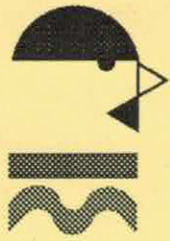


29 (1) Spring / printemps 2002



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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Celebration of Birds Nature Club, c/o Roberta MacKenzie, 3rd Wednesday, January to April.

Chignecto Naturalists' Club, c/o CWS, box 6227, Sackville, NB E4L 1G6; 364-5047; meets Sackville Public Library, 7:30 pm, 1st Thur., Sept.-June.

Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne, C.P. 2241, St. Simon NB E8P 1L8; courriel: emile.ferron@cnpa.ca; site web: <http://www.cnpa.ca>; réunions au Club de l'âge d'or Landry, 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 INC, Abel Doucet, 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 1V3; 246-5572; meets Florenceville Town Hall, 7:00 pm, last Thurs., 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 aux membres**. Les tarifs de réabonnement pour *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.*, avant le 1 janvier. Abonnement régulier au Nouveau-Brunswick d'un an (renouvelable avant le premier janvier): Individuel \$ 20, Famille \$25, membre à vie \$(demandez); 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.

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Cover: Wood Thrush, by John Sill

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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 **June 30, 2002**S.v.p., soumettre les articles à l'intention du prochain numéro avant le **30 juin, 2002**

to / à

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President's Message

Mike LeBlanc

When I received the last issue of the NB Naturalist (28(4) Winter / Hiver 2001/2002), I sat down on the living room floor to pass through all the issues of the NB Naturalist that I had. I got to think what a bank of knowledge and facts about the natural history of New Brunswick that is in our wonderful magazine. As I went through them, it got me thinking. Last January (2001), I represented the NBFN – FNNB at the Canadian Nature Federation's affiliate meeting in Ottawa and most of the affiliates were saying the same thing as we are thinking here in NB. That it is getting harder and harder to publish our magazines because of rising publication costs and less money to go around.

A few options were put on the table, one was that the CNF would have an insert for each affiliate in Nature Canada (CNF magazine). Subscribers would receive articles for their specific province and stuff from the national side of things. Another idea was that there would be a combined affiliate magazine for all Federations across Canada. After a few meetings those plans were put away, because no one could find a plan that everyone liked. The feeling of the NBFN – FNNB executive was that we like what we have and don't want to lose it.

We are proud of our NB Naturalist and it is one of our strong points here and to tell everyone the truth I think it is the best naturalist magazine in Canada and the fact that it is all done on a volunteer basis, makes it even more special.

You might notice that a few changes will be going through our magazine in the future, but rest assured that the NB Naturalist will continue its reputation as one of the best in Canada.

Also in the magazine you will notice an ad of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The NCC has been a supporter and helping out the NBFN since September 2001 when they have been providing us with office space and also in-kind support. We would like to thank them for all their help in this capacity building time of the NBFN.



Quand j'ai reçu la dernière édition du Naturaliste du Nouveau-Brunswick (28(4) Winter / Hiver 2001/2002), je me suis assis dans le salon pour revoir tous les exemplaires précédents. Quelle incroyable banque de données et de faits intéressant à propos de l'histoire naturelle du Nouveau-Brunswick! Quelle richesse! Au fur et à mesure que je prenais connaissance du contenu de toutes ces revues, je me suis rappelé qu'en janvier 2001, j'ai représenté la FNNB dans le cadre de la réunion annuelle de la Fédération Canadienne de la Nature et les Fédérations à Ottawa. Durant cette réunion, il avait été question des fédérations qui ont discuté qu'ils trouvaient, comme nous, que ça devenait de plus en plus difficile à publier les revues à cause des coûts élevés de publication et une diminution des revenus.

Quelques options ont été mises sur la table, par exemple, d'avoir quelques pages dans chaque édition de « Nature Canada » (publication du FCN) qui serait réservées à chaque Fédération. Cette édition serait envoyée dans la province désignée avec des articles de cette province et aussi au niveau national. Une autre idée était d'avoir un magazine national regroupant des articles de chaque fédération à travers le Canada. Après quelques réunions ces idées ont été perçues comme irréalistes et les fédérations ne s'entendaient pas sur ces points. L'exécutif de la FNNB – NBFN est fier de notre revue et on ne veut pas la perdre.

Nous sommes fiers de notre Naturaliste du N.-B. et c'est un des points forts de la Fédération. D'après mon opinion (et celle de plusieurs autres), c'est le meilleur magazine de naturalistes au Canada et le fait qu'il est produit par des volontaires le rend encore plus spécial. Soyez assuré que Le naturaliste du N.-B. continuera sa réputation comme l'un des meilleurs au Canada pour un bon bout de temps.

Vous remarquerez aussi dans cette édition que vous verrez une annonce pour la Conservation de la nature Canada. Le CNC nous a été un atout depuis septembre 2001 en nous fournissant de l'espace de bureau et autres services nécessaires pour notre vision de continuer à bâtir la FNNB. Nous les remercions sincèrement de tout ce qu'ils font pour nous.

Rare Sightings: Bathing Bunnies

Alan Madden

Perhaps it's because I spend so much time around on, in and under water that I've had more than my fair share of "sightings of a lifetime". Much of the action occurs around waterways as you may have noted from previous "Rare Sightings" articles in this newsletter. A multitude of creatures depend upon waterways for their survival and recreation. Recreation, you ask? Sure! Did you think that humans had a monopoly on skinny-dipping? Why, seals, elephants and even Varying Hares (rabbits to we simple folk), have been doing it for at least four decades. You say we all know that seals and their look-alike cousins, the elephants, have an affinity for water, but hares? Just why do you suppose they're called "varying" hares? It's not due only to their ability to change colour; they can vary behavior too, as you will see in the following text.

I had learned from my dad, a very experienced angler and hunter, and from the authoritative Burgess series of books on Peter Rabbit, that rabbits did not swim. The reasons of course, were that (1) bunnies have such extremely soft fur that it would soak up water and quickly sink them and (2) if they really could swim, then everybody would have already known about it. I was about to learn the truth and debunk the myth.

In early July, 1957 I sat on a log protruding out over the nearly vertical (about 60 degree slope) 1 m. high embankment of the Wallace Pool, located 1 km upstream from the Hwy. 8 bridge on the Bartibog River, Northumberland Co. I had been quietly swimming a worm on a leash for trout in the semi-clear pool whose width and maximum depth were approximately 20 and 1.8 m., respectively. The opposite shore was sand covered, flat and bordered by alders about 5 m. from the water's edge. An adult-sized hare stepped out of the alders, slowly hopped to the shoreline, sniffed the water and slowly entered it, then swam across the pool toward me. It did not hesitate, perhaps because I was so well camouflaged against the solid green background, with my blue jeans, light coloured shirt and former platinum blonde hair. At a point approximately 3 m downstream from me, the animal climbed up the steep bank, and without shaking the water out of its fur, started to eat grass. After perhaps only a minute, it reversed course, re-entered the pool and swam back to

where it had first entered the water. It hopped slowly across the sand and into the alders, again without riding itself of water. A couple of hours later, I recounted the story to Ray Connell, then owner of the residence and cabins at the highway bridge. Ray, a man who worked in the woods all his life, told me, as did my dad, that rabbits don't swim. Incidentally, Ray, now deceased, was the son of Albert and grandson of John, one of whom trapped all the moose with which Newfoundland was stocked.

The next incident that I witnessed occurred on the Main Upsalquitch River on October 16, 1997- just 40 years later. It was well worth the wait!

DNRE wardens Boyd Noye and Roger Mann, and DFO biologists Andrea Locke, Fran Mowbray, Paul Cameron and Russel Pickard and I were on the east shore and tail of Ice House Pool. We observed a hare burst out of the mature conifer forest and onto the gravel beach on the opposite side of the pool and approximately 60 m. distant. The rabbit plunged into the pool and quickly swam directly across its 50 m. width. It then disappeared into the forest not to be seen by us again. With all our combined education and some serious deliberation we deduced that a predator must be in hot pursuit. After a five minute silent wait, a small Fisher, which I presumed to be a female due to its small size, ran out of the forest at precisely the same spot where we had first seen the hare. It loped to the water's edge and sniffed at the point at which the bunny took the plunge. At no time did the fisher appear to examine the shore upon which the hare had taken refuge. We thought that the mustelid (weasel family member) might swim across the water also, but it did not. Instead, it ran up and down the beach in search of its prey for about five minutes, after which it disappeared into the forest. After a two minute absence, the fisher reappeared. This time it remained on the beach for only a half- minute or so, then it departed.

