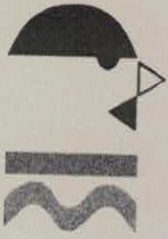
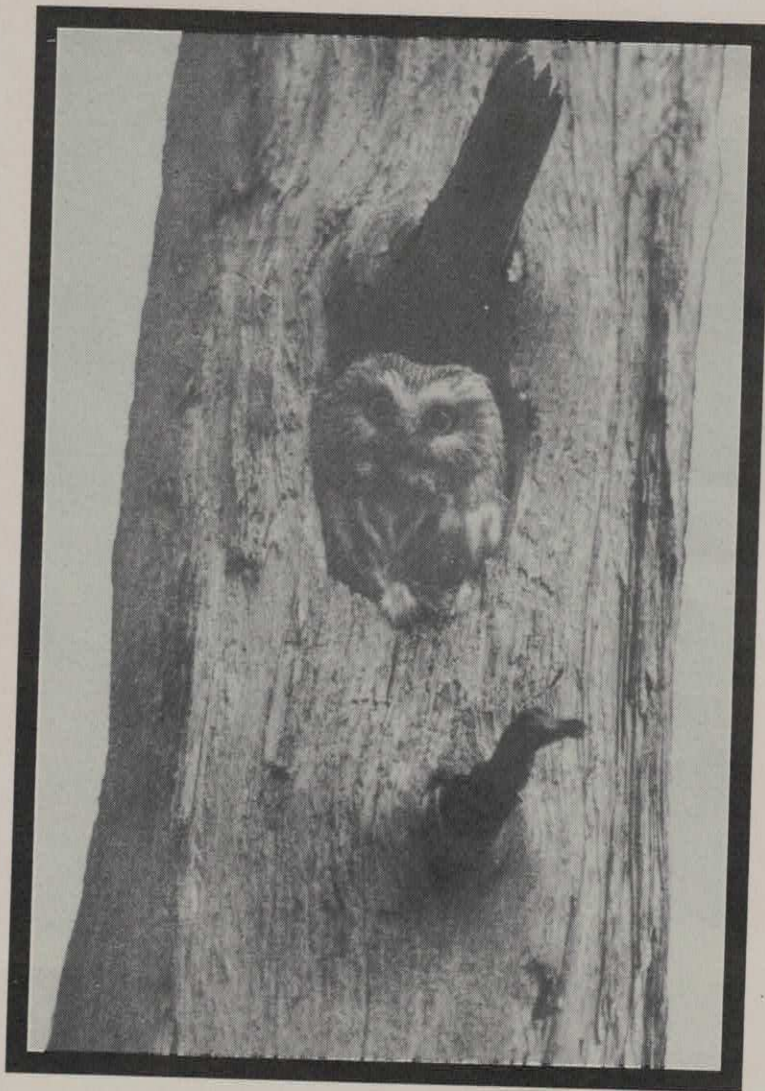


*G. Bishop*



30 (4) Winter / Hiver 2003 / 2004

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







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

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

[www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca)

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

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

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**Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Buctouche**, c/o Marc LeBlanc 1529 ch St-Gabriel, Saint-Maurice, NB E4S-5C1; 743-8485; courriel / e-mail: [brigittejulien@hotmail.com](mailto:brigittejulien@hotmail.com) Site web: [www.geocities.com/annboud](http://www.geocities.com/annboud) Réunions le dernier mardi du mois à l'éco-centre Irving, la dune de Buctouche (septembre à juin) avec sorties chaque mois.

**Celebration of Birds Nature Club (Gagetown)**, c/o Bonnie Hamilton Bogart, 194 Tilley Road, Gagetown NB E5M 1H7; email [bonniehb@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:bonniehb@nb.sympatico.ca). Information evenings every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in February and March, and field trips in April and May.

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

**Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne**, 1521-4 chemin Cowan's Creek Pokemouche, NB E8P 2C6; courriel: [emile.info@cnpa.ca](mailto:emile.info@cnpa.ca) site web: <http://www.cnpa.ca> réunions au Club de l'âge d'or Landry, 1er mercredi, sept. à juin; *Le Gobe-mouche* mensuel.

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

**Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée**, a/s Musée historique du Madawaska, 195 boul. Hébert, Edmundston NB E3V 2S8; tél 737-5282

(Bert Lavoie); réunions à 19h30, 2ième mercredi, sept. à juin, Musée du Madawaska; *Le Jaseur* bimestriel.

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

**Ford Alward Naturalist Association**, c/o Lorna Maddox, 1-71Barker Lane, Unit 1, Wicklow, N.B. E7L 3S4; tel. 392-6481 meets Florenceville Town Hall, 7:00 pm, 4<sup>th</sup> Thur., Sept.-June; meetings advertised in local newspapers.

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

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

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

**Restigouche Naturalists' Club**, c/o Mike Lushington 214 Rosebery Street, Campbellton, NB E3N 2H5; 684-3258; meets Village-Campbellton Nursing Home, 7 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon., Sept.-May, elsewhere in June; monthly newsletter.

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

The NBFN is the provincial affiliate of the Canadian Nature Federation (Nature Canada) and the Canadian Nature Network (CNN). La FNNB est le partenaire provinciale (N.-B.) du Réseau Canadien de la Nature (RCN) et affilié provincial de la Fédération Canadienne de la Nature (Nature Canada).





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

Merci beaucoup à tous bénévoles dévoué qui ont contribué à cette publication.

Please submit articles for the next issue by April 30th 2004  
S.v.p. soumettre les articles à l'intention du prochain numéro avant le 30 avril 2004

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## MOT DU PRÉSIDENT - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mike LeBlanc

If I were to ask the simple question "What is a naturalist?" I would probably get as many answers as we have members. Some ideas would be similar such as a liking of nature (birds, butterflies, dragonflies, etc....), a desire to learn about nature and a willingness to share nature with others. Defining a naturalist can be challenging, but everyone has a bit of nature in them. Who is not impressed by a majestic bald eagle soaring, a bobcat that crosses our path or a really neat spider spinning its web? These natural moments impress everyone. Our focus on nature as a whole separates our organization from other groups. We also do a lot of work on the educational side of nature. Together with the Canadian Nature Federation (which is in the process of changing its name to Nature Canada), all the provincial naturalists federations, many local naturalist clubs and individual naturalists, we are part of the newly formed Canadian Nature Network (CNN, no, not the same one as the with Larry King), and will have a very strong and influential voice for nature throughout Canada.

Canada is known for its rich and diverse nature, which is why we, the CNN, are calling our great country, the Nature Nation. And we are.

Nature is what unites us all and makes us special in this day and age where so many groups are seeking members. Every time I visit one of our great naturalist clubs, I am always impressed, for no matter how each club differs from one another, all want to share their nature experiences, be it a neat orchid from the woods or a Northern Cardinal that showed up at the feeder.

Anyone can be a naturalist regardless of background. All that is required is an interest in discovering, sharing and appreciating nature.

Over the past few years some people have said to me: 'Wow, the Federation is changing'. I would like to say

that we are not really changing, we are evolving and growing into a major organization in the province with over 320 direct members echoing the voice of over 1000 members, including members of our thirteen federated clubs. Rock on!

A few reminders, don't forget our AGM hosted by le club d'ornithologie du Madawaska ltée. This year's event will be combined with the CNF's AGM so come meet naturalists from across the country. Our general meeting will take place on Friday May 28th at 3:30pm until 5:30pm. Deadline for amendments to our by-laws must be submitted no later than April 16th to our secretary Mary Sollows. See you there!

We are now promoting the sale of official "NBFN - FNNB inc." license plate covers, which proudly announce a "Naturalist on board". These are now available from the Fredericton office for only 12\$ plus 2\$ shipping and handling. These plate covers will look great over a conservation plate on your vehicle.

An email was sent to the membership recently announcing the availability of license plate covers complete with photos of what they look like. If you did not receive it, we do not have your email address in our list. If you want to see this email please check out the following web link : [http://www.geocities.com/fnnb\\_nbfm/feb2004.htm](http://www.geocities.com/fnnb_nbfm/feb2004.htm) If you would like to be added to the list, please contact me at: [pandion@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:pandion@nbnet.nb.ca), subject: NBFN membership mailing list.

Many thanks to the board, executive, staff, naturalists, the chickadee and everyone who makes the Federation such a special organization.

Yours truly, eagerly waiting spring.

Si je vous posais la simple question: « C'est quoi un(e) naturaliste? » Simple question? hmmm pas si simple que ça. J'obtiendrais probablement autant de réponses qu'il y a de membres à la Fédération. Pour certains la réponse serait ; quelqu'un qui aime la nature (oiseaux, plantes, moules, etc..) alors que pour d'autres dirait; c'est la recherche de la connaissance qui est importante et le partage de celle-ci avec les autres. Nous avons tous le défi de nous

définir en tant que naturaliste mais tout le monde, j'en suis convaincu, porte un peu de nature en soi. Qui n'est pas impressionné à la vue d'un majestueux Pygargue à tête blanche qui survole une rivière, d'un lynx qui croise un sentier ou d'une araignée tissant sa toile spectaculaire? Ces choses impressionnent et inspirent tout le monde. C'est justement ce souffle qui distingue notre organisation de bien d'autres groupes dans la province. Notre intérêt c'est



la nature dans son ensemble. Oui, nous faisons beaucoup de travail, mais notre objectif essentiel est d'éduquer les gens au sujet de la nature. Le tout nouveau groupe, le Réseau canadien de la Nature (RCN) est composé de la Fédération canadienne de la Nature (FCN), des fédérations provinciales (FNNB - NBFN, FNSN, FON, ...) et des clubs de naturalistes. Ensemble nous sommes des milliers de naturalistes dans ce réseau au Canada et cela nous donne une voix très importante et qui a de l'influence.

Le Canada est reconnu mondialement pour ses richesses naturelles et nous, la RCN, appelons ce merveilleux pays, LA NATION NATURE. Et il n'en tient qu'à nous de mériter encore plus ce nom. La nature c'est ce qui assure le lien entre nous mais c'est aussi ce qui devrait nous permettre d'attirer toujours plus de membres. À chaque fois que j'assiste à des réunions ou activités de divers clubs de naturalistes de la province, je suis toujours impressionné de la diversité de nos membres, ils viennent de tous les secteurs de la société, mais une chose est semblable partout, l'amour de la nature et le plaisir de partager nos observations. Comme le Cardinal Rouge qui a visité notre mangeoire ou la belle orchidée que nous venons d'observer.

N'importe qui peut être un(e) naturaliste, nos points communs sont simplement l'appréciation que nous avons pour la nature, l'intérêt de toujours en apprendre plus sur elle et le désir de partager nos connaissances.

Depuis un certain temps, quelques personnes m'ont dit, « oh! la fédération change » mais nous ne changeons pas vraiment, nous évoluons, grandissons vers une organisation jouant un rôle majeur dans la province avec 320

membres directes et plus de 1000 membres distribués dans les 13 clubs fédérés. Rock On!

À noter, n'oubliez pas notre AGA qui est organisé cette année par le club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Itée conjointement avec celle de la Fédération canadienne de la Nature. Donc vous avez la chance de venir non seulement rencontrer des naturalistes de la province mais de tout le Canada. Notre réunion annuelle aura lieu le vendredi, 28 mai de 15h30 à 17h30. La date limite pour apporter un amendement aux lois de la fédération est le 16 avril et il doit être envoyé à Mary Sollows. On se verra là!

Nous avons présentement de disponible des « plaquettes officielles de la FNNB - NBFN inc » pour seulement 12\$ plus 2\$ pour les frais postaux. Elles sont disponibles au bureau de Fredericton. Passez le message aux autres que vous êtes des « naturalistes à bord ». Et d'ailleurs ces plaquettes s'harmonisent très bien avec les plaques de conservation de la province.

Un courrier électronique a été envoyé dernièrement à nos membres, si vous ne l'avez pas reçu, ceci veut dire que nous n'avons pas votre adresse courriel sur notre liste de distribution. Voici l'adresse pour voir ce message : [http://www.geocities.com/fnnb\\_nbfm/feb2004.htm](http://www.geocities.com/fnnb_nbfm/feb2004.htm) Pour être ajouté à la liste, contactez -moi au [pandion@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:pandion@nbnet.nb.ca) SVP mettre comme sujet : lettre aux membres FNNB

Merci au conseil d'administration, à l'exécutif, aux employés, aux naturalistes, à la mésange et à tous ceux qui font de la fédération une organisation très spéciale.

Naturellement vôtre... et que le printemps arrive!

## PART ALBINO COMMON REDPOLL

Roy LaPointe

This handsome little Common Redpoll / Sizerin flammée was first spotted by Charlotte's sister in Siegas (NB) in early December. I had reported it and sent a couple of pictures to a few of you and was supposed to go back and take some better pictures. Time flying as it does (and memory shorter) as you get older, I forgot to go back. Well lo and behold! Who should show up at our feeders early this morning



but none other than our little friend. He or more probably she must have known I wanted to get more pictures.

Hope you all enjoy the photo as much as we enjoyed having this little one drop in.

Bonnes observations, Roy

Part Albino Common Redpoll

Photo by Roy LaPointe



## THE FREDERICTON NATURE CLUB

*Ron Wilson and Peter Pearce*

The Fredericton Nature Club (FNC) is the oldest local association of naturalists in New Brunswick, originally christened the Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club (FFNC). The organization saw its genesis in a 1959 conversation between Andy Dean and Peter Pearce, newly arrived from England, who recognized a need for a common forum for local amateur and professional naturalists. In the new club's annual report in 1960, its aims were eloquently expressed, as follows. "The functions of the club are to encourage a cooperative interest in natural history, to collect and correlate local records, and perhaps also to act as a facet reflecting the views of the well informed public."

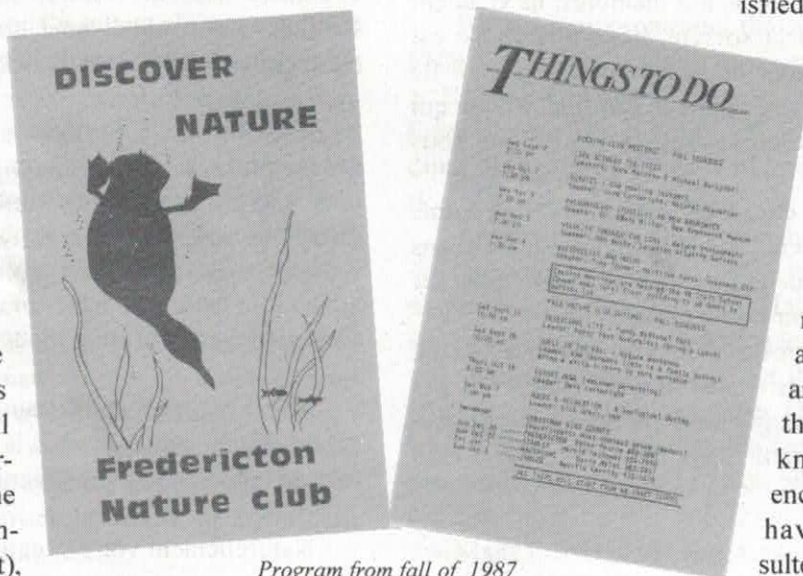
The names of some early FFNC members - Reg Balch, David Christie, Nettie Moore, Austin Squires - have resonated down the years and will be familiar to all interested in the history and nature of New Brunswick. Many of the first participants have since passed away but the names of a few, for example Bill Knight, still appear on current membership rolls. The inaugural executive comprised Bill Varty (president), Art MacKay (vice-president), Andy Dean (secretary-treasurer) and Peter Pearce (records secretary). In the first year, the slate of club activities embraced six meetings, at which 13 nature films were screened, and six field excursions.

Presidential comments in that first year seem quite prophetic to naturalists reading them today. (Remember, they were made 44 years ago.) They are worth quoting, as follows. "In this first year, bird-watching has been the main activity of the club, and this report is in essence a summary presentation of members' observations. This summary arouses much local interest, but in itself is of incomplete scientific value, since first and last dates are largely a reflection of the weather and other fortuitous factors. But in the course of years these data will knit into regional research and the continental Audubon fabric, and will con-

tribute to our understanding of bird population trends and to the protection of declining species. In no other branch of biology can amateurs so usefully supplement the work of the professional." Indeed, records maintained by the club and its members already point to significant population shifts of a number of species of birds, bearing out those earlier predictions of the worth of record keeping in the long term.

Throughout the history of the Fredericton club, birds have, inevitably, provided a common denominator of interest. But members have always had a wide base of curiosity about the natural world. That has been sat-

isfied thanks to the ready accessibility and much-appreciated accommodation of a wide array of natural resource experts locally at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) and in three levels of government in the capital city, and the willingness of amateur naturalists across the province to share their knowledge and experiences. Some club members have become often-consulted authorities in their particular fields of interest, for



*Program from fall of 1987*

example Jim Goltz on matters botanical and Tony Thomas in entomology.

As with so many volunteer groups, there came a time when the energy necessary to continue started to flag. Meetings became sporadic and a certain malaise set in. In 1986 a small group of enthusiasts decided to do something about it, to revamp the FFNC. It included Andy Didyk, Jim Goltz, Don Kimball, Kim Saunders and Blair Wood. It was decided that a minimum amount of time should be spent on business matters, that people of all levels of experience and age (especially youngsters) should be welcome, and that the club should not be intimidating for beginners and non-academics. A new name (FNC) would signal a new start. Thus a new organization rose, phoenix like, from the ashes of the old, attracting 80 members in that year.



Individual club members, as always, continued to take the initiative by leading nature walks, conducting educational courses, writing interpretive pamphlets (for example for Hyla Park Nature Preserve and for the Chimney Swift model chimney on the UNB campus), working to resolve problems in environmental protection and nature conservation and otherwise serving the public. Two club publications were issued - "A nature guide to Fredericton and vicinity" in 1989, and "Birds of Fredericton - a regional field checklist (1999)" which has, via an insert, been updated to 2003. (The "working area" adopted by the club falls



within a circle of 50 km radius centred on Fredericton.) Over four decades, the club profile grew to the point where individual contacts with broadcast, especially CBC Radio, and print media became commonplace, perhaps best exemplified by Don Gibson's regular bird column in the local newspaper.

The outstanding social, educational and financial success of the 2003 AGM weekend of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, hosted by the FNC, demonstrated the continuing vitality of the local organization and provided a fair wind as a fresh course, with Gilles Belliveau at the helm, was set in 2004

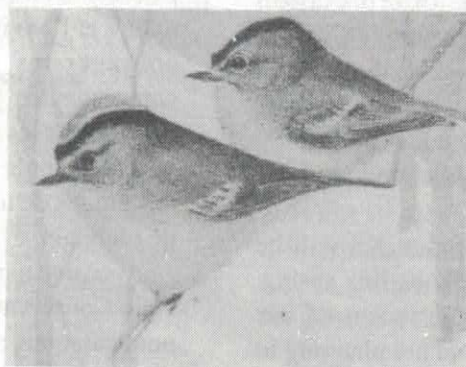
## GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET SLEEP HABITS

*Ian A. McLaren*

There is a fascinating, short article by Bernd Heinrich (famous for his Raven work) in the current (but late) issue of the ornithological journal, "Wilson Bulletin."

Heinrich followed groups of Golden-crowned Kinglets until dusk, wondering as others have, if they retreat to some very sheltered spots on cold nights. Instead, he found that they forage avidly all day and bed down where ever they happen to be, but in doing so form a remarkable mutual bundle of fluff for the night. He includes a photo showing such a bundle of four - it's hard to see

where one bird begins and another ends. He concludes that, given their dependence on very small food items (e.g spider eggs in bark, etc.) that it pays them to keep foraging through the daylight hours and not waste time/energy returning to or finding an ideal bed for the night. Anyone who has watched GCKIs on a cold winter day will know that they don't waste much time being distracted by squeaking by birders, and seem to be probing constantly for a meal, with short flights in between searches.



*Golden Crowned Kinglet  
painting by F.C. Hennessey*



## PLANNED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS OF THE NBFN FOR 2004 / LES PROJETS ET PROGRAMMES DE LA FFNB POUR 2004

*Sabine Dietz*

During the summer of 2004 the NBFN will host their third season of the Summer Youth Nature Camps (SYNC). The theme of this year's camp will be 'Rapid Climate Change and You'. There will be two French and two English week-long camps that will take place in Moncton, Campbellton, and St. Andrews.



We will be starting up a Young Naturalists Club of New Brunswick (YNC). The YNC will provide youth with the opportunity to learn about nature and the environment and to participate in nature-related activities year-round. At the same time we want to provide an opportunity for interested adults and naturalists throughout the province to share their knowledge, and act as mentors for these clubs.

Our Summer Camps for Adults will provide an opportunity to learn about nature and the environment as well as encouraging participants to become involved in teaching youth about nature and the environment in their communities. Participants will be introduced to various aspects of nature such as wilderness survival, proper use of a field guide and development of outdoor skills.

We will again partner with the Canadian Wildlife Service in Sackville and the Nature Conservancy of Canada to ensure high quality interpretation programming at the Mary's Point Interpretive Centre.

The Piper Project will run, once again, the Coastal Guardian Program. The program will continue to protect Piping Plovers on beaches of the Acadian Peninsula, while educating beach users, the public, and students about coastal ecosystems.

The French Species at Risk Education Kit will be promoted to teachers through workshops this spring. As well, we will continue the development of our Orchids of New Brunswick poster, and are planning to partner with Bird Studies Canada out of Sackville on the development of an Owls of New Brunswick poster.

