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Le Naturaliste du N.-B.

Nature NB

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Nature NB 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.

Nature NB 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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In This Issue / Dans ce numéro

Cover: Great Blue Herons by Don Gibson

Production team for the NB Naturalist –Summer 2006

Don Gibson	*Producer*
Peter Pearce	*Editor-in-chief*
Jim Goltz	*Consultant*
Mary Sollows	*Undercover agent*
Janet MacMillan	*Distribution*
Gart Bishop	*Representative to NBFN*

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Gart Bishop
16 Pitt St.
Sussex NB
E4E 1J1
Tel. (506) 433-4994
gartali@nbnet.nb.ca

PRESIDENT'S REPORT / RAPPORT DU PRÉSIDENT

Roland Chiasson

Guess what's new at the NBFN?

You have certainly noticed the changing seasons but do you know what is new with NBFN/FNNB? During our last annual general meeting held this past June, we replaced two board members. Diane Mercier-Allain replaces Jim Wilson as Membership Secretary and Peter Wilshaw takes over from Kevin Tutt as Treasurer. Welcome to our team! Special thanks to Jim and Kevin for all their expertise and help during the last three years. We appreciate it! We hope they will be hanging around! Oh yes! Ron Arsenault, who was already a board member, has agreed to act as vice-president until we find someone to fill the position more permanently.

We also have a new name since our last annual general meeting: **Nature NB**. However, we still have to use our old name for legal purposes. Our new name will be used for promotional purposes and to reach out to more people. Our new name is not to be confused with NatureNB, which is the NB Nature listserv. I recommend that people use the new name with the old name especially when it is used out of context like for example: Nature NB (New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists).

Yes, there is still something else new! We welcome Eugenia Dietrich as our new executive director. We are glad to have her on the Nature NB team. Regretfully, Marieka will be leaving us in September. We wish her all the best and we ask that she doesn't forget us. Marieka will be staying on for a little while to help our new executive director settle in.

Devinez ce qu'il y a de nouveau à la FNNB?

Vous avez sûrement aperçu le changement des saisons mais saviez-vous ce qu'il y a de nouveau avec la FNNB? Durant notre dernière assemblée générale annuelle en juin dernier, nous avons élu deux nouveaux membres au conseil. Diane Mercier-Allain remplacera Jim Wilson comme Secrétaire de la société et Peter Wilshaw remplacera Kevin Tutt comme trésorier. Un gros merci à Jim Wilson et à Kevin Tutt de votre expertise et aide durant les derniers trois ans. Nous souhaitons que vous resterez parmi nous. Il ne faut surtout pas oublier que Ron Arsenault, qui était déjà un membre du conseil, a accepté d'agir en tant que vice-président jusqu'à ce que nous trouverons quelqu'un de permanent pour remplir ce poste.

Nous avons également un nouveau nom depuis notre dernière réunion annuelle: **Nature N.-B**. Cependant, nous devons encore utiliser notre vieux nom pour des fins légales. Notre nouveau nom sera utilisé pour faire de la promotion et pour rejoindre plus de personnes. Notre nouveau nom ne doit pas être confondu avec NatureNB, qui est le listserv sur la nature du NB. Je recommande que les gens utilisent le nouveau nom avec le vieux nom surtout quand il est utilisé hors contexte comme par exemple: Nature N.-B. (Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick).

Encore une autre nouvelle! Nous accueillons chaleureusement notre nouvelle directrice générale, Eugenia Dietrich. Nous sommes heureux que vous nous rejoigniez à l'équipe de Nature N.-B.! C'est avec regret que Marieka nous laissera au mois de septembre. Nous lui souhaitons nos meilleurs vœux et nous lui demandons qu'elle ne nous oublie jamais. Marieka restera quelques semaines pour aider notre nouvelle directrice exécutive à bien s'installer dans le nouveau poste.

BIRDING THERE AND HERE: NANAIMO vs. FREDERICTON

Peter Pearce

Many visits by Theresa and I to the west coast of North America have included several to Vancouver Island, specifically to Nanaimo, on the Strait of Georgia. Needless to say, over the while we have looked at a few birds there. So it is that I have been asked to pen a short note comparing the avifauna and our birding experiences there with those at Fredericton. In a somewhat scattergun approach, here goes.

Local amateur ornithologists consider their Greater Nanaimo "working area" to extend from Nanoose to Ladysmith and to embrace the basin of the Nanaimo River, a section of the Strait of Georgia and some of the northern Gulf Islands. The area is endowed with many lakes, a rich estuary, majestic conifer stands and a coastline with a certain Mediterranean ambience. The marine environment constitutes over one-third of the total area. Terrestrially, the region falls in what is known as the Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, characterized by that tree, western red cedar and western hemlock, other key indicator trees being Garry oak and arbutus, both enjoying a very restricted range. Nanaimo lies three degrees north of Fredericton's latitude. The total area addressed by Nanaimo's bird checklist is about one-quarter of Fredericton's.

Birders visiting Nanaimo, about twice the size of Fredericton in its human population, are able to access a mine of information on the local and regional avifauna. The city is blessed with an excellent nature store which organizes birding excursions on most Sundays throughout the year and publishes a regular bird column in a local newspaper. Additionally, in partnership with the nature store the Nanaimo Field Naturalists Club operates a birding hot-line and has recently updated a most useful bird checklist.

Now to the birds. For purposes of comparison, Table 1 shows the number of bird species, by selected group, whose occurrence has been confirmed at Nanaimo and at Fredericton. On first inspection the numbers appear to be closely matched. One of the biggest differences between the two avifaunas is exhibited by the wood-warblers. Of the 14 species that have been identified at Nanaimo, the only abundant ones are Orange-crowned and Townsend's warblers and Common Yellowthroat. Five are considered to be vagrants. Twice as many species have been noted at Fredericton where the wood-warblers could be thought of as the glory of the summer bird population, especially during spruce budworm outbreaks. Fredericton also boasts more kinds of sparrows than Nanaimo. Differences among other songbird families, together with those not listed, are less pronounced. Overall, Fredericton can claim about one-fifth more species of songbirds than Nanaimo.

In terms of waterfowl diversity, Nanaimo and Fredericton are equal but there are just so many more individuals on the west coast. In winter, particularly, Nanaimo enjoys an abundance of Trumpeter Swans, American Wigeon, Northern Pintails, Green-winged Teal, Surf Scoters, Buffleheads and both goldeneyes, Another half-dozen species, including Harlequin Duck, are common then. What a contrast with the prospect in ice-bound Fredericton!

As would be expected, Nanaimo scores well when marine birds are considered. Of the six species of auks and their allies listed, only two - Pigeon Guillemot and Marbled Murrelet - are common. A few species of tubenoses are of accidental occurrence. (Curiously enough, more Leach's Storm-Petrels have been seen at Fredericton than at Nanaimo.)

Shorebirding is more rewarding along the Strait of Georgia coast at Nanaimo than along the Saint John River valley at Fredericton, a slightly greater diversity having been confirmed in the west. About two dozen species are common to the two checklists and about one-third of Nanaimo's shorebird species may occur in winter as well as at other times of the year. A nice winter quintet might comprise Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, Surfbird, Rock Sandpiper and Dunlin. Despite all

One fascinating aspect about birding in Nanaimo has to do with encounters with familiar birds in slightly different guises. A number of songbirds have much darker plumage in the Pacific northwest than their eastern forms, a phenomenon exemplified by the Song and Fox sparrows. And in the Hairy Woodpecker, a pale, brownish grey replaces the white underparts. As another example of familiar birds looking a bit different, one may cite one of the commonest summer thrushes, Swainson's, which is russet-backed rather than olive-backed, as in the east. Finally, the regional accents of some species common to Nanaimo and Fredericton may be picked up by the discerning ear. For example, one finds the song of the Red-winged Blackbird to be quite similar but consistently different between the two places.

Many memories of birds and birding in Nanaimo linger. In no particular sequence, a random selection follows: the beauty of adult male Violet-green Swallows; the extraordinarily large nest of the diminutive Bushtit; the similarity of Ruby-crowned Kinglets to Hutton's Vireos; the surprise on meeting hummingbirds (Anna's) in winter; the difficulty of observing warblers in the tops of those so-tall western conifers; the abundance of Spotted Towhees, which favour the cover provided by the introduced Himalayan blackberry; the peculiar feeding behaviour of the American Dipper; the single encounter with a MacGillivray's Warbler, so like the ecologically-equivalent Mourning Warbler; the very close

discerning ear. For example, one finds the song of the Red-winged Blackbird to be quite similar but consistently different between the two places.

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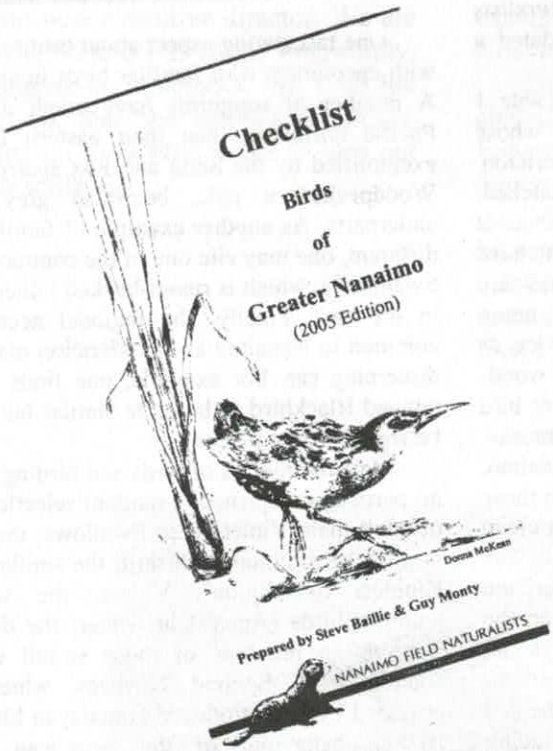
The number of species noted on the two official bird checklists is Nanaimo 292 : Fredericton 302.

The birding is good on the west coast. So it is at home!

Table 1. Number of species of birds, by selected groups, reported on the official checklists of Nanaimo and Fredericton.

	Nanaimo	Fredericton
Waterfowl	37	35
Seabirds	11	2
Herons	5	9
Diurnal Raptors	16	16
Shorebirds	35	30
Gulls,Terns	19	19
Songbirds		
Tyrant Flycatchers	12	13
Thrushes	7	8
Wood-warblers	14	27
Sparrows	17	22
Blackbirds	7	9
Finches	11	10

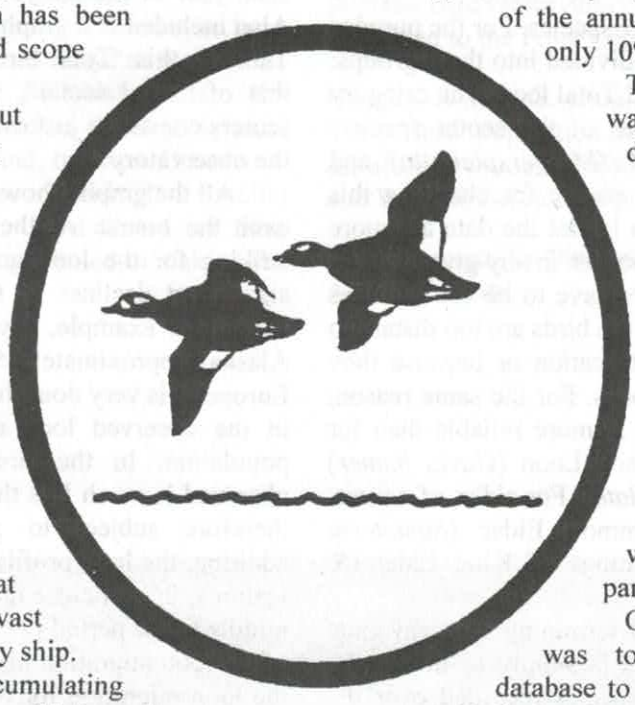


TRENDS IN SPRING MIGRATION RATES

of Scoters, Eiders and Loons at the Point Lepreau Bird Observatory over the Period 1996-2005

James G. Wilson and Ian R. Cameron

The Bay of Fundy each year witnesses one of the most spectacular mass movements of migrating seabirds to be seen on the North American continent. The Bay acts as a gigantic funnel for the birds traveling from their southern wintering areas to their breeding grounds in the far north. Although many thousands of birds such as scoters, eiders, loons, and cormorants are known to take part in this migration, it is only in the past ten years that detailed information has been obtained on the size, timing and scope of the phenomenon.



The change has come about owing to the establishment in 1995, by the Saint John Naturalists' Club, of the Point Lepreau Bird Observatory (PLBO) at Point Lepreau, New Brunswick. One of the main motivations was a concern on the part of members of the Club about the potentially disastrous consequences of an oil spill on the sea duck population passing through the Bay, since a large oil refinery operates at nearby Saint John, importing vast quantities of crude oil annually by ship. Globally, evidence had been accumulating of a decline in the numbers of seabirds such as scoter and loon due to oil pollution, chemical contamination and habitat degradation. Any new data collected on seabirds in the Bay were considered potentially valuable to wildlife officials responsible for managing eastern sea duck populations. More generally, the information would augment what little was known on the life histories and population dynamics of certain sea duck species.