In the latter bunny bathing episode, instead of swimming for the purpose of going to lunch, the hare swam in order not to become lunch!

My third sighting of a swimming hare occurred at the bridge crossing the Southeast Upsalquitch River, one kilometer downstream from the Flying Eddy Pool.

Ron Gauthier, DNRE ranger and frequent hunting/fishing companion was with me. The sighting happened on October 28, 1998, only a year after the previous incident. This episode was the most dramatic of the three (perhaps not for the hares) and was fully reported in the "Rare Sightings" article in the Winter 2000/2001 issue of this newsletter. In summary, that bunny, in a leisurely pace, was crossing a wooden bridge when it leaped side-wise, high and over the guard rail. The law of gravity took over, whereupon the hare free fell to river's surface 3 m. below. The dive was rather graceful until the highly talented animal hit the water in a bunny-flop. We scored the dive presentation a 5.9 and the technical merit a 5.3 due to the poor entry. Quite adept physically, its intellectual prowess suffered, for immediately after hitting the wa-

ter the bunny tried to dog-paddle straight upstream, i. e., to neither shore and against the strong current to no avail.

In conclusion, we have accounts of three hares that entered water for three different reasons:

- (1) to acquire food, for apparently greener pastures were on the other side;
- (2) to escape a predator so it could live to escape tomorrow; and
- (3) to simply enjoy all the attributes of sky-diving and skinny-dipping.



LA FEDERATION DES NATURALISTES DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

TOUS ENSEMBLE POUR LA SAUGARDE DE LA NATURE

Formulaire de Membre

La cotisation pour l'année 2002 est annuellement de \$20 au Canada. La cotisation doit être envoyée à la préposée aux abonnements: Jim Wilson, 2 Neck Road, Quispamsis, N.B., E2G-1L3

.....Réabonnement

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Nom de receveur.....
 Adresse.....
Code postale.....
 Nom de donneur.....
 Adresse.....
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Une note de bienvenue et de souhait sera envoyée au nom ci-haut mentionné en votre nom et celui de la

Unusual Owl Encounters

Jim Goltz

(The following notes were forwarded to the NB Naturalist editorial team late in 2001 and apparently migrated south for the winter. Our apologies for the oversight. — ed. PS we had no idea that Saw-whets were such sporting enthusiasts.)

An adult Saw-whet Owl, while peacefully roosting on Kingswood Drive near Fredericton, was inadvertently knocked out of the tree by a wayward frisbee on October 8. The owl had an injured right wing but no fractures. After about a week of cage rest and eight feeds of Deer Mice (including two at one sitting), the owl became fed up with captivity and demanded release. It flew off at dusk into old growth woods on

Doak Road on October 16, much to the delight of several onlookers. Another Saw-whet was found perching on a set of golf clubs in a newly constructed recreation room at Parkers Ridge, near Boiestown, on October 13. Thinking the owl was a baby in distress, the home owners called a wildlife rehabilitator for advice. The owl was checked out, found to be healthy and released in nearby woods.



Saw-whet Owl
by Steve Sierigk

NEW BRUNSWICK FEDERATION OF NATURALISTS

HELP BUILD A STRONGER VOICE FOR NATURE

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

.....Renewal

.....New Member

Name.....

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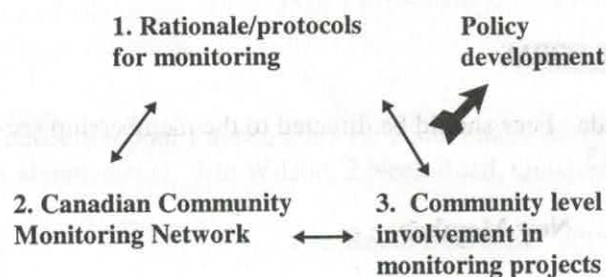
A note will be sent announcing your gift and welcoming the new member to the Federation.

Canadian Community Monitoring Network

Marieka Arnold

The Fredericton office of the NB Federation of Naturalists is a regional coordinator with the Canadian Community Monitoring Network. We will be working with (coordinating) the three communities of Saint John, Bouctouche and St. Andrews in our initial year. We'd like to provide you with information on our plans for the upcoming year and would also like to let you know there plenty of ways to be involved even if you aren't a resident in one of the listed communities. All you need to do is contact us by phone: (506) 459-4209, email: nbfn@nb.aibn.com, or by mail: NBFN/FNNB, 924 Prospect Street, Suite 2, Fredericton, NB E3B 2T9.

First of all we'd like to explain that there is a direct connection between participation in monitoring projects at the community level and policy development. To understand this relationship more clearly, consider the following diagram:



Please note that the diagram is designed in a linear fashion, when in reality all the components are connected in a more cyclical/web-like depiction. Secondly, we'd like to discuss each of the four elements of the above diagram in the following order:

1. Rationale/protocols for monitoring
2. Canadian Community Monitoring Network
3. Community level involvement in monitoring projects
4. Policy development

1. Rationale/protocols for monitoring:

Every day, Canadian ecosystems are exposed to many human-induced stresses, including harmful pollutants in our air, land and water. Knowing where and how our ecosystems are being affected by these multiple stresses – and what we can do to minimize their impacts on biodiversity and the sustainability of our resource-based economy – is crucial to our well being, and the well being of all other biotic and abiotic components in our ecosystems.

Key Areas of Monitoring:

1. Abiotic – water quality, air quality & snow-ice phenology
2. Biotic – species richness and diversity. Ex: worms, birds and plants
3. Cultural – land cover change

2. Canadian Community Monitoring Network (CCMN):

As a regional coordinator with the CCMN, our work will be shared at the national level with the intention to involve other communities in this ecological monitoring network. One of the goals is to provide access at the community level to consistent and well-developed tools for monitoring projects. There are many tools currently in place and this network will strive to share and standardize ecosystem monitoring at all levels. In addition, the CCMN aims to provide the tools that relate ecosystem sustainability and change to policy development.

What is the Need for the CCMN?

- Increasing awareness of environmental concerns that require long-term ecological monitoring
- Willingness to participate at the community level
- General increase in awareness
- Government cutbacks to existing monitoring projects

3. Community level involvement in monitoring projects:

We hope to involve and build the capacity of communities to address ecosystem and human health. In each community we are looking for additional volunteers, community groups, private sector and government participation to make the project a success. We also intend to link ecosystem monitoring to local communication and decision-making in St. Andrews, Saint John and Bouctouche.

Within our first year we hope to meet with all interested stakeholders in each of the communities and work together with one of the end goals of establishing a new monitoring project in each community.

Examples of Existing Monitoring Programs:

An example of a monitoring project would be to use lichens as an indicator species for air quality. Certain lichen grow in reduced abundance and diversity in areas with high levels of air pollution.

Piper Project in Action: Education up Front

Carole LeBlanc

Education is one of the most important tools we use for our work. We have been doing presentations for the past fifteen years. Topics for our presentations change from year to year to ensure that we do not lose the interest of teachers and students. These school presentations are a very important way to reach youth and to teach them to respect the environment. This year, we are expanding our Program and pilot the Species at Risk Kit under development by the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists.

Frogwatch – anuran distribution
Icewatch – ice phenology
Wormwatch – abundance and distribution
Plantwatch – plant phenology
Lichenwatch – lichen abundance and distribution
Riverwatch – benthic distribution
Forest Plots – forest biodiversity

4. Policy Development:

The NB Federation of Naturalists, acting as a CCMN regional coordinator is interested in the links between science and local policy. One of the anticipated outcomes of this network includes nationally consistent approaches to community monitoring of ecosystem changes. Another priority is to share with, and provide, timely information that relates to policy development, to communities across Canada.

The Canadian Community Monitoring Network was established as a partnership between the Canadian Nature Federation (CNF) and the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) of Environment Canada.

