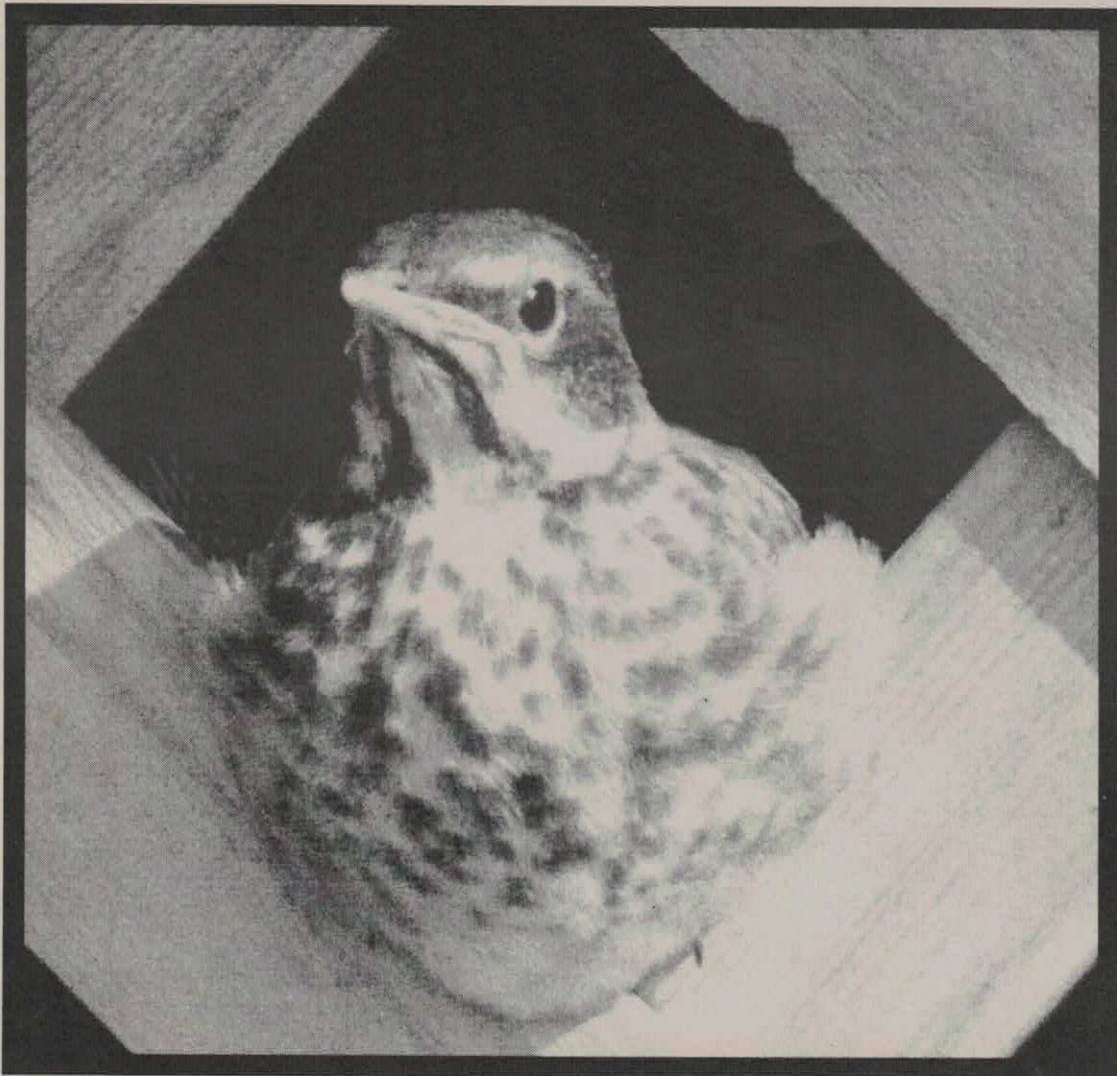


30 (3) Autumn / Automne 2003

# ***N.B. Naturalist***

## ***Le Naturaliste du N.-B.***







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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Club Naturaliste de la vallée de Memramcook,** a/s Yolande Leblanc, 251 rue Centrale, Memramcook, NB E4K 3P8; tel. 758-9583; courriel: yolande@nbnet.nb.ca. Réunions 3e mardi du mois, à la Salle Mère Marie-Léonie

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

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

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

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

**Moncton Naturalists' Club,** Box 28036, Highfield Square P.O., Moncton, NB E1C 9N4; 384-6937 (information line); meets Church of the Nazarene, 21 Fieldcrest Drive, 7 pm, 3rd Tue., Sept.-June; monthly newsletter.

**Restigouche Naturalists' Club,** c/o Campbellton Library, Box 130, Campbellton, NB E3N 3G9; 684-3258; meets Campbellton Centennial Library, 7 pm, 1st Monday; <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 tous vos 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 the next issue by **February 15, 2004**  
S.v.p., soumettre les articles à l'intention du prochain numéro avant le **15 février, 2004**

to / à  
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## Rapport du Président / President's Message

Mike LeBlanc

Me voici, le 2 novembre, je conduis sur la route entre Miramichi et Plaster Rock au long de la Renous, en direction du Madawaska, un séjour de 4 jours pour faire des programmes d'interprétation dans les écoles de la région pour le Parc national du Canada Kouchibouguac.

Ça faisait un bout de temps que je n'avais pas traversé cette belle partie du Nouveau-Brunswick qui m'impressionne toujours avec ces montagnes que je n'ai pas la chance de voir dans ma région. Quand j'étais jeune, cette région était pour moi une région qui n'avait pas encore été très voyagé et était la dernière partie sauvage de la province.

Durant les années 1988 et 1989 je voyageais cette route presque à tout les semaines quand j'allais au collège à Edmundston et ces années là cette région avait encore beaucoup de forêt qui n'avait pas encore passé sous les lames de la foresterie. Les temps changent et notre province aussi change.

En conduisant à travers de cette région, j'ai pensé à plusieurs choses : le rapport Jaakko-Poyry, le futur de nos terres de la couronne, le problème croissant des VTTs, la destruction d'habitats, les espèces en périls et bien d'autre. Je pensais aussi à la FNNB – NBFN, ce que nous faisons et nos activités.

La FNNB – NBFN a toujours été un élément clé de l'éducation environnemental depuis sa création et continue à jouer ce rôle encore aujourd'hui avec les divers projets : Les camps d'été jeunesse, le centre d'interprétation Mary's Point, le Projet Siffleur, le tout nouveau trousse d'éducation des espèces en péril, la liste d'oiseaux provincial, l'affiche de grenouilles et notre revue le Naturaliste du N.B. qui est un excellent outil éducationnel. Et pour moi, notre meilleur outil pour éduquer les Néo-Brunswickois de notre patrimoine naturel c'est nous : les naturalistes, membres de la Fédération.

Chacun de nous avons influencé au moins quelques personnes avec ce qui nous passionne de la nature que ce soit : les oiseaux, plantes, animaux, orchidées, champignons, mousses, insectes, araignées, climat, ..... Le partage que nous faisons est un élément très valable de l'éducation de notre patrimoine naturel. Je vous encourage de partager vos connaissances et éveiller le souci des autres pour nos richesses naturelles du

N.-B. Ensemble nous pouvons faire une différence.

Mais, il nous reste beaucoup du trajet à faire et nous continuons d'évoluer comme Fédération dans la province et au Canada. Depuis septembre, Sabine Dietz est notre Directrice Générale de la FNNB et elle aura ce poste jusqu'en juin. Durant ce temps elle va travailler à améliorer certains détails de la fédération et elle va aussi travailler à établir des tâches pour qu'en juin, tout sera en place pour la personne permanente à ce poste.

Tous les naturalistes, clubs, et notre fédération sont la seule voix uni pour la nature et ensemble nous pouvons faire une différence. Bonnes observations!

Here we are November 2nd and I am traveling along the Renous Highway on my way to a 4-day trip to the Madawaska region to give interpretive programs for Kouchibouguac National Park. I had not traveled this route in a while and I remembered, while growing up, this area of New Brunswick was like that last frontier that had yet to be discovered. Back in 1988 and 1989 I was going to college in Edmundston and would return home to Bouctouche this route most weekends and it was still a mostly 'wild' part of New Brunswick.

Times change and so does our province. While driving along this part of the province I began thinking about a lot of things, the Jakko-Proyry Report, the future of our crown lands, the increasing ATV problems, habitat destruction, species at risk and NBFN – FNNB and our activities.

The NBFN – FNNB has always been a strong environmental educator in the province. Just think about what we do: Youth Summer Camps, Mary's Point interpretation center, Piper Project, the new Species at Risk education kit, provincial bird list, Frog Poster and of course our 'NB Naturalist' which is a great education tool. And to me the most important tool the Federation has to educate New Brunswickers about our nature is us, our membership. Everyone of us has affected people around us by talking about birds, plants, animals, orchids, mushrooms, ferns, mosses, insects, spiders, ..... The sharing that we do with others is



something very valuable that all of nature benefits from. Go out and share what fascinates you about your passion in nature. We can make a difference.

But there is still a lot to do and we are continuing to evolve as a group in the province, the region and in Canada. Since September Sabine Dietz is our new Executive Director and will be holding this position until June. During this time she will be working hard at

smoothing out some little issues within the NBFN and also looking out for the long term of the Federation so that in June she will step aside for someone to fill this position permanently.

All naturalists, our clubs and our Federation are the only united voice for nature and together we can make a difference.

Good observing!

## NBFN – FNNB wins Environmental Leadership Award!

*Marieka Arnold*

On October 2, NBFN (NB Federation of Naturalists)/FNNB (Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B.) representatives were the proud recipients of the Department of Environment and Local Government Environmental Leadership Award 2003, in the group, organization and community category. The English media release with accompanying photo can be viewed at the website below:

<http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0369/0006/2003-e.asp>

The Federation was recognized for its important role in the province for the past 30 years. Mary's Point Shorebird Reserve, the Piper Project/Projet Siffleur and the Summer Nature Camps were highlighted as important nature interpretation programs of the NBFN/FNNB. The NB Naturalist, and its contributors were also applauded. The Federation was noted for its role in strengthening the ties between individual naturalist clubs and initiatives.

Please feel free to celebrate our collective success!!!! Ron Wilson (NBFN/FNNB Board Member), Milda Markauskas (Fredericton Nature Club) and Marieka Arnold (NBFN/FNNB Program Coordinator) represented the Federation at this event. Dr. Jim Goltz was a finalist in the Individual Citizen category, so the naturalist community had a proud presence at the award ceremony.



*Marieka Arnold, Hon. Brenda Fowlie, Ron Wilson, Milda Markauskas*

Les noms des gagnantes des Prix d'initiative environnementale 2003 ont été dévoilés aujourd'hui par la ministre de l'Environnement et des Gouvernements locaux, Brenda Fowlie.

Un prix a été décerné dans chacune des quatre catégories d'initiative environnementale désignées : Jeunesse, Particuliers, Entreprises, et Organismes ou groupes à vocation communautaire. L'organisme la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick a mérité le prix dans la catégorie Organismes ou groupes à vocation communautaire.

La Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick, qui a pignon sur rue à Fredericton, s'efforce de favoriser l'étude et l'appréciation de la nature dans la province, grâce à plusieurs activités de sensibilisation, y compris des camps d'été afin de sensibiliser les jeunes à la responsabilité environnementale.



## Aigle pêcheur

Roger LeBlanc

Non, l'oiseau qui est visé par le titre de cette histoire n'est pas un Balbuzard, que certains ont l'habitude d'appeler à tort Aigle pêcheur. Il s'agit plutôt de la description d'un comportement bien particulier de Pygargue à tête blanche que j'ai eu l'occasion d'observer en septembre dernier, lors d'un voyage à Grand-Manan.

Un soir, juste avant le coucher du soleil, j'étais à observer le mouvement continu des Grands cormorans et de leur cousin à aigrettes, d'un des magnifiques sites de camping de "Hole in the wall" (que je vous recommande très fortement en passant) lorsque j'aperçu du coin de l'œil un Pygargue à tête blanche adulte entrer dans mon champ de vision. Jusque là, rien d'étonnant, me direz-vous, puisque ce magnifique oiseau est heureusement à nouveau bien représenté sur l'archipel.

Reste que c'est toujours un plaisir de l'observer ... donc, c'est ce que je fis. Tout d'abord, rien d'extraordinaire, si on exclu le fait de voir voler l'impressionnant rapace de tout près et à hauteur d'œil, à cause de ma position sur la falaise. Par contre, après quelques secondes d'observation, je fus surpris de voir l'oiseau se diriger vers le large plutôt que de continuer le vol habituel de contournement de l'île que j'ai vu ses confrères faire si souvent.

"Bon, qu'est-ce qu'il fait..." que je me dit..."il va chercher un petit casse-croute nocturne au îles Wolf?" Et bien non. Imaginez ma surprise de le voir, peut-être à cent mètres plus loin, faire un petit tour sur place comme semblant s'intéresser à quelque chose à la surface de l'eau. À cette première surprise allait s'en rajouter une autre, quand je le vis descendre ses puissantes pattes et tenter d'attraper dans ses serres quelque chose à la surface.

Laissez-moi vous dire que l'éclaboussement des serres raclant la surface de l'eau était spectaculaire dans l'intense lumière du soleil couchant. Mais que faisait-il ? Bon, comme tout le monde, j'avais déjà vu des images à la télé de Pygargue pêchant dans des rivières et après tout, la première partie de son nom latin *Haliaeetus* veut dire « aigle de mer » mais c'était la première fois que j'en voyais un faire quelque chose de semblable... sur la mer. Sa tentative ne semblant pas fructueuse, il ne s'obstina pas et reprit sa course vers North Head me laissant avec mes réflexions.

Tentait-il vraiment de pêcher quelque chose ? Et si oui... quoi ? Quel est le poisson qui, à cette époque, se trouve dans les eaux de la Baie de Fundy, qui flotte à la surface et qui est de taille raisonnable pour servir de proie possible à un Pygargue ? Les choses en seraient rester-là, si, le lendemain, je n'avais pas été encore une fois à observer d'une autre falaise, cette fois près du phare du Whistle. Quelle ne fut pas ma surprise de voir se répéter le même comportement.

Accompagné cette fois, d'Alain Clavette et de sa mère, j'allais avoir la chance d'observer encore exactement la même scène, mais avec cette fois plus de succès pour le prédateur. Effectivement, cette fois, l'oiseau réussit à capturer quelque chose qui nous sembla être un poisson et qui semblait d'ailleurs encore vivant puisqu'il bougeait. Quelques secondes plus tard, alors que le premier Pygargue était venu se poser avec sa proie sur la falaise sous nous, mais hors de vue, j'en vis encore un autre tenter la même manœuvre un peu plus loin.

