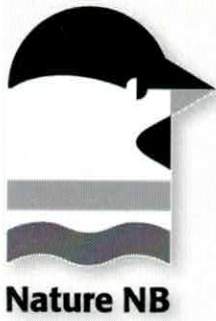


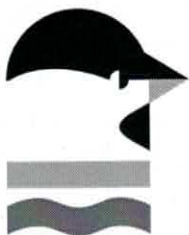
Vol. 36 No. 3 2009



Naturaliste du **NB** Naturalist



Pressing Plants • Terns on Machias Seal Island
Looking for Wild Orchids



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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Celebration of Birds Nature Club (Gagetown), c/o Bonnie Hamilton Bogart, Roberta MacKenzie, co-chairs, bluriver@nb.sympatico.ca. Information evenings every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month, events in Jan to March.

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.

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.

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.

NB Botany Club / Club botanique du N.-B., c/o Richard Fournier, Faculty of Forestry, Université de Moncton, 165boul Hébert, Edmundston, E3V 2S8, 737-5050 etx 5258, organizes 5-8 outings/year, AGM in September. www.mache.com/botanyclub/home/html.

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, 7 Bridle path Lane, Rothsey, E2E 5S7; meets N.B. Museum at Market Square, 7:30 pm 2nd Mon., Sept-May, elsewhere in June; monthly newsletter www.saintjohnnaturalistsclub.org.

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Photo: Christopher Clunas

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August to October / août à octobre - Pierrette Mercier, 737-1376, petem@globetrotter.net

Members of Nature NB are encouraged to send their
nature observations to the compilers who submit
regular reports in the NB Naturalist.

SVP, si vous êtes membres de Nature NB faites
parvenir vos observations nature aux compilateurs
qui rédigent des rapports réguliers dans le Naturaliste
du NB.

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

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

EDITORIAL TEAM FOR VOL. 36 NO. 3

Joel Butler, Sabine Dietz, Connie Smith, Christopher Clunas, Gart Bishop, Janet MacMillan, Roger LeBlanc

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naturelle du Nouveau-Brunswick. Les
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Naturaliste du NB 83

President's Message

Gart Bishop

Greetings from the New President

I'm going to take this opportunity to introduce myself. As your new president, members might be wondering, "Who is this guy?"

I grew up in Toronto with parents who were birdwatchers. A high school biology project, requiring students to collect 40 plants over the summer, was the beginning of my relationship with wild flowers and trees. I came to UNB to study forestry, but switched to geology, graduating in 1976. After working as a geologist for a few years, I became somewhat disenchanted with the industry and became a cabinet maker.

I started attending many naturalist meetings and for a short time simultaneously belonged to the Fredericton, Saint John, and Kennebecasis clubs. It is the naturalists I have met through Nature NB that have made the study of natural history exciting and rewarding. I've been a member of Nature NB since 1985 and have been a member of the board of directors since 1991. I became involved in the production of the NB Naturalist in 1996, stepping down this year as Sabine Dietz takes over.

Bruce Bagnell and I began a botanical consulting partnership, which has been my main source of employment for the past 13 years. I became a certified scuba diver in order to participate in a New Brunswick Museum aquatic plant survey of the lower St. John River. Looking at plants underwater really changes one's perspective! In recent years, I have helped run introductory courses on New Brunswick's plants at UNB and have

found it rewarding to try to pass on some of the excitement I've picked up from others.

I've really enjoyed my time working and playing with those on the Nature NB board and getting to know naturalists across the province. As your 14th president, I do not have a long list of objectives, but hope members will be supportive in helping them to come about.

1. Develop a secure base funding for Nature NB.
2. Encourage our affiliated clubs to continue to send representatives, and to make sure that all board members realize the importance of their role. Serving on the board should be an enjoyable and educational experience.
3. Increase public awareness of what Nature NB does and the benefits of becoming a member.
4. Update and keep current our website as a useable tool for Nature NB members.

I like almost any excuse to be outside. I am truly grateful for all those with whom I've walked in the woods.

Have a wonderful fall, naturally!

Salutation du nouveau président

Mot du Président

Gart Bishop

Je profite de l'occasion pour me présenter. Comme je suis votre tout nouveau président, il se peut qu'ils y en ait qui se disent: « C'est qui celui-là? »

J'ai grandi à Toronto avec des parents qui pratiquaient l'observation d'oiseaux. Un projet d'école secondaire, en biologie, où nous devions ramasser 40 espèces de fleurs sauvages au cours de l'été, fut le début de mon histoire d'amour avec les fleurs et les arbres. Je suis, par la suite, venu étudier la foresterie à UNB, pour ensuite, faire le saut vers la géologie. Après avoir obtenu mon diplôme dans ce domaine en 1976, j'ai travaillé comme géologue pour quelques années. M'ayant trouvé assez rapidement désillusionné par les pratiques de cette industrie, je deviens alors ébéniste.

À cette époque, j'assistais aux réunions de plusieurs clubs de naturalistes et fus même, pour une court lapse de temps, membre en même temps des clubs de Fredericton, Saint-Jean et de Kennebecasis. Ce sont d'ailleurs les naturalistes que j'ai rencontrés, grâce à Nature NB, qui ont fait que l'étude de la nature est devenue pour moi à la fois si excitante et enrichissante. Je suis membre de Nature NB depuis 1985, et siège au conseil depuis 1991. En 1996, je me suis impliqué comme éditeur de la revue « Le naturaliste du N-B. » et y suis resté jusqu'à cette année alors que j'en passe les rennes à Sabine Dietz.

Avec Bruce Bagnell, j'ai démarré une entreprise de consultation en botanique, où je travaille depuis les dernières 13 années. Dans ce contexte, je suis devenu plongeur certifié afin de participer à

un inventaire du Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick, sur les plantes aquatiques du bas de la rivière Saint-Jean. Quand on observe les plantes d'en dessous de la surface de l'eau ça donne toute une autre perspective! Au cours des dernières années, j'ai aussi aidé à donner pour UNB un cours d'introduction aux plantes du N.-B., et je trouve ça enrichissant d'essayer, à mon tour, d'initier les gens aux beautés de la nature d'ici.

J'ai vraiment adoré le temps passé au cours des dernières années à travailler et à m'amuser avec les gens sur le conseil de direction de Nature NB tout en apprenant à connaître des naturalistes d'un peu partout dans la province. En tant que le 14^e président de Nature NB, ma liste d'objectifs est plutôt modeste, mais j'espère tout de même que les membres me donneront un bon coup de main afin de les atteindre.

1. s'assurer d'une base de financement stable pour Nature NB
2. encourager la participation de représentants de nos clubs affiliés au sein du conseil de direction, en faisant du même coup, tous les efforts pour qu'ils soient bien conscients de l'importance de leur participation au conseil. Servir sur le conseil de direction devrait être une expérience à la fois agréable et formatrice.
3. augmenter la visibilité auprès du public du travail accompli par Nature NB et des avantages d'en être membre.

4. Mettre et maintenir à jour notre site web pour qu'il soit un outil utile aux membres de nature NB

En conclusion, comme toute excuse m'est bonne pour me retrouver à l'exté-

rieur, je demeure sincèrement reconnaissant à tous ceux avec qui j'ai fait un bout de marche dans les bois.

Je vous souhaite un merveilleux automne... tout naturellement.

Christopher Clunas
Sackville

For more information on the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, visit the homepage at:
<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/cllsmain.html>.

This loon, photographed in 2007, was preening and cleaning itself. A distressed loon can take on a similar posture, usually accompanied by an agitated and repeated tremolo call.
Photo: C. Clunas



The Loons of Silver Lake

The canoeists must have seen the loons. Loons are big birds—the two adults and their chick, floating peacefully together in the bay, couldn't be missed, could they? But the canoe headed straight towards the trio, showing no sign of stopping.

The adult loons began a tremolo of alert calls and one of them raised itself out of the water, flapping its wings in alarm. But the canoe kept coming, its occupants apparently oblivious to the commotion.

As one distressed adult loon fled in one direction and the other continued its warning display, the chick vanished from view. The canoe continued on, passing right over the spot where the birds had been and then headed further out into the lake.

What were the canoeists thinking? Could they not have known that they were distressing the loons?

Silver Lake, also known as Morice Pond, is within the town limits of Sackville and has hosted Common Loon pairs and occasional transients for many years. The lake, despite being fairly small, is one of only a few bodies of water in the southeastern part of New Brunswick that is large enough to support loon breeding.

However, the lake is also large enough to support many kinds of watercraft, from canoes and sailboats to jet skis and large powerboats. Although the canoe that frightened the loons in July 2009 may have been an anomaly, I have on several occasions over the past few years seen powerboats pass perilously close to adult loons and their chicks.

Boat strikes are known to be a common cause of death amongst loons and the stress of frequent close encounters could certainly be detrimental to the wellbeing of these aquatic birds.

In July 2007, during a morning paddle on the lake, I also had a close encounter with a loon – on its muddy nest, no less. It was hard not to notice, even at a distance of some 50 metres, because it stood out so clearly against the surrounding green grasses and reeds.

After a few moments of self-deliberation and determining that the slow current

and light breeze were in my favour, I decided to allow myself one pass by the nest for some closer observations and a photograph or two. I silently rested the paddle on the gunwales, prepared my camera and telephoto lens, and let my canoe drift ever so slowly towards the nest. I decided that if the bird showed signs of distress or appeared to feel threatened, I would abandon the approach and leave it in peace.

The loon gradually lowered its head every few moments, possibly to hide, or possibly as a gesture of warning or defiance. But it did not seem to be alarmed.

But as fate would have it, my canoe promptly grounded on a shallow sandbar. I would get no closer without deliberate paddling. So I took a few photos from where I was, then gently backed off the sandbar and paddled away.

Thinking back on my own relatively close encounter with the loon on its nest, and comparing that to the disturbing scenario that I had witnessed more recently, I decided to learn more about the Common Loon and determine if I could do anything to help the loons of Silver Lake.

Like many other species, Common Loon numbers are considered to be stable but their overall health and long-term sustainability might be at risk due to a number of factors. Studies have been done of loon declines in various regions, with the culprits ranging from the effects of acid rain on their habitat, mercury and lead poisoning (the lead from swallowed fishing weights), fishing line entanglement, and loss of suitable breeding and feeding habitat. Also on the list are boat strikes, and wave damage of nests by passing boats.

Education campaigns have been launched over the years to educate citizens about sharing lakes with loons, especially targeting those who live close to loon habitat, and those who use the lakes for boating or fishing. Bird Studies Canada has been involved in these campaigns, including their ongoing Canadian Lakes Loon Survey (CLLS) program.

As well as continuing to gather statistics from the annual counts of loons by volunteer participants, the CLLS has created "Loon Alert" and "Loon Nesting Area" signs that can be posted to advise and educate lake users about the presence of loons and how to avoid distressing or harming them.

I contacted the CLLS, which was more than happy to send me signs in both French and English. I also contacted the town of Sackville, who readily agreed to post the signs near the town's boat launch on Silver Lake.

With the signs posted, I felt that I had done my small part to protect the loons. But will the signs make any real difference to the loons of Silver Lake?

I hope so. I have to believe that the canoe incident that I observed was not a commonplace event. I've seen both of the adults and the chick since, and they appear to be faring well. Surely most boaters and other users of the lake have a conscious respect for the loons, and would not deliberately endanger them.

The call of the loon is often described as "haunting." I hope to hear the haunting call of those loons again next year, and the year after that. I'd rather not be haunted by their loss.



