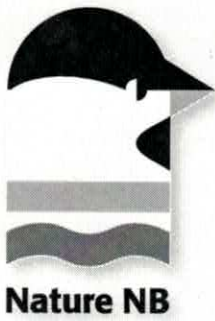


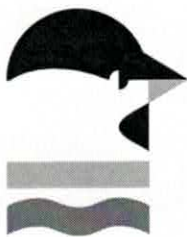
Vol. 35 No. 3 2008



Naturaliste du **NB** Naturalist



House Wren • Botanical Fieldwork on the Lower Saint John River •
31 new Protected Natural Areas in NB



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 (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 de Nature Canada (la Fédération Canadienne de la Nature).

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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 2^{ième} 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/com1; réunions à 19h00, 2^{ième} 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, 1^{er} mercredi du mois; excursions 3^{ième} 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.

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

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Please submit articles for the next issue by **January 31, 2009.**

S.v.p. soumettre les articles pour le prochain numéro avant le **31 janvier, 2009.**

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

(506) 433-4994, gartali@nbnet.nb.ca

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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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.

 **nature**nb.ca

Naturaliste du NB 60

**President's Message
Mot du Président**

Roland Chiasson

The "NB Naturalist" – the only New Brunswick magazine about nature in the province

The "NB Naturalist" is under-appreciated. It is our best way to communicate with people interested in nature. No other NB magazine can boast having grassroots nature writers from all over NB. Just take a close look at this issue:

- Botanical mysteries of the lower Saint John River;
- The latest news on the next AGM;
- Up-to-date reports direct from the Nature NB office;
- An adventure about nesting House Wrens;

- A volcano in NB (not to worry it's extinct);
- And more great stories, just read on.

Of course a huge thanks goes to all the production volunteers – bravo! Writers, keep the articles coming, especially in French, thanks!

The "NB Naturalist" is also a great way to attract new members, so show it to your friends. Use it to promote the work of Nature NB. Remember, your membership is due by January 2009 – hurry so you will not miss any issue!

Le « Naturaliste du NB » – la seule revue sur la nature au Nouveau-Brunswick

Le « Naturaliste du NB » est sous-apprécié. Il est notre meilleure voie de communication avec les personnes qui s'intéressent à la nature. Aucune autre revue du N.-B. ne peut se vanter d'avoir des auteurs sur la nature provenant du commun du peuple et de partout au N.-B. Vous n'avez qu'à regarder ce numéro :

- Les mystères botaniques du bas du fleuve Saint-Jean;
- Les dernières nouvelles sur la prochaine AGA;
- Les reportages en direct du bureau de Nature NB;

- Les aventures d'une famille de Trogodyte mignon;

- Un volcan au N.-B.! (Ne pas s'inquiéter, il est éteint);

- Et bien plus encore, lisez-en davantage dans ce numéro.

Je tiens à remercier tous les volontaires de production - bravo! Écrivains et écrivaines continuez S.V.P. à envoyer des articles, surtout en français, et merci!

Le « Naturaliste du NB » est également un formidable moyen d'attirer de nouveaux membres. Montrez-le à vos amis et amies. Un rappel, votre adhésion est due en janvier 2009 – dépêchez-vous pour ne pas manquer le prochain numéro!

L'Amanite tue mouche (Fly agaric)

La photo de la page couverture est une « *Amanita muscaria* » variété formosa (forme jaune); Amanite tue-mouches, Fly Agaric.

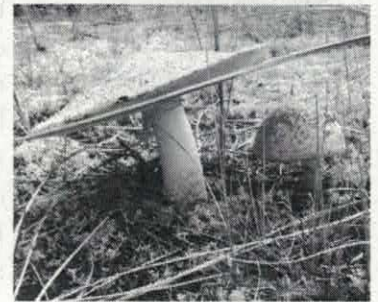
Les personnes qui s'intéressent à la consommation des champignons ont intérêt à reconnaître les amanites, car dans ces espèces, nous en avons des comestibles, des toxiques et aussi des mortelles. Les amanites se développent d'abord par un genre d'œuf qui restera dans la terre et d'où sortira le chapeau. Cet œuf portera le nom de volve ou voile général et le chapeau qui en sortira aura des vestiges de ce voile général. Celui-ci formera des verrues ou des plaques sur le chapeau qu'on nomme flocons. Le voile universel laissera à la base du pied un bulbe, ce qui est caractéristique aux amanites. En haut du pied, sous le chapeau, vous trouverez un anneau qui est le restant du voile partiel qui lui recouvre la partie fertile du champignon, soit les spores portées par lamelles. Ce voile se détache du bord du chapeau, retombe et forme un anneau sur le pied. Sous le chapeau, vous trouverez les lamelles qui ont pour fonction de porter les spores qui sont comme les graines du champignon. Ces lamelles sont toujours blanches chez les amanites et ne changeront pas de couleur avec l'âge. Il est aussi à noter que pour l'identification, le mycologue devra faire une sporée qui est un amas de spores sur une feuille. Cette sporée est toujours blanche chez les amanites. Nous en sommes rendus au chapeau qui, comme nous l'avons dit plus tôt, portera des vestiges de la volve. Le contour du chapeau portera des rainures ou des stries causées par les lamelles pendant le stade de développement.

Généralement, les amanites sont des espèces terricoles, mais celle de la page couverture a poussé en terrain sablonneux à l'île de Miscou sur des dunes datant d'environ dix mille ans.

Ces sites sont des lieux particuliers par leur formation géologique où poussent certains champignons comme la chanterelle commune, ce qui n'est pas habituel, et le géastre en étoile qui, lui, est dans son habitat naturel.

J'espère que ce petit texte sur les amanites va vous aider à mieux les comprendre.

Emile Ferron
Lamèque
Président du club des naturalistes de la péninsule acadienne



Amanite tue-mouches
Photo par S. Dietz

From our Past

Selected by
Mary Sollows
Saint John



This excerpt was taken from the Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick. 1910. No. XXVIII, Vol. VI. Part II: 189-197. Read by Title, May 4, 1909

The history of Curries Mountain - an old New Brunswick volcano.

L.W. Bailey LL.D. F.R.S.C.

Upon the left bank of the St. John River, about five miles above Fredericton, is the eminence formerly known as Clark's, and now as Curries Mountain. It has certainly no claim to the latter designation, its elevation being quite insignificant, only 280 feet, but rising somewhat steeply from the river's bank, and separated by a marked depression from the hills in the rear, it stands out with some degree of prominence and is a conspicuous feature in the landscape, as from its sides or summit may be had a somewhat extensive view of the river valley, and of the city in the distance. Along its western slope, near the base, between it and the river, run the highway and the Woodstock branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway; and in the construction of these the structure of the mountain was to some extent revealed; while in the hills behind, traversed by what is known as the "Back Road," leading to Rockland, and which attain an elevation (five hundred feet) somewhat exceeding that of the mountain itself, are other exposures from the study of which information as to the origin and history of the mountain may be had.

Curries Mountain is, in a sense, an old volcano. That is to say, it is of volcanic origin. It is true that it is not now possible to recognize about it anything of the nature of a crater and it may never have possessed one; but volcanic eruptions do not always lead to that result. They may determine outflows along extended cracks or fissures. Craters, even if originally present, may be obliterated by later flows, by sedimentary deposits or by erosion. The molten rock from the

earth's interior, though penetrating the crust, may fail to reach the surface, and subsequently be revealed by the removal of the surrounding beds, or this may come up along a narrow vent, forming a pipe or chimney, and, without forming a crater, overflow the region in its neighborhood. On the other hand the fact of the igneous origin of Curries Mountain is placed beyond question (1) by the study of its rocks as regards their nature and arrangement; and (2) by the relations of these to the other rocks with which they are associated.

VOLCANIC ROCKS

The rocks which constitute the main mass of Curries Mountain are of a dark grey, almost black colour, quite hard, of uniform texture and breaking with a broad conchoidal fracture. Fresh surfaces glisten somewhat from the presence of minute crystals, and on the north-western face of the hill are ledges showing a distinctly columnar structure, similar to that of Blomidon or the Giant's Causeway. Technically the rock is Diabase, a variety of "trap" consisting of an intimate admixture of feldspar (labradorite or anorthite) and augite or pyroxene. To the latter, an iron-bearing mineral, the colour, hardness, toughness and weight of the rocks are due. It is an admirable material for road making, and considerable quantities of somewhat similar but inferior rock, derived from the outskirts of the hill or from boulders, have been used in macadamizing the streets of Fredericton, the main mass of the mountain, owing to the cost of removal, remaining still untouched.

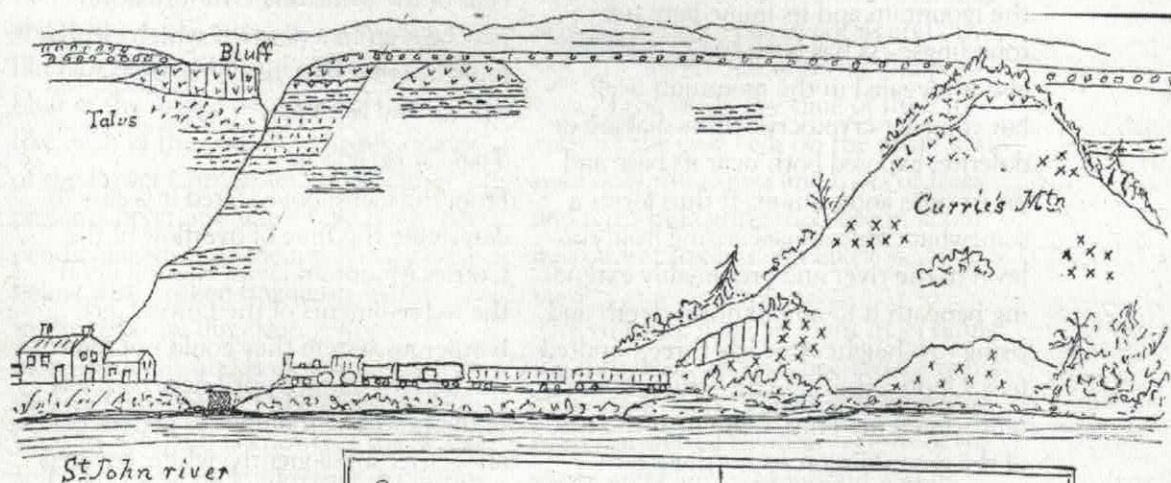
No other rock than that last referred

to is visible in the mountain itself; but along the crests of the hills which, as already stated, lie in the rear, and extend for several miles in the direction of Rockland, are numerous exposures of beds of related origin. These are of lighter colour than the diabase described above and are earthy rather than crystalline, though not unfrequently containing crystalline minerals. These latter are usually scattered through the rock in the form of blebs or nodules, and include quartz, calcite, heulandite and a variety of chlorite known as delessite. Thus the rock is a sort of volcanic ash, which in places assumes the character of a coarse amygdaloid or toad-stone. No bedding is discernible in these rocks, but they may be seen to rest horizontally upon non-volcanic stratified rocks to be presently noticed, showing that they are either of the nature of flows or of showers of ashes. They may be well studied on either side of a ravine traversing the hillside about a mile and a half above

Curries Mountain, where they form a conspicuous and vertical bluff, half-buried by a talus of detached fragments, and commanding a view probably unexcelled in beauty in the whole valley of the St. John.