Le Projet siffleur en action: L'éducation

Carole LeBlanc

L'éducation est l'outil le plus utile et important afin de transmettre de l'information concernant l'environnement aux jeunes. Depuis 15 ans, le Projet siffleur offre des présentations dans les écoles sur divers sujets qui changent d'année en année. Cette année, nous avons élaboré notre programme d'éducation en pilotant dans les écoles la trousse éducative sur les espèces en péril au Nouveau-Brunswick. Cette trousse, développée par la Fédération des Naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick, inclue plusieurs activités interactives et éducatives sur les espèces en péril au Nouveau-Brunswick.

Our pilot project commenced in early April and will last till the end of the school year in June. The response by schools and teachers has been very positive. Four schools across the Acadian Peninsula have been chosen, grade 7 classes of *CSC La Fontaine* in Néguaac and *Marguerite-Bourgeois* in Caraquet and grade 3 classes of *La Source* in Sheila and *L'envolée* in Shippagan. These two grade levels have been targeted by the Species at Risk Kit committee because the subjects treated enter perfectly in their science curriculum.

We will visit each of the classes once a week and carry out the activities in the Species at Risk Kit. The interactive and educational activities include certain concepts such as understanding biodiversity, the importance of habitat, and why species are at risk. We will also introduce the 16 species at risk in New Brunswick listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Grade 7 students will be involved in preparing a protection campaign for the Piping Plovers in their region. The third graders will help us design protection signs for Piping Plovers, which will be placed on certain beaches in their region. We are also planning an outing in June so students can actually see a Piping Plover in its habitat. They will learn about the role and importance of the Coastal Guardian Program on the Acadian Peninsula.

Our Coastal Guardian Program and our fieldwork is also expanding further north to the Baie-de-Petit-Pokemouche and Le Goulet where we saw our first Piping Plover of the 2002 season on April 18th (the earliest record for a Piping Plover on the Acadian Peninsula).

With the hiring of summer staff, fieldwork preparation, and the pilot project in schools, this year promises new challenges!

We would like to thank Bernard St.-Pierre of School District 9, the executive of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists and Le Club des naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne for their continued support.

Carole LeBlanc is Biologist for the Piping Project

Le projet pilote dans les écoles a débuté en Avril et se terminera vers la fin de l'année scolaire en juin. Deux niveaux ont été ciblés soit les 7e et 3e années car les sujets discutés dans la trousse entrent très bien dans leurs curriculums de cours de sciences naturelles. Nous allons travailler avec 4 écoles de la Péninsule acadienne soit les 7e années des écoles *CSC La Fontaine* de Néguaac et *Marguerite-Bourgeois* de Caraquet et les 3e années des écoles *La Source* de Sheila et *L'Envolée* de Shippagan.

Nous visitons les classes une fois par semaine et réalisons les activités préparées dans la trousse éducative. Chaque semaine, différents thèmes seront discutés comme par exemple comprendre le concept de la biodiversité, l'importance des habitats et pourquoi les espèces sont en péril aujourd'hui. De plus, les élèves seront introduits aux espèces en péril au Nouveau-Brunswick soit les 16 espèces protégées par la loi sur les espèces menacées de disparition.

Pour élaborer le projet, nous allons inviter les 7e années à préparer une campagne publicitaire pour la protection du Pluvier siffleur et les 3e années, eux pourront créer une affiche de protection pour le Pluvier siffleur qui sera placée sur une plage de leur région.

Le Programme de Protectors/trices côtiers/ères sera élargit cette année sur les plages de Baie-de-petit-Pokemouche et Le Goulet, l'endroit où nous avons aperçu le premier pluvier de la saison, le 18 avril.

Avec le projet pilote dans les écoles, les préparations des travaux sur terrain pour la saison 2002 et l'entraînement des nouveaux employés d'été, tous ces projets nous promettent de nouveaux défis!

Nous voulons remercier Bernard St.-Pierre du district 9, le comité exécutif de la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick et le Club des naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne pour leur appui

Carole LeBlanc est Biologiste du Projet siffleur

Nature News – Mammal Report

Mike LeBlanc

NB Mammal observations January – April 2002

Observations de Mammifères du Nouveau-Brunswick
Janvier – Avril 2002

A CHIPMUNK (SUISSE) made an appearance in Fredericton, March 14th, BVS; In Pellerin one was foraging for seeds, March 17th. DD; One was spotted around some feeders, "busy stuffing it's cheeks" in Second North River, April 4th, BB.

A GROUNDHOG (WOODCHUCK [MARMOTTE COMMUNE]) was spotted along the Melanson Road in St-Anselme, March 1, which seemed to be quite early for one. JM One was spotted strolling around in Sackville, March 28th. NG Both GRAY SQUIRREL [ÉCUREUIL GRIS] and RED SQUIRREL [Écureuil roux] were regularly spotted in Riverview. March 12th JT; GRAY SQUIRREL [ÉCUREUIL GRIS] were observed scoring bark on trees then licking sap on Maples in Fredericton; March 22nd DM

A COYOTE was making nightly visits to feeders in Alma February 1st. DR RED FOX (RENARD ROUX) were noted in a marsh in Riverview January 16th BRO; One was along a snow bank in Steeves Mountain, February 26th BB, SB

RACCOONS (RATON LAVEUR) started appearing up to their usual antics. In West Saint John one evening they stole a suet feeder, February 22 PS. In Hammond River they were seen also at feeders on February 22, JW, and one in St-Maurice along the road. MLB They were moving more around along the Homestead Rd in the Moncton area March 5th, BB.



Lots of STRIPED SKUNK (MOUFETTE RAYÉE) were active around a house in Pellerin, March 17th, DD One stayed for a few days under a shed in St-Gabriel, April 8th MLB. A RIVER OTTER (LOUTRE DE RIVIÈRE) was in a pond in Pellerin and was seen for about 3 weeks on and off, March 17th, DD One was spotted in the Edmunston area April 13th. GV.

One Bobcat (LYNX ROUX) was seen on the side of the road, unfortunately struck by a vehicle along the old Trans Canada Highway in Jemseg, February 23rd. DGB, JG, SS One was seen in Nackawic, March 20th. JD Also one was seen in Pellerin crossing the road, April 13th DD.

A GREY SEAL (PHOQUE GRIS) pup was in the Pointe du Chaîne area alone. MNC February 5th.

A group of 41 WHITE-TAILED DEER (CERF DE VIRGINIE) were in an open field grazing in Scotchtown then further down the road another group of 15. March 2nd. CA, MA; two were feeding on newly emerged plants on the side of a porch at a house on the Homestead Road outside of Moncton March 14th BB, SB During one trip 28 were seen together in Cloverdale and another 25 and Hainesville, March 29th.

A "big" MOOSE (ORIGNAL) was seen browsing in a pasture in Steeves Mountain, April 4th, BB

Three FIN WHALES (RORQUAL COMMUN) swimming very close together were spotted off Swallowtail Grand Manan. February 13th. The group got up to four at the same spot. February 18th.. They were still around the area March 1st. LDM

Abbreviations: BB – Bob Blake; BRO – Brenda Orr; BVS – Beverley Schneider; CA – Chris Antle; DD – Denis Doucet; DGB – Don Gibson; DM – Don Murray; DR – Doreen Rossiter; GV – Gérard Verret; JD – James Donald ; JG – Jim Goltz; JM –John Massey; JT – John Tanner; JM – Jim Wilson; LDM – Laurie Murison; MA – Mike Antle; MLB – Mike LeBlanc; MNC – Moncton Naturalists Club Nature Info Line; NG – Nev Garrity; PS – Peter D Smith; SB – Sharon Blake; SS – Shirley Sloat; YB – Yvon Belliveau



À l'attention des membres de la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau Brunswick :

Conservation de la nature Canada (CNC) est un organisme enregistré sans but lucratif dont la mission consiste à préserver la biodiversité canadienne en protégeant des lieux naturels d'importance écologique et des endroits d'une beauté particulière ou d'un intérêt pédagogique. Depuis 1962, CNC a protégé plus de 1,8 million d'acres partout au pays, ce qui fait de lui l'un des plus importants organismes canadiens de conservation. Au Canada atlantique, nous avons protégé plus de 20 000 acres, lesquelles offrent certains des paysages les plus spectaculaires au monde. Fort de ses 15 000 membres au Canada, CNC a développé une base d'appui solide et diversifiée.

