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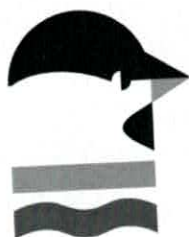


# Naturaliste du **NB** Naturalist



Dalhousie's Seals • Les sternes de la Baie de Shédiac • Manitoba Maple  
Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch





## Nature NB

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

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

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

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**Carleton Victoria Nature Club (Coldstream)**, c/o Grant Milroy, 63 Swim Rd, Coldstream, E7P 3M7, 375-6651.

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

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

**Club les Ami(e)s de la Nature du sud-est Inc.**, a/s Normand Belliveau, CP 26024 Moncton, E1E 4H9, 532-4583, ami.e.snature@gmail.com; http://picasa-web.google.com/Ami.e.snature; réunions alternant entre Dieppe et Shédiac, 1<sup>er</sup> mercredi du mois; excursions 3<sup>ème</sup> samedi ou dimanche; La Plume verte.

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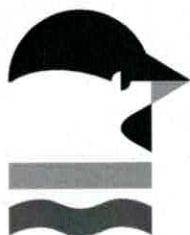
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**Restigouche Naturalists' Club**, c/o Mike Lushington, 214 Rosebery Street, Campbellton, E3N 2H5, 684-3258; meets Village-Campbellton Nursing Home, 7 pm, 1st Monday.

**Saint John Naturalists' Club**, 7 Bridle Path Lane, Rothsey, E2E 5S7; meets N.B. Museum at Market Square, 7:30 pm 2nd Mon., Sept-May, elsewhere in June; monthly newsletter  
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February to April / février à avril - vacant

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

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

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

Please submit articles for the next issue by **July 31, 2010.**

S.v.p. soumettre les articles pour le prochain numéro avant le **31 juillet, 2010.**

To / à Janet MacMillan, janetmac@nbnet.nb.ca

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

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**NB Naturalist** carries articles and reports pertaining to the natural history of New Brunswick. Articles are invited in either English or French, and will be printed in the language in which they are received. The opinions expressed are those of the authors. **Please send all submissions for the NB Naturalist to: Janet MacMillan (janetmac@nbnet.nb.ca)** Ask for details of computer compatibility. Advertising rates available on request.

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On peut lire dans **Le Naturaliste du N.-B.** des rapports touchant l'histoire naturelle du Nouveau-Brunswick. Les articles seront acceptés en français ou en anglais pour être reproduits dans la langue d'origine. Les opinions exprimées sont celles de leurs auteurs. Veuillez faire parvenir toutes les soumissions pour **Le Naturaliste du N.-B.** à : Janet MacMillan (janetmac@nbnet.nb.ca). Demandez pour les détails de compatibilité d'ordinateur. Tarifs publicitaires sont disponibles sur demande.

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## President's Message

Gart Bishop

# Staffing Changes at Nature NB

In 2002, Nature NB hired its first full-time staff member, our project co-ordinator Marieka Chaplin, who later became our first executive director. As of June 4, 2010, our third executive director, Jessica Scott, will be taking over from Vanessa Roy-McDougall, who begins maternity leave for the next year.

For many members, contact with Nature NB is through our quarterly magazine, *NB Naturalist*, and our annual general meeting (now called 'A Festival of Nature'), which is filled with field trips, workshops, and a banquet. You may wonder exactly what our executive director does.

Most of Nature NB's funding is tied directly to specific projects. Over the past eight years, we have completed many different projects, but a few have been with us for many years, such as the Species at Risk project (formerly the Piping

Plover project), our summer camps, and the Nature Kids NB magazine. Excluding the Species at Risk project, which operates almost independently under the very capable and enthusiastic Lewnanny Richardson, our executive director oversees all our projects, does all the hiring of staff (up to six people during the summer), manages the staff and finances for all projects, applies for funding, develops new ideas for future projects, serves as membership secretary, and performs numerous other tasks requested by Nature NB's executive and board.

So if you happen to contact Nature NB's office in the next year, and are wondering what's become of Vanessa, rest assured that she is enjoying motherhood and that Nature NB is in the capable hands of our new executive director, Jessica.

## Mot du Président

Gart Bishop

# Changements au bureau de Nature NB

En 2002, Nature NB engageait son premier employé à plein temps. Cette coordonnatrice de projet, Marieka Chaplin, est devenue par la suite notre première directrice générale. Le 4 juin prochain, notre troisième directrice générale entrera en poste en remplacement de Vanessa Roy-McDougall qui sera en congé de maternité au cours de la prochaine année.

Beaucoup de nos membres entretiennent le contact avec Nature NB par le biais de notre revue trimestrielle *Le Naturaliste du N.-B.* et par notre assemblée générale

annuelle (qui se nomme dorénavant Festival de la nature), où ils profitent d'une variété de sorties en nature et d'ateliers, sans oublier bien sûr, le banquet. Mais vous vous demandez peut-être ce que fait exactement notre directrice générale.

La majorité du financement de Nature NB est accordé par rapport à des projets spécifiques. Au cours des huit dernières années, nous avons réalisé une variété de projets, dont certains nous accompagnent depuis longtemps. Pensons à Espèces en péril (anciennement le Projet Siffleur), à nos



camps d'été et à notre revue pour jeunes. Si on fait exception du projet Espèces en péril qui opère de façon indépendante sous la direction de l'enthousiaste et très compétent Lewnanny Richardson, notre directrice générale fait la supervision de nos employés et de la gérance des finances pour tous les projets. Elle est aussi responsable des demandes de financements pour les projets, développe des idées pour de nouveaux projets et elle est aussi responsable des adhésions et toutes autres tâches qui lui sont confiées par le Conseil d'administration de Nature NB.

Donc, si jamais il vous arrive d'entrer en contact avec le bureau de Nature NB au cours de la prochaine année et que vous vous demandiez : « Qu'est-il advenu de Vanessa? » ne vous inquiétez pas, elle est tout simplement en train de profiter d'un peu de temps en famille avec son tout nouveau bébé alors que Nature NB est entre les mains compétentes de notre nouvelle directrice générale par intérim : Jessica.



Jessica and Vanessa  
Photo by Nature NB



David Christie  
Mary's Point

## Beginnings of the NB Naturalist: Forty Years ago, or more?

Forty years ago, in January 1970, as curator of the Natural Science Department at the New Brunswick Museum, I introduced the first issue of the N.B. Naturalist, a museum publication, with these words:

"Here begins the New Brunswick Naturalist, a newsletter for all those interested in the natural history of the province. Six numbers per year are planned. Your notes and suggestions will be most welcome. Subscription will be \$1.00 per year." Everything was cheaper then!

Volume 1, number 1 was a ten page report on the 24 Christmas Bird Counts conducted in New Brunswick that winter, and the following five issues contained summaries of noteworthy nature observations from various parts of the province, the kind of thing you are familiar with in current summaries in this magazine.

Actually, startup of the N.B. Naturalist was not an innovation of mine, but more of a reincarnation. Twenty years earlier, W. Austin Squires, my predecessor at the museum, had begun a newsletter called *Nature News* that was sent free of charge to museum members and other interested people around the province. It's interesting that in the first issue, February 1950, he foresaw the possibility of our organization:

"This bulletin... is a new venture and its purpose is twofold: first to bring together valuable phonological data and other information about any and all branches of natural science... in New Brunswick; and second to coordinate this information and pass it on to those who may be

interested and at the same time put it on record so that it may be available to students and research workers in the future. There are quite a few people in this province keenly interested in nature but probably not enough in any one place to maintain a successful naturalists' society. A provincial association might be a future possibility."

From that beginning, *Nature News* was published five or six times a year until January 1969, when Austin reported that Vol. XIX, No. 6 would be the last because costs were rising and the museum had decided to merge the bulletins of its three curatorial departments into a quarterly publication. However, the new publication, *Museum Memo*, did not fill the role that *Nature News* had served. So it was that I proposed and obtained approval to publish the N.B. Naturalist as a periodical available on a subscription basis.

When the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists / Fédération des Naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick was established in November 1972, it was decided that the N.B. Naturalist should become the Federation's periodical. This began in February 1973 (Vol. 4, No. 1), when the contents expanded to include news of the federation and local clubs plus articles by individual members. The following issue included the first three articles in French, but it was not until 1983 that the publication name was changed to N.B. Naturalist / Le Naturaliste du N.-B.

Since that time, the magazine has continued to evolve in content and format, including the use of separate cover stock (1976), the change from mimeograph

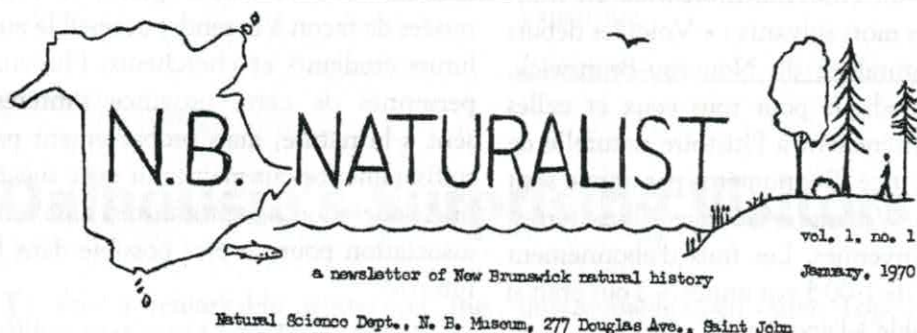


(stencil) printing to offset printing, from using typewriters to computers (1985), laser printer output (1987), increasing use of illustrations (drawings, photographs), and from one layout design and editorial team to another.

Looking back through the issues, I see a valuable record of the natural history of New Brunswick as it changes from sea-

son to season and year to year, as well as of the development of our organization as it too has changed and responded to the education and conservation needs of our times. My thanks to the many people who have contributed in one way or another to keeping the reincarnation alive and growing.

First page of NB *Naturalist* vol. 1, no. 1,  
January, 1970



Here begins the *New Brunswick Naturalist*, a newsletter for all those interested in the natural history of the province. Six numbers per year are planned. Your notes and suggestions will be most welcome. Subscription will be \$1.00 per year.

#### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

What does a mild, snow-free early winter do to birds? It let's a lot of them remain in New Brunswick later than usual and it allows strays to survive until Christmas Count time. These were noticeable characteristics of our Bird Counts this winter, giving rise to a record number of species on several counts.

In the northern half of the province the ground generally was covered with snow but not deeply so, while in the south, snow was present for only a few days. The first real storm of the winter left deep snow on Dec. 19. Along the Bay of Fundy it was removed by rain on the 22nd. A second storm, beginning Dec. 26, turned to rain and the ground was bared across all of southern New Brunswick on the 27th. With little cold weather (mean December temp. about 6° above normal), the Saint John River was almost entirely ice-free for the Jemseg count, while there was much open water at Saint John and a bit at Fredericton. The mildness also meant very little ice on the sea at Cape Tormentine and other areas along the northeastern coast.

A record 24 Christmas Counts were taken this winter, including seven in northern New Brunswick, where there never have been more than two in one year before. All the counts lasted at least six hours except for one made at sea from the Grand Manan boat, where a longer count was impossible. All told, 205 participants observed for 387 party-hours (on foot and by car, boat, and snowmobile) and at 78 bird feeders and reported 59,213 birds of 104 species. An additional 5 species were seen during the Christmas count period.

Among the unusual species not normally with us in December were Pied-billed Grebes, Canada Geese (several counts), Ring-necked Ducks, Am. Coot, Killdeer, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hermit Thrushes, Rusty Blackbirds, Chipping Sparrows and White-crowned Sparrows. Lingerers more often with us included Great Blue Herons, Green-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Mourning Dove and Belted Kingfisher.

Regarding geese, it is interesting to note the background to their appearance on several Christmas Counts. Al Smith reports that goose numbers were high in all three Maritime Provinces this fall. Canadian Wildlife Service aerial surveys



David Christie  
Mary's Point

## Les débuts du Naturaliste du N.-B.:

### Il y a quarante ans, ou plus?

Il y a quarante ans, en janvier 1970, j'ai présenté le premier numéro du *Naturaliste du N-B* à titre de chercheur au Département des sciences naturelles du Musée du Nouveau-Brunswick en utilisant les mots suivants : « Voici les débuts du *Naturaliste du Nouveau-Brunswick*, un périodique pour tous ceux et celles qui s'intéressent à l'histoire naturelle de la province. Six numéros par année sont prévus. Vos notes et suggestions seront les bienvenues. Les frais d'abonnement seront de 1.00 \$ par année. » Tout était si abordable à l'époque!

Le volume 1, numéro 1 était entièrement consacré aux 24 Recensements des oiseaux de Noël effectués au Nouveau-Brunswick cet hiver-là, et les cinq numéros suivants contenaient des sommaires des observations de la nature dignes de mention provenant de différentes régions de la province, telles que celles qui sont rapportées dans les éditions récentes de la revue.

La publication du *Naturaliste du N-B* n'est pas le fruit de mon seul travail : il s'agit plutôt d'une sorte de réincarnation. Vingt ans auparavant, W. Austin Squires, mon prédécesseur au Musée, avait entrepris la publication d'un périodique appelé *Nature News*, qui était envoyé gratuitement aux membres du Musée et aux autres personnes intéressées à travers la province. Il est intéressant de noter que dans le premier numéro, en février 1950, il pressentit la possibilité de mettre en place une organisation comme la nôtre :

« Ce bulletin... est une nouvelle aventure dont le but est double : premièrement, rassembler des données phénologiques

utiles et d'autres informations provenant de toutes les disciplines des sciences naturelles... au Nouveau-Brunswick; deuxièmement, coordonner cette information et la transmettre à toutes les personnes intéressées de façon à la rendre accessible aux futurs étudiants et chercheurs. Plusieurs personnes de cette province s'intéressent à la nature, mais probablement pas suffisamment pour maintenir avec succès une association de naturalistes. Une telle association pourrait être possible dans le futur. »

Dès le début, *Nature News* était publiée cinq ou six fois par année jusqu'en janvier 1969, quand Austin indiqua que le volume XIX, numéro 6 serait le dernier en raison des frais croissants et de la décision du Musée de fusionner ses trois bulletins en une seule publication trimestrielle. Cependant, cette nouvelle publication, *Museum Memo*, ne remplit pas le rôle que jouait *Nature News*. Il fut donc proposé et approuvé que la publication du *Naturaliste du Nouveau-Brunswick* soit fondée sur des abonnements.

Quand la Fédération des naturalistes du Nouveau-Brunswick fut fondée en novembre 1972, il fut décidé que le *Naturaliste du Nouveau-Brunswick* deviendrait le périodique de la Fédération. Ceci commença en février 1973 (Vol. 4, No. 1), quand le contenu fut élargi afin d'englober les nouvelles de la Fédération et des clubs locaux ainsi que des articles écrits par des membres. Les numéros suivants ont accueilli les trois premiers articles en français, mais ce ne fut qu'en 1983 que le nom de la publication devint bilingue, soit *N.B. Naturalist / Le Naturaliste du N.-B.*



Depuis ce temps, notre périodique a continué d'évoluer dans son contenu et son format, incluant l'utilisation de couvertures distinctes (1976), le changement de duplication par stencil à l'impression offset, de l'utilisation de machines à écrire à celle des ordinateurs (1985), à l'impression laser (1987) et à l'utilisation croissante d'illustrations (dessins, photographies) et d'une équipe de mise en page et de rédaction à une autre.

En regardant les numéros passés, je vois un registre très important de l'histoire naturelle du Nouveau-Brunswick tel qu'il évolue de saison en saison et d'année en année, ainsi que le développement de notre organisation qui a changé elle aussi et a répondu aux besoins en éducation et en conservation. Merci aux nombreuses personnes qui ont contribué d'une façon ou d'une autre à garder cette version réincarnée non seulement en vie, mais en expansion.

## Dalhousie's Surprising Visitors

Mike Lushington  
Dalhousie

It was a remarkable winter on the North Shore. Ice that normally turns the Restigouche Estuary just to the west of Dalhousie into a winter highway by late January failed to set at all and, by mid February, had all but disappeared. Records dating back more than one hundred years indicate that the earliest date for spring break-up of the ice was back in 1938 – around the end of March. Usually the estuary is frozen solidly enough in winter that smelt fishers are able to set nets well out into the main channel of the river some five or six kilometres from the New Brunswick shore and two or three from Quebec. Since I have lived in Pt. LaNim, I have made it a tradition to ski across the estuary while the nets were in place, to have a look around, and to ski across to the Quebec community of Escuminac. (One year I was lucky enough to cross just after the fishers had pulled their nets for the day and had discarded several dozen small winter flounders on the ice. I returned home that day with a well laden, if somewhat odoriferous pack sack.) This winter I would have had to kayak across.

By late February, we were getting almost accustomed to looking out at this most

unseasonable open water. Together with almost no snow in the area, the scene from my upstairs study was that of late October rather than February, except for the occasional rafts of drift ice. These rafts usually formed from the continuing break-up further up the river. They drifted back and forth with the tides until they melted or were flushed into the upper Bay of Chaleur.

The end of February and the first of March is the time of the great seal hunts in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. However, we

Photo by J. Clifford





began hearing reports that there was so little ice in the Southern Gulf that sealers in Les Iles de la Madeleine had given up any plans for their annual harvest. No one even considered other possible consequences. Then, on or about February 24, we began to experience a strong Nor'easter. Usually, this is our big snow wind, but this winter, several earlier blows had produced only scattered flurries and periods of mist and fog. This blow, however, was to produce something dramatically different – in fact, something unique in local history.

The first reports of hundreds, even thousands, of seals on great floating rafts began to circulate on Thursday and Friday. By the weekend, it was the talk of the town and surrounding area. For the first time since the previous summer's Bon Ami Festival, roads leading down to Inch Arran Park, to the lighthouse, and onto the government wharf were clogged with sightseers, photographers, and the merely curious – all drawn by reports of mother seals actually whelping right there, in plain view, sometimes no further than fifty or one hundred meters from shore.

Photo by J. Clifford



I was able to spot as many as twenty or thirty seals from my home, which is several kilometres upstream from the mouth of the river. The seals had been transported up my way by incoming tides – and taken back down when the tides turned.

The seals, Harp seals, are often informally classified as Ice seals because they need the sea ice upon which to whelp. This year, there was little ice, and almost none of it was shore fast. Consequently, when the females clambered aboard their ice raft maternity wards, they little realized that north east winds and prevailing currents would take them and their about-to-be born infants on a fantastic sea journey into a part of the world that would welcome them with such enthusiasm.

