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

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





## Nature NB

924 rue Prospect St., Suite 110, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 2T9 Canada. [www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca)

Nature NB is a non-profit, charitable organization whose mission is to celebrate, conserve and protect New Brunswick's natural heritage, through education, networking and collaboration. (The former name of Nature NB - New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists / Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick is retained for legal purposes.)

Nature NB 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. (Le nom précédent de Nature NB soit Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick / New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists demeurera l'appellation légale de l'organisme.)

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**Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche,** currently inactive.  
**Celebration of Birds Nature Club (Gagetown),** c/o Bonnie Hamilton Bogart, 194 Tilley Road, Gagetown E5M 1H7; [bonniehb@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:bonniehb@nb.sympatico.ca). Information evenings every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in February and March, and field trips in April and May.  
**Chignecto Naturalists' Club,** c/o CWS, Box 6227, Sackville, E4L 1G6; tel. 364-5047; meets Sackville Public Library, 7:30 pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon., Sept.-June.

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

**Club de Naturalistes Vallée de Memramcook a/s Valmond Bourque,** 12 rue Desbarres, Memramcook, E4K 1E7 tel. 758-1095, [www.natureacadie.ca](http://www.natureacadie.ca); réunions 2<sup>ième</sup> mardi du mois, sept. à juin, à l'amphithéâtre de l'école Abbey-Landry, rue Centrale, Memramcook.

**Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée,** a/s Musée historique du Madawaska, 195 boul. Hébert, Edmundston, E3V 2S8; tél. 737-5282 (Bert Lavoie); [www.umce.ca/com1](http://www.umce.ca/com1); réunions à 19h00, 2<sup>ième</sup> mercredi, sept. à juin, Musée du Madawaska; *Le Jaseur* trimestriel.

**Club les Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est Inc.,** a/s Normand Belliveau, 54 Malakoff Road, Scoudouc, E4P 1B5, tél. 532-4583 ligne d'information : 532-Buse, réunions alternant entre Dieppe et Shédiac, 1<sup>er</sup> mercredi du mois; excursions 3<sup>ième</sup> samedi ou dimanche; *La plume verte*.

**River Valley Naturalist Club (formerly Ford Alward Naturalist Association),** currently inactive.

**Fredericton Nature Club,** Box 772, Station A, Fredericton, E3B 5B4; tel. 366-3079; meets Stepping Stone Centre, 15 Saunders St., 7:00 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Wed., Sept.-May; newsletter.

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

**Moncton Naturalists' Club,** Box 28036, Highfield Square P.O., Moncton, E1C 9N4; tel. 384-6397; [www.monctonnaturalistsclub.org](http://www.monctonnaturalistsclub.org); meets Church of the Nazarene, 21 Fieldcrest Drive, 7 pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues., Sept.-June; monthly newsletter.

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

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

**Miramichi Naturalist Club,** President: Elizabeth Walsh tel. 836-7880 [mailto@MiramichiNaturalistsClub.ca](mailto:mailto@MiramichiNaturalistsClub.ca); [www.miramichinaturalistsclub.ca](http://www.miramichinaturalistsclub.ca); meets 7:00 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon. in the Community Room at Sobeys, Douglastown.

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

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

Please submit articles for the next issue by April 30th 2007  
S.v.p. soumettre les articles à l'intention du prochain numéro avant le 30 avril 2007

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## MOT DU PRÉSIDENT - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Roland Chiasson*

Nature NB Welcomes a New Director and Board Member

I feel that the year 2007 will be a major turning point in the history of the planet. Climate change and the environment are hot topics in the media these days. Climate change is and will affect every one of us. The public will be looking more to join groups like ours to do their part.

It is official! Nature NB has a new executive Director. The executive was pleased to accept the search committee's recommendation that Vanessa Roy be asked to become our new executive Director. On behalf of the board, I extend a warm welcome to Vanessa. Many of you already know Vanessa as she has been working for Nature NB since last summer and begins her new position with an excellent working knowledge of our organization. Her many skills, such as being bilingual and her eagerness to learn, will not doubt be useful in the coming months. We wish her all the best!

I would also like to invite welcome a new member at large to the board, Bob Blake, a past president of Moncton Naturalist Club. His experience and enthusiasm will definitely be an asset to the board,. Welcome aboard!.

With the increase of public interest in the environment, I extend a challenge to all of our members: find new members and help our organization to grow.

Nature NB souhaite la bienvenue à notre nouvelle directrice et membre du Conseil

J'estime que l'année 2007 sera une année importante dans l'histoire de la planète. Plus de gens s'intéressent à l'environnement et au changement climatique car ce sont des sujets d'actualité reconnue par tous les médias. Le changement climatique touchera chacun de nous. Alors, le public recherchera davantage à se rejoindre aux groupes comme le nôtre pour faire leur part.

C'est officiel ! Nature NB a une nouvelle directrice générale. L'exécutif était heureux d'accepter la recommandation du comité d'emboucher Vanessa Roy pour le poste de directrice générale. Au nom du conseil, je lui souhaite un accueil chaleureux. La plupart d'entre vous connaissent Vanessa car elle a déjà travaillé pour Nature NB et elle a une excellente connaissance du fonctionnement de notre organisation. Ses plusieurs talents, tels qu'être bilingue et son intérêt d'apprendre, seront très utiles dans les mois à venir. Nous lui souhaitons le meilleur succès!

Je voudrais également souhaiter la bienvenue à un nouveau membre au conseil, Bob Blake, ancien président du club de naturaliste de Moncton. Avec ses plusieurs talents et son enthousiasme comme naturaliste, il sera certainement un atout au conseil. Bienvenue à bord !

Avec l'augmentation d'intérêt du public envers l'environnement, je vous lance le défi de recruter des nouveaux membres afin d'aider notre organisation à grandir.



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Nature NB member

My name is Vanessa Roy and I am the new Executive director for Nature NB, your provincial affiliate. I would like take this opportunity to introduce myself and let you, the members of Nature NB, know what my hopes for the organization are.

I moved to Fredericton from Montreal, close to four years ago to do my masters at UNB and fell in love with New Brunswick's beautiful scenery and friendly people. My involvement with Nature NB started a couple years ago when I was asked by the Kennebecasis Naturalists to give a talk on my study of Wood Turtles. Since then, I have given that talk to several other groups and have enjoyed meeting people who are as passionate about nature as I am. I have always been passionate about wildlife, education and conservation and my experiences with Nature NB, through my work with the Summer Youth Nature Camps and various other projects, have given me the opportunity to understand the success and challenges of this type of organization.

I strongly believe that education is the key to creating a solid foundation of environmental awareness and stewardship. Nature NB provides a strong voice for the naturalist community and is a leader in conservation and educational programs. As Executive Director I would be able to play a significant role in the growth of this important organization with a focus on educating a new generation of naturalists as well as strengthening the ties between Nature NB and its Member clubs. I am very excited to take on this new challenge and I look forward to meeting both members of Nature NB and member clubs. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions you may have; I am always open to new ideas!

Sincerely

Vanessa Roy

Email: [nbf@nb.aibn.com](mailto:nbf@nb.aibn.com)

Tel : 506-459-4209

## BIENVENU À NOTRE NOUVELLE DIRECTRICE GÉNÉRAL

Chers membres de Nature NB

Je m'appelle Vanessa et je suis la nouvelle directrice générale de Nature NB. J'aimerais profiter de l'occasion pour me présenter et vous faire part de mes espoirs pour l'organisation.

J'ai déménagé à Fredericton de Montréal, il y a 4 ans pour faire ma Maîtrise à UNB et je suis tombée en amour avec les paysages spectaculaires et les gens chaleureux du Nouveau-Brunswick. J'ai connu Nature NB lors d'une invitation du club de Naturaliste de Kennebecasis pour présenter ma recherche sur la Toutue des bois. Depuis ce temps, j'ai eu la chance de faire cette présentation à plusieurs autres

clubs de nature et j'ai vraiment aimé partager ma passion pour la nature avec des gens tout aussi passionnés. J'ai toujours eu une passion pour la faune, la protection de la nature et l'éducation et mes expériences avec Nature NB, en travaillant pour les Camps d'été Jeunesse nature et d'autres projets, m'ont donné la chance de comprendre les succès et les défis d'une organisation comme la nôtre.

Nature NB fournit une voix importante pour la communauté des naturalistes au Nouveau-Brunswick et est aussi un leader en programme éducatif et en protection de la faune et de la flore. Comme directrice générale je serai en position de jouer un rôle important dans la croissance de l'organisation grâce à l'éducation d'une nouvelle génération de naturalistes et aussi à la solidification du lien entre Nature NB et ces membres. J'ai hâte d'entreprendre ce nouveau défi et de rencontrer les membres individuels et les clubs qui font partis de notre organisation. N'hésitez pas à me contacter avec vos questions et commentaires; J'apprécie toujours de nouvelles idées!

Sincèrement

Vanessa Roy

Courriel : [nbf@nb.aibn.com](mailto:nbf@nb.aibn.com)

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Photo: Marie-Paule McNutt

## THE VALLEY AT JEWETTS CREEK

*Debby Peck*

Many New Brunswickers have a unique or treasured natural place with which they have some sort of bond. After all, our province has many spectacular forests, fields, mountains and meadows. There is lots of land to appreciate and to hold valuable for one reason or other.

Last summer I was able to explore and reconnect with a special natural place that has had family significance since the mid 1800s. Back then my great, great grandfather Moses attained ownership of land along Jewetts Creek, in the Parish of Prince William, York County, on which he began to farm and build a grist mill and a black smith's shop. Through the intervening years, this property has always been known as "The Valley" to my family. The original deed is on the table in front of me as I write this. It talks of Moses Jewett and his son John Lewis Jewett. Its text is written by hand, in fading black ink. It describes the boundaries of the land with phrases such as "to commence at the hemlock tree standing on the east bank of the stream and running at right angles until it strikes a sapling hemlock and then a few rods westerly until it strikes a little cedar....." The pages of the document are yellowing and brittle, but it survives even though the land that it refers to has been impacted dramatically by the progress of time.

I can relate to the impact only in my memory, however, since I saw the place just once, when I was 12 years old. I visited the farm's derelict house and barnyard then, just before the completion of the Mactaquac Dam. I recall understanding that the water levels of the St. John River, at the mouth of Jewetts Creek, would soon rise significantly and flood the Valley farm completely. The mature forest that grew on the banks of the creek would soon be harvested and the land submerged under many meters of water. Kings Landing Historical settlement would be built on the land immediately to the north. A newly constructed Trans Canada Highway would cross the creek bed to the south.

It was this southern section of the creek, well beyond the original Jewett family property boundary, that my husband Ken and I decided to explore last summer. Many, many years after my first visit to Jewetts Creek, we were trying to locate Split Rock, which is where my grandmother Kathleen was proposed to by my grandfather, James Dunphy. We had a black and white picture to go by and a rough estimate of the distance that my grandparents would have walked back from the farm on that day of their courtship.

Our hike took us through lush colonies of royal ferns and around and between large hemlock, cedar and white pine trees. A stretch or two of poison ivy made the route interesting as did the steepness of the slope on either side of the water channel and the large boulders and rocky outcrops that occurred there. At every turn in the stream we felt sure that the rock ahead of us was close enough to the one in the picture for us to be able to say that we had arrived at our destination. We were sure that the passage of almost 100 years would have changed the creek channel perhaps beyond recognition. But it was absolutely obvious when



*Photo by D. Peck*

we did indeed arrive at Split Rock because the land features were identical to those in our photograph. It was an amazing place with deep, and crystal clear pools of water.....definitely one worth proposing marriage at! While enjoying the quiet surroundings, listening to the trickle of the creek over the rocky substrate, I found myself marveling at the stamina of my grandparents back in the 1920s. They knew that this place was unique and now I know why. I am thankful for the family connection that I have to it and I hope that it will be in the same state in another 100 years.

Is there a small part of New Brunswick that holds equal significance for you?



## FROM OUR PAST

*Selected by Mary Sollows*

The following note was reproduced from the Canadian Field Naturalist: March-April, 1945, Vol 59: 69.

### **IMPATIENS ROYLEI IN NEW BRUNSWICK.**

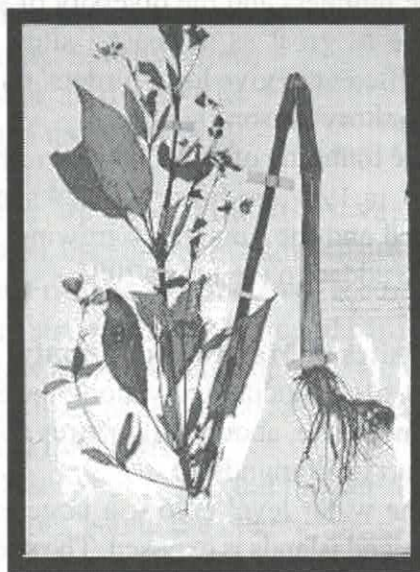
*W.A. Squires, Curator*

*Natural Science Department, New Brunswick Museum, Saint John, N. B.*

In August, 1943, an unfamiliar species of *Impatiens* was found growing in profusion in waste places and damp areas near Saint John Harbour. A specimen was sent to the Division of Botany and Plant Pathology, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, where it was identified as *Impatiens Roylei* Walp. by Harold A. Senn who stated that it was a cultivated species which rarely escapes and becomes established. This is evidently the first record of its having been established in Canada. It would seem more probable that it had been introduced from Europe in ballast than that it had escaped from cultivation in New Brunswick.

The damp and cool summer climate near the Bay of Fundy seems to favour its growth as it reaches six feet in height here.

C. A. Weatherby of the Gray Herbarium who visited the New Brunswick Museum in 1944 told me that he had found *Impatiens Roylei* at Eastport, Maine, in 1926 and that it was still growing there as recently as 1940. In 1944 Mr. Weatherby also found it growing on a roadside at Wilson's Beach, Campobello, at St. Andrew's in Charlotte County, and well established on the river bank at Calais, Maine.



*Impatiens glandulifera (synonym roylei) (common name Himalayan balsam). This is an image of the August, 1943 specimen to which Austin Squires refers in his article. The actual specimen is in the Botany collection of the New Brunswick Museum.*

*Source: The New Brunswick Museum / Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick*

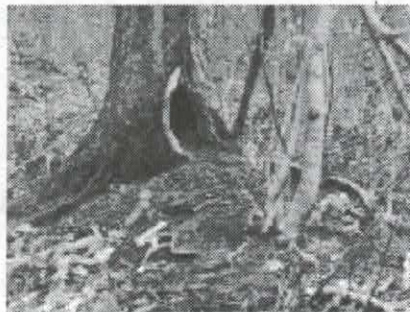
## A HAPPENING PLACE

*Gart Bishop*

The following photograph was taken near Norton New Brunswick in a tolerant hardwood forest composed mostly of Sugar Maples, with minor amounts of Yellow Birch, and American Beech.

This hollowed out Beech seems like a secure, sheltered home for a Porcupine to spend the winter.

In the foreground you can see the large bones remaining from what was likely a deer. I wonder if the porcupine was home when the deer died?



*Photo:  
Bruce Bagnell*

## SHOREBIRDS OF MADAWASKA

by Roy LaPointe

Ask almost anyone where to go see shorebirds in New Brunswick and they will point you towards the coast, be it north, south or east. Few would say head inland.

During the spring migration or when inland water levels are low mid-summer through mid-autumn, you just might consider heading inland to Madawaska County, particularly if it is closer than the coast.

Here the numbers and the diversity of shorebirds might not be as great as at coastal sites. They are however, sufficient to give local birders' pulse rates a boost as migratory seasons approach.

Since the founding of the 'Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska' in 1987, no fewer than 24 species have been reported and the number is growing. Two new species were added to the list in 2006.

### Shorebirds sites in Madawaska County

The best site is undoubtedly along the Saint John River at Saint Basile, about 8 kilometres downstream from the heart of Edmundston.

When the water level is low, a large expanse of rocky shores and islands is exposed. The site becomes

an ideal feeding and resting area for many shorebirds during their southward migration. This doesn't happen every year but when it does we locals put on our galoshes and head to the shore full of hopes of finding...??

Seventeen species have been reported here, some such as Pectoral Sandpiper in flocks of 70 or more, Semipalmated Plover at 30 or so and Short-billed Dowitcher at 25. Species found less frequently include American Golden Plover (1 in 2002 and 2005, 2 in 2006), Baird's Sandpiper (1 in 2001), Dunlin (1 in 2002 and 2006), Stilt Sandpiper (2 in 2006) and White-rumped Sandpiper (1 in 2002).



*Stilt Sandpiper*  
Photo: R. LaPointe

More regular species in addition to the first two mentioned above include Killdeer, both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary, Spotted, Semipalmated and

Least Sandpipers and Wilson's Snipe.

The most productive site for the spring migration is at St. Leonard. A relatively large sewage lagoon, about 100 by 300 metres, surrounded by a pasture also containing a small Ducks Unlimited pond is located at the north end of town.

Shorebirds are most often found here from mid-May to mid-June. They can be seen foraging along the waterline in the lagoon when vegetation is short or around puddles and muddy areas in the pasture.

I have found 12 species at this site since 2002 and in peak periods, get up to 7 different species at a time.



*St. John River at Saint Basile.*  
Photo: Roy LaPointe

The Short-billed Dowitcher holds the abundance record at 47 on May 29, 2005 followed by Least Sandpiper at 38 on May 19, 2006.

The rarest species is the Red-necked Phalarope which visited here on both of the dates noted in the above paragraph. A Dunlin in nuptial plumage made



Dunlin

Photo: R. LaPointe

an appearance on May 19, 2006. Semipalmated Sandpiper show up in small numbers and White-rumped Sandpipers usually singly.

The more common species

include Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper and Wilson's Snipe (all 3 species nesting in the area), Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpiper though the Lesser is usually seen in the autumn.

Another interesting sewage lagoon is located at the eastern end of the village of Sainte Anne. It has a rocky berm and is more active during the fall migration due to the lack of vegetation unlike the above site.

Bird numbers are usually smaller here. Semipalmated Plover and the two common peeps, Semipalmated and Least, are found annually. In August 2006, I had the pleasant surprise of finding a Red-necked Phalarope decked in winter plumage feeding at the surface...Yuk!

More common visitors are Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers and Killdeer. The latter nest here annually and in September 2006, I found 26 of them basking here in the late afternoon sun.

Sainte Anne also has an old abandoned sewage lagoon and a series of small ponds located between Route 144, the Quisibis River and the Saint John River. These frequently host a few shorebirds in migration as does the mouth of the Quisibis River which is accessible from the old lagoon.

The mouth of the Madawaska River at Edmundston is also a good site for shorebirds though numbers and variety are usually low. Purple Sandpipers were seen here on one occasion in the mid-nineteen-

nineties.

Last year, September 5, 2006, I was astounded to find my third Red-necked Phalarope of the year within the county. The bird was busily feeding in the swift current of the Saint John, some 200 metres below the mouth of the Madawaska.

Knowing that Gisèle Thibodeau, holder of the longest bird list for Madawaska, did not have this species on her list, I headed over to her house to get her. The bird was most cooperative. Shortly after we arrived at the site it approached us to within 50 metres.



Red-necked Phalarope

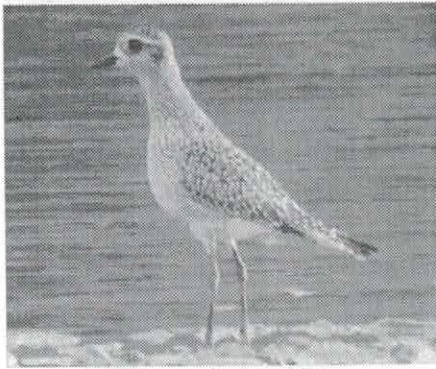
Photo: R. LaPointe

Farther up the Saint John Valley west of Edmundston, the villages of Saint Hilaire, Baker Brook and Saint François provide easy access to riverside sites. Here shorebirds can be found particularly when water is low in late summer or early autumn. On May 21, 1996, a flock of about 200 Short-billed Dowitchers was seen at Baker Brook.

Confluences of rivers and brooks with the Saint John from one end to the other of the county are also excellent shorebird sighting locations. These sites are usually a little tougher to get to unless you travel by water craft of some type. Most urban areas have sewage lagoons with relatively easy access and are good shorebird sites.

One site that has surprised my wife Charlotte and me is non-typical habitat for most shorebirds. It is a rather large field about 1 kilometre wide by 7 kilometres long and currently uncultivated. Located in the Irving Black Brook District northeast of Saint Leonard, it is surrounded by forest and on a plateau with an elevation of 300 to 325 metres. No waterway for miles!

