

31 (1) Spring / Printemps 2004

N.B. Naturalist

Le Naturaliste du N.-B.



Dog Laurel / Kalmia à feuilles
de myrtille (*Kalmia latifolia*)



Labrador-Tea / Thé du Labrador
(*Rhododendron groenlandicum*)



Rhodora / Rhododendron du Canada
(*Rhododendron canadense*)



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

277 avenue Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B. Canada E2K 1E5, 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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FEDERATED CLUBS / CLUBS FÉDÉRÉS

Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Buctouche, c/o Marc LeBlanc 1529 383 chemin de la Cote, Grand-Digue, E4R 4A9; 576-1075; courriel/e-mail: mireille_godin@hotmail.com, Site web: www.geocities.com/annbouch, 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; e-mail: bonniehb@nb.sympatico.ca, Information evenings every 3rd 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, 1st 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, Site web: <http://www.cnpa.ca>, réunions au Club de l'âge d'or Landry, 1^{er} 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; 758-958; courriel: yolande@nbnet.nb.ca, réunions er mardi du 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; 737-5282 (Bert Lavoie); réunions à 19h30, 2^{ième} 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, 1^{er} mercredi du mois; excursions 3^{ième} samedi ou dimanche; *La plume verte*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The NBFN is the provincial affiliate of Nature Canada (formerly Canadian Nature Federation) 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 Nature Canada (la Fédération Canadienne de la Nature).

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Cover: three spring and early summer bog plants

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

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

Please submit articles for the next issue by August 1, 2004

S.v.p. soumettre les articles à l'intention du prochain numéro avant le 1 août 2004

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MOT DU PRÉSIDENT - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mike LeBlanc

Bonjour les amis naturalistes.

Par le temps que vous lisiez ceci, le printemps sera presque fini, les oiseaux seront tous venus avec leurs territoires bien établis et l'AGA 2004 sera histoire du passé. Durant les derniers mois, le conseil d'administration de la FNNB a travaillé fort à mettre en place plusieurs politiques afin de clarifier les fonctions de la fédération. Voici les nouvelles politiques touchées : Financière; de Langue; Levées de Fonds; Opérations internes et Confidentialité. Cette dernière est conçue afin de respecter l'information personnelle de nos membres. Comme par le passé, soyez assuré que la liste d'adhésion à la FNNB n'est jamais vendue ou partagée avec d'autres organismes.

J'aimerais prendre cette occasion pour remercier Sabine Dietz, Directrice Générale de la FNNB depuis le mois de septembre. Durant son terme comme D.G., elle a travaillé fort sur les projets à long et court terme de la fédération. Souhaitons-lui bonne chance dans tous ses projets futurs et surtout lui dire un gros merci.

Depuis avril 2004, Marieka Arnold est passée du poste de Directrice des programmes de la FNNB à notre nouvelle Directrice Générale. Nous sommes heureux que Marieka ait accepté cette position avec la fédération. Nous sommes contents qu'à la fédération il y a quelqu'un en place pour prendre soin aux petites et grosses tâches au jour le jour, ce qui enlèvera des fardeaux aux membres du conseil d'administration. Si vous avez des questions, n'hésitez surtout pas de me contacter ou bien Marieka au bureau de la FNNB.

Dans la dernière année j'ai eu la chance de visiter presque tous les clubs fédérés de la province. Si vous ne m'avez pas encore vu, ça me ferait un plaisir de vous faire une présentation des activités de la FNNB ou aller faire l'observation de la nature dans votre coin. Contactez-moi.

Je vous souhaite des très belles observations cet été.

Fellow naturalists.

By the time you read this, spring will be almost over, the birds will be back with their territories well established and the AGM in Madawaska will be in the history books. In the past months the NBFN has worked hard at putting in place new policies so that federation activities run more smoothly.

Here are the new policies that were recently put in place: Accounting, Language, Internal Operations, Fundraising & Advertising and Privacy & Confidentiality. The Privacy and Confidentiality Policy is in compliance with the new federal legislation protecting the information you provide to an organization like NBFN. As in the past, our membership list is not sold or shared to other organizations. This policy simply assures that this continues.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sabine Dietz who, since September, was the acting Executive Director of the NBFN. In this time she worked hard on the short and long term goals of the Federation. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her luck in her future projects.

Since April, Marieka Arnold has passed from NBFN program Director to our new Executive Director. We are very happy that Marieka has taken on this new position with the Federation. We are also happy that the NBFN has someone in place to take on the small and bigger issues that go on in the day-to-day operations of the Federation, and this should lighten the workload of the Board of Directors. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Marieka at the NBFN office, or myself.

In the past year, I visited almost all the federated clubs in the province. If I haven't made it to yours yet, it would be a pleasure to visit to give a presentation about the NBFN activities or perhaps to go on a nature observation outing. Talk to your executive and get in contact with me.

Wishing you all some great observations this summer.



The NBFN has a new pin: developed by Aitkens Pewter in Fredericton, it carries our new trade name: Nature NB. The pin is available from our Fredericton office at the cost of \$ 8. La FNNB a une nouvelle épingle : développée par Aitkens Pewter, elle porte notre nouveau nom commercial : Nature NB. Elle est disponible de notre bureau à Fredericton pour 8 \$.

NEWS FOR NATURALISTS / NOUVELLES POUR LES NATURALISTES

Sabine Dietz

Celebration of Birds, Gagetown

The Celebration of Birds committee is planning to construct 3 platforms for loon nests, as has been reportedly done with great success in Ontario. In mid-May we are going to launch these 3 "test platforms" in a secluded lake - the one she refers to in the article. We don't want the name of the lake published in the Naturalist, but we would be happy to show you the platforms, once they are built and anchored in the lake.

For information please contact Bonnie Hamilton Bogart, 506-488-1888, or e-mail: bonniehb@nb.sympatico.ca

New Brunswick Botany Club

Have you ever been curious about the plants you see while exploring the great outdoors? The New Brunswick Botany Club hosts workshops, field trips and other botany-related events around the province. Members of the club encompass all skill levels ranging from expert to novice. We eagerly welcome new members and invite you to attend one of our events - whether you're an experienced botanist or keen to identify your first plant.

This summer, the Botany Club has organized a series of events around the province focusing on a broad range of species and habitats:

June 12th - Black Brook Botanicals; July 17th - Explore Hay Island; August 28th - Aquatic plants of the lower Saint John River; September 11th - Canoe the Cannan; October 2nd - Lichens & bryophytes at Barnaby Head; November 6th - AGM & Bryophytes: Plants in the miniature

For more information about the New Brunswick Botany Club or any of our events, please visit our webpage: <http://www.macbe.com/botanyclub/home.html> or contact Darla Saunders, 506-454-4526, or e-mail: darla.saunders@natureconservancy.ca.

Nature Trust of New Brunswick

The NTN has a "Photography by the Sea" workshop scheduled for July 10 with photographer Alison Hughes in St. Andrews. As well, there is an archaeological dig day at Sam Orr's Pond in Bocabec (near St. Andrews) in August (date TBD).

For information please contact Margo Sheppard, 506-457-2398, or e-mail: ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca.

Bird Studies Canada, Atlantic Region

BSC has several monitoring programs in New Brunswick to which volunteers can contribute:

Canadian Lakes Loon Survey begins May 24; High Elevation Landbird Program enters its third year in June; New Brunswick Forest Hawk and Spring Woodpecker Survey window opens May 15

Contact: Becky Whittam, BSC Atlantic Canada, 506-364-5047, e-mail: becky.whittam@ec.gc.ca

Canadian Wildlife Service

The Canadian Wildlife Service (506 364-5044) also coordinates some monitoring programs that naturalists can participate in, some require considerable experience in identifying birds from sound: Breeding Bird Surveys (contact Dan Busby); Maritime Shorebird Surveys (contact Peter Hicklin); Maritimes Nest Records Scheme (contact Tony Erskine, 506-364-5035)

The MNRS was started in 1960 with the intent to monitor breeding success of birds in NB. This monitoring program attempts to identify changes in reproductive success: Monitors are asked to follow nests and record, following standardized methods, the fledging of the young birds. Minimizing disturbance while gathering data is emphasized.

Nature Canada (formerly Canadian Nature Federation)

Nature Canada coordinates several monitoring programs that naturalists can participate in this spring. All of the Nature Watch programs are intended to identify ecological changes that may be affecting our environment: PlantWatch (focuses on recording flowering times for selected plant species and reporting these dates to researchers through the Internet or by mail); FrogWatch (focuses on reporting observations of frogs. Frogs are a particularly suitable indicator species because they spend part of their life in water and part on land.); WormWatch (focuses on learning more about earthworm populations and distribution in Canada. This knowledge will be useful in determining the health of our soils, and in tracking changes and reclaiming degraded sites.)

Nature Canada's NatureWatch website: <http://www.cnf.ca/watch.html>; or contact Nature Canada directly: 1-800-267-4088

Saint John Naturalists' Club

Point Lepreau / Maces Bay Important Bird Area receives funding from Nature Canada (Canadian Nature Federation) through their Community Action Fund.

The Point Lepreau Bird Observatory (PLBO) was established in 1995 by the Saint John Naturalists' Club as a result of concerns about negative impacts of oil spills on seabirds in the Bay of Fundy.

Nature Canada's (Canadian Nature Federation) Communities in Action program is supporting the LSBO in their effort to hire a dedicated observer to provide consistent daily coverage and to assist volunteers in their data collection during the spring and fall migration. Data collection has been underway since 1996 and will continue until the end of 2005 in order to establish a ten-year database of seabird records for the area.

For information on PLBO, please contact Jim Wilson, 506-847-4506, or e-mail: jgw@nbnet.nb.ca
For information on the Communities in Action Program, please contact Nature Canada at: 1-800-267-4088



Note: please send any newsworthy items to / Veuillez envoyer vos soumissions pour cette section à : S. Dietz (corvus@nbnet.nb.ca).

BOOK AND PUBLICATION REVIEW

The Big year-a Tale of man, Nature, and a Fowl Obsession
by Mark Obmascik, published by Simon and Schuster, 2004
(price 37.50 hardcopy, 25 paperback)

I was sent a review of this book from the Washington Post, by my daughter Kirsten who works stateside. Then I spotted a review in the march/April BIRD WATCHER DIGEST, by Bill Thompson III. I quite honestly felt that neither review was balanced. Therefore this attempt! Maybe I just want to provide readers with a warning! Author Mark is an exceptional journalist, and his writing is lucid and shining. In over 200 pages the book races along following the exploits of three very keen birders, as they burn the wheels of rentals, go offshore with Debi 'Shearwater,' and fly from one end of the continent to the other at a drop of the hat. The year was 1998, which turned to be a bird productive El Nino year, and when security checks in air travel wasn't too much of a hindrance, as they can be now. Goal 745 species, which one man actually attained in a marathon that lasted 365 days. It was a real page turner, following the exploits of the three male, 'crazy-birders.' All left spouses or family behind, these folks too are heroes in their own right. All spent unbelievable scads of money. Seems, listening is addictive.

This book isn't science based, so you won't learn much about avian ecology, or behaviour. It's more about human behaviour, sometimes extremely competitive, and other times grudgingly co-operative. No doubt about it, they were obsessed! Bottom line, if the sticker price isn't a hardship, I'd recommend it. Besides the hyper-activity of competitive birding, there are little enjoyable vignettes, of how Audobon got to name two birds for a farmer in New Jersey that was a patron. Because of this friendship we now have Harris's Sparrow and Harris's Hawk.

Reviewed by Hank Deichman, March 2004

Conservation Options for New Brunswick Landowners
Nature Trust of New Brunswick (ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca; (506) 457-2398)

The NTNB has revised its booklet on what landowners interested in conservation can do with their land. The booklet is available in English and French, and covers issues such as ecological gifts, gifts of land in a will, life estates, leases, conservation easements and stewardship. It also gives clear information on tax implications, and on donations from non-residents. This very informative booklet is an excellent tool to learn about and to inform others about options for landowners.

Reviewed by Sabine Dietz

THE SAINT JOHN NATURALISTS' CLUB

Jean Wilson

In 1962 a small group of interested naturalists gathered at the New Brunswick Museum on Douglas Avenue and formed the Saint John Naturalists' Club (SJNC). They decided to adopt the motto "to study, to conserve and to enjoy" (nature). Today, forty-two years later, the club still holds its monthly meetings at the museum, just as it has done during all that time.

The SJNC presently has over one hundred members, and they include one founding member, Marion Sherwood, who has regularly attended events ever since that first night. Another founding member, David Christie visits occasionally to pass on his love and knowledge of nature. Members meet in the atrium at the new museum at Market Square at 7:30 PM every second Monday of the month, except for July and August. The evening typically begins with a short business meeting followed by member sightings, a feature speaker and then refreshments and snacks. You don't have to be a member to attend.

The Club's close association with the New Brunswick Museum has provided it with a wealth of professional experts who are not only members but have also acted as guest speakers and field trip leaders. On several occasions the SJNC and the NB Museum have jointly sponsored special speakers for public events at the museum, and over the years many club members have provided volunteer services to various museum departments.

Our members have made some significant contributions to the knowledge of the province's flora and fauna. A recent example is the 1999 discovery by Ngaire and Dick Nelson of the first provincial record of Golden Hedge Hyssop (*Gratiola Aurea*) while they were canoeing in the Musquash watershed. Another was Heather and Ian Cameron's keen observations that led to the discovery of the first known nesting of Turkey Vultures in Atlantic Canada. Yet another was the photographing of the first documented N.B. Cave Swallow by Eileen and Roy Pike at Point Lepreau in the fall of 2003. Other members have also made many significant finds over the years.

Recent club projects include the extensive revision of the excellent booklet, "Finding Birds Around Saint John", that was completed in 2000. The SJNC has also operated the Point Lepreau Bird Observatory (PLBO) at the tip of Point Lepreau since 1996 when it was first realized that the large numbers of seaducks migrating there was significant and virtually unknown. During the nine years since it began, many volunteer observers have donated their

time at the PLBO and have collected an impressive amount of data on the various seabird species that pass in spring and fall. Several of these volunteers have been from other clubs in the region.

Grants from the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Canadian Nature Federation's Important Bird Areas Fund and the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund have made it possible for the PLBO to contract a dedicated observer to work with volunteers and be responsible for inputting the migration data into the growing database.

Point Lepreau and neighbouring Maces Bay joined an international network of Important Bird Areas in 2001 and a dedication ceremony was held at the point in September of that year. The designation "Important Bird Area" officially recognizes the significance of the area as a major seaduck migration corridor.

Three other projects have evolved from activities at the PLBO. Footage for part of the film "Seasons of the Eider", produced by Waterhen Film Productions and photographer Robert Long was shot at Point Lepreau in the spring of 1998. In 2003 the SJNC produced an educational video in both official languages entitled "Mystery Migration: Secrets of the Black Scoter". It tells the story of the migration of the Black Scoter from its wintering areas in the Mid-Atlantic States to the coasts of New Brunswick and on to largely unknown nesting grounds in the eastern arctic. The film will be distributed to all other naturalist clubs in the province and to as many New Brunswick schools as possible. The club has developed a set of teacher notes to accompany it, also in both languages. And in the spring of 2004 Alex Bond, a student at Mount Allison University, undertook an honors project on seaduck migration using data gathered at the PLBO.

During the summer of 2003 the SJNC decided to hold field trips throughout the summer for the first time in many years. These proved to be very popular and resulted in the discovery of significant range extensions within New Brunswick of two rare butterflies and the first record of a new mosquito for the province. Needless to say, we're planning summer field trips again this year!

The Saint John Naturalists' Club welcomes all naturalists to join us at any of our meetings, field trips, or club projects. They are usually announced on the Internet on "NatureNB" and also in the club's bi-monthly Bulletin. Please feel free to participate in the love of nature and help us "to study, to conserve and to enjoy" our New Brunswick.

LA DIGESTION DES FRUITS DU MYRIQUE DE PENNSYLVANIE (*MYRICA PENNSYLVANICA*) CHEZ LA PARULINE À CROUPION JAUNE ET L'HIRONDELLE BICOLORE

Denis Doucet

Les cires consistent d'une variété de formes de longues chaînes d'acides gras. Physiologiquement, elles sont parmi les formes de nourriture les plus difficiles à digérer. Par contre, certains oiseaux ont évolué la capacité d'utiliser la cire comme source importante d'énergie. Certains oiseaux de mer tels que les océanites et les alques métabolisent facilement les cires retrouvées abondamment dans les carapaces des crustacés marins qu'ils consomment.

Par contre, très peu d'oiseaux terrestres ont évolué cette capacité. Un exemple bien connu est celui des indicateurs de l'Afrique (« Honeyguides » qui mangent la cire d'abeille). Il est intéressant de noter que deux des rares exceptions à ce phénomène peuvent être observées facilement ici au Nouveau-Brunswick. Le Myrique de Pennsylvanie est un arbuste qui pousse abondamment le long de la côte est de notre province, particulièrement sur les dunes côtières (ex. La Dune de Bouctouche ou le parc national Kouchibouguac). Elle produit des grappes de petits fruits vert pâle très durs durant l'été, qui deviennent gris-bleu à l'automne. Les fruits persistent sur l'arbuste au moins jusqu'au printemps suivant. Afin de mieux résister aux hivers rigoureux, ces fruits sont recouverts d'une épaisse cuticule constituée en grande partie de cire. À cause de cette cire, très peu d'animaux sont capables d'en obtenir suffisamment d'énergie pour justifier sa consommation, malgré le fait que plusieurs s'essaient (ex. le renard roux, réf. Patrick Doucet, comm. pers.).

Fait intéressant, ces fruits ont longtemps servi comme source de cire dans la fabrication de chandelles. Cette pratique persiste encore aux Maritimes et dans les États de la Nouvelle-Angleterre, surtout au Maine, Massachusetts et New Jersey (les fameuses « Bayberry Candles », très finement odorantes...).

Curieusement, deux de nos espèces indigènes, la paruline à croupion jaune et l'hirondelle bicolore consomment des grandes quantités de ces fruits. Des expériences récentes en laboratoire démontrent qu'ils sont capables d'assimiler 80% ou plus de l'énergie disponible de la cire de ces fruits, et ceci par des mécanismes encore mal compris (Allen Place et Edmund Stiles, 1992). La paruline à croupion jaune est vraiment la seule espèce de paruline qui hiverne régulièrement dans nos zones tempérées, tandis que l'hirondelle bicolore peut résister à des périodes inclementes au printemps beaucoup mieux que ses cousines, ceci étant dû à la disponibilité de cette source de nourriture bien particulière. Elle arrive en moyenne 2 semaines plus tôt que ses congénères et autres équivalents écologiques. Ceci l'aide à choisir les meilleurs endroits à nicher lorsque la compétition est moindre.

Références : Gill, B., Ornithology, 2^e édition, 1995, W.H. Freeman and Co., New York, p. 163, boîte 7-2.



Paruline à croupion
jaune
Photo : Denis Doucet



Paruline à croupion
jaune, jeunes
hirondelles bicolores
Photo : Denis Doucet

Figures 1 et 2- La Paruline à croupion jaune (à gauche) et l'Hirondelle bicolore, deux espèces indigènes du Nouveau-Brunswick, sont parmi les rares espèces d'oiseaux terrestres au monde capables de digérer la cire. En fait, ces oiseaux ingèrent une quantité importante des fruits du myrique de Pennsylvanie, un arbuste qui pousse notamment sur les dunes de sable côtières de la côte est du Nouveau-Brunswick et dont les fruits sont enrobés d'une épaisse cuticule de cire qui représente environ la moitié du poids total du fruit.

ANATID EXOTICA

Peter Pearce

Situated in the Saint John River estuary at Sheffield, the interval at and near McGowans Corner often witnesses the passage in spring of a rich variety of waterfowl, a gathering of gulls and the brief appearance of an unexpected shorebird. For the visiting bird-watcher, timing is of the essence. The water level must be just right - not too low, not too high, but elevated enough to create an abundance of roadside sloughs.

Conditions were about optimum on the last day of April in 2003 when a report of a possible European Golden-Plover had drawn several enthusiastic rare bird seekers to the area. The quarry, of course, turned out to be a representative of the closely-related American form. It was actually a waterfowl that stole the show. Larger than a Mallard, bright orange-rust in colour with flashing white wing patches above and below, it glided in on set pinions to land on a not-too-distant pond. What a standout! It caught the original observer - and others who were quickly summoned from nearby - scrambling momentarily for a quick identification. Not surprising, really: Who had seen such a bird in the New Brunswick wild before? It was a Ruddy Shelduck. No doubt about it. The realisation that it had almost certainly escaped or been released from a private waterfowl collection - and therefore, for most birding aficionados, not "listable" - did not detract from the pleasure it provided as it moved about the vicinity during the next while.



