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

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







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

277 avenue Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N. B. E2K 1E5 Canada. [www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca)

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

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

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**Past president / Ancien président:** Pierrette Mercier, 888 chem du Pouvoir, St-Joseph de Madawaska, NB E7B 2M4; tel. 735-6872

**President / Président:** Mike LeBlanc, 7 Rue Landry Street, Bouctouche, NB E4S 3M9; tel. 743-8485, Email/Courriel: [pandion@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:pandion@nbnet.nb.ca)

**Vice-president / Vice-présidente:** Roland Chiasson, 4800 Route 11, Tabusintac, NB E9H 1J6; tel. 779-4748, e-mail/courriel: [corvus@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:corvus@nbnet.nb.ca)

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

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

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

**NBFN/FNNB bureau de Fredericton Office:** Marieka Arnold, 24 rue Prospect St., Suite 2, Fredericton, NB, E3B 2T9, 459-4209, Email/Courriel: [nbf@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:nbf@nbnet.nb.ca)

**Piper Project / Projet Siffleur** a/s Lewnanny Richardson, 1704 chemin Rivière a la truite, Rivière a la truite, E1X 2L5. tel. 395-3500; [pluvier@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:pluvier@nbnet.nb.ca)

**Directors-at-large / Membres généraux:** Brigitte Julien, tel. 955-3107; Bernadette LeBlanc, 7 Rue Landry Street, Bouctouche, N.B. E4S 3M9 tel. 743-8485.

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**Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche,** c/o Marc LeBlanc 1529 383 chemin de la Cote, Grand-Digue, E4R 4A9; 576-1075; courriel / email: [mireille\\_godin@hotmail.com](mailto:mireille_godin@hotmail.com) Site web: [www.geocities.com/anbbaout](http://www.geocities.com/anbbaout) Réunions le dernier mardi du mois à l'éco-centre Irving, la dune de Bouctouche (septembre à juin) avec sorties chaque mois.

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

**Chignecto Naturalists' Club,** c/o CWS, Box 6227, Sackville, NB E4L 1G6; 364-5047; meets Sackville Public Library, 7:30 pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon., Sept.-June.

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

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

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

(Bert Lavoie); réunions à 19h00, 2<sup>ème</sup> mercredi, sept. à juin, Musée du Madawaska; *Le Jaseur* trimestriel.

**Club les Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est Inc.,** a/s Norm Belliveau, C.P. 4204, Dieppe, NB E1A 6E8, ligne d'information: 532-Buse réunions alternant entre Dieppe et Shédiac, 1<sup>er</sup> mercredi du mois; excursions 3<sup>ème</sup> 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; tel. 392-6481 meets Florenceville Town Hall, 7:00 pm, 4<sup>th</sup> Thur., Sept.-June; meetings advertised in local newspapers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The NBFN is the provincial affiliate of 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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Please submit articles for the next issue by April 30th 2005  
 S.v.p. soumettre les articles à l'intention du prochain numéro avant le 30 avril 2004  
 To / à Gart Bishop, 16 Pitt St. Sussex, NB E4D 1J1  
 tel. (506) 433-4994 Email: gartali@nbnet.nb.ca

**EDITORIAL TEAM FOR WINTER ISSUE**

Producer / Production: Gart Bishop

Undercover agent / Agent secret.: Mary Sollows

Distribution Officer / Distribution: Janet MacMillan

Article Editors &amp; Translation / Rédaction des articles &amp; Traduction: Bernadette LeBlanc, Roger LeBlanc, Roland Chiasson, Alison McArthur



## MOT DU PRÉSIDENT

Mike LeBlanc

New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick, naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick, Nature NB:, NBFN, FNNB, fédération des naturalistes... Je les entends souvent. Permettez-moi de clarifier des choses. En 2004 nous, la fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau Brunswick, avons en effet acquis la marque de fabrique "Nature NB:", mais nous sommes toujours, pour l'instant et jusqu'à nouvel ordre, la fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau Brunswick - New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists inc. (ou NBFN - FNNB inc.). Nous nous rendons compte que la listserve Nature NB est en fonction depuis avril 1996 par les naturalistes bénévoles avec l'aide d'UNBSJ, mais elle n'est pas gérée par FNNB. La fédération soutient et sait que cette listserve est un outil d'éducation très important de nature et de l'enchaînement des naturalistes dans la province. La fédération a simplement acquis cette marque de fabrique pour s'assurer qu'elle soit employée d'une manière positive pour la nature.

Quand vous dites le nom officiel de notre organisation, il peut devenir tout à fait long : La fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau Brunswick - New Brunswick federation of naturalists inc.. Souvent lorsque vous dites vous êtes un naturaliste, beaucoup ne savent pas ce que vous voulez dire. Certains diront : Oh c'est vous qui aimez être nu", mais une fois leur avoir expliqué que vous aimez la nature, que vous observez des oiseaux et/ou des plantes etc., ils comprennent ce qu'est être un naturaliste. La NBFN - FNNB est notre fédération, chacun de nos 325 membres ; (plus haut compte jamais en date du 22 janvier) et le conseil d'administration estime que nous avons besoin de votre entrée sur cette question importante.

Au cours des dernières années nous étions passés par un bon nombre de changements positifs. FNNB s'était développé rapidement et même si nous sommes toujours relativement inconnus à beaucoup de nouveaux-brunswickois, nous avons toujours été un groupe important dans la province. Nous sommes une organisation basée sur la nature avec toutes nos activités tournant autour de différents aspects du monde normal en lequel nous vivons. Il y a alors deux questions que le conseil d'administration voudrait vous demandez avis. (avec le spectaculaire quantité de réponses de notre enquête d'adhésion nous sommes tout à fait confiants que bon nombre d'entre vous répondront cette fois.) Nous vous remercions à l'avance de prendre le temps de faire ainsi.

J'ai entendu pendant la dernière année que la fédération devrait changer notre nom de la fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau Brunswick - New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists à : Nature NB. Le nom est plus court, bilingue et le mot nature est plus vite reconnaissable que naturaliste. Le conseil prend son temps avec cette issue et étudie le pour et le contre, pour ne pas changer juste pour le changement. Nous savons que nous avons une longue histoire et nous ne voulons pas prendre aucune décision qui offenserait n'importe qui ou n'emporterait pas du travail dur que bon nombre d'entre vous ont effectué dans le passé. Nous sommes fiers de notre histoire et tous nos accomplissements. Mais beaucoup estiment que notre travail serait plus facile avec le nom Nature NB au lieu de : Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau Brunswick - New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists inc. Nous voulons vos pensées sur cette question, pour ou contre.

Question # 1 : Quel est votre opinion sur le nom Nature NB versus la "Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau Brunswick - New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists inc ?

Question # 2 : "Est-ce que la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau Brunswick - New Brunswick Federation of naturalists inc. devrait apporter la question de changement de nom à un vote des membres à l'AGA ?

Vos pensées peuvent être envoyées à Mike LeBlanc, président ou à Marieka Arnold, directrice exécutive.

Tous les commentaires seront pris en compte par votre conseil d'administration et maintenus confidentiels. Nous estimons que c'est un processus important et une décision collective sera prise s'il y a lieu par l'adhésion à une date ultérieure.

Merci de vos commentaires.

Mike LeBlanc, président  
7 rue Landry Street,  
Bouctouche, NB,  
E4S 3M9  
pandion@nbnet.nb.ca

Marieka Arnold, directrice  
exécutive  
924 rue Prospect Street,  
Suite 110, Fredericton, NB  
E3B 2T9  
nbfn@nb.aibn.com



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mike LeBlanc

New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick, Naturalist federation, Nature NB, NBFN, FNNB... I hear them all the time. Allow me to clarify things. In 2004 we, the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, did indeed acquire the trade name "Nature NB", but we are still, for the time being and until further notice, the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists – Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick Inc. (or NBFN – FNNB inc). We realise that the listserve Nature NB has been in operation since April of 1996 by dedicated naturalists with the help of UNBSJ, but it is not NBFN – FNNB run. The Federation supports and knows that this listserve is a very important part of nature education and the linking of naturalists in the province. The Federation simply acquired this trade name to assure it's used in a positive way for nature.

When you say the official name of our organisation, it can get quite long: The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists – La Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick Inc. Often when you tell people you are a naturalist, many do not know what that is. Some people will say: "oh you run around nude" but after explaining that you love nature, or you observe birds and/or plants, etc, they understand what being a naturalist is all about.

The NBFN - FNNB is our federation, all 325 members; (an all time high as of the January 22<sup>nd</sup>) and the board of directors feels that we need your input on this important issue.

Over the past years we have been going through lots of positive changes. NBFN has been growing rapidly and even if we are still relatively unknown to many New Brunswickers, we have been a major group in the province for over thirty years. We are a nature-based organisation with all of our activities revolving around different aspects of the natural world that we live in.

There are two questions that the Board of Directors would like to ask you. (With the outpour of replies from our membership survey we are quite confident that many of you will respond this time as well.) We thank you in advance for taking the time to do so.

I have been hearing for the past year that the Federation should change our name from the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists – Fédération des naturalistes du

Nouveau-Brunswick to Nature NB. The name is shorter, bilingual and the word nature is more recognisable than naturalist. The board is taking its time with this issue and is studying the pros and cons, not to just change for the sake of change. We know that we have a long history and we do not want to make any decisions that would offend anyone or not take away from the hard work that many of you have done in the past. We are proud of our history and all of our accomplishments, but many feel that our work would be easier with Nature NB instead of New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists – Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick inc. and we would like your thoughts on this issue, for or against.

**Question #1:** What is your opinion on the name "Nature NB" versus "New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists – Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick inc. "?

**Question #2:** " Should the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists – Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick inc. bring the name change to a vote of the membership at the AGM?

Your thoughts can be sent to either Mike LeBlanc, President or to Marieka Arnold, Executive Director. All comments will be taken in consideration by your Board of Directors and will be kept confidential. We feel that this is an important process and a collective decision will be taken by the membership at a later date if required.

Thank you for your comments.

Mike LeBlanc, President,  
7 Rue Landry St,  
Boucetouche, NB,  
E4S 3M9  
pandion@nbnet.nb.ca

Marieka Arnold,  
Executive Director,  
924 rue Prospect  
Street, Suite 110,  
Fredericton, NB E3B  
2T9  
nbfn@nb.aibn.com



## JUDGING A HOUSE BY ITS INHABITANTS USING MACROINVERTEBRATES TO EVALUATE STREAM HEALTH

*Dr. Alyre Chiasson*

Increasing pressures on our freshwater resources have made public and government agencies aware of the need to evaluate the health of our rivers and streams. Despite the debate over the exact meaning of aquatic "health", the concept is often framed in terms of ecological integrity or function. Simply put, a healthy stream should come as close as possible to maintaining the biological communities we would expect under undisturbed conditions. In the past, chemistry variables such as stream acidity and morphological features such as eroding banks and siltation were used to assess stream health. Fish species and abundance are usually determined in such studies but their usefulness as an index of aquatic health is hampered by migratory movements, removal by fishing, and under certain conditions, naturally low abundance. Macroinvertebrates which consist primarily of aquatic insects that live in the gravel of the stream or river can address the shortcoming of using fish as a biological index of ecological integrity.

Macroinvertebrates are visible to the naked eye and are relatively easy to collect, the most popular methods being the Surber Sampler and the Kick-Net. The mesh size for collecting macroinvertebrates is usually standardized to 500  $\mu$  ( $\frac{1}{2}$  mm). It is important that the same mesh size be used throughout the study. Both methods rely on a disturbance of the gravel substrate where the suspended macroinvertebrates are swept by the current into the wait-

ing net. The lower third of riffle areas is often chosen for sampling. Usually, three samples are taken and combined into one larger sample. This is known as composite sampling. Where detailed statistical analysis is involved, composite samples should be taken from different riffles within the watercourse to estimate the within-stream variability of the invertebrate communities. Samples are best preserved in a solution of 20% formalin and 80% ethanol or isopropyl alcohol. However, since formalin is a suspected carcinogen, ethanol is a safer solution. Use of 20% water 80% ethanol is certainly justified when identification is to be completed in the coming weeks rather than several months later and proper handling facilities for formalin are not available. Samples are cleaned in the laboratory using 500  $\frac{1}{4}$  sieves. The organisms are identified to family level or better. Frequently there is a need for subsampling of the composite sample. Although a target of 100 organisms is often suggested in the early literature, my personal experience suggests that 300 organisms enables far better detection of differences among sites or streams. Organisms smaller than 3 mm can be excluded as they may be immature or particularly difficult for the beginner to identify. A small piece of wire can be cut to this length and used as a reference in the sorting tray. Identification to family level is not a difficult task with the appropriate guides.

The sensitivity of macroinvertebrates to habitat disrup-



*Collecting Samples from a Kick-net*  
Photo A. Chiasson



*Collecting samples using a Surber Sampler*  
Photo by A. Chiasson

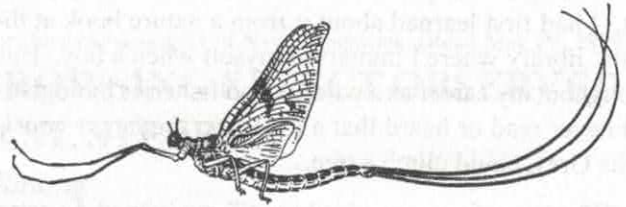


tion varies among families. Mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies require clean porous gravel and high oxygen levels. They are not resistant to chemical pollution. Unless the habitat in question is a naturally slow moving muddy-bottom stream or river, the total absence of members of these three families and the dominant presence of the more re-



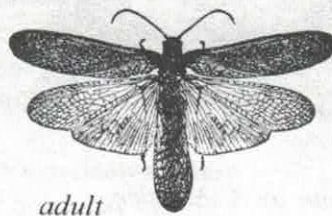
*Mayfly: nymph and adult*  
from J. H. Comstock

which are indicators of specific conditions such as siltation. Numerous metrics are usually compiled into a single "multimetric index" and subjected to statistical analysis to distinguish test sites from reference sites. It is also possible to use multivariate analysis as an alternate statistical approach to classify different sites according to similarities or

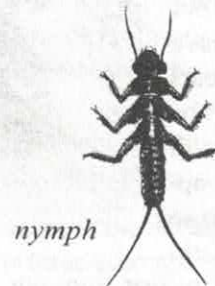


differences among families (taxons). This rather detailed and more technical approach is used where strict adherence to water quality guidelines are required or when existing legislation, as in the United States, requires evaluation

sistant blackfly larvae should be taken as a warning sign. This information can be better quantified into an index of stream health. The tolerance to habitat disruption and chemical pollution has been established for many families of macroinvertebrates and ranges from 0 to 10, lower values being associated with better habitat. A weighted averaged (Hilsenhoff's Family Biotic Index) is calculated and translated directly into water quality categories ranging from excellent to very poor (ref: Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax, <http://lakes.chebucto.org>). "Saves our Streams" in the United States publishes a small volunteer's guide with identification keys that use a similar method to arrive at a water quality index (ref: <http://www.iwla.org/SOS/sostools.html>).



*adult*



*nymph*

*Stonefly*  
from J.H. Comstock

quality assurance is required. Quality assurance covers such aspects as labelling of specimens, coding of data, and identification and storage of specimens. An excellent guiding document by Culp, Cash and Halliwell "Volunteer-Based Monitoring Program For the Salmon River Basin: using

of the living component of streams as well as the physical. Individuals interested in this detailed and more demanding approach can consult the EPA's guiding document at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/rbp/>. Especially at a volunteer level, some degree of

Benthic Indicators to Assess Stream Health," can be downloaded at <http://www.rem.sfu.ca/FRAP/9709.pdf>. Depending on the goals and objectives involved, macroinvertebrates can not only provide a quick and reliable indicator of changes to aquatic ecosystems in a volunteer-based sampling program but can also furnish much greater details where resources are available and information requirements are more stringent.

Analysis of macroinvertebrates communities can be taken several steps further. Detailed studies involve the use



*nymph*



*Caddisfly*

from J.H. Comstock



*adult*

of reference sites against which supposed degraded sites are compared. Numerous indexes known as metrics can be calculated, including community structure as determined by the ratios of scrapers (insects that scrape rocks), shredders (insects that tear leaves) and collectors (insects that catch drift organisms). Certain metrics use target species

Dr. Chiasson teaches at Département de biologie, Université de Moncton; [chiassa@umoncton.ca](mailto:chiassa@umoncton.ca)



## FOX CLIMBS TREE

Allan Madden Restigouche Naturalists

Some folks know that a Grey Fox can climb part way up a leaning tree—quite a feat for an animal with dog-like feet. I had first learned about it from a nature book at the public library where I immersed myself when a boy. But, throughout my career as a wildlife and fisheries biologist, I had never read or heard that a Red Fox, the larger cousin of the Grey, could climb a tree.

"There's a fox in our backyard!" exclaimed Annette, my wife, looking out our kitchen window. I rushed to the window and saw a beautiful orange-red fox. It was munching one of the frozen apples I had thrown onto the snow the day before—January 31, 2001.

Foxes are not unusual at our place. It's just that we have rarely seen them in our 28 years at our home in Tide Head, New Brunswick, on the border with Quebec. The foxes that do approach our abode, usually do so only at night in the cover of darkness. This fox was only fifty feet from our house, so I hurried to get my camera and screw on my 400mm telephoto. I had never had a camera in hand when I saw a fox close-up, and this was the first opportunity in thirty-three years to obtain a good photo of one.

By the time I returned to the window, the fox was trotting away, and all I got was a rear-end picture. The animal headed for our chain-link enclosed pond, 200 feet distant. On the opposite side of the pond and behind the wire fence, the fox lied down and went to sleep. The fencing prevented me from acquiring a clear shot of the sleeping critter, so I decided to wait until it arose and had moved beyond the fence.

After a long, forty-five minute timed wait, the fox finally awakened, stood, and ambled off parallel to the fence. I adjusted the focus on my lens, and when the fox cleared the fence, I took a photo. The sky was completely over-

cast, but I had a sense of achievement in finally having photographed a fox, even though it was 200 feet away. But that was not to be the highlight of the day.

The fox entered our apple orchard, approached a tree, and in ten minutes quickly ate three more frozen apples. Through the eight-power telephoto lens, I then saw the fox look up into the five-inch diameter tree from which the apples had dropped. What I saw next was incredible! The fox made a short, vertical leap into the tree, landing on a

two-inch diameter limb and climbed to a height of five feet from the ground (later measured). It grabbed an apple in its mouth, and then it dropped from the tree. The entire process took only about four seconds. I was taken by surprise, so I did not get a photo. The successful tree-climber quickly consumed its prize under the tree, but did not attempt to acquire another fruit. It then sauntered out of the orchard and out of sight.

Annette had not seen the rare event (which of course makes it even rarer), being in a different room while I waited out the fox. However, as the fox was climbing, I excitedly shouted to her that which I witnessed.

Surprisingly, within an hour, another fox appeared in our backyard. No, it was not the same animal, for it had arrived from the opposite direction. Apparently, it too was attracted to the apples I had thrown out. This time, my camera and telephoto were at hand, so we finally got a good quality close-up of a fox—curled up and

lying on the snow in the shelter of a dark green spruce, apparently absorbing the heat from the sunshine.

The day had provided a few firsts for us: the first time we had seen a fox that close to our home; two foxes seen from our window in an hour; the first fox that I had seen lie down and sleep; and a fox climbing a tree—very rarely seen behavior!



Photo by A. Madden



Photo by A. Madden





## FROM OUR PAST

*Selected by Mary Sollows*

The following article was reproduced from the Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick: No. XVIII, 1899, pp. 236-237.

Article V. Notes on the Natural History and Physiography of New Brunswick. (Read May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1899)

### 27- ON A MARKED BROWSING EFFECT OBSERVED NEAR ST. STEPHEN

*By W. F. Ganong*

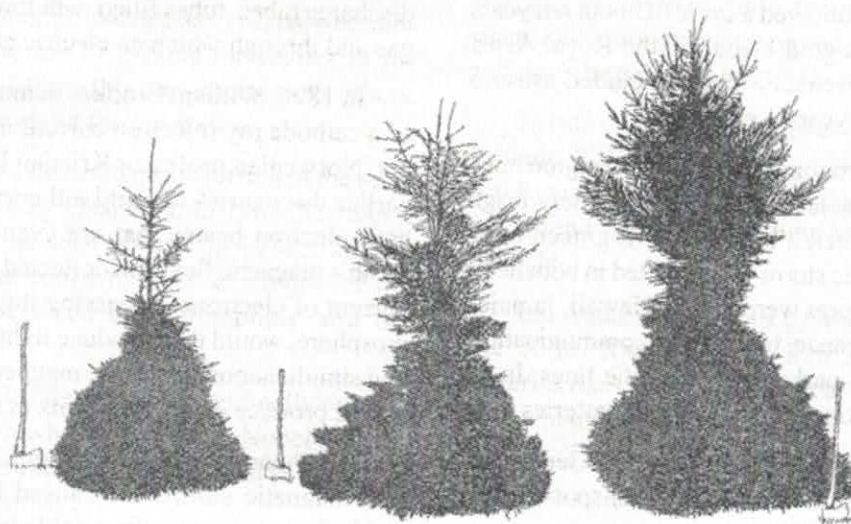
Five miles below St. Stephen, on the peninsula between the St. Croix and Oak Bay, is a high granite hill, called locally Dickie's Mountain. It is notable for the superb view it commands, and is recorded in the Society's Bulletin as the best mapped hill in New Brunswick (Bulletin No. XVII, page 123).

The top is largely bare rock, but bears here and there small spruces, many of which attract attention through their unusual form, for they are hour-glass shaped, or at times like two cones, with the base of one resting upon the apex of the other (see the third in the accompanying Figure 3). The lower cone is the most symmetrical, extremely dense, and always approximately of the same height, as the axe introduced into the three figures will show. The upper cone may be absent altogether, or developed in various degrees, and is always loose in structure, and quite like any other

spruce.

One is at first inclined to ascribe the appearance to clipping by man, or to some growth conditions peculiar to the locality, but it is no doubt a marked kind of browsing effect. The place is a sheep pasture, and these animals probably bite off the young terminal buds in spring, forcing the plants to branch profusely, as a hedge does when clipped. This is confirmed by the broken appearance of the tips of the branches. The sheep browse as high as they can reach, but finally the main terminal bud gets beyond them and thenceforth develops normally.

Three stages in the development of the upper cone are shown in the three accompanying figures which are traced from photographs, and therefore are accurate. No doubt this effect is common enough, though I have seen it in but two or three other places, and never so perfectly as here.







## THE NIGHTTIME NATURALIST

Roy LaPointe

### AURORAS BOREALIS - PART 2

At the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the auroras were still an enigma with many scientists probing into this mysterious phenomenon.

Near Berlin in 1805, Prussian Alexander von Humbolt conducted detailed studies of Earth's magnetic field. With the aide of an assistant, he spent 13 months observing the motion of a compass needle under a microscope, taking readings every 30 minutes. He registered regular daily oscillations and occasional violent fluctuations that he named "magnetic storms".

Humbolt wanted to set up an international network of observatories to distinguish between local and global effects. This he did in 1828 with two friends at two additional locations in France and discovered that the magnetic storms occurred simultaneously at all three locations.

In the meantime, a German *amateur astronomer*, Samuel Schawbe, had been studying sunspots for 30 years. He discovered that they followed a cycle of about ten years. Schawbe was awarded a gold medal by the Royal Astronomical Society for a discovery that had eluded astronomers for more than 200 years.

In 1859, English astronomer Richard Carrington made the first observation of solar flares, two extremely bright jets of material being ejected by the Sun. Eighteen hours later an immense magnetic storm was detected in both hemispheres. Spectacular auroras were seen in Hawaii, Jamaica, Chili and Australia. In France, telegraphic communications were interrupted while sparks danced on the lines. In the U.S., they continued to operate but without batteries.

In the eighteen seventies, American and German researchers scrutinized historical records of sunspots, setting the cycle more precisely at 11 years.

