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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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### FEDERATED CLUBS / CLUBS FÉDÉRÉS

**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), site web : [www.cnpa.ca](http://www.cnpa.ca) réunions au Club de l'âge d'or Landry, 1<sup>er</sup> mercredi, sept. à juin; *Le Gobe-mouche* mensuel.

**Club de Naturalistes Vallée de Memramcook** a/s Valmond Bourque, 12 rue Desbarres, Memramcook, E4K 1E7 tel. 758-1095, [www.natureacadie.ca](http://www.natureacadie.ca); réunions 2<sup>ème</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>ème</sup> mercredi, sept. à juin, Musée du Madawaska; *Le Jaseur* trimestriel.

**Club les Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est Inc.,** a/s 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>ème</sup> samedi ou dimanche; *La plume verte*.

**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. Folkins, 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.tripod.com/~RestNatClub>

**Saint John Naturalists' Club,** P.O. Box 2071, Saint John, E2L 3J5; meets N.B. Museum at Market Square, 7:30 pm 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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*Cover: Dot-tailed Whiteface, photographed by Chris Adam 12 June 2007, Fredericton NB*

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

Please submit articles for the next issue by October 31st 2007  
S.v.p. soumettre les articles à l'intention du prochain numéro  
avant le 31 Octobre 2007

To / à Gart Bishop, 16 Pitt St. Sussex, NB E4D 1J1  
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## MOT DU PRÉSIDENT - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Roland Chiasson*

### Small Surprises

Little did I expect to find anything surprising on a hot summer's afternoon. I was looking for shorebirds when I turned onto a small dirt road. There on the side of the road, right on the ground, a pair of yellow eyes was staring back at me.

I stopped the car and took out my new digital camera and started madly taking pictures through the open window. Never in my life did I expect this in broad daylight.

After about 20 shots, I figured my luck should be running out when I realized another pair of yellow eyes was staring at me, right in front of the car. More pictures were madly taken right through the windshield and these eyes continued to stare at me. So I stepped out of the car for close-ups and then, out of nowhere another owl came flying straight at me, dropping in his flight as he approached.

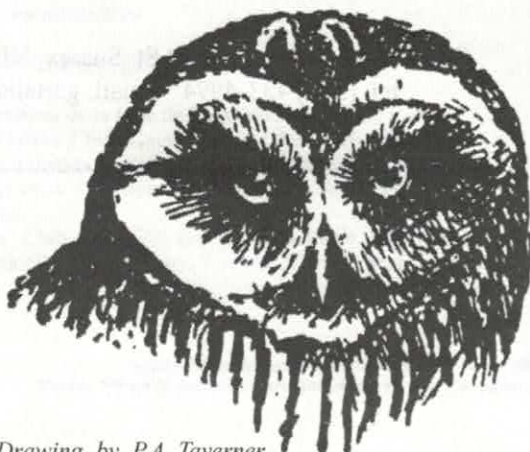
By then, I felt mama or papa was telling me that I over did my stay. Therefore, I ducked back into the car and decided to slowly drive away, when more owls appeared. I counted 5 Short-eared Owls in total flying over my car. Wow, was I impressed how small surprises can make a person's day. I felt really fortunate that I was able to share a few moments with a small but marvelous species at risk!

Enjoy your autumn!

### Petites Merveilles

Je ne m'attendais pas à découvrir rien de particulier pendant un après-midi chaud d'été. J'étais à la recherche d'oiseaux de rivage quand j'ai emprunté un petit chemin de terre. À ce moment-là, sur le bord de la route, au niveau du sol, une paire de yeux jaunes me regardait attentivement. J'ai arrêté la voiture. Après avoir saisi ma nouvelle caméra numérique, j'ai commencé à prendre des photos de façon incontrôlable par la fenêtre ouverte. Jamais de ma vie, je n'aurais espéré voir ceci en plein jour. Après une vingtaine de photos, j'ai cru que ma chance avait atteint ses limites. Contre toute attente, une autre paire de yeux jaunes me regardait attentivement droit devant la voiture. Je me suis mis à l'oeuvre pour prendre une autre série de photos à travers le pare-brise pendant que ces yeux ne cessaient de me fixer. Ensuite, je suis sorti de la voiture pour tenter de prendre des gros plans. A ce moment, venant de nulle part, un autre hibou a volé directement vers moi et s'est posé sur le sol à une dizaine de mètres. C'est alors que j'ai compris que la maman ou le papa essayait me dire que c'était assez! Je suis donc revenu à ma voiture et j'ai décidé de m'en aller lentement alors que d'autres hiboux sont apparus. J'ai compté 5 Hiboux des marais en vol au dessus de ma voiture. J'étais impressionné de constater à quel point des petites merveilles pouvaient mettre du piquant dans ma vie. Je me suis senti privilégié de pouvoir partager quelques moments avec de petites, mais merveilleuses espèces en danger !

Profitez bien de votre automne !



*Drawing by P.A. Taverner*



## NEWS FROM THE NATURE NB OFFICE

*Vanessa Roy (Executive Director) & Samantha Perrin (Program Coordinator)*

### Nature NB Website

We are currently updating our website. We have added **new features!** Have a look at our new **photo gallery** and our **current events**. Are you interested in the shorebird migration? Check out what is being seen at Mary's point. We are updating the bird sightings daily. Be sure to check our website ([www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca)) regularly for all the new, exciting updates.

### Climate Change and Citizen Science

Nature NB has been approved for an exciting new project called: **Climate Change and Citizen Science**. The aim of this project is to evaluate the impacts of climate change on flora and fauna through a long-term survey compilation of data collected by individual citizen scientists.

Naturalists are an excellent and often untapped resource when it comes to long-term climate change data. There are decades of natural history information sitting in dairies or journals in individual's homes. Once compiled, this information could reveal important trends in the changes of species distribution and abundance over time, and prove insight into how species are being affected by, or adapting to climate change.

This is where **WE NEED YOU!** If you have information that you have been collecting over a period of time it would be a great asset for this project. Any information given to us will be treated with the utmost respect and will be returned in the condition given to us. If you would like to give us information we can be contacted at [nbnf@nb.aibn.com](mailto:nbnf@nb.aibn.com) or (506) 459-4209. This project won't succeed without you!

### 2008 Calendar

Nature NB is currently exploring the idea of creating a Nature Calendar, which will showcase some of the amazing photos taken by Naturalists across the province. As such, we are beginning our search for anyone interested in participating by either providing photos or helping with development. Please contact us at [nbnf@nb.aibn.com](mailto:nbnf@nb.aibn.com) or (506) 459-4209. Keep checking our website for more details!

### Amazing Outing to Fundy National Park

On September 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 we will be going to **Fundy National Park** for a great activity filled day. This day is completely funded through a **Parks and People** grant and is geared to parents and children (aged 6 to 12 years). Please limit, if possible one parent per child due to limited space. We will start the day at 10:00am with a **guided walk** where we will be learning about flying squirrels and other animals and plants of Fundy National Park. After the walk we will be providing lunch and then a **beach exploration**. Along with the beach exploration, we will also be doing a beach clean-up. We are expecting to be finished at 3:00pm.

We are also providing the transportation. The outing on September 15<sup>th</sup> will be leaving from the Fredericton area with a stop in Sussex and the outing on September 29<sup>th</sup> leaves from Moncton. **Everyone is welcome!** If you are interested please see our website for more information [www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca)

### Young Naturalist Club

We have received funding from the Wildlife Trust Fund for an expansion of our young naturalist club (YNC). We are looking for new ways to find and keep volunteers to lead our clubs as well as get new members. As such we are organizing an **ideas workshop** to explore ideas on expanding the YNC and creating a **leader's kit**. This kit will include all the information that a leader will need to start and run a YNC. We would like to include things like; contact information for **guest speakers**, the local **Naturalist club**, etc. If you are interested in participating in this workshop please contact us.



## DES NOUVELLES DU BUREAU DE NATURE NB

*Vanessa Roy (Directrice générale) & Samantha Perrin (Coordinatrice des programmes)*

### Le site Web de Nature NB

Nous travaillons présentement à la mise à jour de notre site Web. Nous avons ajouté de nouvelles fonctions! Allez jeter un coup d'œil sur la section photo ou celles des activités en cours. Si la migration des limicoles vous intéresse, vous pourrez y découvrir des comptes rendu quotidien des observations faites à Mary's Point. Visitez souvent notre site Web ([www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca)) pour vous tenir au courant de ce qui se passe du côté nature dans la province.

### Changement climatique et science citoyenne

Nature NB a été accepté comme participant dans le cadre d'un nouveau projet qui a pour titre: *Changement climatique et science citoyenne*. L'objectif du projet est d'évaluer l'impact des changements climatiques sur la faune et la flore grâce à une étude à long terme à partir de la compilation de données recueillies par des scientifiques citoyens.

En ce qui concerne les données à long terme relative aux changements climatiques, les naturalistes et leurs notes peuvent être une excellente source de données qui reste souvent inutilisée. Il existe des décennies d'information sur l'histoire naturelle qui dort dans les notes et les journaux personnels de plusieurs d'entre vous. Une fois compilé et analysé cette information pourrait révéler des tendances importantes au niveau de la distribution et de l'abondance de certaines espèces. Étant donnée la longue période sur laquelle ces données ont souvent été recueillies, elles pourraient nous permettre une vision plus claire sur comment certaines espèces ont été affectées par les changements climatiques et aussi sur comment elles s'y sont adaptées.

Et c'est là que votre aide peut nous être inestimable. Si vous avez, dans vos archives personnelles, de l'information naturelle que vous avez recueillie sur une longue période de temps, celle-ci pourrait être précieuse pour le projet. Tout document que vous nous ferez parvenir sera traité avec le plus grand respect et vous sera retourné, après consultation dans le même état qu'il nous sera arrivé. Si vous avez de l'information que vous voudriez partager avec nous veuillez SVP nous rejoindre à l'adresse courriel suivante [nbfm@nb.aibn.com](mailto:nbfm@nb.aibn.com) ou par téléphone au (506) 459-4209. Ce projet ne sera un succès qu'avec votre aide!

### Calendrier 2008

Nature NB explore présentement la possibilité de produire un calendrier nature qui mettrait en vedette certaine des magnifiques photos prise par des naturalistes de la province.

Conséquemment, nous sommes présentement à la recherche de volontaire intéressé à donner un coup de main, soit en partageant leurs photos avec nous ou encore en participant à la mise en place du projet. Si ça vous intéresse SVP contactez nous au [nbfm@nb.aibn.com](mailto:nbfm@nb.aibn.com) ou par téléphone au (506) 459-4209. Surveillez notre site Web pour plus de détails !

### Sortie nature exceptionnelle au Parc national Fundy

Les 15 et 29 septembre prochain, nous nous rendrons au Parc national Fundy pour une journée remplie d'activité nature. L'activité sera gratuite étant financée en totalité par l'organisme **Ensemble pour nos parcs**. Il s'agit d'une activité qui s'adresse aux parents et aux enfants de 6 à 12 ans. SVP tâchez de respecter la ration un enfant par parent si possible à cause du nombre limité de places. La journée débutera à 10:00h avec une marche guidée où nous découvrirons les habitudes du Polatouche ainsi que d'autres animaux et plantes du Parc national Fundy. Après cette première excursion, un goûter sera offert gratuitement et ensuite nous continuerons l'aventure avec une exploration de la plage du parc. Nous en profiterons pour faire en même temps un peu de nettoyage de plage. Le tout devrait se terminer vers 15 :00h

Le transport sera aussi offert gratuitement. Pour la sortie du 15 septembre, le départ se fera de la région de Fredericton avec un arrêt à Sussex. La sortie du 29 septembre partira de Moncton. **Tous sont conviés.**

Si cette activité vous intéresse consulter notre site Web pour plus de renseignement. [www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca)

### Club des jeunes naturalistes

Nous avons reçu du financement du Fonds de fiducie de la faune pour étendre les activités de nos clubs de jeunes naturalistes. Nous sommes à la recherche d'initiatives pour stimuler l'adhésion de nouveau membre ainsi que pour trouver et garder des bénévoles pour diriger les clubs. En ce sens nous allons organiser un **atelier de remue ménage** afin de développer des stratégies pour augmenter le nombre et l'importance des clubs de jeunes naturaliste dans la province. Une trousse d'aide aux dirigeants de club sera créée. La trousse contiendra toutes les informations nécessaires pour le démarrage et le maintien en fonction d'un club de jeunes naturalistes dans votre région. On y retrouvera par exemple des listes de contact pour organiser des présentations au club ou encore les coordonnées des clubs de naturaliste de la région. Si vous êtes intéressé à participer a un tel atelier SVP veuillez nous contacter.





## FROM OUR PAST

*Selected by Mary Sollows*

The following article was taken from the 1888 Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick: No. VII, pp. 72-74.

### ARTICLE III. DOES OUR INDIGENOUS FLORA GIVE EVIDENCE OF A RECENT CHANGE OF CLIMATE?

*By J. VROOM ST. STEPHEN, N.B.*

The flora of New Brunswick is too little known, as yet, to warrant any attempt at giving a definite answer to the question. What follows is only suggested as a possible inference from some of the most striking features in the different floral regions of the province.

The plants of what we now call our indigenous flora have probably come to us from various directions and at different times. To trace the journeyings of any one species is, of course, impossible. We can only ask whether our sub-arctic plants have lingered here since the glaciers receded, or have once passed on in their northern migrations and been again driven southward to replace less hardy species; and whether a general movement in either direction is now going on.

A general movement of plants towards the equator is one of the acknowledged facts of geographical botany. The late Prof. Gray has also noticed that plants tend to move from east to west rather than from west to east. These movements would be almost infinitely slow, --their rate not to be measured by years or by centuries, but rather by geological divisions of time--and the word recent must be understood accordingly. Reasoning from the laws above stated, an unchanging climate here, throughout such an extensive period, should have made continental Acadia, from its geographical position, a centre of distribution for the plants of the New England States. The same would be the case, and more noticeably so, if an increasing severity of the seasons had been forcing the southwestern migrations. But, if our climate is or has been growing milder, we should expect to find the New England flora advancing, and northern forms receding before it. Though the matter is by no means so simple as this, there are certain facts which seem to show that the latter is nearest to the true state of the case.

One ground for this opinion is found in the widely

separated stations and scattered growth of plants of a northern range. Of a list of about one hundred and forty species that are more abundant elsewhere than within our province, nearly one hundred are of distinctly northern or northwestern distribution. Such a large majority seems to prove that the causes, whatever they are, which hinder such scattered plants from growing abundantly here are acting most strongly upon those of a northern range.