We have found four species of shorebirds here. The first was a White-rumped Sandpiper in September 2005 and the following month, an American Golden Plover was found. On August 28, 2006, we discovered 4 Whimbrels in the field unfortunately, a mere 100 metres to the east of the county line. The line bisects the field diagonally from northeast to southwest along



*American Golden Plover*  
Photo: Roy LaPointe

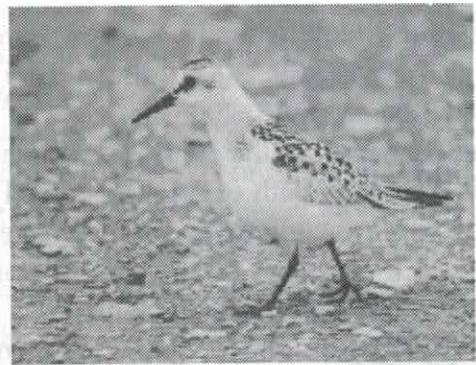
its long dimension. I tried to chase them over the line so we could count them on our Madawaska list but no luck....that's a wee joke. The very next day I found a Sanderling here instead of the Whimbrels but this

bird was inside the county.

I suspect more shorebirds could be found here but access is controlled limiting the number the of birders that can visit this site. The field is probably a sight for sore wings to shorebirds flying in from distant northern sites. It is also a tremendous location for raptors, both diurnal and nocturnal.

### Other Species Reported

Other species reported only once or twice each from diverse locations throughout the county include Black-bellied Plover, Willet, Upland Sandpiper and Ruddy Turnstone. One nesting species not mentioned above is of course the American Woodcock that is



*Sanderling*  
Photo: R. LaPointe

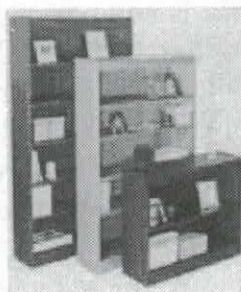
found throughout the region as is the Wilson's Snipe.

### An Invitation

You want to do a little shore-birding in Madawaska County? Contact the club by e-mail ([ornitho@umce.ca](mailto:ornitho@umce.ca)) or me by e-mail ([birdyard@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:birdyard@nbnet.nb.ca)) or by phone (423-1900) for more information. You are welcome to join us on any of our field trips and to visit the club's website ([www.umce.ca/com1](http://www.umce.ca/com1)) where you can find our activity schedule or browse photographs taken by club members of the shorebirds and other species of Madawaska County.

## DEAR NATURE NB MEMBERS:

Being a charitable not-for-profit organization has meant that we don't have extra funds for supplying some much needed office furniture and equipment. In the summer there are often 6 people working out of our Fredericton office, and we are in need of storage for summer camp items, posters, financial records and young naturalists equipment. If you happened to have any of the following at home and would like to donate them to help keep the office tidy and organized, it would be greatly appreciated. Please let Vanessa know what is being donated and where it is, and she will arrange delivery. [924 rue Prospect Street,



110; Fredericton, NB E3B 2T9; (506) 459-4209; [www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca)]

### List of Office supplies needed

- Large bookcases (with or without doors)
- Filing cabinet (preferably with lock)
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Large and medium Plastic bins with lids (Rubbermaid type)
- Solid table/desk (for a workstation)
- Speaker phone
- Desk lamp
- Extension cords (3 prong)
- Microwave/mini fridge

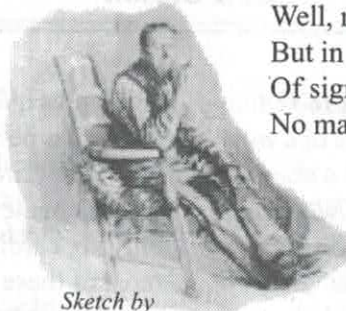
## THE FARMER ON "SIGNS"

My friend and neighbour, Farmer Brown,  
He stopped in on his way to town  
And sez to me, I hear as how  
You're thinkin' that you'll buy a cow?  
Well, yes sez I, at that I might  
Providin' that the price is right.  
So after we had talked a spell,  
I bought a cow he had to sell.

Then Farmer Brown, he sez to me,  
I think this Winter's goin' to be  
The mildest that we've had in years;

And then he tells me that he hears  
The hornets' nests are hangin' low,  
Which means there won't be any snow,  
The squirrels he saw, when out this fall,  
They wasn't storin' nuts at all.

The partridge legs, sez he, are bare,  
There's not a sign of feathers there.  
And if there's anything in signs,  
This Winter will be warm and fine.



Sketch by  
A. Forestier

Well, maybe Farmer Brown is right,  
But in my time I've seen a sight  
Of signs, that don't turn out so well,  
No matter what some people tell.

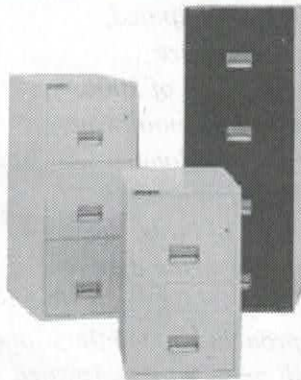
So when that night we're settin' round  
A talkin' about Farmer Brown,  
I sez, sez I to my old girl,  
I'll back my judgment 'gainst a squirrel,  
If they haint gone and filled their huts  
Up to the roof with lots of nuts,  
By Spring if nothin's in their bin,  
They'll have to do the best they kin.

Now if the hornets' nests are low,  
And there should be a lot of snow,  
Then all the hornets and the bees  
Will wish they built their nests in trees,  
And if the partridge want to eat  
They like as not, will freeze their feet.

W.L. Bagnell

## CHER MEMBRES DE NATURE NB:

Étant donné notre statut d'organisme charitable à but non lucratif, par le passé, nous n'avons pas toujours eu les moyens de nous permettre l'achat de certains équipements et fournitures de bureau essentiels. Pendant l'été, il y a souvent jusqu'à 6 personnes qui travaillent à notre bureau de Fredericton. Nous aurions besoin d'items pouvant servir au rangement du matériel relié au camps d'été, des affiches, des archives financières, et de l'équipement des jeunes naturalistes. Si vous aviez par hasard certains des articles suivant chez vous et que vous souhaitiez en faire don à Nature NB, le geste serait grandement apprécié et nous aiderait à rendre le bureau



plus fonctionnel. SVP, entrez en contact avec Vanessa pour lui faire part de ce que vous avez à nous donner et lui dire où cela se trouve. Elle pourra ensuite s'organiser pour le faire ramasser. [924 rue Prospect Street, 110; Fredericton, N-B E3B 2T9; (506) 459-4209; [www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca)]

Liste des équipements de bureau qui font défaut

- Grande étagère (avec ou sans portes)
- Classeurs (de préférence avec serrures)
- Balayeuse
- Bac de plastique de taille grande et moyenne (type Rubbermaid)
- Table ou bureau de travail solide (pour poste d'ordinateur)
- Téléphone à haut-parleur
- Lampe de bureau
- Rallonge électrique (fiche à 3 broches)
- Four micro onde / Mini réfrigérateur

## LOOKING BACK

Don Gibson

### Which species has been reported most often to the Bird Line?

*In the 1990s Bird Info New Brunswick (BINB) was one on the main means of spreading the word on rare bird sightings in the province. "Friends" of BINB received a quarterly newsletter and the article below was originally published in the Spring 1996 issue.*

*It is interesting to look back and speculate which species would be reported today. Keep in mind that the numbers shown below are totals for a five and a half-year period.*

### Bird Quiz Answer - Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

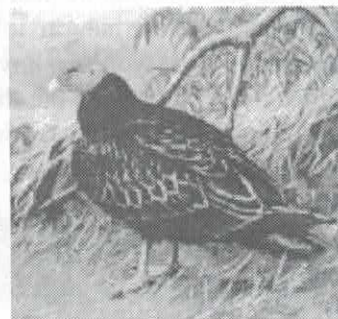
From January 1991 until June 1996 the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher has been reported to the Bird Line more often than any other species. Listed below are the species that have been reported more often than twenty times. Note, these are the number of sightings not the total number of birds seen. For example, if twelve Harlequin Ducks are seen in a flock, this is considered one sighting.

1. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	44
2. Turkey Vulture	41
3. Common Black-headed Gull	35
4. Dickcissel	31
5. Field Sparrow	31
6. Harlequin Duck	30
7. Lesser Black-backed Gull	30
8. King Eider	28
9. Prairie Warbler	27
10. Ruddy Duck	27
11. Yellow-breasted Chat	27
12. Blue Grosbeak	27
13. Indigo Bunting	27
14. Red-bellied Woodpecker	26
15. Snowy Owl	25
16. Orange-crowned Warbler	25
17. Snowy Egret	23
18. Little Gull	23

It takes an interesting combination to make it to the top of this list. First a bird has to be common enough to

be seen frequently but also it must be considered rare enough to be reported. Fifteen or twenty years ago the Northern Cardinal would have been reported any time it was encountered. However during the past six years only six cardinal observations have been recorded and most of these were from the northern part of the province, where it just recently has extended its range.

It would seem that the Turkey Vulture is destined to make it to the top spot. But how long will it stay there?



*Turkey Vulture*  
Painting by A. Brooks

If the numbers continue to increase and sightings become too plentiful, they may be considered not worthy of reporting.

*As anticipated, Turkey Vulture sightings, as of 2006, reached the point where they are seldom reported unless the number of birds, the location or the date is*

*considered unusual. Two other species that are approaching a similar status are Lesser Black-backed Gull and Orange-crowned Warbler. Although they are still reported often, a number of sightings are almost certainly not passed on. The Red-bellied Woodpecker is another bird that seems to be ascending on the list, even if the unbelievable numbers in the fall of 2004 are ignored.*

It will be interesting to look back again in about 2020.



*King Eider*  
Painting by A. Brooks

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DAY

*Beverley Schneider*

Christmas Bird Counts are always something to which I look forward. They are one of the highlights of the Christmas season for me. I have participated in the Fredericton count regularly since 1960. That is something I am proud of. I have contributed significantly to the database from this area for whatever value it might be.

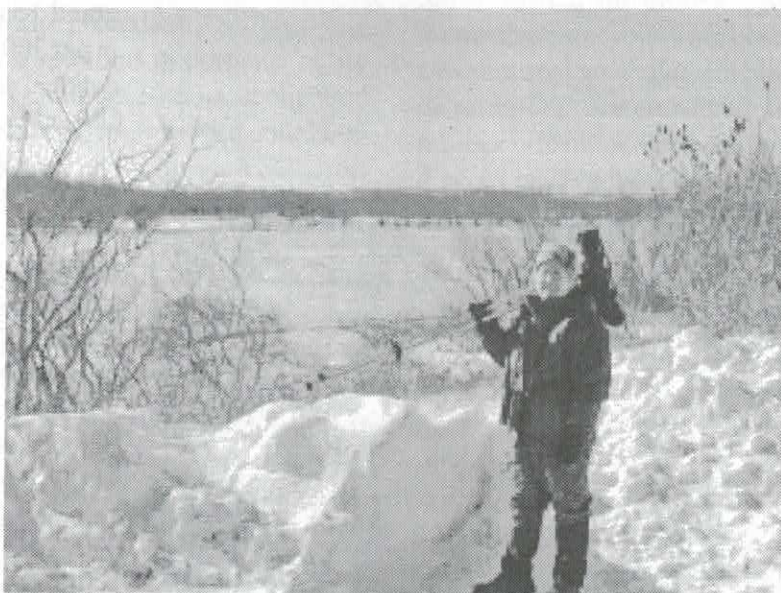
This year's count was particularly enjoyable. One reason was that it began in an outstanding way. As I lay awake just after 6:00AM, thinking about the things I would do that day, I thought I heard a low-pitched sound. I dismissed it thinking it must be the furnace. Soon I heard it again, but this time more distinctly. "Is that an owl?" I asked myself. Away to the window I flew like a flash, pulled open the shutter and threw up the sash, when what to my wondering ears should hear ... With the 'sash' wide open to the early dark dawn, I soon heard the clear calls of a Great Horned Owl. There it was in the orchard behind the house, loudly singing its love song to a prospective mate who perhaps was nearby. The cold morning air felt invigorating while I listened to a handful of those lovely strains. The first bird on my count sheet was, Great Horned Owl 1.

Another reason Count Day was special this year was the absolutely beautiful sunrise we had over Fredericton on December 17. About 6:30 the light began to brighten over our old cedar-shingled barn. It quickly revealed its colours: blues, pinks, fuchsias, purples. Picture fluorescent

pink mixed with generous patches of brilliant medium blue. Now add a few streaks of light to charcoal gray clouds and sprinkle a few pickerel clouds over it. About a third of the sky in the easterly direction was indeed an artist's palate. This one would have been difficult for a photographer to truly capture! I kept watching as it changed from more blue, to more pink, and then yellows began to be introduced. Wow! This was going to be a good day!

Even though we saw 28 species and 985 individual birds this year which I enjoyed very much, the third reason Count Day was special for me came not with feathers but with four legs. In a small inlet of Sugar Island on the St. John River I saw a large animal rolling like a seal, and turning onto its side before it disappeared into the mud bank. A River Otter! I have never seen such a special animal on a Christmas count and only rarely have I seen one in late years. (We used to see them quite often on the Nashwaaksis River when I was young). The last good view I had of one was about 2 years ago when I found one unfortunately killed on the road in Maugerville.

Christmas counts are sometimes difficult to fit into busy holiday schedules, but I always find them exciting and rewarding. At no other time do we take such a good look at the fauna in our communities. I am proud to be part of it and hope we as a birding community can keep it up for at least another 100 years.



*Photo: Marc Schneider*

## LES OISEAUX DE RIVAGE DU MADAWASKA

par Roy LaPointe

Demandez à qui que ce soit où observer des oiseaux de rivages au Nouveau-Brunswick et on vous dirigera vers la côte, soit nord, sud ou est. Pratiquement personne vous dirait de filer vers l'intérieur des terres.

Durant la migration printanière ou lorsque le niveau des eaux est bas en mi-été à mi-automne, vous devriez peut-être considérer prendre la route vers le Madawaska, particulièrement si vous demeurez plus près de celui-ci que de la côte.

Ici l'abondance et la diversité des limicoles ne sont peut-être pas si abondantes que sur les sites côtiers. Elles sont cependant suffisantes pour faire sauter le poulx des ornithos du coin à l'approche des saisons de migration.

Depuis l'établissement du Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska en 1987, pas moins de 24 espèces ont été répertoriées et le nombre ne cesse d'augmenter. Deux nouvelles espèces furent ajoutées à la liste en 2006.

### Sites d'oiseaux de rivages au Madawaska

Le meilleur site sans doute est aux abords du fleuve Saint Jean à la hauteur de Saint-Basile, environ 8 kilomètres en aval du centre de la ville d'Edmunston.

Quand le niveau d'eau est bas, une grande étendue de rives et d'îlots rocaillieux est asséchée. Le site devient un endroit idéal pour les limicoles à se reposer et faire le plein

dans leur migration vers le sud. Ceci ne prend pas lieu à tous les ans mais lorsqu'on voit la grève apparaître, on saute dans nos galoches et fil vers le fleuve plein d'espoir de retrouver...??

Dix-sept espèces ont été rapportées ici, quelques-unes en volées assez importantes tel que le Bécasseau à poitrine cendrée à 70 ou plus, le Pluvier semipalmé dans la trentaine et le Bécassin roux à 25. Les espèces retrouvées moins fréquemment sont le Pluvier bronzé (1 en 2002 et 2005, 2 en 2006), le Bécasseau de Baird (1 en 2001), le Bécasseau variable (1 en 2002 et 2006), le Bécasseau à échasses (2 en

2006) et le Bécasseau à croupion blanc (1 en 2002).

Les espèces les plus régulières en plus des deux premières mentionnées ci-haut sont le Pluvier kildir, le Grand Chevalier, le Petit Chevalier, le Chevaliers solitaire, le Chevalier grivelé,



Le Bécasseau à échasses

Photo: R. LaPointe

le Bécasseau semipalmé, le Bécasseau minuscule et la Bécassine de Wilson.

Le site le plus productif durant la migration printanière

se trouve à Saint-Léonard. Un assez grand bassin d'épuration, environ 100 m par 300 m, entouré d'un pâturage qui contient aussi un petit étang de Canards Illimités se situe au nord de la ville.

Les oiseaux de rivages sont généralement présents ici entre la mi-mai et la mi-juin. On les observe au bord de l'eau du bassin lorsque la végétation est courte ou autour de flaques d'eau et les trous de vase dans le pâturage.

J'ai trouvé 12 espèces à ce site depuis 2002, allant jusqu'à 7 espèces la fois durant les heures de pointe de la migration. Le Bécassin roux maintient le record d'abondance avec 4 individus le 29 mai, 2005. Il est suivi par le Bécasseau minuscule à 3



Aux abords du fleuve Saint Jean à la hauteur de Saint-Basile

Photo: Roy LaPointe

individus le 19 mai, 2006.

L'espèce la plus rare serait le Phalarope à bec étroit qui a séjourné ici les deux dates notées au paragraphe précédant. Un Bécasseau variable en plumage nuptial nous a rendu visite le 19 mai, 2006. Le Bécasseau semipalmé passe en petit nombre tandis que le Bécasseau à croupion blanc arrive habituellement seul.



*Bécasseau variable*

Photo: R. LaPointe

Les espèces les plus communes comprennent le Pluvier kildir, le Chevalier grivelé et la Bécassine de Wilson (tous les trois nichent dans les environs), le Grand Chevalier, le Petit Chevalier et le Chevalier solitaire bien que le Petit Chevalier passe habituellement en automne.

Un autre bassin d'épuration intéressant est situé à l'est du village de Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska. L'accotement de ce bassin est rocheux et ce site est plus actif durant la migration automnale, probablement dû à l'absence de végétation contrairement au site précédant.

Les nombres d'oiseaux sont moins importants ici. Le Pluvier semipalmé et les deux petits bécasseaux, semipalmé et minuscule, y sont retrouvés annuellement. En août 2006 j'ai eu la belle surprise d'observer un Phalarope à bec étroit en plumage d'hiver qui se nourrissait à la surface....yuk!

Les visiteurs les plus communs sont le Grand Chevalier, le Petit Chevalier, le Chevalier solitaire et le Pluvier kildir. Le dernier y niche annuellement et en septembre 2006 j'ai dénombré 26 individus de cette espèce qui se grillaient dans le soleil du fin de l'après-midi.

À Sainte-Anne on retrouve aussi un ancien bassin d'épuration et une chaîne d'étangs situé entre la route 144, la rivière Quisibis et le fleuve Saint Jean. Ceux-ci servent souvent de halte migratoire à quelques limicoles ainsi que l'embouchure de la rivière Quisibis, accessible à partir de l'ancien bassin.

L'embouchure de la rivière Madawaska à Edmundston est un autre bon site bien que les nombres d'individus et

d'espèces sont habituellement bas. Le Bécasseau violet fut observé ici une fois vers le milieu de la dernière décennie.

L'an dernier, le 5 septembre, 2006, j'ai été stupéfié par la trouvaille de mon troisième Phalarope à bec étroit de l'année dans le comté. L'oiseau se nourrissait dans le courant vif du fleuve Saint Jean environ 200 mètres en aval de l'embouchure de la Madawaska.

Sachant que Gisèle Thibodeau, détentrice de la plus grande liste d'oiseaux madawaskayenne, n'avait pas encore observé cette espèce, je me suis rendu chez elle afin de l'amener le voir. L'oiseau fut bien coopératif. Tout juste après notre arrivée il s'est approché à une cinquantaine de mètres.



*Phalarope à bec étroit*

Photo: R. LaPointe

En remontant la vallée du fleuve Saint-Jean à l'Ouest d'Edmundston, les villages de Saint-Hilaire, Baker Brook et Saint-François nous offrent des accès faciles à des sites riverains. Là on peut retrouver des oiseaux de rivages surtout lorsque l'eau est basse en fin d'été et début d'automne. Environ 200 Bécassins roux ont été observés à Baker Brook le 21 mai, 1996.

Les confluences des rivières et ruisseaux avec le fleuve Saint Jean d'un bout à l'autre du comté sont aussi d'excellents endroits pour observer des oiseaux de rivages. Ces sites sont généralement plus difficiles à accéder à moins de se servir d'une embarcation quelconque. La plupart des milieux urbains possède des bassins d'épuration assez faciles d'accès et bons pour l'observation des limicoles.

Un site qui a surpris mon épouse Charlotte et moi est non typique de l'habitat de la plupart des limicoles. Celui-ci est un énorme champ d'environ un kilomètre de large par sept de long et présentement non cultivé. Situé dans le District de Black Brook de la compagnie Irving au nord-est de St-Léonard, il est entouré de forêt sur un plateau à une élévation de 300 à 325 mètres. Aucun cours d'eau n'est en proximité!

