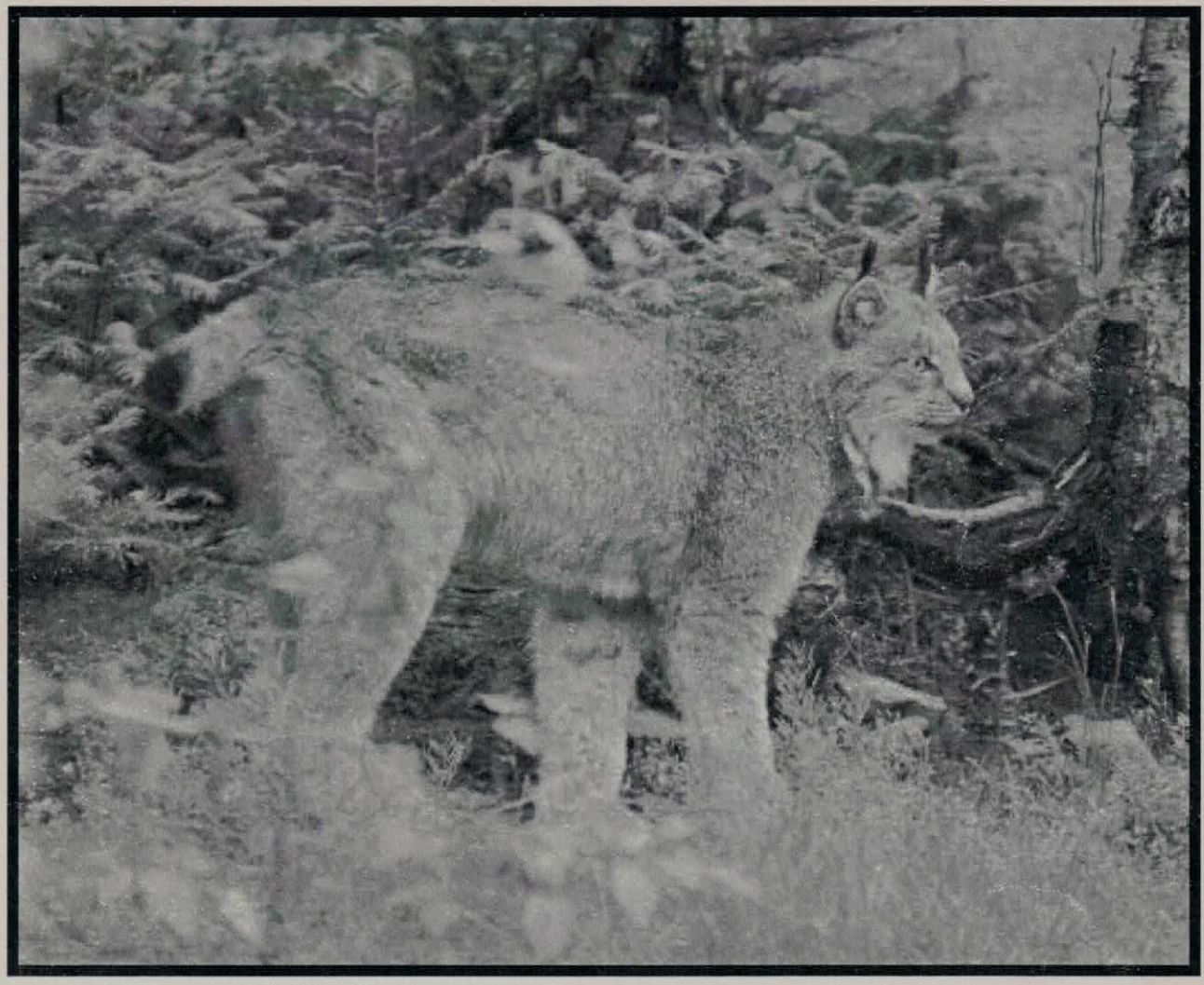
34 (4) Winter / Hiver 2007 / 2008

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

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. (L'ancien nom de Nature NB, soit « Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick / New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists », demeurera le nom légal de l'organisme.)

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N.B. Naturalist carries articles and reports pertaining to the natural history of New Brunswick. Articles are invited in either English or French, and will be printed in the language in which they are received. The opinions expressed are those of the authors. **Please send all submissions for the N.B. Naturalist to: Gart Bishop, 16 Pitt St. Sussex NB, E4E 1J1, 433-4994, gartali@nbnet.nb.ca.** Ask for details of computer compatibility. Advertising rates available on request.

Cette publication trimestrielle est éditée par des bénévoles de Nature NB., 924 rue Prospect St., Suite 110, Fredericton, NB, E3B 2T9. Port de retour garanti. Tout changement d'adresse devrait être envoyé au Secrétaire de la société. Les tarifs de réabonnement pour Le Naturaliste du N.-B. avant le 1 janvier : individuel 25$, famille 30$, membre à vie 1000$; un numéro 4$ l'exemplaire plus les frais postaux.

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 N.-B., E4E 1J1, 433-4994, gartali@nbnet.nb.ca.** Demandez pour les détails de compatibilité d'ordinateur. Tarifs publicitaires sont disponibles sur demande.

Nature NB (NBFN/FNNB) is the provincial affiliate of Nature Canada (formerly Canadian Nature Federation) and the Canadian Nature Network (CNN).
Nature NB (NBFN/FNNB) est le partenaire provinciale (N.-B.) du Réseau Canadien de la Nature (RCN) et affilié provincial de Nature Canada (la Fédération Canadienne de la Nature).

In This Issue / Dans ce numéro

Cover: Canada Lynx, photograph by JPM Lamontagne

Sincere thanks to our many volunteers who contributed to this publication.
Merci beaucoup à tous bénévoles dévoué qui ont contribué à cette publication.

Please submit articles for the next issue by April.30th 2008
S.v.p. soumettre les articles à l'intention du prochain numéro avant le 30 avril 2008

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MOT DU PRÉSIDENT - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roland Chiasson

Nature NB Needs You!

If someone asks you what does Nature NB do, what would you say? Five years ago, someone might have answered club services and production of a few education materials. While we still provide club services, our main focus now is nature education, especially for our youth. The reason is clear. At many of our club meetings there is an absence of younger people participating. We risk having a generation of youth not knowing about nature. In response, we have developed the summer camps, the Young Naturalists'Club and the Young Naturalists' Magazine. We are making a difference! However, as our programs grow we are putting more demands on the organization. We need your help! Do you have a few minutes per week or more to donate? Nature NB needs volunteers. Our organization continues to grow and we need your help. By just donating a little of your time you can help Nature NB meet its education mandate, especially to New Brunswick's youth. Here is how you can help:

*We need leaders for our Young Naturalist Clubs throughout the province. Would you like to lead a hike?

*Do you read and write French and English? We need translators, especially from English to French.

*Do you have web experience or just want to help by reviewing the web site? We want to improve the French component.

*We need writers and editors for our magazines, the NB naturalist. Do you have photos or sketches for our magazines?

We will credit you in our publications.

Interested? Do you have some other skill that would be helpful to us? All you have to do is contact us at 459-4209 or nbfn@nb.aibn.com or drop me a line corvus@nbnet.nb.ca.

A bit of your time could make a big difference!

Nature NB a Besoin de Vous

Si quelqu'un vous demanderait ce que Nature NB fait, que répondriez-vous? Cinq ans auparavant, on aurait pu dire que nous offrions des services aux clubs et que nous produisions des matériels éducatifs. Tandis que nous offrons toujours les services aux clubs, notre mandat est davantage axé sur la sensibilisation des jeunes auprès de la nature. La raison est claire. Au cours de nos réunions mensuelles, l'absence des jeunes est remarquable. Nous risquons d'avoir une génération de la jeunesse n'ayant pas la connaissance de la nature. Néanmoins, nous avons créé les Camps d'été Jeunesse Nature, les Clubs des Jeunes Naturalistes et la revue Nature jeunesse. De plus, nous faisons une différence! Cependant, alors que nos programmes prospèrent, nous mettons plus de demandes sur l'organisation. Nous avons besoin de votre aide! Avez-vous quelques minutes par semaine ou plus à donner? La Nature NB a besoin de volontaires. Notre organisation continue à se développer et nous avons besoin de votre aide. En donnant juste un peu de votre temps vous pouvez aider Nature NB à combler son mandat d'éducation, particulièrement la sensibilisation des jeunes à la nature. Voici comment vous pouvez aider :

* Nous avons besoin des leaders pour nos Clubs des Jeunes Naturalistes dans toute la province. Aimez-vous mener une marche dans le bois?

* Est-ce que vous lisez et écrivez le français et l'anglais? Nous avons besoin des traducteurs, particulièrement d'anglais au Français.

* Avez-vous de l'expérience dans le domaine des sites Web ou voulez-vous juste aider en passant en revue notre site? Nous voulons améliorer le composant français.

* Nous avons besoin des auteurs et des rédacteurs/rédactrices pour nos revues. Avez-vous des photos ou des croquis pour nos magazines?

Nous vous ferons reconnaissance de vos efforts dans nos publications.

Êtes-vous intéressé? Avez-vous une autre compétence qui nous serait utile?

Vous pouvez nous contacter au 459-4209 ou par courriel nbfn@nb.aibn.com ou moi-même corvus@nbnet.nb.ca.

Un peu de votre temps peut faire une grande différence!

NEWS FROM THE NATURE NB OFFICE

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

Climate Change and Citizen Science

Nature NB is still looking for historical and short-term data sets for the "Climate Change and Citizen Science" project. An online tool, allowing visitors to enter data will be available in April. Please contact the Nature NB office if you are interested in participating.

Young Naturalist Club

Our Young Naturalist Club leader's kit is in the finishing stages and will be available for distribution this spring. Both the Fredericton and Saint John YNCs are in full swing and the first annual winter carnival was planned for February 16th in Saint John. This event brought together youth from across the province to enjoy fun winter activities at the Irving Nature Park. Highlights included snowshoeing, birding and sliding.

Nature Kids NB

Nature NB is always looking for articles for our Nature Kids NB magazine. Articles on a variety of nature related topics are welcome. We are especially looking for French articles! If you are interested in submitting please contact the Nature NB offices.

French proofreaders needed

As a bilingual organization, Nature NB strives to provide all of our materials and publications in both languages. To ensure accurate translation we are looking to form a pool of volunteers that would be interested in providing some feedback on French content. The more volunteers we have, the smaller the time commitment. Any help would be greatly appreciated and would help Nature NB reach a wider audience. Anyone interested in helping is asked to contact the Nature NB offices.

Summer Youth Nature Camp

- We are currently looking for an alternate location for our French weeklong camp. If anyone has any suggestions for a location, preferably in the Moncton area or Acadian Peninsula, please contact Nature NB
- New this year is our Leaders in Training program, which will provide nature education and leadership skills to youth above the SYNC age limit.
- Our 2008 camp theme is Climate Change: YOU can make a difference and will include a community conservation project and "the ultimate naturalist challenge".

Grand Lake Meadows

Our Virtual Museums exhibit "The Grand Lake Meadows" is now available online at **http://virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Flora/**. Explore the wonders of this important wetland complex through interactive games and tours.

Calendars

On behalf of Nature NB, I would like to thank all of you for purchasing our Nature NB 2008 calendar and supporting our first attempt at this type of fundraiser. Please keep your eyes open for next year's calendar which will be available in early September.

Frog poster

We are planning on reprinting our Frogs of New Brunswick poster and are looking for good quality of following frogs. Photos should allow for easy identification:

Gray Treefrog /Rainette versicolore
Mink Frog / Grenouille de Nord
Spring Peeper / Rainette crucifère
Bullfrog / Ouaouaron
Pickerel Frog / Grenouille des marais

Discovery days

The YNC is looking for volunteers to lead a YNC Discovery day at Centennial park in Moncton in August. The activity can be on any topic and would run about 2 hours. Nature NB would assist with all planning and will be available to help run the activities. Anyone interested in helping is asked to contact the Nature NB offices.

DES NOUVELLES DU BUREAU DE NATURE NB

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

Le Changement Climatique et Vous!

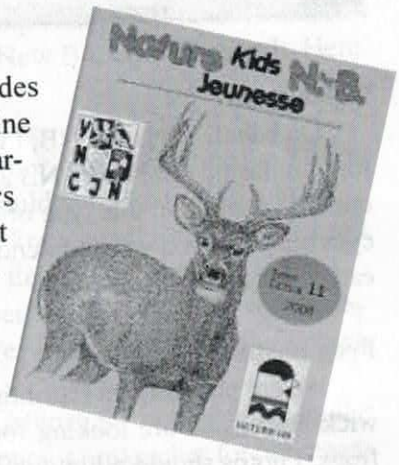
Nous recherchons encore des données brutes à court ou long terme pour le projet "Climate Change and Citizen Science". Un outil permettant d'entrer directement les données sera disponible sur notre site Internet en avril. Tous ceux intéressés sont priés de contacter Nature N.B.

Club de Jeunes Naturalistes

La trousse de support au leadership dans le CJN en est à l'étape finale et sera disponible à la distribution ce printemps. Les CJN de Fredericton et Saint Jean sont sur le qui-vive et le premier carnaval annuel d'hiver s'est tenu le 16 février à Saint Jean. Cet événement a rassemblé des jeunes de la grandeur de la province pour profiter des joies de l'hiver. La raquette, l'observation des oiseaux et la glissade étaient à l'honneur.

Nature Jeunesse N.-B.

Nature NB recherche des articles pour notre magazine Nature Jeunesse N.-B. Des articles ayant trait à divers sujets sur la nature sont bienvenus. Nous recherchons surtout des articles francophones. Tous ceux intéressés à le faire sont priés de contacter Nature N.B.



Réviseurs francophones demandés!

Nature NB, en tant qu'organisme bilingue, s'efforce d'offrir tous ses services et publications dans les deux langues officielles du Nouveau-Brunswick. Pour garantir la qualité de nos textes français, nous voulons constituer une banque de bénévoles disponibles pour vérifier les textes francophones. Le plus de bénévoles il y aura, le moins chacun aura à faire. Toute aide sera vraiment appréciée et permettra à Nature NB de joindre plus de monde. Tous ceux intéressés sont priés de contacter Nature NB.

Camps d'été Jeunesse Nature

- Nous recherchons un nouveau site pour notre camp francophone d'une semaine. Si vous connaissez un endroit surtout dans la région de Moncton ou la Péninsule acadienne, informez-en Nature NB.

- En nouveauté, notre programme « Moniteur en formation » fournira l'occasion aux jeunes naturalistes de continuer leur éducation environnementale tout en acquérant des habiletés de leadership.

- Notre thème cette année est « Le Changement Climatique : VOUS pouvez faire une différence! » et comprendra un projet environnemental communautaire et le défi « L'ultime Naturaliste ».

Les prés du Grand Lac

Notre musée virtuel « Les prés du Grand Lac » est maintenant disponible à http://virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Flora/. Visitez les merveilles de ce complexe des terres humides important par des jeux interactifs et aventures virtuels.

Activité de financement 2008 : Calendrier de Nature

De la part de Nature NB, je vous remercie d'avoir participé à notre première levée de fonds en achetant un calendrier Nature NB 2008. Ayez l'oeil ouvert pour l'édition 2009 dès septembre.

Grenouilles du Nouveau Brunswick

Nous planifions une réimpression de notre affiche « Les Grenouilles du Nouveau-Brunswick » et recherchons des photos de bonnes qualités et permettant une identification aisée pour les espèces suivantes :

Gray Treefrog / Rainette versicolore
Mink Frog / Grenouille de Nord
Spring Peeper / Rainette crucifère
Bullfrog / Ouaouaron
Pickerel Frog / Grenouille des marais

Journées découvertes :

Le CJN recherche des bénévoles pour guider une activité au parc Centennial de Moncton en Août. L'activités d'une durée de 2 heures environ peut traiter de n'importe quel sujet (nature). Nature NB assistera dans la planification et la conduite de l'activité et aidera à son déroulement. Tous ceux intéressés sont priés de contacter Nature N.B.

FROM OUR PAST

Selected by Mary Sollows

The following article was reproduced in part from the 1902 Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick: No. XX: 472-482.

ARTICLE III. — THE SOUTH TOBIQUE LAKES

G. U. Hay, D. Sc.

Editor's Note:. Scientific names and common names appearing in in square brackets [], are taken from 2nd Edition of the Flora of New Brunswick (2000) by H. Hinds.

"Before the end of the twentieth century there will probably be few unexplored regions in this province, or lakes where the tell-tale dotted line marks them as unsurveyed, or lakes that have no existence on our maps. But that is the case now. There are some eighteen lakes – large and small – that form the sources of the rivers and streams that enter the Tobique river from the south side. A third of these are either not marked at all or are imperfectly outlined on the maps of New Brunswick in common use. These lie close to the watershed that separates the sources of the Tobique and Miramichi water systems.