Point Lepreau is an obvious place for monitoring the flow of seabirds up the Bay. Situated at 45.06° N, 66.46° W, the feature is the most prominent headland on the Bay's mainland coast. It is possible that the majority of the seabirds that winter south of the Maritime provinces fly within sight of Point Lepreau as they follow the Atlantic coast north. It appears most move up the Bay, fly over the Isthmus of Chignecto to Northumberland Strait and continue their journey north. In fall, the flow of birds is less concentrated as they return to the Atlantic coast from scattered locations across the north.

The PLBO started operation in the spring of 1996, and has continued annually since then to monitor both spring and fall migrations. From 1996 to 1998, dozens of volunteers from the Saint John and other naturalists' clubs counted migrating seabirds at the site. It was soon apparent that spring migration involved about 90% of the annual volume of bird traffic, and only 10% passed in fall.

The participation of volunteers was significant and essential, but did introduce some variability to the quality of the data collected. By 1999, the Club was able to contract a dedicated observer to conduct several weeks of observations during each migration period. The dedicated observer provided consistent daily observation coverage and acted as a mentor to volunteers, who were still encouraged to participate.

One of the long-term objectives was to establish and maintain a database to permit evaluation of trends in seabird migration. The Canadian Wildlife Service and Bird Studies Canada suggested the method for data capture. An observation session involved a series of eight 15-minute bird counts followed by a rest period of equal length. Observers counted all birds seen and noted the species, number of individuals and direction of flight. Resting birds were counted separately. Extensive data on atmospheric and sea conditions were recorded at the beginning and end of each observation session.

Over the life of the observatory, an enormous quantity of information has been amassed. The total number of bird species recorded over the period stands at slightly more than 200, mostly of course in rather small numbers. Table 1 gives a listing of the average number of birds observed per hour in the spring of each year from 1996 to 2005, for the most abundant species (scoter, eider, cormorant and loon). The rates shown were obtained by simply dividing the total number of each species by the total counting time for each season,

although, as discussed below, some adjustment was later made to compensate for the fact that there was a certain amount of variation in the number of counting days from year to year.

Of the four groups of birds listed, the statistics for cormorants are the least indicative of actual migration numbers. The observed spring migration rates, for example, are only a very small fraction (about 4%) of the fall ones, so that it appears that the spring migration is so dispersed that the majority of birds bypass the observatory. This supposition is substantiated by the observation of large flocks moving overland. The present article consequently analyses the trend in spring migration rates only for the other species. For the purpose of the analysis these have been divided into three groups: Total scoter, Common Eider and Total loon. The category "Total scoter" includes all three of the scoter species: Black (*Melanitta nigra*), Surf (*M. perspicilatta*) and White-winged (*M. fusca*). The reason for choosing this grouping for the initial analysis is that the data are more robust than for the individual species; in any given year, a substantial proportion of scoters have to be classified as "scoter species", either because the birds are too distant to permit individual species identification or because they are traveling in large mixed flocks. For the same reason, determination of "Total loons" is more reliable than for the individual species - Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) and Red-throated Loon (*G. stellata*). For eider, of course, the vast majority were Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), and the rare sightings of King Eider (*S. spectabilis*) were ignored.

The obvious way of determining the average migration rate for each species is simply to divide the total number of birds of that species recorded over the spring count period by the total number of hours of observation. It is apparent from a cursory examination of the totals, in Table 1, of the three selected groups that there is a general trend for the annual rates to decrease over the course of the ten-year period. There is a possibility, however, that some of this apparent decrease may have been related to a variation in the total annual number of observation hours over the operating life of the observatory. In the earlier years (particularly from 1997 to 1999), when the work was done by volunteer observers only and the total observing time was therefore more limited, the tendency would have been to concentrate the observations in what were known, or suspected, to be the peak migration periods. If that was indeed the case, it would be expected to produce higher observed rates *per hour* in the early years, even if the total annual numbers going through over the entire migration period had remained the same.

In an attempt to eliminate any such effect, the following procedure was adopted in the ten-year analysis. For each species grouping, the available data for any given day over the entire ten-year period were combined to give an average figure for the migration rate for that day. This produced a "migration profile" for each group as shown in Figure 1. The profile was then used to fill in any gaps in the counting record, subject to the condition that the profile was unchanged by the additions, having the effect of putting the data for all the years on a consistent basis.

The resulting graphs of average birds per hour for each year of the ten-year period are shown in Figure 2. Also included is a graph for the total of all the species in Table 1; this "Total birds" graph is generally similar to that of "Total scoter", which would be expected since scoters constitute just over 80% of the total birds passing the observatory.

All the graphs show an apparent decrease in numbers over the course of the ten-year period. This is most striking for the loon grouping. While it is known that significant declines in the populations of Red-throated Loons, for example, have taken place in regions such as Alaska (approximately 53% over 20 years) and parts of Europe, it is very doubtful that the relatively steep decline in the observed loon rate is a reflection of the true population. In the first place, the number of birds observed is much less than for either scoter or eider, and therefore subject to greater annual fluctuation. In addition, the loon profile (Figure 1) shows some peculiar features, in particular the outstanding "spike" around the middle of the period (17 April), which accounted for 75% of the loon migration in 1996, and no less than 22% of all the loon migration for the whole ten-year period. It may be that the loon migration is more spread out over the Bay than is the case for some of the other species, so that it is only in exceptional circumstances that one observes the large near-shore concentration that occurred in 1996.

For the two remaining groups (total scoter and eider), where one has the larger sample sizes and smoother profiles, a quantitative estimation of the rate of decrease was attempted. A regression analysis was performed to determine the curve which best fitted the data on the assumption that there was a constant percent decline per year from 1996 to 2005 (i.e., an exponential decrease).

The results were:

Total scoter: -3.7 ± 1.4 percent per year

Common Eider: -5.7 ± 2.5 percent per year

These results are preliminary and subject to change in the light of more detailed statistical analysis and continuing observations in future years. The rates of

change, if valid, would result in a decrease in total numbers of 28% and 40%, respectively, over the ten-year period. It is not clear, of course, whether this would be indicative of a persisting long-term loss or simply illustrative of a cyclical variation. For scoters, however, it is well known that populations in North America have been declining, so that the decrease found here is consistent with trends noted elsewhere.

The mass of data accumulated at the PLBO has already made a significant contribution to our knowledge of seabird migration along the Atlantic seaboard, and the results achieved have underlined the importance of continuing this important work. On behalf of the Saint John Naturalists' Club we thank the volunteers who have contributed to the project in so many ways as well as the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, the Fredericton Nature Club, the Canadian Wildlife Service, the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund and Nature Canada for funding support, and NB Power and the Coast Guard for their excellent cooperation. All have contributed to making the project a success.

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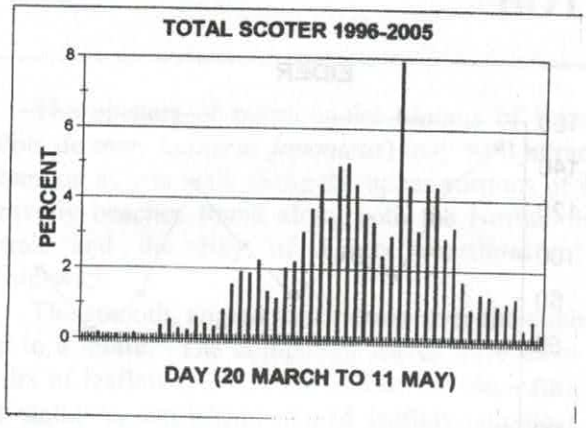
Table 1a. Spring migration rates (birds per hour) of the principal species passing the Point Lepreau Bird Observatory from 1996 to 2005.

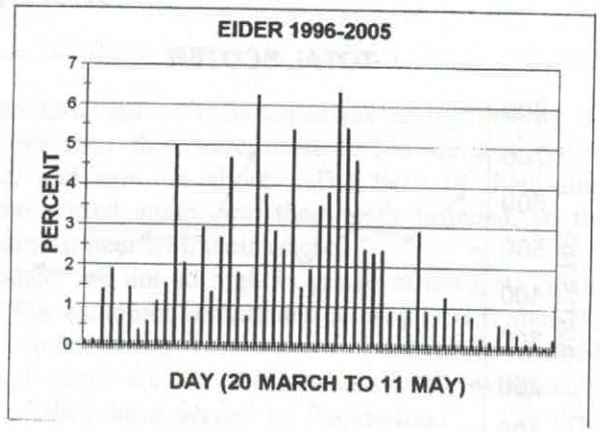
Species	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Average
Black Scoter	364	336	512	152	258	219	288	194	233	232	259
Surf Scoter	134	212	123	106	277	122	84	82	119	93	130
Scoter - Species?	32	48	100	221	114	142	77	90	70	67	95
White-w. Scoter	8	13	10	9	11	8	9	4	9	5	8
Total Scoters	538	608	745	488	659	492	459	371	431	396	492
Common Eider	144	148	125	113	79	95	122	65	60	91	100
D.-c. Cormorant	1	7	4	2	3	0	4	1	1	1	2
Great Cormorant	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Cormorant - Species?	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
Total Cormorants	3	9	5	3	4	0	7	2	2	2	3
Common Loon	5	6	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2
Red-th. Loon	30	18	6	3	18	3	7	3	4	4	9
Loon - Species?	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total Loons	36	24	8	7	20	6	9	4	5	6	12
Grand Total	720	790	884	610	762	592	596	442	499	495	607

Note: Totals may not agree because of rounding.

Table 1b. Number of hours of count time and dates of count periods.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Average
Number of Hours	224	143	79	196	219	223	275	279	269	236	214
Starting Date	Mar. 17	Mar. 22	Mar. 29	Mar. 14	Mar. 1	Mar. 15	Mar. 11	Mar. 9	Mar. 14	Mar. 20	Mar. 15
End Date	May 27	May 22	May 01	May 04	May 16	May 22	May 11	May 10	May 14	May 13	May 14





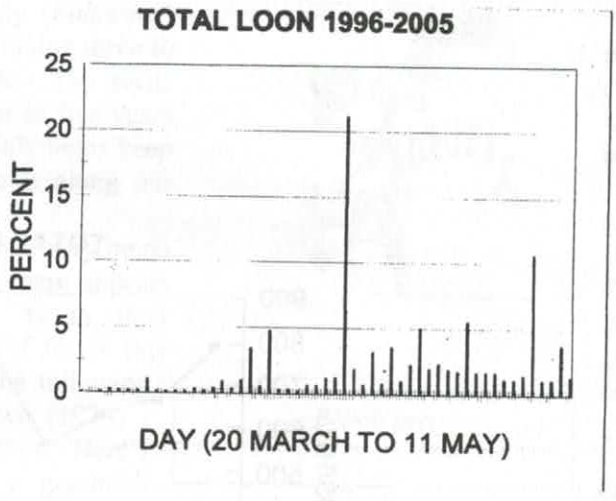
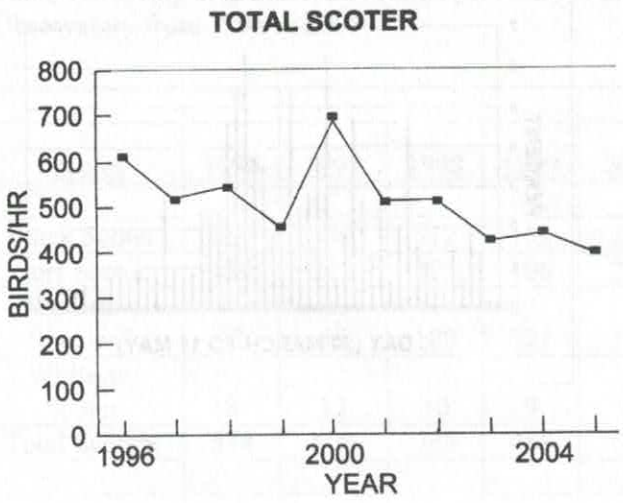
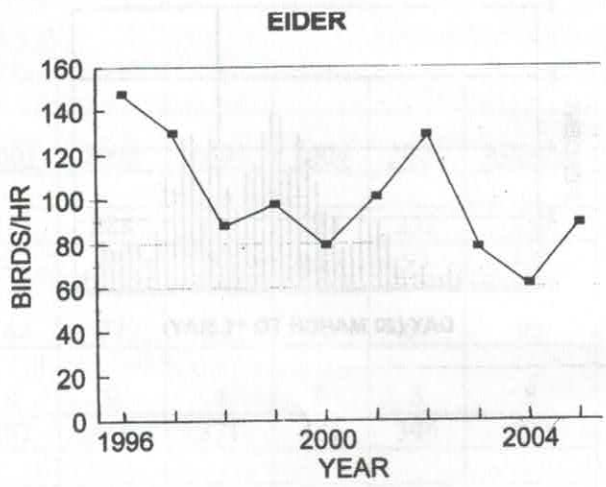
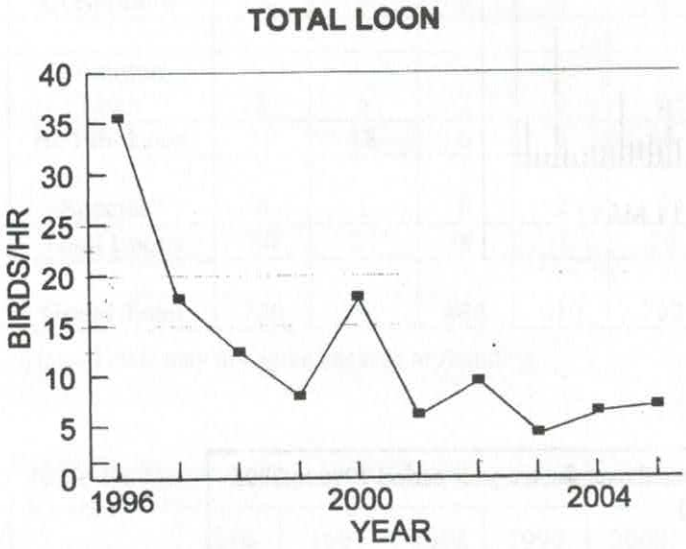