We have more projects planned that we will keep

you informed about, once they are approved. If you would like to have any information about our projects and programs, please contact us by telephone at (506) 459-4209, or via the internet at [nbfnnb@nb.aibn.com](mailto:nbfnnb@nb.aibn.com), or visit us in Fredericton, at 924 Prospect Street. Or you can visit our website at: [www.naturenb.com](http://www.naturenb.com)

Au cours de l'été 2004 la FFNB offrira pour une troisième année des Camps jeunesse nature. Le sujet abordé cette année sera: 'le changement climatique et toi'. Il y aura deux camps en français; un à Moncton et un à Campbellton, et deux camps en anglais à St. Andrews. Tous les camps seront d'une durée d'une semaine.

Nous allons inaugurer un Club de jeunes naturalistes (CJN) pour le Nouveau-Brunswick. Ce CJN donnera aux jeunes l'opportunité d'en apprendre plus sur la nature et l'environnement. Il encouragera aussi les jeunes à participer aux activités reliées à la nature et ce à longueur d'année. Du même coup nous voulons donner une opportunité aux adultes et aux naturalistes intéressés à partager leurs connaissances et d'agir comme mentors pour ces clubs.



Nos camps d'été pour les adultes vont donner l'occasion aux adultes d'apprendre à mieux connaître la nature et l'environnement. En même temps, ils vont encourager les participants à s'engager dans leurs communautés et à enseigner aux jeunes. Nous allons sensibiliser les participants à différents aspects de la nature incluant la survie en nature, l'utilisation appropriée des guides de terrain, et le développement des aptitudes de plein air.

Avec nos partenaires du Service canadien de la faune et de Conservation de la Nature Canada, nous allons de nouveau nous assurer d'un programme d'interprétation de haute qualité au Centre d'interprétation de Mary's Point.



Dans la Péninsule Acadienne, le Projet Siffleur sera encore présent avec son programme de protecteurs.rices côtiers.ères. Le but sera toujours la protection du Pluvier siffleur. Autre volet ressentie; l'éducation des étudiants ainsi que des utilisateurs.rices et du public, au sujet des écosystèmes côtiers.



Le kit éducatif sur les espèces en péril au Nouveau-Brunswick sera présenté aux enseignants et enseignantes de la province à l'aide d'ateliers offerts ce printemps. Nous allons aussi continuer à travailler sur une affiche mettant en vedette les orchidées du Nouveau-Brunswick.

Et nous envisageons de produire une affiche sur les hiboux de la province en partenariat avec Études d'Oiseaux Canada à Sackville.

Nous avons plusieurs autres projets planifiés, et nous vous garderons au courant au fur et à mesure qu'ils seront approuvés. Si vous désirez plus d'informations sur nos programmes et projets, veuillez nous contacter par téléphone au (506) 459-4209, ou par courriel au [nbnf@nb.aibn.com](mailto:nbnf@nb.aibn.com), ou venez nous visiter à Fredericton au 924 rue Prospect. Vous pouvez aussi visiter notre site Web au : [www.naturenb.com](http://www.naturenb.com)

## NEWS AND REQUESTS / NOUVELLES ET DEMANDES

*Sabine Dietz*

### Looking for volunteers

We need you! Your help would be greatly appreciated for some of the following tasks:

- \* Giving presentations on your favorite topic in nature to our camp participants
- \* Helping with any of the above projects on a committee
- \* Become a mentor for a young naturalists club in your region
- \* The NB Naturalist editorial help (reviewing articles)

### Donations accepted!

You might not want to volunteer but still feel our programs and projects are worthwhile? We accept donations of any amount, and will provide a tax receipt. You can designate your donation to one of the following: Young Naturalists' Club, Mary's Point Interpretive Centre, Youth Summer Camps, Adult Summer Camps, Piper Project, General NBNF

*Send your donations to New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, 924 Prospect Street, Suite 2, Fredericton, NB, E3B 2T9. Thank You!*

### À la recherche de bénévoles!

Nous avons besoin de vous! Votre aide serait grandement apprécié pour certaines tâches :

- \* Donner des présentations sur votre sujet préféré pendant les camps d'été
- \* Siéger à un comité relié à un des projets ou programmes susmentionnés
- \* Devenir mentor pour un club de jeunes naturalistes dans votre région
- \* Aider avec le Naturaliste du N.-B.

### Nous acceptons des dons!

Peut-être que vous n'avez pas de temps pour devenir bénévole, mais que vous pensez quand même que nos projets et programmes méritent votre appui? Nous acceptons des dons de n'importe quelle valeur, et nous remettrons un reçu officiel. Si vous le désirez vous pouvez spécifier que votre don est pour un des programmes suivant : Club de jeunes naturalistes, Centre d'interprétation de Mary's Point, Camp d'été pour les jeunes, Camps d'été pour les adultes, Projet Siffleur, En général pour la FNNB

*Veuillez envoyer votre don à la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick au 924 rue Prospect, Suite 2, Fredericton, N.-B., E3B 2T9. Merci!*



## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES / RESSOURCES ÉDUCATIVES

*Sabine Dietz*

The NBFN/FNNB, through its various projects and programs, has produced a number of educational resources that might be of use to you, or to somebody you know :

### By the Sea - a Guide to the Coastal Zone of Atlantic Canada

A 13 module document covering 11 ecosystems, the general ecology of our coast, plus over 40 activities. Produced in cooperation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Moncton. For educators, teachers, naturalists. Cost: \$ 25 & shipping; available from our Fredericton office.



### Species-at-Risk in New Brunswick

A curriculum unit for grades 4 and 7 covering biodiversity and our species at risk. Especially for teachers, since it follows the science curriculum. Cost: \$ 10 & shipping; available from our Fredericton office.

### The Piping Plover; Species at Risk!

A colour poster explaining the biology, reasons for being at risk, and what people can do. For anyone interested in Piping Plover. Cost: shipping only; available from the Piper Project office in Rivière-à-la-Truite.

### Frogs of NB

A colour poster depicting our 9 native frog species, explaining their biology and why they are vulnerable. For anyone interested in frogs. Cost: shipping only; available from our Fredericton office.

### Island and Beach Ethics

A brochure explaining our coastal features and promoting low impact visiting. For anyone interested in our coasts. Cost: shipping only; available from the Piper Project office in Rivière-à-la-Truite.

### How to contact us:

Fredericton office: 459-4209 (nbfn@nb.aibn.com)

Piper Project office: 395-3500 (Pluvier@nb.aibn.com)

### Comment nous rejoindre :

Bureau à Fredericton : 459-4209 (nbfn@nb.aibn.com)

Bureau du Projet Siffleur : 395-3500 (Pluvier@nb.aibn.com)

La FNNB/NBFN, par le biais de multiples programmes et projets, a développé plusieurs outils éducatifs qui seront peut-être intéressants pour vous, ou vos amis :

### Au bord de la mer - un Guide de la zone côtière du Canada atlantique

Un document en treize modules qui couvrent 11 écosystèmes de notre côte, l'écologie en général de notre zone côtière, et qui propose plus de 40 activités. Développé en coopération avec le ministère Pêches et Océans Canada à Moncton. Pour éducateurs, enseignants, et naturalistes. Coût : 25\$ plus les frais d'envoi; disponible de notre bureau à Fredericton.

### Espèces à risque au Nouveau-Brunswick

Un outil éducatif qui s'inspire du programme des sciences de la province et qui traite de la biodiversité ainsi que des espèces à risque. Coût: 10\$ plus les frais d'envoi; disponible de notre bureau à Fredericton.



### Le Pluvier siffleur - Espèce en péril

Une affiche en couleur qui traite de la biologie du Pluvier siffleur, des raisons pour lesquels l'espèce est en péril, et de ce que l'on peut faire pour l'aider. Pour les gens qui s'intéressent au Pluvier siffleur. Coût : les frais d'envoi; disponible de notre bureau du Projet Siffleur à Rivière-à-la-Truite.

### Grenouilles du N.-B.

Une affiche en couleur illustrant les 9 espèces de grenouilles indigènes du N.-B. L'affiche explique leur biologie et le pourquoi de leur vulnérabilité. Pour les gens qui s'intéressent aux grenouilles. Coût : 10\$ plus les frais d'envoi; disponible de notre bureau à Fredericton.

### Éthique à suivre lors de visites des îles et plages

Un dépliant qui explique les caractéristiques de nos îles et plages et qui démontre leur fragilité. Le dépliant encourage la visite responsable de ces endroits au niveau conservation. Coût : les frais d'envoi; disponible de notre bureau du Projet Siffleur à Rivière-à-la-Truite.



## NEW LOOK FOR THE N.B. NATURALIST! LE NATURALISTE DU N.-B – UN NOUVEAU 'LOOK'!

Camp participants will receive a one-year membership to the NBFN this year. At the same time we will be initiating a Young Naturalists Club. For both of those reasons, the NB Naturalist will change a little bit. We are planning to include a youth section. Are you interested? Would you like to contribute? Call us.(506) 456-4209

Les participants des camps d'été recevront des abonnements d'un an à la FFNB cette année. En même temps nous allons lancer le Club de jeunes naturalistes dans la province. Ceci nécessite un petit changement dans le Naturaliste du N.-B. : nous planifions d'inclure une section pour les jeunes. Êtes-vous intéressés? Vous voulez contribuer? Appelez-nous.(506) 456-4209

## THE NBFN / FNNB BOARD MEETINGS



At the board of directors meeting held 4 times a year, your club representatives, members at large and NBFN executive work hard. Meetings are held at the Ducks Unlimited Office in Fredericton. Starting in the bottom right going clockwise board members at the 24 January 2004 meeting were: Abel Doucet ( Club des Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est), Charlotte and Roy Lapointe (Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée, Rose-Alma Mallet (Member at large), Jean Wilson (Saint John Naturalists),

Ron Asenault (Memramcook), Mary Sollows (Secretary), Kevin Tutt (Treasurer), Mike LeBlanc (President), Pierrette Mercier (Past President), Gart Bishop (Kennebecasis Naturalists), Tracy Dean (Vice President) and Bernadette LeBlanc (Member at large). Standing at left: Kayoe Stewart (Project Assistant), Sabine Dietz (Executive Director) and Jim Wilson (Membership Secretary). Picture was taken by Lewnanny Richardson (Piper Project)



## THE NIGHTTIME NATURALIST

Roy LaPointe

What is a "Nighttime Naturalist"? No, not a frog or owl prowler but, by my definition, a stargazer or better yet an "amateur astronomer".

I was asked at a recent NBFN Board of Directors meeting if I could provide a regular article on astronomy for the N.B. Naturalist. The article is to provide a calendar of upcoming astronomical events. Obviously having consented, this first article will serve as an introduction to what hopefully will become a regular column.

As "Naturalist" is often confused with "Naturist", so is "Astronomer" often confused with "Astrologer". Mother Nature forbid! Astronomy is the science of the physical universe and has nothing to do with the frivolous notion of the effects of the motion of celestial bodies on human behaviour, werewolves excepted of course.

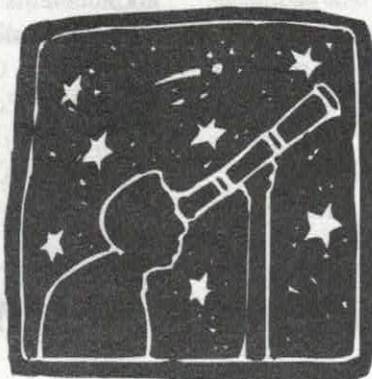
Is astronomy part of natural history? Not according to Oxford who's definition limits natural history to plants and animals. If that's the case then many museums of nature need to throw out a lot of their material. I would gladly take their mineral and fossil collections off their hands. Personally, I consider all of the universe as part of our natural history.

That being said, a pat on the back to Nelson Poirier who has been providing regular updates of planetary positions on the NatureNB listserv. This column will in no way replace Nelson's excellent postings but hopefully will complement them as a more long-term forecast. I will also attempt to include some small articles of astronomical interest.

### Nighttime viewing, February through mid-May

#### The Planets

Mercury is a little difficult to spot because of its proximity to the sun. When it becomes visible, it does so for only a few weeks at best and is very low on the horizon just before sunrise or just after sunset. Late March to early April will provide such an opportunity and a bonus; a **five-planet alignment** from Mercury low in the west to Jupiter



far to the east.

Venus, the most brilliant object in the night sky after the moon, continues to climb in the west until it reaches its greatest elongation east at the end of March, then arch further westward with the changing seasons. At a magnitude\* of -4, Venus is visible to the naked eye in the daytime if you know where to look.

Mars put on a spectacular show last summer with it's closest approach in eons. Now becoming dimmer and more distant,

it will remain visible in the evening sky but the best viewing will be on the tube as provided by the Mars rovers Spirit and Opportunity.

Jupiter rises in Leo just after sunset in mid-February.

Reaching a magnitude of -2.5, it will be second brightest to Venus only. Up to four of its moons can easily be seen with 7X binoculars. Look for a relatively straight line of small starlike objects close to and on either side of this giant planet.

Saturn is a bright yellowish object in Gemini almost overhead around 8 pm at the beginning of the period. It outshines all stars except Sirius which is below it towards the southeast. Saturn's rings and its largest moon Titan are visible at about 15X or better.

#### Meteor Showers

Dates shown are for the period in which the rate is at least 25% of the peak rate. Peak rate is what the number of meteors you can expect to see under ideal conditions(rare). Radiant is the point from which the meteors seem to radiate and is given in right ascension(hours and minutes) and declination(degrees above or below the celestial equator).

Lyrids - April 16 to 25, peak April 21, peak rate 15/hr. Radiant; R.A. 18h 04m, dec. +34 degrees. The constellation Lyra which these meteors appear to radiate from will rise around 10 pm so best time to view these will be after midnight.

Eta Aquarids - Apr 19 to May 28, peak May 4, peak rate 20/hr. Radiant; R.A. 22h 32m, dec. -01 degrees. Aquarius rises around midnight at this time so best viewing will be in the middle of the night.



\*Magnitude is a measure of the apparent brightness of a star or other celestial object. The system was originally designed by the Greek astronomer Hipparchus in the 2nd century BC. He ranked the brightest star as 1st magnitude and the faintest stars as 6th magnitude, as seen by the naked eye of course.

Today's system has been upgraded to include brighter or fainter objects but the rule remains the same; the fainter the object the higher the number with very bright objects now having a negative number. The step in magnitude has also been quantified so that each step equals a difference of 2.512 times in brightness. Therefore, five steps in magnitude equal a 100 times difference in brightness.

Compare the star Pollux in the constellation Gemini (or the Twins) which has a magnitude of 1.1 and Venus which, at its brightest, reaches about -4.1 or 100 times brighter than Pollux. To find Pollux, follow a straight line from the right end star in Orion's belt through Betelgeuse, Orion's right shoulder to the upper left, till you come to two bright stars, Castor and Pollux. The lower and brighter of the two is Pollux. Don't let Saturn which is near the feet of the twins confuse you.

The brightest star in the sky, excluding the sun, is Sirius to the lower left of Orion with a magnitude of -1.4. Polaris, the North star, is quite a bit dimmer at magnitude 2.0.

## A SWIMMING EAGLE

Don Gibson

In the Autumn 2003 issue of *NB Naturalist*, Roger Leblanc had an interesting article entitled *Fishing Eagle* in which he posed a question about the abilities of an eagle in water. "What would happen if it (Bald Eagle) fell in the water? Could it, like an Osprey just flap out and resume its flight?"

Roger, the answer to your question is an unqualified YES! I can say this with certainty that they can take off from the water, as I had the good fortune to see it happen a number of years ago (Nov. 10, 1994)

I was at the Mactaquac Dam checking out the large number of gulls present. As usual there were a few Bald Eagles around. Over the time I was present, an amazing set of circumstances unfolded and I wrote an article about it for the Fredericton Nature Club newsletter (see article below).

### WATCHING THE RIVER

A "swimming eagle"! Sounds about as unlikely as "flying cow"! But strange as it may sound, it was actually witnessed.

November 10 was one of those typical "November" days, overcast and cool, best described as gloomy. The activity at the base of the Mactaquac Dam was especially good as numerous gulls, mainly Ring-billed Gulls, Common Mergansers and a few Double-crested Cormorants were enjoying a virtual feast. However, a quick scan around the area surprisingly yielded no eagles.

Meanwhile, an immature cormorant was having diffi-

culty dealing with its success, for try as it may it could not swallow the large fish that it had caught. In fact, the bird looked as if it was hoping that one of its fellow cormorants would perform the Heimlich manoeuvre on it. Suddenly an urgent message

came from CORMORANT COMMAND. "Eagle at twelve o'clock low! Jettison cargo! DIVE! DIVE! DIVE!" Having achieved its intended result, the eagle now had to locate the prize. To do this it settled upon the water, "gull-like", and proceeded to search for the fish. For a full thirty seconds the eagle was in the water before it began those slow powerful wing-beats as it tried to lift free. Once the bird was out of the water, an eel, about a foot long, could be seen in the grasp of the mighty talons. Surprisingly, the eel slipped free and fell back into the water, whereas the eagle landed in the water again and began the search anew. This time it was unsuccessful and soon flew off. Five minutes later, at the same location, a very familiar looking cormorant was trying to swallow a very familiar looking fish.

Let's look at it from the eel's point of view. First beat senseless by the turbine, then swallowed by a cormorant, suddenly regurgitated, only to be snatched up by an eagle, dropped abruptly back into the water and finally swallowed again. However, it could have been worse; the eagle could have taken it above the dam before it dropped the eel. Then, back through the turbine.....

\*Editor's Note: Don added this comment 29 Feb/04. "This afternoon we ended up at the Mactaquac Dam where Bev and Marc Schneider were watching an eagle dive at a Common Merganser. Next the eagle landed in the water (much like the one did ten years ago) and then came out with a fish."





## NATURALISTS ON BOARD NATURALISTE À BORD

Naturalistes, soyez les premiers à vous annoncer!

La Fédération des Naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick vous invite à promouvoir que vous êtes naturalistes. Cette bordure de plaques d'immatriculation ira parfaitement en compagnie d'une plaque de conservation du N.-B. Ces bordures sont 12\$ et 2\$ pour frais postaux, un total de 14\$.

Hâtez-vous à les commander, car les quantités sont limitées. Vous pouvez envoyer un chèque ou mandat de poste au montant de 14\$ (chaque bordure) au bureau à Fredericton à l'adresse suivante: FNNB - NBFN Inc., 924 rue Prospect street, Suite 2, Fredericton, NB E3B 2T9

La FNNB - NBFN Inc. appuie l'initiative de la province du Nouveau-Brunswick et le Fonds de fiducie de la faune du Nouveau-Brunswick dans le programme des plaques d'immatriculation de conservation et croit que chaque néo-brunswickois devrait participer à ce programme afin d'aider les programmes d'éducation et de protection de la nature. Pour en connaître plus sur le FFFNB visitez leur site web à: <http://www.nbwtf.ca>

Be the first to announce yourself!

The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalistes Inc. invites you to get your hands on this hot new NBFN item. Display this NBFN plate cover proudly on your vehicle and let others know that you are a naturalist. And it would look great covering a NB conservation plate. These plate covers are only \$12 plus \$2 shipping and handling for a low total of \$14.

So hurry up as quantities are limited. They can be obtained from the Fredericton office by sending a check or money order in the amount of 14\$ (EACH plate) to: NBFN - FNNB Inc. 924 rue Prospect street, Suite 2 Fredericton, NB E3B 2T9 Phone/Tél: (506)

459-4209 <http://www.naturenb.ca/nbfn@nb.aibn.com>



La FNNB - NBFN Inc. appuie l'initiative de la province du Nouveau-Brunswick et le Fonds de fiducie de la faune du Nouveau-Brunswick dans le programme des plaques d'immatriculation de conservation et croit que chaque néo-brunswickois devrait participer à ce programme afin d'aider les programmes d'éducation et de protection de la nature. Pour en connaître plus sur le FFFNB visitez leur site web à: <http://www.nbwtf.ca>

NB Wildlife  
Trust Fund



Fonds de Fiducie de la Faune  
du Nouveau-Brunswick

NBFN - FNNB inc. supports the province of New Brunswick and the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund (NBWTF) with the province's Conservation licence plates program.

We hope that all of New Brunswickers will help nature by participating in this program. Find out more on the NBWTF at: <http://www.nbwtf.ca/index.asp>



## BOTANY CORNER

Gart Bishop

Winter is not usually the time of year when one thinks about ferns, but New Brunswick has more than 11 ferns which are evergreen, and can be searched for in late winter as the snows disappear and once again the forest floor and rock faces become exposed.

See if you can find some of our evergreen ferns in the below matrix of letters. Words can be spelt forward, backwards, diagonally, horizontally or vertically. Note, there are no spaces or punctuation between words when found in the puzzle. Answer is on the following page.

