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N.B. Naturalist

Le Naturaliste du N.-B.





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

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

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

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

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Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Buctouche, 1529 ch St-Gabriel, St-Maurice, NB E4S-5C1; 743-8485; courriel / e-mail: annb@yahoo.com, Site web: www.geocities.com/annbouch Réunions 3e mardi du mois à l'eco-centre Irving, la dune de Buctouche (septembre à juin) avec sorties chaque mois. Journal: "Pattes de Mouches".

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

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

Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne, C.P. 2241, St. Simon NB E8P 1L8; courriel: emile.ferron@cnpa.ca; site web: http://www.cnpa.ca; réunions au Club de l'âge d'or Landry, 1er mercredi, sept. à juin; *Le Gobe-mouche* mensuel.

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

Club Les Ami(e)s de la Nature du Sud-Est INC, Abel Doucet, C.P. 4204, Dieppe, NB E1A 6E8, ligne d'information: 532-Buse. Réunions 1er mercredi du mois, alternant entre Dieppe et Shédiac, sorties le 3ième samedi ou dimanche du mois; journal: *La Plume Verte*.

Ford Alward Naturalist Association, c/o Elizabeth McIntosh, 560 Kenneth Road, Glassville, E7L 1V3; 246-5572; meets Florenceville Town Hall, 7:00 pm, last Thurs., Sept.-June; meetings advertised in local newspapers.

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

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

Le Club Naturaliste Chaleur, 9 rue des Cedres, Nigadoo, NB, E8K 3T8; 783-0004; courriel ginica@nb.sympatico.ca; tient ses réunions le troisième lundi de chaque mois (de Septembre à Juin) à la Bibliothèque Mgr. Robichaud/Salle d'Activités de Beresford à 1900h.

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

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

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

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On peut lire dans *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.* des rapports touchant l'histoire naturelle du Nouveau-Brunswick. Les articles seront acceptés en français ou en anglais pour être reproduits dans la langue d'origine. Les opinions exprimées sont celles de leurs auteurs. **Veuillez faire parvenir tous vos articles pour le Naturaliste du N.-B. à: Gart Bishop, 16 Pitt St., Sussex, NB, E4E 1J1; tel. (506)-433-4994, gartali@nbnet.nb.ca.** Demandez les détails de compatibilité d'ordinateur. Tarifs publicitaires disponibles sur demande.

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Sincere thanks to our many volunteers who contributed to this publication.

Merci beaucoup à tous les bénévoles dévoués qui ont contribué à cette publication.

Please submit articles for the next issue by **November 30, 2002**

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

to / à

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President's Message

Mike LeBlanc

Summer is over and the cooler weather is setting in. Time for our federated clubs to start their monthly meetings and activities - in general to start up again. The NBFN - FNNB board of directors had a very interesting and productive meeting in September with a few who took part in a strategic planning meeting.

The Christmas Bird Count season will soon be upon us along with other winter activities. Mind you, the NBFN - FNNB has not been inactive all summer. As you might know, the NBFN - FNNB has had a pilot project this summer -: summer camps for young naturalists in New Brunswick. We had three successful camps that took place in Tracadie-Sheila, St. Andrews and Edmundston. These camps were such great events that we are hoping to do them again next year. We will probably change a few things with what we learned this year. I would like to thank Brigitte Julien and Shannon Brander for their hard work during the camps, our volunteers, the summer camp committee and also our program co-ordinator, Marieka, for the success of these camps. Of course, thanks also goes out to all the participants who chose to come and learn more about nature of New Brunswick.

With your membership renewal at the end of this year you will find a membership survey. We would ask you to complete these few questions and send them back so we can see if the present direction of the federation is where you, our members, want it to be. So we ask you to please send it in when completed. It will be interesting to see the results. So look for it very shortly!

Our membership secretary, Jim Wilson, gave an objective to all board members at the last meeting of the NBFN - FNNB executive to find new members for the federation before the next meeting. There are hundreds if not thousands of people across our beautiful province that are potential members of the Federation. I would like to challenge everyone to spread the word and make our clubs and the federation grow. The potential is there.

Many thanks again go to all volunteers, staff, co-ordinators and everyone else that make the Federation go forward, so that New Brunswick has a stronger voice for nature.

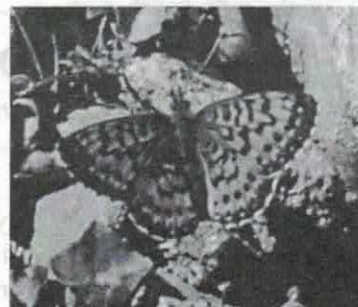
L'été est fini et la température refroidie. Le temps de nos clubs fédérés à recommencer leurs réunions mensuelles et les diverses activités. L'exécutif de la FNNB - NBFN a eu une intéressante réunion au mois de septembre, avec quelques-uns de l'exécutif qui ont participé à une réunion de planification le dimanche, qui a été une session des plus enrichissantes.

Sous peu, la saison des Recensements d'oiseaux de Noël sera à nos portes et toutes les activités de l'hiver qui l'accompagnent. Mais ne pensez pas que la FNNB - NBFN a été inactif tout l'été. Comme vous savez ou ne saviez peut-être pas, la FNNB - NBFN a eu un projet pilote pour mettre en place des camps d'été pour les jeunes naturalistes au Nouveau-Brunswick. Nous avons organisé trois camps qui ont pris place à Tracadie-Sheila, St Andrews et Edmundston. Ces trois camps ont été de si gros succès, que nous voulons les tenter de nouveau l'an prochain, avec quelques petits changements évidemment, des éléments que nous avons appris cette année. J'aimerais au nom de la fédération remercier Brigitte Julien et Shannon Brander pour tout leur travail durant ces camps d'été et aussi les bénévoles, les membres du comité de camps d'été et aussi à notre coordinatrice de programmes, Marieka, pour tout le travail au succès de ces camps. Et bien sur merci à tous les participants qui ont choisi de venir approfondir leurs connaissances des richesses au Nouveau-Brunswick.

À la fin de cette année, vous recevrez votre renouvellement de cotisation. Avec celui-ci, vous trouverez un questionnaire. Il est composé de questions afin de voir où est la fédération et si elle s'en va dans la bonne direction d'après l'opinion de nos membres. Donc, nous vous demandons de le remplir aussi tôt que vous le recevrez et de le retourner. Nous avons hâte de voir les résultats. Donc, gardez vos yeux ouverts pour ce questionnaire. Notre secrétaire de la société Jim Wilson, à la dernière réunion de l'exécutif, a demandé l'aide de tous les membres à passer le mot à propos de la FNNB-NBFN. Dans notre province, nous avons certaines même miles personnes qui auraient un intérêt spécial à devenir membres de la fédération. Pourquoi ne pas leurs offrir un abonnement à la FNNB - NBFN comme cadeaux? Ou juste leurs en

parlé. Ceci aiderait à la fédération et aux clubs à grandir davantage. Le potentiel est là et ce n'est qu'à passer le mot.

Encore une fois j'aimerais remercier tout les bénévoles, personnel, coordinateurs et tout autres personnes qui aident la fédération à aller de l'avant et aussi pour que la nature au Nouveau-Brunswick aie une voix forte.



AGM 2002 Report / Rapport de l'AGA 2002

Bernadette LeBlanc

The 2002 NBFN AGM, hosted by l'Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche, is nothing but a memory. What an honour for this small club to host such an event. Would we meet the expectations of naturalists from all over the province? We certainly kept our fingers crossed.

Needless to say, a great organizing committee, with the help of club members and other volunteers, did an excellent job. I'm very proud of the work they did. I would like to mention the hard work of Brigitte Julien, Marc LeBlanc and Rose-Alma Mallet.

The activities went well (with the exception of one, but the participants took it onto themselves to make good of a bad situation) and everyone seemed very pleased. Activities were scattered a little everywhere around Kent County. Kouchibouguac National Park and birding 'hotspots' were certainly the highlights of the weekend.

The banquet at Le Pays de la Sagouine and the AGM went smoothly and it was a pleasure to introduce Stuart Tingley as 'Honorary Life Member' to the FNNB.

Profits were great as l'Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche will be sharing close to \$1800.00. What a success!

So, thank you to everyone who helped, in whatever way, big or small. This event would not have been successful by the hand of one person. It was the group effort that made the 2002 AGM weekend in Bouctouche an event to remember.

Thank you,
Bernadette LeBlanc
President ANBB

L'AGA 2002 de la FNNB n'est qu'une mémoire. Quel honneur pour un petit club, l'Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche d'organiser un pareil événement ! Est-ce que nous pourrions satisfaire aux attentes des naturalistes de la province ? On s'est certainement croisé les doigts.

Le comité organisateur, avec l'aide de membres et de non membres de l'ANBB, a fait un excellent travail. Je suis fière du travail accompli. Je désire mentionner le travail de Brigitte Julien, Marc LeBlanc et de Rose Alma Mallet.

Les activités se sont bien déroulées (avec l'exception d'une, mais les participants sont débrouillés et ont eu une belle sortie quand même.) et la plupart des gens était satisfaite. Les sorties étaient éparpillées un peu partout dans le comté de Kent. Le parc national Kouchibouguac et la sortie des 'hotspots' furent sûrement des activités les plus appréciés.

Un banquet au Pays de la Sagouine et l'AGA se sont bien déroulés ce fut un plaisir d'introduire Stuart Tingley comme 'Membre à vie honoraire' à la FNNB.

Les profits furent excellents aussi, alors que l'ANBB partagera avec la FNNB près de 1800\$.

Alors merci à tous ceux qui ont aidé d'une façon ou d'une autre. Cette fin de semaine n'aurait pas été un succès du dépend d'une personne. Ce fut un effort d'équipe qui fera que l'AGA 2002 à Bouctouche sera un événement à ne pas oublier.

Merci beaucoup,
Bernadette LeBlanc
Présidente ANBB

Of Plovers and Asters

Sabine Dietz and Roland Chiasson

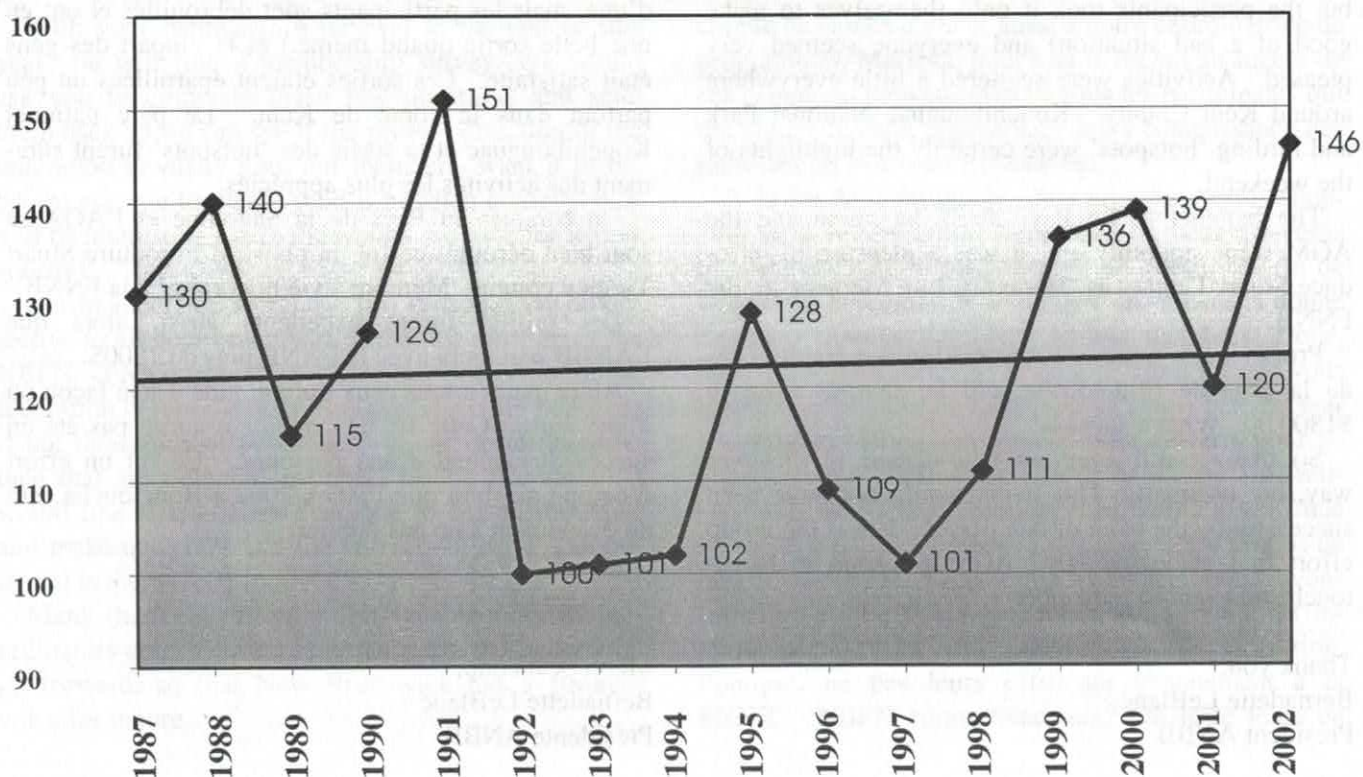
The summer of 2002 was another busy season for the Piper Project. With fifteen staff and a lot of area to cover, staff were very busy. Our area (from Neguac to Caraquet) had a few more adults (146 or 73 pairs) this year that came to nest than last year (120 or 60 pairs). Over the last fifteen years that we have monitored these birds on the Acadian Peninsula there was only one year that the numbers were higher, and that was in 1991 (151). That is encouraging when we look at the last fifteen years. Numbers have gone up and down regularly (the average number per year is around 122 birds). However the trend (see table below) seems to be very slowly increasing.

This year unfortunately, few young survived to make the trek back south. Our fledging success was only 1.33 young per pair, which is below what we believe a population's survival rate to be.