A week later, both the seals and the audience were gone. As I write this, I do not know the fate of many of the pups. There had been dire predictions but I have heard no reports of seal carcasses along local beaches. Undoubtedly some of the pups would have died, but probably not as many might have, had there been opportunity for the annual hunt. It may well have been that the adage about it being an ill wind that blows no one any good may in fact have applied to the seals themselves this time around.



# Manitoba Maple (also called Boxelder, Ashleaf Maple, Érable à giguère) *Acer negundo*

## Botany Corner

Gart Bishop  
Sussex

This introduced species is now considered 'naturalized' in New Brunswick, meaning it is happy here and can reproduce, maintain, and expand its existence here without human help. Currently it is found scattered around the province, especially on wet meadows, riverbanks, and railways near human habitation. This maple has the widest distribution of all the maples in North America (Burns & Honkala), ranging from the east to west coast and from Alberta/Manitoba south to Guatemala.

Like all maples, its leaves appear in pairs along its twigs, but unlike other maples, it has a compound leaf composed of 3-11 leaflets, each having an irregularly toothed margin (Fig. 1). The common name Ashleaf Maple results from its resemblance to the true ash trees, which also have a compound leaf, and somewhat similar 'maple key'-like fruit.

Manitoba Maple is dioecious, meaning it has separate male and female flowers, and that they are found on different trees, i.e., all male flowers on one tree, all female flowers on another tree. Manitoba Maples are wind-pollinated and usually flower before the leaves emerge. The keys (Fig. 2) are found in drooping clusters and often remain on the tree for up to a year; they are a known favourite food of the Evening Grosbeaks.

Its greatest value has been in urban plantings in the western states and provinces because of its fast growth and shade canopy, along with its tolerance to wind, drought, flooding, and cold. Millions of trees have been planted out west to provide wind breaks and have inadvertently

provided nesting sites for a variety of bird species. Growing up to 25 m high, its trunk can be over a meter thick and frequently branches near the base, making it a favourite for climbing by children (Fig 3). It is a short-lived tree, rarely lasting more than 60 years, and can grow on soils varying from clay to sand.

Its wood is soft and rarely used commercially, although I found at least two European manufacturers of Manitoba Maple flooring online, which given the softness of the wood, was surprising. Perhaps even more surprising is that this maple does have a sugary sap. Even though it is less sugary than Sugar or Red Maple, it reportedly produces a fine quality syrup. In the Prairie Provinces, marketing of maple syrup made from Manitoba Maple is currently expanding into a commercial commodity! Native tribes peeled away the inner bark and steeped it in boiling water to produce a tea used as an emetic (causing you to vomit). Midwest tribes produced a charcoal from Manitoba Maple that was used for ceremonial body painting and tattooing (Blouin 2001).

Some folks are not fans of Manitoba Maple. It sprouts up in sidewalks and cracks of pavement and quickly crumbles these surfaces. Its leaves and seeds can be a nuisance to clean up and are host to a variety of insects and diseases (Blouin 2001). In the fall, its leaves turn an uninspiring yellow-brown. The weedi-ness of the Manitoba Maple makes it a tree that is frequently cut down, and it retaliates by having suckers sprouting

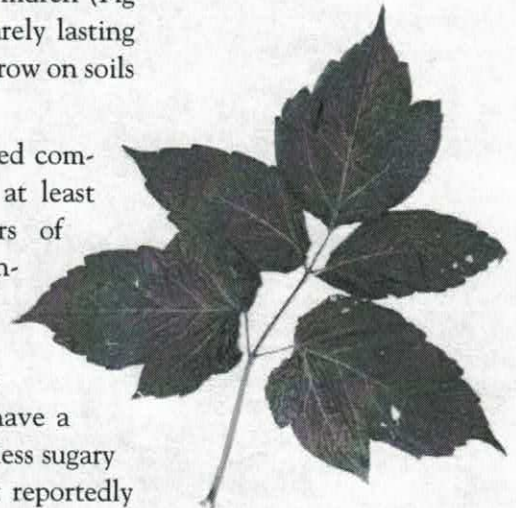


Fig 1 – Compound leaf with five leaflets (NBM VP 622)  
Photo by G. Bishop

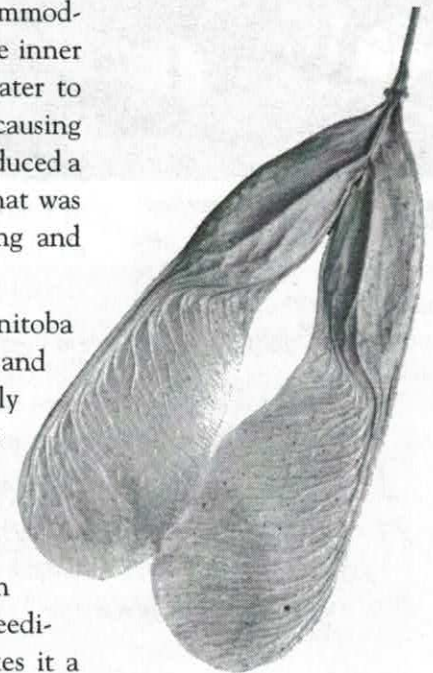


Fig 2 – Maple key (NBM VP 15252)  
Photo by G. Bishop



from stumps that can grow over 1 m in less than a year.

Nevertheless, ornamental cultivars have been sold around the world. On a recent

trip to Australia, I found a couple of young Manitoba Maples growing beside the sidewalk along a street in Sydney. Having been overwhelmed with the exotic and unknown vegetation surrounding me, I was delighted to find and identify this familiar weedy tree from home. Unfortunately, it is one more example of a tree species from North America (along with willows and poplars) that has taken an aggressive hold on its new 'down under' home.

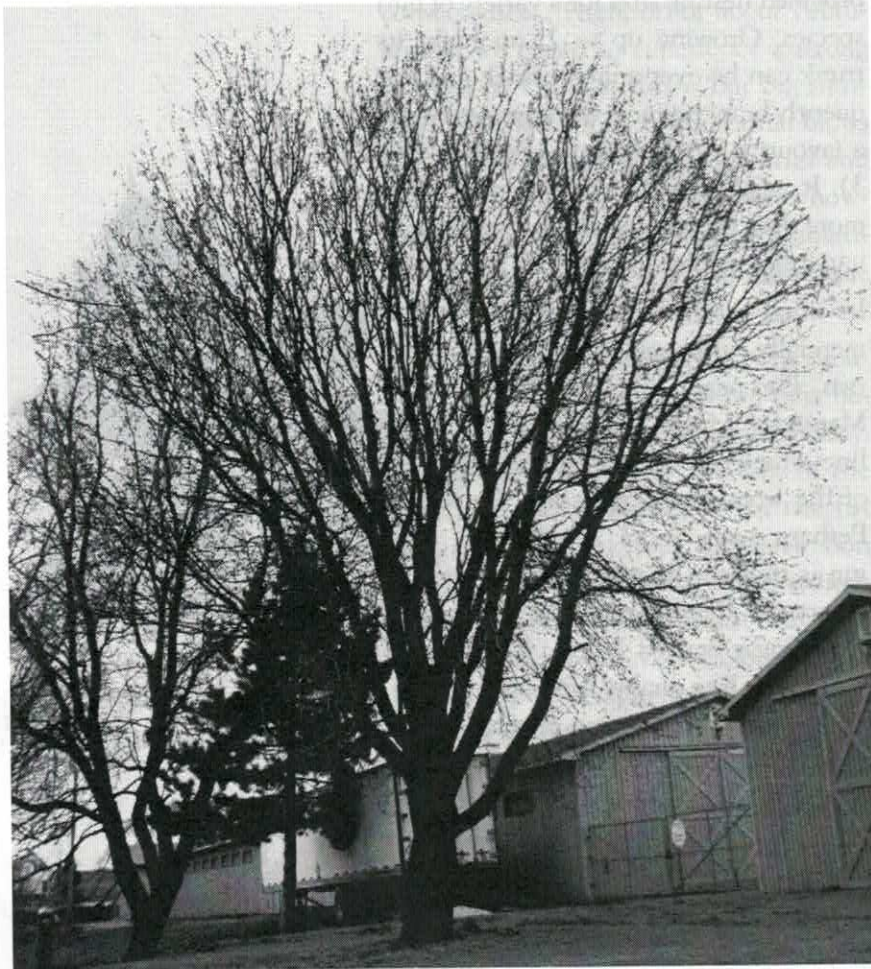


Fig 3 – Tree in Sussex  
Photo by G. Bishop

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- NBM VP-15252 (from the New Brunswick Museum), collected by W.A. Squires on 31 August 1967 at the edge of the road in Burnt Church.
- NBM VP-6222 (from the New Brunswick Museum), collected by W.A. Squires and D.S. Christie on 2 August 1963 in a ditch in the village of Salisbury.



# A Feast for the Bees

Tracy Glynn  
Fredericton

The beautiful and buzzing mixed-wood Acadian forest of the Maritimes is dependent on pollinators such as bumblebees. The native black cherry and basswood trees require insect pollination, as do native shrubs such as hazelnut and staghorn sumac, native flowers such as spring beauty and trilliums, and native berries such as blueberries and cranberries.

Scientists point to habitat destruction, pesticides, pollution, parasites, viruses and climate change as likely reasons for continuing declines in the diversity and abundance of insect pollinators such as bumblebees in eastern Canada.

Why should we care? World-renowned biologist, E.O. Wilson, said, "it's the little things in this world--literally at our feet, or buzzing around our heads--that keep us alive." It is estimated that approximately three-quarters of a typical North-American diet depends on pollination. Here in New Brunswick, blueberries are the second-largest cash crop after potatoes. New Brunswick blueberry growers earned \$19.8 million in 2008. Blueberries are most efficiently pollinated by native pollinators such as bumblebees.

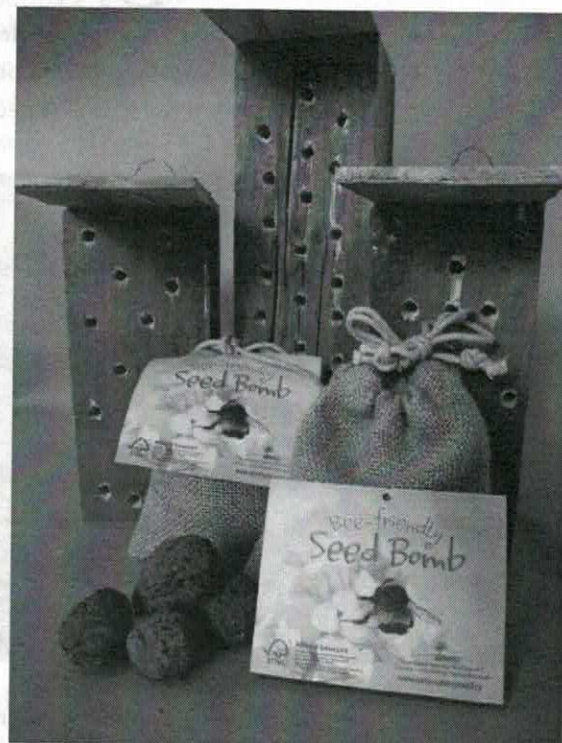
The Conservation Council of New Brunswick, a long time defender of natural ecosystems and local agriculture, is working to protect our native pollinators and our food security. The Conservation Council's Backyard Bee Box Project is meant to educate the public about the importance of planting pollinator-friendly flowers. The project includes homemade bee boxes and seed bombs. Simply by drilling holes into a piece of wood, you can make a bee box. A quick search online (see Sidebar com-

ments below) will provide many different instructions on how to make a bee box.

Seed bombs are balls of 1 part mixed wildflower seeds, 3 parts compost, 5 parts red powdered clay and a few drops of water. After drying for 24 hours, the seed bombs can be planted in your garden, backyard or in neglected patches of land.

Wildflowers are disappearing under pavement and gardens are planted with exotic and hybrid species that produce little or no nectar and pollen. Since bumblebees eat only nectar and pollen, planting bee-friendly gardens of nectar and pollen-producing plants is critical for the survival of the bumblebees. During March to September, bumblebees like such wildflowers as Marsh Marigolds, Golden Ragworts, Harlequin Blue Flags, Joe Pye Weed and Smooth Asters. So don't be afraid to make your garden a little messy. Even dead snags and leaf litter provide ground-nesting and shelter sites for our insect pollinators.

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity. This is the year that we must act on the biodiversity crisis. We must halt and reverse the downward spiral of our life-giving species.



For further information:

[www.pollinationcanada.ca](http://www.pollinationcanada.ca)  
[www.seeds.ca](http://www.seeds.ca)  
[www.conservationcouncil.ca](http://www.conservationcouncil.ca)

For bee box construction, see:  
[www.canadiangardening.com](http://www.canadiangardening.com)  
<http://onnaturemagazine.com>

For information on bees and alternate pollinators, see:  
<http://gardening.wsu.edu>

For a pdf file on bee box construction, see:  
[www.devon.gov.uk](http://www.devon.gov.uk)



Roland Chiasson  
Sackville

## Shediac Bay's Big "Tern Out"

### But Will it "Tern Out" Okay?

Despite numerous meetings to find a solution to the tern situation in Shediac, little progress had been made since last summer, until a sudden "tern of events"! A recent meeting with the new

commodore, Bill Slater, produced a promising bold plan to save the terns and accommodate the boat users. The plan is to create an artificial tern island on the south side of the marina (see picture).

This summer, a dredging operation is planned in the bay. The hope is that the dredge spoils can be used to create a tern island. Terns in the US have readily accepted artificial islands such as the one planned. A tern observation platform would make an excellent addition for the green park planned near the marina.

In the short term, before the terns "tern-up", part of the existing tern site might be boarded over (on a slant, like a skate board slide) to force the terns to move elsewhere - hopefully to the breakwater. Floating docks placed near the breakwater are also planned for luring "teenage" terns away from the boat docks. This should reduce some tern interactions with boaters. As well, the existing barge, where most of the terns are breeding, and the breakwater are eroding and need to be fixed. In the long term, neither location will be suitable for the terns. Ideally, all of the terns could be relocated in a couple of years to the new island.

A small committee has been formed to oversee the process: John Chardine (Environment Canada), Roger LeBlanc (Nature Moncton), Julien Bourgeois (Shediac Bay Watershed Association), Bill Slater, (commodore for the marina) and Roland Chiasson (Nature NB).

So stay tuned to see how things "tern-out"!

More pictures can be found at: <http://www.shediacbayyachtclub.ca/>.

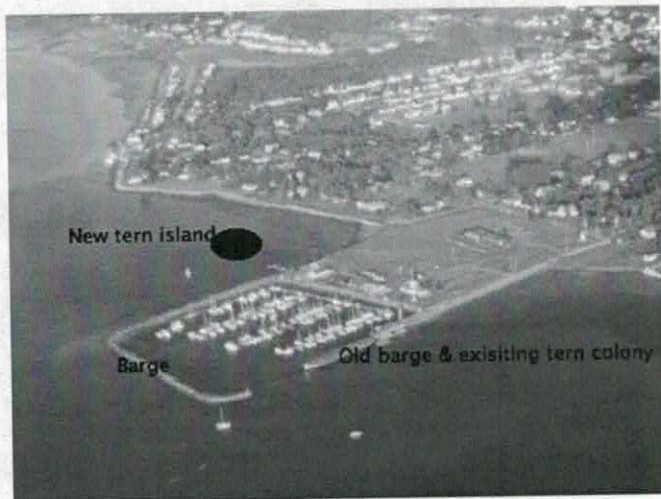


Photo by J. Chardine





# Les sternes de la Baie de Shédiac: seront-elles sauvées?

Roland Chiasson  
Sackville

## Les dernières nouvelles

Malgré de nombreuses démarches entreprises au cours de l'hiver afin de trouver une solution au problème de cohabitation des sternes et des plaisanciers à Shédiac, les choses n'avaient pas vraiment avancé jusqu'à tout récemment. Par contre, lors d'une récente rencontre avec le nouveau commodore Bill Slater, une initiative innovatrice a vu le jour. Celle-ci aurait l'avantage d'assurer la survie de la colonie de Sternes pierregarins tout en considérant les préoccupations des plaisanciers. Il s'agirait de créer une île artificielle de nidification juste au sud de la marina (voir illustration). Comme un projet de dragage est déjà prévu dans un autre secteur de la baie, cet été, le plan serait d'utiliser les sédiments recueillis lors de ce processus pour créer une île de nidification pour les sternes. L'expérience a déjà été tentée avec succès aux États-Unis où des sternes, ainsi que d'autres oiseaux marins, profitent largement de ces nouveaux habitats. En plus, une plateforme d'observation en face de l'île pourrait être un ajout plus qu'intéressant au tout nouveau parc urbain qui devrait voir le jour bientôt derrière la marina. Par contre, comme les sternes vont nous revenir sous peu, à court terme, il est prévu d'obstruer une partie de la colonie actuelle avec une structure en pente (un peu comme une rampe de skate) afin de forcer un nombre restreint de sternes à se déplacer (probablement sur le brise-lames). Des ponceaux flottants sont aussi prévus pour attirer les juvéniles ailleurs que sur les rampes d'accès flottantes des embarcations. Moins de confrontations entre les oiseaux et les propriétaires de bateaux devrait en être le

résultat. En plus, il faut se rappeler que la barge sur laquelle la colonie se trouve présentement est en danger d'effritement et qu'elle contiendrait même de l'huile usée. En fait, à la fois la barge et le brise-lames sont dans un état avancé d'érosion et devront être réparés dans un avenir rapproché. Donc, il ne s'agit pas d'un habitat viable à long terme pour les sternes. L'idéal serait donc la création de cette nouvelle île de nidifica-

tion et le déplacement graduel de la colonie vers celle-ci au cours des prochaines années. Un petit comité a été mis sur pied pour chapeauter le processus. On y retrouve John Chardine (Environnement Canada), Roger LeBlanc (Nature Moncton), Julien Bourgeois (Association du bassin versant de la baie de Shédiac), Bill Slater (commodore de la marina) et Roland Chiasson (Nature NB). C'est donc un dossier à suivre, mais il s'agit certes d'un projet intéressant dont tous pourraient en sortir gagnants.