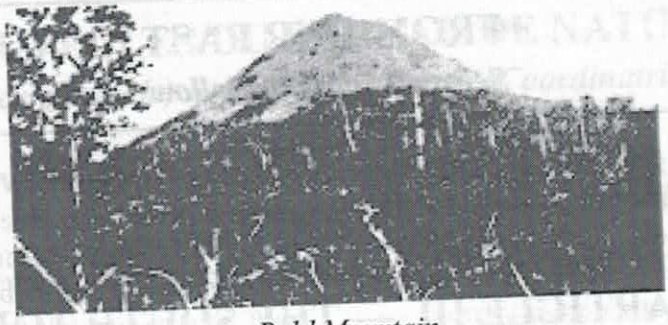
In this region, Prof. Ganong and I spent nearly four weeks during the summer of 1900, going in to Trowsers Lake from the Tobique River over a portage road twenty miles long camping nearly a week at the upper extremity of that lake, whence we made short daily excursions to the lakes and streams adjacent. From Trowsers Lake we made a portage to Long Lake, the largest of the system. Here there is also within easy reach of either extremity a number of small lakes. From Long Lake we visited in succession, "carrying" over intervening portages Portage, Adder and Serpentine Lakes. The outlet of the last named lake is the Serpentine River, which, after a swift run of thirty miles, brought us to the Forks of the Tobique, nearly thirty miles above the point where we started in. While Prof. Ganong attended to the physiographic features of the country and took measurements, I examined and collected plants, and took views by means of a camera.

The country traversed is a wilderness, the low lying portions of which are thickly wooded with spruces, firs and other evergreens, giving a somewhat somber aspect to the country. The ridges are clothed with a more diversified growth of deciduous and evergreen trees. All the smaller lakes are shallow, and the low-lying shores adjacent are the resorts of moose, deer, caribou, beaver, and many of the small fur-bearing animals. Trout abound in great numbers in the streams and thoroughfares adjacent to the lakes, while the togue or namaycush, a fine species of lake trout, is found in at least one lake of the series – Long Lake.

Owing to the remoteness of this district, the difficulties of transportation, and the fact that the waters do not contain salmon, the lakes are seldom visited by fishermen. But in the fall of the year they are a great resource for moose and deer hunters, and in winter trappers visit the region. The "deadfalls" and other cunningly devised traps met with in every direction during the summer show the elaborate plans made for the capture of the small but valuable fur-bearing animals. The distance from the main waterways of the province is also an obstacle to lumber operations, but in proportion as lumber has become scarce in the more easily reached areas, this region has been penetrated to quite a considerable extent by lumbermen who have erected dams at the outlet of Trowsers, Serpentine and some of the small streams that flow from these lakes. As a result the water has risen 5 or 6 feet in the lakes, drowning the plants and roots of trees along the shores, which now present a desolate appearance from the dead trunks leaning out over the waters." …

"The Serpentine Lake and River, both of which have remarkable windings, brought us into the Right Hand Branch of the Tobique river, and from that we came to the main Tobique to our place of starting. The Serpentine river is thirty miles long, and descends in that length 1,000 feet. The water was very high and the stream running like a racehorse. Our canoe shot over boulders and turned the many windings of the river with a speed that was exhilarating to the highest degree. I shall never forget the joy of that first afternoon on the Serpentine, the delight of riding full speed

on the back of a rapid torrent, racing past little islands covered with *Osmundas* (*O. regalis* [Royal Fern] *and O. claytoniana* [Interrupted Fern]), the tumultuous waters rioting among the fronds, whose dainty green contrasted with the darker shades of alder and viburnums on the banks. Virgin's Bower twined gracefully in festoons over shrubs, with Meadow Rue and Joe-Pye Weed bending their tall stems over the waters, while on the near hillsides beyond were the darker evergreens. It was difficult to take in the full beauty of the scene, as each turn of the river brought fresh pictures constantly into view. The delights of days like that with a little spice of danger thrown in, linger in the memory for a lifetime. I have often since found myself careering in imagination over that wild and capricious little river, involuntarily ducking my head to escape an overhanging branch, or shying to avoid some dangerous boulder as we swept by; and then as we came into more quiet stretches of the river, resting on our paddles and taking these scenes of wildness and beauty.



Bald Mountain
Photo by G.U. Hay (1900)

I can only briefly refer to two side trips that we made while descending the Tobique, - one to Sisson Gorge, six miles from the forks of the Tobique and the other to Bald Mountain, a picture of which is given here from a photograph taken from the plain near the base. The trip up the Sisson Branch, as far as the gorge, was accomplished with the greatest difficulty, owing to the high water, although the stream itself presents no obstructions. We were well repaid, however, for the extra exertion by a view of the gorge, one of the wildest and most picturesque spots in New Brunswick. There is a succession of five cataracts tumbling one after the other to a depth of one hundred feet, after which the stream flows in a series of rapids through a gorge walled by perpendicular rocks until it reaches the smoother stretches beyond. On the rocks overhanging the stream further down were found *Aspidium fragrans* [*Dryopteris fragrans*, Fragrant Fern] and *Woodsia glabella* [Cliff Fern], two of the rarest ferns in the province.

The descent of the Sisson Branch and the main Tobique, as far as Riley Brook, a distance of twelve miles, was made in a little over an hour and a half in the midst of torrents of rain. On the following afternoon, Friday, July 27th, we paddled leisurely twenty miles further down in about three hours, which may show the swiftness of the current, the river being unusually high for this season.

On the morning of this day we visited Bald Head, a distance of five miles from the village of Riley Brook. This elevation, which is about 1,400 feet above the valley of the Tobique, is perhaps the most typical and regular mountain in New Brunswick, rising one thousand feet from the plain at its base, in the shape of cone, the upper portion covered with loose stones and boulders. On the top we found a narrow ridge which contained a great variety of plants, as follows, the trees being stunted and irregular: *Pyrus Americana* [*Sorbus americana*, American Mountain Ash], *Betula lenta* [Black Birch—not currently recognized as being found in NB, was possibly a misidentified Yellow Birch], *B. papyracea* [*B. papyrifera*, White Birch], *B. pumila* [Swamp Birch], *Prunus Pennsylvanica* [Pin Cherry], *Acer rubrum* [Red Maple], *A. Pennsylvanicum* [Striped Maple], white and black spruces and firs, *Nemopanthes fascicularis* [*Nemophanthus mucronata*, Mountain Holly], *Ledum latifolium* [*Ledum groenlandicum*, Labrador Tea], *Sambucus pubens* [*S. racemosa*, Stinking Elder], *Epilobium angustifolium* [Fireweed], *Cornus Canadensis* [Bunchberry], *Vaccinium canadense* [*V. myrtilloides*, Velvet-leaf Blueberry], *V. Pennsylvanicum* [*V. angustifolium*, Lowbush Blueberry] (narrow and wide leaved forms), *Ribes lacustre* [Bristly Black Currant], *R. prostratum* [*Ribes glandulosum*, Skunk Current], *Rubus strigosus* [Red Raspberry], *R. triflorus* [*Rubus pubescens*, Dwarf Raspberry], *Antennaria margaretacea* [*Anaphalis margaritacea*, Pearly Everlasting], *A. plantaginifolia* [*Antennaria parlinii*, Plaintain-leaved Pussy-toes, currently ranked very rare, S1], *Galium triflorum* [Sweet-scented Bedstraw], *Kalmia angustifolium* [Lambkill], *Aralia nudicaulis* [Wild sarsaparilla], *Trillium erthrocarpum* [*Trillium undulatum*, Painted Trillium], *Aspidium spinulosum* (*Dryopteris carthusiana*, Spinulose Wood Fern]; besides several grasses and carices [sedges], two species of lycopodium clubmosses], hypnums [feather mosses], polytrichums [hair-cap mosses], and lichens covering the rocks and trunks of trees.

{For a list of the new and rare plants found during the trip, see Bulletin XIX, 1901.}"

EVERY INCH A LADY: ENID, GAGETOWN'S BIRD EXPERT

Joan Carmody

Editor's Note: Previously published in the December Issue of the Gagetown Village Voice. Enid died suddenly on December 29th.

Enid Inch is one of the province's most respected and loved birders. Yes, she is from the Village of Gagetown, but has friends throughout the province and her influence is widely felt. She has been instrumental in helping many others gain a better appreciation of nature through her interest in birding.

Born in 1920 in New Jerusalem, she began commuting to the Village of Gagetown in 1941 to work for The Loomcrofters, and continued there after her family moved to Cambridge-Narrows in1953 when New Jerusalem was expropriated for Base Gagetown. She moved to the village in 1985 where, until late this October, you could find her busily weaving at Loomcrofters.

Enid's first memory of being interested in birds was in grade six during a contest to find the most species of birds or flowers. She won a bird book for seeing the most birds. From that first book, her library of bird books has grown to over 100 volumes! She remembers a teacher named Hilda Haining encouraging her interest in nature and believes teachers can play a large role in promoting children's interest in the environment.

Her interest in birding increased when her brother Spencer and sister-in-law Helen took her birding with them. From them she received her first pair of binoculars. Influenced by Robie Tufts' book, Birds of Nova Scotia, in 1965 she started keeping daily records of birds for her own information, but for about 15 years has also participated in Bird Studies Canada's FeederWatch Survey, helping the organization keep track of the status of birds in this area.

One special sighting came a few years ago when a friend notified her that a southern bird, a Purple Gallinule, was in the Jemseg area. Armed with binoculars and rubber boots, she and two other intrepid local bird lovers braved the spring flood and located the wanderer a short distance past The Dugway on Lower Jemseg road.

Concerned about reductions in the number of many species, she says she no longer hears the 'dawn chorus', the singing of so many birds at dawn that they sometimes woke you. She remembers 15 or 20 years ago seeing hydro lines sagging with hundreds of swallows, but no longer sees that and knows swallows have decreased 45% percent in the last 50 years. She also recalls experiencing swarms of mosquitoes so thick you had to seek shelter, but she never sees that now, making her wonder if there is a connection.

She says the number of chimney swifts decreased 95% in 40 years, possibly caused by lack of food and nesting environment, and wonders what can be done to help them survive. They need a chimney that is rough inside, but many chimneys like that are being torn down or blocked. Some people put in smooth linings and the swifts cannot nest in those. Only one pair can nest in a chimney. When you hear of many swifts going into a large chimney, they are roosting.

Enid enjoys calls from people with questions about birds. She says one of the joys of belonging to A Celebration of Birds and groups such as the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists, is meeting people with an interest in birding and the environment. She thinks more people are going to have to get more involved with protecting the environment. Simple things like not using pesticides would help.

Recently, Enid learned that she was going to be restricted to doing most of her bird watching near home. But a good omen appeared a few days after she returned home from the hospital - a Tufted Titmouse arrived at her feeder - the first one she has ever seen!

BEAVERS IN OUR BACKYARD

Mark D'Arcy

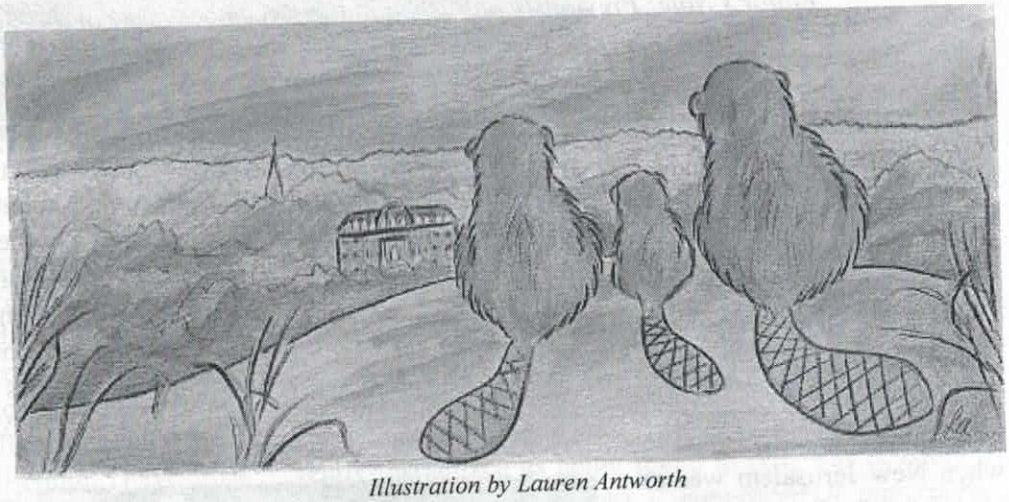


Illustration by Lauren Antworth

Urban Beavers

Beavers are the single most important factor responsible for the creation and maintenance of forest wetlands. When beavers live in our own backyard, the presence of these unique animals, and the habitat they create, is richly celebrated. Urban beavers are a big deal for "Smart Cities". The beavers of Seattle's Meadowbrook Pond and New York City's Bronx River have gained international news attention. And in Europe, tens of millions are now being spent to reintroduce the European beaver.

The UNB Woodlot, situated on top of the hill in Fredericton, is a provincially designated wildlife refuge, and, at four times the size of Vancouver's Stanley Park, is the largest urban forest in Atlantic Canada. It is one of the oldest managed woodlots in North America, used by faculty researchers, students, and the community alike.

Wetlands are Beavers/Beavers are Wetlands

The UNB Woodlot is a huge forested watershed within the city limits of Fredericton. Forested watersheds capture, store, and purify water. Their wetlands provide habitat to a diverse group of plants and animals, including migratory birds. They represent the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the outdoor recreation spaces we enjoy. But beavers are critical to wetlands. In Nov-Dec, 2006, the University of New Brunswick authorised the trapping of 24 beavers in the woodlot with the result that all beaver activity suddenly stopped around the Ducks Unlimited Corbett Brook Marsh. By implementing a beaver management plan for the UNB Woodlot, the size and viability of the woodlot's wetlands could be maintained by a healthy population of beavers (see Inset 1). Manage the beavers, and, in turn, they will manage the wetlands.

Flood Control, not Beaver Trapping, is the Answer

The residents of Fredericton and New Maryland are fortunate to have beaver colonies living in their own backyard. Beavers live in very social and peaceful colonies, and can adapt to live in close proximity to humans. In fact, it is difficult to keep beavers out of forest wetlands. As beavers migrate over large distances, guided by their keen sense of smell for water, it is likely new beavers will move back into the UNB Woodlot within a year. "If you have beaver habitat, you're going to have beavers." (Willis, p.2) The University of New Brunswick could try

Dense networks of roots enable wetlands to play a vital ecological role

- Dams and pools that beavers construct create and preserve rich fish and wildlife habitats.
- Beaver watersheds benefit from more aquatic vertebrates, fish, turtles, frogs, birds, ducks, and biodiversity in general.
- Water quality and ecology of streams is significantly enhanced by beaver wetlands.
- Bird populations benefit from the increased preservation of wetlands during dry periods.

Inset 1 (Photo by M. D'Arcy)

an alternate management strategy where the focus is to simply minimize the flooding caused by beaver dams, not remove the beaver.

A number of humane, non-lethal alternatives to trapping are in common use to prevent road flooding and minimize flooding from beaver dams; these devices are emerging as the most effective long-term beaver damage control solutions (Boyle & Owens, 2007). At Gatineau Park in Quebec, wildlife officers used long pipe devices through the beaver dam to create a slow leak that doesn't trigger the beavers' dambreak alarm. With over 25 years experience, they have reduced flooding problems by more than 75%, while the beaver population has actually increased 15%. This is a success story where both humans and beavers now coexist by maintaining an acceptable water depth in the park's ponds. Designing and implementing innovative wildlife and forestry management plans for the UNB Woodlot should not be difficult with the nearby expertise of Maritime School for Forest Technology (MSFT, the "Ranger School) and UNB's Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management.

Beaver in UNB Woodlot
Photo by D. Grant

The Friends of the UNB Woodlot

Concern for these "wetland engineers" - the animal on the emblem of UNB, and the national symbol of our country Canada has brought about the creation of this not-for-profit organization which first met in November 2007. They have applied to the NB Environmental Trust Fund for assistance to support several colonies of beavers in the UNB Woodlot in a very controlled and sustainable manner using proven man-made structures that control flooding.

Future plans include:

· showcasing the UNB Woodlot and the "Urban Beavers of Fredericton"

· producing educational materials about beaver's ability to create and maintain forest wetlands which in turn enhance plant, insect, fish, bird, and animal habitats

· encouraging the hands-on participation of UNB and MSFT students to design and implement antiflooding devices around wetlands, road culverts, and bridges as well as undertaking wildlife habitat studies near wetland sites created and maintained by the beaver activity.

· development of an interpretive centre in the UNB Woodlot could become a large draw for school children, families, tourists, and researchers.

UNB Woodlot to Become a Showcase

Over $103 million of public funds has been invested in capital costs to build infrastructure specifically beside the UNB Woodlot for forestry and wildlife management teaching, including the Maritime Forest Ranger School, the Hugh John Fleming Forestry Centre, and the New Training Sawmill. Big Box and residential development now threaten to eliminate up to half of the UNB Woodlot without preserving any meaningful wildlife areas, except wetland buffer zones that must be preserved under environmental laws. A growing number of alumni, students, and the general public are now engaged to have Fredericton's UNB Woodlot remain the teaching, wildlife, and recreational jewel of Atlantic Canada.