CLLS Loon Alert signs in English and French, freshly posted in July 2009 at Silver Lake, Sackville.
Photo: C. Clunas

Vanessa Roy-McDougall
Executive Director
Nature NB
Fredericton

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News from Nature NB

YOUNG NATURALIST CLUB - NATURE KIDS NB

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

FRENCH PROOFREADERS NEEDED

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

SUMMER YOUTH NATURE CAMP

Building on the success of last year's camp, this year's theme was the Amazing Nature Race and aimed to encourage more independent nature exploration. Once again, our staff developed a wide variety of programs that covered topics such as symbiosis, species at risk, animal adaptations and marine mammals. Camps were held in Fredericton and St. Andrews and new this year, in Moncton. A total of 97 campers attended camp, which is an increase of 16 campers over last year and a record attendance. We

were also able to offer several subsidies to low income campers through the generous support of the following groups/people:

- Saint John Naturalists' Club
- Kennebecasis Naturalists Society
- Nature Moncton
- The Fredericton Community Foundation
- Dave McCurdy
- Mary Majka
- David Christie

NATURALIST LEADERS IN TRAINING

The second summer of Nature NB's Leaders in Training program is now complete and both staff and participants had some great positive and constructive feedback. Five youth participated in several events including a leadership event, a week at camp and a "in the field" day.

NEW AND ONGOING PROJECTS

2009-2010 is shaping up to be an exciting year of projects. Here is a glimpse of what's to come:

- Development of a bilingual education kit: Birding Basics
- Biodiversity Conservation Monitoring Kit
- Nature Connections - school presentations

We invite you to visit our website to find out more about these exciting projects!

Nouvelles de Nature NB

Vanessa Roy-McDougall
Directrice générale
Nature NB
Fredericton

CLUB DES JEUNES NATURALISTES - REVUE JEUNESSE NATURE

Nature NB est encore à la recherche d'articles pour notre revue Jeunesse Nature. Des articles sur une variété de sujets reliés à la nature sont les bienvenus. Nous sommes surtout à la recherche d'articles français! Si vous êtes intéressé à soumettre un article, veuillez contacter le bureau de Nature NB.

RÉVISION DES ARTICLES FRANÇAIS

Comme organisation bilingue, Nature NB s'efforce d'offrir toutes nos matières et publications dans les deux langues. Pour s'assurer de traductions adéquates, nous cherchons à former un groupe de bénévoles qui seraient intéressés à offrir des suggestions sur le contenu français. Le plus nombreux sont les bénévoles, moins de temps devront-ils consacrer. Toute aide sera grandement appréciée et aidera Nature NB à atteindre un plus grand public.

Les intéressés sont priés de contacter le bureau de Nature NB.

CAMPS JEUNESSE NATURE

Le thème de cette année était La Merveilleuse Course Nature et avait comme but d'encourager une découverte plus indépendante de la nature. Encore une fois, nos employés ont développé une grande variété de programmes couvrant des thèmes tels que la symbiose, les espèces en péril, les adaptations des animaux et les mammifères marins. Les camps furent tenus à Fredericton, St. Andrews et à Moncton. Un total de 97 jeunes ont pris part aux camps, soit une augmentation de 16 participants comparé à l'an dernier, ce qui fait de cet été un record de participants. Nous avons aussi pu of-

frir plusieurs subventions aux campeurs à bas revenu, grâce aux personnes/groupes suivant(e)s :

- Club de Naturalistes de St John
- Société de Naturalistes de Kennebecasis
- Nature Moncton
- The Fredericton Community Foundation
- Dave McCurdy
- Mary Majka
- David Christie

LEADERS NATURALISES EN FORMATION

Le deuxième été du programme de leaders en formation de Nature NB est maintenant terminé. Les employés et les participants ont eu des très bonnes et constructives rétroactions. Cinq jeunes ont participé dans plusieurs événements incluant un événement de leadership, une semaine au camp et une journée «sur le terrain».

NOUVEAUX PROJETS ET PROJETS EN COURS

L'année 2009-2010 s'annonce à être une année de projets excitants. Voici une idée de choses à venir:

- Développement d'une trousse d'éducation bilingue portant sur les oiseaux
- Une trousse de surveillance de la conservation de la biodiversité
- Présentations Connections Nature dans les écoles

Nous vous invitons à visiter notre site web pour apprendre d'avantage au sujet de ces projets excitants!

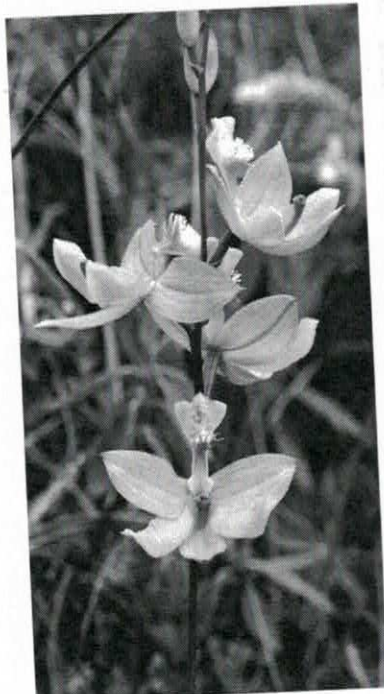
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Looking for Wild Orchids

Judith Nelson
Moore's Mills



Grass Pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*)
Photo by K. Wildish



Grass Pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*)
Photo by K. Wildish

Last summer the brother (Ken Wildish from Sittingbourne, England) of a friend of ours (David Wildish of Bayside) was planning a visit to New Brunswick. As part of his visit, Ken was hoping to see and photograph native orchids. David asked if Bill (my spouse and nature buddy) and I could help with the search. Since any reason to go out in the woods is a good reason, we readily agreed.

We had great fun in the search and were able to find locally in Charlotte County the following species:

- Heartleaf Twayblade (*Listera cordata*)
- Tall Northern Green Bog Orchid (*Platanthera aquilonis*)
- Bog Candle (*Platanthera dilatata*)
- Swamp Pink (*Arethusa bulbosa*)
- Rose Pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*)
- Grass Pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*)
- Yellow Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*)
- Showy Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*)
- Pink Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*)

Locating these involved tramping around in cut over areas, unmarked woods, and heading out in the canoe to access boggy sites. The bugs were fierce but we were determined. Finding each new orchid was so rewarding because we were seeing them through another person's eyes as if for the first time. Ken commented on the amount of undeveloped space and the wildness of the coun-

tryside as compared to England. I think he liked it. I know I am always happy when I learn our population statistics are not growing by leaps and bounds. More people usually bring more development and a loss of habitat for other living things.

Ken wrote, for this article, the following description of the efforts to protect the United Kingdom's orchids:

"Expanding requirements for domestic, industrial and agricultural land have reduced the areas available for orchids in the U.K. so in many places wildlife reserves are owned, rented or administered for the promotion of natural history. This means that many orchids are confined to restricted sites which are maintained in a suitable condition by those with an interest in natural history."

I believe Ken found our ability to look for and find orchids growing in their natural habitat very different from much of his experience of looking at orchids in England.

One of the highlights of Ken's visit was a day trip to Shea Lake Nature Preserve led by Jim Goltz for the Nature Trust. I have been on several walks with Jim and am always impressed with his knowledge, enthusiasm, and patience. This trip started out in the rain, on the edge of a side road with no discernible markings. Undaunted, Jim jumped into the roadside ditch and set off. We followed through wet, buggy, and uneven terrain with Jim pointing out interesting flora along the way. Our goals for the day included finding the Small Round-

leaved Orchid (*Amerorchis rotundifolia*) and the Lapland Buttercup (*Ranunculus lapponicus*). These goals were met with much enjoyment in the search. About mid-day we reached Shea Lake and stopped for a lunch in the bog, which for comfort and dryness, involved either standing, sitting on a plastic bag, or (if one were a former girl guide) a sit-upon. Returning to our cars we headed home with another quick roadside stop for more orchids, although none new to Ken's list, and with a tip from Jim about finding Shining Ladies Tresses (*Spiranthes lucida*) near Hammond River. A stop for dinner at York's Restaurant in Perth-Andover helped us dry out and

review our finds. A few days later, Ken and David did locate the Shining ladies tresses as described. Ken returned to England with some lovely pictures.

One of my favourite mental pictures of his visit is of a patch of untouched, in-their-prime, Moccasin Flowers (*Cypripedium acaule*) in varying shades from white to deep pink, sitting in moss and dappled sunlight. I drew a small sketch of them but the picture in my mind is more real and beautiful.



Rose Pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*)
Photo by K. Wildish



Yellow Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*)
Photo by K. Wildish

Jean-Yves Blanchette,
Richard Fournier and
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this article appeared in
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Naturalist*

Recovery of Furbish's Lousewort (*Pedicularis furbishiae* S. Wats) - Nursery Techniques for Multiplication

The Endangered status of Furbish's Lousewort in New Brunswick has remained unchanged since 1982.

A scientific group (Furbish's Lousewort Recovery Team 2006) estimated that the Canadian (New Brunswick) population was less than 1000 individuals. The recommendations were site management, a monitoring program and an action plan to investigate the potential

Furbish's Lousewort (now placed in the Broomrape or Orobanchaceae family) is an obligate root hemiparasite during its seedling stage, i.e., it requires a host to provide nutrients and water. The parasite extracts these solutions through a specialized structure (haustorium) connecting both root systems.

Macior (1980) suggested that the lousewort was not host specific; however, NTNB (2003), which did a survey of plant associates in NB populations, suggested that members of the Fabaceae family and the genus *Alnus* were among the dominant vascular plant associates.

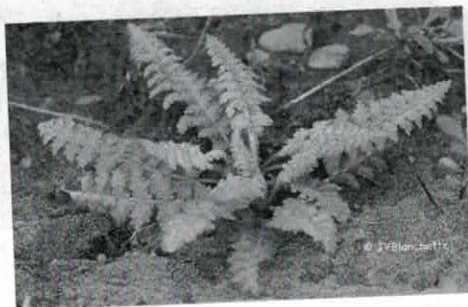
It was decided to test the potential role of some members of the Fabaceae family as well as *Alnus* sp. as potential hosts of the Furbish's Lousewort. Among these, exotic members usually found with Furbish's Lousewort are Clover (*Trifolium* sp.), Cow Vetch (*Vicia cracca* L.) and Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus* L.); while native species are Canadian Tick-Trefoil (*Desmodium canadense* (L.) DC.) and Alder (*Alnus* sp.). The premise for these choices was their ability to fix nitrogen and to possibly provide the growing lousewort seedlings with a vital element.

The research was done in the NB Botanical Garden nursery where established plants of Clover, Cow Vetch, Bird's-foot Trefoil and Alder cuttings were removed from adjacent sites along the St. John River and placed in large pots. A separate experiment (Ms. De Bont) was done in the growth chambers of the Faculté



Lousewort flower
Photo by J.-Y. Blanchette

of propagation as a means to augment existing populations or to establish new ones.



Lousewort plant
Photo by J.-Y. Blanchette

Nursery propagation techniques for Furbish's Lousewort have not yet been developed. A project was undertaken by the Faculté de Foresterie de l'Université de Moncton in collaboration with the NB Department of Natural Resources and the NB Botanical

Garden to develop these techniques.

de Foresterie as part of a senior BSc. F thesis. Seeds of Alsike Clover (*Trifolium hybridum* L.), Lupine (*Lupinus* sp.), Canadian Tick-Trefoil and American Licorice (*Glycyrrhiza lepidota* Pursh.) were planted and used a month later as hosts. The control was an annual Grass family member, i.e. Summer Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) suggested by Macior (1980) who showed that Furbish's Lousewort seedlings grown without a host did not survive.

Seeds of the Furbish's Lousewort were collected in early October 2008 at two selected sites. Originally three sites were selected but this third site lost most of its Furbish's Lousewort plants at the critical anthesis due to a summer flood in early August 2008.

Following a pre-treatment, the germinated seeds of Furbish's Lousewort were planted close to the hosts and monitored for survival and growth over a 4-month period. Identifying emerging seedlings was a challenge since no literature description or photo images of the cotyledons was available. Once the first leaves emerged the lousewort was easily identified. After 4 months some of the seed-

lings had leaves that were at least 5 cm long. Gawler et al. (1987) showed that 1-year old seedlings grown along the St. John river rarely had leaves more than 1.5 cm long. Our results suggest that it may be possible to shorten the normal 3-year period for flower, and thus, fruit production in this rare species.

Some of the seedlings will be planted in the NB Botanical Garden in St. Jacques this summer. They will be maintained as a seed source and for further studies. You are invited to visit and examine or photograph the seedlings.