Donc les Pygargues de Grand-Manan semblent se nourrir à l'occasion de poisson vivant qu'ils capturent en vol et en mer. J'en avais déjà vu capturer des petits Eiders ou s'attaquer à des Goélands et, même une fois, j'en ai vu un soulever une Bernache du Canada ce qui, toutes proportions gardées, correspondrait à essayer de courir avec deux fois son poids sur les épaules. Mais c'était la première fois que j'avais l'occasion d'en voir un accomplir ce que l'on doit quand même considérer comme un exploit de dextérité quand on considère la taille et la morphologie du Pygargue. Ce magnifique spectacle naturel me laissa donc content de ce que je venais de voir mais aussi avec plusieurs questions.

Par exemple, qu'arriverait-il s'il calculait mal son approche et tombait à l'eau ? Pourrait-il, comme un Balbuzard, reprendre son vol avec les plumes mouillées ? Suite à un message à ce sujet paru sur Nature NB, certains ont rapporté avoir déjà vu des Pygargues qui étaient tombés à l'eau et ne pouvant s'envoler qui s'étaient mis à nager en quelque sorte, se servant de leur ailes comme rames pour revenir sur terre. Ce spectacle-là doit aussi être assez spécial. S'agit-il d'un comportement isolé, ou d'autres Pygargues le font-ils ordinairement dans la région ? Là aussi, certaines réponses sur Nature NB ont semblées indiquer que ce genre d'observation, même si elle est plutôt rare, n'est pas nécessairement unique. Et quelle était donc sa proie ? Bien des questions... mais aussi une certitude... que ce fut encore pour moi un autre moment unique offert par une nature tellement généreuse à ce niveau.



## Fishing Eagle

Roger LeBlanc

No, this story is not about Ospreys, which I have heard some call "fishing Eagle" (which they are not of course) but actually about a particularly interesting behavior of Bald Eagles that I was fortunate enough to observe on a trip to Grand Manan last September. I had never seen anything like it before and it seemed, at least to me, spectacular enough that it might be of interest to share it with others.

One evening, as I was sitting just before sunset in one of the superb cliff side sites of the "Hole in the wall" camping in North Head (which I highly recommend by the way) observing the continual movement of both species of Cormorants, something caught my eye coming in from the left. It was an adult Bald Eagle cruising in. Up to this point, nothing out of the ordinary, you will say, as the large raptor is now again well represented in the Fundy Islands.

But still, even if you have seen several in your day, it is always a pleasure to watch them and even more when, as was the case here, you are pretty close and kind of eye to eye with them sitting as I was on the cliff side.

So there I was just enjoying the show, when to my surprise, the bird started heading out to sea rather than continuing on its course around the Island as I have seen them do so many times before. "What is this guy doing?" I thought to myself "going out to the Wolves for a midnight snack?"

Well imagine my surprise when maybe 100 meters out, it started circling down towards the water as if attracted by something. The impression of surprise just got bigger when the bird actually let down its impressive legs and tried to scoop something out of the water with its talons. Now, like most of you, I had seen pictures on TV of Bald Eagles fishing for salmon in rivers out west but this was the sea.

Now of course, the first part of its Latin name is *Haliaeetus* which I gather means sea eagle, so I guess this behavior is in character... but still I had never thought of it that way. Well anyway its attempt having failed, my *Haliaeetus* friend did not seem to want to pursue the matter and it just corrected its course and in a matter of seconds it flew out of sight going towards North Head, leaving me with just a memory and lots of questions.

Was it really trying to catch a fish? And if so, what kind? What species of fish floats around the surface of the Bay at this time of the year and is of reasonable size to be taken by a Bald Eagle? And then even as all these questions were turning around in my head I started thinking that maybe this was just a very cool but actually isolated incident.

Well, the next day was to prove otherwise. As I was once again observing from a cliff, but this time near the Whistle lighthouse, me, Alain Clavette and Alain's mother, were to be treated to the pleasure of watching the same spectacular behavior.

This time, the Bald Eagle after performing practically the same approach got more lucky and it did pluck something from the waves that looked to us like a fish and a still live one at that. Again, only minutes later, as the first bird had come to perch somewhere on the cliffs under us, to consume its prey away from our prying eyes, yet one more Bald Eagle tried the same maneuvers just in front of us. So it was clear the Bald Eagles in Grand Manan now and again take some kind of fish from the sea.

Now, I had seen them take baby Eiders or attack gulls and even once seen one fly away with a very dead Canada Goose (imagine the strength needed for that take off) but it was the first time I had seen them accomplish something that has to be admired when you think of the size and the build of these huge birds.

So as you might guess, this sighting left me quite happy but again with some questions. For example, what would happen if it fell in the water which it actually skimmed? Could it, like an Osprey, just flap out and resume its flight? After posting on this incident on Nature NB, some responded by reporting having seen waterlogged eagles kind of swim to shore using their wings as huge oars of some sort. Also is this a common occurrence that I had just never observed before?

Still with all these questions, one certainty remains...one more time, I had been treated to one of those great natural moments that are just happening out there all the time...and all we have to do to enjoy them... is get out there.



## The Atlantic Nature Network

Mike LeBlanc

A total of thirty two naturalists from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador (unfortunately PEI was not represented), along with the Canadian Nature Federation, met for a weekend of discussion on how the naturalists network could work more closely together. NB was very well represented with seventeen naturalists from all over the province.

The weekend was quite a challenge as each province is at a different stage of growth. We had an opportunity to see if, as a region, we could also work on key issues facing naturalists and nature in Atlantic Canada.

The weekend was such an eye opener for many that a follow-up meeting was scheduled in Nova Scotia for the weekend of October 15-17, 2004.

Ironically, a similar meeting took place in 1974, in Moncton, where naturalists from many regions and organizations, including ours, participated.

Issues discussed back then were:

- || Energy issues
- || Environmental Education
- || Protection of Natural areas
- || Animal Harvesting

By the end of the 2003 meeting, three sub-committees were formed to discuss and plan for:

- || An assessment of what comprises the naturalist network in Atlantic Canada; get ready to be contacted for information about your club and its projects.
- || Education: such as how to work together towards young naturalist clubs.
- || The present forest issue that New Brunswick is facing.

Personally, I came out with a positive feeling; that this weekend was worth it. That was my main objective, to resolve issues and achieve common goals. As naturalists we do have the power to make a difference in our communities.

Comments made by naturalists that were present during the weekend are appended.

Trente-deux naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick, Nouvelle-Écosse, Terre Neuve et Labrador (malheureusement personne représentait l'IPÉ) ainsi que la Fédération canadienne de la Nature se sont rencontrés pour une fin de semaine de discussion à voir comment les naturalistes des provinces atlantiques pourraient travailler ensemble pour arriver à des mêmes buts. Le N.-B. était très bien représenté avec dix-sept naturalistes d'à travers la province.

Cette fin de semaine était un défi car chaque province est à une différente stage de croissance. Ce fut une chance aussi de voir comment nous pouvons travailler ensemble, dans cette région, sur des sujets clés auxquels les naturalistes, et la nature, font face dans les provinces atlantiques.

La fin de semaine a ouvert les yeux à plusieurs, si bien qu'une autre réunion est planifiée en Nouvelle-Écosse, du 15 - 17 octobre 2004.

Ironiquement, une réunion semblable a eu lieu à Moncton en 1974 où plusieurs principes préoccupantes des naturalistes d'aujourd'hui ont été discutées:

- || Concernes énergétiques
- || Éducation environnementale
- || Protection des zones protégées
- || Abattage

À la fin de cette fin de semaine, trois sous comités ont été établis pour discuter et planifier:

- || Une évaluation des composants du réseau des naturalistes des provinces atlantique; vous serez contacté pour de l'information à propos de votre club et de vos projets.
- || Éducation environnementale et comment nous pouvons travailler ensemble; comme par exemples :les clubs de jeunes naturalistes.
- || Les concerns que font face la forêt du Nouveau-Brunswick présentement.

Personnellement, je suis sorti cette fin de semaine avec une vision très positive que nous avons réellement accomplis quelque chose, ce qui était mon objectif principal.

Comme naturalistes, nous avons le pouvoir de faire une différence dans nos communautés.

Suivant sont quelques commentaires de naturalistes présents à la réunion.



### *Atlantic Naturalists Network meeting in Memramcook, November 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003*

Sabine Dietz, NBFN Executive Director – Directrice générale FNNB

In 1974, naturalist organizations met in Moncton to discuss issues of interest, and provide recommendations to all participating organizations as to what directions to take.

In 2003, 30 years later, very much the same organizations came together (excluding the Nature Conservancy of Canada) to discuss how to develop, encourage, and work within a network of naturalists in Canada and the Atlantic region. This meeting was sponsored by the Canadian Nature Federation, with support, both financially and logistically, from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland.

The NBFN/FNNB Inc is very much a Federation of member clubs with individual members as well, speaking out on their behalf on issues and concerns that are of a provincial interest. The NBFN/FNNB Inc also networks with these clubs, helps them in what they want to do (where possible), and develops, supports, and runs programs that are of interest to all of its members.

The Canadian Nature Federation has not, in the past, functioned as such a federation. A direction the CNF sees itself taking is that of a networking facilitator, and addressing issues of national concern.

The weekend in Memramcook was spent to discuss what the naturalist network could look like, what it could do, what our 'niche' is, and what each of our roles might be. We also discussed how a network such as this could respond to issues and concerns.

There are numerous conservation groups that address species and habitat issues in our province, on a provincial scale: the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the NB Nature Trust, the NB Protected Natural Areas Coalition, the Conservation Council of NB, Bird Studies Canada (I am sure I missed some). The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists and its members participate in many of these organizations, provide volunteer time, their knowledge and experience to them. All of these organizations play a specific role, be it acquisition of ecologically valuable lands, or promoting ecologically sound land use, or gathering information desperately needed to ensure land management decisions are based on scientific knowledge. Among these many organizations naturalists have a very im-

portant, and very specific role to play. We fill a niche that no other organization can fill. We are passionate about nature, learn constantly about the critters that live in it, and don't mind or enjoy sharing our knowledge, imparting it on anybody who will listen. Often people who learn about nature and learn to love it, will find a need to become active in whatever way they are comfortable, be it through donating volunteer time to organizations that are active, or providing their expertise, or by themselves becoming active.

Our niche as naturalists is really the gathering of information on species and habitats and educating others in whichever way we enjoy. A niche, in the ecological sense, is a specific role a species has or fulfills in an ecosystem.

During the weekend some issues were also discussed, that actually many within our network have already started to work on. For example there is a clear wish to develop young naturalist clubs further, as being part of the unique role naturalists play as mentors, and educators. Nova Scotia and Newfoundland are working on it, and of course, a Young Naturalists Club for NB as a new program for the NBFN/FNNB Inc has already been approved in September by our Board of Directors. In NB, this is one priority. The network will help in sharing resources or materials, sharing ideas, and maybe at some time sharing fundraising.

A second issue was the lack of understanding what is actually part of this network. Who are the parts, what do they do, and maybe what do they want to do. CNF will undertake, with others within the network, to gather this information, to develop an inventory that can be shared throughout the network, where we, from NB can go to find out who else does work on a specific issue we want to address.

The third issue we discussed was the forest issue in NB, and the need, for us as naturalists, to present our own message of what our values are and of what we want to see in our forests. This issue will be used to test the network, if and how it can be mobilized nationally (and provincially), since if the recommendations from the Jaako Poyry report will receive government approval, it could well happen in other provinces. A precedent might be set.

The two days were very interesting, encouraging, moving, and packed with networking. We did not come up with any recommendations of what each organization should do, like 30 years ago. We came away with an understanding that what we are doing



already fits with what we can do and are best at doing. We came away with ideas and plans on how to do these things better, and the encouragement to continue with what we are already doing.

I don't see very clearly yet as to how this network will prove itself. As any other network, there will be bumps in the road, and a lot of barriers in the way. The strength of a network is the sharing that can happen, and can benefit all. It is not anything really new, not for us as naturalists anyway, since we are already good at it. A network is also only as effective as its individual pieces, and since we are all people with limited time and energy, this might be the biggest challenge ahead. A network needs nurturing, and on a provincial scale, the NBFN/FNNB Inc should become much better at it. On a national scale, the CNF is the network node that needs to nurture the relationships. On a local scale, our clubs and associations, as Julie Gelfand from CNF presented them, our hearts, need the most nurturing and help.

Practically, I can see it working in developing our Young Naturalist Clubs (YNC; and many other things!). Hopefully our clubs that are already there might take on some mentoring role with these young clubs. The NBFN/FNNB Inc will connect the YNC's across the province, possibly organize provincial nature camps (just what we do already with our summer camps), provide clubs with tools, resources, and anything they need to help the YNC's. Nationally, I can see a committee established on YNC's that is facilitated by CNF, and will provide the links outside the province to maybe even eventually make it possible for young naturalists to travel, through the network, to another province and learn about nature in that province. What a dream.

#### Gart Bishop, NBFN – FNNB

The CNF hosted the Atlantic Naturalist Network meeting, November 14-16. I was pleased to attend as a board representative. I felt there were three main positive outcomes:

- 1) great to meet and socialize with known New Brunswick naturalists, but also those from Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.
- 2) spending some time with Julie Gelfand (CNF) allowed some of us older NBFN board members to clear the air from the past. Learning more about the current role the CNF is playing and would like to play within

Atlantic Canada was informative, and though perhaps at times confusing, allowed delegates to realize how others view Atlantic Canada.

3) formation of three committees: NB forestry/crownlands issue, education, asset inventory, will help keep the Atlantic networking connected and working together. Most delegates look forward to a follow-up meeting in a year's time.

Central to all points was trying to get a handle on just what a 'naturalist' is. Are we environmentalists, lobbyists, activists, educators ... or just folks who like to observe the world beyond glass and concrete? Do we want to change the world, or just see more of it?

Overall a worthwhile, enjoyable and progressive gathering of naturalists.

#### Abel Doucette, Club les amis de la nature du Sud-Est Inc.

Moi, j'ai bien aimé ça en fin de semaine. Ça nous a donné l'occasion de rencontrer d'autres naturalistes, comment ils faisaient des levées de fonds....ce serait le fun de pouvoir communiquer avec ces personnes, **la Mésange à tête noire a été la vedette...** travailler en petits groupes était bien intéressant.... une sorte de réseau par courriel pourrait être profitable.

#### Bob Blake, Moncton Naturalists' Club

It was very helpful to me and I certainly learned a lot about how the "system" works. There was lots of good discussion on good topics of concern and great ideas on how to help make them work. I think everyone went away with very positive thoughts on how to work together as a team.