Figure 1. Migration profiles. Daily count rates averaged over the ten-year period 1996 to 2005 (expressed as a percentage of the sum of count rates)







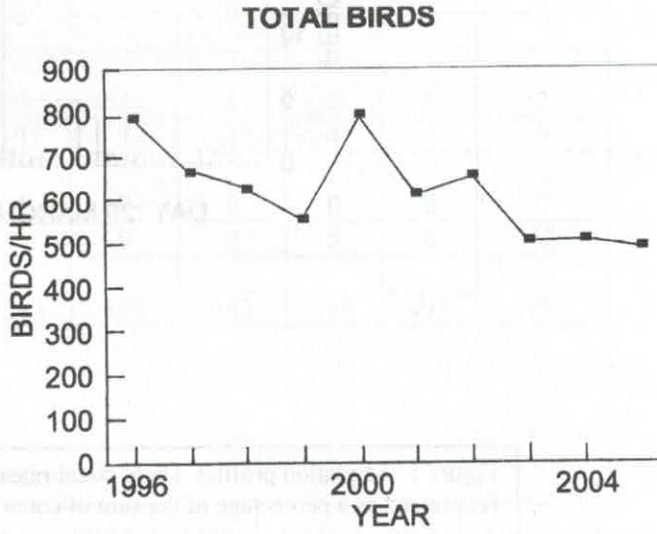


Figure 2. Average yearly count rates for the selected groups over the ten-year period 1996 to 2005

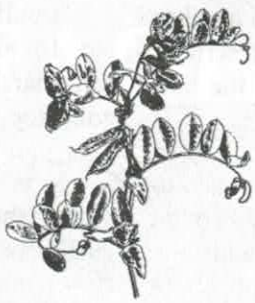
BOTANY CORNER

Gart Bishop

The clusters of purple/violet blooms of Beach Pea (Pois de mer, *Lathyrus japonicus*) may well attract your attention as you walk along the upper portions of stoney, gravelly beaches found along both the Northumberland Strait and the Bay of Fundy coastlines of New Brunswick.

The smooth, angled stems creep over the cobbles for up to a metre. The compound leaves have three to six pairs of leaflets (sometimes leaflets are alternate), a pair of stalkless, arrowhead-shaped leaflets (stipules) at the point of attachment and a curling tendril at the leaf tip. Found commonly along the shores of the Great Lakes, the plant ranges along the eastern seaboard as far south as New Jersey. It is also found along most of North America's Pacific coast, in Chile, Great Britain and Japan.

As its name indicates, this is a member of the pea family (*Fabaceae*) and its fruit is a pod containing three to six small pea-sized seeds. The seeds can remain viable for four to five years in sea water, which certainly helps keep the plant a familiar species along our beaches.



Beach pea
Drawing by: M. Satterlee

Although the seeds look very much like normal garden peas, there appears to be some confusion as to their edibility. Captain James (of James Bay fame) in 1632 recorded the following – cited by Erichsen-Brown (1979) - after wintering in James Bay: "Here I am to remember God's goodness towards us, in sending those aforementioned green vetches. For now, our feeble sick men [scurvy] that could not for their lives stir these two or three months, can endure the air and walk about the house, our other sick men gather strength also, and it is wonderful to see how soon they were recovered. We used them in this manner: Twice a day we went to gather the herb or leaf of these vetches as they first appeared out of the ground; then did we wash and boil them, and so with oil and vinegar that had been frozen, we did eat them. It was an excellent sustenance and refreshing; the most part of us ate nothing else. We would likewise bruise them and take the juice of them, and mix that with our drink. We would eat them raw also with our bread ... The fifteenth we did little but exercise ourselves seeing that by this time our men that were most feeble are now grown strong, and can run about. The flesh of their gums became settled again, and their teeth fastened, so that they can eat beef with their vetches."

Others are not so high in praise of the taste of this plant. For example, Fernald and Kinsey (1943) state that "The tender young seeds ....are a tolerable vegetable although seeds are dry and have a slightly disagreeable taste .... they have served as famine-food". The dried seeds can also be roasted then ground and used as a coffee substitute.

So while these peas are rich in B vitamins, vitamin A and protein, and may well be useful in times of starvation, one should be cautious as other similar looking members of the genus *Lathyrus* are poisonous. Great care should be taken when collecting young shoots of this plant for use in springtime salads (Peterson 1977). Native tribes are said to have used the root as a 'good luck charm' in ceremonies.

Beach Pea flowers are principally pollinated by bees, moths and butterflies and like many other members of the *Fabaceae* family, its roots add nitrogen to the soil. It reportedly grows well in gardens offering deep, moist, well-drained sites that enjoy full sun.

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FROM OUR PAST

Selected by Mary Sollows

The following article was taken from the Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick: No. XVI, 1898, pp. 50-52.

ARTICLE V.

NOTES ON THE NATURAL HISTORY AND PHYSIOGRAPHY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

By W. F. Ganong

7. –ON HALOPHYTIC COLONIES IN THE INTERIOR OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

Read Nov. 2nd, 1897; re-written April 1898.

In the geographical distribution of plants no phenomena are of greater interest than the occurrence of colonies isolated far from their congeners in the midst of a different flora. The best known case of this, and one which will occur to everyone in this connection, is the presence of Arctic plants on high mountains even near the equator, and in bogs and other cold places. We have Arctic plants in New Brunswick, as Dr. Matthew* and Professor Fowler† have shown; but we have also another kind of isolated colony, which has not yet been described by our botanists-a colony of sea-shore plants at the Salt Springs near Sussex.

These springs - three or four in number-occur three miles east of Sussex, beside the highway road to Moncton. The brine was formerly, but is not now, boiled down for salt. They break out in the open fields and flow down to a fresh-water brook near by. On the sandy shore around the springs and along their outlets grow plants which give the place the appearance of a bit of the sea-shore. Several years ago I noticed these plants, and last August I visited the place, and collected the species listed below. The Phanerogams were identified for me by Mr. Walter Deane and Dr. B.L. Robinson of Cambridge, and the Algae by Mr. F.L. Collins of Malden, to all of whom, for their valued aid, I tender my sincere thanks. They are listed about in the order of their abundance, and the notes were made on the spot.

1. *Salicornia herbacea,* L. The most abundant and characteristic plant; very red and succulent.
2. *Spergularia (Buda) salina*, Presl. On the sandy banks; very abundant.
3. *Spergularia salina,* var. *minor*, Rob. (?)
4. *Spergularia borealis*, Rob.
5. *Ranunculus cymbalaria*, Pursh. On edge of the streams from the springs.
6. *Atriplex patulum*, L., var. *hastatum*, Gray. In sandy places.
7. *Distichlis maritime*, Raf.
8. *Puccinellia maritime*, Parl., var. *minor*, Watson. In very salt places.
9. *Scirpus pungens*, Vahl.
10. *Juncus bufonius*, L.
11. *Ilea fulvescens* (Ag.) J. Ag.
12. *Rhizoclonium*, probably *Kochianum.*
13. *Rhizoclonium*, probably *riparium* var. *implexum.*

It will be noticed that all of the above species, except No. 10, are of marked halophytic habit, characteristic of salt marshes or sea-coasts. Probably a more skilful collector would find yet other species. One in the list, *Spergularia borealis*, is new to our flora.

It is easy to understand how these plants persist where they are, for the salt water of the springs is sufficiently like the salt water of the sea. But how did they come there? The nearest sea-coast is, in an air line, at least twenty-one miles away, with high hill-ranges between. For the occurrence of such a colony, one of three explanations is possible: - First, the plants may have been transported from the sea-coast by man; but the large number of the species, and especially the presence of the Algae, is against such accidental introduction. Second, natural modes of dissemination may have carried them from the coast; but the most of them are so little specialized for such locomotion that this is difficult to believe. Third, under different geographical conditions in the past they may have extended continuously from the sea to this place, but have since become extinct between. This is doubtless the correct explanation, and is homologous with that of the occurrence of isolated Arctic colonies. During the latest post-glacial subsidence this region dipped beneath the sea to an extent estimated by Dr. Matthew at 200 feet.** At that time the sea, bringing the coast plants with it, must have extended up the Kennebecasis, deeply burying these springs, which, as shown by the Intercolonial Railroad levels, are not over seventy feet above present high-tide mark at St. John. The subsequent elevation of the land with the return of the fresh water, would of course exterminate the

Halophytes everywhere except where they could find salt. Which happened to be the case at these springs.

There are other salt springs in New Brunswick - in the parish of Upham, and at Bennett's Brook, near Petitcodiac; while others are said to occur on Coal Creek, Queens County. There is also a brook with slightly saline taste just above Plaster Rock, on the Tobique. Here is a most attractive problem for our local societies - to determine whether other colonies occur in these places.

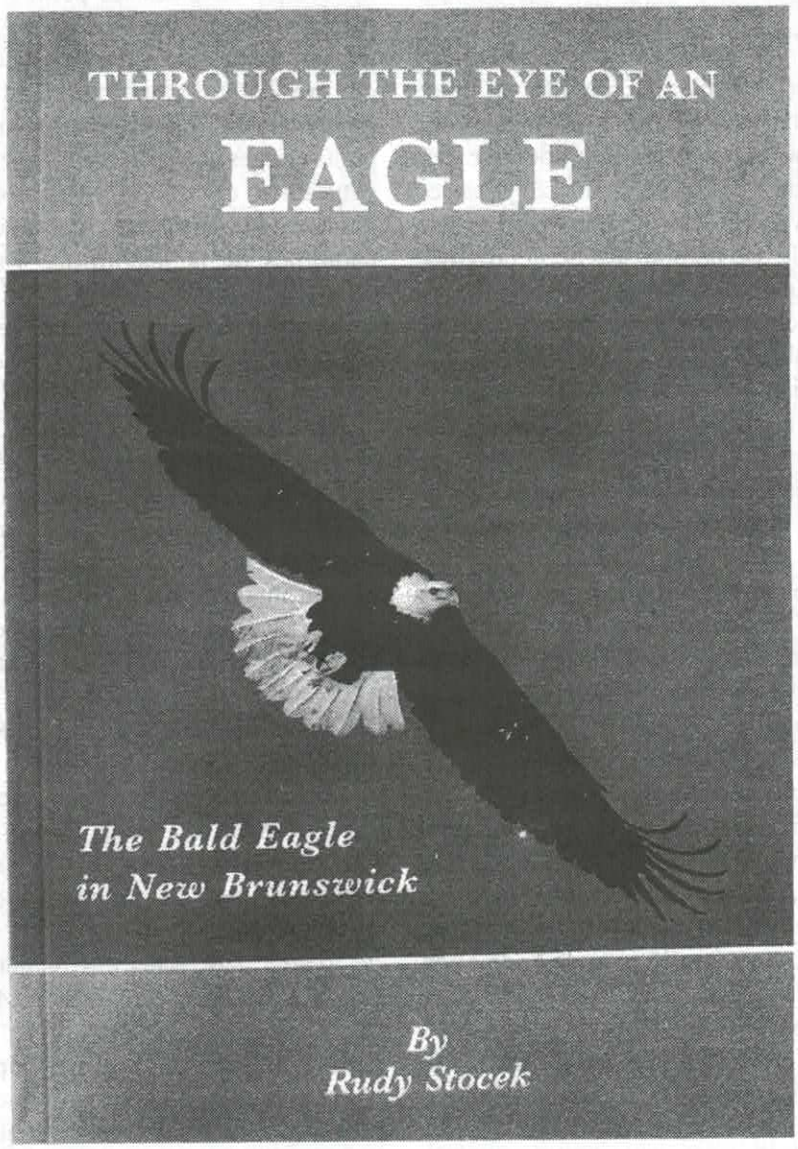
Halophytic colonies occur about the salt springs near Syracuse, New York, and no doubt at other places in Eastern North America; but they appear not to have been studied from this point of view.