SEDIMENTARY ROCKS

The rocks of this character found associated with the volcanics consist of conglomerates, sandstones and shales, of which those below the volcanics are noticeable for their intensely red colour and calcareous nature, while those above are as uniformly grey and non-calcareous. The former are identical with those which in various other parts of the Province occupy a similar position and are referable to the Lower Carboniferous system, while the latter represent the Millstone Grit formation or Lower Division of the Coal Measures. The latter are remarkable as mainly made up of well-rounded white quartz pebbles. The red rocks may to some extent be seen along the Back Road where this makes its



Reference Index		GEOLOGICAL SECTION OF CURRIE'S MOUNTAIN near Fredericton N.B. by L.W. Bailey
	Millstone Grit.	
	Trap ash.	
	Red Sandstone (Lower Carboniferous)	
	Diabase (Intrusive)	
	Columnar Diabase	

ascent to the hills behind Curries Mountain, but better in the ravine referred to above or along the steep hillsides leading to Rockland. From the height of the hills, the horizontal attitude of the beds, and the position of the exposures, it may be inferred that they have a thickness of at least five hundred feet. The grey beds are not seen in the immediate vicinity of the mountain, but come into view on either side, in one direction becoming continuous with the great Carboniferous tract of southern New Brunswick, in the other helping to mark the northern escarpment of that formation to and up the valley of the Keswick River. They are noticeable, in addition to their coarseness and silicious character, for the extent to which they have been planed and even polished by glacial action. Poorly preserved stems of plants are occasionally found in the red as well as in the grey beds.

STRATIGRAPHICAL RELATIONS

These may be most readily understood by the accompanying sectional view of the mountain and its immediate surroundings. As has been stated, nothing else is revealed in the mountain itself but compact cryptocrystalline diabase or dolerite, exposed both near its base and on its sides and summit. It thus forms a somewhat conical mass arising from the level of the river and presumably extending beneath it to an unknown depth and rising to a height of nearly three hundred feet. Upon either side the structure is quite different. Thus, quite near the base of the mountain on its northwestern side, are beds of red conglomerate in nearly horizontal position, and which, if they do not underlie the whole mass of the mountain, as seems improbable, must have been penetrated by the volcanic rock in its efforts to reach the surface. This view is rendered almost certain by the fact that upon either side of the

mountain similar red beds are exposed to within about sixty or seventy feet of the summits of the hills, being then capped by horizontal masses not of dolerite but of vesicular ash-rock and amygdaloid. Such open vesicular rocks are somewhat of the nature of a slag, their cavities being the result of the expansion of gases under diminished pressure, and they are believed to have been formed at or near the surface, while those of a more solid crystalline character, such as constitute the mountain, were formed at lower levels and under greater resistance. Thus the mountain proper represents a volcanic neck or chimney, penetrating the red sediments from an unknown depth, while the ash beds and amygdaloids are the lighter and more scoriaceous materials thrown off from the summit of the pipe, possibly under water, and spread over surrounding deposits. These do not include the grey beds. At no point can the volcanic materials be found to rest upon the latter; but at no great distance to the north of the ravine the coarse grey beds of the Millstone Grit formation may be seen in a position which clearly indicates that they lie above the amygdaloids and ash-beds.

TIME OF ERUPTION

From the facts above stated it is easy to determine the time of overflow of the Curries Mountain lavas. Resting upon the red sediments of the Lower Carboniferous system they could not have reached the surface until near the close of the Lower Carboniferous period, or altogether subsequently; while, covered as they are by the lowest beds of the Coal-period, they must have antedated the latter. The time of eruption was between the two.

CONTEMPORANEOUS NEW BRUNSWICK VOLCANOES

New Brunswick has been the seat of volcanic activity at many periods during

its history both before and since that of which Curries Mountain is a monument. Volcanic products are a very marked feature of the so-called Huronian age, and in parts of St. John and Kings counties, as about Loch Lomond, Kingston and the Nerepis region, cover large areas. They recur again in the Silurian, represented by many of the finer hills about the Bay des Chaleurs, Passamaquoddy Bay and the eminences, such as Mount Teneriffe, Mount Wightman, Sagaoook Mountain, etc. at the sources of the Tobique and the Nepisiquit; and in comparatively recent times there were the outflows now so conspicuously represented in the Bay of Fundy trough by Grand Manan and the North Mountains of Nova Scotia; but the Lower Carboniferous period is also remarkable for the extent to which volcanic operations were then carried on. One evidence of this is not very far removed from the locality which forms the subject of this paper. Upon what is known as the Royal Road, which was in the rear or to the east of Curries Mountain at a distance of about five or six miles, is a conspicuous bluff known as McLeod's Hill. Like the bluff at the ravine described above, and like most of the beds of volcanic origin of the Lower Carboniferous system, it presents upon one side a bold front, perpendicular towards the top but covered below with broken fragments, while in the opposite direction it slopes off more gradually and is mostly covered by superficial deposits. This corresponds to what in Scotland is known as the "Crag and Tail." The rock, like that at Curries Mountain, is a dolerite or diabase, but is more coarsely amygdaloidal, containing not unfrequently considerable cavities lined with quartz crystals, or of calcite encrusted with quartz. This overflow may have been connected with that of Curries Mountain, but the connection, if

existing, is now obscured by the overlying rocks of the Coal Measures which occupy all the intervening area. Other localities for these volcanic outbursts are: the Miramichi river, about six miles above Boiestown, where again they form conspicuous bluffs; the vicinity of Harvey Station where they include the eminence of Cranberry Hill, at the base of which passes the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, as well as Bald Mountain a few miles to the east; the west shore of the St. John river, near Long Island, in Queens County, where they spread over a large area and are associated with beds of limestone which by the heat accompanying their ejection have been converted into marbles; and yet again about the Emigrant Settlement north of Grand Lake in the same county;— in each of these instances exhibiting the same relations to the red and grey rocks, respectively beneath and above them, as are seen near Fredericton, and hence showing they all belong to the same great periods of volcanic activity. The red beds and associated limestones contain in many places corals and other forms of marine life, showing the presence of the sea at the time of their formation; the grey beds on the other hand hold only the trunks and roots of trees and ferns indicating their origin about fresh water streams and lakes.

[. . .]

The volcano, if we are right in so terming it, is dead, and has been so for many millions of years. Volcanic activity has been transferred to other regions of the earth, and Curries Mountain and its associated hills are now chiefly interesting as helping to determine a beautiful landscape or as affording to the geologist opportunity for the study of some problems of the remote past.

Vanessa Roy-McDougall
Executive Director
Nature NB
Fredericton

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(506) 459-4209

News from Nature NB

YOUNG NATURALISTS' CLUB (YNC)
The NB YNC has launched a new club through the Village of Gagetown school. The first meeting was held in October and included a tree walk and scavenger hunt. We are still looking for volunteers to run local clubs in other areas of New Brunswick, as well as present and lead activities for our current clubs.

NATURE KIDS NB

Nature NB continues to seek articles for its Nature Kids NB magazine. Articles on a variety of nature-related topics are welcome. We are especially interested in French articles! If you have an item to submit, 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 who 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 attract a wider audience. Anyone interested in helping is asked to contact the Nature NB office.

SUMMER YOUTH NATURE CAMP

Nature NB has submitted funding applications for its 2009 summer camp season to the NB Environmental Trust Fund and NB Wildlife Trust Fund, as well as to the French Éducation Plus program.

NATURALIST LEADERS IN TRAINING (LIT)

Encouraged by the success of our pilot Leaders-in-Training program, Nature NB will once again host a LIT workshop in the spring. If you know any youth ages 13-16 interested in participating in the program, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

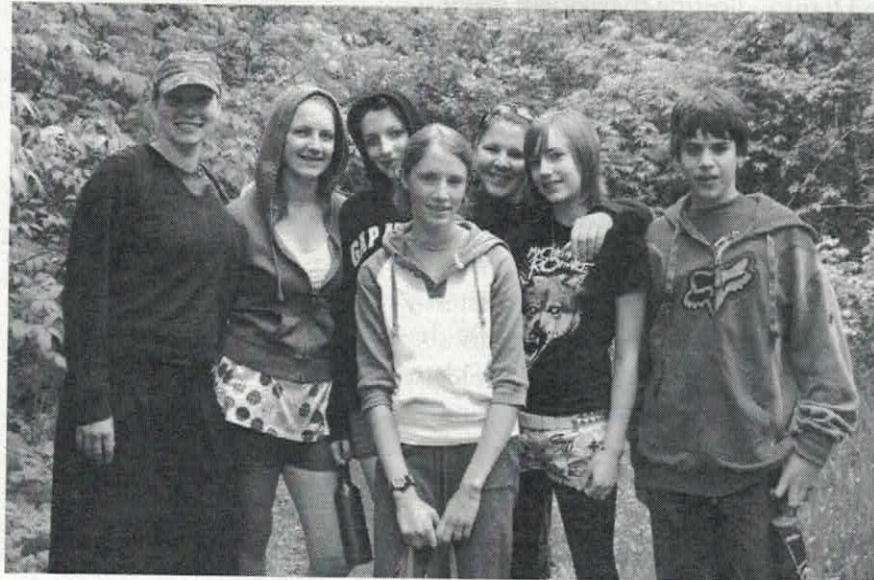
2009 NATURE NB CALENDAR

The 2009 Nature NB fundraising calendar is still available for purchase. Funds raised will be divided between Nature NB and the local nature club. See your local club representative or check the Nature NB website for more information.

CHICKADEE CHARLIE'S TERRIFIC TRAIL ADVENTURE BOOKLET

Nature NB, in partnership with the NB Trails Council, created a fun and interactive booklet for kids that encouraged trail use and nature interpretation. The bilingual booklet is available at the Fredericton office for free.

*Leaders in Training 2008
Photo by V. Roy-McDougall
From left to right: Rebecca Trembley,
Jessica Blair, Emily Blair, Mira Dietz,
Chiasson, Diane Praught,
Misha Giasson, Alexander Briggs*



Nouvelles de Nature NB

Vanessa Roy-McDougall
Directrice générale
Nature NB
Fredericton

CLUB DES JEUNES NATURALISTES
Le CJN a maintenant un nouveau club à Gagetown. Leur première rencontre a eu lieu en octobre dernier. Celle-ci comprenait une présentation sur les arbres et une chasse au trésor. Nous recherchons toujours des bénévoles pour établir des CJN dans d'autres régions ainsi que pour organiser des activités pour nos trois clubs existants.