APPALACHIAN POLYPODY  
BLUNT-LOBED GRAPEFERN  
CHRISTMAS FERN  
CRESTED WOODFERN  
CUT-LEAVED GRAPEFERN  
EVERGREEN WOODFERN  
FRAGRANT WOODFERN  
ST. LAWRENCE GRAPEFERN  
LEATHERY GRAPEFERN  
MARGINAL SHIELD FERN  
ROCK POLYPODY

C	E	N	N	I	W	O	Z	V	W	V	W	Q	D	Z	Q	Q	N	W	D
E	V	E	R	G	R	E	E	N	W	O	O	D	F	E	R	N	Z	E	J
Q	U	D	E	E	O	Z	G	L	T	H	W	F	X	T	X	C	H	Q	H
C	I	T	F	K	F	J	T	Z	Q	O	A	Y	P	D	Y	J	D	G	N
E	C	R	E	S	T	E	D	W	O	O	D	F	E	R	N	H	M	F	E
Y	D	O	P	Y	L	O	P	N	A	I	H	C	A	L	A	P	P	A	G
D	E	M	A	R	G	I	N	A	L	S	H	I	E	L	D	F	E	R	N
O	W	N	R	E	F	E	P	A	R	G	Y	R	E	H	T	A	E	L	T
P	B	B	G	M	L	L	S	K	F	G	R	N	R	U	E	P	U	K	V
Y	R	W	D	N	S	T	Y	W	B	H	D	M	W	P	T	I	U	R	C
L	R	W	E	I	S	L	D	A	M	W	S	E	V	J	H	K	C	W	H
O	J	X	B	Y	X	C	C	G	J	W	Q	K	V	U	B	V	T	J	A
P	E	C	O	N	R	E	F	D	O	O	W	T	N	A	R	G	A	R	F
K	S	T	L	A	W	R	E	N	C	E	G	R	A	P	E	F	E	R	N
C	N	D	T	G	A	S	X	X	C	D	R	W	U	T	F	L	G	Z	T
O	X	N	N	R	E	F	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	K	T	Z	W
R	V	Y	U	Y	O	M	G	R	N	J	R	H	H	H	I	K	Y	U	V
P	Z	F	L	C	S	M	R	D	O	D	K	E	Z	M	M	O	C	J	C
K	L	X	B	V	U	I	F	L	Q	A	T	B	G	Z	Q	M	C	P	X
P	F	A	M	R	P	Z	H	B	F	G	R	V	N	S	Z	X	M	L	M



Please join the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists Inc. to help educate people in our province about our natural heritage, to learn about, and to protect New Brunswick's flora and fauna, and its ecosystems.

Yes, I/we would like to support the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists Inc.!

### Included my/our support for \*:

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Naturalists Club           | _____ \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Summer Camps               | _____ \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Piper Project/ Projet Siffleur   | _____ \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mary's Point Interpretive Centre | _____ \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Fund                 | _____ \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unspecified                      | _____ \$ |

### Membership (not eligible for a receipt):

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$ 20         | _____ \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$ 25             | _____ \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership \$ 1,000 | _____ \$ |

Cheque enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ \$

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Family members: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

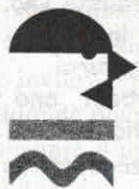
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

The N.B. Federation of Naturalists Inc.  
Jim Wilson, membership secretary  
2 Neck Rd, Quispamsis, NB, E2G 1L3  
E-mail: jgw@nbnet.nb.ca  
Website: www.naturenb.ca

\* The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists Inc. is a registered charity # 89017971RR0001. Please ask for a receipt for donations under \$ 15.





**Veillez devenir membre de la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick Inc. afin d'aider à éduquer les gens de la province de notre patrimoine naturel et de protéger sa flore, sa faune, et ses écosystèmes.**

**Oui, je/nous désirons appuyer la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick Inc.!**

**Ci-inclus mon/notre donation à \*:**

- ☐ Club de jeunes naturalistes \_\_\_\_\_ \$  
☐ Camp d'été pour les jeunes \_\_\_\_\_ \$  
☐ Projet Siffleur/ Piper Project \_\_\_\_\_ \$  
☐ Centre d'interprétation de Mary's Point \_\_\_\_\_ \$  
☐ Fond de bourse \_\_\_\_\_ \$  
☐ Non-spécifié \_\_\_\_\_ \$

**Catégories de membres (non-éligible pour un reçu):**

- ☐ Individuel 20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$  
☐ Famille 25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$  
☐ Membre à vie 1,000 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$

**Chèque inclus :** \_\_\_\_\_ \$

Nom : \_\_\_\_\_

Autres membres de la famille : \_\_\_\_\_

Adresse : \_\_\_\_\_

Téléphone : \_\_\_\_\_

C.-élec. : \_\_\_\_\_

Envoyez à :

**La Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B. Inc**

**Jim Wilson, secrétaire des membres**

**2 Neck Rd, Quispamsis, NB, E2G 1L3**

**C.-élec. : jgw@nbnet.nb.ca**

**Site Web : <http://naturenb.ca>**

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**Botany Corner - continued  
Evergreen Ferns Solution**

+	+	N	N	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
E	V	E	R	G	R	E	E	N	W	O	O	D	F	E	R	N	+	+	+
+	+	+	E	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
+	+	+	F	+	F	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
+	C	R	E	S	T	E	D	W	O	O	D	F	E	R	N	+	+	+	+
Y	D	O	P	Y	L	O	P	N	A	I	H	C	A	L	A	P	P	A	+
D	+	M	A	R	G	I	N	A	L	S	H	I	E	L	D	F	E	R	N
O	+	N	R	E	F	E	P	A	R	G	Y	R	E	H	T	A	E	L	+
P	+	+	G	+	+	+	+	+	+	G	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Y	+	+	D	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	D	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
L	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
O	+	+	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
P	+	+	O	N	R	E	F	D	O	O	W	T	N	A	R	G	A	R	F
K	S	T	L	A	W	R	E	N	C	E	G	R	A	P	E	F	E	R	N
C	+	+	T	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	L	+	+	+
O	+	+	N	R	E	F	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	+	T	+	+
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The botanical names for the ferns used in the puzzle are as follows:

Appalachian Polypody	<i>Polypodium appalachianum</i>
Blunt-lobed Grapefern	<i>Botrychium oneidense</i>
Christmas Fern	<i>Polystichum aristichoides</i>
Crested Woodfern	<i>Dryopteris cristata</i>
Cut-leaved Grapefern	<i>Botrychium dissectum</i>
Evergreen Woodfern	<i>Dryopteris intermedia</i>
Fragrant Woodfern	<i>Dryopteris fragrans</i>
St. Lawrence Grapefern	<i>Botrychium rugulosum</i>
Leathery Grapefern	<i>Botrychium multifidum</i>
Marginal Shield Fern	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>
Rock Polypody	<i>Polypodium virginianum</i>





## MY RESTIGOUCHE RIVER RUN..... PART 5

*Irene Doyle*

As the day progresses, we are under a gorgeously sunny sky. I will be resuming my river run, starting at what is called the Red Pine Lodge (Seen here in the top left corner of the picture). It takes its name from the nice tall pines that surrounds it. We have stopped here to take a look around, as it is so beautiful. As I stand on the lawn, I am facing three big camps used by guides, and the odd fisherman. A nice little icehouse is used to keep food and fish I guess. Two flagpoles grace the front of the lodges with a Canadian flag and a Quebec flag. We take a walk around to the back of the lodges where I see sheds that Pat tells me are for the "choreboys" and wardens. The office is back here also. This late in the year and with the water as low as it is, the camps are closed for the season. We use the stairs that go down to the river to get back to our canoe. There is still one warden here.

As we continue down river and go around the corner, another beautiful site awaits us. Two lookouts can be seen, one on top of the mountain and one about half way down, oh I'd say maybe 200 feet from the top. These lookouts are accessible from l'Assention, Quebec. They overlook the whole river and the beautiful scenery that surrounds it. Pat tells me there is also a little camp up there that one can stay in overnight with permission. It has toilets, showers and picnic tables; everything you need for a nice stay. Down here though, the water is nice and calm and I can see bottom very clearly. The shores are rocky and the trees stand straight and look healthy, beautiful green. The photo above I took from the top and of course you can see the array of late fall colors. The camp can be seen at the top left hand corner of the photo and a brave or not so smart guy is standing in his canoe as he glides down the river. It is almost too nice an area to leave but we continue on down.



Now we are coming to the first bar and with the water as low as it is, extra care has to be taken as there are apparently large rocks in the bottom here, but again I leave that part to Pat. He also tells me there are usually 3 or 4 Bald Eagles in this area but none have been seen yet today.

We glide down this beautiful river, nice and slow to be able to admire nature at its best. Here I say we are gliding down the river as this area is called "looking glass" and it wears its name well. The water is extremely calm and crystal clear, the reflection is incredible. I also notice there are lots more seagulls here for whatever reason. Maybe they are admiring themselves in the water?

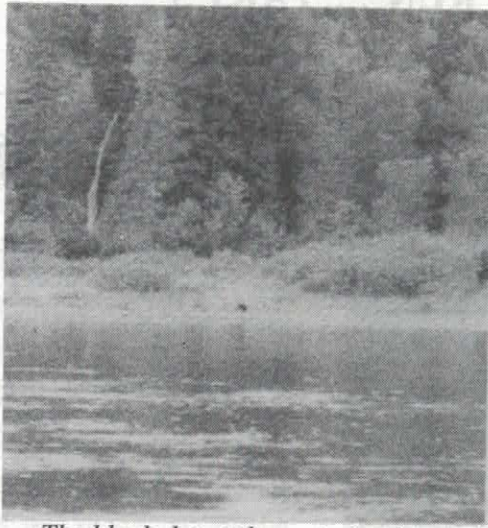
Now we are headed into what is called Upper Grindstone, named for the abundance of rocks in the river's bottom. When the water is as low as it is, the rocks even stick out of the water at places. When the water is high it is just as dangerous as you may not see them and run into them, so again, you really have to be vigilant and careful when running this river.

We pass Upper Grindstone without a problem and we go down into what they call Grindstone itself. The river is clear and clean and if you stop and look down you even see fish swimming there. Amazing!

Oh gosh, my heart gives a few extra thumps at the sight of one of the grand dads of them all, the great Bald Eagle, circles over us. Pat says the natives would say he was watching over us, making sure we have a safe journey. He soars around and around and as if to give us a better look, then lands on the shore on the opposite side of the river. I wish I had my good camera with me but my fear of getting it wet has convinced me to leave the digital behind; after all it belongs to my place of work, and is not mine to ruin. So the little black dot on the shore in this picture is our friend the gray-haired grandfather of all birds. I get Pat to cut the motor so we can admire this bird. I did remember



to bring my binoculars and I get an eye-full.



*The black dot at the water's edge  
is Grandfather Eagle!*

We are now approaching another bad bar, and this time Pat warns me ahead of time that he will have to shut down the motor before we get to it and use the pole to get over it. With care and experience, we get over it and are on our way again. By now the sun is beaming down on us. It is warming up into really gorgeous weather, which when mixed with super company and this breath taking scenery, makes for a beautiful day.

At one time this river was used in the spring, to get the

cutting. Men cut wood to make enough money to feed their families not to feed the ever rising demands of the mills. When spring arrived and the water was high, the men who worked "The Drive" would push or throw, the wood in the river or let it slide down a "sleuce" they had built just for the purpose of sending the pulp into the river from the top of mountains. They would then follow it down the river to make sure it got to its destination. Sometimes it would pile up in areas and dynamite had to be used to clear up the "Wood jam". These brave men would run on those logs on the river, can you imagine?

It was not that long ago either that my dad worked on "the drive", not on the Restigouche but on the Asmetquegan and the Nouvelle Rivers. I've included two pictures he took while there. Can you imagine building that sleuce (below on the left) seen here from the top? In snow, waist deep or deeper, they brought the logs to that point and put them together to build the sleuce in the first place, then brought the wood to the sleuce and let it slide all the way down to the river below. And we think life is rough?

As Pat so wisely says, "Those were the good ole days". Wood coming down the river would clean the bottom but today the river is filling up from the bottom. Last year some people walked across the Restigouche from Atholville to Broadlands at low tide.

To be continued.....



*Sleuce*

wood that was cut during the winter months down to the mills in Atholville and Campbellton. Wood was cut in the winter by lumberjacks with chainsaws and handsaws, not with timberjacks, the machines that today tear up the forests. No clear cutting was done then, not even selective



*Running the logs*



## THE YOUNG NATURALIST PAGE - LATE WINTER ACTIVITIES

*Alison McArthur*

I think we are so lucky to live in a place where we have four seasons. It's hard to get bored when things change so much and there is so much to do.

People have had lots of chances to get outside this winter. They have been able to use their snowshoes and skis to travel along the trails. They might not have been able to see a lot of wildlife, but the prints that were left behind tell a tale all their own. Rabbits, squirrels, and birds are just some of the animals that have left their calling cards behind to say they were there.

Sometimes, you can follow a track and see where a squirrel has traveled along the ground for a while.

There, she stopped for a bit, perhaps paying attention to a suspicious sound, and then seemed to

scurry

the nearest tree!

Some of my students have written some very interesting stories, playing detective with the evidence they found in the snow.

Winter's been grand, but there is a change in the air. The days are getting longer and warmer. There is still lots of snow on the ground, especially in the woods, but winter is beginning to lose its icy grip on the land. There are all sorts of things happening to prove it!

As you walk along the snow-covered paths near your home, have a look at some of the twigs. As spring approaches, the buds begin to swell. When the pattern of warmer days and cool nights begins, the sap will begin to run, and it will be maple syrup time. Perhaps you will be lucky enough to visit a sugar bush and see for yourself the boiling sap in the huge vats. When the concentration of sugar in the sap is just right, you can make your own maple candy in the snow.

One of the things I always look for when the days get warmer is the magical snowflea. I will never forget the first time I saw these curious creatures. I was walking along a path, following behind someone who had left their boot prints in the snow. As I walked, I started to see what looked like specks of dark sand along the bottom of the print. I eventually stopped and sat on a large rock, warmed by the sun, to look over a view of stone fences. As my glance strayed to one of those footprints, one of the little specks of sand jumped. "Mmmm", I thought to myself. "This is

strange." I knelt down to get a closer look, and saw all the little specks were jumping around, very actively at that.

"What are they?" I thought, as I watched them play. "Where did they come from? How do they survive in the snow? What do they eat?"

I mentioned my discovery to my friends, but no one seemed to know what the little creatures might have been. It wasn't until I was walking through my school's gym one afternoon, looking at science fair projects, that I had my curiosity satisfied. One of the students had apparently had the same type of experience I had, and did some research on what she had found.

It seems that my little black speck was a tiny, wingless insect that lives among the leaf litter and decomposing logs of the forest floor. Snowfleas don't feed on blood the way dog fleas do. They are decomposers, turning such things as old logs into material plants can use to grow. Besides having six legs, like all insects do, snowfleas have a fork-like structure, something like a spring, behind their legs that they use to flip themselves about. They belong to a group of insects called springtails.

And why do we see them when there is still snow on the ground? Well, it seems that on warm days in late winter or early spring, the snow begins to melt and causes their habitat to be flooded. They crawl up and out into the open air to breathe, where we can see them, small and dark, against the white snow.

So, the next time you go for a walk in March or April, look for signs of the world changing. If the conditions are right, maybe you'll see the elusive snowflea, a sure sign of the arrival of spring.



*Snowflea*

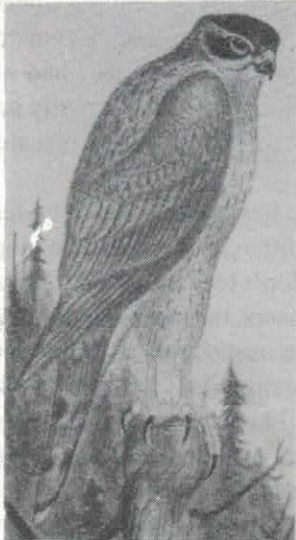
*Diane Mercier-Allain*



## RARE ENCOUNTERS WITH WILDLIFE

Alan Madden

### ODD COUPLE BULLIES DUCK



*Goshawk*  
F.C. Hennessey

When a human hunter and a wild predator select the same prey at the same moment things can get quite interesting—for all three participants. Such an event occurred on Okeefenokee Creek, at Gilles Island, Tide Head, in October, 1997.

The creek is only twenty yards wide and snakes through and under a maze of overhanging tall poplars and elms. These trees make ideal perches for hawks such as Ospreys, which fish the creek in spring. However, this was fall, and the leaves of the trees had fallen, the ospreys had departed for a warmer

climate, and beavers had been busy stockpiling food for the winter.

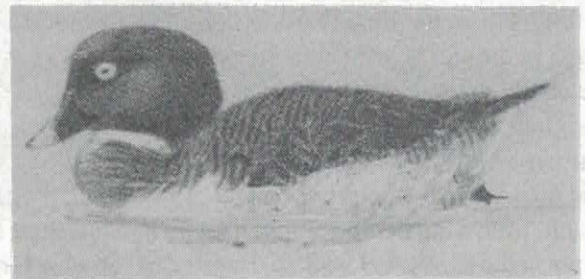
As I paddled through the placid water of the creek in mid-day, I spotted a female Common Goldeneye—a diving duck—on the water ahead. Goldeneyes are good to eat and legal to hunt, so as soon as the bird came into view, I froze and crouched lower in the canoe, hoping for a shot with my shotgun. The bird was about sixty yards from me—still out of range.

The duck dived, and I was about to make a forward stroke with the paddle as an opportunity to get closer, but a sudden movement caught my eye. It was a Goshawk on a limb of one of the poplars roughly forty yards from the duck. Goshawks are large, rapidly flying hawks, and are superb predators of birds as large as pheasants and mammals as large as hares. They are mainly forest dwellers as opposed to the hawks of fields and marshes, so it was a little unusual to see one among the islands. As soon as the goldeneye surfaced and began to run on the water to take off, the hawk leaped off the limb twenty feet above the

ground and bulletted directly toward the duck. When the goshawk got to the waters edge, and about thirty feet from its target, the duck plunged headfirst into the water and dived to escape. The hawk then swung 180 degrees over the creek and returned to its original perch. The goldeneye resurfaced, but as soon as it did, the predator made a second attack. Again its potential victim dived, and again the hawk returned to its roost.

All this time, I was enthralled by the dramatic interaction of predator and prey, and very appreciative to be able to witness the performance so closely. As soon as the hawk had reached its perch the second time, the goldeneye flushed and flew in my direction, two feet above the surface of the creek. My canoe and I were easily detectable by the duck; however, it must have thought I was the less dangerous of the two evils, for it flew by me at my eye level, only twenty feet away. The hawk made no attempt to pursue the duck, probably because I was so near to its quarry. Anyone have a recipe for "Duck a la Orange"?

Although I had witnessed ducks being harassed by Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles and Harriers (Marsh Hawks), I had never, until that day in October, observed a goshawk pursue a duck. That was my only such encounter in forty-five years of intense waterfowling. —



*Common Goldeneye (female)*  
A. Brooks





## FROM OUR PAST

*Selected by Mary Sollows*

The following article was published in 1886 in the Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick, No. 5:10-13.

### DESCRIPTION OF A NEWLY BORN LYNX.

*Lynx Canadensis* (DESM.) RAF.

**Dr. C. HART MERRIAM.**

MR. MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, of St. John, New Brunswick, has kindly sent me for examination and description, a mounted specimen of the newly-born young of the Canada Lynx; "It was dropped" writes Mr. Chamberlain, "on the 20th March, 1883, when the mother had been in captivity about a month. She gave birth to five (5) kittens, but this was the only one rescued from her unmotherly jaws. When the first was born she at once prepared to clean it and seemed fond of it. After a short time, however, it gave vent to a weak squeal, which caused her to eye it curiously for a moment, when another squeal was delivered. This settled the kitten's doom – it was at once devoured. The mother did not exhibit any tenderness towards the other four, and the keeper made two unsuccessful efforts before he was able to get one away from her. This kitten lived two days, and then died from injuries received in its removal from the cage. Its 'mew' was something like that of a domestic kitten, but stronger and harsher; it was almost fierce and very penetrating. The general strength of the animal was greater than that of a domestic kitten. Two hours after birth it stood firmly on its feet and turned around in its box, but it did not show any inclination to fight when teased. The eyes were open at birth"

It is but a trifle larger than the young of the domestic cat at birth, and may have been born a little prematurely, though the fact that its eyes were open argues against this supposition. I am unable to give many measurements of value, since I did not see the specimen till after it came from the taxidermist.

**DIAGNOSIS.** – Above, brown, paler below; back and sides with longitudinal stripes and blotches of dark sub-rufous brown; belly with a few small brown spots; cheeks brownish-gray; each side of the neck with a long vertical spot of grayish-brown, distinctly margined with brownish-black.

**DESCRIPTION.** – Size a trifle larger than that of

the newly-born young of the domestic cat. Body slender. Head very round. Tail 22mm. (.85 in.) in length. Ears imperforate, the only visible portion consisting of a very thin, sub-triangular, hairless fold of integument, with a nearly vertical base 13 mm. (.52 in.) long. The greatest height of the auricle is 4.50 mm. (.18 in.)

The entire upper parts and sides of the animal are well covered with hair, but the under parts are sparsely covered, and the inner aspects of all the legs are entirely naked. The throat is so thinly haired that in some places the veins in the skin are distinctly visible, and there is a bare patch surrounding the ear.

**COLOR AND MARKINGS.** – The ground-color of the body is light fawn, paler below, and inclining to buff on the sides. It is much obscured above by the stripes and rows of concatenating brown blotches, and below by small dark stripes.

The triangular area of the face included between the nose and eyes is of a uniform brown without markings. The rest of the head is ash-brown, becoming light fawn-colored on the centre of the crown and over the occipital region, whence the same color extends over the whole back of the neck. The top of the head is ornamented with a number of fine dark spots and lines that extend over the occiput. Between the eye and ear, on each side, is a large oval spot of brownish ash, without markings. On each side of the throat, a little below the angle of the jaw, is a rather indistinct patch of soiled white – which color occurs nowhere else on the animal.

