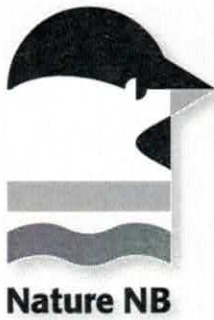
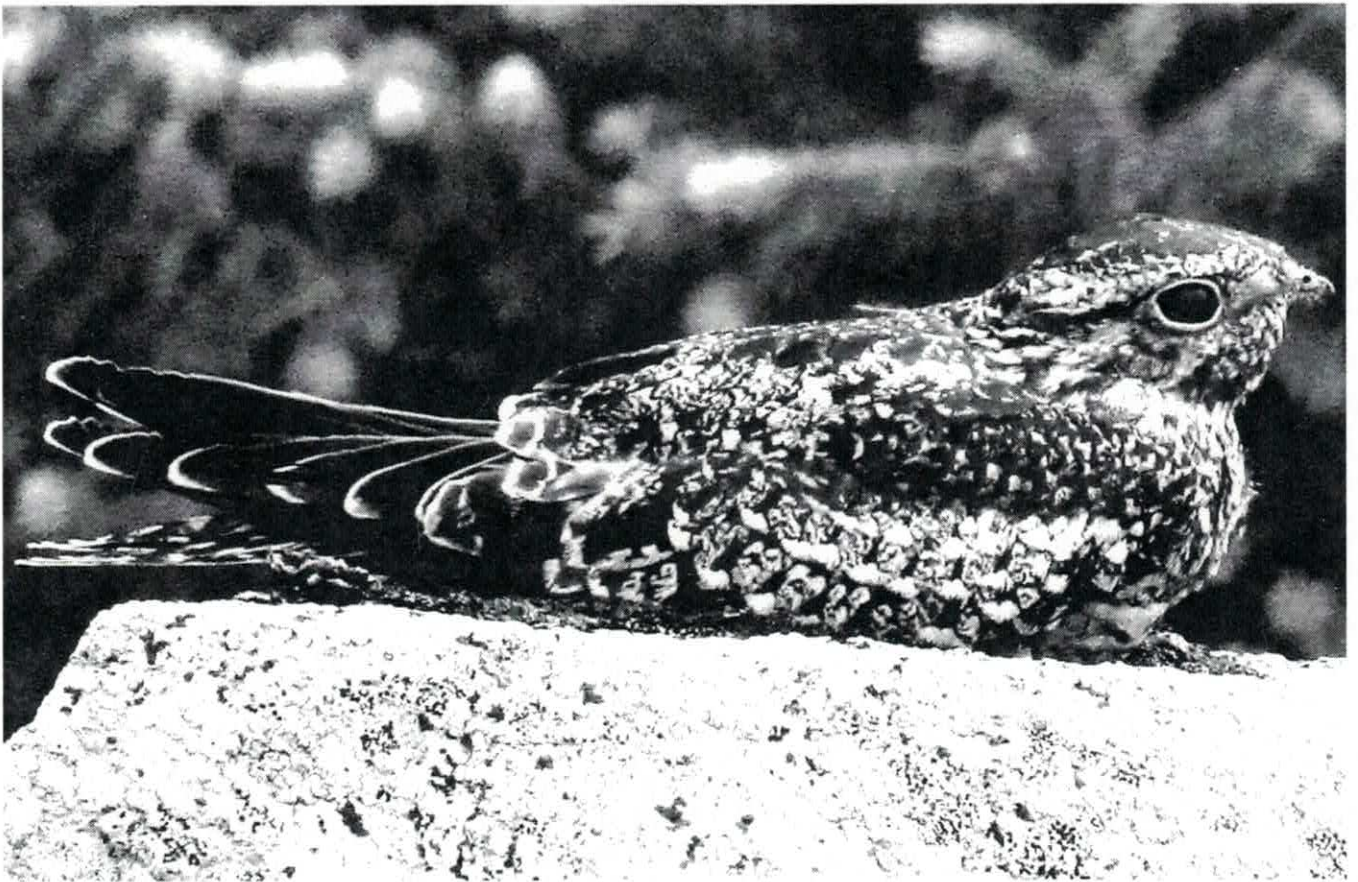


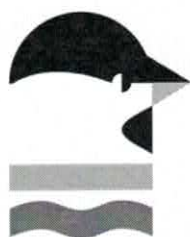
Vol. 35 No. 2 2008



Naturaliste du **NB** Naturalist



Honewort Rediscovered • Nouvelles acquisitions à l'herbier de la Péninsule acadienne •
Rare Encounters With Wildlife



Nature NB

924 rue Prospect St.
Suite 110
Fredericton, NB E3B 2T9

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.)

Nature NB (NBNB/FNNB) is the provincial affiliate of Nature Canada (formerly Canadian Nature Federation) and the Canadian Nature Network (CNN).

Nature NB (NBNB/FNNB) est le partenaire provinciale (N.-B.) du Réseau Canadien de la Nature (RCN) et affilié de Nature Canada (la Fédération Canadienne de la Nature).

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Association des Naturalistes de la Baie de Bouctouche, currently inactive.

Celebration of Birds Nature Club (Gagetown), c/o Bonnie Hamilton Bogart, 194 Tilley Road, Gagetown E5M 1H7, bonniehb@nb.sympatico.ca. Information evenings every 3rd Wednesday in February and March, and field trips in April and May.

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

Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne, 1521-4 chemin Cowan's Creek Pokemouche, E8P 2C6; réunions au Club de l'âge d'or Landry, 1^{er} mercredi, sept. à juin; Le Gobe-mouche, mensuel.

Club de Naturalistes Vallée de Memramcook, a/s Valmond Bourque, 12 rue Desbarres, Memramcook, E4K 1E7, 758-1095, www.natureacadie.ca; réunions 2ième mardi du mois, sept. à juin, à l'amphithéâtre de l'école Abbey-Landry, rue Centrale, Memramcook.

Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée, a/s Musée historique du Madawaska, 195 boul. Hébert, Edmundston, E3V 2S8, 737-5282 (Bert Lavoie); www.umce.ca/com; réunions à 19h00, 2ième mercredi, sept. à juin, Musée du Madawaska; Le Jaseur, trimestriel.

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

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

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

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

Restigouche Naturalists' Club, c/o Mike Lushington, 214 Rosebery Street, Campbellton, E3N 2H5, 684-3258; meets Village-Campbellton Nursing Home, 7 pm, 1st Monday

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

Miramichi Naturalist Club, President: Elizabeth Walsh, 836-7880; mailto@MiramichiNaturalistsClub.ca; www.miramichinaturalistsclub.ca; meets 7:00 pm, 2nd Mon. in the Friendly Neighbor Senior Citizen Centre.

In This Issue *Dans ce numéro*

Cover Photo / page de couverture : Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor*, taken at the summit of Mt. Denys, 25 August 2008 (Photo by Gart Bishop)

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NB 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 NB 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 les 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.

Mot du Président / President's Message, Roland Chiasson	36
Bulletin of the Natural History Society, selected by Mary Sollows	38
Update on the case of the destroyed Heron colony, Sabine Dietz	39
News from Nature NB, Vanessa Roy-McDougall	40
Nouvelles de Nature NB, Vanessa Roy-McDougall	41
Newfoundland kids visit our area and go fossil hunting, Irene Doyle	42
Lost and found: Honewort rediscovered in New Brunswick, James P. Goltz	44
Botanique dans la Péninsule acadienne, Lucille Landry	46
Rare encounters with wildlife - otters frustrate angler, Alan Madden	47
Nature News: Birds, Ken MacIntosh	48
Woodland Moss, Bruce Bagnell	57
Botany Corner: Mountain Holly, or Catberry, Gart Bishop	58

Please submit articles for the next issue by **October 31, 2008.**

S.v.p. soumettre les articles pour le prochain numéro avant le **31 octobre, 2008.**

To / à Gart Bishop, 16 Pitt St. Sussex, NB E4D 1J1

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

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nature **nb.ca**

President's Message Mot du Président

Roland Chiasson

Is hearing believing?

As naturalists, we rely greatly on our senses to observe nature. Here are two different stories about listening to nature that happened to me this past spring.

While doing fieldwork somewhere in northern New Brunswick, I had stopped on a logging road to look at the map, when I heard a strange buzz like a bird-call. After the unusually high number of Pine Warbler sightings last year, my first thought was a Pine Warbler. Equipped with my MP3 player, I promptly blasted the sound through the open car window. To my dismay, I soon realized that the sound I was hearing didn't match the call of the Pine Warbler. However, after the second playing of the Pine Warbler, the mystery bird switched his song and started singing like a Pine Warbler.

Excitement built again as I leaped out of the vehicle and started scanning trees, looking for the mocking culprit. There perched on a spruce tree - not a pine as favoured by Pine Warblers - was a Dark-eyed Junco singing as loud as he could. After listening to Junco calls for many years, this one certainly surprised me!

My second story also happened last spring. I was leading a guided walk for

Nature NB's Young Naturalist Club.