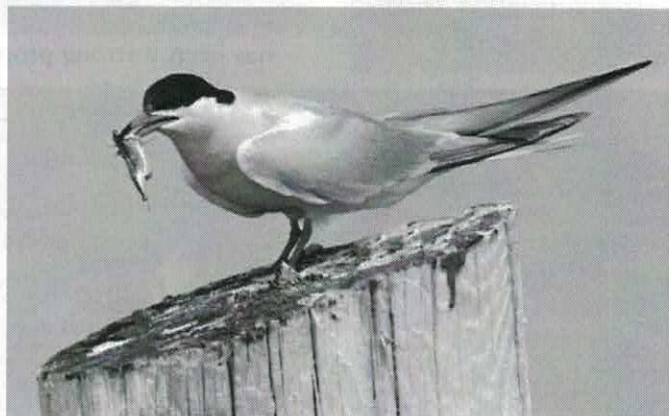


Photo by J. Chardine



Vanessa Roy-McDougall  
Nature NB  
Fredericton

For more information:  
[www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca)  
924 rue Prospect Street  
Suite 110  
Fredericton, NB E3B 2T9  
(506) 459-4209

## Nature NB's Summer Youth Nature Camps:

### Nurturing the Young Naturalist

One of Nature NB's important strategies in achieving our vision of a healthy, sustainable natural environment for New Brunswickers to learn about, celebrate, preserve, and maintain is nature education. From the initial development of our Species at Risk education kit to our Young Naturalists' Club, Nature NB has been a strong proponent of exposing youth to a wide variety of nature-based education programs. One of our most successful and longest running initiatives is our Summer Youth Nature Camps.

Founded in 2001, these camps offer youth aged nine to 14 the opportunity to explore New Brunswick's natural heritage through interactive programs in a camp setting. We currently offer five camps throughout the summer: two bilingual day camps in Fredericton, two English overnight

camps in St. Andrews, and one bilingual day camp in Moncton. One of the main goals of these camps is to reach beyond the public school curriculums and provide opportunities for youth to develop environmental and ecological awareness from the naturalist's perspective.

During the week at camp, youth are introduced to the idea that the plants, animals, and ecosystems surrounding them are interconnected by demonstrating how one part of this system will inevitably affect another. We always aim to offer a well-rounded camp experience by offering a good balance of educational and social activities. These include thematic programming that covers a wide variety of nature related topics from whales to edible plants, outdoor adventures such as exploring the Fundy tidal flats, and social activities. In the past two years, we've also introduced the Amazing Nature Race. This challenge-based activity encour-

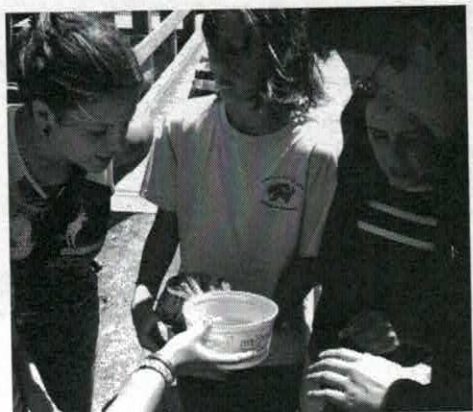


Photo by Nature NB



Photo by Nature NB



ages teamwork, leadership, exploration, and environmental responsibility. Nature educators assist each member of the team to discover their individual strengths. Challenges include a local conservation activity, nature observations contest, and independent nature exploration.

Over the past nine years, our Summer Youth Nature Camps have seen a steady increase in participation with a total of 95 youth participating in 2009. The large number of repeat campers is also a testament to the positive impact this important program has on the next generation of environmental stewards. The 2010 camp season is almost upon us and we look forward to positively impacting a new group of nature minded youth.

For more information on the Summer Youth Nature Camps or to register a youth, please visit our website at [www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca). Donations are always welcome.

Nature NB's Summer Youth Summer Camps are generously supported by the NB Wildlife Trust Fund.



Photo by Nature NB



Photo by Nature NB

## Send a deserving kid to nature camp!

Nature NB's Summer Youth Nature Camp program offers youth ages 9 to 14 the opportunity to explore the natural world and the role they can play in conserving it. Nature NB invites individuals, nature clubs, and other organizations to consider sponsoring a youth who may not have the financial resources to attend.

The cost to send one child to camp is \$325 for our week-long overnight camp in St. Andrews and \$150 for our week-long day camps in Moncton and Fredericton. However, donations of any amount will be gratefully accepted. Charitable receipts will be issued for tax purposes.

To sponsor a youth, please contact Nature NB at 506-459-4209 or [nbf@nb.aibn.com](mailto:nbf@nb.aibn.com).



David Christie  
Mary's Point

# Christmas Bird Count

2009 - 2010

This report summarizes the results of 44 Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) conducted in New Brunswick this winter. Weather during the count period was near average, but storms, especially one the first weekend of January, forced the cancellation of one count (Tracadie-Sheila), the rescheduling of others, and restricted the coverage of two (Grand Manan and Memramcook-Hillsborough).

Approximately 870 participants reported a total of 122,321 birds of 124 species on count day (+9 additional species during the count period, and one more during count week but outside the period). The number of birds and species is low compared to the average over the past 20 years, partly due to reduced effort because of the snow storm and to patterns of natural food availability that kept northern finches and some other birds well to the north.

No species seen was new for New Brunswick CBCs, but a Virginia Rail at Riverside-Albert and an Ovenbird at Lepreau were only the second occurrence of their species on our counts; both are normal summer residents that should be well to the south in winter. Other lingering species included 2 Northern Shovelers at Grand Manan, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Restigouche (on the Quebec side), and a late Ruddy Turnstone during count week at Cape Tormentine. A possible Western Meadowlark was a count-period highlight for the Fundy National Park circle.

Wild Turkeys were reported at Hartland and Chipman-Minto, presumably recently released birds or their offspring. The Hartland bird may have wandered in from release sites in Maine. Observers should record and report sightings of this introduced species as evidence of how self-sustaining they are.

It was not a big season for northern raptors, but significant were 4 Hawk Owls (2 of them just during count period) and a couple of Gyrfalcons (one a count-period bird). An average number of Snowy Owls, 5, were counted.

With few northern finches present, American Goldfinch and Purple Finch stole the show at feeders, the former especially in the south and the latter in the northern part of the province.

As in the previous year, there was a significant influx of Bohemian Waxwings, but this time they were concentrated in the northeast, where small fruits, such as mountain ash berries, were probably most numerous. An average number of American Robins were widely distributed but most numerous in coastal locations.

Numbers of ground-feeding songbirds were mostly lower than average this CBC season. These included Am. Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, and the less numerous Song Sparrow. Surprisingly, 9 Chipping Sparrows (4 of them in the Maine portion of Eastport-Campobello) were reported. It is a very rare species in N.B. during winter; two (at Restigouche and Moncton) were photographed.

Among our regular woodland birds, Downy, Hairy and Pileated woodpeckers were found in good numbers. Blue Jays were above average but Gray Jays lower. There were average numbers of Black-capped Chickadee, Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Boreal Chickadee rebounded from a low the previous year to more normal numbers, at least in the north. It was a good year for nuthatches, with Red-breasted especially numerous in the north, and White-breasted in the south.

This year, the growing population of Mallards reached 73% of the Black Duck total; one can foresee that these two species may be equally numerous within 5 to 10 years. Bald Eagles also continue to increase in numbers. Although Northern Cardinals dropped somewhat from 2008-09, their numbers remain high in the southwestern quarter of the province; it was the 10th most numerous species at Hammond River-Hampton, where a record 90 were tallied.

There was no rebound in the numbers of House Sparrow and Brown-headed Cowbird that have been declining for years, and the House Finch population remains about 10% of the level reached in 2000-01. Evening Grosbeaks were also low again. The fact that the Purple Sandpiper count was the lowest it's been during the past 25 years may be partly the result of chance, as well as of the reduced visibility at Grand Manan.



Most winter birds fluctuate in abundance from year to year, depending on weather conditions, availability of food, and breeding success during the previous year. For regularly counted species, in the tables of results, a symbol of plus and/or minus signs indicates how this winter's provincial totals compare to the average of the past two decades.

Results of the Miramichi, Dalhousie, Restigouche, and inland counts are presented in tables on pages 56 and 57:

#### RED BANK / SUNNY CORNER (RDB) 5th year

Dec. 20, 08:15–16:40. Mainly overcast at start with 50% cloud cover at end; temp.  $-6^{\circ}$  to  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NW, c. 5 km/h. 10–20 cm snow cover; ponds and rivers mainly frozen except for a few open fast-water sections of NW Miramichi. 8 field observers in 3 parties, plus 6 persons at 4 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 15 (0.5 on foot, 14.5 by car); tot. party-km, 301 (1 on foot, 300 by car).

David McLeod (compiler, assisted by) Jim Saunders; Nelson Cloud, Wendy Cloud, Julia Connell, Leda Porter, Ralph Porter, Lynn Pritchard, Leonel Richard, Phil Riebel, Andy Stewart, Elizabeth Walsh, Jude Walsh, Pam Watters.

#### MIRAMICHI (MIR) 38th year

Dec. 27, 08:00–16:30. Cloudy; temp.  $-3^{\circ}$  to  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; calm. 10 cm snow cover; ponds frozen, brooks open, river mostly frozen except for a few open spots. 4 field observers in 2 parties, plus 31 persons at 26 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 12.75 (1.25 on foot, 11.5 by car); tot. party-km, 272.3 (1.3 on foot, 271 by car).

Pam Watters & Harry Walker (co-compilers), Darlene Allen, Margaret Adams, Cornelia Arnoldus, Joyce Atkins, Florence Currie, Joe Donaher, Gwen Geikie, Carl Gillis, Burton Godfrey, Eric Godfrey, Georgia Halavrezos, Mary-Alma Harri-gan, Robert & Arlene Lisk, Theresa MacKnight, Dave McLeod, Phil McMackin, Karen Manderson, Betty Muzzeroll, Frank Power, Vera Rice, Phil & Max Riebel, Mary & Melvin Ripley, Eldon Rogers, Jim Saunders, Harry & Shirley Shaddick, Delta Steeves, Hayward Sturgeon, Winnie Walker, David Woulds.

#### DALHOUSIE (DAL) 25th year

Jan. 2, 08:00–16:30. Partly cloudy a.m., overcast & some snow p.m.; temp.  $-9^{\circ}$  to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; calm. On average, less than 10 cm snow cover; ponds frozen, little ice in estuary or bay. 19 field observers in 7 parties, plus 6 persons at ? feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 23 (? on foot, ? by car); tot. party-km, 125 (27 on foot, 98 by car).

Mike Lushington (compiler), Pat McGorlick (feeder compiler), Bob Acheson, Fran Acheson, Ruth Bulmer, Jim Clifford, Bob Gillis, Marita Giroux, Loretta Hamilton, Karl Heinsteins, Maurice Legere, Guy LeTourneau, Ray MacNair, Don Mann, Isobel Mann, Rachel Mann, Wayne Mann, Ken Reinsborough, Shirley Sharpe, Sandra Thompson, Lorraine Webb, Norm Webb, Charlene Vautour, Jeannette Williams, Denise Zyveniuik.

#### RESTIGOUCHE (RST) 20th year

Dec. 19, 7:00–7:00. Overcast; mild; barely any wind; ground barely frozen; water open. 5 field observers in 3 parties, plus 34 persons at 30 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 10.5 (5 on foot, 5.5 by car); tot. party-km, 169 (10 on foot, 159 by car).

Irene Doyle & Margaret Doyle (compilers), John Archibald, Gilberte Belanger, Wallace Best, Lucien Bujold, Ruth Bulmer, Jean Caissy, Emily & Alvin Clavette, Exie Delaney, Odile Doiron, Jerry Doucet, Dave Flynn, Doug Furlotte, Jean Gallant, Jim Katan, Flora Kelly, Jean-Paul LeBreton, Alvin Levesque, Lucette Lyons, Alan Madden, Don & Isabelle Mann, Veronica McKinnon, Allan MacNeish, Jean Miles, Marina Mills, Margot & Ulysse Richard, Gilles Rioux, Shirley Sharpe, Gladys Swan, Dr. Mathew Swan, Denyse Zyveniuik.

#### SUSSEX (SSX) 37th year

Dec. 19, 9:00. to 16:00. Clear; temp.  $-13$  to  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind N, 10 km/h. Ground snow-covered; water frozen except moving water. 12 field observers in 7 parties plus 2 feeder reports; tot. party-hours, 33 (11 on foot, 22 by car); tot. party-km, 267 (22 on foot, 245 by car).

John Arisz (compiler), Wilma Arisz, Gart Bishop, Jim Brown, David Hughes, Dianne McFarlane, Eldon Thorne, plus others.

#### HAMMOND RIVER–HAMPTON (HTN) 37th year

Jan. 4, 06:30–17:10. Cloudy with sunny periods, light snow flurries in parts of the circle; temp.  $-1^{\circ}$  to  $+3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; calm early, wind increasing to 5–7 km/h later in a.m.. Snow cover 15–20 cm; most water frozen, brooks running. 31 field observers in 9 parties, plus 66 persons at 46 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 58 (10 on foot, 48 by car); tot. party-km, 716 (20 on foot, 696 by car).

Jim Wilson (compiler), Beth Allaby, Mike Bamford, John Batten, Todd Beach, Joyce Belyea, Doug Black, Gerry Black, Richard Blacquiére, Jean-Guy Boucher, Linda Boucher, Bill Brittain, Doris Calder, David Christie, Bruce Coles, Janet Coles, Merv Cormier, Jennifer Day-Elgee, Jean Dykeman, Mary Ellis, Ross Ellis, Linda Ewart, Barb Foster, Carl Foster, Gordon Foster, Jean Foster, Lorna Fowler, Stephen Fowler, Stuart Fraser, Bill Gentleman, Bill Gentleman, Jr., Gillian Gentleman, Allen Gorham, Janet Gorham, Bruce Harding, Peggy Harding, Evelyn Hazlett, Kathy Hazlett, Lowell Henderson, Roberta-Ann Henderson, Durland Ingersoll, Mike Jackson, Sally Jackson, Gretchen Kelbaugh, Peggy Kelbaugh, Nancy Ketchum, Ruth King, Austin Lamb, Nancy Lamb, Jean MacDonald, Tina MacIntosh, Mary Majka, Paul Mansz, Bonnie Massey, Jack Massey, Ann McAdam, David McCurdy, Ruth McLeese, Gina McLeod, Harvey McLeod, Lynn McMackin, Judy McNab, Don McPhail, Nancy Meech, Laurie Mills, Margaret Mills, Cindy Morrow, Beth Myles, Jean Northrup, Bill Nowlan, Juliette Nowlan, Mavis Nutter, Alice O'Neil, Harry O'Neil, Suzanne Pelletier, Betty Prince, Fred Prince, Don Robinson, Jim Russell, Jocelyn Russell, Barb Sands, Joanne Savage, Hank Scarth, Fran Scribner, Les Scribner, Allen Sproul, Shirley Sproul, Norm Tait, Sue Tait, Rob Ward, Judy Whalen, Dave White, Myrna White, Eunice



Willar, Fred Willar, Peter Wilshaw, Jean Wilson.

#### CAMBRIDGE-NARROWS (C-N) 40th year

Dec. 31, 08:30. to 16:30. Sunny with cloudy periods; temp.  $-18^{\circ}$  to  $-6.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind 5 km/h. Ground snow-covered; lakes frozen, brooks open. 12 field observers in 8 parties, plus 20 persons at 16 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 21 (3 on foot, 18 by car); tot. party-km, 191 (6 on foot, 185 by car).

Joyce Robinson (compiler), Nancy Arnburg, Eleanor Belyea, Gary Bolton, John Brown, Deborah Carpenter, Jean Carpenter, Marie Carpenter, Bill Crouch, Winnie Crouch, Marie Duffy, Howard Erb, Marilyn Erb, Iris Ferris, Gaila Friars, Wayne Friars, Mario Gauvin, Debora Kantor, Glenn Moore, Shirley Moore, Mary Moss, Brigitte Noel, Nellie Perry, Janet Ratcliffe, Tony Ratcliffe, Doris Straight, Jackie Straight, Peter Thomas, Arthur Thorne, Joyce Thorne, Niven Thorne, Stuart Tingley.

#### JEMSEG (JEM) 47th year

Dec. 27, 8:00–16:00. Overcast almost all day, with sun trying to break through for short times; temp.  $-2^{\circ}$  to  $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; almost no wind, E, very light for brief period in the p.m.. About 30 cm snow cover; water mostly frozen but a few small open patches on rivers, creeks and larger lakes. 12 field observers in 5 parties, plus 12 persons at 12 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 31.9 (3 on foot, 28.9 by car); tot. party-km, 364 (4.5 on foot, 359 by car).

James Goltz (compiler), Margery Acheson, Susan Blair, Rod Currie, Kier Gigeroff, David Myles, Bev Schneider, Marc Schneider, Shirley Sloat, Cliff Thornley, Owen Washburn, Ron Wilson.

#### FREDERICTON (FTN) 54th year

Dec. 20, 08:00–17:00. Overcast; temp.  $-8^{\circ}$  to  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind N, 10 km/h. 15 cm snow cover; ponds and lakes frozen, river partially open. 52 field observers in 26 parties, plus 32 feeder reports; tot. party-hours, 121 (50 on foot, 71 by car); tot. party-km, 909 (76 on foot, 833 by car).

Don Gibson (compiler), Erin Acheson, John Acheson, Margery Acheson, Megan Acheson, Susan Blair, Elaine Bulmer, Linda Bulmer, Moira Campbell, Sabine Campbell, Eric Carr, Mike Casey, Merlene Crawford, Stanley Crawford, Rod Currie, David DeKoeper, Lucy Dyer, Katie Fitz-Randolph, Graham Forbes, Bonnie Flynn, Hannah Grant, Virgil Grecian, B. K. Grey, Doug Jackson, David Lounsbury, Alex MacDonald, Halli MacDonald, Cathy MacLaggan, Milda Markauskas, Barry Monson, Thomas Myatt, Murray Neilson, Paul Nicholson, Jean Noble, Jim Noble, Janet Otorowski, Peter Pearce, Monique Pineau, Bev Schneider, Marc Schneider, Shirley Sloat, Rudy Stoczek, Ryan Sutcliffe, Richard Tarn, Cliff Thornley, Glenda Turner, Kevin Tutt, Leon Vietinghoff, Susan Gavin-Vietinghoff, Owen Washburn, Heather Wilson and Ron Wilson.

#### MACTAQUAC (MAC) 30th year

Jan. 1, 08:00–16:30. Cloudy. light snow 9:45–11:00, then flurries or cloudy for remainder; temp.  $-7^{\circ}$  to  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NE, light. Snow cover 15–25 cm in open; river and streams mostly frozen, open for 1 km below dam. 12 field observers in 6 parties plus 2 persons at 1 feeder; tot. party-hours, 38.8 (3 on foot, 35.75 by car); tot. party-km, 473.5 (7.5 on foot, 466 by car).