Ruddy Shelduck

Photo by P. Dubois, used with permission

Madge and Burn (1988) reported that the Ruddy Shelduck has three separate breeding populations - in northwest Africa, in Ethiopia, and from southeast Europe eastward across southern and central Asia. It has been noted a number of times as a presumed straggler to Great Britain, Scandinavia, Greenland and Iceland. Godfrey (1986) cited records of Ruddy Shelducks at Grandes-Bergeronnes, Quebec, in June 1978-1980, and Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, in September 1982 and categorized the status of the species in Canada as "hypothetical" because of the birds' unknown origins. (A requirement that exotic birds held captive should be clearly marked in some way could help resolve the question of their source when they are encountered in the wild. Feather wear and perhaps standard leg bands are not always discernible under typical viewing conditions in the field.)

The nomenclature of the Ruddy Shelduck is of interest. Gruson (1972) stated that the word "sheld" is a variant of "shield", referring to the broad breastband of a close relative, the Common Shelduck. That species appears to be black and white, or pied, at a distance, quite unlike the Ruddy Shelduck. But with regard to the Ruddy Shelduck's scientific name - *Tadorna ferruginea* - *Tadorna* is derived from "tadorne", an old Celtic French name for pied waterfowl (Kear, 1991), again referring to the Common Shelduck. The specific name is from the Latin, meaning "rust-red". The Ruddy Shelduck is known as the Brahminy Duck in India where it enjoys a certain sacred status because its plumage colour resembles the colour of the robes of holy men (Kear, 1991). According to McAtee (1959), "shelduck" is a folk-name applied in New Brunswick to the three species of merganser that occur there.

The shelduck incident prompted reflections on the occurrence in the wild in New Brunswick of other exotic waterfowl and indeed other avian taxa. For example, the Egyptian Goose, a slightly larger cousin of the Ruddy Shelduck which is also classified in the tribe Tadornini (shelducks and sheldgeese), is another decorative bird favoured by collectors which shows up from time to time. Then there are the Whooper Swan, the Swan Goose (ancestor of the domestic Chinese Goose), the Bar-headed Goose and the Mandarin Duck, and the Barnacle Goose the origin of which still fuels discussion. The Garganey of Eurasia probably is a genuine stray since it is a known wanderer. Ross's Goose and Cinnamon Teal are a little problematic since they are North American species; when noted in New Brunswick the epithet usually applied has

been "debatable origin", reflecting a cautious approach.

The above species represent quite a cross section of the family Anatidae. What will be next? Sibley (2000) stated that "...virtually any of the world's waterfowl species can occasionally be seen free-flying in North America." Better watch out!

(On a curious historical note, what can one make of the Eurasian Red-crested Duck, now known as Red-crested Pochard, cited by Chamberlain (1887) as being accidental along the Atlantic coast of Canada?)

In addition to waterfowl, a crane from Africa, a number of upland gamebirds, a turtle dove, and one or two species of songbirds - almost all certainly ex-captives - have been seen in the wild in New Brunswick. Hmm...one should keep a list of such non-listables!

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BOTANY CORNER

Gart Bishop

Marsh Blue Violets / Violette cucullée (*Viola cucullata*)

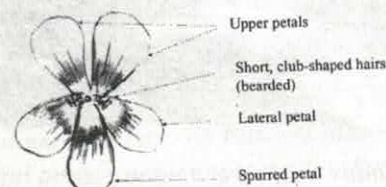
I think of our native violets as delicate, happy plants found in a wide variety of habitats. They are prominent members of our spring flora, for by July, almost all the flowers are past. The friendly blue clusters of the Marsh Blue Violet with its long stalked flowers held daintily above the leaves is one of my favourite violets to find along wet margins of country roads, in damp meadows or swamps. An alternate, not so dainty common name 'Fighting-Cocks' has been attributed to a New Brunswick source. A species of blue violet has been recognized (although perhaps not Marsh Blue officially) as our provincial flower, and a lovely drawing of it by Mary Young graces the cover of the second Edition of the Flora of New Brunswick (2000).



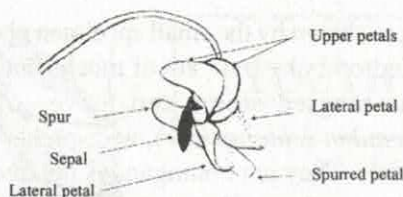
Marsh Blue Violet
drawing by Mary Young

New Brunswick has 15 species of native violets and as a group, they can be fun to investigate. When starting to identify violets, first note the colour of the flower, (white, yellow or blue/purple). The next feature to check is whether or not all the leaf and flower stems originate in a tight, basal, cluster (called stemless) or if the plant has a main upright stem, with individual leaves and flower stems branching off of it (called stemmed).

The Marsh Blue Violet has a blue, five-petaled flower, the spurred petal typically being shorter than the lateral petals (see diagram below). It is a stemless plant having typical heart-shaped leaves. To be sure that you are looking at Marsh Blue Violet, you will have to look very closely at the flowers; a magnifying glass will be most useful. Direct your attention toward the center of the flower, in particular the whitened portions of the lateral petals. Marsh Blue has small hairs that are swollen at the tips. As a result of the presence of these tiny hairs, these petals are called bearded. While Marsh Blue and Woolly Blue Violet (*Viola sororia*) both share all these features, Marsh Blue Violet has no little hairs (hence not bearded) on the spurred petal. Perhaps the lateral hairs should be more thought of as mutton chops or sideburns instead of bearded.



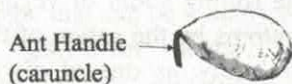
Marsh Blue Violet Flower - face on view



Marsh Blue Violet Flower – side view

Many of our violets, including the Marsh Blue, produce rather strange flowers which never open, but self fertilize and produce fertile seed (cleistogamous flowers). If you look carefully at a patch or two, you will notice these seemingly deformed capsules, usually on stems shorter than those with open blooms.

Violets are pollinated by insects, which are attracted to the flowers by nectar contained in the spur. When the dark brown to black seeds are mature, they are snapped out of a 3 valued capsule, and may land up to 3 m away. Once free from the capsule, the seeds are often further dispersed by ants who cart the seeds away, their grip aided by a small appendage at one end of the seed (Haines 2001). These 'ant handles', containing attractive oils and possibly sugars, entice the ants to carry the seeds sometimes as far away as 70 m. The seed has a shell too hard for the ant to open, and is left behind once the 'ant handle' is consumed (Sanders 1993).



Generalized Violet seed

The violet flower has been used as symbol of innocence and modesty. Napoleon I gave violets to Josephine and violets became a symbol of their relationship. Napoleon

III adopted the violet as the symbol of his regime. Cultivation was encouraged by the Napoleonic interest, resulting in France becoming a leader of new varieties of violets and pansies.

The leaves of all the violets are edible and pleasant tasting especially when young. They can be added to a salad or briefly steamed. Many early herbals list violet leaves as a treatment for cancers. Modern research has shown the leaves are rich in vitamin C (5 times more than an orange) and vitamin A (2.5 times more than spinach). A mild tea can be made by steeping the dried leaves. The violet flowers also are edible, and can be used to decorate salads or serving dishes, or they can make a healthy and enjoyable trailside nibble. The flowers of our yellow violets can have a cathartic effect and should be avoided. Collecting of violets for eating (as with any wild plant) should only be done when the plants are plentiful, and one should always leave the majority of plants untouched.

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FROM OUR PAST

Selected by Mary Sollows

The following article was taken from the Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick: No. XXIII, Volume 5, Part III, pp. 304-306.

NOTES ON THE NATURAL HISTORY AND PHYSIOGRAPHY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

By W. F. Ganong

82.-ON VEGETABLE, OR BURR, BALLS FROM LITTLE KEDRON LAKE.

Read May 3, 1904.

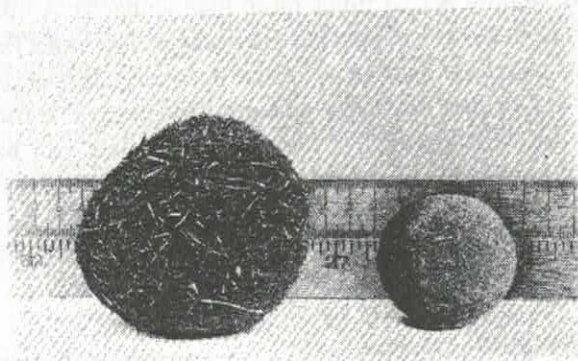


Two years ago Professor Bailey showed me at Fredericton a ball of vegetable matter, almost spherical and some four inches in diameter, which had been given him by Mr. P.H. Gillmor, of St. George, and which was said to have been found in Kedron Lake. Applying to Mr. Gillmor for further information, he referred to Mr. Wellington Davis, of Brockway, York Co., who sent me a similar ball, with letters, which read in part as follows:

I am sending you the best ball I have. It is not a very good one. I cannot tell you very much about it. It is found in the north end of the Little Kedron Lake in a small cove. No wind can strike the cove but from the southeast. It is surrounded with fir and spruce which hang over the water. The bottom is a clear sand. The spills (i.e. leaves or needles) drop from the fir and spruce and lie at the bottom. Then the water washing them from side to side forms the ball. There is no heavy swell comes in there. These balls

can be found in no other place in the Little Kedron Lake, nor in Big Kedron Lake. Sometimes we have found them from six to eight inches through There is a small underground spring-brook running into the lake, just where we find them.

A photograph of the ball here referred to is given herewith.* It is composed chiefly of the leaves of fir and spruce, but with some other vegetable matter, such as small twigs, etc., in addition, all interlocked together.



BURR BALLS. That on the left is from Little Kedron Lake, that from the right is a small specimen from Flint, or Sandy Pond, in Massachusetts. The upper ruler shows centimetres, and the lower shows inches. (About one-third the true size).

It is a coincidence that I was asked by a correspondent a year or two earlier whether the mode of formation of somewhat similar balls which occur in Flint or Sandy Pond in Lincoln, Massachusetts, is known. The balls which occur

there, as shown by the small specimen photographed beside the Kedron Lake Ball, are of much finer texture than that of the tangled stems and leaves of the Duckgrass (*Eriocaulon septangulare*), with perhaps also some other materials. They are homogenous in structure, without any apparent nucleus. They are described by Thoreau in his "Walden" (Chapter IX), who shows (and the observation is confirmed by two correspondents who have written me concerning them), that they are formed upon a sandy bottom much as described by Mr. Davis. From these two cases one would infer that such balls must be of frequent occurrence in shallow sandy lakes. Having, however, inquired of my botanical friends without learning of any other localities or of any published description of their mode of formation, I inserted in *Science* for April 8th a letter of inquiry, asking for information as to other localities, local names for them, published references to, or descriptions of them, materials of which they are composed, etc. In response, I have received but very scanty information, including only a single reference to another locality for them - a lake in Idaho.

It would be remarkable if no description of these balls other than Thoreau's, nor any account of their mode of formation, has been published, yet such appears to be the case. Presumably they are nothing more than the result of the rolling about of vegetable fragments on hard sandy bottoms by the action of the under-water parts of waves. Probably, as one of my correspondents suggests, the material collects first in ripple-marks, there becoming matted together in short loose cylinders; as these enlarge they are rolled out and over the bottom, where, gathering other material, they gradually become larger, rounder, and more compact. It is not improbable that micro-organisms develop within them, and, by forming zoogloea or other glutinous matter, help to fasten them together. It would be worth while, however, to trace out precisely how they start and under what conditions they may be formed. It happens that Dr. Hay and I were at Little Kedron Lake in July last (1904); had we known then of the existence of these balls there we might now possess some answer to these questions.

* For the use of the cut I am indebted to the editor of the *Educational Review*, in the August (1904) number of which journal this note first appeared.

A Kendron Ball was featured on the cover of the 2001 Summer / Été issue [28 (2)]. In the same issue an article appeared by Don Vail on page 37.



Save a Plant

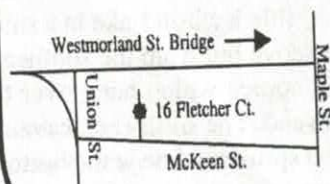


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YOUTH SECTION / SECTION DES JEUNES

GROW YOUR OWN PLANKTON

Plankton is composed of microscopic plant-like organisms (phytoplankton) and animal-like organisms (zooplankton). While phytoplankton are invisible to the naked eye, their work is essential. By using nutrients from the breakdown of organic wastes and using energy in the form of light, these microscopic plants create their own food for growth and food for zooplankton living in surface waters. As a result they are at the base of the food chain. Phytoplankton are abundant in coastal ecosystems and provide direct and indirect sources of energy for all that lives in the sea.

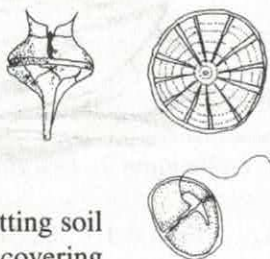
What you need:

Potting soil (0.5 kg), 1 litre jar, 500 ml of sea-water, vegetable steamer, flask (or bottle that can be sealed), eye dropper, cotton, fluorescent light, brine shrimp eggs, aquarium net, cultured algae mixture, air stone and aquarium pump

What to do:

To culture marine algae (phytoplankton)

Some phytoplankton:



1. Prepare a nutrient solution by putting 0.5 kg of potting soil or garden soil in a 1 litre jar and covering it with 500 ml of sea-water. Steam heat (do not boil) the water in a vegetable steamer for two hours on two consecutive days. Allow soil to settle then pour off water. Heat water to 73°C on two consecutive days. Pour final product (i.e. nutrient solution) into flask that can be sealed.

2. Pour 250 ml of your prepared nutrient solution into a 500 ml flask for each phytoplankton culture you wish to start.

3. From a sample of phytoplankton collected at the shore, use an eye dropper to introduce some algae into the flask. Put a wad of cotton in the mouth of the flask.

4. Place the flask(s) under fluorescent light. Keep them away from intense light sources such as bright sunlight.

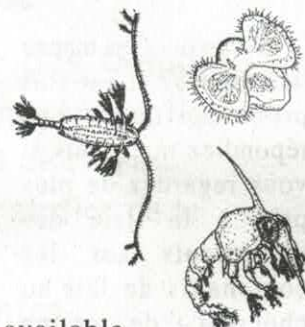
5. Occasionally mix the cultures to keep phytoplankton from settling to the bottom or sticking to the sides. You may consider bubbling air through the flask with an air stone and small aquarium pump.

6. In a few days the mixture should begin to change in appearance and colour.

7. Growth and survival rates for algae can be increased by refrigeration and addition of CO².

To culture marine zooplankton (brine shrimp)

Some zooplankton:



1. The most readily available zooplankton for culture are brine shrimp. Brine shrimp eggs can be obtained from most aquarium stores.

2. Pour one litre of sea-water into a jar. Add about 5 cc of shrimp eggs to the water. Aerate the water continuously using an air stone and aquarium pump.

3. The eggs will hatch within 24-48 hours. When hatching is complete, use a fine-meshed aquarium net to remove the live animals from the jar. Put the net into another jar of sea-water and shake it gently.

4. Brine shrimp can be added to the cultured algae mixture.

5. As the brine shrimp develop, they change from tiny nauplius (larvae of crustaceans) forms to many other stages of growth.

6. As they grow, they eat the phytoplankton.

What else you can do:

Set up a table to record the changes in both algae and

zooplankton jars. Look for changes in colour, smell, and if there is a microscope available, changes in the number of organisms and their stage of development.

Some questions:

1. What nutrients do algae require to grow and develop normally?
2. What do zooplankton need to grow and develop normally?
3. Design an experiment to test the changes that would occur in an algae and zooplankton culture if the essential requirements for growth and development were changed or removed. Record your observations.

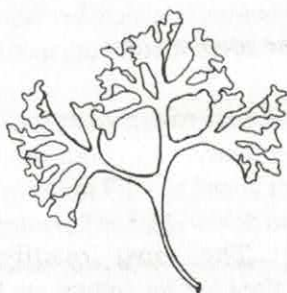
(This activity was taken from 'By the Sea,-a Guide to the Coastal Zone of Atlantic Canada')

DU BLANC-MANGER - MANGEZ-VOUS ENCORE DES ALGUES?

Avez-vous déjà mangé des algues? Il est fort probable que vous répondiez non, mais si vous regardez de plus près à la liste des ingrédients sur les contenants de lait au chocolat, de crème glacée, de fromage cottage, de vinaigrettes, de soupes (pour ne nommer que quelques exemples), vous vous rendrez compte que vous en mangez fréquemment.

Certaines algues contiennent des substances chimiques (algine, agar, carraghénine) qui sont extraites et utilisées dans la fabrication d'un grand nombre de produits alimentaires ainsi que de produits pharmaceutiques, de produits de fermentation et de produits qui entrent dans la fabrication du cuir et du textile. Ces substances chimiques ont des propriétés uniques d'épaississement, de suspension et de gélification.

On peut aussi manger des algues nature. La prochaine fois que vous serez à l'épicerie, cherchez-y des algues comestibles. On peut les consommer nature ou dans des soupes.



Mousse d'Irlande

Ce que tu as besoin:

Contenants de produit alimentaire, mousse d'Irlande, une pinte de lait, vanille, sucre, casserole, cuisinière.

Ce que tu va faire:

Étudier les nombreux usages possibles des algues et découvrir l'énorme importance des algues marines dans la vie des gens. Faire du blanc-manger. 1. Collectionnez les étiquettes de produits qui contiennent des extraits d'algues. Comment souvent mangez-vous des algues?

1. Collectionnez les étiquettes de produits qui contiennent des extraits d'algues. Comment souvent mangez-vous des algues?

2. Faites un étalage de ces produits.

3. Faites du blancmanger :

Le blanc-manger est un excellent choix de mets pour savourer la mousse d'Irlande. La mousse d'Irlande est une algue rouge foncé qui a des propriétés de gélification. Le carraghénine est extrait de la plante et utilisé comme agent de stabilisation et de suspension dans de nombreux produits, y compris la crème glacée, la pâte dentifrice et les tablettes de chocolat.

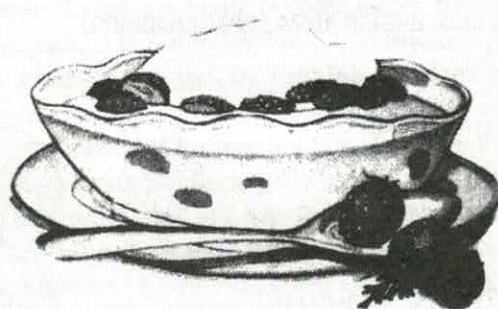
1. Ajouter une tasse de mousse d'Irlande lavée à une pinte de lait.

2. Faire cuire au bain-marie pendant une demi-heure.

3. Passer le lait au tamis afin de retirer la mousse.

4. Ajouter de la vanille et du sucre au goût.

5. Réfrigérer jusqu'à consistance ferme.



* recette tirée du livre intitulé « The Seaside Naturalist - A Guide to Nature Study at the Seashore. Deborah A. Coulombe. 1984. University of New Hampshire Press : Toronto ». Cet activité a été tirée du « Au bord de la mer - Guide à la zone côtière du Canada atlantique ».



This photo of a leucistic American Robin was taken by 14 year old Luke Parkhill of Saint John, on April 24th, 2004, in Saint John. The bird was with a flock of other robins.

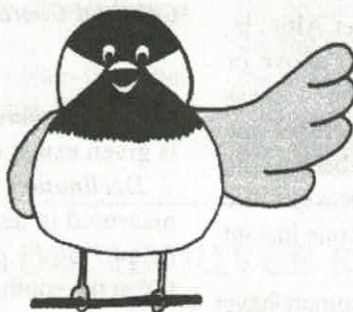
Forwarded by Jim Goltz

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THE NIGHTTIME NATURALIST

Roy LaPointe

In the last issue, I made mention of "right ascension" and "declination" without defining these terms that are key components of the "Celestial Coordinate System". Here I will attempt to enlighten you on a couple of coordinate systems used in astronomy along with some of the associated terms.

On the surface of the Earth we use latitude and longitude to specify a particular location relative to two imaginary lines; latitude being relative to the equator and longitude to a north-south line drawn (usually) through Greenwich, England. These measurements are usually made in degrees.