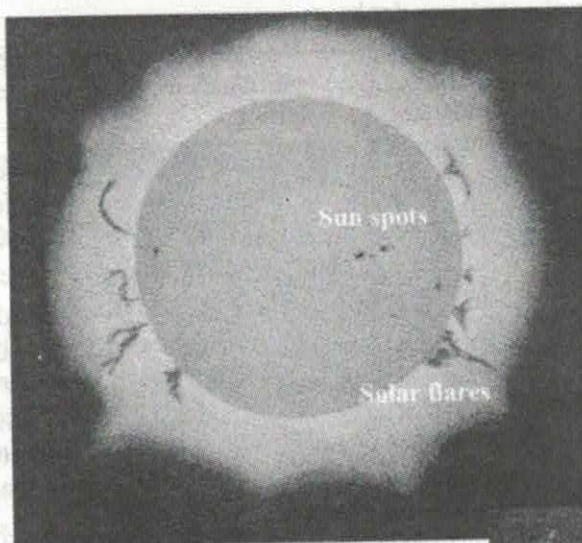
In 1905, Edward Maunder and Annie Russell confirmed that the more numerous the sunspots, the more numerous the magnetic storms and the more specular the auroras.

Traditional Newtonian physics offered no solution. To transfer energy, two bodies had to come into contact.

In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, another group of thinkers had undertaken the study of electromagnetism where; a mass could affect another without coming into contact, a force could create a force of a different nature and simple matter could emit light.

In 1820, Hans Christian Orsted demonstrated that an electric current passing through a wire could deflect a compass needle. Eleven years later, Michael Faraday showed that the op-

posite was possible and this led him to invent the dynamo. In 1846 Faraday proposed that light was also



*Sun flares*  
graphic from *Golden Treasury of Natural History*



a form of electromagnetism following experiments using discharge tubes; tubes filled with low-density, low-pressure gas and through which an electric current is made to flow.

In 1896, William Crookes demonstrated the deflection of a cathode ray (electron current in a vacuum) by a magnet. Norwegian professor Kristian Birkeland took this and earlier discoveries to build a theory in which solar flares emit electron beams that are eventually captured by the Earth's magnetic field and deflected towards the poles. This current of electrons, in passing through the thin upper atmosphere, would then produce light, as in a discharge tube, and simultaneously produce magnetic storms which in turn would produce electric currents in wires.

His theory is refuted by Lord Kelvin, who professed that magnetic storms are caused by the Sun's magnetic field. Birkeland was also unable to explain how electrons could travel through the vacuum of space without disper-



sion by mutual repulsion. He died in 1912 without glory, probably poisoned by the mercury in his laboratory.

In 1904, Edward Maunder discovered that magnetic storms repeated themselves on a 27 day cycle, the rate of solar rotation relative to Earth. It was later noticed that auroras could also repeat at this frequency and sometimes did for up to ten times. It was also noticed that these events were related to the solar flares that seemed to sweep the Earth like a stream of water from a hose.

English physician Sydney Chapman postulated in 1904 that the solar flares contained equal quantities of electrons and protons thereby counterbalancing each other and preventing dispersion. In modern terms, such matter is referred to as a plasma, a low density gas, highly ionized but electrically neutral.

Chapman's calculations show that the Earth is continually bombarded by solar plasma and that the plasma contains contorted magnetic fields. Under the pressure of the solar plasma, the Earth's magnetic field is compressed on the side facing the Sun and stretched out in a long conical shape on the opposite side. His calculations, however, fail to show a link between the electric currents and auroras.

In 1930, Hannes Olfen of Stockholm demonstrated that the flow of solar particles and the Earth's magnetic field work together like a generator and that the jets of plasma and the auroras are intimately tied together. His results are rejected because they do not agree with Chapman's findings that no link exists between plasma and auroras.

The debate continued through to the early fifties with many theories but no means of proving them.

In 1957, the United States military opened a rocket launching facility at Churchill, Manitoba. This base became the world leader in the use of rockets for studies of the auroras. Data gathered from this site, along with others, answered all questions about the auroras.

In 1961, Explorer 14 detected the distortion of the magnetic field as calculated by Chapman. In 1962, Mariner 2 collected the first data on solar plasma. In 1974, Explorer 12 collected data that confirmed the existence of the Birkeland currents between the atmosphere and the magnetosphere.

Birkeland was right. His theories were finally proven, but it was Hannes Alfen who collected the Nobel prize in 1970. Today, Kristian Birkeland is recognized as the father of the theory of the auroras.

How does it work? Find out in to the next issue.

## Nighttime viewing April through June 2005

2005 promises to be a quiet year astronomically speaking, as there are no spectacular events on the calendar. One, however, can always hope for an unexpected bright comet or some nice auroral displays.

## The Planets

Mercury is not in a favourable position for viewing until mid-June when it emerges in the northwest evening sky. It will be in conjunction with Saturn and Venus on June 26 and 27 respectively.

Venus begins to rise in the evening sky but does not offer good viewing until later this year.

Mars is also in an unfavourable position for us northerners for the next few months, but will be much better later this year as it moves towards another close approach, not quite as good as 2003.

Jupiter offers great viewing as it rises in the east at sunset at the beginning of April, being at opposition on April 3. By the end of June it will set around 1 a.m.

Saturn is in Gemini, high in the southwest after sunset in April and at the end of June moves into Cancer, to become lost in the glow of the setting Sun.

## Meteor Showers

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

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

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



## MYSTERY MIGRATION: THE JOURNEY OF SCOTERS (PARTIALLY) UNRAVELLED

By Alex Bond, B.Sc. (Hons) Biology Student, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB.



St. Stephen to St. Martins and everything in between. For me, though, it's Point Lepreau.

Started in 1996, the Point Lepreau Bird Observatory (PLBO) has been monitoring spring and fall waterbird migrants. This is mainly the seaducks (Scoters, Eiders, Mergansers), and Loons, but Gannets, Cormorants, Geese, weird and wonderful Gulls and many other species abound (close to 200 species have been documented at the Point and the surrounding land).

This spring, I got my first taste of the incredible story that unfolds off the coast every spring. I am currently writing an honours thesis at Mount Allison University on the spring migration chronology of Scoters between 1996-2004, specifically, from PLBO (Supervisors: Dr. Matt Evans, Mount Allison; Peter Hicklin, CWS-Sackville). This article will serve to provide a basic overview of what we have found. Since this project bridges the gap often present between the academic and naturalist community, its importance here is even greater.

First of all, when do the Scoters migrate? Typically, they start in mid-March and end by mid-May, covering on average 58 days. Of the three Scoter species, Blacks arrive first, and in the highest numbers. We estimate that in any given year, between about 117 000 and 138 000 Black Scoters pass by PLBO between 06:30 and 18:30, peaking

At the mouth of the Bay of Fundy lies a place that is unique to the world. For those of use who have visited this amazing place, this could describe anything from

on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Surfs and White-wings come next, together, but in lower numbers. Between 82 000 and 103 000 day-time migrating Surfs fly by PLBO, and 5600-6900 White-wings, both peaking around April 24<sup>th</sup>.

So what?

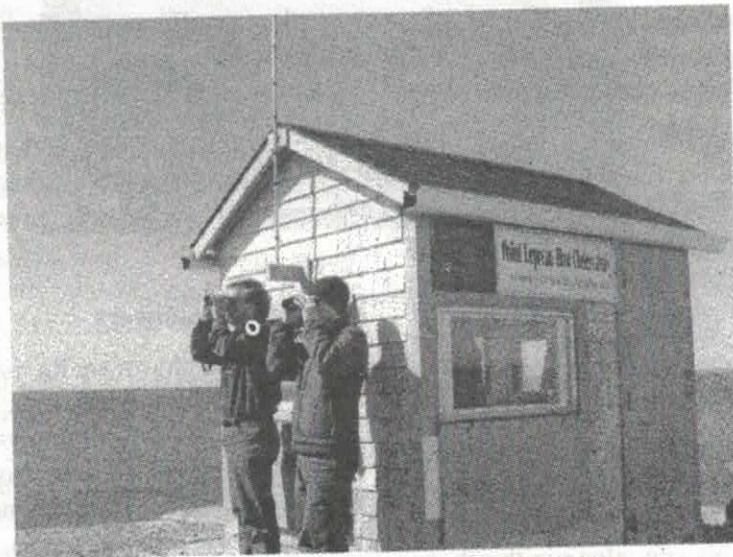
This represents the majority of the eastern North American wintering population, at least for Blacks and Surfs, and because they spend such a large time in the Bay as a population, they are sensitive to any environmental impact that might happen. In 1989, the Exxon Valdez decimated Prince William Sound in Alaska, but the full extent of the damage was unknown because scientists had no idea what kinds of

birds used the affected habitat, and in what numbers. On most clear days at PLBO, tankers could be seen on the horizon, coming around Grand Manan heading to the Irving refinery in Saint John. The parallels are almost frightening. If something had happened 10 years ago, we could only guess at how much these Scoters were affected. Now, thanks to the countless volunteer hours, nine years of consistent data is now available, and we see just how important the Bay is to these birds.

So kudos to the Saint John Naturalists Club, and

thanks to CWS and Mount Allison for helping to solve this mystery migration.

*Note: My thesis results will be presented publicly in April at Mount Allison University, and the public is invited to attend all of the honours presentations. Details will be sent out through NatureNB as the date approaches.*



Richard Blaquiére (L) Alex Bond ((R) at  
Pt. Lepreau Observatory  
Photo by Matt Evans



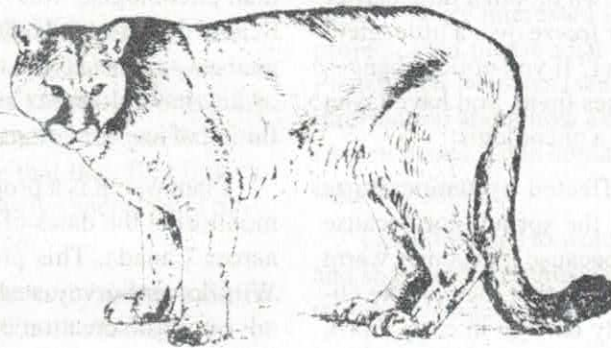
## BACK FROM THE BRINK? THE EASTERN COUGAR LIVES!

Renee Wissink

Well, maybe! At first glance that was what many thought when recent DNA analysis, from two hair samples collected at Fundy National Park came back positive for cougar. Publication of the results received national media attention. The debate about the existence of cougars in the Maritimes that had smouldered from time-to-time now flared into a larger wildlife management issue. Whence had Fundy's cougars come?

Few wildlife issues in the Maritimes generate as much public interest and debate as that of the existence of the Eastern Cougar. Originally, listed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as endangered in 1978 and then changed to "Data Deficient" in 1998, the eastern cougar has been described as "mythical" or as the "ghost of the forest". On one-side of the debate are those that have captured glimpses of these big cats in the wild and who swear by what they saw. They are backed by a database of hundreds of filed reports, many by credible observers, and numerous sightings that remain unreported due to fear of ridicule. On the other side is the cool skepticism of science and management that wanted the hard evidence, a carcass, a photograph, or some other proof that cougars exist.

Providing that hard evidence is where Parks Canada stepped in. Starting in 2002, and initially supported by the Fundy Guild, a Parks Partnership group, and later by the Parks Canada Species at Risk Inventory Fund, three maritime national parks (Fundy, Kouchibouguac, and Cape Breton Highlands) decided to erect "cougar scent posts". Baited with a lure made partially of cougar urine, the posts attract passing cougars that not only inspect the posts but rub up against them. In doing so, a cougar may unknowingly leave behind some hair, their genetic calling card. Twice monthly, wardens inspect the posts, collect any hair and send it to a laboratory at the University of Montreal for DNA analysis. After a long wait, two samples collected in July and October 2003 came back positive for cougar. The



Cougar  
drawing by M.H. Sawyer

debate was on again.

The present focus of the debate surrounds three competing theories. One theory states that the cougars found in eastern Canada stem from a remnant population of Eastern cougars, a separate and distinct subspecies, which has always been here at low population levels. The second theory is often referred to as FERCs, an acronym for Feral-Escaped-Released Captive cougars. Backed by evidence that hundreds of cougars are kept in private hands, particularly in the US, and that escapes or releases have occurred, this theory states that the population spreading in eastern Canada arises from these FERCs. The third theory is that these cougars are distant migrants from a cougar population which seems to be reestablishing itself in the US and Canadian Midwest. Even with this group, debate surrounds their origin as either FERCs or migrant from the known cougar populations further west in western North America.

To some, the debate may seem to be splitting hairs in that a cougar is a cougar. In reality, however, shedding light on the origin of these animals could have huge implications for how they are managed in the future. If it could be shown to be a remnant population of Eastern Cougars (serious scientific skepticism surrounds whether or not an identifiable subspecies ever existed), then they would get continued protection under the Species at Risk Acts both provincially and federally. If on the other hand they are proven to be FERCs or long distant migrants who are invading new territory in a way similar to the invasion of the maritime provinces by coyotes in the 1970s, then how they are managed may take on an entirely different slant.

Unfortunately, the two positive samples collected in Fundy National Park in 2003 shed no light on this issue. In the mean time, all three parks will continue to collect hair samples for further analysis and perhaps enough samples of high enough quality will allow us to say more in the future. Stay tuned!





## USING PLANTS TO MONITOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Rowena Hopkins

Did the dandelions in your lawn bloom a little earlier than usual last year? Did the river freeze over a little later? Was July unusually warm and wet? If you notice changes like these and wonder what causes them, you have taken the first steps towards becoming a phenologist!

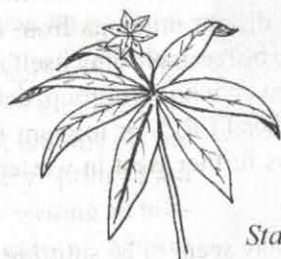
Many natural events are affected by temperature. Flowers know when to grow in the spring, not because they have an internal clock, but because it becomes warm enough for them to do so. Following that logic, if the climate warms, plants that normally emerge in early April, may begin to emerge in late March. If the climate cools, plants that normally flower in June may not do so until July.

Phenologists monitor changes in the timing of natural cycles, such as the blooming dates of plants, and relate these changes to climate change. One of the first Cana-

dian phenologists was Alexander MacKay, Nova Scotia's School Superintendent, who between 1892 and 1923 organised schools across the province in recording the dates of key natural events such as the migration of birds, the timing of ice formation and the blooming dates of plants.

PlantWatch is a program which continues his work by monitoring the dates of events in the life cycles of plants across Canada. This program bloomed from the Alberta Wildflower Survey, started in 1987, which then went on to advise in the creation of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland PlantWatch. Today there are PlantWatch programs in every Province and Territory.

In New Brunswick, we watch a total of 12 different flowers, shrubs and trees all of which have been chosen because they are common, easy to identify and have a wide geographical spread. See Table 1.



Starflower



Strawberry



Clintonia

### English Name

Aspen Poplar  
Bunchberry  
Clintonia/ Blue Bead Lily  
Coltsfoot  
Dandelion  
Larch/Tamarack  
Labrador Tea  
Lilac  
Red Maple  
Rhodora  
Starflower  
Wild Strawberry

### French Name

Tremble  
Quatre-Temps  
Clintonie Boréal  
Tussilage  
Pissenlit  
Mélèze Laricin  
Thé du Labrador  
Lilas Commun  
Érable Rouge  
Rhododendron du Canada  
Trientalis boréale  
Frasier Sauvage

### Latin Name

*Populus tremuloides*  
*Cornus canadensis*  
*Clintonia borealis*  
*Tussilago farfara*  
*Taraxacum officinale*  
*Larix laricina*  
*Rhododendron groenlandicum*  
*Syringa vulgaris*  
*Acer rubrum*  
*Rhododendron canadense*  
*Trientalis borealis*  
*Fragaria Virginiana/vesca*

Table 1. New Brunswick's Watched Plants



PlantWatch volunteers participate in the scheme by locating one or more of these plants, visiting them regularly and recording events in their annual cycle such as when the first flowers are fully open, when they are shedding pollen and when the first leaves emerge and open fully.

Experienced volunteers say that it makes far more sense to choose one or two species of plants that you see every day - perhaps dandelions in your lawn or a lilac bush in your garden - and watch them very carefully so that you can record the exact date that they first bloom, rather than trying to observe all twelve species and having approximate dates for all of them.

PlantWatching is supposed to be enjoyable so there is no pressure to try to do more than you can manage. However, if you find that watching only one or two plants is not enough of a challenge, you can always expand your horizons and watch 3 or 4 next year!

When you have collected all of your data, you then send it off to your Provincial Co-ordinator, in this case Rowena Hopkins, or enter your results online on the NatureWatch website (see below). Your results are collated both in New Brunswick (you will receive feedback in the PlantWatch New Brunswick newsletter in the Fall) and nationally at the Head Office in Alberta. This data is then used by Environment Canada's Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network Coordinating Office (EMANCO), the Federal Government, Universities and botanical

gardens.

The project is not long lived enough in New Brunswick to draw any significant results from our data, but the data from Nova Scotia suggests that the climate there may actually be cooling!

If you are interested in getting involved in this exciting project, then please visit the New Brunswick and national PlantWatch websites (see below) where you will find more information about how exactly to go about monitoring your chosen plants. Then contact me for a handy form for recording your results.

I look forward to welcoming you to this exciting project and sharing our enthusiasm for using grass roots science to monitor changes to our environment.

For further information:

Online

PlantWatch New Brunswick - <http://ca.geocities.com/nbwilderness/index.htm>

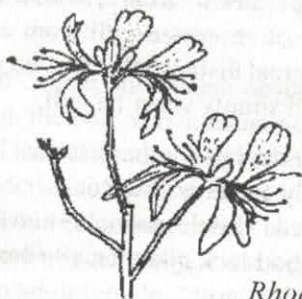
NatureWatch Canada - <http://www.naturewatch.ca/english/plantwatch/>

Or Rowena Hopkins, Co-ordinator of PlantWatch NB

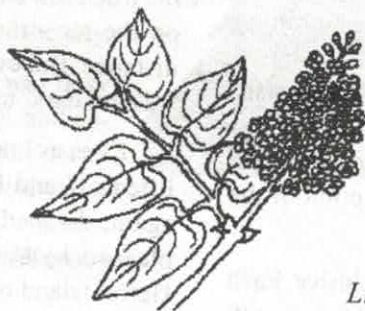
469, Route 530, Grande-Digue, NB, E4R 5E1.

Email : [nbwilderness@yahoo.ca](mailto:nbwilderness@yahoo.ca)

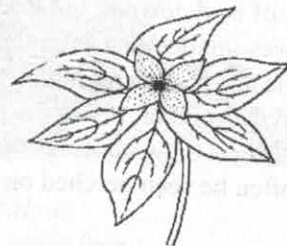
Telephone : (506) 533-1087



*Rhodora*



*Lilac*



*Bunchberry*



## OFFICE, SOLITUDE AND A GYRFALCON

*Mike Lushington, Restigouche Naturalists*

The previous day it had snowed. Overnight, the snow had turned to sleet and then to rain before coming to a halt earlier that morning. Now, as I drove down toward the Bon Ami Rocks at the extreme eastern end of Dalhousie, the wind was backing around to the northwest and the temperature was beginning to plummet.

It was late February. Despite the recent mild stretch, it had been cold since Christmas. Ice had been making in the estuary and in the coves along the upper stretches of the bay itself. Large chunks had been breaking free and piling, one on top of another, victims of the relentless winds and tides, in the lee of the Rocks just off the shore.

Despite the rigors of the winter, small stretches of open water remained, beneficiaries of those same tides and currents, and of an outflow of warmed water from the nearby Dalhousie Thermal Plant. These open stretches annually attract the largest congregation of Barrow's goldeneyes in the Maritime Provinces each winter, as well as smaller numbers of other waterfowl and gulls. In recent years, the area had become a prime attraction for winter birders; on a good day, one could expect to see five or six different species of ducks, four or five of gulls - and who knew what else?

The stories had begun just after Christmas. There was some sort of bird down at the Rocks, chasing and killing ducks. It was smaller than an eagle, but had, in fact, chased off an eagle that had been hanging around the thermal plant since early December. It was dark in colour and was just about the fastest thing on wings that anyone had ever seen. It could often be seen perched on the highest point of the Rocks.

It was also, in my experience, frustratingly elusive. Each time I went down to see if I could find the bird for myself, I would hear of its most recent exploits:

"You shoulda seen it, Mike, just like a bullet; it smacked that duck right out of the air and hauled it down onto the ice, just right over there."

"Flew so close over my head that I thought it was after my cap; I got one a them fur hats, y'know; like to took it right off my head."

"Oh, yeah, been watchin' it all winter. Ain't seen it in

two, three days, though."

"Ain't seen it in two, three days" - the story of my life. "You shoulda ben here when..."

And, in fact, I had had one fleeting glimpse of the bird previously, from a great distance as it coasted over the rocks and on down the shore toward Heron Island and, for all I knew, oblivion. From that one glance I had figured the following: that it was a hawk; that it was possibly a Rough-legged hawk, or a Goshawk (although those open-air, high speed chases seemed to preclude them) or that we had one of the spectacular falcons (Peregrine or Gyrfalcon) in our midst. I also realized, from my own glimpse and from the stories of others, that it was a dark bird; at the very least it was not a white-phase gyr. Could it be a peregrine, or was it a dark-phase gyr? Either way it was going to be a spectacular bird to see ... if I was ever going to see it.

On this particular day I had decided, just after lunch, to take a drive into town to pick up the Saturday newspapers. On a whim, I called to Herbie and grabbed my scope and binoculars as I left the house to take a look at what might be happening down at the Rocks.

After I had completed my errands, I drove to the parking spot by the Inch Arran Light House. Even before I got the truck to a complete stop, I saw it - a dark, solid form out on the ice - the way one often sees a gull from a great distance. But even at that great distance this was no gull; it was too dark, too ... well, it simply wasn't a gull.

Even as I raised my binoculars for that first fast look, it lifted off and began to fly towards the Rocks. "No, not again, damn it!" I groaned. "Settle down somewhere ... please... I just want one good look and then you can fly to Heron Island or Hell for all I care!"

I am certain that it did not hear me. Supremely indifferent to my desires as it was, though, it had its own considerations and they were on an ice flow just offshore from the Rocks. I sighed with relief as I watched it alight on the ice. However I could no longer see it. Quickly I started the motor, slammed into reverse (thinking only at the last instant to check behind me and thus avoid cracking into a totally innocent Toyota that had come up behind me) and raced the half-kilometre to the parking spot at Stewart's Beach.



From there I took a quick scan with my binoculars. I could see nothing. A huge jumble of ice obscured the spot where I thought (hoped) that the bird had dropped into. Out of the truck, buttoning and zippering against the cold, grabbing binoculars and scope, I trudged the couple of hundred meters across the field through slush, ice, and snow to the point nearest the Rocks. Saying what might have passed for a little prayer to any spirits that might have some influence on such a bird, I began a systematic search of the ice flows with the binoculars. Suddenly, there it was, hunkered down, a bit out of the wind, perhaps 200 meters away from me, partly obscured by slabs of ice, and very busy with the object of its attention.

The bird had killed, probably that morning, and when I first saw it, it had been taking a brief break from its dining. Coincident with my arrival, I realized now, it had become aware of a couple of ravens that, in turn, had become too interested in the kill. It had returned to resume feasting, and to protect its property from those large black opportunists.

I hunkered down behind my own windbreak, a huge boulder, and watched through my scope as the bird tore into the carcass of what seemed to be a goldeneye. It was oblivious to me and to any awareness of the pleasure I derived from watching it. As I watched, I began to take in the larger picture. Looking out from my sheltered nook, I could imagine that this was the high arctic. The scene before me was a timeless re-enactment of life and death in the wild. I was an unneeded, unwelcomed, but unreprieved, observer to an event that thrilled and informed me but that, to the bird, was simply the business of the day.