Beverley Schneider (compiler), Moira Campbell, Barbara Clayden, Gerry Clayden, Stephen Clayden, Allen Francis, Don Gibson, Jim Goltz, David Lounsbury, David Myles, Marc Schneider, Shirley Sloat.

#### CHIPMAN/MINTO (CH-M) 4th year

Dec. 30, 07:30–18:00. Clear; temp.  $-25^{\circ}$  to  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NW, 20–25 km/h; Hard-frozen snow cover 10–15 cm; water ? 8 field observers in ? parties, plus 8 persons at ? feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 20 (? on foot, ? by car); tot. party-km, 374 (4 on foot, 370 by car).

Jim & Liz Mills (compilers), plus others.

#### STANLEY (STY) 35th year

Dec. 19, 08:00–17:00. Sunny; temp.  $-17^{\circ}$  to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NW, mild. Snow cover c. 15 cm, trees free of snow; water 100% open. 8 field observers in 4 parties, plus 12 persons at 8 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 24.5 (4 on foot, 20.5 by car); tot. party-km, 322.5 (7 on foot, 315.5 by car).

Julie Singleton (compiler), Katherine & Gerald Bavis, Lorna & Peter Belyea, Connie & Jimmy Campbell, John & Dena Correy, Peter DeMarsh, Gisele Gaudet, Isaac Gilbert, Avery Gilbert, Jeremy Gullison, Sally MacGrath, John MacRae, David Myles, Michiko Nishijima, Beth Torren, Robert Whitney

#### WOODSTOCK (WSK) 46th year

Jan. 4, 10:00–17:00. Mostly sunny, with occasional rain showers and snow flurries; temp.  $+3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; light wind, sometimes calm. Snow cover 15 cm; water 90% frozen. 8 field observers in 3 parties, plus 2 persons at 1 feeder site; tot. party-hours, 12.5 (by car); tot. party-km, 178 (by car).

Kathryn Campbell & Eric Hadley (compilers); Judy & Seth Anderson, Aven Guest, Karen Guest, Ki Guest, Rainie Guest, Jane Hadley, Donna & Martin Speer. (Note: On Dec. 27, Ford Alward, Sam Bridgeo, Leona Avery, Clarence Campbell, Lois Clark, Aubrey Delong, Barb Grant & John Shiell reported feeder watches that contributed to count period species.)

#### HARTLAND (HRT) 29th year

Dec. 19, 7:30–17:00. Sunny; mean temp.  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; light breeze. Snow cover 6 cm; ponds & lakes frozen, 50% of streams, brook and rivers. 4 field observers in 3 parties, plus 21 persons at ? feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 23 (5 on foot, 18 by car); tot. party-km, 127 (5 on foot, 122 by car).

Grant Milroy (compiler), Ross Belyea, Mona Caldwell, Diane Clark, Ernest Clarke, Peter & Susan Culberson, Gerald Davis, Cynthia Derksen, Vera DeWitt, Amie Fairgrieve, Nancy Foster, Courtney Libby, Jonny Livingstone, Floyd MacDonald, Rhonda Miller, Andrew Page, Elta Rideout, Roy Smith, Muriel Smith, Jamie Snelgrove, Robert Trecartin, Lillian Warne.

#### FLORENCEVILLE (FLO) 30th year

Dec. 26, 08:00–16:00. Cloudy; temp.  $-6.7^{\circ}$  to  $-5.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind S, light breeze; Ground snow-covered; Saint John River open. 1 field observer in 1 party, plus 20 persons at 20 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 2 (by car); tot. party-km, 16 (by car).

Helen Lovely (compiler), Yvon Beaulieu, Catherine Bell, Ansel Campbell, Allison Davidson, Har-



ry Ebbett, Rose Ebbett, Dale Giberson, Raymond Green, David Hatt, Brian Howe, Aubrey Lamont, Lorna Maddox, Kevin McInnis, Roy Milheron, Dean Prior, Richard Trafford, Joanne Upton, Mrs. Robert Wishart, Harry Wolverton.

#### GLASSVILLE/JUNIPER (G-J) 26th year

Dec. 20, 08:00-17:00. Overcast; temp.  $-10^{\circ}$  to  $-8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; calm; Snow cover 12.7 cm; 80% ice cover on brooks. 4 field observers in 3 parties, plus 20 persons at 18 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 11 (7 on foot, 4 by car); tot. party-km, 185 (9 on foot, 176 by car).

Sally McIntosh (compiler), Gailen Allen, Colleen Avery, Francis Avery, Lana Bell, Peter Brooks, Edna Budrow, Edith Buxton, Nan Curto, Bobbie and Ted Gasgoine, Myrtle Hempell, Dorothy Loring, Ronald McBrine, Cedric McIntosh, Elizabeth McIntosh, Elsie McIntosh, Wesley McIntosh, Marion Pearson, Peter Puleston, Marion Spence, Fred Welsh.

#### PERTH-ANDOVER (P-A) 41st year

Dec. 17, 08:00-16:00. Clear; temp.  $-18^{\circ}$  to  $-8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NW, to 25 km/h. Snow cover 18 cm; water frozen except rapids. 2 field observers in 2 parties, plus 14 persons at 13 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 10 (4 on foot, 6 by car); tot. party-km, 55 (6 on foot, 49 by car).

Murray Watters (compiler), Archie Boone, Ellsworth DeMerchant, Joe Farquhar, Corinne Fitzherbert, Glen Furge, Valerie Furge, Roy & Carl Grierson, Judy & Dale Hansen, Jo Hatchard, Robert Innis, Pam McPhail, Fred Tribe.

#### NICTAU-RILEY BROOK (NIC) 37th year

Dec. 31, 08:00-15:00. Clear, cold a.m., nice p.m.; temp.  $-20$  to  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind S, 5 km/h. Snow cover 20-25 cm; river quite open. 3 field observers in 2 parties, plus 7 persons at 7 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 10 (2.5 on foot, 7.5 by car); tot. party-km, 46 (4 on foot, 42 by car).

Roger Jenkins (compiler), Juanita Black, Gail Hatheway, Erwin Landauer, Rose MacCullum, Diane McAskill, Leola McDougall, Wilma Miller, Joan Nevers, Joe Yacovino.

#### SAINT-LÉONARD (STL) 6ième année

Le 4 jan., 8h00 à 17h20. Plutôt nuageux, pluie 1 heure 30 minutes; temp.  $+1^{\circ}$  à  $+3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; vent N, 7-15 km/h. 40 cm de neige sur terre; glace, eaux calmes 100% eaux vives 80%. 2 observateurs en 2 groupes sur le terrain, plus 1 personne à une poste d'alimentation; tot. d'heures-groupes, 10.5 (1.85 à pied, 8.65 en voiture); tot. de km-groupe, 158.5 (4.5 à pied, 154 en voiture).

Roy LaPointe (compilateur), Charlotte LaPointe.

#### EDMUNDSTON (ETN) 23ième année

Le 19 déc, 8h à 15h15. Plutôt nuageux, neige 2 heures; temp.  $-12^{\circ}$  à  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; vent du NO à 15-20 km/h. 40 cm de neige; glace eaux calmes 100%, eaux vives 80%. 12 observateurs en 6 groupes sur le terrain, plus 1 personnes à 1 poste d'alimentation; tot. d'heures-groupes, 34.3 (4.5 à pied, 29.8 en voiture); tot. de km-groupe, 386.25 (8.75 à pied, 377.5 en voiture).

Roy LaPointe (compilateur), Daniel Bouchard, Simon Bouchard, Denise Côté, Charlotte LaPointe,

Colette Lavoie, Donna Levesque, Françoise Nadeau, Gene Nadeau, Gisèle Thibodeau, Martin Turgeon, Suzanne Turgeon, Gérard Verret

#### MOUNT CARLETON PROVINCIAL PARK (MTC) 32ND YEAR

Dec. 30, 09:00-15:00. Clear, windy, cold; temp.  $-30^{\circ}$  to  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NW, 50-65 km/h. Snow cover 25-30 cm, running water open. 1 field observer; tot. party-hours, 6 (2 on foot, 4 by car); tot. party-km, 86 (3 on foot, 83 by car).

Roger Jenkins (compiler).

#### SOUTHEAST UPSALQUITCH (SEU) 28th year

Dec. 20, 08:12-16:20. Sunny, with some cloud cover by end; temp.  $-11^{\circ}$  to  $-8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NW, 0-10 km/h. Snow cover 20+ cm; river 95% frozen. 2 field observers in 2 parties; tot. party-hours, 9 (6 on foot, 3 by car); tot. party-km, 75 (10 on foot, 65 by car).

Rod O'Connell (compiler), Karl Branch.

#### PAQUETVILLE (PAQ) 22ième année

Le 27 déc., 7h à 7h. Nuageux et soleil; temp.  $-2^{\circ}$  à  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; vent SE, 10 km/h. 20 cm de neige sur le terrain; ruisseau dégelé. 6 observateurs en 3 groupes sur le terrain, plus 2 personnes at 2 postes d'alimentation; tot. d'heures-groupes, c. 24; tot. de km-groupe, ?.

Roland Robichaud (compilateur), Frank Branch, Denise Godin, Bruno St-Pierre, Donald St-Pierre, Jolande St-Pierre.

Results of the following coastal counts are in tables on pages 54 and 55.

#### GRAND MANAN (GM) 39th year

Dec. 20, 08:00-15:00. Cloudy in a.m., heavy snow in p.m.; temp.  $-5^{\circ}$  to  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NE, 80 km/h. Snow cover ?; freshwater frozen, sea rough. 17 field observers in 8 parties; tot. party-hours, 36 (8 on foot, 28 by car); tot. party-km, 182 (26 on foot, 156 by car).

Durlan Ingersoll (compiler), Marie Abrall, Tracey Bagley, Richard Blacquiére, Roger Burrows, Merv Cormier, Jim Leslie, Tina Leslie, Elaine Maker, Roger Maker, Harvey McLeod, Laurie Murison, Carmen Roberts, Peter Roberts, Matt Sandy, Rob Ward, Jim Wilson.

#### EASTPORT-CAMPOBELLO (E-C) 41st year

Dec. 26, 08:30-17:00. Clear; temp.  $-11.7^{\circ}$  to  $-6.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NW, 3 to gusts of 39 km/h. Snow cover 0-45 cm; still water frozen, moving water at places partly open; ice in some tidal areas. 6 field observers in 3 parties, plus 4 persons at 4 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 20.2 (2.2 on foot, 17.5 by car, 0.5 by boat); tot. party-km, 177.2 (2 on foot, 171.2 by car, 4 by boat).

Maurry Mills (compiler), Lauren Bailey, Chris Bartlett, Ralph Eldredge, Steve Ftorek, William Kolodnicki, Melissa Lee, Ralph and Jennifer Multhopp, Susan Riley, Tammy Simensen.

#### ST. STEPHEN (STS) 9th year

Dec. 19, 8:30-14:00. Clear; temp.  $-17^{\circ}$  to  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind 5 km/h. 5 cm hard crusted snow cover; St. Croix R. from Milltown bridge down; high water



levels above tide. 10 field observers in 8 parties, plus 8 persons at 8 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 27.08 (12.33 on foot, 14.75 by car); tot. party-km, 306 (22 on foot, 284 by car).

Bill Nelson (compiler), George Bartlett, Pat Bernier, Melanie Caldwell, Jerome Connick, Ken Downey, Bill Kolodnicki, Joanne MacCready, Ken MacIntosh, John Mallory, Ron McGuire, Maury Mills, Judy Nelson, Gary Pomeroy, Tony Reader, Nellie Ross, Meg Scheid, Laraine Townsend.

#### ST. ANDREWS (STA) 49th year

Dec. 20, 08:30–16:00. Clear a.m., clouding over p.m.; temp.  $-13^{\circ}$  to  $-6^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind N, 20 km/h. Snow cover 5 cm; Chamcook Lake open, ponds & small lakes partly frozen, salt water open. 5 field observers in 4 parties, plus 5 persons at feeders; tot. party-hours, 17 (4 on foot, 13 by car); tot. party-km, 247 (9 on foot, 238 by car).

Tracey Dean (compiler), Moira Campbell, Sandra Cooper, Vince & Ceal Macdonald, Ken MacIntosh, Ray & Dick Peterson, Helen Thomas, Steve Tinker.

#### BLACKS HARBOUR (BH) 47th year

Dec. 18, 07:30–16:00. Clear; temp.  $-10^{\circ}$  to  $-12^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind W, 20–25 km/h. 4–6 cm of snow cover with icy crust; lakes mostly frozen with some unfrozen areas, small streams partly frozen. 9 field observers in 5 parties plus 1 person at feeders; tot. party-hours, 29.5 (10.5 on foot, 18.5 by car, 0.5 by ferry); tot. party-km, 249.3 (20.3 on foot, 219 by car, 10 by ferry).

Ken MacIntosh (compiler), Mike Bamford, Roger Burrows, Merv Cormier, Tracey Dean, Harvey McLeod, Bill Nelson, John O'Connor, Hugh Parks, Jim Wilson.

#### POINT LEPREAU (LEP) 46th year

Dec. 19, 08:00–16:15. Clear to mainly clear; temp.  $-12$  to  $-6^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind WNW to NNW, 11–15 km/h. Light snow cover; freshwater frozen. 6 observers in 2 parties; tot. party-hours, 15.75 (5.75 on foot, 10 by car); tot. party-km, 235 (6 on foot, 229 by car).

David McCurdy (non-participant compiler), Richard Blacquié, Merv Cormier, Harvey McLeod, Hank Scarth, Janet Whitehead, Jim Wilson.

#### SAINT JOHN (SJ) 53rd year

Dec. 27, 7:30–16:30. Cloudy; temp.  $1^{\circ}$  to  $5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind SE, 20–30 km/h.; small ponds frozen, some streams open; sections of rivers open. 38 field observers in 20 parties, plus 15 persons at 15 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 116.25 (52.5 on foot, 63.75 by car); tot. party-km, 726.5 (77.5 on foot, 649 by car).

Richard Blacquié (compiler), Mike Bamford, Curtis Baxter, Will Baxter, Faye Black, Heather Black, Ethel Bosence, Ian Cameron, David Christie, Paul Clark, Sandra Cooper, Merv Cormier, Mike Craig, Hank Deichmann, Joanne Deichmann, Mark Deichmann, Irene Doyle, Frank Kelly, Cheryl Gass, Allen Gorham, Janet Gorham, Charles Graves, Holly Haines, Kelly Honeyman, Cecil Johnston, Denise Johnston, Greg Johnson, Olive Keith, Grace Lee, Betty Lizotte, Ken MacIntosh, Don McAlpine, Fenning McAlpine, Eunice McElwaine, Harvey McLeod, Paul Mansz, Dick Nelson, Ngaire Nelson, Alex Niles, John O'Connor, Rick Peacock, Joan Pearce, Samantha Perrin, Susan Petrie, Paul Potter, Ben Quinn, Liam

Rogers, Joanne Savage, Marion Sherwood, Dave Smith, Peter Smith, Judy Whelan, Janet Whitehead, Jim Wilson, Margie Wilson.

#### ST. MARTINS (STM) 29th year

Dec. 14; 08:30 to 16:00. Overcast with some sunny breaks; temp.  $+3^{\circ}$  to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NE, 7 km/h. Snow cover 2–5 cm with bare patches, fresh water 90% frozen. 7 field observers in 3 parties; tot. party-hours, 16.5 (8.5 on foot, 8 by car); tot. party-km, 195.5 (9.5 on foot, 186 by car).

Jane LeBlanc (compiler), Merv Cormier, Debbie Huttges, Frank Kelly, Ed LeBlanc, Harvey McLeod, Jim Wilson.

#### FUNDY NATIONAL PARK (FNP) 45th year

Dec. 16; 08:00 to 16:30. Overcast with light flurries; temp.  $-1^{\circ}$  to  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind, 7–20, gusts to 60 km/h. Snow cover, mostly 1–8 cm of icy snow at coast, more inland, still water frozen, streams open. 23 field observers in 12 parties; tot. party-hours, 49.5 (44 on foot, 5.5 by car); tot. party-km, 188 (86 on foot, 102 by car).

Dan Mazerolle (compiler), Jim Blewett, Shirley Butland, Alain Caissie, David Christie, Corey Clarke, Rick Cook, Livia Goodbrand, Anna Holdaway, Rod Lutes, Beulah Michelin, Kelly O'Connor, Sherry O'Connor, Dan Sinclair, Dan Simard, Matt Smith, Angela Sullivan, Wendy Sullivan, Brian Townsend, Gail Walker, Jane Watts, Thane Watts, Sharon Wells.

#### RIVERSIDE-ALBERT (R-A) 41st year

Jan. 1, 0:00–0:15 and 7:25–18:00. Overcast; temp.  $-11^{\circ}$  to  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind SW to NW, 4–15 km/h. Snow cover 8–10 cm at coast to 50 cm in the hills; ponds & lakes frozen, running water mostly open, some shore ice on the bay. 13 field observers in 7 parties, plus 6 persons at 5 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 41 (23 on foot, 17 by car, 1 owling); tot. party-km, 332.7 (35 on foot, 290.7 by car, 7 owling).

David Christie (compiler), Barbara Curlew, Brian Dalzell, Jim Edsall, Rick Elliott, Jennifer & Woody Gillies, John Inman, Shannon Inman, Roger LeBlanc, Mary Majka, Pat & Stuart Martin, Beulah Michelin, Dejah & Rick Morcom, Nelson Poirier, Roy Ries, Herb Tingley.

#### MEMRAMCOOK-HILLSBOROUGH (MEM) 17th year

Jan. 3, 2:00–2:00. Overcast, snow/rain storm; temp.  $+2^{\circ}$  to  $-6^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind NE, 26 km/h. Ground shallow frost, snow cover ? cm; water partly frozen, running water open. 1 field observer, plus 5 persons at 5 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 2 (by car); tot. party-km, 10 (by car).

Yolande LeBlanc (compiler), Ron Arsenault, Valmond Bourque Alain Clavette, Jules Cormier.

#### MONCTON (MTN) 48th year

Dec. 19, 2:00–2:00. Clear; mean temp.  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; wind W, 8 km/h. Snow cover 15 cm; freshwater 90% frozen, salt water 50%. 33 field observers in 15 parties, plus 27 feeder reports; tot. party-hours, 86 (28 on foot, 58 by car); tot. party-km, 788 (45 on foot, 743 by car).