Seedling with cotyledons and first leaves
Photo by J.-Y. Blanchette



Young plant
Photo by J.-Y. Blanchette

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Joanne Savage
Quispamsis

The Angry Bittern

I am a member of the Saint John Naturalists Club, a retired Registered Nurse, and grandmother of five (four of whom share my love of nature).

Naturalists seem to be persons who retain the curiosity and enthusiasm of children while understanding the need to respect, protect, and conserve nature.

I had been invited by Jim Wilson to accompany him to get "a feel of atlassing." I soon found out this involved getting up at 4:15 in order to



American Bittern
Photo by M. Cormier

leave at 5:00 (groan!). It was fun! We were out for over six hours and it felt like six minutes.

Shortly after sighting and viewing a Wilson's Warbler we explored a side road that looked promising. A Black Duck issued her brood of five from a puddle on the dirt road as we drove in and hustled them into the marshy area of a long, narrow lake. As we watched her brood and those of several others I caught a glimpse of an odd colour, then

shape, and finally movement to our right that I thought might be an American Bittern.

A period of scanning the marsh resulted in sighting the unmistakable stance of an American Bittern: a long slender brownish neck with the bill pointed skyward. We soon noted another, much closer to us, facing us and visible only from throat to bill. It was this bird that took exception to us! It rose from the marsh and flew directly toward us. I sat on the bank and remained motionless as it landed approximately 40 feet away.

Jim was near the vehicle with camera ready but his view was obscured by a small Spruce. My view was clear. This bird was angry! I had seen American Bittern before but not one in breeding plumage. The breeding plumage looked like a large white cape on its back. Every plume was raised up and outward. The neck and head were in constant motion as he vocalized that distinctive watery, gulping sound over and over - and loudly. The calls were amplified and much more emphatic than those heard normally.

As I sat in absolute awe of this display, I had one more thought: if he attacks, that is going to hurt! The thought persisted even to the point of being gl... my Medicare card was in my fanny pack. Since we were both very still, the bird eventually flew across in front of us and continued its angry calls from further away. We retreated and let him be.

I have a "mental video" of the occasion.

More "Buzzards" on the Border

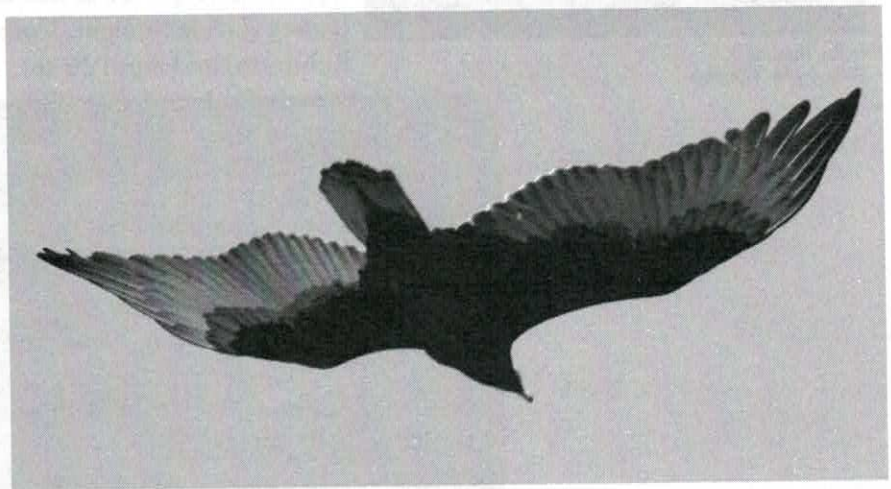
A.J. (Tony) Erskine
Sackville

A few Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*, a.k.a. turkey buzzards by some people, TUVU in the atlases) were seen in the Chignecto Isthmus region even before the first breeding bird atlas (1986-90), but the species only became "frequently" reported in 2006, when the second atlas was getting underway. Most reports came from the Point de Bute-Jolicure area, where I failed to see any on several visits over three summers—when breeding was not confirmed. Janet and I finally identified a distant bird, soaring high over the Westcock Marsh in January 2009, as our first local TUVU. That did not prepare me—nor some other witnesses—for what appeared over Upper Sackville in spring 2009.

It was a blustery April morning, a fierce south wind making bird-song inaudible (or futile?) except when going downwind. As I turned from Station Road to Church Street in Upper Sackville, an obvious TUVU passed me, sailing west to east a little above treetop height, within 100 metres! All field-marks were noted without needing binoculars (which I used anyway). A minute later a second vulture followed the first, both disappearing behind nearby woodlots. After a few minutes they reappeared, soaring "like kites" on the fiercer gusts, then circling over farms and fields, before gradually drifting away to the southwest. I wasn't the only one surprised, as the following slightly anthropomorphic account will show.

Voices of two Crows soon reached me, sounding different from their usual mobbing calls. These birds, perched (skulkingly?) well inside the canopy of a leafless tree, seemed to be trying to say something like, "What are those birds? Not ravens, not eagles. Are they dangerous?" Crows would have been off like a flash to mob those others, but now they hung back from bothering the unfamiliar visitors. A few minutes later they dashed out to see off a passing Raven, while the TUVUs circled away unmolested.

If those Crows were hatched near Upper Sackville in 2008, they might never have encountered TUVUs previously, as most recent local vulture reports were 5 kilometers or more east or northeast. The reactions suggested (to me) that the Crows were seeing "something new," something large enough that they were unsure mobbing would be an appropriate response. Speculation is fun, isn't it?



Turkey Vulture
Photo by M. Cormier

Ken MacIntosh
Saint John

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

Nature News: Birds

April 15 to July 18, 2009

There were relatively few real rarities this season, but some excitement was generated by abundant sightings of fringe species such as Wood Thrush, Red-headed Woodpecker, House Wren, Tufted Titmouse, Indigo Bunting, and Eastern Bluebird. Of the latter two species, there were enough reports to warrant a separate article.

As usual, this report for the spring arrival season will primarily deal with first observations for returning migrants, with some reports of lingering winter species.

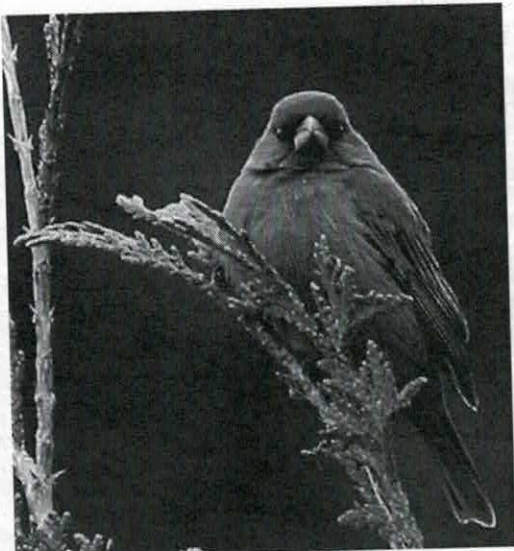
Among reports of SNOW GOOSE (Oie des neiges), Robert Doiron reported 3000-4000 at Atholville marshes, including at least eight blue morphs on April 30. BRANT (Bernache cravant) were reported on April 19 at Lower Jemseg (Jackie Straight, Joyce Robinson) and April 26 at

Arthur St Lagoon, St. Joseph (Stu Tingley, Brian Dalzell, Roger LeBlanc, Alain Clavette).

WOOD DUCK (Canard branchu) were seen on April 16 at Memramcook valley by Alain Clavette and along the St. John River by Jim Wilson; Jim also saw a GADWALL (Canard chapeau) on the same outing. EURASIAN WIGEON (Canard siffleur) sightings included one at Maugerville on April 17 (Peter Pearce), one at Grand Manan bird sanctuary on April 26 (Roger Burrows), and one at Tracadie-Sheila sewage lagoon on April 30 (Roger

Dumaresq). AMERICAN WIGEON (Canard d'Amérique) were reported April 16 at Memramcook valley (Alain Clavette) and along the St. John River (Jim Wilson). Jim also reported spotting BLUE-WINGED TEAL (Sarcelle à ailes bleues) on his April 16 outing. Jim and Alain likewise reported NORTHERN SHOVELER (Canard souchet) and NORTHERN PINTAIL (Canard pilet) on April 16 at Memramcook valley and the St. John River, as above. GREEN-WINGED TEAL (Sarcelle d'hiver) was also found April 16 by Alain Clavette at Memramcook valley. "EURASIAN" GREEN-WINGED TEAL was found April 16 at Jemseg (Jim Wilson) and April 24 at Grand Lake Meadows (Peter Pearce).

Don Gibson found a pair of REDHEAD (Fuligule à tête rouge) on April 18 at Jemseg; another three were noted on the St. John River at Perth Andover on April 24 (Gary Burns c/o Grant Milroy). Alain Clavette reported RING-NECKED DUCK (Fuligule à collier) on April 16 at Memramcook valley. A suspected TUFTED DUCK (Fuligule morillon) was at the Bouctouche sewage lagoon on April 25 (Louis-Emile Cormier). Jim Wilson found LESSER SCAUP (Petit Fuligule) on the St. John River on April 16. John Rankin reported seeing nine SURF SCOTERS (Macreux à front blanc) on Mactaquac Headpond at an unusual season, June 24. A lone male LONG-TAILED DUCK (Hareld kakawi) was seen on April 17 at Edmundston (Roy LaPointe). HOODED MERGANSER (Harle couronné) were seen on April 16 on the St. John River



Indigo Bunting
Photo by M. Cormier

(Jim Wilson) and at the UNB Woodlot, Fredericton, on April 17 (Chris Adam). Three RUDDY DUCKS (*Érismature rousse*) were at Arthur St Lagoon, St. Joseph, on April 26 (Stu Tingley, Brian Dalzell, Roger LeBlanc, Alain Clavette); a male was near Hampton on July 2 (Jim Wilson).

In the wake of stormy weather, Richard Blacquiere reported that he and a group of volunteers recorded 773 RED-THROATED LOONS (*Plongeon catmarin*) and 211 COMMON LOONS (*Plongeon huard*) in migration as they passed Point Lepreau on April 23. Observing substantial numbers of loons at Point Lepreau seems not to be an annual event, suggesting some variability in the flight path of northbound loons. Roger Burrows gave a detailed description of a sub-adult loon seen on June 19 from the White Head Ferry, which he felt logically and by build and bill shape to be ARCTIC LOON (*Plongeon arctique*) rather than PACIFIC LOON (*Plongeon du Pacifique*).

PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Grèbe à bec bigarré*) was reported on April 25 at Sack-

ville Waterfowl Park (David Christie and Mary Majka).

A NORTHERN FULMAR (*Fulmar boreal*) was reported on May 25 off Grand Manan Island (GMI) by Roger Burrows; on July 9 Durland Ingersoll reported that fulmars appear to be abundant again this year in the Bay of Fundy.

AMERICAN BITTERN (*Butor d'Amérique*) was found on April 19 by Norm Belliveau and a birding group at Riverview Marsh in the Moncton area.

GREAT EGRET (*Grande Aigrette*) reports included sightings on April 30 at Bell Street Marsh, Moncton, (Stu Tingley), May 14 at Maisonnnette (Marcel David), and one on May 24 at GMI (Stu Tingley and birding group). SNOWY EGRET (*Aigrette neigeuse*) were found on April 29 at Waterside (Barb Curlew), on May 2 at Cap Brule sewage lagoon (Stu Tingley), and again at Waterside on May 15 (Barb Curlew).

An immature LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Aigrette bleue*) was at Castaila on May 15 (Roger Burrows). A TRICOLORED HERON (*Aigrette tricolour*) was found

Pied-billed Grebe
Photo by C. Clumas





Green Heron
Photo by M. Cormier

on May 2 near Pointe du chêne (Stu Tingley) and seen again on May 4 (Louis-Emile Cormier). A CATTLE EGRET (Héron garde-boeufs) was photographed and reported in the local newspaper at Campbellton after the fact (reported to Nature NB on May 24 by Irene Doyle, photographed by "a lady in Cross Point"). An adult was at Red Head, Saint John, from at least May 26-28, as reported to Jim Wilson by Joan Walsh.