What at first appears as an objection to the argument is the fact that there are twelve southern species in this list of scarce plants. They are as follows:

- Cyperus esculentus*(=*phymatodes*) (Yellow Nut-grass)
- Fraxinus pubescens* (Green Ash) [species is now considered to represent part of the normal variability of *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*]
- Gaylussacia dumosa* (Dwarf Huckleberry)
- Ilex verticillata* (Winterberry)
- Lechea minor* (Thymeleaf Pinweed) [*Lechea minor*, possibly misidentified, not part of NB current flora]
- Limnanthemum lacunosum* (Floating-heart) [*Nymphoides cordata*]
- Polygonum arifolium* (Halberd-leaved Tearthumb) [*Persicaria arifolia*]
- Polygonum hydropiperoides* (False Water-pepper) [*Persicaria hydropiperoides*]
- Scirpus atrovirens* (Black-girdle Wool-grass) [*Scirpus atrocinctus*]
- Scirpus Clintonii* (Clinton's Club-rush) [*Trichophorum clintonii*]
- Spergularia rubra* (Ruby Sand-spurrey)
- Xyris flexuosa*, var. *pusilla* [possibly misidentified, not part of NB current flora]



Add to these *Eleocharis Robbinsii*, (Robbins' Spike-rush) found in one locality in New Brunswick, and not yet reported in Maine, and we have a list of thirteen scattered southern forms. But it will be found that all but one of them are plants growing in water or in wet places, and just such as could be most easily carried by aquatic birds; and it may be argued that their seeds were brought here plentifully at earlier times when birds of passage would have been as abundant as at present, and that a higher summer temperature is only now beginning to admit of their growth.

The continued existence of an isolated group of north-western plants in the St. John valley is evidence that our climate has not since glacial times been very much warmer than at present; while struggling members of the group seem to indicate that they have but recently retreated from the southern hills.

In contrast with these we have the following New England plants in the southwest of the province:

*Cephalanthus occidentalis* (Buttonbush)

*Cladium mariscoides* (Twig-rush)

*Isoetes echinospora*, var. *Braunii* (Spiny-spored Quillwort)

*Lobelia cardinalis* (Cardinal-flower)

*Potamogeton hybridus* (Common Snailseed Pondweed)

[*Potamogeton diversifolius*, possibly mis-identified, as it is not part of the NB current flora]

*Potamogeton rufescens* (Reddish Pondweed)

[*Potamogeton alpinus*]

*Viburnum acerifolium* (Maple-leaved Viburnum)

*Viburnum dentatum* (Arrow-wood)

*Viburnum Lentago* (Nannyberry)

Some of these are scarce; others are very abundant in suitable localities. None of them have yet been seen farther east, but all occur in Maine. While for want of information they cannot be traced back in an unbroken line, yet they seem like the advanced guard of a host of invading plants, slowly advancing, and, unless checked by some secular change of climate, destined to cover the greater part of New Brunswick before they reach their limit of growth.

Though the evidence is not conclusive, and at best would not prove an interrupted amelioration of climate, still, it would seem, the present condition of our Acadian flora, to some extent, favors the opinion that our climate has, within comparatively recent times, been growing less severe, and the general tendency of plant migrations has been toward the north.

**Editor's Note:** Common plant names in round brackets have been added and were taken from Hinds 2000 - Flora of New Brunswick. Botanical names in square brackets are current names in use, as taken from Hinds 2000 and other sources. The names in the original article that are in front of the square brackets are no longer acceptable.

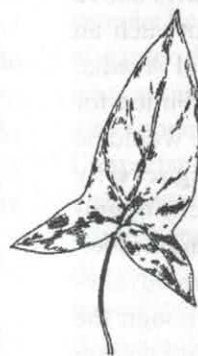
As can be seen from this article, some of the plants that were thought to occur in New Brunswick at the time the article was written (1888), have been found not to occur. The plants were likely mis-identified, with corrections based on specimens collected.

Although botanical names do for the most part greatly aid in placing the correct name on a specific plant, these names have been subject to considerable change over the past 119 years.

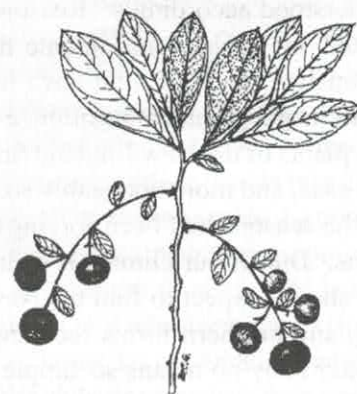
The study of climate change is based on many factors, one of which is the collection and correct identification of our plants.



Buttonbush  
Drawing by W.C.  
Grimm



Halberd-leaved Tearthumb  
Drawing by F.S. Mathews



Dwarf Huckleberry  
Drawing by W.C. Grimm



# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT -- 2006-2007

David Christie

Effort on Christmas Bird Counts in N.B., 2006-07 (to accompany report in N.B. Nat., Spring 2007)

Count Effort	RdB	Mir	Dal	Rst	SSx	Htn	C-N	Jem	Ftn	Mac	M-C	Sty	Wsk	Flo	P-A
Hrs on foot	3	2	7	0	17.5	8	6.5	?	81	29	?	14.5	1	2.5	4
Hrs by car	18	12.5	7.5	23	22.5	54	20.5	?	56	6.25	?	15	21.5	8.5	7
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>40.75</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>35.25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
Km on foot	3	3	15	0	?	23	14	?	150	10	4	12.5	3	4	6
Km by car	327	314	123	188	?	769	239	?	808	414	479	245.5	256.5	107	120
<b>TOTAL KM</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>304.5</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>126</b>
No. of observers	11	7	8	8	13 tot.	29	11	15	61	12	18	9	13	6	6
No. of parties	3	2	3	6	?	9	7	?	31	6	6	4	4	4	4
Feeder reports	8	29	6	27	?	43	16	?	35		4	5	7	19	19
	Nic	StL	SAM	Etn	Ked	MtC	SEU	GM	StS	StA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	R-A
Hrs on foot	2.5	3.2	2.8	9.1	4	9.75	6	18.5	?	4	7.5	?	92.5	10	17.3
Hrs by car	11	18	21.6	26.5	15.5	4	2	15	?	12	19	?	70.25	11	11.5
Hrs othwise								?							
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>13.75</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>162.8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28.8</b>
Km on foot	0.5	5.8	5	17	7	15.9	12	15	13	10	15	13	107.8	24.5	33.1
Km by car	124.5	344.8	287.8	428.5	232	89.5	64	109	216	110	205	231	805	254.8	221
Km otherwise								18							
<b>TOTAL KM</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>350.6</b>	<b>292.8</b>	<b>445.5</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>105.4</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>912.8</b>	<b>279.3</b>	<b>254</b>
No. of observers	4	6	8	16	12	3	2	10	5	5	8	9	57	10	10
No. of parties	3	4	5	7	8	2	2	6	4	4	5	3	20	4	6
Feeder reports	6	1		6	7				7	2			22	2	5
	Mem	Mtn	Sck	CT	Shd	KNP	Mir	Tra	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	P-Ro	Total	
Hrs on foot	16.5	15.5	?	45	12.5	65	2	1.75	12	14	2	9.5	1	562.4+	
Hrs by car	36.5	32	?	26	47.5	25	12.5	26.25	20.5	18	11.75	15	10	797.6+	
Hrs othwise														?	
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>13.75</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1575.7</b>	
Km on foot	24	45	?	86.5	23	42	3	8	25.5	31.5	2	9.5	2	849.0+	
Km by car	271	713	?	349	562.5	172	314	449	321.2	129	184	124	254	12002.2+	
Km otherwise														18	
<b>TOTAL KM</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>435.5</b>	<b>585.5</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>346.7</b>	<b>160.5</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>133.5</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>12914.2+</b>	
No. of observers	18	34	21	19	23	14	7	7	8	9	3	12	2	547	
No. of parties	9	15	?	5-13	8	5	2	4	5	4	2	7	2	236+	
Feeder reports	1	4	?		0?	5	29	5	4		1	3		297?	

## Legend and Footnotes to the Tables

**Number** boldfaced: provincial record high

*Number/name* in italics: no details or details not fully convincing

\*: recorded during count period but not on count day

a: 30 finch sp.

b: 1 thrush sp. (Hermit/Veery)

c: 42 finch sp.

cw: recorded during count week

d: 24 oiseaux non-identifiés en vol

e: 2 goélands sp., 3 fringillidés sp., 7 oiseaux sp.

f: 144 goélands sp., 34 oiseaux sp.

g: 1 woodpecker sp., 25 finch sp.

h: 3 Mallard x Black Duck hybrids

j: 30 gull sp., 2 sparrow sp.

k: 12 scoter sp., 1 sparrow sp., 7 finch sp.

m: 13 scoter sp.

++: much above average numbers

+: above average numbers

±: more or less average numbers

-: below average numbers

--: much below average numbers

FC: first CBC record in N.B.

FD: first count day record in N.B.



## SUMMER NATURE CAMP

By, Nicole Bendrich

**Editors note:** The following article was previously published in *Nature Kids, Jeunesse N.B. Issue 8 2007*, in a slightly modified form. All photographs were taken by camp staff during 2007 camps.

Nature Camp. Those two words can turn you on or off. Well, they turned me on and I'm really happy they did. Camp will turn you on, not only to nature but also to the environment. There are two great camps you can go to. One is in St. Andrews and the other one is in Fredericton. I went to both of them and to me they were the best camps ever.

In St. Andrews we went worm-digging which may sound gross but it was really cool. We found the worms by looking for their business which looked like pellets or spaghetti. After that we had a competition to see who had the prettiest worm or the longest worm for example. Another thing we did was go in a boat to catch plankton in two different nets. One net had very small holes and another had larger holes. We examined the plankton and had a great time observing it. The two different types of plankton we looked at were plant and animal. The plant plankton was on the surface because it needed the sun to grow. I can't quite



*St. Andrews Camp 2007 (left to right)*

*Back row: Jessica Goguen, Erin Acheson, Samantha Perrin*

*Middle row: Liam Goguen, Alison Meng*

*Front row: Janelle LeBlanc, Matthew Kilcup, Jonah Paul-Fontaine*



*St. Andrews Camp 2007 (left to right)*

*Louis Savoie, Alex Meech, Adam Libby, Lucas Paul*

remember were the animal plankton was located though. At the Huntsman Marine Center we learned several things about the deep sea (the person who gave the presentation for the deep sea gave us all a picture of a deep sea creature and we had to come up with its name, what it ate, how deep it lived, etc.) The seals were so cute! I was so happy we got to see them.

You learn tons of interesting plant and animal facts. For example did you know that a jelly fish is a type of plankton? Well, it's because it can't swim so they go with the current. Another fact I learned is that baby turtles find the ocean by using the reflection of the moon on the water. Very few make it to the ocean though because nowadays there are so many big signs that light up so the turtles get confused and just walk toward the light. Since the baby turtles don't have hard shells yet they're really easy to kill when a car drives over them because they were walking





*St. Andrews Camp 2007 (left to right)*

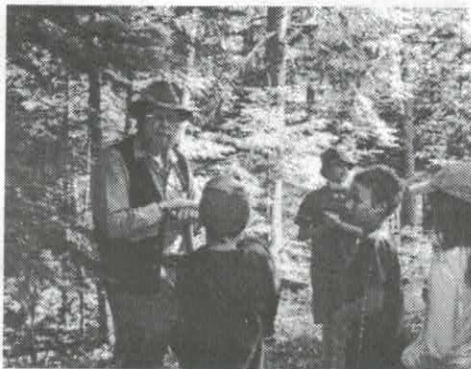
*Daniel Cunningham, Louis Savoie, Merlin Caron-Levesque, Noah Ritcey, Mischa Giasson, Caitlin Tratnik, Gabrielle Caron-Levesque*

towards the wrong light, they die.

We played games like Camouflage, Foxes and Hares, The Animal Game, Find the Counsellor, and a scavenger hunt sort of thing. When we had campfires we sang songs and performed plays. My favourite song was 'Herman the Worm' which I had later on changed to 'Budworm the Worm'. I came up with this idea because one of the counsellor's camp names was Budworm.

All the meals we had were incredible. If you're a vegetarian you would just have to tell the counsellors, then they would tell the cooks and then they will prepare a special meal for you. No matter what you always had something you liked on your plate. Every day there was a different dessert and meal. My favourite dessert was the cookies. That's where I got my camp name 'Cookie' from.

One of my favourite activities was tie-dyeing. We got to tie-die a tie shirt with three colors. They were red, blue, and green. You



*Killarney Camp 2007 (left to right)*

*Gart Bishop, Liam Chase, Issac Staples, Kevin Sullivan, Shealyn MacLaughlin*

can have different kinds of patterns. For example I made my tee-shirt have a swirl pattern. You can use your imagination. When they're dry you can wear them and they look amazing. This is an activity you do in both camps. At the end of camp (when you'll go home) you can remember all the good times you had!!

The bird watching was tons of fun. We spotted quite some birds that morning. I enjoyed learning the different calls of the birds and how to tell them apart. One thing I learned during this activity was that the gulls we have by Killarney Lake are actually 'Herring Gulls' and not sea gulls. We did this activity at both camps. Another activity we did was catching frogs by the pond. We didn't really catch them but we looked and listened. We saw a green frog, spring peepers, and some others. We learned tons of cool facts like that there is only one toad in all of New Brunswick!! It's called the 'American Toad'. I find that amazing.

In Fredericton we swam at Killarney Lake each day. Well, except for the day that we went to Mactaquac. When we went to Mactaquac we went critter dipping (that's where you catch living things, put it them in a bucket of water from their habitat and look at them), we looked at how living creatures camouflage themselves in their habitat, we went on a trail (we learned things like you can tell that a white pine is actually a white pine by counting the needles that come in a group (package), and we went to the beach!! The beach was amazingly fun!! I especially liked being there with my friends (the people who went to nature camp with me).

In both camps we made 'Nature Journals' where we could write down interesting facts. We could also glue leaves, flowers, etc. in there. Another thing we did was draw pictures of nature.

We did tons of other things like play Gecko's drum. I don't want to mention too much because I want some to be a surprise for you. Lots of laughs overall. I would just like to say a HUGE thank you to Budworm, Moose (happy marriage, congratulations), Gecko, Crow, and Firefly to make this experience possible. I would also like to say that if you're looking for a great time, new experiences, a good nature camp, or just ways too make time fly, this nature camp may just be the right thing for you.



## A LAMENT ON THE PASSING OF THE DAWN CHORUS

Peter Pearce

Contemplation of the past seems to be a preoccupation of the elderly. So it is that amateur students of birds who have indulged their interest over a long term, perhaps as much as half a century, may dwell on the way things were, on changes they have witnessed in bird populations, especially on shifts that have more often than not been downward. Despite the distracting focus on listing species, the neophyte as well as the seasoned birdwatcher will not have failed to notice that some birds have gradually become fewer and fewer. Confirmatory evidence at local, provincial and regional levels has been furnished by the long-standing Breeding Bird Survey which has documented significant declines in the populations of more than a few species.