CNC a pour but de créer des réserves naturelles et de protéger des endroits naturels en achetant des propriétés, en acceptant des dons de propriété et en négociant des ententes de conservation. Dans le haut de la baie de Fundy, CNC a protégé 259 acres d'habitat d'oiseaux de rivage. Il s'agit d'un important site de nourriture et site du perché pour des millions d'oiseaux de rivage qui s'y rendent chaque année, notamment plus de 70 p. 100 de la population mondiale de bécasseaux semipalmés. Dans la région de la lagune et de l'estuaire de la rivière Tabusintac, un milieu humide d'importance internationale, CNC a protégé 823 acres de terre. Voilà seulement deux exemples d'endroits importants sur le plan écologique que CNC a voulu protéger au Nouveau-Brunswick.

Nous faisons maintenant appel à la population de la région Atlantique pour encourager tous ceux et celles qui partagent notre passion pour la conservation à devenir membre de CNC. Vous contribuerez ainsi à offrir les ressources nécessaires en vue de protéger la biodiversité, à une époque où des habitats précieux disparaissent à une vitesse alarmante.

En devenant membre de Conservation de la nature Canada, vous adhérez au plus important organisme de conservation du Canada!

Des résultats concrets!

Découpez sur le pointillé et expédiez à :

Conservation de la nature Canada, 924, rue Prospect, bureau 2, Fredericton (N.-B.) E3B 2T9

Oui, j'aimerais devenir membre de CNC et aider à protéger notre patrimoine naturel !

Nom: _____

Adresse: _____

Code postal: _____

Téléphone: () _____

Courriel: _____

Signature: _____

☐ **Chèque** – Établir à l'ordre de
Conservation de la nature Canada –
Région atlantique

☐ VISA ☐ Master Card

N° de la carte : _____

Date d'expiration : _____

☐ 30 \$ ☐ 50 \$ ☐ 100 \$ ☐ 200 \$

☐ J'aimerais en savoir davantage sur la
planification financière et fiscale de faire des dons.




Camps d'Été

Jeunesse Nature

Cet été, la Fédération des Naturalistes du N.-B. présente ses tous premiers camps, Camps d'Été Jeunesse Nature. Le thème des trois semaines de camps résidentiels est : Explore la nature autour de toi. Les camps s'adressent aux jeunes de 9 à 13 ans. Ils sont offerts en français ou anglais selon les localités. Le coût d'un camp d'une semaine est de 250\$, avec des possibilités de subventions.

Nous encourageons les clubs de naturalistes et les groupes communautaires à parrainer le coût de participation d'un jeune aux camps.

Les activités des camps comprennent:

- Plage et écologie forestière
- Musique et peinture
- Oiseaux et mammifères
- Habitats et comportements des animaux
- Rivière et écologie de l'eau
- Feu de camps
- Plantes, arbres et arbustes du N -B
- Excursions
- Interprétation de la nature
- Baignade
- Libellules, papillons et autres insectes 
- Espèces en péril
- Un projet de conservation
- Jeux, activités physiques, amusements
- Et autres activités

L'objectif des camps est d'avoir bien du plaisir en explorant la flore et la faune de notre province, et leurs interrelations. La conservation et l'appréciation de la biodiversité seront valorisées lors des Camps d'Été Jeunesse Nature. À la fin des camps, les jeunes auront enrichi leurs connaissances en science nature par leurs expériences sur le terrain. Ils auront une meilleure connaissance des écosystèmes et ce que cela signifie pour eux. En plus, ils auront une idée de ce que les gens peuvent faire pour minimiser les effets de leur passage sur la planète terre.



Description des camps:



| Lieu | Langage | Date | Type |
|-----------------|----------|----------------------|-------------|
| Tracadie-Sheila | Français | 30 juin au 5 juillet | Résidentiel |
| St. Andrews | Anglais | 28 juillet au 2 août | Résidentiel |
| Edmundston | Bilingue | 11 au 16 août | Résidentiel |



Camps d'Été Jeunesse Nature Inscription



Nous encourageons les clubs de naturalistes et les groupes communautaires à parrainer le coût de participation d'un jeune aux camps. Nous offrons un sincère merci au Fonds de Fiducie de la Faune du Nouveau-Brunswick pour leur support.



Information générale :

Age: 9-13

Coût: 250\$ la semaine

Arrivée: Dimanche à 16h30

Départ: Vendredi à 16h00

Dépôt: 100\$

Inscription hâtive

Un prix de 100\$ sera tiré parmi toutes les inscriptions reçues avant le 21 mai 2002.

A noter :

- ⊕ Pour un meilleur service, envoyez votre inscription le plus tôt possible
- ⊕ Les détails du camp vous seront postés lors de votre inscription
- ⊕ Les visites et les appels téléphoniques ne sont pas encouragés lors des camps
- ⊕ Un rabais de 50\$ est accordé à la 2e inscription d'une même famille

Postez votre inscription:

Lieu du camp : _____ (Tracadie-Sheila, St. Andrews, Edmundston) _____

Nom: _____ (prénom) _____

Adresse postale : _____ (rue) _____ (ville) _____ (province) _____ (code postale) _____

Date de naissance : _____ Sexe: _____

Téléphone: _____ Courriel: _____

Besoins spéciaux, allergies ou diète particulière : _____

S.V.P postez cette inscription avec un chèque ou mandat de poste à:

Fédération des Naturalistes du N.-B Programme des camps d'été

924 rue Prospect, Suite 2

Fredericton, N.-B, E3B 2T9

Courriel: nbfm@nb.aibn.com

Télé: (506) 459-4209



Summer Youth Nature Camps



This summer the NB Federation of Naturalists will host the first ever Summer Youth Nature Camps! The theme of our three weeklong residential camps is "exploring the natural world around you". Children aged 9-13 will be the camp participants with either French or English languages offered, depending on the camp location. The cost per child will be \$250, with subsidies possible.

Naturalist clubs and community groups are encouraged to sponsor a child to attend a camp program.

Camp Activities Include:

- Beach and forest ecology
- Music & Painting
- Birds and mammals
- Animal habits and habitats
- River and water ecology
- Campfires
- Plants, trees and shrubs of NB
- Visiting neat places
- Nature interpretation
- Dragonflies, butterflies and other insects
- Swimming
- Species-At-Risk
- A conservation project
- Games, sports and fun
- And much, much more



The camps will focus on having fun as well as on the full range of biota: both flora and fauna of the province, as well as their interrelations. The summer youth nature camps will highlight conservation and will foster an appreciation for wildlife of all species.

Children will leave camp with a wealth of knowledge in experiential learning. They will have a greater understanding of how life functions ecologically, what this means to them, and what people can do in order to lessen, or conserve, their impact on the earth.



Camp Details:



| Location | Tracadie-Sheila (en Français) | St. Andrews (in English) | Edmundston (bilingual/bilingue) |
|-----------|---|--|--|
| Date | 30 th June- 5 th July | 28 th July - 2 nd August | 11 th - 16 th August |
| Camp Type | Residential | Residential | Residential |

Summer Youth Nature Camps Enrolment



Naturalist clubs and community groups are encouraged to sponsor a child to attend a camp program. Sincere thanks to the Wildlife Trust Fund for their support of this program.



Camp Details:

Participant age: 9-13

Total cost: \$250

Arrive at camp: Sunday evening at 4:30pm

End of camp: Friday at 4:00pm

Registration deposit: \$100

Early Bird Registration

All registration deposit applications received by May 21st, 2002 will be entered into a draw in which one winner will receive a \$100 rebate for their deposit cost.