One of the participants, an eight year old, was very keen but easily distracted. So I asked her if she had an MP3 player. She said yes. So I told her that I had the MP3 of a bird called the Black-throated Green warbler who at the same time was singing frantically away high up in a tree. I played the call about three times and - wow! - the bird came down on a branch right in front of the little girl. Her response was a short-lived wow, and then she wanted to see something else. It was only when the walk was over that I asked her what she liked most about the walk. She told me that the MP3 was cool but the bird was way cooler!

These stories show the importance of using all of our senses to "see" into the natural world and how directly experiencing something first-hand can be an unforgettable encounter. I believe it is vitally important for us to provide these sensorial experiences, especially to youth, so that they too can learn that hearing is believing.

So thanks to our summer camp team for working hard at providing similar unforgettable experiences.

Est-ce qu'entendre c'est croire?

Comme naturalistes nous comptons considérablement sur nos sens pour observer la nature. Voici deux histoires bien différentes, sur le thème d'écouter la nature, que j'ai vécues le printemps dernier.

Pendant que je travaillais quelque part dans le nord de Nouveau-Brunswick je m'étais arrêté sur une route forestière pour regarder la carte, quand j'ai entendu le bourdonnement étrange d'un oiseau. Avec le nombre élevé des observa-

tions des Parulines des pins l'année précédente, ma première pensée fut : une Paruline des pins. Équipé de mon lecteur MP3, j'ai rapidement fait jouer son chant par la fenêtre de la voiture. À ma grande consternation, je me suis rapidement rendu compte que l'oiseau n'était pas de cette espèce. Cependant, après le deuxième essai, l'oiseau mystère a changé son chant et a recommencé à chanter comme une Paruline des pins. J'ai sauté hors du véhicule et j'ai commencé à scruter les arbres pour le moqueur coupable. À ce moment, j'ai vu, perché sur une épinette, et non pas un pin tel que favorisé par la Paruline des pins, un Junco ardoisé, chantant aussi fort qu'il le pouvait. C'était lui le chanteur mystérieux, qui, malgré que j'ai entendu l'appel du Junco pendant tant d'années, avait réussi à me tromper, me laissant certainement étonné!

Ma deuxième histoire s'est également produite le printemps dernier. J'animais une promenade guidée pour le Club de Jeunes Naturalistes de Nature NB. L'une des participantes, âgée d'environ huit ans, était très intéressée mais facilement distraite. À un moment donné, je lui ai demandé si elle avait un lecteur

MP3. Elle a dit oui. Donc, je lui ai dit que j'avais le MP3 d'un oiseau appelé la Paruline à gorge noire, qui, à ce moment même, chantait à tue-tête dans un arbre. J'ai joué l'appel environ 3 fois et l'oiseau est descendu nous voir sur une branche devant la petite fille. Sa réponse était un « wow » d'une courte durée et ensuite elle a voulu voir autre chose. C'est seulement lorsque la promenade fut terminée que je lui ai demandé ce qu'elle avait aimé le plus. Elle m'a dit que le MP3 était « cool », mais l'oiseau était encore plus « cool »!

Ces histoires démontrent l'importance d'utiliser tous nos sens pour « voir » le monde autour de nous et comment l'expérience directe d'un phénomène naturel peut être une aventure inoubliable.

Je crois qu'il est extrêmement important que nous fournissions ce genre d'expériences sensorielles, particulièrement aux jeunes, afin qu'eux aussi puissent comprendre que parfois entendre permet de croire.

Merci à notre équipe des camps d'été de Nature NB qui travaillent fort pour fournir des telles expériences si inoubliables pour nos jeunes - Bravo!



Pine Warbler/ Paruline des pins
Photo by C. Clunas

The land snails of NB

George Whitman Bailey

From our Past

Selected by
Mary Sollows
Saint John



This excerpt was taken from an article in the 1903 Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick: No. XXI, Volume V. Part I. pp.17-19. ARTICLE III. Read November 4TH, 1902 (CONTRIBUTION FROM THE FREDERICTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.) LOCAL DISTRIBUTION OF NEW BRUNSWICK SPECIES.

We may sharply divide the species of land snails found in New Brunswick into two groups: Those introduced into our province at our seaports through the agency of shipping, - the foreign, or introduced forms; and those native to the province and continent, the indigenous forms. In the present section we are only concerned with the factors which determine the spread, or check the distribution, of species within our borders, and not with the origin of the several species, and their spread into New Brunswick from other portions of the continent.

Although most of our indigenous forms are probably pretty generally distributed over the province in localities suited to their growth and multiplication, we find that certain agencies are at work tending to distribute them over ever widening areas, while still others tend to localize them.

Causes of Distribution.

Natural Spread. - A species of land snail, if in suitable surroundings for its growth, rapidly multiplies and spreads over a gradually increasing area, and this will go on until the species is restricted in its spread by some physical barrier, such as encompassing mountains, altered vegetation, or some condition unfavorable to its growth.

The rapidity of the distribution of some species undoubtedly depends in part on the tendency of the species to wander. Some migrate to considerable distances from their original home.

Physical Conditions. - The climate of New Brunswick is too uniform over the province, to affect in any marked degree the distribution of our land snails, although it is not unlikely that the differences in

climate between our inland counties and those of the seaboard, determine differences in the development, abundance and distribution of species. Temperature and moisture would be the factors at the base of any such difference, rather than the nature of the soil. It must be noted that each species of land snail has its own individual peculiarities - each has a habitat where it thrives best, and the species vary greatly in the surroundings best suited to them. While some flourish in a low, marshy, grass-covered region, others are only found on elevated lands; still others thrive only in the midst of a forest; others in pastures, under stones, or chips by the wayside. A species naturally inhabiting low, swampy land, would be unable to thrive on elevated land, or to pass over a mountain barrier, whereas a species thriving in a hilly country would be unlikely to do so in a marsh. Species vary much in their adaptability to changes in their surroundings, and while some are very susceptible, and consequently are restricted in range and very much localized; other more hardy forms, are able to adapt themselves to unfavorable conditions of soil and vegetation.

The nature of the soil, degree of moisture, character of the vegetation covering it, are the important factors which influence, in our province, the spread of any particular species. A species may be very generally distributed over the province, and yet be confined to high land, or to marshes, or to the woods, according to the habit of the species.

Transportation. - It is not unlikely that snails have been carried by the agency of the railway, or by boat to more distant parts, concealed in wood or cargoes of various kinds. They have been known

to be transported alive for long distances in the cargoes of vessels; as eggs, or, as the adult snail, in timber, sawdust, etc. They possess very great vitality. In this province many are undoubtedly carried from place to place in the carting of wood, or carried down our streams by our lumber. In the annual spring freshets the water, which sweeps over the islands and intervale land, must carry away the shells.

Birds are responsible for the distribution of species. This is well seen in the case of introduced species, which are brought into our seaport towns, and generally spread inland from the point where they were introduced. The finding of these shells some distance from the coast, often on some elevated land, suggests that they have been carried there by birds.

Check to Distribution.

The non-migratory tendency of some forms of land snails tends to localize them, as well as unfavorable conditions of soil, vegetation and moisture.

The clearing of large tracts of country of its natural vegetation, causes the disappearance of the species once found there. Cultivation in this country means extermination. The change in vegetation of any area, e.g., from a grove to pasture land, may only determine a difference in species. Moisture is essential to many species, and the clearing of a large tract may cause the soil to be so dry in the summer season, that the snails cannot subsist upon it.

Fires determine an almost total destruction of species in the area burnt over. The snails are consumed and the surface soil rendered devoid of its covering of decaying vegetation. Many millions of snails were destroyed in the great Miramichi fire, and the same thing annually goes on over the entire province in isolated forest fires, involving areas of greater or less extent. The nature of the fire probably affects the growth and abundance of species, rather than the character of the fauna.

Update on the case of the destroyed Heron colony (provided by Sabine Dietz)

The court challenge to the Migratory Birds Convention Act that was launched by J.D. Irving Ltd. earlier this year has failed. The judge in the case, Patricia Cumming, presented her decision on June 9 in the Burton Courthouse. The decision was widely reported in the media (<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/new-brunswick/story/2008/06/09/nb-irving-birds.html>.)

The challenge was related to the case against Irving and a company foreman for the destruction of a heron colony near Cambridge Narrows in the summer of 2006.

The judge's ruling is an interesting read. You can obtain the full written decision from the Burton Courthouse (506-357-4020).

The trial started on October 20th, at which time Irving pleaded guilty. There was a penalty of \$10,000, and Irving agreed to pay \$50,000 to Bird Studies Canada. In addition, Irving is not permitted to log the area for five years.

Environment Canada has shown it is willing to enforce the Act, which has not been the case for similar violations in the past.

By pleading guilty, Irving is not appealing the earlier finding of the judge that the MBCA (Migratory Bird Convention Act) is valid federal legislation.

