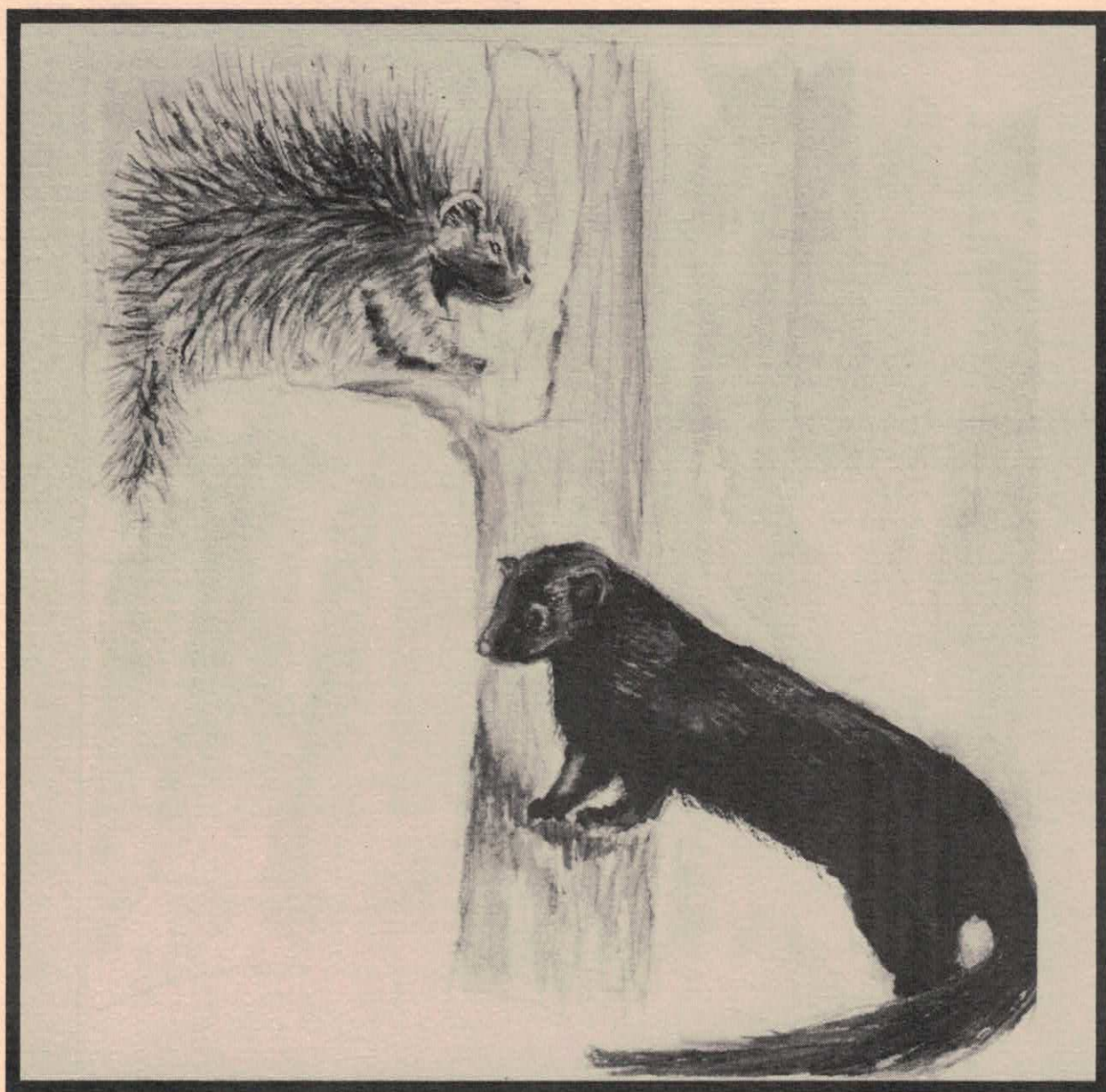




29 (2) Summer / Été 2002

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. E2K 1E5 Canada

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

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

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Celebration of Birds Nature Club (Gagetown), c/o Roberta MacKenzie 34 Mill Road, Gagetown NB E3B 1V1; 488-1908. 3rd Wednesday, January to April.

Chignecto Naturalists' Club, c/o CWS, Box 6227, Sackville, NB E0A 3C0; 364-5047; meets Sackville Public Library, 7:30 pm, 1st Thur., Sept.-June.

Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne, C.P.2041, St.Simon NB E8P 1L8; courriel: cnpa@francophone.net site web: <http://www.francophone.net/cnpa>; réunions au Club de l'âge d'or Landry, 1er mercredi, sept. à juin; *Le Gobe-mouche* mensuel.

Club de Naturalistes Vallée de Memramcook c/o Yolande LeBlanc, 251 rue Centrale, Memramcook NB E4K 3P8; tél 758-9583 (ou 758-0094); courriel: yolande@nbnet.nb.ca Site Web: <http://communities.fr.msn.ca/qcg3fpufgeupk9sj2visq6po> réunions 3e mardi de mois, Sept. à Juin, à la Bibliothèque de Memramcook. Sorties sont d'habitude le samedi suivant nos réunions.

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, a/s Abel Doucet, C.P. 4204, Dieppe, NB E1A 6E8, ligne d'information: 532-Buse réunions alternant

entre Dieppe et Shédiac, 1^{er} lundi de chaque mois; excursions 3ième samedi ou dimanche; *La plume verte*.

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

Fredericton Nature Club, Box 772, Station A, Fredericton, NB E3B 5B4; 455-2038; meets Odell Park Lodge, at Odell Park, 7:00 pm, 2nd Wed., Sept.-May; monthly newsletter.

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

Les Club des Naturalistes Chaleur, 9 rue des Cedres, nigadoo NB E8K 3T8; tél 783-0004, courriel: ginica@nb.sympatico.ca tient ses réunion le troisième lundis de chaque mois (de Septembre à Juin) à la Bibliothèque MGR-Robichaud / Salle d'Activités de Beresford à 19h00.

Moncton Naturalists' Club, Box 28036, Highfield Square P.O., Moncton, NB E1C 9N4; 857-4271 or 384-5212 or 384-6397 (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 3G1; 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, 7:30pm 2nd Mon., Sept.-May, elsewhere in June; monthly newsletter.

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

Published quarterly by the N.B. Federation of Naturalists, c/o New Brunswick Museum, 277 Douglas Ave., Saint John, NB E2K 1E5. Canadian Publication Mail Product Sales Agreement No. 487716. Return postage guaranteed. Please send notice of change of address to the **Membership Secretary**. Subscription rates (renewable before Jan 1st): individual \$20, family \$25, life \$1000, single issues - \$4 plus postage.

N.B. Naturalist carries articles and reports pertaining to the natural history of New Brunswick. Articles are invited in either English or French, and will be printed in the language in which they are received. The opinions expressed are those of the authors. **Please send all submissions for the N.B. Naturalist to: 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 N.-B.* avant le 1 janvier. Abonnements: individuel 20\$, famille 25\$, membre à vie 1000\$; un numéro 4\$ l'exemplaire plus les frais postaux.

On peut lire dans *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.* des rapports touchant l'histoire naturelle du Nouveau-Brunswick. Les articles seront acceptés en français ou en anglais pour être reproduits dans la langue d'origine. Les opinions exprimées sont celles de leurs auteurs. Veuillez faire parvenir toutes 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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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 future issues of N.B. Naturalist to:
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RAPPORT DU PRÉSIDENT / PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mike LeBlanc

Bonsoir. Good evening.

Bienvenue à la 30^{ième} Assemblée Générale Annuelle de La Fédération des Naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick / New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists au Pays de la Sagouine à Bouctouche.

What a very interesting year! It seems like yesterday, but it was last May in Florenceville when we last met at an AGM. Then and in the following weeks there was a lot of confusion about our liability insurance. Were we covered? Were we not? What was this thing exactly? And during those first few weeks I was asking myself what had I got into? Ouf! After a bit, things calmed down, but just a little.

As time progressed, things got busier and busier. Then everything changed in August when we found out that we had funds to hire someone to work directly for the NBFN.

Au mois d'août tout a changé. Le 25 août 2001 nous avons passé les entrevues pour notre directrice des programmes pour la FNNB. Nous avons passé une journée à entrevues des gens très talentueux pour ce poste. Mariëka Arnold fut choisie pour combler ce poste et nous sommes très contents. Ses premières fonctions étaient de compléter la trousse d'éducation des espèces en et de travaillé avec des projets de la Fédération déjà en place.

After a lengthy discussion and analysis of the NBFN - FNNB financial situation the board made the decision to change the fee structure to meet with rising publication costs of N.B. Naturalist - Le Naturaliste du N.-B. This is the integral and very important part of our organisation that we believe in strongly. At the 2001 AGM the decision to increase the club dues from \$1 to \$2 per member was to cover the liability insurance but we did not anticipate the jump in prices that September 11th has caused. The new structure that was established was \$20 for individual, \$25 for family (new price frame) and \$1000 for a life membership (also new). We are also now established as a charitable, not-for-profit organisation and can issue tax receipts for donations to the Federation.

After planning sessions last summer and later discussions with our program co-ordinator, the idea of hosting summer camps for young naturalists came up. A committee was put together to discuss the matter further. The NBFN - FNNB will be hosting at three different locations this summer: St. Andrews, Tracadie-Sheila and Edmundston were chosen for a pilot project. More details will be shared a little later this evening by our

summer camp co-ordinator, Brigitte Julien, who started with us on April 29th to get things ready for these summer camps.

We have the CCMN project that guaranteed Mariëka can be with us for the next year and we are thrilled to get to keep her on our team.

Nous aimerions souhaiter la bienvenue au Club Naturaliste de la Vallée de Memramcook, qui avait été accepter comme club fédéré l'an passé, de avoir finalement joint officiellement à fédération. Aussi nous aimerions souhaiter la bienvenue au Club Naturaliste Chaleur qui ont été accepter comme club fédéré hier soir à l'AGA.

We would like to welcome the Club Naturaliste de la Vallée de Memramcook that was accepted at last year's AGM, but officially joined the federation in the past week. Also at last night's AGM the Club Naturaliste Chaleur was welcomed as a federated club.

La fédération a grandi beaucoup cette année. Qui auraient vu tout ceci s'en venir? Les choses se déroulent à une vitesse incroyable, mais nous avons aussi des personnes incroyables qui travaillent dur à ce que la fédération fonctionne. Vous savez qui vous êtes et tout votre travail soit siéger sur des comités de la fédération, à autres organismes au nom de la fédération, à l'exécutif, à écrire des documents, des articles dans le Naturaliste du Nouveau-Brunswick, le conseil d'administration et bien, bien d'autre que je ne peux pas penser. What a great team we have! The list is just too long to mention, but you know who you are and you know what you do for the NBFN - FNNB. Thank you!

Thank you to all of you who make the NBFN work like it does. We are not only noticed more and more in the province but also all across Canada. Many people are quite impressed with the things that are happening here New Brunswick.

In the next year one of my main goals is to solidify what has been done in the past year and to increase our membership. Right now directly and indirectly we represent over 800 people in the province, individual members of the Federation and members through the clubs, and we have the potential for a lot more. So invite your friends to your local naturalist club meetings and tell them about the federation and what we do. We can help build an even stronger voice for nature in our wonderful province. We also have to continue environmental education by sharing what we know and what we see with others. That is such an important part of the naturalist movement.

Continued on Page 67

FISHER – THE UNKNOWN MAMMAL

Don Gibson

The following account appeared in The Telegraph Journal (The Reader) on November 10, 2001: "On Oct. 12 I saw near a meadow on Pond Stream Road (near Grand Lake) what looked to be a cougar. It had the face and ears of a cat. It was approximately three feet long, 20 or 22 inches high and long with a black tail. It was blackish-brown in colour and had short fur. It must have been a cougar, I never saw one before, but that's what it looked like." Although that report clearly describes a Fisher, it would seem the observer was totally unfamiliar with such a mammal and did not consider it as a possibility.

Normally a solitary animal that favours darkness over daylight, is shy of open areas and has been branded with an inappropriate name, the Fisher is seldom seen by experienced outdoorsmen and is almost unknown to the general population. During a rabies vaccination program in Charlotte County in 2001, two Fishers were live-trapped and released on the property of a trapper who didn't know they were there.

The name is quite a misnomer, as the Fisher is not a masterful fisherman and fish seldom are included in its diet. One theory is that the name may have come from its similarity to the European Polecat, whose names include "fichet", "fitche" or "fitchew". Another possibility involves the Otter, which is very much a "fisher", and does bear some resemblance in shape, size and colour. Perhaps many years ago, trappers unwittingly transferred the name and unfortunately it stuck. The French name, *Pékan*, conveys a more appropriate uniqueness.

The Fisher (*Martes pennanti*) is a member of the mustelid (weasel) family and is closely related to the American Marten (*Martes americana*). Males are generally twice as large as females, with weights ranging from two to six kilograms and lengths from 80 to 100 centimetres (including a tail 30 to 40 centimetres long). Females bear young in spring (average litter size 2.7) and breed again soon after giving birth. The animal then undergoes a delayed implantation period of about eleven months and a gestation period of one month, much like other members of the weasel family. Hollow trees often serve as nesting dens for this agile climber.

The Fisher is an opportunistic predator that normally hunts alone over a large area. It will feed on a deer carcass and occasionally fruit, including berries; however, it generally preys on small mammals such as mice, and on Snowshoe Hares and Porcupines. Why does the Fisher prey on Porcupines? Because it can! A combination of appropriate size, quickness and short legs gives the Fisher the tools that it needs to exploit this relatively untapped food source. Whereas Coyotes and Bobcats stand too tall and can't avoid the quills, the Fisher meets the Porcupine eye to eye. Darting in to bite at the face, it soon weakens its prey and is then able to

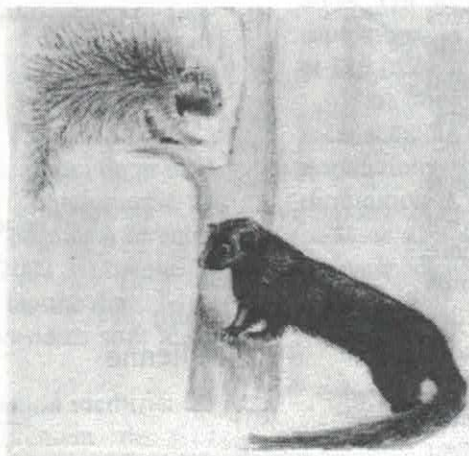
attack the soft belly from underneath. A degree of immunity to the effects of the quills gives the Fisher another advantage over the competition.

Five years ago Porcupines were considered plentiful at Kouchibouguac National Park, but more recently staff noticed the numbers dwindling. The reason for the decline became evident when Fisher tracks and scats were discovered.

As with many fur-bearing animals, the Fisher population was drastically reduced by trapping. Today it is estimated that 7 000 to 10 000 Fishers are in the province and the numbers appear to be increasing. They are common throughout the province, higher densities occurring near Canterbury, Juniper and Boiestown, and in the northern regions.

From 1970 to 1990 about 100 to 300 pelts were harvested per year; however, since 1990 the number has generally increased and 774 were taken in 2000/2001. Over that same time period pelt value increased from \$20 in 1970 to \$250 in 1986, then dropped dramatically over the next three years to about \$40. The value has remained relatively stable since then. The trapping season is in late November and early December, lasting two weeks in the north and three weeks in the south.

Seemingly the widespread attitude that wildlife is an endless resource has changed and the harvesting of Fishers is now properly managed by the province. Flexibility of habit requirements along with good numbers of Snowshoe Hares and Porcupines bodes well for the future of the Fisher. It is hoped that its population will at least remain stable or perhaps continue to increase.



OISEAUX DE RIVAGE DE LA PÉNINSULE ACADIENNE

Marcel David

Avec ses nombreux marais salés et bords de mer sablonneux, la Péninsule acadienne est un lieu de rêve pour l'observation d'oiseaux de rivage. Toutes les espèces de limicoles parcourant les provinces atlantiques comptent des individus qui s'arrêtent dans la région. Certains sites accueillent au-delà d'une vingtaine d'espèces par année. On considère même que le Pluvier siffleur est assez commun le long des rivages sablonneux. Des espèces considérées rares comme le Bécasseau à échasses, le Bécasseau de Baird et le Bécasseau roussâtre sont découvertes annuellement, et ce, à plus d'un endroit.

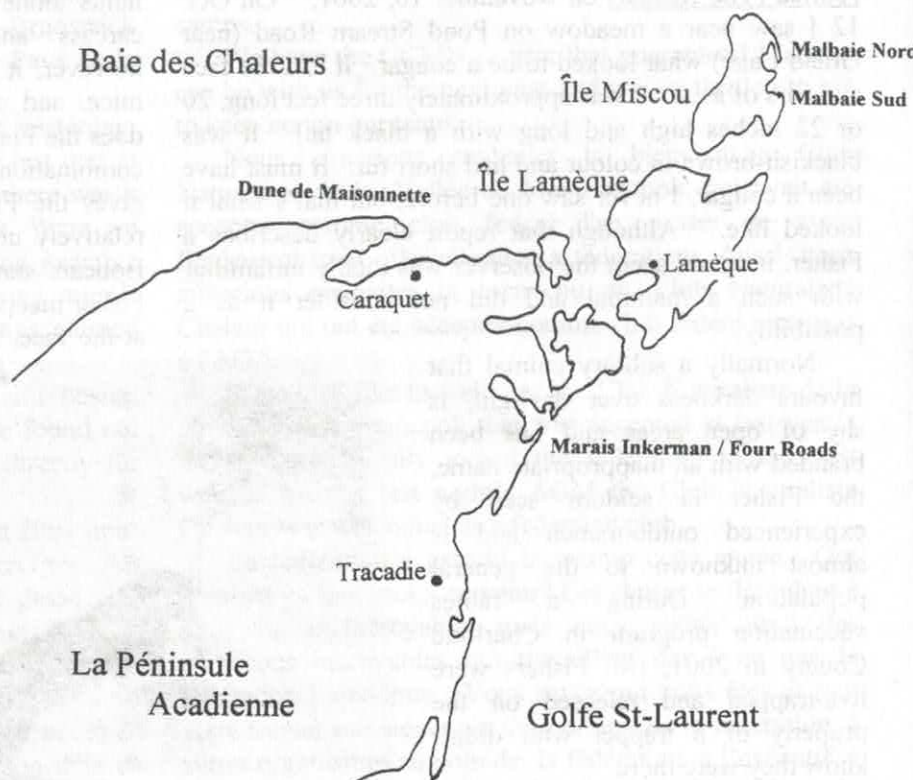
Je m'intéresse particulièrement aux oiseaux de rivage depuis 1998. Du printemps jusqu'à l'automne, je consacre la presque totalité de mon temps d'observation à effectuer des recensements de limicoles dans le cadre du programme "Maritimes Shorebird Survey" du Service canadien de la faune.

En 2001, j'ai visité principalement quatre sites soit la dune de Maisonnette, le marais entre Inkerman et Four Roads ainsi que la Malbaie Nord et la Malbaie Sud de l'île Miscou. Voici les points saillants de ma saison d'observation:

Dune de Maisonnette

En consultant les numéros des dernières années de "Calidris", périodique remis aux participants du "Maritimes Shorebird Survey", j'ai réalisé que la dune de Maisonnette représente le meilleur endroit de l'Atlantique pour admirer des limicoles durant le printemps. Une quinzaine d'espèces, en plumage nuptial, y sont identifiées. À mes yeux, l'oiseau vedette de la migration printanière est le Pluvier argenté. Le 30 mai, j'ai observé 103 individus de cette espèce dont plusieurs dizaines de mâles affichant leur splendide plumage noir et blanc. Cependant, le nombre total d'individus a été inférieur à la moyenne des dernières années pour la plupart des espèces.

La migration automnale du Bécassin roux s'est fait plus tôt que prévu, avec d'importants regroupements au début de juillet. Le 09 juillet, j'ai pu en compter 251, soit



la concentration la plus importante de cet oiseau à Maisonnette. La présence record de 37 Chevaliers semipalmés le 25 juillet a confirmé la croissance de la population de cette espèce dans la région. Depuis quelques années, il a réussi à nicher dans de nouveaux secteurs.

Marais Inkerman / Four Roads

Dans l'ensemble, les mares de ce marais salé n'ont pas été très invitées. Celles qui ont nourri le plus grand nombre d'individus en 2000 ont été très peu fréquentées. J'y ai repéré seulement une espèce rare soit le Bécasseau à échasses le 08 août. Toutefois, une mare a retenu l'attention d'un nombre appréciable de Bécasseaux semipalmés, avec 369 individus le 17 août.

Malbaie Nord

Peu de limicoles font un séjour à ce site le printemps car l'amplitude des marées hautes est trop élevée pour que des vasières viennent à sec. La Malbaie Nord est une lagune, c'est-à-dire une étendue d'eau, séparée de la mer

par une dune. Un goulet permet à l'eau de mer s'y introduire et d'en ressortir. Il faut donc attendre à l'été où la marée haute est moins forte pour remarquer une grande variété d'espèces et d'intéressants groupes d'individus. De plus, il est préférable de s'y rendre lors du premier et dernier quartier de la lune car le niveau d'eau est à son plus bas.

Le passage de 1 319 Bécasseaux à croupion blanc le 27 août a constitué un nombre record d'individus pour une seule espèce à une seule place depuis le début de mes recensements de limicoles. Les 162 Bécasseaux à poitrine cendrée observés le 24 septembre m'ont aussi ravi.

En octobre 2000, une violente tempête du nord-est a créé une petite brèche dans la dune non loin du goulet, établissant ainsi un territoire de nidification pour le Pluvier siffleur. Un couple a en profité pour établir leur nid.

Malbaie Sud

La Malbaie Sud est une autre lagune digne de grande considération. Il faut toutefois qu'un goulet puisse se former dans la dune, aidant ainsi l'eau de mer à circuler librement. C'est ce qui est arrivé en 2001. Lorsque le goulet est bouché, l'eau amenée dans la lagune durant une marée haute ne peut s'échapper. Les vasières sont alors de dimension réduite.

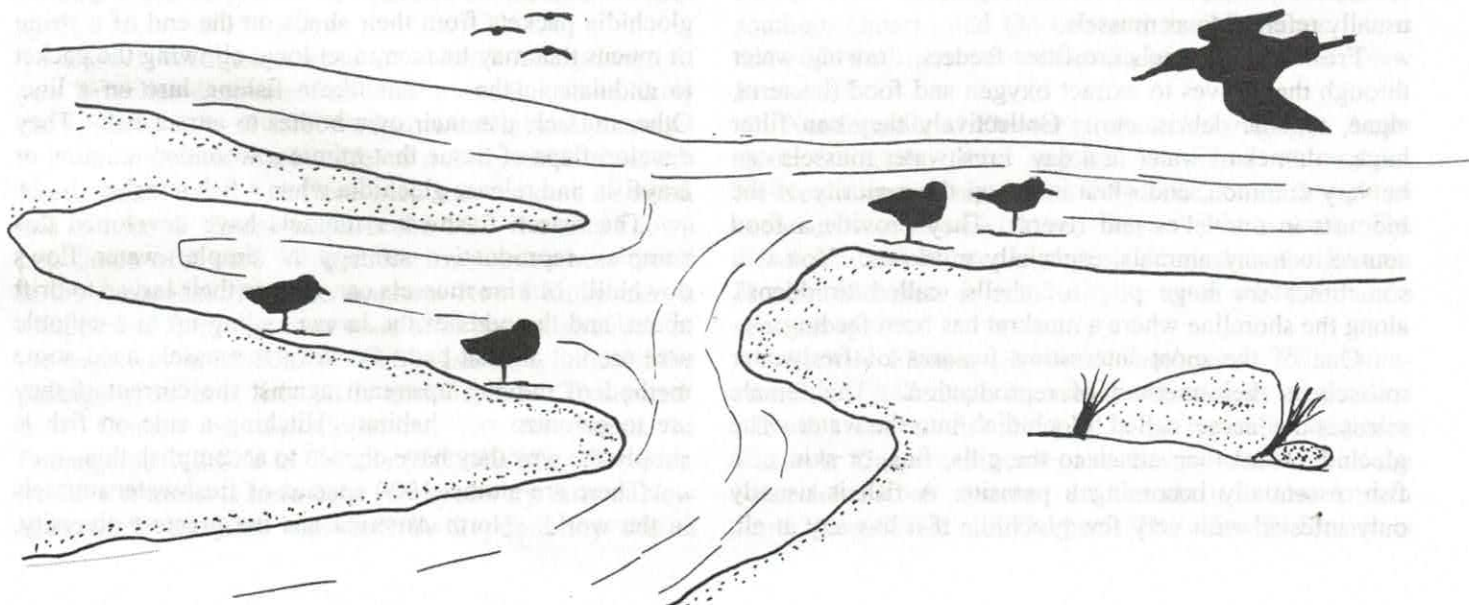
De juillet à septembre, je suis parvenu à identifier 23 espèces de limicoles. Le dénombrement de 677 Bécasseaux semipalmés (27 juillet), 96 Barges hudsoniennes (15 août), 86 Pluviers bronzés (27 août) et 14 Pluviers siffleurs (27 juillet) donne bonne réputation au lieu, d'autant plus que 4 Bécasseaux de Baird (15 août), 1 Bécasseau roussâtre (2 septembre) et 1 Bécasseau à échasses s'y sont attardés.

Bécasseau à croupion blanc

Suite à une lecture attentive de "Calidris" et de messages diffusés dans les groupes de discussion de NatureNB, NatureNS, NaturePEI et NFBirds, je suis venu à la conclusion que la Péninsule acadienne est la destination par excellence du Bécasseau à croupion blanc lors de son migration nord-sud en Atlantique. On repère habituellement cette espèce de la mi-juillet à la mi-novembre. Il a été particulièrement abondant le 27 août avec 1 319 individus à la Malbaie Nord et 744 individus à la Malbaie Sud.

Préférant les zones boueuses, le Bécasseau à croupion blanc a été très visible à la Malbaie Sud tout au long de la saison. En effet, j'en ai aperçu un le 16 juillet, 130 le 27 juillet, 69 le 31 juillet, 393 le 08 août, 414 le 15 août, 744 le 27 août, 398 le 02 septembre, 111 le 10 septembre, 432 le 17 septembre et 115 le 24 septembre.