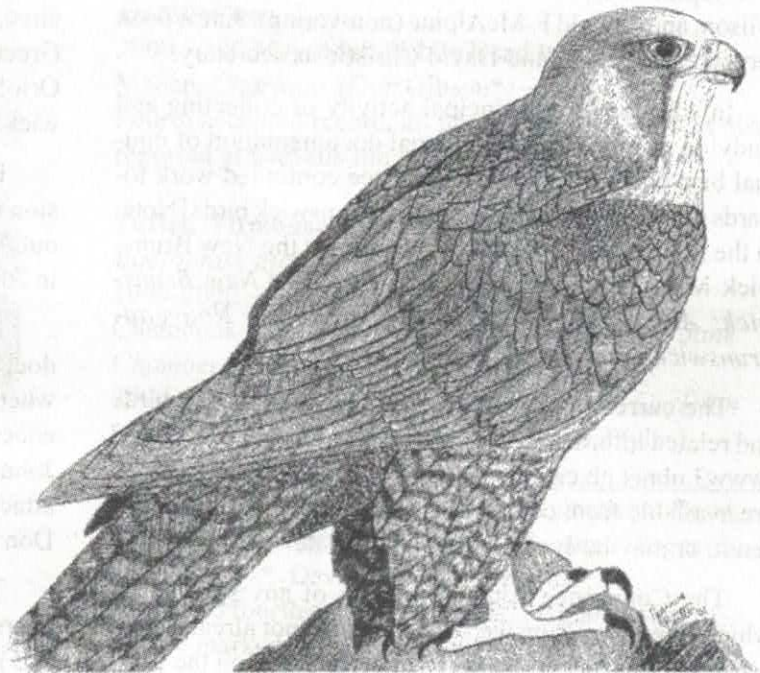
Of course, the human observer in me was busy as well, the one who must identify, classify, and describe so that in some vague fashion I might "own" the experience and thus make it real. The bird was a gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*) to me and to the scientific world. Specifically, it was a dark phase bird, probably an adult female.

In itself, it was simply a being that had needed to eat. To fulfill that need, it had done what it was programmed to do superbly well. And so it was to the other, non-human, and therefore non-judgemental, creatures in the vicinity; to the ravens waiting patiently on the cliff face in hopes that something of the kill would remain for them once the gyr was sated; to the passing gulls that paused in their flight to

consider their options; and to the other waterfowl that knew that the moment of danger was past for the time being and that they were still alive and could get on with the business of looking to their own survival.

After nearly an hour, the gyr finished with its meal and flew up onto an exposed pinnacle to preen and to digest. At the same time it gave me that wonderful, full-length look for which I had waited so patiently to confirm my identification. As I did, I noted the other birds once again. They were indifferent; there were no shrieks of outrage over the death of their erstwhile flock mate; there was no panicky flight in all directions from the site.

In fact, there was little except calm and order - and the building wind, dropping temperatures, failing daylight -



*Gyrfalcon*

*drawing by Jeannine Beattie*

and a faithful old dog nudging my knee to remind me that we had spent quite enough time in the cold and wind and that it was time to take telescopes and metaphysics back into the warmth and light.



## NEW BRUNSWICK BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000-02 REPORT

David Christie

*This is the fifth "annual" report of the New Brunswick Bird Records Committee, combining the three years, 2000-02.*

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

The committee's members during this period were: David Christie, Marcel David, Jim Edsall, Mike Lushington, who replaced Peter Pearce in the autumn of 2000, Jim Wilson, and Donald F. McAlpine (non-voting). Jim Wilson served as chairman and David Christie as secretary.

In addition to its principal activity of collecting and studying written and audio-visual documentation of unusual bird occurrences, the committee continued work towards production of a book on New Brunswick birds [Note: In the spring of 2004 it was published by the New Brunswick Museum as two editions—*Birds of New Brunswick: An Annotated List* and *Oiseaux du Nouveau-Brunswick: une liste commentée*.]

The currently accepted list of New Brunswick birds and related information can be found at the website <<http://www3.nbnet.nb.ca/maryspt/BRC>>. Documentation forms are available from committee members and from the museum, or may be copied from the website.

The Committee votes on reports of any species for which five New Brunswick records have not already been accepted. If a species has been accepted only on the basis of sight records it also votes on the first record supported by tangible evidence. Submissions beyond five records are gratefully received and placed on file as valuable information for future study. Only records independently documented by two or more observers or supported by tangible evidence (specimens, photos, video/audio tapes, etc.) are eligible for formal acceptance.

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

are added to the material being considered. The majority of committee decisions are unanimous.

Voting was completed on 13 records during 2000, 11 during 2001, and 11 during 2002. Of these, 10 (77%), 9 (82%), and 10 (91%), respectively, were accepted and the remainder were not. Eight new species, Western Grebe / Grèbe élégant, Swainson's Hawk / Buse de Swainson, Black-tailed Godwit / Barge à queue noire, South Polar Skua / Labbe de McCormick, Broad-billed Hummingbird / Colibri circe, Black-chinned Hummingbird / Colibri à gorge noire, Green-tailed Towhee / Tohi à queue verte and Bullock's Oriole / Oriole de Bullock, were added to the New Brunswick list.

Two records were carried forward because no decision was reached in first-round voting in 2002. Filed without formal review were 25 additional submissions received in 2000, 31 in 2001, and 27 in 2002.

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

The format of this report is the same as for previous years (*N.B. Nat.* 22:38-42, 23:62-66, 24:108-112 and 29:119-125). Information on sex and plumage is included, where it can be reliably ascertained. Place names in italics refer to counties in New Brunswick. For accepted records, persons who participated in the initial discovery and/or identification of a bird are denoted by an asterisk (\*); if they did not provide documentation, their names are listed in italics. Everyone who provided written descriptions, photographs, videotapes or other documentation is also credited.

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



## Accepted Records

## 2000 Votes

**Black-necked Stilt / Échasse d'Amérique***Himantopus mexicanus*

2000 — 31 May to 6 June, adult female, Jacquet River, Restigouche (Louise McGovern\*, Roger McGovern\*, David Christie, Marcel David) — photos, video  
 First accepted modern record (of four or five reports), this bird was seen by many observers.

**Black-tailed Godwit / Barge à queue noire***Limosa limosa*

2000 — 23-24 July, male in breeding plumage, Inkerman, Gloucester (Marcel David\*, Cecil Johnston) — photos  
 First provincial record. This striking Eurasian shorebird was seen by numerous birders.

*Black-tailed Godwit / Barge à queue noire*

Inkerman, July 2000

Photo: Cecil Johnston

**Chuck-will's-widow / Engoulevent de Caroline***Caprimulgus carolinensis*

2000 — 14 June, one, Castalia, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Brian Dalzell, Ann Chudleigh)

Second accepted record. Heard at dusk and after dark but not seen, this bird responded to the playing of a Chuck-will's-widow song and its calls matched the tape.

**Broad-billed Hummingbird / Colibri circé***Cynanthus latirostris*

1999 — 19-25 Oct., immature female, Mapleton, near Elgin, Albert (Keith Warren\*, Mary Majka\*, David Christie\*, Stuart Tingley, Gilles Bourque, Margaret Gallant Doyle) — photos, video

First provincial record. Seen by many, this southwestern hummer had probably first appeared at the feeder during September.

*Broad-billed Hummingbird /**Colibri circé,*

Mapleton, Albert Co., Oct. 1999

photo: David Christie

**White-eyed Vireo / Viréo aux yeux blancs***Vireo griseus*

2000 — 20 May, adult, White Head Island, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Don Gibson\*) — photo  
 Fourth accepted record, all photographed. One was also reported at Castalia the same day.

**Tufted Titmouse / Mésange bicolore***Baeolophus bicolor*

1999-2000 — 2nd week of Dec. to 13 Jan., one, Chamcook, Charlotte (Blaine Chamberlain\*, Jane Chamberlain\*, Merv Cormier) — photos  
 2000 — 3rd week of Feb., one, Woodstock, Carleton (Alfred Wallace\*, Reta Wallace\*, David Myles) — photo

1999-2000 — autumn to Feb., one, Mainstream Road, Carlisle, Carleton (David Rogers\*, Anna Rogers\*, Leona Avery\*, David Myles) — photos  
 Second to fourth accepted records. A small influx of titmice marked the winter of 1999-2000; of six reports, these three were well-documented. The bird at Chamcook was seen by at least 80 observers.

**Townsend's Solitaire / Solitaire de Townsend***Myadestes townsendi*

1999-2000 — 13 Dec. to 16 Mar, one, probably immature, Riverside-Albert, Albert (David Christie\*, Merv Cormier) — photos, video

Sixth accepted record. Normally it would have been filed without voting but confusion led to belief it would be the



fifth.

### Western Meadowlark / Sturnelle de l'Ouest

*Sturnella neglecta*

2000 — 5-9 Oct., one, Inkerman, Gloucester (Jean-Guy Robichaud\*, André Robichaud\*, Lucia Robichaud\*, Ginette Doucet\*, Frank Branch, Marcel David) — video

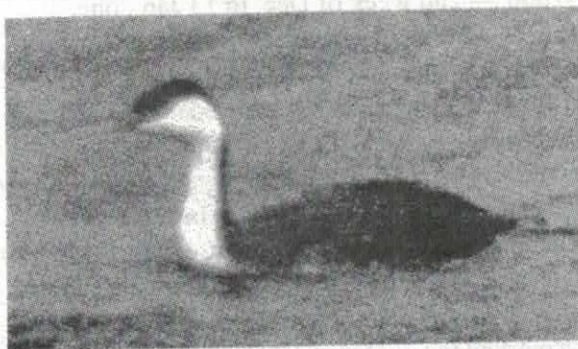
Fifth accepted record. The difficult separation from Eastern Meadowlark was based on amount of white in tail supported by distinctive calls and songs.

### 2001 Votes

#### Western Grebe / Grèbe élégant

*Aechmophorus occidentalis*

2001 — 5-18 May, one, Point Lepreau, St. John & Charlotte (Tracey Dean\*, Ian Cameron\*, David Christie, Don Gibson, Nelson Poirier, Stuart Tingley, Gisèle Belliveau, Ruth Rogers) — photos, video  
First provincial record. Of a few reports in the province, this is the first to be thoroughly documented. It was possibly still present on 22 May.



Western Grebe / Grèbe élégant,  
Pt. Lepreau, May 2001  
Photo: Stuart Tingley

#### Northern Gannet / Fou de Bassan

*Morus bassanus*

1999 — 11 June to 23 Aug, breeding at White Horse Island, Charlotte (Sean Corrigan\*, Tony Diamond) — photos

First modern breeding. A pair hatched one young, the first in New Brunswick since about 1866. Two additional nests were occupied in June (Corrigan and Diamond, 2002. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 115:176-177).

#### Long-tailed Jaeger / Labbe à longue queue

*Stercorarius longicaudus*

2000 — 2 Sep, juvenile, Grand Manan Channel, Charlotte (Lysle Brinker\*, Don Mairs\*)

First accepted sight record (two previous specimens) of very few ever reported in the province. Later in the month there were two undocumented reports of possibly the same bird.

#### Fork-tailed Flycatcher / Tyran des savanes

*Tyrannus savana*

2000 — 30 Sep to 5 Oct., immature, North Head, Charlotte (Gisèle Belliveau\*, Norm Belliveau\*, Stuart Tingley\*, Jim Edsall\*, Merv Cormier) — photos

2001 — 7-14 Oct., adult, Miscou Plains, Miscou Island, Gloucester (Gérard Benoit\*, Frank Branch, Margaret Gallant Doyle, Clarence Nowlan) — video, photos  
These two, the first ones reviewed by the committee, stayed long enough to be studied by numerous observers. Four of seven previous reports are probably acceptable.

#### Mountain Bluebird / Merlebleu azuré

*Sialia currucoides*

2000 — 25 Nov. to 1 Dec., female, Pennfield, Charlotte (Ken MacIntosh\*, Merv Cormier) — photos  
Second accepted record, seen by numerous observers.

#### Fieldfare / Grive litorne

*Turdus pilaris*

2001 — 18 Jan. to 15 March, one, Fredericton, York (Don Gibson\*, Merv Cormier) — photos

Third accepted record, again a long-staying one seen by many observers, including several from out of province.

#### Painted Bunting / Passerin nonpareil

*Passerina ciris*

2000 — 28-30 May, male, Alma, Albert (Doreen Rossiter\*, Fred Dubé, David Christie, Merv Cormier) — photos

Fifth accepted record.

#### Black-headed Grosbeak / Cardinal à tête noire

*Pheucticus melanocephalus*

2001 — 28 Oct. to 3 Nov., immature male, Nictau, Victoria (Joe Yacovino\*, Erwin Landauer) — photos

Third accepted record, attracted to bird feeders.



**2002 Votes****Pacific Loon / Plongeon du Pacifique***Gavia pacifica*

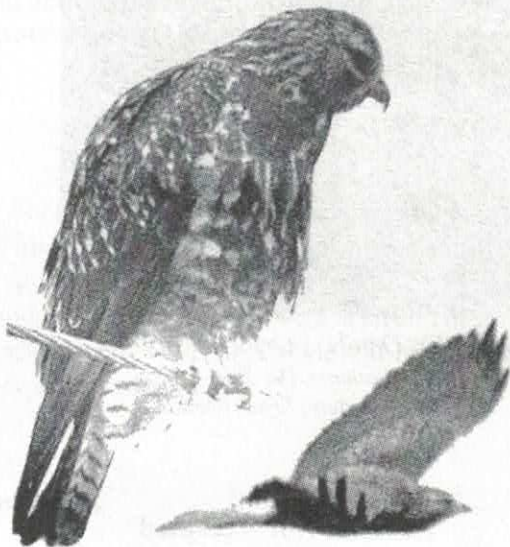
1999 — 25 Sep., one, off Ross Island, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Stuart Tingley\*, Gilles Bourque\*, et al.) — photos

Second accepted record, the first to be photographed, was encountered during a seabird and whale-watching boat trip by the Moncton Naturalists' Club.

**Swainson's Hawk / Buse de Swainson***Buteo swainsoni*

2002 — 10-11 Oct., dark morph juvenile, Waterside and New Horton, Albert (Stuart Tingley\*, Gisèle Belliveau\*, Norm Belliveau\*, Rose-Alma Mallet\*, David Christie) — video, photos

First provincial record. The rare bird alert system allowed ten additional observers to arrive within three hours of the discovery of this western buteo. A few more saw it briefly the next morning.



*Swainson's Hawk / Buse de Swainson,*  
Waterside, Oct. 2002  
Photos: Stuart Tingley

**American Oystercatcher / Huîtrier d'Amérique***Haematopus palliatus*

2002 — late May to late July, adult, Hay Island, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Brian Dalzell\*, Jim Wilson) — photos

This species, which is slowly expanding northwards, was

reported in the general area of Kent Island a number of times during the summers of 2001 and 2002.

Observations on 10 July 2002 were the only ones well-documented.

**South Polar Skua / Labbe de McCormick***Stercorarius maccormicki*

2002 — 20 Aug.

and 6 Sep., one, intermediate morph, off Gannet Rock, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Durlan Ingersoll\*, Doug Goodhew\*, Barry Zimmer) — photos, video

First provincial record. Skua identification is tricky; none of the few previous reports of this species have been well enough documented for acceptance. In this case, the combination of photos, video and two written descriptions made a strong enough case.



*South Polar Skua / Labbe de McCormick*  
off Gannet Rock, Aug. 2002  
Video frame: Durlan Ingersoll



*South Polar Skua / Labbe de McCormick*  
off Gannet Rock, Aug. 2002  
Photo: Doug Goodhew



*Black-chinned Hummingbird / Colibri à gorge noire*

Mary's Point, Oct. 2002

Photo: David Christie

**Black-chinned Hummingbird / Colibri à gorge noire***Archilochus alexandri*

2002 — 26-31 Oct.,

immature male, Mary's

Point, Albert (David Christie\*, Mike Majka\*, Mary Majka\*, Stuart Tingley\*, Gilles Bourque, Alain Clavette) —

photos, video

First provincial record.



More than 90 people saw this western hummingbird which was extensively documented in photos and video.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher / Tyran à gorge cendrée**  
*Myiarchus cinerascens*

2001 — late Nov. to 8 Dec., one, Westfield, Kings (Margie Wilson\*, Roy Pike\*, Eileen Pike\*, Janet Whitehead\*, Jim Wilson, Frank Kelly) — photos  
Third accepted record. Remarkably, four of this southwestern flycatcher were reported in the province during November-December 2001.

**White-eyed Vireo / Viréo aux yeux blancs**

*Vireo griseus*

2002 — 6-7 Oct., adult, Saint John West, Saint John (Eileen Pike\*, Rose-Alma Mallet\*, Janet Whitehead\*, Roy Pike\*, Don Gibson)  
Fifth accepted record.. Several other sightings have been reported.

**Green-tailed Towhee / Tohi à queue verte**

*Pipilo chlorurus*

2002 — 4 Jan. to 20 Mar., adult, Saint John West, Saint John (Pat Morine\*, Jim Wilson\*, Stuart Tingley, David Christie) — photos

First provincial record. This furtive western towhee was frequently difficult to find but was seen around feeders by many observers during its winter stay.



*Green-tailed Towhee / Tohi à queue verte*

Saint John West, Jan. 2002

Photo: Pat Morine

**"Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco / Junco ardoisé «de l'Ouest»**

*Junco hyemalis, oreganus* group

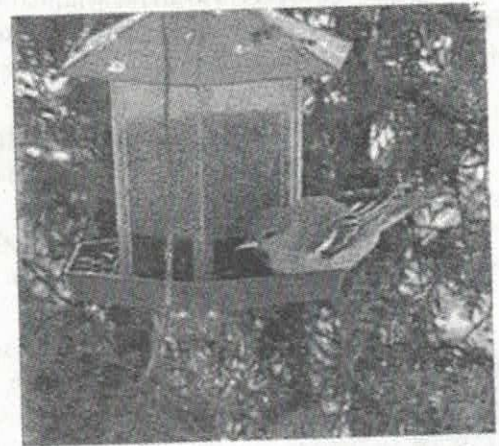
2002 — 23 Feb. to 19 Mar., one, Rothesay, Kings (Ernie Connell\*) — photos  
Fifth accepted record.

**Bullock's Oriole / Oriole de Bullock**

*Icterus bullockii*

2001-02 — Nov. to 6 Feb., immature male, Bathurst, Gloucester (Pat McLaughlin\*, Frank Branch\*, Marcel David, Stuart Tingley, Jim Wilson, David Christie) — photos, video

First provincial record. Most previous reports have proved to be young female Baltimore Orioles or were not documented. This faithful feeder visitor allowed close study by many observers.



*Bullock's Oriole / Oriole de Bullock*

Bathurst, Dec 2001

Video capture: Frank Branch

**Records Not Accepted**

**Identification accepted, natural origin unlikely**

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

**2000 Votes**

**Monk Parakeet / Conure veuve**



*Myiopsitta monachus*

1999 — 1-9 Aug., one, Perry Point and Meenan's Cove,  
Kings — photos

With no indication of distant dispersal from the small  
population established in Connecticut, this bird seems  
much more likely to have escaped from captivity.

**Long-tailed Rosefinch / Roselin à longue queue**

*Uragus sibiricus*

2000 — 2 Jan. to mid March, male, Second Falls,  
Charlotte — photos

This short-distance migrant native to eastern Asia is  
extremely unlikely to reach our area on its own accord.

**2001 Votes****European Greenfinch / Verdier d'Europe**

*Carduelis chloris*

2000 — 5 May, male, Lower Millstream, Kings —  
photos

Very likely this was an escaped cage bird because there  
is no demonstrated tendency for the occurrence of trans-  
Atlantic vagrants.

**Identification uncertain**

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

**2000 Votes****Burrowing Owl / Chevêche des terriers**

*Athene cunicularia*

2000 — 5 June, one, Swallowtail Point, Grand Manan,  
Charlotte

The inexperienced observers' descriptions and sketches  
were suggestive of Burrowing Owl but left doubts about  
whether Short-eared Owl could be ruled out.

**2001 Votes****Black-tailed Gull / Goéland à queue noire**

*Larus crassirostris*

2001 — 7 May, subadult, McGowans Corner,  
Sumbury — photos

The committee considered this bird more likely to be a  
Lesser Black-backed Gull.

**2002 Votes****Mute Swan / Cygne tuberculé**

*Cygnus olor*

2001 — 25 Sep., 11 immatures, Saint-Basile,  
Madawaska

The characteristics reported did not seem adequate to  
rule out other species of swans.

**Records Not Formally Reviewed**

Documentation was received of the following obser-  
vations of votable species but was insufficient for a formal  
vote by the committee.

**2000****South Polar Skua / Labbe de McCormick**

*Stercorarius maccormicki*

2000 — 29 Sep., one, Grand Manan Banks, Charlotte  
(Jim Wilson)

**Sandwich Tern / Sterne caugek**

*Sterna sandvicensis*

2000 — 13 June, adult, Crab Island, Tabusintac Bay,  
Northumberland (Roland Chiasson)

**"Red-shafted" Northern Flicker / Pic flamboyant «de l'Ouest»**

*Colaptes auratus*, *cafer* group

2000 — 1 Oct., one, Whistle Road, Grand Manan,  
Charlotte (Beverley Schneider)

**Loggerhead Shrike / Pie-grièche migratrice**

*Lanius ludovicianus*

1999 — 31 Dec., one, near Saint-Jacques, Madawaska  
(Vicky Lentz)



**Bullock's Oriole / Oriole de Bullock***Icterus bullockii*

2000 — 26 June, adult male, Keswick Ridge, York (Brian Cowan)

**2001****Long-tailed Jaeger / Labbe à longue queue***Stercorarius longicaudus*

2000 — 9 Sep., adult, east of The Wolves, Charlotte (Laurie Murison)

**Mew Gull / Goéland cendré***Larus canus*

2001 — 10 Feb., 1st winter, Pocologan, Charlotte (Jim Wilson)

**Loggerhead Shrike / Pie-grièche migratrice***Lanius ludovicianus*

2001 — 30 Oct., one, Saint-Jacques, Madawaska Co. (J. Denys Bourque)

**Tufted Titmouse / Mésange bicolor***Baeolophus bicolor*

1999-2000 — Dec.-March, one, St. George, Charlotte (Ken MacIntosh) [Video taken of this bird by the feeder owner was unfortunately erased before a copy could be obtained.]

**Redwing / Grive mauvis***Turdus iliacus*

2001 — 1 Jan., one, Mary's Point, Albert (David Christie)

**Golden-crowned Sparrow / Bruant à couronne dorée***Zonotrichia atricapilla*

2001 — 11 May, one, Sussex, Kings (Jessie Jonah)

**Brewer's Blackbird / Quiscale de Brewer***Euphagus cyanocephalus*

2001 — 9-10 Oct., adult male, Castalia, Grand Manan, Charlotte (T. Rod Gardner)

**Boat-tailed Grackle / Quiscale des marais***Quiscalus major*

2001 — 7 July, adult female, Fundy Trail Parkway, Saint John (J. Kevin Butler)

**2002****California Gull / Goéland de Californie***Larus californicus*

2002 — 27 June, adult, Long Pond, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Beverley Schneider)

**Least Tern / Petite Sterne***Sterna antillarum*

2002 — 5 Oct., adult, Long Eddy Point, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Jim Wilson)

**Ash-throated Flycatcher / Tyran à gorge cendrée***Myiarchus cinerascens*

2001 — 17&19 Dec., one, Lower Jemseg, Queens (Don Gibson)

**Gray Kingbird / Tyran gris***Tyrannus dominicensis*

2002 — 25 May, one, Mines Road, south of Bathurst, Gloucester (Marco Scichilone)

**Bewick's Wren / Troglodyte de Bewick***Thryomanes bewickii*

2002 — 16 Sep., one, Ingalls Head, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Ron Steeves)

**Gray-cheeked Thrush? / Grive à joues grises?***Catharus minimus?*

2002 — 20 May, adult, Long Eddy Point, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Jim Wilson)

**Kentucky Warbler / Paruline du Kentucky***Oporornis formosus*

2002 — 5 Sep., adult male, Kent Island, Charlotte (Barry Zimmer)

**Hooded Warbler / Paruline à capuchon***Wilsonia citrina*

2001 — 10 Nov., adult male, Blacks Harbour, Charlotte (Ken MacIntosh)



# N. B. Federation of Naturalists Annual General Meeting

3, 4 & 5 June 2005



L'Assemblée Générale Annuelle  
de la Fédération des naturalistes  
du N.-B. 3, 4 et 5 juin, 2005

Welcome to the 33<sup>rd</sup> AGM of the N. B. Federation of Naturalists

All events take place at or originate at the Stairs Hall building of Bethany Bible College located on Summit Ave. Turn off Main Street onto Western Ave. and continue uphill to the end. Turn left onto Summit Ave. Follow around tight right hand bend and look for Stairs Hall on the left. (See Campus Map) Parking lot is on the right hand side of Summit Ave.