Vanessa Roy-McDougall
Executive Director
Nature NB

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Photo by Vanessa Roy-McDougall

News from Nature NB

YOUNG NATURALISTS' CLUB (YNC)

This year, Nature NB has received funding from the Wildlife Trust Fund to research a volunteer strategy in order to increase both membership and the number of YNCs across the province.

NATURE KIDS NB

Nature NB is always looking for articles for its 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 office.

FRENCH PROOFREADERS NEEDED

As a bilingual organization, Nature NB strives to provide all of its 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 office.

SUMMER YOUTH NATURE CAMP

This year's summer camp season was a great success. Once again, Nature NB ran five camps throughout the province with the aim of teaching kids aged 9 through 14 about New Brunswick's natural history. This year the participating youth undertook the Ultimate Naturalist Challenge and engaged in special activities including a local conservation project, such as the creation of tidal habitat in St. Andrews. In all, 81

youth attended the camps, which was an increase of 15 over last year.

NATURALIST LEADERS IN TRAINING

The initial summer of Nature NB's Leaders-in-Training program is now complete, and both staff and participants had some great positive and constructive feedback. With the success of this year, we will once again recruit older campers to participate next year.

MARY'S POINT

Thanks to the Wildlife Trust Fund, Nature NB hosted a very successful 2006 Bio-Blitz. Fourteen people of various specialties spent two days collecting a variety of data sets to be included in a comprehensive report. A big thank you to everyone who participated!

OTHER ONGOING PROJECTS

Nature NB is happy to announce that funding has been received from the Canadian Wildlife Federation to reprint the "Frogs of New Brunswick" poster. Along with the poster, Nature NB will also be creating a "Backyard Frog Guide" through Parks and People Funding.

Nature NB is currently partnering with NB Trails to produce an engaging booklet for kids aged 6 through 9 to encourage use of the NB trail system while exploring nature.

Nature NB will also be undertaking a complete overhaul of its website. This will include improving the educational resources on the site, as well as the overall content.

With generous funding from the Wildlife Trust Fund, Nature NB will be undertaking a review and update of its very successful "Species at Risk" kits. This

update will include a digital component that will enable teachers to access the kits online.

2009 NATURE NB CALENDAR

The 2009 Nature NB fundraising

Calendar is available for purchase now. Funds raised will be divided between Nature NB and the local nature club. See your local club representative or check out the Nature NB website for more information.

Nouvelles de Nature NB

CLUB DES JEUNES NATURALISTES

Cette année Nature NB a reçu un appui financier du Fonds de fiducie de la faune du Nouveau-Brunswick pour établir une stratégie au niveau des bénévoles afin d'encourager une augmentation du nombre de membres ainsi que le nombre de CJN locaux.

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'organisation bilingue, s'efforce d'offrir tous ses services et publications dans les deux langues officielles du Nouveau-Brunswick. Pour maintenir la qualité de nos textes français, nous voulons assembler 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 rejoindre plus de monde. Tous ceux intéressés sont priés de contacter Nature NB.

CAMPS D'ÉTÉ JEUNESSE NATURE

La saison 2008 des camps d'été Jeunesse Nature a été un grand succès. Encore une fois, Nature NB avait 5 camps dans le but d'encourager des jeunes

agés de 9 à 14 ans à explorer l'histoire naturelle du Nouveau Brunswick. Cette année les campeurs ont participé dans l'ultime défi de nature et ont entrepris des activités spéciales y inclus un projet de conservation local. En tout, 81 jeunes ont participé au camp, une augmentation de 15 jeunes.

NATURALISTES EN FORMATION

Le premier été des « naturalistes en formation » est maintenant terminé et les impressions des participants et du personnel impliqués ont été très positives. Suite à ce succès nous allons commencer le recrutement pour l'an prochain.

MARY'S POINT

À l'aide du Fonds de fiducie de la faune du Nouveau-Brunswick, Nature NB a organisé un « Bio-Blitz » à Mary's Point. Quatorze personnes d'une variété de spécialités ont participé dans deux jours de collection de données qui seront incluses dans un rapport détaillé. Un gros merci à tout ceux qui ont participé !

AUTRE PROJETS

Nature NB est content d'annoncer le réimpression de notre affiche « Les grenouilles du Nouveau-Brunswick » à l'aide de la Fédération Canadienne de la Faune. En plus de l'affiche, nous allons aussi produire un livret d'identification des grenouilles pour les jeunes à l'aide des fonds reçus du programme « Parks and people » de Nature Canada.

Vanessa Roy-McDougall
Directrice générale
Nature NB

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Nature NB travail présentement avec Sentier NB pour développer un livret encourageant les jeunes âgés de 6 à 9 ans à utiliser le système de sentier NB tout en explorant la nature.

Le site web de Nature NB verra de grands changements cette année. Les améliorations au site incluront une augmentation des ressources éducatives ainsi que le renouvellement du texte.

Avec les fonds reçus du Fonds de fiducie de la Faune du Nouveau-Brunswick, nous allons entreprendre la révision et mise à jour de nos troussees « Espèces en périls ». Ce projet inclura une section en ligne qui permettra aux éducateurs l'accès aux troussees sur l'internet.

CALENDRIER NATURE NB 2009

Le calendrier 2009 de Nature NB est MAINTENANT disponible pour achat. Les fonds recueillis seront partagés entre Nature NB et les clubs de nature locaux.



Photo par Vanessa Roy-McDougall

Irene Doyle
Campbellton

Newfoundland kids visit our area and go fossil hunting

Last fall, I decided to donate to Perry Kennedy's science class, Grades 7-8 of Listuguj, a box of fossils I had found in the Squaw Cap area a few years back. A small presentation was then organized for the class. An outing for the class was planned to go to the site and hunt for their own fossils. But as we know, winter came early, caught us by surprise and the outing had to be cancelled, but not forgotten.

For those of you who are not familiar with our area, Squaw Cap is a mountain

and as I am not too good with distances, it is situated about 15 minutes West of Campbellton in direction of Kedgwick/St Quentin. Also let me clarify that the class I donated the fossils to was that of Listuguj, which is a Mi'gmaq reservation in Quebec, just across the bridge from Campbellton. Listuguj is the Mi'gmaq name, most people call it Ristigouche.

Sometime in May, the teacher, Perry Kennedy called me asking if June 5, would be a good date for me to take a student exchange class from New-



Students on site
Photo by Irene Doyle

foundland and one from Listuguj on that promised fossil hunting outing. This exchange is part of a federally funded project to encourage cultural exchanges amongst the youths in Canada.

In May of this year, during their visit to Clarenville, the Listuguj students were given tours of Bonavista, St John's, Trinity area, and some historic sites. They also participated in a two-day environmental camp among other things.

Thursday morning, June 5, the students were taken to Atholville for a tour of the AV Cell mill. Then Clarence Huard and I met the bus in Tide Head from where we all proceeded to the Rafting Grounds for a picnic by the river. For those who aren't familiar with the Rafting Grounds, its a beautiful spot on the Restigouche River, where most people who "run the river" land after having paddled down the river from Kedgwick. Then we took the youths to the Squaw Cap area, and I don't believe that one single student left the area without having found at least two or three fossils to bring back home.

The students and the chaperones were very impressed with the fossil site, and with knowing that what they were holding was between 350 and 400 million years old. It is believed that the fossils found here are from the Devonian age and similar to the ones found in Scotland. The theory is that we were once connected to Scotland millions of years ago. Most of the findings are shells, snails, plants, corals and sponges but who knows what else could be found some day.

**Editors note: With the author's permission, Irene's photos were sent to Dr. Randy Miller, the Curator of Geology at the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John. His identification for each fossil is listed below its picture, indicated by an asterisk(*).*

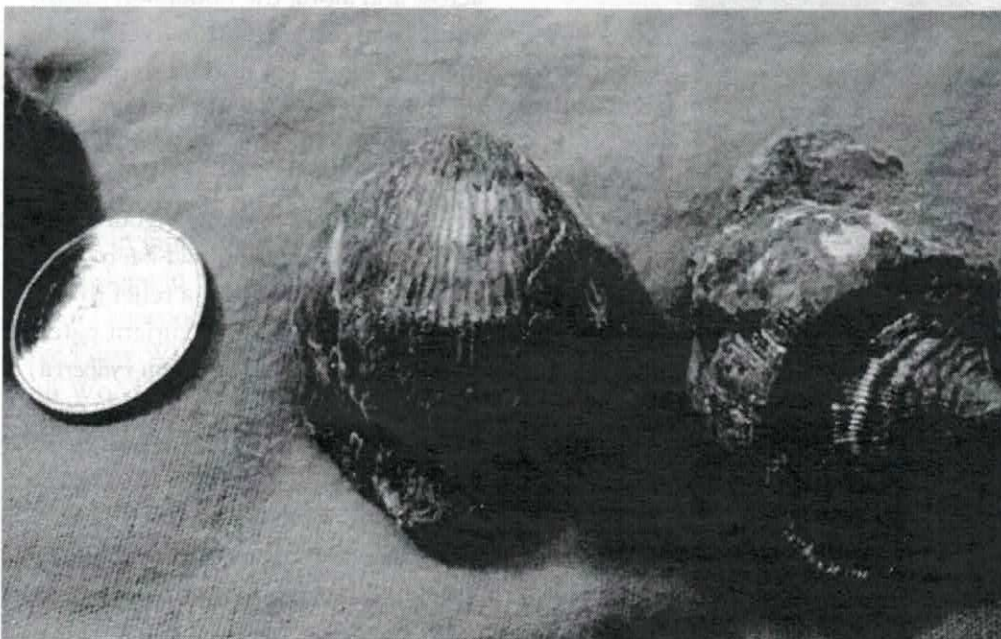
Dr. Miller also sent the following comments:

"These look like a late Silurian, probably early Devonian marine assemblage, similar to a better known site near Dalhousie. I don't know this assemblage well, at least not without a lot of work, and I have not seen this site. I would like to know the location so I can take a look."