*See Canadian Naturalist, 1869.
†See Trans. Royal Soc. Canada, V.
**Bulletin of this Society, No. 2, page 4

THROUGH THE EYE OF AN EAGLE

Rudy Stocek, a retired wildlife biologist and fisheries scientist has recently published a compilation of 25 years of research on the bald eagle in New Brunswick. His book, "*Through the Eye of an Eagle*" encompasses a life time of watching and witnessing first hand the life cycle and life habits of this majestic raptor.

Rudy retired in 2002 after teaching at the Maritime Forest Ranger School for 35 years. There he was also the director of the continuing education Fish and Wildlife Program, teaching resource ecology to forest rangers. He worked as both a seasonal fisheries biologist and wildlife biologist for the New Brunswick Fish and Wildlife Branch and, established and taught the Ichthyology and Fisheries Science course at the University of New Brunswick in the early 1980's.



The Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists awarded Rudy their Professional Merit Award in 1995. Throughout his career and into retirement he continues to act as a consulting fish and wildlife biologist.

Among his over 50 publications, Rudy's books and articles have included some of his research on the bald eagle, osprey, peregrine falcon, common loon, tree swallow, eastern cougar, muskellunge and fathead minnow. His book on identifying New Brunswick trees and shrubs in winter continues to be used in wildlife and forestry programs.

Through the Eye of an Eagle documents Rudy's 25 year investigation looking at eagle distribution and abundance, historical and current breeding populations, nesting habitat, eagle reproduction, winter and summer diet and mortality in the province.

RAPPORT AGA 2006

Roger LeBlanc

Lorsque débuta, à l'automne dernier, la planification de l'assemblée générale annuelle de Nature Nouveau-Brunswick à Memramcook, certains doutes parcouraient l'esprit des membres du comité organisateur. Pour un petit club comme celui de Memramcook réussir à tenir, avec succès, un événement d'une telle envergure semblait tout un défi. Heureusement deux clubs voisins, le Chignecto Naturalists' Club et le Club les Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est Inc. nous offrirent rapidement leur aide. Cela rendait la tâche déjà plus abordable. Reste que la montagne nous semblait haute à gravir et à l'occasion, lors des multiples réunions de préparation de l'hiver passé elle sembla même parfois grandir. Mais l'engagement était pris et nous n'avions d'autre choix que d'atteindre le sommet.

Enfin le 9 juin dernier alors que nous attendions l'arrivée des premiers participants tout semblait en place et malgré toutes nos appréhensions… et oui, nous étions prêt. Par contre Dame Nature avait gardé un dernier défi pour nous. De la pluie, du vent et en quantité. C'est ce que la météo nous prévoyait. Et comme une bonne partie de cette rencontre annuelle des naturalistes de la province tourne autour des sorties en plein air, un déluge aurait pu carrément compromettre certaines sorties ou du moins les rendre bien moins agréables. Mais l'optimisme semble être le propre du naturaliste et alors que les participants commençaient à arriver à l'accueil dans la salle Marie Léonie leur paroles amicales et l'attitude positive qui se dégageait du groupe étaient comme un rayon de soleil qui réchauffait l'atmosphère malgré un ciel qui s'entêtait à demeurer gris.

L'assemblée générale annuelle eut lieu plus tard dans le magnifique théâtre du "Monument Lefebvre" reconnu comme un Lieu historique national du Canada par Parcs Canada. La salle elle-même est réputée pour sa beauté et surtout pour son acoustique remarquable. Un lieu idéal pour la réunion. Au cours de l'assemblé on eu droit aux rapports et communications habituelles lors de ce genre de rencontre et ensuite on a tenu une dernière discussion, parfois corsée, sur le changement de nom de l'organisme. Après de longs échanges, l'assemblée vota, à la majorité, pour accepter le changement de nom de l'organisme. Légalement l'organisme conservera le nom de Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick, mais pour toutes les fins de communication le nouveau nom sera Nature Nouveau-Brunswick. Un autre moment émouvant fut le message de remerciement offert à la Directrice générale sortante, Marieka Chaplin, qui après bien des années d'excellents services pour l'organisme à décidé de nous quitter pour explorer d'autres horizons. Un gros merci pour l'excellent travail, Marieka!

Ensuite avec la partie affaire de la rencontre derrière nous, il ne restait plus aux participants qu'à aller prendre une bonne nuit de repos afin d'être frais et dispos pour profiter au maximum de la multitude de sorties nature offertes le lendemain. Mais dans quelles conditions météorologiques les sorties se dérouleraient-elles? Seul le temps nous le révèlerait, car nos amis de la météo nous prédisaient un peu de tout. Le samedi matin, le ciel était effectivement toujours couvert et il y avait même des gouttelettes ici et là mais pas de pluie ou de vent suffisant pour arrêter des naturalistes bien équipés et surtout bien motivés. Donc, dès les petites heures de la matinée, les participants des sorties « lève tôt » étaient déjà sur le terrain et à la recherche des oiseaux nicheurs de la vallée qui eux contrairement au soleil étaient bien de la partie. Et le reste de la journée fut semblable, avec oui quelques petits orages ici et là, mais rien pour empêcher un brave naturaliste d'explorer avec nos guides chevronnés les plantes, les oiseaux, l'histoire et les autres beautés naturelles de la magnifique vallée de Memramcook et même de la région.

Ouff! Une première journée de sorties était passée et sans aucune annulation pour cause de pluie. En fait comme si malgré tout, la nature était avec nous, les cieux avaient attendu que tous les participants soient confortablement installés pour le banquet avant que de laisser couler des torrents de pluie en fin de journée. Mais la pluie peut toujours pleuvoir ça n'inquiète personne quand on est au sec avec un bon repas devant nous et tou plein d'images de nos sorties nature de la journée dans la tête. Le repas sembla apprécié de tous et l'encan silencieux se déroula rondement en parallèle à celui-ci Une belle brochette d'objets étaient offerts cette année e des remerciements tous spéciaux sont dûs à nos généreux donateurs.

Ensuite avec le ventre plein, et pour certains le poches vides, il était temps de passer à la parti présentation du banquet. Peter Hicklin, du Servic canadien de la faune, nous fit d'abord un communication émouvante sur son ami et collaborateu de longue date, dans ces recherches sur les Bécasseau semipalmés, Reid McManus. M. McManus, un résider de la vallée de Memramcook, qui nous a quitté l'a dernier, fut un naturaliste de la première heure, alors qu s'intéresser aux oiseaux autrement que pour la gibecièr n'était pas aussi « à la mode » que cela est devenu de no jours. Et pour finir la soirée en beauté quoi de mieu

qu'une présentation audio-visuelle de photos ornithologiques par Clarence Nowlan. L'amour que Clarence porte à la nature et le talent qu'il a de saisir ses sujets sur le vif étaient évidents et l'on n'aurait pu rêver d'une meilleure conclusion à une journée si bien remplie.

Le lendemain même si les conditions météorologiques étaient toujours aussi menaçantes les quelques averses ne furent pas suffisantes pour empêcher les sorties qui, selon tous les commentaires recueillis se déroulèrent sans embûche. Donc, en repartant de la vallée en fin d'après-midi, la centaine de participants emmenaient dans leur sac à dos tout plein de beaux souvenirs de leurs aventures en nature ainsi qu'un peu du plaisir des échanges avec d'autres naturalistes. La preuve que si on a le soleil dans son cœur tout est possible. À l'an prochain.

AGM 2006 REPORT

Roger LeBlanc

When the planning for this year's Nature New Brunswick AGM in Memramcook got started last autumn, some doubts lingered in the minds of the members of the organizing committee. To put together such an event really seemed like quite a feat for the small Memramcook club. Fortunately the Chignecto Naturalists' Club and le Club les Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est Inc. quickly offered help so that suddenly the summit of the mountain looked a lot closer. Still, it was quite a climb and all through the winter, as we prepared and organized, sometimes it seemed to grow steeper. But there was nothing to be done but climb so up we went. On 9 June everything was ready and, as we looked around, things did not look that bad. Still Nature had a last minute challenge in store for us. Rain…and lots of it threatening to wash out all the preparation and hard work by dumping tons of water that would have made some of the outings practically impossible and all of them rather uncomfortable. But on Friday evening, as people were welcomed at the "Soeur Marie Léonie" hall, the friendliness and warm positive attitude of all the participants were like warm rays of sun in a sky that otherwise insisted on staying covered.

The annual meeting went on in the beautiful setting of the "Monument Lefebvre" building which is a Parks Canada National Historic Site. Its theatre, in which the meeting was held, is well known for its beauty and excellent acoustics. The regular reports and communications were given and after some robust discussions the assembly decided to accept a name change of the organization. The NB Federation of Naturalists will remain the legal name but from now on Nature New Brunswick will be used for communication purposes. An emotional moment was the warm farewell that was offered to Marieka Chaplin who after many years of service as executive director is leaving her position to explore new horizons. Thanks for the great work, Marieka!

So with all of this wrapped up it was time for the participants to retire and get rested up for the multitude of outings offered on the next day. But under what weather conditions? Only time would tell as forecasts were calling for a bit of everything. Next morning brought overcast skies, yes, and some drizzles but no heavy rain or wind so the brave souls that were off in the dawn light (sorry, no sunrise) for the early bird outings did get to see and hear nesting birds without getting drenched. And in fact, all through the day there were showers here and there but nothing to stop a fearless naturalist from exploring the plants, birds, history and geography of the beautiful Memramcook valley and other regional attractions.

Ouff! one day down and no cancellation because of rain. In fact the heavens had conveniently waited for the end of the day to start pouring out torrents of rain. But by then the participants were all huddled inside to partake in the banquet. In between servings of a well-appreciated meal the silent auction went off with a lot of nice stuff being purchased. Donors were quite generous this year and a great big "thank you" is in order. After the dishes were taken away and all those nice objects picked up by the lucky bidders it was time for the presentation part of the banquet. Peter Hicklin, from the Canadian Wildlife Service, gave a moving presentation on his friend and long-time collaborator in his sandpiper research Reid McManus. Mr. McManus, a long-time resident of the Memramcook valley, passed away last year but will always be remembered as the great naturalist he was in times when watching birds was not as trendy as it has become. Then the evening came to a beautiful close with an audio-visual slide presentation of avian photography by Clarence Nowlan. The love of Clarence for all things natural and his talent for portraying them was quite evident and surely prepared the participants for beautiful dreams of nature.

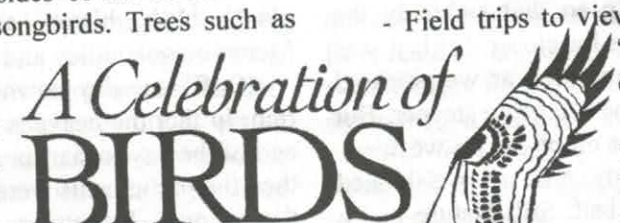
All that was left were the outings on Sunday and even if rain was still menacing, from all accounts every excursion did mange to go over quite well and as participants headed out of the valley they took with them nice memories of a rich weekend of nature exploration and friendly exchanges with old and some new naturalist friends. Which just goes to prove that with a sunny disposition anything is possible. See you all next year.

VILLAGE OF GAGETOWN'S 'CELEBRATION OF BIRDS NATURE CLUB'

Roberta MacKenzie & Bonnie Hamilton Bogart

In 1996 when our Chamber of Commerce members decided our village was the perfect place to bring birders to enjoy nature, there were many reasons to believe formation of a nature club would be a success. After all, over the years some 280 species of birds have been observed in the area.

The Village is located in a major migration flyway along the lower St. John river, amid some of the finest and most varied wildlife habitats in New Brunswick. The floodplain contains a mix of wetland types not very common in the Maritime provinces, attracting large numbers of birds such as ducks, loons, geese, waders, rails, black terns, owls, bald eagle, northern harrier and ospreys. The uplands on both sides of the river attract many nesting and year-round songbirds. Trees such as silver maple, ashes, red oak, burr oak, elm, basswood and butternut and many fruiting species like mountain ash, service berry and wild cherry are common to the area.



Early and eager Planning Committee members included Enid Inch (our birding icon), Dr. Ron Samuels, Bonnie Hamilton Bogart, Roberta MacKenzie, Leone Pippard, Andrew MacInnis, Nancy Blanchard MacDonald, Tony and Janet Ratliffe, Anne Slipp, Pat and Vic Stewart, and many others. We rallied around the goal of "fostering an appreciation of nature and nature conservation throughout the lower St. John River valley". We were guided by the principles of making our activities educational, enjoyable (a true celebration!), conservation-oriented and self-sustaining. From the beginning, our club was an eco-tourism planning group; we held 'events' rather than meetings and one of our goals was to attract birders (and birds!) to the Village.

Our Planning Committee came up with a winning formula – to hold birding activities that evolved with the seasons, winter being the time for Information Evenings (slide shows, and more recently, digital video presentations), early spring for field trips planned around the arrival of the various species.