The cheeks, just under the eyes, are marked with a few dark lines. From just behind the outer angle of the eye two streaks of very dark brown extend downward, curving gently toward the throat, diverging slightly as they proceed, the posterior continuous, the anterior once interrupted, and then, turning abruptly, they meet on the side of the neck about an inch (25 mm.) below the eye, enclosing a light stripe which at the bottom (the widest part) measures 2.75 mm. (.10 in.) in breadth. This constitutes the most con-



spicuous marking on the animal. There is a short line behind this, opposite the ear, and another in front of it, which latter slopes toward, but does not reach, the anterior border of the eye. There is, on each side of the head, behind, a stripe that extends from the crown almost to the shoulders. It curves in such a way as to present an outward convexity opposite the ear, and an outward concavity below it. It is dark brown above, inclining to rufous-brown below. It is sub-continuous anteriorly, with an interrupted line that runs forward over the side of the head, almost reaching the eye. The middle region of the head and neck, behind, is occupied by a broad sub-rufous-brown band, extending from above the level of the ears to the shoulders, and varying in width to adapt itself to the space between the two curved lines just described. Anteriorly it is ornamented with half a dozen more or less interrupted dark lines, which extend back to a point opposite the middle of the ears. These markings combine to produce a very symmetrical and handsome lyre, which reaches from the crown of the head to the base of the neck behind. (See plate)

A little below the middle of the throat, in front, is an

are so sparsely haired that it is impossible to define the markings.

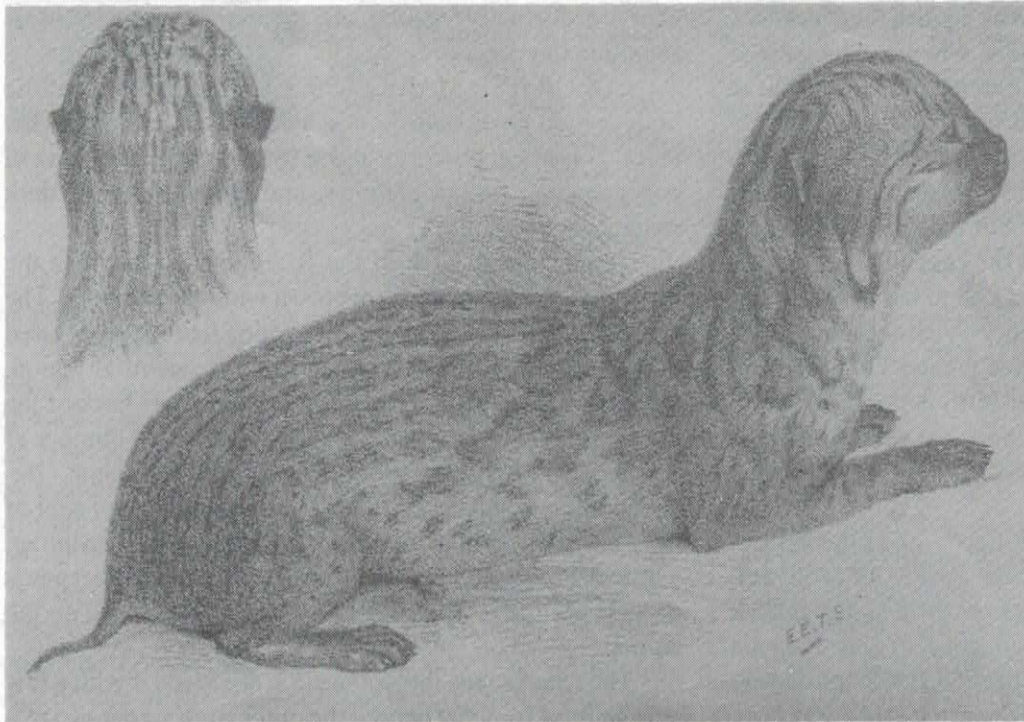
A line of concatenating blotches of very dark brown extends down the middle of the back, commencing just behind the shoulders. These blotches decrease in breadth posteriorly till they become lost in a narrow and very dark interrupted stripe, which extends out upon the tail. On each side, over the flanks, are four broader longitudinal bands, or rows of more or less confluent blotches, of sub-rufous brown, narrowly and somewhat irregularly bordered on each side by an interrupted line of dark brown. The second and third of these stripes run together anteriorly, so that the second is in reality dichotomous.

The three uppermost stripes are continuous, the fact that they are made up of confluent blotches becoming apparent only after a critical examination of their dark borders; but in the lower line the blotches are distinct, the pale fawn color of the sides appearing between them. The belly is strewn with a number of small dark spots. The stripes of the back and sides become obscure in passing over the hips, their dark borders alone remaining distinct, so that the hind

quarters present the appearance of an almost uniform reddish brown surface streaked with narrow interrupted lines of very dark brown.

Anteriorly, the lateral bands originate in the median line, and the lowermost springs from between the shoulders, passing obliquely backwards immediately behind the post-scapular fold. Its narrow upper border, meeting its fellow of the opposite side, makes a dark V-shaped mark over the shoulders.

It is hardly necessary to call attention to the fact that this specimen is one of unusual interest, since its very decided markings, of which scarcely a trace remains in the



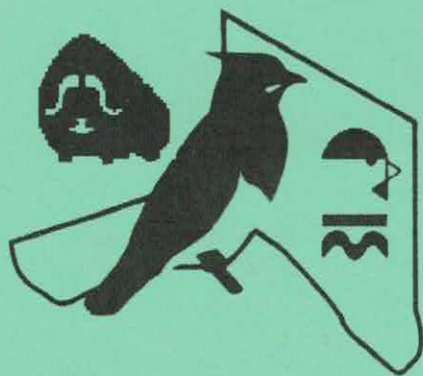
*Newly-born young of the Canada Lynx*

almost continuous brown collar, and below it still are indications of two others.

Sloping downwards and backwards from the base of the neck, over the shoulders, are three or four elongated blotches of different sizes. The fore legs appear to be of an almost uniform brown, with faint indications of spots, but

adult animal, cast some light upon the genetic affinities of the genus to which it pertains. A critical study of these markings leads to the interesting conclusion that the genus Lynx was derived from the group of cats of which the Ocelot (*Felis pardalis*) is the nearest living representative.





**L'AGA et congrès de la FCN et de la FNNB-NBFN  
CNF and NBFN-FNNB AGM and conference**

# MADAWASKA

*La terre des porcs-épics / Land of the Porcupines*

**27 au 30 mai, 2004**

**Le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska  
vous invite à venir visiter nos forêts**

Le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska a l'honneur cette année d'accueillir la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick conjointement avec la Fédération canadienne de la nature pour leur congrès et assemblées générales annuelles 2004.

Le Madawaska est une région francophone située au nord-ouest de la province de Nouveau-Brunswick sur la frontière du Québec et de l'état américain, le Maine. Sa capitale est Edmundston. Le comté est délimité au sud par le fleuve St-Jean et au nord par les vastes forêts de la Rivière-Verte.

Cette année, le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska est l'hôte pour le congrès de la FCN et la FNNB-NBFN. Nous avons essayé de maintenir de garder les frais d'inscription raisonnablement bas en y incluant: la trousse d'inscription, le vin et fromage, une dégustation de produits d'érable, une dégustation de ployes (un mets local), le choix de six ateliers et deux conférences et, 19 excursions longues et courtes. En plus, pour des frais supplémentaires on vous offre un souper BBQ, un banquet de style buffet, un encan silencieux, une visite au Jardin Botanique du N.-B. et à la galerie d'art de Vicky Lentz (incluant le transport, l'entrée et le déjeuner au Jardin). Vous avez aussi l'option d'ajouter les déjeuners (boîtes à lunchs) pour vos randonnées. Une excursion pré-conférence et post-conférence sont aussi offertes.

Pour plus d'informations sur le congrès, les différentes activités seront bientôt affichées sur notre site web: [www.umce.ca/com1](http://www.umce.ca/com1). Vous pouvez aussi communiquer avec Pierrette Mercier au (506)735-6872 ou par courriel au [petem@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:petem@nb.sympatico.ca).

**May 27-30, 2004**

**The Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska  
invites you to come visit our forests**

The Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska is honoured to host the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists jointly with the Canadian Nature Federation's conference and annual general meetings for 2004.

Madawaska is a predominantly francophone region situated in north-western New Brunswick bordering Québec and the American state of Maine. The southern boundary follows the St-John River and to the north there are the great forests of the Green River. The capital is the City of Edmundston.

This year, le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska is hosting both the NBFN-FNNB and CNF conferences. We have tried to maintain registration fees as low as possible. Registration fees include: the registration package, a wine and cheese, sampling of maple products, a sampling of ployes (a local delicacy), the choice of six workshops, two conferences, and 19 short or long field trips. For additional fees, we also offer a BBQ meal, a buffet style banquet, a silent auction, and a visit to the N.B. Botanical Garden and Vicky Lentz Art Gallery (includes transportation, entrance fees and luncheon at the Botanical Garden). Box lunches will be sold for outings. Pre and post-conference field trips are also offered.

For more information on the AGM and conference, the activities will soon be on our web site: [www.umce.ca/com1](http://www.umce.ca/com1). You can also contact Pierrette Mercier at (506)735-6872 or by e-mail: [petem@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:petem@nb.sympatico.ca).



**Days Inn Hôtel-Motel** \*\*\*\*½

10, rue Mathieu, Edmundston  
Rte 2 Sortie/Exit 26  
Tel. 506.263.0000/1.800.DAYSINN  
Prix/Price 79\$-139\$  
Unités/Units

**Auberge Les Jardins/Motel Le Brayon**

60, rue Principale, Saint-Jacques  
Rte 2 Sortie/Exit 8  
Tel. 506.739.5514/1.800.630.8011  
Prix/Price 109\$-169\$  
Auberge / inn : Unités/Units 17 \*\*\*\*½  
Motel : Unités/Units 13 \*\*½  
Chalets: Unités/Units 7 \*\*½  
Courriel/Email : [brayon@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:brayon@nbnet.nb.ca)  
Web: [www.auberge-lesjardins-inn.com](http://www.auberge-lesjardins-inn.com)

**Edmundston Motel** \*\*\*½

740, boulevard Saint-Jacques, Edmundston  
Rte 2 Sortie/Exit 13a 13 ba  
Tel. 506.736.0080  
Prix/Price 79\$-139\$  
Unités/Units 77  
Web: [www.sn2000.nb.ca/comp/moteledmundston](http://www.sn2000.nb.ca/comp/moteledmundston)

**Hôtel République/City Hotel** \*\*\*\*½

919, rue Canada, Edmundston  
Rte 2 Sortie/Exit 13 ba  
Tel. 506.735.5525/1.800.563.2487  
Prix/Price 80\$-150\$  
Unités/Units 133  
Courriel/Email : [csc@cityhotel.ca](mailto:csc@cityhotel.ca)  
Web: [www.cityhotel.ca](http://www.cityhotel.ca)

**Auberge Le Fief Inn B&B** \*\*\*\*

87, rue de l'Église, Edmundston  
Rte 2 Sortie/Exit 18  
Tel. 506.735.0400  
Prix/Price 70\$-120\$  
Unités/Units 8

**Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel** \*\*\*\*½

160, rue Rice, Edmundston  
Rte 2 Sortie/Exit 13b - 18  
Tel. 506.739.7321/1.800.576.4656  
Prix/Price 90\$-130\$  
Unités/Units 103  
Web: [www.hojo.com](http://www.hojo.com)

**Domaine du Président** \*\*\*\*½

100, avenue Fraser, Edmundston  
Rte 2 Sortie/Exit 18 13b  
Tel. 506.735.0003  
Prix/Price 80\$-125\$  
Unités/Units 5  
Site Web/Web Site:  
[www.domainedupresident.com](http://www.domainedupresident.com)

**Ritz Motel** \*\*\*½

Rte 2 Sortie/Exit 8, Saint-Jacques  
Tel. 506.735.4243  
Prix/Price 55\$-75\$  
Unités/Units 31  
Web: [www.sn2000.nb.ca/comp/ritz-motel](http://www.sn2000.nb.ca/comp/ritz-motel)

**Rose Motel** \*\*

625, rue Principale, Saint-Jacques  
Rte 2 Sortie/Exit 13a 13ba  
Tel. 506.739.9492  
Prix/Price 45\$-65\$  
Unités/Units 12  
Web: [www.sn2000.nb.ca/comp/rosemotel](http://www.sn2000.nb.ca/comp/rosemotel)

**Comfort Inn** \*\*½

5, avenue Bateman, Edmundston  
Rte 2 Sortie/Exit 18  
Tel. 506.739.8361/1.800.424.6423  
Prix/Price 72\$-144\$  
Unités/Units 81

**77Université Moncton Campus Edmundston**

Résidences étudiantes / Student residences  
195, boulevard Hébert, Edmundston  
Rte 2 Sortie/Exit 18  
Tel. 506.737.5288 / Yves Levesque  
Prix/Price 31\$ S - 44\$ D  
Unités/Units 65  
Courriel/Email : [yves.levesque@umce.ca](mailto:yves.levesque@umce.ca)

**La Roma Motel** \*\*\*

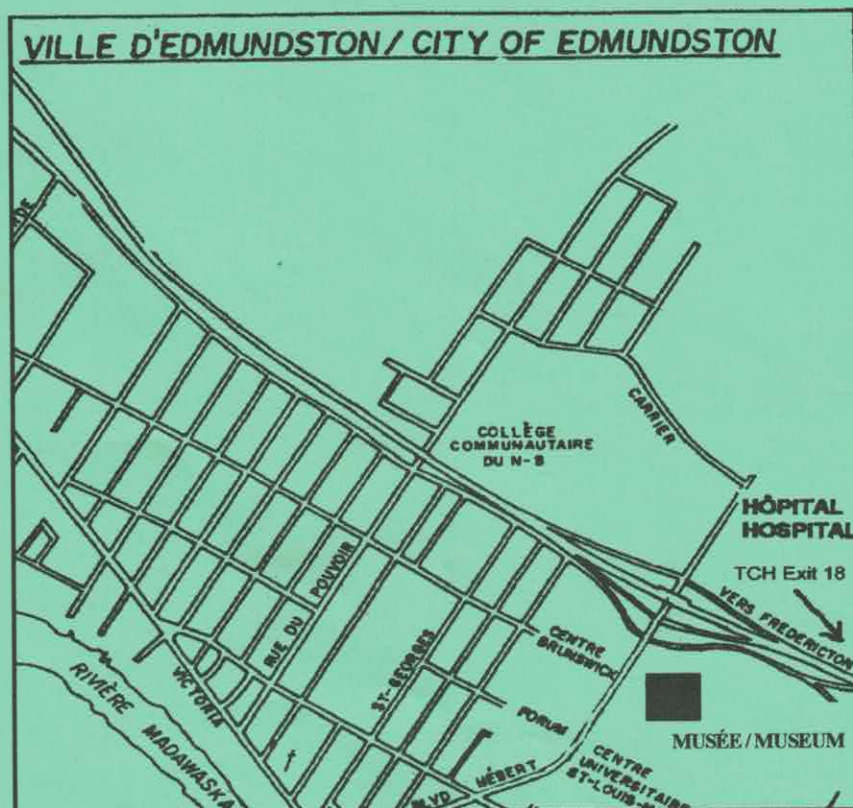
32, chemin Iroquois, Edmundston  
Rte 2 Sortie/Exit 21  
Tel. 506.735.3305  
Prix/Price 55\$-88\$  
Unités/Units : 32  
Web: [www.sn2000.nb.ca/comp/la-roma-motel](http://www.sn2000.nb.ca/comp/la-roma-motel)

**Praga Hotel** \*\*\*½

127, rue Victoria, Edmundston  
Rte 2 Sortie/Exit 18  
Tel. 506.735.5567  
Prix/Price 45\$-65\$  
Unités/Units : 18  
Web: [www.sn2000.nb.ca/comp/praga-hotel](http://www.sn2000.nb.ca/comp/praga-hotel)

Sortie 18 de la route Trans-canadienne vous emmènent sur le boul. Hébert. Prendre la première rue à gauche (rue du 15 août). Le Musée du Madawaska se trouve à la droite (face au Tim Hortons)

Trans-Canada Highway Exit 18 onto Blvd. Hébert. Turn left onto rue 15 août. The Madawaska Museum is on the right across from the Tim Hortons.





# Formulaire d'inscription

AGA/AGM  
7

**Jeudi 27 mai**

**Ateliers:** Indiquez les ateliers dont vous prévoyez assister.

Ateliers français:   A  ,   C  ,   E   Ateliers anglais:   B  ,   D  ,   F  

**Randonnées :** Indiquez votre premier choix en écrivant A sur le tiret, et votre deuxième choix en écrivant B. (1<sup>er</sup> choix A 2<sup>e</sup> choix B )

	<u>Jeudi le 27 mai 2004</u>	<u>Vendredi le 28 mai 2004</u>
Sorties lève-tôt:	.....→	__ 8, __ 9, __ 10.
Sorties longues: Sor-	.....	.....
ties courtes am	.....→	__ 14, __ 16, __ 17, __ Jardin botanique
Sorties de soirée	__ 4, __ 5, __ 6, __ 7.	
	<u>Samedi le 29 mai 2004</u>	<u>Dimanche le 30 mai 2004</u>
Sorties lève-tôt:	__ 8, __ 9, __ 10.	__ 8, __ 9, __ 10.
Sorties longues: Sor-	__ 1, __ 2, __ 3.	__ 1, __ 2, __ 3.
ties courtes am	__ 14, __ 15, __ 16, __ 17, __ 18.	__ 14, __ 16, __ 17.
Sorties courtes pm	__ 11, __ 12, __ 13, __ 15, __ 18, __ 19.	__ 11, __ 12, __ 13, __ 15.

Inscription:	No. de personnes	Total	<p>Veuillez faire votre chèque payable à <b>AGA 2004</b></p> <p>Postez votre inscription à <b>Pierrette Mercier</b> 888 ch. Du Pouvoir St-Joseph, N.B. E7B 2M4</p> <p>petem@nb.sympatico.ca 1-506-735-6872</p>
Reçu dès le 1 mai 2004 - 50 \$ par personne pour les 4 jours ou 15\$ par jour			
Reçu après le 1 mai 2004 - 70 \$ par personne pour les 4 jours ou 20\$ par jour			
Boîte à lunch 6\$ par personne par jour. Indiquez le choix de sandwich: Samedi: __ poulet __ œuf __ jambon __ végétarien Dimanche: __ poulet __ œuf __ jambon __ végétarien			
Banquet 30\$ par personne			
BBQ: __ poulet __ végétarien 10\$ par personne			
Sorties Jardin botanique et Galerie d'art 20\$ par personne (inclus transport et dîner)			
<b>Grand Total</b>			

Nom \_\_\_\_\_

Adresse \_\_\_\_\_

Téléphone \_\_\_\_\_ Courriel \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_

**Note :** La Fédération des naturalistes du N.B., La Fédération canadienne de la nature ainsi que le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska ne sont aucunement responsables des accidents, blessures ou dommages subis par les participants(e)s durant les activités de l'Assemblée générale annuelle, entre les 27 mai et 30 mai 2004. Nous les sous-signés, acceptons de participer à nos propres risques.

Signature (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Registration Form

## Thursday May 27th

**Workshops:** Indicate the workshops you plan to attend.

English workshops:   B  ,   D  ,   F   French workshops:   A  ,   C  ,   E  

**Field Trips :** Indicate your first choice with an A on the line and your second choice with a B on the line. (1st choice A, 2<sup>nd</sup> choice B).

	<u>Thursday May 27th 2004</u>	<u>Friday May 28th 2004</u>
Early-Bird:	----->	__8, __9, __10.
Long Field Trips:	-----	-----
Short Field Trips am:	----->	__14, __16, __17, Botanical Garden
Evening Field Trips	__4, __5, __6, __7.	

	<u>Saturday May 29th 2004</u>	<u>Sunday May 30th 2004</u>
Early-Bird:	__8, __9, __10.	__8, __9, __10.
Long Field Trips:	__1, __2, __3.	__1, __2, __3.
Short Field Trips am:	__14, __15, __16, __17, __18.	__14, __16, __17.
Short Field Trips pm:	__11, __12, __13, __15, __18, __19.	__11, __12, __13, __15.

Registration:	No. of Persons	Total	Please make check payable to: <b>AGM 2004</b>  Post registration to: Pierrette Mercier 888 ch. Du Pouvoir St-Joseph, N.B. E7B 2M4  petem@nb.sympatico.ca 1-506-735-6872
Received on or before May 1: (50\$ per person for 4 days or 15\$ / day)			
Received after May 1: (70\$ per person for 4 days or 20\$ / day)			
Box lunch: 6\$ per person / day Indicate your choice of sandwich: Sat: __chicken __egg __ham __vegetarian Sun: __chicken __egg __ham __vegetarian			
Banquet : \$30 per person			
BBQ: __chicken __vegetarian \$10\$ per person			
Botanical Gardens and Art gallery \$20 per person. (Includes transportation, admission and lunch)			
<b>Grand Total</b>			

Name

Address

Telephone

E-Mail

Club

**Note :** The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, Canadian Nature Federation or le Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska are not responsible for accidents, injuries or damages to persons participating in any activities of the Annual General Meeting between May 27 and May 30 2004. We the undersigned accept to participate at our own risk.