We can point the finger towards high tides in some instances. But it is again highly likely that vehicles are still the biggest problem. It seems that where most of our attention has been focused (southern part of our area from Neguac to Tracadie), our success is really good if there are signs and ropes to guide people. Further north, the vehicle problem has not decreased, but actually increased over the last few years. Two crushed nests (vehicles) were actually documented this year, and we don't know (but suspect) that many nests and young were crushed.

Despite these downs, we had a very good summer that was topped up by the discovery of a new Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster site on Miscou Island. We had taken on the search for potential sites three years ago, when Jim Goltz rediscovered this endangered aster at Val Comeau. Since then, we have poured over aerial

Piping Plovers on the Acadian Peninsula since 1987



photographs, checked land ownership, and verified areas that looked good on the photos. And finally, we struck gold. The second site at Val Comeau, which we monitor a little bit to see when the plants appear, and how many there are, did not do well this year. Only a few plants were counted, and these were almost submerged in water. This Aster is an interesting little plant, and would merit some really detailed studies, because its habitat requirements are poorly understood.

Our summers are very busy (31 beaches to monitor), but we would encourage anybody that is interested to pay us a visit, see what we are doing, and maybe even help out.

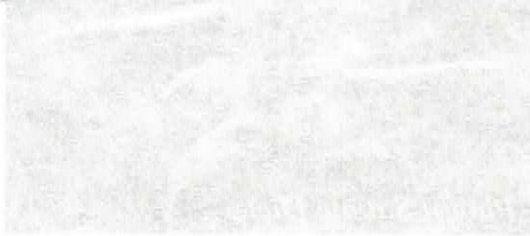


Photo: Sabine Dietz

Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster in Bloom

Photo: Sabine Dietz

Pluviers et asters

Sabine Dietz and Roland Chiasson, Projet siffleur



Photo: Richard Kuzminski

Jeune Pluvier siffleur

Photo: Richard Kuzminski

L'été de 2002 a été, une fois encore, un temps très occupé pour le Projet siffleur. Avec 15 employés et un parcours assez large, il n'y a pas beaucoup de temps à penser à d'autres choses que les Pluviers siffleurs. Notre terrain (de Neguac à Caraquet) a eu un peu plus d'adultes pluviers (146) que l'année passée (120). Le nombre d'adultes a seulement été plus élevé en 1991 (151 adultes ou 75 couples). Ceci est encourageant, mais n'est pas nécessairement trop significatif. Quand on regarde les dernières 15 années le nombre des pluviers a augmenté (avec un moyen par année de 122 oiseaux) et est descendu régulièrement. Quand même la tendance (voir tableau) est une augmentation très lente du nombre d'adultes qui retournent afin de nicher sur nos plages.

La chose la plus décourageante a été le fait que le succès d'envol a été très bas, seulement 1.33 jeune par couple, ce qui est en sous du succès d'envol nécessaire pour assurer la survie de l'espèce.

Nous pouvons pointer le doigt aux marées hautes dans certains cas. Cependant il est fort probable que les véhicules sur les plages posent toujours les plus gros problèmes. Il semble que les endroits où nous avons eu un programme intensive avec des protecteurs, des affiches, et des zones symboliques sur les plages (de Neguac à Tracadie), les problèmes ne sont pas aussi sérieux. Le problème est même devenue plus pire au Nord pendant les dernières années. Deux nids que nous avons documenté qui ont été écrasés par des véhicules nous donnent un indice que probablement plusieurs nids ou jeunes ont été détruit de la même façon.

Malgré ces problèmes, nous avons eu un très bon été qui a vu un point culminant en la découverte d'un nouveau site de l'aster du Golfe St. Laurent à l'Île de Miscou. Nous cherchons pour des nouveaux sites depuis trois ans maintenant, depuis que Jim Goltz a découvert le site de cette plante en voie de disparition à Val Comeau. Nous visitons le site à Val Comeau chaque année afin de vérifier leur nombre et leur statut. Cette année il y avait seulement une dizaine, qui a été presque submergée dans l'eau. Cet aster est une plante intéressante, et mérite des études, à propos de son habitat.

Nos étés sont très occupés (avec 31 plages à surveiller). Cependant nous vous encourageons de nous rendre visite si vous êtes intéressé, afin de voir ce que nous faisons, et peut-être afin de nous aider.



Aster du Golfe St. Laurent
Hal Hinds

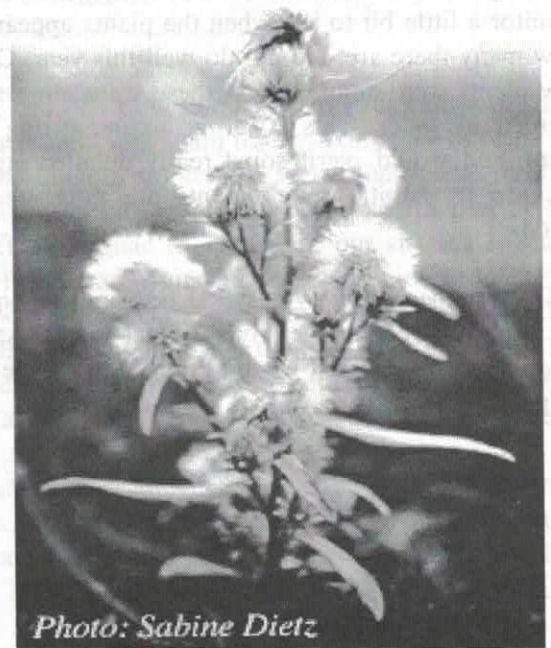


Photo: Sabine Dietz

Aster du Golfe St. Laurent en fruit
Photo: Sabine Dietz

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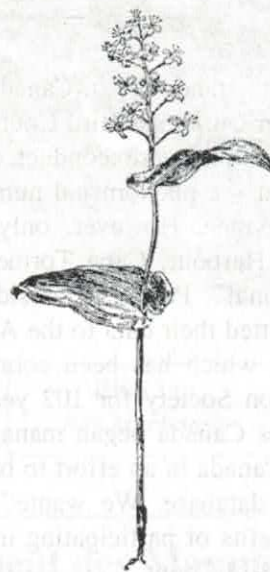
Botany Corner

Gart Bishop, Kennebecasis Naturalists

The fall is a wonderful time to stroll through the woods enjoying the colors of the leaves and the fresh crispness of the air. Mysteries to solve abound as familiar plants become brown, leafless skeletons with seeds, fruits or flower remnants which are unknown. Fifteen years ago a good friend and I were out exploring the woods in October when we noticed these small 10 cm stalks topped with a cluster of small, juicy, translucent red berries. Several years later we finally discovered their identity ... Wild Lily of the Valley (Muguet) [*Maianthemum canadense*].



Maianthemum canadense
Photo: Gart Bishop



Maianthemum canadense in bloom
S. Mathews

This plant is frequently found in open forests, often forming extensive colonies. The leaves first appear as tightly rolled up green spikes poking up through the brown, winter flattened leaf litter. As the shiny, heart-shaped leaves unfurl, a spike of tiny flower buds can be seen on those plants with 2 or 3 leaves. Within a couple of weeks the buds have transformed into a spring-time splay of small, delicate white blossoms, like pleasantly fragrant snowflakes in the woods. The bittersweet berries are eaten by Ruffed Grouse, Chipmunks and mice - but are not a big favorite for the fruits can be commonly found in the spring. The plant is easily transplanted to a shady garden by root cuttings and will usually spread quickly by seed or its extensive creeping stems. It prefers acid rich soils with a protective cover of leaf litter.

Native Americans made a tea from the plant to sooth headaches and keep kidneys open during pregnancy. Some books say the berries while unpalatable are edible. However, most sources agree that these attractive fruits are cathartic and may play havoc with one's bowels so likely it is best to only look.

An Open Letter to New Brunswick Christmas Bird Count Participants and Compilers

Becky Whittam and Dick Cannings

New Brunswick stands out in Canada as one of the best provinces for Christmas Bird Count participation; last winter 44 counts were conducted and 138,192 birds were tallied – a phenomenal number for a relatively small province. However, only five of these counts (Black's Harbour, Cape Tormentine, Kouchibouguac National Park, Riverside-Albert and Sackville) submitted their data to the Audubon Christmas Bird Count which has been coordinated by the National Audubon Society for 102 years. Two years ago, Bird Studies Canada began managing Christmas Bird Counts in Canada in an effort to bring more local counts into the database. We wanted to pass along some of the benefits of participating in the Audubon/BSC Christmas Bird Count.

If your count sends its data to BSC and Audubon ...

1. Your data will be used by biologists from across North America (and conceivably from around the world) to track bird numbers and distribution. These data are used by conservation initiatives (such as Partners in Flight, a North-American multi-stakeholder group with the goal of keeping common birds common) to plan bird conservation programs. Biologists studying population dynamics of certain species also use these data. You might say, "But NB data are available to the public, through publication in the *NB Naturalist*" (see the last issue). While it's true that the data are available and readily shared, most biologists interested in using Christmas Bird Count data on a national or international scale probably won't use data from New Brunswick except for data that is already submitted to the larger program. Why? First, these biologists would have to know that the additional New Brunswick data exist, then find a copy of the *NB Naturalist* or the associated database, make sure that the count was done in the standard manner that all BSC/Audubon counts use, then transcribe all the data into the format used by Audubon so that it can be analyzed with the other data. While many biologists would like to make this effort, few if any would actually have the time.

2. Your data will be available on the Internet for anyone (including yourself!) to download in a multitude of ways. You can get tables of the full results of any count over the past 5, 10, 15 or 20 years. You can look at graphs showing the numbers of any species on your count (or any other count) over the past years. You can see maps of bird distribution in North America or your region, and even watch that distribution change year by year. The database is extremely powerful, very interesting, and (most importantly), readily available. You can see it in action at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/

3. All participants will receive a newsletter outlining the count results in all of Atlantic Canada. BSC members will also receive a copy of *American Birds* which summarizes the count results in every region of North, Central and South America. You can see how results in New Brunswick compare to those from neighbouring provinces as well as from across the continent (you could even compare your count to those done in Monteverde, Costa Rica, or Gallon Jug, Belize!).

4. It only costs \$5 per participant! Cheap like borscht. You can receive a charitable tax receipt for this fee. And feeder-watchers, youth birders (18 and under) and BSC members don't have to pay at all.

We realize that money is the stumbling block for many New Brunswick counts. Many of you have asked us why participants should pay money to volunteer. We aren't asking you to pay money to volunteer your time (which is extremely valuable in its own right); rather, your \$5 should be considered a donation to a worthy conservation initiative that works hard to make your data accessible to the world in one of the most powerful data analysis and display sites in existence. Where, specifically, does your money go? It helps defray the costs of organizing the count across the continent, maintaining, monitoring and updating the website, quality-checking the results, and publishing them in regional newsletters and *American Birds*.

So, if you're interested in seeing your local Christmas Bird Count become part of the big picture of Christmas Bird Counts, from Peru to Nunavut and everywhere in between, please don't hesitate to contact us. We'll do everything possible to make the process simple and painless. We also have lots of handy tips for helping you to collect the \$5 participant fee, so that people who feel that they just can't afford it don't have to be left out of the process.

Becky Whittam is the Atlantic Canada Program Manager, Bird Studies Canada
(becky.whittam@ec.gc.ca, 506-364-5047)

Dick Cannings is Canadian Coordinator, Christmas Bird Counts
(dickcannings@shaw.ca, 250-496-4049).

**Note from the New Brunswick
Coordinator**
David Christie

As provincial coordinator of Christmas Bird Counts, I would like to encourage New Brunswickers to consider submitting their local Christmas Counts to Bird Studies Canada for incorporation in the continental database, as well as to me for publication in the N. B. Naturalist/Le Naturaliste du N.-B. The results of our numerous counts are well-known within the province and the data are used for regional studies but in addition, as described by Dick and Becky, if incorporated in the larger database they also will be used in broader analyses and available on the Internet.

Happy counting! David Christie



Blue Jay
Ken MacIntosh

**Recensement des Mammifères pour
le N-B / NB Mammal Count**

Mike LeBlanc

Hé! Hé! Les organisateurs des Recensements de Noël, voulez vous ajouter une activité à votre recensement de Noël. Joignez-vous au recensement des mammifères de Noël. Après avoir vu que au Saskatchewan ils participaient au mammifère en même temps que les oiseaux, nous avons décidé d'embarquer ici au Nouveau-Brunswick. Donc, les organisateurs contactez-moi pour plus d'informations et je ferai certain que vous recevez toute l'information nécessaire.
pandion@nbnet.nb.ca; 506-743-8485

Attention: Christmas bird count organizers, this year if you want to add to your count, you can join the Xmas Mammal count during your day. This will not affect your bird count, this will just be an addition to your day while counting the birds. Why not the mammals (animals, scats and tracks)? After seeing the report in Saskatchewan we decided to begin doing this in New Brunswick. Since we are out and about and do see mammals, tracks or scats, why not take part? Contact me for more details and I will make sure you receive all necessary information.

My Restigouche River Run: Part I Historical Background

Irene Doyle

"Run the River", a term that is used around this area as much as "having breakfast". When it is not being used from spring until fall to talk about actually doing it, it is being used in the past tense to describe how it went the year before or a few years ago. But either way there is almost always a twinkle in the eye of the person using the term.