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 en français. Tous ceux désireux de le faire sont priés de contacter Nature NB.

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. Afin de maintenir la qualité de nos textes français, nous voulons assembler une banque de bénévoles disponibles pour vérifier les textes français. Le plus de bénévoles, le moins chacun aura à faire. Nous serons très reconnaissants de toute aide, ce qui permettra à Nature NB de joindre plus de monde. Tous les intéressés sont priés de contacter Nature NB.

CAMPS D'ÉTÉ JEUNESSE NATURE
Nature NB a soumis des demandes de fonds pour l'été 2009 au Fonds en fiducie pour l'environnement, Fonds de fiducie de la faune du Nouveau-Brunswick et le programme Éducation Plus.

NATURALISTES EN FORMATION
Encouragé par le succès de notre première tentative du programme Naturali-

stes en Formation, Nature NB invitera un autre groupe de jeunes âgés de 13 à 16 ans à participer à cette initiative. Tous les jeunes intéressés par cette activité sont priés de contacter Nature NB.

CALENDRIER NATURE NB 2009
Le calendrier 2009 de Nature NB est toujours disponible pour achat. Les fonds recueillis seront partagés entre Nature NB et les clubs de nature locaux. Veuillez contacter votre club local ou Nature NB pour plus d'information!

MAX LA MÉSANGE
Nature NB, avec le conseil de Sentier NB, a développé un livret encourageant les jeunes âgés de 6 à 9 ans à utiliser le système de sentier NB tout en explorant la nature. Ce livret bilingue est maintenant en vente chez Nature NB.

Pour plus d'information/
For more information:
www.naturenb.ca
924 rue Prospect Street
Suite 110
Fredericton, NB E3B 2T9
(506) 459-4209

Camp Jeunesse Nature 2008
Photo par V. Roy-McDougall



Kathy Popma
Sackville

House Wren in NB



Nest box in Kathy Popma's garden
Photo by H. Popma

House Wrens have been confirmed breeding in New Brunswick only a few times. They are common in Maine and Ontario, and Nova Scotia has several confirmed breeding records. Some reports are of males that have prepared a nest site, as this species does, in advance of attracting a female, who then, if she approves, completes it with an inner nest cup. These males would likely breed if a female arrived.

For a few days in early July 2008 in Sackville N.B., after a series of high gales, we had been hearing a bird singing in the garden which we couldn't identify, which sounded wren-like, but unfamiliar at the same time. We couldn't catch a glimpse of it as it kept skulking in the bushes. It sang louder and louder every day with a lovely rich warble. Obviously, someone was singing for a mate, but who?

July 8 While sitting having morning coffee on the deck, my son Chris and I heard the bird again, but this time it landed 30 feet away in full view on top of a 10-foot pole to which we had previously nailed one of our swallow boxes. The pole was at the edge of one of our perennial beds, and beside five magnolia trees. And yes, it was a House Wren. No swallows had visited the box that summer, and we had observed absolutely no activity around it. The bird was active, small, and a warm rich brown color. It sang loudly from atop the pole for a few minutes, then, as we watched in amazement, it entered the swallow box through the front hole, and about 30 seconds later, squeezed through and

exited the box through a gap no larger than an inch where one of the sides met the top.

Over the next half hour, this pattern repeated itself 10 to 12 times. Grabbing a couple of sets of binoculars and a bird book from the kitchen, we had excellent looks at this tiny bird as it went about its business. I had never seen a House Wren before, but it was clearly a male of that species, a Life Bird for us both.

A closer look at the nest box entrance showed a twig poking out the hole, and the inside stuffed full of other twigs. The bird had obviously been busily nest building for a number of days, right under our noses, but we had not observed it a single time until now. Each time it flew off and returned, I tried to see if it was carrying anything, but of all the trips I watched that day, I only saw something in its beak once, so the nest was well advanced. I had no idea if a female was already sitting on eggs in the box or not, and was too afraid of disturbing things by approaching closely to find out.

Needing confirmation, I called my mentor and ornithologist extraordinaire, Tony Erskine. I was delighted when he arrived and confirmed the species, and gave us a crash course on the natural history of House Wrens. I then headed for the bird books to find out more...especially how to recognize a female.

Later in the day, the bird was observed several times on a low branch right beside the deck where we were sitting, seemingly undisturbed by our presence. Then, as I watched it closely, I saw it sitting in front of another bird that I

was unable to identify but which I did not think was another wren. Then I was confounded to see it stretch itself out towards the other bird and flutter its wings, almost begging like a young bird will do to be fed by a parent. The other bird flew away, unimpressed, and I never observed the wren doing that again. Later I read that sometimes, male wrens will mistakenly display to other species and perhaps that was what it had been doing.

As the morning passed, and the day became hotter, the wren's song diminished and it disappeared from sight. It was only heard a few more times that day.

July 9 Winds were strong at about 30-40 km/h but the wren could be heard singing all morning, and was still singing at two in the afternoon. I was able to relocate it and watched it fly from one tree to another, all in the same corner of the garden. I checked the other four swallow nest boxes in the garden, and looked for various cavities in other trees, but could find nothing that looked like a wren nest site. The original pole with nest box certainly seemed to be the target. Again I observed the wren fly to it repeatedly, sing there for a while, then fly back to the trees and keep singing. Several times it was observed flying from the top of the pole down to the ground.

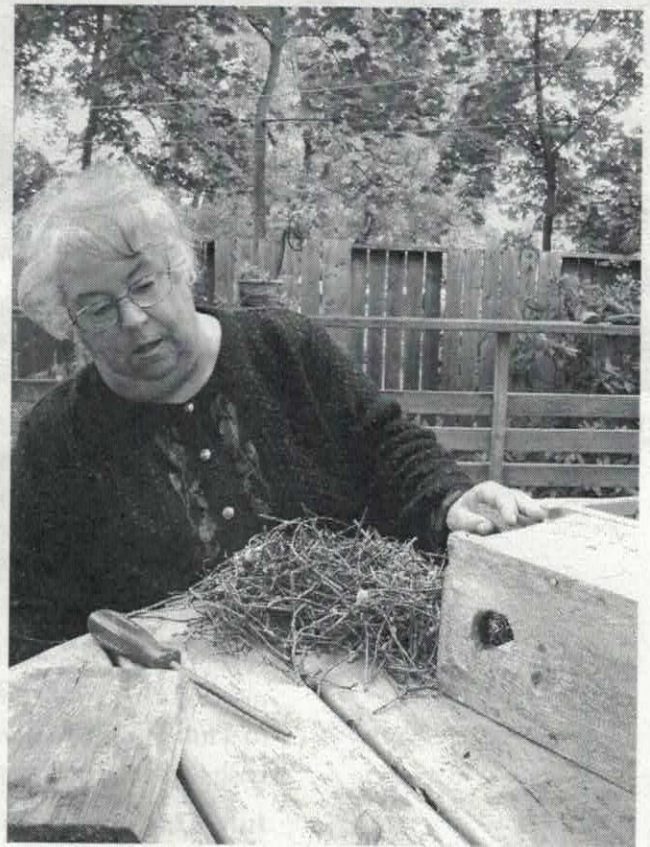
Then it changed its tactics. It came up with a whole new song that I hadn't heard. This time, while I observed it hopping along the top of our fence, it now and then sat quietly and sang very softly a whole new bunch of phrases. From time to time it picked up and put down pieces of lichen. Then it flew back to the original pole and singing very softly, entered the nest, stayed inside for a minute, then left again via the "side door". It returned three minutes later and sang the same soft song again, then flew off and disappeared into the brush.

This song was muted, not at all like the show off one that had been ringing across the yard for the last few days. Although the wind made it hard to hear, it didn't drown the wren out when it went back to its original loud melodies. At one point the wren was observed to carry something white and hairy-looking into the nest box, leaving again by pushing itself through the side gap.

July 10 By noon I still hadn't heard "our" wren but it was very windy and misty. I sat on the deck for half an hour at lunchtime but with no luck.

However, later on between 7:30-9 pm he was back at it, singing repeatedly his usual song but slightly changed, with a faster pace, more phrases, and sounding a little harsher. I did not see him, however, and he did not approach the nest box.

July 11 I woke to the wren's song, and he kept at it solidly from 7:30 to 8:30 am. During the morning, I observed him sporadically in the same area by the deck. It looked as though more coarse material had been added to the nest box. This day the song seemed to come just from one tree. For fun I decided to count the singing...18 times in a row, with just a short space between. Although we didn't see him, he moved and sang from another spot slightly further away but could be still heard clearly



Kathy Popma cleaning out nest box
used by House Wren
Photo by H. Popma



House Wren
Photo by J. Wilson

from our garden. From 10 am to noon he did not approach the nest box and the song petered out, although there was still plenty of other birdsong in the garden... Robin, Song Sparrow, Red-eyed Vireo, Chickadee, etc.

He appeared again for his evening chorus, and from 7 to 8 pm we were treated to a full show, this time from the sumac bush as well as the maple.

July 12 At 8:30 am, with a 20 km/h breeze, 15 degrees C, and clear sunny skies, the morning was filled with loud wren song again, but mixed in was his softer version as well. Again I counted a series of up to 18 repetitions. This time he did sing from atop the pole with the nest box but was not observed to enter it. There was much competition from the other birds singing in the yard but he was still very audible against the musical background noises.

July 13 The morning is still filled with wren song from various places around what has become the wren's garden territory. He only sat on the nest pole once and didn't stay. At noon he came back to the pole, sang only once, and flew into the 10-foot rhododendron near its base. He was again heard singing at dusk from 7 to 8 pm.

July 14 More glorious (but increasingly more futile?) wren song up to 10 am. Although it then rained heavily, he could still be heard.

July 15 Much wren song from 8:15 to 9:15 am when I had to leave: sequence of 35 repetitions, 38 repetitions, and 41 repetitions were recorded.

July 16 Still much wren song especially between 9:30-10 am. Sequences of 8, 21, 13, and 17 repetitions recorded.

July 17 The wren was still singing just as much in the morning and at dusk, but I sensed a slight change in tone. There are two Monarch caterpillars on nearby Milkweed plants, not in view of the nest box, but close enough... whose side would I be on if Mr. Wren thought they looked tasty?

July 18 Much warbled wren song still at 8:30 am without the new variation I thought I heard last evening. One sequence I recorded was 29x.

July 19 Rain and 14 degrees C at 8 am with only a few wren songs heard. However, when the sun came out later, he was back at it and there were the usual full renditions. Sandy Burnett, a naturalist friend, dropped by and our evening glass of wine was accompanied by the wren showing off. Sandy was familiar with the song of this species from Ontario and picked it out right away.