Signature (s)

Date



## MORE ABOUT VARIANT MAYWEEDS

A.J. (Tony) Erskine

My earlier study of variant Mayweeds *Matricaria maritima* (N.B. Nat. 30: 12-13, 2003) tried to interpret what I saw of them at Sackville (N.B.) through 2002. I looked further into some aspects of their biology in the summer 2003.

My 2002 surveys focused on where variant Mayweeds occurred - and where none were found, and in what numbers. An unplanned finding was that blooms on a plant were either all normal or all variant. Less clear was whether intermediate forms between variant and normal blooms occurred.

METHODS. Again in 2003, my surveys, every 4-10 days (July to October), covered Crescent St from RR tracks

to town garage (map in earlier article). On 19 July - 9 August surveys, I estimated total plants or clumps and total blooms of Mayweeds in the survey area; later I only guessed whether numbers remained were unchanged or decreased. Roadside mowings prevented accurate counting early in the survey period. Variant plant locations were defined relative to buildings, utility poles, intersections, for later monitoring of individual plants and blooms. Number and stage of blooms on each variant were noted whenever found.

FREQUENCY OF VARIANTS. Very few Mayweeds (<10 total) were blooming on my first survey 10 July. The first variant bloom was seen 14 July, when few normal blooms were seen (Table 1).

Table 1.

Date	North Side of Street		South Side of Street	
	Total # of Plant / Blooms per Plant	# of Variant Plants / Blooms per Plant	Total # of Plant / Blooms per Plant	# of Variant Plants / Blooms per Plant
10 Jul	<10 (guess)			
14 Jul	<10 (guess)	1/1	<10 (guess)	0
19 Jul	117/210	2/5	145/500	0
27 Jul	230/595 <sup>2</sup>	3/8	185/380 <sup>2</sup>	2/2
2 Aug	390/750	3/3 <sup>3</sup>	280/740	2/2
9 Aug	775/1585	5/10	805/1260	6/8
19 Aug	slight decline	6/13	slight decline	8/11
25 Aug	no change	11/18	no change	8/12
1 Sep	slight decline	11/19	slight decline	10/14
8 Sep	decrease	8/12	decrease	7/10
15 Sep	decrease	7/7	decrease	3/4
22 Sep	large decrease	7/9	large decrease	7/8
28 Sep	decrease	6/8	decrease	5/6
5 Oct	decrease	7/13	large decrease	2/3
25 Oct <sup>4</sup>	large decrease	4/6	large decrease	1/2
1 Nov	decrease	3/3	decrease	1/1
10 Nov	frost kill	1/1	frost kill	0

<sup>1</sup> Plants with all blooms wilted (fully or moderately), and former blooms by then wilted, were not included.

<sup>2</sup> Roadside mowing destroyed many Mayweeds since 19 July; variants then known were unharmed.

<sup>3</sup> Lawn mowing destroyed one variant (5 large blooms) 28 July, date of local "Communities in Bloom" tour (!).

<sup>4</sup> Observer out of province 6-22 Oct.



Total Mayweeds increased to mid-August and probably to the end of that month. Variants increased in parallel, comprising 0.7% of total Mayweed plants on 9 August and 1.3% on 1 September (if overall number unchanged until then). Variant blooms similarly comprised 0.6% of total on 9 August and 1.1% on 1 September.

**BLOOM DEVELOPMENT.** The earliest stage (loosely termed 'bud') was detected only on plants that already had larger blooms. In these, petals (ray-florets) barely showed beyond the green involucre surrounding them, and colour of central florets would have required dissection (not done). Buds expanded to blooms within a week.

In variant blooms, central ray florets (where yellow disc florets are in normal Mayweeds) varied. Many had white central florets from the start; nearly an equal number showed yellow-tinged central florets at first (here termed 'subvariants'), with these often becoming fully white in a week; only a few plants retained yellowish centre florets throughout blooming. Colour change of subvariants to variant form was general in plants first noted blooming through 19 August; most later-blooming plants had all white florets from the start. Some early bloomers put out later blooms, after the first ones began wilting, and those late blooms too were all white from the start. Only three plants (first seen 2 and 9 Aug, 1 Sep) showed 'subvariant' blooms throughout.

Variant blooms sometimes persisted without obvious wilting for three weeks or more. More often, slight wilting was evident in 10 days, and blooms were moderately 'browned-off' in two weeks. In a week to 10 days after browning-off, blooms were seldom detectable unless unwilted variant blooms also remained on that plant. The

longest surviving plants (letter codes in order of finding) were:

(E): found 'subvariant' 27 July; 1 very small 'variant' bloom (from late flowering) 28 September;

(P): found 'v sm subvariant' 19 August; 2 'variant' blooms 25 October;

(AA): found 'variant' 25 August; 1 'variant sl wilted' 1 November.

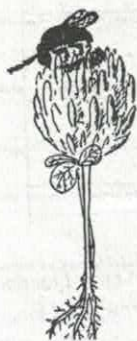
**MORE NEGATIVE DISTRIBUTIONAL EVIDENCE.** No variant (or subvariant) Mayweeds were seen, among numerous normal plants, along 300 metres of Church St in Middle Sackville in late July, nor along various roadsides between Port Elgin and Cadman Corner (30-45 km NE of Sackville), where Mayweeds were much scarcer, in early August.

**SOME THOUGHTS RE DETECTION.** Most variant Mayweeds grew on dry, sterile, road-shoulders, and were stunted (10-15 cm tall); many normal plants in ditch and field edges nearby were 30-40 cm tall (var. *agrestis*?). Variant blooms were easier to detect on road-shoulders; although I saw none farther than 1 metre from pavement (in roadside ditches), those distant plants averaged as tall as other Mayweeds there, so should have been easily detected if frequent. All-white variant blooms after mid-August, when much foliage and blooms nearby were browning-off, also suggest tolerance by variant Mayweeds of low soil moisture and site fertility.

My first detections of variant Mayweeds (before 2002) were all in September-November, when roadside vegetation was sparse, and growing conditions were unfavourable. Thus, September might be a better time than earlier to search elsewhere for such variants.

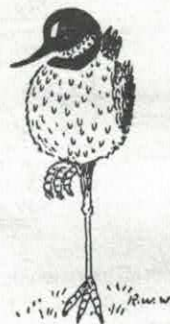
## HOW TO TELL THE BIRDS FROM THE FLOWERS

Robert Williams Wood (1917)



The Clover.

The Plover and the Clover can be told  
apart with ease,  
By paying close attention to the habits  
of the Bees  
For En-to-molo-gists aver, the Bee  
can be in Clover  
While Ety-molo-gigists concur, there  
is no B in Plover



The Plover.



## Coming Soon — New Brunswick Birds: An Annotated List ! À venir bientôt — Les Oiseaux du Nouveau-Brunswick: une liste commentée! Jim Wilson – Chair, NB Bird Records Committee

After several years of interrupted work by several dedicated volunteers, the long-awaited *New Brunswick Birds: An Annotated List / Les Oiseaux du Nouveau-Brunswick: une liste commentée* is about to be published. It's been a project of the NB Bird Records Committee since 1997.

The NB Bird Records Committee is a group of volunteers that works in affiliation with the New Brunswick Museum. Its purpose is to ensure that adequate information is preserved about unusual occurrences of birds in New Brunswick, to provide a process for the formal addition of bird species to the provincial list, and generally to advance knowledge of birds in the province. The committee consists of five members who are experienced birders, and a representative of the museum.

Only a few previous publications have dealt with all of New Brunswick's birds. These are *The Birds of New Brunswick* by Dr. W. Austin Squires, originally written in 1952 and updated in 1976, *A list of New Brunswick Birds* published by William H. Moore of Scotch Lake in 1928, and *List of the Birds of New Brunswick* compiled by Montague Chamberlain in 1882.

Moore's 1928 list included 326 species thought to have occurred within the Province and mentioned another eight that had been recorded close enough to our border that they should be expected soon. In the introduction he predicted "...the English Starling may be expected any summer now, for they are nearing the eastern border of the State of Maine". How right he was - Squires wrote in 1952 that "The Starling was first recorded in the Province ...at Grand Manan in the fall of 1924..." Apparently news of a new bird took a bit longer to spread in those days than it does today!

Squires' 1952 edition dealt with 336 bird species, and also commented on 18 subspecies such as the Southern Bald Eagle and the Labrador Savannah Sparrow. His revised book in 1976, based on a much larger bank of information, treated a total of 345 species.

Twenty-eight years later this *New Brunswick Birds: An Annotated List / Les Oiseaux du Nouveau-Brunswick: une liste commentée* deals with over 400 species of birds. The addition of more than 60 species in less than 30 years reflects the explosion of local knowledge that's resulted from the popularity of birding. It's been aided by improvements in optical equipment, better quality field guides, the ability of people to communicate instantly and better knowledge of how to document new birds when they are discovered. It also reflects to a lesser degree the splitting of certain species such as Alder and Willow Flycatcher,

and the lumping of others such as Ipswich and Savannah Sparrow.

Each species account gives the bird's seasonal status in New Brunswick, including its abundance or frequency of occurrence, and its breeding status. The body of each brief account mentions distribution within the province, preferred locations or habitats, migration details, and population fluctuations. For the more rare species, particular records are given. The species' normal and extreme seasons of occurrence are also provided in general terms.

Of course the publication will be printed in both official languages. A number of keen birders collaborated in the preparation of the English manuscript. Brian Dalzell prepared initial draft species accounts. Robert Doiron, Stuart Tingley, Jim Wilson, Marcel David and David Christie then suggested numerous changes and other additions. David Christie, Brian Dalzell, Mike Lushington and the team of Peter Pearce and Don Gibson later re-wrote from 75 to 110 species each. David Christie made a check for accuracy and inserted recent records as required, including accounts for newly accepted species. Peter Pearce and Don Gibson edited the entire text to ensure uniformity of treatment and style.

Marcel David headed preparation of the French edition, with translation contributions by Robert Doiron, Jean-Sébastien Guénette, Arthur-William Landry, and Rose-Alma Mallet. They worked very hard to complete it under a tight timeline. A professional editor, supplied by the New Brunswick Museum, will do French editing.

Dr. Donald McAlpine, Curator of Zoology at the NB Museum and Jim Wilson arranged the funding and helped coordinate production of the manuscripts. Funding support is provided by the NB Environmental Trust Fund, the NB Wildlife Trust Fund, the NB Museum's Publications in Natural Science Fund, and by donations by various naturalists and naturalist clubs in 1997. All donated monies have been held in trust since that time by the NB Museum for use on this publication.

*New Brunswick Birds: An Annotated List / Les Oiseaux du Nouveau-Brunswick: une liste commentée* will be available in the spring of 2004, at a modest cost that will be determined shortly. We plan a print run of 500 French and 1,500 English copies. It will be a valuable aid to resident birders and to tourists visiting in search of specialties of our region. Further information will be available in the next issue of NB Naturalist and through your local naturalist club.



**NATURE NEWS - NEW BRUNSWICK MAMMAL REPORT**  
**OCTOBER 2003 TO JANUARY 2004**  
**RAPPORT DE MAMMIFÈRES DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK**  
**OCTOBRE 2003 EN JANVIER 2004**  
*Mike LeBlanc*

On October 6, Beverly Schneider got a very good "Daylight" observation of a Coyote that looked very tame at the Mactaquac Dam. James Donald saw 2 young RED FOXES (RENARD ROUX) running down the road and stopped to take a picture and they too seemed to be very tame.

Brian Dalzell saw something new on October 8, when he spotted a RIVER OTTER (LOUTRE DE RIVIÈRE) off cliffs while birding at



*River Otter*  
L.A. Fuertes

Southern Head on Grand Manan. The small otter was playing in the surf and was joined by 2 bigger ones. This was the first time he had seen such an animal in the sea.

An unfortunate MINKE WHALE (PETIT RORQUAL) was found deceased near the Grand Manan ferry's path. (Laurie Murison October 14)

Yolande LeBlanc from Memramcook was very surprised on October 22 when a GREY SQUIRREL (ÉCUREUIL GRIS) showed up at her home. Ron Arsenault saw one at his home in Memramcook on October 16, and he also commented on seeing one for the first time in Pointe-du-Chêne in the summer. Marsha MacDonald in West Branch saw one for the first time this year. A lengthy discussion took place on NatureNB from which I conclude that this rodent is expanding its territory in NB.

Bob and Sharon Blake were very lucky to observe NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRRELS (GRAND POLATOUCHE) at Second North River all fall; October 26, November 1, December 5,

A few CHIPMUNKS (TAMIA RAYÉ) were around

Nelson Poirier's feeders in Shédiac Bridge on October



*Northern Flying Squirrel*  
L.A. Fuertes

28.

John Massey while spending some time in Napadogan spotted a very interesting family unit of FISHER (PÉKAN). There were 4 fishers in total, 2 small and 2 larger ones. He also saw 14 WHITE-TAILED DEER (CERF DE VIRGINIE) between Stanley and Néguaac and also observed 2 MINK (VISON D'AMÉRIQUE) which he reported on November 2.

A few reports came in from English Settlement Road - near Taymouth. Two WHITE-TAILED DEER (CERF DE VIRGINIE), a "spiked-horned" buck and a large doe, show up at different times to nibble on apple trees and the doe has also been eating berries on high-bush cranberry bushes.

Julie also commented that the MEADOW VOLES (CAMPAGNOLE DES CHAMPS) were at an all time high as there were many tracks, holes, and runways in her flowerbeds. (Julie Singleton November 2)

While travelling to Edmundston, Mike LeBlanc got the chance to see a WHITE-TAILED DEER (CERF DE VIRGINIE) in Chatham near the airport, and a very big MOOSE (ORIGNAL) between Newcastle and Renous. (November 2)

Julie Singleton spotted a COYOTE (COYOTE) in very bad shape with a lot of fur missing in English Settlement Road. (November 18)

In Saint-Gabriel-de-Kent a "very white" SHORT-TAILED WEASEL (HERMINE) crossed the road. Was it a sign of winter? (Mike LeBlanc November 26)

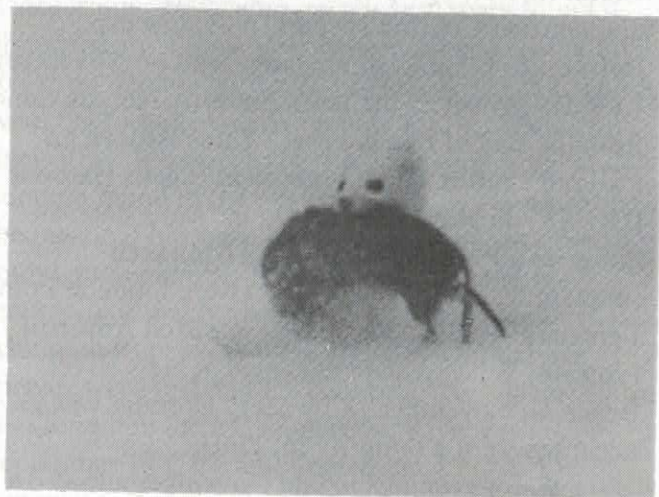
Laurie Murison got reports of MINKE (PETIT RORQUAL) and FINBACK (RORQUAL COMMUN) whales on the crossing to Grand Manan. (November 27)

Becky Whittam and Sean Blaney on December 1, were very surprised when a BOBCAT (LYNX ROUX) walked up to their house which is within the Sackville town limits, visited their yard and marked its territory.

While returning from Grand Falls, Roy LaPointe made a stop at one of his favourite birding spots near the Paradis de la Montagne campground on December 5. Only a few species of birds were there but at about 30 meters in front of him was a small dark "furry critter" that disappeared



When he got closer there were 2 "furry critters" one dark and the other all white. The dark one seemed to be a MEADOW VOLE (CAMPAGNOLE DES CHAMPS) and the other was a SHORT-TAILED WEASEL (HERMINE). The predator caught the small rodent and ran towards Roy, and when it got close to him dropped the vole and ran into the trees. Roy set up his camera and waited for the weasel to return and got great photos and video footage.



SHORT-TAILED WEASEL (HERMINE)

Photo by Roy LaPointe

While big storms were hitting New Brunswick, Laurie Murison was thinking about a FINBACK (RORQUAL COMMUN) that was seen off Swallowtail on Grand Manan on December 5.

Another spot to see NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRRELS (GRAND POLATOUCHE) is at Gérard Arsenault's feeders in Memramcook Est. On December 22 one was seen on the top of his Niger feeder and another was in a tree.

A SHORT-TAILED SHREW (GRANDE MUSAREIGNE) searched for food one fine afternoon around some bird feeders in English Settlement on December 22. (Julie Singleton)

Marsha MacDonald spotted a BOBCAT (LYNX ROUX) on the side of route 495 just north of Saint-Marie-de-Kent on December 31.

In Haneytown, Martin and Nathalie Roncetti also had 2 NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRRELS (GRAND POLATOUCHE) in one of their feeders.

Lloyd DeCoste got the chance to see an albinistic (almost completely white with a brown patch on its head and a few on the legs) WHITE-TAILED DEER [CERF DE VIRGINIE] on the McWilliam Rd in Salisbury, and a total of 58 deer all together in the area on January 1. The

"unique" white deer was seen again on January 17, in company with 3 "normal" looking ones.

Bob Blake saw 8 WHITE-TAILED DEER [CERF DE VIRGINIE] in a field along the Homestead Road west of Moncton on January 12.

Don Gibson called it "good fortune" when he and Cathy saw a BOBCAT (LYNX ROUX) in a field across from St. Anne's Court retirement Home in Fredericton. It hid under a car while people walked by without even knowing it was there. A lady that evening said she saw one at her place about a kilometre away. (January 13)

Nelson Poirier noted 2 RED FOXES (RENARD ROUX) running across a field in Shédiac Bridge, not even concerned by the very cold temperatures. (January 17)

David Christie and Mary Majka sported tracks around the Mary's Point Interpretive Center that turned out to be those of a MUSKRAT (RAT MUSQUÉ) which might have been forced out of its house by the rising waters. (January 19)

The small SEAL that ventured out on the median between the 4 lanes of the Trans-Canada Highway between Sackville and the NS boarder near the Radio-Canada International transmitters, got a lot of people interested on January 22. (Kathy Popma)

Our whale observer, Laurie Murison, keeps us always up to date on whales around Grand Manan. While looking out of the window off Swallowtail Point on January 22, she saw a FINBACK WHALE exhale and make a vapour sprout WOW!

To his surprise, Brian Dalzell, got the chance to watch a NORWAY RAT (RAT SURMULOT) eating berries in a High-bush cranberry bush on January 27.



Norway Rat

sketch by L.A. Fuertes

During an Ami(e)s de la Nature outing, on January 17, in the Memramcook Valley, 3 WHITE-TAILED DEER (CERF DU VIRGINIE) were seen. During a Moncton Naturalists' Club outing on January 24, one deer was observed in the Sackville area. (Gilles Bourque)

We finish off this report with Deer that are emptying nightly, the feeders at Harvey McLeod house in Hampton. They even dug through the snow to get what was left of Brussels Sprout stalks. January 31.



## NATURE NEWS: INVERTEBRATES

SEPTEMBER 1 TO DECEMBER 32, 2003

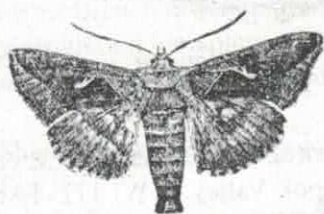
Dwayne L. Sabine

## Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths)

An **Eastern Tailed Blue** (bleu porte-queue de l'Est; *Everes comyntas*) was found by Reg Webster in mid-September near Brockway, furnishing only the third provincial record for the species.

A **Compton Tortoiseshell** (grande vanesse; *Nymphalis vaualbum j-album*) was observed at New Jersey on September 24 (DMcL).

A few butterflies were active in the Shediac area on October 9, including **Clouded Sulphurs** (coliadé du trèfle; *Colias philodice*), a single **Orange Sulphur** (coliadé de la luzerne; *Colias eurytheme*), and a very late **American Copper** (cuivre d'Amérique; *Lycaena phlaeas*) (ST, NB, GB, RAM). A very impressive early fall assemblage of butterflies was found at Alma on October 11. Species seen were **Clouded Sulphur**, **Orange Sulphur**, **Cabbage White** (piéride du chou; *Pieris rapae*), **American Painted Lady** (vanesse de Virginie; *Vanessa virginiensis*), **Painted Lady** (belle dame; *Vanessa cardui*), **Question Mark** (polygone à queue violacée; *Polygonia interrogationis*), and **Common Branded Skipper** (hespérie laurentienne; *Hesperia comma*). Also seen were numerous **Celery Looper Moths** (*Anagrapha falcifera*) and several



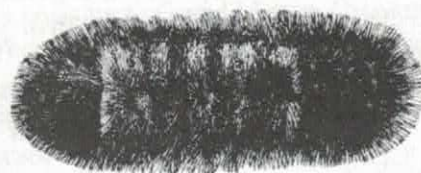
Celery Looper  
A.B. Comstock

**Yellow-collared Scape Moths** (le cissep à col orangé; *Cisseps fulvicollis*) (ST, NB, GB, GiB, RAM). **Celery Looper Moths** were also abundant at The Quarries on October 12 (SM, DS).