Nous y avons trouvés 4 espèces de limicoles aviaires. En 2005 le premier fut un Bécasseau à croupion blanc au mois de septembre et le mois suivant, un Pluvier bronzé. Le 28 août, 2006 on a découvert 4 Courlis corlieu, malheureusement à une centaine de mètres à l'est de la ligne du comté. La ligne traverse le champ en biais sur sa

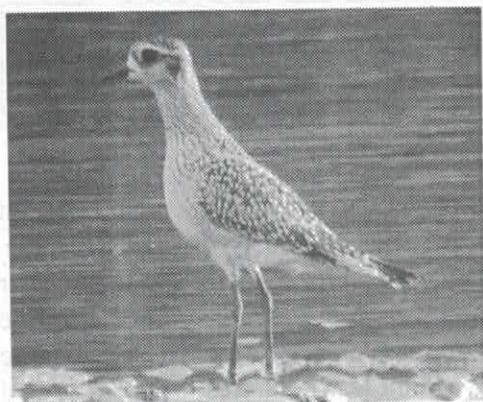
*Pluvier bronzé*

Photo: Roy LaPointe

longueur de nord-est à sud-ouest. J'ai tenté de les chasser à l'autre côté de la ligne sans succès.....petite blague! Le lendemain j'ai trouvé un Bécasseau sanderling au lieu des courlis

Tournepierré à collier. Une espèce qui niche mais pas mentionné ci-dessus est le Bécasseau d'Amérique qui habite sur tout le territoire comme le fait la Bécassine de Wilson.

*Sanderling*

Photo: R. LaPointe

mais celui-ci dans le comté.

Je crois que d'autres espèces d'oiseaux de rivage sont à découvrir ici mais l'accès est contrôlé, limitant le nombre d'ornithos qui peuvent visiter ce site. Le champ doit être très attirant aux oiseaux de rivage avec les ailes fatiguées provenant des sites éloignés du nord. Celui-ci est aussi un excellent site pour les rapaces diurnes et nocturnes.

### D'autres espèces observées au comté

Les autres espèces rapportées à divers endroits une ou deux fois au comté comprennent le Pluvier argenté, le Chevalier semipalmé, la Maubèche des champs et le

### Une invitation

Vous désirez observer les oiseaux de rivage du comté de Madawaska? Communiquez avec le club par courriel ([ornitho@umce.ca](mailto:ornitho@umce.ca)) ou moi-même par courriel ([birdyard@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:birdyard@nbnet.nb.ca)) ou téléphone par (423-1900) pour plus de renseignements. On vous invite à nous rejoindre sur nos excursions et à visiter le site web du club ([www.umce.ca/com1](http://www.umce.ca/com1)) où vous trouverez l'horaire de nos activités et des photographies des oiseaux de rivage et des autres espèces du comté de Madawaska.

## WHAT'S IN A NUMBER?

(A letter to the editor.)

**Peter Pearce**

Determination of the number of birds in large flocks is problematic. It is accepted that the observer, especially if inexperienced, tends to underestimate the size of flocks of small birds, such as Snow Buntings, and overestimate that of large ones - Canada Geese, for instance. Even small groups, fleetingly seen, may be difficult to size up. What, then, should be made of a report, for example, of 1000+ Ross's Gulls in Passamaquoddy Bay? Doubts are immediately raised because the number is so **round**, prompting questions as to whether the claim was an estimate, a guess-timate - that contrived but nevertheless accepted word - or a sheer guess. The credibility of the report would of course to a large extent depend on the reputation of the observer. And what about that little "+" cipher? Many bird watchers use it. Could there really have been 1001 Ross's Gulls?...1033?...1100? The plus sign really conveys little indication of the accuracy of the reported number. (An editor, by the way, might suggest that "n+" should properly be

expressed as "n-plus".) It may, rather, be a revelation of the subconscious thought "Look, there were a lot of birds in that flock. I'm not exaggerating!". The use of the cipher becomes more questionable with decrease in reported flock size, since one would think that accuracy would at the same time increase. What exactly does a report of 28+ of this species mean? Or 6+ of that? It gets curiously and curiously. So, at the risk of ruffling feathers, it is suggested that bird watchers should be encouraged to use the expression "at least" or, better still, "about", and round off the numbers, when describing the size of aggregations of birds they encounter in circumstances that prevent the complete counting of individuals.

Now, having divested himself of the above, your readers' curmudgeonly cohort wishes to report the visit of one minus Brambling to his backyard bird feeder on the 30th of February.

## THE TELEPHONE POLE MELEE

*Christopher Clunas*

A flicker of black passing by the window caught my eye. Probably just a crow, I thought. But then a familiar sound — a loud kik kik kik kik — caused me to stop my work. A pileated woodpecker was nearby.

I stood up from my desk to look out the window. The visitor was across the street on a telephone pole.

The woodpecker began tearing away bits of wood from the pole: a meal was apparently close at hand. As I set up my spotting scope for a better look, the woodpecker continued to hammer away, eager to dine on whatever it had found.

But I soon saw that I was not the only one interested in the woodpecker's activity. A red squirrel lives in the small forested area behind the pole, and the sounds of the bird's feeding had not gone unnoticed by the squirrel.

The squirrel leapt from tree to tree, trying to get a closer look at what was going on so close to its domain. The woodpecker was initially oblivious, dining on the cache of bugs it had found.

I too wanted a closer look, so I grabbed my camera and rushed outside to get a ringside seat of the impending conflict.

The squirrel's anxiety seemed to grow, and finally it leapt from the trees onto the reverse side of the pole and scurried upwards to the top. It then started its first attack. From above, the squirrel approached the bird in short lurches, chattering angrily. The bird continued to eat, but clearly became agitated.

When the squirrel came within about a metre, the bird had enough of the intruder. It raised its red crest in alarm and spread its wings in a fearsome sight. The squirrel backed off.

As the woodpecker resumed its dining, the squirrel tried another approach, this time coming from the side of the pole. It was sending the message that the bird was unwelcome — that the bird was the intruder here. The woodpecker displayed its fearsome crest and plumage again and hopped towards the squirrel, sending it fleeing up and around the pole.

But the woodpecker had just resumed its meal when the squirrel charged again, its courage growing. This time the bird backed off, but then lunged back at its foe, sending the squirrel scurrying for safety once more.

The battle ensued for a few more seconds when, abruptly, the woodpecker left the small excavation it had made and moved higher up the pole. It had decided it was done dining, whether or not any bugs remained.

As soon as the bird gave up its spot, the squirrel moved in and finished off whatever was left behind in the hole. Meanwhile, the woodpecker flew into the woods, no doubt searching for its next meal.

The melee had lasted only a few minutes, and there didn't seem to be a clear victor. The woodpecker had a meal, the squirrel had a snack, and each combatant had shown its determination to win the day.

As I wandered back inside, I concluded that the only loser in this encounter was the cache of bugs. And perhaps the telephone pole, which bears the only scars of the melee.



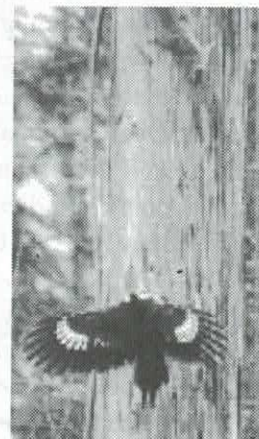
*Too close*



*Keeping tabs*



*Agitated*



*Charge*

## RARE ENCOUNTERS WITH WILDLIFE

*Alan Madden*

### OTTERS DINE WITHOUT DIGNITY

Seeing a River Otter in the wild is uncommon, but seeing one catching and eating its food is even less common. Being so close to one that you can actually hear it munch its food is very rare indeed. Only then does one realize that otters no nothing of the "Queen's Etiquette on Dining". Some of my encounters are described below.

Although I had occasionally seen otters swim in the Restigouche River near home, I had never seen one catch fish. But, one day in April, 1975, when the first melt hole formed in the river ice close to our house, an otter appeared in the hole. The animal, which appeared black on that gray day, climbed onto the ice with an American Eel about 50 centimetres (20 inches) in length. From our second-story bedroom window, 100 metres (100 yds.) from the otter, I was able to get a nice photo with our 400mm. telephoto lens. The photo clearly shows the writhing eel being held by its head in the otter's mouth, with no part of the eel even touching the ice.

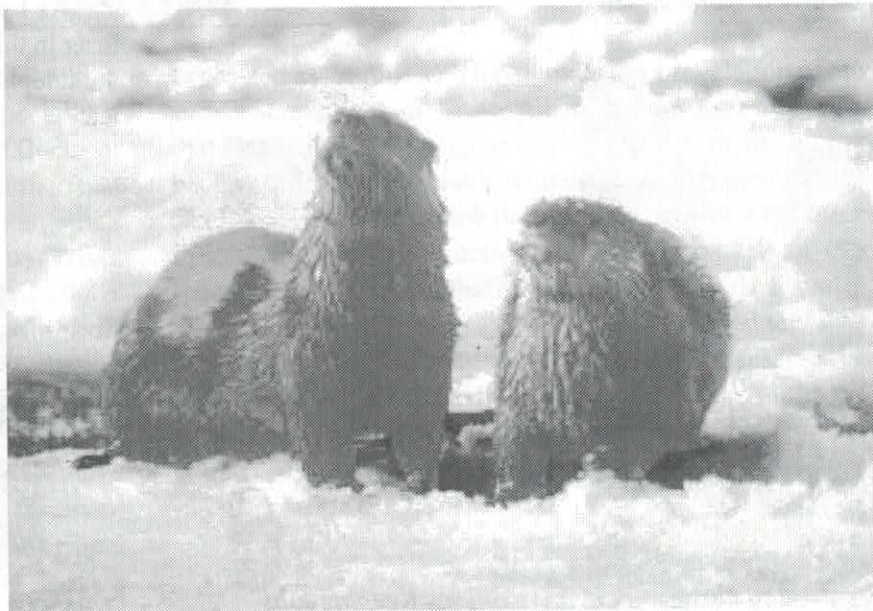
The otter held the hapless victim with its forepaws, and steadily pushed the eel, headfirst into its mouth. It was similar to we humans slurping up an extra long, extra thick spaghetti noodle. The eel disappeared into the otter's hungry gullet so quickly—within two minutes, that I concluded the predator's teeth must have been working almost as fast as the blade in a kitchen sink garburator.

Not only did that otter catch its meal with ease, but also it caught a total of six eels in only five consecutive dives. Yes—only five dives! If someone had told me an otter could do that I would not have believed it, until that day. Each dive required only about ten to thirty seconds, indicating not only that eels were plentiful, but that they were easy to catch. The water under the ice at that location is only one metre deep, and the river bottom is composed of mud mixed with sand—excellent habitat in which eels bed for the winter. Each fall, when the water temperature approaches single digits eels burrow into the bottom sediment of streams, lakes and ponds, remaining there until ice-out. I often wondered since whether buried eels made a breath-

ing hole detectable by otters, or did the eels create a slight depression in the mud, which the otters could easily see? Another possibility is that the eels had already exited the mud, but were still lethargic, and thus easily captured.

A decade passed before I again saw otters catch fish through the ice. But this time, the event occurred even closer to the shoreline, just below our lawn. On this occasion there were three otters fishing together. I grabbed my camera and telephoto lens and sneaked to the shoreline by crawling on my belly, over the soaking wet snow and ice, moving forward only whenever the otters were submerged. Each time an animal surfaced, I froze (unintended pun) until it was underwater again. Finally, I got about 13 metres from my quarry, and in the next half-hour took several close-ups of the otters with their catches.

On this occasion, the otters caught not only eels, but also White Suckers. A sucker is a trout-sized, large scaled, copper coloured fish that feeds along the bottom with its vacuum-shaped mouth. The ugly appearance of the suckers' mouths failed to save them though, for the predators downed the suckers with gusto—head first. The otters caught about as many suckers as eels, so there didn't seem to be a preference for either fish species by the otters, although I'm sure the suckers and eels, when pursued, preferred to be elsewhere. The scene was made even more



*Photo: A. Madden*



## Nature NB Annual General Meeting - 8, 9, 10 June, 2007

Hosted by the Saint John Naturalists' Club Inc



AGM/AGA 1

**Welcome NB Naturalists!** It's been eleven years since Saint John last hosted the Federation's Annual Meeting and we're very pleased to welcome you again. Situated where the Saint John River meets the Bay of Fundy, our lives are strongly affected by the ebb and flow of Fundy's giant tides -- and we have plenty of nature to offer to everyone. This year's program includes two days of diverse activities, including programs dedicated to youth 7-12 years of age on both days. Leaders and speakers will share their knowledge of the NB Museum, geology, astronomy, botany, birding, intertidal zones, dragonflies, kayaking, local history and crafts.

**Directions:** The weekend will be based at the University of New Brunswick Campus (UNBSJ), which is adjacent to the Regional Hospital. Driving into Saint John on Route 1 from east or west, take exit 123 and follow the signs for "H/UNBSJ" (hospital/university). As you near the Regional Hospital on Tucker Park Road, you will see the entrance to the University of New Brunswick campus on your right. Turn right and follow the Nature NB signs to the registration desk at the Dr. Colin B. Mackay Residence. Parking is free all weekend after 4 p.m. on Friday. More complete directions and program information are available on our club's website at [www.saintjohnnaturalistsclub.org](http://www.saintjohnnaturalistsclub.org). You can also download a detailed map of the UNBSJ campus at [www.unbsj.ca](http://www.unbsj.ca).

**Things to Note:** If you ordered a bag lunch, remember to pick it up each morning at Oland Hall before leaving on outings. This applies to both full and half-day outings. A complimentary lunch is provided on both youth trips (# 6 & # 15) as well as at Point Lepreau (# 13) and "Buds, Blossoms and Burgers by Bus" (# 19). All field trips will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis until the stated maximum is reached. There will be an additional cost for kayaking the Hammond River (# 8) and the Kingston Peninsula Tour (# 14). All programs leave from Oland Hall at the times indicated. If a parent's outing begins earlier or lasts longer than their child's youth activity, youth leaders will look after the child until the parent returns to Oland Hall. We'll make every effort to have at least one bilingual participant on outings where the leader is not bilingual. Directions and maps for field trips and the location of the dinner will be provided at the registration desk. Outing descriptions include the total driving distance and either the total walking distance or the maximum distance per stop, as applicable. Participants are encouraged to carpool whenever possible.

**Items to Bring:** Bring sturdy waterproof shoes/boots, insect repellent, water, field guides, binoculars and any additional items suggested in the field trip description. A small backpack would be handy.

### Schedule

#### Friday

		Location
5 p.m.-10 p.m.	Registration / Socializing	Dr. Colin B. Mackay Residence
7 p.m.-9 p.m.	Annual General Meeting	Oland Hall (Rm 104)
9:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m.	Astronomy	Oland Hall

#### Saturday

6 a.m.-7:30 a.m.	Early bird outing	From Oland Hall
7 a.m.-12 p.m.	Registration	Oland Hall
7 a.m.-8 a.m.	Continental breakfast	Dr. Colin B. Mackay Residence
7:45 a.m.-12 p.m.	Half day outings	From Oland Hall
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Full day outings	From Oland Hall
12:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	Half day outings	From Oland Hall
6 p.m.-9 p.m.	Dinner	Lily Lake (Hathaway Centre)

#### Sunday

6 a.m.-7:30 a.m.	Early bird outing
7 a.m.-8 a.m.	Continental breakfast
8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Half day outings
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Full day outings
1 p.m.-4 p.m.	Half day outings

### Accommodations

Negotiated rates for AGM participants are available at the University of New Brunswick - Saint John

Sir James Dunn Residence - single rooms \$34.00  
Dr. Colin B. Mackay Residence - 2-room mini-suites  
\$72.00 double occupancy, \$77.00 triple occupancy,  
\$83.50 quadruple occupancy

Rates include HST, linen, towels and parking.

Please reserve directly through the University at:

(506) 648-5909, 648-5755; email: [conf@unbsj.ca](mailto:conf@unbsj.ca)

Remember to specify Nature NB when reserving your room.

For those who prefer other styles of accommodations, the following are listed for convenience only:

Colonial Inn, 175 City Road  
1-800-561-4667; (506) 652-3000  
Hotel Courtenay Bay, 350 Haymarket Square  
1-866-612-9700; (506) 657-3610  
Holiday Inn, 400 Main St. at Chesley Drive  
1-800-475-4656; (506) 642-2622  
Rockwood Park Campground, 142 Lake Road South  
(506) 652-4050

Additional choices may be found by consulting online at [www.tourismsaintjohn.com](http://www.tourismsaintjohn.com) or phoning 1-866-463-8639

**FRIDAY EVENING*****'What's up in the night Sky - constellations, planets and clusters'***

9:30 – 11:30 Members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) invite you to join them at Oland Hall for a presentation on the wonders of the night sky. Later, weather permitting, the RASC will set up the largest portable telescope in New Brunswick for viewing - a massive 20 inch diameter Newtonian. Other telescopic equipment will also be available. Saturn, Jupiter, Venus, various constellations, M13 (the Great Globular Cluster in Hercules), M57 (Ring Nebula), etc. could be visible. English, with French translation. All are welcome – no registration required.

**EARLY MORNING BIRDING - SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

1. *Saturday with Alan Gorham* 6:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

2. *Sunday with Roger Burrows* 6:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

A walking tour starting at Oland Hall and covering parts of urban Saint John and Rockwood Park. Birds expected include resident woodpeckers, breeding songbirds, late migrants and possibly raptors and vultures. No maximum limit.

**SATURDAY FULL-DAY OUTINGS**

3. *Long Island in the Kennebecasis River: Peregrine Falcons, Minister's Face and Protected Lands Tour*

8:30 – 4:30 Tour Long Island with Margo Sheppard, Tim Vickers, Anne Bardou (bilingual) and David Clarke. You will cross by boat to Long Island, scanning the cliffs of Minister's Face for Peregrine Falcons and rare plants. On the Island you'll hike through property protected by the Nature Trust in partnership with Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) Saint John. The trail goes through a variety of woodland types with interesting birds and plants. Leaders will discuss the Loyalist history of the Island and point out cultural remains. Distance: 30 km with 5-6 km walking on well-established and rustic trails. Difficulty - difficult as some steep and uneven terrain. Wear hiking shoes/boots and bring rubber boots, snacks and water. Min: 5, Max: 25 participants.

4. *Dragonflies of the St. Croix*

8:30 – 4:00 Dragonfly expert Paul Brunelle will lead an expedition to the St. Croix River. Paul will teach techniques for locating and collecting dragonflies while delighting you with tales of his field experiences. Learn to swing a net like the master himself! If the weather is unfit, Paul will deliver a scintillating presentation of his encounters with dragonflies and you will study preserved adult and larval dragonflies and exuviae. Distance: 150 km. All walking within 200 m. Difficulty – moderate. Bring sturdy footwear for wet areas, dry footwear for the trip back & an insect catching net (if you own one). Max: 20 participants.

5. *Coastal Plants and Lichens of the Barnaby Head Trail*

8:30 – 3:30 Join Stephen Clayden (bilingual) on a botanical outing to New River Beach Provincial Park. Explore varied habitats along the Barnaby Head Trail, including rocky headlands and shores, cobble beaches, spruce-fir forests, a bog and old fields. Flowering plants, ferns, bryophytes and lichens are luxuriant and diverse. Distance: 80 km with 6 km walking.

Difficulty – moderate. Bring a hand lens if available. Max: 20 participants.

6. *"Murder and Survival: CSI at INP" YOUTH PROGRAM*

8:30 – 4:00 Joanne Sheils, an Irving Nature Park (INP) interpreter for over five years, will take your child on a nature tour they'll never forget. Special activities such as blind hike, Survivor and Forest Murder Mystery will be used to introduce or re-enforce children's knowledge of the various eco-systems within the park. This field trip will be geared toward 7 - 12 year olds. A complimentary BBQ lunch will be provided. Transportation provided from Oland Hall. 5.5 km walking. Max: 16 participants.

**SATURDAY MORNING OUTINGS**

7. *Birding Greater Saint John*

8:00 – 12:00 Saint John and the Kennebecasis Valley east of the city offer great habitat for spring birding. Jim Wilson will take you to visit Red Head Marsh and other prime areas within the city limits before exploring the Kennebecasis Valley in search of birds such as Turkey Vulture, Northern Cardinal and Willow Flycatcher. The area has nesting Bald Eagles, Ospreys and Great Blue Herons and a good variety of other species. Distance: 75 km. All walking within 200 m. Max: 25 participants.

8. *Kayaking on the Hammond River*

7:45 – 12:00 During this kayak tour through very scenic areas, Hammond River Angling Association (HRAA) staff will point out salmon pools, turkey vulture, osprey and eagle habitat. You will learn about salmon-related issues, including agricultural encroachment on riparian zones, poaching and irresponsible ATV use affecting freshwater habitat. HRAA will provide kayaks, all safety equipment and dry land training before launch. Distance: 40 km by participants; transportation to launch site supplied. Difficulty – easy, suitable for novice kayakers. Bring sunglasses, sunhat and sunscreen. Max: 15 participants. \*Cost \$20.00 per person.