J'ai toujours l'intention de poursuivre mes recensements d'oiseaux de rivage dans le futur. Les populations de plusieurs espèces sont en nette diminution et il est crucial qu'une collecte de données se fasse afin de mieux comprendre la situation et de préparer des plans d'intervention pour assurer leur sauvegarde.



FRESHWATER MUSSELS OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Dwayne Sabine

Mussels or clams: most of us have seen the shells of these creatures along our lake and river shores, but few of us have stopped to have a close look to try to identify them. They exist in a wider variety than you may think, have fascinating life histories, and are found in almost every type of permanent freshwater habitat.

Freshwater mussels are neither mussels nor clams, at least in the sense that we normally apply these terms to the marine species that are regular fixtures on our supermarket seafood counters. However, they are closely related to the marine mussels and clams – all of these species, together with oysters, scallops and other similar species, are called bivalves (they have a pair of hinged shells). Freshwater mussels all belong to the order Unionoida, and you will sometimes see them referred to as 'unionids' or 'unios'. Unionids do appear to show a greater degree of similarity to marine mussels rather than to clams, so they are usually referred to as mussels.

Freshwater mussels are filter feeders, drawing water through themselves to extract oxygen and food (bacteria, algae, organic debris, etc). Collectively they can filter huge volumes of water in a day. Freshwater mussels can be very common, and often make up the majority of the biomass in our lakes and rivers. They provide a food source to many animals, especially muskrats. You will sometimes see huge piles of shells, called 'middens', along the shoreline where a muskrat has been feeding.

One of the most interesting features of freshwater mussels is their method of reproduction. The female releases the larvae, called 'glochidia', into the water. The glochidia must then attach to the gills, fins, or skin of a fish, essentially becoming a parasite. A fish is usually only infested with very few glochidia if it has any at all,

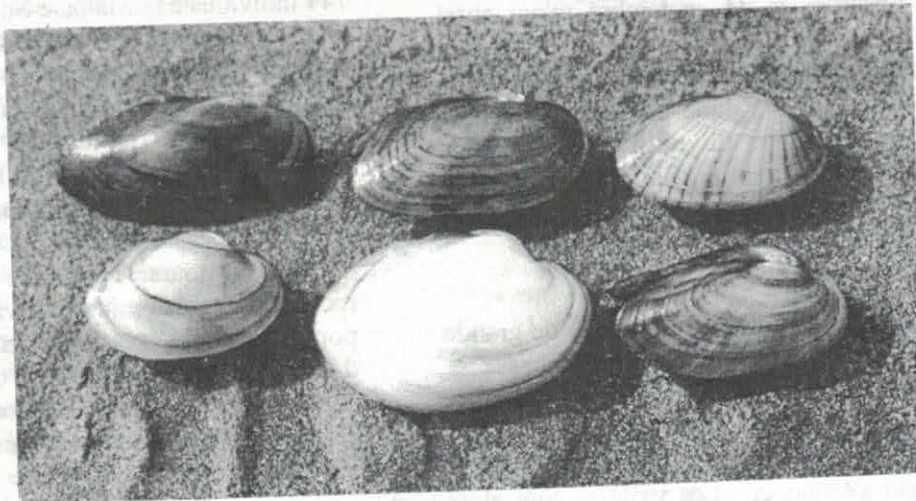
and apparently is not harmed. Each mussel species can only parasitize a particular species, or possibly a few species, of fish. If a glochidium has attached to the correct fish species, it stays attached from a few days to a few months, and then drops off and burrows into the sediment. If the site is appropriate for that mussel species, it then grows to the adult stage.

Freshwater mussels have developed many ways to tempt fish into carrying their glochidia. Some species release their glochidia in little packets that mimic some food source that the fish eat, such as insect larvae or small fish. Most mussels release these packets into

the water, where they might be eaten by fish, allowing glochidia to attach to their gills. However, some freshwater mussels actually 'go fishing', releasing these glochidia packets from their shells on the end of a string of mucus that may be many feet long, allowing the packet to undulate in the current like a fishing lure on a line. Other mussels use their own bodies to attract fish. They develop flaps of tissue that mimic a wounded minnow or crayfish, and release glochidia when a fish attacks.

The reason freshwater mussels have developed this complex reproductive strategy is simple: water flows downhill! Marine mussels can release their larvae to drift about, and the odds of the larvae ending up in a suitable area are not all that bad. Freshwater mussels need some method of moving upstream against the current if they are to colonize new habitat. Hitching a ride on fish is simply the way they have chosen to accomplish this.

There are almost 1000 species of freshwater mussels in the world. North America has the greatest diversity,



The six freshwater mussels pictured above can be found throughout much of the lower St. John River.

Top row, left to right: Alewife Floater, Eastern Elliptio, Eastern Lampmussel
Bottom row, left to right: Tidewater Mucket, Yellow Lampmussel, Eastern Floater

with nearly 300 species. Most of them are found in the Mississippi River basin, especially the Ohio and Tennessee rivers. Freshwater mussels are one of the most endangered groups of animals in North America. Approximately 10% of the 300 North American species are believed to be extinct. Only about 25% of these species are thought to be stable. Reasons for the troubling status of this group are varied, and include damming of rivers, pollution, siltation, loss or declines of host fish species, and the introduction of the exotic Zebra Mussel into the Great Lakes and Mississippi River systems.

Although North America has a high diversity of freshwater mussels, only 12 species are found in New Brunswick. However, these include a few species that are quite rare in Canada and in North America. Most of our species are part of the Atlantic Slope fauna, and are found in the rivers flowing into the Atlantic Ocean from eastern Canada to Georgia in the southeastern US. A brief description of each of our species follows.

Eastern Pearlshell (*Margaritifera margaritifera*): This is a fairly large-sized species with an almost banana-shaped shell that is black in colour when mature. It lives in cool, clean rivers and streams, and in Canada it is found in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces. This is our only North American freshwater mussel species that is also found in western Europe – it occurs wherever its host fish, Atlantic Salmon, is found. The Eastern Pearlshell is endangered or extirpated from much of its European range, and has disappeared or is in decline in many of the rivers in the southern parts of its range in North America (New England and southern New Brunswick), where Atlantic Salmon populations are in trouble. It remains a common freshwater mussel species in New Brunswick salmon rivers however. One interesting fact about this species is that it is the oldest-living invertebrate known. Some Eastern Pearshells have been documented to reach ages in excess of 150 years!

Dwarf Wedgemussel (*Alasmodonta heterodon*): If you have heard of one freshwater mussel, this is likely the species. The Dwarf Wedgemussel is a tiny mussel that was known from a handful of river systems in eastern North America. It has since been lost in some of these, and is listed as 'Endangered' in the US. The only known population of Dwarf Wedgemussel in Canada was found in the Petitcodiac River in southern New Brunswick. It disappeared from that river soon after the construction of the causeway in Moncton, which presumably blocked the passage of its host fish. It is now listed as 'Extirpated' from Canada by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). However, freshwater mussels have been surveyed very little in New Brunswick, so there may still be a possibility that a

population of Dwarf Wedgemussels is tucked away in another stream or river somewhere, awaiting discovery.

Brook Floater (*Alasmodonta varicosa*): The Brook Floater is a small freshwater mussel that has been reported from only a few places in the province. In Canada it is known from only Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The Brook Floater is found in flowing waters, from small brooks to large rivers, and is known to use a variety of host fish. It has declined in much of its range, and occurs in low numbers wherever it is found. It is considered a candidate for assessment by COSEWIC.

Triangle Floater (*Alasmodonta undulata*): This small species is found in scattered locations throughout New Brunswick, usually in low numbers. It is also known in Canada from Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia. The Triangle Floater occurs in a variety of habitats, from lakes to streams, and uses a number of host fish species. It appears to be imperiled in southern parts of its North American range.

Creeper (*Strophitus undulatus*): The Creeper is a medium-sized mussel that might be found in lakes and slow-moving rivers or streams. It has one of the widest distributions of any North American freshwater mussel, and is found throughout much of the eastern half of the continent. In Canada, Creepers are found from Saskatchewan to Nova Scotia. They are known in New Brunswick from only a single published, historical record. However, their wide distribution across Maine suggests that they are likely found across New Brunswick as well.

Eastern Floater (*Pyganodon cataracta*): The Eastern Floater is a relatively large species, but has a thin, fragile shell. It is found in a wide variety of habitats, from lakes and rivers to beaver ponds and marshes, and its thin shell allows it to live in areas with silty substrate where heavier species would sink. It uses a wide variety of host fish species, and its Canadian range includes southern Ontario and Quebec and the Maritimes. It is one of the most common species found in New Brunswick.

Newfoundland Floater (*Pyganodon fragilis*): As its name suggests, this species is found throughout Newfoundland. It also exists in Quebec, and is thought to occur in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia as well. The Newfoundland Floater is almost identical to the Eastern Floater, and there is some dispute as to whether it is a separate species.

Alewife Floater (*Anodonta implicata*): This large-sized, thin-shelled species uses the Gaspereau (also called Alewife) as its fish host. It is typically common wherever Gaspereau occur, and is very abundant in the Saint John River system. In Canada it is also known from Nova Scotia and Quebec. The Alewife Floater is

found in habitats that young Gaspereau frequent, typically lakes and large rivers.

Eastern Elliptio (*Elliptio complanata*): Our most common and widespread species, the Eastern Elliptio is found in a wide variety of habitats, uses a number of host fish species, and is tolerant of habitat disturbance and pollution. In Canada, it can also be found in Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario.

Tidewater Mucket (*Leptodea ochracea*): The Tidewater Mucket is a medium-sized, round, yellowish-coloured mussel that is found, as its name suggests, very close to the coast. Its host fish is unknown, but it is almost certainly an anadromous species such as Gaspereau. This species appears to be imperiled in much of its eastern US range. In Canada, the Tidewater Mucket is found in only a few river systems in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and it is considered a candidate for assessment by COSEWIC. The lower St. John River system in New Brunswick appears to have a large, healthy population, and may in fact harbour the bulk of the global population of Tidewater Mucket.

Yellow Lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*): This large, brightly-coloured yellow mussel is found in Canada only in the Sydney River in Nova Scotia and in the lower St. John River and its tributaries in New Brunswick. It was known in New Brunswick from only a single shell found near Mactaquac in the early 1960s but was rediscovered during 2001. It appears to prefer large, non-acidic rivers and lakes with sand substrate. As with the Tidewater Mucket, the Yellow Lampmussel appears to be imperiled in much of its eastern US range, and is considered a candidate for review by COSEWIC. It is also similar to the Tidewater Mucket in that the lower St. John River system appears to have a fairly large, healthy

population of Yellow Lampmussels that may represent the bulk of the global population.

Eastern Lampmussel (*Lampsilis radiata*): The Eastern Lampmussel is a large, green-striped species found in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario. It is found in a variety of aquatic habitats, but typically in larger rivers and lakes. The Eastern Lampmussel uses a variety of host fish species, and is relatively common in New Brunswick.

If you would like to learn more about these fascinating inhabitants of our freshwater systems, you can obtain a copy of "The Freshwater Mussels of Maine", by E.J. Nedeau, M.A. McCollough, and B.I. Swartz. This book provides a great introduction to the world of freshwater mussels, including much general information, species accounts for the 12 species described above, and results of the recent atlas of freshwater mussels in Maine. It is available for US\$12.00 (\$10.00 + \$2.00 shipping, payable to the "Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund") from:

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Attn: Information Center
41 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0041
Phone: (207) 287-8000

If you have internet access, it is also worth checking the [Unio Gallery](http://courses.smsu.edu/mcb095f/gallery/) (<http://courses.smsu.edu/mcb095f/gallery/>), which provides images of many species with emphasis on the fascinating reproductive techniques. There are even short movies detailing some of the more spectacular fish-luring freshwater mussel species.

Dragonfly 1 – Sandpiper 0

Dwayne Sabine

I made an interesting observation on July 23, 2002 on the St. John River in Fredericton. I was watching a large dragonfly called a Prince Baskettail (*épithèque princière*) patrolling back and forth low over the water about 15 m offshore when a male Dragonhunter (*l'hagénie*) buzzed in and appeared to attempt to capture it. The Dragonhunter is one of our larger dragonflies which, as its name suggests, often preys on other dragonflies.

The Prince Baskettail took off immediately. At that moment a Spotted Sandpiper (*Chevalier grivelé*) happened to fly by in the opposite direction, six to seven metres away and just over the water. The Dragonhunter instantly turned and gave chase. The sandpiper noticed

this at once, and began calling excitedly while putting a lot more effort into its flight speed. This was to no avail, as the dragonfly closed to well within a metre after a 50 m chase, the sandpiper calling loudly the entire time. The sandpiper then did exactly what it often does when chased and almost caught by a falcon - it closed its wings and dived under the water. The Dragonhunter did a quick U-turn over the ripples and then took off back downstream, and an instant later the sandpiper popped up and departed upstream.

I suppose the Dragonhunter was simply exhibiting a very extreme degree of territoriality, but it was still curious to see the bird behave as it did.

LA DIGESTION DES FRUITS DU MYRIQUE DE PENNSYLVANIE CHEZ LA PARULINE A CROUPION JAUNE ET L'HIRONDELLE BICOLORE

Denis Doucet

Les cires consistent d'une variété de formes de longues chaînes d'acides gras. Physiologiquement, elles sont parmi les formes de nourriture les plus difficiles à digérer. Par contre, certains oiseaux ont évolué la capacité d'utiliser la cire comme source importante d'énergie. Certains oiseaux de mer tels que les océanites et les alques métabolisent facilement les cires retrouvées abondamment dans les carapaces des crustacés marins qu'ils consomment.

Par contre, très peu d'oiseaux terrestres ont évolué cette capacité. Un exemple bien connu est celui des indicateurs de l'Afrique ("Honeyguides" qui mangent la cire d'abeille). Il est intéressant de noter que deux des rares exceptions à ce phénomène peuvent être observées facilement ici au Nouveau-Brunswick. Le myrique de Pennsylvanie est un arbuste qui pousse abondamment le long de la côte est de notre province, particulièrement sur les dunes côtières (p.ex. La Dune de Bouctouche ou le parc national Kouchibouguac). Elle produit des grappes de petits fruits vert pâle très durs durant l'été, qui deviennent gris-bleu à l'automne. Les fruits persistent sur l'arbuste au moins jusqu'au printemps suivant. Afin de mieux résister aux hivers rigoureux, ces fruits sont recouverts d'une épaisse cuticule constituée en grande partie de cire. À cause de cette cire, très peu d'animaux sont capables d'en obtenir suffisamment d'énergie pour justifier sa consommation, malgré le fait que plusieurs s'essaient (p.ex. le renard roux, réf. Patrick Doucet, comm. pers.).

Fait intéressant, ces fruits ont longtemps servi comme source de cire dans la fabrication de chandelles. Cette pratique persiste encore aux Maritimes et dans les États de la Nouvelle-Angleterre, surtout au Maine, Massachusetts et New Jersey (les fameuses « Bayberry Candles », très finement odorantes...).

Curieusement, deux de nos espèces indigènes, la Paruline à croupion jaune et l'Hirondelle bicolore consomment des grandes quantités de ces fruits. Des expériences récentes en laboratoire démontrent qu'ils sont capables d'assimiler 80% ou plus de l'énergie disponible de la cire de ces fruits, et ceci par des mécanismes encore mal compris (Allen Place et Edmund Stiles, 1992). La paruline à croupion jaune est vraiment la seule espèce de paruline qui hiverne régulièrement dans nos zones tempérées, tandis que l'hirondelle bicolore peut résister à des périodes inclementes au printemps beaucoup mieux que ses cousines, ceci étant dû à la disponibilité de cette source de nourriture bien particulière. Elle arrive en moyenne 2 semaines plus tôt que ses congénères et autres équivalents écologiques. Ceci l'aide à choisir les meilleurs endroits à nicher lorsque la compétition est moindre.

Références :

Gill, F.B., Ornithology, 2 édition, 1995, W.H. Freeman and Co., New York, p. 163, boîte 7-2.

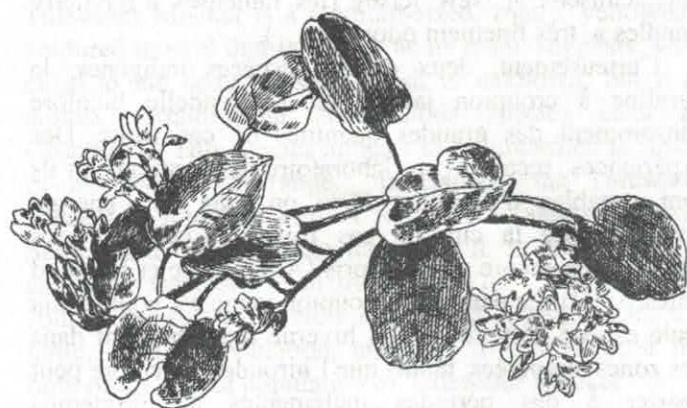


Figures 1 et 2- La Paruline à croupion jaune (à gauche) et l'Hirondelle bicolore, deux espèces indigènes du Nouveau-Brunswick, sont parmi les rares espèces d'oiseaux terrestres au monde capables de digérer la cire. En fait, ces oiseaux ingèrent une quantité importante des fruits du myrique de Pennsylvanie, un arbuste qui pousse notamment sur les dunes de sable côtières de la côte est du Nouveau-Brunswick et dont les fruits sont enrobés d'une épaisse cuticule de cire qui représente environ la moitié du poids total du fruit.

BOTANY CORNER

Gart Bishop

Mayflower, or Trailing Arbutus (*Epigaea repens*), is one of our eagerly sought spring wildflowers. You may be surprised to learn that this familiar plant is actually a shrub, a member of the heath family which also includes blueberries and cranberries (*Vaccinium* spp.). Finding



Mayflower in bloom
Drawing by M. Satterlee

the small pink or white blossoms hiding underneath the thick leathery evergreen leaves is a delight in April and May, which is enhanced when the sweet fragrance is encountered. This common New Brunswick plant is normally found creeping along the forest floor in cool, moist, coniferous or mixed woods, often becoming abundant along old bush roads or forest stand margins.

It is the provincial flower of Nova Scotia and the state flower of Massachusetts. From the 1830s onward, this humble plant has been celebrated in song, poetry and political oratory. Its high profile has meant it has been collected in volume for sale in farmers' markets, often threatening the continuance of local populations.

While much is made of the flowers, little attention has been focused on the fruits of Mayflower. Stephen Clayden, curator of botany at the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John, recently discovered an interesting article on how Mayflower relies on ants for dispersal of its seeds (Clay 1983). Such a relationship, given by the scientific community the imposing title of 'myrmecochory', is uncommon.

Being dioecious, each Mayflower plant produces either male or female flowers. Pollination occurs by a

variety of flying insects and ants. The resulting fruit, a hairy, fleshy, nearly globular capsule, is initially green, typically turning red and then purple as it matures. Just prior to opening the capsule, it is about the size of a large pea. As it opens, hundreds of tiny brown seeds are found to be embedded on the surface of a white, sticky tissue which is distinctly sweet to the taste and is the main attraction for the ants. As the ants gather bits of this tissue seeds stick to them, eventually brushing off as they make their way back to the nest. While birds and rodents might eat the whole fruit and defecate the seeds elsewhere, ants appear to be the primary dispersal agent for Mayflower. Interestingly, Mayflower is the only known shrub in eastern North America to be so reliant on ants.

This summer, I am going to keep an eye open for a colony of Mayflowers to see if I can find a ripe fruit. No doubt the ants will beat me to it, but at least now I know to look for more than just a pleasant smelling spring flower.



A.



A. Mayflower with young fruit
B. Mayflower with ripe fruit
Drawings by Anne Wilkinson

References:

- Clay, E. 1983. Myrmecochory in the Trailing Arbutus (*Epigaea repens* L.). Bull. Torrey Botanical Club 110 (2): 166-169.

Further reading :

- Birdseye, C. and E. Birdseye. 1951. Growing Woodland Plants. Dover Publications Inc. New York, NY.

Christmas Bird Count — 2001-2002

David Christie

Despite the addition of two new areas, Saint-Paul and Chipman, and the return of Minto, the number of Christmas Bird Counts conducted in New Brunswick this winter dropped from 45 to 44. Not carried out were Grand Manan, Salisbury, Queenstown and Kedgwick. Their absence significantly affected the provincial totals, particularly of seabirds, which are always numerous at Grand Manan.

The 44 counts tallied 138,192 birds, down about 24,000 from the previous year's total with Grand Manan excluded. The 132 species reported on count day (+15 additional during the count period) was up from the previous year but less than the record 139 in 1999-2000.

A very mild late fall and early winter and a late influx of western vagrants produced several species never reported on our counts before. Reported on count day were **Ash-throated Flycatcher** (Sackville, also one in count period at Jemseg), **Red-eyed Vireo** (Saint John), **Yellow-throated Warbler** (Tracadie-Sheila), **Summer Tanager** (Fredericton), and **Bullock's Oriole** (Bathurst). New for the count period were **House Wren** (Saint John), **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (Sackville), **Black-and-white Warbler** (Moncton) and **Green-tailed Towhee** (Saint John). The towhee and the oriole were particularly significant, as newly confirmed species for the province.

Also unusual on the counts were **Turkey Vultures**, **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, **Carolina Wren**, **Gray Catbirds**, **American Pipits**, an **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Yellow-breasted Chats**, a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** and nine **Baltimore Orioles**.

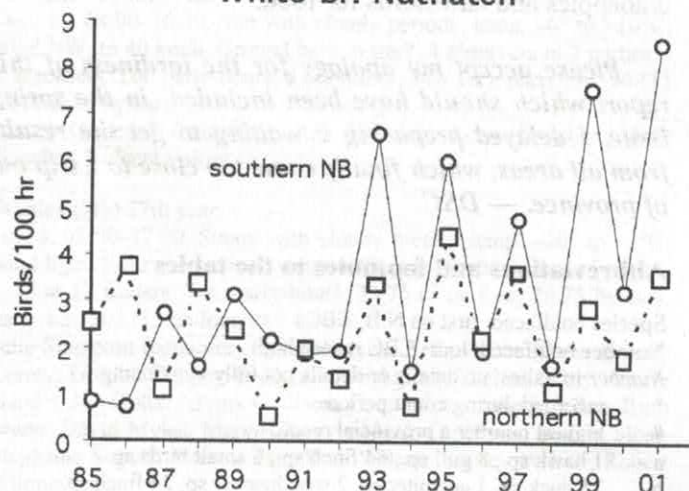
The late freeze-up was largely responsible for numerous water birds being found in greater than normal numbers whereas few were scarcer than usual. So, **Common Goldeneyes** and **Red-breasted Mergansers** found more areas of suitable open water than they usually do. The high numbers of **Common Eider**, not obviously weather-related, were comprised mainly of a large concentration that has been noted in Passamaquoddy Bay the past four winters. **Ring-billed Gulls** lingered late in greater numbers than ever before.

Most raptors were also more plentiful than usual. Sackville and Jemseg were the hotspots, where vole abundance and lack of snow supported numerous **Rough-legged Hawks** and a surprising number of **Northern Harriers**. There was a significant flight of **Snowy Owls**; almost half of those counted were found at Miscou.

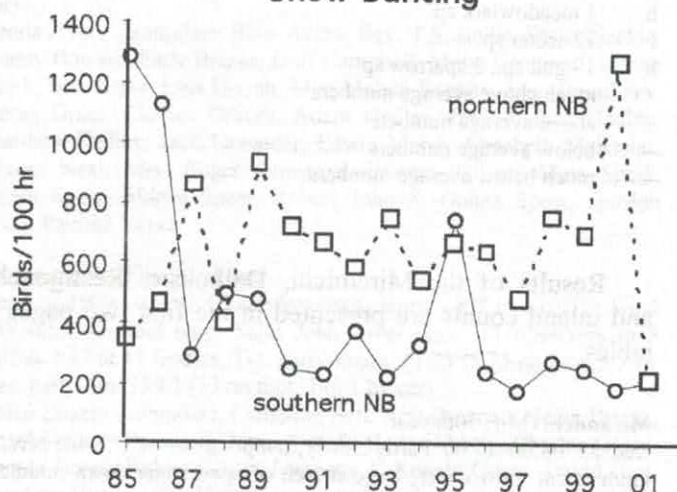
Among songbirds there was more of a balance between the number of species that were more common and those that were less. **Black-capped Chickadee**,

Common Redpoll and **Pine Grosbeak** were the most obvious ones present in increased numbers. The former group made large influxes into (and through) the province because of a shortage of tree seeds in Quebec. Although less common than these, **White-breasted Nuthatches** took a big jump this winter. Recently, they have had alternating low and high years.

White-br. Nuthatch



Snow Bunting



Am. Tree Sparrow, **Snow Bunting** and **Evening Grosbeak** were conspicuously on the low side. Many individuals of the sparrow and bunting may not yet have moved this far south because of the very light snow

cover. Evening Grosbeaks have been declining for a decade.

As frequently happens in a year when we receive an influx of northern finches, more of our nesting finches departed than normally and we had depressed numbers of **Purple Finch**, **Pine Siskin** and **American Goldfinch**. Crossbill numbers were moderate.

The scarcity of mountain-ash fruits this winter was in sharp contrast to the previous year and as can be expected **American Robin**, **Cedar Waxwing** and **Northern Flicker** numbers were low. A moderate influx of **Bohemian Waxwings** relied mainly on ornamental crabapples and hawthorns for food.

Please accept my apology for the tardiness of this report which should have been included in the spring issue. I delayed preparing it waiting to get the results from all areas, which finally came too close to a trip out of province. — DSC

Abbreviations and footnotes to the tables

Species boldfaced: first on N.B. CBCs

Number boldfaced: local CBC record high

Number in italics: no details or details not fully convincing

* recorded during count period

highest number a provincial record

a 1 hawk sp., 8 gull sp., 64 finch sp., 6 small birds sp.

b 25 duck sp., 1 accipiter sp., 2 woodpecker sp., 24 finch sp.

c 3 woodpecker sp.

d 40 gull sp., 4 birds sp.

e cormorant sp.

f 60 scoter sp., 1 warbler sp.

g owl sp.

h 1 meadowlark sp.

i 12 scoter sp.

k 19 gull sp., 3 sparrow sp.