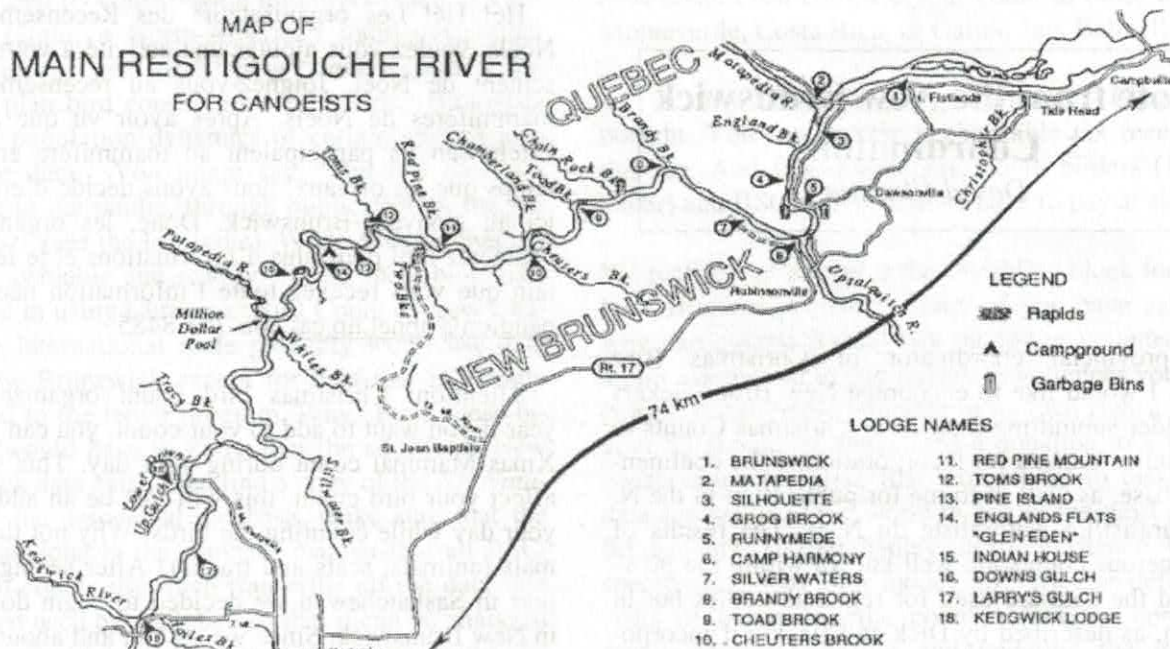
Now before I try to describe our beautiful trip to you, which I will do in 6 or 7 parts, I would like to give you a few facts about the Restigouche River. With the map I have placed on here it should give you a better idea of how the river runs and where the "river runs" start and end most of the time.

A 55km section of this river, which runs between "Jardine Brook" and the "Million Dollar Pool" was nominated, and accepted in 1995, to be included in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board.

There are two or three stories, or legends, as to where the Restigouche got its name. The Restigouche River was apparently named by the Mi'kmaq who lived here long before us, and some say it was called

Restigouche because in their aboriginal language it means "he who disobeys his father". The legend tells of a boy who was killed while leading an expedition against the Mohawks who were poaching the salmon in the area. The boy's father, who was the Chief, was not in accord with his son and he was opposed to the battle. The whole party was massacred on the banks of the river and the boy's father named the river "he who disobeys his father".

In his writings to the Daily Sun of Saint John, "Sketches in Restigouche History", dated February 8, 1883, Rev. J.C. Herdman writes of another story. He states that its Mi'kmaq name means "five fingers", "Hand of five fingers", or "River that divides like the hand", which represents the 5 rivers that run in the area; the Kedgwick, Patapedia, Upsalquitch and Mata-pedia Rivers all run into the Restigouche at some point. Many brooks also run into it and quite a few fishing lodges or salmon pools bear their names. The river also serves as the border between the provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick from the Million Dollar Pool on down.



This article (the first in a series about Irene's river run), along with others on the Restigouche Environment, Nature, History, Genealogy, and much more appear on Irene's website at www.restigouche.net

Cooney writes in 1832, about the name of the river meaning "Broad River" or "Big River" to distinguish it from the Restigouche or what is now known as the Miramichi River.

The Main Restigouche River is about 57 miles long, starting from the mouth of the Kedgwick to what we know today as Tide Head. The average width of the river is approximately 300 feet. A few spots are quite hazardous. If you are not an experienced boater or are not careful, you could do damage to your boat or motor or even get hurt, so caution has to be exercised when running the river.

During the summer months, thousands of people "run the river". Most of them, take the road off Route 17 that leads to the mouth of the Kedgwick. Here their canoes or kayaks are put in the water. The run can be shortened by leaving from points lower down the river, some people even do the whole length in one day, leaving very early morning and getting back to Tide Head late in the evening. I would say that would take the fun out of really enjoying the ride and the natural environment, but to each his own.

Under the Environment Trust Fund of the Province of New Brunswick, campsites have now been developed and are being maintained by clean-up crews of the Department of Natural Resources and Energy to accommodate canoeists. Before this project began, the run of the river was wild in more ways than one. The beauty of the wilderness was there to admire and explore but there were also the "Yahoo" canoeists as they are called by most, who would make running the river a big party, breaking trees, leaving their garbage behind either on the sites where they stayed overnight or at the bottom of the river.

This mighty river is also a very historical one. It used to be the only means of transportation for the first inhabitants, the Mik'maq, the Scottish, the Irish and Acadians. It was not only the first to welcome the settlers, it was also the final resting-place for a lot of them who got killed while sailing it. The last battle for supremacy between the French and the English in 1760 was fought between Campbellton and Listuguj on this river.

It was once stocked with so many fish that according to history, some four million pounds a year were shipped across the Atlantic. Rev. J.C. Herdman also writes "In the days of the early British settlers, the Restigouche Indians occupied themselves mostly with fishing and hunting.

They were experts in spearing salmon, which they used sometimes, it is said, to pile in stacks. Their old men speak of their fathers being employed by the white to bring them salmon, and of their killing in three or four days fish enough to load a vessel of 50 to 60 tons. Without doubt salmon were plentiful in those days."

Overfishing though soon brought attention to it and this led to one of the first North American conservation laws in 1824, "no fishing after August 1st and no night fishing". This however was not enough as in 1857 the river was still being depleted of its fish. A conservation officer requested a more restrictive law, which was passed in 1858 when the Fisheries Act was passed. It opened doors to private fishing and hunting clubs by granting them leases and fishing rights, which were sold to the highest bidders.

The Restigouche was also a witness to millions of logs floating down its waters when the "spring log drive" started. There were no roads or big trucks as there are today, taking the pulpwood that had been cut all winter by local residents to the mills. Most of the time, sluices were used to send the logs down to the river from the top of the mountains. The logs were simply dumped in the river by hand, and it carried them to the Atholville Broadlands booming grounds area with the help of the brave men who worked at making sure the logs got there. These amazing, fearless men would run on those floating logs for weeks to make sure the wood did not get stuck on the beaches etc.

But a daily happening was a log jam, where a few logs would get caught on shore, and more logs would get caught in them, causing the flow to be jammed and backed up many thousand feet at times. The men would run out on the jam, plant dynamite sticks here and there, light the sometimes short fuse and run back to shore to watch the logs fly up in the air as some of the jam was set loose. Unfortunately, many of them did not make it to shore, but that is another story.

The wood was then placed in circular booms, and dragged to the mills by tugboats where they were stored for processing. This is not being done anymore, and according to my friend Pat, through this process the riverbed got cleaned by the logs on their way down. Today the bottom of the river has grown with deposits to where it is barely passable in places. So I guess with "evolution" man is slowly destroying the planet in more ways than one.

Christmas Gift Idea Idée de cadeau pour Noël

A membership to the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists could make a great gift for friends and family who are curious about the plants and animals of our province.

Membership includes:

- four issues of the NB Naturalist / Le Naturaliste du N.-B., each full of articles on our natural history
- an invitation to the Annual General meeting, which is a weekend of exploring nature held in a different area every year
- an opportunity to become aware and better connected with other naturalists throughout the province.

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

Individual \$20 Family \$25

Please send gift membership to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Giver of Gift

Name: _____

Address: _____

Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Please send renewal for gift membership to:

☐ Gifted

☐ Gift Giver

Please send membership applications to: Jim Wilson, Membership secretary, 2 Neck Road, Quispamsis, NB, E2G 1L3

Vous cherchez pour un cadeau pour un ami ou membre de la famille qui s'intéresse à la faune et la flore du Nouveau-Brunswick? Une carte de membre de la Fédération des Naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick est une excellente idée.

Un abonnement inclus

- quatre numéros du The NB Naturalist / Le Naturaliste du N.-B., une revue pleine d'articles sur notre patrimoine naturel
- ainsi qu'une invitation à l'Assemblée Générale Annuelle, une fin de semaine d'exploration de la nature tenue dans une différente région de la province à chaque année et
- une opportunité de devenir conscient et mieux relater avec les autres naturalistes de la province.

Une note sera envoyée pour annoncer votre cadeau et accueillant le nouveau membre après de la Fédération.

Carte de membre individuel: \$20 Famille: \$25

S'il vous plaît envoyer une carte de membre cadeau à:

Nom: _____

Adresse: _____

Province: _____

Code Postale: _____

Nom du donneur

Nom: _____

Adresse: _____

Province: _____

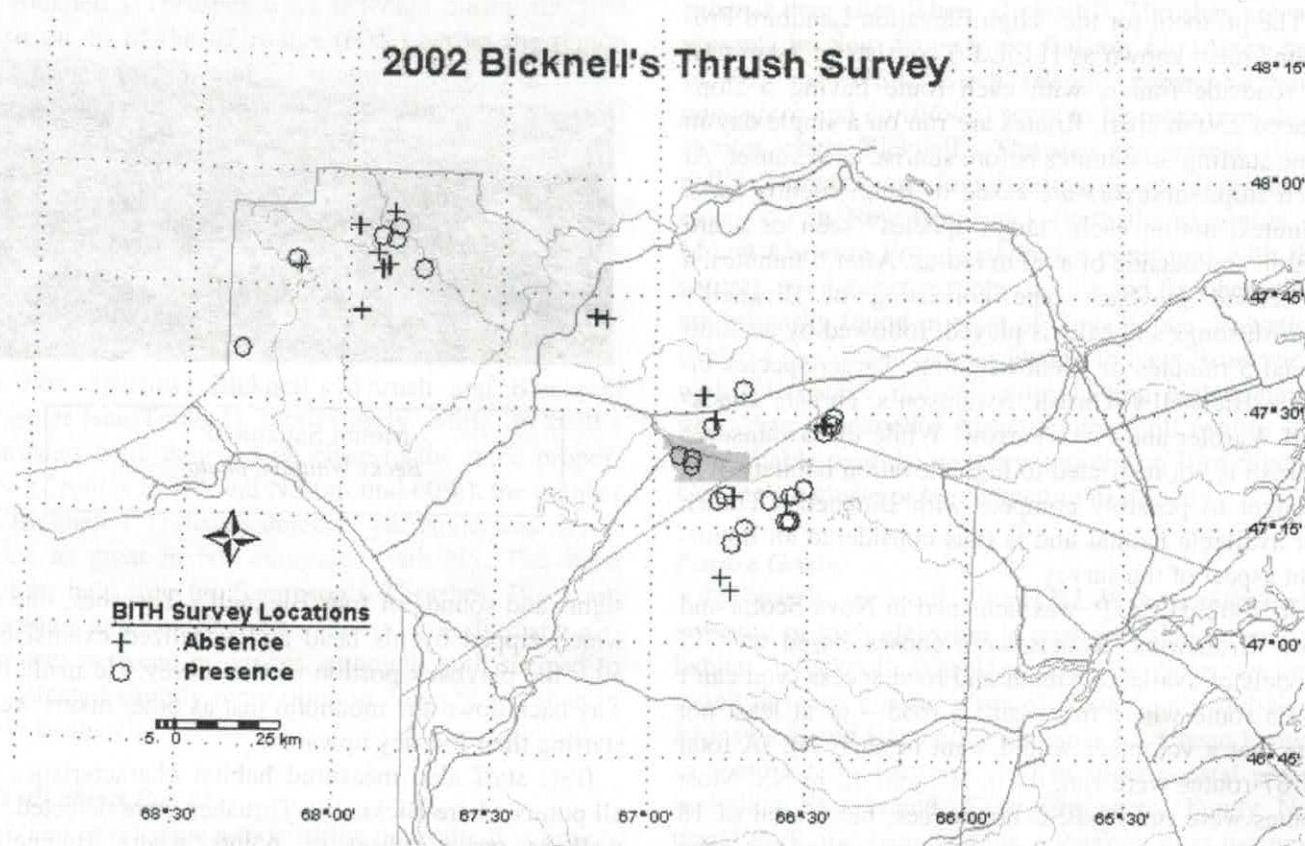
Code Postale: _____

S'il vous plaît renouveler l'abonnement en cadeau de:

☐ Receveur

☐ Donneur

S'il vous plaît envoyer l'application de l'abonnement à: Jim Wilson, Secrétaire de la société, 2 Neck Road, Quispamsis, NB, E2G 1L3



Lending H.E.L.P. to our High Elevation Songbirds

Becky Whittam & Melanie Ball – Bird Studies Canada, Atlantic Region

High elevation habitat is threatened by climate change (with serious declines in Red Spruce forecasted over the next century), forestry, and ski-area development in eastern North America. Furthermore, relatively few birders and ornithologists visit this habitat type, leading to a lack of information on birds of high elevations.

One of the most interesting of New Brunswick's high elevation songbirds is the Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*), a species characterized by its elusive breeding habits, its "after-hours" (pre-dawn, post-dusk) vocal behaviour, and its previous designation as a sub-species of the Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*). The Bicknell's Thrush is considered a "Species of Special Concern" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Species in Canada, because of the threats to high elevation habitat as well as the fact that very little is known about its population size and

status in this country. About 30% of the Canadian population (3800-6300 individuals) of Bicknell's Thrushes breeds in Atlantic Canada, in the highlands of New Brunswick (400-800 pairs) and Nova Scotia (400-700 pairs). Even these population numbers, however, are only rough estimates.

Because so little is known about the population status and trends of Bicknell's Thrush and other high elevation bird species in Atlantic Canada, Bird Studies Canada, with help from various partners and funders, decided to initiate a monitoring program, with a particular emphasis on determining the population trends of, and habitat use by, the Bicknell's Thrush. In 2001, we conducted preliminary research in Cape Breton Highlands National Park to develop a protocol for the survey. Full details of the 2001 research can be downloaded from BSC's website at www.bsc-eoc.org/regional/acbithsurvey.html.