GREEN HERON (Héron vert) were reported at Carman Creek, Fredericton, on May 11 (Peter Pearce), again on May 15 at Kouchibouguac National Park (Denis Doucet), two sightings at GMI on May 23 (Stu Tingley and birding group), and two at St. George marsh on May 24 (Jeanne Finn-Allen and Cheryl Gass). Twenty or more BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (Bihoreau gris) made a spectacle on April 18, as they were seen feeding in a marsh at Inkerman (reported by Stu Tingley).

GLOSSY IBIS (Ibis falcinelle) appeared along the Kennebecasis River at Bloomfield on April 16 (Jim Wilson); two were

at Hammond River on April 18 (Jim Wilson), and a neighbour of Jim's reported seeing one in the area on April 15. These remained until at least April 23. At Le Goulet on April 30, Frank Branch, Jolande St-Pierre, and Rosita Lanteigne "saw one of two reported earlier," previously seen by Gerard Benoit on April 26.

What seems to have been a WOOD STORK (Tan-

tale d'Amérique) was reported by Sandra Doyle after she spotted it in flight from the third floor of the Delta Hotel in

Fredericton. Alas, it has yet to be seen since then.

A NORTHERN HARRIER (Busard Saint-Martin) was at White Head Island on April 19 (Roger Burrows); another was seen near Hillsborough on April 19 (Norm Belliveau and birding group).

A COOPER'S HAWK (Épervier de Cooper) was at Woodward's Cove on April 28 (Roger Burrows). On July 15 or 16 Samuel Denault and Olivier Barden saw a male Cooper's carrying prey to a presumed nest site in Carleton County. A RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (Buse à epaulettes) was seen on May 20 by Roger Burrows as he circled GMI on the boat "Elsie Menota"; on June 9 he saw a sub-adult at New River. On June 17 Hank Scarth spotted one from his car on the outskirts of Fredericton. Todd Watts reported seeing five BROAD-WINGED HAWKS (Petite Buse) on April 20 at Greenlaw Mountain. Todd also saw a ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (Buse pattue) at Greenlaw Mountain on April 20.

Jim Wilson spotted a PEREGRINE FALCON (Faucon pelerine) on April 16 near Jemseg; others were reported at Hillsborough on April 19 (Norm Belliveau and birding group), at Greenlaw Mountain on April 20 (Todd Watts), and at Ingalls Head Road, GMI, on April 27 (Roger Burrows).

A VIRGINIA RAIL (Râle de Virginie) was at Bell Street Marsh, Moncton, on April 30 (Stu Tingley). A SORA (Marouette de Caroline) was reported on April 28 at Coldstream (Grant Milroy). A PURPLE GALLINULE (Talève violacée) was found by Alphonse Thibodeau at Lavillette (Route 450 near Route 8) and reported by Dave McLeod about May 9.

Two SANDHILL CRANE (Grue du Canada) were at Sussex Corner on Ap



Sora
Photo by C. Clunas

17; they were discovered by Lee Blizzard and reported by Jim Wilson. Jim Brown added that the "Havelock" cranes were around about the same time, so he feels that the Sussex Corner birds were additional.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (Pluvier argenté) were spotted on May 11 at Lower Jemseg (Gilles Belliveau) and on June 5 at White Head, GMI (Roger Burrows). Twelve **SEMIPALMATED PLOVER** (Pluvier semipalmé) were at Maisonnnette on May 14 (Marcel David); Roger Burrows reported an individual at White Head Marsh on June 19, which was exceptionally late for spring or early for fall migration. David Christie found a **PIPING PLOVER** (Pluvier siffleur) at Mary's Point on April 29—four were at Waterside on June 6 (Rick Elliott). Reports from Bouctouche Dune related that seven nesting pairs of Piping Plover were doing well as of early June. Oscar LeBlanc reported that several **KILLDEER** (Pluvier kildir) were in Coates Mills area by April 20.

Norm Belliveau and a group of birders found **GREATER YELLOWLEGS** (Grand Chevalier) in the Hillsborough area on April 19. **LESSER YELLOWLEGS** (Petit Chevalier) was found on April 26 near Dorchester (Brian Dalzell, Roger LeBlanc, Alain Clavette). Peter Pearce found 12 **SOLITARY SANDPIPER** (Chevalier solitaire) at Carman Creek, Fredericton, on May 11; Samule Denault and Olivier Barden found a single Solitary in Carleton County about July 10. **WILLET** (Chevalier semipalmé) were in the Shediac area on May 2 (Stu Tingley) and at Maisonnnette Dune on May 3 (Frank Branch). **SPOTTED SANDPIPER** (Chevalier grivelé) were found on May 7 at Pointe du Chêne (Stu Tingley) and on May 9 at Riverside-

Albert (Norm, Gisèle, Gilles Belliveau, Rose-Alma Mallet).

In the first week of June, Kevin Fraser was very surprised when he spotted an **UPLAND SANDPIPER** (Maubèche des champs) at Mitchell Mountain (Christmas Mountains) while conducting fieldwork; Oscar LeBlanc reported mid-June that the colony near his Saint Marie home is active again this year. Bev Schneider found one singing at Grand Falls on June 25.

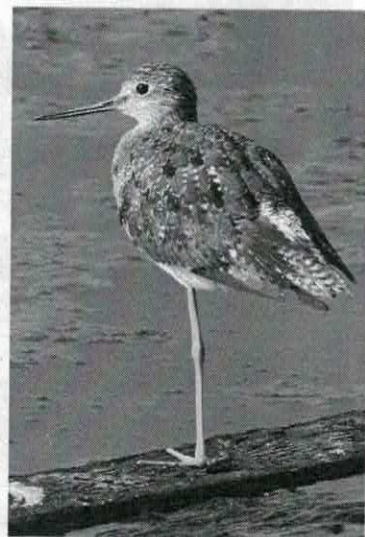
Robert Doiron found 2 banded **RED KNOTS** (Bécasseau maubèche) among a group of 27 at Maisonnnette Dune the first week of June. One of these, a bird banded at Tierra del Fuego in 2006, was recorded at Maisonnnette last year as well.

A **SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER** (Bécasseau semipalmé) was at Maisonnnette on May 14 (Marcel David). **LEAST SANDPIPER** (Bécasseau minuscule) were at Calhoun marsh on May 10 (David Christie); four were at Maisonnnette on May 14 (Marcel David). A **WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** (Bécasseau à croupion blanc) was at GMI on May 22 (Roger Burrows). Gilles Bourque, reporting for a Moncton Naturalist Club (MNC) outing to Albert County, noted one **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** (Bécasseau à poitrine cendrée) at Riverview Marsh on May 16.

Marcel David had five **DUNLIN** (Bécasseau variable) at Maisonnnette on May 14. **RUFF** (Combattant varié) were found at Fredericton on May 18-19 (Peter Pearce), and a female was at Maisonnnette Dune on May 26 (Robert Doiron). **SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** (Bécassin roux) was found on May 16 at Riverview Marsh during a MNC outing to Albert County (Gilles Bourque). Ralph Eldridge



Semipalmated Plover
Photo by C. Clunas



Greater Yellowlegs
Photo by C. Clunas



Common Tern
Photo by A. Marsch

reported migrant dowitchers totalling 43 birds at MSI on July 7. Stu Tingley and a MNC group found a male WILSON'S PHALAROPE (Phalarope de Wilson) at Castalia on May 20. Ralph Eldridge found two dead RED-NECKED PHALAROPES (Phalarope à bec étroit) on May 15 at Machias Seal Island (MSI).

Bev Schneider passed along a report (accompanied by photo) of an adult LAUGHING GULL (Mouette atricille) spotted on Scotch Lake Road, near Fredericton on May 4. Stu Tingley and a MNC group found three adults at Grand Manan on May 20, and on June 11, an adult was photographed at the Pointe du Chêne wharf in Shediac by Edmond Drysdale (reported by Gilles

Black-Billed Cuckoo
Photo by M. Cormier



Belliveau). LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (Goéland brun) were reported on April 16 by Jim Wilson—one adult near the Oromocto bridge; two others were seen at Sheffield on April 19 (Tony and Dorothy Diamond). A juvenile GLAUCOUS GULL (Goéland bourgmestre) was near St. George on May 26 (Bev Schneider). Roger Burrows saw two SABINE'S GULLS (Mouette de Sabine) (one adult, one sub-adult) on June 9, 20 minutes out of Black's Harbour on the Grand Manan ferry. Roger also reported a first summer CALIFORNIA GULL (Goéland de Californie) on April 15 at the Grand Manan bird sanctuary.

A single CASPIAN TERN (Sterne caspienne) flew up the bay past Point Lepreau Bird Observatory on April 26 (Richard Blacquiere); two were at Pointe du Chêne on May 7 (Stu Tingley). BLACK TERN (Guifette noire) was reported May 21 at French Lake, Oromocto (Gilles Belliveau and Ron Wilson); Denis Doucet reports seeing at least one among the Common Terns at Kouchibouguac, where Black Terns have been spotted annually since 2004.

A RINGED TURTLE DOVE (Tourterelle rieuse) was at the home of Karen Gauvin on June 20. The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has this to say about the species: "The Ringed Turtle Dove has been domesticated for so long that its wild origins are not known for certain. It frequently escapes from captivity, and feral populations have become established in some cities in the southern United States."

This season featured numerous reports of BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO (Coulicou à bec noir), a species which seems to fluctuate in abundance in New Brunswick (and elsewhere) from year to year. Among other sightings, Grant Milroy

encountered a singing male at Cloverdale on June 5; Nelson Poirier reports that a botany group heard two singing males at Miscou on June 20. Stu Tingley found two more singing males in the Acadian peninsula in mid-June, and several near Bathurst. Merv Cormier reported an encounter near the Fundy coast on June 19. Rare in springtime, two YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (Coulicou à bec jaune) were at Grand Harbour on May 10 (Durlan Ingersoll).

A surprise guest to this report is the SNOWY OWL (Harfang des neiges), which was reported twice: one found on June 4 in an old clearcut between Bathurst and Janeville (Stu Tingley) and another on June 15 at the Bouctouche Dune (Don and Dorca Pellerin). Dale Gaskin reported hearing a LONG-EARED OWL (Hibou moyen-duc) in the Hillsborough area on May 8. Samuel Denault and Olivier Barden found fledged Long-eared Owls at two locations in Carleton County on July 15-16.

Irene Doyle first noticed COMMON NIGHTHAWK (Engoulevent d'Amérique) on May 6 at Campbellton; they were also noted at Mary's Point on May 20-21 by David Christie.

The first report of CHIMNEY SWIFT (Martinet ramoneur) was May 14 at Kerr's Ridge (Todd Watts).

The arrival of RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (Colibri à gorge rubis) was celebrated on May 1 at Edgett's Landing (Dwayne Biggar), at Mary's Point (David Christie), and at Harvey Bank (John Inman). Brian Dalzell reported on May 18 that a RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD (Colibri roux) had been reported at the Shorecrest Lodge, Grand Manan Island.

Roy LaPointe heard a BELTED KINGFISHER (Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique)

at Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska on April 25.

Reports of RED-BELLIED WOOD-PECKER (Pic à ventre roux) were of one calling on April 25 at Douglas (Dwayne Sabine), a female seen on April 26 at St. Martins (Ted Sears), one enlarging the hole in a nest box in Moncton on May 2 (second-hand report by Dwayne Biggar), and a female at Johnston Point (near Port Elgin) on May 15 (Mark and Janet Gurley). This female was joined a few days later by a male.

The earliest report of YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (Pic maculé) was on April 21 when Denis Doucet saw one at Pellerin.

Ivy Austin found a BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER (Pic à dos noir) on May 3 along Route 11.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE (Pioui de l'Est) appeared on May 21 at GMI (Roger Burrows), on May 24 at Odell Park, Fredericton (Gilles Belliveau and FNC), and also on May 24 near Bathurst (John Kowtaluk and Roger Guitard). Roger Burrows reported the first YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (Moucherolle à ventre jaune) on May 25 at White Head Island.