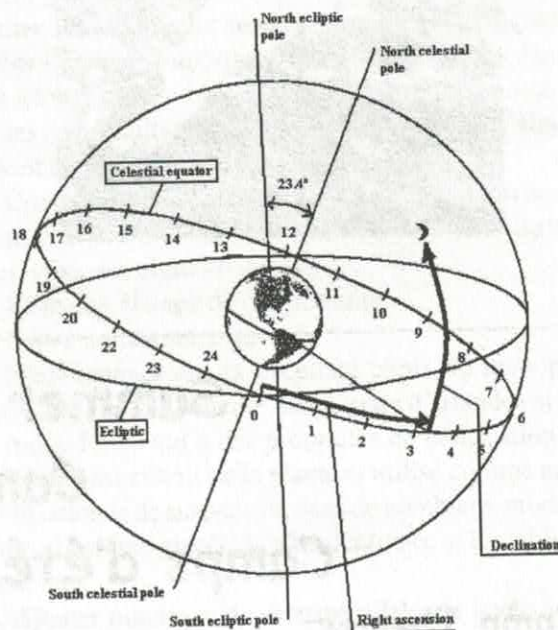
Due to the Earth's rotation, astronomical objects move constantly across the sky. For this reason astronomers may use time instead of degrees to specify longitude. The Earth rotates about the North celestial pole, or geographic pole, once every 24 hours or, 15° of longitude per hour, more on this later. Coordinate systems used in astronomy are similar to those used in geography but the reference points and names may be different.

The *topocentric* coordinates, better known to astronomers as *altazimuth* coordinates, use altitude and azimuth to specify the position of a celestial object. Altitude, or elevation, is the angular height of an object above or below the plane of the horizon. The azimuth is the compass direction measured clockwise from north of a vertical line drawn from the object to the horizon. One drawback of the system is that the coordinates are valid only for a specific location due to the earth's curved surface and at one instant in time because of its rotation.

To avoid the drawbacks of altazimuth, astronomers have designed coordinate systems fixed on the celestial sphere. This is tantamount to invisible grid lines being drawn in the heavens as is done on a globe of the earth.

The *equatorial coordinate system* is probably the one most commonly used by amateur astronomers, see diagram below. It is based on the *celestial equator* which is a projection of the Earth's equator onto the celestial sphere. The *celestial poles* are extensions of the Earth's geographic poles.

The *ecliptic* is a projection of Earth's orbit onto the celestial sphere or the path the sun traces around the sky in a year. The plane of the ecliptic is inclined at 23.4° to the plane of the celestial equator due to the Earth's tilt and is what gives us our seasons. This is also the path along which the moon and planets travel, within a few degrees except Pluto, and along which the constellations of the zodiac are found.



Celestial Coordinate System

Using *equatorial coordinates*, the position of an object is given using, at last, *declination* and *right ascension*.

Declination (Dec) is the equivalent of latitude and is measured in degrees ($^\circ$), arc minutes ($'$) and arc seconds ($''$) from 0° at the *celestial equator* to $+90^\circ$ at the north and -90° at the south celestial poles. *Right ascension* (RA) is the equivalent of longitude and is measured in hours (h), minutes (m), and seconds (s) in an easterly direction from the *zero-point* of right ascension. The *zero-point*, also called *vernal equinox*, is the point at which the sun crosses the celestial equator on its way north in the spring. This is the equivalent of the Greenwich meridian on Earth.

In the diagram above, the position of the moon could be give as follows:

RA 3h 18m 32s, Dec $+52^\circ 11' 22''$.

The *equatorial coordinates* allow telescopes with equatorial mounts to automatically track objects for long periods and astronomers to communicate the position of celestial objects to others regardless of their location on Earth. But all is not constant. The *zero-point* is slowly shifting as a result of *precession* and that, is another story.

Nighttime viewing. May through mid-JulyThe Planets

Mercury will be in the morning sky in mid-May but difficult to view.

Venus will dip further west until near the end of May when it moves into the sun's glow and provides us with a rare event on June 8, see below. At the end of June it will emerge in the East as the "Morning Star" where it will reside for the rest of the year.

Mars continues to move further away in the western night sky disappearing in the sun's glow in mid-July.

Jupiter continues to slide westward as it moves along just below Leo and will head behind the sun in August.

Saturn located in the twins will fade into the evening twilight near mid-June.

Uranus and *Neptune* are in Aquarius and Capricornus respectively but charts are needed to locate these planets. Uranus may be visible to the unaided eye under ideal conditions but binoculars or a telescope are better. Neptune is not naked-eye visible.

Pluto near magnitude 14 needs a large telescope and lots of patience to see.

Special Events

Two special events are coming up in this period; first the appearance of two, possibly naked-eye comets then, a rare transit of Venus.

The comets will not be as spectacular as Hale-Bopp but should be observable at least with binoculars. The best of

the two will be comet NEAT 2001 Q4 which will rise in the western sky in mid-May. It will arc just to the west of Leo then continue, reaching the Big Dipper near mid-July. Its position will be: on May 15, RA 8h 32.1m, Dec +18° 26', Mag 1.4; on July 14, RA 10h 49.5m, Dec +57° 13', Mag 6.2. Note that the magnitude is dimming, meaning that the comet is moving away.

The second comet will be Linear 2002 T7 which will be rising in the western sky in early June and staying very low. It also will be moving away and with its low declination, probably not worth the effort to try and spot unless you are planning a trip down south at this time. On June 14 it will be in the west at RA 9h 51.8m, Dec -8° 50', Mag 5.0. On July 14, at RA 10h 21.6m, Dec -7° 18', Mag 7.1.

The last transit of Venus occurred in 1882. A transit is the passage of a planet across the disk of the sun. Only the inner planets, Mercury and Venus can produce transits and these are relatively rare. Transits of Mercury occur on average 13 times per century whereas those of Venus occur in pairs more than a century apart.

This year's transit of Venus will take place on 8 June. It will be in progress at sunrise and will end around 8:30 am. If the sky is clear, get out early and enjoy this rare event but be careful. Under no circumstance should you look at the sun without the protection of adequate filters either with the naked eye and more so with binoculars or a telescope. Permanent eye damage can result in a flash, the last flash you may ever see. Be safe, not blind!

MY RESTIGOUCHE RIVER RUN PART 6

Irene Doyle

This will be the last of this series of articles depicting my river run. I hope some of you have enjoyed it and should you have any comments or questions you can always contact me by e-mail at "iredoyle@restigouche.net". You can also visit the website at www.restigouche.net and see the virtual copy of these articles with color photos. Here now is the last part of my run.

I have not been here when it's real busy during the summer months but it is apparently nice to see the fishermen catch and release. They are great sports and keep only the grilts and release the big guys, then they can talk about the big one that got away and not have to lie about it.

We've come past Grindstone, Pat had to use a pole again to get us through the rough spots and low level of water but all is well, I'm relieved. We are coming up to a campsite now, it looks nice and clean, there are toilets here and wood

that the boys left for the campers to use. Being here late in the year is also good for us because of flies. Apparently during the warm summer months they can get pretty annoying but today it's just fine, we didn't even have to use our "fly dope".

Our next spot of interest is at what they used to call "The old Cheuters Brook camp", it was a fisherman's camp and they would motor in all their supplies until they built a new camp a little further down the river. Pat tells me this place used to be a restaurant of sorts, they would sell hamburgers and hotdogs and it was owned by Nova Gold he believes, then it was sold to a man from Kedgwick, he had a bed and breakfast here then the camp was somehow burnt down and they never rebuilt it. Where the camp used to be, we can still see the gray cement wall, the old cribbing and an old weather-beaten wooden shack.

Again I'm excited at the site of another Bald Eagle flying just ahead of us, soaring so gracefully over the river, probably looking for his supper. We can see at least a half dozen salmon swimming on the bottom of the river here and the water is a little deeper than it has been, so maybe our friend Mr. Eagle is waiting for one of them to make the mistake of coming to the surface, who knows?

Looking around now, for the first time today I really notice the color of the leaves, they are starting to turn brownish and reddish in places. Fall is in the air and a little later in the month it must be a gorgeous site. Not that it is not a gorgeous site now mind you, but the added colors must really change the look of things. On top of the mountain up ahead, there's a tower on the Quebec side of the river and a sort of little camp that overlooks the river, it seems to have a road that comes in to it. Pat says he believes it was built by "Nova Gold" or "Cheuters Brook" to keep an eye on what's happening below.

Up ahead is Chamberlain's Shoals, it is apparently a very dangerous place any time of year, when the water is high it's a very fast part of the river. If you pass in the wrong place you may just end up upsetting your boat and getting quite wet as there is quite a dip in the river here. When the water is low it's another story, you can end up damaging your boat and motor if you go down the middle of it. But once again I'm glad Pat is my guide, he knows the river quite well and it shows, he can read it and knows where to pass and not to pass, he takes his time and even shuts down the motor here before we get to the bad spot which are beautiful falls once you look back. As we glide down the river now we pass by Toad Brook and on to Chain Rock Brook. The Toad Brook camp used to be on the Quebec

side of the river, but apparently a few years back there was a forest fire here and they rebuilt the camp on the N.B. side and a beautiful camp now sits there.

We stop on the beach here for a moment and admire the environment, breathe the fresh air, listen to the crackling of the wood on the little fire Pat has started and smell the tea from the kettle that he is boiling. I have not had a kettle of tea boiled outside for me since I was a little girl and my father used to do that. Sitting here I also notice that the wood is a good mixture of hardwood, softwood, pine, spruce, poplar and it's all nice and straight. There are also some gulls here waiting for the leftovers and as we sit here having a lunch, I can hear Black-capped Chickadees, Blue Jays, Gray Jays or as we call them here, Moose Birds. The latter are quite tame, as soon as they smell lunch, hear the ruffling of paper or hear voices, they come flying down at you for a handout. A Hairy or Downy Woodpecker can be heard in the background, I'm not good enough with pecking sounds to know which is which yet, but I know there is a difference. And from a distance I can see ducks on the river below us, which I believe to be Mergansers.

It is getting late now and if we want to get back to the Rafting Grounds tonight we have to leave this beautiful scenery behind and be on our way. As we sat there another boat went by with two guys in it and they must be running the river in one day as they had nothing in the boat, no tent, no coolers, and I guess you can do that, you reach home sort of late evening but that's ok too. We head down river passing by Brandy Brook, Silver Waters, Camp Harmony and then the Rafting Grounds (seen below) where Pat had arranged to have his truck waiting for us. And so ends one of the best nature trips of my life so far with hopes of returning some summer.



Rafting Grounds
Photo: Irene Doyle

BIRTH OF A CELEBRATION OF BIRDS LOON PAMPHLET

Joan Carmody

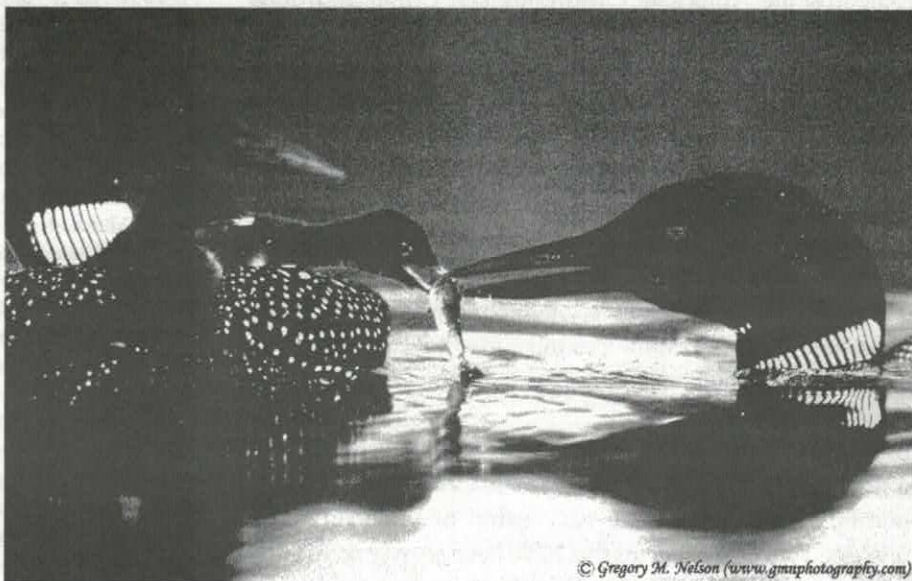
Village of Gagetown, Member, Celebration of Birds

We are fortunate to live on a secluded lake in Queens County, New Brunswick, a lake that is home to a pair of Common Loons. After noticing that in some years the loons did not appear to have raised any chicks, I began to monitor them with my binoculars and a telescope. I learned that along with the various natural predators and flood waters they always faced, they were now under increasing pressure from development, touring boats and fishermen. I saw their nest flooded one year when it was too late to try a second time. Another year they left their first nest to try another site after being disturbed by boats and fishermen, then abandoned the area altogether after being disturbed again. Other years they were disturbed but persevered.

I could not watch the loons every day, but enough to realize they could use a little help. Believing most people would cooperate if they were aware of the problems the birds faced, it was hoped an information pamphlet would be beneficial. When *A Celebration of Birds* in Gagetown heard of the loons' plight, they offered to sponsor the pamphlet by assisting in its development and paying for the graphics and printing. The finished pamphlets were distributed to

residents around the lake and other nearby water areas, and made available at a few local business outlets.

Most people responded with interest and concern. Some wanted to see the nest through the telescope, one helped by putting up a loon nesting sign, and others by keeping clear of the site during the nesting season. We are happy to say that last year the loons were successful in raising a set of twins, and we like to think that perhaps the pamphlet had something to do with it!



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Photo: Gregory M. Nelson, courtesy of Bird Studies Canada

CANADIAN LAKES LOON SURVEY

Becky Whittam

Concern about the effects of acid rain and other human disturbances on loons led Bird Studies Canada to create the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey (CLLS), a long-term project designed to monitor the numbers and breeding success of loons on lakes across Canada. The CLLS is conducted by over 800 volunteers across Canada.

Participants survey a lake at least three times over the summer, in:

- June to watch for pairs of loons occupying the lake;
- July to look for newly-hatched chicks; and
- August to record the number of chicks that have survived the summer.

Results of the CLLS are published in scientific reports and presented at conferences where they can have an impact on loon conservation. Many survey volunteers contribute to loon conservation in other ways as well: by taking water samples from lakes, by submitting loon carcasses and unhatched eggs for analysis, by posting CLLS educational signs, and by making floating nest platforms according to plans distributed by the CLLS.

For information on how to participate in the CLLS, visit <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/cllsmain.html> or phone toll-free 1-888-448-2473.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 2003-2004

David Christie

A new count was initiated at Richibucto this year but only 48 counts are reported here, one less than last year. Grand Manan was not surveyed because of illness and a report has not been received of the results at Memramcook.

About 1000 observers, some at home, others in the field, reported a total of 163,115 birds of 133 species on count day (+5 additional during the count period), about average compared to results of the previous five years, which ranged from 138,192 to 180,441 birds and from 128 to 139 species. No species new to New Brunswick counts were found.

As usual, the count results are presented in five pages of tables but this year there is a major change in sequence. Recently, the American Ornithologists' Union and other taxonomic authorities have accepted evidence that ducks and geese and the gallinaceous, chicken-like birds form a major, early subgroup of birds. As a result they now precede other birds on our list.

For the more numerous species, a symbol of plus and minus signs indicates how this year's results compare to the average over the past 10 to 15 years. This sometimes obscures differences between parts of the province. For example, the near-average rating for **Ruffed Grouse** results from below average numbers in southern New Brunswick and above average in the north; the same applies to the **Brown Creeper**.

Mallards continued their long-term increase and reached a new record high count. **American Crows** did likewise, perhaps in response to a succession of relatively mild winters. Two other species that have been slowly increasing, **Mourning Dove** and **House Finch**, have dropped back in the last three count-years but are still more numerous than they were several years ago. **House Sparrow**, the best current example of a declining winter bird continued in low numbers.

Winter populations fluctuate widely, particularly for birds that specialize in feeding on cyclically abundant foods. Small seed crops on trees farther north precipitated major southward incursions of **Pine Grosbeaks** and **Common Redpolls**, the latter accompanied by a record but small number of **Hoary Redpolls**. A marked influx of **White-breasted Nuthatches** would have had a more southern origin in mid-latitude hardwood forests.

Northern Shrikes, perhaps following an excellent breeding season, were commonly noted, especially in northern N.B., where snow cover was unusually light, which allows them better hunting for mice. **Snowy Owls** stayed north.

A patchy distribution of mountain-ash fruits this winter gave

rise to local concentrations of **American Robin** and **Cedar Waxwing** and a scattering of **Northern Flickers**. Overall, **Bohemian Waxwing** numbers were just moderate.

Results of the Miramichi, Dalhousie, Restigouche, and inland counts are presented in the first two pages of tables.

Miramichi (Mir) 32nd year

Dec. 29, 08:10-22:45. Clear, becoming thin overcast; temp. -8° to 5°C; wind W, 5 km/h. 10-30 cm frozen snow cover; about 10-20% of open fields bare; river 95% frozen. 10 observers in 5 parties plus 57 at 45 feeders; total party-hours, 19.25 (8.75 on foot, 10.5 by car); total party-km, 254 (14 on foot, 240 by car).

Harry Walker & Pam Watters (co-compilers), Margaret Adams, Barbara Archibald, Mrs. William Arnoldus, Joyce Atkins, Mrs. Barry Bobbitt, Jeep Bosma, Eileen Bransfield, Robert Bransfield, Eleanor Breaux, Don Cable, Winston Churchill, Florence Currie, Greg Currie, Rodney Currie, Barbara Digdon, Jane Farnham, Steven Geikie, Carl Gillis, Fred Green Jr., André Hachey, Mary-Alma Harrigan, Ralph Harrigan, Linda Hartlen, Richard Landry, Arlene Lisk, Robert Lisk, Irene Loggie, James MacKenzie, Theresa MacKnight, Anthony McLean, Georgia McLean, David McLeod, Phil McMackin, Clay Merrithew, Betty Muzzeroll, Randy O'Shea, Walter O'Toole, Frank Power, Vera Rice, Alex Riebel, Maxime Riebel, Nicolas Riebel, Phil Riebel, Mary Ripley, Melvin Ripley, Irene Roach, Eldon Rogers, Theresa Ross, Walter Ross, Jim Saunders, Harry Shaddick, Caroline Smythe, Delta Steeves, Hayward Sturgeon, Vida Sturgeon, Winnie Walker, Margaret Wheaton, Bun Worrell, David Woulds.

Dalhousie (Dal) 19th year

Dec. 28, 7:00-7:00. Clear; temp. -5° to +4°C; wind NW, 4-0 km/h. Snow Cover: 80% on open fields; 100% in woods, but only 5-10 cms; sheltered waterways 100% frozen, Bay of Chaleur and Restigouche estuary open, with only a very little drifting ice. 24 participants, in 6 parties and 6 feeder watches; total party-hours, 14 (7 on foot, 7 by car); total party-km, 140 (10 on foot, 130 by car).

Mike Lushington and Pat McGorlick (co-compilers), Bob Acheson, Francis Acheson, Dave Bernard, Joanne Bernard, Ruth Bulmer, Betty Doyle, Irene Doyle, Margaret Gallant, Bob Gillis, Sandra Gulliver, Loretta Hamilton, Tim Jaques, Francis Letourneau, Guy Letourneau, Erma MacNair, Ray MacNair, Don Mann, Isabel Mann, Steve Methot, Shirley Sharpe, Andy Watson, Denise Zyveniuk

Restigouche (Rst) 14th year

Dec. 26, 7:00-7:00. Thick fog at start, then lifted with the wind; temp. -6°C; wind ? km/h. snow cover ?; water open up to Atholville mill. 15 observers in 9 parties plus 29 at feeders; total party-hours, 27 (? on foot, ? by car); total party-km, 408 (13 on foot, 395 by car).

Irene Doyle and Margaret Doyle (co-compilers), Jean Marc Basque, Jeannine Beattie, Wallace Best, Jean Paul Breton, Lucien Bujold, Ruth Bulmer, Jean Caissy, Jonathan Chiasson, Raymond Chiasson, Emilie Clavette, Exie Delaney, Odile Doiron, Carole Dube, Dave Flynn, Doug Furlotte, Jean Gallant, Greg Guidry, Jim Katan, Flora Kelly, Ann Lavoie, Alvina Levesque, Mike Lushington, Lucette Lyons, Veronica MacKinnon, Allan MacNeish, Allan Madden, Don Mann, Jean Miles, Marina Mills, Clarence Ouellette, Margot Richard, Gilles Rioux, Pierrette Rioux, Shirley Sharpe, Mathew Dr. Swan, Sandra Thompson, Denyse Zeviniuk.

Saint-Paul (StP) 31^{ème} année

Le 3 jan., 8h à 16h. Nuageux en matinée, neige en après-midi; temp. -11° à -5°C; vent ESE, 11-16 km/h. Environs 20 cm de neige au sol; ruisseaux peu ouverts. 21 observateurs en 5 groupes; total d'heures groupe, 32.5 (7.5 à pied, 25 en voiture); total de km groupe, 378.9 (14 à pied, 364.9 en voiture).