We certainly have a lot more power as a large group than as a few individuals.

#### Roy LaPointe, Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée

Seriously, I thought the weekend was very beneficial particularly to me, a newcomer who had no inkling of what the Nature Network was until just recently. Things appear much brighter on the horizon and I think this could lead to bigger and better things for the Atlantic Region as a whole.



## It is 4:30 a.m. and the Robins are Singing

Mike Lushington

*This item was previously published in the Grains of Sand section in the July 30th issue of the Campbellton Tribune.*

For the past week or so, they have treated me to an early morning concert the likes of which I have rarely heard before. One large male in particular, surely the star of the neighbourhood, perches just outside our bedroom window to give us full benefit of his virtuosity for an hour or so before getting on with the other things that occupy his day.

It has been pleasantly warm for the past several weeks and we have taken to leaving windows and doors open to allow the breezes to circulate to dispel the accumulated heat of the preceding day. It may be that that is why I am more conscious of the robin chorus this summer than I remember being in other years. Or it may simply be that we have more and better singers around the house this summer than in other years.

One morning, though, it must have been a week or more ago, the robin chorus was replaced by one orchestrated by a family of ravens. For nearly two hours, I lay there in the very early morning light, listening to their raucous groaning, squawking, and moaning before they, too, moved on with the other affairs of their day. Surely, ravens make a much greater fuss than do robins, but the end result in each case is that I have to find some time elsewhere in the day to make up for the sleep that I lose while they make their morning music.

I was reading an item in the weekend newspapers where a lady from Saint John was lamenting that her morning sleep was disturbed by a family of crows. She was wondering if anyone had any idea on how to get rid of them and, being a city person, I suspect that she was really lobbying for the government to pass a law banning birds from singing outside her window until a more respectable time of day - say, 9:00 - or after she has had her morning coffee. I was tempted to respond to her to remind her of two things. One of them is that every time I wake up in the city in the early morning, it is to the sounds of police or ambulance sirens, or the muted thunder of transport trucks on nearby highways. The other is that these sounds of the city are year round, unlike our bird chorus, which will only last for a brief while more before being replaced by the cold whisper of fall breezes and the onslaught of another winter.

On the whole, I much prefer the bird chorus, even that of my ravens or her crows.

Her complaint reminded me again of just how far most of us have removed ourselves from the natural world around us. We (they, because I can't) sleep comfortably through sirens, traffic sounds, alarms, and all the turmoil of urban life, but a few birds singing outside our window disturb and upset us. It is as though we have really decided that we must control everything. A noise made by human activity is acceptable, no matter how loud or aggressive, but one made by another creature, without our permission, as it were, is unacceptable.

For myself, I invite all the crows, ravens, robins, vireos, starlings (yes, even the starlings, who do sing most enchantingly in early spring) and other birds to sing when they want to outside our window. I have the welcome mat out for the raccoons and foxes to have their family squabbles in my backyard, even at 2:00 a.m., if that suits them. I would ask the skunks, though, to practice a tad more self-control over their favourite form of self-expression, especially in the direct vicinity of our open screen doors.

They are all far more welcome than is the scream of another dirt bike, the thump of an overloaded transport truck or the nerve jangling wail of a siren in the night.



American Robin  
Photo by Merv Cormier



## Botany Corner

Gart Bishop

Stinging Nettle, even the name makes most folks cringe and start to itch. How often have people unknowingly walked through a patch of nettles only to be scratching and rubbing minutes later ... not knowing the cause.

New Brunswick has two common species of nettle both of which are found throughout the province, predominately in the rich alluvial floodplains alongside rivers. Wood Nettle (*Laportea canadensis*), with alternate leaves and American Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica* subsp. *gracilis*), with opposite leaves, both have small hairs on leaves and stems which contain an irritant leading to the uncomfortable burning sensation of the skin.

American Stinging Nettle (French names *Ortie dioïque d'Amérique* or *Ortie élevée*) has also been called Indian Spinach, Nettle and Tall Wild Nettle. While usually found on floodplains, it is occasionally found to thrive in non-typical dry, rocky habitats, such as found at the summit of Mount Carleton. Commonly forming dense patches through its numerous rhizomes (underground creeping stems), the hairy stems grow 1-2+ meter high.

The tiny greenish, unisexual flowers are produced in the axils of the leaf stalks. The flowers are in loosely branched, elongated, often pendent clusters, either male or female or sometimes intermixed.

The majority of the remaining portion of this article has been paraphrased from an article by E. Small and P. Catling in the Canadian Botanical Associations Bulletin, where they have assembled some rather intriguing, if not bizarre facts about this plant.

The small bristly stinging hairs inject an irritant substance under the skin when touched. The stinging hairs are marvels of design. They consist of a long stiff, silicified (hardened with silica) shaft, narrowing toward the point, and provided with a small bulbous tip. The shaft just under the tip is not hardened with silica, so a very slight touch breaks off the bulbous end. The tip breaks off at a slant, leaving a finely



Nettle drawing by E. Burckmyer

pointed hollow shaft, like the needle of a hypodermic syringe, which makes a puncture in the skin. Slight pressure on the hair compresses the sac-like base and the irritant is injected, resulting in itchy, raised welts. Surprisingly, the juice from the plant (and that of Dock – *Rumex sp.*), is often recommended as a remedy for the irritation.

While the plants do shed large amounts of pollen which aggravates hay fever sufferers, an extract from the plant's leaves has antihistamine properties and has been recommended as treatment for hayfever.

Nettles, while being a nuisance to many a hiker, play an important role as an essential food for the larvae of attractive butterflies such as Peacocks, Anglewings, Red Admirals and Milbert's Tortoiseshells. When the plants are young (before flowering) they can be picked (wearing gloves) and cooked like spinach and eaten as a vegetable ... the adverse effects of the stinging hairs being eliminated by boiling.

The stems have been used to make cloth and sometimes also paper. Nettle fabric from the Bronze Age (2000-2500 BCE) has been found in a Danish grave. Mary Queen of Scots (1542-1587) is said to have been particularly fond of nettle sheets. Nettle is currently being experimentally cultivated for fibre, though it is not yet a profitable crop.

Natives of North America used it to treat many ailments including acne, eczema, diarrhea, intestinal worms and urinary tract infections. Nettle tea in recent times is popular for weight loss and maintenance. Current research suggests that nettle root extracts may be useful for relief of noncancerous enlargement of the prostate gland. Even the dastardly stinging hairs have been used in the treatment of rheumatism.

Nettle is one of the traditional 'five bitter herbes' eaten by Jews during the eight day Passover to symbolize the bitterness of their enslavement by the ancient Egyptians.

The stinging nature of the nettle has been employed historically in unexpected ways. Roman soldiers are reported to have flogged their legs and arms with nettle to stimulate blood circulation while enduring in the cool British climate. Medieval monks flogged themselves with nettle as a penance for sins. In the ancient Roman world as well as in medieval times some folks



(somewhat perverted I think) would flog themselves with nettle for sexual stimulation. The Nitinaht Indians of North America whipped their bodies with nettles in the belief that this would maintain the affection and faithfulness of their spouses.

And can you believe, there is even a world Stinging Nettle-eating challenge, with the record being held by a chap who ate 23 meters of nettles in 1 hour!

Perhaps next summer, you too will be collecting Stinging Nettle and taking advantage of one or more

of its repudiated uses. Me, I think I'll just observe.

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Small, E. & P.M.Catling. 2003. Poorly Known Economic Plants of Canada – 38. Stinging Nettle, *Urtica dioica* L. The Canadian Botanical Association Bulletin, Vol. 36 (3). Edmundston, NB.

## Mushrooms on Shediac Island / Une ile de champignons

Mike Plourde

After informing myself for true red oak forest and being an amateur mycologist in search of new mushrooms to identify, my two trips to this beautiful island began on 17 July and 13 August. I found salt marshes, swamp, small red pine forest, conifers, mixed forests, and finally two separated sections of true red oak forest; with undergrowth being oak also. I was dreaming of two colored bolete and caesar's amanita in this 24+ C temperature and moisture being good, but no luck with them. I managed to find some very interesting species living in harmony with these magnificent trees. Mosquitoes were at extreme levels. There was an abundant yellow bolete I couldn't name there. I sent pictures to higher mycologist, hoping they would identify it!! Here's a few I found:

blusher	amanita brunne-	amanite rougis-
	cens	sante
	hypomyces hya-	
	linus	
peck's russula	russula peckii	russule de peck
chanterelle	cantharellus ci-	chanterelle
	barius	
glabrescent	leccinum sub-	bolet a pied gla-
bolete	glabripes	brescent
King bolete	boletus edulis	bolet comestible
russell's bolete	boletellus russel-	bolet de russell
	lii	
	hydnum	

Quelle belle endroit pour aller identifier des champignons sur l'ile de shediac!! Dans cette superbe foret de chene rouge, j'ai pu trouver des champignons qui leurs sont associer. A part la menace eleve de moustiques, le sentier est beau et agreable a marcher, Certains champignons trouver sur cette ile sont dites rare; cause les veritables foret de chene sont presque absentes. Je suis aller a 2 reprises, le 17 juillet et 13 aout car mon experience d'amateur ma indiquer mi-ete etait la meilleur en chene, plus la pluie etait reguliere. Aucun doute, ils va y avoir des especes rare qui vont croitres la quand les conditions leur seront favorables. Voici une courte liste j'ai identifier:

Mike Plourde is interested in meeting other mushroom admirers.



Angel of Death  
Photo by Mike Plourde



## My Restigouche River Run, part 4

Irene Doyle

Today we are back at Cross Point Island, slept here last night and now leaving the island area, after a good night's sleep. Going past England's Flats or the Glen Eden lodge, Pine Island and Tom's Brook went uneventful but as always with a scenery that would warm any naturalist's heart. Another sunny day, quite cool to start with but keeps the flies away. A mother Goldeneye swimming with her babies, and keeping a close eye on them caught my attention, they're almost bigger than she is by now though and I didn't expect to see those ducks all the way up here. A few Mergansers, with their bad hair day look, float down the river, sitting up straight, eyes peeled for a fish they can snap, six of them in a row, one behind the other. Oh yeah and a little black otter was laying on the beach sunning him/herself when we passed and slithered into the water when it saw us approaching. That was a treat also as it was only the second time in my life I ever saw one of those little critters.



At Gilmore, I can see "the boys", as Pat calls them, have done extensive work here. They are the boys of the clean-up crew who worked hard to get these camping sites as nice as they are today, they also work at educating people who use them and at keeping them clean. Here we see Gilmore Island, Upper Gilmore and Lower Gilmore, probably all named after a rich American who's ancestors owned the Gilmore Gas company in the USA, in the early 1900's.

In order to get some of the sites as they are today, those boys had to clear the land, remove all large

rocks, and apparently there were quite a few in places. Loads of soil were also brought in for some sites so they could be leveled. Picnic tables, toilets and wood was brought in, signs put up, garbage cans were added to the sites and open pits for fires were put in place. We can see all looks neat but it's a quiet time of year.

In a picture Pat acquired from a friend, (one of those boys) we see them at work on site improvement which gives us a before and after look at the Gilmore site.

In the photograph on the left, we see the Cross Point Island campsite after some of those brainless "Yahoos" have spent a weekend here. This picture was taken last summer and I guess you might say, it's the exception but you would apparently be very surprised to see for yourself how many times this happens. Even after all the facilities have been put in place, even after all the coaching, even after all the talk about the environment, it still happens.

At one of the sites today, I witnessed a freshly created mess, which was just as bad. Someone, very likely the night before, as this looked extremely fresh, had broken down three large trees, broken gawd knows how many branches and put them all together to create a shelter. Many other trees were damaged with an axe and the toilet door is broken right off the hinges. After inquiring with the wardens, they told us the only people they had seen travelling on the river in the last two days was a canoe with an Acadian flag. I guess you can judge for yourself as to what kind of people would leave such a mess in such a beautiful environment.

A photo of one of the damaged trees makes a person wonder how many brainless people run the river? Or were these damages all caused by the same ones? A perfectly good tree chopped at a few feet from the ground and left to die. Am I ever glad my parents taught me to respect nature.

At Upper and Lower Gilmore today all is quiet however, everything is clean, no garbage in sight, there is lots of wood and even toilet paper in the toilets so I take a guess that no one stayed here this weekend. Gilmore is apparently owned by the Toad Brook Lodge owners, which is situated down past Chamberlain's Shoals.

To be continued.....



## Global Warming and the Summer Distribution of New Brunswick's Passerine Birds

Jeff Price

### Introduction

Water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, and other trace gases in the Earth's atmosphere act much like the glass in a greenhouse, helping to retain heat by trapping and absorbing infrared radiation and allowing life, as we know it, to exist. However, since pre-industrial times, there have been significant increases in the amount of these greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The current levels of the two primary greenhouse gases are now greater than at any time during at least the past 420,000 years (likely much longer) and are well outside of the bounds of natural variability (IPCC 2001).

Accompanying the increases in greenhouse gases has been an increase in temperature. The 1990s were the warmest decade and the 1900s the warmest century of the last 1000 years. The annual global mean temperature is now 0.6°C above that recorded at the beginning of the century. Limited data from other sources indicates that the global mean temperature for the 20<sup>th</sup> century is at least as warm as any other period since approximately 1400 AD (IPCC 2001). And, **"There is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities"** (IPCC 2001). These activities include the burning of fossil fuels, increases in agriculture and other land use changes (such as deforestation).

Increases in greenhouse gases (past and projected), coupled with the length of time these gases remain in the atmosphere are expected to cause a continued increase in global temperatures. Models estimate that the **average** global temperature, relative to 1990 values, will rise by 1.4°–5.8°C by the year 2100 (IPCC 2001). Warming is expected to be even greater in some areas, especially Northern Hemisphere land areas. These temperature changes are projected to be highest in the north (Arctic) and in winter with lesser increases in the south and in summer. In addition to rising temperatures, many climate models also project a continuing rise in sea level and overall changes in

precipitation patterns. Thus, climate change will likely have a continuing impact on New Brunswick's birds and their habitats.

**How might these changes impact the summer distributions of New Brunswick's Passerine birds?** Summer bird ranges are often assumed to be tightly linked to particular habitats. This generalization is only partially true. While some species may only be found in specific habitats, many others are more flexible in their habitat use. Species found in a particular habitat type throughout their summer range may not be found in apparently equivalent habitat north or south of their current distribution. Birds are also limited in their distributions by physiological constraints and food availability. The link between physiology and the winter distributions of many species is well-established (Kendeigh 1934, Root 1988a, 1988b). Research shows that physiology plays a role in limiting summer distributions as well (Dawson 1992, T. Martin, *pers. comm.*). Often, the choice of a specific habitat may actually be to provide a microclimate suitable for a species' physiological needs. Habitat selection, food availability, and competition may all play a role in influencing *local* distributions of a given bird species. However, an examination of the limits to a species' overall distribution often yields different results. The results of the study presented here are based on models of the association between summer bird distributions and climate and how these distributions may change with a changing climate.