## Agenda

### Friday, June 3

5-10 pm Registration,  
Social time; viewing  
of displays  
7-9 pm AGM  
9-10 evening outing to  
see Chimney Swifts

### Saturday, June 4

5:30 - 8:30 Continental Breakfast  
6-7:30 am Early Bird Outings  
7:00 - 11:30 Mature hardwood outing  
8:30 - 11:30 ½ day outings  
1-4:00 ½ day outing  
8:30 - 3:30 full day outings  
6:30 - 9:00 Banquet (Nicholson Hall)

### Sunday, June 5

5:30 - 8:30 Continental Breakfast  
6-7:30 am Early Bird Outings  
7:00 - 11:30 Mature hardwood  
outing  
8:30 - 11:30 ½ day outings  
1-4:00 ½ day outing  
8:30 - 3:30 full day outings

## Outings

It is a good idea to bring a small backpack to carry extra clothing, lunches and water bottles. Note: June is bug month! Please bring insect repellent and/or mosquito hats and jackets. If you request a lunch, realize that lunches are not delivered on the trips, so make sure if you are going on a full day trip to pick it up in the morning. Or if you are on a half day trip you can pick them up at Stairs Hall at lunch time. All outings have a maximum of 15 participants. Those who sign up first will have priority. Please note: some outings have additional charges (van tour and kayaking) and are marked with an (\*) asterisk.

### Half day Outings (#1-4 in morning, #5-7 in afternoon)

1. Visit a mature hardwood forest with noted New Brunswick ecologist and ornithologist Matt Betts who will discuss forest ecology and forest management while observing the birds, amphibians (low diversity), some lichens and herbaceous plants. Throughout the outing birds and their need for specific habitats will be highlighted. Access is along a new bush road, but the hike is going to involve walking through the hillside hardwood forest where no paths are present. [Sat. & Sun. mornings starting at 7:00 am]
2. Native trees and shrubs. Naturalist Therese Peuramaki (Bilingual) will lead you along a scenic woodland road winding its way through the deep ravine of Cotter's Hollow, and indicate an interesting variety of New Brunswick's trees and shrubs. Easy walking. [Sat.

& Sun. mornings starting at 8:30 am]

3. Spring Wildflowers! Enjoy 'Orland's Walk' as naturalist and outdoor enthusiast Judy Dow guides you along the rich alluvial flood plain of Smith Creek where you will see Wild Leeks, Spring Beauties, Wild Oats, Trout Lily, Yellow Violets, Dutchman's Breeches and Bloodroot. This is a short walk, through old field and pasture. [Sat. and Sun. mornings, starting at 8:30 am]
4. Visit Cornhill Nurseries where they specialize in hardy shrubs and trees (grapes, kiwis), and provide many native species. Nursery owner, and author of the book "Hardy Roses" Bob Osborne will lead you on a tour of the nursery and perhaps a short walk in the woods following if time allows. [Sat. and Sun. morning starting at 8:30 am]

Hosted by the

KENNEBECASIS

NATURALIST SOCIETY

Sussex, New Brunswick



5. Hike out along a wooded trail through White Pine, Hemlocks and Red Oak to 'Big Bluff' with Stephen Clayden (bilingual), curator of botany at the New Brunswick Museum. This unique habitat offers a majestic view of Dutch Valley as well as being home to the rare Rock Spike-moss, a plant closely related to the ferns, carpets of Bearberry and many lichens which are Stephen's speciality. [Sat. and Sun. afternoon, starting at 1 pm]
  6. Our small green plants – the mosses and liverworts. Join bryologist Bruce Bagnell on a woodland walk to view some of our common mosses. Bringing a handlens (magnifying glass) would be helpful. [Sat and Sun afternoon starting at 1 pm]
  7. Why is there Potash in Sussex? Starting off at the mine site, Geologist Brian Roulston will present a half hour power point slide show on how potash forms and why it is here in Sussex. Following the presentation will be a hike out to see some of the local rock formations (sink-holes, gypsum boulders). Participants will be able to view some of the rocks which have been drilled out and on which development of the potash and natural gas deposits are based. As well, there will be discussion on the adaptability of this area to various native and imported trees and shrubs. [Sat. and Sun. afternoon, starting 1 pm]
- 

#### Full Day Outings

8. Scenic hike along the crystal clear Big Salmon River from its mouth to the Hearst (Pejepscot) Lodge, exploring the flora and fauna of the coastal red spruce forest, a major element of the Bay of Fundy shore ecosystem. Guided by DNR biologist Joe Kennedy and naturalist James Goltz. Expect this hike to be moderately rigorous and to cover a distance of about 6 km. [Sat. only, leaving 8:30 am]
9. Old mines and caves. Guided by Roger Albert (bilingual) and Jim Brown. Outing will begin with a short presentation of caves in southeastern New Brunswick. First area to be investigated will be cave crevasses near Poley Mountain. Next will be a visit to Dalling's Cave which will involve a 1 km uphill hike. Only the front portion of the cave will be explored. Depending on remaining time available, other cave (or old mine) visits will be considered. Flashlight and waterproof boots are good ideas. [Sat. and Sun. leaving 8:30 am]
- 10\*. Kayak the Hammond River. Novice participants are most welcome and will receive instruction for kayak handling prior to heading off downstream with teacher and naturalist Sandy McKay of the Hammond River Angling Association. The boats used are very stable and do not require cockpit skirts. All boaters will be required to sign a waiver for insurance purposes. All equipment will be supplied. There will be no white water. Sandy will discuss the problems associated with rivers that run through farming land and how having cattle close to the water's edge affects the river's inhabitants. He will point out salmon pools, Turkey Vultures and other wildlife. A short hike might be undertaken mid-way through the day. Don't forget sunglasses, hats and sunscreen and depending on the weather, spare clothing. [Sat. and Sun. leaving 8:30 am]
- 11\*. Naturalist Donna Monahan will guide the van tour which will highlight the beautiful Kennebecasis River. From Sussex we will travel along the old post road through Sussex Corner and Dutch Valley, where we will get a good view of the 'Big Bluff'. We will head out through Urney, and proceed to Penobsquis and the upper branches of the Kennebecasis River where we will have a brief tour of one of the sites of Kennebecasis River Restoration Project. Continuing downstream, we'll wind our way through covered bridges to Bloomfield, and along the marsh to the village of Hampton. We'll stop for a short walk on Spooner Island, then tour the Kennebecasis River Road (the setting of Beth Powning's book, "The Hatbox Letters"). Then we will head up the highway to the Gondola Point ferry, with a brief stop near a Blue Heron rookery. The ferry will take us to the Kingston Peninsula, where we will begin to head back up the river via the beautiful Lower Norton Shore Road. It will be a very relaxing and enjoyable day, with lots of 'nature notes' along the way. [Sat. and Sun., leaving 8:30 am]



# N. B. Federation of Naturalists Annual General Meeting

3, 4 & 5 June 2005



# L'Assemblée Générale Annuelle de la Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B. 3, 4 et 5 juin, 2005

Bienvenue à la 33ième A.G.A. de la Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B.

Toutes les activités se dérouleront ou partiront de l'édifice Stairs Hall du Bethany Bible College situé sur l'avenue Summit. Pour vous y rendre de la rue Main prenez l'avenue Western et remonter la jusqu'à l'avenue Summit. Prenez celle-ci sur la gauche et lorsque vous vous engagerez dans un grand tournant à droite chercher la Stairs Hall sur la gauche. (Voir la carte du campus ci-inclus) Le stationnement se trouve à droite de l'avenue Summit.

## Agenda

### Le vendredi 3 juin

17h00-20h00 enregistrement,  
rencontre sociale,  
exposition.  
19h00-21h00 A.G.A.  
21h00-22h00 sortie nocturne  
au Martinet ramoneur

### Le samedi 4 juin

5h30-8h30 petit-déjeuner continental  
6h00-7h30 excursion pour lève-tôt  
7h00-11h30 excursion "Le bois franc  
mature"  
8h30-11h30 excursions demi-journée  
13h00-16h00 excursion demi-journée  
8h30-15h30 excursions pleine journée  
18h30-21h00 banquet (Nicholson Hall)

### Le dimanche 5 juin

5h30-8h30 petit-déjeuner continental  
6h00-7h30 excursions pour lève-tôt  
7h00-11h30 excursion "Le bois franc  
mature"  
8h30-11h30 excursions demi-journée  
13h00-16h00 excursion demi-journée  
18h30-21h00 excursions pleine  
journée

## Excursions

Il serait bon de penser à apporter un petit sac à dos pour transporter quelques vêtements supplémentaires, un casse-croûte et/ou une bouteille d'eau. Rappelez-vous que juin est le mois des "bibittes"! Donc n'oubliez pas votre produit chasse-insectes ainsi que, le cas échéant, vos vêtements de protection contre les moustiques. Si vous avez commandé un casse-croûte, rappelez-vous que celui-ci ne sera livré ni au départ de l'excursion ni pendant celle-ci donc si vous partez pour une excursion pleine journée n'oubliez pas de passer prendre vous-mêmes votre casse-croûte avant le départ. Si, par contre, vous faites une excursion demi-journée, vous pourrez passer prendre votre repas préparé au Stairs Hall à l'heure du midi. Toutes les excursions auront un maximum de 15 participants. Premier venu premier servi! Veuillez noter que certaines excursions comporteront des frais additionnels (sortie en camionnette et descente en kayak) et sont identifiées par un (\*) astérisque.

### Excursion demi-journée (#1-4 le matin, #5-7 l'après-midi)

1. Partez à la découverte d'une forêt de bois-franc mature avec le renommé écologiste Neo-Brunswickois Matt Betts. M. Betts nous parlera de l'écologie de la forêt ainsi que de sa bonne gestion tout en notant les observations d'oiseaux, d'amphibiens (diversité réduite), de lichens et de plantes herbacées faite au cours de la randonnée. Un regard tout particulier sera jeté sur la faune aviaire et sur ses besoins spécifiques au niveau de l'habitat. Le trajet suivra une nouvelle piste forestière, mais, il est à noter que l'excursion amènera les participants à explorer les coteaux de la forêt de bois-franc où il n'y a pas nécessairement de sentiers. [sam. et dim. matin départ à 7h00]
2. Arbres et arbustes indigène. La naturaliste Thérèse Peuramaki (bilingue) vous guidera le long d'un chemin forestier pittoresque qui serpente à travers les profonds ravins de Cotter's Hollow. Elle vous y fera découvrir une belle variété d'arbres et d'arbustes indigène du Nouveau-Brunswick. Marche niveau facile. [sam. et dim. matin départ à 8h30]
3. Fleurs sauvages printanière! Venez explorer le Sentier d'Orland avec la naturaliste etoureuse du plein air Judy Dow qui vous fera découvrir l'abondance naturelle de cette piste qui suit la plaine inondable du ruisseau Smith. Vous aurez l'occasion d'y admirer l'Ail des bois, les Claytonies, l'Uvulaire, l'Érythronée

Hosted by the

KENNEBECASIS

NATURALIST SOCIETY  
Sussex, New Brunswick



d'Amérique ou Ail doux, la Violette pubescente, la Dicentre à capuchon ou Cœur saignant des bois et la Sanguinaire du Canada. Il s'agit d'une randonnée de courte durée le long d'anciens champs et pâturages.[sam. et dim. matin, départ à 8h30]

4. Visitez la pépinière Cornhill qui se spécialise dans les arbustes et les arbres résistant à nos climats (raisins, kiwis). Cornhill offre aussi plusieurs espèces indigènes. Le propriétaire de la pépinière qui est aussi l'auteur du livre "Hardy Roses" Bob Osborne sera votre guide lors de la visite de la pépinière et aussi, si le temps le permet, d'une courte excursion dans les bois avoisinants. [sam. et dim. matin départ à 8h30]
5. Partez en randonnée le long d'un sentier forestier où se côtoient Pin blanc, Pruche du Canada et Chêne boréal. En compagnie de Stephen Clayden (bilingue), conservateur en botanique au Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick, vous vous rendrez ainsi au lieu dit « Big Bluff ». En plus d'abriter un habitat unique l'endroit offre des panoramas magnifiques sur la Dutch Valley. On y retrouve en plus de l'excessivement rare Transitoire mousse de roche une plante s'apparentant à la fougère, des tapis d'Arctostaphyle raisin-d'ours

et une multitude de lichens qui sont la spécialité de Stephen. [sam. et dim. Après-midi, départ à 13h00]

6. Nos petites plantes vertes - les mousses et liverworts. Joignez vous au biologiste Bruce Bagnell pour une randonnée forestière à la recherche de certaines de nos mousses les plus communes. Afin de profiter au maximum de cette randonnée une loupe vous serait utile. [sam. et dim après-midi départ 13h00]
7. Pourquoi y a-t-il de la potasse dans la région de Sussex? Pour trouver la réponse à cette question nous nous rendrons d'abord à la mine où le géologue Brian Roulston nous expliquera, grâce à une présentation diapo power point d'une demie-heure, comment la potasse se forme et pourquoi il y en a tellement à Sussex. Nous irons ensuite sur le terrain pour étudier des formations rocheuses de la région. (sinkholes, rocher de gypse). Les participants pourront aussi jeter un coup d'œil sur certains des rochers dont l'extraction fait partie du développement de l'exploitation de la potasse et du gaz naturel. De plus, nous aborderons le potentiel de la région pour l'introduction d'arbres et d'arbustes indigène et importé. [sam. et dim. après-midi, départ 13h00]

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#### Excursions pleines journée

8. Partez pour une randonnée panoramique sur les berges de la rivière Big Salmon aux eaux claires comme du cristal. Nous partirons de l'embouchure de la Big Salmon et la remonterons jusqu'au chalet Hearst (Pejepscot), tout en étudiant, chemin faisant, la faune et la flore de la forêt d'Épinette rouge qui est une partie importante de l'écosystème côtier de la Baie de Fundy. L'excursion sera guidée par le biologiste du Ministère des ressources naturelles Joe Kennedy et le naturaliste James Goltz. Cette randonnée exigera un effort physique modérément exigeant et devrait parcourir environ 6 km. [samedi, seulement départ 8h30]
9. Venez explorer les cavernes et les vieilles mines en compagnie des guides Roger Albert (bilingue) et Jim Brown. L'excursion commencera par un court exposé sur les cavernes du Sud-Est du Nouveau-Brunswick. Par la suite, le premier arrêt sera pour explorer des cavernes et crevasses près de Poley Mountain. Nous visiterons ensuite la caverne Dalling. Seule la première partie de cette caverne sera visitée ce qui impliquera tout de même une randonnée en montée d'environ 1km. Si le temps le permet, des

visites d'autres cavernes et-ou anciennes mines pourront être considéré. Une lampe de poche et des bottes imperméable sont recommandées. [sam. et dim. départ 8h30]

- 10\*. Descente de la rivière Hammond en kayak. Si vous êtes néophyte en kayak mais que cette excursion vous intéresse n'hésitez pas. Avant le départ votre guide, l'enseignant et naturaliste Sandy McKay qui est aussi membre de l'association des pêcheurs de la rivière Hammond, vous donnera une courte session d'introduction à l'utilisation du kayak. Les embarcations utilisées sont très stables et ne nécessitent pas de jupette de protection. Tous les participants devront signer un document de renonciation de poursuite pour fin d'assurance. Tous l'équipement est inclus. La descente ne comporte pas de rapide. Pendant la descente Sandy nous parlera des problèmes qu'occasionne à la rivière son passage dans des zones agricoles ainsi que des possibles effets néfastes pour les organismes vivants qui l'habitent de la présence du bétail sur ses rives. La descente permettra aux participants de découvrir les bassins où le saumon se regroupe



lors sa migration, l'Urubu à tête rouge qui souvent survole la rivière où se perchent sur ses rives ainsi que bien d'autres surprises. Si le temps le permet une courte randonnée pédestre pourrait être proposée vers le milieu du voyage. N'oubliez pas vos verres fumés, vos chapeaux, votre écran solaire et dépendant de la météo, des vêtements supplémentaires. [sam. et dim. départ 8h30]

- 11\* C'est la naturaliste Donna Monahan qui sera votre guide pour cette randonnée en camionnette des plus beaux coins de la magnifique vallée de la rivière Kennebecasis. En partant de Sussex, nous suivrons l'ancien chemin de poste qui, après avoir traversé Sussex Corner, s'engage dans la Dutch Valley, où nous aurons l'occasion d'admirer les impressionnantes falaises du "Big Bluff". Ensuite notre chemin nous conduira par les villages de Urney et de Penobsquis aux sources même de la rivière

Kennebecasis où nous aurons l'occasion de faire une courte visite d'un des emplacements du projet de restauration de cette rivière. Suivant ensuite le flou de la rivière, nous descendrons, en passant par quelques ponts couverts, vers Bloomfield et, après avoir traversé les marais, nous déboucherons sur le village d'Hampton. Nous nous y arrêterons pour une courte randonnée pédestre sur l'Île Spooner, puis visiterons le chemin Kennebecasis River (décor du roman de Beth Powning "The Hatbox Letters"). Nous remonterons ensuite l'autoroute qui mène au traversier de Gondola Point, tout en faisant un court arrêt pour visiter un site de nidification de Grand héron. Le traversier nous conduira à la Kingston Peninsula, d'où nous amorcerons notre voyage de retour via le pittoresque chemin Lower Norton Shore. Donc c'est une plaisante et relaxante journée en perspective que Donna saura sûrement agrémenter de plein de commentaires "nature". [sam. et dim. départ 8h30]

## Enregistrement

S.V.P. envoyer votre paiement à :  
A.G.A. FNNB/NBFN  
a/s Rosemary Moorhead  
79 rue Queen  
Sussex N.-B. E4E 2B2

Libeller votre chèque à l'ordre de : Kennebecasis Naturalist Society

Nom \_\_\_\_\_

Adresse \_\_\_\_\_

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

### SVP encercler vos préférences de sortie

#### Samedi

##### Premier choix

Sortie demi-journée - avant-midi : 1, 2, 3, 4  
après-midi : 5, 6, 7

Sortie pleine journée - 8, 9, 10, 11

##### Second choix

Sortie demi-journée - avant-midi : 1, 2, 3, 4  
après-midi : 5, 6, 7

Sortie pleine journée - 8, 9, 10, 11

#### Dimanche

##### Premier choix

Sortie demi-journée - avant-midi : 1, 2, 3, 4  
après-midi : 5, 6, 7

Sortie pleine journée - 8, 9, 10, 11

##### Second choix

Sortie demi-journée - avant-midi : 1, 2, 3, 4  
après-midi : 5, 6, 7

Sortie pleine journée - 8, 9, 10, 11

### Frais

#### Enregistrement

Avant le 30 avril, 2005 25\$ / personne \_\_\_\_\_

Après le 30 avril, 2005 35\$ / personne \_\_\_\_\_

#### Casse-croûte

Casse-croûte en boîte pour samedi 8\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Casse-croûte en boîte pour dimanche 8\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet : Dinde ou Végétarien (encerclé un choix)

13.75\$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Excursions

La Hammond en kayak (#10) 15\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Randonnée en camionnette (#11) 10\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

LA FNNB ainsi que le club Kennebecasis Naturalist ne peuvent être tenu responsable pour tout accident, blessure ou dommage encouru par les personnes participant aux activités de l'A.G.A. qui se dérouleront les 3, 4 et 5 juin, 2005.



**List of Accommodations** [listed rates do not include tax] / **Liste d'hébergement** [cette liste de tarifs n'inclut pas les taxes]

Note: Bethany Bible College has given us good rate for the use of their facilities for our weekend, and a very reasonable rate for accommodation.

Note : Le Bethany Bible College nous offre de très bons tarifs pour l'utilisation de ses locaux lors de notre réunion ainsi que des taux plus que raisonnables sur l'hébergement.

