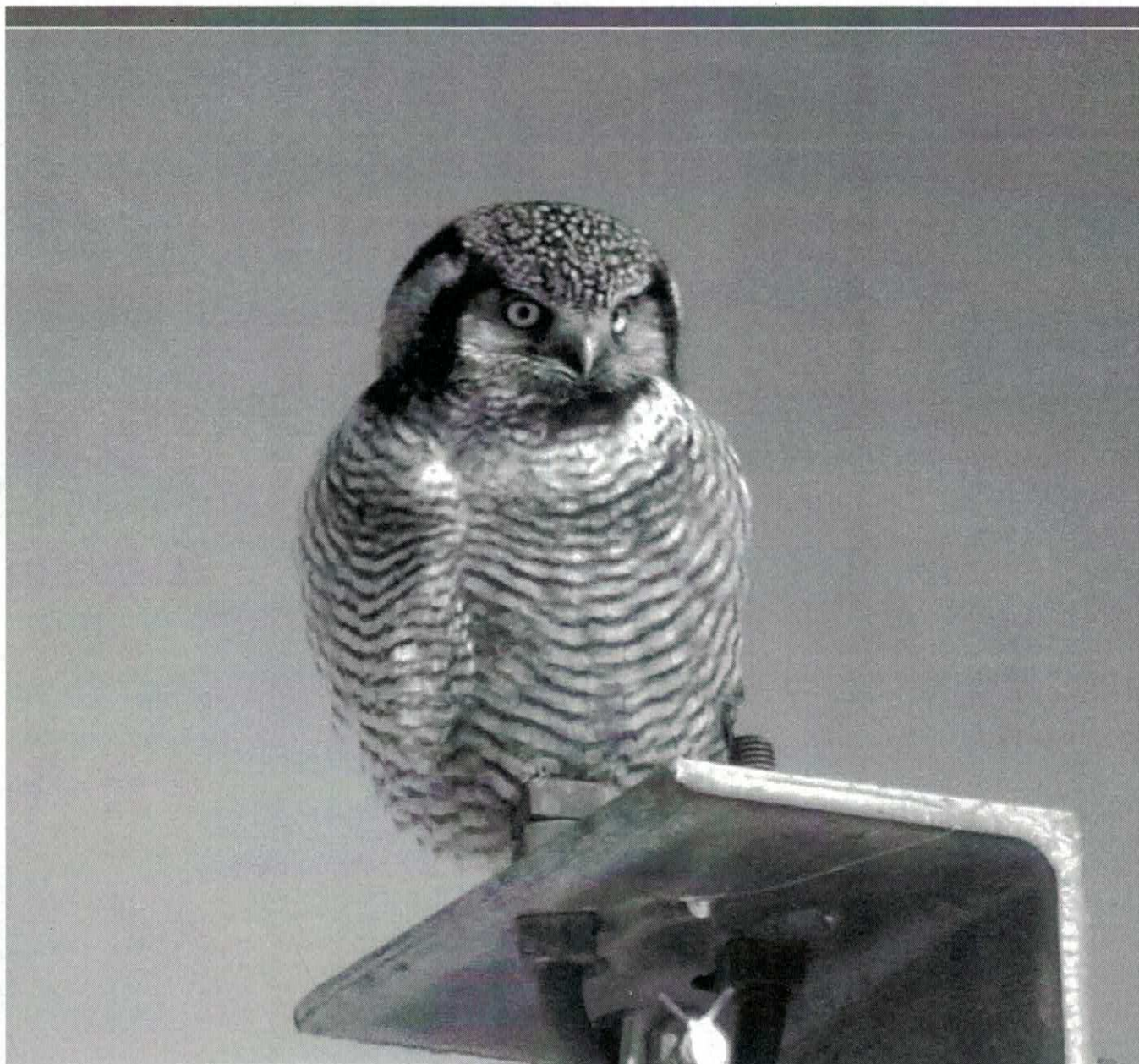


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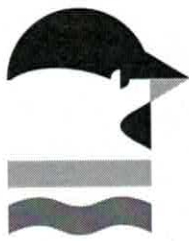


# Naturaliste du **NB** Naturalist



Willow Flycatcher • Wild Raisin • L'inventaire des limicoles des Maritimes  
Pileated Woodpeckers





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924 rue Prospect St.  
Suite 110  
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Nature NB is a non-profit, charitable organization whose mission is to celebrate, conserve and protect New Brunswick's natural heritage, through education, networking and collaboration. (The former name of Nature NB – New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists / Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick is retained for legal purposes.)

Nature NB est un organisme de bienfaisance à but non-lucratif qui a comme mission la célébration, la conservation et la protection du patrimoine naturel du Nouveau-Brunswick par l'éducation, le réseautage et la collaboration. (L'ancien nom de Nature NB, soit « Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick / New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists », demeurera le nom légal de l'organisme.)

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Photo: Roy LaPointe (Jan 5, 2010, along Hwy 17 in St. Leonard)

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Please submit articles for the next issue by **April 30, 2010.**

S.v.p. soumettre les articles pour le prochain numéro avant le **30 avril, 2010.**

To / à Gart Bishop, 16 Pitt St. Sussex, NB E4D 1J1, (506) 433-4994, gartali@nbnet.nb.ca

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Merci beaucoup à tous les bénévoles dévoués qui ont contribué à cette publication.

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Naturaliste du NB 1



## President's Message

Gart Bishop

# Traditions

One of my Christmas traditions is to participate in the Sussex area Christmas Bird Count. I believe that I've been doing so for over twenty years, and I usually undertake it with my good friend Darren Byers. We have been covering the same territory each year, exploring a new side road, walking a new bush road or following a new brook.

It has always been exciting when we've discovered a new winter bird for ourselves. Highlights for us have been Barred Owls, Black-backed Woodpeckers, Red-tailed Hawks and robins. Neither of us considers ourselves to be good birdwatchers. We can usually identify all the birds we encounter—provided the birds stay put long enough. The first year we encountered a flock of Red-polls, we spent the better part of 2 hours trying to get close enough to identify them!

We've had our share of strange looks from home owners, wondering why we've stopped in front of their house on a country road and are peering around with a pair of binoculars. We've puzzled farmers as to why we've driven up into their barnyard and are searching their manure

piles, barn peaks and rafters. Pigeons and English sparrows don't usually attract so much attention! Occasionally, when we've stopped in the middle of some open field and are enjoying a flock of snow buntings, a passing car will stop to ask if we need help. In recent years we have taken to putting a sign in the back window telling folks what we are doing. It helps somewhat and seems to add legitimacy to the activity.

On the years when the birds just aren't around ... none at the feeders, none in the fields or on the wires, none in sewage lagoons ... then we just walk—and talk. There is something comforting and soothing in strolling along an old, snow covered road while catching up on the thoughts and the happenings in the life of a good friend. Some years I confess we do more talking than bird watching. And our lunch! Oh what a lunch we pack, filled with smoked salmon, gouda cheese, peanut-butter balls, shortbreads, mandarin oranges, cashews and a large thermos of hot coffee. Can it get any better?

There is something almost delightfully naughty in taking a day to indulge in a seemingly frivolous, self-gratifying activity while much of your surrounding world is filled with crazed consumers frantically shopping in crowded malls.

I hope participating in the Christmas Bird Count is a tradition I can continue for many more years to come. If you haven't tried it, consider making room for it next year ... and if you need further convincing, remember that you are helping to collect important wildlife data for a North American tradition that has been going on since 1900.

Birdwatching vehicle  
Photo D. Byers





# Les traditions

Une de mes traditions favorites du temps des fêtes consiste à participer au Recensement de Noël de Sussex. Je le fais habituellement avec mon bon ami, Darren Byers, et si ma mémoire est bonne, ça fait plus de 20 ans que l'on y participe. Chaque année, nous couvrons la même zone en tâchant toujours de découvrir une nouvelle route secondaire ou encore d'explorer une nouvelle piste en forêt ou de suivre un nouveau ruisseau.

Bien sûr, un des aspects toujours le plus excitant c'est la découverte d'un nouvel oiseau hivernal pour nous. Parmi nos plus belles trouvailles, au cours des années; une Chouette rayée, un Pic à dos noir, une Buse à queue rousse... et des merles. Ni un ni l'autre ne nous considérons comme des ornithologues hors pair, mais nous réussissons tout de même à identifier tous les oiseaux que nous trouvons... s'ils demeurent en place assez longtemps. La première année, nous avons aperçu une volée de petits oiseaux, et après 2 heures d'effort pour s'en rapprocher, nous avons enfin réussi à les identifier : des Sizerins flammées!

Nous avons aussi eu droit à notre part de regards étranges venant de propriétaires qui, à l'évidence, se demandaient d'où sortaient ces deux énergumènes arrêtés sur une route de campagne, devant leur maison, et qui regardaient tout autour avec des jumelles. Nous avons rendu perplexe, plus d'un fermier qui se demandait pourquoi nous tenions à examiner sa pille de fumier ou encore sa grange de si près. Les pigeons et moineaux n'attirent pas d'habitude autant d'attention. Parfois, alors que nous sommes arrêtés sur le bord d'un champ pour observer avec plaisir une volée de Bruants des neiges une voiture de passage s'arrêtera et le conducteur nous demandera : « Vous avez besoin d'aide? ». Depuis quelques années, nous

avons pris l'habitude d'installer une affiche dans la fenêtre arrière de la voiture qui explique aux gens ce que nous faisons. Ça peut aider tout en donnant un certain air de légitimité à l'activité.

Et puis, au cours des années, lorsque les oiseaux ne sont simplement pas au rendez-vous : rien aux mangeoires, rien dans les champs ou sur les fils, et même rien dans les étangs d'épuration...et bien, on se contente de marcher et de parler. Il y a quelque chose de rassurant et même d'apaisant dans le fait de se balader sur une vieille route enneigée tout en discutant de tout et de rien ou en s'informant de ce qui se passe dans la vie d'un vieux copain. Et, je dois avouer, que certaines années, on parle un peu plus que l'on observe. Et les casse-croûte! Ah quel merveille, remplis de saumon fumé, de fromage gouda, de boulette au beurre d'arachide, de galettes, de mandarines, de cashews et le tout, bien sûr, accompagné d'un thermos plein de bon café chaud. Le paradis quoi!

En plus, il y a quelque chose de délicieusement malicieux dans le fait de prendre toute une journée pour profiter d'une activité qui peut sembler un peu frivole et égocentrique alors que la plupart de gens autour de vous sont au prise avec la folie furieuse du magasinage de Noël dans des centres d'achats bondés à sur capacité.

Le Recensement de Noël. Voilà une tradition à laquelle j'espère bien continuer de participer pour de nombreuses années. Si vous ne l'avez pas encore fait, je vous recommande d'y goûter l'an prochain. Et si vous avez besoin d'un peu plus de motivation, rappelez vous que vous contribuerez ainsi à une collecte d'information importante sur la faune de l'Amérique du Nord qui est une tradition, pour des milliers de naturalistes depuis maintenant plus de 110 ans.

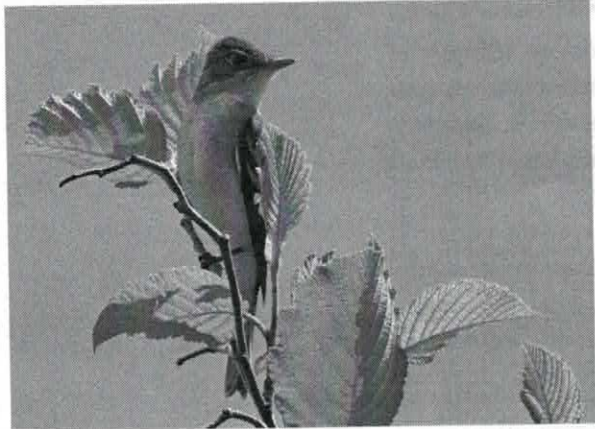
## Mot du Président

Gart Bishop



Peter Pearce  
Fredericton

## Nesting Willow Flycatchers: Pioneering in a Disturbed Environment



Willow Flycatcher at Wilkins Field  
Photo by H. Scarth

A study by Robert Stein of the song types of Traill's Flycatcher in British Columbia's San Jose valley led, in 1973, to the splitting of the one species into two—the southerly Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) and the northerly Alder Flycatcher (*E. alnorum*). In appearance, some empid species are notoriously difficult to separate

from others, perhaps no pair more so than Willow and Alder Flycatchers. But vocal clues may be diagnostic, the “fitz-bew” song of the Willow Flycatcher and its “whit” call note being quite different from the corresponding vocalizations of the Alder Flycatcher. Although the “creeet” song variation of the former, commonly heard on the breeding grounds, and other vocalizations are similar to those of the latter species, differences in behaviour and habitat preference may further facilitate the separation of the two.

### BACKGROUND

Willow Flycatchers were first reported from New Brunswick in 1981. The steadily increasing number of observations include my own of (probably breeding) birds at Sugar Island, Maugerville, and Maquapit Lake. During the first Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas project (1986-1990), Willow Flycatchers were noted in 23 squares, most in southeast New Brunswick. Single confirmations of breeding were reported from our province (Kings County) and Prince Edward Island. A summary of the second Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas

data, as of January 2010, revealed that by the fourth year, the number of squares in which Willow Flycatchers were detected was 42, an increase, compared to the first atlas, largely accounted for by a striking rise in reports from Nova Scotia. There were, again, two confirmations of breeding—one from New Brunswick (Gloucester County) and one from Nova Scotia. Although information from the two atlas projects (20 years apart) suggests that the Willow Flycatcher is on the march—possibly in response to climate change—it could still, perhaps, be characterized as a pioneer on the northeastern frontier of its summer range here in the Maritime Provinces.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

I first became aware of the occurrence of Willow Flycatchers at Fredericton in the mid-1990s, specifically at a formally unnamed site I chose to refer to as Wilkins Field, and embarked on a study of their breeding biology which, at various levels of intensity, spanned the 15 years from 1995 to 2009. The study area—marked cryptically on my topographic sheets as “Airfield - Condition Unknown”—is a tract of intervalle of about 28 ha, situated in the Nashwaaksis neighbourhood of Fredericton. It is bounded on the north by a small cat-tail marsh feeding into the Nashwaaksis Stream and on the south by the St. John River. Hedgerows mark east and west boundaries. Transecting the site in a parallel direction is a dirt road sandwiched between two hedgerows (but see below). The area is subject to inundation during the spring freshet; in the exceptional flood of 2008 it was under 3 m of water. The soil is heavy, with shallow pans



of surface water often lasting through the summer. Stands of cat-tail became more widespread beyond the marsh as parts of Wilkins Field became much wetter during my study. In other parts, especially in dry years, the ponds were more ephemeral. The hedgerows were composed mainly of alder with scattered willow clumps and occasional white birch, elm, aspen, and balsam poplar trees. The site has long since ceased to accommodate an airfield, although a short strip continues to be used by model-airplane enthusiasts. The land is privately owned by local resident Elbridge Wilkins.

#### THE BIRDS ARRIVE

Willow Flycatchers are among our latest returning spring migrants, so I checked for first arrivals every morning in late May and early June. Since it is a species thought to sing while migrating in spring, I presumed that when first heard, the bird(s) had just arrived, ready to begin territory establishment. From 1995-2007 the median arrival date at Wilkins Field was June 1, with two-thirds of the "first-heard" dates clustering between May 30 and June 4.