Mike LeBlanc (compiler), Ron Arsenault, Mai Cormier, Éric Demers, Mariette Demers, Mélanie Demers, Brigitte Julien, Maria Gauvin, Edwin Girouard, Armand LeBlanc, Marc LeBlanc, Michael LeBlanc, Roger LeBlanc, Stella LeBlanc, Rose-Alma Mallet, André Richard Rita Richard, Jimmy Therrien.

Sussex (Ssx) 31st year

Dec. 14, ? a.m. to ? p.m. Clear; temp. -8°C; wind ?. Ground and water lightly frozen. 17 observers in 9 parties plus 2 at feeders; total party-hours, 56 (18 on foot, 38 by car); total party-km, 208 (37 on foot, 171 by car).

Jim Brown (compiler), John Arisz, Wilma Arisz, Tom Anderson, Gart Bishop, Darrin Byers, Ann Candy, John Candy, Marc Connel, Anthea Doyle, Donna Monahan, Lawrence McFarlane, Beth McFarlane, Jim McQueen, Barry McPhee & assistant, Jeannie Sharp, Eldon Thorne.

Hammond River-Hampton (Htn) 31st year

Jan. 3, 06:15-16:00. Overcast, snow beginning 12:15, continued; temp. -10° to -2°C; wind virtually none. Ground largely bare, a few crusty snow patches, fresh snow accumulation 5 cm; most brooks open, open channels in Kennebecasis and Saint John rivers, remainder of water frozen. 22 observers in 8 parties plus 48 at 36 feeders; total party-hours, 49 (7 on foot, 42 by car); total party-km, 647 (10 on foot, 637 by car).

Jim Wilson (compiler), Beth Allaby, Brian Archer, Emily Archer, Kathy Archer, Sandy Archer, Vicki Archer, Bob Barton, Dorothy Barton, Todd Beach, Richard Blacquiére, Dorilla Blanchard, Ed Blanchard, Bill Brittain, David Christie, Paul Clark, Merv Cormier, Barbara Crossley, John Darling, Phyllis Darling, Jean Dykeman, Jennifer Elgee, Jim Elgee, Mary Ellis, Ross Ellis, Linda Ewart, Nancy Forbes, Gordon Foster, Jean Foster, Lorna Fowler, Stuart Fraser, Bill Gentleman, Sr., Myrna Gentleman, Allen Gorham, Janet Gorham, John Hanson, Bruce Harding, Peggy Harding, Evelyn Hazlett, Kathy Hazlett, Carol Henderson, Lowell Henderson, Roberta Henderson, Pam Johnston, Peggy Kelbaugh, Nancy Ketchum, Jean MacDonald, Shirley MacTavish, Mary Majka, Allen McConnell, Jean McConnell, David McCurdy, Bill McKay, Beth Myles, Jean Northrup, Bill Nowlan, Caroline Nowlan, Juliette Nowlan, Betty Prince, Geoff Sayre, Les Scribner, Karen Thompson, Judy Whalen, Janet Whitehead, Brian Wilson, Gretchen Wilson, Jean Wilson, Jean (Sr.) Wilson, Phil Withers.

Cambridge-Narrows (C-N) 34th year

Jan. 2, ? a.m. to ? p.m. Sunny; temp. -13° to -8°C; wind W, 5 km/h. snow cover ?; lakes frozen, brooks open. 15 observers in 8 parties plus 17 at 16 feeders; total party-hours, 24 (7 on foot, 17 by car); total party-km, 245 (13 on foot, 232 by car).

Enid Inch (compiler), Nancy Amburg, Marion Belyea, Nancy Blanchard-MacDonald, Gary Bolton, Betty Carpenter, Marie Carpenter, Merle Carpenter, Howard & Marilyn Erb, Esther Friars, Wayne Friars, Imogene Gilchrist, Hanna Handajo, Alan Hicks, Sylvia Howatt, Rhoda Inch, Debora Kantor, Andrew MacInnes, Dot McConnachie, Elva McConnachie, Fay McCormack, Owen McCormack, Mary Moss, Mildred Moss, Connie O'Brien, Nellie Perry, Joyce Robinson, Doris Straight, Jackie Straight, Joyce & Niven Thorne.

Jemseg (Jem) 41st year

Dec. 27, 07:00-17:00. Overcast much of the day, clearing to sunny by late p.m.; temp. -5° to -1°C; wind W, 0-15 km/h. Snow cover as little as 0-2 cm in some parts of fields, up to 15 cm in woods; water c. 35% open. 18 observers in 9 parties + persons at 6 feeders.

James Goltz (compiler), Margery Acheson, Cameron Blair, Susan Blair,

Marie Carpenter, Rod Currie, Don Gibson, Enid Inch, Milda Markauskas, David Myles, Marven Palmer, Peter Pearce, Martin Roncetti, Bev Schneider, Shirley Sloat, Grant Treger, Owen Washburn, Ron Wilson.

Fredericton (Ftn) 48th year

Dec. 14, 08:00-17:00. Mostly sunny; temp. -14° to -6°C; wind E, 15-20 km/h. Snow cover 0-5 cm; river partially open, ponds and lakes frozen. 66 observers in 30 parties plus 32 feeder reports; total party-hours, 153 (73 on foot, 80 by car); total party-km, 1042 (138 on foot, 80 by car). Don Gibson (compiler), Erin Acheson, Margery Acheson, Megan Acheson, Diane Allain, Susan Belfry, Moira Campbell, Eric Carr, Mike Casey, Gerry Clayden, Susan Clayden, Christine Cornell, Merlene Crawford, Stanley Crawford, Rod Currie, Tony Diamond, Lucy Dyer, Graham Forbes, Marisa Forbes, Susan Gavin, Margaret Gibson, Angela Gloss, Jim Goltz, Gerald Goodine, Charles Graves, Heidi Grein, Doug Jackson, Diane LeClerc, David Lounsbury, Cathy MacLaggan, Milda Markauskas, Bill Martin, Gwen Martin, Dorothy McFarlane, John McLoughlin, Sarah Myatt, David Myles, Murray Neilson, Paul Nicholson, Jean Noble, Jim Noble, Margie Olive, Catherine Otorowski, Janet Otorowski, Peter Pearce, Wendy Rogers, Martin Roncetti, Bill Scott, Ron Stevens, Cliff Thornley, Bill Seabrook, Dwayne Sabine, Mary Sabine, Bev Schneider, Marc Schneider, Shirley Sloat, Rudy Stoczek, Jane Tarn, Richard Tarn, Glenda Turner, Kevin Tutt, Christina Vietinghoff, Suzanna Vietinghoff, Leon Vietinghoff, Owen Washburn, Ron Wilson.

Mactaquac (Mac) 24th year

Jan. 1, 07:45-17:15. Clear; temp. -10 to -5°C; wind NW, 30 km/h, gusting to 50. Light snow overnight; ground and water but river below Mactaquac Dam open. 18 observers in 6 parties plus 2 at 1 feeder; total party-hours, 42 (5 on foot, 37 by car); total party-km, 496 (9 on foot, 487 by car).

David Myles (compiler), Moira Campbell, Barbara Clayden, Gerry Clayden, Meredith Clayden, Stephen Clayden, Susan Clayden, Don Gibson, Charles Graves, Lorrie Holland, David Lounsbury, Sara Lounsbury, Joh McLaughlin, Bev Schneider, Marc Schneider, Shirley Sloat, Muriel Smith.

Chipman (Chi) 3rd year

Dec. 27, 07:30-18:00. Overcast, good visibility; temp. -13° to -3°C; wind NW, 10 km/h. 30cm snow cover; water ?. 7 observers in 4 parties; total party-hours, 21.5 (6 on foot, 15.5 by car); total party-km, 253 (8 on foot, 245 by car).

Jim Mills (compiler), Janet Crawford, Courtney Crawford, Lionel Girouard, Margret Macphee, Alexa Mills, Liz Mills.

Minto (Min) 14th year

Jan. 1, 07:00-17:30. Clear; temp. -20° to -10°C; wind NW, 30 km/h. Ground generally bare, but also up to 15 cm deteriorated snow cover; water ?. 13 observers in 4 parties; total party-hours, 21.5 (4.5 on foot, 17 by car); total party-km, 305 (18 on foot, 287 by car).

Jim Mills (compiler), Cyril Barton, Ann Boucher, Loris Boucher, Marc Bouher, Lionel Girouard, Terry Gunter, Alexa Mills, Elizabeth Mills, Tim Mills, Rudi Mills, Vincent Poirier, Enna Vahi.

Stanley (Sty) 29th year

Dec. 28, 08:00-17:00. Clear; temp. -10° to +3°C; mild to moderate wind; 10 cm snow cover, trees bare of snow; water 100% open. 8 observers in 3 parties plus 19 at 11 feeders; total party-hours, 23.5 (5 on foot, 18.5 by car); total party-km, 323 (11 on foot, 312 by car).

Julie Singleton (compiler), Katherine & Gerald Bavis; Theresa and Doug Bird; Lorna & Peter Belyea; Connie & Jim Campbell; Peter DeMarsh; Albert and Avis Dorcas; Gordon Dunphy; Thelma & Don Fairly; Gisele Gaudet; Jim Goltz; Jeremy Gullison; John MacRae; David Myles; Margie Pacey & Dick Greenwell; Dawn Parker; Uda & Oro Ross; Shirley Sloat; Robert Whitney.

Woodstock (Wsk) 40th year

Dec. 27, 09:30–16:30. Clear; temp. ? to -2°C ; wind 30 km/h. Light snow cover; some open water. 12 observers in 3 parties plus 15 at 14 feeders; total party-hours, 13 (2 on foot, 11 by car); total party-km, 369 (6 on foot, 363 by car).

Leona Avery (compiler), Rev. Ford Alward, Blair Avery, Danny Bowser, Duff Campbell, Moira Campbell, Lillian Clark, Michael Clark, Robert Craig, Lois Derrah, Mrs. Melvin Fogarty, Dawn Forbes, Mrs. David Fry, Verna Grant, Charles Graves, Matthew Guest, Adam Hadley, Eric & Jane Hadley, Matthew Hadley, Jack Lavender, Allie McBride, Karen Speer, Marten Speer, Robert John & Donna Speer, Pauline Yerxa.

Florenceville (Flo) 24th year

Dec. 26, 08:00–17:00. Cloudy, Cloudy, a few snow flurries; temp. -5° to 0°C ; wind 0–2 km/h; bare fields, snow patches along fences; Saint John River open. 7 observers in 5 parties plus 16 at 16 feeders; total party-hours, 13.25 (3.25 on foot, 10 by car); total party-km, 141 (7 on foot, 134 by car).

Helen Lovely (compiler), other participants not reported.

Glassville–Juniper (G-J) 20th year

Dec. 22, 00:00–17:00. Cloudy, light snow; temp. -10° to -5°C ; wind S, 2 km/h. 15 cm snow cover; small brooks frozen, others 70% frozen. 3 observers in 2 parties plus 19 at 16 feeders; total party-hours, 12 (6 on foot, 6 by car); total party-km, 166 (6 on foot, 160 by car).

Sally McIntosh (compiler), Frances Avery, Edith Buxton, Nan Curto, Rhonda & Rip DeLong, Ron & Elizabeth Fournier, M. Hemphill, Nancy Hemphill, Marjorie Martenson, Kent McAuley, Carol Ann McBrine, Claude & Nada McBrine, Ronald McBrine, Elsie McIntosh, Rita McIntosh, Peter Puleston, Marion Spence, Marjorie Spence, Fred Welsh.

Perth-Andover (P-A) 35th year

Dec. 22, 08:30–16:30. Overcast, flurries; temp. -12° to -5°C ; wind nil. 15–20-cm snow cover; rapids open. 3 observers in 2 parties plus 16 at 16 feeders; total party-hours, 12 (4 on foot, 8 by car); total party-km, 104 (4 on foot, 100 by car).

Murray Watters (compiler), Ellsworth DeMerchant, Joyce DeMerchant, Joe Farquhar, Barbara Fenwick, Corinne Fitzherbert, Glen Furge, Judy Hanson, Jo Hatchard, Robert Innis, Shannon Innis, Richard Jamer, Roy Leach, Henry Manzer, Judy McNally, Lori O'Brien, Gail Pickett, Margaret Wallace.

Plaster Rock (PR) 32nd year

Dec. 31, 9:00–15:00. Clear; temp. -5°C ; wind NE, strong. Little snow cover but many icy patches; river frozen. 5 observers in 3 parties plus 3 at 2 feeders; total party-hours, 11 (2 on foot, 9 by car); total party-km, ?.

Laverne Rabatich (compiler), Gwen Clyde, Bob & Kate Finnimore, Irene Hollins, Bessie MacDonald, Dr. Dusty Rabatich, Melissa Skinner.

Nictau–Riley Brook (Nic) 31st year

Jan. 3, 09:00–15:00. Cloudy, snowed most of day, harder in p.m.; temp. -5° to -3°C ; wind NW, 3–5 km/h. 5–10 cm snow cover, crusted; very little ice except on still water. 6 observers in 3 parties plus 7 at 7 feeders; total party-hours, 12 (7 on foot, 5 by car); total party-km, 84 (10 on foot, 74 by car).

Roger Jenkins (compiler), Tommy Argue, Anita Black, Erwin Landauer, Diane McAskill, Rose MacCullum, Leola McDougall, Bill Miller, Wilma Miller, Joan Nevers, Betty Ross, Theresa Ruff, Joe Yacovino.

Saint-Léonard (StL) 2ième année

Le 28 jan., 6h20 à 14h50. Beau; temp. -9° à 0°C ; vent NO, à 6 km/h. 15 cm de neige avec croute dure; glace 90%. 7 observateurs en 4 groupes; total d'heures groupe, 18.6 (4.8 à pied, 13.8 en voiture); total de km groupe, 260.4 (13.4 à pied, 247 en voiture).

Roy LaPointe (compilateur), Jean-Pierre Beaulieu, Marilène Beaulieu, Rose-Marie Beaulieu, Charlotte LaPointe, Allain Pelletier, Martin Roncetti.

Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska (SAM) 2ième année

Le 21 déc., 8h30 à 16h. Nuageux, neige de 10h à 16h; temp. -17° à -11°C ; vent S à 12 km/h. 20 cm de neige; glace 80%. 4 observateurs en 2 groupes; total d'heures groupe, 13.3 (1.8 à pied, 11.5 en voiture); total de km groupe, 271.6 (4.2 à pied, 267.8 en voiture).

Roy LaPointe (compilateur), Charlotte LaPointe, Allain Pelletier, Marc-André Pelletier.

Edmundston 16ième année

Le 14 déc., 8h à 14h15. Beau; temp. -15° à -9°C ; vent SO, 6 km/h le matin à O, 13 km/h l'après-midi. Neige, 8 cm au sol en endroit protégé à hautes élévations, nul ailleurs; glace 70%. 17 observateurs en 9 groupes plus 2 personnes à 2 postes d'alimentation; total d'heures groupe, 50.3 (13 à pied, 37.3 en voiture); total de km groupe, 548 (27 à pied, 521 en voiture).

Roy LaPointe (compilateur), Roger Albert, Jean-Pierre Beaulieu, Daniel Bouchard, Benoît Clavette, Gilberte Cyr, Carmon Dubé, Marie Anne Gauvin, Noëlla Landry, Charlotte LaPointe, Colette Lavoie, Vicky Lentz, Patsy-Ann Lynch, Pierrette Mercier, Pauline Morneau, Françoise Ouellette, Lynne Ouellette, Anik Simard, Gisèle Thibodeau.

Kedgwick (Ked) 12ième année

Le 21 déc., 8h30 à 16h. Neige et vent; temp. -10° à -8°C ; vent NO, 15 km/h. Neige au sol ?; lacs gelés, rivière gelée à 80%. 6 observateurs en 5 groupes, plus 12 personnes à 10 postes d'alimentation; total d'heures groupe, 15 (9 à pied, 6 en voiture); total de km groupe, 123 (5 à pied, 118 en voiture).

Pat Émond (compilateur), Mariette April, Claude Bélanger, Roger Boudreau, Hélène Cimon, René Cimon, Rino Deschênes, Ginette Émond, Yvon Émond, Magella Gallant, Roland Gallant, Clara Girard, Robert Laouche, Monica MacDonald, Roland Simon, Maurice Simon, France Thériault, Maurice Thibault.

Mount Carleton Provincial Park (MtC) 26th year

Dec. 23, 08:30–14:30. Cloudy; temp. -2° to $+1^{\circ}\text{C}$; wind NW, 1–3 km/h. Snow cover 15–20 cm, "turned packy"; very little frozen water. 3 observers in 2 parties; total party-hours, 12 (9 on foot, 3 by car); total party-km, 105 (12 on foot, 93 by car).

Roger Jenkins (compiler), Erwin & Marion Landauer.

Southeast Upsalquitch (SEU) 22nd year

Dec. 27, 09:10–16:20. Sun with variable clouds; temp. -6° to -7°C ; wind NW, 15–20 km/h. Ground snow-covered; river 85% open. 7 observers in 2 parties; total party-hours, 10 (6 on foot, 4 by car); total party-km, 100 (20 on foot, 80 by car).

Rod O'Connell (compiler), Lon Bechervaise, Karl Branch, Gary Goodwin, Gérard Robichaud, Rachelle Warman.

Paquetville (Paq) 16ième année

Le 28 déc., 8h à 17h. Très peu de nuage; temp. -6° à $+7^{\circ}\text{C}$; vent NO. 10–15 cm de neige; toutes les ruisseaux dégelés. 11 observateurs en 4 groupes; total d'heures groupe, ?; total de km groupe, 363.5 (9.5 à pied, 354 en voiture).

Roland Robichaud (compilateur), Frank Branch, Hilaire Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Claude Godin, Denise Godin, Jocelyn Godin, Jude Larocque, Nicole Mercier, Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Results of the following coastal counts are in the last 3 pages of the tables.

Eastport–Campobello (E-C) 37th year

Dec. 26, 08:00–15:00 EST. Partly Cloudy a.m. and p.m., light Rain in the a.m.; temp. -0.6° to $+1^{\circ}\text{C}$; wind SE, 6–24 km/h. 0–2.5 cm snow cover; still water frozen; moving partly frozen.

Maurry Mills (compiler), Alan Brooks, James Crotteau, Jennifer Multhopp, Ralph Multhopp, Fred Stocking, Marion Stocking.

St. Stephen (StS) 3rd year

Jan. 3, 08:30–16:00. Overcast, some flurries a.m., snow p.m.; temp. -2° to $+6^{\circ}\text{C}$; NW, 2–5 km/h. Scattered patches of snow; ponds, lakes and streams frozen, St. Croix River partly frozen.

Ron McGuire (compiler), Bob Brown, Myles Delong, David Good, Leanna Good, Anne Johnston, Mary Livingstone, Brand Livingstone, Garnet Lonton, John Mallory, Bill McGuire, Anna P. Moffatt, Tom Moffatt, Bill Nelson.

St. Andrews (StA) 43rd year

Dec. 14, 08:30–15:30. Clear a.m., clouding over p.m.; temp. -16° to -5°C ; wind NW, 25–30 km/h. Ground frozen and bare; still fresh water mostly frozen, running water open, salt water open, shore ice.

Tracey Dean (compiler), Blaine & Jane Chamberlain, Sandra Cooper, Lad Dunfield, Ron McGuire, Ken MacIntosh, Bill Nelson, Lonnie & Lee Ryall, Ray & Dick Peterson, Max & Willie Wolfe.

Blacks Harbour (BH) 41st year

Dec. 20, 08:00–16:50. Partly cloudy; temp. -3° to $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$; wind N, 5–10 km/h. Snow cover ?; running water including major rivers, mostly frozen and still water partly open.

Ken MacIntosh (compiler), Christine Cornell, Tracey Dean, Bill Nelson, Hugh Parks, Kevin Tutt.

Point Lepreau (Lep) 40th year

Dec. 20, 08:12–16:56. Partly cloudy; temp. -5° to -2°C ; wind NW, 20 km/h. Snow cover ?; open streams.

David McCurdy (compiler), Richard Blacquié, Alex Bond, Peter Hicklin, Eileen Pike, Jim Wilson.

Saint John (SJ) 47th year

Dec. 27, 08:00–16:40. Heavy cloud; temp. -3° to 0°C ; wind NNW, 20–40 km/h. Light snow cover; running water including major rivers mostly open, ponds mostly frozen.