Please Note:

- ⊕ For improved service, please send your application as soon as possible
- ⊕ When your registration is received, camp details will be distributed to you
- ⊕ Visits/phone calls are discouraged when camp is in session; letter mail is fine
- ⊕ A rebate of \$50 will be offered for siblings

Please Mail in:

Camp selection: _____ (Tracadie-Sheila, St. Andrews or Edmundston) _____

Name: _____ (first name) _____ (surname) _____

Address: _____ (street) _____ (city) _____ (province) _____ (postal code) _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Age:** _____ **Gender:** _____

Telephone: _____ **Email:** _____

Special needs, allergies or dietary concerns: _____

Please send this form with a cheque or money order to:

NB Federation of Naturalists c/o Summer Camp Program
924 Prospect Street, Suite 2
Fredericton, NB, E3B 2T9

Phone: (506) 459-4209
Email: nbfnnb@nb.aibn.com



Dear Member of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists:

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is a registered, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Canadian biodiversity through the protection of ecologically significant natural areas, places of special beauty and educational interest. Since 1962, NCC has protected over 1.8 million acres nationwide, making it the leading conservation organization in the country. In Atlantic Canada we have protected more than 20,000 acres, featuring some of the most spectacular landscapes in the world. With more than 15,500 members across Canada, NCC has developed a strong and diverse support base.

NCC works to create nature preserves and to protect natural areas by purchasing land, accepting land donations and negotiating conservation agreements. In the upper Bay of Fundy, NCC has secured 259 acres of shorebird habitat. This area provides critical feeding and roosting sites for millions of shorebirds each year, including more than 70% of the world population of Semipalmated Sandpipers. In the Tabusintac Lagoon and Estuary, an internationally significant wetland, NCC has secured 823 acres of land. These are just two examples of the many ecological significant areas that NCC is working to protect in New Brunswick.

We are reaching out across the Atlantic region to encourage everyone who shares our passion for conservation to become a member of NCC. By doing so, you will help provide the resources needed to protect biodiversity, at a time when precious habitats are disappearing at an alarming rate.

By joining the Nature Conservancy of Canada, you are becoming a part of Canada's leading conservation organization!

Results You Can Walk On

Cut along this line and mail to:

The Nature Conservancy of Canada, 924 Prospect St., Suite 2, Fredericton, NB E3B 2T9

Become a member of the Nature Conservancy of Canada with a minimum gift of \$30 and help save Canada's best remaining natural habitats.

Yes, I want to join the NCC and help save our natural heritage !

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: () _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____

☐ Cheque - Payable to the Nature
Conservancy of Canada - Atlantic Region

☐ VISA ☐ Master Card
Card# _____ Exp: _____

☐ 30 \$ ☐ 50 \$ ☐ 100 \$ ☐ 200 \$

☐ Please tell me more about making my donation part of my financial and tax planning.

☐ Please check this box if you *do not* want NCC to share your name with like-minded organizations.

Botany Corner

Gart Bishop

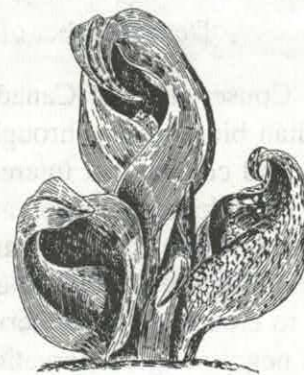
Skunk Cabbage - *Symplocarpus foetidus*

This uncommon wetland plant is easily identified in the spring by the thick, purple mottled leaf (spathe) which envelops and hides the small rank and unpleasant smelling fleshy flowers. A relative of the 'Jack in the Pulpit', Skunk Cabbage is found mostly in the alder thickets and swampy woods of the southwest portion of our province. The flower, formed in the fall, remains dormant until late March or April. As the buds swell, and the flower develops, the plant gives off a small amount of heat, often melting any surrounding snow. Soon after the flower is fertilized, the true leaves begin to push out of the ground like tightly rolled cigars, unfurling into huge (up to 60 cm) coarse leaves on thick stalks. By mid summer the marble-sized seeds are ripe and fall out from the decomposing fruit. The seeds, often germinating within a few feet of the parent plant, require five to seven years growth before producing flowers of their own. The horizontal stems (rhizomes) also help the plant spread, often growing 60 cm long, and may live indefinitely, perhaps for centuries.

While honeybees may stop at the hooded flower in early spring to warm up while on their search for pollen, Carrion flies, attracted by the unpleasant smell, are thought to be the chief pollinators. Numerous species of spiders take advantage of the narrow entrance



Photo by G. Bishop



Line art by M. Satterlee

to the flower by choosing this location to build their webs.

Like Jack in the Pulpit, Skunk Cabbage is full of calcium oxalate, and its roots, if eaten raw, produce an intensely acrid, burning sensation. The large leaves can be eaten, though perhaps not a prized and treasured treat. As these leaves should be picked when young, there is a danger of picking the similar looking, but poisonous leaves of False Hellebore (*Veratrum viride*), which commonly grows in the same habitats.

North American natives used the dried root in an infusion for coughs, colds and controlling convulsions. A leaf poultice was used for pain and swelling while raw leaves were chewed by epileptics.

The question asked in the winter issue [28 (4)] of Botany Quiz was 'what is the name of another common member of the lily family that also has yellow flowers in the spring but instead of fading away, develop into iridescent blueberries during the summer. Clintonia or Bluebead-lily, *Lis Boreale* (*Clintonia borealis*)

References:

- Eastman, J. 1995. The Book of Swamp and Bog; Trees, Shrubs and Wildflowers of Eastern Freshwater Wetlands. Stackpole Books. PA.
- Dana, Ms. W.S. 1893. How to know the Wild Flowers. Charles Scribner's Sons. NY. NY.

Nature News – Botany Ramblings

James P. Goltz

Mostly from 1 January to 15 April, 2002

Species New For New Brunswick

Sean Blaney discovered **Smooth Rupturewort** (*Herniaria glabra*) in a gravelly parking lot at Spednic Lake Provincial Park in late June 2001. This small-flowered European weed is prostrate and easily overlooked, and is not illustrated or described in commonly used field guides or in the *Flora of New Brunswick*. Congratulations, Sean, on adding another new species to the New Brunswick flora!

Rare Plants

The province's only known plant of **Round-headed Bush-clover** (*Lespedeza capitata*) was still extant at Grand Lake in 2001 (VC).



Early Bloomers

Congratulations to Cecil Johnston and Ethel Bosence for finding the first flower of spring (well, late winter, really). On March 4, they saw a single plant of **Coltsfoot** (*Tussilago farfara*) sporting two flowering stems at Chance Harbour, at a secret site that is as treasured by Cecil as one's favourite berry

patch. Although Gart Bishop had hoped to win the race for the first spring flower in New Brunswick, the blooms of **Whitlow Grass** (*Erophila verna*) that he found on February 23 were south of the border in Maine, near Freeport. Other New Brunswick reports of **Coltsfoot** in bloom included 20 blossoms at Bancroft Point on Grand Manan Island on March 26 (BDa), 4 blooms on a south-facing slope at Harvey Dam on March 31 (DSC, MM), about 250 flowers at Bancroft Point on Grand Manan Island on April 2 (BDa), "lots" at Rockwood Park in Saint John on April 4 (EP), 6 blooms on an east-facing embankment at Fredericton on April 5 (JPG), on an embankment near Hammond on April 8 (GB), along the road at St.-Gabriel on April 10 (ML, BL), at Edmundston on April 11 (PM), and at Penniac on April 13 (BDe). Brian Dalzell paid tribute to his patch of Coltsfoot with the following prose, "Such a stark (but very welcome) contrast at this time of year, to see a riot of yellow in a sea of brown."

A single bloom of **Dandelion** (*Taraxacum officinale*) was seen along a basement wall at St.-Gabriel on April 10 (ML, BL), and another was found at Edmundston on April 11 (PM).

Blooms of **Skunk Cabbage** (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) were already open near Hammond River on April 8 (GB), while the hundreds of plants seen at Upper Cape on April 11 still had unopened spathes (NP).

Woody Plants

The furry 'pussy willow-like' unexpanded catkins of **Trembling Aspen** (*Populus tremuloides*) were seen at the English Settlement Road, near Taymouth, on March 1 (JS), at Deer Island on March 2 (JPG, SS), and at Trout Creek near Sussex on April 8 (GB). On April 12, the fluffy seeds of Trembling Aspen "filled the air" at Taymouth (JS). Their close relatives, **Pussy Willows** (*Salix discolor*), in the pussy willow stage of their floral development were reported at on March 1 at Deer Island (JPG, SS), on March 1 on the Tantramar Marsh (RM, KP), on March 2 along the Bancroft Point Road on Grand Manan (LDM), by late March at St.-Gabriel (ML) and on April 8 at Trout Creek near Sussex (GB).