A very early report of ALDER FLYCATCHER (Moucherolle des aulnes) at Hampton on April 25 was heard only, so Harvey McLeod may have been fooled by a starling. More expected was a May 13 sighting at Ox Head, GMI (Roger Burrows). On June 15 Denis Doucet reported a WILLOW FLYCATCHER (Moucherolle des saules) at a site where they are becoming annual visitors near his home in Pellerin. Grant Milroy heard one at Esdraelon (upper St. John River) in early-June, and Peter Pearce had a June 7 sighting at Wilkins Field, Fredericton.

Stu Tingley had the first LEAST FLY-CATCHER (*Moucherolle tchébec*) report on May 3 near Jemseg; another was at Lorneville on May 6 (Merv Cormier). EASTERN PHOEBE (*Moucherolle phébi*) were reported on April 16 in the Beaumont area (Alain Clavette) and on April 17 at Bloomfield (Merv Cormier). An Eastern Phoebe was also spotted in March (see previous issue).

A pair of GREAT CRESTED FLY-CATCHER (*Tyrannus carolinensis*) were at Fredericton on May 14 (Alex Macdonald). May 11 marked the arrival of EASTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) at Lower Jemseg (Gilles Belliveau). Samuel Denault and Kyle Wellband found an adult SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus longicaudus*) near the Escuminac lighthouse on June 26. There were no further reports.

Merv Cormier continues to be the master of WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo albidus*) encounters. He reported one on May 4 at Cape Spencer and another on May 20 at Grand Manan. April 26 featured the first reports of BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*)—one at Black Beach (Merv Cormier) and the other at Doaktown (Ken MacIntosh). Gilles Belliveau found a WARBLING VIREO (*Vireo gilvus*) on May 7 at Lower Jemseg; another was at St. George on May 22 (Ian Cameron). A singing male PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*Vireo philadelphicus*) was at Kouchibouguac National Park on May 21 (Denis Doucet). Alain Clavette found two or three pairs near Baie Sainte-Anne on May 19. Gilles Belliveau reported apparent nest building at Jemseg on May 23.

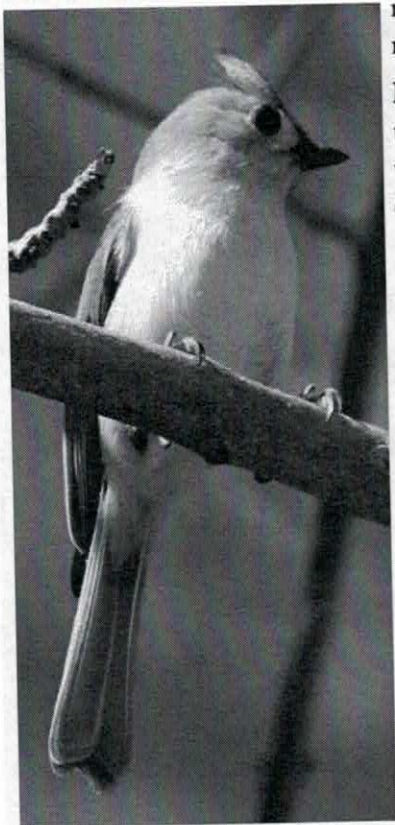
PURPLE MARTIN (*Hirundo horreorum*) were noted on May 3 near Richibuctou (Ivy Austin) and on June 10, when

Dale Gaskin saw one circle a pond at Hillsborough.

Also on May 10, David Christie and Mary Majka visited Calhoun Marsh to follow up on a report of noteworthy swallow activity. They estimated 2500 swallows foraging near the water surface. They were dominated by TREE SWALLOWS (*Hirundo bicolor*), with about 100 BARN SWALLOWS (*Hirundo rustica*), two CLIFF SWALLOWS (*Hirundo lunifrons*), and one BANK SWALLOW (*Hirundo fulva*) also noted. Other swallow observations were: Tree Swallow on April 16 at Hammond River (Jim Wilson) and, also on April 16, at Sainte-Maire-de-Kent (Oscar LeBlanc); NORTH-ERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Hirundo lunifrons*) on May 17 at Scotch Lake (Beverly Schneider) and Wilkins Field, Fredericton, on May 7 (Peter Pearce); Bank Swallow on May 22 at GMI (Roger Burrows); Cliff Swallow on April 26 at Dorchester (Brian Dalzell, Roger LeBlanc, Alain Clavette); and Barn Swallow on April 25—two among Tree Swallows at Sackville Waterfowl Park (David Christie and Mary Majka) plus one at Pellerin on April 25 (Denis Doucet).

On June 24 Tracey Dean, as well as Ceal and Vince MacDonald, were able to observe TUFTED TITMOUSE (*Mélanotis bicolor*) adults feeding their young at St. Andrews.

Beverly Schneider reported a CAROLINA WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*) on May 16 at Hamtown Corner (near Douglas); another was seen on May 25 near the Marathon Inn, GMI, by an Elderhostel group (reported by Roger Burrows). HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*) appeared on May 20 at Grand Manan (Merv Cormier)



Tufted Titmouse
Photo by M. Cormier

and on May 23 at Doaktown (Ken MacIntosh). Don Gibson received a number of Fredericton-area reports in mid-June: Stan Barrett photographed one in Lincoln on June 8; Anne Slipp had one visit her yard on June 15; and Peter Pearce found one at Odell Park in Fredericton, also on June 15. Don himself heard one sing while he was in limbo between dreaming and waking early on June 12. He didn't say whether this was a new species for his limbo list. On June 14 Jim Wilson found a singing male in Hampton while conducting a Breeding Bird Survey. WINTER WREN (*Troglodyte mignon*) were first reported on April 25, when two were heard at Hampton (Harvey McLeod), and another was at Hammond River (Jim Wilson).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Roitelet à couronne rubis*) was first noted on April 16 near Saint John (Merv Cormier); they were widespread by April 25.

Spring reports of BLUE-GRAY GNAT-CATCHER (*Gobemoucheron gris-bleu*) included one on May 4 at Saint John (Merv Cormier), May 8-12 at Mary's Point (David Christie), a female on May 19 at MSI (Ralph Eldridge), one on May 19 near Baie Sainte-Anne (Alain Clavette), one on May 22 at GMI (Roger Burrows), and on May 22 at White Head Island (Stu Tingley).

Connie Colpitts had the first report of EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*Merlebleu de l'Est*) on April 18 at Mollins Road, Moncton (reported by Connie Colpitts). Ralph Eldridge reported VEERY (*Grive fauve*) at MSI on May 8.

A SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Grive à dos olive*), at Doaktown on May 17, is the earliest we are aware of (Ken MacIntosh). Roger Burrows found HERMIT THRUSH (*Grive solitaire*) on April

19 at White Head Island; one was also noted at Point Lepreau on April 20 (Richard Blacquiére). Ralph Eldridge reported "several" WOOD THRUSH (*Grive des bois*) on May 9 at MSI; Denis Doucet reported that a Wood Thrush struck a window at Kouchibouguac National Park on May 27. Ruth Miller and Kathy Popma heard a singing male while conducting atlas work near Robichaud-Cormier Village on June 8. Stu Tingley found a male in "perfect" breeding habitat at Robertville on June 19. Another was at Musquash on June 19 (Ken MacIntosh).

Merv Cormier had the first report of GRAY CATBIRD (*Moqueur chat*) on May 4 near Saint John. NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*Moqueur polyglotte*) were reported on May 14 at North Head, GMI (Peter Pearce) and on May 16 at Riverview Marsh (Gilles Bourque reporting for MNC). One was a fixture on the coastal trail "Harbour Passage" in Saint John throughout June and July. Sandra Cooper spotted a begging juvenile tended by an adult on the trail on July 29. Two BROWN THRASHERS (*Moqueur roux*) were at MSI on April 29 (Ralph Eldridge). One was also at Wilkins Field, Fredericton, on May 27 (Peter Pearce), and on June 18, one was chased by a territorial Gray Catbird at the Marathon Inn, North Head. Another was at Saint John west on June 26 (Rebekah Johansson).

Peter Smith reported five AMERICAN PIPITS (*Pipit d'Amérique*) at Maces Bay on May 10.

A lingering BOHEMIAN WAXWING (*Jaseur boreal*) was at Carman Creek, Fredericton, on May 21 (Peter Pearce). Perhaps coincidentally, May 21 featured the earliest reports of CEDAR WAXWING (*Jaseur*



Wood Thrush
Photo by M. Cormier



Cedar Waxwing
Photo by C. Chanas



Black-throated Green Warbler
Photo by C. Clunas

d'Amérique), when 15 or more were at Mary's Point (David Christie); Roger Burrows noted them at Grand Manan the same day.

While driving through St. Martins in a downpour on June 23, Ted Sears managed to spot a male GOLD-EN-WINGED WARBLER (Paruline à ailes dorées) flying across the road. The first reports of TENNESSEE WARBLER (Paruline obscure) were on May 19 near Baie Sainte-Anne (Alain Clavette), several at Doaktown (Ken MacIntosh) on May 23, and near Bathurst on May 24 (John Kowtaluk and Roger Guillard). Several observers noted Tennessees where they have not been seen in recent years. Roger Burrows found an ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (Paruline verdâtre) on May 23 in the Hampton area; one was also at Escuminac on May 18 (Norm and Gisèle Belliveau, Caroline Arsenault, Rose-Alma Mallet). Alain Clavette noted one on May 19 near Baie Sainte-Anne. David Christie reported two NASHVILLE WARBLERS (Paruline à joues grises) on April 29 near Mary's Point.

NORTHERN PARULA (Paruline à collier) was first detected on April 30 by Harvey McLeod at St. Andrews, and by Merv Cormier at Saint John. Ralph Eldridge noted YELLOW WARBLER (Paruline jaune) on May 9 at MSI. CHEST-NUT-SIDED WARBLER (Paruline à flancs marron) was reported on May 10 at Ingalls Head, GMI (Roger Burrows). Merv Cormier saw a MAGNOLIA WARBLER (Paruline à tête cendrée) on April 28 in a flock of yellow-rumps near Saint John; two were at MSI on April 29 (Ralph Eldridge). CAPE MAY WARBLER (Paruline tigrée) was detected on

May 2 while on a tour of the Jemseg area (Norm Belliveau and MNC group). The first reports of BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (Paruline bleue) were on May 9 at Riverside-Albert (Norm, Gisèle, Gilles Belliveau, Rose-Alma Mallet), on May 11 at Coldstream (Grant Milroy), and also on May 11 at Kerrs Ridge (Todd Watts). YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (Paruline à croupion jaune) arrived in numbers the last week of April, but one early arrival (or overwintering bird) was at Mary's Point on April 16 (David Christie). BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (Paruline à gorge noire) was observed on April 29 at Kerrs Ridge (Todd Watts) and on April 30 at Saint John (Merv Cormier). Norm Belliveau and a group from MNC reported BLACK-BURNIAN WARBLER (Paruline à gorge orange) on May 2 during a visit to Jemseg. Nelson Poirier had a PINE WARBLER (Paruline des pins) visiting his feeder at Miramichi on April 24.

A nice spring observation was a PRAIRIE WARBLER (Paruline des prés) found May 9 at Riverside-Albert (Norm, Gisèle, Gilles Belliveau, Rose-Alma Mallet). Arriving PALM WARBLERS (Paruline à couronne rousse) were noted on April 17 at Anchorage Park (Durlan Ingersoll) and the same day at Mary's Point (seen by John Inman, reported by David Christie). Alain Clavette found a BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (Paruline à poitrine baie) on May 13 in a wooded area near Moncton. The first BLACKPOLL WARBLER (Paruline rayée) was reported on May 16 at MSI (Ralph Eldridge). BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLERS (Paruline noir et blanc) were found on April 29—one near Mary's Point (David Christie), one at Lorneville (Merv Cormier), and one at Kerrs Ridge (Todd Watts).

The earliest report of AMERICAN RED-START (*Paruline flamboyante*) was at Hampton on May 11 (Harvey McLeod). Ralph Eldridge had the first OVEN-BIRD (*Paruline couronnée*) on May 7 at MSI. NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Paruline des ruisseaux*) were found on May 2 near Jemseg (Norm Belliveau and MNC group) and on May 3 at Hampton (Harvey McLeod). Todd Watts had an early MOURNING WARBLER (*Paruline triste*) at Kerrs Ridge on May 4.