Special thanks to Marc Girard for his initiative and support in the proposed UNB Beaver Management program. The author is part of the Friends of the UNB Woodlot and their organization can be contacted at friendsoftheUNBWoodlot@gmail.com, www.smartgrowthUNB.ca, and 1-506-454-5119.

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MORE WORDS FOR BIRDS

Peter Pearce

Herewith are more - a baker's dozen - "words for birds" which the reader is invited to endure or perhaps ignore entirely.

Jim's emergency gasoline store could be described as Wilson's storm petrol.
Birdwatching in the eastern hemisphere is a Eurasian hobby.
An annoyed wife, or husband, would be a ruffled spouse.
A popular dance in Norfolk is the Virginia reel.
A peripatetic gossip is a wandering tattler.
Josephine was Bonaparte's gal.
A road bend in Turkmenistan is just another Caspian turn.
Sweeney Todd's assistant was known as Razor Bill.
A handout in Atlantic Canada would be an eastern freebie.
A Thanksgiving gobbler would be an oven bird.
The ranking prelate in Vilnius is probably a northern cardinal.
Abe's cart was Lincoln's barrow.
A kind of Maryland cookie could be a Baltimore oreo.

Those are definitely the lot. Just as well, really - any more could be just too excruciating

ONE EVENING LAST JUNE

Leonel Richard

One evening late last June, I drove down a dead end logging road to put in a few hours of Breeding Bird Atlassing. The day had been hot and humid and the smell of balsam lingered in the calm air. This was my second time driving down this road. Along the first few kilometers, the forest had been clear-cut some years past but after some distance, the road penetrated a thick evergreen forest of medium sized spruce trees. Further on was another clear cut with a remnant stand of large white pines. This forest had been cut more recently, maybe last year or the year before. Already a few aspen and red maple saplings were taking advantage of the sunny location to get a head start on the conifer seedlings.

It was in this clear-cut a few weeks earlier that I had heard a Winter Wren. It was singing from a pile of dead tree tops and branches in a low area 100 metres from the road. This was a lifer for me even if I was only able to hear it. No sign of the wren today, only Ovenbirds, Hermit Thrushes and White-throated Sparrows. This is a good place to leave the vehicle and walk up the road. Trees are already casting long shadows as the sun races westward. The further I go, the closer together and the bigger the pine trees are until collectively, they look and feel like a forest although somewhat open and airy. Some of these pines are more than one hundred feet tall and over 3 feet in diameter at the trunk.

As I walk on, I arrive at a small stream within a buffer of untouched forest which made the failing daylight even more evident. At this time of day the forest gains another dimension. New sounds and new smells which weren't there an hour ago are now acting on my senses and triggering all sorts of emotions. The air is cooler now and the sun's rays barely make it through the trees. There is a sense of vulnerability at this time of day that is not easily justified in today's world. Nowadays the wilderness is seen in practical terms and little is left unexplained. Our primitive ancestors were no doubt aided by this instinctive wariness at the time of day when the predators are at their most active.

Sketch by Bob Savannah

I cross the brook and as I'm walking up the hill I catch the sight of a Bobcat by the edge of the road. He lunges into the shrubs and disappears without a sound. I stay put for a few minutes and listen for a sound, any sound from the bushes....and nothing. I feel like I've just seen a ghost. Time to breathe again. All wild cats are very aware of their surroundings which makes them hard to approach unless they are sick or sleeping. For whichever reason, I was able to get within 5 metres of him before he sensed my presence.

Illustration by M. Williamson

Continuing up the hill, the forest is more open again and high above I see and hear 5 Common Nighthawks chasing swarms of high flying insects. I note it on my writing pad and press on. The road makes a sharp right turn and I see something silhouetted beside the road. A small sapling is bent down in a half-circle until the top touches the ground and upon it is a great lump of a bird with a rather undefined outline. A rush of goose bumps goes up my back and neck. Standing at a good foot and a half tall, I know that it's a young Great Horned Owl. I also know that it is likely not alone. I approach slowly. From the opposite side of the road another young owl takes flight. As I get closer a third flies off from a perch not far from the first one. This one is also a young bird from this spring. Now the three are in flight and are joined by an adult that was perched in a pine tree nearby and they all fly away to the darkened woods.

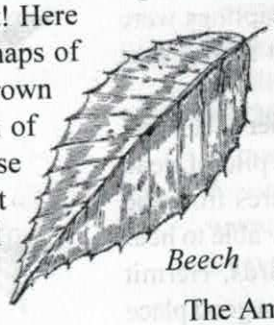
Sketch by Bob Savannah

This is my cue to head back to the vehicle, which by my GPS is 2 miles away in a straight line. Oh well....the moon is rising early tonight and oh look, a granola bar in my shirt pocket. A little comfort food goes a long way at a time like this.

ASPECTS OF SEASONAL LEAF FALL IN THE *FAGACEAE*

Peter Pearce

The beauty of New Brunswick's forest landscapes becomes even more breathtaking as their various deciduous components prepare for the approach of winter. Their summer's work done, the leaves of some two dozen species of trees begin to turn colour from their business-like greens to a spectrum and gradation of chartreuse, yellow, gold, orange, red, tan and copper. Triggered by shortening day length, the phenology of leaf fall and the predominant colour range and intensity are peculiar to each species and strongly influenced by environmental factors, particularly temperature and moisture. Soon enough, the deciduous forest stands stark and relatively sombre. But wait! Here and there one may still see patches of colour, perhaps of copper across a distant hillside, or a flag of pale brown in a woodlot. And in an urban milieu, dabs of tan of some ornamental trees may brighten an otherwise dreary winter streetscape. Examination reveals that the colours are nearly always provided by dead leaves retained by members of the *Fagaceae* family - the beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and oaks (*Quercus* spp.) - a curious phenomenon that may be of interest to the enquiring naturalist and one about which I undertook to learn more.



Beech

Fredericton is still well known for the number, variety and beauty of its shade trees despite inroads of Dutch elm disease. In addition to New Brunswick's two native oaks, red (*Q. rubra*) and bur or mossy-cup (*Q. macrocarpa*), the municipality and homeowners in Fredericton and outlying communities have planted a range of exotic oaks, providing the opportunity to gauge the commonness of dead leaf retention in the *Fagaceae*. Following is a summary of what I found during the winter of 2006-2007.

Among the red oak group, a young pin oak (*Q. palustris*), a species known to be very tolerant of urban conditions, bore a full coat of tan-coloured leaves in midwinter, and an old, misshapen shingle or northern laurel oak (*Q. imbricaria*) at that time still sported a few dead leaves on its lower branches. Many large, old red oaks were found to retain leaves throughout the cold season, usually although not exclusively on the lower parts of their crowns. The leaves of younger red oaks were more likely to be retained throughout the crown. Among the white oak group, a young swamp white oak (*Q. bicolor*) was resplendently clothed throughout the winter as were a number of young, leathery-leaved white oaks (*Q. alba*) at Durham Bridge. Ornamental bur oaks exhibited the same phenomenon. Specimens of fastigiate (columnar) cultivars of English or pedunculate oak (*Q. robur*) are to be found at several places in the city. Looking for all the world like Lombardy poplars (*Populus nigra var.italica*), some were pretty fully clothed with dead leaves in the winter, older ones were bare for the top one-third, still older ones naked. A young English oak of regular form at Maugerville retained all its leaves until spring as did other specimens at St. Andrews where the species is thoroughly naturalized. A venerable specimen at Andover - a "great tree of New Brunswick" - shed all its leaves late in the autumn.

Much farther afield, in southern parts of Vancouver Island the naturalized English oak and the native Garry or Oregon white oak (*Q. garryana*) are, as I recall, reluctant to shed their dead leaves. And in Britain, the pedunculate and the less common sessile or durmast oak (*Q. petraea*) are likewise inclined.

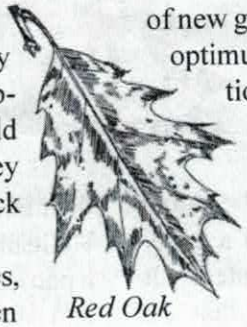
The American beech has not been planted much as a shade tree in Fredericton. In a forest context, the leaves on young understory trees and on the lower branches of older individuals become dry, bleached and papery ghosts of their former selves, yet remain attached through the worst onslaughts of winter.

So it is abundantly clear that dead leaf retention is common among otherwise deciduous members of the *Fagaceae*. Is the habit exclusive to that family? Not quite. Among the *Betulaceae*, for example, the American hop-hornbeam or ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*), not all that uncommon in southern New Brunswick, may sometimes retain dead leaves well into the winter as does the Amercian hornbeam or blue-beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*). The sugar or rock maple (*Acer saccharum*), representing the *Aceraceae*, is reported also to do so.

Now what about the live oaks? They are so called because they retain green leaves throughout the winter, not remaining bare for any prolonged period because they have no need to. Occurring in much warmer places than New Brunswick, the North American ranges of several of the evergreen oaks extend into the southern and southwestern regions of the United States. But they are not really "ever" green. A few species drop some leaves throughout the year, continuous leaf fall being a characteristic of evergreen plants. In other evergreen oaks the leaves fall gradually in

winter or suddenly in spring. In yet other species the leaves are deciduous in the third or fourth years.

The way deciduous trees prepare for the rigours of an unfavourable season like winter, or perhaps summer in a hot climate, is essentially to shut down by shedding their leaves in a senescence process called abscission. At the base of the leaf's stalk is an area of weakness, the abscission zone, the cells of which become less cohesive as the autumn advances. Finally only the vascular tissue connects the leaf to the tree, a thread easily broken by wind or frost. In those trees that tend to hang on to their dead leaves, the base of the stalk remains alive. Finally, the abscission process completes itself and the leaves fall before the flush of new foliar growth. The leaf-separation mechanism is slow to start in the *Fagaceae*, the leaves of deciduous oaks for example coming into full autumn colour often only after those of many other trees have already fallen. Juvenile trees may not establish effective abscission layers at all and understory trees may hold their leaves because of juvenility or because they are protected from weather events that would knock them off (Joanne MacDonald, pers.com.).



Red Oak

Is there something about beech and oak leaves, some feature they share? Beech leaves have been described as leathery, although one could say they are the epitome of delicateness at first flush. The leaves of many oaks, especially the white and Garry species, are particularly thick and tough. Members of the red oak group are also relatively high in lignin content. And in terms of carbon/nitrogen ratios, the leaves of members of the *Fagaceae* are in the high range, taking two or three years to decompose and easily seen as they persist on the forest floor.

There seems to be no common denominator linking beeches and oaks in terms of site characteristics such as soil fertility and moisture regime. Many species are usually found on moist, well-drained sites. Some deciduous oaks like dry places and do well in relatively poor conditions. Yet others favour wet sites. In a study of mixed hardwood stands in Florida, Monk (1966) found that the deciduous species occurred more commonly on moist, fertile sites while evergreen species preferred dry, sterile ones.

So why do beech and deciduous oak leaves tend to be retained until spring? Otto and Nillson (1981) may have had the answer. In a Swedish forest study of English oak and European beech (F. sylvatica) they found that small trees held their dead leaves almost to the top while larger trees retained leaves only on the lower branches, improving their chances, they surmised, of falling within reach of the trees' own root systems. Foliar analyses showed that more soluble nutrients were preserved in leaves shed in spring than in autumn-shed ones that had lain on the ground over winter. The investigators theorized that on well-drained sites where nutrient leaching was probably high, retention of dead leaves until spring could help the closing of the nutrient cycle. With regard to evergreen trees, Monk (1966) concluded that the prevalence of greenness on drier sites " may be related to the gradual return of nutrients to the soil or the establishment of a more closed mineral cycle through (1) the leaching of nutrients from leaves and (2) year-round leaf-fall."

In summary, the retention of dead leaves is a characteristic mostly of beeches and deciduous oaks (and possibly sweet chestnuts), all members of the *Fagaceae*, the leaves finally being abscinded by the spring before the flush of new growth. The timing of leaf fall may be to ensure the optimum recovery of nutrients in particular site conditions.

Nature's design ever engenders a sense of wonder in the beholder.

Acknowledgements: Appreciation is expressed to Tracey Dean, Don Murray and Peter Salonius for pointing me in the direction of several introduced oaks.

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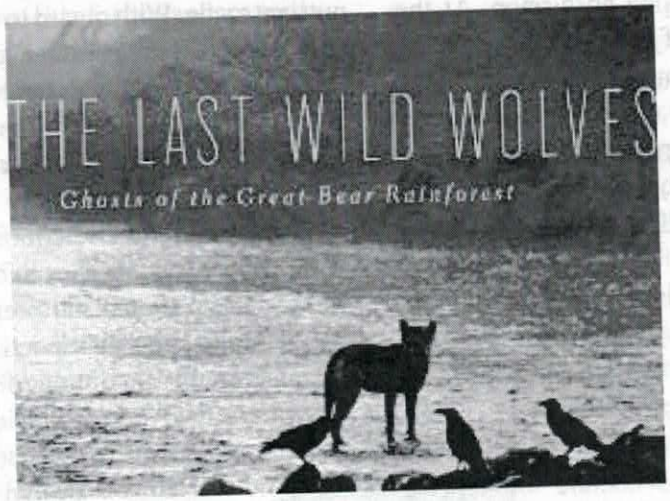
BOOK REVIEW

Mira Dietz Chiasson

The Last Wild Wolves
Ghosts of the Great Bear Rainforest By Ian McAllister. Published by Greystone Books (2007) $45 Can;192 pages



I have always been especially interested in wolves for of all the species of the world, the wolves are certainly one of the most misunderstood. Hunted, trapped and poisoned over decades, and almost eradicated across the globe. For some people wolves conjure up an image of a huge, bloodthirsty carnivore ? dangerous and best eliminated. But it is not so; wolves are highly sociable animals that are both intelligent and beautiful. They are carnivores by nature, and have teeth designed for shearing meat, but they are not the bloodthirsty animals one might think.

I first heard of Ian McAllister's book on CBC radio's *Quirks and Quarks*. It is justly entitled "The Last Wild Wolves", for he writes about a very special group of wolves, situated in the Great Bear rainforest off the coast of British Columbia. These wolves are truly the last wild wolves, for they are the guardians of their species' genetic diversity. They have been relatively unaffected by humans and live as they always have (and hopefully as they always will). Wolves elsewhere have been hunted by humans and over the last hundred years, resulting in a reduced the gene pool for wolves across the world and thereby lowering their genetic diversity.

These wolves live in an ecologically unique network of islands. They live off a marine based diet, (about 75 % of their diet is marine derived, the rest of it is made up of small game or animals such as the Sitka black-tailed deer.) made up of lots of salmon (during the spawning season), beached whales, barnacles, seals, squid, whatever happens to end up stranded on the beach.

Drawing by M. Dietz Chiasson

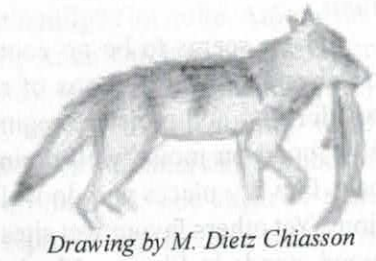
McAllister's vivid writing transports the reader instantly to the wildest archipelago of BC's coast. In amongst the eloquent descriptions of the wildlife, interesting facts, anecdotes and stunning photographs, he recounts the daily life of various packs of coastal wolves: The Fish Trap Pack consisting of the alpha leader White Cheeks, Ernest, who's best at staring contests and TL, or Three-Legs, the babysitter with the crippled hind leg;; the Village Pack whose denning site was located amidst the ruins of an ancient Heiltsuk village; and the Surf Pack with their leader, Bob, a patriarch full of attitude and Sorrow with her playfulness and sad eyes.

The distinct personality of each wolf is brought to life by the author's lively writing and his captivating photographic images.

An excellent book, well written, with beautiful photographs.

Provides the reader with a taste of what life is amongst the wolves. I highly recommend it!

