

30 (2) Summer / Été 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. E2K 1E5 Canada

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

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

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

Celebration of Birds Nature Club (Gagetown), c/o Bonnie Hamilton Bogart, 194 Tilley Road, Gagetown NB E5M 1H7; email bonniehb@nb.sympatico.ca. Information evenings every second week in February and March, and field trips in April and May.

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

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

Club de Naturalistes Vallée de Memramcook a/s Yolande LeBlanc, 251 rue Centrale, Memramcook NB E4K 3P8; tél 758-9583; courriel: yolande@nbnet.nb.ca réunions 1e mardi de mois, sept. à juin, à la Salle Mère Marie-Léonie

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

Club les Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est INC, a/s Abel Doucet, C.P. 4204, Dieppe, NB E1A 6E8, ligne d'information: 532-Buse réunions alternant entre Dieppe et Shédiac, 1er mercredi du mois; excursions 3ième samedi ou dimanche; *La plume verte*.

Ford Alward Naturalist Association, c/o Elizabeth McIntosh, 560 Kenneth Road, Glassville, E7L 1V3; 246-5572; meets Florenceville Town Hall, 7:00 pm, 4th Thur., Sept.-June; meetings advertised in local newspapers.

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

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

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

Moncton Naturalists' Club, Box 28036, Highfield Square P.O., Moncton, NB E1C 9N4; 384-6397 (information line); meets Church of the Nazarene, 21 Fieldcrest Drive, 7 pm, 2nd Mon., Sept.-June; monthly newsletter.

Restigouche Naturalists' Club, c/o 214 Roseberry Street, Campbellton, NB E3N 2H5; 684-3258; meets Village-Campbellton Nursing Home, 7 pm, 1st Monday; <http://members.tripod.com/~RestNatClub>

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

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

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

Please submit articles for future issues of N.B. Naturalist to:
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RAPPORT DU PRÉSIDENT / PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mike LeBlanc

Wow! Summer is here and before we know it, it will already be long gone.

I would like to thank the Fredericton Nature Club for their hospitality and for organizing a great AGM. I know that Bernadette and I and many of you had positive comments on the organisation of the AGM during the weekend. Thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work to make this weekend a success.

Some comments heard at Bouctouche last year and at Fredericton this year made me realise that perhaps some have forgotten what the weekend of the AGM is all about. We have to realise that our organisation is evolving and growing all the time. A lot is going on and issues have to be reported to the membership. The executive realises that by Saturday evening, many people are tired after a long day afield. We took steps to shorten the business, or AGM, by giving all club reports a maximum of two minutes for their presentations. But it is important that the reports and motions be carefully looked at. This year, the meeting lasted about 75 minutes, which I consider to be very good considering all the information and presentations we went through. I feel that some issues were perhaps even rushed. I believe that it is a very important part of the calendar year of the NBFN - FNNB. And, of course, conduct of such a meeting is specified in our by-laws.

At the AGM, a Species-at-Risk education kit was unveiled for schools across New Brunswick and also a frog poster. If you would want more information about these two great projects, you can always contact Marieka Arnold in our Fredericton office.

Next year, our AGM will be hosted by le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée and will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Canadian Nature Federation. Hope to see you there!

As I am writing this, the NBFN - FNNB is hosting, again this year, summer youth Nature Camps. St. Andrews and Moncton will be the areas where these camps are taking place in 2003. Shannon Brander is returning for a second year with this program. Jessica Prentice and Kayoe Stewart, who is replacing Brigitte Julien as camp director, will be spending some time with the youth of New Brunswick exploring this wonderful thing we call nature.

Your NBFN - FNNB executive will be meeting at the end of September, so if you have any comments or suggestions we would love to hear from you. You can contact me by any of the means identified in the front

cover of our journal or anyone else on the board, or your club representative.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

L'été est finalement venu mais on réalisera qu'il sera bientôt chose du passé.

J'aimerais remercier le Fredericton Nature Club pour avoir été le club hôte, très accueillant, de l'AGA de cette année. Bernadette et moi, ainsi que plusieurs de vous, n'avaient que des commentaires positifs de l'organisation. Un gros merci à tout les bénévoles pour avoir fait cette fin de semaine un véritable succès.

Durant les deux années de ma présidence, à Bouctouche en 2002 et cette année, certains commentaires me font réaliser que peut-être on a oublié le pourquoi de cette fin de semaine. Il faut réaliser que notre organisation grandie et évolue et il y a beaucoup d'information à passer aux membres.

L'exécutif a décidé de ne donner que deux minutes par club pour leur rapport afin de raccourcir la réunion. Mais il faut se rappeler que chaque rapport et proposition sont importants. Cette année, la réunion dura 75 minutes, que je considère très bon, considérant le montant d'informations et présentations. Je sens que même certains items ont même passé un peu hâtivement. Je trouve ce rassemblement de la fin de semaine une très importante parti de la FNNB-NBFN. En plus, c'est une spécification des lois.

À l'AGA, une trousse éducative des Espèces-en-péril ainsi qu'un 'poster' de grenouilles fut dévoilée. Pour plus d'info, contactez Marieka Arnold au bureau de Fredericton.

L'année prochaine, c'est le club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée qui sera hôte, en conjonction avec la Fédération Canadienne de la Nature. Espérons tous vous voir là!

Au moment de vous écrire, la FNNB-NBFN coordonne encore cet été les camps Nature Jeunesse. St. Andrews et Moncton sont les lieux de ces camps. Shannon Brander nous retourne encore cet été à ce programme. Jessica Prentice et Kayoe Stewart, qui remplace Brigitte Julien comme directeur de camp, seront parmi les jeunes explorant la belle nature du Nouveau-Brunswick.

L'exécutif de la FNNB-NBFN se rencontre à la fin de septembre, alors si vous avez des questions ou commentaires, n'hésitez pas de me contacter aux coordonnées à la page couverture, ou votre représentant de club.

Merci et profitez du reste de l'été!

TUNNELING INTO A BANK

Don Gibson

The Bank Swallow carries a larger set of site specifications than other swallows when in search of a place to nest. First a steep cliff or bank near a good foraging area has to be located. Then the most critical detail has to be checked - the composition of the material in the steep face, as it has to be workable yet stable enough to support a tunnel. Fortunately there appears to be no preference in compass orientation of the bank and sites are not rejected for that reason.

The thought of confinement is an unpleasant one for most of us. Therefore spending about five weeks at the end of small tunnel raising a young family seems very unappealing. However for a Bank Swallow a properly placed colony has some important advantages - protection from the elements (temperature fluctuations, wind and precipitation) and it is almost out of reach of any surface animal.

Bank Swallows place their burrows near the top of a steep bank creating a situation where a potential predator would have a difficult time negotiating the near vertical face, from below or above. Elsewhere in North America there have been records of Gopher Snakes and Black Rat Snakes reaching the entrances, and over the course of a few days virtually wiping out an entire colony. In New Brunswick none of the native snakes are really a threat to Bank Swallows.

When a steep bank has been located the next requirements are that the material must permit easy excavation and it has to hold its shape and not cave in. Friable soils that are sandy or silty are chosen as the birds can excavate easily in this type of soil. Most of the sites have been undisturbed for decades, maybe centuries, thus natural compaction has taken place. This combined with the appropriate water content creates a soil that has achieved a stability that will permit a small tunnel to be constructed without collapsing.

In New Brunswick many Bank Swallow colonies are found in sandpits. Sand is a very valuable construction material and is widely mined, creating newly exposed faces, making an ideal situation for the birds. A large sandpit at Nashwaak Village, near Fredericton, had a very active colony in 2003 with about 150 active burrows. The entrances were from six to twenty metres above the base of the pit and a minimum of one metre from the top.

Two Bank Swallows were observed flying about the Nahwaak Village site on May 8. As of May 16 many birds were present yet no burrows were visible; however, by May 20 many had been excavated. The pit operator was respectful of the nesting birds and organized his activities accordingly by working well away from face with the nests during the nesting period.

The ample coastline in the province also provides opportunities for nesting Bank Swallows. Along both the Fundy coast and the east coast these birds have been able to find steep cliffs consisting of material suitable for burrow construction.

Although most sites are in natural stratum, there are instances when circumstances allow suitable sites to be found in human-made piles. At the City of Fredericton Public Works Depot on Regent Street, Bank Swallows have used sand piles as nest-sites for the past few years; sand that has been placed in large stockpiles and is used for construction

purposes during the summer (or ice control in winter). The sand may have been placed there few months previously but it obviously meets the required stability for the purpose of the swallows.

There have even been recorded instances of the birds using sawdust piles. It is difficult to imagine what would prompt a Bank Swallow to try to excavate in material that would appear so unlike any type of soil.

To start the burrow, Bank Swallows cling to a slight projection on a vertical face and use their bills in a slashing motion. Once inside, the feet and wings are used to eject the dislodged material. For purposes of digging, they have relatively stronger leg muscles than other swallows. The male does the majority of the excavating of the burrow whereas the female does most of the actual nest building by depositing twigs, grasses and feathers at a terminal chamber.

Finding a steep bank face would be relatively easy for the far-ranging Bank Swallow but how do they recognize the very specific soil conditions that they require for successful burrow construction? Imagine if you will, encountering a boulder after hours of excavation - it would be like finding a metre thick concrete wall just before the money vault. These birds obviously have engineering instincts that we can only begin to comprehend.

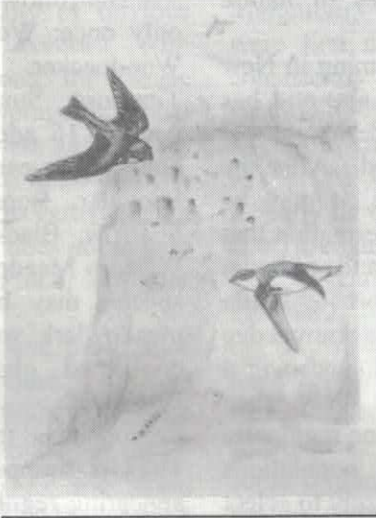


Illustration by Margery Acheson

A CAPITAL COUNT

Peter Pearce and Don Gibson

Many watchers of birds, from novice to seasoned veteran, take part in the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). It has become a traditional event, a social outing, another thing to do during the festive season. With many other kinds of surveys of birds, it contributes to ornithological knowledge and to the cause of nature conservation.

The CBC at Fredericton, the longest running in New Brunswick, began haltingly a half century ago and has been held annually since 1959 when the Fredericton Field Naturalists' (now Nature) Club was founded. After the passage of what seems such a long time, it may be appropriate to examine the large body of information that has been generated, a product of many thousands of hours of, for the most part, pleasurable effort. While undertaking this very cursory review we acknowledge that the results of a local CBC, albeit conducted over a long time, do not mean much in isolation. Only when combined with the results of other counts done regionally does the interpretation of trends in bird populations become more secure. Our intent here is merely to select a few highlights and to identify some apparent trends. We have not corrected the data for observer effort, which has remained fairly constant for at least the last 15 years, nor have we attempted to assess the critical importance of the weather at count time.

Two departures from the normal procedure should be mentioned. Firstly, the count circle was centred on Fredericton up to 1959. For reasons now obscure, it was then moved a few kilometres down-river (the circle then embracing less urban habitat) before being restored to its original position in the mid-1960s. Secondly, in 1987 Edmonton formally challenged Fredericton to "out perform" it in certain aspects of the CBC. In response, Fredericton mounted a substantially increased observer effort, perhaps reflected in the number of birds reported being about one-third higher than on counts in the immediately preceding and following years. However, that effect was obscured by the fact that the winter of 1987-88 was such a big one for incursive northern finches and waxwings. Despite those various problems, we now proceed.

The number of species noted on Fredericton CBCs gradually increased to a plateau in the early 1980s, thereafter remaining between 50 and 59. A total of 108 species has been noted on the day of the count, an additional 19 in the count period. Total birds tallied each year averaged about 8000 in the last two decades, 5000 to 6000 in the preceding 20 years. Discounting the 1967

results which were influenced by an improbably high starling count, a point we briefly return to below, total birds twice exceeded 10 000. We feel these numbers are fairly impressive for an inland station slipping into a New Brunswick winter.

The following seven unlikely species were recorded only once: Wood Duck, Peregrine Falcon, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Tufted Titmouse, Summer Tanager and Lapland Longspur. Among 16 additional count-period birds reported only once in 50 years, the following merit attention: Northern Shoveler, Boreal Owl, Eastern Phoebe, Grasshopper Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting and Western Meadowlark. A few remarks on some of those species may be appropriate. The tit, grosbeak and meadowlark were believed to be the first or second confirmed observations of those species in New Brunswick. The phoebe report seemed highly improbable at the time but retrospectively more plausible. The Grasshopper Sparrow obliged many bird watchers by appearing regularly at a feeder for several weeks. The sapsucker seemed so out of season as to suggest a case of mistaken identity. Finally, what about the acceptability of two reports of both Loggerhead Shrike and Osprey? Season could, arguably, rule out both. The shrike had two other strikes against it - extreme rarity and close similarity to its northern relative. These examples point up a problem faced by CBC compilers having to deal with single-observer reports of highly improbable birds. Does, or should, doubt give way to diplomacy?

Three species are noteworthy as fairly recent arrivals at Fredericton. Virtually absent before 1980, the Mourning Dove gradually built in numbers thereafter, from four in 1981 to 549 in 2002. Northern Cardinals, which first appeared in the 1970s, are now seen in small numbers regularly, an average of eight being reported each year over the last decade although we suspect that more are present. Finally, House Finches arrived on the scene in the late 1980s, an average of 14 being counted each year over the past ten. Unlike the growing, early-winter dove population, the cardinals and finches reached a plateau about a decade ago. All three species have undoubtedly responded to the proliferation of bird-feeding stations. All now nest at Fredericton.

Three introduced species - Rock Dove, European Starling and House Sparrow - together often represented well over one-third of the total birds tallied.

Rock Dove numbers have gradually increased, tripling in the last decade to exceed 2000 for the first time

on the 2002 count. The highly successful starling was the most abundant bird throughout all the counts. On average it comprised nearly one-fifth of all birds reported. (The starling total in one particular year, 1967, was discounted when we looked for trends because it was so out of line, being nearly three times greater than the next highest total for that species. The size of one or more flocks must surely have been grossly overestimated. This illustrates another difficulty faced by CBC compilers - that of judging the reliability of obvious "guesstimates" of flock size). In contrast with burgeoning dove and starling populations, the House Sparrow is in noticeable decline. Average numbers reported in each of the last four decades were 3854, 1130, 524 and 71. Only a single bird was noted in 2001. The trend suggests this species is on the road to extirpation, a possibility which many will not regret. It does not appear that it is being replaced by the House Finch, as might have been expected.

Among several curiosities in the data sets, the case of the Brown-headed Cowbird may be cited. It was recorded fairly regularly from the mid-1960s to the late 1980s but not before nor since that period. A peak, averaging 25 birds, occurred between 1981 and 1985. Contrary to conventional wisdom, we believe that species to be quite uncommon now at any time of year, at least at Fredericton. Another bird, the Evening Grosbeak, we think of as a quintessential feeder attendee. In each of the four decades since 1963, average numbers were 100, 249, 1487 and 156, peaks (up to 2910) occurring in 1983 to 1991. Then followed a dramatic decline to the point when none were seen on the 2002 CBC, a strange and unaccustomed phenomenon.

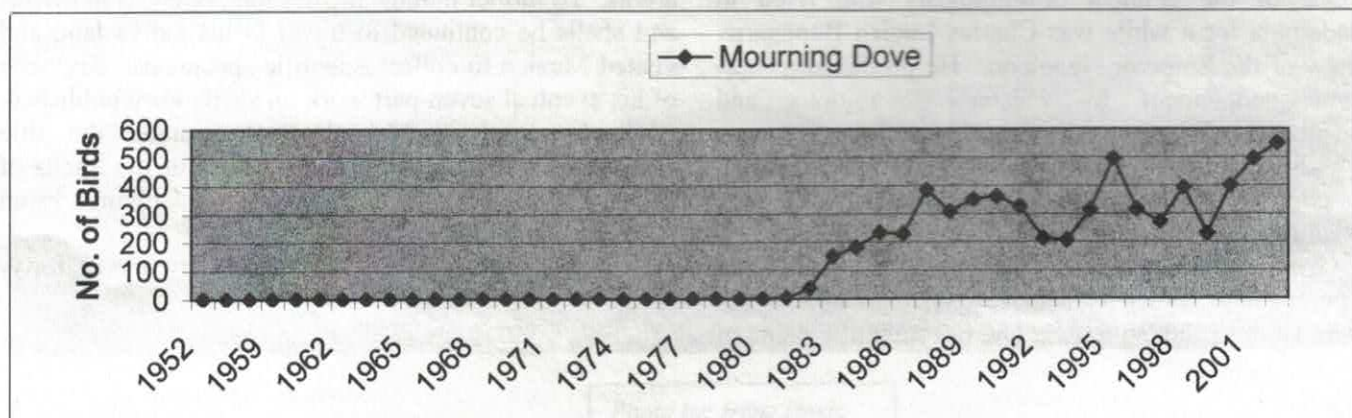
In terms of numbers of individuals, gulls were not big players on the Fredericton CBC, five species together constituting only one-tenth of all birds reported annually in the last decade. Herring Gulls began to be noted a little before the Great Black-backed species but over the

last ten years the latter has almost consistently outnumbered the former. Relative early-winter newcomers, Ring-billed Gulls were reported annually only since the mid-1990s. Annual variation in the timing and extent of river freeze-up are the main factors controlling gull numbers on the Fredericton CBC.

