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N.B. Naturalist

Le Naturaliste du N.-B.





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

924 rue Prospect St., Suite 110, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 2T9 Canada. www.naturenb.ca

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

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

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Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche, Mike LeBlanc, 7 Rue Landry Street, Bouctouche, E4S 3M9; tel. 743-8485, pandion@nbnet.nb.ca, site web: www.geocities.com/anbbouc, 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 E5M 1H7; bonniehb@nb.sympatico.ca. Information evenings every 3rd Wednesday in February and March, and field trips in April and May.

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

Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne, 1521-4 chemin Cowan's Creek Pokemouche, E8P 2C6; emile.info@cnpa.ca, site web: www.cnpa.ca

réunions au Club de l'âge d'or Landry, 1^{er} mercredi, sept. à juin; *Le Gobe-mouche* mensuel.

Club de Naturalistes Vallée de Memramcook a/s Valmond Bourque, 12 rue Desbarres, Memramcook, E4K 1E7. tél. 758-1095, réunions 2^{ème} mardi du mois, sept. à juin, à l'amphithéâtre de l'école Abbey-Landry, rue Centrale, St-Joseph-Ecole.

Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée, a/s Musée historique du Madawaska, 195 boul. Hébert, Edmundston, E3V 2S8; tél. 737-5282 (Bert Lavoie); réunions à 19h00, 2^{ème} mercredi, sept. à juin, Musée du Madawaska; *Le Jaseur* trimestriel.

Club les Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est Inc., a/s Normand Belliveau, 54 Malakoff Road, Scoudouc, E4P 1B5, tél. 532-4583 ligne d'information: 532-Buse, réunions alternant entre Dieppe et Shédiac, 1^{er} mercredi du mois; excursions 3^{ème} 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, E7L 3S4; tel. 392-6481, meets Florenceville Town Hall, 7:00 pm, 4th Thur., Sept.-June; meetings advertised in local newspapers.

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

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

Moncton Naturalists' Club, Box 28036, Highfield Square P.O., Moncton, E1C 9N4; tel. 384-6397 (information line); meets Church of the Nazarene, 21 Fieldcrest Drive, 7 pm, 3rd Tues., Sept.-June; monthly newsletter.

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

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

Miramichi Naturalist Club, meets 7:00 pm, 2nd Mon. in the Community Room at Sobey's, Douglastown.

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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: Gart Bishop, 16 Pitt St. Sussex NB, E4E 1J1; tel. 433-4994, gartali@nbnet.nb.ca.** Demandez pour les détails de compatibilité d'ordinateur. Tarifs publicitaires sont 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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Merci beaucoup à tous bénévoles dévoués qui ont contribué à cette publication.

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

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MOT DU PRÉSIDENT - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roland Chiasson

Just in case if you were wondering about what your president has been up to, here goes.

Since the fall of 2005 I have been sitting on the Maritime Bird Breeding Atlas Committee. Two concerns were raised about our participation in the process: the bilingual nature of the Atlas and ownership of bird data. Up to now I have been impressed with the quality of bilingual services. The final product is supposed to be fully bilingual and not just translation of bird names. The Atlas committee has decided that once the project is finished the data access will be free, but with limited access to some data (like sensitive species or species at risk).

Another committee I am sitting on representing the Federation is the education caucus of the New Brunswick Environmental Network. This committee has submitted a funding proposal for a project called 'Education for Sustainable Development: A Collaborative Approach for New Brunswick'. This fits in well with our education mandates. Within this committee I am serving as an advisor on environmental education issues and other issues that might relate to the Federation.

I am also participating in monthly phone calls with Nature Canada and other affiliates across Canada. Some of the issues we have been working on are a species at risk survey, and off road vehicle problems. If your you or your club have any issues that would benefit from a national focus let me know.

A core grouping of board members and other interested individuals have been working hard on a draft strategic plan for the Federation. We should be able to finalize it by early spring and present it at the next annual general meeting in Memramcook.

These are just some of the issues your president has been working on. If you have any other issues please talk to your club representative with the Federation or contact me. One final note, I would like to provide more opportunities for club representatives at board meetings and at our Annual General Meetings to talk about common club problems. If you have any ideas, please pass them on.



Juste au cas où si vous vous interrogiez sur le travail de votre président, voici un compte rendu.

Depuis l'automne 2005, je siège sur le Comité d'Atlas sur les oiseaux nicheur mari-

time. Deux inquiétudes ont été soulevées concernant notre participation au processus : la nature bilingue de l'Atlas et de la propriété des données d'oiseau. Jusqu'ici j'ai été impressionné de la qualité des services bilingues. La produite final est censé être bilingue et non une simple traduction des noms oiseaux. Le comité d'Atlas a décidé qu'une fois que le projet est terminé l'accès aux données sera gratuits mais l'accès aux données sensibles serait limité comme des espèces en péril.

J'assis également sur un autre comité, le comité d'éducation du réseau environnemental du Nouveau-Brunswick. Ce comité a soumis une demande de fonds pour un projet appelé Éducation pour le développement durable. L'éducation durable va très bien avec nos mandats d'éducation. Je m'attends d'être là au nom de la fédération et d'offrir mes conseils sur les questions l'éducation relative à l'environnement et d'autres questions qui touchent nos mandats.

Je participe également aux appels téléphoniques mensuels avec la Nature Canada et les autres groupes affiliés à travers le Canada. Nous avons traité des sujets comme les espèces en péril, et outre problèmes comme des véhicules tout terrain. Si votre club a des sujets qui méritent d'être discuté au niveau national veuillez m'en aviser.

Un groupe noyau des membres du conseil et d'autres individus intéressés avaient travaillé dur sur un plan stratégique d'ébauche pour la Fédération. Nous devrions pouvoir le finir au printemps et le présenter à la prochaine réunion annuelle à Memramcook.

Ce sont quelques items que votre président travaille. Si vous avez des sujets que le conseil de la Fédération devrait en discuter, contactez votre représentant de la fédération ou me contacter. Finalement, j'espère pouvoir donner plus de temps pour les représentants des clubs pour parler des sujets qui les intéresseraient plus lors des réunions et lors de l'assemblée générale. Vos idées sont les bienvenues.

COLLECTING MUSHROOMS FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDY

David Malloch

INTRODUCTION

Most professional agaricologists (mushroom specialists) do not receive the kind of help from amateur naturalists that other biologists have come to enjoy. The reasons for this are several; the main one being that mushrooms cannot usually be identified confidently in the field but instead demand careful examination with a microscope. There are some excellent field guides available, but anyone who works with these knows that they do not cover all mushrooms of any region and generally omit those requiring critical work with a microscope. Most non-specialists do not realize the very real and significant contribution they could make to this branch of biology if they were to master a few of the techniques for collecting and preparing mushroom specimens. This short outline is an attempt to supply naturalists with some of the tools necessary to communicate with professionals and to join them in their quest for a better understanding of these fascinating organisms.

COLLECTING TECHNIQUES



The first thing to do upon finding a mushroom is to take note of where it is growing. Is it on a log (and if so, what kind?), in the soil, in sand, on leaves, etc.? What kind of trees are growing nearby (many mushrooms associate with a particular kind of tree)? When you collect it, be sure to dig down deeply enough to remove the whole thing; often delicate structures are produced underground and are destroyed or left in the ground if not removed carefully. Try to collect young as well as mature specimens, because in some instances several stages of development are necessary for identification purposes.



Take a few pictures. Habitat photos often say more about the mushroom than a page of notes.

Once collected, the mushroom must be handled carefully. Specimens should be wrapped in waxed paper in such a way that moisture cannot escape. The wrapped mushroom can then be placed in a basket or

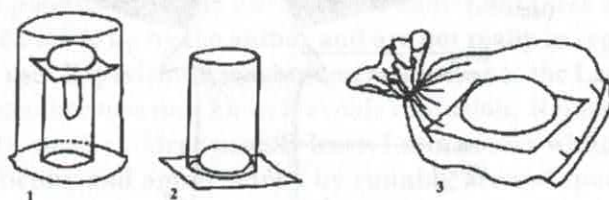
box (never a plastic bag) and carried home. Never pile the mushrooms so high on one another that delicate structures are broken.

PREPARING THE COLLECTION

You should begin working on your collections as soon as possible after returning from the field. Many mushrooms dry up or fade within a few hours, even when wrapped in waxed paper.

Spore prints

Mushrooms reproduce by tiny spores produced in the faces of the lamellae (gills). These spores are shot forcibly away from the lamellae into the space between them where they can then float out into the environment. In nature the spores would blow away to new localities as soon as they cleared the bottom of the pileus (cap) but in a perfectly still environment can collect in a thick mass called a spore print that can be seen with the naked eye. The colour of the spore print is one of the oldest and most useful features used in mushroom identification.



FIGURES 1-3. TECHNIQUES FOR OBTAINING SPORE PRINTS

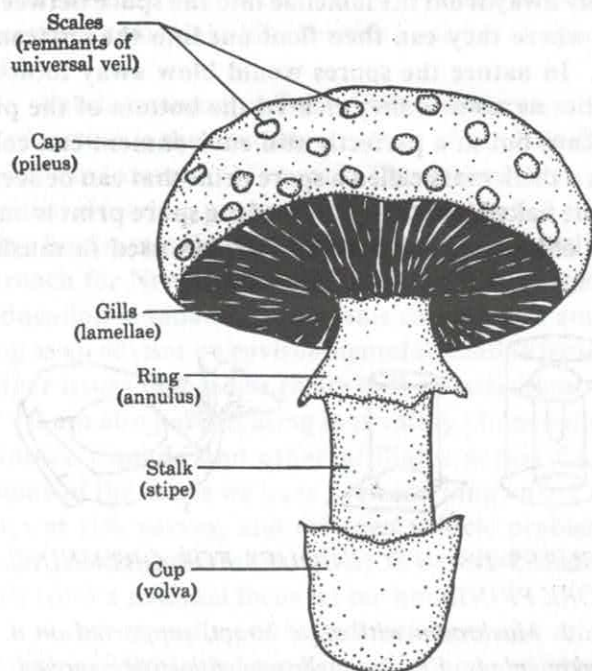
Fig. 1. Mushroom with stipe intact, supported on a drinking glass. Fig. 2. Mushroom with stipe removed. Fig. 3. Spore print technique using plastic bag.

Spore prints are prepared by placing the gill or pore surface down on a white (never black or coloured) piece of paper and covering the whole mushroom with a drinking glass or jar or by placing both mushroom and paper in a plastic sandwich bag. Instead of paper you can try using a small square of plastic food wrap. If there are only one or two specimens it is better to cut a hole in the paper for the stipe rather than removing the stipe, or just cut out a section of the pileus and use that.

Small pieces or very small caps dry out easily and will need to be enclosed in small spaces and, if small enough, accompanied by a moist piece of tissue. After few hours a white or coloured spore print should result (old or immature mushrooms may not give a spore print). Most mushrooms discharge their spores in the early morning so it's best just to leave the setup running all night. Mushrooms from cool climates do not produce good spore prints in warm rooms. Figures 1-3 illustrate some techniques for obtaining spore prints. You should note the colour of the fresh spore print and then dry it, fold it, and put it in an envelope with the specimen.

Notes

While the spore prints are being prepared you can begin to take notes on your collections. Since most mushrooms change in colour, shape and size when dried, these notes should include any information that will not be



Drawing by S.H. Sung

apparent after drying. Include these features in your notes:

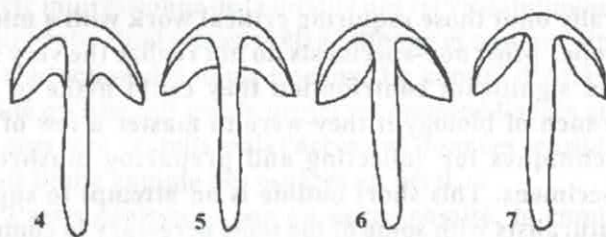
Pileus (cap): shape, colour, texture (hairy, scaly, fibrous, smooth, dry, moist, sticky, slimy, etc.), fading or not, details of margin, colour changes (if any) when injured.

Stipe (stem): length and width, shape (tapering, flattened, etc.), colour, texture, colour changes (if any) when injured.

Annulus (ring on stipe): presence or absence, colour, persistent or disappearing in age.

Volva (cup or bulb at base of stipe): present or absent, colour, texture, persistent or disappearing in age

Gills or pores: Colour when young (and very young), colour in age, attachment (see figures 4-7), colour of edge (if different from sides), are they all the same length or alternating long and short?, is a juice or latex produced when the gills are broken and pushed back together (and if so, colour of juice)?, colour changes (if any) when injured.



FIGURES 4-7. MUSHROOMS CUT IN HALF TO SHOW TYPES OF GILL ATTACHMENT

Fig. 4. Gills decurrent (running down the stipe). Fig. 5. Gills adnate (perpendicular to stipe). Fig. 6. Gills adnexed (running up the stipe). Fig. 7. Gills free (not attached to stipe).

Flesh of pileus and stipe: colour, colour changes (if any) when exposed to air, odour (distinctive or not; and if so, how?), taste (distinctive or not; and if so, how? - taste only a 1/4" x 1/4" piece and then spit it out: this is safe enough as long as you don't swallow any

Spore print: colour when fresh

Other notes: habitat (see discussion of this above), date, name of collector, locality (nearest town, county, district, province, territory, etc.).

Appendix 1 is a form you may find most useful. You should fill in one sheet for each collection.

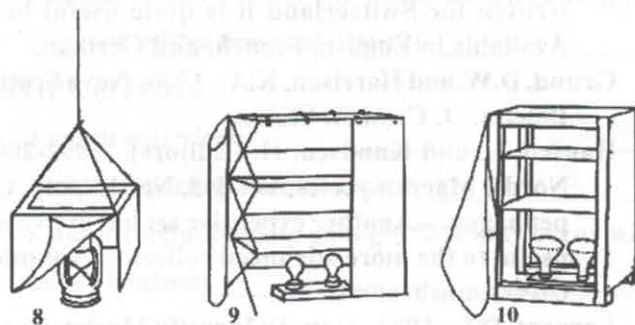
Illustrations

Often a simple sketch or drawing will give more information than a paragraph of text. You need not be an artist, a simple outline sketch will do. If you are handy with coloured pencils or watercolours, all the

better.

Photographs, if carefully done, are a valuable asset. Photograph your specimens on a neutral background such as a gray paper. Some people use a weathered gray plank of wood and include a few of the associated plants. This makes a picture that is both attractive and useful. You can also lie your mushrooms out on a flatbed scanner and scan them; the results will be surprisingly good. Be sure to include some with the gills showing. Of course you can photograph your mushrooms directly in the field. This makes the most attractive pictures but may hide some features needed for identification.

You can expect to spend about 15-30 minutes per collection preparing spore prints, notes and illustrations. We usually find it most convenient to collect in the morning and spend the afternoon processing specimens. Admittedly, this is tedious work, but patience and care are the main prerequisites of science.



FIGURES 8-10. MUSHROOM DRIERS

Fig. 8. Single screen with canvas apron suspended over a kerosene lantern. Fig. 9. Metal clothes drier supporting three screens over two light bulbs. Fig. 10. Wood frame drier supporting three screens over heat lamps.

Drying the specimens

When you have finished your notes, you will be ready to dry your specimens. This is a very critical step that can make the difference between a valuable scientific specimen and a piece of useless trash. Methods for drying mushrooms vary from collector to collector but most utilize some kind of screen shelves for suspending the mushrooms over a dry heat source. The heat source can be an electric heater, a tent heater, hot plate, light bulbs (especially red heat lamps), kerosene lantern or other such device. Safety is a prime concern here and you should not use any method that presents a fire hazard. Figures 8-10 illustrate a few drier types, but other

models will also work. One person I know uses a dehumidifier instead of a heat source, thus avoiding sources of fire. A drier that folds down or can be dismantled is easier to store and transport. Usually a fireproof cloth is draped around the drier to concentrate the heat and encourage an airflow but other insulating materials would also be appropriate. If you wish to avoid the problems of constructing a drier there are some food desiccators on the market that work very well.

IDENTIFYING MUSHROOMS

Arriving at a satisfactory name for a mushroom can be a challenging task. There are hundreds of species growing in most regions and many of these are not all that well known or may be unknown to science. Even in Europe, the most thoroughly studied region in the world, many new species are discovered each year.

Although you can learn to recognize many species in the field others can only be determined reliably with the help of a microscope. Microscopy is something most people find intimidating, even if they have a microscope available. Learning to use a microscope takes practice but is rewarding. There is a whole world of fascinating life to explore once you get the hang of it.

One of the things that may bother you at first is the common use of Latin names for mushrooms. Some of the popular books do use common names but these are often made up by the author and are not really in regular use. Experienced mushroomers always use the Latin names because they know it avoids confusion. Remarkably, small children usually learn Latin names without difficulty and amaze adults by running around spouting them out.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE PROFESSIONAL

If you are unable to identify a specimen, find something especially interesting, or simply want to learn more about your collection you may need to contact a specialist. Professional agaricologists welcome serious amateurs and are more than happy to exchange emails and specimens with you. If you want your collections to reach the laboratory of a specialist, you will probably have to mail them. If fresh specimens are mailed, do not put them in plastic bags or foil, as they will decay very quickly. Instead, wrap them in some kind of absorbent tissue (newspaper, paper towels, tissue paper, etc.) and pack them well enough so that they do not

move around in the package. Send them First Class or by courier, never Parcel Post. It is better, however, to send dried specimens along with notes and spore prints. Here your only concern is to pack them well enough to avoid damage.

One bit of advice in dealing with professionals. Although many specialists enjoy mushrooms on a steak now and again, most are annoyed by people who push this thing too far. These scientists have devoted their lives to understanding mushrooms and how they fit into the web of life. If you make it clear that your main interest is culinary you may find that the conversation has come to a speedy end. It's a little like asking an avid birder about the best way to cook a thrush.

Feel free to contact me for assistance at:

David Mallock
New Brunswick Museum
277 Douglas Avenue
Saint John, New Brunswick
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dmalloch@nb.sympatico.ca

MUSHROOM BOOKS

There are many books on the market to help you identify your mushrooms. Most are written for people who want to learn to recognize a few common species and are content to leave it at that. Not only do such books present you with a limited selection of species they may also attempt to cover large geographical areas and not be able to include mushrooms that are more locally common. Much of the literature for North America is of this kind and will become less and less useful to you as your knowledge increases. Some of the European literature is more comprehensive and works well in North America but may be difficult to use at first. The following bibliography, although not comprehensive, lists some useful books.

Aurora, D. 1986. *Mushrooms Demystified* (2nd ed), Ten Speed Press, Berkeley. – Strongly oriented toward western mushrooms, but useful in the east as well.

Barron, G. 1999. *Mushrooms of Ontario and Eastern Canada*, Lone Pine, Edmonton. – Well

illustrated guide written with eastern Canada in mind. The author has personal experience with Maritime mushrooms.

Bessette, A.E., Bessette, A.R., and Fischer, D.W. 1997. *Mushrooms of Northeastern North America*, Syracuse Univ. Press. – Large well-illustrated book that serves our area well.

Bessette, A.E., Roody, W.C., and Bessette, A.R. 2000. *North American Boletes*, Syracuse Univ. Press. – Boletes are common in the Maritimes and are well covered in this book.

Boulet, B. 2003. *Les Champignons des arbres*. Les Publ. Québec, Québec. – An good guide to the fungi found growing on wood. Excellent photographs and extensive notes on ecology.

Breitenbach, J. and Kranzlin, F. 1984-2005. *Fungi of Switzerland*, Vol. 1-6, Verlag Mykologia, Lucerne. – An expensive set of books, but unparalleled in its wonderful photographs of fungi and covering a large number of species. Although written for Switzerland it is quite useful here. Available in English, French, and German.

Grund, D.W. and Harrison, K.A. 1976. *Nova Scotian Boletes*. J. Cramer, Vaduz.

Hansen, L. and Knudsen, H. (Editors). 1992-2000. *Nordic Macromycetes*, Vol. 1-3, Nordsvamp, Copenhagen. – Another expensive set but extremely useful to the more advanced collector. Volume 2 covers mushrooms.

Largent, D.L. 1977. *How To Identify Mushrooms to Genus I: Macroscopic Features*, Mad River Press, Eureka. – This set of little books is a great introduction to the methods used to identify mushrooms and other fungi.

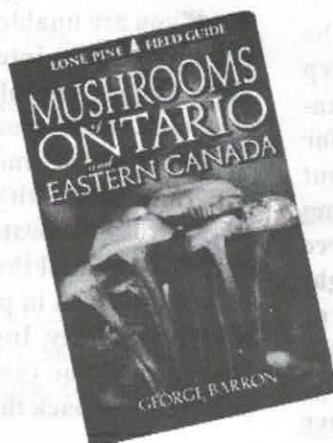
Largent, D. and Thiers, H.D. 1977. *How To Identify Mushrooms to Genus II: Field Identification of Genera*, Mad River Press, Eureka.

Largent, D., Johnson, D. and Watling, R. 1977. *How To Identify Mushrooms to Genus III: Microscopic Features*, Mad River Press, Eureka.

Largent, D., and Baroni, T. 1988. *How to Identify Mushrooms to Genus VI: Modern Genera*, Mad River Press, Eureka.

Lincoff, G. 1981. *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms*, Knopf, New York. – A standard reference with excellent photographs. The author has spent his entire career working with amateur mushroom enthusiasts.

McKnight, K.H. and McKnight, V.B. 1987. *A Field Guide to Mushrooms of North America*,



APPENDIX 1. NOTE SHEET FOR MUSHROOM COLLECTIONS

COLLECTION No. _____ DATE: _____

POSSIBLE NAME: _____

COLLECTOR: _____

LOCATION (nearest town) _____

County _____ Province _____

Latitude _____ Longitude _____

PILEUS (CAP)

Shape _____

Colour when fresh and when faded _____

Texture (hairy, scaly, fibrous, smooth, dry, moist,
sticky, _____ slimy)Margin (is the edge of the pileus striate (lines), cor-
rugated, with a fringe of tissue?) _____

STIPE (STEM):

Length and width _____

Shape (tapering, flattened, etc.) _____

Colour (including any changes that may occur when
cut or bruised) _____

Texture _____

ANNULUS (RING ON STIPE):

Presence or absent _____

Colour _____

Persistent or disappearing in age. _____

VOLVA (CUP OR BULB AT BASE OF STIPE):

Present or absent _____

Colour _____

Texture _____

Persistent or disappearing in age _____

GILLS OR PORES:

Colour when young (and very young) _____

Colour in age _____

Colour of edge (if different from sides), _____

Attachment (see figures 7-10) _____

Are they all the same length or alternating long and

short? _____

Is a juice or latex produced when the gills are broken
and pushed back together (and if so, colour of juice)?

Colour changes (if any) when injured. _____

FLESH OF PILEUS AND STIPE:

Colour _____

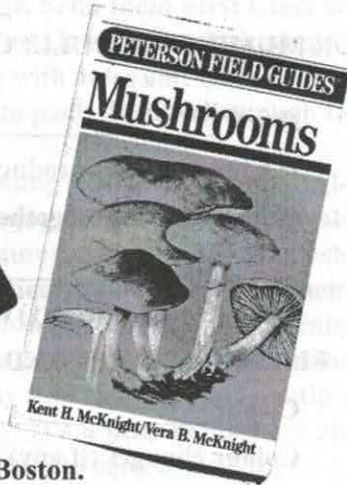
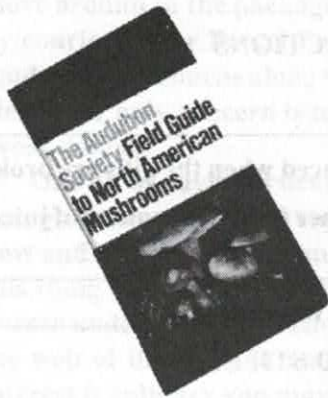
Colour changes (if any) when exposed to air
_____Odour (distinctive or not; and if so, how?)
_____Taste (distinctive or not; and if so, how? - taste only a
1/4" x 1/4" piece and then spit it out: this is safe
enough as long as you don't swallow any _____

SPORE PRINT:

Colour when fresh _____

OTHER NOTES: Habitat (on wood, soil, mosses, leaf
litter, etc.: type of trees nearby) _____

DRAWING OR PHOTO HERE



Houghton-Mifflin, Boston.

— One of the Petersen Field Guides. Excellent photographs.

Moser, M. 1983. Agarics and Boleti. Phillips, London. — Indispensible for the advanced collector.

Phillips, R. 1991. Mushrooms of North America, Little, Brown & Co., Boston. — This book contains more species than most of the popular guides. The mushrooms in the photographs were laid out and photographed to show the features most useful for identification. These are not the prettiest pictures available but certainly among the most useful.

Pomerleau, R. 1980. Flore des Champignons au Québec, Les Éditions La Presse, Montreal. — This is a big book with nearly every species of mushroom known to occur in Quebec. Because it is

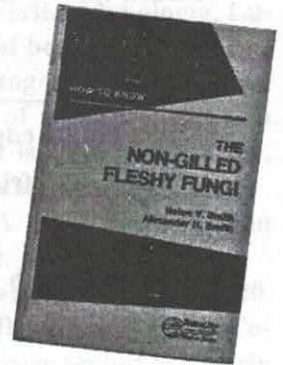
large and somewhat technical, it is not the best introduction to the subject but is very useful once you become more knowledgeable.

Schalkwijk-Barendsen, H.M.E. 1991. Mushrooms of Western Canada. Lone Pine, Edmonton. — Although intended for western Canada, the author spends most of her time collecting in Alberta and has included species that are just as common in the east. Illustrated by exquisite watercolour paintings this book is a gem.

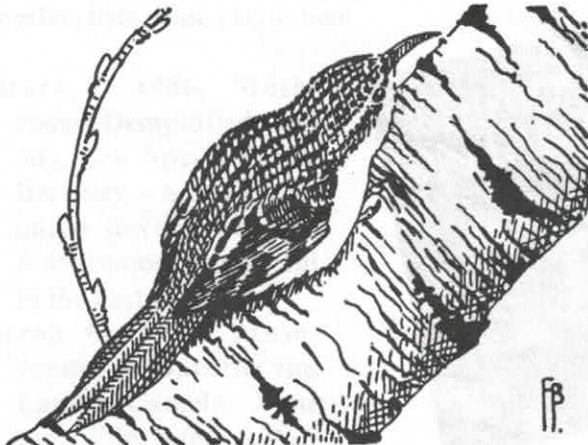
Smith, H., Smith, H.V. and Weber, N.S. 1979. How To Know the Gilled Mushrooms, Wm. Brown, Dubuque. — A simple guide to identifying mushrooms written by legendary figures in American mycology.

Smith, H., Smith, H.V. and Weber, N.S. 1973. How To Know the Non-Gilled Fleshy Fungi, Wm. Brown, Dubuque. — A guide to boletes, puffballs, coral fungi and other fungi that do not have gills like a mushroom.

Stuntz, D.E. 1977. How To Identify Mushrooms to Genus IV: Keys to Families and Genera, Mad River Press, Eureka.



THE LITTLE BROWN CREEPER



Although I'm a bird, I give you my word
That seldom you'll know me to fly;
For I have a notion about locomotion,
The little Brown Creeper am I,
Dear little Brown Creeper am I.

Beginning below, I search as I go
The trunk and the limbs of a tree,
For a fly or a slug, a beetle or bug;
They're better than candy for me,
Far better than candy for me,
Far better than candy for me.

Author Unknown

PINEDROPS, PARASITES AND POSTERS

NBFN Central Office

Marieka Chaplin, Executive Director

Pinedrops (*Pterospora andromedea*) is one of many provincially endangered species featured on our **NEW Species at Risk** poster.

Those of us familiar with Indian Pipe and Pinesap are interested to learn they are closely related to the endangered Pinedrops: all these plants lack chlorophyll. The lack in chlorophyll means Pinedrops aren't green and they don't have normal leaves. That's unusual for a plant! Instead they have a distinctive red colour in the summer, turning brown as the season progresses.

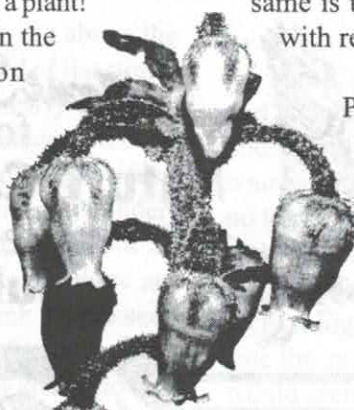
Pinedrops get their energy to live by unique means: they are parasites. The Pinedrops grow under mature white pine or hemlock trees, with the roots of the small plant connected to the larger trees by mycorrhizal fungi. These fungi transmit the photosynthesized energy from the host trees to the Pinedrops plant. Since Pinedrops survive on food photosynthesized by pine trees, which don't appear to benefit from the association, Pinedrops are considered to be parasites.