**Bethany Bible College Residence** contact / contacter  
Rosemary Moorhead at (506) 433-6304;  
[moorhead@nbnet.nb.ca] 79 Queen St., Sussex NB  
E4E 2B2

\$25 / night / person (single  
bed, 2 beds per room, bath-  
room shared with 1 other  
room; some kitchenettes avail-  
able)

25\$/ nuit- personne (lit simple,  
2 lits par chambre, salle de bains  
partagée avec une autre  
chambre; quelques cuisinettes  
sont disponibles)

**Motels**

**Amsterdam Inn** (506) 432-5050, 1-800-468- 2828;  
[www.amsterdaminn.com]

double occupancy - \$80; occupation double - 80\$ ; petit-  
continental breakfast and déjeuner continentale et films gratuits  
free movies included inclus

**Blue Bird Restaurant and Sussex Thriftlodge** (506) 433-2557, 1888-  
583-9111 [www.sussexthriftlodge.com]  
single occupancy \$54, double occupation simple 54\$, double  
\$59

**Covered Bridge Inn** (506) 433-1805; [cbisss@nb.aibn.com]

double occupancy \$55; larger occupation double 55\$ ; plus  
room with kitchenette \$75 grande chambre avec cuisinette 75\$

**All Seasons Inn and Restaurant** (506) 433-2220, 1-800-452-1616;  
[www.allseasonsinn.ca]

single occupancy \$70, dou- occupation simple 70\$, double  
ble \$80 80\$

**Fairway Motor Inn** (506) 433-3470; [www.fairwayinn.ca]

1-2 people, \$75 1-2 personnes 75\$

**Timberland Motor Inn and Restaurant** (506) 433-2480, 1-877-297-  
2773; timbrld@nbnet.nb.ca; [www.timberlandmotorinn.com]

single occupancy \$75 (queen), occupation simple 75\$ (queen),  
double \$90 (2 double beds) double 90\$ (2 lit double)

**Camping**

Pine Cone Camping (506) 433-4389  
Lone Pine Park (506) 432-4007  
K&D Campground (506) 433-2870

**Registration**

Please Return with payment to:  
NBFN/FNNB AGM  
%o Rosemary Moorhead  
79 Queen St.  
Sussex NB E4E 2B2

Make cheques payable to: Kennebecasis Naturalist Society

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Circle Trip Preferences**

Saturday

First Choice

Half day Trips - am: 1, 2, 3, 4 pm: 5, 6, 7

Full day Trips - 8, 9, 10, 11

Alternate Choice

Half day Trips - am: 1, 2, 3, 4 pm: 5, 6, 7

Full day Trips - 8, 9, 10, 11

Sunday

First Choice

Half day Trips - am: 1, 2, 3, 4 pm: 5, 6, 7

Full day Trips - 8, 9, 10, 11

Alternate Choice

Half day Trips - am: 1, 2, 3, 4 pm: 5, 6, 7

Full day Trips - 8, 9, 10, 11

**Costs**

**Registration**

Before April 30, 2005 \$25 / person \_\_\_\_\_

After April 30, \$35 / person \_\_\_\_\_

**Lunches**

Boxed lunch for Saturday \$8 \_\_\_\_\_

Boxed lunch for Sunday \$8 \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet: Turkey or Vegetarian (circle choice)

\$13.75 \_\_\_\_\_

**Outings**

Kayak the Hammond (#10) \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Van tour (#11) \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The NBFN and Kennebecasis Naturalist are not responsible for accidents, injuries or damages to persons participating in any activities of this AGM running 3, 4 and 5th of June, 2005

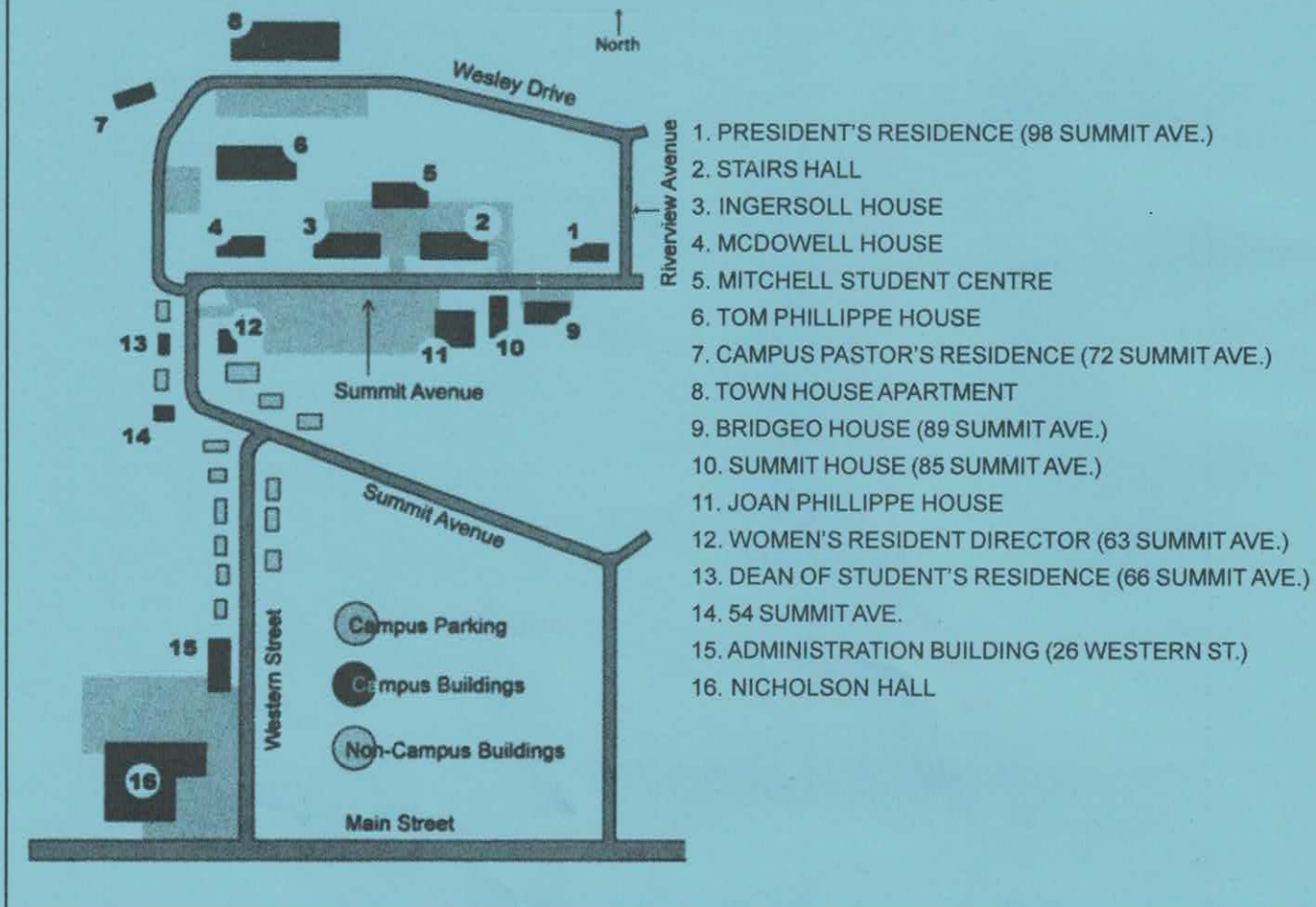


# Town of Sussex / Ville de Sussex





# Campus Map of Bethany Bible College / Carte du campus du Bethany Bible College





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

## 2000

From David Christie, Merv Cormier, Tracey Dean, Tony Erskine, Don Gibson, Fredrica Givan, John Hanson, Ed Kettela, Kenneth Neilsen, Susanne Overgaard, Peter Pearce, John Tanner and Jim Wilson for "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal / Sarcelle d'hiver «d'Europe» (*Saint John*), Osprey / Balbuzard pêcheur (winter, *York*), Cooper's Hawk / Épervier de Cooper (*Saint John*), Purple Gallinule / Talève violacée (*Saint John*), Lesser Yellowlegs / Petit Chevalier (winter, *Westmorland*), Western Sandpiper / Bécasseau d'Alaska (*Albert, Saint John*), Baird's Sandpiper / Bécasseau de Baird (*Saint John*), Dunlin / Bécasseau variable (winter, *Charlotte*), Long-billed Dowitcher / Bécassin à long bec (winter, *Saint John*), Franklin's Gull / Mouette de Franklin (*Kings*), Sabine's Gull / Mouette de Sabine (*Charlotte*), Ivory Gull / Mouette blanche (*Charlotte*), White-winged Dove / Tourterelle à ailes blanches (*Albert, Sunbury*), Northern Hawk Owl / Chouette épervière (*Charlotte*), Yellow-throated Vireo / Viréo à gorge jaune (*Westmorland*), Pine Warbler / Paruline des pins (*Westmorland*), Lark Sparrow / Bruant à joues marron (*Kings*), and Savannah Sparrow / Bruant des prés (winter, *Albert*).

## 2001

From Gisèle Belliveau, Normand Belliveau, David Christie, Merv Cormier, Margaret Gallant Doyle, Tracey Dean, Fred Dubé, Dan Hoare, Frank Kelly, Roy LaPointe, Patricia McGorlick, Nelson Poirier, Martin Roncetti, Inuk Simard and Harry Walker for Little Blue Heron / Aigrette bleue (winter, *Westmorland*), Golden Eagle / Aigle royal (*Albert*), Yellow Rail / Râle jaune (*Westmorland*), Thick-billed Murre / Guillemot de Brünnich (*Albert*), White-winged Dove / Tourterelle à ailes blanches (*Albert, Saint John*), Snowy Owl (*Madawaska*), Ruby-throated Hummingbird / Colibri à gorge rubis (late, *Westmorland*), Red-bellied Woodpecker / Pic à ventre roux (*Albert*), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher / Tyran à longue queue (*Albert*), Carolina Wren / Troglodyte de Caroline (*Charlotte*), Northern Wheatear / Traquet motteux (*Gloucester*), Brown Thrasher / Moqueur roux (winter, *Northumberland*), Yellow-throated Warbler / Paruline à gorge jaune (*Saint*

*John*), Summer Tanager / Tangara vermillon (*Albert, Restigouche*), Scarlet Tanager / Tangara écarlate (*Madawaska*), Eastern Towhee / Tohi à flancs roux (*Restigouche*), Clay-colored Sparrow / Bruant des plaines (*Albert, Madawaska*), Field Sparrow / Bruant des champs (*Charlotte*), Lark Sparrow / Bruant à joues marron (*Sunbury*), Rose-breasted Grosbeak / Cardinal à poitrine rose (winter, *Gloucester*) and Indigo Bunting / Passerin indigo (*Madawaska*).

## 2002

From Ginette Arsenault, David Christie, Alain Clavette, Roger Jenkins, Jeff Landauer, Yolande LeBlanc, Mélina Maltais, André Mill, Marco Scichilone, Beverley Schneider, Gisèle Thibodeau and Stuart Tingley for Cooper's Hawk / Épervier de Cooper (*Westmorland*), Golden Eagle / Aigle royal (*Madawaska*), Semipalmated Sandpiper / Bécasseau semipalmé (*Madawaska*), Baird's Sandpiper / Bécasseau de Baird (*Madawaska*), White-rumped Sandpiper / Bécasseau à croupion blanc (*Madawaska*), Pectoral Sandpiper / Bécasseau à poitrine cendrée (*Madawaska*), Bonaparte's Gull / Mouette de Bonaparte (*Madawaska*), Lesser Black-backed Gull / Goéland brun (*Westmorland*), Black-billed Cuckoo / Coulicou à bec noir (*Westmorland*), Snowy Owl / Harfang des neiges (*Victoria*), Boreal Owl / Nyctale de Tengmalm (*York*), Red-bellied Woodpecker / Pic à ventre roux (*Madawaska*), Carolina Wren / Troglodyte de Caroline (*Restigouche*), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher / Gobemoucheron gris-bleu (*Albert*), Bicknell's Thrush / Grive de Bicknell (*Madawaska*), Yellow-throated Warbler / Paruline à gorge jaune (*Albert*), Eastern Meadowlark / Sturnelle des prés (winter, *Albert*) and redpoll sp. / sizerin sp. (leucistic, *Gloucester, Restigouche*).

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

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



## FNNB BUREAU CHEF

*Marieka Arnold, directrice générale*

L'hiver m'a fait vivre de nouvelles expériences de la nature, je vais vous en faire connaître deux des plus inusitées. Au bureau, les nuits froides ont gelé toutes nos belles et luxuriantes plantes de maison. Ce qui était une forêt

acadienne est maintenant un désert. A vrai dire, la température pourrait être plus douce. Chez des amis, les écureuils ont rangé les cordes des ampoules électriques, ils ont préféré les ampoules de couleur cuivre.

Les cordes ont été coupées tout autour des ampoules et les cuivrées sont disparues. Des vaillants écureuils seront fort surpris lorsque viendra le temps de manger les ampoules de la cache.

Au bureau chef, à Fredericton, Maria Papoulias et moi-même, avec le soutien du bureau de direction et les comités, élaborons des nouveaux projets et continuons ceux en marche depuis un certain temps. Vous pouvez suivre l'évolution de notre travail sur le site web de la Fédération à [www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca), où mieux, venez nous visiter au bureau

de Fredericton et recevez une copie bilingue de notre nouvelle affiche murale sur **les orchidées rares au N.-**



*Platanthère à Gorge tuberculée /  
Tubercled Orchid*

*Photo D. Vail*

**B..** Venez voir par vous même le désert de plantes au bureau.

L'organisation des camps d'été est bien avancée. Cette année, nous avons des camps francophones subventionnés par le ministère de l'Éducation, section française. Ces camps de jeunes francophones de 11 à 14 ans auront lieu au Arpin Canoe Restigouche sur la rivière Kedgwick. Les camps anglophones comme à l'habitude se tiendront à St-Andrews. Encouragez les jeunes de 9 à 14 ans à participer à ces camps. Le concours des inscriptions hâtives se termine le 23 mai.

À la dernière réunion du bureau de direction, il fut décidé d'augmenter les cotisations à \$25. pour un individu et \$30. pour une famille. C'est dû à l'augmentation accrue du coût des assurances et de la publication de la revue N.B. Naturalist/ Le Naturaliste du N.-B.. Nous pensons que c'est un prix raisonnable et cela permettra à la Fédération de garder des finances équilibrées. Merci du soutien continu.

La deuxième parution du magazine des clubs de jeunes paraîtra bientôt. Maria Papoulias, la coordinatrice du programme, planifie la distribution gratuite d'exemplaires dans les écoles et les bibliothèques. Pour la somme de \$15., gâchez un jeune en lui offrant un abonnement d'un an au magazine des jeunes.

Bien du succès dans tous vos projets !

## NBFN CENTRAL OFFICE

*Marieka Arnold, Executive Director*

Winter has brought forth some interesting observations in my world; I will share two unusual ones with you. Firstly, here in the central office the cold night time conditions have frost bitten and frozen a number of our once gloriously green houseplants. What was once an Acadian indoor jungle is now a plant-free zone (needless to say, the ambient temperature could be warmer). Secondly, at my friend's home, I was shown all the numerous strings of outdoor lights that have been chewed by hungry squirrels. On one string they chewed through the electrical cord between each light bulb leaving only the cord segments as evidence. My friends told me that the squirrels favoured the copper coloured

bulbs. When the light bulb cache is in need, it will be a disappointing time for the diligent bulb-storing squirrels.

It is certainly winter cache time at the Federation office. Maria Papoulias and I continue (with the direction of our Board and committees) to seek support for our ongoing and new projects. Please stay updated on our activities through



*Marieka At Work in  
Grand Lake Meadows  
Marieka à l'oeuvre da  
les Prés Grand Lake*

*Photo. G. Bishop*



website [www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca) ; even better drop by the office in person to pick up a copy of our **NEW Rare Orchids of NB** bilingual poster or check out our loss of plant community diversity.

Summer youth nature camp work is well underway. This year we have new approved funding from the French Department of Education for French children aged 11-14 to attend camp at Arpin Canoe Restigouche, Kedgwick River. Our early bird registration deadline for all other camps is May 23<sup>rd</sup>, so please take the opportunity to consider any children you know aged 9-14 for either of our summer nature camps.

At a recent Board Meeting, it was decided that our membership rates be increased this year, reflective of our



*Showy Lady's Slipper /  
Cypripède royal*  
Photo: D. Vail

rising liability insurance and NB Naturalist printing and postage costs. The annual individual membership is now \$25.00 and the family membership is \$30.00. We believe the amount is still an excellent deal. This increase in amount will ensure that the organization remains financially healthy. Thank you for your ongoing support.

The second issue of the NB Young Naturalist Club Magazine will be available shortly. Maria Papoulias, the program coordinator, has plans to distribute complimentary copies to schools and libraries. For the reasonable \$15 amount you can treat a child you know, aged 6-12, to a quarterly subscription.

All the best with your projects, too!

## MERCI / THANK YOU

*Hilaire et Rose-Aline Chiasson*

M. Mike LeBlanc président, et son équipe :

Nous tenons à vous remercier de nous avoir choisis comme membre à vie de la Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B., c'est un honneur inattendu et nous en sommes très reconnaissants.

Il y avait tellement longtemps que l'on observait les oiseaux et la nature sans pouvoir partager notre plaisir et nos découvertes que lorsque il a été question de former un Club, nous y avons participé avec joie. La réussite de notre Club revient aussi en grande partie à notre président fondateur Ernest Ferguson, qui a su jeter des bases solides durant les trois ans de son mandat. Nous avons continué dans la même direction. Nous tentons d'amener de nouveaux objectifs à atteindre à tous les deux ou trois ans, cela garde l'intérêt des membres.

Merci beaucoup pour la magnifique sculpture, elle est à la place d'honneur.

Hilaire et Rose-Aline Chiasson

To Mike and his team

We want to thank everybody for the honor of being chosen lifetime members of the federation. It is an unexpected honour and we are very grateful.

Long before there was a question of forming a club and sharing our discoveries, we were observing birds and nature.. The success of our club goes to the founding president Ernest Ferguson, who knew how to provide a solid base during his 3 year mandate. We continued in the same direction. We tried to bring new objectives every 2 to 3 years to maintain the interest of our members.



*Hilaire et Rose-Aline Chiasson*

February 1st, 2005.

Photo: Roger Dumaresq

Thank you very much for the beautiful sculpture. It has its place of honour.

Hilaire et Rose-Aline Chiasson



## INVASION OF THE RED-BELLIES

Peter Pearce and Don Gibson

No, we're not talking about another sci-fi flick! Nor yet about snakes! Our subject is *Melanerpes carolinus*, the Red-bellied Woodpecker. More particularly, it is about the remarkable influx of that species into New Brunswick in the fall of 2004, noteworthy because of the unprecedented high numbers of birds involved and because the occurrence of the red-belly in the province was confirmed only as recently as 1986. It seems to be a species on the march.

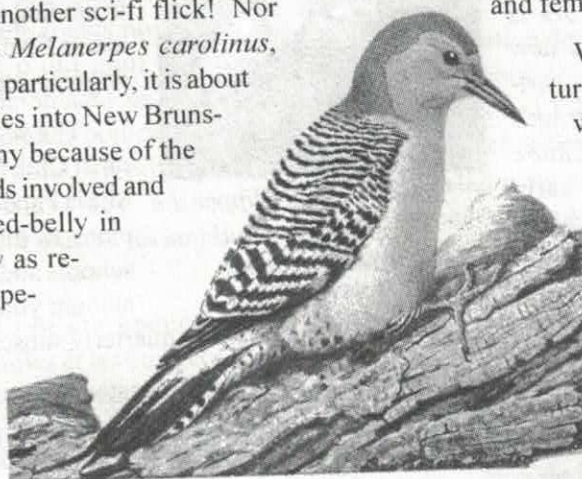
The Red-bellied Woodpecker is quite inappropriately named. For a starter, the reddish suffusion on its lower belly is really quite difficult to see. And part of the genus name – derived from the Greek word *melanos*, meaning black – was assigned after its earlier and more appropriate application to the very different, but congeneric, Acorn Woodpecker. Furthermore, among the 170 or so typical woodpeckers in the world, three other genera are represented by the similarly-named Rufous-bellied, Fire-bellied and Crimson-bellied woodpeckers. Whether in flight or at rest, the red-belly is, nevertheless, outstanding in appearance, like its several zebra-backed relatives. The 20 or so known *Melanerpes* woodpeckers are largely Neotropical in distribution. The breeding ranges of six occur in North America, three – Lewis's, Red-headed and Red-bellied – extending into Canada, but not New Brunswick.

But back to the subject at hand. Individuals in the vanguard of the influx were first spotted, not surprisingly, in the south of the province, at Lorneville and Hampton. That was in early October, possibly late September at St. Martins. Thereafter, red-bellies were reported with considerable frequency from New Brunswick through the fall, locations being distributed as shown in Figure 1. Two were noted at several bird-feeding stations, separation of individuals being facilitated by slight plumage differences between male

and female birds.

We estimate that about 90 red-bellies turned up in the province, discounting what were probably – by virtue of their closeness in space and time – multiple reports of the same bird(s). Thirty-six were eventually noted on Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs). Most of the observations that were brought to our attention were in the south of the province, clusters tending to reflect concentrations of the human population. Elsewhere, reports were scattered. The fallout of Red-bellied Woodpeckers was even more pronounced in Maine,

about 250 being noted there. The phenomenon was also witnessed in Nova Scotia, where there were an estimated 40 - 45 birds (including a single on Cape Breton Island)



Red-bellied Woodpecker

Drawing by L.A. Fuertes

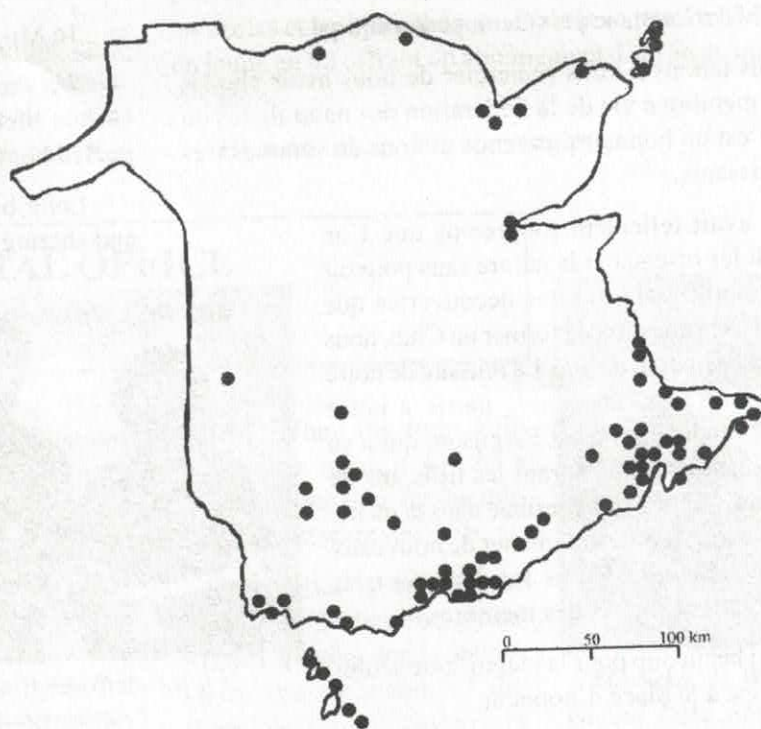


Fig. 1. Outline map of New Brunswick showing the distribution of Red-bellied Woodpecker sightings in the fall of 2004



and Prince Edward Island, where ten were confirmed. Two individuals made it to Newfoundland, providing the third and fourth records of occurrence for that province.

Since Red-bellied Woodpeckers remain in the juvenal plumage only for a couple of months in the summer, it was to be expected that all of the individuals reported would be adult-plumaged, as was the case. That is in contrast to the Red-headed Woodpecker, which also staged a significant incursion into the province in the fall, most birds being immatures, which gradually molt into adult plumage through the winter months.

There were two other smaller incursions of red-bellies into New Brunswick in the recent past. One occurred during the fall of 1995, about two dozen birds being reported, five in the period of the CBCs, the other in the fall of 2003, seven being noted on CBCs. Records have otherwise been sporadic.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers have slowly pushed northward as a breeding species through New England over the last several decades. We may reasonably expect that, with climate warming, they will eventually nest in our province's woodlands. But we are left wondering what environmental forces sparked the unusual scale of the northward movement of these woodpeckers in 2004, probably on a front much broader than we have indicated here. For the nonce, let us hope that these attractive birds remain to delight us through the winter: Given their catholic tastes in food, and the dedication of bird-feeder operators, the chances would seem to be pretty good.

(Appreciation is expressed to David Christie, Bruce Mactavish, Ian McLaren, David Seeler and Bill Sheehan for furnishing information on the five regional jurisdictions covered.)



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Jim Wilson, membership secretary

2 Neck Rd, Quispamsis, NB, E2G 1L3

E-mail: [jgw@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:jgw@nbnet.nb.ca)

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



# SIZERIN FLAMMÉ, ALBINOS PARTIAL / PART ALBINO COMMON REDPOLL

Roy and Charlotte LaPointe

On reçu la visite d'un autre Sizerin flammé, albinos partial à nos mangeoires à Saint-Léonard, Janvier le 25, 2005. Un oiseau semblable nous a rendu visite l'an dernier, voir l'édition 30(4) Hiver 2003 / 2004, page 117, mais celui-ci n'est pas le même individu. Cet oiseau a toute la tête blanche sauf le front rouge. L'oiseau de l'an dernier avait la calotte grise habituelle en plus du front rouge avec le restant de la tête et le cou blanc.



We had a visit by another part albino Common Redpoll at our feeders in Saint Leonard, 25 January 2005. A similar bird visited last year, see issue 30(4) Winter 2003 / 2004 page 117, but this is not the same individual. This bird has an all white head except for the red poll. Last year's bird had the usual gray crown and red poll with the remainder of the head and neck white like this second bird.

Bon "birding" en 2005

Happy naturing in 2005



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

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

Ci-inclus mon/notre donation à\*:

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Envoyez à : La Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B.

Jim Wilson, secrétaire des membres

2 Neck Rd, Quispamsis, NB, E2G 1L3

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## BOTANY CORNER

Gart Bishop, Kennebecasis Naturalists

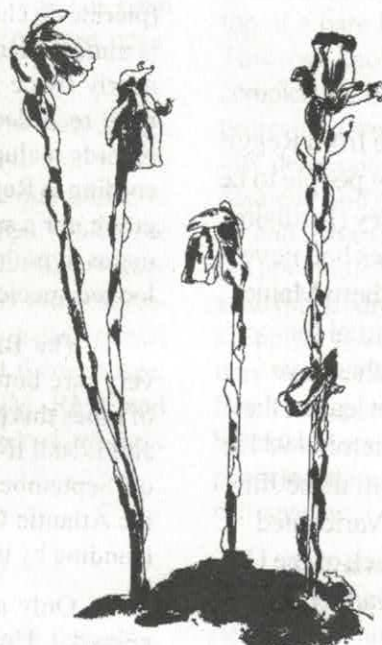
### Indian Pipe / *Monotropa uniflora* (*Monotropa uniflora*)

This plant has a multitude of very descriptive common English names, such as: Ghost-flower, Corpse Plant, American Iceplant, Life in Death, Fairy-smoke, Eyebright, Fitroot, Dutchman's Pipe or Convulsion-root. Whatever name you choose to call it, the plant is found commonly throughout our province in the shady understory of mixed or evergreen woods. Sometimes mistaken for a type of fungi, the thick, white fleshy stems, each with a single nodding white (occasionally pinkish) flower, are often found in clusters of 3-20. Unusual as the plant appears, its flower is normal enough with all the right parts in the right places. As the flower matures, the stem straightens with the seed capsule pointing upward. At this stage the plant turns very dark, almost black. As the capsule ripens, its sides split open, allowing the seeds to spill out and be carried away by the wind. The stem and capsule hull become almost woody, and are easily recognized in the fall or spring, persisting for several years.