Take forest songbirds. It used to be that an observer abroad in a sylvan setting for a few hours following first light would be treated to a symphony of sound from myriad songbird throats, an almost overwhelming surrounding wall of avian voices - the dawn chorus! But, regrettably, no more. The dawn chorus has faded to a mere echo, a diminuendo to a memory of its former glory. Particularly in the last two decades populations of many familiar birds have been alarmingly reduced, although species diversity has been pretty much sustained, and it seems to be the Neotropical migrants, including many long-distance travellers, that have suffered most, due in part to habitat loss and degradation on both their winter and breeding ranges.

Table 1 presents a window on the past, as it were, for readers wishing to recall or learn about one natural history aspect of what seems to be a bygone era. It identifies a few of the voices that contributed to the former dawn chorus. The data were drawn from the results of 25 bird surveys carried out along forest roads in central New Brunswick in the spring (29 May to 20 June) of 1967 in the context of a spruce budworm spray monitoring project. The survey routes were about 2.5 km long, took about 1.75 h to complete and were done early in the morning by David Fowle, Simon Lunn, William Wilson and the author. The information tabulated is from pre-spray surveys in areas A, B, D and E, area C serving as an unsprayed control.

The ten species, of six taxonomic families, listed in Table 1 were chosen because they usually were represented by the highest numbers of individual birds. Of the ten, the Tennessee Warbler and the Bay-breasted Warbler are known to show a direct numerical response to spruce budworm densities. Peaks of those two species noted on a single sur-

vey were 39 and 19, respectively. (Perhaps those two songbirds exerted a slight inflationary effect on the totals of all songbirds together.) Other species well represented but not reported here were Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler and Dark-eyed Junco. Evening Grosbeaks (budworm "followers"?) were omnipresent in roving flocks of individuals too difficult to count. (As an aside, among non-songbirds Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were far more common than now, an average of 12 being noted on each survey.) The most songbirds recorded on a survey was 311, representing 45 species.

There will surely be few in the birdwatching community who would argue that the kind of numbers exemplified in this "case-of-the-disappearing-songbirds" retrospective can be matched today.

It is to be hoped that songbirds breeding in New Brunswick's forests will again become as abundant as reported here. The next outbreak of spruce budworm, and other insects, will doubtless favour some birds. As for their fellows - indeed for the forest avifaunal community at large - the prospects for an early recovery are hardly reassuring unless present population trends are reversed.



White-throated Sparrow  
Drawing by E.H. Forbush

Table 1. Average numbers of forest songbirds of ten selected species noted on five surveys in each of five areas of central New Brunswick in 1967.

Species/Area	A	B	C	D	E
Least Flycatcher	11	6	10	4	8
Winter Wren	8	5	6	3	9
Swainson's Thrush	14	8	8	9	9
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	13	9	12	13	14
Tennessee Warbler	27	25	17	16	25
Magnolia Warbler	9	9	8	9	7
Yellow-rumped Warbler	9	5	6	8	10
Bay-breasted Warbler	8	9	15	10	12
Ovenbird	12	19	22	11	22
White-throated Sparrow	26	31	25	18	30



## ADDENDUM TO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 2005-06

David Christie

This report of the 2005-06 Minto-Chipman count went astray on the Internet and was not received until a year later:

**Minto-Chipman** (1st year; replaces former separate Minto and Chipman counts)

Dec. 30, 2005; 08:30–17:30. Overcast, 20-30mm rain; temp. 8 to 4°C; wind SE, 25-30 km/h for part of day. accumulated snow melt and rain on ground; water? 9 field observers in 6 parties, plus 5 persons at feeders; tot. party-hours, 25 (3 on foot, 22 by car); tot. party-km, 455 (5 on foot, 450 by car).

Jim Mills (compiler), Janet Crawford, Lionel Girouard, Liz Mills, Olivia, Alexa & Lorne Mills, Tim Mills.

Ruffed Grouse, 4; Bald Eagle, 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Rock Pigeon, 106; Mourning Dove, 54; Great Horned Owl, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 23; Blue Jay, 37; American Crow, 75; Common Raven, 12; Black-capped Chickadee, 216; Boreal Chickadee, 1; titmouse?, 2 (no details); Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; American Robin, 1; European Starling, 158; Am. Tree Sparrow, 18; Dark-eyed Junco, 15; Snow Bunting, 9; Pine Grosbeak, 1; Purple Finch, 10; House Finch, 10; Common Redpoll, 186; Pine Siskin, 7; Am. Goldfinch, 12; Evening Grosbeak, 116; House Sparrow, 2; grosbeaks sp. 13. Total: 1112 individuals of 30 or 31 species.

## TWO ORCHIDS

Tiffany Thornhill

This summer I confirmed that a Twayblade Orchid I had discovered last year, was indeed Auricled Twayblade (*Listera auriculata*). I found a cluster of them in the Deersdale District growing in some moss amongst some alders on a fairly sandy bank of Beadle Brook. At this point the brook is very rocky (bouldery) and the current moves swiftly – absolutely gorgeous!

I found another orchid having the main stem slightly twisted with at least 2 leafy bracts enclosing it above the very orbicu-

lar basal leaves. It was growing in a hardwood-dominated, mature mixed stand that has been selectively cut. This very rocky/bouldery area, is a well-drained site with abundant moss cover. When I took the picture last year, the flowers weren't open yet, but this year I did confirm it to be Large Round-leaved Orchid (*Platanthera orbiculata*). Since then, I have found other sites that had large colonies of Large Round-leaved Orchid.



All photos by T. Thornhill



## REMINISCENCES OF SHOREBIRDING AT GRAND MANAN

*Peter Pearce*

A deep interest in Grand Manan and its associated islands at the southwestern approaches to New Brunswick has constantly drawn me there over a period spanning half a century. Among other visitors, shorebirds in passage have historically been attracted to the area, their migrations never having failed to fascinate me. So it was that shorebird spotting became an objective or facet of so many of my trips to Grand Manan. Three localities - Castalia Marsh, Long Pond Beach, and Marsh Point and Pond, on White Head Island - were identified early as among the best for indulging in such activity, a few selected reminiscences of which are shared here.

Countless hours of watching shorebirds at Castalia over the years have yielded many memorable rewards. Some of the really special ones are as follows: a Greater Yellowlegs and a Lesser Yellowlegs side by side, motionless in black silhouette against the mirror-like surface of a shallow pond blood-red in colour in reflection of a glorious sunset; an instructional group of Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitchers close by, offering a splendid opportunity to compare and contrast the two species; Curlew Sandpipers in breeding and fall plumages; a gathering of seven Stilt Sandpipers, industriously feeding; nesting Willets; and a Canada Day Little Stint. And then there were the sound effects, the cries of the birds conjuring up images of wilderness and prompting one to ponder the mysteries of the birds' great travels to and from faraway places. They are epitomized for me in the plaintive "clee-er-who" of the Black-bellied Plover and the strident "tew-tew-tew" of the Greater Yellowlegs, warden of the marsh, if one may borrow that Redshank folk name.

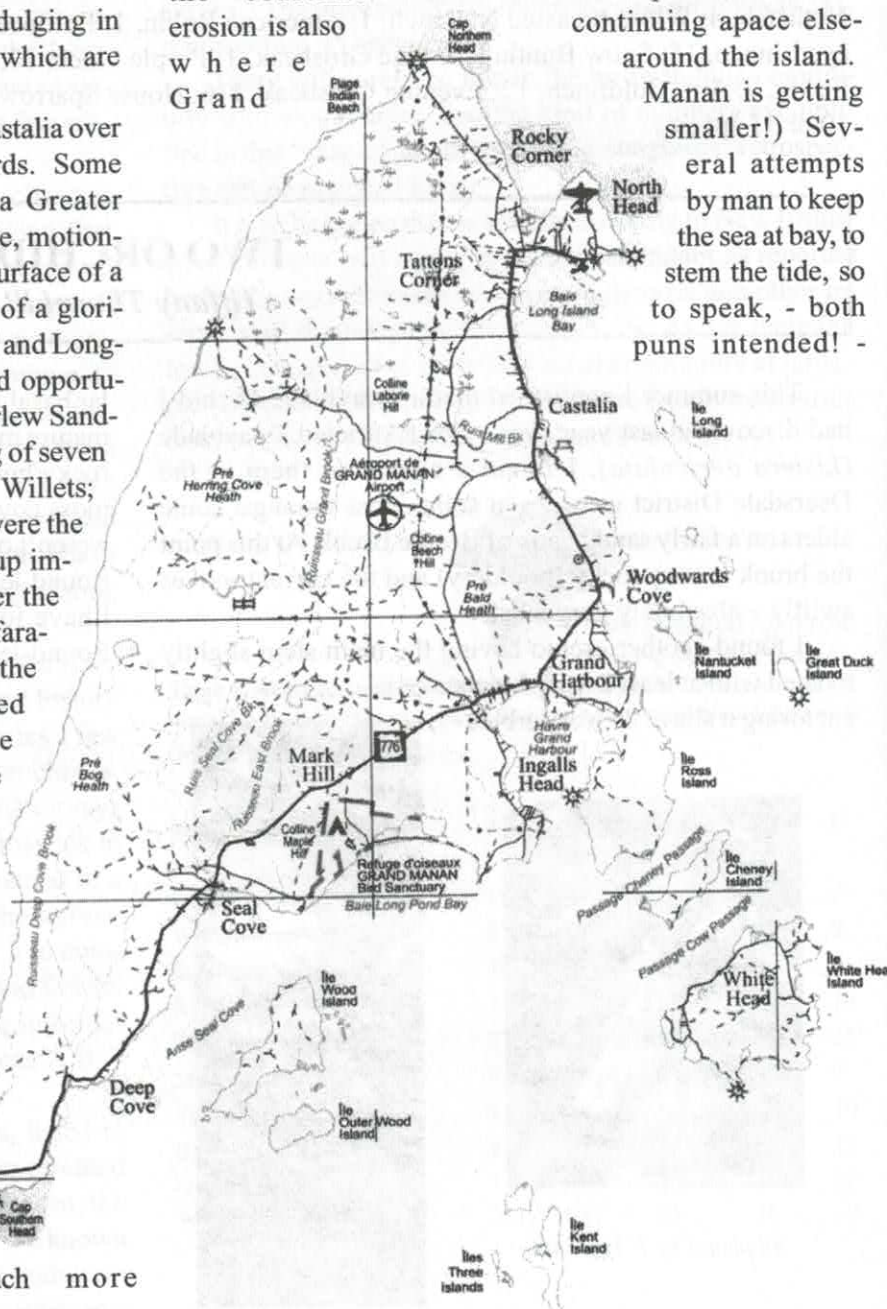
At one time shorebirds, mostly Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, numbered up to several thousand at Castalia, dowitchers and yellowlegs occurring by the hundreds. But their numbers have decreased - by an order of magnitude, one would judge - not because of population declines but because the marsh has become much less attractive to the birds than formerly. Well, that's my theory! There has certainly been a significant habitat change. The sea has been inexorably widening the outlet so that the marsh has become much more

subject to tidal flushing. What was once a highly organic site is now relatively sterile, black mud having been replaced by sand and gravel in places. A spring tide and an easterly gale can conspire to transform the marsh into a saltwater lake reaching almost to the adjacent highway where trees have already been killed. (One may speculate that the site - coniferous forest three thousand years ago - will be defined on future maps by a mere indentation of the coastline. There is ample evidence that

erosion is also  
w h e r e  
Grand

There is ample evidence that continuing apace elsewhere around the island.

Manan is getting smaller!) Several attempts by man to keep the sea at bay, to stem the tide, so to speak, - both puns intended! -





have included installation of a water-level control structure near the present picnic area, the building of a causeway across the south part of the marsh and the burying of umpteen automobile wrecks in the upper beach. All in vain, of course, the forces of nature predictably having prevailed.

Long Pond Beach extends from the foot of The Anchorage Provincial Park to the outlet of Great Pond and on towards Ox Head. It is essentially a sand beach, the only place at Grand Manan where I have seen Piping Plovers, single birds, in August, about 25 years apart. It is as good as anywhere locally to meet up with one or two Baird's Sandpipers in the fall as, apart from fellow shorebirds, they probe the algal wrack left by the tide high up the beach. I have spotted other comparative rarities at Long Pond Beach including Buff-breasted and Western Sandpipers and my second American Oystercatcher in the province. It is one of the best places on the island to see Semipalmated Plovers and Sanderlings, numbering in the low hundreds, a few individuals of the latter species lingering there late into the fall and even through the winter. (There is something peculiarly satisfying about seeing shorebirds additional to Purple Sandpipers in the depth of a New Brunswick winter.) Long Pond Beach has not changed nearly as much as Castalia Marsh. Sometimes after storms, rockweed and kelp can be piled high, and one is constantly surprised at the different configurations of the outlet of Great Pond. Sadly, washed-ashore garbage and ATVs have become much more intrusive in recent years.

There are several places around Grand Harbour where with the right timing one may confidently look for shorebirds.

One such place is near the mouth of Bradbury Brook, good for a fair number of species, and another the nearby shore towards The Thoroughfare which is usually excellent for Black-bellied Plovers, the occasional American Golden-Plover joining the throng for good measure.

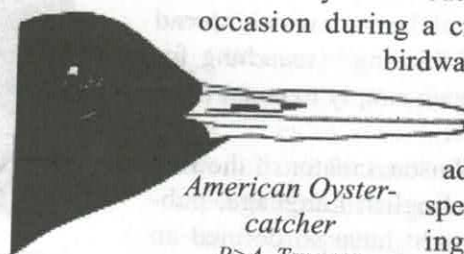
One of the most reliable places to see Whimbrels (formerly Hudsonian Curlews) is along Cow Passage between the ferry landing and Marsh Point on White Head Island. I have seen up to about 20 together there between late July and September as they fed among the rocks on an incoming tide. My encounters with Whimbrels, among my favourite shorebirds, usually precipitate the following reaction. Firstly, although the feature is hardly needed for purposes of identification, I unavoidably look for the white shaft of the outermost primary feather of the birds in flight, a curlew characteristic of which I was unaware until reading about it in the Sibley guide. Secondly, I count the

number of notes in the flight call. It is quite often seven, reminding me that a local name for the Whimbrel in Britain is "seven whistler" in the belief that the call note is repeated seven times. Lastly, I check to see if the upper rump and underwings are whitish, signifying the bird to be a vagrant of European origin sure to turn up eventually somewhere in New Brunswick.

