to be the oldest have the spores in the leaf axils (*Shining Club-moss*, *Huperzia lucidula*) while the more recently developed species (such as *Prickly Tree Club-moss*, *Lycopodium dendroideum*) have the spores in a specialized cone (strobilus).

As well as by spores, Club-mosses reproduce and spread by sprouting from rhizomes (a horizontal underground stem) which may attain 3-5 meters, seldom growing more than 15 cm per year. They are low-growing, usually understory plants. While they can make attractive ground covers, they do not generally transplant well.

Some Club-mosses of New Brunswick



Ground-cedar
D. complanatum
Illustrated by I.M. Clute



Sitka Club-moss
D. sitchense
Illustrated by I.M. Clute



Juniper Club-moss
D. Xsabinifolium
Illustrated by I.M. Clute



Shining Club-moss
Huperzia lucidula
Illustrated by I.M. Clute



Stiff Club-moss
Lycopodium annotinum
Illustrated by I.M. Clute



Common Club-moss
Lycopodium clavatum
Illustrated by I.M. Clute



One-cone Club-moss
Lycopodium lagopus
Illustrated by I.M. Clute



Flat-branched Ground Pine
Lycopodium obscurum
Illustrated by I.M. Clute



Bog Club-moss
Lycopodium inundata
Illustrated by R. George



Mountain Fir-moss
Huperzia appalachiana
Illustrated by I.M. Clute

Under the names of *Muscus terrestris* or *M. clavatum*, the whole plant was used, dried, by ancient physicians as a stomachic and diuretic for kidney complaints. Some Club-mosses have been found to contain poisonous alkaloids that can cause pain in the mouth, vomiting, and diarrhea when ingested.

Their widespread use in Christmas wreaths has threatened the existence of some species in some areas. During the late 1800's, some of the mid-west states gathered more than two hundred tons of Club-mosses each year to make wreaths. Some species have historically been used for dyeing fabric while others have been woven into doormats. A related Chinese species is being researched as a potential treatment for Alzheimer's disease.

The spores, collected in July through September, can be stored as a fine grained yellow powder. They have been used since the seventeenth century for the treatment of dropsy, diarrhea, dysentery, constipation, gout, scurvy, hydrophobia and rheumatism. Native Americans were known to have used the spores to stop nosebleeds and bleeding from wounds.

More recently, the spores have been medicinally employed by herbalists as a dusting powder in various skin diseases such as eczema and erysipelas and for excoriated surfaces. Their chief pharmaceutical use has been as a pill powder, for coating pills to prevent sticking to one another when placed in a container, as well as to disguise the pill's taste. When used in powders, soaps and shampoos, the spores have been known to cause dermatitis.

One interesting feature of the spores is their ability to repel water. Some members of the NBFN were fortunate enough to have this demonstrated during the AGM on the Acadian Peninsula by the landowner of the property over which we were hiking. He took a glass of water and sprinkled a thick layer of Club-moss spores on the water surface. We then all took turns plunging a finger into the water, marvelling at how the spores coated the finger and prevented it from getting wet. When the finger was removed from the water, the spores remained on the water's surface. This property of the spores is likely why they have been used as a baby powder to prevent chafing and to treat hydrophobia (fear of water).

The spores have also been used as powder for flash photography and in various fireworks, and as with any flammable substance, has been known to cause

burns, so should be used with caution.

To harvest the spores, the tops of the plants are removed as the spikes approach maturity in late July or August, dried and then the spores shaken out of the kidney-shaped capsules.

Club-mosses are often called 'Fern Allies'. The question for this issue, what other groups of 'Fern Allies' are found in New Brunswick?

The answer to the question asked in the last issue as to the identity of the fourth type of carnivorous plant found in New Brunswick is Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*). The yellowy-green basal rosette of leaves are covered with long sticky hairs which trap insects in much the same fashion as the Sundews.

References:

- Hinds, H.R. 2000. Flora of New Brunswick. Department of Biology, Bag Service #45111 UNB, Fredericton, NB.
 Goltz, J.P. 1998. Tree Club-mosses: A Plant Lister's Delight. N.B. Naturalist/Le Naturaliste du N.-B. Vol 25 (2) pp 42-43.
 Clute, W.N 1905. The Fern Allies. Frederick A. Stokes Co. New York, NY.

And the following internet sites were visited:

- <http://www.wisc.edu/botit/tour/Roomsix-Ly.html>;
<http://www.botanical.com/botanical/mgmh/m/moscl48.htm>;
<http://www.rook.org/earl/bwca/nature/ferns/lycopodann.html>
<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/IB181/VPL/Lyco/Lyco1.html>
<http://encarta.msn.com/index/conciseindex/04/004D7000.htm?z=1&pg=2&br=1>



Confusing fall Club-mosses
 Ken MacIntosh

NBFN / FNNB Directors' Meeting

Bonnie Hamilton Bogart, Secretary

(This item edited for length and reader interest)

NBFN / FNNB Directors' Meeting
Florenceville Village Hall
May 11, 2001

Present: Pierrette Mercier, President; Mike Leblanc, Vice-President; Bernadette Leblanc, Bouctouche; Hal Dalzell, Fredericton; Rose-Alma Mallet, Past President; Gart Bishop, Editorial Committee; Abel Doucette, Dieppe / Shediac; Sabine Dietz, Acadian Peninsula; Jean Wilson, Saint John; Jim Wilson, Membership Secretary; Jim Brown, Kennebecasis; Elizabeth McIntosh, Florenceville; Pauline Morneau, Madawaska; Bonnie Hamilton Bogart, Secretary

3. Business Arising

3.1. ATV Task Force: Pierrette reported on her presentation to the Task Force, which was favourably received. She acknowledged the important contributions made by Jim Goltz and Kevin O'Donnell in the preparation of the presentation.

3.2 Isle Haute: Sabine reported that the island is not for sale.

LA FEDERATION DES NATURALISTES DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

TOUS ENSEMBLE POUR LA SAUGARDE DE LA NATURE

Formulaire de Membre

La cotisation pour l'année 2000 est annuellement de \$16 au Canada et \$21 pour les autres pays. La cotisation doit être envoyée à la préposée aux abonnements: Jim Wilson, 2 Neck Road, Quispamsis, N.B., E2G-1L3

.....Réabonnement

.....Nouvelle Abonnement

Nom.....

Adresse.....

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

Téléphone.....Courrier électronique

Club fédéré.....

Abonnement Cadeau

Nom de receveur.....

Adresse.....

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

Nom de donneur.....

Adresse.....

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

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

4. New Clubs

4.1. "Celebration of Birds Nature Club":

MOTION: Moved by Jean Wilson, and seconded by Rose-Alma Mallet to accept the Celebration of Birds Nature Club as an affiliated club of the NBFN. Carried.