When we find such complex relationships among or-

ganisms we're struck by how fragile endangered species and their habitats can be. Most mycorrhizal fungi are rather fastidious about the kind of soil they grow in, so if the soil isn't just right there's no mycorrhizal fungus and therefore no Pinedrops. In New Brunswick, Pinedrops don't colonize younger tree stands, quite likely due to the fact that the mycorrhizae aren't associated with younger forests. The same is true of forested areas that have been clear-cut with resulting soil erosion.

In summary, to protect the endangered Pinedrops we must preserve mature coniferous forests that have white pine and hemlock trees. If you've ever seen this 30-100cm high plant with nodding, white to reddish, urn-shaped flowers growing along the stem, consider yourself very lucky.

If you haven't had the chance to see them in person, the next best mechanism is to see the beautiful image of this plant (and others) on our Species at Risk in NB poster. Posters are free to NBFN/FNNB members at our office, or at the upcoming AGM in Memramcook. Please contact us for your personal copy.



Pinedrops

Photo by D. Vail

UNE HISTOIRE DE FLEURS SAUVAGES, DE PARASITES ET D'AFFICHES

FNNB bureau chef

Marieka Chaplin, directrice générale

Rose-Alma Mallet, traduction

Une des plantes en danger, la minuscule Ptéropore andromède (*Pterospora andromedea*) figure sur notre nouvelle affiche murale **ESPÈCES À RISQUE AU N.-B.**

La Ptéropore andromède, une espèce en danger, est proche parente de la Monotrope uniflore et de la Monotrope du pin. Toutes ces plantes sont complètement dépourvues de chlorophylle. Le manque de chlorophylle se traduit par une plante non verte dont les feuilles sont réduites à des écailles. Elles ont une couleur rouge distinctive à l'été et noircissent au fur et à mesure que la saison avance.

Les Ptéropores andromèdes obtiennent leur énergie

vitale de façon différente: elles sont des parasites. Les Ptéropores andromèdes poussent en dessous des Pins blancs et des Pruches de l'Est. Les

éricacées établissent avec un champignon une symbiose racinaire appelée mycorhize. Les racines de ces petites plantes sont rattachées aux racines de ces grands arbres par les mycorhizes. Ces champignons transmettent la photosynthèse de l'arbre aux éricacées. Parce que ces arbres ne bénéficient aucunement de cette association avec les Ptéropores andromèdes, elles sont des parasites.

Lorsque nous observons des relations aussi complexes

que celles-ci dans la nature, nous sommes frappés par la fragilité des espèces, surtout chez les espèces en danger et leur habitat. La majorité des mycorhizes ne poussent que dans certain type de sol, alors s'il n'y a pas de champignons, il n'y a pas de Ptéropore andromède. Au Nouveau-Brunswick, les Ptéropores andromèdes ne colonisent pas les jeunes arbres tout simplement parce que les mycorhizes ne sont pas présents dans une jeune forêt. Le même phénomène se produit dans les forêts coupées à blanc où les sols sont enclin à l'érosion.

Pour protéger les Ptéropores andromèdes, nous devons préserver la forêt matures où poussent les Pins blancs et

les Pruches de l'Est. Si vous avez déjà observé cette petite plante de 30-100 cm à fleurs pédonculées, en grappe, blanches ou rougeâtre, comptez-vous chanceux et chanceuses.

Si vous n'avez pas eu la chance d'observer en personne cette petite plante, vous pouvez la voir en image sur notre nouvelle affiche *ESPÈCES À RISQUE AU N.-B.* Les affiches sont disponible gratuitement aux membres de la FNNB/NBFN à notre bureau ou à l'AGA à Memramcook au mois de juin. Pour obtenir une copie contactez notre bureau à l'adresse ci-dessous.

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THE DEATH OF AN UNKNOWN GREAT NATURALIST

Roland Chiasson

On January 17th 2006, a naturalist died, John Allen Livingston on Saltspring Island in British Columbia. If you don't know who he is take some time this year to find out who he was. He was a film producer, teacher (my teacher as well) and writer. If you ever wondered who was voice-over for the Hinterland Who's Who series, now you know.

He insisted on a bio-centric view of nature rather than a human centred view of nature and could verbally argue his way around any nature-centered debate. All of his books are worth the read and inspiring to say the least. A real modern day Thoreau.

From the Globe & Mail written by Sandra Martin: J.A. Livingston (1923-2006): An unapologetic lover of nature who was blessed with tenacity and optimism, he took an uncompromising view of human arrogance and its role in destroying the environment; published books based on the programs he was making for television and radio. *Darwin and the Galapagos*, with broadcaster Lister Sinclair (1966), *Birds of the Northern Forest* with paintings by J. Frederick Lansdowne (McClelland & Stewart, 1966) and *Birds of the Eastern Forest*, Vols. 1 and 2, again using Mr. Lansdowne's paintings (M&S, 1968 and 1970).

FROM OUR PAST

Selected by Mary Sollows



The following article was taken from the Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick: No. XVII, 1899, pp. 124-125. (Read November 1st, 1898.)

Article V. Notes on the Natural History and Physiography of New Brunswick

15. —UPON NATURAL PAVEMENTS AND THEIR POSSIBLE MISINTERPRETATION IN ARCHAEOLOGY.

By W. F. Ganong, PH. D.

On the Nepisiguit River, just above the Narrows, on the left bank, the beach is formed of flat stones fitted together so regularly and set out so nearly upon the same level as to suggest an artificial pavement. Indeed many a city of western Europe has pavements less perfect. The beach slopes gently towards the water and is underlaid by soft diverse composition, size and shape, but all have flat or nearly flat surfaces uppermost, and there are no considerable gaps between them. I think I have seen such pavements elsewhere, though never before such regular ones, but probably they are well enough known to students of surface geology.

Any artificial agency in their production in this wilderness is out of the question, and they are probably formed

by the action of the ice in the spring, which, grinding along the shore, would tend to press the boulders into the soft and yielding beach and to work and turn projecting angles about until a flat surface comes uppermost. If the river's course were to become changed, so that the pavement were no longer on a beach it would be a most puzzling structure and almost certain to be referred to an artificial origin. References to pavements occur not infrequently in local archaeological writings and are sometimes taken to indicate the existence of early settlements. From the above it would seem possible that such pavements may sometimes be of purely natural origin, especially when on river banks and underlaid by yielding bottoms.

BOOK REVIEW

by Roland Chaisson

The Bedside Book of Birds

By Graeme Gibson

Some books are meant to be read right away and forgotten. Others book should be read gradually or simply be read over and over again. Gibson's book is meant exactly for that. He has put together a collection of historical and cultural stories about birds. How long have we been enchanted by birds? Forever it seems, based on his stunning assemblage of words and remarkable images. Why do ravens have such a bad reputation or why do they have a good reputation? What about the bird of paradise or incendiary birds (like the phoenix for example or something close to that)? perhaps they are worth checking into, but I wouldn't do this at home. Who would think that death would come as a rooster? (I better not listen too much to our rooster...)

Now, for those birders who lose themselves in birds

watch out:

"Stevenson remembered the story of a monk who had been distracted from his copy-work by the song of a bird. He went into the garden to listen more closely, when he returned, after what he thought were only a few minutes, he discovered that a century had gone by, that his fellow monks were dead and the ink had turned to dust. The song of the bird had given him a taste of paradise, where an instant is a hundred years of earthly time. Was the same true of time in hell, Stevenson asked himself." (On the back side of the book)

Worth the read for the contemplative and inquisitive birder but if you like books with one continuous story and a main plot, this is not meant for you.



NEW BRUNSWICK BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2003-04 REPORT

David Christie

This is the sixth "annual" report of the New Brunswick Bird Records Committee, combining the two years, 2003 and 2004.

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, Jim Wilson, and Donald F. McAlpine (non-voting). Jim Wilson served as chairman and David Christie as secretary.

Publication by the New Brunswick Museum of *Birds of New Brunswick: An Annotated List* and *Oiseaux du Nouveau-Brunswick: une liste commentée* culminated several years' work by past and present members of the committee and other volunteers. The books were launched at Edmundston in May 2004 in conjunction with the annual meetings of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists and the Canadian Nature Federation. The committee gratefully acknowledges financial support for publication from the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund, the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund, the New Brunswick Museum's Publications in Natural Science Fund, and from various individuals and naturalists' clubs.

The currently accepted list of New Brunswick birds and information about the committee can be found at <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.

A major revision of the committee's by-laws was carried out at its annual meeting in November 2004. The most significant changes were:

- The number of records on which the committee will hold formal votes was doubled to a limit of ten accepted records within the past fifty years.
- The number of voting categories was expanded from three to five, and explanations (posted on the website) of each were adopted. The categories are:
 - a. accept identification and natural occurrence
 - b. [new] accept identification, natural occurrence questionable but a reasonable possibility
 - c. not accept, identification questionable
 - d. not accept, identification acceptable, natural occurrence unlikely

e. [new] not accept, establishment of introduced population questionable.

Through 2004, the committee has been voting on reports of any species for which five New Brunswick records had 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 have been 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. If a decision is still not reached, a record will be considered a third time in open discussion at an annual meeting. The majority of committee decisions are unanimous.

Voting was completed on 12 records during 2003, and nine during 2004. Of these, 11 (92%) and nine (100%), respectively, were accepted and the remainder were not. Nine new species, Barnacle Goose / Bernache nonnette, Cackling Goose / Bernache de Hutchins, Eared Grebe / Grébe à cou noir, Brown Pelican / Pélican brun, Crested Caracara / Caracara du Nord, Cave Swallow / Hirondelle à front brun, Redwing / Grive mauvis, Louisiana Waterthrush / Paruline hochequeue and Golden-crowned Sparrow / Bruant à couronne dorée were added to the New Brunswick list.

Four records were carried forward because no decision was reached during first-round voting in 2004. Filed without formal review were 27 additional submissions received in 2003 and 35 in 2004.

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 (e.g., *N.B. Nat.* 31:114-121). 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

2003 Votes

Eared Grebe / Grebe à cou noir

Podiceps nigricollis

2002 — 1 June, adult in breeding plumage, Wilson Point Road, Île Miscou, *Gloucester* (Robert Doiron, Frank Branch)

First provincial record. The bird was seen briefly, but twice, which allowed the observers to be well prepared for its second appearance. However, one member voted not to accept it. (Note: After this record had been accepted, a report was received without additional details that Réginald and Ghislaine Larocque had observed two Eared Grebes in courtship behaviour at the same place that day.)

Brown Pelican / Pélican brun

Pelecanus occidentalis

2003 — 28-29 June, Ste-Marie-St-Raphaël, Île Lamèque, *Gloucester* (Jude Larocque, Frank Branch) — photos, video

First accepted record. This pelican spent the night perched on a pole at the wharf, where it was seen by a large number of local people. Previous reports from Grand Manan have not been adequately documented

King Rail / Râle élégant

Rallus elegans

1994 — 6 Oct., female found dead, Gardner Creek, *St. John* (Bruce and Shelley Bagnell*) — study skin and skeleton

Second provincial record. This specimen in the New Brunswick Museum had not been critically examined to differentiate it from rusty-coloured races of Clapper Rail. Four members considered that the combination of coloration and measurements indicated a King Rail, but one recommended comparison with a large series of specimens.

Gull-billed Tern / Sterne hansel

Sterna nilotica



Photo: Margaret Gallant Doyle

2003 — 4 July, Eel River Bar, *Restigouche* (Bob Gillis*, Raymond Chiasson*, Margaret Gallant Doyle) — photos

First record to be accepted by the committee. There have been only a few reports in the province, including one specimen, over the past 125 years.

Forster's Tern / Sterne de Forster

Sterna forsteri

2002-03 — 28 Dec. to 1 Jan., Saint John West, *St. John* (Eileen Pike*, Janet Whitehead*, Rose-Alma Mallet*, Merv Cormier, Ken MacIntosh) — photos

First record to be accepted by the committee. Previous reports include at least two that were photographed. It has usually occurred in late summer and autumn, and is the tern most likely to occur in the northeast during winter, as this one did.

Say's Phoebe / Moucherolle à ventre roux

Sayornis saya

2002-03 — 28 Dec. to 9 Jan., Gagetown, *Queens* (Don Gibson*, David Myles*, Valmond Bourque, Merv Cormier) — photos

2003 — 17-19 Apr., Saint John West, *St. John* (Ian Cameron*, David Christie, Stuart Tingley, Frank Kelly, Irene Doyle) — photos, video

Fourth and fifth accepted records. Previous records had been in September, so these two birds expanded the season.

Cave Swallow / Hirondelle à front brun

Petrochelidon fulva

2003 — 3 Nov., Point Lepreau, *St. John-Charlotte* (Eileen Pike*, Roy Pike*) — video captures



Video capture: Eileen Pike

First accepted record. In recent autumns this species has sometimes wandered in considerable numbers to the northeastern U.S.A. and southern Canada. This is the first one to be conclusively identified in New Brunswick.

Redwing / Grive mauvis

Turdus iliaca

2003 — 29 Mar., Trudel, Paquetville, Gloucester (Frank Branch*, Raymonde Pinet*, Robert Doiron, Stuart Tingley, Margaret Gallant Doyle)— video, photos

First accepted record. This extremely rare European vagrant remained long enough to attract birders from other parts of North America. The one previous documented report was by a single observer.



Video capture: Frank Branch

Louisiana Waterthrush / Paruline hochequeue

Seiurus motacilla



Photo: Margaret Gallant Doyle

2003 — 17–20 Apr., one, Chance Harbour, St. John (Norm & Gisèle Belliveau*, Gilles Belliveau*, Jim Wilson*, Stuart Tingley*, Frank Kelly, Irene Doyle, Margaret Gallant Doyle) — photos, video
First accepted record. Three previous reports were each documented by just one observer.

Golden-crowned Sparrow/Bruant à couronne dorée

Zonotrichia atricapilla



Photo: David Larson

2003 — 28 June, adult, Machias Seal Island, Charlotte (Russell Ross*, Kate Devlin*, Amie Black*, David Larson*, Strickland Wheelock*, Julie Paquet*, Chris Novak*, Paul Cranford*) — photos

Our first accepted record was gone the following day. Late June was a surprising time for the occurrence of this vagrant from the west coast.

2004 Votes

Pacific Loon / Plongeon du Pacifique

Gavia pacifica

2004 — 6–8 Oct., adult moulting to winter plumage, Gull Cove, White Head Island, Charlotte (Bernard Dugas*, Raymonde Palardy*, Raymond Michaud*, Pierrette Gaudet*, Jim Wilson, Jean Wilson, Roger Leblanc)

Third accepted record. Visitors from Québec discovered this rarity and passed the word to other observers on Grand Manan.

Eared Grebe / Grèbe à cou noir

Podiceps nigricollis

2004 — 21 Apr., adult in breeding plumage, Point Lepreau, St. John-Charlotte (Beverley J. Schneider*, Alex Bond*, Jenny McWilliams*)

Second accepted record. Observers at the Point Lepreau Bird Observatory focused their attention on a grebe in breeding plumage as they watched it and a duller bird actively diving and drifting down the bay. Four out of five members voted to accept the brighter bird; there was insufficient information about the identity of the second one.

Barnacle Goose / Bernache nonnette*Branta leucopsis*

2001 — 3-29 Nov.,
immature, Coverdale,
Albert (Stuart Tingley*,
David Christie) —
photos, video
First accepted
record, natural
occurrence
questionable but a
reasonable



Video capture: David Christie

possibility. The matter of Barnacle Goose origin has occupied most bird record committees in northeastern North America; captive birds are fairly numerous and some escape, but one banded in Europe was recovered in Newfoundland. The committee was unable to reach a decision in its first two votes on the Coverdale bird. It was unanimously accepted in the third consideration, after voting categories had been modified and defined. The fact that this bird was a wary immature accompanying Canada Goose migrants from the north increased the possibility of its wild origin. An earlier record (Gardner Creek, Feb. 1994) had not been accepted.

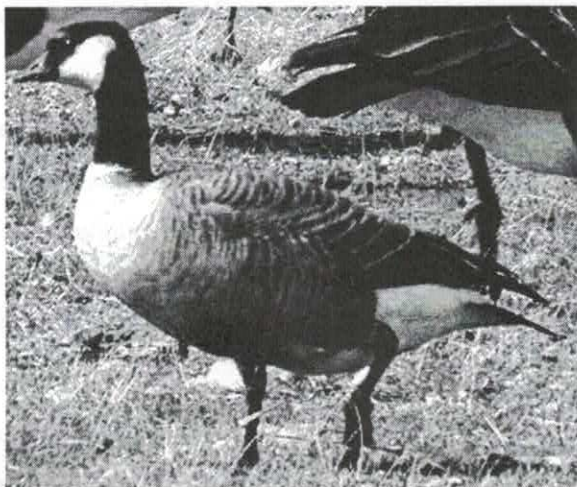
Cackling Goose / Bernache de Hutchins*Branta hutchinsii*

Photo: Marcel David

2004 — 4 Oct. to 12 Nov., one, Pokemouche, Gloucester (Frank Branch*, Roland Robichaud*, Juliette Pellerin, Marcel David, Jim Wilson, Peter Wilshaw, Gordon Parsons, Valmond Bourque, Margaret Doyle) — video, photos
First accepted record. In 2003, the American Ornithologists' Union recognized certain small, tundra-nesting subspecies of Canada Goose as a distinct species. There have been reports of small Canada Geese

in New Brunswick in the past but with very little detailed information being preserved. The recent decision by the A.O.U. stimulated interest in these birds and resulted in the discovery and documentation of this record.

Wood Stork / Tantale d'Amérique*Mycteria americana*

2004 — 7-15 Aug., juvenile, Musquash, St. John (Juliette and Jack Hickman*, Merv Cormier*, Margaret Gallant Doyle, Janet Whitehead, Bruce Mactavish)

Second accepted
record (after a
specimen in 1911).

Aside from some brief unconfirmed observations in 1995, this was the first chance for current observers to see this species here. Local residents reported that it had been present for about a week before 8 August.

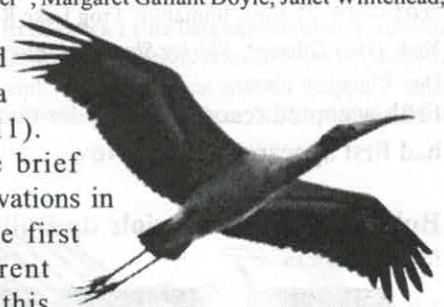


Photo: Bruce Mactavish

Crested Caracara / Caracara du Nord*Caracara cheriway*

Video captures: Frank Branch

2002 — 23 Oct., subadult, Lavigne Road, Maltampec and 25-29 Oct., Rivière-à-la-fruite, Gloucester (Frank Branch*, Jude LaRocque, Luc DeRoche, Marcel David, Pat McLaughlin, Roger Leblanc)

First provincial record, natural occurrence questionable but a reasonable possibility. The committee did not reach a decision in its first two votes, but unanimously accepted the caracara on its third consideration, after voting categories had been modified and defined. Subadult birds such as this one are more likely to wander far from their normal range than are the sedentary adults.

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

2001 — 3-5 Dec., one, Alma, Albert (Stuart Tingley*, Janet Whitehead, Eileen Pike) — photos, video

Fourth accepted record. The committee accepted this bird on its third vote, when video was included as evidence in addition to the photos.

Harris's Sparrow / Bruant à face noire*Zonotrichia querula*

2003 — 15-21 Nov., immature, Frog Lake Road (SW of Harvey), York (Don Gibson*, Shirley Sloat*, Margery Acheson*, Jennifer Day-Elgee) — photo

Fifth accepted record. The feeder owner reported that it had first appeared about 7 Nov.

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

Photo: Jim Wilson

2003 — 25 Nov. and 8-13 Dec., immature male, Saint John, St. John (David F. Smith*, Jim Wilson) — photos

Second accepted record. Like the first, this bird allowed repeated close study at a bird feeder.

Records Not Accepted**Identification accepted, natural occurrence unlikely**

No decisions fell in this category during 2003-04.

Identification uncertain**2003 Votes****Mottled Duck / Canard brun***Anas fulvigula*

2003 — 5 Oct., eight, Pocologan, Charlotte — photos

This report was influenced by what appeared to be a "teal green" speculum and by use of a book on birds that does not portray Mottled Duck very well. The committee interpreted the descriptions and photos to be of American Black Ducks.

Records Not Formally Reviewed

Documentation was received of the following observations of votable species but was insufficient for a formal vote by the committee:

2003**Arctic Loon / Plongeon arctique***Gavia arctica*

2002 — 10 Nov., adult, winter plumage, Miscou Lighthouse, Gloucester (Ivy Austin)

American Swallow-tailed Kite /**Milan à queue fourchue***Elanoides forficatus*

1994 — 8 July, Cambridge-Narrows, Queens (Ian Varty)

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

2003 — 11 Oct., one, Pointe-Verte, Gloucester (Roger Guitard)

2004**Western Grebe / Grèbe élégant***Aechmophorus occidentalis*

2004 — 22 Apr., adult, Point Lepreau, St. John (Alex Bond)

American Swallow-tailed Kite /**Milan à queue fourchue***Elanoides forficatus*

2003 — late June/early July, Grand Harbour, Charlotte (Carolyn Morse)

Wilson's Plover / Pluvier de Wilson*Charadrius wilsonia*

2004 — 9 June, adult male, chemin Cedrière Sud, Rivière-du-Portage, Northumberland (Ivy Austin)

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

2004 — 15 Apr., one, Saint John, St. John (Kathy Sessamen)

Redwing / Grive mauvis*Turdus iliacus*

2004 — 17 Nov., one, Saint John, St. John (Roger Burrows)

Hooded Warbler / Paruline à capuchon*Wilsonia citrina*

2004 — 28 Aug., adult male, Anchorage Provincial Park, Grand Manan, Charlotte (Ken Allison)

Documentation was also received for 53 records (summarized in the report version on the website) of various species for which there are already five or more accepted records in the province.

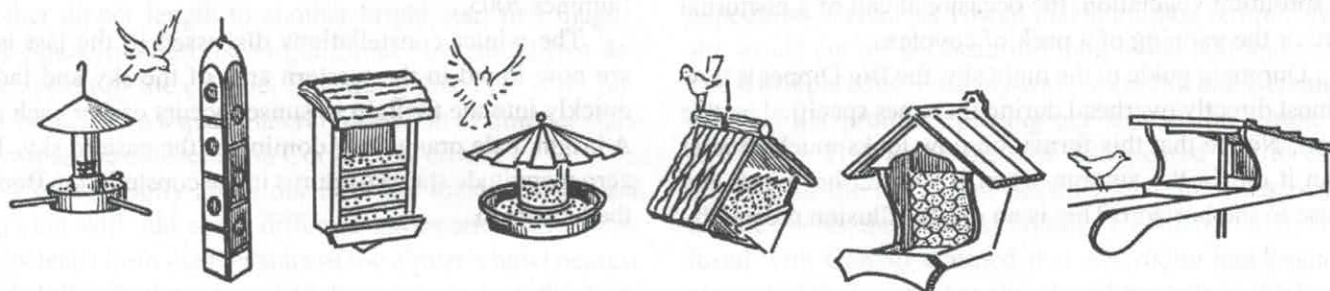
The author thanks the other members of the committee for their comments and suggestions.

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

Publications Mentioned

Birds of New Brunswick: An Annotated List, by David S. Christie, Brian E. Dalzell, Marcel David, Robert Doiron, Donald G. Gibson, Mike H. Lushington, Peter A. Pearce, Stuart I. Tingley and James G. Wilson. 85 pp., 1 map. New Brunswick Museum, Saint John, N.B., Canada, 2004

Oiseaux du Nouveau-Brunswick : Une liste commentée. Traduction de : Marcel David, Robert Doiron, Jean-Sébastien Guénette, Arthur-William Landry et Rose-Alma Mallet. 95 pp., 1 carte. Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick, Saint-Jean, N.-B., Canada, 2004.



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

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Mary's Point Interpretive Centre	\$ _____
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Jim Wilson, membership secretary

2 Neck Rd, Quispamsis, NB, E2G 1L3

E-mail: jgw@nbnet.nb.ca

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



THE NIGHTTIME NATURALIST

Roy LaPointe

Sky Surfing - part 3

The long winter nights are quickly shrinking, becoming equal with daylight hours as spring begins, hence the term equinox, equal-night. By the end of spring, there remains less than 4 hours of reasonably dark nighttime viewing. The warmer nights however, make for much more endurable conditions with the added bonuses of the fresh scent of sprouting vegetation, the occasional call of a nocturnal bird or the yapping of a pack of coyotes.

Our main guide to the night sky, the Big Dipper is now almost directly overhead during the times specified on this chart. Notice that this formation now looks much smaller than it did in the autumn when it was farther north and close to the horizon. This is an optical illusion created by

our brains; the same phenomenon that makes the rising full moon much larger than when it is high in the sky.

Notice also that the Big dipper is inverted compared to its orientation in autumn. This is a result of the Earth having moved halfway through its orbit around the Sun. Compare this figure in this and the autumn charts, volume 32(2) Summer 2005.

The winter constellations discussed in the last issue are now found in the western area of the sky and fading quickly into the twilight as sunset occurs earlier each day. A bright, pale orange star dominates the eastern sky. This zero magnitude star is Arcturus in the constellation Bootes, the herdsman.



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

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

Ci-inclus mon/notre donation à *:

Club de jeunes naturalistes	_____ \$
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Individuel 25 \$	_____ \$
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Chèque inclus : _____ \$

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

Jim Wilson, secrétaire des membres

2 Neck Rd, Quispamsis, NB, E2G 1L3

C.-élec. : jgw@nbnet.nb.ca

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

Compared to the sun, Arcturus is a giant about 23 times its diameter and radiates about 130 times as much energy. It is one of closest bright stars being only 37 light-years away.

Arcturus is sometimes confused with Jupiter. This problem can be avoided by knowing how to locate it. This is done by simply following the arc of the handle of the Big Dipper and extending it about one Big Dipper length towards the southeast. Its position well above the ecliptic, along which Jupiter and the other planets travel, is also a key indicator.

Our next star, Spica, lets us know just where the ecliptic lies. After following the arc to Arcturus, continue on for another dipper length to another bright star, first magnitude Spica in Virgo the virgin. Spica lies about two degrees south of the ecliptic. Stretching this arc a little further brings us to a quadrilateral formation of dimmer stars known as the constellation Corvus, the crow.

I spoke briefly about our next key locator in the last issue but will add some different information here. This arrow leads from the two stars of the dipper's bowl nearest the handle southwestward to Regulus, in Leo the lion. Regulus is a bluish, first magnitude star about 85 light years away with an absolute magnitude about 160 times that of the sun's. Spica (above), also a first magnitude star, is actually 10 times more luminous than Regulus and 4 times more distant.

Continuing on beyond Regulus our key takes us to Alphard, the brightest star in Hydra the sea serpent. Hydra is sometimes called the female sea serpent because of its female Latin name although it represented a male character in Greco-Roman mythology. It is not to be confused with Hydrus, the male counterpart constellation near the south pole. Hydra is the largest and longest constellation, stretching across one quarter of the night sky.

The other 3 key arrows on the chart were discussed in the last issue so I will not waste time repeating these here.

In this chart I have traced out Ursa Major instead of just the Big Dipper which is only a small part of this large constellation. The next time you look at the dipper, see if you can trace the diagram of the great bear in the sky.

Going back to Bootes and heading eastward, we find a semicircle known as Corona Borealis or the northern crown. Yes, there is also a southern crown called Corona Australis which is located near the tail of Scorpius, very low in the summer sky.

A little further to the east is Hercules, recognizable by the "Big John" shape of his body, wide at the shoulders

and narrow at the hips so give this guy no lip. Hercules is more of a summer constellation so will leave it to the next issue.

An interesting part of the spring sky, particularly for binocular or telescope viewing, is the region between Arcturus and Regulus. Just off the end of Leo, northeast of Denebola, lies a faint wisp of stars which makes up the little known constellation Coma Berenices or Berenices' hair.