9. *Waterfalls and Other Attributes of Urban Streams*

8:00 – 11:30 Matthew McKim will lead the group to three urban streams flowing through industrial Saint John. You'll "discover" hidden waterfalls and other gems on these often-abused creeks and discuss the history of these watercourses, including past use for waterpower and as water sources. He'll also describe recent efforts and hopes for the streams. Distance: 10 km with all walking within 300 m. Difficulty: easy to moderate. Max: 20 participants.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON OUTINGS**

10. *Intertidal Beach walk at Duck Pond Cove, St. Martins*

1:00 – 4:00 Explore with Mary Sollows & Gart Bishop the intertidal zone of a Bay of Fundy shore from bottom to top including tidal pools and crevices, in search of marine invertebrates. Weather permitting, Gart will dive and provide a look at some of the animals below the low tide line. Distance: 80 km with 1 km walking. Difficulty – Moderate, a sandy/gravel approach, and a rocky beach. Bring rubber boots and walking stick if available (we'll have some extras). Max: 25 participants.



## Assemblée générale annuelle de Nature NB – les 8, 9 et 10 juin 2007

Club hôte : Saint John Naturalists' Club Inc



**Bienvenue aux naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick!** Voilà déjà onze ans depuis la dernière fois que nous vous avons accueilli à l'AGA de la Fédération et nous sommes enchantés de vous souhaiter la bienvenue de nouveau. Situé où le fleuve Saint-Jean rencontre la Baie de Fundy, nos vies sont fortement influencées par les marées géantes de Fundy - et nous avons beaucoup de « nature » à offrir à chacun(e). Le programme comprend deux jours d'activités diverses, incluant un programme, chaque jour, dévoué aux jeunes de 7 à 12 ans. Guides et conférenciers partageront leurs connaissances en géologie, botanique, astronomie, ornithologie, du Musée du N.-B., des zones intertidales, libellules, du kayak, de l'histoire et l'artisanat du coin.

**Directions :** L'AGA sera basée au campus de l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick à Saint-Jean (UNBSJ), situé juste à côté de l'hôpital Régional. En arrivant à Saint-Jean sur la route 1, de l'est ou de l'ouest, prendre la sortie 123 et suivre les enseignes « H/UNBSJ » (hôpital/université). En approchant l'Hôpital Régional sur le chemin Tucker Park, vous verrez l'entrée de l'université à votre droite. Tourner à droite et suivre les enseignes de Nature NB jusqu'à l'inscription à la résidence Dr. Colin B. Mackay. Le stationnement est gratuit la fin de semaine après 16 h le vendredi. Des directions plus détaillées sont disponibles sur notre site Web au : [www.saintjohnnaturalistclub.org](http://www.saintjohnnaturalistclub.org). On peut aussi télécharger une carte du campus au : [www.unbsj.ca](http://www.unbsj.ca).

**À noter :** Si vous avez commandé un casse-croûte, on vous demande de passer le prendre vous-même le matin, avant votre départ, à Oland Hall, qu'il s'agisse d'une excursion pleine journée ou demi-journée. Les excursions pour jeunes (# 6 & # 15), ainsi que #14 (Pointe Lepreau) et #19, comprennent un lunch fourni gratuitement. Toutes les excursions sont offertes « premiers arrivés, premiers servis » jusqu'au maximum indiqué. Veuillez noter que les excursions en kayak sur la rivière Hammond (#8) et celle à Kingston (14) comporteront des frais supplémentaires. Tous les départs sont de Oland Hall à l'heure indiquée. Nous aurons un service de garde dans le cas où la sortie des parents commencerait avant ou se terminerait après celle de leur enfant. Nous ferons tout notre possible afin d'identifier au moins un participant bilingue lorsque le guide ne l'est pas. Les directions et cartes pour les excursions et l'endroit du repas vous seront fournies à l'inscription. La description des sorties inclut le trajet total en voiture et le total à parcourir à pied ou la distance maximale par arrêt, selon le cas. On encourage le covoiturage.

**À apporter :** bottes/bottines robustes et imperméables, insectifuge, eau, guides de terrain, jumelles ainsi que tout autre article suggéré dans les descriptions des sorties. Un petit sac à dos serait utile.

### Grille horaire

Vendredi		Lieu		
17 h – 22 h	Inscription/ Rencontres	Résidence Dr. Colin B. Mackay		
19 h.–21 h	AGA (réunion)	Oland Hall (Salle 104)		
21 h 30 - 23 h 30	Astronomie	Oland Hall		
Samedi			Dimanche	
6 h -7 h30	Excursion lève-tôt	Départ de Oland Hall	6 h -7 h30	Excursion lève-tôt
7 h.–12 h	Inscription	Oland Hall		
7 h – 8 h	Petit déjeuner continental	Résidence Dr. Colin B. Mackay	7 h.– 8 h.	Petit déjeuner continental
7 h 45.– 12 h	Excursions demi-journée	Départ de Oland Hall	8 h –12 h	Excursions demi-journée
8 h 30 –16 h30	Excursions pleine journée	Départ de Oland Hall	8 h 30 –15 h30	Excursions pleine journée
12 h 45 –16 h30	Excursions demi-journée	Départ de Oland Hall	13 h -16 h	Excursions demi-journée
6 h-9 h	Repas	Lily Lake (Hathaway Centre)		

### Hébergement

Nous avons négocié des prix avantageux pour les participants de l'AGA avec l'Université (UNBSJ).  
 Résidence Sir James Dunn – chambre simple 34 \$  
 Résidence Dr. Colin B. Mackay – minisuites à deux chambres : 2 personnes – 72 \$, 3 personnes - 77 \$  
 4 personnes – 83.50 \$  
 TVH, draps, serviettes et stationnement inclus.  
 Faire vos réservations directement avec l'Université au : (506) 648-5909, 648-5755; courriel : [conf@unbsj.ca](mailto:conf@unbsj.ca)

Ne pas oublier de mentionner Nature NB quand vous ferez votre réservation.

Si vous préférez un autre style, les choix suivant vous sont présentés à titre d'information seulement :

Colonial Inn, 175 City Road  
 1-800-561-4667; (506) 652-3000  
 Hotel Courtenay Bay, 350 Haymarket Square  
 1-866-612-9700; (506) 657-3610  
 Holiday Inn, 400 rue Main  
 1-800-475-4656; (506) 642-2622  
 Terrain de camping de Rockwood Park, 142 chemin Lake Road South (506) 652-4050

Pour des choix additionnels, consulter : [www.tourismsaintjohn.com](http://www.tourismsaintjohn.com)  
 ou composer 1-866-463-8639

**VENDREDI SOIR****« Qu'y a-t-il dans le ciel? Constellations, planètes et amas »**

9 h 30 – 11 h 30 Les membres de la Société royale d'astronomie du Canada (SRAC) vous invitent à les rejoindre à Oland Hall pour une présentation sur les merveilles célestes. Par après, s'il fait beau, afin d'observer, la SRAC montrera le plus gros télescope portatif au N.-B. – un immense réflecteur de Newton de 20 pouces. Des télescopes additionnels seront disponibles. Saturne, Jupiter, Vénus, diverses constellations, M13 (Grand Amas Globulaire d'Hercule), M57 (Nébuleuse de l'Anneau), etc. pourraient être visibles. Anglais, avec traduction française. Tous sont bienvenus – aucune inscription nécessaire.

**EXCURSIONS LÈVE-TÔT – SAMEDI ET DIMANCHE**

1. Samedi avec Alan Gorham 6 h – 7 h 30

2. Dimanche avec Roger Burrows 6 h – 7 h 30

Une randonnée pédestre commençant à Oland Hall en destination des quartiers urbains de Saint John et les boisées du Parc Rockwood visant l'observation de pics, passereaux nicheurs migrateurs tardifs et la possibilité de rapaces et urubus. Aucun maximum.

**SAMEDI - EXCURSIONS PLEINE JOURNÉE****3. Promenade à L'Île Long de la Rivière Kennebecasis : Faucon Pèlerin – falaise Minister's Face - site protégé**

8 h 30 – 16 h 30 Explorez l'île Long avec Margo Sheppard, Tim Vickers, Ann Bardou (bilingue) et David Clarke. Pendant la traversée en bateau, vous scruterez la falaise Minister's Face afin d'espérer Faucon pèlerin et plantes rares. Rendu sur l'île, vous emprunterez un sentier traversant un site protégé par la Fondation pour la Protection des Sites Naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick en collaboration avec ACAP Saint John. Le sentier traverse plusieurs types de forêts avec des plantes et oiseaux intéressants. Vos guides traiteront de l'histoire loyaliste de l'île et indiqueront des ruines culturelles. Distance : 30 km et 5-6 km de marche. Difficulté : Difficile en raison de terrain escarpé. Portez des bottes de randonnée et apportez des bottes de caoutchouc, casse-croûte et eau. Minimum de 5 et maximum 20 participants.

**4. Libellules de la Ste. Croix**

8 h 30 – 16 h Paul Brunelle, expert sur les libellules, guidera une excursion à la Rivière Ste. Croix. Paul vous montrera les techniques pour trouver et collectionner les libellules tout en vous régaland avec des récits de ses expériences sur le terrain. Apprenez à manipuler un filet comme le fait le maître! En cas d'intempéries, Paul nous propose une scintillante présentation de ses rencontres avec les libellules et vous pourrez étudier des spécimens d'adultes, de larves et d'exuvies. Distance : 150 km difficulté – moyenne. Apporter des chaussures robustes pour les endroits humides, des chaussures de rechange pour le retour et un filet à insectes (si vous en avez un). Maximum : 20 participants.

**5. Plantes côtières et lichens du sentier Barnaby Head**

8 h 30 – 3 h 30 Accompagnez Stephen Clayden (bilingue) sur une excursion botanique au Parc provincial de New River Beach. Explorez les habitats variés le long du sentier Barnaby Head, incluant des grèves et promontoires rocheux, grève de galets, forêts de sapins - épinettes, une tourbière et des champs abandonnés. Fleurs, fougères, bryophytes et lichens sont abondantes et de croissance remarquable. Distance : 80 km plus 6 km de marche.

Difficulté –moyenne. Apportez une loupe si possible. Maximum de 20 participants.

**6. Programme Jeunesse : « Meurtre et Survie – Détective au Parc »**

8 h 30 – 16 h Joanne Sheils, un interprète au Parc de la nature Irving pendant plus de cinq ans, amènera votre enfant sur un tour inoubliable. Des activités spéciales telles une Marche à l'aveuglette et Survie et Meurtre mystère en forêt serviront à présenter et renforcer les connaissances de vos enfants sur les divers écosystèmes du parc. Cette sortie est destinée aux enfants de 7 à 12 ans. Un lunch barbecue et le transport à partir de Oland Hall seront fournis. Maximum de 16 participants.

**SORTIES DU SAMEDI MATIN****7. Les oiseaux du grand Saint-Jean**

8 h – 12 h Saint-Jean et la vallée Kennebecasis juste à l'est offre des superbes habitats pour l'observation printanière. Jim Wilson vous amènera au marais Red Head et autres sites de choix dans la ville avant d'explorer la vallée Kennebecasis à la recherche d'oiseaux tels l'Urubu à tête rouge, le Cardinal rouge et le Moucherolle des saules. On peut y trouver une bonne variété d'espèces, incluant des nicheurs tels le Balbuzard, le Pygargue et le Grand héron. Distance : 75 km Moins de 200 m de marche par arrêt. Maximum de 25 participants.

**8. En Kayak sur la Rivière Hammond**

7 h 45 – 24 h Pendant cette tournée en kayak dans une vallée très pittoresque, le personnel de la Hammond River Angling Association (HRAA) vous montrera les habitats du saumon balbuzard, pygargue et urubu. Vous apprendrez les enjeux reliés au saumon affectant les habitats aquatiques tels que l'empiètement des zones riveraines par l'agriculture, le braconnage et l'utilisation irresponsable des VTT. La HRAA fournira les kayaks, l'équipement de sécurité et de l'entraînement sur terre avant le lancement. Distance : 40 km par les participants; transport au site de lancement fourni; Difficulté – facile, propice pour débutant. Apporter écran solaire, chapeau et lunettes de soleil. Maximum : 15 Participants. \*Coût : 20 \$ par personne.

**9. Chutes et autres caractéristiques de ruisseaux urbains**

8 h – 11 h 30 Mathew McKim vous amènera voir trois ruisseaux coulant à travers les secteurs industriels de Saint-Jean à la "découverte" de trois chutes cachées et autres bijoux de ces cours d'eau souvent abusés. Il discutera aussi l'histoire de leurs utilisations antérieures comme source d'eau et d'énergie et décrira les efforts et espoirs récents pour ces ruisseaux. Distance : 10 km et pas plus de 300 m par arrêt. Difficulté : moyenne - Maximum : 20

**SORTIES DU SAMEDI APRÈS-MIDI****10. Marche intertidale au rivage de Duck Pond Cove, St. Martin**

13 h – 16 h Allez à la recherche d'invertébrés marins, avec Mary Sollows et Gart Bishop, dans la zone intertidale, incluant fissure et cuvette de marée, de la Baie de Fundy. Si les conditions le permettent, Gart plongera afin de vous montrer des spécimens du sublittoral. Distance : 80 km – Difficulté : moyenne, - approche sur sable et gravier, rivage rocheux. Apporter des bottes de caoutchouc et une canne de marche (nous en aurons quelques extras). Maximum : 25 participants.

### 11. Sentier naturel Moss Glen

Explorez un îlot d'une forêt acadienne original avec Hank Deichmann. En plus d'une bonne sélection de parulines, on peut s'attendre de voir des espèces telles le Grand Pic, la Mésange à tête brune, le Grimpereau brun et le Viréo à tête bleue. La flore inclut le Sabot de la Vierge, l'Érythron d'Amérique, le Streptope rose, l'Uvulaire à feuilles embrassantes et deux Trilles : ondulé et dressé, ainsi que d'immenses exemples d'Épinettes rouges, d'Érables à sucre et de Hêtres d'Amérique. Orignaux et plongeurs se trouvent au lac Wetmore. Distance : 60 km et une boucle de 1.5 km à pied. Difficulté – moyenne; sentier avec coteaux. Max : 15 participants.

### 12. Stromatolites de la région de Saint-Jean

12 h 45 – 15 h 30 Une randonnée avec le paléontologiste Randy Miller à un rare site stromatolithique pour voir ces effondrements fossilisés et entendre la fascinante histoire de sa découverte. La sortie inclura une visite aux Chutes Réversibles pour examiner des effondrements rocheux, donnant ainsi un aperçu géologique du passé. Ceci est un site important, contenant de fossiles délicats de notre patrimoine géologique – aucune collecte s.v.p. Distance : 15 km. Marche : 1 h. Difficulté : moyenne. Max : 20 participants.

### DIMANCHE - EXCURSIONS PLEINE JOURNÉE

#### 13. Pointe Lepreau : Où se rencontrent nature et industrie

8 h 30 – 14 h 30 Pointe Lepreau est un endroit critique pour les oiseaux migrateurs et le site de la seule centrale nucléaire du N.-B. En 1996, le Saint John Naturalists' Club y a établi un poste d'observation et en 2001 la Pointe est devenue une Zone importante pour la conservation des oiseaux (ZICO), une initiative mondiale. Cette visite, guidée par Jim Wilson, vous amènera à l'observatoire. Par après, le personnel de la centrale vous expliquera la génération de l'énergie nucléaire et saura répondre à vos questions. Un lunch, gracieuseté d'Énergie NB, vous sera fourni. Distance : 100 km; moins de 200 m de marche / arrêt. Max : 25

#### 14. Tour de la Péninsule : Arts & traversiers – Flore & faune

Accompagnez Gina et Harvey McLeod pour une visite guidée en fourgonnette de la Péninsule Kingston, un des coins les plus pittoresques du N.-B. Leçons sur les bacs à câble et d'histoire locale – observation de flore et faune – visites de jardins et d'ateliers d'artistes – et un pique-nique à Shampers Bluff - en font tous partis. Déplacement fourni. Cout : 15 \$ Maximum : 18 pers.

#### 15. Régale pour jeunes naturalistes

8 h 30 – 15 h 30 Joan Pierce, enseignante retraitée, vous amènera errer dans une forêt enchantée, patauger dans un étang et ricocher des cailloux à la mer. Ce programme vise les jeunes de 7 à 12 ans. Casse-croûte et collation du matin seront fournis. Entre 13 h et 15 h 30, le Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick vous accueillera pour une visite à deux magnifiques galeries : la Salle des grandes baleines, où vous pourrez tâter des os de baleines et jouer un jeu d'identification de queues de baleines; et la Galerie de géologie, une terre en évolution, où vous pourrez voir des trilobites géants, des scorpions de mer et des fossiles de mastodontes. Imaginez tenir dans vos mains des fossiles de plus de 300 millions d'années! Et plus encore! Maximum : 16 participants. Déplacement fourni à partir de Oland Hall.



### 16. Merveilleuses tourbières - une exploration botanique

8 h 30 – 14 h 30 Certaines de nos plantes les plus spectaculaires, intéressantes et rares se retrouvent dans les tourbières côtières, telles des orchidées et espèces insectivores. Explorez avec Jim Goltz, un (ou plus) grand fen aux alentours de Saint-Jean. Découvrez pourquoi l'Aréthuse bulbeuse, une magnifique orchidée, porte le nom de 'Dragon's Mouth' (gueule de dragon) en anglais; examinez la très rare Schizée naine (une fougère); et apprenez à mieux connaître la flore de cet écosystème fascinant. Distance : 50 km et 4 km de marche. Difficulté : moyenne. Maximum : 20 participants.

### SORTIES DU DIMANCHE MATIN

#### 17. Oiseaux du Comté Charlotte

8 h – 12 h Le comté de Charlotte est un point d'entrée pour la flore et la faune venant s'établir aux Maritimes. Stuart Tingley (bilingue) nous guidera aux divers habitats de cette région, qui contient des joyaux tel le Marais de Musquash, d'immenses bleuétières, de nombreux lacs, cours d'eau, tourbières de sphaigne et le littoral de la Baie de Fundy. On peut souvent y trouver plusieurs espèces intéressantes; Bruant vespéral, Moqueur roux, Maubèche des champs et Merlebleu de l'Est. On y trouve régulièrement des espèces inattendues. Distance : 100 km allé et retour – moins de 1 km par arrêt. Difficulté : moyenne. Maximum : 25 participants

#### 18. Collections des sciences naturelles du Musée du N.-B.

8 h 30 – 24 h 30 Profitez d'une visite guidée par Donald McAlpine des salles de travail du Département des sciences naturelles à l'avenue Douglas. Des centaines de milliers de spécimens (de balanes à baleines!) de sciences naturelles sont logés à cet endroit. Informez-vous de la valeur passée, présente et future de ces collections de recherche. Distance : 6 km Max : 20 participants

#### 19. "Bourgeons et burgers en bus"

8h – 12h Voyageant en petit autobus le long de la route de l'Irving Nature Park, vous vous arrêterez pour déguster une cuisine très particulière. Tout en admirant des vues panoramiques du parc, Kelly Honeyman vous fera découvrir les utilisations culinaires et médicinales de certaines plantes. La visite se terminera avec un barbecue gratuit au menu "traditionnel" d'hambourgeois et hot dog. Distance : 10 km Maximum : 15 participants

### SORTIES DU DIMANCHE APRÈS-MIDI

#### 10. Marche intertidale – voir samedi

#### 12. Stromatolites – voir samedi

#### 20. Atelier : sites web Internet – réseautage

13 h – 15 h 30 Votre club voudrait-il se servir de l'Internet ou donner plus de mordant à son utilisation? Cet atelier démontrera comment se servir de l'Internet aux fins de réseautage et de promotion pour votre club. Nous discuterons ensuite la planification et le montage d'un site Web, tout en vous donnant des idées comment le faire manière abordable. Sabine Dietz (bilingue) animera cet atelier prévu pour Oland Hall. Veuillez apporter un ordinateur portatif. Maximum : 20 participants.