### Methods

To determine how the summer ranges of birds may actually change, logistic regression models were developed associating bird distributions (from Breeding Bird Survey data) with climate - the climate variables acting as surrogates for the many factors possibly limiting a species distribution (e.g., physiology, habitat, food availability). These models were then coupled to output from the Canadian Climate Center (CCC) based on a doubling of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. This model projects what the average climatic conditions may look



like sometime in the next 75 to 100 years. These combined models were then used to create maps of the projected summer distributions of many North American passerine birds. A more complete explanation of methods used to develop the models and maps has been published elsewhere (Price 1995, Price *in press*).

What the maps developed in this study show are areas projected to have the proper climate for the species, or *climatic range*, under conditions derived from the CCC model. While the results of the models cannot be used to look at the fine points of how a given species' distribution might change, they can provide an impression of the possible direction and potential magnitude of the change in the suitable climate for the species. These maps of projected summer climatic ranges of birds were then compared with the maps and information found in *Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces* (Erskine 1992) to determine how New Brunswick's avifauna might change under this climate change scenario.

#### Results

***Species whose future climatic summer ranges might exclude New Brunswick (i.e., possibly extirpated as summer residents)*** – Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Boreal Chickadee, Tennessee Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak.

***Species whose future climatic summer ranges in New Brunswick might contract*** – Alder Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Canada Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco and Purple Finch.

***Species whose future climatic summer ranges in New Brunswick might expand*** – Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Pine Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Meadowlark, Brown-headed Cowbird and Baltimore Oriole.

***Species whose future climatic summer ranges might eventually include New Brunswick*** – Yellow-throated Vireo, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren,

Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Towhee, Field Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak and Orchard Oriole.

#### Discussion

These lists are not all-inclusive, since results obtained from models of some species were not adequate to assess how their climatic ranges might change. Nor do the lists include those species whose climatic ranges in New Brunswick may undergo little change. Finally, these lists are based on output from a single climate model - using output from different climate models may yield different results. In addition, the geographic scale of these models, like those of the underlying climate change model, is relatively coarse. As such, the models are unable to take into account localized topographic changes and the possible existence of suitable microclimates (e.g., along rivers or on north-facing mountain slopes). Therefore, some of the species whose *climatic ranges* are projected as shifting out of New Brunswick may be able to persist *in refugia* if suitable microclimates are available.

The results from this modeling study often agree with the predictions made in the species accounts in the groundbreaking *Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces* (Erskine 1992). Differences between the two may ultimately depend on whether limits to a given species' distribution are more closely linked with climate (especially temperature), vegetation, or some other factor. How quickly these distributional changes might occur is unknown - the rate of change will largely depend on the factors most limiting distributions (e.g., physiology relatively quickly, habitat relatively slowly) and the rate of change of the climate itself. If the climate changes relatively slowly, then species may be able to adapt to the new climate. However, many changes could occur (and are occurring) relatively quickly. One pilot study found that the average latitude of occurrence of some species of Neotropical migrants has already shifted significantly farther north in the last 20 years, by an average distance of almost 60 miles (100 km) (Price and Root 2001; Price, unpublished data). Other studies have documented many species of birds arriving and breeding earlier, not only in North America but also in Europe and elsewhere (Root *et al.* 2003).

#### Conclusion

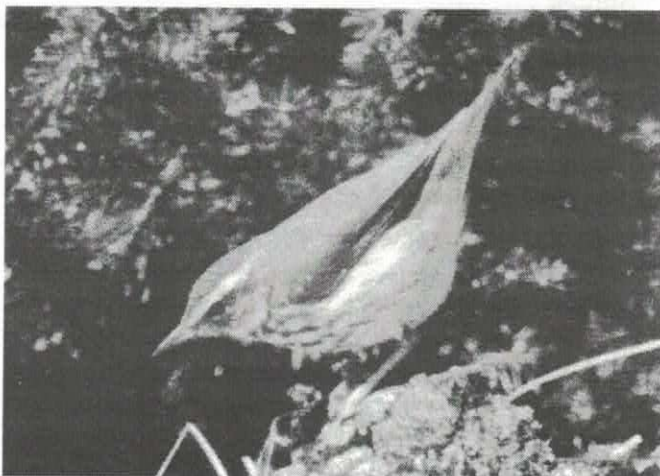
In summary, a high probability exists that climate change could lead to changes in bird distributions. Even a relatively small change in average temperature



could impact bird distributions within the Province. Some of these changes could occur (and may be occurring) relatively quickly. While these changes may have some ecological and, possibly, economic effects, the magnitude of these effects is unknown. Ultimately, the greatest impact on wildlife and vegetation may not come from climate change itself, but rather from the rate of change. Given enough time, many species would likely be able to adapt to climatic shifts, as they have done in the past. However, the current projected rate of warming is thought to be greater than has occurred at any time in the last 10,000 years (IPCC 2001). This rate of change could ultimately lead to many changes in New Brunswick's avifauna.

Birders can help scientist look for and document changes in bird ranges and populations. Besides participating in regular events like the Breeding Bird Survey or Christmas Bird Count, information is also needed on nesting, arrival and departure. If you, or your club, has 10 or more years of data please contact me at the appended address.

Director of Climate Change Impact Studies  
American Bird Conservancy  
**6525 Gunpark Drive, Suite 370, PMB146**  
Boulder, CO 80301



Louisiana Waterthrush  
Photo by Merv Cormier

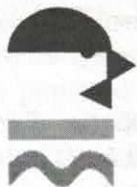
### Acknowledgments

This study was funded by cooperative agreements between the U.S. EPA, the U.S. Geological Survey and American Bird Conservancy. The views expressed herein are solely those of the author and do not represent the official opinion of the EPA nor the USGS.

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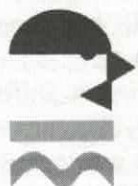
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## Nature News – Invertebrates, late April to August 30, 2003

Dwayne Sabine

### Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths)

The uncommon **Orange Sulphur** (coliaide du trèfle; *Colias philodice*) was observed on Grand Manan on May 17 (ST) and on the Fundy Trail on June 4 (JW, EP, RAM, RP).

While leading a field trip at Musquash Marsh on July 26, Stu Tingley found a small population of **Bronze Coppers** (bronzé; *Lycaena hyllus*). This species is found only in wetlands where its larval host plant (Water Dock, *Rumex* sp.) is growing, and is known from very few sites in the province.

A stand of *Potentilla* sp near First Eel Lake that harbours a population of **Clayton's Copper** (cuivre de la potentille; *Lycaena dorcas claytoni*) was visited on July 20 (DS, MS). The flight season was apparently late this year, as only a single individual was found. **Clayton's Copper** is known from only three sites in the province.

Stu Tingley found **Salt Marsh Coppers** (cuivre des marais salés; *Lycaena dospassosi*) to be amazingly abundant at a marsh east of Shediac on July 30.

Jim Edsall found three species of elfin at New Scotland Bog on May 20: **Brown Elfin** (lutin brun; *Incisalia augustinus*), **Hoary Elfin** (lutin grisâtre; *Callophrys polia*), and the uncommonly encountered **Henry's Elfin** (lutin des bluets; *Incisalia henrici*). In a bog south of Fredericton on June 3, Tony Thomas also found **Brown Elfin** and **Henry's Elfin**, as well as the uncommon **Bog Elfin** (lutin des tourbières; *Incisalia lanoraieensis*).

A **Greenish Blue** (bleu verdâtre; *Plebejus saepiolus*) found in Charlotte County during a Saint John Naturalists Club field trip led by Jim Edsall on June 22 appears to be a first county record, and was one of very few records outside of the northern third of the province. A total of 14 butterfly species were seen by the group.

Jim Clifford found a **Bog Fritillary** (boloria des tourbières; *Boloria eunomia*) population at a site south of Charlo on June 25. This is only the second site for this boreal species in New Brunswick.

On June 29, a small grassy meadow at Indian Falls Depot on the Nepisiquit harboured two uncommon species that have been seldom reported in the north: **Meadow Fritillary** (boloria des prés; *Boloria bellona*)

and **Little Wood Satyr** (petite satyre des bois; *Megisto cymela*) (MS, DS).

**Eastern Commas** (polygone virgule; *Polygonia comma*) were noted at Fredericton Junction on July 7 (AWT).

**Mourning Cloaks** (morio; *Nymphalis antipoo*) and **Milbert's Tortoiseshells** (petite vanesse; *Nymphalis milberti*) overwinter as adults and are typically among the earliest recorded butterflies in spring. The earliest reports of **Mourning Cloaks** were: Fredericton, April 20 (JS); Harvey, April 24 (DC); and Pelerin, April 26 (DD). Early **Milbert's Tortoiseshells** reports were: Grand Manan, April 14 (BD); Fredericton, April 21 (JS); and Pelerin, April 29 (DD).

A **Compton Tortoiseshell** (grande vanesse; *Nymphalis vaualbum j-album*) was observed at Mary's Point on August 23 (CM).

A very early **Northern Pearly Eye** (satyre perlé; *Enodia anthedon*) was observed east of Castaway on June 18 (AWT). Dedreic Grecian photographed a mating pair on the Nerepis River on July 15, a more typical date.

It seemed to be a good year for **Monarchs** (monarque; *Danaus plexippus*), as reports of both adults and larvae were posted to NatureNB from numerous observers throughout southern NB. The earliest record was one observed on the Fundy Trail on June 4 (JW, EP, RAM, RP).

The Saint John Naturalists Club's field trip to Charlotte County with Jim Edsall on June 21 encountered at least 30 moth species at Pennfield, including **Luna Moths** (papillon lune; *Actias luna*), a **Polyphemus Moth** (polyphème d'Amerique; *Antherea polyphemus*), and a **Bedstraw Hawkmoth** (sphinx du gaillet; *Hyles gallii*).

Dave McLeod recorded a great many species of moths from New Jersey this summer, among them the **St. Lawrence Tiger Moth** (*Platarctia parthenos*), **Columbia Silkmoth** (saturnide du mélèze; *Hyalophora columbia*), **Laurel Sphinx** (le sphinx du laurier; *Sphinx kalmiae*), **One-eyed Sphinx** (sphinx du saule; *Smerinthus cerisyi*), **Blinded Sphinx** (sphinx aveugle; *Paonias excaecatus*), **Azalea Sphinx** (sphinx de l'alisier; *Darapsa pholus*), and the **Chocolate Prominent** (*Peridea ferruginea*).



**Hummingbird Clearwing Moths** (sphinx colibri; *Hemaris thysbe*) seemed to be common this year and were noted by a number of observers, usually feeding on dogbane: Mill Settlement, June 18 (DS); Fredericton Junction, July 7 (AWT); Shediac River (BB, NP); and many at Lynnfield on July 13 (DS, MS). A single **Snowberry Clearwing Moth** (sphinx de chèvre-feuille; *Hemaris diffinis*) was also present at the latter location, and at New Jersey on June 22 (DMcL).

The **Confused Haploa** (arctiide nuancé; *Haploa confusa*), a brightly coloured, day-flying moth that feeds on Joe Pye Weed, was very common on the Eel River east of Porten Settlement on July 29 (DS).

### Odonata (Damselflies and Dragonflies)

The odonate season started quite early this year, as a large dragonfly was spotted flying over the Trans Canada Highway near Coles Island on April 26 (DS). This was almost certainly a **Common Green Darner** (l'anax; *Anax junius*), a migratory species that arrives here each spring from the south. Individuals were also noted in several states in New England during the latter half of April. Nonetheless, this seemed to be a fluke occurrence as it was almost a month later (May 21) when the species was observed again: Tony Thomas observed 6 **Common Green Darners** on that date at two sites in Fredericton.

Other early season records included several **Spiny Baskettails** (épithèque épineuse; *Tetragoneuria spinigera*) emerging at Fredericton on May 26 (SM), 20+ teneral (newly emerged) **Bluet sp.** (agrion; *Enallagma* sp.) observed at Bell Street Marsh on May 28 (ST); and teneral **Whiteface sp.** (leucorrhine; *Leucorrhinia* sp.) and **Four-spotted Skimmers** (la quadrimaculée; *Libellula quadrimaculata*) noted on June 2 at Fredericton (DS). A **Beaverpond Clubtail** (gomphe boréal; *Gomphus borealis*) observed at Fredericton during the first few days of June proved to be a new early record for the species in NB (AWT).

Surveys by the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (Paul Brunelle, Kate Bredin and Michael Brunelle) of the Eel River drainage (Carleton/York County border) and North Lake on the St. Croix drainage between June and August resulted in new records for a number of our rarest damselflies. They found several new sites for **Elegant Spreadwing** (lestes inégal; *Lestes inaequalis*), **Slender Spreadwing** (lestes élançé; *Lestes inaequalis*), **Azure Bluet** (agrion saupoudré; *Enallagma aspersum*), **Little Bluet** (agrion mineur; *Enallagma minisculum*), **Orange Bluet**

(agrion orangé; *Enallagma signatum*), and **Vesper Bluet** (agrion vespéral; *Enallagma vesperum*). All of these species were previously known from only a few locations in the province. Other records of rare bluets this summer included **Azure Bluet** and **Skimming Bluet** (agrion minuscule; *Enallagma geminatum*) at McKeil Lake on August 17 (DS, JG), and **Azure Bluets** at two lakes on the Kingston Peninsula on August 19 (ST).

The beautiful but tiny **Eastern Red Damsel** (agrion rougeâtre; *Amphiagrion saucium*) is known here from only a few sites, but it is easily overlooked and may be more frequent than we think. New sites were found this summer at Thomaston Corner on July 1 (DS, MS) and at Upper Gagetown on July 30 (AWT).

**Mottled Darners** (aeschne clepsydra; *Aeshna clepsydra*) were only discovered in the province last year, yet turned up at several sites in southwestern NB this summer: Second Lake Throughfare, August 14 (PMB); First Eel Lake, August 18 (PMB); Bacon Lake, Aug 17 (DS, JG); and Jenkins Lake, August 19 (ST).

A **Zigzag Darner** (aeschne à zigzags; *Aeshna sitchensis*) larva was found emerging from damp sphagnum moss at a bog near Napadogan on July 4 (DS). Most dragonflies require standing or flowing water for larval development, but this species is interesting for its ability to live in the water-saturated moss at the edges of bogs. **Zigzag Darners** were also found at bogs near Minto on July 31 (AWT) and Maxwell on August 15 (PMB).