4.2. "Memramcook Naturalists Club":

MOTION: Moved by Mike Leblanc, and seconded by Gart Bishop to accept the Memramcook Naturalists Club as an affiliated club of the NBFN. Carried.

5. Insurance

Vivian Beale, who was spear-heading this initiative, was not present. It was not clear whether the federation was insured at the time of the meeting. The consensus of the directors was that liability insurance coverage was essential.

ACTION: Pierrette offered to follow up with Vivian.

A related matter:

MOTION: Moved by Jean Wilson and seconded by Gart Bishop that the following motion be brought before the full membership of the NBFN at the Annual General Meeting: That federated club membership fees be increased from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per person, to help defray the cost of liability insurance. Carried.

Related question: If a club does not pay their membership fees, are they covered by insurance?

ACTION: Rose-Alma offered to look into this question, and write up a guideline for clubs to follow as members of the Federation.

6. Charitable Status

Gart Bishop, speaking on behalf of a committee consisting of Jim Goltz, Roland Chiasson, and

NEW BRUNSWICK FEDERATION OF NATURALISTS

HELP BUILD A STRONGER VOICE FOR NATURE

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership fee for the current year is \$16 annually in Canada and \$21 in other countries. Fees should be directed to the membership secretary, Jim Wilson, 2 Neck Road, Quispamsis, N.B., E2G-1L3

.....Renewal

.....New Member

Name.....
 Address.....
Postal Code.....
 Telephone.....e-mail.....
 Federated Club.....

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Recipient Name.....
 Address.....
Postal Code.....
 Donor Name.....
 Address.....
Postal Code.....

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

himself, reported that the guidelines for issuing income tax receipts for donations will not be raised at the AGM this year.

Directors were asked to decide the minimum amount of money that would warrant the issuance of a receipt for income tax purposes.

CONSENSUS: Directors agreed that \$15.00 was the minimum amount for the issuance of a receipt.

7. Mary's Point

Mary Majka was contacted by the Canadian Wildlife Service (owners of Mary's Point). They have decided to turn over the administration of Mary's Point to the Nature Conservancy. The Federation would continue

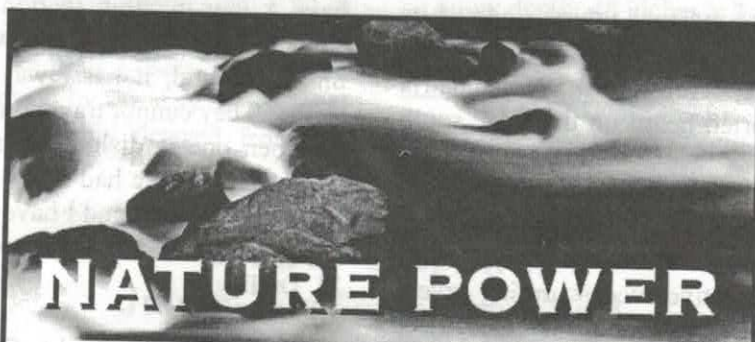
to manage Mary's Point.

8. Honoring Rob Walker and Hal Hinds

The Federation has \$675.00 to honor the memory of Rob Walker.

ACTION: Mike Leblanc and Rose Alma Mallet will contact the Moncton Club and discuss pooling all the money that has been raised and put it toward a memorial for Rob.

The Federation was advised that for Hal Hinds, there were a couple of options: Make a donation to the charities indicated by the family, or establish an ongoing trophy / award to honor his memory. No decision was made.



*"Celebrating your contribution to
nature conservation in Canada."*

A Capacity Building Training Seminar and Conference

June 20-23, 2002

Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario

Representatives of municipal and provincial naturalist organizations are invited to come and learn more about what it takes to run a successful club, celebrate past successes, look forward to future efforts, and discuss the future of the naturalist movement in Canada.



Contact:

Canadian Nature Federation

1-800-267-4088 or cnf@cnf.ca

Perspectives

Ken MacIntosh

The following David Christie gem is reproduced here without editorial comment, from Volumes 6: 2-6, and 7: 2.

TREE-SQUEAKS (part I – Volume 6)

Many participants in this winter's Christmas Bird Counts reported their impressions of mammal abundance. Three species deserve special mention.

Because of the good evergreen cone crops, Red Squirrels Tamiasciurus hudsonicus were particularly common and conspicuous throughout most of the province, and Showshoe Hares Lepus americanus were noted as "more common than last year, though still somewhat scarce", suggesting that their population is beginning to increase towards one of its cyclic peaks. On the other hand, there was only one mention of the Lesser Tree-squeak Noizindatria acadica, which was reported heard on the ridge south of Nictau.

It is the third straight year of apparent scarcity of tree-squeaks in New Brunswick, possibly related to a series of moderate winters. For some reason, they have much higher reproductive success during severe weather. The young are usually born in December when a large supply of hibernating insects is available in crevices in the bark.

A small, rather rotund, squirrel-sized insectivore, the tree-squeak is so nocturnal that it is seldom seen. It is quite vocal at night and if agitated may call frequently from its nest-hole during the day. The high-pitched "sqweek" is thought to be the only call of the female, whereas males can also utter a prolonged, deeper "kree-ee-ee-eek". Dull brown in colour, tree-squeaks are related to moles and shrews, with which they share a pointed snout for capturing insects in narrow spaces, and to the now extinct Snouters of the Pacific Archipelago of Hi-yi-yi (Natural History 76 (4): 8-13; April 1967).

The Lesser Tree-squeak occurs throughout the Maritime Provinces (except the smaller offshore islands), eastern and northern Maine and the Gaspé, while the larger, grayer Dusky Tree-squeak N. canadensis occupies spruce-fir forests from Newfoundland to northern Alaska. Some authorities consider them both as mere subspecies of the Old World Common Tree-squeak Noizindatria imaginaria.

(part II – Volume 7)

In the N.B. Naturalist of December 1975 I reported on the continuing apparent scarcity of the Lesser Tree-squeak Noizindatria acadica, a mysterious nocturnal mammal of Maritime, Maine and Gaspé forests. The article, which was later reprinted in The Guillemot, prompted considerable comment, both verbal and written. Three people provided significant additional information which we are pleased to share with you here. - David Christie

© In a recent edition of your newsletter, I noticed a report on Tree Squeaks and found it interesting. We have a few in this section of Washington County. They are seldom seen, but when seen, or found dead on the ground, it has always been on the hardwood ridges. They cannot travel on the ground, only in trees, so when one is dislodged and falls to the ground, it will starve. I have had a few frozen ones brought in to me by the Indians and I have made specimens of them. I have only one left in my possession at home. - John M. Dudley.