" When I stare into the amber eyes of a wolf, I feel the closest to understanding an animal whose blood flows with the confidence of one that has never been broken. Those are the eyes of a hunter who has never been hunted. Those eyes offer a portal into understanding not just wolves, but also the rainforest world they represent. When I look into those eyes, I ask for a little bit more time. I ask the wolf to be patient with us a little longer while we find our way. Future generations may very well judge our success by how bright those eyes still are." — Ian McAllister, The Last Wild Wolves, page 187



Drawing by M. Dietz Chiasson

Nature NB
Assemblée générale annuelle
20,21 et 22 juin 2008

votre hôte : le Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne

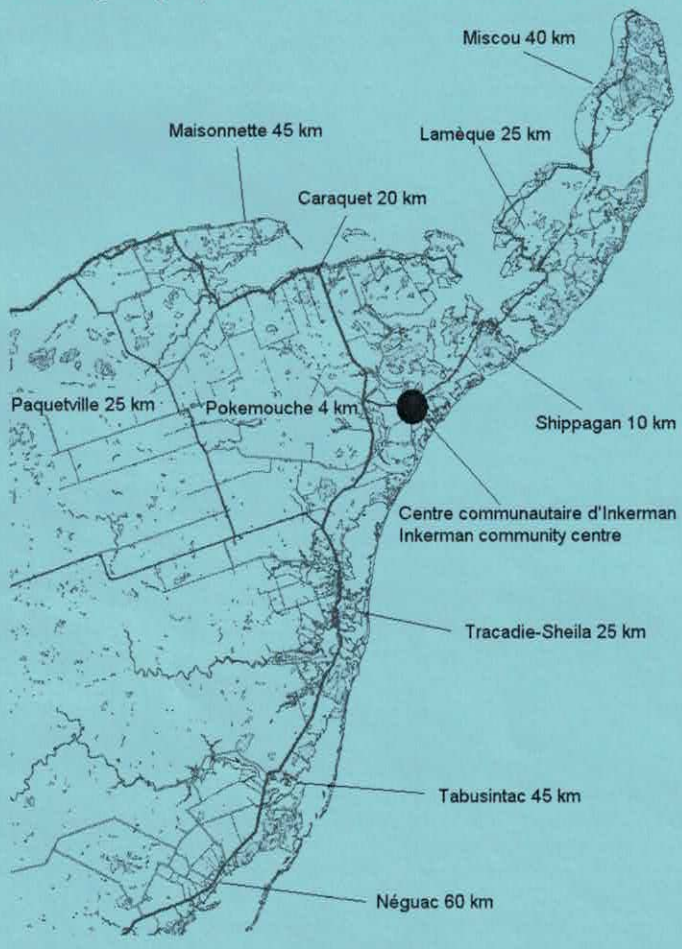
Bienvenue à la 35 ième A.G.A. de Nature NB qui se déroulera pour la troisième fois dans la Péninsule acadienne.

La Péninsule acadienne est située au nord-est du Nouveau-Brunswick et s'étend sur une superficie d'un peu plus de 2 000 km2. Son territoire comprend six paroisses civiles : Caraquet, Inkerman, Paquetville, Saint-Isidore, Saumarez et Shippagan. Vient s'ajouter, à l'ouest, la région de Grande-Anse, incluant la partie ouest de la paroisse de New Bandon. Le recensement de 1996 évalue la population de la Péninsule acadienne à 49 410, ce qui la place au 4e rang en importance au Nouveau-Brunswick, après les grands centres urbains de Saint John, de Moncton et de Fredericton.

Ayant choisi le village d'Inkerman, centre géographique de la Péninsule acadienne comme lieu de rencontre pour nos activités, le Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne vous souhaite la plus belle des fins de semaine et espère que vous vous amuserez autant pendant celle-ci que notre comité l'a fait pendant la planification. Le Centre communautaire d'Inkerman a été choisi pour toutes nos rencontres étant donné l'accessibilité aux facilités. Pour vous y rendre, suivez la route 11 (Pokemouche), route centrale de la Péninsule acadienne, prenez la sortie 217 et tournez sur la route 113 Nord vers Shippagan pour environ 4 kilomètres. Tournez à gauche sur la rue de l'Église jusqu'au Centre communautaire d'Inkerman (en face de l'Église).

La règle du premier inscrit, premier servi sera suivie pour assurer le bon déroulement de la fin de semaine. Vous verrez, inscrites à chacune des activités, deux distances : soit la distance en voiture à partir du Centre communautaire d'Inkerman et celle de l'excursion. Durant cette fin de semaine, le covoiturage sera de mise étant donné les longues distances à couvrir entre chacune des activités. Une carte vous indique les distances et le temps qu'il vous faudra pour vous rendre aux différentes excursions. Prévoyez le temps nécessaire pour vos déplacements. Voyagez prudemment et n'oubliez pas votre crème solaire, votre chasse-moustiques et des vêtements appropriés.

N'oubliez pas, pour ceux qui réserveront un lunch, de venir le chercher au Centre communautaire d'Inkerman ou vous assurer qu'une personne le fasse à votre place.



Temps libre :

Le samedi 21 juin 2008, nous vous avons laissé un temps libre de 2 heures avant le banquet afin de vous donner la chance de vous préparer, relaxer et vous rendre au Centre communautaire d'Inkerman, site du banquet. Ce temps libre vous permettra aussi de visiter des sites que vous aimeriez voir.

Grille horaire

Le vendredi 20 juin 2008

17h00 à 20h00	Inscription et rencontre sociale.
19h00 à 21h00	A.G.A. NATURE NB
21h30...	Sortie nocturne

Samedi 21 juin 2008

6h00 à 7h00	Sortie lève-tôt
7h00 à 8h30	Déjeuner continental, inscription et sac à lunch.
9h00 à 11h30	Excursion demi-journée
9h00 à 16h00	Excursion pleine journée
13h30 à 16h00	Excursion demi-journée
16h00 à 18h00	Temps libre
18h00 à 21h +	Banquet et soirée sociale

Dimanche 22 juin 2008

6h00 à 7h00	Sortie lève-tôt
7h00 à 8h30	Déjeuner continental et inscription sac à lunch.
9h00 à 11h30	Excursion demi-journée
9h00 à 16h00	Excursion pleine journée
13h30 à 16h00	Excursion demi-journée
16h00...	Voyagez prudemment

Sorties lève-tôt :

Commencez bien votre journée, commencez tôt!

Vivez un superbe matin plein de plumage et de ramage! On vous invite à visiter deux lagunes bien connues pour leur diversité aviaire. Elles sont situées à une vingtaine de minutes de route du village d'Inkerman. La lagune de Tracadie-Sheila est près de la baie de Tracadie et celle de Caraquet est à l'intérieur des terres. Toutes deux vous feront découvrir une quantité d'oiseaux marins et forestiers. Ces sorties sont offertes le samedi et le dimanche. Aucune inscription nécessaire.

Point de rencontre pour la lagune de Tracadie : rendez-vous à 6h00 au Garage Hatheway Ford de Tracadie-Sheila.

Point de rencontre pour la lagune de Caraquet : rendez-vous à 6h00 au Tim Hortons de Caraquet.

Lieu : Caraquet / Tracadie; Durée : 1 heure; Distance : --
Voiture : 20 Km; Difficulté : facile; Participants : illimité; Bilingue

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Sortie nocturne : les sons de la nuit

Suite à l'A.G.A. du vendredi 20 juin, nous vous invitons à joindre nos naturalistes pour voir les martinets ramoneurs entrer dans leur dortoir de l'église de Paquetville et par la suite, découvrir les sons qui nous entourent pendant la nuit. Durant cette première sortie, nous aurons la chance de voir et d'entendre les chants assourdissants des Rainettes crucifères voir des Tritons verts ainsi que des larves d'insectes et plusieurs autres surprises du sentier du Lac-à-Prudent. Si le temps est clément, nous pourrons aussi regarder vers le firmament et en apprendre sur les étoiles qui illuminent la nuit. Prévoyez une lampe de poche. Aucune inscription nécessaire.

Lieu : Paquetville; Durée : --; Distance : 3 Km; Voiture : 15 Km
Difficulté : facile -moyen; Participants : illimité; Bilingue

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Excursions demi-journée :

 # 1. *Espèce en péril : une question d'éducation*

Durant cette sortie, vous verrez le Pluvier siffleur dans son habitat naturel, tout en apprenant davantage sur sa biologie et sur son habitat, qui a besoin de notre protection. Vous serez accueillis par le programme Projet Siffleur de Nature NB qui travaille sur la zone côtière de la Péninsule acadienne depuis plus de 20 ans. L'Ammophile à ligule courte, les habitats côtiers et les colonies d'oiseaux feront aussi partie de nos discussions. Venez en apprendre sur ce programme de Nature NB, qui est en place grâce à votre appui.

Lieu : Shippagan; Durée : 2 heures; Distance : 2 Km; Voiture : 10 Km
Difficulté : moyenne; Participants : 20; Bilingue

 # 2. *Parc Écologique : un parc unique*

Situé sur l'île de Lamèque, le Parc Écologique de la Péninsule acadienne a été aménagé afin de nous faire découvrir les beautés naturelles de la région et de ses nombreux écosystèmes. Au coeur d'un estuaire, le milieu marin et le milieu terrestre se marient pour donner un écosystème diversifié avec un cachet particulier. Durant cette sortie, vous serez accompagné d'un guide naturaliste sur un sentier de 2,5 km traversant marais, forêt boréale à différents stades de maturité, ancienne tourbière et plus encore, sans compter l'arboretum où se trouvent 27 espèces d'arbres indigènes. De plus, vous pourrez observer, grâce à notre caméra, une famille de balbuzards en direct sur grand écran et à l'extérieur, sûrement un Bihoreau gris et peut-être même...un Pic à dos rayé.

Lieu : Lamèque; Durée : 2 heures; Distance : 2 Km; Voiture : 30 Km
Difficulté : facile; Participants : 30; Bilingue

#3. *Miscou en constant mouvement*

Venez avec nous pour en apprendre sur la dynamique qui se cache derrière l'île Miscou et ses dunes. La Grande Plaine de Miscou cache plusieurs espèces extraordinaires, comme le Botriche simple (*Botrychium simplex*), le Saule chenu (*Salix candida*), la Violette à éperon crochu (*Viola adunca*), une multitude de géastres et bien d'autres secrets. Vous verrez et comprendrez la succession des écosystèmes, ce qui vous permettra d'imaginer un voyage dans le temps. Le système dunaire que nous vous invitons à voir, dont le point le plus éloigné est maintenant à plus d'un kilomètre de la mer, était autrefois baigné tous les jours par la mer.

Lieu : Miscou; Durée : 2 heures; Distance : 3 Km; Voiture : 40 Km
Difficulté : moyenne; Participants : 20; Bilingue

 # 4. *À la chasse aux orchidées*

Cette randonnée vous permettra d'y observer les trois espèces de cypripèdes: Le Cypripède acaule (*Cypripedium acaule*), est commun dans nos sous-bois; le Cypripède soulier (*C. parviflorum*), est relativement abondant; et, le Cypripède royal (*C. reginae*), considéré très rare selon le «Flora of New Brunswick», mais particulièrement abondant dans la cédrière de la rue du Voilier. De plus, il y a possibilité d'y voir 6 ou 7 autres plantes de cette formidable famille des orchidacées. Plusieurs sortes de fougères y sont également présentes ainsi que quelques autres espèces dépendantes d'un habitat qui se veut difficile d'accès à cause de la présence de l'eau. C'est pourquoi vous ne regretterez pas d'avoir enfilé vos bottes.

Lieu : Caraquet; Durée : 2 heures; Distance : 2 Km; Voiture : 25 Km
Difficulté : moyenne; Participants : 15; Bilingue

 # 5. *Découvrez l'Île-aux-Foins, ses plantes, ses habitats*

L'Île-aux-Foins est située dans la baie de Néguac. Elle mesure 2 km de long sur 400 mètres à son point le plus large. Cette île, aménagée de passerelles et de sites d'observation, est accessible en voiture. L'Ile-aux-Foins abrite divers habitats, dont des marais salés, des plages sablonneuses, des dunes, une forêt mixte, habitats qui sauront vous livrer leurs secrets botaniques. Plusieurs plantes familières pourront être observées dans leurs habitats respectifs et la dynamique de ces habitats côtiers sera expliquée.

Lieu : Néguac; Durée : 1/2 journée; Distance : 1 Km; Voiture : 60 Km
Difficulté : facile; Participants : 15; Bilingue

 # 6. *De Tracadie à Tabusintac : les oiseaux de la zone côtière*

Plusieurs sites d'observation le long de la mer et dans les baies à l'intérieur des dunes seront visités : Pointe-à -Bouleau, Pointe-des-Ferguson, Val-Comeau, la plage de la Cédrière et l'embouchure de la rivière Tabusintac. Vous pourrez observer de nombreuses espèces de canards, tels que macreuses, eiders, et harelde kakawi , ainsi que d'autres espèces familières qui fréquentent nos côtes. Ces sites sont facilement accessibles et ils peuvent apporter de belles découvertes aux observateurs.

Lieu : Tracadie- Tabusintac; Durée : 1/2 journée; Distance : --
Voiture : 40 Km +; Difficulté : facile; Participants : 20; Bilingue

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 # 7. *Histoire de la lèpre à Tracadie*

Au début du XIXe siècle, la lèpre est apparue dans la région du nord-est du Nouveau-Brunswick. En 1849, après un court séjour d'isolement à l'Île Sheldrake dans la baie de Miramichi, les malades ont été transférés dans une léproserie à Tracadie. Les lépreux y ont été soignés par les religieuses Hospitalières de St-Joseph de 1868 jusqu'à la fermeture en 1965. Vous pourrez en connaître plus sur cette histoire singulière et les acteurs de ce drame humain, en faisant une visite guidée du Musée historique de Tracadie et en marchant le Sentier du Patrimoine qui se termine au cimetière des lépreux. 7a. Visite en anglais; 7b. Visite en français

Lieu : Tracadie; Durée : 1/2 journée; Distance : 500m; Voiture : 30 Km
Difficulté : facile; Participants : 15.

 # 8. *Ne manquez pas le bateau!*

Une sortie en mer d'une durée de 2h ½ à bord du Nord d'Est V, vous donnera la chance d'observer des oiseaux pélagiques ainsi que certains mammifères marins. En plus d'assister à une démonstration de pêche au homard et au crabe par un pêcheur professionnel, vous pourrez « jigger » le maquereau et même amener votre prise avec vous.

30$/ adulte et 20$/enfant (payable sur les lieux)
108, rue de l'Aquarium, Marina de Shippagan

Lieu :Shippagan; Durée : 1/2 journée; Distance : --; Voiture : 20 Km
Difficulté : facile; Participants : 15; Bilingue

 # 9. *Érablière mature et majestueuse*

Vous serez émerveillé par la diversité végétale et aviaire de cette forêt plus que centenaire. En plein coeur de cette forêt coule un petit cours d'eau qui fait la joie des parulines et du Canard branchu. Certaines nidifications sont inusitées dans cette érablière, comme celles du Tangara écarlate et de la Buse à épaulette. Les immenses érables, le Bouleau jaune, la Pruche et les arbustes de l'étage moyen de la forêt cachent des plantes herbacées de sous-bois, dont l'Anémone du Canada et la Clintonie boréale.

Lieu : Paquetville; Durée : 1/2 journée; Distance : 1 Km
Voiture : 30 Km; Difficulté : facile; Participants : 15; Bilingue

Excursions pleine journée

A : *Île Miscou : paradis à découvrir*
Cette île, située à l'extrême nord de la Péninsule acadienne, impressionne toujours, même après avoir ratissé le territoire des centaines de fois. À ce jour, nous avons répertorié plus de 200 espèces d'oiseaux, dont plusieurs raretés telles que le Quiscale de Brewer, le Grèbe à cou noir, la Sterne de Dougall, parmi plusieurs autres. Nos guides vous feront visiter les sites aviaires les plus intéressants de l'île et découvrir les plus beaux paysages de la Péninsule.
Lieu : Miscou; Durée : 1 journée; Distance : --; Voiture : 40 Km +
Difficulté : moyenne; Participants : 20; Bilingue

B : *Les secrets des tourbières d'Inkerman à Miscou*
Les secrets d'une tourbière, lieu peu connu des gens, vous seront dévoilés pendant cette visite. En cours de route, nous verrons trois sites d'exploitations laissés vacants après l'épuisement de la ressource.
En allant vers Miscou, nous arrêterons le long de la route pour observer une héronnière active. À l'Île Miscou, il y aura une interprétation de certains sites historiques suivie d'une visite au sentier de la tourbière du lac Chenière. Le parcours se poursuivra vers une tourbière à l'état naturel avec interprétation de l'écosystème et des plantes qui le compose. Le tout pourrait être suivi d'un arrêt au phare de l'île. Sur le chemin de retour, entre Lamèque et Savoy Landing, nous visiterons une tourbière en exploitation. Le départ se fera d'Inkerman. Prévoir des bottes pour marcher dans la tourbière. Transport par autobus : 10 $.
Lieu : Inkerman et Miscou; Durée : 1 journée; Distance : --; Difficulté : moyenne; Participants : 20; Bilingue

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C : *Village Historique Acadien*
Site des plus authentiques en Amérique du Nord, le Village Historique Acadien se veut le reflet de la vie des Acadiens de 1770 à 1939. Plus de 40 bâtiments originaux sont habités par des interprètes en costumes d'époque qui font revivre les coutumes et les métiers traditionnels. Chacun a une histoire à vous raconter.
Le Village est à environ 30 minutes d'Inkerman. Frais d'accès payable à l'entrée. 15 $ par personne (11 $ si le nombre dépasse 15 personnes)
Lieu : Caraquet; Durée : 1 journée; Distance : 3 Km; Voiture : 30 Km
Difficulté : facile; Bilingue

D : *Guillemots, mouettes et Maisonnette*
Rendus à l'île de Pokeshaw, vous pourrez observer la nidification d'une colonie de Cormorans à aigrettes ainsi que de nombreux Guillemots à miroir. Par la suite, à Grande-Anse, vous aurez la chance de voir la seule colonie de Mouettes tridactyles au Nouveau-Brunswick. Vous longerez ensuite la côte pour terminer à la fameuse dune de Maisonnette afin d'observer une multitude d'espèces d'oiseaux de rivage tels le Chevalier semi-palmé, la Barge hudsonienne et bien d'autres...à vos télescopes! Transport par autobus : 10 $.
Lieu : Caraquet; Durée : 1/2 journée; Distance : -- ; Voiture : 30 Km
Difficulté : facile; Participants : 20; Bilingue

Activités familiales durant l'AGA 2008 de Nature NB

Organisé par : Nature NB, CNPA, Centre d'interprétation de la nature Cape Jourimain, Parc écologique de la Péninsule acadienne
Ces activités familiales sont pour tous les âges, mais s'adressent principalement aux jeunes de 6 à 14 ans.