Highlights of some of the events held over the years include:

- Arts and science displays by local school children;
- An art exhibit devoted to birds, including art work by local artists, along with beautiful taxidermy work by the late Leora Simpson of Gagetown (birds found in the 1800s);
- Birders' Fair and Education Expo where there were displays of pottery, textile art, wood carving and decoy work done by local artists and artisans, chainsaw art, as well as products of interest to bird lovers. This event has been dropped in recent years in the interests of preserving our volunteers' valuable energy.
- Build a Better Birdhouse/birdfeeder/birdbath contest;
- Bird quest – a competitive birding event, our personal favourite;
- Boat excursions to Gagetown Island;
- Field trips to view all manner of birds, including "owl prowls" at night in the cold, early-spring evenings;
- Other nature-related field trips to view amphibians, butterflies, mushrooms and bird nests - we even had a walk around the property at Blue River Herbs and Healing and found 7 medicinal and edible herbs in one-acre space!

Some projects of note include: a Loon Alert and Information Brochure, a collaboration of Joan Carmod and Leone Pippard, which provided nesting informatio to residents around some of the lakes of the area; a fiel checklist of birds and the donation of $500.00 worth o nature books to the libraries of the Gagetown an Cambridge-Narrows schools.

In recent years we have downsized our activitie primarily to Information Evenings, field trips and natu walks. However, we have a very large e-mail list, a phon committee, and a few very dedicated folks who put a l into the planning of the events. These activities have be largely self-sustaining, thanks to the generosity of th many nature lovers attending our Information Evening We have also benefited from the wonderful support our biggest cheerleader, Dr. Jim Goltz. Jim has alwa been ready to help, in his gentle way, no matter what ask of him.

We can now celebrate 10 years of sharing o beautiful and bountiful area with visitors, includi biologists, naturalists, children and their parents – drawn together by a love of birds.

Celebration of Birds Nature Club

Photo, left to right: Roberta MacKenzie, Bonnie Hamilton Bogart, Julie MacDonald (Cambridge School), Enid Inch, Judy Ann Breen (Gagetown School), Kim McKay (Principal, Gagetown School) and Nancy Blanchard MacDonald.

BOTANY RAMBLINGS: Summer 2006

James P. Goltz

VASCULAR PLANTS

Species New to New Brunswick

While doing botanical surveys of lakes in southwestern New Brunswick, Sean Blaney and his team of botanists from the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre discovered **Two-cupped Pondweed**, also called **Snail-seed Pondweed**, (*Potamogeton bicupulatus*) in Trout Lake near Clarendon and in another lake near St. George. This species of pondweed is associated with the Atlantic coastal plain and typically grows in acid lakes. Congratulations to the ACCDC botanical team for finding and recognizing this species, especially since pondweeds can be notoriously difficult to identify.

Historic Discoveries and Re-discoveries

On 15 July, Gart Bishop was rather pleased to have had car trouble since this led to his discovery of **Broom-crowberry** (*Corema conradii*), a species thought to have been extirpated from the province, if indeed it ever occurred here. When Gart's car repairs kept him from joining other members of the New Brunswick Botany Club for an outing in the Kennedy Lakes area, he decided to explore a huge abandoned sand pit near Chipman. There he found a small fruiting clump of Broom-crowberry growing in a mat of Hair-cap Moss (*Polytrichum commune*) on open sand. Since only this clump and two small non-fruiting clumps were found, it is not known if the Broom-crowberry had been introduced to the site on equipment transported from some other province or state, or if it may be part of a larger native local population that has not yet been located. Congratulations to Gart for confirming the occurrence of this species in New Brunswick, especially since the label data for a collection from the vicinity of Saint John, presumably in the late 1800s, were incomplete and there was some question as to whether or not this historic specimen was actually from the province or had been collected elsewhere and been mistakenly labeled.

Stephen Clayden was able to confirm that the Jacob's-ladder that he and Dwayne Sabine had found near Maces Bay in 2005 was indeed **Van Brunt's Jacob's-ladder** (*Polemonium vanbruntiae*). Differentiating this species from other near look-alikes requires blooms, and the plants at Maces Bay were in peak bloom when Stephen revisited the site on 16 July after multiple trips to check on these plants during the previous two months. It was decided that the plants at this location were undoubtedly naturally-occurring, rather than garden escapes, since the wet alder habitat matches habitats in which this species is known to occur naturally in Maine and Quebec and since no other garden escapes were found in this area. The population at this site likely comprises at least 1000 plants, including hundreds of flowering stems.

While helping conduct botanical surveys for endangered plant species in lakes on Canadian Forces Base Gagetown on 19 August, Dwayne Sabine re-discovered **Lesser Purple Bladderwort** (*Utricularia resupinata*), a species that had last been reported from the province 120 years ago. Hundreds of plants of this species were seen rooted in black muck in less than 10 cm of water along the shore of Little Otter Lake with Grass-leaved Arrowhead (*Sagittaria graminea*), Pipewort (*Eriocaulon aquaticum*), Water Lobelia (*Lobelia dortmanna*), American Shoreweed (*Litttorella americana*) and Water Bulrush (*Schoenoplectus subterminalis*). Water levels in the lake were fairly low creating favourable conditions for flowering, and dozens of the bladderwort plants were in peak bloom. Prior to this rediscovery, Lesser Purple Bladderwort had been documented from only one site in New Brunswick, Phipps Lake, where it had been collected in 1886 by Colin Livingstone. Label data on the herbarium

Lesser Purple Bladderwort
Photo by: Dwayne Sabine

specimen indicate that Phipps Lake is located at Long Reach, Kings County, but the name of the lake must have changed and a concerted search over many years has failed to ascertain which lake it is. Little Otter Lake is located in Queens County, very close to the western border of Kings County, so it is good to know that the bladderwort is persisting close to the same general area where it was first found.

Endangered Species

Kelly Honeyman found the provincially-endangered **Southern Twayblade** (*Listera australis*) orchid in a Black Spruce/Red Maple swamp near McLean Settlement, Kent County, a new location for this species in the province.

Reports of Other Rare Species

Least Moonwort (*Botrychium simplex*) was found along the Upsalquitch River near Route 180 west of Bathurst on 18 June and on Ministers Island near St. Andrews on 25 June (JPG).

A large colony of **Showy Lady's-slipper** (*Cypripedium reginae*) was found in bloom on 29 June near the Scoudouc River near Shediac (KH). Other orchids found in the same general location were Hooker's Orchid (*Platanthera hookeri*), Tall Leafy White Orchid (also called Bog Candles, *Platanthera dilatata*) and Yellow Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*, variety undetermined), the latter past bloom on the date of discovery.

A few plants of **Buttonbush** (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) were found at McDoles Hole along the Shogomoc Stream near the confluence with Cann Brook on 10 July (DS, KC).

Single plants of **Large Purple Fringed-orchid** (*Platanthera grandiflora*) were discovered on the South Branch of the Bartholomew River on 22 July (DG, PP) and in a wet cedar swamp near Grassy Lake, south of Canterbury on 19 July (ACCDC).

A very large population of **Goldie's Fern** (*Dryopteris goldiana*) was found along a stream on a rich clay slope in a hardwood stand near a lake south of Canterbury on 30 July (ACCDC).

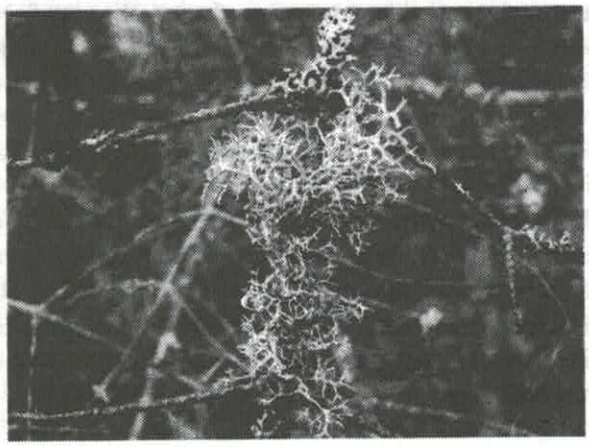
LICHENS

While on the botanical foray of CFB Gagetown that resulted in the rediscovery of Lesser Purple Bladderwort for New Brunswick on 19 August, Stephen Clayden found **Ghost Antler Lichen** (*Pseudevernia cladonia*), a species provisionally designated as "Special Concern" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. This species resembles the reindeer lichens but grows on trees rather than on the ground. The Ghost Antler Lichens were found in abundance around two small lakes on the southwest part of the base. Not only is this site the most inland known location for the species in the province, but it appears to contain the largest known population of this species in Atlantic Canada, exceeding the total numbers of plants previously known from all other Atlantic Canadian populations combined. The size of the population at this site more closely resembles the populations seen in southeastern Quebec and in the Appalachian Mountains. This lichen is ranked S2 in the province and has been found at approximately 10 locations.

Abbreviations:

ACCDC Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre, DG Don Gibson, DS Dwayne Sabine, JPG James Goltz, KC Kevin Craig, KH Kelly Honeyman, PP Peter Pearce

Van Brunt's Jacob's Ladder
Photo by: Stephen Clayden



Ghost Antler Lichen
Photo by: Dwayne Sabine

NATURE NEWS: BIRDS
APRIL 13 TO JULY 16, 2006

Ken MacIntosh

The spring migration period is often highlighted by days of frenzied activity. Nature watchers in New Brunswick reported on the following events.

May 4 featured the arrival of **Purple Finches** (Roselin pourpré) by the hundreds at Marys Point (David Christie). Listening for the vocalizations of night fliers, Stu Tingley had an unusual experience May 5: "Most surprising at one point was to hear the distinctive call of **Virginia Rail** (Râle de Virginie) - "kick-kick-kick-kidDICK-kidDICK" - given twice about ten seconds apart - and clearly coming from overhead! I can only assume that this was a Virginia Rail in migration. While it's not at all unusual to hear Virginia Rails calling in marshes at night, this is the first time I've ever heard one call as a nocturnal migrant."

Jim Wilson had a busy day recording migration at Point Lepreau on May 13: "During the period from 8:40 AM to the conclusion of the count at 10:55, I counted a total of 333 **Red-throated Loons** (Plongeon catmarin) traveling east up the Bay and during the entire count period a total of 335. **Common Loons** (Plongeon huard) were similarly on the move and numbered 27 for the day."

David Christie reported on activity during the period May 17 to 19. "At Marys Point, Wednesday did see **Blue Jay** (Geai bleu) migration pick up after a one-to-two-day lull and there were three **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** (Colibri à gorge rubis), including the first female, at our feeders at one time in late afternoon. We also saw our first **Bobolink** (Goglu des prés) of the season in Harvey, Albert County. These species are all more apt than warblers to move during the day." New arrivals at Marys Point during this period included several warbler species, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (Cardinal à poitrine rose), **Least Flycatcher** (Moucherolle tchébec), and **Eastern Kingbird** (Tyran tritri).

May 18 also featured a seaduck fallout on the St. John River at Fredericton. Don Gibson located several hundred birds including three scoter species, eiders, **Red-breasted Mergansers** (Harle huppé), one **Bufflehead** (Petit Garrot), **Long-tailed Ducks** (Harelde kakawi), and Common Loons.

Species Accounts

Commonly encountered in a select number of feeding locations, a single **Brant** (Bernache cravant) was an unusual sight on the Petitcodiac River in Moncton, on May 3 (Gilles Bourque).

Among the reports of **Eurasian Wigeon** (Canard siffleur) were a single at Musquash on April 16 (Tracey Dean), a drake at Moncton, on April 28 (Paul Mansz), two drakes at Bouctouche lagoon, on May 2 (Louis-Émile Cormier), one at Saint's Rest, Saint John, on May 3 (Ian Cameron), and one at Marsh Creek, Saint John, on May 4 (Stu Tingley). A duck at Marsh Creek, Saint John which caused some confusion was eventually identified as a Green-winged Teal x Mallard hybrid, as a best guess (Stu Tingley).

While scouting the St-Anselme marsh in Dieppe in late April and early May, Roger LeBlanc and Richard Perron found a **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** in among some 200 teal. Roger explained: "This is the nominate race *cressa* of which our Green Winged Teal (Sarcelle d'hiver) would be the sub-species *carolinensis*."

Seen most years in late winter, **Tufted Ducks** (Fuligule morillon) are becoming even more regular at Saint John. Jim Wilson spotted a male at the Lancaster sewage lagoon "still vainly trying to court a female Lesser Scaup", on April 29.

A very unusual find inland, a **Harlequin Duck** (Arlequin plongeur) was present from June 18 to 21, at Crock's Point, west of Fredericton (*fide* Don Gibson).

An **American While Pelican** (Pélican d'Amérique) in breeding plumage was discovered on the afternoon of May 25 at Waterside, Albert County, by Reg and Dorothy Hoar. It was feeding actively in a large shallow pond at Waterside Marsh, across the road from their home. In the following days, the bird was seen at Marys Point, May 27, and then in Prince Edward Island, on May 29. Another American White Pelican was at Richibucto on July 13, Richibucto (Mike LeBlanc).