© During the night field-work I did in New Brunswick for the CWS during the forest spray programs, I had the opportunity of observing and listening to the Lesser Tree-squeak. I would like to report that, contrary to D.C.'s statement, the female tree-squeak has an extensive repertoire of calls. Not only does she give the common "squeek" call and a fair imitation of the male "kree-ee-ee-eek", but also three variants on "skr-rnk" (not to be confused with the call of a green frog in heat). I have also heard a female call "squee-kree-kree-eek" on discovering a particularly appetizing insect in a bark crevice. - Anne Rick.

© There was a full moon on the night of March 14, enabling a group of us to go owl-watching, in the woods back of Argyle Head, Yarmouth County. As you know, the storm of February 2 caused much tree damage in this region, mostly the uprooting of evergreens, but also actual cracking off of sizeable trees. We were posted near one of the large splintered stumps, listening carefully to the usual small forest

sounds, when we were startled to hear, close beside us, a prolonged "Kree-ee-ee-ek". This was almost immediately echoed by a succession of similar calls in the near vicinity.

C.R.K. Allen, who was nearest the stump, made out a small, shadowy form crouched in the crevice of the stump; but as he leaned forward it quickly disappeared. He described it to us as a roundish, squirrel-like creature (larger than a shrew, smaller than a squirrel), which showed up as gray or brown against the white heartwood of the freshly broken tree. Although his glimpse was momentary, he is convinced that he did indeed see the elusive Tree-squeak.

We realize that we cannot properly claim the identification, but felt that we were justified in reporting it to you, in view of your recent article in which you mentioned the scarcity of Tree-squeaks in New Brunswick (also noted by William Townsend in Guillemot, vol. 5, no. 2, Jan/Feb 1976). The call was entirely characteristic of the male Lesser Tree-squeak (Noizindatria acadica), which by the way, has a local name here, an old one probably derived from the

Indian, the Ugolook.

It is our belief that the storm destroyed the nesting hole of this small nocturnal mammal, and in fact may have damaged many such nests. This may result in a further regrettable decrease in the population of this little known but well authenticated creature. - P.R. Dobson

© An attempt at locating Tree-squeaks in snowy Nictau on March 15, although unsuccessful, did provide the following unexpected information: -

Unusual sighting of Snow Snakes* along the snow banks. We saw three while listening for the Tree-squeaks on the south ridge, just east of the main highway #385 North.

Weather: snow squalls at times heavy; visibility nil.

Wind: NW 32 mph with gusts to 73.

Snow depth: 48 inches x 2.54 cm = ALOT!!

Observers: Bill and Wilma Miller, Plaid-backed Shovellers.

* - seldom seen because of their excellent camouflage.

Nature News: Birds July to late September, 2001 Pierrette Mercier

The young are fledging and the fall migration has started making for a lot of interesting observations. Eileen Pike reported 2 young Common Loons (Plongeon Huard) on Baker Lake in Madawaska County on July 19th. She notes that this is the first time in many years that young loons have been sighted on the lake. There is also a report of Common Loons with 2 young at 8 Mile Lake in Restigouche county on July 8 (MGD). Evidence of Common Loon migration was spotted by the MNC while on a trip to Grand Manan on Sept. 28 when 40+ birds flew overhead.

On Sept. 25, 11 Mute Swans (Cygne tuberculé) were seen flying south along the St-John River at St-Basile (fide JDB).

The first sign of the fall Scoter migration was a sighting of a group of 60 Surf Scoters (Macreuse à front blanc) off Point La Nim on the Restigouche on July 29. These were mostly juveniles (PmcG). At the PLBO, there was a steady stream of Common Eiders

(Eider à duvet), several small flocks of Surf Scoters and some loons on Sept. 29 (JGW).

Valmond Bourque spotted an almost all white duck amongst a group of American Widgeon (Canard d'Amérique) at the DU impoundment in Taylor Village on August 20. The duck had the markings of an immature widgeon. A female Harlequin Duck (Arlequin plongeur) with 2 ducklings were spotted on July 15th at the Charlo river estuary (ML). This is the 6th consecutive year that Harlequins have nested successfully here. Another Harlequin Duck was observed at the Miscou lighthouse on Sept. 15 (JFG, JSG, JL). A male Canvasback (Fulligule à dos blanc) was under the bridge at Cape Jourmain on Sept. 9 (JFG, JSG). At the Dalhousie sewage lagoon, a Redhead (Fuligule à tête rouge) was seen on Aug. 21 (ML).

There were 2 Common Moor Hens (Gallinule Poule-d'eau) at the Daley Creek marsh on Sept. 11

(DSC). It is unsure whether they were raised there or on a stopover.

Two Wilson's Storm-Petrels (Pétrel océanite) were observed off Miscou Island on July 15 (CNPA), a rare species for this area. Also an unusual species for the area was a Parasitic Jaeger (Labbe parasite) at the Bouctouche Dune on Sept. 18 (VB) and on Sept 29 on Miscou Island (RD, FB, RR). An adult Glaucous Gull (Goéland bourgmestre) was at the Bouctouche Dune



Oystercatcher,
by Gunnar Brehm

on Sept. 6 (DD). Sabine's Gulls (Mouette de Sabine) were spotted at Long Eddy Point in Grand Manan (1) on Sept. 23 (JGW, JnW) and an immature at the Bouctouche Dune on Sept. 27th (DD). A Black-headed Gull (Mouette rieuse) was on the 3rd lagoon at Cap Brûlé on Aug. 22 (BJS) and also on Sept. 5 (many obs) and 21 (RAM, SIT). At Robichaud Wharf, a Lesser Black-backed Gull (Goéland brun) was observed on Aug. 5 (SIT, RAM) and another at the Cap Brûlé sewage Lagoon on Sept. 5 (many). A Little Gull (Mouette pygmée) was at the Cap Brûlé Lagoon on Sept. 2 (RAM, Mle). Ten adult and 1 juvenile Caspian Tern (Sterne caspienne) were roosting at high tide between Bayfield and Cape Tormentine on Sept. 21 (SIT RAM and others). Other Caspian Terns were at Cape Jourimain (4 or 5) on Sept. 9 (JSG, JFG and others) and at Cap Bateau on Sept. 16 (JFG, JSG, JL). Two Arctic Terns (Sterne arctique) were spotted among Bonaparte's Gulls (Mouette de Bonaparte) on July 9th (JP).