Ken MacIntosh (compiler), Mike Bamford, Anne Bardou, Richard Blacquié, Ethel Bosence, Helen Brown, Ian Cameron, David Christie, David Clark, Stephen, Barbara, Miles and Meredith Clayden, Sandra Cooper, Hank, Joanne, Thor and Kirsten Deichmann, Ella Donovan, Nick Doucette, Jeannie Finn-Allen, Ngairé Nelson, Jim Evans, Cheryl Gass, Allen and Janet Gorham, Kit and Marg Graham, Rory Grant, Holly Haines, Juliet Hickman, Kelly Honeyman, Denise Johnston, Frank Kelly, Dave MacPherson, Don McAlpine, Eunice McElwaine, Doreen McIntosh, Rose-Alma Mallet, Anne Marsden, Ross and Willa Mavis, John Moffatt, Rick Peacock, Joan Pearce, Eileen Pike, Susan Pitrie, Daniel Potter, Paul Potter, Elizabeth Prescott, Mary Richard, Marion Sherwood, Dave Smith, Don Smith, Evan Smith, Ian Stead, David Tatton, Karen Thompson, Belle Watkins, Frank Withers, Mitzi Withers, Jim Wilson.

St. Martins (StM) 23rd year

Dec. 28; ? a.m. to ? p.m. Clear; temp. -6° to $+3^{\circ}\text{C}$; wind W, 12 km/h. Minimal snow cover at coast to 15 cm inland; all freshwater open.

Ted Sears (compiler), Leo Collins, Frank Kelly, Ed LeBlanc, Jane LeBlanc, Bob Melvin, Trudy Melvin, Jim Russell, Mike Russell, Christina Sears, Margaret Sears, Nancy Sears, Dennis Seely, Lloyd Sherwood.

Fundy National Park (FNP) 39th year

Dec. 19, 08:30–16:30. Partly cloudy to mostly clear; temp. -3.5° to $+1^{\circ}\text{C}$; wind W light a.m., SW moderate with gusts p.m. Ground lightly snow-covered; lakes frozen, streams open.

Melanie Desjardins (compiler), Jim Blewett, Alain Caissie, David Christie, Rick Cook, Edouard Daigle, Anna Holdaway, Pat Martin, Beulah Michelin, Barb Sinclair, Daniel Sinclair, George Sinclair, Mario Sippley, Matt Smith, Coreen Snider, Karen Townsend, Jane Watts, Renee Wissink.

Riverside-Albert (R-A) 35th year

Jan. 1, 07:30–17:40. Partly cloudy early, soon becoming clear; temp. -5° to -1°C ; wind W to WNW, 20–40 km/h with stronger gusts. Snow cover mostly none in the open, with scattered patches of crusted snow, 0–20 cm in woods at the coast, 20–25 cm in the hills; fresh ponds frozen, salt ponds mostly frozen Shepody River mostly open, brooks open, no sea or beach ice.

David Christie (compiler), Deborah Carr, Barbara Curlew, Jim Edsall, Rick Elliott, John Inman, Gail Jasper, Roger Leblanc, Mary Majka, Mike Majka, Stuart & Pat Martin, Juliette Pellerin, Nelson Poirier, Gail Walker, Pauline Woodworth.

Moncton (Mtn) 42nd year

Dec. 20, 08:00–16:30. Clear to partly cloudy; temp. -4° to -12°C ; wind SW, 11 km/h. Ground snow-covered; most water frozen.

Janet MacMillan (compiler), Bev Taylor (organizer), Chris & Mike Antle, Brian Beaman, Gilles, Giselle & Normand Belliveau, Bob Betts, Bob Blake, Gilles Bourque, Marc Chiasson, David Christie, Bob Cotsworth, Cheryl Davis, Jackie & Lloyd DeCoste, Marg Fanjoy, Sue Hoar, Shirley Hunt, Jean Inglis, Oscar LeBlanc, Roger Leblanc, Edwin Melanson, Cameron Patterson, Nelson Poirier, Mike Rae, Wendy Sullivan, Alma & Don White, Ralph White.

Sackville (Sck) 44th year

Dec. 14, ?–? Clear; temp. -14° to -6°C ; wind: a.m. NW, 8–25 km/h, p.m. W, 3–10 km/h. Snow cover 0–40 cm; fresh water >98% frozen; saltwater open.

Sean Blaney & Becky Whittam (co-compilers), other participants not reported.

Cape Tormentine (CT) 42nd year

Dec. 17, 07:45–16:15. Mostly cloudy with occasional sunny intervals; temp. -2° to $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$; wind SW, 0–3 km/h, increasing to 3–5 in early p.m.. Ground mostly snow-covered with 0–30 cm of fresh drifted snow; freshwater mostly frozen, salt water open with slushy patches in protected coves.

Al Smith (compiler), Sean Blaney, Paul Bogaard, Richard Elliott, Tony Erskine, Ross Galbraith, Nev Garrity, Bob Grant, Jasn Hudson, Donna Johnson, Andrew Kennedy, Sean LeMoine, Helen Lines, Andrew Macfarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Lionel McDonough, Julie McKnight, Ralph Stopps.

Shédiac (Shd) 16ième année

Le 14 déc., 08:00–16:00. Soleil avec quelques nuages; temp. -14° à -6°C ; vent W, 10 km/h. 15 à 20 cm de neige au sol, bare patches in fields; Mer ouverte, rivières et marais glacé avec eau un peu ouverte.

Normand Belliveau (compilateur), Gilles Belliveau, Gisèle Belliveau, Gilles Bourque, Raymonde Chartier, Donald Cormier, Léona Cormier, Louis-Émile Cormier, Mariette Demers, Denis Doucet, Raymond Doiron, Maria Gauvin, Jean-Sébastien Guénette, Marc Leblanc, Mike LeBlanc, Stella Leblanc, Angéla Léger, Brian Léger, Fred Léger, Richard Léger, Valerie Léger, Jérôme Lemaitre, Rose-Alma Mallet, Dwight MacKinnon, Léo Martin, Onide Maurice, Donald Pellerin, Juliette Pellerin, Maude Pelletier, Richard Perron, François Richard, Denise Thériault, Stuart Tingley.

Bouctouche (Buc) 8ième année

Le 21 déc., 8:00–16:00. Dégagé; temp. -14° à -8°C ; vent SO, 18 km/h. 60 cm de neige en forêt; détroit de Northumberland complètement ouvert, baie de Bouctouche 80% couverte de glace.

Mike LeBlanc (compilateur), Gilles, Gisèle et Normand Belliveau, Louis-Émile Cormier, Mariette et Paul Demers, Maria Gauvin, Mireille Godin, Brigitte Julien, Bernadette, Irene, Jean-Paul Marc, Michael, Roger et Stella LeBlanc, Rose-Alma Mallet, Donald Pellerin, Richard Perron, Lorette Smith.

Richiboucto (Ric) 11^{ème} année

Le 17 déc., 8:15–16:15. Nuageux avec quelques percés de soleil en après-midi; temp. -9° to -2°C ; vent SE, 12 km/h, p.m. NNO, 18 km/h. 50–80 cm de neige au sol; ruisseaux gelés, rivières couverts de 90% glace, havre de Richiboucto 90% gelé, détroit ouvert.

Mike LeBlanc (compilateur), Éric Demers, Mariette Demers, Maria Gauvin, Irene LeBlanc, Marc LeBlanc, Stella LeBlanc, Lorette Smith.

Kouchibouguac National Park (KNP) 33^{ème} année

Le 27 déc., 8:30–16:00. Neige faible en a.m. et un peu de poudrière au long de la côte, partiellement nuageux en p.m.; temp. -1° to -2°C ; vent a.m. NO, 33 km/h, 12 km/h. 40 cm de neige au sol; rivières 80% couvertes de glace, détroit ouvert.

Mike LeBlanc (compilateur), Gilles Belliveau, Gisèle Belliveau, Normand Belliveau, Mai Cormier, Shawn Craik, Maria Gauvin, Edwin Girouard, Bernadette LeBlanc, Irene LeBlanc, Rose-Marie LeBlanc, Nelson Poirier, André Richard, Pierrette Robichaud, Gilles Robichaud, Victor Savoie, Lorette Smith.

Tracadie-Sheila (Tra) 17^{ème} année

Le 20 déc., 08:00–16:00. Ensoleillé; temp. -12° à -5°C ; vent NO, 15 km/h. Terre couverte de neige; eau gelée dans les baies.

Gertrude St-Pierre (compilatrice), Ivy Austin, Nicole Benoit, Frank Branch, Hilaire Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Jocelyne Godin, Benoit Hébert, Lucille Landry, Jude Larocque, Nicole Mercier, Roland Robichaud, Donald St-Pierre.

Ile Lamèque (Lam) 31^{ème} année

Le 27 déc., 08:00–16:30. Ciel clair; temp. 0° à -2°C ; vent NO, 26 km/h. Sol couvert à 75% de 5–25 cm de neige; eau dépourvue de glace à 100%.

Hilaire Chiasson (compilateur), Denise Benoit, Gérard Benoit, Paul Benoit, Frank Branch, Michel Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Lucille DeGrace, Émile Ferron, Jocelyne Godin, Jacques Guignard, Jocelyne Guignard, Stéphane Guignard, Fleur-Ange Haché, Benoit Hébert, Réjean Laforge, Benoit Lantaigne, Jude Larocque, Yves Larocque, Nicole Mercier, Serge Power, André Robichaud, Roland Robichaud, Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Ile Miscou (Mis) 17^{ème} année

Le 14 déc., 08:00–16:00. Ciel clair; temp. -6° à -12°C ; vent O, 30 km/h. 15 cm de neige au sol; 20% glace sur la mer.

Michel Chiasson (compilateur), Frank Branch, Hilaire Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Émile Ferron, Denise Godin, Jocelyne Godin, Benoit Hébert, Réjean Laforge, Benoit Lantaigne, Jude Larocque, Nicole Mercier, Roland Robichaud, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Caraquet (Car) 19^{ème} année

Le 21 déc., 08:00–16:00. Partiellement nuageux, quelques flocons; temp. -6° to -10°C ; vent SO, 15 km/h. Neige au sol; 10% de glace sur mer.

Michel Chiasson (compilateur), Frank Branch, Hilaire Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Denise Godin, Jocelyne Godin, Benoit Hébert, Réjean Laforge, Benoit Lantaigne, Rosita Lantaigne, Jude Larocque, Roland Robichaud, Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Bathurst (Bst) 19th year

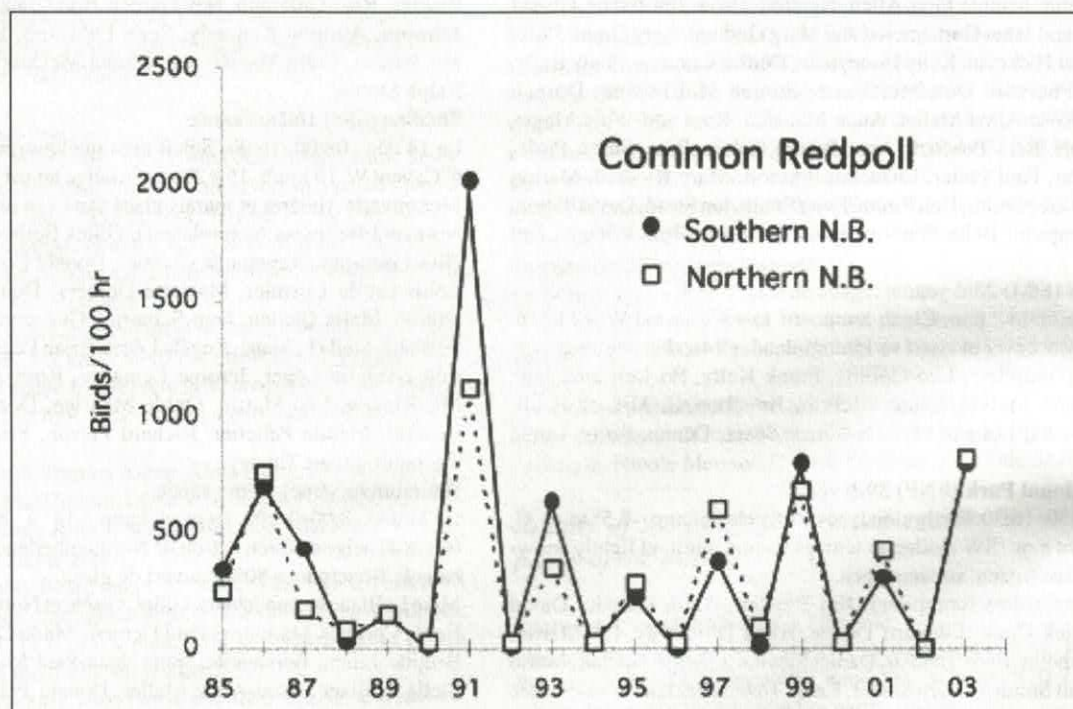
Dec. 28, 08:00–16:00. Clear; temp. -10° to $+4^{\circ}\text{C}$; wind W, 5 km/h. 25 cm snow cover; most of harbour ice-covered except eastern end where channels winds towards the bay, bay open with some slush forming and some ice pans brought from the harbour with the tide.

Stuart Wells (compiler), Beatrice Allen, Luc DeRoche, Pierre Duguay, Bob Fisher, Yvonne Fisher, Lee Gauthier, Mary Gauthier, Terry MacDonald, Charlie McAleenan, Pat McLaughlin, Hanson Miller, Hazel Miller.

Petit-Rocher (P-Ro) 9^{ème} année

Le 27 déc., 7:15–15:04. Totalement ennuagé le matin, éclaircissement complet en fin de compte; temp. -2° à -3°C ; vent NO, 20 km/h; 5–15 cm de neige; plusieurs cours d'eau incluant ruisseaux ouverts, aucune glace sur la mer.

Luc DeRoche (compilateur), Marc Landry, Marco Scichilone.



Numbers of Redpolls from 1985 to 2003 in New Brunswick. Graphic provided by David Christie.

2003-2004 CBC	Mir	Dal	Rst	StP	Ssx	Htn	C-N	Jem	Ftn	Mac	Chi	Min	Sty	Wsk	Flo	G-J	P-A	PR	Nic	StL	SAM	Est	Ked	Mic	SEU	Pag
Canada Goose			*			9			28	1						10										
Am Black Duck	*	153	40		294	20			120	412	3	3	4				75		3	2						
Mallard	*	18	0		112	3			30	547		1				68	25									
Ring-neck Duck																										
Greater Scaup	5																									
Long-tailed Duck	*																									
Bufflehead																										
Com Goldeneye	56	*				16		5	392	11					17						6					
Barr Goldeneye	172								1																	
Hood Merganser									13																	
Com Merganser	41	*	43		10	16		4	159	8			*				4									
Red-br Merganser	3	*				2																				
R-nk Pheasant	*			1	14	2	3								*			1								
Ruffed Grouse	9	5	3	6	3	2	5	1	7	3	2	2	10	3	12	5	2	5	5	*		7				
Spruce Grouse	3																									
Great Blue Heron			1		*																					
Turkey Vulture									*	1																
Bald Eagle	3	*	4		5	10	3	9	15	5		*	3	5	*		2	3	*							
Northern Harrier																										
Sharp-shin Hawk	*				*	2	*	1	2	*	1		*				*					3				
Cooper's Hawk																										
Northern Goshawk				2	2	1	1		*	*									*						*	
Red-tailed Hawk				1	6	3	1	1	9	1			1	2	4											
Rough-leg Hawk					2	1		1	2	3				3												
American Kestrel										*																
Merlin	1												*													
Peregrine Falcon #									2																	
Ring-billed Gull					6	1			7																	
Herring Gull	2	72	35		7	98		1	81	28				2	*				*	47	1					
Iceland Gull		5				45																				
Les Blk-bk Gull									1																	
Glaucous Gull			1			1																				
Grt Blk-bk Gull	15	8	112	*		9		3	226	32									*	64	*					
Dovekie		*																								
Black Guillemot																										
Rock Pigeon	308	8	362		74	743	150	59	150	1527	248	14	74	14	264	133	140	92	82	1	207	47	49	76	36	
Mourning Dove	128	6	66		59	199	275	242	165	429	47	20	40	74	241	151	48	46	45	2	17	15	18		44	
Grt Horned Owl				1		1			1																	
North Hawk Owl																										
Barred Owl	1			1		*			*			1			1	2	*					1				
Short-ear Owl			*																							
N Saw-whet Owl						*																				
Belted Kingfisher																										
Red-bellied Wdpkr	2				1	*			1																	
Downy Woodpkr	35	4	35	5	12	21	24	20	54	15	5	3	18	28	22	14	16	7	13	4	6	6	4	7		
Hairy Woodpkr	23	5	36	13	24	17	24	19	60	15	5	7	22	34	26	9	18	7	18	5	1	24	7	2	16	
3-toed Woodpkr																										
Blk-back Woodpkr				1																						
Northern Flicker	1		*		*	*																			1	
Pileated Wdpkr #	3	1	3	2	3	1	4	1	19	1	3		7	2	2	2	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Northern Shrike	2	1		2	1	2	2	1	*				1	1		1		*		4	2					
Gray Jay	8		4	52	10	2	11	3	12	6	12	9	10	120	131	3	12	6	33	28	5	8	10	4	23	
Blue Jay	78	23	191	105	247	110	97	40	127	72	8	9	86	120	131	96	153	96	60	60	29	33	173	63	10	
American Crow #	58	42	64	57	729	533	138	66	2000	365	20	25	20	88	36	24	51	35	12	194	61				14	

2003-2004 CBC	Mir	Dal	Rst	StP	Ssx	Htn	C-N	Jem	Fin	Mac	Chi	Min	Sty	Wsk	Flo	G-J	P-A	PR	Nic	StL	SAM	Ein	Ked	MtC	SEU	Paq
Common Raven	17	12	50	38	620	34	34	54	157	66	24	29	32	71	23	14	12	12	21	21	96	39	9	5	8	31
Horned Lark	393	126	552	347	292	588	370	354	1288	526	87	84	401	310	340	215	197	126	169	93	64	257	130	18	23	299
Blk-cap Chickadee		3	3	1						3			3						6	1		8	3	5	2	
Boreal Chickadee	40	11	28	9	12	19	17	17	72	20	4	8	52	12	18	9	17	5	23	1		5	6	1	2	
Red-br Nuthatch	1	1	1	7	7	10	24	15	34	11	2	2	3	19	3			8	*			2	4		1	
Wh-br Nuthatch #							1		6	1			*	2												
Brown Creeper									*																	
Carolina Wren	1			7	27	7	2	35	18	14	2	3	12	3										1	1	
Gold-cr Kinglet												3														
Ruby-cr Kinglet						*			1				*												5	
Hermit Thrush	4	15	1	3	3	2	*	1	3	2		1	*													
American Robin					1	*																				
Gray Catbird	*		*																							
No Mockingbird			*																							
Brown Thrasher			*																							
European Starling	703	245	464	147	1674	435	260	219	1540	497	124	100	89	285	225	62	23	60		196	22	217	63		104	
Bohemian Waxwin	31		*			6	2	15	17	3							*	*	3	*						
Cedar Waxwing		60	80			3	7																			
Yel-ru Warbler	2																									
Eastern Towhee						*																				
Am Tree Sparrow	32	1	2	18	43	132	80	46	80	24	10	10	8	122	42	16	19		2	18	12	6			7	
Chipping Sparrow		1	*												30							3				
Savannah Sparrow						1																				
Fox Sparrow								1	1																	
Song Sparrow	2	*	*		5	10			2									3		*						
Wh-thr Sparrow	4	1	2			10														*						
Wh-cr Sparrow																										
Dk-eyed Junco	26		7	3	56	91	12	4	62	3	1	4	5		16	19	8	10	1	3	*		26		1	
Lapland Longspur									*																	
Snow Bunting	10	141	10	122	723		1	64	62	2			*	5	19	104	*	*	4	713	18	62	70		1022	
Northern Cardinal						22			16	2				1			2					1				
Rose-br Grosbeak									*					2												
Rusty Blackbird					4																					
Common Grackle	2	*				*	1	*	*																	
Baltimore Oriole			*																							
Pine Grosbeak	33	53	118	75	27	77	1		105	44			66	17	23	43	74	18	43	20	10	44	66	3	1	
Pine Grosbeak	1	*	*			6	1	1	10					21	137		3	12	5			2	6			
Purple Finch									16																	
House Finch	17			3	7				6				2			2			4	10	6	10	8		*	
Wh-w Crossbill			31																							
Common Redpoll	149	47	428	748	451	675	613	705	847	425	307	192	328	602	201	117	221	98	135	267	53	194	219	8	20	
Hoary Redpoll #			*	3											5				2	3		8			55	
Pine Siskin	18	13	115	1	37	72	6	4	20	4		6	22	12	31		15	23	2	14	1	3	15		*	
Am. Goldfinch	35	4	271	3	329	382	33	10	207	45	1	15	27	81	77	21	7	7				15	4		1	
Evening Grosbeak	102	22	184	33	243	111	173	224	140	17	105	37	23	146	191	8	42	70	11	31	3	90	19		56	
House Sparrow	5	5		30	73		19	48		54			40	6	15	40		2		37	*	39	17		2	
Unidentified	1 a		4 c				1 d			1 e			* f								2 g					
TOTAL BIRDS	2349	1354	3353	1973	7068	4047	2252	2280	10084	3586	757	669	1384	2505	2018	1080	1068	682	560	1714	680	1354	855	59	70	1854
TOTAL SPECIES	42	38	37	34	42	50	33	37	53	41	21	26	30	29	34	24	25	25	23	25	18	30	27	11	10	27
Add Spp in Period	5	7	13	2	2	8	2	1	7	4	0	1	7	0	4	1	3	2	2	7	2	1	1	0	1	2
TOTAL HOURS	19,25	14	27	32,5	56	49	24	50,5	153	42	21,5	21,5	23,5	13	13,3	12	12	11	12	18,6	13,3	50,3	15	12	10	30 x
TOTAL KM	254	140	408	379	208	647	245	464	1042	496	253	305	324	369	141	166	104	7	84	260,4	272	548	123	105	100	374
Feeder reports	45	6	29		2	36	16	6	32	1			11	14	16	16	16	2	7	1		2	10		0	