Twenty species of waterfowl have been recorded during the history of the count but only four (Canada Goose, Black Duck, Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser) in any appreciable number. Black Ducks were first noted in the mid-1970s, Mallards not being consistently reported until about 15 years later. Both species fluctuated widely in number, blacks being more numerous than Mallards but sometimes only marginally so. (At some local sites during the fall, Mallards recently far outnumbered Black Ducks.)

Three developments at or near Fredericton during the last 50 years probably influenced CBC results. Firstly, the count circle now embraces more urban environments, the city's population having almost tripled. That should have favoured pigeons, starlings and House Sparrows. Secondly, completion in 1968 of a hydroelectric dam at Mactaquac, 20 km above Fredericton, may have had some implication for the river ice regime at the capital but the picture is unclear. Lastly, there was a change in the manner in which the municipality managed solid waste disposal in 1986 when a local dump was replaced by a much larger, more sanitary, regional landfill nearby. Oddly, the number of gulls and starlings frequenting the new site does not seem to have diminished.

There is little doubt that the CBC will continue to be a popular pursuit as more and more people take up bird watching. How will it reflect the influence on bird populations of factors such as further urbanization and global climate change? There will surely be significant effects in the next 50 years. We leave it to others to report in due course.



THOMAS SAY - AMERICAN NATURALIST

Peter Pearce

Recent encounters with the celebrated Gagetown and Saint John Say's Phoebes prompted me to learn something about the person for whom the bird was named. In that pursuit I consulted Edward Gruson's "Words for Birds: a Lexicon of North American Birds with Biographical Notes" (published by Quadrangle Books in 1972) and "Biographies for Birdwatchers" by Barbara and Richard Mearns (published in 1988 by Academic Press). In preparing the following sketch I drew heavily on those information sources and, of course, the Internet.

Thomas Say was born in 1787 to a wealthy physician-pharmacist family in Philadelphia, a grand-nephew of the renowned botanist William Bartram. Despite what must have been an early and rapidly growing interest in natural history and a lack of much formal education, Say studied pharmacy with his father. With a partner he subsequently opened a pharmacist's shop which survived for only a while before going bankrupt.

A self-taught naturalist with wide-ranging interests in insects, molluscs and birds, Say became a highly respected member of a group of prominent natural scientists who made their home in Philadelphia. He accompanied an expedition to Georgia and Florida with sportsman-naturalist George Ord (who wrote the ninth and final volume of Alexander Wilson's great work on American birds after his death) and artist-naturalist Titian Peale (perhaps the Peale remembered in the name of a Peregrine Falcon subspecies.) The following year, 1819, Say was the official zoologist on Major Stephen Long's expedition to the Rocky Mountains. It was then that he encountered and later published the first scientific descriptions of the Coyote (then commonly known as Prairie Wolf) and the Swift Fox. On that safari, a Black Phoebe was collected that became the type for the genus.

One of the eminent ornithologists who lived in Philadelphia for a while was Charles Lucien Bonaparte, nephew of the Emperor Napoleon. He produced a four-volume supplement to Wilson's "ambitious and innovative" publication on American birds to cover newly-discovered species and revisions to Wilson's taxonomy. It was titled "The American Ornithology; or, The Natural History of Birds Inhabiting the United States Not Given by Wilson". It included Say's Phoebe and Cooper's Hawk which Bonaparte named to honour his friends Thomas and William. (The full scientific name of

the Say's Phoebe became *Sayornis saya* (Bonaparte)). Birds were of considerable interest to Say himself. He edited Bonaparte's "American Ornithology". He also gave the first zoological descriptions of the Long-billed Dowitcher, Band-tailed Pigeon, Western Kingbird, Rock Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, Lark Sparrow and Lesser Goldfinch.

Say was involved in the foundation of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia at the age of twenty-five. He became Curator of the American Philosophical Society in 1821 and was appointed Professor of Natural History at the University of Pennsylvania the following year.

He was known to his naturalist colleagues and friends primarily as an entomologist and is remembered by posterity as the Father of American (Descriptive) Entomology. He described over 1000 new species of beetles and some 400 other kinds of insects. Most of the nearly 100 species of insects discovered by Say that occur in the Maritime Provinces are beetles. The Colorado Potato Beetle is probably the most familiar, at least in name. Other monickers that pique one's imagination include the Twicestabbed Lady Beetle, a Handsome Fungus Beetle and the Fourspotted Spittlebug. Say's pioneering work on insects was published in three volumes from 1824 to 1828 under the title "American Entomology, or Descriptions of the Insects of North America".

Say is also remembered in the annals of ichthyology in the scientific names of two fishes - the Pirate Perch, first described by his friend Jacob Gilliams (one of the founders of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia) and the Bluntnose Stingray, discovered by Say's naturalist-artist friend Charles-Alexandre Lesueur.

He "retired" to the small Indiana town of New Harmony to join a community of scientists, educators and artists. To further indulge his life-long interests in insects and shells he continued to travel in his native land and visited Mexico to collect scientific specimens. Six parts of his eventual seven-part work on shells were published, while he lived in New Harmony, under the title "American Conchology, or Descriptions of the Shells of North America Illustrated From Coloured Figures From Original Drawings Executed From Nature".

Thomas Say died in 1834 at the early age of forty-seven.

MY RESTIGOUCHE RIVER RUN, Part III*Irene Doyle*

We are now heading back up the river as I had asked Pat to go all the way around Cross Point Island before heading down river so I could get a real good look around. We are again coming to the warden's camp. We see the warden on the beach and stop to talk to him. His name is Denzil Downs and I have my hand-held tape recorder with me and ask him a few questions. He laughs and says "Am I on the air? Denzil Downs here, warden on the Restigouche River. I'm here in my camp at Rock Pool and the water right now is very, very low and we're just praying right now to get some rain, to make it better for the clean-up crews. They are doing a very good job at keeping the Restigouche River very nice and clean and picking up their cans and keeping the picnic sites area very, very good."

Apparently the clean-up crew he is talking about are the guys hired by the government on the project I was speaking of earlier. It started off as a three-year project to sensitize people to the importance of the river - to clean it up and help keep it clean, to prepare and manage special spots on the islands for camping, to make sure there is wood, and toilets and garbage cans are in place and cleaned for the river runners. The wardens use to leave their garbage in the back of their camp and now the

clean-up crew picks it up daily to keep bears and other animals away from the camps. I ask Denzil, "How big is your camp?" He replies, "Our camp is 14 X 12 feet". I ask, "What do you find the hardest being on the river like this?", and as all good wardens would answer, he says: "Well I don't really find nothin' hard, I just take it day by day and do my job. Things have improved over the years, it's improving all the time and lets keep it that way." I thank him and we get on our way.

In the afternoon, when the Americans have finished fishing for the day, the wardens can relax a bit and to kill time they travel to the other wardens' camp sometimes to chat a bit. I noticed that warden Pat Arsenault was with Denzil.

On day two, we will see the river environment under a different sky as there is no sun and they are announcing rain. We are going to a different part of the river and we are doing it in a very unconventional way today because the water is so low. It was practically impossible to get to this part of the river in the canoe, but I wanted to get to see it.

We came in through Whites Brook by truck part way, then had to walk the rest of the way. Along the way, we came across a few trees that had fallen down across the



Photo by: Irene Doyle

road but my good friend Pat was ready with a small chainsaw in the back of the truck and in no time we were on our way again. Pat says he learned that from the clean-up crew, to always be ready and to be a jack-of-all-trade helps, which they have to be. Not only do these guys have to carry and use a chainsaw now and then; they also have to know how to maintain it. To try to cut trees with a dull chainsaw is like trying to cut them with a butter knife.

So we are only going in to take a look at Whites Brook Island today, not doing any river run. By the way, on the way up this morning, we saw a deer and a bear cub. The cub's mother couldn't have been too far away but he was alone and ran much faster than I can so I was sort of glad to be in the truck. The picture below is one that Pat took on a previous trip as you approach Whites Brook Island.

Here at Whites Brook Island, there is a rock that is commonly called Leland's Rock. It got its name from Leland Pollock. According to Pat, Leland used to work on the river and when the river was low he'd hit that rock every time and he'd swear at it so the guys who run the river baptised it Leland's Rock. Because the water level



is so very low, that whole rock can be seen today.

Whites Brook Island is a very nice island. It is in the middle of nowhere, a quiet area. Not as many people use it as Cross Point Island. Today, I see it has about 10 picnic tables, a few little fireplaces and a toilet. Pat tells me there used to be two toilets but the high water in the spring took one for a drive down the river and it probably sits on the bottom of the Bay of Chaleur now. The view here is fantastic. To the right the waters of Whites Brook can be seen, and heard, running to join the mighty Restigouche. Big trees stand majestically against the cloudy skies and the river itself looks so inviting as it babbles along on its way down to about 1.5 km below here, where it joins the famous Million Dollar Pool. This pool is one of the best on the Restigouche. It is a "holding

pool", which means that it is the meeting place for salmon before they go a bit further up the river to spawn. (Photo below is one of Pat's from last summer with one of the clean-up crew workers taking care of the site).



There was an interesting story about the Million Dollar Pool. In a magazine of the mid-1800s, it was told of Pheneas Wyers, (whose name shows up in the 1871 Canada Census, he is aged 65 and listed as a farmer in the parish of Eldon, so he was for real) took the Governor General hostage in his canoe on the Restigouche at the point of a gun. He had apparently been waiting a long while for that day, as he felt he was being deprived of land that was rightfully his, which included the pool. The Governor, according to the article, found that pretty funny and he took Pheneas to Fredericton with him and gave him the land and the pool.

The pool also sits at the mouth of the Patapedia River, another reason for the salmon to be plentiful there. There is also the fact that water is fresh and full of oxygen. Below the pool is also where the Province of Quebec starts. It is an interesting geographic trait; the east side of the Patapedia is Quebec and the west side is New Brunswick but at the upper end of the Patapedia both sides are in New Brunswick. At Whites Brook, it is New Brunswick on both sides of the Restigouche then a little further down from the Million Dollar Pool, to the right is New Brunswick and to the left it is Quebec.

Another interesting fact regarding the Million Dollar Pool is that the Restigouche Salmon Club insists that there be a warden full time there. It is a very important salmon pool and it could be tempting for poachers but it is not everyone who can stand being alone there at the camp for the whole run. Apparently this year the warden who was assigned this camp had "Cabin Fever" and couldn't take it. He had to leave before it was time but I am told he should be back next year.

Another nice thing about the Million Dollar Pool is that there are often Bald Eagles seen here. It is the

emblem of the USA, a very nice bird; you could call him the Grandpa of all birds, with his white hair, which gives him a regal look. When you say to "Soar like an Eagle" it's the way to go, so majestic looking. Pat saw one the other day that was flying away with something that looked like an eel in its talons. Apparently in the 1990s there were no eagles here to be seen, but lately they are appearing here and there more and more. Even whole families show up each year, with the young ones easily recognised by their colour. They reach adulthood and get the full white head and tail after three years. The first and second year they have a totally different colour, mostly brown.

Pat says he remembers chatting with Leland Pollock who would tell him how things have changed on the river in later years. He lived in the Glencoe area and it used to take him a whole day to come to Englands Flats. Today you can make it from Englands Flats to Campbellton in about an hour and a half, depending of course how much of a hurry you're in. The cars are better now and so are the roads.

From here we head back down, on foot to the truck. It was a very nice experience and a superb day even if the weather did not co-operate much.

To be continued.....

DES MIROISEURS ET DES MIROISEUSES

Léona Cormier

Je miroise, tu miroises, il miroise, nous miroisons, vous miroisez, ils miroisent. Drôle de verbe, me direz-vous. De prime abord, on croirait quela personne qui miroise soit en train de regarder dans un miroir, mais non, ce n'est pas cela.

"Miroiseur" est un néologisme dont les racines latines sont empruntées au verbe "mirare" qui veut dire regarder, admirer, et au nom "aves" qui veut dire oiseau. Par conséquent, le miroiseur et la miroiseuse sont les personnes qui regardent, qui admirent les oiseaux. C'est l'équivalent de "birdwatcher".

Au Nouveau-Brunswick et au Québec, les termes observateurs d'oiseaux et ornithologues sont employés couramment. Cependant, selon le dictionnaire, ornithologue désigne un naturaliste spécialisé dans l'étude des oiseaux. Quoiqu'il en soit, l'ornithologie ou la miroisiveté est un passe-temps de

plus en plus répandu un peu partout dans le monde. Cette activité s'avère passionnante pour diverses raisons. D'abord, il y a le côté éducatif qui est quand même appréciable, car le plaisir ne se limite pas à l'identification de l'oiseau. Beaucoup d'observations sont nécessaires pour véritablement connaître cet oiseau et le comprendre. Découvrir comment il vit, de quoi il se nourrit, quel est son habitat, quelles sont ses habitudes, etc.

Il est assez fréquent qu'une personne passionnée d'ornithologie parcourt des distances considérablement longues pour aller voir un oiseau rare, surtout s'il s'agit d'un Tohi à queue verte, d'un Tyran à longue queue, d'un Troglodyte de Caroline ou d'un Passerin nonpareil. Tous les déplacements que cela entraîne permettent de découvrir de nouvelles régions d'autres provinces ou d'autres pays.

L'observation des oiseaux est un moyen parmi tant d'autres de se garder en forme. Généralement, cette

activité se pratique en plein air et oblige les gens à faire des marches dans la nature. De plus, ce loisir se pratique en toutes saisons.

Le côté social est un autre aspect intéressant. Souvent les voyages se font en groupe permettant ainsi de fraterniser et faire de nouvelles connaissances. L'intérêt que ces gens ont en commun les dispose à échanger plus facilement leurs idées sur leurs observations et leurs expériences.

Certaines personnes préfèrent observer les oiseaux qui visitent leur cour. Des mangeoires remplies de bonnes graines peuvent attirer différentes espèces d'oiseaux, surtout s'il y a des haies, des buissons et des arbres fruitiers aux alentours. En ce moment même, alors que je rédige ces quelques lignes, je lève les yeux et j'aperçois un beau faisan se pavanant sur mon patio. Quel beau cadeau de Dame Nature! Incroyable, mais vrai!

Vous voulez miroiser adéquatement? Procurez-vous de bonnes jumelles et quelques bon guides d'identification. Néanmoins, il est préférable de débiter son apprentissage avec des gens ayant de bonnes connaissances en ornithologie ou en joignant un club de naturalistes. D'ailleurs, il en existe plusieurs dans la province.

À tous les miroiseurs et les miroiseuses, il ne me reste plus qu'à souhaiter bonne chance. Puissiez-vous avoir des oiseaux plein la vue et de doux chants plein les oreilles.

N.B. Sylvain Henaff de France est l'auteur du nom "miroiseur" et de ses dérivés.

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RIGHT WHALES AND SHIPPING LANES IN THE BAY OF FUNDY

Laurie Murison

Right whales often occur where ships are traveling into ports such as in the Bay of Fundy, in the Cape Cod area, and in the calving area off the coasts of Florida and Georgia. Ships are steered into deep water for safety; right whales feed in deep water where zooplankton and, in particular, copepods are frequently concentrated. Collisions of right whales and large vessels are usually fatal and constitute the major cause of incidental mortality.

The following is excerpted from:

Brown, M, R. Kenney, C. Taggart, A. Vanderlaan, J. Owen, J. Beaudin Ring, A. Knowlton and S. Kraus. 2001. Measures to reduce interactions between the endangered North Atlantic right whale and large vessels in the waters of Atlantic Canada. Briefing note to the Canadian Marine Advisory Council, Ottawa, ON, November 7 and 8, 2001.