**Subarctic Darners** (aeschne subarctique; *Aeshna sitchensis*) were found in a small swarm of feeding darners along a stream near Pokiok on August 26 (DS, KC). This species is seldom found away from its typical breeding habitat (bogs). A population was found at a bog near Maxwell on August 15 (PMB, KB).

A number of new sites for the **Green-striped Darner** (aeschne verticale; *Aeshna verticalis*) were found this summer: Second Lake Throughfare, August 12 (PMB); Pocowogamis Lake, August 3 (KC); and east of Castaway, August 31 (AWT). This bog/fen-dwelling species is at the northeastern limit of its range in NB, and before this year was known from only a few sites.

**Shadow Darners** (aeschne des pénombres; *Aeshna umbrosa*) are a crepuscular species, so they are typically quite active at dusk. However, a male spotted hunting moths at a porch light at Pokiok Settlement on July 21 in the pitch-black, over an hour past sunset,



was probably pushing the limits of this behaviour (DS & KC).

Dedreic Grecian spied what was almost certainly a **Comet Darner** (anax comète; *Anax longipes*) at CFB Gagetown on August 28 and 29. Identification of many invertebrate species is difficult by sight alone, but this large, bright red darner is unmistakable. The **Comet Darner** has been observed in NB on only one other occasion, by Karl Dexter in 1995, near Saint John.

Kevin Craig found a **Harlequin Darner** (aeschne pygmée; *Gomphaeschna furcillata*) near Woodstock on June 28, furnishing a fifth provincial record.

The discovery of a **Lilypad Clubtail** (gomphe fourchu; *Arigomphus furcifer*) by Scott Makepeace at Jemseg on June 30 was the most notable dragonfly record for the summer. This was the first NB record for the species, which was still present at the site on July 7 (AWT). **Lilypad Clubtails** were previously known to occur throughout southern Maine as close as 50 km from the NB border.

The **Black-shouldered Spinyleg** (gomphe épineux; *Dromogomphus spinosus*) is a large species of clubtail that was previously thought to be relatively rare in the province. Last year it was found to be common throughout the lower Saint John River system, and this summer it was found to occur in large numbers in lakes and large rivers throughout western NB (DS, AWT, PMB, KB). Of particular interest was the discovery of large numbers of **Black-shouldered Spinylegs** in the Jolicure Lakes area on August 1 (ST).

New Brunswick holds Canada's only known population of **Spine-crowned Clubtails** (*Gomphus abbreviatus*), a species first discovered here on the North Branch Oromocto River in 2001 by Tony Thomas. Work this summer has shown that it occurs in scattered locations throughout the province, although it appears to be quite rare, as most observations are of single individuals. New locations include: Fredericton, June 24 (DS); Salmon River at Gaspereau Forks, June 25 (ST); Thomaston Corner, June 16 (AWT), July 1 (DS, MS); Jemseg and Fredericton Junction, July 7 (AWT); and McGowans Corner, July 7 (DS).

The cold stream-loving **Harpoon Clubtail** (gomphe descriptif; *Gomphus descriptus*) was found at Baker Brook on June 12 (DS, AWT), Apohaqui on June 21 (DS, MS), and at Nashwaaksis on June 23 (AWT).

A very late **Cobra Clubtail** (gomphe-cobra; *Gomphus vastus*) was picked up in a parking lot at Fredericton on August 21 (SM), its wings so tattered that it

was no longer able to fly. This species emerges in huge numbers from the lower Saint John River during the last week of June, but adults are seldom seen. Stu Tingley was fortunate to see 15 adults flying at Jemseg on July 3, as well as a few that were emerging. Exuviae (shed larval skins) of **Cobra Clubtail** found near Evandale on July 27 (DS, SM) were unexpected in that this part of the Saint John River is occasionally brackish during extremely high tides. This would seem to indicate that this species is at least somewhat tolerant of saline waters. Exuviae were also found on Mactaquac Headpond near Dumfries on July 20 (DS, MS), and at Indian Lake on July 19 (AWT).

The extremely rare **Skillet Clubtail** (gomphe ventru; *Gomphus ventricosus*) began emerging in low numbers at Fredericton on June 21; adults were seen hunting along the riverside on July 5 (DS).

The **Extra-striped Snaketail** (ophiogomphe bariolé; *Ophiogomphus anomalus*) are known in the province from only a handful of sites. New records for 2003 include Thomaston Corner on June 13 and July 1 (DS, MS); Blackville on June 13 (NP) and June 19 (ST); and Gaspereau Forks on June 25 (ST).

The rare **Boreal Snaketail** (ophiogomphe boréal; *Ophiogomphus colubrinus*), for which NB is situated at the southern fringe of its range, was found emerging at Fredericton on June 22 (DS) and June 24 (AWT); Mactaquac Lake on June 25 (DS, AWT); and Baker Lake on June 25 (DS, AWT).

Adult **Riffle Snaketails** (ophiogomphe de Carole; *Ophiogomphus carolus*), one of our most common stream-dwelling dragonflies, were present in the hundreds on the South Branch Oromocto River at Juvenile Settlement on June 18 (DS). This species seems to be most common in the north of the province: Stu Tingley observed many thousands emerging from the Nepisiquit River at Second Landing on June 26, and Jim Clifford witnessed a similar concentration of exuviae on the Restigouche River on July 1.

The very rare **Pygmy Snaketail** (ophiogomphus trapu; *Ophiogomphus howei*), which was only first discovered in NB last year, turned up at several locations during this summer. Stu Tingley found exuviae of this species at Lee Settlement on June 17 and at Blackville on June 19; and a newly-emerged female was discovered at Thomaston Corner on June 13 (DS). After several hours of unsuccessfully searching for this species at Thomaston Corner on July 1, Mary Sabine was fortunate to have a **Pygmy Snaketail** unexpectedly land on her shoulder!



**Zebra Clubtail** (gomphe de Scudder, *Stylurus scudderi*) exuviae collected near Evandale on July 27 (DS, SM) provided a new NB location for this stunning species. Because of the occasionally brackish nature of this part of the Saint John River, it seems to represent an atypical habitat for the species, which normally seems to prefer cold, sand-bottomed streams.

A huge swarm of **Broad-tailed Shadowdragons** (épithèque à queue large; *Neurocordulia michaeli*) feeding on mayflies was noted at dusk over the Eel River at Maxwell on June 12 (AWT & DS), several days after odonate surveys by the AC CDC discovered a huge emergence of the species there (PMB, KB). The species was subsequently reported from many locations throughout southern NB (DS, AWT, ST, MS): the most northerly report was Nelson Poirier's observation of an emergence at Blackville on June 13.

An exuviae of **Umber Shadowdragon** (épithèque cuivré; *Neurocordulia obsoleta*) was found in Mac-

taquac Headpond at Bulls Creek on June 25 (AWT) and another was found at Gaspereau Forks on June 25 (ST). These represent the second and third Canadian records for this species, which was first reported in NB only last year.

Several **Mantled Baskettail** (épithèque vêtue *Tetragoneuria semiaquea*) exuviae were found at First Eel Lake on August 14, representing a third provincial record for this difficult-to-identify species (DS)

**Prince Baskettails** (épithèque princière; *Epithica princeps*) were present throughout southern NB in impressively large swarms in July, and their propensity to forage low over the fields along the Saint John River resulted in hundreds of roadkills being noted on a short stretch of the old Trans Canada Highway on June 30 (SM).

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The cryptic **Ebony Boghaunter** (cordulie bistrée; *Williamsonia fletcheri*) was reported only twice this summer: June 11 in southern Kent County (ST), and June 18 east of Castaway (AWT).

Dozens of **Kennedy's Emeralds** (cordulie de Kennedy; *Somatochlora kennedyi*), were found mating over fields in the Jemseg area on July 5 (DS, MS). A quick walk along the old Trans Canada Highway indicated that many were victims of the automobile traffic.

Two of our rarest emeralds, the Delicate Emerald (cordulie de Franklin; *Somatochlora franklini*) and Forcinate Emerald (cordulie fourchue; *Somatochlora forcipata*) were found at a fen in Upper Gagetown on July 29 (SM). Another rare emerald, the **Incurvate Emerald** (cordulie incurvée; *Somatochlora incurvata*), later turned up at this site as well as many other sites in southern NB later in the summer (SM, DS, AWT, ST).

**Calico Pennants** (célithème indienne; *Celithemis*

*elisa*) were reported from Scotch Lake on June 28 and Indian Lake on July 19 (AWT), and from Second Eel Lake on August 14 (PMB, KB, DS). Of interest was an observation of many pairs ovipositing in tandem while being attacked by trout at a strip mine pond near Minto on July 17 (AWT).

Jim Clifford has the distinction of being one of the very few people to see the **Canada Whiteface** (leucorrhine nordique; *Leucorrhinia patricia*) in New Brunswick. This boreal species is at the extreme south of its range here, and has only been recorded from a few sites in the northern half of the province. Jim found the species to be common at a site south of Charlo on July 19.

The tiny **Elfin Skimmer** (nannothème d'elfe; *Nannothemis bella*), was found at South Musquash Marsh on July 26 (ST) and at Upper Gagetown on July 29 (SM), doubling the list of known sites for this species in the province.

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**Slaty Skimmers** (la voluptueuse; *Libellula incesta*) seemed very common this summer and were noted by various observers throughout southern NB, including hundreds at Dead Creek near First Eel Lake on July 20 (DS, MS).

**Ruby Meadowhawks** (sympétrum à dos roux; *Sympetrum rubicundulum*) are extremely difficult to identify as adults, and thus are known from very few sites in NB. They are a bit easier to identify from exuviae, several of which were found at First Eel Lake on August 14 (DS).

#### Miscellaneous species

A trip by the New Brunswick Botany Club to a gravel beach on the north shore of Grand Lake on August 9 resulted in an spectacular entomological find in addition to the many interesting plants noted. A population of the **Cobblestone Tiger Beetle** (*Cicindela marginipennis*) was found (DS and various observers). This was a first record for Canada. The **Cobblestone Tiger Beetle** is typically found on cobblestone bars on large rivers, and is extremely rare in the US. The closest known population to NB is on the Connecticut River on the New Hampshire/Vermont border. During a subsequent visit to the site on August 20, Reg Webster found a species of carabid beetle that was not previously known in NB: *Apristus latens*. Reg has been conducting extensive surveys of carabids in NB during the past few years, and has encountered many new species for the province.

Reg Webster also developed an interest in **Dytiscids** (predaceous diving beetles) this summer, and has turned up several new-to-NB species in this interesting group.

The **Swamp Milkweed Beetle** (chrysomèle de l'asclépiade; *Labidomera clivicollis*) was very abundant at Jemseg in June (RW); they were still present at Lower Jemseg in August (NP).

**American Carrion Beetles** (silphe d'Amérique; *Silpha americana*) were noted twice this summer: Shogomoc River on July 9 (DS, KC) and Miramichi on July 17 (DM).

Another find on the New Brunswick Botany Club trip to Grand Lake on August 9 was a **Hermit Flower Beetle** (l'osmoderne ermite; *Osmoderma eremicola*) (DMcL). This huge scarab beetle is seldom seen in NB. Another specimen turned up dead in a window in Central Hampstead in mid-August (JB).

An **American Salmonfly** (*Pteronarcys dorsata*) was present at New Jersey on July 14 (DMcL). This impressive insect is one of our largest stoneflies.

**Tabanus fairchildi**, a rare horsefly that lives in swift-flowing rivers, turned up at a number of locations in July including the Maguadavic River in mid-July (AWT), and the Eel River east of Porten Settlement on July 29 (DS).

The extremely large (and luckily, perhaps, very rare) horsefly *Tabanus novaescotiae* turned up at two new sites in the province this summer: Central Hampstead on August 21 (SM), and Kouchibouguac National Park on August 31 (AWT).

The beautiful **Phantom Crane Fly** (le fantôme du marais; *Bittacomorpha clavipes*) was observed at New Jersey on August 22 (DMcL).

Marie-Andée Giguère, Reg Webster, and Jim Edsall have been conducting extensive surveys of mosquitoes throughout New Brunswick over the past two years. To date they have recorded 38 species in the province, including 4 new-to-NB species this summer. One of these new species, the **Rockpool Mosquito** (*Aedes atropalpus*), was discovered at Second Falls on the Maguadavic River by Jim while leading a Saint John Naturalists Club field trip.

Dave McLeod found a **Broad-winged Bush Katydid** (*Scudderella pistillata*) at New Jersey on August 7.

After many exciting finds over the past 2 years, the summer of 2003 turned out to be very quiet with respect to freshwater mussels. The only notable finds were **Triangle Floaters** (alasmidonte à fortes dents; *Alasmidonta undulata*) at Second Eel Lake on August 14 (KB, DS).

Lastly, while searching the bottom of the Saint John River at Baker Brook on June 12, Dwayne Sabine and Tony Thomas found large numbers of **American Mud Worm** (ver américain de la vase; *Sparganophilus eiseni*) in patches of sand behind large boulders. This earthworm is aquatic, and was first discovered in the province in the tidal parts of the lower Saint John River at Fredericton and Evandale in 2001 by Don McAlpine and Tim Fletcher. It is likely our only native species of earthworm: the other 14 species known in NB are all thought to be introduced Eurasian species.

Also extremely common at Baker Brook was the **Appalachian Brook Crayfish** (écrevisse de ruisseau; *Cambarus bartonii*). This species is widespread and common in the province, and not all that notable except that its pincers make rooting through a pile of river-substrate with your fingers looking for dragonfly larvae an interesting task.....



**Abbreviations:** AWT Tony Thomas, BD Brian Dalzell, CM Christopher Majka, DC David Christie, DD Denis Doucet, DM Drew Merrithew, DMcL Dave McLeod, DS Dwayne Sabine, EP Eileen Pike, JB Jacqueline Badcock, JG Jim Goltz, JS Julie Singleton, JW

Janet Whitehead, KB Kate Bredin, KC Kevin Craig, MB Michael Brunelle, MS Mary Sabine, NP Nelson Poirier, PMB Paul M. Brunelle, RAM Rose-Alma Mallet, RP Roy Pike, SM Scott Makepeace, ST Stu Tingley

## Mammifères du N.-B., mi-août – fin septembre, 2003 NB Mammal Report, mid August to late September, 2003

Mike LeBlanc

On August 13, Jim Wilson in Quispamsis was taking down his birdhouses when a **Flying Squirrel (grand polatouche)** came out. When he opened the birdhouse, there was a nest with at least three young squirrels inside. He closed the birdhouse and put it back in the same position.