#### THE STUDY UNDERWAY

As I eased into my project, I became aware of the presence of two territorial males in both 1995 and 1996 and was soon quite familiar with the range of the Willow Flycatcher's vocal repertoire. By approaching singing birds ultracautiously, I was sometimes able to get as close as a few metres from them. I even came to believe I could identify them by appearance alone. Usually consistent features of Willow Flycatchers compared with Alder Flycatchers (in parentheses) which I noted were: eye ring barely perceptible (fairly prominent), back brownish green (olive green), and wing bar off-white (white, more prominent). The only place where I encountered one or two pair of Alder Flycatchers was in willow and alder

thickets adjacent the tree-lined bank of the St. John River. They were comparatively reclusive and rarely strayed from that vicinity. A Least Flycatcher was the only other empid I met during the study; almost every year one frequented the hardwood trees and shrubs by the marsh outflow.

A particular Willow Flycatcher behaviour seems worth recounting as follows:

One summer an individual sang day after day from a bare shoot at the top of a hedgerow willow, from where it swooped down to fly low over a pond to a hedgerow some 125 m distant. There it sang from the top of a dead elm before retracing its flight to its original song perch. It was a performance repeated many times. The following year I witnessed exactly the same behaviour, with the bird following precisely the same track. I had to think it was the same individual; it was like seeing an old friend again. I later observed the same phenomenon in a different part of my study area—the bird dropping from a high, exposed song perch and repeatedly flying back and forth low over an adjacent hayfield to a hedgerow about 100 m away.

#### THE BIRDS' NEST

I found nests of Willow Flycatchers each year from 1997-2004 except in 2001. Following is a summary of the most pertinent information:

Number of nests - 12\*;  
Average nest height - 1.6 m;  
Nest substrate - alder 9, red osier 2, red ash 1;  
Most eggs - 4 in three nests;  
Most young - 3 in two nests;  
Nest successes - 1; Nest failures - 10;  
Nest outcome unknown - 1;  
Probable cause of failure - predation 8, desertion 1, destruction by man 1. (\*Includes six nests in 1999,

Willow Flycatcher  
Photo by M. Cormier





three of which were replacements.) The eggs were buffy—Alder Flycatchers' are white—with brown spots and blotches around the large end. The nests were fairly compact, constructed mostly of grasses and sometimes much cottony material, conferring an overall grayish cast. Like those of Alder Flycatchers, all the nests had plant material hanging in streamers below. Unlike those of Alder Flycatchers, half of the nests incorporated small feathers. Nests in alders were sited in the outer parts of the shrubs. Re-nests were built within a few metres of the first ones. My inability to find predated nest remains in situ or on the ground nearby led me to surmise that replacements were constructed at least partly from materials salvaged from the first ones. After recording 10 (11?) Willow Flycatcher nest failures, it was rewarding, in 2004, to actually observe fledglings leaving the nest. Of further interest, at that very moment, young from another nest, which I had not previously found, were being tended by parents about 100 m away. (Full nest descriptions have been lodged with the Maritimes Nest Records Scheme and a nest placed in the science collections of the New Brunswick Museum.)

#### NEST PREDATION

Eighty percent of the Willow Flycatcher nests were predated, most of them at the egg stage. The few crows and grackles that frequented the site were, among songbirds, the only potential nest robbers I saw there. Among observed mammalian predators, foxes and skunks would likely have been unable to reach the flycatchers' nests. Not so with domestic cats and raccoons. Although their tracks were plentiful, I actually saw few raccoons, but I did not visit the area at night. Local residents certainly attested to their unwelcome presence about the neighborhood, and the large amount of "edge" at Wilkins Field would surely have been to the raccoons' liking. Where nests were destroyed

or thrown to the ground, I presumed mammalian, rather than avian, predators were the culprits, and I once noticed claw marks on twigs near a flycatcher's nest.

With regard to nest failures, what may be called the "observer effect" may have come into play if Willow Flycatchers are particularly intolerant of human disturbance near the nest and if raccoons are especially skilled human trail followers. With such in mind, I approached each nest carefully to avoid damaging nearby vegetation, sometimes via a circuitous route through water in the hope that the intentions of would-be predators might be thwarted. In any event, the total of 58 checks of nests that I made took only a minute fraction of the time (some 200 hours) I devoted to the project. (See below for other human disturbances.)

In addition to those of Willow Flycatchers, I found one or more nests of the following songbirds in hedgerows or alder clumps at Wilkins Field: Eastern Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, and American Goldfinch. The several kingbird and oriole nests were consistently successful, possibly because of their relatively safe position high in trees. About three-quarters of the nests of the other species failed, most, I suspect, due to predation.

#### FURTHER MONITORING

I continued to monitor Willow Flycatcher activity at Wilkins Field from 2005-2009. I discovered no additional nests but, on three occasions, found other confirmatory evidence of breeding, details of which follow:

2005 – Individual sang throughout June from the topmost shoot of a hedgerow willow, the same perch used by Willow Flycatchers in earlier years. Bird seen carrying nest material (grass) to bank of



alders adjacent cat-tail marsh, inaccessible on foot because of water depth.

2006 – At least one individual on territory. (I was unable to continue monitoring through the summer.)

2007 – Probably two pair present. Individual observed carrying food which appeared to be a berry, rather surprisingly. (But I learned that our tyrant flycatchers do, in fact, eat small amounts of wild berries.) The only fruit-bearing plants in the vicinity, I later discovered, were single specimens of chokecherry, hawthorn, and bittersweet-nightshade, but their berries would have been far from ripe.

2008 – Status uncertain. I eventually lost track of one that sang sporadically and, I thought, atypically and concluded that it failed to attract a mate.

2009 – One pair present; a presumed nuptial chase witnessed. Vocalizations infrequent. Individual observed collecting and carrying off tufts of old cat-tail cotton. Nest probably off-site.

#### HUMAN DISTURBANCES

The removal of so-called “topsoil,” to a depth of about a metre in some places, created a major disturbance at the site from 1980-2000, impinging for a few years on the period of my study. The noise and dust caused by heavy equipment passing within a few metres of occupied Willow Flycatcher nests in roadside hedgerows did not, curiously enough, appear to upset the birds for long. A bonus for visiting bird watchers was that, in the early years of my project, the operation created shallow ponds and muddy areas; this attracted a variety of dabbling waterfowl and passage

migrant shorebirds until the site gradually became recolonized by plants.

A significant impact on the habitat of nesting songbirds was occasioned in 2006 by the destruction, and subsequent suppressed recovery, of the two roadside hedgerows in which I had earlier found many of the Willow Flycatcher nests. The object was to accommodate vehicular traffic in connection with “Winterfest NB,” a recreational celebration since held annually. At the time, that hedgerow removal represented, for me, a kind of microcosm of the habitat degradation and loss suffered by so many of our songbirds. And yet, it is thought that landscapes favoured by breeding Willow Flycatchers are, actually, largely the product of human activity.

Further habitat loss was caused by the clearing of hedgerows to facilitate line-of-sight control of model airplanes and by the removal of trees near the cat-tail marsh. Other human activity at the site included the exercise of unleashed dogs (including intimidating Irish wolfhounds), the occasional field dog trial, and even the rare drop-in by a powered paraglider.

#### CONCLUSION

The open, shrubby, riparian attributes of the site, together with the abundance of “edge” and presence of scattered, bare-topped trees, seemed to meet just the right breeding-habitat requirements of *E. traillii*. A continuing dynamic of high levels of human disturbance and natural predation, changing water regime, and vegetative cover should reward further investigation of the welfare of Willow Flycatchers at Wilkins Field.

#### Acknowledgments

My thanks are expressed to the following: Donald Gibson, who visited one of the Willow Flycatcher nests during my absence; Scott Makepeace, who helped find two of the Willow Flycatcher nests and provided critical comment on the manuscript; Dwayne Sabine, who kept me up to date on the breeding bird atlas project; and Elbridge Wilkins, who allowed me unrestricted access to his land.

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## Biodiversity Conservation: Our Shared Legacy

Whether through our work at Mary's Point Shorebird Reserve or our long-running "Species at Risk" program (formerly the Piper Project), Nature NB has always been an active partner in protecting New Brunswick's natural heritage. Furthermore, local naturalists have demonstrated an ongoing dedication to grass-roots conservation initiatives such as the Christmas Bird Count and Plant Watch. Nature NB is proud to offer a new conservation initiative that will combine our conservation mandate with knowledge and enthusiasm of the local naturalist community.

Nature NB, in partnership with the Nature Trust of New Brunswick and the NB Department of Environment, is embarking on a new long-term conservation project that aims to engage New Brunswickers in biodiversity conservation. This program will offer naturalists and the general public the opportunity to collect biodiversity data, from birds to botany, on ecologically significant areas throughout the province.

*Nature Observation*  
Photo by V. Roy-McDougall



Ecologically significant areas, also known as ESAs, were first identified by the Nature Trust of New Brunswick and aimed to bring together information on sites having a rich diversity of species or sites with special features, e.g., rare plants or animals. The Nature Trust's work to identify the province's ESAs has become a key resource for countless land management projects, and Nature NB's conservation initiative aims to help update the information on these sites in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of New Brunswick's protected areas.

The short-term goals of this project are to develop easy-to-use tools such as an ecological area monitoring kit that will enable naturalists, youth, and the public to monitor protected areas, as well as to increase awareness and knowledge about New Brunswick's protected and ESAs through educational materials and presentations. In the long term, we hope to develop a provincewide sustainable initiative that encourages New Brunswickers to take ownership and, ultimately, responsibility and action toward protecting their protected and ecologically sensitive areas.

In the spring and summer of 2010 we will be initiating this project in the Saint John and Acadian Peninsula regions, followed by a provincewide launch in early 2011. We look forward to working with naturalists across the province in our shared commitment to conservation.

This project has been graciously funded by the Environment Canada EcoAction Community Funding program, the NB Environmental Trust Fund, and the NB Wildlife Trust Fund.



# La conservation de la biodiversité :

## Notre héritage commun

Que ce soit par notre travail à la réserve des oiseaux de rivages de Mary's Point ou par notre programme de longue date Espèces en Péril (autrefois sous le nom Projet Siffleur), Nature NB a toujours été un partenaire actif dans la protection de l'héritage naturel du Nouveau-Brunswick. De plus, les naturalistes locaux démontrent un dévouement continu pour des initiatives de conservation populaire tel que les recensements d'oiseaux de Noël et opération floraison. Nature NB est fier de présenter une nouvelle initiative de conservation qui combinera notre mandat de conservation avec les connaissances et l'enthousiasme de la communauté locale de naturalistes.

Nature NB, en partenariat avec La fondation pour la protection des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick et le Ministère de l'environnement, se lance dans un nouveau projet de conservation à long terme visant à engager les Néo-Brunswickois dans la préservation de la biodiversité. Ce programme viendra offrir aux naturalistes et au public en général l'opportunité de rassembler des données allant des oiseaux à la botanique dans des Aires Écologiques Significatives de la province. Les Aires Écologiques Significatives, ou A.E.S., ont d'abord été identifiées par La fondation pour la protection des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick et avaient pour but de rassembler de l'information sur des sites avec une riche diversité d'espèces ou sur des sites avec des caractéristiques particulières, comme des plantes ou oiseaux rares. Le travail de La fondation pour la protection des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick pour identifier les A.E.S. de la

province est devenu une ressource clés pour de nombreux projets de gestion des terres. Les efforts de conservation de Nature NB vise à actualiser l'information de ces sites afin d'assurer la viabilité à long terme des aires protégées du Nouveau-Brunswick. Les objectifs à long terme de ce projet visent à développer des outils facile d'emploi comme une trousse de suivi des aires écologiques qui va permettre aux naturalistes, aux jeunes et au public d'effectuer un contrôle des aires protégées ainsi que de participer à la sensibilisation et l'éducation du public concernant les A.E.S. et les aires protégées par l'entremise de matériel éducatifs et de présentations. À long terme, nous espérons développer une initiative provinciale viable engageant les Néo-Brunswickois à prendre possession des A.E.S. et des aires protégées encourageant ainsi chaque individu à prendre des actions responsables dans la protection de celles-ci.

Au printemps et à l'été 2010, nous amorcerons ce projet dans les régions de St-Jean et de la Péninsule acadienne suivis d'un lancement provincial en 2011. Nous attendons avec impatience de travailler avec les naturalistes de la province dans cet engagement commun de conservation.

Ce projet a été gracieusement financé par le Programme de financement communautaire ÉcoAction d'Environnement Canada, le Fonds en fiducie pour l'Environnement du Nouveau-Brunswick et le Fonds de fiducie de la faune du Nouveau-Brunswick.

Vanessa Roy-McDougall  
Nature NB  
Fredericton



Doug Watling  
Gagetown

## Wings Over Queens County Soars On Long Weekend

On May 22 and 23, 2010, the village of Gagetown will be hosting Wings Over Queens County: A New Brunswick Festival of Nature.

Nature NB has scheduled its Annual General Meeting for May 21 in Gagetown to coincide with the event.

Wings Over Queens County is a co-production of the Fredericton Nature Club and A Celebration of Birds, Gagetown's resident birding group.

"We're extremely excited to be organizing this event together," said Bonnie Hamilton Bogart, co-chair of A Celebration of Birds. "It's a new way for Nature NB to be doing the AGM, and the collaboration should mean greater visibility for everyone involved."

"We're hoping to open things up to newcomers," said Glenda Turner, Nature NB rep for the Fredericton Nature Club. "We'd like people to see what we care about and what we're doing to protect our natural heritage."

To that end, organizers have put together an ambitious dawn-to-dusk program of workshops, field trips, and exhibits over the two days. The activities and sessions include an assortment of nature jaunts, birding walks, and botanical expeditions, as well as forays into the worlds of insects, monarchs, and bats.

Local photographers and artists will be leading field trips and workshops, too.

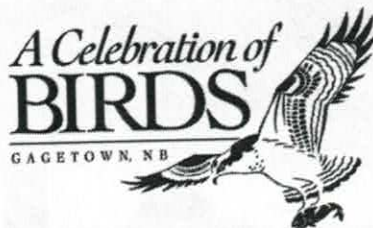
"Our presenters have been very, very enthusiastic," said Hamilton Bogart. "They're thrilled to be offering their expertise to these particular workshops."

One of the presenters is Janet Barlow. Barlow is the director of Halifax's Sense of Wonder Environmental Education program and the Canada Country Coordinator of Joseph Cornell's Sharing Nature Foundation. She'll be leading a Saturday workshop entitled "Nurturing the Young Naturalist: Sharing Nature with Young People." Barlow will also be running a panel and networking session for educators and naturalists.

Amongst other off-the-beaten-path activities: a field trip to Minto for a lesson in coal-bed botany, led by Liz Mills of UNB, and an excursion to the Nerepis Hills in Base Gagetown, usually off-limits to the general public, led by Deanna McCallum.

That's just a taste of 40 programs on the agenda, most taking place in and around the village of Gagetown, next door to three rivers, eight lakes, a number of protected natural areas and Grand Lake Meadows, the largest wetlands area in New Brunswick. The region is home to over 260 species of birds.

"The centrality and the diversity of species make Gagetown a natural fit for anything having to do with nature," said Hamilton Bogart. "We want to be a community that doesn't take nature for granted, and Wings Over Queens County is our way of celebrating the natural world."





# Maritimes Nest Record Scheme

Kate Robinson  
Sackville

**Y**ou are invited to get involved in the Maritimes Nest Record Scheme this season!

WHAT IS THE MARITIMES NEST RECORD SCHEME?

The Maritimes Nest Record Scheme (MNRS) is essentially a collection of nest record cards and online submissions, each detailing one or more visits to a bird's nest (while eggs or young were present) or to an active nesting colony in the Maritime provinces of Canada. These records, especially from nests visited several times, have potential for monitoring the health of bird populations and the impacts of human activities on birds. Some ways in which these data can be used are:

- monitoring clutch size, hatching and fledgling success, predation rates, and other factors, over time, to determine whether enough young are being raised to maintain populations;
- providing information on seasonal timing of breeding to identify when bird nests may be vulnerable to habitat management techniques such as forest harvest or hay mowing;
- documenting effects of climate change on seasonal timing of breeding, breeding success, or distribution;
- evaluating impacts of various predators, and of the parasitic Brown-headed Cowbird, on nesting success;
- documenting basic breeding biology, including habitat, nest sites, incubation and fledging periods, re-nesting or multiple broods, and so on.