A Great Egret (Grande Aigrette) was observed at the Saints Rest Marsh on July 17 (EP, JB, JW). The same group also spotted a Snowy Egret (Aigrette neigeuse) at the same area on July 4. Other Great Egrets were in the marsh at Ossekeag (Hampton Stn) on Sept. 16 (H&JD) and in the Lower St-Marys area of Fredericton on Sept. 18 (DGG, PAP). Ron and Wendy Harris identified a juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-heron (Bihoreau violacé) on Grand Manan (fide BED). A Least Bittern (Petit Blongios) was possibly sighted at 8 Miles Lake on July 31 (MGD). Hilaire Chiasson saw a Sandhill Crane (Grue du Canada) flying over Petite-Lamèque on July 18th. Another Sandhill Crane was seen in the Flat Lands area (Restigouche) on September 5 (fide MGD).

Reports of migrating shorebirds were abundant. A flock was sighted flying overhead near Bon Ami Rocks on July 8th (ML). The migration at Mary's Point started around July 16 and peaked in mid-August with 75,000 birds roosting on August 11 (DSC). Migration peaked earlier at Johnson Mills where approximately 100,000 birds were sighted on August 4 (MNCIL).

An American Oystercatcher (Huïtier d'Amérique) was spotted on Three Miles Island (Grand Manan) on August 2 (BED). There has been an unconfirmed sighting of at least 3 birds during the month of July (fide BED). Dan Hoare, a visiting biologist from Great Britain spotted a Yellow Rail (Râle jaune) at the Sackville Waterfowl Park on September 13.

A group of 25 Ruddy Turnstones (Tournepierre à collier) were at Point La Nim on August 21 (PMcG).

Marcel David continued his shorebird survey on the Acadian peninsula this year. Remarkable observations were 86 American Golden-plovers (Pluvier bronzé) at Malbaie Sud on Aug. 27; 250 Short-billed Dowitcher (Bécassin roux) at the Dune de Maisonnnette on July 9th, which is the largest concentration of this species he ever recorded in this area; a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (Bécasseau roussâtre) at Malbaie Sud from September 2 to the 17th; a Stilt Sandpiper (Bécasseau à échasses) at Malbaie Sud on July 31 and August 27 and also in Inkerman on Aug. 9; 4 Baird's Sandpipers (Bécasseau de Baird) at Malbaie Sud on Aug. 15; 1319 White-rumped Sandpipers (Bécasseau à croupion blanc) at Malbaie Nord on Aug. 27 which is a record for the Peninsula.

It has been a very good year for the Piping Plover (Pluvier siffleur). The Piping Plover report on Aug. 8



Golden Plover

from KNP counted 9 pairs with 2 renests for a total of 37 eggs of which 27 chicks hatched; 20 chicks took flight (MLeB). At the Dune de Bouctouche 5 pairs had fledged young, the best season ever at the Dune (DD). A Piping Plover was spotted on a sand bar off Gilbert Island (Fredericton) on Aug. 26 (DS). A Long-billed Dowitcher (Bécasseau à long bec) and a Stilt Sandpiper were spotted at the Sackville Waterfowl park on Aug. 3 (SIT, RAM) and Paul and Theresa Donahue, 2 visiting birders from Massachusetts, report a Ruff (Combatant varié) also at the Park on July 31 (fide RM). Stilt Sandpipers were also reported at Cape Jourimain (1) on Sept. 9 (DSC, PB) and at the Tantramar Marsh (1) on Sept. 10 (FD). Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers along with 2-4 American Golden Plovers (Bécasseau bronzé) were spotted at the Cap Brûlé Lagoon on Sept. 2 (RAM, MLe). A Buff-Breasted Sandpiper was also seen flying around Castalia Marsh in Grand Manan on Sept. 12 (SIT). Georgette Thibodeau and others spotted a Baird's Sandpiper in St-Basile on Sept 25, a first time visitor to this area as well as being Georgette's 200th sighting in Madawaska county, a special bird indeed. Also spotted at the same area in St-Basile were a Semipalmated Sandpiper (Bécasseau semipalmé) on Sept 19 and a Pectoral Sandpiper (Bécasseau à poitrine cendrée) on September 24 (fide JDB), both unusual species so far inland.

Nelson Poirier was surprised to see Spruce Grouse (Tétra du Canada) in a bog at Eskuminac on Aug. 9. This is an unusual habitat for this bird.

An immature Cooper's Hawk (Epervier de Cooper) flew in front of Jim Wilson's car near Petersville on Aug. 21. There was a significant number of Northern

Harriers (Busard St-Martin) on the Tantramar and Dorchester marshes, 16 individuals were counted on Aug. 9 (NP). Two eaglets appeared close to fledging at the Crooked Creek Bald Eagles' nest (Pygargue à tête blanche) on July 20 (DSC). Jacques and Jocelyne Guignard from Petite-Lamèque report a juvenile Golden Eagle (Aigle doré) flying over their property on July 12th. Roland Robichaud counted 38 Ospreys (Balbuzard pêcheur) on Aug. 9 on Shippagan Bay (fide MD). A large number of Turkey Vultures (Urubu à tête rouge) have been sighted in the Hammond River area this summer. As many as 22 in one group have been reported but the usual number is 1 to 6 individuals (fide JGW). The Turkey Vultures which nest near Saint John have bred successfully this year. A dark-headed fledgling was spotted above the nest site on Sept. 2 (JGW, IC). Ron Wilson spotted 8 or 9 Vultures over the Glebe Road in Chamcook on Sept. 3.

A flock of 12 American Kestrels (Crécerelle d'Amérique) was reported on Aug. 5 at Scotch Settlement (BJS). Several immature Peregrine Falcons (Faucon pèlerin) have been spotted, 2 near Hillsborough on July 16th (DB) and one at Mary's Point on Aug. 1 (DSC). Jean-Sébastien Guénette and others were at Southwest Head, Grand Manan on Sept. 30. They witnessed a great raptor migration; in one hour they saw at least 60 Sharp-shinned Hawks (Epervier brun), 20 Merlins (Faucon émerillon), 15 Northern Harriers, 1 Peregrine Falcon, and 1 Cooper's Hawk.

Several people have commented on the Short-eared Owl (Hibou des marais) activity at Tantramar Marsh this summer. The birds have been putting on a spectacular display of hunting and mock fighting. As many as 15-20 owls have been seen at one time (KP).

A White-winged Dove (Tourterelle à ailes blanches) visited Edith Robichaud's yard in Inkerman from July 16 to the 18th.

Judy Tait of Curryville found a young bird on Sept. 5th which was later identified as a Black-billed Cuckoo (Coulicou à bec noir). Mary Majka raised the baby bird and later released it and when last seen it was doing fine. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Coulicou à bec jaune) was at Long Eddy Point on Grand Manan on Sept. 23 (JGW, JnW). Other reports off Yellow-billed Cuckoos on Grand Manan were at North Head on Sept. 9 (without a tail), near the post office on White Head Island on Sept. 11 and at Pat's Cove on

September 13 (fide SIT). One was also spotted at the PLBO on Sept. 29 (JGW, PW).