The High Elevation Landbird Program

The protocol for the "High Elevation Landbird Program" (also known as H.E.L.P.) consists of 1-km trail or roadside routes, with each route having 5 stops spaced 250 m apart. Routes are run on a single day in June starting 30 minutes before sunrise or at sunset. At each stop, surveyors are asked to listen silently for 5 minutes, noting each "target species" seen or heard within and outside of a 50 m radius. After 5 minutes, a 30-second playback tape consisting of Bicknell's Thrush songs and calls is played, followed by an additional 5 minutes of silent listening. Target species include Bicknell's Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler and Fox Sparrow. While the Swainson's Thrush is not restricted to high elevation habitats, it is thought to possibly compete with Bicknell's Thrush for available habitat and is thus considered an important aspect of the survey.

In 2002, H.E.L.P. was launched in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Routes were chosen based on GIS models of available habitat and road access (you can't put a route where there isn't a road – or at least not one that a volunteer would want to survey!). A total of 67 routes were run, 45 in NB and 22 in NS. Most routes were run by BSC employees, but a total of 18 routes were run by a set of hearty volunteers who weren't afraid to climb mountains and get up early or stay out late! For example, Roger LeBlanc of Moncton arose at 1 am on the morning of June 15. He drove 3 hours to Mount Carleton Provincial Park and hiked an hour up Mount Sagamook to begin his HELP survey route just in time for sunrise. He was rewarded by the



Mount Sagamook
Becky Whittam, photo

sights and sounds of four Bicknell's Thrushes, one of which zipped by his head and vocalized extensively after the playback portion of the survey. He made his way back down the mountain just as other hikers were starting their journey upwards.

BSC staff also measured habitat characteristics at all points where Bicknell's Thrushes were detected, as well as on a subset of points where Bicknell's Thrushes were not detected (using only routes where no Bicknell's were detected, on any stop). This work was meant as a continuation of the work done by Erin Nixon, Steve Holmes and Tony Diamond on Bicknell's Thrush habitat use in New Brunswick in the 1990s.

		Bicknell's Thrush	Swainson's Thrush	Blackpoll Warbler	Fox Sparrow
Frequency of Detection	NS	0.59	0.82	0.50	0.59
	NB	0.60	0.91	0.44	0.51
Relative Abun- dance	NS	1.09	3.55	1.00	1.27
	NB	2.2	11.3	0.91	1.27

Table 1. Frequency of Detection (number of routes detected/total routes run) and Relative Abundance (mean number of birds per route) for each of the four target species in NB and NS in 2002. A total of 22 routes were run in NS, and 45 routes in NB.

H.E.L.P. Results 2002

Bicknell's Thrushes were detected during the first visit on 40 of the 67 routes (60%) across the region (13 routes in NS, and 27 routes in NB). For routes where Bicknell's Thrushes were not detected, BSC staff re-ran most of these routes a second time, but this did not result in any additional Bicknell's Thrush detections. The map shows locations of routes in New Brunswick and whether or not Bicknell's Thrushes were detected on those routes.

In both NB and NS, Swainson's Thrush was the most common of the 4 focal species found, followed by Fox Sparrow, Bicknell's Thrush and Blackpoll Warbler (see Table 1). Interestingly, while Bicknell's Thrushes were detected on close to the same proportion of routes in NB and NS (around 60%), the number of Bicknell's Thrushes detected per route was nearly twice as great in NB compared with NS. The same pattern held true for Swainson's Thrushes. Blackpoll Warblers and Fox Sparrows showed less dramatic differences between provinces, although both seemed to be detected slightly more often in Nova Scotia than in New Brunswick.

It's all about Power

When developing a monitoring program, it is important to estimate the "power" of the survey, which is basically the ability of the survey to detect population trends when trends are present. We learned that, given our current survey protocol, it will take only 5 years to see a 3% decline (if present) in the Swainson's Thrush population. However, it will take 10 years to see the same magnitude of decline in Fox Sparrows and Blackpoll Warblers and over 30 years for the Bicknell's Thrush! By increasing the number of routes surveyed, or the number of runs of each route per year, we should be able to detect trends sooner; however, it may be that there are simply not enough Bicknell's Thrushes, or at least not enough Bicknell's Thrushes detected, to adequately survey their population. Monitoring a secretive species is not an easy task! Over the next year, we will be re-examining the current protocol to assess its effectiveness in meeting the survey goals, and we may be adjusting the protocol as a result.

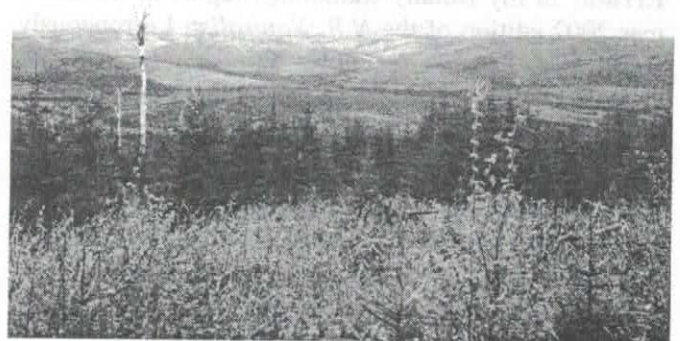
Preliminary habitat results

Our habitat measurements, while not yet fully analyzed, seem to indicate that the sites where Bicknell's Thrushes are present in Nova Scotia have more Sheep

Laurel (*Kamia angustifolia*) and Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*) than sites where Bicknell's Thrushes are not present. In New Brunswick, Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*) and White Birch (*Betula papyrifera* vars. *papyrifera* and *cordifolia*) seem to be more prominent at sites where Bicknell's Thrushes are present. Bicknell's Thrushes are found primarily in regenerating clear cuts in New Brunswick (with the exception of Mount Carleton Provincial Park), compared with the natural, wind-swept scrubby spruce and fir where they are primarily found in most of Nova Scotia. Elevation is also a significant habitat feature in New Brunswick, with "Bicknell's Present" sites having higher elevations than "Bicknell's Absent" sites. Full results will be available over the next few months on Bird Studies Canada's website or by contacting us directly.

Future Goals

Ultimately, we would like H.E.L.P. to monitor birds not only of high elevation habitat, but also of coastal habitat. Blackpoll Warblers and Fox Sparrows are found in many coastal areas of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and Bicknell's Thrushes have been known to occur (at least historically) in some coastal areas, including Seal Island, Cape Chignecto, Fundy National Park and Grand Manan. Perhaps over the next few years, if we are able to meet financial and logistical challenges, we may have routes available in coastal



Typical Bicknell's Thrush habitat in NB
Becky Whittam, photo

In the meantime, if you're interested in participating in a challenging yet rewarding program involving mountain hikes, sunrises and sunsets, rare birds and a conservation goal, please don't hesitate to contact us!

(Becky Whittam phone 506-364-5047, email becky.whittam@ec.gc.ca).

Thanks to the following groups for their financial and/or in-kind support: Canadian Wildlife Service, Canadian Forestry Service, Science Horizons Youth Internship Fund, Federal Habitat Stewardship Fund, Endangered Species Recovery Fund (Environment Canada and World Wildlife Fund), Stora-Enso Woodlands, Parks Canada Species At Risk Recovery Fund (2000-2001), New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy, Cape Breton Highlands National Park, Mount Carleton Provincial Park, Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission, Fraser-Nexfor Paper Inc., and Bowater Forestry Inc. James Bridgland, Sheldon Lambert, and Derek Quann of Cape Breton Highlands National Park provided scientific and logistical support while in the park. Thanks to intrepid field workers Beth Flanigan and Mike Russell, and thanks to Kevin Middell of Stora-Enso for helping with habitat measurements on Stora lands. Thanks to Léa Olsen for making the map. Most of all, thanks to the following

volunteers for their dedication, even in the face of adversity! Sean Blaney, Clark Brander, Andy Carson, Jim Clifford, Luc Cyr, Margaret Gallant Doyle, Jason Hudson, Diane Landry, Roy and Charlotte LaPointe, Randy Lauff, Chad LeBlanc, Roger LeBlanc, Mike Lushington, Juliette Pellerin, Ceiridwen Robbins, Marco Scichilone, and Johanne Sebastien.



Observers atop Mount Carleton
Becky Whittam, photo

BOTANY RAMBLINGS: 1 July to 30 September, 2002

James P. Goltz

Errata: In my Botany Ramblings report in the Summer 2002 edition of the *N.B. Naturalist*, I erroneously stated that **European Globe Flower** (*Trollius europaeus*) had not been recorded in the *Flora of New Brunswick*. However, this garden escape/persist is actually included there and known to occur in Carleton, St. John, and Albert Counties. The date on which Sean Blaney found the **Great Hairy Willow-herb** (*Epilobium hirsutum*) at Fredericton, was **June 29**, not July 29. I apologize for these errors.

BRYOPHYTES – Bruce Bagnell

New discoveries of bryophytes continue in the province with a find of a rare moss for Canada in Carleton county near Florenceville. Similar to the tiny "pygmy mosses" found last spring, *Aphanorrhegma serratum*

inhabits disturbed field habitats, likely in areas of more calcareous soils. However, this species matures its sporophytes in the late summer to fall, in contrast to the early spring pygmy mosses. A minute moss (3-4 mm high), bearing tiny globelike sporophytes hidden in its leaves, it was found on August 27 at the edge of a field and nearby beaver meadow while doing survey work with Gart Bishop for the new Trans-Canada Highway alignment. It is considered rare in Canada, and was previously known only from southern Ontario and Quebec. A small population of the uncommon Hornwort, *Aspiromitus punctatus* subsp. *agrestis* was also found at this site.

Also found during recent survey work in Carleton county was the uncommon to rare moss, *Calliergonella cuspidata*. This species occurs typically in

swampy, calcareous or fen habitats, and was found in damp woods at the margin of a small, shallow pond. It is known from only four previous locations in the province and is widespread in the Maritimes. The collection in Carleton county is the most northerly collection to date in the province for this species. It is a large attractive moss, resembling in many ways the common Schreber's Moss (*Pleurozium schreberi*) of woodlands.

A collection of the rare moss *Fissidens bushii* was also made in Carleton County, in its typical habitat on sandy soil along the margin of an old logging road in deciduous woods. This small yellow-green species is known in New Brunswick only from Carleton county where three previous collections of this species have been made near Belleville and Woodstock. All mosses in the genus *Fissidens* have a unique leaf structure and an overall flattened appearance to the plants. *Fissidens bushii* and another rare species in NB in this genus (*Fissidens taxifolius*), are restricted to the Appalachian Hardwood Forests in our province.

While reviewing collections of bryophytes made during preliminary inventory work in Odell Park at Fredericton with Julia Marmont last 23 May, a rare moss, *Pseudotaxiphyllum distichaceum* was identified in two of the collections made that day on soil banks. This moss had only been known in the province from a single previous collection by R.R. Ireland (the author of the *Moss Flora of the Maritimes*), near New River Beach in 1970. A subsequent review of *Pseudotaxiphyllum* specimens at the NBM uncovered another collection that was made by Stephen Clayden near Breau Creek in Westmorland county in 1976. This species is considered rare in Canada at present. A very shiny moss with wide spreading leaves, it bears small filiform asexual brood bodies in the axils of the leaves near the apex of the stems. It looks very much like the more common *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, a species that occurs more often on rock exposures and has brood bodies restricted to the axils of lower leaves.

During research on bryophytes this summer near Petitcodiac, Nicole Fenton (UNBSJ) made a small collection of the rare liverwort, *Bazzania tricrenata*. This tiny liverwort has been only known previously in our province from Mt. Carleton, and was an interesting find in the southern area of the province. There are three species of *Bazzania* so far in NB; the most common species is the liverwort most people first take

notice of in the woods, *Bazzania trilobata*, a larger species with three tiny lobes at the tip of each leaf.

During fieldwork on the St. John River, Gart Bishop collected an uncommon to rare liverwort, *Riccia huebeneriana* subsp. *sullivantii* on soil of the riverbank near Baker Brook, west of Edmundston on August 31. This unusual bright green thalloid liverwort forms small circular rosettes about the size of a penny or smaller, scattered over bare soil in areas where water has receded during the summer. Once considered very rare in our province, more recent collections indicate it is more widespread and possibly more common than early collections indicated. Still, there are only five known sites confirmed for this species in New Brunswick. Other species of *Riccia* should be looked for at the edges of dried up pools and rivershores etc., where water levels have dropped and exposed underlying soils for some time. They are difficult to identify to species and, when found, small collections should be made for proper identification, being careful to leave numerous individual plants for future survival of the populations.

Excellent digital photographs, taken by Nelson Poirier and forwarded to me for visual identification, included two of our common thalloid liverworts, *Pellia* sp. (*P. neesiana* or *P. epiphylla*) and *Marchantia polymorpha*, and the showy broad-leaved moss *Rhizomnium appalachianum*. In addition, Dwayne Sabine and Stephen Clayden, among others, have been observing and collecting bryophytes, and I hope to report on their findings in the coming months.

VASCULAR PLANTS

Species and Hybrids New for New Brunswick

On July 31, in roadside gravel near Grand Falls, Gart Bishop found a huge colony of **Mountain Tarweed** (also called **Stinking Tarweed**, *Madia glomerata*), a very pungent, foul-smelling weed that is covered in sticky glands, has unusual tiny yellow flowers, and originates from western North America.

Although the **Potato** (*Solanum tuberosum*) is extensively cultivated as a commercial and garden crop in New Brunswick, it was surprising to see dozens of these plants on a steep open embankment near the mouth of the Aroostook River on August 5, growing in sand and asphalt that had been thoughtlessly dumped over the river bank (NTNB).