By sending in nest records to the Maritimes Nest Record Scheme, volunteers provide several kinds of important in-

formation useful in bird conservation. Since the 1960s, MNRS has accumulated more than 48,000 nest records, representing every species in the main text of the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas (Erskine 1992). The records have been consulted over the years by federal and provincial biologists, university students and faculty, environmental consultants, authors, and other individuals. This year will be the Maritimes Nest Record's 50th anniversary so we are preparing a special annual report that will be sent out to all nest record contributors.

Contributions are welcomed from both specialist and occasional nest-finders. Many contributors find just a handful of nests each year while others build up their nest finding into an absorbing hobby. Investigating nesting attempts gives a marvellous insight to the private lives of birds and provides useful information for nesting studies and species conservation.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Please contact Kate Robinson at [kate.robinson@ec.gc.ca](mailto:kate.robinson@ec.gc.ca) to obtain nest record cards, the handbook, and our report for 2009.

## PARTICIPATING IN MNRS IS EASY

Nest record cards, the handbook, and the annual report are free to all participants and will be sent to you upon request. Follow the instructions in the handbook and the code of ethic. Take proper care when observing nests. Read the Nest Recorder's Code of Conduct in the handbook and follow it at all times. It is important to put the bird's interests first and not to endanger the nest. If the code is adhered to, there is no need to worry that the nest might suffer and you can be sure that the

Canadian Wildlife Service | Service canadien de la faune

Environment Canada | Environnement Canada

Atlantic Region | Région Atlantique

17 Waterfowl Lane | 17 ruelle Waterfowl

Sackville (NB) E4L 1G6 | Sackville (N.-B.) E4L 1G6

[nature@ec.gc.ca](mailto:nature@ec.gc.ca)

Telephone | Téléphone 506-364-5044

Facsimile | Télécopieur 506-364-5062



information gained will be of benefit to conservation and science. Complete one card per nesting attempt and send in your cards for all recorded nests.

Data can also be submitted online to Project NestWatch on the Bird Studies Canada website: <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/volunteer/pnw/index.jsp?lang=EN&targetpg=index>

All the Maritimes data submitted online to Project NestWatch or the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas is integrated with the data mailed-in on nest record cards. So go

ahead and use the method you feel most comfortable with for your data submissions. Please only submit your nest record data for a nest once by one method to avoid duplications. If you are entering Atlas data online, you can enter nest data under the nest records tab. Please feel free to send in your pictures of nests, eggs, nestlings, and fledglings if you would like to share them in our annual report.

Good luck birding and enjoy nest finding this season!

## Lots of Indigos in Douglas

Ron Hallett  
Douglas



Indigo Bunting  
Photo by R. Hallett

Indigo Bunting  
Photo by M. Cormier



Last spring on the NatureNB email forum, observers reported seeing Indigo Buntings along Route 105 in Douglas and hoped they'd stay. They did; they do. Roger Burrows suggested in *Birds of Atlantic Canada* (2002) - a few of the Indigo buntings seen ... arrive as early as April, stay until late-May, and then disappear again ... heading for southwestern New Brunswick and southern Quebec to nest. Well, one neighbor stated that hers has been at their house and feeders since 1992, and in 1991, a Bluebird above the roadside alders in front of our house turned out to be an Indigo Bunting. On July 5, 1993, a birder from Quebec, who was staying at my mother's Applet Bed & Breakfast farm, included an Indigo among 34 species listed on his walk that morning. That Indigo was singing right across the orchard from my house while one sang from the alders at roadside - dueling males each claiming a few acres of orchard and ditches.

Soon well distributed in the neighborhood, people began telling us that they, too, had both males and females coming to feeders.

Each year I found several Indigo males and females in the old orchards and fields, roadside alders, and along the NB Trail/Sentier NB from Currie Mountain to Keswick and up off the Carlisle Road on Reva Ridge. Then I started finding their fledgling/juvenile family groups. So I started my usual route in 2009 with good intent, finding males and some females quickly, most in "their" same locations, some missing. Later my count was up to 12 males after getting deeper into the orchards, yes, walking up these hills. I was pretty gouged and scratched all summer from raspberry and blackberry bushes.

I've listened to their soon familiar song right into August year by year - those characteristic paired notes, usually three, followed by a jumble, sweet, sweet, tweet tweet, cheap cheap, tweedle-dee-deep. Don't forget that distinctive hard spik-call. If you like mnemonics and technical



stuff, see what Donald Kroodsmas tries to teach us. I won't say they are the same males each year; it just seems obvious that some know where to return, whether first-year or experienced males. I don't claim to recognize individuals, though I have honed my skill through Kroodsmas's various books and CDs in which he is essentially teaching bird song. I do think I knew some of the guys returning to my bailiwick some years - one spring I noted a dramatic shift in their local song indicating new males.

It seems to me that Indigo males love sunny weather and seem less vocal in cloudy weather, particularly as summer comes on. I think they're less noisy because they're busy with fledglings - in early July here - although some experts say males do not "tend" fledglings. But they still sing into August. After finding the first family group in early July, I watched behaviour at all my usual locations, so I soon found a whole bunch of family groups. Obviously,

nesting had taken place pretty much in the same time frame. I also found my first groups from second nests, one as late as the first week of September.

New fledglings may first be heard and not seen, hiding down low to the ground among tall grass and vegetation. Males sing nearby and the females may "pop-up" for a "look-see". I found this quite tell-tale because females otherwise stay pretty secretive. I found several groups this way and by observing that males were singing near the ground, not from prominent perches, and tended to follow me around somewhat. Again, it seems to me that they are occupied with young but can't keep quiet. Of course, there are the distinctive spik-calls by the juveniles from low in the vegetation in answer to parents or for location but those little brown jobs are hard to see where they are hidden.

Indigo Bunting  
Photo by R. Hallett



## Christmas Bird Count Sightings

As I've done in the last few years, I participated in six Christmas bird counts (CBC) in 2009. The most interesting birds spotted were Black-backed Woodpecker on the St Martins CBC and the Tufted Titmouse and Brown Thrasher on the Point Lepreau bird count. The most enjoyed sighting, however, was that of nine Northern Cardinals in the same tree on the Hammond River bird count. (Sorry, no group photo of the Cardinals, but I have two witnesses.)



Depuis plusieurs années, je participe à six recensements de Noël, incluant ceux de St. Martins, Pointe Lepreau, Black's Harbour, Grand Manan, Saint John et Hammond River. Cette année, les oiseaux les plus surprenants pour moi étaient le Pic à dos noir, le Moqueur roux et la Mésange bicolore. Mais l'événement le plus excitant était de voir neuf (9) Cardinaux rouges tous ensemble dans le même arbre (un érable) pendant le recensement de Hammond River (malheureusement pas de photo cette fois-ci, mais j'ai deux témoins).

Merv Cormier  
Saint John

Tufted Titmouse (left)  
Black-backed Woodpecker (below)  
Photos by M. Cormier





Katherine Bunker-Popma  
Sackville

## "It will probably take you ten years to finish this, but if you don't mind..."

When I retired, I thought I might do some volunteer work. The day I discussed this with Julie Paquet, a biologist at the local Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) office, my life changed considerably.

I told Julie I was available to help out with birds in any way she thought I could. When she hesitated to answer, I knew she had something in mind that might make use of me. With a sudden twinkle in her eye, she said, "There actually is something, and no one is doing it, but I think it might be too dull and boring for you." My curiosity was piqued... was there a local bird nest that needed monitoring? A lonely stretch of forest or beach that needed surveying? Some feathers that needed filing? "None of these", she said, then continued to describe her problem.

She said there were hundreds, maybe thousands, of old nest records all on index cards which could not be scanned and therefore were not available electronically for researchers. She said for a long time she has wished people could access this incredible mass of data when doing various projects, but few were willing to come to the office to physically search the old card catalogues (as we used to do in libraries) for nest site information because most people used computers nowadays and so the information stored on old nest record cards was not being used. Only the most recent records, from 2002 onwards, were scannable, and until another way of scanning was available the old record cards were useless to many research projects. Would I mind spending some time entering the data from them into the

online Project NestWatch program? She thought it was important and could possibly stretch into a few years' labour. And that was the beginning.

We had a look. There they were...close to the back of the CWS office in an aisle lined with other files and a photocopier were eight banks of small file drawers full of 3x5" index cards. All Maritime breeding species were represented, for all three provinces. Many cards had information on both sides. The cards had been carefully filled out by hundreds of observers over the years (some of you reading this today have your names on them; some of them sadly are no longer with us), with details of their observations including species' names, location, habitat, nest materials, nest position, altitude, height above ground, dates seen, time seen, the number of eggs and young, coded comments for activity of parents, spaces for maps and diagrams, and a place to indicate the nest outcome as a success, failure, or an unknown, with various items to describe these. The cards had been filled out mostly in ink, but some were in pencil, and had been stored carefully so not one was so faded or so poorly written as to be illegible.

Of course I would do it. It is a long winter here in Sackville; I could work at my home computer with my cats and the occasional glass of sherry to warm me up when the storms rage outside. Julie gave me a ten minute instruction course, and off I went.

So far I have done 21 species, about 2000 cards. As a birder who has a very





## Nature NB Annual General Meeting/A Festival of Nature May 21-23, 2010

*Hosted by A Celebration of Birds Nature Club, Village of Gagetown and Fredericton Nature Club*

A Celebration of Birds Nature Club is excited to join Fredericton Nature Club in hosting the annual meeting of Nature NB in our beautiful Village of Gagetown. It is our first time hosting the AGM. The AGM weekend coincides with our Wings Over Queen's County : A New Brunswick Festival of Nature for area residents and the general public. With three rivers, eight lakes, waterfowl compounds, marshes, forests, farmland and orchards, the Gagetown/Cambridge-Narrows area has much to offer in scenic landscapes, flora and fauna. Our birding list comprises 267 species. Our village, linked to Fredericton by road and ferry, is steeped in history and is home to a thriving community of artists and craftsmen.

**Where:** The Canadian Legion building at the corner of Tilley & Courthouse in Gagetown will serve as headquarters for the AGM. Registration, displays, the annual business meeting, breakfasts, and the Saturday banquet take place here. This is where most field trips begin and where bagged lunches are picked up. Locations for workshops and other events will be provided at registration, with directions and maps.

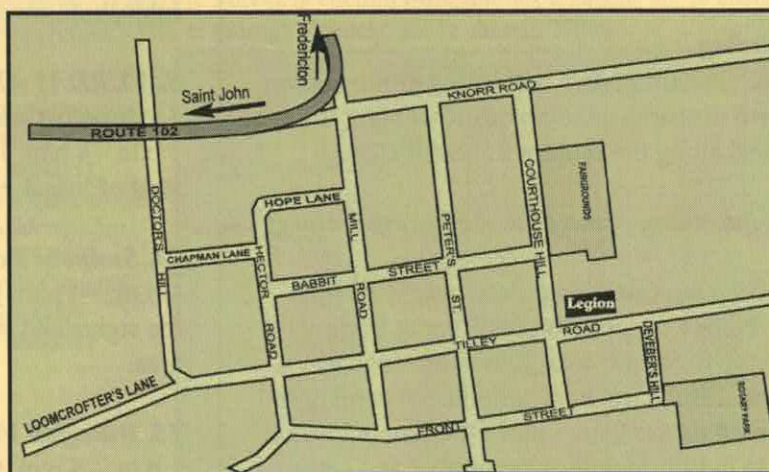
**Directions to Gagetown:** From Fredericton and Moncton on TransCanada Highway #2, take Exit 330 and follow Route 102 to Village signs. Follow Mill Road; turn left onto Tilley. From Saint John, take Route 102, exit at Doctor's Hill and turn left onto Tilley.

### Accommodations:

16 Doctor's Hill B&B, Gagetown  
(506) 488-2723  
Stepside B&B, Front Street, Gagetown  
(506) 488-1808  
Evandale Inn & Restaurant, Route 102 by ferry (506) 468-2222  
Days Inn, 60 Brayson Blvd, Oromocto  
(506) 357-5657. A block of rooms is reserved.  
Robin's Inn, off TransCanada Highway Exit 297 42 Chaperra Road  
(506) 446-9077  
Jemseg Lakeview Motel  
(506) 488-3334  
Gagetown Camping, Upper Gagetown  
(506) 488-2567  
Cambridge-Narrows Campground  
(506) 488-2000  
Micmac Campground, Cambridge Narrows (506) 488-2511

Casey's Campground, Sheffield  
(506) 357-8592  
Lakeside Camping, Young's Cove  
(506) 488-2321

Apartments, fully furnished:  
34 Old Mill Road, Gagetown, sleep 4  
(506) 488, 1908  
18 Front Street, Gagetown, sleeps 2  
(506) 488-2020



Courtesy of 6 Color Copy, Fredericton

**Things to Note:** Field trips and workshops are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Most can accommodate 20 participants. Other limits are stated in some field trip and workshop write-ups. Early registration is strongly advised. Ordered bagged lunches must be picked up at the Legion in the morning, whether you are participating in full-day or half-day events.

**Things to Bring:** We suggest you bring sturdy waterproof shoes/boots and jackets, insect repellent, sunscreen, field guides, binoculars, lightweight backpack and your own refillable water bottle. A small cooler could be useful. Water will be available at the Legion headquarters.

### Schedule

#### Friday

5 p.m.-9 p.m. Registration/Socializing  
7 p.m.-9 p.m. Annual General Meeting

#### Saturday

6 a.m.-7 a.m. Early Bird Outing  
7 a.m.-8 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
7 a.m.-12 p.m. Registration  
8 a.m.-12 p.m. Morning activities  
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Full-day activities

1 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Afternoon activities

6 p.m.-9 p.m. Banquet

#### Sunday

6 a.m.-7 a.m. Early Bird Outing  
7 a.m.-8 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
8 a.m.-12 p.m. Morning activities  
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Full-day activities  
1 p.m.-4 p.m. Afternoon activities



## **EARLY BIRD OUTINGS - SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

6 a.m. - 7 a.m.

1. *Saturday Dawn Chorus* with Kier Gigeroff

2. *Sunday Dawn Chorus* with Graham Forbes

## **SATURDAY FULL-DAY ACTIVITIES**

### **3. Coal-bed Botany**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Liz Mills leads a trip in the Minto area to discuss successful and unsuccessful efforts to bring the slag heaps back to productivity. We will meet Liz at the Minto Tim Horton's at 10:00 am.

### **4. Nerepis Hills**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Join Deanna McCallum, biologist with CFB Gagetown, on a tour of the Nerepis Hills section of Base Gagetown - an area with nesting Peregrines and other lovely sights, usually off limits to the public.

### **5. Upriver Birding**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Graham Forbes will lead a group upriver from Gagetown in search of some rarities among the many waterfowl along the Jemseg floodplain.

### **6. Nurturing the Young Naturalist: A Sharing Nature™ Workshop**

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Cambridge-Narrows Municipal Building and Pines Conservation Park. Janet Barlow of Sense of Wonder Environmental Education engages nature/outdoor educators, teachers, volunteers, parents and others in learning nature games and experiencing nature in new ways to help stimulate awareness of and sensitize children to nature. The day concludes with a panel discussion and networking session. Workshop continues on Sunday with a field component. Come prepared to be outside. Limit: 35 participants. Fee: \$25.