July 20 We had been hearing the wren for about three weeks and he was still at it (one sequence was 26x). After a

morning fog lifted, from 9 to 10 am he sounded particularly joyful, but there was no mate that I knew of, unless she was in the nest or in another nearby yard. The books told me the male's song changes dramatically when a female shows up, but I couldn't convince myself I had heard it.

July 21 Pouring rain...no wren song.

July 22 Drizzle, cloud, no sun or wren song.

July 23 Cloudy, humid, no wren song.

July 24 No wren song; Monarch caterpillars have disappeared.

July 26 We may have heard the wren once, in a lower part of the garden.

From this point on, we did not hear or see the wren again.

On **Sept. 17**, there was a new report of a House Wren from Grand Manan Island N.B., far to the south.

On **Oct. 13**, Thanksgiving Day, I assumed the nest was not being used, and decided to satisfy my curiosity. I took the nest box and opened it up to examine the contents. As we had thought, it was stuffed to the gills with dry, dead twigs (see photos). They had all been cut to fit, with none bent over or broken. If the wren carried every twig individually, he must have made a thousand trips without us seeing him at it. About 30% of the

twigs were from our Tamarack trees, but the rest we could not identify, although some were very fine and others were thicker, about 1/8" maximum diameter. There were two White Pine twigs with dead needles attached. There were no leaves, flowers, or grasses. Saddest of all, there was no inner nest cup of soft down that a female might have built, and no sign the nest was ever occupied. A similar adjacent swallow nest box was also examined, and it was completely empty. We replaced the nesting material in the box and put it back on the pole.

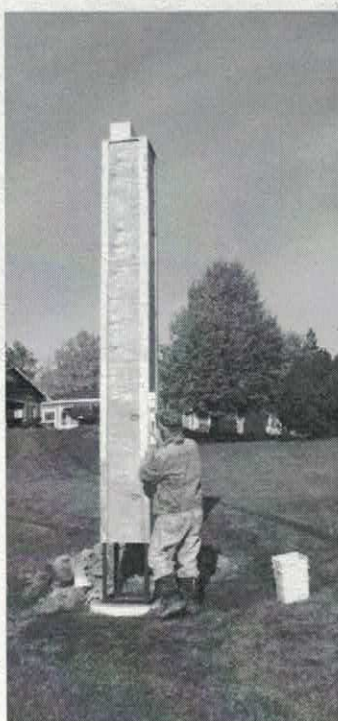
I never did see more than one wren. If "our" wren did somehow find a female, she and the nest were in another yard. We never saw fledglings or juvenile wrens in the area during the rest of the summer. In the end, the whole episode had to be recorded as just a classic incidence of "possible" breeding (an S in the breeding bird atlas codes) like the few others reported in the region.

I think I'll leave the nest box where it is, though. It isn't too far from where we usually put our winter bird feeding station. Maybe one cold stormy January night a little Black-capped Chickadee will seek shelter in it and find some protection and warmth amongst the twigs, and all that work won't have been in vain. And who knows who will drop in next summer.

Resources:

1. Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces, Anthony Erskine, 1992
2. A Field Guide to the Birds' Nests, (Peterson series), Hal. H. Harrison, 1975
3. The Singing Life of Birds, Donald Kroodsmas, 2007

Lewnanny Richardson
Nature NB - Espèces en
Péril
Péninsule acadienne



Tour à Trudel, Péninsule acadienne
(photo en haut)

Intérieur du tour (photo en bas)
Photos par L. Richardson



Adopter une espèce en Péril, c'est possible

L'année 2008 a été une année pleine de nouveautés pour Nature NB et ses programmes. En premier lieu, le programme que vous connaissiez sous le nom de Projet Siffleur, changera de nom. Suite à une longue discussion au cours des derniers mois, le conseil d'administration a adopté un nouveau nom, soit Nature NB – Espèces en Péril (Nature NB – Species at Risk). Ce nouveau nom permettra l'objectif du programme d'être compris beaucoup plus facilement par les Néo-Brunswickois. La motivation du changement était purement une question de marketing.

Aussi, pendant l'année 2008, nous avons ajouté des espèces à nos objectifs. Présentement, le programme de Nature NB – espèces en Péril, inclut le Pluvier Siffleur, les colonies de sternes, les colonies de goélands, l'Aster du golfe St-Laurent et tous les autres aspects de protection de la zone côtière, incluant les dunes, les plages et les marais.

Tout récemment, grâce à une subvention de la Fiducie de la Faune du Nouveau-Brunswick, nous avons inclus le Martinet ramoneur dans notre mandat. Comme mentionnés plus tôt cette année, nous avons construit une tour de nidification chez Monsieur Frank Branch, dans la région de Trudel de la Péninsule acadienne. Ce programme promet beaucoup et j'espère être capable de continuer à bâtir et installer d'autres tours dans le futur.

Éventuellement, les aires de repos et de nidification

deviendront de plus en plus rares. Nous devons donc faire tout notre possible afin de préserver et créer de nouveaux habitats pour cette espèce qui a subi des changements drastiques au cours des derniers siècles. Pour se reproduire, les martinets ramoneurs ont besoin de deux types d'habitats; un dortoir (où ils se rassemblent les soirs, avant la reproduction) et un nichoir (où il y aura seulement un couple nicheur).

La tour, qui a été mise en place cette année, a une dimension de 12 pieds de hauteur et est installée sur une base en ciment. L'intérieur de la tour est fait de contreplaqué appelé T1-11. Ce type de contreplaqué est fait de lignes horizontales, permettant une adhérence d'un nid de martinet qui est fait uniquement de brindilles et de salive. L'extérieur de la tour est encore à finir, mais celle-ci est quand même fonctionnelle. Nous devons cependant attendre la venue du printemps pour savoir si un couple adoptera cette structure, construite d'après un modèle qui fonctionne à merveille aux États-Unis.

Je tiens à remercier Monsieur Frank Branch d'avoir bien voulu nous laisser installer la tour sur sa propriété. La région de Paquetville avait été ciblée puisque les martinets se rassemblent à cet endroit au printemps à l'église de Paquetville.

Un gros merci à tous les naturalistes qui appuient Nature NB. Grâce à vous, un meilleur sort est réservé aux espèces en péril et leurs habitats.

Sans votre appui, tous ces projets n'existeraient pas!

2008 Botanical Fieldwork on the Lower Saint John River

(Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre)

Sean Blaney
Sackville

Anyone who has driven between Gagetown and Saint John along the Saint John River Valley knows it is one of the most scenic areas of New Brunswick, with high hills rising up from the marshes and farmlands that line the river. It is also home to an impressive diversity of rare plants, including a suite of species largely restricted to that region within the province.

With the financial support of the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund and Wildlife Trust Fund, this summer the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (AC CDC) undertook a systematic survey of the river-associated flora within the region between Gagetown and Oak Point (25 km north of Saint John), including Belleisle Bay and Washademoak Lake, two of the large bays extending eastward from the Saint John River.

The waterways in this area were divided into 54 2-km segments, from which 12 segments were randomly selected to survey. Random selection of survey sites means that the sites with the highest potential for rare species are not always visited, but this is more than compensated by the fact that the results can be extrapolated across the whole of the study area. Besides finding specific areas worthy of conservation attention on the basis of their rare species, one of the major goals of AC CDC fieldwork is to further our understanding of exactly how rare particular species really are. Discovering a particular rare species at many randomly selected sites clearly indicates

that it is likely to be widespread within the area from which those sites were selected. With randomized site selection, we can even determine a precise statistical probability of the species being in a particular number of sites in the region under study.

In July and August 2008, AC CDC botanists Sean Blaney and David Mazerolle, along with Jim Goltz (for two days) and our summer assistant Jesse McNicholl, visited our randomly selected survey segments. Using a combination of on-foot coverage, canoeing, and snorkeling, we recorded all vascular plants and compiled detailed information on the location and status of the rare plants that were found. A detailed analysis of the results will be available this winter, but some preliminary results are given here.

More than 500 rare plant locations were recorded in total, despite river conditions that hampered our efforts. Many of the most interesting plants along the river are found in the zone that is covered by water in the spring and early summer (preventing establishment of many of the most common and competitive shoreline plants) and then exposed as water levels retreat later on. The wet spring and summer meant that river levels were consistently higher than average throughout the summer, with two major rainfall events raising those levels significantly.

At the start of July, we saw Blue Flag Irises (*Iris versicolor*) - normally a shoreline or very shallow water species of



Silky Dogwood
Photo by S. Blaney

about 50 cm tall - with their flowers under 15 cm of flood water! Some of the shoreline flora were, thus, less evident than they might be in a lower water year.

We did, however, find some very interesting species. Two of the most interesting finds were shrubs - Silky Dogwood (*Cornus obliqua*) and Brookside Alder (*Alnus serrulata*). Both of these

species were previously known in New Brunswick only from the St. Croix and Eel Rivers 100 km further west, near the Maine border. Silky Dogwood was found to be locally common on Belleisle Bay and Washademoak Lake around the margins of swampy woods and marshes. Silky Dogwood is quite similar to the abundant and well-known Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*, = *C. stolonifera*) but differs in having newly grown twigs covered in white silky hairs. It also reaches greater maximum heights (to about 3 m) and has a duller purple-red colour to the twigs.

We found Brookside Alder on only a short stretch of rocky shoreline of Otnabog Lake, near Queenstown. This species is also a bit tricky to distinguish from our

Brookside Alder
Photo by S. Blaney



common Speckled and Green Alders (*Alnus incana* ssp. *rugosa*, *Alnus viridis* ssp. *crispa*). It has leaves with a shiny upper surface that are consistently wider toward their tip and are not whitened beneath, and it is restricted to open or semi-open conditions along shores, usually in rocky areas.

SOME OTHER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Virginia Mountain-Mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*) was rediscovered at its only known site on a rocky shore of Jenkins Cove on Belleisle Bay. This species is known nowhere else in the Maritimes and had not been documented in New Brunswick since 1980.

Four-leaved Loosestrife (*Lysimachia quadrifolia*), only known from the river shores near the Kingston Peninsula in the Maritimes, was at a number of new sites on Belleisle Bay. At Shampers Bluff we also found the first provincial record for the hybrid (*Lysimachia x producta*) of this species and the common Yellow Loosestrife, or Swamp Candles (*Lysimachia terrestris*).

Stout Wood-Reed (*Cinna arundinacea*) was rediscovered near Hatfield Point on Belleisle Bay, one of only two sites known in New Brunswick, where it had not been seen since 1990.

The tiny floating aquatic plant Columbian Water-Meal (*Wolffia columbiana*) had previously been known only from the Saint John River near Fredericton. Jim Goltz discovered it in a pond on Long Island, near Queenstown. Dwayne Sabine also collected it in large amounts on the Upper Hampton marshes in 2000.