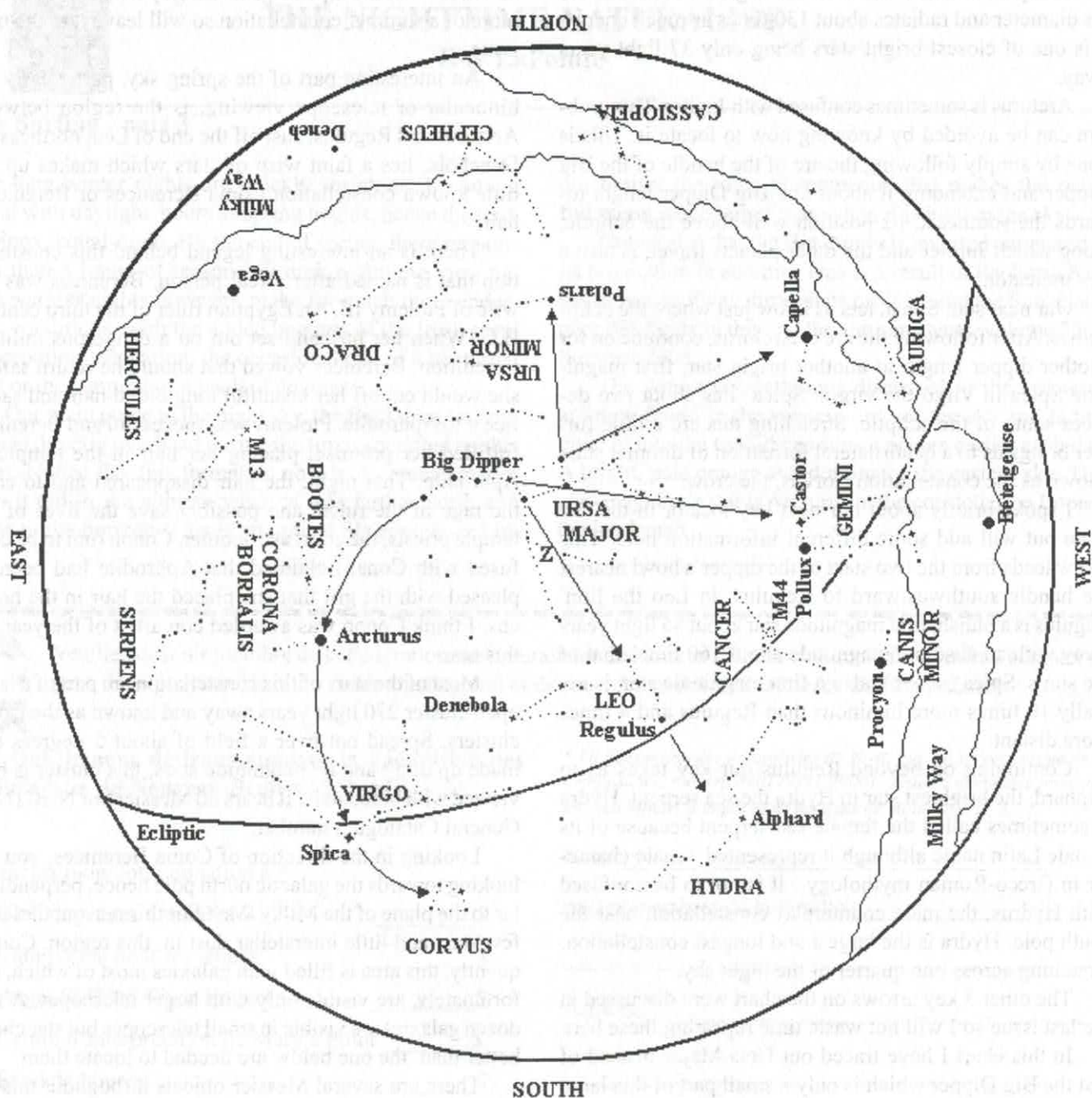
There is an interesting legend behind this constellation that is named after a real person. Berenices was the wife of Ptolemy III, An Egyptian ruler of the third century B.C. When her husband set out on a dangerous military expedition, Berenices vowed that should he return safely, she would cut off her beautiful long blond hair and sacrifice it to Aphrodite. Ptolemy was successful and Berenices fulfilled her promise, placing her hair in the temple of Aphrodite. That night, the hair disappeared and to calm the rage of the rulers and possibly save the lives of the temple priests, the court astronomer, Conon (not to be confused with Conan) claimed that Aphrodite had been so pleased with the gift that she placed the hair in the heavens. I think Conon was awarded con artist of the year for this one.

Most of the stars of this constellation are part of a large open cluster 270 light years away and known as the Coma clusters. Spread out over a field of about 5 degrees and made up of 5th and 6th magnitude stars, this cluster is best viewed with binoculars. It bears no Messier* or NGC (New General Catalogue) number.

Looking in the direction of Coma Berenices, you are looking towards the galactic north pole hence, perpendicular to the plane of the Milky Way. For this reason, there are few stars and little interstellar dust in this region. Consequently, this area is filled with galaxies most of which, unfortunately, are visible only with larger telescopes. A few dozen galaxies are visible in small telescopes but star charts better than the one below are needed to locate them.

There are several Messier objects throughout this region, too many to list here; possibly a topic for a future article. In the next issue however, we come full circle to the stars of summer. Happy stargazing.

*Charles Messier was a French 18th century astronomer who made a list of fuzzy objects he could not identify with instruments of the day. A challenge to modern-day amateur astronomers is to see how many of the 110 Messier objects they can see in one night



SPRING STAR CHART

DATES AND TIMES TO USE CHARTS

1 to 15 March

12 am to 2 am

1 to 15 May 9 pm to 11 pm*

16 to 31 March

12 am to 2 am*

16 to 31 May 8 pm to 10 pm*

1 to 15 April

11 pm to 1 am*

16 to 30 April

10 pm to 12 am*

* Daylight Savings Time

BOTANY CORNER

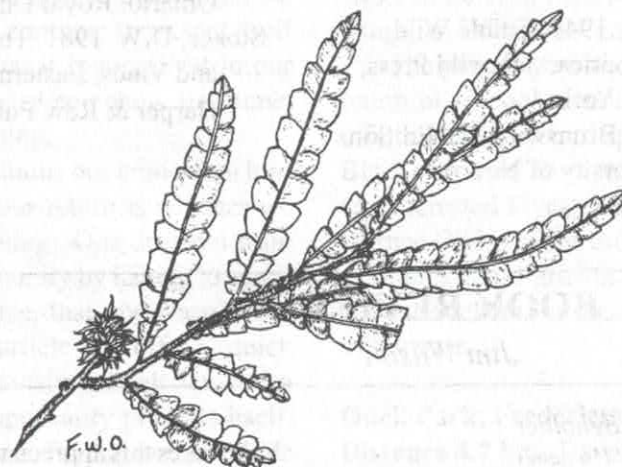
Gart Bishop

It's the smell ... the fragrance. The low (up to 1 m high) tufts of the Sweet Fern shrub can commonly be seen along the highways and country roads of southern and eastern New Brunswick, and they seem unremarkable on the open, sandy roadside edges until you stop and smell the leaves. Pick a few leaves and rub them gently between your fingers and then pass them under your nose. The smell, while hard to define is most pleasant, reminiscent of a medicinal like Vicks Vapour Rub. You breathe in the fragrance deeply and feel better, and then, because it feels so wholesome and healthy and irresistible, you breathe it in again.

The long and narrow dark green leaves of Sweet Fern (*Comptonia voyageuse*) [*Comptonia peregrina*] are given a 'fern-like' appearance by having a rounded to pointed toothed scalloped margin, cut nearly to the midrib. A former botanical name (*Myrica asplenifolia*) acknowledges a similarity in leaf shape between Sweet Fern, and the Spleenwort ferns (genus *Asplenium*). Looking closely with a magnifying glass, you can see that the leaves (especially the upper surface) are coated with numerous small glands, which are the source of the delightful fragrance. On a hot summer's day, walking along a bush road where Sweet Fern is abundant, one can easily pick up its fragrance.

A lover of dry, sandy disturbed soils, Sweet Fern is commonly found along roadsides, sterile pasture-lands, open, exposed woodlands. Like alders, its roots fix nitrogen in the soil. Spreading quickly and easily by long underground stems, it forms dense thickets, enriching the disturbed soils and helping to keep them from being eroded.

As one can see from the distribution map taken from the Flora of New Brunswick, it is a plant which is totally absent from the central highlands and the northwest portion of the province, and only occasionally found along the Fundy coast. However,



Sweet Fern
Sketch: F.O. Oswald



where it is found, it is found in abundance. Its general range is from Ontario to the Maritimes, south to Minnesota and Georgia.

Its wind-pollinated flowers are not showy. Early in the spring, the inconspicuous male and female catkins bloom either both on the same plant. (monoecious) or each sex on a separate plants (dioecious). The female flowers develop into a bristly, globular, bur-like fruit in which by early to mid-July hard, glossy, olive-brown nutlets 3-5 mm long have developed. The seeds have been found to remain viable (i.e. able to still germinate) for a minimum of 70 years!

Several moth caterpillars are frequently found on Sweet Fern, with one species commonly sticking the leaves together to form a protective shelter. The shrub is also the alternate host for a blister rust that occurs on Jack Pine. Sweet Fern is occasionally browsed by deer, and Ruffed Grouse will eat its buds, catkins and foliage.

Sweet Fern has been used by the native community for treatment of a variety of ailments including: colic, rheumatism, sores, toothache, diarrhoea, fevers, worms, and female complaints. Its dried leaf was sometimes added as a flavouring agent to a tobacco substitute made from Common Mullen (*Verbascum thapsus*).

The chemical betulin has been extracted from Sweet Fern for use as an anti-inflammatory and antitumour agent. Several US patents list Sweet Fern as an ingredient for 'stabilizing food'. It is also sold in nurseries as an ornamental / landscaping shrub.

A light green tea brewed from dried (stronger flavour) or fresh (less flavour) leaves is reputedly pleasantly aromatic to smell, and pleasantly bland to taste. The nutlets are an edible trailside nibble, but stains ones finger nails while prying the nutlet from the bur. An unexpected, but intriguing use I read about, was the application of Sweet Fern tea as a body deodorant, something I might experiment with this coming summer.

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BOOK REVIEW

Jim Wilson

In the Eye of the Beholder

By Mike Lushington, 116 pages

Although I've worked with him on volunteer efforts and shared a few birding experiences over the years, I never really got to know Mike Lushington until now. But after savoring his recent book "In the Eye of the Beholder" I've come to understand and appreciate him more than ever before.

"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" is the familiar opening line of a work that weaves together a number of Mike's favourite things, including a deep appreciation of literature, music, sports and nature. "In the Eye of the Beholder" provides insights into Mike and wife Carla's lives, spent quietly in the Dalhousie area during the last three decades. A small northern New Brunswick community it is, but it's rich in things of the natural world and Mike brings them to us in an easy-to-read style that leaves lasting impressions in the reader's mind.

"In the Eye of the Beholder" is a collection of 21 concise essays about life on and around the Restigouche Estuary, written over an extended period. Not about anything particularly special to the average person – just daily life, but they become *very* special when seen from Mike's perspective. His interesting reflections about "ordinary" things have the potential for us to suddenly view them quite differently.

We naturalists share interests that require the art of seeing. We like to distinguish ourselves as folks who notice interesting or beautiful things that others might miss.

Mike takes this appreciation a step further in chapters such as "The Challenge" – a spontaneous walk in a blizzard at -50C wind chill, or "Summer Heat", the joy of a new walking trail on a scorching summer morning amid innumerable shades of green.

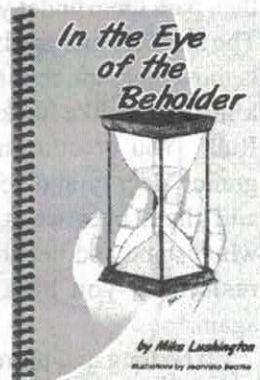
Several encounters with new critters rekindle that special excitement most of us felt when we saw our first of whatever long awaited or unexpected species – in this case a Gyrfalcon, Snowy Owl, Black Scoters, Caribou, Hooded Oriole and "strange beasts that lurk there".

It's a book about the simple appreciation of natural things – the wonder of an ordinary rock, the hush of a misty morning on the river, the enchantment of pale moonlight, the sparkle of ice-coated branches on a breathless winter night. All have a new perspective when seen through the eyes of "the beholder". And Jeannine Beattie's pencil illustrations provide effective visual support at various points in the text.

In all Mike's stories there walks a faithful companion, Herbie, at his master's side always and providing his own take on things from a vantage point much closer to the ground. There, right through to the end.

"In the Eye of the Beholder" is an enjoyable read and I recommend it to naturalists and non-naturalists alike.

Note: Available from M. Lushington, PO Box 5501, Dalhousie, E8C 3C2 [\$15.00 including postage].



BIRDWATCHING IN FREDERICTON – A CAPITAL IDEA (PART 1)

Ron Wilson

When enthusiastic birdwatchers visit another town, the question often arises as to where they might steal away to enjoy their hobby, should time present itself. They do not wish to appear ungrateful or unsociable to their hosts, but know fully that this question will continue to present itself until it is resolved. As naturalists, it is ingrained in our psyches- we must explore, we must somehow find time, even for an hour, to go birdwatching.

No doubt one of the first questions our hometown bird watching friends will ask upon our return is whether we had a chance to do any birdwatching. One does not want to lose face in the naturalist community by having to admit there was a lack of time or, worse, that one wasn't sure where to go. The purpose of this article is to offer a "quick trip" birding guide to those people visiting Fredericton who wish to venture out when the opportunity presents itself. Other fine birdwatching sites exist in Fredericton and some of which will be covered in a future issue of the NB Naturalist.

Using Fredericton's City Hall on Queen St. as home base, the reader is offered a few choices of safe and easily accessible bird watching sites, all within city limits. Most of the areas mentioned are best for birding in spring, summer, and fall. Similar to most inland New Brunswick communities, winter bird observation in Fredericton is best at home feeder stations. However, a stroll along our walking trails and city streets, or a scan of the open river can offer unexpected surprises. Keep your eyes open for what may seem like odd species at the suggested sites, for it is considered a major coup in birding circles to identify and report an uncommon species under the noses of the local birders!

For the purpose of this article the word "distance" means the distance from City Hall to the birdwatching sites by car. Of course, walking to any of these locations is encouraged and will offer the opportunity to immerse yourself in your Fredericton experience and, who knows, perhaps spot a bird you otherwise would have missed.

Odell Park, main gate area – Distance 2 km. Travelling west, go to Woodstock Road and turn left onto Rookwood Ave. and continue straight on Rookwood to the entrance to Odell Park. At the parking lot there is a small, white, visitor's gazebo, which displays a map of the trails of the park.

Odell Park offers a variety of habitats and opportunities to see birds. The path to the left of the gazebo leads

towards a pond. This would be a walk you would take if you just wanted to wander in the garden-like setting of the park. Depending on the time of year, many songbird species can be seen here including flycatchers, Cedar Waxwings, and swallows.

The path to your right will lead you either to an arbo-retum or to cool woodland trails. The deep, rich woods offer a variety of bird species including Scarlet Tanager, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Great-crested Flycatcher, Ovenbird and Barred and Great Horned Owl. This forest is considered to be one of the best examples of old-growth Acadian Forest in New Brunswick and is excellent for observing flora and fauna at any time of the year.

Odell Park, Fredericton Botanic Garden area –

Distance 4.7 km. Travel west and turn left on Smythe St. Go to the top of Smythe and turn right on Prospect St. Continue on Prospect St. and turn right into the parking lot at the baseball diamond. This is the upper entrance of the Fredericton Botanic Garden.

Robin, Black-capped Chickadee, nuthatch, and American Goldfinch will be some of your guides as you wander down the slow, meandering path through the garden. The designers of this garden incorporated many of the existing trees into the layout, much to the benefit of birds and native plants. The deep, cool forest overlooking the whole of the gardens offers the possibility of encountering a large variety of bird species.

Back in the parking lot, to your right you will see a path leading into the woods. This is the top entrance to the Odell Park woods, so feel free to walk in and explore. This mature forest offers refreshment on a warm summer day, and shelter from the wind in winter. Pileated Woodpeckers, warblers, thrushes, and Brown Creeper are among the many birds to be seen. A very rich forest!

Carleton Park, Fredericton North – Distance 3 km. Travelling west, turn right at the first corner and go across Westmorland St. Bridge. Take the Union St. off-ramp and continue straight onto Union St. Continue for about 2 km. on Union and turn right at the park area at the corner of Gibson and Union. Park your vehicle to face the river. Many people sit in their cars and snack at this location so when you first arrive don't be surprised if there are half a dozen vehicles all facing the river. As long as there is open water

there will be birds present and when there are people snacking in the vehicles there will be gulls begging, including, Ring billed, Great Black-backed, and Herring Gulls.

This area is best for birding from spring until fall. Double-crested Cormorants can be seen flying and feeding on the river there, along with various ducks species such as Mallard, Black, and Goldeneye. While visiting you may encounter Fredericton Nature Club's Gilles Belliveau taking a break from the office and bird watching. Gilles has spotted some unusual birds in this location during the past few years, for example Sabine's Gull, Whimbrel, and Great Cormorant. Other local birders have spotted Snow Goose, Black-headed Gull as well as diving ducks such as scoters, Long-tailed Duck and Common Eider. The picturesque view of the UNB campus, Christ Church Cathedral, and the historical riverfront homes of Fredericton South is an added bonus.

Gibson Trail, Marysville – Distance 7.5 km. from City Hall or 4.5 km. from Carleton Park. Take the same directions to get to Carleton Park but

turn left onto Gibson St. for approximately 4 kms. You will note that Gibson St. becomes Canada St. as you enter historic Marysville. Turn right on Bridge St. and go across the Marysville Bridge, take your first right onto McGloin St. past the former Marysville Cotton Mill, on your left, and park at the Marysville Heritage Center. You will see the Gibson Trail and a sign that explains where you are on the trail system.

The Gibson Trail provides access to a nice blend of habitats for birding such as open field, Silver Maple floodplain forest, and hardwood forest.

As the trail begins you will notice it is lined with trees and shrubs in which a few birds such as Red-winged Blackbird, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Kingbird, and Song Sparrow may be spotted. The open field to the right has pockets of standing water that can harbour duck species and Killdeer, as well as American Bittern. The plowed field on the left of the trail attracts many ducks in the spring when flooded, primarily Ring-necked, Black and Wood Ducks. Northern Shrikes have been seen there during the fall and winter.

Continuing along the trail into the woods you will see the Nashwaak River on your right. Assorted duck species including Mergansers may be seen as well as Great Blue

Heron and Double-crested Cormorant. Ospreys and Bald Eagles may be seen either perching in the mature trees or flying overhead in search of food.

The mature Silver Maple floodplain forest to the right of the trail and the deciduous hardwood forest to the left offer a full range of associated species including Ovenbird, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Black-capped Chickadee, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, and Great-crested Flycatcher. Barred Owls are known to nest in this forest. During springtime, the area plays host to many songbird species as they gorge on the abundant insect life before continuing their journey to their nesting sites.

The whole Gibson Trail is a lovely trail to visit more than once as it undergoes a change of bird species as the seasons turn. Even when the birding isn't productive it is still a great place to have an invigorating walk and experience nature.

Fredericton Wildlife Refuge and The Green – Distance

2.2 km. Travel east through the downtown onto Waterloo Row, turn left into the Morell Park baseball diamond area and park there.

This is a rich, four-seasons bird watching area. It is underwater during spring flooding, but becomes a gathering area for gulls and ducks as the water recedes. Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Franklin's Gulls among others, have been seen there during that time. In spring and summer the canopy of Silver Maple and



Trailhead of Gibson Trail

Photo: R. Wilson

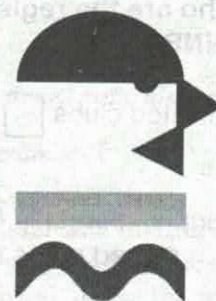
Red Oak provides feeding and nesting sites for a large number of species, from the various woodpeckers, thrushes and nuthatches, to warblers, Wood Duck, and Common Goldeneye.

In autumn the area is active with migratory waterfowl and songbirds. Species very rare in the area, such as Leach's Storm-Petrel, Canvasback Duck, Carolina Wren, Western Kingbird, and Kentucky Warbler have been identified there. On a winter day, warmed by the sun, this area can come alive with bird activity as redpolls, Pine Siskins, Black-capped Chickadees, American Goldfinches, nuthatches, and Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers feed in the trees and at nearby bird-feeding stations.

Walking to and from the Fredericton Wildlife Refuge along the Saint John River and historic Waterloo Row could prove to be one of the most scenic and relaxing parts of your visit to Fredericton.

Dear member, potential member or interested person.

The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists undergoes periodic reviews of its goals and objectives. We would like to know how you perceive our organization. This will provide us with information on how to become better known in New Brunswick and how to better serve New Brunswickers and our members better. We would appreciate ten minutes of your time to fill out the questionnaire and send it back to us as soon as possible.



Survey participants who return their questionnaire before March 31st will be eligible for a draw of 5 membership packages (1 year subscription to the NB Naturalist, 3 different posters, lapel pin)

Name

Address

E-mail

Telephone #

1 Did you know about the existence of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists (NBFN/FNNB Inc.) before this questionnaire?

Yes ☐

No ☐

2 In your opinion, is our organization (NBFN/FNNB Inc.):

Local ☐

National ☐

Provincial ☐

Regional ☐

Don't know ☐

3 In your opinion, on which of the following does the NBFN/FNNB Inc. actively work:

Conservation of species and habitats ☐

Protection of species and habitats ☐

Water quality ☐ Habitat restoration ☐

Lobbying government ☐ Energy conservation ☐

Education about species and habitats ☐

Climate Change ☐

Promoting enjoyment of and respect for nature ☐

Young Naturalists Clubs ☐

Mary's Point Interpretive Centre ☐

Piper Project on the Acadian Peninsula ☐

4 What services do you think the NBFN/FNNB Inc. provides to its members and affiliated clubs?

Nothing ☐ I don't know ☐

Provide insurance coverage ☐

Help to carry out work on conservation and education ☐

Provide information ☐

Speak out on behalf of members and clubs about nature ☐

Help with networking of people interested in nature ☐

5 What products do registered members obtain through their yearly membership with the NBFN/FNNB Inc?

A quarterly magazine about nature in New-Brunswick ☐

Nothing ☐

Other (please describe) ☐

6 Please describe nature-related services that you would like to have available to you.

7 Who are the registered members of the NBFN/FNNB Inc.?

Affiliated clubs ☐ Members of affiliated clubs ☐

People interested in nature that have signed up as members ☐

Members of the Young Naturalists Club ☐

8 Is the NBFN/FNNB Inc.

Anglophone ☐ Francophone ☐

Bilingual ☐ Don't know ☐

9 In your opinion, does the NBFN/FNNB Inc. provide sufficient services in English and French?

Yes ☐ No ☐
(Please explain how we could improve)

10 Please describe your ideas for the best way to make the name, the services and the mandate of the NBFN/FNNB Inc. known to the residents of your community.

11 Are you currently an NBFN/FNNB Inc. member?

Yes ☐ No ☐
If not, why not?

Would you be you interested in joining?

Yes ☐ No ☐

12 In your opinion, does our name reflect who we are and what we do?

Yes ☐ No ☐
Comments:

13 We would like to receive additional comments and suggestions for attracting new members to the NBFN/FNNB Inc.

THANK YOU!



Return address for questionnaire & Membership information:

Jim Wilson, 2 Neck Rd.,
Quispamsis, NB, E2G 1L3
E-mail: jgw@nbnet.nb.ca
Tel: 847-4506
www.naturenb.ca

Also available at:
www.naturenb.ca



Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B.

Assemblée générale annuelle

9, 10 et 11 juin 2006

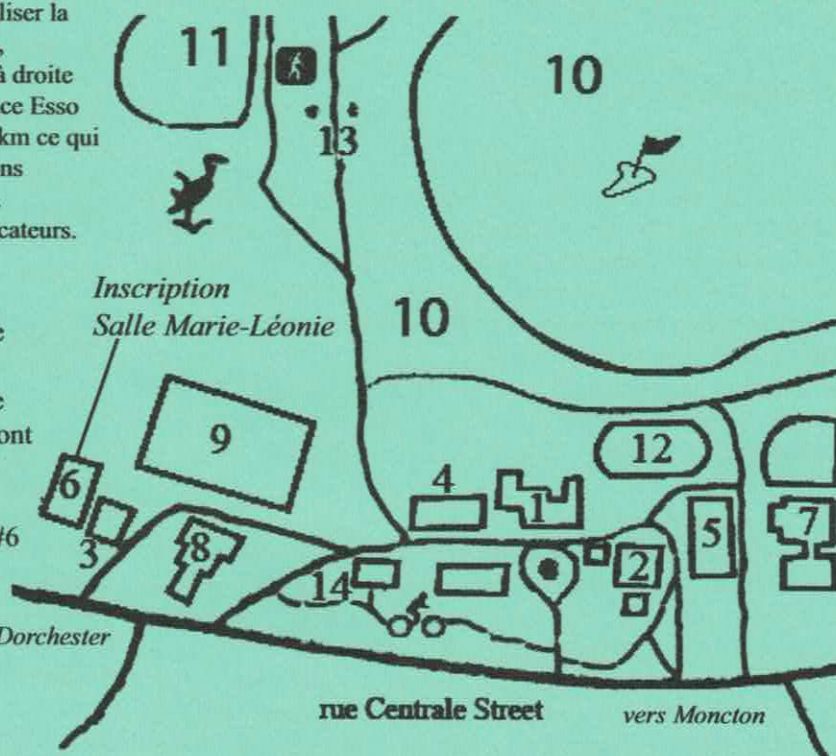


vosre hôte : le Club des naturalistes de la vallée de Memramcook

Memramcook est aux oiseaux! C'est une grande joie de recevoir plus d'une centaine de naturalistes. Mais, d'où vient cette expression : « être aux oiseaux »? Qui sait? Ça vient peut-être du fait que les pionniers acadiens et leurs descendants avaient une grande affinité avec le Bruant de Nelson, mascotte de votre club hôte. Comme ce petit oiseau, ils ont tiré leur subsistance, parfois même leur prospérité, des marais salés. Le Club des naturalistes de la vallée de Memramcook, les Ami(e)s de la nature du Sud Est et le Chignecto Naturalists' Club vous souhaitent la bienvenue à la 34^{ème} AGA de la Fédération. Bienvenue au Berceau de l'Acadie.

Directions : Pour se rendre à Memramcook de Dieppe : de la rue Champlain, prendre la rue Amirault (route 106) et rouler 17.5 km jusqu'au poste d'essence Esso, puis tourner à droite et prendre la rue Centrale pendant 2.5 km, ce qui vous amènera jusqu'à l'église St-Thomas. À partir de la Transcanadienne (route 2), utiliser la sortie 482 et tourner à droite sur le Chemin Renaissance, rouler 4.5 km jusqu'au Home Hardware. Alors, tourner à droite sur la Route 106 et rouler 1.7 km jusqu'au poste d'essence Esso où vous tournez à gauche sur la rue Centrale, rouler 2.5 km ce qui vous amènera jusqu'à l'église St-Thomas. Les inscriptions se feront à la salle Marie-Léonie, située derrière l'église. Pour le lieu de l'AGA, veuillez suivre les panneaux indicateurs.

Recommandations : Si vous avez commandé un casse-croûte, on vous demande de passer le prendre vous-même le matin, avant votre départ, à la Salle Marie-Léonie, qu'il s'agisse d'une excursion pleine journée ou demi-journée. Toutes les excursions auront un maximum de 15 participants, sauf celles à Cape Jourimain. Premiers arrivés, premiers servis. Veuillez noter que les excursions à Cap Jourimain #6 et #7, la promenade dans le verger #8, ainsi que l'excursion en bateau #11 comporteront des frais supplémentaires.



- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Centre de villégiature vallée de Memramcook | 3 Presbytère |
| 2 Monument Lefebvre | 5 Aréna |
| 4 GRC | 7 École Abbey-Landry |
| 6 Salle Marie-Léonie | 9 Cimetière |
| 8 Église St. Thomas | 11 Lac Saint-Camille |
| 10 Chalet de golf Club | 13 Entrée du Parc le Blanc |
| 12 Piste et pelouse de soccer | 14 Édifice municipale & bibliothèque |

Vous pouvez télécharger une carte détaillée de la vallée de Memramcook au : www.village.memramcook.com/French/index.html

Grille horaire

Vendredi

- | | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 17h-22h | Inscriptions/Rencontres |
| 19h-22h | AGA (réunion) |

Lieu

- | |
|--------------------|
| Salle Marie-Léonie |
| Monument Lefebvre |

Samedi

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| 6h-12h | Inscriptions |
| 6h-7h30 | Excursions lève-tôt |
| 7h-8h | Petit déjeuner continental |
| 8h-16h | Excursions pleine journée |
| 8h15-12h | Excursions demi-journée |
| 13h-16h | Excursions demi-journée |
| 18h-21h | Banquet |

Salle Marie-Léonie

Salle Marie-Léonie

Salle de l'église St-Thomas

Dimanche

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Excursions lève-tôt | 6h-7h30 |
| Petit déjeuner continental | 7h-8h |
| Excursions pleine journée | 8h-16h |
| Excursions demi-journée | 8h15-12h |
| Excursions demi-journée | 13h-16h |

Excursions lève-tôt

1. *Matin aux canards*

Visite au bassin d'épuration des eaux usées de la rue Arthur. On ne sait jamais d'avance ce que l'on va y découvrir. Cet endroit est une véritable boîte à surprises. On peut y observer jusqu'à 15 espèces de canards à la fois. Depuis quelques années, on y compte de nombreux Érismaires rousses. Trajet d'un demi-km. Avec Ronald Arsenault (bilingue).