Adjacent to Marsh Point, Marsh Pond can attract a diversity of shorebirds although the numbers of individuals are not usually great. But one never knows what sought-after bird is hidden there that can be revealed only by patient scanning.

The Basin at Three Islands (Kent, Hay and Sheep) has a reputation for attracting shorebirds. I have not visited there very much but on one celebrated

occasion during a cruise with fellow birdwatchers an American



American Oystercatcher  
P>A. Taverner

Oystercatcher acquitted itself admirably. (That is a species whose breeding range is moving northward that we may

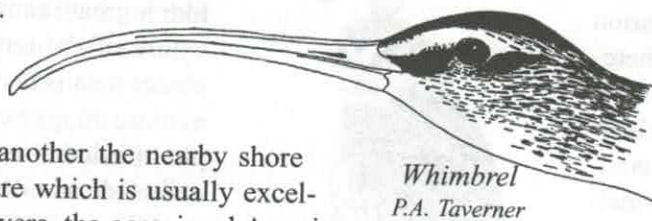
reasonably expect to nest somewhere in southwestern New Brunswick in the near future, perhaps at Three Islands.) On that trip we also enjoyed the close company of a flock of about 400 confiding and bright-looking Least Sandpipers.

Away from the shore, encounters with Red-necked and Red Phalaropes, particularly the former

species, used to be a highlight of pelagic birdwatching excursions out of Grand Manan. Still locally known as "sea geese", they probably numbered in the tens of thousands, constituting a regional wildlife spectacular to delight the onlooking naturalist. But a dramatic

change has come about such that today one can expect to see at most only a few hundred of those special seagoing shorebirds. Whether the phalaropes' relative non-presence is a function of population declines, a spatial shift in their copepod food source and thus of the birds themselves, or other factors, remains to me quite unclear.

So it is that shorebirding in the Grand Manan archipelago has been crowded with pleasant experiences. As for the next fifty years, despite physical changes the islands doubtless will continue to provide fuelling stopovers for passage migrant shorebirds rich in diversity if not high in numbers, as they have since time immemorial, and a future full of surprises and other rewards for the diligent observer.



Whimbrel  
P.A. Taverner



## OWLERS ARE STRANGE CREATURES

By Mike Lushington

*Editors Note: This article originally appeared - in a considerably abbreviated version - in M. Lushington's column 'Grains of Sand', which appears weekly in the Campbellton Tribune*

Owler - a noun: one who pursues owls. An eccentric, but usually harmless, older person who wanders about in the woods at night in early spring, supposedly in search of owls, simply to count them, while his contemporaries are warm and safe in their homes. Considered to be an aberration of the ancient practice of hunting, and of the more widely spread modern oddity of "birding" (searching for birds in general, again simply to count them - or for the fun of it).

Dr. Samuel Johnson, creator of the first Dictionary of the English Language, published in 1755, might have so defined an owler. Johnson's Dictionary is a treasure house of whimsical definitions, and I am certain that he would have been unable to resist offering a definition similar to the one I have created, had he been aware of the phenomenon of "owling." In fact, most modern dictionaries (and the Spell Check on my computer) have not yet caught up with the noun "owler" or the verb "to owl," an indication that the practice remains obscure, and therefore of rather questionable virtue, to most people in contemporary society. Or, at least that is a conclusion to which I am slowly coming, in light of several rather amusing incidents that my regular owling companion, Jim Clifford, and I have experienced in the past several years.

Each year, we undertake several Nocturnal Owl Survey routes in Far Northern New Brunswick (that is the area north of Northern New Brunswick, which, in the minds of most people in Southern New Brunswick, is somewhere around the Miramichi and which peppers out in the spruce bogs, mists, and snows beyond the Acadian Peninsula). Two of these routes take us up onto Route 180 - a road through the wilderness between Bathurst, to the east, and St. Quentin, to the northwest.



Great Horned Owl 4



Screech Owl 4



Barred Owl 4



Short-eared Owl 4

This road, euphemistically referred to by politicians and other dreamers when it was made as "The Road to Resources", is little more than a shortcut between the two aforementioned communities. It is nearly 150 kilometres in length and, apart from an entrance to Mount Carleton Provincial Park, and a couple of logging sites, there is absolutely nothing on it for more than 100 of those kilometres, once you get beyond the two bookend communities.

Despite its remoteness, however, it is a surprisingly well-travelled road. I have no idea what most of the traffic is all about, except that it is mainly made up of revved-up half-ton trucks and recreational vehicles of the particularly testosterone driven kind. Over the several years that we have surveyed these routes, we have tried just about every night of the week, to no avail. We resign ourselves to coping with upwards of thirty vehicles on each outing. That may not sound like a great many to some of you, but the nature of the terrain over which the road passes means that we hear the deep rumble of these things as they approach from a couple of kilometres distant and until they finally fade into silence an equal distance past us. All too often, we will be just clear of one when we will hear another - and that can be frustrating when one is trying to sort out the distant tooting of a Saw-whet owl.

(Besides, I have to confess that Jim and I are spoiled by a couple of our other routes where seeing a vehicle is cause for comment, and encountering two has us muttering about traffic congestion.)

The remoteness of the highway is cause for considerable curiosity on the part of those drivers when they encounter a vehicle stopped along the side of the road, and two middle-aged, white-bearded gentlemen wan-



dering idly about, staring into the dark, and not even talking to each other. Most of them slow down, but when I wave in what I hope is a politely dismissive manner, they proceed on their way. Some, though, will roll down a window and call out to see if we need any help; I assure them that we are fine, and off they go, no doubt feeling that they had done their Good Samaritan thing and that if two old guys want to stand around in the middle of the woods in the middle of the night, that is their business.

Still others will stop and engage me in conversation. (Jim always manages to disappear just about when this begins to happen – no doubt thinking that he has just heard a Long-eared owl in the distance that requires his full and undivided attention.) This is when I am forced to confess what we are really up to. When my interrogators hear that we are looking for, or listening for, owls, they usually react in one of several ways:

There are those, guys always, who look at me for a moment with a rather strange little smirk on their faces – I can see them trying to puzzle it all out – after all, what are a couple of seemingly normal looking old men doing standing around out there? We don't seem to be trying to answer a call of nature (at least not of the kind that they might be thinking of) and the beer cans seem to be well hidden. Besides, who's gonna stop you if you want to have a beer in the truck where it's nice and warm? It's likely been a week since the last Mountie went by and the local DNR guys aren't lookin' for that. Having come to the conclusion, I assume, that we really don't have much in common to talk about (and it not appearing that I am going to offer them a beer), they roll up their windows and move along.

Some, though, want to follow up on this intriguing idea of actually looking for owls. They will allow that they actually saw an owl, once, a big white one (usually) but that they didn't think that there were that many of them around. They will ask me if we actually find owls, and I al-



Saw-whet Owl 4



Screech Owl 4



Northern Hawk Owl 2



Long-eared Owl 4



Snowy Owl 3



Short-eared Owl 1

low that, yes, on occasion, we do. I learned early on with these guys (again, it is always guys) that you have to be careful here. We were having a particularly good night one time when a fellow of this persuasion stopped and began to question me. When I told him that, in fact we had found six or seven owls already that night, he laughed the kind of laugh that is usually reserved for those who are known to stretch the truth a bit, or who have probably lost all contact with reality – and what are you really doing, standing around out here in the middle of the night, in the middle of the woods, anyway? So, now, I just admit that, yes, on occasion, we get lucky and find one or two.

Women, the few of them that we encounter, are usually fascinated; "Oh, owls", they coo, "They're so cool. Do you think that you can find one for me?" (The women we have encountered out there are always passengers – no self-respecting woman who is alone is even going to stop to see what two old guys are doing out there in the middle of the woods, in the middle of the night. No self-respecting woman is likely to be out driving around in the middle of the woods in the middle of the night in any case, at least not in my experience.)

And then there was T-Guy – at least that was what it said on the licence plate of his truck.

We were at stop six of our run. It had not been a particularly profitable night thus far; it was cold, and there had been considerable traffic. I was already beginning to fantasize about the warm drive home, the snack, the leisurely bath, and a late night to bed when I heard the deep growl of one of those monster half tons – the kind that runs on steroids and copious quantities of gasoline – the kind, I must add, that I have never seen doing anything remotely associated with what they are supposedly designed to do, which is to haul stuff around. He approached from behind, which meant that he must have spotted Jim, perhaps a hundred meters down the road, before he saw our vehicle and then me. I could tell from the motor sounds that he was debating whether to stop at all, but curiosity



finally got the better of him, and when he got to where I was standing, he came to a stop, and power-rolled down his passenger-side window.

"Ca va?"

"Ca marche" I replied, thinking that that might be the end of the conversation.

"Que faites vous?"

Oh, well, I thought, here we go. "Nous cherchons pour les hibous", I responded, deciding to use the colloquial name for owls.

There was a long pause and then he responded. "Hibou? Je ne comprends pas 'hibou' - I not understand 'hibou' ". (I have never been able to fool anyone for more than a phrase or two that French is my native language.)

I thought for a moment and ventured "Tu sais, les gros oiseaux de la nuit? Les hibous!"

He was beginning to get a bit restless, I could see. He shrugged his shoulders.

"Chouette rayee? Petite nyctale?" I was getting nowhere, so I decided to shift to English - what the heck? "We're looking for owls," I said and then repeated,

"O w w l l s".

A light dawned. "Ah, wolf!" he exclaimed, "wolf - A h h o o u u!"

"No, no, not wolf" and then, "You know, 'Le Grand-duc d'Amerique'."

Even as I said it, I knew that I shouldn't



Great Gray Owl 1



Barred Owl 4



Burrowing Owl 2



Barn Owl 4

have. To compound things, just then the playback tape erupted into the maniacal cry of the Boreal owl. The effect on my would-be Samaritan was stunning. He suddenly took a frantic look over his shoulder - probably just remembering that there was a second weird old guy lurking out there in the dark and probably sneaking up on him from behind. I realized, too, that in my efforts to communicate, I had been leaning more and more into the cab.

"Ah, tank you! Tank you! Dat's alright! I understand! Bon soir, bon soir!" He hit the power switch on his window so quickly that I nearly lost my right hand, jerked the truck into some forward gear with a clank, floored the accelerator, and spun off down the road, no doubt convinced that he had narrowly escaped some harrowing experience, probably of the alien kind.

I could hear him telling his buddies about his experience, about these two weird old, white-bearded guys standing around in the middle of the woods, in the middle of the night, playing really weird music from a ghetto blaster, while waiting for the appearance of some "grand-duc", no doubt some cult god who was going to whisk them away to a place beyond Jupiter where they could resume looking for their "hibous."

Graphics by: 1 - L.A. Fuertes, 2 - A. Brooks, 3 - P.A. Taverner, 4 - E.J. Sawyer



Cuban Screech Owl

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## BIRDING DOWN THE RIVER

*Peter Pearce*

A chemical contaminants study with which I was involved in the summer of 1971 required a ten-day passage, by water, of the Saint John River in New Brunswick. An incidental activity was the recording of the numbers of aquatic, shore, and other birds observed daily. About 400 km of the river from Clair to Grand Bay was run, the lower part below Beechwood between 9 and 16 July and the upper stretch from Clair to Beechwood from 20 to 22 July. Sharp-eyed student assistants Stephen Homer and Richard Poulin were assigned to the project. Imagine it! Two men in a boat - a canoe equipped with a small outboard motor - cruising down the river, spotting birds. That was quite a job - but someone had to do it! (But it wasn't all fun and games - there were much more demanding aspects of the task at hand.) From Clair to Grand Falls the intrepid ex-

plorers of course stayed on the Canadian side of the river. Stretches of both east and west banks were followed from Grand Falls to Fredericton because the project called for stops above and below the mouths of major tributary streams. Below Fredericton, one shore (the west one) was more or less consistently followed to save the time criss-crossing the wider river would have taken.

For the purpose of recording observations the portion of river surveyed was divided into three, roughly equal sections; Clair to Beechwood, Beechwood to Keswick, and Keswick to Grand Bay (essentially the estuarial part of the river). Table 1 presents data collected on the kinds and numbers of birds observed, and provides a crude baseline against which change may be assessed.

Table 1. Aquatic, shore, and other birds observed along the mainstream Saint John River in July 1971.

Species / River Section*	A	B	C	Entire River
American Black Duck	70	62	88	220
Other dabblers	1	13	5	19
Common Goldeneye	27	16	40	83
Common Merganser	163	39	9	211
Common Loon	6	4	6	16
Double-crested Cormorant	0	1	61	62
Great Blue Heron	2	2	9	13
Green Heron	6	0	2	8
Black-crowned Night-Heron	20	2	0	22
Osprey	4	2	16	22
Bald Eagle	0	3	3	6
Killdeer	21	43	6	70
Spotted Sandpiper	206	193	97	496
Wilson's Snipe	5	0	0	5
Transient shorebirds	62	8	25	95
Herring Gull	103	305	111	519
Great Black-backed Gull	2	125	78	205
Common Tern	3	74	111	188
Black Tern	0	0	20	20
Belted Kingfisher	44	20	14	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>2358</b>

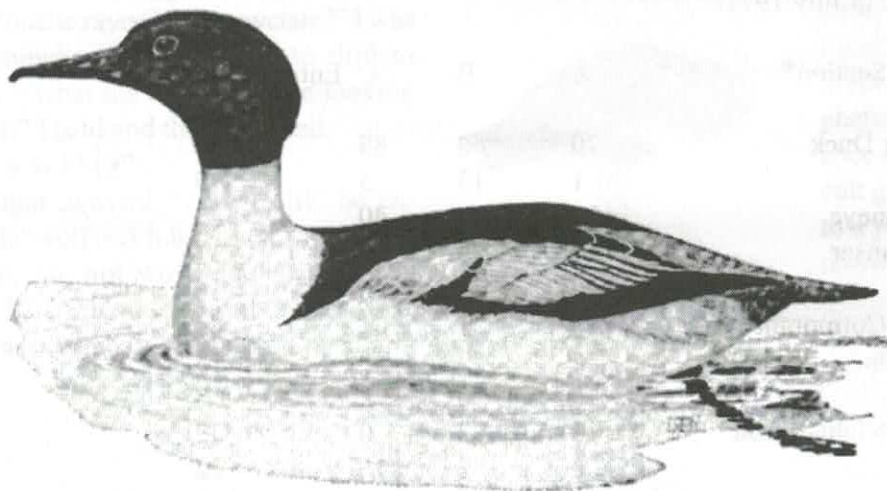
\*River Sections



- A. Clair to Beechwood
- B. Beechwood to Keswick
- C. Keswick to Grand Bay

The following comments on data and identification of species highlight changes over the past three decades.

