

29 (4) Winter / Hiver 2002 / 2003

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.

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

Past president / Ancienne présidente: Pierrette Mercier, 888 chemin de Pouvoir, St-Joseph de Madawaska, NB E7B 2M4, tel. 735-6872

President / Président: Mike Leblanc, 1529 Ch St-Gabriel, Saint-Maurice, NB E4S 5C1, tel. 743-8485

Vice-president / Vice-président: Vacant

Secretary / Secrétaire: Mary Sollows, 18 Ranch Ave, Quispamsis, NB E2E 4M6, tel. 847-9068

Treasurer / Trésorier: Kevin Tutt, 505 Mansfield St., Fredericton, NB E3B 3A1, tel. 451-1919

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

NBFN/FNNB Fredericton Office: Marieka Arnold, 924 rue Prospect St., Suite 2, Fredericton, NB, E3B 2T9, tel. 459-4209, Email/Courriel: nbfn@nb.aibn.com

Directors-at-large / Membres généraux: Kevin O'Donnell, 1321 Highway 101, Nasonworth, NB E3C 2C7, tel. 453-1862; Jim Brown, P.O. Box 5214, Sussex, NB E4E 5L3, tel. 433-4666; Rose-Alma Mallet, 801 rte 133, Boudreau-ouest, N.-B. E4P 6P2, tel. 532-3482; Brigitte Julien, 1152 chemin de la Prairie, Richibouctou Village, NB E4W 1H4, tel. 523-7515

Representative directors / Membres représentatifs: Gart Bishop (Kennebecasis), Wendy Sullivan (Moncton), Becky Whittam (Chignecto), Roland Chiasson (Péninsule acadienne), Abel Doucet (Club des Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est), Bernadette LeBlanc (Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Buctouche), Mike Lushington (Restigouche), Jean Wilson (Saint John), Suzanne Morneau (Madawaska), Elizabeth McIntosh (Ford Alward), Ron Wilson (Fredericton), Roberta McKenzie (Gagetown).

Editorial Committee / Comité de rédaction: Editorial Production Teams/Équipes d'éditeurs en chef: Don Gibson, Kenneth MacIntosh, Gart Bishop & Alison McArthur. Support Editors/Autres éditeurs: Hilarie et Rose-Aline Chiasson (articles français), David Christie, Mary Majka, Peter Pearce, Steve Reid, Don Vail (photo editor). Mailing/Postage: Rose-Alma Mallet.

FEDERATED CLUBS / CLUBS FÉDÉRÉS

Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Buctouche, 1529 ch St-Gabriel, St-Maurice, NB E4S 5C1, tel. 743-8485, courriel/email annb@yahoo.com, Site web www.geocities.com/annb. Réunions 3^e 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, %o Roberta MacKenzie, 34 Mill Road Gagetown NB E3B 1V1, tel. 488-1908, 3^e Wednesday each month, January to April.

Chignecto Naturalists' Club, %o CWS, P.O. Box 6227, Sackville, NB E4L 1G6, tel. 364-5047, meets Sackville Public Library, 7:30 pm, 1st Thursday each month, September to June.

Club de Naturalistes Vallée de Memramcook, %s Yolande LeBlanc, 251 rue Centrale Memramcook, NB E4K 3P8, tel. 758-9583, courriel yolande@nbnet.nb.ca.

Club des Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne, C.P. 2241, St. Simon NB E8P 1L8, courriel cnpa@francophone.net, Site web http://www.cnpa.ca. Réunions au Club de l'âge d'or Landry, 1^{er} mercredi du mois, septembre à juin. *Le Gobe-mouche* mensuel.

Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée, %s Musée historique du Madawaska, 195 boul. Hébert, Edmundston NB E3V 2S8, tel. 735-5613. J. Denys Bourque; Réunions à 19h30, 2^{ième} mercredi du mois, septembre 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 1^{er} mercredi du mois, alternant entre Dieppe et Shédiac, sorties le 3^{ième} samedi ou dimanche du mois. Journal: *La Plume Verte*.

Ford Alward Naturalist Association, %o Elizabeth McIntosh, 560 Kenneth Road, Glassville, NB E7L 1B3, tel. 246-5572; meets Florenceville Town Hall, 7:00 pm last Thursday each month, September to June, meetings advertised in local newspapers.

Fredericton Nature Club, P.O. Box 772, Stn A, Fredericton, NB E3B 5B4, tel. 455-2038; meets Odell Park Lodge, 7:00 pm, 2nd Wednesday each month, September to May. Monthly newsletter.

Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society, %o Ms. H. Folkins, 827 Main St. Sussex, NB E4E 2N1; meets St. Paul's United Church Hall, 7:30 pm 4th Monday each month, September to June. Quarterly newsletter.

Le Club Naturaliste Chaleur, 9 rue des Cedres, Nigadoo, NB E8K 3T8, tel. 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, P.O. Box 28036, Highfield Square P.O., Moncton NB E1C 9N4, tel. 857-4271, [384-6937 information line]; meets Church of the Nazarene, 21 Fieldcrest Drive, 7 pm 2nd Monday each month, September to June. Monthly newsletter.

Restigouche Naturalists' Club, %o Campbellton Library, P.O. Box 130, Campbellton NB E3N 3G1, tel. 684-3258; meets Campbellton Centennial Library, 7 pm, 1st Monday each month.

Saint John Naturalists' Club Inc., P.O. Box 2071 Saint John NB E2L 3J5, 652-1551; meets N.B. Museum at Market Square, 7:30 pm 2nd Monday each month, September to May, elsewhere in June. Monthly newsletter.

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

Published quarterly by the N.B. Federation of Naturalists, %o New Brunswick Museum, 277 Douglas Ave., Saint John, NB E2K 1E5. Canadian Publication Mail Product Sales Agreement No. 487716. Return postage guaranteed. Please send notice of change of address to the Membership Secretary. Subscription rates (renewable before January 1st): Individual \$20, Family \$25, Life \$(inquire); single issues \$4 plus postage.

N.B. Naturalist carries articles and reports pertaining to the natural history of New Brunswick. Articles are invited in either English or French, and will be printed in the language in which they are received. The opinions expressed are those of the authors. Please send all submissions for the N.B. Naturalist to: Gart Bishop, 16 Pitt St., Sussex, NB E4E 1J1, tel. 433-4994, gartali@nbnet.nb.ca. Ask for details of computer compatibility. Advertising rates available on request.

Cette publication trimestrielle est éditée par la Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B., %s Le Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick, 277 ave. Douglas, Saint John, NB E2K 1E5. Port de retour garanti. Tout changement d'adresse devrait être envoyé au Secrétaire aux membres. Les tarifs de réabonnement pour *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.*, avant le 1 janvier. Abonnement régulier au Nouveau-Brunswick d'un an (renouvelable avant le premier janvier): Individuel \$20, Famille \$25, membre à vie \$(demandez); 4\$ l'exemplaire plus les frais postaux.

On peut lire dans *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.* des rapports touchant l'histoire naturelle du Nouveau-Brunswick. Les articles seront acceptés en français ou en anglais pour être reproduits dans la langue d'origine. Les opinions exprimées sont celles de leurs auteurs. Veuillez faire parvenir tous vos articles pour *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.* à %o : Gart Bishop, q6 Pitt St., Sussex, NB, E4E 1J1, tel. 433-44994, gartali@nbnet.nb.ca. Demandez les détails de compatibilité d'ordinateur. Tarifs publicitaires disponibles sur demande.

The NBFN is an affiliate of the Canadian Nature Federation.
La FNNB est affiliée à la Fédération Canadienne de la Nature.



In This Issue / Dans ce numéro

Cover: Ice covered Staghorn Sumac / Vinaigrier against a dark stormy wintery sky.

Photo G. Bishop

Mot du Président - President's Message	104
Alternative to Septic Systems	105
Rare Sightings	106
My Restigouche River Run, Part 2	107
NBFN Summer Nature Camps - winter update	110
Camps d'Été Nature de la FNNB - Compte rendu	111
Surf Scoter Summer School	113
Book Review: Birds of Atlantic Canada	114
Natural Science Collections on-line	115
New Brunswick Birder Receives Prestigious Title	115
Winter Quiz Competition	116
New Brunswick Bird Records Committee: 1997-99 Report	119
New Brunswick Land Conservation Conference	125
How to tell the Birds from the Flowers	125
Starlings Nesting in Sackville New Brunswick	126
Nature News - Amphibians and Reptiles	129
Nature News - Botany Ramblings	130
Nature News - Mammal Observations	131
Nature News - Birds	132



Sincere thanks to our many volunteers who contributed to this publication.
 Merci beaucoup à tous bénévoles dévoué qui ont contribué à cette publication.

Please submit articles for the next issue by March 30th 2003
 S.v.p. soumettre les articles à l'intention du prochain numéro avant le 30 March 2003

To / à

Gart Bishop
 16 Pitt St. Sussex, NB E4D 1J1
 tel. (506) 433-4994
 gartali@nbnet.nb.ca

MOT DU PRÉSIDENT — PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mike LeBlanc



La Fédération des Naturalistes du N-B a bien grandi ces dernières années, nos projets et notre direction continuent d'évoluer. Dans l'intérêt de la Fédération et des membres, le conseil d'administration a décidé d'envoyer un sondage aux membres afin de connaître vos

opinions sur le fonctionnement de la Fédération des Naturalistes. Nous vous demandons de remplir le questionnaire et le retourner avec votre renouvellement à M. Jim Wilson, le préposé aux membres. Nous attendons avec impatience les résultats. Si vous ne recevez pas le questionnaire, contactez nous et nous vous en ferons parvenir une copie.

À l'automne, la FNNB fut invité à une rencontre avec le sous-ministre du Département des Ressources Naturelles et Énergie. Ce fut une bonne expérience, la fédération a pu partager ses inquiétudes et ses positions face à certains sujets auxquels le département fait affaires. Nous souhaitons que ce groupe reste en place et qu'il aura des effets positifs dans les décisions futures que prendra ce ministère.

La FNNB, conjointement avec la Fédération canadienne de la Nature et la Federation of Nova Scotia

Naturalists, organise une rencontre pour renforcer et bâtir le réseau des naturalistes des provinces de l'Atlantique. Cette réunion est prévue du 17 au 19 octobre, 2003. Il y aura des naturalistes qui seront invités à venir partager et planifier l'avenir du mouvement des naturalistes dans notre région. Plus de détails seront disponibles plus tard.

À la dernière réunion du conseil d'administration de la Fédération des Naturalistes du N-B, nous avons réalisé que nos archives étaient incomplètes. Il avait des documents qui manquaient : minutes de réunions, la trousse d'information pour les AGA et autres. Ces documents ont peut-être été mal entreposés. Si vous avez des documents, des livrets, des *Le Naturalistes du N.-B.* ou autres de la fédération que vous pensez complèteraient nos dossiers, S.V.P. contactez-nous et nous les accepterons avec plaisir et nous nous occuperons de les récolter.

N'oubliez pas que la FNNB organise pour la 2^{ème} année des camps d'été Nature pour jeunes naturalistes. Les dates tentatives, sont les 13 au 19 juillet à Saint Andrews (anglais), 27 juillet au 1 août à Moncton (français) et les 10 au 16 août à Saint Andrews (anglais).

La Réunion Annuelle Générale de la Fédération des Naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick aura lieu la fin de semaine du 30, 31 mai et le 1er juin. Indiquez cette date à votre calendrier. Un gros merci au Fredericton Nature Club d'entreprendre la tâche de l'organiser, j'ai bien hâte d'y aller et de vous voir.



We sure could say that the NBFN has grown in the past few years. Because of this, the board of directors has decided to send out a membership survey to see if the direction that the federation is taking, is the one that our membership

agrees with. If you have not received a copy with your renewal notice, please contact our membership secretary and he will gladly send you a copy. We ask that all our members fill it out and return it to Jim Wilson with your membership renewal. We are eagerly awaiting the results.

In the fall, the NBFN was invited to attend a special meeting with the deputy Minister of the NB Department of

Natural resources and energy. This was a positive experience and a good chance to discuss many of the provincial issues dealt with by the department. We are hoping this group will continue meeting in the future and hope that it will have a positive impact on department's decisions.

The NBFN, in conjunction with the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists and the CNF, is putting together a conference to build, share, discuss and reinforce the naturalist network in the Atlantic Provinces. This meeting is planned for the weekend of October 17th to the 19th 2003, probably in Sackville. More information will be available at a later date.

At the last board meeting, we realised that a lot of past documents of the NBFN had gotten misplaced over

the years: like minutes of board meetings and AGMs, an AGM binder and more. These are probably in someone's basement and were just forgotten about. If you realise that you may have something at your home like, minutes, documents, magazines or other things you think would be beneficial for the NBFN and would like to return them, please let me know and I will gladly arrange to get them picked up.

Don't forget, after last year's successful Youth Summer camps, the NBFN is going to organize three more camps

for our youth. Tentative dates are: July 13th to 19th in Saint Andrews (English), July 27th to August 1st in Moncton (French) and August 10th to 16th in Saint Andrews (English). More details will be available in the next issue of the Naturalist.

Please mark your calendars the 2003 NBFN Annual General Meeting will be hosted by the Fredericton Nature Club May 30th to June 1st. I would like to thank the organizing committee and I am eager to be there and to meet you all during the weekend.

ALTERNATIVES TO SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Ron Mazerolle

All too often we hear in the news about the environment being damaged. There are boil orders for drinking water, e-coli found in water, shellfish harvesting banned, and most recently a watershed polluted because of faulty septic systems (government paying to have new septic systems installed). Years ago we seldom heard of these things. After doing much research on septic systems and from my personal experiences I have come to the conclusion that perhaps septic systems are not the best solution for human waste and wastewater disposals.

"Blackwater", the output of toilets and "greywater", the output of sinks, washers, and showers have different qualities and contain different hazards. Without getting technically involved, blackwater is more hazardous and takes longer to break down than greywater and should be treated differently. In most New Brunswick today, greywater is treated the same as blackwater. When treated in this way, greywater becomes blackwater thereby making it more hazardous. This doesn't make sense to me; why make something more hazardous when there are ways to make it non hazardous. Greywater can be used for irrigation and provide valuable nutrients for plants without any danger to the environment. There are many

systems and plans available to implement this process. Clivus Multrum is one of several companies who provide material and expertise in this field.

"Blackwater" or toilet output can be handled with composting toilets, where its output is environmentally safe compost that benefits the soil. This system is obviously so superior that it boggles the mind as to why our government is not embracing the idea. I have had a home-made compost toilet for three years and am glad not to be polluting our environment. The manufactured models are far more superior and I plan to install one of the Sun-Mar models this year. Compost toilets are not new. Sun-Mar has been selling them for over 25 years and Clivus Multrum longer than that.

Septic systems, whether properly or improperly installed, leave hazardous material in the ground, because the material is too deep in the ground for nature to take it through its final recycling phase, uptake through the plants. These hazardous materials will eventually cause pollution, much to the evidence of what we are experiencing now all over our province. Keep watching the news and reading the newspapers for further evidence. I promise you won't have to wait long to see another environmental situation.



RARE SIGHTINGS

Alan Madden

BIRD STRIKES!

Those of us who have trees and shrubs around large-windowed homes occasionally experience the sound of a bird strike- the light to medium rap or bang on a window, often followed by a drifting feather or two, and occasionally a smear of liquid on the glass. Sometimes that smudge is pink-coloured, being the juice of a High Bush Cranberry carried in the bird's mouth. Nothing unusual about that, you say; read on...

There are no window ledges suitable for bird perching at the DNRE office in Campbellton where I worked for many years. However, one day I saw a Rock Dove (the fancy name for a pigeon) on the narrow sill outside my second-story office window. The following morning, while looking away from the window, I heard a loud "CRACK", much like a shot from big-bore rifle. I quickly swung about and saw a couple of grayish feathers drifting down just outside the window. I hurried downstairs, and told the girls that I was about to bring a pigeon into the office. Once outside, and directly beneath my window, I was shocked to see, not a Rock Dove, but 7 Bohemian Waxwings- all dead! I was surprised, at first, that none was alive. However, I quickly realized that due to the very rapid flight of waxwings in general, it's a wonder that any ever survive a strike. I then returned to the main office to show the beautiful

birds to the staff. I had heard only the one sound at my window, therefore, all the birds had to have been flying parallel to one another, such that all struck the pane simultaneously-amazing!

Another unusual strike, although not so rare as the former incident, occurred as I drove my vehicle down the hill approximately 2 km. east of

hand corner of my windshield with a tremendous "CRACK", again as loud as a shot from a high-calibre rifle. My immediate reaction resulted in a death grip on the steering wheel and an understandably rapid inspection of the windshield, seeking fractured glass. All I saw was a small smear encompassing three of four feathers of a Ruffed Grouse. I pulled over to the side of the road, and drove in reverse the 100 m. or so back to the point of impact. I searched the roadside for a few minutes, but found only dozens of grouse breast feathers. However, since I was traveling westerly 100km/hr. on impact, and since the half kg. grouse was flying in a northerly direction at 25-30 mph.(this is user friendly text), I figure that partridge ricocheted from my vehicle clear across old Hwy. 11 and perhaps even all the way into the Restigouche River! Indeed, if it did make it all the way to the river, it may even have skipped across to Quebec.

Neither the flock of waxwings nor the grouse could have accomplished what a certain warbler did.

I was driving in a DNRE pick-up, which had a large window beside the driver and a very small window immediately forward of the larger window. One could adjust the amount of air entering the smaller window by pushing out its rear portion. On that particular day, the small window was open. Again, the vehicle speed was about 100 km./hr., which would partly explain what sounded like a .22 calibre rifle bullet hitting the windshield, i.e., less loud than in the former incidents. Startled, I checked the windshield, but this time, there were no feathers. Instead, to my astonishment, there was a dead warbler on the dash directly in front of the steering wheel. If that window had been opened at a much greater angle, perhaps I would not be here to write this story! And, no, I don't recall the species identity of the warbler, but I clearly do recall that it wasn't warbling any more.



Ruffed Grouse
C. Garrett



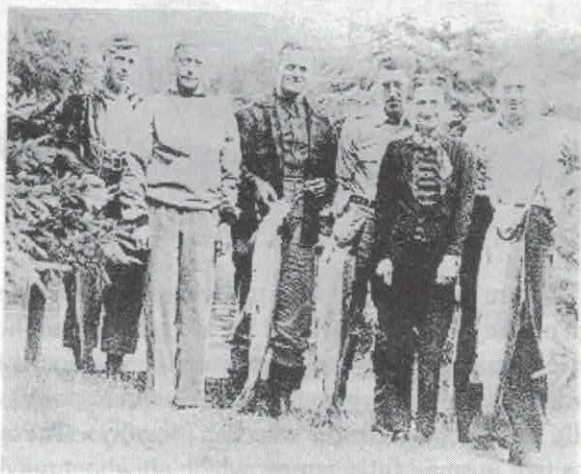
Bohemian Waxwing
Painting by A. Brooks

Campbellton on Hwy.11 in mid-October, 2001. Although attentive, I didn't even see the object that hit the upper left-

MY RESTIGOUCHE RIVER RUN PART 2

Irene Doyle

The Mighty Restigouche was even the host to Royalty. The Duke and Duchess of Windsor were its notable guests, while on a fishing expedition, staying at the lodge owned by Izaak Walton Killam. According to my friend Pat, the man who was to guide the Duchess, Duncan Myles, passed out from emotion at the site of her as he helped her into the canoe.