A notable late butterfly record was an observation of a **Clouded Sulphur**, **Mourning Cloak** (morio; *Nymphalis antipoa*), and an unidentified **Comma** species (polygone esp.; *Polygonia* sp.) at Central Hampstead on November 1 (SM). However, the latest butterfly records came from the Bay of Fundy coast. Three **American Painted Ladies** were observed at Blacks Harbour (DG, SS) on November 6. On the same date, an **American Painted Lady** and a **Monarch** (monarque; *Danaus plexippus*) were found at Point Lepreau (EP, JW, EP). A very late **Red Admiral** (vulcain; *Vanessa atalanta*) spied at New River Beach on November 18 by Merv Cormier was the latest report of a butterfly for 2003.

Warm evenings in late November allowed a fair amount of moth activity. At Moncton on November 21, Jim Edsall noted **Winter Moths** (*Operophetra brumata*), **Bruce Spanworm** (*Operophetra bruceata*), **Fall Cankerworm** (arpeuse d'automne; *Alsophila pometaria*) and **Juniper Moth** (*Thera juniperata*).

Unseasonably warm weather during the last few days of the year brought a few **Woolly Bear** caterpillars out of hibernation: they were seen at Fredericton on December 26 (DS), at Kouchibouguac on December 27 (BL), and on the Kingston Peninsula on December 28 (JG, AG). These are the larvae of **Isabella Tiger Moth** (isia isabelle; *Pyrrharctia Isabella*). Another unidentified



Isabella Tiger Moth Caterpillar  
Holland (1916)

caterpillar was observed crawling across a piece of ice at English Settlement on December 26 (JS).



## Odonata (Damselflies and Dragonflies)

A few late **Ebony Jewelwings** (*calopteryx* bistré; *Calopteryx maculata*) were still active on the Magaguadavic and South Branch Oromocto Rivers on September 13 (DS).

**American Rubyspots** (*courtisane* d'Amérique; *Hetaerina americana*) were found in abundance at almost every site surveyed on the Eel River on September 8, 9 & 12 (DS, KB, SM). These were the first provincial records for this beautiful damselfly. It seems to be the latest emerging odonate found in the province, and this is probably the reason it has been overlooked. The specimens found on September 8 appeared to be freshly-emerged, probably within the previous week. Although Rubyspots were very abundant, other species were few and far between. This species was also found on the Magaguadavic River on September 13 (DS) and September 15 (AWT).

**American Rubyspots** were still flying on the Eel River on September 22 (AWT).

A male **Familiar Bluet** (*agrion* civil; *Enallagma civile*) was observed at Gagetown on October 9 (SM), a record late date for this common damselfly.

A newly-emerged **Powdered Dancer** (*argie* svelte; *Argia moesta*) on the Magaguadavic River on September 13 was a very odd record for a species that normally emerges in June and early July (DS).

Scott Makepeace found an impressive swarm of hundreds of **Lance-tipped Darners** (*aeschna* constrictor; *Aeshna constricta*) in a marsh near Central Hampstead on September 3. All that were netted proved to be males. Interestingly, about 20 minutes later he encountered an equally large swarm of the same species over fields and roads less than one kilometre away, and all that were netted were females. A few were still on the wing there on October 11, almost 3 weeks later than the previous late record (SM, DS).

The discovery of a few new sites for the **Mottled Darner** (*aeschna* clepsydra; *Aeshna clepsydra*) this past summer continued into the fall, with sites found at Benton on September 8 (DS, KB)

and McBeth Lake on September 7 (SM, DS). This species was first discovered in the province in 2002.

The **Subarctic Darner** (*aeschna* subarctique; *Aeshna subarctica*) was found in a number of new locations this year, more than doubling its list of known locations in NB. This is especially impressive given that it was discovered in the province only six years ago (by Stu Tingley). New sites were found at sphagnum bogs and fens near Minto on September 10 (AWT); and Upper Gagetown on September 11 and Hamptead on September 21 (SM). In addition, **Subarctic Darners** were found in a swarm of feeding darners away from typical breeding habitat at a site near Pokiok on September 23 (DS, KC).

The beautiful but seldom encountered **Zigzag Darner** (*aeschna* à zigzags; *Aeshna sitchensis*) turned up at two more sites this fall: at a roadside muck hole near Minto on September 10 (AWT), and at a fen in Upper Gagetown on September 11 (SM).

The discovery of a huge number of darners, including **Variable Darners** (*aeschna* domino; *Aeshna interrupta*), **Black-tipped Darners** (*aeschna* à tubercules; *Aeshna tuberculifera*) and a **Canada Darner** (*aeschna* du Canada; *Aeshna canadensis*), feeding at a beaver pond near The Quarries on October 12 was perhaps surprising given the late date, and furnished new late records for all three species (SM, DS).

Once thought to be rare in the province, the **Green-striped Darner** (*aeschna* verticale; *Aeshna verticalis*) turned up at several new sites during late summer. These discoveries continued into the fall, with new sites found near Tracyville on September 9 (AWT); near Minto on September 10 (AWT & DS); at Victoria Beach on September 7 and Gagetown on October 11 (DS and SM), and at Upper Gagetown on September 11 (SM).

Several **Common Green Darners** (*l'anax*; *Anax junius*) found at Alma on October 11 furnished a new late date for the species in the province (ST, NB, GB, GiB, RAM).

The beautiful and uncommon **Zebra Clubtail** (*gomphe* de Scudder, *Stylurus scudderi*) was observed at Halls Creek on September 9 (ST); Keswick River on September 3 and the Nashwaak



River at Penniac on September 3 and September 11 (DS), and Nashwaaksis Stream on September 2 (AWT) and on October 8 (DS): the latter was a record late date for the species in NB.

A **Prince Baskettail** (épithèque princière; *Epithica princeps*) at Nashwaaksis Stream on September 2 was very late, surpassing the previous record late date for NB by just over a month (AWT).

Tony Thomas encountered a few emerald species in late summer, including **Williamson's Emerald** (cordulie de Williamson; *Somatochlora williamsoni*) at Fredericton on September 2; **Ski-tailed Emerald** (cordulie alongée; *Somatochlora elongata*) at Little Pokiok Stream on September 2; and **Incurvate Emerald** (cordulie incurvée; *Somatochlora incurvata*) at Minto on September 3. The latter species was also found at Upper Gagetown on September 11 (SM).

The **Four-spotted Skimmer** (la Quadrimaculée; *Libellula quadrimaculata*) is one of our earliest emerging dragonflies, and is very common and distributed throughout the province in June and July. A male found at Nashwaaksis Stream in Fredericton on September 18 was notable due to the late date, almost a month later than the previous record (DLS). Another early summer species, the **Common Whitetail** (la Lydienne; *Libellula lydia*) was also active on a record late date, at Hall's Creek Marsh on September 9 (ST).

**Wandering Gliders** (Pantale flavescens; *Pantala flavescens*) seemed to be everywhere this summer: a male found at quarry Ponds near Hampstead on October 1 furnished a new late record (SM).

Scott Makepeace found **Blue Dashers** (le Fougueux; *Pachydiplax longipennis*) at Babbitts Meadows on September 11. This species has been found in NB on only one other occasion: by Karl Dexter in Charlotte Co. in 1995.

A **White-faced Meadowhawk** (*Sympetrum éclairé*; *Sympetrum obtrusum*) found at Alma on October 11 was a late record for this species in the province (ST, NB, GB, GiB, RAM). The last dragonfly reports for the year were **Yellow-legged Meadowhawks** (*Sympetrum tardif*; *Sympetrum vicinum*) at Edgett's Landing on November 1 (DB) and at The Mistake on November 9 (SM).

## Miscellaneous species

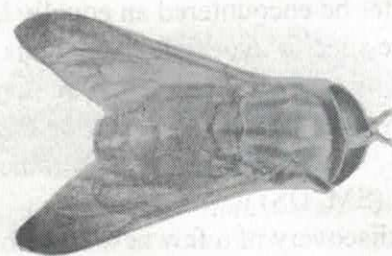
Reports of rare freshwater mussels were few and far between this fall. The only notable finds were **Triangle Floaters** (alasmidonte à fortes dents; *Alasmidonta undulata*) at McBeth Lake in Kings Co. on September 7 (SM, DS), and at a number of sites on the Eel River during surveys by the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre on September 8 and 9 (KB, DS). This tiny mussel species was thought to be uncommon, but seems to be turning up in almost every river where thorough searches are made.

A few tiger beetles were still active at The Quarries on September 21: both **Clay Bank Tiger Beetles** (La cicindèle à 12 points; *Cicindela limbalis*) and **Twelve-spotted Tiger Beetles** (la cicindèle à marge verte; *Cicindela duodecimguttata*) were present (SM).

The seldom-encountered **Hermit Flower Beetle** (osmoderme ermite; *Osmoderma eremicola*) was found at another new site this fall: Victoria Beach on September 7 (SM).

A **Boreal Camel Cricket** (camelline esp.; *Ceuthophilus brevipes*) at New Jersey on October 13 was one of the few NB records for the species (DMcL).

The very large and apparently rare horsefly ***Tabanus novaescotiae*** was found at yet another new site this fall, when one flew into a vehicle parked at Victoria Beach on September 7 (DS, SM). Hopefully they don't become too common, as they seem almost as large as a small hummingbird on their approach. I haven't yet been so unfortunate as to feel their bite, luckily....



*Tabanus novaescotiae*  
Insects of Cedar Creek web page



**Abbreviations:** AG Allen Gorham, AWT Tony Thomas, BL Bernadette LeBlanc, DB Dwayne Biggar, DG Don Gibson, DMcL Dave McLeod, DLS Dwayne Sabine, EP Eileen Pike, GB Gisele Belliveau, GiB Gilles Belliveau, JG Janet Gorham,

JS Julie Singleton, JW Janet Whitehead, KB Kate Bredin, KC Kevin Craig, MC Merv Cormier, ML Mike LeBlanc, NB Norm Belliveau RAM Rose-Alma Mallet, RP Roy Pike, SM Scott Makepeace, SS Shirley Sloat, ST Stu Tingley

## NATURE NEWS: BIRDS

OCTOBER 24, 2003 TO JANUARY 25, 2004

Don Gibson

This is New Brunswick, it's early November and there's a swallow – what is wrong with this picture? Everything you say, except this is the stuff that birders' dreams are made of. Two birders were in the right place at the right time and being experienced they instantly recognized a circumstance that should be carefully checked. Their quick action enabled them to identify and photograph the province's first (documented) **Cave Swallow**.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** tried to hide among a flock of about 1000 Canada Geese but it could not elude the attention of a knowledgeable birder constantly seeking such a rarity.

Western birds - an **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, a **Townsend's Solitaire**, a **Harris's Sparrow** and a **Bullock's Oriole** - all seemingly lost their way and put in an appearance in the province.

While lobster fishing off Grand Manan, Durlan Ingersoll and Peter Wilcox observed a **Northern Fulmar** [**Fulmar boréal**] and **Greater Shearwater** [**Puffin majeur**] on Nov. 19

Peter Pearce witnessed 15 **Northern Gannets** [**Fou de Bassan**], flying singly, from the Grand Manan ferry on Nov. 22.

Northern New Brunswick is not exactly where one would expect to see a **Great Blue Heron** [**Grand Héron**] during winter but Margaret Gallant Doyle discovered one at Campbellton on Jan. 4.

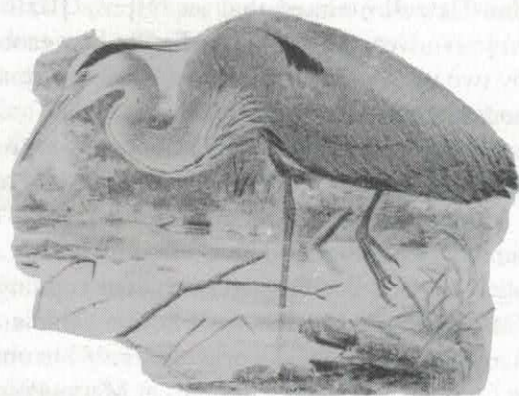
The only **Cattle Egret** [**Héron garde-boeufs**] of the season was reported by Enid Inch at Lower Jemseg on Nov. 8.

**Turkey Vultures** [**Urubu à tête rouge**] continue to surprise by remaining in the province later and later into the fall. One seen by Norm Belliveau at Murray Corner on

Oct. 25 and another by Richard Blacquiére at Hammond River on Nov. 15 would normally be the last but sightings continued into December. Lowell Henderson reported one at Midland on Dec. 5, Gordon Johnston saw one at Deadmans Harbour on Dec. 11 and Bob Clowater reported one on the same date at Penniac. A chance glance skyward netted Peter Pearce one at Fredericton on Dec. 16.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** [**Oie rieuse**] was discovered by Alain Clavette at St. Joseph on Nov. 3. It remained in the region for a number of days and many birders were able to add it to their lists.

Most **Snow Goose** [**Oie des neiges**] reports were of single birds, often in the company of Canada Geese. Gilles Belliveau noted an immature one at New Maryland on Oct. 28 and David Christie found one at Roachville on Nov. 22. Others included one at Upper Coverdale seen by Dale Gaskin on Nov. 24, another by Jean-Sébastien Guénette and Rachel Robichaud at Moncton on Dec. 2, a single bird



Great Blue Heron  
painting by L.A. Fuertes



found by David Christie at Harvey Bank on Dec. 5 and one discovered with three Canada Geese at Knightville on Dec. 5 by Jim Brown.

Jean-Sébastien Guénette found a small flock of **Brant** [**Bernache cravant**] at Shediac on Nov. 1 and Peter Pearce discovered one at White Head Island on Nov. 21.

Peter Pearce saw a pair of **Gadwall** [**Canard chipeau**] at White Head Island on Nov. 21.

A **Eurasian Wigeon** [**Canard siffleur**] was seen by Jude Laroque at Tracadie-Sheila on Nov. 6.

A female **Canvasback** [**Fuligule à dos blanc**] was discovered at Cape Jourimain by Becky Whittam and Sean Blaney (and Becky's brother Dan) on Nov. 10. The duck remained there for a few days enabling a number of birders to add it to their lists.

Rachel Robichaud found a **Redhead** [**Fuligule à tête rouge**] at St. Joseph on Nov. 3.

A **Tufted Duck** [**Fuligule morillon**] at Saint John has become expected annually and on Dec. 11 one was discovered by Jim Wilson.

A nice array of **Harlequin Ducks** [**Arlequin plongeur**] was found along the east coast this fall. Norm Belliveau saw a brightly coloured male at Cap Bimet on Oct. 25, Jean-Paul Leblanc observed one at Cap Lumière on Nov. 16 and Louis-Émile Cormier reported four there on Nov. 26. Richard Leger discovered five harlequins at Pointe-du-Chêne on Nov. 25.

A **King Eider X Common Eider** [**Eider à tête grise X Eider à duvet**] hybrid (male) has been reported at St. Andrews before and on Dec. 17 Tracey Dean found one. Alain Clavette and Roland Robichaud reported seeing a male **King Eider** [**Eider à tête grise**] at Pokesudie on Dec. 24.

Peter Pearce found seven **Hooded Mergansers** [**Harle couronné**] at White Head Island on Nov. 21.

Brian Dalzell claimed that an **Osprey** [**Balbusard pêcheur**] seen Oct. 26 was, according to his records, the latest by two weeks for Grand Manan. Merv Cormier reported one near Sussex on Nov. 7.

**Cooper's Hawks** [**Épervier de Cooper**] were reported at Saint Léonard by Charlotte and Roy LaPointe on Nov. 24, at Moncton by Doug Whitman on Dec. 4 and at Memramcook by Jules Cormier on Dec. 5.

Roger Leblanc was treated to a great sighting of an adult **Golden Eagle** [**Aigle royal**] at Long Eddie, Grand Manan, on Nov. 28. David Christie was able to observe a Golden Eagle for about five minutes at Marys Point, as it soared overhead on Jan. 24.

An **American Kestrel** [**Crécerelle d'Amérique**] was seen at Island View (near Fredericton) by Don Gibson on

Dec. 26.

John Hanson had the good fortune to see a **Peregrine Falcon** [**Faucon pèlerin**] from the 17<sup>th</sup> floor of Brunswick Square in Saint John on Dec. 11.

A **Gyr Falcon** [**Faucon gerfaut**] was reported at Inkerman by Jean-Guy Robichaud on Nov. 16 and again on Dec. 4. Alain Clavette and Jean-Sébastien Guénette found a Gyr Falcon at Dorchester on Nov. 23 and the bird was seen often along the valley between there and Memramcook over the next few weeks.

An **American Coot** [**Foulque d'Amérique**] was reported at Hanwell, near Fredericton, by Richard Langley from Nov. 1 to 5 (*vide* Peter Pearce).

Alain Clavette found a **Greater Yellowlegs** [**Grand Chevalier**] at Castalia on Dec. 2.

A **Spotted Sandpiper** [**Chevalier grivelé**] found at St. Andrews by Don Gibson, Shirley Sloat and Margery Acheson on Nov. 15 was considered very late. However, Ken MacIntosh discovered another the following day at Saint John.

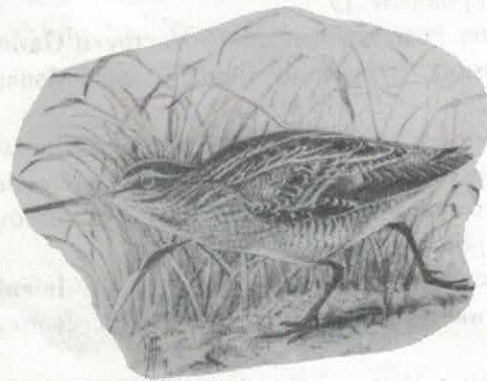
A **White-rumped Sandpiper** [**Bécasseau à croupion blanc**] was found at Long Pond Beach, Grand Manan, by Peter Pearce on Nov. 19.

On Oct. 31 a **Long-billed Dowitcher** [**Bécassin à long bec**] was identified at Sackville by Stu Tingley and Rose-Alma Mallet.

A **Wilson's Snipe** [**Bécassine des marais**] was discovered at Saint John by Rose-Alma Mallet and Eileen Pike on Dec. 28. Brian Dalzell claims that one has often been reported at a spring at North Head, thus one discovered there on Jan. 18 was no surprise.

Members of the Saint John Naturalists' Club were able to tally a **Wilson's Phalarope** [**Phalarope de Wilson**] at the Lancaster sewage lagoon, Saint John, on Oct. 25.

A **Pomarine Jaeger** [**Labbe pomarin**] was seen from the Grand Manan ferry by Jim Wilson, Richard Blacquiére



Wilson's Snipe  
painting by L.A. Fuertes



and Harvey MacLeod on Nov. 7. Durlan Ingersoll observed another off Grand Manan on Dec. 4.

Eileen and Roy Pike and Janet Whitehead saw a **Parasitic Jaeger** [*Labbe parasite*] at Point Lepreau on Nov. 6 and Alain Clavette saw one from the Grand Manan ferry on Dec. 2.

Alain Clavette and Rachel Robichaud discovered a **Black-headed Gull** [*Mouette rieuse*] at Saint-Édouard-de-Kent on Nov. 29.

Jean-Sébastien Guénette found a **Mew Gull** [*Goéland cendré*] at Pointe-du-Chêne on Nov. 9.

A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** [*Goéland brun*] was found at Memramcook by Alain Clavette on Nov. 9 and another was observed by David Christie at Riverview on Dec. 1.

Jean-Sébastien Guénette found some late **Common Terns** [*Sterne pierregarin*] at Shediac (Pointe-du-Chêne) on Nov. 1.

Durlan Ingersoll and Peter Wilcox reported the first-of-the-season **Dovekie** [*Mergule nain*] off Grand Manan, its normal location, on Nov. 19. A severe storm on Dec. 7 caused a number of Dovekies to find themselves inland, a very poor place for a Dovekie. Dozens were found stranded inland along east coast but some made it even further. One found at Oromocto was taken to the SPCA (*fide* Jim Goltz) on Dec. 7 and placed in the Bay of Fundy at Saint John later that same day. Another was found on the Kingston Peninsula by Joe Connors on Dec. 8. Roger Guitard reported seeing about 30 Dovekies near Pointe-Verte on Dec. 18.

Three **Thick-billed Murres** [*Guillemot de Brünnich*] were seen from the Grand Manan ferry by Alain Clavette on Dec. 2.

A **Snowy Owl** [*Harfang des neiges*] was seen at Inkerman by Jean-Guy Robichaud on Jan. 1.

Pat Émond reported seeing a **Northern Hawk Owl** [*Chouette épervière*] at Kedgwick on Dec. 20.



*Northern Hawk Owl*  
photo by Denis Doucet

A **Barred Owl** [*Choette rayée*] sighting would normally rarely make this report. However, when one was seen on the same branch as a Northern Flying Squirrel [*Grand Polatouche*] it became newsworthy (Oct. 31). Bob and Sharon Blake of Second North River reported that the squirrel came within 15 centimetres of the owl.

Alain Clavette discovered a **Long-eared Owl** [*Hibou moyen-duc*] perched in a tree at Memramcook on Dec. 17.

Following a summer with almost no reports of **Short-eared Owls** [*Hibou des marais*] in the Sackville area, Kathy Popma saw one fly across the TCH between Moncton and Sackville on Nov. 8. Six were seen at Tantramar Marsh by Alain Clavette *et al* on Nov. 11. Mike Plourde saw two at Moncton on Nov. 27 and Jean-Guy Robichaud discovered one at



*Longeared Owl*  
painting by L.A. Fuertes

Inkerman on Dec. 10. On Dec. 11, Jean Sébastien Guénette reported nine at Moncton. A bit surprisingly, after a week of extreme cold, one was seen at Tantramar Marsh on Jan. 18 (Norm, Gisèle and Gilles Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet).