Roger Leblanc (compiler).

#### SACKVILLE (SCK) 50th year

Dec. 19, 07:30–16:45. Clear; temp.  $-14^{\circ}$  to  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;



wind: 3.1-15.5 km/h; snow cover 0-3.9 cm; still water frozen, moving partly open. 26 field observers in 8-17 parties; tot. party-hours, 99 (64.5 on foot, 34.5 by car); tot. party-km, 616.5 (97.5 on foot, 519 by car).

Sean Blaney (compiler), Ron Arsenault, Doug Bliss, Kate Bredin, Laura Budd, Greg Campbell, Roland Chiasson, Christopher Clunas, Don Colpitts, Richard D. Elliot, Anthony J. Erskine, Brandon Hicks, Kevin Kelly, Andrew Kennedy, John Klymko, Marilyn Lerch, Christie MacDonald, Andrew Macfarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Adam MacPherson, David Mazerolle, Harold Popma, Kathy Bunker-Popma, Sarah Robinson, Al D. Smith, Becky Whittam.

#### CAPE TORMENTINE (CT) 49th year

Dec. 14, 07:30-16:30. Overcast, with light mist to a.m., clearing and mostly sunny by 1 p.m.; temp. +2°, cooling to 0°C; wind NW, 0-10 km/h, diminishing to 0-5 in early p.m. Snow cover mostly 2.5-10 cm; fresh water frozen, salt water mostly open with ice floes in coves and along shore. 24 field observers in 6-13 parties, plus 2 at 1 feeder site; tot. party-hours, 76.5 (51.5 on foot, 25 by car); tot. party-km, 396.5 (92.5 on foot, 304 by car).

Al Smith (compiler), Sean Blaney, Sandy Burnett, Greg Campbell, Tony Erskine, Bob Grant, Peter Hicklin, Barb Hully, Kevin Kelly, Andrew Kennedy, John Klymko, Christine Madconald, Andrew Macfarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Adam Macpherson, Bryan Martin, Lionel & Linda McDonough Nic McLellan, Kate Robinson, Sarah Robinson, Ralph Stopps, Anton Struchkov, Kyle Wellband, Becky Whittam.

#### SHÉDIAC (SHD) 22ième année

Le 20 déc., 08:00-16:30. Nuages; temp. -14° à -8°C; vent NNE, 5-20 km/h. 10 cm de neige au sol; glace avec un peu d'eau ouvert, mer glacée à presque 50%. 22 observateurs en 7 groupes sur le terrain; tot. d'heures-groupes, 55 (8.25 à pied, 46.75 en voiture); tot. de km-groupe, 481 (9 à pied, 472 en voiture)..

Normand Belliveau (compilateur), Gilles Belliveau, Gisèle Belliveau, Gilles Bourque, Raymonde Chartier, Léona Cormier, Louis Émile Cormier, Rose-Alma Mallet, Onide Maurice, Réjean Laforge, Nicole Landry, Irène Leblanc, Alfred Léger, Richard Léger, Donald Pellerin, Juliette Pellerin, Richard Perron, Daniel Richard, Francis Richard, Armand Robichaud, Denise Thériault, Stuart Tingley.

#### BOUCTOUCHE (BUC) 12ième année

Le 30 déc., 07:30-16:00. Clair; temp. -15° à -11°C; vent N, 30 km/h. 5-20 cm de neige au sol, deeper in sheltered trails and woods; fresh water mostly frozen except below bridges in tidal areas, Bouctouche Bay partially frozen out to the Dune with large areas ice-free around Bouctouche; Northumberland Strait open. 3 observateurs en 2 groupes sur le terrain plus 1 personne à une poste d'alimentation; tot. d'heures-groupes, 9 (6.5 à pied, 2.5 en voiture); tot. de km-groupe, 50 (2 à pied, 48 en voiture).

Attila Fust (compilateur), Angela Aucoin, Roger LeBlanc.

#### KOUCHIBOUGUAC NATIONAL PARK (KNP) 38ième année

Le 30 déc., 7:00-16:30. Ensoleillé avec passages nuageux; temp. -15° to -18°C; vent NO, 15-30 km/h. 20 cm de neige au sol; rivières gelées; lagunes ouvertes près du goulet; détroit de Northumberland ouvert. 4 observateurs en 3 groupes sur le terrain plus 6 personnes à 4 postes d'alimentation; tot. d'heures-groupes, 35 (5 à pied, 30 en voiture); tot. de km-groupe, 114 (5 à pied, 109 en voiture)..

Victor Savoie (compilateur), James Dugas, Joan Dugas, Raymond Dugas, Claude Richard, Daniel Richard, Gilles Robichaud, Lucille Robichaud, Pierre Robichaud, Pierrette Robichaud.

#### ILE LAMÈQUE (LAM) 37ième année

Le 26 déc., 8h00-16h00. Ciel couvert; temp. -2° à 0°C; vent NE, 5 km/h. Neige par endroit; mer libre à 100%. 9 observateurs en 4 groupes sur le terrain plus 2 personnes à 2 postes d'alimentation; tot. d'heures-groupes, 32 (16 à pied, 16 en voiture); tot. de km-groupe, 411 (14 à pied, 397 en voiture)..

Émile Ferron (compilateur), Denise Benoit, Frank Branch, Lucille Degrace, Denise Godin, Jacques Guignard, Jocelyne Guignard, Martin Mallet, Grégoire Robichaud, Jolande St-Pierre.

#### ILE MISCOU (MIS) 23ième année

Le 19 déc., 08h00-16h00. Nuageux, légère neige pendant 2 heures; temp. -9° à 0°C; vent nul. Neige au sol; mer gelé à 75%. 7 observateurs en 3 groupes sur le terrain; tot. d'heures-groupes, 22 (8 à pied, 14 en voiture); tot. de km-groupe, 174 (16 à pied, 158 en voiture)..

Michel Chiasson (compilateur), Frank Branch, Émile Ferron, Denise Godin, Jacques Guignard, Lucille Landry, Jolande St-Pierre.

#### CARAQUET (CAR) 24ième année

Le 20 déc., 08h00-16h30. Quelques nuages; temp. -7° to -1°C; pas de vent. Neige au sol 10 cm; 25 % de glace autant du côté de l'eau douce et de la mer. 3 observateurs en 1 groupe sur le terrain; tot. d'heures-groupes, 8 (1 à pied, 7 en voiture); tot. de km-groupe, 181 (2 à pied, 179 en voiture).

Denise Godin (compilatrice), Frank Branch, Jolande St-Pierre.

#### BATHURST (BST) 25th year

Dec. 27, 08:30-15:30. Overcast; temp. -3°C; wind S, 15 km/h. 15-25 cm crusty snow cover, some open patches; Ground & water conditions: 15-25cm crusty snow cover, some open patches. Bay Chaleur open with some leads of slush. New ice around edges of harbor with rafted ice in patches; main channel open. 11 field observers in 6 parties, plus 9 persons at 6 feeder sites; tot. party-hours, 40 (32 on foot, 8 by car); tot. party-km, 94 (31 on foot, 63 by car).

Stuart Wells (compiler), Lindsey Armer, Greg Ashe, Marilyn Colford, Glen and Sue Crowther, Jean-Francois Dufour, Mary Gauthier, Roger Guittard, Martha Hills, John Kowtaluk, Terry MacDonald, Charlie McAleenan, Steve and June McCutcheon, Hanson and Hazel Miller, John and Lola Miller, Rick Schwenger, Wendy Smith.



# Christmas Bird Count Tables

2009 - 2010

Coastal 2009-2010	GM	E-C	StS	StA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Mem	Mtn	Sck	CT	Shd	Buc	KNP	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	NB Total
Snow Goose																						cp
Canada Goose	3	53				1	6		100	cp		10	12	165	30		1					517 ±
Brant	43																					43 ±
Gadwall							5															5
Am. Black Duck	937	499	7	373	208	368	577	49	2	311		41	86	73	104	42		3			2	3928 ±
Mallard	200	36	1	3	4	46	517	5	1	14	cp	1050	84		78	4	cp	2		5	3	2885 +
Northern Shoveler	2						cp															2
Northern Pintail		2					2															2
Green-winged Teal	cp					1																4
Tufted Duck							1															1
Greater Scaup		7		54	1		34								2							98 -
Lesser Scaup							3			cp												3
King Eider	cp	4																				4
Common Eider	1233	1169		2110	120	379	41	1		30			416	20	129	2		261	162			6073 ±
Harlequin Duck	76	2			1	8																87 +
Surf Scoter	11	45		20	21	63		45						8				2				213 +
White-winged Scoter	3	129		84	2	6								75	2			5	37	2		342 ±
Black Scoter	9					3	2	5		cp				11	4							39 -
Long-tailed Duck	52	480		83	42	135								355	41	24		38	21	14		1285 -
Bufflehead	23	160	4	133	42	46	176	3	7	4				3		1						607 ±
Common Goldeneye		34	110	53	10	50	389	9	2	8				206	463	106	1	162	27	40	28	1891 ±
Barrow's Goldeneye							3							2	53	4		2			3	172 -
Hooded Merganser	1	30					3															45 +
Common Merganser		12	51		19	5	151			25	cp	20	16	5	300	57	cp	3			cp	927 ±
Red-breast. Merganser	74	89	1	13	11	28	38							73	13			64	17	8	1	458 ±
Ring-necked Pheasant	4									35	6	75	209	2	45							384 ±
Ruffed Grouse	cp	2	7	2			3	1	18	5		6	14	8	4	1	2				5	110 -
Spruce Grouse																						cp -
Wild Turkey																						11 r
Red-throated Loon		1				2	1	1	1	cp								4	1	1		12 ±
Common Loon	13	19		21	6	15		1														76 ±
Pied-billed Grebe							cp															cp
Horned Grebe		1		22		36		1														60 -
Red-necked Grebe	22	76		23		5																126 -
Northern Gannet	1	2			1													1		cp		5
Double-cr. Cormorant	2	8																				11 ±
Great Cormorant	3	43					1							1						cp		48 -
Great Blue Heron														2	cp						1	3
Turkey Vulture											cp						1					1
Bald Eagle	4	19	14	5	8	7	21	3	1	7	1	39	12	4	7	1	2			2	1	244 +
Northern Harrier	1						1						1				1					4 -
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1			cp	1		cp	1	1	2	cp	1	1	1	5	2	cp	1	1			32 +
Cooper's Hawk							cp				cp	1										3
Northern Goshawk	cp						cp			1	1		5	2	1		cp					13 -
Red-tailed Hawk	cp	1			1		4		1	2	cp	6	9	7	4		cp					42 ±
Rough-legged Hawk							cp			3	cp	1	12									21 -
American Kestrel										1												1
Merlin								1							1							6 +



Coastal 2009-2010	GM	E-C	StS	StA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Mem	Mtn	Sck	CT	Shd	Buc	KNP	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	NB Total
Gyrfalcon													1									1
Peregrine Falcon	1	1																				2 ±
Virginia Rail										1												1
Ruddy Turnstone															cw							cw
Purple Sandpiper	cp	6				4									8							20 --
Bonaparte's Gull	4	62			501	57																624 +
Ring-billed Gull	1	9	57	32	14	6	242	5	62	80	1			63	12					6		739 +
Herring Gull	1106	1227	168	794	1020	406	2287	80	40	103	20	2577	56	328	403	80	30	41	2	49	235	11589 --
Iceland Gull	8	123			200		262			4	5	198	15	57	47	15		59	20	37	90	1276 ±
Lesser Black-bk. Gull	cp	2			1							1										4 +
Glaucous Gull	cp	4			1							cp	6		cp	2		6	1	1	2	26 --
Great Black-bk. Gull	291	588	6	207	146	73	495		5	11	21	2058	45	69	339	80	16	92	17	91	625	5654 ±
Black-leg Kittiwake	630	62			15	4	5															716 --
Dovekie	3				2																	5
Common Murre	4																					4 ±
Thick-billed Murre	1				3																	4 --
Razorbill	25	1				91																117 --
Black Guillemot	12	23			5	5												13	48	31		137 --
Rock Pigeon	3	137	70	39	27	31	1009	5	4	5	33	1130	213	72	478	40	75	50		210	88	7977 +
Mourning Dove	82	123	87	113	64	115	133	102	cp	107	88	305	205	99	150		47	202	26	45	20	4900 ±
Great Horned Owl										cp		cp	cp		1			cp				3 --
Snowy Owl		1							cp						1				3			5 ±
Northern Hawk Owl																						2 +
Barred Owl				1			cp			cp		cp										7 ±
Short-eared Owl				1									4									5 +
N. Saw-whet Owl																						cp
Belted Kingfisher														1	1							2
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker																						1
Downy Woodpecker	cp	6	12	6	10	8	20	3	8	12	2	44	18	12	12		3	10	4	2	7	530 +
Hairy Woodpecker		7	12	7	4	2	18	3	3	9	3	44	24	15	11		3	15	9	5	2	591 +
Am. 3-toed Woodpkr																						cp --
Black-bk. Woodpecker							1	1														2 --
Northern Flicker	cp	1									cp	1	4		4							12 ±
Pileated Woodpecker		2	2	cp	1		1			1	cp	4	4	6	6		cp				2	81 +
Northern Shrike		1					1	1		3	1	2	2				1	1	6			33 +
Gray Jay					3		cp	9		11		4	9	3	2						5	170 --
Blue Jay	24	55	81	35	27	18	73	10	1	58	25	221	200	77	341	7	30	100	39	25	35	3713 +
American Crow	159	211	118	118	174	131	765	79	53	130	21	772	574	170	361	47	9	18	26	32	14	8139 +
Common Raven	23	28	13	5	13	4	46	8	3	29	2	125	123	46	17	1	22	64	19	2	5	1246 --
Horned Lark	cp						6						5						2			13 --
Black-cap. Chickadee	130	143	275	152	187	74	630	68	189	144	20	836	864	524	475	10	92	264	140	31	270	11687 ±
Boreal Chickadee	3				1	3	6	20		16			16	4				8	3			183 ±
Tufted Titmouse				cp		1																1
Red-breast. Nuthatch	5	20	3	8	4	7	7	2	13	22		82	51	27	29		5	29	28	6	44	966 +
White-br. Nuthatch	1	3	7	11	3	2	3		3	2	1	3	3		1			cp			cp	177 +
Brown Creeper				cp				1	3	3		2	6	3	4		1		1			37 ±
Carolina Wren																						cp
Golden-crown. Kinglet	3	3	4	7	5	8	8	13	19	23		28	128	108	30		10	10	5		1	507 ±

Coastal 2009-2010	GM	E-C	StS	StA	BH	Lep	SJ	StM	FNP	R-A	Mem	Mtn	Sck	CT	Shd	Buc	KNP	Lam	Mis	Car	Bst	NB Total
Ruby-crowned Kinglet							1															1
American Robin	1	7			2		1	31	1	6	20	8	26		141	40	3	1	27	45	cp	379 ±
Northern Mockingbird							1					1			1							3 --
Brown Thrasher						1																1
European Starling	152	310	288	82	157	37	4262	85	25	288	161	1672	795	188	1088	224	62	193	103	92	35	15780 ±
Bohemian Waxwing							23			2			35	2	123		310	53	590	500		1901 +
Cedar Waxwing									cp	20			12		62		4					246 +
Yellow-rump. Warbler														17								18 ±
Pine Warbler												1								cp		1
Ovenbird						1																1
Yellow-breasted Chat														1								1
Am. Tree Sparrow	7	28	22	9	18	50	40			34	7	25	31	6	4			2			cp	575 --
Chipping Sparrow		4	2				1					1										9 +
Field Sparrow	cp																					cp
Savannah Sparrow	1								1													2
Fox Sparrow							cp															cp
Song Sparrow	3	4		3	2	3	6	1	1	6	1	4	cp	4								47 --
Wh-throated Sparrow		3	3	1	1		13	1	cp	2	2	2	2		1							47 ±
Dark-eyed Junco		28	2	10	1		43	1	19	36	3	50	17	9	8				2			462 --
Lapland Longspur							3															3 --
Snow Bunting		12		4	18		45	20	5	180		35	206	56	12	1	51	187	85	66	cp	3103 --
Northern Cardinal	1	3		10	cp		14											1				141 ++
Red-winged Blackbird		3			1																	5 ±
Western Meadowlark?									cp													cp
Rusty Blackbird			1								cp											1 --
Common Grackle	4		1		1	2				2	cp	1	3	1				1				21 --
Brown-head. Cowbird										1												2 --
Baltimore Oriole																						1
Pine Grosbeak													13									130 --
Purple Finch		4	2				1		cp	42		2					cp			6	cp	1252 +
House Finch			2	22								10			10							85 --
Red Crossbill																						2 --
White-wing. Crossbill		6							138	38		7	72	125	4		6	8	41			601 ±
Common Redpoll													6	12							1	139 --
Pine Siskin			1						5	1		4	4	1			10					125 --
American Goldfinch	18	124	325	97	152	27	731	13	152	366	374	575	304	131	265	5	44	58		12	18	11244 +
Evening Grosbeak													1									269 --
House Sparrow		9		6			141			28	cp	27	41		4						22	485 --
Unidentified	150 c	103 d	6 e		2 f		183 g		22 h	12 j					5 k						1	485
TOTAL BIRDS	5574	6420	1765	4779	3282	2378	13500	675	926	2286	816	12113	5022	3275	5733	796	842	2034	1513	1360	1572	120321 --
TOTAL SPECIES	53	67	34	41	52	48	58	39	33	52 m	22	49	54	56 q	53	24	28	39	32	27	30	124 --
Add. spp. in period	12	0	0	4	1	0	9	0	7	6	13	3	3	1	cw	0	7	2	0	2	7	9 (+1cw)
TOTAL HOURS	36	20.2	27.08	17	29.5	15.8	116.3	16.5	49.5	41	2	86	99	76.5	55	9	35 [?]	32	22	8	40	c. 1390
TOTAL KM	182	177 t	306	247	249 u	235	726.5	195.5	188	333 v	10	788	617	397	481	50	114	411	174	181	94	>11952
No. of observers	17	7	11	5	9	6	38	7	23	13	1	33	26	24	22							