Male flowers of **Speckled Alder** (*Alnus incana*) had already elongated at Fredericton by April 2 but did not start to shed pollen there until April 11 (JPG).

A few **Silver Maple** (*Acer saccharinum*) were in bloom in the Jemseg area on April 7, but many were in full bloom in river floodplains between Maugerville and Jemseg on April 13 (JPG, SS).

A **Beaked Hazel** (*Corylus cornuta*) with at least six lovely burgundy-coloured female flowers was seen at Cambridge-Narrows on April 13 (JPG, SS).

Lichens

Patches of **Pink Earth Lichen** (*Dibaeis baeomyces*) were found along the steep shale cut banks bordering the English Settlement Road on about March 9 (JS, RW).

Fungi

Noella Gagnon reported that an empty robin's nest in a fir tree on her property on the old Shediack Road

was filled to the brim with 53 round objects resembling **Truffles**. On April 13, Nelson Poirier visited the site and confirmed that Noella had correctly identified the objects as truffles (*Elaphomyces* sp.) The specimens have been forwarded to Oregon for identification. This was undoubtedly the most exciting and noteworthy botanical find of the season. From telltale tooth marks on some of the specimens, Nelson surmised that the truffles had likely been cached there by a squirrel. All species of *Elaphomyces* truffles are supposed to be edible, but this premise has not been verified for our New Brunswick truffles.

Abbreviations: BDa Brian Dalzell, BDe Bonnie Deveau, BL Bernadette LeBlanc, DC David Christie, EP Eileen Pike, GB Gart Bishop, JPG James Goltz, JS Julie Singleton, KP Kathy Popma, LDM Laurie Murison, ML Mike LeBlanc, MM Mary Majka, NP Nelson Poirier, PM Pierrette Mercier, RM Ruth Miller, RW Robert Whitney, SS Shirley Sloat, VC Von Connolly

Nature News – Birds

Rose-Alma Mallet

January 10 to March 30, 2002

These data were collected from Naturenb, Moncton NC info line, Les Amis.e.s de la Nature du Sud-Est info line, and individual observers who reported by telephone.

On Jan.28-30 during a boat trip throughout the Grand Manan Archipelago, 3 Red-throated Loons (Plongeon catmarin) became the first observations of the year (DG,HJ). By March 8, Red-throated Loon were moving northward, one observed at Waterside on March 8 (DSC) and 9 at Cap Enrage on March 8 (DSC). On March 15, 20-25, Red-throated Loons flew past Point Lepreau Observatory (JGW). On March 7, Dedreic Grecian noted many Common Loon (Plongeon huard) in the Grand Manan Archipelago had started the process of dressing up for their summer season. A Northern Fulmar was recorded from the Grand Manan

Ferry on January 28 (DG,JH). A Red-necked Grebe (Grebe jougris) in alternate plumage was seen from a boat along the Grand Manan Archipelago by (DG) on March 7; and on the same day, one was reported at Welsh Cove with 3 Horned Grebe (Grebe esclavon) (MC).

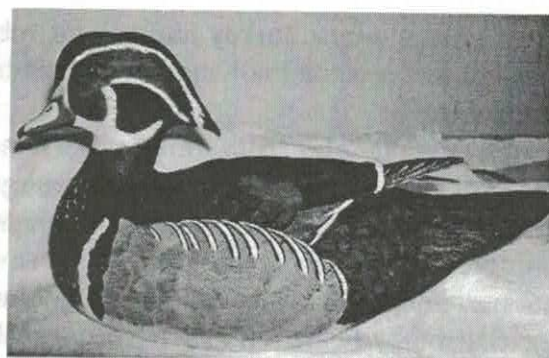
On January 29, a number of Northern Gannets (Fou de Bassan) were fishing off Grand Manan (DG, JH) and 7 adults were seen between Grand Manan and White Head Island on March 7 (DG). By March 12, Great Cormorants started their migration, 10 were spotted at Eddy Point in Grand Manan (BED).

Many Great Blue Herons (Grand Héron) appeared in different areas on March 31: 5 were at Mary's Point (NB+), one at Kennebecasis River Marshes (JGW), one in Moncton (AW), and another at Mactaquac Dam (DGG,CG).

On March 3, 300-400 Brant (Bernache cravant) appeared at Castalia Marsh and 40 at Woodward Cove (LPM) on Grand Manan Island. On March 7, Brant (4,350) seemed to be on every island with tidal rockweed flats with sea lettuce between Grand Manan and White Head (DG). At Maces Bay, 700 more were recorded on March 26 (EP, JW).

Early arrivals of Canada Geese were noted at several locations: 150-200 at Campbellton on Feb. 25 (MDG), 14 in Moncton on Feb 26 (VB), and 25 at Shediac River on Feb 27 (NP). On March 18, a flock of 100 Canada Geese (100) passed Mary's Point (DSC).

By the middle of March, Wood Ducks appeared at several locations: Lower Jemseg on March 22 (PAP,DGG) and one at Marsh Creek, Saint John on March 29 (MC). A Green-winged Teal (Sarcelle à ailes vertes) was seen in Shediac on March 10 (Ric.L) and one at Jemseg by Andrew MacInnis on March 11 (Fide DGG). A male Northern Pintail (Canard pilet) appeared at Pottery Creek, St. Andrews on March 12 (TD) and one was swimming in a small pond at Pellerin (Kent County) on March 18 (DD). American Wigeons were still present at the Irving Nature Park in Saint John on Feb. 22 (MC). Jim Wilson reported Kelly Honeyman counted 10 during the CBC in the same area. Jim thinks that the Wigeon spent the winter in the area. On Feb 23, 3 American Wigeons (Canard d'Amérique) were seen at Courtenay Bay, Saint John (DGG,JPG,SS). Another pair was observed on March 12 at Pottery Creek, St. Andrews (TD) and 5 were seen in Shediac on March 17 (RicL). The first Gadwall (Canard chipeau) of the year was reported at Courtenay Bay, Saint. John on Feb 24 (IC). Two pair of Ring-necked Ducks (Fulligule à collier) were observed near Saints' Rest Marsh on March 14 (JGW,JnW,PW), one on the St. John River on March 16 (BS), and 5 at Waterside on March 29 (JT). Gordon Dunphy identified a Scaup at Durham Village on March 9 and commented that scaups are not usually seen on the Nashwaak



Wood Duck
Carving by Hugh Parks

River. A Tufted Duck (Fulligule morillon) was found diving with a group of Scaup in South Bay near Saint John on March 18 (MC). By March 20, 1,000 Common Eiders (Eider à duvet) were moving up the Memramcook and Petitcodiac River (KP). Two adult King Eiders (Eider à tête grise) were identified with the Common Eiders, one at St. Andrews during the week of Jan. 6 (v.o.) and Scott Makepeace and Dwayne Sabine spotted one at Maces Bay on March 8.

White Head Island is the best place to view Harlequin Duck (Arlequin plongeur) in winter. Roger Leblanc reported 30 to 40 on Jan.26 and 100 were reported on March 21 (DG,BED). Scoters (Macreuse) migrated in small numbers past the Point Lepreau Observatory, 75-100 Black Scoters (Macreuse noire) and a few Surf Scoters (Macreuse à front blanc) were counted on March 22. (JGW,JnW,PW). On March 30, 1,300 Black Scoters passed the Point Lepreau Observatory (JGW). As expected, Barrow's Goldeneye spent the winter at the Cocagne Bridge (v.o.). An early sign of spring in Madawaska, 2 males Common Mergansers (Grand Harle) were seen at St. Basile on Feb.16 (JDB). Two Hooded Mergansers (Harle couronné) were spotted on the St. John River near Oromocto on March 12(PC). Kenneth MacIntosh startled a female Ruddy Duck (Erismature rousse) bobbing about among Common Goldeneyes at Courtenay Bay, Saint John on Jan.27.

The first migrating Turkey Vulture (Urubu à tête rouge) was seen on the Kingston Peninsula on March 26. (MC).