A Black-backed Woodpecker (Pic à dos noir) was identified on Sept. 9 at the Lamèque Eco-Parc (CNPA) and at the Irving Eco Centre in Bouctouche on Sept. 15 (DD).

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (Tyran à longue queue) was spotted in St-Simon on July 22 (MD). Yvon and Cathy Beaulieu first heard and then saw a Great Crested Flycatcher (Tyran huppé) in Stanley on Sept. 20. A Western Kingbird (Tyran de l'Ouest) was observed at the Upper Cape Road between Cape Tormentine and Baie Verte on Sept. 3 (RAM, EP). Others were seen in Val Comeau on Sept. 20 (NB, FB, JSP) at Southern Head Light on September 13 (BED) and at Red Point on Grand Manan on Sept. 14 (fide BED).

Several people have noticed large masses of Chickadees migrating by the thousands throughout eastern NB in last two weeks of September. As many as 500 were counted in a 2 minute period (DSC) at Mary's Point. Most were Black-capped Chickadees (Mésange à tête brune) but some Boreal Chickadees (Mésange à tête brune) were also among the groups. The same phenomenon has been noticed this year in Ontario and the United States.

An adult Rough-winged Swallow (Hirondelle à ailes hérissées) was on a wire on Mary's Point road on July 29th (DSC) and a juvenile was at the Sackville Waterfowl Park on Aug. 3 (SIT, RAM).

Merv Cormier saw a Carolina Wren (Troglodyte de Caroline) in the woods by Big Salmon river on Aug. 25 and a House Wren on Sept. 1 on Black Beach Road. Another Carolina Wren was at a feeder at the Marathon Inn on Grand Manan on Aug. 25 (fide BED). René Doiron spotted a Marsh Wren (Troglodyte des marais) in St-Leonard in August. It is the first time this species is reported in the Madawaska region. Brian Dalzell reports a House Wren (Troglodyte familier) nesting in a swallow box on White Head Island, an unusual behaviour for wrens. On July 15 there were 7 eggs and on July 23 there were 11 eggs. Brian suspect that it was a single female laying a second clutch of eggs after the first failed to hatch. Another unusual nesting behavior was a Warbling Vireo (Vireo mélodieux) in a Blue Bird box facing Richelieu Park in Edmundston. The young fledged in mid-July (PIM).

A White-eyed Vireo (Vireo aux yeux blancs) was captured by the St. Andrew's Banding Station on Sept. 25 (fide TD).

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (Gobemoucheron bleu-gris) were spotted on Sept. 9 at Frye Lake on Miscou Island (CNPA), at the Swallowtail lighthouse in Grand Manan (SIT) on Sept. 9 and in Saint John on Sept. 22 (MJC).

A Northern Wheatear was observed at the Swallowtail Lighthouse on Grand Manan on Sept. 16 (BED and others).

An immature Pine Warbler (Paruline des pins) was at the PLBO on Sept. 29 (JGW, PW). There was also a Prairie Warbler (Paruline des prés) which is a first for the PLBO. A Prairie Warbler was in Lamèque on Sept. 19 (RR). An immature Prairie Warbler and a Orange-crowned Warbler (Paruline verdâtre) was sighted on Grand Manan on Sept. 22 (JGW, JnW). A male Orange-crowned Warbler was at the Eco Centre in Bouctouche on Sept. 15 (DD) and another was seen on Wilson Point Road, Miscou Island on Sept. 29 (RD, FB, RR). A female or immature Blue-winged Warbler (Paruline à ailes bleues) was seen in Bayside on Aug. 21 (TD) and a male Blue-winged Warbler was spotted along the walking trail in Lower St. Marys (Fredericton) on Sept. 7 (PAP). A Wilson's Warbler was spotted at Point la Nim on Aug. 18 (PMcG). A Golden-winged Warbler (Paruline à ailes dorés) was at the airstrip in Pennfield on Sept. 23 (MJC). At least 2 Yellow-breasted Chats (Paruline polyglote) were heard at the Southern Head Light on Grand Manan on Sept. 14 (BED); another was at the PLBO on Sept. 29 (JGW, PW).

Dwayne Biggar of Edgetts Landing had an immature Yellow-headed Blackbird (Carouge à tête jaune) in his yard on Sept. 20. Brian Dalzell is quite sure he saw a juvenile male Bronze Cowbird (western race) at the Swallowtail lighthouse on Sept. 16. He first thought it was a Yellow-headed Blackbird but after looking through SIBLEY he concluded it was indeed a Bronzed Cowbird. A partially albino European Starling (Etourneau sansonnet) with an all white tail was observed near Chapman's field in Fredericton by William Mountain on July 9th.

Scott Makepeace identified a Bullock's Oriole at the Black Duck Marsh in Lower Jemseg on July 17. He was able to observe this bird for several minutes. Scarlet Tanagers (Tangara écarlate) were on White

Head Island on Sept. 11 and at the Anchorage Campground in Grand Manan on Sept. 12 (SIT).

Dickcissels were reported (1) Frank and Dianne Kelly's feeder in West Saint John on Sept. 5, at Long Eddy Point in Grand Manan (1, possibly 7) on Sept. 23 (JGW, JnW, KE).

On Sept. 28 several people saw a Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca bleu*) on Grand Manan, it appeared to be a first year bird. There were 3 more immature Blue Grosbeaks at Castalia Marsh on September 30 (JSG). Cathy and Don Gibson spotted an Indigo Bunting (*Passer in indigo*) on Sept. 27 also in Grand Manan.

Norm Belliveau identified a Black-headed Grosbeak (*Cardinal à tête noire*) near Port Elgin on Sept. 7. A Lark Sparrow was in Doreen Rossiter's back yard in Alma on Sept. 14 and also at the mouth of Stanley Brook in North Head, Grand Manan on Sept. 23 (KE). Roland Robichaud spotted a Henslow Sparrow (*Bruant de Henslow*) at the Lamèque Eco-Parc on Sept. 13.