On May 31, Louis-Emile Cormier and Richard Perron, reported hearing the vocalization of a **Least Bittern** (Petit Blongios) at the Bell Street marsh in Moncton. The bird stayed for several weeks and was seen by many observers. Also found in the area were Sora, Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren, Black Tern and American Coot.

Reports of **Great Egrets** (Grande Aigrette) include singles at Fredericton on April 17 (Don Gibson), St. Martins from May 1 to 4 (Ted Sears), and at the Cocagne

River Bridge on May 10 (Louis-Émile Cormier). A **Snowy Egret** was at Saints Rest, Saint John on May 1 (Janet Whitehaed). Roger LeBlanc, Alain Clavette and Andréa Leblanc found both Great and Snowy at GMI, May 10. Egrets appear to have peaked at two Great and three Snowy, at Saint John, on June 6 (Don Gibson).

A **Little Blue Heron** (Aigrette bleue) was spotted flying over the highway near Prince of Wales on May 19 (Stu Tingley). Another was at GMI, on May 10 (Roger LeBlanc, Alain Clavette and Andréa Leblanc).

The only report of **Glossy Ibis** (Ibis falcinelle) was of a single at St-Anselme, near Dieppe, on April 23 (Lionel and Lise Gionet).

There were two reports of **Black Vulture** (Urubu noir) this spring. One was photographed by Georgie Manuel, who passed the photos along to Dwayne Sabine. Dwayne reported that the bird was "observed over two days (June 28, 29) at Carrs Creek, between Baie-Sainte-Anne and Bay du Vin", feeding on a dead raccoon. The other was seen on July 9, at Pokeshaw, by Roland and Bernise Robichaud (*fide* Roger Dumaresq).

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** (Buse à epaulettes), was spotted by Bev Schneider on May 3 at Keswick.

On May 9, Roger Dumaresq reported that Denise Godin, Rosita Lanteigne and Annick Poirier saw three Common Ravens harassing a large dark bird at Bertrand, on the South Caraquet River. "With the help of their scopes, they were able to identify a **Golden Eagle** (Aigle royal)" as the focus of attention.

At the Point Lepreau Bird Observatory on May 1, Richard Blacquiere observed an adult **Peregrine Falcon** (Faucon pelerine) with colour bands. He was later able to track down the identity of the bird as one, "Banded as a nestling in Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor, Maine on June 5, 2000." It was one of three from a single nest.

On May 19, Joan Pearce found a **Common Moorhen** (Gallinule poule-d'eau) at Whale Cove, GMI. Another, perhaps the same, was reported at GMI on June 8 (Margaret and Irene Doyle).

On June 7, **American Coots** (Foulque d'Amérique) had young in tow at the Ducks Unlimited impoundment at Sackville (Stu Tingley and Juliette Pellerin).

Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) are intended to track changes in populations of the more common species in a given area, but occasionally, an oddball is detected on a count. Dwayne Sabine heard the calls of a **Sandhill Crane** (Grue du Canada) on June 1, on his BBS route near McAdam.

A spring **Black-bellied Plover** (Pluvier argenté) was at Castalia, GMI, on May 9 (Roger LeBlanc, Alain Clavette and Andréa Leblanc). Eight **Solitary Sandpipers** (Chevalier solitaire) at St-Leonard on May 19 was an exceptional find for Roy LaPointe. A single bird recorded near Pokiok on June 24, by Don Gibson, may have been nesting.

Rare in spring, two **Whimbrels** (Courlis corlieu) were at Castalia on May 21 (Stu Tingley), and a single was heard the following day, also at GMI. Another Whimbrel was early at Machias Seal Island on July 12 (Durlan Ingersoll).

A female **Red-necked Phalarope** (Phalarope à bec étroit) was recorded by Roy and Charlotte LaPointe near St-Leonard. About twenty were seen in the Grand Manan Channel on May 19 and 22 (Stu Tingley).

An adult **Parasitic Jaeger** (Labbe parasite) was seen from the Grand Manan ferry on May 19 (Stu Tingley).

On May 24, Roger Burrows and Merv Cormier saw a **Laughing Gull** (Mouette atricille) on a boat trip from Ingalls Head to North Head. Another was at Eel River Bar May 21 (Jim Clifford). Stuart Tingley reported a **Black-headed Gull** (Mouette rieuse) on May 4 at Marsh Creek, Saint John. Roy LaPointe found a group of sixteen **Bonaparte's Gulls** (Mouette de Bonaparte) at Saint-Léonard, May 19. This is an unusual number for his area. Gilles Belliveau found a **Mew Gull** (Goéland cendré), at Morell Park, Fredericton, on May 2 to 4. Gilles Bourque located a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (Goéland brun) on May 3 on the Petitcodiac River in Moncton.

Caspian Terns (Sterne caspienne) were noted as follows: eight at Saints Rest marsh on May 4 (Roger Burrows), and five on the same day near Shepody (DSC). Returning from Whitehead Island on May 19, Peter Wilshaw, Durlan Ingersoll and Cathy Colpitts saw what they feel was a **Least Tern** (Petite Sterne). On May 18, Roy LaPointe noted a **Black Tern** (Guifette noire) feeding among some 200-300 swallows at the St-Anne-de-Madawaska lagoon. Roy suggested that this may be a first for Madawaska County. Twelve Black Terns were at the Tantramar National Wildlife Reserve near Midgic on May 28 (Roger LeBlanc).

On June 9, Peter Wilcox recorded all three shearwater species in waters off GMI (*fide* Durlan Ingersoll).

A lone report of a **White-winged Dove** (Tourterelle à ailes blanches) was made by Charlotte LaPointe, at her house in Saint-Léonard on June 29.

In a normal year, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (Coulicou à bec jaune) is a very rare spring visitor. Reports this year include singles at Eel Lake, GMI on May 20 (Stu Tingley and others), May 21 at Whistle Road, GMI, (Margaret and Irene Doyle), and June 26 at Chamcook (Jane and Richard Tarn).

There were a few reports of **Red-bellied Woodpecker** (Pic à ventre roux) reported at GMI in May (Joan Pearce, Jim Wilson).

There were a surprising number of reports of **Willow Flycatcher** (Moucherolle des saule), so many, in fact, that we can only summarize as follows: May 17 at Grand Falls, June 2 at Saint John, June 6 at Moncton, June 7 near Midgic, June 12 at Fredericton, June 17 at Baker Lake, June 18 two at Bell Street marsh, Moncton, June 29 at Pellerin, and July 10 at St-Isidore. Eastern Kingbird (Tyran tritri) was first reported on May 7, at Lancaster lagoon, Saint John (Merv Cormier), and May 9, at Fredericton (Gilles Belliveau).

American birder Paul Lehman telephoned Jim Wilson to report seeing two **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** (Hirondelle à ailes herissees) flying over the St. John River just at the base of the Mactaquac dam on June 26.

A **Carolina Wren** (Troglodyte de Caroline) was reported at Edmundston on July 10 by Gisèle Borque. A **House Wren** (Troglodyte familier) in Moncton was observed going in and out of a nest box and vocalizing (MNC). Other House Wrens were at Saint-Léonard on June 18 (Roy and Charlotte LaPointe), July 15 at Saint John (Roger Burrows), and July 16 at Grande-Digue (Marc LeBlanc).

The first report of a **Winter Wren** (Troglodyte mignon) was on April 26, at PLBO (Richard Blacquiere).

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (Gobemoucheron gris-bleu) were seen at Lancaster sewage lagoon, May 1 (Merv Cormier), and at White Head Island on May 22 (Jim Wilson and others).

Brown Thrasher (Moqueur roux) reports were of two at Lornevelle on May 4 (Merv Cormier), one at the Ducks Unlimited site near Acadian Village, May 9 (Annick Poirier, *fide* Roger Dumaresq), June 9 at Blissville (Bev Schneider), and June 18 at Marys Point (DSC).

Wood warblers trickled in without much ado. Shirley Hunt noted a **Black-and-white Warbler** (Paruline noir et blanc) at Fundy National Park on April 27. **Pine Warblers** (Paruline des pins) were detected at Beaver Dam and at New Maryland on May 5 (Jim Wilson). A **Black-throated Green** (Paruline à gorge noire) was singing at Hammond River on May 6 (Jim Wilson). A **Cape May** (Paruline tigrée) was at Marys Point on May 7 (David Christie). A **Northern Parula** (Paruline à collier) was noted at Sheldon Point, Saint John, on May 9 (Roger Burrows). Many more reports of first warblers for the season followed May 9 to 10. Eileen Pike and Janet Whitehead had an exceptional morning on May 17 at Saints Rest, noting 15 species of warbler in a single tree. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** (Paruline verdâtre) was at Rockwood Park on May 18 (Roger Burrows). A singing **Yellow-breasted Chat** (Paruline polyglotte) was enjoyed by many following its discovery at Pennfield airstrip on June 6 by Don Gibson and Shirley Sloat.

Bev Schneider reported the only **Summer Tanager** (Tangara vermillon) this spring, a female at Perth-Andover on June 25.

Roger Dumaresq reported a **Clay-coloured Sparrow** (Bruant des plaines) at the feeder of Hilaire and Rose Aline Chiasson, Isle Lamèque, on April 29. Another was "singing occasionally near the intersection of the main road and Long Point Road on White Head Island" on May 20 (Stu Tingley).

A **Field Sparrow** (Bruant des champs) was at a feeder in Caissie Cape on May 5 (Marc LeBlanc).

A **Vesper Sparrow** (Bruant vespéral) was singing near Bloomfield on April 27 (Jim Wilson).

A **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** (Bruant de Nelson) was at Saints Rest Marsh on May 4 (Roger Burrows).

White-crowned Sparrows (Bruant à couronne blanche) were at Fredericton on May 5 (Bev Schneider), Campbellton on May 6 (Margaret Doyle), and Second North River on May 8 (Bob Blake).

A photograph of a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** (Bruant a couronne doree), appeared in the May 13 "Sightings" column of The Telegraph-Journal. Submitted by Geraldine Black of Quispamsis. Following up on the report, Jim Wilson reported, "She said the bird appeared in the last few days of April and was present and singing daily until about May 8th or 9th. It was tame and present almost constantly."

"Amazing, isn't it - the very first one was discovered on Machias Seal Island only in June of 2003! Subsequent records were the overwintering individual at Ralph Eldridge's feeders at St. George in winter 2004-05, another discovered at Herring Cove in Fundy Park in mid-October 2005, the one that wintered in Memramcook last winter (2005-06) and now this fifth bird that the photo clearly shows as this species."

Indigo Buntings were noted at Ile Lamèque on May 18, at Lower Jemseg on May 18, at Alma on May 20, and at GMI on June 2.

A **Eurasian Siskin** was at David Christie's feeder at Marys Point, April 29-30. A **European Goldfinch** was at a feeder in Clair from at least May 20 through June 1 (reported by J. Denys Bourque).

Abbreviations:
GMI – Grand Manan Island, MNC – Moncton Naturalists' Club Nature Information Line, PLBO – Point Lepreau Bird Observatory

NATURE NEWS: INVERTEBRATES JANUARY 1 TO MAY 31, 2006

Dwayne L. Sabine

Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths)

A number of our butterfly and moth species overwinter as adults, and may become active during unseasonably warm periods. There were a number of warm spells during the winter of 2006: during one of these, on January 14, Reggie Webster observed several moths, probably **Noctuids**, flying at Charters Settlement.

This unseasonably warm winter weather continued into an early spring, and many species seemed active earlier than normal in 2006. The **Infant Moth** (intruse, *Archiearis infans*), one of our day-flying moths and a common sight in the province during spring, was reported about a week earlier than in the previous two years. They were noted at Marysville and Noonan on March 31 (DS, SM), and at Fredericton on April 1 (JG) and April 3 (AWT).

The first newly-emerged moth species (overwintering as pupae rather than as adults) reported for the season was a **Joker** (féralie joyeuse; *Feralia jocosa*) reported from Fredericton on April 21 (AWT). This species was among an assemblage of moths otherwise consisting of **One-eyed Sphinx** (sphinx du saule; *Smerinthus cerisyi*), **Curve-toothed Geometers** (arpenteuse biterculée; *Eutrapela clemataria*), **White Slant-line** (*Tetracis cachexiata*), a **Ruby Tiger Moth** (Arctiide fuligineux; *Phragmatobia fuliginosa*), and a few other species, reported at Nelson Poirier's light at Shediac Bridge about a month later on May 19.

The warmer than normal spring was also evident with the Giant Silkworm moths. **Luna Moths** (papillon lune; *Actias luna*) at Shediac Bridge on May 21 (NP) and at Grand Manan, May 21-27 (RB *et al.*) were much earlier than usual, as were a **Polyphemus Moth** (polyphème d'Amerique; *Antheraea polyphemus*) at Fredericton on May 26 (RW), and a **Cecropia** (saturnie cécropia; *Hyalophora cecropia*) at Youngs Cove on May 28 (RW).