Rugosa coral Zaphrentis
Photo by Irene Doyle*

Note: Anyone with comments about these fossils is encouraged to contact Irene at: snobunting@hotmail.com.



Gastropod (indeterminate; uncertain of genus and species)
Photo by Irene Doyle*

James P. Goltz
Fredericton

Lost and found: Honewort rediscovered in New Brunswick

On July 12, as I drove over the hydroelectric dam at the mouth of the Tobique River, en route back from a day in one of my Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas squares, I felt a pang of heartsickness for Honewort (*Cryptotaenia canadensis*), a plant species that formerly occurred there but had evidently not been seen in the province since 1914. Historic records of this native member of the Carrot Family (Apiaceae) in New Brunswick were from the Kennebecasis River valley at Sussex and from at least four sites along the Saint John River, including Woodstock, Andover, the mouth of the Tobique River and the mouth of the Salmon River in Victoria County. It had also been found historically in Maine but the former New Brunswick occurrences are at the northeastern limit of Honewort's geographic range in North America. The following day, I was determined to try to rediscover this species at the Salmon River.

My search for Honewort in New Brunswick has been a bit of a ritual, and I had looked for it at the Salmon River at least eight to ten times before. However, I hoped I might have better luck this time. Elsewhere in North America, Honewort loves to grow in wooded floodplains and other rich hardwood sites, often on clay soil. My optimism for success this year seemed logical to me. First, there was still some suitable natural habitat remaining in the vicinity of the confluence of the Salmon and St. John Rivers, despite the fact that a highway crosses the Salmon River close to the river mouth and the fact that some land along the river had been formerly developed as

a local park, now no longer maintained. Second, a number of other rich woods species and floodplain plant species (e.g., Ostrich Fern, Goldie's Fern, Wood Nettle, Cut-leaved Avenas, White Avenas, Jack-in-the Pulpit, Hooked Buttercup and Showy Orchis) still occur along the Salmon River. Third, one of the most dramatic floods on the Saint John River in recent history occurred this past spring, and I speculated that erosion and the deposition of silt might give a floodplain-loving plant like Honewort competitive advantage or possibly help to make it more visible. And finally, the odds of relocating Honewort at other historic sites seemed pretty bleak because of habitat alteration due to damming, clearing of land for agriculture and residential development.

I arrived on site on as the sky clouded over, threatening rain, and started my systematic search. As I meandered across and along the floodplain's many gullies and low ridges, I marveled at how high the tangles of flotsam were perched on the Silver Maple and Balsam Poplar trees, at how thoroughly some of the lower lying wooded areas were buried in sand and silt, and at how vigorously the herbaceous vegetation had been scoured from some areas. It was a relief to find that some of the most luxuriant patches of Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron rydbergii*) had largely vanished, but the big colonies of Goldie's Fern (*Dryopteris goldiana*) were still thriving, and the tiny local population of Showy Orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*) had survived erosion and siltation and increased from 7 to 18 plants

Three hours or more later, I found myself in a very rich hardwood stand dominated by Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*), in a lush understory of Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*), Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadense*), Blue Cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*) and Ostrich Fern (*Matteucia pensylvanica*). In a small semi-shaded woodland glade at the foot of a slope, there were several rare hardwood-loving plants, including Long-styled Sweet Cicely (*Osmorhiza longistylis*), Fragrant Sanicle (*Sanicula odorata*), Thin-leaf Sedge (*Carex cephaloidea*) and Goldie's Fern (*Dryopteris goldiana*) growing in the rich clay woods.

After getting a bit sidetracked with the first blooms of Canada Lily (*Lilium canadense*) that I had seen this year, I resumed my search for Honewort, thinking that it might be worth checking the terrace and gully located just below the largest Butternut stand. A few minutes later, three flowering plants of Honewort and three more small sterile ones decided to reveal themselves to me, despite my rather disheveled appearance, being dust-covered from the accumulations of flood silt on vegetation and very wet from walking through rain-soaked vegetation. How fitting that they wanted to be photographed to help enrich the workshop on Carrot Family plants that I would be giving at the annual summer meeting of the Josselyn Botanical Society a few weeks later. The Honewort was growing in moist clay at the base of an eroded slope in the shade of Alternate-leaved Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) and large Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*) shrubs, with Wood Nettle (*Laportea canadensis*), Ostrich Fern (*Matteucia pensylvanica*), Hooked Buttercup (*Ranunculus recurvatus*), Cut-leaved Aven (*Geum laciniatum*), and Canada Anemone (*Anemone canadensis*).

It is very exciting to know that Honewort has not been extirpated from New Brunswick, but still grows here despite extensive threats to its continued survival. We can only hope that it will continue to grace us with its presence and will expand its population and colonize new sites. We can also hope that the small tenacious population of Honewort will help to inspire conservation organizations, land owners and government agencies in the province to preserve more rich Appalachian hardwood forest sites and riparian corridors along the Saint John River.



Cryptotaenia canadensis, Salmon River, Victoria County. Photo by James P. Goltz.

Lucille Landry
Club de naturalistes de la
Péninsule acadienne



Sauce humble
par F.S. Mathews

Botanique dans la Péninsule acadienne

Les membres du Groupe de botanique du Club de Naturalistes de la Péninsule acadienne ont poursuivi, à l'hiver 2008, le travail d'étude et d'identification de spécimens récoltés pour les ajouter à la collection de la flore de la Péninsule. Le groupe s'est réuni 9 fois entre le 14 janvier 2008 et le 14 avril 2008 pour étudier divers spécimens recueillis par les membres pendant la

saison 2007. Une étude plus approfondie a été faite pour les Saules, les Chenopodes et les Arroches, les deux derniers genres nécessiteront encore beaucoup de recherches avant d'être maîtrisés. Nous avons ajouté 49 plantes à l'herbier de la Péninsule acadienne dont 10 nouvelles espèces (voir tableau) qui n'y étaient pas représentées.

NOUVELLES ACQUISITIONS À L'HERBIER DE LA PÉNINSULE ACADIENNE

# herbier	Nom français (Nom latin)	Localité	Date
686	Sauce humble (<i>Salix humilis</i>)	Pointe-Alexandre	13 mai 2007
854	Pâturin comprimé (<i>Poa compressa</i>)	Tracadie-Sheila	6 août 2007
884	Cypripède royal (<i>Cypripedium reginae</i>)	Caraquet	6 juillet 2007
885	Orpin brûlant (<i>Sedum acre</i>)	Lamèque	27 juin 2007
886	Morelle poilue (<i>Solanum physalifolium</i>)	Tracadie-Sheila	28 juillet 2007
887	Ciguë d'Europe (<i>Conium maculatum</i>)	Haut-Lamèque	13 août 2007
888	Laiteron épineux (<i>Sonchus asper</i>)	Pointe-Alexandre	11 sept. 2007
889	Linaire du Canada (<i>Nuttallanthus canadensis</i>)	Pointe-Alexandre	5 oct. 2007
890	Chenopode de Berlandier (<i>Chenopodium berlandieri</i> var. <i>macrocalycium</i>)	Cap-Bateau	12 sept. 2007
891	Arroche de Fankton (<i>Atriplex franktonii</i>)	Pointe Canot	22 sept. 2007

Les membres du Groupe de botanique qui travaillent sous la direction de Hilaire Chiasson sont: Réjean Laforge, Arthur-W. Landry, Rodrigue Landry, Agnès Thériault, Lewnanny Richardson, et Lucille Landry. Déjà la saison 2008, nous amène sur le terrain avec les suivis à faire et d'autres défis à relever.

Rare encounters with wildlife - otters frustrate angler

Alan Madden
Tidehead

Everyone who has watched the antics of otters on television knows how playful and amusing these animals can be. However, sometimes those same characteristics are not fully appreciated by an angler.

Although I spent much of my youth on the streams and marshes in southeastern New Brunswick, I never saw an otter there. It is not because they did not exist, or that they were more wary of humans. It is just because otters are less common there than in the less densely settled areas of the province. Seeing one is usually a fortuitous or chance event, even where otters are much more common, such as throughout the Restigouche River area in northern New Brunswick, where we have lived for more than three decades.