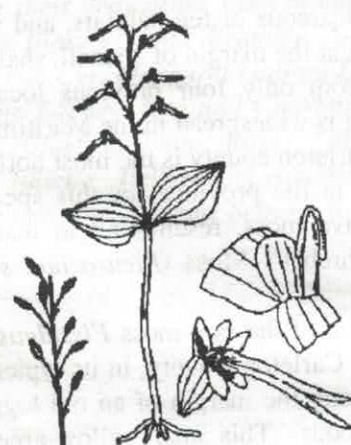
While looking for Atlantic coastal plains plants at Williams Lake on the Kingston Peninsula on the evening of August 22, Dwayne Sabine found some robust plants of a Yellow-eyed-grass that most closely resemble **Carolina Yellow-eyed-grass** (*Xyris difformis*), growing in sphagnum along the lakeshore. Careful perusal of the Marsh St. John's-worts at Williams Lake that same evening resulted in the discovery of some plants that most closely resemble **Southern Marsh St. John's-wort** (*Triadenum virginicum*) (JPG) growing in gravel and peat on a small island. Plants resembling both of these species were also found at South Oromocto Lake by Sean Blaney. Although these species occur in Nova Scotia and should occur in New Brunswick, they are readily confused with more common species that are widespread in the province and more expertise is being sought to help with the identification.

A small clump of 3 flowering stems of **Spiked Blazing Star** (*Liatris spicata*) was found in an old field at Burnt Ridge near St. Stephen on August 28 (JPG, Tom Currie, Danny Sears). These plants had presumably escaped from cultivation but there was no evidence that they had been planted at the site.

At the mouth of the Salmon River, Victoria Co., Sean Blaney found the **hybrid between Goldie's Fern and Marginal Wood-fern** (*Dryopteris* x *neowherryi*, = *Dryopteris goldiana* x *Dryopteris marginalis*).

Endangered Species

The discovery of new locations for three of New Brunswick's endangered plant species was cause for great excitement. While searching for **Southern Twayblade** (*Listera australis*) in ten peatlands that were identified by the Dept. of Natural Resources and Energy (DNRE) as having good potential for this diminutive orchid, Gart Bishop and Bruce Bagnell found it at two bogs located near Marcelville, doubling the number of sites where this species is known to occur in New Brunswick and increasing its total known provincial population from 4 to 42 individuals. Collaborative work among the Nature Trust of New Brunswick, the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre and DNRE resulted in the discovery of **Furbish's Lousewort** (*Pedicularis furbishiae*) near Medford (SB) and south of North Tilley (MT, JPG), increasing the number of known sites in the province from 3 to 5. Sabine Dietz discovered at least 1000 plants of **Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster** (*Symphyotrichum laurentianum*) on Sept. 19 at Malbaie Sud on Miscou Island.



Southern Twayblade
Drawing by Hal Hinds

This species had not been seen on the island for nearly 20 years but had previously occurred near the light-house. Violent coastal storms seem to wreak havoc on populations of this species, as at Kouchibouguac National Park, where the species hasn't been seen for the past two years, and at the Bouctouche Dune, where aster numbers were drastically reduced this summer as a result of storm-induced habitat changes.

Pinedrops (*Pterospora andromedea*), a species subject to tremendous fluctuation in population size at any site where it occurs in the province, was found to be still extant along the St. John, Eel and Restigouche Rivers. Ten plants of this species were seen at Meductic, one nearly waist high with 96 blooms (JPG, Mana Sharma, Don Vail), 13 at Currie Mountain (MT), including at least one of exceptional size, and 1 just above the Rafting Ground (DS, GB, SD).

Rare and Uncommon Species

Perhaps the most intriguing report was the rediscovery of **Downy Rattlesnake-plantain** (*Goodyera pubescens*) in New Brunswick. While perusing some of his notes and photographs, Michael Burzynski came across photos he had taken of this species in Odell Park at Fredericton in 1981, 100 years after this species had last been seen in the province at Petitcodiac. Michael's excellent photos clearly document the occurrence of this very rare species at Odell Park, but we are awaiting more detailed location information and/or a site visit with Michael so we can find out if Downy Rattlesnake-plantain is still extant there 20 years after he photographed it.

While exploring a rich wet cedar swamp near Madran, Sean Blaney found the very rare **Lapland Buttercup** (*Ranunculus lapponicus*), known previously only from Shea Lake and two sites in the Black Brook area. Other noteworthy discoveries in that area were **Small Yellow Water Crowfoot** (*Ranunculus gmelinii*), **Large Yellow Lady's-slipper** (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*), and **Little Grapefern** (*Botrychium simplex*), and a previously unknown calcareous fen in which **Northern Bog Sedge** (*Carex gynocrates*) and **Sheathed Sedge** (*Carex vaginata*) were very abundant (SB).

At Belledune Pond (a bit N of Antinouri Lake), there was another rich cedar swamp that had 2 plants of **Calypso** (*Calypso bulbosa*; found by Claudia Hanel), **Triangle Grapefern** (*Botrychium lanceolatum*) and much **Giant Rattlesnake-plantain** (*Goodyera oblongifolia*), the latter also occurring in nearby aspen-red maple forest. The pond here appeared quite acidic and had **Small Pond-lily** (*Nuphar microphylla*) and **Tuckerman's Pondweed** (*Potamogeton confervoides*). Additional sites for Giant Rattlesnake-plantain in that part of New Brunswick included Belledune Lake and Hendry Brook; Triangle Grapefern was also seen at Belledune Lake (SB).

At Antinouri Lake, Sean found **Wiegand's Sedge** (*Carex wiegandii*), **Clammy Hedge-hyssop** (*Gratiola neglecta*) and **Northern Comandra** (*Geocaulon lividum*). Other interesting finds made during the second week of July, while he was exploring northern New Brunswick for calcareous fens and other calcareous wetlands, included **Broad-lipped Twayblade** (*Listera convallarioides*; "lots at several sites"), **Hooker's Orchid** and **Large Round-leaved Orchid** (*Platanthera hookeri* and *Platanthera orbiculata*; "quite common at several sites"), **Spotted Coralroot** (*Corallorhiza maculata*; two sites), **Checkered Rattlesnake-plantain** (*Goodyera tessellata*; three sites), **Tufted Loosestrife** (*Lysimachia thyrsiflora*; two sites), **Round-leaved Pyrola** (*Pyrola americana*; two sites) and **Red-disk Pond-lily** (*Nuphar x rubrodisca*; one site).

Screwstem (*Bartonia paniculata*) and **Pickering's Blue-node** (*Calamagrostis pickeringii*) were found growing with tens of thousands of **Arethusa** (*Arethusa bulbosa*) on July 6 in a bog-fen complex near Musquash. In a wet meadow at one end of that wetland complex, there were hundreds of **Northern Long**

Sedge (*Carex folliculata*) interspersed among equal numbers of its more narrow-leaved near look-alike, **Michaux's Sedge** (*Carex michauxiana*) (NCC).

Rejean Doiron found **Massachusetts Fern** (*Thelypteris simulata*), **Persicaria arifolia** (*Halberd-leaved Tearthumb*) and **Marsh Arrow-grass** (*Triglochin palustris*) growing in and around a bog located near Chatham.

Some of the fringe benefits of DNRE's bog surveys for Southern Twayblade included the discovery of **Rope-root Sedge** (*Carex chordorrhiza*) near Pokiok Settlement, and thousands of each of the three species of pink bog orchids, **Arethusa** (*Arethusa bulbosa*), **Grass-pink** (*Calopogon tuberosus*) and **Rose Pogonia** (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*), in a bog near Bonny River (GB, BB).

Tubercled Orchid (*Platanthera flava*) was in peak bloom on July 10 at Fredericton Junction, its only known location in the province (JPG, SS, MA, FG, DG), and **Cases's Ladies-tresses** (*Spiranthes casei*) was in full bloom on August 25 at Currie Mountain, the only New Brunswick site where this species is known to occur (JPG, MB).

Dozens of **Purple Milkwort** (*Polygala sanguinea*) were found along the Peltoma Settlement Road southwest of Tracy (RB).

Jointweed (*Polygonella articulata*) continues to spread along Highway 1, where it was seen as far east as the entrance to New River Beach Provincial Park (SB) and west of the Digdeguash River (JPG, JJW).

Visits to a sand plain and abandoned gravel pit site at Nashwaaksis revealed **Hickey's Tree Club-moss** (*Lycopodium hickeyi*), masses of **Small-flowered Gerardia** (*Agalinis paupercula*), and dozens of **Nodding Ladies'-tresses** (*Spiranthes cernua*) on August 25 (JPG, MB), and hundreds of **Dissected Grapefern** (*Botrychium dissectum*) in peak fruiting conditions and exhibiting a broad range of leaf size and morphology on September 29 (JPB, GB, AM, MB, SD, RC).

In early September, Cecil Johnston reported **Felwort** (*Gentianella amarella*) growing amidst a dense mat of **Variegated Scouring Rush** (*Equisetum variegatum*) in a old gravel pit at Black Beach. Although Felwort was formerly known to occur in the vicinity of Saint John (at Reversing Falls), it had not been reported from that general area for at least a century.

A large population of **Sticky Everlasting** (*Pseudognaphalium macounii*) was found growing in a gravel pit at McLeod Hill on September 28, while

Lance-leaved Whitflow-grass (*Draba cana*) was still extant on the nearby cliff (SB).

Botanical exploration of the Aroostook River by the Nature Trust of New Brunswick in early August (mainly on Aug. 5) uncovered many of the rare species that had been found there in 1909 by Fernald (*Rhodora* 12: 101-121, 1910), including **Alpine Woodsia** (*Woodsia alpina*), **Needle Beak-rush** (*Rhynchospora capillacea*), **Glaucous Lettuce** (*Prenanthes racemosa*), **Elegant Milk-vetch** (*Astragalus eucosmus*), **Rand's Goldenrod** (*Solidago simplex*), **Hairy Rock-cress** (*Arabis hirsuta*), **Early-leaf Brome** (*Bromus latiglumis*), and **Wild Coffee** (*Triosteum aurantiacum*), as well as some uncommon to rare species that he hadn't reported, such as **Maidenhair Fern** (*Adiantum pedatum*) (GB, MT), and white-flowered plants of **Harebell** (*Campanula rotundifolia forma albiflora*) (JS).

False Nut-sedge (*Cyperus strigosus*) was found along the St. John River just north of the mouth of the Aroostook River (GB).

Pale Touch-me-not (*Impatiens pallida*) was found at two new sites along the St. John River near Hartland (GB, DS, SD).

Near Florenceville, Gert Bishop and Bruce Bagnell found new sites for rare Appalachian hardwood forest species. Near Lower Guisguet River, **Plantain-leaved Sedge** (*Carex plantaginea*), 30 plants of **Lop-seed** (*Phryma leptostachya*) and numerous populations of **Maidenhair Fern** (*Adiantum pedatum*), grew "in a sea of **Wild Ginger**" (*Asarum canadense*). Plantain-leaved Sedge and Maidenhair Fern were also found north of the Upper Guisguet River, close to a small population of **Goldie's Fern** (*Dryopteris goldiana*).

At the mouth of the Salmon River, Victoria Co., a

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site well-known for its botanical significance since the late 1800s, Sean Blaney found many Appalachian hardwood forest species including **Goldie's Fern** (*Dryopteris goldiana*), **Pale Touch-me-not** (*Impatiens pallida*), **Lopseed** (*Phytolacca leptostachya*), **Hairy Sedge** (*Carex hirtifolia*), **Thin-leaf Sedge** (*Carex cephaloidea*), **Eastern Narrow-leaf Sedge** (*Carex grisea*), **Fragrant Sanicle** (*Sanicula odorata*), and **Long-styled Sweet Cicely** (*Osmorhiza longistylis*). Further up the river he found **Matted Spike-rush** (*Eleocharis intermedia*).

Along the Little Southwest Miramichi River, Becky Whittam and Sean Blaney explored a broad range of ecosystems, all containing rare and uncommon plant species. Some of their discoveries included semi-calcareous outcrops with **Dwarf Bilberry** (*Vaccinium caespitosum*), **Purple False Oat** (*Trisetum melicoides*) and **New England Arnica** (*Arnica lanceolata*); excellent shoreline seepage fens with some calcareous

influence and **Clinton's Club-rush** (*Trichophorum clintonii*), **Sticky False Asphodel** (*Tofieldia glutinosa*), **Kalm's Lobelia** (*Lobelia kalmii*), and lots of **Small-headed Beak-rush** (*Rhynchospora capitellata*); "neat" beach habitats with tons of **Sand Cherry** (*Prunus pumila*), **Canadian Tick-trefoil** (*Desmodium canadense*) and lots of **Slender Panic Grass** (*Dichanthelium linearifolium*); and a surprising amount of extremely rich riparian sugar maple forest with lots of **Foamflower** (*Tiarella cordifolia*), **Blue Cohosh** (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*) and **Hairy Sedge** (*Carex hirtifolia*) plus **Maidenhair Fern** (*Adiantum pedatum*), **Round-lobed Hepatica** (*Hepatica rotundifolia*), **Long-styled Sweet Cicely** (*Osmorhiza longistylis*) and **Dwarf Ginseng** (*Panax trifolius*). At the Dungarvon River, Cindy Spicer, Theo Popma and Claudia Hanel found **Slender Panic Grass** (*Dichanthelium xanthophyllum*) and **Slender Mountain-rice** (*Oryzopsis pungens*).

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Sean Blaney found **Red-stemmed Bottle Gentian** (*Gentiana rubricaulis*) on the bouldery shore of MacDougall Lake, Charlotte Co. On August 24, about 20 plants of this species, including a few in bloom, were seen along the St. Croix River near Gleason Point (JPG, JJW), in the general vicinity where Gart Bishop had found it several years ago.

The Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre Botany Group had tremendous success in finding rare and uncommon aquatic and emergent species, many more than are reported here. At Queens Lake, west of Saint John, they found **Twig-rush** (*Cladium mariscoides*), **Brown Beak-rush** (*Rhynchospora fusca*), **Pickering's Blue-node** (*Calamagrostis pickeringii*), **Greater Purple Bladderwort** (*Utricularia purpurea*), **Lesser Bladderwort** (*Utricularia minor*), **Coastal Sedge** (*Carex exilis*), **Screwstem** (*Bartonia paniculata*), **Water-shield** (*Brasenia schreberi*), **Bayonet Rush** (*Juncus militaris*), **Northern Long Sedge** (*Carex folliculata*) and **Yellow-eyed Grass** (*Xyris montana*) (CH,TP). **Threadlike Naiad** (*Najas gracillima*) was uncommon in French Lake, **Whitegrass** (*Leersia virginica*) was fairly common on the floodplain of French Lake, **Two-leaf Water-milfoil** (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) was incredibly abundant along Portobello Creek, where it "was so thick that paddling canoe was difficult in some places", and **Long-leaf Pondweed** (*Potamogeton nodosus*) was locally abundant in Portobello National Wildlife Area. **Floating Bladderwort** (*Utricularia radiata*) and **Pickering's Blue-node** (*Calamagrostis pickeringii*) were found at South Oromocto Lake. Some aquatic botanical highlights of MacDougall Lake, Charlotte Co., included **Floating Bladderwort** (*Utricularia radiata*), **Mermaid-weed** (*Proserpinaca palustris*) and **Cardinal Flower** (*Lobelia cardinalis*). At the Hampton Marshes there was **Water-marigold** (*Megalodonta beekii*), **River Bulrush** (*Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*), **Awed Cyperus** (*Cyperus squarrosus*) and **Two-stamened Cyperus** (*Cyperus diandrus*) (ACDCBG).

Mary and Dwayne Sabine discovered another new location for **Floating Bladderwort** (*Utricularia radiata*) at Spednic Lake.

Mermaid-weed (*Proserpinaca palustris*) and **False Water-pepper** (*Persicaria hydropiperoides*) were the highlights of a New Brunswick Botany Club outing to the St. George Waterfowl Park in August (GB). Additional finds included two species which had not previously been seen at this site, **Indian Wild Rice**

(*Zizania aquatica*) and **Ditch-stonecrop** (*Penthorum sedoides*).

A few blooms of **Greater Purple Bladderwort** (*Utricularia purpurea*) were seen during an evening canoe trip at Walton Lake, Kings Co., on Aug. 14 (JPG, DS, MS). Here, as at most places where this species occurs in the province, there were masses of non-flowering plants, but there are few reports of this species flowering in New Brunswick.

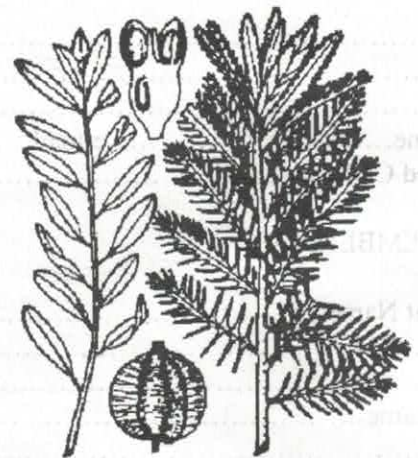
Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*) was found at Walton Lake, Kings Co. on August 14 (JPG, DS, MS), at French Lake (SB), and at States Lake on September 21 (JPG, JJW).

A trip to the Kedgwick area yielded **Greater Creeping Rush** (*Juncus subtilis*) in bloom on the emergent shoreline of States Lake on Sept. 21, and a single flowering plant of **Giant Mountain Aster** (*Aster modestus*) along the Restigouche River at Montgomery Bridge (where it had first been found in New Brunswick nearly 40 years previously) on Sept. 22 (JPG, JJW).

Other Interesting Reports

The showy **pink-flowered form** (*forma rosea*) of **Yarrow** (*Achillea millefolium*) was found at Sackville on July 6 (BS).

Nelson Poirier encountered **Groundnut** (*Apios americana*) growing in abundance along the Shediac River on Aug. 26.



Mermaid-weed
Drawing by Hal Hinds

Huge patches of **Turtlehead** (*Chelone glabra*) were conspicuous along the Trans-Canada Highway near St. Leonard on August 30 (JPG).

The **yellow-fruited form** of **Choke Cherry** (*Prunus virginiana* f. *leucocarpa*) was seen along Lincoln Road at Fredericton in late September (PG).

A large amount of **Narrow-leaved Cattail** (*Typha angustifolia*) was seen growing together with **Broad-leaved Cattail** (*Typha latifolia*) along the Eel River on August 13 (JC).

Non-native Species

Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), a very invasive aquatic plant, was seen for the first time at Perth Andover (PO), and "is rapidly taking over the large acreage ofmarsh vegetation" at Eel River (JC).

Great Hairy Willow-herb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) and **Everlasting Pea** (*Lathyrus latifolius*) were found around Dalhousie in mid July (SB). Another species of **Everlasting Pea** (*Lathyrus sylvestris*) was found at the Eel River overpass on route 11 on August 13 (JC).

Much **Narrow-leaved Hawk's-beard** (*Crepis tectorum*) was seen along the Trans-Canada Highway between Mazerolle Settlement and Longs Creek in early July, and during a second period of blooming in late September (JPG).

Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*) was found in bloom amidst a stand of tall weeds not far from a roadside at Hammond River on August 12 (JW).

Jerusalem Oak (*Chenopodium botrys*) was collected from a gravel highway shoulder at Colpitts (ACDCBG).

A robust plant of **Asiatic Bittersweet** (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), measuring at least 7 m. in height, was found on a Norway Maple tree near Magnetic Hill in Moncton (NP).

Several berry-laden shrubs of **Glossy Buckthorn** (*Frangula alnus*) were seen at two sites on the Miramichi River in late September (NP).

Exploration of a snow-dump area and walking trails along the Meduxnekeag River behind the community college at Woodstock on Sept. 28 revealed one small clump of **New England Aster** (*Aster novae-angliae*), a single clump of white-flowered **Red Clover** (*Trifolium pratense* f. *leucochraceum*), a few plants of **Biennial Wormwood** (*Artemisia biennis*) and large colonies of halophytic plants such as **Alkali Grass** (*Puccinellia* sp.) and **Orache** (*Atriplex* sp.) (JPG, JJW).



Great Hairy Willow-herb
Drawing by Hal Hinds

Still Awaiting Rediscovery

Despite intensive searching, **Wild Columbine** (*Aquilegia canadensis*) was not rediscovered around Dalhousie (SB), and the whereabouts of "Phipps Lake, Long Reach, Kings Co.", the only site in the province where **Lesser Purple Bladderwort** (*Utricularia resupinata*) was ever found, still remains a mystery (JPG, DS, MS).

People and Plants

Scientists from the United States have recently visited New Brunswick, or solicited collections of material from the province, to assist with their research on **Pitcher Plant** (*Sarracenia purpurea*), **Grass-pink** (*Calopogon tuberosus*), **Three-seeded Sedge** (*Carex trisperma* var. *billingsii*) and **Muskflower** (*Mimulus moschatus*) (JPG, SC).

The annual meeting of the New Brunswick Botany Club will be held at Odell Park lodge at Fredericton on November 30 at 1 p.m.

FUNGI

Almost all reports of mushrooms continue to be of edible species. It was a bumper year for **Chantarelle** (*Cantharellus cibarius*) at a number of sites in the province, such as the Aroostook River (Aug. 5, NTNB), Mascarene (Aug. 11, JPG) and the Meduxnekeag River (Aug. 25, MRA).

Lobster Mushrooms (*Hypomyces lactifluorum*) were conspicuous and common at the Meduxnekeag River on August 25 (MRA).

Sweet Tooth Mushroom (*Dentinum repandum*) was in "great supply" in the Moncton area in early September (MNCNIL).

Horse Mushrooms (*Agaricus arvensis*) were "fruiting with abandon" in the Moncton area and at a cemetery in Rogersville in late September. A few large groups of **Shaggy Mane** (*Coprinus comatus*) were noted around the same time and there was a report of a **Giant Puffball** (*Calvatia gigantea*) that appeared overnight (MNCNIL).

Honey Mushrooms (*Armillaria mellea*) were very abundant at Rosevale during the last week of September (AW).

A **Stinkhorn** (exact species undetermined) was seen at Central Hampstead on September 22 (JB).

Abbreviations: ACCDCBG Atlantic Canada Conser-

vation Data Centre Botany Group (=Sean Blaney, Cindy Spicer, Claudia Hanel and Theo Popma), AM Alison MacArthur, AW Ajo Wissink, BB Bruce Bag-nell, BS Bev Schneider, CH Claudia Hanel, DG David Givan, DNRE Dept. of Natural Resources and Energy, DS Dwayne Sabine, FG Freddie Givan, GB Gart Bishop, JB Jacqueline Badcock, JC Jim Clifford, JJW James Walde, JPG James Goltz, JS Jamie Simpson, JW Jim Wilson, MA Margery Acheson, MB Maureen Bourque, MNCNIL Moncton Naturalists' Club Nature Information Line, MRA Meduxnekeag River Association, MS Mary Sabine, MT Maureen Toner, NCC Nature Conservancy of Canada, NP Nelson Poirier, NTNB Nature Trust of New Brunswick, PG Pascal Giasson, PO Pat O'Brien, RB Rex Boldon, RC Roland Chiasson, SB Sean Blaney, SC Stephen Clayden, SD Sabine Dietz, SS Shirley Sloat, TP Theo Popma.

Species of Significance

Gart Bishop, Kennebecasis Naturalists

This past winter I was fortunate to be offered work in the herbarium at the New Brunswick Museum (NBM) in Saint John. One of my tasks was to sort through the vascular plant collections and update the botanical names to coincide with recent plant treatments such as Hal Hinds' new edition of the Flora of New Brunswick. During the reorganization, the following species caught my attention for one reason or another. Although perhaps rather technical in some aspects, the information may be of interest to some. Certainly the NBM has a wonderful collection of over 30,000 specimens, and can be visited by the general public provided they first contact Stephen Clayden, the curator of botany. The collection can be accessed on the internet by going to the Museum's web site at: <http://www.gnb.ca/0130/english/00aa.html>

Bromus latiglumis (Shear) A.S. Hitchc. [Early-leaf Brome Grass] - NBM # Vp-12939. Collected by W.G. Dore and E. Gorham on 28 July 1945. The specimen had the following notes: Plants with a few culms arising directly from roots; panicle open, lax, starting to flower; sheaths over-lapping. Abundant in woods

along the river here. Rich deciduous woods on alluvial island on St. John River, Woodstock, Carleton County. This specimen was missed by the Flora of New Brunswick in 1986 and 2000. S. Blaney found this species on English Island in the Restigouche in 2000, and made further discoveries in sections of the upper St. John River. S. Dietz and G. Bishop found two plants on the alluvial shoreline of the Tracadie River in 2001.

Cardamine hirsuta L. [Hairy Bittercress] - First collected by S. Clayden in his garden on Buena Vista St. in West Saint John 29 May, 2002. Not recorded for Maine, PEI or Nova Scotia. Specimen at NBM, currently unprocessed.

Cyclosporum leptophyllum (Pers.) Sprague ex Britt. & Wilson [Marsh Parsley] - Formerly *Apium leptophyllum* (Pers) Muell - NBM # Vp-03793. This species is of European origin, and not currently recorded for Canada, persisting in North America in New York state and south. George U. Hay collected this species on the 5 August in 1893 at the Ballast Wharf in Saint John.

Descurainia pinnata* (Alt.) Britt. var. *brachycarpa (Richards) Fern. [Western Tansy-mustard] - NBM # Vp-16332 is listed by this name. It was collected (and likely identified by) D.S. Christie on 26 June 1963 in Kingshurst, Kings County. This species is also called by ITIS (Integrated Taxonomic Information System, <http://www.itis.usda.gov/>) *Descurainia pinnata* ssp. *brachycarpa* (Richards.) Detling. This native species is currently unknown from New Brunswick. The specimen is just coming into full flower with only a few young fruits, which do appear to have a clavate shape, and certainly are very small ($< \frac{1}{2}$ cm), which suggest this may be correctly identified. However, there are no stellate or glandular hairs present on the inflorescence (there are small clear scabrous scales sporadically throughout) and the leaves are twice pinnate, making it appear to key out to *D. sophia* (L.) Webb.

***Galium tricornutum* Dandy** [Syn. *Galium tricornne* Stokes] [Roughfruit Corn Bedstraw]. Not listed in either edition of the New Brunswick Flora, this introduced European species is more frequently encountered from New York south, with a disjunct western population. NBM # Vp-6749 was collected in 1892 (17 September) at the Ballast Wharf in Saint John, likely by George Hay.

***Glaucium corniculatum* (L.) J.H. Rudolph** [Blackspot Hornpoppy] - NBM # Vp-1419 was collected by G. U. Hay along a ballast wharf in Saint John in September 1883. This is an introduced species, not considered to be naturally persisting in New Brunswick or elsewhere in Canada. It is naturally occurring from Pennsylvania south.

***Lathyrus latifolius* L.** [Everlasting-pea] - NBM # Vp-22652 specimen was collected by H. Chiasson on 2 August 1987 along roadside near Val-Doucet. This introduced species is not included in the second edition of the Flora of New Brunswick. Natureserve indicates it has been found in neighbouring jurisdictions of Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Maine.

***Panicum meridionale* Ashe** [Syn. *Dichanthelium meridionale* (Ashe) Freckmann] [Matting Rosette Grass] - NBM # Vp-374 Originally identified by the Rev. James Fowler as *Panicum dichotomum*, this specimen was annotated by H. Hinds in 1981 to *P. meridionale*, but was not listed in the Hinds 1986 Flora.

Natureserve lists this species as occurring in Maine and in Nova Scotia (S1). Gleason and Cronquist (1992) place this species as synonymous with *P. leucothrix*, stating this species is "...a group of uncertain status, possibly reflecting hybridization between the *P. sabulorum* group (*P. columbianum*, *P. lancearium*) and the *P. acuminatum* group (*P. spretum*, *P. wrightianum*, *P. lanuginosum*, *P. villosissimum*). This specimen was collected 16 July 1875 at Bass River NB, and was apparently growing with plants of *Panicum boreale*.

Phlox drummondii* Hook. ssp. *drummondii [Drummond's Phlox] - NBM # Vp-2447 was collected by A.L. Warner in woods around Saint John on 4 July 1892. This species is not included in either edition of the NB flora, and is considered to be an exotic throughout Canada, though native in Vermont and places further south. It is listed by Natureserve as occurring in New Brunswick.