Laurie Murison had an unexpected sighting of a **Beluga** after observing a group of 25 to 30 **Right Whales (baleine franche)** and **Harbour Porpoise (marsouin commun)** in the Grand Manan Basin, August 17th.

After a two year absence, a **Grey Squirrel (écureuil gris)** showed up in Bob Blake's yard in Second North River, August 23rd.

There has been a doe and two fawns (**White-tailed Deer – cerf de virginie**) seen around James Donald's office in Nackawic, August 29th.

While on a Whale watching outing off Grand Manan on August 25th, Brian Dalzell and others saw about 1000 **Harbour Seals (phoque commun)** and they were with about 50 **Grey Seals (phoque gris)**.

Nelson Poirier had a **Grey Squirrel (écureuil gris)** visit his feeders in Shediac Bridge on August 31st.

The faithful **Flying Squirrel (grand polatouche)** was still visiting Bob Blake's feeders in Second North River and feeding on peanut butter put out for it, September 5th.

In just one day David Christie, Mary Majka and friends got to see many of NBs mammals. During a whale-watching outing they saw some **Right Whales (baleine franche)** in courtship behaviour off Grand Manan. Towards Seal Cove, three **Fin Whales**

(**rorqual commun**) were seen in the distance. On the ferry back to the mainland they saw another **Fin Whale**, two **Humpback Whales (rorqual à bosse)** and hundreds of **Harbour Porpoise (marsouin commun)**. Returning to Albert County, near Wolfe Lake in Fundy National Park, two cow **Moose (original)** were encountered on the road, September 10th.

A **Grey Squirrel (écureuil gris)**, and an **Eastern Chipmunk (tamia rayé)** made appearances on consecutive days (September 11 and 12), at Julie Singleton's feeder near Taymouth.

Ron Wilson observed four **River Otter (loutre de rivière)** that were bobbing in the water on Oromocto Lake, September 14th. Brian Dalzell saw one, and later three, diving in the surf off Southern Head on Grand Manan, October 8. It was the first time he had seen one in the sea.

James Donald saw two young and very tame **Red Fox (renard roux)** running down the side of the road. An **Eastern Coyote (coyote)** was seen near the Macataquac dam by Beverley Schneider on October 6th. A **Grey Squirrel (écureuil gris)** was spotted for a few days at the Point LePreau Seabird observation area (Richard Blaquière, October 2).

On September 26th there were only about 10 **Grey Seals (phoque gris)** in Blacklands Gully in Kouchibouguac National Park and a **Black Bear (ours noir)** at the park entrance (Mike LeBlanc).

A **Beluga** was seen in the Bay of Fundy, near Pocologan. It was thought to have been briefly entangled in fishing lines but freed itself (Laurie Murison, September 21st).



## Nature News, Birds – July 20 to October 24, 2003

Pierrette Mercier

Though the rotten weather made nature watching a bit soggy this year, it didn't seem to discourage bird-watchers as I had over a 1000 reports of observations to pick through. However, some people did mention a decrease in population of certain species such as warblers. Indeed, I notice that there were fewer reports of warblers but an increase in others species such as the Peregrine Falcon and Great Egret. Though I cannot relay all the observations that were made, here are a few notables.

On August 29, PMcG reports an **American Bittern** (**Butor d'Amérique**) fishing - in her goldfish pond. At the Cap Brûlé sewage lagoon on Sept 3, there were 25 **Great Blue Herons** (**Grand Héron**) and 14 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** (**Bihoreau gris**) as well as a significant number of shore birds and ducks (RAM). Thirty-eight Great Blue Herons were at the same spot on Oct 10 (JP). Forty-two Great Blue Herons were seen in flight at Legoulet on Oct 22 (RR).

Again this year there were several reports of **Great Egrets** (**Grand Aigrette**): two at the Cap Brûlé lagoon on Sept 7 (JSG), and singles at St-Basile on Aug 14 (COML), in Riverview on Sept 4 (BiM), at Castalia Marsh on Sept 1 (PM), at the Grey Brook Marsh in Hillsborough on Sept 10 (K&RF), on St-George St. in Moncton on Sept 12 (JE), and at Coverdale Road in Riverview on Sept 17 (DSC, MM). A juvenile **Snowy Egret** (**Aigrette neigeuse**) was identified at Saints Rest Marsh on Sept 19 and 25 (EP, SIT). Eileen comments on the similarity between the Snowy Egret and the Little Blue Heron. An immature **Little Blue Heron** (**Aigrette bleue**) was at Saints Rest Marsh on Sept 9 and on Sept 17 (MJC). There was an unconfirmed report of a **Cattle Egret** (**Héron garde-boeufs**) in the Upper Madawaska area on Oct 9 (fide R&CLA). A Black-crowned Night-Heron (**Bihoreau gris**) was spotted in St-Leonard on Aug 9 (R&CLA). This is a rare species for the Madawaska region.

A **Brant** (**Bernache cravant**) was swimming with some Canada Geese (**Bernache du Canada**) off Heron Island on the upper Bay of Chaleur on Aug 16 (ML).

A female **Harlequin Duck** (**Arlequin plongeur**) with 6 ducklings were spotted at the Charlo River Estuary on July 21 (fide ML). There were several reports of **Ruddy Ducks** (**Erysmature rousse**): two males in breeding plumage in Sackville on July 29

(MR), a male at Bell Street Marsh in Moncton on Aug 2 (FD), and another male at the Lancaster sewage lagoon near Saints Rest marsh on Aug 29 (PN). At the St-Joseph sewage lagoon, there were one female and three males on July 27 (RGA), then a female with 5-7 ducklings on Aug 30 (AC). Elsewhere, there were three males at Bayfield on Aug 23 (AC, RL), and three males in Memramcook on Aug 30 (RAM and others).

KP mentions that the scoter migration through the Northumberland Strait seems to come earlier each year. She noticed them at Cape Jourimain on Sept 21.

Here are some of the reports of **Turkey Vultures** (**Urubu à tête rouge**): six were circling Hopewell Hill on Aug 1 (RAM and others), one was over Hebron, Albert County on Aug 5 (DSC, MM), four above UNBSJ in Saint-John on Aug 14 (PM), eleven were soaring over Hatfield on Sept 6 (JR), three were over Scott Road in Moncton on Sept 7 (BB), one at Riverside-Albert on Sept 12 (DR), two near Caledonia Mountain road on Sept 25 (DSC, MM), one over Fredericton Junction on Sept 25 (FG), nine were soaring or roosting in Midland on Sept 26 (JGW, JnW), two over Riverside-Albert and Alma on Oct 11 (SIT and others), one on route 127 between St. Stephen and St. Andrews on Oct 13 (DSM), fourteen in Midland on Oct 15 (FK), one in the Germantown area on Oct 17 (SIT and others), four in Albert county on Oct 20 (SIT and others).



Turkey Vulture  
Photo by Merv Cormier



The Bald Eagle (Pygargue à tête blanche) nest at camp wildwood near Bouctouche successfully produced one eaglet (CD). The nest on Taylor Village Rd had three eaglets on July 29 (AC). There was a possible **Cooper's Hawk** (**Épervier de Cooper**) at Mary's Point in mid-August (fide DSC). Two Cooper's Hawks were sighted in the Inkerman region on Sept 5 (BS). The Cooper's Hawk that spent last year's winter at the LaPoints in St-Leonard returned on Oct 15 (R&CLA). HD had a **Red Shouldered Hawk** (**Buse à épaulette**), maybe two in Summerville from late July to August 11.

Oscar LeBlanc counted eleven **American Kestrels** (**Crécerelle d'Amérique**) in one field in Ste-Marie on Aug 19. The field had been recently mowed. RB identified a *tundra* subspecies of the **Peregrine Falcon** (**Faucon pelerin**) at PLBO on Oct. 3. Last year he had also identified a juvenile of the *tundra* subspecies. A dark phase **Gyr Falcon** (**Faucon Gerfaut**) was identified near the dam at Harvey Bank on Oct 20 (SIT and others).



Stilt Sandpiper  
Photo by Mierv Cormier

A female Ring-necked Pheasant (Faisan de colchide) visited the feeders of YL in Memramcook on Aug 21, bringing her brood of 13 young. Yolande comments: she must have been a Leblanc. Pat Frenette had an unusual bird in Carlingsford on July 21: a Chukar (Perdrix chukar). He comments that it was surely an escapee from a neighbour that raises pheasants and other exotic birds.

Irene Doyle saw an **American Coot** (**Foulque d'Amérique**) at Eel River Bridge on Sept 21.

Shorebird migration started slowly with 50-60 birds at Johnsons Mills on July 21 and 450 birds at Mary's Point on July 22 (MM, DSC). There were over 40,000 birds on Johnson's Mills on Aug 9 (AC). Peak migration at Mary's point was around Aug 11 when over 100,000 birds were roosting at high tide (DSC).

A **Piping Plover** (**Pluvier siffleur**) was identified in Saint John on Sept 2 (MJC).

BED flushed a **Solitary Sandpiper** (**Chevalier solitaire**) near his home on Grand Manan on Aug 2. Other reports of Solitary Sandpipers were: at Bayfield on Aug 23 (AC, RL), two on the shore of the St-John River in St-Basile on Sept 14 (COML), one at the Scoudouc sewage lagoon on Oct 9 (SIT and others). SIT observed an **Upland Sandpiper** (**Maubèche des champs**) on Aug. 1 displaying distraction behaviour indicating that it may have nested on the Tantramar Marsh. It was seen again doing the same display on Aug 9 (KP).

There was a possible **Western Sandpiper** (**Bécasseau d'Alaska**) at the Sackville sewage lagoon on Aug 23 (AC, RL). **Baird's Sandpipers** (**Bécasseau de Baird**) were reported as follows: one the Dune de Maisonnette on Aug 30 (MD), two at Malbaie Sud on Aug 25 (MD), singles at Saints Rest Marsh on Sept 1 (DGG and others), at the Dorchester sewage lagoon on Aug 31 (MeNC), and at Marys Point on Sept 3 (DSC).

There were several sightings of **Stilt Sandpipers** (**Bécasseau à échasses**): two at Malbaie Sud on July 24 (MD), seven at the Inkerman Marsh on Aug 4 (MD), one at Malbaie Nord on Sept 7 (MD), six at Bayfield on Aug 23 (AC, RL), two at Saints Rest Marsh on Sept 9 (MJC), one at Castalia Marsh on Sept 18 (JGW), three on White Head Island on Oct 2 (JGW), one on St-George in Moncton on Oct 11 (SIT and others), and four at Malbaie Nord on Oct 12 (MD).

A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** (**Bécasseau roussâtre**) was at Malbaie Sud and two more were at Malbaie Nord on Sept 7 (MD). A **Ruff** (**Bécasseau varié**) was spotted at the Inkerman Marsh on Sept 5 (BS) and also on Sept 22 (MD). Another Ruff was discovered at Castalia Marsh on Sept 21 (fide JGW). A **Red-Necked Phalarope** (**Phalarope à bec étroit**) was spotted at the Arthur St lagoon in St-Joseph on Aug 10 (AC). Another Red-necked Phalarope was spotted in the company of a **Wilson's Phalarope** (**Phalarope de Wilson**) at the Dorchester sewage lagoon on Aug 24 (AC).



There were two **Laughing Gulls** (*Mouette atricille*) among a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls (*Mouette de Bonaparte*) at the Charlo River estuary on Aug 9 (ML). Another Laughing Gull, this one a juvenile, was spotted at PLBO on Sept 25 (JGW). A **Little Gull** (*Mouette pygmée*) was seen among other Gulls at the Cap Brûlé lagoon on Sept 13 (RAM and others). Another Little Gull was seen from the ferry from Grand Manan on Oct 4 (KE). A **Black-headed Gull** (*Mouette rieuse*) was spotted among the other gulls in Black's Harbour on Oct 15 (SIT and others). ML and others spotted a Common Gull, which is a European subspecies of the **Mew Gull** (*Goéland cendrée*), at the Charlo River estuary on Sept 3.

**Lesser Black Backed Gulls** (*Goéland brun*) seem to be more and more common lately. Here are some reports: one at the Riverview superstore parking lot on July 25 (DSC), two at Johnson's Mills on July 28 (GB, AC), one near the Dorchester sewage lagoon on Aug 26 (AC and others), one on the Petitcodiac near Bore View Parc on Sept 7 (DSC), one on St-George St in Moncton on Sept 17 (BOC), one at Deep Cove Beach on Sept 18 (JGW), two at PLBO on Sept 25 (JGW), one at Saint's Rest Marsh on Sept 29 (JGW), one at Black's Harbour on Oct 15 (SIT and others), and one on Coverdale Rd on Oct 17 (DSC, MM).

A **Sabine's Gull** (*Mouette de Sabine*) was spotted off Grand Manan on Sept 6 during a field trip by the SJNC. Three Caspian Terns (*Sterne Caspienne*) were spotted on Grand Manan on Aug 28 (JSG). Other Caspian terns were: three at Bayfield on Aug 30 (RAM and others), one at Murray Corner on Sept 6 (MeNC), eight were in the Cape Tormentine region on Sept 13 (RAM and others), two at PLBO on Oct 3 (RB). An Arctic Tern (*Sterne Arctique*) was among the Common Terns (*Sterne pierregarin*) at Johnson point on Aug 30 (RAM and others). A Black Tern (*Guifette noir*) was flying over the Saint-John river in Fredericton on Aug 19 (BM).

There is an unconfirmed report of a **Horned Puffin** on Machias-Seal Island on July 26 (fide Durlan Ingersoll).

A **White-winged Dove** (*Tourterelle à ailes blanches*) was among the Mourning Doves (*Tourterelle triste*) at Doreen Rossiter's home in Alma on Sept 19.

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** (*Coulicou à bec noir*) was observed in Summerville on July 16 (HD). Two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** (*Coulicou à bec jaune*) were seen at Wilson Point on Miscou on Sept 27 (FB, RD).

A dead Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found at Deep Cove, Grand Manan on Oct 3 (JGW) and six others were seen on the Island during the last week of Sept (KE). Other Yellow-billed Cuckoos were one at Anne's Acres near Murray Corner on Oct 6 (AC), and one in Fredericton on Oct 11 (Peter Pearce).

There weren't many owls reported this season. Here are a few: a **Great Horned Owl** (*Grand Duc d'Amérique*) was heard in Stilesville early Sept 20 (KR), one was seen in the Aboujagane area on Oct 1 (AC), and another visited Dwayne Biggar's yard on Oct 20. A **Barred Owl** (*Chouette rayée*) was heard at Kouchibouguac on Sept 26 (TR), and a **Short-eared Owl** (*Hibou des marais*) in Melrose on Sept 25 (MJC).