2003-2004 CBC	E-C	StS	StA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Mtn	Sck	CT	Shd	Buc	Ric	KNP	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	P-R	Total
Canada Goose	60					10	2		2	1	49	3	1	1		1	10				*		188 ±
Gadwall						3	*																3
American Wigeon						2																	3
Am Black Duck	447	32	562	138	35	616	88		608	60	22	45	1	29			12	*			24	16	4517 ±
Mallard #	10	10	21	21	1	225	2		9	1364	8	2	135	*		2	2	*		7	1	2600 ++	
Northern Pintail			1									1										2	
Green-wing Teal			2			40																42 ±	
King-neck Duck																						2	
Greater Scaup	28					120							3									156 +	
Lesser Scaup					5	2																7	
King Eider			*																			1	
Common Eider	128		2360	1264	345		23		1			162	197	5	*		86	521	28	2		5122 +	
Harlequin Duck					3								1									4	
Surf Scoter	41			44	9	2						51	1	2	1		1	1				151 +	
Wh-wing Scoter	30			1	4		*					5							2			44 -	
Black Scoter	37		1		6		6					6	1	2			3	1				63 ±	
Long-tailed Duck	145		616	144	21	1	2					320	239	194	87		206	74	20	76	2	2191 +	
Bufflehead	118	5	252	60	19	167	12	9	*			1	6			44	206	74	20			651 +	
Com Goldeneye	40	76	91	21	9	149	18	8	7			503	646	140	81	24	62	179	3	11	59	18	
Barrow Goldeneye	2	16				4	1						21	2		25	3				9	2648 +	
Hood Merganser	1		10		5								1			1						256 ±	
Com Merganser	1	20	2	8	1	25	5	*	1	13	17	45	520	145	66	1	45	*	12	5	2	31 ±	
Red-br Merganser	109		13	42	13	46	2						48	36	57	5	20	10	26	79	7	1174 +	
Ruddy Duck #	15																					570 ±	
R-nk Pheasant #																						15	
Ruffed Grouse		1	1	1	1	7	7		31	79	239	3	29	10								419 +	
Spruce Grouse	1								1	3	8	6	7	4	1	5	1			4	1	158 ±	
N. Bobwhite (#)						19 z																4 ±	
Red-thr Loon			1	1	3	1	2	1	*													19	
Common Loon	23		36	19	48	3	*						*									9 ±	
Horned Grebe	10		48	4	11		3														1	130 +	
Red-neck Grebe	5		19	1	32																	76 ±	
Northern Gannet	2				2												1		1			57 ±	
D-cr Cormorant #	18				1	1						1										6	
Great Cormorant	14			31	1	1			*									*				21 +	
Great Blue Heron						*					2		*					1				47 -	
Turkey Vulture																						4	
Bald Eagle	25	5	7	7	1	11	*	*	3	14	7	7	9	2	2	1			1	*		172 +	
Northern Harrier				1		*			*	2	2	2	2	2								9 ±	
Sharp-shin Hawk			3			*	1	1	1	1	2		2	2								19 ±	
Cooper's Hawk							*	1	*	*		2	2	1								*	
N. Goshawk		1	2				*	1	*	*		2										17 +	
Broad-wing Hawk																						1	
Red-tailed Hawk					3	*		1	1	4	7	9	6	3	1	1	1					64 +	
Rough-leg Hawk					*			1	2	3	25	2	2									48 ±	
Golden Eagle											1											1	
American Kestrel						*	1			*	*		3									*	
Merlin						*				*	*											5	
Peregrine Falcon						1	1			1												5	
Purple Sandpiper				406		2	*										3	2				413 +	
Wilson's Snipe						1																1	
Black-head Gull				5																		5	
Bonaparte Gull #	1295			4	27								*								4	8	1326 ++
Ring-billed Gull	7	10	16	14	2	610	3	2	9	3	10	156	43	9	34	3						957 ++	

	E-C	StS	StA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Mtn	Sk	CT	Shd	Buc	Ric	KNP	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	P-R	Total
2003-2004 CBC																							
Herring Gull	3871	65	430	1691	339	1564	235	22	228	1590	102	607	4427	289	146	281	345	89	78	21	568	88	17450 ±
Island Gull				80	5	130	2	2	30	16	16	30	74	1	20	2	366	254	215	99	17	4	1411 +
Lesser Blk-b Gull													1	1								3	
Glaucaous Gull	2220	1	124	305	41	288	14		11	2553	77	117	1218	298	135	127	807	317	240	54	663	555	33 -
Grt Blk-bk Gull	9000				15																		10634 +
B-leg Kittiwake	3																	*	1	1			9015 +
Dovekie	10				5																		5
Common Murre	18																						15
Thick-bill Murre																							18
Razorbill																							214 ±
Black Guillemot	14			82	12								1				4	42	107	17	*		284 ±
Rock Pigeon	125	234	75	156	5	466	19			1489	353	166	383	558	251	110	123	145		12	27	39	9594 +
Mourning Dove	17	52	148	60	58	169	176	56	55	386	239	125	249	103	46	64	83	65	42	148	5	12	4735 +
Great Horned Owl			1			*		*	*		2							*					7 ±
Snowy Owl																							*
N. Hawk Owl		*												*									1
Barred Owl						1				1	1	1											9 ±
Short-eared Owl										3	2	2											5
N. Saw-whet Owl										1			*		*								1
Belted Kingfisher																							1
Red-belly Wdpkr																							6
Downy Woodpkr	5	8	7	7		13	5	1	3	26	23	14	20	11	4	3	9	5	3	12	4	3	564 +
Hairy Woodpkr	1	15	6	4		11	3	4	*	27	15	18	21	10	4	2	15	7	6	27	3	3	641 +
Am 3-toed Wdpkr																							2 ±
Blk-back Wdpkr																							10 ±
Northern Flicker						1				1	3	4	1	1		1		*					14 +
Pileated Wdpkr		2	3	1	1	*	*	*		2	2	6	2	2	3	1	*	*			*		86 +
Northern Shrike			*			3	1	*	3	2	2	8	2	3	1	2	2	2	1	4			60 +
Gray Jay				2		8	17		3	5	12	6	1	11	10	16	10	2		21	6		383 +
Blue Jay	3	38	45	22	8	46	15	20	26	165	161	117	231	139	127	32	65	52	21	58	40	15	3614 +
American Crow	291	92	182	183	52	575	135	41	97	753	526	161	527	228	99	94	91	141	25	67	32	46	9070 +
Common Raven	46	14	11	63	26	41	18	14	21	72	122	38	45	32	21	21	40	207	13	31	8		2433 -
Horned Lark			*			6	2			4								9					27 ±
Blk-cap Chickadee	50	127	202	145	64	518	165	158	194	706	866	478	814	471	323	219	365	192	96	333	77	57	14269 ++
Boreal Chickadee	2					2	3	3	1	2	15	9	1	*	2	1	2	22	20	11			134 -
Red-br Nuthatch	3	12	8	15	11	23	31	10	26	15	38	17	24	13	19	11	15	14	3	11	1		755 ±
Wh-br Nuthatch	3	4	9	1		8				11	4	1	8	4		1	1	1			1		202 +
Brown Creeper		1	3	1	1	*	4	4	2		1	4	1	1	1	1	2	1		2			36 ±
Carolina Wren																							*
Winter Wren	6		15	3	3	1		9	19	12	65	66	30	14	18	5	3	*		6	2		1
Golden-cr Kinglet								25	9										1				441 ±
Ruby-cr Kinglet																			1				6
Hermit Thrush						*											1		2				4
American Robin			3	3		3	8	1	*	4	67	260	169	56	*	17	22	1	1	14	1		670 +
Gray Catbird																							1
N. Mockingbird						1				1			3		1								6 -
Brown Thrasher																							1
European Starling	77	212	165	225	15	1215	275	34	123	1487	312	592	1235	553	405	80	123	323	84	373	197	178	16037 ±
Bohem Waxwing		*					20		*		10	4	120	30		*	106			410	25		799 ±
Cedar Waxwing									*	11	34	45	11	75		*				38			367 +
Yel-rump Warbler	6														1				1				11 -
Pine Warbler			1					1			*												3
Eastern Towhee																							2
Am Tree Sparrow		52	54	52	40	103	3	31	31	26	162	83	1	68	33	14	18	19		10	4		1589 ±

2003-2004 CBC	E-C	StS	StA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Mtn	Sck	CT	Shd	Buc	Ric	KNP	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	P-R	Total
Chipping Sparrow	2					3		3												1			43
Field Sparrow																							1
Savannah Sparrow						1								1									4
Fox Sparrow						3	3	*															13
Song Sparrow			14		1	10	1	1	3								1						65 ±
Swamp Sparrow																							2
Wh-thr Sparrow			5		1	42	1	5	6	2	8	2				*	1	*		1			96 +
Wh-erm Sparrow																							2
Dark-eyed Junco	5	6	17	9	19	59	12	48	80	65	211	113	96	86	16	11	6	12		2			1231 ±
Lapland Longspur							*											*					*
Snow Bunting							*			67	1081	509	224	22	4	30	90	1215	497	302	*		7295 ±
Northern Cardinal			7		1	7	*			1													62 +
Rose-br Grosbeak																							1
Red-w Blackbird						2										2			1				7 -
Rusty Blackbird																			2				9 ±
Common Grackle						2												*					12 -
Brown-h Cowbird																				1			1 -
Bullock's Oriole						1																	1
Baltimore Oriole																							2
Pine Grosbeak			2	6	2	27	37		4	41	231	127	73	79	32	40	136	23	38	46	27	11	1955 +
Purple Finch		1	8			12	*			1	6	1			*		1		1		1		260 ±
House Finch	16		9			102				30			23	20	1								234 ±
Red Crossbill																							3 -
Wh-w Crossbill						3	14	47	55	12	4	3	1	2					10	2			243 -
Common Redpoll	2	363	12	451	118	778	145	28	97	918	413	232	562	398	48	167	530	364	48	154	31	18	13982 +
Hoary Redpoll																				*			23 ++
Pine Siskin		18	8			1	25	21	16	3	36	30	3	3	*		2	9	5	5	10		651 ±
Am. Goldfinch	4	75	24	16	16	295	70	39	14	165	90	94	107	58	23	12	25	41		3	5	14	2765 ±
Evening Grosbeak		37	8	17		6	20	11	27	52	65	51	105	29	99	14	8	5	20	73	5	30	2763 -
House Sparrow			*			41			4	39	9	35	21	50	20			6		13	2		672 -
Unidentified						36 h	21 k	37 m		1 p	57 q	438 r											603
TOTAL BIRDS	18412	1595	5659	5434	2119	8721	1713	688	1939	12334	5857	5928	13500	4312	2246	1466	3893	4395	1688	2561	1875	1125	163115
TOTAL SPECIES	52	31	52	50	53	75 y	49	39	46	50	64	64	67	56	40	39	50	46	41	43	35	22	138
Add Sp in Period	0	1	5	0	0	9	12	6	11	3	2	0	4	3	5	4	1	13	0	1	5	5	5
Hrs on foot	4	3	4	5	?	37	13.5	52.4	9	15	74.5	47	17.5	7	2	12	8.25	25	19	13.8	19.1	3	624.63
Hrs by car	17.5	23	13	15	?	62	10	8.25	13.75	69	68.5	26.5	44.5	37	18.5	20.5	31.75	43	13	18.3	6.8	8.5	1033.9
Hrs otherwise				1 b					1 n		1.5+1 n												3.5
TOTAL HOURS	21.5	26	17	21	15 x	99	23.5	60.7	23.75	84	145	73.5	62	44	20.5	32.5	40	68	32	32	25.9	11.5	1734.03
Km on foot	6	18	7	8	?	84	29.4	79.3	33	30	82	56.5	22	21.5	4	22.5	16	46	42.5	31	36.5	3	1153.3
Km by car	266.7	275	143	178	?	607	229	61.4	276.5	758	458	388	458.5	520	361	367	526	508	211.5	238	219	167	14552.9
Km otherwise				2 b					14 n		6.5												22.5
TOTAL KM	272.7	293	150	188	?	691	259	141	323.5	788	546	445	480.5	542	365	390	542	554	254	269	256	170	15728.7
No. of observers	7	10	6	5	6	43	12	19	11	30	17	17	33	22	8	17	13	20	14	13	10	3	640
No. of parties	3	5	4	3	2	19	4	12	6	12	10-16	5-12	8	6	3	5	5	8	4	4	8	3	276
Feeder reports		5	5	1		17	3	2	2	4	2		1				2	5		1	2	1	321

Abbreviations and Footnotes to the Tables

Number boldfaced: local CBC record high; *Number* in italics: no details or details not fully convincing; *: recorded during count period but not on count day; #: highest number a provincial record; ++: much above average numbers; +: above average numbers; ±: more or less average numbers; -: below average numbers; --: much below average numbers; a: 1 thrush sp.; b: by boat; c: 4 birds sp.; d: 1 sparrow (immature *Spizella* sp.); e: 1 hawk sp.; f: 1 goldeneye sp.; g: 2 woodpecker sp.; h: 1 gull sp. (Franklin's?); 25 murre sp.; 10 finch sp.; j: 4 Black Duck x Mallard hybrids; k: 12 sea duck sp.; l: grouse sp.; 2 gull sp.; m: 2 scoter sp.; 2 hawk sp.; 5 sandpiper sp.; 25 gulls sp.; 3 sparrows sp.; n: nocturnal effort for owls; p: 1 hawk (*Buteo* sp.); q: 57 finch sp.; r: 435 scoter sp.; 1 hawk (*Accipiter* sp.); 2 waxwing sp.; x: estimated effort; y: not including recently released Bobwhite; z: released birds and their 2003 progeny

NEW BRUNSWICK CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT / RECENSEMENT DE NOËL DES MAMMIFÈRES DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

Mike LeBlanc

The 2003–2004 Christmas Mammal Count (CMC) was the second in as many years. This season, a total 25 CMC's were conducted in the province, up from 18 last year. Many interesting observations were noted and you can see them all in the following pages. I would like to thank count coordinators and participants and would like to point out that not all counts were conducted by all participants. Some counts were partial counts that were conducted by just a few of the participants.

Some counters commented on having poor tracking conditions, but we did have more marine mammals seen this year than last.

If you have any comments on how to improve the count please do not hesitate to contact me at: 506-743-8485 or pandion@nbnet.nb.ca.

Thanks again to all participants and happy tracking and scatting.

Un gros merci à tous les participants et les coordinateurs(rices). Si vous avez des commentaires ou des suggestions afin d'améliorer le recensement, n'hésitez pas à me contacter.

Please note that much of the count circle information is the same as for the Christmas Bird Counts. Please see the CBC section for more details on the specific count circles. Veuillez vérifier dans la section des Recensements des Oiseaux de Noël pour plus amples renseignements sur les cercles de comptes car l'information est semblable.

Bathurst (Bst) 2nd year: December 28th, 2003; Compiler: Stuart Wells; Participants: Beatrice Allen, Luc Deroche, Pierre Duguay, Bob and Yvonne Fisher, Mary Gauthier, Lee Gauthier, Terry MacDonald, Charlie McAleenan, Pat McLaughlin, Hansen Miller, Hazel Miller, Stuart Wells
Boucoute (Buc) 2^{ième} année: 21 décembre, 2003; Compileur : Mike LeBlanc; Participants : Gilles, Gisèle et Normand Belliveau, Louis-Émile Cormier, Éric, Mariette et Paul Demers, Maria Gauvin, Mireille Godin, Brigitte Julien, Bernadette, Irène, Jean-Paul, Marc, Michael, Mike, Roger, Stella LeBlanc, Rose-Alma Mallet, Donald Pellerin, Richard Perron, Lorette Smith

Black's Harbour (BH) 1st year; December 20th, 2003; Compiler: Ken Macintosh; Participants: Christine Cornell, Tracey Dean, Ken MacIntosh, Bill Nelson, Hugh Parks, Kevin Tutt

Cape Tormentine (CT) 1st year; December 17th, 2003; Compiler: Al Smith; Participants: ?

Edmundston (Etn) 1^{ère} année; 14 décembre, 2003; Compileur : Roy LaPointe; Participants: Roger Albert, Jean-Pierre Beaulieu, Daniel Bouchard, Benoit Clavette, Gilberte Cyr, Carmon Dubé, Marie Anne Gauvin, Noëlla Landry, Charlotte & Roy LaPointe, Colette Lavoie, Vicky Léntz, Patsy-Ann Lynch, Pierrette Mercier, Pauline Morneau, Françoise Ouellette, Lynne Ouellette, Anik Simard, Gisèle Thibodeau

Florenceville (Flo) 2nd year; December 26th, 2003; Compiler: Helen Lovely; Participants: 21 participants.

Glassville-Juniper (G-J) 2nd year; December 22nd, 2003; Compiler: Sally McIntosh; Participants: 22 participants

Kouchibouguac (KNP) 2^{ième} année; 27 décembre, 2003; Compileur : Mike LeBlanc; Participants: Gilles Belliveau, Gisèle Belliveau, Normand Belliveau, Mai Cormier, Shawn Craik, Maria Gauvin, Edwin Girouard, Bernadette LeBlanc, Irène LeBlanc, Mike LeBlanc, Rose-Marie LeBlanc, Nelson Poirier, André Richard, Pierrette Robichaud, Gilles Robichaud, Victor Savoie, Lorette Smith.

Miramichi (Mir) 2nd year; December 29th, 2003; Compiler: Pamela Waters; Participants: Margaret Adams, Joyce Atkins, Eleanor Breaux, Florence Currie, Greg Currie, Rodney Currie, Mary-Alma Harrigan,

Arlene Lisk, Anthony McLean, Georgia McLean, Dave McLeod, Clay Merrithew, Vera Rice, Mary Ripley, Theresa Ross, Jim Saunders, Delta Steeves, Pam Watters.

Miscou (Mis) 1^{ère} année; 14 décembre, 2003; Compileur : Michel Chiasson; Participants : Frank Branch, Hilaire Chiasson, Michel Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Émile Ferron, Denise Godin, Jocelyne Godin, Benoît Hébert, Réjean Laforge, Benoît Lantaigne, Jude Laroque, Nicole Mercier, Roland Robichaud, Gertrude St-Pierre.

Moncton (Mtn) 2nd year; December 20th, 2003; Compiler: Janet MacMillan; Participants: Chris Antle, Mike Antle, David Christie, Brian Beaman, Jack DeCoste, Lloyd DeCoste, Bob Cotsworth, Jean Inglis, Janet L. MacMillan, Bev Taylor, Edwin Melanson, Ralph White.

Paquetville (Paq) 2^{ième} année; 28 décembre, 2003; Compileur : Roland Robichaud; Participants : 1 participants

Richibouctou (Ric) 1^{ère} année; 17 décembre, 2003; Compileur : Mike LeBlanc; Participants : Éric Demers, Mariette Demers, Maria Gauvin, Irène LeBlanc, Marc LeBlanc, Mike LeBlanc, Stella LeBlanc, Lorette Smith.

Riverside-Albert (R-A) 2nd year; January 1st, 2004; Compiler: David Christie; Participants: David Christie, Roger LeBlanc.

Point Lepreau (Lep) 1st year; December 20th, 2003; Compiler: David McCurdy; Participants: 13 Participants.