F-1 *Surveillons les carnivores!*
De quelle façon une plante peut-elle se nourrir d'insectes? Pour quelle raison certaines plantes sont-elles si petites? Si vous voulez en apprendre sur cet univers, tout en ayant du plaisir, venez avec nous explorer une tourbière pour voir ces fameuses plantes carnivores. Joignez-vous à cette exploration d'une tourbière de l'île Miscou.
Endroit : tourbière de Miscou

F-2 *Sauvons nos plages; une question de survie*
Pourquoi y a-t-il des espèces en péril? Pour quelles raisons le Pluvier siffleur est-il menacé de disparition? Et quelle est l'importance de l'ammophile à ligule courte qui pousse sur nos dunes? Dans la région de Shippagan appelé Baie de Petit Pokemouche, venez explorer un endroit tout à fait spécial : une plage, une dune et les occupants de celles-ci.
Endroit : plage de la région de Shippagan

F-3 *Les arbres qui nous entourent*
Venez avec nous au Parc écologique de la Péninsule acadienne afin d'en apprendre davantage sur les différentes espèces qui composent notre forêt. Nous étudierons leurs rôles et explorerons la manière dont un arbre fonctionne afin de comprendre pourquoi les forêts sont souvent surnommées les « poumons » de la planète.
Endroit : Parc écologique de Lamèque

N.B. On invite les participants à faire du covoiturage afin de réduire au minimum le nombre de véhicules pour chaque excursion. Les guides bilingues vous invitent à poser des questions dans la langue de votre choix. Par souci environnemental, le CNPA ne donnera, ni ne vendra de bouteilles d'eau à usage unique. Aussi, nous vous invitons à apporter votre propre bouteille réutilisable que vous pourrez remplir avec une eau d'excellente qualité à même les robinets partout dans la Péninsule acadienne. Toutefois, une certaine quantité de bouteilles réutilisables seront en vente sur place.

Hébergement :

Information offerte à titre d'information seulement.

Université de Moncton, Campus de Shippagan (Résidence) :
111, rue de l'Université
Paul Paquette (506)336-3455
Sans frais :1 800 363-8336
1 soir : 45$
1 semaine : 176$
Région de Caraquet :
http://www.ville.caraquet.nb.ca
Cliquez sur l'onglet - visitez notre région / hébergement

Région de Tracadie :
www.tracadie-sheila.ca
Cliquez sur l'onglet - tourisme / hébergement
Région de Shippagan :
http://ville.shippagan.com
Cliquez sur l'onglet - tourisme / hébergement
Région de Lamèque
http://www.lameque.ca
Télé : (506)344-3222
Pour les autres régions, visitez :
www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca
Cliquez sur l'onglet - « Où rester »

Les sorties

Nom de la sortie	Type	am/pm	#	Commence	Journée	Responsables(s)	
Commencez bien votre journée	lève-tôt am	am		6 : 00	Sam, Dim	Roland Robichaud & Denise Godin	☐
Les sons de la nuit	nocturne pm	pm		21 : 30	Ven	Rachel Robichaud & Lewnanny Richardson	☐
Île Miscou	pleine journée	am/pm	A	9 : 00	Dim	Denise Godin & Frank Branch	☐
Les secrets des tourbières	pleine journée	am/pm	B	9 : 00	Dim	Émile Ferron & Sabine Dietz	☐
Village Historique Acadien	pleine journée	am/pm	C	9 : 00	Sam, Dim	Guide du Village acadien	☐
Guillemots, mouettes et Maisonnette	pleine journée	am/pm	D	9 : 00	Sam	Roland Robichaud	☐
Espèce en péril	demi-journée	am	1	9 : 00	Sam, Dim	Lewnanny Richardson	☐
Parc Écologique	demi-journée	pm	2	13 : 30	Sam	Roland Robichaud	☐
Parc Écologique	demi-journée	am	2	9 : 00	Dim	Rachel Robichaud	☐
Miscou en constant mouvement	demi-journée	pm	3	13:30	Dim	à déterminer	☐
À la chasse aux orchidées	demi-journée	pm	4	13 : 30	Sam, Dim	Réjean Laforge	☐
Découvrez l'Île-aux-Foins	demi-journée	pm	5	13 : 30	Dim	Roland Chiasson & Lucille Landry	☐
De Tracadie à Tabusintac	demi-journée	am	6	9 : 00	Sam	Roland Chiasson	☐
De Tracadie à Tabusintac	demi-journée	pm	6	13 : 30	Sam	Roland Chiasson	☐
Histoire de la lèpre à Tracadie	demi-journée	am	7a	9 : 00	Sam	Guide du musée de Tracadie	☐
Histoire de la lèpre à Tracadie	demi-journée	am	7b	9 : 00	Dim	Guide du musée de Tracadie	☐
Ne manquez pas le bateau!	demi-journée	am	8	9 : 00	Sam, Dim	Guide du Nord-Est V	☐
Érablière mature et majestueuse	demi-journée	pm	9	13 : 30	Sam, Dim	Gart Bishop	☐
Surveillons les carnivores	demi-journée	am	F-1	9 : 30	Sam	Sabine Dietz	☐
Sauvons nos plages	demi-journée	pm	F-2	13 : 30	Sam	Lewnanny Richardson	☐
Les arbres qui nous entourent	demi-journée	am	F-3	9 : 30	Dim	Roland Chiasson	☐

FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

aussi disponible au : www.naturenb.ca

Information

Nom : _____

Adresse : _____

_____

Téléphone : (_____) _____ - _____

Courriel : _____

Encerclez vos préférences d'excursion :

Samedi 21 juin 2008

Premier choix :

Excursions pleine journée :	C	D*		
Excursions demi-journée (am) :	7a	1	8	6
Excursions demi-journée (pm) :	6	4	2	9

Second choix :

Excursions pleine journée :	C	D*		
Excursions demi-journée (am) :	7a	1	8	6
Excursions demi-journée (pm) :	6	4	2	9
Excursion familiale (am)	F-1			
Excursion familiale (pm)	F-2			

Dimanche 22 juin 2008 :

Premier choix :

Excursions pleine journée :	A	B*	C	
Excursions demi-journée (am) :	7b	2	1	8
Excursions demi-journée (pm) :	5	3	4	9

Second choix :

Excursions pleine journée :	A	B*	C	
Excursions demi-journée (am) :	7b	2	1	8
Excursions demi-journée (pm) :	5	3	4	9
Excursion familiale (am)	F-3			

* Transport par autobus

Coût

Inscription	*$*	*#*	*Total*
Jusqu'au 30 avril 2008	25 $	___	_____$
Après le 30 avril 2008	35 $	___	_____$
Étudiant de plus de 13 ans	10 $	___	_____$
Moins de 12 ans	gratuit	___	
Sortie B :	10 $	___	_____$
Sortie D :	10 $	___	_____$
Boîtes			
Casse-croûte pour samedi	8 $	___	_____$
Casse-croûte pour dimanche	8 $	___	_____$
Banquet			
Poulet	16 $	___	_____$
Plat végétarien	16 $	___	_____$
Homard	28 $	___	_____$
	Total		_____**$**

Signature : _____

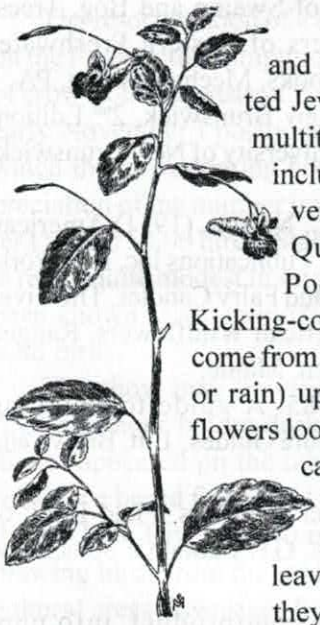
S.V.P. envoyez votre paiement à :

AGA de Nature NB; Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne (CNPA) 1521-4, Chemin Cowan's Creek
Pokemouche NB E8P 2C6
Roger Dumaresq; Téléphone : 764-5205; duma@nbnet.nb.ca
Courriel : Émile Ferron; emilef@nb.sympatico.ca (président)
***Faites votre chèque à l'ordre de** : Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne*

Nature NB ainsi que le Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne ne peuvent pas être tenu responsables pour tout accident, blessure ou dommage encourus par les participants aux activités de l'AGA qui se dérouleront les 20, 21 et 22 juin 2008.

BOTANY CORNER

Gart Bishop



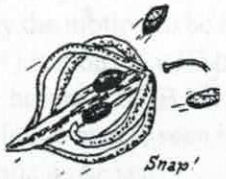
Drawing by F.S. Mathews

Touch-me-not is a plant of fun and usefulness. Also called Spotted Jewelweed (Impatiente) it has a multitude of other common names including Balsam, Silverweed, Silver cap, Slipperweed, Snapweed, Quick-in-the-hand, Ear-jewel, Pocketdrop, Snapdragon and Kicking-colt. The name Jewelweed may come from the beading of water (from dew or rain) upon the leaves. Some say the flowers look like 'jewels' or earrings delicately suspended by thin threads. The 'silver' colour mentioned can be observed when the leaves are held under water, and they appear to have a silvery shimmer caused by air trapped on the leaf surface.

Belonging to the *Balsaminaceae* family, part of its scientific name may be familiar to gardeners ? *Impatiens capensis.* Indeed, this common wild plant of shaded wet seepy woods is a close relative of the tropical Impatiens plants we buy annually to brighten our gardens. The genus name '*Impatiens*' is in reference to the easily triggered seedpods ... impatient to disperse , while the species name'*capensis*' was applied because the European person who originally described the plant in 1775 (Meerburgh) mistakenly thought the plant came from Cape of Good Hope.

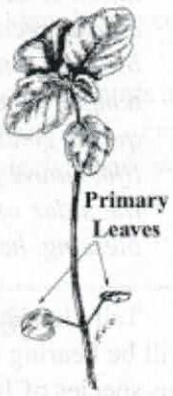
From mid July onward I look for the delicate horn-shaped orange flowers speckled with red/brown spots to be found dangling from thin stems (pedicel). I wait (perhaps impatiently) for the flowers to finish and the cigar-shaped seedpods to develop. The outer capsule becomes increasingly swollen and elastically stretched as the seeds grow, until it can stretch no more. Its sides burst open, and the seeds are shot out to a distance of 1 m or more. The name Touch-me-not is aptly chosen, although I simply can not resist touching a ripened pod to hasten this dynamic event, and am always startled at the instantaneous rupturing of the pod. (See figures 2 and 3)

Drawing by J.W. Brainerd



The flower develops its stamens first and the pistil afterwards, thus preventing self-fertilization and providing genetic benefits of cross-pollination. However, with careful looking, one will see that Jewelweed also produces many flowers which never bloom but manage to pollinate themselves (cliestogamous), thus ensuring a bountiful supply of seed each year.

Jewelweed is an annual wild plant, meaning that each year in the fall, the plant completely dies. In the spring a new plant grows from seed which has spent the winter outside. Young plants are relatively easy to identify even when it is not in flower, for as soon as the seeds germinate the first leaves (primary leaves) are different, being rounded (~ 1 cm) and in pairs. (see illustration). All the following leaves are not in pairs (alternate) and more egg-shaped with a round toothed margin. As the plants get taller (they can reach over 1 m high), the juicy green stems are often coated with a white 'frosting' which disappears when wiped by a finger.



Drawing by F. W. Oswald

The sap (or juice) from the stems is often helpful in treating mild cases of poison ivy, and to ease the itching of insect bites. Boiling a pot full of Jewelweed produces an orange liquid which can be used medicinally as described above or as a plant dye.

The nectar in the spur of the tubular flowers is a favourite of hummingbirds. Some types of bumblebees and wasps lacking a long tongue, take a shortcut by eating a hole through the flower's spur to reach the nectar without helping to fertilize the flower. Many Grasshoppers, katydids, gnats, leafminers, moths, sawflies, weevils and stink bugs feed on this plant. Its seeds are enjoyed by Ruffed Grouse, Snowshoe Hare, and various species of mice. However, because of prolific seed production, healthy populations of Jewelweed are maintained. Young shoots (up to 15 cm) can be boil\ed for 10-15 minutes in 2 changes of water and served sparingly as a cooked green, although it is not considered to be a choice selection. This is a plant that can easily be grown in suitable habitat by scattering

some seed but beware; it can become very abundant if conditions are suitable.

While Spotted Jewelweed is common throughout New Brunswick, another species, Pale Touch-me-not (*Impatiens pallida*) is only found rarely along shaded riverbanks of the upper St. John River and the Restigouche River. Two introduced species of Touch-me-not also occur in the province. Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) is spreading along the Fundy coast and is often abundant in places such as Saint John. Small-flowered Touch-me-not (*Impatiens parviflora*) is apparently spreading in shaded, disturbed areas around Fredericton.

An internet advertisement promoted a healing medicine made from Himalayan Balsam came with the following description:

> *For those who are ... quick in thought and action and wish all things to be done without hesitation or delay...or when ill they are anxious for a hasty recovery, ... impatient with others, irritable over little things, find it difficult to keep your temper ... cannot wait. If you are striving for exquisite gentleness and forgiveness, and that beautiful mauve flower, Impatiens, which grows along the sides of some Welsh streams, will, with its blessing, help you along the road.*

Tall claims for any plant I should think. Perhaps we will be hearing more about the healing properties of various species of Touch-me-nots in the future. Or maybe one ought to be careful about what one reads.

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http://www.vitaminexpress.com/product_info.ph products_id/2676 Vitamen Express, Bach Flow Impatiens

DEER IN BERWICK

James McQueen

Deer have been congre gating at the flashing light a Berwick on the road t Sussex.(Hwy 10). Number o deer present varies fron approx. 140 to at times 300.

A produce farmer grev cabbage here and didn't plov in the fall so it became a gar den for the deer.

A MURDER OF CROWS

Peter Pearce

The re-occupation of a traditional autumn/winter roost on the Fredericton campus of UNB signalled to me the start of crow-counting season. So it was that on two evenings in early November I positioned myself at strategic points to watch the birds coming home to roost and to gain an appreciation of the number involved. With a hand-held counter I tallied 5,600 birds. Sounds like quite a lot but the roost is really quite modest in size compared with some that have been known to accommodate up to several hundred thousand birds.

The show may be viewed in the evening during the final half-hour before dusk, at the time of writing just as dinner appeared on the table. Instead of approaching the roost on a broad front most of the birds do so by following the St. John River in two narrow corridors, one probably drawing birds from the regional sanitary landfill and agricultural areas downriver from Fredericton, the other gathering them from extensive open country above the city. A most striking feature of this daily ritual is the absolute silence with which the crows process so purposefully towards their goal. Nary a caw from a single throat. Spooky!

One is curious about what actually goes on in the roost. What is the spatial disposition of the birds therein? Do perches at the centre provide the best protection against the perils of the night? Are they commandeered by the firstcomers? (It's probably not like attending church, where you go early to get a back seat!)

About two decades ago, a CBC recording technician and I insinuated ourselves before dawn into that very roost to capture the sound of 2,000 crows awakening to the new day. After the first few vocal exchanges there soon developed a crescendo to what might be described as a corvid cacophony. The scene was quite Hitchcockian. It was certainly an experience to be remembered.

And so, a final word: At a time when so many birds are suffering serious population declines *Corvus brachyrhynchos* seem to be doing quite nicely thank you very much.

UPDATE ON THE CASE OF THE HERON COLONY (2006)

Sabine Dietz

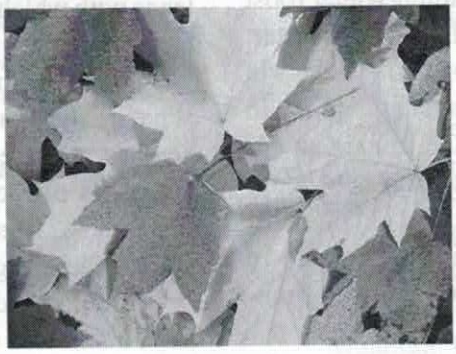
Update on the case of the Heron Colony (2006)

The prosecutor on the file has changed, and it is now Paul Adams, (a senior lawyer from the Department of Justice in) Nova Scotia. In the last update on this file we reported that the trial had been set for March, but it has changed again. March 25th is now set as a hearing date, not a trial date (again at the Burton Court House in Oromocto, 357-4020). The hearing is open to the public. In communications with the new prosecutor, it was very clear that the hearing is now set to respond to a challenge to the constitutionality of the Migratory Bird Convention Act and its Regulations. Apparently the motion to be heard is called: "Notice of Constitutional Question - R v JD Irving Hiltz". We have tried to get a copy before the NB Naturalist went to print, but were told the judge hadn't seen it yet, nor indicated it could be made public as of yet.