*The Duke and Duchess of Windsor
and others*

During the long winter months, the Restigouche may be covered with ice and snow, but the lower part of it is also the place to be if you are a true fisherman. Day or night, blistering winds, blowing snow and below zero temperatures do not stop the true North Shore fisherman. As he dons his warmest boots and suit and walks out to his shanty, lantern or flashlight in hand, to try his luck at catching a mess of delicious "frozen on the ice" winter smelts. Now some will debate that this fishing goes on in the Baie des Chaleurs and not on the Restigouche River? I have tried in vain to find out where the Bay ends and the river begins. Some say the dividing line is around Point la Nim, others argue it is Tide Head and that is why it use to be called Head of Tide and again others will say it is at Morissey Rock.

There is so much that can be said, so many stories about the Restigouche River that remain untold, that it is a wonder that no one has written a book about it. Articles have been written in famous magazines about her. An American reporter, Charles Robert of the mid-1800's, called it

the "far-famed Restigouche". Father Michael Broderick has written of the many years his family stayed at the Vanderbilt lodge, where his parents, Mathew and Bella, worked as caretakers.

Oh the stories those fishermen could tell you about their days spent floating on the waters of the Restigouche. I wonder how many BIG ones got away? The stories your ancestors could tell you of early settlement along its banks. If only the pulp could talk about its trip down through the islands, and if the many birds that fly over it today could tell us about the birdseye view of its grandeur, what a book such stories could fill. For my part, I will try to describe what I saw along the way and next summer I intend on doing a full "run of the river".



Our run starts on an early September morning, with the sun rising over the horizon, nice and warm. The temperature is at about 15 degrees and we are at Englands Flats (Glen Eden). It looks like we have picked the perfect day to canoe down this mighty snake of a river.

Englands Flats is situated between Whites Brook and Two Brooks with Pine Island Lodge to one side of it and Indian House to the other. It is also close to the famous Cross Point Island. Here at the Englands Flats Lodge, the boats are still waiting for someone to take them for their usual 9 o'clock morning float up or down the river but it is now after 10:30 and the canoes are still tied to the shore. This is probably due to the very low level of water in the river right now. This spot is also one of the worse places along the river for black flies, because it is very sandy and

a perfect place for them. But we have come prepared with healthy, safe insecticides that keeps them at bay.

We are now approaching the famous Cross Point Island where a lot of people camp during their river run. Here is where you will find a lot of those "Yahoos" that I spoke of earlier [see Part 1, NB Nat 29 (3)]. These people can't seem to enjoy nature in a natural environment and they have to "freeze" themselves with drugs or booze to do the run which has become just one big party with no respect for others or nature. Pat tells me that when the project to



*Cross Point Island
garbage*

clean the river began, the one I mentioned earlier, the guys who were working on it gathered 3 half-ton trucks full of garbage in one weekend on this island. Some of which is seen in the accompanying photo.

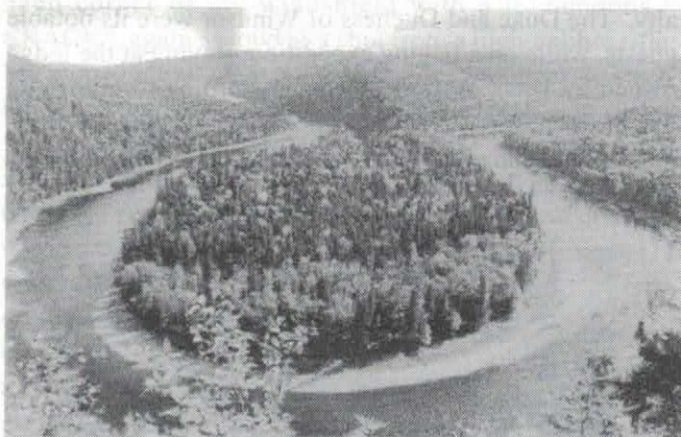
Today the river is very quiet, very calm, and a gorgeous sight to see. Not too many people are on the river because of the low level of the river and the time of the year. The level of water is so low that Pat has to be extra careful. We are going really slow, which is just fine with me. We have to watch out for channels where the water is deeper. We are using a 26 foot canoe with an 8 horsepower motor. Some people use a 15 horsepower one but it is not necessary on the river, besides the 8 uses less gas.

Below Englands Flats the warden tells us he saw a nice white-tailed deer this morning. He often sees it on a point of land that protrudes into the river there. Right in front of this point, there is a mountain that must be at least 300 feet high with a very steep cliff and at the top of this cliff there is a cross, thus the name Cross Point Island. Here the river forms a great big "U" usually described as taking on a horse-shoe shape. From the top of this mountain the view is magnificent, you can see for miles.

The crosses of Cross Point Island were placed there a very long time ago. The story of how they got there is not clear, at least not to my friend Pat or to anyone else with whom I've spoken. Pat heard that the first priests who came to the area, with the help of the Indians, placed some crosses on the top of the mountain to remind the passer-by of Christ's presence.

On the river there are also many birds for the ornithologist to admire. Pat tells of a story about the Mergansers, which sit in flocks of 15-20 and float down the river,

eating fish on the way down. In the 80's, this did not sit well with many people, so some biologists tried to get rid of these pesky birds that were eating a lot of salmon. For about 2 years, bullets to shoot these birds were provided to the game wardens and a one-eyed man by name of Albert Downs, who was apparently the best with a gun.



Cross Point Island

We are now leaving the area where the crosses stand high on the top of the cliff and we are getting into the "U" part of the river. All along the river there are still game wardens, hired to keep watch on the salmon pools, especially for poachers (people who fish illegally). These wardens live in small little camps, which are about maybe 15 X 10 feet. They stay 12 days at a time in these little cabins, where I guess they have no electricity, no phone and only outdoors facilities. Here we could see one of these little camps and the scene is breath taking. On the left side of us there is a mountain, which is about 400 to 500 feet high, with very steep cliffs with absolutely no vegetation, it looks almost like a gravel pit would. Ouch!!... my heart almost stops as I hear the motor hitting bottom quite a few times here. This water is really low. Good thing there is a set-in mechanism that pushes the motor upwards when it hits bottom, and keeps it from being badly damaged. Still, motor hitting bottom is a scary feeling, as I really do not care to get out and walk at this point.

Just below the wardens' camp is a pool called Cross Point, where we see a canoe with Americans who are fishing. According to Pat, they are members of the Restigouche Salmon Club. Pat is very careful not to disturb these people by slowing down and passing as far away from them as possible, hugging the shore on the opposite side. This morning it is a woman who is sitting in that canoe with the guide. Their 26 foot canoe is anchored in a strategic spot called "the run" where the current is swift and the water is fresh and full of oxygen for the fish. The woman teases the

salmon with a fly. They do not seem to have been very successful yet at catching a salmon although it is a good salmon pool. Pat says that usually you can see when the salmon takes the fly while passing by but this morning seems to be quiet. This pool is approximately 1500 feet in length.



Cross Point Pool

We have just met a warden, the one who works at the Cross Point camp, he is probably doing his rounds. As we go down the river and around a bend, another guide is sitting in a canoe with a fisherman, a man this time, again all seems quiet.

Here the river is approximately 100 feet wide and there must be 20 to 22 feet of water in that pool and I'm happy to be on the more shallow water side of the river. Having passed our fishermen, we can now accelerate without danger of disturbing them.

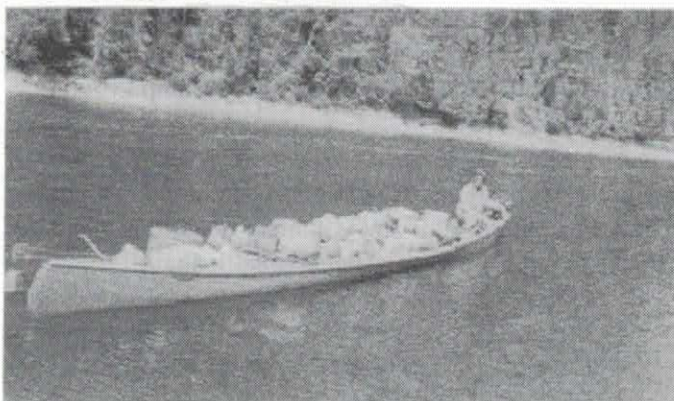
Pat tells me that although coyotes are rarely seen along the river, one had been seen sitting on a big rock here one day. I also notice that the rocks here are different. They are like a wall of cement and descend into the river as far down as we can see under water.

As we keep rounding Cross Point Island we get to a spot where the water is really shallow and again here, my heart almost stops as the motor touches bottom, the boat swings sideways and Pat has to use the pole to get her back on track. But I'm hanging tight and starting to love this as I know that Pat is experienced and he can handle it. He says that normally here, the water is just fine and navigation is easy. However, with the water level as low as it is, it is not an easy spot to cross.

Pat cranks the motor into action again — after quite a few cranks I might add, and refreshing my fears of walking the rest of the way. We are finally around the island and on

the other side of the mountain.

Cross Point Island is a very busy, popular spot during the summer months where many of the campers stop to eat and/or sleep. For this purpose the government and the Restigouche Salmon Club have been providing firewood for the campers to calm their savage instincts and to keep them from cutting down trees as they use to do. Ninety percent of the time I am told, there is wood present ready for them to use. Below we see a canoe full of wood being delivered to the sites by one of the workers.



Campsite firewood being delivered

I thought that running part of the river at this time of the year when the water was low would be the ideal time for me because of my fears of deep water. But apparently the river is almost more dangerous when the water is so low because you have to be more careful. You have to know the river and know where to pass and not to pass. According to Pat the river lets you read it, once you get to know how. One of the secrets of canoeing with low water levels is to take your time, right now our motor is running at about half speed. I'm busy looking around at the beauty of the surrounding areas and not paying that much attention to the bottom of the river, that is Pat's job, he is "at the wheel". The mountains, the water, the birds, the ducks, the sun shining down on us, it is almost too beautiful to describe or to take it all in.

To be continued.....This is the second in a series of articles Irene is planning to do on the Restigouche River. Further information is available at the website: www.restigouche.net.

NBFN SUMMER NATURE CAMPS – *winter update*

Marieka Arnold - NBFN Program Coordinator

On a bright and crispy-cold morning I arrive at the Rotary Lodge, home to Moncton's Centennial Camp. Along with twenty other NB summer camp representatives, I am participating in a NB Camps meeting. The reality of our winter weather does nothing however to block the enthusiasm of the group in our collective programs and plans for the upcoming seasons. Winter also is certainly a great time to reflect on all the lessons and experience we have gained during the 2002 NBFN Summer Nature Camp Program.

As I take my place around the table, I remember one of the greatest elements of the camp program – witnessing the overwhelming staff and volunteer donations and dedications of our pilot year. Thank you all, again!

As the meeting progresses we talk about distributing

the NB Camps Directorate; a printed resource that will list many of the province's summer camps (also featuring our unique program). We will have the directory at our next NB Camps meeting on March 12th and our office will help to distribute the brochures far and wide (if you have any suggestions on where brochures should be distributed, let us know). We also make plans for camp counselor workshops, camp accreditation and a special camp CD. As we converse, I notice that *oh-so-quickly*, the winter begins to fast forward into spring, then summer.

With summer in mind, we do have our camp schedule and locations confirmed for this year:

Location	St. Andrews	Moncton	St. Andrews
Date	July 13 th -19 th	July 27 th -August 1 st	August 10 th -15 th
Language	English	French	English
Camp Type	Residential	Residential	Residential
Age of Children	9-11 Years	9-13 Years	11-14 Years

The programs will vary depending on the week and location but we are planning for some of these themes:

- Climate change – visit by the hands-on climate change discovery bus
- Whales
- Nature interpretation
- Astronomy

- Birds
- Wilderness ethics
- Participation in a conservation project
- Endangered species
- Amphibians and reptiles
- Botany
- Games, fun and much more!

We welcome any of you to lead a workshop, presentation or hike at the camps. Furthermore, please feel welcome to promote our nature camp in your travels. These camps are our very own Federation "protégée". Certainly though, this talented package requires plenty of your support and care.

In the upcoming weeks we are updating the website name and appearance. The website is a great place to visit if you are looking for summer camp or other NBFN program information. Please visit at www.naturenb.ca

I guess this article proves that it is quite possible to straddle the boundaries of our seasons. From a crispy-cold winter meeting, to the anticipated heat of a summer day with children learning about, and exploring in nature. I, for one, enjoy the inspiration that this straddling offers and look forward to our nature camps this summer.

Fredericton Phone/Tél: # (506) 459-4209

Email/Courriel: nbfnnb@nb.aibn.com

Web site: www.naturenb.ca



Owl talk at Summer Nature Camp in Tracadie-Sheila, 2002

Présentation sur les hiboux au Camp d'été Nature 2003



Campers ready to head out sea!

CAMPS D'ÉTÉ NATURE DE LA FNNB - Compte rendu

Marieka Arnold Coordinatrice des programmes, FNNB

Traduction par Rose-Alma Mallet

Me voici, un certain matin clair et glacial, arrivée au Pavillon Rotary, le chef lieu du Camp Centenaire de Moncton. Avec 20 autres participantes, j'assiste à une réunion Camps NB. Cependant, la réalité climatique hivernale ne diminue en rien notre enthousiasme à bâtir des plans et des programmes pour la saison estivale. L'hiver est certainement un bon temps de réflexion sur les

expériences de camps antérieurs: Les Camps d'été Nature 2002 de la FNNB.

Comme je prends place à la table de discussion mes souvenirs les plus mémorables des camps 2002 défilent devant mon esprit: des employés exceptionnels, des dons appréciables, des volontaires à chaque camps et l'enthousiasme de tous. Merci à vous tous. A la réunion,

nous avons discuté en outre de la distribution du Répertoire des Camps N-B, une publication qui énumère et décrit les camps d'été 2003 au N-B (Nos camps y figurent). A la prochaine réunion de Camps N-B, le 12 mars, nous allons recevoir le Répertoire et notre bureau à Fredericton aidera à la distribution de ce document (Si vous avez des suggestions des lieux où l'on pourrait distribuer le Répertoire, faites le moi savoir). De plus, nous avons élaboré des

plans d'ateliers pour les directeurs et directrices de camps, des plans d'accréditation, et l'enregistrement d'un disque compact sur les camps. Tout en communiquant avec vous, je réalise que l'hiver s'en va à grand pas et que l'été est à notre porte.

Avec l'été qui nous fait rêver, nous avons déjà confirmé nos dates et lieux des camps 2003. Voici les lieux et dates des camps 2003:

Lieu	St. Andrews	Moncton	St. Andrews
Date	13 au 19 juillet	27 juillet au 1 août	10 août au 15 août
Langue	anglais	français	anglais
Genre	résidentiel	résidentiel	résidentiel
Age	9 à 11	9 à 13	11 à 14

Les programmes varient d'une semaine à l'autre et offrent selon la semaine où le lieu les thèmes suivants :

- changement climatique
- baleines
- interprétation de la nature
- astronomie
- oiseaux
- éthique écologique
- participation à un projet de conservation
- espèces en dangers
- amphibiens et reptiles
- botanique

jeux, amusements et plus..

Vous êtes tous et toutes les bienvenus aux camps, vous pouvez animer un atelier, guider une marche nature ou encore présenter votre sujet favori. Plus encore, vous pouvez parler des camps de la FNNB avec vos amies, vos voisins ou autres. Parlez-en. Ces camps sont vos camps, ce sont les camps de la FNNB. Ces programmes intéressants ont besoin de vos talents et de votre support.

Dans les prochaines semaines, nous apporterons des changements à notre site web: nom, façade. Le web est un endroit où on peut trouver de l'information sur les camps d'été et les programmes de la FNNB. Naviguez www.naturenb.ca

Cet article prouve qu'il est possible de chevaucher les frontières des saisons et anticiper la chaleur de l'été avec des jeunes pleins d'enthousiasme aux camps d'été. J'ai joui de l'inspiration que ce chevauchement de saison m'a laissé entrevoir et j'ai hâte aux camps 2003.

Fredericton Phone/Tél: # (506) 459-4209

Email/Courriel: nbf@nb.aibn.com

www.naturenb.ca



Alex Peck at the Saint Andrew Camp

SURF SCOTER SUMMER SCHOOL

Patricia McGorlick

It was early morning, the 18th of August, 2001 when I first spotted the Scoters in the cove that year. There were Black as well as Surf swimming and feeding from the plentiful mussel and clam beds of the Restigouche River.

One group of Surfs, 19 of them, was slowly swimming close to shore. As I looked down upon them from my vantage point on the escarpment, they paid no attention to my being there and went about their group swim. I noted that there were two adults, one male and one female. The remaining 17 were juveniles. Since I had a busy day planned, I returned to the studio to continue my work on a rather large painting of sunflowers.

About mid-morning, as I stepped back to view the painting in perspective, I happened to glance out of the windows on the north side of the building. Below me swimming toward shore were 19 Surf Scoters. I exchanged my paint brush for my binoculars and took a much needed break to watch what I presumed to be the same flock I had studied during the early morning. All of a sudden, a few young ducks began to dive; the adult male was next, then the remainder of the juveniles. The female remained atop the water slowly turning around as she scanned the surface where the birds had disappeared. Soon, up popped a juvenile, then three more, the remaining young intermittently broke surface along with the adult male. The female, constantly alert, appeared to count her charges as they came into view. After what seemed an informative group swim, the diving started again – the male first, then the juveniles in twos and threes. The female remained vigilant as she slowly circled in place waiting for her pupils to return to the surface. This procedure took place three times, after which the adults gathered the young together and slowly swam to the left of the clearing behind a stand of trees, away from my line of vision. With my scope and binoculars, I ran from the studio to a clearing on the other bank only to find that school was out for the day as the

group swam toward deep water. I was delighted with what I had just witnessed.

The next morning as I was mixing colours for a day's work, I wondered if I would see class in session again. Wishful thinking, I told myself. However, I did check the windows every time I stepped back from the canvas.

To my astonishment, swimming out from the shoreline, I counted 19 Surf Scoter – 1 male, 1 female and 17 juveniles! This time they were in a straight line parallel to the shore with the female on the left flank, the male on the right. They swam in formation out into the river, until two juveniles seemed to push one little fellow out of line. Through the scope, it looked as if the victim informed the male of its dilemma as it swam toward him. The male turned and must have ordered the line to make room for their classmate for it opened up without missing a stroke while the little Surf scurried into place. Onward they swam until the female veered to the left taking the line with her out of my sight. When I reached the western bank, they were back into their cluster swimming toward deeper water.