### **7. Plein Air Painting in Pastels**

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Richard Flynn takes you into the spring landscape around Cambridge-Narrows to learn techniques for using soft pastels. Bring some soft pastels, some Can-son paper, a drawing board and your easel. To register, contact Richard Flynn at (506) 488-2591 or [Richard@flynnfineart.com](mailto:Richard@flynnfineart.com) Fee: \$85

## **SATURDAY MORNING ACTIVITIES**

### **8. Enid Inch Memorial Walk**

8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Jim Goltz leads a walk in memory of End Inch, with a ceremony at 9 a.m. Jim then conducts a leisurely walkabout to explore sights and sounds in and around Gagetown.

### **9. Fredericton Area Nature Walk**

8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. We will travel to Fredericton where

Bev Schneider will show us around one or two of Fredericton Nature Club's favorite spots for birds and plants.

### **10. Bluebirds in Your Backyard**

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Dorothy Diamond talks about Eastern Bluebirds, their habits, trends, distribution, and competition and how to attract them to nest boxes. She will take you to some preferred Bluebird sites.

### **11. Learning About Lichens**

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Stephen Clayden of the NB Museum will explore the fascinating and sometimes minute world of lichens.

### **12. Willow Walk**

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Willows are fascinating but can be hard to identify. Join Richard Fournier on a trip along the Saint John shoreline in search of willows.

## **SATURDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES**

### **13. Insects Galore**

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Join Reggie Webster in search of every kind of insect you can imagine.

### **14. Sunpoke Pokeabout**

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Ron Wilson will lead this exploration of the sights and sounds of wildlife in the Sunpoke Lake area.

### **15. Waterfall Visit**

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Come along with Waterfalls of New Brunswick author Nicholas Guitard to experience some local falls. Expect moderately difficult, uneven terrain. Limit: 12 participants

### **16. Nature in Our Neighbourhood**

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Join a local naturalist on a leisurely walkabout to learn about local flora and fauna in and around the Village of Gagetown. Children welcome.

## **SUNDAY FULL-DAY ACTIVITIES**

### **17. Grand Lake Meadows Botany**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Gart Bishop will lead a group to explore the numerous plant species typical of flooded forest and field, and marsh.

### **18. Nerepis Hills Base Gagetown**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. See 4.

### **19. Downriver Birding**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Kier Gigeroff will lead a trip downriver, including Grassy Island, only breeding site for Greater Scaup in the region.



## Assemblée générale annuelle de Nature NB/ Festival de la Nature 21-23 mai 2010

Hébergé par A Celebration of Birds Nature Club, Village of Gagetown et Fredericton Nature Club

Le club naturaliste A Celebration of Birds est heureux de se joindre au Club des naturalistes de Fredericton pour accueillir les participants à la rencontre annuelle de Nature NB dans notre beau village de Gagetown. C'est la première fois que nous organisons l'AGA, qui coïncide cette année avec notre célébration Wings Over Queen's County : A New Brunswick Festival of Nature destiné aux habitants de la région et aux membres du grand public. Avec ses trois rivières, ses huit lacs, ses parcs de sauvagine, ses marais, ses forêts, ses terres agricoles et ses vergers, la région de Gagetown / Cambridge-Narrows a une mine de paysages, de flore et de faune à vous offrir. Son répertoire d'oiseaux compte 267 espèces. Notre village, lié à Fredericton par voie routière et par traversier, possède une histoire haute en couleurs et accueille une communauté prospère d'artistes et d'artisans.

**Où :** La Légion canadienne de Gagetown, située à l'angle des chemins Tilley et Courthouse, servira de quartier général à l'AGA. L'inscription, les kiosques, la séance de travail annuelle, les petits-déjeuners et le banquet du samedi soir y auront lieu. Ce sera également le point de départ de la plupart des sorties sur le terrain, et c'est où vous prendrez vos dîners pour emporter. L'emplacement des ateliers et des autres événements vous sera communiqué lors de l'inscription, avec des directives et des cartes.

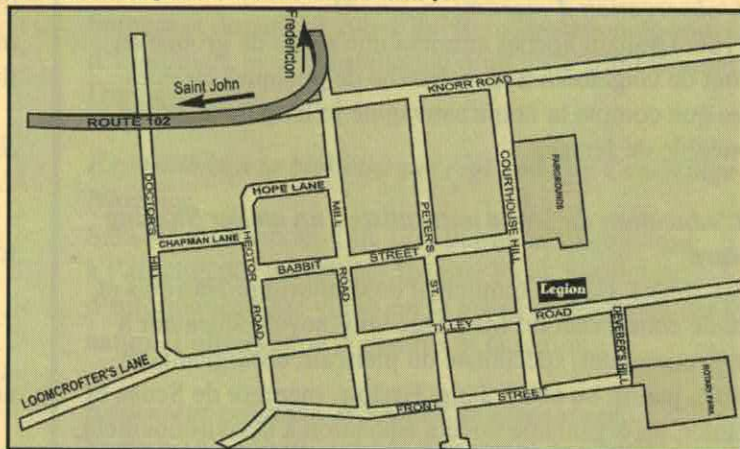
**Comment se rendre à Gagetown :** Depuis Fredericton et Moncton, sur l'autoroute transcanadienne 2, prenez la sortie 330 et suivez la Route 102 jusqu'aux panneaux annonçant le village de Gagetown. Suivez le chemin Mill; tournez à gauche sur le chemin Tilley. Depuis Saint John, prenez la Route 102, sortez au chemin Doctor's Hill et tournez à gauche sur le chemin Tilley.

### Hébergement:

16 Doctor's Hill B&B, Gagetown  
(506) 488-2723  
Stepaside B&B, rue Front, Gagetown  
(506) 488-1808  
Evandale Inn & Restaurant, Route 102  
(506) 468-2222  
Days Inn, 60 Boul Brayson, Oromocto  
(506) 357-5657. Demandez pour le prix de groupe de Nature NB.  
Robin's Inn, via Autoroute TransCanadienne, sortie 297, 42 chemin Chaperra  
(506) 446-9077  
Jemseg Lakeview Motel  
(506) 488-3334  
Gagetown Camping, Upper Gagetown  
(506) 488-2567  
Cambridge-Narrows Campground  
(506) 488-2000

Micmac Campground,  
Cambridge Narrows  
(506) 488-2511  
Casey's Campground,  
Sheffield  
(506) 357-8592  
Lakeside Camping,  
Young's Cove  
(506) 488-2321

Appartements, complètement meublés 18 rue Front, Gagetown, loge 2  
34 Chemin Old Mill, Gagetown, (506) 488-2020  
loge 4 (506) 488, 1908



6 Color Copy, Fredericton

**À noter :** Le nombre de participants aux sorties sur le terrain et aux ateliers est limité, et les places seront accordées aux premiers venus. La plupart des sorties sur le terrain pourront accueillir 20 participants. Certaines activités sont contingentées davantage, en quel cas le nombre de participants sera indiqué dans la description correspondante. Nous vous recommandons fortement de vous inscrire dès maintenant pour que votre place soit garantie. Les dîners pour apporter que vous aurez commandés seront disponibles à la Légion le matin même, que vous participiez aux activités d'une demi-journée ou d'une journée.

**À apporter:** bottes/bottines robustes et imperméables, insectifuge, eau, guides de terrain, crème solaire, bouteille d'eau réutilisable, jumelles ainsi que tout autre article suggéré dans les descriptions des activités. Une petite glacière pourrait être utile. De l'eau potable sera disponible à la Légion canadienne

### Grille horaire

<b>Vendredi</b>			
17h-21h	Inscription/Recontres	13h-16h30	Activités après-midi
19h-21h	AGA (réunion)	18h-21h	Banquet
<b>Samedi</b>			
6h-7h.	Excursion lève-tôt	<b>Dimanche</b>	Excursion lève-tôt
7h-8h.	Petit déjeuner continental	6h-7h	Petit déjeuner continental
7h-12h	Inscription	7h-8h	Activités matin
8h-2h	Activités matin	8h-12h	Activités pleine-journée
8h30-16h30	Activités pleine-journée	8h30-16h30	Activités après-midi
		13h-16h	



## **EXCURSION LÈVE TÔT - SAMEDI ET DIMANCHE** 6h-7h.

1. (Samedi) *chœur de l'aube* avec Kier Gigeroff
2. (Dimanche) *chœur de l'aube* avec Graham Forbes

## **SAMEDI - ACTIVITÉS PLEINE-JOURNÉE**

### **3. La botanique dans les gisements de charbon**

9h-16h. Liz Mills animera une visite dans la région de Minto lors de laquelle elle présentera des tentatives réussies et échouées de restaurer la productivité des crassiers. Nous rencontrerons Liz au Tim Horton's de Minto à 10 h.

### **4. Les collines Nerepis**

9h-16h. Joignez-vous à Deanna McCallum, biologiste à la BFC de Gagetown, pour une visite des collines Nerepis se trouvant sur la base militaire de Gagetown, où l'on trouve des nids de faucons pèlerins et d'autres attraits intéressants auxquels le grand public n'a pas accès d'habitude.

### **5. L'observation d'oiseaux en amont**

9h-16h. Graham Forbes animera une sortie de groupe en amont de Gagetown à la recherche de quelques espèces rares que compte la faune sauvagine le long de la plaine inondable de Jemseg.

### **6. L'éducation du jeune naturaliste : un atelier Sharing Nature™**

9h30-16h30. Édifice municipal de Cambridge-Narrows et parc de conservation Pines. Que vous soyez éducateur à l'environnement, spécialiste du plein air, enseignant, bénévole, parent ou autre, Janet Barlow, membre de Sense of Wonder, un organisme voué à l'éducation à l'environnement, vous invite à participer à des jeux d'apprentissage et à d'autres activités qui vous permettront de vivre la nature autrement et qui vous aideront à trouver des moyens de sensibiliser les enfants au monde nature. La journée conclura par une table ronde et une séance de réseautage, et l'atelier se poursuivra le lendemain avec une sortie sur le terrain (voir 25). Soyez équipés pour sortir dehors. Le nombre maximum de participants : 35. Coût : 25 \$

### **7. Dessiner en plein air au pastel**

10h-17h. Richard Flynn vous propose une sortie dans le paysage printanier de Cambridge-Narrows, lors de laquelle il vous enseignera des techniques de dessin au pastel tendre. Apportez des pastels tendres, du papier Canson, une planche à dessin et un chevalet. Pour vous inscrire, contactez Richard Flynn à (506) 488-2591 ou [Richard@flynnfineart.com](mailto:Richard@flynnfineart.com) Coût: 85 \$

## **SAMEDI - ACTIVITÉS MATIN**

### **8. Promenade à la mémoire d'Enid Inch**

8h-12h. Jim Goltz animera une promenade à la mémoire d'Enid Inch, qui commencera par une cérémonie à 9h. Une promenade suivra, lors de laquelle vous pourrez explorer les dimensions visuelles et auditives de Gagetown et ses environs.

9. *Promenade en nature dans la région de Fredericton*  
8h-11h30. Rendez-vous à Fredericton, où Bev Schneider présentera un ou deux des sites préférés des membres du Club des naturalistes de Fredericton pour l'observation d'oiseaux et de plantes.

### **10. Votre voisin, le geai bleu**

9h-12h. Dorothy Diamond vous présentera le merlebleu de l'Est : son habitat, les tendances associées, sa distribution, la concurrence et les meilleurs moyens de les attirer à un nichoir. Elle vous apportera ensuite à quelques-uns des sites les plus fréquentés par le merlebleu de l'Est.

### **11. Tout sur les lichens**

9h-12h. Stephen Clayden, lichénologue au Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick, explorera l'univers fascinant et parfois minuscule des lichens.

### **12. Sur la trace du saule**

9h-12h. Le saule est un arbre fascinant qu'on peut avoir du mal à identifier. Partez avec Richard Fournier le long du fleuve Saint-Jean à la recherche de saules.

## **SAMEDI - ACTIVITÉS APRÈS-MIDI**

### **13. Des insectes à go-go**

13h-16h. Joignez-vous à Reggie Webster pour chercher tous les types d'insectes imaginables.

### **14. Promenade autour du lac Sunpoke**

13h-16h. Ron Wilson animera une découverte visuelle et auditive de la flore et la faune autour du lac Sunpoke.

### **15. Visite de chutes d'eau**

13h-16h. Joignez-vous à Nicholas Guitard, auteur du livre *Waterfalls of New Brunswick*, pour découvrir des chutes d'eau dans la région. Attendez-vous à un parcours de difficulté moyenne sur un terrain accidenté. Le nombre maximum de participants : 12.

### **16. La nature dans notre quartier**

13h-16h. Joignez-vous à un naturaliste de la région pour découvrir la flore et la faune abondante de Gagetown. Enfants bienvenus.

## **DIMANCHE - ACTIVITÉS PLEINE-JOURNÉE**

### **17. La botanique des prés du Grand Lac**

9h-16h. Gart Bishop animera une exploration en groupe des nombreuses espèces végétales typiques des forêts et des champs inondés et des marais.

### **18. Les collines Nerepis**

9h-16h. Voir 4.

### **19. Observation d'oiseaux en aval de la rivière**

9h-16h. Kier Gigeroff animera une excursion en aval de la rivière pour visiter, entre autres, l'île Grassy, l'unique site de reproduction du fuligule milouinan dans la région.



## ***DIMANCHE - ACTIVITÉS MATIN***

### ***20. La photo d'observation d'oiseaux à Cambridge-Narrows***

9h-11h30. Brigitte Noel et Merv Cormier mèneront un safari-photo à Cambridge-Narrows. Par la suite, (11h30 - 12h30), Brigitte présentera des images de quelques-unes de ses rencontres les plus mémorables avec la faune.

### ***21. L'envolée miraculeuse : atelier sur le monarque***

9h-12h. Jim Wilson présentera le cycle de vie du monarque, un insecte extraordinaire qui entame chaque automne un parcours migratoire d'une distance de 4 000 km. Les participants apprendront comment attirer et marquer les monarques, de sorte à participer à leur conservation. Les matériaux sont fournis. Coût: 5 \$

### ***22. La nature dans notre quartier***

9h-12h. Graham Forbes animera une promenade agréable pour explorer les dimensions visuelles et auditives de la région.

### ***23. Tout sur les lichens***

9h-12h. Voir 11.

### ***24. Sortie sur le terrain pour les enfants***

9h-12h. Animée par des participants à l'atelier du samedi sur le thème de l'encouragement des jeunes naturalistes.

## ***DIMANCHE - ACTIVITÉS APRÈS-MIDI***

### ***25. Atelier sur les chauves-souris du Nouveau-Brunswick***

13h-16h. Venez découvrir les chauves-souris du Nouveau-Brunswick en compagnie de membres du personnel de Nature NB, qui vous renseigneront sur leur conservation et les avantages de la présence de ces mammifères volants dans votre jardin. Les participants pourront construire et peindre un abri pour chauves-souris qu'ils pourront rapporter chez eux. Les matériaux sont fournis. Coût : 10 \$. Gratuit pour les enfants à condition qu'ils soient accompagnés d'un adulte.

### ***26. Mousses et hépatiques***

13h-16h. Kate Frego pourra vous dire où et pourquoi la mousse pousse dans la forêt pendant que nous en cherchons dans les bois.

### ***27. Des insectes à go-go***

13h-16h. Voir 13.

### ***28. Promenade autour du lac Sunpoke***

13h-16h. Voir 14.

### ***29. Herbes, mauvaises herbes et bois***

14h-16h. Partez avec Roberta McKenzie et Girvan Harrison à la découverte des plantes des champs et de la forêt.