***Primula laurentiana* Fern.** [Birdeye Primrose] - NBM # Vp-2340 is from Pt. a le Garde, Restigouche River in Bonaventure County, Quebec. It is quite possible that it may occur in northern New Brunswick as well. This specimen was incorrectly entered in the database as *Primula veris*.

***Rubus flagellaris* Willd.** [Northern Dewberry, Whip-lash Dewberry] - Listed in the Hinds 2000 (and 1986) as a species which he says is more southern in distribution, and of which he has seen no undoubted New Brunswick material. However, there are 4 specimens in the NBM herbarium, with a 1981 annotation by him confirming *Rubus flagellaris*. NBM # Vp-20403 from Ste. Anne de Kent (Christie 1978), NBM # Vp-19996 from the mouth of St. Francis River in Madawaska County (Christie 1969), NBM # Vp-19997 from an unknown New Brunswick location and unknown collector (1891), NBM # Vp-1773 from Kouchibouguac (Fowler 1862). There is also another specimen, NBM # Vp-12125 from South Bay in St. John County (1892) labeled *R. flagellaris*. Natureserve does not list it for New Brunswick, though it is S1? in Nova Scotia, S2 in Quebec and possible in Newfoundland.

***Rumex aquaticus* L. var. *fenestratus* Greene)** Dorn (syn. *Rumex occidentalis* var. *fenestratus*) [Western Dock] is listed by Natureserve and Bonap as occurring in NB. NBM # Vp-16909 collected by W.A. Squires

in 1963 in a wet meadow near New Maryland in York Co. has a double label. H. Hinds in 1981 revised this specimen to *R. occidentalis*. On another label (attached to the herbarium sheet), the specimen is listed as being identified by H. Hinds in 1987 as *R. orbiculatus*. This specimen was reviewed by G. Bishop in May 2002, who agrees with *R. aquaticus* var. *fenestratus* designation. Hinds 2000 includes this species in the flora based on a specimen at Queens, collected by Chalmers, and reported in 1885 by J. Fowler.

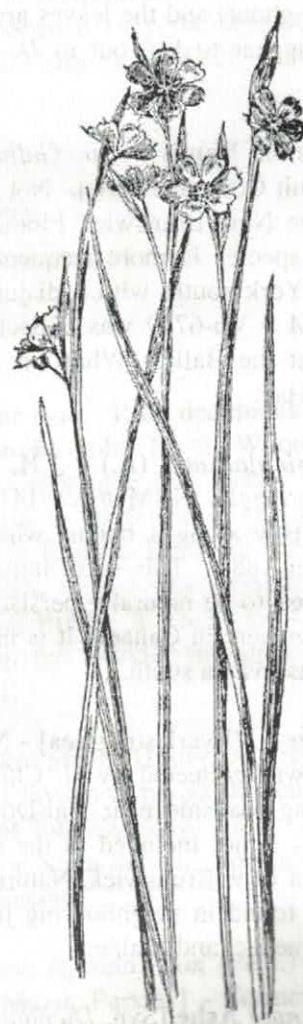
***Rumex pallidus* Bigelow** [Seaside Dock] - Nine specimens are listed for the NBM collection. Hinds 2000 treats this species as synonymous with *Rumex salicifolius*. Natureserve, ITIS and Bonap internet sites, and Gleason and Cronquist (1992) treat *R. pallidus* as a valid species.

***Silene armeria* L.** [Sweet William Silene] - Two specimens at the NBM, one collected by Molly Smith as a garden weed in Quispamsis 12 August 1984 (NBM # Vp-21970), the other collected by Gale Hiperson, Molly Smith and Doris Weyman between stones on patio sandy waste ground (rocky terrace near public gardens) in Saint John in September 1980 (NBM # Vp-19904). This introduced annual is considered a casual weed throughout much of northeastern North America. It was not included in Hinds' second edition.

***Sisyrinchium angustifolium* P. Mill.** [Blue-eyed Grass] - NBM # Vp-1000A. Collected by George U. Hay 20 June 1878 on Partridge Island, Saint John. This appears to be a good specimen and keys out easily with multiple stalked (branched) inflorescence. This species is not reported in Hinds 2000.

References

- ITIS - <http://www.itis.usda.gov/> [Integrated Taxonomic Information System]
 Bonap - http://www.mip.berkeley.edu/query_forms/browse_checklist.html [A Synonymized Checklist of the Vascular Flora of the United States, Canada and Greenland]
 Natureserve - <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/servlet/NatureServe>
 Gleason, H. A. & A. Cronquist (1992) - Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada Second Edition. The New York Botanical Garden



Blue-eyed Grass
by F.S. Mathews

Mammal Report / Rapport de Mammifères July to September

Mike LeBlanc

A BOBCAT (LYNX ROUX) jumped out and into the road just in front of a car and ran for a bit in the road in St Gabriel (July 6, MLB, BL, MAL).

A SPERM WHALE (CACHALOT MACROCÉPHALE) ended up deep in Bouctouche Bay and many tried to help the mammal in the shallow waters of the bay by spraying water on it all day. The over 30 foot whale probably died by its own weight that evening. The next day when the tide rose, it went adrift from the isolated area on the Bouctouche dune to the very busy shores of St Thomas (July 23, MLB).

After a very interesting excursion along the Miramichi river led by Dwayne Sabine, a MUSKRAT (RAT MUSQUÉ) was spotted gathering mussels along the rivers edge (July 24, MNC).

A HUMPBACK WHALE (BALEINE A BOSSES) which got caught in a herring weir in Whale Cove, Grand Manan, later swam successfully out to sea (Sept. 10, LDM).

There were a few rare sightings off Grand Manan of BELUGAS (BÉLUGA) this summer. One was from Long Eddy Point in the middle of August. Two sightings were made from shore off Campobello Island, September 8 (*vide* LDM).

The RIGHT WHALE (BALEINE NOIRE) population in the Bay of Fundy seems encouraging. The estimated population in the Bay was at over 70 in September in the Grand Manan Basin. A few of these were entangled in some fishing gear in the Fundy, and also in Miramichi Bay and the Gaspé region. At one point in the Bay of Fundy they would see at least 15 surfacing constantly (Sept. 9, LDM).

A group organised by Jim Wilson had a chance to go out on a pelagic trip off Grand Manan. They saw HUMPBACK (BALEINE À BOSSES), MINKE (PETIT RORQUAL), FINBACK (RARQUAL COMMUN) AND RIGHT WHALES (BALEINE NOIRE). One humpback breached 6 times within 500 feet of the boat they were on (Aug. 18, EP).

A MOOSE (ORIGNAL) was seen along the main highway from Harcourt to Fredericton near Minto, apparently watching cars go by. "Funny we saw it when some hunters must have been quite anxious not seeing



Moose
Ken MacIntosh

any, being the last day of moose hunting season" (MLB, BL, Sept. 28).

Abbreviations: BL – Bernadette LeBlanc; EP – Eileen Pike; MLB – Mike LeBlanc; MAL – Michael LeBlanc; MNC – Moncton Naturalists club Nature info Line; LDM – Laurie Murison

Do you have an interesting mammal report? Please send it along to me: Mike LeBlanc
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506-743-8485 pandion@nbnet.nb.ca

Nature News – Birds, July 8 to October 2

Pierrette Mercier

Birders were quite active at the end of this summer. There were thousands of reported sightings. I cannot list them all but here are a few of the most interesting reports.

Cathy Beaulieu reports 8 pairs of **Common Loons (Plongeon Huard)** but no chicks this year on several lakes in the Mount Carleton area. Margaret Foster discovered a **Red-necked Grebe (Grèbe jougris)** at Killarney Lake in Fredericton on Aug. 20 (fide DGG). There was also a Red-Necked Grebe off Cap Bimet on Aug. 24 (RL).

A intermediate form **Northern Fulmar (Fulmar boréal de forme intermédiaire)** was spotted during a field trip of the CNPA on August 11. Unusual for the Acadian peninsula was the Wilson's Storm Petrel (Océanite de Wilson) which was spotted by members of the CNPA during a field trip on August 28.

The **American White Pelican (Pélican d'Amérique)** in Kent county was spotted in various areas. On July 23, it was in the Cap-Lumière area (PEC), on August 1 it was located on Route 475 near Bouctouche (fide MNC). It was last sighted near Cap-Lumière on August 8 (fide Louis-Emile Cormier) then reappeared at the Loggiecroft Wharf in KNP on Aug. 31 (fide MNCL). It was still in the KNP area on Sept. 7. There was a third-hand report of another pelican on First Eel Lake on July 26 (fide Dwayne Sabine).

John Hanson counted over 20 **Great-blue Herons (Grand Héron)** at a colony along Highway 1 at km 149 on August 7 but suspects there are many more.

On July 8, a **Great Egret (Grande Aigrette)** was at Cap Brûlé (JP). Another Great Egret was at Saint's Rest Marsh on August 11 (Frank Kelly). It was sighted in this area most of the summer and was still there in late September.

There was a possible sighting of a **Cattle Egret (Héron garde-boeufs)** at the Jones Farm on Coverdale Rd. on Aug. 24 (fide MNCL). Another was seen sitting on a lawn chair at Caissie Cape on Sept. 2 (fide JE). A **Green Heron (Héron Vert)** was spotted at the Caron Brook marsh on July 18th (LO & others). Denys Bourque comments that this bird was frequently observed in the Madawaska area but a decline has been noted in the past few years.

There were several species of waterfowl at the Memramcook lagoon on July 28 including **Ruddy Ducks (Erysmature rousse)**. Ruddy Ducks were also reported at the Middle Sackville Sewage (a male) lagoon on July 31 (DGG). Ten more, two of which were males in breeding plumage, were at the Caraquet lagoon on Aug. 20 (BJS).

An injured **Turkey Vulture (Urubu à tête rouge)** was rehabilitated over the summer and released on Aug. 14 (JGW). Three Turkey Vultures were circling the old cotton mill in Marysville on July 12 (CB). The Turkey Vulture nest near Saint John was successful in fledging 2 young birds (Ian Cameron). Jim Wilson counted 37 Turkey Vultures at Midland on the morning of Aug. 22.

A report of the 2 **Bald Eagle (Pygargue à tête blanche)** nests on the Taylor Village road: the nest close to Alain Clavette's house had 3 eaglets while the other nest had one eaglet on July 11 (FL). Julie Singleton reports 2 fledgling Bald Eagles leaving the nest near Taymouth around July 26.

On Aug 21, an adult **Coopers Hawk (Epervier de Cooper)** was sighted near Boiestown (JGW, KM). Another was chasing crows at the Hole-in-the-Wall Campground on Grand Manan on Sept 17 (JGW). Eileen Pike observed a young **Broad-Winged Hawk (Petit Buse)** being fed by an adult on Route 770 on August 5. Immature Broad-winged Hawks were migrating near Harvey on Aug. 21 (DSC). **Golden Eagles (Aigle Royal)** were spotted in the Madawaska region, one in the Green River area by Donna Cyr, James and Jamie Landry on Sept 14, another at Caron Brook (LO).



Broad-winged Hawk
Ken MacIntosh

On August 14, David Christie and Mary Majka saw at least 4 and possibly 2 more **Merlins (Faucon émerillon)** fly by in New Horton, David comments that's it's unusual to see so many Merlins together this time of year as the migration is not until in September. There was a **Peregrine Falcon (Faucon pèlerin)** perched on a lamp post on Killam Drive in Moncton on July 20 (CHD). David Christie spotted one adult and 2 immature Peregrines flying over Mary's Point on July 30.

A **Sora (Marouette de Caroline)** was heard at the Caron Brook Marsh on July 17 (fide JDB). Jean-Sébastien Guénette spotted his first Sora when it was flushed by a Raccoon in Moncton on September 3.

There was an **American Coot (Foulque d'Amérique)** at the Taylor Village duck pond on August 25 (YL). On September 2, the Coot was accompanied by a **Common Moorhen (Gallinule poule d'eau)** (AC). A **Sandhill Crane (Grue du Canada)** flew over St-Maurice rd of route 11 on July 10 (MleB). Another Sandhill Crane was reported at Pointe de Bute on Sept 30 (fide KP).

Piping Plovers (Pluvier siffleur) were reported at the Dune de Maissonnette on July 17 and at Malbaie Sud on July 20 (MD), also on the beach at Cap-Lumière on July 24th by Marc Chiasson. There is no report yet on how the breeding season went.

An **American Oystercatcher (Huîtrier d'Amérique)** has been on Sheep Island off Grand Manan since the last week of May (BED). It was still present on July 24 (MNC).

Shorebirds are an oddity in Madawaska county, however several species showed up in over the summer and fall: on July 16, Roger Simard and his wife spotted an **Upland Sandpiper (Maubèche des champs)** at the Botanical Gardens in St-Jacques; several observers spotted a **Pectoral Sandpiper (Bécasseau à poitrine cendrée)**, a **Semipalmated Plover (Pluvier semipalmé)**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper (Bécasseau semipalmé)** and **Least Sandpiper (Pluvier minuscule)** in St-Basile on Sept 18th.

A **Marbled Godwit (Barge Marbrée)** was at the Dune de Maissonnette on July 14 (NBE, JSP). It was still present on August 8 (MD). Another Marbled Godwit was seen near Charlo on Oct. 2 (fide SIT). There was a **Baird's Sandpiper (Bécasseau de Baird)** among the usual shorebirds at Mary's Point on August 18 and 21 (DSC). Three more Baird's Sandpipers were spotted at the Dorchester sewage lagoon on Aug. 21 (YL), another at the Dune de Maissonnette on



Merlin
Ken MacIntosh

Aug 20 (BJS), one at Kelly Beach, KNP also on August 21 (MS), 6 at Malbaie Sud on Aug 26 (MD), one at Saints Marsh on Sept 7 (KM), one on Long Pond Bay (SIT and Wings). It is considered a rare migrant in New Brunswick.