2. *Au royaume des parulines*

Allez à la recherche des parulines, rapaces, canards, Goglus des prés, et autres passereaux à Taylor Village. On pourra peut-être, cette année encore, apercevoir des Merlebleus de l'Est et un nid occupé de Pygargue à tête blanche. Vue privilégiée sur la magnifique rivière Memramcook au petit matin. Trajet de 25 km. Avec Roger Leblanc (bilingue).

Excursions pleine journée

3. *Aux oiseaux avec Norm*

Explorez les côtes du Déroit de Northumberland de Shédiac à Murray Corner, ainsi que le Chemin Anderson qui relie Shemogue à Sackville, avec Normand Belliveau (bilingue). Ce naturaliste, convaincu et convaincant lorsqu'il s'agit d'ornithologie, connaît à fond ce trajet pour l'avoir fait des dizaines de fois. Canards, oiseaux de rivage, rapaces, parulines, bruants, y compris un site de Guifettes noires sont au programme. On pourra observer 60 espèces ou plus. Un deuxième rendez-vous est prévu au gros homard à Shédiac à 8h45. Trajet de 160 km. Très peu de marche.

4. *Secrets d'une vallée*

De Dorchester à Sackville, la vallée de Memramcook vous révélera ses secrets en scrutant bassins d'épuration des eaux usées, boisés de feuillus, marais, champs, vasières et le Parc de la sauvagine en présence d'un naturaliste expérimenté, Roger Leblanc (bilingue). Au menu, observations de canards, oiseaux de rivage, Marouettes de Caroline, Râles de Virginie, Butors d'Amérique, rapaces, parulines, bruants, y compris un site de nidification du Bruant vespéral. Trajet de 70 km.

5. *Merveilleux marais*

Le matin, au Tantramar Wetlands Centre, venez découvrir ce qui fait vibrer les marais : canards, quenouilles, rats musqués, minuscules « bibittes » aquatiques. Venez toucher à ces créatures et vous émerveiller de leurs adaptations avec Roland Chiasson (bilingue), un passionné de la nature. On vous recommande de porter des bottes de caoutchouc. L'après-midi, à l'Institut atlantique de la faune, vous pourrez visiter un hôpital pour animaux où l'on soigne blessés et malades. Des sauveteurs de la faune seront vos guides sur un terrain de 120 acres, près de Cookville. Trajet de 70 km. Cette sortie aura lieu samedi seulement.

6. *Ça grouille à la côte*

En raison d'un littoral très diversifié, Cape Jourimain offre des milieux côtiers intrigants à explorer. Roland Chiasson (bilingue), un mordue de la nature, invite les personnes de tous âges à faire eux-mêmes des découvertes en explorant le littoral sablonneux,

rocheux, vaseux du Déroit de Northumberland, en pêchant à la seine les petits poissons, en repérant, parmi les roches, étoiles de mer, huîtres et bernard l'ermite et en découvrant la vie dans un marais salé. On vous recommande de porter des bottes de caoutchouc. Trajet de 130 km. Cette activité aura lieu dimanche seulement. Coût : 12 \$ par enfant de 12 ans ou moins et 15 \$ par adulte (comprend le prix d'entrée et le repas du midi).

7. *Droit au déroit!*

Faites une excursion à la Réserve nationale de la faune et au Centre d'interprétation de la nature Cape Jourimain. Venez nous rejoindre afin de découvrir les origines, humaines et naturelles, d'une mosaïque complexe de communautés naturelles : une forêt côtière de feuillus, un marais saumâtre, un marais salé, des dunes, des champs en friche, et une forêt mixte en régénération. Au Centre d'interprétation, vous pourrez admirer une collection de magnifiques sculptures du naturaliste et sculpteur Jim Edsall de Moncton, monter dans la tour d'observation qui domine le Déroit de Northumberland et déguster un savoureux repas au restaurant Iceboat Landing. Des interprètes expérimentés vous serviront de guide. Trajet de 130 km. Coût : 15 \$ par personne (comprend le prix d'entrée et le repas du midi).

Excursions demi-journée (matin)

8. *Pommiers fleuris*

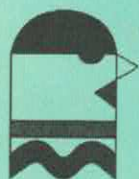
Faites une promenade en chariot tiré par un tracteur dans un verger de pommiers en fleurs. Quels soins nécessitent cette plantation? Comment se fait la pollinisation? Comment obtient-on les variétés de pommes désirées? Comment utilise-t-on les pesticides et les engrais? Une visite de l'entrepôt comprend une dégustation de vins. Cette excursion se terminera par une marche dans le verger pour y faire l'observation d'oiseaux. Trajet de 15 km. Coût : 10 \$ par personne. Guide : Robert Bourgeois (bilingue)

9. *Les oiseaux de chez nous*

Observez des oiseaux nicheurs comme le Bruant de Lincoln, le Moucherolle à ventre jaune, la Paruline du Canada, la Paruline bleue et de bien d'autres espèces en parcourant différents habitats comme boisés de forêt mixte, abords de ruisseaux et marais, en compagnie d'un naturaliste dont la réputation n'est plus à faire : Stuart Tingley (bilingue). Trajet de 30 km.

10. *Leçon d'histoire*

L'histoire de Memramcook vous est racontée par Donatien Gaudet (bilingue), un acteur privilégié des événements qui ont entouré la naissance de l'Université de Moncton à partir du Collège St-Joseph. On vous éclairera sur les origines des petits villages, sur l'importance des marais pour les pionniers, sur la petite histoire de la réserve indienne de Beaumont et sur l'industrie de la pierre au 19^{ième} siècle. La sortie comprend l'observation de digues et d'aboiteaux et une visite à la chapelle de Beaumont. Samedi en français, dimanche en anglais. Trajet de 30 km.



NB Federation of Naturalists Annual General Meeting 9,10,11 June, 2006



Hosted by: le Club des naturalistes de la
vallée de Memramcook

Memramcook est aux oiseaux! A French expression loosely translated as "being like the birds", is used to express happiness, in this case, our delight at welcoming over a hundred naturalists in our midst. Of uncertain origin, it may come from the fact that the early Acadian settlers felt very close to the Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, mascot of the host club. Le Club des naturalistes de la vallée de Memramcook, les Ami(e)s de la nature du sud-est, and the Chignecto Naturalists' Club welcome you to the Federation's 34th AGM. Welcome to the Cradle of Acadia.

Directions: From Dieppe, follow Amirault Street (Route 106 from Champlain Street) south for 17.5 km as far as the Esso Station, turn right on Central Street and proceed for 2.5 km to St. Thomas Church. From the Trans-Canada Highway (route 2), take exit 482, turn right on Renaissance Road and drive 4.5 km to the Home Hardware. Turn right on Route 106 and drive 1.5 km to the Esso Station, turn left on Central Street and proceed for 2.5 km, which will take you to St. Thomas Church. Registration will be at the Marie-Léonie Hall located behind the church. For the AGM location, follow the signs.

Please note: If you ordered a lunch, be sure you pick it up in the morning at the Marie-Léonie Hall before leaving. This applies to both half day and full day outings. Except for the ones to Cape Jourimain, all outings have a maximum of 15 participants. Available spots will be assigned on a "first come, first serve" basis. There will be an additional cost for the outings to Cape Jourimain (# 6 and # 7), the visit to the orchard (# 8) and the boat tour (# 11).

Registration
Marie-Léonie Hall

to Dorchester

rue Centrale Street

to Moncton

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Memramcook Valley Resort Center | 3 Rectory |
| 2 Monument Lefebvre | 5 Arena |
| 4 RCMP | 7 Abbey-Landry School |
| 6 Marie-Léonie Hall | 9 Cemetery |
| 8 St. Thomas Church | 11 Saint-Camille Lake |
| 10 Golf Club House | 13 Entrance to Parc LeBlanc |
| 12 Track and soccer field | |
| 14 Municipal office & library | |

You can download a detailed map of the
Memramcook Valley at: [www.village.
memramcook.com/English/index.html](http://www.village.memramcook.com/English/index.html)

Schedule

Friday

5pm-10pm	Registration / Socializing	Marie-Léonie Hall
7pm-10pm	Annual General Meeting	Monument Lefebvre

Saturday

6am-12pm	Registration	Marie-Léonie Hall
6am-7:30am	Early bird outings	
7am-8am	Continental Breakfast	Marie-Léonie Hall
8am-4pm	Full day outings	
8:15am-12pm	Half day outings	
1pm-4pm	Half day outings	
6pm-9pm	Banquet	St. Thomas Church Hall

Sunday

Early bird outings	6am-7:30am
Continental Breakfast	7am-8am
Full day outings	8am-4pm
Half day outings	8:15am-12pm
Half day outings	1pm-4pm

Early-bird outings

1. *Lucky Duck*

A visit to the sewage lagoon on Arthur Street. A site well known for its many surprises and where as many as 15 species of waterfowl may be observed at a time, including Ruddy Ducks. Distance: 0.5 km. Guide: Ronald Arsenault (bilingual).

2. *Warbler Walk*

We will search for warblers, raptors, ducks, Bobolinks and other passerines in Taylor Village. Perhaps we will observe Eastern Bluebirds and Bald Eagles at their nest sites again this year? Enjoy a panoramic view of the Memramcook River in the early morning. Distance: 25 km. Guide: Roger Leblanc (bilingual).

Full-day outings

3. *Birding with Norm*

Discover the shores of the Northumberland Strait with Normand Belliveau (bilingual). This experienced naturalist, who knows this bird route so well, will take us from Shediac to Murray Corner and then into Sackville via Anderson Road. Ducks, shorebirds, raptors, warblers, sparrows, as well as Black Terns are on the menu. Expect to see 60 species or more. There will be a second meeting place at the big lobster in Shediac at 8:45 am. Distance: 160 km. Minimal walking.

4. *Valley Secrets*

Discover the secrets of the Memramcook Valley from Dorchester to Sackville. While scanning sewage lagoons, deciduous woods, salt marshes, fields, mudflats, Ducks Unlimited Impoundments and the Waterfowl Park under the expert guidance of Roger Leblanc (bilingual), we anticipate viewing ducks, shorebirds, raptors, warblers, sparrows, Sora, Virginia Rail and American Bittern, as well as nesting sites of the Vesper Sparrow. Distance: 70 km.

Family Full-day outings

5. *Wetland Wonders & Hospital Safari*

In the morning you will find out what makes marshes rock at the Tantramar Wetlands Centre - from ducks to cattails to muskrats to tiny aquatic beasts. Come critter dippin' and marvel at their adaptations with an intrepid nature lover, Roland Chiasson (bilingual). Rubber boots are a necessity. In the afternoon come on a hospital safari, where hurt and sick animals are cared for at the Atlantic Wildlife Institute. Wildlife rescuers will be your guides on a 120-acre conservation area, near Cookville. Distance: 70 km. This outing will take place on Saturday only.

6. *Coastal Critters*

A visit to the Cape Jourimain Nature Centre. With its very diverse shoreline, this area offers a number of intriguing coastal environments to explore. Roland Chiasson (bilingual) invites participants of all ages to join in hands-on activities exploring the sandy, rocky and mucky shores of the Northumberland Strait. Come do some seine netting for small fish, search for starfish, oyster and hermit crab among the rocks and discover the life of a salt marsh pond. Rubber boots are a necessity. Drive of 130 km. This activity will take place on Sunday only. Cost: \$12 per child 12 years and under, and \$15 per adult (includes admission and lunch).

7. *To the Strait!*

Visit to Cape Jourimain National Wildlife Area and Cape Jourimain Nature Centre. Join us to discover the natural and human origins of a complex mosaic of natural communities. Featured habitats will include: coastal hardwoods, the shore of the Northumberland Strait, brackish marsh, salt marsh, dunes, old fields and young mixed woods. At the Nature Centre marvel over a collection of carvings by Moncton naturalist and carver Jim Edsall, climb the observation tower to look out over the Northumberland Strait and enjoy a delicious lunch at the Iceboat Landing Restaurant. Experienced staff interpreters will be the leaders. Drive of 130 km. Cost: \$15 per person (includes admission and lunch).

Half-day outings (morning)

⑧ *Apple Blossom Adventures*

Visit an apple orchard and ride in a tractor-driven wagon through an orchard full of blooming apple trees. You will learn how the trees are cared for, how the bees pollinate the flowers, how different varieties are planted to ensure pollination and how fertilizers and pesticides are used. A visit to the warehousing and packing facilities will include a wine tasting. Bird watching in the orchard will follow. Distance: 15 km. Cost: \$10 per person. Guide: Robert Bourgeois (bilingual).

9. *Local Birding*

We will be looking for nesting birds such as Lincoln Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Canada Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler and many other species while wandering through different habitats such as mixed forest, alder thickets, along creeks and marshes with none other than Stuart Tingley (bilingual). Distance: 30 km.

10. *History Lesson*

Learn the history of Memramcook as told by Donatien Gaudet (bilingual) who had the privilege of witnessing the events surrounding the evolution of the Université de Moncton from St. Joseph College. You will discover how the early settlers used the marshes and began new villages. You will hear some anecdotes about the Beaumont Indians.

reserve and the stone industry of the 19th century. You will also admire dykes, aboiteaux and the beautiful Beaumont Chapel. Saturday in French; Sunday in English. Distance: 30 km.

River tour

Take a boat tour on the Memramcook and Petitcodiac Rivers with David Christie, who, with an inquiring mind, has been studying many aspects of nature all his life. With his intimate knowledge of the Bay of Fundy, he will describe to us the mystery of tides, including their interactions with those of Shepody and Chignecto Bays. He will also talk about the importance of commercial transportation by sailboats in the 19th century, the history of Grindstone Island and the migration of birds. Boat departure from Pré-d'en-Haut wharf. Car drive of 15 km. Explanations in English, with possibility of asking questions in French. Due to the time of tides, this outing will take place only on Saturday. Cost: \$10 per person.

Half-day outings (afternoon)

12. *Geology 101*

Explore the geology along the coast of the Rockport Peninsula by accessing exposed rock faces. Our area, composed almost entirely of sandstone laid down roughly 300 millions years ago, has a number of localities which contain many wonderful fossils. These stone beds proved to be very valuable to both Acadian and British settlers for quarrying grindstones. You will enjoy discovering these fossils and other aspects of geology with Paul Bogaard, a professor at Mount Allison University, well known for his in-depth knowledge of the natural sciences. Distance: 30 km.

13. *Spring Wildflowers*

Explore Parc LeBlanc with Jim Goltz, whose knowledge of botany is simply astonishing. Walk in a mixed forest where you will come across a steep ravine with a creek whose waters are impounded by a dam, creating an elongated lake and ending in small wetlands. You will see Jack-in-the-pulpit, Lady's Slipper, Yellow Clintonia, Bunchberry, sorrels, trilliums, sarsaparillas and much more. As a bonus, you will enjoy mature Red Pines, Yellow Pond Lilies and Water Arums. You can walk to the site.

14. *Ferns and Friends*

Come and explore the world of ferns with plant expert Gert Bishop, well known for his clear and simple explanations. In rambling through a ravine and a mature maple forest, Gert will help to identify more than a dozen ferns and fern allies. A brief workshop will introduce you to some of the common terms, the features to look for and the way ferns reproduce. Hand lens (magnifying glass) and rubber boots are recommended. In English only. Drive of 30 km.

15. *A River's Secrets*

A river can be viewed as a link between land and sea, linking the ecology of these two ecosystems. Join Ron Arsenault (bilingual), an experienced naturalist, as he leads you through the different habitats created or influenced by the Memramcook River; such as salt marshes with the Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, freshwater marshes, forests and fields. He will talk about glassworts and goose tongues. This outing will touch upon a variety of topics such as geology, culture and of course the plants and animals that call it home. Distance: 20 km.

N.B. The number of kilometres given at the end of each outing description is the approximate return distance from St. Thomas Church. The meeting place for all outings will be at Marie-Léonie Hall. Participants are invited to car pool as much as possible in order to reduce the number of cars on each outing. You are also encouraged to ask questions in the language of your choice (most guides are bilingual). Family outings (#5, #6) are intended for families with children of all ages. Although they are focused on kids, parents are also expected to take part in the discovery and exploration.

Accommodations

Gîte Les Trois Moulins (B&B)

172 route La Vallée, Memramcook,
Tel.: (506) 758-0911 or (506) 850-1266

Memramcook Valley Vacation Resort

488, rue Centrale St. Memramcook,
Tel.: (506) 758-2511 (Peu de chambres sont disponibles-Convention-few rooms are available)

Swisscote House (B&B)

5016 Main St. Dorchester, Tel.: (506) 379-2502

The Bird's Nest (B&B)

4746 Route 106, Middleton, Tel.: (506) 379-6383

The Rocklynn (B&B)

5000 Main St. Dorchester, (Currently under renovations)

Coastal Inn

15 Wright St., Sackville, Tel.: 1-800-704-7444 or (506) 536-0000

Borden's Motel

146 Bridge St., Sackville, Tel.: (506) 536-1066

Marhlands Inn

55 Bridge St., Sackville, Tel.: (506) 536-0170

Marshview Trailer & Camping Park

2 Stephen Dr., Sackville, Tel.: (506) 536-2880

Coastal Inn Champlain

502, rue Kennedy St., Dieppe, Tel.: (506) 857-9686 or 1-800-561-3939

Keddy's Motor Inn

1510, chemin Shediac Rd, Moncton, Tel.: (506) 854-2210 or 1-800-659-3344

Best Western

300 Ch. Lewisville Rd, Moncton, Tel.: (506) 388-0888 or 1-800-937-8376

Pour autres chambres à Moncton / For more rooms in Moncton: 1-800-363-4558

Outings at a glance

Name of Outing	Type	am/pm	#	Start time	Day offered	Leader	
Lucky Duck	Early Bird	am	1	6:00	Sat, Sun	Ron Arsenault	<input type="checkbox"/>
Warbler Walk	Early Bird	am	2	6:00	Sat, Sun	Roger LeBlanc	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birding with Norm	Full-day	am/pm	3	8:00	Sat, Sun	Normand Belliveau	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valley Secrets	Full-day	am/pm	4	8:00	Sat, Sun	Roger LeBlanc	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wetland Wonders (Family)	Full-day	am/pm	5	8:00	Sat	Roland Chiasson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coastal Critters (Family)	Full-day	am/pm	6	8:00	Sun	Roland Chiasson	<input type="checkbox"/>
To the Strait	Full-day	am/pm	7	8:00	Sat, Sun	Cape Jourmain staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Apple Blossom Adventures	Half-day	am	8	8:15	Sat, Sun	Owner of apple orchard	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Birding	Half-day	am	9	8:15	Sat, Sun	→ Stuart Tingley	<input type="checkbox"/>
History Lesson	Half-day	am	10	8:15	Sat, Sun	Donatien Gaudet	<input type="checkbox"/>
River Tour	Half-day	am	11	8:15	Sat	David Christie	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geology 101	Half-day	pm	12	13:00	Sat, Sun	Paul Bogaard	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spring Wildflowers	Half-day	pm	13	13:00	Sat, Sun	→ Jim Goltz	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ferns and Friends	Half-day	pm	14	13:00	Sat, Sun	→ Gert Bishop	<input type="checkbox"/>
A River's Secrets	Half-day	pm	15	13:00	Sat, Sun	Ron Arsenault	<input type="checkbox"/>

REGISTRATION FORM

also available at
www.naturenb.ca

Contact Information

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 E-mail _____
 # of participants _____

Cost

<i>Registration</i>	\$	#	Total
Until April 30, 2006	\$25	_____	_____
After April 30, 2006	\$35	_____	_____
Student 12 years or less	Free	_____	_____
Student 13 years or older	\$10	_____	_____

Please Circle Trip Preferences**Saturday**

First choice

Full day Trips: 3 4 5 7
 Half day Trips (morning): 8 9 10 11
 Half day Trips (afternoon): 12 13 14 15

Alternate choice

Full day Trips: 3 4 5 7
 Half day Trips (morning): 8 9 10 11
 Half day Trips (afternoon): 12 13 14 15

Sunday

First choice

Full day Trips: 3 4 6 7
 Half day Trips (morning): 8 9 10
 Half day Trips (afternoon): 12 13 14 15

Alternate choice

Full day Trips: 3 4 6 7
 Half day Trips (morning): 8 9 10
 Half day Trips (afternoon): 12 13 14 15

Signature: _____

The NBFN and Le Club des naturalistes de la vallée de Memramcook are not responsible for accidents, injuries or damages to persons participating in any activities of this AGM running on the 9th, 10th, and 11th of June 2006.

Bagged Lunch

For Saturday	\$6	_____	_____
For Sunday	\$6	_____	_____

Banquet

Turkey	\$15	_____	_____
Vegetarian	\$15	_____	_____

Outings

# 6-Coastal Critters	\$12 / child	_____	_____
# 6-Coastal Critters	\$15 / adult	_____	_____
# 7-To the Strait	\$15 / person	_____	_____
# 8-Apple Blossom	\$10 / person	_____	_____
# 11-River Tour	\$10 / person	_____	_____

Total _____

Please return with payment to:

NBFN - AGM
 c/o Yolande Leblanc
 251 Central Street, Memramcook, NB, E4K 3P8
 Telephone: (506) 758-9583
 E-mail: yolandeleb@rogers.com

Make cheques payable to: Club des naturalistes de la vallée de Memramcook

11. *Naviguez sur les rivières*

Faites une excursion en bateau sur les rivières Memramcook et Petitcodiac. David Christie, un esprit chercheur qui a étudié de multiples aspects de la nature toute sa vie et qui connaît intimement la Baie de Fundy, nous informera sur le mystère des marées, y compris leurs relations avec celles des baies de Shepody et de Chignecto. On y parlera de l'importance du transport commercial par bateau à voile au 19^{ième} siècle, de l'histoire de l'Île-aux-meules et de la migration des oiseaux. Départ en bateau du quai de Pré-d'en-Haut. Trajet de 15 km en voiture. En anglais, avec possibilité de poser des questions en français. Cette sortie n'aura lieu qu'une seule journée, soit le samedi matin, en raison de l'heure des marées. Coût : 10 \$ par personne.

Excursions demi-journée (après-midi)

12. *Leçon de géologie*

Venez découvrir la géologie d'une région littorale de la Baie de Fundy, en accédant à des falaises rocheuses exposées. Notre région est presque entièrement formée de grès déposé il y a environ 300 millions d'années et, à certains endroits, il contient de magnifiques fossiles. Ces gisements rocheux se sont avérés très précieux aussi bien pour les pionniers acadiens que britanniques. Vous aurez aussi la chance de découvrir des fossiles avec l'aide de Paul Bogaard, professeur à l'Université de Mount Allison, reconnu pour ses connaissances étendues en sciences naturelles. Trajet de 30 km.

13. *Fleurs printanières*

En compagnie de Jim Goltz, dont les vastes connaissances en botanique sont étonnantes, venez admirer les fleurs printanières au Parc LeBlanc. Vous marcherez dans une forêt mixte où se cache un ravin escarpé bordant les eaux d'un ruisseau retenues par un barrage et formant un lac allongé qui se termine par une petite étendue de terres humides. Vous pourrez y observer l'Ariséma (Petit Prêcheur), le Sabot de la vierge, la Clintonie boréale, le Cornouiller du Canada, oxalides, trilles, salsepareilles et bien d'autres avec en prime des pins rouges matures, des nénuphars et le Calla des marais. On peut se rendre au site à pied.

14. *La fougère et son voisinage*

Partez à la découverte des fougères avec le naturaliste Gart Bishop dont les qualités d'expert et de vulgarisateur sont bien connues. En explorant un ravin et une forêt d'érables matures, Gart vous aidera à identifier plus d'une douzaine d'espèces de fougères et de plantes apparentées. Avant le départ, un court exposé portera sur les termes utilisés, la reproduction et les caractéristiques à surveiller pour l'identification des fougères. On vous recommande d'apporter une loupe et des bottes de caoutchouc. En anglais seulement. Trajet de 30 km.

15. *Trésors d'une rivière*

La rivière Memramcook constitue un lien entre la terre et la mer et relie ces deux écosystèmes. Ronald Arsenault (bilingue), un naturaliste chevronné qui arpente sans cesse tous les recoins de la région, vous fera visiter les différents habitats parcourus par la rivière comme le marais salé et son Bruant de Nelson, le marais d'eau douce, la forêt, la terre agricole. Il parlera des tétines de souris et de la passe-pierre. Cette excursion portera autant sur la géologie que sur les plantes, l'observation des oiseaux et la culture. Trajet de 20 km.

N.B. Les trajets indiquent la distance approximative aller-retour, parcourue en voiture pendant l'excursion, à partir de l'église St-Thomas. La salle Marie-Léonie sera le point de départ de toutes les excursions. On invite les participants à faire du covoiturage afin de réduire au minimum le nombre de véhicules pour chaque excursion. Les guides bilingues vous invitent à poser des questions dans la langue de votre choix. Les excursions en famille (#5, #6) visent les familles avec des enfants de tous âges. Bien qu'on portera une attention particulière aux enfants, il est convenu que les adultes participeront aussi à l'exploration et aux découvertes.

Hébergement

Gîte Les Trois Moulins (B&B)

172 route La Vallée, Memramcook,
Télé : (506) 758-0911 ou (506) 850-1266

Memramcook Valley Vacation Resort

488, rue Centrale St. Memramcook,
Télé : (506) 758-2511 (Peu de chambres sont disponibles-Convention-few rooms are available)

Swisscote House (B&B)

5016 Main St. Dorchester, Télé : (506) 379-2502

The Bird's Nest (B&B)

4746 Route 106, Middleton, Télé : (506) 379-6383

The Rocklynn (B&B)

5000 Main St. Dorchester, (Currently under renovations)

Coastal Inn

15 Wright St., Sackville, Télé : 1-800-704-7444 ou (506) 536-0000

Borden's Motel

146 Bridge St., Sackville, Télé : (506) 536-1066

Marhslands Inn

55 Bridge St., Sackville, Télé : (506) 536-0170

Marshview Trailer & Camping Park

2 Stephen Dr., Sackville, Télé : (506) 536-2880

Coastal Inn Champlain

502, rue Kennedy St., Dieppe, Télé : (506) 857-9686 ou 1-800-561-3939

Keddy's Motor Inn

1510, chemin Shediak Rd, Moncton, Télé : (506) 854-2210 ou 1-800-659-3344

Best Western

300 Ch. Lewisville Rd, Moncton, Télé : (506) 388-0888 ou 1-800-937-8376

Pour autres chambres à Moncton : 1-800-363-4558

Les sorties

Nom de la sortie	Type	am/pm	#	Commence à	Journée	Guide	
Matin aux canards	lève-tôt	am	1	6 : 00	Sam, Dim	Ron Arseneault	<input type="checkbox"/>
Au royaume des parulines	lève-tôt	am	2	6 : 00	Sam, Dim	Roger LeBlanc	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aux oiseaux avec Norm	pleine journée	am/pm	3	8 : 00	Sam, Dim	Normand Belliveau	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secrets d'une vallée	pleine journée	am/pm	4	8 : 00	Sam, Dim	Roger LeBlanc	<input type="checkbox"/>
Merveilleux marais (Famille)	pleine journée	am/pm	5	8 : 00	Sam	Roland Chiasson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ça grouille à la côte (Famille)	pleine journée	am/pm	6	8 : 00	Dim	Roland Chiasson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Droit au détroit!	pleine journée	am/pm	7	8 : 00	Sam, Dim	Cape Jourmain	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pommiers fleuris	demi-journée	am	8	8 : 15	Sam, Dim	Robert Bourgeois	<input type="checkbox"/>
Les oiseaux de chez nous	demi-journée	am	9	8 : 15	Sam, Dim	Stuart Tingley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leçon d'histoire	demi-journée	am	10	8 : 15	Sam, Dim	Donatien Gaudet	<input type="checkbox"/>
Naviguez sur les rivières	demi-journée	am	11	8 : 15	Sam	David Christie	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leçon de géologie	demi-journée	pm	12	13 : 00	Sam, Dim	Paul Bogaard	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fleurs printanières	demi-journée	pm	13	13 : 00	Sam, Dim	Jim Goltz	<input type="checkbox"/>
La fougère et son voisinage	demi-journée	pm	14	13 : 00	Sam, Dim	Gart Bishop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trésors d'une rivière	demi-journée	pm	15	13 : 00	Sam, Dim	Ron Arseneault	<input type="checkbox"/>

FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

aussi disponible au :
www.naturenb.ca

Information

Nom : _____
 Adresse : _____
 Téléphone : _____
 Courriel : _____
 # de participants : _____

Coût

Inscription	\$	#	Total
Jusqu'au 30 avril 2006	25 \$	_____	_____
Après le 30 avril 2006	35 \$	_____	_____
12 ans ou moins	gratuit	_____	_____
Étudiant de plus de 13 ans	10 \$	_____	_____

Encerclez vos préférences d'excursion**Samedi****Premier choix**

Excursions pleine journée : 3 4 5 7
 Excursions demi-journée (matin) : 8 9 10 11
 Excursions demi-journée (après-midi) : 12 13 14 15

Second choix

Excursions pleine journée : 3 4 5 7
 Excursions demi-journée (matin) : 8 9 10 11
 Excursions demi-journée (après-midi) : 12 13 14 15

Dimanche**Premier choix**

Excursions pleine journée : 3 4 6 7
 Excursions demi-journée (matin) : 8 9 10
 Excursions demi-journée (après-midi) : 12 13 14 15

Second choix

Excursions pleine journée : 3 4 6 7
 Excursions demi-journée (matin) : 8 9 10
 Excursions demi-journée (après-midi) : 12 13 14 15

Signature : _____

La FNNB ainsi que le Club des naturalistes de la vallée de Memramcook ne peuvent pas être tenu responsables pour tout accident, blessure ou dommage encourus par les personnes participant aux activités de l'AGA qui se dérouleront les 9, 10 et 11 juin 2006.