### ***30. L'écologie des étangs***

13h-14h30. Renseignez-vous sur la vie dans un étang en compagnie du naturaliste Don Vail, qui animera une promenade autour de l'étang à proximité de la Galerie Aca-cia et présentera un diaporama des photos qu'il a prises d'amphibiens au Nouveau-Brunswick.

### ***31. Construire un nichoir en cèdre local***

13h-15h. (pour les 8 à 12 ans) Apprenez avec Hal Billard comment construire un nichoir simple, quels types d'oiseaux voudront s'y abriter et où le placer. Les matériaux seront fournis. Coût: 5 \$.

## ***AUTRES ACTIVITÉS***

### ***Pour les oiseaux: Artistes au palais de justice***

Vendredi, samedi et dimanche 10h-17h Queen's County Courthouse, Gaagetown

### ***Musée Flower House, Cambridge-Narrows***

Samedi et dimanche 10h-17h. Remémoration de souvenirs d'Enid Inch, avec l'installation d'un banc commémoratif, Dimanche 14h-15h.

### ***Expositions à la bibliothèque régionale de Cambridge-Narrows***

Samedi et dimanche 13h-17h. Parmi les expositions à l'affiche, des photos par Brigitte Noel, des fiches d'information, une vidéo sur le huard et des livres sur la nature, l'observation d'oiseaux et la région.

### ***Éducateur panneau et Séance de réseautage,***

Samedi 15h-16h30. Édifice municipal de Cambridge-Narrows. Partie publique de la l'atelier "l'Education du Jeune Naturaliste". Voir 6.

### ***Au menu, café, thé, denrées faites maison et expositions***

Dimanche 8h-17h. Édifice municipal de Cambridge-Narrows

### ***Le monde de Brigitte : Conférence et diaporama sur la photo d'observation d'oiseaux***

Dimanche 11h30-12h30. Présentation d'images et récits drôles sur des rencontres avec la faune au Nouveau-Brunswick, la Nouvelle-Écosse et l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard. Il se passe toujours quelque chose quand Brigitte sort armée de son appareil-photo.

### ***Printemps, été, automne, hiver : une exposition du club de photographie artistique de Cambridge-Narrows***

Dimanche 13h-14h. Édifice municipal de Cambridge-Narrows. Une présentation en photos des quatre saisons dans les bassins versants de Washademoak et Grand Lake, prises par six gars de la région.

*Jeunes naturalistes bienvenues à tous les activités*



## Activités

#	Nom de la	Type	Heures	Jour	Guide
1	Chœur de l'aube	lève-tôt	6h-7h	samedi	Kier Gigeroff
2	Chœur de l'aube	lève-tôt	6h-7h	dimanche	Graham Forbes
3	La botanique dans les gisements de charbon	pleine journée	9h-16h	samedi	Liz Mills
4	Les collines Nerepis	pleine journée	9h-16h	samedi	Deanna McCallum
5	L'observation d'oiseaux en amont	pleine journée	9h-16h	samedi	Graham Forbes
6	L'éducation du jeune naturaliste	pleine journée	9h30-16h30	samedi	Janet Barlow
7	Dessiner en plein air au pastel	pleine journée	10h-17h	samedi	Richard Flynn
8	Promenade à la mémoire d'Enid Inch	matin	8h-12h	samedi	Jim Goltz
9	Promenade en nature dans la région de Fredericton	matin	8h-11h30	samedi	Bev Schneider
10	Votre voisin, le geai bleu	matin	9h-12h	samedi	Dorothy Diamond
11	Tout sur les lichens	matin	9h-12h	samedi	Stephen Clayden
12	Sur la trace du saule	matin	9h-12h	samedi	Richard Fournier
13	Des insectes à go-go	après-midi	13h-16h	samedi	Reggie Webster
14	Promenade autour du lac Sunpoke	après-midi	13h-16h	samedi	Ron Wilson
15	Visite de chutes d'eau	après-midi	13h-16h	samedi	Nicholas Guitard
16	La nature dans notre quartier	après-midi	13h-16h	samedi	à déterminer
17	La botanique des prés du Grand Lac	pleine journée	9h-16h	dimanche	Gart Bishop
18	Les collines Nerepis	pleine journée	9h-16h	dimanche	Deanna McCallum
19	Observation d'oiseaux en aval de la rivière	pleine journée	9h-16h	dimanche	Kier Gigeroff
20	La photo d'observation d'oiseaux	matin	9h-12h30	dimanche	Brigitte Noel/Merv Cormier
21	L'envolée miraculeuse	matin	9h-12h	dimanche	Jim Wilson
22	La nature dans notre quartier	matin	9h-12h	dimanche	Graham Forbes
23	Tout sur les lichens	matin	9h-12h	dimanche	Stephen Clayden
24	Sortie sur le terrain pour les enfants	matin	9h-12h	dimanche	Participants à l'atelier
25	Atelier sur les chauves-souris du N.-B.	après-midi	13h-16h	dimanche	Personnel de Nature NB
26	Mousses et hépatiques	après-midi	13h-16h	dimanche	Kate Frego
27	Des insectes à go-go	après-midi	13h-16h	dimanche	Reggie Webster
28	Promenade autour du lac Sunpoke	après-midi	13h-16h	dimanche	Ron Wilson
29	Herbes, mauvaises herbes et bois	après-midi	13h-16h	dimanche	Roberta McKenzie/Girvan Harrison
30	L'écologie des étangs	après-midi	13h-14h30	dimanche	Don Vail
31	Construire un nichoir en cèdre local	après-midi	13h-15h	dimanche	Hal Billiard

S'il vous plaît copier ce formulaire et présenter des informations d'enregistrement distinct pour chaque participant

### FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION (aussi disponible au: [www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca))

#### Information

Nom \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adresse \_\_\_\_\_  
 Téléphone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Courriel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Membre du club: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Coût

Inscription	\$	Total \$
Jusqu'au 30 avril, 2010	30 \$	_____
Après le 30 avril, 2010	40 \$	_____
12 ans et moins	gratuit	_____
Jeunes: 13-16 ans	10 \$	_____

#### Veillez encercler vos préférences

##### Samedi

##### Premier choix

Pleine journée : 3 4 5 6 7\*  
 Matin: 8 9 10 11 12  
 Après-midi: 13 14 15 16

##### Second choix

Pleine journée : 3 4 5 6 7\*  
 Matin: 8 9 10 11 12  
 Après-midi: 13 14 15 16

##### Dimanche

##### Premier choix

Pleine journée : 17 18 19  
 Matin: 20 21 22 23 24  
 Après-midi: 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

##### Second choix

Pleine journée : 17 18 19  
 Matin: 20 21 22 23 24  
 Après-midi: 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

#### Casse-croûte

pour le samedi	8 \$	_____
pour le dimanche	8 \$	_____

#### Repas

Saumon	20 \$	_____
Poulet	20 \$	_____
Végétarien	20 \$	_____

#### Coût des ateliers

#6 - éducation	25 \$	_____
#22 - monarque	5 \$	_____
#25 - chauves-souris	10 \$	_____
#31 - nichoir	5 \$	_____

#### Total \$

#### S.V.P. envoyez votre paiement à:

Nature NB-AGA  
 924 rue Prospect Suite 110  
 Fredericton N.-B. E3B 2T9  
 (506) 459-4209 Courriel: [nbf@ainb.nb.com](mailto:nbf@ainb.nb.com)  
 (Libellez votre chèque à l'ordre de: Nature NB)

\*Atelier pour la peinture avec des dispositifs d'enregistrement Richard Flynn, voir description de l'activité numero 7.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Participation aux activités du festival est à risque personnel. Ni Nature NB, ni les clubs d'accueil seront tenu responsable des accidents, des blessures ou des dommages aux personnes qui participent aux activités de ce Festival de la Nature sur les 21, 22 et 23 Mai, 2010



## **SUNDAY MORNING ACTIVITIES**

### **20. Photo Safari: Birding with your Camera**

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Brigitte Noel and Merv Cormier will lead a photo safari in Cambridge Narrows. Afterwards (11:30 - 12:30) Brigitte will share her encounters with wildlife in a slide show.

### **21. Miracles of Flight: the Monarch Butterfly Workshop**

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Jim Wilson will explain the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly, an amazing insect that migrates 4,000 km each fall. Participants will learn how to attract and tag Monarchs, and make a difference to its future. Materials and supplies provided. Fee: \$5.

### **22. Nature in Our Neighbourhood**

9 a.m.-12 p.m. Graham Forbes will lead a leisurely walkabout to explore sights and sounds in and around the Village of Gagetown. Children welcome.

### **23. Learning About Lichens**

9 a.m.-12 p.m. See 11.

### **24. Children's Field Trips**

9 a.m.-12 p.m. Led by Nurturing the Young Naturalist participants - a field component from Saturday's workshop. See 6.

## **SUNDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES**

### **25. Bats in New Brunswick Workshop**

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Nature NB staff will talk about bats in New Brunswick, bat conservation and the advantages of having these flying mammals in your backyard. Participants will assemble and paint their own bat houses to take home. Materials provided. Fee:\$10. (Children free but must be accompanied by an adult.)

### **26. Mosses and Liverworts**

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Kate Frego can tell you all about where and why moss grows in the forest as we search the woods.

### **27. Insects Galore**

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. See 13.

### **28. Sunpoke Lake**

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. See 14.

### **29. Herbs, Weeds & Woods**

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Join Roberta McKenzie and Girvan Harrison to discover the plants of the field and forest.

### **30. Pond Ecology**

Sunday, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Learn about life in the pond from naturalist Don Vail as he takes you on a walk around the pond at Acacia Gallery in Cambridge-Narrows

and presents a slide show of his photographs of New Brunswick amphibians

### **31. Build a Birdhouse from Local Cedar**

Sunday, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. (For children 8-12 years) Learn with Hal Billiard about building a simple birdhouse, understanding what kinds of birds might be attracted to it and deciding where to put it. Materials provided. Fee: \$5.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### **For the Birds: Artists at the Courthouse**

Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Queen's County Courthouse, Gagetown

### **Flower House Museum, Cambridge-Narrows**

Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Memories of Enid Inch, with installation of Memorial Bench, Sunday 2 p.m. -3 p.m.

### **Exhibits at Regional Library, Cambridge-Narrows**

Saturday and Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Displays include Brigitte Noel's photography with fact sheets, a video on loons and books on nature, birding and the local area.

### **Naturalist/Educator Panel and Networking Session,**

Saturday, 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Cambridge-Narrows Municipal Building. Public component of Nurturing the Young Naturalist Workshop. See 6.

### **Coffee, tea, homemade treats & displays**

Sunday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.. Cambridge-Narrows Municipal Building

### **Brigitte's World: Birding with a Camera Slide Presentation and Talk**

Sunday 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Slide show and funny stories on wildlife in New Brunswick, NS and PEI. There is always something happening when Brigitte goes out with her camera.

### **Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter: Cambridge Narrows Photographic Arts Club (PhArts)**

Sunday, 1-2 p.m. Cambridge-Narrows Municipal Building. A presentation of the Four Seasons in the area of the Washademoak-Grand Lake watershed through photos taken by six fellows (old pharts) who live in the area.

*Young naturalists welcome at all activities*



### Activities at a Glance

#	Name of Activity	Type	Start-End	Day	Leader
1	Dawn Chorus	Early Bird	6am-7am	Sat	Kier Gigeroff
2	Dawn Chorus	Early Bird	6am-7am	Sun	Graham Forbes
3	Coal-bed Botany	Full-day	9am-4pm	Sat	Liz Mills
4	Nerepis Hills	Full-day	9am-4pm	Sat	Deanna McCallum
5	Upriver Birding	Full-day	9am-4pm	Sat	Graham Forbes
6	Nurturing the Young Naturalist	Full-day	9:30am-4:30pm	Sat	Janet Barlow
7	Plein Air Painting in Pastels	Full-day	10am-5pm	Sat	Richard Flynn
8	Enid Inch Memorial Walk	Morning	8am-12pm	Sat	Jim Goltz
9	Fredericton Area Nature Walk	Morning	8am-11:30am	Sat	Bev Schneider
10	Bluebirds in Your Backyard	Morning	9am-12pm	Sat	Dorothy Diamond
11	Learning About Lichens	Morning	9am-12pm	Sat	Stephen Clayden
12	Willow Walk	Morning	9am-12pm	Sat	Richard Fournier
13	Insects Galore	Afternoon	1pm-4pm	Sat	Reggie Webster
14	Sunpoke Pokeabout	Afternoon	1pm-4pm	Sat	Ron Wilson
15	Waterfall Visit	Afternoon	1pm-4pm	Sat	Nicholas Guitard
16	Nature in Our Neighborhood	Afternoon	1pm-4pm	Sat	TBA
17	Grand Lake Meadows Botany	Full-day	9am-4pm	Sun	Gart Bishop
18	Nerepis Hills Base Gagetown	Full-day	9am-4pm	Sun	Deanna McCallum
19	Downriver Birding	Full-day	9am-4pm	Sun	Kier Gigeroff
20	Photo Safari	Morning	9am-12:30	Sun	Brigitte Noel/Merv Cormier
21	The Monarch Workshop	Morning	9am-12:30pm	Sun	Jim Wilson
22	Nature in Our Neighborhood	Morning	9am-12pm	Sun	Graham Forbes
23	Learning about Lichens	Morning	9am-12pm	Sun	Stephen Clayden
24	Children's Field Trips	Morning	9am-12pm	Sun	Workshop Participants
25	Bats in New Brunswick Workshop	Afternoon	1pm-4pm	Sun	Nature NB Staff
26	Mosses and Liverworts	Afternoon	1pm-4pm	Sun	Kate Frego
27	Insects Galore	Afternoon	1pm-4pm	Sun	Reggie Webster
28	Sunpoke Lake	Afternoon	1pm-4pm	Sun	Ron Wilson
29	Herbs, Weeds & Woods	Afternoon	1pm-4pm	Sun	Roberta McKenzie/Girvan Harrison
30	Pond Ecology	Afternoon	1pm-2:30pm	Sun	Don Vail
31	Build a Birdhouse	Afternoon	1pm-3pm	Sun	Hal Billiard

Please copy this form as necessary to submit **separate** registration information for each participant

#### Contact Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

#### Cost

Registration	\$	Total \$
Until April 30, 2010	\$30	_____
After April 30, 2010	\$40	_____
Youth: 12 and under	Free	_____
Youth: 13-16 years	\$10	_____

#### Please Circle Activity Preferences

##### Saturday

##### First choice

Full day : 3 4 5 6 7\*  
 Morning: 8 9 10 11 12  
 Afternoon: 13 14 15 16

##### Alternate choice

Full day: 3 4 5 6 7\*  
 Morning: 8 9 10 11 12  
 Afternoon: 13 14 15 16

##### Sunday

##### First choice

Full day: 17 18 19  
 Morning: 20 21 22 23 24  
 Afternoon: 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

##### Alternate choice

Full day trips: 17 18 19  
 Morning: 20 21 22 23 24  
 Afternoon: 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

#### Bag Lunch

For Saturday	\$8	_____
For Sunday	\$8	_____

#### Dinner

Salmon	\$20	_____
Chicken	\$20	_____
Vegetarian	\$20	_____

#### Workshop fees

#6 - Nurturing	\$25	_____
#22 - Monarch	\$5	_____
#25 - Bats	\$10	_____
#31 - Birdhouse	\$5	_____

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

\*For Painting Workshop with Richard Flynn registration arrangements, see activity description # 7.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please return with payment to:

Nature NB-AGM  
 924 Prospect St. Suite 110  
 Fredericton NB E3B 2T9  
 (506) 459-4209 Email: nbfn@aibn.nb.com  
**(Make cheques payable to: Nature NB)**

Participation in festival activities is at personal risk. Neither Nature NB nor the host clubs will be held responsible for accidents, injuries or damages to persons participating in any activities of this Festival of Nature Weekend on the 21, 22 and 23 of May, 2010



hard time even finding nests, never mind monitoring them, it is as though I am being handed years of experience all at once, and I feel privileged to read each entry. Together, they almost form a diary of Maritime bird nesting, and in their immediacy seem quite private. It is wonderful how each card tells a story. Some entries are for only one observation, but there are others where up to 15 visits to a single nest were made, all the details of which are duly noted on the card.