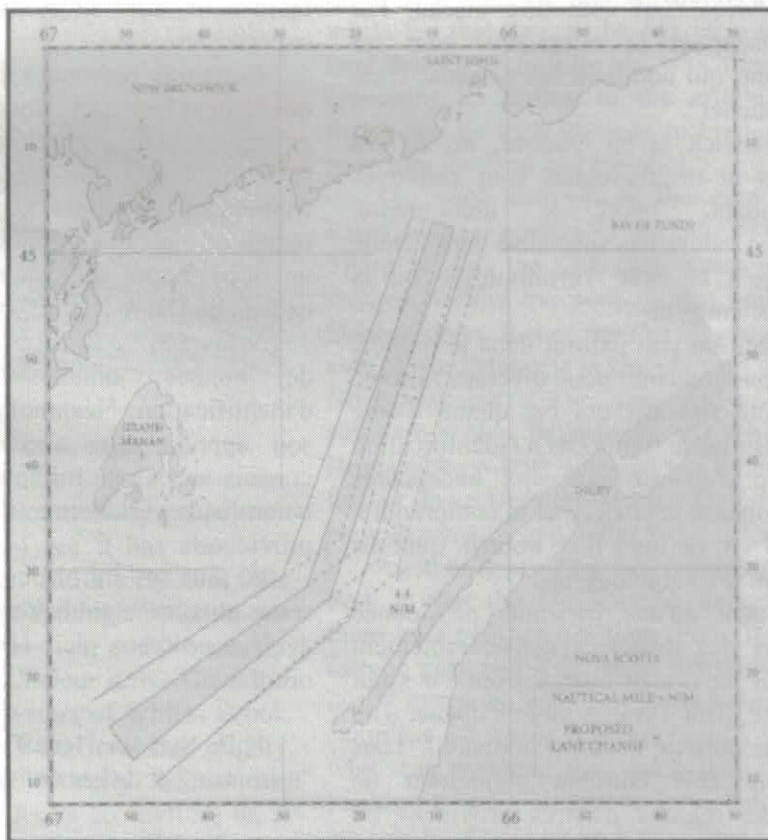
Brown, M. 2002. Assessing strategies to reduce the potential for collisions between right whales and ships in Canadian waters. Report on work completed through March 31, 2002 with updates on resulting conservation action through April 2002.

In the Bay of Fundy, right whales and the shipping lanes overlap. To reduce the potential for right whales to be in the shipping lanes, a proposal was submitted to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to amend the Bay of Fundy Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS). The submission of this proposal and its subsequent approval was precedent setting, the first time the IMO considered and adopted a proposal to amend a TSS for the benefit of an endangered species. The new lanes are scheduled for use in July, 2003. The fact that this conservation action took place in the absence of any legislative or regulatory obligation also sets a precedent and demonstrated that Canadians are serious about taking a lead role in

protecting and promoting the recovery of North Atlantic right whales.

The impact of ship strikes on right whales has been well demonstrated. Massive wounds (e.g., fractured skulls, severed tails and propeller cuts) found on right whale carcasses show that collisions with large vessels are often lethal. Large scars or wounds attributed to ship propellers have been documented on the backs or flukes of 6.4% (23 individuals) of the living right whales in the western North Atlantic. From 1970 to 1999, 45 right whale deaths were documented along the eastern seaboard of Canada and the U.S. (Knowlton and Kraus 2001). Sixteen (35.5%) of those fatalities were due to vessel collisions and three (6.7%) were due to entanglement in fixed fishing gear. The remainder were neonatal mortalities (13; 28.9%) and from 'unknown causes' (13; 28.9%). Nine of the 16 ship strikes (56%) have occurred since 1991 and represent 50% of the total right whale mortalities over the last decade (9/18). Between 1986 and 1999, 84 right whales are presumed to have died (no re-sightings over six years). Because not all

carcasses were thoroughly examined (i.e., some were photographed offshore and not recovered), the total number of deaths resulting from ship strikes is unknown, but is almost certainly higher than the observed number (Knowlton and Kraus 2001). It is reasonable to assume that ~35% (i.e. 4 to 5 whales) of the 13 known deaths from unknown causes and 35% (i.e. ~30 whales) of the presumed dead whales could be



related to vessel collisions. Given the number of animals that have not been seen for more than six years ($n=75$), it

is conservatively estimated that for every documented mortality there are as many unreported deaths (Knowlton and Kraus 2001). Errors around these conservative estimates are difficult to determine.

In Canada, there have been four known ship-strike mortalities of right whales, three in the Bay of Fundy (one in each of 1992, 1995 and 1997), and one found with a series of propeller cuts off of Halifax in 1987. This represents 25% of the known mortality attributable to ship-strike. In addition to being the primary source of human-related mortality of right whales, collisions between vessels and right whales can result in damage to vessels.

The behavioural characteristics and habitat preferences of right whales make them especially vulnerable to being hit by vessels. Right whales move slowly and they spend extended periods at or near the surface. Such behaviours include resting at the surface, social activity, skim feeding (*i.e.* swimming slowly at the surface as they filter zooplankton from the water), and nursing their young. They appear oblivious or slow to respond to approaching vessels. Calves have limited dive capabilities, spend most of their time at the surface and should be especially vulnerable. The two conservation areas have high concentrations of right whales from June to November. Over 80% of the known population has been seen in Canadian waters. The traffic lanes in the Bay of Fundy, particularly the outbound lane, traverse the conservation area through the highest concentration of right whales.

Effort-corrected right whale sighting data (sightings per unit of effort (SPUE)) for the period 1987-1998 processed by R. Kenney at the University of Rhode Island were used to determine that the highest concentrations of right whales overlapped the outbound (western) traffic lane of the TSS. The level of traffic through the lanes is about 900 vessels per year or about 1800 transits (vessel/whale working group personal communication). Two risk assessments were carried out.

1. Right Whale and Vessel Encounter Probabilities

A. Vanderlaan and C Taggart of Dalhousie University have completed a preliminary analysis estimating the probability of collision between a vessel and a right whale. The first part of the analysis employed the SPUE data described above. The second part relied on all vessel location, speed and heading data in the Bay of Fundy as tracked and recorded at six-minute intervals over the June to October period of year 2000 as retrieved from the vessel traffic archives at MCTS, Saint John, NB. These data were used to estimate the number of vessels observed in each of the 400 grid-cells (as above) during each 24h period.

The results of the analysis provide two important observations. The first is that the probabilities of vessel-whale encounters generally reflect the geographic distribution of the right whales where it overlaps the Bay of Fundy outbound traffic lane and this is not surprising. The second is that the highest relative probabilities of encounter are distributed along the western boundary of the Bay of Fundy traffic lane.

2. Identification of Potential Interaction Areas between Right Whales and Vessels in the Bay of Fundy.

J. Owen, H. D. Smith and R.C. Ballinger) of Cardiff University evaluated five routing scenarios in the Bay of Fundy. The existing TSS was compared to four alternative routes. The first part of their analysis relied on right whale SPUE data described above. The second part of their analysis used a scoring system. Scores for each routing scenario were calculated by determining which grid-cells were intersected by shipping routes and by attributing scores based on cell-specific whale concentrations during different months (June through October).

The results show that the area of greatest risk lies within the existing conservation area, in particular in the outbound lanes of the existing TSS, similar to Vanderlaan and Taggart's findings described above. The area that provided the least potential for interaction between right whales and vessels was well to the east of the TSS along the coast of Nova Scotia. This route, however, went very close to the coastline on the eastern side of the Bay of Fundy, had a complicated series of turns and waypoints, may encroach on fishing areas and may affect other whale species such as humpback and minke whales. They also recommend implementing complementary traffic management measures such as an automated whale detection system. Although no such system currently exists, an active research program in developing an automated passive acoustic whale detection system is well underway at Dalhousie University in collaboration with the Defense Research Establishment Atlantic.

Options for Bay of Fundy

The management options currently considered for reducing the potential for collisions between vessels and right whales are speed restrictions and routing changes. Re-routing can reduce the probability that a vessel and a right whale will be in the same place at the same time. Speed reduction is usually considered when re-routing is not an option, or in combination with re-routing when the route still intersects a high concentration right whale area. Speed reduction will ideally (though not necessarily successfully) increase the potential for the vessel

operators to see and avoid whales and decrease the lethal potential of a collision if it occurs. It may also provide whales with time to actively avoid an approaching vessel if such behaviour exists. There are some anecdotal reports of this behaviour and P. Tyack at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution is actively engaged in research to quantify such behaviour.

In the Bay of Fundy, a shift in the exiting TSS by at most 3.9 nautical miles to the east would reduce the maximum relative probability of a vessel-whale encounter by as much as 80% relative to the maximum probability in the entire area. The shift suggested by Vanderlaan and Taggart is straightforward. It is also less likely to adversely impact other large whale species that tend to be concentrated near Brier Island and Long Island, NS.

Recommendations by the vessel/whale working group for the Bay of Fundy that should incur reductions in vessel-whale interactions with limited effects on safety of navigation:

1. Shift the shipping lane (TSS) to the east of the line shown on figure 3 (southwest coordinate 44°

28.50° N x $66^{\circ} 30.00'$ W, middle coordinate $44^{\circ} 36.00'$ N x $66^{\circ} 21.00'$ W, and northeast coordinate

$44^{\circ} 45.00'$ N x $66^{\circ} 16.50'$ W) and/or reduce the width of the TSS to reduce the probability of vessel-whale interactions.

2. Position a turnout for vessels destined to and from ports to the west (e.g. Bayside and Eastport) to north of $44^{\circ} 48.00'$ N but south of $44^{\circ} 52.50'$ N. In-bound vessels currently leave the lanes at or before the 4A call in point ($44^{\circ} 39.00'$ N x $66^{\circ} 17.00'$ W).

3. Maintain and enhance educational efforts underway including seasonal (June through October) right whale alert from Fundy Traffic, regular and repeated publication of high concentration right whale areas in Notice to Mariners, on Canadian Hydrographic Charts and through materials distributed to and by port authorities, and convening right whale briefing workshops with port authorities.

4. Show the boundaries of the right whale conservation area on nautical chart #4011.

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Knowlton, S.R. and S.D. Kraus. 2001. Mortality and serious injury of northern right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) in the western North Atlantic Ocean. *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management* (Special Issue 2.): 193-208.

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Gulf of Maine Visionary Award.

Dr. Moira Brown won a Gulf of Maine Visionary Award in December 2002 for her work to move the Fundy shipping lanes. Dr. Brown is a researcher at the Center for Coastal Studies, Provincetown, MA, and the Canadian Whale Institute, Bolton, ON.

Dr. Moira Brown's response to the award:

"Thank you for the award and the recognition for right whales. The Bay of Fundy is likely one of the most important habitat areas for right whales; they are sent here for longer and in greater numbers than any other habitat areas. There should be another fifteen names on this award to represent the essential contributions of others to make this work possible including the right whale research team at the new England Aquarium who shared fifteen years of data, representatives from the Canadian Coast Guard, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Transport Canada as well as representatives from shipping, fishing and whale watching industries. There was some cost to the Nova Scotia fishermen who lost access to some bottom fishing ground with the shift in the shipping lanes, but they recognized the conservation importance to right whales. I would like to applaud Canada for taking this important conservation step for right whales, and the fact that this was done in the absence of any legislation obliging them to do so is compelling and encouraging."

Moira specifically thanked the following individuals: Scott Kraus and Amy Knowlton of the New England Aquarium, Robert Kenney of the University of Rhode Island, Jenny Beaudin Ring, a GIS consultant, John Logan and Richard Goddard of Irving Oil, Sean Perry of F.K. Warren Ltd., Laurie Murison of the Grand Manan Whale and Seabird Research Station, Klaus Sonnenberg of the Grand Manan Fishermen's Association, Hubert Saulnier of the Maritime Fishermen's Union, Christopher Taggart and Angelia Vanderlaan of Dalhousie University, Jeanette Owen of Cardiff University, Fred Webster and Craig Middleton of Fundy Traffic, Peter Turner of the Saint John Port Authority, Bill Scott, Janet Kavanagh, Gerry MacCaull and Robert Turner of Transport Canada, Jerry Conway of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Lindy Johnson of NOAA.

LABRADOR REFLECTIONS

Cheryl Davis

As I sit and write my last Labrador article for the NB Naturalist, my yard is alive with the sights and sounds of our spring birds. It's April 7th and so far everything is right on schedule. Over the last month or so Common Redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks have increased in number, making it almost impossible to keep the feeders full. So as I do every year at about this time, I've started to scatter seed across the top of the snow banks in our backyard to keep the 100 or so Common Redpolls, 18+ Pine Grosbeaks, 2+ Hoary Redpolls and 65 Snow Buntings happy.

Like clockwork, my favorite spring bird, the Snow Bunting arrived over a week ago on March 30th. When living in New Brunswick one didn't think of the Snow Bunting as a spring bird but one that announced the cooler weather of winter. But here in western Labrador it announces spring. Some years they barely whisper the word "spring" as they pass through almost unnoticed. Other years even non-birders can't help but notice these beautiful black and white birds as they line up on hydro wires all over town, numbering over a thousand.

Within a few short weeks the first of our ducks will start to arrive. My favorite spot for watching this wonderful event is at a small bridge that crosses the Narrows on the main road between Wabush and Labrador City. For some reason there is usually open water here for most of the winter and it is only when the temperature dips to -65°C with the wind chill does it freeze over completely. In April, as the weather warms up, this small patch of open water widens and becomes a magnet for migrating geese, ducks and gulls.

Unlike in the Maritimes, migration here comes in such a rush that if one doesn't check the Narrows several times a day over several weeks the opportunity of seeing something spectacular may be lost. Besides seeing the usual common waterfowl such as Canada Geese, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Black Duck, Common and Red-breasted Merganser, Mallard, Common Goldeneye and Greater Scaup, rarities such as Eurasian Wigeon have

been found. During our annual International Migratory Bird Day field trip a few years back this fellow was first spotted with a not so common American Wigeon by Brian Dalzell and briefly seen by a few of us before the pair flew off. Other hard to find waterfowl, though not as rare, have also been found at this spot - waterfowl like Harlequin Duck, all three species of Scoter, Northern Shoveler, Barrows Goldeneye and even a Snow Goose.

Normally the Narrows is a good birding area for a week or so until the ice starts to melt in the region, opening up other rivers, lakes and marshes. Last year spring was about three weeks behind. Open water was scarce and birding at the Narrows became an amazing experience as hundreds of geese, ducks and gulls kept

arriving and staying well past the normal time. Sometimes, as spring progresses, the Bohemian Waxwings also arrive, but as elsewhere in Atlantic Canada, the Bohemians come and go like the wind and one never knows where they'll show up. This year there are no berries left on our Mountain Ash trees. Even still, maybe a small flock will still find their way to our yard once the snow is completely gone and feed off tender shoots of clover or grass like they did a few springs ago.

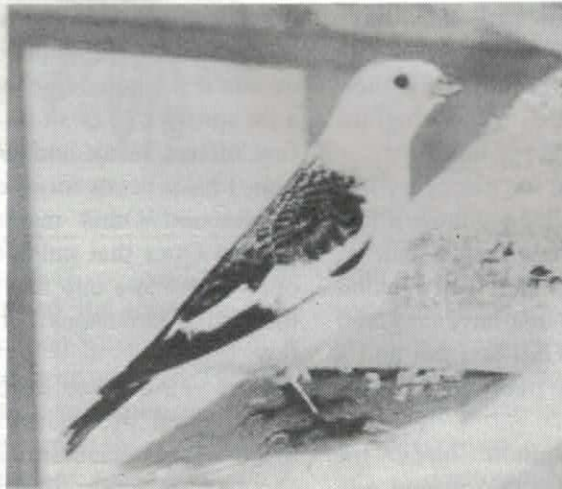
One never knows.

This year is going to be my last spring in western Labrador

and already I'm starting to miss it. We are moving to Nova Scotia in July and for me back to regular birding opportunities. But there is something about Lab West that has captured my heart and my soul.

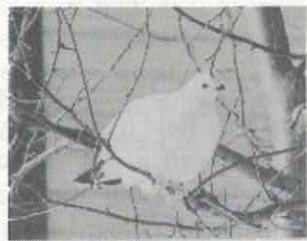
I've been truly blessed in Western Labrador to see and experience God's creation first hand. To see the colors of the Northern Lights dance across the heavens so dramatically they have taken my breath away. To be alone during a cool September morning on the golden prairie like fields of the mine tailings, against the backdrop of Smokey Mountain while watching hundreds of Horned Larks pass overhead under a big blue sky and listening to their musical call as it floats across the field on a gentle breeze.

Then to have these delightful birds drop down into the grasses beside me. How can I ever forget the invasion of the Willow Ptarmigan in the winter of 1999-2000,



Snow Bunting photo by Cheryl Davis

something that only happens every ten years. It's one thing to see them hanging off willows on the side of the road but to have them eating under your feeder or see one waddle up the walk past your front door, it's enough to increase the heart rate of any birder.



Willow Ptarmigan
photo by Cheryl Davis

Other yard birds have included such things as American Pipit, Lapland Longspur, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Wilson's (Common) Snipe, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow and tons of White-crowned Sparrows just to name a few. Birds like American Goldfinch and Purple Finch and Northern Mockingbird common in New Brunswick are not in Labrador. Even still, they have followed me to Wabush and I have had both the American Goldfinch and the Purple Finch bring their young to our feeders, while another time a mockingbird sang its repertoire from a tree top behind my house.

Other exciting things have included the discovery last summer of a nesting pair of Sora with their young, a lost American Coot in a pond a few springs ago, a pair of Northern Mockingbirds found one summer well beyond their breeding range, Mourning Doves that have survived our frigid winter, a stray Bonaparte's Gull last fall and a migrating spring Chimney Swift flying over the Narrows that made a wrong turn somewhere.