Nom de la sortie	Type	Aperçu des sorties			Jour	Guide
		am/pm	#	Heures		
Qu'y a-t-il dans le ciel?	Soir	pm	-	21h30 - 23h30	vendredi	Membres de SRAC
Samedi avec Alan Gorham	lève-tôt	am	1	6h - 7h30	samedi	Alan Gorham
Dimanche avec Roger Burrows	lève-tôt	am	2	6h - 7h30	dimanche	Roger Burrows
Promenade à l'île Long	pleine journée	am/pm	3	8h30 - 16h30	samedi	Margo Sheppard +
Libellules de la Ste. Croix	pleine journée	am/pm	4	8h30 - 16h	samedi	Paul Brunelle
Plantes côtières et lichens	pleine journée	am/pm	5	8h30 - 15h30	samedi	Stephen Clayden
Meurtre et Survie - pour jeunes	pleine journée	am/pm	6	8h30 - 16h	samedi	Joanne Sheils
Les oiseaux du grand Saint-Jean	demi-journée	am	7	8h - 12h	samedi	Jim Wilson
Kayak sur la Rivière Hammond	demi-journée	am	8	7h45 - 12h	samedi	Personnel de HRAA
Chutes et ruisseaux urbains	demi-journée	am	9	8h - 11h30	samedi	Mathew KcKim
Marche intertidale	demi-journée	pm	10	13h - 16h	sam/dim	M. Sollows/G. Bishop
Sentier naturel Moss Glen	demi-journée	pm	11	13h - 16h30	samedi	Hank Deichmann
Stromatolites	demi-journée	pm	12	12h45 - 15h30	sam/dim	Randy Miller
Pointe Lepreau	pleine journée	am/pm	13	8h30 - 14h30	dimanche	Jim Wilson
Tour de la Péninsule	pleine journée	am/pm	14	8h30 - 15h30	dimanche	Gina & Harvey McLeod
Régale pour jeunes naturalistes	pleine journée	am/pm	15	8h30 - 15h30	dimanche	Joan Pierce
Merveilleuses tourbières	pleine journée	am/pm	16	8h30 - 14h30	dimanche	Jim Goltz
Oiseaux du Comté Charlotte	demi-journée	am	17	8h - 12h	dimanche	Stuart Tingley
Collections du Musée du N.-B.	demi-journée	am	18	8h30 - 12h	dimanche	Donald McAlpine
Bourgeons et burgers en bus	demi-journée	am	19	8h - 12h	dimanche	Kelly Honeyman
Atelier - sites Web	demi-journée	pm	20	13h - 15h30	dimanche	Sabine Dietz

### FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION (aussi disponible au : [www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca))

#### Information

Nom \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adresse \_\_\_\_\_  
 Téléphone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Courriel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nom(s) de participant(s) additionnel \_\_\_\_\_

Membre du club : \_\_\_\_\_

#### Coût

Inscription	\$	#	Total \$
Jusqu'au 30 avril, 2007	25 \$	_____	_____
Après le 30 avril, 2007	35 \$	_____	_____
12 ans et moins	gratuit	_____	_____
Jeunes : 13-16 ans	10 \$	_____	_____

#### Veuillez encercler vos préférences

##### Samedi

##### Premier choix

Excursions pleine journée : 3 4 5 6  
 Excursions demi-journée (matin): 7 8 9  
 Excursions demi-journée (après-midi): 10 11 12

##### Second choix

Excursions pleine journée: 3 4 5 6  
 Excursions demi-journée (matin): 7 8 9  
 Excursions demi-journée (après-midi): 10 11 12

##### Dimanche

##### Premier choix

Excursions pleine journée: 13 14 15 16  
 Excursions demi-journée (matin): 17 18 19  
 Excursions demi-journée (après-midi): 10 12 20

##### Second choix

Excursions pleine journée: 13 14 15 16  
 Excursions demi-journée (matin): 17 18 19  
 Excursions demi-journée (après-midi): 10 12 20

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Casse-croûte

pour le samedi 7 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 pour le dimanche 7 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Repas

Poulet 20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Végétarien 20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Excursions

#8 - Kayak 20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 #14 - Tour à Kingston 15 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### S.V.P. envoyer votre paiement à:

Nature NB - AGA  
 a/s de Diane Mercier-Allain  
 36 promenade Island View  
 Douglas, N.-B. E3A 7R3  
 (506) 450-6365 Courriel : [diane.mercier-allain@gnb.ca](mailto:diane.mercier-allain@gnb.ca)

Le Saint John Naturalists' Club Inc ne peut pas être tenu responsable pour tout accident, blessure ou dommage encouru par les personnes participant aux activités de l'AGA qui se dérouleront les 8, 9 et 10 juin 2007.

(Libellez votre chèque à l'ordre de: Nature NB)

### 11. Moss Glen Nature Trail

1:00 – 4:30 Walk through a fragment of original Acadian forest with Hank Deichmann. Expected birds include Pileated Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Brown Creeper and Blue-headed Vireo, plus a good selection of wood warblers. Flora includes Pink Ladies' Slipper, Trout Lily, Rose Twisted Stalk, White Mandarin, Red and Painted Trilliums and large specimens of red spruce, sugar maple and beech. Wetmore Lake has moose and loons. Distance: 60 km with 1.5 km walking loop. Difficulty - moderate trail with low hills. Max: 15 participants.

### 12. Stromatolites of Saint John Area

12:45 – 3:30 Hike with Paleontologist, Randy Miller to a rare stromatolite site to see a fossil outcrop and learn the fascinating history of its discovery. Outing will also include viewing rock outcrops at Reversing Falls for a geological look into the past. This is a significant and sensitive heritage fossil site - no collecting please. Distance: 15 km with 1 hour walking. Difficulty - moderate. Max: 20 participants.

### SUNDAY FULL-DAY OUTINGS

#### 13. Point Lepreau: Where Nature and Industry Meet

8:30 – 2:30 Point Lepreau is a critical bird migration site and home to NB's only nuclear generating station. In 1996, the Saint John Naturalists' Club established the Point Lepreau Bird Observatory and in 2001 the Point became an Important Bird Area, part of a worldwide network. This tour, led by Jim Wilson, will visit the Observatory. Later, station staff will explain nuclear power generation and answer any questions. NB Power will provide a complimentary lunch. Distance: 100 km. All walking within 200 m. Max: 25 participants.

#### 14. Flora, Fauna, Ferries, Crafts - Kingston Peninsula Tour

8:30 – 3:30 Join Gina and Harvey McLeod for a guided van tour of the Kingston Peninsula, one of NB's most scenic areas. Learn about cable ferries and local history, watch for many species of flora and fauna, visit gardens and artists' studios and picnic at Shampers Bluff. Transportation provided. \*Cost \$15. Max: 18 participants.

#### 15. Fun For the Young Naturalist YOUTH PROGRAM

8:30 – 3:30 Retired teacher Joan Pearce will lead experiential discovery while wandering the enchanted forest, dabbling in ponds and skipping stones at the beach. Program designed for 7-12 year olds. Lunch and a morning snack will be provided. From 1:00 – 3:30 the New Brunswick Museum welcomes you to two wonderful galleries. Giants of the Deep - Wander the hall of great whales, examine whale parts up close and play the Whale Tail ID game and Fossil Finds - See giant trilobites, a sea scorpion and mastodon fossils. Hold a 300 million year old fossil and more! Max: 16 participants. Transportation provided from Oland Hall.



### 16. Wetland Wonders: Botanical Exploration of Peat Lands

8:30 – 2:30 Coastal peat lands harbour some of New Brunswick's most spectacular, interesting and rare plant species, including wild orchids and insectivorous species. Explore one or more large coastal fens in the Saint John area with Jim Goltz. Find out how Dragon's-mouth, a spectacular magenta orchid, gets its name; see the very rare Curly-grass Fern; and get better acquainted with other botanical residents of this fascinating ecosystem. Distance: 50 km with 4 km walking. Difficulty - moderate. Max: 20 participants.

### SUNDAY MORNING OUTINGS

#### 17. Birding Charlotte County

8:00 – 12:00 Charlotte County is a gateway for flora and fauna moving into the Maritimes. Stuart Tingley (bilingual) will guide us to the varied habitats of this region, which includes such gems as Musquash Marsh, extensive blueberry barrens, numerous lakes, streams, sphagnum bogs, and the Bay of Fundy coastline. Several interesting species can often be found, including Vesper Sparrow, Brown Thrasher, Upland Sandpiper and Eastern Bluebird. Less-expected birds often turn up as well. 100 km round trip with all walking within 1 km. Difficulty - moderate. Max: 25 participants.

#### 18. New Brunswick Museum Natural Science Collections

8:30 – 12:00 Enjoy a guided museum tour through the working areas of the Natural Science Department at Douglas Avenue with Donald McAlpine. Hundreds of thousands of natural history specimens (worms to whales!) are housed at this location. Learn about the past, present and future value of the research collections. Distance: 6 km. Max: 20 participants.

#### 19. "Buds, Blossoms and Burgers by Bus"

8:00 – 12:00 Traveling by small bus along the Irving Nature Park's auto route, you will stop at various areas to sample a very unique cuisine. With Kelly Honeyman, you'll learn what treats you can eat while in the wild, as well as some of the medicinal uses of plants, all the while enjoying scenic vistas of the park. Tour will end with a complimentary "traditional menu" BBQ lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers. Distance: 10 km. Max: 15 participants.

### SUNDAY AFTERNOON OUTINGS

#### 10. Inter-tidal Beach Walk - see Saturday

#### 12. Stromatolites - see Saturday

#### 20. Workshop: Websites - Internet - Networking

1:00 – 3:30 Would your club like to use the Web and Internet or be more effective in its use? This workshop will look at how the Internet can be used for networking and promoting your club and will then explore the planning and building of a website. It will also provide ideas on how to get this done for a reasonable cost. Sabine Dietz will facilitate this workshop slated for Oland Hall. Please bring a laptop computer. Max: 20 participants.

### Outings at a Glance

Name of Outing	Type	am/pm	#	Start end	Day	Leader
Night Sky	Evening	p.m.		9:30 – 11:30	Fri	RASC members
Early morning Birding	Early Bird	a.m.	1	6:00 – 7:30	Sat	Alan Gorham
Early morning Birding	Early Bird	a.m.	2	6:00 – 7:30	Sun	Roger Burrows
Long Island Tour	Full-day	a.m./p.m.	3	8:30 – 4:30	Sat	Margo Shepard
Dragonflies of St Croix	Full-day	a.m./p.m.	4	8:30 – 4:00	Sat	Paul Brunelle
Coastal Plants & Lichens	Full-day	a.m./p.m.	5	8:30 – 3:30	Sat	Stephen Clayden
Murder & Survival – Youth	Full-day	a.m./p.m.	6	8:30 – 4:00	Sat	Joanne Sheils
Birding Greater Saint John	Half-day	a.m.	7	8:00 – 12:00	Sat	Jim Wilson
Kayaking the Hammond River	Half-day	a.m.	8	7:45 – 12:00	Sat	HRAA Staff
Waterfalls and Streams	Half Day	a.m.	9	8:00 – 11:30	Sat	Matthew McKim
Intertidal Beach Walk	Half-day	p.m.	10	1:00 – 4:00	Sat/Sun	M Sollows/G Bishop
Moss Glen Nature Trail	Half-day	p.m.	11	1:00 – 4:30	Sat	Hank Deichmann
Stromatolites	Half-day	p.m.	12	12:45 – 3:30	Sat/Sun	Randy Miller
Point Lepreau	Full-day	a.m./p.m.	13	8:30 – 2:30	Sun	Jim Wilson
Kingston Peninsula Tour	Full-day	a.m./p.m.	14	8:30 – 3:30	Sun	Gina & Harvey McLeod
Fun for Naturalists - Youth	Full-day	a.m./p.m.	15	8:30 – 3:30	Sun	Joan Pearce
Wetland Wonders	Full-day	a.m./p.m.	16	8:30 – 2:30	Sun	Jim Goltz
Birding Charlotte County	Half-day	a.m.	17	8:00 – 12:00	Sun	Stuart Tingley
NB Museum Tour	Half-day	a.m.	18	8:30 – 12:00	Sun	Donald McAlpine
Buds Blossoms & Burgers	Half-day	a.m.	19	8:00 – 12:00	Sun	Kelly Honeyman
Setting up Nature Websites	Half-day	p.m.	20	1:00 – 3:30	Sun	Sabine Dietz

### REGISTRATION FORM (also available at [www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca))

#### Contact Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name(s) of additional participant(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

#### Cost

Registration	\$	#	Total \$
Until April 30, 2007	\$25	_____	_____
After April 30, 2007	\$35	_____	_____
Youth: 12 and under	Free	_____	_____
Youth: 13-16 years	\$10	_____	_____

#### Please Circle Trip Preferences

##### Saturday

##### First choice

Full day trips:           3   4   5   6  
 Half day trips (morning):   7   8   9  
 Half day trips (afternoon):   10   11   12

##### Alternate choice

Full day trips:           3   4   5   6  
 Half day trips (morning):   7   8   9  
 Half day trips (afternoon):   10   11   12

##### Sunday

##### First choice

Full day trips:           13   14   15   16  
 Half day trips (morning):   17   18   19  
 Half day trips (afternoon):   10   12   20

##### Alternate choice

Full day trips:           13   14   15   16  
 Half day trips (morning):   17   18   19  
 Half day trips (afternoon):   10   12   20

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Bag Lunch

For Saturday	\$7	_____	_____
For Sunday	\$7	_____	_____

#### Dinner

Chicken	\$20	_____	_____
Vegetarian	\$20	_____	_____

#### Outings

#8 – Kayaking	\$20	_____	_____
#14 – Kingston Tour	\$15	_____	_____

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please return with payment to:

Nature NB - AGM  
 c/o Diane Mercier-Allain  
 36 Island View Drive  
 Douglas, NB E3A 7R3  
 (506) 450-6365 Email: [diane.mercier-allain@gnb.ca](mailto:diane.mercier-allain@gnb.ca)

*The Saint John Naturalists' Club Inc. is not responsible for accidents, injuries or damages to persons participating in any activities of this AGM Weekend on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June, 2007.*

**(Make cheques payable to : Nature NB)**

dramatic because the animals were so close to me that I could easily hear the munching and crunching sounds of the flesh and bone being consumed.

On only one occasion have I come across otters feeding during the open water period, and that occurred on a crisp, sunny day in October, 1980. I was paddling my 18 foot Gruman canoe in the "Creek," which lies within the Booming Ground Marsh, 400 metres downstream from home, not far from where I had encountered the otters on the ice. Unfortunately, I didn't have my camera, because as I rounded a bend I saw one of the most outstanding sights I have ever witnessed in the outdoors. Directly in front of my canoe and only 20 metres away were three adult-sized otters. One otter stood on all fours, totally exposed on the gravel shore, with its companions being in such shallow water that it covered only their bellies and legs. These wonderful creatures were fully exposed in bright sunlight, their sleek, wet dark brown bodies contrasting with the smooth, silvery surface of the water. The otter on shore was also wet and stood out against the light green color of the vegetation behind it. The long whiskers of each of the trio could clearly be seen, for the animals had frozen in position as soon as they saw me. The only action taken by the otters was to raise their snouts and loudly sniff the air.

Making the scene even more dramatic was the fact that each of the otters in the water had a glistening eel twisting and writhing about its head, neck and chest. The otters

held the eels' heads in their mouths. Obviously, the eels had just been caught. Those eels may have been migrating to the Sargasso Sea, about 5000 kilometres from the Restigouche, for the eels were adult-sized, being about twenty-five inches in length, and two inches in diameter. Fall is the season in which sexually mature eels, up to 38 years of age, migrate for the first time in their lives, from the freshwater ponds and streams into the estuaries and bays and eventually into the Sargasso where they spawn and then die.

As my canoe drifted silently and steadily toward the threesome, I dared not move a muscle, for I wanted to get as close to them as I could. However, when the canoe got within 10 metres of them the two otters already in the water dived with their prizes not to be seen again that day. The animal on shore simultaneously loped into the shrubbery and disappeared.

The foregoing episodes clearly demonstrate that the pair of otters on the Ark had learned very little about table manners from Noah. They eat food that's too rare, they eat too fast and they don't close their mouths while chewing. When finished, they don't wipe their mouths with their paws and they certainly don't excuse themselves from the table. Wait a minute! On second thought, perhaps they did indeed learn that behavior from Noah because I've got a few buddies like that! In defense of otters though, I never did hear one belch!

## PHOTOS FROM KATHY POPMA

This picture of a Snowy Owl was taken Dec. 13/06 on the Tantramar marsh's High Marsh Road. The bird was within 20' of the road when first seen and was very cooperative, sitting still and allowing me to approach to within camera range. Perhaps because it was 9 AM who knows. The first few pictures I took from inside the car, then I got out and was able to fire off a few before it took off which I was happy about because I was afraid it might be injured. I had been down this particular road once looking for the owl after a friend reported it to me but I didn't see it until the second pass, from the other direction. (It is a good lesson...always take a second look.) Anyway, I was able to get closer than usual, for though I often seen these birds it is usually at a ridiculous distance (and I don't always have a camera handy.)



A picture of my husband and a bat he met while on a trip recently with his sisters to their childhood home in Indonesia.

## IMPORTANT DISCOVERY

### ANCIENT DOKUMENT FOUND

Following is the text of a dokument fragments of which were recently diskovered in an ancient ruin in this once extensively-forested and well-watered region known to historians as New Brunswick. The words were inscribed on a material called paper about two thousand years ago, skolars believe.

Peter Pearce  
Frederikopolis  
Amerika NE

K.E. 4000

".....new land of Brunswick where forests did stretch as far as the eye of man could behold from the highest peak, and mighty rivers teemed with fishes. And the firmament was filled with all manner of birds of the air, wildfowl and hawk and songbird sweet of voice and vivid in colour like unto the rainbow. It was indeed a green and pleasant land that.....plague of insects descended on the land laying waste to the forest even unto the horizon. And some kinds of birds which did devour those insects were caused to multiply to numbers wondrous for man to behold but difficult to comprehend. And when in the fullness of time the insect horde departed from the land so did those kinds of birds, or nearly so.....there arose one, Austin of Squires, who knew much about the birds and the beasts and the flowers of the field, and who understood the secrets of nature and wrote about them. And there were those in the land, few in number and young, who sought to share those secrets with him and did learn much. And because they were many of kind and beautiful and more easily observed than other creatures it came to pass that birds became of special interest to those seeking to restore themselves in the bosom of nature. And so it was that with the passage of the years the pursuit of birds became of consuming interest to many, the following, from all walks of life and stations - the young and the aged and halt, scribes and tax collectors, yeomen and those learned in divers ways.....in truth, many did become so intent on finding birds they or their peers had not theretofore seen that they left hearth and home to travel deep into the dark forest and far along the strand. From the rising of the sun to the setting thereof, even through the shadow of night, unto the seventh day, did they restlessly roam

the land. And others, less fortunate, could undertake such quests only when they could absent themselves from their toil in the vineyard. And when a report of a rare bird was noised abroad great was the tide of followers that swept across the land even unto the remotest vale. And in their excitement they did jostle one another better to observe the objects of their quest.....And they did even sail on the perilous sea for a magical island to the south called Manan known for the many kinds of wandering and exotic birds that found land fall there. For many of the following an annual visit to that place became like unto a pilgrimage. Some, having discovered birds thought to be exceeding rare, shouted their glad tidings from the mountain top so that their voices carried to town and village, throughout the land. And there were others who kept their news close to their hearts, seeking their own counsel and rejoicing only unto themselves. Few there were who cast down their eyes and in the privateness of their hearth did wail and gnash their teeth as they pondered their misfortune at having not seen this or that bird which their peers had found, or claimed to have done.....in a ritual the following inscribed the name of every kind and manner of bird they did see or hear, on land and sea, on documents they called lists. With great diligence did they maintain such lists of birds encountered in one place or another, from year to year, one season to the next and every day to day. And some did count each and every bird they did see and report to their peers. Verily, they became addicted to listing and by that ritual they became widely known and it was wonderful to contemplate.....Several esteemed elders among the following, men exceeding wise in the ways of the wild, from time to time came

together to examine reports that strange and wonderful birds had been seen in the land and to make judgement on the evidence provided so that all could know that the record was set straight. Among those who applied themselves to that end were David of Christie, the prophet Stuart of Tingley, who could foretell what alien birds would in the future wing their way to that land, and James of Wilson and in the fullness of time others.....the high court, for indeed it was such, was sometimes able to declare: Verily, this man or that hath spoken the truth; he did see whereof he claimed. And a proclamation to that effect was issued and among the following great was the rejoicing thereof. And when the elders were not convinced by the evidence presented before them they did so declare, casting the few into sloughs of despond.....the spirit of competition entered among some of them, pitting one against another, at least in their hearts. Now and again it did even cause some in one region to reprove those in another, or they did seem so to do. And the elders shook their heads and strove mightily to restore harmony, which was accomplished, and it was good. In the fullness of time the following became known as birders and

their obsession, for indeed it seemed that it was, as birding, causing some to endure all manner of privation in their quests and others, especially the unannointed, to furrow their brows in perplexity. And it was said that in a faraway land across a mighty ocean they were known as twitchers because they shook in anticipation of seeing birds, exceeding rare in that land, of which they had theretofore only heard.....With the passing of time the people multiplied many-fold and sought to subdue nature and make more space unto themselves, cutting the forests and befouling the air and the waters. Their hand did indeed lie heavy on the land and all things wild. And so it was that some kinds of birds and other creatures became fewer and fewer and could scarcely any longer be found there.....the people gradually witnessed the air strangely to wax

warmer and warmer and the winters to become milder. And the seas began to rise higher and stronger winds to blow from the south.....in that land the birds did in truth become more in kind, if not in number, and more exotic. So it was that birders and the fever that had long settled on them....."