The River Otter is a giant version of a Mink. It is a dark-brown, short-furred, one-plus metre long, 8-11 kilogram solid mass of muscle having a tail two-thirds of a metre in length. Unlike mink, otters are sociable, frequently traveling together in twos, and sometimes fours or fives. They often approach humans inquisitively, and appear to have an endearing quality. But they also can be ferocious and dangerous when cornered.

An example of just how inquisitive and unwary otters can be is in the encounter I had at Eight Mile Lake, Restigouche County, New Brunswick in August of 1972. The small lake's clear waters are renowned for trophy brook trout as large as about three kilograms. I had driven sixty-four miles one way just to fish for those trout during the one-hour period before dark. This is when aquatic flies

hatch, often resulting in a feeding foray by trout. The evening hatch of insects had just commenced, and the trout were beginning to rise for them, but only at the spring hole where I was about to start fishing. My fly had just landed on the water's calm surface and I was anticipating a take when suddenly two otters surfaced—right in my spring hole! They must have come from inside the old beaver lodge at the water's edge, six metres away. To say I was upset would be putting it mildly. Although the otters' graceful dives did not even ripple the surface, I was frustrated because I knew that the trout were being frightened from the spot. My substantial effort to hook a trout was being ruined. I reacted by picking up two small sticks and I threw them in the general direction of the otters, about 13 metres distant. To my surprise, the otters immediately swam over to the floating sticks and pushed them about with their snouts as if they were playing with them! It was then obvious that I could not force the otters out of the spring hole, so I disassembled my rod, took a last look at the darkening surroundings, and departed.

The pair of hungry and playful otters-innocent as they were—had thwarted my efforts to hook even one trout. However, on the long drive home in the dark, I felt somewhat compensated by the sense of satisfaction gained from having had such a rare encounter.



Otter image by F. Ludekens

Ken MacIntosh
Saint John

Nature News: Birds

April 12 to July 15, 2008

Cool, damp spring weather seemed to make birding unproductive in early May, when birders flock to Grand Manan with great coats and high expectations. Some good birds were found, however, including Least Bittern, King Eider, Eastern Screech Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Carolina Wren, Northern Wheatear, Townsend's Solitaire, and Painted Bunting.

Early warbler migration appeared to be a steady trickle unmarked by major fallouts, but heavy migration days were noted later; on June 2 (MSI), June 3 (Point Lepreau) and June 4 (Lorneville). These were dominated by flycatchers, vireos, and late warblers.

Following is our list of spring arrival dates, gleaned from reports to the Nature NB list.

A PIED-BILLED GREBE (Grèbe à bec bigarré) was seen April 12 in a marsh at New Horton (Woody Gillies).

In a year when shearwaters seem to be late arriving, WILSON'S STORM-PETREL (Océanite de Wilson) was noted off Grand Manan Island May 27 (RBu). Merv Cormier saw what appeared to be an AMERICAN BITTERN (Butor d'Amérique) in Saint John April 5. LEAST BITTERN (Petit Blongios), discovered at St. George Waterfowl Park in 2007, returned this year and seemed to be nesting (reported June 4, RBu). There were a few reports of GREAT EGRET (Grande Aigrette) along the south coast, the earliest reported at Saints Rest April 18 (MC). Scattered reports of SNOWY EGRET (Aigrette neigeuse) included a probable on April 12 at Saints Rest Marsh in Saint John (JGW and SJNC party) and one well

north at Inkerman on June 3 (Ivy Austin).

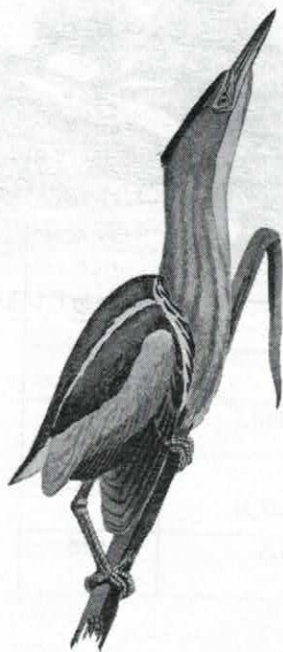
The earliest reported BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (Bihreau gris) was at Ste. Anne on May 1 (Roy LaPointe).

Ralph Eldridge and Eileen Pike found this season's only reported GLOSSY IBIS (Ibis falcinelle) at St. George on May 25.

There were several sightings of BLACK VULTURE (Urubu noir), including one described to Chris Adam by Debl Russell, seen at Tripp Settlement Road in the Fredericton area (Keswick Ridge) May 31. Ted Sears reported another near Salt Springs on June 11 (St. Martins area), while a third was observed near Jacket River on June 12 (Pierre Dugua). Reports of TURKEY VULTURE (Urubu à tête rouge) have become almost not worth mentioning in the south, and at least three penetrated as far north as St. Leonard April 13 (Roy LaPointe). Notable congregations were 20 vulture circling near Riverside-Albert on June 28 (DSC and MM) and 55 perched in trees at Hammond River Park on July 1 (RBq).

A GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (Oie rieuse) was seen April 12 by Peter Pearce and Don Gibson at McGowans Corner and was still present there April 16 (Gilles Belliveau).

A BRANT (Bernache cravant) was somewhat out of place at Marsh Creek on May 1 (MC). They were reported in previous weeks at more traditional haunts at Maces Bay and Grand Manan. Reports of EURASIAN WIGEON (Canard siffleur) included an individual at Wilkins Field in Fredericton on April 16 (PP) and one at Hammond River on



Least Bittern
Drawing by R.I. Brasher

April 20 (JGW). Scott Makepeace found a Eurasian male with a hen wigeon at the Black Duck Marsh, Lower Jemseg, on May 25 and June 7. On June 22 the drake was loafing on a muskrat house with a boys club of three wood ducks, two mallards, and one Green-winged Teal, all drakes.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Sarcelle à ailes bleues*) was first noted at Hammond River on April 12 (JGW). The Eurasian form of GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*Sarcelle d'hiver*) was noted April 16 at Wilkins Field (PP) and again on April 19, when at least three were seen along the Memramcook River (Alain Clavette, André Cormier and Denis Belliveau). A REDHEAD (*Fuligule à tête rouge*) was found at Musquash Marsh on April 29 (RBu). RING-NECKED DUCK (*Fuligule à collier*) was present April 13 at Sackville (Kathy Popma). A TUFTED DUCK (*Fuligule morillon*) was still on the lower St. John River in Saint John on April 16 (RBu). At least one Tufted Duck has overwintered near Saint John for the past several years.

Sub-adult KING EIDERS (*Eider à tête grise*) were present at PLBO for much of the count period (March 31 to May 9), with one or two drifting between the Point and Maces Bay (RBq, and others). A visit by Richard Blacquiere and Nev Garrity on May 24 produced three sub-adults at the Point, and two were still visiting the Point for feeding when Richard paid a visit on July 23. Sub-adult males were also found off Grand Manan by Roger Burrows on May 12 and 27. A full adult male flew past the Point in a flock of Common Eiders on April 17. The spring sea duck migration always involves some overland migration, often resulting in inland observations on fresh water. Don MacDougall saw a flock of about 400 (possibly scoters) over the TCH near Memramcook on the evening

of April 11; Don Gibson saw about 20 BLACK SCOTERS (*Macreuse noire*) on the St. John River in Fredericton April 12, and two Black Scoters were at Sackville Waterfowl Park on April 13 (Kathy Popma).

April 13 appeared, from Mary's Point, to have been a day of substantial migration (DSC). At Point Lepreau on that day, Jim Wilson and Merv Cormier estimated numbers of scoters passing up the bay at close to 6,000 per hour. Heavy duck traffic continued well past the expected morning peak, with large numbers passing Cape Spencer in the afternoon (Roy and Eileen Pike) and, indeed, into the night, when Jim Wilson heard Black Scoters passing overhead. Meanwhile, Yolande LeBlanc witnessed plenty of activity in the Memramcook valley, with large flocks of ducks heading north to the Northumberland Strait, and Ronald Arsenault found many sea ducks staged on the Petitcodiac River. David Christie and others counted perhaps 10,000 scoters and other sea ducks in the Bay, viewed from Cape Enrage (MNC).

The next "big days" were April 20-21, when Richard Blacquiere, Jim and Jean Wilson, and Tracey Dean and Doug Jackman, working in shifts, witnessed nearly 10,000 SURF SCOTERS (*Macreuse à front blanc*) traveling up the bay. The May 3 weekend featured several reports of groups of eiders and all three scoter species on a lagoon in Salisbury (Ron Steeves); all three scoters at Petitcodiac wastewater lagoon (Bill and Marguerite Winsor); all three scoters at Silver Lake, Middle Sackville; and Surf and Black Scoters at Jones Lake (BED). A HARLEQUIN DUCK (*Arlequin plongeur*) was a surprising find at Memramcook River on May 3 (Alain Clavette, Richard Perron, Roger LeBlanc), so three the same day at Middle Sackville (Stuart Tingley et al.) was surely startling.