Red-breasted Nuthatches, uncommon birds for western Labrador that were everywhere you turned one fall and nowhere to be found the next. A pair of Caspian Terns found resting on the ice one spring and a stray Barn Swallow swooping around Airport property on a warm spring evening. And last but not least a singing Northern Wheatear only a metre away, bathed in the golden evening sun not far from a flock of Horned Larks last spring.

I'll never forget hawk migration in the spring and fall. Especially the numerous Rough-legged Hawks soaring and hovering over the meadows found on the tailings or the swift Peregrine Falcons that have flashed by in front of my eyes as they pursue the Horned Larks. Even the trip on the back of a snowmobile straight up Smokey Mountain so that I could be dropped off in an alpine valley to look for a flock of ptarmigan that contained the elusive Rock Ptarmigan on a cold sunny January afternoon, proved to be a profitable adventure.

However, before I leave I do have a wish list that may or may not be filled. I still want to see a Boreal Owl.

I've heard them but have never seen one. It took five years before I could cross caribou off my wish list.

Last May while out scouting prior to our Migratory count my husband and I saw a small local herd grazing on a hill where a hydro line cut through. A more recent and exciting sighting took place before Christmas when a fragment of the George River Caribou Herd passed through the area and a few were found resting and grazing on a frozen bog within Wabush town limits.

Coincidentally, the caribou were in the same area where a group of us saw a Great Blue Heron last summer. (Yes, a Great Blue Heron in Western Labrador!) In my wanderings I have found wolf, bear, moose and lynx tracks. I still hold out a slim hope of maybe seeing a wolf or even a bear, hopefully from within the safe confines of my car before we leave.

I can cross off my list more fox (both red and silver in color) sightings than I can count the year after the ptarmigan were so plentiful. I was also privileged to see the antics of an inquisitive Pine Marten that couldn't decide if it wanted to chase a noisy young squirrel around a fat spruce tree or sit on a tree branch at eye level only a few metres away and watch our small group watching him. I have never forgiven myself for leaving the camera in the car! Other mammal sightings have included a playful Otter that galloped across the ice and dove into open water late one fall. Wabush means rabbit in one of the native languages but I must admit I've only seen a few.

As you can see experiences have been numerous in my adopted province, however one can't rush nature. What was spectacular or unique about one year or season can be completely different the next year. Which leaves open the element of surprise with each passing year that we have been here.

Labrador West is almost a black hole when it comes to what is known about its natural history and even though I have felt that I have just scratched the surface with regards to birds other things such as butterflies, dragonflies, mushrooms and etc. are still relatively unknown.

Yes, my six years in western Labrador have been a gift and as I start to prepare for our move I'm looking forward to what my last year of "spring exploring" in western Labrador will bring to this gal from New Brunswick.

P.S. It appears that one of the highlights of Spring '03 is the number of Pine Grosbeaks that have arrived in the area. Besides having more around than in past years another clue was having at least 35 of them show up at my feeders on April 12.

BOTANY CORNER

Gart Bishop

If you are a blueberry farmer, then you probably don't care much for the small shrub called Lambkill or Sheep-laurel, *Crevard de moutons* (*Kalmia angustifolia*). However, for non-blueberry farmers, the clusters of pink/red blossoms nestled along the stem among last year's leaves are a colourful attraction to the countryside. Usually less than a metre high, this plant likes dry acidic soils and is common on rocky barrens, bog margins, clearings and old pastures in eastern North America, from Labrador south to Virginia and as far west as Ontario and Michigan, from late June to the end of July.

Something interesting to look at in the flowers is the way that the ends of the ten stamens are embedded in tiny pockets in the rosy pink corolla (five fused-together petals). When the pollen has matured, the stamen tries to straighten, and will spring to attention when nudged by a visiting bee, showering the insect with pollen. Tickling the ripe stamens with a blade of grass allows one to see the stamens in action. The stamens reset themselves after a few minutes to await the next visitor.

The flowers mature into small, five-parted capsules which are filled with fine brown dust, the plant's minute seeds. Each capsule contains hundreds of seeds which are dispersed by the wind.



Stamens under tension



Stamens sprung

Illustration
A. Hansen

The simple leaves are in pairs or whorls of three and are leathery, dark green above with a blunt or rounded tip. In winter, look on the underside of the evergreen leaves for white-fringed black dots. These wax-covered dots are the eggs of a scale



Illustration
F. S. Matthews

insect (*Coccidae*) and have delicately fringed edges worthy of viewing with a magnifying lens. They are also fed upon by chickadees and kinglets during the winter (Stokes 1981).

Lambkill spreads not only by seed, but from a root system which frequently sends up new shoots. This makes it somewhat fire resistant, accounting for its abundance in areas having been burnt. On the blueberry plains, Lambkill was once an aggressive invader, but is now controlled through herbicide use.

The caterpillars of two moths (*Parornix palmiella* and *Coptodisca kalmiella*) are frequently found feeding on the leaves. Brown Elfin (*Incisalia angustinus*) and Northern Blue (*Lycaeides argyrognomon*) butterflies are commonly seen flying around the plants in the spring. The Brown Elfin lays its eggs on the leaves and you may be able to find the fat, yellowish-green caterpillars feeding on the leaves in the summer (Eastman 1995).

Lambkill comes by its name because of a poisonous toxin (acetylandromedol) in its leaves, which causes domestic livestock to become sick and sometimes die. White-tailed Deer seem to be able to eat small amounts with no ill effect. Native Americans boiled the leaves in water and used the liquid for a bathing solution to reduce swellings, ease the pain of rheumatism and treat sore legs and feet. Rubbing fresh leaves on the affected areas is also supposed to help (Lacey 1993).

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"Botany is the art of plants. Plants are divided into trees, flowers and vegetables. The true botanist knows a tree as soon as he sees it. He learns to distinguish it from a vegetable by merely putting his ear to it."

Literary Lapses - Stephen Leacock

INTERNAT 2003

Celebrating linkages in Nature Conservation

Peter Pearce

An objective of this year's **Federation AGM** weekend, enjoyed at **Fredericton**, was to highlight the many ways in which amateur naturalists support the cause of nature conservation – to give ourselves a pat on the back, if you will. In keeping with the theme, a number of organizations were invited to display at the meeting venue. We thank the following which were able to do so:

Bird Studies Canada

Conservation Council of New Brunswick

Nature Trust of New Brunswick

New Brunswick Fish and Wildlife Branch

New Brunswick Museum

Our NBFN display was, of course, prominent and attention was drawn to several projects with which the Federation is involved.

A series of simple charts was also displayed to illustrate how, directly or indirectly, we contribute to the various studies of our fauna and flora conducted by organizations, such as those above, in both private and public sectors. Attracting considerable attention too was an exhibit of the nature painting, photography and wood sculpture of several of Fredericton's naturalist-artists.

The weekend's activities opened to a full house with a dazzling colour-slide presentation by **Roger Smith** titled "New Brunswick Seasons", with audio effects by Strauss and Beethoven.

Local historian, naturalist and raconteur **David Myles** gave the dinner address on the life and times of William

Moore, famous Scotch Lake amateur ornithologist. Through fascinating archival black-and-white photographs and a quietly humorous delivery style, David allowed us a glimpse of rural New Brunswick life in the early 1900s – of the importance of family ties, of the world of hunting and taxidermy, of bird studies and of travel in and far beyond the forest when travel was a real challenge. David's ability to conjure up the atmosphere of that era, through a focus on a simple man who knew

what he wanted in life, captivated his most appreciative audience.

The Federation and the Fredericton Nature Club owe a great debt of gratitude to **Diane Mercier-Allain** for her hospitality, enthusiasm, attention to detail and sheer hard work which inspired the members of her meeting planning committee. Thank you very much Diane.

Thanks are also expressed to the following for their support of the Federation's AGM weekend:

Aitken's Pewter (framed Blue Nose)

City of Fredericton (coffee table books)

Knob Hill Gallery (print)

Lloyd Fitzgerald (print)

McCain's (juice boxes)

Old Orchard Crafts (gift certificates)



William Moore famous Scotch Lake amateur ornithologist

Service NB (NB Atlas)

St. Anne-Nackawic Pulp Company Ltd. (\$500 donation)
and the kind volunteers of the Capital Winter Club

At the annual banquet, **Marieka Arnold** unveiled two of the Federation's recent "products" – a **Species-at-Risk education kit** and a beautiful **poster of amphibians**, both expected to be in high demand.

INTERNAT 2003

Célébrant les liens de conservation de la nature

Peter Pearce (translated by Gilles Belliveau)

Un objectif cette année pour la fin de semaine de l'AGA de la Fédération, qui a eu lieu à Fredericton, était d'accentuer les nombreuses manières dans lequel les naturalistes amateurs soutiennent la cause de la conservation de la nature, pour se donner un tapotement sur le dos si vous voulez. En suivant avec le thème, un nombre d'organisations ont été invité à s'exposer dans le lieu de rencontre. Nous remercions les participants suivants:

Études d'Oiseaux Canada

Conservation Council of New Brunswick

La Fondation pour la protection des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick

La direction Pêche sportive et chasse du Nouveau-Brunswick

Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick

Notre exposition pour la FNNB était, naturellement, bien visible avec l'attention donnée à plusieurs projets dans lesquels la fédération est impliquée.

Une série de diagrammes simples a également été montrée pour illustrer comment, directement ou indirectement, nous contribuons aux diverses études de notre faune et flore conduites par des organisations, de ce type ci-dessus, dans les secteurs publics et privés. Une exposition de tableaux, de photos ainsi que de sculptures de bois provenant d'artisans naturalistes de la région de Fredericton a également attirée une attention considérable.

Les activités de la fin de semaine se sont ouvertes à une pleine maison avec une merveilleuse présentation de diapositive par **Roger Smith** intitulé "New Brunswick Seasons" (Les saisons du Nouveau Brunswick), avec des effets audio par Strauss et Beethoven.

L'historien, naturaliste et raconteur **David Myles** a donné une présentation sur la vie de William Moore, le célèbre ornithologue amateur de Scotch Lake. En utilisant des photos noires et blanches archivistiques fascinantes et avec un style tranquille mais plein d'humour, David nous a permis un aperçu de la vie rurale du Nouveau Brunswick au début des années 1900 – de l'importance de la famille, du monde de la chasse et taxidermie, des études d'oiseaux et de voyages dedans et loin au-delà de la forêt quand le voyage était un vrai défi. La capacité de David de créer l'atmosphère de cette ère,

en utilisant l'histoire d'un homme simple qui savait ce qu'il voulait dans la vie, a captivé son auditoire.

La Fédération et le Fredericton Nature Club doivent une grande dette de gratitude à **Diane Mercier-Allain** pour son hospitalité, enthousiasme, attention au détail et tout son travail qui a inspiré les membres de son comité de planification de réunion. Merci beaucoup Diane.

Merci aussi au suivant pour leur support de l'AGA de la Fédération:

Aitken's Pewter (Blue Nose encadré)

Ville de Fredericton (livre)

Knob Hill Gallery (reproduction d'un tableau)

Lloyd Fitzgerald (reproduction d'un tableau)

McCain's (boîte de jus)

Old Orchard Crafts (certificats-cadeaux)

Service NB (Atlas du NB)

St. Anne-Nackawic (un don 500\$)

et tous les volontaires du Capital Winter Club



William Moore le célèbre ornithologue amateur de Scotch Lake

Au banquet annuel, **Marieka Arnold** a dévoiler deux des récents produits de la Fédération – la Trousse éducative sur **les espèces en péril du NB** et une belle pancarte sur **les amphibiens**, tous les deux sont prévus d'être en grande demande.

Field Trips

Glenda Turner assembled the following reports of the various field excursions.

The wet and chilly conditions that characterized our spring persisted through the last weekend of May and the NBFN Annual General Meeting in Fredericton. Nevertheless, more than 100 naturalists took to the field in and around Fredericton and, for the most part, the rain held off.

A late evening trip on Friday to observe the communal roosting behaviour of **Chimney Swifts** was almost a non-event. The chimney on the **UNB campus** that until recently attracted up to 2,000 spring migrant birds has no birds this year. The outing was salvaged however, thanks to an excellent glass-front model chimney at the site and an informative pamphlet. A few swifts chattered overhead, presumably on their way to other roosting sites downtown and a couple of Common Nighthawks put in a brief appearance as noisy crows settled into their roost nearby. (source: *Peter Pearce*)

Meanwhile at **Hyla Park Nature Preserve**, **Gray Treefrogs** trilled briefly just as Don Vail and about 20 naturalists arrived around 9:30 p.m. Although conditions were a bit too chilly for a resounding crepuscular chorus, the group saw as well as heard Spring Peepers. (source: *Ruth Rogers*)

Intermittent drizzle and showers hampered early morning walks at **Odell Park** on Saturday and Sunday, but the Sunday group tallied 32 bird species from forest floor and canopy. Highlights reported by leader Hal Dalzell included an adult Bald Eagle and Great Crested Flycatcher as well as various warblers—Yellow, Parula, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted and Pine. The group also disturbed a raccoon which peered out lazily from its cozy home. (source: *Hal Dalzell*)

Peter Pearce led a small group of other early risers on Saturday morning along an old railway right-of-way at **Carman Creek** on Fredericton's northside. A nesting Canada Goose, an American Bittern, a Sora and a Virginia Rail were present at the marsh. Not surprisingly the rails were heard only. The upland forest area yielded a splendid variety of warblers including Blackpoll, Blackburnian, Wilson's and an atypically-singing Tennessee. Yellow and Chestnut-sideds were common and Red-eyed Vireos omnipresent. Among flycatchers, an Olive-sided may have been a "first" for that site and a Great Crested a "lifer" for one participant. A Scarlet

Tanager sang out of sight. A total of 66 wetland and mixed-forest bird species were "checked"—enough to meet the hopes and ensure the enjoyment of all! (source: *Peter Pearce*)

About 50 participants in 17 vehicles followed Don Gibson and Jim Goltz to **Sunpoke Lake** Saturday morning on a trip that would last most of the day. Overcast and damp conditions gradually improved to give way to sunny breaks in the afternoon. Highlights among approximately 85 observed bird species included a Sora at a Ducks Unlimited marsh, a few resident Black Terns flying about, a large number of migrating Blackpolls, and Cliff Swallows gathering mud and building nests. At French Lake Purple Martins were constantly in the air and a very vocal Great Crested Flycatcher entertained the group. Six Surf Scoters resting on the lake provided an unusual sight for this time of year.

Botanists on the outing observed Painted Trilliums in good bloom in a mixed forest along the Wilsey Road. A Blue-leaved Willow, considered uncommon to rare in this province, was discovered on a Silver Maple floodplain. Other finds included Cord Sedge, Golden Alexanders in full bloom and shoots of Carrion-flower—an uncommon lily of rich floodplain habit. Among other sightings were two Garter Snakes, a Green Frog, two Spring Peepers and one Leopard Frog. A brief period of sunshine brought the Meadow Fritillary, a butterfly species of the St. John River valley. Cabbage Whites were quite abundant and one Dreamy Dusky Wing was caught and released. Three species of "blue" were recorded: Spring Azure, Cherry Gall Azure and Silvery Blue. Carcasses (skeletons) of Red Fox, Coyote and Fisher were presumed to have been left by trappers after removing the pelts. (source: *Don Gibson*)

A third Saturday morning option took 18 enthusiastic naturalists, led by Julie Singleton and Robert Whitney, to the **Gibson Trail**. An Eastern Bluebird near the end of the walk was the highlight of the weekend for many. Thirty-two bird species were counted along the way. Among warblers were numerous Blackpolls and American Redstarts, and a Blackburnian. Great Crested, Least and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Philadelphia and Red-eyed Vireos and Baltimore Orioles were also tallied. The trail passes beside a Silver Maple floodplain which contains a wide variety of interesting plant species. Participants saw Nodding Trilliums, Wild Oats, Wood Anemone, Ostrich Fern and Canada Lily as well as Alder Buckthorn, an invasive, poisonous, European species which is rapidly spreading in the understory of the Silver Maples. For Julie and Robert, the highlight was meeting

the many naturalists they regularly communicate with through Nature NB. (source: *Julie Singleton*)

Two of the three events planned for Saturday afternoon took place indoors. Too much water and not enough warm days meant there were no **mussels** nor **dragonflies** to be found along the **St. John River shore**. Dwayne Sabine therefore transformed his outing into an indoor Freshwater Mussel Identification Workshop for five participants who learned the major morphological features of freshwater mussel shells. They were provided with an identification key and sample specimens of New Brunswick's mussel species and finished the workshop able to identify any freshwater mussel found on the shores of our lakes and rivers. (source: *Dwayne Sabine*)

An **Art in Nature** workshop on Saturday afternoon led by artist Lloyd Fitzgerald involved seven participants in a three-hour project, the painting of a Black-capped Chickadee. Mr. Fitzgerald taught technique and style as he directed the class through the painting. Both beginning and advanced artists participated in the workshop. This session represented a departure from the more usual nature outings offered at AGM weekends and was designed to complement the display of nature-related paintings, photography and woodcarvings at the meeting headquarters. (source: *Bev Schneider*)

About a dozen other participants were introduced on Saturday afternoon to the **trees of Fredericton**, which still include a good number of stately White Elms. As trip leader Don Murray explained, the city plants about 450 trees annually, now favouring oaks, Sugar Maple and ashes. At Odell Park the group encountered huge Eastern Hemlocks over 400 years old and White Pines. A specimen of both those species has been included among "Great Trees of New Brunswick." On a visit to the grounds of the Experimental Farm on Lincoln Road (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Potato Research Centre) the group observed both native New Brunswick species as well as a number of exotic specimens, some of them the only or largest of their kind in the province. Among individuals inspected were Cucumbertree, White Fir and Swiss Stone Pine. Egg mass remains of Gypsy Moth were also discovered—too late, the larvae had already emerged and dispersed! During the afternoon examples of tree species at the northeastern extremity of their range—the Butternut and Silver Maple—were also encountered. (source: *Peter Pearce*)

On Sunday morning, Peter Pearce and Mary Pugh led the way to **Wilkins Field** and **Currie Mountain**. A primary objective at Wilkins Field was to connect with a

Willow Flycatcher—and that objective was achieved! Wilkins Field is the only site in New Brunswick where this fairly rare bird has been consistently noted nesting over the past several years. Participants were able to distinguish its song from those of the visually similar Alder and Least Flycatchers. Common Loons were seen close up and a few tardy, north-bound Greater Yellowlegs and Least Sandpipers were noted as bubbling Bobolinks settled into a nearby field. A close encounter with a pair of ferocious domestic geese provided an unexpected experience. Plant enthusiasts enjoyed the Canada Anemone, rare in much of the province. Purple Loosestrife, new to that location, was starting to emerge from shallow pans of water. Sensitive and Ostrich Ferns grew on the riverbank.