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## FEEDER BIRD

*Darren Byers*

Found this fellow pecking away under my feeder for a couple of days around February 8, 2007.



*White-throated Sparrow*

*Photos: D. Byers*

## BOTANY CORNER

Gart Bishop

Some trees are just old friends. My affection for Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*) was initiated after a for-ester broke off a twig, handed it to me and instructed me to grind the broken end between my teeth for a few seconds and then smell ... the pleasant, sweet wintergreen fragrance delicately overpowered my nicotine drenched nostrils. Since then when I have been leading nature walks, it is always a treat to introduce someone to this marvel of the yellow birch, Folks are always impressed, and you'll see them for the remainder of the walk with the twig stuck out of their mouths. Sometimes such simple things are best.

Yellow Birch is a hardy species that is found from Newfoundland west to Manitoba and Minnesota and south to the Appalachian Mountains of eastern Tennessee, where it found mostly in the higher elevations. In New Brunswick it grows in narrow alluvial valleys, rocky ravines, mixed woods and as a minor component in many Sugar Maple woods. It rarely forms pure stands and hybridizes infrequently with Swamp Birch (*Betula pumila*). Mountain Birch (*Betula cordifolia*) is considered the natural cross between Yellow Birch and Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*). (Burns and Honkala), and is common within New Brunswick.

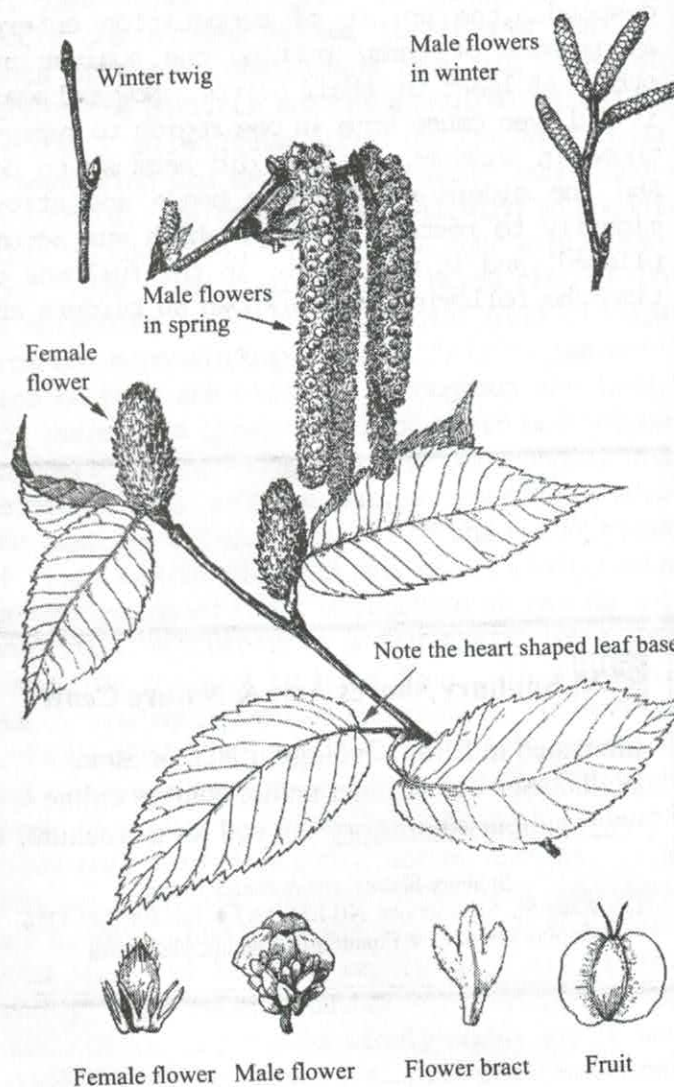
A large Yellow Birch can grow up to an impressive 20-30 m in height, and be over a metre in diameter. Such trees were quickly noticed and taken advantage of by the early European settlers, although this species was not described for science until 1803 by the French botanical explorer André Michaux.

Its bark is split into thick gray or blackish plates at the base of mature trunks and large branches. In younger trees and thinner limbs, the bark is a shimmering yellow gold, parting into fine ribbon-like, horizontal strips, detached at one end and giving the bark a tattered appearance. Small twigs are reddish brown with buff coloured dots scattered throughout.

The buds are alternate (5-6 mm) and the simple leaves have a double serrated margin. They are a dull green above with fine hairs on the veins beneath. They range from 8 to 13 cm long, 2 to 5 cm wide and have a contracted, heart-shaped base.

The flowers of Yellow Birch bloom before its leaves open and rely on the wind for pollination. On the same tree, separate male and female flowers are produced in catkins which are tassel-like strings of flowers. The male flow-

ers are formed in the fall and elongate to drooping, 10 cm purplish-yellow flowers in the spring. The female catkins develop in the spring and are 2-3 cm long, thick and erect, resembling small 'pinecones'. Yellow Birch produces high yields of seeds every 2-4 years with a real bumper crop every ten years. This slow growing tree usually begins producing seed when it is 30-40 years old, and can live from 150 to 300 years. The seeds can remain viable for up to 12 years (Burns & Honkala). Commonly the seeds find old stumps or logs on which to germinate and when the stump or log rots away, the main trunk of the tree is el-



Drawings by E.G. Bigelow

evated above the ground on aerial roots, sometimes as high as 1 m. The seedlings are tolerant of shade and can grow very slowly while waiting for the forest canopy to open up.

One frequently sees old, dead, trees with the tops broken off, standing derelict in the forest, where they are providing potential habitat for woodpeckers to build nest cavities, or just poke around looking something good to eat. .

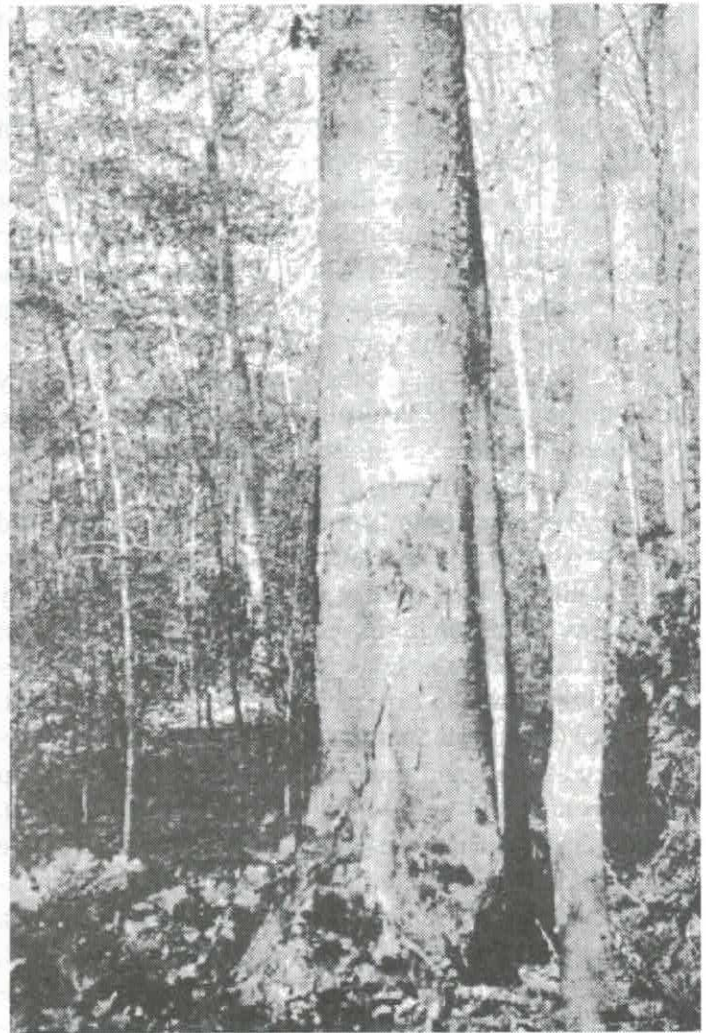
The uses of this tree are many. The strong and close-grained wood of Yellow Birch is ideal for flooring, furniture, woodenware and firewood, and was formerly used in wooden shipbuilding for those parts continually under water. Young saplings and low branches of large trees are choice food for deer and moose. The gnawings of the snowshoe hare are frequently found encircling young trees emphasising its preference of Yellow Birch as a food source. Ruffed Grouse feed on the buds and seeds as do Purple Finch, Pine Siskin and Redpoll and Chickadee. Red squirrels harvest newly germinated plants, eat the seeds, and store mature female catkins for winter snacks and have been known to feed on the sap. In winter, if you are fortunate enough to see some of last year's seeds blown onto the snow, you may also find the tracks of mice where they have been busily scurrying about feasting and collecting. The sap from Yellow Birch is a favourite summer food source of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker ... but heavy sapsucker feeding can reduce the tree's growth and may even kill the tree. Heavy or repeated browsing often kills the seedlings while Porcupine feeding on the sweet bark in the upper canopy, often damages birch crowns.

However, it need not only be the sapsucker that seeks out the sap, for the sap of all the birches can be collected and either consumed as is, or boiled down into a syrup as is maple sap. Yellow Birch sap is about half as sweet as that of Sugar Maple, requiring roughly 80 litres of sap to produce 1 litre of syrup. I've never tried it, but threaten to do so every spring. Birch beer (both the alcoholic and the soda drink) has been made from Yellow Birch, but more frequently from Sweet Birch (*Betula lenta*) which is not found in New Brunswick but in southern Maine. The wintergreen oil of the young bark can be extracted and used for flavouring. The inner bark of all the birches is edible and in emergencies can be eaten raw. It can be collected, cut into strips and used as noodles in soups and stews or dried and then ground into flour for breads as our native aboriginals did.

As with many historically listed uses, there are few who can personally vouch for their taste or texture. I sadly have only chewed on the twigs, but I'd love to hear from anyone who has tapped a birch, or eaten the inner bark.

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Yellow Birch  
Photo: B.R. Morton

## THE SILENT FOREST

Peter Pearce

Nature conservationists have long been aware of declines in populations of many songbirds in eastern North America. The species most affected have been the neotropical migrants – the long-distance travelers – largely, it is believed, because of the loss of habitat on their winter range. Those downward trends have over the years been noted by a number of seasoned naturalists in New Brunswick. The following outlines my own witness of such changes in the populations of a broad spectrum of songbirds captured in microcosm, as it were, by a long-standing breeding bird survey (BBS) in just one small part of the province in the Jemseg area.

The North American BBS was started in 1966, is continent-wide and conducted annually. It is a roadside count of birds at 50 three-minute stops spaced at 0.8 km along a route of 40 km. In New Brunswick it is done in June or early July. The Jemseg BBS route starts near Robertson Point, on Grand Lake, and ends in the vicinity of Ripples. It cuts through broadleaved and mixedwood forest and skirts intervale land along the Saint John River via the old Trans-Canada Highway. I have been doing that survey for many years but temporarily discontinued it after 1992 because of unacceptable levels of noise and hazard posed by highway traffic. The building of a new section of the Trans-Canada Highway began later nearby. When the dust had settled, so to speak, I reinstated the survey in 2004, ensuring that all the stops were at the original points. Nearly two-thirds of the songbirds recorded along the route nest in forest. About ten species (e.g. Yellow Warbler and White-throated Sparrow) occur typically in successional habitat. Only two (Savannah Sparrow and Bobolink) can be characterized as grassland species and a further two (Swamp Sparrow and Red-winged Blackbird) as wetland birds. Neotropical migrants constituted about three-fifths of the songbirds tallied on the surveys, about one-third were temperate migrants, the remaining few being resident species.

I compared the data generated by surveys done in 1972, 1982, 1992 and 2004, all four being conducted under comparable, almost ideal, weather conditions. Table 1 illustrates some gross measures of bird populations on the four surveys. Presented in Table 2 are counts by songbird family and individual species exhibiting the most pronounced population declines. The sharpest declines occurred during the last 12 years of the period covered, affecting at

least 13 species representing seven avian families. Populations of the relatively abundant species dropped by about one-half over the whole span of the surveys. Twenty-nine species were represented by ten or more individuals in 1972, 21 in 1982, 22 in 1992 and only 14 in 2004. The Red-eyed Vireo was one of the few species to maintain its numbers. The tabulated data speak for themselves, clearly illustrating some alarming declines in many species.

These disturbing trends were brought into sharp focus at one survey stop in 2004 when I heard and saw no bird at all. Quiet as a pharaoh's tomb! There were only one or two birds at a few other stops. (The phenomenon was experienced again in the following two years). Who would have thought that could be possible deep in the forest early in the morning at the height of the birds' breeding season? (It was eerily reminiscent of the "silent spring" following experimental spraying of forests with phosphamidon for spruce budworm control in New Brunswick in the 1960s.) (For the record, I confess to a slight hearing loss, of recent development, but believe it did not affect my ability to undertake the surveys acceptably. Here is why. At the extraordinarily quiet stop mentioned I compared notes, at the end of the three-minute count period, with an assistant blessed with excellent hearing and birdsong-recognition skills. Our tallies – or, rather, lack thereof, agreed.)

Population declines indicated by the Jemseg BBS for the species noted in Table 2 may be put in the wide context of trends (average yearly percent changes) for the same species based on the combined data furnished by BBS counts conducted yearly on some 30 to 50 survey routes distributed throughout the Maritime Provinces, the Canadian component of the Atlantic Northern Forest (ANF) conservation region. For information on those trends up to the year 2000, the reader is directed to the following document: Downes, C.M. and B.T. Collins. 2003. The Canadian Breeding Bird Survey, 1967-2000. Canadian Wildlife Service, Progress Notes, No. 219. Trends during the three decades 1971-2000 have been taken from that publication and are cited immediately below. They refer only to statistically highly significant declines and only to the ANF.

Many of the sharpest negative trends occurred in the 1990s, e.g. -13.8 in Evening

Grosbeak, -13.5 in Bank Swallow, -11.6 in Barn Swallow and -11.2 in Bobolink. Trends of -4.5, -4.6 and -5

were suffered by Purple Finch, Swainson's Thrush and American Redstart, respectively. In the 1980s, populations of the two swallows, American Redstart, White-throated Sparrow, Bobolink and Red-winged Blackbird were already declining. The only downward trend for Ovenbird (-2.8) was in the 1990s and for

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (-6.0) in the 1980s. No highly significant downward trends were noted for Hermit Thrush or Savannah Sparrow. But enough of the statistics!

Over the past two decades there have been significant changes to the landscapes traversed by the Jemseg BBS route, occasioned by forest clear-cutting, the conversion of intervalle land to arable farming and highway construc-

tion. Forest and grassland species such as the Ovenbird and Bobolink, respectively, were undoubtedly adversely affected by those activities.

It will be appreciated from the foregoing that songbird population changes detected by counts on a single BBS route can to some extent reflect highly significant trends determined from a large body of data furnished by surveys on many routes in the region and in the approximate time span. The numerical evidence provided certainly supports one's firm impression that populations of many of our songbirds have been much reduced. It will take a strong conservation and protection effort to shift the balance in their favour.

**Table 1. Measures of bird population changes, Jemseg Breeding Bird Survey, 1972-2004**

	1972	1982	1992	2004
Total species	83	79	81	59
Total songbird species	65	59	61	43
Total birds	1112	1039	687	475
Total songbirds	991	981	626	316

**Table 2. Numbers of songbirds counted on the Jemseg Breeding Bird Survey in 1972, 1982, 1992 and 2004 by family and species\* showing the most pronounced declines.**

Family/species	1972	1982	1992	2004
Swallows	121	21	49	25
Bank Swallow	25	9	6	0
Barn Swallow	32	38	10	14
Thrushes	99	93	61	31
Swainson's Thrush	12	6	2	1
Hermit Thrush	11	7	2	1
Wood-Warblers	180	262	186	74
Ovenbird	20	25	16	8
American Redstart	27	54	30	13
Sparrows	129	81	69	34
White-throated Sparrow	24	27	14	5
Savannah Sparrow	11	8	5	1
Cardinal-Grosbeaks	14	21	10	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	14	21	10	1
Blackbirds	246	269	96	41
Bobolink	30	61	25	0
Red-winged Blackbird	138	160	94	41
Finches	43	11	5	6
Evening Grosbeak	11	1	1	0
Purple Finch	14	7	1	1

\*Only those species represented by ten or more individuals in 1972.

## REDWING, REDWING, R-E-D-W-I-N-G

*By Beverley Schneider*

A January WINGS trip to Newfoundland to see winter birds made me feel cold just thinking about it. But the prospect of seeing 1000s of gulls of many species under the tutelage of gull experts, Jon Dunn and Bruce Mactavish, and the possibility of finding vagrants from Europe was too much to resist.

My flight into St. John's on a cold, sunny day gave me a wonderful view of Newfoundland's rugged coastline, mountainous terrain and deep glacier-scoured valleys. Thinking about the trip I speculated that I was about to meet a group of the hardest core birders around and probably all male at that. I was wrong. The trip filled up with 7 men and 6 women plus 2 male leaders.

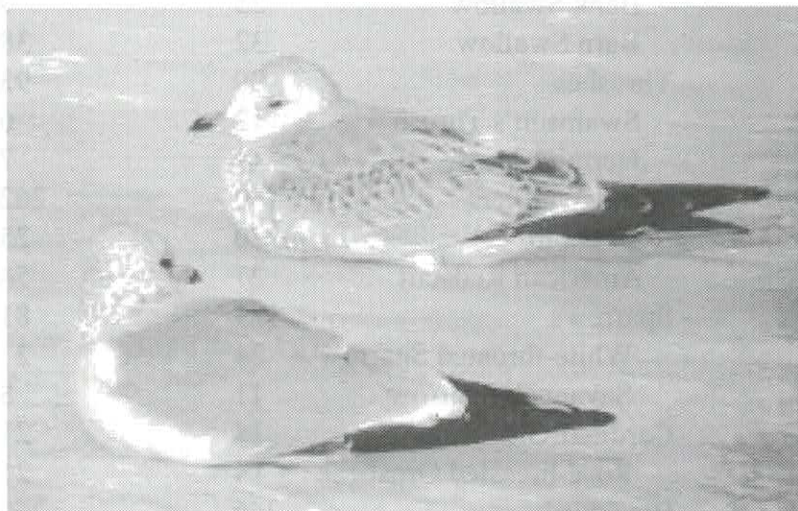
They were not as hard-core as I expected. The 2 younger men were very keen. All the couples were not nearly as keen as I expected. The women were as keen or keener than their husbands/partners in nearly every case. It seemed some were mainly listers who were interested in legitimately seeing and listing the birds of North America. It was soon obvious that these people had traveled extensively and to the farthest reaches of North America and beyond to get their 600-plus life lists. They spoke often of their exploits and accomplishments and seemed to know many remote areas intimately.

I was curious to see what kinds of people would make up the group. I was not surprised to find that most people were from distant places. After all, these would be the ones seeking palearctic species. We ended up with 7 people from California, 2 from New Jersey, 2 from Virginia, one from Ontario and one from New Brunswick. Included in this group were 4 physicians (all specialists), 5 school teachers, 1 computer software developer, 1 veterinarian, and 2 business people. All but 2 were retired.

I had heard that WINGS trips were well run and as expected, the tour leaders took excellent care of us; picking us up at the airport, carrying our luggage, ferrying us around, helping us find the birds, arranging for our meals, etc. The leaders were very knowledgeable about what was around and where the birds were located. They were extremely good at finding the rarities. They were very considerate of everyone's needs and did well at managing the group, integrating our requests very well. For example, one day was too rainy to bird and we had exhausted what

we could do from the vans. We requested a trip to the new Geo-Centre and they took some of us there, paid our way in and enjoyed the fine exhibits with us.

The most notable place we birded was Quidi Vidi, a small partially saline lake hidden in a valley behind the city. The open water there was completely full of gulls and waterfowl most of the time. The gulls also gathered by the several hundreds to rest and preen on the ice. It was obvious that the locals enjoyed them because they were very tame and expected food whenever we visited. There we saw large numbers of Black Ducks, Mallards, Northern Pintails (who were as tame as the Mallards), Greater Scaup, 9 Tufted Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, 4 American Coots, Rock Pigeons and more. Usually there were from 200 to 1000 gulls present. They would often come in close for bread or left-over French fries. I was surprised at the large numbers of Iceland Gulls. There were also many Glaucous Gulls, Herring, Great Black-backed, some Lesser Black-backed, about 30 Black-headed Gulls, a few Ring-billed Gulls and 2 Common (Mew) Gulls. These often came in close for good viewing and photographic opportunities. I was surprised there were no Bonaparte's Gulls.