++ much above average numbers

+ above average numbers

- below average numbers

-- much below average numbers

Results of the Miramichi, Dalhousie, Restigouche, and inland counts are presented in the first two pages of tables.

Miramichi (Mir) 30th year

Dec. 28, 08:00–17:00. Partly cloudy; temp. -8° to -4° C; wind NW, 20 km/h. 2 cm snow cover; large stretch of open water down middle of estuary. 18 observers in 9 parties + 37 at 37 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 28 (13 on foot, 15 by car); party-km, 235 (17 on foot, 218 by car).

Harry Walker (compiler), Margaret Adams, Mrs. William Arnoldus, Joyce Atkins, Jeep Bosma, Eileen Bransfield, Eleanor Breaux, Heather Brewster, Monica Charnley, Florence Currie, Gregg Currie, Rodney Currie, Barbara Digdon, Bernard Geikie, Carl Gillis, Fidele Goguen, André Hachey, Mary-Alma Harrigan, Linda Hartlen, John Henderson, Walter Holland, Delbert Johnston, Richard Landry, Robert Lisk, Irene Loggie, James MacKenzie, Karen Manderson, Lem McDonald,

Georgia McLean, Dave McLeod, Betty Muzzeroll, Randy O'Shea, Irma Power, Gordon Raymond, Mickey Reynolds, Alex Riebel, Max Alex Riebel, Nicolas Riebel, Phil Riebel, Eldon Rogers, Art Ronan, Theresa Ross, Jim Saunders, June Scott, Richard Silliker, Alma Smith, Caroline Smythe, Delta Steeves, Hayward Sturgeon, Bruce Walker, Winnie Walker, Pam Watters, Bun Worrell, Mr & Mrs David Woulds.

Dalhousie (Dal) 17th year

Jan. 1, 7:00–7:00. Clear a.m. to partly cloudy p.m.; temp. -14° to -10° C; wind NW, 15 km/h. Light snow cover, a skim on open fields to 5 cm in woods; lakes, ponds, inlets & small coves 100% frozen, larger bodies 50% rafting ice, Bay of Chaleur open. 10 observers in 5 parties + 9 at 6 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 25 (8 on foot, 17 by car); party-km, 242 (15 on foot, 227 by car).

Mike Lushington (compiler), Bob Acheson, Fran Acheson, Jason Clifford, Jim Clifford, Margaret Doyle Gallant, Bob Gillis, Loretta Hamilton, Guy Le Tourneau, Irma MacNair, Ray MacNair, Earl Methot, Shirley Sharp, Barb Thompson, Ernie Thompson, Andy Watson, Denyse Zyveniuik.

Restigouche (Rst) 12th year

Dec. 26, 7:00–7:00. Sunny with a few clouds; temp. -4° C; wind 7 km/h. 3 cm snow cover; water open. 21 observers in 2 parties + 13 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 130 (? on foot, ? by car); party-km, 425 (20 on foot, 405 by car).

Irene Doyle (compiler), J. Paul Breton, Lucien Bujold, Ruth Bulmer, Jean Caissie, Emily Clavette, Exie Delaney, Odile Doiron, Margaret Doyle, Carole Dubé, Doug Firlotte, Suzanne Fontaine, Jean Gallant, Jim Katan, Flora Kelly, Anne Lavoie, Mike Lushington, Allan MacNeish, Allan Madden, Don Mann, Isabel Mann, Marina Mills, Bob Minville, Jean Myles, Clarence Ouellette, Dina Ouellette, Millie Ouellette, Michel Plourde, Margot Richard, Gilles Rioux, Shirley Sharpe, Gladys Swan, Mathew Swan, Denyse Zyveniuik.

Saint-Paul (StP) 1st year

Dec. 15, 7–?. Partly cloudy; temp. -1° C; wind NW, 20 km/h. Ground frozen, slight snow cover; rivers & brooks partly open. 16 observers in 10 parties. Tot. party-hours, 58.5 (25.5 on foot, 33 by car); party-km, 584 (65 on foot, 516 by car).

Mike LeBlanc (compiler), Ron Arsenault, Maurice Aubé, Mélanie Aubé, Gisèle Belliveau, Normand Belliveau, Léona Cormier, Mai Cormier, Éric Demers, Mariette Demers, Paul Demers, Denis Doucet, Maria Gauvin, Edwin Girouard, Mireille Godin, Brigitte Julien, Armand LeBlanc, Bernadette LeBlanc, Irène LeBlanc, Marc LeBlanc, Mike LeBlanc, Rose-Marie LeBlanc, Stella LeBlanc, Bernard Léger, Donald Pellerin, Richard Perron, Nelson Poirier, André Richard, Inuk Simard, Lorette Smith

Sussex (Ssx) 29th year

Dec. 15, 7–?. Partly cloudy; temp. -1° C; wind NW, 20 km/h. Ground frozen, slight snow cover; rivers & brooks partly open. 16 observers in 10 parties. Tot. party-hours, 47.5 (16.5 on foot, 31 by car); party-km, 160 (22 on foot, 138 by car).

Jim Brown (compiler), John Arisz, Wilma Arisz, Gart Bishop, Marvin Bradstreet, Darren Byres, Anne Candy, John Candy, Anthea Doyle, Fran Grouchie, David Hughes, Carol McFarlane, Dianne McFarlane, Barry McPhee, Jim McQueen, Eldon Thorne, Coby Yeomans.

Hammond River–Hampton (Htn) 29th year

Dec. 30, 06:40–16:30. Clear a.m., cloudy p.m.; temp. -13° to -4° C; wind NW, 10–20 km/h. Snow cover 3–12 cm; some patches of open water but 90% frozen. 20 observers in 7 parties + 38 at 33 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 46 (7 on foot, 39 by car); party-km, 604 (14 on foot, 590 by car).

Jim Wilson (compiler), Beth Allaby, Bob Barton, Todd Beach, Richard Blacquié, Ernie Connell, Lorna Connell, Merv Cormier,

David Christie, Barbara Crossley, John Darling, Phyllis Darling, Louise Dickson, Jean Dykeman, Mary Ellis, Ross Ellis, Linda Ewart, Lorna Fowler, Stuart Fraser, Bill Gentleman, Bill Gentleman, Jillian Gentleman, Myrna Gentleman, Allen Gorham, Janet Gorham, John Hanson, Bruce Harding, Peggy Harding, Evelyn Hazlett, Kathy Hazlett, Carol Henderson, Lowell Henderson, Peggy Kelbaugh, Joe Kennedy, Judith LeClue, Heather Lee, Jean MacDonald, Tina MacIntosh, Gina MacLeod, Harvey MacLeod, Mary Majka, David McCurdy, Bill McKay, Bill Nowlan, Juliette Nowlan, Alice O'Neil, Mike Russell, Geoff Sayre, Les Scribner, Jan Wilshaw, Peter Wilshaw, Brian Wilson, Gretchen Wilson, Jean Wilson, Jean (Sr.) Wilson, Phil Withers.

Cambridge-Narrows (C-N) 32nd year

Jan. 1, 08:45–16:30. Clear; temp. -15° to -7°C ; wind NW, 15 km/h. 5 cm snow cover; lakes & brooks mostly frozen. 16 observers in 7 parties + 18 at 17 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 22.75 (6.25 on foot, 16.5 by car); party-km, 262.25 (13.25 on foot, 249 by car).

Enid Inch (compiler), Ford Alward, Nancy Amburg, Jean Bell, Marion Belyea, Betty & Winston Carpenter, Jean Carpenter, Marie Carpenter, Merle Carpenter, Pauline Chase, Iris Ferris, Imogene Gilchrist, Sandra Hamilton, Alan & Margaret Hicks, Rhoda Inch, Lisa Jeffrey, Debora Kantor, Dot McConnachie, Elva McConnachie, Faye & Owen McCormack, Mary Moss, Mildred Moss, Audrey Perry, Nellie Perry, Joyce Robinson, Jackie Straight, Joyce & Niven Thorne, Walter Thorne, Robena Weatherley.

Jemseg (Jem) 39th year

Dec. 29, ?–?. Mostly clear, light cloud cover from time to time.; temp. -13° to $+7^{\circ}\text{C}$; wind ? 5–10 cm snow cover; a fair amount of open water on Saint John and Jemseg rivers and Grand Lake (some stretches of the Saint John that were lightly frozen in a.m. were open in p.m.). 17 observers in 7 parties + 3 persons at 3 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 46.25 (17 on foot, 29.25 by car); party-km, 432.6 (36.5 on foot, 396.1 by car).

Jim Goltz (compiler), Margery Acheson, Marie Carpenter, Rod Currie, John Eldridge, Don Gibson, Enid Inch, Rhoda Inch, Don MacDougall, Lois MacDougall, David Myles, Marvin Palmer, Peter Pearce, Theresa Pearce, Bev Schneider, Shirley Sloat, Jackie Straight, Cliff Thornley.

Fredericton (Ftn) 46th year

Dec. 16, 07:30–17:00. Sunny; temp. -4° to $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$; wind NW, 15–25 km/h. Ground bare; Ponds and lakes recently frozen, river open. 56 observers in 29 parties + 57 feeder reports. Tot. party-hours, 144 (62 on foot, 82 by car); party-km, 1072 (135 on foot, 937 by car).

Don Gibson (compiler), Margery Acheson, Cathy Beaulieu, Yvon Beaulieu, Laurel Bernard, Linda Caissie, Moira Campbell, Eric Carr, Mike Casey, Gerry Clayden, Susan Clayden, Christine Cornell, Rod Currie, Anthony Delfrate, Mike Delfrate, Lucy Dyer, John Eldridge, Katie FitzRandolph, Graham Forbes, Don Fowler, James Goltz, Margaret Gibson, Charles Graves, Lorie Holland, Jeff Hoyt, Yvette Kerry, Gisèle LeBlanc, David Lounsbury, Cathy MacLaggan, Milda Markauskas, Colleen Martin, Barry Monson, Bill Mountain, David Myles, Murray Neilson, Paul Nicholson, Jean Noble, Jim Noble, Margie Olive, Peter Papoulidis, Peter Pearce, Wendy Rogers, Dwayne Sabine, Bill Seabrook, Jane Seabrook, Ryan Scott, Bev Schneider, Marc Schneider, Shirley Sloat, Jane Tarn, Richard Tarn, Cliff Thornley, Glenda Turner, Kevin Tutt, Leon Vietinghoff, Ron Wilson.

[Erratum: Last year I inadvertently named Margaret Gibson as compiler, when it should have been Don.]

Mactaquac (Mac) 22nd year

Jan. 1, 08:00–17:00. Clear in a.m., later some thin cloud cover; temp. -7°C ; wind NW, 15 km/h. 5–10 cm snow cover; head pond frozen, river below dam partially frozen. 15 observers in 6 parties + 3 at 3

feeders. Tot. party-hours, 41 (4.5 on foot, 36.5 by car); party-km, 475 (11 on foot, 464 by car).

David Myles (compiler), Moira Campbell, Barbara Clayden, Gerry Clayden, Stephen Clayden, Susan Clayden, Don Gibson, Charles Graves, Lorie Holland, David Lounsbury, Sarah Lounsbury, Peter Pearce, Bev Schneider, Marc Schneider, Shirley Sloat.

Chipman (Chi) 1st year

Jan. 3, 08:00–17:00. Clear a.m., afternoon cloudy, evening clear; temp. -8° to -11°C ; wind, 8–10 km/h. 5 cm old snow cover; water?. 7 observers in 5 parties. Tot. party-hours, 33 (6.4 on foot, 26.6 by car); party-km, 255 (10 on foot, 245 by car).

Jim Mills (compiler), Shirley Brown, Janet Crawford, Sterling Clark, Lionel Girouard, Elizabeth Mills, Jane Wasson.

Minto (Min) 12th year

Dec. 14, 08:00–16:30. Sun with cloudy periods; temp. -6° to -10°C ; wind NW, to 40 km/h. Ground bare; water? 4 observers in 2 parties + 1 at feeders. Tot. party-hours, 8 (? on foot, ? by car); party-km, 96 (11 on foot, 85 by car).

Lionel Girouard (compiler), Ann Boucher, Loris Boucher, Mark Boucher, Vincent Poirier.

Stanley (Sty) 27th year

Jan. 5, 08:00–17:00. Sunny with cloudy breaks; temp. -20° to -3°C ; wind light. 5 cm snow cover, water 60% open. 9 observers in 5 parties + 15 at 12 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 33.75 (7 on foot, 26.75 by car); party-km, 302 (13 on foot, 289 by car).

Julie Singleton (compiler), Lorna Belyea, Bella Boone, Dena & John Correy, Gordon Dunphy & Michiko Nishijima, Thelma Fairly, Gisele Gaudet, Jim Goltz, Jeremy Gullison, Connie Ince, John MacRae, Ruth Munn, David Myles, Margie Pacey, Uda & Oro Ross, Shirley Sloat, Stephanie Sopow, Harvey Tait, Ruth Wilson, Shirley Wilson, Robert Whitney.

Woodstock (Wsk) 38th year

Dec. 27, 09:00–17:00. Clear; temp. -7°C ; calm. Ground bare; water frozen. 12 observers in 5 parties + 20 at 19 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 26.75 (5.5 on foot, 21.25 by car); party-km, 267 (12 on foot, 255 by car).

Leona Avery (compiler), Blair Avery, Rev. T.S. Bellis, Earle Blackie, Danny Bowser, Earle Briggs, Duff Campbell, Moira Campbell, Lillian Clark, Bob Craig, Lois Derrah, Mrs. Melvin Fogarty, Mrs. David Fry, Verna Grant, Charles Graves, Adam Hadley, Eric & Jane Hadley, Matthew Hadley, Jack Lavender, Edwin Marsh, Elizabeth McKellar, Walter Neal, Mrs. Roger Olmstead, Wayne Pelkey, Alma Speer, Karen Speer, Martin Speer, Robert John & Donna Speer, Gordon Wort, Pauline Yerxa.

Florenceville (Flo) 22nd year

Dec. 26, 08:00–15:30. Cloudy/overcast; temp. -8° to -10°C ; wind NW/calm; Ground bare; Saint John River open. 11 observers in 5 parties + 17 at 17 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 11.25 (5.75 on foot, 5.5 by car); party-km, 159.1 (13 on foot, 146.1 by car).

Helen Lovely (compiler), Catherine Bell, Ann Brennan, Helen Briggs, Ansel Campbell, Larry Dow, Ann & Harry Ebbett, Charlie Green, Lorena Green, Robert Green, Jeannette & Ronald Green, David Hatt, Lorraine Hunter, Franklin Kinney, Aubrey Lamont, Lorna Maddox, Ray Mulherin, Janice Oakes, Marie Sappier, Marg Seymour, Richard Trafford, Francine Watson, Harry Wolverton.

Glassville-Juniper (G-J) 18th year

Dec. 23, 08:00–23:30?. Clear; temp. -5° to -1°C ; wind W, 5 km/h. Dusting of snow; lakes frozen, streams 70% open. 2 obs. in 2 parties, 19 at 17 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 8 (3 on foot, 5 by car); party-km, 165 (4 on foot, 161 by car).

Sally McIntosh (compiler), Mary Anderson, Edith Buxton, Wendell Crabbe, Nan & John Curto, Wanda Delong, Bobbi Gasgoigne, Myrtle Hemphill, Marjorie Martinson, Carol Ann McBrine, Claude & Nada McBrine, Joe McBrine, Nada McBrine, Darlene McIntosh, Elsie McIntosh, Rita McIntosh, Marion Pearson, Peter Puleston, Marion Spence, Alison Stodard.

Perth-Andover (P-A) 33rd year

Dec. 31, 08:00–16:00. Sunny a.m., cloudy p.m.; temp. -12° to -2°C ; wind W, 0–15 km/h. Ground bare; rivers ice-covered except in rapids. 2 observers in 1 party + 12 at 12 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 8 (3 on foot, 5 by car); party-km, 88 (3 on foot, 85 by car).

Murray Watters (compiler), Ellsworth DeMerchant, Barbara Fenwick, Glen Furge, Judy Hanson, Robert Innis, Richard Jamer, Roy Leach, Henry Manzer, Judy McNally, Gail Pickett, Allie Rogers, Fred Tribe, Marg Wallace.

Plaster Rock (PR) 30th year

Jan. 3, 09:00–16:00. Clear; temp. -10° to -5°C ; not much wind. Ground bare; some open water in river. 6 observers in 2 parties + 9 at 6 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 10 (1 on foot, 9 by car); party-km, 60 (2 on foot, 58 by car).

Laverne Rabatich (compiler), Daphne Anderson, Gwen Clyde, Doris Crawford, Bob & Kate Finnamore, Juanita Harrison, Irene Hollins, Bessie & Peter MacDonald, Carol & Marven Mahoney, Theresa Ruff, Phil Sharkey, Melissa Skinner.

Nictau-Riley Brook (Nic) 29th year

Dec. 28, 08:30–15:30. Cloudy with sunny periods; temp. -9° to -20°C ; wind W, 15–20 km/h. Almost no snow, 2 cm in places; water starting to close off. 3 observers in 3 parties + 12 at 10 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 14 (6 on foot, 8 by car); party-km, 73 (11 on foot, 62 by car).

Roger Jenkins (compiler), Bob & Noreen Bartlett, Juanita Black, Diana McAskill, Rose MacCullum, Leola McDougall, Bill Miller Jr., Wilma Miller, Joan Nevers, Wilma Parish, Betty Ross, Joe Yacovino.

Edmundston 14ième année

Le 15 déc. Dégagé avec passages nuageux, légère averse de neige; temp. -16° à -6°C ; calme. 30–40 cm de neige au sol; lacs et rivières 95% gelés. 20 observateurs en 9 groupes. Heures groupe, 47.7 (8.7 à pied, 39 en voiture); km groupe, 505.8 (13.8 à pied, 492 en voiture). Tot. party-hours, 28 (13 on foot, 15 by car); party-km, 235 (17 on foot, 218 by car).

Pierrette Mercier (co-compiler), J. Denys Bourque (co-compiler), Jean-Pierre Beaulieu, Daniel Bouchard, Simon Bouchard, Benoit Clavette, Patrick Couturier, Gilberte Cyr, Héloïde Doiron, Stephanie Francoeur, Marie-Anne Gauvin, Charlotte Lapointe, Roy Lapointe, Bert Lavoie, Colette Lavoie, Patsy-Ann Lynch, Pauline Morneau, Gilles Roussel, Isidore St-Onge, Gisèle Thibodeau, Georgette Thibodeau.

Mount Carleton Provincial Park (MtC) 24th year

Dec. 20, 08:30–16:00. Cloudy; temp. -6° to -4°C ; wind NW, 5–10 km/h. Snow cover 2.5 cm, dark ice on lake. 2 observers in 2 parties. Tot. party-hours, 13 (7 on foot, 6 by car); party-km, 113 (16 on foot, 97 by car).

Roger Jenkins (compiler), Erwin Landauer.

Southeast Upsalquitch (SEU) 20th year

[Count dedicated in memory of former compiler, Ron Gauthier, who passed away during the year.]

Dec. 27, 09:20–15:20. Cloudy, light snow flurries; temp. -5° to -1°C ; wind NW, 0–10 km/h. Only a dusting of snow cover; river partly frozen. 4 observers in 2 parties. Tot. party-hours, 10 (5 on foot, 5 by car); party-km, 58 (10 on foot, 48 by car).

Rod O'Connell (compiler), Chris Gauthier, Eldon McLean, Jason Smith.

Paquetville (Paq) 14ième année

Le 29 déc., 08:00–16:00. Soleil, quelques nuages; Moins de 10 cm de neige, ruisseau pas gelé. temp. -7° à -4°C ; vent NO, ? km/h. 14 observateurs en 5 groupes + 3 personnes à 3 postes d'alimentation. Heures groupe, 13 (? à pied, ? en voiture); km groupe, 431 (22 à pied, 409 en voiture).

Roland Robichaud (compilateur), Frank Branch, Hilaire Chiasson, Michel Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Roger Dumaesq, Audort Godin, Liette Godin, Jacques Guignard, Rosita Lanteigne, Jude Larocque, Bruno St-Pierre, Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Results of the following coastal counts are in the last 3 pages of the tables.

Eastport-Campobello (E-C) 35th year

Dec. 26, 07:00–16:00 EST. Cloudy in a.m., light snow p.m.; temp. -7° to $+0.6^{\circ}\text{C}$; wind SE, 3–16 km/h. 0–5 cm snow cover; still water frozen, moving water partly open. 5 observers in 3 parties. Tot. party-hours, 17.25 (3.25 on foot, 14 by car); party-km, 253.6 (5.2 on foot, 248.4 by car).

Maury Mills (compiler), Alan Brooks; Norm Famous; Fred Stocking; Marion Stocking.

St. Andrews (StA) 41st year

Dec. 15, 08:30–15:30. Overcast a.m., clearing by noon, sunny p.m.; temp. -5° to 0°C ; wind N, light. 5–10 cm fresh snow cover; fresh water mainly open with some shore-ice, salt water open with no shore-ice. 6 observers in 4 parties + 15 at 10 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 19.5 (2.5 on foot, 17 by car); party-km, 334.5 (4.5 on foot, 330 by car).

Tracey Dean (compiler), Mindy Brown, Sandra Cooper, Charles & Moira Graves, Peggy & David James, Ken Langmaid, Margo Mais, Ken McIntosh, Bill Nelson, Margaret Nelson, Ray & Dick Peterson, Lee & Lanny Ryall, Tom Smith, Marion & Dick Wilder, Max & Willie Wolfe.

Blacks Harbour (BH) 39th year

Dec. 22, 08:00–17:00. Partly to mostly cloudy; temp. -6° to -2°C ; wind NW, 15–25 km/h. 4 cm snow cover; running water not frozen. 4 observers in 2 parties. Tot. party-hours, 10 (8 on foot, 2 by car); party-km, 44 (9 on foot, 35 by car).

Ken MacIntosh (compiler), Sandra Cooper, Tracey Dean, Bill Nelson.

Lepreau (Lep) 38th year

Dec. 15, 08:30–16:30. Light snow a.m., clear p.m.; temp. -2° to 0°C ; wind NW, 25 km/h. No snow cover; open water. 6 observers in 2 parties. Tot. party-hours, 12 (2 on foot, 10 by car); party-km, 242 (4 on foot, 238 by car).

David McCurdy (compiler), Merv Cormier, Eileen Pike, Roy Pike, Janet Whitehead, Jim Wilson.

Saint John (SJ) 45th year

Dec. 29, 08:00–17:00. Hazy sun; temp. -4° to -0.6°C ; wind N/A. 5 cm snow cover; fringe of skim ice on river shores. 36 observers in 18 parties + 19 at feeders. Tot. party-hours, 85 (47.5 on foot, 37.5 by car); party-km, 646 (80 on foot, 566 by car).

David F. Smith (compiler), Mike Bamford, Anne Bardou, Ethel/Roly Boscence, Helen Brown, Ian Cameron, Bob Carson, David Christie, David/Madeleine Clark, Stephen/Barbara/Miles Clayden, Merv Cormier, Hank/Joanne Deichmann, Betty/Jim Evans, Jeanne Finn-Allen, Cheryl Gass, Allen/Janet Gorham, Kit/Margaret Graham, Holly Haines, Juliette Hickman, Kelly Honeyman, Cec/Denise Johnson,

Frank Kelly, Vivien Mac Donald, Rose-Alma Maillet, Don/Fenning McAlpine, Doreen McIntosh, Ngaire/Dick Nelson, Rick Peacock, Joan Pearce, Eileen Pike, Elizabeth Prescott, David Rumson, Mike Russell, Don Smith, Ian Stead, Dr. Ed. Walters, Shelly Wasson, Janet Whitehead, Jim Wilson, Frank/Mitzi Withers.

St. Martins (StM) 21st year

Dec. 22, 07:00–17:00. Clear; temp. -3°C ; wind NW, 30 km/h. Ground partly snow-covered; some open water. 10 observers in 5 parties + 3 at 3 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 22.25 (10 on foot, 12.25 by car); party-km, 231.8 (34.8 on foot, 197 by car).

Ted Sears (compiler), Leo Collins, Merv Cormier, Frank Kelly, Ed LeBlanc, Jane LeBlanc, Trudy Melvin, Jim Russell, Mike Russell, Nancy Sears.

Fundy National Park (FNP) 37th year

Dec. 21, 07:45–16:55. Overcast, intermittent light snow; temp. -1°C ; wind light. 5–10 cm snow cover; lakes & ponds frozen, streams open. 11 observers in 8 parties + 2 at 2 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 45.83 (33.91 on foot, 11.92 by car); party-km, 165.45 (82.8 on foot, 82.65 by car).

Alain Caissie (compiler), Anne Bardou, Betty Betts, Jim Blewett, David Christie, Doris Hatt, Anna Holdaway, Pat Latimer-Martin, Beulah Michelin, Doreen Rossiter, George Sinclair, Karen Townsend, Renee Wissink.

Riverside-Albert (R-A) 33rd year

Jan. 1, 07:15–18:00. Clear to a few clouds; temp. -10° to -6°C ; wind W, 10–30 km/h. Light snow cover, freshwater largely frozen and some ice on seashore, especially in creeks. 8 observers in 6 parties + 4 at 3 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 39.75 (22.75 on foot, 17 by car); party-km, 359.5 (51.5 on foot, 308 by car).

David Christie (compiler), Gisèle & Norm Belliveau, Gilles Belliveau, Barbara Curlew, Brian Dalzell, Jim Edsall, Rick Elliott, Gail Jasper, Mary Majka, Mike Majka, Rose-Alma Mallet, Beulah Michelin, Juliette Pellerin, Gail Walker.

Hillsborough – Memramcook (Hil) 10th year

Jan. 2, 08:25–16:30. Clear to partly cloudy; temp. -14° to -4°C ; wind W to NW, 10–60 km/h. 4–15 cm snow cover; lakes frozen, fast-flowing streams open; tidal waters open but small creeks at least half full of ice, no sea ice; tidal marsh covered with ice and snow. 29 participants (? observers in ? parties + ? at feeders. Tot. party-hours, >30 (? on foot, ? by car); party-km, >344 (? on foot, ? by car).

Dwayne Biggar (co-compiler), Alain Clavette (co-compiler), Ginette Arsenault, Ron Arsenault, Jean-Claude Basque, Norm & Gisele Belliveau, Valmond Bourque, David Christie, Jules Cormier, Michel Cormier, Oscar Duguay, Edith Gilcash, Rose-Marie Haché, Francis LeBlanc, Lomer LeBlanc & épouse, Roger Leblanc, Richard Léger, Rose-Alma Mallet, Clarence Nowlan, Jacqueline Nowlan, Juliette Pellerin, Richard Perron, +.