Abbreviations:

BED, Brian Dalzell; BJS, Bev Schneider; CNPA, Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne; DB, Dwayne Biggar; DD, Denis Doucet; DGG, Don Gibson; DS, Dwayne Sabine; DSC, David Christie; EP, Eileen Pike; FB, Frank Branch; FD, Fred Dubé; GB, Gilles Bourque; IC, Ian Cameron; H&JD, Henrik and Joanne Deichmann; JB, Joanne Burnham; JDB, J. Denys Bourque; JFG, Jean-François Gobeil; JGW, Jim Wilson; JL, Jérôme Lemaître; JnW, Jean Wilson; JP, Julie Pellerin; JSB, Jollande St-Pierre; JSG, Jean-Sébastien Guénette; JW, Janet Whitehead; KE, Kenneth Edwards; KNP, Kouchibouguac National Park; KP, Kathy Popma MD, Marcel David; MGD, Margaret Gallant Doyle; MJC, Merv Cormier; ML, Mike Lushington; MLe Marc Leblanc; MLeB, Mike Leblanc; MNIL, Moncton Naturalists Club Info Line; NB, Nicole Benoit; NP, Nelson Poirier; PAP, Peter Pearce; PB, Paul Bogaard; PIM, Pierrette Mercier; PLBO, Point Lepreau Bird Observatory; PMcG, Pat McGorlick; PW, Phil Whithers; RAM, Rose-Alma Mallet; RD, Robert Doiron; RM, Ruth Miller; RR, Roland Robichaud; SIT, Stuart Tingley; TD, Tracey Dean; VB, Valmont Bourque.

Nature News: Botany Ramblings July 1 to September 30, 2001

Jim Goltz

After preparing several of these reports, it's becoming clear to me that botanists are much less likely than birders to hurry to report their interesting findings. There are many possible reasons for this difference:

1. Since plants often remain at the site where they were discovered, at least for the growing season in which they were found, botanists may feel that there's less urgency to promptly share their discoveries. After all, the plants will likely be there again next year, right? [Please remember that there's no guarantee that plants will be present at the same site in subsequent years, thanks to habitat change, succession, plant predators, variable reproductive success, weather patterns, etc.]

2. With such a short season for peak botany exploration, botanists may prefer to spend their time enjoying plants in the field (the old cliché about

"making hay while the sun shines" seems especially relevant for field botanists), rather than indoors generating reports.

3. The botanist often only recognizes their best discoveries, especially for cryptic species, some time well after the discovery was made, once pressed



specimens and photographs have been more critically examined, or after consultation with an expert.

4. Some botanists may feel that their finds may not be noteworthy.

For these reasons, the reader of this column can expect more add-ons as discoveries come to light and reports trickle in, making it difficult to limit the report to the fixed time period. I encourage botanists to please send me their reports so I can convey them to the readers of the *N.B. Naturalist*. Many thanks! My contact information is 126 Wilsey Road, Apt. 17, Fredericton, NB E3B 5J1; Phone: (506) 459-8685; E-mail: marph@nbnet.nb.ca

Species New for New Brunswick

Undoubtedly the botanical highlight for the year has been the discovery of **Linear-leaved Sundew** (*Drosera linearis*) by Sean Blaney and Dwayne Sabine in a newly discovered small rich calcareous fen near Canterbury in late June. For years, botanists had been searching our known calcareous fens for this species, since it was known to grow in such habitats nearby in Maine and on the Gaspé Peninsula. The species was finally discovered in New Brunswick on one of the hottest days of the summer with the help of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data on soils and forest types, aerial photographs and a GPS (Global Positioning System) unit. Botany is going high tech! Access to these resources and expertise were provided by the Department of Natural Resources and Energy, in a project designed to assess how well these tools help identify calcareous cedar wetland sites where rare plants occur. It worked!

Also new for the province was **Wild Bergamot** (*Monarda fistulosa*) in an old field near Oakland Mountain, Carleton County (JPG). This species had been discovered at the site years ago by Ansel Campbell but had never been reported until he showed it to me and George Peabody during an evening foray on August 22. It is quite likely that this species is not native to the province.

Endangered Species

Updates on the status of **Pinedrops** (*Pterospora andromedea*), **Bathurst Salt-marsh Aster** (*Aster subulatus* var. *obtusifolius*), and **Parker's Pipewort** (*Eriocaulon parkeri*) in New Brunswick will be reported in the next issue of the *N.B. Naturalist*, once the results of concerted field work by the Species at

Risk section of the Dept. of Natural Resources and Energy have been compiled.

Rare Species

Reports of some of the rare Appalachian hardwood forest species included one plant of **Black Raspberry** (*Rubus occidentalis*) at Hyla Park on August 1 (Jane and Eric Hadley, JPG); **Bottlebrush Grass** (*Elymus hystrix*) at Oakland Mountain on August 22 (previously known from only 4 other sites in the province; AC, GP, JPG); **Lopseed** (*Phryma leptostachya*) at Keswick Ridge on June 28 (DS, MS, JPG) and at Oakland Mountain on August 22 (AC, GP, JPG); **Fragrant Sanicle** (*Sanicula odorata*) at Keswick Ridge on June 28 (DS, MS, JPG) and Oakland Mountain on August 22 (AC, GP, JPG); and **Thin-leaved Sedge** (*Carex cephaloidea*) and **Sprengel's Sedge** (*Carex sprengelii*) from the St. John River, Madawaska Co. in mid to late July (SB and others).

Along the upper reaches of the St. John River in Madawaska County, Sean Blaney was also successful in finding the very rare **Rock Spike-moss** (*Selaginella rupestris*) at three sites in mid to late July. This species had previously been known only from the St. John River near Mactaquac dam and from Big Bluff, near Sussex. From the same general area on the upper St. John, Sean also reported 4 new stations of the rare **Early-leaf Brome** (*Bromus latiglumis*).

Explorations to calcareous cedar wetlands revealed a large stand of **Sheathed Sedge** (*Carex vaginata*) near Andersonville on 30 June (DS, SR, MT, JPG), and some newly discovered rich calcareous fens near Pocowogamis Lake on July 22, with **Showy Lady's-slipper** (*Cypripedium reginae*), many other species of wild orchids, **Kalm's Lobelia** (*Lobelia kalmii*), **Swamp Valerian** (*Valeriana uliginosa*) and **Northern Bog Aster** (*Aster borealis*) (SC, BB, DS, MT, MB, JPG). While hiking along logging roads en route to the fens near Pocowogamis Lake, we also found several early successional rare plant species, including **Terrestrial Water Starwort** (*Callitriche terrestris*, previously known from only one other site in the province), **Small-flowered Gratiola** (*Gratiola neglecta*) and **Purple Milkwort** (*Polygala sanguinea*) on July 22 (SC, BB, DS, MT, MB, JPG).

A few clumps of the rare **Vasey's Rush** (*Juncus vaseyi*) were found on open rocky headlands at Red Head Harbour near Pocologan on August 19 (Laurel

Bernard, JPG).