Boîtes

Casse-croûte pour samedi	6 \$	_____	_____
Casse-croûte pour dimanche	6 \$	_____	_____

Banquet

Dinde	15 \$	_____	_____
Végétarien	15 \$	_____	_____

Excursions

# 6-Ça grouille à la côte (enfant)	12 \$	_____	_____
# 6-Ça grouille à la côte (adulte)	15 \$	_____	_____
# 7-Droit au détroit!	15 \$	_____	_____
# 8-Pommiers fleuris	10 \$	_____	_____
# 11-Naviguez sur les rivières	10 \$	_____	_____

Total _____

S.V.P. envoyez votre paiement à :

AGA de la FNNB
 a/s Yolande Leblanc
 251 rue Centrale
 Memramcook, N.-B.
 E4K 3P8

Téléphone : (506) 758-9583

Courriel : yolandeleb@rogers.com

Faites votre chèque à l'ordre de : Club des naturalistes de la vallée de Memramcook

Cher membre, membre potentiel ou personne intéressée.

La Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick révisé périodiquement ses buts et objectives. Nous aimerions connaître comment vous percevez notre organisation. Ceci nous fournira des renseignements qui nous aideront à devenir mieux connu dans la province ainsi qu'à mieux desservir nos membres et les gens de la province. Nous apprécierions dix minutes de votre temps afin de compléter ce sondage. Veuillez, s.v.p. le retourner aussitôt que possible.



Ceux qui retourneront ce questionnaire avant le 31 mars 2006 seront éligibles à un tirage. Cinq participants gagneront une trousse de membre comprenant une adhésion d'un an à la Fédération (qui inclue un abonnement au Naturaliste du NB), trois différentes affiches et une épinglette.

Nom : _____

Adresse : _____

Courriel : _____

No. de téléphone : _____

1 Avant de recevoir ce sondage, étiez-vous au courant de l'existence de la Fédération des Naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick (NBFN/FNNB Inc.)?

Oui ☐

Non ☐

2 Selon vous, notre organisation (NBFN/FNNB Inc.) est-elle :

Locale ☐

Nationale ☐

Provinciale ☐

Régionale ☐

Je ne sais pas ☐

3 Selon vous, la NBFN/FNNB Inc. travaille activement à :

La conservation des espèces et des habitats ☐

La protection des espèces et des habitats ☐

La qualité de l'eau ☐

La restauration des habitats ☐

Le lobbying du gouvernement ☐

La conservation de l'énergie ☐

L'éducation sur les espèces et les habitats ☐

Le changement climatique ☐

La promotion de la célébration et du ☐

respect pour la nature ☐

Les clubs des jeunes naturalistes ☐

Le Centre d'interprétation de Mary's Point ☐

Le Projet Siffleur à la Péninsule acadienne ☐

4 Quelles services la NBFN/FNNB Inc. offre-t-elle à ses membres et clubs affiliés?

Rien ☐

Je ne sais pas ☐

Assurance de responsabilité civile ☐

Appui et aide aux projets de conservation et d'éducation ☐

Fourni de l'information ☐

Se prononce concernant la nature au nom de ses membres et clubs ☐

Facilite le réseautage entre ceux qui s'intéressent à la nature ☐

5 Quels produits les membres obtiennent-ils avec leur adhésion annuelle à la NBFN/FNNB Inc.?

Une revue trimestrielle concernant la nature du Nouveau-Brunswick. ☐

Rien ☐

Autres (Veuillez spécifier) ☐

6 Veuillez décrire des services liés à la nature que vous aimeriez avoir à votre disposition.

7 Qui sont les membres inscrits de la NBFN/FNNB Inc.?

- Clubs affiliés ☐
- Membres des clubs affiliés ☐
- Les gens intéressés à la nature qui ont payé leur cotisation annuelle ☐
- Les membres des clubs des jeunes naturalistes ☐

8 La NBFN/FNNB Inc. est un organisme

- Anglophone ☐ Francophone ☐
- Bilingue ☐ Je ne sais pas ☐

9 Selon vous, la NBFN/FNNB Inc. donne-t-elle assez de services en Français et en Anglais?

- Oui ☐ Non ☐
(Veuillez spécifier comment nous pourrions améliorer nos services)

10 Comment pourrions-nous faire mieux connaître le nom, le mandat et les services de la NBFN/FNNB Inc. dans votre communauté? Veuillez, s.v.p. nous donner vos idées.

11 Êtes-vous présentement membre de la NBFN/FNNB Inc.?

- Oui ☐ Non ☐

Si non, pourquoi pas?

Seriez-vous intéressé à devenir membre?

- Oui ☐ Non ☐

12 Selon vous, notre nom reflète-il qui nous sommes et ce que nous faisons ?

- Oui ☐ Non ☐

Commentaires :

13 Nous apprécierions des commentaires ou suggestions additionnels qui pourraient nous aider à attirer plus de membres à la NBFN/FNNB Inc. :

MERCI!



Coordonnées où envoyer le questionnaire et où obtenir des renseignements sur les adhésions :

Jim Wilson, 2 Neck Rd.,
Quispamsis, NB, E2G 1L3
Courriel : jgw@nbnet.nb.ca
Téléphone : 847-4506
www.naturenb.ca

Aussi disponible à
www.naturenb.ca

THE BROOK FLOATER (*ALASMIDONTA VARICOSA*) IN NEW BRUNSWICK: UNCOMMON OR OVERLOOKED?

Dwayne L. Sabine

The Brook Floater (*Alasmidonta varicosa*) is a freshwater mussel found in rivers draining into the Atlantic Ocean from New Brunswick to South Carolina. It is one of our smallest mussel species, seldom reaching more than 5cm in length. Like almost all freshwater mussels, it requires a fish host species to reproduce; larval mussels 'parasitize' the host fish, attaching themselves to the gills or fins, eventually metamorphosing into juvenile mussels and dropping off into the river substrate. Reported fish hosts for the Brook Floater include several minnow and perch species. The Brook Floater is apparently declining in much of its US range: it is listed as endangered or threatened in several states, and is considered extirpated from a few others. In Canada the species is known only from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Compared to our other freshwater mussel species, little is known about the distribution and abundance of the Brook Floater in the Maritimes. It is a difficult to find mussel, often tucked away in pockets of sand behind boulders in its preferred habitat: relatively small, clean, well-oxygenated rivers with moderate to high water flows. The best-known population in New Brunswick is in the Petitcodiac River, which has been intensively surveyed because of interest in a closely-related species that occurred there - the Dwarf Wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*). Unfortunately, the Dwarf Wedgemussel appears to have disappeared from the Petitcodiac River, and because this was the only known population for that species in the country, it is now considered to be extirpated from Canada. The Dwarf Wedgemussel is thought to have disappeared because of the loss of its host fish species (possibly American Shad) when the causeway was constructed in the estuary in 1968. This factor does not seem to have affected the Brook Floater, whose host fish species are not anadromous and were presumably not affected by causeway construction, as its populations have persisted in the Petitcodiac. As recently as 1984 this was thought to be the sole Brook Floater population existing in New Brunswick (Clayden *et al.* 1984).

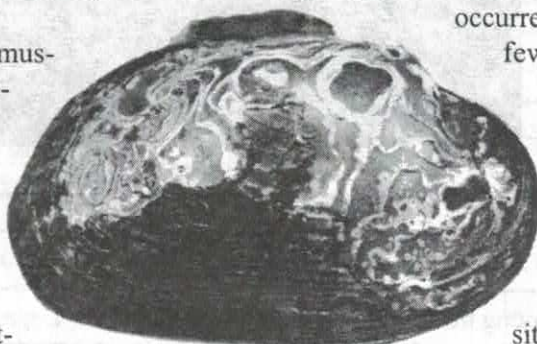
I recently contacted a number of museums and organizations to acquire data on the province's freshwater mus-

sel species as part of a project to examine distribution patterns in eastern Canada. Mussel collection data was received from the New Brunswick Museum, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, Canadian Museum of Nature, Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (ACCDC), Ohio State Museum of Biological Diversity, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Royal Ontario Museum, and the Illinois Natural History Survey. Many valuable and interesting freshwater mussel records were compiled, mostly for our common species, but a number of Brook Floater records were received. I have listed those records here (Table 1), together with records extracted from various publications dealing with the freshwater mussel fauna of the region, and two other known but unpublished Brook Floater occurrences. Although it is possible that a

few records or specimens may have been missed, the resulting list of records provides a comprehensive summary of our current knowledge of the occurrence and distribution of the Brook Floater in New Brunswick. A total of 53 records are known, although the number of sites of occurrence is much smaller, as repeat visits to some sites over the years have increased the number of records. Other

records are represented both in museum collections and in subsequent publications, further inflating the total.

The Brook Floater appears to have been first encountered in the Maritimes in 1921 in the Lahave River in Nova Scotia. The first New Brunswick record turned up almost 30 years later when Herbert D. Athearn found the species in the Renous River in 1948. Athearn - a well-known malacologist - was responsible for many interesting freshwater mussel finds in the province, most notably his discovery of the Dwarf Wedgemussel in the Petitcodiac River, also in 1948. Athearn's work with that species in the Petitcodiac subsequently led to his discovery of a Brook Floater population there in 1951. Interestingly, his note regarding that find (Athearn 1952) was the first published record of the Brook Floater in NB; his earlier Renous River collection was not published for another decade, and in a relatively obscure journal (Athearn 1961). These discoveries were followed by H.B. Herrington's collection of



Brook Floater
Photo: D. Sabine

Brook Floaters in the Aroostook River in 1960 (recorded as *Alasmidonta marginata*, the species of which the Brook Floater was considered a subspecies at the time).

Those three sites comprised our entire knowledge of the species' occurrence in NB for the next 30 years. By the 1980s and 1990s however, concern for the fate of the Dwarf Wedgemussel led to extensive surveys of the Petitcodiac River system, providing much additional information on the distribution of the Brook Floater there (over half of the known records for the Brook Floater in NB are from the Petitcodiac). Concern for the overall conservation status of freshwater mussels has led to additional survey work over the past few years, leading to the discovery of Brook Floater populations in several new locations in the province. The Brook Floater is now known from seven river systems in NB: three in the Gulf of St. Lawrence drainage and four from the Bay of Fundy drainage, from the Northwest Miramichi River in north-central NB to the St. Croix river on the Maine border.

Of particular interest is the 1960 record from the Aroostook River - the only known collection from the Saint John River drainage. The Saint John is the largest river system in the province, and among the largest in eastern North America. It is largely unsurveyed for mussels except for intensive surveys in the lower Saint John River (unsuitable habitat for the Brook Floater) intended to determine distribution of Yellow Lampmussels (*Lampsilis cariosa*), as well as moderate-intensity surveys of a few of the lower tributary rivers. The many large and small tributary rivers of the Saint John River have the potential to harbour populations of Brook Floater; the historic record on the Aroostook suggests that it would be well worth searching further within the drainage.

The historic and recent records from the Miramichi River are also interesting, in part because they represent the northernmost known populations of the species anywhere. More importantly, the Miramichi is the second largest drainage in the province, with a very extensive system of tributary rivers. It is essentially unsurveyed for mussels, as the two recent records arose from incidental finds. The Miramichi is also a relatively pristine drainage; its rivers are undammed and the watershed is mostly forested, with human habitation largely limited to the estuary and to

a narrow strip along the valley of the main river (Southwest Miramichi R.). Additional surveys should be undertaken to better determine the abundance and distribution of Brook Floaters in the Miramichi drainage, as the large size and lack of human impacts in this river system hint at the possibility that a significant population of Brook Floaters might exist there.

Several of the remaining rivers where Brook Floaters are known to occur also deserve further survey. The US side of the St. Croix River was surveyed for the Maine freshwater mussel atlas project, resulting in two confirmed sites for the species. Although there has been a moderate

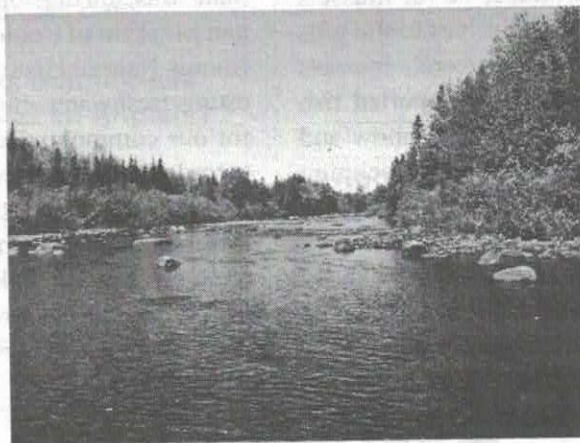
survey effort in the NB waters of that river, Brook Floaters were not found, so additional work is needed to delineate its extent of occurrence there. The Magaguadavic River, with a single known Brook Floater site, is essentially unsurveyed; nothing is known of population size or gross distribution within that river.

In addition, there are a number of rivers that have the potential to sustain Brook Floater populations but have seen little or no survey work: examples would include the

Digdeguash, Lepreau, New, and perhaps the Big Salmon River in the Bay of Fundy drainage, and the Tabusintac, Bartibog, Bay du Vin, and Richibucto Rivers in the Gulf of St. Lawrence drainage. Many other smaller rivers along both coasts remain to be surveyed.

Considering how little was known about the Brook Floater in New Brunswick until just a few years ago, the new populations that have been discovered during recent surveys are intriguing. The majority of rivers that might harbour the species in the province have yet to be thoroughly surveyed, so additional populations undoubtedly remain to be found. Given the troubling state of the species in the densely-populated eastern US where human activity has greatly affected aquatic ecosystems, the populations occurring in the relatively unimpacted rivers of New Brunswick may have a very important role to play in the conservation of the Brook Floater.

There is an interesting side note to these records: they illustrate the value of well-maintained natural history collections. Although Brook Floater populations in the Petitcodiac and Kouchibouguacis Rivers were well-docu-



*Habitat of Brook Floater
at known site on Magaguadavic
River*

Photo: D. Sabine.

mented by publications, several other populations were known only through museum collections. Moreover, while the bulk of NB freshwater mussel specimens are held within the NB Museum collections, there are significant specimens present in museum collections far removed from the province. Freshwater mussels are not unique in this respect; there are many other NB records of species of conservation interest documented by specimens tucked away in museum cabinets somewhere. Many natural history museums, including our own NB Museum, are in the process of converting their collection data to electronic form. When complete, this will greatly assist with searching for these historic occurrences, and will help us better understand the status of the province's flora and fauna.

- Atheam, H.D. 1952. Some new records of Naiades from eastern North America. *Am. Malacol. Union Ann. Rep.* 1952:8-9
- Atheam, H.D. 1961. Additions to the New Brunswick checklist. *Sterkiana* 4:33-34.
- Beaudet, A., E. Tremblay, and A. Martel. 2002. Inventaire des moules d'eau douce dans les Rivières Kouchibouguac, Kouchibouguacis, et Black du Parc national Kouchibouguac, Nouveau-Brunswick. *Parcs Canada - Rapports de surveillance et de données relatives aux écosystèmes, Rapport #006*. 71pp.
- Clayden, S.R., D.F. McAlpine and C. Guidry. 1984. Rare and vulnerable species of New Brunswick. NB Museum, Publications in Natural Science: 2.
- Neddeau, E.J., M.A. McCollough and B.I. Swartz. 2000. The freshwater mussels of Maine. Maine Dept. Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Augusta, ME. 118pp.
- Hanson, J. M., and A. Locke. 2001. Survey of freshwater mussels in the Petitcodiac River drainage, New Brunswick. *Can. Field-Nat.* 115(2): 329-340.

Table 1. Brook Floater (*Alasmidonta varicosa*) records in New Brunswick.

Locality	Source	Years	No. Records	Collector/Observer
Miramichi River system				
Northwest Miramichi River	unpublished data	2001	1	D.L. Sabine
Renous River	NS Museum	1948	1	H.D. Atheam
Renous River	Atheam (1961)	(prob. 1948)	1	--
Southwest Miramichi River	unpublished data	2002	1	S. von Oettingen
Kouchibouguacis River				
Kouchibouguacis River	NB Museum	2001	4	A. Beaudet
Kouchibouguacis River	Beaudet <i>et al.</i> (2002)	2001	10	--
Bouctouche River system				
South Branch Bouctouche River	ACCDC	2002	1	K. Bredin, J. Sircom
South Branch Buctouche River	NB Museum	2004	1	C. Caissie
Petitcodiac River system				
Little River	NB Museum	1984, 1995, 1997, 2000	5	D.F. McAlpine, M.A. McCollough, S. von Oettingen, J.M. Hanson
Little River	Hanson and Locke (2001)	1997, 1998	4	J.M. Hanson, A. Locke
North River	NB Museum	1997	1	J.M. Hanson
North River	Hanson and Locke (2001)	1997, 1998	2	J.M. Hanson, A. Locke
Petitcodiac River	NS Museum	1951	1	H.D. Atheam
Petitcodiac River	Univ. Michigan Museum	1951	1	H.D. Atheam
Petitcodiac River	Atheam (1952)	(prob. 1951)	1	--
Petitcodiac River	Can. Museum of Nature	1960, 1966	2	A.H. Clarke
Petitcodiac River	Ohio State Museum	1967	1	D.H. Stansbery, M.A. Stansbery, L.C. Stansbery
Petitcodiac River	NB Museum	1998	3	J.M. Hanson
Petitcodiac River	Hanson and Locke (2001)	1997, 1998, 2000	8	J.M. Hanson, A. Locke
Saint John River system				
Aroostook River	Can. Museum of Nature	1960	1	H.B. Herrington
Magaguadavic River				
Magaguadavic River	NB Museum	2001	1	D.L. Sabine, K.N. Craig
St. Croix River				
St. Croix River	Neddeau <i>et al.</i> (2000)	1992 - 1997	2	--

RARE ENCOUNTERS WITH WILDLIFE

VORACIOUS EELS?

Alan Madden

I have fished for eels, played with eels, wrestled with eels, and swam with eels. I think eels are great—except when they look at me as if I am going to be their next meal!

I am referring to the American Eel, most of which have a uniform green colour and can attain a length of 2 m., rather than the Sea Lamprey, which has a dull, blotched grey colour, a large round sucker mouth filled with "teeth," and grows to a metre in length.

Eels are notorious for having very strong jaws, a body of pure muscle, and a serpentine shape. Anyone who has angled them or tried to hold onto one knows very well what I am saying. When hooked, the eel puts up such a strong fight that it will easily break the line if the latter is not strong. When hooked, the eel does not run a horizontal course like all other species, but instead zig-zags left and right while simultaneously pulling directly away from the angler. A two foot eel can readily break even ten pound test line if the eel gets its tail under a submerged woody structure. Upon being brought on shore or in the boat it writhes constantly and vigorously. When grabbed, it twists and squirms, always leaving much of its thick slime on ones hands and forearms as it wraps its tail around them.

The jaws clamp onto food so tightly that an eel can be easily caught on a line with no hook—just bait. My friends and I often used that technique for eels on the Peticodiac River at Moncton, New Brunswick. Waiting at least ten minutes after the two-foot tall Tidal Bore wave pushed upriver against the out flowing current, we would cast our one-foot long glob of worms referred to as a Bob, into the water. You read correctly—one foot long, and two to three inches in diameter! And no, one cannot successfully use only ten pound test line and an ordinary rod. We used strong cord and a broom handle type pole. We weren't fooling around and the eels weren't either. When the eel bit the bait, the angler heaved, and in one motion launched the bait out of the water, across the shore and behind him (my buddies at that age were all boys). The eel always held onto the bait as it swung through the air until it hit the ground. Only then did it release its extremely tight grip. They are so tenacious that once I had an eel that I could



American Eel

Drawing: M.H. Sawyer

not lift. Although I heaved with all my might, the eel just shook its head back and forth until the cord broke. I never saw it in that chocolate colored water, but it must have been huge or else there were two large eels on the bait together. On another occasion, a large eel pulled my friend into the water from his perch at the end of an

old wharf. In neither of those instances was there a hook in the bait.

Although an eel stays mostly on the bottom, it will rise to the surface in broad daylight if it detects its food there. I once watched several eels feeding at the surface of the murky estuary of Walker Brook, which flows through the city of Campbellton, in northern New Brunswick. The eels were scavenging scraps of meat flushed out of the local meat processing plant. But eels are also predators, and have been seen feeding on live salmon and shad, gilled in the mesh of nets. I have also caught them at night on plastic minnows reeled just under the water's surface. Eels apparently will also attack a bird struggling on the surface of the water as evidenced by a friend of mine who shot a duck on the St. John River in southern New Brunswick. The duck was belly up in its death throes in deep water when the hunter saw an eel grab the duck and writhe all over it. Perhaps it was attracted to the scent of blood—or perhaps it was simply attracted to the commotion.

What happens if that commotion is caused by a dog swimming through, shallow pond inhabited by eels? Well that all depends upon the size of the dog, how fast it swims and on the size and hunger of the eels. A case in point is the following event that occurred in the small pond in Parkton, in Moncton's west end, on a hot summer's day in the late 1950's. Touser, a forty pound mongrel, and excellent duck retriever, was being trained at the pond. The dummy decoy was thrown out onto the pond and the dog was sent to retrieve it by my dad's hunting partner, Iva Lutes. Touser swam quickly toward the dummy and had just grabbed it when suddenly the dog yelped and tried to bite something behind it. The dog started struggling and crying to such a degree that my dad quickly waded out, grasped the dog by its neck and pulled it up and out of the water. He was shocked when he saw that a large eel had

clamped onto the dog's foot with its mouth. Dad yanked, and the eel released its grip. Dad hurried back to shore with the frightened dog. We never did train dogs in that pond again!

Are we swimmers in danger of being attacked by such creatures? I think not, although eels have approached me in relatively clear waters. I observed what appeared to be such curious eel behavior with my cousin, Bill Madden. He and I often snorkeled in Kearney Lake, near Halifax in 1957 and 1958. Occasionally, we tried to spear eels with home made spears. On two occasions we dived down toward an eel cruising the bottom in twelve to fifteen feet of water, only to see the eel raise its head and begin to rise toward us. Neither eel continued that motion though, and resumed its former course until we attempted to spear it. A third such encounter, but too close for comfort, occurred at the jetty at Pt. Du Chene, New Brunswick in 1962. There I snorkeled among the rockweed and kelp that was attached to the large rocks forming the jetty. Those plants were so thick they swirled and swept all over my nearly naked body—a n eerie feeling heightened by the darkness of all the crevices only two feet below me. Although I knew all the species that could potentially dwell in the weeds and holes I was definitely not prepared for what I saw next. I had just stopped looking ahead, as one does in very shallow water, and glanced beneath me. Then I panicked! Only two feet below my navel appeared a thirty inch, brown eel, about two inches in diameter. That wasn't the scary part. What frightened me so much was the fact that the eel had raised its head and had started an ascent directly toward my navel. My fins propelled me in torpedo fashion faster than Mark Spitz.

Another curious trait exhibited by these serpentine animals, which is probably quite rare, is their tendency to periscope. I have witnessed this behavior only twice even though I have spent hundreds of days fishing for eels. Sur-

prisingly, I saw the periscoping on days in which I was not even angling for eels.

The first incident happened at Rockingham on Bedford Basin, near Halifax in August, 1957. One of my chums fished from a two-foot diameter rock that projected barely above the water's surface, three feet from shore. The rest of us, Bill Madden included, fished about fifteen feet from our more daring friend. The oceanic water in front of us was roughly fifteen feet deep and clear. Huge rocks formed both the shoreline and the underwater structure, the latter being covered with aquatic plants, starfish and anemones. Earlier that day we had all seen the two longest eels I have seen to date—five footers, swimming together through our fishing site. An hour later, someone shouted "Look!", pointing toward our partner on the tiny rock island. Approximately two feet behind him, and protruding vertically from the water, was the head of a very large eel. The head remained there for only about three seconds, and then slowly sank into the depths. Our friend leaped off the rock for a safer haven. Strangely, none of us volunteered to replace our friend on his island.

The second encounter with a periscoping eel took place at the same pond in which the dog had been attacked by an eel. Peter Candido and I stood on the pond's shoreline on a hot sunny day in August. We were watching the dragonflies darting about, when the head of what I estimated was a two-foot eel emerged vertically from the pond surface. Like its saltwater cousin, it too remained in that position for only a few seconds. I never did want to swim in that murky pond, especially after what had happened to old Touser!

Despite some of the above noted encounters, I have never hesitated to allow our young children to swim where eels abounded, since one has never bitten me even though I have caught and handled thousands.

INTERESTING WEB SITES TO VISIT

Sabine Dietz

<http://www.cnf.ca/>

Nature Canada's website with lots of information and links all related to nature in Canada.

http://www.nature.ca/plnt/index_e.cfm

Interesting information about native plants by the Canadian Museum of Nature.

<http://www.macbe.com/botanyclub/home.html>

The website of the NB Botany Club, you will find upcoming field trips posted here.

<http://www.naturequebec.org/pages/plandusite.asp>

The former 'Union québécoise pour la conservation de la nature' now called Nature Quebec, has interesting information, all in French.

<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FNSN/hp-fnsn.html> Information on Nova Scotia's Federation as well as about their affiliated clubs.

<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/bscmain.html>

Bird Studies Canada's website with lots of information about birds in general, and their programs.

NIDIFICATION DE LA NYCTALE DE TENGMALM À POINTE ALEXANDRE SUR L'ILE LAMÈQUE EN 2005 (*AEGOLIUS FUNEREUS*)

Hilaire Chiasson

Depuis plusieurs années, l'attention des ornithologues est tournée vers la Péninsule acadienne pour voir ou simplement entendre la Nyctale de Tengmalm. Pour plusieurs, une confirmation de nidification est ce qu'ils souhaitent depuis plus d'une soixantaine d'années.

L'hiver 2005 fut pour nous le début d'une belle aventure. Rose-Aline et moi, avons entendu chanter une Nyctale de Tengmalm près de notre demeure, la première fois, le 21 février et presque tous les soirs jusqu'au 27 mars. Notre voisin, Adrien Duguay entendait aussi cet oiseau. D'ailleurs, c'est lui qui, le 27 mars, aperçut un individu perché dans un arbre non loin de sa demeure et qui découvrit un individu dans le trou d'un arbre et nous en fit part. La Nyctale avait utilisé la cavité d'un ancien nid de Pic flamboyant dans une vieille épinette de 30 cm de diamètre totalement tronquée à environ 3 mètres du sol. Les visites subséquentes nous permirent de voir un adulte apparaître dans un trou qui était à 2 mètres du sol.

Le 9 avril fut une journée marquante. À l'aide d'un escabeau, on décide, Adrien et moi, d'aller voir ce que se passe à l'intérieur de cette cavité. C'est seulement lorsqu'on tente de monter dans l'escabeau que l'oiseau quitte son nid pour aller se percher dans un arbre à quelques 10 mètres plus loin. Il n'a jamais démontré des signes d'agressivité. Nous avons tenté de glisser un bras à

l'intérieur de la cavité pour vérifier s'il y avait un ou des oeufs mais nous ne pûmes atteindre le fond du nid qui se trouvait à 25 centimètres du bord. C'est donc à l'aide d'un miroir et d'une lampe de poche, qu'en cette soirée du 9 avril 2005, nous avons pu voir deux oeufs d'un blanc-crème. Vingt-quatre jours plus tard, soit le 2 mai, il y avait toujours deux oeufs. Ma visite du 30 mai m'a permis d'y voir un petit et un oeuf.

Le 20 juin, nous pouvions voir un petit occupant l'ouverture du nid. Il ne semblait pas en avoir pour longtemps avant de s'envoler. Durant ce temps, on ne vit aucune manifestation des parents. On serait porté à croire que ces hiboux s'occupent de leur progéniture dans la plus grande discrétion. Le petit est encore dans l'ouverture à ma visite du 27 juin. Ce sera sa dernière nuit dans cette cavité car, lors de la visite du lendemain, le nid était désert.