Two **Stilt Sandpipers (Bécasseau à échasse)** were at the Inkerman Marsh from July 28 to August 18th (MD). Other Stilt Sandpipers were at the Sackville Waterfowl Park (1) on July 31 (DGG), at the Dune de Maissonnette on Aug 20 (BJS) and the Dorchester sewage lagoon on Aug. 24 (YL). There were 3 **Buff-breasted Sandpiper (Bécasseau roussâtre)** at Malbaie Sud on Sept 10 (MD). Another was at Long Eddy Point on Sept 10 (SIT and Wings). ML spotted a **Ruff (Combatant varié)** at Eel River Bar on July 14th. A **Long-billed Dowitcher (Bécassin à long bec)** was seen feeding along with a Short-billed Dowitcher (Bécassin roux) and some juvenile Hudsonian Godwits (Barge hudsonienne) at Malbaie Nord (RD).

Don Gibson observed a **Wilson's Phalarope (Phalarope de Wilson)** at the Sackville Waterfowl Marsh on July 31. Other Wilson's Phalarope were seen at the Dorchester sewage lagoon on August 21 (YL) and near the Gunningsville bridge in Moncton on Aug 29 (IC). A **Red-necked Phalarope (Phalarope à bec étroit)** was seen during a field trip of the CNPA on July 28. A juvenile Red-necked Phalarope was spotted at the St-Joseph sewage lagoon on August 18 (YL).

The shorebird migration on the Bay of Fundy started in late July. Roger Leblanc reports his first flock of over a hundred **Semipalmated Sandpipers** (**Bécasseau semipalmé**) in the area of Demoiselle Creek, Albert County on July 24. On July 26 there were around 5000 birds at Mary's Point and around 30,000 birds at Johnson's Mills (DSC). There were 30,000 to 40,000 birds on July 30 at Johnson's Mills despite high Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon activity (AC). Activity peaked at Mary's Point around July 31 with 80,000 to 100,000 birds. Peter Hicklin reports about 100,000 birds at Johnson's Mills on August 5th (Fide KP). There were over 100,000 birds spotted roosting at Cape Maringoin. There were 120,000 to 140,000 birds at Ruisseau Demoiselle on August 18 (RL). David comments that many birds are roosting in non-traditional sites this year.

Laurie Murison reports a **Great Skua** (**Grand Labbe**) near Grand Manan Basin on Aug 31 (fide BED). Another was reported by Peter Wilcox beyond White Head Island on Sept 17 (fide SIT). Bev Schneider spotted a Jaeger sp. (Labbe) in flight over the Salmon River at Chipman on July 8; it's unusual to see jaegers so far inland. New on the NB bird list is the **South Polar Skua** (**Labbe de McCormick**) which was videotaped near Gannet Rock on Aug. 20 (fide BED). Another report of a South Polar Skua was made on Sept. 5 (fide BED).

A **Little Gull** (**Mouette pygmée**) was seen amongst some Common Terns at Eel River Bar on July 8 (CB, MS, RG) and was still present on July 14 (fide MGD). There was a **Black-headed Gull** (**Mouette rieuse**) among 400+ Bonaparte Gulls (**Mouette de Bonaparte**) at the Tracadie-Sheila sewage lagoon on Sept 12 (RD). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (**Goéland brun**) are considered rare migrant in New Brunswick, but seem to be more prevalent lately. Allain Clavette spotted a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Johnson Creek on 28. There were 3 more in Bore Park in Moncton on Sept 4, these 3 birds had 3 different stages of plumage: one adult breeding plumage, the second in summer plumage molting to second winter plumage and the third was molting to third winter plumage (DSC). Another was at Cap Bimet on Sept 6 (fide MNCL) and 5 more were at Long Eddy Point on Sept 9 (BED), one at Sandy Cove on Grand Manan on Sept. 10 (RL, AC), and one at the mouth of Little River on Sept 12 (JGW).

There was a **Sabine's Gull** (**Mouette de Sabine**) at Long Eddy Point on Sept 10 (SIT and Wings).



Arctic Tern
Ken MacIntosh

Caspian Terns (**Sterne caspienne**) were sighted at Bayfield (6) and 5 more at the old Cape Tormentine Ferry wharf on Sept 6 (GB, GIB, NB), one at Saint's Marsh on Sept 11 (JAW, JGW) and 2 on Sept 12 at Cape Jourimain (fide MNCL). Alain Clavette observed an adult Caspian Tern feeding a juvenile at Murray Corner on Sept 14; he wonders if the terns may be breeding in the New Brunswick -PEI area. Brian Dalzell reports that there 18 breeding pairs of **Common Terns** (**Sterne pierregarin**) on Sheep Island, this number is up from 8 pairs last year.

A **Common Murre** (**Guillemot marmette**) was seen during a field trip of the CNPA on July 28. This is an uncommon species in their area.

A **White-winged dove** (**Tourterelle à ailes blanches**) was reported on Grand-Manan on Aug. 29 (fide MGD). Brian Dalzell spotted a leucistic (partial-albino) Mourning Dove (**Tourterelle triste**) on Grand Manan on Aug. 4. The bird had light pinkish-brown on the front of the breast, with a series of broad, light rusty streaks down the side from the head and along the back of the wings to the tail, the upper and under-tail coverts were a creamy white. This bird had been mistaken for a Eurasian Collared Dove in the Spring.

Yolande Lablanc reports a **Black-billed Cuckoo** (**Coulicou à bec noir**) in her back yard in Memramcook on July 21. The bird was observed for about 20 seconds before flying off. Another **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen on July 28 by Clifford Twist at Marysville (fide JPG).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos (**Coulicou à bec jaune**) were spotted at Castalia Marsh on Grand Manan on Sept 17 (JGW, JnW) and at Southwest head Light on the 18th (JWG, DGG). Another **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported on the Musquash Lighthouse Road by Merv Cormier on Sept 26. Ken MacIntosh also saw

one in Rockwood Park, Saint John on Sept 26. A Yellow-billed was also caught at the St. Andrews banding station on Sept 27 (TD).

A male **Three-toed Woodpecker** (*Pic tridactyle*) was observed on Miscou Island on Sept 21 (RD, FB). A **Western Kingbird** (*Tyrannus carolinensis*) was on the Whistle Road on Grand Manan on Sept 18 (RS, JGW). A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus savanus*) was spotted on the Corner of Route 133 and the Cap Bimet Road on Sept 19 (*fide* DSC). It was still present on Sept 20.

A pair of **Carolina Wrens** (*Troglodytes aedon*) successfully fledged 10 young in 2 broods this summer on Grand Manan (BED). This is possibly the first reported breeding of this species in New Brunswick. Other Carolina Wrens were: one heard and seen on Shamrock terrace in Fredericton on Sept 7 (DGG, PAP) and one at the Marathon Inn on Grand Manan on Sept 9 (BED). Ron Steeves observed a possible **Bewick's Wren** (*Troglodytes bewickii*) for over a minute on Grand Manan on Sept 17. Six **House Wren** (*Troglodytes aedon*) fledglings exited the nestbox at Daniel Picard's home in Edmundston on July 23 (*fide* Gerard Verret). This is the first reported breeding of this species in the Madawaska area.

A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (*Gobemouchon gris-bleu*) was spotted on Campbello Island on Aug 26 (DGG), others were reported on Miscou Island on Sept 14 (RD) and at Cape Jourimain on Sept 12 (*fide* MNCL).

A couple of **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** (*Grive à joues grises*) were heard and seen in Restigouche county near Kedgwick on July 7 (MGD).

There was report of **Common Redpolls** (*Sizerin flammé*) at Dale Gaskin's feeders on July 16th in Dawson Settlement, an unusual time of year for this species.

A **White-eyed Vireo** (*Viréo aux yeux blancs*) was spotted on White Head Island dump Road on Sept 30 (KE).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** (*Paruline verdâtre*) was seen on Miscou Island on Sept 21 (RD, KB). Another was caught at the St. Andrews Banding station on Sept. 29 (TD).

There was a **Kentucky Warbler** (*Paruline du Kentucky*) on Kent Island on Sept 5th. This is the third mention for this species for the Islands (*fide* BED). Another rare species that seemed more abundant this year was the Yellow-breasted Chat (*Paruline poly-*

glotte). Brian Dalzell banded a male Yellow-breasted Chat on Aug. 18, this is the earliest he has ever captured this species. Another Yellow-breasted Chat was spotted during a field trip by the COML on September 14 in the Green River area. This a first sighting of this bird for this area. Other Chats were: one in a tree accompanied by a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher at the Swallowtail lighthouse on Sept 9 (*fide* BED), 2 more on Grand Manan on Sept 17 (JGW), 2 were caught at the banding station in St-Andrews on Sept 23 and 24th (TD). Another Chat at the PLBO on Sept 26. Jim Wilson was able to study it for quite some time and concluded that it was an immature because of its greyish lower mandible.

There was a **Blue Grosbeak** (*Guiraca bleu*) at the North Head Dump on Grand Manan on Sept 30 (KE). A **Dickcissel** (*Dickcissel d'Amérique*) was heard on Whale Cove Rd, Grand Manan on Sept. 19th (JGW, DGG). There was a **Lark Sparrow** (*Bruant à joues marron*) and **Clay-coloured Sparrow** (*Bruant des plaines*) on Grand Manan on Sept 26th (*fide* SIT). Bev Schneider reports 3 Clay-coloured Sparrows in Fredericton on Sept 23. She also heard some **Field Sparrows** (*Bruant des champs*) near Oromocto on July 28.

Abbreviations: AC Alain Clavette, AW Alma White, BED Brian Dalzell, B&GG Bill and Gayle Gallant, BJS Bev Schneider, CB Cathy Beaulieu, CHD Cheryl Davis, CNPA Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule Acadienne, COML Club d'Ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée, DG Dale Gaskin, DGG Don Gibson, DSC David Christie, FB Frank Branch, FL Francis Leblanc, GB Gilles Belliveau, GIB Gisèle Belliveau, IC Ian Cameron, JAW Janet Whitehead, JDB J. Denys Bourque, JE Jim Edsall, JnW Jean Wilson, JP Julie Pellerin, JPG Jim Goltz, JSP Jollande St-Pierre, JGW Jim Wilson, KE Ken Edwards, KM Ken MacIntosh, KNP Kouchibouguac National Park, KP Kathy Popma, LO Lynne Ouellette, MD Marcel David, MGD Margaret Gallant Doyle, ML Mike Lushington, MLeB Mike LeBlanc, MNCL Moncton Naturalists Club information Line, MS Marco Scichilone, NB Norm Belliveau, NBE Nicole Benoit, PAP Peter Pearce, PEC Paul Emile Cormier, PLBO Point Lepreau Bird Observatory, RD Robert Doiron, RG Roger Guitard, RL Roger Leblanc, RS Ron Steeves, TD Tracey Dean, VB Valmont Bourque, YL Yolande Leblanc

Bald Eagles and Winter Feeding

Rudy Stoeck

Editor's note: this article previously appeared in the NB Naturalist / Le Naturaliste du N.-B., in volume 14, number 4, 1985. We look forward to an update from Rudy on what was apparently a banner nesting year.

Feeding birds during the winter is a beneficial activity pursued by many nature enthusiasts in the Maritimes. It is only recently, though, that providing winter food for Bald Eagles has attracted attention.

New Brunswick has a small population of wintering eagles, about two dozen, that spend most of that season at the southern reaches of the province, along the coast and river estuaries. Distribution of the birds depends upon their food supply which is influenced by ice conditions and, hence, the weather. Eagles are typically opportunistic feeders and can be drawn to an area by a steady supply of food. They survive the winter on dead or live animal matter, be it fish, fowl or flesh. Farm offal, such as livestock carcasses, readily attracts these birds and they usually continue to return to a feeding site.

Bald Eagles take about five years to attain adult plumage although they can be sexually mature before then. Prior to that they are considered immatures or sub-adults. At that stage of their life cycle they are most vulnerable to winter mortality. Starvation and malnutrition during the cold, snowy, winter months are a major hazard for the young birds since they are not as adept at foraging as the adults because of their lack of experience. Additionally, more aggressive adults may supplant immatures at foraging sites. It has been suggested by studies on some northern eagle populations that only one out of every ten immatures survives to reach adulthood. Computer modeling has demonstrated that survival of the immatures is even more important in increasing eagle abundance than is annual production of a large number of eaglets. Whatever can be done to increase the survival of immature birds will be beneficial in maintaining a healthy and expanding Bald Eagle population.

Winter feeding of eagles has been occurring on a small scale in the Maritimes, especially in Nova Scotia, for a number of years and more recently in Maine. That has not always been by design, however. Throughout the region farmers who normally disposed of carcasses in their fields during the winter months

found that not only were ravens and crows interested in the food source, but so were Bald Eagles. Certain locations in Nova Scotia have been used as winter feeding areas by biologists studying eagle behavior and age characteristics. Those places have attracted considerable numbers of birds, especially immatures.

Maine's winter feeding program started at three sites in 1981, when at least 66 different eagles were identified there. More recently, at seven feeding sites, 225 to 250 different birds have been observed while feeding. Identification of bands on some of the birds has shown that they come from as far away as Michigan and Ontario, as well as from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Most seen, of course, are local area birds. Survival rates, based on the identification of bird bands at the feeding operation, appear to indicate that perhaps as many as 50 to 60% of the immatures survive to adulthood. That is an encouraging sign and a considerably higher rate than originally thought. It seems that as eagles get older and more efficient at finding and obtaining wild food, they make less use of the feeding areas.

Recent small scale winter feeding of eagles in New Brunswick has shown that placing deer carcasses along a river where eagles are seen very infrequently during the winter will attract and keep a few birds in a local area from November to February.

Winter feeding programs for eagles can contribute to the health and welfare of both wintering and breeding birds, immatures and adults, of an endangered species in New Brunswick. Such programs provide food for the young birds which is much needed during severe winters. Additionally, the use of contaminant-free food may offset adverse effects on eagle reproduction that may be attributable to contaminated wild food sources further south. Attracting and keeping birds in the vicinity of a feeding area may encourage them to nest nearby where perhaps they hadn't nested before or perhaps to return to former breeding sites or improve production at existing sites.

Winter feeding can increase the survival of young eagles and it may also contribute to increased production of a small breeding population in New Brunswick which, while reproductively stable, could benefit from such assistance.

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