Ste-Anne-du-Madawaska (SAM) 1^{ère} année; 21 décembre, 2003; Compileur : Roy LaPointe; Participants : Charlotte LaPointe, Roy LaPointe, Allain Pelletier, Marc-André Pelletier.

Saint Andrews (StA) 2nd year; December 14th, 2003; Compiler: Tracey Dean; Participants: ?

Saint John (SJ) 2nd year; December 27, 2003; Compiler: Ken MacIntosh; Participants: Sandra Cooper, Stephen Clayden, Barbara Clayden, Miles Clayden, Meredith Clayden, Hank Deichmann, Joanne Deichmann, Thor Deichmann, Kirsten Deichmann, David Christie, Jim Evans, Allen Gorham, Janet Gorham, Holly Haines, Ken MacIntosh, Eunice McElwaine, Joan Pearce, Don Smith

English Name	Nom français	Etn	StA	Mis	CT	Ric	BH	Mtn	Lep	Tra	Buc	SAM	G-J
Mouse Sp.	Souris esp.											TB	
Short-tailed Shrew	Grande musaraigne				1								
Snowshoe Hare	Lièvre d'Amérique	1, T b	1	1	2	2T, 1E		1 D			2, 3T	TB	10 T
Eastern Chipmunk	Tamias rayé	1E											
Red Squirrel	Écureuil roux	14, 17 E, 9T	14	15	83	9, 2H	7, 17H	52	3	24	121	2, 2T	12
Northern Flying Squirrel	Grand polatouche									3			3
Grey Squirrel	Écureuil gris		5			1	3	3			2		
Beaver	Castor												2L
Gapper's red-backed Vole	Campagnol à dos roux de Gapper			1									
Muskrat	Rat musqué						1			1			
Meadow Vole	Campagnol des champs	2T											
American Porcupine	Porc-épic d'Amérique				2		1				1T, 4F		4T
Harbour Porpoise	Marsouin commun						6						
Eastern Coyote	Coyote	14T			T			1					1
Red Fox	Renard roux	3T		1	1			1				1T	8
Ermine	Hermine		1										2
Feral cat	Chat domestique										2		
Bobcat	Lynx roux		1										O
Harbour Seal	Phoque commun		4		17		4		6				
Grey Seal	Phoque gris			5	1	11, 1D				2			
White-tailed Deer	Cerf de Virginie	1T	4	T1			5	2T	3			6T	2T
Moose	Orignal	1T		T3									O
Day total species	Espèces vus le jour	8	7	7	8	4	7	6	3	4		5	9
Period	Période												2
Species total	Total d'espèces	8	7	7	8	4		6	3	4		5	11
Participants	Participants	19		14		8	6	12	6	13	22	4	22
Groups	Groupes	9		4		3	3	5	2	5	6	2	2
Feeder reports	Rapports de mangeoires	2					1			1			19
Hours by foot	Hrs à pied	13		19		2	5	5		8,25	7	1,8	5
Hours by car	Hrs. en voiture	37,3		13		18,5	15	30,5		31,75	37	11,5	5
Hour by boat	Hrs. en Bateau						1						
Hours total	Hrs total	50,3		32		20,5	21	35,5	?	40	44	13,3	10
Kms by foot	Kms à pied	27		42,5		4	8	14		16	21,5	4,2	6
Kms by boat	Kms en bateau						2						
Kms by car	Kms en voiture	521		211,5		357,4	178	365		526	520	267,8	160
Kms Total	Kms total	548		254		361,4	188	379	?	542	541,5	272	166
Winds (km/h)	Vents (km/h)	13O		30O			7N	11SW	10NW	15NO	13SO	12S	2S
Min. temp.	Temp. min.	-15		-12		-8	-3	-12	-5	-12	-14	-17	-10
Max. temp.	Temp. max.	-9		-6		1	1	-4	-2	-5	-6	-11	-5

Abbreviations:

T - Tracks / Traces; L - Active lodge / Hutte active; D - Dead animal / Animal mort retrouvé; F - Fresh diggings (scratches) - grattes fraîches; S - Fresh scent (odour) / Senteur (odeur); H - Animal heard / Entendu; E - Scat or excrement / Excrément; O - Present during count period but not on count day / Présent durant la période mais pas vus la journée du recensement; B - Abundant or high numbers - Beaucoup ou individus élevés.

English Name	Nom français	Flo	KNP	SJ	Bst	Paq	StL	Sty	StM	Mir	R-A	StS	StP
Small Mammal Sp.	Petit mammifère esp.	O						13T					
Shrew Sp.	Musaraigne esp.			1T									
Mouse Sp.	Souris esp.			2T			T B						
Vole Sp.	Campagnol esp.			1T									
Short-tailed Shrew	Grande musaraigne		1		3T	2		1		2			
Snowshoe Hare	Lièvre d'Amérique	1 T	16T	27T	abund.	7, 11T	T B	20T		2, 7T	3	1T	2E
Red Squirrel	Écureuil roux	3	12, 5T, 8H	36, 6H, 12T	10T, 13, 14H	42	3, T B, 8E	16, 7H, 8T	28	35	8	8	26, 2H
Northern flying Squirrel	Grand polatouche							O		1		3	
Grey Squirrel	Écureuil gris	1		1				2		9		1	O
Beaver	Castor				1L, 1T								
Gapper's red-backed Vole	Campagnol à dos roux de Gapper				1		1T						
Muskrat	Rat musqué				1, 1T					O			
Norway Rat	Rat surmulot						1 D						
	Souris sauteuse sp.						1T						
House Mouse	Souris commune	O				1, 1T							
American Porcupine	Porc-épic d'Amérique					1							3, 1D
Feral dog	Chien sauvage	1T											
Eastern Coyote	Coyote	1T	3, 2T	2T	4T	2T	1, 9T	6, 3H, 3T	1E	2T			2T
Red Fox	Renard roux	1T		12T	11T	4T	8T,	7T		1	1	2 T	
Black Bear	Ours noir		1E, 1T										
Raccoon	Raton laveur			2T						3			
Weasel Sp.	Mustelidae esp.							5T					
Ermine	Hermine			1	3T	1T	2, 1T	O				1	
Fisher	Pékan			1T				O					
Big cat	Gros chat								1T				
Bobcat	Lynx roux								2T				1
Harbour Seal	Phoque commun			1					1				
White-tailed Deer	Cerf de Virginie	O	1T	13, 7T	10T	1T		9, 3T	4T	2, 4T		2	8, 1T
Moose	Orignal		1T		3T				3T				2T
Day total species	Espèces vus le jour	6	7	13	11	9	9	9	7	9		7	7
Period	Période	4					1	4		3			1
Species total	Total d'espèces	10	7	13	11	9	10	13	7	12		7	8
Participants	Participants	21	17	18	13	11	7	13		18		10	21
Groups	Groupes	5	5	7	8	4	4	3		3		5	5
Feeder reports	Rapports de mangeoires	16			2		1	5		14		5	
Hours by foot	Hrs à pied	3,25	12	18,5	19,1		4,8	5		6,25		3	7,5
Hours by Car	Hrs. en voiture	10	20,5	32,5	6,8		13,8	18,5		4,5		23	25
Hours total	Hrs total	13,3	32,5	51	25,9	9,5	18,6	23,5		10,75		26	32,5
Kms by Foot	Kms à pied	7	22,5	41	36,5	20	13,4	11		12		18	14
Kms by Car	Kms en voiture	134	367	307	219,1	334	247	313		93		275	364,9
Kms Total	Kms total	141	390	348	255,6	354	260	324		105		293	378,9
Winds (km/h)	Vents (km/h)		20NNO	30 NNW	5 W	NO	6NO			5 W		NW	11ESE
Min. temp.	Temp. min.	-2	-3	-3	-10	-6	-9	-10		-8		-2	-11
Max temp.	Temp. max.	0	1	0	4	7	0	3		5		6	-5

continued from page 28

Saint Léonard (StL) 1^{ière} année; 28 décembre, 2003; Compileur : Roy LaPointe; Participants : Jean-Pierre, Rose-Marie et Marilène Beaulieu, Charlotte et Roy LaPointe, Allain Pelletier, Martin Roncetti
Shédiac (Shd) 1^{ière} année; 14 décembre 2003; Compileur : Normand Belliveau; Participants : ?

Stanley (Sty) 2nd year; December 28th, 2003; Compiler: Julie Singleton; Participants: Connie & Jim Campbell; Gordon Dunphy; Thelma & Don Fairly; Gisele Gaudet; Jim Goltz; Jeremy Gullison; David Myles; Dawn Parker; Julie Singleton; Shirley Sloat; Robert Whitney.

Saint Martins (StM) 1st year; December 28th, 2003; Compiler: Ted Sears; Participants: ?

St Stephen (StS) 1st year; January 3rd, 2004; Compiler: Ron McGuire; Participants: Bob Brown, David Good, Leanna Good, Anne Johnson,

Garnet Linton, John Mallory, Bill McGuire, Ron McGuire, Anna Moffat, Tom Moffat, Bill Nelson, Mary Livingston, Brand Livingston.

Saint Paul (StP) 1^{ière} année; 3 janvier, 2003; Compileur : Mike LeBlanc; Participants : Éric Demers, Mariette Demers, Mélanie Demers, Brigitte Julien, Jimmy Therrien, Rita Richard, Maria Gauvin, Michael LeBlanc, Stella LeBlanc, Ron Arseneault, Mai Cormier, Edwin Girouard, Roger LeBlanc, Armand LeBlanc, Marc LeBlanc, Rose-Alma Mallet, André Richard.

Tracadie-Sheila (Tra) 2^{ième} année; 20 décembre, 2003; Compilatrice : Gertrude St-Pierre; Participants : Ivy Austin, Nicole, Benoit, Frank Branch, Hilaire Chiasson, Rose-Aline Chiasson, Jocelyne Godin, Benoit Hébert, Lucille Landry, Jude Larroque, Nicole Mercier, Roland Robichaud, Donald St-Pierre, Gertrude St-Pierre.

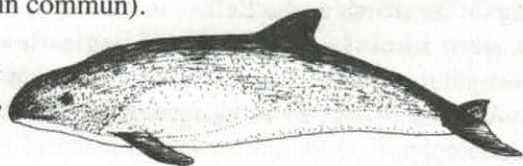
NATURE NEWS: MAMMALS / MAMMIFÈRES

February to April 2004 / Février à avril 2004

Mike LeBlanc

Nelson Poirier made a early morning run on Feb 3rd to Chipman on the Old Fredericton Rd and was surprised by the large number of **White-Tailed Deer** (Cerf de Virginie). During her daily walk on Feb. 10th, Laurie Murison in Hole-in-the-Wall park on Grand Manan stopped to look at some seabirds sitting on the water and a **Finback Whales** (Rorqual commun) slowly surfaced and she watched it for several minutes and then a second joined it, Laurie commented that she felt that there was three whales together. Also in the area was at least one **Harbour Porpoise** (Marsouin commun).

Harbour
Porpoise



On Feb. 26th, Jane LeBlanc in Saint Martins noticed some movement on her porch and turned out to be an **Ermine** (Hermine) in it's nice white winter coat with a black tip on the tail. During a day outing at Adair's Wilderness Lodge on Feb. 21st, tracks of **Snowshoe Hare** (Lièvre d'Amérique), **Coyote** (Coyote), **Ermine**, (Hermine) and a track that was (according to the group's deduction) from a **White-Tailed Deer** (Cerf De Virginie) followed by a coyote were found (information taken from the Moncton Naturalist Club Info Line). Cathy Carter in Moncton noted that she had her first ever **Grey Squirrel** (Écureuil gris) in her yard on Feb. 24th. On March 1st, Merv Cormier observed 9 **White-Tailed Deer** (Cerf de Virginie) in Rockwood Park in Saint John. Denis Doucette noted on March 2nd that he was hearing vocalizations of **Coyotes** (Coyotes) most nights at his home in Pellerin and also noted that he "finds the recent night vocalizations a haunting sound of nature." Peter Smith in Saint John received a visit from his first **Racoons**

(Raton Laveur) on March 8th. In Lakeville Corner, Connie Colpits reported that she observed 34 **White-tailed Deer** in a field on March 10th, and she saw another 16 in four different groups also that day along the old Fredericton Rd. Larry Small's wife was talking to a lady that told her that she was confronted by an aggressive **Raccoon** (Raton Laveur) at North Head on Grand Manan on March 14th. On March 23rd, Nev Garrity spotted a **Groundhog** (Marmotte commune) in Frosty Hallow that was "gingerly walking across the road" and made him feel excited after the long winter with a lot of snow that we just had. A lobster fisherman reported to Laurie Murison that a number of **Harbour Porpoises** (Marsouin commun) were on the western side of Grand Manan on March 25th. Martin Roncetti in Haneytown had his first **Eastern Chipmunk** (Tamia rayé) at his backyard feeders on March 30th. Hugh Parks found a dead animal on April 4th in the St-George area that turned out to be a **Fisher** (Pékan) and he commented on its large teeth. On April 6th, Nelson Poirier reports a **River Otter** (Loutre de Rivière) in the middle of the still frozen Shédiac River and it was « heartily » eating something. On April 4th, Julie Singleton & Robert Whitty had a doe and 3 yearling **White-Tailed Deer** (Cerf de Virginie) at their home in English Settlement Road (2 km from Taymouth) that looked all in good shape. The **Snowshoe Hares** (Lièvre d'Amérique) in Second North River were starting to show some brown which means that they were in their seasonal colour change. Bob Blake also had **Northern Flying Squirrels** at his home in the night of April 14th. Allen and Janet Gorham were in Gagetown and spotted three **Moose** (Orignal) on April 12th. The big mammals walked along the road as if they weren't there and the Gorhams had great observations. David Christie

reports that the first **Eastern Chipmunk** (*Tamias rayé*) of the season was seen in the year at Mary's Point in Harvey on April 17th. On April 23rd Jane LeBlanc spotted a **Red Fox** (*Renard roux*) as it walked just past her car, the fox had half a hare carcass in its mouth. Janet MacMillan observed a **Skunk** (*Moufette rayé*), **Muskrat** (*Rat musqué*) and **White-Tailed Deer** (*Cerf de Virginie*) during the Moncton Naturalist Club field trip to the Jemseg area on April 25th. Bob and Sharon Blake made comments on the progress of the **Snowshoe Hares** (*Lièvre d'Amérique*) colour change in Second North River. On April 29th, they were all brown with only their paws that were still white.

Laurie Murison reports that Poco the **Beluga** (*Béluga*) was visiting Boston Harbour on April 29th. This whale visited the Bay of Fundy in the fall of 2003 in Passamaquoddy Bay and around Pocologan.



Muskrat / Rat musqué

NATURE NEWS: BIRDS

January 25 to March 31, 2004

Rose-Alma Mallet

Richard Blacquiére, Harvey McLeod and Jim Wilson saw an adult **Great Cormorant** (*Grand Cormoran*) flying by Point Lepreau Observatory on Feb.12. Two **Double-crested Cormorants** (*Cormoran à aigrette*) were seen flying by Cape Enrage on Mar.20 by David Christie and Mary Majka.

Beverly Schneider spotted the first migration of **Great Blue Heron** (*Grand Héron*) of the spring season on Mar.24 at Chance Harbour. The next day David Christie and Mary Majka saw one at Daniel Marsh.

A feeding flock of 420 **Brant** (*Bernache cravant*) were observed near Marsh Point on Grand Manan Island by Dwayne Sabine on Feb.17. Ian Cameron spotted a migrating **Gadwall** (*Canard chipeau*) on the marsh at Irving Nature Park (Saint John) on Mar.8. The **Tufted Duck** (*Fuligule morillon*) enjoyed his winter stay in Saint John. Merv Cormier observed the Tufted Duck behind the New Brunswick Museum on Feb. 10. As the Point Lepreau Observatory opened its doors on Mar.14 to monitor the spring seabird migration, Harvey McLeod and Jim Wilson were welcomed by a flock of **Harlequin Ducks** (*Arlequin plongeur*).



Harlequin Duck

Two **King Eiders** (*Eider à tête grise*) were seen near Gull Rock on Grand Manan Island on Feb.17 by Dwayne Sabine. Stuart Tingley and a group observed a male hybrid **King Eider x Common Eider** (*Eider à tête grise x Eider à duvet*) from the Deer Island Ferry.

Jennifer Ritchie reported two **Turkey Vultures** (*Urubu à tête rouge*) soaring over the Petitcodiac River near Riverview on Mar.29 and the next day Richard Blacquiére saw another one near Hammond River.

Norm, Gisèle and Gilles Belliveau shot the video of the year. They caught on film the elusive **Golden Eagle** (*Aigle royal*) on Feb.1 on Route 114 in the Shepody area. Golden Eagles were observed in that area by Mary Majka and David Christie several times during the winter. The eagle was sitting on the marsh as the Belliveaus drove by and while they were filming, an adult Bald Eagle flew in and challenged the Golden Eagle. As the two grappled, a still alive American Black Duck escaped from underneath the Golden Eagle.

An adult **Cooper's Hawk** (*Epervier de Cooper*) visited the feeder of Jeremy and Margot Forster in Fredericton on Feb.20 and Beverly Schneider reported seeing one in Fredericton on Mar.5. Gilles Bourque reported a female Northern Harrier (*Busard Saint-Martin*) in the vicinity of Dorchester on Mar.3. A **Gryfalcon** (*Faucon gerfaut*) overwintered at Dorchester and was seen and photographed by many observers. Roger Leblanc reported seeing it on Mar.5. The peak of **Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buse à queue rousse*) migration at New Horton was recorded on Mar. 30 when Stuart Tingley counted 102 individuals in three and a half hours.

As in every winter, Ruth Miller and Kathy Popma were monitoring wildlife on the Tantramar Marsh. They had a very productive Saturday Jan.31 when they saw 22 species including 6 **Rough-legged Hawks** (*Buse pattue*), 4 light phase and 2 dark phase.

Brian Dalzell spotted two **Peregrine Falcons (Faucon Pélerin)** at Castalia Marsh on Grand Manan Island on Feb.2. Dwayne Sabine reported one in Fredericton on Feb.9 in the same area where one was seen earlier in the winter. The first migrating **Killdeer (Pluvier kildir)** was observed in Cocagne by Louis-Emile Cormier.

Richard Blacquiére, Harvey McLeod and Jim Wilson observed 200 **Purple Sandpiper (Bécasseau violet)** resting on rocks at Point Lepreau on Feb.12. It is the most reliable mainland spot to see that species.

Gilles Belliveau and Shirley Sloat located a **Black-headed Gull (Mouette rieuse)** on Mar.29 at Carleton Park in Fredericton. On the same occasion Gilles spotted a **Bonaparte Gull (Mouette de Bonaparte)**. As usual, Bob Cotsworth did his gull tour every day and on Feb.29 he saw a **Lesser Black-backed Gull (Goéland brun)** behind Tim Horton's in Moncton. This was a first appearance in that area since Sept.13, 2003. Roy and Charlotte Lapointe reported a **Great Black-backed Gull (Goéland marin)** flying over St-Léonard on Feb.20. GBBG are not usually seen in that area in winter.

Richard Blacquiére, Harvey McLeod and Jim Wilson observed a **Thick-billed Murre (Guillemot de Brünnich)** near Point Lepreau Observatory on Feb.12. Allan Boyd reported a **Snowy Owl (Harfang des neiges)** in Moncton on Jan.31.

Another one was seen in Salisbury on Feb.4 by Kelly and Emily Williams. Pat Émond (via David Christie) reported that the **Northern Hawk Owl (Chouette épervière)** seen on Dec. 20 in Kedgwick was still there on Jan.28. Tess McCready saw a **Barred-Owl (Chouette rayée)** in bright daylight on Jan.29 at Berry Mills. Bob Cotsworth reported one coming every morning for 3 weeks to a feeder in Moncton. **Short-eared Owls (Hibou des marais)** were seen on the Tantramar marsh by many observers. Harvey McLeod and Jim Wilson flushed one from the grass near Point Lepreau Observatory on Mar.14. In Memramcook on Feb.22, a **Northern Saw-whet Owl (Petite noctale)** perched on top of one of Jules Cormier's feeders and stayed for half an hour.

On their Saturday Tantramar Tour on Jan.31, Ruth Miller and Cathy Popma saw a **Northern Flicker (Pic flamboyant)** twice. Two were coming regularly to Kevin Renton's feeders in Moncton and one at Tom Dupuis' feeders in Shédiac. A **Red-bellied Woodpecker (Pic à ventre roux)** wintered at Jules Cormier's in Memramcook. Roger Dumaresq observed one in Pokemouche on Feb.10. The **Horned Lark (Alouette hausse-col)** returned for another season at Lomer LeBlanc's feeders in Memramcook on Jan.24. Many observers saw Horned Larks on the Tantramar marsh and on Mar.13, Ruth Miller and Cathy

Popma counted 75 on the marsh.