Merv Cormier reported a COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*Paruline masque*) at Lorneville on May 2. WILSON'S WARBLER (*Paruline à calotte noire*) was found on May 16 at Riverview Marsh (Gilles Bourque reporting for MNC). The first sighting of CANADA WARBLER (*Paruline du Canada*) was on May 19 near Saint John (Merv Cormier).

A male SUMMER TANAGER (*Tangara vermillon*) was at Seal Cove, GMI, on April 17 (reported by Durlan Ingersoll), and a female was at Seal Cove on May 14 (Roger Burrows). The first SCARLET TANAGER (*Tangara écarlate*) observed was at Upper Sackville on May 8 (Tina Hicks, reported by Kathy Popma). Dwayne Sabine was lucky to have one singing in his yard in Douglas on July 10-11.

Ralph Eldridge reported EASTERN TOWHEE (*Tohi à flancs roux*) at MSI on April 29. Hank Scarth saw one at Moncton on May 8. Other sightings were on May 12 at Levy Road, Moncton (Lawson Bell, reported to David Christie); on May 16 by Denis Doucet in the Moncton area; in Fredericton on July 6 (Linda Kneebone); and in Fredericton on July 13 by Peter Pearce.

Arrival of CHIPPING SPARROW (*Bruant familier*) was noted on April 16 in the Moncton area (Bev Schneider)

and on April 17 at Roy LaPointe's St. Leonard feeders. Stu Tingley heard a CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Bruant des plaines*) singing and saw it perched on a treetop at Salmon Beach (near Bathurst) on June 15. It was still present a week later.

Reports of FIELD SPARROW (*Bruant des champs*) were noted on May 2 at Point du Chêne (Stu Tingley), May 22 at White Head Island (Merv Cormier and Durlan Ingersoll), and on May 24 near Bathurst (John Kowtaluk and Roger Guitard). Ralph Eldridge reported one or more GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Bruant sauterelle*) at MSI prior to May 28. Roger Burrows reported his first sighting of NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (*Bruant de Nelson*) for the year at Ox Head, GMI, on June 7. A FOX SPARROW (*Bruant fauve*) was seen in the Memramcook Valley on April 16 (Alain Clavette). Ralph Eldridge found LINCOLN'S SPARROW (*Bruant de Lincoln*) at MSI on May 9, and a SWAMP SPARROW (*Bruant des marais*) was at Atholville on April 26 (Margaret Doyle). A WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (*Bruant à couronne blanche*) was at the feeder of Margot Morris in Riverside-Albert on April 20; another was at MSI on May 2 (Ralph Eldridge).

A lingering LAPLAND LONGSPUR (*Bruant lapon*) was among ten Snow Buntings on May 3 at Maisonette Dune (Frank Branch); Stu Tingley found a male in breeding plumage on May 25 near the Dorchester penitentiary. Many SNOW BUNTING (*Bruant des neiges*) were noted in the northeast in late-April after a rough winter (Brian Dalzell, Stu Tingley, and others).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Cardinal à poitrine rose*) were spotted the



Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Photo by M. Cormier



Blue Grosbeak
Photo by M. Cormier

second week of April at Red Head (Merv Cormier) and on April 26 at St. Martins (Ted Sears). Merv also saw a male BLUE GROSBEEK (Guiraca bleu) the second week of April at Little Lepreau; one was at Mary's Point on April 29

(John Inman). After the first reports of INDIGO BUNTING (Passerin indigo) in early-April, there were many observations, especially in the Southeast. Ralph Eldridge had the first BOBOLINK (Goglu des prés) report on May 10 at MSI.

Brian Dalzell observed an EASTERN MEADOWLARK (Sturnelle des prés) on April 18 on the approach to the Confederation Bridge.

Janet Cormier found a first spring male YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (Carouge à tête jaune) on May 30 near the Salisbury Road, outside Moncton. Two reports of RUSTY BLACKBIRD (Quiscale rouilleux)

were received on April 28, one in the Keswick area (Bev Schneider) and the other at Point Lepreau (Richard Blacquire).

A first summer male ORCHARD ORIOLE (Oriole des vergers) was at Mary's Point on May 5 (reported by Marc Chiasson and said to have been present three days); others were seen on

May 8 at MSI (Ralph Eldridge); on May 14 at North Head, GMI (Peter Pearce); a male at St. Martins on May 23 (Ted Sears); and on June 16, Samuel Denault and Kyle Wellband found a pair nesting near Hartland. April 29 featured three reports of BALTIMORE ORIOLE (Oriole de Baltimore): one at Grand Manan (Durlan Ingersoll), two at MSI (Ralph Eldridge), and one at Mary's Point (John Inman).

PURPLE FINCH (Roselin pourpré) were widespread in small numbers by mid-April. Peter Pearce saw two HOUSE FINCH (Roselin familier) at Fredericton on July 13 (Peter Pearce). There were two reports of RED CROSS BILL (Bec-croisé des sapins) at feeders in the Moncton area: two were at a feeder on May 2 at Second North River (Bob Blake) and were at a feeder in Riverview on June 1 (Judi Berry-Steeves).

A late COMMON REDPOLL (Sizerin flamme) was at a feeder with Siskins in Fredericton on May 9 (Dwayne Sabine). David Christie reported having a pair of EVENING GROSBEEKS (Gros-bec errant) make occasional visits to the feeder at Mary's Point in mid-June. Ke MacIntosh noticed pairs in Charlotte County and Northumberland County in early-July.

Botany Corner - Pressing Plants

Gart Bishop
Sussex

How can you stretch the botany season beyond May to September? The season races from Bloodroot through to Goldenrods and the next thing you know the leaves have fallen off and there is a skiff of snow on the ground. Too often during the summer my kitchen table has had an old pickle bottle on it filled with some wild collection needing identification. In the past, they might get neglected, wilt, or go to seed before I got to them. Now, I press them and then from October to April, I can identify them at my leisure.

Plant presses are so simple and inexpensive to make it seems silly to buy them (they cost \$40+). While you can make them any size you wish, there is a standard size used around the world. Start with two 12" x 18" plywood pieces, 3/8" thick or thicker. Drill a bunch of holes in them to help air circulate. Cut some corrugated cardboard into similar sized pieces. If you can find blotting paper that can be cut to this size, great; if not, at building supply stores you can pick up, very cheaply, some of the paper used on top of subfloors that can be used as blotters. Next, take a newspaper and tear it into single pages, each of which you fold in two to create a single newspaper sleeve into which a plant specimen will be placed. The last item needed is a pair of nylon straps, which can be picked up at a dollar store. A couple of pieces of rope will work as well.

When you are pressing a specimen, you are basically making a sandwich. Start with one of the plywood ends, put a cardboard on top, then a blotter (if you don't have one, the plants seem to

press just as well) and then a newspaper sleeve, in which you place the plant specimen. You may wish to write the specimen's information such as the date of collection, location, habitat, and GPS co-ordinates (if you have them) in a notebook. If so, number the newspaper sleeve with the same number as you use in your notebook. If you don't use a notebook, make sure that you write directly on the newspaper. This information often helps you in identifying the

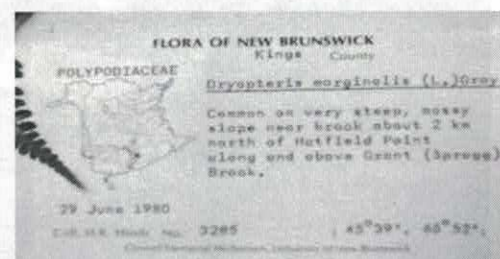


Loaded plant press
Photo by G. Bishop

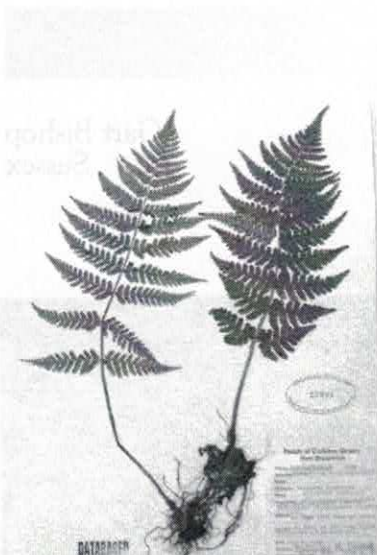
plant, and makes it valuable if donated to a provincial herbarium. Please: don't omit this step!

On top of the sleeve, you put another blotter, another cardboard, another plant in its newspaper sleeve. End off with a cardboard, then the other plywood end. Place the straps around the press and tighten. If you are using ropes, tie them with slip knots.

Plants take from two to ten days to dry out, depending on how juicy the plants



Specimen label
Photo by G. Bishop



Pressed and mounted specimen
Photo by G. Bishop

are. I find that setting the press in the sun or in front of a low speed fan quickens the drying process considerably.

Remember that once your collections are dry, specimens can last hundreds of years if they are kept dry and free of insects. If you get stumped trying to identify your specimens (and from time to time we all do), you can ask others such as Stephen Clayden at the New Brunswick Museum, Bev Benedict at the Connell Herbarium

at UNB Fredericton, or me. Once you've identified the plants, you could start a personal collection, but if that is not your desire, as long as you have the date and location data, specimens are always welcomed at both our provincial herbaria.

Have fun collecting and I hope to hear from some of you this winter!



Herbarium at UNB Fredericton
Photo by G. Bishop

Bioblitz 2009 - The Jacquet River Gorge Protected Natural Area

Donald F. McAlpine,
New Brunswick Museum
Saint John

What's a bioblitz? According to Wikipedia it's a special type of field study where a group of scientists and volunteers conduct an intensive biological inventory, attempting to identify and record all species of living organisms in a given area (sometimes in as little as 24 hours). The area chosen is often a nature reserve of some sort. In June of this year, the New Brunswick Museum (NBM), in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources and the Protected Natural Areas (PNAs) Scientific Advisory Committee, initiated just such a program with two weeks of intensive work in the Jacquet River Gorge (JRG) PNA, east of Dalhousie.

To date 60 areas on provincial Crown land have now been set aside as conservation sites under the New Brunswick Protected Natural Areas Act. Some of these sites are representative of landscapes and biodiversity in various regions in the province, while others have been set aside to protect a particular feature or species of concern. Four of the sites (Bull Pasture Bog, Hovey Hill, Whitehorse Island, Wilson Brook) are listed as Class I PNAs and are considered too sensitive to permit public access. The remaining sites are Class II and are open to low-impact recreational activities only, including hiking, hunting, fishing, and trapping. Of course none of the PNAs are open to industrial or large-scale commercial use.

The intention is that these sites will help maintain provincial biodiversity into the future. The new management policy for Crown forest will see the area on Crown land devoted to PNAs double from its

current total of 157 815 hectares. The recently released Provincial Biodiversity Strategy also makes it clear that PNAs have an important role to play in biodiversity conservation in the province, but the PNA Act also mandates that management plans be prepared for each PNA. So how does one develop management plans to maintain biodiversity when one doesn't really know what species are present? One way to begin is with a bioblitz.



Dr. Stephen Clayden and Kendra Driscoll share some of their lichen findings with visitors to the 2009 Bioblitz Open House held in New Mills, NB.
Photo by NB Museum

While some New Brunswick PNAs are relatively small, ten of the existing sites are quite large, ranging from 2823 to 26 022 hectares (Table 1). First protected in 2003, these large sites were chosen because they are the least-disturbed representatives of their habitat types; generally, few roads divide them. And not surprisingly, nearly all of these PNAs have been poorly studied. Over the past two years, under the auspices of the PNA Scientific Advisory Committee

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and partly with New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund assistance, species lists based on existing information have been developed at the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (AC CDC) for the ten large PNAs. In most cases nearly all available species records for these PNAs consist of bird and vascular plant occurrences.