At Currie Mountain the group was greeted by crows mobbing a Great Horned Owl. Pine and Blackburnian Warblers, Eastern Wood-Pewee and Blue-headed Vireo were seen and heard. The group examined recent carpentry work by a Pileated Woodpecker and listened to a brief distant song that could have been that of a Wood Thrush. They were fortunate to find two late, white blossoms of the rare Round-leaved Hepatica. Other plants in bloom were Twinflower, Lily-of-the-valley and Rose Twisted-stalk. A mixed assembly of delicate Oak Ferns and Long Beech-Ferns allowed comparison of form and colour. Several specimens of Butternut and Hop-Hornbeam (Ironwood), not known in northern New Brunswick, were of particular interest. (source: *Peter Pearce*)

A **geology field trip** led by James Whitehead on Sunday afternoon progressed backwards in time. An excavated building site off St. Marys Street exposed sedimentary rocks of the Carboniferous period, about 300 million years old. Some plant fossils were found in the shale there. Next, the group visited an abandoned basalt quarry off the Carlisle Road, part of a vein formed by a cooling lava flow from Currie Mountain about 300 million years ago. The exposed rock face at Currie Mountain demonstrates the way the calcite breaks along rhombic planes called cleavage. At Mactaquac Dam, rocks 400 million years old were examined, and even older rock faces were inspected at other stops along the route. The last stop of the outing was at a gravel pit off the Hanwell Road to see an esker—rocks and sand left behind by a river flowing under a glacier. (source: *Milda Markauskas*)

At **Mactaquac Dam** a Common Yellowthroat and a Cedar Waxwing sang amidst Pin Cherry blooms. Six Bald Eagles perched in low trees near the fish hatchery while below the dam the air swirled with Herring, Great

Black-backed and Ring-billed Gulls. A Common Loon among hundreds of Double-crested Cormorants facilitated distant comparison of the two species.

At **Keswick Ridge** the characteristic Appalachian Hardwood Forest tree species were all seen--Butternut, White Ash, Basswood and Sugar Maple. White Baneberry and Red Baneberry grew side by side for ready differentiation. Yellow Violet and American Dog Violet were in peak bloom. A few remaining blooms served as last testament to earlier masses of Bloodroot, Spring Beauty, Dutchman's Breeches and Trout Lily. Leaves of the very rare Fragrant Sanicle were seen and the uncommon to rare Giant Toothwort was in bloom. Participants had good looks at a Blue-headed Vireo and

observed a baby Porcupine leaving a den.

Birds species found at **Mactaquac Provincial Park** included a pair of Canada Geese with goslings, Gray Catbird, Least Flycatcher, and Red-winged Blackbird. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers could not be goaded to respond to Barred Owl imitations, but the owl did make a silent fly-by. The presence of Woolly Blue Violet, Marsh Blue Violet, American Dog Violet and Northern White Violet provided an outdoor classroom on violet identification. Botanical highlights included two Black Morels and blooms of Skunk Currant, Goldthread and Kidney-leaved Buttercup along with patches of Wild Ginger in peak bloom. Beavers were nowhere to be seen, but their work was evident. (source: *Jim Goltz*)



Field trip participants try to spot a Scarlet Tanager along the Gibson Trail
photo by Julie Singleton

PETER PEARCE HONOURED

Glenda Turner

It could be said of the man we honour with a life membership tonight that he is "for the birds."

A biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service for 24 years, Peter Pearce played a major role in the development of a program to monitor levels of toxic chemicals in seabirds. Initiated in 1968 and still in use today, this monitoring dataset has provided vital information over the past 35 years to Environment Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the International Joint Commission and many others.

Peter was also the leading force in research to study the environmental effects of aerially applied organophosphate forest insecticides. His dedication and effort were rewarded when his research, along with that of others, led to the de-registration of the insecticides phosphamidon and fenitrothion, prohibiting their use in Canada because of their deleterious effects.

In 1992 Peter received the Gulf of Maine Visionary Award for promoting the conservation of marine wildlife in the Gulf of Maine, both professionally in his career with the Canadian Wildlife Service and personally as a naturalist and educator.

Peter is not a "native bird." Born in Surrey and educated at Aberdeen, he came to the University of New Brunswick as a Beaverbrook scholar in 1955. He worked as a professional forester for the provincial government for nine years before beginning his career as a wildlife

toxicologist with the federal government.

Most of us know Peter Pearce as the avid and knowledgeable "birder" who over the past 45 years has introduced so many to birdwatching. He was co-founder in 1959, with Andy Dean and Bill Varty, of the Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club (now called the Fredericton Nature Club) and, with Andy Dean, initiated the Christmas Bird Count at Fredericton. Later he got these counts started at Jemseg and Mactaquac. The formation of the New Brunswick Bird Records Committee followed Peter's original initiatives. Each August from 1978 until 1992 he led Canadian Nature Tours to Grand Manan for naturalists from across Canada.

Peter was president of the NB Federation of Naturalists at a time when the organization started to speak out on environmental issues. He designed our logo. He was involved in getting nature clubs underway at Edmundston, Campbellton, Bathurst and Gagetown and is proud to be a member of the Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska.

Always an "early bird," Peter Pearce remains, twelve years into retirement, bright and chipper at 6 a.m., ready to lead yet another outing. Peter, for everything, we thank you.

Editor's note: NBFN awarded Peter Pearce an honorary life membership at 2003 AGM. Peter received a painting of a Common Yellowthroat by Diane Mercier-Allain.



Mike LeBlanc, Peter Pearce and Diane Mercier-Allain

Northern Shrike Control (excerpt from A. C. Bent)

In the early days of the English Sparrow in this country, while they were being protected, Northern Shrikes became so abundant on Boston Common that men were employed to shoot them, lest they destroy the sparrows. In this connection, Dr. Judd remarks: "It is to be hoped that in other cities this enemy of the sparrow will be protected instead of persecuted. If there were 6 butcherbirds in each of 20 New England cities, and each butcherbird killed 1 sparrow a day for the three winter months, the result would be the removal of 10,800

sparrows. Since under favorable conditions four broods of 5 each, the increase would be tenfold, so that those destroyed by butcherbirds, if allowed to live, would have amounted at the of the first year to 118,800, and at the end of the second year to 1,306,800 individuals.

Bent, A.C. (1950). *Life Histories of North American Wagtails, Shrikes, Vireos, and Their Allies* United States National Museum Bulletin 237, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1965.

CLUB DES NATURALISTES DE LA VALLÉE DE MEMRAMCOOK

Yolande LeBlanc

Le Club fut fondé par le naturaliste, biologiste et interprète Alain Clavette le 10 février, 2001. Deux semaines plus tard, on forme l'exécutif, avec Alain comme président. En avril, 2002, un nouveau exécutif est nommé, avec Yolande LeBlanc comme présidente, Alain comme président-sortant, et Valmond Bourque comme secrétaire-trésorier.

Le club est formé de 27 membres. Les rencontres se font les premiers mardi du mois, à la salle Marie-Léonie, après avoir grandi au-delà de la bibliothèque. On essaie d'avoir une présentation à chaque réunion, qui quelque fois nous apporte des nouvelles faces, nouveaux membres. Nos invités nous ont appris gros : Dwayne Biggar nous montre comment choisir des longues-vues, Roger LeBlanc nous partage sa collection de livres ornithologiques, Normand and Gisèle Belliveau captivent une audience avec leurs photos d'oiseaux, Céline Bérubé nous introduit aux castors, Clarence Nowland nous éblouis avec son montage de superbes photographies professionnelles, complémenté de musique, et Alain partage ses connaissances avec des présentations fort intéressantes.

Nous avons fait beaucoup de sorties aux oiseaux, dans la vallée de Memramcook, à Johnson Mills, de Shédiac à Cap Jourimain, même à Grand Manan, quelque-unes aux hiboux, amphibiens, et une aux champignons avec Nelson Poirier comme invité et présentateur. Nous avons joint le Festival des Pommiers Fleuris à Pré-d'en-Haut, et avons montré notre présence par un kioske parmi les pommiers.

Alain envoie les avis aux membres par messages téléphonique. Le nombre de membres continue de grandir, ce qui nous encourage beaucoup.

Une liste officielle des oiseaux de la vallée de Memramcook fut compilée, elle en est à --- espèces.

Notre club francophone s'est doté d'une constitution.

Ginette Arsenault, membre du club, développa un logo représentatif des éléments présents dans la vallée.

Ronald Arsenault nous représente à la Fédération, que nous avons joint dans la dernière année.

Plusieurs membres du club se sont présenté à la rencontre de consultation de Études d'Oiseaux Canada en novembre, à Sackville.

Alain Clavette n'était plus seul à faire le recensement d'oiseaux de Noël en 2002.

Le club a eu la chance d'hériter une collection de papillons, un passe-temps de deux jeunes de la vallée, et avec l'aide de Jim Edsall, somme prêts à les exposer à la bibliothèque de Memramcook.

Des membres entrepreneurs ont construit des mangeoires d'oiseaux et les ont mis à vendre chez Home Hardware pendant l'hiver passé, ce qui nous a rapporté un bon profit.

Quelque membres du club s'intéressent à l'étude de la rivière Petitcodiac et son fameux pont-jeté, puisque la vallée est délimitée par la Petitcodiac. Nous avons aussi un pont-jeté sur la rivière Memramcook, avec les

mêmes effets que sa plus grande sœur. Puisque nous somme voisin de la côte de Johnson Mills qui reçoit des milliers de bécasseaux chaque année, nous nous intéressent à la conservation de nos rivières, spécialement parce qu'elles sont presque uniques au monde en étant des rivières de chocolat.

Nos projets d'avenir sont une possible incorporation légale comme organisme à but non lucratif, la désignation de IBA pour le bruant de Nelson et des infrastructures d'observations pour mieux apprécier la nature de la vallée.

La raison-d'être du club de Memramcook est d'avoir du plaisir et apprendre à reconnaître et à comprendre tout ce qui compose le riche patrimoine naturel qui nous entoure et nous enchante, été comme hiver. Nous sommes très chanceux d'avoir parmi nous un gars comme Alain, que nous considérons expert, avec 325 oiseaux sur sa liste. Nous sommes en train de développer d'autres connaissances parmi le groupe, ce qui contribue à notre croissance et à notre plaisir.



NATURE NEWS: MAMMALS APRIL TO JUNE 2003

Mike LeBlanc

Margie Pacey saw her first **Eastern Chipmunk** (*Tamias rayé*) in her yard in Taymouth on April 16. In a field a **Red Fox** (*Renard roux*) was searching for a snack in Chockpish and another was seen next to the church in Richibouctou Village on the evening of April 17 by Mike and Bernadette LeBlanc. Bob Blake of Second North River near Moncton had what he called **Easter Raccoons** (*Raton laveur*) who had Easter lunch on a new birdfeeder on April 22. There were at least four **Harbour Porpoises** (*Marsouin commun*) that were feeding on underwater ledges at Cape Enrage on April 25 (David Christie). In Jemseg, Nelson Poirier saw a **White-tailed Deer** (*Cerf de Virginie*), a **Moose** (*Orignal*) and a **Red Fox** and said they were quite nice to see and don't blame him. Along Route 17, Roy and Charlotte LaPointe saw a **White-tailed Deer**, three **Moose** and a **Black Bear** (*Ours noir*) on May 1. While Oscar LeBlanc and a few others were cleaning the swallow boxes placed by the ANBB at the Bouctouche Golf Club, there found a

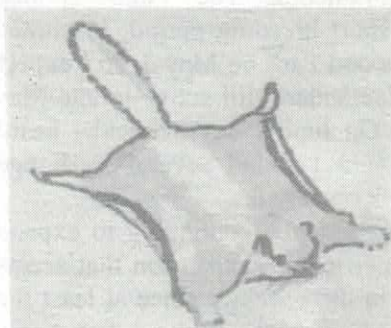
sleeping **Flying Squirrel** (*Grand Polatouche*) in one box on May 2. Bob Blake at Second North River had some **bats** (*chauve-souris*) flying around his house on May 5. Ron Wilson

received a report that six people spotted a **Fisher** (*Pékan*) that was jumping from boulder to boulder around McAdam Lake on May 6. On May 8, Roy LaPointe observed a **Muskrat** (*Rat musqué*) by a shallow puddle at Saint-Léonard. By May 11, Bob Blake had been visited by a **Flying Squirrel** at Second North River. At Charters Settlement on May 12, a **Black Bear** visited a birdfeeder which has since has gone missing. (Laurel Bernard). At Marys Point a Baltimore Oriole and a Gray Catbird were enjoying some orange pieces until an **Eastern Chipmunk** showed up and took over on May 23. There were about 150 **Harbour Seals** (*Phoques commun*) and about ten **Gray Seals**

(*Phoques gris*) at Yellow Ledge near Grand Manan. Also about a dozen **Harbour Porpoises** were in the Grand Manan Channel on May 27 (Brian Dalzell). Another report of a bull **Moose** that was checking out the flower beds in Taymouth on the morning of June 4 (Julie

Singleton). Ajo Wissink was going along the Smith Road in Albert County and a very big cow **Moose** walked out of the bushes and a few seconds later a very tiny calf came out. They both stayed for a few hundred metres before going back into the woods on June 6 (Pat McGorlick) spotted five **Moose** within a two-hour period, four calves and one cow, swimming across the Restigouche River from Québec to Point La Nim on June 7.

A **Black Bear** spent some time in the Mapleton Park in Moncton on June 14 (Moncton Nature Club Info Line). At Upper Gagetown Sue ? (Sorry I don't have her last name) spotted a **Black Bear** cub that crossed the road. In the same area she saw three **White-tailed Deer**. Also some deer were on McLeod Hill and on the Ring Road in Fredericton on June 16. Mike, Bernadette and Michael LeBlanc were very surprised when they saw two young **Red Foxes** sleeping in the Bouctouche cemetery on June 25. They were there for about 20 minutes and the foxes did not seem very worried. On June 29, Laurie Murison reported **Humpback** (*Rorqual à bosse*), **Finback** (*Rorqual commun*) and **Minke Whales** (*Petit Rorqual*) south of Grand Manan. Mike LeBlanc had what he called a mammal day on June 25. He first saw a two-year-old **Black Bear** along Route 11 at the Aldouane exit, a cow **Moose** at Calendars Beach in Kouchibouguac National Park later that evening with a very young calf and another, adult **Black Bear** when he was leaving the park at around 11:30 pm.



NATURE NEWS: AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES SPRING -2003

Don McAlpine

Before I start with Spring 2003, I want to step back to my Nature NB report of Winter 2000-2001 (NB Naturalist 27(4): 132). At the time I noted several interesting reports of garter snakes hibernating in cold springs, mentioned that we know little about the hibernation ecology of New Brunswick reptiles, and encouraged readers to make observations of amphibians and reptiles in winter. On Nov 5, 2002, Jim Brown of Knightville, had an excavator do some work around a spring near his home. During the excavation several concrete blocks, along with material from the spring, were removed; three **Garter Snakes** were discovered. The snakes ranged in size from 40 to 50 cm in length and Jim actually found one curled inside the open section of one of the blocks. Perhaps cold springs are important winter habitat for our local garter snakes!