Inland+	2009-2010	RdB	Mir	Dal	Rst	Ssx	Htn	C-N	Jem	Ftn	Mac	Ch-M	Sty	Wsk	Hrt	Flo	G-J	P-A	Nic	StL	Etm	MtC	SEU	Paq
Snow Goose					70	28	cp	cp	cp	26					12	3		8						
Canada Goose					61	45	24		cp	39	2		cp		10	54		79		8	6			
Am. Black Duck				50	19	337	65			154														
Mallard		57		7						1														
Green-winged Teal																								
Bufflehead				5																				
Common Goldeneye		6		64	6		1			9	55			cp							52			
Barrow's Goldeneye				101							3													
Hooded Merganser				1			3			7														
Common Merganser		2		53	26	3	15			145	11		cp						8					
Red-breasted Merganser				26	2		1		cp															
Ring-necked Pheasant		1	cp	cp	4			2	1	cp		3	3	3	4	6				3	2	4		
Ruffed Grouse												10												
Spruce Grouse																								
Wild Turkey																								
Common Loon																								
Great Blue Heron		1	cp	cp	18	3	7	2	8	25	5	1	1	1	4	5	1	cp	cp					
Bald Eagle				cp																				
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1			1		cp	1	1	1	1	1		3	3	1				cp	1		cp	
Cooper's Hawk																				cp			cp	
Northern Goshawk							cp	1						2						cp			cp	
Red-tailed Hawk							3		3				1										1	
Rough-legged Hawk							cp		3					1										
Merlin							1	1																
Gyrfalcon																								
Peregrine Falcon																							cp	
Purple Sandpiper				2																				
Ring-billed Gull		cp			21	4				123											1			
Herring Gull		5		42	55	1	327	15	71	21										cp				
Iceland Gull		4		6			126																	
Glaucous Gull																								
Great Black-back. Gull		22	3	2	23	17		3	309	2										cp				
Rock Pigeon		100	300	116	170	473	300	54	98	895	267	115	51	420	190	145	65	74	354	65			6	
Mourning Dove		21	105	10	38	119	568	137	146	417	137	188	42	155	241	230	43	26	45	48			71	
Great Horned Owl		cp						1	1															
Northern Hawk Owl				cp																cp	1			
Barred Owl				1			cp	1						1			1					1	1	
N. Saw-whet Owl		cp																						
Belted Kingfisher																								
Yellow-b. Sapsucker																								
Downy Woodpecker		1	17	14	24	7	43	15	25	46	17	24	3	2	18	20	8	13	13	2	8	3	8	
Hairy Woodpecker		2	16	7	32	8	30	28	31	51	26	31	13	5	21	28	8	14	12	7	4	2	19	
Am. 3-toed Woodpecker									cp															
Northern Flicker							1			1														
Pileated Woodpecker		cp	3		3		6	16	4	5	1	2	1	6	1					cp			3	
Northern Shrike																								
Gray Jay		4	4				3	1	2	cp				1	1		1			cp	1			
Blue Jay		92	104	55	184	108	185	111	174	155	149	29	83	56	131	169	130	76	39	20	74	17	6	
																						1	106	



Inland+	2009-2010	RdB	Mr	Dal	Rst	Ssx	Htn	C-N	Jem	Ftn	Mac	Ch-M	Sty	Wsk	Hrt	Fto	G-J	P-A	Nic	StL	EtL	MIC	SEU	Pag
American Crow	18	77	33	53	135	852	79	56	2309	126	67	11	60	99	64	8	15			17	64			14
Common Raven	16	17	13	24	5	45	23	24	97	116	45	39	1	58	14	10	9	27		8	24			6
Black-capped Chickadee	60	190	128	281	176	1131	302	605	844	425	209	221	63	173	184	112	159	56	193	259			5	89
Boreal Chickadee	7	15	2	15	2	2	cp						2						2	5	27		6	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	25	19	15	7	20	28	47	29	22	13	51	3	25	7	10	6	11	75	63			2	
White-breasted Nuthatch	cp	2	1	1	4	17	18	24	26	13	5	1	cp	15	5	1	2	1	1				2	
Brown Creeper		cp			cp		2	1	5	2	2								1					
Carolina Wren											cp													
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6	cp	1	4	14		24	7	9	5	7								4	1			12	
American Robin	cp	3	2	1	2	cp	1	4					1	1	1	1				2			cp	
Brown Thrasher						cp																		
European Starling	111	333	118	312	393	655	183	203	1349	471	161	151	247	120	142	75	5		236	78			138	
Bohemian Waxwing	124	4	23	cp			1		45	52								15	cp					
Cedar Waxwing	147																							
Yellow-rumped Warbler				1																				
Am. Tree Sparrow				1		26	26	47	11	41	14		cp	58	37	16	13		1	cp			2	
Chipping Sparrow				2	1	3	1			1														
Song Sparrow																							1	
White-throated Sparrow	2			1	2	7	1		2					1					1				1	
Dark-eyed Junco	cp			7	8	107	12	2	22	2			2	cp	5	23	7	34	cp				2	
Snow Bunting	27			1	59	30	14	151	13	4	63	116	121	101	392	130	615	cp	173	34			76	
Northern Cardinal				cp	3	90	cp		12	cp				6	2									
Red-winged Blackbird								cp						1		2							1	
Common Grackle																								
Brown-headed Cowbird																								
Pine Grosbeak	3		4	20			20	2			3			cp		1	5	27		5		8	20	
Purple Finch	74	4		32		5	103	2	14		70	151		45	27	110	2	239	14	130			145	
House Finch									37							4							28	
Red Crossbill	2																						cp	
White-winged Crossbill	22	2	6	24			4	5		5	2	5							22	2	3		7	
Common Redpoll	10						1	6	2		15			4	40	9		2		30			41	
Pine Siskin	5	3	16			10				1		5		cp	1			42					16	
American Goldfinch	98	177	36	156	184	1722	512	781	1095	1006	402	212	166	245	265	21	103	68	27	56			3	
Evening Grosbeak	15			30		cp	cp			82	1		10	10	13	18	40		7				8	
House Sparrow						13	26		4	35			54	12	26				54	4			12	
Unidentified				2 a																				
TOTAL BIRDS	655	1645	1090	1836	2103	6480	1850	2405	8413	3035	1623	1186	1288	1968	1634	1297	672	640	1255	1113			28	439
TOTAL SPECIES	19	30	35	41	28	41	32	33	44	30	28	25	17	36	31	24	20	19	23	30			5	16
Additional spp. in period	5	6	5	2	0	9	6	3	3	1	1	2	5	3	0	0	3 w	1	10	1			0	2

# Footnotes to the tables

Number boldfaced: record high, N.B. CBCs

++ much above average numbers

+ above average numbers

± near average numbers

- below average numbers

-- much below average numbers

cp found during count period (14 Dec - 5 Jan.)

cw count week (count day ± 3)

h 21 songbirds sp., 1 gull sp.

j 7 sandpiper sp., 4 waxwing sp., 1 finch sp.

k 2 scaup sp., 1 raptor sp., 1 woodpecker sp., 1 finch sp.

m includes sandpiper sp. (likely Purple)

q includes scaup sp.

r possibly recently released, or offspring of released birds

w includes hawk sp.

a 2 sparrows sp.

c 150 cormorants sp.

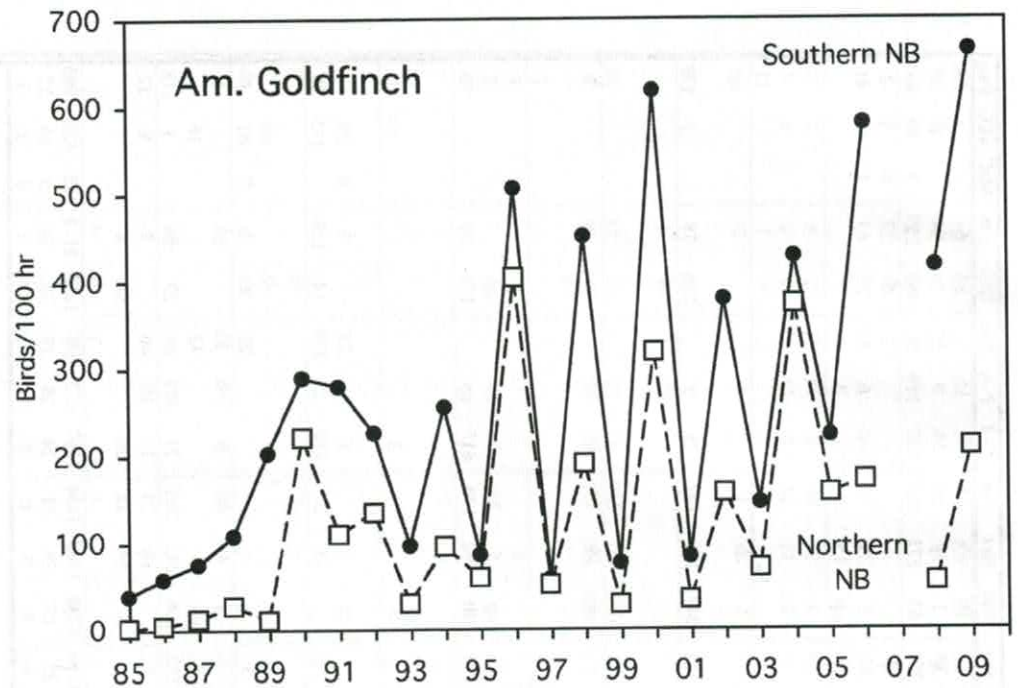
d 3 Mallard x Black Duck, 100 gulls sp.

e 4 diving duck sp., 2 woodpecker sp.

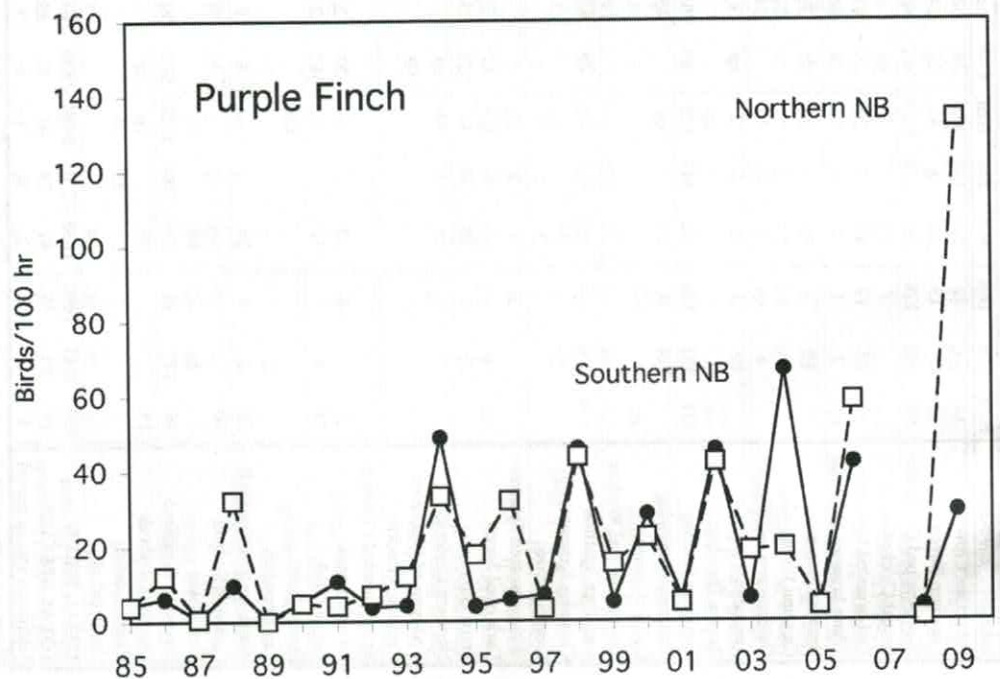
f 1 Mallard x Black Duck, 1 eider sp.

g 9 Mallard x Black Duck, 1 scaup sp., 6 ducks sp., 1 hawk sp., 152 gulls sp., 5 sparrows sp., 9 finch sp.





Index of abundance (birds/100 hours) of American Goldfinch on CBCs in northern N.B. (dashed line) and southern N.B. (solid line), 1985-86 to 2009-10.



Index of abundance (birds/100 hours) of Purple Finch on CBCs in northern N.B. (dashed line) and southern N.B. (solid line), 1985-86 to 2009-10.



# Up Close and Personal:

## A Moose Encounter of a Special Kind

Margaret Doyle  
Campbellton

On Halloween morning in the fall of 2009, my husband Charly and I were sitting at the table in our camp, behind Kedgwick, having a late breakfast. Charly saw something moving on the other side of his truck, which was parked in front of the camp. He said, "What is that?" It was a moose, but only the antlers could be seen passing over the top of the truck.

I started taking a few photos from inside the camp, and Charly said, "I am going to give him some bread." He went outside wearing only his underwear, and with Charly holding out a slice of bread in his hand, the moose started to walk toward us.

We were on the veranda, and the moose came up to the veranda and started to eat the bread in Charly's hand. For an hour and fifteen minutes, it ate a complete loaf of bread and a few caramel cakes and drank water from a small bucket.

The moose went over beside my car, and I walked behind the camp talking to it and walking backwards taking photos. I said, "Get out of there...Come on, come on."

The moose followed me around to the other side of the camp. I got up a few steps and into the doorway of the shed. The moose put his two front hoofs on the steps and looked at me, and then he upset a can of gas that was beside the generator. I said, "Go away" and took the broom and pushed it at him. He enjoyed that, pushing back on the broom.

Charly went inside and brought out another slice of bread and got the moose to advance just enough for me to pick up the gas can. The moose then laid down, turned his face sideways, and smelled the

gas on the ground very close. After a bit he got up from there and walked to the lake. He drank some water and then kept on walking in the water near the shoreline of the lake before heading into the woods. He picked up his pace to a fast trot, and I said to Charly, "That gas--was it not low test?" He said, "Yes."

I said, "It made him go fast like it was high test gas."

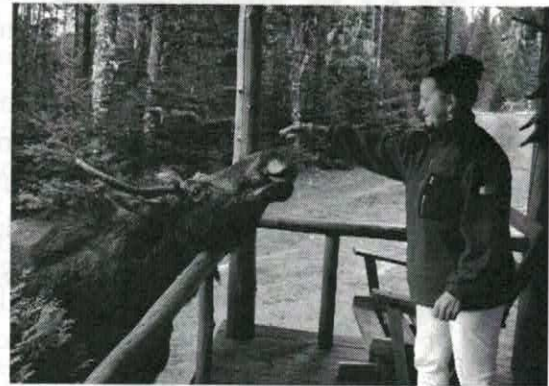
All the while that moose was in the camp yard, it was just like a dog—it smelt everything, like the doorknob on a small shed...and a wheelbarrow. He was licking the mirror of the truck, walking around eating some raspberry bushes, and putting his head on the handrails of the veranda as if waiting for more food or attention.

The moose allowed me to put my hand on the top of his forehead and rub it. It was all wet. Having him looking at me in the face so close was very unusual, but we enjoyed every moment of it.

The moose had very funny antlers, with one horn on one side, broken ones on the other side, and one horn going down in its eye and deformed.

After the moose was gone, with tears in his eyes, Charly said, "Do you know something? It could have been someone that we knew who came back in the form of a moose and knew us."

We had never seen that moose before and haven't seen it since. It was the thrill of a lifetime.







Laurel Bernard  
Fredericton

## Conservation Volunteers:

### Lend a Helping Hand to the Nature Conservancy of Canada

**T**his summer, get out on the land and lend a helping hand with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) through our Conservation Volunteer events. Conservation Volunteers is a national program that engages the public in nature conservation while providing a hands-on, meaningful, and educational experience in extraordinary natural areas owned by NCC. Learn new skills, and meet like-minded people!

In the Atlantic region, there are 10 events being offered this year throughout the four Atlantic provinces. With more than 60 conservation events across the country suitable for volunteer participation, these events are generally a day in length and involve anywhere from five to 30 volunteers. The types of events include: restoration (tree planting or seed collection); inventories and monitoring (birds, plants, insects); and land management (invasive species removal, fencing, trail building). Volunteers range from expert birders to novice tree planters.

The line-up in New Brunswick this summer includes:

**JUNE 5** – Musquash Trailblazers event to maintain the footpath that runs along the Musquash Estuary, just west of Saint John. Enjoy this Marine Protected Area and beautiful views of the estuary.

**JUNE 12** – Shampers Bluff weed pull event to remove invasive weeds from our property on the Kingston Peninsula. You will learn about this threat, and then hike the nearby trails for a view of the bluff.

**JULY 10** – New Horton clean-up event to remove garbage from our nature preserve located between Mary's Point and Alma. Afterwards enjoy the beauty of the reserve.

**SEPTEMBER 18** – Sunset Valley duck box build event in partnership with Ducks Unlimited to place duck boxes for cavity-nesting ducks around this wetland just north of Grand Bay–Westfield on the Nerepis River, and clean up an old dump site.

If you are interested in learning more, to view the full roster of events, or to register for an event, check out the Conservation Volunteers website at [www.conservationvolunteers.ca](http://www.conservationvolunteers.ca), or call Laurel Bernard at 1-877-231-4400.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is a national charity dedicated to the conservation of ecologically significant land through private action, and to its long-term stewardship through monitoring and management agreements. NCC is a non-confrontational group that takes a business-like approach to land conservation. Its plan of action is partnership-building and creative deal-making with any individual, corporation, community group, conservation group, or government body that shares its passion. Since it was established in 1962, NCC and its supporters have helped to acquire over two million acres across the country.



# Rare Duo in New Brunswick

## Lark Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow - rare winter finds!

Janet MacMillan  
Moncton

It was Thursday, February 4, when Janet MacMillan first spotted an unusual sparrow near the grape arbor in her yard in Moncton, New Brunswick. While updating her daily list of feeder birds, Janet caught several glimpses of the new sparrow, but she did not get a good look until February 8, when the bird finally moved to her front feeder. Janet was able to photograph the bird and identified it as an adult Lark Sparrow.

The Lark Sparrow is typically found in open habitats in the Great Plains and the arid west and predominantly winters in Texas and Mexico. Vagrant individuals rarely visit the East Coast. Jim Wilson, one of New Brunswick's most avid birders, noted, "Although we do get a few Lark Sparrows annually, mostly in late summer and fall, they are considered rare here. There are very few winter records, so this bird is certainly exceptional."

Janet phoned the Rare Bird Alert line in New Brunswick, and about thirty people came to visit. While birders flocked to Janet's yard to see the Lark Sparrow, guests were treated to another rarity--a winter plumage Chipping Sparrow. The Chipping Sparrow appeared to be travelling with the Lark Sparrow!