While conducting field work for the Breeding Bird Atlas near Minto on June 28, Stu Tingley stumbled too close to an active nest of NORTHERN GOSHAWK (Autour des palombes) and was promptly chased from the scene but not forced to eat his hat. RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS (Buse à epaulettes) were found at Charlie's Lake June 6 (PP) and at Penfield on June 13 (Bev Schneider). Scott Makepeace monitored a nest of Red-shouldered Hawks from April 19 to July 15 near Gagetown. One chick fledged from the nest of three eggs.

Arrival of BROAD-WINGED HAWK (Petite Buse) was noted April 16 in Saint-André, Madawaska County (Roy LaPointe), and April 17 in Saint John (MC).

Jules Cormier saw a bird June 15 near Belliveau Village that he suspects was a GOLDEN EAGLE (Aigle royal); Alain Clavette had a similar experience in the same area some days earlier.

David Christie found a VIRGINIA RAIL (Râle de Virginie) at North Head on May 18. Two SORA (Marouette de Caroline) appeared May 20 at Lower Coverdale sewage lagoon (Anne Marsch).

Among reports of AMERICAN COOT (Foulque d'Amérique) were three at LeGoulet on June 1 (Ivy Austin).

Two SANDHILL CRANES (Grue du Canada) were seen at Lac Frye, Mic-sou, on May 31 (Robert Doiron, Frank Branch); one was in Upper Rexton June 12 (DS).

The first report of BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (Pluvier argenté) was April 24 at Point Lepreau (RBq, JGW). David Christie and Woodie Gilles found a PIPING PLOVER (Pluvier siffleur) April 20 on a beach near Mary's Point and saw two at the same location a week later.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS (Grand Chevalier) was seen April 25 at Chance Harbour (JGW). LESSER YELLOW-

LEGS (Petit Chevalier) was noted May 8 at Fredericton and Keswick (DG, PP). An unusual spring sighting of SOLITARY SANDPIPER (Chevalier solitaire) was made May 20 on the Little Southwest Miramichi River (Nelson Poirier).

A WILLET (Chevalier semipalmé) was at Shemogue May 3 (ST and others); Brian Dalzell noted a flock of five touching down at Indian Cove, near Maces Bay, June 2.

The first report of SPOTTED SANDPIPER (Chevalier grivelé) was May 1 along the St. John River near Fredericton (Bev Schneider).

Oscar LeBlanc found an UPLAND SANDPIPER (Mauvèche des champs) May 6 at Saint Marie. Barb Curlew discovered a WHIMBREL (Courlis corlieu) on May 6 at Waterside, and Scott Makepeace found three on June 13 along route 780 in a blueberry field near where the Pocologan River intersects the road.

Two RED KNOTS (Bécasseau mauvèche) bearing identification bands were at Maisonette Beach May 26 (Robert Doiron). A SANDERLING (Bécasseau sanderling) was at Anchorage Beach, GMI, May 10 weekend (Valmond Bourque).

Spring visits of DUNLIN (Bécasseau variable) were detected May 29 at White Head Island (RBu) and on May 31 in Fredericton (PP).

If Peter Pearce hasn't seen it, it can't be common, so his sighting of a "flock" of WILSON'S SNIPE (Bécassine des marais) is noteworthy. He saw "about thirty" at Wilkins Field on April 17. WILSON'S PHALAROPE (Phalarope de Wilson) sightings were of a male at Tracadie-Sheila sewage lagoon on May 31 (Ivy Austin) and another male at Dorchester sewage lagoon on June 1 (Alain Clavette). Scott Makepeace

found two females and one male at the Black Duck Marsh, Lower Jemseg, June 7.

With summer just begun, mid-July brought a hint of the impending arrival of fall, as the arrival of shorebirds at Mary's Point and Sackville marked the beginning of post-breeding migration. An adult summer LAUGHING GULL (*Mouette atricille*) was at Ingall's Head May 20 (RBu).

A rare observation of an adult FRANKLIN'S GULL (*Mouette de Franklin*), seen in Sackville on May 2, was reported by Stu Tingley on behalf of the observers (Kathy Popma, Tony Erskine, Becky Stewart). Franklin's Gull is casual in New Brunswick. A BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Mouette rieuse*) was found June 1 at Ste-Marie-St-Raphael (Ivy Austin). The usual handful of spring LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS (*Goéland brun*) included two at Moncton sewage lagoon April 18 (Gilles Bourque), two at Point Park (Riverview) April 18 (Roger LeBlanc), one at Hammond River April 24 (JGW) and two at Mouth of Keswick on May 11 (PP).

An immature GLAUCOUS GULL (*Goéland bourgmestre*) lingered until May 31 at Tracadie-Sheila sewage lagoon (Robert Doiron).

There were reports of CASPIAN TERN (*Sterne caspienne*) at Point Lepreau on April 19 (JGW), four at Hammond River April 24 (JGW), and three near Memramcook on June 17 (Caroline Arsenault).

A BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO was in Fredericton May 31 (Judy Nason, Linda Kneebone).

Spring sightings of YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coulicou à bec jaune*) are unusual, but three observations were made from the Grand Manan archipelago, possibly of the same or two birds—one was at White Head Island, May 22

(MC); one at North Head, May 29 (Jim Leslie, reported by Roger Burrows); and one on June 17 at North Head (RBu).

Roger Burrows created a stir when he reported hearing an EASTERN SCREECH-OWL (*Petit-duc maculé*) near Southwest Head, Grand Manan, on the morning of May 16. Unfortunately, the bird could not be found for visual confirmation. A similar scenario played out on nearby Campobello Island, where a Screech-Owl was again heard, but not seen, in early June. Scott Makepeace also heard a Screech-Owl trilling near Burnt Hill (west of St. Stephen) on June 15. Roger Burrows also reported a NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL (*Petite nyctale*) from Grand Manan, May 16.

There were two reports of LONG-EARED OWL (*Hibou moyen-duc*); Roger Burrows reported one in the woods near Utopia on April 29, and Ivy Austin found one at Dieppe on May 18. Dwayne Sabine heard one calling several times near his home in Douglas in April and May and heard another on his Breeding Bird Survey Route near McAdam on June 22.

Bill Mountain saw his first COMMON NIGHTHAWK (*Engoulevent d'Amérique*) of the season at Waterville-Sunbury on April 13; a neighbour of Eileen Pike reported one sleeping on the roof of a house in Saint John on June 2.

WHIP-POOR-WILL (*Engoulevent bois-pourri*) seems to be seldom reported, perhaps due to their nocturnal habits. Don MacDougall reported hearing two to three males in the Wilsey Road South area of Fredericton this spring and has heard them the past two or three years. I know of only three other reports, all from the Miramichi River valley.

The first report of CHIMNEY SWIFT



Eastern Wood Pewee
Drawing by C. Garrett

(Martinet ramoneur) was made by Dwayne Biggar, who saw one at Hillsborough on May 16.

Arrival of the RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (Colibri à gorge rubis) was reported from three locales on May 7: Barb Curlew at Waterside, Durlan Ingersoll at Grand Manan, and Marg Manning at Riverglade.

There were four reports of RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (Pic à ventre roux): April 16 in Fredericton (John Grant McLoughlin), April 20 in Memramcook Valley (Alain Clavette and group), June 6 at Tide Head (Gerry Doucet, reported by Irene Doyle), and June 22 at Magaguadavic (DS).

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER (Pic à dos noir) was reported at Grand Manan, on the Long Pond Trail, June 8 (RBu).

Merv Cormier and Pattie McKerral, approaching Miramichi on Route 8, saw a NORTHERN FLICKER (Pic flamboyant) with "bright orange" underwings. The Red-shafted Flicker is understood to be the western form of the species and not expected closer than southwest Saskatchewan, so perhaps this bird was a Yellow-shafted Flicker with unusual pigmentation. On the other hand, where their ranges overlap, Red-shafted and Yellow-shafted Flickers interbreed, producing hybrids with intermediate characteristics. Since flickers are migratory; could this be what Merv saw?

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (Moucherolle à côtés olive) arrival was noted May 26 near Fredericton (Bev Schneider) and May 28 at Grand Manan (RBu) and Lorneville (MC). EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE (Pioui de l'Est) was at Grand Manan May 27 (RBu) and in Saint John May 29 (KM). YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (Moucherolle à ventre jaune) was found in Fredericton on May 14 (Alex and Halli Macdonald).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (Moucherolle vert) was well seen and heard at Ashburton Head, Grand Manan, June 20 (RBu). ALDER FLYCATCHER (Moucherolle des aulnes) appeared May 24 at Grand Manan (RB). Scattered individual WILLOW FLYCATCHERS (Moucherolle des saules) are detected most summers of late. Singing males were at Hampton sewage lagoon May 30 (RBq); near Penobsquis in late-June (DSC); Black Beach, Saint John, June 3 (RBu); and in Fredericton June 14 (PP). LEAST FLYCATCHER (Moucherolle tchébec) was first noted at Grand Manan May 23 (RBu). Don Gibson's first EASTERN PHOEBE (Moucherolle phébi) of the year was found April 12 in Fredericton; another was at Machias Seal Island on April 13 (RE).