It is interesting that the defendants are challenging the legitimacy/constitutionality of the Migratory Birds Convention Act, a piece of legislation that has been in effect for three quarters of a century and which is the product of a treaty with the United States. It requires everyone, including industrial foresters, to refrain from doing a range of things, which would harm migratory birds. If the defendants are successful in having the law ruled unconstitutional, then it would remove an important piece of conservation legislation. The Department of Justice would be expected to appeal such a ruling. Should the law be struck down, it would raise questions about the legitimacy of all federal environmental and conservation legislation.

AUTUMN LEAVES - COLOUR THEM RED

Peter Pearce



The predominant autumn colour and colour range of the leaves of deciduous trees in the northern hemisphere are peculiar to each species. Shades of yellow, gold and tan are probably the most widespread, aspens (*Populus* spp.), birches (*Betula* spp.) and some maples (*Acer* spp.) being among those species genetically predetermined to reflect such colours. A significant contribution is also made even by a conifer - the tamarack (*Larix laricina*). But the strongest visual impact is surely made by various hues of red, encompassing a range from orange-red to scarlet to burgundy. The few trees in New Brunswick characterized by having red autumnal foliage include red oak (*Quercus rubra*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*), sugar maple (*Acer sacharum*), red maple (*A. rubrum*) and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*). Among shrubs one would certainly include staghorn-sumac (*Rhus typhina*) as well as red osier (*Cornus sericea*). (Isn't it curious that even within a given genus, however large, the trees of only one or two species turn red in the autumn?)

A media report last autumn on the grand colour display put on annually by our deciduous forest drew attention to a recent study that may explain why the leaves of some trees turn red and the intensity of that colour. But before discussing that investigation it would perhaps be helpful first to identify the functions served by several groups of foliar pigments as broad-leaved trees prepare for the northern winter - to touch on the chemistry behind the beauty, as it were.

Transformations in a number of those pigments cause senescing leaves to change colour. Foremost is chlorophyll, which catches light in the process of photosynthesizing glucose. It absorbs red and blue light and reflects the green that gives plants their universal colour. Chlorophyll is fairly unstable, sensitive to ultra-violet light and continuously being manufactured. But as the leaves start to shut down in the autumn, a process prompted by shortening day length, the chlorophyll begins to degrade, allowing yellow pigments, present all along, to show through.

Those yellow pigments are known as carotenoids. They are able to absorb light at wavelenghts - the greens - that chlorophyll is unable to access. The captured energy is passed on to the chlorophyll to assist in photosynthesis. There are several hundred carotenoids in nature including carotenes - the name not surprisingly deriving from the Greek for carrot - and xanthophylls such as lutein. These accessory pigments are responsible for many of the yellow, orange and red colours found throughout the plant and animal kingdoms and illustrated by plant leaves, flowers and fruits as well as some crustaceans, insects, fishes and birds. Xanthophylls cause the brownish autumnal colours of the leaves of many species of trees, contributions also being made by chlorophyll and other pigments which become tan or brownish when they break down.

Anthocyanins constitute a third group of pigments behind the beauty of the autumn forest scene, especially its more spectacular aspects. Anthocyanins are the red or blue flavonoid pigments found in many plants and some insects, colours that may be modified by yellow pigments. (The name is derived from Greek words for flower and dark blue.) Their main function, to digress a little, is to provide the red and blue colours of flowers and fruits so that animals, invertebrate and vertebrate, may be attracted and thus facilitate the dissemination of pollen and seed. Anthocyanins cause the red colour of tree leaves in the autumn. It appears that, unlike the yellow pigments, they are not present in the leaves through the growing season but are produced to serve a specific function in the autumn.

The study alluded to above was done in 2007 in North Carolina by Emily Habinck. She conducted laboratory analyses of autumn foliage samples from sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) - a witch-hazel noted for its brilliant red autumn leaves - and red maples along transects from floodplain to ridge top. She found that the leaves of trees growing on sites low in nitrogen and other essential nutrients on steep slopes and dry ridge tops produced more anthocyanins (and hence were redder) than the leaves of trees on richer bottomland which manufactured little of the red pigment (and thus were yellow). Obviously there was a connection with soil conditions. But why do those trees do it? Habinck's findings fit in with an earlier (2003) conclusion by William Hoch as to why trees bothered to

make anthocyanins since it takes energy to do so. He genetically blocked the synthesis of anthocyanins in red-leaved plants and discovered that the foliage became unusually sensitive to sunlight, a consequence of which was a lower recovery of nutrients for storage in the plants' roots. The sunscreening properties of anthocyanins, whereby they shade sensitive photosynthetic tissues while trees recover nutrients in the autumn, was a little earlier described by Hoch and his colleagues. The bottom line seems to be that in terms of energy conservation anthocyanins are an investment made by stressed trees. They ensure a longer protection of the leaves so that more nutrients can be removed before winter. Translated to a military context, the production of anthocyanins to favour an optimum recovery of nutrients from leaves is perhaps analogous to the dispatch of reinforcements to cover a withdrawal.

It is widely appreciated that the colour intensity of autumn leaves is greatest when the season's days are dry and bright, and the nights are cold. The latest research explains some of the reasons why. Observations that the most intensely coloured leaves are on the outside of a tree's crown rather than within or on its north side would seem to support the sunshine connection.

It seems clear, then, that answers are at hand concerning why and how some trees assume such glorious autumn reds. Or is it that clear? If the production of anthocyanins in autumn leaves confers such advantages in energy budgetting and nutrient conservation, one wonders why trees such as our birches and aspens - and maples and ashes other than those mentioned above - are not also predisposed to follow suit and turn red. Habinck theorized that "For species that don't turn red, they are probably adapted to higher nutrient conditions." And yet, don't we find that poor sites may sometimes be shared by more than just red-turning deciduous trees? The debate doubtless will continue!

Carotenoids, xanthophylls, anthocyanins! - important-sounding names befitting the vital roles their bearers play. Whether present all along and unmasked or freshly synthesized those pigments are, in summary, the chemical agents behind the transient but sometimes spectacular colours of the autumn landscape. But all too soon the prospect fades. And so, resources withdrawn into the trees, the spent leaves -save often those of beech (*Fagus grandifoliar*) and some oaks (*Quercus* spp.) - are cast off. Another season of growth comes to a close. The great deciduous forest lapses into a long sleep.

Internet information sources

Cornell University. Bright days, cool nights help create autumnal splendor, says Cornell plant physiologist. Science Daily (October 5, 1997).

University of Wisconsin-Madison. Autumn color is nature's sunscreen, say researchers. Science Daily (October 1, 2001).

Geological Society of America. Why do autumn leaves turn red? Soil may dictate the fall colors. Science Daily (October 29, 2007).

PHENOLOGICALLY FREDERICTON

Peter Pearce

A somewhat faded document which recently surfaced on my desk may be relevant to an ongoing Nature New Brunswick project. It is a first-draft, 32-page report titled "The phenology of Fredericton, New Brunswick" which was written by the late Bruce Wright, director of the former Northeastern Wildlife Station at UNB Fredericton.

The report's introduction describes the area covered (Scotch Lake to the Acadia Forest Experiment Station, south to Gagetown), provides regional climate data (precipitation, temperature, hours of sunshine) from 1924 to 1939, and gives dates of the St.John River freeze-up and break-up at Fredericton from 1825 to 1950 - information perhaps not too useful now in the post-Mactaquac-dam era. The second section deals with "A phenological calendar." Finally there is a tabulation of detailed phenological information for each month from March to November. First and average dates of plant bud burst, leaf flushing, flowering, fruiting and leaf fall are given as well as migratory bird arrival and departure dates, seasonal activities of mammals and other miscellaneous phenological data. Sources of information were William Moore's bird records from Scotch Lake from 1900 to 1938, an unpublished report of forest phenology observations at the Acadia Forest Experiment Station from 1937 to 1941, and records maintained at the Northeastern Wildlife Station from 1945 to 1952.

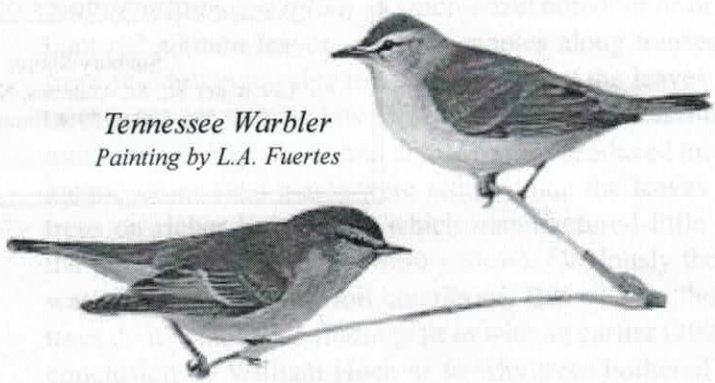
I did not determine whether this document progressed beyond a first draft. Also, it may be outside the time frame of Nature New Brunswick's project on monitoring the effects of climate change on our flora and fauna. I have, nevertheless, lodged Wright's report at Nature New Brunswick's office where it may be accessed by those who wish to set the current phenology of south-central New Brunswick in an historical context.

BIRDING AT KOUCHIBOUGUAC NATIONAL PARK REMEMBERED

Peter Pearce

In the spring of 1971 I was involved in a project in Kent County to assess the impact on forest birds of an experimental aerial spray program to control spruce budworm. Bird surveys in an unsprayed, control area were required. I chose to do them in nearby Kouchibouguac National Park, along a four-kilometre stretch of road crossing Kollock Creek near its mouth. Twenty-three surveys were carried out between 22 May and 18 June. Summarized here are the results off 11 of those surveys, all done in June and when the wind was no more than a gentle breeze (force 3 on the Beaufort scale). The considerably varied avifauna revealed by the surveys was probably typical of the mostly young - at that time - mixed forest of burn and cutover origin then found throughout much of the park.

Sixty-five species of songbirds were noted on the surveys, about 300 individuals at each coverage. The ten most abundant birds and the average number of individuals noted on the 11 surveys were as follows: White-throated Sparrow 40, Tennessee Warbler 26, Magnolia Warbler 21, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 20, Ovenbird 19, Nashville Warbler 17, Common Yellowthroat 16, Cape May Warbler 11, Bay-breasted Warbler 11, and Swainson's Thrush 10. Also fairly well represented were Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Canada Warbler, American Redstart, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, and Dark-eyed Junco.



Tennessee Warbler
Painting by L.A. Fuertes

Wouldn't it be interesting to repeat the surveys now, nearly 40 years later, along the same route and employing the same protocol? Budworm-following Tennessee, Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers would certainly not now make the top-ten list. The other seven of the first ten species might be represented, probably in a different order reflecting a changed forest in terms of structure and age. Certainly most of the species noted above would, sadly, now be represented by significantly reduced numbers.

Cape May Warbler

Several post-project visits to the park were rewarded by a number of miscellaneous bird observations, the following nine perhaps for different reasons deserving citation:

Piping Plover - seven were on Kouchibouguac Beach on 22 June;

Hudsonian Godwit - a gathering of 16 at Kelly Beach was noted on 10 August;

Red Knot - there were two on the "tern island" on 16 June;

American Woodcock - a singing ground survey was conducted on 19 May. Counts were made at nine stops, roughly one to two kilometres apart, a total of 24 birds being heard;

Common Tern - a breeding colony survey was done on 16 June, a total of 1419 nests with eggs being counted;

Snowy Owl - one was seen on Kouchibouguac Beach on 22 June;

Horned Lark - 18 were counted on Kouchibouguac Beach on 22 June;

Sedge Wren - one was noted twice (25, 28 May) on the roadside surveys near Kollock Creek;

Vesper Sparrow - there were four at Guimond on 23 May.

In addition to the Common Tern, 31 nests of 14 other species were discovered. Details were lodged with the Maritimes Nest Records Scheme. My 20-page report on all of the above is on file at the Kouchibouguac National Park office.

I TASTE A LIQUOR NEVER BREWED

Emily Dickinson

I taste a liquor never brewed,
From tankards scooped in pearl;
Not all the vats upon the Rhine
Yield such an alcohol!

Inebriate of air am I,
And debauchee of dew,
Reeling, through endless summer days,
From inns of molten blue.

When landlords turn the drunken bee
Out of the foxgloveès door,
When butterflies renounce their drams,
I shall but drink the more!

Till seraphs swing their snowy hats,
And saints to windows run,
To see the little tippler
Leaning against the sun!

WHAT IS A RARE PLANT IN NEW BRUNSWICK?

Sean Blaney

As naturalists, we tend to be interested in the rare, whether that is a rare bird like the Roseate Tern that only nests on Machias Seal Island within New Brunswick, or a rare plant that is only found in a few special places in the province. As naturalists, we also want to make sure that we protect rare species so that they do not become extirpated species that are lost to the province.

To some extent, rarity is in the eye of the beholder. I occasionally receive emails via the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre website asking if a particular observed plant is rare, often indicating that "we have never seen something like this before". Frequently the plant in question is something like Indian Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*) or Moccasin-Flower (also called Pink Lady Slipper, *Cypripedium acaule*) that is showy and unusual-looking but actually quite common in the woods of New Brunswick. These sightings were rare to those that made them, but not rare in the context of the whole province. In order to effectively protect truly rare species, we need to determine what those are and to list them. That is where things can get quite confusing to the uninitiated, because there are multiple systems for determining rarity and differing levels of protection associated with them.

Only a very small number of our plant species (nine species including one under assessment out of 1100+ native species) are legally protected through the Federal Species at Risk Act and/or the provincial New Brunswick Endangered Species Act. In order to receive this level of protection, a detailed status report assessing population levels and threat must be written and evaluated by a series of committees and their decision on status must be approved by federal or provincial politicians. In general, only species which are more widely rare than just in New Brunswick have been considered for legal protection, so those nine protected species are almost all *globally rare* or rare throughout their whole range.

There are hundreds of other plant species rare in New Brunswick but secure elsewhere in their range, and there are two major systems of determining rarity status within New Brunswick. These are: 1) the General Status of Wildlife process used by provincial Departments of Natural Resouces across the country, and 2) the NatureServe Conservation Status process used by the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (AC CDC) and equivalent organizations at the province and state level across North America. For New Brunswick the two processes are tightly and efficiently linked together through a vascular plant status working group jointly led by New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and AC CDC and including a number of additional expert botanists volunteering their time. Through an arduous series of meetings between 2000 and 2003, the working group reviewed the number of occurrences, range, abundance, threats, occurrences in protected areas and intrinsic vulnerability of over 400 vascular plant species to come up with initial status ranks under both systems, producing a comprehensive list of the rare plants of New Brunswick.

The working group's efforts represented our best understanding of species' status at the time of ranking, but with extensive new fieldwork in recent years, many species listed as rare have been shown to be more common than initially believed, necessitating changes to status ranks. In March and April of 2007, we reconvened an expanded vascular plant working group for two more meetings and we revised ranks for over 100 species, the great majority of which are now ranked at lower levels of rarity thanks to new data. The two ranking systems produce somewhat different results. The greater emphasis on threat under the General Status system produces a more conservative list of 284 rare species than the NatureServe system, which emphasizes rarity more strongly, and results in a list of 424 rare species.

The production of these comprehensive rare plant lists for New Brunswick is an important accomplishment and the work of the all the volunteer members, especially the initial committee (Jim Goltz, Gart Bishop, the late Hal Hinds, and Debbie Peck) should be congratulated. The lists provide a strong foundation for further work in understanding the distribution and status of the province's botanical diversity, and the fact that the rare species lists were produced in a consistent and scientifically defensible manner gives them substantial weight. The credibility of the rare species lists is what allows New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources to recommend sometimes significant and potentially costly changes to development projects that protect rare plants as a condition of the projects' approval, even though the plants involved may not have any legal protection.

The current ranks, however, are never the final word.

We will continue to find new rare plant locations, and even entirely new species for the province, that will make further ranking revisions necessary. The vascular plant status working group is open to any suggestions for ranking changes that are supported by good data. I certainly encourage anyone interested in New Brunswick's plants to download the rare plant lists for the province, learn more about the rare species on them, and submit any new data to the AC CDC to support conservation of the rare plant sites and further understanding of rare plant status generally.