The Chipping Sparrow is a common summer breeder in New Brunswick and normally returns north in late April or the first half of May. They nest across the province during spring and summer, often raising two broods of young. According to Jim Wilson, "We see a few Chipping Sparrows linger into late October or November before migrating south, but the species is very rare here in winter."

The Lark Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow put on a great show for birders and are often seen together. Both favor the heavy vines on Janet's fence and the lattice work beside a crabapple tree in her yard. "How this 'odd couple' got together is an interesting question, but Janet MacMillan in Moncton is a very fortunate feeder watcher," Jim Wilson told us. "To host one would be an event, but to have two is like winning the lottery. I hope she's gone out and bought a ticket"

As of March 8, both birds were still hanging around Janet's yard. Visitors continue to drop by to see the birds, and some are lucky enough to hear the Lark Sparrow sing.

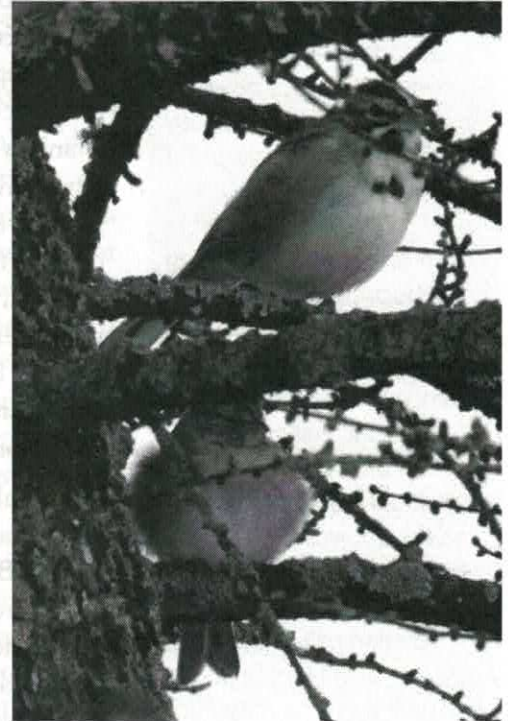


Photo by N. Poirier



Photo by M. Cormier



Todd Watts  
Greenlaw Mountain  
Hawk Watch  
St. Andrews

## Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch:

Atlantic Canada's First Annual Official Hawk Watch

Hawk migration within Atlantic Canada is a largely unknown and undocumented phenomenon. It appears that prior to the fall of 2009, there had never been efforts to document a full season of raptor movements in this region. In Nova Scotia, it is well known that Brier Island is a good place to view migrating hawks; however, to my knowledge there has never been a well-documented record of these movements. The situation is similar in New Brunswick. Spring hawk movements are known to occur at New Horton Ridge, and although some effort has been made to document this phenomenon, a complete record is lacking.

In the fall of 2008, a major concentration point was discovered along the then-unknown Bay of Fundy hawk migration corridor. Preliminary observations from this point showed the presence of 13 species of migrating hawks. Documentation of these observations created much interest and excitement in the naturalist community. In the ensuing months, a grant proposal to the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund to create the first hawk watch of Atlantic Canada was successful. The Greenlaw Mountain Hawk Watch project was subsequently launched on August 25, 2009.

The Greenlaw Mountain watch site is located at the western end of the Bay of Fundy. From this location, the hawks migrating along the bay can be observed and counted when they are at their greatest concentration. The observation point sits at approximately 145 metres above sea level. A viewpoint on a high shoulder of the mountain provides unobstructed

views sweeping counter-clockwise from the east to the southwest. This view encompasses the hills of Charlotte County, much of the Saint Croix estuary, and Downeast Maine. Fall migrants moving past the "watch site" tend to travel in an east-west direction. The sweeping views, the hawks' east-west flight path, and the site's location at the terminus of the bay combine to create an ideal location to view birds of prey. In addition, the fire-scarred area immediately surrounding the site contains countless snags. These snags and the open areas around them provide raptors with many opportunities to perch and hunt.

Raptors were counted over an 11-week period from August 24 to November 15, 2009, during fair weather conditions with winds from the east to southwest. Over the course of the watch, 256.75 observation hours were logged. Counts were made by a single skilled observer during the majority of the observation hours; however, volunteers helped spot incoming raptors in many instances, thus increasing our capacity to detect migrating hawks.

The majority of observations were made using eight-power binoculars and a spotting scope. Hawks were identified by silhouette, field marks, and manner of flight. Raptors were considered migrants if they clearly moved past the watch in an east-to-west or north-to-south direction. Turkey Vultures and Bald Eagles were not counted unless they were observed crossing the Saint Croix River, which sits to the west of "the watch." A handheld electronic weather instrument was used



to measure wind speed. Notes on weather, as well as count totals, were recorded hourly. Daily reports were sent to Hawkcount.org and the Nature-NB list-serve.

Thirteen species of raptors were observed moving past the observation point. The count season total of individual migrant raptors was 2769. Broad-winged Hawks were the most numerous of the migrating hawks observed, accounting for 52 percent of this total. The second most numerous species was the Sharp-shinned Hawk. Other migrants included Red-tailed Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Coopers Hawks, Northern Goshawks, Northern Harriers, Osprey, Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon and Turkey Vulture. During the fall 2009 season, we did not observe Golden Eagles or Rough-legged Hawks, although both species are known to occur in this region.

Of the 13 species of migrant raptors recorded, 11 of them perched and/or hunted close enough to the watch to be seen with the naked eye. During the first week of the count season, a total of 7 resident raptor species were observed on the mountain. Many of these resident birds, as well as the migrants, provided excellent opportunities for study and photography.\*

The first official season of data collection was a clear success. Many birds were observed, producing considerable public interest and support. The data collected clearly showed the existence of a migration corridor that runs along the Bay of Fundy.

Hawk movements during this first season were much as expected. We observed 13 of the 15 species of raptor, which are most typically seen at eastern North American hawk migration monitoring sites. The total raptor counts were nearly as high as

our closest neighbour's, Cadillac Mountain, which lies to the south in Maine (Cadillac 3047, Greenlaw 2769). It is significant that our counts approached that of our neighbouring watch. Being further south, Cadillac Mountain is well positioned to count not only birds coming from the Bay of Fundy migration corridor in NB, but also a substantial number of birds arriving from Nova Scotia via the migration corridor which runs along the Annapolis Valley, Digby Neck, and Brier Island. Although Greenlaw does not see the Nova Scotia migrants, our watch affords an opportunity to count a large Broad-wing Hawk movement, most of which are likely New Brunswick residents. This Broad-wing phenomenon is not well captured by Cadillac Mountain, which is on Mount Desert Island. Being surrounded by water greatly reduces the production of the strong thermals preferred by Broad-wings.

Not only has Greenlaw Mountain proven to be an excellent place to observe hawks during the fall migration, preliminary observations are showing good potential for spring flights as well. At least 13 species of raptors have been observed flying past the mountain during spring migration. More observations need to be conducted, but at this point, spring observations are looking promising. In addition, breeding hawks are easily viewed from the vantage point utilized during the fall count season. We are working towards conducting a second season of fall observation at the site this year and will need more volunteers.

\*Hourly, daily, monthly, and yearly totals for the project can be found at Hawkcount.org. Weather info can also be viewed at this site.

### Acknowledgements

I want to especially thank the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund. Without their funding, this project could not have been conducted. Additional thanks should be given to the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, the host of the 2009 project. We are also indebted to Bell Aliant, who graciously allowed the hawk watch to be conducted on their land. Special thanks are given to the volunteers who hiked up the mountain with binoculars and cameras in hand to help me spot hawks. I also thank Jim Wilson—he provided advice and encouragement before, during, and after the count season. He also helped spot and identify hawks at the watch on more than one occasion. -Todd Watts



Gilles Belliveau  
Fredericton

## Nature News: Birds

January 19 to April 18, 2010



Harlequin Duck  
Photo by M. Cormier

On Apr 3 Margaret and Irene Doyle observed approximately 500 SNOW GEESE (*Oie des neiges*) in Atholville. A lone Snow Goose was also seen in Moncton on Apr 4 by Norm, Gisèle and Gilles Belliveau, and Rose-Alma Mallet.

On Feb 15 Ralph Eldrige saw two groups of BRANT (*Bernache cravant*) flying by Machias Seal Island heading towards Grand Manan. Jim Wilson, Harvey McLeod, and Merv Cormier saw seven Brant at Maces Bay on Mar 11.

On Feb 12 Michelle Larsen reported that she had seen a group of CANADA GEESE (*Bernache du Canada*) in Harvey (Albert County).

On Apr 4 Stuart Tingley and Jean-Marc Cormier observed a male EURASIAN WIGEON (*Canard siffleur*) at Johnston's Point (Westmorland County). Another male Eurasian Wigeon was observed in Maugerville on Apr 8 by Gilles Belliveau, and on Apr 9 Don Gibson saw the one in Maugerville, as well as another one at McGowan's Corner. On Apr 10 Frank Branch and Jolande St-Pierre found another Eurasian Wigeon in Tracadie.

On Jan 24 Emile and Paulette Cormier spotted a male AMERICAN WIGEON (*Canard d'Amérique*) at Mapleton Park in Moncton.

On Mar 30 Ron Steeves reported that a BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Sarcelle à ailes*

bleues) had been present for four or five days in a decommissioned sewage lagoon in Salisbury. Ron also reported a "EUR-ASIAN" GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*Sarcelle d'hiver*) being at the same lagoon.

On Mar 11 Jim Wilson, Harvey McLeod, and Merv Cormier observed a male RING-NECKED DUCK (*Fuligule à collier*) in Saint John.

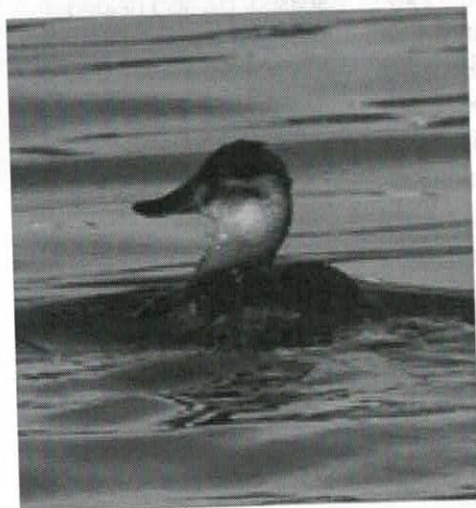
An immature male KING EIDER (*Eider à tête grise*) was seen from the White Head Island ferry by Roger Burrows on Jan 21. Roger also reported a female King Eider from the White Head ferry on Mar 24.

On Feb 18 Ralph Eldridge reported a group of 30 HARLEQUIN DUCKS (*Arlequin plongeur*) from Machias Seal Island. Roger Burrows reported a total of 51 Harlequin Ducks from various sites around White Head Island on Mar 12.

On Mar 5 Steeve Miousse observed approximately 40 BARROW'S GOLDENEYES (*Garrot d'Islande*) on the Big Tracadie River, and on Mar 6 Norm, Gisèle, and Gilles Belliveau observed approximately 50 Barrow's Goldeneyes at the Cap-Brûlé sewage lagoon in Barachois.

On Apr 4 Ron Arsenault reported the first pair of RUDDY DUCKS (*Érismature rousse*) in Memramcook.

On Mar 21 Jim Wilson saw an early-PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Grèbe à bec bigarré*) on the Kennebecasis River between Perry Point and Hampton. Jim also reported 142 RED-NECKED GREBE (*Grèbe jougris*) resting at Welsh's Cove near Point Lepreau on Mar 24.



Ruddy Duck  
Photo by M. Cormier



Todd Watts observed a NORTHERN GANNET (Fou de Bassan) at the Point Lepreau Bird Observatory on Mar 23.

A GREAT BLUE HERON (Grand héron) was seen flying over Douglastown on Jan 25 by Lawrence Currie.

On Apr 11 Richard Blacquiére found 4 GLOSSY IBIS (Ibis falcinelle) in a flooded field at Bloomfield.

Don Gibson saw 2 OSPREY (Balbuzard pêcheur) in Lower Jemseg on Apr 3. Stella Johnson also reported 4 Osprey from La Dune de Bouctouche on Apr 4.

On Jan 21 Roger Burrows saw a female NORTHERN HARRIER (Busard St-Martin) on White Head Island, and Brian Dalzell observed a male Northern Harrier in Riverview on Mar 19.

Roy LaPointe reported that a COOPER'S HAWK (Épervier de Cooper) was in their St Leonard yard on Jan 25. Louis-Emile Cormier and Richard Perron also observed a Cooper's Hawk in Moncton on Feb 16.

Todd Watts paid a visit to Greenlaw Mountain in the St Andrews area on Mar 19 in the hopes of seeing migrating RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (Buse à epaulettes). That visit paid off, as he did see an adult migrating through. Todd also reported another migrating Red-shouldered Hawk from the same location on Apr 11.

Hank and Carolyn Scarth reported the first BROAD-WINGED HAWK (Petite buse) of the spring flying over the Kingston Peninsula on Apr 2.

Doug Williamson received a phone call from a resident of Daniels Flats (Albert County) on Apr 2 of a possible GOLDEN EAGLE (Aigle royal) in the area. He drove there and managed to locate an eagle which he believed was probably a Golden Eagle.

On Mar 25 Roger Burrows observed an AMERICAN KESTREL (Crécerelle d'Amérique) on Grand Manan, and Todd Watts saw another American Kestrel in the St Andrews area on Mar 28.

Brian Dalzell saw a MERLIN (Faucon émerillon) in Moncton on Feb 8. Hank Scarth reported that a Merlin was seen near the Gondola Point Ferry in the Rothesay area on Feb 23. Another Merlin was seen at New Horton on Mar 28 by Norm and Gisèle Belliveau, and Léona Cormier and Julie Singleton reported 2 Merlins in Taymouth on Apr 3.

Ron Arsenault observed a PEREGRINE FALCON (Faucon pèlerin) in Moncton on Jan 20, and Jim Wilson saw a Peregrine Falcon in Saint John on Feb 12. Ralph Eldridge reported a Peregrine hunting on Machias Seal Island on Feb 13, and Roger Burrows observed one pursuing a Mourning Dove in his yard on Grand Manan on Feb 24.

On Mar 19 Louis-Emile Cormier spotted a KILLDEER (Pluvier kill-dir) from his yard in Cocagne, and Ken MacIntosh saw one in Saint John on Mar 22.

Jim Wilson heard and saw a GREATER YELLOWLEGS (Grand Chevalier) flying over Point Lepreau on Apr 9.

On Apr 5 Roger Burrows observed a WILSON'S SNIPE (Bécassine de Wilson) on Grand Manan.

Tracey Dean heard AMERICAN WOODCOCK (Bécasse d'Amérique) calling from a field below her house in Chamcook on Mar 14.

On Jan 27 Roger Burrows observed 3 BONAPARTE'S GULLS (Mouette de Bonaparte) at Long Eddy Point (Grand Manan). Ralph Eldridge also saw



Glossy Ibis  
Photo by M. Cormier



Cooper's Hawk  
Photo by M. Cormier



Wilson's Snipe  
Photo by M. Cormier



Bonaparte's Gull at Machias Seal Island on Feb 4.

Roger Burrows also saw 2 first winter LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS (Goéland brun) at Long Eddy Point (Grand Manan) on Jan 27. Gilles Belliveau saw an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull in Maugerville on Apr 8.

Norm and Gisèle Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet observed a GLAUCOUS GULL (Goéland bourgmestre) at Cap Bimet on Jan 31. Roger Burrows observed Glaucous Gull at Castalia (Grand Manan) on Feb 23, from the Grand Manan ferry on Mar 2 and Mar 26, and at Wallace Cove on Mar 27.

Roger Burrows saw 10 or more DOVEKIES (Mergule nain) and 156 ATLANTIC PUFFINS (Macareux moine) from Long Eddy Point (Grand Manan) on Jan 27. Roger also saw another Dovekie at White Head on Mar 12.

Roger Dumaesq reported 2 SNOWY OWLS (Harfang des neiges) at Miscou on Jan 31. Norm and Gisèle Belliveau observed one on Feb 23 in the Tantramar Marsh. On Mar 11 Jules Cormier reported on a Snowy Owl in the Pré-d'en-Haut that was seen by two different people in mid-February and seen again on Mar 21 by Léo Belliveau.

A few NORTHERN HAWK OWLS (Chouette épervière) were seen through the winter. Roy LaPointe reported that one was still being seen in St Leonard on Jan 23, and he

discovered another one about 12 km east of Plaster Rock on Mar 20. Brian Dalzell found one along the Trans-Canada Highway near Coles Island on Feb 12. Mike Lushington reported that there was still

one present in Charlo on Mar 4. Paul Butler reported that one had appeared around his home in Cornhill during February and that it was last seen on Mar 14. Another Hawk Owl that spent the winter in Sheffield was last reported by Kevin Tutt and Christine Cornell on Mar 15.

On Apr 6 Stuart Tingley, Jean-Marc Cormier, and Licia Tittarelli located a LONG-EARED OWL (Hibou moyen-duc) calling in Taylor Village in the Memramcook area.

Norm and Gisèle Belliveau and Rose-Alma Mallet saw a SHORT-EARED OWL (Hibou des marais) in the Tantramar Marsh on Jan 22, and two individuals were seen at the same place on Jan 24 by Norm, Gisèle, and Gilles Belliveau. On Jan 28 Kier Gigeroff reported an owl in Gagetown, which he suspected to be this species, but he didn't have his binoculars at the time and was unable to relocate it later.

Ted Sears reported that one of his neighbours in St Martins saw a hummingbird species on Apr 11 at one of her windows where she had a hummingbird feeder the previous summer. The species wasn't mentioned, and even though the RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (Colibri à gorge rubis) would be the "expected species" here in NB, one can't help but wonder about a possible vagrant at such an early date.

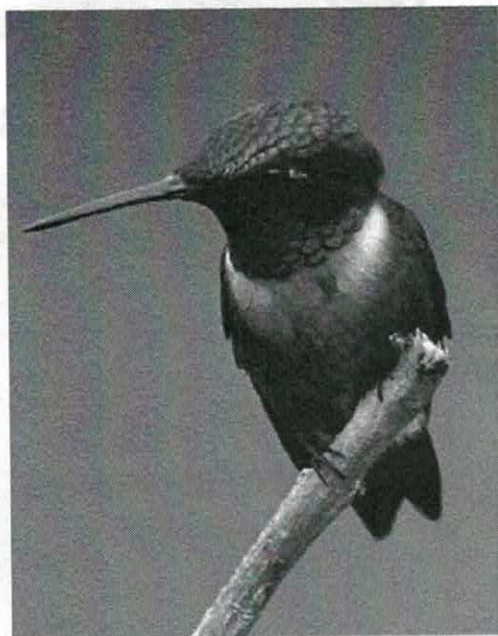
On Feb 21 Dave Robinson reported seeing a BELTED KINGFISHER (Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique) flying overhead in Cape Spear a few days earlier.