There were several reports of **Common Night-hawks** (*Egoulevant d'Amérique*). Here a few: over 20 in Nashwaaksis on Aug 8 (GG), 54 over the TCH just outside Moncton on Aug 8 (GB), over 200 over the TCH in Lower St-Marys on Aug 9 (DS), 35-40 in Fredericton on Aug 19 (BM).

Roger Dumaresq reports a **Red-Headed Woodpecker** (*Pic à tête rouge*) in Inkerman on Oct 21. A rare bird on the Acadian Peninsula, an **American Three-toed Woodpecker** (*Pic à dos rayé*) was spotted at the Parc écologique de la Péninsule acadienne on Oct 15 (RR).

There is a report of an **Ash-throated flycatcher** (*Tyrann à gorge cendrée*) at Pointe-Verte on Oct. 11 (Roger Guitard). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrann à longue queue*) was seen in Cap-Lumière on Oct 12 (fide SIT). A **Western Kingbird** (*Tyrann de l'Ouest*) was spotted near Lake Frye on Miscou Island (RAC, CNPA).

AC witnessed a very large flock of migrating swallows of four different species at Taylor Village on July 30. This flock measured approximately 1 km in diameter. A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** (*Hirondelle à ailes hérissées*) was with other swallows at Harvey Bank on Aug 23 (AC, RL). Another Rough-winged Swallow was spotted on Miscou Island on Oct 11 (FB, RD, RR). BM made a note of the large number of Cliff Swallows (*Hirondelle à front blanc*) nesting at CFB Gagetown. He estimates over 100 pairs.

A partially albino American Crow (*Corneille d'Amérique*) was spotted at CFB Gagetown on Aug 25 (BM).

A **Carolina Wren** (*Troglodyte de Caroline*) was at the PLBO on Oct 7 (BS). Another Carolina Wren



was spotted outside the Reversing Falls Restaurant in Saint John on Oct 16 (MJC). A **House Wren (Troglodyte familiar)** made an appearance near Castalia Marsh on Sept 21 (RL). Two other House Wrens were reported in Alma on Oct 10 (SIT and others).

Several **Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers (Gobemoucheron gris-bleu)** were reported: singles were at Marys Point on Sept 2 (DSC), in Saint John on Sept 5 (DGG, and others), at Tracadie-Sheila on Sept 30 (RD), on Grand Manan in mid-Sept (JGW), at Cape Jourimaine on Sept 1 (AC, RL), at the PLBO on Oct 6 (RB), at North Head on Grand Manan on Oct 5 (JGW), in the Murray Corner area on Oct 6 (AC), on Miscou Island on Oct 11 (RD, FB), and in Alma on Oct 19 (DGG and others). Eastern Bluebirds (Merle bleu de l'Est) fledged successfully on July 20 from Dale Gaskin's nest box on Dawson Road.

AC had a partially albino European Starling (Étourneau sansonnet) at his feeders on Aug 23.

FB and RD found a **Yellow-throated Vireo (Viréo à gorge jaune)** on Miscou Island on Sept 21. They were able to photograph and videotape the bird for several minutes. It was still there when they returned on Sept 27.

A **Blue-winged Warbler (Paruline à ailes bleues)** was at Wilson Point on Miscou on Oct 4 (RD, FB). Another Blue-winged Warbler was caught at the St. Andrews Banding station on Oct 16 (fide MJC). Several **Orange-Crowned Warblers (Paruline verdâtre)** were noted: one in Fredericton on Sept 3 (YB), one at Malbaie Nord on Sept 14 (RD, FB), one at lake Frye on Miscou on Sept 21 (RD, FB), one was caught at the Huntsman Centre in St-Andrews on Oct 11 (Tracy Dean), one at Herring Cove in Fundy National Park on Oct 17 (SIT and others). There was a **Prairie Warbler (Paruline des prés)** at Long Eddy Point on Sept 7 (SJNC) and on Whistle Road on Grand Manan on Oct 4 (JGW). Another Prairie Warbler was in Denis Doucet's yard in St-Antoine on Oct 14. PMcG spotted a **Yellow-breasted Chat (Paruline polyglotte)** in Point La Nim in August. Another was near the Miscou Lighthouse on Sept 21 (RD, FB).

There is a report of a **Western Tanager (Tangara à tête rouge)** on Machias Seal Island on July 21 (fide Durlan Ingersoll).

Several **Blue Grosbeaks (Guiraca bleu)** (at least 4) were seen in different areas of Grand Manan between Sept 24 and Oct 2 (KE). JGW identified a **Dickcissel (Dickcissel d'Amérique)** at Eel River on Grand

Manan on Sept 13. Other Dickcissels were: one at Mary's Point on Sept 18 and Oct 14 (DSC), one at Lake Frye, Miscou Island on Sept 21 (FB, RD). KE saw four on Grand Manan between Sept 24 and Oct 4.

A **Clay-coloured Sparrow (Bruant des plaines)** was at Battle Beach on Grand Manan around Sept 17 (JGW). Other Clay-coloured Sparrow were: at PLBO on Sept 30 (BS), on Oct 4 and two on Oct 5 at Eel Brook on Grand Manan (JGW), at St-Leonard on October 7 (R&CLA), at Castalia Marsh on Oct 12 (VB).

A **Lark Sparrow (Brant à joues marron)** was identified at the Davidson Lookout on the Fundy Trail Parkway on Aug 16 (DGG, SS) and another was seen on Grand Manan on Sept 20 (JGW).

There was an early report of Snow Buntings (Brant des neiges) in the Kedgwick area on Oct 4 (fide MGD).



Ash-throated Flycatcher  
Photo by Mierv Cormier

Malgré la mauvaise température, les observations d'oiseaux ont été abondantes. Je ne peux pas transmettre tout les observations car il y en a trop mais je vais noter quelques unes des plus rares qui m'ont été rapporté en français entre le 20 juillet et le 24 octobre.

Deux **Grandes Aigrettes (Great Egret)** ont été rapportées à Cap Brûlé le 7 sept. (JSG) et un autre à St-Basile le 15 Sept (COML).

Marcel David comme a tout les années a fait ses rescensements des limicoles sur la péninsule acadienne. Lors de la période dont je prenait les rapports d'observations, il a rescencé quelques 26 différentes espèces de limicoles en 5 différents endroits. Ceci comprenait 40 différents rapports sur 3 mois. Bravo Marcel! Voici les espèces plus rare dont il a noté: **Bécasseau de Baird (Baird's Sandpiper)** (Dune de Maissonnette, Malbaie Sud), **Bécasseau à échasses (Stilt Sandpiper)** (Malbaie Nord, Malbaie Sud, Marais d'Inkerman), **Bécasseau Roussâtre (Buff-**



**breasted Sandpiper**) (Malbaie Sud, Malbaie Nord), **Combattant varié (Ruff)** (Marais d'Inkerman).

Deux **Chevaliers solitaires (Solitary Sandpiper)** était sur la rive de la Rivière St-Jean à St-Basile le 15 Sept (COML).

JSG, lors d'un voyage à Grand Manan du 27 au 28 sept., a observé entre autre 3 **Sternes caspiennes (Capian Terne)**.

Un **Pic à tête rouge (Red-headed Woodpecker)** juvénile à été observé chez Jean-Guy Robichaud de Inkerman le 21 Oct. (Fide Roger Dumaresq). Un oiseau rare pour la péninsule acadienne est le **Pic à dos rayé (American Three-toes Woodpecker)** qui a été observé le 15 Octobre au Parc écologique de la péninsule acadienne (RR).

Il y avait un **Tyrann à gorge cendrée (Ash-throated Flycatcher)** à Pointe-Verte le 11 Oct. (Roger Guitard). Un Tyrann de l'Ouest a été observé au Lac Frye sur l'île Miscou le 9 Sept (CNPA).

AC rapport avoir vu un un "essain" d'Hirondelles de différentes espèces mesurant environ 1 km de diamètre et comprenant 1000 individus. Ce devait être spectaculaire!

Au Marais Castalia, le 21 sept., il y avait un **Toglo-dyte familier (House Wren)** (RL).

Un **Gobemoucheron gris-bleu (Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher)** a été identifié à Tracadie-Sheila le 30 sept. (RD).

Deux **Bruants des plaines (Clay-coloured Sparrow)** ont été vues sur l'île de Grand Manan le 11 Octobre (VB).

#### Abbreviations / abréviations:

AC Alain Clavette, BB Bob Blake, BED Brian Dalzel, BiM Birdie Macabe, BM Bill Mountan, BOC Bob Cotsworth, BS Bev Schneider, CD Cheryl Davis, CNPA Club des naturalistes de la péninsule acadienne, COML Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska, DGG Don Gibson, DR Doreen Rossiter, DS Dwayne Sabine, DSC David Christie, DSM David Smith, EP Eileen Pike, FB Frank Branch, FD Fred Dubé, FG Fredric Givan, FK Frank Kelly, GB Gilles Bourque, GG Gary Gallant, HD Henrik Deichman, JE Jim Edsall, JGW Jim Wilson, JnW Jean Wilson, JP Julie Pellerin, JR John Rankin, JSG Jean-Sébastien Guénette, KE Ken Edwards, KR Kevin Renton, K&RF Kathy & Richard Faulkner, KP Kathy Popma, MD Marcel David, MeNC Memramcook Naturalist Club, MGD Margaret Gallant-Doyle, MJC Merv Cormier, ML Mike Lushington, MM Mary Majka, MR Mike Rus-

sell, PLBO Point Lepreau Bird Observatory, PM Paul Mortimer, PMcG pat McGorlick, PN Paula Noël, RAC Rose-Aline Chiasson, RAM Rose-Alma Mallet, RB Richard Blacquièrre, R&CLA Roy & Charlotte LaPointe, RD Robert Doiron, RG Roger Guitard, RGA Ronald Arseneault, RL Roger LeBlanc, RR Roland Robichaud, SIT Stuart Tingley, SJNC Saint John Naturalist Club, SS Shirley Sloat, TCH Trans Canada Highway, TR Tim Rose, VB Valmont Bourque, YB Yvon Beaulieu, YL Yolande LeBlanc.

## Le Camp jeunesse nature

Mira et Annika Chiasson

Le Camp jeunesse nature est un camp de cinq jours. On se lève à sept heures, et on se couche à neuf ou dix heures. Le soir avant de se coucher on avait la chocolade (un chocolat chaud et un biscuit). C'était délicieux. On avait nos repas dans une cafétéria où il y avait beaucoup de choix de nourriture. Chaque jour, nous avions de différentes activités. Par exemple, un jour nous sommes allés à la dune de Bouctouche, d'autres jours, on avait des présentations et des jeux. Certains soirs, nos moniteurs se sont déguisés et nous avons joué des jeux d'improvisation. Nous avons appris beaucoup de choses, comme l'effet de la pollution sur la couche d'ozone. Une fois nous avons attrapé des insectes et des poissons dans un étang (et après nous avons pris des douches parce que plusieurs personnes sont tombées dans la vase). Il y a une chose que nous avons détesté: le temps est passé beaucoup trop vite!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



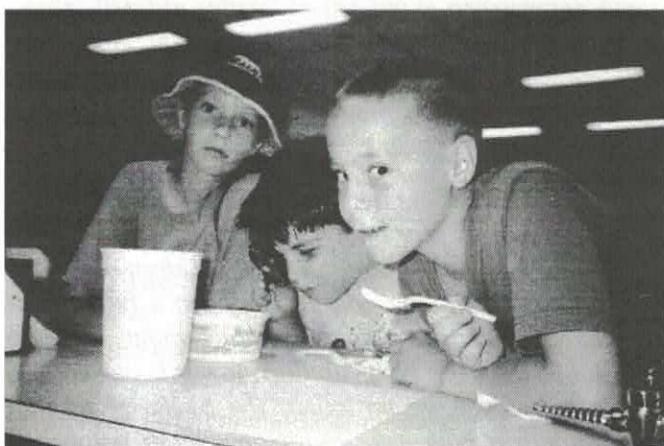


## A Day in the Life of a Summer Youth Nature Camper

Kavoe "Snipe" Stewart, Camp Director

Morning breaks and I awake along with the rest of my bunkmates. As I sit up in my bed I peer out the window at the majestic Red Pine that grows alongside the Anderson House residence at the Huntsman Centre. As we slowly wake up, Snipe, one of the counselors, comes into the room to see if we are awake. He greets us with such an energy that everyone in the room sits up in their beds. He lets us know that we have a half an hour to get dressed and ready for breakfast. We quickly (after a bit of wrestling) get ready to start our day at camp and head downstairs to eat in the cafeteria.

I already know that we are going on the boat trip this morning because we were told to bring our backpacks down with us full of the things we will need on the boat. I made sure to pack my sunscreen, my hat, and of course my "Nature Notebook". The counselors handed these notebooks out to us on the first night. I really like it. It is full of neat information about nature and different New Brunswick animals.



For this morning's activities the group is splitting up because the boat only holds ten people at once. My group is going to the lab first. The leader introduces herself as Tracey in a cool British accent and tells us that we'll be playing something called "Plankton Bingo". She then explains to us that plankton are little microscopic plants and animals that live in the ocean. She shows us a couple of bottles full of ocean water that have plankton swimming in them. With the help of Strider and Plume, two other counselors, she pours the plankton-filled water into dishes and passes them

out along with a bingo sheet that, instead of having numbers on it, has pictures of different types of plankton. Then we start searching for the different types of plankton in our dish and marking them on the bingo sheet. After the session we clean up and say thank you to Tracey and head to the wharf for the boat trip.

When we get to the wharf the boat (W.B. Scott) is just coming back. Kate introduces herself and hands out lifejackets to everyone. When we are far enough out, the crew lowers the scallop drag into the water. Once it's lowered the boat starts up again. All of a sudden the boat stops and the crew starts to raise the drag up out of the water. I can only imagine what is coming up! When it's up, they empty out all the marine animals that we've picked up onto the floor of the boat. When the drag is put back and out of the way, we begin to root through what we've found and identify them all. We find a lot of different types of animals and plants, some that we had already seen yesterday in our beach walk and some that are completely new to us. After we finish searching through our living treasure, the boat starts to head back to the shore. To everyone's surprise, on our way back we spot a couple of porpoises in the water. As soon as the boat docks, we carefully get off and head up to the residence for lunch.