For more information, see:

Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (NatureServe Conservation Status Ranks, with links to rank definitions)
http://accdc.com/products/ranking.html

New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources (National General Status Rank overview for NB and searchable lists for taxonomic groups other than vascular plants)
http://www1.gnb.ca/0078/WildlifeStatus/search-e.asp

Wild Species 2005 (a list of all National General Status ranks for Canadian provinces and territories, including NB vascular plant ranks)
http://www.wildspecies.ca/wildspecies2005/index.cfm?lang=e&sec=1

ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES OF NEW BRUNSWICK (protected by law under Endangered Species Act 1996)

Van Brunt's Jacob's-Ladder
Drawing by F.S. Mathews

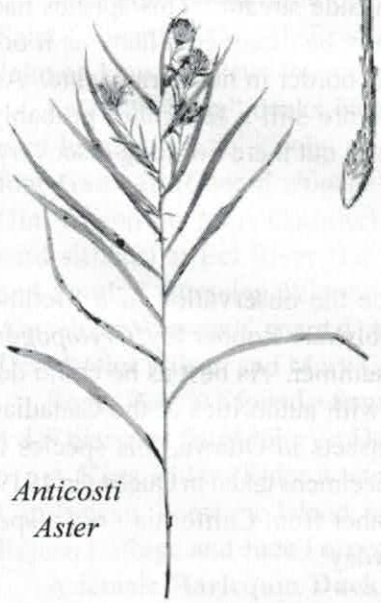
Pinedrops

Parker's Pipewort

Bathurst Aster
Drawing by C.M. Young

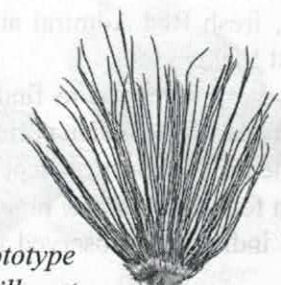
Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster

Anticosti Aster (*Aster anticostensis*)
Bathurst Aster (*Aster subulatus var. obtusifolius*)
Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster (*Brachyactis ciliata subsp. laurentiana*)
Furbish's Lousewort (*Pedicularis furbishiae*)
Parker's Pipewort (*Eriocaulon parkeri*)
Pinedrops (*Pterospora andromedea*)
Prototype Quillwort (*Isoetes prototypus*)
Southern Twayblade (*Listera australis*)
Van Brunt's Jacob's-Ladder (*Polemonium van-bruntiae*)
[Under assesment]



Anticosti Aster

Southern Twayblade



Prototype Quillwort

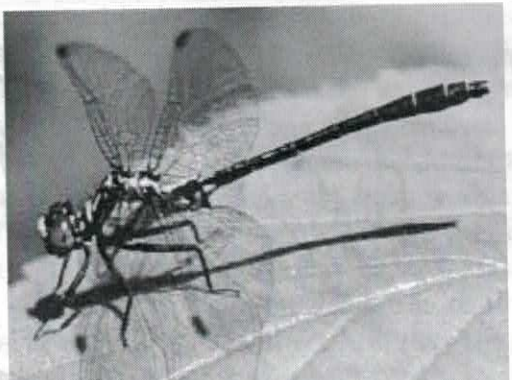
Furbish's Lousewort
Drawing by K. Furbish

NATURE NEWS: INVERTEBRATES AUTUMN 2007: SEPTEMBER 1 TO NOVEMBER 30

Dwayne L. Sabine

Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths)

This fall was the tail end of what turned out to be a second exceptional year in a row for **Monarchs** (monarque; *Danaus plexippus*) in NB. They were noted throughout the province by various observers during September and October, with "upward of 100" present at Point Lepreau on Sept 19 (Jim and Jean Wilson). Late, lingering lone Monarchs were noted at Fredericton, Oct 23 (Mary Pugh); Grand Manan, Oct 25 (Ralph Eldridge); Fundy national Park, Oct 28 (Norm and Gisele Belliveau, Rose-Alma Mallet, Stuart Tingley), and Point Lepreau, Nov 5 (Jim Wilson) (where and when Jim also observed a straggling **American Painted Lady** (vanesse de Virginie; *Vanessa virginiensis*). The latest Monarch record for 2007 - and the latest record for any butterfly species this year - went to Scott Makepeace, who noted one at Lower Jemseg on Nov 7.



male Lanthus vernalis
Catoctin Mtns MD
Dave Czaplak

Another migrant butterfly species that was especially abundant this year was the **Red Admiral** (vulcain; *Vanessa atalanta*). The large influx of migrants noted during late spring and summer appears to have resulted in good production of local broods, and they were noted by various observers throughout late summer and fall. Notable records included that of Jim Wilson, who noted many hundreds at Point Lepreau on Sept 3. Late Red Admirals include a bright, recently-emerged individual at Browns Flat on Oct 21 (Scott Makepeace), 10 noted in Albert Co. on Oct 28 (Norm and Gisele Belliveau, Rose-Alma Mallet, Stuart Tingley), one at Grand Manan on Oct 28 (Saint John Naturalists' Club), and finally, another bright, fresh Red Admiral at Upper Greenwich on Oct 31 (Scott Makepeace).

Reggie Webster was very surprised to find a half dozen or so fresh **Eastern Tailed Blues** (bleu porte-queue de l'Est; *Everes comyntas*) near Canterbury on Sept 8. This species has apparently been found only a few times in the province, with only single individuals observed in most cases.

Odonata (Damselflies and Dragonflies)

As usual, the latest active dragonflies this year were **Meadowhawks** (Sympétrum; *Sympetrum* sp.). Scott Makepeace noted several **Black Meadowhawks** (sympétrum noir; *Sympetrum danae*) at Upper Greenwich on Oct 28. A few days later (Oct 31) at the same location Scott observed dozens of **Saffron-winged Meadowhawks** (sympétrum rubigineux; *Sympetrum costiferum*) and **Autumn (Yellow-legged) Meadowhawks** (Sympétrum tardif *Sympetrum vicinum*), many actively mating - impressive given that several centimetres of snow fell the previous day. Several unidentified Meadowhawks were active at Charters Settlement on Nov 5 (Reggie Webster). Finally, there were still a few Autumn (Yellow-legged) Meadowhawks present at Central Hampstead and at Mistake Interval on Nov 7 (Scott Makepeace).

A belated summer 200 record: Bob Harding found the firs New Brunswick, and Canadian record of the **Southern Pygmy Clubtail** (*Lanthus vernalis*) i Kings Co. on July 7, when he en countered two males at a small roadside stream. This species ha been expected to eventually be discovered here, as it oc curs with 50km of the NB border in northern Maine. A excellent find - and there are still a few other probab new-to-NB Odonata species out there awaiting discover

Miscellaneous

Tony Thomas made the observation of a lifetim when he found an incredibly rare Robber Fly, ***Crytopoge varans***, at Bartibog this summer. As best as he could d termine after consulting with authorities at the Canadi National Collection of Insects in Ottawa, this species known only from single specimens taken in Quebec in 191 Ontario in 1923, and another from California - not a sp cies one encounters everyday!

NATURE NEWS - BIRDS OCTOBER 25, 2007 TO JANUARY 10, 2008

Don Gibson

During an autumn in which Common Grackles and Rusty Blackbirds were frequently encountered, three keen-eyed birders noticed a blackbird that appeared slightly different. Their preliminary identification was correct. They were observing what was the second-ever confirmed **Brewer's Blackbird** for the province.

Brewer's Blackbird
Drawing by R. B. Horsfall

Reports of **Greater White-fronted Goose** are rather rare and hence of note. A juvenile bird was seen at Saints Rest Marsh (Saint John) on Nov. 30 and a few days later another, also a juvenile, was shot at Castalia. An adult Greater White-fronted Goose had been reported at Castalia on Sept. 20 and 21 (see N.B. Naturalist Fall 2007).

The **Tufted Titmouse** once again tried to establish a presence in New Brunswick, four birds (two at one location) remaining faithful to feeders at various locations in the province.

A juvenile **Greater White-fronted Goose** (Oie rieuse) was seen at Saint John on Nov. 30 (Merv Cormier and Richard Perron) and another was shot at Castalia on Dec. 4 (*fide* Durlan Ingersoll).

Six **Snow Geese** (Oie des neiges) were reported at Saint-Léonard on Oct. 31 (Roy LaPointe). One was at Saint John on Nov. 18 (Peter Pearce *et al.*)

Late "dabbling" ducks included a **Wood Duck** (Canard branchu) at Saint John on Dec. 9 (Roger Burrows), four **Gadwall** (Canard chipeau) at Saint John on Dec. 1 (Jim Wilson and Merv Cormier), a **Eurasian Wigeon** (Canard siffleur) at Eel River Bar on Oct. 31 (Irene Doyle) and another Eurasian Wigeon in the company of five **American Wigeon** (Canard d' Amérique) at Saint John on Dec. 1 (Jim Wilson and Merv Cormier).

Roger Burrows found a female **Canvasback** (Fuligule à dos blanc) at Saint John on Dec. 26.

A **King Eider** (Eider à tête grise) was discovered at Cap-Bateau, Lamèque Island, on Dec. 30 (Émile Ferron, Réjean Laforge and Jude Larocque).

A female **Harlequin Duck** (Arlequin plongeur) was seen at Dalhousie on Nov. 7 (Mike Lushington, Jim Clifford, Norman Webb). Eileen Pike and Janet Whitehead found five males and one female at Point Lepreau on Nov. 9 and Ralph Eldridge tallied 15 birds at Machias Seal Island on Dec. 20.

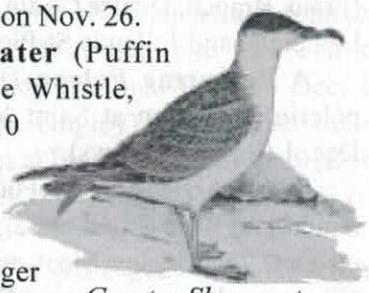
Ruddy Duck (Érismature rousse) flocks grew to considerable size, Don Gibson and Shirley Sloat finding12 at Saint John on Oct. 25 and Alain Clavette and Yolande LeBlanc counting 24 at Memramcook on Oct. 26. Two Ruddy Ducks were seen at Calhoun Marsh on Oct. 28 (Stu Tingley) and one was at Eel River Bar on Oct. 31 (Irene Doyle).

A rather late **Pied-billed Grebe** (Grèbe à bec bigarré) was seen at Saint John on Dec. 5 (Roger Burrows).

Reports of inland **Red-necked Grebes** (Grèbe jougris) included one at Lower Summerville on Nov. 15 (Hank Deichmann) and one at Lower Jemseg on Nov. 16 (Shirley Sloat and Margery Acheson).

Durlan Ingersoll saw a **Northern Fulmar** (Fulmar boréal) near Grand Manan on Nov. 26.

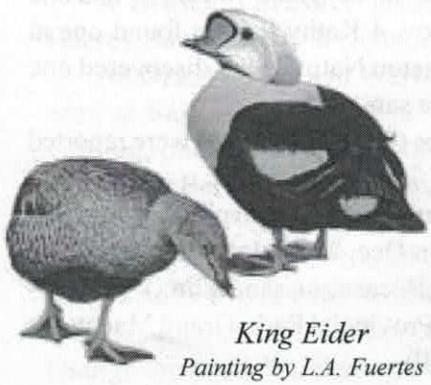
A **Greater Shearwater** (Puffin majeur) was seen off The Whistle, Grand Manan, on Dec. 10 (Laurie Murison).



Greater Shearwater
Drawing by R.I Brasher

A **Great Blue Heron** (Grand Héron) was seen at Saint John on Dec. 1 (Roger Burrows), another was reported at Alma on Dec. 8 (Doreen Rossiter) and one was observed at South Branch, Kent County, on Dec. 19 (Marsha MacDonald).

A **Black Vulture** (Urubu noir) first reported at Upper Cape on Oct. 18 was still present on Oct. 26 (Norm and Gisèle Belliveau, Rose-Alma Mallet and Stu Tingley). A large dark distant flying bird seen on Jan. 5 at Hampton by John Barnstead, Harvey McLeod and Richard Blacquiere was possibly a Black Vulture.



King Eider
Painting by L.A. Fuertes

Ivy and Norbert

Austin reported a **Turkey Vulture** (Urubu à tête rouge) at Lamèque on Dec. 1.

Any **Osprey** (Balbuzard pêcheur) sighting after September is noteworthy. One was seen from the Grand Manan ferry on Oct. 28 (SJNC) and one at St. Martins on Nov. 4 (Ted Sears). Exceptionally late were one at North Head on Dec. 10 (Laurie Murison) and one at Little Buctouche River on Dec. 11 (Stella and Jean-Paul LeBlanc).

Roy LaPointe reported a **Cooper's Hawk** (Épervier de Cooper) at Saint-Léonard on Dec. 2 and there was one at Fredericton on Jan 2 (Peter and Theresa Pearce).

A **Northern Goshawk** (Autour des palombes) was seen at Scotchtown on Dec. 3 (Margie Pacey) and another observed at Taymouth on Dec. 4 (Julie Singleton). There were three Northern Goshawks, in addition to one **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (Épervier brun), near the residence of John Inman at Marys Point on Jan. 1.

Bev Schneider reported a **Broad-winged Hawk** (Petite Buse) near Fredericton on Nov. 5 and Roger Burrows saw a juvenile bird at Saint John on Dec. 2.

An **American Kestrel** (Crécerelle d' Amérique) was reported at Grand Manan on Nov. 16 (Janet and Allen Gorham).

A **Gyrfalcon** (Faucon gerfaut) was observed at Lac Frye on Oct. 28 (Frank Branch, Denise Godin, Rosita Lanteigne and Jollande St-Pierre).

A **Peregrine Falcon** (Faucon pèlerin) was seen at Saint John on Dec. 1 (Roger Burrows).

Two **American Coots** (Foulque d' Amérique) were found at Saint John on Oct. 25 (Shirley Sloat and Don Gibson) and two were seen at Bayfield on Oct.26 (Norm and Gisèle Belliveau, Rose-Alma Mallet and Stu Tingley). On Oct. 27 Tracey Dean found three at St. Stephen and one at St. Andrews. Three American Coots were reported at Wilsons Point on Oct. 28 (Frank Branch, Denise Godin, Rosita Lanteigne and Jollande St-Pierre). David Christie saw two at Harvey Bank on Oct. 31 and one there on Nov. 20. On Nov. 4 Kathy Popma found one at Sackville and the Fredericton Nature Club discovered one at Mactaquac Park on the same day.

Two **Sandhill Cranes** (Grue du Canada) were reported at Havelock on Oct. 27 (*fide* Jim Brown).

A **Spotted Sandpiper** (Chevalier grivelé) was reported at Machias Seal Island on Dec. 25 (Ralph Eldridge).

Four **Sanderlings** (Bécasseau sanderling) were reported at the Anchorage Provincial Park, Grand Manan, on Dec. 13 (Durlan Ingersoll).

David Christie found a **Long-billed Dowitcher** (Bécassin à long bec) at Harvey Bank on Oct. 31.

A **Black-headed Gull** (Mouette rieuse) was seen at Shediac on Oct. 26 (Norm and Gisèle Belliveau, Rose-Alma Mallet and Stu Tingley).

Roger Burrows found the following gulls at Saint John: a **Mew Gull** (Mouette Goéland) on Nov. 20, a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (Goéland brun) on Dec. 5 and a **Glaucous Gull** (Goéland bourgmestre) on Dec. 16.

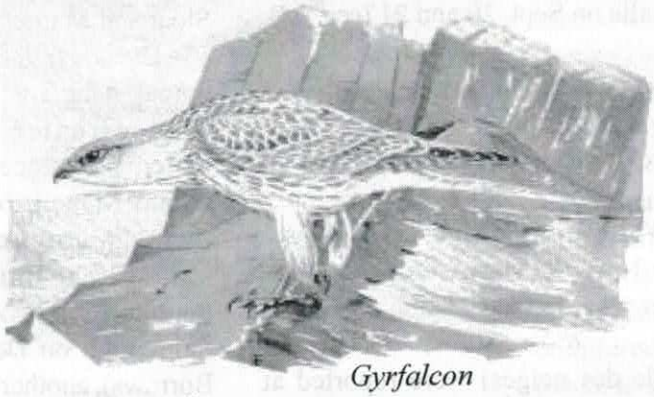
A **Pomarine Jaeger** (Labbe pomarin) was seen off Grand Manan on Dec. 10 (Durlan Ingersoll).

On Nov. 21 Durlan Ingersoll saw a **Dovekie** (Mergule nain) and two **Atlantic Puffins** (Macareux moine) near Grand Manan. Durlan saw another Atlantic Puffin on Dec. 7.

Few people travel the roads of the province to observe, and photograph, birds as does Merv Cormier but on Dec. 2 a thoughtful **White-winged Dove** (Tourtelle à ailes blanches) saved him the trouble by visiting his feeder at Saint John.

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** (Coulico à bec noir) was seen at St. Andrews on Oct. 28 (Ron Wilson).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (Coulicou à bec jaune) was found at Cape Jourmain on Oct. 26 (Norm and Gisèle Belliveau, Rose-Alma Mallet and Stu Tingley). Hank Scarth reported one on the Kingston Peninsula on Oct. 28 and another was seen at Pointe-à-Bouleau, near Tracadie, on Nov. 5 (Réjean Godin).