Fait étrange, les jeunes demeurent dans la même région pour quelques jours, voir quelques semaines. Ils sont faciles à localiser car ils émettent continuellement une sorte de piallement comme pour quémander de la nourriture. Nous avons suivi de cette façon un jeune jusqu'au 7 juillet. Nous n'avons jamais aperçu un adulte dans les parages.

L'expérience que nous avons vécue avec ce petit rapace nocturne fut, pour Rose-Aline et moi, des moments de bonheur que nous ne sommes pas près d'oublier.

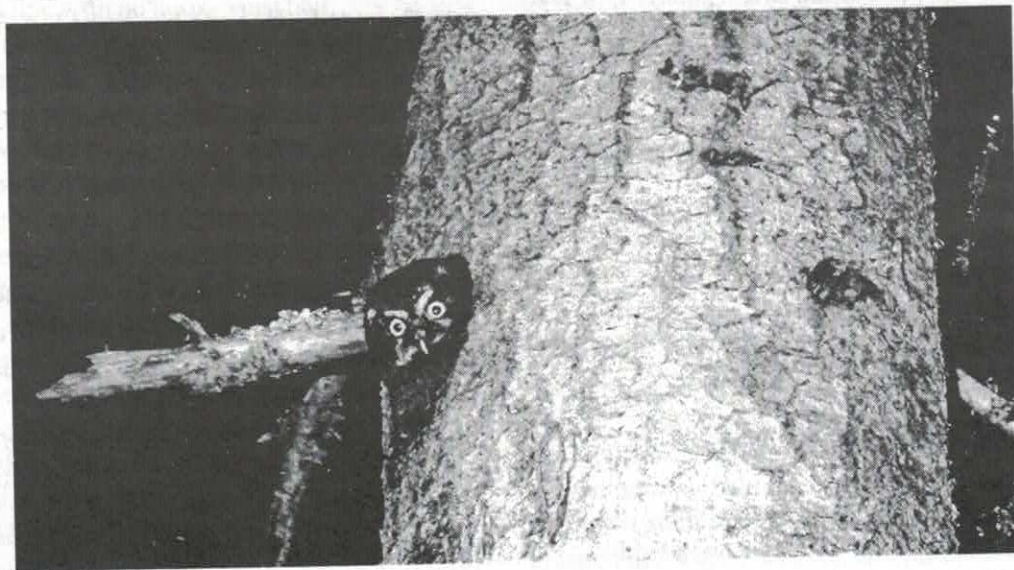


Photo: H. Chiasson

NBFN / FNNB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

David Christie, Peter Pearce & Gert Bishop

The NBFN / FNNB was formed in 1972 and has held an AGM each year since. That's a lot of AGMs! You may not have been to them all, but perhaps you will find it interesting where they were held. We would be grateful for any corrections or further information. And you may notice that 2008 is not spoken for at this time.



La FNNB/ NBFN a été incorporée en 1972 et depuis cette date a tenu des assemblées générales annuelles à chaque année. Cela fait pas mal d'assemblées annuelles. Peut-être que vous n'avez pas eu la chance d'assister à toutes mais il se peut que ça vous intéresse de savoir où elles ont été tenues. Il nous ferait plaisir de recevoir toutes corrections ou commentaires supplémentaires. Et en passant, vous aurez peut-être remarqué que 2008 est toujours libre.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1973 - Fredericton [Sept. 8-9] (Peter Pearce for NBFN) | 1993 - Moncton [June 18-20] (Moncton Naturalists' Club and Club les Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est Inc.) |
| 1974 - Fundy National Park [Sept. 13-15] (Henrik Deichmann for NBFN) | 1994 - Edmundston [June 10-12] (Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée.) |
| 1975 - Loggieville [Aug. 16-17] (Miramichi Naturalists' Club) | 1995 - Sussex [May 26-28] (Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society) |
| 1976 - Sackville? [Sept. 11-12?] (? for NBFN) | 1996 - Saint John [June 7-9] (Saint John Naturalists' Club) |
| 1977 - St. Andrews [Aug. 26-28] (? for NBFN) | 1997 - Moncton [May 30-June 1] (Club les Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est Inc.) |
| 1978 - Plaster Rock [June 3-4] (Wilma Miller for NBFN) | 1998 - Sackville [Aug. 6-9] (Chignecto Naturalists' Club) |
| 1979 - Caraquet [Aug. 4-5] (Hilaire Chiasson for NBFN) | 1999 - Lamèque [June 4-6] (Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne) |
| 1980 - Fredericton [May 23-25] (Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club) | 2000 - Campbellton [June 2-4] (Restigouche Naturalists' Club) |
| 1981 - Fredericton [Oct. 3] (NBFN and Conservation Council of New Brunswick) | 2001 - Florenceville [May 11-13] (Ford Alward Naturalist Association) |
| 1982 - Sackville [Oct. 23-24] (? for NBFN) | 2002 - Bouctouche [May 31-June 2] (Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche) |
| 1983 - Saint John [Sept. 16-18] (Saint John Naturalists' Club) | 2003 - Fredericton [May 30-June 1] (Fredericton Nature Club) |
| 1984 - Florenceville [June 8-10] (Valley Naturalists) | 2004 - Edmundston [May 27-30] (Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée, with annual meeting of the Canadian Nature Federation) |
| 1985 - Kouchibouguac National Park [June 1-2] (? for NBFN) | 2005 - Sussex [June 3-5] (Kennebecasis Naturalists' Society) |
| 1986 - St. Andrews [Sept. 13-14] (NBFN and Conservation Council of New Brunswick) | 2006 - Memramcook [June 9-11] (Club de Naturalistes Vallée de Memramcook) |
| 1987 - Harvey, Albert Co. [Aug. 8-9] (David Christie, Mary Majka for NBFN) | 2007 - Saint John [?] (Saint John Naturalists' Club) |
| 1988 - Lamèque [Aug. 26-28] (Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne) | 2008 - ? |
| 1989 - Sackville [Sept. 1-3] (Chignecto Naturalists' Club) | |
| 1990 - Fredericton [June 8-10] (Fredericton Nature Club) | |
| 1991 - Grand Manan [June 21-23] (? for NBFN) | |
| 1992 - Campbellton [May 22-24] (Restigouche Naturalists' Club) | |

PINE MARTIN

David Myles

On Sunday, August 7, 2005, I was presented with the best observation of a Pine Martin that I have ever had.

While travelling along a hardwood ridge south of Canterbury I was searching for large tree to climb so that I could locate my position on the map. There were a few large spruce trees on the ridge but the predominant species were Sugar Maple, Beech, and Oak. Spotting a large spruce with limbs within reach, I went over to have a closer look at it, looking up I saw a Martin jump from an adjacent hardwood tree into the top of the spruce tree. It hid among the top branches. Hanging out of the dense branches - the Martin's bushy tail was still visible - I sat down to watch.

By making the sounds of a squeaking mouse I was able to lure the creature into full view directly overhead. It was about 40 feet up in the tree and clearly visible.

The 'squeaking mouse' technique worked perfectly as the Martin peered at me and moved about on the exposed



Pine Martin

Drawing: M.H. Sawyer

limbs. This Martin was darker than the last one that I saw - about ten years ago - not far from this same area. The orange patch on its throat was beautiful and was flanked on each side by two small circular dark patches. The dark tail was very long and very bushy - a prime specimen. The face reminded me of a Chihuahua dog with a pointed nose and small, erect, pointed ears.

This encounter lasted more than ten minutes and as time went on it became more curious (?) and more accepting of my presence. I talked softly to the Martin and he was really reacting to my gestures and descended to a point about 30 feet above me. It was a remarkable and memorable encounter.

Finally it was time to get on with my trek. Departing from the scene I looked back, the Martin was observing me from his lofty perch.

UNBIDDEN GUEST

David Myles

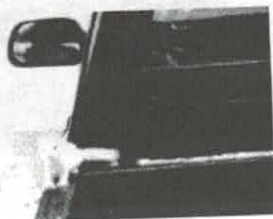
Photos by author



"Unbidden guests, are often the welcomest when they are gone."

For three consecutive winters I have learned to share my home with a weasel. Needless to say there is not a vole, mole or mouse in the house. So now he is making forays out to the bird feeding area in the hope that he can add some variety to his dining.

It is interesting to watch how he operates - especially when there is a fresh light snowfall of a few inches. The weasel stays under the snow and makes a tunnel as he travels which you can trace by watching the snow rise above his body as he quickly heads to the bird feeder area. He remains out of sight until he is reasonably certain that a victim is within striking distance and then he pounces. Most of the time he is unsuccessful but the birds rapidly depart the scene and



remain at a safe distance until it is safe to return.

His residency does concern me despite the obvious benefits. There is large very plump Ruffed Grouse that appears morning and evening and I know that weasels have a bad reputation when it comes to poultry. At night there are several Flying Squirrels that come to the feeders and I am sure that he would take one or more of them if he got the chance.

Attempts to live trap him have failed and he is expanding his living area to include my portion of the house. One evening last week as I was putting a stick of wood on the kitchen stove I heard a different sound and turning to look there was Mr Weasel peering at me from the cupboard door. Despite that personal appearance in my living space there are no signs that he is damaging things in the manner of a rascally red squirrel.

Mr Weasel shows no sign of being shy as you can see by the photographs. He even went into the cab of my truck and sat up on the seat to look out the window!



NATURE NEWS: BOTANY RAMBLINGS

mostly 1 August to 31 December, 2005

James P. Goltz

VASCULAR PLANTS

Species New to New Brunswick

Thanks to specimens and photographs, two new plant species have recently been identified for the province, attesting to the importance of having good documentation, much as for new bird records.

In a previous edition of the *NB Naturalist* (Volume 31 (2) Summer 2004), the discovery of Moonwort (*Botrychium lunaria*) as a species new for New Brunswick was reported. This discovery had been made in late June of 2004 by Charles Neveu and me near the headwaters of the Salmon River on Irving's Black Brook freehold land. At the time of discovery, photos and a specimen were taken of a very robust-looking "moonwort" with large lobes overlapping one another and the main stem. Art Gilman and Don Farrar, two of North America's leading experts on grapeferns, confirmed that this plant has the typical morphology of 'Yakutat Moonwort' (*Botrychium yaaxudakeit*), a recently described species that was first discovered in Alaska and hasn't yet officially been given a common name. Confirmation of this identification will require examination of fresh material, so a visit to the site is planned for 2006. Art did verify that most of the other grapeferns photographed at this site were indeed Moonwort.

A pigweed specimen, collected in September 1984 by Hal Hinds, was recently identified as **Powell's Amaranth** (*Amaranthus powellii* ssp *bouchonii*) by Dr. Mihai Costea (BB). This introduced European species had not previously been reported from the province. Hal's collection was made about 1 km. NE of McGowans Corner on a gravelly swampy roadside alluvial bottomland that had been grazed by cattle.

Historic Discoveries and Rediscoveries

The world's **oldest known Red Spruce** (*Picea rubens*) was found by Ben Phillips, a Mount Allison student, at an undisclosed location along the Bay of Fundy coast during the summer of 2005. This 445 year old tree, aged by examining a core sample and counting growth rings under a high power microscope, is evidently scraggly looking and only about 30 cm. in diameter. Imagine, this tree must have taken root in the year 1560! The previous record was evidently held by a 405 year old Red Spruce in New Hampshire (CBC News, 20 October, 2005).



Moor Rush

Photo: D. Vail

On 6 August, Don Vail and I found at least 75 plants of **Moor Rush** (*Juncus stygius*) in a calcareous fen located south of Browns Mountain near Canterbury (JPG). The plants were growing in and adjacent to small pools and wet depressions. This species had previously been discovered at 5 locations in the province, but had not been seen in New Brunswick for about 50 years.

On 24 August, Stephen Clayden and Dwayne Sabine found a small population of **Jacob's-ladder** (*Polemonium van-bruntiae*) growing in a small alder swale in open wet Cedar-Balsam Fir forest along Dipper Harbour Creek, a few km NE of Mace's Bay. This species had first been discovered in the province in 1885 near Trout Brook, Charlotte County but could never be relocated there and was thought to have been extirpated from New Brunswick. Congratulations to Dwayne and Stephen for this exciting discovery!



Jacob's-ladder

Sketch by F. S. Mathews

Endangered Species (Reports from the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre, ACCDC; kindly provided by Sean Blaney)

To quote Sean Blaney, "It's been a great year for new data on Endangered Species for us".

Anticosti

Aster

(*Symphyotrichum anticostense*) was confirmed from specimens collected at Two Brooks on the Restigouche River, downstream from Quarryville on the Miramichi River and at Boars Head near Saint John. Jacques Labreque, an expert on this species, believes that the Restigouche River likely has the largest populations for



Anticosti Aster

Scan by G. Bishop

this aster species anywhere, probably in the hundreds of thousands. Two additional aster collections from Boars Head were atypical, showing some evidence of intergression with New York Aster (*S. novi-belgii*), a finding typical of many of the St. John River populations of plants resembling Anticosti Aster.

ACCDC (Cindy Spicer and Ruth Newell on contract) did some work on the Acadia Forest Experimental Station this year, focusing on **Southern Twayblade** (*Listera australis*), by surveying open peatlands and testing whether it might be present in forested habitats as it is in Nova Scotia. Using GIS forest data, they randomly selected 30 wet black spruce-red maple stands for surveying and Ruth found the species in three of them! This obviously suggests that it may be much more widespread than previously thought, since that habitat type is not rare in lowland NB. This might also have some implications for forestry, since there is potential for harvesting in this sort of area.

In August, the ACCDC found **Bathurst Saltmarsh Aster** (*Symphiotrichum subulatum* var. *obtusifolium*) on the Bartibog and Bay du Vin Rivers, the first locations outside of the Bathurst area where this taxon has been discovered. In addition, Frederic Coursol, a Quebec botanist who has done considerable work on endangered species, found additional sites for this aster species on two more rivers flowing into Miramichi Bay, the Napan and Little Black Rivers, bringing new NB locations to four for this year.

Frederic and ACCDC surveyed most of the most suitable habitat on Northumberland coastal rivers for **Parker's Pipewort** (*Eriocaulon parkeri*), but found it only on the Miramichi system.

Reports of Very Rare Species

The dodders are orange-stemmed parasitic vines that are notoriously difficult to identify to species. A dodder specimen collected at Pointe des Allain, Kouchibouguac National Park by J. Goguen in August 1977 was recently reannotated from Common Dodder to **Buttonbush Dodder** (*Cuscuta cephalanthi*) by Dr. M. Costea (BB).

At the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists' Annual General Meeting forays in early June, hundreds of plants of **Fringed Violet** (*Viola sagittata*) were seen at Urney, and a few plants of **Back's Sedge** (*Carex backii*) were found by Sean Blaney near the water tower at Sussex Corner (fide GB).

A newly discovered calcareous fen on the outskirts of east Saint John contained a large population of **Small-flowered Gerardia** (*Agalinis paupercula*), in peak bloom on 24 August, a few small clumps of **Fir Club-moss** (*Huperzia selago*) and many **Nodding Ladies'-tresses** (*Spiranthes cernua*), the latter still in bud (fide JPG).

Saltmarsh Aster (*Symphiotrichum subulatum* var. *subulatum*) was found to be extant, thriving and in peak bloom on 28 August at Cape Jourimain, its only known location in the province (JPG, RH, SD).

A small population of **Water Willow** (*Decodon verticillatus*) was found growing among granite boulders along the edge of the Shogomoc River not far from Big Falls on 13 September (DS, KC).

Reports of Rare to Uncommon Species

On 9 August, Marie Taylor asked David Christie for help with the identification of an unknown plant species from a "wet swampy area" near the headwaters of Daley Creek, not far from Marys Point. David identified it as **Showy Lady's-slipper** (*Cypripedium reginae*), an orchid species that had not previously been found in that general area. A visit to the discovery site revealed a dozen plants, 2 of which had flowered (MNCNIL), growing with **Large-Leaved Aven** (*Geum macrophyllum*), **Dwarf Raspberry** (*Rubus pubescens*), **Cinnamon Fern** (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) and a feather moss. On the way to see the Lady's-slippers, one plant of **Spotted Coralroot** (*Corallorhiza maculata*), "sporting bright pink fruits", was spotted "in a rather dry spruce-fir site".

On 13 August, **Felwort** (*Gentianella amarella*) was just starting to bloom in the Salmon River area of Irving's Black Brook freehold land near St.-Léonard (RL, CL).

In late August, Hilaire Chiasson found **Clammy Hedge-hyssop** (*Gratiola neglecta*) in a gravel pit at Pointe-Alexandre on Lamèque Island, at a site that is submerged beneath 2 feet of water in the spring.

A "nice population" of **Purple Milkwort** (*Polygala sanguinea*), with 30 to 40 plants in peak bloom, was found on a moist grassy section of a logging road through a 25-30 year old aspen-birch stand, about 2 km. south of Speerville on 23 September (DS).



Fringed Violet
Sketch by F.S. Matthews

Other Botanical Observations

By August 3, **Evening Primrose** (*Oenothera* sp., probably *O. parviflora*) appeared to be "at peak bloom", with some seedpods forming and "a surprising number of well-camouflaged pink and yellow Primrose Moths in the closed up flowers" (NP fide MNCNIL).

On 11 August, Nelson Poirier noticed at least 200 plants of **Turtlehead** (*Chelone glabra*) in a wet area along the Cape Breton Road, northeast of Irishtown. This was "the largest assembly of" this plant species that he had ever seen; blooming was just getting nicely under way with lots more flowers to open (MNCNIL).



Pale Corydalis
Sketch by F.S. Mathews

On 10 November, Jean Renton was surprised to find white and blue violets in full bloom in the area of her camp at Fork Stream, as well as the blooms of a plant resembling Bleeding Heart but with a smaller bloom that was yellow and pink in colour (MNCNIL). This latter species was undoubtedly **Pale Corydalis** (*Corydalis sempervirens*). To quote from *Nature Quests and Quizzes* by Rayment Tiff Fuller (1948), "If autumn is long and mild, some spring-blooming flowers and trees burst out into blossom again. Have you noticed? Well, look for such plants as dwarf

cornel [Bunchberry], dandelion, forsythia, hepatica, violets, lilacs—and there are many others. But you have to be watching all of the time!"

Additional Reports of Introduced Species

On August 9, Dwayne Sabine found **Branched Centaury** (*Centaurea pulchellum*) in flower on the north side of the Saint John River beneath the Princess Margaret Bridge at Fredericton. This pretty little Eurasian gentian species has a high tolerance for salt and is often found growing with other halophilic (salt-loving) plants, including Orache (*Atriplex* sp.) and Alkali grass (*Puccinellia* sp.), and both of these accompanied it at the Fredericton site. On August 28, Branched Centaury was seen along a coastal hiking trail at Cape Jourimain, a known site for this species (JPG, RH, SD).

In early August, the "striking small irregular blooms" of **Dwarf Snapdragon** (*Chaenorhinum minus*) were seen beside railway tracks in the Rogersville area (NP fide MNCNIL). Railways are considered to be the main route for the spread of this European species into new geographic areas.

Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*) was found in woods behind St.-Basile in early August (JDB, JB).

Many **Dandelions** (*Taraxacum officinale*) were blooming in a hayfield along the Gibson Trail in Marysville on November 23, following a warm spell. They were all very low, prostrate plants, tucked down into the grass, and a few even managed to set seed (DS).

FUNGI

In early August, Dale Gaskin found large numbers of **Chantarelles** (*Cantharellus cibarius*) in his wood-lot in the Moncton area, and one **Scaly Vase Chantarelle** (also called **Woolly Chantarelle**, *Gomphus floccosus*) (MNCNIL). The former species is edible, delicious and was enthusiastically consumed, but the latter species is not recommended as an edible because it is sour and unpalatable.

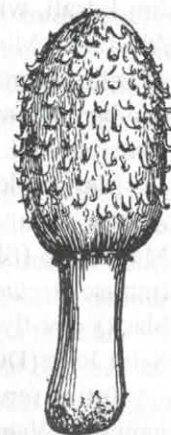
Many **Meadow Mushrooms** (*Agaricus campestris*) were found in the Shediac Bridge area following heavy warm rains in late August (NP fide MNCNIL).

In early October, Martin Turgeon found and photographed **Shaggy Mane** (*Coprinus comatus*) mushrooms on a neighbour's lawn at St.-Basile.

Around October 10, Bob Blake observed a "major flush of mushrooms" in his Second North River back yard, including "a good amount of" **Honey Mushrooms** (*Armillaria mellea*), "lots of" **Fly Agarics** (*Amanita muscaria*), some earth tongues (exact species not reported) and **Lobster Mushrooms** (*Hypomyces lactifluorum*) (MNCNIL). On the weekend of October 8-9, Nelson Poirier also noted lots of Honey Mushrooms and a few Shaggy Manes, presumably in the Moncton/Shediac Bridge area (MNCNIL).

On 12 October, David Christie saw lots of mushrooms fruiting in the Marys Point area, especially Shaggy Manes, Boletes and **Horse Mushrooms** (*Agaricus arvensis*), the latter two species past their prime. That same day, Nelson Poirier observed "a surprising number" of Shaggy Manes on lawns in the area between Miramichi and Shippagan, plus many Horse Mushrooms. He reported that the woods in the Miramichi were "teeming with many many species of mushrooms" around that date (MNCNIL).

Around 17 October, Bob Blake found a **Destroying Angel** mushroom (*Amanita virosa*) just behind his garage at Second North river (MNCNIL).



Shaggy Mane
Drawing: E. Burckmyer

On 30 October, a dozen **Netted Stinkhorn** (also called Skirted Stinkhorn, *Dictyophora duplicata*) in their "so-called egg stage" (resembling Puffballs) were seen in a wood chip pile at Cocagne (MNCNIL).

On 31 October, a **Ravenell's Stinkhorn** (*Phallus ravenellii*) was seen to be once again sending up a fruiting body, although smaller than in some years, in the same location in decaying woody debris at Taymouth where it had been found in previous years (JS).

Abbreviations:

BB Bev Benedict, CL Charlotte LaPointe, DS Dwayne Sabine, GB Gart Bishop, JB Julie Bourque, JDB J. Denys Bourque, JPG James Goltz, JS Julie Singleton, KC Kevin Craig, MNCNIL Moncton Naturalists' Club, NP Nelson Poirier, RH Nature Information Line, NP Nelson Poirier, RH Ramsey Hart, RL Roy LaPointe, SD Sabine Dietz

NATURE NEWS: INVERTEBRATES 2005 SEASON: JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

Dwayne L. Sabine

Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths)

The first lepidoptera report received this year was from Jim Edsall, who observed a small moth, probably genus *Alceris*, in Moncton on March 22. The first butterfly observations came from various observers on April 6, when a number of **Mourning Cloaks** (*morio*; *Nymphalis antipoo*) were reported: Cumberland Bay (MC); Grand Manan (DI); and Marysville (SM, KC). Also seen that day was a **Spring Azure** (*azur printanier*; *Celastrina ladon lucia*) at Marysville (SM, KC), as well as several **Infant Moths** (*intruse*, *Archicaris infans*), a brightly-coloured (orange and black) day-flying geometrid moth, at Cape Spencer and Saint John (DCI) and at Noonan (SM, KC).

Initial reports of **Milbert's Tortoiseshells** (*petite vanesse*; *Nymphalis milberti*) were received from St. Leonard on April 16 (RL) and Jemseg on April 17 (MC), while a **Compton Tortoiseshell** (*grande vanesse*; *Nymphalis vaualbum j-album*) appeared at St. Leonard on April 17 (RL). Throughout the next few weeks reports of Mourning Cloaks, Spring Azures, Tortoiseshells, and **Commas** (*Polygone*; *Polygonia* sp.), our typical early spring butterflies, were being reported by various observers throughout the province.

Jim Edsall and Stu Tingley added a considerable amount to our collective knowledge of **Bronze Copper** (*bronzé*; *Lycaena hyllus*) distribution in the province. Previously known from less than ten sites in NB, Jim found it at five new localities: Pointe de Bute, July 17; Bell Marsh Moncton, July 20; Tintamarre National Wildlife Area, July 21; and at two salt marshes near Baie Verte, July 28. Stu Tingley added a sixth new locality at Bayfield on September 25. The **Salt Marsh Copper** (*cuiivre des marais salés*;

Lycaena dospassosi), which is endemic to the Maritime Provinces and Gaspé peninsula with most of the known sites occurring in NB, was found at thirteen new salt marshes sites from Shediac to Tidnish River on July 25 (JE) and at "many locations" on Miscou Island on July 31 (RPW).

A **Striped Hairstreak** (*porte-queue à bandes brisées*; *Satyrion liparops*), one of our rarer butterflies, was reported on July 16 by Nelson Poirier, near Sillikers on the Lit Southwest Miramichi River.

The tiny Elfins are among our most inconspicuous butterflies. For that reason, and because of their very brief flight seasons in late spring, they are not often reported. Our rarest species, **Henry's Elfin** (*lutin des bluets*; *Incisalia henrici*), is typically found near the edges of bogs with Mountain-holly (*faux houx*; *Nemopanthus mucronatus*) grows. It was reported from two localities in 2005: Hanwell, June 3 (RPW); and New Scotland Bog, June 7 (JE). **Bog Elfin** (*lutin des tourbières*; *Incisalia lanoraieensis*) also found near bog edges but utilizing a different larval food source - Black Spruce (*épinette noire*; *Picea mariana*) - is somewhat less rare than the preceding species. It was reported from three sites this year: Allardville, June 2 (NP); Thomaston Corner, June 3 (RPW); and Browns Mountain, Hartin Settlement, June 6 (RPW). Other species reported were **Eastern Pine Elfin** (*lutin des pins*; *Callophrys niphon clarki*) at Allardville, June 2 (JE, NP) and Thomaston Corner, June 3 (RPW); and **Brown Elfin** (*brun*; *Callophrys augustinus*) at New Scotland on Miramichi and south of Bathurst on June 25 (JE, RPW).

Derek Bridgehouse found two uncommon species at Campbellton on July 1-3 (*fide* AWT): **Silvery Checkered** (*damier argenté*; *Chlosyne nycteis*) and **Western Tailed Blue** (*bleu porte-queue de l'Ouest*; *Everes amyntula*).

itima). The latter species seems to be restricted to the extreme north of the province.

The **Bog Fritillary** (*boloria des tourbières*; *Boloria eunomia*) was known from only two sites in NB prior to 2005: at Stillwater Bog north of Kedgwick, and from a site south of Charlo. Reggie Webster and Marie-Andrée Giguère found it near Juniper on June 21 and east of Plaster Rock on June 27, while Reggie Webster and Jim Edsall found it south of Bathurst on June 25. These finds greatly increase the known distribution of this boreal butterfly in the province, and indicate that the species has been overlooked in the past.

The **Monarch** (*monarque*; *Danaus plexippus*) is one of our few migratory butterflies. Our local population begins with a few Monarchs arriving here from the south, typically in mid June. The first report of the species this year was Brian Dalzell's observation at Grand Manan on June 25. The species seemed scarce this summer, with only scattered reports: Fredericton, June 30 (DS); Midgie, July 3 (KP); Fredericton Junction, July 4 (DG, FG); Siegas, July 13 (larva) (RL); Saint John, July 19 (MC); Midgie, July 31 (larvae) (KP); and Grand Manan, mid-August (AC, *fide* BD).

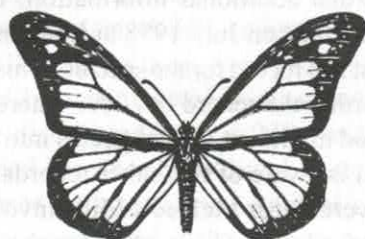
By September, Monarchs became evident on their southward migrations. It must have been a better year for the species than our few summer sightings indicate, as the species seemed reasonably common on migration. Observations of presumably-migrating Monarchs were received from Alma, August 25 and Oct. 3 (DR); Saint John, Sept. 19 & 21, & Oct. 3 (MC); Grand Manan, Sept. 22 (BD); and Mary's Point, Sept. 24 (DC). Most of these observations were on single butterflies, but two records were notable for the number of monarchs involved. Ralph Eldridge described the species as "fairly abundant" out in the Gulf of Maine, on Machias Seal Island, throughout mid-late September. And, on September 28, Bev Schneider noted high numbers (>50) of Monarchs during a seabird survey at Point Lepreau. Interestingly, email postings from farther south on the eastern coast of North America - in Virginia - indicated that there was a mass southward movement of Monarchs there on the same day. This may simply be a coincidence, but it is an intriguing set of observations nonetheless.

The final report of a Monarch was received from Gilles

Belliveau, from Fundy National Park on November 5. He noted that it seemed to be in migration mode - flying high and doing a fair bit of gliding - but oddly enough it was heading east.