Moncton (Mtn) 40th year

Dec. 15, 08:00–16:15. Clear; temp. -1° to -2°C ; wind N, 5–20 km/h. Ground bare; water largely open except on still surfaces. 40 observers in 15 parties + 5 at 5 feeders. Tot. party-hours, 122 (24 on foot, 98 by car); party-km, 1014 (51 on foot, 963 by car).

Jim Edsall (compiler), Chris Antle, Mike Antle, Vivian Beale, Brian Beaman, Bob Betts, Gilles Belliveau, Gisele Belliveau, Norm Belliveau, Bob Blake, Gilles Bourque, Meghan Brodie, David Christie, Carmel Constable, Bob Cotsworth, Jackie DeCoste, Lloyd DeCoste, Marg Fanjoy, Pat Fox, Elsie Gallant, Les Gillis, Dale Gaskin, Susan Hoar, Shirley Hunt, Jean Inglis, Claudette Landry, Joel Landry, Emmanuel LeBlanc, Oscar Leblanc, Roger LeBlanc, Janet MacMillan, Rose Alma Mallet, Brian McFarlane, Edwin Melanson, Ron Pellerin, Nelson Poirier, Mike Rae, Keith Renton, Heather

Silliker, Wendy Sullivan, Dorothy Thomas, Stuart Tingley, Alma White, Don White, Ralph White.

Sackville (Sck) 42nd year

Dec. 15, 07:45–17:00. Overcast a.m., clearing early p.m.; temp. -5° to 0°C ; wind W, 5–30 km/h. Ground essentially bare; Moving water partly closed, still water mostly frozen. 31 observers in 9–13 parties + 4 feeder reports. Tot. party-hours, 94.5 (62.25 on foot, 30.75 by car); party-km, 587.5 (102.4 on foot, 512 by car).

Sean Blaney (compiler), Ron Arsenault, SeanBasquill, Paul Bogaard, Maryse Bourgeois, Kate Bredin, Margaret Bunker, Sandy Burnett, Dan Busby, John Chardine, Marc d'Entremont, Richard Elliot, Janet Erskine, Tony Erskine, George Finney, Liam Finney, Beth Flanagan, Christian Friis, Ross Galbraith, Nev Garrity, Krista Gerrits, Gay Hansen, Emily Harris, Peter Hicklin, Jason Hudson, Andrew Kennedy, Colin MacKinnon, Andrew Macfarlane, Julie McKnight, Mike Russell, Al Smith, Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer, Kyle Wellband, Becky Whittam.

Cape Tormentine (CT) 40th year

Dec. 17, 07:20–16:30. Mostly clear, clouding over by mid-pm; temp. -2° to -1°C ; wind NW, 10–15 km/h in am, E 5–15 in pm. 2.5–10 cm snow cover; fresh water frozen, salt water partly frozen in bays, much slush and ice floes near shore. 24 observers in 5–12 parties. Tot. party-hours, 79.25 (46.25 on foot, 32.5 by car, 0.5 owling); party-km, 540 (70 on foot, 470 by car).

Al Smith (compiler), Sean Blaney, Paul Bogaard, Andrew Boyne, Sandy Burnett, Dan Busby, Tony Erskine, Beth Flanagan, Ross Galbraith, Hinrich Harries, Ron Hounsell, Jason Hudson, Donna Johnson, Andrew Kennedy, Helen Lines, Andrew Macfarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Adam Mallory, Julie McKnight, Chris Pierce, Kathy Popma, Mike Russell, Ralph Stopps, Becky Whittam.

Shédiac (Shd) 14ième année

Le 16 déc., 08:00–16:30. Clair, ensoleillé; temp. -3° à $+1^{\circ}\text{C}$; vent NO, 30 km/h. Pas de neige au sol; eau douce non-glacée. 24 observateurs en 7 groupes + 1 à poste d'alimentation. Heures groupe, 55.5 (19.75 à pied, 32.75 en voiture); km groupe, 448 (26 à pied, 422 en voiture). Normand Belliveau (compilateur), [noms d'observateurs non soumis].

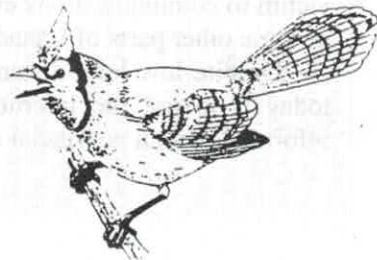
Bouctouche (Buc) 6ième année

Le 22 déc., ? :00–? :00. Clair; temp. -8° à 0°C ; vent 25 km/h. 4 cm de neige; eau douce gelée à 85%, eau salée non-glacée. 24 observateurs en 7 groupes. Heures groupe, 56.5 (25 à pied, 31.5 en voiture); party-km, 677 (42 à pied, 635 en voiture).

Mike LeBlanc (compilateur), Mélanie Aubé, Gilles Belliveau, Gisèle Belliveau, Normand Belliveau, Sheryl Boudreau, Louis-Émile Cormier, Éric Demers, Mariette Demers, Paul Demers, Denis Doucet, Maria Gauvin, Maria Gauvin, Brigitte Julien, Bernadette LeBlanc, Irène LeBlanc, Marc LeBlanc, Michael LeBlanc, Roger LeBlanc, Stella LeBlanc, Rose-Alma Mallet, Richard Perron, Inuk Simard, Lorette Smith.

Kouchibouguac National Park (KNP) 31ième année

Le 28 déc., ? :00–? :00. Clair, "light flurries"; temp. -9° to -3°C ; vent 27.7 km/h. 10 cm de neige par terre; eau douce gelée à 50%, le détroit ouvert. 24 observateurs en 8 groupes + 2 à postes d'alimentation. Heures groupe, 60.5 (32.5 à pied, 28 en voiture); km groupe, 437.7 (46.7 à pied, 391 en voiture).



Mike LeBlanc (compilateur), Mélanie Aubé, Gilles Belliveau, Gisèle Belliveau, Normand Belliveau, Mariette Demers, Maria Gauvin, Bernadette LeBlanc, Irène LeBlanc, Rose-Marie LeBlanc, Stella LeBlanc, Bernard Léger, Rose-Alma Mallet, Richard Perron, Nelson Poirier, Gilles Robichaud, Pierrette Robichaud, Victor Savoie, Inuk Simard, Lorette Smith, Barry Spencer, Margot Spencer, Anthony Vautour, Maria Vautour.

Tracadie-Sheila (Tra) 15ième année

Le 22 déc., 08:00–16:00. Ensoleillé avec passages nuageux; temp. -6° à -2°C ; vent NO, 30–50 km/h. Pas de neige sur terre; aucune glace à la mer et très peu de glace dans les baies. 11 observateurs en 5 groupes + 5 à 5 postes d'alimentation. Heures groupe, 40 (5.25 à pied, 34.75 en voiture); party-km, 676 (9 à pied, 667 en voiture).

Gertrude St-Pierre (compilatrice), Nicole Benoit, Raymond Benoit, Frank Branch, Hilaire Chiasson, Mira Chiasson, Roland Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Desanges Doiron, Leo Doiron, Leon Doiron, Lucille Landry, Jude Larocque, Jean-Yves Paulin, Roland Robichaud, Donald St-Pierre.

Ile Lamèque (Lam) 29ième année

Le 23 déc., 08:00–16:30. Ensoleillé; temp. -3°C ; vent NO, 40 km/h. Pas de neige sur; eau gelée 10% du territoire. 15 observateurs en 8 groupes + 4 à 4 postes d'alimentation. Heures groupe, 68 (18.5 à pied, 49.5 by car); km groupe, 508 (39 à pied, 469 en voiture).

Hilaire Chiasson (compilateur), Denise Benoit, Gérard Benoit, Frank Branch, Michel Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Marcel David, Lucille DeGrâce, Émile Ferron, Jacques Guignard, Jocelyne Guignard, Stéphane Guignard, Fleu-Ange Haché, Jude Larocque, Yves Larocque, Ansré Robichaud, Roland Robichaud, Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Ile Miscou (Mis) 15ième année

Le 15 déc., 08:00–16:00. Partiellement nuageux le matin, ensoleillé par la suite; temp. -3° à 0°C ; vent O, 40 km/h. Pas de neige; pas de glace. 14 observateurs en 5 groupes. Heures groupe, 48? (24 à pied, 20 en voiture); party-km, 195 (48 à pied, 147 en voiture).

Michel Chiasson (compilateur), Frank Branch, Hilaire Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Marcel David, Robert Doiron, Émile Ferron, Jacques Guignard, Réjean Laforge, Lucille Landry, Rosita Lanteigne, Jude Larocque, Roland Robichaud, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Caraquet (Car) 17ième année

Le 16 déc., 08:00–16:00. Ensoleillé; temp. -2° to 0°C ; vent NO, 45–60 km/h. 0 cm de neige au sol; zone côtière d'égagé à 95%. 11 observateurs en 4 groupes + 4 personnes à postes d'alimentation. Heures groupe, 32 (8.83 à pied, 23.17 en voiture); km groupe, 407.9 (14.6 à pied, 393.3 en voiture).

Marcel David (compilateur), Frank Branch, Hilaire Chiasson, Michel Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Dion Doiron, Léandre Ferron, Aline Gionet, Yvon Gionet, Benoit Lanteigne, Rosita Lanteigne, Jude Larocque, Roland Robichaud, Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre, Jollande St-Pierre.

Bathurst (Bst) 18th year

Dec. 29, 08:00–16:00. Clear with cloudy periods; temp. -3° to -10°C ; wind W, 20 km/h. Light snow cover; coastal area ice-free, Bathurst estuary 20% ice-covered (recent). 11 observers in 6 parties + 4 at 2 feeders; Tot. party-hours, 30.5 (17.5 on foot, 13 by car); party-km, 207 (19 on foot, 188 by car).

Stuart Wells (compiler), Beatrice Allen, William Allen, Luc Deroche, Chris Gauthier, Lee Gauthier, Mary Gauthier, Kim Lavigne, Eldon McLean, Nora McLean, Hanson Miller, Hazel Miller, Bruce Mitton, Janet Smith, Jason Smith.

Petit-Rocher (P-Ro) 7ième année

Le 29 déc., 7:55–13:31. Ciel dégagé, partiellement ennuagé; temp. $^{\circ}$ à $^{\circ}\text{C}$; vent ?; 1 cm de neige, aucun gel. 3 observateurs en 3 groupes + 1 à poste d'alimentation. Heures groupe, 13 (3 à pied, 10 en voiture); km groupe, 129 (3 à pied, 126 en voiture).

Luc DeRoche (compilateur), Marc Landry, Marco Scichilone et 2 enfants.

THE BIRD LINE HAS ITS WINGS CLIPPED

On May 19, 2002, Jim Edsall wrote:

We regret to announce the discontinuation of the NB Bird Information Line. For a variety of reasons the bird line has ceased to be an effective tool in disseminating information on bird sightings in the province...

I would just like to pay tribute to Jim, Don Gibson and Dave Myles for operating the New Brunswick Bird Information Line for more than a decade. For years it provided a very useful service, but our bird line has fallen victim to communications evolution, as similar ones have in some other parts of Canada and the USA.

Despite low long-distance telephone rates, the trend today is to use the Internet for distribution of birding information on a provincial or state-wide basis, and for

telephone message systems to serve more of a local or district area. Thus, NatureNB, unintentionally, has played a role in displacing the Bird Information Line.

In many areas, too, taped message systems are being replaced by "bird boxes," voice mail systems whereby you can phone and hear the actual messages left by previous callers. This increases timeliness and doesn't require the huge effort contributed by dedicated editors to prepare regular messages, but one misses the editor's organized presentation and it can be difficult to understand the messages left by some people. (I've experienced that in California.)

The times they are a-changing—only time will tell what's next!

Thanks, Jim, Don and Dave, for your efforts. It was great fun seeing many of those birds that you publicized.

David Christie

2001-2002 CBC	Mir	Dal	Rst	StP	Ssx	Hfn	C-N	Jem	Ftn	Mac	Chi	Min	Sty	Wsk	Flo	G-J	P-A	PR	Nic	Etn	MtC	SEU	Paq
Common Loon									*														
Red-necked Grebe								*	*														
D-crest Cormorant	1																						
Great Cormorant		1							1														
Great Blue Heron																							
Turkey Vulture #				2																			
Canada Goose	*	1	*		60	90		*	140		7	*			105		*						
Gadwall					*	2			*														
Am. Wigeon																							
Am. Black Duck	2	334	33		460	142		1	177	46					133	112			6				
Mallard		29	5		140	35		2	163	45					15	217			3				
Northern Pintail		1																					
Ring-neck Duck #					47	1			*						60								
Greater Scaup	4																						
Lesser Scaup									*														
Long-tailed Duck						1																	
Bufflehead						616		6	196	210		12				1			2				
Com. Goldeneye	2	100	3			2			3														
Barrow Goldeneye		250							7														
Hooded Merganser																							
Com. Merganser	580	4	190		8	25		10	13	203						10				12			
Red-br Merganser	11														1					1			
Bald Eagle	1	*	1	2	3	7	4	5	11	6			1	2	7	3	3	3	2	14			
Northern Harrier								9	1														
Sharp-shin Hawk	*		*		5	2	1	2	2	1			*							1			
Cooper's Hawk				1	1	*			*														1
Northern Goshawk									1														
Broad-wing Hawk	*		*																				
Red-tailed Hawk	*		*	*	6	5		6	6	2			*	1									
Rough-leg Hawk	1	*	*		1	1		30	1										1				
Merlin	*							*															
Peregrine Falcon	*																						
Ring-neck Pheasant				*	37	2	1						19	2									
Ruffed Grouse	3	1	3	3	6	3	7	5	7	6	3		11	1	9	9	*	1	2	3	2		*
Spruce Grouse							1				1												
Ring-billed Gull	3		16		8	5		1	170	1										74			
Herring Gull	20	149	75		56	187		1	491	11						1				1			
Iceland Gull	*	4	1			16			1														
Glaucous Gull									1														
Grt. Black-bk Gull	40	29	33		2	23	*	2	424	27										4			1
Rock Dove	187	93	383	85	964	129	98	233	1435	244	86	12	59	254	178	86	110	16	2	158		6	
Mourning Dove	95	*	30	93	245	211	241	201	495	76	62	9	91	146	282	30	49	93	1	19		102	
Great Horned Owl					*			*	*			*							*				
Snowy Owl	1	1	1						*				*						1				
N. Hawk Owl			*																				
Barred Owl	*			1	1	1		2	2	1			1			1							
Downy Woodpkr	22	4	18	10	12	22	13	14	34	18	2	2	9	26	11	9	8	8	16	3	9		20
Hairy Woodpkr	30	1	19	14	13	22	15	20	36	15	2	1	21	23	26	2	8	11	13	11	2	2	36
Blk-back Woodpkr				2									*										
Northern Flicker	*																						
Pileated Woodpkr	1	*	2	8	4	2	5	1	8	1	1		6	5	4	4	1	*	2	*	1		

2001-2002 CBC	Mir	Dal	Rst	StP	Ssx	Htn	C-N	Jem	Ftn	Mac	Chi	Min	Sty	Wsk	Flo	G-J	P-A	PR	Nic	Etn	MtC	SEU	Paq
Ash-thr Flycatcher			2	2		3	*	*		1				*			1	*		1			1
Northern Shrike			1	41	10	3	20	9	21	7	15	4	9	2	5	13	6		34	1	3	6	14
Gray Jay	13																						
Blue Jay	82	21	119	58	155	115	146	85	137	85	13	5	95	134	113	116	34	49	42	58	2		109
American Crow	72	25	28	44	300	302	98	45	1479	94	16	14	14	73	55	23	18	12	76			4	
Common Raven	48	24	57	68	327	35	38	22	250	27	22		58	12	17	17	26	18	24	114	3	2	52
Blk-cap Chickadee	295	103	462	503	276	534	307	294	935	424	90	14	354	317	321	139	133	179	147	214	23	6	302
Boreal Chickadee	*	1	3	17	2		1		4	4	1		18	1		1	2		2	4	6	2	1
Red-br Nuthatch	27	1	19	25	13	25	32	13	71	19	14	3	36	18	10	32	14	17	14	5		27	
White-br Nuthatch	2	1	1	3	6	12	17	10	16	6	1		2	20	8	2	5		9			4	
Brown Creeper	1			1	1	4	1		7	*			2		1				2				
Golden-cr Kinglet				33	16	4		1	18	1	2		14							1		4	
Hermit Thrush																							
American Robin	1	*	2		1	17	*	1	4	1				1	2	2	1	*		1		1	1
Gray Catbird									*														
N. Mockingbird				1	1	2		1	1														
European Starling	408	180	385	69	2414	445	209	222	1436	544	39	3	109	199	188	150	39	100	25	335			142
Bohemian Waxwing	76		81	8	13	27	*	75	108	8				2	2		*	1		128			
Cedar Waxwing									*										2				
Pine Warbler						1																	
Summer Tanager									1														
Am. Tree Sparrow	13			15	70	64	35	126	21	63	6	2	9	19	12	2	*	1					4
Chipping Sparrow				1		*			1						8								
Savannah Sparrow																							
Fox Sparrow	1		1		4	9	*	2	4					3									
Song Sparrow					18			2															
Swamp Sparrow				*	5	29	2	8		4			1	1				5				*	
Wh-throat Sparrow	1						*												1				
Wh-crown Sparrow																			5				
Dark-eyed Junco	9	1	5	8	104	177	71	73	130	23	2	5	8	12	11	31	8	7					
Snow Bunting	12	50	21	97	269	12	248	306	12	13	11		65	12	1	300	*	40	102	*		180	1
Northern Cardinal		*		*			1	2	11	*			1	3	1	1	2	*					
Rose-br Grosbeak																		/					
Red-wing Blackbird			1						1	*	1			1				1					
Common Grackle			1		1									1			2	2					
Brown-hd Cowbird																		2					
Baltimore Oriole		*							1														
Pine Grosbeak	15	12	78	8	13	203	18	170	143	81	4	2	103	90	57	38	39	87	10	19	2	5	5
Purple Finch	12		7				3	2	2		1		31	1	5	1	4	15		2		2	
House Finch	6			6	2			1	6		4							*		2			
Red Crossbill	*			20															6	25		5	
Wh-wing Crossbill	17	*	10			3		2	3		19	5	3						60	75	25	281	
Common Redpoll	268	60	390	389	51	36	156	210	377	207	100		295	31	97	82	53	68		*			
Hoary Redpoll		*	1						4	21	*		6		31		20	34	16			*	
Pine Siskin	10		25		23																		
Am. Goldfinch	22	4	25	8	101	56	19	43	184	32	1		42	41	109	3	21	18		5		23	
Evening Grosbeak	76	24	69	10	50	1	20	31	48	17	*	3	48	127	261	56	32	115	11	94		37	
House Sparrow	1		76	22	174		25	194	1	91	1		59	4	6	95		23	30				
Unidentified	79 a						52 b						3 c		2				44 d				
TOTAL BIRDS	2565	1515	2684	1676	6454	3718	1853	2545	9271	2686	575	96	1584	1601	2156	1241	970	939	449	1649	78	25	1364
TOTAL SPECIES	40	33	43	35	49	51	31	45	59	40	30	16	32	33	37	25	29	31	25	37	11	7	27
A-44 Species Period	7	13	7	4	1	3	5	6	9	4	2	2	4	1	0	0	6	6	0	3	0	0	3

2001-2002 CBC	E-C	StA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Hil	Min	ScK	CT	Shd	Buc	KNP	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	P-Ro	NB Tot.
Black-headed Gull	256	1	33	1	69	6	5	148	1	70	40	109	*	*	1	2	2	1	7	12	12	259 ±
Bonaparte's Gull	3	45		41									249	22	1							1155 ++
Ring-billed Gull	1738	1335	606	368	987	175	14	198	168	2853	503	761	1290	308	176	46	22	101	103	248	193	13185 ±
Herring Gull	2		44	1	302	6		31	45	66	37	242	38	18	2	29	83	36	459	32	3	1498 +
Iceland Gull					1	2				3	2	1		1	*	3					1	16 --
Glaucous Gull	508	188	490	26	177	15	2	5	218	2041	95	263	585	265	62	40	134	56	306	985	614	7660 ±
Grt. Black-bk Gull	842			20												1	16					879 ±
Blk-leg Kittiwake																3						3
Common Murre				11																		11
Razorbill	13		23	9												37	106		4	1		193 ±
Black Guillemot	56	32	68	44	627	95	1	16	54	1654	396	58	566	371	135	67	71		28	23	102	9282 ±
Rock Dove #																						5392 +
Mourning Dove	5	136	68	30	291	98	30	85	255	313	425	168	146	219	83	106	142	55	77	35	54	6 ±
Great Horned Owl									1		2		1	*	*	3				*	1	17 +
Snowy Owl											3					1	8					*
N. Hawk Owl	1				*								1	*					1			13 +
Barred Owl									1													1
Short-eared Owl																*						1
N. Saw-whet Owl	1	1						1						1								3
Belted Kingfisher																						1
Red-head Woodprkr																						1
Red-bellied Wdpkr																						2
Downy Woodprkr	6	6	2		34	1	11	12	5	14	14	7	7	8	2	11	5	2	7	4	3	451 ±
Hairy Woodprkr	2	6	*		26	*	7	6	9	25	7	2	7	12	4	7	9	3	4	12	6	497 ±
Blk-back Woodprkr						*						2			*	1						3 -
Northern Flicker										1										1		2 -
Pileated Woodprkr		2	2		3			1						4								70 ±
Ash-thr Flycatcher					*	1		3	3	1	1				1	1	2	4				1
Northern Shrike																						28 -
Red-eyed Vireo																						1
Gray Jay																						
Blue Jay	18	33	9		10	1		5	5	7	10	1	2	9	1	1			14	3		306 ±
American Crow	102	224	72	119	339	78	14	66	130	187	193	141	137	150	71	48	79	33	46	28	40	3272 ±
Common Raven	4	15	6	9	34	28	32	80	300	525	574	148	465	205	110	25	61	26	41	22	88	6428 +
Horned Lark					1	4				81	171	63	58	45	19	33	87	29	43	10	2	2105 -
Blk-cap Chickadee	29	269	42	53	569	115	176	565	588	691	815	704	657	638	305	173	185	65	220	72	77	13380 ++
Boreal Chickadee		1	2	6	3	2	9	37	11	3	35	22	3	10	8	2	37	17	7	2		288 ±
Red-br Nuthatch	1	14	1	4	37	32	7	70	25	26	73	28	16	24	9	10	19	14	7	2	3	857 +
White-br Nuthatch		8			9		2	1		7	1	1	6	*		1						161 ++
Brown Creeper	*	*	1		1	*	5	2	1	2	7	2		5	3	2						51 +
Carolina Wren	*	*																				* *
House Wren					*																	*
Golden-cr Kinglet	1	7	9	5	15	17	8	27	27	22	75	60	9	24	14	1	8		1	3		427 -
Blue-gry Gnatcatcher											*											* *
Hermit Thrush			1																			2
American Robin	1	*	2	1	5	6	5	2	1	2	5	1	4	*	*	*				2		72 -
Gray Catbird																						* *
N. Mockingbird			2		2	*	1			1	1	1	*	1					1			16 +
European Starling	405	211	84	35	2031	125	37	222	515	3450	681	324	1049	474	117	68	493	44	230	69	457	18762 ±
American Pipit #			*		75	20	*	160	3	362	266	44	216	2	*	13	47	2	55	32		1939 ±

2001-2002 CBC	E-C	Sta	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Hil	Mtn	Sck	CT	Shd	Buc	KNP	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	P-Ro	NB Tot.
Cedar Waxwing					5			8	4	*						1						19 -
Orange-cr. Warbler								1			1	10	3	16	1	2						1 34 ±
Yel-rump Warbler																1						1 6 *
Pine Warbler					*					2			1	1					1			1 6 *
Blk-&wh Warbler										*												1 2 1
Com. Yellowthroat					1		1		1													1 2 1
Yellow-br Chat																						1 2 1
Summer Tanager																						1 2 1
Green-tail Towhee					*																	1 2 1
Eastern Towhee					*																	1 2 1
Am. Tree Sparrow	2	4	1	10	14		2	109	54	15	33	14	2	40	10	*	*			3	2	780 - -
Chipping Sparrow	2				3			1			*				1							17
Field Sparrow											1											1 1 *
Vesper Sparrow					*																	1 1 *
Savannah Sparrow	1				2																	4
Nel Sharp-t Sparrow					1																	1 1
Fox Sparrow					2																	6
Song Sparrow		3	*	1	22		3	4	4	1	1	1	6	1		6				1		92 +
Swamp Sparrow							7	1	3	4	*		2									3 140 +
Wh-throat Sparrow		3	2		56	6																2
Wh-crown Sparrow	1	3	2	1	126	22	37	56	133	124	124	88	62	87	19	1	2			3		1581 +
Dark-eyed Junco					4																	5 -
Lapland Longspur																						3872 - -
Snow Bunting	1	3			14		80		94	120	610	387	50	58	30	447	96		105	25	28	67 +
Northern Cardinal		8	1							3			1	2	1	*			1		1	1
Rose-br Grosbeak					*					1		1										1
Red-wing Blackbird																						11 ±
Eastern Meadowlark											9											3
Rusty Blackbird				1																		10 ±
Common Grackle	2		1		2			*	1		3			*		1	*				1	17 -
Brown-hd Cowbird																						4 -
Baltimore Oriole					2	1				1	1			1		3					1	9 +
Bullock's Oriole																						1
Pine Grosbeak	9	17	7		62	6	13	67	92	66	75	28	40	22	19	27	15		14	1	2	1784 +
Purple Finch		14			29		4	9	399	5		1			1							140 -
House Finch		6			131					221	3		23	4		*						407 +
Red Crossbill							2			17				*	1							28 ±
Wh-wing Crossbill		11		1	23	14	65	91	2	15	202	50	12	25	28	3	17	12	25	7		721 ±
Common Redpoll	1	1	6		69		4	9		341	278	418	275	556	78	186	184	62	99	62	11	6350 +
Hoary Redpoll																						49
Pine Siskin		1			15	*				44		1				8	8			*	3	271 -
Am. Goldfinch	1	8			118	1	4	28	207	125	164	7	33	22	10	9	6			46	5	1551 -
Evening Grosbeak					7			3	15	43	2		13	1	8	*						1242 - -
House Sparrow	1	4			77			29	15	95	118	20	4	34	*	*	20		8	19	12	1238 -
Unidentified					61 f	* g				1 h		12i									22 k	276
TOTAL BIRDS	4832	9069	2854	1558	8304	1091	620	3029	3706	15098	6492	6810	8743	6235	1388	987	2460	1355	2010	1823	2034	138192
TOTAL SPECIES	52	53	44	42	72	44	35	56	51	59	61	58	63	57	43	43	53	38	33	39	34	133
Add. Spp. in Period	2	7	6	0	12	7	3	2	0	4	4	1	9	14	7	9	8	0	1	6	1	14
TOTAL HOURS	17.3	19.5	10	12	85	22.25	45.8	40.5	30+	122	94.5	79.25	52.5	56.5	60.5	40	68	44	32	30.5	13	1809.1
Feeder reports		10			19	3	2	2	3	5	4		1	1	2	5	4	4	4	2	1	335

STU TINGLEY RECOGNIZED

Connie Colpitts

Good evening Mr. President, Guests, Fellow Naturalists and our host, the Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche.