Anticosti Aster (*Symphotrichum anticostense*) is a nationally and provincially listed species with "Threatened" status. Recent work, primarily by AC CDC, has found it to be more widespread in New Brunswick

and will likely result in its down-listing after the next federal status report in preparation in the coming year. We found what appears to be this species at numerous sites on rocky shores of Belleisle Bay, with identifications to be confirmed by experts in the coming months.

In addition to these generally highly rare species, certain rare plants were found repeatedly at many sites, to the point that their status ranks may warrant revision to lower levels of rarity. Examples of this include the submergent aquatic Yellow Water-Starwort (*Heteranthera dubia*) and the impressively large sedge River Bulrush (*Schoenoplectus fluviatilis*). Both of these species were widespread and locally abundant throughout the study area.

All in all, this work significantly increased our understanding of the flora of this important region for New Brunswick biodiversity, and it improved our under-



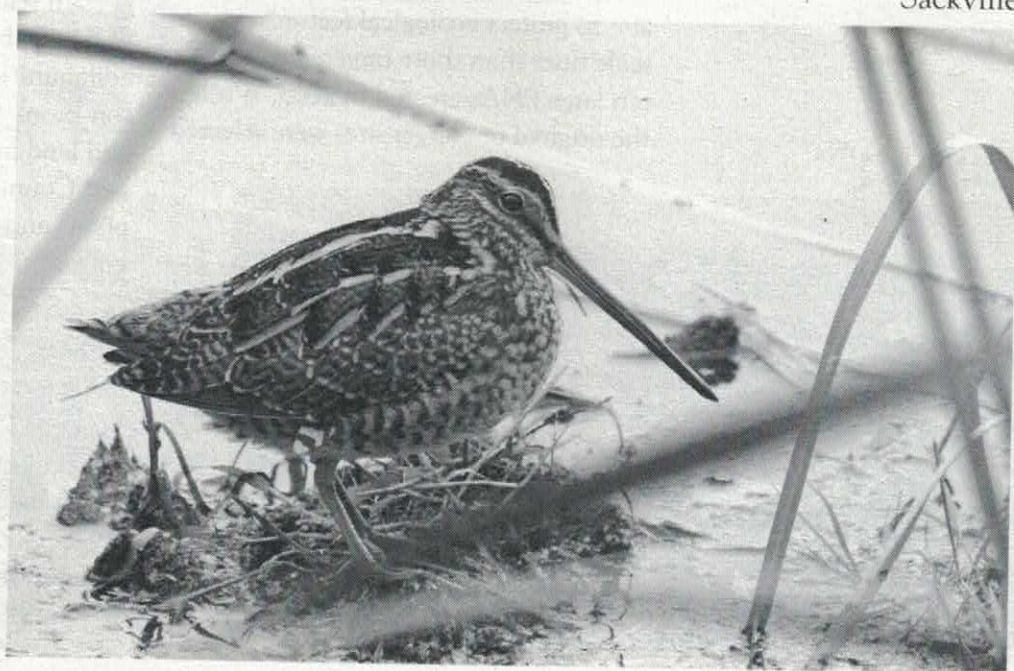
Virginia Mountain-Mint habitat
Photo by S. Blaney

standing of the provincial status of certain rare plants. In documenting many very significant natural areas with data that will be entered permanently into the AC CDC database, our fieldwork also provides some of the baseline data necessary to justify their conservation.

Wilson's Snipe

Christopher Clunas
Sackville

There were plenty of Wilson's Snipes in the Sackville Waterfowl Park this fall. Unlike the Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, which typically gather in relatively large, sometimes noisy groups, the snipes seemed to prefer to rest in a solitary, quiet spot in the cattails and reeds, perhaps with two or three companions.



Wilson's Snipe
Photo by C. Clunas

Maryse Bourgeois
Protected Natural Areas
Program
Department of Natural
Resources
Fredericton

Proclamation of 31 new Protected Natural Areas

New Brunswick's Protected Natural Areas (PNAs) network recently expanded with the proclamation of 30 new sites on Crown land, in addition to the very first private-land Protected Natural Area in the province. The new sites on public lands range in size from 2 to 553 hectares, and total 5400 hectares. The private-land site, a Nature Conservancy of Canada holding in the Musquash Harbour area, includes seven parcels totaling 811 hectares.

The new sites are widely distributed around the province, from Glazier Lake in the northwest, to Miscou Grande Plaine in the northeast, to Dowdall Lake in the south, and Williamstown Lake near the Maine border in Carleton County.

This significant amendment of the PNAs legislation created new sites that aim to protect ecological features at a scale finer than those targeted with the ten large PNAs created in 2003. While the original ten larger sites were selected

to protect landscapes representative of the province's ecoregions, not all species, vegetative communities, and habitats were captured by this approach. The new sites will fill some gaps in conservation and representivity and thus further contribute to the protection of biodiversity.

At the same time, the Department of Natural Resources reclassified many of the existing smaller sites from Class I to Class II status to allow for more recreational use and public enjoyment. All but four PNAs are now Class II, allowing uses such as cross-country skiing (on designated trails), tenting, hunting, fishing, and trapping. Vehicle access is allowed on designated roads. Forestry, mining, and other industrial and commercial activities are prohibited in all sites unless an agreement preceded the creation of the PNA. The four remaining Class I PNAs where access is prohibited, except by permit, are Whitehorse Island (important seabird nesting area) in the Bay of Fundy, Hovey Hill (sensitive plant communities) in Carleton County, Wilson Brook (sensitive plant communities and land forms on gypsum bluffs) in Albert County, and Bull Pasture Bog (rare plants and insects) in Sunbury County.

New Brunswick now has over 158,000 hectares protected under the PNA Act, both on Crown and private land. These lands serve as important reserves for New Brunswick's native flora and fauna and the ecosystems that support them. Part of our natural heritage, these sites also provide opportunities now and for future generations to enjoy and appreciate the province's wilderness.

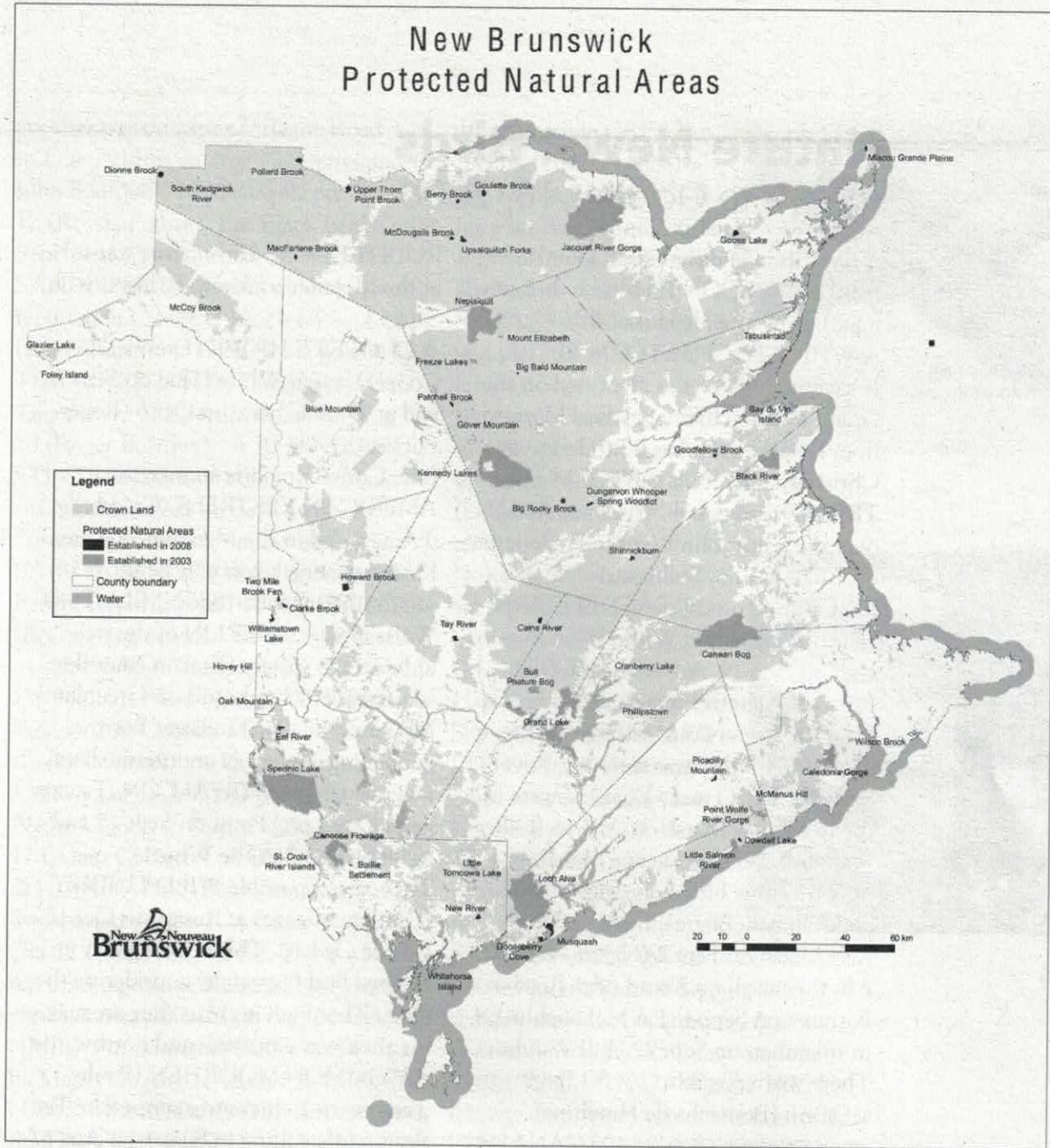


Big Rocky Brook PNA
Photo by NB DNR

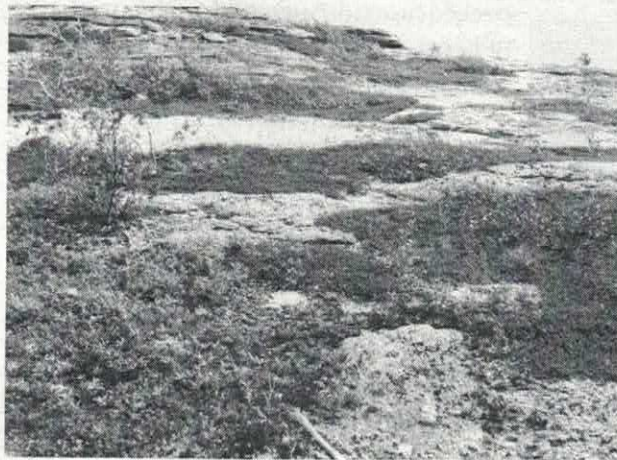
Miscou Grande Plaine PNA
Photo by NB DNR



New Brunswick Protected Natural Areas



Big Bald Mountain PNA
Photo by S. Dietz



Clarke Brook PNA
Photo by NB DNR



Pierrette Mercier
St-Léandre, QC

Abbreviations: (GMI: Grand Manan Island; MSI: Machias Seal Island; NMIL: Nature Moncton Information Line.)