Brian Dalzell reports seeing an owl at dusk that he is confident was a **Boreal Owl** [*Nyctale de Tengmalm*] at Bancroft Point on Dec. 10.

Ken MacIntosh found a day-roosting **Northern Saw-whet Owl** [*Petite nyctale*] at Saint John on Nov. 17 and Becky Whittam saw one near her feeder at dusk at Sackville on Dec. 17.

A **Belted Kingfisher** [*Martin Pêcheur d'Amérique*] was seen at Bayfield by Norm, Gisèle and Gilles Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet on Jan. 18. Alain Clavette, Roger Leblanc and Jean Sébastien Guénette found one at Johnson Mills on Jan. 24.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** [*Pic à tête rouge*] was



seen at Saint Simon on Nov. 2 (*fide* Roger Dumaesq) and another was reported at North Head by Jim Wilson, Richard Blacquiére and Harvey McLeod on Nov. 7.

A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** [**Pic à ventre roux**] was seen by Rosalea Angus at Sackville on Nov. 5, and one was reported at Saint John by Merv Cormier in Nov. 12. Another at Riverside-Albert by Margo Morris Nov. 12. Jules Cormier had a Red-bellied Woodpecker appear at his feeder on Dec. 1 at Memramcook and it was still there well into January. Alain Clavette and Roger Leblanc found one at North Head on Dec. 1. A Red-bellied Woodpecker faithfully visited the feeder of Kathy Popma at Sackville from Dec. 17 to Jan. 19. Mary and Dwayne Sabine were able to see one at Fredericton on Dec. 14 after being told of its presence by a homeowner.

Tom Dupuis reported a **Northern Flicker** [**Pic flamboyant**] Shediac Cape on Jan. 11. The following day a Northern Flicker suffered a cruel demise when it was pecked to death by two starlings at Sackville (*fide* Kathy Popma).

An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** [**Tyrann à gorge cendrée**] was discovered at New River Beach by Merv Cormier and Allen Gorham on Nov. 18.

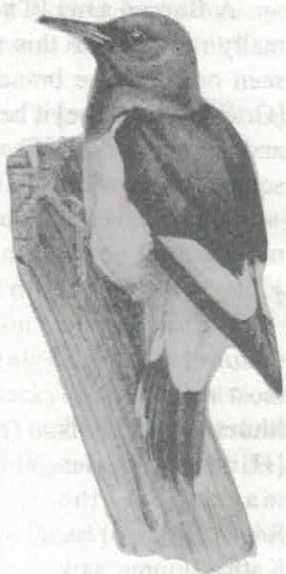
Eileen and Roy Pike found and photographed a **Cave Swallow** [**Hirondelle à front brun**] at Point Lepreau on Nov. 3.

**White-breasted Nuthatches** [**Sittelle à poitrine blanche**] are rarely seen in the northeastern part of the province, thus one noted by André Robichaud at Lamèque on Oct. 29 was noteworthy.

A **Carolina Wren** [**Troglodyte de Caroline**] had apparently been visiting the feeder of David Smith at Fredericton for a month before it was positively identified on Jan. 7.

Despite the name, **Winter Wrens** [**Troglodyte mignon**] are seldom seen after October in New Brunswick. Roger Leblanc managed to find one near Ox Head Road, Grand Manan, on Nov. 30 and the following day Roger and Alain Clavette found another at The Anchorage Provincial Park.

Doreen Rossiter saw a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**



*Red-headed Woodpecker*  
painting by L.A. Fuertes

[**Gobemoucheron gris-bleu**] at Alma on Oct. 31. Becky Whittam, along with her daughter, five-month-old Evelyn Blaney, reported a possible Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Sackville on Nov. 27.

An unusually late **Eastern Bluebird** [**Merlebleu de l'Est**] was found at Inkerman by Frank Branch and Roland Robichaud on Dec. 2.

Doreen Rossiter reported a **Townsend's Solitaire** [**Solitaire de Townsend**] feeding on Highbush Cranberries in her yard at Alma on Dec. 11.

A **Hermit Thrush** [**Grive solitaire**] was observed at Taymouth by Julie Singleton on Nov. 9, another was seen by Peter Pearce at Fredericton on Dec. 3 and Jan Leblanc reported one at Moncton on Dec. 31. On Jan. 4 Hermit Thrushes were found in different areas of Fredericton, one by Margaret and Jeremy Forster and another by Doug Jackson.

Margaret Gallant Doyle reported a possible **Fieldfare** [**Grive litorne**] at Campbellton on Dec. 7.

After a long time with relatively few **American Robin** [**Merle d'Amérique**] reports, Stu Tingley was surprised to see about 75 briefly in his yard at Shediac Bridge on Jan. 12.

Jim Wilson reported a **Northern Mockingbird** [**Moquer polyglotte**] at Hammond River on Dec. 7. Two reports from Campbellton were likely of the same bird, as Shirley Sharpe saw one on Dec. 8 and Flora Kelly noted one on Dec. 9. Brian Dalzell almost struck one with his vehicle as the bird flew across a street in Saint John on Jan. 19.

A mockingbird cousin, **Brown Thrasher** [**Moquer roux**] was also seen at Campbellton by Margaret Gallant Doyle on Dec. 9. Another thrasher reported by Pierrette and Gilles Robichaud at Aldouane on Dec. 27 had apparently been there since early November.

Early November brought reports of large flocks of **Cedar Waxwings** [**Jaseur d'Amérique**], as Jim Wilson saw about 1000 at Point Lepreau on Nov. 1 and Mike Lushington encountered a similar-sized flock at Restigouche East on Nov. 2.

Sightings of **Orange-crowned Warblers** [**Paruline verdâtre**] have increased over the past few years, probably due to the fact that more people can now confidently identify this nondescript warbler. The Saint John Naturalists' Club found one near Saints Rest Marsh and another at Reversing Falls on Oct. 25. Brian Dalzell found one at Langmaid Cove on Oct. 26 and Merv Cormier reported one at Saint John on Nov. 3. Jim Wilson, Richard Blacquiére and Harvey McLeod found three at one location at North Head and a single bird elsewhere in that com-



munity on Nov. 7. That same trio found one at North Head on Nov. 22.

A **Nashville Warbler** [*Paruline à joues gris*] and a **Northern Parula** [*Pauline à collier*] were found lingering at North Head on Nov. 7 (Jim Wilson, Richard Blacquiére and Harvey McLeod).

A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** [*Paruline à croupion jaune*] was seen at Fredericton Junction by Freddie Givan on Nov. 26.

Alain Clavette and Richard Perron found a brilliant male **Pine Warbler** [*Paruline des pins*] visiting a feeder at Baie Verte on Nov. 18 and Yolande LeBlanc saw a rather drab one at Memramcook on Dec. 6.

A **Palm Warbler** [*Paruline à couronne rousse*] was discovered at North Head on Nov. 22 by Jim Wilson, Merv Cormier and Harvey McLeod and another was encountered at Sackville by Becky Whittam and daughter Evelyn on Nov. 27.

A **Black-and-White Warbler** [*Paruline noir et blanc*] was a surprise find at Second North River for Bob Blake on Dec. 5.

Alain Clavette found a **Common Yellowthroat** [*Paruline masquée*] at Long Pond, Grand Manan, on Dec. 1.

Merv Cormier found a **Yellow-breasted Chat** [*Paruline polyglotte*], in the middle of robin feeding frenzy, at Lorneville on Oct. 28. Another was tallied at North Head on Nov. 7 by Jim Wilson, Richard Blacquiére and Harvey McLeod and on Dec. 5 Bessie Bass also saw a chat at North Head.

An **Eastern Towhee** [*Tohi à flancs roux*] was seen at Petit-Paquetville by Roland Robichaud on Nov. 5. Merv Cormier reported a female on the Kingston Peninsula on Nov. 18 and a towhee visited the feeder of Tom Dupuis at Shediac Cape on Dec. 3. On Jan. 14 Erna and Ronald May reported a male was coming regularly to their feeder at

Mactaquac.

A **Field Sparrow** [*Bruant des champs*] was discovered at Saint John by Eileen Pike and Roy Pike and Janet Whitehead on Nov. 1 and Alain Clavette saw one at Doreen Rossiter's feeder at Alma on Dec. 13.

Doreen Rossiter had a **Savannah Sparrow** [*Bruant des prés*] in her yard at Alma on Dec. 7 and on the same day Jim Wilson reported one, with one eye missing, at Hammond River. A very late one was seen by Hugh Parks on Dec. 28 at Breadalbane, near St. George.

A **Harris's Sparrow** [*Bruant à face noire*] found near Harvey, York County, by Don Gibson, Shirley Sloat and Margery Acheson on Nov. 15 stayed for about a week allowing many people to tally this rare sparrow.

Ajo Wissink reported a **White-crowned Sparrow** [*Bruant à couronne blanche*] at Rosevale on Dec. 5.

Shirley Sloat, Margery Acheson and Don Gibson found a nondescript female **Lapland Longspur** [*Bruant lapon*] travelling with a flock of Snow Buntings at St. Andrews on Nov. 15. Mike Plourde saw four at Grand Barachois on Dec. 9 and Charlotte and Roy LaPointe found one at Saint-André on Jan. 22.

**Snow Buntings** [*Bruant des neiges*] started finding their way into the province in late October, as Ivy Austin encountered many on the Acadian Peninsula on Oct. 25 and 26, and Brian Dalzell heard his first of the season at Langmaid Cove on Oct. 26.

Two grosbeaks seen at feeders in the Fredericton area (at different locations) were scrutinized carefully to see if there was any possibility of one being a Black-headed Grosbeak. However, in each case it was determined the bird in question was an immature male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** [*Cardinal à poitrine rose*]. One was seen at the feeder of Mary Lou and David Pert at Scotch Settlement in early November and the other frequented the feeder of Jeannie Michaud at McLeod Hill through December.

A female **Blue Grosbeak** [*Guiraca bleu*] was seen briefly at Memramcook by Lomer LeBlanc on Oct. 27 (*vide* Alain Clavette).

Doreen Rossiter observed an **Indigo Bunting** [*Passerin indigo*] at Alma on Oct. 25 and Barb Curlew and Rick Elliott saw one at Waterside on Dec. 7. An Indigo Bunting seen at South Tetagouche on Jan. 11 (*vide* Roger Dumaesq) was one of the latest records for this species.

A female **Dickcissel** [*Dickcissel d'Amérique*] was seen at Saint John by Merv Cormier on Nov. 2. A Dickcissel was reported at New Horton by Woody Gillies on Nov. 9 and another at Alma by Doreen Rossiter on Nov. 22.

A **meadowlark** [*sturnelle*] (species not determined)



*Eastern Towhee*  
painting by L.A. Fuertes



was seen at Le Goulet on Jan. 12 (*fide* Roger Dumaresq).

A **Rusty Blackbird** [*Quiscale rouilleux*] appeared in the yard of Doreen Rossiter at Alma on Dec 8. Nev Garrity of Frosty Hollow, near Sackville, was starting to lose hope that the consecutive years of "rusties" at his feeder may end but then one was seen on Dec. 21. One was visiting the feeder of Sheldon Manual at Florenceville on Dec. 31. On Jan. 18 Norm, Gisèle and Gilles Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet found four at Cape Spear (near Cape Tormentine). Norm and Gisèle teamed up with David Christie to tally one at Riverside-Albert on Jan. 25.

A **Brown-headed Cowbird** [*Vacheur à tête brun*],



*Brown-headed Cowbird*  
painting by L.A. Fuertes

reported on Jan. 8, was coming regularly to the feeder of Dave Robertson at Cape Spear.

A number of orioles were reported throughout the prov-

ince during November and December. All were Baltimore Orioles except for one visiting the feeder of David Smith at Saint John on Dec. 10 which was identified as a male **Bullock's Oriole** [*Oriole à ailes blanches*].

Among the **Baltimore Orioles** [*Oriole de Baltimore*] reported were one at Alma seen by Doreen Rossiter on Nov. 2, two immatures found at North Head on Nov. 7 by Jim Wilson, Richard Blacquiére and Harvey McLeod and a bright male, with an injured leg, observed by Freddie Givan at Fredericton Junction on Nov. 21. The number of orioles found at North Head increased to five on Nov. 22 (Jim Wilson, Merv Cormier and Harvey McLeod). A female was reported at Landry Office on Nov. 25 (*fide* Roger Dumaresq), Margaret Gallant Doyle saw a male at Campbellton on Nov. 27 and Yolande Leblanc recorded a first-year male at Memramcook on Dec. 2. Alain Clavette and Roger Leblanc found three orioles at one feeder at North Head on Dec. 1. Pauline Woodworth and John Inman had an immature oriole at their feeder at Harvey Bank on Dec. 4 and one reported by Eva Adshade at Saint John on Dec. 14 had been around since the first of the month (*fide* Ngair Nelson).

Bob Blake, of Second North River, had a pale redpoll at his feeder on Dec. 6 that he thought was a **Hoary Redpoll** [*Sizerin blanchâtre*]. Charlotte and Roy LaPointe reported at least one hoary among a flock of over 200 redpolls at Saint-Léonard on Dec. 12. Alain Clavette was able to photograph one at his feeder at Memramcook on Jan. 8. Julian Singleton reported a probable hoary at Taymouth on Jan. 1 and Freddie Givan was able to get good photographs of one at Fredericton Junction on Jan. 13.

## Eagle Nest Gart Bishop

This eagle's nest, located just north and east of Norton NB, is easily visible from the new four-lane Highway 1. While active in 2002, no nesting took place in 2003, although eagles were seen sitting on it in April. Perhaps because the White Pine tree has died in the past year the eagles found a new place to build their nest.





## NATURE NEWS: BOTANY RAMBLINGS

LATE JUNE 2003 TO 31 DECEMBER, 2003

James P. Goltz

Many thanks to Bruce Bagnell, Gart Bishop, Sean Blaney, Dave McLeod and Dwayne Sabine for providing information on their 2003 botanical discoveries and collections.

### VASCULAR PLANTS

#### Species New for New Brunswick

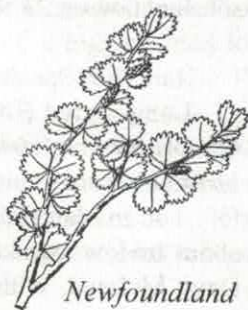
**Whorled Milkwort** (*Polygala verticillata*) and **Flattened Wild Oat Grass** (*Danthonia compressa*), both



Whorled Milkwort  
drawing by F. Emil

previously unknown from New Brunswick, were found by the field team of the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre along a logging road near Kirkland in late July. Both of these species occur in Maine, and were recognized as species likely to occur in New Brunswick (Hinds, 2000, *Flora of New Brunswick*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition); the *Danthonia* also occurs in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

**Newfoundland Dwarf Birch** (*Betula michauxii*) was found by Denis Bastien on 26 August at Baie-Sainte-Anne, Northumberland Co., near the "head" of the Portage River, in a bog dominated by sphagnum, ericaceous shrubs and Tufted Club-rush (*Trichophorum cespitosum*)(NBM). This small shrub grows up to 60 cm tall and also occurs in northern Quebec, Labrador, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.



Newfoundland  
Dwarf Birch  
drawing by M.  
Timmerman



Wild Oat Grass  
drawing by F. Emil

**Atlantic Mudwort** (*Limosella aquatica*), distinguished from the similar **Northern Mudwort** by its broader leaves, was found on tidal mud flats at Tidehead on 14 August by Sabine Dietz (GB).

A specimen of **Butterfly-weed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*), collected in June



Butterfly-weed  
drawing by J. Bridgham

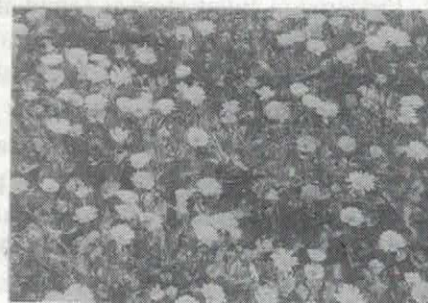
1844 by James Robb from a "bend in the Petitcodiac River", was discovered at the Connell Memorial Herbarium. This lovely orange-flowered milkweed is well-established in the gardens of several naturalists in New Brunswick but has never before been documented outside of cultivation in the province. The nearest known naturally-occurring populations of this species occur in southern Maine and central New Hampshire, and it is considered to be endangered in both states. Does this represent yet another amazing disjunct for New Brunswick, was it a garden escape or was there an error in labelling the specimen?

A single low sprawling plant of **Calendula** (also called **Pot-marigold**; *Calendula officinalis*) was found growing in open sand near the base of the dune/sand spit at Maisonnnette on 4 October (JPG, James Walde). This

showy European species is often grown as an edible flower in gardens in New Brunswick and elsewhere.



Mudwort  
drawing by F. Emil

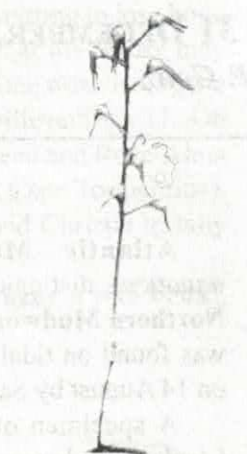


Calendula  
photo by Hopeseed



### Endangered Species

Two new sites for the inconspicuous **Southern Twayblade** (*Listera australis*) were discovered on 3 July, bringing the total known New Brunswick locations for this species to 6. A team from the Species at Risk Section of the Department of Natural Resources' Fish and Wildlife Branch, including Michelle Doiron and Dwayne Sabine, found 11 plants in a small bog just north of Chipman on the headwaters of Castaway Stream, close to a population of **White-fringed Orchid** (*Platanthera blephariglottis*). Later that same evening, 7 plants of Southern Twayblade were found at Bull Pasture Bog (JPG); 5 more were seen during a photographic foray on 6 July.



*Southern Twayblade*  
photo by G. Bishop

Only one plant of **Pinedrops** (*Pterospora andromedea*) bloomed in 2003 along the Eel River near Meductic, at a well-known site that is regularly monitored for this species (JPG). On 3 August, the top 2/3 of the inflorescence of this plant was in peak bloom, but by 6 August, blooms were only found in the top 1/5 of the inflorescence. This species evidently is associated with certain species of truffles.

### Extremely Rare (S1) Species

**Water Pimpernel** (also called **Brookweed**; *Samolus valerandi*) was found on a muddy river shore of the Tabusintac River, about 5 km upstream (west) of Cains Point on 12 July by Nelson Poirier during a foray of the New Brunswick Botany Club (DM).

**Tubercled Orchid** (*Platanthera flava*), previously known in New Brunswick only from the Oromocto River near Fredericton Junction, was found along the Eel River above Meductic by Sean Blaney in late July, and at Rollingdam along the Digdeguash River by Dwayne Sabine on 19 August.

**Pointed or Stout Blue-eyed Grass** (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*), previously known in the province only from a single historic collection (at Partridge Island), was found at two locations in the lower 10 km of the Eel River above Meductic (ACCDC).

A botanical survey of the Eel River between Benton and Meductic confirmed that **Smooth Alder** (also called **Hazel Alder**; *Alnus serrulata*), **Hairy-leaved Sedge** (*Carex hirtifolia*), **Bottle-brush Grass** (*Elymus hystrix*), **Ten-rayed Sunflower** (*Helianthus decapetalus*), **Riverweed** (*Podostemum ceratophyllum*), **Fragrant Sanicle** (*Sanicula*

*odorata*) and **Barren Strawberry** (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*) were all still extant there (ACCDC). Only very low numbers of the sunflower and sanicle were seen, but there were very healthy populations of the other species. In addition, **Slender Panic Grass** (*Dichanthelium linearifolium*) was found on rock outcrops at one location. Much **Nannyberry** (*Viburnum lentago*) was also found along the Eel River, but mainly above Benton. An additional 30 or more species of rare (S2) plants were found along the river during this productive survey. Botanists have studied and monitored the flora of the Eel River since at least 1884, and it is reassuring that some of the rarest species that have been found there, notably the Ten-rayed Sunflower, Riverweed, Bottle-brush Grass and Barren Strawberry have continued to occur on the river for over a century. The huge number of extremely rare to rare species along this waterway makes it one of the most botanically significant locations in the province.

A single plant of **Goldie's Round-leaved Orchid** (*Platanthera macrophylla*) was found in full bloom at Oak Mountain on 26 July (SB).

**Massachusetts Fern** (*Thelypteris simulata*) was seen at a well-known location in swampy mixed woods near Princess Park at Grand Lake on 9 August, growing almost side by side with its much more common close relatives **New York Fern** (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*) and **Marsh Fern** (*Thelypteris palustris*) (NBBC). Several Lady Ferns (*Athyrium filix-femina*) in the area had a growth form that was reminiscent of the Massachusetts Fern, making it challenging to differentiate the two species at first glance.

**Humped Bladderwort** (*Utricularia gibba*) was found at Germantown National Wildlife Area (ACCDC).

**Narrow-leaved Closed Gentian** (*Gentiana linearis*) was discovered in a damp roadside ditch at Cassilis along Rte. 420, on the S side of Northwest Miramichi River, on 15 August by Jim Saunders (DM).

**Small-flowered Gerardia** (*Agalinis paupercula*) was discovered in a wet open ditch beside a woods road at Nelson Junction on 23 September by Jim Saunders (DM).