A glance at Table 1 shows just how little we know about these important New Brunswick conservation sites and how much work is ahead of us. In every case far less than a single species record/hectare has been documented for any of these PNAs, and the ratio of species/hectare is only a fraction of that expected from each PNA. Recent estimates suggest that the Atlantic Maritime Ecozone (NB, NS, PEI, part of Quebec) supports about 32 000 terrestrial and freshwater species (McAlpine and Smith, in press. "Assessment of species diversity in the Atlantic Maritime Ecozone," National Research Council Press). If, for example, one-tenth of these species occur in the JRG

PNA (not an unreasonable estimate, I think), it would appear that there is room to expand the current species list of 311 species for this PNA by about 12 times (from 0.01 species/hectare to about 0.12 species/hectare).

Figures for records/species provide a crude index of the sampling effort that will be required to produce such an inventory. If it has taken 1091 occurrence records to produce 311 species for the JRG PNA so far (i.e., 3.51 occurrence records/species), we can expect we will need to collect over 11 000 occurrence records before we come close to fully documenting the biodiversity of the JRG PNA (assuming 3200 species are present). And it will probably take a good deal more than this since, as the tally mounts, effort/species can increase dramatically.

Grand Lake Meadows, with far more occurrence records (6520) than any other NB PNA, is a good example of this; the records/species figure for this

Table 1. Levels of biodiversity documentation in the ten largest Protected Natural Areas of New Brunswick as of May 2009. Figures for records and species are based on a draft AC CDC report to the PNA Scientific Advisory Committee.

Name	Hectares	Records	Species	Records/hectare	Species/hectare	Records/species
Black River	3 997.4	266	181	0.07	0.05	1.47
Caledonia Gorge	2 823.2	1 239	229	0.44	0.08	5.41
Canaan Bog	20 650.3	436	193	0.02	0.009	2.25
Canoose Flowage	4 083.1	825	335	0.20	0.08	2.46
Grand Lake	10 697.0	6 520	948	0.61	0.09	6.59
Jacquet River Gorge	26 022.1	1 091	311	0.04	0.01	3.51
Kennedy Lakes	20 596.3	1 261	292	0.06	0.01	4.32
Loch Alva	21 983.1	2 997	607	0.14	0.03	4.94
Nepisiquit	11 894.5	1 187	288	0.10	0.02	4.12
Spednic Lake	25 726.3	1 102	514	0.04	0.02	2.14

PNA is 6.59. Using this figure it will require some 21 000 occurrence records to produce a reasonably complete species inventory of the JRG PNA.

This kind of information, combined with this year's cash contribution to the bioblitz and the number of occurrence records we probably produced (~1200), allows one to estimate what it could cost to produce a reasonably complete species inventory for the JRG PNA. The figure, which does not include volunteered time, is actually rather staggering:

\$228 000 – \$440 000. Of course there are few places on the planet where anything close to a full species inventory for a site has been accomplished, and we are under no illusions that such work can be completed through a mere few seasons of bioblitzing. Still, we do expect we can make a very significant contribution to the overall understanding of the biodiversity of these large and sometimes fairly inaccessible sites, especially with respect to species groups that are now widely assessed for their conservation status (some fungi, lichens, mosses, vascular plants, selected insect groups, mollusks, and vertebrates). The results will hopefully stimulate further field study in the PNAs, will contribute to the development of long-term management plans for these important conservation areas, and will undoubtedly provide information of interest to those concerned with conserving provincial biodiversity generally. So, from June 12-25, and undaunted with the task ahead, some 27 intrepid biodiversity specialists and others descended on the JRG PNA (Figure 1). Most were volunteering their time and expertise, and all were well armed with insect repellent and head nets. This is the largest and one of the least-known PNAs,

an area of heavily forested, rugged, hilly uplands, cut by (sometimes deep) river gorges. In addition to NBM scientists, individuals from a number of other institutions and agencies, including the Canadian Museum of Nature, University of New Brunswick, New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources, Acadia University, University of Ottawa, and the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre participated in the 2009 bioblitz.

About half a dozen student participants, ranging from a budding high school entomologist to several graduate students, proved to be some of the most enthusiastic bioblitzers, regularly working in the lab until late into the evening. Student participation proved to be an important component to the project. While students were provided learning opportunities in systematic research and natural history (sadly, becoming increasingly rare in universities these days), there is no substitute for eager, able-bodied researchers-in-training when gear needs to be moved through dense, mosquito-infested brush, carried across fast-flowing rivers, or when beetle traps need to be monitored into the wee hours!

Funding for the two weeks of intensive study in the JRG PNA in 2009 was provided by the Toronto-based Salamander Foundation, New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund, Belledune Regional Environmental Association, Port of Belledune, Campbellton Rotary Club, and the Restigouche Naturalists' Club, along with several individual donors. This year experts focused on fungi, lichens, mosses, vascular plants, beetles, butterflies, dragonflies, amphibians, and small mammals. Bird surveys for the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas were also carried out by members of the Restigouche Naturalists' Club in conjunction with the bioblitz.

A return trip, now in the planning stages for July-August 2010, will extend work on some of the same species groups covered this year, with others certainly added.

Two weeks of intensive study have already produced some interesting findings. While it will be many months before the results of the work are fully known, some of the early discoveries emphasize just how productive these intensive sessions can be. Dr. David Malloch and Dr. Adrian Carter, both NBM Research Associates and experienced mycologists, identified a number of fungi

from the JRG PNA that are very rare or extremely poorly known in North America. Among these is the Charred-pancake Cup (*Sarcosoma globosum*), a very rare fungus associated with old-growth red spruce stands that has been recorded in Canada on only 3-4 occasions previously, and never in Atlantic Canada. This species is now red-listed as endangered in a number of European countries.

Fungi are vitally important in the way forest ecosystems function and play a huge role in ensuring a sustainable forest. One of the other fungi discovered



Dr. Adrian Carter (left) and Dr. David Malloch point out a spot on the forest floor where the rare Charred-pancake Cup fungus was discovered during recent biodiversity studies in the Jacquet River Gorge Protected Natural Area.
Photo by NB Museum

in the Jacquet River Gorge PNA has only been reported previously in Canada from British Columbia—on spruce—and another had not been seen since it was named in the late-1800s from material collected in Newfoundland.

Dr. Stephen Clayden, NBM Research Curator of Botany and Mycology and an authority on the lichens of eastern Canada, collected several lichens on rock bluffs along the Jacquet River that were previously unknown from Atlantic Canada; in one case there is only a single previous North American report.

Vascular plant botanists participating in the bioblitz reported an abundance of orchids in the JRG PNA unheard of elsewhere in the province, along with unusually diverse concentrations of ferns.

Over the coming months, as the species inventory for the Jacquet River Gorge PNA is built, the NBM will post new results on the museum website (www.nbm-mnb.ca). Efforts have been made to collect voucher specimens for deposit in the NBM for all species encountered, with full data on these specimens being added to the searchable internet databases now on the NBM website. These databases, in turn, feed information to various global biodiversity inventory initiatives. At the same time, information will be provided to the AC CDC to augment the previously meager species list for the JRG PNA.

There is no wish to see information on the PNAs only accessible in scientific databases. Engaging communities adjacent to each PNA will be vital if the PNAs are to be successful in their goals as outlined in provincial legislation, and in management plans now in development. This year's JRG bioblitz attracted

a good deal of enthusiastic support locally in Dalhousie, Belledune, New Mills, and surrounding communities.

We were very fortunate in that the project received superb support locally from Mike Lushington of the Restigouche Naturalists' Club, and from Jim and Lynne Hayes of the Blue Heron Bed and Breakfast. Neither will we forget the three local ladies who provided 175 wonderful evening meals (some of our experts will no doubt return next year just for the food!).

About mid way through the project, the doors of the bioblitz lab were thrown open, and the public was invited to peer through microscopes and talk to experts and, in this way, share in some of the discoveries being made on their doorstep. We were encouraged to find the parking lot near our rented, wireless internet-equipped, former church hall (turned into a fine lab within hours of our arrival with the addition of microscopes, drying ovens, a freezer, and a small library of identification manuals) overflowing with visitors by late afternoon on the appointed day.

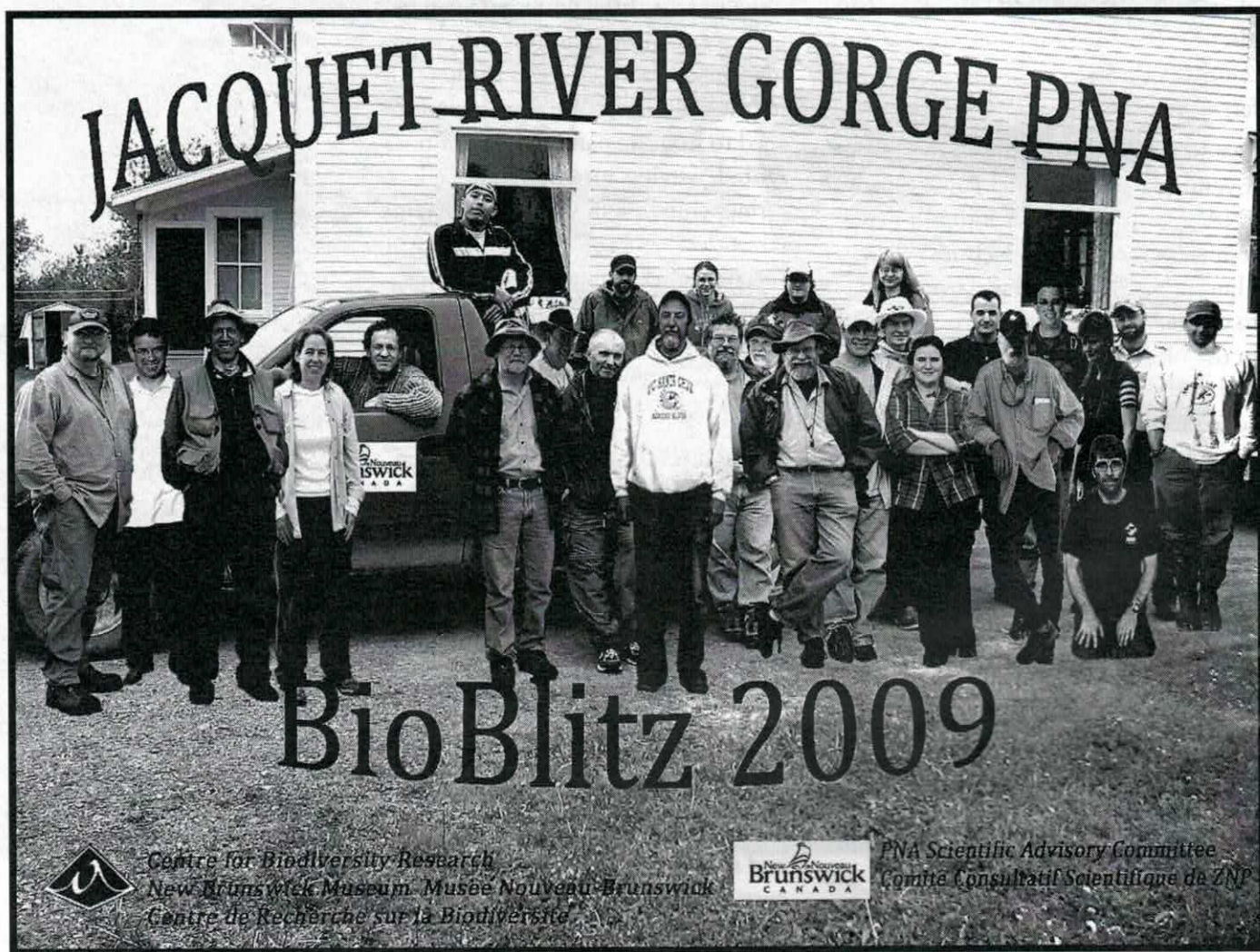
While it is estimated that more than \$100 000 worth of volunteer time is being provided to this year's effort by various specialists—several recognized internationally for their expertise—about \$25 000 in cash will also be required each year. Fundraising for 2010 is already underway. Much of the funding is used to feed hungry field workers (there is no quicker route to mutiny in a field camp than through bad food!) and to rent accommodation and space for a lab set-up. Some travel costs are covered for experts, and funds are needed for various supplies and to

replace or purchase needed equipment. In the years that follow, our preliminary plans call for a bioblitz in two consecutive years in each of the ten large New Brunswick PNAs. The New Brunswick Museum, long a source of expertise on the biological diversity of the province, recently established the NBM Centre

for Biodiversity Research to further this goal. The hope is that the NBM Centre for Biodiversity Research will provide a focus for work that has been ongoing for some time and will help NBM researchers in raising funds to support biodiversity-based research projects like an annual New Brunswick PNA bioblitz.