Two very rare plants, **Dwarf Birch** (*Betula glandulosa*) and **Alpine Blueberry** (*Vaccinium boreale*), were found in abundance at Big Bald Mountain on September 30, where they were already known to occur (SC, James Walde, JPG). Although we were unable to find any **Highland Rush** (*Juncus trifidus*) on the top of the mountain at the only site where it has been found in the province, we did find two other rare plants there, namely **Appalachian Fire-moss** (*Huperzia appalachiana*) and **Beach-heather** (*Hudsonia tomentosa*). Unfortunately this important site for rare plants is being ecologically degraded by trucks and all-terrain vehicles.

Native Orchids

Broad-lipped Twayblade (*Listera convallarioides*) was found in a small cedar wetland near Andersonville on June 30 (MT, SR, DS, JPG), constituting the first known record of this species for Charlotte County. The first and only known Madawaska County discovery of the rare **Shining Ladies'-tresses** (*Spiranthes lucida*) was made in mid July by Sean Blaney on the upper reaches of the St. John River.

Small Purple Fringed-orchid (*Platanthera psycodes*) was seen in bloom on the Nashwaak River near Taymouth on July 11 (MP) and in a small seepy partially shaded wetland in the woods along the English Settlement Road on July 14 (30+ plants, JS). At least 12 plants of **Tall Northern Green Orchid** were also found at the latter site (JS).

Hundreds of **White Fringed-orchid** (*Platanthera blephariglottis*) were in peak bloom in the Regent Street bog at Fredericton on 20 July (JPG).

Other Noteworthy Finds

On July 11, blooms of **Canada Lily** (*Lilium canadense*) along the Nashwaak River near Taymouth were "spectacular" (MP). **Bush Honeysuckle** (*Diervilla lonicera*), a favourite nectar source for butterflies, was in bloom along the English Settlement Road on July 14 (JS).

On August 9, in bogs at Point Sapin, Nelson Poirier was impressed with the abundance of **Swamp Birch** (*Betula pumila*), **Bake-apple** (*Rubus chamaemorus*), **Black Huckleberry** (*Gaylussacia baccata*) and **Dwarf Huckleberry** (*Gaylussacia dumosa*), and also found a single plant of **Horned Bladderwort** (*Corylus cornuta*) in bloom.

Ron Wilson reported the yellow-fruited form of **Choke Cherry** (*Prunus virginiana*) at Fredericton in mid August. In the Fredericton area, the ripe fruits of Choke Cherry are well known to show an incredible range of colours, including yellow, orange, red, dark red-purple and almost black.

While visiting Beaubears Island near Miramichi City on August 28, Nelson Poirier saw "some of the largest **White Pine**" (*Pinus strobus*) that he "had ever seen".

There was an abundance of **Nodding Bur-marigold** (*Bidens cernua*) in the reservoir of Irishtown Nature Park on Sept 4 (NP, Pat Poirier).

Late Flowers and Fruits

Wild Lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*) was found in flower along the road to First Lake on September 15 (le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska) and Pierrette Mercier enjoyed some exceptionally tasty but unusually late **Wild Strawberries** (*Fragaria virginiana*) near Edmundston on September 6.

Mushrooms

Substantial rains in late August and early September, after an exceptionally dry summer, were welcomed by mushrooms, inspiring a period of heavy fruiting. During the first few days of September, Nelson Poirier reported from the Moncton area **Meadow Mushrooms** (*Agaricus campestris*), **Fairy Ring Fungus** (*Marasmius oreades*), **Chantarelles** (*Cantharellus cibarius*), **Fly Agaric** (*Amanita muscaria*), **Destroying Angel** (*Amanita virosa*), and some species of **Boletes**. On September 3, Bob Blake found **Sweetbread Mushrooms** (*Clitopilus prunulus*) and **Oyster Mushrooms** (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) along the Homestead Road.



Abbreviations:

AC Ansel Campbell, BB Bruce Bagnell, DS Dwayne Sabine, GP George Peabody, JPG James Goltz, JS Julie Singleton, MB Maureen Bourque, MP Margie

Pacey, MS Mary Sabine, MT Maureen Toner, NP Nelson Poirier, SB Sean Blaney, SC Stephen Clayden, SR Sara Richard

Nature News: Mammal Report

Fall, 2001

Mike LeBlanc

A GREY SQUIRREL (*ÉCUREUIL GRIS*) appeared in a yard in Alma, where they are unusual. (Doreen Rossiter, August 28). Doreen says that she recalls last seeing one there 10 to 12 years ago and wonders where this one came from. Some were seen all summer next to Kent Homes in Bouctouche and are common around town. (Bernadette LeBlanc, August 29.) At Mary's point, David Christie had a first sighting of one. This was the first seen on that side of the Shepody marsh and he suspects that they are spreading south. Also, Paul Bogaart saw a first one southwest of Sackville at his home. Nelson Poirier saw another at a friends home in the Greenboro Subdivision just outside Riverview towards Hillsborough. It was there since early spring.

A Grey Squirrel showed up in the North end of Saint John (Dave Smith, Oct 28.), and another was at a feeder on the South Shédiac Road for a few days (Norm Arsenault, Sept 26).



Grey Squirrel
Ken MacIntosh

EASTERN CHIPMUNK [*SUISSE*] re-appeared with nice weather. One near Moncton came out on Nov 5 (Bob Blake), and one showed up at a feeder in Hopewell Hill. Dave Christie heard one at Mary's Point, where they are quite rare, this sighting only the second in 22 years. Also, Nelson Poirier reported one in Shédiac Bridge, Nov. 6.

Two FLYING SQUIRRELS (*GRAND POLATOUCHE*) were coming faithfully every night to feeders (Nelson Poirier, Oct 15).

During a pelagic trip off Grand Manan, August 21, Gail and Bill Gallant had wonderful observations of RIGHT WHALES (*BALEINE NOIRE*).

On another trip to Grand Manan, a group had wonderful observations from the ferry. FIN-BACKED WHALE (*ROQUAL COMMUN*), many HARBOUR PORPOISE (*MARSOVIN COMMUN*) and a small group of ATLANTIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHINS (*DAUPHIN À FLANCS BLANCS*), RIGHT WHALES (*BALEINE NOIRE*), several MINKE WHALES (*PETIT ROQUAL*) (Roy and Eileen Pike, Normand and Gisele Belliveau, Jackie and Lloyd Decoste, Shirley Hunt, Sue Hoar, Elsie Gallant, Ruth Rogers, Leona Cormier, Richard Leger, Bob Cotsworth, Rose-Alma Mallet and Stuart Tingley, September 27th to 30th).

Four ATLANTIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHINS [*DAUPHIN À FLANCS BLANCS*] were stranded in the Peticodiac River between Moncton and Riverview. Many people worked frantically to help these marine mammals out. They were finally loaded in trucks and transported to less hazardous waters off Pointe Du Chêne (Rick Elliott, Oct. 1).