### Rare (S2) Species

**Long-styled Sweet Cicely** (also called **Aniseroot**; *Osmorhiza longistylis*) and **Hairy-leaved Sedge** (*Carex hirtifolia*) were found in alluvial soil of a mixed floodplain forest on an island in the Little Southwest Miramichi River, about 1.5 km downstream (east) of Dennis on 28 June by Dave McLeod, with C. Merrithew, K. Sillikers and D. Johnston.

Two clumps of **Maidenhair Spleenwort** (*Asplenium trichomanes*) were found on a small sandstone outcrop at



Germantown National Wildlife Area (ACCDC).

**Lance-leaved Grapefern or Triangle Moonwort** (*Botrychium lanceolatum*) was discovered in a mixed forest located SE of Bathurst, W of Rte.134 and the Little Bass River, on 25 July by Jim Saunders (DM).

**Large Purple Fringed-orchid** (*Platanthera grandiflora*) was in peak bloom at Piskahegan Stream on 28 July (JPG); it was photographed there by Don Vail and Don's photos will appear in an orchid poster that is being prepared by the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists.

**Purple Milkwort** (*Polygala sanguinea*) was found by Steve Currie along a roadside at the Kenny Brook marsh in the Noonan area. This species was also seen blooming prolifically on 9 August in open gravel floodplain habitat on the western shore of Grand Lake, and along roadsides near the Minto coal fields (NBBC).

Two populations of **Felwort** (*Gentianella amarella*), each over 25 plants, were found on 5 September during a survey at Martello Tower in Saint John. This small but attractive pale purple-bloomed plant is a rare to uncommon native species in New Brunswick, usually found on calcareous soils. Officially recorded from less than 20 sites in the province, it is better known from the disturbed soils of logging roads and riverbanks of the Restigouche River. The Martello Tower populations seem to be doing quite well growing beside or on flat outcrops in the middle of the mown lawn (GB).

Hundreds of **Nodding Ladies'-tresses** (*Spiranthes cernua*) in full bloom were found along a roadside at Spednic Lake Provincial Park and a logging road located to the west of McAdam on 19 September (JPG).

**Screwstem** (also called **Branched Bartonnia**; *Bartonnia paniculata*) was found growing in open peat and sand on a small island at Sparks Lake on 14 September (GB, JPG). This species more typically grows in bogs and fens in New Brunswick.



Lance-leaved  
Grape Fern  
from E. Wherry



Felwort  
photo G. Bishop

### Uncommon (S3) Species

**Grove Meadow Grass** (*Poa alsodes*) was found in alluvial soil of a mixed floodplain forest on an island in the Little Southwest Miramichi River, about 1.5 km downstream (east) of Dennis on 28 June (DM).

**White-fringed Orchid** (*Platanthera blephariglottis*) was in flower at the New Scotland Bog on 8 July, accompanied by the blooms of more common bog species, such as **Rose Pogonia** (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*) and **Labrador Tea** (*Rhododendron groenlandicum*) (Jim Edsall, NP).

**Large Round-leaved Orchid** (*Platanthera orbiculata*) was in bloom on 18 July at Taymouth, where 4 plants of this uncommon species occur and are regularly monitored. Although the plants at this site send up their leaves annually, they had not flowered there for 3 or 4 years. A deer browsed the flowerhead off the largest one just before it would have bloomed, but the smaller one managed to flower (JS).

**Shore Aster** (*Symphiotrichum tradescanti*), a species closely resembling Calico Aster, was seen in flower along the western side of Grand Lake on 9 August (NBBC).

### Other Plant Records

Roy and Charlotte LaPointe admired **Arethusa** (*Arethusa bulbosa*), **Grass-pink** (*Calopogon tuberosus*), **Pitcher Plant** (*Sarracenia purpurea*), one of the **Cranberry** species (*Vaccinium* sp.), **Round-leaved Sundew** (*Drosera rotundifolia*) and **Bake-apple** (*Rubus chamaemorus*) in a bog at Miscou Island on 2 July.

While exploring Cocagne Island on 8 July, Nelson Poirier and Louis-Imile Cormier noted that **Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*) was the predominant hardwood tree on the island and was present in the "greatest concentration" that Nelson has seen anywhere in the province. Also reported were **American Beech** (*Fagus grandifolia*) with smooth bark, "a significant amount" of **Poison Ivy** (*Toxicodendron rydbergii*), and blooms of **Beach Pea** (*Lathyrus japonicus*) and **Sea-milkwort** (*Glaux maritima*).

**Sweet Flag** (*Acorus americanus*) was seen on the Tabusintac River during a New Brunswick Botany Club foray on 12 July (NP).

Common plant species in bloom at Taymouth around 18 July included **Small Enchanter's Nightshade** (*Circaea alpina*), **One-sided Pyrola** (*Orthilia secunda*), **Wood Sorrel** (*Oxalis montana*), **One-flowered Wintergreen** (*Moneses uniflora*), **Spreading Dogbane** (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*), and **Common Elder** (*Sambucus canadensis*) (JS).

There was an abundant crop of **Serviceberries** (*Amelanchier* sp.) at Memramcook in late July, and these



were much appreciated by fruit-eating birds (YL).

A **white-flowered plant of Square-stemmed Monkey-flower** (*Mimulus ringens* f. *peckii*) was found growing in sand and gravel along a small stream flowing into the Eel River near Porten Settlement on 27 July (SB, JPG).

**Dwarf Rattlesnake-plantain** (*Goodyera repens*) was found on a hummock in a Cedar swamp at Tabusintac on 30 July by Jim Saunders (DM). There are very few records of this orchid species from eastern New Brunswick.

A few plants of **Slender Ladies'-tresses** (*Spiranthes lacera*) were found growing in rock crevices in dense shade beneath White Birch in abandoned coal mining areas near Minto on 9 August (NBBC). Although this species is an early successional species that does well in disturbed areas, it typically prefers open areas.

**Groundnut** (*Apios americana*) was blooming prolifically in the Jemseg area on 14 August (NP).

**Rusty Woodsia** (*Woodsia ilvensis*) was found in crevices in a sandstone cliff overlooking the Miramichi at Lower Newcastle near Gordon Point Wharf on 15 August (DM).

The common, though very inconspicuous grass, **One-flowered Dropseed** (also called **Bog Muhly**; *Muhlenbergia uniflora*) was collected from damp peaty soil of a roadside ditch about 4.5 km N of Russellville on 15 August (DM).

Large patches of **Wood Nettle** (*Laportea canadensis*) were seen and photographed along the Tay River at Taymouth (JS).

**Fireweed** (*Epilobium angustifolium*) was still blooming at Whitehead Island on 26 August, when plants of this species on nearby Grand Manan had already gone to seed (BD).

Strong winds on the night of 15 October resulted in a great loss of coloured leaves from the tops of the hills and the slopes facing the bay in Albert County. However, in more sheltered areas there was still lots of beautiful colour (DSC, MM).

"Brilliant displays" of **Canada Holly** (also called **Winterberry**; *Ilex verticillata*) were seen along Rte. 15 between Moncton and Shediac on 4 November (Doug Whitman, *fide* MNCNIL) and along Rte. 16 between Shediac and Port Elgin on 5 November (NP).

In response to rain and mild temperatures around Christmas time, many of the buds on a few **Silver Maples** (*Acer saccharinum*) at Fredericton had greatly swollen in size by 26 December and looked as though they were ready to bloom (JPG).

## Non-native Plant Species

**Meadow Evening-primrose** (*Oenothera pilosella*), previously known in New Brunswick only from near St. Andrews, was found along a logging road near Kirkland (ACCDC). This species is generally thought to have been introduced into the province, mainly by escaping from gardens, but there is a possibility that it occurs naturally here.

**Sleepy Catchfly** (*Silene antirrhina*), an introduced species that is rare in the province and has been reported from western New Brunswick, was discovered at Benton and First Eel Lake in late July (ACCDC).

**Urban or Wood Avens** (*Geum urbanum*) was found along an old road at the north end of Second Eel Lake (ACCDC).

While cruising the rocky shores of the St. John River at St.-Basile on 19 July, Charlotte and Roy LaPointe spotted an unknown aquatic plant on the bank of a small island. It was just starting to produce a flower bud and they were unable to identify it, so they returned to the site on 23 July to find the plant in bloom. It turned out to be **Flower-**



*Flowering Rush*

photo by R. LaPointe

**ing Rush** (*Butomus umbellatus*), a beautiful invasive aquatic species. Ironically, it was growing about half a metre away from a **Purple Loosestrife** (*Lythrum salicaria*), another significant invasive. According to Inuk Simard, Flowering Rush has been found along the St. John River system since at least 1996, when he saw it at Grande Rivière in Saint-Léonard. Jim Clifford has seen this species in *Les Jardins de la République* at St.-Jacques, and wonders if the plants on the St. John River escaped from there.

Extensive stands of **Garden Valerian** (*Valeriana officinalis*) were seen on or about 22 July in fields in the vicinity of Sackville and Memramcook, where it appeared to be taking over and could possibly out compete other vegetation (DSC, *fide* MNCNIL), and also at Shediac Cape (NP).



**Joe-pye-weed** (*Eupatorium maculatum*), **Turtlehead** (*Chelone glabra*), **Agrimony** (*Agrimonia* sp.), **Blue Vervain** (*Verbena hastata*), **Water Parsnip** (*Sium suave*) and **Water-hemlock** (*Cicuta maculata*) were seen in bloom by Nelson Poirier and Bob Blake during a canoe trip along the Shediac River on 4 August (MNCNIL).

**Branched Centaury** (*Centaureum pulchellum*), a small pink-flowered Eurasian species belonging to the gentian family, and **Fall Panic Grass** (*Panicum dichotomiflorum*) were found at the Germantown National Wildlife Area (ACCDC). Both species are rather rare in the province.



*Black Locust*  
E.G. Bigelow

**Much Black Locust** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) was seen growing in abandoned coal mining areas near Minto on 9 August (NBBC); this species was extensively planted here in the late 1960s and 1970s to assist with rehabilitating the mined areas, and continues to spread locally (Elizabeth Mills).

**Carpet-weed** (*Mollugo verticillata*) was collected from cracks in the asphalt of a parking lot at Miramichi

on 8 September (DM).

A big patch of an unusual looking species of the Goosefoot family (CHENOPODIACEAE), seen growing along the Trans-Canada Highway between Mazerolle Settlement and Fredericton in September, turned out to be **Summer-Cypress** (also called **Red Belvedere**; *Kochia scoparia*). It was interesting that this patch caught the attention of two botanists (SB, JPG) who both independently stopped to collect it.

**Much Muskflower** (*Mimulus moschatus*) was found near the base of a seepy partially shaded embankment along the edge of a walking trail at Fort French Cove at Miramichi on 5 October (JPG, James Walde).

**BRYOPHYTES** (report kindly provided by Bruce Bagnell)

A New Brunswick Botany Club field excursion to Mount Douglas near Welsford on 25 October 2003 yielded a number of interesting, although mostly common

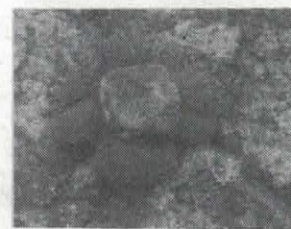
bryophytes. On younger tree trunks, we found small cushions of the mosses *Ulota crispa* and *Ulota coarctata*. The shelf-like growth of the rather shiny moss *Neckera pennata* and the large liverwort *Porella platyphylloidea* were found on the bases of Maple trees. Many boulders scattered throughout the forest floor were home to a number of bryophytes including the often silky-looking *Paraleucobryum longifolium* and the liverwort *Barbilophozia barbata*, a distinctive species that grows on rock and has three to four tooth-like lobes at the leaf apices. Also common was the "Granite moss" *Andreaea rupestris* on numerous dry, round boulders. Near the summit, close to areas of abundant Reindeer lichen, were large mats of the liverwort *Ptilidium ciliare*, a species that is common in cool boreal forests and often develops a purplish-red color when exposed to abundant sunlight. On the descent, along the compacted side of the trail, were small populations of one of the "Bug Mosses", *Diphyscium foliosum*, also known as the "Grain-of-Wheat" moss. The fruiting capsule is large and short and nestled among the long-awned leaves. Another small moss found on rotting tree branches on the forest floor proved to be *Leskea polycarpa*, a common moss with a long and narrow cylindrical capsule. It is found often on deciduous tree trunks, but more abundantly in areas of seasonal flooding.



*Ulota crispa*  
M. Thayer

## FUNGI

Many **Earthstars** (probably **Barometer Earthstars**, *Astraeus hygrometricus*) were seen growing in open sand in abandoned coal mining areas near Minto on 9 August. Other



*Earthstar*  
G. Bishop



*Destroying Angel*  
drawing by E. Burckmyer

fungi found

in the same general area that day, but in the shade of regenerating mixed forest, included **Pigskin Poison Puffball** (*Scleroderma citrinum*), **Destroying Angel** (*Amanita virosa*) and **Lobster Mushroom** (*Hypomyces lactifluorum*)(NBBC).

In the hemlock forest at Hall's Creek Trail in Moncton, Mike Plourde found the follow-



ing species of mushrooms on or about 12 August: **The Blusher** (*Amanita rubescens*), some of which were parasitized by *Hypomyces hyalinus*, imparting a whitish colour from "top to head"; **Red-mouthed Bolete** (*Boletus subvelutipes*); **Chanterelle** (*Cantharellus cibarius*), though their peak season was already past; and one **Peck's Russula** (*Russula peckii*), with its characteristic fine saw-tooth gills, red cap and reddish colour on white stem.

Several fruiting bodies of **Ravenel's Stinkhorn** (*Phallus ravenelii*) were observed in a fallen log at Taymouth between 16 August and 27 September (JS). According to Julie Singleton, "This mushroom lives up to its name (Stinkhorn) and gives off a strong, fetid odor that can bring you to your knees!" The odour of this mushroom attracts carrion flies, which then carry its spores to new locations. One mushroom had split the wood on the fallen log as it erupted through to the surface. Rains at Taymouth in late September also brought out some fresh **Lobster Mushrooms**, large bright, orangey-red mushrooms, the color of cooked lobsters; these had all but disappeared during the stretch of dry weather in late summer (JS).

A "big flush" of **Shaggy Mane** (*Coprinus comatus*) mushrooms was observed at Edgetts Landing between 22 and 29 October (Dwayne Biggar, *fide* MNCNIL), and at several locations at Shediac on 29 October (NP - MNCNIL). Shaggy



Shaggy Mane  
drawing by E. Burckmyer

Manes were also reported from Beaver Dam on 28 October by Gilles Belliveau.

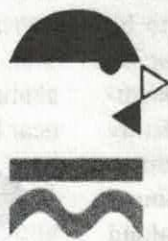
## PEOPLE AND PLANTS

Jesse Bellemare, a Ph.D. student from Cornell University, was in New Brunswick in late July doing research on the DNA of White Baneberries, to trace the migration of this species northward after the retreat of the last ice age. He discovered **Hybrid Baneberry** (*Actaea x ludovicii*), the hybrid between **Red Baneberry** (*Actaea rubra*) and **White Baneberry** (*Actaea pachypoda*) in a sugarbush near Prosser Brook, and near Woodstock (DSC, MM).

Doug Goldman, a researcher from Harvard University, was in New Brunswick in mid August, doing research on the ecology of **Grass-pink** (*Calopogon tuberosus*), and was also excited to check out New Brunswick populations of **Bur Oak** (*Quercus macrocarpa*) growing at Grand Lake meadows near the northeastern limit of their North American range.

**Abbreviations:** ACCDC Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre, BD Brian Dalzell, DM Dave McLeod, DSC David Christie, GB Gart Bishop, JPG James Goltz, JS Julie Singleton, MM Mary Majka, MNCNIL Moncton Naturalists' Club Nature Information Line, NBBC New Brunswick Botany Club, NBM New Brunswick Museum, NP Nelson Poirier, SB Sean Blaney, YL Yolande Leblanc

## Journée provinciale des Oiseaux



## Provincial Bird Day



Le 15 mai sera la Journée provinciale des Oiseaux. Nous vous encourageons d'organiser une sortie aux oiseaux afin d'apprécier notre diversité avifaune. Nous souhaitons que des activités de toutes sortes soient organisées dans tous les coins de la province.

May 15th, will be NB provincial bird day. We encourage naturalists in NB to organise outings to appreciate the great variety of birds in the province. We hope that you will all take part in this day with activities big and small.



## QUELQUES QUESTIONS D'UN NATURALIST LORS D'UNE ÉLECTION

Mike LeBlanc

Il sera, sous peu, le temps de l'élection Fédérale au Canada. Pour les gens qui aiment la nature, lecteurs et lectrices du Naturaliste du N.-B. et les membres des clubs de naturalistes à travers le pays, voilà la chance d'inclure vos concerns de conservation à l'ordre du jour des discussions politiques. Ensemble, les fédérations provinciales et la Fédération canadienne de la nature encouragent aux naturalistes à demander aux candidats les questions suivantes lorsqu'ils frapperont à vos portes, ou encore mieux lors des réunions avec tous les candidats.

· Qu'est-ce que vous et votre partie politique vont faire pour protéger... (choisissez le lieu naturel dans votre communauté)?

· Votre partie politique fera quoi pour protéger l'environnement marine du Canada?

· Votre partie politique fera quoi pour protéger la nature au Canada?

· De quelle manière vous et votre partie vont s'occuper

des problèmes dans Aires de la Faune? Si il y a un aire près de chez vous le mentionné.

· De quelle manière vous et votre partie s'assureront que le Canada rencontre nos promesses au Protocole de Kyoto.

Ces questions ne sont que des exemples que vous pouvez demander aux candidats. C'est notre responsabilité comme naturaliste d'assurer que les autres canadiens et canadiennes et surtout les leaders politiques aient un amour similaire à la notre pour la nature. C'est votre chance d'attester que vous vous préoccuper de l'environnement et que vous avez un respect pour le monde naturel.

SI vous avez reçus des réponses à ces questions ou autres reliées à la nature, S.V.P. nous aimerions le savoir ainsi de qui vous les avez reçu. Partagez-le au [pandion@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:pandion@nbnet.nb.ca) ou au 506-743-8485.

Merci, Mike LeBlanc

## QUESTIONS NATURALISTS MIGHT ASK DURING AN ELECTION

Mike LeBlanc

It's federal election time in Canada again! People who love nature, readers of the NB Naturalist, and naturalist clubs across the country have an opportunity to put our conservation issues on the agenda. Together with the provincial naturalist federations, the Canadian Nature Federation encourages all nature enthusiasts to ask candidates the following questions—when they knock on your door, or even better, at your all-candidates meetings.

· What are you or your party going to do to protect (pick a natural area in your community)?

· What will you or your party do to protect Canada's

marine environment?

· What will you or your party do to protect nature in Canada?

· How will your party handle the crisis in Canada's national wildlife areas? If there's an NWA in your area, please refer to it. (For more information on this issue, you can download our report Conserving Wildlife on a Shoestring Budget at [www.cnf.ca/media/sep\\_23\\_02.html](http://www.cnf.ca/media/sep_23_02.html))

· How will your party ensure that Canada meets our commitments under the Kyoto protocol?

These are just a sample of questions we can ask in every community across this great country of ours. Challenge your candidates to think about how Canada still has an opportunity to "do it right" in nature conservation. It's our job—the job of people who value nature—to ensure that other Canadians and our political leaders develop a similar love and respect for our natural world. This is your opportunity to show them you care and that this is an important election issue.

If you had answers to these questions please let us know what the responses and which candidate responded, send them to : [pandion@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:pandion@nbnet.nb.ca) or 506-743-8485.

Thanks, Mike LeBlanc



N. B. Federation of Naturalists

Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B.

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

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## Info nature / Nature News Références / References

Info nature compte sur les membres de la FNNB afin qu'ils nous communiquent leurs observations nature. Les personnes suivantes se partagent la tâche d'assurer un suivi aussi complet que possible à ce niveau. Veuillez faire parvenir vos informations à la personne appropriée.

### Oiseaux / Birds

- numéro d'hiver / Winter issue: Don Gibson, 50 Golf Club Rd, Fredericton, NB E3B 5M4 Tel. (506) 454-3261 email – [gibsondg@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:gibsondg@nbnet.nb.ca)
- numéro du printemps / Spring issue: Rose-Alma Mallet, 801 Route 133, Boudreau West, NB E4P 6P2 Tel. (506) 532-3482 email – [malletra@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:malletra@nbnet.nb.ca)
- numéro d'été / Summer issue: Ken MacIntosh, 220 King St. E., Saint John NB E2L 1H3 Tel 693-6799 email [coopers@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:coopers@nbnet.nb.ca)

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

- numéro d'automne / Fall issue: Pierrette Mercier, 888 chemin du Pouvoir, St-Joseph de Madawaska, NB E7B 2M4 Tel. (506) 735-6872 email [petem@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:petem@nb.sympatico.ca)

### Les invertébrés (Libellules, Papillons, Moules etc.) / Invertebrates (Dragonflies, Butterflies, Mussels etc)

Dwayne Sabine, 48 Bridge St., Fredericton, NB, E3A 4K9 Tel. (506) 450-7302 email – [dlsmejs@netscape.net](mailto:dlsmejs@netscape.net)

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### Reptiles et amphibiens / Reptiles and Amphibians

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

### Mammifères / Mammals

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