We have a number of butterfly species that overwinter as adults and thus are among our earliest active species in spring. The earliest reports received for these species in 2006 were:

Mourning Cloak (morio; *Nymphalis antipoa*) - Kingston Peninsula, March 28 (A&JG); Saint John, March 29 (DN); Islandview, April 1 (JG);

Compton Tortoiseshell (grande vanesse; *Nymphalis vaualbum j-album*) - Douglas, March 30 (AWT);

Milbert's Tortoiseshell (petite vanesse; *Nymphalis milberti*) - Lower Jemseg, March 30 (DG);

Comma sp. (polygone; *Polygonia* sp.) - Islandview, March 29 (DG);

Green Comma (Polygone à taches vertes; *Polygonia faunus*) - Fredericton, April 11, 12, & 21 (AWT); Canterbury, April 29 (RPW);

Gray Comma (Polygone gris; *Polygonia progne*) - Canterbury, April 29 (RPW);

Among our migrant butterflies arriving here from southern locales in early spring, the earliest was a **Red Admiral** (vulcain; *Vanessa atalanta*) at Fredericton on May 9 (GB). The only other spring report of this species was from Grand Manan, May 21-27 (RB *et al.*). The **Painted Lady** (belle dame; *Vanessa cardui*) was reported from Grand Manan on May 19-22 (ST *et al.*) and again there on May 21-27, along with **American Painted Lady** (vanesse de Virginie; *Vanessa virginiensis*) (RB *et al.*). **Monarchs** (monarque; *Danaus plexippus*) also made a very early - probably a record - appearance in New Brunswick this spring, with reports from Grand Manan on May 20 (W&LN) and on May 21-27 (RB *et al.*). The first inland report was from Gilles Belliveau, from Lower Jemseg on May 27. These were precursors of what would later prove to be an exceptional year for Monarchs in the province.

The warm late winter and early spring weather resulted in early emergence of a number of other butterfly species that overwinter as pupae or larvae. These include the **Spring Azure** (azur printanier; *Celastrina ladon lucia*), first noted at Saint John on April 22 (MC), and the **Cabbage White** (piéride du chou; *Pieris rapae*), first reported on the exceptionally early date of April 3 at Marys Point (DC). **Canadian Tiger Swallowtails** (papillon tigré du Canada; *Papilo canadenis*) were flying at Belleville, on the Meduxnekeag River, by May 14 (RPW), and were present in numbers throughout the province by the end of the month. David Christie observed three **Black Swallowtails** (papillon du céleri; *Papilo polyxene asterius*) in Harvey, Albert County on May 30. Elfins are among our earliest-flying species but are not frequently reported due to their inconspicuous habits. Jim Goltz reported finding **Eastern Pine Elfins** (lutin des pins; *Callophrys niphon clarki*) at Mount Douglas on April 29.

Finally, a belated 2005 record: Danny O'Shea and Lester Hartling, while looking for larvae of the **Whitemarked Tussock Moth** (chenille à houppes

blanche; *Orgyia leucostigma intermedia*) during studies they were conducting, found a couple of different-appearing tussock moth larvae at Yoho Lake in July 2005. These were reared to adulthood, and proved to be **Definite Tussock Moths** (chenille à houppes jaunes; *Orgyia definita*). This is thought to be the first New Brunswick record for the species, which is otherwise known in Canada from Ontario and Québec.

Odonata (Damselflies and Dragonflies)

As with the Lepidoptera, dragonflies and damselflies were active a bit earlier than normal this spring because of the unseasonably warm conditions. A **Baskettail** (épithèque; *Epitheca sp.*) was seen at Fredericton on May 9 (SM), and was followed by observations of **Beaverpond Baskettails** (épithèque canine; *Epitheca canis*) at North Lake (KC) on May 13, and at Fredericton (GB) and Spednic Lake (AWT) on May 15. Gilles Belliveau discovered a freshly emerged damselfly - possibly a **Hagen's Bluet** (agrion de Hagen; *Enallagma hageni*) at Lower Jemseg on May 13, and found **Taiga Bluets** (agrion résolu; *Coenagrion resolutum*) active there on May 15. The small, colourful Whitefaces are among our earliest-emerging dragonflies: a **Hudsonian Whiteface** (leucorrhine hudsonienne; *Leucorrhinia hudsonica*) at Canterbury on May 13 was the first noted in 2006 (AWT, RPW). The larger **Four-spotted Skimmer** (quadrimaculée; *Libellula quadrimaculata*), a common dragonfly which is often found in the same habitats as the preceding species, was first reported on May 14 in Fredericton (AWT).

An **Ebony Jewelwing** (caloptéryx bistré; *Calopteryx maculata*) found at Scotch Lake on May 28 (AWT) was active somewhat earlier than normal for the species. A **Stream Cruiser** (macromie brune; *Didymops transversa*) found emerging near Oak Point on May 20 (KJC), however, smashed the previous early record for the species in the province by almost two weeks.

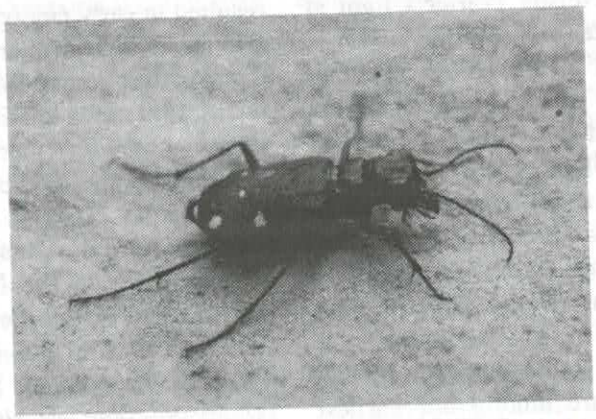
Miscellaneous species

A number of Tiger Beetle reports were received this spring. At Charters Settlement, **Six-spotted Tiger Beetles** (cicindèle à six points; *Cicindela sexguttata*) were active by April 20 (RPW, VW), and **Long-lip Tiger Beetles** (cicindèle à grande lèvre; *Cicindela longilabris*) and **Common Shore Tiger Beetles** (cicindèle commune; *Cicindela repanda*) by April 23 (RPW, MAG, VW). **Oblique-lined Tiger Beetles** (cicindèle à ligne oblique; *Cicindela tranquebarica*) were found on the Nashwaaksis sand plains on April 21, together with a few **Dark-edged Bee Flies** (grand bombyle; *Bombylius major*) and many **Mining Bees** (Andrénidés; Andrenidae) (AWT). On May 9, gravel roads in the Castaway Stream area harboured large numbers of **Twelve-spotted Tiger Beetles** (cicindèle à 12 points; *Cicindela duodecimguttata*), as well as single Six-spotted and Long-lip Tiger Beetles (SM).

One of the less pleasant aspects of an early spring: Tony Thomas reported finding four **Horse Flies** (Tabanidés; Tabanidae) near Fredericton on May 15 - the earliest he has seen Tabanids active in the province in many years of studying the family.

Several **Long-horned Beetles** (Cérambycidés; Cerambycidae) found emerging on February 13 from cedar logs that had been cut in Fredericton in late 2005 and stored in a heated basement proved to be *Callidium frigidum*, apparently a new species for the province.

Lastly, in the "2005 SEASON" report I provided details on a number of observations of the **Shining Dogbane Beetle** (chrysomèle de l'apocyn; *Chrysochus auratus*) from various parts of the province. These were thought to be the first record for New Brunswick, and for the Maritime provinces. However, it appears that the species has been known here since at least 2003, as Tony Thomas found them at Fredericton on June 20 of that year.



Six-spotted Tiger Beetle
Photo by: Dwayne Sabine

Abbreviations: A&JG Allen and Janet Gorham, AWT Tony Thomas, DC David Christie, DG Don Gibson, DN Dick Nelson, DS Dwayne Sabine, GB Gilles Belliveau, JG Jim Goltz, KC Kevin Craig, KJC Kevin Connor; MAG Marie-Andrée Giguère, MC Merv Cormier, NP Nelson Poirier, RB Roger Burrows, RPW Reggie Webster, RW Ron Wilson, SM Scott Makepeace, ST Stu Tingley, VW Vincent Webster, W&LN Wayne and Larry Neily

ADIEU MARIEKA ET MERCI BEAUCOUP

When the NBFN first set about hiring a program director in 2001, many of us were doubtful that we would be able to find funding to allow this position to last through the summer, let alone beyond. That was five years ago, and except during a leave of absence, our organization has benefited from her competent, reliable, and friendly leadership.

Marieka has been good for us. She arrived in a new position created by an organization that had no experience with full-time staff, other than for projects such as the Piper Project and Marys Point. Her main first goal was to hire a camp director for our first year of running a summer camp. Since then, there were many challenges both for Marieka and for the board of directors. It was a time of great learning and a time of trust for all involved. Marieka has always fulfilled functions and duties with honour, grace and humility. She has worked hard, and never let us down or given us cause to regret the high level of trust we have in her. Her work has shown dedication and imagination.

Two years ago, the position title was changed from program director to executive director. She has continued to guide us to a highly respected position with government agencies, other NGOs and industry. Through her care we are thought of as a well-run organization with concern for nature and a desire to share our natural treasures with fellow New Brunswickers. She is a main part of the reason we can be very proud of Nature NB (New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists/ Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick).

Marieka will leave big shoes for our new executive director to fill. The new incumbent will not be starting from scratch since Marieka will be leaving us with an organized office, a direction and goals to achieve, and some solidly entrenched programs she and we can be proud of.

Marieka cannot help but bring the same courage, integrity, and wholesome values to whatever she sets her mind. We will miss her, but wish her the very best in the future and encourage her to continue to seek out and master meaningful challenges.

Thank you, Marieka.

Please join the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists Inc. to help educate people in our province about our natural heritage, to learn about, and to protect New Brunswick's flora and fauna, and its ecosystems.
Yes, I/we would like to support the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists Inc.!

Included my/our support for *:

__ Young Naturalists Club _____$
__ Youth Summer Camps _____$
__ Piper Project/ Projet Siffleur _____$
__ Mary's Point Interpretive Centre _____$
__ Scholarship Fund _____$
__ Unspecified _____$

Membership (not eligible for a receipt):

__ Individual $25 _____$
__ Family $30 _____$
__ Life Membership $1000 _____$
Cheque enclosed: _____$

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

Name: _____
Other Family members: _____

Address: _____
_____

Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____

Mail to: **The N.B. Federation of Naturalists Inc.**
Jim Wilson, membership secretary
2 Neck Road, Quispamsis NB E2G 1L3
E-mail: jgw@nbnet.nb.ca

Bulletin Board

Nature Trust of New Brunswick

October 7 (10:00 am - 4:00 pm), a Nature Trust Field Course: "Our Disappearing Tree Species"; Details: e-mail ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca or call (506) 457-2398.

September 30, Annual General Meeting; Location: Fredericton; Details: e-mail ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca or call (506) 457-2398

New Brunswick Botany Club

September 16, Explore Shogomoc Lake (Leader: Sean Blaney), Location: For more information, please contact Sean Blaney at sblaney@mta.ca.

November 25, Annual General Meeting; Location: Fredericton.

Cape Jourimain Nature Centre

September 17 to18, EcoArts Festival; Location: Cape Jourimain Nature Centre; Details: Ramsey Hart at (506) 538-2288 or ramsey.hart@capejourimain.org.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, NB Chapter

September 9, 1:00pm to 10:00 pm; Upsalquitch River Appreciation Day; For more information contact CPAWS NB at (506) 452-9902, or e-mail cpawsnb@nb.sympatico.ca. Web site: www.cpawsnb.org.

NB Museum, Saint John

September 19 to December; Exhibit: Northern Jaws: The Sharks of Canada; Location: Saint John. Web site: www.nbm-mnb.ca.

Programs: Birds, Bugs & Belugas (pre-school groups aged 3 –5 years); Giants of the Deep (grades 1 & up); Fossil Finds (grades 4 & up); Contact: (506) 643-2349.

Science East, Fredericton

October 3; "Hydrogen as a fuel"; Alain Bilodeau, Sean Grady and Tom Whidden
Web site: www.scienceeast.nb.ca.

New Brunswick Environmental Network

October 13 to 15; Annual General Meeting; Location: near Port Elgin (Cape Ta-Wa-Si); Information & details: (506) 433-6101; e-mail: nben@nben.ca Web site: www.nben.ca

Veuillez devenir membre de la Fédération des naturalistes du Noveau-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 Noveau-Brunswick Inc.!

Ci-inclus mon/notre donation à *:

__ Club de jeunes naturalistes _____$
__ Camp d'été pour les jeunes _____$
__ Projet Siffleur / Piper Project _____$
__ Centre d'interprétation de Marys Point _____$
__ Fond de bourse _____$
__ Non-spécifié _____$

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

__ Individuel 25$ _____$
__ Famille 30$ _____$
__ Membre à vie 1000$ _____$
Chèque inclus: _____$

* La Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B. Inc est un organisme de bienfaisance, numéro 89017971RR0001. Veuillez demander pur un reçu officiel d'impôt pour les dons de moins que 15$.