Great Egret
Photo by M. Cormier

Nature News: Birds

July 16 to October 18, 2008

Jim Wilson and Jim Edsall found a **PACIFIC LOON** (Plongeon du Pacifique) on White Head Island on Oct 9. A **WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL** (Océanite frigate) was identified on the Grand Manan channel by Rod Murray from Delaware on Aug 27 (fide David Christie). A **LEACH'S STORM-PETREL** (Océanite cul-blanc) was flying over the Saint John River in Fredericton on Aug 4 (Gilles Belliveau). Jim Goltz reports a **LEAST BITTERN** (Petit Blongios) on White Head Island on Aug 29. A **GREAT EGRET** (Grande Aigrette) was reported on July 31 at the Pagan Point salt marsh (Steve Tinker). Another was seen flying over Brandy Cove (Tracey Dean), 2 were in the Riverview Marsh on Aug 18 (Gilles Bourque), 2 in the Dieppe Marsh (possibly the same birds) on Aug 23 (Susan and Randy LeBlanc), 1 was at Saint's Rest Marsh on Sept 2 (Ngair Nelson), 2 in the marsh on Kent Lodge Road in Bathurst on Sept 4 (Pat McLaughlin), 1 in Inkerman on Sept 22 (Bill Windsor). There was a possible **CAKCLING GOOSE** (Bernache de Hutchins) among a group of about 400 **CANADA GEESE** (Bernache du Canada) at the Edmundston Marina on Oct 3 (fide Pauline Morneau). The two **KING EIDERS** (Eider à tête grise) were still present at Point Lepreau on July 23 (Richard Blaquiére). A third was seen on Aug 15 (Jim Wilson). Another **KING EIDER** was seen off Kent Island on Sept 17 (Roger Burrows). A female **REDHEAD** (Fuligule à tête rouge) and her chicks were on Palmer Creek near Central Hampstead on Aug 18 (Scott Makepeace). Ron Arsenault counted 34

RUDDY DUCKS (Érismature rousse) at the Memramcook sewage lagoons on Sept 13.

A **COOPER'S HAWK** (Épervier de Cooper) was at White Head on Sept 24 and at Thoroughfare on Oct 6 (Roger Burrows).

Jules Cormier reports an increase in **AMERICAN KESTRELS** (Crécerelle d'Amérique) in the Memramcook area. Kestrel nesting boxes may be the reason for the increase (fide NMIL). Todd Watts reports a **MERLIN** of the richardsonii sub species (Faucon émerillon sous-espèce richardsonii) on Greenlaw Mountain on Oct 13. Roger Burrows got a close up view of an intermediate juvenile female **GYRFALCON** (Faucon gerfaut) at Long Point on Sept 25 and again on Oct 3 at the Whistle.

There was a possible **WILD TURKEY** (Dindon sauvage) at Rusagonis Oct 13 (Janice Ogden). This is most likely an escaped bird (especially considering the date - Thanksgiving) but they are making their way eastwards and northwards. A **COMMON MOORHEN** (Poule d'eau) with 2 chicks was spotted by Ted Sears while golfing in Sussex on Aug 10. The shorebird migration seems to have peaked around August 14 with a report of between 110,000 to 120,000 birds at Johnson's Mills (fide Jim Wilson).

There was a **PIPING PLOVER** (Pluvier siffleur) at Courtney Bay on Sept 25 (Ted Sears). Roger Burrows reported a possible **RINGED PLOVER** (Gravelot) at Ox Head on GMI on Sept 10.

A pair of **SOLITARY SANDPIPER** (Chevalier solitaire) was seen in Centennial Park on July 26 (Gilles Bourque).

another was on Mont Farlagne Road in Edmundston on Aug 13 (Denys and Julie Bourque), 1 at St-Basile on Sept 12 (Roy LaPointe), 1 at Black Beach on Sept 19 (Merv Cormier). A WESTERN SANDPIPER (Bécasseau d'Alaska) was reported at Ox Head Beach on Sept 10 (Roger Burrows). There was a possible TEMMINCK'S STINT (Bécasseau de Temminck) at Castalia marsh on Aug 20 (Roger Burrows). A RED-NECKED STINT (Bécasseau à collier roux) was at Grand Harbour on Sept 8 (Roger Burrows). There were many reports of BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS (Bécasseau de Baird). Reports of STILT SANDPIPERS (Bécasseau à échasses): 2 at Cormierville Marsh on Aug 7 (Louis-Émile Cormier), 1 at Malbaie Nord on Aug 11 (Marcel David), 2 at Castalia Marsh on Sept 3 (Barry Zimmer), 1 at St-Basile on Sept 12 (Roy LaPointe), 1 at the College Bridge Lagoon in Taylor Village on Sept 17 (Alain Clavette). A BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (Bécasseau roussâtre) was spotted on the Tantramar Marsh on Oct 12 (Belliveau family). There was a report of a possible RUFF (Combattant varié) at Mary's Point on Aug 20 (fide NMIL). An immature Ruff was at Castalia Marsh on Aug 17 (Roger Burrows). A LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (Bécassin à long bec) was at Grand Harbour, GMI most of the fall and at Castalia Marsh on Sept 17 (Roger Burrows). A RED PHALAROPE (Phalarope à bec large) was spotted off the GM ferry on Aug 4 (Tony Beck), and 8 more were seen by Jim Wilson and his group on a pelagic trip to the Grand Manan banks on Aug 30.

Laurie Murison reports a POMARINE JAEGER (Labbe pomarin) off GMI and a COMMON MURRE (Guillemot marmette) with a young chick off Green Island (Wolves Islands) on July

16. A possible GREAT SKUA (Grand Labbe) was reported off the GMI ferry on Aug 4 (fide Durlan Ingersoll). Roger Burrows also reports a GREAT SKUA off GMI on Aug 26 and another off the GM ferry on Sept 22 (Roger Burrows). Durlan is quite sure he spotted and photographed a SOUTH POLAR SKUA (Labbe antarctique) on the Bay of Fundy on Aug 21.

Norm Belliveau and others reported 2 adult and 1 immature LITTLE GULLS (Mouette pigmée) at the Cap Pelé sewage lagoon on Sept 19. An adult LAUGHING GULL (Mouette atricille) was at the Lancaster lagoon on Aug 6 (Gilles Belliveau) and another was at Saint's Rest Beach on Aug 24 (Merv Cormier). A SABINE'S GULL (Mouette de Sabine) was at Eastern Passage on Aug 24 (Chris Bartlett and others), another, this one a juvenile, was at Cap Bimet on Sept 7 (Stu Tingley). A CASPIAN TERN (Sterne caspienne) was at the Lancaster lagoon on Aug 7 (Mark Pokorski). Three more CASPIAN TERNS were at the



South Polar Skua
Photo by D. Ingersoll



Baird's Sandpiper
Photo by M. Cormier



Common Murre
Photo by D. Ingersoll



Black-backed Woodpecker
Photo by M. Cormier

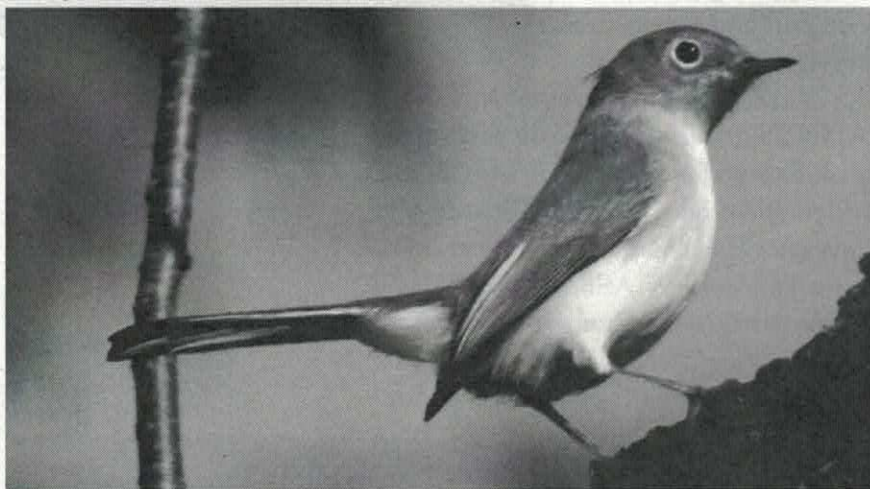
Harvey Dam on Sept 6 (fide NMIL) and 2 were off Point Lepreau on Sept 18 (Jim Wilson).

A rare summer DOVEKIE (*Mergule nain*) was spotted by Ken Edwards and others off Grand Manan on Aug 30.

A BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coulicou à bec noir*) was reported in Lorneville on Aug 4 (Merv Cormier), and at Southern Head, GMI, on Oct 5 (Roger Burrows). A YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coulicou à bec jaune*) was calling at the Marathon Inn, GMI on July 25 (Roger Burrows), 1 was on Machias Seal Island on Sept 25 (Ralph Eldridge), 1 on the Five Fathom Hole foot path in Prince of Wales on Oct 1 (Merv Cormier), 3 on GMI on Oct 5 (Durlan Ingersoll), and an immature at White Head on Oct 14 (Roger Burrows).

Alain Clavette reports hearing a family of GREAT HORNED OWLS (*Grand Duc d'Amérique*) in Taylor Village on July 21.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Photo by M. Cormier



There were many comments on late RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS (*Colibri à gorge rubis*). The last reported was on Oct 6 in St-Martins (Ted Sears).

Pat Muirhead had a RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Pic à ventre roux*) visit her yard on Oct 12. Another was at Seal Cove on Oct 13 (Roger Burrows)

and also on Whitehead Island on Oct 1 (Durlan Ingersoll). Roger Burrows spotted one at the Ashburton Head Trail, GMI on Oct 17 and Ted Sears had one in his yard in St-Martins on Oct 18. A BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Pic à dos noir*) was spotted in Cape Tormentine on Oct 5 (Norm and Gisèle Belliveau); another was on Whistle Road, GMI, on Oct 11 (Jim Wilson, Merv Cormier) and at Quispamsis on Oct 14 (Jim Wilson).

Bertrand Bourque reports that a pair of CHIMNEY SWIFTS (*Martinet ramoneur*) built a nest on the basement foundation of a log camp he is building in Harcourt. They have access via a basement window left open for them (fide NMIL).

There was a possible ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (*Moucherolle vert*) at the Ashburton Head Trail, GMI on July 16 (Roger Burrows).