In spite of reports of a late, cool, spring, and the delayed return of migrant birds to the province, frogs began calling pretty much on cue. Grand Manan seems to be the "banana belt" of New Brunswick; invariably the first reports of calling Wood Frogs and Spring Peepers come from the Island. Although Brian Dalzell reported that most of the ponds on Grand Manan were still frozen over on April 11, he did hear a lone **Wood Frog** call weakly from the edge of his Bancroft Point pond on that date. By April 22 Brian heard his first **American Toad** calling from a brackish pond on the edge of a saltmarsh on the Island, but it was April 28 and May 16 before Ron Arsenault and Julie Singleton heard **American Toads** calling at Memramcook and Taymouth, respectively. Bev Schneider heard her first **Wood Frog** call at Chance Harbour on April 19 and her first Spring Peeper on April 20 at Fredericton. Within days, Wood Frog and Peeper activity seemed to be underway in earnest throughout southern New Brunswick; Nev Garrity and his son Sean heard an active group of **Wood Frogs** and a few **Peepers** from their Frosty Hollow home on April 20, the following evening Ron Arsenault heard several **Wood Frogs** and a single **Peeper** calling from a pond at Cormiers Cove near Memramcook, David Christie noted a few **Wood Frogs** at Mary's Point on April 23, and by April 26 Dedreic Grecian reported "many" **Wood Frogs** and "many, many" **Spring Peepers** calling at Hyla Park Nature Reserve, Fredericton. Likewise, on April 23 Alain Clavette reported large numbers of **Wood Frogs** calling, and noted several egg masses, in his three-year-old pond at Taylor Village, even though it was 3° C and breezy. On April 29 participants in a Moncton Naturalist

Club outing to marshland at Lower Jemseg noted that two **Painted Turtles** were active sunbathing. By May 6 Kathy Popma reported struggling to speak above the din of **Peepers** at a marsh near Dorchester.

Wood Frogs, referred to as "explosive breeders", have a relatively short calling period, unlike the "extended breeder" Spring Peeper. By May 18 Ron Arsenault (Memramcook) reported his last **Wood Frog** calling; conversely, he noted that **Spring Peeper** activity increased markedly with the onset of warmer weather on May 17. Likewise, Julie Singleton noted that Peeper numbers were continuing to build in the Taymouth area on May 20.

Although Ron observed his first **Leopard Frog** on May 5, it was not until May 20 that he heard this species calling. Again, Ron noted an increase in calling activity in both **American Toads** and **Leopard Frogs** with the start of warmer weather in mid-May. On May 20 Ron also observed **Yellow-spotted Salamander** and **Red-spotted Newt** at Memramcook. The Yellow-spotted Salamander also has a short breeding period; I counted eight in a pond in Rockwood Park on May 3, so I expect any Yellow-spotted Salamanders still active in late May were the last stragglers. On June 9 Bev Schneider heard her first **Green Frog**, and I found several fresh egg masses in Rockwood Park on July 8.

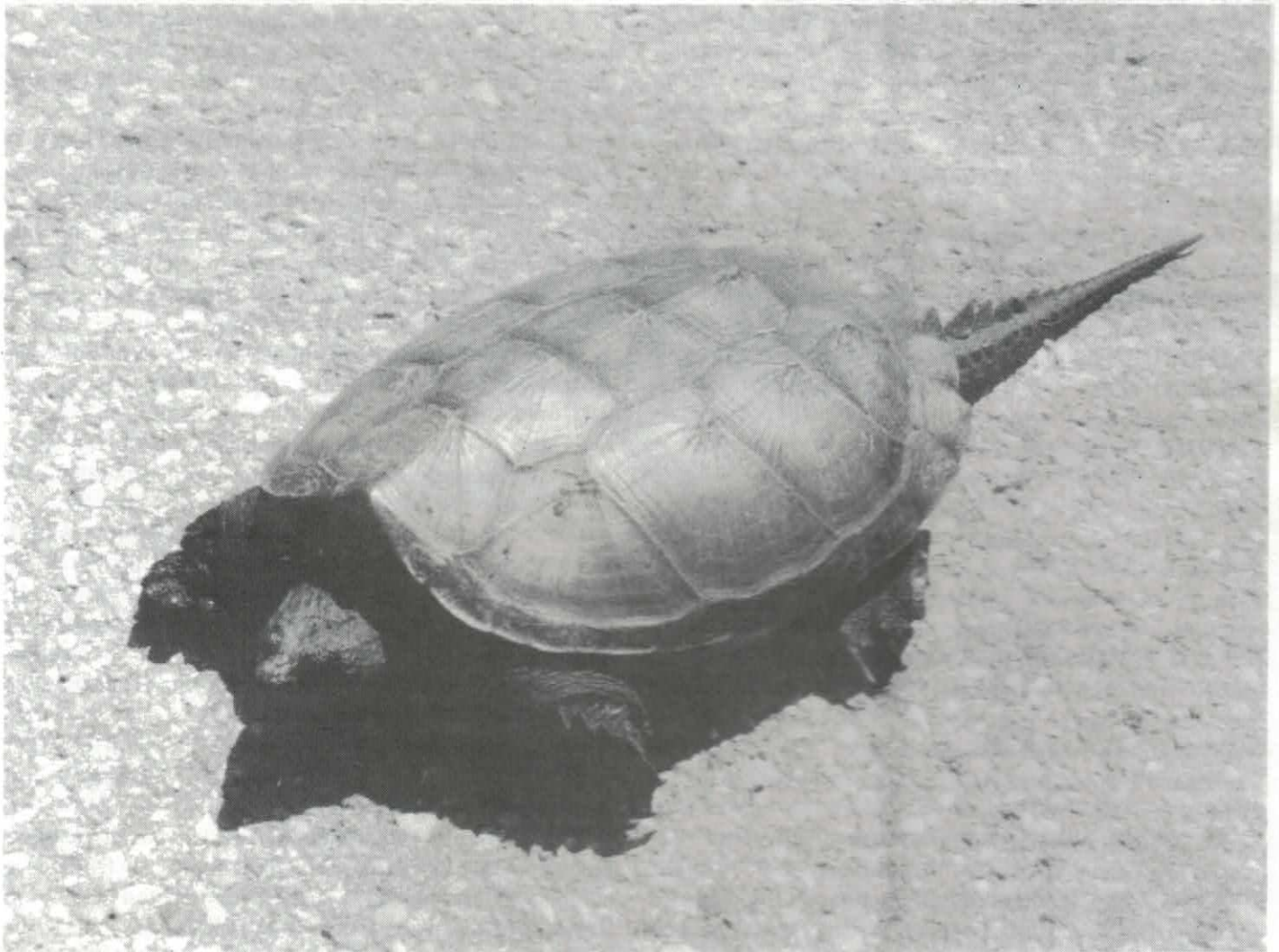
Gray Treefrogs appear to be continuing to expand their range in New Brunswick, an expansion that seems to have been underway in the province since at least the mid-1980s. Julie Singleton and Rob Whitney first heard a few **Gray Treefrogs** calling in the English Settlement area on July 22 last year. This year, on June 17, they heard two, perhaps three, **Gray Treefrogs** calling from the same area. This is about 35 km northwest of the Hyla Park Nature Preserve breeding site, until now the only known location for the Gray Treefrog north of the Saint John River. The species also seems to be expanding its range north and east from the St. Stephen area and now seems well established north to First Eel Lake. Kevin Connor heard **Gray treefrogs** calling at several locations in the Fosterville area on June 11 and Kevin Craig and Scott Makepeace heard calling on June 20 at the headwaters of Tamarack Brook, a tributary to First Eel Lake. It will be very interesting to continue tracking the apparent range expansion of this species in New Brunswick and naturalists are therefore especially encouraged to report observations of this species.

The New Brunswick Museum maintains a wood turtle observations database, so observations of Wood Turtles are always of interest. This largely terrestrial turtle has become rare and even endangered over much of its range, although New Brunswick seems to have several good populations. Inuk Simard noted a **Wood Turtle** crossing the road near Rexton on June 17; the following day Mike, Bernadette and Michael LeBlanc saw one near Saint-de-Gabriel. Tammy Dickenson and family were fortunate to observe three **Wood Turtles** at Fredericton Junction on June 29. On July 5 Kyle Purves discovered a **Wood Turtle** sitting in the middle of the Salamanca Trail at Fredericton.

Charlotte County seems to be one of the best areas in the province for Snapping Turtles. On June 24 Tracey

Dean observed four female **Snapping Turtles** digging out nest holes along a back road near Oakfield. Later that same day she discovered a lone snapper laying eggs near Three Brooks, along Highway 630. And on June 29 Ngairé and Dick Nelson discovered a large **Snapping Turtle** crossing Route 785 near the Blacks Harbour exit.

And finally, several intriguing snake observations have been received from Grand Manan. To date only the Green Snake and the Redbelly Snake have been recorded on the Island. But on May 21, Marilyn Locke reports her husband observed a dark brown snake estimated to be 70 cm in length crossing a road there. The description suggests a **Garter Snake**. For those on Grand Manan, keep your eyes open for snakes!



Snapping Turtle
Photo by: Margery Acheson

NATURE NEWS: BIRDS APRIL 1 to JULY 15, 2003

Ken MacIntosh

Highlights of this season include **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Say's Phoebe**, **Grasshopper Sparrow**, **Golden-crowned Sparrow**, **Brown Pelican** and **Gull-billed Tern**.

Franklin's Gull and **Swallow-tailed Kite** were reported, but seen only by single observers.

The earliest report of shearwaters was of **Greater Shearwaters (Puffin majeur)** and three **Manx Shearwaters (Puffin des Anglais)** seen off Grand Manan on June 24. **Wilson's Storm-Petrels (Océanite de Wilson)** were also seen on the same voyage.

Pelicans once again made a big splash. Roger Dumaesq spotted an **American White Pelican (Pélican d'Amérique)** from Cap Lumière on July 15. Jude Larocque made the more fantastic discovery of an immature **Brown Pelican (Pélican brun)** at Sainte-Marie/Saint-Raphael, Ile Lamèque, on June 28.

It was a good year for white egret sightings in the south. **Great Egrets (Grande Aigrette)** were recorded April 17 through July 8, at Chance Harbour, Dieppe, Cocagne, Red Head Marsh and Irving Nature Park, Saint John. **Snowy Egrets (Aigrette neigeuse)** were less common, with birds seen at Chance Harbour on April 2 (Bev Schneider) and at Daley Creek Marsh on May 21 (David Christie). Frederica Givan used an economical approach, recording the two species together at Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John, May 2.

A **Green Heron (Héron vert)** was found at White Head Island on May 18 (Stuart Tingley). Others were at the Marsh Road on May 19 (Gail Gallant), at Manawagonish Marsh in Saint John on May 21 (Aldie Robichaud), and at a sewage lagoon near Saint-Basile on June 20 (Eileen Pike).

A **Black-crowned Night-Heron (Bihoreau gris)** was at Fredericton on April 30 (Peter Pearce).

The **Glossy Ibis (Ibis falcinelle)** set a new standard for New Brunswick observers this year. Seven were at Hamstead on April 29 (Janet and Allen Gorham). A group of six appeared a short time later at Dieppe (Norm Belliveau). Last and, in this case, least, a single was near Rexton on May 4 (Inuk Simard).

Turkey Vultures (Urubu à tête rouge) were seen at Lee Settlement in Charlotte County on April 3 (Hugh Parks) and were widespread in several locations thereafter.

A **Swallow-tailed Kite (Milan à queue fourchue)** seems to have made an abbreviated visit to the Moncton area. A bird fitting that description was well described by Winston Jones at Coverdale on May 27 but eluded the rest of the birding community.

A **Eurasian Wigeon (Canard siffleur)** was spotted at Marsh Creek in Saint John on April 15 (Peter Wilshaw) and apparently lingered there well into May. Others were at Jemseg on May 3 (Don Gibson), at Tracadie-Sheila on May 11 (Frank Branch, Robert Doiron) and at Sunpoke Lake on June 11 (Don Gibson, Peter Pearce).

Common Teal (Sarcelle européenne) were found at Taylor Village on April 27 (Alain Clavette), and at Bloomfield on May 4 (Richard Blacquiére).

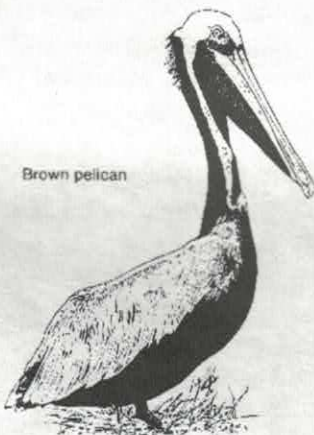
Gilles Belliveau must have thought he was seeing double when two pairs of **Redheads (Fuligule à tête rouge)** appeared in a flooded field near Jemseg on April 27. Stu Tingley found one at the Irving Nature Park on May 16. A pair returned to Calhoun Marsh, where they were seen by Gail Gallant on May 19.

If some of us had our way, the **Tufted Duck (Fuligule morillon)** might be incorporated into the official seal of the City of Saint John. A male has made a spectacle of itself, frequenting the Lancaster sewage lagoon and ponds in the adjacent Irving Nature Park since May 8 (Paula Noel). Jim Wilson caught the bird romancing a scaup hen on May 24. Evidence of the bird's success may be seen in the future. Another male was seen on the Kennebecasis River at Perry Point on April 13 (Jim Wilson).

After discovering a Common Teal, Alain Clavette enjoyed a bonus **King Eider (Eider à tête grise)** at Beaumont Point on April 27.

Most of us associate sea-ducks with coastal areas, so they seem out of place when they appear in freshwater habitat. Doug Jackson seemed unprepared for **Surf Scoters (Macreuse à front blanc)** on the St. John River at Fredericton on April 22. Surf Scoters were also at Jemseg on May 3 (Pierre Champigny) and at Lac Baker on May 18 (Eileen Pike).

Not to be outdone, **Black Scoters (Macreuse noire)** made themselves known on the Miramichi River on June



1 (Yvon and Cathy Beaulieu), and there were at least three reports from the Nashwaak River in May (*fide* Julie Singleton).

Four male and one female **Long-tailed Duck** (*Harelda kakawi*) were more than fashionably late at Bocabec Cove on June 29 (Tracey Dean).

Ruddy Ducks (*Érismature rousse*) were seen at Sackville Waterfowl Park on May 5 (Kathy Popma) and at St. Leonard on May 17 (Roy and Charlotte LaPointe).

A handsome **Red-shouldered Hawk** (*Buse à épaulettes*) perched peacefully on hydro lines near Kouchibouguac on May 9, while Mike LeBlanc sat back and took it all in.

A **Swainson's Hawk** (*Buse de Swainson*) may have been recorded here a second consecutive year. David Christie observed a bird which seemed to be of that species on June 19 along the Marys Point Road.

Golden Eagle (*Aigle royal*) is getting to be old news at Marys Point. An adult was seen there on June 20 (Mary Majka).

A **Spruce Grouse** (*Tétras du Canada*) was at Shirley Sloat's Fredericton feeder for several days about April 14. Jim Goltz saw a hen with at least two chicks at Bull Pasture Bog (about 40 km east of Fredericton) on July 3.

Secretive and nocturnal birds little known to most of us, two **Yellow Rails** (*Râle jaune*) were heard at Grand Lake Meadows on June 26 (Graham Forbes, Andrew MacInnis, Peter Pearce and Don Gibson).

An **American Oystercatcher** (*Huîtrier d'Amérique*) was seen at Sheep Island, off Grand Manan on June 11 (Brian Dalzell), near where the species was recorded last year.

Most likely seen here after breeding, a spring **Solitary Sandpiper** (*Chevalier solitaire*) was a nice find at Black Brook on May 18 (Jean-Sebastien Guenette).

Upland Sandpipers (*Maubèche des champs*) appeared briefly in a number of open habitats, the earliest noted at Maugerville on May 3 (Don Gibson, Shirley Sloat).

A **Whimbrel** (*Courlis corlieu*) was a surprise spring visitor to Sheep Island on May 9 (Brian Dalzell).

Marcel David's shorebird counts in the northeast produced a **Marbled Godwit** (*Barge marbrée*) on June 5, among many more common species.

Nice at any season, a pair of early **Baird's Sandpipers** (*Bécasseau de Baird*) were reported at the St. Leonard sewage lagoon on July 9 (Roy and Charlotte LaPointe).

Dunlin (*Bécasseau variable*) and seven other shorebird species were already at Maisonnnette on May 21. A **Ruff** (*Combattant varié*) at Bertrand on May 10 was a more unusual find (Marcel David).

The only **Wilson's Phalarope** (*Phalarope de Wilson*) of the spring was at McGowan's Corner, May 3 (Kevin Tutt, Christine Cornell).