Participants in the first New Brunswick PNA bioblitz. Left to right, back to front: Martin Marshall, Gary Chouinard, Dr. Donald McAlpine, Maryse Bourgeois, Dr. Stephen Clayden (in truck), Howard Huynh, Bruce Bagnell, Dr. Graham Forbes, Dr. Randy Miller, Joseph Pratt, Dr. David Malloch, Katelyn Vandebroek, Dr. Reginald Webster, Jim Clifford, Geoff McBriarty, Gert Bishop, Dr. Adrian Carter, Karen Vanderwolf, Aaron Fairweather, Kendra Driscoll, Paul Sokoloff, Mike Lushington, James Upham, Sabine Dietz, Roland Chiasson, David Mazerolle, JF Dufour.

Photo by NB Museum



A Brief History of the Jacquet River Gorge Protected Natural Area

Mike Lushington
Dalhousie

The Jacquet River Gorge lies to the south of the village that shares its name (as part of the larger community of Belledune). The river itself arises in the high country of what is still referred to as "the Southeast" - a major part of the Upsalquitch Crown Lands licence. From its source in the Jacquet River Lakes, it flows generally north, collecting feeder streams and brooks - as well as a couple of branches of water that also share the name. Along its course, it enters a steeply sided gorge; it is that gorge that provides many of the unique facets of the river, and the rationale for setting the whole area aside as one of the ten major Protected Natural Areas that were identified by the Province during the time of the previous government.

Jacquet River Gorge is the largest, the most northerly, and perhaps the least well known of the ten PNAs. When the legislation establishing them was promulgated, Local Advisory Committees were appointed to fulfill a number of tasks. The first of these was to develop a functioning management plan. In order to have such a plan, it was realized that a comprehensive inventory of what is in the PNA - what plants, animals, insects, amphibians, reptiles, geological formations, and other natural features that make it an area worthy of long term protection - would be required.

Enter the New Brunswick Museum. Under the direction of curator Don McAlpine, the museum has undertaken to conduct inventories of the ten large PNAs - and to start with Jacquet River Gorge. A year ago, McAlpine and

several scientists and field workers from the Department of Natural Resources conducted a brief survey of the area, largely to develop a working plan for a fuller "bioblitz" this summer. On June 12, McAlpine and his team (including several of the foremost natural scientists in their respective fields) began their work in the Gorge. For the following two weeks, they drove, walked, climbed, crawled, waded, and paddled into as many remote sites within the PNA as time and their own limits of toleration for wet clothing and voracious insects would permit. By the end of that time, they had come up with one firm conclusion - they had to come back next year to continue their studies. And so it is planned.

Over the next months, we can expect to find out more and more about what they have been able to determine thus far. We can already determine, though, that their efforts have kindled considerable interest in the area, both locally and provincially.

Recently our provincial government decided to disband the Local Advisory Committees. They made no provisions for anyone to assume the critical work of developing management plans for the PNAs and even went so far as to reduce professional staff who had been working on them within the Department of Natural Resources to a skeleton crew. (It seems evident, at least to me, that the government would like for nothing more than to see interest in the PNAs wane to the point where many of the most important provisions of the governing

legislation - those dealing with the long-term biodiversity of the areas and their protection from any form of harvesting - could be quietly shed.)

However, at least in the Jacquet River Gorge PNA, a local committee is forming to assume an ad hoc responsibility for its long-term management. The plan, in its embryonic state, is to adopt the central premise of the original legislation, while tying the PNA in with other areas of significant natural interest or importance within the region. The Belledune Regional Environmental Association (BREA) has identified five such areas in eastern Restigouche County and western Gloucester County and proposes to develop a management and promotional plan to encompass them over the next few years. The PNA is the largest of these and is considered, in the words of one of its spokespersons, to be the crown jewel in its plans.

In the long run, the government's heedless actions may actually have precipitated what should have been

taking place over the next few years in any case. Those of us who have been involved with the PNA program for the past several years have come to realize that the value of any protected area must eventually be appreciated at the local level. Disbanding the government directed LACs allows more interested local people to become directly involved in the management process. If the initial enthusiasm for becoming so involved materializes into a functioning management committee, we will indeed have something of great worth to pass along to our children and grandchildren. If it doesn't, I, for one, will not be content to throw verbal rocks at a short-sighted and careless government (although I will continue to do that as well); I will have to accept some of the blame for allowing a priceless opportunity to slip away.

In the meantime, I await the results of this year's efforts with great interest - and I am already looking forward to the resumption of the field work next summer.

Vicissitudes of the Tern Colony on Machias Seal Island

Tony Diamond
University of New
Brunswick, Fredericton

Machias Seal Island (MSI) is a small (9.5ha) rocky island 18km southwest of the southern tip of Grand Manan, equidistant from the coast of Maine. It is a Migratory Bird Sanctuary managed by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), with a permanently-manned lighthouse maintained by the Canadian Coast Guard. It was one of the few seabird colonies in the Gulf of Maine to retain significant numbers of breeding seabirds despite extensive hu-

man depredation in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Since 1995 my research group at UNB in Fredericton has studied the seabird community there every summer, concentrating on the survival, movements, productivity (breeding success), and diet of Atlantic puffins, razorbills, and Arctic terns, and productivity and diet of common terns.

MSI is the largest puffin and razorbill colony in the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy region, with about 3000 and 700 pairs

respectively. Until 2006 it was also the largest tern colony in the region, with about 1000 pairs of common terns and 2000 pairs of Arctic terns; the Arctic tern colony seems to have been the largest in North America. While the auks (puffins and razorbills) have maintained vigorous breeding activity throughout the last 14 years, the terns suffered almost complete breeding failures in the wet summers of 2004 and 2005, and in 2006 they abandoned the island after two-thirds of the eggs laid were taken by gulls within two weeks of laying. In 2007 and 2008, a few hundred pairs laid eggs but did not incubate them, and the colony was abandoned by the third week of June, before any chicks could hatch.

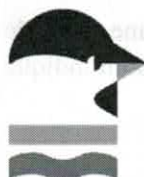
CWS records show that the MSI tern colony was occupied continuously at least as far back as 1873; in that period total breeding failures were recorded in

only two years (1942 and 1944) and the colony abandoned only once (in 1944). So since 2004, the colony has experienced two events (total or near-total failure) experienced only twice in the previous 130 years, and four successive years of abandonment, experienced only once in 130 years. What led them to take this drastic step? Was it food supply, predation, or something else?

Our only way of assessing the food supply available to the seabirds is by watching them bring food in to their chicks; conveniently, all these species carry their prey prominently in the bill, and our students spend many hours in observation blinds watching for these food deliveries and recording the kind of prey brought in, and their length relative to the bird's bill. From these data we learned that there has been a steady decline (about 5% per year) in the amount



Puffin with smorgasbord, including hake, nereid worm, and krill.
Photo by T. Diamond



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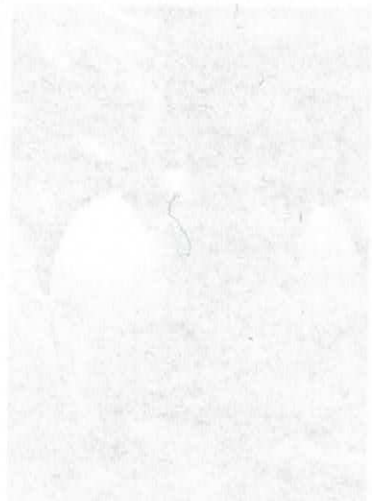
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of young herring brought in by all the seabird species; this decline was sharpest in the terns, which feed within a few centimetres of the sea surface, and less steep in the auks, which dive tens of metres below the surface in search of prey. The reasons for this evident decline in availability of small herring are unclear, but in their place the birds switched to larval fish (which have little nutritional value) and small krill. Only razorbills, the deepest divers, have continued to bring herring to their chicks, but even they brought about half as many herring in 2007-8 as in the mid-1990s.

Gull predation has increased significantly since the year 2000; in 2006, gulls were clearly responsible for wiping out most of the first wave of egg-laying in

the tern colony. Well-fed terns attack predators – including gulls – and drive them out of the colony, but terns in poor condition do not. Added to this was the cessation of lethal control of gulls by CWS, whose representative prior to the year 2000 had a permit to “shoot-to-scare” in defence of the terns and auks (occasionally scaring them to death!); this has not been the case since 2000. Gulls in the area have also received an increased “subsidy” in the form of bait discarded by fishermen hauling lobster traps in the “grey zone” (the area of disputed U.S./Canadian jurisdiction around the island), as both countries encouraged their fisherfolk to assert sovereignty around the island. In the last two years over 30 pairs of gulls have



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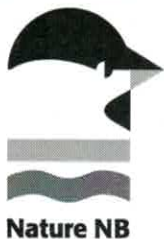
nested on Gull Rock, just offshore from MSI, compared to a handful of nests in earlier years.

I am writing this at the end of July 2009, in the wind and fog swirling around the island. Once again the terns nested in only small numbers this year, and abandoned their nests several weeks ago; but in the last week they have returned in force and are back by the hundreds, swirling above the island all day, landing in former nesting sites, carrying fish and

displaying in courtship. This behaviour is characteristic of the start of the breeding season, in late May, and it is baffling to see it in late July. This summer the herring have returned, and puffins and razorbill chicks have grown fat on them; have the terns perhaps detected this, and decided to stake out potential nesting areas in anticipation of returning next year? And will they be able to deter the increasing numbers of gulls that have grown accustomed to foraging throughout the colony in recent years?



*Common Tern with fish
Photo by E. Tompkins*



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Are Chimney Swifts Roosting Near You?

Chimney Swifts are a nationally threatened species under the federal Species at Risk Act and need your help. In summer, Chimney Swifts commonly use large chimneys as roosts, and those that are large enough may harbour several hundred birds. A roosting site is a gathering place during migration, a place for swifts to spend the night, or a place to seek shelter during inclement weather. It is like a community center from where pairs disperse to nest while the non-breeders remain at the site all summer.

As part of recovery efforts for this species, the Canadian Wildlife Service is gathering information on roosting sites in New Brunswick. If you observe a Chimney Swift roosting site in your area, we would like to hear from you!

Send your observations to/ Envoyez vos observations à :

Karen Potter, Species at Risk Recovery Biologist
Canadian Wildlife Service /
Service canadien de la faune
Environment Canada
16th Floor, Queen Square
45 Alderney Drive
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 2N6
Email: karen.potter@ec.gc.ca
Phone: 902-426-2578

Des Martinets ramoneurs nichent-ils près de chez vous?

Le Martinet ramoneur est une des espèces jugées menacées au Canada en vertu de la Loi sur les espèces en péril du gouvernement fédéral. Il a donc besoin de votre aide. L'été, le Martinet ramoneur se sert souvent des grandes cheminées comme

perchoir. Les plus grandes peuvent même abriter plusieurs centaines d'oiseaux. Ce sont dans ces aires de repos que les Martinets se rassemblent durant les migrations. C'est là qu'ils passent la nuit et qu'ils se protègent du mauvais temps. L'aire de repos est un peu comme un centre communautaire où les oiseaux non reproducteurs vont demeurer tout l'été alors que les couples repro-

ducteurs se dispersent pour établir leur nid.

Dans le cadre des mesures qu'il prend pour favoriser le rétablissement du Martinet ramoneur, le Service canadien de la faune cherche à recueillir de l'information sur ses aires de repos au Nouveau Brunswick. Si vous remarquez la présence d'une de ces aires dans votre secteur, veuillez donc nous en informer!



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