I first read the whole card, often finding the experience sad thanks to various accidents and other reasons the nest doesn't turn out to be successful. I then turn to my web page form and type it all down using codes, numbers, and a few words. Sometimes one card will take up to half an hour, other times only a few minutes; the overall average is 4.7 minutes a card (Julie asked me to calculate it) but perhaps another data entry person would do it differently. I especially enjoy reading the observer's comments. I find I can only do this kind of work for about two hours tops, then I get too tired and am afraid of making mistakes and have to stop.

I don't think I am obsessive, but I really enjoy the work. It is all original data, painstakingly gathered...who wouldn't? As well as the information about that particular nest, the personality of the recorder often emerges from the card. There are some who go into a great deal of detail, carefully noting the measurement of the nest, the changes in daily feather growth in the young (for example: "primary feathers medium 1/3-2/3 out"), the species of grasses and weeds used for the nest, the exact time of day or night the observations are made, and so on. Others think that just saying "3 eggs June 6 in hayfield" will suffice, and they don't go back (this I find frustrating...didn't they wonder what happened to the nest/eggs/young?). Some observers indicate nest-

ing results with exclamation points and descriptive punctuation, such as "The nest was empty, damaged, torn up and all the contents were scattered on the ground!!!!!!" while others would indicate the same results with just a check beside the printed words "evidence for failure". That is not to say one felt more than another, it was just expressed differently.

The oldest record card I have seen so far was one filled out by Robie Tufts in Nova Scotia in 1902. Could he have imagined at the time how computers would be used for his field studies? Would he approve? You bet...I think he would have welcomed anything that made his job easier, from what I have seen of his brief notes.

Everyone who has taken the trouble to fill out a card and forward it to the CWS over the years should take heart that the data from their time and energy is now being permanently saved and respected, whether their entry was a casual encounter or a 50 nest study, whether it was submitted ten years ago or 40. While there are many incidents happy and sad that I could share from the cards, the best thing for now is to just recommend a visit to the Project NestWatch website at <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/national/nestwatch.html>.

Meanwhile, Julie says I will probably be finished in ten years, but if I don't mind...

What 2000 nest cards look like...  
Photo by K. Bunker-Popma





Nancy & Robert  
MacLeod  
Grand Manan

## Big Cat

We came across this bobcat in Westmorland County, near the Johnson's Mills Shorebird Reserve on September 6, 2009. We thought it may have been on its way to the beach. It did not seem to be terribly concerned about our vehicle, as it stopped and we were able to observe it for 4 - 5 minutes, and take several photos, before it turned and sauntered away into the woods. Experts who have seen the photo believe it is a large bobcat (about 70 pounds).

*Editor's Note: The face-on photo was sent to zoologist Don McAlpine at the New Brunswick Museum, who was initially uncertain as to the species. The following is Don's response after he had reviewed both photos:*

Bobcat  
Photos by Nancy & Robert MacLeod



"The ruff of fur beneath the ears with the black markings, visible in the side-profile shot, is quite characteristic of bobcat. Combined with the coat colour, tail length and pattern, and markings on the inner legs, there is no doubt. The dark foot pads visible on the animal as it trots off are also characteristic of bobcat (the pads are light-coloured in lynx). Once I had seen the ruff in side-profile I went back and looked at the face-on shot and the ruff is actually visible on the animal's right side, although somewhat in shadow. The completely unspotted pelage might appear a bit unusual for a bobcat when compared to many of the photos on the web, but we have many NB hides here in the NBM mammal research collection that are unspotted. I can see no tufts whatsoever on the ears, so prominent on lynx and sometimes present to a much less degree on NB bobcat. Nonetheless, it is a bobcat. It is certainly not a hybrid (I am not aware of any cases of bobcat-cougar hybridization, although there are several bobcat-lynx hybrids for NB).

I searched the internet to see if there were any face-on bobcat photos similar to yours. I could not find any. Obviously, I have not seen enough face-on bobcats such that I could identify your photo as quickly as I should have. Your photos are very interesting given the number of cougar reports we receive each year. I can easily understand how a quick glimpse your animal, tan in colour and perhaps without the tail visible, could be interpreted as cougar. Thanks for your patience, and for sharing your photos.

Regards, Don."



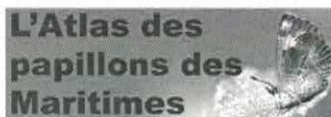
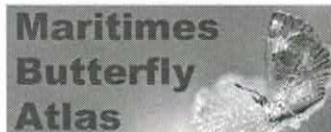
# Maritimes Butterfly Atlas

## L'Atlas des papillons des Maritimes

The Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre is launching the Maritimes Butterfly Atlas, the first comprehensive butterfly survey of the Maritime Provinces. This five-year initiative will use the coordinated efforts of amateur naturalists to map the current distributions of our butterfly species. Anyone with an interest in butterflies, regardless of skill-level, is welcome to participate. If you aren't a seasoned butterfly enthusiast, you will be by the end of the survey! The Atlas results will identify species of conservation concern, allow for better informed conservation decisions and produce a baseline dataset to which future efforts, including those investigating global climate change, can be compared.

Le Centre de données sur la conservation des Maritimes s'apprête à lancer, le premier inventaire détaillé de papillons à avoir lieu dans la région. Échelonnée sur une période de cinq ans, cette initiative comptera sur la contribution de naturalistes amateurs afin de déterminer l'aire de distribution actuelle des espèces de papillons dans les provinces Maritimes. Quiconque s'intéresse aux papillons, peu importe son niveau de connaissances, peut y participer. Si vous n'êtes pas déjà un grand spécialiste des papillons, vous le serez sans doute à la fin de l'inventaire! Les résultats recueillis nous permettront d'identifier les espèces rares ou en péril, éclaireront les décisions liées à la conservation et formeront une base de référence contre laquelle les recensements futurs seront comparés, y compris les études sur les changements climatiques.

John Klymko  
Sackville



For more information please visit <http://accdc.com/ButterflyAtlas/Home.html> or contact John Klymko, the project director, at <jklymko@mta.ca> or (506) 364-2660.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, consultez le <http://accdc.com/ButterflyAtlas/Home.html> ou communiquez avec John Klymko, coordonnateur du projet, au jklymko@mta.ca ou au (506) 364-2660.

# Breeding Bird Atlas

## L'Atlas des oiseaux nicheurs des Maritimes

Last Year the Breeding Bird Atlas Needs You!

This is your big chance to help a good conservation cause. Many atlas squares remain undone. Here is how you can help. Check with your local naturalist club for a list of sites needing your time, or contact your regional atlas coordinator. Still need help? Contact the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas directly at 1-866-5ATLAS5 (866-528-5275) or [atlasmaritimes@gmail.com](mailto:atlasmaritimes@gmail.com).

L'Atlas des oiseaux nicheurs des Maritimes a besoin de vous!

Voilà une belle opportunité de donner votre temps pour une bonne cause! L'Atlas a besoin de vous pour compléter les carrées. Contactez votre club local ou le coordinateur régional pour l'Atlas. Besoin encore de l'aide? Veuillez contacter le bureau de l'atlas au 1-866-5ATLAS5 (866-528-5275) ou par courriel [atlasmaritimes@gmail.com](mailto:atlasmaritimes@gmail.com).

Roland Chiasson  
Sackville





# Wild Raisin (also called Witherod or Possumhaw; Alisier)

*Viburnum nudum var. cassinoides*

*I like this plant!*

Many years ago, I was out snowshoeing in the UNB woodlot learning to identify tree and shrub twigs. Working through a pocket guide to winter plants, I had spent considerable time with one

particular shrub without having any success. Then along came the professor who was teaching tree identification and I felt relieved that my uncertainty would soon be resolved. After a pleasant greeting I explained that I was having difficulty with this particular shrub. He looked at it and said "Well, I think you are on the right track ... have fun with it!", then on he went leaving me with no definitive answer. I

collected a twig or two and a day or so later did manage to identify it as Wild Raisin. Had my prof told me the answer, I wonder if I would remember the plant so vividly.

I now know that Wild Raisin has many features which make it relatively easy to find and identify in the winter. In particular, its buds are unique and quite different than most other woody plants in that the buds have no scales. Birches, maples, alders all have small, overlapping scales which completely cover the leaf bud. The buds on Wild Raisin are composed of the actual next year leaves that are just waiting for spring to arrive.

Wild Raisin is a stiffly erect shrub found in multi-stemmed clumps throughout New Brunswick. Usually located in wet meadows or forest, often around marshy margins of swamps, it can also be found in the dry understory in mixed forests. It belongs to the Caprifoliaceae (Honeysuckle) family and is found throughout eastern North America north of Florida. The species name 'nudum' refers to the smooth leaves and branches.

## MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

- Naked, golden brown, opposite buds (see fig. 2 & 3).
- Shrub to 4 m high.
- Creamy white five-petaled flowers, ill-scented, in short stalked clusters (cymes) at the ends of twigs (see fig. 1).
- Glossy leaves, egg-shaped (oval), 4-10 cm long by 2-5 cm wide. Leaf edge varies from smooth to wavy toothed (see fig. 4). Mid-vein is usually much lighter in colour than the rest of the leaf. Leaves frequently turn dark red in autumn.
- Fruit initially green, then white/pink, blue to purplish-black, then bright blue, finally turning dark blue with a dew-like frosting. Fruit (edible, but hard to get to before the birds), have a single large, flattened seed.

Very similar to Wild Raisin is the rare Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*) which is only known from a few sites around the western edges of Charlotte, York and Carleton counties. The leaves of Nannyberry are consistently sharply toothed, and the flower clusters are not stalked (sessile).

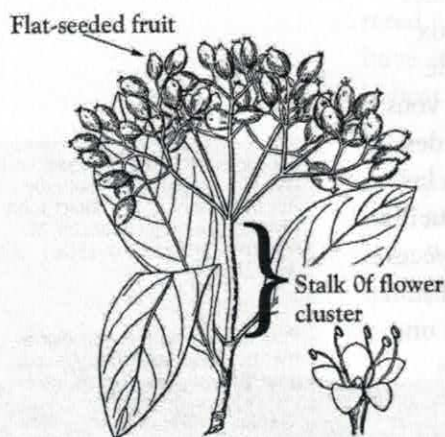
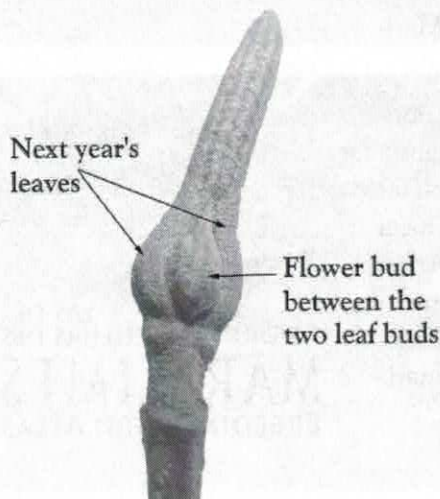


Figure 1  
Graphic from Britton & Brown

Figure 2  
Photo by G. Bishop





Wild Raisin is also closely related to the Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*), from which one can make a lovely jelly. Don't put the berries through a juicer, as there are toxic things inside the seeds that can make you very, very sick. I know from experience!

Wild Raisin is a wild, native shrub that transplants easily and will give a lovely show of flowers in the spring if planted where it is in full sun or light shade conditions. The birds and squirrels love the fruit, which rarely get the chance to shrivel up on the shrub to resemble raisins for which the plant received one of

its common names. Its flowers are popular with butterflies and bees, and its twigs are frequently browsed by beaver, deer and moose. The leaves of this plant are believed to contain a cyanide compound that is toxic to humans and livestock. This species reproduces easily from seed or from cuttings. Ideally, cuttings made in July would be ready for planting in the spring. The seeds can stay viable for up to 10 years.

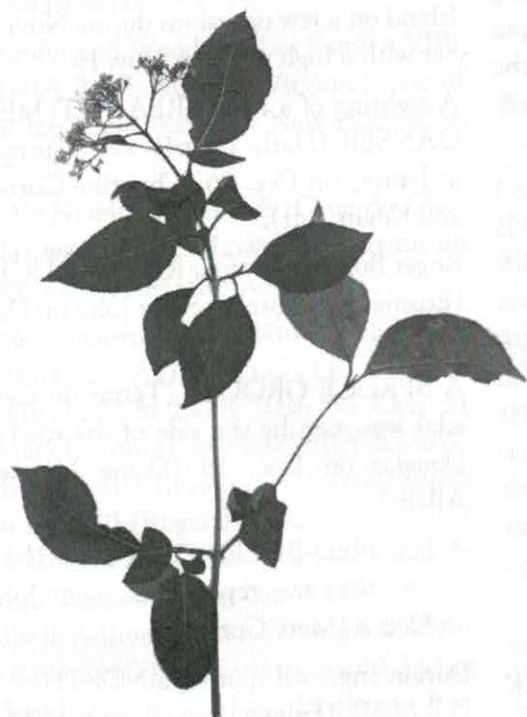


Figure 4  
Photo by G. Bishop of NBM Specimen

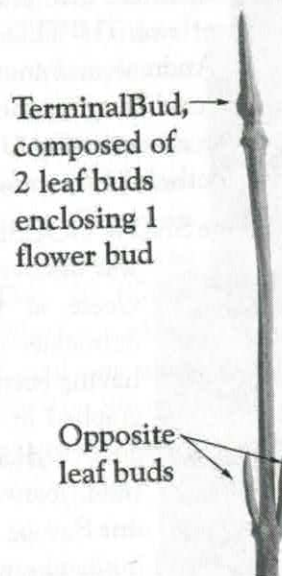


Figure 3  
Photo by G. Bishop

## References

- Blouin, G. 1984. Weeds of the Woods, Some Small Trees and Shrubs of New Brunswick. New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources, Forest Extension Service, Fredericton NB.
- Britton, N. & A. Brown. 1970. An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada Vol 3. Dover Publications Inc. New York.
- Hinds, H.R. 2000. Second Edition Flora of New Brunswick. Department of Biology, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB.
- NBM (New Brunswick Museum) Specimen # 23722, collected at the edge of mixed woods by W.A. Squires and R. Squires, Lake George, NB, 2 July 1965.
- Soper, J.H. & M.L. Heimburger. 1982. Shrubs of Ontario. The Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto ON.
- [http://www.gpc.edu/~decbt/articles/viburnum\\_nudum98.html](http://www.gpc.edu/~decbt/articles/viburnum_nudum98.html)



Don Gibson  
Fredericton

## Nature News: Birds

October 24 to January 18, 2010



McGillivray's Warbler  
Photo by D. Ingersoll

Pied-billed Grebe  
Photo by H. Scarth



Northern Shoveler  
Photo by M. Cormier



A quite unexpected MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER appeared on Grand Manan only long enough to be seen by one observer; however, the photos obtained should confirm the bird as the first of that species for the province. During the same recording period a year ago, about 30 RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS were reported whereas but one was detected this year. The discovery of two TUFTED TITMICE at St. Andrews and another at Pocologan gives credibility to the notion that the species is continuing to establish a breeding foothold in the province.