Tree Swallows (Hirondelle bicolor) were seen by Don Gibson at McGowans Corner on Mar.30.

Kathy Popma had a count of 20 species at her feeder in Sackville during a half hour lunch break on Jan.24. She credited the variety in her yard to her new feeder concept using a bower made of recycled Christmas Trees and feeders suspended in an H-shape amongst them. Among the regular winter visitors that day there were a **Northern Flicker (Pic flamboyant)**, **Cedar Waxing (Jaseur d'Amérique)** and a **White-breasted Nuthatch (Sittelle à poitrine blanche)**. Two White-breasted Nuthatches came regularly to Jules Cormier's feeder in Memramcook.

Brian Dalzell found a **Winter Wren (Troglodyte mignon)** in a low bushpile in Grand Manan on Feb.11. Margaret Gallant Doyle reported that a **Northern Mockingbird (Moqueur polyglotte)** wintered in Campbellton.

The winter brought reports of large flocks of **Bohemian Waxwings (Jaseur boréal)**. Bob Blake and Nelson Poirier saw 150 gleaning an apple tree in Dieppe on Jan.28 and David Christie and Mary Majka observed approximately 250 gleaning Mountain Ash berries in the Riverside-Albert area on Mar.3.

Brian Dalzell spotted an early migrating **Eastern Phoebe (Moucherolle phébi)** in Grand Manan on Mar.24. Jennifer Day-Elgee saw a small flock of migrating **Common Crackle (Quiscale bronzé)** in Grand Bay on Mar.4 and David Christie spotted 6 at Marys Point on Mar.5. On the same day, David observed 2 male migrating **Redwing Blackbirds (Carouge à épaulettes)** at Harvey.

There were a lot of **Pine Grosbeak (Durbec des sapins)** reports this winter. Pat Émond reported 50 to 60 in Kedgwick on Jan.28.

Alain Clavette observed a very sizable group of approximately 1200 **Snow Buntings (Bruant des neiges)** in Beaumont on Mar.13. They were still there on Mar.25 when Francis LeBlanc reported seeing 1000. Alain Clavette took good digital photographs of two **Lapland Lonspurs (Bruant lapon)** in Taylor Village on Feb.8 and 50 were seen feeding along the Tantramar marsh edge on Mar.13 by Ruth Miller and Cathy Popma. On Feb.24 Merv Cormier found a **Fox Sparrow (Bruant fauve)** on his property in Saint John. Reports of **Song Sparrow (Bruant chanteur)** were scarce this winter. There were two at Margaret Gallant Doyle's in Campbellton on Jan.28. A **White-throated Sparrow (Bruant à gorge blanche)** spent 22 days in January at the feeder of Dave McLeod's in New Jersey. Another wintered in Mary's Point and David Christie heard him sing on Feb.14. Pat Émond in Kedgwick, enjoyed the

January visit to his feeder of a **White-crowned Sparrow** (**Bruant à couronne blanche**).

Ian Cameron heard a **Northern Cardinal** (**Cardinal rouge**) in full exuberant song in Rothesay on Feb.3 and one was singing at Jim Wilson's in Hammond River on Feb.21.

It was a great year for Hoary Redpolls. They appeared at feeders with numerous Common Redpoll. There were 7 **Hoary Redpolls** (**Sizerin blanchâtre**) mixed in with more than 350 **Common Redpolls** (**Sizerin flammé**) at Roy and Charlotte Lapointe's in Saint Leonard on Feb.2.

Erratum: Ring-billed Gull (NOT Mew Gull) at Pointe-du-Chêne on Nov. 9, 2003. In the Winter 2003/2004 edition of NB Naturalist (page 145), it was erroneously reported that "Jean-Sébastien Guénette found a Mew Gull (Goéland cendré) at Pointe-du-Chêne on Nov. 9, 2003". As Jean-Sébastien pointed out at the time he posted his sighting on NatureNB, this bird was possibly a first winter Mew Gull or a Ring-billed Gull. It was later confirmed from photographs, that it was strange looking second year Ring-billed Gull (Goéland à bec cerclé). Our apologies to Jean-Sébastien for this error.

NATURE NEWS: INVERTEBRATES

January 1 to February 29, 2004

Dwayne L. Sabine

Winter reports of terrestrial invertebrates are few and far between, for obvious reasons. There are a few "winter" species that are only evident this time of year. In addition, those species that overwinter as adults are sometimes reported, either when they become active outside during warm spells, or are discovered in their wintering sites. There were two invertebrate reports posted to NatureNB this winter: Ron Wilson found dense congregations of Snow Fleas (collembole des neiges, puce de neige; *Hypogastrura nivicola*) on the snow in the UNB Woodlot in Fredericton on February 24, and Nelson Poirier reported a small cluster of overwintering Southern Lady Beetles (coccinelle asiatique multicolore; *Harmonia axyridis*) in a corner of a building at Sheffield Mills in Nova Scotia on January 31.

One belated report from last fall: Jim Goltz and several other veterinarians attending the New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association's annual general meeting heard a very unusual rhythmic series of harsh calls, reminiscent of the scolding calls of a Northern Mockingbird or wren, while walking in downtown Chatham after dark on the evening of September 27, 2003. The following evening Jim received a telephone phone call from a resident of New Maryland and was asked to identify an unusual sound that had been intriguing the neighbourhood for nearly a week. As the caller proceeded into their backyard with cellphone in hand, Jim heard the same vocalization that he had heard at Miramichi. A tip from David Christie solved the mystery: the calls were those of the **True Katydid** (saute-feuille arboricole; *Pterophylla camellifolia*). According to David,

this species has only been found in the province on a few occasions, and is not normally found northeast of Massachusetts. David has posted some details online, including a recording of **True Katydid** vocalizations: <<http://www3.nbnet.nb.ca/maryspt/bugs/Katydid.html>>. The vocalizations at New Maryland abruptly stopped for a few days when evening temperatures took a plunge, but resumed again on October 9 for one night during a warm spell.

Given the scarcity of winter invertebrate reports, I thought I would take the opportunity to briefly highlight a species group that may be of interest in the coming field season:

The Tiger Beetles (Les Cicindèles).

Beetles (Order: Coleoptera) are a very imposing group for the amateur entomologist. There are approximately 350,000 known beetle species worldwide, representing about one third of all known animal species! There are an estimated 3000 beetle species in New Brunswick. Tiger beetles (Subfamily: Cicindelinae, or the "Cicindelids") are a great group to start with, since there are only a few species found in NB, they are relatively large and colourful, and they are very active and thus easy to find. Nine species of tiger beetles are known to occur in New Brunswick. Two others occur very close to our borders in neighbouring Maine, Nova Scotia, and/or Québec, and they almost certainly occur here as well.

Species known to occur in New Brunswick

Cicindela duodecimguttata: la cicindèle à 12 points, Twelve-spotted Tiger Beetle

Cicindela hirticollis: la cicindèle à ligne obtuse, Hairy-necked Tiger Beetle

Cicindela limbialis: la cicindèle à marge verte, Clay Bank Tiger Beetle

Cicindela longilabris: la cicindèle à grande lèvre, Long-lip Tiger Beetle

Cicindela marginipennis: une cicindèle, Cobblestone Tiger Beetle

Cicindela punctulata: la cicindèle ponctuée, Sidewalk Tiger Beetle

Cicindela repanda: la cicindèle commune, Common Shore Tiger Beetle

Cicindela sexguttata: la cicindèle à six points, Six-spotted Tiger Beetle

Cicindela tranquebarica: la cicindèle à ligne oblique, Oblique-lined Tiger Beetle

Species probably occurring in New Brunswick

Cicindela ancocisconnensis: une cicindèle, White Mountain Tiger Beetle

Cicindela purpurea: la cicindèle purpurine, Cow Path Tiger Beetle

Tiger beetles are typically found in bare open areas such as gravel and sand pits, forest roads, rock outcrops, river and lake shores, and coastal sand dunes. Most of our species use a variety of habitats, including those created by humans such as forest roads and pits, and thus are quite abundant. Among the less-common NB species are: the Hairy-necked Tiger Beetle, which is found on coastal sand beaches (a habitat often highly impacted or used by humans); the Sidewalk Tiger Beetle, which is found on bare, packed ground and is very tolerant of human activity, but which has been found in NB only once; and the Cobblestone Tiger Beetle, which is typically found on cobble bars on large rivers, and was only recently discovered in the province.

New Brunswick's tiger beetles are generally brown and/or green in colour, often with metallic-appearing areas, especially on their undersides. Most species can be easily identified by the characteristic pattern of light markings on their elytra (wing-casings). They prey on small insects, especially ants. While searching for prey they typically run rapidly across the ground in short bursts, stopping frequently. The larvae are predacious as well. They construct burrows in the sand, waiting at the entrance to ambush passing insects.

If you have ever walked a beach in summer and had half-inch long 'bugs' flush, fly ahead of you about 5-10 metres and then land again, you have probably already encountered cicindelids. This habit makes them quite challenging to net. The most productive technique seems to be to walk through a promising area on warm sunny days until a beetle is flushed and then lands, and then carefully stalk the resting beetle and flip an insect net over it. They can then be placed in a clear pill bottle for close observation (and perhaps photography for significant specimens) and subsequent release, or they could be retained for pinning and deposition in a museum collection, etc. Close-focusing binoculars can also be used to identify tiger beetles without netting them. I would be interested in any observations (particularly of the less common species) and would be willing to examine specimens. Good luck!

If you wish to purchase a field guide, look for "Northeastern Tiger Beetles: A Field Guide to Tiger Beetles of New England and Eastern Canada", by Jonathan G. Leonard and Ross T. Bell, CRC Press, 1999. For further information on the species of tiger beetles found in NB, try the following websites:

Guide d'identification d'insectes du Québec (Cicindèles)
<http://www.lesinsectesduquebec.com/insecta/24-coleoptera/cicindelinae.htm>

Tiger Beetles of Vermont

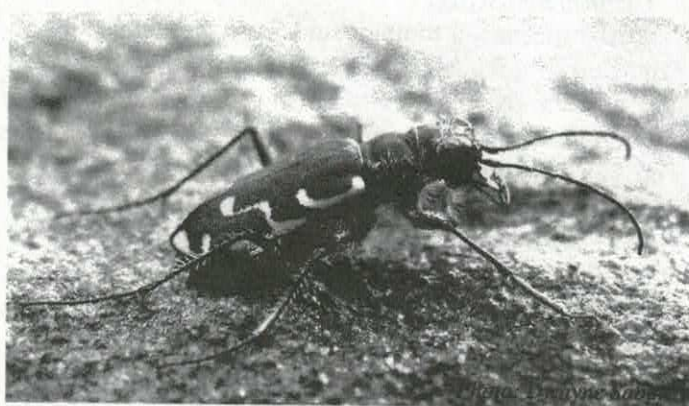
<http://www.uvm.edu/~rtbell/Tigers.html>

Tiger Beetles of Connecticut

<http://collections2.eeb.uconn.edu/collections/insects/CTBnew/ctb.htm>

Tiger Beetles of Ontario

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/~samarsha/tiger-beetles.htm>



The Common Shore Tiger Beetle (Cicindela repanda) is a very abundant species in NB. It is found in a variety of habitats, but often near water. Look for it along river shores, coastal beaches, gravel bars on the inside bends of small to medium-sized streams, and in gravel/sand pits within a few hundred metres of water bodies.

NATURE NEWS: BOTANY RAMBLINGS

1 January to 30 April, 2004

James P. Goltz

VASCULAR PLANTS

Species New for New Brunswick

While examining New Brunswick collections of **Beggar-ticks** (*Bidens* sp.) for his PhD research at Université Laval, Stéphane Plante identified 3 specimens of *Bidens heterodoxa* (sorry, I was unable to find a common name for this species) that had been previously annotated as **Purple-stem Beggar-ticks** (*Bidens connata*). The collections of *Bidens heterodoxa* were from the edge of a wet depression located in Kouchibouguac National Park, roughly 4.5 mi. N of Kelly's Beach (Derek Munro, 1978); wet sandy soil at the edge of a fresh pond near the shore at Point Sapin (Hal Hinds and Dan Breen, 1979); and along the edge of a lake at peat bogs near La Grande Lac on the east side of Lamèque Island (Hal Hinds and Mathieu Duguay, 1984). Although all naturalists have encountered Beggar-ticks and inadvertently transported the awned achenes of these plants on socks, shoe laces and clothing, plants of this genus can vary tremendously in height and can be extremely difficult to identify, especially if fruiting material is not well-developed. The achenes of *Bidens heterodoxa* are warty and hairy (pubescent) while those of *Bidens connata* are warty but usually lack hairs (i.e., are glabrous). When removing Beggar-ticks achenes from your clothing, pull out your hand lenses and have a look at your passengers!

Historic Rediscovery

Royce Steeves, a biology student at the University of Prince Edward Island, came across a plant species that he had never seen before, while he was walking through coniferous woods in the Elgin area in the fall of 2003. Through consultation and research, he concluded and verified it was **Downy Rattlesnake-plantain** (*Goodyera pubescens*), a species thought to have been extirpated from New Brunswick. This orchid species had been collected at Petitcodiac in 1881 (and again in 1882) and rediscovered in Odell Park in 1981, but had not been relocated at either location or found anywhere else in the province. At the Elgin site, it was growing with **Wintergreen** (*Gaultheria procumbens*), **Bunchberry** (*Cornus canadensis*) and **Canada Mayflower** (*Maianthemum canadense*) beneath **Balsam Fir** (*Abies balsamea*). When Royce returned to check out the plants in early May of 2004, he found that the area had been clearcut and much of the organic material had been scraped into a big pile in the middle of the chopping. A few survivors remained under the leaf litter

but are likely to perish since this species usually cannot tolerate direct sunlight and competition from early successional species. This is a tragic example of how species with requirements for old growth forest habitat are at risk in New Brunswick.

Early Bloomers

A **Pussy Willow** (*Salix discolor*) was reported and photographed at Fredericton Junction on 29 February (Freddie and David Givan). At Nashwaaksis, a few Pussy Willows were seen on April 11 (JPG, MT). By April 30, some of the Pussy Willows at Fredericton had fully differentiated into their male flowers with bright yellow anthers and their female flowers with pale green styles and stigmas (JPG, JJW); male and female flowers of willows occur on separate plants.

Female flowers of **Beaked Hazel** (*Corylus cornuta*) were seen at Hyla Park in Fredericton (JPG) and were starting to open at Turtle Creek (AW) on April 19. Male catkins of this species had already begun to shed pollen at Fredericton that same day (JPG).

Speckled Alder (*Alnus incana*) was shedding pollen at Nashwaaksis on April 11 (JPG, MT), in a hardwood stand at Marysville (Fredericton) on April 20 (DS), and at Turtle Creek on April 21 (AW).

Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) was in peak bloom along the St. John River near Jemseg on April 18 (JPG, SS).

American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) burst into bloom at Marysville around April 28 (DS).

A "freakish" plant of **Red-berried Elder** (*Sambucus racemosa*) at Marysville had leaves that were about 90% unfurled on April 29, when neighbouring plants of this species merely had swollen buds (DS).

A few flowers of Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) were in bloom at Fredericton on April 30 (JPG).

Janet and Allen Gorham's search for early blooms of **Coltsfoot** (*Tussilago farfara*) paid off when they saw the "sunny faces" of three blossoms at "the biggest of the rock faces on the Norton Shore Rd." on the Kingston Peninsula just before noon on March 16. That same day, Walter Williams found a few flowers of Coltsfoot growing in gravel near the junction of Teed Road and Route 845 in the Clifton Royal area of the Kingston Peninsula (fide Jean Isaacs). Other reports of Coltsfoot in bloom included 60 to 80 at Fredericton on April 10 (JPG), 1 at Chance Harbour on April 10 (CLJ), a huge patch at Fredericton on April 19

(JPG), at Grey Brook marsh at Hillsborough on April 20 (MLeB and others), on a roadside at St. Gabriel on April 21 (MLeB, BLeB), and 4 at Turtle Creek on April 22 (AW) despite the fact that the Coltsfoot patch there had been under water the day before.

The first flowers of **Hepatica** (*Hepatica americana*) at Bulls Creek near Debec were "just opening" on April 25 (GP).

On April 26 at Taymouth, **Trout Lily** (*Erythronium americanum*) leaves were up but there was not yet any sign of flower buds, several clumps of **Red Trillium** (*Trillium erectum*) sported leaves and buds, and **False Hellebore** (*Veratrum viride*) shoots were 15 to 20 cm. tall (JS).

The fragrant blooms of **Trailing Arbutus** (*Epigaea repens*) were observed at Central Blissville on April 27 (FG) and at Fredericton on April 30 (JPG, JJW).

Some plants of **Dutchman's Breeches** (*Dicentra cucullaria*) and **Bloodroot** (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) were in bloom on April 29 along a sheltered southwest facing stretch of the Tay River at Taymouth (JS). On April 26, a few Dutchman's Breeches blossoms had been on the verge of opening there, but Bloodroot was still dormant.

Unsolved Mysteries

A specimen of Beggar-ticks collected from Grand Manan was too depauperate or immature for Stéphane Plante to conclusively determine to species, but may have been the extremely rare **Eaton's Beggar-ticks** (*Bidens eatonii*), confirmed in the province only from the Miramichi River estuary. Naturalists visiting Grand Manan in September should carefully check out the Beggar-ticks.



Bidens connata



Bidens eatonii

Abbreviations: AW Ajo Wissink, BLeB Bernadette LeBlanc, CLJ Cecil Johnston, DS Dwayne Sabine, FG Fredrica Givan, GP George Peabody, JJW James Walde, JPG James Goltz, JS Julie Singleton, MLeB Mike LeBlanc, MT Maureen Toner, SS Shirley Sloat

LATEST NEWS: NBFN / FNNB AGM 2004

Sabine Dietz, Mike LeBlanc

It was cold, wet, fun and interesting. Read more about it in the next NB Naturalist!

Gart Bishop received the Nature Canada (formerly Canadian Nature Federation) Volunteer Award during the Banquet. Rose Aline and Hilaire Chiasson were awarded a lifetime membership by the NBFN.

Thanks to the Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska and everyone that made this weekend such a success!

Il faisait froid, il était humide, c'était le plaisir, et c'était intéressant. Veuillez en lire plus dans le prochain numéro du Naturaliste du N.-B.!

Durant le banquet, Gart Bishop a reçu le prix du « bénévole de l'année » de Nature Canada. Rose Aline et Hilaire Chiasson ont reçu un abonnement à vie de la FNNB.

Merci au Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska et tous ceux qui ont fait cette réunion un grand succès!



Pictured are: Mike LeBlanc (NBFN President), Gart Bishop (Volunteer of the year) and Louise Gratton (past chair of Nature Canada). Dans la photo : Mike LeBlanc (président de la FNNB), Gart Bishop (bénévole de l'année) et Louise Gratton (présidente sortante de Nature Canada).



N. B. Federation of Naturalists
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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.

Astronomie / Astronomy Roy LaPointe, 60 Cyr St, St. Leonard, NB, E7E 1X7, Tel. (506) 423-1900, e-mail: birdyard@nbnet.nb.ca

Oiseaux / Birds

* numéro d'hiver / Winter issue: Don Gibson, 50 Golf Club Rd, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5M4, Tel. (506) 454-3261, e-mail: gibsondg@nbnet.nb.ca

* numéro du printemps / Spring issue: Rose-Alma Mallet, 801 Route 133, Boudreau West, NB, E4P 6P2, Tel. (506) 532-3482, e-mail: malletra@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.

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* numéro d'automne / Fall issue: Pierrette Mercier, 888 chemin du Pouvoir, St-Joseph de Madawaska, NB, E7B 2M4, Tel. (506) 735-6872, e-mail: 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, e-mail: dlsmejs@netscape.net

Plantes / Plants

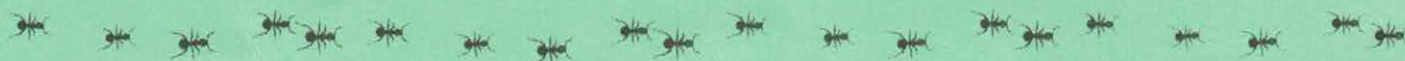
Jim Goltz, 126 Wilsey Rd. Apt. 17, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5J1, Tel. (506) 459-8685, e-mail: marph@nbnet.nb.ca

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, e-mail: dmcalpin@nb.aibn.com

Mammifères / Mammals

Mike LeBlanc, 1529 St-Gabriel Rd., Saint-Maurice, NB, E4S 5C1, Tel. (506) 743-8485, e-mail: pandion@nbnet.nb.ca



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