By the middle of Feb. various observers reported serious activities at Bald Eagle (Pygargue à tête blanche) nests. A pair of Bald Eagle were preening each other or repairing a nest at several locations: Sainte-Marie (Kent County), Jan.25 (OL); Salisbury, Feb.20 (BC); Riverside-Albert, Feb.26 (NB+); Taymouth. March 16 (GD); and Dipper Harbour, April 9 (EP, JW). A photograph of 10 Bald Eagles perched near the Moncton Waste and Recovery Plant was published in the Time & Transcript (Feb.11, NP). Cooper's Hawks (Epervier de Cooper) hunted around feeders during the winter: Shediac Bridge (Jan 12,SIT), Shediac (Jan. 17-20, RAM), Douglas (Jan. 19,BS), and West Saint John (Feb.6, DS). On March 13, 4 Red-tailed Hawks (Buse à queue rousse) migrated through New Horton (SIT).

On March 16, near Jemseg, 8 Rough-legged Hawks were spotted.(BS). Four of five times during the winter David Christie watched a Golden Eagle soar over the New Horton area.

A small number of Merlin (Faucon émerillon) overwintered: one in Taylor Village on Jan.23 (AC), Saint John on Jan 25 (RCW), Riverview on Feb 4 (K&DS), and Grand Manan on March 13 (BED). A pair returned to Fundy National Park Headquarters on March 14. They have been nesting there for many years (KT). An American Kestrel (Crécerelle D'Amérique) was seen on March 30 in Sackville (RM).

Killdeer(Pluvier kildir) started to arrive from the wintering ground in early March One was seen in Grand Manan on March 13 (BED) and one in New Horton on the same date (SIT). 125 Purple Sandpipers (Bécasseau violet) were standing on a small outcropping of rocks at Castalia Marsh in Grand Manan on March 12 (BED). A Common Snipe (Bécassine des marais) was reported at Sugar Loaf in Campbellton on March 10 by Gilles Rioux (fide MDG). American Woodcock (Bécasse d'Amérique) were seen in Fredericton

(JGW), Grand Manan (BED), and Saint John (HJD) on March 13. A large flock of Red-necked Phalaropes (Phalarope à bec étroit) were bobbing in the water near Gannet Rock on Feb, 7 (DG, JH).

On several occasions, David Christie and Mary Majka noted large groups of Gulls (600 -700) coming out of Champlain Mall in Moncton after dark. They also observed a large assembly of over 2,000 Gulls at high tide accumulated in the Riverview Superstore parking lot.

In St. Andrews, on Feb. 24, Brian Dalzell observed 3 Black-headed Gulls (Mouette rieuse). A Lesser Black-backed Gull (Goéland brun) was seen in Riverview on Feb.14 (DSC,MM). There were few reports of Glaucous Gull (Goéland bourgmestre) this year. One was seen at the St. Thomas Warf (Kent County) on Feb. 17 (RL). The Ring-billed Gulls (Goéland à bec cerclé) started to return by late February, 14 were seen in Riverside-Albert on Feb.27 (DSC).

In Memramcook, a pair of Great Horned Owl (Grand-duc d'Amérique) started hooting Jan.26 (RA) and a pair was calling in Sackville on Feb.3 and March 9 (KP, NG). There were many reports of Snowy Owl throughout the Province. Kathy Popma commented that she observed more Snowy Owl during the last 2 years than in previous years. On the Tantamar Marsh, Feb 17, Kathy spotted 6 Snowy Owls (Harfang des neiges) within 350 degrees. Snowy Owls were still on the Tantamar Marsh on March 31 (KP). On March 19, Pat Frenette saw a Northern Hawk Owl (Chouette épervière) near his home in Carlington (fide JDB). A single Barred-Owl (Chouette rayée) was observed along several busy roads, Saint John Feb.3 (v.o.), Campbellton Feb.16 (MDG), and Bayside Feb.26(DG,MT).

On Jan.30, a Belted Kingfisher (Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique) was reported around a small stream near Sainte-Marie in Kent County (OL), one on Deer Island on Feb.26 (DG,MT), one in Shediac on March 1 (FL) and one in Dipper Harbour on March 15 (JGW).

A Red-headed Woodpecker (Pic à tête rouge) and a Red-bellied Woodpecker (Pic à ventre roux) were seen regularly during Jan. and Feb. in Riverside-Albert (NB+, DSC). On March 17, James Donald reported, a three-toed Woodpecker (Pic tridactyle) in Nackawic.

A group of 50 or more Horned Lark (Alouette hausse-col) were feeding daily at a feeder in Memramcook throughout Jan. and Feb. (LL). Other flocks were seen near Sussex Feb.10 (JB) and Sackville (v.o.).

Boreal chickadees (Mésange à tête brune) were reported periodically during the winter as regular visitors at feeders in Memramcook-East (LB), Colpitts Settlement (HS), Shediac (RAM), Memramcook (YL), Alma (DR), Riverview (BB), Saint John (PDS), and Scoudouc (NB).

A large number of observers reported White-breasted Nuthatch (Sittelle à poitrine blanche) at their feeding station during the winter. 4 Winter Wrens (Troglodyte mignon) were singing by April 1 in Grand Manan (VB+). A Carolina Wren (Troglodyte de Caroline) was seen many times at its favorite peanut butter feeder in Memramcook-East from Jan.15 to Feb. 15 (LB) and another one appeared in New Maryland at the feeder of David Rees on Feb.8 (fide DGG).

There were few American Robins (Merle d'Amérique) in the Province this winter. They started to return in March. By March 19, 10 were seen foraging on frozen lawn in Grand Manan (BED), 400 in New Horton on March 29 (DSC), and Denys Bourque and Julie Bourque detected a small group in Madawaska on March 31.

A Gray Catbird was observed in Penniac Area on Jan. 15 (PP). Some birders in Saint John had great views of a Northern Mockingbird (Moqueur chat) in their yard (Feb.2 & 3, MC) (March 23, DS) and one mocker in Moncton enjoyed frozen strawberries. (March 18, CC).

This winter, few observers reported Northern Shrike (Pie-grièche grise), one in Saint John on March 16 (RW).

A Pine Warbler (Paruline des pins) and a Com-

mon Yellowthroat (Paruline masquée) fancied a yard feeder in Saint John through Jan. and a part of Feb. (PDS). An Orange-crowned Warbler (Paruline verdâtre) appeared daily at a feeder in Tracadie during the winter (RD). On Jan.26, a groupe of 5 or 6 Yellow-rumped Warbler (Paruline à croupion jaune) enjoyed eating dead insects thrown outside the Irving Eco-center in Boutouche (RAM+). A Yellow-breasted Chat (Paruline Polyglotte) lived from Dec.17 to Jan.27 in West Saint John (FK).

Northern Cardinals (Cardinal rouge) seem to have dispersed to different parts of the Province, 2 males were seen feeding in the Charlo area all winter (PMc) and a female visited a feeder in Kedgwick on Jan.18 (G&PE). They were also seen in Saint John on Jan. 13 (EP), Feb. 2 (MC), and Feb.6 (PDS). Some wintered in Dieppe (OD), Riverside-Albert (NB+), Fredericton (DGG) and one was seen in Petit Rocher on March 3 (MS).

Hilaire and Rose-Aline Chiasson identified an Indigo Bunting (Passerin indigo) in Pointe-Alexandre, near Lamèque, Jan.20.

A Green-tailed Towhee (Tohi à queue verte) proved to be an exciting discovery in West Saint John. Jim Wilson identified the towhee after Patricia Morien call to reported a different bird she was seeing intermittently in her yard. The towhee disappeared around Jan.23 but was seen at the same location on March 19 (MC). Two Eastern Towhee (Tohi à flancs roux) frequented feeders, one in Lower Lincoln near Fredericton (Jan.15, PAP) and one in Grand Manan (RL).