One day, many years ago, a young boy of 14 shot what he thought was a duck. He didn't know what kind, so he went to the local wildlife service to find out. To the boy's shock and dismay, he discovered he had shot a loon. That was a federal offence, and punishment could be severe. But the wildlife officer saw in the boy's reaction an opportunity to teach him a lesson and told him to get the *Peterson Field Guide* and learn how to identify the duck so he wouldn't make the same mistake again.

The boy returned quite late for class that day and explained the dilemma to his teacher. She too, felt a kindness for him and went herself to the library to get him the field guide. That night, he stayed up until the wee hours of the morning, digesting each picture in amazement. By the time he got to the section on warblers, he was totally enthralled. Life for the boy would never be the same again.

He gathered up all the Canadian Tire money he could find and purchased a pair of binoculars for \$19.79. The next step in his quest for knowledge was the local naturalist club. Certainly his friends would not be interested, for if they knew his new pastime they were sure to taunt him. He did not want to be intimidated at his first meeting, so he memorized the Latin name of every bird, certain that this would be a prerequisite for membership in such an elite group. As you can well imagine, it was our young man who made this impression.

Late the next spring, the wildlife service said it thought he might be able to have a job doing a bird survey, but he would have to learn the bird songs in only two weeks. Our star pupil mastered that as well and the rest is history.

What a beautiful example of how our lives are forever changed by a single incident or by those we meet. That wildlife officer and teacher made an effort to reach out and touch a boy's life. That boy has been touching our lives ever since. From the fateful day when he shot the loon to the present, the gentleman we all know and love so well, Stuart Tingley, has made birding his life, his work and his passion.

I first came under Stu's spell in 1989, as a student in a birding course he was giving at the university. Like everyone, we are captivated by the man and his

enthusiasm. But what makes Stu so special? On this we will all agree-- his unselfish willingness to share his knowledge. But I must single out yet another: his kindness and consideration of all with whom he comes in contact. It doesn't matter if they are young or old, rich or poor, short or tall, quick or slow, good sight or bad...he makes that special, *gracious* effort to embrace everyone in the pleasures of pursuit.

He wanted more eyes out there looking; he wanted his students to be able to identify the usual as well as recognize the potential of a rarity. Who but Stu would have learned to speak French so he could communicate with yet another group of people and expand the world of birds around the province? He turned us into a gang of listeners. In 1989, there were nine members in the 300 Club. Today, there are nearly 60.

He taught us to be as excited about a winter starling as we were when we discovered a Sandwich Tern. His enthusiasm is contagious and that fervour has now embraced butterflies, damselflies and dragonflies. His web page is absolutely superlative---a virtual field guide for all New Brunswickers. It is free, with no strings attached; all he asks for in return are our comments.

The gentleman we honour here tonight is so very generous with his time and talent; he is a kind and gentle human being who has worked tirelessly to pass on his love and zeal for all things that fly.

In closing, I want to return to the story of the loon for a moment. The word *loon* is sometimes used to describe boy or youth. The Cree call it *mookwa*, Spirit of the North. Myths of the loon are legendary, and in many native tribes the bird is associated with the story of creation.

In one Inuit version, a blind boy has his sight restored by a loon, and in return, the boy gives the loon his most prized possession, a shell necklace for the loon to wear about its neck as reassurance that its spirit should endure forever. I profess to be a romantic and believe that the loon I spoke of at the beginning of this story sacrificed itself that fateful day. So, when next you see the unmistakable silhouette of a loon flying on a distant horizon or hear its haunting call echoing over a misty lake at dusk, remember that young boy who grew up to give us all an enhanced vision of this province's natural heritage and a legacy to endure forever.

From all of us who enjoy the pleasure of your company, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We love you!

Editor's note: NBFN awarded Stu Tingley an honorary life membership at 2002 AGM.

➤ **DIRECTIVES POUR LES ANNONCES PUBLICITAIRE POUR LA FNNB**



- Catégories de publicité dans le Naturaliste du N.-B.

- 1. Annonces classées**
- 2. Annonces publicitaires cartes d'affaires, ¼, ½, et page pleine**

-La publicité dans le Naturaliste du N.-B. sera limitée à un maximum de 4 pages.

1. Annonces classées dans le Naturaliste du N.-B.

- 1.1 Les items pour vente devraient être reliés à la nature (jumelles, bouquins sur la nature, mangeoires, etc).
- 1.2 Les frais pour les annonces classées devront être réglés avant l'impression (comptant, chèque ou mandat).
- 1.3 Les annonces doivent être soumises au moins 1 semaine avant la date limite de l'impression.
- 1.4 La FNNB n'est pas responsable pour les objets vendus ou achetés.
- 1.5 La FNNB peut refuser d'imprimer toutes annonces trompeuses ou des annonces qui vont contre les principes de l'organisme.

Frais: -pour les membres de la FNNB: \$5.00 jusqu'à 25 mots, 25¢ pour chaque mots additionnels.
-pour non-membres de la FNNB: \$10.00 jusqu'à 25 mots, 25¢ pour chaque mots additionnels.

2. Annonces publicitaires dans le Naturalistes du N.-B. (Carte d'affaire, ¼, ½ et page pleine). Noir et blanc seulement.

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AGA 2002 AGM

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NATURE NEWS: MAMMALS

APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2002

Mike LeBlanc

Three or four **Little Brown Bats** (*Vespertilio brun*) put on a great aerial show catching insects around a lighted deck at Moncton the evening of June 22 (MNC).

The first **Eastern Chipmunk** (*Tamias rayé*) of the year, "a bedraggled one", was seen in a yard at Taymouth on April 26 (MP).

A **Porcupine** (*Porc-épic d'Amérique*) was observed snoozing on the Crawley Farm Road at Moncton on May 6 (CB).

On the Trans-Canada Highway near Kings Landing Historical Settlement on May 19 a **Coyote** (*Coyote*) was trying to feed on a deer carcass as and when passing cars allowed (DGG).

A close encounter with a medium-sized **Black Bear** (*Ours noir*) which loped across the Pine Glen Road at Riverview on May 25, caused observers (DSC, MM) to apply the brakes to avoid hitting the animal. The first of what would be many bears reported in June in KNP was at the intersection building and Route 117 on June 1 (IS). One was seen near the Loggiecroft wharf on June 2, 12 and 17. For safety reasons the Côte à Fabien campground was closed for a few days. One adult and two cubs were near the entrance to the South Kouchibouguac Campground in KNP on June 25. One adult with two cubs was near the Claire-Fontaine trail that day also (*fide* MLB).



Striped Skunk by Margery Acheson



*Eastern Chipmunk
by Margery Acheson*

An early-appearing **Striped Skunk** (*Moufette rayée*) was at Lower Jemseg on April 29 (PC). A medium-sized mammal chasing some squirrels at Bayside on June 23 was thought to have been a **Fisher** (*Pékan*) (TD). One was spotted near Petit Large in KNP on June 30 (*fide* MLB).

A rare **Bobcat** (*Lynx roux*) that ran across the road near Howard Brook in Carleton County on April 27 still had long gray winter fur (MA).

Around Grand Manan there were many **Harbour Seals** (*Phoque commun*) spotted resting on ledges. Four

Harbour Porpoises (*Marsouin commun*)

that were caught in herring weirs were released by local fishermen on June 20 (LDM). At Marys Point beach a rotting

Harp Seal (*Phoque du Groenland*), a species quite rare in the Bay of Fundy, was discovered on May 4 (YSP). **Gray Seals** (*Phoque gris*) returned to KNP a little early: on May 25 there were about 300 at Blacklands Gully and by June 29 about 250 were enjoying the waters of the park (MLB).

On June 11, Denyse Zyveniuk saw a **Moose** (*Orignal*) in her backyard at Tide Head, but when she looked for her camera the animal disappeared. She then noticed it swimming across to an island in front of her home where it disappeared in the trees.

On one of the ferry crossings to Grand Manan a **Humpback Whale** (*Rorqual à bosse*) was spotted on June 20 (LDM).

Abbreviations

CB, Charlotte Breau; DGG, Don Gibson; DSC, David Christie; IS, Inuk Simard; KNP, Kouchibouguac National Park; LDM, Laurie Murison; MA, Marieka Arnold; MLB, Mike LeBlanc; MM, Mary Majka; MNC, Moncton Nature Club; MP, Margie Pacey; PC, Pierre Champigny; TD, Tracey Dean; YSP, Yves and Suzanne Poussar.

NATURE NEWS: AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES SPRING 2002

Don McAlpine

Although this report covers the period from January 1 to June 30, 2002, as might be expected there were no reported observations of amphibians and reptiles until April. Pretty much on cue, the first amphibians began to move to breeding ponds in early April. Becky Whittam and Sean Blaney discovered a **Blue-spotted Salamander** in their damp Sackville basement on April 3; when they checked a nearby pond they found it "writhing" with other salamanders of the same species. By April 11, Bob Blake of Second North River was hearing lots of **Wood Frogs** calling. Listening for the call of peepers has long been an eagerly anticipated spring ritual for Nev Garrity, so a small chorus of **Spring Peepers**, audible from his Frosty Hollow backyard on April 15, was a welcome sound.

On April 16, I was warmly welcomed to the Bouctouche Naturalists' Club by Mike and Bernadette LeBlanc, when I gave a presentation on New Brunswick amphibians.

However, as dusk settled over the dunes I soon found myself competing with the real thing; a strong chorus of **Spring Peepers** and **Wood Frogs** was emanating from a small marsh pond on the edge of the dunes,



Wood Frog by Margery Acheson

probably less than 30 metres from the shoreline. Although there are published reports of American Toads breeding in brackish water I am not aware of such reports for other northeastern amphibians. It would be interesting to know how widely such seaside marshes might be used by amphibians in our region and whether those marshes are at all brackish. That same evening Becky Whittam, Mike Russell, Beth Flanigan and Sean Blaney heard **Spring Peepers** and **Wood Frogs** while running their owl survey near Midgic. On April 19 both Denis Doucet at Moncton and Ron Arsenault at Memramcook noted **Wood Frogs** and **Spring Peepers** calling near their homes, along with the first trills of the year of **American Toads**. Julie Singleton noted that **Wood Frogs** called near Taymouth until April 20, after which a period of much cooler weather set in and the frogs stopped for a few nights. However, by April 26 both **Wood Frogs** and

peepers were calling again at Taymouth and on April 27 Julie noted calling frogs of those two species were "numerous".

On May 3, Roger LeBlanc heard at least one **Leopard Frog** calling from the Bell Street Marsh in Moncton, and several days later on May 6 Mike Russell heard his first **Leopard Frog** of the season at the Sackville Waterfowl Park. Also on May 6, Ron Arsenault noted strong choruses of **Spring Peepers** in the Memramcook area, but observed that **Wood Frogs** were past their peak. One



Leopard Frog
by Margery Acheson

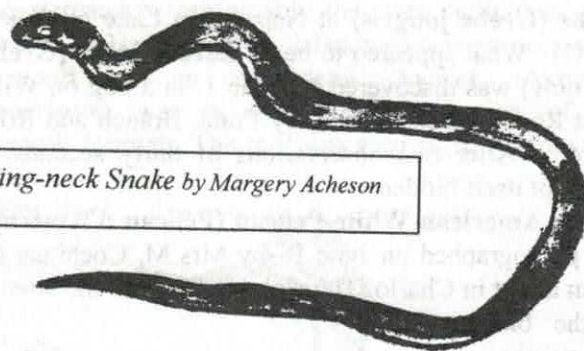
lone
Leopard Frog was

vocalizing that evening and Ron observed enormous masses of **Wood Frogs** and **Yellow-spotted Salamanders**. A very unusual report was that of a dead **Atlantic Leatherback Seaturtle** which washed ashore at Baie Verte on the property of George Fillmore (see Times Transcript, May 14, page A9). Up to 100 area residents made the trek to the site to view the reptile, which had a carapace length of about 140 cm. The turtle probably died late in the autumn of 2001 and was somewhat decomposed. Although leatherbacks have been recorded in Atlantic Canadian waters in virtually every month of the year, August to October is considered seaturtle season here, leatherbacks normally withdrawing south to tropical waters for the winter. Gay Hanson, of Mount Allison University, with the assistance of her son Theo and Mike Russell graciously cut up the turtle for later transport to the New Brunswick Museum.

On May 17 at Taymouth, Julie Singleton noted **American Toads** trilling loudly among a strong chorus of **Spring Peepers** and a waning one of **Wood Frogs**. Several nights later I was in Dalhousie to give a talk on amphibians and lead a field trip for the Restigouche Regional Museum. On May 18, when Bill Clark and I went out to locate potential field sites, there were strong

On May 17 at Taymouth, Julie Singleton noted **American Toads** trilling loudly among a strong chorus of **Spring Peepers** and a waning one of **Wood Frogs**. Several nights later I was in Dalhousie to give a talk on amphibians and lead a field trip for the Restigouche Regional Museum. On May 18, when Bill Clark and I went out to locate potential field sites, there were strong choruses of **Spring Peepers**, but the **Wood Frogs** were well past their peak. A few **Wood Frogs** called enthusiastically in the rain at about 2030 hrs and three **American Toads** were calling. All of the **Wood Frog** egg masses I observed were well advanced though. On the following night about ten of us ventured out in somewhat cooler weather than the previous evening. Although peepers were calling strongly, along with a few **Wood Frogs**, the **American Toads** had gone silent. Over the May 20 long weekend the first **Wood Turtle** observations of the season were made. While fishing on the Cains River near Doaktown, Jean-Michel Devink noted a **Wood Turtle** with a 25 cm carapace. Mary and Dwayne Sabine found a male **Wood Turtle** easily sexed on the basis of its concave undershell on shore about two metres from the water's edge near Durham Bridge, on the Nashwaak River. Its carapace was about 18 cm. On May 27 Tim Fletcher observed a **Green Snake** at Randolph,

Saint John. Some weeks later, on June 20, Tim was accompanied by Angie Buchan when he discovered a **Ring-neck Snake**, perhaps the most secretive of New Brunswick snakes, at the same locality. June also produced several reports of **Snapping Turtles**. About June 1 Peter Pearce observed a snapper at Carman Creek, Fredericton. On June 24 Gary Tobin saw a snapper crossing Highway 1 near St. George. Snapping Turtles are fairly common in southwestern New Brunswick. A highly aquatic species, it is most often observed in New Brunswick in June and July when females venture on shore in search of suitable egg laying sites. Sandy roadsides and railway embankments are often used for that purpose. Finally, over the June 29-30 weekend Scott Neilsen saw a **Wood Turtle** near Durham Bridge.



Ring-neck Snake by Margery Acheson

NATURE NEWS: INSECTS SPRING 2002

Jim Edsall

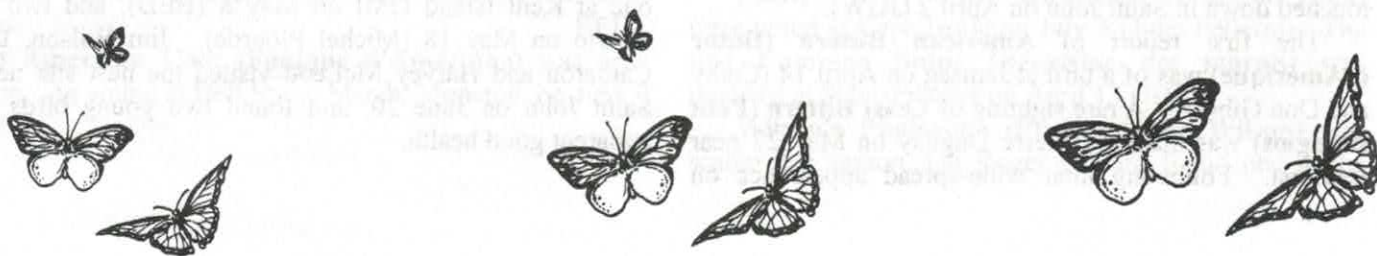
The earliest butterfly reports were, as usual, of the **Mourning Cloak** (*Nymphalis antiopa*) one of which was seen on April 5 at Lower Jemseg by Shirley Sloat and at Beaverdam on April 11 (Jim Wilson).

On June 4, Don Gibson reported **Bog Elfin** (*Incisalia lanoraiensis*) and **Pepper and Salt Skipper** (*Amblyscirtes hegon*) in the UNB Woodlot at Fredericton. Also on June 4, a **Harvester**, (*Fenesica tarquinius*) was reported at Coates Mills (Stu Tingley). Another Harvester was on the Crowley Farm Road at Moncton on June 18 (Jim Edsall).

Six **Silvery Checkerspots** (*Melitea nycteis*) were spotted at Indian Falls Depot by Don Gibson and Jim Goltz on June 29. On June 30 these two sharp-eyed individuals located a rarely-reported **Greenish Blue** (*Plebejus saepiolus*) near Mount Carleton.

Stu Tingley found a very rare **Cobra Clubtail** dragonfly (*Gomphus vastus*) at Coal Creek, Queens County on June 16.

Also of note in the insect world was a massive hatching of a rather large mayfly species (Ephemeroptera) in Moncton. During the last two weeks of June, riverside homes and businesses were carpeted with mayflies attracted by outdoor lights.



NATURE NEWS: BIRDS APRIL 1 – JULY 4, 2002

Ken MacIntosh

The first spring report of **Pied-billed Grebe (Grèbe à bec bigarré)** was of an individual at Lower Cambridge on April 2 (DGG, Shirley Sloat). The Podiceps grebes are part of the Fundy coast background throughout winter and into spring, but inland sightings are less common. They are not known to breed in New Brunswick. A **Horned Grebe (Grèbe esclavon)** in breeding plumage must have brightened the late April scenery in Lower Jemseg on April 27 (Andrew MacInnis). More surprising because of the date was the observation of a **Red-necked Grebe (Grèbe jougris)** at Napadogan Lake on June 23 (DGG). What appeared to be an **Eared Grebe (Grèbe à cou noir)** was discovered on June 1, in a bog on Wilson Point Road, Miscou Island, by Frank Branch and Robert Doiron. After two observations of thirty seconds, the bird kept itself hidden.

An **American White Pelican (Pélican d'Amérique)** was photographed on June 13 by Mrs M. Cochrane as it swam about in Charlo. The sighting came to the attention of the birding community

when the photograph was published in the *Telegraph-Journal*

"Reader". It seemed Jim Wilson had no sooner

commented on the rarity of this sighting when another appeared at

Cocagne Island

on July 3 (Louis-Émile Cormier, *fide* MLB), and a third was spotted at Bear Island on

the Mactaquac headpond on July 8 (Ernie MacLean). A facet of spring migration which not everyone appreciates, **Double-crested Cormorant (Cormoran à aigrettes)** touched down in Saint John on April 2 (JGW).

The first report of **American Bittern (Butor d'Amérique)** was of a bird at Jemseg on April 14 (Cathy and Don Gibson). A rare sighting of **Least Bittern (Petit Blongios)** was made by Pierre Duguay on May 27 near Bathurst. Following their wide-spread appearance on

March 31 (see NB Naturalist 29(1)), **Great Blue Heron (Grand Héron)** had spread north to Saint-André-de-Madawaska by April 5 (Roy Lapointe and JDBourque). While Great and Snowy Egrets were scattered in the east they were nearly absent from common haunts along the Fundy coast west of St. Martin's. The less common Cattle Egret, Little Blue and Tricolored Herons were not reported at all.

Among sightings of **Great Egret (Grande Aigrette)** were singles near Shippagan, May 15-17 (Roland Robichaud, *fide* Marcel David), at Castalia Marsh GMI on May 18 (JGW), at Cap Brûlé May 30 (Julie Pellerin, *fide* MNC), at St. Antoine on June 10 (Denis Doucet) and at Dieppe on June 28 (Gilles Bourque). The only report of **Snowy Egret (Aigrette neigeuse)** was of a bird on visit to Sheep Island GMI on June 20 (BED). **Green Herons (Héron vert)** were seen May 13 at Riverside Albert (DSC, MM), June 2 at Deadman's Harbour (Ken MacIntosh), and June 21 on a tributary of the

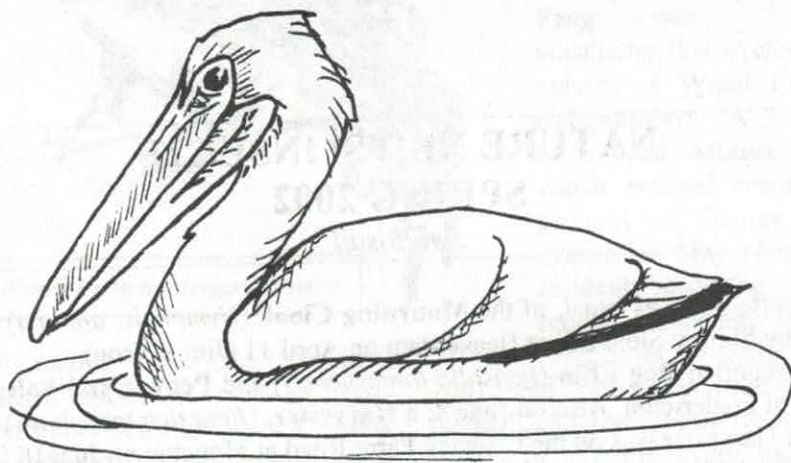
Restigouch (MGD+).

It was not a Ibis year; the only report was of a single **Glossy Ibis (Ibis falcinelle)** at Rexton on April 18 (MLB).

The only report of **Black Vulture (Uruba noir)** was of a bird, with most of the expected features, which Nelson Poirer

watched near Shediac Bridge on July 2. **Turkey Vultures (Uruba à tête rouge)** continue to be less remarkable as

probably less often reported in New Brunswick. Among reports this spring were five at Hammond River on April 2, several at Fredericton on April 14 (Cathy Beaulieu), one at Kent Island GMI on May 8 (BED), and two at Charlo on May 18 (Michel Plourde). Jim Wilson, Cameron and Harvey McLeod visited the nest site near Saint John on June 20, and found two young birds in apparent good health.



American White Pelican by Jim Edsall

Reports of **Snow Geese (Oie des neiges)** this spring came from Saint John on April 21, on the Restigouche River on April 22 (MGD), at Saint-Basile on April 23 (JDB), at Maugerville on April 27 (Shirley Sloat, Margery Acheson) and at Shepody Marsh on May 10 (DSC, MM). **Brant (Bernache cravant)** were reported inland at Burton Bridge on the St. John River on April 9 and at Eel River Bar on April 20 (Irene Doyle, *fide* MGD). **Eurasian Wigeon (Canard siffleur)** were found at Lower Jemseg on April 14 (Linda Kneebone, Judy Nason), and at the same location on April 17 (Pierre Champigny). The first **Blue-winged Teal (Sarcelle à ailes bleues)** of the season was at Lower Jemseg on April 18 (Pierre Champigny).

Redhead (Fuligule à tête rouge) were reported at the Calhoun impoundment on April 24 (pair; DSC, MM), at Dalhousie on April 29 (Mike Lushington), and an astounding seven at the Caraquet sewage lagoon on May 24 (Marcel David). A **Common Eider (Eider à duvet)** was unusual on the St. John River at Second Falls, Madawaska County, on May 4 (JDB). Reports of **Ruddy Duck (Érismature rousse)** were of two at Saint-Joseph on April 20 (MNC), three at the Lancaster sewage lagoon, Saint John, May 23, (Eileen Pike) and another at the St-Leonard sewage lagoon on June 6 (JDB).

There were many spring reports of returning **Osprey (Balbuzard pêcheur)**, including birds at Lower Jemseg on April 2 (DGG, Shirley Sloat), Nauwigewauk on April 7 (Hank Deichmann), Eel River on April 16 (MGD), Sackville on April 17 (Mike Russell), and Memramcook Lake on April 20 (Yolande LeBlanc). A pair of **Northern Harrier (Busard Saint-Martin)** were courting at Memramcook on April 5 (Yolande LeBlanc). A **Broad-winged Hawk (Petite Buse)** was reported on the Whistle Road, GMI, on April 23 (BED).

Reports of **Gyr Falcon (Faucon gerfaut)** were of a single at Douglas on April 6 (Bev Schneider), and four at Dalhousie on April 22 (Gilles Rioux, *fide* MGD). David Christie passed along the following exciting news of a New Brunswick ex-patriot. "Diane Amirault of the Canadian Wildlife Service in Sackville has informed me that a young **Peregrine Falcon (Faucon pèlerin)** that she banded in Albert County in 1998, has been nesting in Buffalo, New York, for the last three years. Its full band number was just determined this year, permitting identification of the origin of this female."

A **Yellow Rail (Râle jaune)** was heard calling in the late evening of June 22 at Whale Cove Marsh, GMI (*fide* BED).