The **American Painted Lady** (*vanesse de Virginie*; *Vanessa virginiensis*); **Painted Lady** (*belle dame*; *Vanessa cardui*); **Red Admiral** (*vulcain*; *Vanessa atalanta*) are also migrant butterfly species here. The northward migration of these species in North America is well-documented, and they typically arrive in NB from the south in May or June. This year there were scattered reports of the latter two species, beginning in late June. The autumn, southward migration is much less documented. It seems most evident on the Bay of Fundy Islands. Ralph Eldridge noted that Painted Ladies and Red Admirals were "fairly abundant" on Machias Seal Island in mid-late September, while Denis Doucet observed high numbers (>250) of Painted Ladies at Southwest Head on Grand Manan on Aug 25. Also on Grand Manan, Brian Dalzell noted Red Admirals moving southwest past Southern Head on October 30. There were scattered reports of smaller numbers of both species throughout October by various observers, almost all on the Bay of Fundy coast, with the final stragglers being Painted Ladies noted at Fundy National Park on Nov. 5 (GB) and at Marys Point on November 8 (DC).

Lights are a great method for attracting and studying the nocturnal moths; a light left on overnight typically results in a good number of species resting on trees or buildings the following morning, available for close examination or photography. Nelson Poirier, using a mercury vapour light at Shediac Bridge and Cumberland Bay, has had great luck attracting a wide variety of moths there. For example, on July 11 he noted a **Luna Moth** (*papillon lune*; *Actias luna*), **Azalea Sphinx** (*sphinx de l'alisier*; *Darapsa pholus*) and **Apple Sphinx** (*sphinx du pommier*; *Sphinx gordius*). On July 15 he observed the latter two Sphinx species as well as **Northern Pine Sphinx** (*sphinx du pin*; *Lapara bombycoides*), **Crocus Geometers** (*géomètre safran*; *Xanthotype sospeta*) and many other moths. In the northwest of the province, Benoit Clavette observed **Polyphemus Moth** (*polyphème d'Amérique*; *Antheraea polyphemus*) - one of our Giant Silkworm Moths - on July 5, **Twinspotted Sphinx** (*sphinx géminé*; *Smerinthus jamaicensis*) on June 25, and **Big Poplar Sphinx** (*sphinx du peuplier*; *Pachysphinx modesta*) on June 27, all in the Edmundston area. The Sphinx Moths (aka Hawk Moths) (Sphingidés; Sphingidae) and Giant Silkworm Moths (Saturnidés; Saturniidae), such as the Luna Moth and Polyphemus Moth, are among our most spectacular insects, and are well worth trying to attract and observe.



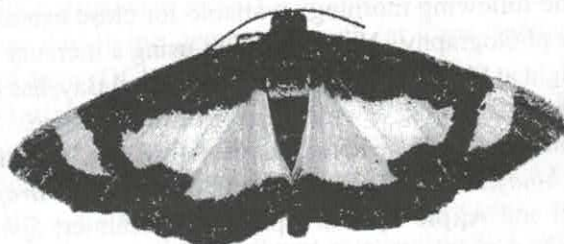
Monarch

Drawing: E.L. Palmer

A Canadian Sphinx (*Sphinx canadensis*) that Reggie Webster found in the Meduxnekeag River area on June 28 appears to be only the second NB record for the species.

Reggie P. Webster and Marie-Andrée Giguère found many cocoons of the **Promethea Moth** (saturnide du cerisier; *Callosamia promethea*), another of the Giant Silkworm moths, in the Meduxnekeag River and Woodstock areas on May 3 - enough to suggest that the species is common in the area. Some weeks later, on June 23, and accompanied by Jim Edsall, they observed several Promethea Moths flying during the day at Canterbury. This species is one of our largest and showiest silkmths, and was only first recorded as occurring in the province in June 2000 when Tony Thomas examined a female captured by Danny Villeneuve at North Lake, near the border with Maine. Tony recorded it on numerous occasions thereafter at North Lake, and suspected that it must occur in most older hardwood stands in southwestern NB. This appears to be true, but it remains one of the least known of our large silk moths.

A **Common Spring Moth** (*Heliomata cycladata*) that came to Tony Thomas' moth light in Fredericton on June 27 is one of the very few records for this species in the province. The Common Spring Moth uses Black Locust (robinier; *Robinia pseudoacacia*) as its larval host plant, and is limited here by the distribution of this exotic tree species, which is found most often as an ornamental tree in landscaping and for site rehabilitation in the Minto strip mine areas.



Common Spring Moth

Photo: A.W. Thomas

Tony Thomas had two **Barberry Geometers** (*Coryphista meadii*) come to his black light in Fredericton on June 28. This appears to be the first record of the species in NB, although it is known to occur in neighbouring Maine and Nova Scotia. The larvae of this large geometrid moth feed, as their name suggests, on Barberry (épine-vinette; *Berberis* sp.), an introduced plant.

The last butterfly report received in 2005 was of a **Clouded Sulphur** (coliaide du trèfle; *Colias philodice*) at Mistake Cove on Nov 13 (SM). Moths toughed it out a few more days: **Fall Cankerworms** (arpenteuse d'automne; *Alsophila pometaria*) were reported from

Shediac Bridge (NP) and from Marys Point (DC) on November 16. **Bruce Spanworm** (*Operophetra bruceata*) were also active at Shediac Bridge on that date (NP). These species overwinter as adults, and often become active on unseasonably warm winter evenings; they were undoubtedly active on occasion long after these late observations.

A final note on the Lepidoptera: in the Fall 2004 Invertebrate Report I discussed a record of the **Variiegated Fritillary** (fritillaire panache; *Euptoieta claudia*), from the Little Southwest Miramichi River on 9 September 2005 (Nelson Poirier). I had thought this to be the first NB record for the species, but subsequently learned that it had been found at North Lake on 1 July 2000 by Tony Thomas (Winter 2004-2005 Invertebrate Report). Jim Edsall has forwarded additional information: he found a **Variiegated Fritillary** on July 1988 at Lincoln - this appears to be the first NB record for the species. This was followed by Tony's North Lake record in 2000. There appears to have been a good migration of the species into the province in 2000, as Jim is aware of two other records then: a colony was discovered near McKee's Mills involving at least six newly-hatched individuals photographed by a Mr. Cormier, and another group of several specimens emerging at Sunpoke Lake were found and photographed by Frederica Givan.

Odonata (Damselflies and Dragonflies)

Dragonflies made their appearance a week or two later than usual in 2005. The first species to appear is often the **Hudsonian Whiteface** (leucorrhine hudsonienne; *Leucorrhinia hudsonica*), but this year it shared the honours with two other species. Jim Edsall spied the first Hudsonian Whiteface at New Scotland on May 31. However, on the same date Gilles Belliveau found a skimmer - which he was not able to positively identify but thought was most likely a **Four-spotted Skimmer** (quadrinaculée; *Libellula quadrimaculata*) - emerging in Fredericton, and Tony Thomas found **Beaverpond Baskettails** (épithèque canine; *Epitheca canis*) flying, also at Fredericton. Odonate activity picked up considerably over the next few days, as by June 2 Tony Thomas reported six species active at Minto with Hudsonian Whitefaces and a couple of species of Baskettails particularly abundant, while Stu Tingley reported several species were out and about in Albert County was well.

Gilles Belliveau found a new population of **Easter Red Damsels** (agrion rougeâtre; *Amphiagrion saucium*) near Shediac on June 26. This tiny damselfly is bright red in colour, but can be amazingly inconspicuous in its typical habitat - small, grassy brooklets - due to its small size.

and slow movements. Tony Thomas also found this species active, on July 3 at a previously-discovered site at Thomaston Corner.

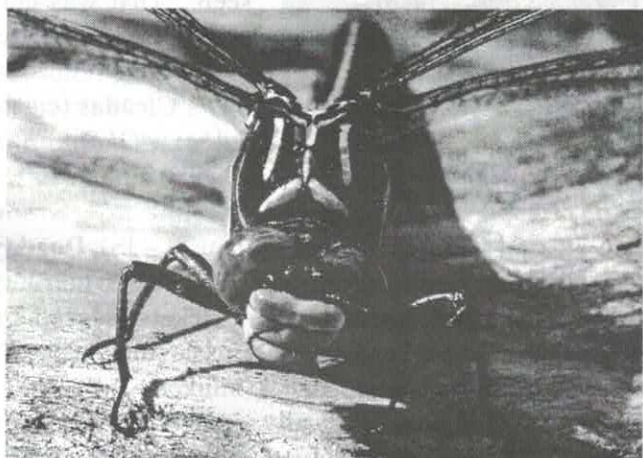
Kevin Craig netted a female **Harlequin Darner** (*aeschna pygmée*; *Gomphaeschna furcillata*) near Magundy on June 20, furnishing only the eighth provincial record for this elusive species.

Our rare "bog darners" were reported only once each this year: a **Subarctic Darner** (*aeschna subarctique*; *Aeshna subarctica*) wandering on a woodland road at Pokiok Settlement on July 11, a very early date for a species not usually seen until late August (KC), and a **Zigzag Darners** (*aeschna à zigzags*; *Aeshna sitchensis*) at Dorchester on August 12 (JE).

A visit to Shogomoc Stream on June 27 turned up large numbers of dragonflies and damselflies, comprising 17 species in total (DS, KC). Among them were good numbers of **Spine-crowned Clubtails** (*Gomphus abbreviatus*). This species was first discovered here in NB (and in Canada) only in 2001, and has since been found scattered throughout the province in rocky streams. Another new Spine-crowned Clubtail site was found on the Meduxnekeag River on June 20 (MAG, RPW).

Nelson Poirier encountered a massive emergence of **Extra-striped Snaketails** (*ophiogomphe bariolé*; *Ophiogomphus anomalus*) on the Miramichi River above Blackville on June 15. This denizen of cool, clean rivers is seldom seen on the wing, apparently spending most of its time foraging in the treetops, and so is most easily seen while emerging. Lesser numbers of **Rusty Snaketails** (*ophiogomphe roussâtre*; *Ophiogomphus rupinsulensis*) were found emerging at the same time.

A **Dragonhunter** (*l'hagénie*; *Hagenius brevistylus*) observed capturing and eating a **Prince Baskettail** (*épithèque princière*; *Epithica princeps*) at Flaglor Brook on July 31



Dragonhunter
Photo: D. Sabine

(SM, DS) was certainly living up to its name. Dragonhunters primarily prey on other dragonflies, but usually smaller species. In this case, the prey was very nearly the same size as the predator.

Jim Edsall encountered the **Incurvate (Warpaint) Emerald** (*cordulie incurvée*; *Somatochlora incurvata*) at a small bog near Dorchester on August 12. This species is among our less frequently reported emeralds, in part because it seldom wanders from its inaccessible habitat. Denis Doucet also found Incurvate Emeralds, together with **Lake Emerald** (*cordulie ceinturée*; *Somatochlora cingulata*) and **Williamson's Emerald** (*cordulie de Williamson*; *Somatochlora williamsoni*) at Long Pond on Grand Manan on August 24; all three species apparently represent new records for the island.

A search for Shadowdragons (*Neurocordulia* sp.) on Shogomoc Stream on June 27 resulted in the find of the second known site for the **Stygian Shadowdragon** (*épithèque de Provancher*; *Neurocordulia yamaskanensis*) in NB, rather than the more common **Umbur Shadowdragon** (*épithèque cuivré*; *Neurocordulia obsoleta*) expected based on the presence of its exuviae (shed larval 'skins') there in 2003 (DS, KC). The species lived up to its name: it did not begin flying until after 9:30 - when it was almost dark - with large numbers suddenly appearing at that time. Once this flight timing was determined, it was searched for and found at three other sites on Mactaquac Lake: Pokiok on July 4 (DS, KC); Prince William on July 7 (KC), and Hay Settlement on July 16 (KC). The only other known site for Stygian Shadowdragon was found at Canoose Stream in 1996. This species, as with our other two Shadowdragon species, is probably more widely-distributed and abundant than the meagre records indicate, as few people are out searching at such late hours.

The **Ebony Boghaunter** (*cordulie bistrée*; *Williamsonia fletcheri*), a tiny denizen of sphagnum-lined pools, was thought until recently to be quite rare. It has turned up at a number of new sites in the past two years, but is seldom found in large numbers at any one site. This year two new Ebony Boghaunter sites were found: near Canterbury on June 10 (MAG, RPW), and at a cool, cedar-shaded brook at Magundy on June 20 (DS, KC).

A **Twelve-spotted Skimmer** (*la gracieuse*; *Libellula pulchella*) observed at Charters Settlement on Oct. 2 was active on an extremely late date for this midsummer species, beating the previous late date by almost six weeks (RPW, VW).

A few late **Darners** (*aeschna*; *Aeshna* sp.) were pushing their seasonality limits this fall; individuals were seen at Central Hampstead on Oct. 30 (SM); Moncton on Nov.

1 (thought to be a **Shadow Darner** (*aesche des pénombres*; *Aeshna umbrosa*) (JE); at Fundy National Park on Nov. 5 (also thought to be a Shadow Darner) (GB), and a closely-examined and confirmed female Shadow Darner at Browns Flat on November 5 (SM). The previous record late date for Shadow Darners in NB was October 4, so the 2005 observations represent a considerable extension in known flight period.

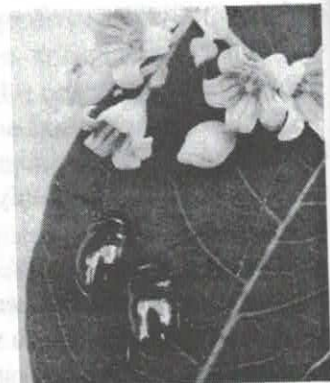
The **Meadowhawks** (*Sympetrum*; *Sympetrum* sp.) are the characteristic late season dragonflies in NB, often flying into November. Latest records for unidentified Meadowhawks species this year were from Grand Manan on October 30 (BD); Saint John on November 1 (MC); and Charters Settlement on November 1 (RPW). **Cherry-faced Meadowhawks** (*Sympetrum intima*; *Sympetrum intima*) were last reported on October 30 at Central Hampstead (SM). **Autumn (Yellow-legged) Meadowhawks** (*Sympetrum tardif*; *Sympetrum vicinum*) are normally the last species on-the-wing, and that was certainly the case this year. This species was reported at Marysville on Oct. 30 (DS); Central Hampstead on Oct. 30 (SM); Fredericton on Oct. 31 (GB); Fundy National Park on Nov. 5 (GB); and Fredericton again on Nov. 9 (GB). However, the latest record, demonstrating the endurance of these tiny dragonflies given that it followed several nights of below freezing temperatures, was Scott Makepeace's observations of many hundreds between Gagetown and Browns Flat on November 14, many actively mating. However, Scott's sightings extend the record late date for this hardy little beast by only four days.

Miscellaneous species

The earliest report received was of **Winter Stoneflies** (plécoptères d'hiver; Capniidae) crawling on snow along the Nashwaak River on March 16 and again on March 20 (DS). Also on March 20, Reggie and Vincent Webster found 12 species of beetles active in a snowless patch in a cutover in Charters Settlement. Most were **Featherwing** beetles (Ptiliidés; Ptiliidae), although there were 3-4 species of **Rove Beetles** (Staphylinidés; Staphylinidae) present, many actively mating. Hilaire Chiasson found a **Damsel Bug** (punaise demoiselle; Nabidae) walking on the snow at Lameque Island on April 2. Damsel Bugs belong to order Hemiptera, the true bugs, and are predaceous on other small invertebrates. They overwinter as adults, and are often active (but not often seen) on warm days in late winter and early spring.

Nelson Poirier, while checking a patch of **Spreading Dogbane** (apocyn à feuilles d'androsème, *Apocynum*

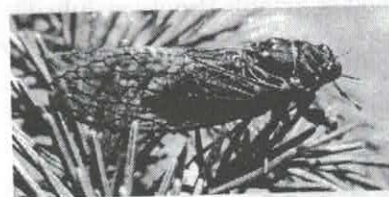
androsaemifolium) near Rogersville for butterflies on July 20, found a population of **Shining Dogbane Beetles** (chrysomèle de l'apocyn; *Chrysomela auratus*) – apparently the first known record for NB, and for the Maritimes. It seems to have been overlooked in the past, despite its vivid green, gold and blue colouration, as it turned up at several other lo-



Shining Dogbane Beetles
Photo: N. Poirier

cations of the following few weeks: Grand Lake, July 28 (RPW, RC); Florenceville, August 18 (RPW, RC, MM, PG); Hartland, August 23 (RPW, RC); and Douglas, Sept. 4 (PG).

Reggie Webster, with funding from the Wildlife Trust Fund, made a concerted effort this year to check potential locations for the **Cobblestone Tiger Beetle** (*Cicindela marginipennis*). This species was first discovered here only in 2003, and its entire known range in Canada was limited to 3 small areas of Grand Lake prior to 2005. However, as a result of these surveys the Cobblestone Tiger Beetle is now known from an additional site on Grand Lake (July 28: RPW, RC) and several new sites on the Saint John River in Carleton County (August 18, 23: RPW, RC, MM, PG). These surveys also resulted in the discovery of population of **White Mountain Tiger Beetle (Appalachian Tiger Beetle)** (*cicindèle des Appalaches*; *Cicindela ancocisconensis*) along the Saint John River – the first known records from NB. This species has been expected in the province for some time, as it occurs in the Gaspé region of Québec as well as in Maine.



Say's Cicadas
Photo: D. Sabine

The loud and arboreal Cicadas & Tree Crickets are far more often heard than seen. That was certainly the case this year, with stridulating **Say's Cicadas** (*cigale*; *Cicada septendecim*) first reported on June 26 (Grand Falls - JS) and June 28 (English Settlement - JS); **Dogday Cicadas** (*cigale caniculaire*; *Tibicen canicularis*) on July 31 (NP); and **Black-horned Tree Crickets** (*oécanthe à pattes noires*; *Oecanthus nigricornis*) in late August (Mary's Point - DC) and in early September (Sillikers - NP). Gil Belliveau was fortunate to actually see Dogday Cicadas August 19, when he flushed 11 and managed to net several for close observation at the UNB Woodlot in Fredericton.

Woolly Alder Aphids (*Paraprociophilus tessellates*) were reported from a number of locations this year in late fall: Shediac Bridge, Oct. 24 (NP); Fredericton, Oct. 30 (MS, DS); Mary's Point, Oct. 30 (DC), Rosevale, Oct. 31 (AW); and Edgett's Landing, Oct. 31 (DB). These tiny, delicate insects look like bits of fluff or snowflakes when in flight. As with most aphids, they are able to reproduce without the presence of males, and do so through most of the summer. However, in late fall a generation of both males and females is produced – this is the generation we see in flight, as they mate and disperse to new host trees to lay eggs.

Flower Flies (mouches à fleurs, Syrphidés; Syrphidae) are an interesting group of large, colourful flies, many of which mimic wasps or bees. Rob McLeod photographed an odd-looking specimen and unfamiliar specimen at New Jersey on September 1, 2004. After being sent to several experts for identification, the photographed fly was finally identified late in 2005 as *Mallota albipes*. This species is thought to be a new record for Canada – it is apparently otherwise known from the central and southern US.

Reggie Webster has been conducting extensive surveys for beetles in the province for many years. For the past two years he has been especially interested in Predaceous Diving Beetles, or Dytiscids (Dytiscidés; Dytiscidae). This taxonomic group has been relatively well-studied in Canada compared to many other beetle families, with a major review recently published (Larson, D.J., Y. Alarie, and R.E. Roughley. 2000. **Predaceous Diving Beetles** (Coleoptera:



Flower Fly
(*Mallota albipes*)
Photo: R. McLeod

Dytiscidae) of the Nearctic Region, with emphasis on the fauna of Canada and Alaska. 982 pp. {Available from NRC Research Press}). Nonetheless, Reggie's work on this fascinating family has resulted in a number of new records. Among his better finds in 2005 was *Rhantus consimilis*, found at a bog at Thomaston Corner on June 3 (new to NB and to the Maritimes); *Hydrocolus rufiplanus*, found in a small brook flowing into the Meduxnekeag River on June 8 (new to NB and to the Maritimes, and only the second record for Canada); and *Hydrocolus filiulus* in a spring-fed mossy seep in the Meduxnekeag Valley Nature Preserve during the first week of June (1st Canadian record!). And these finds are in a relatively well-known group! Reggie's recent work on a much less-studied family, **Rove Beetles** (Staphylinidés; Staphylinidae), has resulted in a high proportion of new records for the province, and undescribed (i.e., new-to-science) species are sometimes encountered. In an age when biodiversity concerns are often-discussed, our knowledge of even gross distributional data is sorely lacking for many invertebrate groups – much work remains to be done.

Abbreviations: AC Ann Chudleigh, AW Ajo Wissink, AWT Tony Thomas, BD Brian Dalzell, DB Dwayne Biggar, DC David Christie, DCI David Clark, DG David Givan, DI Durlan Ingersoll, DR Doreen Rossiter, DS Dwayne Sabine, FG Fredrica Givan, GB Gilles Belliveau, JE Jim Edsall, JS Julie Singleton, KC Kevin Craig, KP Kathy Popma, MAG Marie-Andrée Giguère, MC Merv Cormier, MM Mark McGarrigle, MS Mary Sabine, NP Nelson Poirier, PG Pascal Giasson, RC Robert Capozzi, RL Roy LaPointe, RPW Reggie Webster, SM Scott Makepeace, VW Vincent Webster



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NATURE NEWS – BIRDS

OCTOBER 15, 2005 TO JANUARY 10, 2006

Don Gibson

"A single swallow doth not an autumn make!"

A **Barn Swallow** seen at Saint John on Oct. 21 was considered newsworthy at the time because of its lateness. However, within a week **four species of swallows** and **Chimney Swifts** were seen at Grand Manan on one day. A combination of powerful weather systems, including Hurricane Wilma, disrupted the migratory patterns of many birds and small species that depend on flying insects for food suddenly found themselves in a hostile environment. Experienced observers quickly recognized the situation as a time of great potential and some were rewarded when they spotted, and photographed, a **Cave Swallow**.



Barn Swallow
Sketch: C. Garrett

The first **Townsend's Warbler** for the province was found in early November and before the month elapsed a second was discovered.

Expectations were high after a record number of **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** appeared in the province last year but disappointingly few were noted in the reporting period.

A flock of 60 to 80 **Snow Geese** (Oie des neiges) passed by Tide Head on Oct. 21 (Alan Madden) and Brian Dalzell saw a single bird fly over Seal Cove on Oct. 26.

About 70 **Brant** (Bernache cravant) were discovered at White Head Island on Dec. 18 (Brian Dalzell).

A single **Barnacle Goose** (Bernache nonnette) was found among a large flock of Canada Geese at Coverdale on Nov. 4 (Stu Tingley).

Roger Burrows found a late male **Wood Duck** (Canard branchu) at Saint John on Dec. 24.

Two **Eurasian Wigeon** (Canard siffleur) were seen at Cap Brûlé on Oct. 29 (MNC) and a male was seen at nearby Cap Bimet on Dec. 1 (Stu Tingley).

Two duck species not normally seen in winter found Saint John to their liking, Ken MacIntosh reporting a **Blue-winged Teal** (Sarcelle à ailes bleues) on Dec. 27

and Merv Cormier a **Northern Pintail** (Canard pilet) on Jan. 5.

Dwayne Sabine got a brief look at a male **Canvasback** (Fuligule à dos blanc) at Fredericton on Nov. 14.

Redhead (Fuligule à tête rouge) reports included: a pair at Saint-Léonard on Oct. 16 (Roy LaPointe), two at Sackville on Oct. 19 (Kathy Popma), seven males at Bouctouche on Oct. 28 (Louis-Émile Cormier), three at Caraquet on Oct. 27 (Roland Robichaud), two at St. Joseph on Oct. 29 (Yolande LeBlanc), six at Cap Brûlé on Nov. 11 (Norm Belliveau), eleven at Atholville on Nov. 12 (Roger Guitard), a male at Saint John on Nov. 14 (Roger Burrows), a male at Salisbury on Nov. 29 (Bill Winsor), seven at Cap Brûlé on Dec. 3 (Marc Chiasson) and one male at Saint John on Dec. 31 (Roger Burrows).

It seems that at least one **Tufted Duck** (Fuligule morillon) can be expected annually at Saint John and Merv Cormier found one on Dec. 12.

Ralph Eldridge has the advantage of being able to check the eider flocks along the coast at closer range than most and on Nov. 9 he was able to see five male **King Eiders** (Eider à tête grise) near Seeleys Cove and six were observed near Beaver Harbour on Dec. 3. Jim Wilson reported seeing one from the Deer Island ferry on Nov. 19.

A **Harlequin Duck** (Arlequin plongeur) was seen at Point Lepreau on Oct. 30 (Richard Blacquiére). A flock of 40 was discovered near White Head Island on Nov. 5 (Brian Dalzell). They were reported a few times through the reporting period, the number observed being as high as 75 on Nov. 19. Stu Tingley noted one female Harlequin Duck at Cap Pelé on Dec. 1.

Five **Ruddy Ducks** (Érismature rousse) were found on Great Pond, Grand Manan, on Oct. 20 (Stu Tingley *et al.*) and Roger Burrows discovered a flock of 15 at Saint John on Oct. 21. A single bird was seen at Caraquet on Oct. 27 (Roland Robichaud), five were at Cap Brûlé on Oct. 28 (Julie Pellerin) and Yolande LeBlanc was able to tally 18 at St. Joseph on Oct. 29.

Stu Tingley was able to identify a distant **Pacific Loon** (Plongeon du Pacifique) near Cap-des-Caissie on Nov. 24.

Laurie Murison saw an estimated 240 **Northern Fulmars** (Fulmar boréal) in the Grand Manan basin on Oct. 19. Durlan Ingersoll reported seeing Northern Fulmars off Grand Manan regularly between Nov. 17 and Jan. 6, often single birds but with four to six on Nov. 23.

A **Leach's Storm-Petrel** (Océanite cul-blanc) was seen near Cap Bimet on Oct. 26 (Stu Tingley).

An **American Bittern** (Butor d'Amérique) was discovered at Saint John on Oct. 22 (Hank Scarth).

Great Blue Herons (Grand Héron) occasionally remain in the province into December but one reported at Kedgwick by Pat Émond as late as Dec 17 would be considered quite unusual. Even later but at more likely locations, were one at Seal Cove on Jan. 4 (Durlan Ingersoll) and one at North Head on Jan. 10 (Laurie Murison).

A **Great Egret** (Grande Aigrette) was seen in the vicinity of Kouchibouguac National Park on Nov. 26 and probably the same bird on Dec. 3 (*fide* Mike LeBlanc). Totally unexpected was one photographed at Fredericton on Dec. 6 (Wendie Blais-Brown).

A **Cattle Egret** (Héron garde-boeufs) was found at Hay Settlement, south of Woodstock, on Nov. 13 (Kevin Craig) and another was seen at Cocagne on Nov. 15 (Cecille Leger).

Roger Burrows reported an adult and an immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** (Bihoreau gris) at Saint John on Oct. 22.

A **Turkey Vulture** (Urubu à tête rouge) was seen at Fredericton on Nov. 19 (FNC).

Generally it was not a big season for **Rough-legged Hawks**

(Buse pattue). However, Roy LaPointe counted four at Black Brook, northeast of Saint-Léonard, on Nov. 16.

A **Golden Eagle** (Aigle royal) was reported near Tide Head on Dec. 2 (Roger Guitard).

A rather late **American Kestrel** (Crécerelle d'Amérique) was seen near Cape Tormentine on Dec. 15 (Ralph Stopps).

Roger Burrows reported seeing a **Gyr Falcon** (Faucon gerfaut) at Black Beach Road, near Lorneville, on Oct. 20 and another was seen at Saint John on Nov. 9 (Aldie Robichaud). Much later, and at the other end of

the province, Roger Guitard saw one at Belledune on Dec. 14.

Peregrine Falcons (Faucon pèlerin) are often seen in the Saint John area and on Oct. 21 one of the unusual subspecies *tundrius* was identified (Roger Burrows and Jim Wilson).

A **Virginia Rail** (Râle de Virginie) was seriously harassed by some crows at Saints Rest Marsh on Oct. 18. Jim Wilson was able to photograph some of the action and reported that the rail miraculously escaped.

A **Sora** (Marouette de Caroline) was found dead at Southern Head, Grand Manan, on Oct. 27 by Rod Gardiner (*fide* Brian Dalzell).

An **American Coot** (Foulque d'Amérique) was discovered at Saint John on Oct. 21 (Margery Acheson, Shirley Sloat and Don Gibson) and another was seen at Point Lepreau on Oct. 31 (Richard Blacquiére).

A **Killdeer** (Pluvier kildir) seen at Southern Head on Oct. 26 by Brian Dalzell was considered late but then Roland Robichaud found one at Lamèque on Dec. 4.

A **Greater Yellowlegs** (Grand Chevalier) was seen at Dipper Harbour on Jan. 2 (Scott Makepeace and Dwayne Sabine).