On Jan.14, a Field Sparrow (Bruant des Champs) was spotted in Riverside-Albert (SIT). Chipping Sparrow (Bruant familier) were seen at feeders in Bouctouche area on Jan 11 (MD), Sackville on Jan. 19 (SIT, RAM) and New Horton Jan. 18-31 (NB+). A Savannah Sparrow (Bruant des près) of Ipswich subspecies was reported in Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan on March 29 (AC). Brian Dalzell commented that two previous records exists for Ipswich subspecies for Castalia Marsh, March 25, 2000 and March 29, 1999. A



Barred Owl
by Steve Sierigk

Fox Sparrow (*Bruant fauve*), first observed on Jan.11 in Riverside-Albert (SIT), and throughout the winter months by various observers. Migrating Fox Sparrow started to arrive at the end of March: in Alma on March 22 (DR), Mary's Point on March 24 (DSC), Saint John on March 31 (DS), and Knightville on March 31 (JB). Small flocks of 30 to 40 Snown Bunting (*Bruant des neiges*) were reported by various observers. A spectacular group of 500 frequented a feeder on a second story balcony in Pont-du-Chêne, near Shediac, during March (JI). Among the flocks of Snown Bunting, some observers identified Lapland Longspur (*Bruant lapon*): 4 in Taylor Village on Jan.26 (AC), one in Edmundston on Jan 19 (JDB), Mactaquac Dam on Jan 23 (DGG,SS), and 2 in Cocagne on Feb.16 (VB,GA).

Reports of Rusty Blackbird (*Quiscale rouilleux*) were spotty and irregular this winter. Nev Garrity

commented that usually 3 to 5 Rusty feed at his home every winter, but this winter he saw just one. Six Common Grackle (*Quiscale bronzé*) frequented feeders early in Madawaska, (Feb.16, GV), (Feb.20, JDB). By March 2, a small group of Common Grackle migrated through Alma (DR).

A great bird, a Bullock Oriole (*Oriole à ailes blanches*), appeared in Bathurst at the feeder of Pat McLaughlin. Various observers studied and photographed this oriole while it visited the McLaughlin's yard regularly from December 22 to Feb.6. The final night, the temperature plunged to a minus 27 C degree. A Baltimore Oriole (*Oriole de Baltimore*) was seen in Saint John from Dec.17 to Feb.1 (FK) and in Moncton from Dec.1 to Feb.1 (JM).

Reports of White-winged Crossbill (*Bec-croisé bifascié*) activity at feeders were numerous. Many observers had Crossbill at their feeders for the first time. Some Crossbill appeared quite tame and allowed approaches to within several feet (v.o.). David Christie comment that the number of White-winged Crossbill in Mary's Point area was very high. He noted flocks as high as 700 on Jan.21. Twenty Red Crossbill (*Bec-croisé des sapins*) were seen at feeders in Sackville in Jan. (BW,NB+). The number of Pine Grosbeak (*Durbec des sapins*) was high this year. They were reported throughout the Province (v.o.). A group of 17 lingered at a feeder in Scoudouc after April 4. (NB)

By the middle of December, flocks of Common Redpoll (*Sizerin flammé*) enjoyed niger seed (v.o.). A Leucistic Common Redpoll (*Sizerin flammé*) showed up in Robertville with a flock of 350-400 Redpoll (March 29, MS). Hoary Redpoll (*Sizerin blanchâtre*) were seen throughout the Province (v.o.). In Dalhousie, Shirley Sharpe had 24 House Sparrow (*Moineau domestique*) at her feeders all winter.

Volunteers recorded the migration of seaducks at the Point Lepreau Bird Observatory (a project of the Saint John Naturalists' Club) from September 15 to November 10, 2001. Every Saturday

from November to mid-April, Kathy Potma and Ruth Miller monitored birds on the Tantamar Marsh. Bird Studies of Canada continued their owls survey. Special thanks to the families that hosted rare birds. We are thankful for the hospitality of M. & Mrs Pat McLaughlin (Bullock's Oriole), Brideau Street, Bathurst; M & MRS Mac Kingston (Green-tailed Towhee), Ridge Road, Saint John; and Léo Belliveau (Carolina Wren), Memramcook-Est.

Special thanks to Stuart Tingley, the compiler of the 2001-2002 NB Winter Bird List. 167 species of birds were seen between Dec. 1, 2001 and Feb. 28, 2002.

Abbreviations

AC Alain Clavette; AW Alma White; BB Bob Blake; BC Brian Coates; BED Brian Dalzell; BS Bev Schneider; BO Brenda Orr; BW Becky Whitam; CC Cathy Carter; CG Cathy Gibson; DD Denis Doucet; DG Dedreic Grecian; DGG Don Gibson; DR Doreen Rossiter; DS Dwayne Sabine; DS Dave Smith; DSC David Christie; EP Eileen Pike; FL Fred Léger; FK Frank Kelly; GA Ginette

Arseneau; GB Gilles Bourque; GPE Ginette & Pat Emond; GV Gérard Verret; HJD Henrik & Joan Deichman; HS Heather Sillicker; IC Ian Cameron; JB Jim Brown; JDB Denis Bourque; JGW Jim Wilson; JH Jeff Hoyt; JI Jean Inglis; JM Janet MacMillan; JnW Jean Wilson; JP Joan Pearce; JPG Jim Goltz; JR Jean Renton; JT John Tanner; JW Janet Whitehead; KP Kathy Potma; KDS Kathie & David Smith; KT Karen Townsend; LB Léo Belliveau; LL Lomer Leblanc; LPM Laurie P Murison; MC Merv Cormier; MD Mariette Demers; MDG Marquerite Doyle Gallant; MM Mary Majka; MS Marc Scichilone; MT MMAureen Toner; NB Normand Belliveau; NP Nelson Poirier; NG Nev Garrity; OD Oscar Duguay; OL Oscar Leblanc; PAP Peter Pearce; PC Pierre Champigny; PDS Peter Smith; PMC Pat McCorlick; PW Phil Withers; RA Ronald Arsenault; RAM Rose-Alma Mallet; RCW Ron Wilson; RD Robert Doiron; Rich L Richard Léger; RL Roger Leblanc; RM Ruth Miller; RW Ron Wilson; SIT Stuart Tingley; SM Scott Makepeace; SS Shirley Sloat; TD Tracy Dean; YL Yolande Leblanc; v.o. various observers.



Diseased Birds

James P. Goltz

(The following notes have been condensed from postings to the naturenb email list service. – Ed.)

As most of you know, I work as a veterinary pathologist for the NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture. On Thursday April 11, I received reports of sick and dying redpolls from the Stanley area and from St. Leonard. The affected birds evidently had fluffed up feathers, seemed lethargic and seemed to be abnormally tame. At Stanley, one bird was found dead in the bird feeder and another was found dead in the driveway. At St. Leonard, several birds have been found near a bird feeder. While performing a necropsy on a dead bird from St. Leonard, I found classical lesions of Salmonellosis (i.e., extensive areas of necrosis in the crop). Salmonella in redpolls and other finches typically targets the crop (the storage pouch in the esophagus) and affected birds often starve to death.

There was a massive outbreak of Salmonellosis in redpolls in northeastern North America in 1998, and it appears that the Salmonella problem in redpolls is re-emerging.

Salmonella is mainly transmitted from the feces of an infected animal (or human) by ingesting (swallowing) the Salmonella organisms. Please be sure to wash your hands thoroughly after filling bird feeders, especially before preparing food or eating. If you have any suspect cases of Salmonella in your yard, please be sure to thoroughly wash your feeders

with hot water and soap, apply a strong bleach solution (1 part javex to 9 parts water) for 15 minutes, and then thoroughly rinse the cleaned disinfected feeder before putting it back out.

Salmonella infection was (*later*) confirmed in the dead Common Redpoll that I received from St. Leonard. The isolate was identified as Salmonella typhimurium, the same species that caused the problem four years ago. This is our only confirmed case of Salmonellosis in wild birds in New Brunswick this year.

(*Later*) While doing my weekly CBC radio interview on birds this morning at 6:15, I received reports of "sick" Black-capped Chickadees at Nictau and Rusagonis. The affected birds apparently are continuing to feed, but "look terrible", with dishevelled feathers and a loss of feathers from around the neck. I have never seen chickadees with this appearance, but I wonder if they are merely undergoing a severe moult or have some disease problem. Please let me know if the chickadees in your area seem to be affected. If you find any dead chickadees with this lesion, I'd be happy to perform a necropsy examination on them to try to find out the cause. Please contact me for instructions on how to handle and ship the dead birds. I can be reached on weekdays at my office:

Provincial Veterinary Laboratory Phone: (506) 453-5412 E-mail: jim.goltz@gnb.ca Or, you can contact me at home on evenings or weekends: Phone: (506) 459-8685 E-mail: marph@nbnet.nb.ca

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

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