1. The American Black Duck total includes 17 broods averaging 4.6 young. Among the other dabbling ducks there was only one Mallard. Contrast that with what one finds today when, at certain times and places, Mallards may even out-number blacks.
2. The Common Goldeneye total includes eight broods, averaging 4.9 birds.
3. Not listed is the Common Eider, two of which were spotted at Florenceville.
4. As might be expected, most of the Common Mergansers were encountered on the faster water of the upper river, between Clair and Woodstock, the further-



*Common Merganser*  
Drawing by R.I. Brasher

most reach of the Mactaquac headpond, usually in groups of ten to 20. Curiously, no broods were seen.

5. Loons were fairly evenly distributed.
6. Nearly all the cormorants were between Jemseg and Grand Bay. Today they are much more common elsewhere along the valley, especially at Fredericton and Mactaquac.
7. Only eight Green Herons were spotted, but that is probably eight more than one might expect to see

today on a repeat survey.

8. Most of the Black-crowned Night-Herons were in the vicinity of Edmundston, where there was a nesting colony.
9. No nests of Ospreys or Bald Eagles were seen.
10. The numbers of Spotted Sandpipers, the species that was the focus of the study, were swelled by young birds.
11. Most of the transient shorebirds were Least Sandpipers.
12. Only five Ring-billed Gulls were seen. They were between Clair and Prime. That species has now become so common, especially in migration in the lower Saint John River valley, and there are a number of breeding colonies in the province.
13. A similar survey today would undoubtedly reveal a lot more Great Black-backed Gulls.
14. Three small Common Tern colonies were discovered - one near the mouth of the Presquile River, others near Sugar Island and on Hog Island.
15. Black Terns are a lot more common now on the marshes associated with the lower river.
16. (Thirteen Bank Swallow colonies were also noted.)

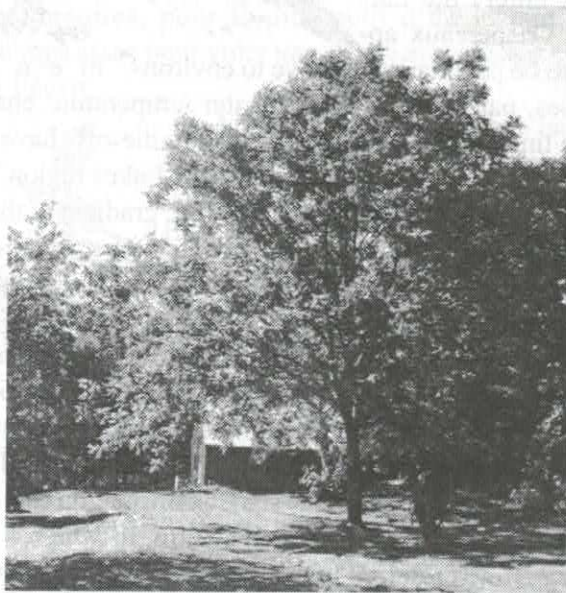
In summary, it can be said that several of the species met with on the river are now enjoying a much greater abundance than in 1971, good news when so many birds are in decline. But it might be argued by some that Mallards, cormorants, and the larger gulls are perhaps becoming a little too common. In any case it would be most interesting if the survey was to be repeated, using the same protocol, so that numerical comparisons between two sets of data could be documented. Any takers?



## THE BATTLE FOR BUTTERNUTS

By Debby Peck

When I was a child, the battle for butternuts (*Juglans cinerea*) was an annual war with squirrels, which had the uncanny knack of knowing just when the fruit of these wonderful trees was ripe and ready to fall to the ground. Would my grandfather and I manage to get there first each September, or would the squirrels beat us to it? Would we have a big burlap bag of butternuts to store in the basement for the winter, or would the squirrels have the satisfaction of knowing that they had sufficient nuts buried in the ground



*Butternut tree at Peck Residence*

to see them through the upcoming cold months of the year?

Now that I live on the land where my grandfather and I made our annual search for butternuts, I have the advantage of being able to keep a close eye on the dozen or so mature trees that I collected nuts from back then. I also have the privilege of seeing many younger trees growing from the buried nuts that the squirrels never manage to find each winter. This close proximity has given me the opportunity to witness another battle for the butternut, however.

It isn't about the nuts anymore, but about the trees themselves. You see, most of the mature butternut trees around our home are now infected with the most serious threat to their health and longevity...the butternut canker. According to experts on the subject, this fungal disease (caused

by *Sirococcus clavigignenti-juglandacearum*) has been found in the majority of trees within the species' entire North American range. Butternut trees have already disappeared from many parts of the United States. The cankers caused by the fungus are elongated, sunken, black blemishes that form under the bark of twigs, branches or stems of infected trees. They are hard to notice in this state. In the spring, cracks in the cankers may exude a blackish fluid. In the summer, the cankers may appear as sooty black patches with whitish margins. As the disease spreads through the tree, nut production will stop and affected branches will die. Eventually the whole butternut tree will perish.

With the tragic threat from this fungus has come a degree of protection for Butternuts. They have now been listed by COSEWIC (Committee On the Status of Endangered Wildlife In Canada) as "Endangered" in Canada (Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick).

But it may soon be that I have to rely on my memory to know the taste of nutmeat freshly cracked from a butternut. There is no known cure or protection for butternut canker. I understand that research is currently ongoing in pursuit of resistant strains of this magnificent tree, which I hope, for both my sake and the squirrels, is an effort that leads to their successful future in this region's flora.

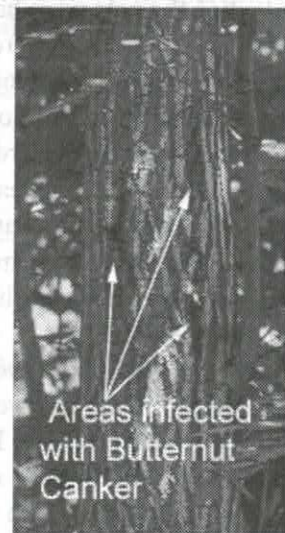


Photo: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service,  
United States



## AN ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER?

*Peter Pearce*

There was a fire at the mine. And yellow, powder-like "stuff" was just about everywhere. There were dead birds on the seashore and dead fish in the river. Where and when? At Bathurst in late June 1971. An environmental disaster? Mmm...possibly, but could the events be linked? Were the bird and fish kills significant? Curiosity overcame some doubt regarding the importance of the report from the Baie des Chaleurs and so I went to Bathurst to join two provincial officials for a day to try to resolve those questions.

We first searched for bird carcasses along the shore at Carron Point, Youghall, Middle River and Beresford. At Youghall we found a Common Loon and along a one-kilometre stretch of beach at Beresford we discovered four Common

Loons, two Red-throated Loons - surprising, really, since that species is quite uncommon in New Brunswick in summer - and a Herring Gull. The birds were near the tidemark and had been dead probably for at least a week. We found no carcasses at Carron Point, nor at Middle River where a local homeowner had reported seeing several. A few dead birds brought into the the New Brunswick Forest Service office were identified as gulls and promptly discarded.

Some local fishermen near Beresford said they occasionally find dead birds in their nets. They were either thrown overboard when the nets were hauled or extricated later on shore. We did find one Red-throated Loon entangled in nets piled on the beach. (The commercial salmon-netting season had opened in the region a month before our visit.) Perhaps that particular hazard to diving birds is not rare: In mid-June the year before dead Common Loons were found on the beach near Bathurst and I have observed the entrapment of Double-crested Cormorants in fish nets set in Bathurst Harbour. As for the gulls, we are unable to suggest how they met their end.

During our visit two dead ducks were found on an island in Bathurst Harbour. Although we did not see them we concluded that they were probably Red-breasted Mergansers. The year before I had found a number of nests of that species on several of the islands in the harbour but no evidence that other ducks nested there. It may have been that the birds were drowned in nets set in the bay and then swept into the harbour by the strong tidal rip at its entrance.

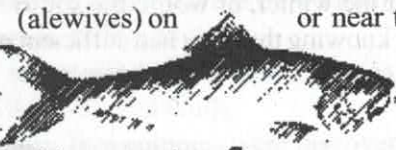
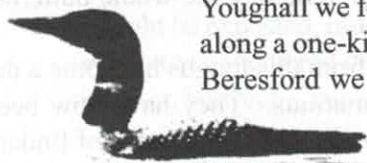
An alternative theory is that they were killed by a dog which had gained access to one of the islands by a temporary bridge exposed by exceptionally high low spring tides. Merganser nests are usually well concealed in the beach grass and incubating birds will flush only when nearly stepped on. A dog could easily catch a sitting bird.

We found about twenty dead and a few *expiring* *gaspereaux* (alewives) on shore where Middle River enters the harbour. Gaspereaux appear to be peculiarly sensitive to environmental stresses, particularly sudden water temperature changes, at the time of spawning runs. Massive die-offs have often been recorded, especially in the Great Lakes region. There may well be a sharp water temperature gradient in the area where we found the dead fish. We noted other, smaller fish there which we were unable to identify and which appeared to be behaving normally.

The yellow powder that was widespread in Bathurst Harbour and along the Baie des Chaleurs - conspicuous along the tidemark and extending several metres out from the seashore, deterring would-be bathers - seemed to be pollen, as suspected from the start. Confirmation came from the Maritimes Forest Research Centre, to which I sent a sample. It was referred to the pine genus. There must have been a particularly heavy pollen flow at that time, almost certainly by Jack pine, a relatively late-flowering tree, forest stands of which are quite common in northeastern New Brunswick.

As for the incident at the mine, it seems that there was indeed a fire burning then in waste sulphide material at a base metals operation some 25 km from Bathurst. We did not visit the site, assuming that any adverse environmental impact would have been quite local. The thought occurred that perhaps some people thought the yellow powder was sulphur somehow related to that incident.

We concluded that manifestations of four quite unrelated events, happening more or less concurrently, were witnessed and connected by people seeking the comfort of the seashore at the onset of the first really hot weather of the summer. That the matter came to the attention of the outside world at all we attribute to an awakening of public awareness of and concern for threats to the environment.





## LE SILENCE DU MATIN

Yolande LeBlanc

Dans la solitude d'un matin de congé d'août, je m'assoie dehors avec mon café. Je deviens consciente que le vent, rarement si calme, ne se laisse entendre. Le silence est total.

Les corneilles, toujours fiables, sont les premières à faire entendre leur présence, et se répondent de gauche à droite, de près et de loin.

Les familles de mésanges, avec les nouveaux bébés enfin sortis du nid, se promènent d'arbres en arbres, ramassant des insectes ici et là. Ensuite, elles se posent sur les mangeoires, pour le plus petit d'un instant, juste longtemps assez pour voler une graine et se sauver la manger à l'écart.



Autour des fleurs de mon jardin et des abreuvoirs suspendues dans l'air, bourdonnent plusieurs oiseaux-mouches. Ils se baladent, se poursuivent, se chicanent, mais s'arrêtent quant même pour se nourrir des nombreuses plantes offertes à leur dégustation.

Les multiples abeilles butinent à leur tour, tantôt les cœurs saignants, tantôt les spirées, les goûtant toutes en quête des plus riches en nourriture juteuse.

Mon oreille perçoit, de loin, le tambourinement maladroit d'un pic mineur, qui pratique le rythme qui lui apportera sûrement une compagne le printemps prochain. Ou encore, est-il en train de creuser dans les arbres morts

pour les insectes qui y sont présents, même si on ne peut pas les voir.

Le soleil commence à réchauffer l'air et voici les papillons qui s'en viennent réclamer, eux aussi, leur portion de fleurs favorites. Ils ont bien l'air fragile ces délicats voltigeurs. Le vent les bouscule, les chevauche, jamais ils ne suivent une ligne droite. Mais je vois qu'ils se rendent éventuellement où ils désirent, sur les fleurs les plus hautes, les plus pleines de nectar, que la nature en a désigné la construction spécialisée pour ces créatures.



Un faisan, énervé par ma présence trop près de son déjeuner, brise le calme de la matinée en protestant bruyamment. Ce bel oiseau, aux couleurs surprenantes, disparaît en volant et en criant, me laissant avec un sentiment de culpabilité.

Dans le marais, les bernaches se rencontrent, s'amassent en nombre grandissant, pour se nourrir pendant plusieurs semaines dans les champs de foin, avant de s'envoler finalement vers le pays de leur hiver.

La matinée disparaît avec le temps. Le vent augmente et agite, de plus en plus, les feuilles des trembles. Les oiseaux chantent leur enthousiasme, mes voisins commencent à circuler. Je m'aperçois que, malgré mon appréciation, le silence s'efface.

## IT IS NOT GROWING LIKE A TREE

Ben Jonson

It is not growing like a tree  
In bulk, doth make man better be;  
Or standing long an oak, three hundred year,  
To fall a log at last, dry, balk, and sear:  
A lily of a day,  
Is fairer far, in May,  
Although it fall and die that night;  
It was the plant and flow'r of light.  
In small proportions, we just beauties see;  
And in short measures, life may perfect be.



## MORNING SILENCE

*Yolande LeBlanc*



Alone on an August holiday, I sit outside with my coffee. I become aware that I can't hear the wind in the trees. It's seldom so calm. The silence is total.

The crows, always dependable, are the first to betray their presence. They start calling left and right, near and far.

The chickadee families, with the newly fledged babies, are going to and fro, gleaning insects here and there. They land on the feeders, for the shortest of an instant, just long enough to steal a seed, and fly off to savour it away from the traffic.

Around the flowers of my garden, and the hanging nectar feeders, are buzzing several hummingbirds. They fly all around, chase each other, fight, but still stop to enjoy the numerous plants offering their bounty.

Numerous bees are gathering nectar, in turn, from the Bleeding Hearts to the Spireas, back & forth, tasting them all to find the most succulent ones.

My ear pick up, the distant awkward drumming of a Downy Woodpecker, practicing the rhythm that will surely

win him a companion next spring. Or is he drilling in the dead trees for the insects that are there, even if we can't see them?

The sun is warming the air and here come the butterflies, claiming their share of the flowers. These delicate flyers seem fragile. The wind jostles them around, they never fly in a straight line. But I see they eventually reach the spot they aim for, the tallest, juiciest flowers, the ones nature designed specially for these creatures.

A pheasant, unnerved by my presence too close to his breakfast, breaks the silence by protesting loudly. This beautiful bird, of surprising colours, flies off noisily, leaving me feeling guilty, just for being there.

In the marsh, the Canada Geese are meeting, gathering in growing numbers, to feed in the hay fields for several weeks, before finally lifting off and leaving for their winter country.

With time, the morning disappears. The wind increases and, increasingly, agitates the aspen leaves. The birds are singing their enthusiasm and my neighbours start circulating. I notice that, even though I appreciated it, the silence is dying.