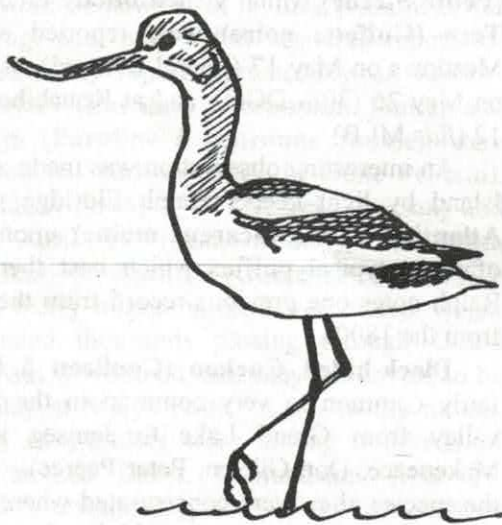
An **American Coot (Foulque d'Amérique)** was seen escorting young at Bell Street Marsh, Moncton, on June 9 (MC).

Sandhill Cranes (Grue du Canada) returned again to Havelock. Jim Brown reported seeing adults there for the fourth consecutive year on April 8.

A **Black-bellied Plover (Pluvier argenté)** was at Sheep Island, GMI, on May 9, and a **Piping Plover (Pluvier siffleur)** made an appearance at Kent Island May 8 (BED). Piping Plovers were at Bouctouche dune on May 6, along with one **Semipalmated Plover (Pluvier semipalmé)** (MLB). A **Killdeer (Pluvier kildir)** was pushing the limits with four eggs in a nest near Sussex on April 30 (Jim Brown), while a late snow was on the ground. Another Killdeer was early at Saint-André-de-Madawaska, April 5 (Roy Lapointe, JDB).

Brian Dalzell reported an **American Oystercatcher (Huîtrier d'Amérique)** at Long Pond Beach on June 30. An oystercatcher, presumably the same individual, was later seen on Hay and Sheep Islands on several occasions. A report of an **American Avocet (Avocette d'Amérique)** was in the "Reader" section of the Telegraph-Journal. The bird was seen at St. Andrews by Janice Hashey on May 12, 2002 (*fide* DGG).

Early reports of **Greater Yellowlegs (Grand Chevalier)** were from Castalia Marsh, GMI, on April 22 (BED), and Sackville Waterfowl Park April 23 (Mike Russell).



American Avocet by Jim Edsall

A **Willet (Chevalier semipalmé)** was at Kent Island, GMI, May 15 (BED). Other shorebirds which visited Brian Dalzell at his Sheep Island refuge were **Ruddy Turnstone (Tournepierre à collier)** and **Dunlin (Bécasseau variable)** on May 9, and **White-rumped Sandpiper (Bécasseau à croupion blanc)** on June 20.

Fourteen **Short-billed Dowitcher (Bécassin roux)** were noted at Cape Brûlé on July 5 (Julie Pellerin). The first **Common Snipe (Bécassine des marais)** was reported at Saint-Jacques on April 13 (JDB).

Wilson's Phalarope (Phalarope de Wilson) was scarce this season, but Roger Guitard found one at the

sewage lagoon in Pointe-Verte, June 4. **Red Phalarope (Phalarope à bec large)** were off Grand Manan Island on June 20 (Laurie Murison).

Two **Laughing Gulls (Mouette atricille)** were seen from the ferry in Grand Manan Channel on June 26 (Steve Mirick, *fide* BED).

Jim Wilson reported three **Parasitic Jaeger (Labbe parasite)** "flying together near The Wolves on the return ferry" from Grand Manan on May 21. On the same trip, he and Jean Wilson located a first spring **Lesser Black-backed Gull (Goeland brun)** at Castalia Marsh on May 17, and a **Sabine's Gull (Mouette de Sabine)** was seen on May 17, seen near the Swallowtail (JGW, Ron Steeves, Julia McCollum).

Lesser Black-backed Gulls were also seen at Maugerville on April 27 (DGG). Bev Schneider reported a **California Gull (Goéland de Californie)** at Long Pond on June 27; no further reports on this rarity were submitted.

Another exciting spin-off from Brian Dalzell's stay on Sheep Island was the observation of two **Least Tern (Petite Sterne)** which visited briefly on June 21. **Black Tern (Guifette noire)** were reported at Grand Lake Meadows on May 17 (Laurel Bernard), at Sunpoke Lake on May 26 (30 - DGG), and at Kouchibouguac on June 12 (*fide* MLB).

An interesting observation was made at Machias Seal Island by light keeper Ralph Eldridge - an all white **Atlantic Puffin (Macareux moine)** among the hundreds of more typical puffins which nest there (*fide* JGW). Ralph notes one previous record from the same location from the 1800s.

Black-billed Cuckoo (Coulicou à bec noir) was fairly common to very common in the St. John River valley from Grand Lake to Jemseg in June (Scott Makepeace, Don Gibson, Peter Pearce). As is usual for the species, they were concentrated where infestations of Gypsy Moth caterpillars could be found. Others were reported by Louis-Emile Cormier at Cocagne on June 3, and by Roger LeBlanc, north of Moncton on June 2. A very rare spring visitor was a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Coulicou à bec jaune)** found by Brian Dalzell at the lighthouse at Southwest Head on May 20.

Snowy Owl (Harfang des neiges) made a nice yard list addition for Sean Blaney in Sackville. The latest report of a Snowy was passed along by Mike LeBlanc, who was informed that one was near Pointe Sapin on May 10. Also of interest was a **Boreal Owl (Nyctale de Tengmalm)** heard on an owl survey near Midgic (Becky Whittam).

Chimney Swift (Martinet ramoneur) was first noted at Point Lepreau on May 12 by Tracey Dean.

Judging from the enthusiasm with which birdwatchers report the arrival of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Colibri à gorge rubis)** each spring there must be a strong sentimental association of this bird with the season. May 7 seems to have been arrival day with reports from Rosevale (Ajo Wissink), Quispamsis (Jim Wilson), Chamcook Lake, Charlotte County (Jan Tarn) and Sackville (Kathy Popma).

Spring reports of **Belted Kingfisher (Martin pêcheur d'Amérique)** came from the Nashwaak River valley on April 15 (Margie Pacey) and from Memramcook Lake the same day (Roger LeBlanc).

Red-bellied Woodpeckers (Pic à ventre roux) were discovered at Grand Manan Island on May 18 (Jim Wilson, Ron Steeves, Bill Nelson), and either one or two birds were at Germantown and Riverside Albert about the same time (Shannon Inman, MNC). Early reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Pic maculé)** were from Bayside, St. Andrews on April 12 (Tracey Dean) and from Sackville on April 16 (Becky Whitam).

Scarce in New Brunswick, the **Three-toed Woodpecker (Pic tridactyle)** was mentioned only in a June report from a Black Brook study area (Denis Doucet, *fide* MNC). The only report of the more common **Black-backed Woodpecker (Pic à dos noir)** was of a individual at the UNB Woodlot in Fredericton on May 1 (Ron Wilson).

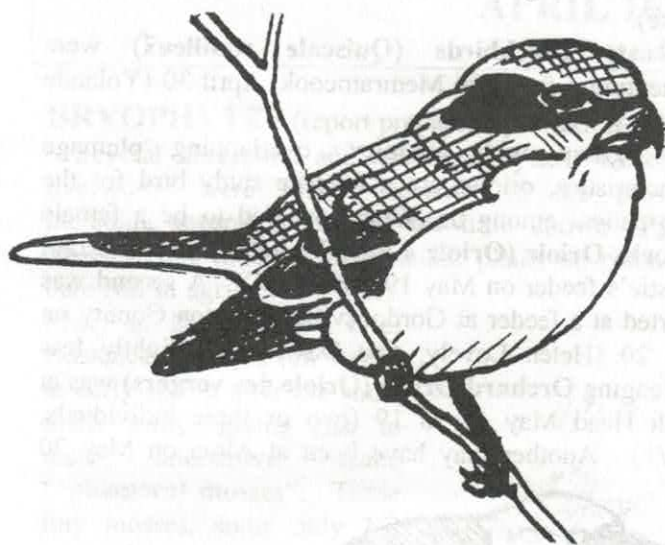
Uncommon in much of New Brunswick, the **Willow Flycatcher (Moucherolle des saules)** seems to be regular at Wilkins Airstrip, Fredericton, where it was reported May 30 (Peter Pearce). Another was at Cana Charlotte County on June 21 (Ken MacIntosh). Spring **Least Flycatcher (Moucherolle tchébec)** reports were from Marys Point on May 8 (DSC) and Point Lepreau on May 11 (Tracey Dean). The earliest **Great-crested Flycatcher (Tyran huppé)** was found at Hammon River on May 13 (JGW).

Reports of **Eastern Phoebe (Moucherolle phébé)** came first from Second Falls, Charlotte County on April 5 (Dave Baldwin), and from Deep Cove GMI on the same date (Peter Pearce).

Exciting flycatcher reports were unfortunately single observer accounts: a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (Tyran longue queue)** was spotted in the bushes near the ferry terminal at Black's Harbour, June 26 (Bev Schneider). More spectacular was a possible **Gray Kingbird** seen in the Bathurst area by Marco Scichilone, but not found again for further study.

A bird which would not have made much of a stir thirty years ago, the **Loggerhead Shrike (Pie-grièche migratrice)** has since declined greatly and all but disappeared from New Brunswick. Ron Steeves found one early on May 20 at Whale Cove, GMI. It was inter-

on capturing insects, behaving much like a bluebird and dropping down to the ground from low perches to catch



Loggerhead Shrike by Jim Edsall

them. A few others were able to watch it briefly before it shied away. The first vireo arrival was a **Blue-headed Vireo** (*Viréo à tête bleue*) in the Pokiok, York County area on April 16 (Dwayne Sabine). A **Warbling Vireo** (*Viréo mélodieux*) was a first net capture for Tracey Dean at St. Andrew's on May 27.

Purple Martin (*Hirondelle noire*) returned to the Sackville Waterfowl Park on April 23 (Mike Russell). **Tree Swallow** (*Hirondelle bicolor*) was first noted at Bancroft Point, GMI on April 2 (BED). The scarcely reported **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** (*Hirondelle à ailes hérissées*) was seen at the sewage lagoon in Hillsborough (Stuart Tingley) and at the Pointe-Verte lagoon June 4 (Roger Guitard). **Barn Swallow** (*Hirondelle rustique*) was at Lower Jemseg on April 5 (DGG, Peter Pearce).

A **Tufted Titmouse** (*Mésange bicolor*) appears to have been overlooked by most of the birding community; one was apparently at a feeder in Chamcook in May (*fide* Ron Wilson).

A **Carolina Wren** (*Troglodyte de Caroline*) was among many good birds found at Grand Manan, May 18. This individual has apparently persisted at the feeders of the Marathon Inn since November, 2001 (*fide* JGW). A pair nested there subsequently. Young were heard in the nest but it is not known whether they fledged (Jim Leslie, *fide* Peter Pearce). A **House Wren** (*Troglodyte familier*) visited Don Gibson's yard in Fredericton on May 13. A pair was nesting in Edmundston on July 4 (Gisèle Thibodeau, *fide* JDB).

Early Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Roitelet à couronne rubis*) were at Taymouth on April 12 (Julie Singleton), and at Pointe-à-Beaumont on April 17 (Alain Clavette).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Gobemoucheron gris-bleu*) was found this spring at Sackville on May 8 (Sean Blaney), at Marys Point on May 9 (Rose-Alma Mallet), at Anagance on May 10 (Jim Brown), at Kent Island on May 15 (BED), and at Marys Point on May 20 (DSC).

First **Eastern Bluebird** (*Merlebleu de l'Est*) reports were from Fredericton on April 12 (Cathy Beaulieu) and Taymouth on April 13 (Julie Singleton). The much declined **Wood Thrush** (*Grive des bois*) still occurs in the St. John River valley, where it was reported by Peter Pearce, at Fredericton, May 21.

Difficult to find some years, **Brown Thrasher** (*Moqueur roux*) was reported this season at St-Gabriel on May 3 (MLB), at Marys Point Road on May 14 (John Inman, *fide* Nelson Poirier), at Fredericton on May 23 (DGG), and on May 24 (Bev Schneider). Two were visiting the same feeder at Petit-Rocher in June (Luc DeRoche).

Warblers were somewhat of a disappointment for many this spring, with only a few scattered reports of unusual species. Early reports, predictably of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** (*Paruline à croupion jaune*) and **Palm Warblers** (*Paruline à couronne rousse*), were from Fundy National Park on April 14 (Julie Pellerin), from Grand Manan on April 17 (Dedreic Grecian) and Sackville on April 17 (Sean Blaney), and from Madawaska County on April 22 (Gisèle Thibodeau, *fide* JDB). Some heavy migration days were noted. Roger LeBlanc estimated thousands passing through Grand Manan on the May 4 weekend, and May 9 was said to be an incredible day at Marys Point. Later in the month, sixteen species of warblers were among hundreds of yellow-rumps at Lac Baker, Edmundston, May 24, (Eileen Pike) and seventeen species of warbler were at the St. Andrews banding station, May 26-27, (Tracey Dean).

Don Gibson reported on May 26, "there seemed to be a movement of **Blackpoll Warblers** (*Paruline rayée*) through this part of the province on the weekend. Peter Pearce found one in his backyard at Fredericton on Saturday and I found them at three different locations near Sunpoke Lake on Sunday." Around the same time, they were commonly encountered in Charlotte County (Ken MacIntosh).

Among rarities, **Blue-winged Warbler** (*Paruline à ailes bleues*) was seen only by Margaret Gallant-Doyle, May 20, at the Irving Nature Park. An unusual spring bird, **Orange-crowned Warbler** (*Paruline verdâtre*) was seen on May 15 at Kent Island (BED) and on May 27 at Campbellton (Irene Doyle). A **Yellow-breasted Chat**

(**Paruline polyglotte**) was an interesting net capture for Tracey Dean at St. Andrews on May 21.

An exciting bird at any season, **Scarlet Tanager** (**Tangara écarlate**) was reported at a Prince William feeder on May 14 (Dawn Parker), at Sheldon Point on May 17 (Heather and Ian Cameron), and at Hopewell Cape on May 19 (MNC).

There was only one report of **Eastern Towhee** (**Tohi à flancs roux**), near the lighthouse at Southwest Head on May 20 (JGW). The first report of **Chipping Sparrow** (**Bruant familial**) was at Dave Smith's feeder in Saint John on April 5.

Clay-colored Sparrow (**Bruant des plaines**) was fairly widely reported, with individuals at a feeder in Rang St-Georges on May 18 (Audard Godin, *fide* Marcel David), at a feeder in Saint John on May 26 (Dave Smith), and at Grand Manan near the Marathon Inn on May 18 (JGW).

There were three reports of **Field Sparrow** (**Bruant des champs**); at Fredericton Junction on April 26 (Frederica Givan), at McGowans Corner on June 28, (DGG, Peter Pearce), and on May 2 at Alma (Doreen Rossiter).

The rarest sparrow of the season may have eluded most birders. A second-hand report from Rivière Verte, Madawaska County, in late May, was thought to be of a **Lark Sparrow** (**Bruant à joues marron**).

While you wouldn't know it in Charlotte county, it appears to have been quite a year for **White-crowned Sparrow** (**Bruant à couronne blanche**). Sightings from May 5 to May 19 came from most of southern and eastern New Brunswick.

First spring reports of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (**Cardinal à poitrine rose**) were from Quispamsis on May 9 (JGW), and from Moncton on the same date (Doug Whittam).

Nearly as widely reported as White-crowned Sparrow, **Indigo Buntings** (**Passerin indigo**) were seen this year at many feeders, mostly in mid-May from Blacks Harbour to Kedgwick.

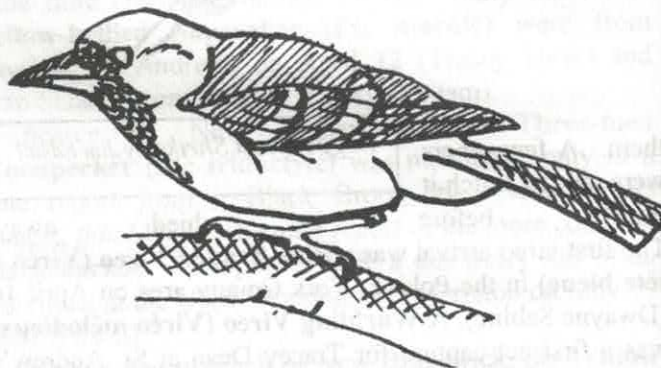
More exciting was a **Painted Bunting** (**Passerin nonpareil**) which appeared at a feeder at Sackville on April 13 and lingered until at least April 22 (Andrew Macfarlane).

Another reassuring sign that spring is well arrived is the appearance of **Bobolink** (**Goglu des prés**). First reports this year were at Alma, May 13 (Doreen Rossiter) and at Marys Point on May 14 (DSC). More of an early

spring comfort, **Eastern Meadowlark** (**Sturnelle des prés**) was noted at Fredericton on April 14 (Peter Pearce).

Rusty Blackbirds (**Quiscale rouilleux**) were frequenting a feeder at Memramcook, April 30 (Yolande LeBlanc).

A group with complex, overlapping plumage characteristics, orioles are a favorite study bird for the more patient among us. What appeared to be a female **Bullocks Oriole** (**Oriole à ailes blanches**) was at David Christie's feeder on May 19 (*fide* MNC). A second was reported at a feeder at Gordonsville, Carleton County on May 20 (Helen Lovely, *fide* DSC). The slightly less challenging **Orchard Oriole** (**Oriole des vergers**) was at North Head May 17 to 19 (two or three individuals, JGW+). Another may have been at Alma on May 20



Orchard Oriole by Jim Edsall

(*fide* MNC). **Baltimore Orioles** (**Oriole de Baltimore**) were widespread, with up to nine at Marys Point on May 19 (MNC), and thirteen at North Head, GMI, on May 17.

A late winter report to wrap things up: **Common Redpolls** (**Sizerin flammé**) were last noted on April 16 at the Whistle, GMI (BED), and the next day at Fredericton (Dedreic Grecian). Finally, Mac Rae at Atholville seems to have entertained a **European Goldfinch** (**Chardonneret élégant**) some time in mid-May, while the greater birding community slept (*fide* MGD).

Abbreviations: BED Brian Dalzell; DSC David Christie; DGG Don Gibson; GMI Grand Manan Island archipelago; JDB J. Denys Bourque; JGW Jim Wilson; MC Merv Cormier; MLB Mike LeBlanc; MGD Margaret Gallant Doyle; MM Mary Majka; MNC Moncton Naturalist Club.

NATURE NEWS: BOTANY RAMBLINGS

APRIL 16 TO JUNE 30, 2002

James P. Goltz

BRYOPHYTES (report prepared by *Bruce Bagnell*)

Several interesting and rare bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) were found* recently in the province, including several species of the little known "Pygmy Mosses" that hide among vascular plants on patches of bare soil in agricultural fields.

Many of these have a brief existence of only a few weeks in early spring after the snow melts away, giving rise to their alternative name "ephemeral mosses". These tiny mosses, some only 1-2 mm high, form a unique community of which we have

little detailed knowledge in our province. One of these minute species of mosses,

Ephemerum serratum, a new species for the province, was discovered near Sussex Corner on April 18.

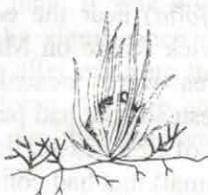
In addition to the Pygmy Mosses at Sussex Corner, a small limestone ridge there has been found to be the home of another new species of moss for the province, *Tortula ruralis*, known elsewhere in the Maritimes only from Cape Breton. An additional rare moss of limestone outcrops, *Anomodon viticulosus*, was also discovered at that site.

On April 23, while assisting Stephen Clayden in scouting sites for his soon-to-follow lichen workshop, I found an uncommon moss, *Cirriphyllum piliferum*, at the edge of a small wet depression in Sugar Maple woods near Walton Lake.

A lunch-hour walk from the New Brunswick Museum to the end of Douglas Avenue on May 28 resulted in a surprising find of a rare moss, *Tortula mucronifolia*, known from only four other sites in New Brunswick, on a limestone outcrop near Reversing Falls.

A very pleasant group outing in search for the elusive Southern Twayblade orchid near Mistake Brook in York County on June 16, resulted in the discovery of an unusual leafy liverwort (*Lophozia laxa*) previously unknown in New Brunswick, among peat mosses in a large open peatland. This liverwort has a distinctive pure green colouration, and a peculiar habit of having many of the leaves with different and unusual shapes, a character helpful in its identification in the field.

While botanizing along a small brook with intermittent conglomerate outcrop bluffs near Vinegar Hill (southwest



Typical Pygmy Moss

of Sussex) with Gert Bishop, the very rare moss, *Timmia norvegica* var. *excurrens* was discovered on June 20. This northern species is presently known elsewhere in the province from only three other sites.

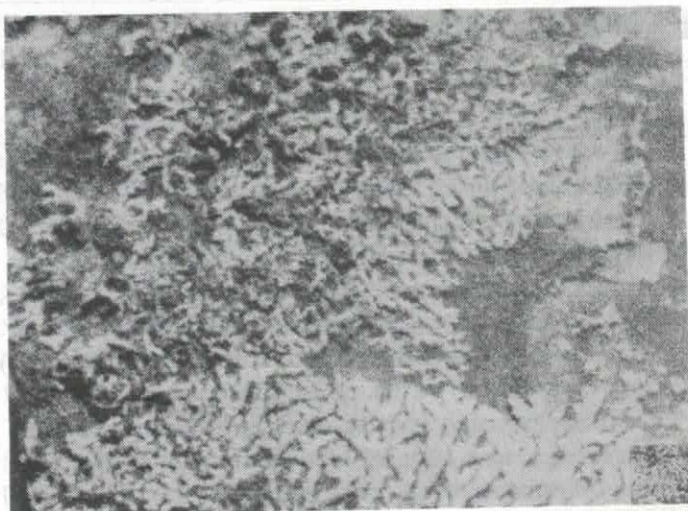
Last but not least was the discovery on June 27 of one of our rarest "Dung Mosses", on a large peatland near Pokiok Settlement. This unusual coastal plain moss, *Splachnum pennsylvanicum*, occurred beside a pond in the open area of a bog, on humified organics, likely of moose droppings. It has been found only once before in New Brunswick, at Bull Pasture Plains, east of Fredericton, and is considered rare in Canada.

**Editor's note: Congratulations to Bruce on the discovery of all of these mosses and liverworts. Bruce will be placing his collections of these plants in the New Brunswick Museum.*

LICHENS (report prepared by *Stephen Clayden*)

About 280 species of **foliose** (leaf-like) and **fruticose** (shrub-like or hair-like) lichens have been found to date in New Brunswick. These are the so-called macrolichens, the ones large enough to be seen readily without the aid of a hand lens. Lichens with a **crustose** (crust-like or filmy) growth form are represented by as many as 500 species in the province. Many of the crusts are conspicuous by their colours or fruiting structures, or by the patterns they form on trees and rocks. Many others are tiny and detectable only by a keen or practiced eye.

The state of our knowledge of New Brunswick lichens is such that it is still not hard to find species new to the province, or new occurrences of uncommon species, even among the macrolichens. In the past two years, nine species of macrolichens have been found here for the first time, or identified from previously existing herbarium collections**: *Collema bachmanianum* - on mossy limestone ledges, in Grand Falls gorge, collected by Herbert Habeeb in 1948; *Collema leptaleum* - on red maple, in Kouchibouguac National Park, collected by Anna Koffman; *Flavocetraria cucullata* (Curled Snow Lichen) - in heath vegetation, near summit of Sagamook Mountain; *Fuscopannaria leucosticta* (Rimmed Shingle Lichen) - on cedar, in Kouchibouguac National Park; *Leptogium teretiusculum* - on mossy limestone, Nashwaak River near Stanley, collected during a New Brunswick Botany Club outing on 26 May 2002; *Physcia subtilis* (Slender Rosette Lichen) - on cliffs along the Lower Norton shore, Kennebecasis River; *Umbilicaria cylindrica* (Fringed Rock Tripe) - on rock, summit of



Slender Rosette Lichen

Sagamook Mountain; *Umbilicaria krascheninnikovii* (**Salty Rock Tripe**) - on rock, summit of Sagamook Mountain; *Usnea cavernosa* (**Pitted Beard Lichen**) - on trunks and branches of spruce and fir, at several localities in western and northern New Brunswick.

The English names given for some of these species come from the recently-published book *Lichens of North America* by Irwin M. Brodo, Sylvia Duran Sharnoff and Stephen Sharnoff (Yale University Press, 795 pages, 2001). Only a few lichens have well-established common names, but the coining of new ones, partly in response to popular demand, has been in full swing in recent years. Any naturalist keenly interested in getting to know lichens should consider purchasing this book. Although it lists at \$69.95(US), copies can reportedly be obtained for much less. It includes stunning photographs, descriptions, and range maps of just over 800 common and conspicuous species (about 22 % of the total number known in North America), as well as identification keys and a very informative introduction covering the biology, ecology, and study and identification of lichens.

Lichens were the focus of an all-day introductory workshop on April 27 organized by the New Brunswick Botany Club. Undeterred by a fresh snowfall of 20 cm, thirty people turned out for this session based at Adair's Wilderness Lodge near Walton Lake in the Fundy highlands. The snow had blanketed the ground-inhabiting lichens, but a good diversity of species was observed on tree trunks in a mature sugar maple stand, and specimens were collected for examination and identification with microscopes set up at the lodge.

****Editor's note:** Congratulations to Stephen for discovering and/or identifying all of these new species.

VASCULAR PLANTS

Species New For New Brunswick

Four species of vascular plants, none of which is recorded in the most recent edition of the *Flora of New Brunswick*, were all found naturalized away from their usual garden settings. These included **Grape-hyacinth** (*Muscari botryoides*) and **Multi-flowered Solomon's-seal** (*Polygonatum multiflorum*) in rich clay hardwoods at Fredericton on May 18 (JPG), **European Globe Flower** (*Trollius europaeus*) on June 12 at Long Island in an old field that was apparently abandoned about 80 years ago (NTNB), and **Peking Cotoneaster** (*Cotoneaster acutifolia*) near the edge of a rich hardwood stand on Keswick Ridge on May 25 (JPG, MB). The first three species were located close to the remnants of old homesteads but had persisted and spread, while the single plant of Cotoneaster had likely been dropped by a bird (or mammal) that had consumed the berries.

Uncommon to Rare Species

At Taymouth, most plants of **Wild Ginger** (*Asarum canadense*) had flowers by May 16, although only about 10% of the ginger plants had been flowering there on May 10 (JS). While canoeing along the Nashwaak River near Taymouth on May 20, Dwayne and Mary Sabine found patches of several uncommon species including **Blue Cohosh** (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*), **Wild Ginger** and **Large Toothwort** (*Cardamine x maxima*).