The plant is considered to be saprophytic ... meaning that it lives off of other plants. As it has no green parts, Indian Pipe resorts to getting its nourishment from mycorrhizal fungi found beneath the ground and which are interconnected with the dead roots of nearby plants, most commonly trees. As its leaves are not used in photosynthesis, they have been reduced to scaly bracts along the stem. It is very difficult to get the seed to germinate as it requires precise conditions.

Native Americans believed the clear sap was useful in sharpening one's vision, and was also used in treating spasms, fainting spells and nervous conditions.

It is interesting that this plant catches people's attention, and they seem to either really like it, or really hate it. A hundred years ago naturalist Neltje Blanchan wrote this miserable description of it. "No wonder this degenerate



Indian Pipe

Drawing: M. Satterlee

hangs its head; no wonder it grows black with shame on being picked, as if its wickedness were only just then discovered ... To one who can read the faces of flowers, as it were, it stands a branded sinner."

However the poet Mary Higginson called them 'Forest nuns' with their heads bent in prayer.

Recently I was talking with the supervisor (Melvin Clark) of New River Beach Provincial Park along the Fundy coast. He mentioned that one day last summer, one of the park wardens had met with a hiker coming off one of the trails. The hiker was from Europe and inquired if the warden knew that the plant Indian Pipe grew along the trail. The warden nodded yes. The hiker then proceeded to state that Indian Pipe was a deadly poisonous plant. The warden

did not know much about the plant and told the hiker he would check it out with his supervisor. The hiker added as he continued on his way, that the plants he'd seen wouldn't hurt anyone as he had trampled them to bits! After checking with Stephen Clayden at the New Brunswick Museum, the supervisor learned that Indian Pipe may look different and is certainly not considered an edible plant, but it is not poisonous. Just different. And we don't have to fear or trample to bits everything that is different, do we?

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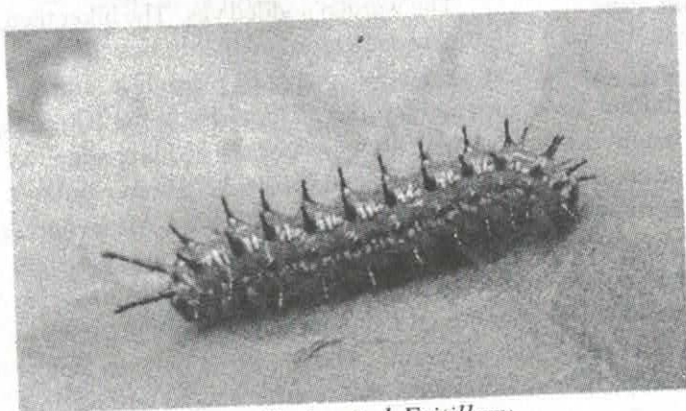
## NATURE NEWS - INVERTEBRATES

### FALL 2004: SEPTEMBER 1 TO NOVEMBER 31

Dwayne L. Sabine

#### Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths)

As you may remember, I forwarded a note from Reggie Webster in my spring 2004 column asking people to be on the lookout for the **Variegated Fritillary** (fritillaire panache; *Euptoieta claudia*). This species had never been recorded in NB, but sightings in northern Maine during the spring of 2004 indicated a potential for occurrence here. Well, Nelson Poirier's sharp eye noticed an unfamiliar caterpillar on a violet leaf on the Little Southwest Miramichi River on September 9. He took a few close-up photographs, and from these Jim Edsall was able to identify the species as Variegated Fritillary. This species occurs through much of the US, and occasionally wanders north. These wandering



*Variegated Fritillary*  
Little Southwest Miramichi River  
9 September 2004  
Photo: Nelson Poirier

individuals sometimes breed (as Nelson's observation shows), and sometimes small 'colonies' may become established for several years. One such colony found near Québec in 1988 was still active in 1997.

Two large, white butterflies noted nectarring with **Cabbage Whites** (piéride du chou; *Pieris rapae*) in a sunny cove at New River Beach during a NB Botany Club outing on October 2 appeared to be the **Large White**

(piéride du chou; *Pieris brassicae*) (DS). The Large White is almost identical to our familiar Cabbage White, but is nearly twice as large. This native of Europe has never been recorded in NB, although its' few North American records include a sighting as close as Eastport, Maine according to Reggie Webster. Unfortunately, neither a photograph nor a specimen was obtained, so the occurrence remains hypothetical. We should watch for this easily-overlooked species in the coming year.

The **Bronze Copper** (bronzé; *Lycaena hyllus*) - a very rare butterfly, which was found a surprising number of times this past summer, was observed yet again this fall. Jim Edsall found one at Gray's Brook Marsh in Albert Co on September 16th, while undertaking insect surveys for the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (ACCCD) (funding by the NB Wildlife Trust Fund).

Only a few late season butterfly records were received. These included an **American Painted Lady** (vanesse de Virginie; *Vanessa virginiensis*) found at Saint John on October 30 (EP), and **Clouded Sulphurs** (coliac du trèfle; *Colias philodice*) at Flowers Cove on October 20 (MS) and at Cape Tormentine (RL), Central Hampstead (DS, MS), and Evandale (SM) on October 30. The late butterfly record this year appears to be a Clouded Sulphur found flying weakly at Fredericton on November 15, in temperatures of only 3°C (DG).

Pat Nolan photographed a large Sphinx moth flying in her petunia patch in Miramichi on the evening October 2. She forwarded the photos to Nelson Poirier, who in turn brought them to Jim Edsall. Jim was able to identify the moth as a **Pink-spotted**



*Pink-spotted Hawkmoth*  
Miramichi, 2 October 2004  
Photo: Pat Nolan



**Hawkmoth** (sphinx à taches roses; *Agrius cingulata*) - the first documented record for the province. This moth is common from the southern US to Argentina, where it is sometimes considered a pest as its larvae often feed on sweet potatoes. The Pink-spotted Hawkmoth sometimes strays far from its normal range: it has apparently been recorded 500km out in the Atlantic Ocean, and has been observed in the northern US and Canada on rare occasions.

The brick wall at Lucy's Truck Stop in New Jersey proved to be a great site for Dave McLeod to find moths during this past summer and fall. Among the many species he found there were a number of Underwings, which are among our more striking moths. They included a **White Underwing** (Likénée blanche; *Catocala relictata*) on August 31 (DM, RM), **Mother Underwing** (*Catocala parta*) on September 9 (DM), **Sleepy Underwing** (Likénée rosée; *Catocala concumbens*) on September 1 (DM, RM), and **Ultronia Underwing** (Likénée du prunier; *Catocala ultronia*) on August 29 (DM, MW, WW).

### Odonata (Damselflies and Dragonflies)

The discovery of large numbers of the formerly-thought-to-be-rare **Azure Bluets** (*Agrion saupoudré*; *Enallagma aspersum*) at several lakes in the Nerepis Hills in late August was followed by the discovery of yet another large population nearby at Whittaker Lake (near Mount Champlain, Kings Co.) on September 6 (SM, DS).

Gilles Belliveau found a male **Clamp-tipped Emerald** (cordulie ténébreuse; *Somatochlora tenebrosa*) patrolling Burpee Stream near Noonan on September 15: a nice find, and just the sixth NB record for this very rare dragonfly.

Mosaic darners (aeschne: *Aeshna* sp.) and Meadowhawks (sympétrum: *Sympetrum* sp.) are the bread and butter of the late season 'oder', and are often surprisingly active on cool fall days. Among the species noted this fall was the **Lance-tipped Darner** (aeschne constrictor; *Aeshna constricta*), reported from the Nashwaak River in Fredericton (AWT) and from the Lancaster Sewage Lagoon in Saint John (ST) on September 7, and from Gagetown on September 30 (SM). This darner is quite abundant on the lower Saint John River, but is less commonly encountered elsewhere in the province. Also notable was a report of two elusive peatland denizens, **Subarctic Darners** (aeschne subarctique; *Aeshna subarctica*) and **Zigzag Darners** (aeschne à zigzags; *Aeshna sitchensis*), from a

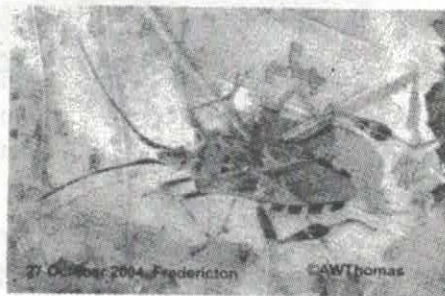
bog near Gagetown on September 30 (SM).

A very interesting darner observation arose from a NB Botany Club field trip on October 2 to New River Beach: 'skins' (shed during molt) of **Shadow Darner** larvae (aeschne des pénombres; *Aeshna umbrosa*), as well as a dead larva, were found in a tiny pool of water located on top of a bare knob of bedrock located just offshore (DS). This rock knob was accessible by foot at low tide, but was completely isolated from the mainland at high tide, and barely projected above the high tide mark. The 'pool' was a shallow depression in the rock measuring barely over 1m in diameter and only 20cm deep, and was filled with rainwater and wave splash. Salinity measurements of water from the pool indicated a salt concentration of 30 parts per thousand (ppt), barely less saline than the surrounding seawater (32ppt)! The large size of the larval skins indicated that they were well into their multi-year larval stage. There is a European species of darner known to be tolerant of slightly brackish water, but the ability to tolerate saline water appears to be previously unknown in any of the North American species.

The latest dragonfly reports of the year were all Meadowhawks: a **Yellow-legged Meadowhawks** (sympétrum tardif; *Sympetrum vicinum*) at Central Hampstead in Queens County (MS) and a **Saffron-winged Meadowhawk** (sympétrum rubiginieux; *Sympetrum costiferum*) at Saint John (EP), both on October 30.

### Miscellaneous Species

Tony Thomas managed to find a new species for the province while mowing his lawn in Fredericton on October 27: the **Western Conifer-seed Bug** (punaise occidentale des cône s ;

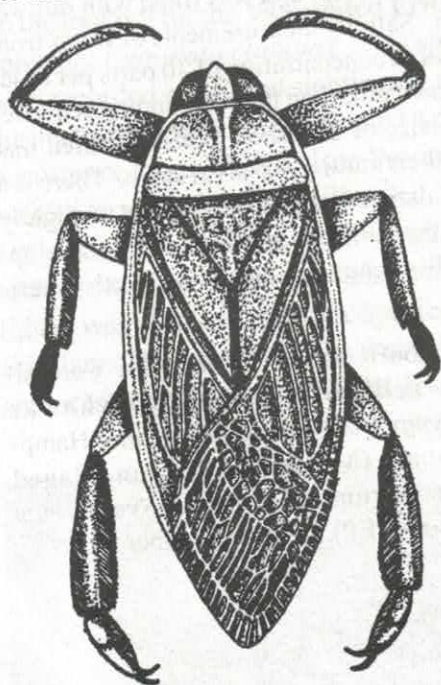


*Western Conifer-seed Bug*  
Fredericton, October 27  
Photo: Tony Thomas

*Leptoglossus occidentalis*). This species is native to western North America, where it is considered a pest due to its diet of conifer seed. It has been spreading east in recent years, turning up in Ontario in the mid-1980s and in neighbouring Québec just last year.



Another new record for the province came from Dave McLeod, who found *Alydus eurinus* (one of the Broad-headed Bugs) at Hay Island in Neguac on September 5. The larvae of this species are ant mimics, while the adults closely resemble spider wasps. Other interesting Bugs (Order Hemiptera) observed by Dave this year included a very impressive-looking **Giant Water Bug** (léthocère; *Lethocerus americanus*) found dead at a gas station at Miramichi on October 2 (where it probably succumbed during a fall dispersal flight) and a **Masked Hunter** (chasseur masqué; *Reduvius personatus*), a member of the assassin bug family, found at New Jersey on July 9.



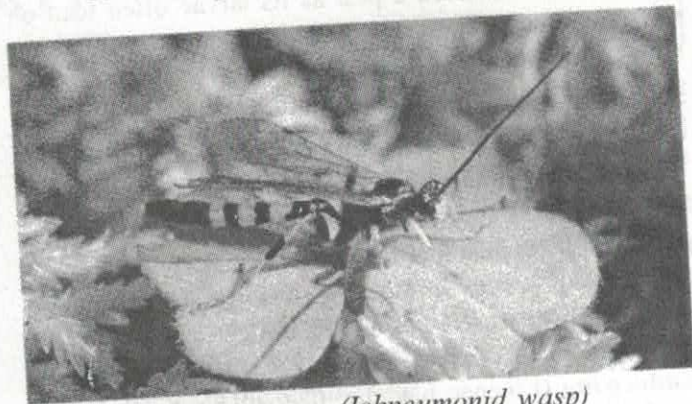
Giant Water Bug  
Drawing: V. Knox

The sole tiger beetle report received this fall was of a number of **Hairy-necked Tiger Beetles** (cicindèle à ligne obtuse; *Cicindela hirticollis*) on the beaches at Cape Jourmain on September 7 (KB).

Several people commented on the abundance of small yet vicious mosquitos that seemed to plague the province this fall. According to Jim Edsall and Reggie Webster, these were mostly the **Inland Floodwater Mosquito** (*Aedes vexans*) and the **Little Smokey Mosquito** (*Aedes cinereus*). Both of these species typically have a small adult population active in early summer. If summer weather conditions are sufficiently wet (which was definitely the

case this year), the eggs laid by that first generation hatch and produce a much larger late summer generation.

Several large swarms of wasps found buzzing over



*Eutanyacra* sp. (Ichneumonid wasp)  
New River Beach, 2 October 2004  
Photo: Dwayne Sabine

the ground in mature balsam fir forest at New River Beach during an NB Botany Club field trip on October 2 appear to be Ichneumonid wasps, probably a species of *Eutanyacra* (DMcL, DS). The wasp fauna of NB is poorly known, unfortunately.

Lastly, several interesting spider reports were received from Dave McLeod in New Jersey: a **Shamrock Spider** (*Araneus trifolium*) and a **Banded Garden Spider** (*Argiope trifasciata*) on September 4 (DML, RMcL), and a **Red-abdomened Jumping Spider** (*Phidippus cardinalis*) on June 8 (BMcD). Folks interested in spiders might consider purchasing a copy of *Spiders of the North Woods*, 2003, by Larry Weber. I have not personally seen a copy, but it seems to be receiving favourable reviews.

Abbreviations: AWT Tony Thomas, BMcD B. Mac Donald, DG Don Gibson, DMcL Dave McLeod, DS Dwayne Sabine, EP Eileen Pike, KB Kate Bredin, MS Mary Sabine, MW M. Warmer, RL Roger Leblanc, RMcL R. McLeod, SM Scott Makepeace, ST Stu Tingley, WW W. Warmer



## NATURE NEWS - BIRDS

### OCTOBER 14, 2004 TO JANUARY 10, 2005

Don Gibson

For awhile it appeared that it would be a frustrating season for most birders, as the rarities were seen only briefly and by single observers. Despite extensive follow-up searches, a **Spotted Redshank**, a **Redwing** and a **Swainson's Hawk** managed to elude the eager eyes of numerous pursuers. An **Ivory Gull** and a **Mew Gull** were slightly more co-operative but they also soon disappeared. Unbelievably, a **Tree Swallow** was observed out for a mid-December foray and a **Say's Phoebe** was seen briefly on New Year's Day.

As this reporting period wound down, a **Harris's Sparrow**, a **Golden-crowned Sparrow**, a **Tufted Titmouse** and a **Western Meadowlark** were discovered at feeders, and each displayed a genuine interest in entertaining the birding community.

Although it is no longer considered a rare bird in the province, the vast number of **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** that were discovered in the province may be considered to constitute *the* bird story of the fall.

Yolande Leblanc scanned the large flock of geese near her home at Memramcook daily in hopes of finding something unusual among them. She could hardly believe her eyes on Oct. 27 when she was able to identify a **Greater White-fronted Goose** (Oie rieuse). It was the second consecutive year that this species had been found there. After it went unnoticed through November, Yolande spotted it again on Dec. 2.

For the fourth straight fall a single **Snow Goose** (Oie des neiges) frequented the Fredericton area. Owen Washburn saw one with a flock of Canada Geese on Oct. 31.

A few **Green-winged Teal** (Sarcelle d'hiver) usually winter at Saint John and on Dec. 15 Roger Burrows was able to identify a male of the **Eurasian Teal** race.

Brian Dalzell surprised a drake **Ring-necked Duck** (Fuligule à collier) at Great Pond, Grand Manan, on Dec. 10.

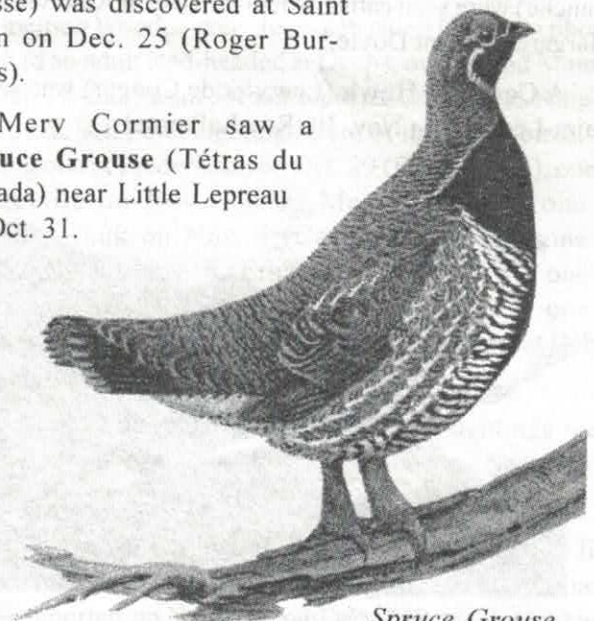
A **Tufted Duck** (Fuligule morillon) was found at Saint John on Dec. 27 (Roger Burrows).

A first year **King Eider** (Eider à tête grise) was seen at Point Lepreau by Jean and Jim Wilson and Richard Blacquiere on Oct. 22. An adult male was found at Green Point on Jan. 8 (Allain Clavette and Matthew Leger) and another at Cape Tormentine on Jan. 9 (Norm Belliveau *et al.*).

Richard Blacquiere recorded a single **Harlequin Duck** (Arlequin plongeur) at Point Lepreau on Oct. 25. One was seen by Merv Cormier at Pointe-du-Chêne on Nov. 10 and a female was photographed at Cape Tormentine by Becky Whittam and Sean Blaney on Nov. 20. Off Gull Rock, White Head Island, 12 harlequins were seen on Nov. 22 (Jim Wilson, Peter Wilshaw and Harvey McLeod), the number having increased to 45 by Dec. 3 (Roger Leblanc *et al.*). A single bird was seen off Long Eddy, Grand Manan, on Dec. 4 (Roger Leblanc *et al.*).

A **Ruddy Duck** (Érismature rousse) was discovered at Saint John on Dec. 25 (Roger Burrows).

Merv Cormier saw a **Spruce Grouse** (Tétras du Canada) near Little Lepreau on Oct. 31.



*Spruce Grouse*  
Drawing: L.A. Fuertes

Hundreds of **Red-throated Loons** (Plongeon catmarin) were observed at Baie Verte by Kathy Popma on Oct. 15.

A **Northern Fulmar** (Fulmar boréal) was seen on Dec. 13 and two **Greater Shearwaters** (Puffin majeur) on Nov.



13 near Grand Manan (Durlan Ingersoll).

**Great Egrets** (Grande Aigrette) were observed at different locations along the Fundy coast on three consecutive days: at Quaco Marsh on Oct. 18 (Ted and Nancy Sears), at Castalia Marsh on Oct. 19 (Brian Dalzell) and at Chance Harbour on Oct. 20 (Bev Schneider).

Although first reported on Oct. 19, a **Cattle Egret** (Héron garde-boeufs) had been in a farmyard at Quispamsis for a few days previously (Joyce Downey).

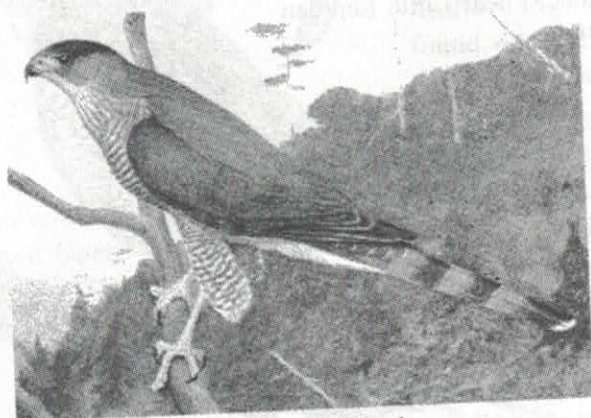
Merv Cormier observed two juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Herons** (Bihoreau gris) at Saint John (near the Lancaster sewage lagoon) on Oct. 25. Peter Pearce found one there on Oct. 28.

Jackie and Lloyd DeCoste saw a **Turkey Vulture** (Urubu à tête rouge) at St. Andrews on Nov. 4 and the following day Laurie Murison observed two at North Head. Two Turkey Vultures were seen at Moncton on Dec. 12 (Jennifer Ritchie).

A late **Osprey** (Balbuzard pêcheur) was seen near Sussex on Oct. 23 (Stu Tingley *et al.*).

On Nov. 19 about 25 **Bald Eagles** (Pygargue à tête blanche) were seen eating fish in the river at Atholville (fide Margaret Gallant Doyle.).

A **Cooper's Hawk** (Épervier de Cooper) was seen at Saint-Léonard on Nov. 30 (Roy LaPointe).



*Cooper's Hawk*  
Drawing: L.A. Fuertes

Ruth Miller saw a **Broad-winged Hawk** (Petite Buse) near Sackville on Nov. 2.

Marco Scichilone reported a **Swainson's Hawk** (Buse de Swainson) near Scoudouc on Dec. 7.

There was a report of a possible **Golden Eagle** (Aigle royal) among the large number of Bald Eagles at Atholville on Nov. 11 (Margaret Gallant Doyle).

An **American Kestrel** (Crécerelle d'Amérique) was seen at North Head on Nov. 21 (Jim Wilson, Peter Wilshaw and Harvey McLeod). Carolyn Scarth saw a hawk at Moncton on Nov. 15 that she thought was possibly a **Gyr-falcon** (Faucon gerfaut). Ann Lavoie witnessed a Gyr-falcon kill a Common Merganser near Mann Mountain (about 20 km west of Campbellton) on Dec. 10. Another was seen at Saint John on Dec. 28 (Roger Burrows). A **Per-grine Falcon** (Faucon pèlerin) was reported at Saint John on Dec. 4 (Harry Scarth) and another was seen at Bancroft Point, Grand Manan, on Dec. 20 (Brian Dalzell).

Roger Guitard discovered a **Purple Gallinule** (Talève violacée) in very weakened condition at Pointe-Verte on Oct. 29 and two days later he found it dead.

There was a report of a possible **Spotted Redshank** (Chevalier arlequin) at Bouctouche on Oct. 24 (an unidentified birder from British Columbia).

The Chignecto Naturalists' Club found a nice variety of shorebirds at Cape Tormentine on Nov. 21 including **Ruddy Turnstone** (Tournepierre à collier), **Sanderling** (Bécasseau sanderling) **Purple Sandpiper** (Bécasseau violet). Peter Pearce observed Purple Sandpipers at White Head Island on Oct. 14.

A **Wilson's Snipe** (Bécassine des marais) was found at North Head on Dec. 18 (Brian Dalzell) and one was seen at Gondola Point on Dec. 19 (Peter Wilshaw).