*Common Gulls*  
*2nd winter, 1st winter*  
*Photo: Bev Schneider*

What a place for gull rarities! According to Bruce, January is the best time to find them. The first day we found the YELLOW-LEGGED GULL. It was resting on the ice about 50 yards out and Bruce clearly showed us the identi-

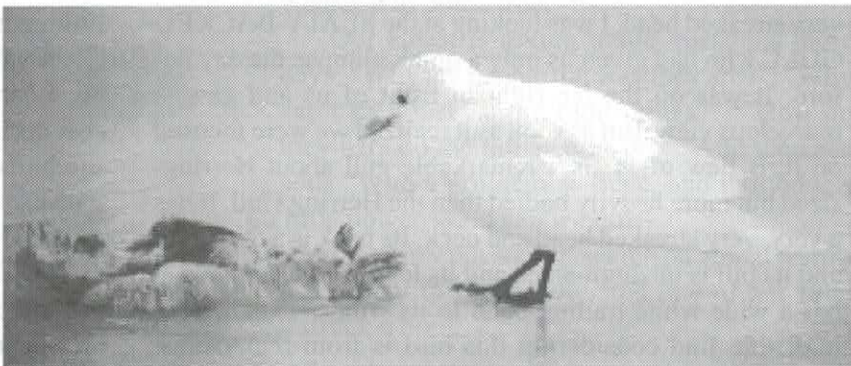
flying features. We were able to pick it out of the flock on each successive day. It is the same size as the Herring Gull and to find it we first looked for a medium gray mantle slightly darker than the Herring's. Its bright yellow bill and legs were especially notable. In the scope we could see the red orbital ring.

The COMMON GULLS were relatively easily located. There were a 1<sup>st</sup> winter and a 2<sup>nd</sup> winter and they often rested together on the ice. They were the European race which is apparently now called "Common" rather than "Mew". This species is similar to the Ring-billed Gull but has a slightly darker gray mantle, a shorter, thinner bill, and a rounder head. It has a large dark eye and large white mirrors on the tips of its primaries. I have attached a photo of the two together.

On Day 2 we did a day trip to Cape Race. This normally 2-hour drive took us 6 hours one way as we birded all the scenic bays and towns. Pelagic species were a welcome find for most of the group. Out on the Barrens and finally at Cape Race on Cripple Cove Road we were driving away from the water up the rocky road to the main gravel road when 2 birds flew across in front of us. A loud "Redwing, Redwing, REDWING" brought us all to immediate attention. The American Robin that flew across the road was accompanied by a REDWING, a European thrush which sometimes shows up here. We were able to spend the next hour with that bird which moved back and forth from one small clump of scrub spruce and

fir to another. Our group was indeed fortunate. Travelling to the point we saw more pelagics especially enjoying the Dovekies.

Our leader told us that the first distress signal from the *Titanic* after it hit the iceberg was received at Cape Race. We witnessed an avian marvel in action while there. Jon Dunn had pointed out a Peregrine Falcon sitting on top of the rocky cliff at the ocean's edge about 800 metres to the south. It was silhouetted against the sky but could be identified by telescope. Below us was a flock of about 75 Purple Sandpipers feeding on the rocks. All of a sudden some-



*Ivory Gull*

*Photo: Bev Schneider*

one shouted, "Here comes the Peregrine!" It was amazing to observe how quickly the falcon reached the sandpipers and to see that they had seen it coming. With the sandpipers in the air, the falcon swooped at the flock, missed and quickly disappeared around the cliffs to the north. What eye sight and speed it has!

On Day 3 we found a super bird. Pulling up to the open water in the vans we were barely unloaded when Bruce shouted, "Ivory Gull!" Out in the middle of the ice about 500 metres distant was a small white bird. We piled quickly back into the vans and sped to a better vantage point. It didn't take long for 15 keen birders to devan and set up scopes! There on the ice feeding on carrion (dead gull entrails) was an adult IVORY GULL. What a beautiful gull! Definitely the neatest gull I have seen to date. It was very white with a very dark black eye and short black legs. Its wings extended well beyond its tail and its bill was a pale gray blue with a yellow tip. It obliged very well for viewing and photos, coming in close on several occasions. I have attached a photo. It was fun to see the local birders race in to see it, too. The next morning it was still there even though all the other gulls had left temporarily when a Bald Eagle came into the area.

Driving east the next day we found 4 Belted Kingfish-



*Redwing*

*Photo: Bob Perry*

ers in one cove. When we were at Cape Spear we were at the most easterly point in North America. Using the rocky outcrops we were able to get protection from the cold wind. Dovekies, 2 THICK-BILLED MURRES, 2 COMMON MURRES, and many Black Guillemots were bouncing around in the heavy surf. The big greenish waves crashing on the snow-covered rocky shoreline made a picture to remember.

On Monday my flight home was later than the other participants allowing more time at Quidi Vidi. We found the Ivory Gull and got more fine photographic opportunities. Looking for more LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS I fixed on a gull that had bright pink legs and a very streaked head. I was looking at the SLATY-BACKED GULL who had given us only a quick glimpse the day before. It was on the ice right in front of us and gave a marvelous view. But as soon as it realized we were focused on it, it flew off. It is a remarkable gull about Herring-sized but more heavily bodied than the Herring Gull. It has a very, very streaked head and neck. Its back is a dark gray and its bill is medium-sized and its legs are a deep pink. It has a wide white trailing band to its wings. This is a remarkable find considering this bird is from the Azores.



**WANTED:** Young folks interested in learning about their environment and the critters with which they share it. Nature NB is excited to announce the 2007 schedule for our Summer Youth Nature Camps. We have a great summer planned with this year's theme being "the environment, environmental conservation and you". This will be the 6th year that Nature NB will be running summer camps for youth between 9-14 years old.

Apparently it has visited St. John's for the last few winters.

We visited other small open water areas. We found a group of about 20 teal which included 8 EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL and 12 Green-winged Teal. These birds were right under our noses and provided excellent photographic opportunities. At Hospital Pond we found the widgeon; about 15 American Widgeon and 1 EURASIAN WIDGEONS. I had an excellent opportunity to compare the American and Eurasian females which were standing side-by-side not more than 10 metres from me. I have never known waterfowl to be so tame. I guess they are accustomed to people being around as they claim there is little remaining open water.

My *Newfoundland In Winter* experience was fantastic. I can't imagine how birding could be any better. 6 species including 12 species of gulls in 5 days! I added life birds and learned a lot in an outdoor avian laboratory with excellent teachers. As I shared the IVORY GULL with the local birders on the last day, they bid me farewell with "Happy New Year to ye and may your future birding be great. Come back again real soon!" I'll consider making an annual event.

## 2007 SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS

*Vanessa Roy*

**ATTENTION:** Nous recherchons des jeunes qui aiment avoir du plaisir en explorant la flore et la faune de notre province, et leurs interrelations. Nature NB est content d'annoncer les dates 2007 pour nos camps d'été Jeunes Nature. Nous avons un été intéressant de planifié et cette année notre thème est « L'environnement, la protection environnementale et vous! ». Ceci est la 6ième année que nos camps disponible aux jeunes 9 à 14 ans.

Location/Lieu	Fredericton - Killarney Lake	St. Andrews I	St. Andrews II	Fredericton - Killarney Lake	Kedgwick
Dates	25 - 29 June / juin	8-13 July / juillet	22 - 27 July / juillet	7 - 10 August / août	19 - 24 August / août
Language/langue	Bilingual / bilingue	English / anglais	English / anglais	Bilingual / bilingue	French / français
Camp Type/genre	Day Camp / Camp de jour	Overnight / Résidentiel	Overnight / Résidentiel	Day Camp / Camp de jour	Overnight / Résidentiel
Age / Âge	9 - 11	9 - 11	11-14	11- 14	11-14
Cost per week / Coût par semaine	\$150	\$300	\$300	\$120	\$300

For more information check us out at / pour plus d'information visitez nous sur le web: <http://www.naturenb.ca/English/summercamp.htm>

Or contact the Nature NB office for further details / Contactez Nature NB.

924 rue Prospect Street, Suite 110, Fredericton, NB E3B 2T9  
(506) 459-4209

## WHY I CARE ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING

*Sabine Dietz*

Nature is resilient. Over many decades and centuries of changes, more recently primarily caused by humans, nature has survived – often altered considerably (such as after the ice ages). In recent decades, human-caused changes have alarmed many of us, with the result that we speak out and try to act – for the protection of species at risk, the protection of habitat and ecosystems, or for education of our youth and adults so that we better understand our role as responsible stewards, and can take decisions that do not harm nature.

As a parent, my wish is for our children to be able to enjoy nature, to understand nature, and to make responsible decisions – without harming nature. As a parent, I see my girls growing up within a world greatly changed from



what it was even twenty years ago. I wish them to be able to know that polar bears will be around in the future, that piping plover will continue to visit our beaches, and that they will be able to hear loons calling during a backcountry camping trip. I wish...but I am not so sure that these wishes will come true.

Our eldest is asking tough questions these days: “Why are people the way they are?”, “Why can’t they just do the right things?”, “How do they dare do the things they do?” And then she adds “With a problem so huge, and individuals having so little power, what can we do?”

She decided to carry out some research on global warming for a term essay in Geography, and one of her final paragraphs struck a cord:

« En premier, quand j’ai commencé ma recherche, j’ai découvert beaucoup de choses négatives à propos du changement climatique. Il a des effets dévastateurs sur les écosystèmes, et tout est en train de changer. Beaucoup de personnes ignorent le fait que notre planète est en train de se réchauffer. Beaucoup de personnes ne veulent même pas le croire. Pourtant, c’est déjà en train d’arriver. Ça m’a découragé. Je me suis demandée comment on allait survivre si la planète se réchauffait tellement vite. Et j’ai trouvé cela injuste qu’il y a des personnes qui ne pensent pas à l’avenir, et laissent les prochaines générations avec une planète qui est en très mauvaise état. » (Mira Dietz Chiasson, 9<sup>ième</sup> année, École Matthieu Martin)

[At first, when I began my research, I discovered many negative things concerning climate change. It has had a devastating effect on the ecosystems, for everything is changing. Many people are unaware of the fact that our planet is getting warmer. Many people do not want to even believe it. However, it is already happening. This discourages me and I wonder how one is going to survive if the planet continues to be warmed so quickly. And I found that unfortunately there are people who do not think about the future, and are content to leave the next generations with a planet which is in very bad state “(Mira Dietz Chiasson, 9th year, École Matthieu Martin)]

Being a naturalist means many different things to different people. It also means caring deeply for nature. This implies a responsibility that I believe naturalists cannot ignore. It does not mean we have to go out on the street and protest. One of the most important things we can do is pass on our knowledge, understanding, and love for nature. With this comes a deep sense of responsibility, since one cannot let harm come to something or somebody that one cares deeply about.

## NATURE NEWS: INVERTEBRATES

### AUTUMN 2006: SEPTEMBER 1 TO NOVEMBER 30

*Dwayne L. Sabine*

#### Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths)

More **Bronze Coppers** (bronzé; *Lycaena hyllus*) turned up this fall, this time at the Hillsborough Waterfowl Park in Albert County on Sept 2 (J-MC, ST). This wetland butterfly was once thought to be very rare. While it still might be classed as uncommon, it is turning up with increasing regularity as its habitat is being visited more often by butterfly enthusiasts.

Although it is a relatively recent arrival to the province, the **Inornate Ringlet (Common Ringlet)** (satyre fauve; *Coenonympha tullia inornata*) is now a very common sight in grassy fields during June and July. Occasionally a second generation of Inornate Ringlets is seen in the province during late summer and fall, as was the case this year when Jim Edsall noted the species on Grand Manan on Sept 18.

As discussed in the spring and summer reports, 2006 has been an incredible year for **Monarchs** (monarque; *Danaus plexippus*) in NB. Large numbers of observations of the species continued throughout the fall season. Among the more notable records were the huge numbers of Monarchs reported by many observers in coastal locations during the last few days of September, following a period of westerly winds. A Monarch emerging from its pupal case on Oct 13 in Fredericton (DS) was notably late, particularly since there had been a couple of hard frosts by that date. According to Reggie Webster, Monarchs pupae can successfully develop during periods of low temperatures, as long as temperatures are relatively warm during the last few days prior to emergence. He has observed successful emergence during warm spells in Rhode Island that followed periods of below-zero temperatures. Perhaps late emergence accounts for some of the Monarch adults observed throughout October this year, as reports trickled in until the end of that month. The latest Monarch record for 2006 appears to be that of Durlan Ingersoll, who reported two on Grand Manan on Nov 1.

Among the later butterfly records received for 2006 were **Milbert's Tortoiseshells** (petite vanesse; *Nymphalis milberti*) at Petitcodiac on Sept 7 (30 in total!) (JE), at Fredericton on Oct 1 (J&MF) and at Miramichi on Oct 10 (CC). This species emerges in late summer or early fall and then overwinters as an adult; it is typically one of the

first butterflies seen on-the-wing in early spring.

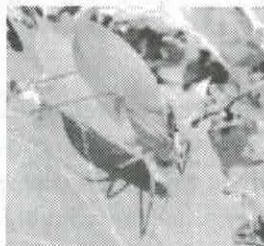
In addition to the Monarch, there are several other migrant butterfly species that account for some of our latest observations, particularly on the coast. An **American Painted Lady** (vanesse de Virginie; *Vanessa virginiensis*) was observed at Saint John on Oct 17 (RB). **Question Marks** (polygone à queue violacée; *Polygonia interrogationis*) were recorded from Grand Manan on Sept 17 (JE) and from neighbouring White Head Island on Sept 26 (DG). Finally, **Red Admirals** (vulcain; *Vanessa atalanta*) were noted inland at St.-Léonard in late September (R&CL). This species also accounted for the latest butterfly report received for 2006, as a Red Admiral was observed at Saint John on Nov 11 (NN).

Additional reports of **Definite Tussock Moths** (chenille à houppes jaunes; *Orgyia definita*), first reported in New Brunswick in 2005, surfaced this summer. Chris Adam reported the species in the Fredericton area on July 24 and Aug 10.

#### Odonata (Damselflies and Dragonflies)

Gilles Belliveau found a couple of **Band-winged Meadowhawks** (sympétrum semi-ambré; *Sympetrum semicinctum*) at Fredericton on Sept 26. This species is the most brightly-marked of the meadowhawks. This also makes it the most easily-identifiable species in this familiar but frustrating genus.

The latest dragonfly report of the year came from the extreme southwest of the province, in Grand Manan, where an unidentified **Meadowhawk** (sympétrum; *Sympetrum* sp.) and a female **Shadow Darner** (aeschne des pénombres; *Aeshna umbrosa*) were seen on Oct 22 (ST, NB, GiB, GB, R-AM).



*True Katydid*

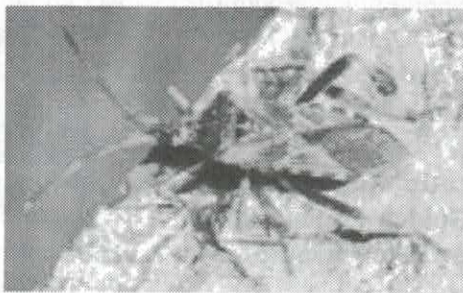
Herbert A. "Joe" Pase III,  
Texas Forest Service, USA

#### Miscellaneous

The **True Katydid** (saute-feuille arboricole; *Pterophylla camellifolia*) is a species that has been reported in the province on only a couple of occasions, and is not normally found northeast of Massachusetts. On those rare occasions

casions when it does show up here, its very loud and harsh (and very unfamiliar) calls often attract attention. A True Katydid calling outside a house at New Maryland on Sept 24 (HM) was thought to possibly be a strange bird. A DNR Conservation Officer was called, and while he was unable to see the source of the call, he was able to get good audio recordings which were later forwarded to and identified by Jim Goltz. Apparently this katydid had been present and calling for a couple of weeks. Another possible True Katydid was reported from Fredericton in late September (DM).

The **Western Conifer-seed Bug** (punaise occidentale des cônes; *Leptoglossus occidentalis*) is a species that, as



*Western Conifer-seed Bug*

Photo: Whitney Cranshaw,  
Colorado State University, USA

its name suggests, was once limited to the western part of North America. It has spread eastward during the 1900s, reaching New Brunswick in 1999. It has not been reported very often here, but Chris Adam found two individuals at Fredericton on Nov 11.

Finally, I had previously reported that a Nelson Poirier's observation of **Shining Dogbane Beetles** (chrysomèle de l'apocyn; *Chrysomela auratus*) near Rogersville in 2005 was thought to be a first record for the province, and later amended that when I learned of Tony Thomas' observation of the species at Fredericton in 2003. Additional information has now come to light: Jim Edsall reports that he found Shining Dogbane Beetles between Moncton and Miramichi as early as 1994, and that students at the University of Moncton have collected them sporadically over the past 10 years.

**Abbreviations:** CC Carol Christopher, DG Don Gibson, DM Don MacDougall, DS Dwayne Sabine, GB Gilles Belliveau, GiB Gisele Belliveau, HM Helen Morris, J-MC Jean-Marc Cormier, J&MF Jeremy & Margaret Forster, JE Jim Edsall, NB Norm Belliveau, NN Ngaire Nelson, R-AM Rose-Alma Mallet, R&CL Roy & Charlotte LaPointe, RB Roger Burrows, ST Stuart Tingley.

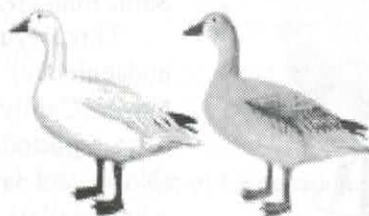
## NATURE NEWS – BIRDS

### OCTOBER 21, 2006 TO JANUARY 10, 2007

*Don Gibson*

The time period covered below will not be remembered fondly by those who are stimulated by sightings of rare birds. Ten or 20 years ago reports of **White-winged Dove**, **Western Tanager**, **Grasshopper Sparrow** or **Yellow-headed Blackbird** might have sent people scurrying to the far reaches of the province but now most life-lists already have those species included. Word of a **California Gull** may have elicited such a response but the bird could not be relocated.

Roger Guitard reported about 200 **Snow Geese** (Oie des neiges) at Jaquet River on Nov. 2. A dark-morph bird was seen at Shediac on Nov. 3 (Gilles Bourque). An adult and an immature were with a flock of



*Snow Goose*  
(Adult left, immature right)  
*Waterfowl Identification in the  
Central Flyway*

Canada Geese at Fredericton on Nov. 15 (Jim Goltz). Don Murray saw a single Snow Goose with a small flock of Canadas near Fredericton on Dec. 14 and two days later Bev Schneider found a Snow Goose at Mactaquac, possibly the same bird.

Roger Burrows reported seeing a possible **Cackling Goose** (Bernache de Hutchins) at Saint John on Nov. 3.

Two **Brant** (Benache cravant) were found at Castalia Marsh on Oct. 23 (Stu Tingley et al.).

Wood Duck and Blue-winged Teal are two species that one does not associate with winter in New Brunswick but for the second consecutive year one of each was found at Saint John. The **Wood Duck** (Canard branchu) was found by Roger Burrows on Dec. 31 and Jim Wilson tallied the **Blue-winged Teal** (Sarcelle à ailes bleues) on Dec. 13.

Norm and Gisele Belliveau found five male **Harlequin Ducks** (Arlequin plongeur) on Oct. 29 at Cap-Pelé.

A similar sized mixed flock was at Point Lepreau on Oct. 31 (Jim Wilson). Roger LeBlanc and Allain Clavette also saw some at Grand Manan on Dec. 1.

Ralph Eldridge found a male **King Eider** (Eider à tête grise) at Deadmans Harbour on Nov. 23 and Dwayne Sabine saw a first-year male at Lepreau on Dec. 22.



Male Ruddy Duck  
Drawing C. Garrett

Irene Doyle discovered a female **Ruddy Duck** (Érismature rousse) at Atholville on Nov. 19. On Dec. 1 Roger LeBlanc and Allain Clavette tallied Ruddy Duck for the provincial "winter list" at Grand Manan.

A **Spruce Grouse** (Tétras du Canada) was seen at Caribou Brook, Madawaska County, on Nov. 12 (Donna Cyr and James Landry).

Although **Red-throated Loons** (Plongeon catmarin) are rarely seen inland, Michiko Nishijima found one on the Nashwaak River on Nov. 19.

About 400 **Greater Shearwaters** (Puffin majeur) and ten **Sooty Shearwaters** (Puffin fuligineux) were seen from the Grand Manan ferry on Nov. 12 (SJNC).

Shortly after strong winds had been experienced in the area, John Eldridge found a storm-petrel on French Lake on Oct. 21. He was unsure as to which species it was but history would favour a Leach's. A **Leach's Storm-Petrel** (Océanite cul-blanc) was seen at Amos Point on Nov. 19 (Stu Tingley et al.).