Hundreds of **Arrow-leaved Violet** (*Viola sagittata*) were in bloom on May 18 at Nashwaaksis, at a site where Hal Hinds had discovered them several years ago (JPG). Close nearby grew several clumps of a **hybrid violet** (probably *Viola sagittata* x *sororia*) that apparently had



Fringed Polygala
Photo by: Freddie Givan

not previously been found in New Brunswick (JPG). Not far from this site is an old sandy field where very small, undifferentiated Grapeferns were found growing among Hawkweeds on May 18. A visit to this site on May 25 revealed four species of Grapeferns, including **Leathery Grapefern** (*Botrychium multifidum*), **Dissected Grapefern** (*Botrychium dissectum*), **Daisy-leaved Grapefern** (*Botrychium marticariifolium*) and the rare **Little Grapefern** (*Botrychium simplex*) (JPG, MB).

Congratulations to Freddie Givan on finding a new station of the very rare **Fringed Polygala** (*Polygala paucifolia*) near Fredericton Junction. Although Freddie made this exciting discovery on May 28, 2001, and took excellent digital pictures on that date, it was not until much later that she recognized the significance of her find. On May 27, 2002, two days after ensuring that the plants were still extant and in bloom, Freddie and her husband David kindly showed me the site with its hundreds of Polygalas in peak bloom.

The enchanting blooms of **Calypso** (*Calypso bulbosa*) were seen at a known location near Williamstown Lake on May 25 (SR) and June 9 (NTNB), and on June 13 at a nearby site where this species had not been previously found (VZ, MM, HG). This species has recently disappeared from several sites in Carleton County where it formerly occurred.

The large clump of **Showy Orchis** (*Galearis spectabilis*) at Russell Woods near Woodstock was in full bloom on June 9 (NTNB) and was still in bloom a week later (NP).

Large patches of **Maidenhair Fern** (*Adiantum pedatum*) and **Goldie's Fern** (*Dryopteris goldiana*) were found at Oakland Mountain on June 9 (NTNB). A new

location for **Maidenhair Fern** was also found on Keswick Ridge by Julie Singleton in mid-June.

At least 11 clumps of **Wall-rue** (*Asplenium ruta-muraria*) were still present on June 12 at Ministers Face, Long Island, the only site where this species is known to occur in Atlantic Canada (NTNB).

On a foray of the Kennebecasis Naturalists on June 15, three species of rare limestone-loving ferns, **Green Spleenwort** (*Asplenium trichomanes-ramosum*), **Slender Cliff-brake** (*Cryptogramma stelleri*) and **Braun's Hollyfern** (*Polystichum braunii*) were found on a short section of coarse conglomerate cliffs along Wilcox Brook (which flows into Moosehorn Brook) between Sussex and Norton (GB).

At Oakland Mountain, hundreds of plants of **Large Yellow Lady's-slippers** (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*) were in peak bloom on June 9 (AC, NTNB). On June 25, two plants of **Large Yellow Lady's-slipper** were found near Havelock along the new stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway (DaS).

Much **Hooker's Orchid** (*Platanthera hookeri*) and some **Broad-lipped Twayblade** (*Listera convallarioides*) were found in a ravine near Kouchibouguac National Park headquarters, along with the inconspicuous **Bristle-stalked Sedge** (*Carex leptalea*), a sedge that is widespread in the province but apparently had never before been found in the park (SB). **Broad-lipped Twayblade** was found on Keswick Ridge on May 25 (MB).

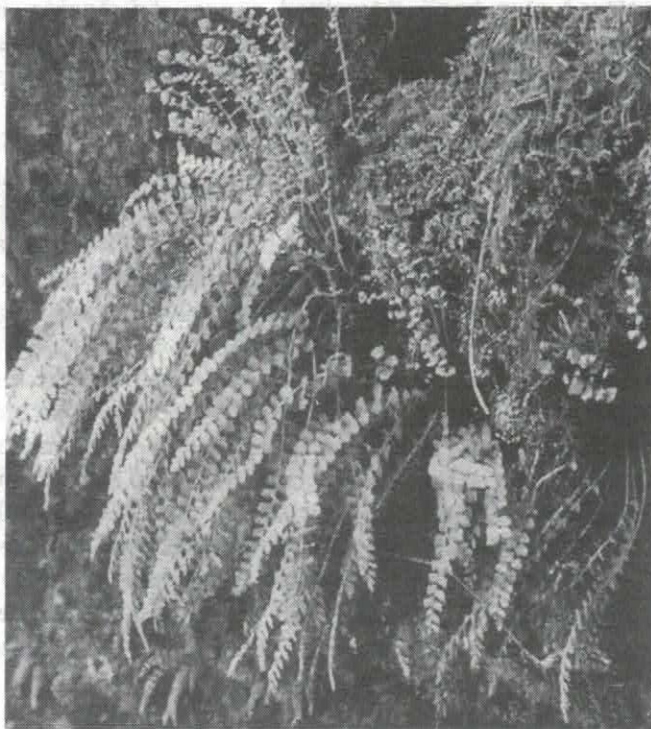
Other interesting finds included **Tuckerman's Sedge** (*Carex tuckermanii*) in the Minto area (near Coal Creek and Little River) (SB), **Marsh Horsetail** (*Equisetum palustre*) found by Cindy Spicer and Claudia Hanel north of Chipman, and **Hooked Buttercup** (*Ranunculus recurvatus*) in woods along Breau Creek in the Walker Road area north of Sackville (SB). The Hooked Buttercup had not previously been found east of Petitcodiac.

Early Bloomers

After a fairly mild winter, spring was fraught with late snowfalls, cold wet weather and late frosts. Despite the slow onset of spring, many of our spring flowers surprisingly were right on schedule.

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) was seen in bloom on April 23 at Keswick Ridge (where many were out by May 1) (JR), along the Tay River on April 28 (JS), along the Shediac River on May 4 (NP), at Douglas on May 7 (BS), at Orland's Walk along Smith Creek near Sussex on May 9 (NP), and near the Nashwaak River at Penniac on May 11 (BD).

Three blooms of **Trailing Arbutus** (*Epigaea repens*) were found at the Experimental Farm at Fredericton on



Green Spleenwort Photo by: Gart Bishop

April 21 (JPG, JW). Trailing *Arbutus* was in bud in a sheltered location on a south-facing slope between conglomerate outcrops at Rosevale on April 18 but its flowers didn't begin to open there until May 2, an average date for plants at that site (AW). Blooms of this species were found at Bouctouche on May 5 (ML, BL), and some were still in flower at Kouchibouguac National Park on May 31 (ML).

A few plants of **Spring Beauty** (*Claytonia caroliniana*) were in bloom on a northeast-facing slope near Walton Lake on April 23 (StC, GB, BB). This species was in full flower at Marys Point on May 6, even though there seemed to be no sign of it the previous day (DSC), and was in peak bloom at Orland's Walk along Smith Creek near Sussex on May 9 (NP). Huge patches of Spring Beauty were found in peak bloom at Manawagonish Island on May 22, growing with many robust plants of **Rose Twisted-stalk** (*Streptopus roseus*), a few of which were in bloom (DwS).

Leaves of **Trout Lily** (*Erythronium americanum*) were well-developed by April 22 at Rosevale, but were covered with snow on April 26 and the plants didn't start to flower there until May 6 (AW). This species was seen in bloom at Saint John on May 5 (CLJ), at Keswick Ridge on May 6 (MPu), at Douglas on May 7 (BS), at Marys Point on May 8 (DSC) and along the Tay Creek on May 10 (JS), and was in peak bloom at Orland's Walk along Smith Creek near Sussex on May 9 (NP). It was starting to bloom near the Nashwaak River at Penniac on May 11 (BD), was still in bloom at Taymouth on May 16 (JS), and was mostly past its prime at Rosevale by May 25, when few flowers were left and the leaves were losing their brown spots and turning uniform green (AW).

Leaves of **Dutchman's-breeches** (*Dicentra cucullaria*) were in evidence near Walton Lake on April 23 (StC, GB, BB), and leaves and buds of this species were seen along the English Settlement Road near Taymouth on April 25 (JS). By May 1, many Dutchman's-breeches were in bloom at Keswick Ridge (JR). This species was "just nicely starting" to bloom at Orland's Walk along Smith Creek near Sussex on May 9 (NP), when the leaves of "many hundreds of plants of **Wild Leek**" (*Allium tricoccum*) were already in evidence.

Round-lobed Hepatica (*Hepatica americana*) began to bloom at Currie Mountain on April 25 (PP, TP, MPu) and at Taymouth on May 12 (MPa).

Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*) was in bloom at Nashwaaksis on May 2 (MPu), and on May 12 at Marys Point (DSC), Southwest Head on Grand Manan Island (JPG, JW), and Bouctouche (ML).

American Dog Violet (*Viola conspersa*) was in bloom on Keswick Ridge on May 6 (MPu) and at Southwest

Head on May 12 (JPG, JW). At Marys Point, some **Woolly Blue Violets** (*Viola sororia*) were found in bloom on May 11 and a single plant of **Yellow Violet** (*Viola pubescens*) was noted in flower on May 12 (DSC). At Penniac, "the purple and white violets" were "all over the back yard" on May 11 (BD). **Northern White Violet** (*Viola macloskeyi*) was in bloom at Bouctouche on May 12 (ML, BL), and at Odell Park in Fredericton on May 17 (MPu). A small white-flowered violet (species not determined) was in flower at the Lancaster Sewage Lagoon trail on May 12 (MC) and at Taymouth on May 16 (JS).

Many **Painted Trilliums** (*Trillium undulatum*) were in bud, very close to bursting forth in bloom, on April 25 on a southeast-facing hardwood ridge in the Little Pokiok Stream area (DwS). Blooms of **Painted Trillium**, **Rose Twisted-stalk** (*Streptopus roseus*), and **Clintonia** (*Clintonia borealis*) were seen at Rosevale on May 26 (AW).

Red Trillium (*Trillium erectum*) was nearly out at Keswick Ridge on May 1 (JR), showing blooms on about 10% of its plants on Tay Creek on May 10 (JS), blooming profusely at Island View near Fredericton on May 12 (DP) and beginning to bloom at Rosevale on May 13 (AW). The uncommon **pale yellow colour form** (form *luteum*) of this species was found and photographed growing with the more typical burgundy-coloured flowers at Cambridge-Narrows on May 17 (SoC).

At Rosevale, Ajo Wissink harvested and enjoyed dining on his first **fiddleheads** (*Ostrich Fern*, *Matteuccia pensylvanica*) of the year on May 12, having beaten the poachers who often gather them from his property.

Wood Anemone (*Anemone quinquefolia*) was in bloom along the Tay Creek on May 10 (JS) and "just coming into flower" along the terraces of the Wolfe River on May 20 (StC).

Little Merry Bells (*Uvularia sessilifolia*) were in bloom at Odell Park on May 17 (MPu) and at Lower Marys on May 23 (DGG).

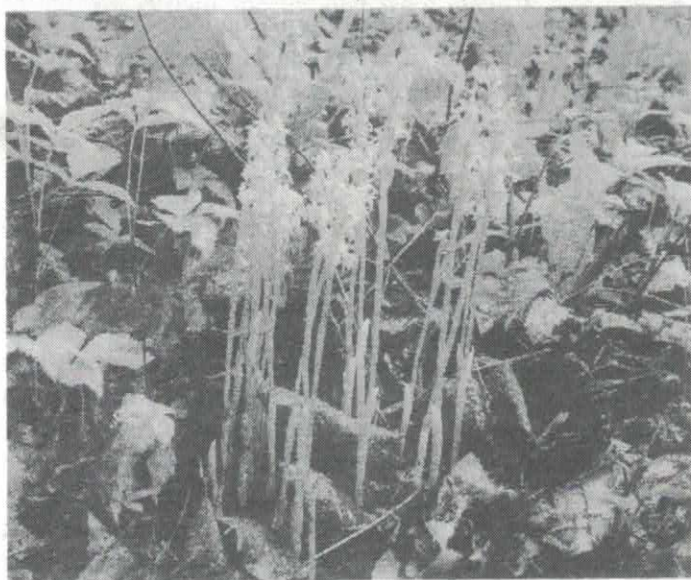
Red Baneberry (*Actaea rubra*) was flowering at Rosevale on May 25 and **White Baneberry** (*Actaea pachypoda*), a much rarer species in the Rosevale area, was flowering there on May 26 (AW).

Moccasin Flower (*Cypripedium acaule*) was in full bloom at Bouctouche on June 1 (ML). Among the many other species of wildflowers seen at Kouchibouguac National Park and/or Bouctouche around the time of the Federation's Annual General Meeting (May 31, June 1) were **Starflower** (*Trientalis borealis*), **Painted Trillium**, **Nodding Trillium** (*Trillium cernuum*), **Goldthread** (*Coptis trifolia*), **Canada Mayflower** (*Maianthemum canadense*), **Bunchberry** (*Cornus*

canadensis), **Marsh Marigold** (*Caltha palustris*), **Rose Twisted-stalk**, and **Clintonia**.

Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) was flowering on June 11 along the Coal Branch River at Ford's Mills (ST).

A lovely clump of **Early Coral-root** (*Corallorhiza*



Early Coral-root
Photo by: Nelson Poirier

trifida) in peak bloom was found and photographed on June 17 at a campground at St.-André (NP). New locations for this species were also found near Williamstown Lake (VZ, MM, HG) on June 13 and near Browns Mountain (MB) on June 16.

Along the English Settlement Road near Taymouth, **Bunchberry**, **Twinflower** (*Linnaea borealis*), and **One-flowered Wintergreen** (*Moneses uniflora*) were in peak bloom between June 20 and 27, and the fertile fronds of **Cinnamon Fern** (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) were also at their peak (JS).

Woody Plants

The "tiny scarlet spidery" (JS) female flowers of **Beaked Hazel** (*Corylus cornuta*) were seen at Keswick Ridge on April 20 (JR) and along the English Settlement Road near Taymouth on April 23 (JS).

Several **American Elm** (*Ulmus americana*) were in full bloom along the MacDougall Trail near Lincoln on April 21 (JPG, JW).

On the English Settlement Road near Taymouth, the flower buds of **Red Maple** (*Acer rubrum*) were "cracked open" exposing "crimson, soft, pussy-willow type flowers" on April 23 (JS).

A few **Pussy Willows** (*Salix discolor*) were in bloom in the Jemseg area on April 23 (JPG, DGG, SS) and many blooms of this species emerged within a three hour period during a cold spring rain at the Experimental Farm at Fredericton on April 26 (JPG).

Flower buds of **Fly Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera canadensis*) had burst but not fully opened on the English Settlement Road near Taymouth by April 19 (JS). Flower buds and new leaves of **Red-berried Elder** (*Sambucus racemosus*) were evident on the English Settlement Road near Taymouth on April 23 (JS). **Fly Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera canadensis*), **Red-berried Elder** (*Sambucus racemosus*) and **Hobblebush** (*Viburnum lantanoides*) at Rosevale had flower buds on May 2. The Honeysuckle began to bloom there on May 13, and the Hobblebush was flowering on May 24 (AW).

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.) was in full bloom on the English Settlement Road near Taymouth on May 18 (JS), began to bloom at Rosevale on May 19 and was already past its prime at Rosevale by May 25 (AW), when it was reported to be in bloom at Marys Point and Harvey (DSC).

On May 5 near St. Gabriel, Mike and Bern LeBlanc were delighted to find some **Eastern Hemlock** (*Tsuga canadensis*), a tree species that has evidently become quite rare in Kent County as a result of heavy logging early last century.

A **white-flowered** plant of **Rhodora** (*Rhododendron canadense*) bearing very few flowers was found at the Experimental Farm at Fredericton on June 3 (JPG).

Non-native Species

Although many flower buds of **Coltsfoot** (*Tussilago farfara*) were peaking through the sand on the bank of Turtle Creek at Rosevale by March 11, the first flowers didn't appear there until April 15 (AW). In my last report, I forgot to mention that Coltsfoot was seen in flower along the Sand Cove Road at Saint John on April 4 (BS), and near Lepreau on April 11 (BS). Coltsfoot were still the only flowers in bloom near the Lancaster sewage lagoon on May 5 (EP).

Exceptionally early blooms of **Stork's-bill** (*Erodium cicutarium*) were found at the Tracadie sewage lagoon on April 28 (CNPA) and identified by Hilaire Chiasson. Apparently, Hilaire has only one other record of this species on the Acadian Peninsula (at Pokeshaw).

Common Groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*) was in bloom in West Saint John on May 5 (CLJ).

A roadside in the Moncton area was "covered with **Lupines**" (*Lupinus polyphyllus*) in bloom on June 20 (JLM).

Common Fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*), a rare weed in New Brunswick, and **Oak-leaved Goosefoot** (*Chenopodium glaucum*) were found at Sackville (SB).

At campgrounds in Kouchibouguac National Park, Sean Blaney found **Five-stamened Mouse-eared Chickweed** (*Cerastium semidecandrum*), **Blue Scorpion-grass** (*Myosotis verna*), **Purslane Speedwell** (*Veronica peregrina* ssp. *peregrina*), **Spring Speedwell** (*Veronica verna*), **Corn Speedwell** (*Veronica arvensis*) and **Whitlow Grass** (*Draba verna*), all of which were evidently new species for the park (SB). A delayed ferry crossing on May 13 resulted in the discovery of many thousands of plants of **Whitlow Grass** and **European Mouse-eared Chickweed** (*Cerastium pumilum*) around the ferry terminal at North Head, Grand Manan Island (JPG, JW). The latter species was previously known from one other location in the province. Much **Red-seeded Dandelion** (*Taraxacum erythrospermum*) was seen in bloom on headlands at Grand Manan, near the "Flock of Sheep" on May 12 and the Swallowtail on May 13 (JPG, JW).

An old field meadow along the English Settlement Road near Taymouth was accented with brightly-coloured blooms of **Orange Hawkweed** (*Hieracium aurantiacum*), **Yellow Hawkweed** (*Hieracium* sp.), **Field Buttercup** (*Ranunculus acris*), **Cinquefoil** (*Potentilla* sp.) and **Ox-eye Daisy** (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*) in late June (JS).

A large stand of **Great Hairy Willow-herb** (*Epilobium hirsutum*), previously known from only one other location in the province, was found and identified in pre-flowering condition by Sean Blaney at Fredericton on July 29.

Other Interesting Plant Reports

Fertile plants of **Field Horsetail** (*Equisetum arvense*) were seen near the Experimental Farm at Fredericton on May 10 (MPu).

Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) and **Spreading Dogbane** (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*) were especially hard-hit by frost in the Shediac area on the weekend of June 9 (NP).

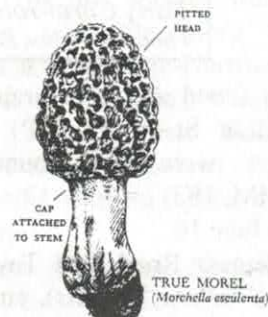
People and Plants

The **New Brunswick Botany Club** has held very successful workshops on lichen and sedge identification, as well as a field trip to the Stanley area, and has developed a Code of Ethics. Upcoming club events include a field trip to the Grand Falls area and a foray for aquatic plants near St. George. The **Nature Trust of New Brunswick** will be continuing its botanical inventory of the upper St. John River this summer, with the aid of Sean Blaney and others, and will also focus on

searching for new locations of Furbish's Lousewort. Sean and other staff from the **Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre** are hoping to find new calcareous fen and wetland habitats, and are concentrating on looking for rare plants of calcareous shorelines and plants with affinity for the Atlantic coastal plain. The species at risk section of the **Department of Natural Resources and Energy** is conducting field work to find new locations of several endangered plant species, including Southern Twayblade, Furbish's Lousewort and Anticosti Aster.

FUNGI

False Morel (*Gyromitra esculenta*) was seen in the Shediac area on May 5 (NP), along the English Settlement Road near Taymouth on May 9 (JS), at Nashwaaksis on May 18 (JPG) and at Rosevale on May 26 (AW). A **Black Morel** (*Morchella angusticeps*) was found growing out of an old rotten stump on the English Settlement Road near Taymouth on May 6; by May 18, five fruiting bodies of this species were evident and made their way into "the most delicious omelette ever!" (JS). Over a dozen **Black Morels** were found at Keswick Ridge on May 25; some of these were pan-fried in butter and eaten with great appreciation (JPG, MB, CM, DGo, KM).



Abbreviations: AC Ansel Campbell, AW Ajo Wissink, BB Bruce Bagnell, BD Bonnie Deveau, BL Bernadette LeBlanc, BS Bev Schneider, CLJ Cecil Johnston, CM Carl Munden, CNPA Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne, DGG Don Gibson, DGo Dawn Gordon, DP Debby Peck, DaS Darla Saunders, DwS Dwayne Sabine, DSC David Christie, EP Eileen Pike, GB Gart Bishop, HG Heidi Godbout, JLM Janet L. MacMillan, JPG James Goltz, JR Jessica Robinson, JS Julie Singleton, JW James Walde, KM Kim Mawhinney, MB Maureen Bourque, MC Merv Cormier, ML Mike LeBlanc, MM Martin Marshall, MPa Margie Pacey, MPu Mary Pugh, NP Nelson Poirier, NTNB Nature Trust of New Brunswick, PP Peter Pearce, SB Sean Blaney, SoC Sonia Carpenter, StC Stephen Clayden, SR Sara Richard, SS Shirley Sloat, ST Stuart Tingley, TP Theresa Pearce, VZ Vince Zelazny

Kouchibouguac National Park of Canada needs your help!

Looking for something to do? Want to participate in research projects? Well, at Kouchibouguac National Park of Canada we are looking for your help.

Stop by at the information building at the park entrance, check out the conservation billboard and pick up sheets for recording sightings that you make in the park. Well, not just any sightings. We are looking for certain species that were identified as key ones in the park ecosystem. Not that we don't want to know if you have seen a great blue heron such reports would just provide too much data to handle. In this message you will find a list of the species that we are looking for. If you do happen to see these species during your visit in the park just fill out observation cards. We want the name of the species, the location where it was seen (a map will help with the details), the date and your name. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the conservation team at the park at (506) 876-2443. Thank you - and hoping to see you in the park.

Kouchibouguac National Park of Canada monitors certain species to:

1. **help determine the overall health of park ecosystems,**
2. **identify changes in flora and fauna populations found within park habitats, and**
3. **monitor unusual events such as species introductions, changes in response to environmental stresses, occurrence of deformities, etc.**

What species are we looking for data on?

PLANTS/ FUNGI *(Please indicate the scientific names of plants, if possible, so that we can avoid confusion.)*

- *Any rare or uncommon plants and fungi*
- **Exotic species, particularly invasive species** such as purple loosestrife.
- **Plants with unusual features**

ANIMALS

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| · All amphibians (frogs and salamanders) | · River otter |
| · All reptiles (snakes and turtles) | · Coyote |
| · Wood duck | · Eastern cougar |
| · Raptors (all species) | · Lynx |
| · Bats (all species) | · Bobcat |
| · Black bear | · Flying squirrel |
| · American Marten | · White-tailed deer |
| · Fisher | · Moose |
| · Mink | |

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

- *Any species, including those not indicated on the list, which exhibits physical or behavioural peculiarities, (e.g. albino raccoon, or a wounded animal).*
- *Any species which would not normally be found in the area.*



Le Parc National du Canada Kouchibouguac a besoin de votre aide!

Vous cherchez pour quelque chose à faire ? Vous voulez participer à des projets de recherche ? Ben, c'est simple. Venez pour une visite au Parc National du Canada Kouchibouguac où nous avons besoin de votre aide.

Visitez le centre d'accueil aux visiteurs pour plus amples renseignements au babillard des ressources du parc où vous trouverez des feuilles pour inscrire vos observations dans le parc. Pas n'importe quelles observations. Ce n'est pas que nous voulions pas savoir si vous avez vu un Grand héron, mais c'est juste que nous avons tellement d'observations que l'équipe de conservation s'est basée sur une liste des espèces indicateurs du parc et ces espèces que nous recherchons.

Dans ce message vous trouverez la liste des espèces que nous sommes à la recherche d'informations. Donc, venez et remplissez des fiches d'observations et participez. C'est simple. Vous avez juste à indiquer l'espèce, la location de votre observation (une carte vous aidera avec les détails), la date et votre nom et contacts. C'est simple! Si vous voulez plus amples informations contactez l'équipe de conservation au (506) 876-2443. Merci et bonnes observations!

Le Parc national Kouchibouguac surveille certaines espèces pour:

1. **aider à déterminer la santé des écosystèmes du parc,**
2. **identifier des changements de la population de la faune et la flore trouvées dans les habitats au parc, et**
3. **découvrir tous événements rares tel l'introduction de nouvelles espèces, changements dû aux causes environnementales, difformités, etc.**

Nous cherchons des information sur les espèces suivante :

PLANTES / CHAMPIGNONS {SVP indiquez, si possible, le nom scientifique pour ne pas porter à confusion.}

- **Des espèces rares ou peu communes**
- **Toutes les espèces exotiques, particulièrement les espèces envahissantes comme la salicaire pourpre.**
- **Toutes espèces avec des caractéristiques bizarres**

ANIMAUX

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| · Tous les amphibiens (grenouilles et salamandres) | · Vison |
| · Tous les reptiles (couleuvres et tortues) | · Loutre |
| · Canard branchu | · Coyote |
| · Oiseaux de proie (toutes espèces) | · Cougar |
| · Chauve-souris (toutes espèces) | · Lynx du Canada |
| · Ours noir | · Lynx roux |
| · Martre d'Amérique | · Polatouche (Écureuil volant) |
| · Pékan | · Cerf de Virginie |
| | · Orignal |

D'AUTRES OBSERVATIONS REMARQUABLES

Toutes les espèces, en plus de celles indiquées, présentant des particularités notables (p. ex.: raton laveur albino, ou animal blessé).

Des espèces qui ne sont pas trouvées normalement dans la région.

FNNB Horaire des réunions

Voici l'horaire du conseil d'administration pour la prochaine saison. On espère que tout le conseil ainsi que les représentants des clubs fédérés seront à ses réunions. Si vous avez des choses que vous aimeriez que le conseil discutent S.V.P. me contacter un mois avant la réunion.