Scoter

Sketch by P. McGorlick

The next day I again looked for them, but could not find them anywhere. I went down onto the beach, walked the river and the cove, but no Scoters. Finally, I did find one lone Black Scoter. It remained in the area for a week or more before it too flew away for the season.

I anxiously awaited Spring this year, not only would I move to the country and the river, but the Scoters were due to return. They did, for on the 4th of May, the cove was dotted with them. Would

my group of 19 swim into the clearing as before?

One day, shortly afterward, gathered in the opening were 12 young Surf Scoters – were they Alumni members from the Summer School of 2001?

This fall, the Scoters did not come back to my part of the Restigouche. However, there is always next spring.

BOOK REVIEW: *BIRDS OF ATLANTIC CANADA***Jim Goltz**

Burrows, Roger. 2002. *Birds of Atlantic Canada*. Lone Pine Publishing, 10145 - 81 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6E 1W9. 336 pages.

Can we naturalists ever have enough books on birds? For me, no single bird book has enough information to satisfy my curiosity and my bookshelves already hold dozens of bird books. *Birds of Atlantic Canada* is a welcome addition to the few books that have been written on the birds of New Brunswick and our neighbouring provinces.

This book is not too daunting for novice birders, yet has considerable substance for experienced birders as well. It provides detailed accounts of nearly 300 species of birds that occur in Atlantic Canada on an annual basis, and brief write-ups on an additional 42 bird species considered to be accidental in the region. For each of the more regular species, a good quality illustration is provided, along with a map showing the range of this species in Atlantic Canada. In addition, the book gives tips on identification, and information on size, abundance, nesting, feeding, voice, similar species and habitats, as well as local geographic locations where the species is apt to be found.

The author's considerable knowledge and experience are reflected in a high level of accuracy in the accounts of bird species that occur in our region and the time of year when they occur here. Such accuracy is often lacking in well-known books that cover a broader geographic range.

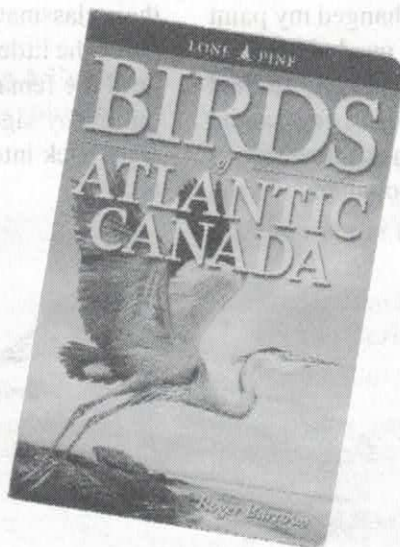
The "reference guide", consisting of miniature illustrations, is likely to appeal to those whose approach to bird identification is to leaf through pictures, looking for the perfect match. In this section, 284 species are depicted in 11 pages for easy perusal.

Once the likely candidates are selected, the reader can then check out the details on each species.

Among the book's qualities that appeal to me most are the skillful melding of fact with prose, the poetic narratives at the beginning of each species account, interesting tidbits of little-known information on some species, and details pertaining to the habitats where the species are typically found in Atlantic Canada. For example, what bird's behaviour "usually mirrors its cryptic and inconspicuous attire" except during courtship, when his "true character" is revealed? What bird stores food and preserves it by coating it with sticky mucus? What bird is most active in "recently burned forest patches"? If your guesses for these questions were American Woodcock, Gray Jay and Black-backed Woodpecker, respectively, then you were correct!

The inclusion of information on how to contact provincial naturalist groups (including the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists), a map of 100 birding hot spots in Atlantic Canada, notes on a selection of Atlantic Canada's top birding sites, and short sections on how to attract birds will undoubtedly be helpful for new birders and visitors.

Although *Birds of Atlantic Canada* provides few illustrations of birds in immature plumages, and doesn't always cite my favourite locations for finding birds, it does provide a wealth of information and is truly delightful. Why not see for yourself?

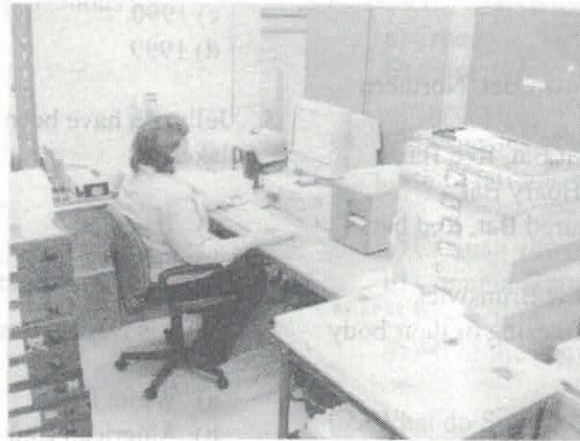


NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ON-LINE — New Brunswick Museum

Randy Miller

The New Brunswick Museum is pleased to announce that since last March our natural science collection records have been available to search on the internet. For the natural science community this means that about 95% of our geological collection records, 25% of our zoological records and 85% of our botanical records are accessible via the internet. We are currently working very hard to provide all our specimen data in electronic format and hope to see the number of zoological records accessible on-line increase quickly. The zoology databases include the bird observation data. The NBM holdings include specimens collected by the NBM since 1930, but also specimens acquired by Abraham Gesner for his museum which opened in 1842, and collections made by the members of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick from the 1860's to 1929.

Our database is running on Inmagic DB/TextWorks, using Inmagic DB/Text WebPublisher to put the records on the internet. The internet version of the database will be updated regularly and provides access to limited record information. It does not, for example, include detailed lo-



Mary Sollows (NBFN Secretary) adding mollusc records to the zoology invertebrate database

cality or collector information for all datasets. Password access is required to view expanded records. Visitors to the site can also search a list of Natural Sciences Department publications and link to the NBM library catalogue. The NBM Archives and Research Library includes many older periodicals acquired from the Natural History Society of New Brunswick library.

The New Brunswick Museum web site is <http://www.gnb.ca/0130/>. To search the Natural Science Department collections follow the sidebar link to "Collections", then go to "Natural Sciences". At the bottom where it states

To visit the Natural Sciences Department or to search the science collections", select "Click here" and connect to the Natural Sciences Department web site which provides access to database records. From there follow the links to 'English' (or Français), then choose 'Collections', other databases or other information.

Internet access to the New Brunswick Museum natural science collections is made possible by a grant from the **New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund**.

NEW BRUNSWICK BIRDER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS TITLE

A New Brunswick man has been recognized for his untiring efforts in pursuit of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. During the months of September and October he traveled extensively throughout southern New Brunswick in search of his quarry. With astonishing success, he was able to claim multiple sightings of that rare bird.

Those accomplishments have been acknowledged by the Royal Order of Rare Bird Stalkers of Canada. After a stunning unanimous vote, it was decreed that the following proclamation be issued:

*In recognition of a birder
Who has gone beyond
The call of duty,
A suitable title shall be bestowed.
Henceforth - from this day forward
Merv Cormier
shall be known as*

"Count de Cuckoo"

Winter Quiz Competition

Don McAlpine, Don Gibson, Jim Goltz, Mike LeBlanc, Gart Bishop

Yes, this is a competition ... complete with a prize! The person(s) with the most correct answers will be entered in a draw for the book "**Birds of Atlantic Canada**" by Roger Burrows. (See the book review by Jim Goltz on page 114). This winter quiz is for those of you who need some challenges during the long cold winter. Don't worry if you can't answer all of the questions, guesses are most welcome. At the conclusion of the questions are a few hints.

Please send answers by either snail mail or email to:

Winter Quiz Competition

c/o Gart Bishop

16 Pitt St.

Sussex, NB E4E 1J1

gartali@nbnet.nb.ca

- What are the three species of bats, native to New Brunswick which, much like birds, fly south for the winter?
 - Eastern Pipistrelle, Little Brown Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat
 - Little Brown Bat, Big Brown Bat, Red Bat
 - Red Bat, Silver-haired bat, Hoary Bat
 - Eastern Pipistrelle, Silver-haired Bat, Red bat
- What are the three species of New Brunswick amphibians which can tolerate freezing of their body fluids?
 - Green Frog, Bullfrog, Spring Peeper
 - Mink Frog, Leopard Frog, Bullfrog
 - Grey Treefrog, Spring Peeper, Mink Frog
 - Wood Frog, Grey Treefrog, Spring Peeper
- The Eastern Pearlshell, a freshwater mussel native to New Brunswick, has been recorded as one of the longest-lived invertebrates in the world. What are the highest estimates of its maximum age?
 - 200 years
 - 25 years
 - 78 years
 - 110 years
- Among Canadian provinces the earthworm fauna of New Brunswick is one of the best known. In spite of this, when was a 15th species of earthworm, the American Mudworm, first recorded as occurring in New Brunswick?
 - 1995
 - 2001
 - 1990
 - 1999
- Jellyfish have been recorded in New Brunswick lakes.
 - True
 - False
- What is New Brunswick's provincial tree?
 - White Pine
 - American Elm
 - Red Spruce
 - Red Oak
 - Balsam Fir
- Which plant species is not an orchid?
 - Moccasin Flower
 - Green Adder's-mouth
 - Jack-in-the-pulpit
 - Spotted Coral-root
 - Calypso
- What species of fern is New Brunswick's "fiddlehead" fern?
 - Cinnamon Fern
 - Ostrich Fern
 - Maidenhair Fern
 - Bracken Fern
 - Sensitive Fern

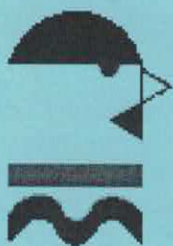
9. Which of these species is not considered to be endangered in New Brunswick?
- Pinesap
 - Pinedrops
 - Parker's Pipewort
 - Anticosti Aster
 - Southern Twayblade
10. Which of these species is truly a grass?
- Grass-of-Parnassus
 - Grass-pink
 - Whitlow-grass
 - Fowl Manna Grass
 - Yellow-eyed Grass
11. Which of these species is not poisonous?
- Spreading Dogbane
 - Broad-leaved Arrowhead
 - Bittersweet Nightshade
 - Common Buttercup
 - False Hellebore
12. Which of these species flowers latest in the year?
- Witch-hazel
 - Coltsfoot
 - Cardinal Flower
 - Twinflower
 - Wild Plum
13. Which of these species is not insectivorous?
- Pitcher Plant
 - Greater Purple Bladderwort
 - Butterwort
 - Spatulate-leaved Sundew
 - Sleepy Catchfly
14. Which of these species is native to New Brunswick?
- Redtop
 - Purple Loosestrife
 - Black Crowberry
 - Yellow Rocket
 - Orange Hawkweed
15. Which of these species is not considered to be disjunct in New Brunswick?
- Entire-leaved Mountain Avens
 - Red-stemmed Bottle-gentian
 - Striped Coral-root
 - Virginia Creeper
 - Giant Mountain Aster
16. Which species holds the northerly record for nesting?
- Red-throated Loon
 - Long-tailed Jaeger
 - Ivory Gull
17. Dovekies nest in the Canadian north.
- True
 - False.
18. What species of tern, other than Arctic Tern, nest north of latitude 60°?
- Caspian Tern
 - Common Tern
 - Black Tern
 - All of the above
19. What do Snowy Owls eat for dessert?
- Tim Horton donuts
 - Baked Alaska
 - Frozen yogurt
 - Other
20. What present day common mammal was not found in New Brunswick in the 1899 provincial hunting and fishing map?
Quelle espèce de mammifère commun de nos jours n'était pas présent sur une carte provinciale de chasse et pêche en 1899?
- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| a) Black Bear | Ours noir |
| b) Red squirrel | Écureuil roux |
| c) White-tailed deer | Cerf de Virginie |
| d) Polar Bear | Ours blanc (polaire) |

21. Which robust, spiny mammal made its way to North America over 10 000 years ago and is the only one of its kind in Canada. Although not a dangerous and fast moving animal, it is quite well protected from its enemies and not bothered by other animals would living in the same area. One member of the *mustelidae* family is known as its most feared predator.
- Ce mammifère robuste et aiguillant s'est établi en Amérique du Nord plus de 10000 ans passés et est le seul comme lui ou elle au Canada. Ils ne se déplacent pas vite et ne sont pas tellement dangereux est n'est pas souvent dérangé par les autres qui vivent dans le mêmes milieu à cause de sa bonne protection. Mais, un membre de la famille des *mustelidae* est connu pour son prédateur le plus farouche.
- a) Garter snake Couleuvre rayée
b) Harbour porpoise Marsouin commun
c) Striped skunk Moufette Rayée
d) Porcupine Pore-Épic D'Amérique
22. In what years were the NBFN – FNNB Annual General Meetings held in Kouchibouguac and Fundy National Parks?
- Quelles années, la Réunion Générale Annuelle de la FNNB – NBFN se sont déroulé au Parc national Kouchibouguac et Fundy?
- a) 1995 & 1978
b) 1985 & 1974
c) 1983 & 1992
d) 1979 & 1975
23. In which year did the board of directors of the NBFN – FNNB decide it was time to look for a new logo to replace the tern motif that was tentatively in use since 1973 and when did it first appear in an issue of the NB Naturalist?
- En quelle année que le conseil d'administration de la FNNB – NBFN décide qu'il est temps de trouver un emblème neuf pour remplacer celle qui avait été choisi à être un emblème tentative en 1973 et quelle année que le nouvel emblème apparu pour la première fois dans notre Naturaliste du N.-B. ?
- a) 1983 & 1985
b) 1979 & 1981
c) 1985 & 1989
d) 1992 & 1993
24. What are Snow fleas?
- a) an insect invented to discourage children from eating snow
b) an insect found on arctic animals, such as the Arctic Hare, Arctic Fox and Polar Bear
c) an insect found on top of snow or in snow depressions during the winter
d) a white flea found on Deer
25. What is the bright morning star seen during the winter?
- a) a satellite
b) the planet Mars
c) the planet Venus
d) a moon of the moon



Hints

- The use of the word 'Native' in question 14, implies that the species is considered to have been growing in New Brunswick prior to exploration and settlement by Europeans.
- The word 'disjunct' used in question 15 means that the New Brunswick populations of a particular species are separated from the larger, more established region where the species is most commonly found.
- Either edition of Hal Hinds' **Flora of New Brunswick** would be most helpful in answering the questions on plants.
- Information on New Brunswick species can be found at the New Brunswick Museum's website: <http://www.gnb.ca/0130/> (particularly useful for question 4 and 5). For more details on this website see the announcement on page 115)
- Snow fleas are discussed in the NB Naturalist / Le Naturaliste du N.-B. Vol. 23 (1).



Fredericton Nature Club is pleased to host the 2003 New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists' Annual General Meeting



Le Club de nature de Fredericton est fier d'accueillir l'Assemblée générale annuelle de la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick 2003

The Fredericton Nature Club welcomes the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists to their 2003 Annual General Meeting. The AGM Committee has worked hard to offer you a full roster of great field trips, workshops and displays.

Some of the changes to this year's AGM include Friday evening field trips and an art workshop. We strongly recommend that you register early, not only to avoid disappointment, but once your payment received, your name will be entered into our early-bird draw, which could cover your cost of registration and banquet. With some field trips limited in group size, we ask that you also register for a second choice of field trip.

Registration can be done by mail or via the web site at:

<http://members.rogers.com/internat>

However, payment must be mailed in to reserve your spot on the field trips. This web site contains much of the information you will need for the meeting.

Upon your arrival in Fredericton, the registration, banquet and AGM will be held at the Capital Winter Club, Rookwood Avenue, Fredericton. Also, all field trips will depart from this location. Breakfast will be provided free of charge at the Capital Winter Club prior to the morning field trips.

The Guest Speaker at the banquet on Saturday evening will be reknown Fredericton naturalist David Myles. At the end of the evening, there will be a special prize draw after the AGM business meeting for those who attended the meeting.

Please join us for what promises to be a great weekend!

Should you require further information, do not hesitate to contact the AGM Coordinator, Diane Mercier-Allain at (506)450-6365 or e-mail at diane.mercier-allain@rogers.com.

Le Club de Nature de Fredericton aimerait souhaiter la bienvenue à la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick qui aura son Assemblée générale annuelle 2003 à Fredericton. Le comité de l'AGA s'est dévoué pour vous offrir une grande variété de randonnées, d'ateliers et de kiosques.

Vous remarquerez quelques changements à l'AGA de cette année, soit des randonnées le vendredi soir et un atelier d'art. Nous vous suggérons de vous inscrire tôt, non seulement pour éviter des mauvaises surprises, mais une fois votre paiement reçu, votre nom sera ajouté au tirage des inscriptions reçues avant le 2 mai 2003. Le prix du gagnant sera un remboursement du coût de l'inscription et du banquet. Puisque certaines randonnées ont des nombres de participants limités, nous vous demandons d'inscrire un second choix de randonnée.

Les inscriptions peuvent être fait par la poste ou par voie de l'internet au site web:

<http://members.rogers.com/internat>

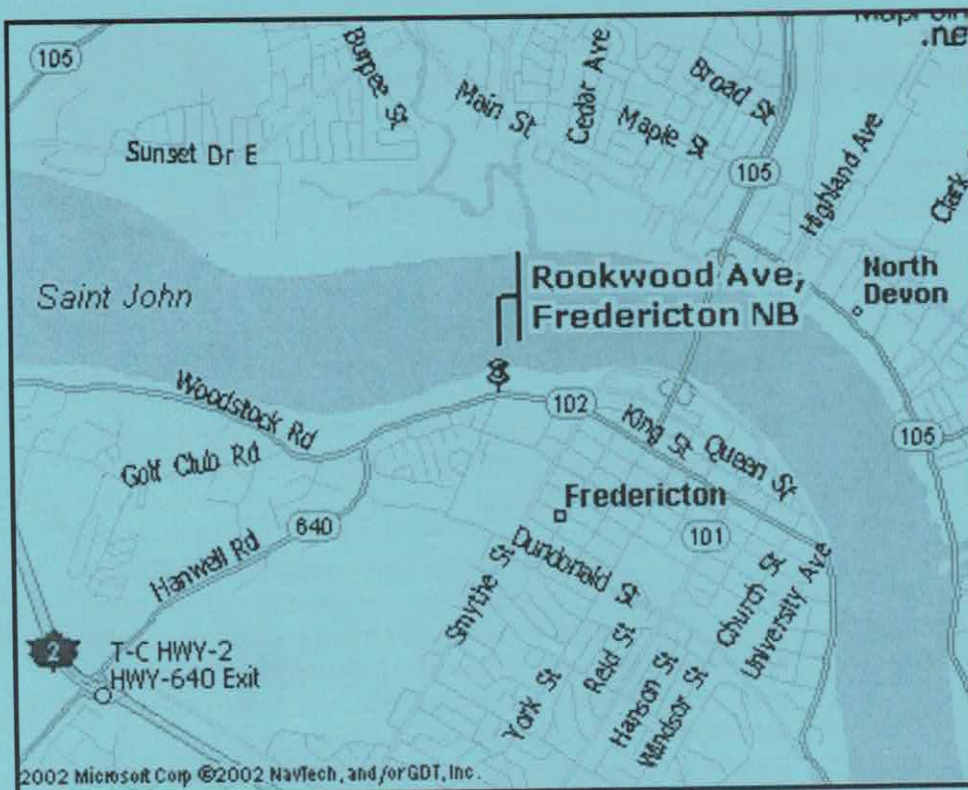
Par contre, le paiement doit être reçu afin de réserver votre place sur les randonnées. Ce site web contient beaucoup d'information pour la réunion.