On Feb 3 Jules Cormier reported that a RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (Pic à ventre roux) that had been coming to a feeder in Memramcook was still present.

Carolyn Arsenault saw a YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (Pic maculé) in Dieppe on Apr 2, and Julie Singleton



Long-eared Owl  
Photo by M. Cormier



Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Photo by M. Cormier



had one drumming and calling in Taymouth on Apr 4.

There were a number of NORTHERN FLICKERS (*Pic flamboyant*) seen this winter. Juliette Pellerin had one spend the winter in her yard at Cap-Brûlé. Roger Burrows had one at his feeders on Grand Manan until at least Jan 22. Carmel Constable saw one in Moncton on Feb 19. On Feb 23, Norm and Gisèle Belliveau observed 4 Flickers at an abandoned barn in Murray Corner. Stella Johnson reported one in her yard in Caissie Cape on Mar 7, and on Mar 21 Ngaire Nelson reported one in her yard in Saint John.

On Apr 3 Kier Gigeroff reported EASTERN PHOEBES (*Moucherolle phébi*) in Gagetown; another Eastern Phoebe was also reported by Alex, Halli, and Linda Macdonald in the Mactaquac area that same day.

Norm, Gisèle, and Gilles Belliveau observed 6 HORNED LARKS (*Alouette hausse-col*) at Point de Bute on Jan 24. Dale Gaskin reported a mixed flock of Horned Larks and LAPLAND LONG-SPURS (*Bruant lapon*) from the Tantramar Marsh on Feb 14, estimating the total number of birds at 75.

A number of TREE SWALLOWS (*Hirondelle bicolor*) were observed over the Easter weekend this year. Ralph Eldridge reported the first one on Apr 3 at Machias Seal Island. Additional birds were seen Apr 4 in Gagetown (Kier Gigeroff), St. Leonard (Roy LaPointe), St. Marie de Kent (Oscar Leblanc), Calhoun Marsh near Riverside-Albert (Norm, Gisèle, and Gilles Belliveau; and Rose-Alma Mallet), and Taymouth (Julie Singleton). A few more were reported on Apr 5 in Cambridge-Narrows (Joyce Robinson) and Dipper Harbour (Richard Blacquiere and Jim Wilson). Most of these sightings were of single birds; however, so many scat-

tered sightings throughout the province that early in April is a bit unusual.

Ron Steeves observed a BARN SWALLOW (*Hirondelle rustique*) among a group of Tree Swallows in Salisbury on Apr 9.

A TUFTED TITMOUSE (*Mésange bicolore*) that was originally discovered at a feeder in Pocologan during the Lepreau Christmas Bird Count was seen several times by several observers through the winter. On Feb 14 Gail and Steven Smith observed 2 Tufted Titmice at a feeder in St Andrews. Merv Cormier, Joanne Savage, and Susan Petrie visited St Andrews on Mar 2, and they managed to find Tufted Titmice.

On Mar 7 Roger Burrows heard a WINTER WREN (*Troglodyte mignon*) singing at Red Point on Grand Manan.

Julie Singleton reported a RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Roitelet à couronne rubis*) singing in her yard in Taymouth on Apr 4.

Bob Bradley observed an EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*Merlebleu de l'Est*) at Turtle Creek from Mar 23 to Mar 26. On Apr 3 Brigitte Noel reported an Eastern Bluebird in Cambridge-Narrows, and Denis Doucet reported one around his yard in Pellerin near Saint-Antoine.

On Apr 6, Ralph Eldridge reported a HERMIT THRUSH (*Grive solitaire*) at Machias Seal Island.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Photo by M. Cormier



Northern Mockingbird  
Photo by M. Cormier





Bohemian Waxwing  
Photo by M. Cormier



Cedar Waxwing  
Photo by M. Cormier

A few NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (Moqueur polyglotte) were seen this winter. One was present in Shediac and was last reported by Richard Legere on Jan 24. Roger Leblanc had one reappear in his Moncton yard on Jan 23 after noting it for a single day in late December. Norm, Gisèle, and Gilles Belliveau saw one in Petit Cap on Jan 24. Noreen Spence reported one was still attending her feeders in Baie Verte on Jan 30. On Feb 11 Rudy Stoczek reported that one had been seen in his Fredericton yard for the past three weeks, and Heather Wilson saw one at the Experimental Farm in Fredericton on Mar 31. Frank Kelly also had one appear in his Saint John yard on Apr 5.

There were quite a few of the expected BOHEMIAN WAXWING (Jaseur boréale) around the province this winter; however, what was particularly noteworthy was the number of CEDAR WAXWINGS (Jaseur d'Amérique) that spent the winter in the province this year. There are too many to report in detail; however, listed are the locations where birds were seen through the winter. The quantities ranged from lone birds to groups of as many as 45+ birds, but the majority of groups reported contained fewer than 20 birds. They were observed in Shediac, Memramcook, Moncton, Riverview, Riverside-Albert, Harvey (Albert County), Alma, Mechanic Settlement, Hampton, Hammond River, St George, Gagetown, Fredericton, and somewhere between Pointe Verte and Dalhousie.

On Feb 23 Norm and Gisèle Belliveau saw a YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

(Paruline à croupion jaune) at Murray Corner. Gilles Belliveau observed 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers in Jemseg on Apr 8.

Nelson Poirier reported that a PINE WARBLER (Paruline des pins) was still coming to peanut butter in his Moncton yard on Jan 19, and he suspected there were actually 2 different Pine Warblers due to varying amounts of yellow showing in the breast area. On Feb 17 Donald and Dorca Pellerin reported that they had seen a Pine Warbler the previous week around the administration building at Fundy National Park.

Kier Gigeroff observed a PALM WARBLER (Paruline à couronne rousse) in his yard in Gagetown on Apr 6.

Alex McDonald reported a very early COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (Paruline masque) at their cottage in Macataquac on Apr 4.

Nelson Poirier had a nice assortment of sparrows attending his Moncton feeder yard on Jan 19 with a single CHIPPING SPARROW (Bruant familier), WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (Bruant à gorge blanche), and SONG SPARROW (Bruant Chanteur), along with a group of AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS (Bruant hudsonien).

Joanne Savage and Susan Petrie spotted another Chipping Sparrow along a trail in Hampton on Mar 13, and Joan Pearce reported that she still had a Chipping Sparrow visiting her feeders in Saint John on Mar 14.

On Feb 4 Janet McMillan had a pleasant surprise when a LARK SPARROW (Bruant à joues marron) appeared in her yard, but it took a few days to get a good enough look at the bird to confirm its identity. The Lark Sparrow was traveling with another sparrow which was finally seen well



enough on Feb 8 to identify it as a Chipping Sparrow. The duo continued to visit Janet's yard until at least Apr 4.

Don Gibson found a lingering SAVANNAH SPARROW (Bruant des prés) in Lower Jemseg on Jan 19.

Joan Pearce had a FOX SPARROW (Bruant fauve) appear in her Saint John yard on Mar 19. Jean and Kevin Renton had 2 appear in their Stilesville yard (Moncton area) on Mar 27, and Valmond Bourque reported one in his yard in the Memramcook area on Mar 28. Jim Wilson also found one at Point Lepreau on Mar 29, and there were several others reported in the days that followed.

On Apr 4 Roger Burrows found a SWAMP SPARROW (Bruant des marais) on Grand Manan.

Norm, Gisèle, and Gilles Belliveau observed 2 LAPLAND LONGSPURS (Bruant lapon) at Point de Bute on Jan 24, and Steeve Miousse saw 12 Lapland Longspurs at the wharf in LeGoulet on Feb 25.

Joanne Savage reported a female INDIGO BUNTING (Passerin indigo) at her feeders in Quispamsis on Apr 7

On Jan 21 Catherine Johnson reported that she had a lone RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (Carouge à épaulettes) coming to her feeders in Mechanic Settlement. Kier Gigeroff saw 2 Red-winged Blackbirds in Gagetown on Feb 25.

Denis Doucet observed 3 RUSTY BLACKBIRDS (Quiscale rouilleux) in Pellerin on Apr 2.

On Jan 27 Merv Cormier, Susan Petrie, and Joanne Savage observed a couple of COMMON GRACKLES (Quiscale bronze) at Cambridge-Narrows. Margaret Doyle saw a Common Grackle in her yard in Campbellton on Jan 29.

On Feb 27 Kier Gigeroff saw a BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (Vacher à tête brune) in Gagetown.

Merv Cormier, Susan Petrie, and Joanne Savage observed a male PINE GROSBEL (Durbec des sapins) on Jan 27 in Stewarton, which is along Rte 685 between Cambridge-Narrows and Norton.

This winter turned out to be a pretty good year for Crossbills. There was a bumper crop of cones in several regions of the province, and this resulted in a winter breeding period for both the WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL (Bec-croisé bifascié) and the RED CROSSBILL (Bec-croisé des sapins).

Since I had seen only a limited number of reports of both species, I decided that I could get a better picture of how widespread they were this winter by using the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas website. Based on the data for 2010, White-winged Crossbills were reported from over a hundred atlas squares throughout most of NB; however, the heaviest concentrations seemed to be in Victoria, Northumberland, and Kent Counties. Red Crossbills were less widespread, as they were only reported from nine atlas squares, with most being in Northumberland County and Southeastern NB.

A species that wasn't reported much this winter was EVENING GROSBEL (Gros-bec errant). On Jan 21 Catherine Johnson reported that she had a group of 20+ coming to her feeders in Mechanic Settlement. Norm and Gisèle Belliveau and Léona Cormier saw a pair of Evening Grosbeak on Mar 29 in Dawson Settlement (Albert County), and on Apr 2 Margaret and Irene Doyle observed 2 females in Tide Head.



Lise Godbout  
Club de Naturalistes de la  
Péninsule acadienne

## *Le colibri à gorge rubis*

Dans la brise printanière, alors que les fleurs éclosent  
Le colibri annonce sa venue de ses ailes bourdonnantes.  
Par de petits cris aigus, il me signale sa présence  
Son apparition toute scintillante me comble de bonheur.

Chaque année, à mes abreuvoirs, il revient fidèlement  
Des personnes et des lieux, il conserve sûrement la mémoire.  
Dans mon jardin il trouvera les fleurs qu'il affectionne  
Monarde, chèvrefeuille, cœur saignant, lupin et ancolie.

De rubis la pierre précieuse, il a emprunté le nom  
Réfléchir le spectre des couleurs, miroiter de mille feux.  
Créature magique, univers mystérieux, monde en mouvement  
Vie miniature vécue avec tant d'intensité.

Acrobate du ciel, il avance, recule, monte ou descend  
Fait du surplace dans les airs, suspendu comme par magie.  
Sa taille minuscule, sa vivacité et son ardeur  
Sans cesse m'émerveille, me fascine et touche mon cœur d'enfant.

Avec grande délicatesse, de fleur en fleur il voltige  
Au cœur de la corolle, son bec en aiguille il enfonce.  
Dans cette étreinte, le colibri et la fleur ne font qu'un  
De nectar il s'enivre, pollinisation accomplit.

Par son plumage chatoyant, le mâle séduit les femelles  
Plongeurs aériens élaborés, sifflements stridents  
Suivis de la parade nuptiale et de l'accouplement  
Son matériel génétique transmis, mission accomplie.

Seule, la femelle construit son nid, chef-d'œuvre de création  
Tissé de fils d'araignée, de lichen, d'écorce ou de mousse.  
Elle y dépose deux petits œufs blancs à peine gros comme un pois  
Dévouement maternel exemplaire, survie assurée.

En rêve, je vois des colibris se poser sur ma tête  
Délicieuses sensations, instants magiques, bonheur suprême  
De ces bijoux emplumés, je suis tombée sous le charme  
Être un colibri, comme lui me nourrir de jolies fleurs.

Septembre est déjà là, mais il n'est plus au rendez-vous  
L'instinct migratoire le pousse à suivre l'autoroute florale.  
Vers l'Amérique du Sud, ce grand voyageur s'envole seul  
Exploit admirable pour cet atome de la gent ailée.

Adieu mon cher petit colibri, de toi je m'ennuie  
Sous la pluie printanière, reviens vite égayer ma vie  
En mémoire je garde, les doux souvenirs de nos rencontres  
Être un colibri et vivement m'envoler avec toi.



# Following J.J. Audubon:

## Birding Route 389 - Highway 500 through Labrador

Gordon Parsons  
Labrador City, NL

Be there a birder in temperate North America that has not dreamed of a visit to Labrador, much like J.J. Audubon did? Well dream no more! You may not be able to follow in the footsteps of J.J. but you can now drive into and across the Labrador Peninsula.

In 1987, Route 389 from Baie-Comeau, Quebec was opened, allowing one to drive the 375 miles northward through Quebec and into western Labrador. In 1991, Highway 500 was pushed through 300 miles of wilderness to Happy Valley-Goose Bay in central Labrador. Finally, at the end of 2009, the Trans Labrador Highway made the 300 kilometre connection to Cartwright on coastal Labrador, then onward 200 miles to the lower north shore of Quebec.

Taking this drive, which is mainly on gravel, will allow you to travel through the boreal forest and with a side trip allow you to dip into subarctic tundra. While this trip can be done with the family car, be advised that gravel roads are best suited to an SUV, especially in winter time. Gas, food, and rest stops are few in number and up to 200 miles apart. There is also very little cell phone coverage. Forewarned is forearmed.

Now that I have instilled the idea, given the particulars, and stated the caveats, what can you expect?

No need to list the common boreal birds or for the most part the waterfowl or birds that inhabit or pass through most of North America, so let's look at a few 'Labrador birds'.

First, the Willow Ptarmigan has unofficial status as the Labrador Provincial Bird. It can be seen year-round in correct habitat in all of Labrador. Second, but less common, is its cousin the Rock Ptarmigan. Both birds are at their best in winter, often seen along roadsides, when they are all white except for a bit of black on the tail.

Close to the top of the list would also be the Boreal Owl, a small year-round owl with a really great call in mating season. Also seen regularly is the Northern Hawk Owl, a bigger cousin seen a lot in daytime. A great sighting would be the Gyrfalcon. Although rare in much of Labrador, it winters on the coast and is year-round in the northern part.

If one spends time on the coast, two great possibilities are the Common Eider, seen year-round, and King Eider in the winter. A really great gull to see is the Ivory. On occasion it has been seen well into central Labrador in winter, feeding on the remains of caribou.

Winter is also a great time to see hordes of Common Redpolls and the less often seen Hoary Redpoll. Another great sight in towns is the Bohemian Waxwing. These are seen in January and February as they harvest the berries on the mountain ash trees. Pine Grosbeaks and Boreal Chickadees are commonly seen at feeders in winter.

Almost any time of year, one is sure to see the Gray Jay and White-winged Crossbill, as well as the ever present Raven, which is often flying even at -40° F. Woodpeckers to be on the lookout for would be the

### Remote Birding


Gordon Parsons is a birder living in Labrador City. He can be reached at: [gordon\\_parsons@hotmail.com](mailto:gordon_parsons@hotmail.com).



Three-toed and the Black-backed. The Northern Shrike is seen in most parts of central and coastal Labrador all year.

I am sure from the birds mentioned above that most readers can find a few to add

to their life list. But if not, then you will at least have taken a drive that you will often speak about with very little prompting.



Ron McGuire  
St. Stephen

## Walking beside our Future

When was the last time you spent some time with a young person, enjoying the sights and sounds of our outdoors? Many of us older folk have wondered who will follow us as the next generation of birdwatchers, naturalists, or "citizen scientists." Well, the answer may be sitting right next to you - your grandchildren or the young person next door. It's never too soon to start introducing them to the outdoors.

Our three-year-old grandson loves the outdoors. On our walks, he is constantly chattering, picking up stuff and touching everything in reach. When was the last time you got down on the ground and actually felt how soft moss and lichen are to touch? Many of us can call it by its common name and some even know the scientific name. But when was the last time you really looked and felt it?

I often wondered if my grandson is even listening to me talk about things we encounter as we walk along. Recently we were outside and I asked him to stop and listen to the "cheeseburger bird" [Ed. Note: probably a White-throated Sparrow]. He paused for a moment and then continued on our walk. I didn't think he caught it at all. However, a few days later his mom said that they were coming

out of the house when he told everyone to stop and listen to the "cheeseburger bird." When his mom asked him what it was saying, he replied, "cheese please."

Recently, he and his dad were out walking along a bog and found a mass of frog eggs. They scooped some up and took them home. When he was over last, he was telling us about how the eggs now had tails and were swimming. Last fall, he greeted me as I came home and wanted me to come up to see where he and his gram had seen the giant woodpeckers. Earlier in the day, they had gotten within a few meters of two Pileated Woodpeckers and quietly watched them. He took me to a rotting tree where he was able to put his fist into the cavities created by, as he put it, "giant packers."

So, where are the next generation of naturalists? They are right beside us. We remember when someone spent some time with us. Now it's our turn to spend some time with kids. Who knows, we may see things from a completely different point of view.



## Are Chimney Swifts Roosting Near You?

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

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

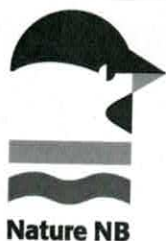
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Karen Potter, Species at Risk Recovery Biologist  
Canadian Wildlife Service /  
Service canadien de la faune  
Environment Canada  
16th Floor, Queen Square  
45 Alderney Drive  
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 2N6  
Email: karen.potter@ec.gc.ca  
Phone: 902-426-2578

## Des Martinets ramoneurs nichent-ils près de chez-vous?

Le Martinet ramoneur est une des espèces jugées menacées au Canada en vertu de la Loi sur les espèces en péril du gouvernement fédéral. Il a donc besoin de votre aide. L'été, le Martinet ramoneur se sert souvent des grandes cheminées comme perchoir. Les plus grandes peuvent même abriter plusieurs centaines d'oiseaux. Ce sont dans ces aires de repos que les Martinets se rassemblent durant les migrations. C'est là qu'ils passent la nuit et qu'ils se protègent du mauvais temps. L'aire de repos est un peu comme un centre communautaire où les oiseaux non reproducteurs vont demeurer tout l'été alors que les couples reproducteurs se dispersent pour établir leur nids.

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



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