## WORDS FOR BIRDS

*Peter Pearce*

Readers are invited to groan over the following.

A crystal flower is a glassy iris.

A Canadian snow clearer is a northern shoveler.

An inebriated conduit smoother is a potted pipe sander.

A short-term job is a little stint.

A big-mouthed duchess is a long-billed dowager.

A skeleton bird is a bony parts gull.

A French sweetheart is a European darling.

A sad drunkard is a mourning wobbler.

A buff-shirted imp is a yellow-chested brat.

A loose adolescent is a scarlet teenager.



## BLUE JAYS — THE ULTIMATE MIMICS

*Julie Sigleton*

As many of you know, Blue Jays are wonderful mimics. When my husband, Robert and I, first moved to our current home, 13 years ago, we noticed Blue Jays often hiding in the branches of a balsam fir tree, near the bird feeders, imitating Red-shouldered Hawk calls.

The following summer brought a pair of Broad-winged Hawks nesting near our property. Since that time we have always observed a pair of hawks, and sometimes fledged young each year. These hawks fly over our house regularly calling and soaring.

Before long, we began hearing Broad-winged Hawk calls coming from unusual places in our yard. You guessed it - the Jays began imitating the Broad-winged Hawks. We've watched them rush the feeder with wings outstretched, imitating the Broad-winged Hawk call. This usually sends all the other birds and squirrels rushing for cover! It appears to be a great strategy for getting control of the feeder.



This summer, it appears that a pair of Merlins may be nesting near our property. They have been observed mating, calling noisily and hunting the bird feeder area regularly. One day, while working in the yard, we heard the Merlins calling – but couldn't locate them. Then, I noticed a Jay perched on the top of a small white spruce tree near-by. It had its back to us, but the sound seemed to be coming from the same location. The bird flitted to another tree, facing us, and sure enough – the jay was imitating the Merlin's call!

It's amazing how the jays change their calls, depending on the time of year and/or depending on the raptor in the vicinity that is the greatest threat. It will be interesting to see how many more calls they can imitate in the coming years.

## PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROY LAPOINTE



*Lincoln's Sparrow*



*American Three-toed Woodpecker*



*Northern Hawk Owl*



## BOTANY CORNER — SEASIDE GOLDENROD (*Solidago sempervirens*)

Gart Bishop, Kennebecasis Naturalists

Goldenrods are perennial plants which are very much a part of our summer and fall flowers. They add a splash of bright yellow in many different habitats. For those plant enthusiasts brave enough to try to identify a specimen to species, they are often met with less than totally convincing results. However, Seaside Goldenrod is different. It is relatively easy to identify.



Seaside Goldenrod  
Drawing by F.S. Mathews

Seaside Goldenrod grows abundantly throughout New Brunswick's salt marshes and on coastal dunes. It also can be found near inland salt springs or along the shoulders of highways where the winter road salt creates an artificial coastal environment. Not only does it enjoy being bathed in a salty mist, or growing in salt saturated soils, it thrives in the upper reaches of the intertidal zone where it is subjected to being drowned by sea water twice a day. Its thick,

fleshy leaves have smooth margins (no little teeth) and are largest at the plant's base and get progressively smaller higher up the hairless stem. The basal leaves are lance-shaped and up to 35 cm long. The bright yellow flowers line up on one-sided, arching branches to form a thick, plume-like flowering head (inflorescence). The distribution of its seeds is aided by small dandelion-like parachutes of white hairs. Found in eastern North America, from Quebec to Newfoundland south to Florida and Texas. Goldenrods are frequently blamed for hay fever, but the pollen of Goldenrods is too large to be distributed by wind, and therefore the flowers must rely on insects for pollination, giving bees, wasps and butterflies a final feast before the fall. However, Goldenrods bloom at the same time as the true culprit — Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) whose small, green, inconspicuous flowers are wind pollinated and often go unnoticed and blameless through the hay fever season.

Thomas Edison cultivated Goldenrods in order to extract a latex he used to produce a long lasting and resilient rubber. Many species of North American Goldenrod have been grown in Europe for over 100 years. Although North America boasts of the greatest number of species of Goldenrod, there are native species in Europe. Medicinally some species of Goldenrod have been used for centuries in the treatment of kidney stones, urinary tract infections, and a variety of other medical conditions. The genus name *Solidago* is Latin for "to make whole," referring to its historical use as a wound-healing drug.

### References

- Hinds, H.R. 2000. Flora of New Brunswick. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Biology Department, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB.
- Goldenrod. (2007, August 16). In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 17:37, August 21, 2007, from <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Goldenrod&oldid=151598032>



## NATURE NEWS: INVERTEBRATES

### MARCH 1 TO MAY 31, 2007

Dwayne L. Sabine

#### Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths)

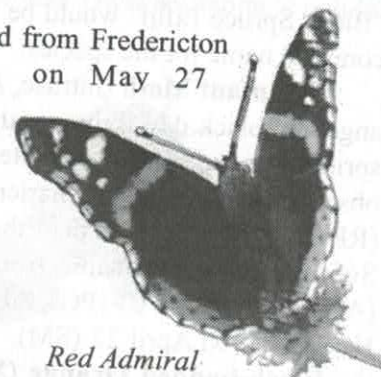
The earliest butterfly report this year was a **Milbert's Tortoiseshell** (petite vanesse; *Nymphalis milberti*) at Fredericton on March 24 (DS). Adults of this species overwinter and become active during warm spells in early spring. Additional spring reports of Milbert's Tortoiseshells came from Fredericton on April 21 (AWT), English Settlement on April 22 (JS), Central Hampstead on May 2 (MC), and Summerville on May 26 (RB). The much less common **Compton's Tortoiseshell** (grande vanesse; *Nymphalis vaualbum j-album*) was also reported from several locations: Hampstead, April 22 (SM); English Settlement, April 22 (JS); and St. George, May 27 (RB).

**Mourning Cloaks** (morio; *Nymphalis antipoo*) were not reported until April 12 on Grand Manan in the extreme south of the province (DI). They began to turn up in numbers on the mainland in southern NB about a week later, with reports from Fredericton (AWT), Jemseg (BS), and Saint John (MC) on April 20; Hampstead on April 22 (SM); Nauwigewauk on April 24 and Quispamsis on April 25 (JW); and Saint-Antoine on April 26 (ML). It was more than 3 weeks after that first Grand Manan report before Mourning Cloaks were observed in the extreme north of the province, when one was seen at Sugarloaf Mountain near Campbellton on May 6 (MGD).

New Brunswick has a half dozen species of **Commas** (polygone; *Polygonia* sp.) that also overwinter as adults. Individuals reported this spring included **Eastern Commas** (polygone virgule; *Polygonia comma*) from Quispamsis on April 23 & 25 (JW) and from Harcourt on May 26-27 (DD); a **Green Comma** (Polygone à taches vertes; *Polygonia faunus*) at the Acadia Forest Research Station on May 8 (AWT); and **Gray Commas** (Polygone gris; *Polygonia progne*) at Pellerin on May 26 and at Harcourt on May 26-27 (DD).

The first of the migrant butterflies reported this spring - arriving here from the south - was the **Red Admiral** (vulcain; *Vanessa atalanta*). Reggie Webster noted many Red Admirals at various parts of the province between the Fundy coast and the Restigouche River during the week of May 22-26. Other Red Admirals were reported from Mary's Point on May 25 (DC), Pellerin on May 26 and at Harcourt

on May 26-27 (DD), and from Fredericton on May 26 and Douglas on May 27 (AWT). This was the start of a massive migration of Red Admirals that brought unusually high numbers into most of the province over the following month. **Monarchs** (monarque; *Danaus plexippus*) followed up their phenomenal 2006 season with another early start this year: the first spring arrivals were seen on May 26 at Black Beach in Saint John (EP) and at Dieppe (RA).



Red Admiral  
Photograph by Chris Adam



Monarch  
Photograph by  
Chris Adam

more or less typical. **Spring Azures** (azur printanier; *Celastrina ladon lucia*) were first reported from Nashwaaksis on April 22 (CA) and May 22 (AWT); Acadia Forest Research Station on May 14 & 24 (AWT), Utopia on May 26 (RB) and at Harcourt on May 26-27 (DD). **Cabbage Whites** (piéride du chou; *Pieris rapae*) were noted flying at Saint John on April 24 (MC) (JP); English Settlement on May 11 (JS); Fredericton on May 12 (AWT); Nashwaaksis on May 22 (AWT), Pellerin on May 26 (DD); and Harcourt on May 26-27 (DD). **Canadian Tiger Swallowtails** (papillon tigré du Canada; *Papilio canadensis*) were first reported from Fredericton on May 28 (DS, MS) and Acadia Forest Research Station on May 30 (AWT), two weeks later than last year's exceptionally early flight. Tony Thomas noted a **Meadow Fritillary** (boloria des prés; *Boloria bellona*) active on May 22 at Nashwaaksis.

Only two reports of Elfins were received. Tony Thomas found **Brown Elfins** (lutin brun; *Callophrys augustinus*), **Bog Elfins** (lutin des tourbières; *Callophrys lanoraieensis*) and **Eastern Pine Elfins** (lutin des pins;



*Callophrys niphon clarki*) at the Acadia Forest Research Station on May 24. Interestingly, Reggie Webster found the same three species in a red pine stand at Tracy on May 8. Despite its common name, the Bog Elfin is often found in dry habitats where its larval host plant, Black Spruce (*épinette noire*; *Picea mariana*), is found. Reggie notes that "Black Spruce Elfin" would be a much more appropriate common name for the species.

The **Infant Moth** (intruse, *Brefos infans*), a small orange and black day-flying moth commonly seen in early spring, was out and about quite early this year. The first observation came from Charter Settlement on March 24 (RPW), a week earlier than the earliest report last year. Subsequent reports came from Fredericton on April 4 (AWT) and April 10 (PG), Alma on April 12 (EJ), and Hampstead on April 22 (SM). Another day-flying moth, the **Black-banded Orange** (Variegated Orange Moth) (*Epelis [Macaria] truncataria*) was reported by Tony Thomas from the Acadia Forest Research Station on May 24.

### Odonata (Damselflies and Dragonflies)

A teneral (newly-emerged) **Whiteface** (esp. leucorrhine; *Leucorrhinia* spp.) examined by Leon Vietinghoff on May 11 furnished the first dragonfly record for the year - remarkably early given the cool spring weather this year. Other reports of Whitefaces this spring included **Hudsonian Whitefaces** (leucorrhine hudsonienne; *Leucorrhinia hudsonica*) at the Acadia Research Forest on May 24 & 31, with a large emergence underway on the latter date (AWT); Pellerin on May 26 (DD), and Harcourt on May 26-27 (DD).

Gilles Belliveau found an Emerald at Fredericton on May 22; probably an **American Emerald** (cordulie de Shurtleffer; *Cordulia shurtleffi*) given the early date. Four days later (May 26), Gilles found a few **Baskettails** (épiphèque; *Epithea* sp.) as well as a **Springtime Darner** (aeschne printanière; *Basiaeschna janata*) at the same site. Denis Doucet noted several freshly-emerged **Beaverpond Baskettails** (épiphèque canine; *Epithea canis*) at Pellerin

on May 26 and at Harcourt on May 26-27. At the latter site, **American Emeralds** and **Ebony Boghaunter** (cordulie bistrée; *Williamsonia fletcheri*) were also present.

The first damselfly reports received were of an Eastern Forktail (agrion vertical; *Ischnura verticalis*) at Fredericton on May 29 (DS) and teneral Northern Bluet (agrion porte-coupes; *Enallagma cyathigerum*) at Fredericton on May 29 & 30 (GB).

### Miscellaneous species

Jeremy Gullison noted **Winter Stoneflies** (plécoptère d'hiver; Capniidae and Taeniopterygidae) crawling on snow along the Nashwaak River on April 6.

Six-spotted Tiger Beetles, a conspicuous, metallic green species, was noted at Nashwaaksis on May 9 (AWT).

Finally, Denis Doucet encountered three species of lady beetles at Pellerin on May 26: **Southern Lady Beetle** (coccinelle asiatique multicolore; *Harmonia axyridis*).

### Seven-spotted Lady Beetle

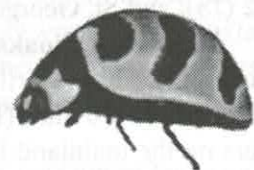
(coccinelle à 7 points;

*Coccinella septempunctata*),

### and Three-banded Lady Beetles

(coccinelle à trois bandes;

*Coccinella trifasciata*)



Three-banded Lady Beetle

Photograph by Chris Adam

### Abbreviations: AWT

Tony Thomas, BS

Beverley Schneider, CA Chris Adam, DC David

Christie, DD Denis Doucette, DI Durlan Ingersoll, DS

Dwayne Sabine, EJ Elena Johnson, EP Eileen Pike, GB

Gilles Belliveau, JP Joan Pearce, JS Julie Singleton, JW

Jim Wilson, MC Merv Cormier, MGD Margaret Gallan

Doyle, ML Mike LeBlanc, MS Mary Sabine, PG Pascal

Giasson, RA Ronald Arsenault, RB Roger Burrows,

RPW Reggie Webster, SM Scott Makepeace.

## WHITE BUTTERFLIES

A.C. Swinburne

Fly, white butterflies, out to sea,  
Frail, pale wings for the wind to try,  
Small white wings that we scarce can see,  
Fly!

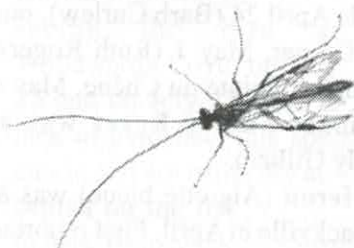
Some fly light as a laugh of glee,  
Some fly soft as a long, low sigh;  
All to the haven where each would be,  
Fly!



## INSECT PHOTOGRAPHS

Chris Adam

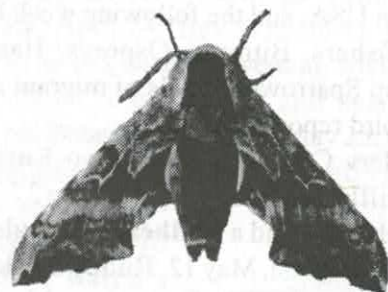
The following photographs taken by Chris Adam this summer, but unfortunately missed Dwayne Sabine's column deadline.