Lors de votre arrivée à Fredericton, vous trouverez l'inscription, le banquet et l'AGA seront tous au *Capital Winter Club*, ave. Rookwood, Fredericton. C'est aussi l'endroit d'où partira toutes les randonnées. Le petit déjeuner vous sera fourni gratuitement au *Capital Winter Club* avant les randonnées les samedi et dimanche matins.

L'invité d'honneur au banquet samedi soir sera nul autre que David Myles, un naturaliste de renommée à Fredericton. À la fin de la soirée, il y aura un tirage spécial après l'AGA, genre de prix de présence, pour ceux qui auront assisté à la réunion.

Joignez-vous à nous pour ce qui promet être une fin de semaine amusante!

Si vous avez besoin de plus amples renseignements, n'hésitez pas de contacter la coordonatrice de l'AGA, Diane Mercier-Allain au (506)450-6365 ou par courriel au diane.mercier-allain@rogers.com.



Directions

From Woodstock:

TCH Route 2. Follow Rte 2 east towards F'ton. Do not take exit 258. Rte 2 splits near F'ton; stay left onto Rte 8. Take exit 3, Hanwell Rd. Loop round ramp and turn right at stop sign. Proceed straight to 2nd traffic light at end of Hanwell Rd. Turn right onto Woodstock Rd. Pass the Sheraton, turn right onto Rookwood. Capital Winter Club on the left.

From Moncton:

Follow Rte 2 to Oromocto. Rte 2 splits between Oromocto and F'ton; stay right onto Rte 7. Turn right at 6th traffic light onto Hanwell Rd. Proceed to traffic light at end of Hanwell Rd.; turn right onto Woodstock Rd. Pass the Sheraton, turn right onto Rookwood. Capital Winter Club on the left.

From St. Stephen/Saint John:

Follow Rte 2 to Oromocto and continue towards F'ton. Rte 2 splits between Oromocto and F'ton; stay right onto Rte 7. Turn right at 6th traffic light onto Hanwell Rd. Proceed to traffic light at end of Hanwell Rd.; turn right onto Woodstock Rd. Pass the Sheraton, turn right onto Rookwood. Capital Winter Club on the left.

From Miramichi:

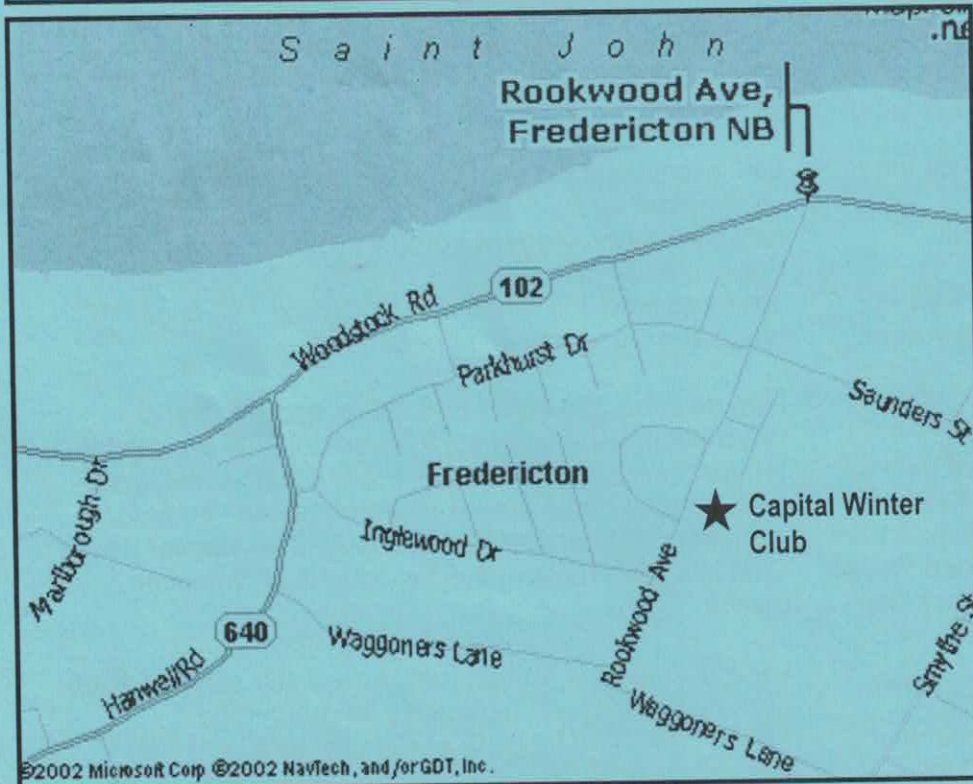
Rte 8 leads you onto Canada St. Continue straight, pass two traffic lights. Turn right onto Union St. Turn left at traffic light at St. Mary's St. to get onto the bridge, heading towards Fredericton Centre. Get onto Westmorland St. Bridge. Take Smythe St. Exit off bridge. Turn right at traffic light onto Woodstock Rd. Turn left onto Rookwood. Capital Winter club on the left.

De Woodstock:

Route 2, TC. Suivre Rte 2 est vers Fredericton. Ne prenez pas sortie 258. Rte 2 se sépare proche de Fredericton, tenez la gauche, Rte 8. Prenez sortie 3, ch. Hanwell. Faites le cercle, tournez à droite au stop. Continuez jusqu'au 2ième feu de circulation, au bout du ch. Hanwell. Prenez la droite sur ch. Woodstock. Passez le Sheraton, tournez à droite sur Rookwood. Le Capital Winter Club se trouve à la gauche.

De Moncton:

Suivre Rte 2 jusqu'à Oromocto. Rte 2 se sépare entre Oromocto et Fredericton; gardez la droite sur Rte 7. Tournez à droite au 6ième feu de circulation sur le ch. Hanwell. Continuez jusqu'au bout du ch. Hanwell, au feu de circulation; tournez à droite sur ch. Woodstock. Passez le Sheraton, tournez à droite sur Rookwood. Le Capital Winter Club se trouve à la gauche.



De Miramichi:

Suivez Rte 8 qui vous emmène sur la rue Canada. Continuez droit, passez 2 feux de circulation. Tournez à droite sur Union. Tournez à gauche au feu de circulation à l'intersection de St. Mary's pour prendre le pont, en direction de Fredericton centre. Une fois sur le pont Westmorland, prenez la sortie Smythe Street au bout du pont. Tournez à droite au feu de circulation pour prendre le ch. Woodstock. Prenez une gauche sur Rookwood. Le Capital Winter Club se trouve à la gauche.

De St. Stephen/Saint John:

Suivez Rte 2 jusqu'à Oromocto et continuez vers Fredericton. Rte 2 se sépare entre Oromocto et Fredericton; gardez la droite sur Rte 7. Tournez à droite au 6ième feu de circulation sur le ch. Hanwell. Continuez jusqu'au bout du ch. Hanwell, au feu de circulation; tournez à droite sur ch. Woodstock. Passez le Sheraton, tournez à droite sur Rookwood. Le Capital Winter Club se trouve à la gauche.

**The Fredericton Nature Club welcomes you to the
New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists' Annual General Meeting
May 30th to June 1st, 2003**

Friday May 30, 2003

7:45 PM

New Brunswick Seasons Slide show by Roger Smith

8:30 PM—10:00 PM

A-UNB Campus (Dick Grant) Swifts drop in to a traditional chimney roost.

9:00 PM—11:00 PM

B-Hyla Park Nature Preserve (Don Vail) Tree Frogs join fellow amphibians in a crepuscular chorus. (Limit—20 participants)

Saturday May 31, 2003

6:00 AM—8:00 AM

C-Early Morning Walk at Odell Park (Gilles Belliveau)

6:00 AM—11:00 AM

D-Carmen Creek (Peter Pearce) An abandoned railway line transects a variety of bird habitats. (Limit—20 participants)

8:30 AM—4:00 PM

E-Sunpoke Lake (Jim Goltz & Don Gibson) An expansive wetland ecosystem offers a remarkable spectrum of avian and botanical delights. (Limit—40 participants)

← **8:30 AM—11:00 AM**

F-Gibson Trail (Julie Singleton & Robert Whitney) The wildlife of woodland and meadow rewards the hiker along part of the city's splendid trails network. (Limit—20 participants)

← **1:00 PM—4:00 PM**

G-St. John River Shore (Dwayne Sabine) Mussels and dragonflies occasion unusual experiences for the curious naturalists. (Limit—15 participants)

1:00 PM—4:00 PM

H-Trees of Fredericton (Garth Nickerson & Don Murray) Fredericton's famous trees - "great", "range-edgers" and "exotics" ensure arboreal adventures. (Limit—20 participants)

Saturday May 31, continued

1:00 PM—4:00 PM

I-Art in Nature with Lloyd Fitzgerald Lloyd Fitzgerald is a renowned New Brunswick artist and art teacher known for his portraiture, landscapes, bird paintings, and much more (www.lloydfitzgerald.com). Lloyd will be leading a nature-related art project suitable for a 3-hour session. The medium will be acrylic.

Participants are required to bring their own materials. Contact *Endeavours The Artist Shop*, 356 Queen St., Fredericton, (506)455-4278 and ask for Lloyd Fitzgerald's materials' list (\$50 and up). This workshop is open to both the beginning and advanced artist. For more information, contact Beverley Schneider at (506)450-4394. (Limit—10 participants on a first-come, first-served basis).

7:00 PM—10:00 PM

Annual Banquet and Annual General Meeting

Sunday June 1, 2003

6:00 AM—8:00 AM

J-Early Morning Walk at Odell Park (Hal Dalzell)

6:30 AM—12:00 PM

K- Wilkins Airstrip/Currie Mountain (Mary Pugh & Peter Pearce) Rails reside and shorebirds depart as a rare flycatcher arrives. Spring flowers open as songbirds settle on a volcanic outcrop.

8:30 AM—3:00 PM

L-Mactaquac Dam & Mactaquac Park, Keswick Ridge (Darla Saunders & Jim Goltz) A diversity of habitats, quiet corners and gentle vistas reveal many facets of the natural world to the discerning observer.

9:00 AM—3:00 PM

M-Geology Field Trip (James Whitehead) Ancient rocks bear witness to landscape formations over eons of time. (Limit—20 participants)

**La Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick
vous souhaite la bienvenue à l'Assemblée générale annuelle
30 mai au 1er juin 2003**

Le vendredi 30 mai 2003

19h45

Les saisons du Nouveau-Brunswick — présentation de diapositives par Roger Smith.

20h30 — 22h00

A-Campus de l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick — Observez les martinets plonger dans une cheminée, perchoir traditionnel. Avec Dick Grant.

21h00 — 23h00

B-Hyla Park Nature Preserve — Écoutez les rainettes versicolores se joindre à leurs camarades amphibiens dans un refrain crépusculaire. Avec Don Vail. (Limite de 20 participants)

Le samedi 31 mai 2003

6h00 — 8h00

C-Randonnée matinale au Parc Odell. Avec Gilles Belliveau.

6h00 — 11h00

D-Carmen Creek — Un ancien chemin de fer traverse une variété d'habitats d'oiseaux. Avec Peter Pearce. (Limite de 20 participants)

8h30 — 16h00

E-Environs du Lac Sunpoke — Un Écosystème expansif qui consiste d'un marais et offre une variété remarquable d'oiseaux et de plantes. Avec Jim Goltz et Don Gibson. (Limite de 40 participants)

8h30 — 11h00

F-Sentier Gibson — Explorez une partie des sentiers merveilleux de notre ville afin de voir une variété d'habitats et d'observer plusieurs espèces d'oiseaux et de plantes. Avec Julie Singleton et Robert Whitney. (Limite de 20 participants)

13h00 — 16h00

G-Le bord de la Rivière Saint-Jean — Des moules et des demoiselles (libellules) offrent un autre aspect de la nature pour les plus curieux d'entre nous. Avec Dwayne Sabine. (Limite de 15 participants)

13h00 — 16h00

H-Les arbres de Fredericton — La capitale comprend des arbres bien fameux—même des arbres exotiques. Pour une aventure arboricole, soyez des nôtres. Avec Garth Nickerson et Don Murray. (Limite de 20 participants)

Le samedi 31 mai, suite

13h00 — 16h00

I-Atelier L'Art dans la nature — Lloyd Fitzgerald est un artiste néobrunswickois de grande renommée. Il est reconnu comme enseignant en portraits, paysages, oiseaux, et beaucoup plus (www.lloydfitzgerald.com). Lloyd nous mènera dans un projet de nature d'une durée de trois heures. Le moyen d'expression sera l'acrylic.

Les participants sont demandés d'apporter leur propre matériaux. Veuillez contacter *Endeavours The Artist Shop*, 356, rue Queen, Fredericton, (506)455-4278 pour la liste de matériaux de Lloyd Fitzgerald (50\$ en montant). Ceci est un atelier visé à tous niveaux, débutants comme avancés. Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez contacter Beverley Schneider au (506)450-4394. (Limite de 10 participants, premier arrivé premier servi).

19h00 — 22h00

Banquet annuel et Assemblée générale annuelle

Le dimanche 1er juin 2003

6h00 — 8h00

J-Randonnée matinale au Parc Odell. Avec Hal Dalzell.

6h30 — 12h00

K- Piste d'atterrissage Wilkins/Montagne Currie — Venez observer des râles, des oiseaux de rivage et peut-être une ou deux moucherolles des saules. Venez voir les fleurs printanières s'épanouir au sommet d'une montagne volcanique. Avec Mary Pugh et Peter Pearce.

8h30 — 15h00

L-Barrage Mactaquac et Parc Mactaquac, environs de Keswick Ridge — Une variété d'habitats, des coins tranquilles et une vue panoramique qui révèle des facettes de nature à l'observateur doué de discernement. Avec Darla Saunders et Jim Goltz.

9h00 — 15h00

M-Randonnée de géologie — Des anciennes roches ont vu les formations de paysages sur plusieurs aeons d'années. (Limite de 20 participants)

ACCOMODATIONS (prices from 2002 NB Tourism Guide)

UNB Residences (towel and bedding provided)	506 453-4800	No rating	S \$27 D \$39.40
Auberge Wandlyn Inn 958 Prospect St., Fredericton	1 800 561-0000 506 462-4444	★ ★ ★ 1/2	S \$110 D \$120
Budget Motel 1214 Lincoln Rd, Fredericton	1 800 613-7666 506 458-8779	★ ★	S \$46 D \$50
City Motel 1216 Regent St., Fredericton	1 800 268-2858 506 450-9900	★ ★ ★ 1/2	S \$64-\$95 D \$75-\$99
Coastal Inn Silverwood 3136 Woodstock Rd., Fredericton	1 800 930-4667 506 458-8676	★ ★ ★	S \$64-\$72 D \$72-\$79
Comfort Inn 797 Prospect St., Fredericton (Call, \$89 for 1-4 people, book 2 weeks in advance)	1 800 228-5150 506 453-0800	★ ★ 1/2	S \$90-\$100 D \$100-\$110
Country Inn & Suites 665 Prospect St., Fredericton	1 800 456-4000 506 459-0035	★ ★ ★ 1/2	S \$91-\$107 D \$103-\$119
Fort Nashwaak Motel 15 Riverside Dr., Fredericton (North)	1 800 684-8999 506 472-4411	★ ★ 1/2	S \$50-\$60 D \$58-\$68
Fredericton Inn 1315 Regent St., Fredericton (Call, quote reservation #NBFN 05-1, \$85-\$95, book 2 weeks in advance)	1 800 561-8777 506 455-1430	★ ★ ★ 1/2	S \$79-\$129 D \$79-\$129
Ramada Fredericton (old HoJo's) 480 Riverside Dr., Fredericton (North)	1 800 596-4656 506 460-5500	★ ★ ★ 1/2	S \$89 D \$105
Lord Beaverbrook Hotel 659 Queen St., Fredericton (3 weeks notice, special \$99 S or D)	1 800 561-7666 506 455-3371	★ ★ ★ ★	S \$99-\$139 D \$99-\$149
Sheraton 225 Woodstock Rd., Fredericton (Call, \$119 for 1-2 people, book one month in advance)	1 800 325-3535 506 457-7000	★ ★ ★ ★	S \$89-\$234 D \$99-\$234
Carriage House Inn (B&B) 230 University Ave., Fredericton	1 800 267-6068 506 452-9924	★ ★ ★ 1/2	S \$80 D \$95
Abby Glen (B&B) 102 Waterloo Row, Fredericton	506 458-8868	★ ★ 1/2	S \$80
Applevue Estates (B&B) 450 Springhill Rd., Fredericton	506 459-5068	★ ★ ★ ★	S \$75 D \$80
Brennan's Bed & Breakfast 221 Church St., Fredericton	506 455-7346	★ ★ ★ 1/2	S \$75-\$85 D \$75-\$85
Elm Croft Place Bed & Breakfast 9 Elm Croft Place, Fredericton	1 888 354-4588 506 452-1700	★ ★ ★ ★	S \$80-\$99 D \$80-\$99
The Colonel's Inn (B&B) 843 Union St., Fredericton	1 877 455-3003 506 452-2802	★ ★ ★ ★	S \$80-\$105 D \$85-\$140
The Very Best (B&B) 806 George St., Fredericton	506 451-1499	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	S \$99 D \$99
Hartt Island Campground Route 102, Rivervalley Dr., Fredericton	1 866 462-9400 506 462-9400	★ ★ ★ 1/2	FS \$27-\$33 US \$19-\$23
Woolastook Park (Campground) 5171 Route 102, Cloverdale NB	506 363-2959	★ ★ 1/2	FS \$27-\$30 US \$21-\$23
Mactaquac Provincial Park (Campgr.) 1256 Route 105, Mactaquac NB	506 363-4747	★ ★ ★	PS \$24 US \$21.50

HÉBERGEMENT (coûts tirés du Guide touristique du N.-B. 2002)