A **Hudsonian Godwit** (Barge hudsonienne) was found at Johnson Point on Oct. 29 (MNC).

Marcel David found two **Ruddy Turnstones** (Tournepierre à collier) and 84 **Red Knots** (Bécasseau maubèche) at Malbaie Sud on Nov. 6. The following day he found 18 Red Knots at Maisonnnette.

Other late shorebird sightings included a **White-rumped Sandpiper** (Bécasseau à croupion blanc) at Saint John on Oct. 27 (Roger Burrows), a **Stilt Sandpiper** (Bécasseau à échasses) on Oct. 29 at Bouctouche (Stu Tingley) and a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** (Bécasseau à roussâtre) at Saint John on Oct. 22 (Roger Burrows).

Long-billed Dowitcher (Bécassin à long bec) sightings included: one at Saint John on Oct. 27 (Roger Burrows), one at North Head on Oct. 29 (SJNC), one at Maisonnnette on Nov. 7 (Marcel David), one at White Head Island on Dec. 18 (Brian Dalzell) and one at Castalia on Dec. 22 (Brian Dalzell).

Marc Chiasson found a **Wilson's Snipe** (Bécassine des marais) at Cap Brûlé on Dec. 3.



Peregrine Falcon
Sketch: C. Garrett

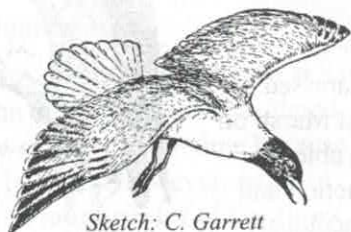


Black-crowned Night-Heron
Sketch: C. Garrett

Laurie Murison saw four **Red Phalaropes** (Phalarope à bec large) off Grand Manan on Oct. 19.

A **Pomarine Jaeger** (Labbe pomarin) and a **Parasitic Jaeger** (Labbe parasite) were identified off The Swallowtail on Oct. 29 (SJNC).

A single **Laughing Gull** (Mouette atricille) was found at Long Pond, Grand Manan, on Oct. 20 (Stu Tingley *et al.*) and the following week, after some severe weather, Laughing Gulls were found at various



Sketch: C. Garrett

places in the Grand Manan archipelago including five at Deep Cove on Oct. 26, two at White Head Island on Oct. 27 and four at Deep Cove on Oct. 28 (Brian Dalzell). One was tallied at The Swallowtail on Oct. 29 (SJNC). Brian Dalzell found a lingering adult Laughing Gull at White Head Island on Nov. 19.

Grand Manan also played host to a few **Franklin's Gulls** (Mouette de Franklin) including one at Seal Cove on Oct. 27 and two there on Oct. 28 (Brian Dalzell), one at Grand Harbour on Oct. 29 (SJNC) and one at Castalia on Oct. 30 (Brian Dalzell). A single bird was found inland near Scotch Lake, York County, on Nov. 13 (Peter Pearce).

A **Little Gull** (Mouette pygmée) was seen at Cap Bimet on Oct. 26 (Stu Tingley), one at Deer Island on Nov. 6 (Eileen Pike) and one from the Deer Island ferry on Nov. 19 (Jim Wilson).

Reports of **Black-headed Gulls** (Mouette rieuse) included: one at Bouctouche on Oct. 28 (Louis-Émile Cormier), one at Cap Brûlé on Oct. 28 (Julie Pellerin), an adult and a first-winter bird at Saint-Édouard-de-Kent on Oct. 29 (Stu Tingley), one at Cap Brûlé on Oct. 29 (MNC) and a few at Saint-Édouard on Nov. 5 (Gilles Bourque).

A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (Goéland brun) was found at North Head on Oct. 29 (SJNC) and Hank Scarth reported one at Coverdale on Dec. 3.

Durlan Ingersoll identified a **Sabine's Gull** (Mouette de Sabine) off Grand Manan on Nov. 10 and Ralph Eldridge reported an **Ivory Gull** (Mouette blanche) near Beaver Harbour on Dec. 3.

A **Caspian Tern** (Sterne caspienne) was seen at White Head Island on Oct. 27 (Brian Dalzell) and the following day Durlan Ingersoll found one at Seal Cove.

Richard Blacquiere saw a "probable" **Sandwich Tern** (Sterne gauce) at Point Lepreau on Oct. 27.

On Oct. 27 Brian Dalzell saw five **Common Terns** (Sterne pierregarin) at Grand Manan and six at White Head Island. One was spotted off The Swallowtail on Oct. 29 (SJNC). Norm Belliveau reported three at Shediac on Nov. 11 and a few at Cape Tormentine on Nov. 13.

A number of **Dovekie** (Mergule nain) sightings were reported including three at Cap Bimet on Oct. 26 (Stu Tingley), one that ended up in a garage at Port Elgin on Oct. 27 (*vide* Kathy Popma), one found inland at Cap Pelé on Oct. 27 and released at Cap Bimet (Valmond Bourque), one at Cocagne on Oct. 28 (Gilles Goguen) and one at Miscou on Oct. 27 (Roland Robichaud). On Dec. 3, near St. George, Ralph Eldridge saw two at one place and then nine at another. One Dovekie was seen at Belledune on Dec. 6 (Roger Guitard), one at White Head Island on Jan. 2 (Roger LeBlanc *et al.*) and one off Grand Manan on Jan. 6 (Durlan Ingersoll).

From Pettes Cove, Grand Manan, Laurie Murison reported seeing long lines of alcids flying off The Swallowtail on Nov. 30. Although too distant to positively identify, she thought that they were most likely **Razorbills** (Petit Pingouin) or possibly **Common Murres** (Guillemot marmette).

The lone report of an **Atlantic Puffin** (Macareux moine) was of one about three kilometres from Machias Seal Island on Jan. 6 (Durlan Ingersoll).

A **White-winged Dove** (Tourterelle à ailes blanches) visited the feeder of Doreen Rossiter at Alma on Dec. 4.

Roger Burrows reported two **Black-billed Cuckoos** (Coulicou à bec noir) near Lorneville on Oct. 18 and one at Saint John on Oct. 19. Another was seen at Grande Anse on Oct. 28 (Ivy Austin).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (Coulicou à bec jaune) was seen at Whistle Road on Oct. 19 (Stu Tingley *et al.*) and two were found at Saint John on Oct. 20 (Merv Cormier). Oct. 21 proved to be a good day for finding that species, one being observed at White Head Island (Stu Tingley *et al.*), one seen near Lorneville (Don Gibson) and one at Saint John (Jim Wilson).



Sketch: C. Garrett

Although not your typical "birdies" tallied on a golf course, five Yellow-billed Cuckoos found along the fairways at Seal Cove were quite a score for Durlan Ingersoll on Oct. 27. Stu Tingley found one at Chance Harbour on Oct. 28.

An injured **Barn Owl** (*Effraie des clochers*) was found in the Miramichi region on Nov. 27 (*vide* Jim Wilson). The bird was captured and its injuries were treated but after a few days it died.

A **Snowy Owl** (*Harfang des neiges*) was seen at Miscou on Nov. 14 (Marcel David), two were found at Grand Manan on Nov. 30 (Brian Dalzell) and one at Robichaud on Dec. 1 (Stu Tingley). Brian Dalzell found five Snowy Owls, in close proximity to one another, at Grand Manan on Dec. 20.

A **Northern Hawk Owl** (*Chouette épervière*) was seen at Miscou on Nov. 21 (Marcel David) and another was found near Kedgwick on Dec. 13 (Maurice Simon and Mike Garvey).

Alain Clavette had the good fortune to hear and see a **Long-eared Owl** (*Hibou moyen-duc*) at Taylor Village on Nov. 23.

A **Short-eared Owl** (*Hibou des marais*) was seen at Harvey on Dec. 20 (David Christie), one at Taylor



Sketch: C. Garrett

saw ten at Bancroft Point and then about 100 at Deep Cove. The following day he tallied a total of about 75 swifts at Grand Manan while Durlan Ingersoll saw about 40 at Seal Cove. On that day they were also being seen on the mainland, two at Pocologan (Merv Cormier, four at Point Lepreau (Richard Blacquiére) and two near Shediac (Rose-Alma Mallet). Sightings of swifts continued on Oct. 28 with one at Saint John (Peter Smith) and six at Chance Harbour (Stu Tingley). There was a report of many dead swifts being removed from a chimney at North Head, possibly as many as 300 (*vide* Brian Dalzell). On Oct. 29 twelve were seen flying at Seal Cove (SJNC) and one was observed at Cap Pelé (MNC). Brian Dalzell got word of about 125 entering a chimney at Seal Cove at dusk on Oct. 31. Some swifts continued to be seen at Grand Manan including: 15 at White Head Island on Nov. 5, seven at North Head on Nov. 11 and six at Seal Cove on Nov. 19 (Brian Dalzell).

A few tantalizing reports of late **hummingbirds** were received by Jim Wilson. Unfortunately, the identity could be confirmed. They included one at Grand Manan from Oct. 20 to 26, one at Hammond River Oct. 21 and one at Westfield on Oct. 27. The **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** (*Colibri roux/d'Allen*), discovered at Shippagan in early October, was last seen on Nov. 10.

A **Belted Kingfisher** (*Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique*) was observed at Sackville on Dec. 6 (Andrew Hicks).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** (*Pic à tête rouge*) was seen at Riverside-Albert on Nov. 15 (Margot Morrissey).

Mike Plourde had a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** (*Pic à ventre roux*) visit regularly at Moncton beginning Oct. 20. There was one at Cocagne on Nov. 2 (Louis-Émile Cormier), one at Saint John on Nov. 9 (Bob Carson), a male and female at a Hillsborough feeder on Dec. 20 (Jacinda McKinley) and a single bird appeared sometime before Christmas at Miramichi (Nim McEachern).

Lorna Belyea was thrilled to observe a seldom-encountered **Black-backed Woodpecker** (*Pic à dos noir*) near Stanley on Dec. 23.

A few **Northern Flickers** (*Pic flamboyant*) lingered beyond their normal departure dates including one at Shediac on Dec. 4 (Bev Taylor), one at Riverview on Dec. 23 (*vide* Jean Inglis) and one at Sackville on Jan. 1 (*vide* Dale Gaskin).

Ralph Eldridge recorded an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** (*Moucherolle à côtés olive*) at Machias Seal Island on Oct. 18.

Late flycatchers found at Grand Manan included two **Eastern Wood-Pewees** (*Pioui de l'Est*) on Oct. 20, one at Deep Cove and one at The Anchorage Provincial Park



Short-eared Owl
Photo: Roy LePointe

Village on Dec. 25 (Alain Clavette) and one at Tantramar Marsh on Dec. 28 (Hank Scarth).

On Oct. 26 **Chimney Swifts** (*Martinet ramoneur*) were first noticed at Grand Manan when Brian Dalzell

(Stu Tingley *et al.*). The same party tallied a **Least Flycatcher** (*Moucherolle tchébec*) on Oct. 21 at White Head Island.

An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus à gorge cendrée*) was discovered at Cape Jourmain on Nov. 20 (CNC). Gilles Belliveau spotted a *myiarchus* flycatcher at FNP on Nov. 6 that he suspected was an Ash-throated Flycatcher but he was not able to confirm it.

A **Western Kingbird** (*Tyrannus de l'Ouest*) was found at Ingalls Head on Nov. 19 (Brian Dalzell).

Stu Tingley and party found a **White-eyed Vireo** (*Viréo aux yeux blancs*) at North Head and a **Yellow-throated Vireo** (*Viréo à gorge jaune*) at The Whistle on Oct. 22. Another Yellow-throated Vireo was seen at Saint John on Oct. 26 (David Smith).

Tree Swallow (*Hirondelle bicolor*) reports included: a probable one at Great Pond, Grand Manan, on Oct. 20 (Stu Tingley *et al.*), five at Bancroft Point on Oct. 26 and various small flocks about Grand Manan over the next two days (Brian Dalzell), one at Cap Brûlé on Nov. 5 (Gilles Bourque), two at Murray Corner on Nov. 12 (various observers) and one at New Horton on Nov. 20 (Norm Belliveau).

On Oct. 26 Brian Dalzell saw a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** (*Hirondelle à ailes hérissées*) and a **Bank Swallow** (*Hirondelle de rivage*) at Bancroft Point. A Bank Swallow was found at New Horton on Nov. 11 (Jim Wilson).

Norm and Gisèle Belliveau spotted, and photographed, a "different-looking" swallow at Murray Corner on Nov. 11. The following day a **Cave Swallow** (*Hirondelle à front brun*) was positively identified there, constituting the province's second confirmed record.

Barn Swallow (*Hirondelle rustique*) reports included: one at Saint John on Oct. 21 (Don Gibson), five at Bancroft Point on Oct. 26 and various small flocks about Grand Manan over the next few days (Brian Dalzell), two at Saint John on Oct. 27 (Don Gibson), one at Point Lepreau on Oct. 28 (Richard Blacquiére), two at Green Point on Oct. 29 (Tracey Dean), three at Harvey Bank on Nov. 8 (David Christie), one at Alma and two at New Horton on Nov. 11 (Jim Wilson), one at Murray Corner on Nov. 12 (various observers), one at Riverside-Albert on Nov. 20 (Norm Belliveau) and one survived into early December at Harvey Bank (*vide* Stu Tingley).

A **Boreal Chickadee** (*Mésange à tête brune*) visited the feeder of Barb Kolesar at Fredericton on Dec. 7. A hand-tamed Boreal Chickadee was reported at Hampton on Dec. 9 (Harvey McLeod).

A recent report revealed that a **Tufted Titmouse** (*Mésange bicolor*) had been visiting a feeder at Bloomfield, Carleton County, since late September. The bird was still a daily visitor, at the end of the reporting period, at the property of Suzanne Skinner and Mark Jobin. Ruth Munn hosted one before Christmas at Stanley (*vide* Julie Singleton).

A **Carolina Wren** (*Troglodyte de Caroline*) appeared at the feeder of Jane and John Paciga at Rothesay just before Christmas.



Sketch: C. Garrett

A **House Wren** (*Troglodyte familier*) was seen at Whistle Road on Oct. 19 and another found near Southern Head on Oct. 20 (Stu Tingley *et al.*). Tracey Dean found one at Green Point on Oct. 29.

A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (*Gobemoucheron gris-bleu*) was found at White Head Island on Oct. 21 (Stu Tingley *et al.*) and one was seen at Lorneville on Nov. 1 (Karen McCavour). Although rarely seen away from coastal areas, one was discovered by Gilles Belliveau at Fredericton on Nov. 20.

Seven **Eastern Bluebirds** (*Merlebleu de l'Est*) were seen at Dawson Settlement on Oct. 17 (Dale Gaskin).

A **Townsend's Solitaire** (*Solitaire de Townsend*) was seen at Lorne, Restigouche County, on Nov. 17 (Roger Guitard) and another was reported by Marianna Duguay at Lamèque on Dec. 18.

A **Varied Thrush** (*Grive à collier*) was noted at Penobscus on Dec. 14 (Bob Secord).

Gray Catbird (*Moquer chat*) sightings include: one at Black Beach Road and one at Lorneville on Oct. 27 (Julie Singleton, Peter Pearce and Don Gibson), one at North Head on Oct. 29 (SJNC), one at Alma on Nov. 24 (Doreen Rossiter), one at Fredericton on Dec. 1 and Jan. 5 (Peter Pearce), one at Saint John on Dec. 5 (Roger Burrows) and one at Saint John on Dec. 14 (Peter Smith).

A **Northern Mockingbird** (*Moquer polyglotte*) was found at St. Andrews on Dec. 28 (Ron Wilson) and a **Brown Thrasher** (*Moquer roux*) was seen at Miscou on Jan. 7 (*vide* Roger Dumaresq).

Six **American Pipits** (*Pipit d'Amérique*) were seen at Saint John on Dec. 1 (Jim Wilson) and three very late pipits were found at White Head Island on Jan. 2 (Roger LeBlanc, Bob Blake and Nelson Poirier).

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Paruline à verdâtre*) reports included: one at Black Beach Road on Oct. 17

(Jim Wilson and Merv Cormier), eight sightings at Grand Manan and White Head Island from Oct. 19 to 22 (Stu Tingley *et al.*), one at Saint John on Oct. 21 (Roger Burrows), one at Seal Cove on Oct. 22 (Durlan Ingersoll), one at Black Beach Road on Oct. 28 (Jim Wilson), one at Saint John on Oct. 30 (Roger Burrows), one of the western subspecies at Lorneville on Nov. 7 (Merv Cormier) and one at Saint John on Dec. 9 (Roger Burrows).

A **Nashville Warbler** (Paruline à joues grises) seen at Hebron on Nov. 6 was of the western subspecies (Stu Tingley).

A **Townsend's Warbler** (Paruline de Townsend) was found at FNP on Nov. 4 (Jim and Jean Wilson). The bird remained there for about a week and many birders were able to add the species to their lists. On Nov. 27 a Townsend's Warbler appeared at the feeder of Paul Murray at Quispamsis and also remained for a few days.

Nov. 23 Three **Yellow-throated Warblers** (Paruline à gorge jaune) were reported at different locations within a few days. One was at a feeder at Richibucto on Nov. 23 (Irene LeBlanc), the same day another was identified at Taymouth (Gordon Dunphy) and the following day one visited two feeders at Fredericton (Margot Russell and Ann Morgan). Later in the season one was discovered at Moncton on Dec. 21 (Pat and Al Cunningham).

Pine Warbler (Paruline des pins) sightings included: one at Lorneville on Oct. 21 (Don Gibson), one at Hammond River on Oct. 22 and Oct. 27 (Jim Wilson), two at FNP on Nov. 4 (Jim Wilson), one at FNP on Nov. 11 (Gilles Belliveau), two at Westfield on Nov. 11 (David Clark), one at Saint John on Nov. 17 (Merv Cormier), two at Richibucto on Nov. 23 (Irene LeBlanc), one at Saint John on Nov. 29 (Roger Burrows), two at Saint John on Nov. 29 (Frank Kelly), one at Scoudouc on Nov. 29 (Norm Belliveau), one at Fredericton on Dec. 1 (Don Gibson), one at Hampton on Dec. 9 (Harvey McLeod), one at Tide Head on Dec. 14 (Shirley and Allan Dickson), two at Saint John on Dec. 14 (Peter Smith), one at Rothesay on Dec. 14 (Shirley Sproul), one at Bertrand on Dec. 20 (Denise Godin), one at Kedgwick on Dec. 17 (Pat Émond) and one at Bertrand on Jan. 7 (*fide* Roger Dumaesq).

A **Prairie Warbler** (Paruline des prés) was seen near Deep Cove and another near Southern Head on Oct. 20 (Stu Tingley *et al.*). Roger Burrows reported a rather late one at Saint John on Nov. 11.

A **Palm Warbler** (Paruline à couronne rousse) found at White Head Island on Nov. 5 was of the western subspecies (Brian Dalzell).

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** (Paruline polyglotte) was seen at Black Beach Road on Oct. 21 (Don Gibson) and another was found the same day at White Head Island (Stu Tingley *et al.*).

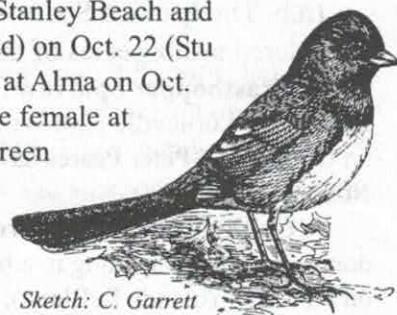
Selected late warbler sightings included: a **Nashville Warbler** (Paruline à joues grises) at Saint John on Nov. 29 (Roger Burrows), a **Magnolia Warbler** (Paruline à tête cendrée) at Point Lepreau on Nov. 9 (Bev Schneider), a **Cape May Warbler** (Paruline tigrée) at Grand Manan on Oct. 22 (Stu Tingley *et al.*), a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** (Paruline bleue) at Alma on Nov. 5 (*fide* Doreen Rossiter), a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (Paruline à croupion jaune) at Riverside-Albert on Dec. 8 (David Christie and Mary Majka), a **Black-throated Green Warbler** (Paruline à gorge noir) at Saint John on Nov. 1 (Roger Burrows), a **Palm Warbler** (Paruline à couronne rousse) at Saint John on Nov. 26 (Roger Burrows), a **Blackpoll Warbler** (Paruline rayée) at White Head Island on Nov. 5 (Brian Dalzell), a **Black-and-white Warbler** (Paruline noir et blanc) at FNP on Nov. 11 (Jim Wilson) and a **Wilson's Warbler** (Paruline à calotte noire) at Saint John on Nov. 2 (Roger Burrows).

A **Summer Tanager** (Tangara vermillon) spent a few days at the feeder of Barb Rossley at Saint John beginning on Nov. 8 and one was seen briefly at the feeder of Margot Russell at Fredericton on Nov. 29.

Two immature male **Scarlet Tanagers** (Tangara écarlate) were seen separately at the Whistle Road on Oct. 22 (Stu Tingley *et al.*) and another Scarlet Tanager was found at North Head on Oct. 29 (SJNC).

A male **Western Tanager** (Tangara à tête rouge) visited the dooryard of Carol and Bill Sutton at Westfield for a few days beginning Nov. 8.

Eastern Towhee (Tohi à flanc roux) reports included: birds heard at Stanley Beach and Poodle Alley (North Head) on Oct. 22 (Stu Tingley *et al.*), one male at Alma on Oct. 22 (Doreen Rossiter), one female at Alma on Nov. 5 (*fide* Doreen Rossiter), one male at Scoudouc on Nov. 15 (Norm Belliveau), one male at Fredericton on Dec. 5 (Karon Croll), one at Penobsquis on Dec. 15 (Bob Secord) and one



Sketch: C. Garrett

male at Sainte Marie/Saint Rafael on Jan. 7 (*fide* Roger Dumaresq).

Four **Chipping Sparrows** (*Bruant familier*) were seen at Alma on Dec. 10 (Doreen Rossiter).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** (*Bruant des plaines*) was found at Black Beach Road on Oct. 18 (Roger Burrows), one seen at Southern Head on Oct. 20 and another at Whistle Road on Oct. 22 (Stu Tingley *et al.*) and Ivy Austin found one at Miscou Island on Oct. 22.

Field Sparrow (*Bruant des champs*) reports included: one at Black Beach Road on Oct. 17 (Jim Wilson and Merv Cormier), one at Sheep Island on Oct. 18 (Brian Dalzell), one at Alma on Oct. 18 (Doreen Rossiter), three at Ox Head and one near Southern Head on Oct. 20 (Stu Tingley *et al.*), one at Salisbury on Oct. 21 (Bill Winsor), two at Fredericton on Nov. 19 (FNC) and one at Boudreau-Ouest in early January (Rose-Alma Mallet).



Sketch: C. Garrett

A **Vesper Sparrow** (*Bruant vespéral*) was seen at Whistle Road on Oct. 22 (Stu Tingley *et al.*) and one was found at Shepody Marsh on Nov. 4 (David Christie and Mary Majka).

A **Lark Sparrow** (*Bruant à joues marron*) was seen at Dawson Settlement on Nov. 25 (David Christie and Mary Majka).

An **Ipswich Sparrow** (*Bruant de Ipswich*) was found at Southern Head on Oct. 19 (Stu Tingley *et al.*), and one was seen at Point Lepreau on Oct. 30 (Richard Blacquiere) and another at Point Lepreau Nov. 9 (Bev Schneider). A rather late **Savannah Sparrow** (*Bruant des prés*) was found at Taylor Village on Dec. 29 (Alain Clavette).

(n.b. The Ipswich Sparrow is currently considered a subspecies of the Savannah Sparrow.)

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** (*Bruant sauterelle*) was found near Lorneville (Jim Wilson and Merv Cormier) on Oct. 17 and Peter Pearce saw one at Fredericton on Nov. 20.

A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** (*Bruant à couronne dorée*) was found feeding in a barnyard at Memramcook on Dec. 26 (Yolande LeBlanc). It remained there throughout this reporting period.

Northern Cardinals (*Cardinal rouge*) are now reported regularly at feeders in the southern part of the

province and it is not uncommon for five or six to frequent a single dooryard. Ralph Eldridge tallied nine at St. George on Nov. 25. Some reports from the northern part of the province included: a female at New Jersey on Nov. 12 (Dave McLeod), a male at Whitney on Nov. 17 (Elizabeth Walsh) and a female at Campbellton on Nov. 23 (Margaret Gallant Doyle).

An immature male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (*Cardinal à poitrine rose*) was seen at Shediak Bridge on Nov. 22 (Nelson Poirier).

The identity of a suspected immature male **Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Cardinal à tête noire*) visiting a feeder at Clifton Royal was confirmed by Jim Wilson on Dec. 28. The homeowner, Jean MacDonald, had tentatively identified it a week earlier.

An immature **Blue Grosbeak** (*Guiraca bleu*) visited the feeder of Theresa and Peter Pearce at Fredericton regularly from Dec. 10 to 20 and Dec. 27 to Jan. 3.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerin indigo*) sightings include: one at Ox Head on Oct. 20 (Stu Tingley *et al.*), one at Lorneville on Oct. 21 (Shirley Sloat, Margery Acheson and Don Gibson), one at Green Point on Oct. 29 (Tracey Dean) and one at Saint John on Dec. 9 (*fide* Roger Burrows).

A **Dickcissel** (*Dickcissel d'Amérique*) was seen at Point Lepreau on Oct. 17 (Roger Burrows). On Oct. 20 one was found at Ox Head and another near Southern Head (Stu Tingley *et al.*). Roger Burrows found two at Saint John on Oct. 30.

A meadowlark, thought to be a **Western Meadowlark** (*Sturnelle de l'Ouest*), was seen at Stanley Beach, Grand Manan, on Oct. 22 (Stu Tingley *et al.*).

A **Rusty Blackbird** (*Quiscale rouilleux*) was seen at Shediak Bridge on Dec. 27 (Nelson Poirier).

A **Brown-headed Cowbird** (*Vacher à tête brune*) was found at Grand Manan on Dec. 4 (Roger LeBlanc and Richard Perron), one at Saint John on Jan. 5 (Roger Burrows) and one at Saint John on Jan. 10 (Frank Kelly).

There were about 20 **Baltimore Oriole** (*Oriole de Baltimore*) reports, many of which were from the southern part of the province but also a few from the north. Most sightings were made by early December. However, one was still at Haut-Paquetville on Jan. 7



Dickcissel
Sketch: C. Garrett

(*vide* Roger Dumaesq) and another at Riverview on that day (Ginnie Cole).



Red Crossbill

Sketch: C. Garrett

Roy LaPointe saw a male **Red Crossbill** (*Bec-croisé des sapins*) at Saint-Léonard on Oct. 22 and Roger LeBlanc found six at Bouctouche on Dec. 29.

Roy LaPointe reported that there was at least one **Hoary Redpoll** (*Sizerin blanchâtre*) with a flock of Common Redpolls at Saint-

Léonard on Jan. 1 and Roger Burrows experienced a similar situation at Saint John on Jan. 9.

The following are selected early reports of winter visitors from the north:

An **Iceland Gull** (*Goéland arctique*) was found at Saint John on Oct. 28 (Jim Wilson). A

Glaucous Gull (*Goéland bourgmestre*) was seen at Rivière-verte on Nov. 17 (Roy LaPointe).

Northern Shrikes (*Pie-grièche grise*) were observed on Oct. 18 at Marys Point (David Christie) and at Taymouth (Julie Singleton).

David Christie reported seven **Snow Buntings** (*Bruant des neiges*) near Harvey on Oct. 19.

One or two **Common Redpolls** (*Sizerin flammé*) were heard flying over North Head on Oct. 21 (Stu Tingley *et al.*).

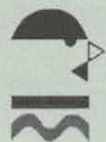
Abbreviations: CNC Chignecto Naturalists' Club; FNC Fredericton Nature Club; FNP Fundy National Park; MNC Moncton Naturalists' Club; SJNC Saint John Naturalists' Club; Stu Tingley *et al* (Norm, Gisèle and Gilles Belliveau, Rose-Alma Mallet and Stu Tingley).

PILEATED WOODPECKERS AT WORK

Kathy Popma



Photos: K. Popma



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The first one shows the Pileated Woodpecker (female) hammering in the excavation on Kirk St. in Sackville in January 2006. The second one shows the same excavation, twice the size, one week later (note wood chips).

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.

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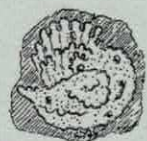
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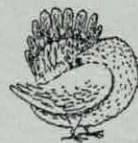


The Lichen.

Lichens, regardless of conventions,
 Exist in only two dimensions,
 A life restricted to a plane,
 On rocks and stones a greenish stain,
 They live upon the simplest fare,

A drop of dew, a breath of air,
 Contrast them with the greedy Hen,
 And her most careless regimen,
 She shuns the barren stones and rocks,
 And thrives upon the garbage box.

Robert Williams Wood



The Hen.

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