As the breakers rolled in, about 100 **Northern Gannets** (Fou de Bassan) were seen diving into the water at Southern Head, Grand Manan, on Jan. 7 (Larry Small).

A rather late **Double-crested Cormorant** (Cormoran à aigrettes) was seen at Mactaquac on Dec. 16 (Bev Schneider).

Weather conditions have made 2006 a likely year to see late **Great Blue Herons** (Grand Héron) and included in those tallied were one at Sainte-Marie-de-Kent on Dec. 13 (Stella and Jean-Paul LeBlanc), one at Fredericton on Dec. 17 (Don Gibson), one at Marys Point on Dec. 18 (David Christie) and another at Sainte-Marie-de-Kent on Dec. 26 (Mike LeBlanc).

A very accommodating **Cattle Egret** (Héron garde-boeufs) wandered the lawns in a residential subdivision for a few days at Saint John, allowing close approach and good photo opportunities (*fide* Jim Wilson on Oct. 25). Others included one at Coverdale on Nov. 18 (Stu Tingley) and another at Grand Harbour on Nov. 23 (*fide* Durlan Ingersoll).



Cattle Egret  
Painting by H.E. Dresser

Stu Tingley reported seeing a juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Heron** (Bihoreau gris) at Cap-Pelé on Nov. 25, one at Shemogue on Dec. 2 and one at Lower Cap-Pelé on Dec. 2.

There were a few reports of **Turkey Vultures** (Urubu à tête rouge) from late October and early November but one lingered until Nov. 29 at Eel Lake, Grand Manan (*fide* Allison Naves).

**Cooper's Hawk** (Épervier de Cooper) sightings have become more numerous in recent years. Among those reported were one at Douglas on Nov. 6 (Dwayne Sabine), one at Saint-Jacques on Dec. 3 (Denys Bourque) and one at Saint-Léonard on Dec. 3 (Roy LaPointe).

Denys Bourque reported seeing a **Golden Eagle** (Aigle royal) near Beechwood on Dec. 1.

A male **American Kestrel** (Crécerelle d'Amérique) was seen at Grand Manan on Dec. 24 (*fide* Durlan Ingersoll).

A **Peregrine Falcon** (Faucon pèlerin) was seen knocking a Mallard to the ground at Fredericton on Nov. 15 (Shirley Sloat). The falcon did not try to retrieve the downed duck. One was observed hitting a window at Moncton on Nov. 28 (Mark Pierce). It seemed unharmed and eventually flew away.

**American Coots** (Foulque d'Amérique) were reported regularly at Saint John through early November and Roger Burrows tallied ten there on Nov. 12. Other sightings included a single bird at Riverview on Nov. 18 (Stu Tingley), six at Aulac on Nov. 25 (Norm and Gisèle Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet), one at Eel River dam on Nov. 28 (Jim Clifford), 12 near Aulac on Dec. 1 (Stu Tingley et al.) and one at Saint John on Dec. 24 (Merv Cormier).

Three **Hudsonian Godwits** (Barge hudsonienne) were seen at Cap-Brûlé on Nov. 7 (Carolyn and Hank Scarth) and two were reported at Robichaud on Nov. 10 (Norm and Gisèle Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet).

Eileen Pike spotted a flock of 30 **Purple Sandpipers** (Bécasseau violet) at Point Lepreau on Nov. 3.



Cooper's Hawk  
Drawing by J.L. Ridgway

A **Long-billed Dowitcher** (Bécassin à long bec) was identified at Saint John on Nov. 5 (Merv Cormier) and one was found at Riverview on Nov. 18 (Stu Tingley).

A **Wilson's Snipe** (Bécassine des marais) was discovered at Marys Point on Dec. 9 (David Christie).

A **Little Gull** (Mouette pygmée) was reported at Grand Manan on Dec. 17 (Jim Wilson et al.) and a **Black-headed Gull** (Mouette rieuse) was seen at Saint-Édouard-de-Kent on Dec. 7 (Louis-Émile Cormier and Donald Pellerin).

Roger Burrows reported a **California Gull** (Goéland de Californie) at Saint John on Nov. 7.

A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (Goéland brun) was seen at Fredericton on Nov. 21 (Bev Schneider), one was at Robichaud on Dec. 7 (Stu Tingley) and one was found at Saint John on Dec. 31 (Roger Burrows).

A **Glaucous Gull** (Goéland bourgmestre) was found at Pointe-du-chêne on Dec. 2 (Stu Tingley et al.) and one was seen at Saint John on Dec. 31 (Roger Burrows).

A late **Common Tern** (Sterne pierregarin) was found at Amos Point on Nov. 19 (Stu Tingley et al.).

Two **Pomarine Jaegers** (Labbe pomarin) were seen

from the Grand Manan ferry on Nov. 26 (Peter Pearce). Roger LeBlanc and Allain Clavette observed a **Parasitic Jaeger** (Labbe parasite) off Southern Head on Dec. 2.

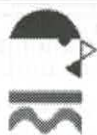
A **Common Murre** (Guillemot marmette) was seen at Saint John on Dec. 10 (Roger Burrows).

A **White-winged Dove** (Tourterelle à ailes blanches) visited the feeders of Doris and Cecil Johnston at Saint John for a few days beginning on Dec. 3.

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (Coulicou à bec jaune) was seen at Memramcook on Nov. 13 (Valmond Bourque) and a **Black-billed Cuckoo** (Coulicou à bec noir) was reported at Rothesay on Nov. 4 (John Hanson).



*Common Murre*  
Painting by A. Brooks



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It was a rather good year for **Snowy Owls** (Harfang des neiges) with sightings that included one at Castalia on Nov. 7 (*fide* Durlan Ingersoll), two at la Baie du Petit Pokemouche on Nov. 7 (Denise Goguen), one at Mactaquac on Nov. 19 (Bev Schneider), one at Taymouth on Nov. 21 (Barb Flynn), one at Saint Thomas on Nov. 24 (Stella Daigle), one at Cape Tormentine on Dec. 1 (Stu Tingley et al.), one at Tantramar Marsh on Dec. 11 (Norm and Gisèle Belliveau), one at Beresford on Dec. 12 (Daren Doucet), one at Dieppe on Dec. 13 (Jules Cormier), one with a Muskrat at Moncton on Dec. 17 (*fide* FNC), one at the Moncton airport on Dec. 22 (Mike Plourde) and one at Clarks Corner on Dec. 30 (Margie Pacey). The birds at Mactaquac and Taymouth were both found dead a few days after being first seen.

Roger Guitard reported a **Northern Hawk Owl** (Chouette épervière) at Beresford on Dec. 13 and one at Bathurst on Dec. 18.

A **Short-eared Owl** (Hibou des marais) was found at Point Lepreau on Nov. 3 (Eileen Pike). Norm and Gisèle Belliveau saw one at Tantramar Marsh on Dec. 14 and they

also observed one there on Jan. 7.

A **Belted Kingfisher** (Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique) was reported at Cornwall Point, Kent County, on Dec. 3 (Norm Belliveau et al.). Don Murray saw one near Fredericton on Dec. 14. On Jan. 3 one was seen at Cornwall Point and another at Barachois (Norm Belliveau et al.).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** (Pic à tête rouge) was seen at Colpitts Settlement on Nov. 13 (*fide* MNC line) and one was at New Jersey on Nov. 17 (Dave McLeod).

Bob Thiel reported a male **Red-bellied Woodpecker** (Pic à ventre roux) at Moncton on Oct. 21 and was also visited by that species on Nov. 11 and Jan. 1. On Nov. 4 a female was seen at Marys Point (David Christie) and a male visited the feeder of David Gray at Mactaquac. Other sightings included one female at Cocagne on Nov. 15 (Louis-Émile Cormier), one at Riverview on Nov. 20 (John Goobie), one at St. George on Nov. 23 (Ralph Eldridge), one at Riverview on Dec. 16 (John Tanner) and one at South Bay, near Saint John, on Dec. 30 (Grace Lee). The bird at the feeder of Ralph Eldridge was still being seen on Jan. 1.



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A **Black-backed Woodpecker** (Pic à dos noir) was seen at Taylor Village on Oct. 22 (Alain Clavette) and one was reported at Chamcook on Jan. 8 (Todd Watts).

A **Northern Flicker** (Pic flamboyant) was seen at Saint John on Dec. 16 (Ngaire Nelson).

An **Eastern Phoebe** (Moucherelle phébi) was found at Cap-Brûlé on Nov. 10 (Norm and Gisèle Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet).

Frank Branch and Robert Doiron tallied a **Great Crested Flycatcher** (Tyran huppé) at Miscou on Nov. 16.

A **Western Kingbird** (Tyran de l'Ouest) was discovered at Whistle Road, Grand Manan, on Oct. 23 (Stu Tingley et al.).

While participating in the Grand Manan Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 17, Durlan Ingersoll and Tracey Bagley encountered a shrike on White Head Island. Knowing the odds strongly favoured a Northern Shrike they were still quite convinced that they were viewing a **Loggerhead Shrike** (Pie-grièche migratrice).

A few **Carolina Wrens** (Troglodyte de Caroline) were faithful to the same feeders throughout this report period including one at Fredericton (Don Gibson), one at Riverview (Bob Betts) and one at Moncton (Roger LeBlanc). One seen occasionally at the Swan residence at Riverview was thought to be the same bird that was visiting the Betts feeder. Another was seen at Fredericton on Nov. 4 (Shirley Sloat).

Roger LeBlanc and Alain Clavette were able to find three **Winter Wrens** (Troglodyte mignon) at North Head on Dec. 2 and Jim Wilson found one at Grand Manan on Dec. 17.

A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (Gobemoucheron gris-bleu) was seen at Saint John on Nov. 3 (Roger Burrows).

Dale Gaskin reported seven **Eastern Bluebirds** (Merlebleu de l'Est) at Dawson Settlement on Oct. 21.

A **Brown Thrasher** (Moqueroux) was found at Saint John on Nov. 3 (Colin Eyben).

Bev Schneider found six **American Pipits** (Pipit d'Amérique) at Fredericton on Nov. 16.

Stu Tingley et al. found five or six **Orange-crowned Warblers** (Paruline verdâtre) on their four-day trip to Grand Manan beginning on Oct. 23. Roger Burrows and Merv Cormier found Orange-crowned Warblers regularly around Saint John through November. One was found at Cape Spear on Nov. 13 (Norm Belliveau et al.) and one was discovered



*Black-backed Woodpecker*

Photo: Alan Cole

on Grand Manan on Dec. 1 (Roger LeBlanc and Alain Clavette). Roger Burrows tallied two at Saint John on Dec. 2 and one very late bird was reported at Moncton on Dec. 30 (*fide* MNC).

A **Nashville Warbler** (Paruline à joues grises) was seen at Seal Cove on Oct. 21 (Stu Tingley et al.). A **Northern Parula** (Paruline à collier) was found at Whistle Road on Oct. 23 (Stu Tingley et al.).

A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (Paruline à croupion jaune) was reported at Miramichi on Dec. 31 (*fide* David Baldwin). Norm and Gisèle Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet found about 40 at Upper Cape Road, near Cape Tormentine, on Jan. 3.

A **Pine Warbler** (Paruline des pins) visited Irene LeBlanc at Richibucto on Nov. 13. Alain Clavette and Roger LeBlanc found two at FNP on Nov. 25. One was seen at Upper Cape Road on Dec. 1 (Stu Tingley et al.) and possibly the same bird was found there again on Jan. 1 (Norm and Gisèle Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet). Cathie Carter had a Pine Warbler visit her feeder at Moncton on Jan. 4.

Even November would be considered late for a **Prairie Warbler** (Paruline des prés) but one found at Stanley Beach, Grand Manan, on Dec. 2 seemed determined to make it onto the provincial "winter list" (Roger LeBlanc and Alain Clavette).

Four **Palm Warblers** (Paruline à couronne rousse) were found travelling together at Whistle Road on Oct. 23 (Stu Tingley et al.).

A **Blackpoll Warbler** (Paruline rayée) was seen at the Anchorage Provincial Park, Grand Manan, on Oct. 21 (Stu Tingley et al.).

Single **Common Yellowthroats** (Paruline masquée) were seen at Whistle Road on Oct. 22 and 23 (Stu Tingley et al.). One was found at North Head on Nov. 12 (SJNC).

Some surprisingly late **Yellow-breasted Chats** (Paruline polyglotte) were found including one at Grand

Manan on Dec. 17 (Jim Wilson et al.), one at Douglastown on Dec. 27 (Reg and Susan Hare) and one at South Bay on Dec. 30 (Grace Lee).

A female **Summer Tanager** (Tangara vermillon) was detected by its distinctive call note at North Head on Oct. 23 (Stu Tingley et al.). Another Summer



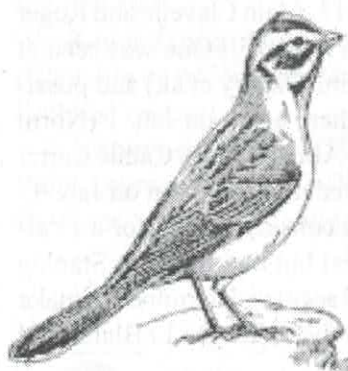
*American Pipit*

C Patricia Velte,  
BackyardBirdCam.com

Tanager arrived at the yard of Gail Mullin on Nov. 15 and was seen almost daily until Jan. 9. A male **Western Tanager** (Tangara à tête rouge) was found at the feeder of Susan Tait of Quispamsis on Dec. 22 and coincidentally was also last seen on Jan. 9.

A female **Eastern Towhee** (Tohi à flancs roux) was seen at Saint John on Oct. 22 (Roger Burrows).

Two **Field Sparrows** (Bruant des champs) were seen feeding on the ground at North Head on Oct. 23 (Stu Tingley et al.) and one seen at Saint John on Dec. 2 was identified as being of the western race (Roger Burrows).



*Lark Sparrow*  
Drawing C. Garrett

At least four **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** (Bruant de Nelson) were at Castalia Marsh on Oct. 23 (Stu Tingley et al.).

Roger Burrows found a **Lincoln's Sparrow** (Bruant de Lincoln) at Saint John on Dec. 18 and again on Dec. 29.

Tracey Dean found a late **Swamp Sparrow** (Bruant des marais) at St. Andrews on Dec. 16.

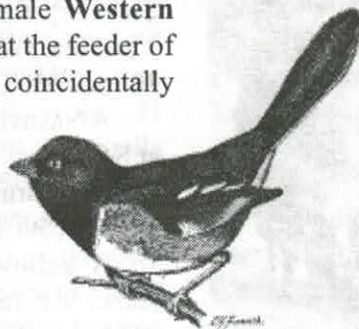
Merv Cormier tallied seven **Lapland Longspurs** (Bruant lapon) at Saint John on Nov. 19.

A **Northern Cardinal** (Cardinal rouge) visited Charlotte and Roy LaPointe at Saint-Léonard on Nov. 16 to be proclaimed the "first-ever" at their feeder.

A first winter **Blue Grosbeak** (Guiraca bleu) was found at Whistle Road on Oct. 24 (Stu Tingley et al.).

**Indigo Bunting** (Passerin indigo) sightings include two at Whistle Road on Oct. 23 (Stu Tingley et al.), one at Saint-Paul, Kent County, on Nov. 1 (Edwin Girouard), one at FNP on Nov. 4 (Jim Wilson) and one at Saint John on Nov. 6 (Roger Burrows).

A female **Dickcissel** (Dickcissel d'Amérique) appeared at the feeder of Roger Burrows at Saint John on Oct. 25 and on Oct. 28 an immature male was observed. A third Dickcissel was tallied when an immature female arrived



*Eastern Towhee (male)*  
Drawing by E.H. Forbush

A **Lark Sparrow** (Bruant à joues marron) was found at Saint John on Nov. 10 (Roger Burrows) and one was at Lower Jemseg on Nov. 21 (Andrew MacInnis).

Roger Burrows saw a **Savannah Sparrow** (Bruant des prés) at Saint John on Dec. 22 and he also reported a **Grasshopper Sparrow** (Bruant sauterelle) at Saint John on Dec. 16.

on Nov. 9. Tracey Dean saw one at St. Andrews on Dec. 16.

Three **Bobolinks** (Goglu des prés) were reported at Alma on Nov. 8 (Doreen Rossiter).

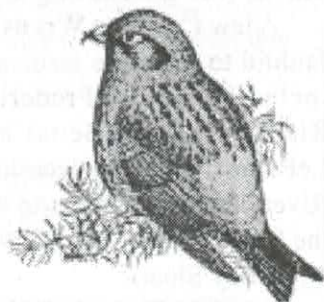
Meadowlarks were reported at Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John, from Nov. 6 to Nov. 19 by Aldie Robichaud and Merv Cormier. It was determined that they were **Eastern Meadowlarks** (Sturnelle des prés) and on Nov. 10 four birds were seen.

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** (Carouge à tête jaune) made a brief visit to a feeder at Cocagne on Nov. 1 (Louis-Émile Cormier).

**Rusty Blackbird** (Quiscale rouilleux) sightings include one at Whale Cove Road, Grand Manan, on Dec. 2 (Roger LeBlanc and Allain Clavette), one at Saint John on Dec. 12 (Roger Burrows) and one at St. George on Dec. 30 (Ralph Eldridge).

There was a minor influx of blackbirds at Alma when a **Common Grackle** (Quiscale bronzé) was seen on Nov. 10 and four **Brown-headed Cowbirds** (Vacher à tête brune) appeared on Nov. 8 (Doreen Rossiter).

**Baltimore Oriole** (Oriole de Baltimore) sightings included one at North Head on Nov. 12 (SJNC), one at North Head on Dec. 2 (Roger LeBlanc and Allain Clavette), one at Marys Point on Dec. 3 (David Christie), one at Nelson-Miramichi on Dec. 13 (Pam Doyle) and one at Moncton on Jan. 1 (Jamie Colpitts).



*Red Crossbill*  
Drawing C. Garrett

Roger Burrows tallied 27 **Red Crossbills** (Bec-croisé des sapins) at Saint John on Dec. 10.

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



*Dickcissel (male)*  
Drawing C. Garrett

## On the Bay with Durlan

Durlan Ingersoll has a keen interest, and valuable experience, in spotting and identifying pelagic birds. His work, that of harvesting lobster, has him offshore south and east of Grand Manan regularly during late fall and early winter. That unique combination permits him to find and report birds that most of us would not encounter at that time of year. Lobster season, at Grand Manan, opened on Nov. 15.

The first report of **Northern Fulmars** (*Fulmar boréal*) was on Nov. 16 with six being seen. On Nov. 27 a dark-phase bird was observed (only Durlan's second ever at the time). An unbelievable "fulmar day" on Nov. 29 when hundreds were found with at least six dark-phase birds. About 20 fulmars were encountered on Dec. 4. and a single bird was tallied on Dec. 18.

Six **Greater Shearwaters** were seen on Nov. 15, four seen on Nov. 21 and single birds observed on Nov. 25 and Nov. 29.

A big surprise was in store on Dec. 11 when a single **Sooty Shearwater** flew by.

One **Sabine's Gull** (*Mouette de Sabine*) was seen at very close range on Dec. 18 and another (possibly the same bird) on Dec. 27.

**Pomarine Jaegers** were seen regularly from Nov. 15 to Dec. 15 with three being observed on Nov. 29.

The first **Dovekie** (*Mergule nain*) report came on Nov. 21 when one bird was found. The number seen increased to ten on Dec. 14 and to 30 on Dec. 15.

Hundreds of **Razorbills** (*Petit pingouin*) were seen most days.

A single **Atlantic Puffin** (*Marcereux moine*) was spotted on Nov. 15 and another was seen on Dec. 18.



Dovekie

## DUCKS' DITTY

*Kenneth Grahame (1859-1932)*  
(from *The Wind in the Willows*)

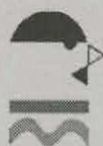
All along the backwater,  
Through the rushes tall,  
Ducks are a-dabbling,  
Up tails all!

Ducks' tails, drakes' tails,  
Yellow feet a-quiver,  
Yellow bills all out of sight  
Busy in the river!

Slushy green undergrowth  
Where the roach\* swim -  
Here we keep our larder,  
Cool and full and dim.

Everyone for what he likes!  
We like to be  
Heads down, tails up,  
Dabbling free!

High in the blue above  
Swifts whirl and call  
We are down a-dabbling,  
Up tails all!



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\*a silver-white European freshwater fish with a greenish back

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*A roar of welcome through the welkin.  
 Is certain proof you'll find the Elkin;  
 But if you listen to the shell,*



*The Elk*



*The Whelk*

*In which the Whelk is said to dwell,  
 And hear a roar, beyond a doubt  
 It indicates the Whelk is out.*

*Robert Williams Wood*

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