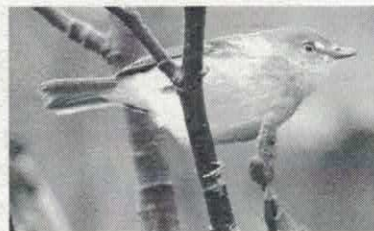
Tracy Dean caught a TUFTED TITMOUSE (*Mésange bicolore*) at the St-Andrews Bird Banding Station on Oct 12.

A CAROLINA WREN (*Troglodyte de Caroline*) was at the Marathon Inn, GMI on Aug 28 (Roger Burrows). Another was spotted in Fredericton on Oct 6 (Bev Schneider). A HOUSE WREN (*Troglodyte familier*) was at Southern Head, GMI, on Oct 5 (Roger Burrows).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Gobemoucheron bleu-gris*) reports: 1 on Burchill Rd in Saint John on Aug 26 (Merv Cormier), 3 at Whitehead dumpsite and Langmaid Cove on Aug 28 (Roger Burrows), 1 at Red Point, GMI on Aug 29 (Roger Burrows), 1 at Red Head Marsh Trail on Sept 15 (Merv Cormier), 1 at Upper Cape on Sept 20 (Norm and Gisèle Belliveau), 1 in Alma on Sept 28 (Doreen Rossiter), 1 at Woodward's Cove, GMI, on Oct 6 (Roger Burrows).

A WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Viréo aux yeux blancs*) was on the Five Fathom Hole foot path in Prince of Wales on Oct 1 (Merv Cormier), another was spotted near Gull Cove on White Head Island on Oct 9 (Jim Wilson, Jim Edsall). A YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo à gorge jaune*) was on Black Beach Road on Sept 9 (Merv Cormier). Merv Cormier saw and photographed a BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (*Paruline à ailes bleues*) on Black Beach Road on Sept 6. Durlan Ingersoll also reported a Blue-winged warbler at Red Point on Sept 19. An ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Paruline verdâtre*) was at the old sewage lagoon at Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska on Aug 13 (Denys and Julie Bourque), 1 was seen at Gull Cove on Aug 28 (Roger Burrows), 1 was at Black Beach on Sept 1 (Merv Cormier), 1 at Castalia Marsh on Sept 8 (Roger Burrows), 1 in Saint John on Sept 28 (Merv Cormier), 1 on Sand Cove Road on Oct 2 (Jim Wilson), 1 on White Head Road on Oct 4 (Roger Burrows), 2 in Saint John on Oct 6 (Merv Cormier), 3 on White Head Island on Oct 9 (Jim Wilson, Jim Edsall). Merv Cormier spotted a possible female CERULEAN WARBLER (*Paruline azurée*) on Burchill road in Saint John on Aug 26. PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Paruline des prés*) reports: 1 on Black Beach Road in Saint John on Aug 6 (Merv Cormier), 2 in the same area on Aug 24 (Merv Cormier), 1 at Bancroft Point on Sept 2 (Brian Dalzell), 1 at Johnson's Pt Rd in Murray Corner on Sept 3 (Merv Cormier), 1 at the intersection of Burchill and Main Roads on Sept 10 (Merv Cormier), 1 at Black Beach Road on Sept 18 (Merv Cormier), 1 at White Head on Sept 17 (Roger Burrows). Gilles Belliveau is quite sure he spotted a CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Paruline à gorge grise*) off McMinniman Crt in Fredericton on Sept 3. Roger Burrows also reported a CONNECTICUT

WARBLER at Woodward's Cove, GMI, on Oct 11. Merv Cormier was able to photograph an immature female HOODED WARBLER (*Paruline à capuchon*) on Sept 4. Durlan Ingersoll also was able to get great photographs of a male HOODED WARBLER near Deep Cove bridge on Oct 6, and Tracy Dean reports banding one in St-Andrews on Sept 21. There was a YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Paruline polyglotte*) on Sept 6 on Black Beach Road (Merv Cormier), 1 on White Head on Sept 16 (Roger Burrows), 1 at Red Point on Sept 21 (Durlan Ingersoll), 1 in Doreen Rossiter's yard on Oct 6, and 1 near Deep Cove bridge, GMI, on Oct 6 (Durlan Ingersoll). A pair of NORTHERN CARDINALS (*Cardinal rouge*) were at the Marathon Inn, GMI on July 22 (Roger Burrows), and another pair was at Jim and Jean Wilson's feeders in Hammond River on Oct 5. A female BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK (*Cardinal à tête noire*) was at Rose Martel's feeders in Shediac on Aug 20 and 21. A DICKCISSEL (*Dickcissel d'Amérique*) was on White Head on Sept 16 and also at Ingalls Head on Sept 20 (Roger Burrows). Other DICK-



White-eyed Vireo
Photo by M. Cormier



Hooded Warbler
Photo by M. Cormier



Pair of Dickcissel
Photo by J. Wilson



Grasshopper Sparrow
Photo by M. Cormier

CISSELS were: 1 at Southern Head on Sept 21 (Durlan Ingersoll), several on MSI on Oct 2 to 8 (Ralph Eldridge), and 1 at Great Pond, GMI, on Oct 6 (Roger Burrows).

A male EASTERN TOWHEE (Tohi à flanc roux) was in St-Martins on Oct 8 (Ted Sears), another was at Woodward's Cove on Oct 11 (Roger Burrows) and at Mary's Point on Oct 12 (David Christie, John Inman). Roger Burrows spotted a CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (Bruant des plaines) on White Head on Sept 16, 1 in Quispamsis on Oct 5 (Jim and Jean Wilson). Jim Wilson and others noted a FIELD SPARROW (Bruant des champs) on White Head Island on Oct 10. A LARK SPARROW (Bruant à joues marron) was seen on White Head Island on Aug 29 (Jim Goltz). Other LARK SPARROW reports: 1 on Kent Island on Sept 2 (Roger Burrows), an immature in Riverside-Albert on Sept 8 (David Christie, Mary Majka), 1 on White Head Road on Sept 24 (Roger Burrows), 1 on MSI on Sept 29 (Ralph Eldridge), 2 immatures at Stanley Beach, GMI on Oct 10 (Roy LaPointe and others), 1 on Hay Island (Neguac) on Oct 13 (Pam Waters), and an immature at St-Martins on Oct 18 (Ted Sears). A GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (Bruant sauterelle) was at White Head on Oct 10 (Roger Burrows). Another was found on Lorneville Rd on Oct 17 (Merv Cormier). A FOX SPARROW (Bruant fauve) visited Nelson Poirier's feeders for several days in late September. Merv Cormier reported a LAPLAND LONGSPUR (Bruant Lapon) on Oct 4 on Black Beach Road, and another was at Castalia Marsh on Oct 12 (Roger Burrows).

An EASTERN MEADOWLARK (Sturnelle des prés) was seen singing on Lower Mountain Road in Salisbury on July 27. Two more EASTERN MEADOWLARKS were observed carrying

food in the same area on Aug 4 (Anne Marsch and Janet MacMillan). An ORCHARD ORIOLE (Oriole des vergers) was seen on White Head Road on Sept 24 (Roger Burrows).

Ralph Elbridge reports a BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (Quiscale de Brewer) on MSI on July 31.

David Christie noted a male RED CROSSBILL (Bec-croisé des sapins) among a flock of WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS (Bec-croisé bifascié) at Mary's Point on July 17. A dozen more Red Crossbills were seen at White Head on Aug 20 (Roger Burrows).

Il y avait 2 GRANDS AIGRETTES (Great Egret) dans le marais de River-view le 18 août (Gilles Bourque).

Il y avait un rapport d'une possible BERNACHE DE HUTCHINS (Cackling Goose) parmi un groupe de 400 BERNACHES DU CANADA (Canada Goose) à la Marina d'Edmundston le 3 oct. (fide Pauline Morneau).

Denys et Julie Bourque ont observé un CHEVALIER SOLITAIRE (Solitary Sandpiper) sur le chemin Mont Farlagne à Edmundston le 13 août. Marcel David rapporte deux BÉCASSEAUX DE BAIRD (Baird Sandpiper) à Malbaie Sud le 26 août, Richard Migneault en a observé un sur le fleuve St-Jean à St-Basile le 3 sept.

Trois MOUETTES PYGMÉES (Little Gull) étaient à Cape Pelé le 19 sept (Norm, Gisèle & Gilles Belliveau).

Une PARULINE VERDÂTRE (Orange crowned Warbler) a été observée à Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska le 13 août (Denys et Julie Bourque).

Merci!

Le Club de Naturaliste de la Péninsule acadienne tient à vous remercier.

C'est au mois de juin 2008, durant la fin de semaine du 20 au 22, que s'est tenue l'AGA de Nature NB. Le club et le comité de l'AGA sont très heureux d'avoir reçu Nature NB dans la péninsule acadienne et espère que les participants ont aimé leur fin de semaine. Certaines activités ont dû être annulées étant donné la brume épaisse qui sévissait dans la région des îles Shippagan, Lamèque et Miscou, mais la plupart des autres activités ont toutes été un succès pour nous. Cet événement nous a permis de vous faire découvrir les trésors de toute sorte, que nous retrouvons dans notre petit coin de pays francophone. Après seulement quelques heures d'observation, plusieurs participants avaient déjà ajouté des espèces à leurs listes, botaniques et d'oiseaux.

Les sorties ont touché une grande partie des habitats qui nous entourent ici dans cette zone côtière pleine de surprises. Nos guides et personnes-ressources ont su nous en mettre plein la vue dans les différents habitats visités (forêts, tourbières, marais, plages, falaises, etc.). Nous tenons à remercier tous les participants, les guides, les organisateurs, les donateurs et toutes les autres personnes qui nous ont aidés de près ou de loin.

En vous souhaitant d'autres découvertes, le Club de Naturaliste de la Péninsule acadienne vous dit, à la prochaine.

Thank Yoy!

Le Club de Naturaliste de la Péninsule acadienne thanks you.

The last Nature NB AGM was held over the weekend of June 20-22 in the Acadian Peninsula. The organizing committee and our entire club were very pleased to have you visit with us here in the Acadian Peninsula. We sincerely hope you enjoyed your weekend. While a number of outings had to be cancelled due to a thick blanket of fog in the Shippagan, Lamèque and Miscou areas, most other activities went ahead as planned and were, from our perspective, very successful. This event allowed us to showcase some of the gems found in this portion of l'Acadie, with many participants adding to their plant and bird lists after only a few hours of observation.

The outings covered most of the surprising variety of habitats found in this coastal area. We wish to thank the trip leaders, event organizers, donors and all others who contributed to this event in any way.

Le Club de Naturaliste de la Péninsule acadienne is looking forward to welcoming you again and wishes you many fascinating discoveries in the meantime.