Some HARBOUR PORPOISE (*MARSOVIN COMMUN*) were seen at Cap Enragé (Brenda

Belliveau, Sept. 6). Jim and Jean Wilson were treated to a wonderful show of 3 FIN-BACKED WHALE (ROQUAL COMMUN) that were hearding and feeding on herring at about 50 feet from them at the tip of Long Eddy Point. They were joined by several MINKE WHALES (PETIT ROQUAL) that remained further out (Sept 25). Four whales, likely FIN WHALES [RORQUAL COMMUN] were seen off the ferry to Grand Manan (David Christie, Oct. 11). They were still in the Bay of Fundy Nov 4 Laurie Murison. From a kitchen window at Pettes Cove, Grand Manan 6 Right Whales in full courtship behaviour were seen by Laurie Murison (Nov10).

A COYOTE was seen at the underpass on the Barry Mills Road (Bob Blake, Oct 14).

Bob and Sharon Blake spotted a RED FOX (RENARD ROUX) going from feeder to feeder. It spent some time casing the area around their home at Homestead Road, near Moncton (Nov.11). There was another on the Berry Mills Road (Oct 14, Bob Blake).

On October 6, the back trails of Centennial Park in Moncton were closed by the city because of BLACK BEAR [OURS NOIR] sightings. One was close to the pine trail at Kouchibouguac National Park eating blueberries along the road (July 18, Mike LeBlanc). Nelson Poirier reported one along the road going towards Pointe-Sapin, August 11.

A family of 3 RIVER OTTERS (LOUTRE DE RIVIÈRE) were seen during a canoe outing along the Kouchibouguac river in Kouchibouguac National Park (Mike LeBlanc, July 25).

A LYNX (LYNX DU Canada) was briefly seen near Kedgwick on the side of the road (Margaret Gallant Doyle, Oct 13).

Over 400 GREY SEALS (PHOQUE GRIS) were at Blacklands Gully at Kouchibouguac National Park (Mike LeBlanc, August 8). At the Bouctouche dune there were 34 at the tip of the dune (Denis Doucet, September 26). Very-rare for the Bay of Fundy, an immature HOODED SEAL [PHOQUE À CAPUCHON], approximately 4 feet long, was found dead at Mary's Point beach on August 17 (David Christie).

In Fairhaven, several WHITE-TAILED DEER (CERF DE VIRGINIE) were coming out in a clearing to eat apples and drink from a spring (Kate Landry, Sept 27).

Two were seen along the power lines adjacent to Wheeler Boulevard in Moncton (Janet L. MacMillan, Sept 23).

A two-year-old MOOSE (ORIGINAL) got stuck in the mud of the Peticodiac River. After many attempts to pull the stranded animal out, the DNR&E had to put it down (Moncton Times & Transcript, Oct. 10).

Robinson Conservation Forest

Robena Weatherly

I grew up at a time when many rural children found their entertainment and interest in their outdoor environment. Usually they were involved in the activities of their parents' livelihood as they helped with farm chores. In my case, I took particular pleasure in the summer daily trip with the cattle to the pasture near the forest on our farm. There was much to see en route. There were wonderful wild flowers, lots of nesting birds, and insects of all kinds, to say nothing of the wonderful accompanying sounds. All these things were fascinating to my childish curiosity. In the winter I delighted in going to the woods with my father as he cut firewood or lumber. I spent many Saturdays and often after school there with him as he worked and we shared our lunch and smoky tea over an open fire. I loved the trip back by horse and sled in the gathering

twilight and I would watch the treetops to see the grouse "budding" as we returned home.

This was my playground. As a child, I suppose I took it for granted but as an adult who became a biologist and lived in many other parts of Canada, I always knew how lucky I was to have spent my childhood in such an environment.

I returned here permanently more than six years ago and as I resumed my treks through familiar territory I wondered if there was some way to share my pleasure with others with similar interests. I thought particularly of school children and naturalists and others who might like to see a forest in its various stages of growth, decay, renewal and of course with great biodiversity.

When I contacted the manager of the Fundy Model Forest with my idea, he brought a group of experts to look at the site and it was decided that this would be a suitable project as I had visualized. I discussed the concept with the owners of an adjacent property with similar history and they enthusiastically joined the project.

We called it The Robinson Conservation Forest and it is located on private land at Cambridge-Narrows on Washademoak Lake. The Fundy Model Forest provided funding and technical help to the owners to establish three interpretive walking trails with a total length of more than five km. Numbered posts at points of interest along the trails correspond to descriptions in the brochure which is available at the trail entrance, or from the owners, or from Fundy Model Forest at Sussex. Access is granted to members of the public for interest and quiet enjoyment of the natural environment.

The trails wind through a variety of sites including an old pasture which is returning to forest, mature pine, hemlock and cedar stands, balsam fir thickets, some areas of wetland, abundant tamarack, hardwoods such as white and yellow birch, oak and maples, and a ravine with a brook running through it.

A good opportunity is afforded for naturalists to enjoy the plants and animals of the Acadian Forest and it is particularly rewarding to watch the passage of the seasons and the accompanying changes. The changing players on the "stage" include the spring revival and spawning of the amphibians, blossoming of the service berries (*Amelanchier*), bursting forth of the larch new growth, extensive areas of the brightly-coloured Rhodora in bloom, the sound of drumming ruffed grouse,

an occasional Lady's Slipper, sometimes pileated woodpeckers and numerous other birds and wildlife. In the late summer, ethereal clumps of Indian pipe appear and there are many kinds of fungi to be seen. The mixed forest is vivid in the fall and when snow comes it is a treat to see the tracks of the many forest creatures. The trails are not suitable for skis but snowshoes work very well. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

People using the trails should wear appropriate sturdy footwear as some portions are rough and there may be wet areas. Of course in the summer there are numerous mosquitoes and blackflies so protective clothing is important. There are no toilets on the trails but if a group of people wishes to use the trails the nearby Municipal Building can be opened for their convenience if they call the owners a day in advance. All parking is at the Cambridge-Narrows Municipal Building and picnic tables and garbage cans are available there in the summer. We do not encourage picnics on the trails because we do not wish to disturb the wildlife by attracting them in this way. Please leave your pets at home and observe our instructions at the trail entrance.

In 2001, this project received a Forest Stewardship Recognition Award given by Wildlife Habitat Canada recognizing biodiversity conservation and sustainable forestry practices in Canada's forests. This is a national program and twenty-five awards were given throughout Canada in 2001.

The location is just off route 695 on Lower Cambridge Road. More information is available by calling the owner at: (506) 488-2718 or Fundy Model Forest at: 1-800-546-2838.



Indian Pipe
Ken MacIntosh

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

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