A lone SNOW GOOSE (Oie des neiges) was discovered with Canada Geese at Keswick by Bev Schneider on Nov. 29, one having been seen and photographed in the same general area earlier in November (fide Joanne Savage). Joanne Savage reported that her husband saw about ten Snow Geese fly over Quispamsis on Dec. 26.

Norm and Gisèle Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet found a WOOD DUCK (Canard branchu) at Memramcook on Dec. 9.

A NORTHERN SHOVELER (Canard souchet) was found at Moncton on Dec. 6 (Georges Brun) and Roger Burrows reported 11 at Saint John on Dec. 8, one at Grand Harbour on Dec. 20, and one at Castalia Marsh on Dec. 22.

Merv Cormier saw a male NORTHERN PINTAIL (Canard pilet) at Saint John on Dec. 7 and Roger Burrows reported a

female there on Dec. 8.

Roger Burrows saw an adult female KING EIDER (Eider à tête grise) from the Grand Manan ferry on Nov. 5 and one from the White Head ferry on Jan. 6.

Eileen Pike and Merv Cormier found five HARLEQUIN DUCKS (Arlequin plongeur) at Point Lepreau on Oct. 27 and Irene LeBlanc saw one female at Cap-Lumière on Oct. 31. Roger Burrows saw Harlequin Ducks around White Head Island on a few occasions during November with a high of 60 on Nov. 18.

A sighting of a RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (Harle huppé) was a surprise at Jemseg on Dec. 26 (Christine Cornell and Kevin Tutt).

Roger Burrows saw four RUDDY DUCKS (Érismature rousse) at Saint John on Dec. 8.

A SPRUCE GROUSE (Tétras du Canada) was seen by the side of the road at Douglas on Dec. 19 (Diane Mercier-Allain).

A late PIED-BILLED GREBE (Grèbe à bec bigarré) was reported at Saint John on Dec. 8 (Merv Cormier).

Durlan Ingersoll spotted a NORTHERN FULMAR (Fulmar boréal) east of Machias Seal Island on Dec. 15.

Stu Tingley saw a LEACH'S STORM PETREL (Océanite cul-blanc) off Cap Bimet on Nov. 6 and found a dead one at Shediac on Nov. 22, a date considered very late for that species.

A very late GREAT BLUE HERON (Grand Héron) was seen at Saint-Édouard on Jan. 5 (Louis-Emile Cormier).

A couple of late TURKEY VULTURES



tallied one at Sheffield on Dec. 19. One was observed at Charlo on Jan. 3 (Mike Lushington) and one was seen at Saint-Léonard on Jan. 4 (Roy LaPointe).

Jim Wilson found a SHORT-EARED OWL (*Hibou des marais*) at Point Lepreau on Oct. 29. Norm and Gisèle Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet found one at Tantramar Marsh on Dec. 9, and Norm and Gisèle also tallied a Short-eared Owl there on Jan. 13.

A BELTED KINGFISHER (*Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique*) was noted at Bannon, Carleton County, a couple of times during early January (Nancy Foster and Grant Milroy).

A RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Pic à tête rouge*) was seen at Alma on Nov. 7 (Doreen Rossiter) and another was reported at Upper Waterville in mid-November (Lloyd Culberson).

A RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Pic à ventre roux*) visited the feeder of Evelyn LeBlanc at Memramcook often during the fall.

An AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER (*Pic à dos rayé*) was reported at Miramichi during early December (fide Pam Watters) and Kier Gigeroff found one at Gagetown on Dec. 10.

A few NORTHERN FLICKERS (*Pic flamboyant*) chose not to migrate, including two seen and photographed at Fredericton on Nov. 29 (Margot Russell). Norm and Gisèle Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet found one at Cap Brûlé on Dec. 12, another was seen at Belliveau Village on Dec. 19 (Jules Cormier), and Roger Burrows reported one at Ingalls Head on Dec. 25 and again on Jan. 3.

A WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Viréo aux yeux blancs*) was found at The Whistle on Oct. 24 (Stu Tingley et al.) and

Durlan Ingersoll found one at Southwest Head on Nov. 1.

A TUFTED TITMOUSE (*Mésange bicolore*) was discovered at Pocologan on the Point Lepreau Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 19 and two were found at St. Andrews on Jan. 18 (Jim Wilson and Jim Edsall).

A CAROLINA WREN (*Troglodyte de Caroline*) was reported at North Head on Oct. 30 (Roger Burrows). A rather late MARSH WREN (*Troglodyte des marais*) was discovered at Riverview on Dec. 2 (Stu Tingley, Rose-Alma Mallet and Norm and Gisèle Belliveau).

Keith Dewar found a RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Roitelet à couronne rubis*) at Grand Bay on Dec. 1.

A BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Gobemoucheron gris-bleu*) appeared in the yard of Doreen Rossiter at Alma on Nov. 21.

A HERMIT THRUSH (*Grive solitaire*) was seen at Inkerman on Dec. 20 (Frank Branch, Denise Godin and Jolande St-Pierre).

A NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*Moquer polyglotte*) was seen most of the fall at Baie Verte (Noreen Spence) and Stu Tingley reported one at Shediac on Dec. 20.

A BROWN THRASHER (*Moquer roux*) was recorded at New River Beach on the Point Lepreau Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 19 and two Brown Thrashers were reported there on Jan. 6 (Joanne Savage).

An ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Paruline verdâtre*) was found at Fundy National Park on Oct. 28 (Alain Clavette et al.) and another, thought to be the western sub-species, was seen and photographed there on Nov. 11 (Jim Wilson and Merv Cormier). Merv Cormier found an Orange-crowned Warbler



Red-headed Woodpecker  
Photo by M. Cormier



Brown Thrasher  
Photo by M. Cormier



at Saint John on Nov. 12 and Merv, in the company of Eileen and Roy Pike and Janet Whitehead, discovered one at Fundy National Park on Nov. 13.

A YELLOW WARBLER (*Paruline jaune*) was found at Alma on Oct. 28 (Alain Clavette et al.) and Merv Cormier found one at Saint John on Nov. 3.

Jim Brown discovered a YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*Paruline à croupion jaune*) near Petitcodiac on Dec. 24.

Two PINE WARBLERS (*Paruline des pins*) were found at Fundy National Park on Nov. 13 (Merv Cormier, Eileen and Roy Pike, and Janet Whitehead). Rosita Lanteigne found one at Caraquet on Dec. 4 and Nelson Poirier had one visit occasionally at Moncton.

A rather late OVENBIRD (*Paruline couronnée*) was found at Chance Harbour on the Point Lepreau Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 19.

A BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Paruline rayée*) was discovered at Fundy National Park on Nov. 13 (Merv Cormier, Eileen and Roy Pike, and Janet Whitehead).

Durlan Ingersoll found and photographed a MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER (*Paruline des buissons*) near Seal Cove on Nov. 1.

A COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*Paruline maquée*) was found at Fundy National Park on Nov. 11 (Merv Cormier and Jim Wilson) and another was discovered at Riverview on Dec. 2 (Stu Tingley, Rose-Alma Mallet, and Norm and Gisèle Belliveau).

A CANADA WARBLER (*Paruline du Canada*) was found at Fundy National Park on Oct. 28 (Alain Clavette et al.).

Margaret Doyle reported a CHIPPING SPARROW (*Bruant familier*) at her feeder at Campbellton on Dec. 21 and Nelson Poirier hosted another at Moncton through December.

Merv Cormier found a FIELD SPARROW (*Bruant des champs*) at Saint John on Nov. 20 and Roger Burrows discovered one at Ingalls Head on Dec. 24.

A SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Bruant des prés*) was discovered at Quaco Marsh on Dec. 14 (Jim Wilson, Merv Cormier, and Harvey McLeod) and another was seen at Ingalls Head on Dec. 20 (Roger Burrows).

Bev Schneider found three LAPLAND LONGSPURS (*Bruant lapon*) at Keswick on Nov. 1 and one there on Dec. 13. Joanne Savage saw one at Point Lepreau on Dec. 13.

An immature DICKCISSEL (*Dickcissel d'Amérique*) was found at Harvey on Oct. 31 (John Inman). Grant Milroy reported a Dickcissel at Coldstream on Nov. 19 and the same bird was still there on Dec. 10.

Roger Burrows saw a MEADOWLARK (*sturnelle*) on White Head Island on Dec. 2, but it was flying too fast to determine the species. A meadowlark appeared at the feeder of Doreen Rossiter at Alma on Jan. 4. A review of the photos of the bird led most to believe that it was a WESTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnelle d'Ouest*).

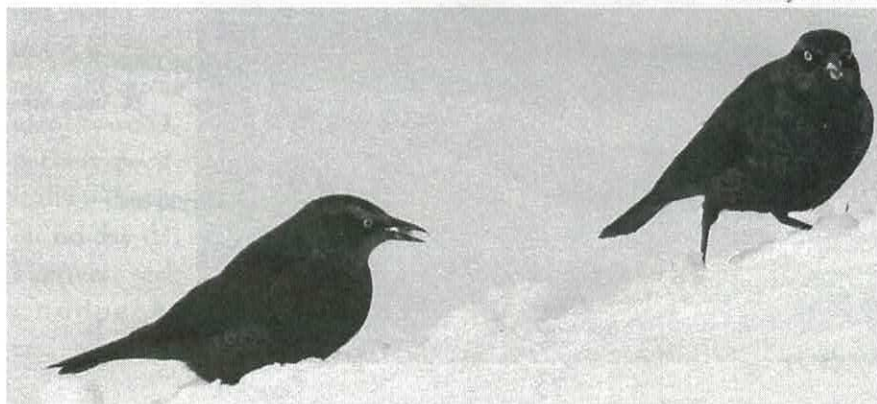
A RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*Quiscale rouilleux*) was found at White Head Island on Dec. 2 (Roger Burrows) and Val Bourque reported one at Memramcook on Dec. 25.



Blackpoll Warbler (summer)  
Photo by M. Cormier



Blackpoll Warbler (fall)  
Photo by D. Ingersoll



Rusty Blackbirds  
Photo by H. Scarth



(Urubu à tête rouge) sightings at Memramcook include one on Dec. 26 (fide Jules Cormier) and one on Jan. 11 (fide Evelyn LeBlanc).

A BROAD-WINGED HAWK (Petite ruse) was reported at Grand Manan on Dec. 10 (Roger Burrows).

An AMERICAN KESTREL (Crécerelle d'Amérique) was observed at Waterside on Dec. 4 (Mary Majka and David Christie) and possibly the same bird was seen there again by the same observers on Jan. 6. Irene Doyle reported one at Saint John on Dec. 24.

Roger Burrows found a PEREGRINE FALCON (Faucon pèlerin) at White Head Island on Dec. 14.

Jennifer and Woody Gillies found a VIRGINIA RAIL (Râle de Virginie), one of the latest on record, at New Horton on Dec. 20.

A SANDHILL CRANE (Grue du Canada) was found at Lower Millstream on Oct. 27 (Ken MacIntosh).

Late occurring shorebirds included a SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (Pluvier semipalmé) at Saint John on Oct. 31 (Merv Cormier), two LESSER YELLOW-LEGS (Petit Chevalier) at Castalia Marsh on Oct. 30 (Roger Burrows), a RUDDY TURNSTONE (Tournepierre à collier) at Cape Tormentine on Dec. 12 (Norm and Gisèle Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet), a RED KNOT (Bécasseau maubèche) at Grand Harbour on Dec. 12 (Roger Burrows), and a SEMIPALMATED SAND-PIPER (Bécasseau semipalmé) at Saint John on Oct. 31 (Merv Cormier).

An adult BLACK-HEADED GULL (Mouette rieuse) was found at Blacks Harbour on Nov. 5 (Roger Burrows).

John Kowaltuk and Roger Guitard spotted a SABINE'S GULL (Mouette de Sabine) at Pointe Verte on Nov. 22.

A COMMON TERN (Sterne pierregar-

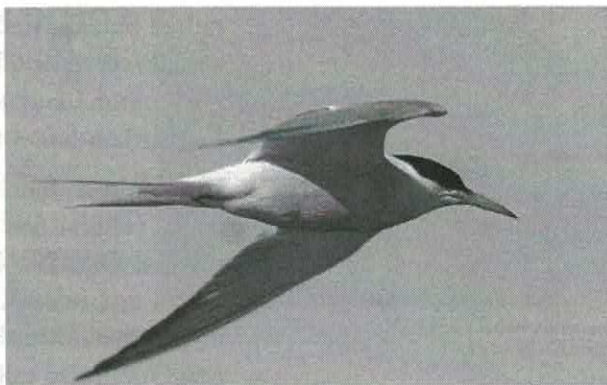
in) was found at Point Lepreau on Oct. 29 (Jim Wilson).

Two POMARINE JAEGER (Labbe pomarin) and one PARASITIC JAEGER (Labbe parasite) were seen from the Grand Manan ferry on Nov. 5 (Roger Burrows).

Roger Burrows spotted three ATLANTIC PUFFINS (Macareux moine) from the Grand Manan ferry on Dec. 8.

SNOWY OWL (Harfang des neiges) reports included one at Hartland on Nov. 12 (Grant Milroy), one at Miscou on Nov. 21 (Frank Branch), one at Val Comeau on Dec. 1 (Frank Branch and Jolande St-Pierre), one at Gagetown on Dec. 19 (Kier Gigeroff), one at Shediac on Dec. 20 (Gilles Bourque), two at Shediac on Dec. 26 (Stu Tingley), and one along Route 112 on Jan. 10 (fide Ron Steeves).

The first NORTHERN HAWK OWL (Chouette épervière) of the season was found on Nov. 20 at Little Shippagan (Steeve Miousse) and the following day one was reported at Kenneth, Carleton County (fide Grant Milroy). Martin Turgeon found one at Edmundston on Dec. 19 and Christine Cornell and Kevin Tutt



Common Tern  
Photo by H. Scarth



Peregrine Falcon  
Photo by M. Cormier



Ruddy Turnstones  
Photo by M. Cormier



A BALTIMORE ORIOLE (Oriole de Baltimore) was found at Fundy National Park on Oct. 28 (Alain Clavette et al.), one at North Head on Nov. 4 (Laurie Murison), one at Saint John on Nov. 5 (Joan Pearce), one at Marys Point on

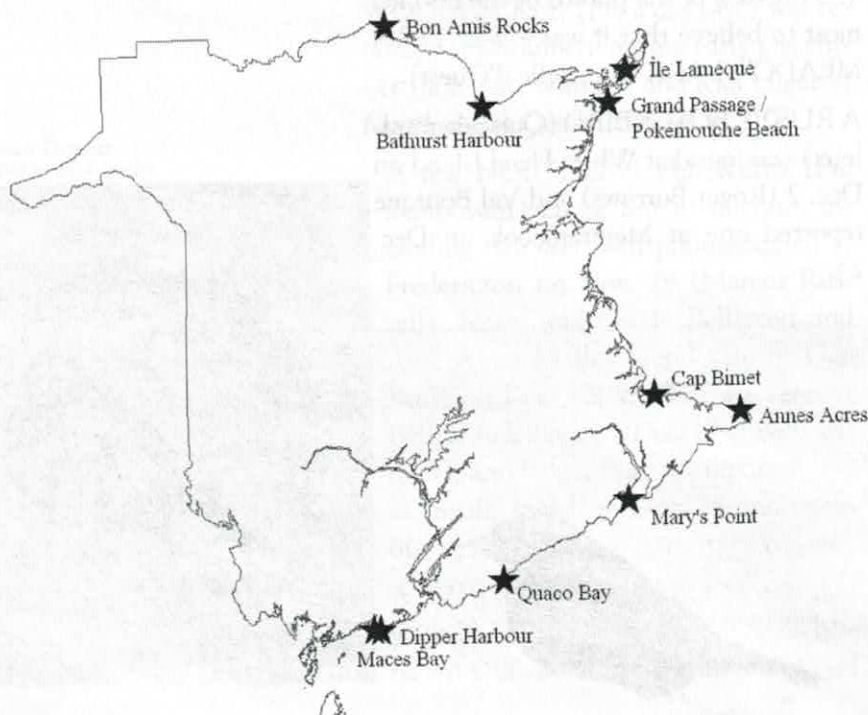
Nov. 11 (David Christie), one at Alma on Nov. 29 (Doreen Rossiter), one at Fredericton on Nov. 29 (Janice Perley), one at Lower Coverdale on Dec. 1 (Ann Marsh), and one at Fredericton on Dec. 8 (Rod Currie).