Nom: _____
Autres membres de la famille: _____

Adresse: _____
_____

Téléphone: _____
C.-élec. _____

Envoyez à: **La Fédération des naturalistes du N.-B. Inc.**
Jim Wilson, secrétaire des membres
2 Neck Rd. Quispamsis NB E2G 1L3
C.-élec.: jgw@nbnet.nb.ca

BIENVENUE / WELCOME EUGENIA

Hi, I am Eugenia. I was born in Tucumán, in northwestern Argentina. I have an Agronomy Bachelor degree from the National University, atwhich I also taught Horticulture for many years. I married Jorge in 1981, and we have four children: María, 22; Guillermo, 20; Eugenia, 19 and Carolina, 13.

In 2000 we decided to move to Canada, looking for better opportunities for our kids. Soon after, the whole family became Canadian. We live now in our new home, on the north side of Fredericton, and we have many good friends to share activities. Jorge has accomplished his MBA degree and I developed my passion for painting. We are very proud of our children, three of whom study at the university, the youngest daughter being involved in CISV activities.

Our recent achievement was a small orchids business whereby we encourage quality and environmental care to share with those with a passion for plants, gardening and art.

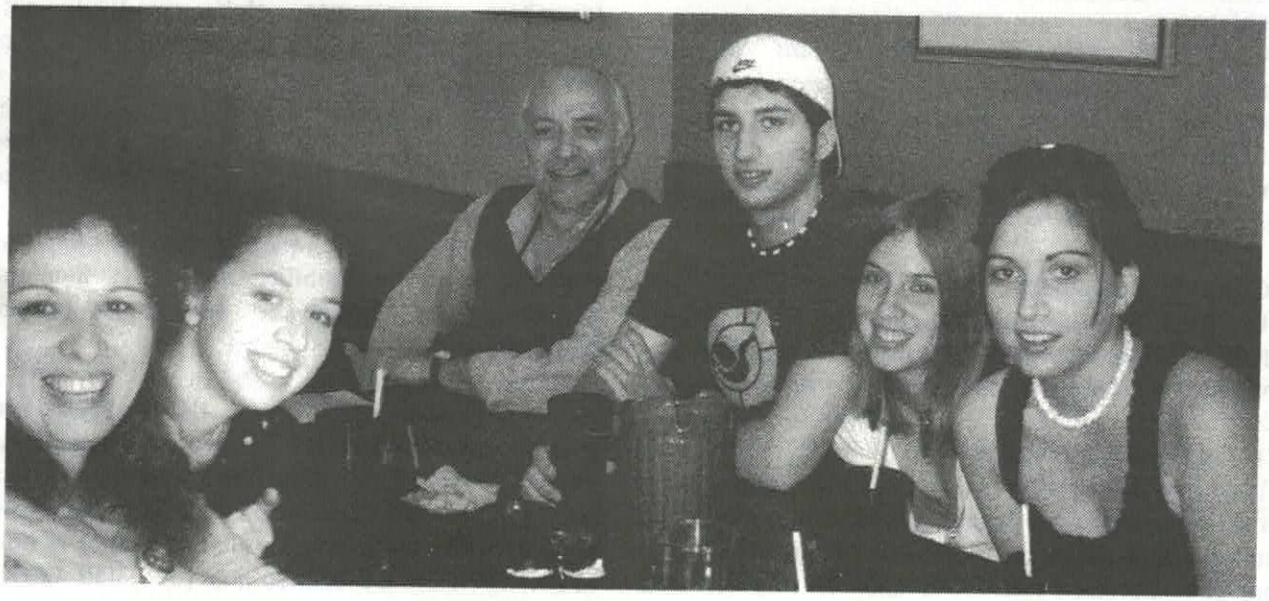
Everybody's dream is to be useful to a society. I chose this place to offer my contribution and creativity. I am here because I want to belong to a positive environment, to educate about our natural treasures, and to work for people to love and to respect our richness. After looking for my place in this new society I believe this is the one. Thank you for the opportunity.

Salut, je suis Eugenia. Je suis né dans Tucumán, au N-O d'Argentine. J'ai une licence d'Agronomie de l'Université Nationale dans laquelle j'ai aussi enseigné l'Horticulture pour quelques années. J'ai épousé Jorge en 1981, et nous avons quatre enfants: María, 22; Guillermo, 20; Eugenia, 19 et Carolina, 13.

En 2000 nous avons décidé de déplacer à Canada, cherchant de meilleures occasions pour nos enfants. Bientôt après, la famille entière est devenue Canadien. Maintenant nous habitons notre nouvelle maison, dans le côté nord de Fredericton, et nous avons beaucoup de bons amis pour partager nos activités. Jorge a accompli sa maîtrise de gestion et j'ai développé ma passion pour peindre. Nous sommes très fiers de nos enfants, trois d'eux étudient à l'Université, la plus jeune fille participe des activités de CISV.

Notre accomplissement récent était une petite affaire d'orchidées où nous encourageons qualité et le soin d'environnement à partager avec ceux qu'ont une passion pour les plantes le jardin et l'art.

Le rêve de tout le monde est être utile à une société. J'ai choisi cette place pour offrir ma contribution et créativité, je suis ici parce que je veux appartenir à un environnement positif, instruire au sujet de nos trésors naturels, et travailler pour des gens qu'aime et respecte ses richesse. Après ce temps, chercher ma place dans cette nouvelle société je crois que c'est celui. Merci pour l'occasion.



Dietrich family: left to right - Eugenia, Eugenia (daughter), Jorge, Guillermo, Carolina and Maria

PLAN STRATÉGIQUE DE NATURE NB

(anciennement la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick)

Extraits

Le nouveau plan stratégique de la FNNB/NBFN est dédié à Mary Majka et David Christie, deux grands défenseurs de la nature. Depuis le début des années soixante, ils ont démontré que même une seule personne peut faire une différence pour la nature. Individuellement, leurs travaux ont été considérables. Ensemble, leur partenariat a laissé une marque permanente sur le mouvement naturaliste au Nouveau-Brunswick.

En 2005, on fait l'effort requis afin d'élaborer un plan stratégique, celui-ci visant le développement de la FNNB/NBFN au cours des prochains 3 à 5 ans. Pour ce faire, des ateliers ont eu lieu en octobre et en novembre 2005, le résultat desquels est présenté ci-dedans. Pendant ces rencontres, on a aussi développé des plans d'action afin d'atteindre nos objectifs. Ceux-ci sont devenus les documents de travail des comités chargé de mettre notre Plan stratégique en action.

La vision de la FNNB/NBFN (notre rêve) est :

« La population du Nouveau-Brunswick a un environnement naturel sain et durable, qu'elle préserve et maintien, et par le biais duquel elle peut apprendre et se réjouir. ».

La mission de la FNNB/NBFN (qui nous sommes, ce que nous faisons et comment nous atteignons nos objectifs) est :

« La Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick est un organisme de bienfaisance à but non-lucratif qui a comme mission la célébration, la conservation et la protection du patrimoine naturel du Nouveau-Brunswick par l'éducation, le réseautage et la collaboration ».

Objectifs stratégiques

Les trois objectifs stratégiques les plus primordiaux (domaines dans lesquels la NBFN/FNNB aimerait le plus accomplir des résultats) sont :

1. Éducation sur la nature

L'éducation à tous les niveaux et à tous publics sur le sujet de la nature est un élément essentiel à la réalisation de notre vision. Sans un public averti qui apprécie la nature et comprend l'interdépendance de tous les êtres vivants, les changements d'attitudes ne seront pas possible. Nous employons une variété d'outils tels que le développement de matériel pédagogique, l'organisation et la participation à des ateliers, l'organisation de camps éducatifs, le développement et la réalisation de projets d'enseignement sur place, l'organisation et la participation à des rencontres avec des représentants gouvernementaux, le développement et la réalisation de visites et présentations dans les écoles et en fournissant de l'information par l'entremise de bulletins, de notre site web, le Naturaliste du N.-B. et d'articles dans les médias.

2. Conservation

La conservation et protection de la nature pour le bonheur, l'appréciation et le bénéfice de générations futures vont en même temps contribuer à la survie de toutes les espèces, incluant les humains, du Nouveau-Brunswick. Nous utilisons une variété de méthodes afin d'atteindre cet objectif; la protection sur place d'espèces et habitats, programmes de surveillance scientifique par les citoyens, projets de restauration d'habitat et collaboration sur des projets de conservations.

3. Bâtir l'organisme

Afin de réaliser les deux objectifs précédents, notre organisme doit être viable, solide, bien ancrée dans l'utilisation de pratiques exemplaires et bien branchée. Les différentes composantes de notre organisme (membres, programmes, clubs, etc.) doivent bien travailler ensemble et bâtir sur les points forts de chacun. Cet objectif sera atteint par l'entremise d'une variété d'approches et outils tels que l'amélioration de notre capacité de réseautage en se servant d'outil basés sur l'Internet, améliorant l'appui à nos membres, visant le mentorat de jeunes naturalistes, fournissant des services aux clubs fédérés tel que l'assurance responsabilité, développant notre viabilité financière, améliorant la perception du public et augmentant le nombre d'adhérents.

Douze stratégies ont été développées, avec des actions spécifiques et des indicateurs. Plusieurs comités de la FNNB/NBFN travaillent actuellement sur ces stratégies. Si vous aimeriez en avoir plus de détails, ou si vous aimeriez participer, veuillez contacter le bureau de la FNNB/NBFN à Fredericton au (506) 459-4209, ou par courriel au nbfn@nb.aibn.com.

STRATEGIC PLAN OF NATURE NB

(formerly the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists)

Excerpts

The new Strategic Plan of the NBFN/FNNB is dedicated to Mary Majka and David Christie, two great New Brunswick advocates for nature. Since the early 1960s, they have been proof of the power of individuals to make a difference for nature. Individually, their achievements have been significant. Together, their partnership has made an enduring impression on the naturalist movement in New Brunswick.

In 2005, the decision was made to devote time to creating a Strategic Plan for the development of the organization over the next three to five years. The results of sessions conducted in October and November 2005 of that year are presented in this document. At that time, the organization also developed action plans for our Goals and Objectives. These are the working documents of the committees charged with implementing our Strategic Plan.

The NBFN/FNNB's Vision (or endpoint to be achieved, our dream for the future) is:

"The people of New Brunswick have a healthy, sustainable natural environment to learn about, celebrate, preserve and maintain."

The NBFN/FNNB's Mission (or who we are, what we do, and how we achieve our goals) is:

"The NBFN/FNNB is a non-profit, charitable organization whose mission is to celebrate, conserve and protect New Brunswick's natural heritage, through education, networking and collaboration."

Strategic Goals

The three most vital Strategic Goals (areas in which the NBFN/FNNB would most like to achieve results) are:

1. Nature Education

Nature education at all levels and for all audiences is an essential element in achieving our vision. Without a knowledgeable public which appreciates nature and understands the interdependence of all living things, attitude changes are not possible. We use a variety of different tools such as developing educational materials, holding and participating in workshops, offering educational camps, developing and implementing on-site education projects, organizing and participating in meetings with government officials, developing and conducting in-school visits and presentations and providing information through newsletters, our website, the NB Naturalist and media articles.

2. Conservation

The conservation and protection of nature for the enjoyment, appreciation and benefit of future generations will at the same time contribute to the survival of all living species in New Brunswick, including the human species. We use a variety of tools to achieve this goal including on-site protection of species and habitats, monitoring through citizen science, habitat restoration and collaboration on conservation projects.

3. Building the Organization

If our organization is to achieve the above two goals, it must be sustainable, strong, well grounded in best practices and well connected. The different components of our organization (members, programs, clubs, etc.) need to work well together and build on each other's strengths. This goal will be achieved through a variety of approaches and tools such as improving our networking capacity through the use of internet-based tools, improving our membership support, focusing on mentoring young naturalists, providing services to affiliated clubs such as liability insurance, developing our financial sustainability, improving our public perception and increasing our membership base.

Twelve strategies were developed, with specific actions and measures of success, that different committees of the NBFN/FNNB are working on. If you would like more information, or to get involved, please contact the Fredericton office of the NBFN/FNNB at (506) 459-4209, or at nbfn@nb.aibn.com.

NATURE NEWS – REFERENCES
INFO NATURE - RÉFÉRENCES

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

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.

Astronomy / Astronomie	Roy LaPointe	423-1900	birdyard@nbnet.nb.ca
Invertebrates / Invertébrés	Dwayne Sabine	450-7302	dlsmejs@netscape.net
Plants / Plantes	Jim Goltz	459-8685	marph@nbnet.nb.ca
Mammals / Mammifères	Mike LeBlanc	743-8485	pandion@nbnet.nb.ca
Birds / Oiseaux			
Spring issue / numéro du printemps	Gilles Belliveau	455-6480	belliveg@nbnet.nb.ca
Summer issue / numéro d'été	Ken MacIntosh	693-6799	coopers@nbnet.nb.ca
Fall issue / numéro d'automne	Pierrette Mercier	735-6872	petem@nb.sympatico.ca
Winter issue / numéro d'hiver	Don Gibson	454-3261	gibsondg@nbnet.nb.ca

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