At least one **Laughing Gull** (*Mouette atricille*) was in the Jemseg-Oromocto area this spring. Don Gibson and Shirley Sloat first reported it at Lower Jemseg on May 6. It (or another) was reported at the Oromocto Mall, and then at McGowans corner on May 7.

A near miss for the birding community, a **Franklin's Gull** (*Mouette de Franklin*) seems to have spent some time at a farm near Hammond River in late May but news hit the stands too late. Not so for a lovely adult **Mew Gull** (*Goéland cendré*), found by Jim Edsall among resident gulls near McGowans Corner on May 9. The bird lingered for several days and was enjoyed by many.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Goéland brun*) was found in expected locations this spring. Ron Wilson found one at Fredericton on May 6, then Bev Schneider found one at Mactaquac on May 10. Another was at the Irving Nature Park in Saint John on May 24 (Jim Wilson).

The greatest thing to happen to Eel River Bar (this year, at least) was the discovery of a **Gull-billed Tern** (*Sterne hansel*) by Bob Gillis, Raymond Chiasson and Mike Lushington. Sadly, the bird appears to have been present only on July 4.

Caspian Tern (*Sterne caspienne*) was first reported at Marsh Creek (Rick Peacock) and Irving Nature Park (Janet Whitehead) on May 14. On the same day, Brian Dalzell welcomed **Common Terns** (*Sterne pierregarin*) back to the Sheep Island colony.

The only report of **White-winged Dove** (*Tourterelle à ailes blanches*) this spring was by Allen and Janet Gorham, who found one on White Head Island on June 22.

A flurry of sightings of **Black-billed Cuckoo** (*Coulicou à bec noir*) occurred in June. They were reported at Taylor Village (Alain Clavette) and the Lancaster sewage lagoon (Eileen Pike) on June 3, then at Douglas on June 5 (Bev Schneider). Don Gibson reported one at Fredericton on June 8.

One of the most interesting findings of the Atlantic Canada Nocturnal Owl Survey was the presence of **Eastern Screech-Owl** (*Petit-duc maculé*) at Salisbury on April 29 (Jean-Sebastien Guenette). Jean-Sebastien plans further visits to follow up his find.

Whip-poor-will (*Engoulevent bois-pourri*) reports included a bird at Fredericton on May 11 (Kevin Tutt).

This year featured the usual handful of **Willow Flycatcher** (*Moucherolle des saules*) reports. A co-operative bird was at a DU impoundment near Penobsquis on June 22 (David Christie). Another was at the Sackville Waterfowl Park on July 8 (Mike Russell).

Another great find in mid-April was a young male **Say's Phoebe (Moucherolle à ventre roux)** at Sheldons Point, Saint John on April 17 (Ian Cameron). Another may have been at Jemseg in mid-June (Pierre Champigny).

The arrival of **Tree Swallows (Hirondelle bicolor)** was somewhat delayed by the persistent winter. They finally appeared on White Head Island, and at Bancroft Point, Grand Manan on April 21 (David Miller, Brian Dalzell).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (Hirondelle à ailes hérissées) returned to a regular summer haunt at Fredericton Junction, May 5 (Frederica Givan).

House Wren (Troglodyte familier) is becoming familiar in Fredericton. Jim Wilson heard one there on May 31.

The only report of **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (Gobemoucheron gris-bleu)** this spring was a bird located at the Whistle, Grand Manan, on May 23 (Merv Cormier).

A rare spring bird, a **Northern Wheatear (Traquet motteux)** was located on White Head Island on May 18 (Stu Tingley).

A much declined breeding species, the **Wood Thrush (Grive des bois)** is now much appreciated when found in the east. One was at Fredericton on May 23 (Peter Pearce). Singing males were recorded on the Breeding Bird Survey in the Penobsquis area on June 22 (David Christie).

A **Gray Catbird (Moqueur chat)** reported at west Saint John on May 21 (Frank Kelly) was among the first to arrive.

A **Brown Thrasher (Moqueur roux)** was discovered at Fredericton Junction on May 16 (Peter Pearce, Shirley Sloat and Don Gibson). Jim Goltz encountered one near Mactaquac Dam on May 18 and Julie Singleton had a visit from another on May 23.

Novel warblers were scarcely reported this spring. There were also few reports of significant fall-outs. Yolande LeBlanc revelled in a swarm of typical warblers which descended on Taylor Village on May 19.

A **Yellow-throated Warbler (Paruline à gorge jaune)** was seen by Gail Gallant and friends at Salisbury

on May 19. Another put on quite a show at Scotch Settlement on July 13 (Bev Schneider).

While Norm, Gilles and Giselle Belliveau admired a Great Egret in Chance Harbour on April 17, a **Louisiana Waterthrush (Paruline de hochequeue)** was trying to be noticed on the other side of the road. Fortunately, it lingered for several days and so was appreciated by many.

A **Summer Tanager (Tangara vermillon)** proved a bit of an identification challenge when it appeared at Jackie DeCoste's feeder in Salisbury on May 7. Others were at Riverview on May 10 (David Christie) and at a Welsford feeder on May 11 (*fide* Merv Cormier).

A **Field Sparrow (Bruant des champs)** was discovered by Mike Majka on April 23. Another was in Fredericton Junction on May 6 (Frederica Givan).

Alain Clavette and Valmond Bourque discovered one of the season's highlights. A **Grasshopper Sparrow (Bruant sauterelle)** was well seen and photographed at the "magic" rose bush at Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan, on May 20.

There were few reports of **White-crowned Sparrows (Bruant à couronne blanche)** this spring. One visited a Saint John feeder for several days from May 4 (Dave Smith). Others were at Carlingford on May 10 (Pat Frenette).

A **Golden-crowned Sparrow (Bruant à couronne dorée)** was inaccessible to all but a lucky few when it appeared at Machias Seal Island on July 4 (reported by lightkeeper Russell Ross).

Among many reports of **Indigo Bunting (Passerin indigo)**, three single birds were reported at Grand Manan locations, April 17 to 29. Mainland sightings were one at Garnett Settlement on May 6, two at Albert County locations in late May (*fide* David Christie), and a single at Lee Settlement on June 14 (Hugh Parks).

An **Orchard Oriole (Oriole des vergers)** was at Grand Manan on May 17 (Valmond Bourque, Alain Clavette). An immaculate male was tempting fate at Tracey Dean's banding station in St. Andrews on June 7.

Among reports of **Baltimore Oriole (Oriole de Baltimore)** were birds at St. Leonard on May 17 (Roy and Charlotte LaPointe) and at Moncton on May 19 (Doug Whitman).



Louisiana Waterthrush
photo by Bev Schneider

NATURE NEWS -- BOTANY RAMBLINGS

MID-APRIL TO JUNE 30, 2003

James P. Goltz

VASCULAR PLANTS

New Species

Gart Bishop found **Hairy Oat Grass** (*Helictotrichon pubescens*) at the Martello Tower at Saint John in early June. This European grass had not previously been reported from the province.

Woody Plants

A single bush of **Speckled Alder** (*Alnus incana*) was shedding pollen at Rosevale on April 14, despite the 15 cm of freshly fallen snow (AW). By April 24, many more alders were shedding pollen there (AW).

The spidery red-purple female flowers of **Beaked Hazel** (*Corylus cornuta*) were reported at Rosevale on April 24 and many plants of that species were flowering there by May 4 (AW).

Buds of **Red Maple** (*Acer rubrum*) were close to opening at Rosevale by May 4 (AW).

Sweet Gale (*Myrica gale*) was in full bloom near the beach at Marys Point on May 17 (DSC).

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.) began to bloom at Rosevale on May 18, and many were in flower there by the following day (AW). Serviceberry was starting to burst into bloom at Harvey, Albert County by May 23 (MNCNIL).

In early June, Becky Whittam found some **white-flowered Rhodora** (*Rhododendron canadense forma albiflorum*) near her home at Sackville.

Early Bloomers

The first spring flowers, though for some species behind schedule by up to two to four weeks compared to most years, were especially welcome this year following the long, hard winter.

Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) was in bloom at McLarens Beach at Saint John on April 17 (DSC), at Rosevale on April 20 (AW), at Grey Brook Marsh near Hillsborough on April 22 (MLB, MG, SLB), in the Penniac area by May 9 (BD), and in the area of Saint-Basile and Rivière-Verte on May 11 (RLP). Coltsfoot was "at its peak" at Rosevale by May 4 (AW).

Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) was flowering on Lutz Street in Moncton on April 22 (MLB, MG, SLB), and was blooming "in everybody's yard" in the Shediac Bridge area by May 16 (NP).

Trailing Arbutus (*Epigaea repens*) buds were swelling and showing white at Marys Point by April 19

(DSC). Only "a few small flower buttons" of **Trailing Arbutus** (*Epigaea repens*) were showing at Rosevale by April 20 (AW) but 75% of the flowers there were already in bloom by May 2 (AW). Trailing Arbutus was in bloom at Penniac by May 9 (BD, DD).

Numerous **Dutchman's-breeches** (*Dicentra cucullaria*) were in bloom at Taymouth on May 1, and many were still in full bloom there by May 15, although some were past their prime by that date (JS). Ajo Wissink's favourite patch of Dutchman's-breeches was showing leaves by May 4 but had completely vanished by May 19, likely having been eaten by some animal.

At Rosevale, leaves of **Trout Lily** (*Erythronium americanum*) were over 5 cm long by April 24, flowers of this species were almost open by May 2, and "quite a few" flowers were in evidence by May 4, but only in the most protected places. In windy spots, the flower buds were not even showing there by May 4 (AW). A single hardy plant of Trout Lily was in bloom at Taymouth on May 1 at a time when none of the others there showed any sign of buds (JS). Trout Lily leaves were seen at Penniac by May 9 (BD). Trout Lily was in full bloom at Taymouth by May 15 (JS) and was in flower at Marys Point on May 17 (DSC).

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) was beginning to bloom at Penniac by May 9 (BD) and was in full bloom at Taymouth by May 15, when a few plants of this species already had seed heads (JS).

Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*) were found in bloom during a foray to Saint-Basile and Rivière-Verte on May 11 (RLP).

Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*) was in bud at Taymouth on May 15 (JS). New locations for that species were found along the Nashwaak River near Penniac on June 10 (BD, DD, JPG, JJW) and near Durham Bridge on June 18 (JPG, JJW).

Wood Anemone (*Anemone quinquefolia*) was in bud at Taymouth by May 15, and **Little Merry Bells** (also called **Wild Oats**, *Uvularia sessilifolia*) had pushed out of the ground there by that date (JS).

An early **Sensitive Fern** (*Onoclea sensibilis*) already had several fronds fully open at Taymouth by May 15, when "most plants of this species hadn't even sent up their stalks yet!" (JS)

One plant of **Toothwort** (*Cardamine diphylla*) had large flower buds at Taymouth by May 16, before other plants of that species showed any sign of buds (JS).

Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*) was in flower at Taymouth on May 16 (JS) and at Marys Point on May 17 (DSC).

Much **Spring Beauty** (*Claytonia caroliniana*) was flowering at Cape Enrage on May 17 (DSC).

A single bloom of **Red Trillium** (*Trillium erectum*) was seen at Taymouth on May 15, along with many other plants of that species in bud (JS). Unusual colour forms of Red Trillium were seen and photographed in hardwoods about 9 km NNE of Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes in late May by Roy LaPointe and in hardwoods on the Renous Highway on May 29 by Nelson Poirier. The Trillium flowers near Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes varied from pale yellow, through pale pink to typical burgundy colour, and variegated blossoms with both burgundy and pale yellow were found at both sites. A few blooms of Red Trillium persisted at Rockwood Park on May 31 (KMI).

A few flowers of **Painted Trilliums** (*Trillium undulatum*) were found near Anthony Lake on May 17 (JPG, JJW), many plants of that species were in bloom along the Dobson Trail between the Levy Road and Berryton on May 31 (AW), and blooms of this species were abundant in some areas at Rockwood Park, in the Long Lake to Owens Lake area, on May 31 (KMI).

Nodding Trillium (*Trillium cernuum*) was seen at Mapleton Nature Park at Moncton on the weekend of May 17 and 18 (TMC).

Northern Blue Violet (now lumped with **Woolly Blue Violet**, *Viola sororia*) was beginning to bloom at Marys Point on May 18 (DSC).

A single bloom of **Goldthread** (*Coptis trifolia*) was found at Taymouth on May 20 (JS), while many Goldthread were found in bloom along the Dobson Trail between the Levy Road and Berryton on May 31 (AW).

Brian Dalzell reported that **Meadow Foxtail** (*Alopecurus pratensis*), an early-flowering Eurasian grass that superficially resembles Timothy, has become abundant in places around North Head, Grand Manan Island, where it continues to spread along roadsides and in fields. This species was "ready to bloom" there by May 25.

Plants found in bloom by the Saint John Naturalists' Club during a May 25 foray to the St. George area included **Dewberry** (*Rubus pubescens*), Wood Anemone, Wild Strawberry, Dandelion and an unspecified species of Purple Violet (NN).

A few **Hobblebush** (*Viburnum lantanoides*) and the first **Bunchberry** (*Cornus canadensis*) flowers were in bloom along the Dobson Trail between the Levy Road and Berryton on May 31, when **Canada Mayflower** (*Maianthemum canadense*) and **Clintonia** (*Clintonia borealis*) were still in bud there (AW). A carpet of

Bunchberry and Canada Mayflower was seen at the UNB Woodlot in Fredericton on June 15 (RW).

The single plant of **Early Coralroot** (*Corallorhiza trifida*) seen at Rockwood Park on May 31 had been trampled (KMI).

A single white-flowered **Moccasin Flower** (*Cypripedium acaule forma albiflorum*) was seen at Rockwood Park on May 31 (KMI). Moccasin Flower in both its white and pink colour forms was in bloom at Penniac on June 9 (BD, DD, JPG, JJW), near Hampton on June 11 (MEB), at the UNB Woodlot in Fredericton on June 15 (RW) and at Blanchette Mountain near Edmundston on June 23 (RLP).

Showy Orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*) was in flower at Russell Woods in Woodstock on June 1 (NP), when many flowers of that species were still in bud there.

Heart-leaved Twayblade (*Listera cordata*) was in bloom at Andersonville on June 8 (MP).

Bogbean or **Buckbean** (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) was at the height of its bloom at Saint John on June 4 (EP, RAM, JW, RP).

Native plants found during a Moncton Naturalists' Club outing to Irishtown Nature Park on June 7 included Painted Trillium, Moccasin Flower, **Starflower** (*Trientalis borealis*), Clintonia and an unidentified Violet (GB).

Blue Flag (*Iris versicolor*) was in flower along the St.-Anselme Trail and on the Crawley Farm Road at Moncton on June 16 (GB).

Fourteen plants of **Southern Twayblade** (*Listera australis*), all but one in bloom, were seen at Kouchibouguac National Park on June 22 (JPG, DV). Last year, only six plants of this species were seen there.

FUNGI

Black Morel (*Morchella elata*) was seen at Keswick Ridge on May 24 (JPG, DG) and in hardwoods on the Renous Highway on May 29 (NP).

ABBREVIATIONS

AW Ajo Wissink,
BD Bonnie Deveau,
DD Daniel Deveau,
DG Don Gibson,
DSC David Christie,
DV Don Vail, EP Eileen Pike,
GB Gilles Bourque,
JJW James Walde, JPG



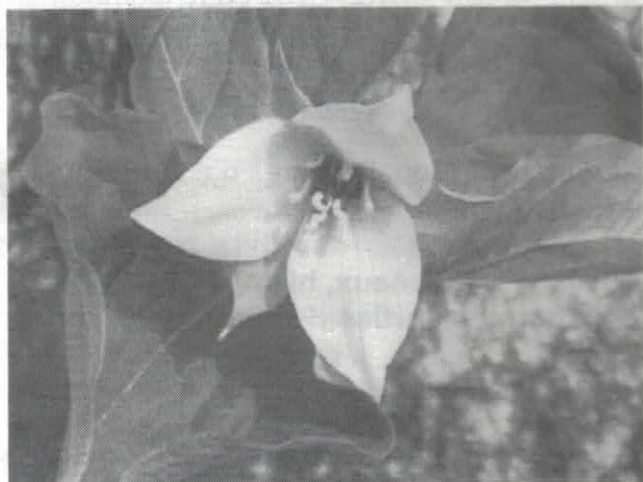
Black Morel
Photo by Roy LaPointe

James Goltz, JS Julie Singleton, JW Janet Whitehead, KMI Ken MacIntosh, MEB Maureen Bourque, MG Maria Gauvin, MLB Mike LeBlanc, MNCNIL Moncton Naturalists' Club Nature Information Line, MP Mary

Pugh, NN Ngaire Nelson, NP Nelson Poirier, RAM Rose-Alma Mallet, RLP Roy LaPointe, RP Roy Pike, RW Ron Wilson, SLB Stella LeBlanc, TMC Theresa McCready, UNB University of New Brunswick.