Résidences de l'UNB (serviettes et draps/couvertures fournis)	506 453-4800		S 27\$ D 39,40\$
Auberge Wandlyn Inn 958, rue Prospect, Fredericton	1 800 561-0000 506 462-4444	★ ★ ★ 1/2	S 110\$ D 120\$
Budget Motel 1214, ch. Lincoln, Fredericton	1 800 613-7666 506 458-8779	★ ★	S 46\$ D 50\$
City Motel 1216, rue Regent, Fredericton	1 800 268-2858 506 450-9900	★ ★ ★ 1/2	S 64\$-95\$ D 75\$-99\$
Coastal Inn Silverwood 3136, ch. Woodstock, Fredericton	1 800 930-4667 506 458-8676	★ ★ ★	S 64\$-72\$ D 72\$-79\$
Comfort Inn 797, rue Prospect, Fredericton (Téléphonez, 89\$ de 1-4 personnes, réservez 2 semaines à l'avance)	1 800 228-5150 506 453-0800	★ ★ 1/2	S 90\$-100\$ D 100\$-110\$
Country Inn & Suites 665, rue Prospect, Fredericton	1 800 456-4000 506 459-0035	★ ★ ★ 1/2	S 91\$-107\$ D 103\$-119\$
Motel Fort Nashwaak 15, prom. Riverside, Fredericton (nord)	1 800 684-8999 506 472-4411	★ ★ 1/2	S 50\$-60\$ D 58\$-68\$
Fredericton Inn 1315, rue Regent, Fredericton (Téléphonez, mentionnez la réservation NBFN 05-1, 85\$-95\$, réservez 2 semaines à l'avance)	1 800 561-8777 506 455-1430	★ ★ ★ 1/2	S 79\$-129\$ D 79\$-129\$
Ramada Fredericton (old HoJo's) 480, prom. Riverside, Fredericton (nord)	1 800 596-4656 506 460-5500	★ ★ ★ 1/2	S 89\$ D 105\$
Hôtel Lord Beaverbrook 659, rue Queen, Fredericton (spécial 99\$ S ou D, au moins trois semaines à l'avance)	1 800 561-7666 506 455-3371	★ ★ ★ ★	S 99\$-139\$ D 99\$-149\$
Sheraton 225, ch. Woodstock, Fredericton (Téléphonez, 119\$ de 1-2 personnes, réservez au moins un mois à l'avance)	1 800 325-3535 506 457-7000	★ ★ ★ ★	S 89\$-234\$ D 99\$-234\$
Carriage House Inn (Gîte du passant) 230, ave University, Fredericton	1 800 267-6068 506 452-9924	★ ★ ★ 1/2	S 80\$ D 95\$
Abby Glen (Gîte du passant) 102, ruelle Waterloo, Fredericton	506 458-8868	★ ★ 1/2	S 80\$
Applevue Estates (Gîte du passant) 450, ch. Springhill, Fredericton	506 459-5068	★ ★ ★ ★	S 75\$ D 80\$
Brennan's Bed & Breakfast 221, rue Church, Fredericton	506 455-7346	★ ★ ★ 1/2	S 75\$-85\$ D 75\$-85\$
Elm Croft Place Bed & Breakfast 9, place Elm Croft, Fredericton	1 888 354-4588 506 452-1700	★ ★ ★ ★	S 80\$-99\$ D 80\$-99\$
The Colonel's Inn (Gîte du passant) 843, rue Union, Fredericton	1 877 455-3003 506 452-2802	★ ★ ★ ★	S 80\$-105\$ D 85\$-140\$
The Very Best (Gîte du passant) 806, rue George, Fredericton	506 451-1499	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	S 99\$ D 99\$
Hartt Island Campground Route 102, prom. Rivervalley, Fredericton	1 866 462-9400 506 462-9400	★ ★ ★ 1/2	FS 27\$-33\$ US 19\$-23\$
Parc Woolastook (Camping) 5171 Route 102, Cloverdale (N.-B.)	506 363-2959	★ ★ 1/2	FS 27\$-30\$ US 21\$-23\$
Parc provincial Mactaquac (Camping) 1256 Route 105, Mactaquac (N.-B.)	506 363-4747	★ ★ ★	PS 24\$ US 21,50\$

Registration Form

New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists Annual General Meeting
May 30th to June 1st, 2003

First Choice Field Trips

Friday May 30th, 2003

- ☐ A-UNB Campus (Unlimited)
☐ B-Hyla Park Nature Preserve (20 participants)

Saturday May 31, 2003

- ☐ C-Early Morning Walk at Odell Park (Unlimited)
☐ D-Carmen Creek (20 participants)
☐ E-Sunpoke Lake (40 participants)
☐ F-Gibson Trail (20 participants)
☐ G-St. John River Shore (15 participants)
☐ H-Trees of Fredericton (20 participants)
☐ I-Art in Nature (10 participants).

Sunday June 1, 2003

- ☐ J-Early Morning Walk at Odell Park (Unlimited)
☐ K-Wilkins Airstrip/Currie Mountain
☐ L-Mactaquac et Keswick Ridge
☐ M-Geology Field Trip (20 participants)

Second Choice Field Trips

Friday May 30th, 2003

- ☐ A-UNB Campus (Unlimited)
☐ B-Hyla Park Nature Preserve (20 participants)

Saturday May 31, 2003

- ☐ C-Early Morning Walk at Odell Park (Unlimited)
☐ D-Carmen Creek (20 participants)
☐ E-Sunpoke Lake (40 participants)
☐ F-Gibson Trail (20 participants)
☐ G-St. John River Shore (15 participants)
☐ H-Trees of Fredericton (20 participants)
☐ I-Art in Nature (10 participants).

Sunday June 1, 2003

- ☐ J-Early Morning Walk at Odell Park (Unlimited)
☐ K-Wilkins Airstrip/Currie Mountain
☐ L-Mactaquac et Keswick Ridge
☐ M-Geology Field Trip (20 participants)

Registration:	No. of people	Total	Please make cheques payable to: NBFN 2003 AGM
Received on or before May 2 nd , 2003 (\$25.00 per person)			
Received after May 2 nd , 2003 (\$35.00 per person)			
Saturday: <input type="checkbox"/> Box lunch \$6.00 per person <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet \$20.00 per person			Please forward registrations to: Diane Mercier-Allain 36 Island View Dr. Douglas NB E3A 7R3
Banquet (Indicate number of meals) ___ chicken ___ salmon ___ vegetarian			
Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Box lunch \$6.00 per person			
Grand Total			

Name

Address

Phone

E-Mail

Club

Please Note: The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists or the Fredericton Nature Club are not responsible or liable for accidents, injuries or damages to persons participating in any activities of the weekend of May 30th to June 1st. We the undersigned accept to participate at our own risk.

Signature(s)

Date

Formulaire d'inscription

Assemblée générale annuelle de la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick
30 mai au 1er juin 2003

Premier choix de randonnées

Le vendredi 30 mai 2003

- ☐ A-Martinets - Campus de l'université du N.-B. (illimité)
☐ B-Hyla Park Nature Preserve (limite 20 participants)

Le samedi 31 mai 2003

- ☐ C-Randonnée matinale au Parc Odell Park (illimité)
☐ D-Carmen Creek (limite 20 participants)
☐ E-Environs du Lac Sunpoke (limite de 40 participants)
☐ F-Sentier Gibson (limite de 20 participants)
☐ G-Le rivage de la Rivière St-Jean (limite de 15 participants)
☐ H-Les arbres de Fredericton (limite de 20 participants)
☐ I-Atelier la Nature dans l'art (limite de 10 participants).

Le dimanche 1er juin 2003

- ☐ J-Randonnée matinale au Parc Odell Park (illimité)
☐ K-Piste d'atterrissage Wilkins/Montagne Currie
☐ L-Mactaquac & Keswick Ridge
☐ M-Sortie de géologie (limite de 20 participants)

Deuxième choix de randonnées

Le vendredi 30 mai 2003

- ☐ A-Martinets - Campus de l'université du N.-B. (illimité)
☐ B-Hyla Park Nature Preserve (limite de 20 participants)

Le samedi 31 mai 2003

- ☐ C-Randonnée matinale au Parc Odell Park (illimité)
☐ D-Carmen Creek (limite de 20 participants)
☐ E-Environs du Lac Sunpoke (limite de 40 participants)
☐ F-Sentier Gibson (limite de 20 participants)
☐ G-Le rivage de la Rivière St-Jean (limite de 15 participants)
☐ H-Les arbres de Fredericton (limite de 20 participants)
☐ I-Atelier la Nature dans l'art (limite de 10 participants).

Le dimanche 1er juin 2003

- ☐ J-Randonnée matinale au Parc Odell Park (illimité)
☐ K-Piste d'atterrissage Wilkins/Montagne Currie
☐ L-Mactaquac & Keswick Ridge
☐ M-Sortie de géologie (limite de 20 participants)

Inscription:	No. de personnes	Total	Veuillez faire vos chèques payable à: AGA 2003 FNNB Postez votre inscription à: Diane Mercier-Allain 36 prom. Island View Douglas (N.-B.) E3A 7R3
Reçu dès le 2 mai 2003 (25,00 \$ par personne)			
Reçu après le 2 mai 2003 (35,00 \$ par personne)			
Samedi: <input type="checkbox"/> Boîte à dîner 6,00 \$ par personne <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet 20,00 \$ par personne			
Banquet (Indiquez nombre de repas) ____ poulet ____ saumon ____ végétarien			
Dimanche <input type="checkbox"/> Boîte à dîner 6,00 \$ par personne			
Grand Total			

Nom

Adresse

Téléphone

Courriel

Club

Note: Ni la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick, ni le Club de nature de Fredericton sont responsable pour tout accident, blessure ou dommage subient par les participant(e)s durant les activités de la fin de semaine de l'Assemblée générale annuelle, entre les 30 mai et 1 juin 2003. Nous, les sous-signés, acceptons de participer à nos propres risques.

Signature (s)

Date

Coupez le long de la ligne pointillée

NEW BRUNSWICK BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 1997-99 REPORT

David Christie

This is the fourth "annual" report of the New Brunswick Bird Records Committee, actually combining the three years, 1997-99. As committee secretary, I take full responsibility and sincerely apologize for the delay in producing it. Succeeding reports will appear shortly.

The Committee operates under the sponsorship of the New Brunswick Museum to ensure that adequate information is preserved about unusual occurrences of birds in New Brunswick, to provide a process for formal acceptance of bird species to the provincial list, and generally to advance knowledge of birds in New Brunswick.

The Committee's members during this period were: Brian E. Dalzell (1997-98), James G. Wilson (1997-98), David S. Christie (1997-99), Robert Doiron (1997-99), Stuart I. Tingley (1997-99), Marcel David (1999), Peter A. Pearce (1999), and Donald F. McAlpine (non-voting, 1997-99). Jim Wilson served as chairman during 1997-98 and Robert Doiron in 1999; David Christie was secretary, 1997-99.

In addition to its principal activity of collecting and studying written and audio-visual documentation of unusual bird occurrences, the Committee is involved in production of an annotated list of New Brunswick birds, to be published in both English and French editions. A fundraising campaign raised more than \$2400, which is held in trust for the project by the New Brunswick Museum. Most was paid to Brian Dalzell to prepare a draft manuscript, which is being reviewed by other committee members. Their comments will require extensive rewriting of the original text, which will be translated to French by other volunteers.

The Committee provided the list of species and their status for *New Brunswick Bird Checklist* and *Liste d'identification des oiseaux du Nouveau-Brunswick*, which were published in 1998 by the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists. The Committee's currently accepted list of New Brunswick birds can be found via the Committee website at <<http://www3.nbnet.nb.ca/maryspt/BRC/>>.

The Committee votes on reports of any species for which five New Brunswick records have not already been accepted. If a species has been accepted only on the basis of sight records it also votes on the first record supported by tangible evidence. Submissions beyond five records are gratefully received and placed on file as valuable information for future study. Only records independently docu-

mented by two or more observers or supported by tangible evidence (photos, specimens, video/audio tapes, etc.) are eligible for formal acceptance.

The members of the committee carefully study each submission and cast their votes independently. Acceptance or non-acceptance requires near unanimity, with no more than one contrary vote allowed. If opinion is more divided, a second vote is held during which first-round comments are added to the material being considered. The majority of Committee decisions are unanimous.

Voting was completed on 14 records during 1997, 14 during 1998, and 13 during 1999. Of these, 13 (93%), 5 (36%), and 9 (69%), respectively, were accepted and the remainder were not. Accumulation of several difficult records, some being voted on for the second time, was responsible for the unusually low rate of acceptance in 1998. Another 32 submissions, which were filed without formal review, were received in 1997, 8 in 1998, and 19 in 1999. Two new species, Mountain Bluebird and Sage Thrasher were added to the New Brunswick list.

The Committee thanks all observers who submitted documentation of their observations. All these reports, whether accepted or not, are archived at the Natural Sciences Division of the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John. The votes and remarks of committee members are attached to the reports, and may be viewed on request to Donald McAlpine at the museum.

Documentation forms are available from committee members and from the museum, or may be copied from the World Wide Web <<http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/maryspt/BRC/>>.

The format of this report is the same as for previous years (*N.B. Nat.* 22:38-42, 23:62-66 and 24:108-112). Information on sex and plumage is included where it can be reliably ascertained. Place names in italics refer to counties in New Brunswick. For accepted records, persons who participated in the initial discovery and/or identification of a bird are denoted by an asterisk (*); if they did not provide documentation, their names are listed in italics. Everyone who provided written descriptions, photographs, videotapes or other documentation is also credited.

Every effort has been made to verify dates, locations and observers' names. We welcome corrections or updates to make the records more exact.

Species Deleted from Provincial List

During preparation of the 1998 checklist, it was decided to remove Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) which had been on the list previously. The reasoning was that the May 1972 record did not seem any more likely to have been a wild bird than a recent winter record that the Committee had not accepted because the geese were likely escapees.

Accepted Records

1997 Votes

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*

1974 — immature, August, Sackville, Westmorland (Richard Blacquiere*) — photos

1997 — adult, c. 5-25 May and possibly into June, Hammond River, Quispamsis, Kings (Mr. & Mrs. Ed Landry*, Jim Wilson, David Christie) — photos, video

The second and third records accepted by the Committee of this very rare visitor, for which there is an earlier New Brunswick specimen.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

1997 — female, 3 and 11 January, Seal Cove, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Brian Dalzell*, Jim Brown*, Jim Leslie*) — photos

Third accepted record, the first female, of a European duck that has begun to appear annually in eastern North America.

White-winged Dove *Zenaidura macroura*

1984 — one, 3-21 December, Alma, Albert (Doris Hatt*, Fred Hatt*, Angus MacLean*, Rob Walker) — photo

This, the fourth report of this southern vagrant in New Brunswick during 1984, was the first submitted to the Committee. There have been three previous well-documented records.

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*

1992 — one, 14 November to 1 December, Alma, Albert (Barbara Curlew*, Rick Elliott*, Rob Walker*, Stuart Tingley) — photos

Second accepted record. The previous occurrence was also in November, when this southwestern flycatcher is most apt to stray to the northeast.

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides*

1996 — immature male, 15-25 November, Caraquet, Gloucester (Rosita Lanteigne*, Benoit Lanteigne*, Guy Hébert, Corinne Mallais, David Christie, Benoit Hébert, Jim Wilson) — photos, video



Mountain Bluebird,

Caraquet, Nov. 1996

photo by Jim Wilson

Robertville, Dec. 1996

photo by Stu Tingley

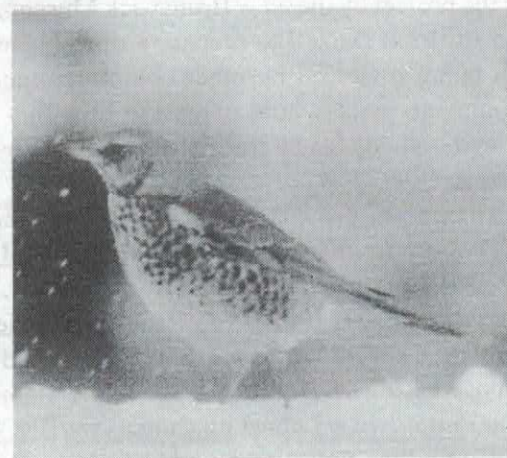
1996 — same bird, 1-20 December, Robertville, Gloucester (Pierre Duguay, Stu Tingley, Jim Wilson) — photos

First provincial record. Amazingly, after a stay in Caraquet, this bluebird was relocated 70 km to the west in Robertville, where it was recognized by a deformity of its upper mandible.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

1997 — one, 21 February to at least 30 April, Sussex, Kings (David and Judy Hughes*, Rob Walker, Jim Wilson) — photos

Second accepted record. Like the first, in Caraquet in 1991, this European thrush remained for an extended period and was seen by many.



Fieldfare, Sussex, Feb. 1997

photo by Jim Wilson

Cerulean Warbler *Dendroica cerulea*

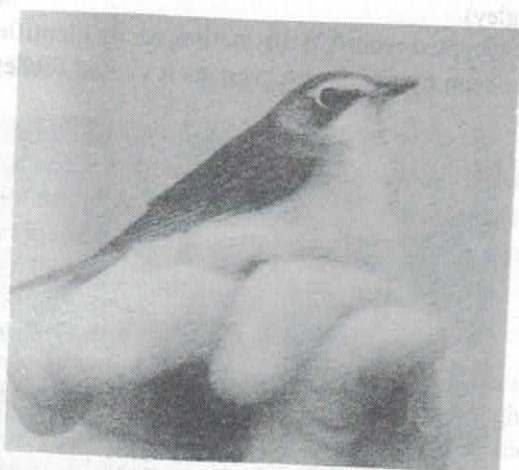
1997 — adult male, 19-22 May, Great Pond, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Merv Cormier*, Jim Wilson, Stu Tingley) — photos

Fourth accepted record. It remained long enough to be seen by numerous observers.

Kentucky Warbler *Oporornis formosa*

1997 — immature male, 28-29 August, Long Pond, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Wendy Jess*, Brian Dalzell*, Calvin Brennan*) — photos

Third accepted record. It was captured, banded and released by the Grand Manan Bird Observatory. All three records have been in fall.



Kentucky Warbler, Grand Manan, Aug. 1997
photo: G.M. Bird Observatory

Western Tanager *Tangara ludoviciana*

1997 — second-year male, c. 30 May to at least 10 June, Island View Heights, Saint John, Saint John (Wendy Lockett*, Doris Johnston*, Cecil Johnston, David Christie) — photo

Fourth accepted record, the first to be seen by numerous observers as it was visiting a feeder.

Harris's Sparrow *Zonotrichia querula*

1996-97 — immature, before 27 December to at least 25 March, Gondola Point, Kings (Celia Malcolm*, Mike Adams*, Merv Cormier) — photos

Fourth accepted record (in four years!). Seen by numerous observers at a feeder.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*

1996 — adult male, 10-16 June, St. Martins, Saint John (Berle and Harold Henderson*, Cecil Johnston) — photo

Fourth accepted record, a cooperative individual attending a feeder.

1998 Votes

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*

1998 — immature, 31 Aug.-15 Sep., Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John, Saint John (Sarah Pinette*, Kelly Honeyman*, Jim Wilson) — photos

Fourth record accepted by the Committee.

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*

1997 — adult, 2-7 Oct., Long Pond, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Wendy Jess*, Ken MacIntosh*) — photo

The first to be accepted by the Committee, it was captured, banded and released by the Grand Manan Bird Observatory. There are also two earlier records documented by photos.

Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis*

1996 — one, 2 June - 7 Aug., Saint-Anselme, Dieppe, Westmorland (Léona Cormier*, David Christie)

First record accepted by the Committee. This rare and usually rather secretive wren has not been well documented despite past reports of suspected breeding. The very vocal bird at Dieppe was an exception, being cooperative and seen by many.

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*

1997 — one, 18 May, Woodwards Cove, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Barbara Curlew*, Rick Elliott*)

Fifth accepted record.

"Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis (oreganus*
group of subspecies)

1998 — one, 20 Feb., into March, Hampton, Kings (Donna and Joe Monahan*, Jim Wilson) — photos

Fourth accepted record.

1999 Votes

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

1998 — male (and female), 18-19 October, Dalhousie, Restigouche (Irene Doyle*, Margaret Gallant Doyle*, Mike Lushington) — video

1998 — male, 19 November to 2 December (and female 19 Nov.) at Dalhousie, Restigouche (Mike Lushington*, Margaret Gallant Doyle, Luc DeRoche, David Christie) — video, photos

Fourth accepted record. With no details presented for the female, only the male bird of these occurrences could be accepted. The Committee was uncertain whether the November and October birds were different individuals.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

1999 — one, 25 Sep., off White Head Island, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Angus MacLean*, Richard B. Stern*, Dedreic Grecian* *et al.*) — photos

Only the second accepted record of this species. Skuas seen in the province generally have not been identified to species or have not been adequately documented.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

1999 — adult, 2 & 4 August, Lac Frye, Ile Miscou, Gloucester (Hilaire Chiasson*, Marcel David, Irene Doyle, Margaret Gallant Doyle, Nelson Poirier) — photos

Third accepted record of this southern tern, seen by numerous observers and well documented.

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi*

1998 — one, 11-20 January, 1 km S of Lac Frye, Ile Miscou, Gloucester (Jude Larocque*, Marcel David, Margaret Gallant Doyle) — video, photo

Fifth accepted record of a western thrush that has a tendency to wander east in winter.

Sage Thrasher *Oreoscoptes montanus*

1999 — adult, 20 July, Kent Island, Charlotte — (Kate O'Reilly*, Nat Wheelwright*) — video, photos

First provincial record, the easternmost in North America. Excellent photos and video were obtained at Bowdoin College's summer field station.



Sage Thrasher, Kent Island, July 1999

(inset: outer tail feathers)

photos: Nat Wheelwright

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*

1997 — one, 28 August, North Head, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Tony Beck*, Gordon McLean*)

First record accepted by the committee. A 19th Century specimen no longer exists. There have been several sight

records in spring and fall, one documented photographically.

Lark Bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys*

1998 — one, 19-20 September, Castalia, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Rob Walker*, John Webber*) — video captures

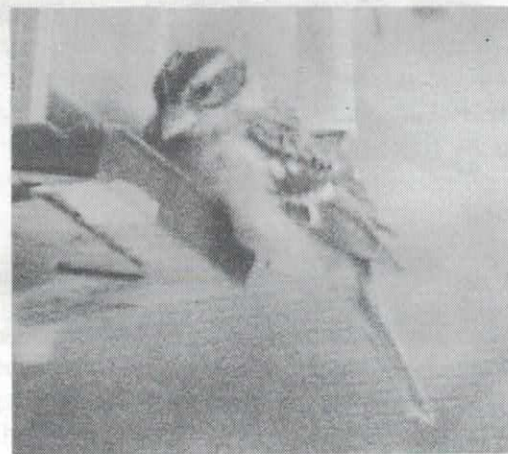
First record accepted by the committee. Previously, there was a specimen collected and several sight records in spring and fall.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

1998-99 — immature male, 25 Dec. to 27 Jan. Fredericton, York

(Linda Kneebone*, Judy Nason*, Don Gibson, Jim Wilson, Nelson Poirier, David Christie, Merv Cormier, Stuart Tingley)

Second accepted record. A distinctive, easily identified bird that was seen by many observers as it visited feeders.



Black-headed Grosbeak, Fredericton, Jan. 1999

photo by Don Gibson

Records Not Accepted

Identification accepted, natural origin unlikely

Records in this category are considered by the Committee to be almost certainly escaped birds or birds from introduced populations that are not fully established. Such records may be reviewed at any time should new information arise suggesting a wild origin.

1997 Votes

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

1997 — one, 10-11 May, Charlo River estuary, Charlo Restigouche (Bob Gillis*, Don Mann*, Denise Zyveniuk*, Margaret Gallant Doyle, Mike Lushington) — photos

Plumage characteristics and the heavy build of this bird were found to more closely match a domestic Greylag breed than the wild Greylag Goose of Europe.

Identification uncertain

For the records that follow, the documentation supplied was insufficient to establish with certainty the identity of the species claimed. The Committee does not necessarily consider the identifications were in error. These reports may be resubmitted for further review if new supporting evidence comes to light.

1998 Votes

Mew Gull *Larus canus*

1996 — one, 8 Dec., Blacks Harbour, *Charlotte* — photo
Despite an outer primary pattern similar to a Mew Gull, the beak and other features indicated that this was more likely a Ring-billed Gull.

Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri*

1996 — one, 17 Nov. - 1 Dec., Dalhousie, *Restigouche* — photos
The descriptions and photos did not provide enough details for a conclusive identification, but Committee members leaned towards it being more likely a darkish individual of *kumlieni* Iceland Gull..

Great Gray Owl *Strix nebulosa*

1997 — 5 & 17 January, Lower Coverdale, *Albert* — photo
Most of the Committee felt that the photo looked more like a Barred Owl.

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*

1996 — one, 26-29 Dec., Beresford, *Gloucester* — photos

This was a very challenging record. Some of the features suggested Loggerhead Shrike, others Northern Shrike. The committee concluded that the bird's identity is uncertain.

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii*

1976 — one, 27 Nov., Martinon, *Saint John* — photos

1987 — one, 13-19 Dec., Fredericton, *York* — photos

1992 — one, 7 Dec., Sussex, *Kings* — photos

1993 — one, 11-14 Nov., Rosevale, *Albert* — video

1996 — one, 16 Nov., North Head, *Charlotte* — photos

This group of difficult gray-backed, white-bellied immature orioles required two rounds of voting. In the first round there were split, indecisive votes on four of them and a four to one vote in favour of accepting the Fredericton

oriole. Because of concerns about the quality of the Fredericton photos, that decision was put aside. In the second round, which followed publication of a comprehensive article (*Birding*, Aug. 1998) on the separation of Baltimore and Bullock's orioles, the Committee decided that identity of the Fredericton bird was uncertain and that the remainder appeared to be Baltimore Orioles.

1999 Votes

South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki*

1997 — one, 29 July, off Grand Manan, *Charlotte* — photos
Separation of skua species at sea is notoriously difficult. There was an indecisive split vote in the first consideration of this bird. Lack of a detailed written description and difficulties in interpretation of features from the photos led to a second-round decision that its identity was uncertain.

"White-winged" Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis aiken*

1997 — one, 5 April, Bancroft Point, Grand Manan, *Charlotte* — photos

Although this bird had narrow white wingbars, a long wing and extensive white in the tail it seemed intermediate in many respects between the races *hyemalis* and *aiken* and may represent an intergrade rather than a pure *aiken*..

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

1999 — immature, late Nov. to 22 Dec., Tide Head, *Restigouche* — photos

Despite a buffy wash on the underparts, heavy streaking and other features indicated that this bird was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*

1999 — one, 18 June, Campbellton, *Restigouche* — photos

Identification of meadowlarks is a difficult issue. The description and photos didn't present quite enough evidence to be certain of this bird's identity.

Records Not Formally Reviewed

Documentation of the following observations of votable species was received but was insufficient for a formal vote by the committee:

1997

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis*

1997 — 16 Oct., Irving Nature Park, *Saint John* (Diane Trenwith).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

1997 — 13 August, Mary's Point, *Albert* (Falk Hüttmann).

Mew Gull *Larus canus canus*

1997 — 3 January, Whale Cove, Grand Manan, *Charlotte* (Brian Dalzell, Jim Leslie, Jim Brown).

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*

1996 — 5 August, Machias Seal Island, *Charlotte* (David W. Thurston).

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savanna*

1997 — 7 June, Saint John West, *Saint John* (Liam Hughes)

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*

1997 — 5 April, Baie-du-Petit-Pokemouche, *Gloucester* (Bernadette Hébert and her husband).

Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor*

1997 — 11 April, Edmundston, *Madawaska* (Adeline Verret, Paul & Claire D'Amours).

Yellow-throated Warbler *Dendroica dominica*

1997 — 25 May, Grays Mills, Kingston Peninsula, *Kings* (Jennifer Day-Elgee, Bette Day).

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*

1996 — 2-4 June, Salem, *Albert* (David Christie)

1998

Clapper Rail *Rallus longirostris*

1998 — 16 Sept., Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan, *Charlotte* (Don Gibson)

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savanna*

1993 — 1 Sept., Riverview, *Albert* (Ralph E. White)

1999

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia*

1999 — 16 Sept., Long Pond Beach, Grand Manan, *Charlotte* (Peter Mitchell and four tour participants).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

1999 — 23 Sept., Wilkins Field, Fredericton, *York* (Beverley J. Schneider).

Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva*

1999 — 7 Nov., (2), Cape Jourmain, *Westmorland* (Kathy Popma).

Louisiana Waterthrush *Seiurus motacilla*

1999 — 15 May, White Head Island, *Charlotte* (Stuart Tingley).

Documentation was also received for various species for which there are already five or more accepted records in the province:

1997

From Artie Ahier, Diane Allain, Don Baldwin, Moira Campbell, David Christie, Barbara Clayden, Gerry Clayden, Stephen Clayden, Susan Clayden, Halton Dalzell, Benoit Hébert, Liam Hughes, Falk Hüttmann, Eric Lajoie, Vicky Lentz, Andrew Macfarlane, Serge Rhéaume, Donna Savage, Shirley Sloat, Gisèle Thibodeau, Stuart Tingley, Gérard & Adeline Verret, Rob Walker, Alma White, and Jim Wilson for: **Black Vulture** (*Gloucester, Saint John*), **Wood Duck** (winter, *Charlotte*), **American Wigeon** (winter, *York*), **"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal** (*Saint John*), **Harlequin Duck** (*Madawaska, Restigouche, Victoria*), **Broad-winged Hawk** (winter, *Westmorland*), **Gyr Falcon** (*Restigouche*), **Purple Gallinule** (*Queens*), **Skua sp.** (*Saint John*), **White-winged Dove** (*Albert, Charlotte*), **Whip-poor-will** (*Madawaska*), **Varied Thrush** (*Carleton*), **Black-throated Blue Warbler** (winter, *Westmorland, York*), **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (xanthochroistic, *Albert*), **Prairie Warbler** (*Madawaska*), **Summer Tanager** (*Albert*), **Lincoln's Sparrow** (winter, *Westmorland*), **Yellow-headed Blackbird** (*Albert*).

1998

From Paula Akerley, Don Gibson, Karen Kerney, Mike LeBlanc, Ken MacIntosh, and Rob Walker for **Red-tailed Hawk** (albinistic, *Charlotte*), **American Coot** (winter, *Albert, Kent*), **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Charlotte*), **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*York*), **Pine Warbler** (*Saint John*).

1999

From David Christie, Barb Curlew & Rick Elliott, Charles D. Duncan, Don Gibson, Mike LeBlanc, Rose-Alma Mallet, Pat McGorlick, Pierrette Mercier, Ray and Dick Peterson, and Gisèle Thibodeau for **American Wigeon** (winter, *Kent*), **Lesser Scaup** (winter, *Westmorland-Albert, York*),

Ruddy Duck (winter, *Westmorland*), **Osprey** (winter, *Madawaska*), **Ruddy Turnstone** (winter, *Kent*), **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Westmorland*), **Red-headed Woodpecker** (*Restigouche*), **Red-bellied Woodpecker** (*Albert*), **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (winter, *Madawaska*), **Pine Warbler** (*Charlotte, York*), **Common Yellowthroat** (winter, *Westmorland*), **Clay-colored Sparrow** (*Kent*), **Red-winged Blackbird** (winter, *Madawaska*)

The author thanks the other members of the committee for their comments and suggestions.

New Brunswick Bird Records Committee / Comité des mentions d'oiseaux du Nouveau-Brunswick, c/o David Christie, secretary, 435 Mary's Point Road, Harvey, Albert Co., N.B. E4H 2M9

NEW BRUNSWICK LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

Dorothy McFarlane

On April 12th and 13th, 2003, the **Nature Trust of New Brunswick** will host, in Fredericton, the first New Brunswick Land Conservation Conference. The conference will be held at the Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre and at the Fredericton Inn, and will feature experts and workshops on land conservation.

This promises to be a dynamic gathering of land stewards, volunteers and land conservation enthusiasts, learning methods to secure and steward the land they love. Concurrent sessions will cover starting a land trust and securing land; easements; negotiating land deals and deal-



ing with legal issues; raising funds; mapping, monitoring and stewarding the land acquired; all accompanied by networking with government, conservation-minded individuals and professionals. Land donors will share their experiences. Discussion topics will interest those who are new to land trusts, and those who are already working in this area. April 13 will be devoted to field trips and networking.

Check www.naturetrust.nb.ca for updates and registration information, call our office at 506-457-2398, or contact Dorothy McFarlane at dorothym@ntnb.org.

HOW TO TELL THE BIRDS FROM THE FLOWERS

Robert Williams Wood (1917)



The Auk.

We seldom meet, when out to walk,
Either the Orchid or the Auk.
The awk-ward Auk is only known
To dwellers in the Auk-tic zone,
While Orchids can be found in legions,
Within the equatorial regions.
So if by chance you travel on
The Lena or the Am-a-zon,
Be certain of the tem-pera-ture
Or you will make mistakes I'm sure.



The Orchid.

STARLINGS NESTING IN SACKVILLE NEW BRUNSWICK

A.J.(Tony) Erskine

Starlings don't get much attention from naturalists – and other people – except when a flock is encountered. Fifty on the lawn may be noticed, 600 on the wires are notable, 5000 anywhere in the Maritimes are spectacular. In town, Starlings are among the few birds whose nests I detect in passing. You may ask: "How does one find Starling nests?"

My notes on nesting Starlings in Sackville began in 1963 when our son (then aged 6) pointed out a bird entering a hole under the garage eave. We viewed the nest contents with a flashlight from the garage attic. That was the only nest here that I could easily watch, from building to fledging, obtaining repeated counts of eggs and later of young. After the young left, I blocked the entrance hole – and with it gave up my best opportunity to study Starling nesting in detail. Most nests I have found after the young hatched. My attention is attracted by seeing the adults carrying in food, or hearing the calls of begging young, or seeing a mess of droppings below the entrance, attracted my attention as I walked by.

Starlings also advertise future nest-sites to potential mates from early spring. The first sign detected usually is a Starling 'winding his watch' – a rattly call reminiscent of the sound made when winding up an old alarm clock (a mechanical one, not electric). A visual signal may be a

Starling on a high perch – above or near a nest-site – waving both wings slowly to call attention to the location. Unless you watched Starlings nesting there in a previous year, such activity might not tell you a nest-site is near, but after watching and waiting you may see the advertising bird enter the nest-hole. I take notes of any Starlings I see entering nest-holes in April or early May, as those may contain young birds five to six weeks later, even if I have seen no activity in between. Starling nests are found most easily in late May and early June.

I had little time free for studying nesting Starlings before 1991, as work (and play) made more pressing demands. I found very few nests here during the 1960s, when summer field work took me away most years in the nesting season, and writing kept me indoors other years. When we returned to Sackville, after 8 years in Ottawa, I censused the breeding birds in town in 1979 and 1981. In early morning, before car-noise drowned out bird voices, the young Starlings begging in nests were easily located. After my retirement in 1991, I paid more attention to nests where young Starlings were heard. On daily walks to and from the office my number of observations grew a total of 115 nest-years, as indicated in Table #. (Numbers in parentheses were of second nestings, some in sites used earlier that year, others similarly late nestings).

Table #1 Nest-years

Time Period	Total	breakdown
1963-68	6	1963 – 1; 1967 -3; 1968 -2
1978-89	27 (2)	1978 – 1; 1979 – 9; 1981 – 10 (2); 1982 – 2; 1984 – 3; 1989 -2
1991-2002	82 (20+)	1991 -2; 1992 -1 (1); 1993 – 2; 1994 – 1(1); 1995 – 2 (4); 1996 – 1; 1997 – 8 (3); 1998 – 10 (4); 1999 – 6 (3); 2000 – 19; 2001 – 7 (4); 2002 -23 (2)
Total	115 +(22) = 127	

Nearly everyone knows what Robin nests look like, but Starlings nests aren't always obvious. So, "Where are they and what are they like?"

Starling nests I found in Sackville were scattered across town. Most were in long built-up areas where older buildings or mature trees provided nest-sites near lawns (foraging sites). Starlings also feed on other lawns and mowed-grass areas in or out of town, but breeding birds try to reduce commuting time, between nest and feeding area to a minimum.

I found Starling nests most frequently inside roof-eaves, where rot or neglect left openings. Much less often, they were inside walls of buildings. Others were in old woodpecker holes in trees (one, found in 1967 in a nest-box was ignored in these comparisons). Starlings used cavities in both private homes, public buildings (including university, school, and hospital structures) as well as stores and offices. Different sites were used with roughly a similar frequency during each period, (Sites used repeatedly were counted only once in each period).

Table #2 Location of Starling Nest Sites

Period	Tree	House ¹ /barn	Institution ²	Business ³	Total
1963-68	2	2	-	1	5
1978-89	7	6	2	9	24
1991-2002	9	10	6	16	41
Total	18	18	8	26	70

¹ including apartments; ² university, school, hospital; ³ store, office, railway station

Note: The difference between Table #1 and #2 (nest-years and nest-sites)

- one site used for 1 year counts as 1 each of nest-sites & nest-years;

- one site used for 5 years counts as 1 site, but as 5 nest-years.

Most 'business' sites in 1978-89 were downtown, whereas those found later were mostly around the railway station and commercial areas paralleling the tracks. Demolition (4) or renovation (6) of old buildings in the centre of town resulting from urban renewal around 1986, eliminated many nesting and roosting holes formerly used by birds there. "Tidying-up" of urban properties continues to the present, with both private homes and stores affected. Nesting in town by most birds (not only Starlings) was markedly reduced since 1980, both in winter and summer. The closure of the (nearby) town dump in 1983 also contributed to the decline of some birds (Erskine 1992). More recently, at least 6 nest-sites used by Starlings in previous years became unavailable between 1998 and 1999, mostly through plugging of holes in buildings. Pruning of dead stubs from trees eliminated 2 nest-sites, but tree-holes were seldom targeted deliberately; one tree fell in a storm, and portions of two stubs containing holes collapsed from rot,

with Starlings later occupying other holes in the same stubs.