Gyrfalcon
Drawing by R.I. Brasher

Ralph Eldridge saw a **Snowy Owl** (Harfang des neiges) at Machias Seal Island on Dec. 12. Norm and Gisèle Belliveau found a Snowy Owl at Tantramar Marsh on Jan. 5 and two days later, along with Rose-Alma Mallet and Stu Tingley, found a second.

Merv Cormier found a **Long-eared Owl** (Hibou moyen-duc) and a **Short-eared Owl** (Hibou des marais) at Point Lepreau on Dec. 15.

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** (Petite nyctale) turned up in a Fredericton garage on Dec. 18 (*fide* Peter Pearce).

A **Belted Kingfisher** (Martin-pêcheur d 'Amérique) was seen at Sainte-Marie-de-Kent on Dec. 8 (Mike LeBlanc).

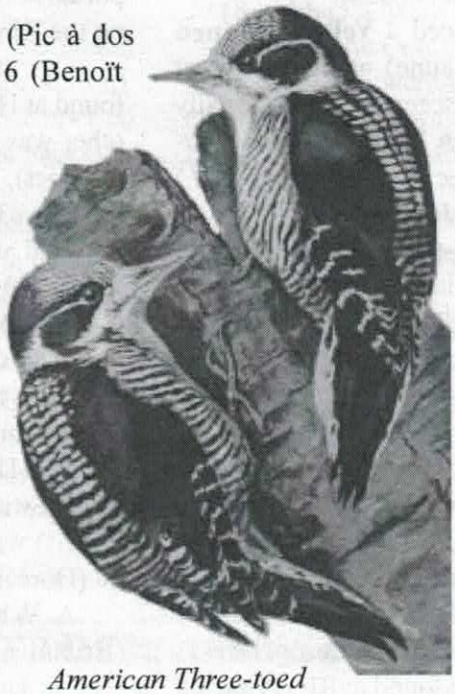
Kay and Clarence Campbell reported a **Red-headed Woodpecker** (Pic à tête rouge) at Lindsay, Carleton County, on Nov. 10.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (Pic à ventre roux) sightings include a female bird at Hampton on Nov. 5 (Sally and Mike Jackson) and a male at Quispamsis on Nov. 17 (Geraldine and Doug Black). Kathy Popma reported a Red-bellied Woodpecker at Sackville on Nov. 20 and John Tanner saw one at Riverview on Nov. 22. Stan Barrett photographed a male bird at his feeder at Lower Lincoln in early Dec.

An **American Three-toed Woodpecker** (Pic à dos rayé) was discovered at Shippagan on Dec. 6 (Benoït Hébert and Benoït Lanteigne) and two birds were found in a tract of woods on Lamèque Island on Dec. 27 (Jacques Guignard).

A **Black-backed Woodpecker** (Pic à dos noir) was seen at Moncton on Nov. 19 (Clifford Twist), one was reported at Quispamsis on Nov. 21 (Jim Wilson) and one was at St. Andrews on Nov. 24 (Steve Smith). Three Black-backed Woodpeckers were found in the same tract of woods on Lamèque Island as the two American Three-toed Woodpeckers on Dec. 27 (Jacques Guignard).

A **Northern Flicker** (Pic flamboyant) was seen at Cap Brûlé on Nov. 28 (Juliette Pellerin), one was observed at Sackville on No. 29 (Alain Clavette and Zachary Richard), male and female birds were found at Sackville on Dec. 2 (Kathy Popma), one bird was tallied at Riverview on Dec. 7 (Gayle Gallant) and another reported at Saint John on Jan. 2 (Merv Cormier).



American Three-toed Woodpecker
Painting by L.A. Fuertes

Black-backed Woodpecker
Painting by F.C. Hennesey

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (Tyran à longue queue) was discovered at Fundy National Park on Nov. 20 (Dan Mazerolle).

Janet and Allen Gorham reported a **Tree Swallow** (Hirondelle bicolore) at Red Point, Grand Manan, on Nov. 16.

A **Horned Lark** (Alouette hausse-col) was seen at Saint Joseph on Dec. 12 (Lomer LeBlanc) and Kathy Popma found a flock of 30 birds at Tantramar Marsh on Dec. 27.

A **Tufted Titmouse** (Mésange bicolore) was seen at Edmundston on Oct. 29 (Carmon Dubé). Two birds appeared at the feeder of Vince MacDonald at St. Andrews on Nov. 1 and one was found at Gagetown on Nov. 8 (Enid Inch).

A **Carolina Wren** (Troglodyte de Caroline) was seen at the feeder of Don Gibson at Fredericton on Oct. 30 and appeared there sporadically through the report period. One was observed at St. Martins on Oct. 31 (Ted Sears) and another was found at St. Stephen on Nov. 18 (Bill Nelson).

Roger Burrows reported a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (Roitelet à couronne rubis) at Saint John on Dec. 1. A male bird was seen at Fundy National Park on Dec. 8 (Stu Tingley) and another male was at Fredericton on Dec. 9 (Don Gibson). Doreen Rossiter observed a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Alma on Dec. 10.

Don Gibson reported a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (Gobemoucheron gris-bleu) at Fredericton on Nov. 13.

A **Townsend's Solitaire** (Solitaire de Townsend) was found near Shemogue on Nov. 5 (Donald and Dorca Pellerin).

A **Hermit Thrush** (Grive solitaire) was seen at Fundy National Park on Dec. 7 (Karen Townsend).

A **Brown Thrasher** (Moquere roux) was seen at Harvey Bank on Nov. 8 (John Inman).

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** (Paruline verdâtre) was seen at Saint John on Oct. 25 (Shirley Sloat and Don Gibson), one was found at Cap Brûlé on Oct. 26 (Norm and Gisèle Belliveau, Rose-Alma Mallet and Stu Tingley), one was at Marys Point on Oct. 28 (Stu Tingley) and one was at North Head on Oct. 29 (Saint John Nature Club). Merv Cormier found one at Saint John on Nov. 9 and one at St. Martins on Nov. 13. Roger Burrows reported seeing Orange-crowned Warblers at Saint John on Nov. 14 and

Dec. 6.

A **Nashville Warbler** (Paruline à joues grises) was found at Grand Manan on Nov.16 (Janet and Allen Gorham).

A **Northern Parula** (Paruline à collier) was found at Fundy National Park on Oct. 28 (Stu Tingley).

A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** (Paruline bleue) was seen at Fredericton on Nov. 6 (Don Gibson).

John Grant McLoughlin noticed a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (Paruline à croupion jaune) at his feeder at Fredericton on Nov. 2 and it was seen there occasionally during November and December. A Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen at Upper Cape on Dec. 7 (Stu Tingley *et al.*) and one at Saint John on Dec. 27 (Jeanne Finn-Allen).

Roger Burrows found a **Black-throated Green Warbler** (Paruline à gorge noire) at Saint John on Nov. 20.

A **Yellow-throated Warbler** (Paruline à gorge jaune) was seen briefly at Fredericton on Nov. 6 (John Grant McLoughlin) and another was observed at Tide Head on Nov. 7 (Gerry Doucet).

A juvenile **Pine Warbler** (Paruline des pins) was seen at Lorneville on Nov. 28 (*fide* Merv Cormier). On Nov. 28 Pine Warblers were reported at Saint John (Frank Kelly), at Fredericton (Linda Kneebone) and at Bertrand (André Haché). Two were seen at Saint John on Dec. 1 (Merv Cormier). One was seen at Haut-Lamèque on Dec. 5 (Malvina Noël), a male and female found at Riverview on Dec. 6 (Shirley and Bob Childs) and one bird at Riverview on Dec. 9 (Kathie Smith).

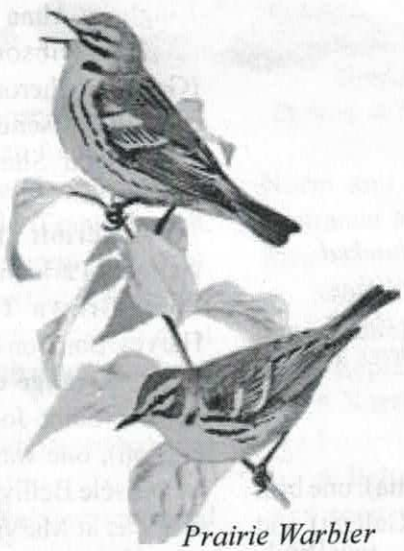
A **Prairie Warbler** (Paruline des prés) was found at Cap Brûlé on Nov. 2 (Stu Tingley).

Roger Burrows saw a **Palm Warbler** (Paruline à couronne rousse) at Saint John on Dec. 2.

Merv Cormier found a **Common Yellowthroat** (Paruline masquée) at Saint John on Nov. 9.

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** (Paruline polygotte) visited the yard of Frank Kelly at Saint John on Oct. 27. The Saint John Nature Club found one at North Head on Oct. 28 and another was seen at Cap Brûlé on Dec. 2 (Stu Tingley *et al.*).

An **Eastern Towhee** (Tohi à flancs roux) was seen at Lorneville on Oct. 25 (Shirley Sloat and Don Gibson) and another was at the feeder of David Gray at Mactaquac on Oct. 26. A female bird visited the feeder of Don Gibson at Fredericton on Oct. 27. Tracey Dean reported an Eastern Towhee at St. Andrews on Nov. 3. Male birds were reported by Roger Guitard at Pointe-Verte on Nov. 13 and by David Smith at Saint John on Nov. 14. An Eastern Towhee was observed at Hopewell Cape by Joyce Tingley on Nov. 18.



Prairie Warbler
Painting by L.A. Fuertes

Oct. 25 A **Field Sparrow** (Bruant des champs) was seen at Alma on Oct. 25 (Doreen Rossiter), one was reported at Marys Point on Oct. 26 (David Christie) and one on the Kingston Peninsula on Oct. 28 (Hank Scarth).

Oct. 30 A **Lark Sparrow** (Bruant à joues marron) was found at Harvey Bank on Oct. 30 (David Christie) and another was seen at Grande Digue on Dec. 3 (Louis-Émile Cormier).

Nov. 30 A **Savannah Sparrow** (Bruant des prés) was reported at Alderwood on Nov. 30 (Jollande St Pierre).

Jim Wilson found a **Grasshopper Sparrow** (Bruant sauterelle) at Fundy National Park on Oct. 25.

A **Fox Sparrow** (Bruant fauve) was seen at Fredericton on Nov. 29 (Linda Kneebone) and one at Upper Cape on Dec. 7 (Stu Tingley *et al.*).

A **Swamp Sparrow** (Bruant des marais) was found at Alma on Nov. 13 (Doreen Rossiter).

A **White-crowned Sparrow** (Bruant à couronne blanche) was seen at Upper Cape on Dec. 7 (Stu Tingley *et al.*) and Roger Burrows reported one at Saint John on Dec. 13.

Grasshopper Sparrow
Painting by L.A. Fuertes

Roger Burrows reported seeing **Lapland Longspurs** (Bruant lapon) at Saint John on Dec. 7 and Dec. 12.

Although **Northern Cardinals** (Cardinal rouge) are well established in the southern part of the province, they only recently have been reported in the northern sections. One was seen at Haut-Lamèque on Oct. 27 (*fide* Roger Dumarsesq), one at Caraquet on Nov. 8 (Yvon and Éthel Michon), one at Bathurst on Nov. 11 (Pat McLaughlin) and a male and female at Saint-Basile on Dec.2 (*fide* Roy LaPointe).

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (Cardinal à poitrine rose) was seen at Dalhousie on Nov. 15 (Mike Lushington).

A **Blue Grosbeak** (Guiraca bleu) was seen at Waterside Marsh on Oct. 28 (Stu Tingley) and another was found at Harvey Bank on Nov. 11 (John Inman).

The Saint John Nature Club found an **Indigo Bunting** (Passerin indigo) at North Head on Oct. 28.

A **Dickcissel** (Dickcissel d' Amérique) was seen at Pigeon Hill on Oct. 30 (Lucille Degrâce) and one was found at St. Andrews on Nov. 6 (Bill Winsor and Hank Scarth).

Merv Cormier and Richard Perron spotted a **meadowlark** (species not determined) at Saint John on Nov. 30. Stu Tingley found a **Western Meadowlark** (Sturnelle de l'Ouest) at Cap Pelé on Dec. 7.

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** (Carouge à tête jaune) was seen briefly at Saint John on Dec. 11 (Ngaire Nelson).

A **Rusty Blackbird** (Quiscale rouilleux) was reported at Saint John on Nov. 14 (Ngaire Nelson), one at Sackville on Nov. 20 (Kathy Popma, one at Miscou Island on Nov. 30 (Raymond Beaudin and Lyne Gionet), one at St. George on Dec. 4 (Ralph Eldridge), one at Second North River on Dec. 4 (Sharon and Bob Blake), one at Sackville on Dec. 7 (Christopher Clunas) and a flock of six birds at Jemseg on Dec. 9 (Shirley Sloat and Margery Acheson).

A **Brown-headed Cowbird** (Vacher à tête brune) was at Bear Island on Jan. 1 (Peter Pearce and Doug Jackson).

A **Brewer's Blackbird** (Quiscale de Brewer) was found on Miscou Island on Nov. 19 (Denise Godin, Rosita Lanteigne and Jollande St-Pierre).

Baltimore Oriole (Oriole de Baltimore) sightings included one at Memramcook on Nov. 9 (Yolande LeBlanc), one at Grand Manan on Nov. 16 (Janet and Allen Gorham), one at Moncton on Nov. 19 (Vivian Beale and Brian MacFarlane) and one at Campbellton on Dec. 2 (*fide* Margaret Doyle).

Red Crossbills (Bec-croisé des sapins) were reported at a feeder at Anagance on Dec. 28 (Nature Moncton's Information Line) and also at a feeder at Fredericton on Dec. 29 (Red MacFadyen).

Some of the **Common Redpolls** (Sizerin flammé) seen in the province were determined to be of the Greenland race of which one was observed at Saint-Jacques on Nov. 27 (Denis Bourque) and another reported at Saint John on Dec. 11 (Roger Burrows).

A **Hoary Redpoll** (Sizerin blanchâtre) was seen at Saint-Léonard on Nov. 25 (Roy LaPointe), one at Campbellton on Dec. 4 (Margaret Doyle), one at Little Shemogue on Dec. 7 (Stu Tingley et al), one at Marys Point on Dec. 8 (David Christie and Mary Majka), one, a male, at Alma on Dec. 8 (Stu Tingley), one at Saint John on Dec. 12 (Roger Burrows), one at Taylor Village on Dec. 14 (Alain Clavette) and another, a male, at Taylor Village on Jan. 5 (Alain Clavette).

LATEST NEWS / DERNIÈRES NOUVELLES

Sabine Dietz

Nature NB, together with Nature Canada, may be applying for intervener status at the constitutional hearings about the Migratory Birds Convention Act (1994) starting on March 25th, 2008 (see page 113). The two organizations may be represented by Ecojustice (formerly Sierra Legal Defence Fund, www.ecojustice.ca/). Ecojustice takes on cases with the potential to set legal precedents. The role of an intervener is to provide a different perspective on the issue before the court, which may not be provided by the defence or prosecution. They are assisting the court in making a just decision. An intervener represents a group of people with a concern in a legal issue. If you have questions concerning this, please contact Roland Chiasson, president of Nature NB (506-536-1260)

Nature NB et Nature Canada considèrent faire une demande d'être reconnus comme intervenants pour l'audience sur la constitutionnalité de la Loi de 1994 sur la convention concernant les oiseaux migrateurs (voir page 113). Les deux organisations seront représentées par Ecojustice (auparavant le Sierra Legal Defence Fund, www.ecojustice.ca/). Ecojustice prend des cas qui ont un potentiel d'établir un précédent. Le rôle d'un intervenant est de donner, au tribunal, une perspective alternative, qui ne sera pas donnée par la défense ou par la poursuite. Un intervenant assiste le tribunal. Il représente un groupe de personnes ayant un intérêt particulier dans le cas. Si vous avez des questions, veuillez contacter Roland Chiasson, président de Nature NB (506-526-1260).

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Info nature compte sur les membres de Nature NB afin qu'ils nous communiquent leurs observations nature. Les personnes suivantes se partagent la tâche d'assurer un suivi aussi complet que possible à ce niveau. Veuillez faire parvenir vos informations à la personne appropriée.

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

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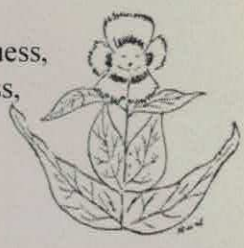
Fall issue / numéro d'automne	Pierrette Mercier	(506) 735-6872	petem@nb.sympatico.ca

Nobody but an imbecile
Mistakes Sweet William for Cross Bill:
And even I can scarcely claim,
The skill to mke them look the same.
Some other shrubs and vines and trees,

Express emotion much like these,
Youève seen the mad-wort plant Iguess,
And weeping willows and sigh-press,
The passion-flower, at itès climax,
The glad-iolus and the smile-ax.

Robert Williams Wood



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