Merv Cormier tallied six **Red-necked Phalaropes** (Phalarope à bec étroit) at Point Lepreau on Oct. 31.

Durlan Ingersoll saw a **Pomarine Jaeger** (Labbe pomarin) near Grand Manan on Nov. 13.

A **Little Gull** (Mouette pygmée) was observed at Long Eddy, Grand Manan, on Dec. 4 (Roger Leblanc). A **Black-headed Gull** (Mouette rieuse) was seen at Pointe-du-Chêne on Dec. 1 (Stu Tingley *et al.*). Roger Burrows spotted a **Mew Gull** (Goéland cendré) at Saint John on Dec. 12 and Roger Guitard found one at Bathurst on Dec. 1 which was seen there again on Jan. 5.

A few **Iceland Gulls** (Goéland arctique) were seen near Rivière-Verte by Roy LaPointe on Nov. 13. Nor Belliveau discovered a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (Goéland brun) at Memramcook on Oct. 31.



**Glaucous Gulls** (Goéland bourgmestre) are seldom seen inland but Ron Wilson found one at Fredericton on Nov. 2 and Roy LaPointe discovered another near Rivière-Verte on Nov. 13.

A first-winter **Ivory Gull** (Mouette blanche) was found at St. Thomas on Dec. 22 (Louis-Émile Cormier).

A **Caspian Tern** (Sterne caspienne) was seen at Amos Point on Oct. 17 (MNC).



*Caspian Tern*  
Drawing: L.A. Fuertes

A **Dovekie** (Mergule nain) was seen off Grand Manan on Dec. 9 (Durlan Ingersoll).

A very late **Black-billed Cuckoo** (Coulicou à bec noir) was noted at Fredericton by Don Gibson on Oct. 27.

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (Coulicou à bec jaune) was found at Cape Jourimain on Oct. 17 (MNC). Other sightings included one at Martin Head on Oct. 20 (Jean and Jim Wilson), one at Saint John on Oct. 21 (Merv Cormier) and one at Wilson Point on Oct. 24 (Robert Doiron).

Beginning on Nov. 24, Roger Guitard's feeder at Pointe-Verte played host to a **White-winged Dove** (Tourterelle à ailes blanches) for a number of days.

A **Snowy Owl** (Harfang des neiges) was reported in the Bonney River area on Nov. 20 (*fide* Hugh Parks). Other sightings of Snowy Owls included: one at Cap Pelé on Nov. 27 (Julie Pellerin), one near Coles Island on Nov. 28 (Gilles

Belliveau), one at Bouctouche Dune on Nov. 28 (Louis-Émile Cormier), one at Pointe-du-Chêne on Dec. 1 (Stu Tingley *et al.*) and one at Miscou Island on Dec. 17 (Stu Tingley *et al.*).

A **Northern Hawk Owl** (Chouette épervière) was found between Janeville and Notre-Dame-des-Érables on Dec. 7 (Frank Branch).

A **Long-eared Owl** (Hibou moyen-duc) was observed perched in a tree for most of one day at Saint John in early January (*fide* Jim Wilson).

A **Short-eared Owl** (Hibou des marais) was seen at Tantramar Marsh on Nov. 7 (Norm Belliveau *et al.*) and another was observed at Saint John on Dec. 2 (Frank Kelly). Hank Scarth discovered one at Lower Coverdale on Dec. 16.

A very late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (Colibri à gorge rubis) was reported at Point La Nim on Oct. 17 (Margaret Gallant Doyle).

A **Belted Kingfisher** (Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique) was found near Grand Harbour on Dec. 18 (Brian Dalzell).

This might have known as the year of the **Red-headed Woodpecker** (Pic à tête rouge) but it was upstaged by the Red-bellied Woodpecker. Jean-Sébastien Guenette photographed an adult Red-headed at Deep Cove, Grand Manan, on Oct. 18 and Susan Jordan reported an adult at Ripples on Nov. 2. All other sightings were of immature birds, including one at Fredericton on Oct. 29 (Don Gibson), one at Lorneville on Nov. 3 (*fide* Merv Cormier), one at Nauwigewauk on Nov. 4 (Carol Henderson), one at Kingsclear on Nov. 6 (Erna and Ronald May), one at Lamèque on Nov. 18 (*fide* Rose-Alma Mallet), one at Keswick Ridge on Dec. 8 (Gordon Currie) and one at Debec on Dec. 26 (*fide* Jane and Eric Hadley).

About 90 **Red-bellied Woodpecker** sightings were reported from various parts of the province. See a separate article on the subject elsewhere in this issue.

A female **Northern Flicker** (Pic flamboyant) frequented an area of Fredericton during fall and early winter. It was reported on Nov. 14 and Dec. 7 (Peter Pearce) and on Dec. 8 (Don Gibson). A Northern Flicker was seen at Riverview on Dec. 9 (Wendy Sullivan).

A **Say's Phoebe** (Moucherolle à ventre jaune) was reported at Bear Island on Jan. 1 (Bev Schneider).

On Oct. 17 Robert Doiron reported that a **Western Kingbird** (Tyran de l'Ouest) was still present at Miscou



Island. The following day Norm Belliveau, and others, found five birds perched on the wires, three being starlings and two Western Kingbirds. One was discovered at Fundy National Park on Nov. 22 (Patrick McKinley) and one was found at Wolfe Lake, Fundy National Park, on Nov. 26 (Fred Dubé).

A rather early **Northern Shrike** (Pie-grièche grise) was seen at Point Lepreau on Oct. 14 (Richard Blacquiére, Jean and Jim Wilson).

A **White-eyed Vireo** (Viréo aux yeux blancs) was discovered at Wilson Point, Miscou Island, on Oct. 17 (Robert Doiron) and another was found the same day at Blacks Harbour (Jim Goltz, Shirley Sloat and Margery Acheson). Merv Cormier, with the assistance of Jim Wilson, tallied his first White-eyed Vireo at Coleson Cove on Oct. 26 and a week later on Nov. 2 he found one on his own at Saint John.

A **Blue-headed Vireo** (Viréo à tête bleue) was seen at North Head on Nov. 22 (Jim Wilson et al). A **Red-eyed Vireo** (Viréo aux yeux rouges) was found at Pointe-Verte on Nov. 11 (Roger Guitard).

It is known that the **Tree Swallow** (Hirondelle bicolor) is the best suited of the swallows to endure cold weather and one proved it when it was discovered at Machias Seal Island on Dec. 13 (Ralph Eldridge).

A **Tufted Titmouse** (Mésange bicolor) was first seen at Grand Bay-Westfield in early December (Betty and Jim Evans) but word of its presence didn't get out until Jan. 8. There was another belated report of one seen briefly in early December at Bear Island, near Nackawic.

Peter Pearce reported a **Carolina Wren** (Troglodyte de Caroline) singing at Fredericton on Oct. 19. One was seen at North Head on Nov. 23 (Jim Wilson, Peter Wilshaw and Harvey McLeod) and another at Saint-Léonard on Dec. 2 (Marcelle Fafard Godbout). One arrived for a rather long stay at a feeder at Sackville beginning on Dec. 17 (Kathy Popma). Another was seen at Hampton on Dec. 29 (Harvey McLeod).

A **Winter Wren** (Troglodyte mignon) was found at Saint John on Dec. 2 (Merv Cormier and Roger Burrows) and another at St. Andrews on Dec. 13 (Tracey Dean).

A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (Roitelet à couronne rubis) was found at Edmundston on Dec. 15 (Colette and Bert Lavoie).

A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (Gobemoucheron gris-bleu) was found near St. Martins on Oct. 14 (Heather and Ian

Cameron). Another was discovered at Miscou Island on Oct. 18 (Robert Doiron) and a very late one was reported from White Head Island on Nov. 12 (Karen Small).

An unusually late **Eastern Bluebird** (Merlebleu de l'Est) was found at Douglastown on Dec. 2 (Nan Johnson).

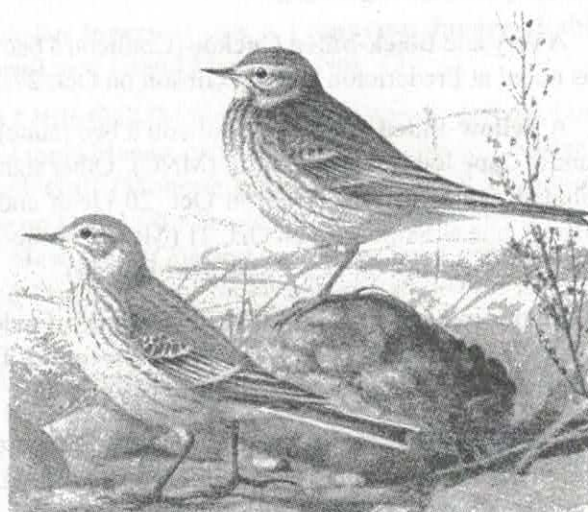
A **Townsend's Solitaire** (Solitaire de Townsend) was discovered at St. Martins on Oct. 25 (Nancy and Ted Sears). Others were reported at Petite Lamèque on Dec. 16 (Jacques Guignard), Caissie Cape on Dec. 23 (Roger Leblanc) and Scotchtown on Dec. 30 (Margie Pacey).

A **Hermit Thrush** (Grive solitaire) was seen at Marys Point on Nov. 15 (David Christie). Roger Burrows got a brief glance at a **Redwing** (Grive mauvis) at Saint John on a Nov. 17.

There was a **Northern Mockingbird** (Moquer polygote) at Campbellton on Nov. 3 (Shirley Sharp), one at Fredericton on Nov. 21, one at Shediac on Dec. 1 (Max Hunter) and one at Saint John on Dec. 2 (Merv Cormier and Roger Burrows). There was a report of one at Cape Spear on Dec. 20 (Bob Grant), one at Fredericton on Dec. 24 (Margot Russell) and one at Campbellton on Jan. 3 (Margaret Gallant Doyle).

A mimic thrush daily double was scored when a Northern Mockingbird and a **Brown Thrasher** (Moquer roux) were seen at North Head on Nov. 21 (Jim Wilson, Peter Wilshaw and Harvey McLeod). A Brown Thrasher visited Owen Washburn at Fredericton on Christmas Day.

An **American Pipit** (Pipit d'Amérique) was found at St. Martins on Dec. 22 (Nancy and Ted Sears) and another there on Dec. 28 (Mike and Jim Russell).



*American Pipit*  
Drawing: L.A. Fuertes



A flock of about 40 **Bohemian Waxwings** (*Jaseur boreal*) were seen at Saint-Léonard on Nov. 25 (Roy LaPointe).

**Orange-crowned Warbler** (*Paruline verdâtre*) reports include: one at Whistle Road, Grand Manan, on Oct. 22 (Allen Gorham and Merv Cormier), one at Saint John on Oct. 23 (Stu Tingley *et al.*), one at North Head on Oct. 23 (SJNC), one at Marys Point Oct. 26 (David Christie), two at FNP on Oct. 30 (Stu Tingley *et al.*), one at North Head on Nov. 21 (Jim Wilson *et al.*), Roger Burrows found one at Saint John on Nov. 29 and another there on Dec. 2.

A **Northern Parula** (*Paruline à collier*) was seen at Marys Point on Oct. 26 (David Christie), one was at Hampton on Nov. 19 (Merv Cormier) and one at North Head on Nov. 21 (Jim Wilson *et al.*). A Northern Parula first seen in early December was present until at least Jan. 10 at Hampton (Margaret Churchill).

A probable **Nashville Warbler** (*Paruline à joues grises*) was seen at Memramcook on Nov. 15 (Yolande LeBlanc) and a confirmed one was photographed at Rothesay on Dec. 10 (Paul Mansz).

A **Yellow Warbler** (*Paruline jaune*) first seen on Nov. 2 at Saint-Léonard by Roy LaPointe remained until at least Nov. 23.

Jim Wilson found a **Magnolia Warbler** (*Paruline à tête cendrée*) at Saint John on Oct. 23.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** (*Paruline à croupion jaune*) sightings included: one at Cape Tormentine on Nov. 21 (CNC), one at Alma on Nov. 16 (Doreen Rossiter), one at St. Martins on Dec. 22 (Nancy and Ted Sears), one at Fredericton on Dec. 18 (John Grant McLoughlin) and another at Fredericton on Jan. 9 (Margaret and Jeremy Forster).

A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** (*Paruline bleue*) was found at Fundy National Park on Oct. 30 (Stu Tingley *et al.*).

A **Black-throated Green Warbler** (*Paruline à gorge noire*) was seen at Saint John on Oct. 23 (Jim Wilson) and one at Moncton on Nov. 17 (Jim Edsall).

**Pine Warbler** (*Paruline des pins*) sightings included: two at Marys Point on Oct. 26 (David Christie), one at Saint John on Nov. 2 (Merv Cormier), one at Tracadie in early November (Nicole Benoit), two at North Head on Nov. 21 (Jim Wilson *et al.*), one at Shediac Bridge on Nov. 30 (Stu Tingley), one at Keswick Ridge on Dec. 4 (Gregory Gilmore), one at Stanley Beach, Grand Manan, on Dec. 4

(Roger Leblanc), one at St. George on Dec. 9 (Hugh Parks), one at Sainte-Anne-du-Bocage on Dec. 13 (Michel Chiasson), two at Saint John on Dec. 15 (Roger Burrows), two and Bouctouche on Dec. 16 (Stella and Jean Paul LeBlanc) and two at North Head in early December (Nellie Huckins).

A **Prairie Warbler** (*Paruline des prés*) was reported at Point Lepreau on Oct. 31 (Merv Cormier). A **Palm Warbler** (*Paruline à couronne rousse*) was seen at Alma on Nov. 19 (Doreen Rossiter). A female **American Redstart** (*Paruline flamboyante*) was found at North Head on Oct. 23 (SJNC) and an immature male was at Rothesay on Nov. 4 (Paul Mansz).

Mike Plourde found a **Common Yellowthroat** (*Paruline masquée*) at Moncton on Nov. 3, Glenn Foster found one at Penobsquis Dec. 9 and Roger Burrows tallied another at Saint John on Dec. 15.

Tracey Dean was able to call in a **Wilson's Warbler** (*Paruline à calotte noire*) with a flock of Golden-crowned Kinglets at Point Lepreau on Dec. 3.

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** (*Paruline polygotte*) was found at Saint John on Nov. 27 (Roger Burrows).



*Yellow-breasted Chat*  
Drawing: L.A. Fuertes

Robert Doiron found a **Scarlet Tanager** (*Tangara écarlate*) at Wilson Point on Oct. 17.

An **Eastern Towhee** (*Tohi à flancs roux*) was found at Saint John on Oct. 20 (Eileen and Roy Pike) and another was seen at Saint John on Nov. 16 (Bob Carson). Others reported included: one at Allardville on Dec. 11 (Bernard Duguay), one at Sackville on Dec. 29 (Margaret Bunker) and one at Upper Cape, east of Port Elgin, on Dec. 30 (Karen and Ed Edwards).



A **Clay-colored Sparrow** (*Bruant des plaines*) was seen at Marys Point on Oct. 14 (David Christie) and another at Fredericton on Nov. 15 (Bev Schneider).

**Field Sparrow** (*Bruant des champs*) reports included: one at Miscou Island on Oct. 18 (Robert Doiron), one at North Head on Oct. 23 (SJNC), one at Saint-Léonard on Nov. 11 (Roy LaPointe) and one at Dieppe on Dec. 18 (Norm Belliveau *et al.*).

A **Savannah Sparrow** (*Bruant des prés*) first visited the feeder of Roy LaPointe at Saint-Léonard on Nov. 11. One was seen at Fredericton on Dec. 12 (Margaret and Jeremy Forster) and another observed at McKeens Corner (west of Fredericton) on Dec. 16 (Bev Schneider). A Savannah Sparrow found at Fredericton on Dec. 19 by Bill Martin was identified as the **Ipswich Sparrow** subspecies. Stu Tingley found two Savannah Sparrows at Saint John on Dec. 31 and he was of the opinion that one was an Ipswich.

Mike and Jim Russell found a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** (*Bruant de Nelson*) at St. Martins on Dec. 28 and Stu Tingley saw one at Saint John on Dec. 31.

Roger Burrows found a **Lincoln's Sparrow** (*Bruant de Lincoln*) at Saint John on Nov. 27. He also hosted a **Swamp Sparrow** (*Bruant des marais*) at his feeder at Saint John through December and early January.

A **Harris's Sparrow** (*Bruant à face noire*) found at Ste-Anne-du Bocage (west of Caraquet) on Dec. 12 was considered the best "sparrow" find of the season until a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** (*Bruant à couronne dorée*) was discovered at St. George on Dec. 25 (Ralph Eldridge). Both of those birds stayed at the feeders for a number of days, giving birders ample opportunity to view them.

Ron Wilson hosted a few **Dark-eyed Juncos** (*Junco ardoisé*) at his feeder at Fredericton. However, one identified on Dec. 11 was of the **Oregon Junco** subspecies.

A **Lapland Longspur** (*Bruant lapon*) was seen with about 100 Snow Buntings at Sheffield on Dec. 21 (Don Gibson).

A first-fall male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (*Cardinal à poitrine rose*) was visiting a feeder at Prince William on Dec. 13 (*fide* David Myles). David Christie hosted a **Blue Grosbeak** (*Guiraca bleu*) at Marys Point for a few days beginning on Nov. 13. An **Indigo Bunting** (*Passer in-digo*) was discovered at North Head on Oct. 23 (SJNC) and one was seen at Memramcook on Oct. 30 (Yolande LeBlanc).

A **Dickcissel** (*Dickcissel d'Amérique*) was found at Wilson Point on Oct. 17 (Robert Doiron), another one at Marys Point on Nov. 9 (David Christie), one near Bathurst on Dec. 4 (*fide* Roger Guitard) and one at Caissie Cape on Dec. 12 (Marc LeBlanc).

An **Eastern Meadowlark** (*Sturnelle des prés*) was seen at Martin Head on Oct. 20 (Jean and Jim Wilson). A meadowlark found at Drisdelle Settlement, near Lagacéville, on Jan. 8 by Dave McLeod and Jim Saunders aroused suspicion. Later, photographs revealed that it was a **Western Meadowlark** (*Sturnelle de l'Ouest*).

A **Rusty Blackbird** (*Quiscale rouilleux*) made an appearance at Grand Bay on Dec. 3 (Betty and Jim Evans).



*Rusty Blackbird*  
Drawing: L.A. Fuertes

A few **Baltimore Orioles** (*Oriole de Baltimore*) lingered in the province well after their normal departure date. One was seen at Hampton on Nov. 3 (Harvey McLeod) and on Nov. 4 a female was observed at Saint John (Frank Kelly). Others included individual birds at Memramcook on Nov. 7 (Yolande LeBlanc), Marys Point on Nov. 9 (David Christie), Pointe-Verte on Nov. 11 (Roger Guitard), and at Fredericton on Dec. 6 (Margot Russell). Roger Burrows saw two Baltimore Orioles at different locations at Saint John on Nov. 27. One was at Moncton on Dec. 12 (Sharon LeBlanc) and another at Fredericton on Dec. 13.

A **Hoary Redpoll** (*Sizerin blanchâtre*) was identified by Gerard Verret at Edmundston on Dec. 19.

**Abbreviations:** CNC Chignecto Naturalists' Club; FNP Fundy National Park; MNC Moncton Naturalists' Club; SJNC Saint John Naturalists' Club.



## NATURE NEWS - BOTANY RAMBLINGS

### SPRING THROUGH WINTER 2004

James P. Goltz

#### VASCULAR PLANTS

##### Species New for New Brunswick



*Curve-pod Yellowcress*

Photo: Joe F. Duft @ USDA-NRCS  
PLANTS Database

A mustard collected in early September by Sean Blaney from an old gravel pit pond at Kouchibouguac National Park turned out to be **Curve-pod Yellowcress** (*Rorippa curvisiliqua*), a western species known elsewhere in Canada only from British Columbia and previously not found east of Montana. This collection did not match any of the mustard species in the botany books in Sean's library, so

Sean had sent it for identification to Dr. Gerald Mulligan, Canada's foremost expert on mustards.

One plant of **Sweet William** (*Dianthus barbatus*) was discovered on the shore of the Renous River, several hundred metres from any cabin (SB). This garden species sometimes escapes from cultivation.

A colonial leafy succulent collected in bud in late September from beneath a stand of cedar trees near the Huntsman Marina residence at St. Andrews turned out to be **Japanese Spurge** (*Pachysandra terminalis*), a cultivated species that has evidently persisted at this location long after the garden was overgrown by native species such as Oak Fern (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*) (JPG). This species is not mentioned in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Hinds' *Flora of New Brunswick*, but a specimen at the UNB Herbarium was collected by David Christie in 1973 from a stand of cedars near an old building at St. Andrews.

#### Endangered Species

**Prototype Quillwort** (*Isoetes prototypus*), previously known to occur in New Brunswick only at one lake, was found at two new locations in the province. A few plants of this species were found in flotsam, along with much **Lake Quillwort** (*Isoetes lacustris*) at Round Lake in northern York Co. by Dwayne L. and Mary E.J. Sabine on June 5. Huge populations, conservatively estimated at nearly 200,000 plants, of Prototype Quillwort were seen at this site on September 19 during an underwater survey (GB, JPG, DLS). A Quillwort survey on Canadian Forces Base Gagetown on August 29 resulted in the discovery of this species at Deer Lake, Queens Co. (JPG, DLS, Dedreic Grecian). With the addition of the newly discovered sites, Prototype Quillwort is now known to occur in 13 lakes in the world, 9 in Nova Scotia, 3 in New Brunswick and 1 in Maine.

**Southern Twayblade** (*Listera australis*) was discovered at Parent Bog, near Granite Hill, on July 3 by Maureen Toner. Only 6 plants were seen at this site, but one of these measured 21 cm in height, gigantic proportions for this species.

#### Rare Species

An evening canoe trip on the Mactaquac Arm on August 10 revealed many species of aquatic vascular plants including much **Water Celery** (*Vallisneria spiralis*) and three rarities of note, **Red-disked Pond-lily** (*Nuphar rubrodisca*; S1), **Vasey's Pondweed** (*Potamogeton vaseyi*; S1), and **Two-leafed Water-milfoil** (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*; S2) (BS, MS, JPG).

Sean Blaney found four plants of the very rare **Strawberry-blite** (*Chenopodium capitatum*; S1) in tracks within a big clearcut along the highway alignment north of Perth-Andover. According to Sean, "there were lots of weedy exotics nearby as well, so its status" as a native species "is kind of equivocal".

At Kouchibouguac National Park, Sean added about 40 species to the park list, most notably **Twining Screwstem** (*Bartonia paniculata*; S2) and **Starved Panic Grass** (*Dichanthelium depauperatum*; S1) from the



Mocauque de Pointe-Sapin and Black River areas.

On the Renous River, Sean found two new locations for **Threadfoot** (*Podostemum ceratophyllum*; S1), above McGraw Brook, in the 5 km upstream from the Plaster Rock-Renous Highway crossing.

At the McGraw Brook campground, he found **Slender**

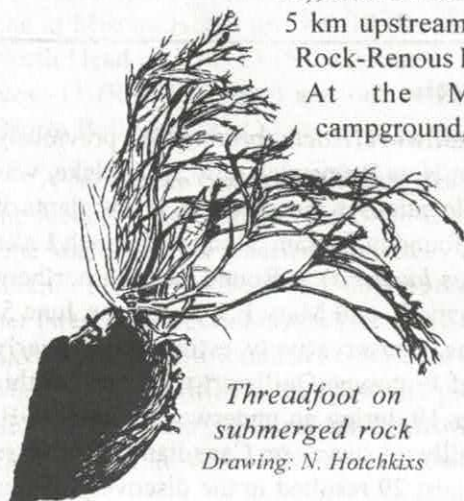
**Panic Grass**

(*Dichanthelium linearifolium*; S1) in large numbers, and found

**Hairy Sedge**

(*Carex hirtifolia*; S2) in the rich floodplain

across from the campground.