Re-use of sites in succeeding years was noted frequently. One tree (2 holes in the same branch-stub, used in succession) was occupied each year 1992-2002, with two nestings each in 5 of 11 years. Two other trees were each used in six successive years, both twice each in two years. In contrast, no site in a building was known to have been used in more than five years, partly because such sites were eliminated during renovations or demolition, but also because I didn't re-check all sites every year. Some sites, in old buildings downtown and in a few university buildings, were too high for me to locate nests from ground level, although noisy young sometimes were heard.

Re-use of nests in the same year was under-sampled, owing to my absence – or inattention – at the time for second nestings. Starting in 1997 I re-checked in July most nests used in late spring, so the proportion of birds nesting a second time (up to 1/4, in some years) observed during

this period may be representative. However, many Starlings do not attempt a second nesting every year, and such nestings are much less conspicuous than first nestings. Temperatures in late July average much warmer than in early June, with the result that the young birds beg for food less, and parents also visit nests less frequently with the second brood.

Chronology was estimated, approximately, by back-dating from fledging to laying dates using the following assumptions. Producing a modal clutch of 5 eggs (laying 1 egg/day) required 5 days followed by 13 days for incubation, and the young remaining in nest for 20 days, thus laying was estimated to have started about 38 d before young flew.

Only nine nestings, all in 1997-99 or 2001 (warm, dry springs), had layings that started before the 1st of May, the earliest being 25th of April (2 nests in 2001). Median date of clutch initiation was the 6th May (first nests, $n=89$), and the latest first layings began 19th of May. Apparent second nestings ($n=22$) were started during the 7th to 28th of June, (median 15th of June), 40 days after median of the first layings. One nest, begun on the 29th of May, was perhaps too early to have followed a successful first nesting. Thirteen nests, each used twice in one season, had re-use intervals (the period between laying starts of 1st and 2nd nestings) ranging from 35 to 58 days with a median of 45 days. The nest with 35 day interval presumably followed a failed first nesting. As the median interval for known re-use was five days longer than that estimated from all nestings, some other assumed second nestings, without known prior use that year, probably followed failed attempts elsewhere. Second nestings only followed successful first nestings (in same site) if the latter had laying begun by the 9th of May. Similarly, years (with c. 6 1st nestings) with median of first layings after 9th of May, had no (detected) second nestings.

Breeding success seemed high at Starling nests in Sackville, as none of those followed was known to fail. However, success was inferred from the following circumstantial evidence observed late in the nesting cycle: large, full-feathered young seen in a nest entrance; or ample excrement below it; followed 1 - 2 days later by absence of activity at the nest, often with begging calls of young heard in nearby treetops. Likely some nest failures occurred earlier, through loss of one or both parents, or predation of eggs or young birds (by rats? as few squirrels live in town). Such losses would not have been detected by my unobtru-

sive observation protocol.

Few comparable data from nearby regions were available. Some Starling nests in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, monitored in 1965-67 by Ford Alward (Erskine 1970), had medians of first layings on 2nd of May ($n=10$) and of second layings of the 9th of June ($n=3$), an interval of 38 days. Those small samples averaged 4 to 6 days earlier than Sackville nestings. No year in Sackville had median laying dates (3-10 May, in 6 years with 8+ nests each) as early as the median in Glace Bay. Sackville has cool summer temperatures, but Glace Bay, having nearly similarly conditions controlled by the cool Atlantic Ocean, wasn't likely to be warmer.

Urban Starling nest records from New Brunswick (in Maritimes Nest Records Scheme) showed similar chronology to Sackville, with a median start of laying being the 5th of May (range 13 April to 25 May; $n=41$ first nests) and apparent second nestings ($n=4$) having a median of the 7th June (2 to 18 June). The short interval between medians of first and second nestings (33 days) probably resulted mostly from imprecise back-dating, single visitation to many nests, and by inconsistency of having many different observers. Starlings likely begin nesting earlier in April in inland New Brunswick where it is warmer than in Sackville. The use of tree-holes by urban-nesting Starlings was less frequently reported on other New Brunswick nest records (6 of 43, or 14% - excluding two from Sackville, both in tree-holes) than in my sample (18 of 70, or 26%). Most nests elsewhere were in cities (Fredericton 22, Moncton / Dieppe 8, Saint John 5) with many residential areas having been built less than 50 years ago and consequently having fewer trees large enough for woodpecker cavities.

My data thus documented occurrences and variations in proportions of a Starling population nesting twice in a season. Some details of use at different types of sites also emerged. Most other information obtained paralleled what already was known from studies elsewhere (e.g. Kessel 1957)

Literature cited

- Erskine, A.J. 1970. Starlings nesting in eastern Nova Scotia. N.S. Bird Soc. Newsletter 12: 33-36.
- Erskine, A.J. 1992. A ten-year winter bird count in Sackville, New Brunswick. Canadian Field-Naturalist 106: 499-506.
- Kessel, B. 1957. A study of the breeding biology of the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris* L.) in North America. American Midland Naturalist 58: 257-331.



NATURE NEWS — Amphibians and Reptiles

Summer – Autumn- Winter 2002

Don McAlpine

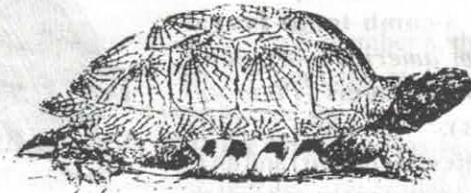
This report, brief as it is, covers the period from July 1 to December 30, 2002. A few observations are included from the weeks preceding July 1 that were not available in time to be included in the previous Nature News. I received few reports of amphibians or reptiles from observers during the observation period, and perhaps missed a few reports posted to Nature NB; since my own field work in 2002 was directed largely at organisms other than herptiles (freshwater mussels), and I spent a good part of the summer on the bottom of the Canaan River in SCUBA gear, the pickings are embarrassingly slim.

Nonetheless, this seems to have been a “turtle summer”, at least in terms of observations reported. On June 1 Peter Pearce observed a **snapping turtle** with a carapace of more than 30 cm length on Carman Creek, Fredericton. Several weeks later, on June 24, Gary Tobin watched a good-sized **snapping turtle**, probably a female searching for a nesting location, cross Highway 1 in St. George. A photograph of this turtle, which appeared in the New Brunswick Reader (see page 18, July 20), shows a snapper with an obvious split in the shell. This is good evidence of one of the hazards these turtle face when they nest along busy roadways, which they often do.

The natural distribution of turtles in New Brunswick has been, and continues to be, obscured by humans; turtles are often captured in one area and released in another. A **wood turtle** observed June 29 by Scott Neilsen (fide Shawna Cox) on the Nashwaak River just downstream of the Durham Bridge had a hole drilled in the back of its shell, evidence that it was at one time captive. Nonetheless, regular reports of wood turtles from the Nashwaak over the years suggest that a reproducing population seems to exist there.

But Fundy Heights, in west Saint John, has no wood turtle habitat. The **wood turtle**, again with a hole drilled in its shell, that Charles Dupuis found wandering near his yard on July 2 was certainly a captive release. Unfortunately, release of turtles into areas they do not naturally occur is not likely to lead to long-term survival for the turtles, nor the establishment of a new turtle population. Recent research also suggests that the removal of even a few adult turtles from a population can have devastating long-

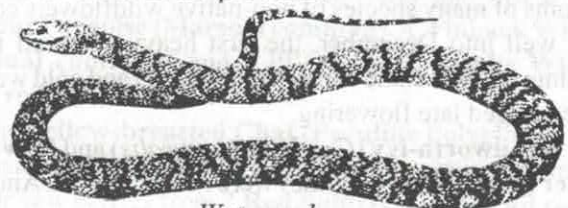
term effects on local populations. One also should be suspicious of the origins of the **wood turtle** Don Gibson observed July 24 near the duck pond in Odell Park, Fredericton. There was some excitement in Kouchibouguac National Park 29 July when an **eastern painted turtle**, a new species for the Park, was captured crossing a roadway. However, some checking around by Mike LeBlanc revealed that the turtle had been captured south of Richibouctou and released in the KNP by some well-meaning visitors who thought a national park would be a better place for it. In truth, this turtle was probably not even native to the Richibouctou area. However, a **wood turtle** observed basking along the shore of the Bass River on July 21 by Jim Clifford was certainly in native habitat.



Wood Turtle

drawing by MH Sawyer

A final observation comes from Maine, but should be a wake-up call to naturalists in the St. Croix area. Tim Fletcher, Angie Buchan and Steve Scott made a trip to Moosehorn Wildlife Refuge, which shares the St. Croix River as common border with New Brunswick, specifically to look for **water snakes**. Moosehorn seems to have a thriving population of water snakes, a species yet to be recorded in New Brunswick. The efforts of the trio did not go unrewarded; they observed three water snakes, including a good-sized 90-100 cm snake. With a population of this species so close to New Brunswick, surely the water snake must occur in the province.



Watersnake

drawing by MH Sawyer

NATURE NEWS — Botany Ramblings

1 October, 2002 to 31 December, 2002

James Goltz (JPG)

FUNGI

At Fredericton, Margo Sheppard discovered many **Shaggy Manes** (*Coprinus comatus*) on October 7 and kindly brought me some for dinner.

A spectacular 12.3 kg. specimen of **Giant Puffball** (*Calvatia gigantea*), measuring 33 by 42 by 31 cm., was found at Tide Head on October 22 (Alan Madden), and a smaller specimen weighing in at 5.4 kg. was reported at Dalhousie Junction earlier in October (fide Alan Madden).

Although a search for the **Downy Rattlesnake-plantain** (*Goodyera pubescens*) orchid (last seen and photographed at Odell Park in Fredericton about 20 years ago) was unsuccessful, the cool wet day of October 27 proved to be ideal for wood-loving fungi. Highlights included a spectacular clump of a **comb tooth fungus** (*Hericium americanum*), some **Oyster Mushrooms** (*Pleurotus ostreatus*), **Orange Jelly** (*Dacryomyces palmatus*) and an as yet unidentified uncoloured, nearly transparent jelly fungus (Michael and Anne Burzynski, JPG).



Oyster Mushroom
drawing by E. Burckmyer

BRYOPHYTES

An interesting moss, found fruiting on the trunks of Silver Maple trees in a floodplain forest along the Keswick River on October 20 (JPG, Margo Sheppard), was identified by Bruce Bagnell as *Leskea polycarpa* (thanks, Bruce!). According to Bruce, this species is typically found in areas with seasonal flooding and hardwood stands with higher humidity, and has distinctive long slender capsules.

VASCULAR PLANTS

Unlike the past few years, when mild weather and the blooms of many species of non-native wildflowers continued well into December, the first heavy snowfall in the autumn of 2002 came early (November 1) and cold weather discouraged late flowering.

Kenilworth-ivy (*Cymbalaria muralis*) and **New York Aster** (*Aster novae-angliae*) were in bloom at St. Andrews on October 6 (JPG, James Walde).

Many plants of **Greater Purple Bladderwort** (*Utricularia purpurea*) were found at Snowshoe Lake near St. Andrews on October 14 (JPG, Carl Duivenvoorden).

On October 19, Ron Arsenault discovered a single plant of **Brass-buttons** (*Cotula coronopifolia*) in bloom along the Memramcook River behind the Saint Joseph sewage lagoon.

A few **Rugel's Plantain** (*Plantago rugelii*) were found at Mouth of Keswick on October 20 (JPG, Margo Sheppard).

Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) was in peak bloom at Cotter Hollow, near Sussex on October 26 (Gart Bishop). According to Gart, "It is such a bizarre plant you have to love it for just being so obstinate to flower when everything else has given up for the year".



Witch-hazel
drawing by E. Burckmyer

Ron Wilson was impressed by the varied and colourful display of leaves of **American Beech** (*Fagus grandifolia*) at Odell Park in Fredericton on October 29. From the bottom to the tops of the Beech trees, there was a transition of leaf colour ranging from yellow green, through bright yellow, through yellow brown, to burnt brown.

Fall Dandelion (*Leontodon autumnalis*) was still in bloom at Mactaquac Dam on November 2 (Don Gibson and JPG) and at Jemseg on November 10 (Shirley Sloat and JPG).

Two **Common Dandelions** (*Taraxacum officinale*) were still in full bloom in a field at Second North River on November 10 (Bob Blake) and over a dozen were seen in bloom at Fredericton on November 11 (James Walde, JPG).

2002 Vascular Plant Reports from A.J. (Tony) Erskine*

The clump of white-flowered **Rhodora** (*Rhododendron canadense* f. *albiflorum*) was still extant at Mt. View and was in bloom there on June 2. The unusual variant of **Scentless Chamomile** (*Matricaria maritima*) with no disc florets was seen in bloom at Sackville on 27 July, the earliest date ever.

Notable finds included **American Germander** (*Teucrium canadense*) near Johnston's Point and **Yellow Chamomile** (*Anthemis tinctoria*) at Ann's Acres, as well as new stations for a number of species that are uncommon in southeastern New Brunswick, e.g., **Skunk Cabbage** (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), **Nodding Trillium** (*Trillium cernuum*), **Purple Loosestrife** (*Lythrum salicaria*), **Fringed Loosestrife** (*Lysimachia ciliata*), **Common Milkweed** (*Asclepias syriaca*) and **Sweet Coltsfoot** (*Petasites palmatus*).

Tony devoted nearly 35 hours to work on his plant atlas project on the Cape Tormentine peninsula, sampling 6 new squares and checking 4 other squares for early-appearing

species that might have been missed in previous surveys. The numbers of species per square ranged from 129 to 181.

Tony noted that the flowering of some late species, such as **New York Aster** (*Aster novi-belgii*) and **Horseweed** (*Erigeron canadensis*) "seemed notably retarded", perhaps as a result of a cool early summer. The higher levels of summer rain compared to most recent years may have been responsible for "above average" crops of **Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier* sp.), **Wild Apples** (*Pyrus malus*), **Blackberry** (*Rubus* cf. *alleghaniensis*) and **Low Sweet Blueberry** (*Vaccinium angustifolium*).

*Thanks very much to Tony Erskine for providing these reports.

NATURE NEWS — New Brunswick Mammal Observations November 2002 To Mid-January 2003

Mike LeBlanc

Please note that all New Brunswick Christmas mammal counts will be in the next issue of the NB Naturalist.

A **Harbour Porpoise** (*Marsoin commun*) was accidentally caught in a Native fishery gill net opposite Campbellton in Oct. This was only the second such specimen observed upstream from the Campbellton wharf that has been reported to Allan Madden in the 33 years he has been in the area. The last recorded porpoise was drowned in a salmon counting trap net at Gillis Island, in the summer of 1999 or 2000, this specimen was donated to the N.B. Museum.

Great observation of 3 **River Otters** (*Loutre de rivière*) were seen diving, swimming up and down the Shediac River in front of Nelson Poirier's home. November 29.

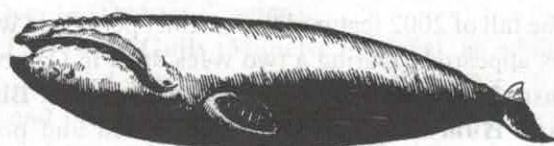


River Otter
M.H. Sawyer

It was not a very good year for some whales in the Bay of Fundy. A total of 8 whales have been reported to have become tangled, unfortunately some did not survive the ordeal. ON a brighter note, it was reported that 21 **Right Whale** (*Baleine franche*) calves were identified this year in the Bay, with 4 known deaths. Laurie D Murison 2 Nov. A young **Right Whale** (*Baleine franche*) was seen within a mile off shore between Swallowtail Light and Fish Head-Whale Cove in Grand Manan and breached 8 times in front the spectators. Laurie D Murison November 8.

David Christie noted that on November 8, the **Eastern Chipmunks** (*Suisse*) that was normally at the feeders did not show for the first time around the feeders.

A **Right Whale** (*Baleine franche*) was seen about 3 miles off shore at Swallowtail light on Grand Manan November 12 Laurie D Murison.



Right Whale
M.H. Sawyer

Close to the shore at Saints Marsh in Saint John 2 **Harbour Porpoise** (*Marsoin commun*) swam for a bit back and forth from east to west. Frank and Diane Kelly November 16.

On November 17, 15 members from the Saint John Naturalists Club took the Grand Manan ferry and saw a few **Harbour Porpoise** (*Marsoin commun*), a **Finback Whale** (*Rorqual commun*) and a **PROBABLE Minke Whale** (*Petit rorqual*) Fide Jim Wilson

The **Yellow-breasted Chat** (*Paruline Polyglotte*) that was visiting David Christie's feeders was getting competition for yew berries from 2 **Red Squirrels** (*Écureuil roux*) and they sometimes chased off the bird. November 22.

A **Deer Mouse (Souris sylvestre)** ran across snow in a driveway in Second North River. *Bob Blake* November 23.

A surprised **Bobcat (Lynx roux)** ran out in front of the car one fine afternoon in Saint-Maurice. It stopped just in the trees on the side of the road. This happened 3 times in one week at a same spot where one was seen last winter. *Mike LeBlanc, Bernadette LeBlanc and Michael LeBlanc* November 27.

A late **Eastern Chipmunk (Suisse)** was spotted at a bird feeder in Tide Head on November 28, about 2 months later than usual. *Allan Madden*.

At feeding station #1, on the Dobson trail in Riverview, *Gilles Bourque* spotted a **Short-Shrew (Grande musaraigne)** on December 6.

Brian Coats had a very lucky observation when he was driving along the Mollins Road in Salisbury, when he spotted a **Bobcat (Lynx roux)** saying he was at the right place at the right time, December 18.

A **Porcupine (Porc-épic d'Amérique)** was observed for 3 weeks at the same spot in the Tantramar Marsh. *Kathy Popma* December 29.

2 **River Otters (Loutre de rivière)** were in a part of the Tantramar marsh swimming and catching fish. *Ruth Millar*, January 4.

On The Homestead road in Moncton 3 **White-tailed Deer (Cerf de Virginie)** were grazing on some shrubs for over an hour. *Bob Blake* January 5.

Nelson Poirier spotted 8 **Deer (Cerfs)** in a field between Sussex and Hampton, January 8.

Butterflies

Allan Madden reported seeing one **Milbert's Tortoise-shell Butterfly** at his home in Tide Head in late August or early September. This was his first sighting of that species in northern N.B.

NATURE NEWS — Birds

October 3, 2002 TO December 31, 2002

Don Gibson

The fall of 2002 featured two distinct periods in which rarities appeared. During a two week span in October, a **Swainson's Hawk**, a **Crested Caracara** and a **Black-chinned Hummingbird** were discovered and photographed. None of those species had been previously documented for the province.

As the year wound down and birders thought their annual list could be tallied, another flurry of unusual sightings occurred. A **Boreal Owl** was found just before Christmas and then on one magical day (Dec. 28) an elusive **Say's Phoebe** and a co-operative **Forster's Tern** were observed on CBCs. That prompted the following comment from the MNC Nature Information Line: "It seems to have happened again, two rare birds in the province on the same day - possibly too much for any serious birder's sanity to cope with." With three days left in the year, could one more appear? Indeed it could, as a **Western Tanager** barely beat the deadline.