Merci. Mike LeBlanc - (506) 743-8485 ou pandion@nbnet.nb.ca

Veuillez noter que ces dates sont tentatives et peuvent changer.

28 septembre 2002, réunion du conseil d'administration NBFN - FNNB à la salle commune Bailey Hall, UNB, Fredericton, NB 11h - 15h.

29 septembre 2002, réunion de planification stratégique pour tout ceux qui veulent participer. Ceci vous donnera la chance de dire ce que vous et votre club aimeraient voir la FNNB - NBFN faire et nous donner des idées. Nous avons décider de faire ceci pour sauver 2 voyages mais faudra y coucher si vous voulez y participer.

30 novembre 2002, réunion du conseil d'administration NBFN - FNNB à la salle commune Bailey Hall, UNB, Fredericton, NB 11h - 15h.

11 janvier, 2003 réunion du conseil d'administration NBFN - FNNB à la salle commune Bailey Hall, UNB, Fredericton, NB 11h - 15h. 18 janvier, 2003 Storm date.

22 mars, 2003, réunion du conseil d'administration NBFN - FNNB à la salle commune Bailey Hall, UNB, Fredericton, NB 11h - 15h. 29 mars, storm date.

30, 31 mai et 1er juin AGA FNNB-NBFN Fredericton.

NBFN Meeting Schedule

Here is the meeting schedule of the NBFN board for next season. We hope that all board members and federated club representatives will be able to make it to all meetings. If you have an issue that you would like the board to discuss, please contact me one month before the meeting date. Thank you. Mike LeBlanc - (506) 743-8485 or pandion@nbnet.nb.ca. Please note that these are tentative dates and they can be changed if needed.

Meetings will be held at the common room at Bailey Hall, UNB, Fredericton 11 am to 3 pm.

September 28, 2002, Federation Board Meeting

September 29, 2002, Strategic-planning meeting for anyone of you whom would like to take part. This will give you the chance to discuss what the NBFN - FNNB can do for you and your club and maybe bring new ideas to what we are doing. We decided to have this meeting on that particular date to save a trip to Fredericton but for those of us who have to travel from afar it will mean an overnight stay.

November 30, 2002, Federation Board Meeting

January 11, 2003, Federation Board Meeting January 18, storm date,

March 22, 2003, Federation Board Meeting March 29, storm date.

May 30, 31 and June 1, 2003 NBFN - FNNB AGM in Fredericton.



SABINE DIETZ HONORÉE SABINE DIETZ HONOURED

The NBFN would like to thank and congratulate **Sabine Dietz** who received the **Canadian Nature Federation Volunteer Award** during the national AGM that took place from June 19th

to the 23rd in Ottawa. Thank you, Sabine, for all the work that you have done for the NBFN and nature in New Brunswick.

La FNNB aimerait de remercier et de féliciter **Sabine Dietz** qui a reçu **Le Prix Bénévole de la Fédération Canadienne de la Nature** lors de l'AGA national à Ottawa du 19 au 23 juin dernier. Un gros merci Sabine, pour tout ton dévouement pour la FNNB et la nature du Nouveau-Brunswick.

LE PARC ÉCOLOGIQUE DE LA PÉNINSULE ACADIENNE

Au Nouveau-Brunswick, plusieurs endroits ont été aménagés pour y apprécier notre merveilleuse nature: Kouchibouguac, les Dunes de Bouctouche, le Parc de la sauvagine à Sackville, le Centre d'interprétation de la nature à Cap Jourmain, le Parc de Fundy, le «Irving Nature Park» à St-Jean. D'autres parcs de plus petite envergure comme «Daly Point» à Bathurst et le Parc du Mont Carleton sont superbes. Ici, dans la Péninsule acadienne (P.A.), il y a des endroits magnifiques comme l'Île aux foins à Négua, mais jusqu'à maintenant rien n'avait été construit ou aménagé à la hauteur de tout ce que nous pouvons y observer comme faune et flore.

Situé au 65 rue du Ruisseau sur l'île Lamèque, le Parc Écologique de la Péninsule acadienne peut enfin démontrer les richesses naturelles que nous possédons. Le Bihoreau gris, qui est l'emblème officiel de l'Éco-parc par exemple, représente bien la faune unique au nord de la province. Comme naturalistes, nous savons que les îles sont des paradis pour l'observation des oiseaux.

Au bout d'une passerelle de 300 m, un sentier de plus de deux kilomètres serpente à travers divers habitats typiques de la P.A.: une forêt boréale mature, surmature et en régénération ainsi qu'une tourbière, des marais salés, une vasière, une éclaircie et même une vue sur l'activité d'une lagune. Le parc doit sa diversité en partie à son emplacement stratégique. Il est situé au cœur d'un estuaire, où l'eau salée de la Baie des Chaleurs rencontre l'eau douce du ruisseau Jean-Marie. Ces deux écosystèmes, marin et terrestre, se marient pour donner à l'Éco-parc de la P.A. son cachet si particulier.

Par ailleurs, le Parc Écologique possède un attrait unique dans la P.A. Au centre du sentier se trouve un arboretum, musée vivant où est planté 27 arbres indigènes que nous retrouvons dans la P.A. Chaque arbre est identifié d'un panneau d'interprétation. Ceci touche la mission première de l'Éco-parc, c'est-à-dire l'éducation. Additionné de 20 autres panneaux tout au long du sentier, la visite du parc est complémentée par des guides naturalistes compétents, qui peuvent animer la randonnée pendant plus de deux heures. La mission du parc se complète par la protection et la récréation. Nous y restons fidèles en protégeant des habitats fragiles de notre région tout en intégrant, dans des activités récréatives et amusantes, une sensibilisation auprès de nos randonneurs.

L'observation de sternes, de mouettes et de goélands fait de la passerelle; de Grands hérons immobiles à moins d'une centaine de pieds de nous, accompagnés de Bihoreau gris; d'un Balbuzard pêcheur virevoltant au dessus de nos têtes; de l'Écureuil roux, du Lièvre

d'Amérique, de parulines autant que de mésanges, sont toujours fidèles au rendez-vous. Depuis l'ouverture, le 7 juillet 2001, 91 espèces d'oiseaux ont été observés de l'intérieur des limites du parc (15 hectares). Plus de 200 espèces de plantes indigènes y poussent et plusieurs espèces de champignons ont été inventoriés. Quatre guides naturalistes étudiants en plus d'un guide naturaliste en chef, ont été engagés pour interpréter la nature environnante du parc. Ils ont aussi comme tâches de développer des projets pour la localité ainsi qu'encourager et promouvoir les autres projets et organismes dont le Club de naturalistes, le Projet siffleur, la sauvegarde de l'Île Miscou, la restauration des tourbières et bien d'autres. En addition de ce que nous observons sur le sentier de la randonnée, ces sujets sont fréquemment abordés lors de nos visites guidées.

En plus du sentier, il y a, au centre d'accueil, des panneaux informatifs munis de casques d'écoute, portant sur cinq différents écosystèmes de la P.A.: l'estuaire, les dunes et les plages, les marais salés, les tourbières et la forêt acadienne. Ces cinq panneaux sont remplis de textes informatifs, de photos et de vidéos de tout ce que nous pouvons observer dans ces habitats. Pour finir, nous y retrouvons un théâtre de marionnette de différents animaux de la P.A. pour les enfants, une boutique souvenir, une tour d'observation haut de sept mètres à l'extérieur, un centre d'information aux visiteurs, un accueil chaleureux et plus encore...

Le Parc Écologique de la Péninsule acadienne est ouvert de 9 heures à 21 heures tous les jours jusqu'en octobre. Comme nouveautés cette année, le parc offre aux visiteurs différentes visites guidées traitant de thèmes spécifiques. Ces visites auront une durée de 30 minutes à deux heures, selon le thème. Enfin, des jeux éducatifs comme des rallyes, des casse-têtes, des jeux écologiques, etc., figurent sur la gamme d'activités pour les jeunes.

Devant les merveilles de la nature, nous sommes tous des enfants.

Venez retrouver votre vraie nature!

Rachel Robichaud (Guide Naturaliste étudiante)

Avec la Participation de :

Sarha Bédard (Guide Naturaliste étudiante)

Janie Guignard (Accueil)

Roland Robichaud

Guide Naturaliste en chef

65 rue du Ruisseau,

Lamèque, NB

E8T 1M2

www.eco-parc.com

BOOK REVIEW - **BIRDERS: TALES OF A TRIBE**

Falk Huettmann

Cocker, M. 2001. *Birders: Tales of a Tribe*. Jonathan Cape, London. 230 pages. ISBN 9 780224 060028. 15.99 Pounds (US\$ 25) Hardcover. Published by Random House.

"The great sadness of modern bird culture is that serious academic ornithology has lost its mooring amongst the legions of gifted amateurs". This excellent book is devoted to exactly these 'amateurs': non-unionized, super-devoted and obsessed with 'birds'. Birding appeals to the boyhood/girlhood soldier present in us all. People still tend to laugh at the *"note-taking nerd with the anorak and binoculars"*, but birding is mostly a private exercise, not really a social one; birders literally die to see rare birds. To the outsider it seems weird what humans do to get accepted among their peers: they fly and drive long distances, miss work or family events, and pay thousands of dollars just to add a new bird species to their 'life list'. Cocker introduces us to the anthropological aspects of these people which fit the statement *"... the countries he's covered birding extensively include China, India, Japan, Malaysia (six times), Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sabah, Sikkim, Taiwan, Thailand (eleven times), Tibet, and Vietnam (nine times)"*. In the US, 'twitchers' (another term for obsessed birders) fly easily from coast to coast just to see a rare bird. As Cocker brilliantly describes in his book: birders seem to have an apparent lack of concern to reach the ordinary goals of human life. Birders will go to whatever length it takes in order to see rare birds; an example is Cocker's colleague who died birding for the 'Satyr Tragopan' in Nepal.

Mark Cocker, the author of other fascinating bird books like 'Richard Meinertzhagen' shows us in his brilliantly written text alternatives to the modern world of financial pressures and daily routine. He not only provides us with a beautiful overview of birds, their plumages, and their biology, but gives us a book about time, passion and foremost: not giving in to the pressures of money. *"The high list is seen as merely a triumph over time, distance and financial limitation. Reputation, by contrast, is something money can't buy"*. Perhaps that is why Cocker talks about the *"therapeutic effects of birding"*: birding is indeed self-pleasuring. The reader will appreciate that this book has several nice sections and phrases about religion (e.g. 'the bird god'), which fit exactly into the context of the Birding Tribe.

"Bird-watchers are tense, competitive, selfish, shifty, dishonest, distrusting, boorish, arrogant, pedantic,

unsentimental, and above all envious". Notably, the presence of teachers among birders is drastically high. However, Cocker states that birders should be seen, and view themselves, as heterogeneous, pluralistic and multi-faceted. UK birders come mostly from the worker and middle-class. Although they have no distinctive classes within their tribe they are still strongly hierarchical in their behaviours. Birders love rituals and they are religiously attached to the tools of their profession: notebooks and their 'optical harem' (binoculars, tripods and telescopes). Stories, as well as gossip, are essential to the identity of the birding culture. Cocker describes several major subclasses of birders: scientists, ornithologists, birdwatchers and birders. He superbly depicts the typical 'Bird Club Secretary' as the much-loved local bank manager. Drawing from his birding experience world-wide, the author shows what typical bird people do: watch their local patch, send in their records, write articles on identification or little notes on behaviour, sitting on committees or bird societies, update membership databases and rattling money for conservation charities.

Britain has only about 230 bird species to 'tick', whereas Peru and Ecuador have over 1,700 each, so in addition to chapters on local and national birding issues in UK and elsewhere, 'World Birding' is described in depth too. World Birding is actually nothing new: British birders have gone abroad for over two centuries visiting parts of the British Commonwealth. Covering at least half the planet, people like R. Monreau, A. Thorburn, A. Wallace and many others have played a major role in the development of ornithology, often benefitting museums and conservation as well. Obviously, birding is an English habit, if not an obsession. The following statement from the book is a funny representation of this fact: the Falkland war was important as it saved Falkland seabird colonies from the Argentinians! Even the ownership of the Shetlands and their fast oil money contributed to the cult or life-style of World Birding. World Birding seems to favour people who can earn quickly, if not aggressively, much money, which is somewhat in contrast to classical local domestic birding, e.g. the traditional game warden type. Some hints are given in the book that serious birding can actually be anti-environmental, illustrated by suggestions of diseases and dogs. Curious military staff are commonly reported as the main enemies for successful 'Power Birding' trips all over the world.

Additional sections of the book describe the history of 'twitching' and what birding was like in times of no email and even without (coloured) bird identification books. Slow communications among birders about rare birds meant that only long-staying rarities could be 'ticked'. With the advent of the Internet/WWW, many more rare birds are being located, affecting the number of submissions entering 'rare bird databases'. Already one Golden-winged Warbler alone attracted 3000 birders in the UK on subsequent days. When the Pallas Sandgrouse was seen in UK, minutes later it was announced on the 'BirdLine' and attracted huge crowds. The 'sport' of birding has gone nuts - from 200 rare birds per year to 2500 rare bird submissions. This makes much more work because valid rare bird sightings need to be documented, and then approved and accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee and British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (precious contact addresses given in the end of the book).

Birders are obsessed with note-taking and numbers, even when statistically meaningless, for instance, when encounter probabilities, survey effort and overall population size of the birds are unknown. However, despite the constant mentioning of historical birding events (note the 62'Houbara, or the 66'Thrasher), the importance of data amassed by birders gets never mentioned in this book. A rare bird database provided by birders, all collected with the same protocols and available to everyone and with no ownership issues, would be a great service to the interested public, naturalists and beyond.

The locally or nationally rare bird is the 'leitmotif'. In all honesty, it is easier, cheaper, and better to see the bird in its native (tropical) etc. environment rather than a rare transient in a unusual habitat and transient plumage. But only the latter type of these sightings count in the local community.

By now, everyone should realize that this book actually deals with human issues, and that the birds are only a side-aspect - also called an 'excuse' by cynical people - for a certain type of human being. Nevertheless, Cocker leads birders out of this misery by putting their activities into the context of life, and by showing how other birders deal with questions like: "time for birding", "did you ever work" or "where did the money come from for all the birding trips?". Reporting on famous birders such as Richard Richardson and Peter Grant is of huge interest to people who are constantly faced with arguing about their prime 'hobby' (the great Ted Parker, also called the 'Magic Johnson' of the Birding World, is unfortunately not mentioned in this book). For a birder, his relationship with his job is normally less problematic than with his spouse (or parents).

The author provides the reader with detailed insider views and terms like a 'dip' (the birder's term which describes the associated crash in spirits when you fail to find the rare bird), 'blockers' (a bird that few have seen but most haven't), and 'long-stayers' (birds that hang around for weeks or longer). Cocker also elaborates on members of the tribe who cheat, 'stringers': those who make up species and lose membership in the group.

This is a well-written book and an enjoyable read. The overall conservation message could be stronger. Obviously, true birding has nothing to do really with conservation action or with 'enjoying birds' anyway: it is to have the species 'ticked', that's all. Such bird watching equals stamp collecting. The author, like many other birders, makes the wrong assumption that bird identification work in the field can contribute to specific population estimates. I also disagree with Cocker's statement "*The (rare) bird itself is a disoriented vagrant which has no value in any wider ecological context*", since many 'rare' birds are normally part of an (overlooked) 'eruption wave' or of specific migration event; none of which are well described, researched, or even understood. One of the ultimate rare-bird sightings might be the likely-extinct Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and birders could contribute greatly by re-sighting this 'rare' species in the wild. (However, according to this book, hell might break loose among the world's birders if this species were ever confirmed.) Finally, and as a suggestion for a book update, it would be great to include photos so that the reader actually can see how dull most of these rare objects of obsession really are.

With his excellent book Mark Cocker has done a great service to birders, to anthropologists, to the general public and certainly to all the beloved and eccentric birds of a feather.

Editor's note: This review was published in Picoides the Bulletin of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, in June 2002, and has been re-printed with permission. Picoides is issued three times a year. The current editor is Dorothy McFarlane of Holtville, New Brunswick. Membership in the society costs \$15 per year.

Further information can be obtained by contacting:

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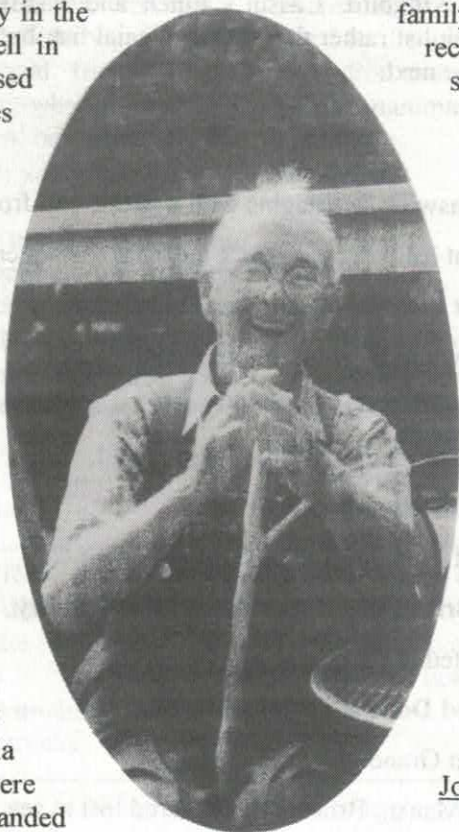


WILL ASTLE – 1905 - 2002

Naturalists in New Brunswick are saddened by news of the recent passing of Will Astle, a long-time member of the Saint John Naturalists' Club.

Will was in his 97th year. He first came to New Brunswick and the Bay of Fundy in the summer of 1928 and immediately fell in love with the area. He purchased property at Cape Spencer, a few miles east of Saint John, and built a cottage there soon after. He married Isabel in 1935 and every summer from 1935 until 2000(!) they drove from their "other" home in Flushing, New York to spend several months in New Brunswick.

Will was immensely interested in natural history, particularly birds, as was Isabel, who also has a special love for plants. Will was an active bird bander and banded Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls on Manawagonish Island, just off Saints' Rest Marsh for well over 40 years. Some of his banded gulls have been recovered as far away as Georgia and Florida. I believe some bands were also recovered in Europe. He also banded many songbirds on his property at Cape Spencer during migration. A keen observer, he contributed many significant bird sightings over the years.



In the fall of 2000 Isabel suffered a stroke while at Cape Spencer. As a result, she and Will made the decision later that year to move from New York to Colorado in order to be closer to members of their family (they have four sons). She has since recovered quite well and Will continued to send me reading material on birds and keep me abreast of their activities there.

Will was a founding member of the Saint John Naturalists' Club and remained active right up to their last visit in 2000. In fact, he was preparing to attend the SJNC's September meeting when Isabel told him she wasn't feeling well and was later taken to the hospital. He was recognized for his significant contributions to nature conservation by being honoured as a Life Member by the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists in September of 1986.

Isabel's address is 29423 Greenwood Lane, Evergreen, Colorado, 80439. Notice of Will's death was published in the Saturday (June 1, 2002) edition of the Telegraph-Journal newspaper.

Jim Wilson

EARL GODFREY 1910-2002

The author of "The Birds of Canada" has passed away. For many years, Earl Godfrey was "THE" person to contact for information about birds in Canada.

From his post in the National Museum he kindly answered letters with questions about birds from many people across the country and abroad, including yours truly as a teenager. I recall fondly how he patiently

helped give me confidence in my identification of a dull immature female Pine Warbler and, later, during my first visit to Ottawa how he took time from his work to give me a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum's bird collection.

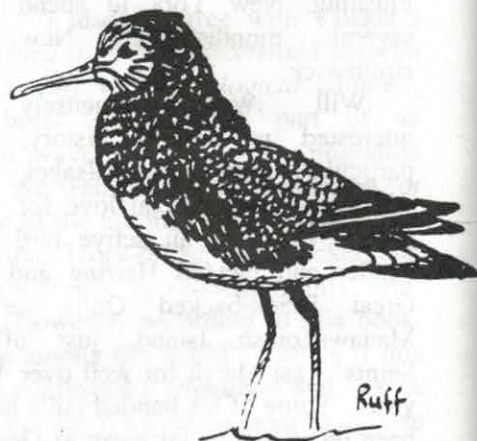
David Christie

BIRD INFORMATION NEW BRUNSWICK 1991 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW

1991 was an excellent year for birding in New Brunswick with 307 species being reliably reported, including three new to the province, Fieldfare, Royal Tern and Sandwich Tern. Also we had tantalizing reports of Brown Pelican, California Gull, Sooty Tern, Cassin's Kingbird, Cassin's Finch and Pacific Loon, which will probably remain unsubstantiated, leaving them on the wish list rather than the provincial list, but nevertheless, adding to the excitement of the past year and the anticipation of the next.

Birding Highlights of the year

- Jan. 14 – The Bird Information New Brunswick line begins with a phone call from Stu Tingley.
- Jan. 23 – N.B.'s first **Fieldfare** appears at Edith Robichaud's feeder at Caraquet.
- Feb. 13 – A **Boreal Owl** appears at Mick Piercy's feeder near Fredericton.
- Mar. 17 – Four **Carolina Wrens** are known to be wintering at feeders in N.B.
- Mar. 24 – Start of a 30 **Indigo Bunting**, 6 **Blue Grosbeak** invasion.
- May 14 – **Brown Pelican** reported by fishermen off White Head Island.
- May 24 – Stu Tingley finds **Ruff** at Le Goulet.
- May 28 – **Northern Lapwing** appears at Point de Bute – stays until Aug. 28.
- June 9 – **Long-tailed Jaeger** seen by Brian Dalzell from Grand Manan Ferry.
- June 14 – **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** reported at Kent Island.
- June 28 – Rob Walker has **White-winged Dove** at feeder at Harvey.
- July 15 – **Yellow Rail** colony located on Grand Lake Meadows.
- Aug. 19 – Hurricane Bob strikes Grand Manan, Brian Dalzell feared lost at sea.
- Aug. 20 – **Royal Tern** and **Sandwich Tern** discovered in N.B. for first time. Brian Dalzell feared found.
- Aug. 22 – Cecil Johnston sees **Redhead** at Fredericton, ending a 25 year search.
- Sept. 17 – Stu Tingley photographs **Golden-winged Warbler** at Grand Manan, for first confirmed provincial record.
- Sept. 29 – Members of Moncton Naturalists' Club see **Hooded Warbler** at Grand Manan.
- Oct. 14 -- Rob Walker has a **Rufous-sided Towhee**, two **Clay-coloured Sparrows**, three **Dickcissels**, two **Indigo Buntings** and a **Pine Warbler** at feeder.
- Oct. 19 -- Dave Myles and Don Gibson visit Cape Enrage. **Turkey Vulture** seen at Mactaquac.
- Oct. 20 -- Dave Myles and Don Gibson visit Mactaquac. **Turkey Vulture** seen at Cape Enrage.
- Oct. 24 – **Grasshopper Sparrow** seen by Stu Tingley at Rob Walker's feeder.
- Nov. 15 – **Yellow-throated Warbler** visits the Gauthier's feeder at Bathurst.
- Nov. 20 – **Black Vulture** visits back yard at Grande Anse.
- Dec. 18 – 14 000 **Common Redpolls** seen at Cape Tormentine on Christmas Bird Count.
- Dec. 28 – Police raid Don Gibson after Jim Wilson is seen acting suspiciously in back yard.



*Editor's note: Reprinted from Bird
Information New Brunswick newsletter 1992.*

Rapport du Président / President's Report *continued*

Appreciation is expressed to Elizabeth McIntosh, who was the NBFN – FNNB secretary for the past year, for all the good work she has done for the federation and it was a pleasure for us all to work with you. Thank you!

Last night Connie Colpitts gave a very emotional tribute to a very special naturalist. The NBFN gave a life membership to honour a very special friend to all naturalists in NB Stuart Tingley - a man who has given so much to nature and all naturalists in our province by being who he is. Thank you Stu for all your devotion and friendship.

À l'AGA nous avons accepté des ajouts à la liste des emblèmes pour la province. Ces espèces seront proposées à la province pour on souhaite qu'ils seront acceptés par la législature dans le futur. Ceci aidera dans le mandat de la fédération de la conscience environnementale. Voici les espèces suggérées par les membres de la FNNB:

Mammifère terrestre :	Orignal
Mammifère marin:	Baleine franche
Reptile:	Tortue des bois
Amphibien:	Rainette crucifère
Poisson:	Saumon de l'Atlantique
Papillon :	Satyre fauve des Maritimes
Papillon de nuit:	Sphinx colibri
Libellule:	Neurocordulia michaeli
Plante sans fleur:	Fougère-à-l'autruche

At the AGM the membership approved additions to the provincial emblems. Recommendations on their adoption will be made to the provincial legislature. This will continue the NBFN mandate to encourage public awareness about nature. Here are the proposed species as voted by the membership:

Terrestrial mammal:	Moose
Marine mammal:	Right whale
Reptile:	Wood Turtle
Amphibian:	Spring Peeper
Fish:	Atlantic Salmon
Butterfly:	Maritime Ringlet
Moth:	Hummingbird Clearwing
Dragonfly:	Broad-tailed Shadowdragon
Non-flowering plant:	Ostrich Fern

J'aimerais remercier l'Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche pour le travail de la préparation de l'AGA 2002. Aussi j'aimerais féliciter et remercier le Fredericton Nature Club d'avoir accepté la tâche d'organiser celui de l'an prochain.

I would also like to thank the Fredericton Nature Club for taking on organizing the 2003 AGM that will be held on May 30 and 31st and June 1st, 2003.

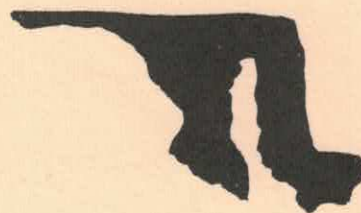
Thank you and enjoy the rest of the weekend.
Merci et bon week-end.

Présenté au 30^{ième} réunion annuel générale de la FNNB à Buctouche le 1^{er} juin 2002
Presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting of the NBFN at Buctouche on June 1st 2002

The Maryland Yellow-throat

Henry Van Dyke 1895

While May bedecks the naked trees
With tassels and embroideries,
And many blue-eyed violets beam
Along the edges of the stream,
I hear a voice that seems to say,
Now near at hand, now far away,
"Witchery-witchery-witchery..."





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