Kate Robinson  
Sackville

## L'Inventaire des Limicoles des Maritimes a besoin des bénévoles au Nouveau-Brunswick!

L'Inventaire des Limicoles (ILM) des Maritimes est un programme à base de bénévoles géré par le Service canadien de la faune d'Environnement Canada. Il fut initié en 1974 dans le but de répertorier les sites d'importance pour les limicoles pendant les périodes de migration, ainsi que pour surveiller les tendances des populations de chaque espèce. Il y a actuellement 123 sites ILM au Nouveau-Brunswick, dont 13 ont été identifiés comme étant des sites

prioritaires. En 2008, seulement 29 sites ont été recensés. Il y a présentement 2 sites de haute priorité qui n'ont pas de bénévoles : soit Quaco Bay, dans le marais de Saint Martin et Mary's Point, dans la Réserve nationale de la faune de Shepody. Ces deux sites ont besoin des bénévoles surtout pendant les périodes de migration au printemps (15 avril au 9 juin) et à l'automne (20 juillet au 31 octobre). Il y a également des sites disponibles le long du détroit de Northumberland, par exemple Anne's Acres, près du Cape Jourimain.



Les sites disponibles sont indiqués par un astérisque. La carte a été créée par Bryan Martin en MapInfo.



# Pileateds Aplenty?

Alan Madden  
Tide Head

As a young lad I spent a lot of time outdoors in eastern New Brunswick between Cape Tormentine and the Big Bartibogue River, but rarely saw or heard Pileated Woodpeckers. My buddies and I saw only one Pileated in what must have been a hundred trips trekking the Moncton pipeline between the city proper and the McLaughlin Road reservoir prior to and after the construction of the University of Moncton. The lack of birds could not have been due to a lack of large trees in which to nest and feed, for large elms, birch, and conifers were common. Those were the years prior to Dutch Elm disease.

The first bird of which I got an excellent view was near the top of the hardwood-covered mountain on the Gorge Road during winter. While snowshoeing in the area, I heard a slow-paced, loud knocking sound nearby and wondered who had a camp way up here, for I was certain someone was using a hammer. I slowly moved toward the sound, not wanting the person to discover me near their private retreat. I was very surprised when I noted a movement a few metres up in a hardwood tree and realized I had been duped by nature's true version of Woody the woodpecker, one of the most popular cartoon characters of my generation.

In 1969, a decade later, a half million residents of the province decided to actually pay me to romp in woodpecker woods and on the streams. As the DNR's fish and wildlife management biologist for northeastern New Brunswick for the next three decades, I got to see a great deal of truly remote areas harbouring prime big woodpecker habitat—some of it seldom

viewed by even hardened hunters and anglers. Clearcuts were common even back in the '60s, '70s, and early '80s; however, Pileated habitat was available in the uncut blocks of forest and along waterways. Up until the '90s, I saw or heard perhaps only two to six Pileated Woodpeckers annually. That is not very many birds, considering that in my early years with the department, I spent about 50 percent of my days afield. So, one would probably judge that the species population status was "Uncommon" in the '60s, '70s, and '80s.

I didn't record all my Pileated observations during the '90s, but the number of birds that I noted during those years began to increase. This was surprising because there were even fewer big trees remaining in the relatively narrow waterway green strips, and the number of those strips was certainly not increasing. Therefore, I decided to record the number of Pileated sightings/hearings for a few years (see table) just to document them.

The number is impressive when taking into account how few I had identified two-three decades earlier. And I did not increase my effort to identify woodpeckers specifically—that is, on no day did I actively seek woodpeckers, all birds



Pileated Woodpecker  
Photo by M. Cormier



Pileated Woodpecker  
Photo by H. Scarth



recorded being passive to other interests. Birds noted around our village in Tide Head and while canoeing down rivers were mostly heard only. Birds recorded on highways were birds that flew across the road ahead of the moving vehicle. Only twice were families (presumably) of adults and fully grown young recorded, for only then were more than two birds noted. Four birds, all adult size, but probably including two young, were seen in our yard and at the outlet of Magaguadavic Lake. Very few of the recordings involved more than one bird, but probably some of those actually represented two birds, with only one bird calling at a time, often several hundred metres distant.

The table indicates that the species is widely distributed, which many New Brunswick naturalists would have already deduced, based on their own travels. It seems that there is nowhere that they do not exist so long as there is an actual forest, except perhaps on many of our coastal islands. The birds recorded in Quebec were detected on mountaintops from the middle of large grain fields. Here the birds were in the hardwood perimeters of those fields, nearly a kilometre away. The birds

in Florida were in hardwood lowland. Some of the birds in the Southeast Upsalquitch were on top of its tallest mountains, being at 600 metres, and in pure conifer forest, namely Black Spruce.

Pileateds are obviously very adaptable, for despite the facts that Dutch Elm disease decimated most of our elms and the timber harvesters decimated the number of all other large tree species, the birds are thriving. A senior colleague in the Canadian Wildlife Service told me he thought the increase in Pileated sightings by naturalists

was due to movement of the birds into urban areas from the steadily decreasing habitat in the forest. I had not yet told him about all the birds I was recording deep in the forest, some in areas in which timber harvesting had not taken place in over 60 years.

Although I identify more birds in urban areas than I did 20 years ago, I also see/hear many more deep in the forest than I did years ago. The Internet tells us that the population of Pileateds in the USA has been steadily increasing at about 1.4 percent annually, and it suggests that the increase might be due to abandoned farmland reverting to forest habitat that the birds find suitable. However, that is not the case in most of the areas in which I have detected the birds in recent years.

So why the increase in the number of Pileateds in New Brunswick recently? An increase in the abundance of nesting trees could account for it, but the extensive clearcutting of large forest tracts eliminates that idea. One could counter that and say that poplars regenerating in the clearcuts are replacing the lost nesting habitat (a minimum diameter of 40 cm, or 16 in., is needed to fit a big woodpecker like a Pileated). But, that does not explain the increase in the number of Pileateds in areas such as the Tide Head islands and along the main stem of the Restigouche River, where no or little cutting—not even selective cutting—has taken place in the last 40 years. All the large elms on the Tide Head islands (about 20) had died from Dutch Elm disease by the early '80s, and very few elm stubs remain. The larger of the two poplar species on the islands, the Balm of Gilead Poplar, is abundant there, but then it "always" was.

The other most likely reason for an increase in Pileated abundance is an increase in its food supply, caused by ???, or a more conducive environment. Of course,

Pileated Woodpecker  
Photo by M. Cormier





there could be other factors such as decreased parasite load, less disease, and/or predation. That's a total of five possibilities. However, the main reasons for most natural cause-and-effect processes that I've witnessed have numbered only one, sometimes a combination of two.

So, how about food supply and the environment? I'll go out on a poplar limb (but not too far, for they break easily) and speculate that the increase in Pileateds is due to an increase in food availability caused by an increase in temperature as a result of global warming. The warmer climate has resulted in a month longer growing season during the last decade than we had three decades ago (verified

by the ice-out and ice-up dates I recorded for the Restigouche River for 40 years), and a warmer climate automatically means more bugs to eat—at least a greater number of species from which to choose. Perhaps someone has done, or is about to do, a study on Pileated abundance in the east that proves me wrong.

Although we've lost most or, as many believe, all of the Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in North America, I have no reservation in concluding that the Pileated Woodpecker's status in New Brunswick has increased from "Uncommon" to "Fairly Common."



*Pileated Woodpecker*  
Photo by H. Scarth

Table 1a - Pileated Woodpecker observations 2003 to 2005

2003		2004		2005	
13-Apr-03	Bungay Rd, Moncton, NB	12-May-04	Mouth Patapedia River	22-Mar-05	Murray Island in Tide Head
25-Apr-03	Home in Tide Head; 2 birds	18-May-04	Home	31-May-05	Home; 2 birds
1-May-03	St. Andre, QC (10 km NW Tide Head)	27-May-04	Mouth Benjamin River	24-Jun-05	Downs Gulch, Restigouche River
5-May-03	St. Victor, QC (12 km NW Tide Head)	28-May-04	Gilles Island on Restigouche River	12-Jul-05	Crooked Rapids, Main Upsalquitch River
13-May-03	Restigouche River at mouth Patapedia River	6-Jun-04	Jacquet River at Hwy 11	25-Aug-05	Stellarton, NS
14/05/03	Restigouche River 8 km farther downstream	15-Jun-04	Eel River Dam (3 km So. of Dalhousie)	16-Sep-05	Kierstead Gulch, Glenlevit, Restigouche Co.
18-May-03	Long Is. on Restigouche River at Flatlands	2-Sep-04	Kilmorne Acres, Chamcook Lake	25-Sep-05	Gilles Island, Tide Head
24-May-03	Hwy 8 at Chatham	17-Sep-04	North Boom, Broadlands, QC (2 km N of Tide Head)	20-Oct-05	St. Andre, QC (10 km NW of Tide Head)
8-Aug-03	Elbow Brook on Nepisiguit River	19-Sep-04	MacLeods (Hwy 134, 5 km E of Campbellton.)	11-Nov-05	Thorne Bk on Canaan River
9-Aug-03	Mouth of Big Bk. on Nepisiguit Lake	22-Sep-04	Home; 4 birds together (15-20 m from observer)		
17-Aug-03	Cravens Gulch on NW Upsalquitch River	26-Sep-04	Oak Bay, QC (5 km northeast of Campbellton.)		
24-Aug-03	Sugarloaf Mt at Atholville	17-Nov-04	Shenandoah River, Virginia		
10-Oct-03	6th Digdeguash Lake (near McAdam)				
11-Oct-03	Modsley Lake (near McAdam)				
10-Nov-09	Leaman's Hill (near North River) Old Fredericton Rd.				
<b>Total: 15</b>	<b>IDs: 16 birds</b>	<b>Total: 11</b>	<b>IDs: 14 birds</b>	<b>Total: 9</b>	<b>IDs: 10 birds</b>



Table 1b - Pileated Woodpecker observations 2006 to 2009

2006	2007	2008	2009	Home
9-Mar-06	Mouth Patapedia River; Mth. Cheaters Bk; Mth Rafting Ground Bk. 3 birds, all singles	Road to Resources at SE Upsalquitch River	St. Andre, QC (10 km NW of Tide Head)	Home
30-Jun-09	Home	Popple Depot on Nepisiguit River	Home	Nash Creek on Hwy 11
31-Mar-06	Youngs Cove	Home	Toad Bk., Restigouche River	Bay Du Vin River (1 km above Hwy 11)
1-Jun-06	Gaspereau River (Chipman)	Tide Head mountain; 2 birds	Petite Cascapedia River, QC (110 km NE of Campbellton)	W. Branch Christopher Bk., Restigouche Co.
6-Jun-06	Pokemouche River	Cook Savoie Gulch, SE Upsalquitch River; 2 birds	Belledune on Hwy 11	Sugary Hill, in Tide Head
22-Jun-06	Pollard Lake, Restigouche Co.	Cains River (3 and 6 km below Hwy, respectively)	Tide Head	N Branch Halls Creek
26-Jun-06	Mouth Berry Bk., Upsalquitch River	Cains River (8-24 km below Hwy); 4 birds	Matapédia, QC	Cascapedia River, QC
22-Aug-06	North Pole Stream, (Miramichi River)	Tide Head mountain	Napan River on Hwy 11	Sugary Hill, Tide Head
13-Sep-06	Coles Island	West Inlet to Duff Lake, Restigouche Co.		Home
13-Sep-06	Longs Creek (Washademoak Lake)	Magaguadavic Lake at outlet; 4 birds		Big Cove, Washademoak Lake
26-Oct-06	Napan-Black River on Hwy 11	Harvey Lake - south shore		Youngs Cove, Grand Lake
14-Nov-06	Rocky Bayou, NW Florida	Thompson Road, near Longs Creek; 2 birds		Oak Bay near St. Andrews
18-Nov-06	Little Manatee River, NW Florida	Youngs Cove		Cascapedia River, QC
23-Nov-06	Myakka River, Florida	Bon Ami Rock at Dalhousie		Long Hole Pool, Jacquet River
3-Dec-06	Estero River, Florida			Mann's Mt. (26 km W of Campbellton)
				Tide Head (1 km E of



## Rédaction - mise en page - production

LE NATURALISTE DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK A BESOIN DE SANG NEUF!

Aimeriez-vous vous familiariser avec la production du Naturaliste du N-B? Voulez-vous vous joindre à l'équipe de rédaction? Voici une excellente occasion de participer, de diverses façons, en contribuant des photographies, en écrivant des articles, en traduisant ou encore en étant responsable de la production d'un numéro complet de la revue!

Le Naturaliste du N-B est entièrement le fruit du travail de bénévoles. Nous aimerions poursuivre cette tradition, mais nous avons de la difficulté à maintenir un nombre suffisant de bénévoles, ce qui fait que les tâches deviennent lourdes. Voici comment vous pouvez participer.

En tant que :

- Responsable de la mise en page
- Traducteur/traductrice
- Rédacteur/rédactrice (révision d'articles qui nous sont soumis)
- Collaborateur/collaboratrice (soumission d'articles)
- Photographe
- Chroniqueur(e) (y-a-t-il un thème que vous aimeriez suggérer? Nous recherchons aussi des personnes intéressées à compiler les observations d'oiseaux!)

Appelez-nous ou envoyez-nous un courriel. Joignez-vous à nous lors de la prochaine réunion en mars, où tous les bénévoles seront rassemblés.

POUR NOUS JOINDRE :

Sabine Dietz (corvus@nbnet.nb.ca), 506-536-1260

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

## Editing - Layout - Producing

THE NB NATURALIST NEEDS NEW BLOOD!

Are you interested in learning how to produce the NB Naturalist? Do you want to be part of our editorial team? We're offering a great opportunity to get involved, at any kind of level, from providing photographs, writing articles, translating, to being responsible for producing an entire issue of the magazine!

The NB Naturalist is entirely produced by volunteers. We would like to keep it this way, but we are having trouble maintaining a large enough volunteer base so that the tasks do not become overwhelming. Here is how you can become involved:

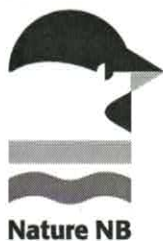
- as producer (being responsible for an issue of the magazine)
- as translator (translating articles, or editing French articles)
- as editor (editing articles that are submitted)
- as writer (providing articles that are of interest to naturalists in NB)
- as photographer (providing us with photos)
- as regular contributor (a topic you might want to suggest? we are looking for Nature News bird sightings compilers as well!)

Call us or e-mail us, find out what you could do. Join us in a meeting we will be holding in March, where we want to gather everybody interested in participating.

CONTACTS:

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### Urgent! - Compilers Needed!

Are you a member of NatureNB ListServe? Would you like to compile a list of the birds recorded there? We are in great need of at least 2 people that would be willing to organize bird sightings for a 3 month period for the Nature News section of the NB Naturalist.





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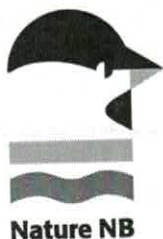
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