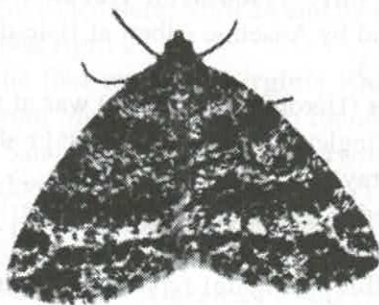
*Ichneumonid wasp (possibly  
Netelia)*  
30 April 2007 Fredericton NB



*Lunate Zale Moth*  
31 May 2007, Fredericton NB



*One-eyed Sphinx Moth*  
26 May, 2007, Fredericton NB



*Yellow-veined Geometer  
Moth*  
30 May 2007, Fredericton NB



*Cure-toothed Geometer  
Moth*  
30 May 2007, Fredericton NB

## DOWNY WOODPECKER TRAINING

Julie Singleton



*Downy Woodpecker*  
Drawing: F.C. Hennessey

In early July, we were visiting friends in Sheffield, which is located along the St. John River. They have a unique platform feeder, mounted on a cedar post. We noticed a male Downy Woodpecker and his newly fledged daughter at the feeder.

The youngster would run up and down the post, but once she came to the bottom of the feeder, didn't know how to get past the barrier. Meanwhile, the male would fly up to the platform feeder and pick up a

seed. He'd take the seed and place it in a crack in the cedar post holding the feeder.

When she came over to him, he would break the seed open and feed her pieces of seed. After a few sessions, the babe started checking out the cracks for herself whenever her dad left to get her another seed.

From our observations, we assumed he was teaching her to look in cracks – because that's where food comes from! After the two left the feeder we went over to check the post to find many empty sunflower seed shells in the cracks. This was an interesting learning experience for us and the young Downy!



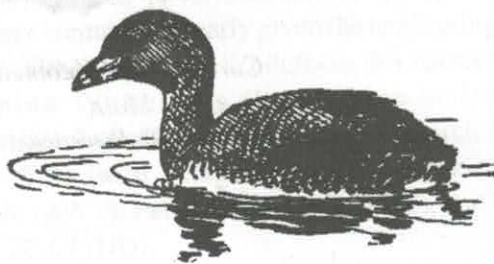
## NATURE NEWS – BIRDS (APRIL 14 – AUGUST 22, 2007)

Ken MacIntosh

On April 20, David Christie reported that radar images indicated a strong nocturnal bird migration in the north-eastern USA, and the following week had many reports of Kingfishers, Bitterns, Ospreys, Harriers, Lincoln and Swamp Sparrows. Details of migrant arrivals and uncommon bird reports follow.

Merv Cormier reported two **Eurasian Wigeon** (*Canard siffleur*) at Marsh Creek, June 27. Bernise and Roland Robichaud found a **Redhead** (*Fuligule à tête rouge*) at the Tracadie lagoon, May 12. **Ruddy Duck** (*Érismature rousse*) were reported at Fort Beausejour, May 25 (Norm & Gisèle Belliveau, Carolyn Arsenault, Stuart Tingley and Rose-Alma Mallet), and at the waste water plant near Eel River, June 2.

A sub-adult **Pacific Loon** (*Plongeon du Pacifique*) was reported at Black's Harbour, June 26 (Roger Burrows). Roger suggested this might be the same bird which was seen near White Head Island last year.



*Pied-billed Grebe*

Drawing C. Garrett

Returning **Pied-billed Grebe** (*Grèbe à bec bigarré*) were noted April 28 at Hammond River (JGW), and the same day at Calhoun Marsh, Riverside-Albert (NB and MNC field party).

There were more **Northern Fulmar** (*Fulmar boreal*) than usual lingering in the Bay of Fundy in early summer. Laurie Murison and Durlan Ingersoll submitted reports of up to several hundred individuals in June. Shearwaters were abundant by June 19 (Laurie Murison), and several jaegers were also seen.

A **Least Bittern** (*Petit Blongios*) was at the Ducks Unlimited marsh in St. George in late May (Roger Burrows, Barb Robinson). Another was at the Bell Street Marsh, Moncton, June 7 (Julie Pellerin).

Reports of **Great Egret** (*Grande Aigrette*) were of one at Saint-Jacques, August 1 (Gerard Verret), and two at

Pointe-du-Chêne in early August (Aurel Schofield).

There were many reports of **Snowy Egret** (*Aigrette neigeuse*). One was at Saints Rest (Saint John) April 24 (MC), two were at Waterside April 24 (Barb Curlew), one was found at McGowan's Corner, May 1 (Ruth Rogers, Gilles Belliveau), and another at Pointe du Chêne, May 4 (Gilles Bourque). A summer **Snowy Egret** was at Riverview, August 6 (Woody Gillies).

An early **Little Blue Heron** (*Aigrette bleue*) was at the Tantramar wetlands in Sackville in April. First reported by Sue Bowes, it was later seen by many observers. Others were at Germantown marsh, May 13 (Norm and Gisèle Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet), at Castalia, June 8 (Durlan Ingersoll), and at Whale Cove pond, June 30 (RB).

The season's only **Tricolored Heron** (*Aigrette tricolore*) was found by Anselme Albert at Baie-du-Petit-Pokemouche, June 3.

A **Cattle Egret** (*Héron garde-boeufs*) was at Shediak Cape, May 9 (Stu Tingley), and another was at Fredericton, May 14 (Don Murray).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** (*Bihoreau gris*) were noted flying by Castalia, April 25 (BD).

**Glossy Ibis** (*Ibis falcinelle*) reports came in over a somewhat extended period. Birds were seen April 24 at Fairmont Algonquin Golf Course, St. Andrews (Tracey Dean), May 3 at Lower Jemseg (two, Bev Schneider), May 4 (two at Lower Jemseg, and three at Sheffield - Linda Kneebone), June 12 at the Cormierville marsh (Louis-Émile Cormier), and finally June 20, at Val Comeau (Denise Godin and Jollande St-Pierre).

Ian Cameron reported that he and Jim Wilson made their "annual pilgrimage to the **Turkey Vulture** (*Uruba tête rouge*) nesting site near Saint John, where we first found the species nesting in 1998. The site was occupied again in each of the next four years, but no birds were seen in 2003. The site was used again in 2004, but not in 2005 or 2006. We were therefore delighted to find that it is again in use this year."

Returning **Osprey** were first noted April 22 at Digdeguash (Ralph Eldridge). A party of birders from Moncton watched what they felt was a **Red-shouldered Hawk** (*Buse à épaulettes*) on the Kingston Peninsula, June 9 (Hank and Carolyn Scarth, Bill and Marguerite Winsor, Kingston Peninsula). The first **Broad-winged Hawk** (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) report was at Miramichi, April 26 (Pam Watter)



A **Golden Eagle** (Aigle royal) was noted at Lac Frye, August 10, by tern watchers (Roger Dumaresq).

There were tantalizing second- and third-hand reports of a **Swallow-tailed Kite** (Milan à queue fourchue). Birders visiting Grand Manan Island told Durlan Ingersoll of seeing the bird at Woodward's Cove, on July 25 and on July 27. Due to lack of evidence, this species is still not officially accepted on the list of New Brunswick Birds.



*Swallow-tailed Kite*  
Drawing: R.I. Brasher

Spring arrival of **American Kestrel** (Crécerelle d'Amérique) was noted at Point Lepreau by Richard Blacquiére, April 24 and by Roger Burrows, April 25.

The first report of **Virginia Rail** (Râle de Virginie) was from Merv Cormier, who found one May 9 at Sheffield. Sandy Burnett found a **Sora** (Marouette de Caroline) at Sackville Waterfowl Park, May 11.

A pair of **Common Moorhen** (Gallinule poule-d'eau) were at a roadside pond on route 126, Kent County, April 25 (Leo Ronan). **American Coots** (Foulque d'Amérique) were at Haut-Paquetville, May 10 (RD), and at Fort Beausejour, May 25 (Norm & Gisèle Belliveau, Carolyn Arsenault, Stuart Tingley and Rose-Alma Mallet). One was at Petit-Gaspereau May 9 (RD).

It's hard to believe that sightings of **Sandhill Crane** (Grue du Canada) were a very big deal just ten years ago. Observations this year include one at Bathurst, April 28 (Pat McLaughlin) one at Hoyt, April 28 (Deanna McCullum), one at Dieppe, May 8 (Denis Doucet), one at Colpitts Settlement, May 13 (Bill Winsor), another near Fredericton, May 20 (DG), and one at Black Rock, May 31 (reported by Roger Dumaresq).

A female **American Golden-Plover** (Pluvier bronze), at Machias Seal Island was a rare spring sighting for Ralph Eldridge, May 22.

**Black-bellied Plover** (Pluvier argenté) was noted May 7, by Marcel David, at la dune de Maissonnette.

Spring returns of sandpipers were noted as follows: a **Spotted Sandpiper** (Chevalier grivelé) was found May 7 by Mike Britton, on the Millennium Trail, Moncton; a **Solitary Sandpiper** (Chevalier solitaire) was at Fredericton,

May 15 (Halli Macdonald); Merv Cormier found three **Solitary Sandpipers** at Marsh Creek, Saint John, August 5; the first reports of **Greater Yellowlegs** (Grand Chevalier) were on April 28, when one was seen at Chance Harbour by Jim and Jean Wilson, and another at Mary's Point (Norm Belliveau and MNC field trip). The first **Willet** (Chevalier semipalmé) was found by Gilles Bourque at Pointe du Chêne, May 4; the first **Lesser Yellowlegs** (Petit Chevalier) was at Keswick, April 24 (Bev Schneider); **Upland Sandpiper** (Maubèche des champs) were at McGowans Corner, April 29 (SJNC club outing) and near Saint-Antoine, where Denis Doucet found a pair, May 25. A **Least Sandpiper** (Bécasseau minuscule) was at Sheffield, May 9 (observer unknown), and another was near Shediac, May 10 (Alain Clavette). A **Baird's Sandpiper** (Bécasseau de Baird) was at Saints Rest, Saint John, August 2 (Merv Cormier). Merv also reported the first **Pectoral Sandpiper** (Bécasseau à poitrine cendrée), April 27, at Marsh Creek, Saint John. Juliette Pellerin and Irene LeBlanc reported a **Stilt Sandpiper** (Bécasseau à échasses) August 10 at Petit Baie de Pokemouche.



*Baird's Sandpiper*  
Drawing: P.A. Taverner

**Wilson's Phalarope** (Phalarope de Wilson) were found at Sheffield, May 6 (Linda Kneebone), and at the Cap Brûlé lagoon May 25 (Norm & Gisèle Belliveau, Carolyn Arsenault, Stuart Tingley and Rose-Alma Mallet).

A **Little Gull** (Mouette pygmée) was seen July 23 with group of Bonaparte's Gulls at Isle Lamèque (Roland Robichaud). Two **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (Goéland brun) were at Maugerville, April 22 (Don Gibson). Winter gulls were still at St. Andrew's May 31, when Tracey Dean reported both a **Glaucous Gull** (Goéland bourgmestre) and an **Iceland Gull** (Goéland arctique).

A **Caspian Tern** (Sterne caspienne) was at Robichaud, April 23 (Stu Tingley). **Roseate Tern** (Sterne de Dougall) made quite a splash at Miscou Island. Roger Dumaresq reported: August 6, Roland Robichaud spotted an adult Roseate Tern among a group of Common Terns at Lac Frye on Miscou Island. It was also seen by Frank Branch, August 7, Frank went back there and saw a juvenile. He was then able to point it out to Hilaire Chiasson. August 8, Hilaire went back to Lac Frye and spotted an adult again. Peter Wilcox noted Arctic Tern (Sterne arctique) near Machias Seal Island, April 28. An apparent **Royal Tern** (Sterne royale) was spotted by David Christie at Mary's



Point, June 8, foraging along the interface between clear and muddy waters. Bill Winsor was able to see the bird June 9.

There were two unusual summer records of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (Coulicou à bec jaune). One was singing at Debec, near the Maine border, June 18 (Dwayne Sabine). Another was in the yard of Bev and Jim Nicholson, at Morna Heights in Saint John, July 15 (reported by Jim Wilson). The more common **Black-billed Cuckoo** (Coulicou à bec noir) was noted July 21 weekend, along the Petitcodiac River near Moncton (Alain Clavette), and May 31, by Bev Schneider, near Fredericton.

Roy LaPointe had some unhappy observations of **Long-eared Owl** (Hibou moyen-duc). He reported: "The 4 lane Trans Canada (Route 2) in Madawaska is proving to be a death trap for Long-eared Owls. Charlotte and I have only seen one of these secretive birds but recently collected two off the pavement. The first was about three kilometers north of Grand Falls on 15 July and the second near the Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes exit yesterday, 6 August."

A **Whip-poor-will** (Engoulevent bois-pourri) was heard by Hank Scarth on the Kingston Peninsula, May 26.

**Chimney Swifts** (Martinet ramoneur) were seen May 18 at Fredericton (BD), May 24 at nest sites in Fredericton (Dwayne Sabine), and at least 200 were at the Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska church May 23 (Roy LaPointe).

An early arrival of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (Colibri à gorge rubis) was reported by a neighbour to Durlan Ingersoll, April 21 at Woodward's Cove. Expected arrivals were May 7, Ajo Wissink at Rosevale, Peter MacLaggan at Turtle Creek, and Dale Gaskin, at Dawson Settlement;

May 8 at Miramichi, Eldon and Thelma Rogers, and at Waterside, Barb Curlew. They were widespread by May 10.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** (Pic à ventre roux) were noted April 22 at Cap Bimet (Norm and Giselle Belliveau, Rose-Alma Mallet and Leona Cormier), April 22 at English Settlement (Julie Singleton), April 23 at Mary's Point (DC), April 24 at Hoyt (JGW), and May 10 at Mary's Point (DC). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (Pic maculé) was noted at Moncton, April 23, by Roger LeBlanc.

Our first report of an Empidonax flycatcher was silent and thus unidentified at Sackville, reported by David Seeler, May 1. Identified flycatchers were: **Olive-sided Flycatcher** (Moucherolle à côtés olive) at Grand Manan, June 2 (RB), **Eastern Wood-Pewee** (Pioui de l'Est) was seen at Machias Seal Island, May 9 (Ralph Eldridge), **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** (Moucherolle à ventre jaune) and **Alder Flycatcher** (Moucherolle des aulnes) at Grand Manan, May

23 (JGW & co.). **Alder Flycatcher** was also reported May 25 at Pellerin (Denis Doucette). A **Willow Flycatcher** (Moucherolle des saules) was found at Grand Manan, June 2 (RB), and another was at Pellerin May 29 (Denis Doucette). **Least Flycatcher** (Moucherolle tchébec) was seen at Machias Seal Island, May 9 (Ralph Eldridge).