The first report of GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (Tyrannus huppé) was May 14 in Fredericton (Alex and Halli Macdonald). There was some discussion indicating that the species might be more widespread than usual in New Brunswick this year. Roger Burrows had a single EASTERN KINGBIRD (Tyrannus tritri) at Saints Rest Marsh, Saint John, May 7, and a "tyranny" of 11 on May 23 at Whale Cove Pond, GMI.

A SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (Tyrannus à longue queue) made a most unexpected visit to the Waterside area May 9 (Barb Curlew, Pat Martin). A bird seen near Hopewell Cape on June 14 by Candy and Jim Mortimer and reported to DSC may have been the same individual. A very rare YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (Viréo à gorge jaune) appeared for Merv Cormier on May 28 at Lorneville. BLUE-HEADED VIREO (Viréo à tête bleue) was first detected in Douglas on May 3 (Dwayne Sabine), then near Saint John (MC) and at Mactaquac (Bev Schneider) on May 5. A pair of WARBLING VIREOS (Viréo mélodieux) was

at Bell Street Marsh, Moncton, May 9 (Roger LeBlanc). A PHILADELPHIA VIREO (Viréo de Philadelphie) was seen at Grand Manan on May 28 (RBu).

The arrival of TREE SWALLOWS (Hirondelle bicolor) was first reported on April 14 when three were seen at Calhoun Marsh (Stu Tingley, Rose-Alma Mallet, Norm and Gisèle Belliveau).

Tree Swallow sightings were widespread in the following days. A NORTH-ERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (Hirondelle à ailes hérissées) was at North Head on May 18 (ST). A CLIFF SWALLOW (Hirondelle à front blanc) was at Grand Manan May 16 (RBu).

BARN SWALLOWS (Hirondelle rustique) were reported April 14 at New Horton Ridge (Stu Tingley, Rose-Alma Mallet, Norm and Gisèle Belliveau) and April 19 at Lower Jemseg (Gilles Belliveau).

There were several reports of TUFTED TITMOUSE (Mésange bicolor). Merv Cormier reported that Dave McCavour had one for two days the first week of May in Lorneville; Hugh Parks had one visit his St. George feeder on April 17 and mentioned that another one (perhaps the same one) spent much of the winter visiting a nearby feeder on Manor Road.

A very rare CAROLINA WREN (Troglodyte de Caroline) was at Petitcodiac, April 30 (Catherine Hamilton). Another was heard singing near Montgomery Street, Fredericton, in early June (DS) and yet another near the Westfield Golf Club on June 12 (SM). The first known breeding of Carolina Wrens in NB was documented in 2002 at Grand Manan. HOUSE WRENS (Troglodyte familier) were at Bell Marsh, Moncton, May 31 (RBu); Dark Harbour, Grand Manan, June 23 (RBu); and in Sackville for the first week of July (Kathy Popma). The first WINTER WREN (Troglodyte

mignon) reports were April 19 at Apohaqui (RBq), then April 20 at Hammond River (JGW), Saint John (MC), and Taymouth (Julie Singleton).

The first RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (Roitelet à couronne rubis) was noted April 17 at Hammond River (JGW).

There was only one report of BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (Gobe-moucheron gris-bleu)—an individual at Grand Manan on May 19 (JGW).

A co-operative NORTHERN WHEATEAR (Traquet motteux), casual in spring, was found May 18 at North Head by Roger Burrows and was later seen by many birders.

On June 2 Brian Dalzell commented on an unusually large movement of EAST-ERN BLUEBIRD (Merlebleu de l'Est) into the province. The earliest reports were of a single at Deep Cove on April 17 (Tracey Bagley, reported by Durlan Ingersoll) and two in Kevin Renton's yard in Stilesville on April 20 (MNC). There were also numerous reports from the stronghold in southern New Brunswick.

Rejean Godin reported a TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE (Solitaire de Townsend) perched on a tree near the sewage lagoon at Cap Brule on April 26.

The first accepted report of VEERY (Grive fauve) was May 20 at Little Southwest Miramichi River (Nelson Poirier). In response to a report of a Veery in mid-April, Stuart Tingley offered, "If anyone can produce photographic proof of a Swainson's, Bicknell's, Gray-cheeked, or Veery in New Brunswick in April, then I will publicly apologize and eat my favourite birding cap." That's a challenge worth considering.

Roger Burrows continues to find BICKNELL'S THRUSH (Grive de Bicknell) at Grand Manan. He found one there May 28, and another was



Tufted Titmouse
Drawing by L.A.
Fuentes

reported to him June 19, at Anchorage Park. SWAINSON'S THRUSH (Grive à dos olive Swainsons) was at Grand Manan May 12 (RBu) and in Fredericton (DG) and Doaktown (KM) May 27. Reports of the provincially scarce WOOD THRUSH (Grive des bois) were from North Head, Grand Manan, May 24 (Roy LaPointe); at Saint John, where one was singing for several days (MC); near Nackawic on June 6 (DG); and at Anchorage Park, GMI, June 8-9 (RBu). There were indications that NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (Moqueur polyglotte) made a nesting attempt in Bas Cap-Pele (reported July 6, MNC); another was reported in Gagetown June 2 (SM).

BROWN THRASHERS (Moqueur roux) were found May 6 at Saint Marie (Oscar LeBlanc) and May 7 at Point Lepreau (RBq). A singing male was at Sillikers through much of the early summer (Nelson Poirier), and an active nest was discovered by David Christie on June 26 near Penobsquis, along his Breeding Bird Survey route.

There were scattered reports of YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (Paruline à croupion jaune) April 19 (Doreen Rossiter, Alma; Alain Clavette, Memramcook), BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (Paruline à gorge noire) May 7 at Point Lepreau (RBq) and Grand Manan (Durlan Ingersoll), BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (Paruline à gorge orange) May 25 at Grand Manan (Roger LeBlanc, Richard Perron and Alain Clavette), PINE WARBLER (Paruline des pins) April 21 at Maugerville (Gilles Belliveau), PALM WARBLER (Paruline à couronne rousse) April 15 at Kouchibouguac (Michel Chiasson), and widespread in the following days.

Scott Makepeace and Dwayne Sabine both commented on extraordinary numbers of Pine Warblers this year in

southwest and central New Brunswick. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (Paruline à poitrine baie) was in Silverwood on May 9 (Jeremy Forster), Blackpoll Warbler (Paruline rayée) in Fredericton on May 27 (DG), BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (Paruline noir et blanc) in Saint John May 6 (MC), AMERICAN REDSTART (Paruline flamboyante) in Douglas May 8 (Dwayne Sabine), OVENBIRD (Paruline couronnée) in Hampton May 8 (Harvey McLeod), and NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (Paruline des ruisseaux) in Central Hampstead May 7 (Scott Makepeace). MOURNING WARBLER (Paruline triste) was found June 3 at Ben Lomond near Saint John (Ian Cameron).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (Paruline masque) was reported May 8 at Point Lepreau (RBq). WILSON'S WARBLER (Paruline à calotte noire) was reported May 20 at Lower Coverdale (Anne Marsch) and May 24 in John Inman's yard at Mary's Point (reported by Mary Majka to MNC). CANADA WARBLER (Paruline du Canada) was reported May 24 at Grand Manan (RBu) and May 28 in Lorneville (MC).

There were a few spring SUMMER TANAGERS (Tangara vermillon). Holly Garner Jackson saw one May 11 at Campobello (reported to Maine-Birds); Roger Burrows saw a female May 28 at Grand Manan, and Doreen Rossiter reported one at Alma June 1. Spring arrival of SCARLET TANAGER (Tangara écarlate) was noted May 1 at Hammond River (JGW reporting for Bob Barton).

An EASTERN TOWHEE (Tohi à flancs roux) was found at Southwest Head, Grand Manan, by Peter Wilshaw on May 23.

CHIPPING SPARROW (Bruant familier) was first reported April 20 in Saint John (RBu) and in Doaktown (KM). A CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (Bruant

des plaines) was at Point Lepreau June 2 (BED). Ralph Eldridge found a Field Sparrow (*Bruant des champs*) June 2 at MSI. VESPER SPARROW (*Bruant vespéral*) was first reported May 8 near Mactaquac (DG, PP). There were two singing males at Coal Creek July 2, and a female building a nest (SM). Roger Burrows noted NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (*Bruant de Nelson*) May 13 at Castalia.

April 23 featured 12 FOX SPARROW (*Bruant fauve*) at Julie Singleton's feeder in Taymouth and 5 in Roy LaPointe's yard at St. Leonard the same day. The first Lincoln's Sparrow (*Bruant de Lincoln*) was reported May 9 in Saint John (KM). Alain Clavette had the first report of WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (*Bruant à couronne blanche*), April 20 at Memramcook. On April 23 Ralph Eldridge had WHITE-CROWNED, as well as SWAMP, FOX, and CHIPPING SPARROWS, at Machias Seal Island. Hugh Parks had a nice variety of SPARROWS at St. George April 27, including WHITE-CROWNED and FOX; Denis Doucet had a similar report from Pellerin April 29.