Threadfoot on submerged rock  
Drawing: N. Hotchkiss

On Portage Island in early August, Sean found a bit of what is almost certainly **Emmons' Sedge** (*Carex albicans* var. *emmonsii*; S1), now known from at least three other spots in NB (Douglas Harbour, south of Saint John near the refinery and Portage Island). Prior to Sean's discovery of this species at these locations, it had not been known to occur in the province, even though it is quite common in dry sandy areas and in coastal white spruce forest habitats in PEI and southern Nova Scotia. Other highlights on the island included **Coastal Salt Grass** (*Distichlis spicata*; S2), **Seaside Pinweed** (*Lechea maritima* var. *subcylindrica*; S1), **Beach-heather** (*Hudsonia tomentosa*), **MacKenzie's Sedge** (*Carex mackenziei*; S2), **American Germander** (*Teucrium canadense*; S2), **Bastard-toadflax** (*Comandra umbellata*; S3), **Northern Comandra** (*Geocaulon lividum*; S3), **Estuary Beggars-ticks** (*Bidens* cf. *hyperborea*, or maybe one of the rarer species), **Coast-blite** (*Chenopodium rubrum*; S2), **Golden Dock** (*Rumex maritimus*), **Gaspé Peninsula Arrowgrass** (*Triglochin gaspense*; S2), **Estuary Sedge** (*Carex recta*; S2), **Starved Panic Grass** (*Dichanthelium depauperatum*; S1) and the intergeneric



Emmons' Sedge  
Drawing: F. Emil

hybrid between *Sorbus* and *Photinia* (the latter formerly called *Aronia*) (*X Sorbaronia* sp.).

The highlight of a botanical survey on Sheep Island (located east of Grand Manan) on 21-22 August was **Rand's Eyebright** (*Euphrasia randii*; S1). This diminutive species with its distinctive small purple to lilac flowers usually occurs on exposed areas of coastal headlands in the Bay of Fundy, but on Sheep Island, it grows in dense patches in low open wet meadows, often largely hidden beneath taller herbaceous vegetation such as grasses (JPG).

In late August, while doing research on dragonflies for the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre, Paul Brunelle discovered a previously unknown rich calcareous fen south of Shea Lake with **Linear-leaved Sundew** (*Drosera linearis*; 2<sup>nd</sup> provincial record)! The possibility of rare plants lured me to the site on 28 August. Armed with directions from Dwayne Sabine, it was easy to relocate the Sundew there, and I found several other rare calcareous fen species, such as English Sundew (*Drosera anglica*; S1; 3<sup>rd</sup> provincial record) and **Livid Sedge** (*Carex livida*; S1 – the most I have ever seen!). Ironically, Tony Thomas and I had explored the opposite (western) end of this wetland complex a number of years ago, but we had no idea that there was a small calcareous fen area and a clear marl pond within an otherwise very acid bog.

Sean was successful in relocating **Bearded Sedge** (*Carex comosa*; S1) along Robinson Brook at the north-eastern tip of Big Jolicure Lake in the Tintamarre National Wildlife Area near Sackville, during a canoe foray with Becky Whittam and their daughter, Evelyn, on 12 September. There were about 10 mature clumps of this sedge on saturated, peaty muck at the edge of a shrubby peatland, where it was growing with the very similar Cyperus-like Sedge (*C. pseudocyperus*). In New Brunswick, it was thought that Bearded Sedge had been extirpated. It had first been discovered in the province in 1886 at Lakeville in Carleton County and was later found (in 1965) by N. Hotchkiss, an American expert in aquatic plants who collected this species from the "NE end of Front Lake, Jolicure Lakes". Hotchkiss had made a number of other collections on that visit, including **Farwell's Water-milfoil** (*Myriophyllum farwellii*; S2), **Small Yellow Water Crowfoot** (*Ranunculus gmelinii*; S2), **Blunt-leaf Pondweed** (*Potamogeton obtusifolius*) and **Water-marigold** (*Megalodonta beekii*; S2). Sean, Becky and Evelyn found the latter two species as well, in approximately the same place as the **Bearded Sedge**. This fact, along with Hotchkiss' Crowfoot specimen noting Robinson Brook as the collection location, suggests that they probably found the exact spot where



Hotchkiss made his collection of the sedge.

Sean's botanical excursion to Shogomoc Lake, Charlie Lake and a section of Shogomoc Stream between Indian Rips and Big Falls on 30 September and 1 October, resulted in the discovery of many more rare plants. Shogomoc Lake seemed very acidic and had a number of very rare coastal plain-affiliated species. The overall diversity was quite low, and the shore was all either peatland or boulders, which limited the type of coastal plain species present, but the following rare species were discovered: **Humped Bladderwort** (*Utricularia gibba*; S1; ~3<sup>rd</sup> provincial record), **Swamp St. John's-wort** (*Triadenum virginicum*; S1; 3<sup>rd</sup> provincial record), **Virginia Chain Fern** (*Woodwardia virginica*; S1), **Buttonbush** (*Cephalanthus*

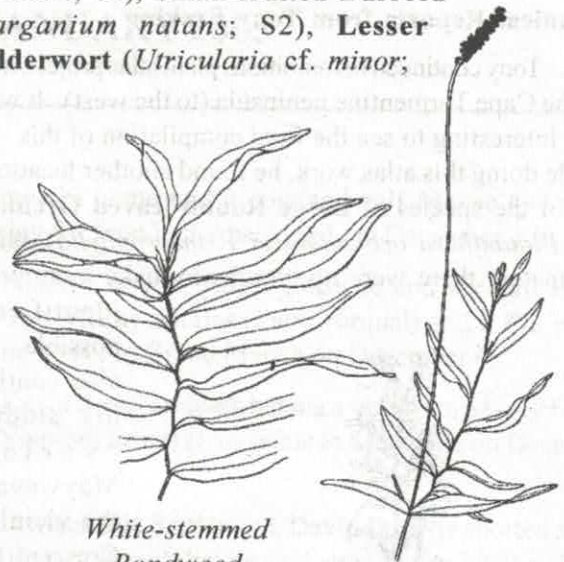


Virginia Chain Fern  
Drawing: M. Satterlee

*occidentalis*; S1; very common around entire lake and upstream on Shogomoc Stream); **Twin-stemmed Bladderwort** (*Utricularia* cf. *geminiscapa*; S2); **Swamp Rose** (*Rosa palustris*; S2); **Greater Purple Bladderwort** (*Utricularia purpurea*; S2S3); **Watershield** (*Brasenia schreberi*; S3); **Bayonet Rush** (*Juncus militaris*; S3); **Slender Water-milfoil** (*Myriophyllum tenellum*; S3) and **Water-marigold** (*Megalodonta beckii*; S3). **Flattened Wild Oat Grass** (*Danthonia compressa*; S1; 2<sup>nd</sup> provincial record), first found in New Brunswick near Maxwell, Carleton Co. in 2003, was seen along a nearby logging road.

Charlie Lake appeared to be circumneutral or even slightly basic and thus had few coastal plain associates, but did have a good diversity of rare aquatics, including **White-**

**stemmed Pondweed** (*Potamogeton praelongus*; S1), **Dotted Smartweed** (*Polygonum punctatum*; S2), **Small-fruited Burreed** (*Sparganium natans*; S2), **Lesser Bladderwort** (*Utricularia* cf. *minor*;



White-stemmed  
Pondweed  
Drawing: N. Hotchkiss

S2), **False-nettle** (*Boehmeria cylindrica*; S2), **Water-flax-seed** (*Spirodela polyrrhiza*; S3), **Water-marigold** (*Megalodonta beckii*; S3), and **Watershield** (*Brasenia schreberi*; S3).

Along Shogomoc Stream, Sean found **Threadfoot** (*Podostemum ceratophyllum*; S1; – large individuals to ~8 cm long), **Water-willow** (*Decodon verticillatus*; S1; 2<sup>nd</sup> record for NB), **Buttonbush** (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*; S1); **False-nettle** (*Boehmeria cylindrica*; S2); **Butternut** (*Juglans cinerea*; S3 – one large, mature tree and two small trees, none of which looked very healthy), **Watershield** (*Brasenia schreberi*; S3) and **Water-mari-**



Jerusalem Oak  
Drawing: J.F. Alex

#### Rare Non-native Species

**Jerusalem Oak** (*Chenopodium botrys*) had spread extensively since last year in the vicinity of Sussex and there are populations on the Trans Canada Highway around the Petitcodiac exit and between Memramcook and Sackville. **Poor-man's-pepper** (*Lepidium*



*virginicum*), considered to be a rare weed in the province, was seen just north of Sackville (SB).

### Botanical Reports from Tony Erskine

Tony continued his ambitious plant atlas project, mostly off the Cape Tormentine peninsula (to the west). It will be very interesting to see the final compilation of this work! While doing this atlas work, he found another location for one of the species of **Large Round-leaved Orchid** (either *Platanthera orbiculata* or *P. macrophylla*), but unfortunately there were no blooms to make more precise



*Large Round-leaved Orchid*  
Drawing: T. Hofmann

identification possible. Tony also continued his study of "variant" Mayweeds in the vicinity of Crescent St. in Sackville, where over 100 of these plants were seen in 2004. Most of the variants had "all-white blooms", but some had "traces of yellow at their centres" and others had "yellow central disks with only a few remnant white rays among them". The

clump of **white-flowered Rhodora** was just starting to bloom on 10 June, "later than usual and later than pink-flowered plants nearby". Tony found **Purple Milkwort** (*Polygala sanguinea*; S3) west of Shemogue, the first record of this species for southeastern New Brunswick.

### BRYOPHYTES

Bruce Bagnell kindly identified the bryophytes that Heather Arnold, Stephen Young and I collected at the Linear-leaved Sundew fen south of Shea Lake on 28 August (JPG) and 21 September (HA, SY, JPG). The most signifi-

cant species, those known in the province only from rich fens, all are ranked S1 for the province and include *Calliergon trifarium*, *Meesia triquetra* and *Cinclidium stygium*. *Cinclidium stygium* is known elsewhere in the province only from a rich fen at Petit Rocher. *Calliergon trifarium* is known elsewhere in the province only from Ghost Lake near Saint John. *Meesia triquetra* is known and/or reported elsewhere in the province from four localities, including three unknown localities in Victoria, Queens and Gloucester counties (all pre-dating 1900), and a recent collection near Hartin Settlement in York county. Six species of S2 ranked mosses were also collected at the site, notably *Calliergon giganteum*, *Calliergonella cuspidate*, *Campylium stellatum*, *Limprichtia revolvens*, *Scorpidium scorpioides*, and *Sphagnum contortum*.

According to Bruce, this "suite of rare bryophytes occurring at this single site indicates this is a significant habitat in the province. We know presently of only one other comparable site where many of these species are present as a single community of associated rarities (i.e., Petit Rocher fen.) There are likely other bryophytes of significance at this site, and careful additional inventory should be considered. This site is deserving of consideration for protection from habitat destruction and conservation of its rare species." Thanks very much, Bruce, for identifying these collections for me and for your perspective on the significance of these species and the fen in which they occur.

**Abbreviations:** BS Bev Schneider, DLS Dwayne L. Sabine, GB Gart Bishop, HA Heather Arnold, JPG James Goltz, MS Marc Schneider, SB Sean Blaney, SY Stephen Young; **S1** very rare species with 1-5 known locations in province; **S2** rare species with 6-20 known locations in province; **S3** uncommon species with 21 to 100 known locations in province



*Cinclidium stygium*  
A.J. Grout



## NATURE NEWS - MAMMAL REPORT OCTOBER 2004 TO JANUARY 2005

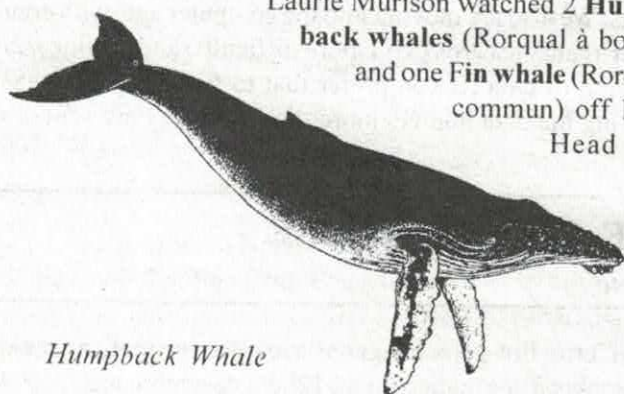
Mike LeBlanc

On October 14, a vessel transiting between North Head, Grand Manan, and Meteghan River, NS saw 14 **Right Whales** (Baleine franche) (*fide* Laurie Murisson). Bob and Sharon Blake came across a road killed **Black bear** (Ours noir) on route to Fredericton, October 27, not far from Jemseg. They estimated it to be a sub adult weighting approximately 75 pounds.

Nelson Poirier had a **Chipmunk** (Tamia rayé) in his Shediac Bridge yard during the warm temperatures on November 1.

Many Whales were still present around Grand Manan this season.

Laurie Murison watched 2 **Hump-back whales** (Rorqual à bosse) and one **Fin whale** (Rorqual commun) off Fish Head -



*Humpback Whale*

Whale Cove and one **Harbor Porpoise** (Phoque commun) was near shore. On November 1, she spotted a **Fin Whale** (Rorqual Commun) blowing off Ashburton Head, and while gazing outside her kitchen window, she saw 2 **Fin Whales** (Rorqual commun) on November 20 in Pettes Cove, Grand Manan.

Bob Blake noticed at his Second River home on November 23, that a **Snowshoe hare** (Lièvre d'Amérique) had almost all turned white with only a few dark patches of brown.

Nelson Poirier was enjoying watching the antics of at least two **Northern flying squirrels** (Grand polatouche) at his Shediac Bridge home on November 26.

Julie Singleton, at her English Settlement Road (near

Taymouth) home had a cow and calf **Moose** (Orignal) looking for food in her backyard on December 1.

Allain Clavette, Roger LeBlanc and Richard Perron saw two **Minke whales** (Pettit rorqual) and a **Fin whale** during a visit to Grand Manan on December 6.

Kevin Reddin reports having a visit from a **Grey Squirrel** (Écureuil Roux) at his home in Stilesville on December 20.

In Mechanic Settlement, David Christie spotted a **Red fox** (Renard Roux) that he said appeared to be the size of a small Coyote on January 4.

Bob Blake had a trio of **Northern flying squirrels** [Grand polatouche] coming to eat peanut butter smeared on bark at his Second River home, January 12.

Temperatures were so nice that David Christie spotted some **Striped skunks** (Mouffette rayée) roaming around Harvey on January 14.



*Striped Skunk*  
Drawing: M.H. Sawyer

The Moncton Naturalists Club held a Track session in Irishtown on January 25. Many interesting tracks were seen: **Snowshoe Hare** (Lièvre d'Amérique), **Short-tailed weasel**, (Hermine), **Deer mouse** (Souris sylvestre), **Shrew** (Musaraigne) or **Vole** (Campagnol) and **Red Squirrel** (Écureuil roux).

After taking that session on tracks, Bill and Gayle Galant in Riverview saw a **Short-tailed Weasel** (Hermine) in striking winter white pelage and black tipped tail.



## DO BIRD NESTS INTEREST YOU?

*Tony Erskine*

If so, Maritimes Nest Records Scheme (MNRS) wants to hear from you. One basic question in bird conservation is, "How well are Robins (or House Sparrows, or whatever) coping with what people have left of their environment?" Monitoring populations is only part of the answer; if bird numbers are declining, we need to know if the problem is failure in nesting or losses at other seasons.

MNRS (and related programs across Canada) was set up to address breeding performance of birds - along with other kinds of bird nest information that may be noted by volunteer observers. Why volunteers? One research worker (or team) may find a lot of nests of a target species, but they can't be everywhere at once, during our short nesting seasons. Birders are out anyway, often looking in every bush! If they note details of whatever nests they see, that will provide more nests, from more places, to include in studies of nesting. Tracking success of a nest needs extra visits to see what happened later - and also extra care.

Finding and tracking nests is a challenge, and can be

exciting too. It isn't possible to track nesting success without looking at nests, but remember that birds' lives depend on nesting success. Always be careful to minimize disturbance to nesting birds.

If you are interested in helping assemble nesting data of birds for future study, please contact

Tony Erskine, Maritimes Nest Records Scheme,  
c/o CWS, Box 6227, Sackville, N.B.E4L 1G6  
506-364-5035, fax 506-364-5062,  
e-mail: [tony.erskine@ec.gc.ca](mailto:tony.erskine@ec.gc.ca).

MNRS will provide instructions, cards for recording data, fact sheets on various topics - including spacing of visits. We also are moving into the computer age, with computer-readable cards (a bit more difficult!) and on-line submission of data (if you prefer that to filling out forms). Getting the data matters more than how they are sent.

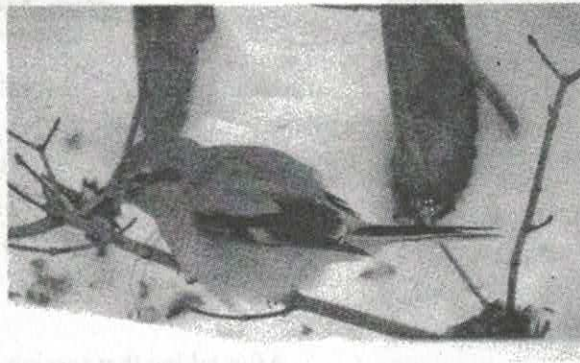
## NORTHERN SHRIKE / PIE-GRÈCHE GRISE

*Roy LaPointe*

This Northern Shrike took a European Starling at our feeders at 12:25 p.m., December 21, 2004. It spent the entire afternoon feasting on its prey which it jammed at snow level in the fork of a shrub. The photo, taken at 2 pm, shows the remains of the starlings head wedged in another fork with the body just below the shrikes tail. The shrike departed at 5:10 p.m. and we thought that would be the last we would see of it.

Around 8:20 the next morning, the Northern shrike was back to finish the remains. After a few minutes, it flew carrying the remains to the spruce hedge at the back of our yard. A short

Cette Pie-grièche grise a capturée un Étourneau sansonnet à nos mangeoires à 12h25, décembre le 21, 2004. Elle a passé toute l'après-midi à déguster sa proie qu'elle avait coincée au niveau de la neige dans la fourche d'un arbuste. La photo, prise à 14h, démontre les restants de la tête de l'étourneau coincée dans une autre fourche et le corps sous la queue de la pie-grièche. La pie-grièche a partie à 17h10 et on ne croyait plus la revoir.



*Northern Shrike / Pie-grièche grise*  
Photo: Roy LaPointe

Vers 8h20 le lendemain matin, la Pie-grièche grise était de retour pour finir les restants. Quelques minutes plus tard, elle a partie au vol traînant les restants à la haie d'épinettes à l'arrière de la cour. Après un bref délai j'ai sorti faire le plein des mangeoires. Tandis que je les remplissais, j'ai soudainement entendu la pie-grièche lâcher des cris forts. J'ai vu un plus



while later I went out to refill the feeders. While doing so I suddenly heard the shrike start screaming. I saw a brief flash of a larger bird behind the hedge as the shrike sprung out from under the hedge making a low-level beeline across the neighbour's yard and disappearing behind trees.

A few minutes later, a Sharp-shinned hawk settled into a nearby pine with something in its talons; the remains of the starling that it had stolen from the shrikes.

Another great show presented by Mother Nature.

gros oiseau passer d'un clin d'oeil en arrière de la haie et la pie-grièche décoller à haute vitesse à travers la cour voisine et disparaître en arrière des arbres.

Quelques minutes plus tard, un Épervier brun est apparu et c'est perché dans un pin avec quelque chose dans ses griffes; les restants de l'étourneau qu'il avait volé de la pie-grièche.

Un autre beau spectacle présenté par Dame Nature.

## NEWS FOR NATURALISTS / NOUVELLES POUR LES NATURALISTES

*Sabine Dietz*

### Maritimes Nest Records Scheme (MNRS)

The MNRS assesses breeding performance by birds. Volunteers are needed to help carry out the surveys. This basically implies searching for nests, but in a very careful way.

If you are interested contact Tony Erskine at CWS: 506-364-5035 or e-mail [tony.erskine@ec.gc.ca](mailto:tony.erskine@ec.gc.ca).

Please also refer to Tony Erskine's article in this NB Naturalist. (p. 142)

### Cape Jourimain Nature Centre Inc.

Cape Jourimain Nature Centre Inc, located at the foot of the Confederation Bridge, is going into its fourth year of operation. The Centre will offer a variety of programs this summer, on natural history, human history, and green technologies. Seventeen km of trails in the 675 hectare National Wildlife Area are open to visitors. Visit the Centre's website [www.capejourimain.ca](http://www.capejourimain.ca) for information on the Centre, and later this spring, for our planned activities. If you would like more information please contact Sabine Dietz at: [sabine.dietz@capejourimain.ca](mailto:sabine.dietz@capejourimain.ca), or call her at (506) 538-2336.

### Fichier de nidification des oiseaux des Maritimes

Ce projet a pour but d'évaluer le succès de reproduction des oiseaux. Des bénévoles font les recensements. Ce recensement des nids nécessite la recherche des nids, et le suivi de ces nids avec beaucoup d'attention afin de ne pas trop déranger les oiseaux. Si vous êtes intéressés veuillez contacter Tony Erskine au SCF (Service canadien de la faune) au 506-364-5035 ou par courriel au [tony.erskine@ec.gc.ca](mailto:tony.erskine@ec.gc.ca).

Veuillez aussi vous référer à l'article de Tony Erskine dans ce numéro du Naturaliste du N.-B. (p. 142)

### Centre d'interprétation de la nature Cape Jourimain

Le Centre d'interprétation de la nature Cape Jourimain est situé au pied du pont de la Confédération. Le Centre commence sa quatrième saison. On va offrir une variété de programmes cet été sur l'histoire naturelle de la région, l'histoire humaine, et les technologies vertes.

Nos 17 Km de sentier sont situés dans la réserve nationale de la faune de Cape Jourimain. Veuillez visiter le site Web du Centre pour plus amples renseignements. Plus tard ce printemps vous y trouverez de l'information sur nos activités : [www.capejourimain.ca](http://www.capejourimain.ca). Veuillez nous contacter si vous aimeriez d'autres informations Sabine Dietz: [sabine.dietz@capejourimain.org](mailto:sabine.dietz@capejourimain.org), ou par téléphone au 506-538-2336.



N. B. Federation of Naturalists  
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## NATURE NEWS - REFERENCES INFO NATURE - RÉFÉRENCES

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.

Nature News relies on NBNB 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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**Invertebrates / Invertébrés**  
**Plants / Plantes**  
**Mammals / Mammifères**

Roy LaPointe  
Dwayne Sabine  
Jim Goltz  
Mike LeBlanc

(506) 423-1900  
(506) 450-7302  
(506) 459-8685  
(506) 743-8485

[birdyard@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:birdyard@nbnet.nb.ca)  
[dlsmejs@netscape.net](mailto:dlsmejs@netscape.net)  
[marph@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:marph@nbnet.nb.ca)  
[pandion@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:pandion@nbnet.nb.ca)

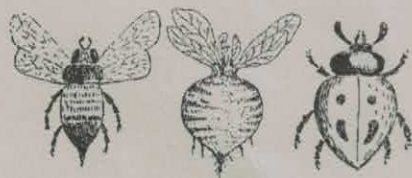
### Oiseaux / Birds

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Don Gibson  
Gilles Belliveau  
Ken MacIntosh  
Pierrette Mercier

(506) 454-3261  
(506) 455-6480  
(506) 693-6799  
(506) 735-6872

[gibsondg@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:gibsondg@nbnet.nb.ca)  
[bellivegs@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:bellivegs@nbnet.nb.ca)  
[coopers@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:coopers@nbnet.nb.ca)  
[petem@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:petem@nb.sympatico.ca)



Good Mr. Darwin once contended  
That Beetles were from Bees descended,  
And as my pictures show I think  
The Beet must be the missing link

The sugar-beet and honey-bee  
Supply the Beetle's pedigree:  
The family is now complete, -  
The Bee, the Beetle and the Beet  
Robert Williams Wood

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