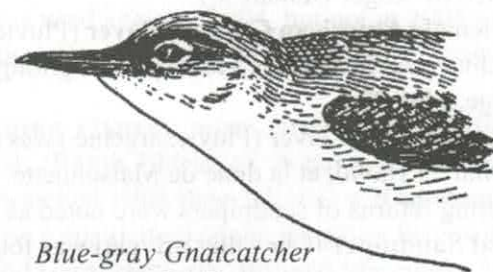
**Eastern Phoebe** (Moucherolle phébi) reports were Jemseg, April 21 (Kennebecasis Naturalists field trip), April 22 at English Settlement (Julie Singleton), and April 23 at Fredericton (Bev Schneider). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** (Tyran huppé) was at Fredericton, May 10 (Jeremy Forster). **Eastern Kingbird** (Tyran tritri) were found April 24 at Grand Manan (Durlan Ingersoll), April 28 on the Mollis Road, Moncton (Carol Lowerison, reported by Conn Colpitts), and April 29 at Stilesville (Kevin Renton).

**Blue-headed Vireo** (Viréo à tête bleue) was reported at Moncton's Irishtown Nature Park, April 30 (Miles Britton). **Warbling Vireos** (Viréo mélodieux) were reported at Sheffield, May 9 (MC) and at Bell Street Mars, Moncton, May 10 (Bill Winsor). **Philadelphia Vireo** (Viréo de Philadelphie) was found by Roger Burrows near Utique, May 17, and at Grand Manan, August 19. Denis Doucette also had Philadelphia Vireo at Pellerin, May 29.

Bev Schneider was the first to report **Purple Martin** (Hirondelle noire), May 3 at Lower Jemseg. The first reports of **Tree Swallow** (Hirondelle bicolor) were April 20 at St. George (Ralph Eldridge), and April 21 at Sackville Waterfowl Park (Kathy Popma), Lower Jemseg (JGW), and Point Lepreau (Roger LeBlanc, Richard Perron, Alain Clavette).

In Fredericton, Sue Ward had very early hatchlings of **Black-capped Chickadees** (Mésange à tête noire) in a swallow nest box, April 14.

Jim and Jean Wilson added **House Wren** (Troglodyte familier) to their yard list at Hammond River, May 1. Jollande St-Pierre had another near Pokemouche, May 3, and Roger Burrows had one in Saint John, also in May. The first returning **Winter Wren** (Troglodyte mignon) report was from Julie Singleton, who found one at English



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Drawing: P.A. Taverner



Settlement, April 22. **Marsh Wrens** (Troglodyte des marais) were at their Germantown haunt May 13 (Norm & Gisèle Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet).

Jim Wilson first noted **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (Roitelet à couronne rubis) at Hammond River, April 25.

The only reports of **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (Gobemoucheron gris-bleu) were all in the Grand Manan area. Valmond Bourque found one at Grand Manan, May 13. One was reported May 21 at the Anchorage (RB), and another at White Head Island May 21 and May 23 (JGW & co.).

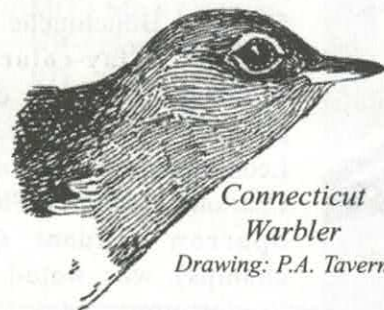
Joyce Robinson found her first **Eastern Bluebird** (Merlebleu de l'Est) of spring at Cambridge Narrows, April 23. Stu Tingley found a **Townsend's Solitaire** (Solitaire de Townsend) on the Cap Brule Road at Boudreau-Ouest, east of Shediac on April 15. The first **Veery** (Grive fauve) was reported by Ralph Eldridge, May 9 at Machias Seal Island. Roger Burrows reported seeing two **Bicknell's Thrush** (Grive de Bicknell) at Dark Harbour, Grand Manan, July 2. Hank Scarth heard the lovely song of a **Wood Thrush** (Grive des bois) at Kingston Peninsula, May 19, Dwayne Sabine heard one at Debec, near the Maine border, June 18, and Don Gibson heard one at Davidson Lake, July 7.

**Gray Catbird** (Moqueur chat) was reported first at Black Beach, May 10 (MC), and May 11 at Fredericton (Linda Kneebone). **Northern Mockingbird** (Moqueur polyglotte) was reported at Point Lepreau, May 9 (Bev Schneider) and at Moncton, May 10 (BD). A **Brown Thrasher** (Moqueur roux) was at Moncton, April 27 (Mike Plourde). One was seen the same day at Point Lepreau, carrying food (Richard Blacquiére), and a pair carrying food were seen near MacAdam, June 10 (Dwayne Sabine).

Ralph Eldridge reported 15 species of warblers and others overnight May 15-16. Good warbler numbers were widely reported May 21-22. First reports of spring were noted as follows. **Tennessee Warbler** (Paruline obscure), was seen May 15, by Margaret Doyle. Rare in New Brunswick in spring, Jim Wilson found saw his first ever spring **Orange-crowned Warbler** (Paruline verdâtre), a bird which had been found earlier on May 22 by Ron Steeves, Merv Cormier and others, at Grand Manan. The first reports of **Nashville Warbler** (Paruline à joues grises) were May 9, by Norm Belliveau, at Johnston's Point Road, by Brian Dalzell at Glassville, by David Christie at Marys Point, and by Alex Bond at Fredericton. **Northern Parula** (Paruline à collier) was reported first May 8, at Black Beach, Saint John (MC), by Ngairé Nelson at Saint John, and by Mike Britton in Moncton. **Yellow Warbler** (Paruline jaune) was first seen May 8, at Point Lepreau (Richard Blacquiére).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** (Paruline à flancs marron) was reported by Bill Winsor, May 10, at Bell Street Marsh, Moncton. **Magnolia Warbler** (Paruline à tête cendrée) was reported May 9, at Point Lepreau (Bev Schneider). **Cape May Warbler** (Paruline tigrée) was reported May 9, by Norm Belliveau at Johnston's Point Road. **Black-throated Blue Warbler** (Paruline bleue) was also at Point Lepreau on May 9 (Bev Schneider), and at Taylor Island, Saint John (RB).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** (Paruline à croupion jaune) was found first on April 15, at Maces Bay (Eileen Pike, Roy Pike, Tracey Dean, Janet Whitehead). Richard Blacquiére reported the first **Black-throated Green Warbler** (Paruline à gorge noire) on May 7, at Point Lepreau. A **Blackburnian Warbler** (Paruline à gorge orange) arrived May 12 at Moncton (BD). Virgil Grecian reported the first **Pine Warbler** (Paruline des pins) at Odell Park in Fredericton, where he and a group saw two pairs, April 26.



Connecticut  
Warbler  
Drawing: P.A. Taverner

Allen and Janet Gorham had the first **Palm Warbler** (Paruline à couronne rousse) April 21, at Pancake Hill, Kingston Peninsula. Roger Burrows found a **Blackpoll Warbler** (Paruline rayée) on May 6, at

Saint John. Brian Dalzell claimed the first **Black-and-white Warbler** (Paruline noir et blanc) at Bancroft Point, April 24.

An **American Redstart** (Paruline flamboyante) was at Bell Street Marsh, Moncton, May 10. Ovenbird (Paruline couronnée) was reported May 9, at Machias Seal Island (Ralph Eldridge), and the same day at Hammond River (JGW). **Northern Waterthrush** (Paruline des ruisseaux) was found May 6 at McGowan's Corner and Jemseg (JGW). A bird which appeared to be a **Connecticut Warbler** (Paruline à gorge grise) was seen at Sackville Waterfowl Park on May 30 by Karen McDermott.

**Common Yellowthroat** (Paruline masque) was reported in Saint John, May 8 (MC). Margaret Doyle had brief looks at a possible **Hooded Warbler** (Paruline à capuchin) May 14, in the Campbellton area. **Wilson's Warbler** (Paruline à calotte noire) was found May 21 at Kennebecasis Park, Saint John (Ian Cameron). **Canada Warbler** (Paruline du Canada) was found at Machias Seal Island, May 15 (Ralph Eldridge).

Finally, the bird which is barely a warbler, a singing



male **Yellow-breasted Chat** (*Paruline polyglotte*) was found June 25 at Saddleback (near St. Martin's), by Jim Wilson.

There were two reports of **Summer Tanager** (*Tangara vermillon*): one in late April on the Shediac Road (Dari Arsenault), and one at Cocagne Cape (a belated report to Valmond Bourque). **Scarlet Tanager** (*Tangara écarlate*) was first noted at Cape Spear, April 28 (Dave Robinson), then on May 2, at Tracadie-Sheila (Nicole Benoit).

Hank Scarth found an **Eastern Towhee** (*Tohi à flancs roux*) on the Kingston Peninsula on May 26. Ralph Eldridge had two on Machias Seal Island, one May 9, and another May 15.



*Vesper Sparrow*  
Photo: R. LePointe

2 at Dorchester Island (Dale Gaskin). **Vesper Sparrow** (*Bruant vespéral*) was heard first at Saints Rest, Saint John, April 23 (Merv cormier, Aldei Robichaud). A **Lark Sparrow** (*Bruant à joues marron*) graced Doreen Rossiter's feeder at Alma, July 19.

The biggest surprise discovery of the season was a very cooperative **Le Conte's Sparrow** (*Bruant de Le Conte*) which was discovered May 14 by Richard Blacquiére. The Sparrow

**Chipping Sparrow** (*Bruant familier*) made its first appearance April 23 at Yolande LeBlanc's feeders in Memramcook, and April 24, at Mike LeBlanc's feeder in Bouctouche. A singing **Clay-colored Sparrow** (*Bruant des plaines*) was heard at St. Leonard, June 25 (Roy and Charlotte LaPointe). **Field Sparrow** (*Bruant des champs*) was noted at Fredericton, May 29 (Dwayne Sabine), and July



*Le Conte's Sparrow*  
Photo: A. Clavette

adopted a hay field at Mercer Settlement near Norton, and lingered well into the summer. This is only the second accepted record for New Brunswick, the first of a singing bird.

And if we can have a Le Conte's Sparrow, why not **Henslow's Sparrow** (*Bruant de Henslow*)? On July 18, Scott Makepeace, heard a Henslow's song at Lower Gagetown. Unfortunately, the bird could not be seen, and was not found again.

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** (*Bruant de Nelson*) was vocalizing near Mary's Point May 28 (DSC). Merv Cormier found a **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow** (*Bruant à queue aigue*) July 17 at Saints Rest in Saint John. This species is very similar to Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and normally found on the east coast of the United States.

Migrant **White-throated Sparrow** (*Bruant à gorge blanche*) arrived in numbers April 23, when Yolande LeBlanc reported from Memramcook that they seemed to be falling out of the sky in her yard. Alex Bond noted "at best guess, 200-300 White-throated Sparrows just along the walking trail heading to UNB" in Fredericton, April 24. They were also numerous at Mike LeBlanc's feeder in Bouctouche that day. **White-crowned Sparrow** (*Bruant à couronne blanche*) were reported May 8 at Black beach, Saint John (MC), and May 9 at Machias Seal Island (Ralph Eldridge).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (*Cardinal à poitrine rose*) was first noted at Grand Manan, May 1 (Durlan Ingersoll). It was quite a year for **Blue Grosbeak** (*Guiraca bleu*) sightings. David Christie and Jim Wilson passed along reports of birds at Salem, Albert County (Marven Lloy, April 26-28), Gagetown (Enid Inch, April 27-May 1), Letang (Olive Hatt, April 27), Rothesay (Katherine Bacon, April 29), Quispamsis (Connie and Russ Miller, May 11), and Lamèque (André Robichaud, May 29). Other reports were from Kathy Popma, May 13 at Sackville, and Leo Belliveau, May 20 at Memramcook. Not to be outdone, **Indigo Bunting** (*Passerin indigo*) were also numerous. Reports included May 1-8 at a Chance Harbour feeder (reported by Hugh Parks), May 13 at Saint John, RB), May 13, at



*White-throated Sparrow*  
Photo: R. LePointe





Dickcissel

Drawing: P.A. Taverner

Nictaux, Tobique Valley (Bill Miller), and May 18-19 at North Head (JGW & co.).

A **Dickcissel** (Dickcissel d'Amérique) was reported at North Head, May 21 (RB). First reports of **Bobolink** (Goglu des prés) were May 11 weekend at Pellerin (Denis Doucet), May 12 at Point Lepreau (JGW), and May 15 at Sackville (Becky Stewart). **Eastern Meadowlark** (Sturnelle des prés) was first seen at Mactaquac, April 28 (Alex Macdonald). While looking for the LeConte's Sparrow at Mercer Settlement on June 10, Richard Perron and Louis-Emile Cormier, noticed an Eastern Meadowlark carrying food.

There were two discoveries of **Yellow-headed Blackbird** (Carouge à tête jaune). Ivy Austin saw one near Sackville, June 15, and Glen Foster of Penobscuis had one visit his feeder, June 23 (reported by Jim Wilson).

Reports of **Orchard Oriole** (Oriole des vergers) included one at Grand Manan, May 13 (Valmond Bourque), one visiting feeders at Gagetown, May 12-20 (reported by Don Gibson), an immature male at Long Pond on May 19 and a female at White Head Island on May 21 (JGW & co.), and an immature at Moncton, May 23 (Caroline Arsenault). **Baltimore Oriole** (Oriole de Baltimore) arrivals were noted at Harvey, May 9 (Christa Stuart), at Riverview, May 10 (Bob and Shirley Childs), and at Grand Manan,

Thanks to David Christie, Roger Dumaresq, Don Gibson, and the Moncton Nature line for passing along many observations.

#### Abbreviations

BD – Brian Dalzell  
DSC – David Christie  
DG – Don Gibson  
JGW – Jim Wilson  
MC – Merv Cormier  
NB – Norm Belliveau  
RD – Roger Dumaresq  
RB – Roger Burrows

## NATURE

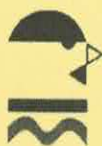
*H. D. Thoreau*

O Nature! I do not aspire  
To be the highest in thy choir, —  
To be a meteor in thy sky,  
Or comet that may range on high;  
Only a zephyr that may blow

Among the reeds by the river low;  
Give me thy most privy place  
Where to run my airy race.

In some withdrawn, unpublic mead  
Let me sigh upon a reed,  
Or in the woods, with leafy din,  
Whisper the still evening in:  
Some still work give me to do, —  
Only—be it near to you!

For I'd rather be thy child  
And pupil, in the forest wild,  
Than be the king of men elsewhere,  
And most sovereign slave of care;  
To have one moment of thy dawn,  
Than share the city's year forlorn.



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Who is there who has never heard,  
About the Burdock and the Bird?  
And yet how very very few,



Discriminate between the two  
Why even Jim Wilson can't  
Transform a Bird into a Plant

*Robert Williams Wood*

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