The first report of ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Cardinal à poitrine rose*) was May 7 at St. Leonard (Roy LaPointe). BLUE GROSBEAK (*Guiraca bleu*) reports included a first-year male at Deep Cove May 24 (MC), a female at Saint John June 2 (RBu), and one at Elgin June 9 (Bill Winsor).

INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerin indigo*) was first reported April 29 at Richibucto (Irene LeBlanc), and numerous reports followed. Indigo Bunting seems to be well established near Fredericton this year; Dwayne Sabine found singing males in Lincoln (two), McGowans Corner (two), and McKeen's Corner (Keswick Ridge). A sub-adult male PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerin nonpareil*) was

seen briefly at Mary's Point Road on May 29 (DSC, Mary Majka); another was at a Seal Cove (GMI) feeder in early June (reported to RBu). Painted Bunting is casual in New Brunswick.

BOBOLINK (*Goglu des prés*) were found May 8 at Grand Manan (reported by Durlan Ingersoll) and at Bell Street Marsh, Moncton, May 10 (Roger LeBlanc). A co-operative EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnelle des prés*) was at the Cap Brule sewage lagoon April 11-12 (ST).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS (*Carouge à tête jaune*) were found at Grand Manan May 16-18 (Norm Beliveau) and at St. George June 13 (Margery Acheson, Bev Schneider, MC). Returning RUSTY BLACKBIRDS (*Quiscale rouilleux*) were found May 9 at Saint John (RBu). BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (*Vacher à tête brune*) was first reported April 4 at St. Leonard (Roy LaPointe).

A first-year male ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Oriole des vergers*) was found May 22 at Ste-Marie-de-Kent (Oscar LeBlanc), and two females were observed on May 24 at John Inman's feeders on Mary's Point Road (Mary Majka). John's yard was especially colourful with a BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Oriole de Baltimore*) and Scarlet Tanager present the same day. Other Baltimore Oriole returns were noted May 7 at Mary's Point (DSC) and May 9 in Saint John (Frank Kelly) and Hampton (Harvey MacLeod).

Three RED CROSSBILLS (*Bec-croisé des sapins*) were at a Sackville feeder May 22-23 (Christopher Clunas), and one was at a Grand Manan feeder June 6 (Durlan Ingersoll). Flocks of WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL (*Bec-croisé bifascié*) were noted in several southern coastal areas and from the Miramichi in late-June and early-July (several reports, including DSC, BED, MC, KM, RBq, ST).



Bobolink
Drawing by R.F. Seibert

Abbreviations:

DSC - David Christie
DG - Don Gibson
DS - Dwayne Sabine
GMI - Grand Manan Island
JGW - Jim Wilson
KM - Ken MacIntosh
MC - Merv Cormier
MNC - Moncton Naturalists Club
MSI - Machias Seal Island
PP - Peter Pearce
RE - Ralph Eldridge
RBq - Richard Blacquiére
RBu - Roger Burrows
SM - Scott Makepeace
ST - Stuart Tingley
Status designations (casual, very rare) are from "Birds of New Brunswick: An Annotated List," New Brunswick Museum Monograph Series (Natural Science) NO. 10, 2004

Editor's Thoughts

Sabine Dietz
Sackville

The first reports of large groups of warblers (mostly Myrtle and Palm) were April 24-25 in various southern locations. Merv Cormier found 20 species in Grand Manan the week of May 19—a good indication that most of our breeders had returned by that date.

First reports by species were recorded as follows:

- TENNESSEE WARBLER (Paruline obscure) at St. Anselme, May 27 (Caroline Arsenault),
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (Paruline verdâtre) at Miscou, May 31 (Robert Doiron, Frank Branch) and June 3 at Black Beach, Saint John (RBu)
- NASHVILLE WARBLER (Paruline à joues grises) in Douglas, May 4 (Dwayne

Sabine) and at Point Lepreau, May 6 (RBq)

- NORTHERN PARULA (Paruline à collier) in Fredericton, May 7 (DG)
- YELLOW WARBLER (Paruline jaune) in Lorneville, May 8 (MC)
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (Paruline à flancs marron) at Mac-taquac, May 18 (Bev Schneider)
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER (Paruline à tête cendrée) in Saint John, May 9 (MC)
- CAPE MAY WARBLER (Paruline tigrée) in Lorneville, May 8 (MC)
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (Paruline bleue) in Silverwood (Jeremy Forster) and Saint John (MC), May 9.



Groundhog
Photo by R. Chiasson

As groundhogs, bears and chipmunks commence their hibernation, we sometimes might think it is time for us to take some time off as well – and we sometimes forget about all the cold-day activities we can participate in before the birds return, and spring plants begin to show their heads.

Here are some ideas:

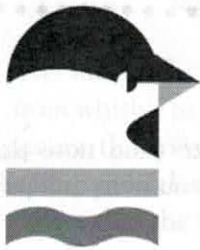
Participate in Project FeederWatch - www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/

Participate in a Christmas Bird Count - www3.nbnet.nb.ca/maryspt/CBC.html

Take in some of the talks organized by local naturalist clubs - www.naturenb.ca/English/federation.htm#Clubs

Get your children or grand children involved in a young naturalists club - www.naturenb.ca/English/youngnaturalistsclub.htm

Participate in Ice Watch - www.naturecanada.ca/cwn_naturewatch_iw.asp



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Woodland Moss

Sphagnum squarrosum: Perhaps one
of the easiest of our province's peat
mosses to identify in the field is the
relatively large and attractive *Sphagnum*
squarrosum. The individual pointed
leaves turn outward at right angles along
its many branches, giving the plant its
overall sharp or bristly character. This
woodland species is often found along
seeps and brook edges, usually in moist
forested habitats.

Sphagnum squarrosum:
Photo by Taryn O'Neill



Bruce Bagnell
Nauwigewauk



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Botany Corner

Gart Bishop
Sussex

Note the small
pointed leaf
tip



Photo by G. Bishop

Mountain Holly, or Catberry (Faux Houx) [*Nemopanthus mucronatus*]

N*emopanthus mucronatus* (Mountain Holly or Catberry, Faux Houx) is one of two species of native hollies found in New Brunswick, both of which are fairly abundant throughout the province. The Botany Corner column in the fall issue of the N.B. Naturalist [32(3)], discussed the other species Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*).

Mountain Holly is common throughout New Brunswick in acidic damp woods, swamps and bogs. This 2-3 m high shrub

is found only in north-eastern North America, ranging from southern Ontario and Quebec east to Newfoundland, south to Illinois and Virginia.

Young twigs and leaf stems are purplish, as are the terminal buds which are like small pyramids, making this species relatively easy to identify in the winter. The alternate leaves usually have a smooth margin, with a small, needle-like point (muronate).

The small 4-5 petalled flowers vary from whitish to yellow-green. In mid spring, the flowers appear at the end of a long pedicel and if examined, one will notice that the male and female flowers usually occur on separate plants. By mid August the deep red fruit can be found. It has a fleshy exterior surrounding 3-5 hard nutlets. While Mountain Holly does not have as abundant fruit as our other native holly (Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata*), it still attracts attention, as I recently noticed at a Nature Camp outing. Several children picked and brought this fruit to me, hoping I'd give the 'go-ahead' for them to pop it into their mouths. The fruit is not classified as poisonous, but is considered an undesired edible having a very bitter taste. Seed dispersal is most likely by birds eating the fruit. While the root and twigs have been used to make a diuretic tonic, little mention is made of its success.



Photo by G. Bishop

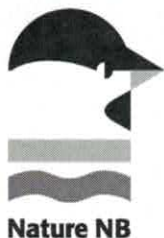
I often notice that I am in a patch of Mountain Holly, only after I have tried to walk through the tangle of sloping, crooked stems. The smooth, grey bark of the older stems differs noticeably from alder with which it is sometimes found. Still I like to bump into it now and then, for I like to be in rubber-boot wetlands looking for other things.



Drawing by P. Stafford

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- Hinds, H.R. 2000. Flora of New Brunswick. 2nd Edition. Biology Department, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB.
- Stocek, R.F. 1991. New Brunswick Trees and Shrubs in Winter, A field Guide. Maritime Forest Ranger School, Fredericton, NB.



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Snow bunting photo by Stephen Methot, from page 1 of 2009 Nature NB Fundraising Calendar

2009 NATURE NB FUNDRAISING CALENDAR

Nature NB has officially launched its 2009 Nature Calendar Campaign. Calendars are available for sale through your local naturalist club or at the Nature NB office (459-4209). These calendars feature 13 beautiful nature photographs taken by naturalists across the province and include club information regarding meetings and field trips. Please help support your local club and provincial affiliate by purchasing one today! Thank you to all those who participated.

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