Red Trillium (typical burgundy colour form)
photo by Roy LaPointe



Red Trillium (pale yellow)
photo by Roy LaPointe



Red Trillium (variegated pale yellow and burgundy)
photo by Nelson Poirier

2003 NBFN Survey Results Résultats 2003 Sondage FNNB

Part 1 Partie 1

MEMBER INTERESTS/INTÉRÊTS DES MEMBRES

1 Age: (a) -20 **2%** (b) 21 - 35 **6%** (c) 36 - 50 **22%** (d) 50+ **70%**

2 Female/Femme: **51%** Male/Homme **49%**

3 Please list any nature or environment groups you are a member of/ Identifiez les autres groupes de nature ou environnementaux auxquels vous faites partie :

Top answers/Réponses plus communes: **Moncton Naturalists Club, Saint John Naturalist Club, Nature Trust, CNF/FNC.***

ABA, American Fern Association, American Ornithologists' Union., (AOU), Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche, Atlantic Salmon Fed., Audubon Society, Bats Conservation Int, Bird Studies Canada, Botany Club of NB, BOV, Canaan Washadamoak Watershed Ass., Canadian Botanical Association, Canadian Nature Federation, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Canards Illimités, Chignecto Naturalists, Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule Acadienne, Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée, Coalition stillwater, Conseil de conservation du NB, Conservation Council of NB, Council of Canadians, CPAWS, CWF, David Suzuki Foundation, Dobsin Trail Association, Ducks Unlimited, Endangered Spaces Coalition, Études oiseaux Canada, FAW, Fédération canadienne de la faune, Fédération canadienne de la Nature, Fédération du saumon de l'Atlantique, Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Fédération sites naturels du N.-B., Ford Alward Naturalists Assoc., Fredericton Botanic Garden, Fredericton Nature Club, Fredericton organic community garden, Fundy Model Forest, Greenpeace Canada, IAT, Interpretation Canada, Kennebecasis Naturalists, Lepidopterists Society, Les amis de la nature du sud-est Inc, Lower Grand river land trust, MAW, Michigan botanical Club, Moncton Naturalists Club, National Wildlife Federation, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Nature Saskatchewan, Nature Trust of NB, NB Bird Society, NB Wildlife Federation, NBEN, NBFN, NB Trails, New England Botanical Club, New York Flora Assoc, Northeastern Naturalists Assoc., NS Bird Society, Ottawa Field Naturalists, Outdoor Enthusiasts, Photo Fredericton, Project Feederwatch, Projet Siffleur, Raptor Research Center, RENB, Restigouche Naturalists Club, Restigouche River Watershed Management, Saint John Naturalists, Scouts Canada, Sierra Club, Société canadienne de zoologie, Société d'aménagement Riv. Madawaska, Society of Canadian Ornithologists, SOS, Toronto Entomologists Association, Tropical Conservancy, Vermont Land Trust, Washadamoak Environmentalists, Whale and Seabird Research Station, Whooping Crane Conservation Association, The Wildlife Society, Wildlife Diseases Association,

4 What nature-related recreational activities do you take part in? / À quels genres d'activités 'nature' aimez-vous participer?

Top answers/Réponses plus communes: **Birding/Observation d'oiseaux, hiking-walking/marcher, photography/photographie and club outings/sorties de clubs.**

5 What benefits do you derive from your NBFN membership? / Nommez les bienfaits d'être membre de la FNNB.

Top answers/Réponses plus communes: **NBNaturalist/LeNaturalist, AGM/AGA, education, Listserve.**

6 Are you satisfied with the NBFN logo? / Êtes-vous satisfait(e)s du logo de la FNNB? (a) YES/OUI **92%** (b) NO/NON **8%**

Part 2 Partie 2

NBFN-FNNB

7 Does the NBFN represent your views and interests regarding nature and natural history in New Brunswick? Est-ce que la FNNB exprime vos vues et intérêts de la nature et l'histoire naturelle du Nouveau-Brunswick?

(a) YES/OUI **99%** (b) NO/NON **1%**

8 Do you think NBFN should increase its efforts to make New Brunswickers aware of the organisation and its mission? / Pensez-vous que la FNNB doit augmenter ses efforts afin de rendre les Néo-Brunswickois conscients de l'organisation et de sa mission?

(a) YES/OUI **92%** (b) NO/NON **2%**

9 Did you know that NBFN supports: Saviez-vous que la FNNB appuie :

Piper Project/Projet Siffleur	(a) YES/OUI 88% (b) NO/NON 12%
Summer Nature Camps d'été Nature	(a) YES/OUI 74% (b) NO/NON 26%
Point Lepreau Bird Observatory	(a) YES/OUI 87% (b) NO/NON 13%
Mary's Point	(a) YES/OUI 88% (b) NO/NON 12%
Important Bird Areas/Zones Importantes de la conservation des Oiseaux?	(a) YES/OUI 85% (b) NO/NON 15%

10 Should NBFN increase its efforts to report on projects, programs and resolutions to the membership?/La FNNB devrait-elle augmenter ses efforts afin d'informer ses membres sur les projets, programmes et résolution?

(a) YES/OUI **84%** (B) NO/NON **16%**

Comments/Remarques: Perhaps more reporting in the NBNaturalist. Most members know about NBFN through their club rep, perhaps more effort toward the general public. Peut-être plus de reportage dans le Naturaliste, la plupart des membres connaît la FNNB via leur représentant de club. Plus d'effort devrait être visé au publique en général.

Part 3 Partie 3

AGM & NB NATURALIST/AGA & Le NATURALISTE

11 Have you attended an NBFN Annual General Meeting? Avez-vous déjà participé à une Assemblée Générale Annuelle de la FNNB?

(a) YES/OUI **59%** (b) NO/NON **41%**

12 If yes, did you enjoy the experience? Si oui, avez-vous aimé votre expérience? (a) YES/OUI **100%** (b) NO/NON **0%**

13 If NO, what improvements would you like to see to the AGM? Si NON, quels genres d'améliorations apporteriez-vous?

Comments/Remarques : Business part of it is too long. Circulate reports beforehand, ex: financial reports, club reports etc... La partie affaire est trop longue. Distribuer les rapports en avance, ex : rapport financier et rapports des clubs.

14 What changes would you like to see to the format, content, number of issues and production quality of NB Naturalist? Quels genres d'améliorations apporteriez-vous à la revue Le Naturaliste (format, quantité et qualité)?

-More club reports -Try to maintain a regular quarterly publication date -Print on recycled paper - More articles in french -Consider having all articles translated into both languages -6 issues per year instead of 4 -Add color -New cover design -Sell it in stores to be accessible to non-members -Use a professional with a DTP to design a whole new magazine.

-Plus de rapport de clubs -Essayer de maintenir une publication à date -Imprimer sur du papier recyclé -Plus d'articles en français -Considérer traduire tous les articles dans les deux langues. - 6 publications par an au lieu de 4 -Ajouter de la couleur -Redessiner la couverture -La vente au magasins pour la vente aux non-membres -Utiliser les services d'un professionnel pour créer un tout nouveau journal.

Part 3 Partie 3 (cont..)

AGM & NB NATURALIST/AGA & Le NATURALISTE

15 Would you be willing to pay a higher membership fee to maintain the current number of issues of NB Naturalist? Seriez-vous dispose à payer des frais de membres plus élevés afin de garder le nombre actuel de la publication Le Naturaliste à 4 par an? (a) YES/OUI **85%** (b) NO/NON **15%**

If yes, how much? Si oui, de combien? **\$14.50** (This is the average from the 44 people who indicated an amount...ce numéro représente le pourcentage des montants indiqués par 44 personnes)

16 Would you object if for financial reasons, the NBFN decided to reduce the number of annual issues from four to three? Auriez-vous objections, pour des raisons financières, à réduire le nombre de publication de quatre à trois par année? (a) YES/OUI **30%** (b) NO/NON **70%**

17 Would you have any objections to advertisements appearing in NB Naturalist? Auriez-vous des objections aux annonces publicitaires dans Le Naturaliste? (a) YES/OUI **12%** (b) NO/NON **88%**

Part 4 Partie 4**MEMBER CLUBS / CLUBS LOCAUX**

18 In your opinion, does your local club benefit from its association with the NBFN? D'après votre expérience, est-ce que votre club local bénéficie de son association avec la FNNB? (a) YES/OUI **91%** (b) NO/NON **9%**

.....

19 How could the association between your member club and the Federation be improved? Comment pourrait-on améliorer l'association entre votre club local et la Fédération?

-Jointly sponsored field trips & guest speakers -It is up to each club to have faithful rep who attends meetings and reports back to club -Financial assistance for clubs -Club reports in quarterly NB Naturalist -Better communication -NBFN presidential visits (bi-annually?) when possible -Have board meetings elsewhere than only Fredericton.

-Sorties et invités collectives -À chaque club d'avoir un représentant fiable pour participer aux réunions et se rapporter de nouveau au club -Assistance financière aux clubs -Rapports de clubs à chaque publication Le Naturaliste -Meilleure communication -Visite de président-e de la FNNB (2 fois par an) lorsque possible -Avoir les rencontres ailleurs que seulement Fredericton.

.....

20 Do you believe local Club functions and projects are supported by NBFN? Pensez-vous que la FNNB appuie les fonctions et projets de votre club?

(a) YES/OUI **87%** (b) NO/NON **13%**

.....

NBFN would be grateful for your comments on these questions and any other matters you might wish to express. La FNNB sollicite toutes autres questions ou commentaires que vous désirez partager.

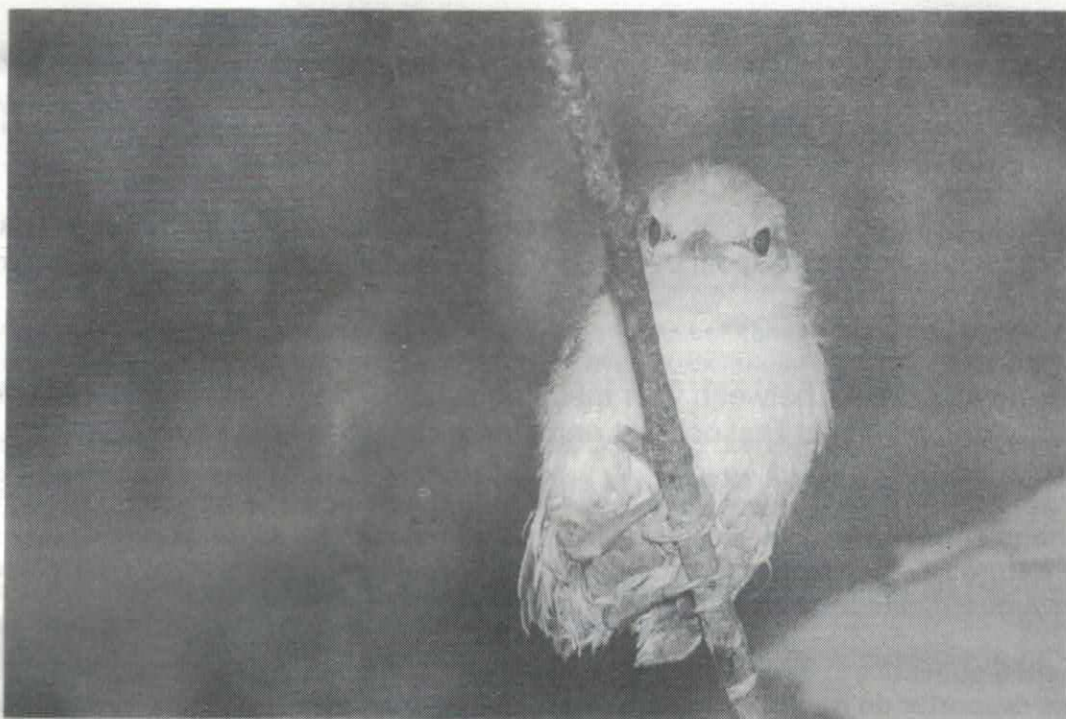
"Many people put "communication" high on priority lists, thus putting pressure on groups to publish newsletters, etc. However when it comes to communicating, we need to think about quality rather than quantity and we have no shortage of free communication tools now. I would not feel pressured to increase publications. You are already doing much work for free."

"I would pay more for membership and I would give financial support to specific projects if the need was made clear."

"Félicitations et merci aux bénévoles de la FNNB"

"Advertisements should be limited to nature oriented products or theme. As per question: Do you believe local club functions supported by NBFN...answer was No, with footnote 'probably due to small amount of Federation feedback' "

"Il y a encore des trous dans le NB qui ne sont pas encore représentés par un club. La FNNB a un très bon équipe qui travail pour la nature au NB., merci à tous les gens qui travail à ce niveau et merci pour le questionnaire."



Young Least Flycatcher photo by Jean-Sébastien Guénette



Rabbit Meets Raptor photo by Lorna MacKenzie

ANSWERS TO WINTER QUIZ COMPETITION

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

Many thanks to those members who responded to the Winter Quiz printed in the winter issue of NB Naturalist / Le Naturaliste du N.-B. [29 (4)]. Our former president, Rose-Alma Mallet, had the most correct answers ... 22 out of 25! Congratulations Rose-Alma. She is the winner of Roger Burrows' new field guide "Birds of Atlantic Canada", published by Lone Pine.

1. What are the three species of bats native to New Brunswick which, much like birds, fly south for the winter?
 - c). Red Bat, Silver-haired bat, Hoary Bat. This group of bats, known collectively as tree bats, migrate south to the Carolinas and perhaps as far as Central America.
2. What are the three species of New Brunswick amphibians which can tolerate freezing of their body fluids?
 - d) Wood Frog, Gray Treefrog, Spring Peeper. Freezing tolerance is an over-wintering strategy among those frogs which hibernate at or near the soil surface. Frogs which burrow deeply into soil during winter or hibernate under water are freeze-intolerant. Upon exposure to low temperatures, freeze-tolerant frogs accumulate the sugar glucose in body fluids, which acts as an "anti-freeze".
3. 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?
 - a) 200 years. The Eastern Pearlshell is a medium-to-large mussel still common in many New Brunswick rivers and streams. Unfortunately populations have declined in many areas and New Brunswick populations may be important to the species' survival. Eastern Pearlshells take 20 years or more to reach sexual maturity and due to their long life span, populations may appear healthy even when no young mussels have been produced for many decades.
4. Among Canadian provinces the earthworm fauna of New Brunswick is one of the best known. In spite of that, when was a 15th species of earthworm, the American Mudworm, first recorded as occurring in New Brunswick?
 - b) 2001. The American Mudworm occurs in water-saturated soils, often on the bottom of streams and rivers, habitats earthworm specialists rarely sample. Among the 15 species of earthworm found in New Brunswick, the mudworm is probably the only native species, the other 14 all being European introductions.
5. Jellyfish have been recorded in New Brunswick lakes.
 - a) True. There are two recent (1997 and 1999) records of the freshwater jellyfish, *Craspedacusta sowerbyi*, from lakes in New Brunswick, the most northeasterly North American occurrences.
6. What is New Brunswick's provincial tree?
 - e) Balsam Fir
7. Which plant species is not an orchid?
 - c) Jack-in-the-pulpit
8. What species of fern is New Brunswick's "fiddlehead" fern?
 - b) Ostrich Fern
9. Which of these species is not considered to be endangered in New Brunswick?
 - a) Pinesap
10. Which of these species is truly a grass?
 - d) Fowl Manna Grass
11. Which of these species is not poisonous?
 - b) Broad-leaved Arrowhead
12. Which of these species flowers latest in the year?
 - a) Witch-hazel
13. Which of these species is not insectivorous?
 - e) Sleepy Catchfly
14. Which of these species is native to New Brunswick?
 - c) Black Crowberry
15. Which of these species is not considered to be disjunct in New Brunswick?

d) Virginia Creeper

16. Which species holds the northernmost record for nesting?

b) Long-tailed Jaeger (latitude 83° 05' 35" N - fewer than 800 km from the North Pole)

17. Dovekies nest in the Canadian north.

b) False. According to W. Earl Godfrey they nest in Greenland and other islands. However, he does state it is possible that they may nest at a few locations within Canada.

18. What species of tern, other than Arctic Tern, nest north of latitude 60° N?

d) All of the above, (mainly near Great Slave Lake).

19. What do Snowy Owls eat for dessert?

d) Other. Lemming meringue pie - of course!

20. What present day common mammal was not noted in New Brunswick in the 1899 provincial hunting and fishing map?

Quelle espèce de mammifère commun de nos jours n'était pas noté sur une carte provinciale de chasse et pêche en 1899?

c) White-tailed Deer Cerf de Virginie

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 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 10 000 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.

d) Porcupine Porc-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 aux Parcs nationaux Kouchibouguac et Fundy?

b) 1985 & 1974

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 apparut pour la première fois dans notre Naturaliste du N.-B. ?

c) 1985 & 1989

24. What are Snow Fleas?

c) insects found on top of snow or in snow depressions during the winter

25. What is the bright morning "star" seen during the winter?

c) the planet Venus

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