After lunch we meet back in the common room for our first session of the afternoon. As I enter the room I notice that we have some new visitors. Standing in the front of the group are a man and a woman who both look very friendly and excited to be here. The guy really looks like a man of the bush as he is wearing a green Tilley hat and has grown a large brown beard (Gart Bishop, and his wife Alison). They then go on to explain that we are going on a scavenger hunt for plants and we'll be split into teams of two. Each team gets a plastic bag and a list of things to find. As soon as we're done, we have to take our items to Gart and Alison for inspection. If we have everything we need, our names get entered into a draw for a book on plants. Next we have to take one of the plants we found and think of a name for it based on one of its characteristics. Some groups came up with some really good names for their plants. I thought ours was pretty good too: we picked one of the plants that were really pointy and prickly and named it the Prickly



Plant. As we say thank you to Gart and Alison for visiting us we move on to our next session.

On our way to the labs, no one has any idea what our final session of the afternoon is. The only thing we know is that we are going to participate in something called the H<sub>2</sub>Olympics. We arrive at the outside of the labs and are quickly split up into teams of four that are named after different bodies of water in New Brunswick. The counselors give us the word, and we all file down into the lab like teams in the opening ceremonies at the Olympics, music and everything! As we enter the lab with flags made especially for the activity, we are instructed to sit at one of the five stations that are set up in the room. Snipe stands up in the front of the classroom and welcomes us to the H<sub>2</sub>Olympics. He explains that we are going to participate in a lot of different events that all relate to the properties of water. "Follow the steps for each event and record your results" he says with excitement. "Let the games begin!" he adds as the music starts back up in the background.

My favorite station was where we had to design a boat made out of Bristol board and race it across a tray of water. We made the boats move by adding a drop of soap to the back of the boat. At the end of the H<sub>2</sub>Olympics, the counselors collect all the scores for each event as the music starts up again. When the results are calculated, Snipe stands up in front of the group to announce the winners for each event and pass out medals. Afterwards, with our medals around our necks, we file out while the Olympic music plays. We then head up as a group to eat supper.

After our free time following supper, we head back downstairs for our evening activity. When I arrive in the common room it is set up like a theatre. When the time comes to start, two people dressed up in funny clothing enter the room. It's hard to see but I'm pretty sure that it's our counselors, Raven and Strider. They welcome us to what they call "Improv Theatre Night" and start to explain how the game works. We're told that we're going to take part in some acting games. We start off with a game where we're only allowed to speak in three words at a time. We all take turns up front and if we mess up our lines we have to go back to our seat. The evening is filled with many games and skits that are a lot of fun and really funny. Before we know it nine o'clock rolls around and it's time to head upstairs and get our pajamas on.

As soon as I'm dressed for bed I head back downstairs to the common room for what we call

"Chocolade". Chocolade is a time to relax and tell stories after an exciting day at camp. When I arrive in the common room the lights are turned out and there is a candle lit in the middle of the room. We all sit in a circle around the candle and watch the flame flicker as we wait for one of the counselors to start the ceremony. Once the time is right they start passing out hot chocolate and cookies. When everyone has a cup and cookie Plume whispers "Bon Chocolade" which is our cue to start our snack. We all repeat the saying and start eating our treat. When we're done eating it's time for sharing stories. Tonight, Plume has asked everyone to tell the group what their favorite part of the day was.

Afterwards we all quietly head upstairs for the night. The counselors let us know that we have an early morning tomorrow as we are going birding with Jim Wilson, who they say to call Grosbeak for some reason. As I climb into bed I say good night to my bunkmates and start to think about all the fun things we did today. I close my eyes and begin to dream about the exciting and fun things to come in the morning and the many new adventures that are waiting for me. In no time I'm sound asleep.

*The NBFN ([www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca)) has successfully completed its second year of Summer Youth Nature Camps (SYNC). These camps, geared for children aged 9 to 14, have a continuing goal to establish a future generation with increased awareness about environmental issues and responsibilities towards our natural heritage. Since its initiation, the SYNC series has grown into a huge success among youth naturalists across the province. The theme of this year's camp series was "Rapid Climate Change and You!" By participating in these camps, these children are given a chance to explore the natural world around them and learn about ways they can help conserve and protect it in a fun and exciting atmosphere.*



## Liability Insurance / L'assurance responsabilité civile

Sabine Dietz

### NBFN / FNNB Inc. Liability Insurance

**What does it do for you and your Club?** As you may know, the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists has had liability insurance in place for its programs and affiliated clubs since June, 2001. This is a service which NBFN / FNNB offers to its members, affiliated clubs, programs, directors, and officers.

**Why do we have insurance?** In the absence of insurance, an organization's assets and the assets of its directors and officers can be used to cover legal costs, defense and lawyer fees, and damages awarded in a legal action. Incorporation alone does not protect an organization from these obligations. As well, clubs and programs affiliated with NBFN / FNNB are often required to have coverage to operate or to receive federal funding.

**What does it do?** Our liability insurance protects the directors, employees, and volunteers of NBFN / FNNB Inc. and its affiliated clubs in the event of a suit or claim for bodily injury, property damage, or personal liability subject to the limits of coverage specified in the insurance policy.

Actions giving rise to such claims could happen during programs, outings, or activities that are carried out in the normal operations of the organization. For example, your club might organize a bird observation day in the woods. Someone breaks their leg because the path chosen was very muddy, and the person slipped. The individual might blame the leader of the walk for not choosing a better path, and might want to pursue the leader in court for negligent behavior.

**Sharing costs:** Our annual insurance premium for Directors & Officers and liability coverage totals \$3,900 and is increasing by over 10% per year. Individual programs pay the portion of the premium relating to their activities and risks, and club membership dues were increased by \$1 per person to cover some of the expense of our insurance coverage. NBFN/FNNB continues to explore more equitable and fair approaches to sharing the cost of this insurance among its members, clubs, and programs.

### Questions or comments?

Kevin Tutt, Treasurer

Sabine Dietz, Executive Director

Mike LeBlanc, President

### L'assurance responsabilité civile de la FNNB / NBFN Inc.

**Qu'est-ce que ça donne à vous et à votre club?** Comme vous le savez probablement, la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick a une assurance de responsabilité civile pour ces programmes et ces clubs affiliés depuis juin 2001. Ceci est un service la FNNB / NBFN offre à ses membres, ses clubs affiliés, ses directeurs, et ses officiers.

**Pourquoi nous avons cette assurance?** Quand une organisation n'a pas d'assurance de responsabilité civile, ses biens et les biens de ses directeurs peuvent être utilisés afin de couvrir les coûts légaux, la défense et les frais d'avocats et des dommages-intérêts. L'incorporation seule ne protège pas une organisation des ses obligations. En plus, les clubs et les programmes affiliés avec la FNNB / NBFN ont besoin d'avoir cette assurance afin d'opérer et de recevoir des fonds du gouvernement fédéral.

**Qu'est ce qu'une assurance responsabilité civile fait?** Notre assurance de responsabilité civile protège les directeurs/trices, les employés, et les bénévoles de la FNNB / NBFN et les clubs affiliés en cas de poursuite légale à raison d'une blessure, d'endommagement des biens, ou de responsabilité personnelle. Ceci est sujet aux provisions spécifiées dans la police d'assurance.

Des actions, qui pourraient causer ces réclamations, peuvent arriver pendant des programmes, les sorties, ou les activités quotidiennes de l'organisation. Par exemple, votre club pourrait organiser une sortie pour les oiseaux dans la forêt. Quelqu'un se casse la jambe parce que le chemin pris était glissant et la personne glissait. L'individu pourrait rendre responsable la personne en charge de la sortie de ne pas avoir choisie un meilleur chemin. Il/elle voudrait peut-être la poursuivre en court pour de la négligence.

**Partager les coûts:** L'assurance de responsabilité civile coût présentement 3,900\$, et augmente de 10% chaque année. Les programmes individuels paient une portion de ces frais liés à leurs activités. Les cotisations des clubs ont été augmentés de un dollar afin de couvrir les dépenses de cette assurance. Ceci ne couvre pas le coût augmentant de l'assurance. La FNNB/NBFN continue d'explorer des approches équitables et justes afin de mieux partager ces coûts de cette assur-



ance parmi ses membres, clubs, et programmes.

### Questions ou commentaires?

Kevin Tutt, trésorier

Sabine Dietz, directrice générale

Mike LeBlanc, président

## M. l'épervier

Maria Gauvin

M. l'épervier dans un lilac bien percher  
regardait au tour pour quelque chose à manger

Soudain, cinq étourneaux passent au vol, rien de suspect  
l'épervier saute et ça fait effet

Reposant par terre, sa proie dans les griffes,  
il attend patialement pour manger sa délice

De l'autre côté de la cours, quatre corbeaux aux regards  
très vifs,  
voient ce que l'épervier tiens dans ses griffes

ils se disent: si on l'attaue tous en même temps,  
un bon repas pour un de nous certainement

La bataille commence soudainement, et fini aussi vite

Un corbeau à son souper sans trop se forcer

M. l'épervier dans un arbre percher,  
pleure son repas qu'il n'a pu manger

## Introducing: Rough-mantled Doris

*Editor's note: we are blessed in New Brunswick with a number of experts and enthusiasts specializing in birds and plants. Many of them make regular and much appreciated contributions to the Naturalist magazine. Sadly, many other fascinating aspects of nature receive little attention in this journal. We are fortunate this month to have a short article on mushrooms, and an extensive treatment of news from the invertebrate world. The following, copied from reports to the nature nb list, is presented as a taste of something different. We would be delighted to hear more from other nature specialties.*

*Section 1, as related by Melanie Desjardins, Interpreter, Fundy National Park, forwarded to the list by Karen Townsend.*

Subject: Fundy Interp harassed by rough-mantled Doris (*Onchidoris bilamellata*).

I am glad to report that I am still in good health after a rather frightening morning. I was leading a session on intertidal life with a grade 7 school group on Herring Cove beach. When we got to the sea exploration portion of my guided hike, I was hailed by a few students who had found a crab nestled beneath a rock. The crab had already found a large rock to hide under by the time I got there, but I quickly noticed a group of sea slugs (aka rough-mantled dorises) having one of their breeding orgies on the underside of another rock.

I had never picked one up before as they always seemed tightly stuck to rocks. Today however, I saw one not so tightly stuck and decided to pick it up to show to students. I suddenly began to feel a burning sensation on the palm of my hand where Doris sat quietly. I quickly put her back and decided that I must have been paranoid, and that Doris could not have deliberately hurt me. I went about my business and forgot about Doris, although I kept feeling my palm and noticed that the spot where she sat felt strangely softer than the rest of my hand.

I conducted a little field guide research when I got back to the office to try to explain what had happened. To my surprise, Doris had indeed deliberately tried to harm me (probably thinking I was going to make her my lunch). I discovered, with the help of the field guide *Seashores of the Maritimes* by Merritt Gibson, that the Rough-Mantled Doris will release sulfuric



acid from her skin to deter predators such as fish. So no, I wasn't paranoid, but a little naive thinking that the gentle disposition of Doris meant that she was harmless. Let this be a warning to any of you, who may in the future be so inclined to pick up this little brownish sea slug.

*Section 2, a reply by Gert Bishop.*

Thank you Karen for forwarding the note about the Sea Slug (*Onchidoris bilamellata*). For a reason I now forget, I have a delightful field guide to sea slugs [*Sea Slugs of Atlantic Canada and the Gulf of Maine* by Sherman Bleakney, 1996]. I looked up *Onchidoris bilamellata* and would like to add the following quote to Melanie's informative message.

*Onchidoris bilamellata* lives under rocks intertidally in Europe and North America and is usually abundant. Although well known since first described in 1767 by the great Linnaeus himself, it was not until 1954 that two biologists (Barnes and Powell) discovered what this nudibranch [order of Sea slug] had discovered millions of years previously. It is possible to live under a rock and yet avoid having to eat all those yukky, slimy, poisonous sponges, bryozoans and cnidarians. Just wait for the flood tide, and then crawl up and onto the exposed rock surface and feast on the gourmet "crab meat" of barnacles. Barnacles are sessile crustaceans living in white cone-shaped "crab shells" cemented to hard surfaces. There is an unlimited supply of intertidal barnacles and the slug feeds by perching atop the barnacle and ripping off its valve cover through a suspected combination of rasping, pushing, and biochemical means. Once the barnacle's soft parts are exposed, the nudibranch employs its very special, bulbous buccal pump and sucks them out, leaving behind the many bristly crustacean legs and other indigestibles. With a fibre optics probe, it might be possible to produce a documentary film of this entry from inside the barnacle fortress.

This sea slug's life history commitment to barnacles is unique among nudibranchs, and it is total. Juvenile and adult *O. bilamellata* eat only barnacles. In early summer, barnacle spat settles on rocks, and the sea slugs are never far behind. The dorid veliger larvae have, in fact, been swimming about as plankton for the previous 76 to 80 days, feeding on phytoplankton and trying to avoid the ignominious fate of being seized by an adult barnacle and eaten, while at the same time trying to grow large enough to successfully attack the youngest barnacles. The juvenile nudibranchs feast upon barnacle meat through summer, autumn, and into

winter, and by January they are large enough to commence spawning, which they do from late January into April. The egg masses are attached to sides and undersides of rocks and may contain over 100,000 ova, all enclosed in a white gelatinous ribbon deposited by the dorid in a beautiful pattern of loops arranged in concentric circles. The eggs hatch in four to six weeks, depending upon temperature. The adults spawn themselves to death, literally. When they exhaust their stored energy reserves for gamete production, they switch to a process termed autolysis (self-digestion) and turn their own internal organs into more eggs and sperm. By April or May nearly every adult has self-destructed. Note that this is not a conspicuous summer species, so look for it from October to April.

Most gourmet diets are expensive, and even *Onchidoris bilamellata* has to pay, and the price is high. They have to saturate coastal waters with their planktonic larvae so that whenever there is a settlement of barnacle spat, the slug larvae are there to pounce. But, drifting about in the plankton as edible veliger larvae for two to three months is practically suicidal. Juvenile fish and crustaceans gorge themselves with veligers. Therefore, to compensate for such incredible losses, the adults eat and eat, grow large, and then in frigid February spawn with everything they've got, converting their body tissues and ending their lives as shrunken husks within a year of their birth.

Each of the few millions of larvae that do make it to juvenility ends up sitting atop the razor-sharp crown of a barnacle cone. Looking like a miniature scoop of chocolate-chip ice cream in a hard cone, it presents a tempting, bite-size morsel for fish cruising over the intertidal at high water. However, if there is one thing that fish abhor it is an acid taste in their mouths. All acidic morsels are vigorously spat back out. Somehow, *O. bilamellata* knows this and will nonchalantly munch on its lunch all exposed to the jaws of death, knowing that its skin will pump out free sulphuric acid (from pH 2 to 1) all over anything that dares interrupt its gourmet repast.

Are you wondering how an animal can make, store, and release sulphuric acid from its skin without itself going up in smoke? Well, so am I.



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

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