Lewnanny Richardson
CNPA
Péninsule acadienne



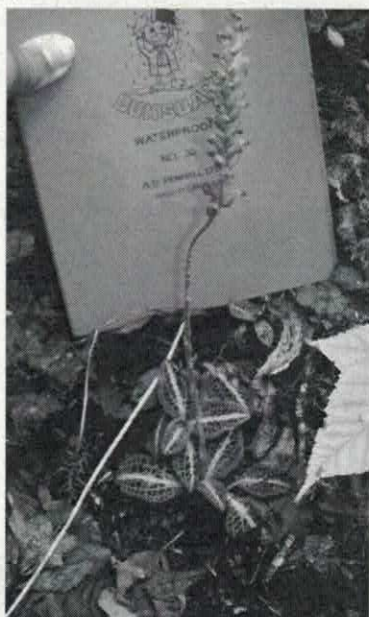
Field trip during AGM - Beach and Piping Plovers
Photo by L. Richardson



Field trip during AGM - Gert Bishop identifies ferns for the group
Photo by R. Chiasson

Once in a lifetime

Christina La Flamme
Fredericton



Downy Rattlesnake Plantain
Photo by C. LaFlamme



Downy Rattlesnake Plantain
Photo by C. LaFlamme

It was a typical early September day - cool, crisp, and sunny - as Alison Johnson and I made our way to Springdale, located near Sussex. We were there to survey transect lines for watercourses, wetlands, and other areas of interest. We had been at it for a few days already, jotting down bits of information here and there. But this late summer day was to bring a once in a lifetime find.

It was nearing the end of the day and we were on our last transect, trying to scamper up a steep (>20%), sandy, well-drained, northeast aspect slope. The forest consisted mainly of a mature to over mature stand of birch, red maple, and poplars, with immature pine and spruce. The scenery hadn't changed from the previous transects and I wasn't expecting much. And then, there, scattered through the leaf litter, it was. A small colony of roughly 50-100 rattlesnake plantains scattered in five patches. Elation! Finally, something really interesting, but little did I know just how interesting it was going to be.

I started jotting down notes and taking pictures while my colleague took a GPS reading. I was about to flag off the site, but alas, I had no flagging tape. I did, though, have my first aid kit, and through a stroke of ingenuity, I quickly took out the triangular bandage and scrawled "Rare Plant" and "Rattlesnake Plantain", hoping this would be enough for when someone would need to come back. I took a voucher sample, knowing the herbarium was in need of some, and we set off towards the truck.

It was 7:00 pm when we finally made back to the office, and my botanical colleague Garrett Bell was there, working away diligently. I showed him my find and we decided to key it out together. Since there are only four known species of rattlesnake plantain in New Brunswick, it wasn't very hard, but the results were very surprising: *Goodyera pubescens*. But that couldn't be... according to the *Flora of New Brunswick* (Hingray 2000) that species is thought to have been extirpated since 1881. Curious, I shot off an email with attached pictures to three well-known botanists - Rick Fournier, Sean Blaney, and Gart Bishopp - hoping for confirmation. Rick replied quickly and stated that it was certainly a possibility but it was best to confirm with the other botanists.

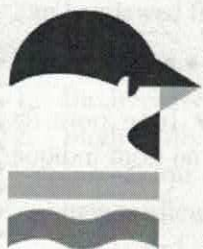
On Friday, still waiting for a response from Sean and Gart, I set off for the herbarium to meet up with Bev Benedict. I showed her my sample and we made quick work of getting examples of the four other known species of rattlesnake plantain in New Brunswick. Luckily for me, they had the voucher sample taken in 1881 of *Goodyera pubescens*, and it was concluded without a doubt that it HAD to be downy rattlesnake plantain.

Excited, I wanted to take my specimen to a Botany Club outing that was scheduled for that Sunday, as I knew others would be thrilled. On the Saturday, I received emails from both Sean and Gart stating that they were pretty sure it was *Goodyera pubescens* and they were interested in having a closer look at it Sunday.

Sunday rolled around and off I went with an international student from UNB, Jana Ebersbach, to the Botany Club outing. After a few tense moments of not finding the spot, we arrived. I waited until the lunch break to make my reveal and it was finally confirmed, 100%, that this was truly *Goodyera pubescens*. I was also made aware that there had been two other discoveries since 1881: one in 1981, through a series of pictures that were taken in Odell Park, and another located south of Petitcodiac in 2003. I was thrilled to have contributed to the botanical discoveries of New Brunswick, a province that I have been living in only since 2005.



Downy Rattlesnake Plantain
Photo by C. LaFlamme



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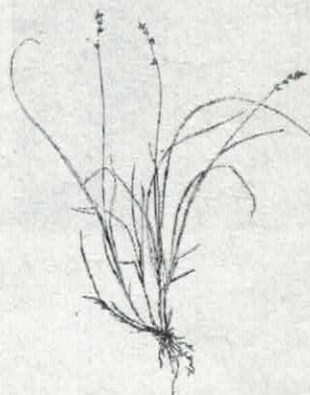
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Botany Corner

Gart Bishop
Sussex



Carex disperma
Drawing by H.C. Creutzburg

To be or not to be (or - does the Two-seeded sedge have any value?

Frequently found in wet black spruce woods throughout the province is a small, grass-like plant called Two-seeded Sedge (*Carex disperma*). For those interested in wildflowers having showy blooms, or plants with impressive human uses, this weak-stemmed, 15-30 cm high sedge, is ... a failure. If you have been in the right habitat, you have no doubt trodden on it, squished it beneath the heel of your boot unknowingly. The small green flowers develop into small green seeds that are generally arranged in pairs along a frail thin stem. It is a wispy plant found growing out of the sphagnum filled ground cover surrounding marshes and bogs. I doubt that it has ever been selected for the cover of a magazine or to represent a

park, a state or a country. It is not listed as being a good food source for any bird, or rodent. It has no listed redeeming characteristics. And though it is easily overlooked, those who take the time to identify it can quickly learn to recognize it without the use of technical botanical keys, allowing it to become yet another woodland friend.

However this past summer a co-worker posed a philosophical question (which grew into a debate) regarding this lesser known plant. His question to me was "If I could achieve world peace by authorizing the sacrifice of Two-seeded Sedge, would I do it?" I said no. I claimed that all species have a right to exist, and that maintaining biodiversity (the current



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number of species) was important to the health of our planet. However I was ineffective in proving why. He, unconvinced by my arguments, continued to question the value and purpose of such a plant. He stated that he would willingly trade the existence of the Two-seeded Sedge to end human conflict.

I felt I was a failure. I had let poor old Two-seeded Sedge down. What had I missed? Aren't all species created equal? Surely just because the bloom of a pink lady slipper offers such a visual treat, or chokecherry fruit is a desired wildlife food, that these plants are not more valuable than my nondescript sedge?

This fall I purchased a book entitled "Bringing Nature Home" by Douglas W. Tallamy. The book is primarily a delightful discussion as to how native plants can sustain wildlife (animals and insects) in our gardens. In his introduction, the author suggests that biodiversity can be viewed from four perspectives.

1. Biodiversity is not needed
2. Biodiversity is needed so that we can exploit it. We might find new medicines or pesticides in plants and animals
3. Biodiversity should be preserved for aesthetic, ethical, or moral reasons, that there is no justification for our wanton destruction of other species.

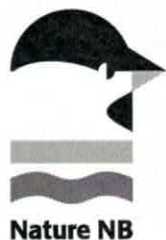
4. Biodiversity literally sustains us.

Initially, Tallamy talks about an ecosystem being like an airplane, which can still fly even if some of the thousands of rivets holding it together (i.e. species) are missing. In this model however there is a critical rivet that if removed, causes the plane to crash. The loss of the rivet (species) that causes failure has been called a keystone species. The difficulty is then in determining which species are keystone species. Is our current knowledge sufficient to make such judgements? Is Two-seeded Sedge a keystone species? Obviously my co-worker doesn't think so.

Tallamy then compares biodiversity to a tower constructed of building blocks (individual species). If any but the top block is removed, the tower collapses. Following this model, he suggests that preserving current biodiversity is "essential to the stability - indeed, the very existence - of most ecosystems."

Questions dealing with the value of one species as compared to another species will likely never be resolved perfectly. Perhaps my answer to my co-worker should have been a question: "Is World Peace Possible?" Until I've heard an answer that is unquestionable, I think Two-seeded Sedge deserves a place in my world.

Reference
Tallamy, D.W. 2007. *Bringing Nature Home, How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in our Gardens*. Timber Press Portland, OR.



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Nature NB Annual General Meeting June 5,6 and 7, 2009

The highlight of the Nature NB year is the Annual General Meeting. The Nature Moncton AGM Organizing Committee is hard at work planning for the 2009 version of this special event. The south-eastern corner of the province has a great diversity of plant and animal habitats from marine environments and seashores to salt and freshwater marshes and from urban parks to bogs, forested land and lakes and rivers. It is our goal to develop a broad range of outings that will expose this wonderful diversity to Nature NB members and we are well on our way to achieving this goal. If you have any specific interests you would like to explore when in our corner of the province, or have any questions about AGM 2009, let me know at hhs@rogers.com or call me at 506 861-0992.

Check the next issue of the NB Naturalist for all the details and the registration package.

So, mark your calendars now to reserve June 5, 6 and 7, 2009 and join Nature Moncton in this celebration of nature!

Hank Scarth, President, Nature Moncton

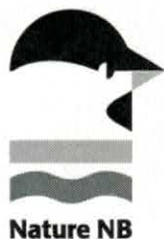
Assemblée générale annuelle, Nature NB Les 5, 6 et 7 juin 2009

L'AGA est certes le point culminant de l'année de Nature NB. Le comité organisateur, sous les auspices de Nature Moncton, est déjà à l'œuvre afin de préparer l'événement. La région de Moncton, et plus largement celle du sud-est de la province, est riche en habitats variés, tant au niveau de la faune que de la flore. L'objectif du comité organisateur sera de vous proposer des sorties qui vous permettront d'y explorer le plus large éventail possible de destinations nature. Milieux marins, habitats côtiers, marais salés et étangs d'eau douce, parcs urbains, tourbières, forêts, lacs et rivières feront tous parties des destinations proposées. L'objectif est d'élaborer une large palette d'excursions mettant en vedette la grande biodiversité dont est bénie la région. Nous avons hâte de partager cette manne naturelle avec vous et les préparatifs vont bon train. Si vous avez un intérêt particulier que vous voudriez explorer lors de votre visite dans notre coin ou des questions au sujet de l'AGA 2009, s.v.p. veuillez me contacter, soit par courriel au hhs@rogers.com ou par téléphone au 506 861-0992.

Et soyez à l'affût, dans le prochain numéro du Naturaliste du N.-B. pour tous les détails et le formulaire d'inscription.

Donc, à vos calendriers, et réservez les 5,6 et 7 juin 2009 pour une fête toute « naturelle » avec Nature Moncton.

Hank Scarth, Président, Nature Moncton



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