Merv Cormier saw about 100 **Red-throated Loons [Plongeon catmarin]** near shore at Saints Rest beach on Nov. 2.

A **Western Grebe [Grèbe de l'Ouest]** was reported at Point Lepreau on Oct. 15 (*Richard Blaquiere* and *Janet Whitehead*).

Two late **Greater Shearwaters [Puffin majeur]** were observed off the Whistle, GMI, on Dec. 1 (RL, MS, RG, AC, BED) and even later, when *Dedreic Grecian* saw two near there on Dec. 18. Although seldom seen from land, one **Manx Shearwater [Puffin des Anglais]** was observed from the Whistle on Oct. 3 (JGW, RS and RP).

Brian Dalzell witnessed a large migration of **Double-crested Cormorants [Cormoran à aigrettes]** near Grand



Western Grebe
C. Garrett

Manan on Oct. 9. Between 11 AM and 12 AM he saw flocks estimated at 100, 150, 450, 250 and 200 birds.

At dusk on Oct. 31 a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** [*Bihoreau violacé*] flew from the trees at Bancroft Point into nearby Castalia Marsh (BED).

A photograph of a **Black Vulture** [*Urubu noir*] appeared in *The Telegraph Journal* (The Reader) on Oct. 26. The photo had been taken at Val-Comeau on Sept. 26 by Ella Robichaud. Another Black Vulture was seen at Mennvale, Restigouche County, on Oct. 25 (Pat Émond).

A **Turkey Vulture** [*Urubu à tête rouge*] was observed at Memramcook on Oct. 15 (Francis LeBlanc).

A **Eurasian Wigeon** [*Canard siffleur*] was seen in the company of three American Wigeon at Cap Brûlé on Nov. 27 (SIT).

St. Andrews once again played host to a **King Eider** [*Eider à tête grise*], Tracey Dean finding a male there on Dec. 15.

Ospreys [*Balbusard pêcheur*] are seldom seen in the province after September, however one was reported at Saint John on Oct. 8 (MC) and another at the Whistle on Oct. 10 (JGW).

Nancy and Ted Sears witnessed a **Northern Goshawk** [*Autour des palombes*] catch a pigeon on Nov. 24 at St. Martins.

Oct. 24 would be considered very late for a **Broad-winged Hawk** [*Petite Buse*] but a juvenile was seen at Grand Manan on that date (SIT).

A dark juvenile **Swainson's Hawk** [*Buse de Swainson*] was discovered at Waterside on Oct. 10 (Stu Tingley, Norm and Gisèle Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet). Over the next two days it was seen briefly at New Horton and Shepody Marsh.

The discovery of a **Golden Eagle** [*Aigle royal*] at Grand Manan on Dec. 2 surprised and delighted Roger LeBlanc, Alain Clavette, Marco Scichilone and Brian Dalzell.

An **American Kestrel** [*Crécerelle d'Amérique*] was observed near Sussex on Nov. 30 (DSC & MM). Julie Pellerin saw a **Gyr Falcon** [*Faucon gerfaut*] at Miscou Island on Oct. 6 and Alain Clavette caught a brief glimpse of one at Moncton on Nov. 3.



Golden Eagle
C. Garrett

A female **Merlin** [*Faucon émerillon*] was seen with prey at Dalhousie on Dec. 7 (Pat McGorlick). A **Peregrine Falcon** [*Faucon pèlerin*], considered rare in the Chaleur region, was seen at Pointe-Verte on Oct. 5 (Luc DeRoche) and again on Oct. 9 (RG).

A **Crested Caracara** [*Caracara du Nord*] was found at Maltampec on Oct. 23 (Frank Branch). The bird disappeared from that location but was rediscovered near Tracadie-Sheila a couple of days later.

An **American Coot** [*Foulque d'Amérique*] was seen at St. George on Oct. 28 (TD). One at Eel River Bar on Nov. 10 (MGD) and another at Saint John on Nov. (SIT) were noted as immature birds. David Christie found one at Daley Creek Marsh on Nov. 19.

A **Killdeer** [*Pluvier kildir*] reported at Jolicure on Dec. 3 (Gay Hansen) is considered late for this species, as is a **Ruddy Turnstone** [*Tournepierre à collier*] found at Dalhousie on Nov. 28 (ML). Marcel David tallied 1115 **Dunlin** [*Bécasseau variable*] at Malbaie Nord on Oct. 13 and 200 were seen at Saints Rest beach on Nov. 5 (MC).

A **Long-billed Dowitcher** [*Bécassin à longue bec*] was identified at Eel River Bar on Oct. 7 (SIT+) and two were found at Malbaie Nord on Oct. 13 (Marcel David). A **Wilson's Snipe** [*Bécassine de Wilson*] was found at Moncton on Dec. 5 (Oscar LeBlanc) and another was seen at Campbellton on Dec. 31 (*fide* MGD).

Two **Pomarine Jaegers** [*Labbe pomarin*] were observed from the Grand Manan ferry on Nov. 14 (PAP) and another was seen from the ferry on Nov. 18 (SJNC). A very late jaeger was spotted from the Grand Manan ferry on Dec. 18 (Dedreic Grecian).

Two **Little Gulls** [*Mouette pygmée*], an adult and a first-year bird, were seen off the Whistle on Oct. 10 (JGW, RS) and the SJNC reported seeing one from the Grand Manan ferry on Nov. 16. Brian Dalzell found a very late one off the Whistle on Dec. 31.

A first-year **Black-headed Gull** [*Mouette rieuse*] was seen at Grand Manan on Oct. 10 (RS, JGW). Adult birds were discovered at Blacks Harbour on Nov. 4 (BED) and at Lords Cove, Deer Island, on Nov. 16 (DGG, SS and Margery Acheson). Dedreic Grecian noted four Black-headed Gulls from the Grand Manan ferry on Dec. 18.

Bev Schneider reported a **Mew Gull** [*Goéland cendré*] at Mactaquac Dam on Nov. 3.

A small tern seen off the Whistle was identified as a **Least Tern** [*Petite Sterne*] on Oct. 5 (JGW, RS and RP). A **Forster's Tern** [*Sterne de Forster*] surprised field observers on the Saint John CBC on Dec. 28 (RAM EP and Janet Whitehead).

Fifteen **Dovekies** [**Mergule nain**] were seen from the Grand Manan ferry on Dec. 18 (Dedreic Grecian). A **Thick-billed Murre** [**Guillemot de Brünnich**] was seen off Point Lepreau on Dec. 15 (JGW, MC and David McCurdy) and four were seen from the Grand Manan ferry on Dec. 18 (Dedreic Grecian).



Dovekie
C. Garrett

Autumn 2002 was a banner season for **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** [**Coulico à bec jaune**]. On Oct. 7 Brian Dalzell reported, "I came dangerously close to clocking a cuckoo near Musquash." (Haven't you always wondered where cuckoo clocks came from?) Other sightings of Yellow-billed Cuckoos included: one at Saint John on Oct. 6 (EP, RAM), one at Miscou Island on Oct. 6 (Julie Pellerin), two at Grand Manan on Oct. 8 (RS, JeW, JGW) one at Hillsborough on Oct. 11 SIT, one at Cape Enrage on Oct. 11 (DSC and MM), two at Deer Island on Oct. 11 (MC), two at Saint John on Oct. 12 (MC), one at Cape Enrage on Oct. 14 (Valmond Bourque), one at Saint John on Oct. 15 (MC). On Oct. 20 Merv Cormier claimed his eleventh Yellow-billed Cuckoo sighting of the season when he spotted one at Saint John.

The corpse of a gray phase **Eastern Screech-Owl** [**Petit-duc maculé**] was discovered on a train at Edmundston in mid-November. Apparently it had been hit by the train between Toronto and Edmundston (*fide* Denys Bourque).

Merv Cormier found a **Short-eared Owl** [**Hibou des marais**] at Saint John on Oct. 8. Others were seen at St. Maurice on Oct. 22 (Mike LeBlanc), at Saint-Jacques on Nov. 21 (Denys Bourque) and two at Moncton on Dec. 28 (Gilles Bourque).

Jim Goltz discovered a **Boreal Owl** [**Nyctale de Tengmalm**] at Fredericton on Dec. 20. It remained in a back yard in a residential area for most of the day.

A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** [**Colibri à gorge rubis**] seen on Oct. 6 at Sackville by John Chardine was unusually late, but it was upstaged by a **Black-chinned Hummingbird** [**Colibri à gorge noire**] that appeared in the yard of David Christie on Oct. 26.

The **Belted Kingfisher** [**Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique**] is seldom found in the province during December, however one was found along the Nashwaak River on Dec. 8 (PAP), one at Deer Island on Dec. 11 (BED), one at St. Édouard (Mike LeBlanc) on Dec. 21 and one on the Tracadie-Sheila CBC on Dec. 29.

A few **Northern Flickers** [**Pic flamboyant**] lingered into December. Bev Schneider found one at Mactaquac on Dec. 1. Others included one at Hammond River on Dec. 14 (JGW), one at Fredericton on Dec. 16 (PAP) and one at Tracadie-Sheila on Dec. 29 (CBC).

A hardy **Say's Phoebe** [**Moucherelle à ventre roux**] was discovered at Gagetown on Dec. 28 (DGG and David Myles). Despite many cold days and nights the elusive flycatcher was occasionally seen over the next two weeks.

A **Western Kingbird** [**Tyrann de l'Ouest**] was seen at the Whistle on Oct. 6 (JGW).

White-eyed Vireos [**Viréo aux yeux blancs**] made a fall appearance in the province, one being found at Grand Manan on Oct. 4 (JGW and RP) and one at Saint John on Oct. 6 (EP, RAM). A White-eyed Vireo discovered at Miscou Island on Oct. 12 (Robert Doiron, Frank Branch and Roland Robichaud) was the first record for the Acadian Peninsula.

A late swallow discovered by Yvon Beaulieu at Hillsborough on Oct. 9 was closely scrutinized but somewhat disappointingly it was determined to be a **Cliff Swallow** [**Hirondelle à front blanc**].

Two **Carolina Wrens** [**Troglodyte de Caroline**] were at Campbellton from mid-Oct. to Dec. (*fide* Mélina Maltais). One was heard singing at North Head on Oct. 25 (SIT, RAM, Norm and Gisele Belliveau) and Gerald MacLean reported having one at Cumberland Bay in late December.

A **House Wren** [**Troglodyte familier**] was reported at North Head on Oct. 12 (Jim Leslie) and Dwayne Sabine discovered a **Marsh Wren** [**Troglodyte des marais**] at Eel River (near Benton) on Oct. 8.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher [**Gobemoucheron gris-bleu**] sightings include one at Miscou Island on Oct. 6 (Julie Pellerin), one at Alma on Oct. 9 (Doreen Rossiter), another at Miscou Island on Oct. 12 (RD), one at Marys Point (DSC) and one at Saint John on Oct. 15 (MC).

A **Northern Wheatear** [**Traquet motteux**] was reported at Fredericton on Dec. 16 (Bev Schneider). A **Townsend's Solitaire** [**Solitaire de Townsend**] was reported at Caron Brook on Oct. 31 (*fide* Denys Bourque).

A **Brown Thrasher** [**Moqueur roux**] was seen at Grand Manan on Oct. 4 (JGW, RP).

A **Blue-winged Warbler** [**Paruline à ailes bleues**] was seen Bancroft Point on Oct. 10 (BED) and Stu Tingley found one at Shediac on Nov. 8.

A **Golden-winged Warbler** [**Paruline à ailes dorées**] found at Miscou Island on Oct. 12 (Robert Doiron and Frank Branch) was thought to be only the second record for the Acadian Peninsula.

During October and November, **Orange-crowned Warblers** [*Paruline verdâtre*] were reported at Grand Manan, Saint John, Miscou Island and Fredericton. On Oct. 13 Robert Doiron estimated that he recorded his ninth in three weeks.

Yellow-throated Warblers [*Parulie à gorge jaune*] frequented a feeders at Cocagne on Nov. 4 (Louis-Émile Cormier) and at Riverview on Dec. 3 (Dale Duplessis).

On Oct. 4 **Prairie Warblers** [*Paruline des prés*] were found at Grand Manan (RS) and at White Head Island (RP, JGW). One was seen at Fundy National Park on Oct. 11 (SIT) and another was reported at Saint John on Oct. 16 (JGW).

Yellow-breasted Chats [*Paruline polyglotte*] were reported from Alma, St. Andrews, Moncton, Tracadie-Sheila, Marys Point and Saint John. On Nov. 1 Tracey Dean reported banding her fourth chat of the season at St. Andrews.

An **Ovenbird** [*Paruline couronnée*] must have had access to an oven to survive until at least Dec. 31, when it was discovered on the Kingston Peninsula by Alan Gorham.

An extremely tame **Western Tanager** [*Tangara à tête rouge*] appeared at the feeder of Carmella and Tom Dupuis at Shediac Cape on Dec. 31.

A female **Eastern Towhee** [*Tohi à flancs roux*] was seen at Bancroft Point on Oct. 18 (BED). Another towhee was reported at Youngs Cove on Nov. 4 (Marie and Calvin Duffy). One was heard at White Head Island on Dec. 1 (RL). The CBC at Lamèque also produced one on Dec. 22.

Jim Leslie reported a **Clay-colored Sparrow** [*Bruant des plaines*] at North Head on Oct. 12. One was seen at Miscou Island on Oct. 13 (RD) and another at Fredericton on Oct. 17 (SS).

A **Field Sparrow** [*Bruant des champs*] was seen at Gagetown on Oct. 6 (DGG) and one appeared at the feeder of Valmond Bourque at Memramcook on Dec. 8 and remained for the rest of the month. Another visited the feeder of Bob Carson at Millidgeville on Dec. 13.

An immature **Lark Sparrow** [*Bruant à joues marron*] was seen at Castalia Marsh on Oct. 6 (RS).

A few **Ipswich Sparrows**, a subspecies of the Savannah Sparrow [*Bruant des prés*], were reported at

Grand Manan. Those sightings included two at Castalia Marsh on Oct. 6 (BED) and one at North Head on Oct. 13 (AC). On Nov. 8 Brian Dalzell found ten Ipswich Sparrows, five at Castalia Marsh, three at Stanley Beach and two on the Whistle road.

Two adult female **Dickcissels** [*Dickcissel d'Amérique*] were discovered at Point Lepreau on Oct. 3 (JGW, RS, RP). A Dickcissel visited the feeder of Frank Kelly at Saint John on Oct. 27 and one was in Aldei Robichaud's yard at Saint John on Nov. 2. Doreen Rossiter found one along the beach at Alma on Nov. 4.

On Nov. 9 **Eastern Meadowlarks** [*Sturnelle des prés*] were found at Saint John (Kevin Tutt and Christine Cornell) and at Second Falls (Dave Baldwin). Another meadowlark was seen at Alma on Nov. 26 (Doreen Rossiter).

A **Rusty Blackbird** [*Quiscale rouilleux*] was found at New Jersey on Nov. 9 (Dave McLeod) and two appeared at the feeder of Nev Garrity at Sackville on Nov. 30.

Lingering **Baltimore Orioles** [*Oriole de Baltimore*] were recorded at Alma on Oct. 24 (Doreen Rossiter), at Marys Point on Nov. 1 (DSC), two at North Head on Nov. 18 (SJNC) and at Grand Bay-Westfield on Nov. 28 (RP).

Birds: one **Peregrine Falcon** flying low over the Tide Head Marsh Oct. 1 and 2. (Alan Madden)

The following three sightings are of birds not yet recorded for New Brunswick. During November Ivy Austin reported seeing an **Arctic Loon** [*Huair arctique*] at Miscou Island. A bird suggestive of a **Thayer's Gull** was seen at Dalhousie on Nov. 28 (Mike Lushington and Steve Methot). While driving along Highway 1 between Pennfield and St. George on Dec. 12, Brian Dalzell saw a crow that he thought might have been a **Fish Crow** [*Corneille de rivage*].

Abbreviations: AC Alain Clavette; BED Brian Dalzell; CBC Christmas Bird Count; DSC David Christie; EP Eileen Pike; GMI Grand Manan Island; JeW Jean Wilson; JGW Jim Wilson; MC Merv Cormier; MGD Margaret Gallant Doyle; MM Mary Majka; MNC Moncton Naturalists' Club; MS Marco Scichilone; PAP Peter Pearce; RAM Rose-Alma Mallet; RD Robert Doiron; RG Roger Guitard; RL Roger LeBlanc; RP Rick Peacock; RS Ron Steeves; SIT Stu Tingley; SJNC Saint John Naturalists' Club; SS Shirley Sloat; TD Tracey Dean.



Ovenbird
M.H. Sawyer

NATURE NEWS — Contact Information

Nature News relies on NBFN members to report their various nature finds. The following people work as a team to ensure that this section is as complete as possible. Please send your observations to the appropriate compiler.

Birds

Winter issue: Don Gibson, 50 Golf Club Rd,
Fredericton, NB E3B 5M4 Tel. (506) 454-
3261 email – gibsondg@nbnet.nb.ca

Spring issue: Rose-Alma Mallet, 801 Route 133,
Boudreau West, NB E4P 6P2 Tel. (506) 532-
3482 email – malletra@nbnet.nb.ca

Summer issue: Ken MacIntosh, 220 King St. E.,
Saint John NB E2L 1H3 Tel 693-6799
email coopers@nbnet.nb.ca

Fall issue: Pierrette Mercier, 888 chemin de
Pouvoir, St-Joseph de Madawaska, NB E7B
2M4 Tel. (506) 735-6872 email –
petem@nb.sympatico.ca

Butterflies

Jim Edsall, 59 Anne St., Moncton, NB E1C 4J5
Tel. (506) 855-4934 email –
edsallj@nbnet.nb.ca

Dragonflies

Stuart Tingley, 30 ch. de l'Aigle, Shediac Bridge,
NB E4R 1G6 Tel. (506) 532-3482 email –
tingley@nbnet.nb.ca

Plants

Jim Goltz, 126 Wilsey Rd. Apt. 17, Fredericton
NB E3B 5J1 Tel. (506) 459-8685 email –
marph@nbnet.nb.ca

Reptiles and Amphibians

Don McAlpine, Curator of Zoology, Natural
Science Department, New Brunswick
Museum, 277 Douglas Ave. Saint John, NB
E2K 1E5 Tel. (506) 643-2345 E email –
dmcalpin@nb.aibn.com

Mammals

Mike LeBlanc, 1529 St-Gabriel Rd., Saint-
Maurice, NB E4S 5C1 Tel. (50) 743-8485
email – pandion@nbnet.nb.ca

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

277 Douglas Ave.

Saint John NB E2K 1E5

Return Postage Guaranteed / Port de retour garanti

Canadian Publications Mail Product

Sales Agreement No. 40050205